

The Shofar

December 2018



Temple Beth Tikvah



Dear Friends,

As we descend deeper and deeper into the darkness of the month of December, we would be wise to consider this deep, dark lesson: words can kill. We have been surrounded by demonstration of this deep, dark truth.

The horror of Pittsburgh still lingers in our throats. We can wish it away with the rationale that it was 'one lone individual,' but that violent act was made in a context. The shooter was targeting Jews and he was specifically targeting Jews for coming to the aid of immigrants. Every time we hear ugly words about Jews or immigrants, every time we see Nazi swastikas, we must take these actions seriously and speak out about them. These are words and messages that lead to violence. These are words that are an invitation to do harm.

Surely we are not fanatics. Not us. But every time we let violent words pass, without countering them directly, we are aiding the cause of extremists.

December is indeed a dark month. But soon we will light the candles of Chanukah to combat that darkness. This year, there is a particular custom on Chanukah that addresses our fears of rising anti-Semitism. The Talmud instructs that we are to light the menorah "in order to publicize the miracle of the holiday." It became the tradition to light the menorah in a window, so others could see it. The notion that we are to be vocal about who we are, allowing all to see, was a step in nurturing pride rather than hiding our true selves from others.

This Chanukah, may we be extra clear about who we are and what we do. May we be extra vocal when we hear anti-Semitic words or words that defame any group of people. May the words we choose combat the darkness of December.

To a sweet festival filled with light.

Happy Chanukah,

Rabbi Offner

Celebrate Shabbat & Chanukah

Friday, December 7 at 6 PM



6 pm | **Dinner and Menorah Lighting**

Latkes & brisket dinner

Vegetarian option available

\$12 adults, \$5 children 12 & under

Additional contributions to offset the cost of the evening are greatly appreciated.

Bring-your-own-menorah!

Join us as we bring more light into the world.

7:15 | **Shabbat Service**



temple beth tikvah
בית תקוה

Temple Beth Tikvah • 203-245-7028 • admin@tbtshoreline.org



Shabbat Celebrating Walter Stutzman's 33 1/3 years of Music at TBT

Friday, December 14th, 7:15pm

Special Shabbat service honoring Walter Stutzman

Oneg to follow

Donations in Walter's Honor are Gratefully Accepted.

President's Column



Shalom. As the days get shorter, the month of December at least brings us the Festival of Lights, our eight-day celebration of Chanukah. TBT will bring our families together for dinner (with latkes!), a group menorah lighting, and the Shabbat festival service on Friday, December 7. This will certainly lift the spirits of everyone on a cold December evening.

Chanukah also acknowledges the renewal of the Jewish people and the rebuilding and dedication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem. Here at TBT, we are engaged in our own rebuilding project, to take this temple of Jewish life on the Connecticut shoreline and keep it thriving and serving all of our needs. Those members who came to either of our two Building Renovation Project congregational meetings in November were able to examine a detailed model and hear the specific plans for how our temple will fulfill TBT's mission in the years to come. For those who could not attend, we will be posting the presentation online very soon, if it hasn't already been done by the time you read this.

I also want to encourage all members who are able to do so, to donate to our 5779 Annual Fund, bridging the gap between our budgeted needs and what we collect from members' pledges each year. The Annual Fund is what enables us to open our temple doors to the entire Jewish shoreline community regardless of means and ability to pay our full pledge amounts. We celebrate the perseverance and strength of the Jewish people during Chanukah, and the TBT Annual Fund is what gives us the ability to serve our entire local Jewish community and help it prosper.

Jeff Babbin

Oneg Sponsors for November - Toda Raba!

November 2nd: The Families of Our Students in Grades K-3
 November 9th: The Chupp, Garmisa/Pinchbeck, Friedman, Schneider, Gordon, and Galinsky Families, and Nancy Abramson, *in celebration of Charlie Lee becoming a Bat Mitzvah*
 November 16th: The Adult Study Group, *in loving memory of Sally Spiegel*
 November 30th: The Education Committee, and The Families of Our Students in Grades 8-10

Please contact the office at office@tbtshoreline.org, or 203-245-7028 to find out how easy it is to remember, celebrate, honor, or appreciate anyone or anything you choose by sponsoring an oneg!



TBT Tots 2018-19 (formerly Torah Tots)

Please join Dorothy Tolchin for TBT Tots, a new Sunday morning program for our TBT preschoolers, ages 2 1/2 - 5 years. Each month, Dorothy will lead an energetic program full of singing, signing, and community building for children and families, including holiday activities and mitzvah projects during each session. The program is designed to teach basic Jewish values, introduce familiar Hebrew songs, and engage our young children in TBT life. The program is free of charge, and siblings and family members are always welcome.

TBT Tots will meet Sunday mornings, 10:30-11:30 AM on the following dates: December 9th, January 13th, February 10th, March 10th, April 7th, and May 5th. Following each session, families are welcome to attend the religious school T'filah in the sanctuary from 11:30-noon.

Dorothy is one of our TBT religious school substitute teachers and is an experienced music and sign language teacher for families with young children. Please contact Dorothy with any questions or to sign up: TBTtots@gmail.com.



Support Temple Beth Tikvah
with your gift to the
5779 Annual Fund



The Annual Fund contributes a critical part of our operating funds.

Your gift allows us to fulfill our mission
as a vibrant, inclusive Reform Jewish community.

December Services

Join us for Shabbat.



December 7, 6pm(dinner & service)
Chanukah Shabbat,
Birthday Blessings,

December 14, 7:15pm
Celebrating Walter Stutzman

December 21, 7:15pm

December 28, 7:15pm

Jewish Mindfulness & Meditation

Jewish Mindfulness & Meditation will now be held regularly the first and third Saturday of each month, at 8am.

For December:

Saturday, December 1st @8am

Saturday, December 15th @8am



In Memoriam



Len Feingold, 10/29/18
husband of Natalie Feingold

Hattie Weiss, 10/30/18
mother of Alan Weiss

Laura Schall Gouillart, 11/15/18
sister of Martha Schall Czaczes

"May God Comfort All Who Mourn"

Torah Study

TBT Library, Saturdays 9am



December 1: *Vayeishev*
Genesis 39:1-40:23

December 8: *Miketz*
Genesis 43:16-44:17*
(Chanukah Shabbat - may have special study)

December 15: *Vaigash*
Genesis 6:28-47:27

December 22: *Va-yechi*
Genesis 49:27-50:26

December 29: *Shemot*
Exodus 4:18-6:1

Our December Children



Jacob Sharp, Asher Jacoby, Dylan Miller,
Lexi Handelman, Jaden Labowe-Stoll,
Leanna Koff, Lily Fried

Join us at Shabbat Services on December 7th as we bless our December children.

TBT Book Club

The TBT Book Club will be meeting on December 20th (third Thursday of the month) to discuss our November pick.

As always, we meet at 7:30pm at the Hearth in Madison.



December: *Dirty Wars and Polished Silver* by Lynda Schuster

We are sorry that this year's Gamerman Film Festival (Jewish Experience in Film 2019) has been canceled.

We wish Ken Gamerman well on his rehabilitation following hip surgery.



Mazel tov to Judy Pozzi on FIFTEEN years as a magnificent teacher in the TBT Nursery School, AND...Mazel Tov on Judy's new full-time position in administration at Roper Thermals in Clinton.

Mazel Tov to Tobie Meisel on two recent honors: first, for being awarded the Beacon Award by the Shoreline Publications, for her community service, including her work with A Better Chance, where she serves on the Board, handles personnel, and counsels a wonderful scholar through all four years of high school. Second, for being selected as the Guilford Woman of Excellence by the Shoreline Chamber of Commerce for her service at the Women & Family Life Center where she runs a weekly counseling group and consults as well. Mazel Tov, Tobie!

Mazel Tov to David Baggish on the opening and dedication of 'The David A. Baggish, MD Conference Center' at Middlesex Hospital.

Mazel Tov to Jodie Ambrosino on her new position as a pediatric psychologist with Shoreline Psychological in Madison.

Mazel Tov to Abigail Sherer who will be attending Tulane University in September.

Social Justice

Mitzvah Day-December 16th during Sunday School hours
The committee has been diligently planning for Mitzvah Day which takes place during parent/teacher conferences. This year the theme is "Kids Helping Kids."

If you have any new or gently used children's books and games, please bring them to the temple before December 11th.

The children will rotate through different 'stations':

- 1.The projects involve collecting books and making bookplates to donate to children in the New Reach women's shelter in New Haven.
- 2.Decorating journal books and collecting games for children at the Cove grief counseling center
- 3.Collecting puzzle books and others for Ronald McDonald House children.
4. Decorating storage crates for the children of a Raise the Roof Habitat house.

As always, we would love for you to join our committee as we move forward. Meetings are usually once a month. For more information, contact Sarah Mervine or Tina Silidker.

Tina and Sarah

Nursery School News

Our nursery school enjoyed our annual Autumn gathering and luncheon on November 19. Thank you to our room parents Jessica Hurney, Jodi Arnold and Leah Yazmer for all of your help in making this event so special.

Join Director Bernadette Stak for Chanukah Stories and a craft on Tuesday December 4 at 1 pm at RJ Julia Booksellers in Madison. We will be meeting upstairs in the childrens department.

We are accepting midyear applications for our programs. If you know a 3-5 year old who might enjoy painting, building, singing and playing with friends on a cold winter day, contact the school for a tour, by calling 203-245-8039, or emailing Bernadette at nsdirector@tbtshoreline.org

We wish everyone a Happy Chanukah!

Raise the Roof Gala of Stars: Dancing for a Cause



Congratulations to TBT's Dylan Richmond and partner Hannah Lewis who danced their way to Best Performance in the Dancing for a Cause competition. The November event held at Woodwinds in Branford marked the 15th anniversary of Raise the Roof &

the 14 houses built. The fun-filled dinner and entertainment event raised \$87,000! The funds raised will go towards building the next Habitat for Humanity/Raise the Roof house in New Haven.

A GREAT time was had by all!

For more information & ways to get involved go to www.raisetherooft.org.



Building Project Update

Thank you to the over 100 people who attended the building renovation update meetings on November 4 and 13! We heard from Bruce Topolosky, chair of the building renovation committee, and had lively conversation.

The PowerPoint slides with narration and a set of questions and answers asked at the meetings will be posted on the TBT website by early December.

The key points of the presentation are:

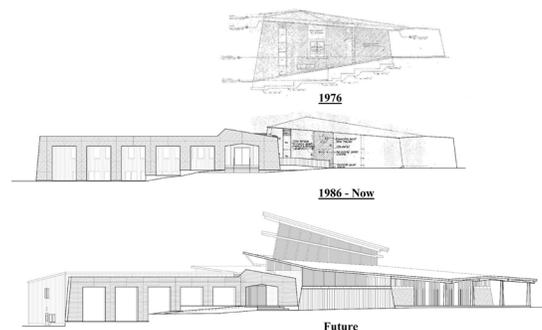
- A review of our mission and how our building helps us achieve the mission.
- The history of our building with thanks to the people who envisioned a temple on the Shoreline over 40 years ago and to the people who looked towards our future by expanding the building in 1986.
- A review of the objectives we now have:
 - o repair our aging building,
 - o improve the mechanical, technology and structural elements of the building,
 - o improve access into and within the building,
 - o improve our driveways and parking,
 - o improve the safety and security of the building and grounds,
 - o create more flexible meeting space,
 - o beautify and enhance our spiritual and secular spaces.
- The guiding principles of the project: congregational input, Board oversight, design principles (a building that is welcoming, accessible, beautiful, functional, built to last into the future, safe/secure, meets our needs for the future) and fiscal responsibility.
- An introduction to the Building, Finance and Campaign Steering Committees.
- An overview of the decision process: membership ideas, maintenance & sustainability issues, independent expert assessments, architect input and financial feasibility inform the Board decision.
- An update on the process of how we have created early design options and the Building Committee's recommendation/ Board's approval to focus on "Scheme II" as our design option.
- Q & A

As we focus on a specific design scheme and begin to work on the details of the design, each of the sub-committees is becoming active. If you are interested in working with the Building Committee, the sub-committees are:

- Sanctuary/Social Hall: Rob Jacoby, chair
- Educational Space: Jason Glazer, chair
- Parking, Driveways, Landscape: John Lesage, chair
- Technology: Ted Langevin, chair
- Kitchen: Kevin Glazier, chair
- Transitional Space: Jerry Davis and Nancy Abramson, co-chairs.

In addition, as the project becomes clearer, the Campaign Steering Committee is working on the capital campaign.

If you are interested in joining our project through to success, please contact Building Chair, Bruce Topolosky at bruce@topolosky.net or Campaign Steering Chair, Suzy Frisch, at sgfrisch@aol.com.



Temple Beth Tikvah & Philanthropy: The Importance of an Annual Fund

Membership in a synagogue is unique because by joining and remaining affiliated with the temple, we each make an active decision to sustain our Jewish community. The first and most obvious way we do this is by paying our annual pledge of support (dues). Many people have questioned why synagogues need to charge dues. The answer is straightforward. We charge dues in order to pay our bills and employee salaries. We expect our synagogue to have clergy and office staff, and we expect these people to be there for us when we need them. We want our synagogue to have a variety of social and adult educational programs. We pay for heat, air conditioning, snowplowing and garbage removal to name a few other everyday costs of running our Jewish home, plus the more expensive repairs needed from time to time. Dues do not cover all of the expenses we have at TBT.

An annual giving campaign is, as the name implies, a yearly fund raising tool used to enhance the operating budget beyond what dues can provide. Annual gifts are meant to be "check book" gifts, that is to say, a gift that each donor can make without reaching deeply into the long-term savings vehicles. The purpose of the Annual Fund is to help pay for the day-to-day expenses of the synagogue. More significant philanthropy is handled through separate campaigns and funds.

We began the TBT Annual Fund in 5765 and are currently in our fifteenth Annual Fund Campaign (in the year 5779). Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Annual Fund over this time. Each year, we are grateful to receive gifts which have ranged from \$18.00 to \$12,000.00; and, each year we receive gifts from approximately one third of our member households. We hope to expand this program so that at least one half of our households contributes each year. This money is critical to maintaining a balanced budget of sufficient size to make TBT a place that fulfills our mission statement.

I urge each of you to reflect on the importance of Temple Beth Tikvah in your life and in the life of our community. In order to keep TBT fiscally sound, and to make membership available broadly to those in our community who are unable to pay the dues level set each year by the Board, we each need to give to the Annual Fund in addition to paying our dues. The amount each of us gives is dictated by personal circumstance, so when making an annual gift, be as generous as you can be. Every gift matters and every gift truly makes a difference.

Temple Beth Tikvah is our Jewish home. TBT gives us a place on the Connecticut shoreline to worship, learn, celebrate, mourn, and be with friends and family. Your ongoing support of the Annual Fund makes this possible. Thank you.



temple beth tikvah
בית תקוה



**Wishing you
peace, love and joy
as you celebrate the Festival of Lights.**

Happy Hanukkah!

Temple Beth Tikvah
196 Durham Road, Madison CT
203-245-7028, www.tbttshoreline.org



Contributions

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Sue & Herb Burstein, in appreciation of Rabbi's course
Marcia & Rob Jacoby, in appreciation of Rabbi's course
Maureen & Len Fried, in memory of Len's mother, Beatrice Fried
Debbie, Bill, Caroline, and Juliet Friedman, in appreciation
Cheryl & Elwin Schwartz, in memory of Hattie Weiss
Shelley & Ron Capozzi, in memory of Raymond Capozzi, Ron's brother
Roxane Siskind, in memory of Rose Sobel
Amy Agranov, in loving memory of Wayne Festa
Joan & Franklin Green, in memory of Phyllis Shapiro
Rosemary & David Baggish, in memory of Barry Richter's mother, Betty Richter
Rosemary & David Baggish, in memory of Alan Weiss's father, Ned Weiss; and mother, Hattie Weiss
Susan Shulman, in memory of Hattie & Ned Weiss, parents of Dr. Alan Weiss
Leslie & Bob Mallimson, in memory of Betty Richter
Leslie & Bob Mallimson, in memory of Ned & Hattie Weiss
The Auerbach Family, in memory of Bedrich Auerbach

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

The Kohn Family, in memory of Leonard Marcus
Shelley & Ron Capozzi, in memory of David Capozzi, Ron's nephew
Mona & Robert Goodman, in memory of Ned & Hattie Weiss, parents of Alan Weiss
Helena & Harry Schanzer, in memory of Helena's mother, Anna Sobocki

Endowment Fund

Laura & Adam Gilbert, in appreciation
Jo-Ann & David Fleischman, in memory of Len Feingold
Charles Barr, in memory of Stephen H. Barr
The Ambrosino/Weinzimer Family, in honor of the birth of Gabriel Vivanco, grandson of Jonathan Levine & Suzy Frisch
Frayda & Bruce Topolosky, in appreciation
Gloria & Ed Sack, in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Charlie Lee, granddaughter of Alan & Marjorie Starensier
Jo-Ann & David Fleischman, in memory of Hattie Weiss, mother of Alan Weiss
Robyn & Seth Klaskin, in appreciation
Gloria & Ed Sack, in memory of Rose Freedman Schwartz and Seymour Freedman, beloved mother and brother of Gloria
Rhona & Alan Weiss, in honor of the Cantor and memory of Alan's mother, Hattie Weiss
The Spigelman Family, in memory of William Stohl
Maureen & Len Fried, in honor of Charlie Lee's Bat Mitzvah

General Fund

Arlene & Bennett Paul, in memory of Betty Richter, Barry's mother

Laurence B. & Elaine J. Sommer Memorial Fund for Social Justice

Rabbi Howard Sommer, in memory of Elaine J. Sommer
Linda Waldman, in memory of Herbert Waldman

Helen Katz Goodkind Beautification Fund

Mona & Robert Goodman, in memory of Betty Richter
Mona & Robert Goodman, in memory of Len Feingold
Sandy & Myron Brand, in memory of Hattie Weiss, mother of Alan Weiss
Rose & Ed Gleich, in honor of Sandy & Myron Brand

Building Fund

The Czaczkes Family, in memory of Eva Czaczkes

Nursery School Fund

Arlene & Bennett Paul, in memory of Saul Paul, father of Bennett Paul
Drs. Patricia & Alan Ecker, in memory of Dr. Barry Richter's mother, Betty Richter

Sisterhood Cantorial Fund

Barbara Levy, in honor of Cantor Stanton's installation
Joan & Barry Richter, in appreciation of Cantor Stanton's support and shiva service

Library Fund

The Kessler Family, in memory of Frederick Kessler

Judith K. Barr Adult Education Fund

Carol & Don Miller, with love, in honor of Charlie Miller Lee's Bat Mitzvah
Francie & Stephen Ketaineck, in memory of Ruby Ketaineck
Karen D. Singh, in memory of John Kislak's father, Jay Kislak
Rose & Ed Gleich, in honor of Arlene & Bennett Paul

Judaica Fund

Raymon Sterman, in memory of his father, Benjamin Sterman

Richard C. Kahrmanis Music Fund

Rose & Ed Gleich, in honor of Walter Stutzman

Silidker Family Music Enrichment Fund

Rose & Ed Gleich, in memory of Joel Silidker

Rabbi Howard F. Sommer Fund for Continuing Jewish Education

Robin & Ben Baker, in memory of Robin's beloved brother, Cary Alan Kevrick
Robin & Ben Baker, in memory of Robin's beloved father, Jack Kevrick

**TEMPLE BETH TIKVAH
SHOFAR**

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DECEMBER 2018

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