



THE STAR

Chanukah Celebration Issue

January / February 2022

TEVET / SH'VAT / ADAR I 5782

VOL. 25 NO. 1

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

Contents

- **Message from Rabbi Alan**
- **Messages from the Co-Presidents**
- **News and Notes**
- **Paid Advertisement**

The Rabbi's Word

The month of January brings us spring, well not for us is Connecticut, however the sap begins to flow in Israel as the spring season begins on Tu B'shevat.

Commentary: Tu B'shevat is the New Year of the trees. This Jewish nature holiday occurs on the fifteenth day, the full moon, of the Hebrew month of Shevat, in late January or early February. Currently, in Israel, the almond tree is the first to begin to flower and the sap begins to rise within the trees. While the counting of the age of trees was important in ancient times for taxation purposes, in modern Israel, this agricultural holiday has become like Arbor Day. Trees are planted in Israel on Tu B'shevat, or else money is sent to the Jewish National Fund to plant trees for us. On Tu B'shevat, it is also customary to eat fifteen different Fruits, especially fruits and nuts grown in Israel, for example, pomegranates, grapes, figs, dates, almonds, and carob. In Judaism, trees are regarded as extremely precious and important. There are blessings over the first buds of spring and when we eat the fruits for the first time in that season. There is a saying from the Talmud that if the Messiah is coming while you are planting a tree; finish planting first and then go to greet the Messiah. I heard this story repeated many times because as many of our stories, it focuses on the importance of taking care of the world for the next generation.

Here the story as it relates to trees and the love that Jews have for trees.

Honi and the Carob Tree: A Talmud Tale Told by Peninnah Schram

Honi the Wise One was also known as Honi the Circle Maker.

By drawing a circle and stepping inside of it, he would recite special prayers for rain, sometimes even argue with God during a drought, and the rains would come. He was, indeed, a miracle maker. As wise as he was, Honi sometimes saw something that puzzled him. Then he

would ask questions so he could unravel the mystery. One day, Honi the Circle Maker was walking on the road and saw a man planting a carob tree. Honi asked the man,

"How long will it take for this tree to bear fruit?" The man replied, "Seventy years."

Honi then asked the man, "And do you think you will live another seventy years and eat the fruit of this tree?" The man answered, "Perhaps not. However, when I was born into this world, I found many carob trees planted by my father and grandfather. Just as they planted trees for me, I am planting trees for my children and grandchildren so they will be able to eat the fruit of these trees."



Message from Co-president Deb

You too, can Amazon Smile in 2022!!

We've mentioned this in the past, but it is well worth repeating (thanks for the reminder, Barry G.). Amazon Smile is a very simple and cost-free way to support TBT throughout the year. Here's the basics of how it works.

Use your internet browser to go to smile.amazon.com

Log in using your Amazon credentials (login and password)

All of your Amazon account info will be the same — your shopping cart, payment and shipping info, etc.

Designate Temple Beth Torah to be the recipient of your Amazon Smile donations.

SHOP as you normally would on Amazon.

Amazon will donate .5% of all eligible sales (most!) to TBT! You will not be paying anything extra for your purchases. The donation comes from Amazon's pocket!

My family has been doing this for several years, and you'd be surprised how it adds up. My total contribution may be around \$15 in a year, but add my son's and daughter's purchases and suddenly, it's a bit of cash! Now imagine if you and a few of your family members and friends designated TBT as your donation recipient. One hundred Amazon customers at a \$15 year donation level equals \$1,500.00!!

Let's take advantage of this philanthropic arm of Amazon, and get SMILING!

Deb

Chanukah 2021

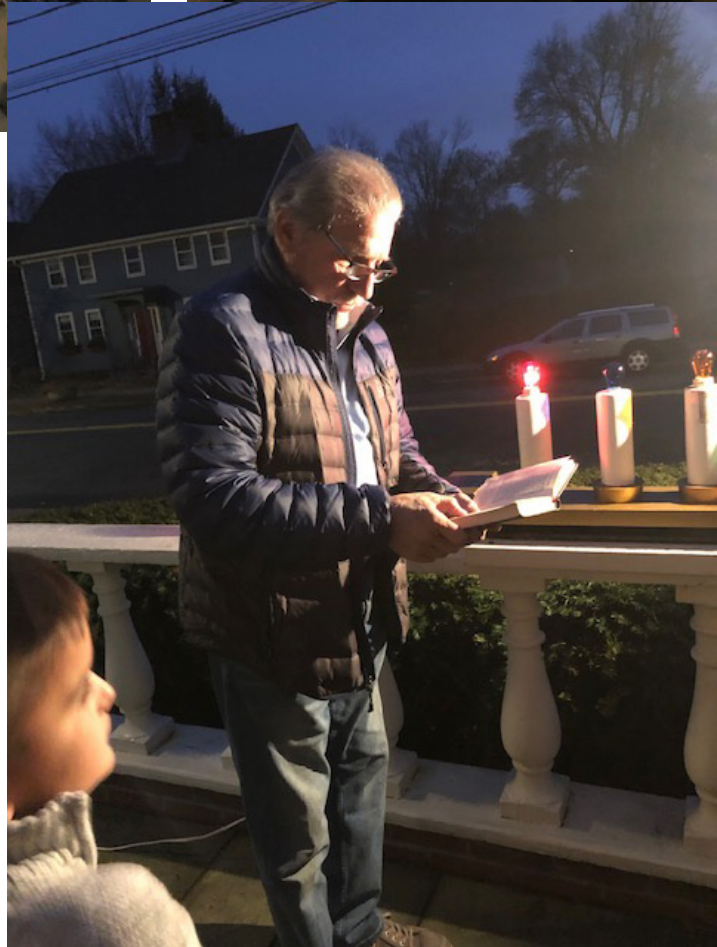


After bringing our Menorah out of storage,
Co-president Dave replaced a failed socket...
Then it was set up on the front terrace.

The beloved refurbished TBT Menorah took its 2021 outdoor place just in time to light the first candle.

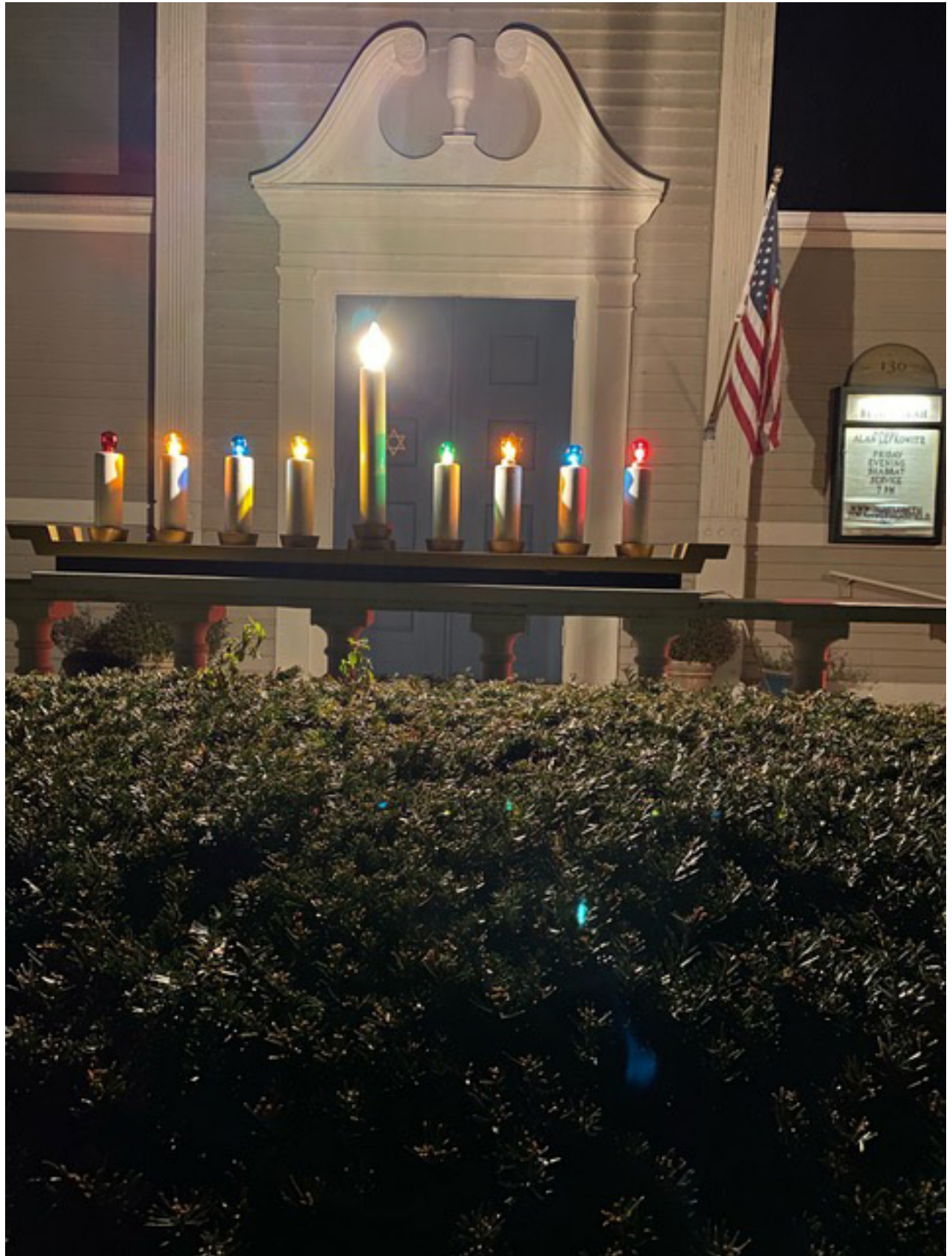


Geraldeen Lohman Photos below



Maureen and the Forrest family members light the first candle and say the bracha as Phil looked on.

Maureen and Phil took turns lighting the candles on subsequent evenings.



Then the Party



Geraldeen



Freddie



Joe, Deb, Janet , Jody and Rabbi Alan



Tables were set up socially distant and folks brought and lit their family menorahs.



**Pastrami on Rye, salads
Janet, Jody, guest and Joe**



Crown Box Lunch



Rhoda, Freddie and Deb



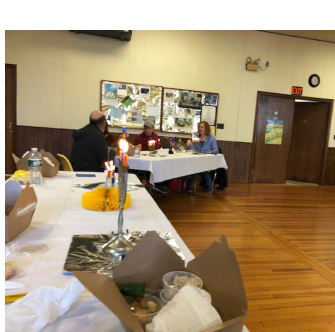
Carol and her guests.



Jody and new members Laura and Wayne



Helene



Folks shared Chanukah menorah stories.



Joe and Deb



Bob and Karen



Phil, Geraldene and Maureen



Karen



Susan and Jonathan

Rosh Hashanah in the Sanctuary



Rabbi Alan's voice fills the sanctuary as he melodically sings the holiday prayers.

Dave Forrest Photos



The Hammers follow along in the Mahzor during the high holiday service.

This fall's zoom Shabbat services were well attended.



Long time friend of TBT and past member AZ Soforenko sent this photograph that was published in The Hartford Courant Parade magazine insert in 1970.



“ Sharing a great memory while living in Wethersfield. Al Soforenko”

DONATIONS TO TBT FOR Dec/Jan 2022 STAR:

In Memory of Barry Schlein

Carole Gershenson
Leslie Levine

In Memory of Mendal Szlamowicz (brother-in-law of Rabbi Alan)

Carole Gershenson
Judy and Marty Gold
Leslie Levine
Sallyanne and Barry Scott

In Honor of Phil Lohman

Carol Gershenson
Judy and Marty Gold
Leslie Levine
Kathi and Eliot Mag
Sallyanne and Barry Scott

TO MEMORIAL PARK

In Memory of Departed Family Members

Sally and Ira Henowicz

In Memory of Helga Rome (Judy Gold's mother)

Judy and Marty Gold

BUILDING FUND

All participants in our **TBT Hanukkah Luncheon** paid a little extra for their Crown delicacies, with proceeds going into the building fund. They include: C. Gershenson and guests, the Londons, D. Ehrlich, the Ruebens, the Lefkowitz family, the Kleins, M. Horowitz, the Lohmans, H. Rosenblatt, and E. Neiterman. Several families gave an additional donation, as well: the J. Rosenblatts, the Hammers, and W. Silver and L. O'Neill.

With thanks to all! We had a great time, and raised over \$100.00.

US

Rabbi: Alan Lefkowitz

Co-Presidents:

Deb Hammer, Dave Forrest and Vice president Barry Goldberg

Financial Secretary, Sallyanne Scott

Corresponding Secretary for Donations,

and Gardening: Kathi Mag

Recording Secretary: Carol Gershenson

Membership and Publicity Chairperson: Karen Klein

Treasurer and Memorial Park Director: Barry Goldberg

High Holidays Committee: Rabbi Alan Lefkowitz,

David Forrest, Harold Nevins, Fred London, Carol Gershenson,

Sallyanne Scott, Kathi Mag, Yoelit Hiebert, Ellen Sue Moses

and Deb Hammer

Friday Night Announcements: Deb Ehrlich

Adult Education and Book Club: Ellen Sue Moses

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

Ways and Means: Judy Gold and Helene Rosenblatt

Building Consultants: Dave Forrest, Phil Lohman,

Kathi Mag and Gary Evans

Torah Study, Building Rentals, and Webmaster: Deb Hammer

Rabbi Emeritus: Seth Riemer

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