



Monthly Bulletin

November 2018/5779

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Be Sure to VOTE November 6

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**FROM THE RABBI**

In March of 2016 the TBA Board of Directors unanimously voted to accept Temple B'nai Abraham's Seven Guiding Jewish Values, guiding us as a Jewish community. I want to bring them front and center again during these tense times, as a reminder of who we are, what we stand for, and what we strive to do. Ken Hartman's article in this bulletin about a facilitated dialogue embraces several of them. As we approach Thanksgiving, I want to express my gratitude for all of you, who make this community so wonderful. I wish you and your families a meaningful and joy-filled holiday.

**TEMPLE B'NAI ABRAHAM  
GUIDING VALUES**

TBA's values express our highest aspirations for who we are and who we hope to be as a congregation. They are a touchstone for us to reflect on, in our actions and our decisions, guiding us in our life together as a Jewish community. The values address our commitment to caring for each other and our actions in the larger community.

***Kehillah* (Commitment to**

**Community):** Relationships are central to who we are. Anchored within a web of mutual obligation, members share a commitment to the wellbeing of the community and its values, and to supporting one another

***Tzelem Elohim* (Inclusion and Human Dignity):**

We affirm the Jewish teaching that every human being is created *b'tzelem Elohim*, "in God's image" and is thus deserving of care and respect. We welcome all those who share our values: people of all ages, races and ethnicities, socio-economic backgrounds, abilities, family or partner status, gender identities, sexual orientations, and immigration status.

***Machloket l'shem shamayim* (Debate for the Sake of**

**Heaven):** We foster respectful discourse and affirm the traditional Jewish value of "debate for the sake of heaven" as evidenced in our ancient teachings of the Mishnah and Talmud. We welcome and need dialogue about issues that may divide us.

***Limmud Torah* (Lifelong Jewish Learning):** Our rabbis taught that study is greater than action because it leads to action. We strive to engage with Jewish texts, values, practices, and traditions in ways that move and inspire us. We are committed to the mitzvah of teaching our children and to nourishing the next generation's values, traditions, and spiritual lives.

***Ruchaniyut* (Spirituality):** We seek out and nurture experiences, both individually and collectively, that elevate, inspire, and connect us to that which is beyond ourselves, including Shabbat, holiday and lifecycle celebrations and various forms of spiritual practices.

***Eretz Yisrael* (The Land of Israel):** We support Israel's basic right to safety and self-preservation as a democratic Jewish State in our ancient homeland. We can respectfully disagree with each other regarding government policies, while holding the Israeli democracy up to Jewish standards of justice and fairness. We commit to learning more about the complicated dynamics and history of Israel, the Palestinians, and the entire region so that our opinions and actions can be strengthened and well informed.

***Tikkun Olam* (Repair of the World):** We are guided by the Prophets of Israel and our sacred teachings that call on us to take stands against all forms of hate, oppression, and injustice – stands that we understand to be religious imperatives. We understand that our tradition implores us to care for our Jewish brothers and sisters as well as members of our local and global communities and our precious planet.

As Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel taught, "...there is no limit to the concern one must feel for the suffering of human beings, that indifference to evil is worse than evil itself, that in a free society, some are guilty, but all are responsible." May all beings live in safety.

We thank Rabbi Toba Spitzer Congregation & Dorshei Tzedek in Newton, whose value statement served as a guide.

**Rabbi Alison Adler**

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

One thing (among many) that makes our congregation strong is our openness to discussing difficult topics. While not always easy or comfortable, these discussions build stronger bonds among us. Perhaps no topic exemplifies this more than Israel. I know, this sounds crazy. How could something as universally loved among Jews as Israel be controversial?

In fact, there is disagreement, some of it strong, among American Jews on Israel or more accurately Israeli politics. For some, opinions about Israel are deeply personal – so much so that it drives a wedge between them and people who hold different opinions. Often the emotions run so high as to preclude any chance of a meaningful dialogue.

It is for these reasons that 40 TBA members met recently to participate in a 3 hour workshop on how to have discussions about Israel. This workshop, made possible by a grant from Combined Jewish Philanthropies and conducted by a trainer from Resetting the Table, provided techniques for having productive discussions on Israel (or any other difficult topic).

One particularly impactful exercise asked us to line up in order of how strongly we agreed or disagreed with some statements about Israel including:

- I often feel like my views on Israel are in the minority.
- I fear speaking about Israel because I don't know enough.
- Israel is an important part of my Jewish identity.
- I reject the control the Chief Rabbinate in Israel wields over marriage, conversion, and other questions of personal status.
- I don't believe we have a Palestinian partner for peace.
- I believe the current Israeli government will sincerely try to pursue a peace settlement with the Palestinians.
- Settlement expansion is a primary obstacle to a peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- American Jews should hold back public criticism of Israeli government policy out of concern for giving ammunition to Israel's enemies.
- I supported the decision to move the US embassy to Jerusalem.

As each statement was read, I was surprised to see how many of us strongly agreed, strongly disagreed or were undecided and how people would flip from one extreme side of the line to the other.

The next exercise asked us to have a conversation with someone who held a different opinion from our own and practice some "essential communication skills" to better understand their point of view in an open and non-judgmental way. This sounds easy but it isn't.

To sum up the day, one participant made a powerful and emotional statement expressing her feelings that despite our political differences, we are all one community – a community who cares enough about Israel to come together and work on gaining a deeper mutual understanding of our beloved homeland.

This was just the first conversation and we plan to continue the discussion in the near future. We welcome your participation.

**Ken Hartman**  
**President, Temple B'nai Abraham**

## CEMETERY

### Caring for our Past

As some of you may have noticed, the Cemetery Trustees were able to undertake several maintenance projects at both our cemeteries beyond the routine lawn care. At Sons of Jacob Cemetery, the gap left by the raising of the old chapel has been filled in by fencing, a damaged gate has been restored, dangerously deteriorating walkway repaired, a bench installed, and the Holocaust memorial was cleaned. At Cole Street Cemetery, the perimeter growth was cut back, vines entwining the fence were removed, damage to the tall shrubs at the entrance assessed with corrective care taken, about half the memorials were cleaned and about fifty markers were raised.

Over the years a large number of flat markers sunk with the risk of them sinking so low as to disappear. This year limited funding was made available specifically to address the issue of the sunken markers. This was supplemented by private donations to the Temple directed for cemetery maintenance. Since it usually involves temporarily displacing the markers and pouring concrete, marker raising and memorial straightening is a multi-day effort made longer by this summer's weather. Rest assured that all displaced markers have been replaced.

**Robert Freedman**  
**Co-Chairperson Cemetery Trustees**

# Other Upcoming Events

## NEIGHBORHOOD SHABBAT

**Potluck dinners in community members' homes – Friday November 9**

Please note: there are not regular services at TBA that evening.

Join us for Shabbat peace, good food, and wonderful people! Neighborhood Shabbat is a way to deepen connections with new and old friends in a relaxed setting.



Please contact our office to host or attend, and then you will be matched with a home and contacted by your host. **Please RSVP by Friday, November 2**

Contact Erin in the office at 978-927-3211, x 101 or email Erin at [office@tbabeverly.org](mailto:office@tbabeverly.org)

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## ANNUAL MULTIFAITH THANKSGIVING GATHERING

November 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m. at Endicott College Chapel  
(parking available at chapel)

Larry Spotted Crow Mann will share reflections from a Native American perspective.

Join us for reflection, conversation, gratitude, music

Sponsored by the Beverly Multifaith Coalition

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## KNIT CLUB

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays monthly Next one will be **November 27 from 6:30 – 8:30**



At the home of  
Linda Goodspeed  
5 Marjorie Way, Beverly  
RSVP: 617-366-9029



Bring your craft or knitting needles or just yourself

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## Adult Education

### WHAT PAGE ARE WE ON? DECONSTRUCTING SHABBAT

How did we evolve from sacrificing animals to the (much more sanitary) services we conduct today? Ever wonder about when and where and why we bow, bend, stand, or sit? Who wrote the prayers, and who assembled our prayer book? Even for minyan regulars, it can be a mystery. Join Cantor Bruce Siegel **Thursdays at 10 AM beginning September**

**13** and examine the history, structure, meaning, and melodies of our Kabbalat Shabbat and Shabbat morning services.

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### Me'ah SELECT COURSE: Crucial Moments in the Israeli Experience Through the Lens of Short Stories

- Meets Wednesdays, 7-9:30 pm with Dr. Jacob Meskin
- Class starts November 7 (Note NEW START DATE!)

(Please note: no classes November 21 or December 26. January 9 & 16 reserved for a snow/sick days.)

- **Cost for 10 sessions:** \$250 temple members, \$350 non-temple members; financial aid available.

This course aims to introduce students to certain critical moments in the history of the modern state of Israel through short stories. The stories offer a perspective on many of the compelling events that have shaped the history of Israel.

Register online:

<https://register.hebrewcollege.edu/meah-select-beverly-crucial-moments-israeli-experience-fall-2018/>

# Sisterhood

The Sisterhood of  
Temple B'nai Abraham  
Invites you to attend our  
**Paid-Up Membership Supper**  
**Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**at 6:30 pm**

Visit with new friends and old and  
listen as Sarah Gurule of  
**Make It Yours! Boutique**  
gives us tips on how to  
***Sparkle This Season***

This event is free with your paid-up dues  
or life membership.

New members welcome –  
first year dues are complimentary.

Please contact us if  
finances are an obstacle to membership.

November 6 is Election Day.

Please remember to  
exercise your right to vote  
before coming to the supper.

**Please RSVP to the TBA Office by  
November 2**

For more information contact Judy at  
Judy.Matfess@verizon.net or 978-887-1390



## Get Ready for Hanukah!



Temple B'nai Abraham Sisterhood  
Presents  
The Second Annual

## Pre-Hanukah Pottery Painting

November 18 at 3 PM  
At Clay Dreaming Pottery  
186 Cabot St. Beverly

Cost: \$10 + Price of the item you paint

Spend a relaxing afternoon  
painting objects  
perfect for Hanukah gifts  
or for your home.

Choose from a wide selection of items  
including Judaic items

Tweens and teens  
are also welcome to attend

**RSVP and payment  
of \$10 is required by  
November 9**

Send check to:

TBA Sisterhood  
200 East Lothrop St.  
Beverly, MA 01915

Questions: [nicolelevy@verizon.net](mailto:nicolelevy@verizon.net)  
781-584-2043



## Sisterhood Book Club

The next meeting of the TBA book club will be at **7:30 PM on Thursday, November 29th** at the home of  
Jane Cohen. To RSVP and for directions, contact Jane at: [janeconen1@gmail.com](mailto:janeconen1@gmail.com)

We will discuss *The Woman Who Wrote in Silk* by Kelli Estes.



**Save the date!**  
**December 6**



**Ladies Latkes and Libations**

# The Congregation Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations

## ALAN KAPLAN FUND

Deborah Davidson and Elliot Kahn to the Kaplan Family for the Children Learning Center in memory of Alan and Debbie

## GENERAL FUND

Jody, Julia, and Amanda Saxe to the Gross Family in memory of Saul Gross

Jane and Ari Webb to the Gross Family in memory of Saul Gross

Lisa Horowitz and David Huth to Paula Ivey in memory of your mother, Marilyn

Bonnie and Arnie Goldsmith to Ruth Helman, best wishes for a speedy recovery

Linda and Sam Migdole to Judi & Steven Swartz, Mazel Tov on the Bar Mitzvah of your grandson

Barbara Lazarides to Leo Berman in memory of your mother

Barbara Lazarides to Susan Wolper in memory of Jerry Wolper

## KITCHEN FUND

Nancy and Joel Black to Judi and Steve Swartz, Mazel Tov on your grandson's Bar Mitzvah  
Christine Barry Lydon to Larry Strauss in memory of her friend, Myra Strauss

## MONDAY NIGHT SUPPER

Fran and Jordy Baker to Ruth Helman wishing you "get back on your feet" very soon – be well

## RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Betsy Breitborde & Beth Denisch in honor of their 1<sup>st</sup> Wedding Anniversary

Mary-Lou Breitborde & Robert Scheier, Thank you Ken and Peg Hartman to Ralph & Eileen Edelstein in honor of their grandson's Bar Mitzvah

## Yahrzeit Donations

Betsy Visnick in memory of her father, Harry Winer  
LindaLee Adler in memory of her mother, Sara Levin

Philip Goldberg in memory of his grandmother, Rebecca Smith

Betsy Breitborde in memory of her father, Abraham Breitborde

Judith Dawson in memory of her grandmother, Marion Moses

Eileen Edelstein in memory of her father, Solomon Barr

Leo Berman in memory of his mother, Rose Berman

Jayne Gordon in memory of her father, Herbert Dulman

Harvey Mairbor in memory of his father, Nathan Maibor

Ruth Maibor in memory of her father, William Goldenberg

Roberta Sigman Jones in memory of her father, Morris Sigman

Regina Cole in memory of her husband, Frederick Cole

Dorothy Chansky in memory of her grandfather, Israel Cole

Bret Jacknow in memory of his father

Cady Goldfield in memory of her mother Frances Goldfield

Robert Freedman in memory of his uncle Morris Sigman

Please excuse any omissions or errors

**Thank you for your donations**



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Web: [www.tbabeverly.org](http://www.tbabeverly.org)

*Professional Staff:*

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Alison Adler      | Rabbi                                     |
| Deborah Schutzman | Executive Director/<br>Education Director |
| Erin Lipkowitz    | Admin. Assistant                          |

*Officers*

|                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Ken Hartman             | President           |
| Sandy Freiberg Kelliher | 1st Vice President  |
| David Carnevale         | 2nd Vice President  |
| Michael Katzenstein     | Treasurer           |
| Tom Cheatham            | Financial Secretary |
| Alan Pierce             | Recording Secretary |
| Jane Cohen              | Bulletin Editor     |

### Monday Night Supper

Adult and youth volunteers from

Temple B'nai Abraham regularly prepare and  
serve dinner at

First Baptist Church on  
Cabot Street, Beverly.

Please join us on the third Monday of the month.

Our next Monday Night supper date is:

**Monday, November 19**

We need help in the church kitchen and in the  
dining room anytime from 4:30 - 6:30 PM

Pardon our appearance on our website while it is being  
redesigned. Visit our Facebook page or watch for our  
weekly email with information updates.

**OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED: Nov. 12, 22, & 23**

**Service Hours at Temple B'nai Abraham:**

Weekdays: Mondays and Thursdays 6:55 AM

Shabbat: Friday 7:00 PM and  
Saturdays 9:00 AM

Sunday: 9 AM

**Temple Office Hours:**

Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays  
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

### Upcoming Events at TBA

**Deconstructing Shabbat with Cantor Bruce Seigel**

Thursday at, 10:00 AM

**Sisterhood Paid-Up Dinner**

Tuesday, November 6, 6 PM

**Neighborhood Shabbat**

Friday, November 9 (RSVP November 2)

**Pottery Event**

Sunday, November 18, 3-5 PM (RSVP by November 9)

**Knit Club**

Tuesday, November 27, 6:30-8:30

**Sisterhood Book Club**

Thursday, November 29, 7:30 PM

**Ladies Latkes and Libations**

Thursday, December 6

If you or someone you know has been sick, in  
the hospital, or needs some comfort, please  
contact Rabbi Adler: 978-927-3211 or  
[rabbi.adler@tbabeverly.org](mailto:rabbi.adler@tbabeverly.org)

