

HAKOL

Volume 36 No. 4

March 2021

Adar 2781



Hakol brings together the messages of the season and the joy of community.

We recognize that now, in the time of social distancing, Temple Bat Yam is a community of worshipers and learners who value our connections.

We can be a temple beyond our walls.











PURIM 2020

PURIM 2021

It's been almost a year since we joined in lockdown to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

The impact has been beyond our imagination.

Many of us have lost loved ones and experienced unexpected loneliness yet we have also found resilience.

As we celebrate the holidays of spring, we recognize the strengths of our community, our science and our ability to persevere.

We recognize, too, the continued toll of this global pandemic and the need to look widely and commit to global solutions.

This issue of HAKOL is filled with these messagesthe stories of Purim and Passover and their meaning for Jews at this particular moment in time.



A message from Rabbi Spey

Mah Nishtanah Halilah Hazeh

"Why is this night different from all other nights?" After this year of Pandamic and social distancing, Passover feels different from all other Passovers. Again this year, we celebrate the freedom of our people from slavery, our freedom from a lack of choice, to a freedom of profound choice: our freedom to choose to worship God, our freedom to choose to live as Jews, and our freedom to choose to take personal responsibility for our decisions and behaviors. We celebrate Passover by retelling the story and experiencing for ourselves the sands of the Egypt burning our feet. But the story does not end there.

As more and more of our friends and family receive vaccinations against the Coronavirus which causes COVID-19, we can see freedom on the horizon, freedom to come together in person and celebrate face to face. As it took our ancestors 40 years of wandering in the wilderness to truly understand and embrace their new reality, it is taking us time as well. During this past year, we have learned new techniques for communing with others using new technology. We have learned new methods to demonstrate our respect and concern for other, wearing our masks, though they are less than comfortable. We have learned flexibility and resilience, qualities that we will need in the years ahead as we continue to grapple with the pandemic and its repercussions. And through it all, we continue to celebrate Passover and retell the story of our people. This year, let us learn from the adaptations of our ancestors, from their flexibility and resilience to adapt to their new reality as we adapt to ours. Let the words of our people's story and our current experiences to help those who try to help us: our leaders and the health care workers who try to care for us. Let us continue to support members of our close and greater community as we support our local businesses. Our sages have taught us that during Passover, we are to feel as it our own feet are burning in the sands of Egypt. This Passover, let us use our current crises and our suffering to redouble our efforts to build bridges of respect and caring, while we continue to help alleviate the suffering of others. Have a fulfilling and motivating Passover!

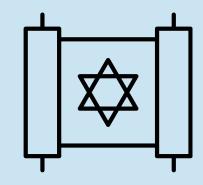


Education and our Jewish lives



Temple Bat Yam welcomes Dr.
Gloria Becker to the staff as
Educational Consultant. Gloria
brings 35 years of experience as
a classroom teacher, principal
and educational consultant and
has taught students from
kindergarten through adult
learners. Her expertise is in
Jewish Education, curriculum
design and integrating
technology into classroom
teaching.

With the expanding educational footprint that the Early Learning Center brings, Temple Bat Yam is excited to have Dr. Becker join us, focusing on Jewish learning across the lifespan.



EXPLORING OUR JEWISH IDENTITIES: A WORKSHOP

Sunday March 7 at 10 am

Join TBY as TBY member, Gloria Becker, leads us in an ongoing exploration of our ever-changing and growing Jewish identities through a multi-media, interactive workshop.

For Adults and teens 14+

We will discuss the 18 minute movie, "The Tribe." The Tribe is an unorthodox, unauthorized, history of the Jewish people and the Barbie doll, available on youtube.

When you register for this session, you'll get some instructions to help you prepare to participate in a lively discussion.

Please come, even if you missed the first meeting. There is so much to discuss!



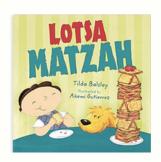
Passover: Books for Kids

recommendations from Ashley Solomon

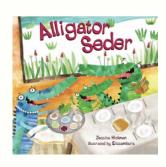
As we leave behind the fun, frivolity and fanciful celebration of Purim, we begin to look towards the spring and rebirth celebrated during Passover. While not necessarily as entertaining as Purim, Passover offers us the opportunity to reflect on the bondage of our ancestors and to revel in the freedom of the present. We are reminded of our privilege and how we wield it in our daily lives. We see these lessons echoed in literature, both for children and adults. Here are a few suggested books for all ages and interests.

Many of the listed books are provided for free through the PJ Library. The PJ Library is a partnership through various Jewish philanthropic organizations that provides free books monthly from birth through age 9. Parents and grandparents are eligible to enroll the children in their lives, with occasional free books provided to the adults as well. Here's the link for PJ Library sign up: www.pjlibrary.org.

Each of the books listed can be purchased through Amazon (don't forget to benefit TBY by using Amazon Smile!). These book descriptions are from Amazon website. Alternatively, you can support independent bookstores nationwide and purchase books online through www.bookshop.org.







Preschool Recommendations: ages 1-4

And Then Another Sheep Turned Up by Laura Gehl: Mama set another place. Papa found an extra seat. Hannah squeezed to make more space, Thrilled to have a guest to greet. Uh-oh! As the sheep family Passover seder begins, more and more guests show up!

The Littlest Levine by Sandy Lanton: Hannah doesn't like being the littlest Levine. She's too short to hang fruit from the sukkah and too young to light the Hanukkah candles by herself. But when Passover comes, the littlest Levine gets a chance to shine in a big way.

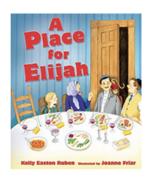
Alligator Seder by Jessica Hickman: They look for bits of chametz. They're good investigators. They're really just like you and me— except they're ALLIGATORS. A whimsical alligator family celebrates Passover.

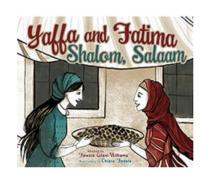
Welcoming Elijah by Leslea Newman: A warm, lyrical story about Passover, family, and friendship. Inside, a boy and his family sit around the dinner table to embrace the many traditions of their Passover Seder around the dinner table. Outside, a stray cat wonders, hungry and alone.

Passover Books and more books

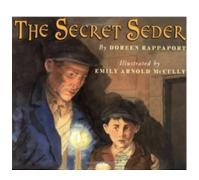
Lotsa Matzah by Tilda Balsley: A rhyming introduction to Passover's traditional food, with children eating and enjoying "lotsa matzah" many different ways during the holiday.

A Queen in Jerusalem by Rachella Sandbank and Tami Shem-Tov: In Jerusalem, in the early 20th century, a little girl named Malka—"queen" in Hebrew—dreams of dressing up as Queen Esther. It is the festival of Purim, and all the kids are looking forward to celebrating in their costumes. But Malka's mother doesn't have time to prepare a Purim costume for her. Where can Malka get a costume in time for the holiday?









Elementary Age Recommendations: ages 5-11

ABC Passover Hunt by Tilda Balsley: A colorful, interactive, rhyming search for Passover foods, customs, and symbols.

A Place for Elijah by Kelly Easton Ruben: As Sarah's family prepares for Passover, Sarah makes sure to save a chair at the table for the prophet Elijah who is said to visit every seder. But when the electricity goes out in the buildings across the street and the neighbors start arriving at Sarah's apartment, her parents invite each visitor to join the seder. Sarah adds another place setting for Elijah, and then another, but soon the table is full with people from her neighborhood and there are no more chairs to spare!

Yaffa and Fatima, Shalmon, Salaam by Fawzia Gilani-Williams: Two neighbors—one Jewish, one Muslim—have always been best friends. When they both fall on hard times, can they find a way to help each other? In Fawzia Gilani's retelling of this folktale—which has both Jewish and Arab origins — differences are not always causes for conflict and friendship can overcome any obstacle.

Middle School Age Recommendations: ages 12-14

Lucky Broken Girl by Ruth Behar: A young Cuban-Jewish immigrant girl is adjusting to her new life in New York City when her American dream is suddenly derailed.

The Secret of Carlos Romanus by Esther Kosofsky: Moshe Levi is full of hope and excitement as he sets sail from Amsterdam on his very first business trip. His father is gone, and it's up to this hardworking boy to support his mother and his two younger siblings. When Moshe unexpectedly finds himself in Spain, a country in which Jews must pretend to be like everyone else, the young boy must rely on his wits and his bravery. Will he find a Pesach Seder in this dangerous place? Is the wealthiest landowner in town, Carlos Romanus, a friend or an enemy... and will Moshe discover his secret? **The Secret Seder** by Doreen Rappaport: Jacques and his parents are hiding in Nazi-occupied France during World War II, pretending to be Catholics. On the first night of Passover, Jacques and his father

elude Nazi soldiers to gather with other Jews and celebrate the Seder in secret.

Greetings from TBY president

With Purim on the horizon, if we crafted a modern-day version, the villain would be COVID-19 and the heroes, just as in the time of Esther, would be two women, Katalin Kariko and Hamilton Bennett. Just as the Jewish people were saved by Esther about 2,400 years ago, these two women, by leading the effort to create vaccines, have given us a light at the end of the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the last 12 months have not been easy for friends, families and TBY, in the overall scheme of things the Jewish people have experienced far worse years - 586 BCE: destruction of the first Temple, 70 CE: destruction of the second temple, 1290: expulsion of Jews from England, 1492: expulsion of Jews from Spain, and 1933: the beginning of the Holocaust.

All of us at TBY are looking to get back to what was normal. With vaccines being available for the growing groups in our population, and hospitalization rates dropping, we will be starting in-person bi-monthly Erev Shabbat Services, outside on the patio (social distancing and masks will be required). One of these services each month will be with our band Dor l'Dor and the other will have volunteer congregants leading the service with Rabbi Spey. As we have done both before and during the pandemic, services will be livestreamed. For those of you who feel comfortable in attending, I look forward to seeing you.



Arnie Pittler, president







Arnie Pittler, Con't

Rather than looking at what we have lost since last Purim, let's look at what TBY has accomplished.

Gan Noar has met regularly throughout the year, keeping students engaged on Zoom. Thanks to our great teachers.

Adult Education has successfully moved on-line. We have expanded our offerings to TBY members with new classes and with no cost participation in the Institute of Jewish Knowledge and Learning

Sisterhood has added a weekly online coffee hour.

Brotherhood has brought us the opportunity to engage with Fred Guttenberg, an American activist against gun violence whose 14-year-old daughter, Jaime Guttenberg was killed in the Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in 2018.

Weekly Shabbat services online are thriving. On a typical Shabbat we are reaching more people than ever before

High Holy Services, online, allowed us to use the latest Machzor from our movement Mishkan Hanefesh with both familiar and new liturgy.



A beautiful night for outdoor Shabbat

We completed \$1.8M in renovations and opened the Baer Early Childhood Learning Center.

As Jews and as members of TBY looking back is important. However, to thrive we need to continue to forge forward. We need Kol Hakehillah, כל הקהילה, our entire community, to help in both filling our preschool as well as to help pay off the debt we incurred for the renovations.

You can help us in promoting our school by putting a yard sign, in either your home or business. We have 25 children enrolled today, but we hope to reach full capacity of 110 as quickly as possible.

For those that have donated to our fundraising campaign – *Todah Rabah*, Thank You. A donation in any amount is welcomed There is the opportunity to donate over time and/or to donate a partial Classroom or Mezuzah. Our desire is to let everyone experience *nediba*, a generous and noble deed, by taking part in building our Early Childhood Learning facility.

In Honor of Black History Month by Melissa Comras and Evan Goldman

There are few things Americans can agree upon in 2021, but something that everyone will concede, regardless of politics, are that our nation's demographics are changing. Similarly, American Jewry no longer resembles what it looked like in the past. Based on the three most comprehensive data sets available (the 2013-2019 American Jewish Population Project, the 2011 New York Community Study, and the 2017 San Francisco Bay Area Community Study) researchers estimate that Jews of Color represent at least 12-15% of American Jews, or about 1,000,000 of the United States' 7,200,000 Jews.



There are many factors for this shift, but transracial adoption is a driving force. Consider the 2013 survey of Jewish adoptive parents conducted by Pact which found that among the respondents to their survey of American Jewish adoptive parents, approximately 70% of those who adopted over the past decade did so transracially vs. approximately 40% of American adoptions overall. If you do an image search on Google for Jew, or Jewish, the results are (mostly) the same: stereotypical images of orthodox or ultra-orthodox men donning tefillin, payot, kippot, tallit –blowing the shofar, perhaps in Israel, or with large families and many children. And they are all white.

Among the things Jewish parents want most for their children is to feel included, respected and welcomed. We are fortunate that the Jewish and adoptive communities have created resources for families and synagogues that garner a culture of inclusivity and social awareness. The Adoption and Jewish Identity Program, founded by and for members of adoptive families looking to create a fully inclusive Jewish community, published "12 Things Jewish Adoptees and their Families Wish their Communities Knew", a short list of common obstacles faced by adoptive Jewish families and children.

"Be'chol Lashon is a Jewish organization which "strengthens Jewish identity by raising awareness about the ethnic, racial and cultural diversity of Jewish people and experience around the globe." Be'chol Lashon (Hebrew for "in every language") strengthens Jewish identity by raising awareness about the ethnic, racial and cultural diversity of Jewish identity and experience. They bring the historic Jewish commitment to civil rights and racial justice forward into the 21st century. Embracing the historical diversity of the Jewish people and, more importantly, the growing diversity of the community today is the most important step toward securing relevancy in an exciting American future."

Embracing the historical diversity of the Jewish people and, more importantly, the growing diversity of the community today is the most important step toward securing relevancy in an exciting American future." Temple Bat Yam participates in the URJ Audacious Hospitality effort and supports equity, diversity, and inclusion ("REDI"). "A major component of this is ensuring that all our Jewish communal spaces are affirming and just for all Jews and their loved ones."

- Check out PJ Library's list of multicultural books featuring diversity and inclusion;
- Books for Littles offers a library of diverse books for all audiences;
- Look at Kveller's list of antiracist recommendations, kveller.org



MR Men of Reform Judaism

Save the date Monday, April 26 at 7 pm

AN EVENING WITH DEPUTY CONSUL GENERAL KASA BAINESAY-HARBOR – ISRAELI CONSULATE IN MIAMI

Temple Bat Yam Brotherhood

More information to follow

The Garden Gang and the TBY grounds

The TBY Garden Gang met on Sunday February 21. Eleven members attended coming armed with gardening clippers and gloves. The first half hour was devoted to clean-up activities which included trash pick-up and weeding. Joan and Lois focused their attention on one of the Crepe Myrtle trees on the South side of the property. Like the other Crepe Myrtles along that swale it was in need of a good pruning and weeding which it definitely got from that enthusiastic GG duo!.

What would you like to see at Temple Bat Yam? A beautiful setting with shade trees, a meditation garden and the bounty of tropical fruit trees. These are being planned by the Garden Gang. Recent plantings have given us a lush garden, and the monthly work of a committed crew.



Other business included a unanimous decision to try to keep the property pesticide-free to encourage pollinators like bees and butterflies, a discussion of which fruit trees should be included in "The Grove" and how to raise funds to purchase the trees, an update from Carey Fischer on the Littman Memorial garden and information from Lauren Fine about the 2 proposals we received for a hydroponic vegetable garden. A review of the proposals will be done over the next couple of weeks and a decision made on whether or not to go forward with the project. The meeting was followed by a field trip to TBY neighbors John and Teresa Coldwell to see their hydroponic garden. John has also submitted a proposal for installing and maintaining a hydroponic system at TBY. Everyone enjoyed seeing their backyard farmette which in addition to a hydroponic system included in-ground and container vegetable gardens and a chicken coop with 5 adorable hens. The March in-person meeting is cancelled because of Passover but a Zoom meeting will be scheduled to discuss the hydroponic garden proposals and other pending items.









Hamantaschen and more from Gan Noar

by Scott London, Director

This year Purim had a very different feel to it than Purim 2020 or any previous Purim. Instead of spending the afternoon grilling burgers and hot dogs, watching our Bat Yam youth guess which lollipop has a colored tip on it or watching them slide down the bounce house water slide, this year we are celebrating, like everyone else, over Zoom. There will still be Hamantaschen. The great news is we may set a new record for the variety of flavors. During our annual Purim carnival, we usually provide the congregation with chocolate, apricot, and raspberry flavored tasty treats. But this year, this year is special.







During Gan Noar this year, we've grown accustomed to seeing each other in our bedrooms, living rooms, or closets. But for Purim, we spent class in each other's kitchens making Hamantaschen. We used the same recipe for dough, but many of us used our creative minds to make the fillings personal. Some toppings were chocolate, jelly, and poppy, which are what we expect each year. This year, we let our minds wander and taste buds lead us to new and spectacular flavors. Because we made our own individual Hamantaschen from the friendly confines of our own kitchens, we did not have to worry about allergies. We were able to make peanut butter flavored, if we chose. I was hoping to see some of the students make sauce and cheese (pizza), garlic & onions, or mixed fruit. The options were endless.

The toppings that our students used in their Hamantaschen included fresh fruit such as blueberry, strawberry, kiwi, and banana, nutella, and nutella mixed with flavored preserves such as fig, raspberry, strawberry, black raspberry, and marzipan. Of course there were many variations for those with a sweet tooth such as chocolate chip, peanut butter, Reese's pieces and Reese's peanut butter cup, & M & M's. And, yes, there was someone who did make 2 Hamantaschen with cheese and was planning to dip them in sauce when they came out of the oven.

Hamantaschen and even more from Gan Noar





With Covid still a threat, our Purim celebration changed to a wonderful online experience led by our Gan Noar staff. Each class created a different Purim craft project led by Ms. Charlie Nolan, whose art skills are amazing. Our youth group advisor and 7th grade teacher, Keren Alpert played guitar while teaching us some new and some familiar Purim songs. Our most seasoned teacher, Noa Swordy, taught the story of Purim, but went deeper as she and the students discussed the important roles that Vashti, Mordechai, Esther, Ahasuerus, and even Haman played in the outcome. They discussed if there are other parts of Judaism that mimicked the story of Purim. For the record, the answer is yes. And lastly, our Hamantaschen making was led by one of Gan Noar's former students, Adelle Barsky- Moore, whowas assisted by her 2 dads who graciously offered to lead this workshop.

This year Purim has a very different feel to it. Who remembers Purim 2020, our last time together in person, with Rabbi Spey in his Olaf costume? We have adapted to change because we must accept what is in frontof us. Just like the Jews of Persia, they were forced to accept the changes handed down by the King, unbeknownst to them that the evil Haman was feeding him lies. Today, our Haman is COVID-19 and we must continue to fight until we win this battle. Let's all do our part and beat Haman once again with hand-washing, masks, and social distancing. Chag sameach!











Purim 2021 at TBY























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TBY Events Spring 2021



Sisterhood Movie Review, with Dara Spey





Israeli authors Book Club provides a contemporary perspective on life in Israel





Trivia Night



Kayaking at Birch State
Park just for fun

TBY Sisterhood: Committed to community

It is our hope that all our Sisterhood members, as well as our members of Congregation Temple Bat Yam, have received or will soon receive their inoculations to combat COVID-19. Since March of 2020, when our Temple stopped on -site activities right after Purim, the Sisterhood Board has worked hard to keep our Sisters engaged while adhering to safety requirements; the most difficult, having to socially distance from our Temple family, not to mention the inability to visit loved ones and friends who live far away or right next door!

Sisterhood has remained connected through ZOOM weekly coffee hours, lectures, museum tours, movies and book reviews. Three of our Sisterhood members made hundreds of face masks which were distributed among those of our Temple who wished them.Non-perishable food continues to be dropped off at our sanctuary doors, where the Sisterhood delivers it to Soref JCC's WECARE Food program.

Social Distancing and the lack of onsite activities has in no way diminished the dedication and commitment our sisters have toward each other, our Temple family or community. Sisterhood membership has grown slightly during the past year, along with our budget, thanks to membership dues and generous donations. These funds have allowed us to continue supporting Temple programs, and to provide the funding for a classroom at the Baer Family Early Childhood Learning Center.

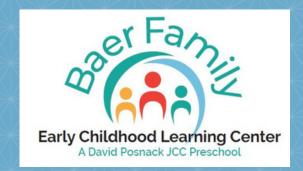


The two -year term for Sisterhood Board positions ends in May and the Installation Ceremony for Board Members is scheduled for Sunday, May 30th. We need fresh ideas from new voices to move our Sisterhood through the 21st century. Chair positions are available for Historian, Ritual, Publicity, Parliamentarian, and Bar/Bat Mitzvah Representative and others. There are also opportunities to co-chair some current Board positions. All Sisterhood members are encouraged to consider serving as a Board Member. A recent study of American Jewish Synagogues showed that those Synagogues without active Sisterhoods became unsuccessful and eventually closed their doors.

Please consider filling one of these vital roles on our Sisterhood Board. If you are interested, please contact Joan Sternberg or Lois Pittler as soon as possible. We will be happy to explain the position you desire and the responsibilities it would entail, and you will be welcomed warmly. Todah Rabah!







Early lessons at Baer Family Early Childhood Learning Center

by Beth Hickman, Director, Baer Family Early Childhood Learning Center

Purim is a holiday filled with fun and excitement, food, crafts, and lots of noise. We have celebrated our first Purim at Baer, loud and proud!

We are delighted that Rabbi Spey visited us to tell the story of Purim and teach new songs and that Cantor Wendy also joined us with her guitar for an unforgettable, first ever, Baer Purim. We dressed up for a Purim parade, and of course, we made groggers and masks, and had a delicious Hamantaschen snack.



The Baer Family Early Childhood Learning Center is most proud to be a part of the Temple Bat Yam's EMPTY BOWLS and MITZVAH DAY events. We hope that this event brings us closer to TBY events. Many of our families participated, and we had our own food drive during the week to teach the children the importance of giving, and also teach them to understand about being thankful and grateful. Coming to school on Wednesdays, traveling east on Commercial Blvd., my great grandson and I, at 7AM, pass a very long food line. I can't think of a better teachable moment. When he asked me why there was so much traffic so early in the morning, he absolutely did not expect my answer. Now, every Wednesday when we pass that street, we have an extremely heartfelt conversation about people having less than we do, and what we can do to help. I want all of the children at Baer to appreciate what they have, and be ready to always give a helping hand.

Thank you for following us on our Baer Facebook page. Camp and school information for the next school year will be out shortly. Please spread the word.



Empty Bowls & Drive up Mitzvah Day



Lots of food, \$1000 in cash donations and short friendly visits. Food goes to WeCare at Soref JCC. Thanks to all. We continue to collect at TBY.









We can donate
locally and donate
globally.
Please be generous
with food and funds.
Thanks to Lyn
Saberg and her
crew for their work.

Upcoming Events March 2021









Join your TBY Family for a trip to Jewish **Argentina**

A special 5th program, Wednesday, March 31, has been added for TBY members. **Buenos Aires native and TBY member Faye** Rojchin will lead us in discussion while we enjoy a virtual luncheon together.

This IJKL program is included in To take advantage of all IJKL programming sign up for your annual IJKL class pass and register for the Argentina trip at www.lJKL.org/templebatyam



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Please select Temple Bat Yam of East Fort Lauderdale on your Amazon.com account



Institute of Jewish Knowledge and Learning

כי לא על הלחם לבדו יחיה האדם Sustenance for the Soul

Remember to check out the great class offerings from the Institute for Jewish Knowledge and Learning, www.ijkl.org/templebatyam

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We want to hear about your life. Please share both your mazel and your sadness with info@templebatyam.org so that we can share with TBY community