



The STAR (light!)

A Temple Beth Torah Newsletter
March-April 2024: Adar-Nisan 5784

Rabbi Alan's Message...

Questions, Sh'elot, Preguntas

With Passover coming, we are reminded that we are allowed, even encouraged to ask questions. The Passover Haggadah even ensures that questions are asked. Perhaps the most famous passage in the Haggadah is the "Ma Nish-ta-na" which is not actually a question but a declaration, a noticing: "How different this night is from all other nights!" This paragraph is recited by the youngest person (not necessarily a child) at the Seder. For most Jewish children, this may be their first experience of public speaking, public questioning. The questions pertain to asking the reasons behind the holiday's rituals, for example: "On all other nights, we eat all kinds of bread, why tonight do we only eat Matza?" The remainder of the Haggadah is designed to answer the child's questions.

Another well-known passage speaks of four children: one wise, one thoughtless, one simple, and one too young to ask questions. We are told that no two children are alike; they study in each their own way, and are developing their own style of living, which requires questioning. The reading describes the parents' responses to each child. And most parents recognize that their children are nothing alike.

The spirit of Passover is summarized in one characteristic teaching of the Haggadah: "In every generation, we are obligated to regard ourselves as if we personally were liberated from Egypt."

(cont'd)

So, in the spirit of Passover, as we experience and reflect on our freedom and as we ask our questions, we at TBT are always asking questions pertaining to our growth, to what our future will look like.

Here are questions that we can add to our Seder:

How did you come to join TBT?

What are your needs and how have they changed?

How is the synagogue meeting your needs?

What do you enjoy the most about belonging to TBT?

What else can we do for you?

What do you have to offer us?

Any ideas how we can best reach out to unaffiliated Jews in the community?

(FOR INTERFAITH HOUSEHOLDS)

Is there anything special that we can do to make you more comfortable as an interfaith family?

Jody and I wish you all a Happy, sweet Passover.

Rabbi Alan

SELL YOUR CHAMETZ:

According to the “Shulchan Aruch,” A Jew having leaven food in their possession during Passover is transgressing the precept: ‘No leaven shall be seen with you.’ And ‘No leaven shall be found in your houses.’ ‘Every nook and cranny must be searched with the utmost care; even searching the pockets of our garments.’ It is forbidden to own any chametz products during Passover. Make this an important mitzvah! I can serve as your agent to help you rid yourself of any Chametz ownership.

Yoelit's Pillow Fundraiser is a comfy success!

Yoelit's beautiful themed pillow creations were scooped up by happy purchasers! Ten of them now adorn our sanctuary, and close to another ten have been requested for personal use.

Yoelit has generously donated the materials and labor to make these pillows, and all proceeds have gone to TBT.

Todah rabah, Yoelit!!!



Pillow Sponsors, to date...

Donna and David Forrest

Judy and Marty Gold

Debra and Joe Hammer

Karen and Bob Klein

Jody and Alan Lefkowitz

Helene Rosenblatt

Janet and Joe Rosenblatt

Sallyanne and Barry Scott

Helene Shapiro

Wayne Silver

And, of course... Yoelit Hiebert for the materials,
design, and labor to create these pillows!



We mourn the loss of Steven Leon ...

Steve was a beloved husband, father, brother, son and friend to many.

Over the years, we got to know Steve and his son Michael at TBT. Steve first came to TBT wishing to see Michael become a Bar Mitzvah. We welcomed them both, and the rest was history. Steve became an integral part of our High Holiday observances, and generously supported many fundraisers. Steve was a sweet and humble mensch; we will miss him.

The full obituary is [here](#).



Donations to TBT, in memory of Steve Leon

Debra and Joe Hammer

David and Gail Leon

Sallyanne and Barry Scott





On March 13, we hosted Ernst Heineman and his daughter Sonya Kunkel, and heard the incredibly fascinating and moving story of his childhood 8 year escape from the Holocaust as he and other family members hid “in plain sight” on the grounds of a Catholic church in northern Italy. Much of the story, as well as previously unknown family connections, suddenly came to light years later on a flight to Germany. The discovery of a girl’s pendant found in an archaeological dig on the path to the Sobibor extermination camp was the start to revealing these family connections. Great thanks to Jody Lefkowitz for bringing this very special program to us.

TBT Hosts Wethersfield Methodist Church as part of their 200th Anniversary Celebration



Approximately 50 members of the Methodist congregation gathered on April 14th to visit their original home in Wethersfield, 130 Main Street! Their congregation sold this property to the burgeoning TBT congregation in 1960. On Sunday, folks first enjoyed fellowship and refreshments in our Social Hall, and then moved into the sanctuary for an interactive and interesting history talk by Carol Bruce from the Wethersfield Historical Society. Pastor John spoke warm words of appreciation for our hospitality, and Rabbi Alan welcomed the attendees and explained the Hebrew phrase above the ark.



Fun Fact:

Carol Bruce taught us that our magnificent stained glass windows were installed some time in the late 1880s.

There was a bit of “one-upmanship” going on between the Main Street churches!

Interestingly, no religious motifs are in these windows!

Other Donations to TBT, gratefully received

In MEMORY of THELMA COHN, mother of Karen Klein

Debra and Joe Hammer

Cheryl and John Hinze

Helene Shapiro

Harris Lifshitz and Nanette Char ~ In MEMORY of Michelle Goldberg-Cyr

Helene Shapiro ~

In MEMORY of ANDY PETERSON

In MEMORY of MELIA SNYDER, mother of Stuart Snyder

PILLOWS in MEMORY of beloved pets

Judy and Marty Gold for Daisy (S. & B. Scott)

Debra and Joe Hammer for Dexter (H. Rosenblatt)

Norma Fine ~ General Donation to TBT





Our Spring
daffodils are
back!!!
With hope that
the promise of
Spring here
holds promise
for peace in the
world.