



# TBI Tablet *online*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- ◆ Rabbi Michael Mishkin
- ◆ Rita Shumsky
- ◆ B'nai Mitzvot
- ◆ Mark Schneider The Bronx
- ◆ Religious School Siddur Ceremony
- ◆ Preschool Happenings
- ◆ Simchas and Condolences

**Mazel  
Tov!**

**to this month's  
B'nai Mitzvot**

**Amanda Mellow**

May 8th

**Joshua Engel**

May 15th

**Leo Schwartz**

May 22nd

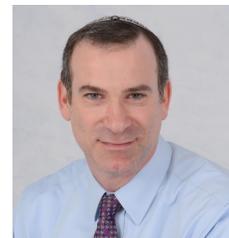
**Noah Gould**

May 29th

This issue of the TBI Tablet *online* is generously sponsored by:  
The Engel, The Schwartz and the Gould families

Shalom Friends,

Later this month (May 15th), we will begin the fourth Book of the Torah – The Book of Numbers. The Book of Numbers opens with Moses taking a census of the Israelites. Why did God want Moses to do this? According to a midrash (a rabbinic story), God commanded that Moses do this counting, because God loved each and every Israelite. The midrash says, to understand this, think of a king who had a treasure chest full of jewels. Every once in a while, the king would open the chest, and count each jewel. Because the king considered each jewel beautiful in its own right, this activity gave the king great pleasure. (Numbers Rabbah 4:2) So it is with God and the Jewish People (and expanding the midrash a little—so it is with God and all people.) This image of each person being a jewel, beautifully captures the spirit of TBI. Thankfully, TBI is full of members who are “jewels,” each in their own right. However, some of our jewels are more well-known than others. One of our jewels, who most of us know, is David Volpe. David is our Ritual Chair (VP of the Ritual Committee). It’s a position he has held for more than a decade. And it’s a position that has enabled David to do thousands of acts of kindness for members and guests of our community.



If you were to construct the ideal Ritual Chair, you would want a person who has a strong connection to their Jewish identity, a great affection for the services, a deep appreciation for role of the synagogue, and a great love for the members of the congregation. That is David Volpe in a nutshell. Although when talking about David, I need to add, that he is a talented chef, who enjoys making delicious Shabbat dinners for the community. David learned how to be an exceptional Ritual Chair from his predecessor, Harvey Aiges, of blessed memory. Harvey had a kind soul, and he possessed these same attributes as David. In this way, through David’s many, many years of dedicated service to TBI, he has honored Harvey’s memory in a meaningful and lasting way. It’s another gift, among the many, that David has given to the congregation. ...**Continued page 4**

### DID YOU KNOW...

Rita lived and grew up in Atlantic City?

Her family owned and operated a local restaurant named SHUMSKY'S where she was a hostess at 14.

...and there is a lot more to learn about our president....

join us for the TBI Hybrid Gala  
as we pay tribute to Rita Shumsky!

**Sunday, June 13th 2021 3:00pm-4:00pm Meet and Greet**

**7:00pm The Main Event At Home on Zoom**

RSVP [jcheevers@tbiport.org](mailto:jcheevers@tbiport.org)



# Rita...

It's hard to believe that my presidency of three years at TBI is coming to a close at the end of this month. My term started out with lots of goals and hopes for our wonderful congregation. Who knew that in the past three years two crises would change the way we pray, live, and learn – Pittsburgh and Covid-19! These were the defining challenges we faced; how we responded to them would foretell our future. Our main goal was to keep us safe first in our physical space and then safe from Covid-19.

**IN SPITE OF IT ALL WE SURVIVED AND THRIVED ON MANY LEVELS!**

I'd like to review what we achieved in prayer, learning, finances, our physical space and our safety during the challenges of the last three years.

While our sanctuary was not open, TBI was. As of the middle of March 2020 we no longer held services in person. Zoom was the vehicle we used to keep us together and enabled us to pray on Shabbat, the twice a week Minyan, Shiva Minyan, the High Holidays, and to celebrate the Bnai Mitzvot of our children. Rabbi Mishkin and Cantor Grainer led us in prayer and song during this very dark time in our lives. Rabbi Mishkin was there when we needed him for all our life cycle events. Now we have begun to come back for in person services and to celebrate the Bnai Mitzvot of our children. I always loved our sanctuary with its view on nature, now I appreciate it more than ever.

Our Preschool and Religious Schools went virtual from March 2020 until the end of the school year. Our two outstanding school leaders, Anya Morgulis, Director of Education and Engagement and Diana Snaider,

Director of the Preschool, pulled out all the stops to make sure our learners continued their education on Zoom. You know, "Necessity is the mother of invention," and Anya and Diana came up with some very amazing opportunities for learning. Cooking and crafting on Zoom became part of the curriculum, complete with all of the necessary supplies. Our teachers all stepped up to learn how to educate on Zoom. The Preschool and Religious Schools resumed in person learning in September of 2020. We closely follow the CDC guidelines for keeping everyone safe from Covid-19 and we've really done an outstanding job doing that! Anya has brought the teaching of the Religious School to new highs with her innovative teaching ideas. Thanks to the hard work of Diana enrollment for our Preschool for 2021-2022 has doubled in the last three years to 72 students!

The Life Long Learning for adults continued on Zoom with Rabbi Sharyn Perlman, Dr. Annette Kasle and Rabbi Mishkin. Their presentations were wonderful and very well attended. The Library Committee also continued to present wonderful speakers some in conjunction with the Social Action Committee.

Synagogue finance is always a challenge. Dues account for approximately 40% of our income while the other dollars come from donations and school tuition. It's a real balancing act to have enough money for salaries, which account for the majority of the budget, and keeping the lights on. When there is a mortgage on top of other expenditures it becomes even more challenging. In my Rosh Hashana speech of 2019, I opened a new campaign to pay off the \$1.2 million dollar mortgage. By December of 2019 \$700,000 had been donated to do just that. The donations have continued and as of this writing we only need to collect \$125,000 to retire the mortgage! This year because of Covid-19 we applied for the Payroll Protection Plan (PPP). We were awarded a substantial amount which allowed us to pay salaries and certain qualifying expenses such as utilities. With the combination of dues, contributions, tuition and paying down our mortgage we are closing out our fiscal year in the BLACK for the first time in years!

Over the years our physical space has gone through several stages of renovation. In the last

three years the Administrative Suite, home to the Rabbi Mishkin, Cantor Grainer, Cathy Seldin and Julie Cheever's was completed. Our beautiful Multipurpose Space was finally done after a few (HA-HA) delays. Although the congregation hasn't been able to use it yet, our learners from the Religious school have put it to good use. It's a beautiful space and we'll enjoy it for years to come.

The Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC) was established to develop policy and procedures to keep us safe after the massacres in Pittsburgh. We received a \$100,000 grant to harden the building security. When the world closed due to the pandemic, the EPC also helped to develop the practices we've been using throughout this time to continue to keep us safe. Part of the committee then became the TBI Neighbor Network that helped so many congregants at the beginning of the lockdown.

It takes many people to accomplish all of our achievements and good deeds. Special thanks to:

David Volpe our VP of Ritual for the past 11 years. Always kind and welcoming.

The members of the Board of Trustees David Cooper, Louis Silfin, Susan Levin, Jenny Markman, Debi Gewirtz, John Teeger, Helene Hechtkopf, Jack Mishan, Adam Smith, Mark Fridman, Alan Doubert, Jill Mellow, Steve Castar, Ed Friedman, Leslie Naschek, Jen Lattner, Scott Tashlik, Matt Engel, Michael Nerenberg, Alisa Schindler, and Michelle Mondschein.

Jon White for his continued support and efforts for the Capital Campaign and chairing the Cantor Search Committee.

Matt Engel for being a good role model and David Cooper for taking on the role of President.

Bob Epstein, Library Committee; Allison White Social Action; Louise Cooper and Ilyse Wofse, Mostly Mitzvahs; Debbie Mishan and Gail Seiden for all their efforts in collecting food, clothing and household items for the underserved members of our community; Betsy Golan and Ed Friedman and the gardening group for providing fresh vegetables to help alleviate food insecurity.

**Continued page 5...**



Cathy Seldin for all you do and all of your support. Julie Cheevers for your wonderful self and giving the TBI brand a screen lift. Narvin Kahn who considers TBI his second home and takes care of it like it is.

Cantor Grainer for teaching our learners trope, tefillah and preparing our children for their the Bnai Mitzvot.

Rabbi Mishkin for being our spiritual leader and emotional supporter for all of us. For the wonderful effort in paying down the mortgage. And – being a Mensch! It has been a pleasure working with him during my term.

Most importantly I want to thank you, the congregants of Temple Beth Israel, for being a warm, welcoming, resilient and very, very generous community. It's the people that make TBI, not the building. TBI has been my spiritual home for many years and a very important part of my life. It has been an honor to serve as your President!

I would be remiss if I didn't remind you to:

**WEAR YOUR MASK, WASH YOUR HANDS, GET THE VACCINE!**

Rita

**Rabbi Mishkin Continued...**

One of the roles of the Ritual Chair, along with the Ritual Committee and the Rabbi, is to help set the policy in the Sanctuary. In addition, during the services, the Ritual Chair serves as the



gabbai, the person who either gives out honors, or – at simchas and the High Holidays, when the honors are already

given out – provides people with instruction before they have their honor. Because of David's chesed (lovingkindness), when he gives people instructions for their honor, he makes them feel special and ensures that they are comfortable, before ascending the bimah. On top of all that, David also enjoys serving as an usher, so that he can welcome everyone who walks into the sanctuary with a friendly greeting and a big smile (and pre-pandemic, often accompanied by a warm hug).

I have good news and bad news. The bad news is that David is stepping down from the Ritual Chair position at the end of the current Board of Trustees' term, which is on May 31st. The good news is that David is not going anywhere. He loves to be in services, greet people, and help out, and he will continue to do that. And there is more good news. Jack Mishan is slated to take over as Ritual Chair. Jack is an outstanding person, who loves Judaism and is kind to everyone he encounters. I know that Jack will be a great Ritual Chair, and continue in the tradition of Harvey and David. TBI is very lucky to have Jack and his family as members.

Thank you to Lori Volpe, David's wife, for supporting David in his efforts as Ritual Chair. Thank you Lori for also being a TBI super-volunteer in your own right – giving of your time, talent, and passion for well over a decade – by serving on the Education Committee. In addition to David and Lori, their children, Justin and Sloan, have also made their mark (in positive ways) on TBI. Thank you, and we hope you'll visit soon.

Through David's commitment and actions as TBI Ritual Chair, he has brought many Torah lessons to life. One of the most meaningful teachings we can learn from his example is: "Ben Zoma taught: Who is honored? One who honors all people," (Ethics of Our Fathers, 4:1). David, we honor you and thank you for the way you have honored all of us, throughout your term as Ritual Chair. May you, and this community that you love, go from strength to strength.

B'shalom,

Rabbi Mishkin

[Rabbimishkin@tbiport.org](mailto:Rabbimishkin@tbiport.org)



## May 17th & May 18th 9:30am Shavuot Services

**YIZKOR 5/18**

# Collection for Broken But Not Destroyed and Hatzilu... A Tremendous Success

A big thank you goes to the TBI community for their overwhelming generosity. The drive succeeded in collecting all of the items requested with the assistance of those who donated items and for those of you who donated funds. Over 100 laundry pod bags with 14 pods in each were created! That's 14 loads of laundry going to each recipient from Hatzilu. TBI was also able to supply Broken But Not Destroyed with tons of shampoo, conditioner, body wash, hand soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, feminine products, toilet paper, and dish washer pods.

None of these collection events can be successful without the help, generosity and assistance from the TBI Community.

Debbie Mishan and Gail Seiden



***Back in the Sanctuary again!***  
**RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED**

E-mail the total # of people in your party

[icheevers@tbiport.org](mailto:icheevers@tbiport.org) to save the space or with questions.

Space is limited and available on a first come first served basis.

We are so excited to welcome everyone back, it's the moment we have all been waiting for!

# Joshua David Engel



*Parshat: Bamidbar*

*May 15th 2021 / 4 Sivan 5871*

Josh loves family trips and our family COVID Summer RV trip created memories that will last a lifetime. Despite the normal sibling bickering, Josh is at his happiest when he's horsing around with his sister, Sydney. .

Together they are partners in crime, teaming up against their parents, filled with endless laughter.

Friendship is important to Josh, and old friends are the best. Most of his closest friends, he holds from his earliest days at TBI Preschool. Still, out on his own, going to camp by himself, the best of Josh emerged. There is no place where Josh feels more comfortable and laughs more, than during his days at Iroquois Springs. The end of June can never come soon enough for him!

Josh has a magical mind with the ability to retain useful (and often useless information). His mind excels in school, knows the 3<sup>rd</sup> round draft pick of each NFL team, recalls the score of nearly every game of the baseball season and somehow is able to recite the alphabet backwards at full speed. But it's his ability to present the best of himself to the world outside his comfortable confines that make us all so proud and so sure that he will succeed in whatever direction life takes him!

We wish to thank many people at TBI who have helped guide Josh towards his Bar Mitzvah day. Special thanks to Cantor Grainer for preparing him for the service and Rabbi Mishkin for helping him craft his D'Var Torah and discussing who will win the upcoming Mets – Cardinals games (Hint: they aren't from St. Louis). A big thanks to Anya for her amazing leadership of the Religious School and to Cathy Seldin for helping with the details for the Big Day!

Mitzvah Project – Cozy Nights for Happy Days

The Pajama Program is an organization which supports a comforting bedtime routine and healthy sleep for all children. They provide storybooks and pajamas to at-risk children living in shelters and group homes. I wanted this to be my mitzvah project because I feel that all children should feel safe and cozy, especially at bedtime. Even if they don't have their own house or their own room, a book and new pajamas can help kids feel good about going to bed. A good night's sleep is also very important towards being successful the next day. I collected monetary donations and donations of pajamas and books to be donated to the Long Island Chapter.

Joshua joined us early in the morning of May 28, 2008. A wonderful, timely surprise anniversary gift to his parents, Josh was so pleasant that he even allowed his mother to walk to the hospital to be delivered! From the start, Josh was all smiles, the easiest of babies, eating, sleeping and playing on schedule. Midafternoon naps often began the moment before a Giants kickoff or concluded immediately after a Mets game ended. No doubt he was listening though, as football and baseball seeped into the fabric of his being.

One of his first major outings was a trip to Shea Stadium at just 2 months old, visiting just long enough for some photos. Although it would be his last trip before Shea Stadium met the wrecking ball, it was the start of a loving relationship with all thing's sports. Many kids love to play baseball and football and Josh is no exception, but he derives equal enjoyment out of announcing games, watching sports YouTubers, playing video games, analyzing statistics, studying prospects and sports strategy.

Josh is a deep thinker who loves time to himself, but there is no greater joy on his face than when he spends time with family and friends.

# Leo Schwartz

Parshat: Nasso

May 22nd 2021

11 Sivan 5871

Leo Gabriel Schwartz came into our lives on May 29, 2008 early in the morning shortly after his dad had finished “the best tennis match of his life” which resulted in Andy feeling “a bit nauseous and tired”- something that I did not quite appreciate hearing while in labor with Leo! But when we laid eyes on our bright blue-eyed baby boy, the exhaustion dissipated, and we knew our lives were forever changed. Leo is and always has been a truly unique individual who approaches the world with intensity and also sensitivity. When he is interested in something, Leo insists on quickly learning all there is to know about the topic. For example, when he was a toddler, he was obsessed with tools. He begged us to read the Black and Decker handbook to him at bedtime and may be the only kid who had “reciprocating saw” as two of his earliest words. He was likely also the only 4-year-old who could walk outside and identify birds by their calls, due to his interest in birds at that time, thanks to his Poppy’s own love of bird watching. When Leo was older, he brought that same intensity to sports, particularly baseball, which has always been his favorite. He initially had no interest in sports, but once he found one that he loved, it was all he could focus on- both in terms of playing and watching. It’s not uncommon for us to watch to a Mets game where Leo analyzes the game and makes the same points as the commentator before the commentator says them. More recently, Leo has been particularly focused on US history, government, and politics with a strong sense of what he feels is right and wrong in our political system. His knowledge of the US presidents, including random details about their lives, astounds even the most well-versed in US history.

Leo’s intensity is only matched by his kindness and sensitivity. This is really evident in his relationships with his family members. He has always had a very special relationship with his older sister, Mikayla. They have a bond where either one can sense if the other is upset and they know just what to say or do to make the other smile. As for his younger brother Tyler, they are fierce competitors but also the closest of friends. Leo always has Tyler’s back and is so proud of his accomplishments. He has always been extra vigilant about Tyler’s food allergies, often questioning waitstaff in restaurants and even family members to make sure that food is safe for Tyler to eat. His relationship with each one of his four grandparents is also unique and special. This past year, when we were not able to see them often, he was always the first to think of his Grandma and Grandpa as well as his Nanny and Poppy and would just call them up to chat and say hi, knowing that it would make them happy during this particularly difficult time. Whether it’s discussing sports and politics with his Poppy, playing on-line chess with his Grandpa, talking about school with his Grandma or chatting about friends and activities with his Nanny, he genuinely loves to connect with all of them. He also loves spending time with all of his aunts, uncles and cousins and particularly enjoys the times spent on vacations with them where they have made so many great memories. When it comes to his friends, he is loyal and supportive and somehow always the one making everyone laugh with his wit and dry humor. We always say that he would make a great stand-up comic with all of his perfectly timed one-liners.

When Leo sees injustices or human suffering he is affected to his core and is motivated to do something, or at least speak out about it. That was why we were not surprised when he chose a mitzvah project that was both hands-on and personally meaningful. He is working with the Jewish Board and UJA to support the Geller House which is short-term residential center in Staten Island that provides a safe place for children and teens to live, many of whom have experienced signifi-



cant trauma in their lives. He has visited the Geller House and seen first-hand the wonderful community that has been created for the children who live there. Leo is working directly with the staff to help refurbish the Boys’ Lounge so that it is filled with activities that he knows the boys will enjoy. He has created a webpage where you can learn more about his mitzvah project: <http://donation.ujafedny.org/schwartz>

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been instrumental in supporting and nurturing Leo’s Jewish learning. A huge thank you goes to Rabbi Mishkin who has been teaching Leo since he was four years old in the TBI preschool! We’d also like to thank Cantor Grainer for her patience and guidance leading up to his Bar Mitzvah as well as Murray Singer who was very helpful in shaping Leo’s D’var Torah.

*Continued next page...*

*Leo Schwartz Continued...*

Since arriving at TBI, Anya's energy, enthusiasm and support has truly enriched Leo's Jewish learning. We'd also like to thank Cathy Seldin for her invaluable insights into how to make this day a success even under somewhat challenging COVID circumstances. And finally, we'd like to publicly thank my mom, Leo's Nanny, who worked with him at least weekly for over a year on his Bar Mitzvah prayers, haftorah and Torah portion. He truly loved spending this special time with her and will remember it for the rest of his life.

Leo, we are so proud of you today and every day. You never cease to amaze us with your intellect, humor, work ethic and sensitivity. We are so excited to celebrate you and all of your accomplishments on May 22<sup>nd</sup> when you become a Bar Mitzvah.

THE 2021 TBI GALA  
 Honoring  
**Rita Shumsky**  
 Sunday, June 13th  
 3:00-4:00 PM *Making Waves*  
 Drive Through the TBI Circle to Greet the Guest of Honor  
 7:00 PM *The Main Event*  
 HONORARY CO-CHAIRS:  
 Louise & David Cooper and Ilana & Matt Engel  
 Join us this year for a very special  
 Atlantic City Adventure as we pay tribute to our  
 President and wish her Mazel Tov and Todah Rabah  
 HOME IS... YOU MAKE IT  
 on... Temple Beth Israel

ZOOM TICKET ONLY:  
 \$ 36 PER PERSON

TWO ZOOM TICKETS  
 PLUS DIGITAL JOURNAL AD:  
 \$ 136 PACKAGE

**Be a Boardwalk Benefactor**  
 LEVELS OF ENHANCED SUPPORT

- \$ 540 SEASIDE SQUAD
- \$ 1080 BALTIC AVENUE BEACH BUMS
- \$ 1800 SALT WATER TAFFY TEAM
- \$ 3600 SPEEDWAY SOCIETY
- \$ 5400 STEEL PIER PATRONS

YOUR BOARDWALK BENEFACTOR DONATION INCLUDES:  
 Two Virtual Tickets & Two Digital Journal Ads  
 Special Recognition in your Category on our  
 TBI Boardwalk Benefactor Honor Scroll

RSVP and Journal Submissions\*: [jcheevers@tbiport.org](mailto:jcheevers@tbiport.org)  
 \*Please send by June 8th

DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS  
 FABULOUS AND FUN FILLED  
 EVENT!

WE ARE HONORING OUR  
 PRESIDENT OF 3 YEARS.  
 RITA MADE A HUGE IMPACT  
 ON OUR SHUL DURING HER  
 TERM. LETS SEND HER  
 OUT WITH A BIG THANK  
 YOU!!

**Todah Rabah Rita!**

# Noah James Gould

*Parshat: Beha 'alotecha*

*May 29th 2021 - 18 Sivan 5871*

Noah James Gould was born on February 12, 2008. His Hebrew name, Yitzhak, honors his maternal grandmother. Yitzhak means "laughter," and it could not be a more appropriate name for Noah. As anyone who has met Noah knows, he loves to have a good time and laugh with his family and friends.

Noah has always been a great big brother – even before his brother Zachary was born, Noah couldn't have been more excited to be a big brother. Since the day we brought Zach home from the hospital, he and Noah have had a special bond that only brothers know.

Noah has a variety of interests – over the years he has played basketball, hockey, baseball, football, soccer, tennis and golf. He has also taken up interests in fishing and cooking. What Noah enjoys most is spending time with his friends and family - no matter the form it takes.

Just like his father, Noah is an avid Islanders fan. One of his favorite places is the Nassau Coliseum – he went to his first game just after his 4<sup>th</sup> birthday. Although it was a 6-0 Islanders loss, Noah was hooked, and remains so to this day. He is beyond excited to go to his first game at the brand new UBS Arena.

Noah was first introduced to the TBI community when he entered the Twos Program in 2010; and he has been involved with TBI ever since.

Noah has had a connection to TBI for over 80% of his life, and the friends he made during that first year are still his closest friends today.

Noah is the consummate New Yorker and loves the city, and he is extremely concerned about the struggle of those New Yorkers who are less fortunate than him. For his Mitzvah Project, Noah is raising money for The Bowery Mission/New York City Rescue Mission, an organization that serves homeless and hungry New Yorkers. Once he is vaccinated, Noah hopes to volunteer with the Mission.

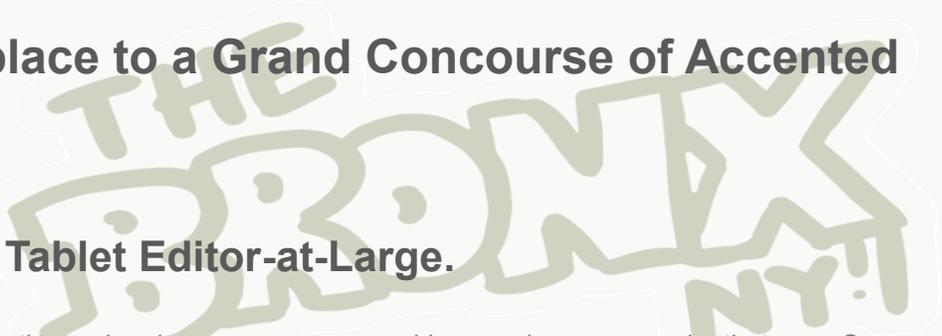
We want to thank all of Noah's teachers through the years at TBI, from the preschool through the Religious School, for their dedication and devotion to Noah's education. We want to send special thanks to Rabbi Mishkin for his guidance and advice; Cantor Grainer for her time and effort working one-on-one with Noah during these unusual times; Anya Morgulis for her tireless efforts and energy; Jack Mishan for helping Noah prepare his D'Var Torah and Cathy Seldin, for helping to make this special day a reality for all of us.



Congratulations on this amazing achievement Noah, we are all so proud of you!

# The Bronx Tale: Birthplace to a Grand Concourse of Accented Memories.

By Mark A. Schneider,  
TBI Past President & TBI Tablet Editor-at-Large.



When many Jews first arrived in New York, it was the Lower East Side that welcomed them and where they crowded into tenements and the surrounding blocks around Orchard Street.

Then many Jews headed North and the Bronx became home to the largest Jewish population in what we locals refer to as the City.

Like Billy Joel, Bobby Darin, Bess Myerson, Lauren Bacall, Jerry Orbach, Regis Philbin, Tony Curtis, Carl Reiner, Stanley Kubrick, Ed Koch, Gabe Pressman,—and like my wife Barbara—I too, was Bronx-born. During my earliest years, my family helped to give the Bronx a number that at over 650,000, was a population of more Jews than even the new state of Israel.



My exact birthplace was at the Bronx Women's Maternity Hospital on the Grand Concourse, a perfect street name for this grande avenue of statuesque high rises. Located just a few blocks from my favorite baseball team's home—Yankee Stadium—I squeezed in a visit to my birthplace a few years ago during one of my regular annual visits to the Stadium. The hospital is long-gone, replaced by a nursing home. When I visited the Executive Director, he showed me a great picture of the original hospital which he proudly displays on his wall. But of course, last year, there was no joy for fans who wanted to visit the Bronx and Yankee Stadium. By the way, though not born in the Bronx, future Hall of Fame baseball star Hank Greenberg moved

there when he was seven years old. Yankee fans from the Bronx were not too thrilled when they learned that Greenberg passed on signing a Yankees contract. The talented ball player became known as Hammerin' Hank during his Detroit Tigers baseball career. Even before Sandy Koufax, Hank Greenberg refused to play on Yom Kippur. My Mom told me she even dated Hank, but that's another story.

Anyway, the Jewish Bronx became infamous in many ways. The Goldberg's premiered, in black and white, of course, on CBS Television back in 1948. It featured Gertrude Berg as the well-meaning Jewish mother living in a Bronx tenement. The official game ball of the Bronx (stickball) was the pink ten-cent Spaulding. Long before there were Bronx bodegas, George Farkas opened a store in the Bronx named for his father Alexander. Alexander's at one point reportedly made more sales per square foot than any other department store in the nation. And, just like my family, they successfully moved to Queens.

At the height of the Jewish population in the Bronx, people there thought there was no place better to raise a family. But more scenic boroughs and the suburbs beckoned. And the Schneider's along with hundreds of thousands of other Jewish families left the Bronx. Synagogues closed as people left. But not everyone left. The Yankees stayed. And with the increase in elevated train service and the construction of expressways that criss-crossed the borough, some Jewish people headed north to a part of the Bronx with new high-rises in a neighborhood scenically called Riverdale, home to Leibman's Kosher Delicatessen, the famed Hebrew Institute and a Jewish population that exceeds 20,000.

Educationally speaking, the Bronx was home to what many consider to be the nation's premier academic high school—the Bronx High School of Science. The founding principal, Dr. Morris Meister was raised on the Jewish Lower East Side. 'Science' as some call the school has

been so popular that even Queens families have long supported a daily direct private bus service for their children.

Aside from the Yankees, there was another draw to the Bronx, albeit a short-lived phenomenon—Freedomland, an American history-themed amusement park. "\$2.95 is all you pay for Freedomland all day," went the catchy advertising jingle. But alas, the expense of running the entertaining facility—and competition from Coney Island to Rye Playland to the Queens-based World's Fair—doomed Freedomland. The property eventually became the high-rise Co-op City. But at least the Bronx Zoo and the New York Botanical Gardens have survived.

The Bronx tales are filled with my Bronx-born Grand Concourse of grand and fond memories. Questions or comments? Please email me at: [copymark@gmail.com](mailto:copymark@gmail.com)  
*Bronx accents accepted.*



# Kitah Bet's Siddur Ceremony

## Anya Morgulis



This year's Kitah Bet just had their siddur ceremony! Prior to the ceremony, each learner's parents invested time in creating a beautiful and meaningful siddur cover, including their Hebrew name, Jewish symbols, and of course incorporating their interests, like sports and music. The learners worked hard with Morah Shahla to prepare prayers and songs, as well as a skit about the letters of the aleph bet. Together with Rabbi Mishkin and their families, we recited the *Shehecheyanu*, sharing our gratitude for finding ourselves being able to mark this special moment in time. When the parents presented the siddurim to their learners, they each shared a blessing or hope for their learner, and what owning their own siddur means for them and their families.

In the short time since they have received their siddur, they have begun to spend time with Morah Shahla exploring the pages, marking the prayers they already know, and getting to know this special book. My hope is that these fresh and crisp pages soon begin to be creased with love and the pages become familiar to these learners' hands. May these siddurim cultivate a lifelong joy and love of Judaism in these learners.



TBI High learners creating an artistic representation of a time in their life that they felt the presence of G'd



Shorashim creating an *olam*, or world, to celebrate Earth Day, and learn about the Jewish values of taking care of our planet.

As we all enjoyed our Passover break April swooped right in! Our caterpillars arrived and they have crawled their way up to the top of their jar and are now in their chrysalis form. We are all patiently waiting for them to break through and become butterflies. We can't wait to see their beautiful colors and feed them. Once they are ready to fly off on their own we will be releasing them!

We celebrated Israel's 73rd birthday! We made Israeli flags and had a parade with each class. We also made a cake and decorated it and sang Happy Birthday. It was so delicious and we loved the smell from baking that traveled throughout the synagogue.

Earth Day was celebrated on April 22nd. Each class talked about why we celebrate Earth Day and how important it is to keep our earth clean. Recycling was a big topic too. Some brought in recycled products to share with the class. Many of these items are used to express themselves through art. You would be amazed at the items that we recycle to use in our loose parts art area.

We have collected cereal boxes, yogurt pouches for painting, paper rolls and a lot more. We are thrilled that Boppercise and Music came back to school outside on our patio in the place of Zoom since the weather has warmed up! Our outdoor furniture is heading back outside for us to use daily.

Our 2021 Graduates will be graduating on June 23rd. We will have an outdoor ceremony for parents and siblings. We are so thankful for this amazing school year! Each class has had a great experience despite COVID. Our teachers and parents have both worked so hard to keep everyone safe and we thank all of you for working together as a team!



# *Simchas and Condolences*

## **The BAM Fund (be a mensch):**

Beverly Taubel wish condolences to Barbara and Bert Taffet on the loss of Barbara's beloved sister Susan Taylor.

Shirley Levinson wishes her condolences to Barbara Taffet on the loss of her beloved sister, Susan Taylor.

Annette and Dan Kasle wish their sincerest condolences to Barbara Taffet on the loss of her beloved sister, Susan Taylor.

Harriet Englander wishes condolences to Dan, Seth and the Hulkower family on the loss of Joan Hulkower beloved wife, mother, grandmother and friend.

Beverly Taubel in loving memory of Joan Hulkower beloved wife, mother, grandmother and friend.

Dan Golub in loving memory of his dear friend Joan Hulkower.

Sheryl and Dan Gordon and family in loving memory of Joan Hulkower.

The Gordon's wish their condolences to Barbara and Bert Taffet on the loss of Barbara's beloved sister Susan Taylor.

## **The Building Fund:**

Ronnie Peshkin wishes Barbara Taffet a very happy birthday!

Ronnie Peshkin wishes Irene Silver a very happy birthday!

Nancy and Jay Feldman send good wishes and a hearty mazel tov to Barbara Taffet for her birthday.

Eric May wishes condolences to Dan, Seth and the Hulkower family on the loss of Joan Hulkower beloved wife, mother, grandmother and friend.

Allison and Jon White wish their sincere condolences to Barbara and Bert Taffet on the loss of Barbara's beloved sister Susan Taylor and her beloved nephew Gregory Taylor.

Allison and Jon White wish their sincere condolences to Dan, Seth and the Hulkower family on the loss of Joan Hulkower, beloved wife, mother and grandmother.

Lisa Naiburg and Dan Kisch, wish their condolences to the Hulkower family on the loss of Joan Hulkower, a true woman of valor.

We are so very sorry for your loss, Joan Hulkower was an amazing woman, she will be greatly missed. The Weiss Family

Letty and Jerry Roberts in loving memory of Joan Hulkower

Barbara and Bert Taffet in loving memory of Joan Hulkower

Ilana and Allen Levitt in loving memory of Joan Hulkower.

Michael Adler and Michelle Goldberg, in loving memory of Joan Hulkower.

Joan and Sanford Weintraub in loving memory of Joan Hulkower.

Jill Mindlan and Jonathan Konoff and family in loving memory of Joan Hulkower.

The Gindi family in loving memory of Joan Hulkower.

Susan Isaacs and Elkan Abramowitz in loving memory of Joan Hulkower.

Marilyn and Bruce Yukelson in loving memory of Joan Hulkower.

Vivi and Steve Brownstein in loving memory of Joan Hulkower.

In loving memory of Joan Hulkower a fixture at TBI as long as we have been members Mitch and Jodi Rosen and family.

Aren and Alex Tung, in loving memory of Joan Hulkower, both Joan and Bernie hold a special place in our hearts.

The Palmer family wish sincerest

condolences to the Hulkower family on the loss of Joan Hulkower, what a terrible loss to our world.

Daniel and Joan Konas in loving memory of Joan Hulkower.

Diane and Steve Greenlick wish their sincerest condolences to the Taffets on the loss of Barbara's beloved sister, Susan Taylor.

Diane and Steve Greenlick wish their sincerest condolences to the Hulkower family on the loss of Joan Hulkower.

Amy and David Kornblau in loving memory of Joan Hulkower

The Lundberg family in loving memory of Joan Hulkower.

Sherrie and Michael Pollack in loving memory of Joan Hulkower

Sherrie and Michael Pollack wish their sincere condolences to the Taffets on the loss of Barbara's beloved sister Susan Taylor.

Susan Lennon and Nick Merritt in loving memory of Joan Hulkower.

Gerry Slade Halpern in loving memory of Joan Hulkower.

Alan and Millie Fell in loving memory of Joan Hulkower.

Sylvia Mermel in loving memory of Joan Hulkower

The Faltischek family in loving memory of Joan Hulkower.

Sandy Albert and Bob Gass wish their condolences to the Hulkower family, Joan touched us with her kindness.

The Adsetts family sending comfort to the Hulkower family.

Bari Ziegel & Gary Weiss in memory of Joan Hulkower.

# *Simchas and Condolences Continued...*

## **The Building Fund:**

The Shevrin family in loving memory of Joan Hulkower.

The Shevrin family wishes a hearty Mazel Tov to the Kraus family on the Bar Mitzvah of Gavin Kraus.

In memory of our beloved Aunt and Icon, Joan Hulkower...the Abraham family, the Greene family, the Merles family and the Belzner family.

Nancy and Jay Feldman wish condolences to the Hulkower family on the passing of our dear and beloved Joan.

Nancy and Jay Feldman wish condolences to Barbara and Bert Taffet on the loss of Susan Taylor, beloved sister of Barbara.

Joan will forever be in our hearts. With love and sincere condolences...Dori and Michael Fishbin.

Paula Kaminsky Davis wishes her sincerest condolences to the Hulkower family on the loss of Joan Hulkower.

Paula Kaminsky Davis in loving memory of her beloved mother, Lorraine Kaminsky.

The Brezel family in loving memory of Clotilde Sonnino Treves, beloved mother of Claire Brezel

## **The Cantor's Discretionary Fund:**

Cecilia Gardner and Dan Feldman in loving memory of Dr. Milton Gardner, beloved father of Cecilia.

## **The Kiddush Lunch Fund:**

The Golan family in loving memory of Joan Hulkower.

Susanne and Seth Diamond in loving memory of Roslyn Diamond (Chaya Rayzel bat Menachem Mendel), Beloved mother of Seth.

## **L'Chaim Sponsors:**

Gil Hammer sponsors a L'Chaim in loving memory of his beloved father, Robert Hammer.

The Jackman family sponsors a L'Chaim in loving memory of Howard Levin, beloved father of Naomi Jackman.

## **The Library Fund:**

Ronnie Peshkin wishes sincerest condolences to Barbara Taffet on the loss of her beloved sister Susan Taylor.

Sandra and Stephen Marcus offer sincerest condolences to Barbara and Bert Taffet on the loss of Barbara's beloved sister Susan Taylor.

Judith and Morton Sloan wish sincere condolences to Barbara and Bert Taffet on the loss of Susan Taylor, beloved sister of Barbara.

Judith Wolf wishes her condolences to Barbara Taffet on the loss of her beloved sister, Susan Taylor.

Sandra and Stephen Marcus offer sincerest condolences to the Hulkower family on the loss of Joan Hulkower.

Letty and Jerry Roberts wish condolences to Barbara Taffet on the loss of her beloved sister, Susan Taylor.

Marilyn Oser in loving memory of Joan Hulkower.

Rae and Martin Smolowitz in loving memory of Joan Hulkower.

Beth Hisler and Bob Epstein wish condolences to Barbara Taffet on the loss of her beloved sister, Susan Taylor

Beth Hisler and Bob Epstein in honor of Jon White for his leadership as the chair of the Cantor Search Committee.

Beth Hisler and Bob Epstein wish their sincere condolences to the Hulkower family on the loss of Joan Hulkower.

Beth Hisler and Bob Epstein in honor of Rabbi Mishkin.

In honor of Gerri Blum in recognition of her excellent series of articles for Brooklyn/Queens WLCJ....Susan and Richard Levin

Susan and Richard Levin in loving memory of Ruth L. Menzer beloved mother of Susan Levin.

## **The Mahzor Book Fund:**

Heidi and Michael Jaffe in loving memory of Samuel Cheven, beloved grandfather of Heidi Jaffe.

Arnold Abramowitz and family in loving memory of his beloved wife, Arlene Abramowitz.

In loving memory of Joan Hulkower, Sandy and Lance Pittman

In loving memory of Joan Hulkower, Esther Levine.

Elaine Wexler in loving memory of Joan and Bernie Hulkower.

## **The Mortgage Reduction Fund:**

Ronnie Peshkin in loving memory of Joan Hulkower.

Condolences to Barbara Taffet on the loss of her beloved sister Susan Taylor...Susan and Richard Levin.

## **The Preschool Fund:**

Marcia Todd offers deepest condolences to Debi Gewitz and family on the passing of her beloved mother Judith Golub.

Marcia Todd offers deepest condolences to Dan Golub on the passing of his beloved wife, Judith Golub.

The Gewitz family wish their sincere condolences to the Hulkower family on the loss of our beloved neighbor and friend Joan Hulkower.

# Sisterhood Contributions



*Honor someone's simcha, express sympathy, or wish someone refuah shlema by making a contribution to Sisterhood, and a card will be sent on your behalf. For a minimum contribution of \$10.00, you can choose from the Building Beautification Fund (BBF), Flower Fund (FF), School Equipment Fund (SEF), Torah Repair Fund (TRF), or the Women's League Torah Fund Campaign (WLTF). JNF Tree certificates are available for a minimum contribution of \$18.00. Please e-mail Deborah Brooks at [deborahnaomi@aol.com](mailto:deborahnaomi@aol.com) and send your contribution (payable to TBI Sisterhood) to TBI, c/o Deborah Brooks.*

Sincere condolences to Barbara Taffet on the passing of her beloved sister Susan Taylor  
Board and Officers WLTF  
Harriett Englander TRF  
Katy and Eden Kasle TRF  
Sisterhood WLTF

With a very heavy heart, we mourn the passing of our beloved longtime TBI member, Joan Hulkower, a pillar of the TBI and greater Jewish community for over 50 years.  
Board and Officers WLTF  
Katy and Eden Kasle TRF  
Alisa and Bruce Schindler TRF  
Sisterhood WLTF

In loving memory of Joan Hulkower  
Helen Steiner TRF

Mazal tov to Jill and Gary Mellow on their daughter Amanda becoming a Bat Mitzvah  
Board and Officers WLTF  
Eleanor and Victor Himel FF  
Sisterhood WLTF

Mazal tov to Ilana and Matthew Engel on their son Joshua becoming a Bar Mitzvah  
Board and Officers WLTF  
Eleanor and Victor Himel FF  
Sisterhood WLTF

Mazal tov to Rebecca and Andrew Schwartz on their son Leo becoming a Bar Mitzvah  
Board and Officers WLTF  
Eleanor and Victor Himel FF  
Sisterhood WLTF

Mazal tov to Stacey and Adam Gould on their son Noah becoming a Bar Mitzvah  
Board and Officers WLTF  
Eleanor and Victor Himel FF  
Sisterhood WLTF

## Sisterhood...Spread Some Love

If you know of anyone in need of a pick me up or not feeling well, please reach out to Sisterhood.

In a simple and unobtrusive way, we can bring a little brightness to a friend in need. Email Alisa Schindler at [alisaschindler@gmail.com](mailto:alisaschindler@gmail.com)

Thank you,  
Alisa, Michelle, Beth

### The Rabbi's Discretionary Fund:

Ilene and Howard Schneider express their thanks to Rabbi Mishkin for making Caleb Lundberg's Bar Mitzvah such a wonderful simcha!

The Lundberg family in honor of Rabbi Mishkin for his help with Caleb's Bar Mitzvah!

Rae and Marty Smolowitz wish condolences to Barbara Taffet on the loss of her beloved sister, Susan Taylor.

The Schuckmans in honor of Rabbi Mishkin.

Sandy Ash in loving memory of her beloved husband, Herb Ash.

Sandy Ash in loving memory of her beloved parents, Belle and Sidney Engel.

Sandy Ash wishes Barbara and Bert Taffet her sincerest condolences on the loss of Barbara's beloved Sister, Susan Taylor and her beloved nephew Gregory Taylor.

The Gewirtz family in honor of and with thanks to Rabbi Mishkin.

Gloria and Ira Slutzky wish Barbara and Bert Taffet sincerest condolences on the loss of Barbara's beloved sister Susan Taylor.

Judy Aiges in loving memory of Joan Hulkower.

Judy Aiges wishes Barbara and Bert taffet Sincere condolences on the loss of Barbara's beloved sister, Susan Taylor.

Judy Aiges wishes continued good health and a full recovery to Rachel Bialer.

Judy Siegel in loving memory of Louis Rothkopf, beloved grandfather.

The Kreitman and Goldstein family in loving memory of Harry Siegel, beloved grandfather of Corey Goldstein.

Suzanne and Peter Grabiner wish sincerest condolences to the Hulkower family on the loss of Joan Hulkower, beloved wife, mother and grandmother.

Dan Golub in honor of Rabbi Mishkin, thank you for your support during this time.

The Palmer family wish sincerest condolences to the Taffets on the loss of Barbara's beloved sister, Susan Taylor.

### TANS:

Lisa Naiburg and Dan Kisch offer deepest condolences to Debi Gewitz and family on the passing of her beloved mother.

Lisa Naiburg and Dan Kisch offer deepest condolences to Dan Golub on the passing of his beloved wife.

# FRIDAY NIGHT

Celebrate a Special Shabbat with Temple Beth Israel

&

naomi less

Live!

Friday May 14th - 6:30pm  
Shabbat will be in the lower lot  
weather permitting.  
The service will also be zoomed.

Let us know you are coming by  
Wednesday, May 12th

[jcheevers@tbiport.org](mailto:jcheevers@tbiport.org)



Temple  
Beth Israel

Be Enriched, Be Inspired, Belong

