

Our Voices - A Monthly Newsletter

July 2020 – Tammuz/Av 5780 | Issue 5 | A Jewish Center for Life, Learning, and Connections



Assistance and Events

General Assistance | Cantor Reinwald - dreinwald@tbsoc.com; Ruth Irving – rirving@tbsoc.com. If you need confidential assistance with groceries, either physically or financially, please contact Ruth Irving.

Torah Study | Held each Saturday online through Zoom.

Services | Shabbat Evening Services are offered online through livestream and Facebook Live.

July 10 | 4:00-5:30 p.m. – "Beep, Honk, and Wave! It's a Drive-Thru Shabbat Parade!" Join us as we usher in Shabbat with another drive-thru. Register for your free challah on the website and enjoy some music from Cantor as you pick it up.

July 29 | 7:30 p.m. – An evening program for Tisha B'Av (commemoration of the destruction of the 1st and 2nd temples) will take place via Zoom.

For a Complete List of Event Links Please Visit <https://www.tbsoc.com/>

Worship at TBS

On an Acting Interim basis, Karen Warren has agreed to serve as our VP of Worship. She is working on forming a new committee. If you are interested in being involved, please reach out to her at warrenk123@gmail.com. The committee will be working on new and existing worship programming and planning for the High Holy Days.

We are also pleased to announce that our Interim Rabbi Search Committee is complete with Rachel Benson serving as chair. Joining her are:

Rachel Shih | Soni Sanberg | Michele Shugarman | Michelle Singleton | Jeff Winston
Alan Shebroe | Jason Wenneberg | Arielle Dufs | Norm Rosen | Aimee Gromfin

Cantor Reinwald is currently broadcasting Shabbat Services at 6pm from the sanctuary for viewing at home. We will continue to update the congregation regarding in-person experiences based on local and state regulations and health and safety protocols.

Torah study, led by rotating leaders, continues every Saturday morning at 9:15 am via Zoom. Everyone is always welcome!

An evening program for Tisha B'Av (commemoration of the destruction of the 1st and 2nd temples) will take place via Zoom on Weds., July 29th at 7:30. Please stay tuned for more information.

President's Message

Lately, I have been thinking about perspective and finding positives in what may seem like a negative situation.

One of the most difficult chapters in my life occurred after I graduated college in 1991. I wasn't accepted to any of the 8 law schools I applied to and I wasn't ready to start my career. So, I went to Israel with a college roommate. Our plan was to complete a 5-month Ulpan course and then do 3 months of basic training in the Israeli Army.

In less than 2 weeks, we had started our Ulpan at Kibbutz Hatzor, East of Ashdod. The Ulpan rooms were right next to the turkey houses and underneath the final approach to an Air Force Base. In addition, many of the students were from Russia and other Eastern bloc countries. We had nothing in common and couldn't even communicate with them. My initial job was to clean the floor of the dining hall (Chadar Ochel) with a mini Zamboni. I was incredulous and couldn't believe the situation I was in.

My college roommate left after one night. He couldn't stand the smell or the noise. My second roommate was a former Marine and he lasted less than a week.

My third roommate was Josh Cohen, and we became great friends. He and I shared the same 8-month plan, but he also wanted to make Aliyah and complete military service of 3 years. Unlike me, Josh had no family. Estranged from his mom and having never known his dad, Josh had to grow up faster than I did. Josh was even agreeable to waking-up at 2am to help load turkeys into trucks or fix drip irrigation lines in the fields.

It took weeks for me to realize that my situation was a lot better than I originally perceived. Kibbutz Hatzor was teaching me Hebrew and providing room and board. I was learning about the Kibbutz families and the volunteers from the Scandinavian countries and was becoming great friends with the other Ulpan students. I even began to appreciate the "bloc" kids as our Hebrew improved and I more clearly understood their plight.

The balance of my Ulpan experience flew by. I even volunteered to load turkeys, pick vegetables in the field, and became life-long friends with Josh, and two other buddies, Seth from Staten Island and Sacha from Berlin. We've run marathons together, celebrated our children's Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, and stay in touch via WhatsApp and Facebook.

If I had quit the Ulpan, I would have missed out on this life-changing experience. I am thankful that I was able to change my perspective and find the positives in what initially seemed like a negative situation. *-Mitch Cohen, TBS President*



Brotherhood | Community - Fellowship - Action - Service

Your Brotherhood is continuing to make a difference in the lives of TBS members. June 14th was the second Zoom Speaker series featuring TBS member Joel Kotkin. The program was fascinating and extremely well received. For the first time the Brotherhood Speaker Series is looking to continue over the summer to provide some Temple connection during this time of Covid 19. Look for announcements.

In July, we look to be starting our Shabbat Happy Hour which we intend to be a Happy ½ Hour to welcome Shabbat. We welcome men and women to join us to have a cocktail, a glass of wine or whatever to talk about their week on Zoom prior to the evening's service.

Brotherhood is happy to say we have had applications for the 4 college scholarships we have been offering and hope to award them during July.

Plans are being made for Zoom Monday Night Football games and other programs that will be new and exciting.

-Sylvan Swartz, Brotherhood Director of Membership

Sisterhood

TBS Sisterhood is now in its membership drive for our upcoming 2020-2021 Sisterhood year. Please watch your e-mail and mailbox for our membership form. Make sure to complete and return the bottom portion so you won't miss out on any of the Sisterhood fun.

We look forward to an exciting year ahead and hope that you will be an integral part of this dynamic group of women of all ages and stages of life. Know that our doors are open to all who seek friendship, opportunities to socialize, ways to enhance your spiritual journey and have fun while making a positive difference within our Temple Beth Shalom family and the local community as well. -Brenda Beck, TBS Sisterhood President

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This newsletter is also made possible by the generous contributions of Patti Widdicomb, Barbara Ulmer, the Escoe Family, the Borchard Family, and Leonard & Susan Silberman

Camp, ECC, and Our Youth

The sound of music permeates the air. I stand at the playground entrance and watch children dancing amongst a slew of floating bubbles. Shrieking with delight, they chase the translucent, shimmering balls of air. Our summer camp is in full swing. The children are experiencing the joy of play and being with each other.



The Camp consists of five 2-week sessions, each exploring a different topic that includes a related science and nature component. Session 1 navigates the depths of the ocean, Session 2 negotiates the unknown galaxies in space, Session 3 transports us into a world of fantasy, Session 4 discovers the world of bugs, and Session 5 examines the relationships between authors and their animals.

Covid-19 has reduced our numbers but not our spirit. Our preschool camp is filled with busy children enjoying their childhood pursuits. -Tamara Levin, Preschool Director



Membership



Our first two Drive-Thru Shabbat Parades were a huge success! We had over 100 people get a friendly (distant) wave from the membership committee and enjoy some live music from Cantor as they drove through the TBS parking lot and picked up their free challah. Our next Shabbat Parade will be on **July 10th** and is made possible in part by a generous donation from the Mitch and Kathy Cohen in honor of Mitch's parent's 53rd wedding anniversary. "Beep, Honk, and Wave! We hope to see you at the Drive-Thru Shabbat Parade!"

-Mary Gonzalez, VP of Membership



Voices of TBS

Our new program *TBS Inspires* is in full swing! Please continue to share videos of your musical talents. Do a dance. Read something you have written or a poem or short story that you love. Show us a short film you have created. Inspire TBS! See the TBS website for more information on how to record and send us a video that will be shared with the congregation. Open to anyone of any age. We can't wait to hear your voices and see how you inspire us all! (Contact Cantor Reinwald for assistance or with questions.)

Social Justice

It has been noted that numerous congregants would benefit from financial assistance for groceries from the temple. The committee believes it is vital to maintain confidentiality while supporting these individuals. If you are aware of anyone who can use some support, please connect them to Len Silberman, Susan Jasper, or Ruth Irving. Thanks to Sisterhood for its \$200 donation which will be used to support Cherry Orchard.

Skyview School for children living in motels on Orange County will continue to receive support. Thanks to Len for his donation to provide items needed by students. Watch for additional ways to support the school.

Working Wardrobe anticipates reopening soon to accept donations of professional apparel for individuals entering the workforce. Please hold on to your donations for now.

The committee welcomed Alison Levy, a team member at Community Development Partners. Alison shared the work of the company and clarified the difference between temporary sheltered housing and permanent supportive housing. Permanent supportive housing supports homeless and low-income individuals and families as they strive to lift themselves from the cycle of poverty. It helps them have a place called "home" rather than accommodations at a shelter. Community Development Partners advocates for increased funding to support a multi-year commitment from state and county to offer low and reduced cost housing options to those in need. Watch for the date and time of our next meeting.

-Paula K. Pitluk, Social Justice Member