

The Shofar

February 2023



Temple Beth Tikvah



Dear Friends,

As I write this, we are nearing the dramatic climax of the Exodus story in our weekly Torah cycle. It's one of the great human narratives; one which we revisit every day in our prayer services and every year around the seder table. But we tend not to dwell on the plagues (apart from the hokey children's seder toys, anyway), which would have been quite terrifying to experience! Consider the penultimate plague of darkness:

"And Adonai said to Moses: 'Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be darkness over the land of Egypt, even darkness which may be felt.'" (Ex. 10.21)

The medieval Italian commentator Ovadia Seforno attempts to understand the unique character of this darkness. He explains that darkness is not a substance, as such, but rather the absence of light. But the darkness of Egypt, he explains, is a separate entity, entirely: not an absence, but a tangible presence. Thus, no light could banish it.

Sometimes it feels that there is darkness in our world that no light can banish. We are living through difficult and dark times, for certain. And all of us go through seasons of trial and challenge — darkness out of which it may feel that we will never emerge.

The Torah goes on to specify that the Israelites could not see one another, so they did not rise from their dwellings for three days (Ex.10.23). How does the Midrash respond? It says that the greatest darkness we experience is when we do not truly see one another — when we do not participate in the distress of others.

The only antidote to this darkness, of course, is reaching out to those around us who are in need. Or, when we are in need, we may reach out to others for a helping hand. This is one of the reasons our community exists. The relationships we can build at TBT are like a candle in the dark. Just ask our families who have been here for decades. It doesn't take decades to feel the warmth and profundity of these relationships, though — and like any profound journey, it starts with a first step. If you are interested in your first (or next) step, I'd love to talk with you about it.

L'Shalom,

Rabbi Danny Moss



Hello Friends,

In my column last month, I spoke about the strength of TBT coming from our members and their dedication to our community. That was on clear display this weekend. For those of you who missed it, the TBT Kulanu group hosted a community discussion about antisemitism. We had tables and chairs set up for 120 people.

The night before the event when I spoke to Harry Schanzer (my Dad and chair of the Kulanu Working Group), he admitted that he was worried “about the numbers.” I asked, “too many or too few?” He said, “too few.” WRONG answer!!!

We had more than 300 people from the Shoreline show up to learn how to combat antisemitism. It was truly emotional and uplifting to see so many congregants, neighbors, friends, teens, politicians, clergy, educators, and allies come together against hate. It made me proud to be Jewish, proud to be a member of Temple Beth Tikvah, and proud to live on the CT shoreline.

After listening to Stacy Sobel, CT ADL Director, discuss what the ADL is doing to fight hate, two TBT congregants spoke of their own experiences with antisemitism. Thank you to Maya Daniels, our courageous middle schooler, and the eloquent Susan Ottenheimer, daughter of founding members of TBT. We then broke into groups of ten to talk about our own experiences with hate or antisemitism. In just my small group I heard about a landlord saying, “don’t go to that pool, that’s where the Jews go.” Someone else told the story of leaving her job after her manager told her to “not market to the Jews” and the lawsuit that followed. A third member talked about his struggle when he found out someone he does business with is a Holocaust denier.

These were powerful stories that made me think about how I would respond in these situations and how I would want my children to react. If we truly believe NEVER AGAIN, we must act.

Step one is realizing that there is no place for hate and there is no such thing as a “microaggression.” A racist joke is not funny, a Jewish slur is not “just a saying,” a homophobic comment is never OK, and speaking up is our duty.

Kulanu means all of us. And it will take all of us to continue the mission to confront and fight antisemitism in our world. This forum was only the first that our team is planning. We look forward to many more. I would like to thank the Kulanu task force - Harry Schanzer, Rabbi Moss, Kim Romine, Rosemary Baggish, Nancy Fliss, Irma Grebel, Louis King, and Andrea SanMarco – for their initiative, hours of planning, dedication, and leadership.



Karen Goldberg



Shabbat Services are at TBT!

All Services are Friday evenings at 6:30 PM.
Services will be streamed live on Zoom unless otherwise noted.
Shabbat Services will be available to watch, usually by Saturday morning, on our YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/@templebethtikvah5835>

NEW: Mask-only Shabbatot – For those congregants who would feel more comfortable if everyone is wearing a mask, we have designated one Shabbat service per month - February 3 is “mask mandatory.”

Friday, February 3: **Shabbat service - Shabbat Shira - a service in song**
This is a Masks Required service

Friday, February 10: **Shabbat service**

Friday, February 17: **Shabbat service**

Friday, February 24: **Shabbat service**



Torah Study
Live on Zoom
Saturdays @9am
Check your inbox for weekly Zoom link.

February 2023 parshiot (Torah portions) are in the Book of Exodus

February 4: *B'shalach* Exodus 13:17–17:16

February 11: *Yitro* Exodus 18:1–20:23

February 18: *Mishpatim* Exodus 21:1–24:18

February 25: *T'rumah* Exodus 25:1–27:19

You can find the text and d'verei Torah at
<https://reformjudaism.org/learning/torah-study>



Ruth Jacobson Ottenheimer

January 9, 2023 / 17 Tevet 5783
Mother of Susan Ottenheimer
Founding member of Temple Beth Tikvah

Jewish Mindfulness & Meditation



We meet on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month at 8 AM on Zoom.

Upcoming sessions are Saturday, February 4 and February 11.

Links will be in your email inbox.

All are welcome.



Raise the Roof Your Shoreline Habitat Connection

**Another Year,
Another Home!**

The 20th Raise the Roof sponsored house build will get underway in early 2023 at 33 Elliot Street in New Haven. Watch your email for an invitation to participate.

Start the year off volunteering for a Sunday day of service. No skills required. There are tasks for every skill level!

Temple Beth Tikvah
volunteers hold on to your hammers!

Volunteers are needed. For more information contact Linda.brody@comcast.net or go to www.raisetherooft.org

Temple Beth Tikvah has been part of every house build since 2004. We have been privileged to meet and work alongside the 19 families in their journey to build and purchase their own home.

To get involved contact Linda.brody@comcast.net or go to www.raisetherooft.org

TBT Book Club

TBT Book Club meets the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM, currently on Zoom.

The next discussion is on Thursday, February 16.

**February's book is
*Maybe You Should
Talk to Someone*
by Lori Gottlieb**



All TBT members who enjoy reading are encouraged to join us on Zoom. For additional information, or to get the Zoom link, please contact the TBT office: office@tbtshoreline.org or 203-245-7028

We Welcome New Participants!



Rosh Chodesh

Monday, February 27 at 7:30 PM on Zoom
Welcoming the month of Adar

Led by Rabbi Susan Landau Moss
Links will be emailed to all female members of TBT

The TBT Men's Club

In the approximately 30-year history of the Men's Club there have been only two leaders of the group: Irv Siegelman and Ken Rosenberg. We're pleased to announce our 3rd leader, Steven Stoll, who will now be co-chair with Ken. Steven will be focusing on new activities and events for the group as well as membership.

If you'd like to know more about the Men's Club, feel free to contact either Ken or Steven. You'll be hearing about some events soon.

Ken Rosenberg kenr68@aol.com

Steven Stoll stollsteven@gmail.com



Men's Club at Deer Lake Camp,
November 2022

Kol Ami

Kol Ami welcomes all TBT women to participate in our regular ongoing programs, such as Rosh Chodesh, hikes, and a monthly movie discussion group.

Our next movie night is Wednesday, February 8 at 7:30 PM on Zoom.

Keep your eye on the Shofar Blast for this month's movie.

Do you have a suggestion for a great movie to watch?

Would you like to facilitate a movie discussion? Let us know!

Loren Stermann lorensternan@gmail.com

Cher Richmond cherrilyn.richmond@yale.edu

Hikes are ongoing.
If you are interested in joining us for a
hike, contact Karen Goldberg.
karengoldberg@ymail.com



SAVE THE DATE to Celebrate PURIM!

Sunday, March 5 at 12 noon

It's a family PURIM CARNIVAL

Don't forget your COSTUME!

presented by SALTY (our temple youth group)

Adults Only:
Monday, March 6 from 6 – 8 PM
An evening to read the Megillah,
enjoy a spiel, a nosh some food & Purim libations!

Join our effort
to support each
other,

CHESED

and to share love
and kindness!

At the start of the pandemic, a group of loving congregants volunteered their time to connect with TBT members who had limited access to others and who could benefit from outreach at a time when so many were separated from family, friends, and activities.

We now have an opportunity to redefine this effort. We hope to connect with congregants who need support and also to have the chance to share the joy with people who are celebrating.

We are naming this committee Chesed. Chesed is considered a primary virtue in Judaism and traditionally means loving or kindness between people. This congregation has a great capacity for offering love and kindness to one another. We hope that you will help us create and be part of this mitzvah.

To get started, we want to identify congregants who would like to join our committee and /or participate on a case-by-case basis. No mitzvah will be considered too great or too small.

Here are some of the opportunities in their broadest terms—it will be for all of us to further define what we can do to assist our fellow congregants.

- **Transportation Needs** - to synagogue services, medical appointments, to the grocery store ...
- **Bereavement** - helping to coordinate a shiva, making a visit, sending a card, creating a MealTrain ...
- **Illness** - making a visit or phone call, running an errand, sending a card ...
- **Simchas** - writing notes and acknowledging happy events

We are holding an informational meeting Wednesday, February 15 at 7 PM at TBT.
Please let us know if we will see you there.

In gratitude,

Amy Lee (amyjolee22@gmail.com) and Leslie Hyman (Lch711@aol.com)



Temple Beth Tikvah Preschool

February 2023

We are ready for a fun filled February!

We will continue to explore the wonders of winter this month.

We are also looking forward to our annual pj's and pancake day!

Enrollment for the 2023 - 2024 School year is now open!

We have limited space available for the 2023-2024 school year.

TBT Preschool hours of operation are 8 AM -5 PM for the 2023 - 2024 school year.

In addition to our Parent-Child 2-year-old program,
we also offer a drop off program for 2-year-olds from 9 AM -12:30 PM.

If you are interested in enrolling for the 2023-2024 school year, please contact our director Jennifer Casillo at 203-245-8039 or NSDDirector@tbtshoreline.org.

Follow us on [Facebook @tbtpreschool](https://www.facebook.com/tbtpreschool) to see what we are up to.

And, check our website at <https://tbtpreschool.org/>

Temple Beth Tikvah

Private group · 195 members



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Do you know that TBT has a private Facebook Group that is for TBT members?
If you are a Facebook user, you can join the group by going to this [LINK](#) and asking to join.

It is a place to share, find out about events, and get your weekend Zoom links if you accidentally delete your email.

February 2023 TBT Renovation

The ark wall with the “ribs” in place



Windows in the front lobby - overlooking the back play area.



The front entry at night.
Note driveway area level with the entryway.



New in January!

- Main lobby windows are installed adjacent to the stairway down to the lower lobby area
- Bathroom tiling and flooring is nearly complete; kitchen cabinets & appliances and bathroom fixtures are scheduled to be installed in February
- Window installation for the front entrance will be complete by the beginning of February
- Driveway and parking areas are being leveled with the front entrance; the front entrance stonework is underway
- The eastern wall of the sanctuary is moving ahead with the construction of the “ribs”
- The lower floor encompassing the preschool is complete as well as the community room.

Have you joined us in Building Community?

If you haven't donated or pledged to the TBT Capital Campaign yet, TBT Needs You!!

Don't miss your chance to say,

“I helped to build the future of TBT and the Jewish community!”

Questions? Please reach out to Bruce Topolosky, John Lesage, Suzy Frisch, or Karen Goldberg – We would love to discuss the building project and how you might support the renovation and our future.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our capital campaign!

Contributions to TBT Funds

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Sondra Bernblum *in memory of Milton Bernblum, Muriel Nalib*

Lisa Walker & Robert Kaplan

in memory of Rhoda Lee Baskin Kaplan

Alvin Korn *in memory of Pauline Korn*

Larry Pepper *in memory of Rose & Ed Gleich*

Roxanne Siskind *in memory of Neil Siskind, Florence Siskind, Irving Sobel*

Bonnie Stoddard *in memory of Irving Fins*

Pat Widlitz *in memory of Ida Widlitz*

The Cantorial Soloist's Discretionary Fund

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in memory of Adele Kohn Marcus

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in memory of Phyllis Shapiro

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Barbara Levy *in memory of Nathan Barrin*

Laury Walker *in memory of Arnold Alderman*

The 5783 Annual Fund

Leslie Sude

Carol VanSteenbergen

**Thank You for Your Generosity
in supporting TBT and all of our activities!**

**Thank you to everyone who has contributed
to the 5783 Annual Fund**

**The Annual Fund helps to support our
operations throughout the year**

**Donations to the 5783 Annual Fund can be
made through June 20, 2023**

on-line at this [LINK](#)

**or by contacting the TBT office at
203-245-7028**

TEMPLE BETH TIKVAH SHOFAR

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<i>Rabbi</i>	<i>Danny Moss</i>
<i>President</i>	<i>Karen Goldberg</i>
<i>Cantorial Soloist/</i>	<i>Dr. Leah Cassorla</i>
<i>Educator</i>	
<i>Proofreader</i>	<i>Hattie Sussman</i>

February 2023

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