TEMPLE TIMES

May/June/July/August 2023

Iyar/ Sivan/Tamuz/Av/Elul 5783



Temple Beth Shalom

Established 1953

Member United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism







That Way

Temple Beth Shalom Way

Don't forget about us during the summer!!



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From Rabbi Sarah's Desk



"Where you go, I will go. Your people will be my people; your God, my God." The power of these words resonate today, over 3000 years after they were spoken. In the Tanach, Ruth the Moabite makes the

declaration above to her mother-in-law Naomi. Naomi's husband and two sons died, leaving Naomi a widow with no property and two daughters-in-law to feed. She tells the young women, Ruth and Orpah, to return to their families of origin. Orpah leaves, but Ruth devotes herself to Naomi and to the Jewish people.

The women return to the Land of Israel penniless. Ruth gleans the wheat fields of Naomi's kinsman Boaz. He shows her kindness and protection. Ultimately the two marry, becoming the ancestors of King David. The Book of Ruth is short - only four chapters. But it teaches important lessons about loyalty and kindness, loss and resilience. Ruth and Naomi support one another through heartbreak and hardship. They show each other kindness and receive kindness from Boaz. Above all, the story demonstrates that loss isn't necessarily the end of the story - it can be the moment of transformation and hope.

The Book of Ruth is read on Shavuot, the Festival celebrating the Revelation at Mt. Sinai and the Giving of the Torah. There are many explanations given for why we traditionally read the Book of Ruth on Shavuot. The most quoted reason is that Ruth's coming to Israel took place around the time of Shavuot, and her acceptance into the Jewish faith parallels the Jewish people's acceptance of Torah.

On Shavuot, we commemorate, celebrate, and reenact the revelation at Mt. Sinai. I love Shavuot (and not only because it's traditional to eat ice cream and cheesecake!). It's a holiday filled with meaning. We call this festival, "Z'man Matan Torateinu/The time of the giving of our Torah," and on Shavuot we engage deeply with Torah and with our people's unique covenantal relationship with

God. Shavuot occurs 50 days after Passover. On Passover, we celebrate the Jewish people's liberation from slavery. Pesach is the holiday of freedom. And yet, as Nobel Prize Author Andre Gide wrote, "To know how to free oneself is nothing; the arduous thing is to know what to do with one's freedom." Shavuot comes seven weeks after Passover to teach us what to do with our freedom.

As we count up the seven weeks to Shavuot, how will you engage with Torah and Jewish tradition? What are the ways that you encounter God in your daily life? What can you do to enhance and expand those points of contact? What does a mature religious and spiritual life look like to you? Are there steps that you need to take to move to that deeper and more fulfilling place?

Spring is always a bustling time in the Jewish community. It's B'nai Mitzvah and wedding season, we have a number of wonderful Jewish holidays, the Temple calendar is chock full of wonderful programs and learning opportunities. I hope to see you there!

Warmly,

Rabbi Sarah

tarah Tujah



A Message From Our President



Dear Fellow Congregants,

Passover has come and gone. Some have said that Passover is the most *constipated* of all Jewish holidays. Hopefully you did not get too bound up from all of the matzah this time around. To that end, I

wish you twelve months of smooth sailing, improved regularity, and intestinal fortitude.

Temple Beth Shalom has been, and continues to be, a community friend and partner to all. We open our doors to our neighbors, first responders, and fellow houses of worship in times of need. And that need has arisen twice in recent months.

During the months of February and March, members of the Mahopac Volunteer Fire Department have shared our space due to construction at their firehouse. The construction prevented them from holding training and meetings in their own building. They utilized our classrooms, kiddush room, and social hall to conduct these mandatory sessions. This helped to ensure that their mission of keeping Mahopac and the surrounding towns safe could continue. It also did wonders for helping to integrate TBS into the broader non-Jewish community. Thank you to Jack Z. for handling all of the details in order to make the transition to TBS easy for the MVFD.

On March 7th, a powerful storm tore through our area, which caused much damage and numerous power outages throughout the region. Unfortunately, our neighbors at the First Presbyterian Church sustained damage to their building during this storm. The damage was caused by a large tree that fell on the powerlines in front of the church, which, in turn, caused several telephone poles to fall. TBS immediately reached out and offered them the use of our building so that they could hold Worship Services for their parishioners. On Sunday, March 12th, the church held services in our Social Hall – warm, welcomed, and safe. Thank you to Marlene H. and Brian S. for helping out!

We find ourselves in the midst of B'nai Mitzvah season! Some were in the recent past, and there are more on the horizon. With that, Mazel Tov to the Leviner, Ende, Zimmerman, Rosenblum, De Leon, and Pereira-German families! Later this year, we look

forward to having Aurora and Dylan on the bimah! I give a sincere Yasher Koach to our fabulous B'nai Mitzvah tutors Lynn Michaels and Jeff Guest! Kudos to both of you.

The current religious school year is coming to an end in a couple of months. I would like to give a great big Todah Rabah to our teachers - Miss Aimee, Mrs. Samson, and Miss Bria along with our Religious School Co-Chairs Wendy G. and Laurie E., our Executive Committee liaison Fred E., and, of course, Rabbi Sarah. Thank you to all the volunteers that helped ensure our school ran smoothly - Jill R., Scott M., Ari S., Karyn L., Matt H., and many more!

Please join me in congratulating Ron Arsham on the honor of receiving the Julian Y. Bernstein Distinguished Service Award on behalf of his unwavering commitment and work with USCJ over the years. The Awards Ceremony is on May 9th at Temple Israel Center of White Plains. There is no cost to attend, but you must RSVP in advance. Please check your email for details.

What else has been happening at TBS, you may ask? The Purim Carnival, Trunk or Treat, and the Megillah reading were wildly successful and fun. We recently held not one, but *two* Baby Namings! Additionally, our own certified instructor, Jack Z., hosted and taught the American Heart Association's HeartSaver CPR and AED course. Finally, our Yom Hashoah program was held on April 16th with special guest speaker Lisa Salko. All of this speaks to how active and vibrant our TBS community continues to be.

Please watch your email for details on the upcoming Congregational Meeting to be held in person on June 11th at 10:00 AM.

Now here come my two 'Asks' for this update: I ask that you invite your Jewish friends, neighbors, or work colleagues to experience a Friday night Shabbat service with us. Or invite them to join us virtually via Zoom for Shabbat morning services. Follow, Like, and Share our social media content on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. Next, I'll guarantee there is a committee at TBS that could certainly benefit from your time and skills, whatever they may be. If that intersects with your interests as well, then all the better! I sincerely ask that you consider sharing some of your time as a volunteer at TBS.

A Message from Our President—cont'd

This issue of our Temple Times is the last one before we go on hiatus for the summer. The next edition should be in your hands towards the end of August. On behalf of the entire Board of Trustees, I wish you good health, safe travels, beautiful sunsets, memorable occasions, laughter, and smiles this Spring and Summer.

And now, for something completely different.....a bit of humor!

A Passover Haiku:

On Passover we Opened the door for Elijah Now our cat is gone.

Q: What do you call someone who derives pleasure from the bread of affliction?

A: A matzochist.

If you can't say something nice, say it in Yiddish.

A Jewish grandfather takes his grandchildren to the beach. They're playing in the sand when suddenly, a massive wave comes and pulls the smallest grandson out into the water. Panicked, the grandfather prays to G-d. "Oh G-d, please bring him back! Please let him live!" Suddenly, an even bigger wave bursts out of the ocean, setting the little boy down right at his grandfather's feet. He scoops him up into a great big hug. Then he stares up at the sky and says, "He had a hat."

(Sources: Various interwebs)

L'Shalom

Allan Gunzburg

A Message from Our Educational Director

Coming Full Circle: From Toddler to Teacher

My family's involvement at TBS began over twenty years ago. Before I can remember, I took part in our synagogue's religious services and events. From my own baby naming to Education Director, my journey has been filled with memorable and lifelong experiences.

I am honored to become our synagogue's Education Director/Lead Teacher beginning this summer. As a former student, I am excited to bring my knowledge, unique experience, and love of Judaism to our Religious School to inspire and educate our youth. I was positively impacted by many Jewish role models growing up within our synagogue. As the new Education Director, I want to instill the values of civic engagement, empowerment, leadership, and community involvement in our students. The laws of the Torah, along with our traditions, culture, and history, provide direction and guidance and must forever be passed on to our younger generations.

As TBS's new Education Director/Lead Teacher, my vision for the school is that students and parents will be eager and passionate about our educational programming, with the ultimate intent for students to look forward to being present at synagogue with their fellow peers and Jewish community. This will make the Religious School stronger and healthier with the

goal of increased enrollment, innovative activities, solid leadership, and enhanced programming.

Our Religious School is an asset in which we must continue to invest in. A healthy religious school is a key contributor to an outstanding synagogue.

Some of my focus areas for this coming year include:

Proficiency in Jewish traditions, culture, holidays, and Hebrew language.

Customized youth activities to enhance the core curriculum.

Creation of an engaging and interactive Children's Library.

I look forward to continuing to work closely with Aimee, Cissie, and Rabbi Sarah, and connecting with our partners at Online Jewish Learning, and collaborating with our TBS Religious School Committee!

Your thoughts and ideas are always welcome. I can be reached at <u>Edudir@TBSMahopac.org</u>.

Sincerely,

Bria Gunzburg

Sisterhood News By Robin Kushner



As we sit around the table for our family seder each year, someone always asks, "are you going to keep Passover this year?" It is a simple question, but one that we all have our own answers to. Some of us are strict in our observance,

some just eliminate bread products from our diet, and others only observe for the night of Passover. This year, one of my family members commented that they did not believe in denying themselves something that they enjoyed for the sake of religion. But I believe that is the wrong way of looking at things. Rather than looking at Passover as what we don't have, we should look at Passover as what we do have: our traditions and our heritage. There are so many people deciding not to join a synagogue or educate their children about our heritage because they do not feel a connection with our past. To keep the Jewish faith alive, we must remember and share our stories with our friends and family. Our children need to know what obstacles our people have faced.

So yes. Not eating bread is about religion, but it is so much more than that. It is about our traditions, heritage, and freedom to worship however we want. Most of all, it is for the individual to remember who

they are, where they come from, and what their important role is in sharing their knowledge.

Look forward to seeing you at the next Sisterhood event.

Thursday, April 20th at 7 pm. Sisterhood meeting on Zoom. This meeting will be part of our Programming meeting. Please join us to share your ideas.

Sunday, April 23rd at 4 pm at the synagogue. Author Jane Gabin will be sharing her book The Paris Photo. This is based on her father's experiences during WWII. THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO ALL CONGREGANTS. There is no fee for the program.

Sunday, May 7th, Woman of the Year honoring Gail Freundlich at Lynn Michaels' home. Please rsvp. The cost is \$36/person.

Sunday, June 24th. All day at the synagogue. Sisterhood flea market. All hands on deck. Please join us. It is time for your spring cleaning. We are now accepting donations for the white elephant (no clothes). Please contact me if you have any questions.

Robin

From the Men's Club By Joel Greenberg



I hope that everyone had a very Happy Passover. I assume that your passion for matzah hasn't faded. We have some very exciting programs in the coming months, including a Men's Club Shabbat, a meeting with the local school superintendents to discuss school budgets for the 2023-2024

school year, and a musical performance performed by Paul Plotnick and the group he performs with. Flyers will be emailed with all the details.

MEN'S CLUB HEADLINE NEWS:

Trial of the Century - The Trial of Delilah The Trial of Delilah will take place on Sunday, June 4th, at 10:30 AM. Her defense attorney will be our own Scott Reing. The prosecuting attorney will be Putnam County District Attorney Bob Tendy. Delilah will be played by none other than (and I'm sure you can guess) that it will be Lynn Michaels. As we've done in the past, the jury will consist of all of us who are in attendance, including

students from the Hebrew school. This could be the trial of the century, so it would be great to have as many people on the jury as possible.

On Monday Night, July 3rd, TBS Men's Club makes its 2nd annual baseball outing to Dutchess Stadium to see the Hudson Valley Renegades play the Wilmington Blue Rocks. We will also experience a spectacular fireworks display in honor of our nation's Independence. In addition, our own LTC Neil Gross will be honored as Veteran of the Day for his over 39 years of military duty and for being awarded 2 Purple Hearts for his service in Vietnam. All of our group will also receive the new 2023 Renegades baseball hat. Ticket prices are still only \$25 each. Please invite family and friends to join in the fun! We had over 60 tickets sold last year, and all had a fabulous time. Contact Paul Plotnick or Joel Greenberg with questions and to make reservations.

Shalom, Joel

Temple Beth Shalom Annual Flea Market Where: 760 Rt. 6 Mahopac, NY When: June 25, 2023, Time: 9AM-4PM

This event will be held RAIN OR SHINE



Food Available for Purchase

Please join us in honoring our very own

Ron Arsham

as a 2023 Julian Y. Bernstein Distinguished Service Award winner by Westchester Jewish Council

Location: Temple Israel Center of White Plains Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 Time: 7:30pm

The Julian Y. Bernstein Distinguished Service Award is named after Julian Y. Bernstein (z"l), a former Westchester Jewish Council board member, who was a visionary communal leader. In tribute to his passion and devotion to the Jewish community, WJC honors those who follow in his footsteps.

TO RSVP, or to purchase a congratulatory ad in the WJC Awards Program, click here:

https://www.wjcouncil.org/28th-jybdsa-ceremony

To donate to Temple Beth Shalom in Ron's honor, follow this link (be sure to log into ShulCloud)

https://www.tbsmahopac.org/payment.php

Ritual News by Eddie Lapa



Shalom,
"Remember the past, Live the present and Trust the Future" -- Aba
Kovner- Holocaust survivor and poet

I can't believe that another year has passed and I'm writing the Ritual

Article for the Temple Times Spring/Summer edition. We had a very busy Winter/early spring at TBS. It was amazing to see how many of you came to our Purim Megillah Reading and to the Carnival with the Trunk or Treat! It appeared to be standing room only at the Megillah reading. Thank you to Lynn for pulling together the reading/audiovisual, as well as assigning the readings. A special thanks to Gail Plaut, Isabel, and Kei for organizing the MiShloach Manot bags and to all the Drivers for delivering them. Rabbi Sarah gave it her all as Animal from the Muppets!!!

Hopefully everyone had a wonderful Pesach and your Seders were full of family and friends and good food as we told the story of the Exodus from Egypt to the Promised Land! L'Shanah Haba'ah B'Yerushalayim - Next Year in Jerusalem!

Our Yom HaShoah Program, "The 13 Driver's Licenses" was presented. I am writing this on Sunday April 9th and the YH Program is next week, on Sunday the 16th. I'm sure it will be a moving experience. Thanks again to Marvin Meadow for making the initial contacts and to Bernice for coordinating, running and executing a wonderful program.

Upcoming events

- Shavuot Thurs., May 25 Sat., May 27th.
- Tisha B'Av Wed., July 26 -Thurs., July
- Rosh Hashanah Fri., Sept 15 Sun., Sept. 17th
- Yom Kippur Sun., Sept 24 Mon., Sept 25th

We would like to wish a Hearty Mazel Tov to Our B'nai Mitzyot Children and Families:

May 6th Sydney Ende May 13th Ella Zimmerman June 17th Bree Rosenblum Aug 26th James DeLeon Sept 2nd Aurora Pereira-German

We encourage everyone to sign up to read Torah, Haftorah, lead Prayers (Hebrew or English) or deliver a D'var on Shabbat. It's a wonderful way to connect to our heritage as well as with your fellow congregants and Friends. We are always looking for people to lead.

Please support and participate in all activities from Sisterhood and Men's Club.

On behalf of the entire Ritual Committee, we would like to wish everyone continued health, strength and a wonderful and safe Spring/Summer!!!

Eddie and Matt



SUNDAY, JUNE 4TH 10:30AM MOCK TRIAL

JOIN THE TBS MEN'S CLUB FOR THE TRIAL OF THE CENTURY

CAST TBD



Meet Sydney Ende



Hi, my name is Sydney Ende. I have been going to Temple Beth Shalom for seven years. I have a sister named Ardyn who is in 4th grade and also goes to temple. My parents both work in education. I also have a dog named Charley. A few months after my

family got Charley, he was diagnosed with cancer. It was a rough time, and he was only a few months old. When I went to temple, I always prayed that he would be alright. Being at Temple Beth Shalom with people who understand and are there for you makes it so much better. Charley is now a happy (and crazy) dog.

I am in 7th grade and go to Robert E. Bell Middle School in Chappaqua. I run for my school's cross country team and track team. I love to play soccer, and I am on an amazing soccer team. I also play percussion in my school band. In school, my favorite subject is Social Studies. I like to learn about historical events and what happened before me.

When I first came to the temple I had no idea what it meant to be Jewish. Over the years, being at temple has taught me that being Jewish is something only you can describe. Everyone has their own opinion on what being Jewish means. You might think being Jewish is learning about the holidays or praying, but to me, being Jewish is so much more. Being Jewish means that you can embrace your religion, learn about your past, and make the best memories with the people you love (it's also about the amazing snacks we get at Hebrew School, but don't tell the Rabbi).

My favorite part of Hebrew school growing up was Purim. I loved being in the plays and getting to dress up and hang out with friends. I loved singing and booing Haman. (BOO!) Becoming a Jewish adult is a lot of work. Thankfully we have the best teachers in the world. (I know! 8.06 billion people, and we still have the best teachers ever!) Since the beginning, the people at our temple have helped me learn Hebrew and helped me learn about the history that brought us here today.

As you know, when you are B'nai Mitzvahed, you have a mitzvah project. As I mentioned, I love to run. You will always see me running after school or just in general with my dad. So, as a mitzvah project, I have chosen to run laps (people who want to join in are more than welcome) and will donate the money to the ASPCA. Every five dollars you donate is one lap for me to run. People who are interested in helping can donate multiples of five, up to fifty dollars. My goal is to raise one thousand dollars in the next two months. The ASPCA is a charity that will help animals find loving homes. This animal rescue works really hard and puts as much time as they can into helping these animals. Donating to this charity will help save many animals from harsh situations. Donating allows ASPCA to spend less time fundraising and more time saving lives.

I want to end this page by focusing on something that Rabbi Sarah has always told us to pay attention to, our "Pleases, Thank Yous, and Wows." I usually have the same things I pray for every time. One Please I have is that my family is healthy and strong. I always thank God for giving me an amazing, healthy life. My Wows are that I have shelter, food, a family, an education, and amazing people in my life when others aren't so lucky.

Thank you for reading and supporting me throughout my time at Temple Beth Shalom!

Meet Ella Zimmerman



Hi, my name is Ella Zimmerman. My Hebrew name is Ela Rahel. I am a seventh grader at George Fisher Middle School. I am a member of the Peer Leader program at school. We do fundraisers, and we help at school events. I also helped tutor the

younger grades. My favorite subject at school is Math. My favorite sport is lacrosse. I've been playing with CRYLAX since I was in kindergarten. This year, I got

the chance to play on the modified team for school.

I love to travel with my family. I always look forward to going to Long Beach Island, NJ every summer. I live with my mom and sister, Anna, who's away at school. She is a sophomore at Binghamton University. My dad recently passed away and my favorite things to do with him were play lacrosse and watch movies. When I am older, I'd like to pursue a career as an architect. At home, I like to paint and make bracelets.

Meet Ella Zimmerman—cont'd

During the summer, I go to Camp Clearpool. I have been going there for almost ten years.

One of my favorite Jewish holidays is Hanukkah. I like lighting the menorah and receiving and giving gifts. My other favorite Jewish holiday is Passover. I enjoy spending time with family and fighting over the afikomen with my cousins and sister.

For my Bat Mitzvah project, I am raising money for Build Africa. Build Africa is an organization that

helps children get the education that they need and deserve. Over the years, they have helped provide education for over 330,000 children in sixteen countries. Many countries in Africa have been affected by poverty, but that shouldn't prevent the kids from having a proper education. I hope to help in any way I can.

My Bat Mitzvah service will be in the morning at the synagogue. Later in the day, I am having a party at Tilly's Table. It will be a very memorable day.

Meet Bree Rosenblum



Hi, my name is Bree Rosenblum, and my Hebrew name is Bryna Rifkah. I've been going to Temple Beth Shalom since I was 18 months old with my mom for the Baby and Me program. Since then, everyone at the temple has always encouraged me. As soon as I walk in the

door, there is always someone there to say hi and ask me how I am. I love our temple because everyone here is very supportive, and they let me know they're there for me if I need them.

I have a sister named Lauren, who is in 5th grade. We fight...a lot! But when we're not fighting, I enjoy helping her and spending time with her. My parents are Jeff and Jill, and I have the cutest Goldendoodle named Kenzie. She's very playful and full of energy. When she's not snuggling next to me on the couch, she's running around like crazy in the backyard with a tennis ball.

I'm in 7th grade, and I go to Somers Middle School. My favorite classes are social studies and math because my teachers are really nice and fun. I enjoy learning about what the world was like before I was born, and I just like doing math. Each year I participate in my school's drama production as part of the cast, and I put a lot of work into it. Outside of school, my favorite thing to do is dance. I'm on the competition team at Penny Lane Dance Academy, and I really enjoy it. I perform lyrical, ballet, modern, and jazz about 3-4 times per week.

When it comes to holidays, two of my favorites are Hanukkah and Purim. I like Hanukkah because I love lighting the menorah, playing dreidel, and the story of the Maccabees. And of course, who doesn't like getting presents! I think the lesson from the Miracle of Lights is important because you should always hope for the best and not always think things aren't going to turn out okay. Purim's story is also so meaningful. Some of my favorite memories at TBS are being in the Purim plays. I love celebrating that we're still alive, all to Esther's bravery. Her courage not only teaches us that it's important to be brave and take risks, but it also shows us how important it is to stand up for what is right.

One of the things that I am standing up for is making people more aware of animal abuse. When I was younger, I went to the Saratoga Racetrack, and I felt like the horses were being abused. The jockeys were whipping them and making them use up all their energy just for our entertainment. This is what made me want to help animals and make people more aware that animals can have a happy, carefree life like the humans who abuse them do. Because of this, I chose to make my mitzvah project about standing up for animals. I will be raising money for the Humane Society of the United States by spending time with the dogs in my community. I will exercise them by walking, running, and playing with them for about 30 minutes. For each dog, I am asking for a minimum of a \$5 donation to The Humane Society. People without a furry pet can donate too. My goal is to raise \$500 dollars to help animals that are abused and mistreated.

I chose to donate to the Humane Society because it is important to me that they are trying as much as they can to help many different causes and types of animal abuse, like stopping puppy mills, animal testing, trophy hunting, helping farm animals, and so much more! Also, this charity is well known, so people know who they are and may want to help. By volunteering

Meet Bree Rosenblum—cont'd

for this cause, I hope that people realize that animals have feelings too, and they deserve to be treated with kindness and respect.

Please let me know if you would like to support

my cause, and if you ever need some help with your pets, I'd love to help! Thank you to everyone at this temple for supporting me throughout my Hebrew School years.

Meet James De Leon



Hi, my name is James De Leon. My Hebrew name is Chaim. I go to Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School in Croton-On-Hudson, and I am in 7th grade.

I love acting. I often go to our local youth theater. I recently played roles like James in James and the Giant Peach. I also have a passion for drumming and I am in a band called the *Frogs On Fire*. We perform around our town in coffee shops and parks. I am an active Boy Scout and am working towards my "Second Class" rank. My father - Eliot De Leon - is an Assistant Scoutmaster in my Troop.

I have a sister (Isabelle) and two pets, a dog (Lilly), and a cat (Ginny). They mean the world to me. My sister and I get on well. We like the same books, we both adore the pets, etc. Despite the occasional argument, in the end we are still family. My mother,

Justine De Leon, is originally from England, and my family travels there every year to see grandparents and cousins. It's helpful to have them because in every musical I have done, I have had to do a British accent!

I'm not sure what career I might choose, but I'm thinking about being a pilot or an actor.

For my Bar Mitzvah project, I am cleaning up parks and paths in my town. I feel strongly about keeping the environment clean and safe for animals and plant life. I enjoy being Jewish and learning/chanting the prayers and songs. In Hebrew school I specifically enjoy reading through the stories and interpreting their meanings. I plan to continue going to shul after my Bar Mitzvah with my family and participate in Jewish life.

Meet Aurora Pereira-German



Hi, my name is Aurora Pereira-German. My Hebrew name is Ayelet Cosette. My mother's Hebrew name is Yael. I am 12 years old and live with my parents and my sister Anastasia who is in 12th grade.

I have lived in Manhattan and Carmel for my whole life. I like drawing and playing video games, as well as technology. I love music/animation and have quite a sweet tooth. I was an SSA (Safety School Ambassador) in my school and earned up to a blue belt in Tae Kwon Do.

I am in the 7th grade at George Fischer Middle School. My favorite sport is tennis (which I played on George Fischer's team this past year). I actually learned and progressively became a better tennis player in my first year playing!

I've traveled a lot in the tri-state area but have never traveled outside of the country.

Eventually, I want to go to Japan, as well as to Israel, with my family. So much history in both countries.

I have 5 pets (Pete/Kiki/Filbert/Chloe, and Loki) 2 cats/2 dogs/1 turtle. I feed them all throughout the week. Me and my sister Annie tend to take turns with all our pets feeding them and babying them one way or another.

I've been part of TBS since I was in 1st grade. I always enjoy learning about the holidays. My favorite holiday is Hanukkah because, during this holiday, I get to spend a lot of time with my family and friends both here and in NYC. Plus, I love getting small gifts and great food/sweets throughout this holiday.

My sister and I get along well, especially with art and watching funny videos together. As for my career, I wish to be a part of the art community as either a

Meet Aurora Pereira-German — cont'd

graphics designer, artist, or business-wise. I've been painting and drawing since I was really young, and I see how much my drawings have improved over time.

Hebrew School memories: I will never forget the day I joined TBS because it created a whole new chapter in my life where not only did I meet new people, but I still talk to them to this day.

For my Bat Mitzvah project, I volunteered at various/ different non-denominational food pantries throughout NYC (Queens and Manhattan). I have been sorting and shelving food and preparing food to be taken home by families who showed up. I also collected food and dropped it off at various pantries throughout NY. I definitely plan to keep volunteering in the future.

I will celebrate my Bat Mitzvah with my family and friends at the synagogue in September. We are also having people over to my house later in the day. The following day, we are going to dinner in New York City with my immediate family. I want my faith to grow naturally, so I will be visiting TBS a lot, even when I'm out of Hebrew school. I love the celebration of so many of our holidays.

Programming News

As I sit down to write this article, I realize it's been a long time. Getting back to having some programming here at TBS has been a long road. But first, let me introduce you to my co-chairs, Jackie and Frank Martins. They come with much enthusiasm and ideas, so hopefully, we can bring some good programming to you.

I hope everyone had a nice Passover. There is a clothing and toy drive going on for the children of Ukraine, and I would like to thank Helen Bowers for organizing it. We are looking to plan a summer barbeque - time and date TBD. We have tons of ideas for the fall and are looking into maybe some parent activities while the kids are in Hebrew school. The fall

activities and the Jewish Holidays will keep us busy, especially the back-to-school celebration, Sukkot Brunch, and maybe even challah baking. We are also looking to plan some trips to local attractions and are always open to new ideas.

In addition, we are planning to start a book club that would meet every six weeks on Sunday. Please let Jackie know if you are interested.

Enjoy the warmer weather, and don't forget to get some well-needed vitamin D.

Thanks, Jen

TBS "Our House" by Marlene S. Hochberg

Our friends at First Presbyterian Church lost the use of their sanctuary when storm debris crashed through a window last week. Sunday service there would not be possible. Immediately, Temple Beth Shalom opened our doors to Sunday worship for the Church. I decided to be on hand to welcome our friends at the front door; ensuring they were in the right place for the Church service and not at the CPR training that was occurring at the same time. A full complement of parishioners came to worship even though it was daylight savings time, a new location and Rev. Casey was away. The spirit was joyous in knowing that "our houses" are shared, and no one is left in the cold. That's the spirit of grace and gratitude.



Food Scrap Recycling by Cindy Teplitsky

We, the members of Temple Beth Shalom, have the opportunity to, "Improve Our World" starting right here in Putnam and Northern Westchester. We can join with our friends and neighbors to show our town boards that there is local interest in starting a Food Scrap Recycling program, joining other communities who have already begun Food Scrap Drop off programs, such as Yorktown, Scarsdale, Chappaqua, and Phillipstown.

The phrase "throw it away" is no longer applicable on Planet Earth — if it ever was. That's because there is in fact, no "away". When our household waste is picked up at the curb, it's generally landfilled — buried under several feet of earth — where organic waste slowly decomposes. Food waste in particular decomposes anaerobically: without oxygen. That kind of decomposition produces methane, a greenhouse gas that's 80 times more powerful than CO2 in its first 20 years. Now there's a way for anyone to "recycle" their food scraps into soil-building compost: it's called food scrap recycling and it's already available in nearby towns. Join residents of Carmel (including Mahopac), Kent, Putnam Valley and Southeast working to bring it to their towns under the umbrella of Sustainable Putnam.

Food scrap recycling is the commercial composting of food scraps using machinery and processes designed to handle large volumes in a short amount of time. Just like backyard composting, the finished product is a natural soil amendment. Locally, there are commercial composting facilities in Ulster County, and in Ridgefield, Connecticut. They pick up food scraps from municipal waste transfer stations and private businesses, and deliver them to their facility where it is mixed with other organic materials, heated, and aerated for the fastest possible aerobic decomposition. The finished, nutrient-rich compost is then sold to farms and garden nurseries, yielding a profit to the composting facility.

Many Hudson Valley towns have now made it possible for households to participate. They've established food scrap "drop off points" at convenient locations such as their town hall or highway department parking lot. Last spring, Phillipstown residents Erik Brown and Karen Ertl organized to implement a food scrap recycling pilot program in their town. "The food scrap recycling program is not meant to just provide our residents with another way to dispose of their waste," said Ertl. "We also want to increase personal awareness about the waste a household generates and to provide options for reducing and recovering food scrap waste before it's 'garbage'. Our hope is to work together as a community to continue to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions." The pilot program was so popular that Philipstown made it a permanent program. More than 164 households participated last year, and Ertl estimated that the town had already diverted nearly 13 tons of food waste from a landfill!

Working with Ertl and other Phillipstown volunteers, SustainablePutnam.org has begun to organize residents to advocate for food scrap recycling programs in their own towns, meeting regularly via Zoom to share information and discuss ideas to make food scrap recycling a reality everywhere. To date, volunteers from Kent, Carmel (including Mahopac), and Brewster have joined the effort. This will involve a grassroots campaign to get out information and gather the names/emails of residents who have expressed interest in learning more. Sustainable Putnam has put together a sign-up sheet to collect names and email addresses. Print a copy and ask

your friends and neighbors to add their names. Then email the form to Janet at foodscraps@ SustainablePutnam.org, or mail it to Sustainable Putnam, PO Box 412, Mahopac Falls NY 10542.

Food Scrap Recycling It's Easy!

- 1. Collect your food scraps in a countertop pail.
- 2. Drop off your collected scraps at the town drop-off site as needed.

All material collected is brought to a commercial composting facility, where it is turned into compost. Starter kits of a countertop pail, a roll of compostable bags, and an outside bin will be available ONCE food scrap recycling is approved and running in the Town of Carmel, the Town of Putnam Valley, etc.

Why Recycle Food Scraps?

Food scraps are one of the largest components of trash sent to landfills and incinerators. However, food scraps are not trash. They are a resource that can be turned into useful compost.

Recycling food scraps into compost captures their nutrients and energy and returns them to the environment. When food scraps are sent to a landfill or incinerator this resource is lost. In a landfill, food scraps create methane, which is a potent greenhouse gas that traps CO2 and contributes to global warming. When sent to an incinerator, food scraps reduce the efficiency of the incinerator because they contain water and therefore don't burn well. Composting food scraps turns that story around! Instead of wasting energy trying to burn food, or creating methane from landfilling it, composting food scraps produces a useful and valuable product that gives back to our nutrient life cycle. The result is cleaner soil, water and air.

What Is Compost?

Food Scrap Recycling by Cindy Teplitsky—cont'd

When purchasing a bag of potting soil or observing your landscaper putting down "dirt," you are using compost. Compost benefits our landscape by maximizing plant growth, preventing soil erosion and mitigating the frequency of water, fertilizer and pesticide use. By recycling your food scraps you are reducing waste and creating compost - a double win!

Accepted Items:

ALL FOOD, including:

Fruits and Vegetables (remove stickers, bands, ties)

Meat and Poultry (bones are ok)

Fish and Shellfish (shells are ok)

Dairy Products

Bread and Pasta

Rice and Grains

Egg Shells

Chips and Snacks

Nuts and Seeds (shells are ok)

Leftover, Spoiled and Expired Food (cooked is ok)

Coffee Grounds (paper filters are ok)

Tea Bags (remove staples)

Paper Towels, Tissues and Napkins (colored are ok)

Wooden Chopsticks, Popsicle Sticks and Wine Corks

Cut Flowers

Compostable Bags (no plastic bags)

Not Accepted:

Plastic bags, plastic packaging and wrappers are not allowed in the bins. Use only compostable bags, paper bags

Baby/Hand wipes are not allowed in the bins. They are synthetic and will contaminate the compost.

Pet waste is not accepted.

Will composting be messy or smelly?

Collecting food scraps should not be any more messy or smelly than putting food scraps in your trash. The same materials are being collected – just in a different container. Using compostable bags with your pail will also keep everything cleaner.

What happens to the food scraps after they leave the recycling facility?

Compost is a soil amendment which enriches our soil. All material collected is processed and made into compost by a commercial composting facility, such as Curbside Compost of Ridgefield, CT. They have specialized processes to quickly break down the organic matter - even meat scraps, fish and bones. The compost is then sold to landscapers and garden centers.

What is the difference between commercial Food Scrap Recycling service and backyard composting?

Good compost can be made in a backyard composter or in a commercial composting facility. The difference between the two is that a backyard composter is limited to certain foods (fruits, vegetables, coffee grounds, egg shells) while a commercial composting facility can accept any food. Food such as meat, fish, dairy, bones, shells, pasta, bread, rice, fats and oils can all be composted at a commercial facility. If you already have a backyard composter, it is suggested to keep composting in your backyard and use this service for those foods that can't go into a backyard composter.

Why Compost?

Compost is organic material that can be added to soil to help plants grow. Food scraps from your kitchen and yard waste together currently make up more than 28 percent of what we throw away, and should be composted instead. Composting keeps these materials out of landfills where they take up space and release significant amounts of methane, a potent greenhouse gas. And 98% of the food that we currently waste goes into landfills rather than being composted. In addition to reducing the production of greenhouse gases, turning food scraps into compost enriches soil, helps retain moisture, and suppresses plant diseases and pests. Using compost to grow produce reduces the need for chemical fertilizers and encourages the growth of beneficial bacteria and fungi that break down organic matter to create humus, a rich, nutrient-filled material. When composted, food scraps can be turned into a soil amendment that helps grow more plants, fruits and vegetables. "It combats climate change, it reduces waste, it helps us grow healthier plants, it conserves water, and it assists in stormwater management. That's why it's so important for us to embrace composting, specifically when it comes to food waste." NY 17 Congressman Lawler



The Ties That Bind by Allen Hochberg

Rabbi Sarah has graciously led us through several weeks exploring a Jewish view of Social Justice. We discussed Justice from biblical, philosophical, political, social, environmental, and legal perspectives. In my view, we have found that "doing Justice" is not as easy as it may sound. In weighing the scales one way, in favor of a person or group seeking just relief, we may be depriving those at the other end of the spectrum of a just result. An environmental example might be cutting off supplies of natural gas as a villain in climate change, as opposed to the hardship it would cause those dependent upon gas as readily available and relatively inexpensive (similarly, shutting down coal mines).

In the course of our studies, I have found a thread that elevates my admiration and devotion to our Torah. We generally regard our Torah as holy and sacred. It is secured in the Holy Ark. We bow. We stand when it is removed for reading, or raised to bless the congregation. We know what happens if it is accidentally dropped (God forbid). We appropriately imbue our Torah with spiritual, if not mystical qualities.

Through our recent studies, I also see our Torah as a mundane, albeit spectacular, document. It is at core, history, law, ethics, and exemplary stories.

Many, from George Washington to Jean Paul Sartre, have held the Jewish people in high regard. In his 1899 Harper's essay, Mark Twain lists qualities of the Jew, ".. largely out of proportion to his small representation in the population": Commercial importance; literature; science; art; music; finance; and medicine, "...with his hands tied behind him."

Twain refers to cultures which could not sustain themselves: Egyptians; Babylonians; Persians—"... faded to dream stuff and passed away. Greeks and Romans made a vast noise, and they are gone...they sit in twilight now, or have vanished."

The Jew saw them all. Beat them all, and is now what he always was, exhibiting no decadence, no infirmities of age, no weakening of his parts, no slowing of his energies, no dulling of his alert and aggressive mind. All things are mortal but the Jew. All other forces pass, but he remains.

OK. That's a little over the top, and no breast beating here, but you get the point. Twain concludes with the question, "What is the secret of (the Jew's) immortality?" The answer must be our devotion to One God, as represented by the Torah.

The teachings of the Torah require that we pursue Justice; that we engage in self-development through diet, learning, industry, order, and regard for our neighbors. So much of the Torah is detailed and complex law, recognizing that we may be human, but not humane.

How do we behave in commerce? – pay a laborer the same day to avoid undue hardship. How do we behave in war and retain the spoils? Avoid cruelty, at least as much for our own dignity as to avoid unnecessary pain. How do we treat servants or employees (one-time slaves)? Avoid cruelty. Maintain dignity – again, at least as much for ours, as the employee. How do we handle contractual

obligations? With good faith and full performance. What about civil injury resulting from recklessness or carelessness? Use money or property to make the injured party whole, keeping in mind that wholeness, Shalom, leads to peace. Do not glean our fields to the corners. Care for the widows, orphans, and poor.

Torah law, for criminal acts, measures out appropriate punishment, preventing cruelty in retribution or revenge. Hygiene? We must be clean, and when do we visit the mikvah? Again, personal and human dignity. Family life? Honor your father and mother. Do not uncover the nakedness of a long list of people. Continuing the theme of personal, family, and communal dignity.

The Torah, given by God, is The Code you can live by. Thank you Graham Nash. It is a titanium cable running through our lives, effectively connecting Everything to Everything, Everywhere – All At Once.

If you don't know what to do, or how to behave properly and justly, the Torah will tell you. It provides for regularity and predictability, which a society and culture must have to survive. More importantly, the Torah provides for order, so that we, or any submitting society, can thrive without killing one another in vengeful retribution for property violation, personal/character injury, incest, or criminal transgression. The Torah is a bright line, a golden rule, which directs us away from our animal nature, Nefesh HaBahamit, toward our Nefesh HaElokit, Godly nature. Be holy, for I am holy.

Thus you are to be holy to Me, for I the Lord am holy, and I have set you apart (kadosh!) from the peoples to be Mine. (Lev. 20:26)

It is up to us, as they say, To Do It. The Torah. It is not in heaven, nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, "Who will cross to the other side and fetch it for us to tell it to us so that we may fulfill it? Rather, it is very close to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart, so that **you** can fulfill it.. so that you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you.... "(Deut. 30:12-16).

Shalom,

Allen Hochberg

Dracula, A Jewish Monster by Asher Duke

Dracula, by Bram Stoker, is a classic tale of good versus evil, light versus dark. The titular character, Count Vlad Dracula, is a purely evil creature of the night, one from a foreign and mystical land. He wishes to drink innocent European women's blood and take over England's civilized nation for his own nefarious purposes. To the average reader, *Dracula* is simply that, a face-value story about an evil monster. However, *Dracula* is even more sinister than Stoker lets on. The vast majority of Dracula's characteristics, mannerisms, and actions are deeply rooted in antisemitic tropes. From his hooked nose to the gold that falls from his coat when Jonathan Harker stabs at him, Dracula is a character rife with antisemitic stereotypes. Dracula represents "the other," an almost unknowable evil that seeks to destroy all that is good. Having a character such as Dracula is not problematic in and of itself, but pairing him with antisemitic rhetoric can cause harm towards the Jewish community. In addition, it is likely that Stoker was aware of these tropes and used them to emphasize Dracula's evil. In that regard, *Dracula* serves as a testament to Jewish persecution.

The foundation of antisemitic rhetoric are the conspiratorial tropes that serve to cast Jewish people in a mysterious and evil light. While none of these tropes are true or even rooted in any sense of reality, that does not stop antisemites from citing them as reasonable explanations for their hatred. While many works of fiction draw heavily upon antisemitic tropes, *Dracula*, in particular, is one of the most significant examples. The very character of Dracula is based on the infamous blood libel conspiracy. Blood libel is "The accusation that Jews murder Christians, particularly young boys and girls, for ritual purposes..." (Weinberg). Usually, the blood from the "victims" will be drained from the body and used while baking matzo and extending their lives, among dozens of other reasons. While this conspiracy had no basis in reality, it quickly took off, and many Jewish people were executed for simply being suspected of carrying out blood libel acts. In the novel, Dracula famously consumes blood in order to maintain his vitality, and is especially fond of blood sourced from young European women such as Lucy and Mina. In addition, Dracula cannot survive without blood and, by his very nature, has to consume it. When Dracula transforms people into vampires, he does so by forcing them to drink his own blood, thus continuing the cycle of blood-based abominations. Blood libel began to see a decline in popularity during the 19th

century. The reasons for this are largely unknown, but the rampant persecution of Jewish people for blood libel "activities" had begun to falter. That was until Richard F. Burton began to popularize it once again. Burton published several books and essays on the topic. These texts brought blood libel back into the mainstream and, interestingly enough, piqued the curiosity of one Bram Stoker. The two men eventually met through Henry Irving, and upon their first interaction, Stoker noted, "I never saw any one like him. He is steel! He would go through you like a sword!" (Stoker, Personal Reminiscences). This quote is from *Personal Reminiscences of Henry Irving*, by Stoker himself. The two would become good friends, and only a year after Stoker published *Dracula*, Burton would publish his own book, The Jew, The Gypsy and El Islam. This book was filled with antisemitic tropes, blood libel included.

Blood libel is not the only antisemitic trope that Bram Stoker drew inspiration from during his writing of *Dracula*. Concepts like germ theory and economic parasitism are also large parts of Dracula's characterization. Germ theory is the current leading scientific theory on how germs lead to disease, and while not inherently antisemitic, germ theory has been used to attack Jewish populations. Specifically, in 1873 in New York, four Jewish infants were infected with syphilis. Very quickly, the New York Board of Health blamed the practice of metzitzah b'peh. For context, "Metztizah b'peh is an addendum to ritual circumcision, which requires he mohel (ritual circumciser, plural: *mohalim*) to orally suck blood from the wound immediately following the excision of the foreskin." (Poliak). While modern-day Judaism has phased out metzitzah b'peh, during the 1800s, it was still an important cultural practice. The New York Board of Health worried that a mohel, or ritual circumciser, had syphilis and, through metzitzah b'peh, was infecting the infants. The investigation was thorough, and the suspected mohel was more than cooperative. He provided instruments and even his own medical history. Ultimately, the investigators found the tools to be clean and no evidence of syphilis to be present within the mohel. Regardless, the investigation resulted in heavy scrutiny of the Jewish population within the Lower East Side. This pertains to *Dracula* as, within the text, vampirism is treated much like an infectious disease, much like syphilis. As this study occurred in 1873, 24 years before *Dracula* was published, it is plausible that

Dracula, A Jewish Monster by Asher Duke—cont'd

Stoker was aware of the practice and its criticism. Regardless, England had already perused its own investigations into metzitzah b'peh, deeming it an "unsightly rite, which 'affronts the eye of the expert as it does the emotions of the layman" (Poliak). For that reason, Stoker was more than likely aware of the practice, and it can be reasonably assumed that the practice was an inspiration for Dracula's infectious abilities. In addition, the similarities are very striking. Both infections result from the sucking of blood through the mouth, and both practices are shown as disgusting affronts towards Christian sensibilities. Going further, when Lucy is infected, it is allegorical towards the corruption of the pure, and for that reason "Critical opinion has consistently argued that Lucy's vampiric infection is a marker of moral laxity leading to sexual transgression." Metzitzah b'peh has consistently been accused of being a pedophilic act, another baseless antisemitic conspiracy. In that way, the "sexual" aspect of vampirism also applies to metzitzah b'peh, regardless of how false it may be. For that reason, the similarities between vampirism and metzitzah b'peh are damning and ultimately united by an inappropriate and bastardized application of germ theory.

Regarding economic parasitism, the Count is a man of no real loyalties. He kills his own people, enslaves his subjects, and tortures the people who worship him. As a "Count," he is in a position of power over his people, yet they live in abject poverty while he lives in luxury. They pay tribute to him and slave away at his every command, even willing to die for him. Not only that, but Dracula's ultimate goal is to leave his homeland of Transylvania, and in turn his subjects, for England. In that sense, Dracula does not have any loyalty to the land he has called his home for centuries. In his pursuit of power, he is willing to abandon it entirely. In his efforts, he expends copious volumes of his personal wealth. He purchases a large abbey estate in Whitby, North Yorkshire, and has a castle built for him there. While Dracula has a large amount of capital from centuries of life, he still takes from his subjects. In that way, Dracula drains them of both their blood and the fruits of their labor. Through this continued vampirism, Dracula maintains his stronghold over his subjects. This leeching is quite similar to the actions of the landlords in Ireland. According to Bruce Stewart, "... Dracula offers a portrait of the Anglo-Irish landlord of the kind he would prefer to keep hidden in the attic while continuing to parade his suaver self in the drawingroom below." (Stewart). In many ways, Dracula serves as an allegory for the landlords of Ireland, but when looked at alongside the antisemitism throughout the story, he fits more into the "Cabal" trope. This trope claims that a shadowy cabal of Jewish "Elites" control the world, and while Dracula has no equal, he is still an ominous force that pilot's certain events of the novel from behind the curtain. He manipulates Jonathan Harker into staying with him, forces Renfield to let him into the asylum to attack Mina, and masterminds the entire plot to transport Transylvanian soil into England. While there are many more examples, Dracula remains an enigma for most of the novel, often outsmarting and defeating the protagonists. Another way Dracula represents antisemitism through economic parasitism is through his work. Dracula does not actually do anything to gain his wealth. He holds no job other than his title and works for nothing. While he may go to England to oversee his plan's progression, the reader never sees Dracula extend any labor for his vast wealth. In that way, he is very similar to the English beliefs of the Jewish. According to Halberstam, "Parasitism was linked specifically to Jewishness in the 1890s via a number of discourses." (Halberstam). This connection is notable, as Stoker wrote Dracula during the 1890s, and it was published in 1897. This held belief of Jewish parasitism is identical towards the inactions of Dracula. In fact, "In business practices in London's East End, Jews were vilified as 'middlemen' who lived off the physical labor of English working-class bodies." In *Dracula*, Dracula quite literally lives off both the physical labor of his subjects and his subject's actual bodies. He relies on his subject's labor to carry his dirt to England, to build his new home, and to fend off any attackers of his plan. While they are not English, Dracula's ultimate plan is to enslave the English and have them do his bidding, much like the Romani he already commands. Dracula was able to take command of the innocent Lucy, turning her into his thrall, giving him her complete loyalty. In this way, Dracula and the Jewish population can be viewed in the same light, as they are both, within the context of antisemitic beliefs, parasites that latch onto the English citizenry.

Another major aspect of antisemitism is phrenology and physiognomy, or the belief that human behavior is primarily decided by the shape of their head and other "ethnic" physical characteristics. Throughout the novel, Dracula's appearance is described multiple times, often changing with each subsequent

Dracula, A Jewish Monster by Asher Duke—cont'd

description. It is described at the start: "His face was a strong – a very strong aquiline, with high bridge of the thin nose, and peculiarly arched naturals; with lofty domed for head, and hair, growing scantily round the temples, but profusely elsewhere." (Stoker 23). This description is a ubiquitous caricature of a Jewish person, from the hooked nose and face to the balding and rounded head. These are all examples of phrenology and physiognomy and have been used to identify Jews for centuries. In addition, he is described as having "...bushy hair that seemed to curl in its own profusion." (Stoker 23). Curly and unkempt hair is yet another example of antisemitic Jewish stereotypes. Figure 1 depicts all of these traits in a disturbingly antisemitic way. Notice the hooked nose, the evil intent, and the hair. This depiction is all but the same as described in *Dracula*. In addition, a sign of Dracula's approach is a rancid stench, as can be seen when Stoker writes, "It may have been that his breath was rank, but a horrible feeling of nausea came over me..." (Stoker 24). While the stereotype of the "stench" of Jewish people has fallen mainly to the wayside for more physical characteristics, it can still be seen as being used within neo-Nazi circles. This stench is seen depicted in Figure 2 through a crude stock image overlayed with Figure 1's image. Figures 1 and 2 were both created and used by neo-Nazis in order to attack Jewish people. As can be seen, they are both strikingly similar towards the first depiction of Dracula that the reader is given at the beginning of the novel. While these tropes and stereotypes have existed for centuries, due to the prominence of Dracula in pop culture, it is entirely possible that the description of Dracula inspired them. While there is no way to say for certain, the phrenology and physiognomy depicted throughout Dracula are yet more examples of the novel's antisemitism.

Dracula, by Bram Stoker, is a novel built upon two types of evil. There is the face-value monster who hunts the innocent, but under the surface, there is the evil of antisemitism; there is the evil of the persecution of an innocent ethnic group. Through countless examples of antisemitic tropes, stereotypes, and conspiracies, Dracula highlights the antisemitism of the time and serves as an example of how commonplace it was. With the benefit of the doubt, Bram Stoker may not have created Dracula specifically to serve as an antisemitic trope, but through his continued use of them, he not only perpetrated antisemitism, but he very well could have been responsible for future iterations. However, in all

likelihood, *Dracula* is not only aware of its antisemitism, but it also actively uses antisemitism in order to disturb and frighten the reader. Through "mystical" and "foreign" unknowns, Dracula represents the "other" that Jewish people have always been. In that way, *Dracula* serves as a testament to Jewish persecution.

Figure 1

Figure 2



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Nov. 2022.

Coming Soon
Evening Adult Education Class
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Adult Education with Rabbi Sarah Walking with Mitzvot

Tuesdays at 11am on Zoom.

Please contact Rabbi Sarah with any questions and for the Zoom link.
Rabbi@tbsmahopac.org

Celebrate Shavuot!

Shavuot begins Thursday, May 25th, and continues until Saturday, May 27th at sundown.

Thursday, May 25th, 7:30pm, Leil Tikkun Shavuot and cheesecake, in person only.

Friday, May 26th, 10:00am, on Zoom only.

Abbreviated Morning Service,

Reading of the Ten Commandments & Discussion
of their relevance today.

8:00pm, Shavuot & Kabbalat Shabbat Service in person only.

Saturday, May 27th, **9:30am**, Shavuot & Shabbat Morning Service with Yizkor, on Zoom & in person, followed by an Ice Cream Social.

One of the three Pilgrimage Festivals, Shavuot celebrates the Revelation at Mt. Sinai and the gift of Torah and Jewish learning, as well as the wheat harvest in Biblical Israel. It always occurs 7 weeks after Passover.

HAPPY SHAVUOT



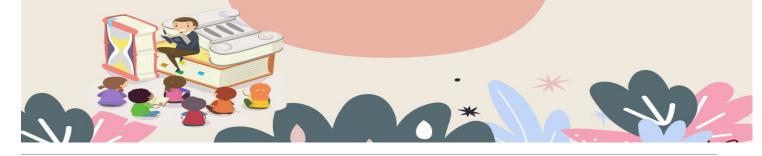
SATURDAY, MAY 20TH
10:30AM-11:00AM

JOIN US AS WE WELCOME
SHABBAT WITH STORIES, SONGS,
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QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT RABBI SARAH AT RABBI@TBSMAHOPAC.ORG .



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Celebration of Learning and Stepping Up Ceremony

Please join us on Sunday,June 11th, following the Congregational Meeting, at 11:30am for the TBS Religious School Stepping Up Ceremony.

We will be celebrating all of our students as the school year ends!

| **]]** |JUNE Refreshments will be served.

11:30

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



In Person at Temple Beth Shalom

Election of the Incoming Board of Trustees Members

2023-2024 Budget Vote

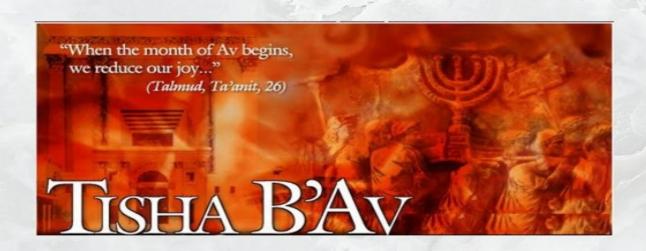
State of the Congregation Speech by TBS President, Allan Gunzburg

Rabbi's Address by Rabbi Sarah Freidson

Stay for the Religious School's Moving Up ceremony following the meeting.

Refreshments will be served.





Tisha B'Av begins Wednesday night, July 26th & ends Thursday, July 27th

Save the Date for an 8:00 pm evening service on Wednesday, July 26th

Tisha B'Av is often referred to as the "saddest day of the Jewish year," when we mark the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem and other calamities that have befallen the Jewish people. We also read one of the most haunting texts in the Hebrew Bible, Eicha (Lamentations), on the night Tisha B'Av begins.

The customary fast begins at 8:18 pm on Wednesday night and ends at 8:56 pm on Thursday evening.

Temple Beth Shalom Calendar

Please visit the website to view our calendar

For your security, most of the calendar is only visible to logged in congregants

רפואה שלמה ~ Mi'sheberach

Wishing a return to good health to those who are ill in our community

- Charna MiriamAlvin Bernstein
- Barbara Albrecht
- Yisroel ben Baila
- Meyer Fievel ben Malka
- Ruben Lazer ben Marget
- Menachem Mendel Simcha ben Sarah
- Yosel ben Schmuel
- Judy & Katie Brennan
- Hilda Brown
- Andrea Bruni

- Laura Cohen
- John Cowell
- Betsy Dobbs-McAuliffe
- Olga Duarte
- Art Elwell
- Dennis Forte
- Jackie Foster
- Cathy Freund
- Eunice Goldfarb
- Melissa Greico
- Anna Gristina
- Felicia Gruber
- Evan Heller
- Barry Karp

- Jerry Katcher
- Christopher Kehoe
- Stephanie L
- Yita Bayla Leventhal
- Patrick Lewis
- Frank Martins
- Laura Mazzacone
- Ava Grace Milton
- Susan Nabel
- Sally Napolitano
- Christine & Joseph Paravaty
- Steven Perell
- Sylvia Philip

- Ronnie Roth
- Fran Ryan
- Ruby Schuberg
- Nikolai Shamonov
- Riva Shoshanah
- Andrew Singer
- Danielle Stamos
- Mona Sternbach
- Larry Ticker
- Lisa Trombetta
- Laurence Weinberg
- Lois Whartenby
- Anita Zanelli

Schedule of Services and Candle Lighting Times

	Candle Lighting	06/30/23 8:14 PM
Shabbat Services	05/05/23 7:38 PM	07/07/23 8:12 PM
	05/12/23 7:45 PM	07/14/23 8:09 PM
Friday night: 8:00 pm	05/19/23 7:52 PM	07/21/23 8:04 PM
	05/25/23 7:58 PM	07/28/23 7:58 PM
Sat Morning: 10:00 am	05/26/23 7:59 PM	08/04/23 7:50 PM
In Person and Zoom	06/02/23 8:04 PM	08/11/23 7:41 PM
	06/09/23 8:09 PM	08/18/23 7:32 PM
	06/16/23 8:12 PM	08/25/23 7:21 PM
	06/23/23 8:14 PM	09/01/23 7:10 PM



Yom Huledet Sameakh

יום הולדת שמח

May/ June / July / August

May 1st

Phoenix Koswener

Alana DiMucci

Bruce Tesler

Alana Ullman

Jeff Feldman

May 3rd

Jodi Kopstein

May 5th

David Michaels

May 7th

Debra (Deb) Seaman

May 8th

Robert Greenberg

May 9th

Jason Lerman

May 11th

Stephan Miller

May 13th

Matthew Hochberg

Sarah Hindin

May 14th

Gail Freundlich

May 16th

Liberty Reing

May 18th

Patricia Bettman

Sarah Rucker

May 19th

Marcia Altabet

May 21st

Stephanie Gross

Edward Lapa

May 22nd

Alan Karel

May 23rd

Rochelle Hammer

May 24th

Becca Lomas

May 25th

Wendy Greenberg

Jeremy Levin

May 26th

Alex Freundlich

May 27th

Ronald Arsham

David Volkman

May 28th

Maxwell Semegran

Mary Palmer

May 29th

Jillian Cohen

May 30th

Jennifer Michaels

Saul Luxemburg

Micole Tuchman

May 31st

Asher Duke Beniamin Levin

Frances Tesler

June 1st

Alyia Bettman

June 2nd

James Kwan

June 3rd

Elaine Peikes Loretta Fleiss

June 7th

Michael Fleiss

Judith Morris

Madeline Rucker

June 8th

Monika Lazar

June 11th

Bernice Guest

Dennis Ullman

June 12th

Bernard Simon

Jennifer Cohen

June 13th

Tess Bettman

June 14th

Lawrence Gorelick

June 15th

Fred Ende
David Small

June 16th

Robin Zencheck

Andy Tuchman

June 17th

Jason Small

June 18th

Harrison Cohen

Zachary Cohen

Adam Semegran

June 21st

Carol Medow

June 22nd

Marilyn Arsham

Shera Tuchman

Steven Brown

Justine DeLeon

June 23rd

Laurence Rubin

Bree Rosenblum

June 25th

Alexander Tavelinsky

Renee Zalewitz

June 27th

Ann Rubin

(Continued on page 28)







Yom Huledet Sameakh

יום הולדת שמח

May/ June / July / August (continued)

(Continued from page 27)

June 28th

David Plaut

June 29th

Aven DiMucci Jeannie Frumkin

Patrice Liff

June 30th

Michael Hindin

July 1st

Paul Tobias

July 2nd

Eric Toovell

July 3rd

Brett Bowden

July 4th

Annica Razukiewicz

Adam Raefski

July 5th

Courtney Evangelista

July 6th

Ari Tuchman

July 7th

Joshua Liff

Shari Cash

July 8th

Allison Markman

July 9th

Laurie Ende

July 12th

Julia Blair

July 14th

Matthew Michaels

Mitchell Cohen

July 15th

Eli Tobias

Joshua Blieden

Greg Kopstein

Denise Clescere

July 16th

Aaron Weiss

July 17th

Brian Stern

July 18th

Benjamin Semegran

Marlene Hochberg

July 19th

Ilana Morris

July 21st

Lan Pham

July 24th

Michael Mirsky

July 27th

Adrienne Stern

July 28th

Seth Bates

July 29th

Allan Gunzburg

August 3rd

Brian Gross

August 6th

Miriam Davidson

August 7th

Joshua Ullman

Steven Shaffer

August 8th

Barry Brown

August 10th

Hanna Reinhertz

August 13th

Ilan Simon

Stephen Nadelhaft

4 4 4 4

August 14th

Andrew Mitgang

August 16th

Divine Miller Spencer Raine

Scott Reing

Audrey Tobias

August 23rd

Joshua Gorelick

Ron Leviner

Claire Ullman

August 25th

Noah Volkman Ariana Reinhertz

Leonard Tesler

August 26th

Laura Plotnick Andrew Feldman

August 27th

Spencer Belsky

August 29th

Dana Zelman

Bryan Arsham

August 30th

Rochelle Lapa Aurora Pereira-German

August 31st

Spencer Chan









Yahrzeits - May/June/July/August

May Their Memory be a Blessing



May 3 / Iyyar 12

- Bessie Lipins
- Arlyne Sanow

May 6 / Iyyar 15

- Howard ZelmanMay 7 / Iyyar 16
- Sophie Weiss
- May 10 / Iyyar 19
- Larry Fleishman
- May 13 / Iyyar 22
- Joseph Seiden
- May 14 / Iyyar 23
- Susan Cox
- May 16 / Iyyar 25
- William Glasner
- May 17 / Iyyar 26
- Rachel Jacowitz
- •Samuel Neuwirth
- May 18 / Iyyar 27
- Samuel Rosenberg
- Herman Small
- May 19 / Iyyar 28
- Eva B Kahn
 - May 20 / Iyyar 29
- Lottie Hochberg
- May 21 / Sivan 1
- •Sara Orzech
- May 27 / Sivan 7
- Helen Lifschitz
- Jeanette Sikofand
- May 28 / Sivan 8
- Beatrice Corn
- May 29 / Sivan 9
- Rebecca Lewis

May 30 / Sivan 10

- Rosalyn Susan Mitzner
 May 31 / Sivan 11
- Josephine Occhiogrossi

Jun 1 / Sivan 12

- Richard S. Neuwirth
- Abraham Michaels
- Binyamin Goldfeder
- Richard Gross
 - Jun 3 / Sivan 14
- Alverne Koswener
- Jun 4 / Sivan 15
- Abraham Weiss
- Henry Louis Reich
- Jun 5 / Sivan 16
- Benjamin Brazinsky
- Irving Medow
- Jun 6 / Sivan 17
- Morris Lifschitz
- Jun 7 / Sivan 18
- Walter Feinman
- Yetta Kuropatwa Levine
- Jun 8 / Sivan 19
- Louis Sonsky
- Jun 9 / Sivan 20
- Bernard Kaufman
- Jun 16 / Sivan 27
- Dudain Con all
- Rubin Small
- Howard Hammer
- Jun 17 / Sivan 28
- Isidore Sapir
- Jun 18 / Sivan 29
- Evelyn Kate Stern

Jun 19 / Sivan 30

- Joshua Glasner
- Ignatz Sikofand

Jun 22 / Tammuz 3

- Edward Finkle
- Jacob Tesler
- Lee Schaeffer

Jun 23 / Tammuz 4

- Seymour Lubliner
- Sol Horowitz

Jun 29 / Tammuz 10

• Naftali Fleiss

Jun 30 / Tammuz 11

- Irving Bromberg
- Jul 4 / Tammuz 15
- Anne Peshkin

Jul 5 / Tammuz 16

- Betty Goldberg
- Jul 10 / Tammuz 21
- Herman Neuwirth

Jul 11 / Tammuz 22

- Mr. Paul Rosner
- Stanley Ticker
- Jul 13 / Tammuz 24
- -----
- · Abraham Kaplan

Jul 14 / Tammuz 25

Mae Greenberg

Jul 15 / Tammuz 26

- Ann Ecker
- Jack Yaakov Yosef Ballas
- Mrs. Fannie Ditkowski

Jul 16 / Tammuz 27

Jeanette Rivera

(Continued on page 30)

TEMPLE TIMES

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Advertising Editor Tea

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errors or omissions. Submissions can be sent via email in Word or Publisher format to:

Newsletter@TBSMahopac.org.

NEXT DEADLINE IS August 10, 2023

Newsletter Errors

Occasionally errors & omissions are found in the pages of Temple Times. We appreciate being notified of any corrections by calling the TBS office (845)628-6133. A newsletter staff member will return your call ASAP. The temple office is not responsible for newsletter content. Many thanks to our readers, Temple Times Staff





Yahrzeits - May/June/July/August

May Their Memory be a Blessing



(Continued from page 29)

Jul 19 / Av 1

- Fay Roth
- Helen L. Lichtman

Jul 20 / Av 2

- Sylvia Sussman
- Jul 21 / Av 3
- Molly Schwartz
- Jul 22 / Av 4
 Lauren Jean Klieger
- Gwen Kantor

Jul 24 / Av 6

- Shimon Mordecai
 David ben Aryeh Yoseph
 Jul 28 / Av 10
- Ita
- Renee Simon

Jul 29 / Av 11

Irving Cohen

Jul 30 / Av 12

- Anna Negrin
- Jul 31 / Av 13
- Gitel

Aug 2 / Av 15

- Charlotte Neuwirth
- Paul Horowitz

Aug 3 / Av 16

• Theodore Semegran

Aug 4 / Av 17

- Dora Michaels
- Martin Belsky

Aug 6 / Av 19

- Jack Katz
- Terry Makler

Aug 7 / Av 20

Frances Kaplan

Aug 9 / Av 22

- Herbert Reing
- Sol Hochberg

Aug 10 / Av 23

- Jack Sanow
- Max Jacobs

Aug 14 / Av 27

•Benjamin Levin

Aug 15 / Av 28

- Irving Sanow
- •Terry Seaman

Aug 18 / Elul 1

•Sharon Feldman

Aug 19 / Elul 2

Anna Schlossberg

Aua 20 / Elul 3

Delia B Graham

William Stokes

Aug 22 / Elul 5

·Sara Dub

Aug 23 / Elul 6

- Darrly Williams Pereira
- Esther Altabet
- Hyman Mirsky

Aug 24 / Elul 7

David Sussman

Aug 25 / Elul 8

Donald Bowden

- Dollaid bowde
- William Blair

Aug 27 / Elul 10

Norma Gross

Aug 28 / Elul 11

- · Lilian Morris
- Ruth Silverstein Blair

Aua 29 / Elul 12

• Ida Goldstein



Contributions (February 1, 2023—March 31, 2023)

Benevolent Outreach Fund

Dr. & Mrs. Marvin Medow
In memory of Stephenie Lynne Marcus

Mr. & Mrs. Allan Gunzburg In memory of Helen Weisberger . May her memory always be for a blessing.

Mr. & Mrs. Allen Hochberg *In honor of the choir*

Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Reinhertz In memory of Eliot DeLeon's Aunt Stephanie Marcus

Mr. & Mrs. David Michaels
In memory of Heather Samson's Aunt

Mr. & Mrs. Mark Liff
In memory of My beloved Mother Helen
Feldman

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Plotnick In memory of Stephanie Lynne Marcus, beloved aunt of Eliot De Leon

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Plotnick Wishing a speedy recovery for Ruby Schuberg

Mr. Edward Lapa
In memory of Helen Weisberger

Mrs. Rochelle Hammer In memory of Joel Ditkowsky, brother of Diane Gorelick

Ms. Irene Matza In memory of Helen Weisberger, mother of Hanna Reinhertz

General Fund

David & Lynn Michaels
In memory of Hilda Lopez' cousin,
Marilyn Pico

Diane Gorelick

In memory of Joel Ditkowsky

Dr. & Mrs. Bernard Jacobs In memory of Helen Weisberger, mother of Hanna Reinhertz

Dr. & Mrs. Marvin Medow In memory of Helen Weisberger

Mr & Mrs. Stewart Glass
In memory of Esther Ginensky

Mr & Mrs. Stewart Glass In memory of Natalie Glass

Mr. & Mrs. Alan Belsky In honor of Ron Arsham, 2023 Julian Y. Bernstein Distinguished Service Award winner Mr. & Mrs. Allan Gunzburg
Mazel Tov To Karyn and Ron Leviner on
the joyous occasion of the Bat
and Bar Mitzvah of Zoe and Eli!!

Mr. & Mrs. Allan Gunzburg

Our sincere condolences on the loss of your dear Aunt Stephanie. May her memory always be for a blessing.

Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Milkis
Mazel Tov Ron on receiving the
Julian Y. Bernstein Award!
Well Deserved!

Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Milkis *In memory of Helen Weisberger*

Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Holzman *In memory of Frances Price*

Mr. & Mrs. David Michaels

In honor of Ron Arsham, Julian Y. Bernstein Distinguished Service Award winner

Mr. & Mrs. David Michaels For the Yahrzeit of David's grandfather, Morris Negrin

Mr. & Mrs. David Michaels In memory of Eliot DeLeon's Aunt, Stephanie Lynne Marcus

Mr. & Mrs. David Volkman
For the Yahrzeit of Elliot Weinstein

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Zencheck In memory of Sylvia & Jack Fader

Mr. & Mrs. Joel Greenberg *Just because*

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Koswener For the Yahrzeit of Feibish Zac

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Koswener For the Yahrzeit of Genya Zac

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Koswener In memory of Robert Imowitz

Mr. & Mrs. Neil Gross In memory of Helen Weisberger, Mother of Hanna Reinhertz

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Plotnick Congratulations To Ron Arsham for receiving the 2023 Distinguished Service Award What an accomplishment!

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Altabet In memory of Helen Weisberger, mother of Hanna Reinhertz Mr. & Mrs. Scott Markman

In memory of Helen Weisberger

Mr. Richard Weiss *In honor of The Temple*

Mrs. Maxine Berlin
In memory of Frances Berliner

Ms. Cynthia Hertz

In memory of David Volkman's father

Ms. Jenevieve Pereira

Just because

Ms. Mary Palmer & Mr. Gary Schnorr *Just because*

Ms. Mary Palmer & Mr. Gary Schnorr Mazel Tov To Karyn & Ron Leviner at the B'nai Mitzvot of Elie & Zoe! Warm wishes and tons of mazel to the whole family on this wonderful occasion.

Ms. Mary Palmer & Mr. Gary Schnorr In honor of Ron Arsham as the 2023 Julian Y. Bernstein Distinguished Service Award winner by Westchester Jewish Council. Mazel Tov Ron!

Ms. Stephanie Hanna *Just because*

Mishloach Manot

Dr. & Mrs. Bernard Jacobs

Dr. & Mrs. Marvin Medow

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Mr. & Mrs. Alan Belsky

Mr. & Mrs. Alan Karel

Mr. & Mrs. Allan Gunzburg

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Contributions (February 1, 2023—March 31, 2023)

(Continued from page 31)

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Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Morris

Mr. & Mrs. Mark Beshears

M. C. M. Miller 1 Minutes

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Mr. & Mrs. Allen Hochberg In honor of Marilyn Arsham

Mr. & Mrs. Allen Hochberg *In honor of Ari Samson*

Mr. & Mrs. Allen Hochberg *In honor of the Choir*

Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Reinhertz
For the Yahrzeit of Murray Reinhertz

Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Reinhertz

In honor of Rabbi Sarah Freidson from the Reinhertz & Weisberger families. With thanks and appreciation for conducting mom's funeral, as well as for your comfort and guidance during this difficult time.

Mr. & Mrs. David Rubin

In honor of Ron Arsham's recognition from the Westchester Jewish Council

Mr. & Mrs. David Volkman *In memory of Alan Volkman*

Mr. & Mrs. Eric Perlman *In honor of Ray Perlman*

Mr. & Mrs. Eric Perlman

For the Yahrzeit of Bernard Perlman

Mr. & Mrs. Gabriel Lomas

In appreciation of Our amazing rabbi

Mr. & Mrs. Gabriel Lomas *In honor of Ron Arsham*

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Morris

For the Yahrzeit of Samuel Morris

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Bellenchia In memory of Sid Rosner

Mr. & Mrs. Ron Leviner

Thank you for all the time you have spent with and teaching our twins over the past few years.

Mr. Jeff Feldman

Just because

Spencer Raine & Renee Zalewitz For the Yahrzeit of Rosalind Kaufman, Murray Handwohl & Ellen Headrick

Ms. Agnes Rosner
In memory of Sid Rosner

Ms. Phyllis Solar

In honor of Ron Arsham for receiving the Julian Y. Bernstein Distinguished Service Award. Way to go, Ron!

Religious School Fund

Dr. & Mrs. Bernard Jacobs In honor of the B'Nai Mitzvah of Eli & Zoe Leviner.

Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Ullman
In honor of Ron Arsham as a 2023 Julian Y. Bernstein Distinguished
Service Award winner by Westchester
Jewish Council... Mazel Tov

Mr. & Mrs. Joel Greenberg In honor of all the students as they make their Bar & Bat Mitzvahs.

Mr. & Mrs. Joel Greenberg In memory of Eliot DeLeon's aunt, Stephanie Marcus

Mr. & Mrs. Joel Greenberg In memory of Helen Weisberger, mother of Hanna Reinhertz

Ritual Fund

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Plotnick
In memory of Elaine Gemunder,
my beloved mother

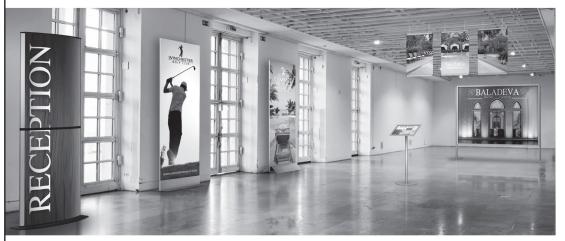
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In memory of Helen Weisberger,
beloved mother of Hanna Reinhertz



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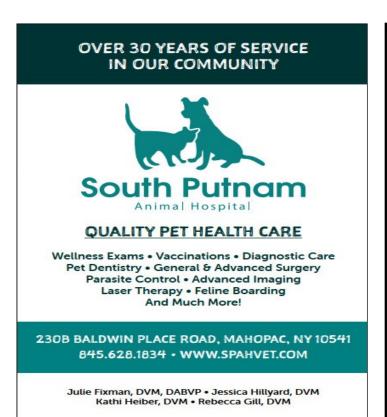
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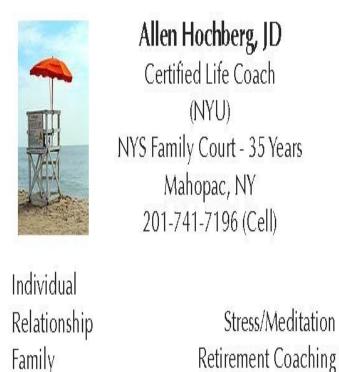
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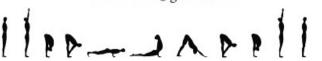
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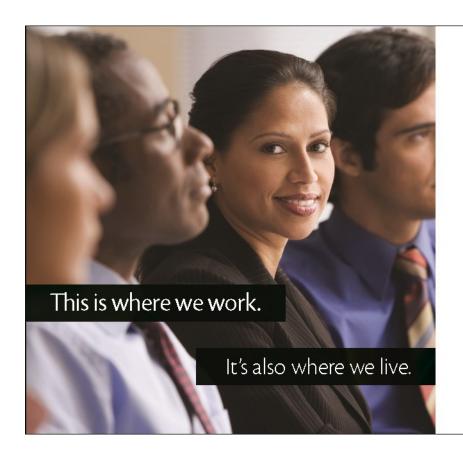
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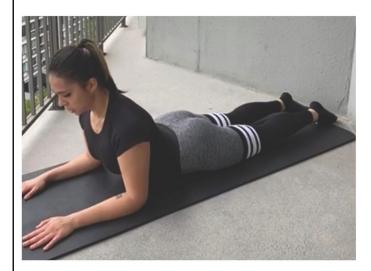
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