

# THE TBE SUNDAY TIMES

*Thoughts on Hanukkah and More from Temple Beth-El Sunday School Seekers*



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## **Energy!**

RECENT SEEKER SUCCESSES AND HIGHLIGHTS!

Ari Davis joined a lacrosse team! Hannah Torop is going to the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) Biennial Conference in Chicago! Jennie Bedgood got all A's! Eli Oppenheim made a comic! Max Rish had an unexpected playdate! Maya Bean's uncle is coming from Israel! Reid and Corbin Nicholson beat the best baseball team in the league! Tzevi Johnston's 5th grade class went to Enterprise Village! Jay Gross has been on a big roll in laser tag! Adam Ziesig hit a home run! Ari Pichardo got an A on his math test! Benjamin Miller started to decorate for Chanukah! Gavin Bedgood had a 15 pitch inning! Carter Sinclair had ice cream! Julia Bowman's pool is done! Tovah Johnston's cousin is in town! Alexis Silverman went to Texas! Morah Kara Goldberg's nephew was born! Barbara Blum got to see a friend she only sees once a year! Liora Palmer-Verdeja went to the movies with her brother! Freyda and Will Pardoll had a birthday! Lucy Auld had her 8th birthday! Isadora Pandygraft went to see the Nutcracker! Jesse Diner learned a new gymnastic skill! Ansley Gross likes to play laser tag! Cayley Rubin had a soccer scrimmage! Holden Green played his favorite game at P.E.! Elliot Green went to a birthday party! Jacob Mandel got a 95% on his personal naval inspection! Kit Cohen's raised his grade a whole letter! Jake Diner had a great Thanksgiving! Jonah Diner got an A on his social studies test! Zach Camp-Morgenstein got a pet fish!



### *From the Editors:*

On December 8th, 2019, our Sunday Seekers (grades K-6th) separated into teams (by choice) to tackle the creation of a collaborative Sunday School Newspaper! The newspaper, which spans Jewish traditions, values, critical thinking, questioning and creativity, is a culmination of their exploration at Sunday School this fall. Led by Phyllis Newberg, this project was an opportunity from our "Cultural Experiences" program that offers Seekers the choice to participate in various activities such as playing Gaga (Israeli game), Jewish cooking, holiday preparation, photography, crafts, and more two to three times per semester. Though the editors helped to transcribe Seeker contributions, this entire newspaper including design, original images, and content was completely prepared by the TBE Sunday Seeker teams! Please enjoy this celebration of our brilliant minds, bodies, and hearts!



### WHAT IS HANUKKAH LIKE IN YOUR FAMILY?

It is having a great time playing board games and playing outside! – Adam Ziesing

We like spending time together and lighting candles! – Gavin Bedgood

It is latkes dipped in applesauce, oh, and a lot of blessings! – Jay Gross

Spending time with family and playing the dreidel game and hiding the Mensch on the Bench! – Benjamin Miller



# Hanukkah Headlines

## TO ME, HANUKKAH MEANS.....

Having a great time with my family! – Adam Ziesing

Happy time with family and playing dreidel! – Elliot Green

A very big privilege! – Jay Gross

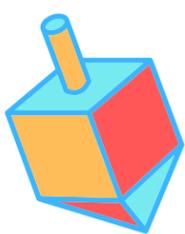
## OUR H-A-N-U-K-K-A-H ACROSTICS!!

**H**appy  
**A** holiday  
**N**ew  
**U**nique  
**K**ind  
**K**ids  
**A** relaxing day  
**H**appy celebration  
By Holden Green

**H**appy time with family  
**N**ot having to rest  
**U**nder the stars  
**K**indness is what you do during Hanukkah  
**K**ids get presents  
**A**nti homework  
**H**anukkah is great!  
By Elliot Green

**G**elt is so tasty  
**E**veryone likes gelt!  
**L**ove it,  
**T**asty, sweet and yummy!  
by Will Pardoll

**H**anukkah is all around  
**A**mazing eight days  
**N**ever a dull moment  
**U**nhappiness is nowhere to be seen  
**K**ind  
**K**ids are not crazy  
**A** great time  
**H**aving a good time  
By Benjamin Miller



**G**elt is awesome  
**E**veryone likes gelt,  
**L**oves gelt  
**T**ime flies by when you eat it  
By Freyda Pardoll

**An acrostic is a poem in which the first letter of each line spells out a word, phrase, or message!**

**C**andles on the Chanukiah are nine,  
**A**nd the presents you get are always fine.  
**D**ays and nights we have eight,  
**A**nd the candles go out so late!  
By Lucy Auld

**L**ove  
**I**nspire  
**G**ratITUDE  
**H**ope  
**T**radition  
By Maya Bean



**L**atkes are crunchy and yummy  
**a**t the same time. Latkes have  
**g**reat dipping sauce, apple  
**s**auce, sour cream, cinnamon.  
**L**atkes are fried on special days  
**c**alled Hanukkah. Hanukkah are  
**t**he best days of the year, well  
**t**hat's what I think!!!!  
By Liora Palmer-Verdeja

# Our TBE Sunday Times Design Team:



THIS TEAM NAMED THE NEWSPAPER, DESIGNED THE TEMPLATE, CHOSE THE COLOR SCHEME, AND COMPOSED THE ORIGINAL HANUKKAH ART! TOGETHER, THEY SET GUIDELINES FOR THE OVERALL LOOK OF THE NEWSPAPER INCLUDING LAYOUT AND FONTS!

Barbara Blum, Jessi Diner, David Moss, Eli Oppenheim, and Max Rish!

# Seeker Spotlights

Seekers reviewed the value of asking questions in our culture. They learned interviewing skills, and then used them to learn more about a peer!

## CAYLEY RUBIN

Ansley: Do you have a question about the Hanukkah story?  
 Cayley: What is it about?  
 Ansley: What do you like on your latkes?  
 Cayley: That's a hard question.  
 Ansley: How many menorahs do you have?  
 Cayley: Four in all

## ANSLEY GROSS

Cayley: Do you do anything special for Hanukkah?  
 Ansley: I have friends come over to play.  
 Cayley: What is your favorite food for Hanukkah?  
 Ansley: My favorite food for Hanukkah is jelly doughnuts  
 Cayley: If you were to travel anywhere with family, where would you go?  
 Ansley: I would stay home because of friends.

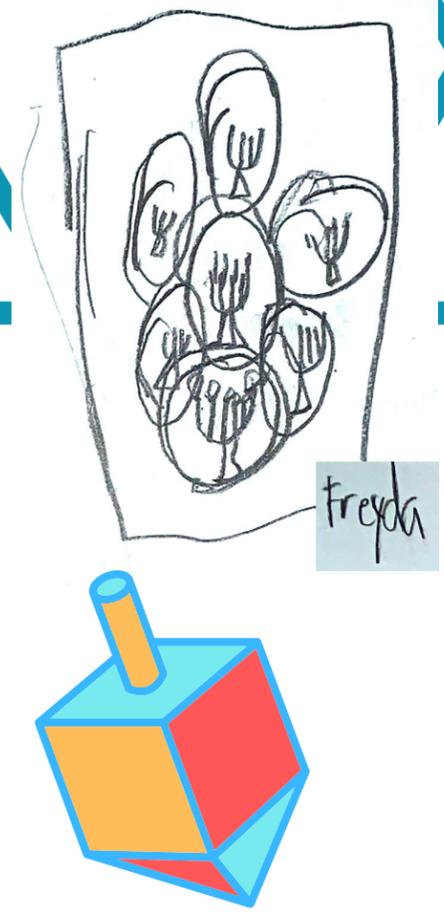
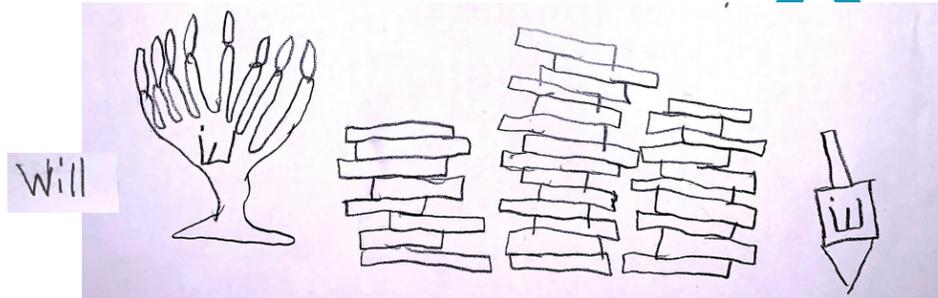
## MILES LIBES

Tabatha: What is your favorite part of the Hanukkah story?  
 Miles: When the Maccabees win the war.  
 Tabatha: What is your favorite Hanukkah tradition?  
 Miles: The presents  
 Tabatha: Is Hanukkah important? Why or why not?  
 Miles: Yes, because the Jews witnessed a miracle firsthand.



## Creative Corner

When you are a Jew,  
 It is like the ocean blue,  
 Big and connected,  
 That is what you are if you are a Jew.  
 by Isadora Pendency





# Jews in the News

After reviewing current events and some of the Jews that are part of them, Seekers were challenged to take a stand regarding an issue they feel passionate about. Below are their editorials aimed to share their perspectives with us.

Something that I think people should pay more attention to is knowledge. The more knowledge we have, the better we understand the world.

**People think that grades are everything, but knowledge is more important.**

But grades show how dedicated you are to knowledge. A teacher will show you knowledge; it is your choice to keep it. Grades are simply a measure of how well you learn what the teacher teaches. You can use knowledge to fix problems.”

-Garrison (Arri) Davis

“The first thing you usually see when you walk in a store is Christmas decorations! That’s a problem for people who celebrate Chanukah, Kwanza, etc. There are many people who are different religions. Christianity might be the biggest religion, but that doesn’t mean you don’t think about other religions.

As a Jew, walking into a store and seeing one, small, little section of Chanukah makes me feel sad and not included. The whole store is filled with Christmas decorations and no Chanukah decoration is bias. Stores should sell more to religions for the holidays because all religions should have the right to be known, and stores should be more inclusive.

Other people should care about this because everyone should be knowledgeable of other people’s views. The world should be more inclusive to promote a connected, not divided, world. There are many beliefs in the world that people should stand up for and respect.

**If people believe in something you don’t, you should respect that.**

‘When they go low, you go high.’ – Michelle Obama”

-Jennie Bedgood

“Did you know that Jews are ‘nicknamed people of the book?’ I think that people need to read more and think it is important. As a Jew, you need to remember what happened a while back and to do that you have to read. In general, reading can make you a smarter person and more intelligent. It can make you more informed about things happening in your own life. It can also just help you understand people better. Here is a quote from George R.R. Martin, ‘A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies...The man who never reads only lives one.’ I think that this is very true.

**When you read, you are transported to another world and understand things you never understood. When you read, you get new perspectives from other people. You get what it is like in their shoes.**

I think that people should care about reading because the more you read the more you know. And the more you know, the more you can understand others and real-world problems.”

-Alexandra Moss

“In my opinion, I think that stores should have more Chanukah stuff than Christmas stuff like how in some stores they only play Christmas music, and there is just more Christmas stuff.

**As a Jew, when stores do not have my religion’s decorations, I feel left out.**

My opinion is that these stores should be more inclusive. People should care about this because everyone should be knowledgeable of other people’s views. The world should be more inclusive to promote a connected, not divided, world.”

-Ari Pichardo

“With the number of people reading on the decline, people are turning to other things. These include TV, recreational eating, and...video games! More and more people are turning to video games, but studies show that some video games can actually cause negative health benefits. When recreational reading can cause things to become better. Reading can help people learn things to become more creative. Groucho Marx, a comedian, said this, ‘I find television very educating. Every time someone turns on the set, I go to another room and read a book.’ Roald Dahl said,

**‘so please, oh please, we beg, we pray, go throw your tv set away, and in its place you can install a lovely bookshelf on the wall.’**

There are many other quotes like this, you could fill pages and pages about this, but I think you get the point. There are many benefits from reading, so try it once; next time you are about to play a video game, grab a book instead.”

-Reid Nicholson

## Confidence Poem

This is a poem to all the woman and girls, hiding under all their makeup and extensions full of curls.

Self love is important and you’re taking this too far, would you believe me if I told you you’re beautiful the way you are? Probably not, fishing for compliments a lot, self doubting all the time, stuffing your head with rotten thoughts. I’m not good enough, I’m ugly, no boys or girls like me, I hate my nose, my skin, my hair, I’m fat, I’m flat, I hate my body. What if we could shift our focus from being worried about how we look to our mental and internal health. Take a walk outside grab a book from off the shelf. Stop telling yourselves you don’t like the way you look, stop slamming yourself down. Put on some comfy clothes, walk outside and dance around. Your brain is your best friend it believes everything you tell it, so feed it good thoughts, you’re beautiful the way you are, go and yell it!

**We all are so different it’s amazing and insane, but the world would be so boring if we were all the same.**

If you have brown or blue eyes,  
If you have curly or straight hair,  
If you’re a rectangle or an hourglass,  
If you’re a triangle or a pear!

We’re all so unique and beautiful, but that all goes to waste when in the mirror you stare, and throw yourself down, and change the way you look, you are BEAUTIFUL I swear! Don’t change the way you look to impress anyone, and show them who you are, or you’ll miss the opportunity to find someone special, and they may not be that far. Someone else could be the same but neither of you let it show, and you may pass right by and never even know. So take out those extensions or wipe off that makeup, or even better both, and make new friends, take some risks, and focus on personal growth! Love all of you beautiful woman.

-Fiona Gootson

# A LEAD ON A LEADER

Seekers practiced curiosity, critical thinking, and interviewing skills during a presentation by TBE's own Pati Gross.



by Nyssa Hartman

Children of all ages are sat upon a sea of rugs, mats, and picnic blankets in the middle of the large room. Murmurs fill the air, seekers looking curiously at the stranger standing before them, twisting their heads to catch their teachers' eyes with questions on their lips. There is no denying the authority in this stranger's presence, even in her relaxed stance. The sense of anticipation in the room grows as the seekers wonder just who this woman in uniform is, and why she is here. Once the last stragglers take their seats, the teachers call for quiet, and a hush descends. This stranger in uniform is introduced as Pati Gross; she is a police officer, and she is going to tell them her story.

When she began her journey as a police officer, Pati was one of few women on the force. After graduating from the academy, she first worked in crime scenes where she honed skills on evidence collection and processing. **"Every time you walk into a room, you bring something with you; and every time you leave, you take something with you,"** she shares with her enraptured audience; **"That's called exchange theory."** As an officer working in crime scene, Pati has had to look for the smallest pieces of evidence in the oddest of places: garbage cans, rooftops, and dumpsters earned an honorable mention. Photographs of the scene and any evidence must be taken before the crime scene can be processed. DNA and fingerprints are unique to the individual, but since they are left behind by any person that has inhabited the space, she explains that the collected evidence has to be taken to the lab where they can narrow down their pool of suspects by eliminating DNA otherwise left behind. Continuing her crash course in forensics, Pati describes how all sorts of different chemicals are used both at the crime scene and in the lab. Fingerprints alone could require hydrating solutions, reactive dyes, dusting powders, and even, "super glue."

Crime scene stories weren't all she had to offer. Officer Pati Gross has worked in Intelligence, collaborated with the FBI, gone undercover with Vice, worked as a truancy officer (a fact that results in friendly call outs and banter from teachers and seekers alike), and investigated burglaries as a detective. Amidst all this, she worked on a master's degree and raised a family.

Temple Beth El's Sunday School Seekers are quick to share their questions and opinions on what they have just heard about, eager to know more. "I don't like that," shares one seeker (Will Pardoll, grade 3) on the topic of juvenile detention centers; "Kids shouldn't be going to jail."

Other seekers want answers on the specifics of being an officer.

"...wouldn't you leave DNA behind?" (Zachary Maisel, grade 6) on the investigation of a crime scene. Precautions taken at the scene, we learn, are dependent on the type of crime and its severity. "We wear triple gloves...but if it's a very bad crime, we have booties; we have hairnets; we have white jumpsuits," Pati answers.

"Have you ever had to arrest someone?" (Barbara Blum, grade 4). "Many times," responds Pati.

"Do you do stakeouts?" (Miles Libes, grade 5). "I used to," she replies.

The question about working with a partner prompts a brief lesson on the unique structure of the St. Petersburg Police Department: officers work in single-man units for increased productivity and call for back-up when situations necessitate the presence of more than one officer.

"Do you have a police dog?" (Holden Green, grade 2) "I don't because I don't work in canine." She adds, "Canine officers have police dogs."

"On a scale of one to ten, how hard is it to find a burglar?" (Jay Gross, grade 2) That, she tells, depends how much time has passed.

"Do you have a police car?" (Eli Oppenheim, grade 2) "No. We have forensic vehicles," she explains, "but we aren't allowed to take ours home. Police cars you get to take home."

The curiosity is endless as time runs short, and the seekers have to head home. Pati smiles and chats with the children as they receive souvenirs and amble out the door. One thing is certain, Pati has proven the exchange theory to be true. When we entered the room, we brought in uncertainty and confusion; when we left the room, we carried knowledge, curiosity, and inspiration.

# Tarbut: 7th-10th Grade Adventures!



Tarbut

Youth Retreat



Selichot



This fall has been full of exploration and connection for 7th-10th graders including a brand new innovative program designed to guide seekers through *living* Jewish values out in our community with a focus on Tikkun Olam.



## Upcoming Events:

January 5th, 2019  
10:30am

lunch meet-up  
option  
afterwards

beanjoshua79@gmail.com

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE ADVENTURE

PHYLLIS.NEWBERG@GMAIL.COM

JANUARY 12TH  
2 SESSIONS AVAILABLE

ALL SUNDAY SCHOOL FAMILIES INVITED!

MLK DAY PARADE Jan 20th

STAND UP FOR JUSTICE Sharing the Dream

Love thy neighbor

Temple Beth-El

pardoll.miriam@gmail.com

## Takeaways from this Newspaper Cultural Experience:



During this process, we learned life lessons that we can apply in our daily lives in their homes, at school and with friends!

1. Listen closely.
2. Ask good questions.
3. Respect the opinions of others.
4. Be curious.
5. Find your own voice.
6. Be enthusiastic and find your own passion.

## Todah Rabah

A huge **THANK YOU**

To the people who made this project possible: Phyllis Newberg, Pati Gross, Michael Krassner, Betty Gootson, Margie Jacobs, Raida Goldman, Nyssa Hartman, Tovah Feld and the whole TBE Teaching Team!