



THE STAR

The Appreciation Issue

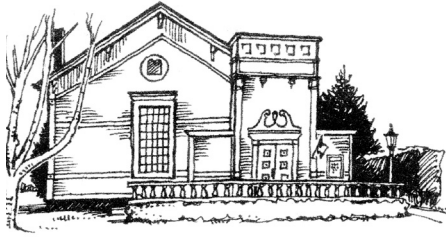
May/June 2021

IYYAR/SIVAN/TAMUZ 5781

VOL. 24 NO. 3

TEMPLE BETH TORAH, 130 MAIN STREET

WETHERSFIELD, CONNECTICUT



Contents

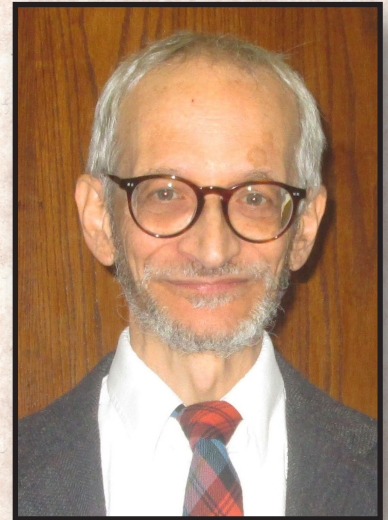
- Rabbi Seth's farewell
- Message from your Co-presidents Sallyanne and Kathi
- Appreciating Rabbi Seth
- Appreciating Sallyanne and Kathi
- Message from Our New Co-Presidents Deb and Dave
- Remembering Ralph Horowitz
- Andrew Rose to celebrate his becoming a Bar Mitzvah.
- The end of Maurice, the Kavalier memorial birch
- A Reader responds
- Us directory
- Paid Advertisements

■ A Brief farewell from Rabbi Seth

As I write this, I'm stumbling through final hurdles that the Israeli government's bureaucracy sees fit to place in the path of new olim/immigrants. Somehow, I have faith that I'll get through the process and onto an El Al flight this summer or, if things drag on a little longer, by the end of this year. I'll take with me good, satisfying memories of Temple Beth Torah and all of you.

I hope I leave for you the same: the recollection of joyful, meaningful experiences we had together and with them an abiding, strong feeling of mutual affection and affirmation.

Rabbi Alan Lefkowitz, who will succeed me as your rabbi, doesn't need to step into my (or any other spiritual leader's!) shoes. He is already – by virtue of his own powers, with his own considerable gifts, and guided by the divine light – on firm footing as a congregational rabbi and will with God's help, make a unique and positive impact on your lives. I wish him hatzlahah/success in his new position!



In the days remaining for me to serve as your rabbi, I hope to see you at synagogue events – such as Shabbat service, Torah study and an upcoming bar mitzvah – and that you'll contact me to say shalom (you know what that word means) and lehitra'ot (the modern Israeli greeting that means "to see and be seen"). These words are not a final adieu or ultimate goodbye signal; they convey the hope of reunion, of being together again. (In this world and/or the next...?)

In my mind's eye I'll continue to see you; you'll remain in my daily prayers.

TBT is part of who I am and will always remain so. Thank you.

■ Appreciating Rabbi Seth



Susan James on Seth...

I first met Seth when we were both participants in the Middletown Clergy Assn. 20 or so years ago. I was quite impressed by his evident intelligence and wide range of knowledge about so many areas. I became aware of more subtle qualities: his deep respect for people very different from him, his open-minded stance on various issues, his ability to listen deeply, his quirky sense of humor, his tact in addressing contentious issues in the group, his enthusiastic willingness to participate in whatever was going on, and a deeply human, fundamental kindness and compassion for others.

I was particularly attentive because at that time I was on a segment of my spiritual journey that drew me strongly to Judaism, and I'd been told by another rabbi/mentor to pursue local resources more intensely. I was at a loss, unsure of how to proceed, and a bit anxious about it. A few months of experiencing Seth through the Clergy group convinced me that I might be able to survive the encounter, so I met with him over some weeks to explore these issues.

I'd forgotten that people change in different contexts. While he was still kind and open, I found a different side of Seth. He welcomed me with respect, but also with a penetrating, challenging, insightful and incisive curiosity about me, about my thought process (which, I quickly realized, was riddled with sloppy thinking, poorly formed concepts, and an appalling lack of knowledge), about the experiences that led me there, about my understanding of certain aspects of Christianity (which I was also embarrassed about when I realized that he knew more about some issues than I did), and why I thought I might want to change (that was a close encounter with myself).

It was at this point that I encountered a trait in Seth that has radically changed my life. I was raised in one of the "hellfire and damnation" branches of Christianity, and without realizing it, I had been expecting hellfire from him about the pathetic state of my thinking and it had taken a lot for me to keep returning to meetings with him. I was not only not met with hellfire, I was embraced with loving kindness, acceptance, patience, deep understanding, mercy, and most importantly, him seeing my essence

beneath my circumstances. Seth heard the truth, the authenticity, the longing for Spirit and for peace that swam beneath the surface, even out of my awareness, and he responded to it, validating and encouraging me. He heard me as a searching person, not as a Christian and a WASP, not as a "maybe Jew"; not as an ignorant, confused or uneducated person; not as someone wasting his time and energy. He welcomed me into the congregation he served, into Torah study, and he mentored, coached and respectfully advised me along my path. Just so everyone knows, he did due diligence in trying to persuade me 3 times that converting was maybe not what I should pursue, per the tradition. I never felt driven away, only invited to look more deeply at the truth for me, with no judgment and no expectations.

When he left that congregation to come here to TBT, there was no question in my mind about following him here, and TBT has become a source of many blessings.

His mentoring included recommending innumerable books, many of which I've actually read, conversation about them, and some fine hands-on instruction about how to have a good Jewish style argument or debate.

His mentoring has contributed hugely to my healing from some of the more unfortunate aspects of my religious upbringing, along with opening doors to new questions for exploration in spirituality, philosophy, linguistics, politics and psychology.

As a result of meeting him, I have met a lovely community, made some wonderful friends and my life has been greatly enriched. Twenty years later, I continue to attend services, Torah study, have deep conversation, and grow as a spiritual person; thanks in part to Seth, I'm sure that will continue well into the future.

My wishes for him include that he receive these same and other gifts a hundredfold. Such mitzvot will continue to ripple throughout the universe into eternity.

Seth, Namaste

And Sallyanne Scott on Seth...

I would like to tell you about my friendship with Seth. Barry and I have been members of TBT for more than thirteen years. Seth is a person who stands up for his convictions and beliefs! He Bar Mitzvahed our youngest son Aaron at another congregation and when Aaron decided to approach his Dvar Torah from a different perspective, it caused much consternation with the Powers That Be! Our Aaron rarely waivers from his convictions, so when this situation arose, Seth stood up for him, defending Aaron's ideas, and ultimately Aaron said what he wanted to say! When Seth joined TBT as its Rabbi, nine families came along with him!

He is funny, smart, very smart, and so approachable. My Barry and Seth meet on occasion for coffee at Starbucks. I cannot tell you what they discuss as it is top secret! Seth has finally discovered coffee and drinks it whenever he can. It is now his new vice! Fortunately for him, Barry has the same vice so they can sit for hours getting their caffeine fix!

I have known Seth for almost a quarter of a century and in that time we have developed a wonderful friendship. We have shared long conversations about religion, education, kids, parents and the world we live in. I am truly blessed to have him as my friend.

At Shabbat services I enjoy listening to Seth's Dvar Torah. Sometimes they stir things up a bit, but mostly they are enlightening, especially because of the way he relates them to the world we live in today, always leaving us with food for thought.

Seth is a thoughtful and caring man and does his best to make sure that the spiritual and emotional needs of TBT are met. Don't let his slim build fool you. A giant of a man lives in that body! He will be truly missed. Mazel Tov in the next chapter of your life. "Leich I'shalom"

dear friend.

P.S. I recently spoke with Seth and told him about TBT gifting him the three burial plots he may need. He was so deeply moved by our generosity and he wanted me to tell you right away. I am truly grateful that we were able to do this for him as it has lifted a tremendous burden off his shoulders and given him some peace of mind.



And more folks on Seth...

Micki and Dennis Bellamy... Rabbi Seth has been not just our rabbi, but a member of our congregation. We have been fortunate to have such a learned Torah scholar in our midst, and his intense commitment to social justice has been inspiring. The lovely tune he wrote for Adon Olam will always remind us of his time at TBT. Mazal Tov, Seth. We wish you all the best as you embark on this next exciting stage of life in Israel.

.....

Deb Hammer (for all of the Hammers — Joe, Sam and Lily)...

Seth has gently guided our family through a number of life's milestones — joyous times celebrating a bar mitzvah and a bat mitzvah, and times of sorrow with the passing of loved ones. For all of the many events, services, Sunday School mornings, meals, and conversations we have shared over the years, I think I have most enjoyed Torah Study. I must confess to plying Seth with refills of coffee (I was not alone in this!) that inevitably led to some extraordinary learning, exploring, discovering and laughing. Whether it was the caffeine buzz, or the natural high coming from intellectual pursuits (probably BOTH!), I will always cherish those sessions with Rabbi Seth and the Torah Study crew! Seth, you are an incredibly gracious, talented, learned person, and we are so fortunate to have gotten to know you through our shared love of TBT and its community.

.....

Michelle Cyr...

I met Rabbi Seth long before he was our Rabbi, he was a customer of mine where I worked. He would come in and we would chat I can't believe all these years later now he's retiring as our Rabbi. I've truly enjoyed his spirituality in the time he's been our Rabbi. I loved working with him as well co leading Sunday school for the last few years. We've collaborated on a few memorable Purim skits and activities for the kids as well.

Congratulations to you Rabbi Seth and good luck to you in your future endeavors.

.....

Helene Rosenblatt...

So not saying goodbye to Rabbi Seth – but rather – thank you. I have known Rabbi Seth since Adath Israel days. I remember his children when they were quite young. In all that time, particularly during TBT days, he was there to talk to when my life was beset by sorrow, and travails. We often did not agree on views of the world around us, but felt comfortable in those disagreements. My music, is not his musical taste and vice versa – but there was respect for those differences.

A true "mensch" his kindness and concern to everyone is certainly a legacy that will be remembered at TBT.

.....

.....

Yoelit Hiebert...

I haven't been a member for very long so I don't have any stories to share, but I can say that Seth made me feel welcome from the moment I met him. His genuine warmth and compassion was definitely a factor in my decision to join TBT and I hope to be able to count him among my friends for a long time to come. I wish Seth much happiness in his next great adventure in life, kol hakavod!

.....

Marty and Judy Gold...

It is with a great deal of reluctance that Judy and I wish Rabbi Seth a wonderful Aliyah to Israel, as we know it is his lifelong dream and ambition to do so. During the many years that he has been our Rabbi we have gotten to know him well and have truly enjoyed the spirited debates we have had over politics, religion, and morality.

His religious leadership of our synagogue has been an inspiration to our congregation and to us personally. He has provided us with insights and ideas that have helped to make us better Jews and better human beings. Having been a co-president of the synagogue during his tenure has been a pleasure. Both Judy and I will miss him very much and plan to keep in touch with him. Very truly yours, Marty and Judy Gold

.....

Carol Gershenson...

People come into each other's lives for a space of time.

If we are lucky, we discover a connection when we come into one another's orbit. That was what transpired more than 10 years ago when Rabbi Seth was seeking a pulpit and we at TBT were seeking a spiritual leader. We have enjoyed his inquisitive mind, his honoring everyone's beliefs and his treasuring of Jewishness. (Personally, I love his first among equals role in our thought-provoking Torah studies).

But priorities shift - change being the operative word in life - and Rabbi Seth now has set his sights on making aliyah to Israel. We wish him Yasher Koach as he embraces his new path...

.....

Rhoda and Fred London...

Rhoda and I met Rabbi Seth around 10 years ago. We were impressed with his kindness and ability to make us feel like long time friends. We wish him all the best in Israel and in all his future plans and we will miss him very much. Best wishes, Rhoda & Fred

.....

Gloria and Stanley Zwirn...

Rabbi Seth, it's been a pleasure to have had your leadership at TBT for the past decade. Your thought provoking discussions have been an inspiration. Thank you for your guidance and leadership. We wish you the best in your future endeavors.

.....

.....

Debbie Ehrlich...

A move from New York to Connecticut was a change of location for my mother and me.

Rabbi Seth, your move to Israel is a pursuit of your dreams. I will miss your constant caring and concern for my well-being. It was always appreciated. I wish you health, happiness and all of the best in your new endeavors in Israel.

.....

Mark Gould and Ellen Sue Moses...

It was over 20 years ago when a coworker said that Adath Israel had a great Rabbi. "Rabbi Seth is a real mensch." Shortly after that we joined the congregation. We followed Rabbi Seth to TBT. Rabbi Seth highly respects the complexities and uniqueness of every individual. He enjoys a good debate which he uses to assist others in understanding their positions and thoughts. He is open to new insights and awareness that comes from the dialogue with others. He relishes discovering common ground with those who appear to be quite different, even antagonistic to his thoughts and beliefs. We greatly enjoyed Torah studies with him. He approaches Torah as great literature, in its historical context, and as a text that is still unfolding and relevant to our own lives. He has great enthusiasm for new discoveries and insights that come from these meetings. We have been blessed to have Rabbi Seth for he is truly a real mensch. We wish him well on his continuing journey.

.....

Phil Lohman...

Gonna miss you Seth! Found your company stimulating especially during those wide ranging, caffeine laced, Saturday Torah study digressions. I loved your ability to extend and add to the group's wandering attempts to connect remote historical and modern links to the text. I have enjoyed your guitar playing and your attempts at pulling opinions out of folks about today's serious issues.

And I wish you super success finding what you are looking for.

.....

Fred Cohan...

I was glad to follow Seth to TBT when he moved here. He has been a good friend and my spiritual leader for decades. I'll start here with some memories of Seth's teaching our son Will to prepare for his Bar Mitzvah and beyond.

Will has long been grateful for the love of Jewish culture and literature that Seth instilled in him. When it came time to preparing a presentation for his Bar Mitzvah, I was so glad that Seth encouraged Will to make a film based on his parasha on Jacob and Esau. (Will had recently started making "brick films" with Legos.) This film was the beginning of a series of films and stories Will would produce on biblical stories, mostly on the Exodus. I'll credit Seth's teaching from his love of Judaism for Will's abiding interest in Jewish motifs in his creative work. I also am glad that Seth knew instinctively that a traditional approach to Will's Bar Mitzvah would not sit well with Will.

As for me, I've long enjoyed learning from and sparring with Seth over how we can best repair the world. I never appreciated until meeting Seth how my secular leanings toward fixing the world were a part of Jewish tradition and obligation toward tikkun olam. Through Seth I have redoubled my efforts in this direction. I have loved our yearly Tikkun leyl Shavuot evenings and other Torah study events with Seth, and I will miss them. Good luck, Seth!

.....

.....

From Julianna Rose...

Rabbi is the chilliest rabbi ever. I love that he wears hoodies to Friday night service and allowed me to drink Dunkin iced coffee during lessons. I will miss you so much rabbi. Thanks for not only all of the Hebrew lessons but also the life lessons u have taught me. I am sure u will do great things in Israel. Thank u for everything

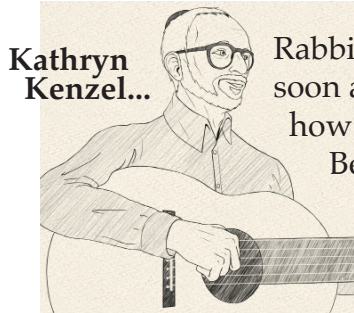
From Andrew Rose...

Rabbi is very cool for a rabbi and very fun. He was motivated to help me prepare for my bar mitzvah and supportive of everything this past year.

From Samantha Rose...

A great teacher and is very nice. I like playing his guitar. I really hope he stays safe and healthy. I will miss him.

Thank you Seth for embracing all of our family and for making our experience at TBT such an amazing one. You will be missed.



**Kathryn
Kenzel...**

Rabbi Seth, I'm so sad that I probably won't see you again soon and maybe by drawing you it will help me remember how much knowing you has meant to me...

Best wishes for you on your new path.

.....

Harold and Rita Nevins...

What can I say about Rabbi Seth? I could write a book but let me say he brought a new spirit and life to our congregation. He was always available to one and all. He fulfilled his teaching and leadership roles with a strong commitment to each and everyone of his congregants. Thank you for all your phone calls and words of wisdom over the last ten years. You leave a rich legacy behind you. Reach for the stars! Best wishes from Harold and Rita.

.....

Barry & Lynn Goldberg...

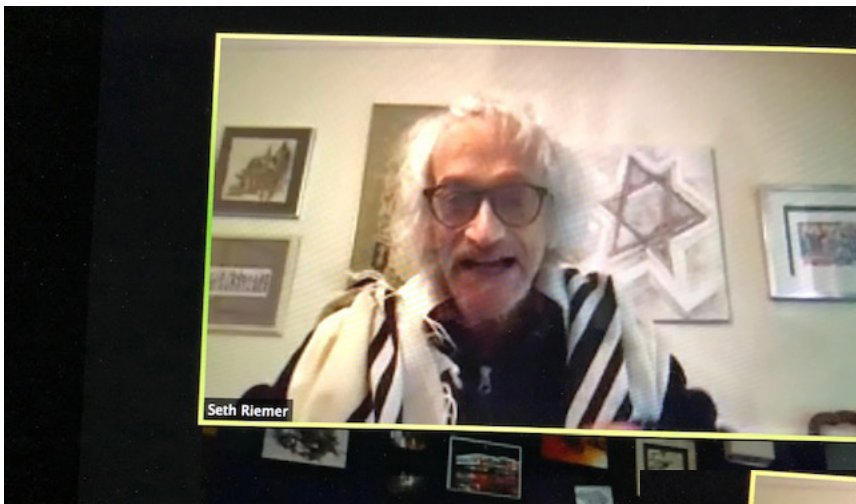
I would like to thank Rabbi Seth for all the spiritual help he provided me during his over 10 years of service at TBT. It was this spiritual help that also helped me when Andie passed. I had a very difficult time at Andie's funeral. During the bereavement time and now, I appreciate his counsel which truly helped me.

Rabbi Seth also married Lynn and I. His comments at our wedding were truly a special part of the service. I will always remember his kindness and caring.

Rabbi you truly will be missed and we hope to reach out to you in your new venture.

.....





Zoom Shabbot



.....

■ Carol speaks eloquently for all of us



Shalom Aleichem...How can we give Sallyanne Scott and Kathi Mag the recognition they deserve for all they have given us during the last 10 years? I doubt TBT would have survived without their generous devotion of time and effort. They stepped in as our leaders when no one else could.

They started their tenure as a co-president and as a co-vice president - each partnered with her husband. Then, they took on the full weight of executive responsibilities when they were invested as TBT's Executive Committee. Instead of a paid staff to delegate to - they had a small stalwart crew of volunteers. Sallyanne and Kathi have been involved in every nook and cranny of keeping TBT afloat. (Gilbert & Sullivan's song "I Am The Very Model of a Modern Major General" could be reworked to recount their feats). Whilst conferring with Rabbi Seth on all manner of things religious and educational, they have been juggling contractors, keeping track of things financial with our able Treasurer, assisting with High Holiday organizing...and did I mention their latke cooking, shpiel performing, landscaping, emergency responding, silver Torah ornament polishing, and so much more.

Now, they are relinquishing their official TBT duties so they can relax, travel and especially so they can be with their kids and grandkids. Mazel Tov to our talented and - soon to be - Executive Committee Officers *Emeritae*.

Live long and prosper...*Carol Gershenson*

■ Message from Our New Co-Presidents Deb and Dave

Dear TBT Family,

We are honored and humbled to accept the challenging roles of Co-Presidents of Temple Beth Torah.

We are grateful for the tenure that Kathi and Sallyanne have provided to the congregation. Together, they have shown solid leadership and have kept the temple operating under trying circumstances. Their time commitment, frankness and compassion towards our small community has been displayed over and over.

Rabbi Seth should be an inspiration to us all. His religious leadership on and off the bima, his counsel on things Jewish, his flexibility with things not Jewish and his musical and theatrical talents are attributes rarely found in someone leading a small congregation.

His personal touch in developing the bat-bar mitzvahs candidates into successful adulthood, his baby naming and bris ceremonies are occasions that many of us will recall over and over again. Thanks for the memories to Seth and his wonderful family.

And now look forward to the coming years together with Rabbi Alan and his family.

Deb Hammer and Dave Forrest

Remembering Ralph



Sallyanne on Ralph...

I remember the first time I met Ralph. It was my first day at TBT. Barry and I had left the synagogue in Middletown and had just joined TBT. We entered the sanctuary and sat in the back pew. And there was Ralph, sitting there too! What I first noticed were his cowboy boots. I said to myself, "Who wears cowboy boots to synagogue?" Ralph does because he is the Kosher Cowboy! And so began our special friendship with Ralph. After that, every time I saw Ralph, I would check out his boots and his buckle. He had such an assortment, I could not keep track! He even sent us a photo of his boot collection! His love of Texas, horses, and all things cowboy was truly refreshing.

Ralph was a guy you could always count on. He was always happy to see you. His smile and laughter always made me feel special. The dynamic duo of Ralph and Phil were an incredible team, always there to help out at any time. Anything electrical and Ralph had the answer!

Barry and I feel blessed to have met Ralph and become friends. His infectious laugh and joyful smile will be sadly missed. May he rest in peace and may his memory ever be for a blessing.



Deb Hammer...

About our pal, Ralph: A few days after we learned of Ralph's passing, Joe and I were out walking our typical route around Old Wethersfield at dusk. As we passed TBT, I noticed that the schedule sign by the door was illuminated, but the lamp post light on the front porch was not. My heart took a leap, and I suddenly felt as though the Temple itself was recognizing the loss of one of its sweetest and thoughtful caretakers. Who do I call to tell that the lamp bulb is out?! It was always Ralph. As Rabbi Seth so perfectly noted at Ralph's funeral, Ralph was indeed the light of TBT. Who would ever think that installing new LED bulbs in the bimah canopy would be fun?! But it was, when done with Ralph. Perhaps our greatest shared geek moment was when we got almost giddy after scoring a great deal on a new air conditioner for the Social Hall! Projects with Ralph were never work. We just shared stories, laughed a lot, and took pleasure in our accomplishments.

Rabbi Seth's eulogy at Ralph's funeral, May 14, 2021

Reuven ben Shlomo Yitzhak haLevi veTibel

The word that keeps arising as I reflect on my memories of Ralph is “light” – in both that word’s senses. Light as the feeling of uplift, gentleness, ease Ralph gave to those around him. For a person struggling – as we all do – through this difficult world, he seemed mild-mannered, untroubled, hard to ruffle. Being in Ralph’s presence, I felt that lightness; just a brief exchange of greetings with him seemed to lighten my burden. A desire to be of help to others and make their lives easier was essential to his nature. His buoyancy was infectious; a moment with him, and you came away smiling, happier somehow. He was the guy in the room who would give you the help you needed before you asked for it. He did this with exuberance, pleasure. Always cheerful and smiling; always ready to jump in the fun. Never heavy-handed—ever the light touch. And, as his email address, sensors1@sbcglobal.net, reflecting his work life made sure to remind us, Ralph was about light in its other, sensorial sense: illumination, radiance.

He was luminous – where he went, things lit up. I’m speaking, metaphorically, of Ralph’s glowing countenance and warm disposition but also literally of his technical abilities in the field of electrical and electronic lighting equipment. He was our light in the darkness. TBT’s annual Hanukah menorah lighting was the brainchild and joint venture of Ralph and Phil. Ralph was always there with new lighting equipment when the synagogue needed it – our sanctuary is brighter, better lit because he equipped it with new lightbulbs; he was the one to

deal with short-circuits and switch glitches. When I put on my play in 2010, he joined the production and became an integral part of our wild thespian activity through his knowledge of projection and by putting in an entire panel of production lights in the social hall ceiling, and they’re still there – next time you’re at TBT, look up there and check them out. I’m indebted to Ralph for his willingness to come to my help in any tech matter relating to my theater work.

Not only did he install fixtures, but, being always there when we needed him, Ralph truly was a fixture of the synagogue. Maybe you’ve noticed that people are more likely to notice a tech appliance when it has stopped working and needs to be fixed; most often, that is, we can measure its effectiveness by the degree to which, in running smoothly, it doesn’t attract attention. It is by nature, therefore, humble. Ralph was that way too: a man of deep humility; he never showed off, and his flamboyant touches – the cowboy boots, the hat, the belt, the moniker “Kosher Cowboy” – were meant for no reason other than to express joyfulness and bring joy.

Ralph was certainly a raconteur – eager to share stories about his colorful life; often humorous tales from his youth, from his time in the Navy, and throughout his work experience. Here we see another facet of Ralph’s ability to light up our world with his affectionate temperament. At times he bubbled over with glee, giggling as he told us about places he’d been and characters he’d met.

continued on next page

Seth's eulogy continued

One Veteran's Day I asked him if he would come down to the Jewish high school – at the time located in Woodbridge – where I taught, and he quickly and happily agreed. As I recall, he brought along a model and a framed picture of boats he'd served on. The students were arranged around a long table, and Ralph regaled them with anecdotes and impressed on them the solemn privilege and pleasure of serving this country. The students were reverently hushed, impressed with this man's unmistakable enthusiasm for his subject – his patriotism as an American. He took questions and would have talked with the students longer, but I had to send them back to class.

You, his family, were the light of Ralph's life just as he filled your lives with light, and you always raised his spirits, as he raised yours. Like the light that shone broadly out from Ralph's face, you have spread far and wide across the country. He emanated elation at the mention of your names, and your accomplishments filled him with delight. He would beam with that smile of his when talking about his children and grandchildren. Mishpochoh was gratifying to him, and the pride was palpable. It goes back to the very start in Ellenville and Niagara Falls – his early family life of which you, [brother] Sidney, were a prominent part. The story continued with Glenn and [wife] Jennifer and [their kids] Preston and Landon; with you, Sheri along with [husband] Brian and you, Natalie and Madi and your brother Jake [other grandchildren]. I had a chance to see some of the family dynamic right here in Connecticut. Maureen, Ralph gained tre-

mendous strength and deep contentment from your affection and support; when Hannah was here at synagogue events, the lovefest among the three of you was beautiful to behold, and now, in collaboration with Christi [H's husband], Diana Maria, a new glittering star in Ralph's firmament, has come to life – he was blessed to be in her physical presence, to gaze on her, just as she was opening her eyes to this world. Who knew, Maureen, from your chance meeting with Ralph in D.C. so many years ago, that such a profusion of blessings would flow? Wayne and Lucy [M's brother and wife], Karen [M's sister], Maria, Tyler and Ryan [nieces and nephews], along with [nephew] Christian down in Florida; the rest of Ralph's loving relatives, religious community and good friends – all of us assembled at this gathering or mindful of it and meditating from a distance, even in the sadness and somberness of this moment; we all can feel – can sense – the enduring quality of Ralph as a lighthearted source of light. That energy of his is very much alive; the warmth and kindness he embodied continue and radiate upward and outward through our remembrance of him.

In supporting each other through this dark time, we honor Ralph's memory of bringing light; as we lift each other up, we can lighten the burden of sorrow. I speak especially to the principal mourners: the rest of us are here to tell you we are conscious of your grief and here to help. We shall keep Ralph's light and the lightness of his spirit foremost in mind and heart.

Ralph's light is not lost, and with our prayers his soul is lifting lightly as on a breeze from heaven.

.....

Helene Rosenblatt...

In Memorium Ralph Horowitz:

My memories of Ralph Horowitz are centered around interactions at Temple Beth Torah. I did not get to know Ralph well, but always had an impression of a country gentleness. He was someone a little out of his "native element". Loved the cowboy boots, large buckles he wore on his belts and always the hats. Stories he told of his life were always interesting. I will miss his presence.

.....

Micki and Dennis Bellamy...

Remembering Ralph...The first time I saw Ralph, the proud belt buckles, cowboy boots, and a certain swagger told me I had found a fellow Texan in a tiny shul in Connecticut. Like Ralph, I was a transplant to Texas, but my time there had made an oversized impression on my life. I will miss sharing Texas memories with Ralph and listening to his stories. Ralph could tell a story! We will miss you, Ralph. Goodbye, Kosher Cowboy, goodbye.

.....

Harold and Rita Nevins...

The stagecoach must have stopped at Village Pizza and dropped this character off. I couldn't believe my eyes. There he was as big as ever walking into Temple on a Friday night dressed in a Texas stylejacket and shirt, leather cowboy boots to match, (no spurs of course), singing the Shema.

He always sat in the rear bench of the sanctuary and never took the spotlight.

He was Ralph Horowitz, a menshe, no phony, but in his way made himself available. What do you need? he would ask. He was always available to help out at TBT. He had learned the electronics trade serving our country on his beloved U.S. Navy Tin Cans. He never held executive office at TBT but his love of the Jewish religion showed in many ways. He made the Hanukah Menorah with Phil for TBT's front terrace. He dealt with thermostats, sanctuary and social hall lighting, air conditioners, the Ellenberg sanctuary sound system and the annual assembly of our Sukkah. He always lent a hand on any project. We will miss him for all he did and hope that he will be honored at TBT in the future in some permanent way.

.....

Phil Lohman...

Cowboy what am I gonna do without your companionship? All the stuff we did...No more IMAX Manchester movies (Avatar), no more Tuesday \$5 Picture Show guy movies (Captain Phillips), No more back pew sitting at High Holidays, no more shutting down front restrooms winter water supply, *though we finally shut them permanently*, no more sukkah greenery ziptying, no more swapping days lighting menorah candles, no more replacing damaged ceiling tiles, no more climbing to the roof to install our Fiddler scarecrow, no more hanging the lightning cloud above Moses, no more hanging out in front of the Bistro, no more enjoying bialys ... no more Cowboy.

.....

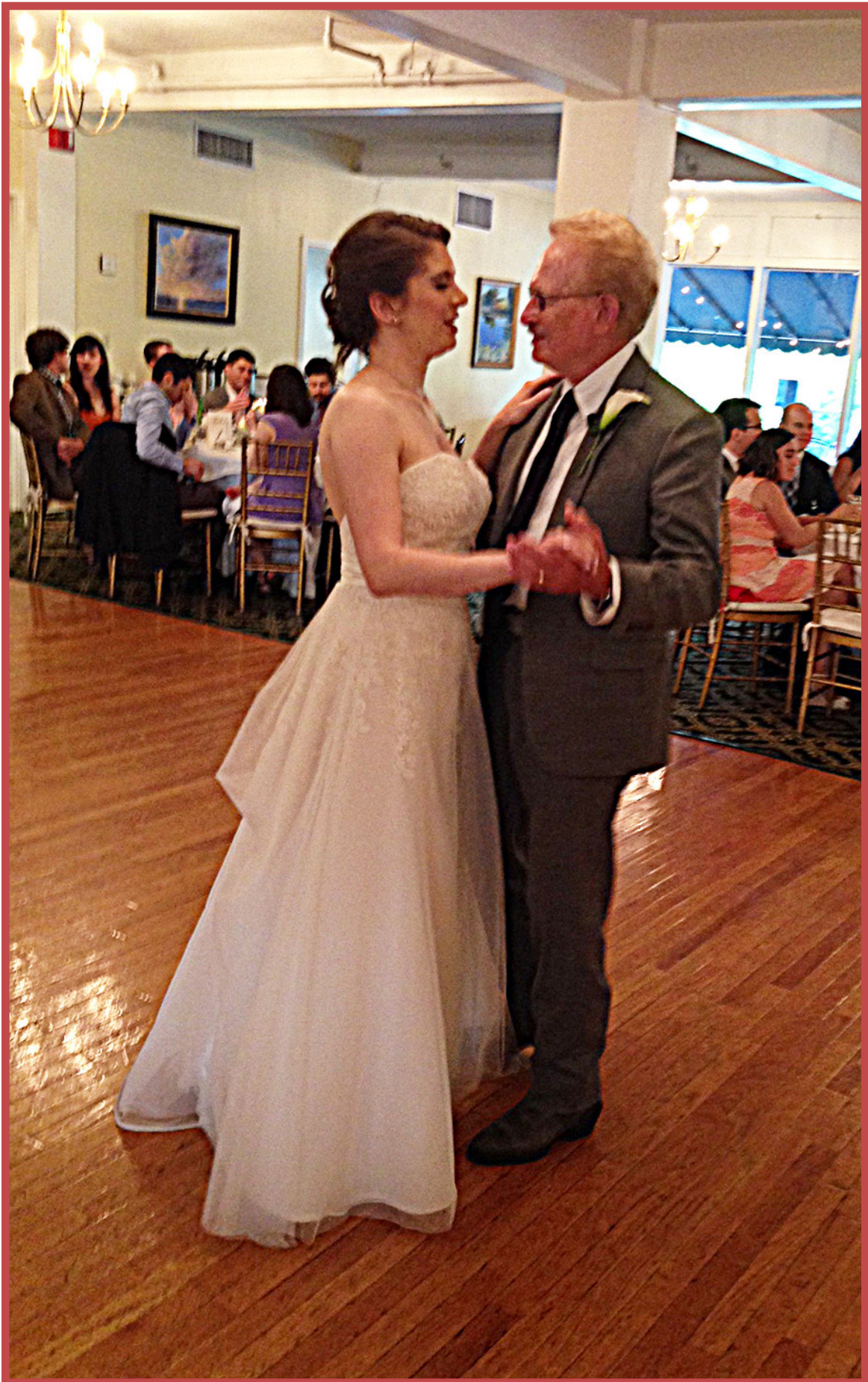
Geraldeen Lohman...

Ralph, I miss you - dear friend.

.....



Maureen and Ralph at his retirement party.



Ralph and Maureen's daughter Hannah.



Ralph and Maureen's granddaughter
Diana Maria Proistosescu





Lucky Lou's



Hats on at Friends of the Library event !



Tim Spratlin,
partner in
construction of
TBT's menorah



A worried Mo



Phil and Ralph and
Scarecrow Fiddler On The Roof

Ralph's Hartford Courant Obituary

Ralph Horowitz, 80, of Wethersfield, loving husband of Maureen (Armillei) Horowitz for 34 years, passed away unexpectedly after a brief illness on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 with his wife and daughter Hannah by his side. Ralph was born in Ellenville, NY on January 9, 1941, the son of the late Irving and Tillie (Revzen) Horowitz. He grew up in Niagara Falls, NY and graduated from Niagara Falls High School, Class of 1958. Ralph was a proud veteran of the United States Navy, enlisting in 1958 and serving on Fletcher class destroyers (USS Cony, USS Lawrence and USS Tidewater) during the Bay of Pigs and Cuban Missile Crisis. As a Tin Can Sailor, Ralph loved to regale all with his stories aboard ship and his role maintaining the gyrocompass and showing reel-to-reel movies to his shipmates as an Interior Communications Electrician. The Navy prepared Ralph for a lifelong career in the security and lighting controls industry, beginning as an alarm installer for ADT to Northeast Regional Manager for Hubbell Building Automation, from where he retired in 2010 after 20 years.

Ralph was very proud of his Russian-Jewish heritage and being a first generation American, and was an active member of the Temple Beth Torah congregation in Wethersfield. Ralph was also a proud Master Mason, belonging to the East Fork Masonic Lodge 650, Wylie, TX where he received his degrees.

Ralph enjoyed the many vacations we took throughout the years, especially to Goose Rocks Beach, Maine, Texas and Kansas City and our travels after retirement to Italy, Romania, Amsterdam, Hawaii and Seattle.

His work took him all over the United States, including Georgia and the Southeast, Florida, and St. Croix, but he was a Texan at heart.

Also known as the Kosher Cowboy, country music was in his soul. Cowboy boots were standard footwear, many that came with stories. Ralph made lasting friendships throughout his life. He was a dear and faithful friend to many. When speaking with Ralph you knew he was truly interested in you and what you had to say at that

moment. He made a lasting impression on everyone he met, even if only once. Ralph was a legend amongst friends of his daughter Hannah and the Harvard University Band.

Together with his family, Ralph became an avid reader, often with a kitty on his lap, and kept track of the many books he read each year. Ralph's love of golf began as a caddy at the age of 14 and continued through his retirement as a member of the Wethersfield Senior Golf League.

Ralph will be deeply missed by his loving wife, Maureen; his son Glen Horowitz (Jennifer) of Whitesboro, TX; daughters Sheri Bell (Brian) of Kansas City, MO and Hannah Horowitz (Cristian Proistosescu) of Urbana, IL; his six grandchildren who were the lights of his life, all of whom he was so very proud: Jacob, Natalie and Madeline Bell, Preston and Landen Horowitz and most recently, Diana Maria Proistosescu whom he met for the first time before his passing. He leaves behind his brother Sidney Horowitz of Niagara Falls, brother-in-law Wayne Armillei (Lucy) of West Hartford, sister-in-law Karen Armillei of Wethersfield, nephews Tyler Armillei, Christian and Ryan Prado and niece Maria Armillei.

Ralph's family would like to extend a special thanks to Dr. Nirvana Sankaranarayan for his 15 years of care and friendship and to Diane Rosborough, RN with Davita for her care and compassion this past year.

Funeral services were held on Friday, May 14 Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford, Rabbi Seth Riemer of Temple Beth Torah officiating. The family received relatives and friends on Thursday, May 13 for a "walk through" visitation at the D'Esopo Funeral Chapel, 277 Folly Brook Boulevard, Wethersfield. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Shriners Hospital for Children, 2900 Rocky Point Drive, Tampa, FL 33607, the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, 2222 Welburn Street, Dallas, TX 75219, or the U.S. Holocaust Museum, 100 Raoul Wallenburg Place, SW, Washington, DC 20024. For online expressions of sympathy to the family, please visit www.desopo-funeralchapel.com.

HELPING OTHERS CONSERVE
OUR PRECIOUS RESOURCES
HAS LONG SEEMED TO BE RALPHIE'S PASSION.

HE PROMOTED "GREEN" PRODUCTS
TO ALL OF HIS CLIENTS
BEFORE THIS WAS POPULAR FASHION.

LIGHTING CONTROLS
MODULES, SENSORS AND MORE
THE PRODUCT LIST, LONGER EACH DAY.

ENERGY COSTS ARE TOO HIGH?
OUR FRIEND RALPHIE BECAME
THE ONE TO CALL RIGHT AWAY.

BUT THE TIME HAS NOW COME...
IN FACT, LONG OVERDUE...
THE TRUTH DESERVES PROCLAMATION.

EXAMINING ALL FACTS
SHOWS CLEARLY THAT RALPH
PUT THE "CON" INTO "CONSERVATION".

BUT AFTER JUNE 30...
GOOD NEWS, MY FRIENDS...
THE PLANET'S NO LONGER IN TROUBLE.

"WHY?" YOU MAY ASK.
THE ANSWER'S QUITE CLEAR.
THE COWBOY'S RETIRING FROM HUBBELL.

SSKK
(SHABBAT SHALOM, KOSHER KOWBOY)

Michael Kay verse...



His "pandemic hair."



Lights !

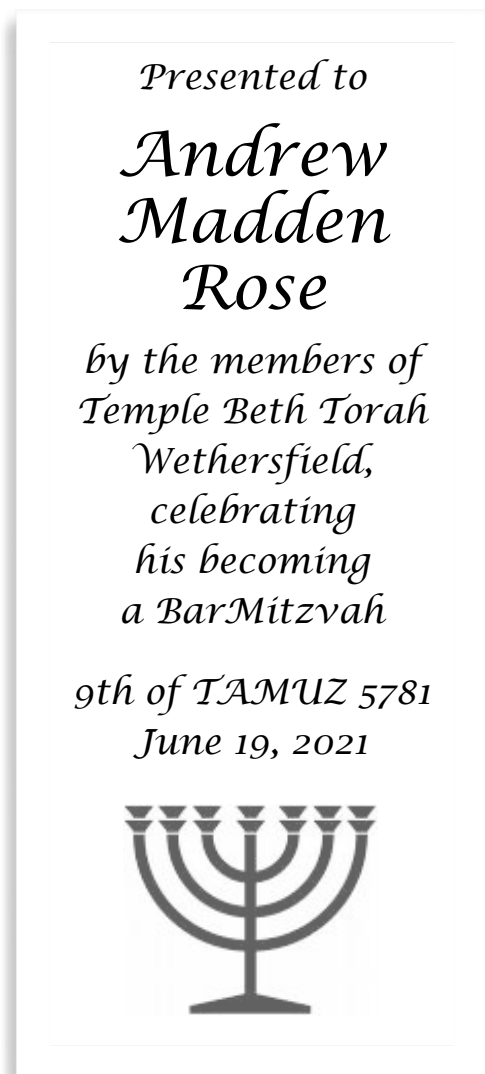


Hats !



■ Andrew Rose to celebrate his becoming a Bar Mitzvah.

On June 19 the bar mitzvah of Andrew Rose, son of Elisha and Eric Rose, will be celebrated during a Shabbat minhah / afternoon service at TBT. Andrew, in the presence of family, friends and community, will help Rabbi Seth lead the service and present a thoughtful devar torah about rewards and punishments bound up with human ethical decision-making. Andrew is the second Rose, after his sister Julianna, to have marked the coming of age with a bar / bat mitzvah service at our synagogue.



Tanach bookplate to be presented to Andrew.



Photo by Elisha Rose

Our Damaged Maurice Memorial Birch Cut Down

That tall tree in front of TBT was a white birch planted by Helena Kavalier, a member of the congregation, in memory of her husband, Maurice. They had a wonderful marriage but Maurice was taken early and then Helena dedicated the rest of her life to TBT and the children. As a living memorial she planted a tree that grew beautiful and strong and thrived. The tree

struggled against the winds of Hurricane Isaias and when it could no longer resist, two trunks broke off and crashed down on electric wires and the Felicia Memorial bench.

Sadly the rest of the tree has now been cut down before it falls in the next storm and causes further damage. Maybe another birch will be planted as a reminder of Helena's faith and dedication.





One of many ***Bicycles on Main*** event participants

Photo by Kerri Provost



Like this.

TEMPLE
BETH TORAH



FOUNDED 1960

BUILT 1875



A Reader responds!

Hi Phil,

Hope all is well back East in CT. Out here in California, businesses are opening up. I saw in the March/April STAR a photo you asked about and recognized 2 people from it, the gentleman and the woman next to him on his right side. Ivan Finkel, a founding member of TBT and owner of the Sisson Tavern in Hartford. Next to him is Joan Berg, Jerry's Berg's wife and an original member.

Hope this helps and I will be back East soon.

Thanks for kind words and your great work. Those people were part of my childhood so I knew them from my parents and they would all socialize and many times talked about starting the Temple. It was 60 years ago. Yikes.

Take care and keep safe,

David Carlin



US

Rabbi: Seth Riemer

Co-Presidents: Sallyanne Scott and Kathi Mag,

Soon to be Deb Hammer, Dave Forrest and Vice president Barry Goldberg

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: Dave Forrest, Phil Lohman,

Kathi Mag and Gary Evans

Torah Study, Building Rentals, and Webmaster: Deb Hammer

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

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.

You will want to call her whenever you or someone you know is considering buying or selling a home. Maureen is a full-time, hard-working professional real estate agent.

Maureen says, "The highest compliment you can give me is recommending me to a friend or family member. Your satisfaction is my top priority."

860.205.9678

MaureenHorowitz.Agnelli@gmail.com



411 Naubuc Avenue
Glastonbury, CT 06033

To the TBT Community -



Having recently relocated to Connecticut and as a new member of TBT, I'm looking forward to bringing my twenty years of experience as a belly dancer to add to the excitement and enjoyment of your next anniversary party, birthday party, shower or special event.

Or if you're looking for a workshop format for a retreat or other business or corporate gathering, a belly dance seminar is a great physical activity that will bring your group together for fun and laughter!

I'd love to work with you on planning a performance or seminar that will make your next event truly special and memorable!

Delilah (Yoelit)

314-650-8068

delilahbellydancerct@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/DelilahBellydanceCT

