



Temple Beth Israel
Community | Tradition | Inclusion

Temple Talk



Brought To You By Rabbi Ben: Increasing our Joy in Tough Times

By: Rabbi Benjamin Chaidell

The Jews are labeled as different and not trustworthy. A leader rises to power with a plan to wipe out the Jewish community. A date is chosen and the Jewish people tremble to await their fate. The Jewish people are saved by intervention of the queen, who is secretly Jewish, and her uncle, and they rise to defend themselves against their enemies with the support of the Persian throne.

This is the surprisingly dark story of one of our most joyous holidays, Purim. Rabbi Yehudah in the Babylonian Talmud (Ta'anit 29a) encourages us to increase our joy when Adar, the month during which Purim falls, begins: "Mishenichnas Adar, Marbim B'Simcha," he teaches. "When Adar enters, we

increase our joy."

This begs the question: why do we increase our joy for a holiday which commemorates the near-destruction of our people? What is it about Purim that leads us to rejoice?

One answer is that the joy of Purim is simply relief from averted danger. Imagining the worst, we are simply grateful and overjoyed at the opportunity to live and to be Jewish. We celebrate our lives as we toast "L'chaim! - To Life!"

I think there is a deeper lesson, however, in the joy of Purim. On Purim we celebrate not only our lives, but

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Presidents Message

By: Linda Ungerleider

Spring is almost here! I know this because Trader Joe's is selling bunches of daffodils.

Our TBI calendar is blooming with upcoming holidays like Purim and Passover along with our regularly scheduled services, Rabbi Ben's teachings, after kiddish learning opportunities and lots more.

I've have been hearing several fun program ideas grow. Do you have one? Please contact Ben Nudelman, Program Chair (nudelmanb@gmail.com) or me (ulinda@gmail.com) with your ideas and thoughts of making it happen.

We all have hopes of seeing lots of colorful flowers soon.

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Temple Beth Israel

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Weekly Day Off: Tuesday

Officers

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Vice President: Erika Mackin
Secretary: Phyllis Werlin
Membership Director: Edie Rosenberg
Treasurer / Finance: Jim Baron

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Chesed / Caring: Andrea Baron
Development: Howard Trachtman
House: Merrill Griff
Program: Ben Nudelman
Ritual: Mark Frydenberg
Social Justice: Joshua Mandell
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 Waltham, MA 02453

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Linked In: https://www.linkedin.com/company/tbiwaltham

Rabbi Ben will be holding 3 Opportunities for Learning

Classes unless otherwise noted, will be held in-person with a Zoom option available to those unable to attend in person. To attend, please register at this link [CLICK HERE](#) or with Rabbi Ben at rabbiben@tbiwaltham.org or 781-894-5146.

1. New Lenses on the Weekly Parsha—Online Only

Third Thursday of the month at 12 PM (March 21)

Join Rabbi Ben for a weekly exploration of the Torah portion which will connect the ancient text to the world today through classical, medieval, and modern commentary and midrash. We will utilize Jewish, academic, and artistic perspectives to understand what the Torah meant to our ancestors, and means to us, today.

2. Hot Topics: Jewish Views on Our World Today—In House and on Zoom

Last Sunday of the Month, 10:30 AM, following Minyan at 9 AM and Breakfast

This class will not take place on the last Sunday in March. Join us on Sunday March 24th for a special Purim program beginning at 9am and followed by a triangle shaped breakfast.

3. Jewish Prayer 2.0: How, What, and Why We Pray—Online Only

Second Thursday of the Month, 7:00 PM (March 14)

Join Rabbi Ben to explore the deeper meaning of Jewish prayer. Whether you attend services every week or you are just beginning your Jewish journey, you will gain new insights into the background of the prayers we say, how we say them, and what they mean. Participants will practice reciting prayers in the traditional mode as well as be exposed to new spiritual and mindful practices to enhance the meaning of familiar prayers. This class is intentionally designed for participants from a range of backgrounds, who will find it meaningful to learn the prayers together.



Rosh Hodesh Group - Sunday

March 10 @ 5:00pm TBI Lobby

Rosh Chodesh
Women's Group



Rosh Hodesh has traditionally been a time when women would not work; instead, they would get together to celebrate with food, wine, etc. TBI has started its own Rosh Hodesh group for those identifying as female. **The next meeting will be held on Sunday, March 10 @ 5:00 pm in the TBI alcove. In preparation for Purim, come in your tiara or crown, enjoy some Persian snacks as we explore our inner Queen.**

Contact Denise Dickinson at dickinsondr@hotmail.com for questions, etc.
Save the date of April 7 at 5:00pm for the next meeting.

PURIM

Join us for Purim March 23-24: We'll read the megillah and enjoy shtick, the annual slideshow, and hamantaschen. Don't forget your costume!

Purim night March 23

7:00 PM: Hamantashan and Light Refreshments
7:30 PM: Special Silly Ma'ariv and Havdalah with music!
8 PM: Megillah Reading
9:15: Refreshments

Purim morning March 24:

9 AM: Abbreviated Morning Service
9:30-10:45: Megillah Reading
10:45: Triangle Themed Breakfast



* At 10 AM Families will join for megillah reading and activities



Friday Night Kabbalat Services April 5th

**Join us in house for Happy 1/2
Hour beginning at 5:45pm with
wine and cheese**

**Services begin both in house and
online at 6:30pm**

PORTRAITS – an interview with Erika Cohen, facilitated by Diana Korzenik

“Be yourself; everyone else is already taken”... this quote by Oscar Wilde is how Diana Korzenik describes the idea behind her new project, which she is calling “Portraits”. Diana wants to help us get to know other TBI members on a deeper level than we might by just chatting casually at a weekly Kiddush.

So on February 10th, Diana Korzenik sat down with long time TBI member Erika Cohen. Erika, who will soon celebrate her 93rd birthday, drives herself to TBI every Shabbat, where she helps out in the kitchen. She has a very sharp memory, recalling many details of her life both before and after the war, when she lived in Budapest, Hungary, where she was born and raised.



Erika described having a pretty normal childhood. She loved ice skating and had many friends. Before Hitler invaded Hungary, her mother often attended symphony concerts, and they played records in the house, and later, they covertly listened to the BBC from London. However, being Jewish in Budapest meant that she and her family and friends were minorities in a Catholic country, and were often the objects of name calling, especially after the War began. Being a young girl at that time, Erika didn't pay too much attention to what was going on, but she and her older brothers were usually protected by friends from school. She always knew she was Jewish; her father prayed daily, and the adult men stayed in the synagogue all day on the High Holy Days, while she played outside. However, while her grandparents kept kosher, she confided that her father had a penchant for “cold cuts” which was a bit of a challenge for her mother, because in Hungary, that usually meant pork.

Erika's life in Hungary was middle/working class. Her father worked in a labor camp, as she says all the men did back then, but enjoyed some extra privileges because he spoke German well and could act as a translator between the Hungarians and the German engineers. When he refused to climb to the top floor of a building under construction because he had a phobia about heights, his manager admitted that his own father was afflicted by this as well and did not force him to climb. Erika says this is part of the “luck” that has always followed her and her family, especially as it pertains to her family making it out as well.

Erika remembers when all Jews were forced to wear the “yellow stars”, starting around 1944. She remembers so many dates – for example, 3/15/1944 when Hitler's tanks invaded Hungary. Everyone just accepted the yellow stars and the insults hurled at them, and no one talked much about it. She was about thirteen years old at that time, and often retorted to her tormentors with snarky comebacks, without serious repercussions!



COMING TO AMERICA AND STARTING A LIFE WITH BEN COHEN AT TBI


Erika left home when she was twenty-five. The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) assisted thousands of Jews to get out of Hungary and into Austria, and then to the US. The Austrian Government told HIAS that Jews had to leave, as it was too dangerous due to rampant antisemitism. In 1956 the borders had opened, and she was lucky enough to get on a milk truck that was going to the border, when private cars could not.

From an internment camp in Kilmer NJ, where she arrived at Christmas time in 1956, Erika ended up in New York, which she found too dirty and noisy. Luckily, a close friend in Boston, who had lost her family in the war, told her to borrow \$10 and get on a train and she would meet her at South Station. Erika depended on the kindness of strangers for the money and was on the next train to meet her friend.

So, how did Erika meet Benny? Just like many women today, Erika was fixed up! A woman she met asked if she would like to meet a nice man to whom she was renting a room. At the time Ben was going to Temple Reyim in Newton but when they moved to Waltham they started going to services at Brandeis. When that got too crowded, Ben suggested they go to the temple he had noticed near a meat market (later to become Hannaford's) in Waltham. She said Ben took care of temple things, and she kept the house. There they raised two sons.

When she came to TBI she knew no one, but says that everyone was extremely nice and very welcoming. Ben Nudelman remembers that Erika was the first person he met at TBI before he and Caroline became members, and she gave him a TBI sales pitch to get him to stay!

If you missed the talk with Erika in person, the video will soon be online. In the meantime, if you have a personal story you would like to tell, please contact Diana Korzenik. You could be the next person highlighted in Portraits!



Please join us!

Hadassah Shabbat Across the Regions

Celebrating 112 Years of Commitment to Israel and Repairing the World

Join Hadassah on Saturday March 23 when Dana Fine will be giving the D'var.


Please join us for Shabbat services throughout Northern and Southern New England Regions. NOW is the time to come together with Hadassah to pray for the release of the hostages and learn what Hadassah is doing to bring hope and healing to the people of Israel and the Jewish community here at home. You are invited to attend one or more Shabbat services which will be held this Spring in congregations across the Regions.


Help us track participation and ensure that you have the most up-to-date information by indicating your interest in one or more Shabbat service at **(new registration link)**

Information about participating congregations and services and how to access them is available on the Hadassah Shabbat Information Sheet which will be updated as we receive more information.


Participating Congregations

Saturday, March 23 (Shabbat Zachor)
Temple Beth Israel, Waltham, MA





HADASSAH
Northern New England



HADASSAH
Southern New England

Social Justice Committee

Chair: Joshua Mandell

- The Warming Center is now open on Sundays and looking for volunteers. Please sign up at https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F44AEA829A0F4CF8-45440327-warming#/ or contact Joshua at joshua6781@gmail.com if you're interested.
- In light of the rise of antisemitism in the world, please know misinformation and disinformation are prevalent in TV news and other social media outlets. Please read this article from CAMERA at www.camera.org.
- The Community Day Center (collection bin in the lobby) is looking for, t-shirts, new socks, sandwich size plastic bags, and individual snacks,
- There is a bin in our lobby for used books that are donated to More than Words.



"Auschwitz: Not Long Ago; Not Far Away"

Starting March 15 and ending on September 2 there is a new exhibition coming to Boston. It is entitled, "Auschwitz: Not Long Ago; Not Far Away". The exhibit will feature over 700 items from the Holocaust. The exhibit will be held at the Castle, Park Plaza, 130 Columbus Ave. Boston. Tickets for seniors are about \$28.00. We would like to get at least ten people to go so we qualify for a group rate. There is a showing every thirty minutes and the tour lasts between an hour and a half to two hours. An audio device will guide your tour. There are no tour guides.

Contact Bruce Trager if you are interested. We would like to schedule a group for the May/June time frame.

Howard's Corner

by Howard D. Trachtman, BS, CPS, CPRP, COAPS

I am chair of TBI Waltham's Development Committee. We identify TBI's needs and look into grants to cover the costs and help fill out the application forms. We are always looking for new members, no experience necessary.

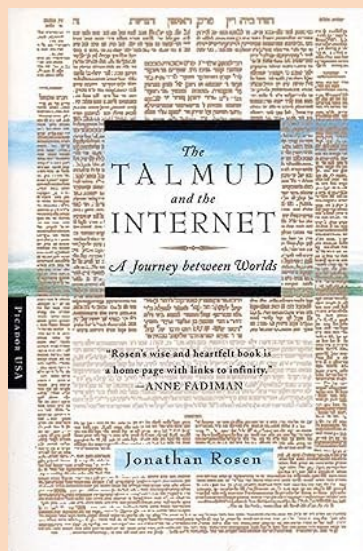
I am also chair of TBI's inclusion committee. We try to make all of TBI's offerings accessible to all. We welcome your help and are always looking for new members. Anyone who has an idea about how to make the synagogue more accessible or even just a question should feel free to reach out.

I can be reached at hdt@mit.edu and 781 642 0368.

-Howard

TBI Bookshelf

By Marilyn Racette



I am grateful to the family of Hillel Stavis, of blessed memory, for allowing Rabbi Ben and I to look through Hillel's library and choose books for our temple's collection. It will take a little while to catalogue what we've selected, but one slender volume, in particular, caught my eye, *The Talmud and the Internet: A Journey between Worlds*, by Jonathan Rosen. The author, who has also contributed to *The New York Times* and *The New Yorker*, writes that the book began "as an elegy for my grandmother...who wasn't much interested in either the

Talmud or the Internet. Nevertheless....I am a child of both and I have set down some of the stories—ancient and modern, private and public—that help me make sense of the multiple worlds I have inherited." Rosen's blend of memoir, religious history, and literary reflection is charming, lyrical, and illuminating.



Brought To You By Rabbi Ben: Increasing our Joy in Tough Times

By: Rabbi Benjamin Chaidell

(Continued from page 1)

also our community and its ability to survive- and thrive- in even the most trying circumstances. The Purim story is a testament to the strength of our people: its resilience, unity, and cohesion. That is something truly to celebrate.

Queen Esther and Mordechai establish Purim as a festival that reflects and reinforces the bonds between the Jewish people. In their letters to the Jewish diaspora, they encourage their fellow Jews to stand up against their enemies, and once victorious, to celebrate that victory by sending gifts to one another (mishloach manot) as well as portions to the poor (matanot laevyonim), which we continue to do today. All are included in the festival.

Purim, then, increases our joy not because good things happened to us on this day, but because it reminds us of our ability to overcome whatever happened, or will happen to us, in the future.

In our world with increased anti-semitism and threats to Jewish security in Israel, the darkness of the Purim story can seem all too real. But we will also find ways to increase our joy by marveling at the strength of our communities here and in Israel and in how we have come together to support one another during these times.

At TBI we will increase our simcha (joy) in March by coming together on March 1 with Prof. Hankus Netsky for our annual Tisch to carry on the musical legacy of Morris Hollender z"l. We will continue to learn and pray together on Shabbat and in our monthly classes. And we will celebrate Purim together on March 23-24 featuring our newly formed musical group that will add joy to our evening Purim celebration.

I am excited to increase our joy this month as we celebrate Purim and the strength of the Jewish community here at TBI and around the world.

Chag Purim Sameach, Happy Holiday of Purim!

Rabbi Ben's Office Hours

Wednesdays from 9:30am –10:00am will be Zoom Only. [Click Here to enter the zoom room.](#)

From 10:00am - 12:00pm people can make an appointment or just drop in, understanding they may need to wait if someone is already with me.

On March 6th there will be no office hours.

Donations

Saturday Kiddush Donations

- March 16 - Diana Korzenik
- Dana Fine and NE Region of Hadassah will be sponsoring the Kiddush on March 23

Sharing a light lunch after services each week strengthens and creates community. \$200 sponsors one Shabbat lunch for up to 40 people. Contact the office to reserve your week today!

General Fund Donations

- Diana Korzenik, in memory of Hillel Stavis
- Paul Smith, in memory of Alice Smith, Benjamin and Sonia Smith, Marilyn Smith, David Smith and Judith Smith
- Merrill Griff, in memory of his father Harris Griff will be sponsoring the hamantaschen on Purim

Please consider making a donation in memory of a loved one listed on our yahrzeit page, or in honor of a special someone's life cycle event. You can use the form on page 11 and send in a check or donate online at our website using a credit card.

Thank You

Thanks to those who read Torah, Haftarah, led a portion of the service, were a gabbai, or gave a D'var Torah recently:

- Mark Frydenberg
- Scott Tepper
- Phyllis Werlin
- Alan Levine
- Zach Roe
- Dana Fine
- Mira Liang
- Susan Holbert
- Catherine Cantrell
- Bruce Trager
- Ellen Band
- Celia Schneider

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to volunteer to be gabbai, to read from the Torah or chant a Haftarah, or contact Mark Frydenberg or Rabbi Ben if you would like to give a D'var Torah in the coming months.



We meet by computer, by phone, and in person (though we do close the building temporarily in COVID-19 surges—please check the website).

To join by phone--no computer needed: Dial (301)-715-8592. You will hear a prompt to enter a meeting ID. Enter the meeting ID, followed by #. In the listing of events below, we show the meeting ID for each event.

To join by computer or mobile device, visit zoom.us in a web browser, click *Join a Meeting*, and enter the meeting ID and password for the event (or click the direct link to the event posted on our website or in our weekly email update). **The current list of events appears below.**

For the latest schedule of online events, visit <http://www.tbiwaltham.org/>.

Dates	March Shabbat Services Online	Meeting ID
April 5 March 8, 15, 22, 29	Happy 1/2 Hour 5:45pm Inhouse and Online Services begin at 6:30 Shabbat Service - 5:30 pm - 6:00 pm Online only	Click Here to Join
March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	Shabbat Morning In-house and Online 9:30 am	Click Here to Join
	Thursday Morning Minyan	
March 7, 14, 21, 28	Morning Minyan 8:00 am Online only	Click Here to Join
	Sunday Morning Minyan	
March 31 see page 5	Sun. Morning Minyan & Breakfast 9:00am Rabbi Ben Teaching 10:30	Click Here to Join
All Online Services	All Online Services	858 6689 6770 pw: TBIservice

Classes to Sign Up For

See Page 3 For Class Descriptions

Mar 21	New Lenses on the Weekly Parsha - Online Only Third Thursday of the month at 12pm	CLICK HERE to sign up
March 24 for PURIM this month	Hot Topics: Jewish Views on Our World Today Last Sunday of the month at 9:00am	CLICK HERE to sign up
Mar 14	Jewish Prayer 2.0: How, What, and Why We Pray Second Thursday of the Month, 7:00pm	CLICK HERE to sign up

We wish a long life to our members who are observing a Yahrzeit in the coming weeks.

If your loved one is remembered here, we remind you that it is customary to acknowledge the yahrzeit with tzedakah. TBI appreciates any gift you wish to make in memory of your loved ones.

March Yahrzeits

- Mar 1 - Ed Brown, in memory of his mother, Rose Brown
- Mar 2 - Jordan Kreidberg, in memory of his father, Marshall Kreidberg
- Mar 2 - Marilyn Racette, in memory of her father, Sal Araten
- Mar 3 - Helen Lewis, in memory of her mother, Murile Lewis
- Mar 3 - Martin Taubman, in memory of his mother-in-law, Martha Mikelbank
- Mar 5 - Julian Webb, in memory of his father, Larry Webb
- Mar 7 - Albert Smith, in memory of his wife, Judith Smith
- Mar 9 - Ellen Feinsand, in memory of her father, Abraham Feinsand
- Mar 11 - Julian Webb, in memory of his mother, Goldie Webb
- Mar 12 - Robert Kaitz, in memory of his grandmother, Eva Kaitz
- Mar 13 - Zach Roe, in memory of his uncle, Mitchell Lane Roe
- Mar 16 - Ellen Feinsand, in memory of her mother, Annette Feinsand
- Mar 23 - Barbara Camann, in memory of her sister, Jane Siegel
- Mar 24 - Merrill Griff, in memory of his father, Harris Griff
- Mar 24 - Alan Corman, in memory of his father, Jack Corman
- Mar 27 - Larry Bloom, in memory of his father, Al Bloom

April Yahrzeits

- April 4 - Caroline Nudelman, in memory of her father, Gerald Woolf
- April 9 - Miriam Chernoff, in memory of Pauline Chernoff
- April 10 - Marlene Leboff, in memory of her daughter, Barbara Leboff
- April 10 - Merrill Griff, in memory of Ethel Griff
- April 11 - Anita Kennen and Alan Kennen, in memory of their father, Julius "Yukie" Kennen
- April 11 - Alan Levine, in memory of his father, Phillip Levine
- April 15 - Janet Moses, in memory of her mother, Ina Moses
- April 19 - Susan Schy, in memory of Sidney Silver
- April 22 - Catherine Cantrell, in memory of Myron Goretzky
- April 28 - In memory of Racquel Scarlett



Temple Beth Israel Memorial Park

Temple Beth Israel has maintained a cemetery for its members since 1951. Beth Israel Memorial Park is located on South Street, between the Stanley Elementary School and Children's Hospital. Graves are available in Section A (the right side as you enter the cemetery), Section B (the left side as you enter the cemetery) and in Kulanu (the left side, after Section B). The cost to purchase an individual

grave in Sections A or B for Temple members is \$2,200 (\$4,400 for two). The cost for non-members is \$3,600 per grave, which includes one year of membership.

You must be a Temple member for two or more consecutive years to take advantage of Member pricing; Non-member pricing applies to all others.

Kulanu is dedicated to serving the needs of Jewish Temple members who are married to a non-Jewish spouse. Graves in the Kulanu interfaith section are sold in lots of two, at a total cost of \$4,400 for members. The cost for non-members is \$7,200 for a lot of two, which includes one year of family membership.

If you are interested in purchasing one or more graves, please contact **Jay Trilling** of Menorah Cemetery Management Corporation at (857) 636-9440.

—Jim Baron and Alan Levine
Cemetery Committee Chairs

Sign Up for TBITalk

TBITalk is Temple Beth Israel's members' only discussion list on email. Sign up to send and receive messages from subscribing TBI members on the TBITalk discussion list by entering your email and contact information in the Subscribe section of this page:

<http://listserve.tbiwaltham.org/listinfo.cgi/tbitalk-tbiwaltham.org>

After you have subscribed, you are welcome to communicate with all members of TBITalk by sending an email message to **tbitalk@tbiwaltham.org**. By participating, you agree to the terms of use.

Temple Beth Israel Donation Form

For your convenience, please use this form to make your donations and send to: Temple Beth Israel, 25 Harvard Street, Waltham, MA 02453. You may also donate online at <http://tbiwaltham.org/donate>. The minimum donation amount is \$10. Please add additional information on another sheet.

Attached is my donation check in the amount of \$ _____. Please allocate it to the following funds.

____ General Fund ____ Mark Frydenberg Event Participation Fund ____ Rabbi's Discretionary Fund ____ High Holiday Fund
____ TBI Community Outreach ____ Warming Center Fund ____ Saturday Kiddush Fund -(Minimum \$200)

This donation is being made ____ in honor of ____ in memory of _____.

This donation is made by:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Please send acknowledgment to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____



Temple Beth Israel

25 Harvard Street
Waltham, MA 02453

Help us save on postage!

Pick up your copy of Temple Talk at the synagogue
or read it online at www.tbiwaltham.org.

Mark Your Calendar! March Highlights

Friday Night Shabbat Service	Happy 1/2 Hour and Kabbalat Shabbat Service In House and Online 5:45pm First Friday of the month Not in March Welcoming Shabbat Service online only- 5:30—6:00
Shabbat Morning	Shabbat Morning Services - at 9:30am In House and Online
Rosh Chodesh Group	See Page 3 for Details
TBI Portraits	Check out what Erika Cohen had to say See page 4 for details
Sign Up for Classes	Classes to Sign Up For See page 2 for details
Save the Date for Purim	See page 3 for Details
Minyan, Breakfast & Hot Topics	See Pages 2 for Details