

A Note from Your Clergy

June 2020

Dear Incoming Seventh Grade Families,

We're thrilled to accompany you on this exciting and meaningful year together where our young people enter the world of Jewish adulthood.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah marks the entry point into your young person's exploring what it means to get to design his or her own Jewish journey. Up until this point, you've been guiding them, ensuring that they receive the best tools possible to be able to accomplish the Jewish basics: praying, reading and understanding Torah, and mitzvot to benefit the community.

Now, starting with seventh grade and continuing in our high school program, TBA is providing our young people with the opportunities and choices to navigate their Jewish lives: a higher level of Jewish learning with meaningful conversations that can help them in their everyday life, space for asking difficult questions in a safe and nurturing environment, and opportunities for making more of an impact on their community through mitzvah projects and volunteer hours. Not only will our students be personally developing in our program, they'll grow in community with their Jewish peers through these highly formative years.

In order to do this, we require the support of the community and the [full attendance](#) of the community. [Seventh grade Mechinah is required for all TBA students becoming Bar and Bat Mitzvah for the entire year.](#) It is an essential part of Bar and Bat Mitzvah training, and participation in the [entire year](#) is necessary to ensure that all our young people benefit from learning with their full peer community. [In having your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah at TBA, you are committing to keeping your child enrolled and attending for the entire seventh grade Mechinah program, and we encourage you to consider continuing their attendance in high school.](#)

Additionally, there are no better way of helping our young people lead a meaningful and fulfilling Jewish and adult life than by showing them through our own example. We encourage you to take advantage of the many services and programs TBA offers for family and adults, and we on the clergy team would be most happy to meet with you to help you chart your own path of meaning.

This has been a highly unusual and difficult year. In this period we have learned however, about what is truly important: relationships, community, ritual, and meaningful contributions to the world around us. These are exactly what we are about at TBA, and in taking part in our Mechinah and high school programs, are young people will foster meaningful Jewish relationships, be part of community, be supported by ritual, and find opportunities to make a difference in the world. We look forward to another year with you and yours on this incredible journey.

B'shalom,

Rabbi David Z. Vaisberg

Cantor Jessica Epstein

Max Edwards, Rabbinical Assistant