

The Oracle

A Quarterly Publication of Temple B'nai Or

WINTER 2021

VOLUME 67 ISSUE 2



WARMTH



Temple B'nai Or

CONNECTING TRADITION TO LIFE



A Crowd of Angels

I recently heard a rabbi recount a speech by Rabbi Joshua Abraham Heschel, of blessed memory, in which he compares volunteers in Jewish communities to angels:

“You all know, I’m sure, the ancient Jewish belief that a person who carries out a mitzvah brings an angel into being. That angel joins him and escorts him wherever he goes. A person who has done numerous mitzvot (good deeds) is surrounded and escorted by a crowd of angels.” - R. Joshua Abraham Heschel



Many devoted Temple volunteers perform the sacred and selfless work of caring for others — both inside and outside our community — during vulnerable moments of loss, illness, and crisis. You will recognize these volunteers by the crowd of angels at their side.

For the past eleven years, Susan Aidekman has served as chair of Caring Community. In this Oracle, Susan eloquently shares the impact that countless “simple acts of kindness” have had on our community and on her. As Susan steps down as chair, I offer her my profound thanks and gratitude on behalf of our Kehilah. Susan has filled our community’s sacred vessel of chesed, loving kindness, to the brim.

We are blessed to have four new co-leaders of Caring Community! Tobi Goldman and Gail Lalk now co-lead Caring Community’s shiva support. Gail, a licensed professional counselor, has generously led a support group on Thursday mornings since the pandemic began. Nona Seid and Sheryl Austin now co-lead healing outreach and also support Rabbi Satz and Cantor Dadoun-Cohen in their pastoral care. We are indeed in caring and capable hands.

While Caring Community cares for our members, [Social Action](#) led by Tanya Simon and Judith Stein-Loewenthal performs the mitzvot of helping our neighbors. All year long, Social Action volunteers lead drives to collect food, toiletries, coats, and other goods for those in need. Social Action also advocates for social justice causes, including fair and affordable housing and criminal justice reform among many others, through our engagement with [Morris Area Together](#) and the [Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism](#).

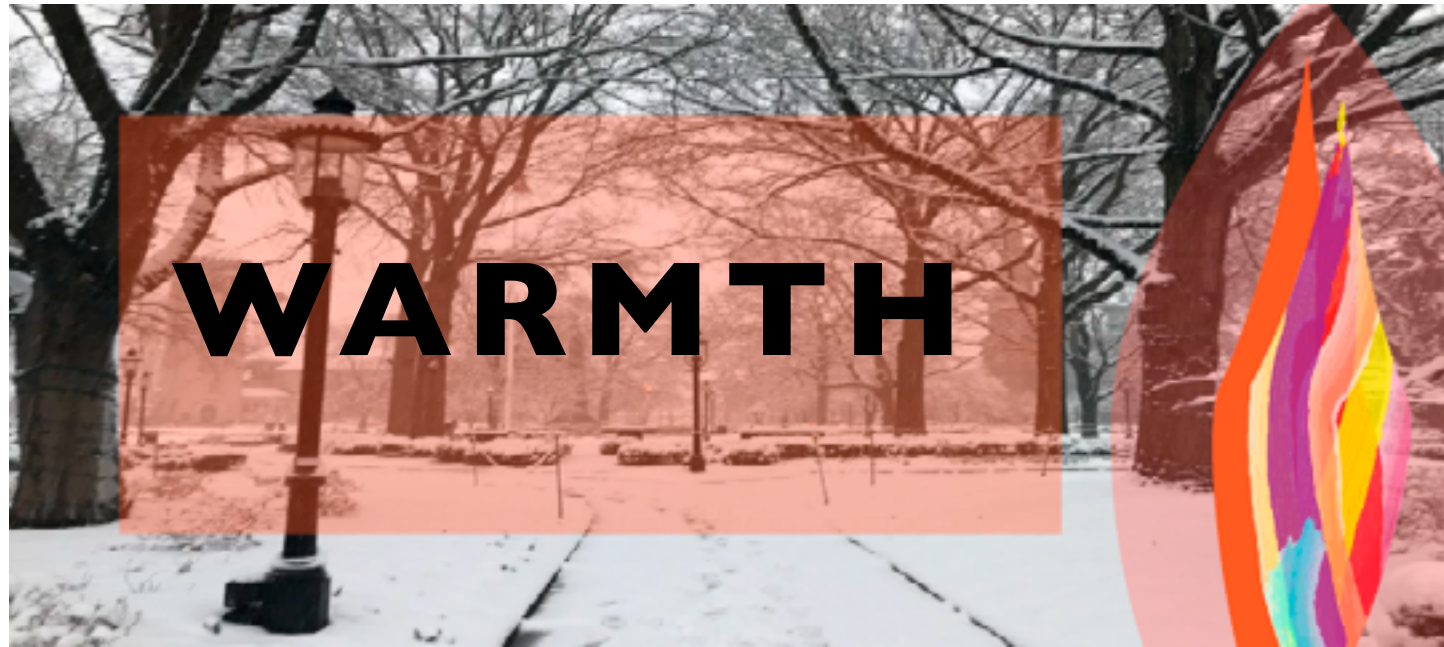
I encourage you to reach out and ask for help when you are in need, and I invite you to contribute to the sacred work of Caring Community or Social Action when you are able. If one of our leaders asks for your help, please consider volunteering even just once. I promise that you will leave fulfilled ... and escorted by an angel.

We would love to get your feedback on this issue of The Oracle. Please post your comments on the Temple Facebook page with the hashtag #OracleComments.

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Men’s Club
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Temple B'nai Or continues to explore the essence of COMMUNITY. One element of community is WARMTH. As we head into what forecasts predict will be a very cold and snowy winter, we will seek out warmth. Emotional and spiritual warmth, as well as physical warmth. Comfort, shelter, light during times of darkness, and the radiating feeling of warmth. So we ask ourselves these questions:

How have people experienced warmth at TBO?

How do we share this warmth within our kehilah? How does it enhance our community?

What does it mean to share our warmth with the greater community outside of TBO? How do we do this? Is this shared warmth light? Is this what it means to be a light unto the nations, and Children of Light (B'nai Or)?

We invite you to read this Winter Oracle, perhaps curled up under a warm blanket on a snowy day, and feel the WARMTH of our kehilah!



Simple Acts of Kindness

A simple Hineni is the word spoken by Abraham when he was called upon by God to sacrifice his son Isaac. It is Hebrew for, "here I am." As Rabbi David Cohen of Congregation Sinai teaches us, "to say 'hineni' is to admit that I cannot be fully present without a community to say 'hinenu, here we are.' Indeed, we Jews are a hopelessly communal people. Our individual efforts accrue meaning and gain purpose when we make them with others."

Hinenu aptly describes my term as chair of Caring Community.

As the kind, caring arm of our Temple, Caring Community is ever ready to reach out and lend a hand. It has been my honor to lead a devoted group of volunteers in this sacred work of making a condolence call to a congregant who has lost a loved one, providing transportation to a medical appointment, running errands for a congregant not able to venture out, delivering a home cooked meal or shiva items, visiting an ailing congregant, and checking in with a congregant in need of healing to offer support. Caring Community helps our congregants, through these acts of loving kindness, feel less isolated and more connected to our Kehilah.

If I have learned anything these past eleven years in my role as Chair, it is to never underestimate the power of a simple act of kindness. It is often just that which lifts the spirits and inspires a sense of belonging & connection to a greater, caring Jewish community. Working with volunteers to provide meaningful comfort to our congregants, in their time of need, has been deeply rewarding. I have much gratitude for all Caring Community has done under my guidance and for all that it will continue to do in the capable hands of its new leaders. Heninu, we are here. Heninu, we are a vibrant and caring Kehilah.



**RABBI
MICHAEL SATZ**

Shammai used to say . . . receive every person with a pleasant countenance.

Avot 1:15

Shammai was one of the most important ancient sages of our people. Our tradition mentions often that he wasn't always the most pleasant fellow, and yet we record him saying that we are always meant to greet each other pleasantly. Smile. Be kind. Look into the other's eyes with empathy and understanding. He did not always do this, but by saying this statement, he is reminding himself, and us, to always try.



Personal warmth is an ideal I strive for. It is hard. I am naturally reserved. Being Midwestern doesn't help. When living in California, it took me a while to get used to all the hugs. But, I came to realize, these hugs, or even a nod of the head and a smile, mean: "I see you. We are in this together. You are not alone."

We in the Jewish community talk a lot about being a part of a kehillah kedoshah, a holy community. A holy community starts with individuals coming together for something that is greater than each individual. This takes the hard step of each individual opening up to let the other in, and a smile can kickstart that process.

Over the years I have had the honor of speaking to new members of the communities I have served. I often heard things like, "I joined this community because I felt welcome. When I showed up on a Friday night, so and so introduced themselves and sat by me." That so and so brought the presence of God to that interaction. We all know those so and sos at TBO. These are the people that are living up to Shammai's ideal because they know that this is how you make a community holy.

In the age of Zoom it has become hard to make these human connections. As we, God willing, move from the pandemic to the new normal, embraces, smiles, and warmth are going to be all the more important. Many of us feel isolated, worn out, and uncertain. The warmth we need to give to each other is not a pollyannish cheeriness that everything is okay. No, it is an acknowledgement that things are not always okay, but together things can be okay. This warmth doesn't have to be a smile. It can also be a cry at a shiva or a hospital bed. It can be a hearty Yeshar Ko'ach and Mazal Tov to a bat mitzvah girl. It can be a greeting of Shabbat Shalom in the Zoom chat.

We are B'nai Or, the Children of Light. May the light in every one of us spread with the warmth of love and kindness.



**CANTOR
GALIT DADOUN-COHEN**



בן זומא אומר, איזה הוא חכם? הלומד מכל אדם, שנאמר "מכל מלמדיי, השכלתי" **תהילים קיט, צט**, איזה הוא עשיר? השמח בחלקו, שנאמר "יגיע כפיר, כי תאכל; אשריך, וטוב לך" **תהילים קכח, ב**: פרקי אבות ד' א'

Ben Zoma said: Who is one that is wise? One who learns from every person, as it is said: From all my teachers have I gained understanding. ([Psalms 119:99](#))

Who is rich? One who is happy with their portion, as it says ([Psalms, 128:2](#)), "If you eat of toil of your hands, fortunate are you, and good is to you" Pirkei Avot (4:1)

My dearest friend and colleague Rabbi/Cantor Inna Serebro Litvak invited a large group of Cantor friends to share her concert stage with her. She exclaimed, "The concert will be titled - The Miracle of Friendship." At first, it seemed a bit paradoxical to me. I tend to view friendships, and relationships in general, as long term, value-based gifts in our lives that take years to cultivate with investment, effort, and dedication. Friendships are necessary for our survival and grow slowly through mutual efforts over time.

Miracles, on the other hand, I perceive to be instantaneous: poof! A dress for the ball, poof! Glass slippers, poof! And don't forget, the magic disappears when the clock strikes midnight. Regardless, I was happy and deeply grateful to be included in this group of friends.

How exciting for all of us friends to gather and sing TOGETHER on one stage for the first time since the beginning of Covid. I always say that music is magical on its own and, indeed, every musical moment of the night was magical and miraculous.

However, as the night unfolded, I noted, not only through the beautiful music, but also through the stories told by each cantor, that two years may have passed without musical gatherings, but also over twenty years have passed of us knowing each other. This realization lifted me to an incredibly elevated spiritual place. I felt genuinely warm and fuzzy throughout.

I wanted to hold onto this feeling as a sacred moment in time. I felt like Jacob in Genesis 28:16.

וַיִּיקַץ יַעֲקֹב מִשְׁנָתוֹ וַיֵּאמֶר אֵינֶן יֵשׁ יְהוָה בַּמָּקוֹם הַזֶּה וְאֲנִי לֹא יָדַעְתִּי:

(Continued on page 20)



FRANCES AND HERBERT BRODY PRE-SCHOOL

JOEL AND HELEN JACOBS RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

What does an award-winning Jewish preschool do when offered the opportunity to share their warmth and love with the greater community? What would you do?

If you are of a certain age, you may recall a song titled, "If You Want To Be Happy for the Rest of Your Life," by Jimmy Soul. I won't tell you the rest of the words, but you can always Google them. You can find a better answer in a recent New York Times article written by Dr. Andrew Miles, who says "doing kind things makes you feel better."

We are in the second year of running a parallel private and public preschool at Temple B'nai Or. I think we have followed very well the guidance from the sages. Rabbi Hillel is quoted as saying: "If I am not for myself, then who will be for me? And if I am only for myself, then what am I? And if not now, when?"

We knew that already, because we recite our *Eilu Devarim* prayer which lists among the commandments we are obligated to perform *Gemilut Hasadim*, acts of love and kindness ("bestow Kindnesses). What is taught is that good intentions are not enough. It is the action of performing these acts of kindness that is REQUIRED by our Torah teachings. What do acts of kindness do for the person doing them? In the same article, Dr. Traci Baxley noted, "just seeing compassion and kindness releases chemicals in the brain that helps them calm down."

We took up this challenge of offering preschool to the Morristown community, being a satellite of the Morris School District, with a number of goals: 1) to strengthen our private Jewish preschool, 2) to build a quality program for our public school kids that, while not Jewish, would be based on our Jewish values of equality, caring for others, and a belief in excellent education for all children, 3) to share our warmth with the larger community so that we can build a better world.

We are required by our tradition to teach our children and to pass on the values we hold dear. It doesn't happen by itself. As one kindergarten teacher once explained to me, her role is "civilizing" the children. She wasn't being mean by saying this; she was simply saying it has to be acquired by learning and actions. Our role is to model acts of kindness for our children. Recently, our ninth graders, Cantor, and I made a shiva visit to the home of our past temple president, Stacey Schlosser, on the loss of her father. Not only did the mourners feel "good" by having the students with them, but the students also felt "good" at being part of this community act of kindness. That's how we teach our children. From generation to generation.

TBO has performed admirably. Our Private classes are full. We are now going to offer two classes for our youngest children. And with the addition of Jessica Temlock Fields to our staff, we are also reaching Jewish children and their families whether they are in our private program, our public program, members but not in our preschool, or prospective members. We are looking to add toddler and baby programs soon, all which will help strengthen our private program and our outreach to all of our Jewish families.

During these holiday and winter days, we have numerous opportunities to take actions with our children that will benefit others. There are donations to make to worthy causes, homeless people to feed, environmental solutions we can address, and social justice issues or difficult news events that need our understanding. There aren't always right or easy answers. Just gaining an understanding of a child's feelings and acknowledging to them that that they are important is validation: so they know you understand.

At the same time, our public program is getting high accolades from the community and is highly sought after for placement. The children in our care thrive and blossom in our warm and loving environment. And their parents see us, a Jewish facility, as meeting their needs and loving their children. With the addition of Cristina Vagas as the Temple Receptionist, we are also now able to more fully meet the needs of our larger community as we warmly welcome people in English and Spanish and communicate to all the families about closures, holidays, parent-teacher conferences, and more.

Enjoy this delightful time of year with your family and friends. Act with kindness. Everyone will benefit from it.

TBO can and should be proud of the education it provides to all of our children. Thank you TBO for stepping up to the opportunity and challenge!



Barbara Kavadias
Executive Director



Richard Simon
VP, Finance

Baby, it's cold outside...but it's warm in here.

That is not how the lyrics really go, but it is what I hear when I think of that song. And it is one of the first things that come to mind about TBO when someone asks me to describe our community. Warm. Down to earth. Innovative. Exciting. Willing to try new things and take risks. Sensible Practical. Beautiful. But none of it would matter if we weren't warm.

Warm to me means that we are caring. We care about each other. We open the doors when there is a heat wave so people can stay cool. People who can, pay higher dues so that people who have less can pay what they can afford. We have scholarship funds for preschool (Lisa Goldberg Endowment Fund), for religious school (the Jacobs Endowment Fund), for Jewish Camp (Rabbi Rossoff camp scholarship fund), and for our future (the Rabbi David Levy Endowment Fund). When people want to thank or honor the Rabbi or Cantor, they give to their discretionary funds so that our clergy can help others. People buy grocery gift cards and give them to me so that we can help people who need help buying groceries. We have an active caring committee, now headed up by 4 women: Sheryl Austin and Nona Seid, who call folks on the *misheberach* list to see how they are doing, and Tobi Goldberg and Gail Lalk, who help organize shivas at people's homes where there is a loss and arrange for meals when people are struggling. And underlying all this activity is the very real and palpable fact that we genuinely like to be kind to one another. I think this is beautiful.

We also care about others. Every month congregants, organized by Nadine Milberg, purchase food and make up breakfast bags to feed the hungry. There is always one drive or another organized by Tanya Simon and Judy Stein-Loewenthal to help others with things like backpacks for school or warm coats and hats, or toiletries for the homeless, or reusable bags to bring food to the elderly and shut-ins. We host a public preschool alongside our private program to ensure that all children in our community have access to a quality preschool education where the color of your skin, the language spoken at home is an asset not a detraction. We make sure that the littlest people in our town and their families learn that TBO is a safe and warm place. At least one time a year we host JRA to pack with volunteers from here and elsewhere boxes of food for 700 needy families. We support Morris County

(Continued on page 20)

Dear TBO Community:

As we come upon the dark and cold days of Winter, we should all take comfort in the warmth I hope you all feel by being part of the Temple B'nai Or community.

On behalf of the TBO Board of Trustees and Officers, I would like to thank you for your generosity during the recent membership pledge drive and on Giving Tuesday. Your meaningful contributions make a significant impact on our ability to continue to provide the essential and diverse experiences and engagements each of you expects.

As we look to the future, we hope to maintain our solid financial position and to have the ability to make important strategic investments to secure our long-term viability for future generations as we continue to evolve, grow, and adapt.

At the same time, we are also exploring ways to make it easier and more advantageous for you to make your individual contributions, including donating appreciated stock and establishing a Donor Advised Fund. Please reach out to our Executive Director, Barbara Kavadias, who can provide more details and determine what makes sense for you.

In the coming weeks, our formal giving season will expand, where you will have the opportunity to make further donations in areas of personal interest to you.

Thank you again for your continued support. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or to any of the Temple Leadership if you have any questions.

Regards,
Rick Simon



SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Social Action is people coming together to tackle an issue, support other people, and improve community. The theme of the winter Oracle is warmth. Our activities and opportunities for engagement are all about “warmth,” including the warmth of good food, the warmth of having shelter, the warmth of having warm clothes, the warmth of being part of a caring community, and the warmth one gets from giving *tzedakah* and making the world a better place. This is how we build connection to our Judaism, to each other, and to the larger community.

Most recently, we successfully completed our annual High Holy Day Food Drive benefitting the Interfaith Food Pantry and nourish.NJ, collecting nearly 860 pounds of food, thus addressing food insecurity in Morris County. We also just completed our Annual Coat Drive, benefitting the annual Market Street Mission Coat Drive and Coat Giveaway, timed with the holiday of Sukkot and the concepts of shelter and housing, collecting 73 coats, 9 scarves, 14 hats, 8 pairs of gloves, and 3 snow pants. In addition, we have been assisting nourish.NJ by supplying breakfast bags on a monthly basis, helping local children with vital nutrition so they can focus and learn in school. Members of our committee volunteer monthly with the Jewish Relief Agency (JRA), packing and delivering food for Jews and non-Jews in need within the MetroWest Community. We stressed the importance of voting in the November 2 elections by promoting attendance at community forums with the candidates. We have more events planned for the winter, including our next hosting of JRA on January 16 (we will pack and deliver 600 boxes of food to local people in need) and an upcoming toiletry drive benefitting nourish.NJ (details to follow) for the month of January, to name a few.

During the Fall season, we have also continued to be involved with our broader-based initiatives with the Religious Action Center (RAC), both in NJ and nationally, and with Morris Area Together, a Morris County-based interfaith group seeking to improve access to affordable housing and mental health services and to address bias within the criminal justice system.

We welcome the TBO *Kehilah* to become more actively involved in Social Action and would love input about what “warms” TBO members’ hearts so that we can help realize it as a future social action endeavor.

Warmly,

Tanya Simon and Judy Stein-Loewenthal



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The TBO Membership Committee’s main goal is to connect and engage all members, both new and longtime, with each other and with the TBO community.

Over the past year, we were thrilled to welcome 47 new member families to TBO! The Membership Committee puts together welcome bags that are personally delivered to new member families by Board Member cohort leaders. In the past, we have established buddy families and organized a new member Shabbat dinner. We hope to bring these meaningful initiatives back as distancing restrictions lessen.

All members have enjoyed and connected through our various events over the years, including coffee house nights and end-of-year bbqs. With Covid restrictions, we have planned more events outdoors, such as Shabbat Morning Hikes with Cantor and an outdoor Havdalah service.

During these times of distancing, making connections is more challenging, but even more important than ever. We encourage all members to take part in making these connections by introducing yourself to a new member, asking a longtime member how they are, or inviting a Temple friend to join you at services or an event. Small gestures go a long way to securing a bond with another person.

Our committee is made up of several individuals – some young, some not so young, some Jewish, some not Jewish. We are all passionate about making TBO a warm, inclusive, and inviting place for everyone.

We meet once a month, these days, via Zoom, to discuss how we can further engage our TBO community. We always welcome hearing new ideas or past events we should bring back. If you have any questions, suggestions, or would like to be a buddy to a new family, please reach out to Audrey Forman aforman973@gmail.com or Laura Axler lauraaxler@hotmail.com

Wishing you all a healthy, happy, peaceful, and Covid-free 2022.

In friendship,

Audrey Forman and Laura Axler

Membership Committee Co-Chairs

TBO WARMLY WELCOMES ITS NEW MEMBER FAMILIES!

Barbara Blassberg	Ledgewood
Alan & Alexandra Blum	Whippany
Samuel & Rebeccah Brooks	Basking Ridge
Mr. Mark Buryk	Morristown
Eric & Megan Chesin	Mountain Lakes
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Dreff	Bernardsville
Justin & Diana Efros	Randolph
Oliver & Carolyn Esman	Mountain Lakes
Adam Fineman & Sujeiry Sanchez	East Hanover
Shari & Jesse Flowers	Morristown
Michael Foglyano & Meredith Carleton	Morristown
Samuel & Rebecca Friedman	Morristown
Marc & Jill Futterweit	Denville
Stephen Goldblatt	Towanda
David & Erin Goodman	Ledgewood
Shirley Grinoch	Morristown
Dave & Beth Hancock	Morristown
Michael & Dawn Hersh	Randolph
Debra Holtzman	Mendham
David Horn & Kristin Lazure	Chatham
Ms Bonnie Kelly	Netcong
Jason Kessler & Ellen Stoloff	Morristown
Adam & Jennifer Lafazan	Randolph

TBO WARMLY WELCOMES ITS NEW MEMBER FAMILIES!

Larry & Andrea Leff	West Orange
Rachel & Brian Lemon	Madison
Craig Levine & Lisa Vlcek	Mendham
Drs. David Saul Levine & Krystin August Engelhardt	Morristown
Mrs. Alan Levy (Ellen)	Randolph
Robert Lewis	Madison
Kevin & Allison Margolis	Morristown
Scott & Jeannie Neufeld	Randolph
Steve & Sarah Platovskiy	Denville
Paul & Deborah Ross	Bernardsville
Jonathan & Cheryl Roth	Morristown
Scott & Joanna Saltz	Bernardsville
Steven & Wingkan Sbar	Mountain Lakes
Jaime & Michael Schultz	Randolph
Matt & Lauren Silverstein	Morristown
Austin R Smith & Derek L Chase	Long Valley
David & Susan Solomon	Randolph
Jennifer & Brian Standig	Madison
Mitchell & Eva Steinway	Florham Park
Greg & Whitney Trif	Mendham
Alexa Applebaum-Varro	Mendham
Alison & David Vogel	Randolph
Keith & Dana Wallock	Randolph
Rafael Zayas & Katy Smoot	Morris Plains

TBO'S BOARD AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

by **Melissa Simon, Board Member**

What makes a warm and loving community?

We believe at TBO that our community is defined as a group of people who both know and care about one another and have opportunities within our congregational life to put those feelings into action.

With so many families spread out in Morris County, we have determined that our Board Members are uniquely able to accomplish this ambitious task of knowing each of you -- by splitting ourselves into geographic cohorts. You have been getting email updates and invitations, birthday greetings and holiday wishes, from your local Board Members. We genuinely want to know you and your family better and to learn how TBO can better serve your needs. We can connect you with like-situated members within our caring community, we can answer your questions, or we can just be the impetus you need to sign up for one of our many interesting and enriching programs.

You have joined our TBO community, our kehilah, by becoming a temple member. Yet our Board Ambassador Program is a way for you to engage more thoroughly and more thoughtfully. Please help us make this a warm and loving community for you, filled with fulfilling and meaningful relationships.



We take this opportunity
to say **THANK YOU** to our
High Donors of last spring's
GIVING TREE CAMPAIGN

Blossoms

- *Carol and Dan Barkin
- *Hallie and Jeffrey Beyer
- *Beth and Josh Gellert
- *Julia and Seth Kanowitz
- *The Kotkin Family
- *The A. Noble Family
- *Marilyn Szerlip
- * Rick Simon & Thu Thai

Leaves

- *Susan and Gary Aidekman
- *Leslie Bolin
- *Lisa and Jeffrey Libman
- *Deenie Schlosser
- * Bill and Stacey Schlosser

Branches

- *Cory and Greg Pine
- *Michele and Greg Murray

Trunk

- *Susan Levinson and Robert Agrusti
- * Gay Klapman

Roots

- *Mary Fernandez and Adam
Buchsbaum
- *Ilene and Bruce Jacobs
- *Poppy and Richard Segal

TBO'S GIVING TREE

PLANTING FOR THE FUTURE

WARMTH



Cantor Galit Dadoun-Cohen
(continued from page 7)

Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely God is present in this place, and I did not know it!"

Although this verse speaks to the holiness of a place, I felt it could be perceived in time as well. At the same time, I felt the passing of an extended period of time, blended and melted into an instantaneous moment. I could feel both sensations simultaneously. All of the Cantors that night shared many years filled with stories, laughter, warmth, and hardships. We have been present in each other's lives through so much and, in one instant, it all came together and did feel like a miracle.

Indeed, this was a holy moment, and I had not known it.

As our community leadership prepares our gala fundraiser taking place in May to honor my decade of service at Temple B'nai Or (11 or 12 years, but who's counting in the Covid years?). I reflect on the relationships and memories we have shared, and my heart is overflowing with gratitude to have shared so many moments of joy, loss, achievement, warmth, and infinite love. I look forward to sharing these stories and many more years of friendship and togetherness.

Barbara Kavadias, Executive Director
(continued from page 10)

to promote equity in our county. We care about our state and nation as we sign onto Social Action opportunities through the RAC (Religious Action Center) to promote voting rights, racial equality, disability rights. We care about our fellow co-religionists in Israel through ARZA (Association of Reform Zionists in America) as we help make sure that Israel remains a home for all Jews with equal rights to marry and pray as they wish.

This caring, this warmth is what helps TBO be not only a special community, but also a family. Lots of places have good schools, quality programs, are beautiful; but I think that our warmth, our caring makes us special. I believe that in caring for each other and others, by sharing our warmth, we are doing God's work. It may be cold out there, but it is warm, and loving, in here.



GIVING TUESDAY RESULTS

We want to thank all of you who participated in our Giving Tuesday campaign. Giving Tuesday, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, is the kickoff to our end of year campaign. It is an opportunity for people who have never given to Temple to make a small donation. Everyone who gave at \$36 or more was entered into a Raffle for a gift donated by Sisterhood. Mary Barnes Silverstein won the beautiful menorah and candles, while Marilyn Blier won the gorgeous dreidel. We hope they enjoy these gifts for many years in good health!

Last year 69 people participated in our campaign. This year, so far, we are at 98 participants! Thank you! Last year we took in \$22,312. So far this year, we have raised \$20,363, which includes the matches from Men's Club and Sisterhood. Thank you everyone!

If you did not give to the campaign and want to make an end of year gift, it is not too late! Barbara, our Executive Director, will be at temple during office hours through the end of the year. Checks must be received or postmarked, or credit card payments posted, by 12.31.21 in order to count as a 2021 donation. If you wish to make a stock donation, please do it no later than 12.24.21 to get in by the IRS deadline. Thank you.

Together We Brighten The Light.

*Join us to empower & honor
the women's voices in our community*

Shabbat Shira שבת שירה

Friday, January 14 at 7pm
Temple B'nai Or

[Register Here](#)

Save the Date
Concert & Gala Honoring
Cantor Galit Dadoun-Cohen
ירושתי
Yerushati



May 7, 2022

Legacy Giving is after-lifetime to Temple in the future, from your during your lifetime.

In one way or another, your life connecting you to Temple B'nai Or Temple, but have you included us leaving a legacy you can assure the exist for the future generations.

By making a Legacy Commitment Legacy Giving Circle, you can:

- Know you've made a contribution to your synagogue that has been an important part of your family's Jewish life
- Further convey your commitment to being Jewish
- Set an example for your family and community
- Have an impact on Temple B'nai Or in the future in a way you might not be able to do today
- Help provide the foundation for a lasting Jewish community here
- Strengthen Temple B'nai Or to preserve Jewish tradition now and in the future

There are many ways you can leave a legacy gift. To explore your options and for more information please contact any member of our legacy team: Michele Murray, Gary Aidekman, Keith Barbarosh, Barbara Kavadias or Bill Schlosser.



giving. It is a commitment to give estate. This money is not given

is rooted in Jewish experiences Chances are, you already support in your will or planned giving? By traditions you cherish today will

and joining the Temple B'nai Or

COVID UPDATE

Friends, as we enter the winter season with more indoor activities and a new, more contagious variant of Covid on the loose, many of you are wondering how we are doing with our COVID rules and protocols. We have had many in-person and online events since May when many of us were fully vaccinated and it was deemed safe to gather. With all of our protocols in place, we have been able to maintain a safe space with no virus spread in our community. For everyone's safety and well being, we certainly want to keep it that way.

However, as we ended the school year for winter break, we have seen a number of COVID cases in our extended community: a congregant, family of a staff person, children in the preschool, and now a member of the preschool staff. While the time period between the preschool cases is such that we are not sure that any of the positive cases were the result of exposure in the preschool, out of an abundance of caring and caution, we made preschool virtual as of 12.17.21. The entire facility is being disinfected including all door handles, railings, and all the washrooms. And with COVID on the rise, we made all of our Shabbat services virtual for the last two weeks of the year.

As a warm and caring community, what can we do to keep each other safe? Here are our suggestions:

- Be fully vaccinated, including getting the booster shot if you are eligible.
- Wear a mask at all times you are around others, except when eating.
- When eating at Temple, try to keep the numbers small at each table. You may not be sitting with your friends, but you may just meet some new ones!
- Pre-register for events whenever possible so that we have an accurate count of attendees and can be fully prepared. If you do not feel well, please do not come, whether you have registered or not.
- If you have been to Temple and test positive, contact the Executive Director. Your information will be confidential, but it will also assist us in contact tracing in a timely fashion and help us stop the spread.
- If you use a smart phone, please download and use the app Covid Alert NJ. It will anonymously track anyone you have been in contact with through their smart phone app. This means if test positive and you do not remember every single person you were within 6 feet of for more than 10 minutes, they will still be notified and know to get tested and or quarantine.
- But, perhaps most importantly, let's not panic. We have done well so far in our community to keep each other safe. People who are vaccinated have, so far, mostly been asymptomatic or had very mild symptoms if they do get COVID and all of us vaccinated folks who have been exposed to these asymptomatic folks have not gotten it at all. By caring for each other, we protect ourselves and our community.
- We don't know yet what January will bring. We will be watching the statistics, science, CDC guidance, and NJ rulings and will let you all know if there are changes to our current practices. Thank you for keeping our kehilah safe!



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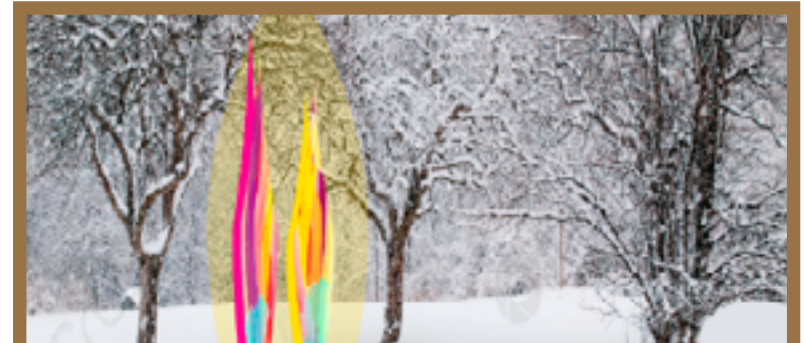
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When cherished ties are broken,
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