

THE STAR

Special Old Pictures Issue

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**TEMPLE BETH TORAH, 130 MAIN STREET
WETHERSFIELD, CONNECTICUT**

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Message from Rabbi Seth

Salutations from Seth and Sallyanne

Happy Chanukah all! We are getting ready to celebrate with the TBT family on Zoom with candle lighting and a Chanukah sing-along.

So mark Sunday, December 13th at 5:00 for some holiday fun.

Even during the darkest days for Judah and the Maccabees, there was hope and the light of the Menorah shone brightly. The light is shining brighter now on our path to TBT's future.

We are in the process of finding a new spiritual leader, and we have a couple of viable candidates. We are so fortunate to have new lay leadership for TBT. Deb Hammer and Dave Forrest have graciously stepped up to be our new TBT Co-Presidents and Barry Goldberg has agreed to act as Vice President. Our period of transition is heading in the right direction. It is nearly time for Kathi and the two of us to pass the torch. We know that it will be placed in good hands!

Happy Chanukah,

Rabbi Seth and Sallyanne

Message from your presidents

Dear TBT family and friends,

A very Happy Chanukah to all of you! We are beginning the season of miracles! So much has happened to our little community this year! The Covid pandemic struck in March and TBT was forced to close its doors to in-person activities. Lucky for us, Seth continued to have Shabbat services and Torah study via Zoom so we could still have our spiritual connection to TBT. Barry Goldberg, our treasurer was able to secure loans and grants to help cover our expenses. Disaster struck in the form of tropical storm Isaias. It was the last straw for our poor birch tree Maurice, and caused significant damage to the Felicia bench in front. The tree will be removed and a little family of Dwarf Birch trees will take its place. We are looking into repairing the damage to Felicia's bench. To add insult to injury, our 5-ton AC unit totally fried. We started the New Year unable to use our beloved building for services, and as a rental property. A substantial income loss. Despite one catastrophe after another, our beloved TBT community rallied! Everyone dug deep into their pockets and donated to cover the cost of the new AC unit. It is working perfectly and the humidity level in the sanctuary is ideal for our Torah scrolls.

We recently found out that the lower roof covering the Social Hall bathrooms and the kitchen needs to be replaced. J P Carroll has been hired to replace that roof. Thanks to everyone's generosity to our AC Emergency Fund, we have the funds to cover that expense!

And now for some good news! Our Rabbi Committee continues to do its work in finding a new spiritual leader for TBT. Future TBT leadership is in place! Rabbi Seth continues to lead up in Shabbat Eve Zoom services as well as Torah Study. Amazingly enough, we have had great attendance to both events! And for more good news, Kerri Provost has joined the TBT family! Learn more about Kerri in this issue of The Star.

And so, "Our Best Kept Secret in Old Wethersfield" continues to chug along. Miracles do happen and we are proof of it!

Chag Sameach, Sallyanne and Kathi

■ News and Notes

Welcome Kerri Provost to our TBT family. Kerri works in the Collections Department at the Connecticut Historical Society and is a Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford board member. She shares her home in Hartford with Mischief and Cecilia, whose meows you may have heard during Shabbat Zoom services. In her spare time, Kerri likes writing, baking, hiking, taking photos, and creating usually bad arts and crafts.



Our Ralph installed a Motion Sensor to light driveway.

Ralph: "I received a call from Deb Hammer explaining to me about a new renter who arrives at 5:30 a.m. and it is still dark out and concerned about her safety walking to the back of the building. We discussed ways of lighting the driveway. I told her I would look into a solar type motion sensor. After doing some research, I chose a low Profile Hi output L.E.D sensor with photocell and 30 second time out. The sensor is powered with lithium battery maintained by a large solar panel display. I ordered and installed it. Deb tested at night and is very happy with the lighting distribution. I installed it so the light shines mostly down on the driveway. This gives us most light on the driveway which will make the walk back to the building much safer."



■ Old Pictures

Not many photos this summer so we raided our TBT stash of old photos, **randomly selected** a few here presented in **no order** whatsoever.



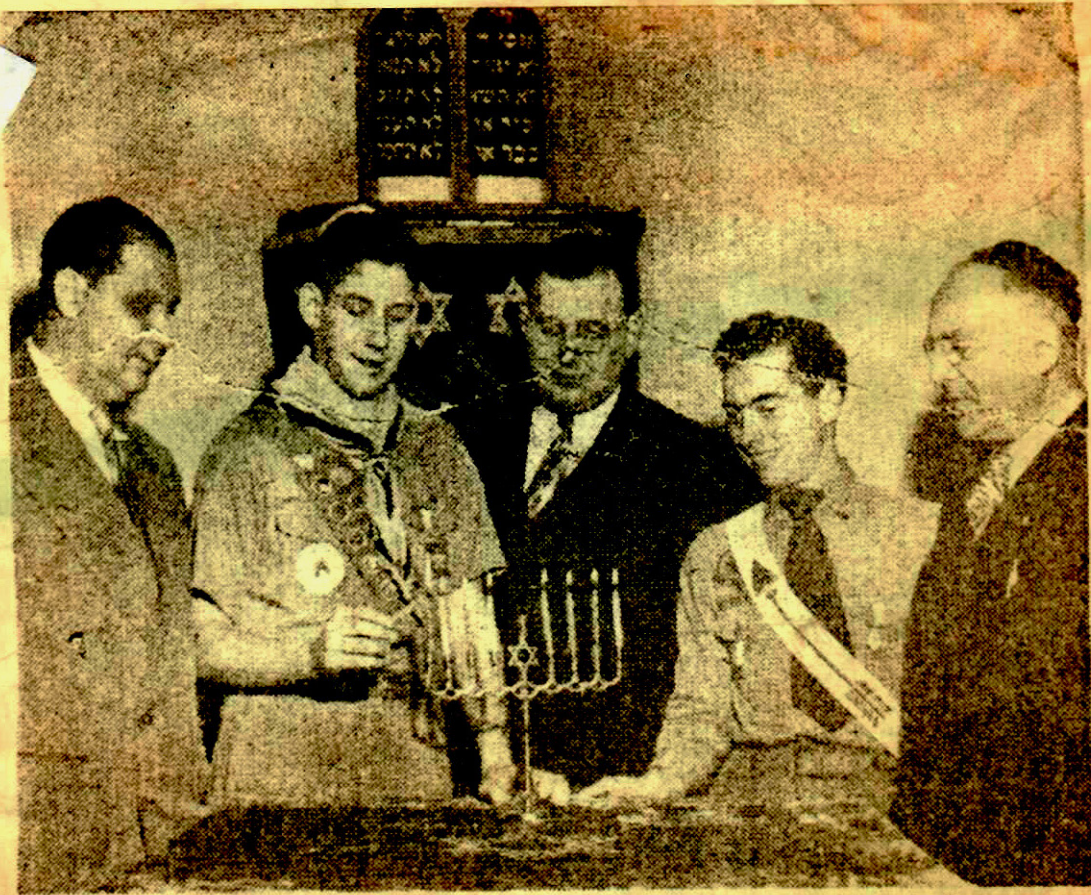




Successful Immigration to America Re-enactment

In the autumn of 1922, a group of people left their families and homes and traveled across Europe to Rotterdam. There they boarded the SS Nieuw Amsterdam and sailed across the Atlantic. In New York they had to pass inspection on Ellis Island before they could begin a new life in America. Fast forward to February 2006, and our Sunday School students did a re-enactment of that adventure. Our 16 students came in costume and were joined by 23 costumed adults who portrayed their relatives and helped them on their way. Each traveler received a passport and ticket with the name of the person they were portraying. Money and heirloom jewelry was packed into their suitcases for the trip. The first challenge was to get through our guarded border crossings. When they arrived in Rotterdam, their I.D. was checked against the ship's actual manifest. Steerage was located below grade in the Temple's basement which had very appropriate conditions - cold and damp. They had some fine vegetable broth and (stale) rolls for nourishment on the trip. Since it was to be a 10 day trip, the travelers came prepared with games to play. The on-board accordion player provided some familiar tunes. When the ship docked in New York, they entered the Great Hall at Ellis Island, a.k.a. our sanctuary, in a very orderly manner and went to the inspection stations - character, health and vocation. One of the immigration clerks was very helpful in giving the immigrants more American sounding names. The immigrants who didn't pass a station were sent to the appeals judge. The clearance clerk checked their paperwork and sent them to the judge who gave them a preview of the oath of allegiance. Fortunately none had to be deported.

Immigration cast and crew



SPIRIT OF CHANUKAH Being awarded coveted Ner Tamid Medal of Eternal Light at first day observance of Chanukah in Ahaveth Acim Synagog are Bertram Siegel and Harold Nevins of Boy Scout Troop 98. Proud daddies Sid Siegel left and Maurice Nevins

Found this undated clipping in a storage box in the TBT coat room.

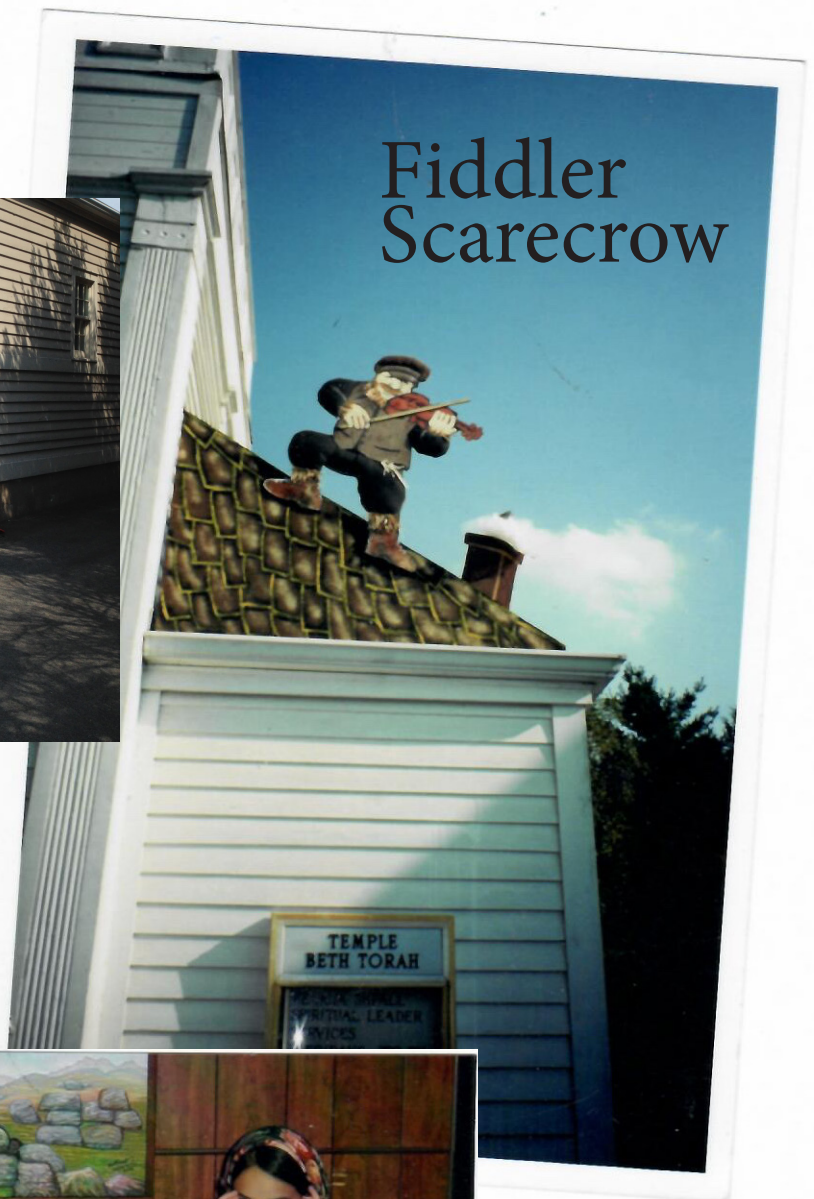
“Being awarded coveted Ner Tamid Medal of Eternal Light at first day of observance of Chanukah in Ahaveth Acim Synagogue are Bertram Siegel and Harold Nevins of Boy Scout Troop 98 as proud daddies Sid Siegel, left and Maurice Nevins look on.”

Note that Harold was in the Order of the Arrow

More Scrapbook:



Terrace
repaired



Mira and
Immigrating kids





Religious school students boarding
and taking off on El Al flight to Israel.
Bruce Kaplan at the controls. Phil sound effects.



El Al Flight cast and crew



ZOOM TORAH STUDY



Sanctuary





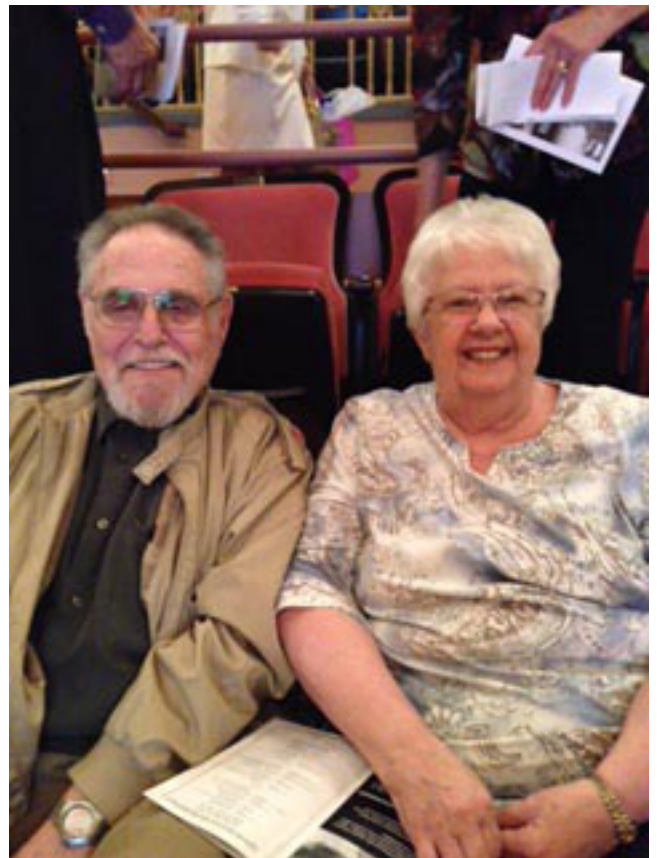
Chanukah
Stories,

Annual
Meeting
out back,

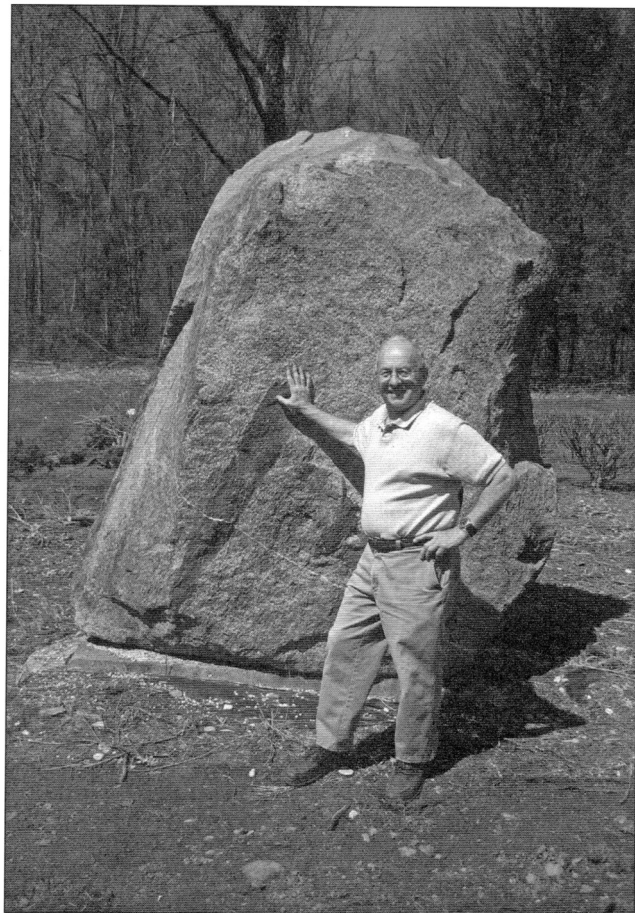
Menorah.



Michael, Phil, Ralph, Cy



AZ and Evelyn Soforenko



Harold at
Memorial Park



Michael Kay



Sukkah
Crew



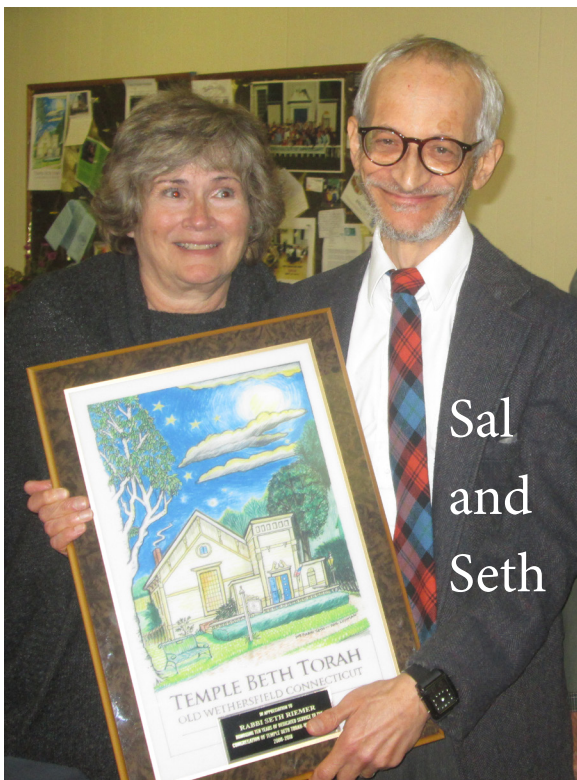
Phil and Ralph and kid art



Cy and Helena



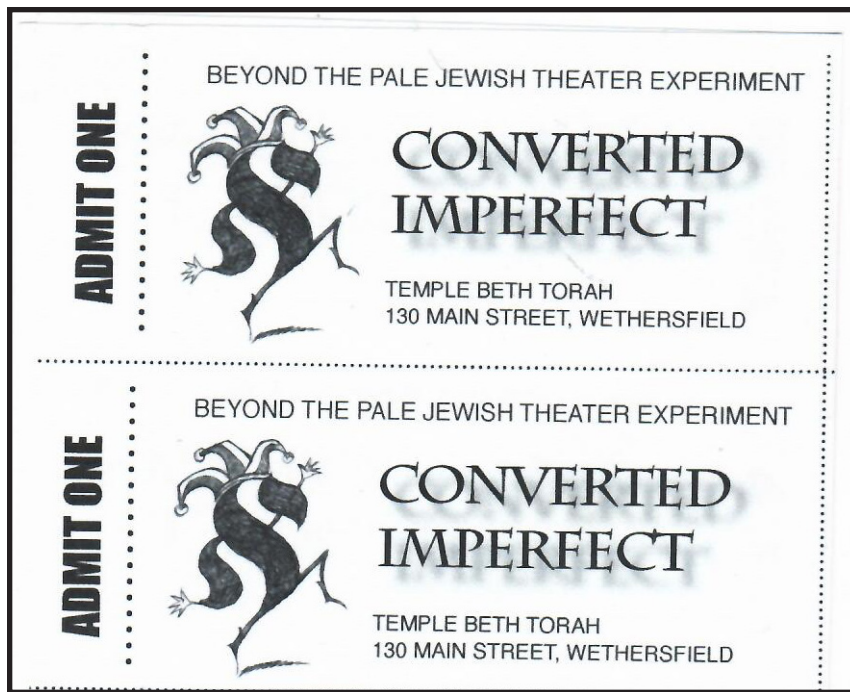
Leo and Harriet



Sal
and
Seth



Cy and Lynn



Seth's play





???





Scarecrow Moses











The Kessler/Carlin
Wedding at
Temple Beth Torah
in Wethersfield
August 1960



Star readers: If you have more photos you might like to share please forward them with ID's to:

The Star

(aka Phil...pjlohman@att.net) for Star's next issue, ideally as jpegs!

Thanks



US

Rabbi: Seth Riemer

Co-Presidents: Sallyanne Scott and Kathi Mag

Executive Committee: Sallyanne Scott, Kathi Mag,
Carol Gershenson. Barry Goldberg and Karen Klein

Financial Secretary, Lead Person for board meetings:
Sallyanne Scott

Corresponding Secretary for Donations,
Co-President, Gardening: Kathi Mag

Recording Secretary: Carol Gershenson

Membership and Publicity Chairperson: Karen Klein

Treasurer and Memorial Park Director: Barry Goldberg

Nominating Chair and Board of Education
Chairperson: Cecile Bronfin

High Holidays Committee: Rabbi Seth Riemer, Barbara Checknoff,
Cecile Bronfin, Fred London, Carol Gershenson,
Susan Reuben, Sallyanne and Barry Scott, Kathi and Eliot Mag

Friday Night Announcements: Deb Ehrlich

Head Religious School Instructor: Rabbi Seth Riemer

Religious Studies Teacher: Michelle Cyr

Adult Education and Book Club: Ellen Sue Moses

Receiving phone calls: Rhoda London

The Star Newsletter: Phil Lohman, Micki Bellamy, Deb Hammer

Ways and Means: Kathryn Kenzel
aided by Judy Gold and Helene Rosenblatt

Building Consultants: Ralph Horowitz, Dave Forrest,
Phil Lohman, Kathi Mag and Gary Evans

Torah Study, Building Rentals, and Webmaster: Deb Hammer

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MAUREEN HOROWITZ

ABR, GRI, SRES, REALTOR

Licensed in Connecticut since 2002

It isn't easy to find a real estate agent with Maureen's combination of skills, strengths and experience.

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