Temple Beth Sholom Presents:

Our Voices - A Monthly Newsletter

February 2023 - Shevat/Adar 5783 | Issue 36 | A Jewish Center for Life, Learning, and Connections

Important Contacts
Rabbi Sharon Sobel – <u>rabbisobel@tbsoc.com</u>
Mike Winston, President – <u>winston.mike@gmail.com</u>
Ruth Irving, Executive Director – <u>rirving@tbsoc.com</u>

Services | Shabbat Evening Services will be streamed and offered in-person at 7:00 p.m. indoors unless otherwise noted Torah Study | Saturdays in-person or virtual at 9:15 a.m.

A Glance at the Month Ahead

2/3 @ 6:00 p.m. | Family Shabbat – This family friendly service is held once per month. This month, our service kicks off the Artist in Residence weekend with the special "Tallit Stories" Shabbat service followed by an ice cream social Oneg.

2/3 – 2/5 | Artist in Residence Weekend with Daniel Abramson and "Totally Tu B'Shvat" – Join us for our many exciting events throughout the weekend! Please see https://tbsoc.com/artist-scholar-weekend-daniel-abramson/

2/17 @ 7:00 p.m. | Shir Joy Musical Shabbat – This uplifting, musical service is held once per month.

2/23 @ 6:30 p.m. | <u>Brotherhood Poker Night</u> – Held in the Social Hall the 4th Thursday of each month. Contact Lew Seigler (<u>misterlew@gmail.com</u>) with questions and to sign up.

2/27 @ 6:30 p.m. | "Sisters by Heart" Dinner – Held at Marie Callender's in Orange on Katella Avenue. If you'd like to attend, contact Rachel Solinger at rsandrs@thesolingers.net or Galit Reitman at 714-2801037 for more information.

Worship and Reflections

Totally Tu B'Shvat Rabbi Sharon Sobel



On February 3-5, we are thrilled to welcome our artist/scholar-in-residence, Daniel Abramson, for our "Totally Tu B'Shvat" intergenerational weekend. Many of you have already submitted your tallit stories and photos for our tallit project launched in anticipation of this weekend. We'll be publishing and distributing them on Friday, February 3rd. How are the themes of "tallit" and Tu B'Shvat intertwined?

As we celebrate Tu B'Shvat, the "New Year of the Trees," we are reminded of the beauty and importance of nature in our lives. This holiday is a perfect opportunity to reflect on the ways in which we can connect with the natural world and appreciate its gifts. We do this by eating fruits that are

grown in the land of Israel, specifically seven species that are mentioned in the Torah (wheat, barley, dates, olives, figs, grapes, and pomegranates). We celebrate nature and pay attention to how we can conserve, protect, and care for the earth. (cont. on page 2)

Totally Tu B'Shvat cont.

Over the course of the entire February 3rd - 5th weekend we will use the medium of study, symbolism, art, food, drink along with a plethora of activities at our festival on Sunday to allow us to express our connection to nature in a unique and personal way. As we create, we are reminded of the beauty and majesty of the world around us.

The large TBS communal tallit we'll create this weekend with Daniel will be one more way to connect with nature on Tu B'shvat. The tallit is traditionally made from wool or linen, or silk: materials sourced from the natural world. Wearing a tallit is a reminder of our connection to the earth and its bounty.

We hope you'll join us for all or part of this special weekend. May we find new and meaningful ways to connect with each other and appreciate the gifts of the earth. For more information and to register, please go to: https://tbsoc.com/artist-scholar-weekend-daniel-abramson/

Write Your Tallit Memory

Ufros Aleinu Sukkot Shlomeicha – "Spread Over Us the Shelter of Your Peace"

What's your tallit story? TBS's "Sharing Personal Tallit Memories" writing project is underway. These stories will be collected, compiled, and distributed during our Scholar/Artist in Residence Weekend February 3rd-5th with Daniel Abramson. Daniel is an educator, artist, environmentalist. We'll be learning with him, creating an oversize painting-on-silk TBS tallit to be used for community events, and celebrating Tu B'shvat with our community-wide Tu B'shvat Festival on Sunday, February 5th, beginning at 8:30 a.m. We hope you'll join us to share in these special events.

In the darkness, and the light...

Soni Rice, Worship Committee Member

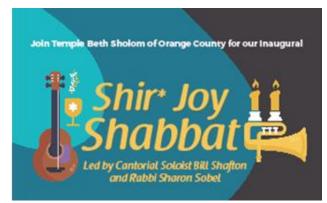
The dark and rain-soaked days of January were punctuated by meaningful, joy-filled worship experiences. The service commemorating Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was an uplifting reminder to commit ourselves to the pursuit of justice and freedom as articulated by Dr. King. The Shir Joy musical Shabbat service was a lively worship experience with the newly formed Shir Joy band, led by Rabbi Sobel and Bill Shafton. There are still opportunities to join the band for monthly musical Shabbat services; the next Shir Joy Shabbat is on **February 17th**.

Tu B'shvat, the "New Year of the Trees," will be celebrated between February 3-5. There are so many exciting activities in which to participate, including creating the TBS communal tallit, the TBS Tallit Stories, "Pomegranate, Figs and Honey" an evening of Margaritas, Food, and Symbols, and the Community Intergenerational Festival on Sunday, the 5th. Daniel Abramson, our artist/scholar in residence for this special weekend and Rabbi Sobel have prepared an incredible array of activities, so don't miss out!

Take this month to reflect on your TBS needs and goals going forward. What do you want from your worship experience and participation with the congregation? Rabbi Sobel is always available to talk. You can invite friends and extended family to Shabbat services. Join in for upcoming Shabbat dinners at TBS or host your own. Attend the weekly Torah Study sessions on Saturdays at 9:15am. Reach out to Karen Warren, the VP of Worship, to discuss a more active role or to answer any questions you may have. Make this time an opportunity to turn your dream into reality...and to help others do the same.

"Shir Joy" - Musical Shabbat

Rabbi Sobel and Cantorial Soloist Bill Shafton





Thank you to all who joined us for our first (of many) Shir Joy Shabbat. If you would like to get involved in these uplifting services, please contact Rabbi Sobel or the TBS office. Upcoming service dates are **February 17**, **March 24**, **April 28**, **May 19**, **and June 16**. We hope to see you there!

Executive Messages

A Note from the President

Mike Winston, TBS President

Before I joined the board a couple of years ago, it sometimes seemed like things just "magically" happened at TBS. Yet, we all know that it takes an army of people to make each event and opportunity happen. This was no more obvious than the other night when we had our yearly Calendar Meeting. This is a meeting we have once a year to plan and reserve events for the upcoming 2023-2024 year. My goodness, we have a lot in store next year and it is exciting.

As we are just a little over halfway through this year, it made me think of all the wonderful things we have had at TBS already. We brought in our new Rabbi, we had an uplifting, spiritual High Holy Days, danced with the Torah during Simchat Torah, celebrated during a fantastic Installation Weekend, joined together in many Hannukah celebrations, and so much more. We started a brand-new religious school program and our ECC is attracting all kinds of wonderful families to TBS. It makes me so proud to see our community thriving.

As we look to the near future, we have many more great opportunities. With our Purim Carnival and an adult Purim Event around the corner and then a 2nd night Passover Seder, there is just so much to do. If you are able and willing to help, we sure could use some extra hands, please reach out. I hope to see you at these events soon. L'Shalom.

A Heartfelt Farewell

Ruth Irving, Executive Director



Five years ago this month, I was welcomed into the TBS community. Time has flown by! I have been honored to get to know each of you and to be part of this wonderful community. Celebrating simchas/joy and coming together in times of difficulty. Sharing meals, worshipping, and learning together, and working to make TBS the wonderful place it is. I will be stepping down as Executive Director of TBS at the end of February as I have accepted an Executive Director position in Los Angeles. (cont. on page 4)

Farewell, cont.

I look forward to this next step in my career and will be sad to say farewell to TBS. It has been my pleasure to have been part of TBS. Thank you for making my time at TBS so special.

I want to recognize the staff and clergy for all they do to keep TBS running and for the passion they bring to the office each day. It takes a village to run TBS and I could not have done it all without our incredible staff and clergy, amazing volunteers, committee chairs and Board. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your time and commitment.

I will continue to work to set TBS up for continued success until my departure. I am working with Mike Winston, along with Rabbi Sobel and the staff and board during this transition. And I look forward to hearing all the wonderful TBS accomplishments to come! L'Shalom.

Sisterhood



Greetings from Sisterhood's little corner of Temple Beth Sholom! We have an energetic Spring ahead of us. Thank you to all who participated in Sisterhood Shabbat on January 27th. The theme was "Don't Let the Light Go Out... Women's Issues at the Crossroads." A special thanks to Soni Sanberg who curated our service readings. It was a lovely evening!

Ahead in Sisterhood, we are planning a **February 27th** "Sisters by Heart" dinner at Marie Callender's in Orange on Katella Avenue. If you'd like to attend, contact Rachel Solinger at <u>rsandrs@thesolingers.net</u> or Galit Reitman at 714-209-6041 for more information.

We will also be having a watch party viewing for a workshop presented by Sisterhood's Pacific District Convention. This will take place on the weekend of March 23-26. More

information to follow. If you are interested in perhaps sharing lunch and seeing something of what our Sisterhood Pacific District does at their convention, contact Nancy Silverman at 714-227-2070.

Do you need to send a Thank You, Get Well, Congratulations, or Condolence card? Sisterhood makes it easy to honor and/or remember a loved one, friend, or family member. The tribute will be personalized with your own special message, or a message can be selected for you. Minimum tribute donation is just \$5 per card. We have a great selection of gorgeous Judaica cards - and all proceeds benefit your TBS congregation to support programs, education, youth activities and joyous Judaism! For more information, or to have a card sent, contact Cathy Markowitz at 714-296-3468 or email at markocathy@gmail.com.

Sisterhood will also be spearheading a temple-wide drive for the collection and distribution of personal hygiene items for men and women this Spring. We will be putting together these packets on **April 13th** at our 2nd annual pizza and products "get together." We are asking for donations of women's period products, mini shampoo and conditioner bottles, mini toothpastes, toothbrushes, mini lotions, small deodorants, combs, socks, ChapSticks, and soaps. Extra-large Ziplocs would also be appreciated. Sisterhood would like this to be a temple-wide event, a way to support the less fortunate men and women of our community and the surrounding communities together. Please show your support by donating what you can and joining us on April 13th. For more information and to help, contact Liz Cohen at 714-904-3585.

Brotherhood

Community - Fellowship - Action - Service

Sylvan Swartz, Brotherhood Director of Membership

Brotherhood has started 2023 off with a bang. After a very successful 2022, which culminated with another popular Pancake Breakfast on December 25th, we were able purchase to 3 white boards for the Religious School classes. We also stepped up to be \$1,000 sponsors for the ECC's Vegas Night Gala and Fundraiser. We are looking forward to sponsoring several other programs and purchases for the children of our Temple, which is made possible by support of TBS members and Brotherhood memberships.

February starts another year of our widely acclaimed Speaker Series. We are starting off with Louis Keene, the Editor of the new Forward publication, Jews of California. Our plans are to present our Speaker Series both in person and on Zoom this year. In addition, we are expanding our breakfast offering, beginning at 9:00 a.m., with the Speaker starting at 10:00 a.m. per usual for those attending in person. Those not attending in person can eat breakfast whenever they want to. See https://tbsoc.com/speakers-series/ for more information.

The Brotherhood and Sisterhood Hikes, led by Lisa and Todd Litman, have been a great success. The next hike will take place on **March 19th** with a 4-mile hilly hike. People must register and they will be given details at that time. They will meet at 8:45 a.m. at a location to be provided upon registration and those that survive will enjoy celebrating at a local eatery.

Meantime, our monthly Poker game on the 4th Thursday of each month is going strong. Buy in is only \$25.00 for the game plus \$1.00 for the snacks. We welcome novices who just want to have a good time as well as those really experienced who want to come for the blood sport. Registration with Lew Siegler is always a must so we can prepare for the right amount of people. Join us this month on Thursday, **February 23rd at 6:30 p.m.**

Please see below for more information on our field trip to the Planes of Fame Air Museum in Chino, which at this point is scheduled for March 19th at 10:00 a.m.

Remember, if you are a man or live with one, please join or join him up for his own good, in the TBS Brotherhood. Regards until next month.

TBS Brotherhood Event: Tour of the Planes of Fame Air Museum

Sunday, March 19th from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



Since 1957, the Planes of Fame Air Museum's mission has been "to preserve aviation history, inspire an interest in aviation, educate the public, and honor aviation pioneers and veterans." All are welcome to join us as we spend the morning viewing and learning about their collection of over 100 planes from 5 different eras: Early Aviation, World War I, the 1920's and 30's,

World War II, and the Jet Age. The museum will provide a guide and tickets are \$15 for adults, \$6 for children. Sign up via Shul Cloud or send a check to the office (made out to TBS Brotherhood) by March 13th. More information can be found at: https://planesoffame.org/visit/admission-hours-and-directions or you can contact Mitch Cohen at mitchellycohen@gmail.com.

Our Youth

Early Childhood Center

Tamara Levin, Director of Early Childhood Education

I am so privileged to work with such a dedicated and efficient group of staff and parents, all of whom are deeply committed to ensuring that our children have the best possible preschool experience. They are investing not only in their own children's wellbeing, but those who will be joining us in the future. I sincerely hope that all of you will join us on **February 11th at 6:00 p.m.** at our annual gala for a night of Vegas style fun. I look forward to seeing you there! (Please see our flyer on page 11.)

Support Our Early Childhood Center - Tanaka Farms CSA Produce Boxes

Sarah Resnick, ECC Parent and CSA Coordinator

TBS is now a designated pick-up site for bi-weekly produce boxes as part of a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program with Tanaka Farms in Irvine. Being part of this subscription program also serves as a fundraiser with 10% of all proceeds going to our ECC. For program and enrollment details, please contact me or the ECC office, or visit https://www.tanakafarms.com/about-csa. Subscribing does not require ordering a box every single time. You can make account changes (cancelling an upcoming box, changing the box size, etc.) by the Thursday before each delivery.

Religious School

Lena Shupper, Director of Religious School

During our Tu B'Shvat Festival, our 6th-7th graders will be TBS docents, giving outdoor guided tours of our special campus, in addition to the many booths incorporating planting and tasting. Planting trees is the most known action tradition of Tu B'Shvat. Another important observance of this holiday is to eat as many different types of fruit as we can. Why? What does this symbolize? When we eat fruit and nuts on Tu B'Shvat, it is a grateful nod to our ancestors for having had the forethought to plant for us, for our enjoyment, daily shelter, and nourishment. Each day of our lives, we depend on the literal fruits of our ancestors' labors, who planted trees for future unknown recipients, leaving their legacy behind. In this time, in our generation, we look to them for guidance, and we know it is our turn to plant.

When we strengthen our own roots by learning about our Judaism and when we actively extend our own branches out to one another, we can be a tree ensuring a beautiful legacy for those who look up to us. So come learn, plant, eat, and grow with us on **Sunday, February 5th** at our Tu B'Shvat Festival! Pictured Below: (Left) 6th-7th grade families tied tzitzit together on the hand-dyed *tallitot* (prayer shawls) the students made. (Right) K-2nd practice Power Poses to build *Ometz Lev* (Courage) or literally "Strengthening a Heart," increasing our confidence when we need to have courage!





Temple Beth Sholom | 2625 N. Tustin Ave. Santa Ana, CA 92705 | www.tbsoc.com | Temple Office: 714-628-4600

Something to Kvell About Monica Engel, TBS member



The three Levy brothers, Benjamin, Zachary, and Daniel have been going to TBS since they were born. Benjamin is 17 now and always accompanied his Bubbe, Beth Waterman, at Grandparents Day. When the boys were little, they would come to their Bubbe's work and then they would go to tot Shabbat services on Friday nights. The boys love to sit in the front row each year when they come for High Holy Day services with their mother Monica Levy. At Rosh Hashanah, Benjamin was called to the Bimah to do a prayer with Cantor Reinwald. Zachary, who is now 15 did his Friday night service at TBS for his Bar Mitzvah last year. Daniel, 13, just came back from Israel where he followed in his brother Benjamin's footsteps having his bar mitzvah at the Kotel.

The boys all attend school at TVT, a Jewish day school and are very active in the Jewish community. They all volunteer at the Friendship Circle to help kids in need and mentor them. All three boys are very active in C-teen with Chabad of Irvine and Benjamin recently joined the board.

Jewish identity is very important to all the boys, and they show this by participating in Jewish life like the Maccabee games. Benjamin and Daniel both play club water polo and Zachary does martial arts. TBS is a place they feel at home and one day will hopefully bring their family and kids to continue the tradition.

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 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.

Committee Updates

Membership/FWYC/Chavurot

Mary Gonzalez, VP of Membership

Membership and Families with Young Children are looking forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming events in 2023. First on the list, is another Sunday Funday, where we hope you will join us for brunch, baking Hamentaschen, and a used book swap (along with our lawn games and other activities for the kiddos). This will take place the morning of **February 26th from 9:00 a.m. – noon**.

In addition to our "fun" raisers, we have been busy at work welcoming our new and returning members, with Shabbat baskets and welcome cards. For members of our community that need support in a time of need we have been reaching out to make sure they know we are here for them as well. Also, we have several active chavurot spanning all age groups and stages in life. If you have questions or would like to join a chavurah, please call or text Shani at 714-343-1135 / shaniboone2@sbcglobal.net. If you have any interest in joining us for a meeting and/or becoming more involved with your TBS family, please join us the first Tuesday of every month, in the board room or via zoom.

Lastly, we send a warm, TBS welcome to our newest member, Michael Sumague. Welcome, Michael!

Social Action: Education - Direct Service - Advocacy - Collections

Social Action Committee

We would like to thank the many congregants, Early Childhood Center parents and students who donated toys during our holiday gift drive. An extra special "Thank you" to John and Robin Whates for their generous donation that allowed us to double the number of toys and gifts given to the Friendly Center, bringing smiles to 70 children and their parents!

During the High Holy Days, TBS donated bags of food to the Friendly Center Food Pantry. If you would like to learn more about the Friendly Center and the programs and services they provide to our local community, please join us on Tuesday, February 21st at 7:00 p.m. for an informative Zoom meeting presentation by the Friendly Center. Register for the presentation on the TBSOC Website to obtain your Zoom link or with the link included in the Shavu'on.

Read Across America Day, Dr. Seuss's birthday, will be the kick-off for our book drive to provide books to underserved children and young adults. Please drop off new books for children at the designated table in the TBS Living Room beginning on **March 2nd** and provide an important incentive for a child or young adult to read! If you have questions, contact Cindy Grossberg at 949-279-8734.

Mitzvah Meals is in the TBS Kitchen the 3rd & 4th Sundays of each month. Anyone interested in becoming a part of the new and improved program, please call the TBS office or Hollis O'Brien at hollis@partiesbypanache.com or 714-400-7088. There is a link to sign up on the TBS website, so you can easily choose the dates for which you would like to volunteer. We are encouraging and gladly accepting financial donations or donations of baked goods to the kitchen by 9:00 a.m. on the Sundays we are cooking. Your donations (of any kind) will keep this TBS legacy program running.

We are also still taking volunteers to lead Shabbat services for Bubbe & Zayde's Place. Their website can be found at https://bubbeandzaydesplace.com. If you are interested in joining this mitzvah program or have questions, please contact Alan Shebroe at alan53@earthlink.net / 626.664.8384. Social Action remains committed to spreading Tikkun Olam throughout our congregation, community, and to those in need. If you are interested in joining us in our work, please contact the office. We meet the first Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Gratitude for Tikkun Olam and the Social Action Committee

Monica Engel, Social Action Visionary

It is with gratitude and fulfillment that I end my thirty-five years of Social Action leadership and participation. *Tikkun Olam* has been my inspiration and guidance. With the help of Hollis O'Brien and the blessing of the Board, I created Mitzvah Meals. Prior to Covid, we were providing meals for approximately 300 undeserved people. In addition to our members, we had volunteers from other Temples helping to prepare the tasty, nutritious meals in our TBS kitchen. We were impressed and supported by those helpful members as well as the recipients of our tasty, nutritious meals. MM is up and running again. Volunteer to help so you too can have the satisfaction of *Tikkun Olam*.

Mitzvah of the Month supporting both Orangewood facilities is truly a blessing. The "home away from home" located in Orange serves as a safe haven for infants to teens who have been abused by parents or caregivers. The Santa Ana Center supports 14 to 24-year-old victims of sex abuse. Our MOTM program supplies appropriate necessities such as warm undergarments, toiletries, summer swim garments and toys etc. We sometimes take so many life's advantages for granted.

It is my wish that many of you reading this article will take *Tikkun Olam* into your heart and soul and 2023 will be your beginning of receiving the satisfaction that comes with "helping others unable to help themselves."

Adult Education

Adult Education Committee

Book Chats

Book Chats will continue, led by Soni Rice, Cindy Grossberg, and other guests. Follow the TBS weekly emails or https://tbsoc.com/book-chat/ for more info.

Torah on Trial

The committee is currently in the planning stages of presenting TBS's own Torah Trial event. Please watch the weekly Shavu'on or call the office for dates and times. The trial format will follow the composition of an authentic courtroom with attorneys for the defense, prosecution, and judge. the audience will be the jury and individually submit their verdicts and listen to the verdict of the Judge. In reading the verdict, the Judge will explain their decision based on today's laws. Join us for the modern-day approach to the question, "How would events in the Torah be decided under today's rules and procedures?"

From the Editor

Ruth Aptaker, Editor of Our Voices

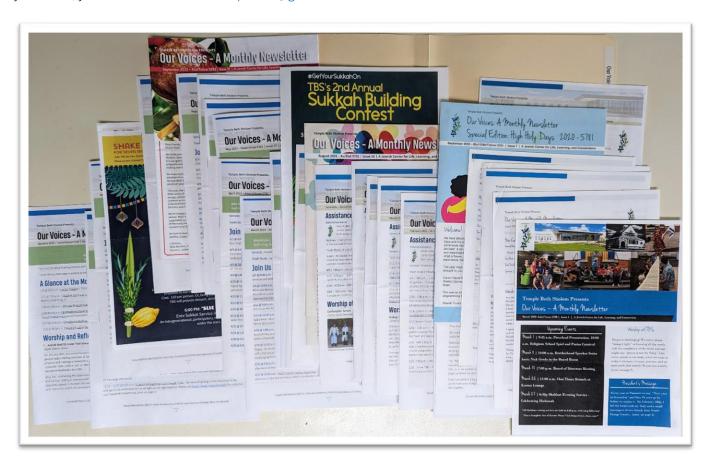
Time. It's a funny thing. Depending on each distinctive, unduplicatable moment, it may pass by in it's defined instant, or stretch on beyond any perception of what it should. The last three years have been filled with a time that defies our standard measurements—for all of us, I imagine. We began this little newsletter in February of 2020, a month that I thought would pass as any other. Then time took on an alien acceleration. Every day there was news of illness, closures, and stay-at-home orders. We watched news clips of empty supermarket shelves and downloaded instructions for homemade masks. (cont. on page 10)

From the Editor, cont.

Our temple went through the pandemic in a similar manner as most others I suppose, but we also went through our own unique reformation. We said goodbye to staff, clergy, and long-time members. We then welcomed new staff, new clergy, and new temple members. We had Zoom High Holy Days, Hanukkah-at-Home, and Covid updates. We drove through dozens of Shabbat parades and shared advice on when Costco would have supplies back in stock. Then, at some point in this unusual timeline, we slowly began to return to what we thought was a pre-pandemic "normal." Each month, I had the privilege of reporting on all of it through the lens of this newsletter. Sharing in these forever moments with my TBS family was an unforgettable experience, and for that I am grateful.

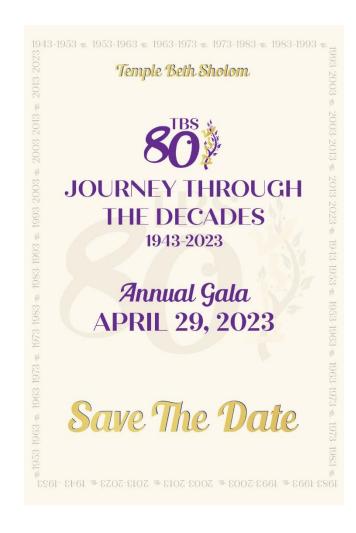
After three years, 36 issues, and approximately 185,000 words, my time at the helm of *Our Voices* has come to an end. I look forward to its evolution and sincerely hope that it continues hitting mailboxes each month. But because I am still the editor for at least 2 more pages, I'll selfishly take some space to send my gratitude to those who have come into my life because of this communication.

I cannot say, "thank you" enough to Monica Engel and Mitch Cohen for "volun-telling" me to take on the endeavor; to the TBS board members and committee chairs for putting up with my continuous calls for articles and not-so-gentle deadline reminders; to the regular contributors for their consistency and participation; to the volunteers and staff who proofread, print, fold, stuff, and mail it every month; to those of you who sponsored or donated to printing and postage: Patti Widdicombe, the Weissberg Family, the Cohen Family, the Engel Family, Sandy Fainbarg, and our TBS Brotherhood, as well as Todd Litman, David Feldberg, and Bonnie Wenneberg; and lastly, to all of you who took the time to read *Our Voices* each month. Thank you for following along with us these last three years, it honestly has been my pleasure. Please stay in touch; you can reach me at ruth.aptaker@gmail.com.



Save the Date!





80 Years of Purim

March 5th, 2023

Come and join your temple family at our annual Purim Carnival. This year's theme is *Purim Shmonim*. We will be celebrating 80 years of Purim at TBS. Come dressed in your favorite 80's themed outfit and be ready to take a trip back to the future! Mark your calendars for March 5th and look for more information to follow.

TBS Annual Gala

April 29th, 2023

Join your temple family at our annual gala: "A Journey Through the Decades" as we walk through time and reminisce about our history, challenges, and accomplishments. The evening's festivities will be held at TBS and include: The return of the 'Reservations Only' events, memorable music and dancing, an exciting live auction, and fabulous food from Parties By Panache. Mark your calendars for April 29th and look for more information to follow.