



Education Report

May 22, 2022

Presented by: Ellie Gluck & Dara Marceau

Our Fabulous Staff!

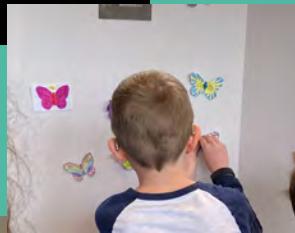


**Cantor Harriet
Dunkerley**
*Spiritual Leader/Director of
Education*



Ellie Gluck
*Assistant Director of
Education/Youth Coordinator*

All-School Holiday Programs have been a great success!!



Sunday, May 22, 2022
TBC Main Sanctuary & Social Hall
9:30 am-11:30 am

NEW this year: Family Education Programming!

- This year each class has had an opportunity to learn together!
 - **6th & 7th Grade:** Families gathered together for the myYad Workshop with Avi Zuckerman! Each student designed and built their own custom yad!
 - **2nd & 3rd Grade:** Families viewed a selection of Shaboom! Episodes about various Jewish Values & participated in guided discussions with one another. They then made a Jewish Values Tapestry where each family decorated their own square!
 - **4th & 5th Grade:** Families went on a deep-dive into the V'ahavta prayer with Cantor Harriet and Morah Ellie. We then connected the V'ahavta prayer to our Jewish Life Cycle curriculum and made a Life Cycle tapestry! Each family decorated a square for each Jewish life cycle event we have learned about this year.
 - **Kindergarten & 1st Grade:** Families reviewed Jewish Holiday celebrations throughout the year through an interactive game and singing some of their favorite Holiday songs with Cantor Harriet! They then created a Jewish holiday tapestry where each family decorated a square for each Jewish holiday we celebrate throughout the year!



What's new for next Year?

1. A complete revamping of our educational teen programming from TBC Teens to two separate groups. 1) Hebrew High, and 2) Confirmation Class! We hope to build back Youth engagement for the re-establishment of a TBC Youth Group through next year's programming.
2. Confirmation class is going back to Washington DC for the L'taken Social Justice Seminar in February 2023!
3. SNACK IS COMING BACK! Opportunities to sponsor a Sunday morning Religious School snack, Hebrew High School dinner & Confirmation class meal will be available soon through a new sponsorship program called "Challah CHeros!"
4. FAMILY INVOLVEMENT! Encouragement of continued parent participation during Religious School hours, especially for our all-school t'filah on Sunday mornings. A Volunteer Sign-up Form will be available prior to the beginning of the year for an opportunity to help out during snack time on Sunday's and for various all-school holiday programs!
5. NEW! Monthly Madrichim Training sessions with Morah Ellie after Religious School & Monthly Teacher Meetings which will include professional development opportunities.

Dara Marceau

Education Committee Chair

Education Committee Report

Education Committee Report - May 2022

Submitted by Dara Marceau

Committee Members

Stacy Barenberg, Allie Berger, Cantor Harriet Dunkerley, Ellie Gluck, Rachel Langberg, Dara Marceau, Jennifer Rubin, Rachel Sanderson, Robyn Scatena, Elise Serby, Joe Sondheimer

Accomplishments

The enthusiastic participation and collaboration of the Education Committee have been valuable in supporting the Religious School's return to in-person instruction. In addition to helping with the planning and implementation of successful special events,* the committee also served as a sounding board and provided feedback about how students and families received religious instruction, family services, and holiday programs. The commitment to monthly meetings ensured that this insightful feedback was ongoing, which allowed for informed adjustments to be made as needed.

As members of the Education Committee, we see ourselves as Religious School ambassadors, charged with generating excitement about the school and family services. This school year, the Education Committee established class parent roles. These positions were filled by committee members who were dedicated to reaching out to families directly and were successful in generating enthusiasm for events, encouraging active participation in student learning, and gathering feedback.

Engagement Encouraged

The Education Committee invites new membership! We encourage parents and members of the broader community to have a say in the TBC Religious School experience. A robust Education Committee promotes excitement, innovation, and a strong sense of community within the Religious School, which results in a love of Jewish learning for our youngest congregants. We look forward to your participation!

* Special events included holiday programs such as Hanukkah, Purim, and Passover. In addition, the committee spear-headed a school-wide social action project; we partnered with a non-profit, D.I.G., to collect books and toys that were distributed to children in Bridgeport.

SOCIAL ACTION @ TBC

Jane Alexander and Peggy Zamore- Co-Chairs

Tikkun Olam- Repairing the World

In this most challenging time- We all need to pitch in!

Check out ChaiLites for upcoming calls to action.

The desire to make the world a better place is the only requirement for participation in the Social Action Committee. From the smallest job to the most complex, each act of kindness and caring makes a huge impact on achieving social justice and equity.

COMMITTEE

The Social Action Committee of the TBC provides the focus and mechanism for congregants to get involved in a multitude of projects with very varied objectives and populations served. Without regard to religion, the Social Action Committee provides assistance to a wide variety of projects locally, nationally and internationally.

FUNDING

Support for all of our projects comes directly from our membership through various ways to donate including:

- A general donation to the fund from members in celebration of events such as Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Weddings, Anniversaries, Birthdays, Births, Deaths.
- Directed donation to one of our projects

PROJECTS

The committee has numerous on-going activities and is always open to feasible new suggestions. We are a "hands on" committee that both initiates and joins in on projects affecting both the Jewish and non-Jewish segments of our community. We are an active member of the Wilton Interfaith Action Committee (WI-ACT)

Bridge of Hope - International Cystic Fibrosis Project

Laundry Love Jointly with Sisterhood

COVID-19 Vaccine Information Project

Food/Paper Products/Diaper/Wipes Collection

Menstrual Supplies Collection

Hat & Glove Collection for Dorothy Day Guests

Dorothy Day Hospitality House aka Danbury Soup Kitchen -- Staff/Donate Funds

Community Food Pantries i.e. Our Daily Bread, Danbury -- Staff/ Donate Funds/Items

Thanksgiving Gift cards through Wilton Social Services Department

Chanukah Gift Cards for Wilton children

Rise Against Hunger- Meal packing with food sent to a country in need. **Back on this year!**

Danbury Farmers' Market Community Collaborative- Fresh Produce Food Security Project

We always need help. The more members we have the more progress we can make in repairing the world, in Tikkun Olam.

To get involved contact: socialaction@templebnaichaim.org

TBC Membership Update – May 2022

- Our membership stands at 104 families, including one new family that joined in the last two months (in all we have had 12 new families for this fiscal year).
- School enrollment for this year was 15% higher than the prior year with a modest increase forecast for this upcoming year.
- The growth in the surrounding area has slowed with inventory in homes for sale decreasing, but there are on-going conversations with multiple families for the coming year.
- We have had prospective families throughout the year come join us for various events like our Purim offerings for adults and children, and trying out religious school, and we are working steadily to convert them into new members for the coming year.
- The most well attended event was our Purim activity, "Martinis & Masks", with 50 members and prospective members participating.
- Throughout the year, we have made an effort to increase our visibility to reach the broader community through social media postings, blast emails that include former members, and postcards to new home buyers in the surrounding towns.
- As always, we have the greatest success getting new members who know someone in the congregation already. Please tell all your unaffiliated friends to contact TBC and ask to speak to someone in Membership to learn more about the Temple (or send one of us their contact details). Better yet, invite them to something that you are attending! Together we can work to grow our congregation.

Respectfully submitted,
Kiki Cahn & Susan Farber
TBC Membership

Temple B'nai Chaim Sisterhood
Report to Congregational Meeting
May 2022

Sisterhood continues to play an active role in the TBC and wider community, with a broad presentation of activities and special events, support of the synagogue and its programs, and engaged participation in social action and service to our neighboring towns.

Among the highlights in the operational year ending June 30, 2022:

1. Honey Fundraiser in September totaling \$5554 to provide for Break Fast expenses.
2. Laundry Love Project with Social Action Committee throughout the year.
3. Honey Havdalah Dinner and Hosting Break Fast in September and October.
4. Sisterhood Luncheon and Fundraiser for all members, prospective members and Women of Reform Judaism guests in October.
5. Participation in “Celebrating our Stories” Shabbat, via Zoom, with Women of Reform Judaism Northeast, in November.
6. Sponsored Chanukah Oneg for Friday Night services in December.
7. Co-hosted special presentation on “Return to the Catskills,” by Oscar Israelowitz, noted historian and Judaic commentator, in December. Our partner was Temple B'nai Israel Sisterhood in Southbury.
8. Co-hosting the annual Tu B'Shvat Seder, a Zoom event, with Norwalk Hadassah, in January.
9. Coordinating the Shalach Manot fundraiser for TBC, and delivering bags containing hamantashen, grape juice, groggers, and recipes to attendees of the Purim celebration, in February.
10. Women's Pre-Passover learning experience in early April, including new seder format, recipes, food, and discussion led by Cantor Dunkerley.
11. Additional gift of \$11,000 in May, to support TBC programs and operations.
12. Havdalah Service and End-of-Year dinner coming in June.

We encourage all the women of Temple B'nai Chaim to join us as we prepare for a busy year ahead, in service to all the programs we support in the synagogue and community.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

The House Committee is responsible for the maintenance and operations of the temple's buildings and grounds. We work in conjunction with and lend support to almost all areas of temple life.

With the challenges faced from the pandemic we've focused on keeping the aging building infrastructure functional and safe. We've been proactively working with our suppliers and contractors to contain expenses. We're replacing existing light fixtures with energy efficient LED bulbs. We are exploring with Eversource a pilot program to retrofit all lighting fixtures for a net cost savings and an ongoing reduction with our electric usage.

We're working closely with the Security Task Force to better protect the old and new buildings and to increase protection for the congregants.

The old building has been thoroughly checked for mold and some problems were identified and completely cleaned. We had a water pipe break in the Religious School and have settled the insurance claim. We've scheduled the work with the contractor and will be fully restored and back in operation in June.

Thanks to an anonymous donor the barn adjacent to the parking lot is being demolished. This project has been in planning for a long time and the work is currently being scheduled. We're also looking at how to best use the land reclaimed from the barn removal.

The shingles on the adjacent shed are set for replacement this summer.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve West-Rosenthal
House Chair