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# ***ChaiLights***

The monthly newsletter of Temple Beth Tikvah

February 2019  
Sh'vat/Adar I 5779

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[Visit the TBT Web site](#)

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## ***Annual Chicken Soup Cookoff***

If you walked into the Temple on Sunday, January 27, you were enveloped in the great smells of soups and spices at the annual Chicken Soup Cookoff ! Not to mention colorful booths and creative costumes by those in the cookoff contest!

Much thanks to Nancy Harris and Sisterhood & judges for this very fun event! Congrats to all the winners...but the real winners were those who got to partake in eating all the different soups and enjoying the revelry! It was a delicious time!!



## ***President's Message***

It seems like I was just writing my January message, and here we are in February!

What a great time we had in Israel! My only regret is that more of you could not join us. Israel was fascinating, awe-inspiring, at times overwhelming, fun, and an experience everyone should have at some time in their lives. I am so glad that I was finally able to go.

We were honored to have Reverend Don Piper, author of "90 Minutes in Heaven" as our guest speaker. Don was in a "fatal" car accident 30 years ago. Somehow, he managed to come back from the brink, but with very keen memories of being in Heaven. It was quite a story, especially coming from his own mouth.

Rabbi Deborah and Jill MacGregor represented TBT well at a Martin Luther King service, held at Bay Area Unitarian Church. There were clergy from just about every denomination represented, and they all were quite inspiring.

Everyone enjoyed the Chicken Soup Cook-Off. Congrats to all of the entrants and to the winners!

Plans are underway for the Purim Carnival. By now, you should have received at least one request to sponsor a game or ride. The carnival is our biggest fund-raiser, and it can't be done without your help. We will also be requesting helpers to "man" the games. Please help in any way that you can. Many thanks to Mardy Schweitzer, our ticket sponsor, and Houston Jewish Funerals, as our main carnival sponsor. In exchange for their sponsorship, HJF will be coming to TBT in the near future, to talk about pre-need funeral plans. Look for that date in coming communications.

I would like to continue to urge you to make donations to our new Security Fund. These funds will be used to pay for any times that we need our fine Pasadena Police officers to help us. Thank you in advance, for keeping this

fund in your mind as you donate to TBT.

Finally, I would like to remind you that your TBT board is here to represent YOU! If you are concerned about something, or want to commend someone, please let us know, in writing. If you would like to be anonymous, Mike Howell is making a "suggestion box" that will be placed in a visible area. It would also be nice, if you have a concern, if you would make possible suggestions, too.

See you soon!

Stuart

## *Purim is coming soon!*

Purim is right around the corner on March 22. If you would like to participate in the Purim Play, please e-mail Ritual VP Deb Nowinski at [denowinski@gmail.com](mailto:denowinski@gmail.com)...its gonna be FUN!!!



### ***Rabbi's Message***

It's always nice to connect with area clergy, and what a meaningful time Jill MacGregor and I had participating in an interfaith service honoring the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. at Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church (see the picture below).

It's also wonderful connecting with Shaar HaShalom and Rabbi Stuart

Federow and I have planned our next joint service for Friday night March 15th at our temple! Please bring a dairy or vegetarian plate to share.

Our current Adult Education classes is a discussion of selected chapters of the 2018 book Rise and Kill First: The Secret History of Israel's Targeted Assassinations by Ronen Bergman. It is an interesting and thought provoking read and is available on Amazon. Remember to order on AmazonSmile and choose Temple Beth Tikvah as your charity so we can receive a very small percentage of your purchase!

Classes will continue on Sundays February 3 and February 24th from 9:30 to 10:30 am. It's not too late to join us!

*Yom Limmud*, Houston's Jewish Day of Learning, will take place February 17 at Congregation Beth Yeshurun, 4525 Beechnut Blvd., Houston from 9:00 to 4:30 pm. I will be teaching a session on Jewish Views of the Afterlife so if you missed our Adult Education series on this topic and are interested in learning more, please join me there! If you haven't already signed up, forms are available on our welcome table or feel free to sign up through the Jewish Federation

website. The day concludes with a concert by the Maccabeats beginning at 3 pm. If you haven't heard them, they put on a spirited and fun concert. I hope to see you there!

Saturday February  
23 from 10:00 to

11:00 a.m. will be our next Torah study; *Ki Tisa* is the Torah portion. Feel free to bring a light dish to share.

Some of you may have noticed a duck has laid several eggs in our big vase outside. We have moved it away from the door, but please make sure your children don't touch the eggs and hopefully we will be blessed to welcome its babies in the near future.

Warmly,  
Rabbi Deborah



## ***MLK Day Interfaith Service***

TBT participated in an interfaith service at Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church on January 20 to commemorate Martin Luther King Day. Thank you to everyone who attended this important community event. We look forward to organizing more interfaith services with our neighbors in the future.

## **Book Club**

**February 24 at 12:15 p.m. in the TBT Library**

Christine Paul reviews Ruby Namdar's *The Ruined House*

**March 31 at 12:15 p.m. in the TBT Library**

Group discussion about *Rise and Kill First: The Secret History of Israel's Targeted Assassinations*

**April 28 at 12:15 p.m. in the TBT Library**

Jean Cahn reviews *Killers of the Flower Moon*

## **Torah Study**

Our next Torah study will be Sunday, February 23 from 10 to 11 a.m. in the TBT library. The Torah portion is Ki Tisa. Please bring a snack to share and come ready for a lively and informative discussion.

### **TBT Board of Directors**

President – Stuart Eisen

Executive VP –

Cinnamon Howell

Ritual – Deb Nowinski

Finance – Paul Hamer

Education – Cori Novy

Membership – Christine Paul

Treasurer – Charles South

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Mike Howell

Fundraising – Joe Wallack

Social Action – Jill McGregor

Member at Large – Jerry Cahn

Secretary – Scott Vickers

Men's Club – Ed Sheinberg

Sisterhood – Harriet Hayes

**Spiritual Leadership**

Rabbi Deborah Schloss

[rabbi@templebethikvah.org](mailto:rabbi@templebethikvah.org)

Office hours by appointment

**February**  
**Shabbat Services**

**February 1**

**6:30 p.m**

Family shabbat

## **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](#).