



November 2019 - Vol. 46, No. 02 • telephone: 603-883-8184 • e-mail: office@tbanashua.org • www.tbanashua.org



# A Full Month of Activities! See Inside for all the details...

5780

2019

# November

Cheshvan Kislev



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## Temple Beth Abraham

November 2019 Volume 46 No. 012

Cheshvan / Kisley 5780

## **How To Give**

In the wider culture, the next couple of months bring us two sides of the financial culture we live in. Holiday sales, Black Friday and Cyber Monday, the



Rabbi Spira-Savett

unrelenting marketing of things for us to buy. And – Thanksgiving, and a spirit of gratitude and giving that continues for us through Chanukkah.

In addition to ads and sales, you'll soon be deluged with mailings and e-blasts from organizations you know or whose algorithm has found you, asking for year-end donations.

What's the best way to approach charitable giving?

Most people in our society approach giving in an ad hoc way. We respond when friends or coworkers ask for a small gift toward a fundraiser or walkathon for a cause. There are some more purposeful and global ways to approach giving, ways that will make your giving more effective and also make you feel more connected and energized by the giving you do.

So first of all, to state the obvious – try to use the American cultural focus on spending during this time of year as a reminder to focus on giving as well. Some people will even choose a target, a percentage of spending on gifts or new purchases that they will pledge to charitable giving.

A second idea: Not all charitable giving is what in Judaism we call tzedakah. Tzedakah, which you could translate as justice-giving, means giving that helps people with financial needs, in one of a variety of ways. Giving generally to an art museum, university, or medical research is charitable but not necessarily tzedakah, unless it is to increase access to arts, education, or health care to people who usually lack them.

So among all the good causes, how does one choose?

An important exercise is simply to write down the things that you most care about in the world and that you most care about changing in the world. Chances are, you think about this all the time, especially as you talk with people and hear the news. Getting it down as even bullet points, or as sentences with some notes about who or what inspired that caring in you, helps us see and even admire what is already in our hearts.

Philanthropy trainers usually suggest that we will do our most effective giving in the areas we identify this way. And by focusing, we will build a momentum behind our own giving – we will want to learn more, follow up, deepen our engagement and give again. So rather than giving being the arm's-length relationship of a check or a click, giving empowers us and connects us with

(Continued on the following page ...)

## **President's Yom Kippur Address**

Shana Tova

It is an honor to speak to you on Yom Kippur *Kol Nidrei* evening and to provide a state of the



President David Sacks

congregation and our plans for the future.

I want to start by extending my thanks to several key contributors in our community: Members of the Board of Directors; members of the various committees; members of staff; people who have volunteered in the kitchen or the shul; people who have volunteered for a program or coordinated one; People who have donated either time or funds to help sustain our shul.

To all the volunteers: Thanks for taking time out of your busy schedules, for doing what you do to make TBA the special place that it is.

I also wish to recognize our longest serving employees: Richard Bryant, our facilities manager; Stan Juda, our cantor and Bar Mitzvah teacher; Noreen Liebson, Director of our Religious School; Rina Scharf and Michelle Rothberg, Religious School teachers; Judy Goldstein, office manager; Diane Toth, office assistant. I also want to recognize that this is Rabbi Jon Spira Savett's 11th year at TBA. You are now officially a "tween" in TBA years. Thank you for being our spiritual leader over these years. I appreciate your partnership in helping us transform TBA.

I would like to send a Mazal Tov to all our families who celebrated a happy life cycle event last year with us, whether it was the birth of a new baby, a Bar or Bat Mitzvah (all 11 of you), an aufruf or a wedding. Your TBA family is happy to share in your *simchas* and your joy is our collective joy.

(Continued on the following page ...)

How to Give continued ...

those who put our contributions to use in the world.

Jewish activist and teacher Aliza Mazor once taught that we can then further break down our giving into categories that she draws from the categories that the Torah uses to describe different offerings in the ancient Temple.

Certain of our gifts could be like the vow-offerings (*neder*, in the Torah), a way to keep focused on the causes we have identified out loud as core to us.

Just as there were offerings of wellbeing (sh'lamim), some of our giving could go to the goal of increasing wellbeing for people who face the hardest economic challenges.

Just as there were offerings of thanksgiving *(todah)*, some of our giving could go to institutions or the types of institutions that have invested in us and helped us become who we are.

As there were offerings after wrongdoing *(chattat)*, some of our giving could go to projects that redress or combat past wrongs that are the source of the problems we care about.

Some offerings were elevated in the air (*trutfah*), and this could be a model for institutions that we look to for spiritual elevation for ourselves or others.

An analogy to the free-will offerings (*n'dava*) would be those spontaneous gifts that we do give when someone asks us to sponsor them in a walk, or when we are moved in the moment by

something we learn about.

I am writing about this now and not in a month, because it takes time to work on this carefully. To write down ideas for a focus, to track and learn more about issues and organizations, to talk to other people. We have a lot of people in our community who are knowledgeable about issues and organizations.

Let's find ways to make the season of consumption a season of effective and rewarding generosity.

> L'shalom, Rabbi Jon

President's Yom Kippur Address continued....

The loved ones who passed away in the past year are forever in our hearts and thoughts. We wish all the mourners condolences and strength in their time of grief. We know that time does heal but sometimes it can take a lot longer than just a year of saying Kaddish. Your TBA family is here to envelop you with friendship and community.

Many of you know that I am an avid sports fan and follower of the New England Patriots. Tom Brady, their quarterback, as if he needs an introduction in these parts, has been playing at the highest level since 2001. It is well-reported that Brady, widely regarded as the greatest of all time, still carries around a huge chip on his shoulder for being overlooked by every team, even the Patriots, until the sixth round of the draft. When people ask how or why he does it, many point to that chip on his shoulder.

I am either a big believer that people take action because they are motivated or irritated. Brady is the poster child for the irritation camp.

While I am in awe of those who can act due to motivation alone, I must admit that I, too need to be irritated by a situation before I step up and take action and get involved. That is even how things get done at home. My wife will verify it.

I know that when you sit here today and look around and see this packed room inside this beautiful light filled modern building, you may have a sense of pride, a sense of unity and a sense of belonging. I believe that many of us want so much to see this fine community and institution flourish and sustain itself for the future generations. I ask you to connect with your inner motivation or irritation, or whatever else moves you to action, and make your commitment tonight to do something for TBA in the coming year. According to the atomic clock, you have about 23 hours left ... to figure out what you will do to realize your commitment.

And to inspire you on your introspective journey, let me share some of the highlights of the prior year and our plans for the coming year... Hopefully something will pique your interest and you are welcome to reach out to the various leaders that I will mention, to get engaged.

Making TBA a **secure** yet welcome place

Last year after the High Holy Days our positive outlook and plans for the year got severely disrupted. The year was challenging emotionally for Jews around the world, and significantly in the USA. The attacks at Tree of Life in Pittsburgh and Chabad in Poway respectively, may have awoken us from our slumber of complacency in the USA. The Board had no choice but to prioritize security and established a dedicated security committee. Under the leadership of assistant Treasurer Richard Cohen and Harris Greenstone, much has been accomplished already. Still more to do, but we can

(Continued on page 14...)

# November Service Schedule

Services are held every Friday evening at 8:00 p.m. (unless otherwise noted), Saturday at 9:30 a.m. and Monday –Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

#### SPECIAL EVENT SERVICE

#### November 1

Shabbat Alive! 6:30 p.m. Friday Traditional Service 8:00 p.m.

## November 1 & 2

B'nai Mitzvah Margot & David Barron Stafford

## November 16

Aufruf of Jeremy Sherman & Aryn Tomlinson

## Oneg & Kiddush Sponsors & Flowers

Flowers October 25 & 26

Ellen Zucker & family in memory of her mother, Arlene Levenson

## Kiddush Sponsor October 12

Marsha Feder in memory of her mother, Annette Cooper

#### November 1 & 2

Michael Stafford & Liz Barron in honor of the B'nai Mitzvah of their children,

Margot & David Barron Stafford

## November 16

Amy & Stuart Sherman Kiddush luncheon in honor of the upcoming wedding of their son, Jeremy to Aryn Tomlinson



# Barron Stafford B'nai Mitzvah

Hi my name is David Barron

Stafford and I'm a freshman at Souhegan High School where I play Hockey and lacrosse. I waited to have my Bar Mitzvah so



that my sister Margot and I could have a B'nai Mitzvah. We have been working together and have been tutored by Stan Juda. Our service project is helping raise money for the Humane society. Our family has a dog Shaggy that we adopted from them 6 years ago and I have a shepherd puppy Twinkie that we adopted a year ago.

Hi my name is Margot Barron Stafford and I'm in 8th grade at Amherst Middle School where I play basketball and lacrosse.



I'm excited to be sharing my Bat Mitzvah with my brother. As he said our service project is raising money for the Humane society. Over the summer we were able to foster a golden retriever, Shelby, and her 4 puppies. We helped to raise them until they were able to be adopted, and then we ended up keeping one of the puppies, Junior, and the mom.

Along with our parents Liz and Michael we hope that you will join us to celebrate our special day as we are called to the Torah for our B'nai Mitzvah.

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ELEVEN TIMES A YEAR
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Don Gorelick - Southern NH Jewish Men's Club Representative

Affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism





## Thank You for Soup Kitchen Donations

Thank you to all who brought donations to the Kol Nidre service. The Soup Kitchen was most appreciative.

Donations of non-perishable foods and toiletries are still welcome and can be left in the containers in the cloak room or the school lobby



## **Community News**

## **Condolences to:**

 Steve Carrus & family on the loss of his beloved mother, Marilyn Carrus

## **Best Wishes to:**

- Kathy & Matthew Levin family on Sophie's Bat Mitzvah
- Ben & Eileen Freedman & Henrietta Freedman on the engagement of Rebecca Freedman to Tom Driscoll
- Amy & Stuart Sherman on the engagement of son, Jeremy to Aryn Tomlinson

#### **Welcome New Members:**

- Kelly Zakar (Brookline, NH)
- Debbie & Joseph Bates (Nashua)
- Cheryl & George Kessler (Nashua)
- Ariella & Clayton Gragg (Lowell)
- Shoshana Green (Townsend, MA)
- Paula & Howard Flagler (Westford, MA)

All those people in our community who are ill we wish you a complete & speedy recovery

## Save the Date for Our Pre-Chanukkah Party! Thursday, December 19

It's an annual tradition!



# What Do Different Faiths Teach About Death and Mourning?

Panel With Religious Leaders from Greater Nashua Monday, November 18 - 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. At Temple Beth Abraham

Learn from Rabbi Jon and religious teachers from the Nashua Area and Souhegan Valley Interfaith Councils about how our faith traditions approach death and mourning. What are some core beliefs? What are the major practices? What should you know if you are a guest at a ritual or gathering from a different religion?

Free of charge and open to the public.

## ▼ ▼ TEMPLE • ■ BETH ABRAHAM

## **School and Family Events**

#### No School:

Sunday, November 10 – Veteran's Day Weekend

Sunday, November 17 – Faculty Study Day at Limmud Boston!

Thursday, November 28 – Thanksgiving Day Weekend

Sunday, December 1 – Thanksgiving Day Weekend

#### Shabbalom! - All are welcome!

Saturday, November 23, 9:30 a.m. - All morning

Breakfast, electives, and service in the Chapel. Learn some new melodies, enjoy some teaching, and get up close to the Torah!



## Temple Beth Abraham Sisterhood's Fall



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

DROP-OFF & SET-UP DAY TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

## Bring your donations to the Social Hall on Tuesday, November 5!

BRING: Clothing, including Outerwear • Small Appliances • Shoes, Athletic Shoes, & Boots • Electronics • Accessories • Sports Equipment • Jewelry • Baby & Children's Items • Household & Kitchen Items • Art, Music, Books, Games Bed Bath & Décor Items & Toys • Etc, Etc.

Questions? Can you help?? Call Carol Gorelick 889-8067 or Robin Rubin 571-1090

## **Temple Beth Abraham Sisterhood**

# MAHJONGG TOURNAMENT

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER, 3 12:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.



GAMES! SNACKS! PRIZES!

Fun for all levels! Instruction for newbies! \$10 Sisterhood members, \$18 non-members

QUESTIONS/RSVP: Robin Rubin (603) 571-1090 or <a href="mailto:littlrube@gmail.com">littlrube@gmail.com</a>



## **NOVEMBER EVENTS**

## Fun and Learning in November!



Family Engagement & Yedidim Director Jessie Mocle

Thursday, November 21, 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Monthly Kid Mini-yan!

Our first Kid Mini-yan was a great success!! Now on to next month: Yedidim and Hebrew School Students are invited to join the community for a very special kid-friendly minyan! A short minyan service, and a short delicious dinner and dessert, make for a short and sweet introduction for kids into the mitzvah of joining the weekly minyan. Please REGISTER and join! Sunday, November 24, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Yedidim and Sisterhood Intergenerational Shabbat Craft Extravaganza!

Yedidim and Sisterhood are teaming up to craft and learn about Shabbat together! All grandmas, aunts, moms and kids are invited to join us to make lovely family heirlooms that we can use on the Shabbat table in years to come! Please REGISTER and join us!

Sunday November 3, 12:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Sisterhood Mah Jongg Tournament

Not just for your mom, Mah Jongg is a blast for all ages! Have fun with other Yedidim friends at the tournament! See the full ad in the bulletin and register with Robin Rubin: <a href="mailto:litrube@gmail.com">litrube@gmail.com</a> or 603.571.1090. FUN is guaranteed!

## **Yedidim Family Sunday School**

Join us for your child's first Hebrew School experience at the Yedidim Family Sunday School (YFSS)! Aimed at kids 2-4 years old and their parents, this innovative monthly program is led by a certified teacher and subject matter expert. Parent participation enriches the experience!

Register NOW at www.tbanashua.org/yedidim.html

Sunday, November 3, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Religious School

## Potluck Popup Havdalah

Interested in an easy, family-friendly, low-key way to celebrate the spirit of Shabbat? Then Potluck Popup Havdalah is for you! Whether you attend one, or host a Potluck Popup Havdalah in your home, Yedidim families will bring the kid-friendly dairy or pareve food and dessert, and together we'll experience the gentle fellowship of saying goodbye to Shabbat. Special FRIENDSGIVING November edition!

Register at www.tbanashua.org/yedidim.html

Saturday, November 9, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Host Family home - for security reasons, we do not publish the host family's contact information please register NOW for the address!

## Special November Program: Dad's Night Out!



It's time to gather your men, tune up your noggins, and use your wits to escape the room!

With four different puzzle rooms to choose from, you and your fellow dad friends time yourselves to see how long it takes you to solve the puzzles and escape! In December, the Moms will give you a run for your money, and see if we can escape SOONER! Check out the game options here:

https://keytoescape.com/ Cost: \$24/hour

Register ASAP at www.tbanashua.org/yedidim.html

Saturday, November 16, 6:45 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Key to Escape (Optional dinner/drinks afterward!) 3 Bud Way, Unit 21, Nashua, NH 03063

## Save the Date:

- December 12: Kid Mini-yan
- December 21: Mom's Night Out
- December 22: Chanukah party

For more information or to volunteer, contact Jessie Mocle: <a href="mailto:yedidim@tbanashua.org">yedidim@tbanashua.org</a>

## Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club "Estate Planning A to Z" with Attorney William H. Barry III

Sunday, November 17, at 9:30 a.m.

Bill's lively discussion will cover important documents and concepts to be considered when designing an estate plan regardless of your age. Items



such as Last Will and Testaments, Revocable Trusts, Durable Powers of Attorney, Healthcare Powers of Attorney, Nomination of Guardianships and HIPPA Releases will all be discussed. You will also have the opportunity to learn about the benefits and burdens of probate, the pitfalls of dying intestate (i.e. without a will), and the need for young adults (18 to 25) to have their own estate planning package. Bill's discussion will be followed with an open question and answer period covering any questions that you may have regarding estate planning.

Attorney Bill Barry, a Nashua native,

is a third generation lawyer serving the Greater Nashua area. A graduate of the College of the Holy Cross, Bill earned his law degree at St. Louis University Law School and has been practicing in Nashua since 1985. Outside of work, Bill has been a member of many civic organizations and a member of Temple Beth Abraham, serving the congregation in numerous capacities.

The Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club is proud to sponsor Bill Barry's presentation, which will start offwith our monthly Sunday breakfast at 9:30 a.m. Our kitchen crew will be preparing a sumptuous feast of eggs, potatoes, bagels, lox and whitefish salad with veggies, fruit, juice, and coffee. The cost for breakfast is \$8 for Men's Club members and \$12 for nonmembers. For more information, and to RSVP for breakfast (please), email breakfastrsvp@snhjmc.org.

About the Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club

The Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club was founded in 1982 and meets monthly for Sunday brunches. The Club's mission is based on building a brotherhood of likeminded men who wish to share their commitment and values to those in the greater NH Jewish community. The SNHJMC has provided quality programming such as a town hall-style political event each fall and our annual children's breakfast, which this year featured a science exhibit designed to both educate and entertain young minds. The Southern New Hampshire Jewish Men's Club is a non-profit organization serving all of southern NH's Jewish communities regardless of synagogue membership for over thirty years. If you or someone you know would like to join our Men's Club please contact our President, Don Gorelick, via email: president@ snhjmc.org or visit our website at http://www.snhjmc.org.

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## **Coming Events and Programming**

Brought to You by the Lifelong Learning Committee

BABKA Book Club, Wednesday, November 6, 8:00 p.m.

My Father's Paradise by Ariel Sabar

Karen Treiger, Tuesday, November 12, 6:30 p.m.

Author, My Soul is Filled with Joy: A Holocaust Story

## Lunch & Learn, Saturday, November 23, after services

Meet the Congregation - Congregants' experiences as Immigrants
Beth Abraham community members who have settled in the Nashua area from other countries will share their reflections and experiences on leaving their home countries and integrating with life in southern New Hampshire. This panel discussion is the third in the Meet the Congregation series.

If you have a story to tell – whether you've been living here a short time or decades, regardless of your age – and would like to participate in the discussion, please contact Ellie Schwartz (ellielifelonglearning@gmail.com) or Rabbi Jon (rabbi@tbanashua.org).

## Ongoing:

## Rabbi Jon's Course at OLLI Community Adult Education Program:

Israeli/Palestinian Conflict – Historical Background, Where We Are Today Tuesdays From Nov. 5 Through Dec. 3 10:00-11:30 a.m.

The conflict between Israelis and Palestinians is long and touches many of us locally in a personal way because of ties of family, faith, community or work. For many, the conflict presents moral and spiritual dilemmas. We will look at the history of the population and settlement of the land, the rise of and philosophies within the Jewish and Palestinian national movements, and major periods such as 1947-1949, 1967 and its aftermath, and the Oslo peace period. What is the situation today and what are the visions of what is possible? We will try to answer questions, be rooted in facts and acknowledge biases.

Registration and fee required at <u>olli.granite.edu</u>. If there is interest, a version of the series will be scheduled for the synagogue.

## Torah Study with Rabbi Jon and Noreen Leibson

Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to Noon. Come once or many times.

## Rabbijon.net and @TBARav

Teachings on the weekly Torah reading and current events through a Jewish lens, podcasts, and music. Rabbi Jon's high holy day sermons are posted.

https://www.librarycat.org/lib/tbanashua - Search the TBA Library catalog for a book to read

#### Save the Date!

## **BABKA Book Club, December 4**

2020 Planning Meeting - recommend a book!

Lunch & Learn, December 7

#### Have Ideas? Want to Help? Join Our Committee?

Contact Jeff Masors at jmasors@gmail.com or Rabbi Jon at rabbi@tbanashua.org.

Contribute to the Elizabeth Fischer Memorial Fund to support TBA's ongoing scholarly and cultural programming.

Considering sponsoring a speaker or event? Contact the office or Rabbi Jon.

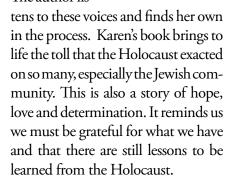
## My Soul is Filled with Joy: A Holocaust Story

The author, Karen Treiger will be speaking at Temple Beth Abraham Tuesday, November 12, at 6:30 p.m.

After 18 years of practicing law in Seattle, Karen Treiger felt an unmistakable call to explore the story of her in-laws, Sam and Esther Goldberg. Educated at Barnard College and New York University Law School --where she was editor-in-chief of NYU Law Review, Treiger made the momentous decision to retire from her law practice and pull together the threads of a family story she had heard for many years.

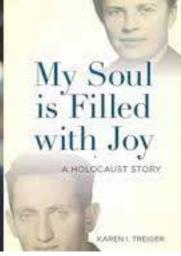
The result of her three-year inquiry is the book, *My Soul is Filled with Joy:* A Holocaust Story. In it, Karen Treiger tells of Sam Goldberg's escape from Treblinka during the prisoner revolt on August 2, 1943. Running to the woods, Sam met Esther, who was hiding there. For another year until liberation, they hid together in barns and in a pit in the forest. The author, married to Sam and Esther's son, uncovers details of their wartime experiences and travels to Poland to meets the families of the Righteous Gentiles who helped them survive. The book also tells of Karen's family's experiences as they retraced the path from Treblinka to the pit in the Polish forest where Sam and Esther hid until their liberation. As Karen became invigorated and inspired by the people she encountered, Sam and Esther's story became her story too.

The dead of Poland speak loudly from the ashes, but the living find new voices. The author lis-



Since the book's publication, Karen Treiger has spoken from coast to coast and to international audiences to bring this compelling story to the world. In June she traveled to Poland and launched the Polish translation of the book and spoke at the National Ethnography Museum in Warsaw and at the Krakow Jewish Festival. She has been named to the Jewish Book





Council Author's Network, the Seattle Holocaust Center for Humanity Speaker's Bureau, and to the University of Washington Advisory Committee for its Extension Writing Program.

"Treiger's important book seamlessly connects past and present and traces the arc of Polish Jewry- from Poland to hell and somehow, despite the odds, back again to Poland."

Jonathan Ornstein, Executive Director, Jewish Community Center of Krakow

My Soul is Filled with Joy was awarded a bronze medal from the Independent Publishers Book Association in the category of World History, and the Nancy Pearl Book Award - Best Memoir by the Pacific Northwest Writers' Association Conference.

## Beth Abraham Sisterhood Gift Shop

Why shop at the Gift Shop?

Reason #1: To support Sisterhood in its on-going work for the benefit of the synagogue and Jewish community

**November Hours:** 

Thursdays 4:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., during non-holiday events and by appointment.

For questions or appointments, please email Eileen at giftshop.tba@gmail.com

## Something to Think About.

I found it difficult this month to

get my thoughts organized to write this column. Should I write about celebrating the holidays in Israel with my family? Maybe I



Elaine Brody

should offer some thoughts on the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday or encourage readers to get involved in some activity at the synagogue or in the community.

Well, procrastination paid off. On October 16, one day before the official deadline for submittal of articles for the bulletin, our grand-daughter, Ami, gave birth to Aliza Pearl Lormeus. Aliza is named for my mother carrying on a tradition of directly linking a new life to one that has gone before. We will tell her stories and share photos of her great-grandmother so she will feel a connection to my mom.

This momentous occasion of welcoming our first great grandchild both distracted me from the need to write something and gave me pause to consider the cycle of life, life cycle events, and how they effect our families and our community.

As we were celebrating this new life, we received word that an elderly cousin had been admitted to hospice care. We will attend his funeral before this bulletin reaches your home. This cousin, whose name was Sam but we called Sonny to distinguish him from my father who was also Sam, was so much part of my childhood. Buzz and I had a visit with him in August. Although frail and quiet, sitting most of the time with his head bowed, his wit was present. He would raise his head, utter something clever, flash his familiar smile, and retreat.

Between these first and last events of life, we pack in a host of celebrations: Brit Milah, Simchat Bat, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Birthdays, Anniversaries, Graduations, Weddings, and more.

Consider this: when a young person becomes Bar/Bat Mitzvah, it is not only a celebration for the family and close friends. It is a celebration for the entire community. You don't even have to know the family personally. Come to the services to support this young person's commitment to Judaism. Seek out the student and parents after services to tell them how pleased you are to have been able to celebrate with them.

We celebrate the beginning of the cycle of life and mourn the end. We should be sure to support and give encouragement to the intermediate steps as well. It is, as always, just something to think about.

L'hitraot, Elaine

## Calling All Mah Jongg Mavens! One Crack, Two Bams!

This year Sisterhood will be ordering the new Mah Jongg cards as a fundraiser. By ordering in bulk (at least 35 cards), we will get a donation for our organization for each card that we order!

You can get in on this by sending a check payable to TBA Sisterhood, along with your name and address to Barbara Lester, 23 Bicentennial Dr, Nashua NH 03062.

Card prices are the same – \$8 for standard & \$9 for large print.



By ordering cards this way, we will get our cards a bit before the "official" release and raise money for Sisterhood!

We will also be taking orders at the Sisterhood Mah Jongg Tournament on November 3!

Your cards will be mailed to you directly from the MJ League.

## הקשר היהודי שלך

## Your Jewish Connection

Brought to you by the Lifelong Learning Committee – Written by Linda S Trapasso

## Save Your Lulav and Etrog!

Our wonderful holiday of *Sukkot* is over, the *sukkah* is stored away for next year, but you've got this *lulav* and *etrog* on your hands. What are you going to do with them? Read on for a few ideas!

What we refer to as a *lu-lav* is the Four Species used together in a bundle for *Suk-kot*. The Four Species are the *lulav* or date



palm tree; *hadass* or myrtle; and *aravah* or willow. Together they are the *lulav* along with the *etrog* or citron. The *lulav* represents aspects of the human body with the *lulav* representing the spine, the myrtle the eyes, the willow the lips, and the *etrog* the heart. *Midrash* says the *lulav* represents four different types of Jews (see <u>description here</u>).

We hold the *lulav* in one h a n d and the



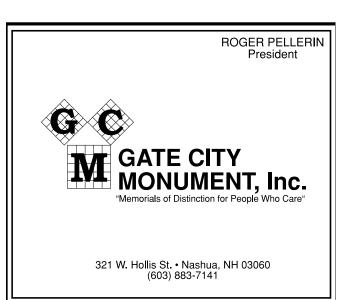
etrog in the other, bring our hands together, and wave them in four directions, plus up and down, to fulfill the *mitzvah* to bless G-d's mastery over all creation and to pray for enough rain in the coming year. (An article at <u>HuffPost</u> likens this shaking ritual to a rain dance.)

Since the *lulav* and *etrog* were used for a *mitzvah*, they should be treated with respect and not be discarded in a trash bin. Ideally, they should be used for another *mitzvah*. Many people save their *lulav* until *Pesach* and then use it to kindle a fire for the *mitzvah* of burning *chametz*.

Another thing you can do is save the *etrog* until *Tu B'shevat* and eat it in candied form or as candied peel, accompanied by prayers that one will merit a beautiful *etrog* next *Sukkot*. Candied citron also has a long non-Jewish history that you can read about here.

Some families make jam or liqueur out of the *etrog*, or stick cloves in the skin for use as *besamim* at the *havdalah* ceremony after *Shabbat*. And you can plant *etrog* seeds indoors and have an *etrog* tree in 5-10 years.

You can find *etrog* recipes and more ideas at <u>The Canadian Jewish News</u>, the <u>Jewish Standard</u>, the <u>Sukkah Project</u>, the <u>Jew & the Carrot</u>, <u>Specialty Produce</u>, <u>MyJewishLearning</u>, and the <u>Spruce Eats</u>. Like the Energizer Bunny, your *lulav* and *etrog* can keep going and going and going...!



## Alan J Green, MD

Certified Mohel מוהל מוסמר



22 Chester Street, Nashua NH 03064 603-440-3444 www.mohelnh.com President's Yom Kippur Address continued....

be proud of our achievements in a short time.

We have strengthened our relationships with local law enforcement and elected leaders. We also were very successful in receiving a grant from FEMA to address security needs. Under the guidance of Past President Mike Harris, a team of volunteer grant writers submitted a winning proposal that resulted in TBA receiving the maximum possible award of \$20,000. Projects are already identified and we are hoping to complete most of them by this time next year. As the grant works on a expense reimbursement process, we were grateful to receive \$2000 from an anonymous source to get started on the project list.

## High Growth Transformation

It is the Board's vision to transform Temple Beth Abraham into a high growth organization, an HGO. To this end, in late 2018, we formed a High Growth Organization Committee, under the leadership of vice President Matthew Lee. The committee visited and conducted detailed analyses of six organizations experiencing high rates of growth in terms of membership, organizational reach, and service to their communities. From this work, we gathered over 200 specific ideas for TBA leadership to consider as we seek to improve the overall offerings of TBA to our constituents. While not every idea gathered may be viable for TBA in the short term, we are already seeing positive changes happening at TBA. We are focusing on:

- making TBA a more welcoming place for families with children,
- improving the quality of our communications,
- reducing barriers of entry into our community,

- increasing the overall convenience of involvement with TBA.
- and expanding the reach of TBA beyond our walls, to name a few.

The ideas have been categorized and will be handed over to the various committees.

We talked earlier about security needs. We will balance that with maintaining a welcoming open culture here at TBA. This can be tricky, but we will keep working on walking the fine line so that we can feel safe and secure as we grow our community. To this end we have added the formal greeter program to ensure people feel welcomed when they come to TBA. If you would like to participate, please reach out to Sam Fain. I believe they could use a few more folks...

#### House

Under the dedicated leadership of Mike Harris, the house committee was very busy. We have to maintain a beautiful yet aging facility. During the High Holy Days last year we encountered roof leaks in the Religious School building. This necessitated the removal of the skylights and installation of a more robust roof. That job was completed thanks in large part to the donations collected in honor of the prior Shem Tov recipient, Jane Goodman.

Volunteers in the kitchen have been very pleased to work with the new oven and the improvements to the dishwashing system. Thanks to Sisterhood and kitchen managers for helping lead the charge here...

You might have noticed something cool on our roof. TBA now has a array comprising 247 solar panels which will produce north of 80% of the Temple's electricity needs. Besides the obvious financial benefits of saving on

our electric bill, we are also contributing positively to the environment by reducing fossils fuels and saving trees. This project will realize its full financial impact for TBA if we are able to buy out the system after year 5. We will be looking to fund raise \$100,000 by then. If you are interested in contributing, please go to our website or contact our treasurer, Barry Sack.

Another sustainable project was the replacement of almost all our lights with LED light bulbs. This was paid almost completely with funds raised in honor of this year's Shem Tov recipient, Alan Green. Replacing the light bulbs allows our solar array to have the optimum reduction of our electric bill.

We have all seen the frightful images of plasticware floating in the oceans and harming our ocean's creatures and fish. We have moved away from plasticware for our Kiddush and luncheon events. Yom Kippur is known as the Day of Atonement. If you split the word apart, it gives you AT-ONE-MENT. If you consider all of the above programs as well as the extensive composting and recycling program, we really are firing on all cylinders in our efforts to be at one with God and nature. A huge thank you to Alan and Becky Green for being the driving force behind many of the above initiatives. And I want to thank all of you for helping us to continue recycling wherever possible.

#### Communications

We have made some strides in improving our communications with you and the wider world. Our website and announcements are now mobile friendly. We will continue to improve so that people find the information that they need quickly and intuitively.

(Continued on the following page...)

I wish to acknowledge the guidance of Daniel Palmer and Matthew Lee and the support of Rabbi Jon and Jessica Stern.

I also wish to acknowledge David Toub who led our PR efforts for the High Holy Days and ensured that the offerings at TBA got maximum exposure.

## ReNewYEAR and Shabbat Alive!

Last year we introduced the Re-NewYEAR service, a shorter multigenerational musical learning service for High Holy Days led by the very talented Eliana Light. It was warmly received. Many folks told me that while they recognized that we are a Conservative shul and need to offer a traditional service, they appreciated TBA for offering an alternative service that met their needs. Several members told us that because of ReNewYEAR they felt at home and decided to stay as members. We brought Elian Light back this year and from what I have personally experienced the ReNewYEAR Service is once again a hit and helping us reach additional demographics, And we have done this without detracting from our traditional service. There are many different gateways to being part of a religious community. The flexibility here is important. After the chaggim, I will work with Eliana to bring her back next year. I want to thank the Renew Year committee of Carol Gorelick, Rabbi Jon, Noreen Leibson, Esther Kosofsky and Eliana for their efforts to offer another superior experience.

We wanted to sustain the energy and momentum of the ReNewYEAR concept throughout the year and so we introduced Shabbat Alive! In case you are not aware, Shabbat Alive! is a multigenerational musical shorter Friday night service that starts at an earlier family-friendlier time of 6:30 p.m. We have been running these on a monthly basis. We have food on offer before, during and after the service in the Gallery. The service itself is beautiful described by a fellow congregant as Havdalah like. If you have not yet been to Shabbat Alive, I encourage you to come and join us. Thank you to the Shabbat Alive! committee of Liz Eckley, David Rubin-Baker, Becky Green, Alan Green, Larry Rubin and Matthew Lee.

We have been in contact with Congregation Betenu in Amherst about collaborating for the greater good of Jews in the area. One of the first ideas is to have them come experience Shabbat Alive with us.

## **Programming**

We have had another year of amazing programing. Special thanks to the Men's Club, Jeff Masors from Lifelong Learning, and Sisterhood. We have offered a children's breakfast, international dinners, the Purim Ball, the Suzannah Heschel breakfast. I want to specifically call out the Sisterhood for their ongoing support of life cycle events at TBA and for providing Kiddush throughout the year.

Please continue to watch for the weekly emails and the website for upcoming events. Moreover, please be aware that the Mens Club is affiliated with TBA and I would like to encourage more men to join. The breakfasts with the smoked salmon bagels, eggs and whitefish are absolutely top notch. Dare I say BOSS.

## **Cemetery Proposal**

We have a growing need to cater better to the needs of families with interfaith spouses in every aspect of TBA. I think we have done a very good job in most areas. One area that remained ripe for improvement was the cemetery. A joint committee of the ritual and cemetery committee, under the leadership of Helen Honorow and Alan Green, has been working diligently for well over a year to develop a proposal to address the needs of these families, while complying with halacha for a Jewish cemetery. The proposal will create an interfaith section of our cemetery where families may be buried together. We have held multiple forums on this proposal. Thanks to all those who attended and provided feedback and input. The final proposal should be coming to the board soon and ultimately will be put to a vote of the membership in a special meeting. While all this was going on, I am grateful to the group of volunteers who painted the cemetery fence. Y'shakoach.

#### Yedidim

Have you heard about Yedidim? This is an area of growth and excitement for TBA. It is a program designed from the ground up by Jessie Mocle and is targeted for families with younger children and now caters to ages 0 to 13. The Yedidim cohort is growing with returning families and a lot of new families. They have many successful and popular monthly programs: Build-a-Shabbat Friday night catered dinners, Popup Potluck Havdalot at host family homes, Yedidim Family Sunday School for the youngest students and their families, bi-monthly Mom/Dad nights out at restaurants, paint nights, sports pubs, game nights. They have also offered specialized monthly programming: Apple Picking, Mini-yan, a kidfriendly minyan with dinner and dessert, Tu Bishvat Seder, Klezmer Drumming Workshop. If you have children, grand children or great children that fit the profile, then I (Continued on the following page...)

President's Yom Kippur Address continued.... encourage you to seek out Jessie. I have been to some of these events and it is the best way to connect with your inner child...

## **Religious School**

When we first moved to TBA, it was because of the Religious School. At the time, the enrolment was around 100 and classes were being held on every day to accommodate the capacity. We are all painfully that the drop in enrolled paying students has been significant and this created financial challenges which now has affected staffing. At the current enrollment we could not justify a full time director. We also needed to be creative to provide an enjoyable and nurturing experience especially for very small classes. I am grateful to Rabbi Jon, Noreen, Jessie and the teachers who put in extra hours during the summer to make the needed changes to address these challenges.

The team is constantly looking at ways at keeping the school innovative, and fun so that it is a magnet for Jewish families in the area. We have also experimented with a Sunday/ Tuesday schedule and that seems to be well received.

We will continue to invest in the Religious School as it is a key need for our community. However, we have to be rigorous with financial administration of the school and ensuring that all families are paying tuition or formally receiving scholarships. It is our intention never to turn people away because of finances. But we cannot run a Religious School where a significant percentage of the students' families are not contributing financially, to the school operations.

We are openly researching an option to cater to families who wish for their child to have a Bar Mitzvah without

attending Religious School. While this is not the preferred approach and they won't have the camaraderie of a cohort having their Bar Mitzvahs together, it will address the needs of families in the area, who otherwise will go elsewhere. Some of us will feel like this is not the TBA way. However flexibility and offering multiple gateways to our congregation and Bar Mitzvah, is a key aspect of an HGO. This will be a source of revenue for TBA which could help offset the scholarships to our Religious School. And who knows? Maybe some of the family members or their guests may find meaning and want to engage more with TBA. You just never know.

## **Finances**

It is probably no surprise that it does take money to run Temple Beth Abraham. We have to pay salaries for the staff, mortgage, utility and other expenses. We are extremely vigilant as a board on managing expenses and consider every option, so that we can be able stewards of the congregation. We ask for your financial support to help us continue to have a thriving Jewish community center in in the Nashua area and moreover to see it flourish. This is a responsibility for all of us, even those who only choose to attend High Holy Day services. It is unconscionable that we have "members" that do not contribute to the operating costs of the synagogue.

You have seen all the improvements that we have undertaken in very innovative financial ways. Thanks to the stained-glass window project, we have been able to reduce our mortgage by \$70,000. Everything that we do is made possible by the financial support from many donors and planning by many volunteers. Contributions of all sizes (big and small) help sustain TBA and it's important for everyone

to help at whatever level that they are able.

## Summary

In closing, TBA can be a resource for more than just 3 days a year. There's a lot going on and while we don't expect anyone to be able to do everything, it would be great if more of you would participate in more activities. If you've spent 4 to 8 hours in shul for the holy days, imagine how you could spend 4 to 8 hours with the community in the next month inside or outside of services.

If you see something missing, let us know. Please bring forward your suggestions. Make us aware of your peeves or of needs not being met. Please be engaged. Apathy is a recipe for decline.

I hope that as you are here today, you are inspired by what we can do. TBA is not a building. It is a community. It is what happens within and outside the walls that will make a difference. Ultimately it will be what we want it to be. I hope that as you reflect on your self during these days of Awe, that you will give a thought to where would you like TBA to be. Picture it, Envision it. Share your vision with others. This Board is ready to listen and act. Collectively we have the power to do much. Just look at the stained glass windows, the solar panels, the packed and inspiring services, the many programs. Let's put our minds and efforts together on these hopes and dreams that we have for our collective community and make amazing thing happen.

Gmar Hatima Tova

May you and your loved ones be inscribed for a happy, healthy, successful and meaningful new year...

David Sacks

## YAHRZEIT DONATIONS

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Please call or email to schedule your appointment! 603-930-3952 or paulmoverman@gmail.com



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# Yahrzeits

During Friday evening and Saturday morning services, Memorial prayers will be recited for the following:

#### November 1 & 2

Madeline Kasner, sister of Rochelle Goren
Frances Lewis, mother of Judy Goldstein
Terice Davia Cohen, sister of Mrs Marcia Weiss
Carrie Lerman, mother-in-law of Diane Lerman
Louisa Schwartz, mother of Reghina Scharf
Belle Perelmuter, mother of Ernest Perelmuter
Louisa Schwartz, grandmother of Atara Kirsh
Barton Gaffney, son of Sandra Gaffney and brother of
Sean Gaffney

John Gaffney, husband of Sandra Gaffney and father of Sean Gaffney

Clodagh Lyons, mother of Colleen Lillstrang
William Shapero, father of Laura Thomson
Jay Porter, father of Todd A. Porter
Rebecca Jacobson, mother of Avis Greenstone
Sidney W. Rappaport, father of Bette Lasky
Lois Weisman, mother of Terre A. Weisman
Lois Weisman, mother-in-law of Peggy Weisman
Eva Goldman
Jennie M. Harkaway

Samuel Weisman Annie Dishler

Allen Harry Soifert

#### November 8 & 9

Anne Linder, mother of Rosely Cohen
William Kessler, brother of Mrs Marcia Weiss
Jim Freedman, husband of Yvonne Freedman
Lorraine Goren, sister of Carol Levy
Carolyn Stern, mother of David Stern, mother-in-law
of Linda Trapasso and grandmother of Jessica Stern
Leonard Friedman, father of Dr. Gary Friedman
Estelle Lorrey, mother of Martin Lorrey
Morton Harold Levy, father of Jane Goodman
Wolf Landsman, great-grandfather of Rabbi Jonathan
Spira-Savett

Florence Eisman, stepmother of Merle Carrus Moe Oven, father of Fredric A. Oven Bessie Sack, mother of Lynn Schenker Frank Toub, father of David P. Toub Abraham Zeira, father of Eitan Zeira Mark Ferman, Husband of Nancy Ferman Anne Devine, mother of Christopher Devine Zelma Getto, mother of Leslie Getto Jacob Yezersky, grandfather of Shirley Lelchuk

November 8 & 9 continued ...

Caroline Kliegman, mother of Judy Wolfe Esther Wolfson Philip Porter Gertrude Liffman Adolph Braun

#### November 15 & 16

Elias Dolinsky, grandfather of Robin Golub
Rochel Urist, sister of Rena Perelmuter
Dorothy Garber, aunt of Steven Goldstein
Caye Katzenstein, aunt of Karl Schenker
Louis Drillings, step father of Martin Rothberg
Joesph E Cohen, Father of Richard Cohen
Louis Drillings, grandfather of Michelle Rothberg
Ruth Ginsburg, wife of George Ginsburg and mother
of Lisa Lewis

Rose Kozak, mother of Diane Toth

Claire Watterson, mother of Terence Watterson

Daniel Nagler Sylvia R. Mirsky

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Rose Margolis Anna B. Goldman Dora Kligerman Charles Gordon Rabbi Harry Linfield Jennie Rubenstein

#### Nov 22 & 23

Robert Upson, father of Rosalind Sandler Fran Ziffer Burgio, grandmother of Barbara Lester Martin Weitberg, father of Robin Rubin Michael Palmer, father of Daniel Palmer Arthur D. Sandberg, father-in-law of Earl Prolman Abraham Rappaport, father of Cheryl Liebling Nancy Magoon, mother of Kelly Garnick Alexander Bornstein, grandfather of Liliane Sznycer Laurie Keller, father of Marlene Gallant Sam Yezersky, uncle of Shirley Lelchuk Samuel Gorodetsky, father-in-law of Rochelle Goren Martha Pollack, mother of Stanley H. Pollack Adele Alberts, mother of Nancy Keyslay Zachary Cohen, father of Stewart Cohen Morris Haime, father of Steven Haime Bella Tresser, mother of Debra Wilner Marilyn McGinty, sister of Lynn Schenker Robert Teague, father of Sandie Leonard Beatrice Comen, mother of Amy Sherman Clara Loretta Mullin, mother of Claretta Malin Elizabeth Gordon Barbara A. Zabell Max Springer Slava Newman Samuel Mark Davis Mary Slome

(Continued on the following page ...)

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November Yahrzeits continued...

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