

# 12 Presidential Address



## When the Going Gets Tough, TBS Gets Going

The last six weeks have been life changing for everyone, bringing on challenges that no one had anticipated. As it became apparent that our Temple building would not be able to be utilized into the foreseeable future, TBS has rallied to remain relevant and available.

Rabbi Benji, on very short notice, provided virtual Shabbat services on the first Friday when we could not congregate in the temple and has continued to do Shabbat services adding Havdalah and healing services as well. The traditional Temple Passover seder was converted into the first (and hopefully last) virtual seder. In addition, Rabbi Benji has organized and made available through social

media various programs for the enjoyment and education of the Congregation with the able assistance of many content providers such as Amanda Cohen, Gail Rose, Rabbi Lenette, Rachel Murray, Marc Rossio, and Jill Will.

Rabbi Lenette, with the assistance of Angelo Dunlap, the teachers, and Madrichim, has kept religious school functioning with virtual programs starting on the first Sunday in which actual religious school could not be held. They have continued to expand the program each week by including a virtual all-school Tefilah and Zoom breakout rooms for each grade level.

Kathy McGee and Leslie Thompson have been calling TBS families to ask how they are doing and to see if TBS can be of assistance. They have also moved the affinity groups from in-person meetings to virtual sessions.

We were fortunate to have completed our search for a new executive director and hired Bobby Covitz shortly before the start of our social distancing restrictions. Even before officially starting in the position, Bobby had begun actively learning the intricacies of TBS operations. Since being thrust into the fire, he and Penny Williams (and before she left, Bonnie Abramowitz) have been able to keep the administrative functions operating and have quickly moved forward with obtaining assistance through government programs which have recently become available.

On April 25, TBS was able to come together and connect for an evening of good vibes and fabulous entertainment for our first ever Stay at Home Ball. We know that many of you participated and hope you enjoyed the evening.

As you can see, while the physical doors of our building remain closed, our virtual and personal doors remain open. Through the efforts of many, TBS remains joyful, personal and as accessible as it can be. If you need assistance or to otherwise utilize temple services, TBS has remained, and will remain, open for you.

For those in a position to provide extra support to continue our ongoing virtual programs and our regular programs when restrictions are reduced or eliminated, it is greatly appreciated. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

## OUR TIME AS CO-PRESIDENTS

Our time as your Co-Presidents is nearing its end. Our term began with the Tree of Life Synagogue shooting and has ended with the COVID-19 social distancing restrictions. Our members may be glad to see us go.

Nonetheless, in looking back over the past two years, we believe that there were many positive developments for TBS beyond just addressing the security and social distancing crises that were thrust upon TBS by outside forces.

The five-year strategic plan was completed and we began its implementation. This included the roll out of Rabbi Benji's engagement program, which is off to a great start, and TBS has found creative ways to still "meet" in these groups. Our religious school has remained strong. Rabbi Lenette has continued to innovate and added new dimensions to a previously successful program.

The social action programs have also been creative in continuing existing programs and developing new projects. Though major spring programs were forced to be cancelled by the social distancing restrictions, they will return next year. Likewise, plans for recognizing TBS members who have volunteered their time in various forms had to be postponed as well.

Financially, we have made some great progress. The stale Chanukah raffle was replaced by the Reverse Raffle, which filled a gap in our fundraising, and continues to hold promise to develop further. Per the strategic plan,

we launched the Above and Beyond Campaign which has had some initial success and is continuing its ongoing efforts. We also have an active committee working as part of the overall Jewish community Life and Legacy Drive to establish an endowment to assure the long term future of TBS.

Quick action to fill the opening in the executive director position has brought on board Bobby Covitz just in time to help us deal with the various issues related to the COVID-19 virus and the virtual environment in which we find ourselves. Had that position not been filled prior to the virus restrictions, it would have been a long and difficult process to fill it during the period of these restrictions.

We appreciate the help that we have received from many people, specifically including Pam Scheer and David Neubauer for their guidance and help from their experience, Phil Goldstein for his tireless efforts to complete the Strategic Plan and to launch the Above and Beyond Campaign, Julie Alpert for heading up the executive director search, Brian Phillip's work to drive the Reverse Raffle, and the TBS Board of Trustees with providing lots of support during our presidency.

We are honored to have been selected to serve as leaders of TBS and follow those who have gone before us. We know that they faced other challenges, anticipated or not, during their terms and hope that we did as well overcoming ours as they did with theirs.

While we will be transferring the presidency of TBS to Michael Griffaton and Mindy Agin during a difficult time, we think we have left TBS in a good position for them to begin and look forward to providing them with the same support that we received from our predecessors. Thank you for giving us the honor to serve as your TBS co-presidents these past two years!

## *Temple Beth Shalom*

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### **Board of Trustees**

Bonnie Cram & David Segal	<i>Co-Presidents</i>
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### **Trustees-At-Large**

Marvin Blank	Amber Bloch
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### **Executive Staff**

<b>Rabbi Benjy A. Bar-Lev</b>	<i>Senior Rabbi</i>
<b>Rabbi Lenette J. Herzog</b>	<i>Assist. Rabbi/Edu. Dir.</i>
<b>Gail Rose</b>	<i>Music Director</i>
<b>Bobby Covitz</b>	<i>Executive Director</i>

### **Temple Staff**

Amanda Cohen	<i>Director of Marketing &amp; Com.</i>
Angelo Dunlap	<i>Religious School Admin</i>
Kathy McGee	<i>Office Manager</i>
Haneef Muhammad	<i>Facilities Manager</i>
Lesley Thompson	<i>Engagement Coordinator</i>
Penny Williams	<i>Bookkeeper</i>
Rabbi Howard L. Apothaker, Ph.D.	<i>Rabbi Emeritus</i>

***Has any of your information changed?***

***Keep us in the loop!***

***Email [tbs@tbsohio.org](mailto:tbs@tbsohio.org) with any changes to your family or personal information so we can update your membership profile!***

# Congregational Healing Service Sundays at 4pm

Please join us for a brief Healing Service on Zoom.

We will sing our way into healing and gratitude during quarantine.

