



THE STAR

Fall Issue

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

WELCOME BACK SHABBAT!

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 @ 6:30 p.m.

Join us back at TBT for our first Shabbat celebration of the new season! We are starting a little earlier (6:30pm) in hopes of holding our service outdoors in the back yard of TBT, and enjoying a summer sunset together. Rabbi Alan has a special service planned for outdoors!

As with all of our outdoor events, we have a few chairs but encourage you to bring your own outdoor seat or blanket and a beverage.

At the conclusion of this service, we hope you'll participate in a pot luck dessert oneg – a nice opportunity to reconnect with friends after the summer!

In the event of inclement weather, we'll gather in the Social Hall (chairs provided) and keep all other plans the same – timing, special service, casual, pot luck dessert to follow service!

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

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High Holidays Committee: Rabbi Alan Lefkowitz, David Forrest, Harold Nevins, Carol Gershenson, Joe Rosenblatt, Sallyanne Scott, and Deb Hammer

Friday Night Announcements: Deb Ehrlich

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



Overgrown Yew hedge removed exposes brick peeling away from terrace wall. Eventual new planting here.



Snaps from Spring 2022 annual meeting and late June outdoor shabbat.















The Rabbi's Word: Faith, Hope, and Prayer

Upon flying to Israel this a summer on ELAL, there was a group of men who began a morning minyan at the first crack of light. It was an interesting experience. The leaders of the minyan daven very fast. It is almost too fast for me to keep up. I find myself thinking after the service about what the meaning of prayer is. Is prayer the words that need to be recited in the right order at the right time? Do the words of prayer have to be aligned with anything inside our hearts or minds? Are we supposed to ask God for stuff when we pray, or to ask God to change the universe for our health and safety? Are prayers supposed to go through us, helping us see the world more clearly and to see our place in the world? Does prayer give meaning to our lives, or do we give meaning to prayer? While the High Holy Days occur in late September this year, I find myself contemplating these kinds of philosophical issues during the long, hot days of summer. Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur have been referred to as "Prayer Olympics." I have also heard the HHD referred to as the world Series. I have referred the HHD as a workshop in forgiveness as we push the meaning of prayer to its very limits. But what are those limits? Are we pushing our prayers to mean something more, or are our prayers pushing

us to be something more? Maybe the words of prayer are not the point at all, but the triggers to get us thinking about how we can reach for something bigger and better in our lives. This is the right time to begin to think about why YOU are praying. What do you want to get out of the words we pray? What is blocking us from opening our hearts in prayer? Do we understand the words? Are we afraid they will call us to do something important but hard? Are we unsure whom we are addressing? If we have living parents, perhaps we should talk to them about God and about why they pray. The Rabbi is always happy to help us consider what role prayer plays in our lives. Pick up a siddur and pick out one prayer. What does it say to you? What would you like to say to the prayer? What do you need to say to God? Are you prepared to listen to God's response? It is not enough to just show up to pray. We need to prepare ourselves before we can pray. That means asking the right questions. While answers may be hard to come by, we need to open our hearts to the possibilities. The Prayer Olympics are coming; now is the time to begin training. Jody and I wish our congregational family and the Jewish community a happy healthy New Year 5783.
Rabbi Alan

Co Presidents words

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur – 5783

The TBT Ritual Committee held a very productive meeting recently. Here are some updates that will be important for you to know as we enter into this holiday season:

- SERVICES and ZOOM – All services will be available in-person and via Zoom. Any outdoor services, including Tashlich at the Cove and our Memorial Service at the TBT Memorial Park, will be in-person only. It is our hope to have a stronger in-person attendance for all services this year. If attending by Zoom, please note that Zoom participants will be expected to keep microphones muted throughout the service, and the camera will be fixed in place on the bimah.
- TORAH HONORS, Ark Opening/Closing and English Readings - It is our expectation that all honors will be in-person this year. [This will not necessarily be the case for our Shabbat services, but this decision was made for the RH/YK services to avoid time delays, distractions, and even tripping hazards in the sanctuary!] Children are welcome to accompany an adult during ark opening/closing. Please contact David F. at dforrest4@cox.net if you would be interested in having one or more of these honors.
- MASKS – Facial masks inside TBT will be optional at this time, though it is possible that the policy will need to change if the situation should warrant it. Please be sure to respect the decision of others to wear or not wear a mask, and be sensitive to others' preference to socially distance.
- YARMULKE/KIPPAH/TALLIT – All can be found in the front cloakroom for attendees, if needed. Also, reading magnifiers are available for use with the Machzor.
- MACHZOR for REMOTE ATTENDANCE – If you will be attending remotely (via Zoom) and need a Machzor, please contact David F. to make those arrangements with you.
- RESTROOMS – The two Social Hall facilities are non-gender and will be available at all times during the services.
- SECURITY – We ask that all in-person attendees plan to arrive promptly for services. Doors will be locked shortly after the start of the service. We know unexpected delays can happen! If you arrive and the front door is locked, please tap on the door and someone in the rear of the sanctuary will let you in. The side door to the Social Hall will remain locked at all times. Those needing use of the handicap ramp can make arrangements with David F. If you choose to exit via that side door, please be sure to pull the door closed tightly behind you to engage the lock. As always, we contacted the Wethersfield Police Department to regularly patrol the vicinity during all RH/YK services. They have always been very gracious about doing this.
- SERVICE SCHEDULE, TICKETS and YIZKOR DONATIONS – This information was distributed through our email blast system to all TBT members and friends of TBT who have purchased tickets in the past. If you did not receive this information and have questions, please let us know!

FOOD DRIVE – We are officially one of Wethersfield's Dazzling Dozen, a group of organizations that take turns sponsoring food drives throughout the year to support the town Food Bank. We will be conducting our annual food collection throughout the High Holidays and hope to conclude it during Sukkot with a special event. More info to come on this

Paint Donations

With great appreciation to all of our “Paint Night” participants who generously donated money and time to complete the exterior painting of Temple Beth Torah...

Micki and Dennis Bellamy

Mara Dresner

Debra Ehrlich

David and Donna Forrest

Carol Gershenson

Judy and Marty Gold

Debra and Joe Hammer

Maureen Horowitz

Karen and Bob Klein

Rhoda and Fred London

Kathi and Eliot Mag

Ellen Sue Moses and Mark Gould

Sallyanne and Barry Scott

Helene Shapiro

Evelyn and AZ Soforenko

(hope we didn't miss anyone!)

IN MEMORY OF

Donald Klein, brother of Bob Klein

by Debra and Joseph Hammer

by Cheryl and John Hinze

by Rita and Harold Nevins



Painting in last phases toward back of TBT.

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