

# TBS Fall Gazette

התחדשות בבית ספרינו



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Dear TBS Families and Friends,

Welcome back to all our students, families and friends of Temple Beth Shalom Religious School! I hope everyone had a joyous, healthy and productive summer, and I'm looking forward to working together to make our 2022-2023 school year a great success!

In both education and life, each new year is a golden opportunity. It is a chance to reflect, begin again and strive for greater heights. Having worked in education for many years, I've found that while each school year offers fresh opportunities and unexpected challenges, I often begin by asking myself the same core questions: *How can my staff and I best encourage Jewish learning? How might we foster an environment, curriculum and support-system conducive to both inspiring and elevating the "total child"?*

While there is a significant amount of research focused on designing optimal learning environments for children, one article best encapsulates my educational philosophy and aspirations for TBS Religious School. It is the "STRONG Learning System," written by Linda Bress Silbert, PhD. and Alvin J. Silbert, Ed.D. What separates this study from many other pedagogical philosophies is their unwavering conviction that focusing on the social and emotional needs of a student is the true gateway to successful learning.

So what does implementing this sort of educational framework into a Religious School look like? Our teachers and staff have worked tirelessly to craft strong course curriculums conducive to student learning, while building community and emphasizing the social and emotional well-being of each child. Our goal is to empower students, encouraging them to take ownership of their education. For example, our students study Israeli cities in the Israel History Project, crafting tour-guides and café menus while becoming invested in modern Israeli culture. As a part of our Torah course, students conduct in-depth studies of religious figures, then enact their historical and emotional findings in creative journals. In American Jewish History, students become investigators of their own personal histories, mapping family trees and locating themselves as an integral part of Jewish history and culture.

TBS is committed to a hands-on and active Jewish education where history comes *alive* and our students enact the sacred traditions and mitzvot of our people. Some exciting programs and events we look forward to include working with the Jewish Museum and the Tenement Museum in NYC and bringing Jewish history *alive* through hands on experiences and virtual lessons. Also, in working directly with the Israel Center, we have a Shinshin (Israeli Gap year student) working in our school and interacting with our students weekly educating them about Israel life, and culture from their perspective.

We at TBS recognize that each new year is an opportunity to connect with our students, inspire them, and provide each child with deeper and more inclusive learning opportunities. We emphasize important concepts of self-improvement and community outreach, while striving to engage not just the "total child" but the total family as well. It is in this spirit that I look forward to working with each of you to build our Jewish future together. For your enjoyment, this gazette will keep you informed and give you a "taste" of the wonderful experiences at the students here at TBS Religious School.

With excitement and anticipation for a meaningful new year, wishing you all shana tova u'metuka,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sharon Solomon".

Sharon Solomon  
Director of Education, Community Engagement & Development

# Mitzvah of the Month—Chesed Opportunities at TBS

By Silvia Kogan & Janet Jeddah

In the Mishna it is written that the world exists upon three things: **Torah**, the study of our texts, serves as a history of our people and provides us with a framework for human behavior and ethical values, **Avodah** (literally work/worship) alludes to the performance of mitzvot, that is, being God's partners in creation, and **Gemilut Chasadim**, acts of loving kindness. Observance of and compliance with each tenet leads to the next. Study of the laws and mitzvot in the Torah leads to their observance and observance of God's laws ultimately results in one's ability to act both with compassion and empathy.

Acts of *Chesed* are not merely charity in the monetary sense but any act that helps another person in his time of need, such as visiting the sick, comforting the mourner, welcoming guests, etc. The rabbis teach us that acts of *chesed* are even greater than giving charity, for a person gives charity with his money, but these acts are performed by the person's own body.

Embedded deep in our TBS Religious School curriculum is this most important tenet of Judaism, that of kindness **חֶסֶד** *Chesed* and the giving of charitable assistance **צְדָקָה** *Tzedakah*. We value these lessons of loving kindness for our children

to learn and experience both within the synagogue and without.

Below is the schedule for the *Chesed* opportunities for all our students at TBS this year. Our goal is to make acts of loving kindness and charity become a consistent action and a part of who they are. Part of this vision also includes collecting *tzedakah* in the classrooms on a regular basis. Please be our partners and set this pattern of giving in motion by sending your children with *tzedakah* money every week. The funds will be collected periodically and utilized to help the organization and projects below.

## Fall

- **UJA- Race for Hunger**  
*7th Grade and Makom H.S.*
- **Rosh Hashana Honey cake for TBS2U Seniors**  
*5th and 6th grades*
- **Thanksgiving Food Drive - The Lend a Hand Project**  
*School Wide*

## Winter

- **Hannukah - Toy Drive Collection - Birthday Wishes of Long Island**  
*School Wide*
- **Donations of Winter Coats, Scarves, Hats & Gloves Drive - Local Homeless Shelter**  
*School Wide*
- **Hanukkah TBS2U Seniors**  
*4th grade*

## Spring

- **Passover Food Drive - The Lend a Hand Project**  
*School Wide*
- **Toiletries packages collection - The Lone Soldier Foundation**  
*4th grade*
- **Passover TBS2U Seniors**  
*6th grade*





# The ShinShin Program at TBS

## שִׁנְשִׁין שְׂרוּת

By Sharon Solomon

We are excited this year to be part of the Shinshin program from the Israel Center of Long Island and be able to host a shinshin here at Temple Beth Sholom.

### You may ask, "What IS a shinshin?"

A shinshin is an Israeli teen who has elected to spend a gap year abroad (between high school and the army) in service (*sh'nat sherut* שְׁנַת שְׂרוּת = a year of service = *shin shin* שִׁשׁ שִׁשׁ). Their job is to bring to our students a familiarity of life in Israel in creative ways through their perspective. Our hope is to familiarize, inspire, and educate our students about Israel. **If we cannot bring our students to Israel, then we will bring Israel to our students with our shinshin.**

**Our shinshin** for this year is **Stav Babel Pour**. She will be working in our Religious School and our Makom High



School every Sunday and/or Monday. We are very excited to have Stav bring her talents and her experience in the Israeli Scouts (Tzofim) in informal education and activities which she can then utilize here with our students.

If you wish to host Stav in your home for a meal or during a holiday, please reach out to us at the Religious School at [religiousschool@tbsroslyn.org](mailto:religiousschool@tbsroslyn.org) or to me at [sharonsolomon@tbsroslyn.org](mailto:sharonsolomon@tbsroslyn.org).

If you are interested in hosting for a longer period of time such as three to four months, you may reach out to Maya Sharon who is the Shinshin Program Coordinator for the Sid Jacobson JCC at [Msharon@sjcc.org](mailto:Msharon@sjcc.org).

We have had successful experiences with our past shinshinim at TBS where they have cooked Israeli foods with the students, baked challot, listened to American and Israeli music together, talked about what life is like today in Israel, played games and shared virtual tours of different parts of the land.

We are excited to begin 2022 with Stav and to welcome her into the community. Please be our partner and welcome her into our community and into your home so that you can get to know her personally and she can get to know you and your family. This program is all about making connections and for you and your family to have a strong connection with Stav and to now have family in Israel, too.



## MINI MINYAN

Led by Morah Stephanie Whalen  
and Jonathan Kapilian

Join us for a Noah's Ark themed  
Shabbat morning filled with songs,  
challah, and fun!

October 29, 2022 @ 11 AM  
for families with young children up to 1st grade





# ACTIV8!

By Silvia Kogan

Judaism has an all-enveloping and passionate dedication to the ideal of justice. The moral imperatives of justice, ethics, and morality were taught by the Torah and the Jewish prophets as part of the religious ideals and obligations of all Jews. Social justice is a mitzvah, neither more nor less obligatory than others.

At ACTIV8! - TBS Makom Social Action Initiative, our educational goals of social justice are to instill our high school students with the values of justice and equality towards our own community, our next door neighbors, and the community at large.

Through formal instruction, spiritual reflection, and student activities, our intention is to cultivate a school culture of empathy for others and guide them to choose a path of ethical action and respect for the experiences of others.

Our main focus is to aspire to instill in our students the idea that their responsibility to their near and far world is a central one and is

# Actively Creating Community

an integrated part of their Jewish lives. We want to position them as young leaders who can integrate social justice into the life of their homes, schools, and synagogue.

Following the Torah imperative “lo tuchal lehitalem,” “you must not remain

indifferent”

(Deuteronomy 22:3), we are planning a year full of meaningful opportunities to get involved. With the much anticipated reopening of organizations to volunteer work, this coming school year, be on the lookout for our flyers and invitations to get involved and be part of TBS ACTIV8!

ACTIV8! works to clean The Garden at St. Francis in November, 2021—a garden that helps to feed neighbors in need.



(Left top and Right middle) ACTIV8! Board addresses the Religious School student body at their opening assembly on 9/11/22 about the most recent ACTIV8! initiative and the Religious School “Mitzvah of the Month”—the breakfast cereal collection campaign.

## ACTIV8! Teen Group & Guides

(Center photo, top right and full bottom row) ACTIV8! Planning meeting with Phyllis Pellman, TBS V.P. for Tikkun Olam on Sunday, 9/18/22. Phyllis spoke with our students about the positive connection that TBS has made with the local JCC Food Bank in collecting items sorely needed for those in need in our area.





"It's the Sand Lady!" As I enter TBS and hear the students greet me this way, I am delighted with this name! It comes from their looking forward to participating in *Torah Godly Play*. I bring the desert (hence the name they gave me!) because many of our Jewish holiday stories and Torah stories take place in the desert.

*Torah Godly Play* is a quiet moment of engagement that allows children to "hear" the presence of God in a story. It is a highly spiritual method of telling the story of a Jewish holiday or a story from the Torah. We sit on the floor in a circle and using simple, unadorned objects, and speaking in a quiet voice, I tell the story. The engagement of

the children during this time is without parallel. Then the children wonder about what they see and hear. Everyone participates: the child who raises their hand all the time and the child who seldom does.

vious stories we shared.

I tell stories about holidays including Yom Kippur, Chanukah, Tu'B'Shevat, Purim, Passover, and Shavuot as well as Torah

Stories. Whether a sand story or one that takes place on a large piece of felt, the students of TBS are captivated by *Torah Godly Play* and I am continually impressed by the wisdom they bring to their participation. "Watching the peo-

ple walking through the sand is so relaxing" "I like seeing the story. It helps me understand it better." "I like watching what you will take out of your bag next." These are just a few examples of feedback from the kids.

# Torah Godly Play

## Torah Experience at TBS

By Deborah Cadel

It's the nature of the process. The insights and observations they make are truly profound. How richly rewarding it is to see how much the students enjoy *Torah Godly Play* and how well they remember the pre-





# PTA Happenings

## At TBS

Please join the PTA—the dues help to enhance the programs and activities that make our school so special.



- ⇒ **PTA Welcome Back Brunch—Sunday September 11<sup>th</sup>**
- ⇒ **PTA Sukkah Decorating Event—Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> @ 11am**
- ⇒ **Purim Carnival—Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>**

# TBS-Legacy Heritage

## Better Together Grant

By Hanna Harel

Temple Beth Sholom is extremely proud to be in our fourth year of the Legacy Heritage—Better Together Grant with our seventh-grade students and The Atria on Roslyn Harbor. This successful program, lovingly referred to as “The Buddy Program”, has created a strong interpersonal connection between our seventh-grade students and the seniors at the center. Through monthly meetings, projects, and programs, students have found a way to give of themselves as they foster meaningful relationships with their senior buddies.

At the beginning of the year we have an “Icebreaker Session” where our students are paired with a senior friend or friends and

get to know them through planned activities. Each month our students attend creative organized programs with their “buddies” at the Atria. Students have enjoyed a variety of bonding programs such as making challah creations together, painting together, shucking pearls together and many other valuable experiences. During these sessions, magically, student and senior relationships flourish!

By year’s end, students and seniors have solidified bonds and have learned with and from each other. It is our fervent desire that by giving each student these real-life experiences, our Jewish traditions and the love of giving back to the community will always be a part of your child’s life.

### At The Atria on Roslyn Harbor



*Clockwise from  
bottom left:*

*Challah-taschen  
Shucking pearls  
Buddies together  
Making Bobka  
Creating Art*



# Israel 75

## The 75 Words Initiative for the Religious School

By Janet Jeddah

**SHALOM! שָׁלוֹם FALAFEL פִּלְפֶּל KEN כֵּן LO לֹא** Most America Jews have a love of Israel; its food, its culture, its people and accomplishments. But how many of us are able to understand the Hebrew language, let alone be able to converse with another in Hebrew?

Our goal this year, in celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of the State of Israel in 1948, is to reintroduce the “every day” Hebrew language to our students. This task goes beyond the words we need to know to understand our prayers. We hope to be able to create an **otzar milim עֹצָר מִלִּים**, treasure of words as it is referred to in Hebrew, or vocabulary as we know the word, that our students will be able to internalize and run with and

hopefully develop further as their connections with the State of Israel grows stronger over the years.

Each class in the Religious School has been tasked to create a vocabulary list, that is appropriate for their grade, of 75 words (for 75 years). The best way we know to do this is to incorporate these words into the every day nature of our lessons. For example, someone sneezes and your response will be **la briut לְבְרִיאוּת**, God bless you, or you ask a student to close the **delet דֶּלֶת**, door, to the classroom. We even introduced a Hebrew Through Movement class this year where our students are able to practice NIA—bringing together body mind and soul—and Hebrew. Below are some of the moments of Kita Hay students learning its moves.



*sh'at Sipoor*  
*Story Time*

שְׁעַת סִפּוּר

Everyone likes to hear a good story. How much better then, than to hear a story and learn some Hebrew while enjoying the tale?

Our very own Morah Vered Wolfstein is spearheading a new TBS Religious School initiative. It's called, “Sh’at Sipoor” שְׁעַת סִפּוּר or in English, Story Time.

Through story telling, props, repetition, song and body movement, Morah Vered weaves a tale while at the same time infusing it with a Hebrew base from which to grow.

It's a certainty that in no time our youngest students will gain fluency in some basic Hebrew language—just in time for Israel@75 fun!



# *Madrichim*

# Aides to the Religious School

## *Meet our Madrichim!!*

By Sharon Solomon and Janet Jeddah

**Madrichim** מדריכים are guides. Their role is to assist the teachers in their assigned classrooms, and help guide the learning of the students in their charge. Last year we began to incorporate some instruction for our madrichim in conjunction with their assignments. The program was such a success that we are now looked upon as an example of how to train madrichim/Teacher Assistant and this has led to a very exciting development for this year.

TBS Religious School is now the recipient of a two year Better to Serve grant designed to help us train our classroom madrichim in ways we could only dream of before!

The grant funds will be utilized in the following capacities; two Sundays each month, a time will be set aside before the start of Religious School classes **to train the madrichim in first aid as well as in basic child development**. We will now have the funds to be able to **work with child and school psychologists** and **give them the support they will need** for dealing with a variety of situations

in much more beneficial ways. **Each madrich or madricha will be trained in age-appropriate techniques for their specific classes.** They will be given tools to allow them to become “experts” in the needs of the specific age and grade of the students with whom they are serving. They will be given the tools to understand effective learning methodology, child development and psychology and how to aid both a teacher as well as a learner.

The newly designed Madrichim program also allows and empowers its participants to take on the unique opportunity to be a leader within the Religious School. The best part of their jobs is that they are not just assisting in a class as had been done before, they are now role models for our younger students to look up to. While refining their own skills, they are also influencing future generations of young leaders in our Jewish community.

This new and improved program helps us to complete the circle of student-mentor-guide-facilitator which leads to Jewish involvement in community and leadership in a very deep and meaningful way.