

# Temple Beth Sholom News


Vol. 3, No. 6 | February 2025



*Rabbi David Grossman*

*Rabbi Joshua Grossman*

*President Patrick Guiney*

| Candle       |  | Lighting     |
|--------------|---|--------------|
| 2/07 4:48 pm |   | 2/21 5:06 pm |
| 2/14 4:57 pm |   | 2/28 5:15 pm |

## From the Rabbi's Office

Greetings friends! During these short days (which are already blessedly getting longer) it's hard to believe that our holiday celebrating the rebirth of trees is only a couple short weeks away. Tu B'shevat, the day to mark the beginning of the slow process of blooming and flowering in the world of vegetation falls on Wednesday February 12th. Of course, there is something to love about every observance and holiday on our calendar, but this one is exceptionally special. It arrives just when we need it most, right in time for us to admit we might have had enough of the cold.

Tu B'Shevat is unlike most of our holidays for a number of reasons. First, it is a "newer" holiday, it has its origins from the rabbis in days of our Talmud rather than from Torah. Also, in the Jewish community it's a universally recognized day, but many of its modern traditions stem (no pun intended) from the Kabbalists of Safed. In Israel, Tu B'shevat is known as Arbor day, but here in America we take it into a slightly different direction as more of a Jewish Earth Day. In addition to the traditional activities, and foods, Israelis use this day to educate about the importance of environmental protection, and our brothers and sisters put these ideas into action by planting trees in our holy land.

The parallels between Tu B'shevat and Pesach are unmistakable, and these are some of the reasons this is such a joyous day. We are encouraged to enjoy some of the best parts of Pesach, BUT we are not required to change our flatware, or avoid eating, or selling our Chametz. We hold a seder, we drink four cups of wine, and we even follow along in a specially designed Haggadah for the day.

This year, as in years past, we will hold a Tu B'shevat seder of our own on February 12th. Here is only some of what you can expect. We will have representations of the seven species by which the land of Israel is praised; figs, dates, pomegranates, olives, grapes, wheat (beer perhaps) and barley (cakes or breads). We'll celebrate fruits with shells and pits and seeds on the outside, and the inside, nuts with shells, and various types of chocolates. This year we have a very special addition to our Seder with a baked potato bar and make your own toppings. We'll gather in the warmth of our sanctuary, and relax with talk, food, wine and maybe a bit of song as well.

As one final bit of incentive to join us, I place forth a challenge:

In the days of our Temple the priests would ascend 15 steps and offer 15 psalms of praise. The number 15 also represents the numerical value of Yud-Hey, the name of Hashem. We take this number and connect it to a holiness that comes from eating or sampling 15 different fruits. And so there is our challenge. All are invited to come join us as we attempt to meet this number with the bounty of the trees during the deep of our Hull winter!

*Rabbis David & Joshua*

## From the President

As we inch closer to Spring, one sure sign, besides the pitchers reporting to Fort Myers, is Tu B'shvat! The holiday this year starts February 12<sup>th</sup> and ends on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Temple Beth Sholom will celebrate this "New Year of the Trees" on Wednesday 02/12 at 7PM with a seder and fun foods to eat. You might ask, "Why is this holiday important"? Think about Sukkot. We need the etrog, the date palm, the myrtle, and the willow to celebrate this joyous holiday. Without the trees, we don't have a harvest (hag ha-asif), the opportunity to be hospitable with our guests (ushphizin), the material for the temporary structure (sukkah) to dwell in, or the ability to pray together (including Hallel and Hoshanna). Thus, start celebrating Sukkot early by joining us in enjoying Tu B'Shvat!

During February, you will also be getting an invitation from the Temple to participate in "Happy Purim". This program will allow you to begin celebrating Purim early by accomplishing 2 of the 4 mitzvot needed for a successful Purim. This would be the mitzvah of mishloach manot (exchanging gifts) and the mitzvah of matanot la-eyyonim (charity). By responding to the Happy Purim invitation, to the extent you feel comfortable, the Temple will help send out gifts in your name and you can additionally donate extra for charity. The Temple also benefits by your donations. Please participate and get these mitzvot locked in. (You will have to wait until Purim itself to accomplish the other 2 mitzvot of hearing the Megillah and eating a festive meal. More on that in the next newsletter). Spring is coming, and it is time to start getting ready!

Back during Rosh Hashanah, we wished each other "L'Shanah Tovah Umetukah", or to have a good and sweet year, a year filled with prosperity and well-being. I hope you continue to experience this, and I hope to see you at the Temple in February to spread and share in this sweetness together!

*Patrick Guiney, President*

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>FEBRUARY SERVICES</b>  |  |
| Friday, Feb 7, 6:00 pm    |  |
| Saturday, Feb 8, 9:30 am  |  |
| Friday, Feb 14, 7:00 pm   |  |
| Friday, Feb 21, 7:00 pm   |  |
| Saturday, Feb 22, 9:30 am |  |
| Friday, Feb 28, 7:00 pm   |  |
| Saturday, Mar 1, 9:30 am  |  |

## Social Action

Thank you to all those who donated to our collection of hats! Wellspring was quite pleased.



Our Tzedakah collection for Sharsheret, <https://sharsheret.org/>, will be concluding February 7th. The organization helps those fighting Breast and/or Ovarian cancer.

The Social Action Committee has numerous programs and collections occurring in March, April and May.

We will be holding a food drive for Wellspring during March and April to be completed on Sunday April 13th. This is in conjunction with cleaning out our cabinets in preparation for Pesach. (Passover begins April 12th.) As this is a time for spring cleaning, please consider donations of cleaning products and hygiene as well as food. Starting in March, there will be a bin for donations in the back by the door.

To continue with our spring cleaning, we hope to have a TBS team to join forces with others to help with beach cleaning. Date is still to be determined so keep a lookout for more information on this.

Once again, we hope to have a TBS team for Stand in the Sand, also run by No Place for Hate. For this, the Hull community will stand together to spell out No Place for Hate. Last May we had enough Temple members to form one of the letters. No Place for Hate committee has not set a date yet, so please keep an eye out for this as well.

To prepare for Memorial weekend, we will be sprucing up our flagpole area on the corner of Hadassah and Nantasket. This is the same area we clean for Veterans Day.

If you have any suggestions for the Social Action Committee or would like to help with any of our programs, please email Fran Barth at [franbarth@comcast.net](mailto:franbarth@comcast.net).

**Fran Barth, Chair, Social Action Committee**

## Programming



**TBS Reads** met on January 27 to discuss the book *The Last Rose of Shanghai* by Weina Dai Randel. The book is both a love story and a fictionalized account based on a true story of the experience of Jewish Refugees who were welcomed in Shanghai during the

Holocaust prior to the Japanese occupation. Our next book is *The Flying Camel: Essays on Identity from Women of North African and Middle Eastern Jewish Heritage* by Loolwa Khazzoom. We will discuss it on **Monday, March 24 at 6:30PM**.

**Friday, February 6:00 PM: Motown Musical Shabbat Shira.** Please join us as we celebrate our new members at a special musical Shabbat Shira Kabbalat Shabbat service and Kosher dinner catered by Zayde’s Market. The Rabbis Grossman, our friend Paul Doolittle and new member, Chazzan Robbie Solomon will bring the tunes of Motown to our Friday Night service. You don’t want to miss this! You may **register to join us for dinner** following the service on our website; choices are Chicken Piccata or a vegan choice of Tofu Tacos. Dinner is \$36 per person. Sponsors are welcome.

**Wednesday, February 12 6:45 PM:** Join us for a fun and tasty **celebration of Tu B’Shevat** where we will enjoy a potato bar; baked potatoes with a variety of toppings, the seven species of fruit, fresh and dried fruit, wine, nuts, chocolate and ice cream. Price: free! We encourage you to RSVP so that we can be sure to have enough food!

### Save the Dates:

Thursday, March 13: Purim Celebration and Prime Rib Dinner

Sunday, April 13: Third Annual Pesach Second Night Seder

**Karen Augenstern, Chair, Programming Committee**

## Mitzvah Opportunity!

Ed Ravelson, a great guy in a tough spot, has end stage kidney failure, is on home peritoneal dialysis and is looking for a living kidney donor. Can you help us get the word out so we can find him a kidney? Learn more:

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/share/1KschCAZoAjKPhh1/?mibextid=LQJ4d>

or Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/findekidney?igsh=MTN3cXBqd2xuOXVmeQ==>

or online at [www.MGHLivingDonors.org](http://www.MGHLivingDonors.org) and reference patient Ed Ravelson

TORAH STUDY/ADULT ED/DISCUSSION

Join Rabbi Joshua on Wednesdays at 6:45 pm (in person or on zoom)  
February 5<sup>th</sup>, February 12<sup>th</sup> (Tu B'Shevat Seder), February 26<sup>th</sup>



*Listen – Learn – Share your thoughts!*



CSP 4-Part Online Series

with **Prof. Stephen M. Berk**, live on Zoom from Florida  
*Dedicated in memory of Sergeant William Shemin, z"l*

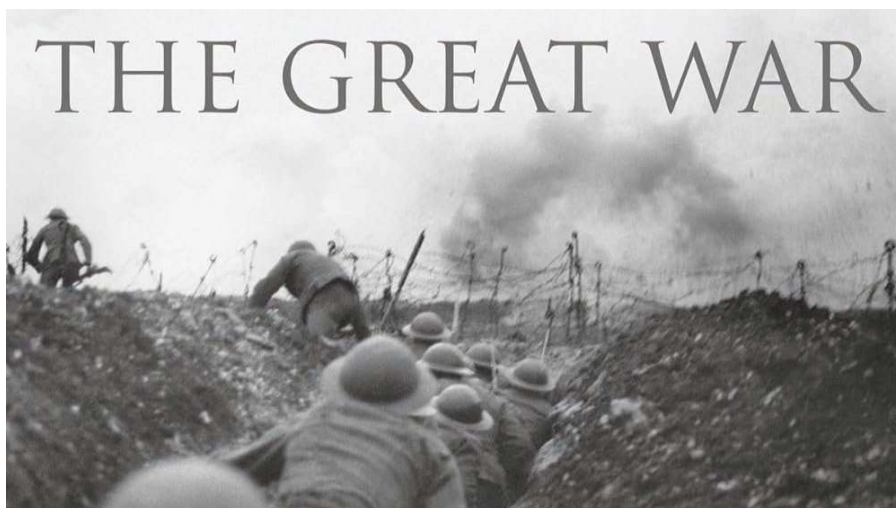
**THE GREAT WAR**

How World War I Shaped the Modern World

**Sundays February 2, 9, 16 & 23**

10:00-11:00 AM PST/1:00-2:00 PM EST/20:00-21:00 Israel Time

Click here to [REGISTER](#)



## Todah Rabbah – Donations

Thank you to all who have made donations in honor or in memory of loved ones and in doing so support our community.

[CLICK HERE FOR OUR ONLINE REQUEST FORM](#)

### In Memory Of

#### Marilyn Breslau

Mary & Scott Belgard  
The Hirschhorns & Liebermans  
Marcia & Paul Rymaszewski

#### Judy Kalish

Mary & Scott Belgard  
Rosalie Fishman  
Sharyn & Mitch Fishman  
Venus & Eric Greene  
Diana Kasunsky  
Susan Perry  
Marcia & Paul Rymaszewski  
Natalie & Jonathan Silverstein  
Beth & Bob Stoloff  
Bonnie Wheelwright & Family

#### Mazal Tov

#### The birth of Chloe Jessica Zager

Mary & Scott Belgard  
Harriet & Patrick Guiney  
Susan Hagstrom  
Marcia & Paul Rymaszewski

#### Get Well/Refuah Shlema

#### Mary & Scott Belgard

Karen & Augie Augenstern



**Save the Date!**  
**Mark the Calendar!**

**Temple Beth Sholom's**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Community**  
**Second Seder**

**Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>**