

HAKOL

**"THE VOICE"** The Temple Newsletter



www.tbsbraintree.com

MARCH, APRIL, MAY, 2019 ADAR I, ADAR II, NISAN, IYAR, 5779

SPRING, 2019

Shabbat Services, Saturday at 9:15 AM

Rabbi Ma'ayan Sands, Cantor Seth Grossman; President Dr. Peter Kurzberg; Bulletin Editor Judy Karll



# Next year in Jerusalem

May you and yours have a sweet Passover

Israel! Israel! Get thee up into this mountain of Abarim, unto Mount Nebo, which is in the land of Moab, that is over against Jericho; and behold the land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel for a possession. Devarim/Deuteronomy 32:40

SATURDAY	FRIDAY	THURSDAY	WEDNESDAY	TUESDAY	MONDAY	SUNDAY
2	24 Adar I 1					
Shabbat Shekalim						
Vayakhel						
SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICAN	*5:16 PM					
RABBI SANDS						
9	1 Adar II 8	7	6	5	4	3
Pekudei	*5:24 PM	Rosh Chodesh Adar II				
16	15	14	13	12	11	10
Shabbat Zachor	*5:33 PM		TBS BOARD			
Vayikra			MTG			
23	22	21	20	19	18	17
Tzav		PURIM	SPRING BEGINS			
	*5:41 PM		Fast of Esther			
		त त त	TBS			
30	29	28	27	26	25	24
Shabbat Parah	*5:49 PM					
Shemini						
						31

# APRIL, 2019 ADAR II, NISAN, 5779 \*Holiday & Shabbat candle lighting

Emunah (Faith) And when Israel saw the wondrous power which the Lord had wielded against the Egyptians, the people feared the Lord, they had faith in the Lord and His servant Moses. Shemot/Exodus 14:31

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	29 Adar II 5 *5:56 PM	1 Nisan 6 Rosh Chodesh Nisan Shabbat Hachodesh RABBI SANDS INSTALLATION Tarzia
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
MITZVAH DAY			TBS BOARD MEETING		*6:04 PM	Metzor
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
					*6:12 PM 1 <sup>st</sup> Seder	2 <sup>nd</sup> Seder
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
2 <sup>nd</sup> day of Passover	3 <sup>rd</sup> day of Passover	4 <sup>th</sup> day of Passover	5 <sup>th</sup> day of Passover	6 <sup>th</sup> day of Passover	7 <sup>th</sup> day of Passover	8 <sup>th</sup> day of Passover
	(TOT)				*6:20 PM	THE DARK KNIGHT RISES
28	29	30				
SPRING FLING BREAKFAST 9:15 AM Congregational meeting						

# MAY, 2019 NISAN, IYAR 5779 \*Shabbat candle lighting

L'Aynaychem (Before your eyes) And Moses called to all of Israel and he said to them: "You saw all that the Lord did before your eyes in the land of Egypt to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land. Devarim/Deuteronomy

29:1

SATURDAY	FRIDAY	THURSDAY	WEDNESDAY	TUESDAY	MONDAY	SUNDAY
4	3	2	26 NISAN 1			
Achare	*6:28 PM					
RABBI						
SANDS						
11	10	9	8	7	1 IYAR 6	5
Kedoshim	*6:36 PM	Israel	TBS BOARD		ROSH	010750110.00
Redostiini	0.30 FIVI	Independence	Yom Hazikaron		CHODESH	SISTERHOOD DONOR LUNCH
		Day	Israel		IYAR	THE GRANITE
		, i	Remembrance			GRILL
			Day			
18	17	16	15	14	13	12
Emor	*6:43 PM					MOTHER'S DAY
Katie &						
Sydney						
Rabatsky						
Bar/Bat						
Mitzvah						
25	24	23	22	21	20	19
BEHAR	*6:50 PM	LAG BA-OMER				
	31	30	29	28	27	26
	*6:56 PM					
					MEMORIAL DAY	

DONOR NAME	NATION PAGE Card to:			
Street	Street			
City	City			
State Zi	p State		Zip	
INSCRIBED BOOK PLATES:	( ) High Holiday Mahzor	\$ 20.00		
ENGRAVED PLAQUES:	( ) Tree of Life ( ) Yahrzeit ( ) Memorial Plaque	\$ 72.00 \$200.00 \$200.00		
Wording for High Holiday Mahzor Book Plate:				
In Memory of	Ву			
In Honor of	Ву			
Other				
Wording for Tree of Life Leaf:				
In Honor of	Honor ofBy			
Other				
Wording for Yahrzeit Plaques:				
Name of Deceased				
Hebrew Name	Ben (son of)			
	Bat (daughter o	f)		
Date of Death	Time of day			
Memorial Plaque (non-Jewish)				
Name of Deceased				
Date of Birth	Date of Death_			
Rabbi Greenberg Scholarship:	Donation amou	nt \$		
Hebrew School:	Donation amou	nt \$		
Kiddush:	Donation \$75 –	basic Kiddush		
Check payable to: Temple B'nai Shalom Mail to:	41 Storrs Ave, Braintree, MA	02184 ATTN: MARY	LOU	



# Message from the Rabbi Ma'ayan Sands

# Rabbí Ma'ayan Sands

I love Judaism. I love people and I love to bring the two together.

For most of us, the journeys of our lives are rich with meaning, challenges, fulfillment and loving relationships. If you are like me, you could probably use more regular doses of joy and laughter. But what about your Jewish journey? Have you ever thought of yourself as being on a Jewish journey? A journey that encourages spiritual awareness and moral passion? One which teaches us to pay attention, to feel awe and to find balance in our daily lives which can sometimes feel tedious?

In my previous life as a Jewish family educator, I had a form that I asked my *B'nei Mitzvah* students and people of all ages who were becoming Jews, to think about and complete-if not in writing, at least in conversation with me. It began with the sentence: "As a member of my Jewish community, I am proud to commit myself to life long Jewish (fill in some verbs that fall into that category for you); thinking, eating, acting are some examples.". I had a different question for adults who had long ago established their identities as Jews: "What do I need to nourish my Jewish self and my Jewish family?"

Those questions are important -especially because we are a part of a community that can help us satisfy those commitments and needs. Many of us use a GPS to get where we want to go geographically, especially to destinations with which we are unfamiliar. For generations, Judaism has been a valued and consistently updated GPS for Jews who chose to consult it. If we don't know where we want to go, it is quite possible we will never get there.

The goal of a Jewish journey is not to make us "better Jews". There is no judgment of any kind in this discussion. Rather, it will help us find meaning and fulfillment, richness and deeper engagement with the treasure that is Judaism, whether we were born into it or chose it.

## The Chasidic master, Rebbe Nachman of Bratslav<sup>1</sup> tells the following story<sup>2</sup>:

There was once a poor God-fearing Jew who lived in the city of Prague. He and his wife and six children lived in a shtetl, in a small one room cottage with wood burning stove that kept them warm in the winter. He worked very hard but was barely able to feed and clothe his large family. One night he dreamed that he should journey to Vienna. There, at the base of a bridge leading to the King's palace, he would find a buried treasure.

Night after night the dream recurred. Finally, one day, he packed a sack with a loaf of bread and enough water to last him for the journey. Leaving his family behind, the poor Jew traveled to Vienna to claim his

<sup>2</sup> Adapted from The Treasure, Rebbe Nachman

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Rebbe Nachman was a unique figure in the history of Chassidism, the Jewish revival movement founded by his great-grandfather, the Baal Shem Tov (Master of the Good Name). He was born in 1772 in the western Ukrainian town of Medzeboz. He died October 16, 1810, at the age of thirty-eight.

fortune. It was a long and difficult journey. Finally, he arrived at the base of the bridge that led to the King's palace. His heart sank when he saw that the bridge was heavily guarded. The watchful eyes of the King's soldiers afforded little opportunity to retrieve the treasure. Every day the poor Jew spent hours pacing back and forth across the bridge waiting for his chance.

After two weeks' time one of the guards grabbed him by the lapels of his coat and demanded gruffly, "Jew! What are you plotting? Why do you keep returning to this place day after day?" Frustrated and anxious, the poor Jew blurted out the story of his dream. When he finished, the soldier, who had been containing his mirth, broke into uncontrollable laughter.

The poor Jew looked on in astonishment, not knowing what to make of the man's attitude. Finally, the King's guard caught his breath. He stopped laughing long enough to say: "What a foolish Jew you are to believe in dreams. I also had a dream and in my dream I too saw a treasure. It was in a particular neighborhood, in a particular house belonging to a particular person." The soldier mentioned the very name of the man's city and the name of the man himself. "There under the wood burning stove lies a great treasure. If I were foolish enough to believe in dreams, I would be on my way to Prague right now!"

The poor Jew was very tired from his long journey-and he was disappointed. He would have nothing to bring back to his wife and six children. Nevertheless, he picked up his belongings and began the arduous journey home. As he schlepped he prayed that he would make it home alive. During his many hours of walking, he wondered about dreams-about his dream and the dream of the king's soldier. After arriving in his tiny shtetl, he looked around and he realized that the description of the city and the small village that the soldier had given matched exactly that of his village, and even more so, the shack that the policeman described to him matched that of his very own house!

When he arrived home, he was greeted by his wife and six children. He told them about his travels to find his fortune and about his encounter with the king's soldier. With his wife's help they moved the large, heavy wood burning stove that the soldier had described and began digging. In only a few minutes the poor Jew found the top of an old wooden box. With renewed energy, he continued to dig out the box and lift it up onto the dirt floor of their home. Opening up the box the man was very excited to find that it was filled with gold and silver coins. He and his family would live happily ever after!

This story is a metaphor for the relationship between Judaism and so many modern Jews; Judaism is the hidden treasure and we are the poor, old Jew. But we are *not* like the poor old Jew. We know that Judaism is a treasureour treasure; if only we uncover it, nurture it and make it a part of our lives. I look forward to accompanying you on your Jewish journeys.

With hope and many blessings.

Rabbí Ma'ayan Sands



Message from the Temple President

Shalom,

I hope you have all been able to get through the winter so far. We have a few wonderful things to report. First, a **SPECIAL THANK YOU** to all who contributed with an end of year donation. We collected a total of \$9,607!! Your generosity is truly appreciated and will help to continue to sustain us as a congregation. For those who have not yet had a chance to contribute, it's still not too late.

#### SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS

To enhance security at our temple, the board is looking to install a digital security lock at the entrance to the temple and exploring security cameras. You would have your own special four-digit security code that will allow you to enter the temple. More to come.

#### HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE BATHROOM

Results of the temple survey listed having an accessible bathroom on the main floor as the number one priority as well as handicap accessibility to the building. The board is exploring the feasibility of converting the coatroom into a bathroom as well as the feasibility of installing chair lifts. You will be hearing back from us by the end of March.

#### SURVEY RESULTS

In addition to a bathroom on the first floor and additional accessibility to the temple, other top priorities include more social events, speakers and adult education classes, and increasing membership. At the end of the newsletter is a summary of survey results based upon 28 individual responses. Thanks, again, to Barry Rabinovitz and Janice Fine for their work on the survey and summary results. If you are interested in the planning and/or helping with social events, please contact Marylou Fishman at maryloufishman@comcast.net.

#### SPONSOR A FAMILY KIDDUSH!

Do you have a Yahrzeit of a family member coming up? Consider inviting your whole family for a Shabbat service for this special time to honor and remember a loved one. Enjoy a delicious Kiddush afterwards. Make this an annual family event along with all the memories it brings. For further information, contact Janice Fine at jan@janfine.com.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

A few upcoming events include SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA on Saturday, March 2. On Wednesday, March 20, we will be celebrating **PURIM** at our temple. We will be holding a special Kiddush. **On April 6** we will be holding our INSTALLATION for Rabbi Sands. You should have received your invitation or will be receiving it shortly. On Sunday, April 28 at 9:15 A.M. we have scheduled our CONGREGATIONAL MEETING/ SPRING FLING BREAKFAST sponsored by the Men's Club. On Sunday, June 2 we will be celebrating our 60th ANNIVERSARY. More to come on that event. SO, MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR ALL FIVE EVENTS!! More will be coming. In the meantime, consider attending a Shabbat service. We are so fortunate to have Rabbi Sands and Cantor Grossman as our religious leaders. You will be surprised how much you enjoy it.

Finally, thank you, again, to all who volunteer so hard to make events at the temple happen. Your tireless efforts are sincerely appreciated by all. If you have been "sitting on the sidelines" for a while, for whatever reason, consider participating a little more by helping in any way you can. It is only through active participation and financial support that our temple is being kept alive. We are always looking for help in our kitchen on Saturday mornings. Please consider volunteering, even for an hour or so for set up or clean up. Contact Paula Goldman at paulag@beld.net.

Wishing you and your family a ZISSEN PESACH beginning April 19 and continued good health. I look forward to seeing you soon at temple.

Peter Kurzberg

Dates to Calendar

wed.	March 20 - PURIM AT TBS
Sat	Apríl 6, 2019 Rabbí's Installatíon
Sun	Apríl 7, 2019 Mítzvah Date
Sun	Apríl 28 Congregational Meeting
	Spring Fling Breakfast
Sun	May 5, 2019 Sisterhood Donor
Sun	June 2, 2019 TBS 60th Celebration

# 2019- 5779 JEWISH HOLIDAYS HOLIDAY DATES \*Yizkor Purim March 21 Passover April 20-27\* Shavuot June 9-10\* Tish'a B'Av August 11

# Temple B'Nai Shalom Board 2018-2019

Pres. Dr. Peter Kurzberg pkurzb@beld.net 1<sup>st</sup> VP Stephen Karll Stephen.karll@verizon.net 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Michael Caplan gardenlover5@verizon.net Fin Sec Janice Fine jan@janfine.com Treas. Paula Goldman paulag@beld.net meryljoys@aol.com Rec Sec.Mervl Smith Cor Sec Liz Bloom bobliz@beld.net Pt Pres Marylou Fishman maryloufishman@comcast.net **Two Year Directors** Sandie Baler-Segal sandiebs@verizon.net Audrey Mallock audrabm@gmail.com Barry Rabinovitz Barry@classichomesre.com Josephine Salloway jsalloway@aol.com **One Year Directors** Cheryl Berman nedcheryl@comcast.net Gail Lerner gblerner@beld.net sjkarll@vahoo.com Judy Karll **Richard Salloway** rbsalloway@aol.com Representatives Sisterhood: **Board Representatives** Men's Club Paul Rubin parsbr@verizon.net Solomon Borocov Hebrew School Sol007@yahoo.com

Religious Committee: Michael Caplan Gardenlovers5@verizon.net Temple B'Nai Shalom regrets to announce the passing of Alfred Baum z"l Father of Sandra & Paul Rubin May his memory be for a blessing

Temple B'Nai Shalom regrets to announce the passing of Nancy Roberts z''l Mother of Wendy and Howard Cutler May her memory be for a blessing

Temple B'Nai Shalom Sisterhood regrets to announce the passing of James Savas z''l Brother-in-law of Carol Savas May his memory be for a blessing

Temple B'Nai Shalom Congregation Wishes to extend a Mazel Tov To AMY CAPLAN YEHUDITH AHAVA bat Michael On the completion of her conversion

Temple B'Nai Shalom Congregation Wishes to extend a Mazel Tov To Meryl Smith On the birth of her granddaughter Emma Rochelle Smith Born, January 26, 2019 (the same date as her great grandmother, Meryl's Mom)

Temple B'Nai Shalom Congregation Wishes to extend a Mazel Tov

#### То

Peter & Karen Kurzberg On the engagement of their son, Daniel To Elyse Rivituso

Temple B'Nai Shalom Congregation Wishes to extend a Mazel Tov

#### То

Peter & Karen Kurzberg On the engagement of their son, Marc To

Amanda Krywy

# DONATIONS to TEMPLE B'NAI SHALOM IN MEMORY

In memory of DAVID SEGAL z"l Judy & Steve Karll

In memory of JUDY STONE z"I Janice Fine

## **YAHRZEIT DONATONS**

In memory of her brother, BRUCE SHEFSHICK z"l Judy & Steve Karll

In memory of her mother, BERTHA SHEFSHICK z"l Judy & Steve Karll

In memory of his mother, RUTH KARLL z"I Judy & Steve Karll

In memory of her cousin, KAREN BARU z"l Judy & Steve Karll

In memory of her husband,

ARTHUR LERNER z"l Pearl Lerner

In memory of her husband, HOWARD LUBOT z"l Ruth Lubot

In memory of her father, BERNARD SWALNICK z"l Elaine Swalnick

In memory of her husband, FRANK SWARTZ z"I Selma Swartz In memory of her mother, ETHEL FIELDMAN z"I Selma Swartz

In memory of husband, father & grandfather, HYME HIPSMAN z"l Estelle Weinberger & Harriet Rosenthal

#### **IN HONOR OF**

In honor of Irving Adler Seth Grossman

In honor of Emma Rochelle Smith Enid Lubarsky

In honor of Their Aliyah Richard & Josephine Salloway

> In honor of Marylou Fishman Elaine Swalnick

#### **KIDDUSH SPONSORS**

Lucy Fainer In memory of her husband, Leonid Fainer z"l

Janice Fine In memory of her mother,

#### Mollie Shuman z"l

Steve & Judy Karll In memory of Roselyn Karll z"l

Herb King & Jennifer Talerman In memory of Trudy King z"l To thank Temple members for being there for them when Trudy passed away.

> Peter & Karen Kurzberg In memory of her father Arthur Lerner

Enid Lubarsky In memory of her mother, Vitey Lubarsky

#### **END OF YEAR DONATIONS**

Irving & Wayne Adler Alyse Baker-Boncaldo Lynne Baron Ned & Cheryl Berman Bob & Liz Bloom Adam Cherny & Shoshana Effron Bobbi Coffman Robert Cohen Lucy Fainer Janice Fine Marvlou Fishman Larry & Judy Flanagan Michael & Faye Goldman Paula Goldman & David Flaherty Arline Goodman Seth & Jenn Grossman Manny Haendler Marvin & Stewart Joran Steve & Judy Karll Dan & Marj Kobrin Florence Koffman Richard Kream Peter & Karen Kurzberg Gail Lerner Dan & Helen Liberman Enid Lubarsky **Barry Rabinovitz** 

**Nancy Resnick** Micky Rosen Paul & Sandra Rubin Richard & Josephine Salloway Sheldon Segal & Sandie Baler-Segal **David & Sunny Shaw** Steve & Laney Silva Meryl Smith Doug & Penny Spellberg **Elaine Swalnick Robin Torpey** Carol & Nadine Tubman Helen Warshauer David & Nancy Wluka Milton & Arlene Wolk Anita Young & Alan Burack

#### **MENDING BY MERYL**

Seth Grossman

#### YAHRZEIT NOTICES

As a Member of the Temple, you can be notified of a family member's yahrzeit & the remembrance will also be mentioned at the Shabbat Service prior to the Hebrew anniversary. Please send the following information: Name of Deceased, date of passing as well as the time if known to: Meryl Smith <u>meryljoys@aol.com</u>

If you are made aware of a Temple Member's Life Cycle situation: births; special anniversary; engagement; presented with a special award; graduation; retirement or family loss Please contact Liz Bloom, TBS Corresponding Secretary at <u>BobLiz@beld.net</u>

to the donor. If the policy is paid up, no further premiums will be due.

# PLANNED GIVING TO OUR SHUL

#### **Retirement Plan Proceeds**

Temple B'Nai Shalom offers opportunities using planned gifts to enable all congregants to provide important financial support for a wide range of needs. Here is an outline of planned giving options.

Temple B'Nai Shalom can be named as the beneficiary of certain retirement plans. When used as part of an overall estate plan, it is the most "tax efficient" portion of an estate to leave to the congregation.

#### **Bequest Under a will**

The most common planned gift occurs at the death of the donor but represents a special opportunity to provide ongoing financial support for an organization that he/she deeply loves and believes in. The donor keeps the funds during his/her lifetime and a gift can be made in any amount through a bequest. Although the donor will not be able to see the good works he/she intends, the donor(s) will join a growing number of members dedicated to the congregation's future.

### **Other Trust Options**

Several other trust options exist, both to benefit the donor and Temple B'Nai Shalom, including a Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT). These options usually require a one-time gift of at least \$100,000. Various tax benefits are associated with this trust.

If any of the above suggestions interest you, please contact your attorney or estate planner.

#### Life Insurance Policy

An existing or new policy may be transferred to Temple B'Nai Shalom and the congregation becomes the owner and beneficiary of the policy. The donor may continue to pay premiums if required, and the premiums may be tax deductible



REMEMBER TO BRING NON-PERISHABLE FOODS TO TEMPLE EACH TIME YOU COME They are distributed to the Food Pantry at The Marge Crispin Center



## Remember with TBS: a graduation, wedding, anniversary, birthday, Mitzvah, anniversary, Yahrzeit or something special to you and your family.

\$75 for a basic Kiddush or embellished for an additional fee. To sponsor a Shabbat Kiddush contact either:

Janice @ 508-230-5074 jan@janfine.com OR Marylou @ 617-921-0368 maryloufishman@comcast.net



# SUPPORT THE TEMPLE BUY SCRIP

As an ongoing fund raiser, The Temple sells Stop & Shop and Roche Bros. gift cards in \$25, \$50 and \$100 denominations.

Sellers include: Nancy Resnick and Janice Fine. Arrangements can be made for home delivery by contacting one of the sellers or Marylou @ 617-921-0368

# PURIM

at TEMPLE B'NAI SHALOM MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup> 6:30 PM

> WEAR a MASK or in CUSTOM You might win a prize

> > COME TO READ "*The MEGILLAH*"

BE AS LOUD AS YOU CAN With your Gragger

HAMANTASHEN, ICE CREAM, etc Will be served You are invited To the Installation of Rabbi Sands Saturday, April 6th



עבדו את ה׳ בשמך Serve the Lord with Joy

60

On behalf of the Temple B'nai Shalom community and its Board of Directors

Please join us in worship and celebration for the installation of

Rabbi Ma'ayan Sands

Saturday, April 6, 2019 Shabbat Tazria

Temple B'nai Shalom 41 Storrs Avenue, Braintree, Mass.

.00

Shabbat morning services begin at 9:15 a.m.

Remarks & Blessings from Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld, President of Hebrew College at 11:15 a.m. Response by Rabbi Ma'ayan

Kiddush luncheon to follow

RSVP by March 24<sup>th</sup> to Mary Lou at maryloufishman@comcast.net or 617-921-0368

# Bring your Mitzvah Day Food Pantry contributions

# Annual MITZVAH DAY SUNDAY, APRIL 7 11 AM

# DO A MITZVAH

Bring to TBS non-perishable items prior to or on Sunday, April 7 by 11 am & we will bring them to The Food Pantry at Marge Crispin.



Bring to TBS your cancelled postage stamps. We are collecting them for use in DISABLED VETERANS' projects to increase dexterity and use of prosthetic limbs.



At TBS there will be a project for the Sunday Class that morning to be distributed to Hebrew Senior Life for Passover– there will be a discussion relating to MITZVAH



Temple B'nai Shalom's

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TBS BROTHERHOOD'S SPRING FLING BREAKFAST SUNDAY, APRIL 28 th-9:15 am

SISTERHOOD DONOR DINNER SUNDAY **MAY 5<sup>TH</sup> IUNCH at THE GDANITE GDIIIF Celebrating 60 years of** Sisterhood at **Temple B'Nai Shalom Dlease join us and come** together to share memories and toast the future together! Watch for your invitation .... With Special Door Drize drawing for early rsvp

**FR** 

CELEBRATES 60<sup>th</sup> JUBILEE CELEBRATION SAVE THE DATE JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup> for BRUNCH CELEBRATE THE TEMPLE'S MILESTONE WITH CONGREGANTS & FRIENDS OF TES INVITATION TO FOLLOW



visit bjff.org To see the upcoming movies in the area. There are Films shown yearround.



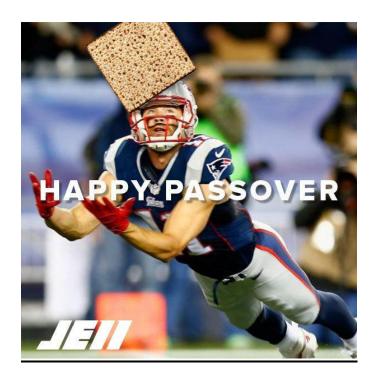
CONTINUE TO BRING YOUR CANCELLED POSTAGE STAMPS AND LEAVE IN THE TEMPLE CONTAINER IN THE LOBBY - TO ASSIST THE DISABLED VETERANS' PROGRAM



Your Voice in Israel

JNF TREES If you are interested in purchasing JNF Trees in Israel through Hadassah — Contact: Carol Savas 781-344-9377 Carolsavas@yahoo.com





No. 11 Julian Edelman

JUDAICA ITEMS Check out the Judaica items on the Hadassah Re-Sale Shop Table At the Temple

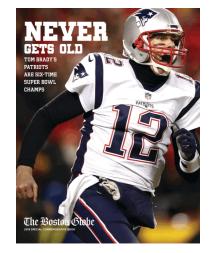


2 Mezuzah Scrolls are available at \$18 each. For additional information contact Marylou Fishman <u>Maryloufishman@comcast.net</u> 617-921-0368

### **WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONS**

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

## THANKS FOR AN EXCITING SEASON



## JEWELRY EXHIBIT AT THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART, NEW YORK

#### Jewish betrothal ring

Eastern European or Italian Possibly Venice, 17th–19th century Gold, enamel

Gift of J. Pierpont Morgan, 1917 (17.190.996)



# DO YOU OR ANY OF YOUR FAMILY

**SHOP ON** 

AMAZON.COM

Thanks to congregants who shop on AMAZON.COM, Temple B'nai Shalom receives a check for a percentage of their sales each month from Amazon.

Next time you have something to order:

Go to The Temple's Website: www.tbsbraintree.com

> Click on: GIVING Click on: SHOPPING OPPORTUNITIES

## The Temple's Chanukah Party





MARGE CRISPIN CENTER IS GRATEFUL FOR THE SHOPPING CARRIAGE OF TOYS & GIFT CARDS THAT THE MENSCH ON THE BENCH DELIVERED FOR NEEDY CHILDREN

















# SISTERHOOD CHANUKAH BRUNCH

















ON FEBRUARY 7, 2019 AT THE STATE OF THE TOWN OF BRAINTREE DR. PETER KURZBERG, Pres of TBS GAVE THE THE OPENING BENEDICTION ON BEHALF OF TEMPLE B'NAI SHALOM



# THE SOUTH SHORE COLLABORATIVE OF TEMPLES WORK TOGETHER ON HABITAT FOR HUMANITY IN DUXBURY

Our Temple is a member along with other Temples of the South Shore Chai Collaborative. They are part of the group that we share the Mitzvah Day Program. On our behalf, as well as other Temples, the group below had a successful day of service through South Shore Habitat for Humanity, installing sheetrock at a duplex in Duxbury. Six members of Temple Beth David participated, along with members of B'nai Tikvah and Chayai Shalom. They also had 3 young men participate who had found the project through volunteermatch.com

We will keep you aware of these projects if you would like to participate. In the past Solomon Borocov, Michael Caplan and Peter Kurzberg have worked on these Habitat for Humanity Projects.





## Purim – An overview

The holiday of Purim is celebrated on the 14th of Adar (February-March). It commemorates the foiling of a plot by a Persian minister (Haman) to kill all the Jews in Persia. Purim is observed by Jews around the world. Characterized by feasting and merriment, Purim is typically celebrated in the company of family and friends in a synagogue.

The Purim story is recounted in the Book of Esther (Megillat Esther), which is contained in the Ketuvim section of the Bible (Tanalch). According to the Megillah of Esther, Haman decides to kill all the Jews in Persia after Mordecai, a Jew, refuses to bow down to him. After the Persian King Ahaseurus approves Haman's plot, Mordecai and his niece Esther, who is also the wife of King Ahaseurus, decide to expose Haman's plan. On the 14th of Adar, Esther succeeds in foiling the plot, and Haman is hung by orders of King Ahaseurus. The holiday is called Purim, which means lots because Haman is said to have drawn lots in order to determine the day on which the Jews should be slaughtered.

#### When is Purim Celebrated

On the 13th of Adar, the day before Purim, Orthodox Jews observe the fast of Esther which lasts until sundown. Usually, two Purim services are held in the synagogue. The first is held in the evening of the 13th of Adar while the second is held on the morning of the 14th. During both services, the Megillat Esther is read in its entirety. While the Book of Esther is being read, it is customary for children to rattle their graggers or noisemakers in a symbolic attempt to blot out the name of Haman. In the late afternoon, a festive meal is eaten. Among the foods typically enjoyed are boiled eggs, beans. and three-cornered pies known as hamantashen (Haman's pockets). Originally they were called Mohn-tashen, or poppy-seed pockets, but the similarity of the name to Haman made them associated with the villain of Persia. In Hebrew they are called Haman's ears.

#### **Purim Rituals**

The Book of Esther prescribes certain rituals which are to be performed on Purim. Emphasizing the importance of good deeds and charity, the Megillah of Esther states that individuals must give gifts both to friends and to the poor. Specifically, Jews are required to give two portions of food to at least one friend and must give money to two poor individuals.

On the basis of Italian influence, the holding of a Purim carnival has become common in many countries. During this carnival, Jews dress up in costumes and often perform plays which retell the story of Purim. In Israel, for example, Purim is observed by the holding of the Adloyada festival in Tel Aviv.

> CELEBRATE TOGETHER AT TBS ON MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup> 6:30 PM

## The Story of Exodus

Though it's one of the best known details of the <u>Exodus story</u>, the plague narrative raises a number of complicated questions. Given the biblical assumption of God's omnipotence, one might expect God to be able to whisk the Israelites out of Egypt without such dramatic measures. The biblical story also does not explain the significance of the specific set of plagues that God imposes on the Egyptians. And many contemporary Jews are bothered by what seems to be excessive and perhaps needless suffering on the part of the Egyptian population for the sins of its leader.

## The Plagues

- 1. Blood
- 2. Frogs
- 3. Lice
- 4. Flies
- 5. Pestilence
- 6. Boils
- 7. Hail
- 8. Locusts
- 9. Darkness
- 10. Killing of the firstborn

## Traditional Interpretations

A number of rabbinic sources describe the plagues as retribution for Pharaoh's rejection of God and for the Egyptians' idol worshipping practices. In explaining the first plague, one midrash comments, "Why were the waters first smitten and with blood? Because Pharaoh and the Egyptians worshipped the Nile, and God said, 'I will smite their god first and then his people."" (Shemot Rabbah 9:9). Likewise, Ramban, a 12th-century Jewish commentator, suggests that God punishes Pharaoh not primarily for enslaving the Israelite people, but rather for dismissing God and ignoring a divine command (see his comment to Exodus 7:16). The final plague, the killing of the firstborn, targets both the people and their most visible god-Pharaoh-who also loses his oldest son and thus the successor to the throne.

The primary goal of the plagues, according to most rabbinic sources, is the demonstration of God's unparalleled power. Pharaoh's magicians succeed in replicating the first two plagues — blood and frogs — but stumble in their attempts to produce lice. Several commentators explain this failure by noting the use of the word "*l'hotzi*," "to bring out," in the description of the plague of lice. Producing the plagues of blood or frogs requires only the transformation of an existing substance: God, through Moses and Aaron, changes the water to blood and draws (presumably pre-existing) frogs out of the water. In contrast, God *creates* the lice. Only the creator of the universe, according to the rabbis, can create something new. These unreplicable plagues persuade Pharaoh and his people of God's power and build faith in God among the people of Israel.

As further evidence of the miraculous nature of the plagues, one midrash notes the biblical description of the plague of hail as a mixture of fire and ice, commenting:

Imagine two fierce legions who were always at war with one another, but when the king needed their services for his own battle, he made peace with them, so that both should carry out the orders of the king. In like manner, fire and hail are hostile to each other, but when the time came to make war with Egypt, God made peace between them and both smote the Egyptians. (*Shemot Rabbah* 12:4)

The midrash further understands the hail to prefigure the punishment that, according to the Book of Ezekiel, God will bring on Gog and Magog in the war that will precede the coming of the messianic age. In linking the redemption of the Israelites from slavery with the ultimate redemption of the world, the midrash implicitly justifies any violence as a necessary means of reaching an unambiguouslypositive end. Beyond being a punishment to the Egyptians, the plagues are a step in the process of redeeming the world.

## **Contemporary Interpretations**

Many contemporary explanations of the ten plagues attempt to reconcile the presumed suffering of the Egyptians with modern-day conceptions of ethics and treatment of the other. Rabbi David Teutsch, a former president of the <u>Reconstructionist</u> Rabbinical College, for example, suggests that God is not, in fact, the author of the harshest plague — that of the murder of the firstborn of Egypt. Rather, he says, it is human beings who interpret this event as divine:

How can we understand God's role in the death of the firstborn? One explanation suggests that all who did not defend the Israelite slaves in Egypt are responsible for what Pharaoh imposed. Thus, God's punishment of the Egyptians was justified. Another explanation holds that only in hindsight did the Israelites see the hand of God in the death of the Egyptians. God does not intervene in human history this way... By this reckoning, what is important is not whether the firstborn died, but whether we can see the power of human redemption in our lives as flowing from the divine." (Rabbi Joy Levitt and Rabbi Michael Strassfeld, ed., <u>A Night of Questions</u>, 61).

Rather than justify the plagues, some modern-day commentators instead try to sharpen our awareness of the suffering caused by these plagues in order to help us empathize with others who are oppressed. <u>The Journey Continues: The Ma'yan Haggadah</u>, produced by the women's program of the Jewish Community Center of the Upper West Side of Manhattan, offers the following meditation on the plagues:

As we ate our Pascal lambs that last night in Egypt the darkness was pierced with screams. Our door posts were protected by a sign of blood. But from the windows of the Egyptians rose an anguished cry: the death of the first-born.

*Yah Sh'chinah* [an appeal to God using a term associated with God's feminine side]soften our hearts and the hearts of our enemies. Help us to dream new paths to freedom.

So that the next sea-opening is not also a drowning; so that our singing is never again their wailing. So that our freedom leaves no one orphaned, childless, gasping for air." (Tamara Cohen, ed., *The Journey Continues*, 70)

Many Jews update the seder by supplementing the recitation of the biblical plagues with the mention of contemporary "plagues" such as war, hatred, and disease. The Jewish Council on Urban Affairs' Immigrant Justice Haggadah counts as plagues "the detention of immigrants, unwarranted deportations, hate crimes, the denial of drivers' licenses and other services to undocumented immigrants, hopelessness, apathy, and fear of speaking out." The Love and Justice Haggadah includes in a tongue-in-cheek list of the plagues of contemporary life — "reality TV, muzak, and SUVs." Feminist Haggadahs add plagues such against sexism and violence women; as

environmental Haggadahs mention the destruction of natural resources; and Haggadahs focused on intergroup relations speak of the plagues of prejudice and distrust.

Every modern application of the story of slavery and liberation necessitates the creation of a new list of "plagues" to be eradicated.

The plague narrative is both an integral part of the Exodus story and one of the most difficult parts of this story to understand. Contemporary readings of the Exodus therefore struggle to reinterpret the plagues to reflect our current consciousness and/or to expand the list of plagues in order to draw attention to all of the parts of the world that remain in need of liberation.

## TEMPLE SURVEY RESULTS SUMMARY

- 1. It's important to keep the following in mind when analyzing these results:]
  - a. Not everyone responded to ALL
  - b. Not everyone who DID respond answered all the questions
  - c. Some people answered some questions with MORE than one idea or answer
  - d. To address this information, we've given %'s to the commonalities or common elements of many of the people's answers

All responses represent the % of the respondent's answers to each question!

- 2. Most people belong to our temple because they like us...we're friendly and welcoming and they enjoy services, observing holidays, and opportunities to attend Hebrew classes.
- 3. In terms of <u>changes</u> -most would like our schul to increase our membership significantly, especially younger members. Many would like our rabbi at more services, adult education and guest lectures.
- 4. <u>New activies</u> that are suggested are: Monthly lecture series, field trips, speakers, comedy, card and game nights, movie and social events such as painting or drawing night, baking challah, Shabbat dinners, book clubs and Passover seder. Partnering with other local groups with community service, and involvement with life events as well as faith-based events, and discussion groups.
- 5. Almost 2/3's of all respondents feel that developing and strengthening friendships with other members are very or most important. 1/3 feel that it is somewhat important.

- Almost half of all respondents would like to see more English read either responsively or in unison, especially during the High Holiday services. Some other various, individual comments that are listed in the Survey Results.
- 7. <u>Regarding Attendance:</u> About half indicated that they attend regularly. Some would like a shorter service. Some would like a Friday night service once a month.
- 8. <u>Fundraisers:</u> Almost 20% had each of these ideas: Game nights; poker nights; field trips; raffle with sport and concert tickets; donated prizes; craft fairs; comedy; casino night; silent auctions; raffles; contest; shows like a skit; play; musical; or drama performed by temple members; trivia night-Torah or Jewish trivia and a Jewish Film night; and hiring and entertainer or lecturer.
- <u>Social Events:</u> About half of responses mentioned many of the above under "Fundraisers", but also political speakers, or other interesting speakers. Others added: bus trips to historical or scenic areas or local Jewish points of interest; Jewish humor and musical events; exercise and cooking and movie nights; eating out and bowling.
- 10. Most people say they're able and willing to help out with these events, especially rummage sale and game nights, etc.
- 11. Adult Ed 50% would like to learn Hebrew for dummies or colloquial conversational, possibly advanced as well as Torah study. Others mentioned current events, Jewish community relations, life after death, why Jews adopt certain routines, learning the service better – the Why we do things the way we do, Israeli politics, etc.
- 12. Improvements to the building: 38% say that it's imperative we add a bathroom on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. Another 38% say handicap accessibility is also a necessity. Others mentioned that low cost maintenance, updating kitchen, lighting and sound system and expansion of the building.

### 13. <u>Attracting New Members:</u> How?

- Be active in the community/Full-time rabbi/renovation to our building w/handicap accessibility/ family activities & events/Update Website weekly including rabbi messages. leadership team contact info, life events to attract young families/notices in local local newspapers, blogs, monthly speakers with publicity, more promotion and signage, newletters, social media presence, up to date marketing in many media, including more outreach to our events, open houses, incentive joining offers/Restroom on main floor.
- 14. Over 50% are familiar with the scrip program, BUT 35% are NOT familiar with it. Requests to add the following to that program include: Market Basket; CVS; Macy's; Walmart; BJ's; Costco; Bertucci's; Star; Shaws; TJMaxx; Petco; Dunkin Donuts; Big Y; Roche Bros.; Sudbury Farms; and local restaurants.
- 15. Men's Club or Sisterhood Around 50% of the respondents are either involved with this program or might be interested in it.
- 16. With regard to Amazon, over 50% of the respondents are UNAWARE of this program.
- 17. Ages of respondents:
  - 1 30
  - 2 30-45
  - 5 45-60
  - 10 61-69
  - 10 70 plus