



HAKOL

Volume 36 No.4

May 2021

Sivan, 5781



Temple Bat Yam
of East Fort Lauderdale

***Hakol brings together the messages of the season and the joy of community.
We are excited to begin worshipping and learning and playing together face to face,
while remaining respectful of the health of all of our community.***



A message from Rabbi Spey

As Shavuot passes and summer is upon us, we contemplate the transition of seasons. This is also the season of “Commencements,” the culmination or graduation exercises of so many students in our community. The apparent contradictions in the use of this term seems to be echoed in our Jewish tradition.

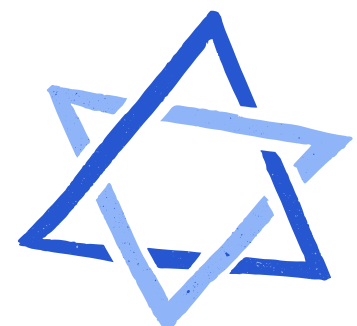
As the year winds down, we celebrate Shavuot. This holiday is known by several names in Hebrew among which are Chag haBikkurim, the Festival of the First Fruit, a significant recognition of the harvest, the culmination of the growing process, and Chag Z'man Matan Torah, the Festival of the Time of Receiving of Torah, a holiday celebrating the beginning of our people's relationship with God as understood through the information and guidance of the Torah. One holiday the celebrates an end and a beginning simultaneously. Ends and beginnings go hand in hand. And these transition moments are major causes of anxiety.

As we are emerging from the physically distancing experience inspired by the COVID pandemic, as we end our isolation, we begin, what many are calling, a new normal. Ending COVID restrictions means beginning a new way to live, and this transition is stressful. This stress can be overwhelming, and so we need to help and support each other through this time. Simply reaching out, making a phone call, checking in with a text or email, stopping by for a 5 minute visit, can go a long way to helping each other withstand the negative effects of this stress. These wellness visits are a fulfillment of the mitzvah of Bikkur Cholim, caring for the ill.

Though our physical distancing practices may be relaxing, we still need to care for each other. TBY will be investing our communal energy in caring for each other by gathering a group of compassionate individuals, who are willing to donate a few minutes of their time each week to reach out to others to provide curative personal contact. To maximize the impact of our efforts, we will organize ourselves as a Bikkur Cholim Task Force, tracking and sharing information with each other about the welfare of others as appropriate.



Let's continue to help each other and join our effort. If interested, please call Pam in the office and to join the effort. Have a great summer.



Thoughts from Arnie Pittler, president of Board of Trustees

As my last column in the Hakol as President of the Board of Trustees I have been asked to share what I have learned over the last two years. Though I have learned a lot, I want to focus on just four things:

·For TBY to survive and thrive, TBY's operational culture, just like most synagogues in the 21st century, must be disrupted and transformed. For at least 30 of our 35 years we have relied on a single person to operate the Temple, first Arthur and then Ellen. For TBY to grow membership, expand programming and maintain our building, the work can't be done by ONE person. It indeed takes a 'village' and that 'village' must go beyond our board, sisterhood and brotherhood. TBYs members are creative. During the last two years many have reached out to me and asked "why don't we" Few have offered to help implement the ideas. We desperately need to grow the size of our 'village'.

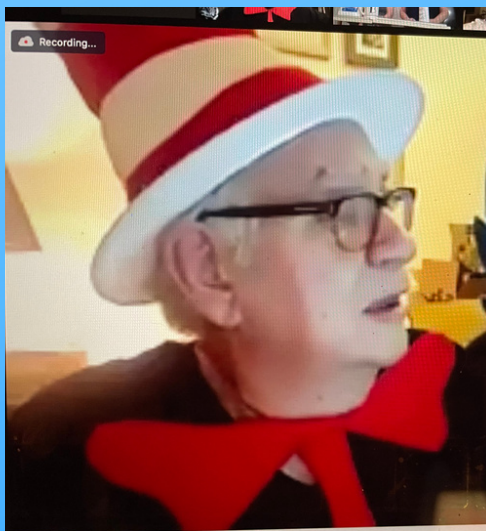
·I have learned that there are many, many, many views and opinions as to the role of the Rabbi and Cantor at TBY. Our clergy at its essence are the spiritual leaders of TBY. Our Rabbi is the Chief Religious Officer of TBY. I have learned, also, that a significant number of members today believe the clergy are responsible for leading fundraising, leading the creation of programming, and recruiting new members and more. Though it is critical for the clergy to participate, those tasks need to be led and driven actively by members of our congregation.

·I have learned that we at TBY can do almost anything if we put our collective time, effort and resources into it. But at TBY we need to shift from programming to engagement. Engaging families with young children, engaging youth, engaging teens, engaging young adults, engaging boomers, and engaging seniors involves much more than creating TBY programs.

·At TBY we also need to shift from fundraising to a "Culture of Philanthropy." Many members have been extraordinarily generous; I want to again extend my thanks to all of you. Overall though we have not created a "Culture of Philanthropy." Fundraising is not philanthropy. Fundraising is transactional and focuses on asking for money because TBY needs it. Philanthropy is relational and aims to provide everyone with a way of expressing their personal values through charitable giving. At its core, a "culture of philanthropy" is about the people who are giving, not about TBY using the funds. Core to having a "Culture of Philanthropy" we need a framework that proactively thinks through how and when to thank congregants for gifts

Over the last two years I have often thought about the phrase "What Will They Say About You When You Are Gone?". Rather being thought of as the "COVID President" or the "President who helped build our Jewish Preschool", I hope that I am remembered as - The President, who continued the long legacy of all the TBY Presidents, to position TBY to thrive in the ever changing Jewish Community on the eastside of Fort Lauderdale.

Thanks to Arnie Pittler for the many hats and masks you have worn during your fantastic 2 years as TBY president



Please consider
a donation to
TBY in honor of
Arnie Pittler

Looking ahead at TBY Religious School

by Gloria Becker, Synagogue Educator

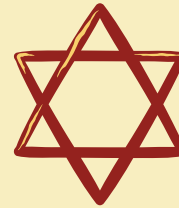
There are some BIG, NEW ideas ahead for students at Gan Noar Religious school at Temple Bat Yam.

On Sundays, school will meet from 9:30 to 12:00 noon in the building for most grade levels.

- We will be adding a new program called Hebrew Through Movement that will teach through listening and doing. Students in first through sixth grades will participate.
- There will be a new curriculum centered around 4 key content areas: Holidays, Customs, Bible & History, and Prayer & Hebrew. The curriculum will have different points of emphasis each year.
- We will be trying a new “Kindergarten at Home” program where the families of our kindergarten students will take turns hosting the other families. They will be provided everything they will need to be successful. They will meet two Sundays each month for 90 minutes. There will also be special times when they will come to the synagogue.
- We will be forming a new program for our older students (7th grade +) which will concentrate on social justice and service learning. These students, together with an adult leader, will learn problems that our community and world face and how they think they could make a difference.



school



On Tuesdays, instead of coming to the synagogue, each third through sixth grade student will receive an individual, personalized 20–30-minute one-on-one tutoring session online with a Hebrew teacher. Teachers will move at your child’s pace, providing enrichment or reinforcement as needed.

Next year, we are planning on all kinds of hands-on learning opportunities that stretch your students’ imaginations and open new ways of thinking about Judaism. We are also hoping to form a Parents' Advisory Council. Look for enrollment information soon. Everyone is welcome! For more information, contact Gloria at educator@tempbebatyam.org

Welcome to Cantorial Student Stefanie Greene, TBY soloist for 2021-2022



Stefanie Greene is a fifth year Cantorial Student at Hebrew Union College- Jewish Institute of Religion. She received her BA in Music from the University of Rochester, and recently received her MM in Sacred Music from HUC-JIR.

As a soprano, she performed across the U.S. and in Europe, both operatic roles and in art song recitals.

Raised in the Chicago area, she considers North Shore Congregation Israel (Glencoe, IL) her home synagogue. She worked with Beth Emet The Free Synagogue (Evanston, IL) as a Songleader prior to entering cantorial school. During her Year in Israel, she was the Assistant Conductor of the Jerusalem Youth Choir, a dialogue choir of Jewish and Arab Israeli teens. Stefanie continues to be involved with Jewish Choral music through the North American Jewish Choral Festival and the HaZamir Foundation.

Three R's: rights, respect and responsibility: Social action at TBY

by Evan Goldman

Fueled by our amazing social action chair, Lyn Saberg, Temple Bat Yam is a congregation that believes in the “Three R's: rights, respect and responsibility.”

On April 8, Rabbi Spey joined religious leaders from around the state, as part of a Faith in Florida virtual press conference condemning HB 1, which will chill speech, silence dissent, and criminalize peaceful protesters advocating for racial justice.

Temple members later met with Rep. Chip LaMarca (R-Lighthouse Point) to express our serious reservations about the legislation, later signed by Gov. Ron DeSantis. Rep. LaMarca heard our concerns and expressed a willingness to partner with the Temple on other issues.

Recognizing that “tikkun olam” exists beyond our borders, both Sisterhood and Brotherhood stepped up to provide financial support for Struggle to Save Ethiopian Jewry, the main source of humanitarian assistance for the Jewish community in Ethiopia. SSEJ programs include feeding centers, medical care, Jewish and secular education, as well as religious and other communal activities. To learn more about SSEJ, visit www.ssej.oeg.

Ethiopian Jews are our sisters and brothers, both here in the United States and in Israel. One of the most prominent members of the Ethiopian-Jewish diaspora is Israel Deputy Consul General Kasa Bainesay-Harbor. Last month, I had the pleasure of interviewing Kasa for Men of Reform Judaism - S. Florida and she shared her story which is worthy of international applause. Also cause for celebration, many TBY members participated in the program.



**Kasa Bainesay-Harbor,
Israel Deputy Consul**

Jewish values in everyday life

How do Jewish ethics shape the experience of being a foster parent? New TBY president Melissa Comras found this New York Times article resonant with her own experiences. Please take the time to read this article and reflect how we see the world as Jews.



" 'Cute baby,' strangers said when they saw her.

"Your first?" they asked. And when we told them she was our foster daughter, that we might have to return her to her biological mother, I watched them step back.

"I couldn't do that," they said. "I'll pray for you," they said.

I didn't know if I could do it, either. But I also knew it's what we do every time we choose to love another mortal being.

Someday, we will have to give them back too.

On the first of many court dates, we met her biological mother. In the courtroom hallway, I raised the blanket covering the stroller so she could see her daughter, the baby she'd birthed just two weeks before.

"Could I please hold her?" she asked.

She was tender, cradled the baby's tiny body, cooed. She cried, held the baby close to her chest. "I love you too much," she whispered, again and again."

April 30

FAMILY

'How's Our Girl?': On Loving a Foster Child and Letting Go

Every time we choose to love other mortal beings, someday, we will have to give them back.

By Sarah Sentilles



Join us for Yoga at TBY



Beginning Wednesday, June 16th, 2021 Temple Bat Yam will now offer one-hour yoga classes every Wednesday at 9:15 AM.

The vinyasa style yoga session will be facilitated by one of our very own board members, Sheba Munn Thompson. Classes will be held outdoors on the front patio under the canopy to encourage safe social distancing practices.

Sheba first tried yoga as a result of several injuries more than 15 years ago. Years of endurance training led to a few physical limitations but forced her to challenge her body in new ways.

Inevitably, Sheba traded her running shoes in for a yoga mat and earned a 200-hour Registered Yoga Teacher certification in 2019. Sheba is passionate about raising awareness of the mind, body and spiritual benefits of yoga, proving the practice goes beyond a “fancy” pose.



Yoga classes are \$20 and class size is limited requiring participants to pre-register and pay in advance on TBY's website. Please be sure to bring your own mat, a towel, water and any other yoga props necessary.

Watch for sign up information in daily email

The Garden Gang and the TBY grounds

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.

The TBY Garden Gang meets every third Saturday at 10 am. We pull weeds, trim growth and keep the grounds looking beautiful. The experienced gardeners know which trees to prune, and the novices busily pull weeds.



Since the last issue of Hakol, Judy Czerenda, chair of the Garden Gang, has moved north with her family. We will sincerely miss Judy's knowledge and leadership. Lois Pittler is taking over coordination of the garden activities.



The garden will remain pesticide free and will encourage it as an oasis for butterflies and bees in this urban environment.

There are so many great ideas for the garden: the Littman Memorial garden has a new site, raised vegetable beds are being planned, we dream of benches in the garden and on the patio, and we hope to be able to start a grove of fruit trees.

Of course all of this needs funds. It will be a great place to enjoy a peaceful morning and to gather with our community for events and services. We are already reaping the rewards of our renewed landscaping with services on the patio.

We are looking for individuals who would like to sponsor a tree or a bench, or contribute to the vegetable garden. Bagels with Rabbi Spey Raffle is the first fundraising event. And please join us on May 16 at 10 am in the garden.



Making a difference for TBY

by Marion Fass, editor HAKOL

Several months ago, MacKensie Scott, ex wife of Jeff Bezos, announced that she had given away more than \$4 billion in transformational gifts to non-profit organizations and educational institutions. She and her colleagues took a data-driven approach to identifying strong organizations that addressed clear needs in their communities. This is “tikkun olam” - putting the world together again. Even without her funds, our gifts can make a difference in our community.



My husband and I lived in a small city in Wisconsin before coming to South Florida, and setting goals for giving was straightforward. Globally, we gave to organizations that promoted health and social justice. Locally, we hoped to use the money that we could budget to make our small community a better place to live, to play and to raise children. Our small Jewish congregation was generously endowed by legacy gifts. But our town needed support in many ways- for cultural events, for the local college, and for programs that enhanced the lives of youth. Giving always appreciated. We felt that our contributions made a difference for our quality of life and the quality of life in our community.

What goals do we have for giving here in South Florida? The challenges are many- Cultural institutions, education, and programs to combat hunger and homelessness. Many of us spent our giving dollars on last year's politics.

I often talked with friends who worked in College Development about their work. They wanted to make alumni and friends feel a part of the college community, to benefit from events, and to recognize the importance of their support for students and collaborative research. I once asked the Major Gifts Officer how she felt about asking people for money- she replied that she loved making people feel that they were doing good for an institution that they cared about, and helping it to thrive.



At Temple Bat Yam we have an institution that has the potential to improve the lives of the community yet it struggles for funds. The Baer Family gift for the Early Learning Center was transformational, but also was designed to prompt others to give generously to support Jewish education and the Jewish community. We can ask ourselves how our giving dollars contribute to our quality of life, directly and indirectly. Small gifts keep some of our activities going, and larger gifts can give new life to TBY. Please think about how you can make a difference for Temple Bat Yam.

marionfieldfass@gmail.com

Safe Shabbats at TBY

We return to Shabbat services in the sanctuary this week, but will continue to observe mask recommendations and respectful distancing. Seating will also be available on the patio, and all services will be Livestream.





Membership Moments



Last year we were stuck at home and learned that we were flexible and resilient. This year we need to make up for lost time and dedicate ourselves to getting acquainted, to sharing our traditions and enjoying each other. So on that note we are planning some wonderful events for this year. Ed Boreth and his Fundraising Team have scheduled Yoga classes with Sheba Thompson to begin in June. Anyone who knows Sheba knows it will be an amazing class. In addition, they are thinking of ways to utilize Food Trucks at the Temple. Wouldn't it be wonderful to come early to services one Friday night and have a quick dinner provided with no preparation or cleanup necessary? The decided advantage is that you will get to services on time.

We also have ideas to utilize our beautiful patio. How about a wine tasting before services, bagels and brunch, movies under the stars. We could also have jewelry making taught by Ellen Fischer or suduko classes taught by a suduko wiz, Michael Haimo. We could learn card games or just about anything. Please let us know your thoughts. Let's begin by getting these events on the calendar.

Kathalyn Haimo and David Yalen
Membership Committee
Kathalynhaimo@gmail.com,
dyalenassc1@aol.com



Welcome new members
Victor & Sara Comras
Michael Tublin
Lipita Gonzalez & Marc Schweitzer

M E M B E R S H I P

TBY Sisterhood: Committed to community



TBY Sisterhood Members

You are cordially invited to attend the
2021 Sisterhood Board Member
Installation Ceremony

**SUNDAY, MAY 23, AT 11 A.M.
IN THE TBY SANCTUARY**

Light Refreshments
2 free raffle giveaways

Come and share the comradery and support
for your upcoming Board members.
Mask-wearing and social distancing
will be observed.

PLEASE RSVP
Lois @ 561-307-2128
or Joan @ 954-821-2522





TEMPLE BAT YAM ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

**THURSDAY
MAY 27, 2021 @ 7:30 PM**

Approval of 2021-2022 Budget
Approval and Installation of
Board of Trustees
Committee Reports

In person and Zoom



WEEKLY VINYASA YOGA CLASS

Led by Sheba Munn Thompson

Sessions begin June 16, 2021
Wednesdays, 9 - 10 am / TBY Patio
Arrive 15 minutes prior to class

Pre-register online:

TBY Members \$12

Non-members \$15

Drop-in:

TBY Members \$16

Non-members \$20

Deadline for pre-registration ends 9 pm on Tuesdays.
Electronic payments are accepted through TBY website.
Cash only payments accepted in person.

Bring your own mat, water and towel

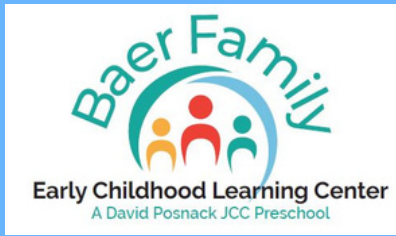


Register @ www.templebatyam.org
For more info: 954-928-0410

Thank you

Thank you to
Harris Solomon &
Kathy Barry for sponsoring
Jenna McMillan Shabbat
Services





Every day is fun at Baer Family Early Childhood Learning Center

by Beth Hickman, Director

Every day is an exciting, fun, and educational adventure at Baer. The children are so busy creating, exploring, touching, and just observing all the new toys and equipment, and certainly the beautiful grounds of the synagogue. We continue to take the babies on stroller walks and they are just mesmerized by the ducks, dogs, birds, flowers, trees, and sounds they hear.

We are growing at a steady rate, and gearing up for our dynamic camp program. It will be a summer filled with countless thrills and a lifetime of magical memories. Sports, Karate, cooking, art, Bingo, dancing, Yoga, water works, and special guests will fill up our days. I believe that summer camp is a time to build up a child's self-esteem, and for our campers to be able to let loose and just have a great time.

I'm sure you have seen the wonderful pictures of our students enjoying Shabbat with Rabbi Spey. Whether it's Shabbat on the patio, in the playground, in the synagogue or in the classroom, we truly enjoy singing and dancing with the Rabbi. The children ask me every day if it's Friday.

Thank you to everyone for all your support. As soon as we get further into more members being vaccinated, you have my word that I will call you to volunteer in our school. I did not forget about any of you, and I am counting on you to help us be the very best school ever!

Please note that as we grow, we are looking to hire a few amazing teachers. Please spread the word. Please LIKE our Facebook page, and our Instagram page, and then SHARE it.



BAER FAMILY CAMP KADIMA

A David Posnack JCC summer camp



Award-winning Summer Camp comes to Fort Lauderdale

For 39 years, the David Posnack JCC has provided an award-winning summer camp, Camp Kadima, for the children in the Davie area. This summer, the JCC brings its camp expertise to the families at the Baer Family School (at Temple Bat Yam). Your camper(s) will come for a fun-filled day of sports and yoga, arts and crafts, music and dance, science and cooking and come home, happy but tired. Camp Kadima helps every camper to build self-confidence, improve social skills and create life-long memories in a safe environment.



**For more information go to
<https://www.dpjcc.org/baersummerncamp>**

Shavuot

**Shavuot Service
followed by Tikum Leil Shavuot
Sunday, May 16 @ 7 pm
in-person & Zoom**

**Shavuot Service & Yiskor
Monday, May 17 @ 10 am
in-person & Zoom**

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE BAGELS?

A group of TBY members tried a “blind” bagel tasting with plain, everything and pumpernickel bagels from Chesapeake, Brooklyn and Einsteins-
The results- Chesapeake had the best everything, sprinkled everywhere.

Einsteins had the tastiest pumpernickel.

The plain bagels were pretty much the same, though
Chesapeake had the biggest bagels.

Try it- see if your bagels hold up to the challengers.



Are you following Temple Bat Yam on Facebook & Instagram



See what you have missed !

How Jewish is your tummy?

How many of these foods have you eaten?

Blintzes	Red horseradish
Kneidlach	Cholent
Pastrami	Kugel
Shav	Rugelach
Charlotte russe	Halvah
Chopped liver	Tsimmes
Gribenes	Stuffed kishke
Schmaltz	Hummus
Matzoh brie	Falafel
Gefilte fish	Pumpernickle
Mandel brot	Bagel
Dates	Lox
Matzoh	Smoked whitefish
Matzoh balls	Crisco
Hebrew National franks	Herring
	Challah
	Hamantaschen



www.templebatyam.org

NATIONAL TEACHER'S DAY

TUESDAY, MAY 4 2021



www.templebatyam.org



Happy National Nurse Day!

@templebatyam



Mazel Tov!

**Mazel Tov to Melanie Jolles & Gary Embrey
on the engagement of their daughter,
Rikki to Josh Sheldon.**

**Mazel Tov to the Jolles Family on
the birth of a granddaughter.**



**Mazel Tov to
A.J. Kozak
on his Bat Mitzvah
on Saturday, May 15, 2021**





SECURITY ALERT

**SEVERAL ANTI-SEMITIC
EVENTS AND DISTRIBUTION
OF LEAFLETS HAVE BEEN
REPORTED IN
FORT LAUDERDALE AND
GREATER BROWARD.**

**THE POLICE AND ANTI-
DEFAMATION LEAGUE (ADL)
RECOMMEND THAT THE BEST
APPROACH IS NOT TO
APPROACH**

**DO NOT ENGAGE WITH THESE
PEOPLE**



Have you been using Amazon Smile?



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