



Rabbi's Message

Rabbi Lisa Hochberg-Miller



For almost 900 Shabbat evenings and 900 Shabbat mornings we have celebrated together, letting Cantor Michael's voice, guitar, and piano become the soundtrack to our spiritual life.

What he has brought to you, in these 18 years, has been a blessing, one that perhaps in recent years, has been overlooked. For almost 900 Shabbat evenings and 900 Shabbat mornings we have celebrated together, letting Michael's voice, guitar, and piano become the soundtrack to our spiritual life. It has just become routine that guests come to our congregation and inevitably comment on how uplifting and joyful our music is- and how amazing our Cantor is. Michael has invited our love of prayer to deepen. Just as Cantor Ralph nurtured Steve Perren to accompany him vocally, it has been a joy for so many of us to watch as Michael nurtured Robin Faigin into her love of prayer and her beautiful competence as a prayer leader, with guitar and voice. That he has welcomed so many congregant musicians over the years to play along on an erev Shabbat speaks to his wise heart at understanding the role music plays in spiritual expression. The creative music he has composed for us—and the creative liturgy he has written over the years—has touched us, as much as the chazzanut and contemporary melodies he has brought to life in our sanctuary.

As May arrives, it brings a certain reality: Cantor Michael begins his final two months serving our congregation. I am so filled with gratitude for the gifts of Cantor's mind and heart, many of which are apparent to congregants, and many of which have been in the form of professional partnership that we have forged with each other. Many of my colleagues have good relationships and partnerships with their cantor, but I like to think that the respect, professional guidance and support we have cultivated over the years is rather rare. Michael has always been a serious and considered sounding board for me—whether I am wrestling with sermon ideas, torah insights, questions about liturgy or creative worship ideas. He has challenged me as we've reconsidered B'nai Mitzvah training, torah school standards, visions of leadership and more. Our conversations are never self-serving; they are always from a perspective of growing the congregation, the community or the rabbi to the high vision he holds for "the ideal." That is why I have come to rely on his wisdom and have trusted our partnership for 18 years. I count these years as a blessing, and I would not be the rabbi I am without him as my colleague.

262 B'nai Mitzvah students he has trained for us—and every one led the congregation in worship with competence and confidence. How many funerals has he sat at the piano, to sing The Lord is My Shepherd, and bring us comfort? How many weddings has he chanted the Sheva Brachot and given us goosebumps? I am grateful for every one of those. Cantor has brought the music to make the service special for each of our 179 confirmands, babynamings, special anniversaries, conversions-whenver we have stood at the ark to express our feelings to God, he has been a part of our lifecycle moments.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

ADULT ED

4 Keys to Happiness

Tuesday May 3, 10, 17 and 24 at 7:00 p.m.
TEMPLE BETH TORAH

iEngage: Jewish Values

and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
Sunday, May 22 at 10:00 a.m.

PROGRAMS

Family to Family**

Sunday, May 1 at 6:30 a.m.
DOWNTOWN VENTURA

Yom HaShoah Concert

Sunday, May 1 at 1:00 p.m.
TEMPLE BETH TORAH

Food Share

Every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.
TEMPLE BETH TORAH

River Haven Food Drop Off

Monday, May 2 before 3:00 p.m.
TEMPLE BETH TORAH KITCHEN

Tot Shabbat

Friday, May 6, 6:00 p.m.
TEMPLE BETH TORAH

TBT Book Club

Saturday, May 7 at 12:30 p.m.
TEMPLE BETH TORAH

MEETINGS

AA Meeting

Every Thursday at 8:00 p.m.
Temple Beth Torah

Brotherhood Meeting

Monday, May 2, 6:00 p.m.
TEMPLE BETH TORAH

Ritual Committee Meeting

Tuesday, May 3, 6:00 p.m.
TEMPLE BETH TORAH LIBRARY

HR Meeting

Thursday, May 12, 6:30 p.m.
TEMPLE BETH TORAH

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TBT 5776:
*Jewish Community
Jewish Life
Jewish Belonging*



Rabbi's Message

continued from page 1

For 18 years our Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur have held majesty because of his vocal power and presence. That he and Elana helped to bring order and discipline to choir is evident. We have been blessed with a ba'alei torah, and a ba'alei tkiah; those qualities we might tend to overlook—Michael's extraordinary dexterity reading and chanting Hebrew, and blowing shofar.

We would fall short of understanding Michael's gifts if we reduced him to his guitar or his vocal skills. To watch him teach prayers and talk about Judaism, God and prayer to our students on Wednesday afternoons is really the heart of the matter. What he brings to every discussion of torah is refreshing, insightful, sometimes irreverent, but always reflecting his love of Jewish intellectual engagement and torah's meaning. Shabbat Torah study is richer for his presence. And his sermons are always thought provoking. He is my teacher, as much as I have been his.

So how do we make the most of these next two months? Michael would have one answer for you: come to Shabbat. The best way to thank Michael for all he has given you, the best way to reminisce about your simchas that he was a part of, the best way to hold in your mind's ear his beautiful voice and extraordinary guitarist ability is to come do what we do best—celebrate Shabbat. I know that this will be the part of Temple Beth Torah Michael will miss the most, our heartfelt Shabbat experience. Come wish him well as he moves on with his cantorate. His presence in our sanctuary will continue to be a blessing, as we remember the countless joyous times we have encountered Cantor there. We are so much the richer for his 18 years with us! May God's blessings continue to surround him, Debbie, and the Anatole family.

TBT OFFICE CLOSURES

Monday, May 30
Memorial Day

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, May 22, 4:00 p.m.



Yom HaShoah Concert

Sunday, May 1
1:00 p.m.

TEMPLE BETH TORAH

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Friday, May 6

PARSHAT ACHAREI MOT

6:00 p.m. Tot Shabbat

No Shabbat Dinner

7:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, May 7

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service

11:15 a.m. Torah Study - in the library

Shabbat Potluck Book Group to follow

Friday, May 13

PARSHAT KEDOSHIM

7:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, May 14

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service

11:15 a.m. Torah Study - in the library

Friday, May 20

PARSHAT EMOR

6:00 p.m. Torah School enrichment program

6:30 p.m. BYODairy Dinner

7:00 p.m. Torah School-led Shabbat Service

Saturday, May 21

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service

Friday, May 27

PARSHAT BEHAR

7:30 p.m. Erev Shabbat Service

Saturday, May 28

EREV SHAVUOT

10:00 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service

11:15 a.m. Torah Study - in the library



No Congregational Dinner First Friday, May 6

6:00 p.m. - Tot Shabbat

7:30 p.m. - Erev Shabbat Service

President's Message

Liz Hoffman



UPCOMING EVENTS CONT'D FROM PG. 1

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, May 12 at 7:00 p.m.

TEMPLE BETH TORAH

House Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 19 at 7:00 p.m.

TEMPLE BETH TORAH

Social Action Committee

Thursday, May 19 at 7:00 p.m.

TEMPLE BETH TORAH

Professional Support Meeting

Thursday, May 19 at 7:00 p.m.

TEMPLE BETH TORAH

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, May 22 at 4:00 p.m.

TEMPLE BETH TORAH

Planning Meeting

Thursday, May 26, 7:00 p.m.

TEMPLE BETH TORAH

*offsite event

Need Space on Your Bookshelf?

by Ada Feldman (mitzvah-librarian)

Notes from the Mitzvah Librarian: Our Redistribution Project

I want to thank our TBT community for recycling their *Gates of Repentance* prayer books. Your response has been wonderful.

Bill and Gretchen Schmidt, former TBT members (who remember us fondly and send their regards), have been very helpful in finding new homes for our books, as they visit other congregations when they travel. And, if you too know of any congregations that would like to have this gift, e-mail Ana Feldman.

If you have not yet recycled, I am still collecting books. Please leave them in our TBT library (as you enter, in the back, on the right side, top shelf) with or without a note saying: for Ada Feldman.

Community Seder Appreciations!

by Karen Kinrose and Lynne Livingston

If it weren't for so many generous congregants, our affordable community Passover Seders of the last five years just wouldn't be possible. From the ladies, organized yearly by Gail Jacobs, who come to help set up the beautifully-laid tables, to the congregants who graciously step forward each year to help underwrite the expenses, to Wendy Collings, owner of Danny's Deli, who provides us stellar food and service each year—all of you are essential to providing everyone at Temple Beth Torah the opportunity to experience the Passover story as we are called to do.

While other congregations host Seders that many cannot afford to attend, my co-chair and I find the support and participation by so many at Temple Beth Torah to be a wonderful affirmation of what makes our temple community so special.

Our thanks also to Marion Towar who organized the children's activities again this year, and to Deni Jones and Aurora Shapiro who helped in purchasing food and in so many ways to make this year's Seder a success. And of course, our Rabbi Lisa and Cantor Michael made the event a joyous and meaningful one enjoyed by all!

Brotherhood

Bob Braitman

We hope there are similar large attendances at future brunches.

What a month it has been for members of the Brotherhood! My chest is kveling!

First things first, on April 8 members of the Brotherhood—under the skillful direction of Harvey Harris—presented the Friday Night Shabbat service. Sixteen members participated in the prayer service, in both Hebrew and English. Cantor Michael Anatole occupied a key role in keeping the services connected and moving forward. It is always good to have Rabbi Seth on the bema, and it is not every Shabbat that Rabbi Lisa is called up for an Aliyah.

The post service Oneg must have been a hit because people stayed around and visited for a much longer time than usual. Mary and I didn't get home until almost 11:00 pm.

Two days later the 60 people who attended our Sunday morning Bagel Brunch were able to watch a video of Marian Yablon talking about the years she and her husband Al were members of Temple Beth Torah. Their son Gilbert introduced

members of the Yablon family and presented legacy gifts to both the Brotherhood and the Rabbi Discretionary Fund from the Yablon Family Trust.

The brunch speaker that morning was Appellate Court Justice Steve Perren, a long-time member of Temple Beth Torah. In recognition of his prior outstanding service as the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court the Ventura County Juvenile Justice Center bears his name. Our Temple community of course knows him as a valued member of our Temple choir. He explained with erudition and humor to those present at the brunch how the overall judicial system works.

We hope there are similar large attendances at future brunches. There is no brunch in May since the second Sunday is Mother's Day but mark your calendar to attend the brunch on June 12 when the speaker will be Lanny Kaufer talking about his personal involvement in our country's he civil rights movement.

To become more active in the Brotherhood please attend our Brotherhood dinner meetings on the first Monday of the month. If you would like more information I encourage you to email me at brotherhood@templebethtorah.com.

LENDING A HELPING HAND

by Elena Devos

Life happens, and often unexpectedly: you need a wheelchair; maybe you need a shower stool; what if you need a walker or some other piece of medical equipment? Well we just might have your solution. The Lending a Hand Program has created a list of medical equipment available for loan to Temple members from Temple members.



The list is on the Temple website at TempleBethTorah.com.

So remember—before you spend money on new equipment, before your insurance company gets around to processing your claim, check with Temple Beth Torah's Lending a Hand Program. Check our list to see if we have what you need. Why spend, why wait? If we have it, it's yours to use for as long as you need. Then you simply return it to the member from whom you borrowed it.

And if you own medical equipment you're not using, please contact the group. Let us put you on our list so you can share the wealth! We welcome your participation.

LEARN & ENGAGE

by Berta Defren Steele

Look for the flyers that give more details on our offerings and join us in discovering new ways to live Jewishly and spiritually.

Sunday, May 1; 1:00 p.m.: Community Yom HaShoah Concert: From Darkness to Light —Music as Resistance & Remembrance. The Los Angeles Zimriyah Choral, under the direction of Nick Strimple, performs Jewish music and music of the Jewish experience throughout time. Sponsored by Jewish Federation of Ventura County.

Tuesdays, May 3, 10, 17, 24; 7:00-8:30 p.m.: The Four Keys to Happiness. Join Fern Perusse-Filzen as she leads us in connecting our individual purpose and values to Jewish purpose and values, to understand how to nurture and grow healthy relationship, to expand our understanding of the myriad ways toward Tzedakah, and to recognize what may be

blocking us from moving toward forgiveness.

Saturday, May 7; 12:30-2:00 p.m.: Shabbat Book Discussion and Potluck: Our final book discussion of the year, facilitated by Deborah Pollack, is *Bee Season* by Myla Goldberg. This is the story of 9-year-old Eliza Naumann and her father Saul after she wins her school's spelling bee. The last word spelled in this novel is "origami," and it neatly describes the pair's relationship: beautiful, complex, and filled with sharp edges that stab if one fails to take care.

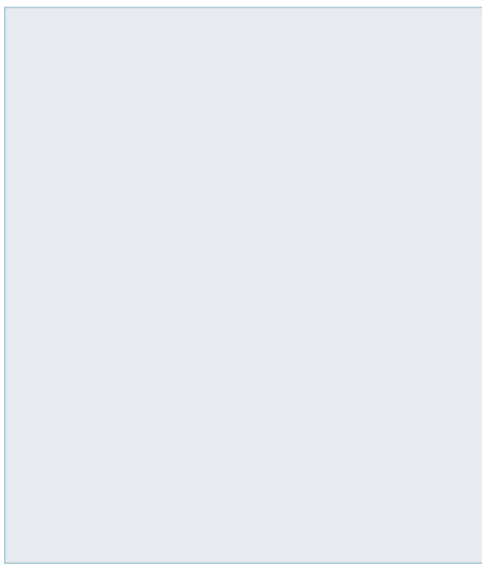
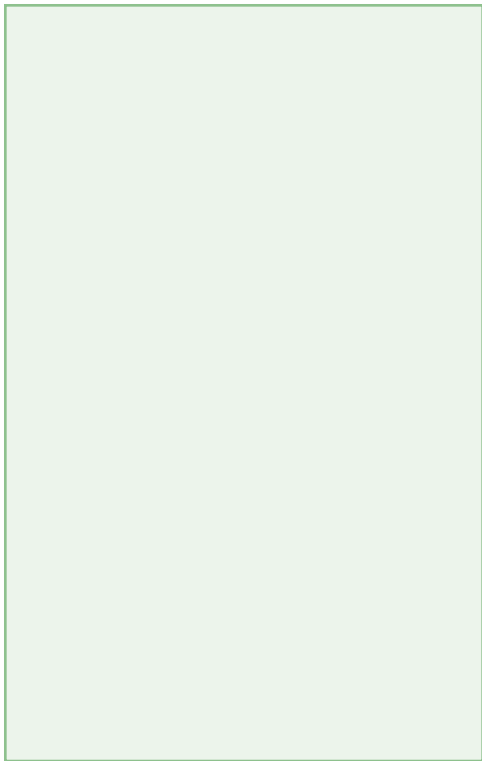


Sundays, May 22, June 5; 10:00-11:30 a.m.: iEngage: Jewish Values and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. The Hartman Institute has

produced another critically acclaimed curriculum to bring the issues and challenges of Israel forward for thoughtful exploration in its iEngage series. This 13 Sunday session course continues in Fall 2016 and is led by Rabbi Lisa Hochberg-Miller. Cost: \$50 for course materials.

Please note, unless otherwise indicated, classes are free for TBT members and \$10 for non-members.

**Awake your inner Torah—
Come learn with us!**



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Education & Family Programs

Marisa Schrier



Almost one hundred people of all ages attended and filled the room with great energy, laughter and movement.

Thank all of our TBT congregants who have come out to support our Torah School events this past month. The community had the amazing opportunity to meet and listen to Holocaust survivor, Lee Edwards, on April 6th. This was the most well-attended community program that I have seen at TBT! Ms. Edwards shared her experience leaving Germany on the Kinder Transport, as well as her amazing ability to look at life with appreciation and joy for its gifts. This was an amazing and important learning experience for our students, along with local high school students who also joined us. The opportunities to meet and talk to a survivor are fleeting. We must listen to them carefully, as it will be our responsibility to share their stories in the future.

On April 9th, The Jewish Federation of Ventura County and the PJ Library sponsored a fantastic evening of music and fun. Jason Mesches (Oneg Time!) led a beautiful Havdalah service and entertained all of us with a fabulous concert. Almost one hundred people of all ages attended and filled the room with great energy, laughter and movement. Young ones and their grandparents alike danced and wiggled. The song, "Oneg Kid,"

was a huge hit! The song is about waiting for services to be over, so it will be Oneg time, and most importantly, black-and-white cookies. Needless to say, many there (of all ages) found that relatable. And keeping with the message of the song, there were black-and-white cookies for all after the concert! Thank you to all who attended, and a special thanks to many of our Board members who were there for the fun.

We have some wonderful occasions coming up. We are having a celebration on May 15th, for Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day, during Torah School hours, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. There will be Israeli dancing and food! Everyone is invited to join us for this fun event.

Confirmation will take place on Saturday, June 11th. I am told this is always a lovely service and am looking forward to attending. I am eager to absorb the wisdom offered by our confirmands, and be reminded of our commitment to perpetuate Judaism l'dor vador, from generation to generation. Please join me for this joyful and inspiring morning.

L'Shalom,
Marisa Schrier

Torah School Family Shabbat Friday, May 20

6:00 p.m. Torah School enrichment program
6:30 p.m. BYODairy dinner
7:00 p.m. Torah School-led Shabbat Service

Torah School Calendar

Torah School on:

Sundays: May 1, 15, 22
Wednesdays: May 4, 11, 18, 25

No Torah School on:

Sundays: May 8, 29

Mishpacha:

Sundays: May 15, 22

CAMP HAVERIM

MAKING FRIENDS FOR LIFE

by Marlena Schumacher, Director

Shalom Haverim! I am excited to announce that I will be directing Camp Haverim again this year! Last summer was amazing and now I am looking forward to creating more memorable experiences this summer.

Our camp will offer traditional camp activities such as arts and crafts, games, sports, water play and of course silly camp songs! We will also offer Jewish cultural and religious activities, Shabbat services on Fridays and teaching Hebrew blessings.

Camp Haverim will be offered for 6 weeks starting from June 13-July 22. Each week will have a different theme such as Art, Cooking, Soccer, Tikkun Olam, Drama and Science. Camp is for children ages 2-8 years old and we also offer a Parent & Me class for children ages 2-2.9 years old. Camp will offer a variety of activities that will be appropriate for each child's developmental level.

For more information about Camp Haverim, please stop by the preschool office to pick up a brochure or call 805-647-3798.

I hope to see you all this summer!
Shalom, Marlena Schumacher

Looking for Junior Counselors and CITs for Camp Haverim!

Looking for some summer fun? Come join us at Camp Haverim! We are looking for Jr. Counselors (ages 17-18 years old) and CIT's (ages 13-16 years old), who love to work with children, do arts and crafts, play games and sing silly camp songs!

If you are interested in applying, please stop by the Torah School Office to pick up an application or contact Marlena Schumacher at 805-647-3798.

Children's World & TBT Preschools

Marion Levin-Welch



The parents who partner with us give so much to the Children's World and its teachers.

Preschool: a place to have fun, get dirty, make new friends, understand science, do math, learn to write and move to the next step. This is how Vigotsky defined preschool.

In the past month we have celebrated Passover with our families. We have created matching games, bookmarks, painted creative pictures, planted parsley, sang songs with our classmates and families, and made door hangers that say, "Elijah is welcome here." Rabbi Lisa helped us celebrate Passover when she came to our Seder and walked the children through the progression of the Seder.

When you read this article we will have had our open house including a wonderful book fair, ice cream social, art show of very memorable works by the students, and a silent auction with baskets based on science, the beach, cooking, chocolate making, a Disney play, Star wars, and many more.

The parents who partner with us give so much to the Children's World and its teachers. They

spend time at our winter fest, Circus Carnival Days, and Jog-a-thon, and they chaperone field trips they contribute snacks and items for the classrooms and items for classroom gift baskets. The staff and I want to express our appreciation for all you do.

We are winding down the school years and are looking forward to next year. We are already 90% full at the preschools for 2016-2017.

Camp Haverim will begin June 13, 2016 offering six weeks of programs starting with Culinary Arts, Soccer, Drama, Tikkun Olan with Animals, Science, and Creative Art. We accept children from 2 to 8 years old. Don't wait to sign up for these wonderful programs.

Children's World looks forward to 2016-2017 and another year of successes and accomplishments. We are grateful for support we receive from the TBT Board of Directors. We are also grateful to Martha Richardson, and Danielle Earley-Stoyanoff for the help they so graciously give and to Juanita Seavey and Britta Kaltman whose volunteers their time. To Rabbi Lisa and Marisa Schrier we extend our thanks for their many visits with our children. Bless you all.

B'Shalom,
Marion Levin-Welch, M.A.
ECE Director



Our Garden for the Future

by Marion Levin-Welch

On a lovely morning recently many of the participants of our garden project shared a beautiful thirty minutes with Rabbi Lisa. We shared thoughts about the tradition of planting for future generations and the mitzvah we do by growing fruit for families in need.

There is a tradition of planting trees in the memory of a loved one. All of us who were present with Rabbi Lisa grew in our understanding and appreciation of this tradition as we observed those present who had honored the memory of loved ones by donating to the Garden of Trees.

Thank you all for participating in this long term project. A special thank you goes to the members of the garden committee who made our dream a reality.

Today,
Marion Levin Welch



B'nei Mitzvah

Tributes

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Below is a list of funds you may wish to consider when making a donation to TBT:

Annie Shapiro Torah School Fund
Bank Family Library Fund
Brotherhood Endowment
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Building Fund
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Congregant Assistance Revolving
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Harris TBT Preschool Fund
Israel In Our Hearts
Jewish Film Festival
Meister Youth Trip to Israel Fund
Pavin Building Maintenance Fund
Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
Ritual Committee Fund
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TBT Legacy Fund
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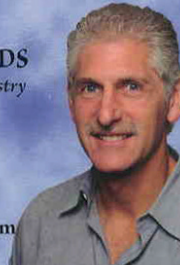




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**LOOKING AHEAD
to JUNE**



Monday, June 20
Camp Haverim Starts



Makom HaShalom Cemetery
Plots at Ivy Lawn Memorial Park

Please consider the purchase of a site at Makom Hashalom when planning your family trust, will, and advance directives.

Questions regarding availability, cost, and purchase, may be directed to Juanita Seavey in the Temple Office at (805) 647-4181.

How to reach us

Phone: (805) 647-4181
Email: TBTVentura@TempleBethTorah.com
Web: www.TempleBethTorah.com

Temple Auxiliaries & Affiliates

Brotherhood
Bob Braitman (805) 647-4181

Sisterhood
Pam Small (805) 647-4181

Children's World & TBT Preschools
Marion Levin-Welch (805) 647-3798

Senior Youth Group/VCTRY (9th-12th grade)
Marisa Schrier (805) 647-4181

Junior Youth Group (6th-8th grade)
Marisa Schrier (805) 647-4181

UJA/Federation
Cheri DeKofsky (805) 647-7800

JFS Office
(805) 641-6565

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Rabbi
Lisa Hochberg-Miller

Cantor
Michael Anatole

Director of Education and Family Programs
Marisa Schrier

Cantor Emeritus
Ralph Moses z"l

Director of Early Childhood Education
Marion Levin-Welch

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Shofar 

Check out the Shofar, photos, and lots more about TBT at www.TempleBethTorah.com.

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