

#### HAKOL

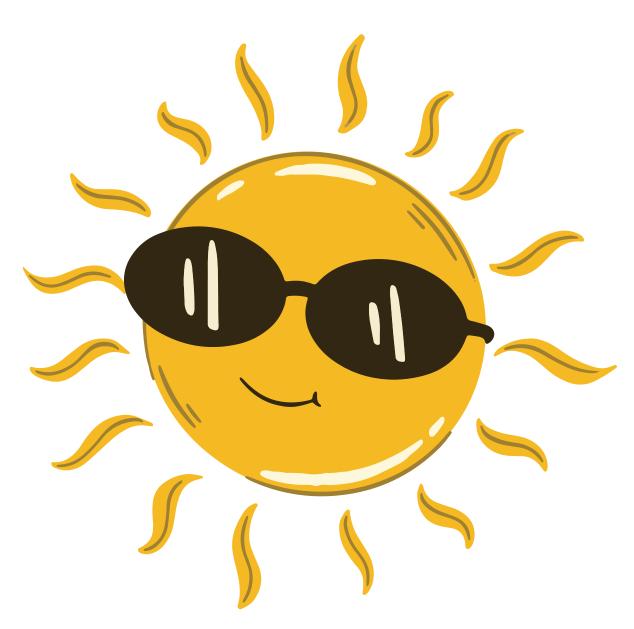
Volume 37 No.4

June 2022 Sivan 5782



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

We are excited to begin worshipping, learning, and playing together face to face, while remaining respectful of the health of all of our community.



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## MESSAGE FROM RABBI DAVID SPEY Summer Lessons from a wise donkey

Our children love their summer break. No school, few responsibilities, they just have the "lazy days of summer." Even our readings in the Torah can be read to reflect this period of relaxation. Usually somewhere around July, we even read the "Mr. Ed" Torah portion, Balak (read on July 16, 2022). In this portion, a hired gun, actually a professional curser named Balaam is hired by the king of Moab, Balak, to curse the Israelites who are crossing his territory so that he can defeat them in battle and vanquish them from his land.



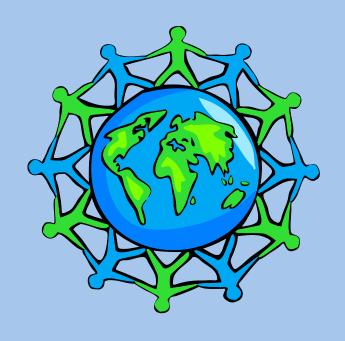


As Balaam rides his donkey to the battle front, God sends an angel to protect the Israelites by killing Balaam. Three times the donkey sees the otherwise invisible angel of death and saves Balaam's life, and three times Balaam beats the donkey for straying from the path and causing Balaam to fall off. During the third beating, the donkey speaks to Balaam in protest, as a result, the angel becomes visible to Balaam, who recognizes the righteousness of the donkey. (Who is the real ass?) When Balaam arrives at the cliff overlooking the Israelite encampment, God restricts him to utter only the words that God puts in his mouth. When Balaam tries to curse the Israelites, the words that come forth are the famous phrase, sung traditionally every morning at services, "Mah tovu ohalecha Yaacov, mishkenotecha Yisrael?" How lovely are your tents, Jacob, your dwelling places, Israel.

#### **MESSAGE FROM RABBI DAVID SPEY**

The rabbis often wonder about the redundancy of this statement. From their perspective, there is never a word or letter that does not bring us new meaning, so a seemingly redundant passage must actually teach us two or more lessons. One answer that they propose is that the apparent redundancy of tents and dwelling places teach us an essential value of our tradition, Judaism doesn't live only in the synagogue, our dwelling place, nor only in our homes, our tents, but in all the places in between. The rabbis understand that Judaism is to be lived, practiced, exercised at every moment, every place of our lives. Reading this passage and being reminded of this lesson in the depth of summer, then makes great sense. At a time when we think we are free of responsibilities, that is the time we need this reminder the most.

This summer, when humanity locally and around the world are experiencing such turmoil and tzuris (pain and trouble), we need to remember that we as Jews have a responsibility to help to try to mitigate the problems, to heal the wounds, to create peace and make the world better. Whether with are in our homes, in our communal spaces, or traveling to the far flung corners of the world, we have a Jewish responsibility to make the world better. Have fantastic summers and vacations, and be fulfilled as you make them meaningful as well.





#### Message from Melissa Comras, TBY Board President



From NFTY Resources for URJ synagogue youth:

"From our immediate and distant predecessors we look to maintain traditions and ideas we know were positive influences while we learn from the challenges of generations past, and make good decisions based on the learning curve of others." We all come into our positions with ideas and platforms and goals which are fundamental to our work and our vision. There will be work that we do that is memorable, some not so glamorous -

but necessary, and of course, some things we'd prefer to forget. Regardless of how many great things we accomplish, the most important legacy we will leave behind is a vibrant future for the next generation. It is incumbent upon us to seek out and raise our successors, both immediate and more distant. We hold the future of Temple Bat Yam in our hands and it is an awesome responsibility.

Balance is best achieved when we find a sense of steadiness somewhere between our past and our future. Jewish tradition supports this theory in biblical, philosophical and modern texts. It is incumbent upon each of us to find this balance and have a real sense of kavod – of honor and respect – for those who came before us, and ensure that our work is integral in perpetuating generations to come."

The Religious Action Center of the URJ, tells us that Reform Jews strive to put our values into action by celebrating the holiness of every individual and the essential diversity of the Jewish people. In pursuit of such action, we must continue to strengthen our engagement strategies to ensure that all people see their identities reflected in our congregation and community.

In planning for the future of TBY, it is important to consider the diverse needs and interests of our entire community; to ensure that we are growing and considering the needs of all members and not our own intrinsic likes or dislikes, or inherent bias. The board's focus has been to foster congregational engagement, and community outreach in an effort to increase the temple membership, and taking steps to build the financial strength of Temple Bat Yam.



In the year ahead, we can focus on creating more opportunities for connections between congregants; to work together in meaningful ways while finding strategies to provide the resources to maintain our synagogue. Our emphasis on the future is a result of the challenges our congregation is facing. We strive to use the Temple Bat Yam resources in the most careful and fiscally responsibly manner while realizing that our fiscal and budgetary needs may necessitate changes.

There are so many good things already taking place at TBY – a growing sense of community, a preschool filled to capacity and growing, a religious school filled with young students, and an influx of new members.

Another important step to strengthen the financial security of TBY is to increase participation in TBY services, programs and education, as well as to increase participation in events in the surrounding community. In December, TBY hosted our first booth at the Las Olas holiday street fair. It was an incredible opportunity to meet new people and to bring Temple Bat Yam into the greater community. TBY's Pride Shabbat promises to be a community worship service to kick-off Stonewall Pride, taking place on Saturday, June 18, in Wilton Manors. TBY will have a booth and a presence at Stonewall Pride in Wilton Manors on June 18 from 3 pm – 11 pm on Wilton Drive, providing information about our preschool, religious school, and synagogue offerings.

We have worked to create basic criteria for TBY involvement with the local community and greater Jewish community. With this structure, we are able to establish the process and guidelines that must be followed before taking action on behalf of, or for the benefit of, Temple Bat Yam and its congregation or members.

We hope to make community participation and engagement an ongoing opportunity to build awareness and support for TBY, ensuring that our time and resources are well spent in our efforts to increase our TBY membership and revenue. Perhaps the most critical part of the board's work over the past year, and for the coming year, is our efforts to ensure the financial security and stability of TBY.

Overall, Temple Bat Yam has a prime opportunity to increase our community impact and involvement, membership and participation. Through our efforts to create meaningful Jewish experiences, providing programming and events to inspire the younger generations, and creating a space for growth and transformation, Temple Bat Yam can reach its full potential.







#### Family Fun at TBY

By Ashley Solomon, Religious School representative, Board of Trustees

Hello fellow TBY families! We had a very successful year within the TBY Religious School. Even with the evolving COVID-19 mitigation strategies and precautions, we managed to hold in person classes as well as virtual Hebrew tutoring. We hosted several well-attended events for Halloween, Hanukkah and Purim. It has been really fun to develop the ritual practice around each of these holidays at TBY for our younger families as well as our long time members. We had great volunteer participation to make all this possible and the religious school committee is SO GRATEFUL.



Face painting from
Purim
Carnival

We look forward to celebrating these events annually and can't wait to share the experience with all of our families, however they present. These events are open to all ages - kids, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends! We even had dogs at our Blessing of the Pets!

In the coming year, we will host monthly Family Shabbat Service on Saturday mornings. This will take place at the same time as our typical Saturday morning service but is not exclusive to our religious school families. We are inviting EVERYONE to participate in these services and to show our children what adult Jewish faith practice looks like for each family. We are also offering a Kiddush lunch afterwards, with sponsorship opportunities available for interested parties. Please contact Ashley Solomon or the TBY office for further information.

#### Family Fun at TBY-Grab a partner and make it happen!

We had so much fun at Family Events, and we need more people to make these happen.



Volunteer your skills-Can you bake? Do you plan great events? Do you do art projects?

Do you have a holiday tradition that you want to share?
Are you a story teller or musician?
Do you love taking photos of smiling children?

Can you dance with the littles?

What is your secret skill?



Temple Bat Yam needs volunteers- parents and others, young and old, to make our events fun for everyone. Grab a partner and work together. Please let Ashley Solomon know what you do and what holidays, or Shabbat, you want to participate in. We would love to know how to involve you.

ashleyrsolomon@gmail.com or call Temple Office





#### **TBY Social Action**



The needs of our community do not disappear with Summer Vacation.



Through Torah, Tefillah, Tzedakah and Tikkun Olam Temple Bat Yam members and friends have worked together to strengthen our Congregation, our community, the Jewish people, the State of Israel and the needs of the many groups and agencies serving those less fortunate. We have tried to make a difference in areas that affect us all.

in summer, we still need to remember our responsibilities to the community around us, through social action and community support. Programs that provide meals to school children in Broward especially need our support.

Our Social Action Committee was actively involved in the "Freedom to Vote" telephone campaigns through the Religious Action Center as well as local efforts to address the restrictive, discriminating and outrageous legislation concerning gender identity discussion in our schools. We are all affected by Florida's new policies, and have a responsibility to learn about them and to make our voices heard. The Religious Action Center has many upcoming webinars to inform our action

https://rac.org/issues/racial-justice/racial-justice-campaign/freedom-vote

We are also supporting the Refugee Assistance Alliance program by contributing to the Afghan Support Team at Temple Bat Yam. Your donations are welcomed. Contact Barry Solomon for more information.

Our intergenerational Mitzvah Day was held on February 27th and was a huge success. We prepared and delivered sandwiches and new socks to the United Church of Christ program to clothe the homeless. Toiletries, Diapers and baby items were delivered to Women in Distress. Books were collected for two local Elementary schools. Letters were composed and delivered to Operation Gratitude, thanking past and present servicemen and women for keeping us safe.

BUT ALL OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS NEED SUPPORT YEAR ROUND.

On Mitzvah Day, non-perishable food was delivered to the WECARD Pood Pantry to feed Broward's Hungry. A very generous \$780 was collected and sent to the CUPBOARD, the Kosher Food Pantry, and an additional \$200 was sent to LIFENET4FAMILIES. These needs continue year round and we hope that members will remember to donate food when they come to the Temple. We participated in the ONEBLOOD Blood Bank at Mitzvah Day, and they also continue to need donations.

Volunteering opportunities were also explored for our members, and we actively participated in the Jewish Disability Advocacy Day,

The Caring Community was again unable to make actual visits to Hospitals and Nursing Homes during the continuing COVID restrictions, however, our *Bikkur Cholim* Committee has maintained contact with our congregants or their families, that have been ill or hospitalized as it is important to let them know that we are there for them and we care!!

Be well and be safe and remember COVID is still around!! Have a happy and

healthy summer!! Shalom, Lyn Saberg



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#### TBY Religious School: Help plan for next year

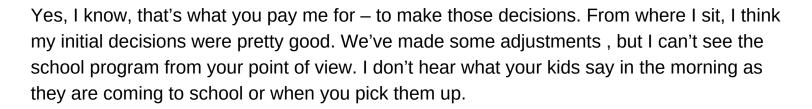


By Dr. Gloria Becker



When it comes to your child's Jewish education, what do you really care about? Before they lock me in the closet for the summer, I want to know what you think your child's Jewish education should be about -- I do almost all the planning for next year during June and July. I evaluate what was good and what didn't work so well. I look at almost every aspect of our program that I have control over.

- ·What did the kids learn? How did the kids learn?
- ·Can we improve how and what the kids learn?
- ·Can we make it more interesting?
- ·Is there something we should be teaching that we aren't teaching?
- ·Are we teaching something that no one thinks is important?
- ·Should parents be more involved in our program or less?
- ·Are we using the right books and materials?
- ·Do we have the right teachers and tutors?
- ·Are the kids with learning challenges getting what they need?
- ·Is our online Hebrew program working?
- ·Is it just convenient, or should we go back to in-person classes during the week?
- •Do more kids need in-person lessons even if it means parents have to bring them to the temple?



So I will ask once more when it comes to your child's Jewish education, what matters to you? What can we do better? What can we help you and your kids do better, educationally speaking? You can email me, visit me, call me, have lunch with me, whatever works. I want to hear from you.



#### **TBY Religious School Continued**















#### INFRASTRUCTURE isn't sexy

By Arnie Pittler

Just like infrastructure throughout the country, that has been neglected, so does the infrastructure at TBY suffer from lack of replacement/repair over the last decade.

Next year's budget for Temple Bat Yam includes a maintenance assessment for all members including associate, life, and honorary members. Let me explain why this is so important at this time.

Rabbi Spey and other volunteers have saved TBY tens of thousands of dollars with donations of time and equipment. Over the next 5-7 years TBY will need to spend \$250,000 to maintain our infrastructure. We have published "wish lists" of needs; here are some examples of our needs:



Our **PARKING LOT** is in desperate need of repair. A section of the sidewalk on the east side of our property needs to be replaced. We do not currently have funds to repair.

TBY has 15 separate **AIR CONDITIONING** units. All but 3 are 10-15 years old and are at or beyond the end of their useful life. We do not presently have funds to replace even single unit should one fail in the next few months.

•The **LIGHTING** in the sanctuary is over 15 years old. Several months ago, we came dangerously close to having one of fixtures catch fire.

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TBY's **COMPUTERS TOO OLD TO BE UPGRADED** to Windows 11. Microsoft support for security updates ends in 2 years. TBY will be at risk if we don't upgrade our computers by then.

The **ROOF** over the sanctuary and original school classrooms is over 35 years old, well beyond useful life. We will have to continue to patch both the roof and lighting until we have funds for replacement

TBY's **PHONE SYSTEM** is 15 years old. When parts fail, we look on eBay to attempt to find used parts.

Both our **COPIERS** have failed. Although we are now doing less printing, we still often have the need for copies.

Our individual requests for support have met with very limited success – our rapidly growing Religious School is still in need of a large format printer.

A capital campaign to raise funds for building infrastructure is not practical. Our ongoing capital campaign for the preschool remodel needs an additional \$500,000 to retire our loan. We have been using a building fund, charged to new members, to fund our infrastructure. With affiliation rates at an all-time low, this approach does not generate sufficient funds.

For this reason, we have implemented the maintenance assessment. Please work with us to make the improvements we need. Thanks for your support.





## Summer arrives at Baer Family Early Childhood Learning Center

By Beth Hickman

Can you wind down the school year and gear up for camp at the same time? If you are at Bear, YES YOU CAN! Our Pre-K graduation is on June 3, and it is so hard to believe that our little Baers are moving up to the next age group.

We are opening two new classes this coming fall, and couldn't be more excited about our growth.





Camp Kadima is right around the corner, and we have planned the most sensational, fun, adventurous, and busy summer. Pony rides, petting zoo, bubble truck, water play, a rock band, Color War, Super Hero characters, dancing, cooking, Yoga music, sports, and special guests, are just a few of the spectacular events we have planned. We promise to offer our campers countless thrills and a lifetime of magical memories.

To Temple Bay Yam members; if you are in the building, please stop by.

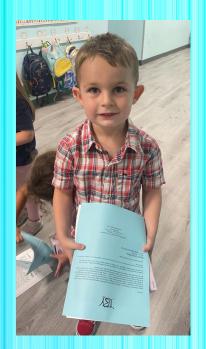
104 students enrolled

44 for camp!

For more information go to https://www.dpjcc.org/baer

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#### EVENT COORDINATORS-VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



The Programs at Temple Bat Yam are great because of the hard work of a small group of enthusiastic volunteers.

We want you to become one of this group, by hosting an event with a group of your choice or volunteering to join a group of others. We need help for holiday celebrations, for educational programming and to bring people together for service projects.

Please contact the Program Committee with your ideas:
Marion Fass, Joan Sternberg, Sam Jacobs, Robert Baker,
Ashley Solomon, Shelley Komito are all ready to talk.
email: Info@templebatyam.org

#### Sisterhood-More than Just an Organization Siste



Our Sisterhood Articles in previous Hakol publications have for the most part, been recaps of what we have accomplished and plan to do in the future. And while Sisterhood prides itself on what we have accomplished for the Temple and community, we haven't really expressed what it means to be a member of TBY Sisterhood.

Yes, each of us joined because of our desire to be part of an organization that works to support our Temple in all areas where we are needed, and have been on the front lines of every hardship our Temple has faced since TBY's inception. In comparison, we have moved well beyond just serving donuts and coffee to the troops returning from the battlefield. We have educated by providing programs that inform and inspire, helped to feed those in need, raised our collective voices in protest to injustices, and raised funds to support our temple, as well as to help provide relief to other parts of the world that has been touched by war and environmental disasters.

Collectively, we are an organization, but we are also 'Sisters'. Those of us who joined 'The Hood', find that there is always someone to talk to, to listen, to kvetch and kvell. Yes, we even argue at times and disagree at our meetings. Our gavel is used often to keep us in order and on topic. There are 17 Board Members with 24 opinions! Each of those opinions, however, are never self-promoting, but all for what each of us feels is the best way(s) to serve our Temple's congregation. Yes, like family members our feelings get hurt at times, but like family, we make up and move on.







#### Sisterhood: Please join us

During COVID, the Sisterhood maintained our close relationships through our Zoom Coffee Hour. While the Temple re-opened and we have been able to resume normal activities face to face, the Coffee Hour continues on Zoom for those who wish to connect virtually. The Zoom Coffee Hour will be the last Thursday of each month at 3:30pm. The codes are provided in TBY-at-Glance that week.

Each Monday, the Social Hall is made available from 10:30 – 3pm to Sisterhood members (and guests) who wish to play Mahjong or engage in other crafts. It is a casual atmosphere of fun, kibitzing and coffee. We bring our own lunches, and snacks to share. Come join us for lunch even if you don't stay to play games.



As you can see, Sisterhood is not just a group of ladies wanting to do good deeds, we are truly family, and like family, there is always room for one more at the table. If you aren't already a Sister, please, come join us!







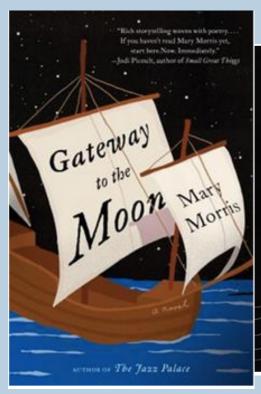
## TBY Book Club- Engaging books of Jewish Interest

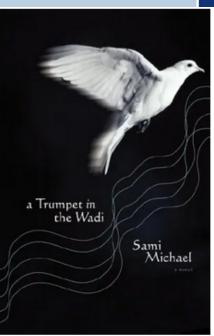
Join us on ZOOM on Monday June 20 at 6 pm; Great reads and great discussions.

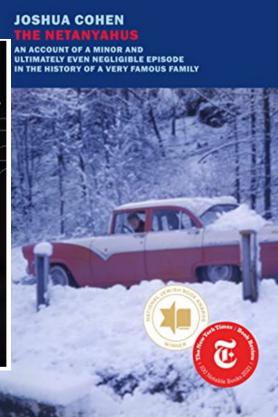
We have been reading some really interesting books this year. Our next book is **The Netanyahus: An Account of a Minor and Ultimately Even Negligible Episode in the History of a Very Famous Family** by Joshua Cohen. We will meet by Zoom on Monday June 20 at 6 pm.

We read **A Trumpet in the Wadi,** a book about the interactions and cultural and personal conflicts between the Christian Arab, Muslim and Jewish residents of Haifa in the early 1980. This book brought new perspectives to all readers.

We also read **Gateway to the Moon** by Mary Morris. This is a story about Crypto-Jews and Conversos in Mexico in the 1500s and their descendants in contemporary New Mexico. The stories of the Crypto-Jews in New Mexico were only discovered in the 1980's, but it is now recognized that many of the New Mexico Mexican families that date back to the 16th and 17th centuries had Jewish ancestors.







#### Member Spotlight: Ruth Schachter

Moving to South Florida from Philadelphia in 2018 was a change in so many ways. I left a group of artists and craftspeople that had nurtured my creative life working with clay for decades. I retired from my work as a librarian. I left a great city and a garden that I loved. My synagogue, Congregation Rodeph Shalom, was and is a vibrant community, a leader in Jewish life in Philadelphia and beyond. And, Go Eagles!







Ruth's Award winning tapestries.

Somewhat still disoriented, I volunteered as a Reading Pal at a local elementary school and at Fern Forest Nature Center. Just a couple of weeks before the COVID shutdowns, with my wife, now TBY's Education Director, we started our association with Temple Bat Yam. We had good friends from Philadelphia who had already moved to this area and we became the "Philadelphia" Mafia" group at TBY. My father and stepmom live in Boynton Beach, and my sister recently moved to Coconut Creek from Chicago. Our group of friends has expanded to include some wonderful people from TBY and elsewhere. I have learned about Florida butterflies and native plants and have found opportunities to learn and contribute at TBY where I'm on the Sisterhood Board of Directors as Ritual Chair, and I still volunteer at Fern Forest.

I didn't find a place to work in clay here, but the COVID years gave me a great opportunity to learn tapestry weaving. I had picked up a loom at a country auction, in the 80's, never knew what it was, but shlepped it around until now when I discovered it was a tapestry loom. I found an online course with a terrific teacher, and just took off. Now I exhibit regularly at the Broward Art Guild in Ft. Lauderdale, where I recently received a Judge's Recognition Award at this month's exhibition.

Snow is just a distant memory.

## Be a Proud Part of Pride Shabbat- June 17 and TBY at Pride Festival June 18

By Abbe Forman

Welcome to "The Neighborhood," Temple Bat Yam's LGBTQA+ affinity group. The Neighborhood is a place where TBY's LGBTQ members and allies can meet and socialize. We chose to become an affinity group, similar to the TBY Book Club, because this is the preference of the Union of Reform Judaism (URJ). They define an affinity group as, "A space for strength, empowering, and belonging." In accordance with that, The Neighborhood has adopted this purpose statement,

Our purpose is to provide outreach, support, and fellowship in accordance with the primary mission of Temple Bat Yam and the URJ.

Join us for Pride Shabbat, June 17 at 7:30 and the Wilton Manors Pride Festival, June 18.

Contact info@templebatyam.org for more information.



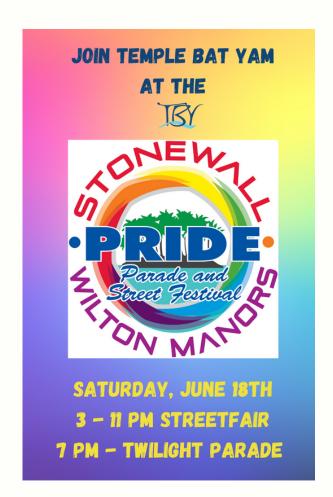








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# HIGH 2022 HIGHDAYS AT THE PARKER

#### SAVE THE DATE

Rosh Hashanah Sunday 9/25 and Monday 9/26 Kol Nidre Tuesday 10/4 Yom Kippur Wednesday 10/5



@TEMPLEBATYAM.ORG 954-928-0410

Welcoming Jerry Berkowitz as Cantorial Soloist for the High Holidays



Do you need to purchase tickets for family and friends?
Contact info@templebatyam.org

#### Membership Committee Shabbat May 13







On May 13, we celebrated the 36 new members of Temple Bat Yam since our pandemic closures at our Membership Shabbat. We were also able to recognize many of the long time members of the congregation, including some who had been founders in 1989.

This year has been successful for increasing our temple membership. We have 15 new member households and we had over 50 people join our Temple Bat Yam's email.

We revamped the Membership Page on the TBY website. In addition, we created a new membership flyer to be given to prospective members which replaced the old membership packets.

The Membership Committee will continue with outreach and events like Dine Around and the Book Club that provide ways to bring new and old members together through religious events and social activities.

## MAZELTOV





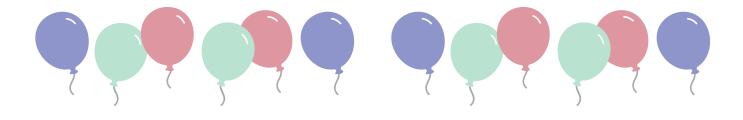


#### Celebrating Joan Solorow's 95th birthdays!





Joan with her daughters, Karen, Alice & Wendy



Did you celebrate Passover with TBY at the Club?

140 people did!! And it was fun and tasty, too.

Thanks to Melanie Tolles, Marion Fass, Beverly Baker, Lois Pittler, Arnie Pittler and Pam Burd For making this a great event.



### Have you thought about what your Legacy will be?

A message from Evan Goldman

LIFE & LEGACY provides training, support, and monetary incentives to motivate Jewish organizations to secure after-lifetime commitments with the aim of building permanent endowments that will sustain vibrant Jewish life.

Temple Bat Yam is a proud participant in this program which relies on you, as a Temple member, to leave a legacy for our shul. Simply put, the more legacy commitments we receive, the more "bonus dollars" we receive from the LIFE & LEGACY initiative.

Sondra and I are proud to leave a legacy to Temple Bat Yam, our Jewish "home away from home." Temple Bat Yam is where our son Max, age 8, learns Jewish principles, makes friends, and prepares for a life in which Yiddishkeit is an important part of his core values.

Given that we're not independently wealthy, Sondra works in higher education, and I am a Jewish communal professional, how were we able to leave a legacy? For us, it was a simple matter of adding an additional 401k beneficiary, Temple Bat Yam. Others may wish to amend their estate plan or leave other assets to the Temple.

With your support, we can secure the vibrancy of Temple Bat Yam today and help ensure that it meets the needs of the next generation of Jews in East Fort Lauderdale tomorrow.

For more information, please contact LIFE & LEGACY chair Barry Solomon or the Temple Bat Yam Office at info@templebatyam.org.



## amazonsmile

Have you been using Amazon Smile?

Did you know that you have to update your Amazon Smile twice a year to keep generating donations when you shop on the app.

Make sure to select Temple Bat Yam of East Fort Lauderdale on your Amazon.com account.



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



Are you following Temple Bat Yam on Facebook & Instagram?
Like our posts and help us to spread the word about TBY!





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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