

Volume 85 Issue 7 Temple February 2025 Beth Sholom Shevat 5785 tbsmb.org

# BUILDING BRIDGES: COMBATTING

ANTISEMITISM

# MITZVAH DAY FEBRUARY 23, 2025

Details start on page 10.



#### HAKOL February 2025

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#### SHABBAT SCHEDULE

#### tbsmb.org/spiritual-life/shabbat

Shabbat is a taste of paradise. Talmud, Berachot 57a

#### **Shabbat Evening Services**

#### 6:00 pm | Friday

Our Shabbat evening service will embrace you. Fresh and familiar music will enable you to give voice to your own spirit. Special occasions in the lives of our congregants, Jewish teachings, sermons from our rabbis, and special music will enhance "Shabbat—our sanctuary in time."

#### Torah Study on Shabbat Morning

#### 9:30 am | Saturday

Start your Saturday with Torah study. Each Shabbat morning before our Shabbat Morning Minyan (10:30 am), you will study *Parashat HaShavua*, the weekly Torah portion. The rabbis will lead a discussion of ancient commentaries and teachings and reveal the Torah's modern and relevant lessons.

#### Tot Shabbat

#### 10:00 am | Saturday

Join us Saturday morning at 10:00 am for a wonderful young family Shabbat experience. This interactive program is geared for families with children up to the age of five years old. Prayer, music, stories, movement, activities, snacks and much more will be featured. Following Tot Shabbat, families stay and enjoy time together in our beautiful playground. This is a great way for you to celebrate Shabbat with other families with young children. **tbsmb.school/programs/family** 

#### **Shabbat Morning Service**

#### 10:30 am | Saturday

Join us Saturday mornings at 10:30 am in our beautiful chapel or sanctuary. Our clergy and members of our congregation help to lead the prayers and read the Torah. Kiddush lunch follows.

#### jLAB Family Shabbat

Each Saturday morning, jLAB students in grades K-5 and their parents (and other significant grown-ups) gather together in the chapel from 9:30-10:00 am for a lively Shabbat morning *t'filah* experience. This is a great opportunity to learn the prayers of our liturgy and connect with the words of our prayer service. All those with children in this age group are welcome to join us! For more information or to RSVP contact Kimberly Hyde at kimberly@tbsmb.org.

#### **B-Mitzvah Service**

Our b-mitzvah services are at 10:30 am and 4:30 pm. These services occur only when a member of the Temple is celebrating the occasion of becoming bar/bat/b-mitzvah. See above (table of contents) or **tbsmb.org/calendar** for current schedule.

#### Live Streaming

Watch Friday night and Saturday morning Shabbat services on your computer at **www.tbsmb.org/watch**.

Visit TBSMB.ORG for up-to-the-minute viewing platforms by service



# **Sacred Connections**

Rabbi Gayle Pomerantz

Temple Beth Sholom in Numbers

For the past 18 years, my husband and I have been composting. At first it seemed like a fairly easy way to lighten our load on the planet. For many years we made our own compost, which my husband and plenty of bugs and worms transformed into compost soil. We learned the hard way that you have to remove all the sticky labels on fruit and vegetable skin. At one point, my husband had the compost remains spread all over our lawn drying out – let me assure you, it wasn't a pretty picture.

Then last year, as part of our Social Justice Network sustainability efforts, we joined Compost for Life -- many thanks to Rachel Unger for initiating this project at the Innovative School and for home use. Having our compost picked up biweekly has made our lives much easier. They are always on time and do a great job, at a discounted price for TBS members (compostforlifemiami.org). I was recently impressed with their holiday newsletter, informing me that as of December 2024, they have diverted 4,238,488 pounds of organics from landfill. I learned that my household has contributed 1,102 pounds to that effort, which is the equivalent of saving 1,003 gas miles or 45 gallons of gas! Seeing our efforts quantified this way truly validated our commitment.

This data inspired me to share some of our TBS quantitative impact with you. On an annual basis, your contributions to TBS help us to:

#### Educate:

- -320 religious school (jLAB) students (K 12)
- -253 Infant and preschool Innovative School students
- -92 Elementary level Innovative School students
- -26 Confirmands (9th and 10th grades)
- -36 B'nei Mitzvah students
- -10 Israel Fellows (11th and 12th grade)
- -12 Teen Justice Fellows (11th and 12th grade)
- -100+ Adults in Torah study and other classes

#### **Worship Services:**

-Weekly Friday night and Shabbat morning Services -Holiday Services and Festival programs (Purimshpiel, Congregational Seder, etc)

-Dozens of tots, parents and grandparents at Tot

Shabbat each week

#### 24/7 Pastoral Counseling and Life Cycle:

- -40+ Funerals, plus shivas and unveilings annually
- -25+ Brises and Baby Namings
- -20+ Conversions
- -House dedications, anniversary blessings and more!

#### **Israel Activities:**

-Weekly Israel education session

-Solidarity trip options

-Partnering with an Israeli congregation: *Kehilat Dror* in Jerusalem

-Partnering with an Israeli school: 4th/5th grades at Innovative School and Tali School in Jerusalem -Hosting newly ordained Israeli Rabbi Yael Katz: 2

- weeks Fall and 2 weeks Spring
- -Donating and fund raising for Israel
- -Sent 7 Miami Beach Firefighters to Israel after 10/7/23 -Hosted Nova Survivor Program
- -Yom HaZikaron and Yom Ha'Atzmaut activities
- -Annual March of the Living participation

#### **Community Service:**

-Mitzvah Day with 26 different service projects and 602 participants

-Raised \$4500 for CLEO Institute at Soup Contest (last year)

-Provided approximately 3200 take-home bags to food insecure Miami Beach children through Blessings in a Backpack and Bags of Happiness

-Fed hundreds of unhoused residents of Chapman Partnership 1x per month

-Ongoing service projects with Lotus House, Ronald McDonald, Exchange for Change

-Collected 3884 diapers plus donations to equal the purchasing power of 6000 more diapers – a total of nearly 10,000 diapers!

-Other collections: sneakers, foster care supplies, clothing

-Teen Banned Book Club started by our teens -Formed Congregations Against Gun Violence with other Miami synagogues

-Provided SMART gun violence prevention trainings

-Sustainability Task Force created to analyze and reduce our carbon footprint

#### Advocacy:

-Leadership and participation in PACT (People Acting for Community Together) to make positive change in our community across religious and racial differences
- Collected over 1000 petitions for passage of Amendment 4 for reproductive freedom
-100+ congregants phone banked, canvassed and sent postcards regarding Amendment 4
- Hosted multiple Justice Jams and speakers regarding climate change

#### **Enrichment and Play:**

-Hundreds of kids of all ages participating in BESHTY activities, BESHTY trips to New York, Religious Action Center in Washington, DC, Give Kids the World, Mini-BESHTY Retreat

-Hundreds of congregants finding friendship and fun through Brotherhood and Sisterhood

-100+ adults making meaning together in Panim el Panim small groups

Dear friends, this is far from a comprehensive list of our data. More importantly, quantitative data is only a single element of how to measure impact in spiritual living. It cannot calculate what is immeasurable, such as making lifelong friendships, finding meaning and purpose through Torah study and justice work, creating sacred connections in life cycle and worship, feeling a sense of awe and radiance in being an intimate part of something larger than ourselves, perpetuating Jewish traditions that have been transmitted from generation to generation, uplifting each other in times of suffering and celebrating what is good and beautiful in our lives together.

We are eminently grateful that your contributions enable us to do this holy work in partnership with you. For a taste of this magic, please make sure to join us for our 29th Mitzvah Day on February 23. *Hazak, hazak, v'nithazek* – may we go from strength to strength and strengthen each other in all that we do.

# Hayle Jomerantz

#### SAVE THE DATE

# FRIDAY, MARCH 14

#### TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM WELCOMES Andrew Rehfeld, Ph.D. President Huc-Jir

#### Friday, March 14

**5:00 pm - Special PRE-NEG** to welcome Dr. Andrew Rehfeld, President of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, hosted by the TBS Israel Committee

**6:00 pm -** Dr. Andrew Rehfeld will speak at Shabbat Services about HUC-JIR, and the role of the Reform Movement in Israel.

We are privileged to welcome Dr. Rehfeld, the 10th President of HUC-JIR. Prior to his role as President, he was President and CEO of the Jewish Federation of St. Louis and before that he served as a tenured member of the faculty at Washington University in St. Louis

#### Saturday, March 15

**9:30 am** Dr. Rehfeld will lead Torah study for our congregation **10:30 am** Private brunch with Dr. Rehfeld and our teen Fellows



# **Innovative School**

Liset Leyva Environmental/Studio Specialist



# **Powerful Dreamers**

We all dream, but are we all powerful dreamers? I inherited my powerful dreamer nature from my father. As new Cuban non-English-speaking immigrants, we lived in Washington Heights, New York, which was not the safest place in the world in the 1970s. His first job was as an apartment building superintendent, where he had a choice: An exceedingly small apartment, half rent plus salary, or an entire basement, rent-free. Living in basements was not a desirable situation. They were roach

and rat-infested, and most people did not choose this. My father chose the basement. Before we even moved in, the roaches and rats were gone. He rebuilt the living area and added two more bathrooms. I grew up in New York City in a spacious 3-bedroom apartment with a huge den area, two ateliers, and three backyards. One was for the dog, a second yard was for the vegetable garden he planted, which even had grape

vines, and the third was reserved for the children in the building to play in. This dream, however, was not "the" powerful dream. The dream was to be able to fund private education for his daughters and to make sure subsequent generations had access to higher education. Today, though no longer with us, my father is a grandpa to grandchildren with master's degrees from very reputable universities. He was a 4th grade graduate with a powerful dream.

What differentiates powerful dreamers from regular dreamers is hard work, determination, and the ability to inspire not only themselves but others to join in their dreams. Powerful dreamers not only realize the opportunities and possibilities, but they also run with them.

When Dr. Francine Herold asked me to join in her powerful dream of transitioning our school into a Reggioinspired school, I said 'I can run with that." And as Margie Zeskind, another powerful dreamer, entered the stage to continue the transition, I wrote during a personnel self-evaluation still in my files, that "I aspired for our school to be the kind of school where others come to learn from us." At the time I wrote this, it seemed far-



fetched and ambitious. Our school was so far from what we eventually became, and our physical environment presented a big challenge. Our facility was so different from the fantastic architecture of the Reggio Schools in Italy, with their piazzas and floor-to-ceiling glass walls. This reality, however, was not a deterrent. I knew about powerful dreams and was in the company of other powerful dreamers.

Years later, the dream is now a reality. Our environment

and how our school is designed highly compliment each other and make our evolution visible. Schools visit us and look up to us for guidance and inspiration on all practices. From the way our leadership is structured to our documented and curricular practices, they all want to know how we did it. We host "Study Tours," and it is gratifying to see the same

awe and wonder in the visitors' eyes that we had when visiting other schools that were so far ahead of us on their journey.

From our most recent visitors:

"Thank you for hosting our new teachers and returning team members. They really enjoyed their visit. Carla was blown away from her mentorship time with you, and we have already put some new systems in place for the new year." Natalie Williams, Director of Education-Miami Children's Museum.

As we ascribe ourselves to being lifelong learners, our journey continues, and so does our dreaming. I have another powerful dream for our school: We will be the ambassadors that make the Reggio Emilia Approach to education available for children of all socio-economic sectors of society in South Florida. I strongly believe that this type of education should be available to all children. I powerfully believe this, so please stay tuned.

Liset



Barb Shimansky, RJE Senior Director of Judaic Studies

#### Mitzvah Day: A Celebration of Service and Community

As we approach Mitzvah Day, our congregation has the opportunity to come together in the spirit of *Tikkun Olam*— repairing the world—through acts of kindness, generosity, and service. Mitzvah Day is a cherished tradition that reminds us of the core values of our Judaism: to help those in need, to create a more just and compassionate world, and to live our lives with a sense of purpose and responsibility to others.

This day of service provides our congregation with a unique chance to unite across generations, from our youngest learners to our oldest members, as we engage in meaningful, hands-on projects that make a tangible difference in the lives of others. Whether we are packaging meals for families in need, creating care packages for the elderly, or cleaning up local parks, the goal is the same—to act on the Jewish imperative to help those who are vulnerable and to work toward social justice in our community.

I have the privilege of witnessing the incredible energy and enthusiasm our children bring to Mitzvah Day. Our jLAB learners, in particular, embrace this opportunity to put their learning into practice. Whether through volunteer work or performing mitzvot, they are living the values we teach them in the classroom and exemplifying the Torah's command to "love your neighbor as yourself" (*V'ahavta l'reacha kamocha*).

Join us for a jLAB Parent Breakfast on Saturday, February 1 at 10:00 am (immediately following Tefilah). Sponsored by the jLAB Committee.

**Parents of middle and high school students:** Join Barb as she facilitates a parent education session on *"Knowing Your Limits: How to Talk to Your Teens About Boundaries & Consent."* Monday, February 10 from 7:00-8:00 pm.

In observance of Presidents Weekend, there is no jLAB on:

Saturday, February 15

Monday, February 17

Join us for Bonim Shabbat on Friday, February 28 at 6:00 pm as our 2nd and 3rd grade learners help lead us in prayer and song!

For our Innovative School, Mitzvah Day serves as a wonderful extension of our Jewish Studies curriculum. We emphasize the importance of both academic learning and ethical action. Learners are encouraged not just to study about Jewish traditions, but to embody those teachings through service. It is in these moments of giving that they see the power of their actions and the ripple effect they can have on the world around them.

I am continually inspired by how our congregation, as a whole, embraces Mitzvah Day. It's a reminder that Jewish values are not only meant to be studied and discussed but lived every day, in every interaction. We learn from the wisdom of our tradition that through our good deeds—our mitzvot—we are not only improving the lives of others but also strengthening the fabric of our own community.

Mitzvah Day is more than just a one-time event. It is a call to action that encourages us to think about how we can continue to serve and care for others throughout the year. It's an opportunity to make a lasting impact, to teach our children the importance of service, and to reinforce our commitment to being a light unto the nations.

I invite all of you to participate in Mitzvah Day this year. Let's come together to create a world that reflects the values of kindness, justice, and compassion that are at the heart of our Jewish tradition.

May Mitzvah Day inspire us all to continue living with intention, making the world a better place, and teaching the next generation how to do the same.

L'shalom,

#### Barb Shimansky, RJE



# **Social Justice**

Jeff Agron Social Justice Director



We are excited to announce that sign ups for Mitzvah Day 2025 are now open. Please go to the Mitzvah Day page under Social Justice **tbsmb.org/mitzvah-day**/

Mitzvah Day will be held on Sunday, February 23rd, and will mark the 29th year that Temple Beth Sholom has coordinated this impactful and meaningful day of service. This year's theme is "Building Bridges: Combatting Antisemitism." In 2025, we as a Temple Beth Sholom Community will continue to build bridges with our greater Miami community to both serve others and to combat antisemitism through our many relationships.

Mitzvah Day is only possible because of everyone's desire and commitment to give back in so many ways. The day will consist of over thirty individual activities designed to support our local community and Israel. Special thanks go to my partners and our Mitzvah Day co-chairs, Caryn Pardo and Shelby Kempler.

As is the tradition on Mitzvah Day, we will be starting with a delicious community breakfast, followed by our opening

#### Get Ready for the World Zionist Congress Election 2025

Keep fighting for democracy in another important election campaign that needs your voice and your vote! #VoteReformWZC2025

The World Zionist Congress (WZC) is the representative body for Diaspora Jewish communities. It meets every five years and controls a \$1 billion budget that impacts religious pluralism, democracy, and more in Israel. Temple Beth Sholom is building a campaign team to fight for our Reform values in Israel.

#### Vote from March 10 through May 4, 2025!

#### WHAT'S AT STAKE?

Our opponents in the WZC campaign are highly motivated religious fundamentalists whose vision for the future of Israel is diametrically opposed to ours. They are organizing to fight against what we value, including:

- · Chipping away at Israel's democracy
- Rolling back gains for gender equity, LGBTQ+ rights, and religious pluralism
- Stripping our Israeli Reform clergy especially our women rabbis and our Reform communities of their rights, funding, and infrastructure
- · Making sure that our converts and children are not welcome in the Jewish state
- Their vision writes Reform Jews out of the next chapter of Jewish history, and will turn Israel into a pariah state, making Jews in Israel and around the world less safe
- Our success in this campaign depends on spreading the word and getting our members to vote.

To get more information or volunteer for our campaign, contact Jeff Agron: jagron@tbsmb.org To learn more about the WZC, visit arza.org/wzc

ceremonies and then both on-site and off-site projects. After completing your projects on Mitzvah Day, make sure to return to campus, where we will have food trucks for lunch. Our world-famous 12th annual Mitzvah Day Soup Contest will begin at 1:30pm. All proceeds will benefit The Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach/Holocaust Learning and Education Fund, and The Teen Blue Card Fund. This year's Soup Contest co-chairs are Dana Grodin, Karen Sepsenwol and Jody Gross.

Please join us on Friday, February 21 as we kickoff the weekend with our Mitzvah Weekend speaker, Rebecca Fishman Lipsey, President & CEO of The Miami Foundation.

All of us at Temple Beth Sholom appreciate the opportunity on Mitzvah Day and throughout the year to give back to our community, help those in need, and to be grateful for what we have. Even the smallest amount of kindness can make a huge difference, and together we can move mountains.

Looking forward to seeing you at Mitzvah Day!

#### Stand up for democracy in Israel! VOTE IN THE WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS ELECTION

Stand up for democracy in Israel! Vote in the World Zionist Congress Election Your vote in the WZC Elections supports our Reform values in Israel.

MARCH 10 - MAY 4, 2025





Sisterhood had a spirited and bonding Shabbat during the *Kavanah* Retreat in January. We were thrilled to be a part of such an enriching event.

There is so much coming up with Sisterhood...

**The Grace Sherman Art Workshop** will be on Tuesday, February 4 starting at 6:00 pm where we will make Shabbat Candle Holders and refreshments will be served.

The Second Annual Howard Broad Kickball Tournament is happening on February 8! See page 19 for details and to sogn up!

This year, Brotherhood and Sisterhood join forces to face down BESHTY. We're ready! See page 19 for the details and the QR code to register.

#### Mitzvah Day is approaching fast!

**Sunday, February 23 is Mitzvah Day.** Make sure to start collecting your gently used clothes for our "New To You" clothing drive to benefit local charities and to register for helping us sort the clothing and create "The Myrna Morris Senior Toiletry Baskets" for the Kosher Food Bank. Additionally, Holy Grounds will have a Rummage Sale this year to benefit The Joyful Celebration of Margie Zeskind. Find unique jewelry, handbags and special Judaica items.

Please share with us any new ideas that Sisterhood could be a part of. We are an inclusive, WRJaffiliated women's group supporting each other, our community, and beyond through impactful initiatives and we have a good time together too.

#### Kim and Mihaela

Co-Presidents Kim Hater & Mihaela Gutman

# Grace Sherman Glass Workshop

Join us for a Sparkling Evening of Creativity! Create Your Own Glass-Infused Shabbat Candle Holders

> Date: February 4, 2025 Time: 6:00 - 9:00 PM Location: Temple Beth Sholom Cost: \$54

Step-by-step guidance to design your unique Candle Holders

All materials provided (glass, tools, and inspiration!)

Delicious food & drinks to enjoy while you craft

RSVP by February 2, 2025 Spaces are limited, so grab your spot and get ready for a fun evening of creativity and connection!



Scan to register or visit tbsmb.org/get-involved/sisterhood/



# **BESHTY Update**

In December, our 11th and 12th grade Israel Fellows and Justice League students journeyed to Prague and Berlin to learn about the theme of Repair through the lens of the Holocaust and reparations. We studied the idea of vergangenheitsbewältigung, meaning "working off the past," Germany's attempts to right the wrongs of their painful history. On this educational journey, we toured historic synagogues and cemeteries, visited the concentration camp of Terezin, took a walking tour of Berlin to learn about the foundation of contemporary Jewish denominations, and studied countless Holocaust memorials and sites. We visited contemporary Jewish German communities to celebrate Chanukah and learn about Jewish life and antisemitism in Germany in 2024. We grappled with the modern challenges of the German government, attempting to understand how a desire to provide refuge to refugees and immigrants is changing the nature of the country. Throughout the trip, our teens reflected on the past, present, and future of Jewish peoplehood and narrative. In an attempt to summarize their learning, we asked each student to write a six-word memoir-six simple words to tell the story of what they learned. The memoirs of our students and staff are featured below:

"Resilient community reconstructed, German Jewish culture"
"Educational, cultural, beneficial, intense topics, Judaism"
"Atrocities happen often, world must change"
"The Jewish community perseveres through connection"
"Amazing learning opportunities and finding community"
"Jewish community everywhere and thrives everywhere"
"One part of a big story"
"Meeting my ancestors through walking tours"
"Rebuild so it is never again"
"Repair the broken soul of peoplehood"
"Walking where they walked years ago"
"Multifaceted view into the Jewish struggle"
"We are here, Am Israel Chai"













# MITZVAH DAY 2025

#### All Ages and Family Friendly

Sunday, February 23

Friends with Firetrucks Kosher Foodbank Scavenger Hunt Blessings in a Backpack Mischloach Manot (Purim Baskets) for Holocaust Survivors Lentils and Love: Lentil Soup Project with the Kosher Food Bank Pack a Preemie Pack for NICU Mothers Tzedakah on the Water: Paddleboarding/Kayak and Cleanup for a Cause jLAB Mitzvah Day Project Food Rescue with Rachel Unger Mompacks for Lotus House Food Distribution with Miami Beach Residents Beach Cleanup with Clean Miami Beach Innovative School of Temple Beth Sholom Mitzvah Day Project Voices for Children, Volunteer to support Kids in Foster Care Bullets 4 Life with the TBS Gun Violence Prevention Task Force\* Puzzles to remember with Miami Jewish Health\*

#### **Teens and Up**

Imagine, Learn, Play Create for Miami Children's Museum Re-Home Your Phone (and more) - Electronics Recycling Blood and Platelets Drive Teen Justice League Project\* Helping Hands for Hurricane Relief: Teens Raising Relief Funds for the Victims of the Florida Hurricanes\* Pappy's Packages - Packing baskets for lung cancer patients at Sylvester Cancer Center\* Village (Free)dge Food Pantry\*

#### Adults

Havdalah Candle Making and Spice Bags with Yodeah Silent Victims of Crime at Scott Rakow Youth Center (with The Tribe)\* TBS Sisterhood Baskets for Seniors

#### Collections

New to You with Sisterhood Miami Book Fair's literacy initiative, The Children's Trust Books for Free The Miami Diaper Bank Caring Soles Shoe Collection for the Optimist Club of Overtown

#### Booths

PACT - People Acting for Community Together Yodeah - Hereditary Cancers in Ashkenazi Jews TBS Gun Violence Prevention Task Force American Cancer Society- Cancer Action Network Magen David Adom Compost for Life ARZA (World Zionist Congress Election) Fentanyl Safe Sisterhood Rummage Sale



\* (new project)

# JOIN US FOR A MITZVAH DAY PROJECT!

# SCHEDULE OF

#### Friday, February 21

6:00 pm Shabbat Service

**Guest Speaker: Rebecca Fishman Lipsey President & CEO of The Miami Foundation** 

7:15 pm Special Oneg honoring our Mitzvah Day Captains

#### Sunday, February 23

8:45 am Registration and Breakfast, at TBS Palm Plaza

- 9:30 am Opening Ceremony in Palm Plaza
- 9:45 am Mitzvah Projects Commence Some on-site projects have two shifts (Check Eventbrite when you register)

Pick up granola bars on your way out for those in need.

12:00 pm Lunch at Temple Beth Sholom Pay your own way for lunch with Monster Burgers Food Truck Ice Cream/Snow Cones with Tikiz Shaved Ice and Ice Cream - (Free: TBS Mitzvah Fund sponsored) 1:30 pm Soup Contest (in the Social Hall) to benefit The Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach | Holocaust Learning and Education Fund and the Miami Teen Blue Card Fund

· FVFN

#### All Day at TBS

- Blood and Platelets Drive
- Booths for various community organizations
- Donation Collections
- Magen David Adom Ambulance / Medi-Cycle
- Composting Demonstrations
- Learn about the World Zionist Congress Elections
  ...and more

# 12TH ANNUAL MITZVAH DAY Soup Contes February 23, 2025

at 1:30 pm

Location: Temple Beth Sholom Social Hall

# To register and sponsor, visit tbsmb.org/mitzvah-day

Soup Contest proceeds benefit:

The Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach I Holocaust Learning and Education Fund and the Miami Teen Blue Card Fund Soup Contest Co-Chairs: Dana Grodin, Karen Sepsenwol, and Jody Gross

#### HAKOL February 2025

# TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM Adult Education

# February 2025



## What do you say when kids ask....

#### With **Rabbi Gayle Pomerantz** Wednesday, February 5, 9:00 am

Questions like "Why do bad things happen?" or "What if I'm not sure I believe in God?" or "Am I my brother/sister's keeper?" Join Rabbi Gayle Pomerantz in discussing the podcast *Answers WithHeld* with Rabbi Shai Held (available on Apple podcasts). We will sift through parenting's stickiest questions with the understanding that there may be no answer better than listening and love. Grandparents and other seekers are also welcome.

Also: March 19; May 7



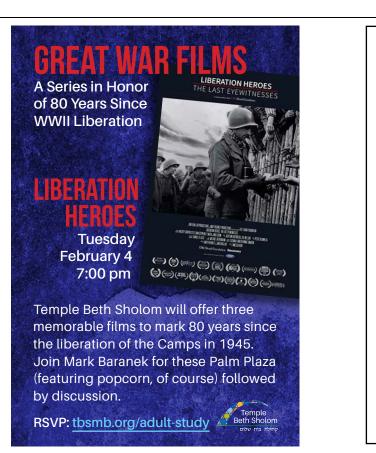
#### Above Classes Are In Person Only: Registration: Noemi, noemi@tbsmb.org

# UPCOMING

#### Building Singing Communities: Unlocking the Power of Music in Jewish Prayer

Join Cantor Porat for an engaging and uplifting workshop series based on Joey Weisenberg's transformative book, *Building Singing Communities*. Over the course of this series, we will explore the ways of building community and making music that enhances the community. The series is for people of all backgrounds and skill levels. Monday evenings, 7:00-8:00 pm, March 3, 10, 17, 24

In-person and Zoom | Registration: Ariane, ariane@tbsmb.org



# Mindful Tuesdays

Weekly Mindfulness Group: Would you like to be part of a community dedicated to improving our lives by increasing our self-awareness, calmness, and joy? Led by Marte Singerman.

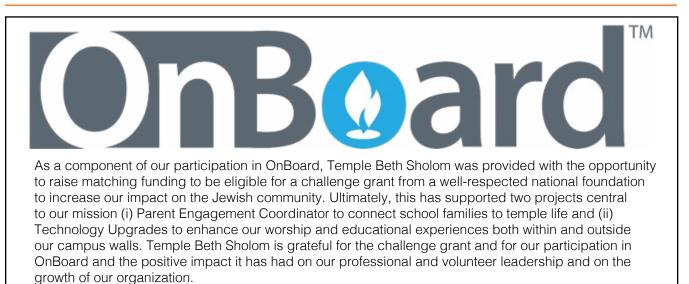
#### 6:30 pm via Zoom

#### Registration: tbsmb.org/adult-study



## MAZAL TOV TO

Jenna and Jason Albert on the birth of their daughter Sophie Riley Albert, born on December 31, 2024. Her proud grandparents are Cyndy and Ron Albert and Abby and Steve Gorlick. Her great-grandmother is Harriet Seiler; aunts are Erin Albert and Alison Gorlick, and uncle is Scott Gorlick.



Contact: Director of Advancement Katy Boyask at katy@tbsmb.org | 786.406.1375

Thursday, February 13, 2025 7:00 pm | Palm Plaza \$36/person, dinner and class Led by Rabbi Jessica Jacobs with Guest Chef Ellen Kanner

lu bish

lebrate With Us!

Tu Bishvat or the "New Year of the Trees" is Jewish Arbor Day. Scholars believe that originally Tu Bishvat was an agricultural festival, marking the emergence of spring.

This year at Temple Beth Sholom, we mark Tu Bishvat with an evening of reflection and repast. **Rabbi Jessica Jacobs** will be joined by Miami Vegan **Chef Ellen Kanner**, author of *Feeding The Hungry Ghost* and the upcoming *Miami Vegan*, for two hours of refreshing enlightenment and instruction. Make your own sevenspecies salad and more! You'll leave with a full heart and full belly! We'll also be auctioning\* off a beautiful Tu Bishvat-themed centerpiece by **Floral Designer Alex Campell!** \*proceeds benefit Compost for Life.

RSVP: tbsmb.org/tubishvat





Becky Mann serves as the Assistant Cantor of Temple Israel of Westport, CT. When not at Temple Israel, Becky serves as a touring Artist in Residence, sharing her original music and soulful prayer-leading with Jewish communities around the country. A composer, guitarist, and cantor, she has been called "one of the brightest voices of a new generation of Jewish songwriters carrying our tradition forward in new and exciting ways." Originally from Las Vegas, Becky received a Bachelors of Arts in Jewish Sacred Music from Indiana University, and a Masters of Sacred Music from the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music at Hebrew Union College -Jewish Institute of Religion in New York, where she was ordained as a cantor in 2023. Her passion for creating community through music and meaningful worship has inspired her work as both a cantor and composer.

tbsmb.org/artist-in-residence-2025



SAVE THE

DATES



A Joyful Celebration of Margie Zeskind

#### **Event Co-Chairs** Amy Ostroff and Ashley Weissman

05.02.25

05.04.25

#### MAY 2

Embracing Shabbat: Friday Night Service for the community Simcha Shabbat: Dinner and cocktails for ages 21+ (Pre-Registration Required)

#### MAY 4

Sunday in Harmony: Elana Arian concert followed by a lunch, Innovative School art auction, and children's activities. Appropriate for all ages.

Featuring multi-instrumentalist and prayer leader

## Elana Arian

Catered by Michael's Catering



Contact Director of Advancement, Katy Boyask at kboyask@tbsmb.org tbsmb.org/journeys | 786.406.1375 Join us in May 2025 for an exhilarating weekend tribute to **Margie Zeskind**, Head of School, as we wish her mazal tov on her retirement.

For 18 years, Margie has been integral to the vision and growth of our Innovative School of Temple Beth Sholom, for infants through to fifth grade. We invite our congregation, school families past and present, and friends to celebrate this milestone and Margie's achievements.

The weekend will have something for everyone!



Net proceeds will benefit **The Margie Zeskind Educator Development Fund** for The Innovative School at Temple Beth Sholom



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Rabbi Gary and Joanie Glickstein | Nancy and Ken Ratzan







A Tribute to the Role of Women in Shaping the Sound of Jewish Worship

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Cantor Barbara Ostfeld - the first woman to be ordained as a cantor.

Shabbat Shira, also known as the Shabbat of Song, has long been a cherished tradition, a time to celebrate the role of music in Jewish life. This year, as we continue that sacred tradition, we pay special tribute to the significant contributions of Jewish women in shaping the music of our worship.

Join us for this musical service, featuring our TBS musical trio and guest musicians performing works by female composers, both classic and contemporary, honoring the power of women's voices in our sacred music.

**RSVP: tbsmb.orh/shabbatshirah** 

### RABBI DAVIS & RABBI GLICKSTEIN honor the memory of RABBI JOLT & RABBI KRONISH



### Honoring the Memory of Rabbi Harry Jolt

#### February 3, 2024 5:00 pm via Zoom

Rabbi Harry Jolt blessed us with his vast wisdom, delightful sense of humor, and keen insights for many years. On the day which would have been Rabbi Jolt's 121st birthday, we will join together with Rabbi Davis in our annual remembrance of Rabbi Jolt.

## Honoring the Memory of Rabbi Leon Kronish

#### February 18, 2025 7:00 pm via Zoom

Rabbi Leon Kronish, the Founding Senior Rabbi of Temple Beth Sholom, was born on February 21, 1917. In honor of Rabbi Kronish on what would have been the year of his 108th birthday, Rabbi Gary Glickstein will conduct a discussion around the way that October 7 and its aftermath have changed the Jewish communities of Israel and of the United States.

To register for classes and receive Zoom link email Noemi, noemi@tbsmb.org

#### A CANTORS' CONCERT: CELEBRATING JEWISH GERMAN COMPOSERS

On December 15, 2024, our community gathered for a moving afternoon celebrating the enduring legacy of Jewish German composers and their significant contributions to the world of music, both within and beyond the synagogue. The concert explored sacred compositions that shaped the spiritual soundscape of Jewish worship, highlighting how these works continue to inspire synagogue music today. The afternoon's ambiance was enhanced by German inspired desserts and drinks adding a festive cultural flair. Presented in partnership with the German Consulate of Miami, the event featured the exceptional talents of Cantor Juval Porat of Temple Beth Sholom, Cantor Joseph Flaxman of Temple Beth Am, Cantor Lisa Segal of Temple Judea, a professional quartet, and Alan Caves on piano/musical direction.

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Special Thank you to the German Consulate General Miami



Photos by Emma Bragdon





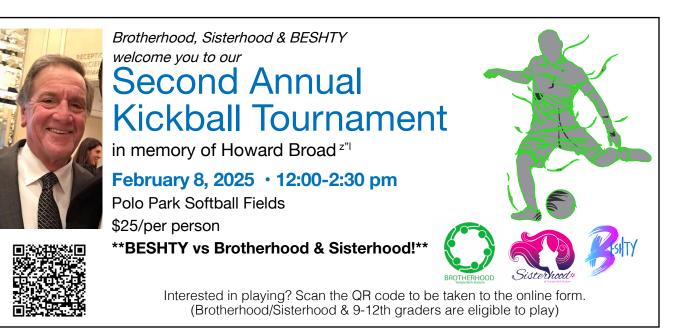






**Lillian Elanor Bickman** will be called to the Torah as a bat mitzvah on February 1, 2025. She is the daughter of Paula and Joshua Bickman and sister of Maxwell and Jack Henry Bickman. Her grandparents are Corinne and Leonard Bickman and Margo and Edward Glab.

**Lyla Genet** will be called to the Torah on as a minchah bat mitzvah on February 8, 2025. She is the daughter of Lindsay and Solomon Genet and sister to Bodhi Genet. Her grandparents are Helen and Sandy Genet, Kristine Sykes, and Phil and Barbara Glassman. As part of her mitzvot, Lyla is Friendship Bracelet Making for the children of the Cahuita Music Program - Playing for Change Foundation. Visit the website at Playingforchange.org







**FEBRUARY 2025** 



# Happy Birthday

February 1 Dawn Rattner Samuel Rubell Ethan Tamuz Margaret Tolkin

February 2 Levi Newman Melissa Rappaport Drew Tobin Matthew Vander Werff

> February 3 Hader Baez Lyla Genet Arron Kallenberg

February 4 Ethan Budowsky Jonas Gordon Maxine Koffler Sari Libbin Shapiro Alexis Parent Jacob Rosenfeld Parker Schimel Zia Stowe

February 5 Sophia Brod Natasha Caraballo Natan Ellenbogen Alexander Kane Matthew Kaplan Alexandra Lichtenberg Miles Saiger Eli Simkins Steven Simon

#### February 6

Michael Assraf Rose Davis Alexander Fryd Michelle Leve Pardo Solomon Newman Douglas Paley Cathy Raduns-Silverstein Thomas Recchia Poppy Zalaznick

February 7 Jennifer Elegant Idalia Greenberg Jonathan Jerome Jackson Miller Amy Perry Karen Rivo Albert Tapper

#### February 8

Noa Fox Diana Golden Harper Harris Emma Horev Georgia Ostrow Nate Shapiro Ben Strimber Weiss Jeffrey Zeskind

#### February 9

Sebastian Calmet Jeffrey Dickstein Sissy Echevarria Wende Gelb Bridget Harris Amanda Maxwell Ariel Zadok

February 10 Ryan Courson Liam Mashiah Oliver Naftali Adelia Nazareth Scott Rogers Sarah Steen

February 11 Helen Ansin Oleva Benrey Khrystyna Lev Matthew Levenson Stephanie Wietrzychowski

February 12 Amit Barel Porat Birdie Magnin Lori Maltz Nancy Ratzan Judy Schaechter

February 13 Marley Davis Ira Giller Mihaela Gutman Howard Orzan Brian Pachter Brianna Schwartz Marsha Soffer

> February 14 Robert Adler

Noah Cantor Judith Cohen-Blecher Nikki Davidson Jane Furst Mia Gould Allison Greenfield Harrison Hirschl Roan Hurwitz David Hyman R. Maxwell Kurry Peter Luria Mark Meland Andrew Pomeraniec David Pullman Brian Winters

February 15 Lisa Bergwin Melisse Burstein Sara Cooper Yael Hyken Natanya Rogoff Jonathan Silberstein

February 16 Charles Bergwin Chloe Cohn Sonya Gelb Choeff Katie Green Selma Newman Alex Shack

February 17 Abra Adrabi Mia Ancikovsky Melissa Chaykin Samuel Dardashtian Cole Fisher Doris Galindo Jordan Kleiner Kristin Mandel Michael Nadler Asher Pullman Todd Rosen Ethan Shimansky Asher Slaine Max Zaiac

February 18 Caitlin Bendersky John Blumenthal Drew Chanin Cristina Diamond Brandon Dinter Cristina Dominguez Louis Dryfoos Terry Jove Sophie Koonin Robert Kweller Philip Levine Wendy Squire Robert Warren

February 19 David Abrams Jill Adler Sandra Cohen Liliana Diego Barbara Goldsmith Ruth-Ellen Gordon David Green Vicki Land Mash Manes Alexander Slezynger

February 20 Nellie Chachkes Jason Gordon Marcelle May Robert Newman Justin Ostroff

February 21 Anna Frusciante Savannah Gauntlett Juliette Geller Samuel Greenwald Debra Leibowitz Allex Luke Sarah Nelson Anna Shustack Mauricio Szkolnik

February 22 Daniel Kagan David Kaiserman Peter Oravitz Marley Rywell Charlie Salmanson

February 23 Jennifer Bernstein Lisa Better Esther Dagowitz Helene Dubbin Nathan Malki River Philips Sasha Rosenthal Sasha Silberstein Neil Singer

February 24

Bonnie Gatof Skylar Jerome Kai Marana Alperin Steve Rosenthal Trudy Weissmann

February 25 Theodore Birenbaum Saul Burk Mark Chaplin Joel Friedland Brody Lawrence Caitlin Mooney Kenneth Packar Alona Ron Andrew Rosenberg Samuel Sheldon Jani Singer Bonnie Sockel-Stone Marcela Stern

February 26

John Bennett Lilla Horvath Matthew Lewis Amy Ostroff Richard Postrel Lisa Sanders Carla Sloan Zahara Stowe Netali Tamuz

February 27

Camila Groesman Wagmaister Lily Karson Jordyn Kempler Zachary Okhah Roy Samuel Chloe Silverstein Laurie Torban

February 28 Alan Gitron Mark Hildebrandt Maya Laurence Ryder Meshberg

**Reid Rosenberg** 

Nicholas Werner

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE TIME YOU HAVE SHARED TOGETHER

February 3 Elizabeth Camargo and Jose Lutzky

> **February 5** Karen and Marc Edelstein Ruth and Dennis Rice

> February 8 Elizabeth and Raul Mateu Gayle and Eric Mintz

February 13 Antoinette and Cary Zel

**February 14** Robin and Richard Hirsch Tracey and Elliott Stein

February 15 Nina and Steven Haas Kathy and Larry Hurwitz Julie and Jeffrey Bercow

February 16 Elisheva and Michael Rogoff **February 17** Laura and Jonathan Raiffe Olga and Brett Harris

February 18 Luly and Kim Feinberg

February 19 Lisa Walsh and David Rosendorf

> **February 20** Laura and John Bennett Sara and Andrew Moriber

February 21 Lori and Jose Vallverdu

**February 26** Gail and Jeffrey Gidney Alice and Fran Levey

February 28 Gia and Shane Hagen





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# SAVE THE DATE Sixth Grade Family Tallit Making Workshop

March 1, 2025 12:00-2:30 pm TBS Social Hall and Back Patio

An open invitation to all 6th graders and their parents! Join us as Grace Sherman leads us in an opportunity to learn about the ritual of adorning tallitot and making your own tallit.

> Lunch will be served. RSVP online at tbsmb.org/family-tallitot





**Jerry Koral**, father of Kathy (Mark) Mayrsohn and Jennifer Koral Hoffman; husband of Lois Koral; and grandfather of Sophia, Aubreyanne (Josh), Allie (Ben), Emma, and Andrew.

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- Your Temple Beth Sholom Clergy

Clergy member emails: rabbiloiben@tbsmb.org rabbipomerantz@tbsmb.org rabbijacobs@tbsmb.org cantorporat@tbsmb.org



Each month the TBS Freedom to Read taskforce will feature one of over 3,000 books banned in the state of Florida. Book bans are defined as any action taken against a book by a parent, community member, school administration or government official. Bans may result in permanent or temporary removal from school or library shelves. While South Florida counties have very few book bans, Florida leads the nation in books being challenged and banned in schools. Learn more about book bans: pen.org/book-bansfrequently-asked-questions/. To support the end of local book banning, check out the Books and Books Literary Foundation https://www.booksandbooks.com/foundation/

Book: The Perks of Being a Wallflower

Reason Banned: Sexually explicit, LGBTQIA+, profanity, mental health

By Max Feldman and Orli Ressler, Temple Beth Sholom Teen Banned Book Club

The Perks of Being a Wallflower is a classic coming of age story written by Stephen Chbosky in 1999. Set in the early 1990's, the story follows protagonist Charlie's first year of high school. In a suburb near Pittsburgh, Charlie grew up and spent his whole life as a "wallflower," choosing to watch the lives of his peers from the sidelines while privately dealing with his own grief and sorrows. Everything changes by the time he reaches high school through the help of new friends and teachers who guide him through joy, friendship, love and music. *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* is one of the most commonly banned books in the United States for its "mature themes," yet it is a beautiful and heartfelt story that explores the reality of searching for your personal identity and grappling with that fact that it is always changing, as well as learning how to love.



### Looking for Community? Join a Small Group!

#### Panim for Parents of High School Students:

I enjoy being part of this Panim group because it offers a supportive space to connect with other moms who truly understand this season of life. Together, we are exploring meaningful topics, shared experiences, and provide encouragement as we tackle our wins, challenges, and everything in between. This Panim group is a great place to form connections with other amazing moms in our TBS community.

- Allison Greenfield



#### Choosing Life

Who knows what the future might bring? A challenging question, especially if you live in the Middle East.

Our son Itamar was wounded in action on October 7th (2023), losing his best friend who was killed right next to him. He subsequently went back to Gaza to serve, fought in Lebanon as well-- and when he finished his compulsory service, was called up to the reserves. It appears that one of the factors that keeps us going is the power of Inertia.

The Prime Minister proclaimed that our goal in Gaza is "Total Victory" (i.e. the total dismantling of Hamas as a political and military force), a goal which downgrades the physical and psychological condition of our soldiers to the level of a secondary consideration. Most observers, however –within the upper echelons of the IDF as well ---are convinced that this goal is unrealistic. We can hit Hamas hard again and again but "Total victory" will never be fully achieved. As a people that suffered exile and persecution we were taught to believe that "we can only trust today" and that we should live by war and pray to G-D for peace – what future does this offer to our children and does any situation last forever?

In Psalms 127 it says:

#### ָהָלִוֹף יֵלֵה ו וּבָכֹה נֹשֵׂא מֶשֶׁרְ־הָ*ו*ָרַע **בּא־יָבָא** בְרְנֵה נֹשָׂא אַלַמֹּתֵיו:

He walks along, weeping, the bearer of the seed-sack — he will yet come forth in song, bearing his sheaves.

The Hebrew poet Natan Zach writes:

It is Not good for Man to be alone	לא טוב היות האדם לבדו
But he is alone	אבל הוא לבדו בין כה וכה.
When he is waiting he is alone	והוא מחכה והוא לבדו
While procrastinating he is still alone.	והוא מתמהמה והוא לבדו.
And he alone knows that even if things	והוא לבדו יודע
lingers	שגם אם יתמהמה
It will arrive, the goal will yet arrive	בוא יבוא, הוא יבוא

The pair of words *Bo Yavo* are found in the Bible to teach and remind us that the world is not waiting for us to decide when the "next step" should be taken. Things change and we should decide to which direction we want to continue.

The sun will rise - then what do we do?

We must remember that we were never here in this land by ourselves, nor has any of our wars ever proven to be the final one. So much for "Total victory"...

Negotiations must supplement every armed conflict with our enemies. They are, in fact, an expression of our Will to Live. There is no magical formula for their success. They are harsh with many ups and downs but are the only instrument for avoiding additional violence.

The transliteration of the Hebrew word for violence is *Alimut* from the linguistic root of *Aleph, Lamed, Mem*; these three Hebrew letters also spell speechlessness. Perhaps the lesson to learn is that when we can't negotiate, we are forced to choose violence. But clever *midrashim* are not enough. Leaders unwilling to choose forms of co-existence are risking the future of their people.

May we have the courage to seek for Peace

Yours truly,

#### Rabbi Ezra Ende

#### Page 26

# An estimated \$84 trillion in wealth is expected to be transferred between the generations over the next two decades. This includes \$11.9 trillion to charities.\*

Have you considered creating your Jewish legacy by including Temple Beth Sholom in your estate plans?

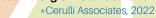
Many donations to the temple are exempt from gift and estate taxes and may even have capital gains and income tax benefits.

#### Examples include:

• A bequest to Temple Beth Sholom in your will or trust. · Designating Temple Beth Sholom as the beneficiary of all or part of your qualified retirement plan, such as an IRA or 401k.

> For more examples of ways to plan ahead, visit tbsmb.org/legacy

Contact: Katy Boyask, director of advancement at katy@tbsmb.org or 786.406.1375





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February 2025



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