



# TEMPLE BETH TORAH

A Reform Jewish Congregation  
Member, Union for Reform Judaism



UNION FOR **MEMBER**  
REFORM JUDAISM  
האיחוד ליהדות רפורמית  
SERVING REFORM CONGREGATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA

[www.bethtorah.net](http://www.bethtorah.net)

Kislev 5775—Shevat 5775

December 2014—January 2015

## UPCOMING EVENTS

December 5	Shabbat Service	7:30 PM
December 6	Kaplan Bat Mitzvah	10:00 AM
December 7	Religious School, 9th, 10th,	9:00 AM
December 7	Post-Confirmation Class	10:45 AM
December 9	Book Club	7:30 PM
December 14	Religious School, 8th	9:00 AM
December 16	TBT Board Meeting	7:30 PM
December 19	Chanukah Celebration	7:00 PM
December 20	Kravchick Bar Mitzvah	10:00 AM
December 21, 28	No Religious School	
January 4	Religious School, 9th	9:00 AM
January 9	Pajama Shabbat	7:00 PM
January 10	Morning Shabbat Service	10:30 AM
January 11	Religious School, 8th, 10th	9:00 AM
January 18	No Religious School	
January 20	TBT Board Meeting	7:30 PM
January 23	Shabbat Shira	7:30 PM
January 24	Children's Service	9:30 AM
January 24	Nosh 'n' Drosh	10:30 AM
January 25	Religious School, 8th, 9th, 10th	9:00 AM

**Proper attire is encouraged at all services.**

**Please see the weekly Blast for Chaverim listings**

## Temple Beth Torah Contact List

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Visit the TBT website at: [bethtorah.net](http://bethtorah.net)

### Do you have concerns or questions for the Temple Beth Torah Board ?

This is YOUR synagogue and we want to hear what you have to say. You can e-mail Ombudsman, Joel Wasserman at [wasserman.joel@gmail.com](mailto:wasserman.joel@gmail.com) or (703)327-3560 and your questions will be brought up at the next board meeting. Please include your phone number and when is the best time to reach you. We look forward to hearing from you!

### DIRECTIONS TO BUILDING

**4212-C Technology Court, Chantilly, VA 20151**

**From Route 66** - Get off at Route 28 North. Go North to Route 50 West. Travel west on Route 50. Turn left on Pleasant Valley Rd. Turn left on Lafayette Center Dr. Turn left on Technology Court.

### Chaverim Groupings for Shabbat Services, Oneg and Set-up

Complete details, schedule, and contact information available at [www.bethtorah.net](http://www.bethtorah.net). Please do your part as a TBT member. It is your responsibility to contact your group to coordinate food, drinks and set up. If you can not attend on your given date please switch with someone from another group and inform your Chaverim of the change.

It is your responsibility to find a substitute.

**Chaverim selections can be found on Sign Up  
Genius. The link is on [bethtorah.net](http://bethtorah.net).**

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# A Message from the President

*Linda Sue Wever*

As December and January approach, the holiday card process is well underway. We have gathered to take family photos, we have printed the cards, and we have sent them into the homes of our family and friends; yet, we spent so much time toiling over which holiday message to use... Season's Greetings? Happy Holidays? What is appropriate this time of year and what is it we're really trying to say? As a Jew growing up in suburban Philadelphia, "Merry Christmas" was a refrain heard in most conversations from Thanksgiving to New Year's, or who knows, now you may get it as early as Halloween. My mother told us that because we didn't celebrate Christmas we were not to reply to such sentiments, as they didn't apply to us. As I grew older, I began to question this direction. Although we didn't celebrate Christmas, wasn't the message really what was most important? What message was really intended with these simple holiday greetings?

Chanukah is not considered a major holiday within the Jewish religion, but takes on more importance as it typically falls around Christmas (except for last year of course ☺). Christmas is of such great importance to Christians the world over, so does saying "Happy Chanukah" in response to a "Merry Christmas greeting" seem appropriate? What to do? As the years go by, we worry so much about being "correct" that we forget to stop and think about the message we are truly hoping to convey. Telling people to have a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, or Happy Holidays isn't a bad thing, is it?

I like to believe that, more so than anything else, people are trying to wish each of us a time of good health, peace, happiness, sharing and a prosperous new year. It would be wonderful if we could do this the whole year through, but that's not quite a practical goal. So, how should we respond? Here is my advice to you: respond how you feel comfortable—don't dwell on political correctness, but instead return the positive sentiments, the well-wishes, and the good-hearted attitude that is being directed your way. Remember that people are just trying to spread the holiday spirit, whether through "Merry Christmas," "Happy Chanukah," or "Season's Greetings." After moving from suburban Philadelphia to suburban Washington D.C., I have lived in Virginia for more than half my life now, and I have found that with fewer Jews comes much less awareness of Jewish culture and tradition as well. So, instead of taking offense to one or another holiday message, let's use this time to not only celebrate our traditions, but to also share them with our non-Jewish neighbors and friends.

In our home, my family and I celebrate Chanukah as more than just a part of the holiday season or an excuse to give gifts. Every year, we invite friends of ours to our house to celebrate one of the eight "crazy" nights. We share with them the story of the Maccabees and the miracle that causes us to celebrate Chanukah each year; we give out small gifts and of course, chocolate *gelt*, but we also share with them the relationship between Chanukah and Christmas. Though they take place at the same time of year, each holiday holds a different level of significance—if we think instead about our High Holidays as equivalent to Christmas and Easter, our guests can put these traditions in proper perspective. I have found throughout the years that sharing this experience is fun and rewarding for all of us. At the end of the night, there is a series of good byes, hugs and wishes for a Happy Chanukah to us and a Merry Christmas (if appropriate) to them. A new respect is garnered on both sides, but the message remains the same: good health, peace, happiness, sharing and a prosperous new year.

So whether you and your family are celebrating Chanukah, Christmas, both or neither, let's always remember the true message of the holiday season. We are all working toward the same outcome, so my hope is that this time next year, we will truly be able to say that we had a happy, healthy and fruitful year.

From my family to yours, may your December, January, and all of 2015 be fraught with well wishes from many, regardless of form, and may all goodness come to you. B'Shalom.

# A Message from the Rabbi

## *Kenneth Block*

### **Don't**

There are many people who relish in pointing out our mistakes, flaws, and the error of our ways. These people are not really our "enemies" they are just doing what sad, unhappy people do, focus on someone else instead of focusing on themselves. Usually what they find in us are the behaviors that they refuse to recognize in themselves. Let us accept them as people struggling to face their own ghosts and focus on our own worst enemy. Please look in the mirror so we can see clearly our own worst enemy.

Let's run through a check list of the ways we drive ourselves striving for perfection in our ourselves, in our experiences, in our relationships and in those whom we love. It's tiring isn't it!

- Apologizing and taking responsibility for everything that happens regardless of whether we actually were involved. We should take responsibility when we make a mistake but constantly apologizing for everything is not called for.
- Saying "yes" to everyone. Stop, think and say "yes" when you truly mean it. People actually respect you more when you set boundaries.
- Saying "no" to yourself. We spend a whole lot of time deciding what we can't do or shouldn't do or aren't good enough to do. Acknowledge insecurities and anxieties and then make decisions.
- Advertising wants us to be not only unhappy with our physical appearance, but disgusted as well. They would have us believe that their products will fix our physical appearance.
- Feeling like an impostor when you accomplish something professionally. We often doubt whether we deserve the successes we achieve. You got that new job or promotion or grade or public recognition because you were worthy of it.

- Obsessing in every photo that ever existed online. We obviously don't want photos posted that we consider "unflattering", however we probably cause ourselves more anxiety than necessary making sure every image that doesn't show us in perfect lighting doing something totally amazing goes away.
- Holding on to regrets and guilt. Acknowledge your regrets and guilts, and find a strategy to live with them.
- Judging your life and the lives of others.
- Trying to be "cool". Maybe you are "cool" or perhaps not. Striving to be "cool" at all times keeps us from expressing our needs, desires and opinions.
- Trusting iDoc for all your medical needs rarely has a good outcome. Stop looking up your symptoms on line and make an appointment with your doctor.
- Worrying that your life doesn't look like the lives of those posted online leads to frustration. Fiction is made up to entertain, enjoy.
- Not taking advantage of vacation days? We know that people who take time off are more likely to be healthy, happy and productive workers.
- Spending time with people out of obligation. Life's too short to see every old friend and third cousin who passes through your city. Be intentional about who you spend your time with and allow yourself to let some relationships fade away naturally.
- Being embarrassed about your interests means you don't really own them. And if there's a particular subject area you don't know about but you encounter someone who does? Take the opportunity to ask questions.
- Setting deadlines for events in your life. Enjoy the serendipity of life and allow yourself to be overjoyed or pleasantly surprised when life happens.

# A Message from the Cantor

## *Jinny Marsh*

### The Pursuit of Happiness

I believe developing patience is a key to happiness. “Does patience promote happiness or vice versa?” First, let’s define patience, “(noun) the capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble, or suffering without getting angry or upset.” The word patience comes from Latin “*patientia*, from *patient*--meaning suffering.”

In Judaism our goal is to be more Godlike. In our Torah, Psalms, and prayer books it is written that God is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in loving-kindness. So when I asked Rabbi Block, which comes first happiness or patience, he said, jokingly, “I want patience and I want it now!” Seriously, Rabbi Block said, “once you have your eye on the goal, you have to stay focused. If we set ourselves a goal, the way we stick to it is through patience. We have to “stay the course” through all the distractions and frustrations.

A part of our brain protects our physical and emotional survival. Brain imaging research shows how our brain reacts when we experience fear, physical or emotional pain. When we are threatened our thinking causes us to hide or attack (*fight or flight*) just as a reptile does. As children we learn coping styles from our parents and teachers. As adults we use what we grew up with or adapt new styles of coping with stress, upset, frustration, disappointment and anger.

We are not born with patience. Patience is a skill that must be developed. Think of a hungry baby screaming to be fed- the entire body of the baby is impatient. Professional therapists recommend that we train ourselves to work with little pains and irritations so that when big troubles come, we will have developed the patience we need for adversity. Suggestions start with training yourself to practice patience waiting in line, driving in traffic, calling the insurance or phone company- things that may aggravate, but are bearable.

Researching impatience led me to look at anger and anger management. Anger is a “5 letter word” in our culture. Anger is caused by fear and a sense of helplessness. There are times when anger serves a purpose as in the case of self-defense. But if anger is out of control, it can be destructive and costs us. Anger can damage relationships, create difficulties at work and the overall quality of our lives. Authorities concur that anger can be addictive. So how do we manage our addiction to anger? We can start by acknowledging that it’s a problem. The first step in avoiding anger and enhancing our patience is to realize the addictive quality of the anger, irritation, blaming, and shaming.

One recommendation to create patience and avoid anger is to change our thought patterns or self-talk. Remind yourself that getting angry will not fix anything and that it won't make you feel better and could make you feel worse. Angry people tend to curse, swear, or speak in highly colorful terms that reflect their inner thoughts. Try replacing these thoughts with more rational ones. For instance, instead of telling yourself, “*oh, it's awful, it's terrible, they're doing this to me on purpose, everything's ruined,*” try thinking, “*it's frustrating, uncomfortable, not intolerable and it's understandable that I'm upset about it, but it's not the end of the world and getting angry is not going to fix it anyhow.*”

Pain has its purposes. It pushes us to find solutions. As a result of our impatience, we often go astray with the “solutions” – one example is *to try to change the **other** person, situation or thing that we think is causing our discomfort.* However, the real problem is *how our mind thinks*, not the outside thing that we believe is the source of our pain. It's our mind that is the cause of discomfort, not the outer circumstances. The idea is to reduce the pain and suffering that our *own* impatience gives us and to increase our ability to act in a way that has a higher probability of our achieving our goals.

Here are some suggestions to practice techniques daily. Learn to use them automatically when you're in a tense situation. Practice these out of the environment so that you can be ready for the situation.

- Do nothing for 10 seconds.
- Breathe deeply, from your diaphragm (breathing from your chest won't relax you). Picture your breath coming up from your "gut."
- Slowly repeat a calm word or phrase such as *"relax," "take it easy."* Repeat it to yourself while breathing deeply.
- Use imagery; visualize a relaxing experience, from either your memory or your imagination.
- Nonstrenuous, slow yoga-like exercises can relax your muscles and make you feel much calmer.

Begin to pay attention when the irritation/pain starts. Most of us don't really realize it when we are feeling subtle, but very present, painful feelings. We ignore the fact that we are in pain and focus exclusively on fixing the problem. The main thing here is to just "stop the story." And as we get gain experience attending to that vulnerability inside of us without fueling it with our story, *"about how wrong it all is, how wrong they are, how wrong we are,"* the feeling can pass through in mere seconds.

When, and not if, you find yourself impatient, irritated with yourself, you can remind yourself that you are growing, and say to yourself, *"Sure, this is understandable, this is what happens to me when I'm bothered,"* or *"I don't like this, this is uncomfortable, but I can tolerate it."* Just as God is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in loving-kindness, we need to be compassionate with ourselves.

In summary: 1) Understand and recognize the addictive nature of anger/impatience. 2) Pay attention to our bodies when we are not patient recognize our feelings before they get out of control 3) Be kind to ourselves for not being "perfect" already 4) Change the self talk: the automatic judgmental, critical thoughts and feelings 5) Practice patience in little steps. (If all else fails, seek professional help!)

When we remember that the purpose of building patience is for our happiness, creating better relationships and reaching our goals, developing patience becomes a priority.

Wishing you all Happy Holidays and inviting you to a Cocktail Party at

Cantor Jinny and Lenny Marsh's Home on Saturday, December 13, 2014 at 7:30.

Please RSVP by December 7 [cantorjinny@gmail.com](mailto:cantorjinny@gmail.com) for details. Thanks!

## **SHABBAT SHIRA**

**Shabbat Shira or Sabbeth of Song is the Shabbat service that includes Parsha Beshalach which contains the Song of the Sea (Exodus 15:1-18). This was the song by the Children of Israel after the Passage of the Red Sea.**



**Please join us for this music filled Shabbat!**

# A Message from the Education Director

## *Betsy Roth*

The other day I was standing in my kitchen which had recently undergone some extensive repairs to many different problems! My kitchen, and life, had been turned upside down for a few weeks. My home resembled 'rush hour' traffic with all the comings and goings of all the different workmen and contractors. Now everyone had fixed and finished their role in the 'drama' that was my kitchen. Suddenly it was strangely quiet and peaceful, even a little lonely. As I looked around the room, I let out a sigh of relief. Then I found myself saying out loud, "Thank you Mommy and Daddy." I then added, "And thank you God!"

As most of you know, I don't have a lot of family. Most of my extended family was decimated in Europe during the World War. My parents came to the United States around 1949. My mother's sister and my father's brother both moved to Israel. So any cousins I had were in a picture on my parents' night table, of a place very far away.

Over the years, I had been to Israel many times and even for a 15 year stretch. I got to know most of my cousins (one died the year on I was there in University) and my aunts and uncles. It was very different life for me to actually have *mishpocha*, family!

I reflected on my 'Thank You's.' It was a spontaneous outpouring and I was somewhat surprised by it. With my parents' respective Yartzeits approaching, (26 and 8 years) I have both of them on my mind.

It's interesting for me to note how I vowed not to make the same mistakes with my own kids that I had accused my parents of making. Yet, I admit, I made many of the same 'missteps' and have come up with a few new ones of

my own! I hear the echo of my parents as I say to my kids (and to myself), "I'm doing the best I can." These days when I reminisce about life growing up with my mother and father, I spend more time thinking about forgiveness than anything else. And I do recognize and appreciate all the sacrifice and support they had given me throughout my lifetime. I would not be 'here' if it were not for both of them. And I *like* where I am today!

Last January I got a call from my cousin Miriam in Israel. Her father, my Uncle Manny, had died. Manny was my father's brother, my last blood relative. Three weeks ago, his wife Hetty (my aunt) passed away. Naturally, the thoughts, feelings, and visions of the time I spent with them have been rolling before my eyes, like watching old family movies on a projector.

What to make of all this?? What has really been on my mind is the new role that I have to play in this world of mine and my family. Although I didn't have a big family, until now, there was always someone in the generation above me. Now, that is gone. I have reluctantly been bumped up to be the one in 'that' generation!

I have a new identity and I'm not yet sure just who or what that is! I don't see myself as the Matriarch, a Sage or a serious kind of person at all! Heck! Wasn't I the 'Rebel' of the family? I feel very young at heart, somewhat mischievous, out for a good time and a lot of fun (to the annoyance of my own kids)! In short, I feel (and wanna be) like a kid!! Am I in denial? As I said, I have been giving this a lot of thought. Who am I to become?

I have been thinking about it every time I say Kaddish for both my Aunt and Uncle.

### **PAJAMA SHABBAT**

**A fun family service with music and stories.**

**Come in your PJs!**

**January 9, 7:00 PM**





## YAHRTZEITS



<b>Member</b>	<b>Remembers</b>	<b>Relationship</b>	<b>Date Passed Away</b>
Elizabeth & Stephen Ward	Jessica S Hirsch	Mother of Elizabeth	12/2/1978
Cara Kessler	Bernice Toledo	Grandmother of Cara	12/3/1986
Elizabeth & Stephen Ward	Rosalind Gordon	Mother of Elizabeth	12/5/2010
Josie & David Barondess	Florence Claire Elters	Aunt of David	12/6/1986
Joyce & Brian Goodman	Seymour Goodman	Father of Brian	12/7/2011
Gail & Howard Sulkin	Mark Sulkin	Brother of Howard	12/7/1969
Barbara & Joseph Sutliff	Samuel Mostov	Grandfather of Barbara	12/10/1967
Lori Childers	Arthur Porter	Uncle of Lori	12/11/2004
Bonnie & Earl Schendell	Muriel Brownstein	Mother of Bonnie	12/11/1992
Gail & Howard Sulkin	Herman Sulkin	Father of Howard	12/14/1998
Josie & David Barondess	Stuart Barondess	Father of David	12/15/2004
Audrey & David Lipps	Abraham Gold	Grandfather of David	12/15/1963
Shari Curtiss	Herman Cohen	Grandfather of Shari	12/16/1982
Ana Kocur & Irwin Kaplan	Ann Kaplan	Grandmother of Irwin	12/17/2004
Gerry Chelnik	William Chelnik	Brother of David	12/20/xxxx
Barbara & Joseph Sutliff	Dvorah Mostov	Grandmother of Barbara	12/20/1966
Shari Curtiss	Ben Feuer	Grandfather of Shari	12/21/1996
Kathy Hertz	Eleanor Scheman	Grandmother of Kathy	12/21/2010
Donald & Dorothy Lewy	Arnold Jack Rosenthal	Cousin of Dorothy	12/22/2010
Lisa Farrell	Barnett Dubois	Father of Lisa	12/24/2008
Karen & Matthew Bender	Mary Zuckerman	Grandmother of Karen	12/27/2003
Elizabeth & Bruce Brotman	Saul Brotman	Father of Bruce	12/27/87
Natalie & Gregory Bloomstein	Assya Muroch	Mother of Gregory	12/30/2005
Mark Lichter	Doris Lichter	Mother of Mark	12/30/1994
Devin & Mac McCrory	Olius McCrory, Jr	Father of Mac	12/30/2000
Karen & Matthew Bender	Isidor Boltan	Grandfather of Karen	12/31/1984
Barbara & Joseph Sutliff	Ida Goldman	Aunt of Barbara	12/31/1995
Mary & Jeff Horner	Murray Horner	Uncle of Jeff	1/X/1999
Nancy Watson	Irving Goldfarb	Grandfather of Nancy	1/1/1998
Cindy Minionis	William Sucher	Father of Cindy	1/2/1976
Alissa and Charles Blackmore	Gladys Kramer	Aunt of Alissa	1/3/2009
Audrey & David Lipps	Isaac Margolis Barnett	Grandfather of Audrey	1/3/1980
Bonnie & Earl Schendell	Sydney Schendell	Father of Earl	1/5/2005
Beth & Ron Glaser	Ethel Glaser	Mother of Ronald	1/6/1996
Josie & David Barondess	William H Barondess	Grandfather of David	1/7/1980
Lisa Farrell	Kevin Farrell	Brother of Jeffrey	1/10/1990
Josie & David Barondess	Mary Opachinsky Spiegel	Grandmother of David	1/19/1959
Roberta and Ronald Milberg	Bennett P. Fleishman	Brother of Roberta	1/20/1961
Alissa and Charles Blackmore	Shari Simon	Mother of Alissa	1/21/2009
Nicole & Mike Manning	Sam Manning	Father of Mike	1/22/2010
Barbara & Joseph Sutliff	Karuna Thal	Cousin of Barbara	1/22/2008
Deborah Mayer & Todd Hillman	Monroe Mayer	Grandfather of Deborah	1/24/2002
Roberta and Ronald Milberg	Roberta P. Davis	Mother of Ronald	1/24/1991
Barbara & Joseph Sutliff	Jack Weinberg	Uncle of Barbara	1/24/1076
Lori Childers	Tiby Kaplan	Aunt of Lori	1/25/2000
Nancy Watson	Marjorie Hecht Watson	Grandmother of Hannah	1/26/2009
Laura & Jeffrey Klaiman	Diane S. Klaiman	Mother of Jeffrey	1/28/1997
Dorothy & Donald Lewy	Harry Rothman	Father of Dorothy	1/28/1997
Audrey & David Lipps	Fredda Freeman	Aunt of David	1/29/1997



Please help Matthew Kravchick with his "Burr-Mitzvah" Project



### "Coats of Many Colors"

Since my Torah portion is about Joseph and his coat of many colors, I've decided to help families in need by having a Winter Clothing Drive, benefitting the Interfaith Clothing Center in Rockville, MD. The Interfaith Clothing Center (ICC) distributes donated items free of charge to ICC clients so they can pay for rent, food and other expenses. Since my Bar Mitzvah happens the day before Winter officially begins, I'm hoping you'll bring a winter coat or item of clothing to help these families make it through the cold season. The ICC is in need of gently used children's coats and other winter accessories, but adult sizes are needed as well! Please bring an item or two to TBT either Friday night December 19<sup>th</sup> or Saturday morning, December 20<sup>th</sup>. I'll have a collection area in the front lobby as you walk in the door. The ICC and I appreciate your generous donations, and I will personally deliver them to the families in need.

- Matt Kravchick



Interfaith Clothing Center is a program of

### Welcome Kits for the Katherine K. Hanley Family Shelter

Rachel Kaplan's Mitzvah project is to create welcome kits for the Katherine K. Hanley Family Shelter in Fairfax, VA ([www.shelterhouse.org](http://www.shelterhouse.org)), which provides temporary housing for homeless families. Rachel's thought was to create a kit containing soap, shampoo, a washcloth, toothbrush and toothpaste for new residents at the shelter. Rachel's goal is to create 50 kits. The shelter is also in need of diapers, baby wipes, baby bottles, and gently used kitchen cooking items such as pots and pans and cutlery. While Rachel is focused on the welcome kits, donations of any kind will be accepted. Rachel will have her collection box available on Sundays during religious school at Temple Beth Torah for any of you who would like to make a donation. Thank you in advance for helping Rachel to meet her goal, and more importantly, for helping others.



## TBT Junior Choir

If you have a child in second through seventh grade, our new TBT Junior Choir is for your child!

Rehearsals are Sundays from 12:30-1 pm. All interested parties please contact Joanne Wertz at [joannewertz@yahoo.com](mailto:joannewertz@yahoo.com)



Save the Date

Scout Shabbat

February 7, 7:00 PM

Boys Scouts and Girl Scouts from all troops are welcome.

### New Electronic TBT Newsletter

In an effort to conserve funds and go green, the TBT newsletter will be transitioning to electronic-only in 2015. The newsletter will be e-mailed to congregants and posted on our website at <http://bethtorah.net>. If you would like to continue receiving a hard-copy version of the newsletter, please contact Amy Moss at [amyedits@icloud.com](mailto:amyedits@icloud.com) , 703-585-5395

MAY THEIR MEMORY BE A BLESSING

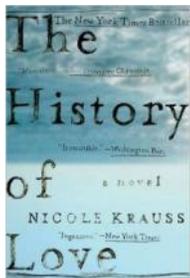
זכר צדיק לברכה



The Temple Beth Torah Yahrzeit Memorial Wall is a way to honor the memories of our departed loved ones. It is displayed in our sanctuary. A light will burn next to their name on all yahrzeit and yizkor observances.

The order form can be found on our website at [bethtorah.net](http://bethtorah.net). Click on Make a Contribution on the top right of the Home page.

### TBT Ladies Book Club



Please join us for this "pot-luck" style book club that meets every OTHER month on the second Tuesday of the month. This club is open to all TBT women. Plan to bring a drink or appetizer to share! Our book for Dec 9 is [The History of Love](#) by Nicole Krauss.

Leo Gursky taps his radiator each evening to let his upstairs neighbor know he's still alive. But it wasn't always like this: in the Polish village of his youth, he fell in love and wrote a book ...Sixty years later and half a world away, fourteen-year-old Alma, who was named after a character in the book, undertakes an adventure to find her namesake and save her family.

You don't have to read the book to enjoy book club!

Visit the TBT website at: [bethtorah.net](http://bethtorah.net)

*Light the first Chanukah candle on Tuesday night,  
December 16*



*Celebrate Chanukah at Temple Beth Torah!  
Friday, December 19, 7:00 PM*

**save the Date!**

**CASINO NIGHT  
&  
ART AUCTION**

**Saturday, March 14**

**Temple Beth Torah**  
**PO Box 2020**  
**Centreville, VA 20122**