



THE SHOFAR

Temple Beth Shalom Florida, New York

March 2023 Adar / Nisan 5783

From the Desk of Rabbi Rebecca P. Shinder

The Purim Casting Call

In order to understand the creation and meaning of The Book of Esther and Purim, I'd like for you to imagine the leading characters as follows: For Esther, think of Marilyn Monroe, or Madonna, or Lady GaGa. Mordecai is Paul Newman, as a senior citizen. Haman is Captain Hook, and the Sons of Haman are the Keystone Cops! If Mel Brooks had been given a Jewish education, and knew the true meaning of the holiday, he surely would have made a film, "Purim, the Movie." As surely the Marx brothers might have done, in their time, calling their opus, simply, "Humantschen."

The original Book of Esther, one of the five scrolls (megillot) in the Bible was originally written as a ribald comedy around 200-250 BCE, not a history book written circa 1,000 BCE in Persia, where the story is set. I know that it is shocking for some to discover that in Persia, where records were meticulously kept, there was no historic Haman, nor Achashverus. Sorry, there was no Mordecai, and the name "Esther," is a word play on the fertility goddess, Astarte, (same root word in Hebrew as Esther) small statuettes of whom were kept in households throughout the ancient near east. In the time that the story was written and reproduced by scribes on scrolls, everyone got the joke.

It's as if Marylyn Monroe was the heroine who saved the Jewish people from extinction. That's what the author of the "Book of Esther," was trying to do with Haman, because in the year 250 BCE, there had been many, and would be many who tried to annihilate the Israelites. The writer was mocking them, and the readers of, and the listeners to, understood this and laughed. The earliest scrolls containing the story were carbon dated to this period, as was the philology of the Hebrew words and grammar therein.

Purim occurs at a time of the year, late January to February, when many ancient cultures observed a bacchanalia festival against the darkness and bleakness of the winter. Each leads in measured time to a Spring festival, as in Purim to Passover, or later, mardi gras to Easter. They were based on earlier pagan observances that were ultimately given religious grounding.

So, in earlier times, Purim was an observance that said, for one day, "don't sweat it." Don't take the world seriously. Later Purim was a time to see the world upside down. Medieval Purim Schpiels portrayed the Rabbi as jester, and the jester as rabbi. Everything was mocked. The King was a fool and a drunk, the tyrant overthrown. the sex goddess saves the People, the Jew saves the life of the King. And let's tell the story in noise, song, drunkenness, and joy.

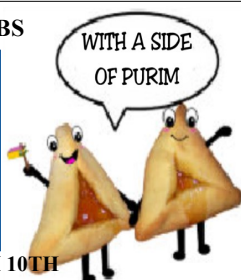
Around the first century CE, long after the time of the Greek (Hellenistic) influence on Judaism, such ribald tales were just entertainment. At a time when heroes were needed to combat (physically and emotionally) the Roman oppressors, the early rabbis began to see the opportunity to teach about Jewish heroism in The Book of Esther. Purim, as we know it, had not yet evolved, but the scholars who met at the town of Yavneh to decide what books would be included or excluded in Tanach (The Hebrew Bible) decided to include the story of Esther, which was then being read with "new eyes." It was a perfect secret code to foster revolution against Rome.

continued on next page

FRIDAY, MARCH 3RD AT TBS



SNOW DATE - FRIDAY, MARCH 10TH



Hundreds of synagogues across the continent will take part in an historic national Jewish event to celebrate what unifies all Jews — Shabbat! Everyone is invited... singles, couples, families — all ages. That's the magic of Shabbat Across America. By participating in this continent-

wide event, you will not only have the opportunity to experience Shabbat, but you will be sharing your experience with tens of thousands of Jews across North America.

And this year Temple Beth Shalom is also preparing for Purim with gifts and delicious hamantashen for all who come. Wear a silly or your favorite hat. Join us for dinner at 5:30 and stay for Erev Shabbat at 7. We'll have a brief musical service led by Rabbi Rebecca Shinder and featuring our in-house choir, Haverim B'shirim.

Rabbi Shinder, continued

The Purim festival that grew over the next centuries influenced celebrations in other cultures, predominately, Mardi Gras. The jester and joking and myrrh continued to play a larger part, as did Mordecai and Esther as Hero and savior. Even in this outrageous story, even in inebriation, even in ribald rivalry, the story gave hope, especially to children.

Like much in Judaism, Purim can be understood on many levels. Children in Religious School are encouraged to be like Mordecai and Esther. The sex trade way in which the Queen was chosen is ignored by everyone by an unspoken code. It provides a day of fun and release, and implicitly says, God doesn't want you to sweat it, or take yourself so seriously today. "Give yourself a break, today." Though curiously, The Book of Esther is the only book of the Bible where God's name isn't mentioned (is that a clue to its origin?). Marilyn Monroe, Paul Newman, Captain Hook, and a bit of a "nudge-nudge wink-wink" for our kids is how we retell this story in modern times. Now that we've considered the origin of Purim, let's talk about how we at TBS will celebrate it this year.

Our in person Shabbat services commence on Friday, March 3rd. Please join us for a meal at 5:30PM for both our Religious School AND Shabbat Across America - an opportunity to open our home to guests. Our 7PM service will set the tone for Purim and will feature our adult choir, Chaverim B'Shirim. You are encouraged to wear a silly or your favorite hat. Congregants will receive their Mishloach Manot treats, as well. Our Religious School students will be featured in a Purim Schpiel, the historic telling of the story in outrage and song, at the All-County Religious School program at the Monroe Temple on Sunday March 5th, 10AM - 1PM. A carnival will follow the Schpiel and students are encouraged to wear costumes. Participation in this event is expected, as well as the March 19th Mitzvah Day at TBS 10M-noon. We will be learning about both ethical and religious mitzvot and introducing a Hebrew Through Movement lesson to help our kids prepare for Passover.

It's been far too long since we joined in the merry making that Purim has to offer. Join us, bring a friend, wear a hat, and (this one shouldn't be too hard) have a hamantashen with an old or new temple friend!!

Finally, are you/were you a scout or scout leader? On Friday, March 31st troops from Florida, Goshen and Monroe will join us at 6:30PM for an introduction to Judaism in general, and an orientation to our TBS sanctuary in specific. We'll then proceed with our 7PM service. Please help me to be a gracious host, and if you have a uniform - wear it!!

L'hitraot (See you soon!) Rabbi Rebecca P. Shinder

CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We're back!

The first Shabbat in March brings us back into the sanctuary to celebrate; Shabbat Across America, birthday and anniversary blessings, and a bit of Purim! I love celebrating my birthday with this community, and will do so by sponsoring the oneg on 3/3. It should prove to be a lively celebration, and I hope to see you there!

As I sit and write this, I look out my window to see snow coming down... Punxatawny Phil saw his shadow a few weeks ago, but Staten Island Chuck didn't. I'm with Chuck on this one. Either way, March brings the promise of spring and renewal, so I'm not too upset! The last time I was at temple we saw the daffodils that we planted in the fall popping their little heads out of the soil! Hopefully, the cold weather we've had since won't damage them and we'll have a beautiful array of yellow daffodils to enjoy for a few weeks as we enter the synagogue.

Speaking of renewal, you've read articles by me, Catherine, and Rabbi over the past few months, discussing our exploration of shared religious school with Monroe Temple for the '23-'24 school year. Those conversations continue, as we survey families to get a better idea of what changes are desirable, and which may be less desirable. If you have a child in religious school right now (other than the b'nei mitzvah class), and you have not yet filled out the survey you received via email, please take 2-3 minutes to do that so we can take everyone's preferences into account. If you can't find the survey, let me know and I'll resend it to you!

You'll also see that we will be promoting more of the events that Monroe Temple does, and they'll be promoting ours as well. We have an opportunity to help them through the challenges they are currently facing and let them know that our home is open to them, as our brethren, however or whenever they may need it. As Rabbi puts it, it's as if we're dating! Now, for those of you who haven't dated in a while... I'll remind you that dating doesn't mean you're going to get married! It's a time to get to know each other, learn about each other's families and background, and decide if moving to the next step makes sense. I hope you'll take the opportunity to get to know the folks from Monroe Temple during this "dating" period. Whether you go to Monroe for a program or event, or you strike up a conversation with them when they're at our home, this is how we get to know each other and decide if this shidduch (match) is a good one.

Happy Spring, and see you soon!

Wendy

TIYULIM = HIKING/TOURING



Dates to be announced.

Temple Beth Shalom seeks part-time office assistant to rabbi and board of trustees with professional and pleasant phone manner for in-person position. Ideal for a highly motivated, self-directed individual willing to train.

Responsibilities include use of Microsoft Office and QuickBooks. Fifteen hours/wk. @ \$17/hr.

APPLY HERE: <https://forms.gle/7wu2itcVN1Dzv9Ct7>

Feel free to share this listing.





THURSDAY, APRIL 6TH

5:30PM AT TBS

second night seder

open to the entire community

Fully catered; salad, matzah ball soup, brisket, chicken, potatoes, green vegetable, fruit and desserts.

All the other Passover goodies provided by TBS. ONLY \$40 for adults, \$18 for kids 5-13, under 5 FREE.

Bring your own Kosher for Passover wine.

RSVP to
catherinegreenblatt@gmail.com

Subsidized by a MicroGrant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County.



The Jewish Federation
OF GREATER ORANGE COUNTY

~ CARING COMMUNITY ~

We thank the following donors for their generosity

- ✧ Donna Frazier and Friends, in honor of Andy Hannes's 80th birthday.
- ✧ Shari Rake and Richard Schwartz for donating Allan's Falafel Café dishes for our Shabbat Shirah luncheon.
- ✧ Steven and Diane Rowe, in appreciation of Shabbat Shirah luncheon.
- ✧ Janet Davis, in appreciation of Shabbat Shirah luncheon.
- ✧ Sisterhood of Temple Beth Shalom, for defraying the cost of our Shabbat Shirah luncheon.

Please understand that Iris Barlet, our wonderful office administrator has retired. Phone call messages are being monitored, email is being checked. Mail will be picked up whenever possible and your donations or dues payments will be credited in a timely manner. In addition, we will continue to process your credit card payments on the schedule you set up. If you have any questions feel free to email catherinegreenblatt@gmail.com or wendybcedar@gmail.com.

We thank the following for hosting an Oneg Shabbat:

March 3rd...Wendy Cedar in honor of her birthday and Shabbat Across America

March 10th...OPEN

March 17th...Elizabeth Frederick in celebration of Abbigail Gottlieb's 10th birthday and Bob Mantica

March 24th...Meredith & Sadie Weeman

March 31st...OPEN

***If you have something to celebrate anytime,
do it with an oneg!***

Contact the temple office, 845.651.7817.



✻ MARCH YAHRTZEIT REMINDERS ✻

Shabbat for Kaddish: March 3, 2023

Yetta Gelfer	6 Adar
Jerome Willbach	7 Adar
Evelyn Levy	7 Adar
Carole Gottlieb	8 Adar I
Evelyn Laskin	9 Adar
Nellie Helper	12 Adar
Charles Markowitz	12 Adar
Sandra Rake	15 Adar
Leah B. Greenwald	15 Adar
Frieda Savitt	16 Adar
Ruth Goldman	4 Adar II
Oskar Nick	4 Adar II
Herman Cohen	8 Adar II
Frances Rudnick	8 Adar II
Bella Mann	9 Adar II
Bernard Brown	9 Adar II
Claire Nadler Waldman	28 Feb
Jerome Norman	1 Mar
Judith Rosenfeld	2-Mar
Shirley Neustadt	2-Mar
Sophie Saperstone	2-Mar

Shabbat for Kaddish: March 10, 2023

Irving Waldman	4-Mar
David Seiderman	7-Mar
Ernest I. Spindel	10-Mar
Alvin Gottlieb	11 Adar II
Doris Blueglass	15 Adar II
Regina E. Waxman	16 Adar II

***May the Source of peace send peace
to all who mourn,
and comfort to all who are bereaved.***



A candle may be lit at home the evening before the yahrtzeit date.

These names will be read during the erev Shabbat service before kaddish is recited. If you have a loved one you wish to add to our yahrtzeit list, or if you have not been getting yahrtzeit reminders

from us, please email tbs-ny@optimum.net.

Shabbat for Kaddish: March 17, 2023

Irving Lulkin	12-Mar
William Dimm	16 March
Maurice Frischman	16-Mar
Irwin Mack	16 March
Jean Cohen	17-Mar
Dorothy Werner	19 Adar
Dora Turchin	19 Adar
Dr. Philip Mann	21 Adar
Vivian Honey Hirsch	23 Adar

Shabbat for Kaddish: March 24, 2023

Rose Werner	20-Mar
Ida Spindel	20-Mar
Allen Kleinman	23-Mar
Yuriy Kazachkov	23-Mar
Jerry Finn	27-Mar

Shabbat for Kaddish: March 31, 2023

Reid Kleinman	25-Mar
Sally Lerner Russo	31-Mar
Grace Finkelstein	1 Nisan
Lillian Chiron	3 Nisan
Dr. Maurice Skyer	5 Nisan
Mae Elkin	7 Nisan
Anna Rauchwerger	8 Nisan
Lillian Meyer	8 Nisan

Shabbat for Kaddish: April 7, 2023

Herbert Kass	1-Apr
Jerome Sommer	3-Apr
Sabina Shapiro	3-Apr
Raymond Cohan	4-Apr
Dora Morrell	10 Nisan
Israel Polin	10 Nisan
Solomon Chibnik	11 Nisan
Edward Hochberg	12 Nisan

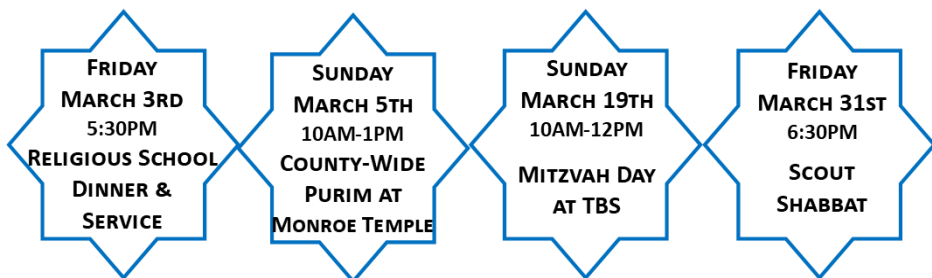
Please let us know what we don't know!! Just a friendly reminder to encourage you to email the temple office to keep us informed of any health issue you, your spouse, your child, or your parent may be facing. Vital information such as this can never be over communicated. Please do not assume that if one congregant knows what is happening that the entire community knows. Please tell us if you'd like to include that loved one on the Mi Shebeirach list, or, conversely if someone should be removed from it. -With thanks, Your TBS Family



EDUCATION

Zoom Hebrew School: 2/2, 2/9, 2/16.
NO HEBREW SCHOOL 2/23

MARCH 2023



Dear Religious School Families - In addition to our Thursday Hebrew School sessions, the school curriculum includes these four programs:

Friday, 3/3 5:30PM: Religious School Dinner & Service - Students will socialize, nosh, and learn the rituals for a Shabbat dinner. There will be a music lesson in between the dinner and the service. The 7PM service will feature prayers and melodies that the students are mastering in their Hebrew classes.

Sunday, 3/5 10AM - 1PM: Religious School Purim @ The Monroe Temple - Just as we gathered in great numbers at TBS for Tu Be'Shevat, Jewish students from all over Orange County will join together for Purim. Come in costume and be ready for a day with a Purim Play (Purimschpiel), Games, and food.

Sunday, 3/19 10AM - 12noon: Mitzvah Day @ TBS - Students will learn about some of Judaism's finest ethical and ritual mitzvot (plural for this Hebrew word that means commandment.) We will learn, sing and create art.

Friday, 3/31 6:30PM: Scout Shabbat - Members of a local scout troop will be our guests for our 7pm service. We will begin with a 6:30 orientation to our sanctuary. **ALL SCOUTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND IN THEIR UNIFORMS.**

LOOKING AHEAD...

Sunday, April 2nd 10AM – In person Passover Yachad

Thursday, April 6th 5:30PM - Federation sponsored Second Night Seder at TBS

Sunday, April 23 10AM – Religious School Mitzvah Day

Friday, May 5th 5:30PM – Religious School Dinner

Sunday, May 7th 10Am – Religious School Yachad Picnic



Beginner Hebrew Reading Course
Taught by Michael Melasky. Sundays
from 10 to 11AM through March. There
is no fee for this class. Kindly let us
know if you would like to attend.



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OF GREATER ORANGE COUNTY



Jewish
Book
Council



Meet Author Kitty Zeldis
Sunday, May 7th 4PM via Zoom
The Dressmakers of Prospect Heights

A haunting meditation on the bonds between mothers and daughters. Zeldis offers a fascinating look into historic New York City and New Orleans, and her skill as a storyteller is matched by her compassion for her characters.

NEW...Sponsorship opportunities now available. See registration page for details.

Register/Sponsor here: jewishorangenyc.org/2022-2023JewishBookCouncil

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March 26th
April 30th
May 21st

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SPRINTER
KALLAH

GRADES 8-12
MARCH 17-19TH, 2023
CAMP HARLAM,
KUNKLETOWN, PA

SISTERHOOD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wednesday, March 15th 7 to 8:30PM at TBS

Lisa Morrison Psychic Medium

Coffee and desserts served

RSVP/or information contact Wendy Wayman

thewaymans@optonline.net.

\$40 a person paid in advanced / \$45 at the door



www.psychiclisamorrison.com

Sunday, March 26th 11:30AM at TBS

Brunch, Bagels and Butter Toffee Matzah Crack

**Join us for a bagel brunch and make some
Butter Toffee Matzah Crack for Passover.**

**Please bring an item to be donated to the food
pantry. RSVP to Robin Bordman 845-699-6460 or
TheBordmans@aol.com.**

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Jack and Jessica Blinkoff Israel Scholarship: A full award covering the cost of one trip to Israel, given to one special 11th or 12th grade student, based on need and merit. Deadline for all Scholarship applications is March 31st.



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Complete the application here: jewishorangeny.org/scholarships

TBS MEN'S CLUB



Men's Club men, Sharon and Janne enjoyed a delicious steak dinner and a presentation from Eric Goodman on 4 local brews, each with a distinctive taste, including chocolate and blueberry.

Thanks to Jon and Jared for grilling on the brand new Weber Grill donated by the Werners.

Thanks to everyone for bringing side dishes and extremely funny stories that had us cracking up!



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MONROE TEMPLE BETH-EL
MARCH 10-12, 2023



Jewish Identities in the 2020s:

Who we WERE, who we ARE, who we WANT TO BE

- Friday, March 10 - 7:30pm Erev Shabbat Services
- Shabbat, March 11 - 1pm-6ish Luncheon and program
- "Jewish Identities Buffet"
- Sunday, March 12 - 9am-11am Raising proud Jewish kids in the 2020's - for parents and grandparents

There is no cost for these programs. It is open to the community.
We welcome 13 and older to participate.

This program is made possible by the generosity of individual donors,
Monroe Temple and Jewish Federation of Orange County

REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY MARCH 1ST HERE:

jewishorangenj.org/MonroeTempleLoebWeekend

Shabbat Shirah - Saturday morning 2/4/23 with guests from Monroe Temple.



Shabbat Shirah pictures taken by Gail Conklin and Rich Ball.



County-wide Tu b'Shevat program at TBS sponsored by The Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County, featuring our Clergy.



Right: Rabbi Doug Kohn spoke about his recent trip to the border.





Tu b'Shevat pictures taken by Gail Conklin





TBS Mitzvah Day - Saturday, February 11th
Food distribution at the Goshen Ecumenical Food Pantry.
Always a great way to do a quick and easy Mitzvah and earn community service.



PLEASE NOTE the *Mi Sheberach* list is constantly evolving. Please submit or re-submit any names you wish read at this time. You are always welcome to attend services either in-person or virtually, when available, and say the name(s) yourself. And don't forget to tell when its OK to take someone's name off the list.

NOW THAT WE'RE BACK IN-PERSON, FOLLOW THESE GOOD NEIGHBOR GUIDELINES

Please keep our neighbors in mind when parking by following these guidelines:

- ◆ Don't block a neighbor's driveway
- ◆ Make sure tires not on a lawn
- ◆ If parked directly across from a driveway, ensure there is enough clearance for the car in that driveway to back out
- ◆ If a neighbor complains to you, do not engage, instead find a board member who will attempt to smooth any ruffled feathers

Let's ensure parking does not become a stressful situation!



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Foot & Ankle

A graphic element consisting of a series of horizontal lines in green, blue, and yellow, with dots at the ends, suggesting motion or a stylized 'F'.

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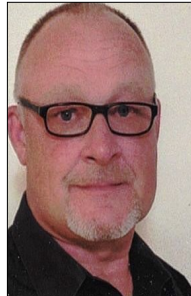
*Submissions should be sent to
shaz@hvc.rr.com
by the 20th of the month for the
following month's bulletin.*

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The Shofar

Published Monthly

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Rabbi Rebecca P. Shinder

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tbsny.org

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY																																																																																				
<div><div>FEBRUARY</div><table><tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr><tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr><tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table></div>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28					<div><div>APRIL</div><table><tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr><tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr><tr><td>23₃₀</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr></table></div>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23 ₃₀	24	25	26	27	28	29		18 adar	29 adar	10 adar	11 adar
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512 adar 10AM Adult Hebrew 10AM County Wide Purim Program at Monroe Temple	613 adar FAST OF ESTHER MEGILLAH READING	714 adar PURIM	815 adar SHUSHAN PURIM	916 adar 4:30PM Zoom Hebrew School 7:30PM Board of Trustees in-person	310 adar 5:30PM DINNER 7PM - SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA/SIDE OF PURIM Oneg: Wendy Cedar	411 adar Tetzaveh SHABBAT ZACHOR																																																																																				
1219 adar 10AM Adult Hebrew	1320 adar	1421 adar	1522 adar	1623 adar	1724 adar 7PM Shabbat Service Oneg: Liz Frederick & Bob Mantica	1118 adar 1PM Garry & Sorel Loeb Scholars in Residence at Monroe Temple Ki Tisa SHABBAT PARAH																																																																																				
1926 adar 10AM Mitzvah Day at TBS Adult Hebrew	2027 adar	2128 adar	2229 adar	231 nisan 4:30PM Zoom Hebrew School ROSH CHODESH	242 nisan 7PM Shabbat Service Oneg: Meredith & Sadie Weeman	253 nisan Vayakhel-Pekude SHABBAT HACHODESH																																																																																				
264 nisan 10AM Adult Hebrew 10:30AM PJ PLAY 11:30AM Sisterhood Brunch	275 nisan	286 nisan	297 nisan	308 nisan 4:30PM Zoom Hebrew School	319 nisan 7PM Shabbat Scout Service Oneg: OPEN																																																																																					