

TEMPLE BETH TZEDEK KESHER INCLUSION PROGRAM

LED BY RABBI PERRY NETTER AND CANTOR MARK SPINDLER WITH THE TBT COMMUNITY OF LAY LEADERS AND CONGREGANTS
SERVICES AND STRUCTURE

PLEASE JOIN US IN THE KESHER INCLUSION PROGRAM THAT RESONATES WITH YOU!

SERVICES	DESCRIPTION
BIKUR HOLIM LEADERSHIP GROUP	In support of our clergy's pastoral work, volunteers visit members with illness, frailty, disability, and surgery in the hospital, rehabilitation and skilled nursing facilities, and private and assisted living residences. Core group of lay leaders assists our clergy in tending to the well-being of our TBT congregational family.
PHONE PALS	Regular caring phone calls are made to some members who are homebound or isolated to check on their well-being and to determine Keshet needs to try to address.
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INCLUSION	Works with clergy, staff and committees to assist all members with special needs of every age to have meaningful access to congregational life. Special needs include frailty, vision and hearing loss, dementia, cognitive and behavioral challenges, mental health, and physical disability. TBT committees and leaders use the inclusion subcommittee as a resource to (1) shepherd synagogue supports to provide meaningful access to TBT and (2) help the member navigate challenges to be able to live a full and rich life of Torah in the TBT community.
OUTSTRETCHED ARM	We celebrate and commemorate together as community with our friends with developmental disabilities and special needs including for Sukkot, Chanukah, Purim, Passover, Shavuot and Shabbat.
TBT CATERED MEAL PROGRAM	<i>Shiva meals</i> are delivered by volunteers (sometimes with serving and cleanup) to congregational families (as needed). At least one meal is customarily provided. <i>Shabbat meals</i> are delivered to congregational families following hospitalization, birth and adoption. Passover foods and meals are delivered to members who are homebound (as needed). Shabbat and other holiday meals will be provided on occasion to members who are homebound.

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TRANSPORTATION NETWORK	Volunteer member drivers transport members who need rides to synagogue services and events.
MINCHA AT WEINBERG CAMPUS	Rabbi Netter and Cantor Spindler lead a monthly program for seniors with illness, frailty, and disability, which includes the afternoon service, words of Torah, a Yiddish melody or holiday song and kibitzing with our friends over rugalach and holiday treats. TBT youth and adult volunteers assist and visit.
STUDY SESSION IN TORAH, TALMUD AND LITURGY WITH RABBI NETTER AT WEINBERG CAMPUS	Rabbi Netter teaches and leads a monthly discussion with seniors with illness, frailty, and disability, whose minds yearn for the study of Jewish texts.
KESHER CARDS	Personal handwritten cards are sent on behalf of our congregational family at times of illness, surgery, loss, and simcha.
KESHER BIRTHDAY CARDS	Personal handwritten cards are sent to our members ages 80+ and members with special needs.
HOLIDAY AND SHABBAT HOME HOSPITALITY	Our warm and gracious congregation always has a seat at the table for members and visitors who would otherwise be dining alone for the High Holy Days, Thanksgiving, and Passover. Keshet matches guests and hosts. A Shabbat home hospitality program is under development.
YOUTH COMMUNITY SERVICE	Every TBT youth of every age is encouraged to participate in the Keshet program that resonates.
HOLIDAY PACKAGE HOME DELIVERIES	Volunteers deliver High Holy Day and Shavuot holiday packages to ~140 members with frailty, disability, illness, and recent loss.
CHALLAH BAKES	Baking teams prepare and bake challah for High Holy Day and Shavuot deliveries.
AUDIO-VERSION OF TBT SHOFAR	Members who are not able to read easily for reasons including vision loss, illness, frailty, and disability, are provided accessible audio of our synagogue publications.

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MUSIC	Our talented TBT musicians perform uplifting Klezmer music and holiday melodies for our Kesher programs.
PHOTOGRAPHY	Kesher programs and activity are captured for our TBT website, publications, and display boards.
READING OF PSALMS IN TBT SANCTUARY PRIOR TO FUNERAL SERVICE	Friends gather to read Psalms for funeral services in the sanctuary an hour before the services as guests gather.
LIFE-LONG LEARNING FOR JEWS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS	Program under development to provide B'nai Mitzvah and synagogue skill development learning opportunities for adults.

Kesher Inclusion Mission Statement

"We view all human beings with infinite dignity, created in the image of God" (TBT mission statement). Indelibly woven into our being is the knowledge that our humanity and our need for relationship, community, worship and learning – a life of Torah – are undiminished by disability, illness, frailty and loss. Kesher Inclusion formed to help dissipate the painful isolation from these challenges and ensure full seamless lifelong inclusion in our kehilla *for all our members* through bikur cholim and inclusion initiatives led by Rabbi Netter and Cantor Spindler in partnership with our lay leaders and volunteers. Every TBT member of every age is a member of Kesher Inclusion, at times providing Kesher services, at times receiving Kesher services. Kesher Inclusion is only strong and enduring through your participation in hesed (*lovingkindness*). Please join in any area that resonates with you whenever you are able. Your leadership and support at any level at any time elevate our kehilla immeasurably and are greatly appreciated. Thank you so much.