



TBS

December 2016  
Kislev/Tevet 5777

# THE WINDOW



Temple Beth Shalom  
New Albany, Ohio

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# *Pre-Hanukkah Service & Party!*

*Friday, December 16th  
at 6:30 pm*

**JOIN YOUR TBS FAMILY FOR A BRIEF  
FESTIVE SERVICE, A BRISKET & LATKE  
DINNER BY THE MEN'S CLUB, LEGO  
DREIDLE MAKING WITH PJ LIBRARY,  
GAMES, SONGS, AND MORE!**

**COST FOR DINNER \$10 ADULTS / \$5 KIDS / MAX  
\$30 PER FAMILY**



**PLEASE RSVP BY  
DECEMBER 14 TO  
[RSVP@TBSOHIO.ORG](mailto:RSVP@TBSOHIO.ORG)**

# Upcoming Events

Please join us Friday, December 2nd at 6:30 pm for Consecration & First Friday Dinner!

## Week of 12/4

<b>Sunday, Dec. 4</b>	KT Religious School, 9:00 am; Library Mtg, 10:00 am
<b>Tuesday, Dec. 6</b>	Sharyonim Practice, 7:30-9:00 pm
<b>Wednesday, Dec. 7</b>	Mah Jongg at TBS, 1:00 pm; Women's Torah Study, 7:00 pm
<b>Thursday, Dec. 8</b>	Finance Mtg, 11:30 am; Torah Study, 1:30 pm; WBS Hanukkah Potluck, 6:30 pm
<b>Friday, Dec. 9</b>	Erev Shabbat Services, 6:30 pm
<b>Saturday, Dec. 10</b>	Simchat Shabbat Services, 10:00 am; 6th Grade Retreat

## Week of 12/11

<b>Sunday, Dec. 11</b>	KT Religious School, 9:00 am; WBS Mah Jongg, 9:30 am; Board Mtg, 4:00 pm; Men's Club Poker Night, 7:00 pm
<b>Wednesday, Dec. 14</b>	Mah Jongg at TBS, 1:00 pm
<b>Friday, Dec. 16</b>	Mitzvah Corps Serving Lunch at YWCA Family Shelter; Pre-Hanukkah Party and Dinner, 6:30 pm
<b>Saturday, Dec. 17</b>	Simchat Shabbat Services, 10:00 am

## Week of 12/18

<b>Sunday, Dec. 18</b>	KT Religious School, 9:00 am
<b>Tuesday, Dec. 20</b>	WBS Lunch & Learn, 12:00 pm; Sharyonim Rehearsal, 7:30 pm
<b>Wednesday, Dec. 21</b>	Mah Jongg at TBS, 1:00 pm
<b>Friday, Dec. 23</b>	Erev Shabbat Services, <u>7:30 pm</u>
<b>Saturday, Dec. 24</b>	Simchat Shabbat Services, 10:00 am

## Week of 12/25

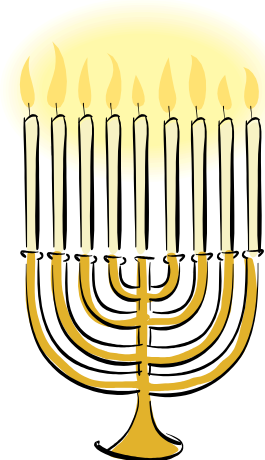
<b>Sunday, Nov. 20</b>	No KT Religious School
<b>Wednesday, Dec. 28</b>	Mah Jongg at TBS, 1:00 pm
<b>Friday, Dec. 30</b>	Family Hanukkah Service, Dinner, and Social Action Project; 6:30 pm
<b>Saturday, Dec. 31</b>	Simchat Shabbat Services, 10:00 am



# Hanukkah Blessings



Candles are added to the *Chanukiah* from **right to left** but are kindled from **left to right**. The newest candle is lit first. (On the Shabbat of Hanukkah, kindle the Hanukkahlights first and then the Shabbat candles.) Light the *Shamash* - the helper candle - first using it to kindle the rest of the Hanukkah lights; say or sing:



ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם אשר קדשנו במצותיו וצונו להדליק  
נר של חנוכה.

*Baruch Atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tsivanu  
l'hadlik ner shel Chanukah.*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who hallows us with mitzvot, commanding us to  
kindle the Hanukkah lights.

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם שעשה נסים לאבותינו ואמותינו  
בימים ההם בזמן הזה.

*Baruch Atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, she-asah nisim laavoteinu v'imoteinu  
bayamim hahaeim baz'man hazeh.*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors in  
days of old at this season.

## First Night Only:

ברוך אתה יי אלהינו מלך העולם שהחיינו וקימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה.

*Baruch Atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, shehecheyanu v'kiy'manu v'higianu  
laz'man hazeh.*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of all, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for  
enabling us to reach this season.

# 6 Reflections from Rabbi A



When my children were eight and seven years old respectively, and I was on the sabbatical, the family lived in Jerusalem for about five months. At the end of our time there, we took the girls to the south of the country, ending up for two days in Eilat on the Gulf of Aqaba. It was March, but warm enough there to lounge outside in the sun.

As we sat at the hotel pool, we looked around to see some of the women bathing, horizontally to be sure, without tops. Both of the girls noticed, and one modestly let us know that she saw what we had hoped she would not notice. She didn't say anything, but we noticed her eyes darting accompanied by a worried look. We explained that this was one of the things that "European women" did.

To avoid the situation the next day, we changed our plan and went instead to the beach. We thought that the private rules at a hotel pool would not extend to public spaces ... and we were wrong. Alas, there were a few female bathers, same topless circumstances, without apparent restriction.

The same child, after briefly assessing the situation and looking at us nervously, "I don't want to be European."

Contrast: Back in August, news outlets splayed the image of an Arab woman sitting on a beach in Cannes, France, surrounded by four male gendarmes, and pulling off some of the clothing that constituted her "burkini" to meet the beach requirements being enforced in the French state. I was surprised and somewhat insulted that too much clothing could be prohibited.

I remember – when I was a kid – and the family would go to the shore in Beach Haven, NJ, I would notice many of the people, who had had their fill of sun, or who were fending off a late afternoon rush of wind, dressed up, head to toe, with hat, sunglasses, and sometimes a scarf-like wrap to guard the lips from chafing – every inch of skin, it seemed, covered. As a pre-teen, I thought it odd, but certainly not subject to the immorality police. How could a burkina be different than this?

And I wondered: How could heirs of the French Revolution have forgotten that, in their official motto, the word *liberté* appears first and foremost? A French court soon afterward overturned the ban in the Mediterranean coastal town, a town, by the way, that has permitted toplessness. [Think: Adam; Eve; Garden of Eden apparel.]

I make these remarks in the aftermath of Halloween when we permit our kids to dress up in haunting costumes, to walk in the streets, to visit other folks' homes, and expect to receive a goody for dressing in full cover-up, bemasked costumes ... this activity all under the careful eye of local authorities.

I make these remarks as I recall some truly insulting T-Shirts logos flash through my mind, as I think about folks who wear clothes to accent their bulges, others who wear their pants far too low, exposing underwear, or their shorts too high exposing tushy overflows.

I make these remarks as I witness otherwise attractive folks whose faces have been so mauled by piercings that I think they've taken a headlong dive into a fishing tackle box. I think: "If it floats your boat," gulp and avert my eyes.

And I make these remarks as I relive in my mind the odd costuming in the summer's baking sun in highly orthodox enclaves in Jerusalem – black hats, head scarves or wigs, long-sleeved blouses and men-in-jackets – a dress which, you will have to believe me, deeply offends so many of the secularists in Israel who associate that dress with an unwillingness to engage in productive work or wear an IDF uniform.

While one line in the Talmud declares: "My garments are my 'honorers,'" apparel is yet an artifice. It is symbolic in that it communicates status, roles, class and so many other messages both to outsiders and to oneself. As one Jewish proverb puts it on how one is known when you are otherwise unknown: "A name in my town; elsewhere, by my gown."

The one who sees us will at first and instinctively classify each of us, not as an individual, but as someone to whom they can compare us – often through what we wear.

What may be equally important is this: (1) Studies from research psychologists have shown that we ourselves perform according to the clothes we wear, that, for example, females of equivalent talent who – staying with our theme – take tests in bathing suits perform worse on tests than those dressed in sweaters.

(2) Controlled studies show that, whether other variables are equal, folks, who wear a lab coat while taking letter rearrangement tests and the like - do better if they wear a lab coat. If that very same coat is described to the test taker as a "painter's smock, the test scores drop.

Or this: (3) Players tend to be more aggressive when they wear black uniforms. On the average, for example, they commit more penalties than their not-black-bedecked opponents. Remember last October 2015, for a featured, nationally broadcasted, Saturday night football game when OSU played in all black uniforms? It was an official visit-day for OSU football recruits and both the coach and the OSU athletic director realized that the uniforms would be good for recruiting. Faux-bloodthirsty, to be faux-feared, you know, like vampires on Halloween.

Or Muslim women dressing modestly on a beach in Cannes.

We are all in this masquerade together ... all of us. And how we dress has a kind of magical power because our brain connects our garb with certain societal norms. Perhaps that is what the Rabbi Yosé b. Hanina was getting at long ago when he stated, "One who does not respect his clothes will not benefit from them."

Garb grabs. Dress affects, not only how folks react to us, but it also in the real world affects how we conduct ourselves – our demeanor, our behavior, and even the quality of our performance.

Reform Community Shabbat at Congregation Beth Tikvah

## Holding the Hope of Israel in our Hearts

Friday, Jan. 13, and Saturday, Jan. 14

**Friday, Jan. 13, at 7:15 p.m.**

Shabbat Evening Service with Rabbi Weinberg. Rabbi Weinberg's D'var will be entitled "Israel: Living the Dream, Facing the Reality."

**Saturday, Jan. 14, at 10:30 a.m.**

Please join us for Torah Study and a light lunch afterwards. Rabbi Weinberg's D'var will be "What does it mean to be a religious Zionist from a Reform perspective?" RSVP at <http://tinyurl.com/zp9f5kv> or by calling the Beth Tikvah office at 614-885-6286.

**Saturday, Jan. 14, at 6 p.m. (nosh at 5:45 p.m.)**

Join us for Havdalah and a Kumsitz (sing along). We will explore Israel in song and story. The choirs from all three synagogues will sing. Rabbi Weinberg will tell stories and sing too. Dessert reception will follow.

➔ Congregation Beth Tikvah



**Guest  
Speaker  
Rabbi Josh  
Weinberg  
President  
of the  
Association  
of Reform  
Zionist of  
America**

### Temple Beth Shalom

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Compiled and Edited by

Ben Rosen & Bonnie Abramowitz



## May Our Blessing Bring Us Light

I may be the only rabbi around who really likes the December holiday season. Yes, I was always jealous of my Christian friends when I was a kid – decorating a tree inside your house and getting presents from Santa – I mean, who wouldn't be jealous?! But over the years, I moved away from my jealousy this time of year, and started appreciating all the wonderful things that happen in December. Everyone is just a little nicer, stores and restaurants have that warm festive glow to them, and I (hate to admit that) even like some of the Christmas Carols on the radio (many of which were written by Jews incidentally). They're so catchy. Someone discovered that not every song needs to be written in a minor

key! Brilliant!

What I really love this time of year, is that we are given the gift of time. As we recently sat with our families around our Thanksgiving tables, or we gather together to celebrate Chanukah either at Temple or at home, we are encouraged this time of year to pause and acknowledge how lucky we are in our lives. We actually have a blessing in Jewish tradition that enables us to turn ordinary moments into holy moments. The Shehechyanu prayer thanks God not for a person or place or an item. Rather the Shehechyanu prayer says thank you God for enabling me to be present in this moment right now. Thank you for this time – this moment.

I mentioned in my article last month, that according to our sages, each of us is supposed to count 100 blessings in each day. We are instructed to find 100 things for which we are thankful each day. Even if perhaps, things feel as though they are on the wrong track, the rabbis make no exception to the rule. That means, even if we feel that we have nothing for which to be thankful, we are instructed to keep looking, to keep our eyes open, because sometimes blessings happen when we least expect them, and often, we are surrounded by goodness, unable to see it right in front of us.

I would like to share one of my favorite stories with you, about a man who is “cursed” to say a new blessing each day:

Once upon a time a long time ago, there was an Officer of the Law, a newly minted graduate of the academy, filled with pride as you can imagine, in his crisp uniform of blue with brass buttons and gold epaulets, and ribbons for swordsmanship.

One day he was walking his beat and heard a commotion in the alley. He ventured into the darkness and there in the distance he saw a man in rags. “Come forward,” he commanded. “Come forward now!” But the man in rags did not come forward. “I am an Officer of the Law, and I command you to come forward!”

The man in rags still did not move. Instead, he simply shifted his weight from one foot to the other and spoke, “I don't know what I'm going to do with you.”

“Do with me?” the Officer of the Law mocked. “Do with me? You don't do with me! I do with you! I am an Officer of the Law and I order you to come forward.”

“Ahh,” said the man in rags, “Now I know what to do with you,” and as he spoke he drew **his** sword. “Now I know exactly what to do,” and without another word he moved to attack. The two fought and the Officer of the Law prevailed.

But all the man in rags could say was, “I am leaving you, but as I do, I put upon you the Curse of Blessings.”

“What do you mean?” asked the Officer of the Law, now totally confused by all that had happened in that narrow alleyway.

“The Curse of Blessings is that every day you must say one new blessing, one you have never said before. On the day you do not say a new blessing, on that day you will die.”

The man in rags closed his eyes. The Officer of the Law turned away, looking here and there for someone to come and help but there was none to be found. When he turned back again, the man in rags had disappeared. He was gone.

“It must have been a dream or a nightmare,” The Officer of the Law thought. “I must have imagined the whole thing.”

The time by then was late in the afternoon. The sun was setting. And suddenly, as much as the Officer of the Law tried to ignore the feelings in his own body he could not. It was sunset, the end of every Jewish day (after all this is a Jewish story), and the Officer of the Law suddenly felt his body growing colder and colder and he knew for certain from the chill that slowly crept inward toward his heart that his life was actually leaving him.

In a panic he looked up at the fading light of the sky and shouted, “Oh my God, ahh thank you for creating this sunset.” At once warmth and life flowed back into him and he realized, with both shock and relief that the curse of blessings had been for real.

As you can imagine, the next morning he jumped out of bed and didn't wait a moment before finding some words of blessing to say: “I bless the power that allowed me to go to sleep last night and wake up this morning.” As soon as the blessing was uttered, he felt a profound sense of security and inner peace that lasted the entire day. Of course the very next morning, he jumped out of bed once again, this time blessing his ability to stand up, and the following day he blessed his ability to tie his shoes.

Day after day he found abilities he could bless. That he could go to the bathroom, that he could brush his teeth, that he had teeth to brush, that each finger on his hands still worked, that he had toes on his feet and hair on his head. That he could speak and think, and walk, and sing, and feel another human being with his touch.

When he finally ran out of things to bless, he began to bless relationships. He blessed his family and friends, his fellow workers, the people that he worked for and the ones who worked for him. He blessed the mail carrier and the clerks, the firefighters and the school teachers, the maintenance workers and the gardeners, the plumbers and the electricians and the doctors and the lawyers, the actors on stage and the musicians in the pit, and even the agents and managers, financial advisors and stock brokers.

And as he blessed the people in his life, one after another after another, he was surprised to find that they actually appreciated the blessings. His words were not mere words – they had power, they meant something. They drew family and friends closer to him and as word

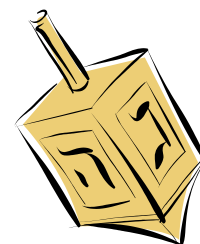
(Continued on page 17)



## Rules for Playing Driedel!

The Hebrew word for dreidel is *sevivon*, which, as in Yiddish, means to turn around. Dreidels have four [Hebrew] letters on them, and they stand for the saying, "*Nes Gadol Haya Sham*," meaning "a great miracle occurred there." In Israel, instead of the fourth letter "*shin*," there is a "*peh*," which means the saying is "*Nes Gadol Haya Po*"--"a great miracle occurred here."

Playing with the dreidel is a traditional Hanukkah game played in Jewish homes all over the world, and rules may vary. Here's how to play the basic dreidel game:



1. Any number of people can take part in this great game.
2. Each player begins the game with an equal number of game pieces (about 10-15) such as pennies, nuts, chocolate chips, raisins, matchsticks, etc.
3. At the beginning of each round, every participant puts one game piece into the center "pot." In addition, every time the pot is empty or has only one game piece left, every player should put one in the pot.
4. Every time it's your turn, spin the dreidel once. Depending on the outcome, you give or get game pieces from the pot:
  - a) *Nun* means "*nisht*" or "nothing" [in Yiddish]. The player does nothing.
  - b) *Gimel* means "*gantz*" or "everything" [in Yiddish]. The player gets everything in the pot.
  - c) *Hey* means "*halb*" or "half" [in Yiddish]. The player gets half of the pot. (If there is an odd number of pieces in the pot, the player takes half of the total plus one).
  - d) *Shin* (outside of Israel) means "*shtet*" or "put in" [in Yiddish]. *Peh* (in Israel) means "pay." The player adds a game piece to the pot.
5. If you find that you have no game pieces left, you are either "out" or may ask a fellow player for a "loan."







Thank you to all of the people who helped make our Veteran's Day Shabbat a passionate and memorable one not only for our US and IDF veterans but for all of us! Thank you:

Steve Seeskin for chairing, Steve and Joy for sponsoring the delicious oneg, Susan and Jim Bugenstein for providing the patriotic cake, to Debbie Costa, director of Sharyonim and Sharyonim members Marvin Blank, Susie Blank, Susan Bugenstein, Nick Ciranni, Cindy Cohen, Marian Cuenot, Angelo Dunlap, Shira Ehrenberg, Rachel Goldblatt, Connie Hirsh, Marlene Levine, Ed Radin, Judy Radin, Gail Rose and Barry Yailen and accompanists, Nick Ciranni and Merry Pruitt for providing spiritual and patriotic music and to Neta Ben Ezra for sharing her personal story of service in the IDF. Neta's

story was so interesting that I began sharing it with everyone who I had come into contact with after our Veterans Day Shabbat. For those of you who were unable to attend, I hope you take the time to read **Neta Ben Ezra's** awesome speech:



"Good evening everyone, thank you for inviting me. My name is Neta. I'm the Israeli shlichah in the community and work with the Jewish Federation of Columbus.

I'm a veteran of the Israeli military and before I start I would like to say that whenever I tell I've been in the Israeli army the immediate question that follows that is," so how many people have you killed?" I'll start by saying, none, I'm sorry to disappoint. I was serving actually in the air force. If you ask any other normal soldier in the Israeli military they would tell you that all we do is play ping pong and go to the pool. It's not true, most days.

Imagine this, It's around 11pm. Movie night. 13 soldiers just sitting around watching a movie, eating popcorn, laughing, gossiping, just enjoying themselves. The usual. Then the siren goes on, everyone instantly jumps off their seat, starting to run. Run like crazy, they know that in about 30 minutes they need to have an aircraft in the sky, ready to go on a mission that cannot happen later than the estimated time they've got.

They will run to the operation room, rushed by adrenalin. One will start coordinating the mission, another will go and plan the flight route, and another will charge the GPS information and prepare all the extra literature the pilot needs to carry. The operation room manager will be in touch with the control tower's metrology department and the pilot to make sure that the routes are clear and all conditions are safe for the flight to take off. Now all of that happens in a place called the flight department. At the same time about 400 feet away is the technical department. There the technicians are working on the aircraft making sure it's ready to take off.

Everything is ready, the aircraft is in the air and the mission starts. These soldiers will spend a big portion of the night in the operation room making sure everything is going well. Now, the mission went through and the pilot is heading back to the base. Suddenly there is something wrong with the aircraft, a light is on, something is not quite right. The pilot, stressed by the situation will contact the operation room. The operation room will call out the simulator instructor who will know exactly what the problem is and exactly how to fix it by just hearing the pilot speak about it. The same instructor will calmly guide the pilot in fixing it and bring him to a safe landing.

It's around 2 am now, the mission is successfully done. All the soldiers will close everything up and go to sleep. Maybe in 2 hours the siren will go off one more time and they will have to do it all over again, maybe even in a shorter time period. Or, maybe they will get a full night sleep from that point and in the morning will wake up and start a new day of training with the entire unit. In the morning, they will sit in the unit kitchen and listen to the radio. On the news they will hear that the IDF attacked terror targets in Gaza last night, and they will know it was them.

Here's the thing though, all of these soldiers, from the operation room manager, navigation planner, simulator instructor and some of the technicians, are all girls!

And here's another fact, they are all under the age of 20!!! Think about that for a second. 18 to 20 years old girls managing operations like it's easy as cooking an omelet. When I see an 18 year old girls today I think to myself that I would never let them have so much responsibility, I wouldn't probably give them the responsibility of going the grocery store. To be honest I don't think I would give my 18 year old self - the responsibility of going to go to the grocery store.

But there is something different about these girls. These girls that we were, we knew that making a mistake was not an option. We knew that life depended on us. We knew that we were placed here for a reason and had a country to protect.

In the army I learned that once someone hands you the responsibility and you understand the gravity of the situation you step up because you feel the obligation. Your age doesn't mean a thing. It is just a number.

That is one thing that is so special about the Israeli army, if you'll think about the business world no one there will ever give an 18 year old with no working experience so much responsibly as we are giving to an 18 year old in the Israeli army. For example, my position in the unit was a flight investigator. Whenever a flight took off and landed there was a need to investigate it in order to learn more and get better. I would sit with pilots who are twice my age and explain to them how the mission went and what they did wrong. Think how annoying that...

(Continued on page 22)

Remember  
your pet in oil



I do animal portraits in oil from your photos  
Larry Eisenman (Leisenman@aol.com)  
(614) 864-0585 or (614) 582-3894



**Thank you** to those who have already donated to our High Holy Day Appeal. Our monetary goal is \$20,000, and we have raised \$17,500 so far- we are 88% of the way there!!

Did you know this appeal supports supplement programs and capital projects not currently planned for in our budget? This year, we are focused on replacing our 20 year old sanctuary audio/sound equipment, enhancing building security, and educational/music programming.

Simply put, your contribution makes a huge difference at TBS. Please consider us as you plan your year-end donations and help us reach our fundraising goal.

	\$1,800
	\$1,000
	\$500
	\$360
	\$180
	\$100
	\$54
	Other amount



## Get ready for the annual TBS Hanukkah Raffle

Be on the lookout for a mailing from the Temple with more information!



## the GroundsGuys®

My name is Lance Shnider. I am a proud resident of New Albany, and recently took on a new venture. I am now a partner in The Grounds Guys, a fantastic lawn care and outdoor space beatification company that serves this area. My involvement brings a new level of commitment to MY community, New Albany, as we work to service a greater population of customers in this area. I live in New Albany, my kids go to New Albany schools, and our friends and neighbors live in New Albany. I'm excited about the opportunity to help my neighbors and community continue to grow outdoor spaces and develop their landscape into their dream properties.

No one cares more about our community and neighbors than someone that has made their home here. Trust your home to us. From landscaping and yard maintenance, aeration, fall and spring color to holiday lighting and snow removal, we do it all.



### CONTACT US TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Lance V. Shnider · Partner / The Grounds Guys · [www.groundsguys.com/westerville](http://www.groundsguys.com/westerville) · 1-614-620-1883

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Clip this form and send it to:

Temple Beth Shalom, ATTN: Contributions, 5089 Johnstown Road, New Albany OH 43054

# 12 Celebrations

## December Birthdays

December 1st — Ellen Fishel, Peter Guthoff, Jim Weiler,  
Yuri Masser

December 2nd — Michael Scheiner, Lisa Rubinstein

December 3rd — Jack Beeler, Dana Mason, Janie Korn

November 4th — Deborah Levine, Zachary Abramowitz

December 6th — Peri Siegel, Lori Rossio

December 8th — Benjy Bar-Lev, Steve Gurevitz, David Ciranni,  
Edit Grayfer, Cathy Abromowitz

December 9th — Diane Crislip, Sanford Meizlish, Charity Hyde

December 10th — Carrie Ryan, Bennett Cohen, Sherrie Kass-  
Roth, Alan Meisterman, Merry Korn,  
Matthew Stein

December 11th — Jennifer Silver, Karen Spiegler, Adam Beeler,  
Rose Berk, Emil Slobodnik

November 12th — Andrea Kool-Tucker, Larry Frackman,  
Ami Sherman, Todd Matros

December 13th — Karen Ricker, Francine Wahrman, Amy Rubin,  
Laura Scheer, Jeremy Cram

December 14th — Jeff Stone, Madeline Jobrack,  
Megan Kauffman

December 15th — Daniel Malkoff

December 16th — Andrew Klaben-Finegold, Kelly Searfos,  
Debbie Kish

December 17th — Kaye Norton, Solly Yassenoff,  
Connie Rittenhouse, Michael Loochtan

December 18th — Susan Weiler, Josefina Taylor,  
Carol Lynn Levine, Itamar Cagan

December 19th — Craig Kleiman, Terri Searfos

December 20th — Luba Shnider, Elyse Weiss, Nancy Paul

December 21st — Jessica Rathkopf, Krista Fliegel,  
Aaron Friedberg

December 22nd — Tim Ballmann, Allison Eckes, Heather Cockley

December 23rd — Robert Covitz, Nurit Friedberg

December 24th — David Hirschfeld, Michael Mendel

December 26th — Jordan Regester, Ryan Roads

December 28th — Harlan Louis, Jordan Ankerman, Faye Sigall

December 29th — Amanda Holsinger, Fred Holsinger

December 30th — Amy Blumenthal, David Tumen

December 31st — Jodi Harris, Constance Meizlish

## December Anniversaries

December 5th — Mitchell & Janice Silver

December 8th — Andrea & Beverly Kool-Tucker

December 16th — Judith Lee & Joseph Slade

December 21st — Matt & Lisa Freedman, Rich & Lori Shaw

December 22nd — Steve & Victoria Loewengart

December 23rd — Joel & Gerry Kent

December 25th — Richard & Linda Rogovin

December 28th — Dan & Sandra Phalen, Robert & Patti Wolf

December 29th — Larry & Linda Mendel, Darrin & Sherri Resnick,  
Bryan & Terri Searfos

December 30th — Brian & Stacy Blackstone

December 31st — David & Julie Levy

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## TBS 7th and 8th Graders Learn About Holocaust at The Maltz Museum in Beachwood, Ohio



Thanks to a very generous grant from the Rolf Kaufman Memorial Fund for Holocaust Studies, on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 18 of our Religious School students and 4 teachers visited the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage. Our students were treated to an afternoon where they delved into their shared heritage, which not only served to educate, but also to create an experience with their teachers outside their normal experience.

The teens' experience was incredible, sobering, and meaningful. Emma, an 8<sup>th</sup> grade and first year madrichim, said of the experience, "very education and interesting". Nathan, also an 8<sup>th</sup> grader, really enjoyed the experience of getting to learn more about the Holocaust. He shared "on part of the tour we sat together and discussed the mis-

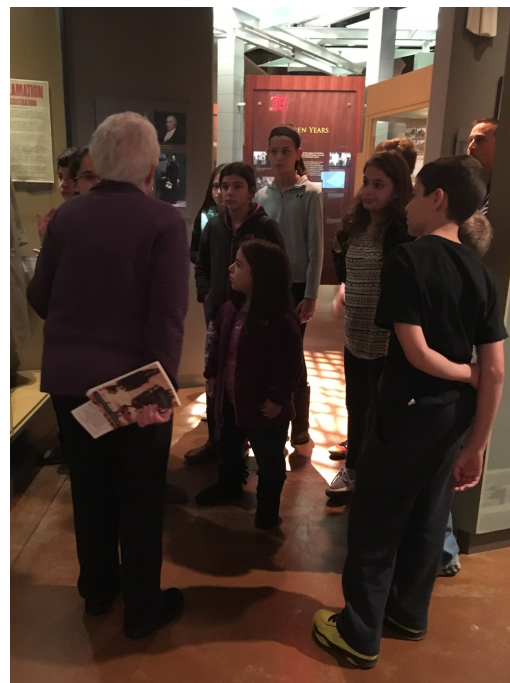
teaching about Jews, which made me feel more connected to my TBS friends and teachers". Another attendee Taylor noted "I appreciated the opportunity to discover more about my background". As a testament to the experience, 8<sup>th</sup> grader Grace declared, "Every Jewish teen should visit this Museum at least once".

The teachers were just as impressed with the trip, as well as our TBS students. Brett Handmaker, 7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher observed "our kids were focused and engaged, asked great questions, and related to the docents very well".

The Maltz Museum is dedicated to diversity and tolerance, it opened in 2005 with a simple mission: to build bridges of tolerance and understanding by sharing Jewish Heritage through the lens of the American experience.

This trip was funded thanks to generous donations in honor of Rolf Kaufman, of blessed memory, to create a fund to focus on Holocaust studies.

Rolf was an active and valued member of Temple Beth Shalom for over 20 years, who served in many capacities as a board member, finance committee member, and usher. He went about his work in a very respectable manner, with patience, and with a big heart. The son of Holocaust survivors, Rolf was thankful to arrive with his parents in the United States when he was 3 year old. As a way of honoring Rolf's memory, his wife Ellie understood educating our TBS students on this important history was something Rolf would feel good about.





## NEW G.O.P. REGIME OFFERS INCOME TAX SAVINGS IF YOU ACT BY DECEMBER 31<sup>st</sup>!

As an Internal Revenue Code Section 501(C)(3) charitable organization, Temple Beth Shalom is prohibited from engaging in partisan political activity. However, it will be a long time before we stop talking about the effect on our nation of the Republican domination of the federal government in the 2016 election. Our article for this month is only intended to benefit our congregation and to save money for our Democrat, Republican and third party members (not to mention, independents!).

Page 2 of the 2016 Republican Party platform states, "Because of the vital role of religious organizations, charities, \* \* in fostering generosity and patriotism, \* \* \* donations to them should remain deductible." According to a November 16th article in Philanthropy News Digest, Paul Sullivan of the New York Times reported on November 11<sup>th</sup> that if President-elect Trump follows through on his campaign promises, nearly all tax incentives to be philanthropic could be eliminated. Under Mr. Trump's proposed tax plan, deductions for all itemized deductions – including charitable contributions- would be capped at \$200,000 per couple. FoxNews.com stated, "As for personal income tax rates, Trump would create four brackets of rates varying from 12% to 33%. \* \* \* at the same time over 90% of Americans would no longer have to itemize their deductions."

Although the above information likely presents no life-changing issues for most of us, your co-Presidents want to highlight our final push to "retire" the temple's mortgage. The finish line is in sight with less than \$90,000 to raise.

The Temple's sound financial foundation is of major importance to our departing Rabbi Apothaker, our future Senior Rabbi Bar-Lev, as well as lay leadership. We ask you to look in your heart-of hearts as to the Temple's significance to your family, your family's quality of life, and respectfully ask for you to make a year end gift of cash or appreciated stock to TBS prior to year's end in order to take advantage of 2016's deductions for itemized charitable contributions (Please contact Executive Director Bonnie Abramowitz at 614/8554882 or your tax adviser for additional information).

Not only will you have fulfilled the mitzvah of giving charity according to one's means but you can remind yourself how smart you were to take care of Temple Beth Shalom before all the meshugas in Washington, D.C. begins to unfold in 2017! We wish the best for you, your family, Temple Beth Shalom and our country in the New Year.



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The Youth Team at TBS has been hard at work preparing amazing events and activities! Please be sure to add the following dates to your calendar:

## Chaverim (3rd-4th)

⇒ December 11th, Hanukkah Party after Religious School!

Time to get into the Hanukkah spirit! Our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade Club Chaverim will be meeting at Temple Beth Shalom for a Hanukkah party. We will be doing a gift exchange, play games and music. Look for an email soon. The gift for the exchange will be a \$5.00 gift (White-Elephant style). The cost will be \$5.00 +the \$5.00 gift.

Not on Angelo's email list? No problem! Send him an email at [halo4green@gmail.com](mailto:halo4green@gmail.com) to be added!



TBS 5th and 6th Graders had a BLAST at The Chiller!



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# 16 Donations (as of November 28th)

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## ART FUND

- ◆ Joyce Bronstein, in memory of Howard Byer
- ◆ Linda R. Rogovin, in honor of Joyce Bronstein's birthday

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## CARING CIRCLE FUND

- ◆ Jerry Friedman, in memory of Howard Byer
- ◆ Jeffrey A. Rycus, in memory of Howard N. Byer
- ◆ Mike Caplan (I.M. Harris B'nai B'rith Bowling Association), in memory of Howard N. Byer

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## COHEN-FEIBEL FUND

- ◆ Judi Mormol & Mark Koval, in honor of Jon Wasserstrom's speedy recovery

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## GENERAL FUND

- ◆ Michael & Lindsay Popa, supporting the general fund for temple operations
- ◆ Janyce Katz & Mark Glazman, in memory of Harry Wurmbrand
- ◆ Madalyn & Roger Benjamin, in memory of Ronald Benjamin
- ◆ Dawn & Steven Schneir, in memory of Janice Pearlstein
- ◆ Marjorie H. Lasky, in memory of Howard N. Byer
- ◆ Nicole & Gerald Gregor, in memory of Carl Strauhs (passing on Thanksgiving day, 1987, Nov. 24th)
- ◆ Nyusya Skorokhodov, in memory of Gitlia Shteingolts
- ◆ Joel & Ada Kent, in memory of Solomon Sacks for his grandfather's Yahrzeit & in memory of Sandra M.S. Kent, purchase of a memorial plaque
- ◆ Sidney & Marian Lefton, in memory of beloved father (Yahrzeit)
- ◆ Helga Bagan, in memory of Howard Byer
- ◆ Denise & Dick Kohn, in memory of Howard Byer
- ◆ Connie Freundlich, in memory of Howard Byer
- ◆ Betty L. Sugarman, in memory of Howard Byer
- ◆ Marsha & Ellery Block, in memory of Michael Segal
- ◆ Brian Phillips, in memory of Bernard Phillips
- ◆ Philip Edelsberg & Marlene Levine, in memory of Howard Byer
- ◆ Steven & Robin Haas, in memory of Howard Byer
- ◆ Tammie & Dick Golden, in memory of Mike Segal
- ◆ Philip Edelsberg & Marlene Levine, in memory of Michael Segal
- ◆ Connie Freundlich, in memory of Mike Segal
- ◆ Bob & Missy Weiler, in memory of Mike Segal
- ◆ Jim & Barbara Lusignolo, in memory of Anne Reed (Yahrzeit)
- ◆ Sherry Goldenberg & Family, in memory of Mike Segal

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## LIBRARY FUND

- ◆ Barbara & Marty Schuster, in honor of our granddaughter Ally Schuster coming in 3rd out of 57 contestants at the Western Pleasure Class, Quarter Horse Congress
- ◆ Steve Seeskin, on the occasion of sponsoring the Veteran's Day Shabbat oneg
- ◆ Sharon Simon & Karl Rubin, in memory of Howard Byer

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## MUSIC DIRECTOR'S FUND

- ◆ Marvin & Susie Blank, wishing a speedy recovery for Dr. Roger Friedman
- ◆ Randall & Marian Cuenot, in memory of Howard Byer

---

## RABBI APOTHAKER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

- ◆ Barbara Schuster, in honor of Rabbi Apothaker & Rabbi Benjy's get-well visits and for Rabbi Apothaker blowing the shofar for her
- ◆ Neal & Maureen Handler, in honor of Rabbi Apothaker's outstanding service to Temple Beth Shalom
- ◆ Marsha & Ellery Block, in memory of Howard Byer
- ◆ Sandra, Dan & Marcie Phalen, on the occasion of Rabbi A's kindness and help

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## RABBI BAR-LEV'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

- ◆ Barbara Schuster, in honor for his get-well visits
- ◆ Marc & Judy Ankerman, in honor of Rabbi Benjy for the High Holiday Days
- ◆ Marsha & Ellery Block, in honor of Melody Green's Bat Mitzvah

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## ROLF KAUFMAN MEMORIAL FUND

- ◆ Barbara & Marty Schuster, in memory of our beloved Howard N. Byer
- ◆ Neil & Marcia Carron, in memory of Michael Segal

got out that this was an unusual Officer of the Law, one who spread blessings wherever he went people went out of their way to see him and be near him and thank him.

Years passed, decades. The Officer of the Law had to go farther a field to find new sources of blessings. He blessed city councils and university presidents, scientists and their discoveries, students and their intellectual struggles. And as he traveled the world he became in awe of its balance and beauty and blessed that as well. He realized that the more he learned, the more he had to bless. And because his life was long he had the opportunity to learn in every field.

He passed the age of one hundred. Most of his friends were long gone and he turned his attention to searching for the purpose of life itself and the one source from which all blessings flow. He had long ago realized that he wasn't the source of blessings, just the conduit, and the channel through which so many blessings were able to flow. And even that realization became a blessing that sustained him for yet another day.

Finally as he approached the age of one hundred and twenty, he decided that his life had been long enough. Even Moses had not lived longer than that. So on his birthday he made a conscious decision to utter no new blessing and finally allow his life to come to an end.

Still, he realized that he could recite old blessings, and throughout the day he reviewed them – all the blessings for his body and his possessions, for relationships that spread throughout the world, for the awesome beauty and balance of creation and for the deep pulse of purpose that he knew pervaded his very being. But no new blessing passed his lips.

And so as the sun was setting, a chill progressed inward and he did not resist. And as the twilight was fading a figure appeared. The man in rags. "You!" the Officer of the Law exclaimed. "I have thought about you every day for a hundred years! I never meant to harm you. Please, forgive me."

"You still don't understand," said the man in rags. "You don't know who I am, do you? I am the angel who was sent a hundred years ago to harvest your soul. But when I looked at you, you were so pompous, self-righteous, so full of yourself there was nothing there, no soul to harvest. Just an empty uniform was all I saw. So I put upon you the Curse of Blessings, and now look what you've become."

The Officer of the Law grasped in an instant all that had happened and how blessed he had been by this angel throughout his life and his gratitude for the blessings of his life simply overflowed and he couldn't help himself: (Barukh ata Adonai....shehechyanu...).

"Bless you God for keeping me alive and sustaining me all these years so that I could reach this great moment of insight."

"Now look what you have done!" the man in rags exclaimed in frustration. "A new blessing!" And life flowed once again.

While we may not be cursed to have to say a new blessing each day, may each of us find reasons to be thankful each day, and may we strive to find 100 of them. May we enjoy a little extra family time as we are sitting around our Chanukah tables, doing good deeds for others, and enjoying the light that the Chanukah Menorah reminds us is our responsibility to keep burning. This season, may we find our blessings and may we be the light.

On behalf of Lauren, Sammie, and Jake, I wish you a very happy 2017!

## SAVE THE DATE!



Join us **January 21st** for  
a fun night of TBS  
friends and trivia!

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# 18 Women of Beth Shalom & Men's Club



## Women of Beth Shalom

### Hanukkah Potluck Dinner and White Elephant Gift Exchange on December 8th

Get into the holiday spirit at our Hanukkah potluck dinner on **Thursday, December 8th at 6:30 PM.** We will also have a white elephant gift exchange at the event. Food, friends, and presents — what could be more fun? More information to follow!



### December Events:

- ♦ **Friday, December 16th:** TBS Pre-Hanukkah Party with delicious brisket and latke dinner by Men's Club, 6:30 p.m.
- ♦ **Sunday, December 11th:** Men's Club Poker Night at TBS, 7:00 p.m. — All welcome!

*Having an affair?*

(Wedding, Bar/Bat mitzvah, Parties)

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## December 2nd

Abraham Abramowitz  
Arlene Aronoff  
William Aronoff  
Enrique Cuno  
Lena Dicker  
Faith Goldstein  
Doris Grossman  
Vera Heilbrun  
Carrie Joseph  
Philip Joselowitz  
Rebecca Joselowitz  
Mary Klein  
Rosina Kohn  
Helen Krasa  
Sam Levine  
Jay Liebovitz  
Sacha Levitan  
Anne Neubauer  
Abraham Pearlman  
Sanford Rose  
Daniel Seeskin  
Ben Zion Sosewitz

## December 9th

Frances Blumenthal  
Gladys Caller  
Kelly Flaherty  
Rachela Friedberg  
Bernice Judin  
Lillian Kushner  
Goldie Leaventon  
Hyman Mandelbaum  
Ruth Perry  
Sydelle Shifrin

## December 16th

Jacob Abramovitz  
Betty Adelstein  
Elliot Bain  
Ilene Becker  
Jessie Bondy  
Gordon Fliegel  
Morris Gerson  
Mark Goldman  
Robert Goldstein  
Cornelia Hersch

John Jarvis  
Jessie Joselowitz  
Edward Kauffman  
Charles Levine  
Abraham Lichtblau  
Dora Pearlman  
Harry Rappaport  
Douglas Richardson  
Noelle Romanoff  
Jack Roth  
Ruth Rubinstein  
Ben Schwartz  
Betty Silver  
Harry Solomon  
Jerome Steinman  
Lillian Weinberg  
Henry Wilson  
Sol Wise

## December 23rd

Emmons Abeles  
Rose Block  
Sarah Ciranni  
Rose Diamond  
Frances Freed  
Lee Hinton  
W. Jarvis  
George Krasa  
Samuel Milstein  
Morton Nitzberg  
Paul Schneider  
Miriam Schwartz  
Irving Suszner  
Robert Williams  
Regina Zimmer

## December 30th

Nathaniel Adelstein  
Isaac Barnett  
Rose Blotner  
Irving Cohen  
Pearl Feibel  
Lillian Halperin  
Charles Hirsh  
Susan Hyams  
Ernest Jaros  
Edward Levine  
Edith Miner  
Isadore Metz  
Joel Salon  
Nelson Sherman  
Dan Teitel

## **SCRIP Anyone?**

Did you know that TBS members may purchase Scrip cards (similar to gift cards) through the Temple, and TBS earns an average of about 4% of each dollar spent? There are more than 400 participating merchants, including Giant Eagle, Meijer, CVS, Lowes, Home Depot, and Staples, as well as restaurants and even cruises. For more info and to download an order form, visit TBS website's Scrip page at [www.tbsohio.org/scrip.html](http://www.tbsohio.org/scrip.html). When you're ready to order, contact Bonnie Abramowitz at (614) 855-4882 or email her at [babramowitz@tbsohio.org](mailto:babramowitz@tbsohio.org).



## **TBS collected \$500 in FREE MONEY last year!**



## **Thank you to all our Kroger shoppers!**

Did you know you can support Temple Beth Shalom just by shopping at Kroger? The Kroger Community Rewards program was designed to make fund-raising for TBS the easiest in town...and all you have to do is shop at Kroger and swipe your Plus Card! In fact, TBS averages \$2,000 per year from Kroger through this program.

To get started, sign up with your Plus Card at [www.kroger.com/communityrewards](http://www.kroger.com/communityrewards), and select TBS as the organization you wish to support. (You can find us on the list under Temple Beth Shalom on Johnstown Road, or use the organization code 81105.) Once you're enrolled, you'll earn rewards for TBS every time you shop and use your Plus Card! Remember—all participants must re-enroll each year to continue earning rewards for their chosen organization.



# 20 Mitzvah Corps Central



## Featured Event: Family Hanukkah Service, Party, and Social Action Project

**When: Friday, December 30th at 6:30 pm**

**Teach your kids the importance of giving back and join us to create Bags of Sunshine for members of our congregation.**

TBS members will take part in a short Family Hannukah service, dinner and social action group project for the 7th night of Hanukkah. On Hanukkah, we light candles and perform Mitzvot. There is a movement in the Jewish religion encouraging families to donate the value of the gifts they would ordinarily exchange on one night of Hanukkah to local or national organizations assisting those in need. If you would like to help with this project, please contact Rachel Murray at [rachel.murray26@gmail.com](mailto:rachel.murray26@gmail.com).

## Upcoming Social Action Activities

**Friday, December 16, 2016 - serving lunch at YWCA Family Center**

The YWCA Family Center provides shelter and meals for homeless families. We make and serve lunch four times a year at the center. Contact Sue Lazerwitz 614-252-3554 or [sjlazerwitz@gmail.com](mailto:sjlazerwitz@gmail.com) if you would like to help.

## Annual Hanukkah Gift Collection

**Starts December 4th!**

For the fifth year in a row, Temple Beth Shalom will be adding to the Chanukah celebrations of families in need in the Columbus area. Every year, Jewish Family Services identifies 10 or so families who are in need of help during Chanukah. We learn the demographics of each family, and each grade in our school adopts one of them. Then, on December 4, 11, and 18 we will collect gifts for the families.

We realize this is our second "ask" to bring stuff in, so we greatly appreciate your support. Our goal is to help brighten Chanukah for friends in need in the community. It's a mitzvah to give tzedakah and to help others!

## B.R.E.A.D. Update

**9 members of TBS Rodef Tzedek Social Justice Network attended the Annual Assembly, here's what they learned:**

### TO REDUCE VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY

-BREAD is working with the Franklin County prosecutor and Mayor Ginther to reduce gang violence and to implement CIRV, the Community Initiative to Reduce Violence.

### TO SUPPORT MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY WHO SUFFER FROM MENTAL ILLNESS

-BREAD has supported the establishment of an accredited Clubhouse International in Franklin County which is a community-based center that offers access to medical and psychiatric services through a single caring and safe environment.

AND this year, the B.R.E.A.D. organization will be renewing its efforts to bring more restorative justice circles to Columbus which have the potential to keep first-time, non-violent juvenile offenders out of the court system. These Franklin County neighborhoods currently have Restorative Justice Circles including Franklinton, South Side, Weinland Park, Linden, the Near East Side, and Westerville.

The closing prayer at the Assembly was inspiring.

"O God, to those who have hunger give BREAD and to those who have BREAD, give the hunger for justice!"

Contact Karen Cohn 614-288-8063 (text or call) or [kcohn1@columbus.rr.com](mailto:kcohn1@columbus.rr.com) for more information about B.R.E.A.D.



## The Caring Circle Needs YOU!

Did you know the Temple Beth Shalom Caring Circle helps congregational members with everything from organizing rides for those who are unable to drive to doctors' and other appointments to meals for families with new babies. The Circle would love to have more volunteers! There is no obligation.

Interested members can add their name to the Circle's email list and volunteer if and when they are able to. Please send an email with your contact information to the [tbscaringcircle@gmail.com](mailto:tbscaringcircle@gmail.com).



By Steve Seeskin, TBS Library Committee Chairperson

Many of The Kosher Bookworm's readers may be familiar or even may have undergone personality assessment testing, such as Myers-Briggs or DiSC. These assessments are designed to categorize aspects of our personality in order to better understand ourselves and to interact with people having a different personality type in order to produce positive outcomes when people need to collaborate. For the most part, these personality types pertain to the way our minds process information. For example, we all know people in a group decision making (brain storming) session who almost always lets everyone weigh in before they contribute their well-considered thoughts (sometimes having to be directly asked for their opinion before they will speak); conversely, we all know people who will jump into the conversation almost as if they are thinking out loud. It is said that no personality type is better or worse than the others; only that a group of people with disparate personality types and where there is complete freedom of expression without reprisal will most generally result in a consensus decision after the open deliberation. Our individual personality driven behaviors are fairly consistent over a wide range of situations. It is important to note that one personality type is not considered to be superior or desired over another personality type. Essentially, we are what we are.

So, why all this talk about personalities? It works out that Rabbi Benjy Bar-Lev facilitated a Lunch and Learn session last spring about the Kabbalistic (Jewish Mysticism) thoughts on personality types. The Kosher Bookworm has been told it was a most fascinating session. The Jewish Mystics defined ten personalities of the unknowable God (*Ayn Sof*). These personalities are individually referred to as *Sefirah* (pl. *Sefirot*). The *Sefirot* are often diagrammed as an *Etz Chayim* (Tree of Life) and sometimes as a human body form, *Adam Kadmon* (Primordial Adam) or other geometric shapes. Moreover, the *Sefirot* are used to describe and define human personality categories and traits. Lines connecting pairs of *Sefirot* provide certain refinements of personality. The ten basic *Sefirot* are: 1.) *Keter* (Supernal Crown), an overarching *Sefirah*, 2.) *Chochmah* (Wisdom), sometimes referred to as *Abba* (Supernal Father), 3.) *Binah* (Understanding) sometimes referred to as *Ima* (Supernal Mother), 4.) *Gedulah* (Greatness) sometimes referred to as *Chesed* (the higher expressions of loyalty, kindness, and piety), 5.) *Din* (Judgment), sometimes referred to as *Gevurah* (the manifestation of divine power), 6.) *Tiferet* (Beauty), 7.) *Netsach* (Endurance), 8.) *Hod* (Splendor), 9.) *Yesod* (Foundation), sometimes referred to as *Tsadik* (Righteous) and 10.) *Shechinah* (Accepting Presence) sometimes referred to as *Malchut* (divine sovereignty).

It works out ancient mystics of unknown origin worked up a scheme of nine different personality types known as the Enneagram (pronounce like any-a-gram). It is diagrammed as a nine pointed star with the lines connecting the points having additional personality significance. The nine basic personality types of the Enneagram are: 1.) The Perfectionist, 2.) The Caregiver, 3.) The Achiever, 4.) The Romantic, 5.) The Observer, 6.) The Loyal Cynic, 7.) The Adventurer, 8.) The Confronter and 9.) The Mediator.

The Temple Beth Shalom Library has two books, both by Rabbi Howard Addison, on comparing the Kabbalah to the Enneagram. These books are: 1.) The Enneagram and Kabbalah: Reading Your Soul, 2nd Ed. and 2.) Cast in God's Image: Discover Your Personality Type Using the Enneagram and Kabbalah. Both books are fairly easy to read and promise to be spiritually exciting – determine your personality type. They are both shelved in the Library with book tag number 150.6ADD.

The Kosher Bookworm wishes all a Happy Hanukkah – decorate, light candles, eat potato latkes and jelly donuts, sing songs and play the dreidel game.

## Book Club Chavurot!

The library Committee Welcomes all TBS Book Clubs to join together and utilize available resources!

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Contact Steve Seeskin([steve.seeskin@gmail.com](mailto:steve.seeskin@gmail.com))

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### Continued from page 10...

might be for them?! Sometime I would have to explain the missions that my unit went under to high ranked officers and to the media. Because it was always time sensitive it wasn't always easy. It was nerve racking and probably the most challenging thing that I've done in my life so far. My position is only one out of 13 extremely important positions that all of the girls in my unit had. Together with the pilots we worked like a well-oiled, unit 101.

101 was the first fighter squadron in the Israeli air force and a lot of other first things happened there too. For example, the first Israeli female fighter pilot, Roni Zukerman was in this unit. Knowing Roni personally taught me a lot about strong woman power. Roni would never look at herself as the first Israeli woman fighter pilot. She would look at herself as any of the other pilots. As it should be.

In general, looking at the history of woman in the IDF is quite interesting. The position of females in the Israeli military has been through quite a radical change. If we're looking back at the beginning, woman used to be positioned in more of the office jobs but since the late 80's and early 90's things have changed. Women start joining combat positions, become pilots, sailors, and combat instructors. The reason for this would have to be associated with the fact that the Israeli army is based on values of equality. It doesn't matter where you or your family is from or your economic status. Once you put on the uniform, you are all the same. These equality values apply also to the way women and men are being treated. They are all equal. Yet still, the army in its nature is a male dominated system. And even though women have had an essential part in the IDF since the founding of the state of Israel, we are not yet in this place where all positions are open to all women. Gladly I can say that we are working towards that future and together we will get there.

I know from experience how important it is to have a strong female force in the army. When I think about my army experience, I think about it as a two year long operational emotional, full of sirens, slumber party. We were in the military but we were still girls. One of the things I remember the most is how before every big operation or war our commander took our phones away from us for information security reasons. We girls had a very special way of telling our parents that everything was alright and made sure they were not going to worry. We would call our moms and say "mom, I ran out of shampoo". Every time we said that they would know an operation was about to go on.

One other time I remember a moment when our commander gathered us all in the operation room for a fast, emergency meeting. In that meeting he said that they just got reports from the intelligence saying that there was a missile directed specifically at our base and that once we hear the alarm, we have to drop what we're doing and run to the shelter. A moment later the alarm went on. I and two of my peers ran to the nearest shelter only to hear the missile whistle above us and feel the shake of the entire structure. The missile fell 90 feet away from where we were. I remember we looked at each other and for the longest moment we knew it's done. What we felt there and felt in so many other moments, moments of fear, stress and sadness would probably be something only we can understand. The experiences that we've been through speaks their own language that the rest of my closest family and friends cannot understand. Only these girls from my unit can. And as girls, developing these close relationships and support system was how we made this service work. These girls are among my closest friends today.

I WILL FINISH BY Referring to The parsha of the week. Lech Lecha. God asked Abraham to leave this land and go into an unknown land in order to ensure the future. In other words, God asked him to leave his home that he knows and get out of his comfort zone. I feel like that's what I was asked to do every single day in the military, leave behind what I know and get into this new unknown land that will ensure the future of my people, of my land.

Each one of us 13 girls had a certain responsibility, a responsibility that was so big that in perspective looking back it must have changed us.

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