**Temple Beth Sholom Presents:** 

# Our Voices - A Monthly Newsletter

November 2021 – Cheshvan/Kislev 5782 | Issue 21 | A Jewish Center for Life, Learning, and Connections

Important Contacts

Mike Winston, President – <u>winston.mike@gmail.com</u> Ruth Irving, Executive Director – <u>rirving@tbsoc.com</u> Rabbi David Lipper – <u>rabbilipper@tbsoc.com</u> Cantor David Reinwald – <u>dreinwald@tbsoc.com</u>

Services | Shabbat Evening Services will be streamed and offered in-person at TBS at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted

Torah Study | Virtually held each Saturday. See <a href="https://tbsoc.com/">https://tbsoc.com/</a> for Zoom Link

### Join Us for Our Upcoming Events!

11/12 @ 6:00 p.m. | Family Shabbat Service – Join us at an earlier time for our monthly family-friendly service

11/14 & 21 @ 10:00 a.m. | Judaism 101 with Rabbi Lipper – The final sessions of Rabbi's first of three AE Presentations

11/14 @ 11:30 a.m. | Sisterhood's Paid-Up Membership Event – Bunco & Brunch

11/19 @ 10:00 a.m. | Shabbat Service – Special recognition and blessing of our veterans

11/28 – 12/5 @ 6:00 p.m. | Annual Menorah Lighting at the Orange Circle – December 1 & 5 lighting will be at TBS

### Worship at TBS

#### From the Rabbi's Study

Rabbi David Lipper

I know that it may seem strange, but November is my favorite month of the year. There are no birthdays or anniversaries, rarely a Jewish holiday, just life to be lived. It often affords me the time to breathe, to reflect, to renew and to plan well into the next year. I read more in November than any other month because I have more time to do that.

But there are two days in November that I view as sacred. Of course, there is Thanksgiving. Beyond turkey and football, thanksgiving for me was always sacred family time. From my childhood, gathering with dozens of cousins, playing football in the street, and feasting on foods that brought joy to my heart, was an annual treat for me. I remember being called in for lunch and the entire family gathering as one of my uncles recited a prayer from his heart to frame our meal in the spirit in which it was intended. Sure, we had fun, but we also took time to remember and reflect and respect the generations in our family who had made our gatherings possible. In our own quiet way, without fanfare or ceremony, we turned our hearts toward each other and brought out the light in the world. I still love those moments and this year, as Dora and I gather with our family in Houston, we will do the same, carrying on the tradition of our ancestors, bringing the Holy into our family space.

The other day that I view as sacred is November 11. Imagine my pride when I found that our new community here, closes the office and marks the day on our communal consciousness. In November 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words:

"To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..."

I did not serve in the US military. I must admit that it never crossed my mind until I was deep into my college days. But as I moved from Texas to Israel, the opportunity to serve was thrust upon me. I served in the IDF during the first war in Lebanon and was honored to be a part of that service. From that point on, I have been focused on honoring those who serve in every capacity. From Police, Fire and EMS to those serving in Active or Reserve Duty, to those whose years of service are behind them, all deserve our graciousness and gratitude. November 11th is a time to remember those who served with pride, fought, and died, to guarantee us the opportunity to gather. On 11/11 at 11am, I will stop whatever I am doing, Stand and honor those who serve. I hope that you do as well. All too often these days have just become another day off. Not to me. Honor all those who serve.

So, November is a special month after all. On November 19th at our regular worship service at 7:00 p.m., I will honor all veterans in our congregation with a special blessing. If you are a veteran, in any capacity, please come and join us at that service. Some of our brave men and women have never been recognized for their sacrifices. Please join me in honoring them. Shalom.

#### Come for Shabbat, Stay for the Oneg

Karen Warren, VP of Worship

Summer is over and fall is upon us. Our Shabbat services are back indoors, and we are resuming our regular service times. That means that services are now starting at 7:00 p.m., except for the 2nd Shabbat of every month, which are family services that start at 6:00 p.m. Our goal is to make TBS worship services as welcoming and safe as possible for everyone. To help assure that, we wear masks indoors, practice safe distancing and always are mindful that many of us are faced with challenges that might cause us to hesitate or decline a hug or handshake. TBS has purchased and is using industrial strength air filters, which we are able to move to different rooms and locations of the temple to help keep our air clean and safe. There will be times when we will be utilizing the living room for services or programming so that the doors can be open for better circulation.

Starting in November, TBS will, once again, provide Onegs following services. We know that our congregation misses the opportunity to visit and nosh with friends. Please do come for services, Rabbi Lipper's inspirational stories, Cantor Reinwald's lovely music, and do stay for a visit with old friends and new.

### Annual Menorah Lighting at the Orange Circle with Friends and Family Worship Committee

Hannukah begins the evening of November 28th. Join your TBS community in the Orange Circle each night at 6:00 p.m. Rabbi and Cantor will be there to lead the prayers and songs. TBS will provide bagged sufganiyot (jelly donut holes) for your enjoyment. Bring your friends and make it a date. There are many wonderful restaurants to enjoy in old town Orange. Get in the holiday spirit and join us for this exciting annual tradition. Please note: December 3rd and 5th lighting will take place at Temple Beth Sholom.

### President's Message

Mike Winston, TBS President

Well, it is happening. Our application for a settled Rabbi has been officially submitted. Lori Griffin and her team worked diligently and collaboratively to get our application submitted at the very beginning of the yearly search process. So many great ideas and thoughtful updates were made over a 2-week period to prepare for this submission. Even with all that input, it could not have been completed without all of you participating in our Focus Groups this year. We had 108 congregants participate in 1 of the 15 virtual or in-person sessions. I want to give a big thank you to Rachel Benson and Jeff Merkow for making this happen, along with our 8 moderators and 15 note takers.

The input each of you provided was vital to creating a picture of what TBS is and what we want from our next Rabbi. These are going to be big shoes to fill, but I am confident we will find the right Rabbi for TBS. The level of participation in our Focus Groups shows how committed our members are to TBS and to make this the best TBS we can be. Our next Rabbi is going to be proud to be part of our community.

Hanukkah is coming early this year, get your shopping in quickly. Keep an eye out for dates and times as TBS has multiple events going on to celebrate together. Come join us at the Orange Circle to light Hanukkah candles and eat some sufganiyot (jelly donuts). We will also be having a congregation-wide celebration on December 5th with dancing, latkes, and more sufganiyot. I can't wait to see you all there. L'Shalom.

### **Brotherhood**

#### Community - Fellowship - Action - Service

Sylvan Swartz, Brotherhood Director of Membership

TBS Brotherhood has postponed our membership breakfast event, so we do not conflict with Rabbi Lipper's 10:00 a.m. class. It was to be a 10:00 a.m. football game and breakfast. Please watch for a new event and date.

Our first Brotherhood/Sisterhood "Take a Hike" event led by Todd and Lisa Litman occurred October 17th and was a great time for those hikers among us. We plan to do several more during the year so watch for info. In the meantime, we are once again planning a December 25th Pancake Breakfast this year. It has only been interrupted once in 25 years and that was for a pandemic. This year's breakfast will be a little different than in the past, but it will still be a fun event.

The Brotherhood will be lighting Hanukkah candles in the Orange Circle once again along with other groups from TBS on different evenings. Our night to light is **December 1st** and we invite all to join us with some singing in the circle and a jelly donut hole to nourish the soul. Plans are also being made to read to the children in the Religious School. We are happy to get new readers among our congregation. It takes about an hour on a Sunday. Give one of us a call or contact me, at <a href="mailto:sylvan@swartzcre.com">sylvan@swartzcre.com</a>. Also, poker games will have started by the time you receive this newsletter but if you want to attend, please contact Lew Siegler at <a href="mailto:MisterLew@gmail.com">MisterLew@gmail.com</a>. This game is growing and is a perfect opportunity to take a break once a month and have some fun.

If you have not yet joined Brotherhood, or you have a man hanging around that has not joined Brotherhood, please join us. Our funds go primarily to youth programs, and we can use all the help we can get. Watch for promotions for our various events coming up such as a Thursday night football game, poker, reading to small kids, eating, and schmoozing. Hope to see you soon.

### Sisterhood



TBS Sisterhood's Paid-Up Membership Event | Bunco & Brunch | Sunday, November 14, 11:30 – 1:30 Sisterhood Members – please join us for our paid-up membership event, Bunco & Brunch on Sunday, November 14, 11:30 AM. Bunco is a super easy game, super fun, and a great way to socialize. This event is our way of saying "thank you" to Sisterhood members who have paid their 2021-2022 membership dues. You can even bring a guest.

Not a Sisterhood member yet? Don't worry! Look for the Bunco & Brunch flyer in the Shavu'on News, fill out the bottom and return it with your dues check and come join us for Bunco & Brunch. If you have any questions, please call Dora at (425) 219-0452.

### **Our Youth**

#### Early Childhood Center

Tamara Levin, Director of Early Childhood Education



We have a thriving infant center at TBS. The teachers are nurturing, caring, loving, and kind. Feeding, changing, burping, and rocking 12 infants can fill the day entirely, but the TBS teachers go far beyond that. They read and sing to the youngest members of our community and introduce them to a variety of sensory play. Every child is valued, and every child will experience, amongst many other things, sensory exploration. If a child is too young to hold a paint brush, then his feet will do!

Why is sensory input so valuable for our little ones? Typically, the play stimulates a child's 5 senses and helps develop their understanding of their surrounding environment. It enhances cognitive development, encourages communication, develops knowledge, enhances memory skills, and even helps them develop personal preferences. Our teachers are devoted to providing our children with a strong foundation for future learning and we start with our well-respected Infant Program.

#### **Religious School**

Johannah Sohn, Ed.D, Director of Youth Education

I am writing to share news that is at the same time very exciting and very difficult for me. I have been offered, and accepted, a full-time role at Temple Beth El of South Orange County as the Director of Congregational Learning there. The decision to accept the role was challenging for me as I love the Temple Beth Sholom community dearly. As much as I would like to continue in both roles, I don't have enough hours in the day to be the parent I strive to be to my three children, and work in two synagogues.

Cantor Reinwald and Rabbi Lipper will continue to be present every Sunday morning with our students and families and they are both hard at work finding the next administrator for our school. I am also glad to share that I will continue to manage our online Hebrew program that we share with TBESOC, so I will still have the chance to see some of our students during the week! This community holds a special place in my heart, and I will continue to be a partner and resource to the school through my work at TBESOC. I wish only the best for each of you and who knows, maybe we will see each other again at the next Backyard Bash!

#### Something to Kvell About – Recognizing our Teens and Young Adults

Monica Engel, Social Action Member



Adam Huczneker is a role model personified. His Bar Mitzvah project was proof of his compassion and caring. He asked friends and family for donations to help him fulfill his plan to support training dogs to aid Wounded Warriors. He raised \$600.00, purchased the necessary items, and delivered them to a Wounded Warrior facility. His pride in being Jewish is obvious. He reads Hebrew, celebrates Shabbat, and observes all the Jewish holidays. He "does" and enjoys being Jewish; he is such a Mensch! He is compassionate and caring and shows it by supporting friends and standing up for what is right. Adam enjoys playing the viola and is a member of his Jr. High School orchestra. He is also a basketball

enthusiast. He likes to play but also is immersed in watching the game on TV. His favorite team is the Lakers (mine too), Adam enjoys socializing with young and old alike. His warm manner makes people feel welcome and comfortable.

### **Committee Updates**

#### Settled Rabbi Search Committee

Lori Griffin, SRSC Chair

The Settled Rabbi Search Committee has been very busy. Since our kickoff meeting on September 27th, we have been occupied with working on many things, however, our focus has been on the CCAR (Central Conference American Rabbis) application. We are so thankful to all the congregants who participated in one of the focus groups as the feedback we received was very validating to the work the committee had already put into the application. We are very pleased to say that our application has now been posted on the CCAR website and we hope to start receiving applicant resumes around the beginning of November. We will keep the congregation updated on our progress throughout the process in this section of the newsletter as well as through email communication.

#### **Focus Groups**

Jeff Merkow, Co-Executive Vice President

At the beginning of October, 108 TBS congregants participated in a series of focus groups, designed to elicit input to help with the temple's strategic planning, as well as to provide information to the settled rabbi search committee about the congregation's vision for our future spiritual leadership. There were 15 in-person and Zoom focus groups, which were facilitated by temple volunteers including Soni Sandberg, Ari Ohls, Rachel Benson, Annbeth Shanfield, Mary Gonzalez, Lori Griffin, Jason Weissberg, and Jeff Merkow. They were assisted by note-takers Rachel Shih, Jen Marger, Doris Bachman, Karen Merkow, Jose Gonzalez, Matthew Griffin, Cindy Grossberg, Karen Warren, Katie Weissberg, Keren Marmarelli, Eyal Marmarelli, Elyse McDonnell, Heidi King, Sue Guilford, and Mimi Winston.

The focus group project was organized by TBS Co-Executive Vice Presidents Rachel Benson and Jeff Merkow. They were assisted by Melanie Pollock in data analysis and have reported their preliminary results to the settled rabbi search committee, which used the input in crafting their application to the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), the body that oversees the application process for Reform rabbis. The congregation will be able to read a summary of all the focus groups' input in the December issue of *Our Voices*. A big "thank you" to everyone who has worked on and contributed to this very important project.

#### Membership/FWYC

Mary Gonzalez, VP of Membership

### LET'S Gelt TOGETHER

An Afternoon of Art, Music, and Community

Save the date! On **December 5<sup>th</sup>** after Religious School, the membership committee is hosting an afternoon of art, music, and community. We invite you to join us for paint pouring, Israeli dancing, a story corner for the kiddos, an ugly sweater contest, dreidel competition,

latke and sufganiyot booth, and much more. (See page 10 for full flyer.) If you would like to get involved in our "funraisers" please reach out Arielle Ohls at 562-316-7030 or Mary Gonzalez at 714-292-4957. We meet once per month and are looking for fresh ideas!

Also, please join me in sending a warm TBS welcome to our newest members! We are so happy to have them join our family. If you see them around campus, please say hello and introduce yourselves!

April & Daniel Akiva, their daughter Adina and son Aaron | Gail & Curtis Desilets | Rebecca Marrow

Bethann & Francis Matijevich and their daughters Isabella, Emilia, Ariana, and Alexandra

Galit & Bruce Reitman | Sacha & Tomer Sade and their daughter Noi

#### TBS's L'Dor V'Dor Society Wins Prize at Jewish Community Foundation!

Michele Shugarman, L'Dor V'Dor Chair



The L'Dor V'Dor Society was created, so that our love of Jewish life and its teachings will be preserved from generation to generation. Our legacy program ensures we pass the tradition of vitality and financial stability into our future.

Fresh from the High Holy Days, now is a good time to ensure that our legacy matches the way we live and the priorities we value. A Letter of Intent begins with a simple promise and culminates with the satisfaction of knowing you created your legacy for the ages. It is a declaration of intent to provide for the needs of future generations, and can be a bequest,

endowment, life insurance policy, IRA or retirement plan gift, etc.

It was just announced that TBS came in third place in a competition for most Letters of Intent (which ended on 09/30/2021) with 7 Letters of Intent. We are thrilled and want to thank our participants for our success! This cash award is unrestricted and will further our goal to grow L'Dor V'Dor Legacy.

Our Temple exhibits a passion for Judaism and community that grows stronger every year. To ensure that we can continue to provide a nourishing atmosphere and welcoming environment in the years to come, we need your support. We can win a cash prize from the Harold Grinspoon Foundation if we are one of the top 3 teams with the biggest percentage in new Letters of Intent. Sign your Letter of Intent today! Please contact Ruth Irving, our Executive Director, or Michele Shugarman, L'Dor V'Dor Chair, to start the conversation or for more information.

### Thank You to Our Sponsors!

This newsletter is made possible entirely from donations and sponsorships. If you would like to contribute toward its continued development and distribution, please contact Ruth Aptaker (<a href="mailto:ruth.aptaker@gmail.com">ruth.aptaker@gmail.com</a>) or the TBS office.



We are also grateful for the generous donations of Patti Widdicombe, the Weissberg Family, the Cohen Family, the Engel Family, Sandy Fainbarg, and our TBS Brotherhood.

### **Social Action**

Education - Direct Service - Advocacy - Collections

Paula Pitluk, Social Action Chair

The he TBS Social Action Committee continues to meet via Zoom on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. In the past month, Social Action has completed several projects. These included a highly successful Canned Food Drive with items provided to several community organizations as well as two schools with high poverty populations. As always, Monica Engel and her team have continued with Mitzvah of the Month; watch for how you can contribute. Warm clothing for all ages is this month's project.

The United Way Welcome Home Baskets continues for families moving into a permanent home for the first time. It's a great project for a class or a Chavurah to sponsor and a way for children to participate in giving. Sharing the cost makes this more. There are two samples in the TBS living room. United Way also offers other ways to give such as coaching students in preparing for college or reading to students, in person or remotely. Call the United Way Office for more information.

Welcome to Bonnie Robinson! Thank you for joining our committee!

As always, we appreciate your support and welcome your ideas. Thank you for being a generous and giving community. If you are interested in joining us in our work, please contact Paula Pitluk at <a href="mailto:pkpteach@gmail.com">pkpteach@gmail.com</a>.

#### Mitzvah Meals is Back!

Mitzvah Meals Team

Mitzvah Meals is back in the TBS kitchen! This will be MM 2.0, as we will be starting over with a new format. Mitzvah Meals consists of a group of volunteers who come together every Sunday to prepare meals for those in need. There are various spots to fill each week. At this time, we ask that all volunteers are vaccinated and are willing to wear a mask. If you have time and would like to volunteer, please contact Cheryl Escoe at <a href="mailto:caescoe43@gmail.com">caescoe43@gmail.com</a>.

### **Adult Education**

Angela Holmes, Adult Ed Chair

#### Rabbi Lipper Adult Education Presentations 2021-2022 (visit the TBS website or call the office to register)

Judaism 101: The 10 Most Important Ideas Judaism Brings to the World

Dates: Final classes on Sundays November 14 and 21

Time: 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Location: TBS Chapel

We will explore 10 essential teachings of Judaism and how they have impacted our understanding of Judaism of the values by which we live. We will look at the themes of creation, revelation, redemption, God, Torah, and community as well as seek to understand the issues of life and death and the afterlife. Join Rabbi Lipper for this interesting conversation.

Sacred Texts of Jewish Time

Dates: Mondays on December 6, 13, 20 and January 10, 24

Time: 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Location: TBS Chapel

Each Holy moment in the Jewish year is marked with a special text that expands the meaning of the Holy Day. The three festivals (Pesach, Shavuot, and Sukkot), Purim, Tisha B'av and Chanukah all have unique texts that speak to the essence of each day. We will explore excerpts of each text in seeking to discover the deeper meaning of each sacred moment.

Searching the Prophets for Values

Dates: Mondays on March 7, 14, 21, 28 and April 4, 11

Time: 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Location: TBS Chapel

From the essence of Torah, the prophets sought to elevate the Divine covenant beyond the virtual praxis of the Priestly class. The Prophets were those who sought to speak truth to power and to help the Jewish community elevate their lives in connection to the Holy and Blessed One. From Joshua to Ezekiel, each Prophet carved out their message of hop for the future.

#### **Adult Education Committee Update**

In addition to the programs planned by Adult Education, we would like to remind everyone to keep up with all the adult offerings from every auxiliary group in the Temple by looking at the TBS website, calendar, as well as read the weekly Shavu'on and other single emails. Each group is calendaring interesting and informative activities all year. We hope you take advantage of the opportunities presented and support the work of those who spend many volunteer hours addressing the interests of the congregation. Below is a preview of programs being planned:

- TBS Jewish film series
- Speaker: Author Linda Abit, *The Conscious Care Taker: A Mindful Approach to Caring for Your Loved One Without Losing Yourself*
- Culinary presentation with Rabbi David and Dora Lipper, "Marriage of Two Cultures"
- Speaker: Author Linda Frank, *The Nice Little Blonde Girl*, *The Lost Torah of Shanghai*, and *After the Auction*.

- Volunteers have gone through donated books and reviewed and reorganized the contents of the library. Look for giveaway texts in the living room.
- Investigating planning requirements for TBS group tours of exhibits at Bowers Museum.

#### Books of Interest: Youth to Seniors

Exile Music by Jennifer Steil (escape to Bolivia)

Defending Britta Stein by Ronald H. Balson (WWII Denmark)

Something Wild by Hanna Halperin (contemporary Jewish life)

*The Lost Minyan* by David Gitlitz (Conversos)

Molly Pilgrim by Barbara Cohen (the intersection of Chanukah and Thanksgiving)

Not This Turkey! by Jessica Steinberg (a true event about immigrants celebrating new traditions)

#### Chapman University Rodgers Center for Holocaust Education – Upcoming Events

Who Will Tell Our History? An Interfaith Community Event to Commemorate Kristallnacht

Date: November 9 @ 7:00 p.m.

Location: Wallace All Faiths Chapel, Fish Interfaith Center

Reflections by Glenn Kurtz, Ph.D., Presidential Fellow at Chapman University and Author of *Three Minutes in Poland: Discovering a Lost World in a 1938 Family Film* 

For the 14th year, Chapman University gathers as an interfaith community to commemorate Kristallnacht. We remember the violence that swept across Germany and Austria on November 9-10, 1938, the arrests and deportations that followed and the precedent that this event set. We also remember the courageous few from many walks of life and beliefs who dared to defy Nazi authority and to become rescuers and resisters. Dr. Glenn Kurtz will be talking about the challenges faced by people in the Polish town of Nasielsk. This town is the birthplace of the author's grandfather and setting for his book.

### **Shaloms and Shout Outs**



Happy 50th Birthday Matthew Griffin, and Happy 51st Lori Griffin!



Sending a shout out and a huge thank you to Todd and Lisa Litman for ourganizing our Hike last month. Can't wait to do it again! – Mitch and the hikers



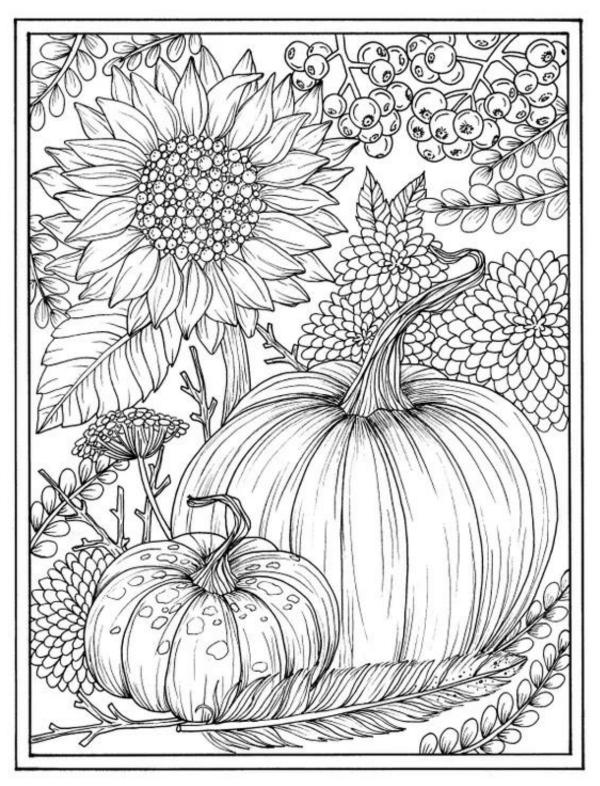
Happy 27th Anniversary Kathy! Toes in the sand, a beverage in my hand, when I'm with you! Love, Moshe



Save the date! Activities and events are still being added, but we will have fun for members of all ages. Paint pouring, Israeli dancing, dreidel and gaga, story corner, and lots of yummy holiday food. This program is partially funded by a grant from the Albert and Rhoda Weissman Arts Endowment Fund, a joint program of Jewish Community Foundation Orange County and Jewish Federation of Orange County. It will be free and open to all TBS members and their guests. Please watch the Shavu'on for more details and registration links. Times are subject to change.

## **Enjoy**

Coloring has the ability to relax the amygdala. It induces the same state as meditating by reducing the thoughts of a restless mind. This generates mindfulness and quietness, which allows your mind to get some rest after a long day.



### **Happy Thanksgiving!**

