



THE STAR

The Leftovers Issue

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





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Messages from Rabbi Alan as the High Holidays approach...

Shalom Friends,

The High Holy Days are a time for us to take stock in ourselves, and to reflect on the past year and to look ahead to the future. I am privileged to serve as your Rabbi and want to take this opportunity to let you know how blessed Jody and I are to be part of the Temple Beth Torah family.

It is easy to take the many strengths of our congregation for granted:

- a. a commitment to ongoing education
- b. a deeply engaged corps of leadership
- c. spiritual depth
- d. a love of music
- e. a commitment to tikkun olam
- f. a community that cares for one another
- the list could go on and on.

As we are about to enter the year 5782, we wish all of you Shanah Tovah U'Metukah - a good, sweet, and healthy New Year. We also want to encourage those of you who have not been active at TBT to take advantage of our wonderful congregation. We would love to see you at services, classes, social and fund-raising events, and serving on our various committees.

May the coming year bring you joy, fulfillment and purpose.

B'shalom,
Rabbi Alan Lefkowitz

With everything that has been happening in the world, let us do a little bit extra to make the feelings that you get from spending the day in synagogue last a little longer.

What will we do to demonstrate the mitzvah: To love thy neighbor? How about your parents, spouse, kids, and other members of your family? What can we do to go that extra distance to be kinder and gentler?

Following a worship service, we are all supposed to leave the temple feeling more spiritually uplifted. Some of us make resolutions that we hope will change the world. But a month later, three weeks later, even a week later -- how many of us remember our resolutions? Let us start smaller!

Perhaps, if you resolve to help one person or resolve to change a negative thought, your resolution would be easier to keep. If you follow through, you will probably feel good about yourself and want to do it again and again and so on and so on. It can work, as we each look to make a difference in one person's life every day.

Helping someone can give us an incredible feeling inside, perhaps giving us more from the experience than the person you have helped.

High Holiday Info

TASHLICH

This custom is observed on the first day of Rosh Hashanah (Day 2 if first is on Shabbat). Jews go to a body of water, stream, river, lake, or ocean and toss breadcrumbs in the water, which serves as a symbol of the casting away of all our sins. We will observe this custom of Tashlich on Tuesday, September 7, following the morning service at the Cove in Old Wethersfield. The Cove provides the perfect setting for this beautiful ritual

HIGH HOLY DAY TZEDAKAH

We will continue our tradition of distributing empty shopping bags on Rosh Hashanah, requesting that members fill a bag or two with non-perishable food items to be donated to the Wethersfield Food Pantry. Please return your bags no later than Sukkot on Sept. 24.

CEMETERY MEMORIAL SERVICES AT HIGH HOLY DAY TIME

There is a tradition to visit the graves of loved ones close to the holy days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. This year, the annual service will be held at the Temple Beth Torah Memorial Park (Jordan Lane Extension, Wethersfield) on Sunday September 12, at 1:00 PM. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

LULAV AND ETROG

The festival of Sukkot begins on Monday evening September 20. Those who wish to purchase a Lulav and Etrog for their own use, please contact Rabbi Alan as soon as possible.

SHABBAT DINNER DURING SUKKOT

On Friday evening, September 24, we will have our first Shabbat dinner of the year following the service, which begins at 6:00 PM. We will be reciting the Kiddush in the Sukkah.
More details to come.

SIMCHAT TORAH CELEBRATION

Simchat Torah celebration will take place on Tuesday, September 29 at 6:30 PM with our Torah roll and reading.
Simchat Torah celebration will be preceded by our Yizkor observance at 6:00 PM

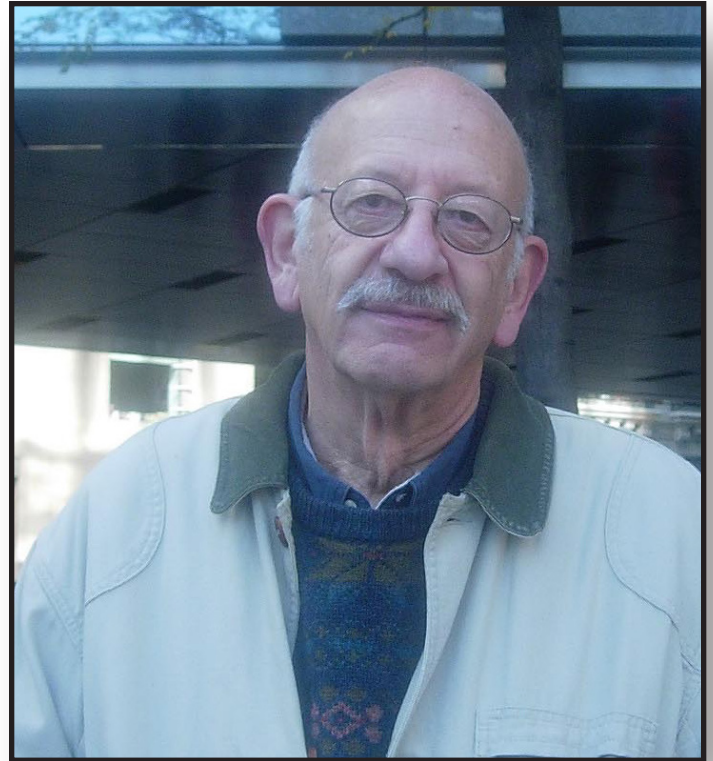
Hello and Goodbye Gathering

Gift for departing Seth, appreciation plaques for Sallyanne and Kathi, Tuna Salad sandwiches from the Crown, Get-To-Know Alan and Jody and general season end shmoozing.



Remembering Barry Carl Schlein

1938- 2021



Our loving and kind father, grandfather, husband, friend, congregant and colleague took wing on Wednesday, July 14 after a lifetime of care and compassion for everyone he crossed paths with, numerous trips by bike, car, rail and flight, donated pints of blood, and making countless turbines spin and colleagues smile over decades of fun and fulfillment as an engineer at Pratt & Whitney. We love you. We miss you.

Remembrances can be sent to Temple Beth Torah or the Red Cross.

News regarding regarding Sim Glaser from Temple Israel in Minneapolis

Dear Friends,

Over the past several weeks, I have received many queries about my absence from Temple life. Many of you have noticed that I have not been present for services, life cycle occasions, and classes, all of which I have missed very deeply—as I miss all of you.

I'll try to explain in the best way I can at this time. I have been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. My family and I are in the process of learning more about my treatment. Because of this, I do not anticipate returning to my work at Temple Israel.

Right now, I need to focus on the medical and spiritual journey ahead of me and my family and I appreciate your respect of my privacy at this difficult time.

Having said this, your healing prayers are most welcome. During this long absence from physical togetherness, I have missed being able to greet each of you with a hug—at Shabbat services, Torah study, classes, life cycle events, and other occasions. Please accept one from me now, albeit virtually.

I want to thank Rabbi Zimmerman, the clergy team, and the staff at Temple for filling in for me and for their moral support and caring.

Thank you all in advance for your understanding, and for the good wishes I know you will be sending my way.

With blessings, and much love,

Rabbi Sim Glaser

**More on next page from
Rabbi Marcia Zimmerman of Temple Israel**

Dear Friends,

I know that you join me in feeling both shock and sadness in receiving this news from Rabbi Glaser. I also know that you will join me in keeping Rabbi Glaser and his family in our hearts and in our prayers during this difficult time.

Temple is doing everything we can to care for Rabbi Glaser and his family, ensuring that their needs are met. Your warm wishes for health and strength are welcome and can be directed to the special email address we have set up for him: rabbiglaser@templeisrael.com. If you are moved to send a card, please send it to Temple Israel at 2323 Fremont Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55405, and I will deliver it to the family. Donations for a r'fuah sh'leimah, a complete healing, may be made to the Rabbi Sim Glaser Fund for Learning and Justice.

While we understand that many of you will want to offer meals, flowers, or other gestures of healing, please respect the family's wish for privacy at this time. The greatest gift you can give the Glaser family is the space to process and to focus on health.

There is a tradition to recite Psalms daily, and to give tzedakah in hopes of healing for those who are sick. We have compiled a list of Psalms that you may recite while keeping Rabbi Glaser in your heart. If you are moved to do so, see site below. Our collective prayers have great power in sending Rabbi Glaser our love and support.

B'virkat Shalom – With Blessings of Peace,

Rabbi Marcia A. Zimmerman
Alvin & June Perlman Senior Rabbinic Chair

The psalm list is available here: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1kRLQAYXxOq95Vctdo1K5lOpzR6eLdq3r5C7j9zBxvF0/edit#gid=0>

Donations honoring Ralph Horowitz

Kathi and Eliot Mag

Karen and Bob Klein

Sallyanne and Barry Scott

Susan and Jonathan Reuben

Debbie Ehrlich

Helene Rosenblatt

Marty and Judy Gold

Deb and Joe Hammer

Geraldeen and Phil Lohman



Mazel Tov!
Today
Andrew
is a man

Stumpgrinder removed last remains of Maurice



Kathi has plans for a replacement

Skit Script: *Seth's Departure Screening*

On June 12, 2021, the occasion of the last Temple Beth Torah Torah Study group and of Rabbi Seth's Aliyah preparations, the Torah Study group presented a melodramatic skit written with affection by Susan James, in which important and necessary events are enacted. *Disclaimer:* Events depicted herein bear no resemblance to real life people or events, historical or current.

No offence or blasphemy is intended.

.....

Cast of Characters

Narrator: Susan James
Moses: Phil Lohman
St. Peter: Alan Lefkowitz

Eli, Judge: Carol Gershenson
Jonah, prophet: Kerri Provost
Abraham: Yoelit Hiebert

Joseph: Ellensue Moses
Daniel, prophet: Mark Gould
Elijah: Deb Hammer

Narrator: This is an Official Notification: The final step required for you, Seth Daniel Reimer, to receive permission to enter the Promised Land, is to have an interview with a Celestial Committee to assess your merits and demerits, which will affect your ability to succeed in this transition. Moses will head the Committee and he will be calling advocates to present the pros and cons of your case. This is mandatory, not optional, which is kind of ultra-orthodox, but there it is.

This Committee is formally called to order. Moses, please proceed.

St. Peter: Wait just one minute! I object! I demand the right to be heard! Professional courtesy, you know.

Moses: Peter, what are you doing here? You can't object, we haven't heard any testimony yet. You are out of order and out of your jurisdiction.

St. Peter: This is my jurisdiction. I sit at the Pearly Gates determining admissibility to the Promised Land.

Moses: No one is dead. You have it all wrong. In the first place, you're a bookkeeper who checks on what the Yah has already decreed, you determine nothing. The job has gone to your head, pretty soon you'll think you should be the Pope, or some other narcissistic nonsense.

In the second place, the Promised Land is here on earth – they call it Israel now, though as you know, it has had other names in the past. We aren't talking about the hereafter. I should know, I spent 40 really hard years bringing this very stubborn and doubting group of people through a wilderness to get here. The Promised Land is right here.

St. Peter: Oh, sorry, I thought someone was already seeking admission to heaven. There are so many people lined up, it gets confusing, especially with COVID and all. (whining) I'm only one person, you know.

Moses: That's why we Jews do everything by committee. Usually we need a minyan but this is an Ad Hoc committee. As long as we have a few people. Since each of us has at least two opinions, that's a kind of a minyan, so we can argue about whether Seth can be admitted.

Peter, best you should do some research on the relationship between heaven and the Promised Land. We Jews focus more on life in the here and now, less so on the afterlife, you know that too.

Now do stop distracting us from our work. This is how these ridiculous sectarian arguments get started anyway. We will hear from Seth in his own defense, but first we will hear the list of charges of his transgressions that might prevent him from entering. The Judge Eli will speak.

Eli: Well, for the sake of full disclosure, I'm biased because of my experience with Samuel when he was in my care. Yah called Samuel three times, waking him out of a sound sleep, and he kept waking me up. I sent him back to bed because I didn't recognize that it was from Yah; it took a long time for me to catch on, so I'm really not an expert on hearing the call. I recuse myself from the case.

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Seth's Departure Screening continued

Moses: OK. Jonah the prophet will speak to Seth's transgressions. (*Dramatic pause*)

Jonah: What are you smoking, dude?! Look at me. Yah called me to go on an errand and I didn't want any of it, it made me really mad, and I took off. You all know the story – big storm, big fish, shade tree withering – it was a mess. I'm a good example of what happens when you don't heed the call, so I actually support Seth's decision to go, I won't speak to his transgressions. I also recuse myself.

Moses: So – this isn't so easy. Of course, why would it be easy, we're Jews. Stubborn, opinionated people. Fine. I call Abraham to discuss Seth's transgressions.

Abraham: Sorry, bro. I'm joining Jonah. I too heard the call, Lech Lechah, Hineyni, and all that. I packed my bags and went with my belongings – some of it was a mess, but mostly it turned out OK. I went willingly, though, flaws and all, so I think listening to the call is a really good idea and Seth is doing what he needs to be doing.

Moses: You're all aggravating me AGAIN, where's the loyalty, where's the cooperation. Where's Aaron when I need him. I'm starting to feel like Job. I won't bother calling on Caleb and Joshua, they clearly thought that taking on impossible odds in the Promised Land was a great idea and that we would succeed. I can't find any of the other ten spies, they would speak. Bah! Humbug!! to take a phrase from a famous unbeliever. Maybe Joseph would...

Joseph: Bro, what are you thinking? My brothers sold me into slavery and I took over the country I wound up in. It worked out great. You yourself were raised in an enemy nation and you wound up taking over. There are definite advantages to being a stranger in a strange land, as Heinlein said. Why are you so hot to address Seth's transgressions, and to make sure he's good to go. It sounds like a witch hunt to...

Daniel (*interrupting Joseph*): I too was sent into exile, as you all were, and I even had to hang out with some lions for a night – they stank, by the way. But my expertise lies in reading the handwriting on the wall, so I am most qualified to speak in this situation. Besides, my name is Seth's middle name, so that counts for a lot, names being what they are. The situation calls for a prophet, not judges and kings. You're all making a fundamental logical error in confusing "exile", "departure" and "destination". These terms are all relative. We are always simultaneously leaving somewhere if we are going somewhere. Whether we are coming or going is purely a matter of attitude, motivation, meaning, intention and purpose. When we are "done" with something, we have completed what we need, and then we go onto the next thing as we are led. The process of life is continuous flow; it only appears that there are interruptions, breaks in the flow. There are no breaks in the flow. Seth came from Wisconsin to Connecticut, with a few stops in between. And it's all part of the flow. Now he's leaving Ct. and going to Israel, and it's all still part of the flow. It's the human ego/mind that creates artificial separations and divisions into separate categories, and then it makes pseudo-objective judgements about them as if they're real....

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Seth's Departure Screening continued

Moses (*interrupting Daniel*): No wonder all the kings wanted to execute the prophets, it's because you don't stop talking abstract nonsense, you talk in mystery code, and we have to have other prophets interpret what you say. This is going nowhere, and we need to get on with our work. I'll do it myself. If you want something done, you have to do it yourself. It has taken me a while to re-glue the tablet I just broke in frustration that has my list on it. AGAIN.

OK – Seth's transgressions (*dramatic pause*)

- 1) First and foremost, he is an extremely strict stickler about grammar, punctuation and spelling.
- 2) Second, he is he is a wild and unpredictable mix of rational and irrational, of logic and passion. He embodies the dance exploring the collision and union of opposites and dualities. In a word, he is paradoxical.
- 3) Third, he enjoys and appreciates eccentricity. He is NOT a company man, he's not a suit, and he views social convention with a jaundiced eye, at best. He is UNORTHODOX, and how will that go over in Israel, I ask you. Just think...

Elijah (*interrupting Moses*): I'm listening to the still, small voice within, following on all the hot air in this whirlwind, and here's what I hear.

First charge: attention to grammar, etc. reflects deep respect for language. We Hebrew speakers know that language is alive and magical. Language connects consciousness with reality, and don't forget that Yah spoke creation into existence. Seth is totally on target with this – just look at what he does with language in his Torah study group.

Second and third charges – being paradoxical and being unconventional. These are proof that he is an evolving, conscious human being, and that he lives in the flow. In the Tao, as our eastern seekers would say. These are also traits necessary for prospering in the Promised Land, not to mention living in alignment with the will of Yah.

I say he is immanently well suited for life in the Promised Land. And since I collaborated with Yah in shutting off the rain, turning it on again, (*including the rainstorm on the day of the farewell party*) and as an old man I outran Ahab's chariot, and since I occupy the empty chair and have my own cup at the Seder table, and ESPECIALLY since, if I ever really appeared at your Seder you'd all faint in shock and disbelief, I therefore claim the right to the final word for this Committee.

The Committee has spoken – Seth is permitted to leave/enter, to come/go, in the flow, and when he has sufficiently evolved, to bi-locate.

Our work here is done.

Seth, Mazel Tov, go with God and with our blessings. L'Chaim!



Susan's reflections on writing the Seth Departure Screening Skit

A few weeks before our final Torah study gathering, it dawned on me that this was our last meeting with Seth, and that after 13 years of dedicated classes, we couldn't let him go riding off into the sunset without some acknowledgement.

The idea of a skit/roast had popped into my head. The idea kept swimming in my mind, and I played out various scenarios. At our TBT Hello/Farewell party I approached Deb to ask her opinion about the appropriateness of the idea. She thought it was great but wasn't sure it could be done in time for that last gathering. Personally, I wasn't sure either, but I felt really strongly about it, and while the ideas were still swimming I started writing and finished it that Wednesday night. The process was a gift; the writing was stream-of-consciousness, right-hemisphere, not cognitively generated, mixed a healthy dose of Divine intervention. I sent Deb a copy that Thursday morning and she was very encouraging.

Then came the casting call: the script went out (thanks to Deb's superior computer skills) and people volunteered for roles which I couldn't have cast better myself. I was SO relieved that people liked it and wanted to do it. I reread it several times, making minor corrections which I sent to the players right up to early Saturday morning so they could rehearse on their own.

So late in Sunday morning's class, while we were deep in a discussion, I interrupted Seth, awkwardly telling him class was over and he had to step out for a moment. Seth surrendered graciously with no idea of what the heck was happening. His reaction was such a reflection of the quality of community we have developed after years of study together. He returned and we sprung the skit on him.

Much gratitude to the group for all the support I received, for everyone's willingness to play, including Rabbi Alan's late stepping up to fill a gap. Thanks for the opportunity to share these words from my heart.

The experience was miraculous and a blessing and will stay with me, as well as all that I have learned from Seth.

and Rabbi Seth's thank you note:

Thank you, Susan, for being such an illuminating and purposeful playwright, producer and director. I felt the love in every word of it. Thank you, Torah Thespians, for playing your parts with such energy and sincerity. Thanks, everyone, for learning Torah with me over the years. This has been the best educational experience of my life. You've taught me so much, not only about Jewish values, but about the true meaning of friendship and community. Love, Seth

US

Rabbi: Alan Lefkowitz

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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

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