



# THE SHOFAR

Temple Beth Shalom      Florida, New York  
November 2023      Cheshvan / Kislev 5784

*From the Desk of Rabbi Rebecca P. Shinder*

Last Shabbat my friend, Rabbi Angela Buchdahl, preached to Central Synagogue a sermon with the haunting refrain: “ayn millim” - or in English: “there are no words.” She then lifted up many words to describe how the leaders of most of the churches, synagogues and mosques in New York tried all week to write a statement about the murders in Israel, and all they could come up with were platitudes like, “We stand in solidarity with the people in the region.” Finally, they gave up altogether. Rabbi Buchdahl said, “The leaders of our Manhattan faith community could not say the words, “We condemn Hamas terrorism and massacre.” She said, “Those who generally have the most compassion for victims of oppression and violence simply have a blind spot when the victims are Jews. I have had enough of calling Israelis colonialists. It is Hamas’s strategy to paint Israelis as rootless settler-colonialists, that’s a lie. As Jews, Israel is our country.” You may find her stirring sermon on YouTube.

Another colleague of mine, Rabbi Neal Gold, wrote a letter to a theoretical “Liberal Minister Friend.” In it, he found many words to portray what so many of us are feeling now. He writes...

Dear Reverend L.,

Thank you for your note. I, too, am saddened that the Jewish-Muslim program which I was invited to participate was cancelled for Sunday. I am very committed to these sort of programs and agree that they are more important than ever. And I very much appreciate the spirit in which your note was written. I probably should stop writing here. But I cannot.

You write, “I am someone who believes in both Israel’s right to be a nation as well as the rights of the Palestinian people to have their own state.” I do too. *I appreciate that you believe in ‘Israel’s right to be a nation,’ but please consider what a paltry statement that is.*

But: Is that what you think this war is about? Seeking a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict? Two weeks ago, at least 1,400 Jews were massacred; more Jews in a single day than at any other time since the Shoah (the Holocaust). Perhaps you saw the videos of the teenagers who were slaughtered at a desert music festival in Israel. Or the images of towns where most of the populations were murdered by terrorists who went house to house, executing everyone within. (Watch Anderson Cooper’s “The Whole Story” on the festival massacre on HBO-MAX.) Perhaps you have seen how the terrorists have posted videos to social media of beheadings, burnings alive, desecrated bodies, and humiliated hostages, with the same sort of twisted satanic joy that we saw on the faces of the perpetrators of the lynchings years ago in the American south.

There are currently at least 230 Jewish people who have been kidnapped and held hostage by Hamas, secreted away in subterranean tunnels that were constructed for the purpose of terror. Some of them are octogenarian grandmothers and grandfathers. Some of them are children.

Today, a friend of mine, an Israeli rabbi, a lifelong advocate of peace and interfaith bridge-building, officiated at the funeral of a family of four; two parents and two of their children. One son, the lone survivor of his family, spoke, somehow, at the ceremony. They were members of Kibbutz Be’eri, a communal town that in 2021 had a population of 1,047. At least 10% of Be’eri is dead.

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Do you think this massacre of Jews is about the failure of the two-state solution? It is not. “ Hamas” is not equivalent to “the Palestinian people.” Speaking as someone who knows Palestinians, who has spent time in their homes and knows well their frustrations and true grievances and injustices they have suffered, I know that those of good faith are likewise held back by the Hamas, a fascist and repressive terrorist organization. What Israel is experiencing is the proportional equivalent of twenty 9/11s. The elimination of Hamas is not only just, it is rational and necessary for both Israelis and Palestinians in order to have any sort of livable future.

What about Iran? Every indication is that this terrorist assault was planned meticulously for months and that it has the fingerprints and probably a greenlight from Tehran on it. Do you think Hamas and Iran are working for a two-state solution? They are working for the goal that is articulated in the Hamas charter: the annihilation of the Jewish state.

I appreciate that you believe in “Israel’s right to be a nation,” but please consider what a paltry statement that is. “We agree you have a right to exist.” That’s really not a very high or generous standard, is it? (Although there are plenty of monstrous people in the world who will not even grant that.)

*Hamas is the “good people on both sides” moment of 2023.*

Reverend, I want you to know about the conversation that is happening in every Jewish community in America right now:

**First, we are grieving.** Jewishness is first and foremost about being part of the Jewish people. Our history and our traditions emphasize that Jews are one interconnected family, a subset of our larger human family. So there is pain, an open, bleeding wound, in every Jewish community in the world right now. We are praying collectively for the hundreds who are being held hostage in terror cells. We are praying for those families that have been ripped apart. We are praying for the dead.

**Second, we grieve for the suffering of innocents everywhere.** Most every Jewish community grieves for the suffering of innocent Palestinians, and those who will inevitably suffer in this war. *Anyone who cannot feel compassion for all innocents who suffer has surely lost any figment of a moral compass.* I know that my community prays for all the victims of war and terror everywhere, and we pray for peace. But we also know that the Palestinian people suffer from Hamas’s fascism and cruelty. We are not warmongers but we also are not pacifists; we recognize that there are moments when evil must be counteracted with the force of justice. We learned that lesson in World War 2 and many other times in the history of the past century.

**Third, Jewish communities are asking today who our allies are.** Every day, I’m hearing shock and dismay and worse from Jews who are experiencing the ugliest sort of old-school antisemitic hate, especially on social media. We see the pro-Hamas rallies in the streets of some cities, where the protestors seem positively euphoric about the deaths of Israeli Jews. We see demonstrations on college campuses from “progressive” faculty and students who point their fingers at us to say: It’s your fault. While we’re attending funerals, these people tell us that we are responsible for the rapes, beheadings, and abductions.

Jewish students on college campuses are shocked by the amorality of their professors, administrators, and others in authority, in their “both-sidesism”. Every synagogue and Jewish community center in America has amped up its security for protection in ways that we never imagined we would have to do in the 21st century. We are waiting to see who our allies are.

Last year, we all flew Ukrainian flags in support of the victims of unchecked terror and aggression. We suspect that, no matter how many Jews are murdered, our neighbors will not be flying Israeli flags anytime soon. The title of Dara Horn’s recent book on antisemitism is People Love Dead Jews and she has a point: Dead Jews can be martyrs, but Jews who defend themselves from those who would murder them are somehow less sympathetic.

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After Charlottesville, when white supremacists chanted “Jews will not replace us,” the former President of the United States claimed he saw “good people on both sides.” He was appropriately excoriated for it. *Hamas is the “good people on both sides” moment* of 2023, especially for progressives. Anyone who cannot unequivocally say, “We stand with Israel in its fight against terrorism,” will fail the test.

So, L., please know that I understand where you’re coming from; you thought you were being compassionate with your note. I appreciate that. Please know that I wouldn’t have taken the time to write if I didn’t hold you in high esteem as a man of peace. But Jews need to know who our friends are right now, and who will stand on the sidelines, in that Swiss sort of amoral neutrality.

Sincerely, Neal

**In the aftermath of Hamas’ massacre of over 1,400 people in Israel, anger over Israel’s response targeting Hamas and other terrorists in Gaza is fueling the flames of hate on college and university campuses in the U.S. Jewish students are being assaulted, intimidated, and harassed because of their beliefs. Congress must send a clear signal to colleges and universities across the country that hate has no place on campus.**

**I ask that you join me in sending a letter to Congress by filing the form found on:**  
<https://adl.salsalabs.org/campus-congress/index.html>

**L’hitraot, Rabbi RP Shinder**

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Dearest Congregants,

As we continue to witness the horror and pain in Israel, we hear stories of brave Israeli soldiers who risk their lives to protect our land. These include the thousands of men and women who returned home from living abroad in order to serve. I encourage you and your children to write letters of support and love to IDF fighters. Pictures, poems, and words of encouragement can be sent to:



Momentum  
28 General Pierre Koenig St.  
Jerusalem, Israel 9346936



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### **More Relevant Than Ever**

On the heels of the Hamas attack, a new exhibit about the Holocaust, aimed at children, opens in New York. As parents grapple this week with how to talk to their kids about antisemitism, persecution, and heroism, the timing seems opportune.

Read more:  
[www.tabletmag.com/sections/community/articles/holocaust-museum-exhibit-children-denmark-rescue](http://www.tabletmag.com/sections/community/articles/holocaust-museum-exhibit-children-denmark-rescue)



Open to all Orange County  
Jewish communities

# SAVE THE DATE

## *Community Family Shabbat and Dinner*

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH**  
**at Temple Sinai**

**6PM - SHABBAT SERVICE**  
**7PM - DINNER**

*Sponsored in part by:*



## MORE INFORMATION TO COME

**(845) 343-1861**

**75 Highland Ave., Middletown, NY 10940**

**[www.templestinamiddletown.com](http://www.templestinamiddletown.com) [rabbicobert@templestinamiddletown.com](mailto:rabbicobert@templestinamiddletown.com)**

### GOOD NEIGHBOR PARKING GUIDELINES

Please keep our neighbors in mind 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!



## CO-PRESIDENTS' HIGH HOLIDAY MESSAGE

It's a tough assignment to write this month's Shofar message.

We enjoyed an exuberant High Holiday season. We had a beautiful day to celebrate the 2nd day of Rosh Hashanah outside at Warwick Lake (aka KUTZ!). Our sukkah was a vision thanks to Julia Calderon, who harvested the corn stalks for the sukkah roof, and the Manly Men, who built the sukkah and the children and adults who decorated the sukkah.

Simchat Torah brought Beit Sefer students and parents, as well as congregants from TBS and Monroe temple to our shul for a Shabbat dinner and service. The sanctuary was full! So much occurred which brought joy to our hearts.



Then...the horrific Hamas attack on Israel - which brought sorrow to our hearts. I am saddened and fearful. Saddened for all the lives lost and the children, adults and seniors who have been taken hostage. I am fearful of what seems to be an incredible rise in antisemitism. Although I am fearful, I don't shy away from TBS - I need my family of families - and I appreciate the opportunities that have been offered to learn more and discuss the war in Israel. I encourage you to do the same. We are strengthened and uplifted by our numbers, by Rabbi Shinder and by watching the children running up to the bima to participate in the Hakafah.

We continue to have security for every Shabbat, Beit Sefer sessions and events. Again, we will be applying for a security grant. This time we plan to hire a grant writer; we feel the return will warrant the investment. That being said, our budget is incredibly tight. An extra donation to our security fund would be most helpful and greatly appreciated.

So, we still do what we do. Shabbat services continue. The Men's Club has invited the Men of Monroe to a barbecue on Saturday, November 11th. On the 17th, there will be no services at TBS or any other participating shul in Orange County because a countywide Shabbat Dinner and Service is happening at Temple Sinai. Did you know the sisterhoods of TBS and Monroe Temple have joined forces? Strength in numbers! Women, friends, men and couples are invited to Monroe Temple on Saturday, November 18th to a game night (bring wine!) Look into this edition of the Shofar and the weekly email blast.

Mark your calendars: on December 1st we will be honoring the Florida and Warwick Town Police during Shabbat services. The police have been there for us, helping and protecting TBS for many years now. Please come to offer your thanks.

I hope to see you at shul or at one of our events and I wish you a blessed Thanksgiving.

L'Shalom, Catherine

**REMEMBER TO USE OUR NEW MAILING ADDRESS:**

**TBS 13 Roosevelt Ave. Florida, NY 10921**



~ CARING COMMUNITY ~

***Mazel Tov to Rita and Phil Laskin on the birth of their granddaughter, Sloan.***

***Speedy recovery to***

✧ Elizabeth Frederick

***We thank the following donors for their generosity***

✧ Randolph, Jill and Larissa Cohen IMO Irvin Herman

✧ Jack and Laura Nizewitz IMO Irvin Herman

✧ Kenneth Korn IMO Irvin Herman

✧ Elenora Horn IMO Haya Yankelevna Kreymen

✧ Philip and Rita Laskin IMO Ester Schwartz

***We thank the following for their donations to the Memorial Book***

✧ Catherine Greenblatt ✧ Wendy Wayman

***We thank the following for their High Holiday donations:***

Philip and Rita Laskin

Randolf, Jill and Larissa Cohen

Yvette and Eric Goodman

Millie and David Glassman

Daryl Goldberg

Jack and Suzan Fein

Marga Gordon

We thank the following for hosting an Oneg Shabbat:

Nov. 3rd... Ami and Glen Anton and David and Ilana Wilde IHO

David's mother, Betty Wilde's first yahrtzeit

Nov. 10th...Atkin Family IHO Johnny's baby naming

Nov. 17th and Nov. 24th...NO SERVICES



***Have something to celebrate? Do it with an oneg!***

***Contact the temple office, 845.651.7817.***

**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



***Shabbat for Kaddish: November 3rd***

Benjamin Neustadt	15 Cheshvan
Charles Billick	17 Cheshvan
Milton Kimpl	17 Cheshvan
Helene Auerbach	18 Cheshvan
Jerome Chiron	19 Cheshvan
Herbert Bernstein	19 Cheshvan
Sylvia DeLorenzo	28-Oct
Adrienne Levin	29-Oct
Beatrice Acker	30-Oct
Martin Heller	1-Nov
Morris Mizrahi	1-Nov
Irene Glaz	2-Nov

***Shabbat for Kaddish: November 10th***

Alice Gelerter	24 Cheshvan
Eva Tobias	24 Cheshvan
Carol Kittay	26 Cheshvan
Abraham M. Agress	25 Cheshvan
Brenda Korn	6-Nov
Johanna Mayer	6-Nov
Tony Orton Bruce	8-Nov
Gertrude "Goldie" Ross	8-Nov

***Shabbat for Kaddish: November 17th***

Elaine Lurie	28 Cheshvan
Milton Blueglass	2 Kislev
Irving Plumser	11-Nov
Alan Rake	13-Nov
Tony Krzywicki	13-Nov
David Freed	Nov.13
Judith Morrow	Nov.15

***Shabbat for Kaddish: November 24th***

David Katz	5 Kislev
Irving	6 Kislev
Allan Heffler	7 Kislev
Abraham Horowitz	7 Kislev
Fay Sommer	7 Kislev
Florence Hecht	8 Kislev
Ethel Weinberger Fabel	10 Kislev
Fred Cahn	11 Kislev
William Rosenberg	Nov. 18
Shirley Cooper	Nov. 21
Jennie Leiman	21-Nov
Adele Koff	22-Nov
Doris Schiff	23-Nov
Thomas DeLorenzo	23-Nov

***Shabbat for Kaddish: December 1st***

Paul Moskowitz	12 Kislev
Thelma (Toby) Holsborg	13 Kislev
Benjamin Masour	15 Kislev
Ida Polin	16 Kislev
Ella R. Chiron	16 Kislev
Benjamin Cuttler	18 Kislev
David Rubinstein	Nov. 25
Bea Barsky	Nov. 25
Maxine Epstein Heredia	Nov. 27
Ceila Stern	Nov. 28
Maurice Acker	28-Nov
Joseph Smolinsky	1-Dec

***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 yahrtzheit date. From September through June 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 yahrtzheit list, or if you have not been getting yahrtzheit reminders from us, please email the office, [tbs-y@optimum.net](mailto:tbs-y@optimum.net).





# November

## EDUCATION



**BEIT SEFER**  **בית ספר**

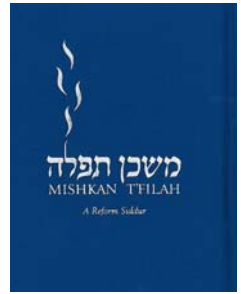
Beit Sefer of Orange County • A new twist on Jewish education!

<p><b>Hebrew Learning: Monroe Temple on Tuesdays or Zoom on Thursdays</b></p> <p><b>=====</b></p> <p><b>Beit Sefer Sundays at the Temple noted</b></p>		<p><b>November 2023- Monroe</b>  Sunday: 5, 12, 19  Tuesday: 7, 14, 28  Thursday: 2, 9, 16, 30  Friday: 17- Orange County  Schools at Temple Sinai  Shabbat dinner/service  Saturday: 18- 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>  learning service 10AM</p>
<p><b>December 2023- Temple Beth Shalom</b>  Sunday: 10, 17  Tuesdays: 5, 12, 19  Thursday: 7, 14, 21  Fridays: 8 Shabbat  Dinner/Service  Saturday: 2 Florida food  pantry/Holiday gift  preparation</p>	<p><b>January 2024- Temple Beth Shalom</b>  Sunday: 7, 14, 21, 28  Tuesday: 9, 16, 23, 30  Thursday: 4, 11, 18, 25  Saturday: 27, Shabbat  Shirah service/ luncheon</p>	<p><b>February 2024- Monroe</b>  Sunday: 4, 11, 25  Tuesday: 6, 13, 27  Thursday: 1, 8, 15, 29</p>
<p><b>March 2024- Temple Beth Shalom</b>  Sunday: 3, 10, 17  Tuesday: 5, 12, 19  Thursday: 7, 14, 21  Friday: 1, Shabbat service/  dinner  Saturday: 9, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>  grade learning service  Sunday, 24, OC Purim  Carnival, Kol Yisrael (Nbq)</p>	<p><b>April 2024- Monroe</b>  Sunday: 7 (Field Trip- Lower  East Side) 14, 28  Tuesday: 2, 9, 16, 30  Thursday: 4, 11, 18  Friday: 5 Shabbat service  and dinner  Saturday: 20, Shabbaton</p>	<p><b>May 2024- Temple Beth Shalom</b>  Sunday 5, 19 Closing Day  Tuesday: 7, 14  Thursday: 2, 9, 16  Friday: 3, Shabbat dinner/  service</p>



## Adult Hebrew Education

Our own Michael Melasky will be teaching a class concentrating on "Understanding the Friday Night Service." Classes start Sunday, December 3rd, 10AM at TBS and will continue on Sunday mornings alternating between TBS and Monroe Temple. Please contact Mike, [molas.1980@yahoo.com](mailto:molas.1980@yahoo.com) to let him know that you are interested.



Our NFTY teens and Rabbi Shinder attended the NFTY-GER Fall Kallah in Scotch Plains, NY in October.



Lovely flowers and note from the Philos Action League, who reached out to share their support for Israel. They stand in solidarity with Israel and the Jewish people. Read more about them here: [philosproject.org](http://philosproject.org). Photo taken by Gail Conklin at Shabbat services on 10/27/23.



## TIYULIM WALKING GROUP

Wendy Cedar has started a WhatsApp group for this group to connect with anyone who is interested in meeting on the fly. If you are interested, please join the group. Simply download WhatsApp, search for TBS Tiyyulim, request to join the group.

# SISTERHOOD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



TBS SH Prez, Robin Bordman & MT SH Prez, Leslye Joseph

We had a great evening a few weeks ago with the sisterhood from Monroe Temple. Thank you to Wendy Wayman for the door prizes and games.



## COMING UP:

- Saturday, November 18th 7PM Havdalah and Game Night with Monroe Temple Sisterhood at Monroe Temple. Bring your spouse, significant other or friends for a fun night of games and dessert. Please RSVP by November 14 to [rsrwrw@optonline.net](mailto:rsrwrw@optonline.net).
- Sisterhood is looking for Mah Jongg and Canasta players. We are reaching out to anyone interested in teaching beginners how to play Canasta as well as Mah Jongg. We hope to move towards weekly games. Please let me know if you have any interest in playing or teaching either game. [Thebordmans@aol.com](mailto:Thebordmans@aol.com) or text 845-699-6460
- Wednesday, December 13th Sisterhood Hanukkah Dinner will be held at 110 Grill in Middletown. This year we will be collecting diapers, wipes, and toiletries for moms at Eva's Village. Look for your invitation.

The Temple Beth Shalom Sisterhood Executive board: Robin Bordman, Ilene Cahn, Mindy Hazzard, Judy Potter, Holli Teshome and Wendy Wayman

## Speaking of Unmentionables: The Rise and Fall of Women's Underwear.

Join us via Zoom or at an in-person watch party at Monroe Temple for a special presentation on the history of women's underwear. presented by Ellie Carlson. In-person events will also have a social action component, collecting new underwear and socks for women's shelters and charities near the hosting sisterhoods.

**November 19 at 4:00 pm. on Zoom or In Person. Registration Required**



## SPEAKING OF UNMENTIONABLES THE RISE & FALL OF LADIES' UNDERWEAR

PRESENTED BY ELLIE CARLSON

**NOVEMBER 19**

REGISTRATION \$10/ PERSON

\*Zoom presentation is from 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.



**REGISTER: <https://form.jotform.com/232285231717151>**

# TBS MEN'S CLUB



## Save The Date!

It's a TBS Men's Club BBQ!

Saturday, November 11th at TBS  
4PM until whenever!

\$20 gets you steak and beer.

All sides and desserts will be contributed -  
what are you bringing?!

Monroe Temple Men's Club is invited and  
will be joining us!

You DO NOT have to be a member of the  
TBS Men's Club to attend our BBQ!

RSVP to Eric Goodman,  
845-699-5705 or

[eric2112goodman@gmail.com](mailto:eric2112goodman@gmail.com)

stronger together



MONROE TEMPLE  
SISTERHOOD  
WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM

AND



TEMPLE BETH SHALOM  
SISTERHOOD

Bring your spouse,  
significant other, and  
friends for a fun night  
of games and dessert  
on us!

Invite you to  
join us for  
**Havdalah  
&  
Game Night**  
at  
**Monroe Temple**

**Saturday, November 18**  
**7 pm**

Trivia, dominoes, cards,  
and enjoy a little nosh!  
Why not bring a bottle  
of wine to share?

RSVP by Nov. 14  
[rsrclw@optonline.net](mailto:rsrclw@optonline.net)





Since we were rained out of our Sukkot Under the Stars, Beit Sefer enjoyed the Sukkah on Friday, October 6th, had a lovely Shabbat dinner and then gathered in the sanctuary for consecration and Simchat Torah. Thanks to Rabbi Shinder and Rabbi Lerner for a wonderful evening. And thanks to Gail Conklin and Eric Goodman for these great pictures.



On Saturday, October 14th our congregants gathered once again at the First Presbyterian Church in Goshen to assist in the monthly food give-away. Thanks to Marcia Mattheus for organizing and fretting each time that no one would show up, but we always do! Thanks to Karyn Winaker for these photos.



THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES OF TEMPLE  
BETH SHALOM 'HONOR' OUR LOCAL POLICE  
DEPARTMENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

WHEN: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> 2023 AT 7PM  
WHERE: TEMPLE BETH SHALOM

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE HONOR LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT  
OFFICIALS, PERSONNEL AND CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES,  
WHO PROVIDE OUR COMMUNITY WITH THE RESOURCES  
AND SUPPORT TO KEEP US SAFE AND PROTECTED.



FOLLOWING THE  
SERVICE, A FESTIVE  
DESSERT RECEPTION  
WILL BE HELD IN OUR  
SOCIAL HALL.





Our Beit Sefer session on Sunday, October 15th featured an art project with Israeli Artist, Michal Nachmany. The children studied the concept of "Bayit" (home). The kids brought photos of family and special places that means home to them. Goodman for these great pictures.  
Photos by Gail Conklin.



Following our Rosh HaShana morning tradition of having a congregant recount their journey to TBS, we were honored to hear Lore Hannes share her views with us.



### "Musings on Interfaith"

Shana Tova!

I thought a lot about how I wanted to approach speaking here today, and there were a few approaches I could take but in the end I decided to just stick to the assignment and discuss my journey to TBS.

Memory is a funny thing. My husband Jeff and I were married in 1999, and in Jeff's memory the question of raising children Jewish was brought up before we even got engaged, and that it was a settled thing before we even got that far.

But I don't remember it that way. I remember getting engaged first, and running into some hiccups planning a wedding with a Jewish groom and a non-Jewish bride.

It took a few tries to find a rabbi who would marry us, which was a little bit of a wakeup call, and led me to wonder what else we ought to be considering.

So I did what I always do when I am struggling with something and I want information: I read books. I read something called *The Intermarriage Handbook*, which had some good advice, and some...other advice...and the main thing I took from it was that whatever we decided to do we definitely ought to work things out sooner rather than later.

I approached Jeff, saying we needed to talk about how we're gonna do things, including how we'd raise any children. He said "We'll figure it out later!" and I said, "I think we ought to figure it out now."

We sat on the couch in our little apartment in New Rochelle and laid out the options: Raise them Jewish, raise them Christian, raise them "Both", raise them "Let's just see how it goes." That last one seemed easiest. But then I remembered Judy Blume.

If you have read your share of Judy Blume, you've read *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret*. A lot of things happen in that book but the part that matters here is that 6th grader Margaret basically has an existential crisis because her parents, one of whom is Jewish and one of whom is Christian, don't really give her a solid religious identity.

I think children need a religious and spiritual base. The psychological function religious affiliation serves – it means something, it matters. There's some core human need being met there. There is more than one way to go about it of course but in the end I believe you do need to make a decision for them. (What they do with it later is, of course, up to them.)

Back to the couch in New Rochelle. We both knew that between the two of us, my husband's Jewishness was more central to his identity, and while he was willing to discuss alternatives the truth was that having Jewish children was very important to him. I knew enough about Judaism by that point to know that I would feel good about raising children with a Jewish identity. Given all of that it seemed obvious to us that we should raise our children Jewish, so that's what we decided to do. Then it was a matter of finding our spiritual home.

It took a few tries to find the right place, but here we are. TBS has always been an incredibly inclusive community and I've never felt like an "other" or an outsider as a non-Jewish spouse here. You taught me to read Hebrew and invite me to take part in High Holidays and I've always felt welcome.

*continued on next page*



*Lore Hannes, continued*

So you may ask at this point, “Where are your children?” Well, they’re not here right now.... My daughter is away at college and is connected with campus Hillel and tells me she gets to services every so often. My teenage son is at home and is almost certainly still asleep. But they are both decidedly Jewish. Last night, we had apples and honey and a round Challah, and we lit Shabbat candles and blessed all the things, with my daughter on speakerphone and everyone chanting along. Mommy can (mostly) read the Hebrew. And yes we have a Christmas tree and yes, we share Christmas and Easter with my side of the family, but my parents were here, participating and celebrating when my daughter became a Bat Mitzvah. My father in particular was so touched at how welcome he felt.

And I guess the best way to wrap this up is to say that I am so grateful to have found this little shul, and thank you for being...yourselves. A warm and welcoming community. Thank you.

Each summer, the Jewish Federation of Greater Orange County selects one special teen applicant as the winner of the Blinkoff Scholarship. This is an all-expense paid trip to Israel and Europe funded by interest from the Jack and Jessica Endowment Fund. Two years ago, our congregant Jacob Teshome was the lucky winner and this past summer, his sister Allison Teshome received the honor. Jacob and Allie are the children of long-time TBS members Sid and Holli Teshome.

On Yom Kippur morning, Allie shared thoughts about her Jewish journey at TBS. Pictures were published with her article in the October 2023 Federation newsletter.

Good Morning,

My name is Allison Teshome and I am a Junior at Chester Academy. My Jewish journey began here at Temple Beth Shalom when I was just 2 years old. Being part of the temple community has been an important part of my childhood. I attended temple tots as a preschooler and then Sunday school and Hebrew school from the time I was in kindergarten. I made friends here at Temple and had many fun youth group and NFTY experiences.

My Jewish journey continued and expanded when I was 10 years old. During the summer of 2017 I spent 3 weeks away at URJ Crane Lake Camp which is located in West Stockbridge, MA. I returned to camp each year and even had the opportunity to spend 2 full summers at Crane Lake. The scholarships I received through the Jewish Federation of Orange County made it possible for my family to send me to camp.

My experiences at Crane Lake were some of the best times of my life. I made friendships that I know will last a lifetime. Camp is full of swimming, boating, dancing, crafts, sports, and games. We celebrate Shabbat with the most uplifting songs and prayers. There are not many Jewish kids at my school, but at camp we are all Jewish and that makes it even more special.

On April 4, 2020 I was supposed to have my Bat Mitzvah here at TBS but due to the pandemic the world shut down and my Bat Mitzvah was delayed by 3 months. We thought it would be over by then, but we all know that didn't happen. On June 13th, 2020, I had an at home Zoom Bat Mitzvah followed by a drive by parade. The TBS community came out and drove past my house and showered me with love and support during that unprecedented time.

This past summer I received the Blinkoff Scholarship through the Jewish Federation of Orange County. The Blinkoff scholarship is given to one teen in Orange County each year and it covers the entire cost of a trip to Israel. I was so grateful to be able to go on the Yallah! Israel trip with my friends from Crane Lake Camp. We spent one week in Poland followed by four weeks in Israel. It was an incredible trip filled with education, adventure, and lots of fun!

*continued on next page*

At the start of this trip we went to the Museum of the History of Polish Jews. We saw powerful sculptures and statues depicting what Polish Jews went through during World War II. We visited the sight of the Warsaw Ghetto and saw the remaining wall. Within the ghetto, we saw where the Warsaw ghetto uprising took place. We learned that the people who lead the uprising were teenagers: some were even younger than us. It was a powerful experience because these teenagers never stood a chance against the German Army but were willing to fight for and ultimately die for what they believed in.

Then we traveled to Krakow, Poland which was a 3-hour bus ride from Warsaw. We walked through the entire grounds of Auschwitz-Birkenau. We started at the entrance where the trains came through and we went up into the watch tower. From here we could see a view of most of the camp. This angle showed how enormous this camp was. At the conclusion of this day, we circled up, chanted the mourners kaddish and sang Hatikvah to honor the victims. I felt hope because the Nazi's did not accomplish their goal of eliminating all Jewish people. We were there singing our prayers in Hebrew and continuing the traditions of our people.

At the end of this powerful week in Poland we were excited to begin our Journey in Israel. We hiked up Masada and reached the top just in time to see the sun rise. We rode camels which was a little scary but fun. We also went to the Dead Sea and floated in the water. It was joyful to experience all of that in our first few days in Israel. The next part of our journey led us to the holy city of Jerusalem. We were able to sing all our songs and prayers just like we used to do at camp. It felt comforting because the service was so familiar, but also surreal to think we were actually celebrating Shabbat in Israel.

I chose to go on a 4-day experience called Tikkun Olam where I volunteered all around Israel. I went to a nursing home where we talked to the residents and played board games with them. I volunteered at a day camp with children that had special needs and at a home that housed adults with special needs. My friends and I went to a food pantry where we packed over a thousand hot meals for those in need. We also packed bags of nonperishable food for families to take home with them. This experience made feel grateful and has motivated me to continue giving back to my community at home.

Our journey came to a close at the Western Wall where we celebrated our last Shabbat in Israel. We put our prayers to God on pieces of paper that went into the wall. As I reflect on this journey, I feel grateful and inspired. I understand how important it is to continue being a part of the Jewish community. I encourage other teens to go and experience the incredible land of Israel and I hope to return sometime soon. Thank you for listening to my journey. I hope you all have an easy fast.





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# *The Shofar*

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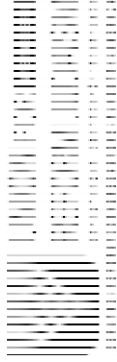
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>OCTOBER</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</p> <p>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</p> <p>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</p> <p>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</p> <p>29 30 31</p>	<p>DECEMBER</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2</p> <p>3 4 5 6 7 8 9</p> <p>10 11 12 13 14 15 16</p> <p>17 18 19 20 21 22 23</p> <p>24<sub>31</sub> 25 26 27 28 29 30</p>		<p>1 17 cheshvan</p>	<p>2 18 cheshvan</p> <p>4:30PM Zoom Hebrew School</p>	<p>3 19 cheshvan</p> <p>7PM Shabbat Service Oneg: Anton &amp; Wilde Families</p>	<p>4 20 cheshvan</p>
<p>5 21 cheshvan</p> <p>9:30-11:30AM Beit Sefer at Monroe Temple</p>	<p>6 22 cheshvan</p>	<p>7 23 cheshvan</p>	<p>8 24 cheshvan</p>	<p>9 25 cheshvan</p> <p>4:30PM Zoom Hebrew School</p> <p>7:30PM Board of Trustees</p>	<p>10 26 cheshvan</p> <p>7PM Shabbat Service Oneg: Atkin Family IHO baby naming</p> <p>VETERANS DAY (Observed)</p>	<p>11 27 cheshvan</p> <p>4PM Mems Club BBQ at TBS</p> <p>CANADIAN REMEMBRANCE DAY Chaye Sarah</p>
<p>12 28 cheshvan</p> <p>9:30-11:30AM Beit Sefer at Monroe Temple</p>	<p>13 29 cheshvan</p> <p>SIGD</p>	<p>14 1 kislev</p> <p>ROSH CHODESH</p>	<p>15 2 kislev</p>	<p>16 3 kislev</p> <p>4:30PM Zoom Hebrew School</p>	<p>17 4 kislev</p> <p>6PM Shabbat Dinner &amp; Service at Temple Sinai</p>	<p>18 5 kislev</p> <p>10AM 6th &amp; 7th grade learning service at Monroe</p> <p>7PM Havdalah &amp; Games At Monroe Temple</p>
<p>19 6 kislev</p> <p>9:30-11:30AM Beit Sefer at Monroe Temple</p>	<p>20 7 kislev</p>	<p>21 8 kislev</p>	<p>22 9 kislev</p>	<p>23 10 kislev</p> <p>NO HEBREW SCHOOL</p> <p>THANKSGIVING</p>	<p>24 11 kislev</p> <p>NO SHABBAT SERVICE</p>	<p>25 12 kislev</p>
<p>26 13 kislev</p> <p>NO BEIT SEFER</p>	<p>27 14 kislev</p>	<p>28 15 kislev</p>	<p>29 16 kislev</p>	<p>30 17 kislev</p> <p>4:30PM Zoom Hebrew School</p>		<p>Vayetzei</p>