

TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM



Celebrating **30 Years of**

MITZVAH DAY

ESTABLISHED 1996

Sunday, February 22, 2026

THANK YOU



Mitzvah Day Co-Chairs:

Shelby Kempler and Ashley Gilboa

Our 60+ amazing Mitzvah Day Captains

Soup Contest Co-Chairs:

Dana Grodin, Jody Gross, Beri Minick and Carolyn West

All our amazing volunteers and staff

Rabbi Jessica Jacobs, Rabbinic Advisor

Jeffrey Agron, Social Justice Program Director

Mitzvah Day is made possible through the generosity of:*

- Judith Richard and Martin Madorsky
- Michael Meltzer
- Al Levy
- Robert Netkin
- The Temple Beth Shalom Mitzvah Fund
- Sisterhood of Temple Beth Shalom
- Brotherhood of Temple Beth Shalom
- Innovative School PTO
- Sholom Rockers
- All our Mitzvah Day 30 Year Celebration Sponsors*
(A full list of sponsor will be available on Mitzvah Day)
- All captains who underwrote their projects
- All of our Soup Contest chefs, donors, sponsors,
and volunteers
(A full list of sponsor will be available on Mitzvah Day)

* We apologize for any omissions.

Dear Temple Beth Sholom Community,

We are excited to announce that sign-ups for the 30th Mitzvah Day are now open! Mitzvah Day will be held on Sunday, February 22, 2026. This marks the 30th year Temple Beth Sholom has coordinated this impactful and meaningful day of service.

This year's theme is "Food Insecurity." We join in unity with partnering organizations to support hungry families and individuals in accessing healthy food.

In 2026, Temple Beth Sholom will continue to work to serve our community through our Direct Service Projects by taking social action. Mitzvah Day is only possible through your commitment to our community by doing Mitzvot. With 30 projects, there is something for everyone.

- Sunrise on Wheels (new)
- Voices for Children
- Kosher Food Bank Scavenger Hunt
- Seeds of Success, jLAB Project (new)
- Lentils and Love
- Diabetes Testing
- Beach Cleanup with SeaKeepers International
- Balls4All (new)
- and so much more

Check out this year's list of activities and sign up online for the one that is most meaningful to you. Mitzvah Day will start at 8:30 am with breakfast, followed by the opening ceremonies. Projects will kick off at 10am. Some projects also have an 11:00 am shift. After completing your activity on Mitzvah Day, stay or return for lunch at the food trucks, coffee, a Sholom Rockers Showcase, and our annual Mitzvah Day Soup Contest at 1:15 pm. We will have a staffed children's room for children and parents to do additional activities throughout the day. There will also be coffee available in the Welcome Center throughout the day.

This year's proceeds will benefit local organizations that help alleviate food insecurity in our community.

If you cannot attend Mitzvah Day this year, please consider supporting the event financially. Sponsorships and donations are available via the Temple Beth Sholom website. We are honored to serve as co-chairs of Mitzvah Day 2026. We appreciate the opportunity to serve the Temple and our community on this 30th Mitzvah Day!

"One Mitzvah Leads to Another."

We look forward to seeing you at Mitzvah Day!

With gratitude,

Shelby Kempler and Ashley Gilboa,

Co-Chairs 2025-2026

God says to Israel, “My children, whenever you give sustenance to the poor, I impute it to you as though you gave sustenance to Me.” Does God then eat and drink? No, but whenever you give food to the poor, God accounts it to you as if you gave food to God.

- Midrash Tannaim on Numbers 28:2

Mitzvah Day, a time when we support people all across our greater Miami community, epitomizes our participation in mitzvot that are between us and our fellow humans. Through this day of action and volunteerism, we endeavor to support all of those in our community who are in need. Through each small action of helping and connection we take one step towards making the world a better place, towards bringing the Miami community closer together, and towards ensuring that all of our neighbors live in safety and dignity.



MITZVAH DAY 2026 WEEKEND

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, February 20

6:00 pm **Shabbat Service**
Guest Speaker: Ellen Bowen,
Food Rescue US-South Florida

7:15 pm **Special Oneg honoring our Mitzvah Day Captains**

Sunday, February 22

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

9:30 am Opening Ceremony in Sanctuary

10:00 am Mitzvah Projects Commence
Some on-site projects have two shifts
Shift 1 is 10:00am
Shift 2 is 11:00am
(Check online registration)

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 - sponsored by the TBS Mitzvah Fund)

1:15 pm Sholom Rockers in Concert - Social Hall

1:15 pm Soup Contest (in the Social Hall) to benefit various local Non-Profits that work on food insecurity

All Day at TBS: Blood and Platelets Drive

Booths for various community organizations

Donation Collections

Magen David Adom Ambulance / Medi-Cycle

Composting Demonstrations

... and much more

Register and learn more at tbsmb.org/mitzvahday



Celebrating

30 Years of

MITZVAH DAY



Wald McDonald
House Charities
in Florida





One Mitzvah Leads To Another

TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM

MITZVAH DAY
ESTABLISHED 1996



TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM PRESENTS

Our Special Shabbat Speaker

Ellen Bowen

Friday, February 20

Shabbat Service | 6:00 pm



Ellen Bowen is the Site Director for the non-profit Food Rescue US - South Florida. As Founder and Managing Director of popular Miami food blog, MIAbites, she heard from her contacts and chefs about the excessive amounts of food wasted every day at hotels, restaurants, events, and markets. In 2018, she partnered with national non-profit Food Rescue – US, and launched their technology-based food rescue platform in Miami and Broward counties. To date, using their app to connect donors with social service agencies and volunteer rescuers, over 15 million lbs. of food have been kept out of landfills and directly delivered to local shelters, soup kitchens, and food-insecure individuals. That translates to enough food for over 12 million meals, with 13 million pounds of CO2 eq kept out of the atmosphere. Food waste in landfills is one of the top three contributors to climate change.

Ellen continues to develop new initiatives, including working with other local nonprofits to bring rescued food to their communities.



13TH ANNUAL
MITZVAH DAY

Soup Contest

February 22, 2026

at 1:15 pm

Location: Temple Beth Sholom Social Hall

To register and sponsor, visit
tbsmb.org/mitzvahday

All proceeds benefit:
Food Rescue US - South Florida

Soup Contest Co-Chairs:
Dana Grodin, Jody Gross, Beri Minick and Carolyn West



Collection Projects

Please bring these items to TBS in the weeks leading up to Mitzvah Day and on Mitzvah Day. In addition to collecting items in the Welcome Center, project captains can accept Amazon delivery of items. You can now make purchases directly through Amazon wish-lists. Look for links in Temple Talk and on the Mitzvah Day website starting in early February.

- TBS Sisterhood New To You Clothing Drive, new and gently used clothing (sorted into men's, women's, children's, and teenagers) for various local shelters
- TBS Sisterhood Hygiene Baskets, toiletries, baby supplies, feminine hygiene products, coloring books, crayons and pencils for Lotus House
- Books for the Miami Book Fair's literacy initiative, "The Children's Trust Books for Free." Gently used baby books, first readers, and picture books
- Books for Chapman Partnership and Lotus House
- Canned Soup and non-perishables for local food pantries
- School supplies for Voices for Children and other non-profits
- Balls4All – Basketball collection (new basketballs)
- Items for Project BREAKOut supporting teen healthy skin care

Food Insecurity

You will notice that many projects are tagged as "food insecurity." This year, one of the Social Justice Network's main areas of focus is food insecurity. Because of budget cuts at the federal, state and local levels, more people in our community are food insecure. SNAP (food stamp) benefits are being cut and were held up with the government shutdown. Some statistics you should know:

- Between **10-10.4%** of Miami-Dade's population faces food insecurity, meaning uncertainty about their next meal.
- Approximately **14%** of children in the county are food insecure, affecting an estimated total of 287,000 people.
- A higher rate of **18.2%** of households with children experienced food insecurity, surpassing the national average.

Please look for those projects labeled "food insecurity." For more information, see our SJN website. <https://tbsmb.org/social-justice/>



Join us for a Mitzvah Day Project!

All Ages and Family Friendly

1. Friends with Firetrucks
2. Kosher Foodbank Scavenger Hunt (food insecurity)
3. Blessings in a Backpack (food insecurity)
4. *Mischloach Manot* (Purim Baskets) for Holocaust Survivors
5. Lentils and Love: Lentil Soup Project with the Kosher Food Bank (food insecurity)
6. Pack a Care Pack for NICU Mothers
7. Sunrise on Wheels (new)
8. Tzedakah on the Water: Paddleboarding/Kayak and Cleanup for a Cause
9. Sandwich Making for Miami Rescue Mission (food insecurity)
10. Food Rescue (food insecurity)
11. Bullets4Life with the TBS Gun Violence Prevention Task Force
12. Beach Cleanup with SeaKeepers International
13. Innovative School of Temple Beth Sholom Mitzvah Day Project (food insecurity)
14. Voices for Children Family Field Day at the Miami Beach JCC
15. Seeds of Success, jLAB Project (housing and education insecurity)

Teens and Up

16. Justice League Cupcakes for a Cause (new)
17. Balls4All (new)
18. Imagine, Learn, Play, Create for Miami Children's Museum
19. Blood and Platelets Drive
20. TBS Israel Fellows Israel Soldiers' Project (new)
21. Pappy's Packages - Packing baskets for lung cancer patients at Sylvester Cancer Center
22. Soup and Sandwiches for the Village (Free)dge Food Pantry (food insecurity)
23. PB & J With A Purpose (food insecurity)
24. Project BREAKOut at Lotus House

Adults

25. Make NICU Baby Blankets with Yodeah
26. Silent Victims of Crime at Scott Rakow Youth Center (with The Tribe)
27. TBS Sisterhood Hygiene Baskets for Seniors
28. TBS Sisterhood New To You Clothing Drive
29. TBS Sisterhood's No-Sew Blankets for Holtz Children's Hospital (new)

Mitzvah Mall Booths

- Miami Book Fair's Literacy Initiative, "The Children's Trust Books for Free"
- PACT – People Acting for Community Together
- Yodeah – Hereditary Cancers in Ashkenazi Jews
- Temple Beth Sholom Gun Violence Prevention Task Force/Bullets4Life
- American Cancer Society – Cancer Action Network
- Magen David Adom
- PJ Library Area for kids
- Kids Activity Room and Playground (new)
- Compost for Life, Inc. Demonstration
- Jewish National Fund - USA
- Fentanyl Safe – Preventing Overdoses
- Sisterhood Hidden Gems Sale
- Diabetes Education
- The Seed School of Miami
- Leket L'Yisrael – Israel National Food Bank

Projects

ALL AGES AND FAMILY FRIENDLY

1. Friends with Firetrucks

Description: Families will work on creating a special “thank you” art project for our Miami Beach Fire Department for all their hard work and service to our community. Tokens of gratitude projects will be completed in person at Temple during Mitzvah Day. We will then head over as a group to deliver our projects to the fire station and learn about the services provided by our local firefighters. **Up to 10 families.**

Captains: Heather Pachter and Michael Pardo

Location: Temple Beth Sholom and
Miami Beach Fire Department,
2300 Pine Tree Drive

Starting Time: 10:00 am

Ages: All ages



2. Kosher Food Bank Scavenger Hunt at Publix (food insecurity)

Description: If you like solving fun riddles, having fun with friends, and competition, you will want to take advantage of our scavenger hunt benefiting the Kosher Food Bank (KFB)! Participants will fund their scavenger hunt as a donation. After the hunt, all volunteers are invited to the KFB to help stock shelves. Volunteers will purchase the food.

Up to 25 volunteers.

Captains: Lou Dogan and Anna Frusciante

Location: Publix Supermarket on the Bay, 1920 West Avenue, Miami Beach

Starting Time: 10:00 am

Ages: All ages, children must be supervised by parents

3. Blessings in a Backpack (food insecurity)

Description: Please join us in packing bags of food to be delivered to local elementary school children on Miami Beach who are food insecure and rely on school breakfasts and lunches. The school counselors distribute the bags of snack items to children in need to help bridge the gap.

Up to 40 volunteers.

Captains: Marina Ganopolsky, Kelsey Levy, Tiffany Hurwitz, Sari Levine

Location: Temple Beth Sholom

Starting Time: 10:00 am

Ages: 2+

4. Mischloach Manot (Purim Baskets) for Holocaust Survivors

Description: The Miami Teen Blue Card is a non-profit organization that partners with The Blue Card Fund and Jewish Community Services to provide care packages and direct financial assistance to Holocaust survivors in our community in need. More than half of the survivors, most of whom are women, fall below the poverty line and struggle to afford basic needs such as food and healthcare. Help bring joy to these survivors' lives by assembling Purim baskets filled with festive food and hand-decorated cards. If you are interested in making a direct donation, please visit <https://miamiteenbluecardfund.org>.

Up to 30 volunteers.

Captains: Caryn Pardo, Chloe Fuller, Lilian Arten

Location: Temple Beth Sholom

Starting Time: 10:00 am

Ages: 3+

Donation: If you are interested in making a direct donation to the Teen Blue Card, please visit <https://miamiteenbluecardfund.org>.



5. Lentils and Love: Lentil Soup Project with the Kosher Food Bank (food insecurity)

Description: Ingredients: lentils, rice, veggies, and love. Help create hundreds of beautiful gift jars filled with all the ingredients for lentil soup. Each jar, a hot meal for a family of four, will be provided to the Kosher Food Bank. This project is a great introduction to community service for young children.

Up to 20 volunteers.

Captains: Emily Sherman, Ashley Weissman, Bliss Barnett, Jillian Barnett

Location: Temple Beth Sholom

Starting Time: 10:00 am and 11:00 am (2 shifts)

Ages: 3+



6. Pack a Care Pack for NICU Mothers

Description: ICU Baby makes a difference in the lives of South Florida families fighting for their critically ill newborns in the NICU. We will assemble care packs for NICU mothers, handwritten notes of encouragement, and art on the packs. Completed packs are given to a NICU Baby representative, who will deliver them to NICU families around South Florida. **Up to 10 families.**

Captains: Pamela Kalmus, Tyler Witkin (with guidance from Amy Ostroff and Jordan Weinstein)

Location: Temple Beth Sholom

Starting Time: 10:00 am

Ages: 3+

7. Sunrise on Wheels (new)

Description: The Sunrise on Wheels Mitzvah Day Project was created to support the Sunrise on Wheels program, an in-hospital initiative that provides children with fun-filled excitement while awaiting and undergoing treatment at pediatric oncology units in South Florida. The Project will include assembly of craft/activity kits and creation of cards for children undergoing treatment.

Sunrise on Wheels, a program of Sunrise Day Camp-South Florida, serves a large number of kids ranging from toddlers to young adults. More information about the program is available here:

<http://sunrisedaycamp-southflorida.org/what-we-do/#wheels>

Limit 40 people (appx. 10 families)

Captains: Lori Maltz, Laurie Torban

Location: Temple Beth Sholom

Starting time: 10:00 am

Ages: 6 and up (family friendly)

8. Tzedakah on the Water: Paddleboarding/Kayak and Cleanup for a Cause

Description: Participants will begin with a ranger-led 2-hour park tour and cleanup of the nature areas focusing on preserving animal, plant, and marine life. This will include a special nature education session from a ranger which will be determined as the event gets closer, based on the park's events. Bring your paddle board or one will be provided (life jacket, paddle, and kayak will be provided). No prior experience is necessary to kayak. Experienced SUP may paddleboard. Those 12 and under must be on a kayak with an adult.

Up to 50 volunteers.

Captain: Danny and Amanda Hertzberg

Location: Oleta River State Park,
3400 NE 163rd Street

Starting Time: 11:00 am -1:00 pm,
check-in: 10:30 am

Ages: 5+

Cost: \$50 adults (18 and up), \$35 teens,
\$25 youth, \$25 bring your own vessel, a
portion of which will go to park preservation
for Friends of Oleta River State Park



9. Sandwich Making to Feed the Homeless (food insecurity)

Description: Join us at TBS where we will make peanut butter & jelly sandwiches and then pack lunch bags consisting of the sandwiches and snacks to provide lunch to our community members in need. Volunteers are then welcome to help deliver the lunch bags to Miami Rescue Mission.

Up to 30 volunteers.

Captains: Allison Greenfield, Rachel Samek, Hunter Greefield, Jordan Greenfield, Jeremy Samek

Location: Temple Beth Sholom

Starting Time: 10:00 am

Ages: 2nd grade and up

10. Food Rescue (food insecurity)

Description: In conjunction with Food Rescue US-South Florida, our Mitzvah Day group will learn about the value of reducing food waste, rescuing food from local supermarkets, and the impact of food waste on the environment. Food insecurity causes poor health, emotional distress, and is a mental burden. As a group, we will “rescue” food from Whole Foods and other stores, and deliver it to Green Haven. We look forward to spending Mitzvah Day impacting the environment and helping people! We need cars and vans. **Up to 15 volunteers.**

Captains: Rachel Unger, Michael Feldman, Max Feldman, Ellie Feldman

Location: Temple Beth Sholom and off-site

Starting Time: 10:00 am

Ages: 8+

11. Bullets4Life with the TBS Gun Violence Prevention Task Force



Description: We are partnering with Bullets4Life, whose mission is to support victims, families, and communities who have been impacted by gun violence. They will join us on Mitzvah Day for a very impactful workshop where adults, children and families make their own bracelets from donated bullets which are taken apart in order to make something beautiful and meaningful from something that can be harmful. The mission of Bullets4Life is to combat the impact of gun violence by raising awareness, advocating for change, and providing resources to victims and their families. We hope that you can join us and obtain a deeper understanding of gun violence issues and what we all can do to make our communities safer. There will be a suggested donation in order to pay for the materials and to support this important cause.

Captains: Hilary Feldman, Lauren Cantor

Location: Temple Beth Sholom

Starting Time: Runs throughout the day; register and then stop by in the Welcome Center

Ages: 4+ (younger kids with parental supervision)

Cost: Suggested donation of \$25 for adults and \$15 for children; pay in advance with registration or at Mitzvah Day

12. Beach Cleanup with SeaKeepers International

Description: Help to keep our city beautiful and protect the ocean and waterways for us and future generations. At Temple Beth Sholom, we follow the teaching In Deuteronomy, “justice, justice shall you pursue,” and do our part to repair the world (tikkun olam). Working with

Seakeepers (<https://www.seakeepers.org/>) to clean and restore our beaches and waterfront is one way you can help repair the world and save our beautiful natural resources.

Up to 50 volunteers.

Captains: Stacy Savett, Michelle Kane

Location: Approximately 21st Street on the Beach

Starting Time: 10:00 am

Ages: 8+



13. Innovative School of Temple Beth Sholom Mitzvah Day Project (food insecurity)

Description: Calling all Innovative School learners and Elementary-age participants, Kindergarten through 5th grade! Join us at TBS where we will learn about food insecurity in Miami-Dade County. In keeping with the Innovative School's values, we will make meals for those experiencing food insecurity. Learners and their families will gather and bring food to create meals delivered to Green Haven Project in Overtown, which empowers visitors to be environmental stewards through hands-on sustainability, inquiry, and community action. This will be an impactful morning. **Up to 50 volunteers.**

Captains: Stacy Penson, Rachel Unger, Barbara Schpilberg, the Innovative School's Elementary Level teaching team

Location: Temple Beth Sholom

Starting Time: 10:00 am

Ages: Kindergarten through 5th grade

14. Voices for Children Family Field Day at the Miami Beach JCC

Description: Voices For Children is a beacon of hope for abused, abandoned, and neglected children and youth in the Miami-Dade County foster care system. They provide critical support for advocacy, essential needs and positive experiences. Join us for a morning where we and our kids will host and play field games at the JCC. We will also make food for a food pantry. Voices for Children will return to Temple Beth Sholom afterwards for lunch.

Up to 25 participants.

Captain: Adam Schimel, Lindsey Genet

Location: Miami Beach JCC

Starting Time: 10:00 am

Ages: 1st grade and up, children must be accompanied by an adult

15. Seeds of Success, jLAB Project (housing and education insecurity)

Description: The SEED School of Miami is a college-preparatory school serving low-income students who come from extremely challenging circumstances. As a 24/5 boarding school for grades 6–12, it provides a safe, stable, and empowering place for students to learn and grow. Students have achieved a 100% college acceptance rate every year since 2021.

Given significant funding gaps, it is more important than ever that we ensure our students have the basic necessities they need to succeed, both inside and outside the classroom. This year, in partnership with JLAB, we will create care packages filled with essential living supplies for students at The SEED School of Miami.

Up to 20 participants.

Captains: Alex Pope

Location: Temple Beth Sholom

Starting Time: 10:00 am

Ages: 4+

TEENS AND UP

Community service hours provided for all projects.

16. Justice League Cupcakes for a Cause with (new)

Description: Join a group of teens from the TBS Justice League to decorate delicious homemade cupcakes. Immediately following the activity, the cupcakes will be delivered to a local non-profit for kids. Volunteers are welcome to help deliver the cupcakes with their own transportation. No transportation will be provided. **Up to 12 volunteers.**

Captains: Justice League

Location: Temple Beth Sholom

Time: 10:00 am

Ages: Teens

17. Balls4All - Basketball Fundraiser and One-on-One Tournament (new)

Description: Balls4All goal will be to collect 180 new basketballs to be distributed to underserved youth through the Miami Beach Parks and Recreation, the police athletic league, and other organizations. There will be a one-on-one tournament and the recipients will be in attendance. It is possible that volunteers will hand-deliver some of the basketballs. One of the components of this mitzvah is to donate Basketball's or \$18. There will be a collection box in the Welcome Center starting in early February. We will also coordinate activities at Scott Rakow with [project 26](#).

Up to 25 volunteers.

Captains: Sky Shashoua, Jaime Rubinson

Location: Scott Rakow Center, 2700 Sheridan Ave, Miami Beach

Starting time: 9:30 am

Ages: Teens and up

Donation: \$18 with registration or new basketballs collected in the Welcome Center. You can purchase basketballs using this QR code.



18. Imagine, Learn, Play, Create

Description: We provide a day of fun at the Miami Children's Museum for children and families from Kids in Distress. Kids in Distress is an organization that is dedicated to preventing child abuse, preserving families, and treating children who have been abused and neglected. During their visit, the children can explore the museum with the volunteers while the foster parents get to relax. We also provide lunch for the families.

Up to 20 volunteers.

Captains: Karli Breslow, Hannah Linder

Location: Miami Children's Museum, 980 MacArthur Causeway

Time: 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Ages: 12+

19. Blood and Platelets Drive

Description: One in three of us will need a blood transfusion in our lifetime, and this life-sustaining fluid is available through the generosity of donors. Not only is blood required for trauma patients but also cancer patients, surgical patients, and individuals with inherited blood disorders. The reason to donate is simple: it helps save lives. You can donate whole blood or platelets. This year, we ask that blood donors sign up in advance and then you will receive a link to choose a time.

Location: Temple Beth Sholom, all day

Ages: 16+ (with parental consent if under 18)

20. TBS Israel Fellows IDF Soldiers Project (new)

Description: Join a group of teens from the TBS Israel Fellows Program as they make cards and write letters for IDF soldiers.

Up to 15 Volunteers.

Captains: Rabbi Loiben, Zoe Rosenberg

Location: Temple Beth Sholom

Time: 10:00 am

Ages: Teens

21. Pappy's Packages - Packing baskets for lung cancer patients at Sylvester Cancer Center



Description: Join us to write supportive letters and pack care packages specifically geared towards lung cancer patients receiving treatment at Sylvester Cancer Center. Lung cancer, despite being the #1 cause of cancer death, is also one of the least researched. This project is a part of an overall capstone project to raise awareness and funds for lung cancer research, and to care and support patients with acts of *chesed*, loving-kindness.

Up to 15 participants.

Captain: Orli Ressler

Location: At TBS and optional off-campus afterwards

Starting Time: 10:00 am

Cost: Suggested donation of \$36

Ages: Teens

22. Soup & Sandwiches: For the Village (Free)dge (food insecurity)

Description: Join us in fighting against food insecurity. We'll be making vats of soup and one hundred sandwiches to serve in the next day's food line at The Village Free(dge) in Liberty City, a grassroots organization that provides free breakfast and lunch to homeless and very low-income people six days per week. The soup and sandwiches will be made in the Temple kitchen during Mitzvah Day and delivered to the Village (Free)dge for distribution Monday morning. Project participants who are available and inclined may also assist with that distribution. **And, on top of that, our very best soup will compete in the Mitzvah Day Soup Contest. See you there, Chefs!**

Minimum age: 17 and up recommended.

Due to limited space in the kitchen, this project is only open to **eight participants**.

Please bring an apron, a few dish towels, a hat, and closed toed rubber soled shoes (sneakers are great). We'll provide gloves.



Captains: Adam Snitzer, John Barker

Location: Temple Beth Sholom Kitchen

Starting Time: 9:45 am to Noon

Ages: Adults

23. PB & J with Purpose (food insecurity)

Description: We will deliver sandwiches to fill community fridges (through Buddy System Miami) with PB & J sandwiches, which we will prepare at TBS, as well as canned goods which can be donated at TBS up until Mitzvah Day.

Up to 12 volunteers.

Captains: Rachel Weissman, Lexi Weissman, Julie Basner, Emme Basner

Location: Temple Beth Sholom

Time: 10:00 am

Ages: Teens

24. Project BREAKOut at Lotus House

Description: We will be gathering for a Project BREAKOut self-care workshop to distribute skincare kits, teach simple skincare routines to the teens, and talk with them about building confidence and taking care of themselves. There will also be activities for the teens and we will spend time connecting with the residents to make the experience uplifting and supportive. Brielle Zaitz started Project BREAKOut in 2025 to help teens learn about self-care and building confidence.

Up to 10 volunteers.

Captain: Brielle Zaitz

Location: Lotus House 217 NW 15th Street, Miami

Time: 11:30 am

Ages: Teens

ADULTS

25. Make NICU Baby Blankets with Yodeah

Description: Join Yodeah for a meaningful, hands-on program creating beautiful baby blankets to be donated to the NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit). Participants will design and iron appliqués onto soft baby blankets, providing comfort and love to newborns in the NICU and their families. The program will also include a brief and informative presentation by Dr. Elizabeth Etkin-Kramer on Jewish hereditary genetic mutations, particularly the BRCA mutation, and why understanding this information can save lives. One in forty Ashkenazi Jews carries a BRCA gene mutation that can significantly increase the risk of cancer. Learn about BRCA and other cancer-related genetic mutations common in Ashkenazi Jews, and have the opportunity to order a low-cost, medical-grade saliva test.

Learn and get tested. It can save your life and your family members' lives.

Up to 20 volunteers.

Captains: Dr. Elizabeth Etkin-Kramer, Adrienne Pardo

Location: Temple Beth Shalom

Starting Time: 10:00 am

Ages: Adults (18+)

Cost: \$18 (covers the purchase of blankets and appliqués)

26. Silent Victims of Crime

Description: Join us for a fun day of activities at Scott Rakow Youth Center with the children from Silent Victims of Crime (Tinkerbell's Children), children of incarcerated parents. Their mission is to assist children of incarcerated parents by improving their economic, educational and personal stability while empowering these children to make wise choices and contribute positively to society. Their vision is to break the intergenerational cycle of incarceration. We will spend a fun morning of activities with these children and then have lunch. We will participate with members of the Tribe, TBS's young professionals' group, and [project 17](#).

Up to 15 volunteers.

Captain: Karen Fryd, Dara Kaplan, Jordan Zuckerman

Location: Scott Rakow Youth Center, 2700 Sheridan Ave., Miami Beach

Time: 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Ages: Teens and Adults

27. TBS Sisterhood Hygiene Baskets for Seniors, in Memory of Myrna Morris

Description: We create festive baskets filled with much-needed toiletries for seniors that the JCS Kosher Food Bank distributes.

8-10 volunteers.

Captains: Dana Grodin, Kim Haber, Judy Barredo

Location: Temple Beth Sholom Welcome Center

Starting Time: 10:00 am

Ages: 13+



28. TBS Sisterhood New to You Clothing Drive, in Memory of Phyllis and Marty Winston

Description: It's time to clean all the closets throughout your home, find all your gently used or never-worn clothes, and give them a new home. On Mitzvah Day, from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, you can drop off your clothes at Temple Beth Sholom for The Lotus House, Florida Breast Cancer Foundation, and Veterans groups. Please sort the clothes in separate bags for men, women, children, and teenagers. Mark the bag with those descriptions. You may also drop off your clothes starting February 3. Let's make this the biggest giving year and help the many who are in need!

Unlimited volunteers. Strong teens needed!

Captains: Kim Haber, Oleva Benrey, Mihaela Gutman, Judy Barredo

Location: Temple Beth Sholom

Starting Time: 10:00 am

Ages: Adults & Teens

29. TBS Sisterhood No- Sew Blanks for Holtz Children's Hospital (new)

Description: Join the Sisterhood in making warm and snuggly blankets for the children at Holtz Children's Hospital. No sewing experience needed for this project. We will teach you how to make them.

Captains: Kim Haber

Location: Temple Beth Sholom

Starting Time: 10:00 am

Ages: 15+

MITZVAH MALL - Booths to Visit in the Welcome Center

Miami Book Fair's Literacy Initiative, "The Children's Trust Books for Free"

Description: Let's collect as many gently-used children's books as possible for our community's underserved children. In partnership with The Children's Trust, the Miami Book Fair stocks 80 bookshelves all over town— from juvenile court to community service offices, clinics to parks, and community centers, all with gently-used children's books. Over 5,000 books are taken home weekly from the shelves, some distributed at special events, and even more are delivered to non-profits around town to distribute directly to their community. Over 100,000 children's books have been given to readers of all ages since January 2024. We can help keep the shelves stocked by donating baby books, first readers, and picture books. And, together, we can change the statistic that only 1 in 300 children own a book at home. Drop-off bin will be in the TBS Welcome Center starting February 3, and collections continue on Mitzvah Day.

Captain: Lisa Palley

PACT – People Acting for Community Together

Description: Temple Beth Sholom is a proud member of Miami PACT – People Acting for Community Together. PACT is an interfaith community organizing group that works to make lasting change in Miami-Dade County, and hold leaders accountable. Their current initiative is working on affordable rent issues and homelessness. Stop by our booth to learn more about PACT's work and how you can get involved in strengthening our community through justice work.



Captain: Jonathan Sepsenwol

Yodeah - Hereditary Cancers in Ashkenazi Jews

Description: One in forty Ashkenazi Jews carries a genetic mutation on the BRCA gene that can increase their risk of cancer. Learn about this and other cancer-related genetic mutations in Ashkenazi Jews and have an opportunity to take a low-cost saliva test. Get tested. It can save your life. Visit us on Mitzvah Day! Also see [project 25](#).

Captains: Dr. Elizabeth Etkin-Kramer,
Dr. Robin Straus-Furlong

TBS Gun Violence Prevention Task Force/Bullets4Life

Description: Our mission is to promote advocacy, education, and community engagement with respect to gun violence prevention issues. We will be presenting educational material about our Task Force, including about Be SMART, a nonpartisan program that advocates for common sense gun safety measures. We will also have information about local, state, and federal legislative initiatives. Please stop by our table to learn about gun safety, the Be SMART program, and what you can do to get involved. Free gun locks will be available. In addition, individuals from the Bullets4Life organization will be selling their bracelets at our table.

Captains: Lauren Cantor, Hilary Feldman

American Cancer Society – Cancer Action Network

Description: Florida ranks #2 in cancer incidences in the country. In 2021 alone, more than 20,000 women in Florida will be diagnosed with breast cancer. When detected and treated early, the cure rates are much improved. However, only about 8% of women between the ages of 50-64 years that are uninsured and at or below 200% of the federal poverty level can gain access to mammograms and treatment. We need to urge Florida Legislators to invest in The Florida Breast & Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, which provides essential screenings and Medicaid eligibility for women. Please join our efforts in increasing support for this vital program. We will have a petition available to encourage our state legislature to increase funding to the Mary Brogan Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection and Treatment program which helps fund screening tests for underserved women and enables them to receive Medicaid for treatment, if they are found to have cancer.



Captain: Donna Lundy

Magen David Adom

Description: Make thank you cards for the volunteers who serve Magen David Adom in Israel, especially during the war. Sit on a real medi-cycle and learn about the work of this amazing organization. When there's a medical emergency, there's one organization that Israelis count on to save lives. In the United States, ambulances and blood services are handled by an array of hospitals and organizations. In Israel, one organization does it all—Magen David Adom. Thousands of volunteers serve the people of Israel, regardless of race, color, or religion. They receive no government funding.



Captain: Magen David Adom Volunteers

Location: Temple Beth Sholom Welcome Center & Palm Plaza

PJ Library Area for Kids

Description: PJ Library sends free high-quality Jewish children's books to families every month. **These stories spark conversations that inspire the whole family to explore and celebrate what they love about Jewish life.** The program was created by the nonprofit Harold Grinspoon Foundation (HGF) in keeping with its mission to help people connect to Jewish values, traditions, and culture while building vibrant Jewish communities. The HGF partners with local Jewish organizations to fund PJ Library and make it available in their community.

Bring the kids to the Welcome Center, enjoy a book, rest, reenergize. Feel free to sign up for PJ Library and take a book home.

Kids Room and Playground Open

Description: Want to give the kids something to go between projects or before lunch? Join our teaching staff in a classroom for some supervised kids time. Games, projects, activities. The playground will also be open with supervision. We ask parents to remain with their children during play time.

Compost for Life, Inc.

Description: Learn about composting. It's easy. Demonstrations and sign-up for home composting at a special discount for TBS members. Compost For Life is a community-based organization that raises awareness on the importance of composting food scraps for the benefit of all. We make composting easy.

Jewish National Fund - USA

Description: JNF builds and strong, vibrant future for the land and people of Israel through bold initiatives and Zionist education. The scope of our work is vast because we never think in terms of just one project at a time. We focus instead on "Circles of Impact" - the cascading effects that one initiative can generate - and how we can magnify those effects to ripple out to strengthen the whole of Israel. It is this visionary planning that sets us apart. Come learn about JFN and how you can get involved.

Fentanyl Safe – Preventing Opioid Overdoses

Description: All Miami-Dade County public schools are now stocked with naloxone (Narcan), the medication that reverses opioid overdoses. More and more establishments such as restaurants, bars and clubs now stock naloxone. We have a crisis in our country that is absolutely unacceptable. It is taking the lives of our youth, our future leaders of tomorrow, and we can no longer sit back and just accept it. From 2016 to 2022, the use of opioids in Miami-Dade County rose 640%. It affects everyone. Come learn about the opioid epidemic and what we can do to educate people and prevent deaths. Free Narcan will be distributed along with educational information.

Captain: Lily Grodin

Sisterhood Hidden Gems Sale

Description: Donate and purchase treasured items, with proceeds going to various TBS projects.

Contact: Sandra Cohen



Diabetes Education

Description: Type 1 diabetes and other autoimmune diseases have had an epic rise in cases in the past couple of years (a lot of people trace it back to the pandemic because viral diseases do influence and increase the likelihood of acquiring an autoimmune disease).

Captain: Madeline Benitez

The Seed School of Miami

Description: The SEED School of Miami is a college-preparatory school serving low-income students who come from extremely challenging circumstances. As a 24/5 boarding school for grades 6–12, we provide a safe, stable, and empowering place for students to learn and grow. We are incredibly proud that our students have achieved a 100% college acceptance rate every year since 2021.

Given significant funding gaps, it is more important than ever that we ensure our students have the basic necessities they need to succeed, both inside and outside the classroom. This year on Mitzvah Day, we are compiling packages of essential living supplies the students will be thrilled to receive, as well as decorating special inspirational notes!

Leket Israel USA, Israel National Food Bank

Description: Leket Israel is the national food bank of Israel. It collects surplus food from over 1,000 sources—including farms, hotels, cafeterias, and army bases—and delivers it to over 300 non-profit partners, serving over 415,000 people every week. One quarter of Israelis— including Holocaust survivors, families, immigrants and vulnerable children—struggle to access nutritious food. Come and learn about Leket and how you can get involved in their work.

**One Mitzvah
Leads to Another**



MITZVAH DAY
ESTABLISHED 1996

Celebrating
30th Years of
MITZVAH DAY



MITZVAH DAY
ESTABLISHED 1996

Sunday, February 22, 2026

tbsmb.org/mitzvahtday



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