

# הקשר היהודי שלך

## Your Jewish Connection

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

### Making Community!

When you live in a community, are you automatically part of that community? Yes and no. Yes, because you live there. No, because you may not be involved with the people around you. So how do you get involved and become a full member of the community?



Here at Temple Beth Abraham, we are a community, and everyone has a different idea of what that means. But to begin thinking of oneself as part of a community, you need to “visit” and make friends. Come to Shabbat services or weekday minyan. Talk to whoever starts talking to you, or go up to someone and say hello. Come to an event. With the High Holy Days approaching, the TBA calendar will be getting busy, and you should plan to join us.

One of my personal strengths is knowing that I am part of the TBA community. Through good times and bad, this community has been a constant in my life. I may not always want to share the details of my life, but I know who would listen should I decide to call on them. I was recently reminded that I have been a TBA member for 30 years. I was surprised at the number, as it does not seem that long though I have many good memories.

A [NY Times article](#) from November 2018, discusses the Jewish communities of America and how they have

evolved. It also describes five books on the Jewish religion and community in America. These books make it clear that everything is changing, at least for non-Orthodox Jews.

Transitions are now a common occurrence.

Because of the Shoah and pogroms, many Jews



came to America. That generation faded, and their children became parents. These parents are also fading as their children come to the forefront. One generation was in awe of the establishment of the State of Israel, another generation takes Israel for granted. The gulf between generations is wide, yet community can bring them together. Sid Schwarz’s article at the *Forward*, titled [Making a Spiritual Future for America’s Jewish Community](#), is about understanding others and yourself in the American Jewish community.

To live a full Jewish life requires engagement with other Jews, a Jewish community. Though one celebrates holidays and observes many customs in the home, a Jewish community offers a chance to be with others while praying, studying, eating, celebrating, mourning, and more. In addition, the Jewish community reinforces the Jewish home experiences

and helps create and perpetuate a Jewish life. The Jewish community connects all and keeps us from being invisible.

Judaism is about connections. [The Art of Making Jewish Connections](#) at JewishBoston.com, puts it this way: “... if Judaism is to continue to thrive as a culture and as a religion, we must create more paths to connections. While we are all connected on the surface by the Jewish common denominator,



what that means to each of us and how we connect to ourselves, to each other and to our communities varies tremendously.” Read the full article for different perspectives on community and for a link to the *2015 Greater Boston Jewish Community Study*.

So please reach out and make connections and community at TBA!

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