

# The TBI Bulletin

July 2018

Temple B'nai Israel, the Reform Jewish Congregation of Kalamazoo



When thinking about what to write in my article this month, I accidentally typed “tradition” instead of “transition” into Google. Yet, more than an accident, I think my mistyping was an excellent example of a Freudian slip. Which, according to an internet definition, is “an unintentional error regarded as revealing subconscious feelings.”



Transitions and traditions go hand-in-hand; one rarely finds the first without many examples of the second. The transition of rabbinic leadership of TBI from Rabbi Matt to me means a passing along of the traditions of TBI as well. As the new rabbi on the block, it is my responsibility to learn the community’s traditions and it is the community’s responsibility to show me the traditions. We are joined together in a sacred partnership, the building of a shared community.

One of my favorite stories that a professor, also a rabbi, told about the importance of tradition is the following (which actually happened to him):

The rabbi was visiting a community in the southern portion of our great country, a scholar in residence for the weekend, and he had arrived a bit early for Friday night services. Seeing that the Oneg was already set up, and being very thirsty after his traveling, he helped himself to some coffee. A woman walked in and was greatly distressed. “Rabbi! You must let me serve you!” she said. He replied that he was happy to serve himself but she continued, “This coffee set has been in the congregation for generations, it is our pleasure to serve our guests. Please let me serve you.”

*(continued on page 4)*

**Rabbi Simone Schicker**

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## In This Issue of The TBI Bulletin

	Page
Rabbi’s Column	1
President’s Article	2
Calendar	5

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## President's Article

### Installation Speech — Sharon Wittenberg



Someone recently told me that becoming a synagogue president is like becoming a camp counselor — you get to wear the cool shirt. I've never been a camp counselor but after today, I guess I get to wear the cool shirt. I think that being the president of TBI is really cool. For the next two years, I get to lead this warm, open community of Reform Jews in Kalamazoo who live their values and help to make our world a better place for all. Being a temple president and forming sacred partnerships is important work and a true honor.

First, I want to give thanks to all the presidents who came before me, some of whom are here today, especially Joan. Joan, you are a great example of what a leader should be. You are kind, caring and passionately dedicated to your TBI family. Our temple would not be where we are today without your exceptional leadership. As president, you had to make some difficult decisions during your tenure and you always did what was right for the temple. I look forward to your

mentorship as I take on my new role. Second, I want to thank our wonderful TBI board: Abby, Hayley, Jacob, Jay, Ken, Randy, Rick, Rose and Steve, who are all hard-working, passionate leaders committed to our continued success and growth. Your expertise and insights are valued and appreciated by our entire congregation and myself. Without your confidence in me, I would not have accepted this new role so easily. I will miss our wonderful outgoing board members, Jay and Rick, but I'm excited to welcome Brian and Raye as new additions to our board.

Many of you don't know me very well, so let me tell you about myself. My Jewish identity started at the age of five when my parents, who are here today, enrolled me in religious school at Temple Israel, then located in Detroit. At Temple Israel, I had a bat mitzvah, a confirmation and attended classes through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. I grew up in Oak Park, Michigan as part of a large Jewish community with many Jewish friends; one friend from elementary school, Julie, is with me here today. After high school, I graduated from Wayne State University and worked for a few years in advertising, then became a stay at home mom where creating a Jewish home for my daughters, Rachel and Emily, was a priority. Emily, who is here today, and Rachel, who lives in Los Angeles now, have a very strong Jewish identity. Through my adult years, I took on leadership roles in the Detroit Jewish community, especially Hadassah. It was through Hadassah that I gained valuable skills and made lasting friendships. One of my closest Hadassah mentors, Wendy is also here today. As a Hadassah leader, I had the chance to visit Israel, which was a big highlight for me. This summer, I will visit Israel again with Joel and our children, Rachel, Emily, Max and Anna, and I'm very excited for all of us to share this experience together. My desire and passion for Jewish leadership didn't end when I moved to Kalamazoo and I have taken my learning to the next level. This year I began the masters degree program in Jewish professional studies at Spertus Institute of Jewish Learning and Leadership, located in Chicago. I have already seen how my studies are going to help me as president. Taking on the role of student later in life is just as challenging as being a temple president, but I'm excited to learn more and share my knowledge with all of you. I'm so thankful for marrying Joel, who brought me into the Jewish community in Kalamazoo, but really it was probably me who brought *him* into this community. I appreciate his love and support every day. Now as I begin my presidency, I get to follow in the footsteps of my friends Julie and Wendy, both of whom have been leaders at their own temple, the temple where I grew up. Other important people in my life who have joined me here today and continue to guide me include my brother Steven and his husband David, niece Rebecca, nephew Noah, cousin Shari, and friends Paula, Eddie and Larry.

As Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr said, "the more things change, the more they stay the same". But change and transition are different phenomena. Change is an external, situational shift, while transition is about the human process of reorienting from one reality to a new one. As president, I am making it my priority to lead us through the transition at TBI. Synagogues today are challenged to be relevant, not just for millennials, but also for everyone. After all, one does not need to belong to a synagogue to be Jewish. So how do we bring people into our community, sustain ourselves, and stay relevant? In William Bridge's Seven Principles of Transition Management, he states that you have to end before you begin and between the ending and the

*(continued on page 3)*

## President's Article (continued from page 2)

new beginning there is a gap. The gap can be a time of creativity and here at TBI we are experiencing that creativity. To start, your temple leadership has launched our endowment campaign, and I encourage you all to think about ways that you can support TBI so that we maintain a strong, Reform Jewish presence in Kalamazoo into the future.

Bringing Rabbi Schicker into our community is a win for all of us. I am so excited to welcome her into our TBI family and I can't wait to see how we will benefit from her mature, thoughtful presence and engaging spiritual leadership. I hope that you'll take the time to get to know her by attending services or even inviting her to your home for dinner to share your thoughts and ideas with her. Look for other informal ways this summer, details to follow, to get to meet her as well. She is looking forward to getting to know Kalamazoo and all of you. We have seen how having full time rabbinic leadership has changed how we view ourselves inside and outside our community, and I want that feeling and momentum to continue. Our religious school just got a boost by hiring Nora Chaus as the new director. Nora's connection, passion and commitment to TBI and our children shines through in every role she takes on, and I have no doubt that she will be a wonderful director.

Change in leadership is not the only change you'll see at TBI this year. Look for new improvements to our space, including a bigger kitchen and reconstructed social hall, as well as a new boiler. Thanks to Dave Goldenberg and his crew, Rabbi Schicker's office just got a much-needed upgrade as well. We hope you will like the physical changes when they are done and enjoy our new look.

Finally, Rabbi Matt told me that developing trust is a huge part of my role. Trust between rabbi and president, president and board, board and members are just some trust relationships that come to mind. Thank you for trusting me to be your president. He also said to never forget that what makes TBI special is the open, loving presence that we have created where all people, Jewish or not, can experience Jewish learning, respect and friendship.

### *At the TBI Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 24, the following people were recognized for their work:*

#### **Leadership:**

Sharon Wittenberg (for leading the successful rabbi search)

Rick Rodbard (for leading the building renovation efforts)

#### **Community Building:**

Terra Eash (for all her work on Member Connections and for starting the Rosh Chodesh group)

#### **Outstanding Service:**

Julie Lewandowski (for all the things she does above and beyond her part-time, paid position)

#### **Spirit:**

Brian Horvitz and Kylie Schultz (for their faithful tag-team work on the rabbi search committee)

### *Also at the meeting, new board members were elected:*

President: Sharon Wittenberg

VP of Operations and Programs: Rose Kirsch

VP of Membership: Randy Lubratich

Treasurer: Abby Miller

Recording Secretary: Hayley Wasser

Corresponding Secretary: Steve Klein

Members at Large: Brian Horvitz, Jacob Hurwitz, Ken Odza, Raye Ziring

Immediate Past President: Joan Hawxhurst

## Rabbi's Column *(continued from page 1)*

Now, my professor explained that though he had viewed it as uncomfortable to be served coffee when he was perfectly able to do it himself, he recognized that he had stepped on a tradition in the congregation. The woman was offended that he had helped himself because she viewed it as her job to serve the coffee, as an honor. This was an important lesson my professor learned, and one that I bring with me to my new role at TBI. We, together, will continue the traditions TBI has built throughout its history, through the important tenure of Rabbi Matt, and we will continue to make new traditions together as well. I look forward to learning all of your many traditions, and hopefully creating new traditions (and more so, memories) together with each one of you.

The tradition of transition of rabbinical leadership in the summer is a recognition that July is often the slowest month for congregational rabbis. School is out, camp is in session, and many people choose to embrace what one hopes is excellent weather and travel. As your new Rabbi, I will be spending the month of July getting to know members of the TBI community as well as the larger Kalamazoo community. This is my priority along with preparing for services, classes, and holidays.

I would love if each one of you (individually or by family unit) would set up a meeting time with me in either July or August. It is a personal goal to have met, and had a conversation with, the entire congregation prior to Rosh Hashanah (which starts the evening of September 9th). In order to set up a meeting time, please either call me at TBI or email me at rabbischicker@gmail.com, and please let me know three separate dates and times that would work for you. I look forward to hearing from you.

L'shalom,  
Rabbi Schicker

### TBI Bookclub

For July, the club will be reading "*The Jew Store*," by Stella Suberman.

We will discuss this book on **July 19, 7:00 p.m.**, at This is a Bookstore.

Contact Cary Mannaberg,  
cmannaberg@gmail.com with questions.

### Rosh Chodesh Feminine Spirituality Group

#### Rosh Chodesh feminine spirituality group

Open and welcoming to all who seek to deepen their connection to the divine, indwelling presence of God (Shekinah).

We will meet at the temple to celebrate the month of Av on **Thursday, July 12, from 7:00-8:30 p.m.**

Discussion will include the holidays of Tisha B'Av and Tu B'Av: commemoration of the destruction of the Temple and a midsummer Valentine's Day-esque festival, respectively.

For more information about Rosh Chodesh traditions for Av, go to: <https://ritualwell.org/ritual/essence-av>

Please email Terra at [tmeash@gmail.com](mailto:tmeash@gmail.com) with questions or to RSVP.

## July 2018 Donations

*Donation (in Memory of Sid Tanoff and Jody Katz)*  
Sandy Kopelman

## July 2018 Birthdays

Stephen Denenfeld	Jay Pike
Kaycie James	Emma Pilnick
Jane Kling	Evan Pollens-Voigt
Aaron Levin	Hayley Wasser
Eunice Levy	Kate Whitsett
Ben Miller	Linda Wiener
Maya Morse	

## June Oneg Hosts

<i>July 6</i>	Goldenberg
<i>July 13</i>	Nutting
<i>July 20</i>	Goudie
<i>July 27</i>	Klein

Contact Sue at [dsgoldenberg@comcast.net](mailto:dsgoldenberg@comcast.net) if you can help as an oneg host. Thank you.

## July Perpetual Memorials (Yahrzeits)

GEORGE AARON	NANCY LETSKY
IRWIN DAVID BERTMAN	HENRY LEWIS
JOAN DAVIDSON	SARITA MANNABERG
ABE EDWARDS	MARION MCINTYRE
KARL ERNST	ESTELLE ODOM
GARY FLEISCHMAN	ESTHER RESSLER
MATHIAS GAL	MARTIN ROSENBERG
MOLLIE GAL	MIRIAM G SCHULTZ
HENRIETTA FRANK	BENJAMIN SIMON
FANNY GOLDFARB	DAVID SIMON
JACOB GOLDMAN	ANNA SHAPIRO
ILONA HARTENSTEIN	IDA SKOLNIK
HARRY KATZ	MORRIS SKOLNIK
PHILLIP KERMAN	MARTIN STRONGIN
ARTHUR KLING	MILT VOIGHT
ANDREW LAND	ISADOR WAGENFELD
MICHAEL LAND	LAWRENCE ZIRING
NICHOLAS M LAZAR	

## Upcoming Temple and Worship Events

### Friday, July 6

7 PM: Shabbat services

### Saturday, July 7

10 AM: Minyan Milamed

### Sunday, July 8

12:30 PM: Serve meal at Ministry with Community

### Thursday, July 12

7 PM: Rosh Chodesh Group

### Friday, July 13

7 PM: Shabbat services

### Saturday, July 14

10 AM: Minyan Milamed

### Thursday, July 19

7 PM: TBI Bookclub at This is a Bookstore

### Friday, July 20

7 PM: Shabbat services

### Saturday, July 21

10 AM: Minyan Milamed

### Wednesday, July 25

7 PM: TBI Monthly Board Meeting

### Friday, July 27

7 PM: Shabbat services

### Saturday, July 28

10 AM: Minyan Milamed

# Temple B'nai Israel

## Staff, Board, and Committees

### Rabbi

Simone Schicker

### Synagogue Associate

Dr. Michael A. Tanoff

### Kalamazoo Community Jewish School

Director Nora Chaus

Treasurer Brandt Lubratich

### Administrative Assistant

Julie Lewandowski

### Temple Board of Trustees

President Sharon Wittenberg

Vice President of Operations and Programs Rose Kirsch

Vice President of Membership Randy Lubratich

Recording Secretary Hayley Wasser

Corresponding Secretary Steve Klein

Treasurer Abby Miller

### Members at Large

Brian Horvitz, Jacob Hurwitz, Ken Odza, Raye Ziring

Immediate Past President Joan Hawxhurst

Building Committee Chair Dave Goldenberg

### Caring Circle

Cochairs Ellen Winter & Morry Edwards

### Cemetery Committee Chair

Jacob Weintraub

### Communications Committee Chair

Cheryl Pesti

### Member Connections Committee

Cochairs Cary Mannaberg & Nora Chaus

Finance Committee Chair Rick Rodbard

Fundraising Committee Chair Open

Religious Activities Committee Chair Mike Tanoff

### Joint Religious School Committee

TBI Cochair Jennifer Odza

Brandt Lubratich, Paulette Thompson

Newsletter Editor Julie Lewandowski

Webmaster Randy Lubratich

Temple B'nai Israel, founded in 1866, is a thriving congregation that actively engages all its members in Reform Jewish cultural, spiritual, and educational growth, individually and as a diverse and welcoming community.



**UNION** *for*  
**REFORM**  
**JUDAISM**

A Proud Member of the URJ