The Shofar



January 2023

Temple Beth Tikvah



Dear Friends,

At the Jewish summer camp of my youth, a popular topic for our *limmudim* (learning sessions) was this classic question: do we consider ourselves American Jews, or Jewish Americans? If push ever came to shove, which would be our primary identity?

I don't think this question resonates anymore. For most Reform Jewish kids these days, there's little to debate. Nearly all, I'd surmise, would identify as Americans first, and Jews second. And in many ways, this is a sign of incredible success: we have integrated into

American society in ways that our immigrant ancestors could only have dreamed of.

Unfortunately, no matter our successes, there will always be those who reject us, existentially. That's why I often avoid the clinical sounding word, "antisemitism," preferring to call it what it is: the hatred of Jews. Many of us thought that the days of socially accepted Jew-hatred were behind us. Unfortunately, nobody can reasonably think that now. The hatred of Jews — which scholars deem the 'oldest hate' — has ebbed and flowed over 2000 years; and once again, it is on the rise.

In 2021, the ADL tracked 2,717 antisemitic incidents throughout the United States, ranging from harassment to violent assaults. This is the highest number in decades; and unfortunately, 2022 is on track to set a new record.

I believe that there are essentially two ways to respond to these trends: by disguising our identity or by confronting the hate by living proudly as Jews. Unfortunately, history has shown us that even assimilation and anonymity cannot protect Jews from those who hate. So, let's stand up together, loud and proud!

I hope you will join us for our *Kulanu* ("all of us") event against antisemitism and hate on January 29. We'll be joined by Director of ADL Connecticut Stacey Sobel, as well as local clergy, school superintendents, and other civic leaders from the Shoreline. The event is open to all; so please bring your friends from inside and outside of the Jewish Community. And most importantly, bring your pride and love for being Jewish.

May love and true understanding prevail over hatred. May our hands together build the future we know our kids deserve.

Bivracha (Blessings),

Rabbi Danny Moss

President's Column 2



Hello Friends,

I don't need to tell any of you that TBT has gone through A LOT of change over the last few years. Allow me to list some of them: we had the COVID disruption, a building renovation, a new rabbi, a new cantorial soloist/educator, and a new preschool director, and now we are searching for a replacement for Bonnie, our administrative assistant. Any one of these events would have been enough to devastate a synagogue;

however, I will argue that Temple Beth Tikvah is thriving.

Nationwide, many synagogues are shrinking after the pandemic, yet our membership has been stable. Our preschool is full and has a waiting list. Religious school children are busy learning and are making friends. Our SALTY teens are engaged and filled with RUACH, going to BBYO events locally and nationally. The men's group gets together to cook, discuss important issues, gathering for spiritual events with the rabbi, and build our Sukkah. Kol Ami women are hiking, participating in ceremonies, tasting wine, watching movies, and celebrating the new moon. The new Kulanu steering committee is organizing events to combat antisemitism with more and more volunteers that want to help. Torah Study is well attended and filled with good natured opinionated people. Shabbat services are now back in our building, and it is inspiring to see so many people joining together in prayer and song in our downstairs space. Finally. I am proud to say that we have now raised more than 7 million dollars in our capital campaign, and we are not done yet. . .

So why is Temple Beth Tikvah flourishing during all these challenges? I have often considered this lying awake at 2 AM worrying about the next crisis. . . and this is what I have come up with. TBT is thriving because of YOU, because of US. We are not about a fancy building, or even about our amazing clergy, staff, or teachers. TBT is about a group of 300 families that love our community and are willing to donate time and money to make sure that our community continues to grow and thrive, not only for ourselves but for our children and our children's children, L'dor v'dor. As the Talmud says, "As my parents planted for me before I was born, so do I plant for those who will come after me." We are literally and figuratively planting for our children.

As both a parent and a pediatrician, my goal is to help raise resilient children who can respond to change and hardship. As the temple president, I am relieved to know that our synagogue community has done just that. Temple Beth Tikvah is resilient, flexible, and strong. Thank you for making it so.

Karen Goldberg



Shabbat Services are at TBT!

All Services are Friday evenings at 6:30 PM unless otherwise noted. Shabbat Services will also be on Zoom unless otherwise noted. Shabbat Services will also 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 - January 13 and February 3 are "mask mandatory."

Friday, January 6 Shabbat service

Friday, January 13 Mask Required service

Friday, January 20 Shabbat service featuring our Men's Club

Friday, January 27 **Shabbat service featuring our Religious School grades 5 - 7** (Grade 5 - 7 Shabbat dinner for students & their families prior to service)



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

January 7: Va-y'chi Genesis 47:28-50:26

January 14: Sh'mot Exodus 1:1-6:1

January 21: Va-eira Exodus 6:2-9:35

January 28: Bo Exodus 10:1-13:16

You can find the text and d'vrei Torah at https://reformjudaism@org/ learning/torah-study



Celebrating the birth of a child or grandchild or great grandchild?

Having a special anniversary?

Did you just get into college?
or, mark a special milestone in your life?

Share the news with your TBT community!

We would love to celebrate with you!

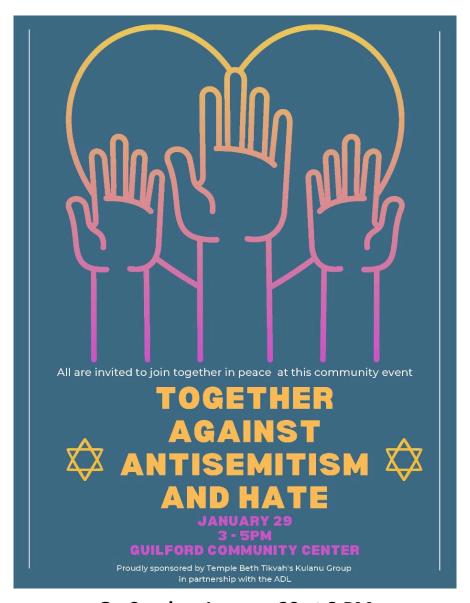
Jewish Mindfulness & Meditation

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

Upcoming sessions are January 7 and January 21.

Links are in your inbox. All are welcome.





On Sunday, January 29 at 3 PM join TBT, the ADL, and the wider community

Together Against Antisemitism and Hate

at the Guilford Community Center 32 Church St, Guilford, CT

We will be joined by
Stacey Sobel, Director of the ADL Connecticut,
Rabbi Moss,

other faith and community leaders, as well as members of the community who will discuss antisemitism and hate, and how we can combat them.

Please join us for this important event!

Building Community

January 2023 TBT Renovation

Campaign for Temple Beth Tikvah

Front entrance stonework being installed





Sanctuary ceiling acoustical tiles



Bathroom tiles



Stonework for front walkway

New in January!

- o The lower level conference room is ready to be used!
- o Acoustical ceiling tiles are being installed after building code approval
- Flooring and wall surface installations underway in kitchen, bathrooms, and storage areas
- o Regrading of driveways and installation of stone entry area
- o Windows and glass doors in lobby are being installed

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!



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.

The site is located at 264 Russell Street in New Haven. This will be the future home of Abdullah Wahidi, his wife and their four sons.

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.

Temple Beth Tikvah volunteers hold on to your hammers!

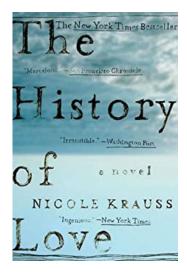
To get involved contact Linda.brody@comcast.net or go to www.raisetheroofct.org

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, January 19.

January's book is The History of Love by Nicole Krauss



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, January 23 at 7:30 PM on Zoom Welcoming the month of Sh'vat

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



January

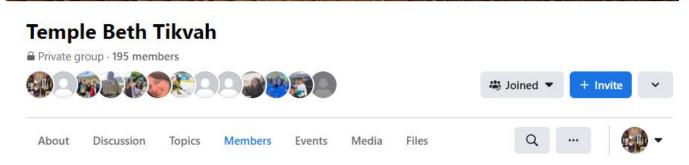
will be a busy month as we begin to explore winter animals, snow sports and enjoy all the wonders of this season.

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

TBT Preschool hours of operation are from 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 NSDirector@tbtshoreline.org.

Follow us on <u>Facebook @tbtpreschool</u> to see what we are up to. And, check our website at https://tbtpreschool.org/



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 <u>LINK</u> 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.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the 5783 Annual Fund The Annual Fund helps to support our operations throughout the year

Thomas & Susan Alpert

Jeff Babbin & Marlene Schwartz

Ben & Robin Baker Sondra Bernblum

Mark & Wendy Bluemling Myron & Sandra Brand David & Ellen Buller

Cheryl Burack

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Geoff & Barbara Chupp Kevin & Roxanne Coady

Morris & Martha Czaczkes in memory of Eva and

Harry Czaczkes
Frohman Davis

Jill Eder & Mark Klein

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Al Goldberg & Lesa Tischler Philip & Karen Goldberg Joan & Franklin Green David & Cynthia Greenblatt

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Stu Weinzimer & Jodie Ambrosino

Pat Widlitz Helen Winokur

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.

Contributions to TBT Funds

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Rosemary & David Baggish

in memory of Catherine Verdi, mother of Rosemary

Endowment Fund

Susan & Walter Spigelman and Family

in memory of Lawrence Richman

The Beautification Fund

Helen Winokur and Family

in memory of Marjorie Freund

The Building Fund

Amy & John McCauley

in memory of John McCauley, II

Lisa Fenton in memory of Nathaniel Fenton

Roselyn Fenton in memory of Nathaniel Fenton,

and in memory of Selma Bloomgarden

Kulanu Program (to combat antisemitism)

Yechiel Bart & Nancy Fliss

David & Lisa Harding

Ethan Horwitz & Gloria Kindman

Rob & Marcia Jacoby

Louis King & Peggy Britt

Jonathan Levine & Suzanne Frisch

Eric & Betty Mannes in gratitude to Harry Schanzer

Judy Merriam

Alan & Lois Meyers

Barry & Joan Richter

Harry & Helena Schanzer

The Library Fund

Bob & Lois Kessler in memory of Frederick Kessler, M.D. **Faye Cramer** in memory of Richard and Pamela Cramer

Men's Club Sukkah Fund

... In memory of Henry Gettenberg

Yechiel Bart & Nancy Fliss

Al Goldberg & Lesa Tischler

Jonathan Levine & Suzanne Frisch

Ken & Janice Rosenberg

Laurence B. & Elaine J. Sommer Memorial Fund for

Social Justice

Kate and Bill Lee in memory of Marietta Lee
Jack Srebnik & Linda Brody Srebnik in memory of

William Brody, Linda's Father

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

TEMPLE BETH TIKVAH SHOFAR

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President Karen Goldberg
Cantorial Soloist/ Dr. Leah Cassorla

Educator

Proofreader Hattie Sussman

January 2023

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ARE YOU LOOKING TO ADVERTISE? Contact the Temple Beth Tikvah Business Office - 203.245.7028

