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# **ChaiLights**

The monthly newsletter of Temple Beth Tikvah

October 2018  
Tishrei/Cheshvan 5779

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[Visit the TBT Web site](#)

## **Coming Soon! Saturday Morning Torah Study October 20, 10-11 a.m. at TBT**

Read parshah Lech/Lecha - Genesis 12:1 to 17:27  
and come ready to discuss.

Bring a vegetarian/dairy dish to share.  
No fee for members.



## **Rabbi's Message**

Thank you to all who contributed to make our Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur services the best that they could be. We were blessed to have Cantor Francyne as our cantorial soloist and look forward to her continued participation in our High Holy Day services and a few Shabbat services during the year as she is available. Please enjoy the pictures below from our holiday

celebrations.

Disappointingly our Sukkot services needed to take place inside instead of outdoors in our permanent sukkah due to the wet grounds at TBT. But we made the best of it and enjoyed shaking the lulav and etrog inside as we added poetry about nature and spoke about the timeless themes of Sukkot during our services. We appreciate Mike adding lighting to our sukkah which we were able to enjoy looking at from inside TBT.

We will celebrate Simchat Torah during our Family service Friday October 5 followed by a potluck dinner. Please consider making flags to bring to services. They can be made simply by decorating an 8 1/2 by 11 piece of paper and attaching it to an empty paper towel roll. Nancy H. will bring small apples that we can attach to the top of our flags.

Our adult education class on Jewish Views of Life After Death began on Sunday September 16 at 10 am. For the first class I began speaking about what is a Jewish soul and its different components. Class on Sunday morning September 30 continued talking about the rest of the 5 levels of our soul according to mystical Judaism and then we will discuss the book, the book Does the Soul Survive? A Jewish Journey to Belief in the Afterlife, Past Lives, and Living with Purpose by Rabbi Elie Kaplan Spitz. It is available inexpensively on Amazon. If you haven't read Many Lives, Many Masters by Dr. Brian Weiss I recommend that book as well as I will be referring to his research throughout our class which continues October 7, October 21 and at least through October 28. Please RSVP to Rabbi Deborah by texting me at 832-978-4624 if you have not attended and would like to join us.

Please let me know if you'd like to attend the below program at Beth

Yeshurun co-sponsored by CBY and AIPAC. I'm planning to attend and would be delighted to meet you there.

It is best to text or call on my cell if you want to reach me as email is still a bit hard for me right now. Until I'm able to resume driving, my office hours have temporarily shifted to Friday afternoon until shortly before services start. Please call or text me at 832-978-4624 if you'd like to set something up. I am also available for phone appointments.

Warmly,  
Rabbi Deborah



## President's Message

Shana tovah! September was quite the busy month. Rabbi Deborah led us in a wonderful set of High Holy Day services. We were also so happy to welcome Cantor Francyne Jacobs-Davis, who not only provided excellent singing, but terrific Torah-chanting. We also welcomed back Andrea Warren, as the piano accompanist. Myrna also graced us with her talents. There were so many people who contributed to the success of our holidays, it's impossible to name everyone, so forgive me if I don't mention everyone by name.

Of course, Deb Nowinski, our VP Ritual did so much! Anna Oliver assisted Reb Deb in her preparations, after Reb's eye surgery.

Judith Oppenheim organized and printed our Book of Remembrance. Nancy Schwartz got so many people together before Rosh Hashana to set up. Mike and Cinnamon Howell did so much, including getting the rooms organized for the break-fast. Thank you to everyone who provided check-in and ushering. Thank you to everyone who participated in the services, doing readings and bimah activities. A big thank you to Jon Zelon for schlepping his keyboard to the temple, and making sure the sound system was set up, and to Eljay for everything that he does, always! And of course, thanks to Jill MacGregor for organizing the break-fast list and to all those who brought delicious food. You know it's a success when the police officer not assigned to the final services showed up to eat with us!

In addition to our usual Friday night services and all of the holidays, we also had a special Havdalla service at Duo Winery and our Sukkot service.

Rabbi Deborah continued her series on Jewish Death/Dying with sessions dealing with the Jewish view of the afterlife. Feel free to attend, even if you have not been to previous sessions. If you are interested in attending, please get a copy of the book "Does the Soul Survive?" by Rabbi Elie Kaplan Spitz. The schedule for October is the 7th, 21st, and 28th, all at 9:45 a.m. Religious school began in September and we have a great group of kiddos attending! Thank you to all of the teachers who give up their Sunday mornings for the kids.

Did you see the [Houston Chronicle article](#), featuring TBT? If not, please check it out!

The next meeting of the TBT board will be on October 10 at 7 p.m.

Please join us for services every Friday night. The first Friday of the month starts at 6:30 p.m. and all others begin at 7:00. We'd love to see you!

If you haven't heard, we will be saying bon voyage to Nancy Schwartz, as she embarks on a huge adventure, teaching in China for a year. We look forward to hearing about this amazing opportunity, as she keeps in touch via Facebook. We will all miss her, but time is going by so fast, she'll be back before you know it! Thank you, Nancy, for your years of leadership with Sisterhood, and welcome Harriet Hayes, as the new Sisterhood president!

Have a great month, everyone!  
Stuart Eisen, TBT President

### **Book Club**

#### **October**

Our October selection is different than what we originally scheduled. Since the JCC Book Festival is featuring Michele's book, The Weight of Ink, as their community read on Monday, November 5 (8pm) - the group is considering going to this lecture in lieu of (or in addition to) Michele's home on October 28.

#### **November**

JCC Book Festival  
November 3-13

<https://www.erjcchouston.org/arts/jewish-book-arts-festival/>

**December**

We are taking December off and resuming our schedule in January.

**January**

Phyllis will review Sisters in Law: How Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg Went to the Supreme Court and Changed the World, by Linda Hirshman on January 27.

**Thank you,**

**Judith P. Oppenheim**

**TBT**  
**Board of Directors**

President – Stuart Eisen

Executive VP – Cinnamon  
Howell

Ritual – Deb Nowinski

Finance – Paul Hamer

Education – Cori Novy

Membership – Christine Paul

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Fundraising – Joe Wallack

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Member at Large – Jerry Cahn  
Secretary – Scott Vickers  
Men’s Club – Ed Sheinberg  
Sisterhood – Harriet Hayes

**Spiritual Leadership**

Rabbi Deborah Schloss  
[rabbi@templebethtikvah.org](mailto:rabbi@templebethtikvah.org)  
Office hours by appointment

**Shabbat Services**

**October:**

October 5 at 6:30 p.m.  
Family Shabbat

October 12 at 7 p.m.  
Musical Shabbat

October 19 at 7 p.m.  
with Rabbi Schloss

October 26 at 7 p.m.  
with Rabbi Schloss

**November:**

November 2 at 6:30 p.m.  
Family Shabbat

November 9 at 7 p.m.  
Musical Shabbat

November 16 at 7 p.m.  
with Rabbi Schloss

November 23 at 7 p.m.  
with Rabbi Schloss

November 30 at 7 p.m.  
with Rabbi Schloss

**Oneg Sponsorship**

The TBT Oneg Fund provides catered onegs for musical shabbats and occasions when there is no sponsor.

To sponsor an oneg or donate to the fund, please contact [Joe Wallack](#).