



Chai Lights

The monthly newsletter of Temple Beth Tikvah

February 2018/
Shevat/Adar 5778

12411 Park Shadows Trail
Houston, TX 77058
281-286-1717

www.tbthouston.com

TBT Board of Directors

President – Stuart Eisen
Executive VP – Steven Levy
Ritual – Deb Nowinski
Finance – Paul Hamer
Education – Cori Novy
Membership – Open
Treasurer – Charles South
Communications – Erin Moeller
Building/Grounds – Mike Howell
Fundraising – Joe Wallack
Member at Large – Jill MacGregor
Secretary – Scott Vickers
Men's Club – Ed Sheinberg
Sisterhood – Nancy Schwartz

Spiritual Leadership

Rabbi Deborah Schloss
rabbi@templebethtikvah.org
Office hours by appointment

Friday Services

Services are held at 6:30 p.m. on the first Friday of each month. Services begin at 7 p.m. on all other Fridays.

Oneg Sponsorship

The TBT Oneg Fund provides catered onegs for Musical Shabbats and for occasions when there is no sponsor. To sponsor an oneg or donate to the fund, please e-mail [Joe Wallack](mailto:Joe.Wallack).

President's Message



February greetings to all of you! I hope that you all managed to stay warm during our "epic" cold-snaps in December and January.

January at TBT brought us the oneg celebrating Priya turning 18. Wow! So many of us remember her bat-mitzvah, and now she will, in a short time, begin her college career. Where has the time gone?

Our latest adult education program began, with David Salinsky talking about the importance of having a will, probate of wills, living wills (advanced directives), and durable power of attorney. We will follow up David's talk with lectures by Rabbi Deborah on Jewish rituals of death and dying, as well as Jewish views of the afterlife. Also in this series, we will hear about financial planning for "the inevitable", as well as take a "field trip" to Houston Jewish Funeral Home. Although not necessarily a cheery subject, we all need as much information as possible to prepare for end-of-life issues, and to help take some of the accompanying burden off of our survivors.

The students in Religious School continue to appear happy and excited to be there. I am hearing good feedback regarding our new curriculum, as well.

The Chicken Soup Cook-Off was a great success. This is an event that is always a good time. If you haven't attended it, be sure to do so next year!

Stay tuned for info about our annual Purim Carnival, held with Shaar Hashalom. The carnival will be held on March 4th. Jack Sasiene will be soliciting our members to sponsor games and rides, to work at the various stations, and to purchase tickets for you and your family to attend. The sponsorships are a HUGE source of revenue for TBT each year. When the call goes out, please help us, if you are able.

Mark your calendars to attend our Congregational Seder, to be held on March 30th at Bay Oaks Country Club. Again, this is always a fun way to celebrate Passover.

Do you know any Jews in the area who are not members of a synagogue? Why don't you invite them to come and check out TBT some Friday night?

Have a great month and I hope to see you at services or one of our events.

Stuart

Men's Club

Please remember that we always welcome new members!

Send **Jed Login** or **Ed Sheinberg** an e-mail if you have ideas for an activity, suggestions, questions or concerns.

The men's club encourages suggestions for speakers to present at some of our 2018 meetings.

If you'd like to volunteer to pick up bagels or contribute any other way, drop Jed a line at TBTMen@jlogin.e4ward.com.

TBT NEEDS YOU



Do you know that TBT's membership is approximately 75-80 families, and our board has 14 positions? So, about 20% of our membership is on the board. With such a small pool to draw from, it is vitally important that more of our members agree to serve for a term or two. There's also nothing preventing two adults from the same family serving at the same time, either!

The next few issues of ChaiLights will feature the job descriptions of some of the board positions. Board members are elected to two-year terms. You will notice that no one position does all the work. By spreading the tasks of running the temple across the board, everyone does a little, to create the whole.

*The **EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT** shall be the 1st Vice President. The duties of the EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT shall be to aid and assist the President in the fulfilling of the presidential duties. The EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT shall run meetings in the absence of the President. The EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT must be Jewish.

*It shall be the duty of the **CHAIRMAN OF THE SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE** to oversee social action activities of the Temple and report to the board.

It shall be the duty of the **RECORDING SECRETARY** to serve as Secretary of the Congregation and of the Board of Directors, keeping the records of both bodies and a Register of all Members of the Congregation.

*These positions will be up for election in May.

Donations



TBT thanks the following members for their generous donations.

- Clay and Michele Moliver

To the Oneg Fund

- Allen Buchner
- Cinnamon Howell
- Paul Hamer

To the General Fund

- Union for Reform Judaism (URJ)
- Becker Family
- Eugene Terry Rev trust

High Holy Days

- Bart & Fay Sackstein

Donations can be mailed to
Temple Beth Tikvah
12411 Park Shadows Trail
Houston, TX 77058.

If you would like to donate to a specific fund, please indicate it on the memo line of your check.

Book Club

Our schedule for the next three months is as follows:

- February 25, 12:15pm at TBT; Jean Cahn to review Amy Tan's *The Bonesetter's Daughter*
- March 25, 1pm at Michele Moliver's home; Michele Moliver to review Laurie Frankel's *This is How it Always Is*
- April 22, 12:15pm at TBT: Judith Oppenheim to review Sholem Aleichem short stories

On the next page is the recipe for our Book Club Vegetarian Entry in today's Soup Competition. Mardy did the cooking, I did the decorations, and Jeanne did the famous quotes test with book giveaway. Pica and Jean also entered.

Shalom,
Judith Oppenheim

Book Club's Vegetarian Soup

Ingredients:

- 5 fresh thyme sprigs (if you want to, you can use dry to taste)
- 4 fresh sage sprigs
- 12 fresh sage leaves
- 2 tsp minced fresh sage
- 1 T plus 1/4 C olive oil
- 1 yellow onion
- 1 carrot, diced
- 1 celery stalk, diced
- 2 cloves minced garlic
- 2 butternut squash, peeled, seeded and cubed (this is where all the work is)
- 5 cups vegetable broth
- 1-1/2 C crustless bread cubes (I can donate these)
- Salt and ground pepper to taste

1. Tie thyme sprigs into a bundle. Place these in a coffee filter and fold up.
2. In large pot, over medium heat, warm 1 T oil. Add onion, carrot, celery and garlic; cook, stirring for 5 minutes. Add butternut squash, 5 C broth and herb bundle from Step 1. Bring to a simmer; cook until squash is tender, 30-40 minutes.
3. Meanwhile, in large sauté pan over medium heat, warm 1/4 C oil. Add sage leaves; cook until dark green and crispy; 30 seconds to 1 minute. Using slotted spoon, transfer fried sage leaves to paper-towel-lined plate. Add bread cubes to same pan; cook, tossing occasionally, until browned and crispy, about 4 minutes; add minced sage during the last minute of cooking. Transfer croutons to paper towel lined plate; season with salt and pepper.
4. When squash is tender, discard herb bundle. Using immersion blender, puree soup. Season with salt and pepper; adjust consistency as needed with more broth.
5. To serve, ladle soup into bowls. Top each portion with croutons and sage leaves. Serves 6 to 8.

Probably we would need to double this recipe (and cut leaves in half - depending on the size of your harvest). Also, HEB is overflowing with fresh sage right now. If this sounds like too much work, we could skip the croutons or the leaves - no need to do both.

Sisterhood Events

- February 9, We (Sisterhood) will honor the Sabbath by gathering together to light the shabbat candles and provide the oneg. We also have a special gift for those families in attendance. Please join us. (host, Nancy S., that's me😊) Watch for an email from me soon to sign up for what you'll bring for the oneg!! I'm really excited for us to host this night and light our TBT Shabbat candles together. We sure hope you can join us.
- March 29, 6 PM until complete, Harriet Hayes hosts the Charoset prep for Passover
- April (date tbd), Brunch at Sundance Grill located in Waterford Harbour (host, Corinne Blancas)
- May (date tbd), Ladies Luncheon to honor Mother's Day (host, Marsha Henderson)

If you know of other interesting events during ANY month, please let us know. We can always have another reason to get together! June, July and August are completely open for suggesting, scheduling and/or hosting an event. And speaking of events, who's interested in jewelry making, Jewish Book Festival, a movie, more rock painting or ???

If you know of someone who's sick or needs our support, please let me know. If you need Sisterhood, call on us. We're here for you! Shalom!

Nancy Schwartz,

832-725-8062

Happy birthday

to the following Sisterhood members!

First, my apology for missing these wonderful gals' birthdays.
We've gotcha' now! Happy Belated Birthday to each of you.



September 19, **Deb Nowinski**

December 6, **Christine Paul**

Happy Birthday to YOU...

January 3, **Myrna Reingold**

January 10, **Marsha Waxman**

January 14, **Priya Fink**

January 21, **Jill McGregor**

January 30, **Audrey Dunegan**

February birthdays???

March 6, **Harriet Hayes**



(Please help me add to the January through March birthdays and beyond...let me know 😊. I'm human and thus, make mistakes and miss things so help me out).



Join us for the 2018 AIPAC Houston Annual Event

Featured Speaker Coming Soon!

Doors Open: 6:30 P.M.

Reception & Program: 7:00 P.M.

Individual Cost: \$50 per person

Table Cost: AIPAC Club Members* are invited to host a table for \$425

Table Cost: AIPAC Club Members* are invited to host a table of ten at the early bird rate of \$425 until December 22, 2017 or \$475 after December 22, 2017.

Please contact Hayley Rosenberg at (832) 380-7710 or hrosenberg@aipac.org for any further questions.

Space is Limited • Reservation Required • Dietary Laws Observed

For more information about this event, please refer to our website at www.aipac.org/HoustonAnnualEvent.

*AIPAC Club Members contribute a minimum of \$1,800 to the annual campaign.

Here are the
2018 Chicken Soup Cookoff
Results

Ten teams competed in our Sisterhood Chicken Soup Cook-Off. All of the soups were excellent!

The winners were:

Best Matzo Ball Soup: Schweddys from Homelessville

Runner-up: Bubbe's Matzo Ball Soup

Best Chicken/Vegetable: Smokin' Chicken Soupmeisters

Runner-up: Visualize Whirled :Peas (awesome name, by the way!)

Best Noodles/Rice: Nerfs

Runner-up: Souper Heros

Best Vegetarian: Marx Brothers

Runner-up: Book Club team

Best International: Souper Bowl Soup Masters

Runner-up: The Cahns

Best Tasting Soup Overall: Souper Bowl Soup Masters

Best Booth Design: Marx Brothers

Grand Slam: Marx Brothers

People's Choice: Nerfs

We had a great crowd and everyone really enjoyed themselves. If you didn't make it to this year's event, you really missed out! Try to make it next year!



Jewish Federation
OF GREATER HOUSTON

Yom Limmud 2018



Sunday, February 18, 2018

9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Hosted by

Congregation Emanu El

1500 Sunset Blvd.