



# Chai Lights

The monthly newsletter of Temple Beth Tikvah

April 2018/  
Nisan/Iyar 5778

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

[www.tbthouston.com](http://www.tbthouston.com)

## TBT Board of Directors

- President** – Stuart Eisen
- Executive VP** – Steven Levy
- Ritual** – Deb Nowinski
- Finance** – Paul Hamer
- Education** – Cori Novy
- Membership** – Christine Paul
- 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](mailto: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:JoeWallack).

## Rabbi's Message



March 30 was a wonderful day for Temple Beth Tikvah members. I was privileged to officiate at the marriage of Sarah Molnar and Brooke Corning, daughter of Sheri and Ken, and brother of Evan, immediately before our congregational seder at Bay Oaks. I wish Sarah and Brooke and their families much happiness as the positive energy from their simcha continues to bless them into the future. Ken made a beautiful chuppah that he and Sheri are happy

to lend out for future weddings!

Thank you to Jill MacGregor for coordinating our seder, to Harriet for hosting Sisterhood's annual haroset making party, to Joe for coordinating our silent auction, to Jon and Myrna for the music, to Stuart and everyone else who schlepped the wine, haggadot, and table decorations to and from Bay Oaks, and to others whom I'm sure I've left out for your efforts to bringing together a festive seder and beautiful time together.



Mitze Chavitz, whom some of you know from our second congregational trip to Israel is a Jewish funeral director in Austin and has been involved with green funerals. She will be in touch with me soon about a date to come to TBT to talk about everything you'd like to know about Jewish funerals and what is this growing trend in green funerals. She has also invited us to visit a unique green cemetery in Bastrop one Sunday. We are in the process of working out details and I'll be back in touch with you in a separate email after Mitze finalizes her dates.

If you are planning or considering coming on our TBT trip to Israel this December and have not been in touch with me, please do so IMMEDIATELY at [rebdeb18@comcast.net](mailto:rebdeb18@comcast.net). It is a wonderful trip which will have mainly new sites for us plus some of the oldies but goodies if you've been on one of my previous Israel trips.

Warmly,  
Rabbi Deborah

## President's Message



Happy April! Spring has sprung, and with it, all of that nasty pollen and the allergic reactions that go with it. Oy!

Our congregation Seder on March 30 was a huge success! Many thanks to Jill MacGregor, Nancy Schwartz, and Deb Nowinski for organizing, setting up, and all the other things that went into making it a success.

While I am thanking folks, I'd like to thank the TBT Men's Club for donating First Aid kits to the temple. We now have nice, small kits in each classroom and a large kit in the kitchen. These are items that we really should have had for years, and it was great that Men's Club stepped up and filled that need.

Our combined Shabbat Service with Shaar Hashalom and featuring Joe Buchanan was enjoyable and set the tone for a peaceful end to the week. Look for information about our next combined service, to be held at TBT on May 18.

The Purim Carnival was outstanding! See the brief note later in this newsletter from Jack Sasiene for details. Everyone who contributed time, money, and service is greatly appreciated!

Do you know that TBT's membership is approximately 70-75 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!

Rabbi Deborah has planned an outstanding trip to Israel, scheduled for December of this year. If you have never been to Israel, this trip includes all the "must-sees". If you have been to The Holy Land in the past, there are many interesting, out of the mainstream activities included. Also, being in December, the temperatures should be very pleasant. Check out the info at <http://proposals.authenticisrael.net/preview/zMnjbbbbc>

Note that registering for the trip by April 20th will net you a savings of \$100/person.

Looking forward to seeing all of you soon!  
Stuart Eisen

## Purim Carnival

Our annual Purim Carnival, co-sponsored with Congregation Shaar Hashalom, was an enormous success! Thanks to an unexpected grant, solicited by the committee, for our "community carnival", from Houston Jewish Federation for \$3000, which CSH and TBT split, we had a record profit. The total net income from the carnival, for TBT, was \$6941! HOLY COW JACK....that's a lot of money.....**yep a record fundraiser!!** Working with CSH over the years on this has proven quite profitable and has made for a large Jewish community event.

Special thanks to Dave Salinsky, Cinnamon and Mike Howell and Nancy Harris for their help. Also, thank you to Steve Levy, for the generators that he donates every year.

Lastly thanks to all the members who participated. Everyone working together made this all possible.

Thanks again,  
Jack Sasiene



## Men's Club – Bike Maintenance Presentation

The Men's Club is sponsoring a presentation by the Bike Barn on Sunday, April 15 at 11:00 a.m. The talk will cover basic bike maintenance and how to fix everyday problems while on the road.



Please remember that Men's Club 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](mailto:TBTMen@jlogin.e4ward.com).



## Ritual News

Passover has come and gone. Thanks to Jill MacGregor who did a fabulous job of coordinating it all for us.

We had a great time at Harriet Hayes home making the charoset and it brought back memories of being with the ones we loved so many years ago – and isn't that what Passover is all about – the continuation of our story from generation to generation!

Gathering together in the kitchen passing down the recipes that fill the home with so much joy and laughter kicked off the Passover holiday for those who came to help. Also, to those in Sisterhood who set up Bay Oaks the day of the Seder: the tables were beautiful! And to Stuart Eisen who kept the steady ship!

Big shout out to Rabbi Schloss and Myrna Reingold and Jon Zelon for the lovely service. Also, thanks to Joe Wallack for a great Silent Auction and to those who donated! I hope everyone enjoyed themselves!



Our schedule for Shabbat Services this April:

- April 13 – Musical Shabbat service with Myrna at 7 p.m.
- April 20 – Service led by Audrey Dunegan at 7 p.m.
- April 27 – Service led Rabbi Schloss at 7 p.m.

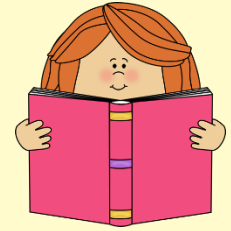
Hope you got a chance to see the Blue Bonnets this year, they were exquisite! See you at TBT!

**Deborah Nowinski- [denowinski@gmail.com](mailto:denowinski@gmail.com)**  
**VP/RITUAL**

## Book Club

The Book Club Schedule for the next three months is as follows:

- April 22, 10am at Judith's home.  
Review of Chava (in Tevye's Daughters) and Tallis Koton (in Railroad Stories) by Sholem Aleichem. This was the meeting that got rained out by H. Harvey at the end of August
- May 6, 12:15pm at TBT Library  
Review of Prague Winter by Madeline Albright
- June 24, Brunch at Whiskey Cake in Baybrook Mall (time TBD)  
Planning meeting for next 6 to 9 months.  
<https://www.opentable.com/r/whiskey-cake-baybrook-gc-friendswood?page=1>



Shalom,  
Judith Oppenheim

## Sisterhood News

### Upcoming Events:

Sunday April 22 @ 1 p.m. - Sisterhood Brunch (with brief meeting). Sundance Grill in Watergate Marina (South side of Clear Lake), Host: Please RSVP to Corinne Blancas 832-524-1581

Sunday May 6 @ 12:30 p.m. - "Mother's Day" celebration and "Aunt" Rita's Birthday surprise! (with brief meeting). Cafe' Express (northeast corner area of Bay Area and I-45), Host: Please RSVP to Marsha Henderson 832-425-6245.

I have received interest from 3, maybe 4 people regarding the self-defense class. I need at least 10 people to hold the class. If interested, please do reply immediately. Ladies, do you have any friends that might also like to attend? The instructor grew up in Israel and served in the IDF. He is an expert in his field and was an outstanding instructor. I learned a great deal about how to be prepared to defend yourself if necessary while presenting yourself as only attempting to diffuse the situation. This class is for women and men so husbands and friends of both sexes are invited to attend. This course is also available for children at a different time if there's interest. Please contact me asap to let me know if you are seriously interested in attending one or more sessions. I would like to schedule sessions (maybe 3 or 4 Sunday afternoons at TBT) this summer. If we have several sessions over a couple months we are more likely to practice and make this part of our muscle memory...meaning we'll use it if needed without having to think about what to do!! I need to schedule this with the instructor well in advance so I wanted to find out the level of interest first. The cost will depend on the number of sessions to which we commit. I will tell you that the fee is reasonable, especially for what you get out of the short sessions.

We have an opportunity to shop and tour Celebration Company in Houston. I had a private tour recently and am now hooked on shopping there - great gifts and you're contributing to our Jewish Community in many ways. This is a MUST DO...reallllly! Let's go for brunch then tour and shop, or shop then have lunch...who's interested? Contact me...Nancy Schwartz 832-725-8062, text, call or email me at nanceschwartz@gmail.com

How about more jewelry making - beading jewelry or making glass mezuzas...again, let me know of your interest. We have some talented beaders now and I have someone who teaches small groups how to make beautiful mezuzas. AND, we might be overdue for another rock painting party for adults. Please respond asap if interested and I'll get some optional dates back to you.

Shalom and be well,  
Nancy Schwartz

## Happy birthday



To the following sisterhood members:

April 7 - Rabbi Deborah Schloss  
Anyone else have an April birthday?

May 7 - Our (Mardy's) Aunt Rita  
Any other birthdays in May??

Belated Happy Birthday to Joanna Sasiene, March 25

Correction - Harriet Hayes' birthday is March 6, not the 7, as I mistakenly wrote in the March ChaiLights.

We still hope you had a wonderful day, week and year ahead!

**To submit a photo or article to next month's ChaiLights newsletter,  
please e-mail [Erin Moeller](mailto:Erin Moeller) by Friday, April 20.**



## TBT is going to Israel this December!

Join your TBT family for another unforgettable trip.

For more information, please see

<http://proposals.authenticisrael.net/preview/zMnjbbbbc>