



# The STAR (light!)

A Temple Beth Torah Newsletter  
September 2023 : Elul - Tishri 5783-84

# Rabbi Alan's Message...

## LIVING JEWISHLY-PARTICIPANT OR SPECTATOR

In these days of Elul, we are in the midst of our preparations for the High Holy Days, when we begin to use this opportunity to personally review how each of us are living our lives. There are those areas in life in which we are satisfied and areas we which we may want to alter.

This provides for each of us to review how “full out” we are playing in life, and to review, as well, how we are playing at being Jews. Are we participants, or are we spectators?

As a sports fan, I like to use certain terms of football to demonstrate an analogy.

For me, there are two ways to speak about a football game. One is the way a reporter or broadcaster speaks the game. The reporter tells the word picture, describing to us what is happening on the field, or commenting on the play of certain players, we as spectators listen to their description of the action. Then, there is the coach, whose job is to see that the ball is caught, in order to win the game. Both jobs are important, which job however, makes a difference to the game? Do we live our lives in the way that gets the ball caught, or are we spectators who are watching as life goes by; and either reporting, or complaining about it? Are we being Jewish spectators or participants?

Jewish leaders and educators are dedicated to serve as coaches for living Jewishly, for getting the “ball” caught Jewishly. I venture to say that many people do not play because they think that they do not have the skills. or that they do not know enough to participate.

In Judaism, unlike football, all that is needed is a willingness, a desire to be connected, and the questions of how to live a soulful life. We as Jews are the “choosing” people, and we choose how we live, everyday. We can either choose to sit in the stands to boo, cheer or criticize; or we can step out onto the field and play the game of life; of Jewish life, full-out, by doing what the coach offers so that the ‘ball’ gets caught.

When one plays full out, they can, and may take their lumps, but at the same time will become energized just by having played, be it in a game or in life

To experience the full meaning of the High Holy Days, we must let go of the status quo, the how it has always been, and to step out by doing something new in your life; to add something new Jewishly to your life. Whatever you do have it make a difference to those around you. Be willing to step out on to the skinny branches and bring added joy, satisfaction, and accomplishment into your life.

Jody joins me in wishing our TBT family, Shana Tova, a happy, healthy, peaceful year.

# Upcoming Events in September...

Wednesday, September 6 @ 7pm - Focus Group Follow-up with Lois. Please come, even if you missed the first session in July. Member participation is key!

Friday, September 8 @ 7:00pm - Welcome Back Shabbat and Oneg!

Saturday, September 9 @ 9:30am - Torah Study in the Social Hall

Saturday, September 9 @ 8:15pm - TBT is invited to Selichot at BSBI in Manchester. RSVP for ice cream dessert

Friday, September 15 @ 7:00pm - Erev Rosh Hashanah/Shabbat

Saturday, September 16 @ 9:30am - Rosh Hashanah, Day 1

Sunday, September 17 @ 9:30am - Rosh Hashanah, Day 2

Sunday, September 17 @ approx 12:30pm - Tashlich at the Wethersfield Cove, Main St.

Friday, September 22 @ 7:00pm - Shabbat

Sunday, September 24 @ 11:00am - Memorial Service at TBT Memorial Park, Jordan Lane Ext.

Sunday, September 24 @ 7:00pm - Kol Nidre

Monday, September 25 @ 9:30am - Yom Kippur Morning Service

Monday, September 25 @ 5:45pm - Yom Kippur Afternoon Service/Study

Monday, September 25 @ 7:20pm - Final Shofar. Break Fast to follow!

Friday, September 29 @ 7:00pm - Erev Sukkot [Planning in the Works!]

# Throwback to 5771 (2010!)

A Phil Lohman Original

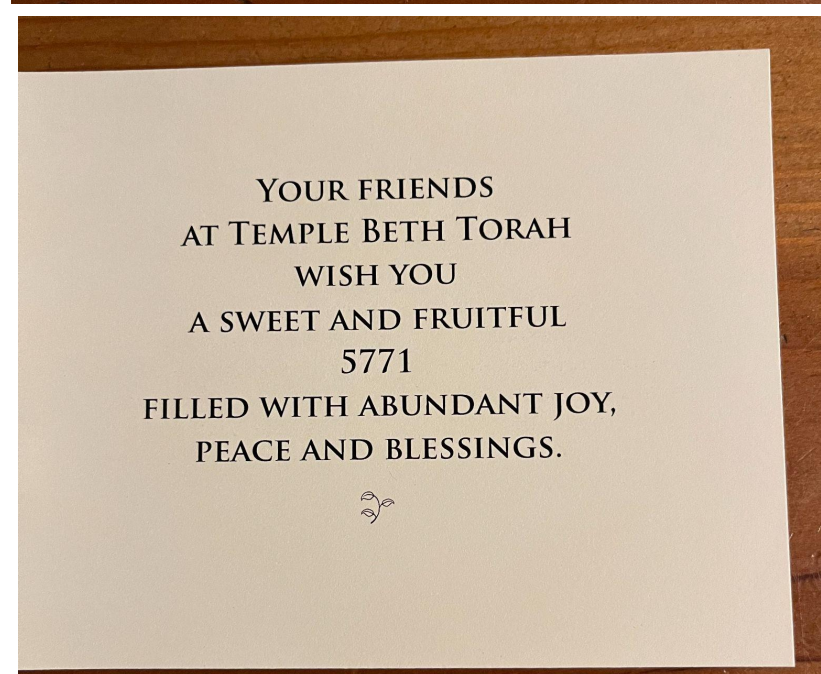
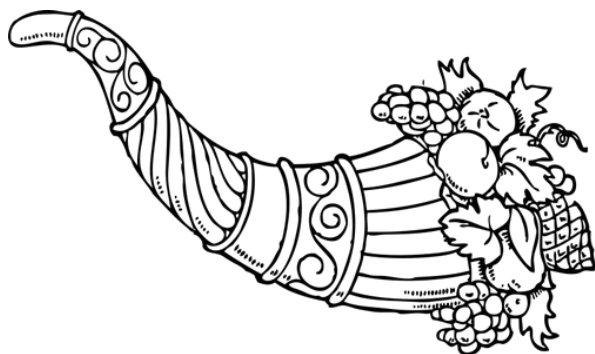
**For this year, 5784,**

**Be part of the congregational wish  
for a sweet and fruitful New Year!**

Make your donation to TBT of \$54,  
and send to Judy Gold,

16 Wyndemere, Avon, CT 06001,

Or Zelle to 860-214-2829



# TBT High Holiday FAQs



- Would you like a Torah honor at one of the Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur Services? Let David Forrest or Rabbi Alan know! There are plenty of opportunities!
- Will the front restrooms be open this year? YES, um, we're pretty sure!
- Will there be Security present for services? We are working on having Security posted, and are also sharing our schedule with the Wethersfield Police.
- Will there be non-speaking roles, or English readings? YES, and YES! Torahs will need to be lifted and dressed. There will be a number of English readings. Again, let David Forrest or Rabbi Alan know you're interested!
- Are young children welcome at services? YES!
- How do I put names on the Yom Kippur Yizkor list? All you need to know is included in the High Holiday Schedule spreadsheet we keep attaching to our email updates. Any questions? Sallyanne has the answers!
- Can I Zoom the service? You can, though we hope to have you there in person this year!



# TBT Annual High Holiday Food Collection

We encourage all members and friends to bring a bag or box of needed food and/or household items when you come for the holiday services. Please place in the front entry closet or in the kitchen. All will be donated to the Wethersfield Food Pantry. It's a mitzvah!

The Food Bank Wish List includes:

Canned veggies, green beans, carrots,  
peas , corn

Soups

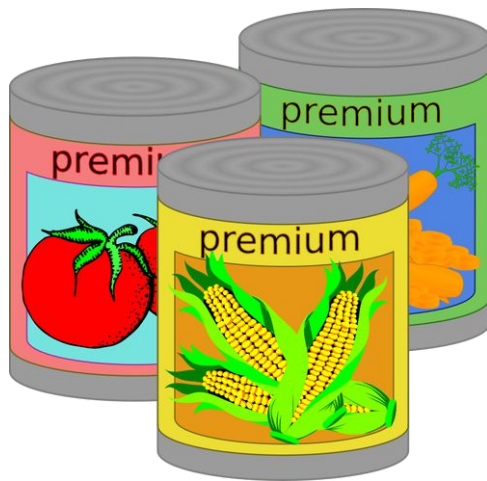
Canned Chicken

Canned pasta

Pasta

Pasta Sauce

Small bags/boxes of Rice



Jelly

Cereal

Instant packets of oatmeal

Snack items

Mac & Cheese

Toothpaste

Toilet paper

Thank you!!!!

# Good News! Mazel Tov to the Rostron Family!

Lilly on her Bat Mitzvah Day



# Thoughts from Janet and Debbie...

Just a note to the TBT Community...

Janet and I had the privilege of attending Lilly's Bat Mitzvah on Sat., June 10th. Sitting among her friends and relatives, who came from near and far, we witnessed a great performance by Lilly, not only in her Haftorah reading and singing but in her perseverance and dedication to make this day happen in a matter of ten months. She credited her parents, grandparents, Rabbi Alan and TBT members for all of their support.

It was unfortunate that more members of the congregation didn't support her with their presence at this special occasion. You missed a wonderful experience.



Wonder of Wonders, Miracle of Miracles sums up our experience witnessing Lilly becoming a Bat Mitzvah.

Lilly conducted the morning service with Rabbi Alan's quiet support. Her beautiful, angel-like voice added to her conducting abilities. Her interested congregation participated actively. We especially enjoyed her Camp Laurelwood friends singing to Adon Olam. Our little schul was filled with life.

Lilly knew her Haftorah perfectly, thanks to her religious practice with Charlotte, her grandmother.

And as if that weren't enough, Dayenu. Lilly's d'var Torah inspired. She chose a gold nugget from the Torah to deep dive into and brought to the surface a perfect Lilly-like example of Tikun Olam.

But there's more miracles - Susan, Lilly's mother, explained that their family is not practicing Judaism, so Lilly's interest in things Jewish came as a surprise. To continue in her pursuit, Lilly figured it out.

TBT and Rabbi Alan got an email. Lilly wrote, I am 12 years old. Is it too late to study Torah? It's never too late, was Rabbi's response.

"If you will it, it is no dream" ~ Theodor Herzl



# Donations to TBT, gratefully received

In MEMORY of SHAYNA and MALCOLM LAMSON, parents of Deb, in-laws of Joe, and grandparents of Sam and Lily

- Rhoda and Fred London



# Pics from our July Focus Group!

## Come join us on Weds., Sept. 6 @ 7pm for the Follow-up



**Photos by  
Gary  
Thank you!**



We are invited...

Beth Sholom B'nai Israel

MANCHESTER, CT

Registration for this event is not required, but please RSVP if you plan on joining for dessert.

[CLICK HERE TO RSVP FOR DESSERT](#)

Thanks for the welcome, BSBI!

SEPTEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

# SELICHOT

*Service*



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

- 8:15 p.m. Havdalah
- 8:30 p.m. Movie Clips and Discussion  
Dairy Dessert  
Changing of the Torah Mantles
- 10:00 p.m. Selichot Service

Beth Sholom B'nai Israel  
400 E. Middle Turnpike, Manchester CT 06040



FALL will soon be in the air at TBT...

Our Sukkah must go up by September 29th!

Perhaps our Fiddler, too, just in time for Scarecrows on Main in Old Wethersfield.

If you're able to lend hands and/or decorations to these projects, check in with Gary, David or Deb.

Here's a Phil and Ralph creation from a past Scarecrows on Main event. Classic!

