



HAKOL

Volume 35 No. 5

Sivan 5780



Temple Bat Yam
of East Fort Lauderdale

***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.***

Summer 2020

A Message from Rabbi Spey

We are participants in crafting the community in which we live, its norms and values, its institutions, and its communal structures.

As June is national PRIDE month, embracing and celebrating the diversity within our community, I have been looking at how we use language. How we use language and words is important.

In modern English, some use third person plural pronouns, 'they' and 'them', as a singular gender-inclusive or gender-neutral pronoun. However, Biblical Hebrew offers no such latitude. And shifts in number within a verse scream for explanation. Throughout the Torah, we read verses that shift from the singular to the plural, seemingly in error, in the middle of a thought. Take for example the story of creation, "And God created the man in God's image; in the image of God, God created the man; male and female, God created them." (Gen. 1:27) or instructions regarding atonement, "...

man or a woman, when they do any transgression,... they are to confess..." (Num. 5:6-7). Our rabbis explain that when a Torah verse does not agree in number, the shift to the plural implies collective responsibility. When God created a human, all people became responsible for each other. When one person transgresses, all people must seek forgiveness, because while others may not have been actively involved in the transgression, there may have been something that they could have done to have prevented or mitigated it. Perhaps we could have educated others, provided more support or communal services, or even just paid closer attention.

This is not to say that when an individual transgresses, others bear direct or equal responsibility. Rather the sages teach us, "*Kol Yisrael arevim zeh bazeh*. – All Israel are bound to one another." (B.T. Shevuot 39a) In any community, all the members are bound to each other. As a result, the actions of one affect all. To personalize this, our actions affect those around us. We are participants in crafting the community in which we live, its norms and values, its institutions, and its communal structures.

While we may never have had the opportunity to directly intercede and stop a person from transgression, we must ask ourselves if we did play a role in creating a society that enabled the person to transgress. Did we do all that we could have done to make sure that our community's ideals, values, and norms are such that the chance of such a transgression is minimized. This is what it means to bear collective responsibility.

It therefore becomes our responsibility to engage with our community and work to improve it. As Hillel said, "*al tifrosh min ha-tzibbur* – do not separate yourself from the community" (Pirke Avot 2:2). It is our responsibility to ensure that our community reflects the highest of our ideals, the values of Torah and the will of God. During these turbulent times-pandemic, of racial injustice, during Pride month, these lessons of shared responsibility for society are particularly poignant. Our actions can literally save lives or can kill. Wearing a mask and social distancing are less for ourselves and more to protect others. Embracing Pride month and working for the equal rights of all our citizens is for the collective good.

We also need this lesson of shared responsibility during this time of protest. While it is easy to look outside of ourselves to identify who we think is guilty of the kind of racism that led to George Floyd's death, it is much harder to look inside ourselves, to look at our complicity. We must ask ourselves what could we have done to help fight racism, to create better understanding, to demand accountability from our government? What role can we play individually in creating the kind of society to which we aspire? We cannot single-handedly make this problem go away, but each of us can and must play a role in the struggle against prejudice and hate.

Rabbi Tarfon would say, "*Lo alecha hamlachah igmor, velo atah ven chorin* – it is not up to you to finish the work, yet you are not free to avoid it." (Pirke Avot 2:16).



Temple Bat Yam stands with all our brothers and sisters during this period of reflection and mourning over the murder of George Floyd. As Abraham Joshua Heschel so eloquently wrote in 1972:

“Morally speaking there is no limit to the concern one must feel for the suffering of human beings, that indifference to evil is worse than evil itself, that in a free society, some are guilty, but all are responsible.”



Happy Pride Month



How will we worship on High Holy Days 2020?



We aren't sure yet what the TBY High Holy Days celebrations will look like. A committee of members, including health and legal professionals, have been meeting (by Zoom) with President Arnie Pittler, Rabbi Spey and Administrator Pam Burd to consider options for High Holy Days worship services. We know that we will worship together safely led by Rabbi Spey and Cantorial Soloist Jenna McMillan.

Recognizing the high level of uncertainty about public health concerns in the fall, the committee is exploring options and considering recommendations from the Union of Reform Judaism, the CDC and Florida Department of Health and medical experts. We are aware that some TBY members fall into "high risk" categories, and it is important to provide opportunities for them that respect their health needs. We know, too, that we value the community aspect of worship, and that the opportunities to read, to open the ark and to come to the *Bima* are of value as people begin their year. We want to respect the value of those *aliyot* while remaining safe.

In the mean time, please remember to stay safe, for your family and for those around you. Wear a mask when out in public, wash your hands a lot, and maintain safe social distance. This virus has the ability to pop up anywhere that people gather, and our best strategy is to limit its ability to spread to others.

Safely Together



Jenna McMillan

New Cantorial Soloist for High Holy Days

As plans are being finalized for the High Holy Days in the fall, we are very lucky to have hired **Jenna McMillan**, a third year Cantorial student from the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music in New York City as our student Cantor.

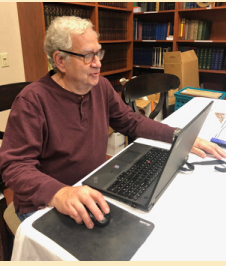
Cantor Emeritus Wendy Autenreich, a member of the search committee commented:

"Although she is hunkered down in her home in Michigan right now, when Jenna is in school she is very busy working at several synagogues in Manhattan as a B'nai Mitzvah Tutor, Tefilah leader, and 6th grade Hebrew teacher. We are truly lucky and blessed to have her coming to us." Cantor Wendy will also serve as her professional mentor in her studies.

Carey Fischer, who was also on the committee, added, "**Jenna McMillan** is a remarkably dedicated and accomplished young woman with 'Broadway' worthy talent and warmth."



A Message from the President



Why Belong Now?

Arnie Pittler

As TBY comes to the end of its fiscal year, myself and my fellow URJ Temple Presidents are being asked – “Why Belong Now” to a Temple in the coming year. To me this simply comes down to our Jewish values, and the values we embrace at TBY that have sustained us in the past and so far during the current crisis - ***She’at Hadehak, Kol Yisrael Areivim Zeh Bazeh and Hesed.***

She’at Hadehak - Extraordinary Moment

Jewish life has always made adjustments in times of emergency and crisis. We will continue to come to terms with the fact that this crisis may last for well over a year. As we adapt everything we do at TBY, including how we may need to shift both where and how we hold High Holy Day services, it is important to remember that we have not and will not change WHY we are here for the members of our congregation and our Jewish community.

Kol Yisrael Areivim Zeh Bazeh - We Are Responsible for One Another

It’s our job to look out for one another. We ask those who have resources, use those resources to help sustain TBY, other Jewish institutions and continue giving *tzedakah*. TBY today is responsible for our membership and we expect to be responsible to future generations by being here. We can only do that when you choose to “Belong Now” to TBY.

Hesed - Profound Love and Kindness

We must act with tremendous love and kindness towards the members of our families, congregation, communities, and the world at large especially during this crisis. “Why” we gather for Shabbat, Festivals and the High Holy Days, with our families and friends has not changed. If our reasons for gathering and responding to others has not changed – Why would we not continue to Belong?

Both TBY and other congregations are using new technology that may make worship accessible without charge. As Cantor Rosalie Buxt, Director of Worship at the URJ has observed, “just transferring in person “services” to an online platform is not quite enough, ... we can find ways to be energized by opportunities, even as they are hard”. But we can only do those things if you continue to “Belong Now”.

Our tradition teaches that there are blessings to be found in every moment. Our experience shows us that we can exist and maintain solidarity and closeness even when we cannot see one another physically. With your belonging, patience, and tremendous *Hesed*, TBY won’t only persevere but thrive as we emerge from the other side of this crisis.

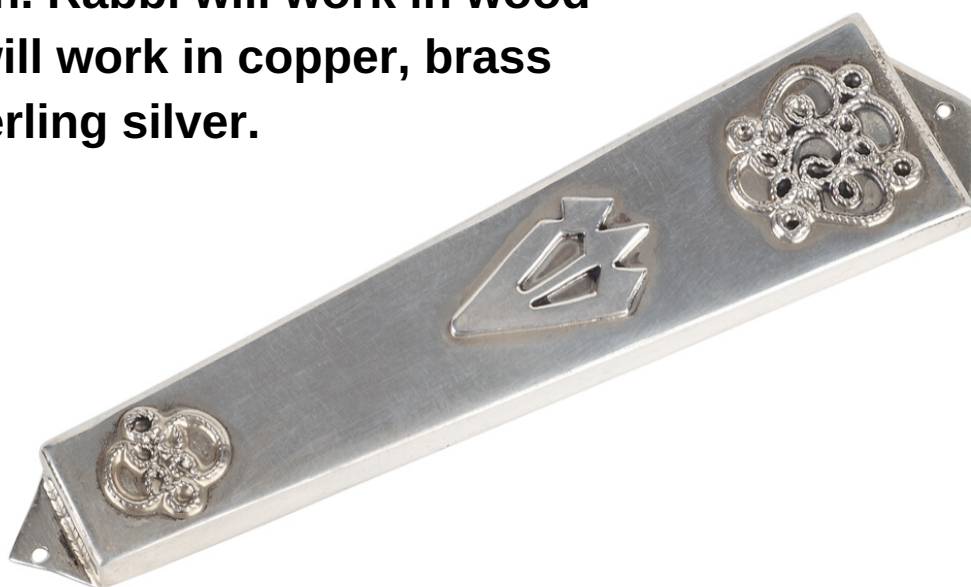
Inspired by Amy Asin, URJ, Vice President/Director of Strengthening Congregations and Rabbi Jacob Blumenthal, Chief Executive of the Rabbinical Assembly



As one response to the extraordinary events of this year, TBY has created a **Disaster Relief Fund**. This fund, administered by the Rabbi, will provide financial support for those in need now, due to the pandemic, as well as any future events that might hit our community. This fund will supplement or fill gaps in aid available from agencies supported by JFBC, the ADRC, the United Way and other non-profits. A portion of sponsorships and donations from the online Gala will be allocated to this fund.

Design (and donate) a mezuzah

A generous anonymous donor to the Baer Family Early Childhood Learning Center will match any mezuzah donation (\$1800). In addition, Rabbi Spey and Joel Schwartz, a fine metalworker by profession, will work with you to design the mezuzah. Rabbi will work in wood or metal, and Joel will work in copper, brass and sterling silver.



A letter from Gan Noar Religious School

What a year we had together. From gathering every Sunday for Kehilah Tefilah and enjoying our challah and grape juice as a community to creating new learning spaces to hold class while the new ECC is being constructed to moving classes online due to Covid-19, it has been quite a school year for all of us at Gan Noar. Thank you for helping us make this year a successful one despite the physical challenges.

It has been a privilege to continue to work with our teachers on finding ways to educate while sadly, not seeing each other in person over the last 2 months of school. We miss seeing those smiling faces. Kudos to all of our staff!! We have adapted to our new online community and are moving forward with new and innovative ways for the upcoming year. There will be new material available to everyone, as well as new additions to our staff.

This past year we spent time outside of TBY as we learned from experts on the Holocaust, proper Jewish burial procedures, and created our own Seder plates. By the way, the Seder plates are still sitting in my office, waiting to be picked up when it is deemed safe. We plan on adding additional field trips next year, if possible, to teach and learn outside of TBY to help better understand Jewish culture.

To the parents of our students, thank you for entrusting us with your children. We will continue to educate and learn with them. No matter the age, the learning never ends. We encourage and hope to see many more parents involved in future activities and programs that directly impact your child(ren) at Temple Bat Yam.



To our Gan Noar students, we hope you learned from us this year and will continue to question your own personal beliefs. Your learning, like that of your parents, teachers, and Rabbi, will never end. We look forward to next year where your thinking will be questioned not only by your teachers, but also by your peers, too. Be prepared to explain yourself.

And to our staff, thank you for loving our students. Your dedication to teaching them about where they come from, Israel, holidays, Hebrew, and tefilah shows how important the future of the Jewish people is to you. Thank you.

We hope everyone has an enjoyable summer to the best of their ability. We look forward to seeing everyone in person much sooner than later. Be well. Be safe. Wear a mask. Take care of one another.

Sincerely,
Scott London
Director of Education



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**Please remember the
TBY COMMUNICATION and CONNECTION
Appeal**

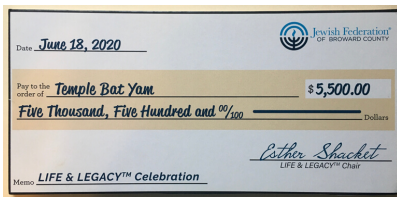
**Are you a Communication Sponsor (\$100) or a Super
Connector (\$1000) or somewhere in between?
Join your friends in supporting Temple Bat Yam**

Temple Bat Yam Receives Grants and Bequests

We have been more than fortunate this year with unanticipated income - a grant from the Jewish Federation of Broward County, an incentive payment from the Life and Legacy program, a Paycheck Protection Program Loan from the federal government.

We received a generous bequest from the estate of Rabbi Littman z"l. Lastly, we have received a substantial grant from the late Sy Sperling Donor Advised Fund. Sy z"l, both in life and now with this grant, was dedicated to Jewish education and the longevity of Temple Bat Yam.

These bequests remind us all of the importance of remembering Temple Bat Yam as a legacy.



Enjoy our lawn at TBYY

If you are looking for a quiet place to join friends or family- at a safe distance in the fresh air, consider bringing your chairs to TBYY. But please remember, the restrooms are not open!



Sisterhood

Temple Bat Yam never really 'shut down' as we have made great efforts to increase the community's virtual participation in a variety of events and Sisterhood has taken a lead in keeping us connected. Those of us who Mah Jongg continue to do so online (though we sorely miss each others' running commentary); we continue to study Torah and Talmud with Rabbi Spey in addition to participating in Shabbat services from the temple and Havdalah services from his home. Temple has also hosted a wine tasting and multi-generational talent show.

Sisterhood has responded to Stay at Home with creativity. Judy Diamond, Sara Carson and Mable Ladin have been busy sewing masks and have been able to provide them to members who need them. They have also donated some to people in need. We have also kept up our food donations- members have left non-perishable food when they have come for masks.

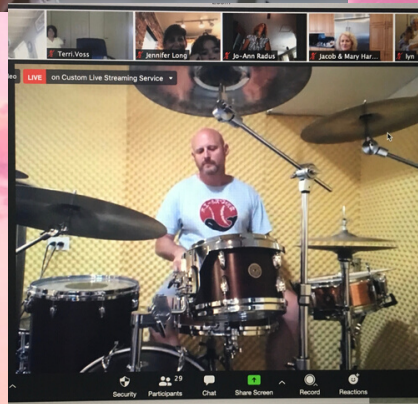
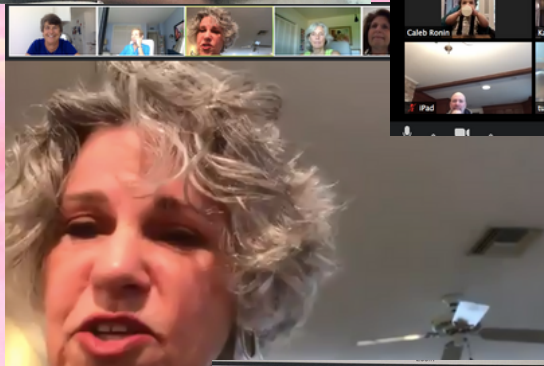
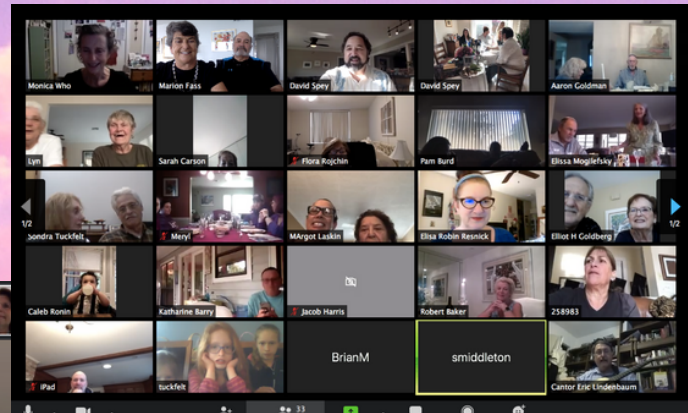
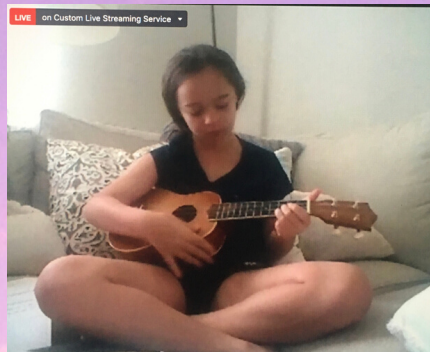
Sisterhood hosts a weekly coffee hour (joined by sisters in Idaho, New Orleans and Orlando) and has begun a community story writing project, "About Mary."



We ZOOMED a discussion of the TV series Unorthodox, led by Dr. Dara Spey, a travelogue of Southeast Asia by Ellen Fischer, who just barely returned home when C 19 hit and took a virtual tour of the NSU Museum's Glackens exhibit, led by two members, Marion Fass and Elissa Mogilefsky who are docents there.

Lois Pittler and Joan Sternberg will be continuing as hardworking presidents assisted by the Board.





**Mazel Tov to Jonathan Rosen on leading
Shabbat Service on May 23rd.
Jonathan chose all the music for the service
and played the guitar.**



Welcome New Members
Jose Montenegro
Neil Sell
David Yalen

Summer at TBY

It's summertime in South Florida, and sleep away camp is nowhere in sight

Well, we really didn't expect to be here. But there are lots worse places to be.

We all usually take the summer to relax, worship and study on a different schedule. But the kids may not be off to camp, and the beaches may get crowded.

Our activities at Temple Bat Yam, as we face a summer of slowly reopening South Florida, will evolve to meet the "new normal." We don't yet know what that looks like or what keeps us comfortable. Some people are eager to return to face to face services, while others are not. Some are eager to go out to eat- safely at an appropriate distance- while others choose not to venture out beyond the minimal.

Thinking about Jewish camp and its role in Jewish life may provide some ideas for summer. Jewish summer camps started as a way to help Eastern European immigrants learn American ways in order to help them assimilate. But along the way, the function of these camps changed. They became a way to reinforce Jewish ethics and learning while creating strong bonds among the campers and counselors. For children growing up away from large Jewish communities, it was a way to build a stronger Jewish identity. For all of the attendees, it was a great way to build understanding and values.

Some Jewish camps are reworking as family escapes- while keeping safe distancing rather than group activities.



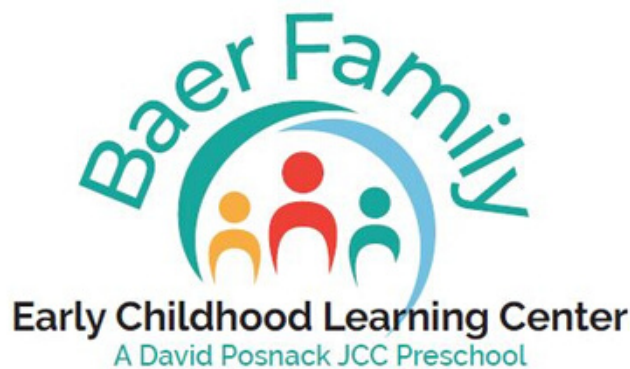
Just like camp, It is the goal to of TBY keep us together this summer- worshipping, learning and sharing. Please make suggestions to info@templebatyam.org about what programming works for you and your family within our congregation. We know that it helps us all to see familiar faces and familiar voices, even if the online conversations may be awkward. The Temple grounds are also available to members for "social distancing gatherings"- but remember that the bathrooms are not open!



Baer Family Early Childhood Learning Center

Furniture has been ordered, the outside of the building is being painted, and Beth Hickman, Early Childhood Director has been working on our curriculum which includes tons of hands-on STEM activities.

We've officially accepted registrations, welcoming old and new friends.



Additional naming opportunities are available. Contact us.

Follow Baer Family Early Learning Childhood Center on Facebook

**Help us spread the word.
Tell your friends and
neighbors about our
amazing, state of the art,
new learning center.**



Yom Ha'Atzmaut

Shabbat

Roblox

Unorthodox

Friends Who Wine

Shavuot

**Ellen Fischer's
Travelogue**

Youth Group

PASSOVER

Sisterhood Coffee Hour

Dine Around

ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

Concert by Carey Fischer

Talent

**Gan
Noar**

Celebration of

**Estate Planning in a
COVID-19 Environment**

pajamas & pancakes

Sisterhood Guided NSU Museum Tour of the William Glackens' Collection

**Lunch & Learn with Evan
Phillipson (AIPAC)**

Staying Connected,

a note from Hakol editor, Marion Fass



Our TBY communications have shifted as have our connections in the world around us. No longer can members and friends stop by the Temple to chat with the Rabbi or Pam, to play Mah Jongg, to take a class with Rabbi Spey or to see students off for Gan Noar activities. No more Shabbat services with L'Dor v Dor or Torah study on Saturday mornings. Before the arrival of COVID-19, these regular connections seemed to be the glue that kept our congregation together.

But 12 weeks into the great pause, our temple family is still together, ever stronger/closer. We have learned that community is more than face to face. It is that sense of security when you realize that there are people still out there to whom you are connected through beliefs and learning and a sense of shared purpose. Because of the unflagging efforts of Arnie Pittler and Rabbi Spey, Temple Bat Yam has seen an increase in weekly Shabbat attendance, albeit via LiveStream and Zoom. Arnie has committed himself to ensure daily progress of the rebuilding of our new preschool.

In addition, TBY programming has increased. Thanks to Sheba and Sean Thompson, Ellen and Carey Fischer, Dyan and Sadie Chaney, Melissa Comras, Lois Pittler, Kathalyn Haimo, Dara Spey and so many others who have helped us move beyond our comfort zones to join together online. We recognize the benefits of connecting and learning- even if it is electronic. Our communications have also increased: Pam Burd, Temple Administrator, has been sending out interesting content and has developed great skill with the program Canva that makes our regular emails engaging.

Like many of us, I have found the quiet joy in attending a service in the comfort of home. It is calming in this time of uncertainty.

At this time of virtual synagogue connections, Temple Bat Yam is also reaching out to those in our Fort Lauderdale area who might want to join us in worship. Thus, we are expanding our advertising, certain that we offer the spiritual and educational resources that many in our community need at this time. Please share our emails with people who you know.

When Rabbi Spey convinced me to take on the job of HAKOL editor, I saw it as a bi-monthly commitment. Together with needs identified by Pam Burd, and the move to a virtual congregation, it has become much more. Please contact me or Pam with ideas for programs and ways to reach out safely to our community.

Perhaps soon we will be able to gather mask- to -mask, in the fresh outside air, and share activities and projects. Til then, we will meet often by email and by Zoom and celebrate the spirit and community of Temple Bat Yam, our home by the sea.



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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