



TEMPLE  
BETH ISRAEL  
EST. 1859



### Monthly Message From Rabbi Bahar

I have spoken to several members who feel they never received much Jewish education. They shared that they don't know what the Haftarah is or know much about various traditions. I want to share with you – if that is you, then please join us at Kiddush Club. Kiddush Club is intended for those who are curious about their Judaism. It is not intended for you to have much knowledge or experience. I will also share with you a thought if you feel your age (or lack of experience) is a prohibiting factor in increasing your Jewish knowledge. We read in the Psalms: "In old age, they still produce fruit; they are full of sap and freshness"<sup>1</sup>

This verse is used in various Talmudic stories to support the idea that no matter the student's age, they can always learn.<sup>2</sup> The rabbis have various stories of discovery and knowledge acquisition into old age. Rabbi Akiva famously did not begin learning until age 40, and only at age 80 began to teach.<sup>3</sup> Rabbi Tarfon taught: "It is not your obligation to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it."<sup>4</sup> There is an ongoing, lifelong obligation to learn in Judaism.

In an article explaining the nature of midrash, Michael Fishbane teaches that there is a midrashic myth defining how God gave God's words to form the Torah at Mount Sinai. In the myth, God's words emerge from a Divine Essence as visible fire, which then takes shape as letters and words onto the tablets. The Ten Commandments were, therefore, an extension of divine speech. There are further midrashim that question what and how much did the Israelites learn at Sinai. The midrash goes on to teach that not only were the Israelites taught the 613 commandments of the Torah, but they also were taught the rabbinic interpretation of them as well.<sup>5</sup> The reception of the Decalogue, or the Ten Commandments, at Sinai encapsulates the future achievement of rabbinic interpretation along with Revelation of the divine.

Since we do not have the good fortune of being present at Sinai the moment when the Torah was given and therefore receiving all knowledge in that moment – we all must go on a journey of learning and discovery continuously.

Every year, we mark the celebration of the reception of the Torah at Sinai with the celebration of the holiday of Shavuot. As part of this celebration – we study all night. This year, as a congregation, we are participating in: "Small Congregations Tikkun Leil Shavuot 5783 - Thursday, May 25 through Friday, May 26" I am teaching May 26th at 11 am Eastern in the final session.

If you have little experience with this holiday, I invite you to participate. If you are curious and want to learn more, I encourage you to attend Kiddush Club. If you are interested in learning about a specific topic of interest, please reach out to me. I would be delighted to study with you or prepare a class for the congregation if I think others would be interested as well.

I'll conclude with the penultimate Midrashic verse on learning and studying the Torah: Ben Bag Bag says: "Turn it over again and again for everything is within it. Look at it, become grey and old within it, and do not depart from it. For you have nothing greater than it."<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Psalm 92:15

<sup>2</sup>BT Ketuboth 82a

<sup>3</sup>Menachot 99b

<sup>4</sup>Pirkei Avot 2:19

<sup>5</sup>Songs of Songs Rabbah 1.2:2



## May Yahrzeits

### May 5 (April 29 - May 5)

Lena Roobin Minkoff - 04/29/2004  
 Laura Marie Newman - 04/30/1997  
 Gustave Bernd - 05/01/1919  
 Rabbi Elkan Cohen Voorsanger -  
 05/01/1963  
 Kathryn Cave - 05/01/2001  
 Lala Oberdorfer - 05/02/1995  
 Harris Lubel - 05/03/1961  
 Morris Aaron Mink - 05/03/1992

### May 12 (May 6 - May 12)

Teresa Kaplan Schlosburg - 5/7/1989  
 Juliette Gans Barker - 5/7/2002  
 Marcia Fried - 5/7/2014  
 Samuel Lavine - 5/8/1964  
 Jerry Lippman - 5/8/2010  
 Anita Greenwald - 5/8/2019  
 Solomon Waxelbaum - 5/9/1896  
 Marian Waxelbaum Silverman -  
 5/9/1984  
 Harry Theodore Torch - 5/9/1993  
 Rosalind Harris Fried - 5/10/1980  
 Malvin Morris - 5/12/1901  
 Carolyn Waxelbaum Shoening - 5/12/1987

### May 19 (May 13 - May 19)

Rebecca Witman - 5/13/1924  
 Dr. Reuben M. Reifler - 5/13/1983  
 Bertha C Dillard - 5/17/2001  
 Philip Lipman - 5/18/1909  
 Max Roobin - 5/18/1977  
 Adele Hannah Gans - 5/19/1957

### May 26 (May 20 - May 26)

Dr. Benjamin Bashinski, Sr. - 5/20/1950  
 Leonora Hart - 5/22/2020  
 Inell (Shine) Butler - 5/23/1982  
 Patsy Fried - 5/23/2012  
 Julia C. Kaplan - 5/24/1965  
 Israel Meyer Roobin - 5/25/1937  
 Armin Porges - 5/21/2002 \*

### June 2 (May 27 - June 2)

Emanuel M. Kahn - 5/29/1907  
 Joe B. Jacobs - 5/29/1965  
 Henrietta Bernd - 5/30/1938  
 Carl Bloch - June 1, 1959  
 Ira Kaplan - June 1, 1980  
 Norma Oliner - June 1, 1997



"BLOW OUT THE CANDLES: MAY IS A MONTH OF CELEBRATION! WISHING ALL OUR TBI FAMILY BORN IN APRIL A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

**Barbara Gertner - May 1, 1951**

**Ezra Ware - May 4, 2018**

**Elizabeth Bahar - May 6, 1980**

**Joyce Harris - May 7, 1947**

**Rick Bialac - May 10, 1979**

**Guy Fried - May 14, 1955**

**Martha Lleras - May 17, 1956**

**Lise Dayan - May 20, 1951**

**Lauri Mizell - May 23, 1970**

**Susan Bialac - May 24, 1956**

**Robert Donner - May 28, 1934**

**Madison Butler - May 30, 1999**

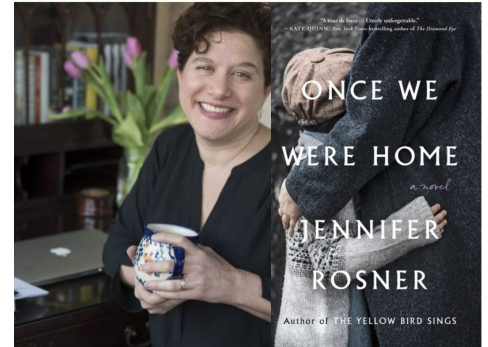


CHEERS TO LOVE: MAY IS THE MONTH OF ANNIVERSARIES! MAZEL TOV TO ALL OUR MEMEBERS COMMEMORATING A SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY THIS MONTH!

**Rick & Susan Bialac - May 30**

## sisterhood

ONCE WE WERE HOME  
 BY JENNIFER ROSNER



**SISTERHOOD**

ONCE WE WERE HOME

**BOOK CLUB**

Sunday | 1 PM

MAY 28

Temple Beth Israel

Join us in person or on Zoom!


Author  
Jennifer Rosner

## TBI Outreach

**Request for two Macon Outreach volunteers from TBI** to serve a cafeteria-style lunch with two CSI volunteers to those in need at Mulberry Methodist from 10:45 a.m. - 12 noon on the third Thursday of each month: Jan. 19th 2023, Feb. 16th, March 16th, April 20th and May 18th.

If you can volunteer or have any questions for any of the 2022-2023 dates please **contact Marlene Humphry, TBI Social Action Chair, at [mhumphry@cox.net](mailto:mhumphry@cox.net).**

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BY JENNIFER ROSNER



**SISTERHOOD**  
**BOOK CLUB**

ONCE WE WERE HOME  
Sunday | 1 PM  
MAY 28  
Temple Beth Israel  
Join us in person or on Zoom!  
Author  
Jennifer Rosner

APRIL

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JUNE

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IT'S TORAH O'CLOCK SOMEWHERE

Join friends from across North America for a night of online Torah Study in celebration of Shavuot. Thursday, May 25 - Friday, May 26 8:00 pm ET - 9:00 am ET free | registration required @ BethEITyler.com/Shavuot

**TIKKUN LEIL 5783**  
**SHAVUOT**

developed as a collaborative project of small URJ congregations

MAY 2023



Temple Beth Israel  
892 Cherry St  
Macon, Georgia 31201



Visit our website via  
this QR Code



## May: Don't Miss These Exciting Upcoming Events at TBI!

### Macon Lunch Bunch

May 18

11:00AM

Yollah

894 College St. Macon, GA 31201

### CSI Holocaust Event

May 21st

12PM

611 First Street, Macon, GA 31201

### 4th Annual Tikkun Leil Shavuot

May 25th - 26th

8PM - 9AM

Temple Beth Israel

### Shavuot Services

May 26th

10AM

Robins Air Force Base