

The Shofar

May 2023



Temple Beth Tikvah



Dear Temple Beth Tikvah,

By now you may have heard the news: Susan and I are expecting our first child in late May or early June. We are overjoyed, excited, and a little bit anxious to embark on this journey together. We are especially glad that we get to do that here on the Shoreline, as a part of the TBT community. I am writing this letter to you in order to share our gratitude, and also to communicate about my plans during this sacred time.

First and foremost, Susan and I feel so fortunate that the leadership of Temple Beth Tikvah helps staff and clergy prioritize family needs. Providing family leave and day-to-day support when needs arise is a true act of *chesed* (caring love) that recognizes that all of us are, first and foremost, human beings with obligations to those who love us. This recognition should be universal, but in this country it is not. So, *modeh ani* — I am all the more grateful.

Now for the plans. When the auspicious hour arrives, I will be with Susan for the arrival of the newest Moss and the transition to home. Over the summer, I will be on leave for a total of approximately eight to ten weeks. The precise timing will depend on the baby's arrival and needs. I will be "back to work" for the remainder of the summer weeks and through the High Holy Days, in order to plan and support our team as the fall begins. While on leave, my focus will be on the needs of Susan and our new child. Therefore, I plan to be truly away from day-to-day duties, including email, phone calls, meetings, and ritual leadership. I am incredibly grateful to Dr. C, our office team, the Religious Activities Committee, volunteers, and our Rabbi Emerita and Emeritus - Rabbi Offner and Rabbi Sommer, all of whom you may encounter during this time.

In that vein, please know that TBT Clergy will be available to our members should an emergency arise. In that case, please call TBT's main number at any time, and follow the prompts to our emergency line.

Finally, Susan and I are very excited for you to meet this new addition to our family. A formal welcome and blessing will take place at a Shabbat evening service this summer, date TBD.

The traditional Jewish greeting for an expectant parent is *b'sha'ah tovah*, loosely translated as 'may it be a good and auspicious hour.' Susan and I are so grateful for all of your love and support during this momentous time for us and our family.

Shalom,

Rabbi Danny Moss



Hello Friends,

April 17 was Yom HaShoah, and I attended the beautiful service at our sister congregation in Chester. It started with a powerful presentation by Judith Altmann, a Holocaust survivor who was liberated by the allies from Auschwitz. She spoke about her early memories: her parents' store being closed, not being allowed to attend school, her family's move to the ghetto, the crowded train to the camps, being separated from her parents, standing on the line that was allowed to live, and watching her parents on the other line. . . She talked about the hunger, the smell, the death march, and the sickness. She finished by telling us that it was her responsibility as one of the survivors to continue to tell her story. It made me realize that soon there will no longer be firsthand witnesses to the Holocaust, and it will be up to us to continue to retell their stories. Not only must we never forget, we also cannot allow the rest of the world to forget.

This is my family's story. All four of my grandparents were from Eastern Europe, and they were all Holocaust survivors. Many of you know that my mother lived in a displaced persons camp for five years, and she was one of the lucky ones. It is hard to even wrap my brain around 6 million Jews lost, among them 1.5 million children. European Jewry decimated. Jews scattering around the world. This painful history is part of the fabric of my Jewish soul.

My parents ended up in Chile. For a long time, I thought everyone in Chile was Jewish. My cousins went to Jewish schools, had Jewish friends, attended Jewish camps, and belonged to Jewish pool clubs. Their ingrained trauma bonded them together and reinforced the importance of being Jewish.

When Rabbi Moss asked us, "Why be Jewish?" my first response was this: it is a miracle that I am alive. Four of my grandparents had to beat the odds for me to be here today. My grandparents survived as proud and strong Jews. How could I walk away from that legacy?

Although this is true, on further reflection, I believe there must more to "why Jewish" than just a response to evil. Even as antisemitism is on the rise, and we are banding together, I prefer to choose Judaism out of joy and respect. So, to further answer Rabbi Moss's question, "Why be Jewish?" I say - I choose Judaism because I love our values, I love our music, I love our focus on learning, I love our community, I love our traditions, I love our spirituality, I love our prayers, I love our priority on family, and I love Israel.

My grandparents were deeply traumatized by the Holocaust, and they rarely spoke about their experiences. The one message that I do remember from my grandmother Anna was that all those Jewish lives were not lost in vain, because after the Holocaust we were given the land of Israel. My grandparents were all fervent Zionists, and they passed along that love to my parents and to me. Israel is a complicated place, and it is problematic in many ways, but I can't help but to love Israel deeply.

The service last night ended with the Hatikvah. I too will end this column with those powerful words.

So long as within the inmost heart a Jewish spirit sings, so long as the eye looks eastward, gazing toward Zion, our hope is not lost. The hope of two thousand years: to be a free people in our land, the land of Zion and Jerusalem.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Karen Goldberg



Shabbat Services are at TBT!

All Services are Friday evenings at 6:30 PM,
unless otherwise noted.

Services are streamed live on Zoom.

Services are available to on our YouTube channel -
<https://www.youtube.com/@templebethtikvah5835>

NEW: Mask-only Shabbatot - we have designated one Shabbat service per month as "mask mandatory" to welcome congregants who feel more comfortable if everyone is wearing a mask.

Friday, May 5 - Masks Required Shabbat

Saturday, May 6 Shabbat Morning Service at 10 AM,
Celebrate Shabbat as Simona Cottrill is called to the bimah as a Bat Mitzvah

Friday, May 12 - High School Graduation Shabbat – join us in honoring this year's High School graduates!

Saturday, May 13 Shabbat Morning Service at 10 AM,
Celebrate Shabbat as Olivia Mervine-Schiff is called to the bimah as a Bat Mitzvah

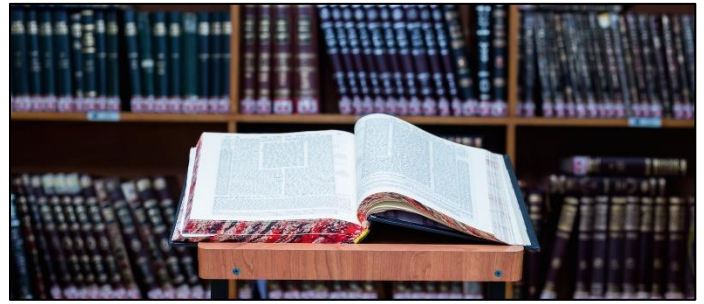
Friday, May 19 5 PM Young Family Shabbat followed by Shabbat dinner and oneg

5:30 Oneg for all & celebration of our Religious School teachers

6:30 PM - Teacher Appreciation Shabbat

Saturday, May 20 Shabbat Morning Service at 10 AM,
we celebrate Shabbat as Joshua Glazer is called to the bimah as a Bar Mitzvah

Friday, May 26 – Shabbat and Confirmation Service celebrating Shavuot, Oneg (and cheesecake!) to follow



Torah Study Live on Zoom

Every Saturday at 9 AM

Check your inbox for Zoom link

May portions end the Book of Leviticus
and begin the Book of Numbers.

May 6: Emor [Leviticus 21:1–24:23](#)

May 13: B'har - B'chukotai [Leviticus 25:1–27:34](#)

May 20: B'midbar [Numbers 1:1–4:20](#)

May 27: Naso / [Numbers 4:21–5:31](#)

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



Jewish Mindfulness & Meditation

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

Upcoming sessions are
Saturday, May 6 and May 20.
Links will be in your email inbox.

All are welcome.

Join Rabbi Moss and Dr. C. at TBT for
Young Families Shabbat Friday, May 19 at 5 PM

We will share Shabbat Blessings, a visit from the
dinosaur and more.
Followed by Shabbat dinner.





Simona Cottrill May 6, 2023

It is with great love and pride that we celebrate Simona becoming Bat Mitzvah. She has done tremendous work to complete the studies and become a proficient Hebrew reader. But most importantly, we are proud of her as a person – she is very kind, empathic, and passionate. She has helped individuals across generations to make them feel safe and comfortable.

We hope you will join us in saying “Mazel Tov!”

With love, Irina and Donald Cottrill



Olivia Mervine-Schiff

Olivia is excited to become a Bat Mitzvah on May 13, 2023, at Shabbat morning services in the new sanctuary!

In addition to working hard to learn both her Torah portion and her part in the service, she has been busy making bracelets, rings, and necklaces to raise money for CT Draft Horse Rescue. Thank you to all of the members of the congregation who bought her crafts. Olivia would also like to thank her seventh-grade teacher, Shelley Capozzi, for all of her support and help, Dr. C for all of her excellent tutoring sessions, and Rabbi Moss for the interesting D'var Torah discussions. The entire congregation is invited to attend the service and enjoy the new sanctuary.



Joshua Glazer

Joshua will become a Bar Mitzvah on May 20, 2023, at Shabbat morning services. Josh is very thankful to all of the members of our synagogue that have helped him reach this milestone. In addition to working hard learning his Torah portion, Josh also spent many hours volunteering in the Vermont Adaptive Ski Program at Sugarbush Resort helping disabled children and adults share in his enjoyment of skiing. Thank you all for celebrating his achievement!



Celebrate our High School Seniors
and congratulate them on their plans for next year
at Shabbat services on Friday, May 12

Mazel Tov to All!

Adam Coe - Curry College
Noah Gilbert - University of Vermont
Kevin Goldberg - Cornell University
Elise Halsema - Northeastern University
Samuel Kaplan - University of Virginia
Hannah Mervine-Schiff - University of Wisconsin, Madison
Melanie Siegel - Lehigh University
Ellie Weinzimer - Connecticut College

Best wishes to our May birthdays!

Abigail Rubin, Jonah Cone, Marguerite Wax,
Issac Rabinovici, Arden Boms, Rachel Healy,
Gabriella Rothberg, Sophie Sharp,
Olivia Mervine-Schiff, Esther Taylor,
Tali Silva, Devri Aronson, Matthew Reed,
Ian Geiman, Leora Geiman, Rachel Grasso,
Hayden Yazmer, Mitchell Yazmer



Hold the date for TBT's

46th Annual Congregational Meeting
Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Join us for updates and reports about the synagogue.

Congratulate the recipients of
the 2023 Kavod Award and the 2023 Friesner Scholarship.

Meet and Elect the 2023 – 2024 Board of Directors.

Keep your eye on your email for more details!

The TBT Men's Club has a new name
Haverim!

All TBT men are welcome to join in meetings and activities sponsored by Haverim.

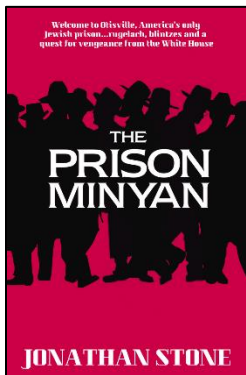
Our next meeting is Sunday, May 7 at 9:30 AM
Gather at TBT for coffee and bagels followed by our monthly discussion.

See you there!

For more information contact
Ken Rosenberg kenr68@aol.com or Steven Stoll stollsteven@gmail.com

The TBT Book Club

This month we will meet on Thursday, May 18
at 7:30 PM on Zoom.



May's book is

The Prison Minyan

by Jonathan Stone

A novel about Otisville, a minimum-security prison in New York State, with a large percent of Jewish inmates. They have Kosher food and a daily minyan ... All is well until a 'celebrity' prisoner arrives ...

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 at office@tbtshoreline.org or 203-245-7028

We Welcome New Participants!



Rosh Chodesh

Wednesday, May 24 at 7:30 PM on Zoom
Welcoming the Month of Sivan

Led by Rabbi Susan Landau Moss
The Zoom link will be sent to all women of TBT



We welcome all TBT Women to join us!

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.

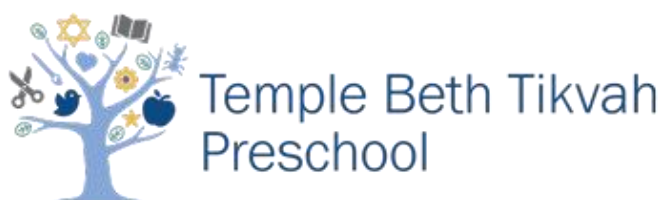
Our next movie night is Wednesday, May 10 at 7:30 PM on Zoom.

Watch You People on your own on Netflix [LINK HERE](#), then join us on May 10 for a discussion.

Do you have a suggestion for a great movie to watch?
Would you like to facilitate a movie discussion?
New ideas for Kol Ami?
Let us know!

Loren Stermann lorensternan@gmail.com
Cher Richmond cherrilyn.richmond@yale.edu





Last month, we hosted a children's Seder for our students and their families. It was a special time for everyone!



We are looking forward to our last full month of school! Our children will be participating in a number of educational opportunities to experience the wonders of the ocean and animals big and small in different environments in our community and beyond!

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



TBT is participating in the Daffodil Project, a worldwide living Holocaust memorial to the children who died. Last fall, our Religious School students planted daffodils by the new stairway between the upper and lower parking lots. Learn more about the Daffodil Project at <https://www.daffodilproject.net/>

Calling all gardeners and people who just like to play in the dirt!

The **Temple Beth Tikvah Landscaping Committee** is seeking volunteers to assist with a variety of gardening and landscape projects as need arises. Details of the work will be determined by the projects and provided when we put out the call for helping hands.

If interested, or if you have any questions, please email Sheila England at sheila1818@yahoo.com

TBT Landscaping Vision

The TBT campus landscaping has been thoughtfully designed by a local landscape architecture firm. In order to protect and preserve the ecosystem surrounding TBT, town zoning requires that at least 80% of the plantings be native to the region. The initial plantings of the landscape architect plans will be completed this spring.

The TBT Landscaping Committee goals are to ensure that the TBT campus landscaping is beautiful and spiritually uplifting (*tikkun hanefesh*), as well as ecologically vibrant, heathy, and biodiverse (*tikkun olam*).

The committee will work to develop areas as time and resources allow, focusing on highly visible locations first. Other areas will be identified for future development and will evolve over time. The gardens will be as low maintenance as possible.

The landscaping will have year-round visual appeal. It will serve as an educational model and engage TBT preschool and school-age members, as well as the congregation and community at large, embodying our desire to care for and preserve our environment for generations to come.

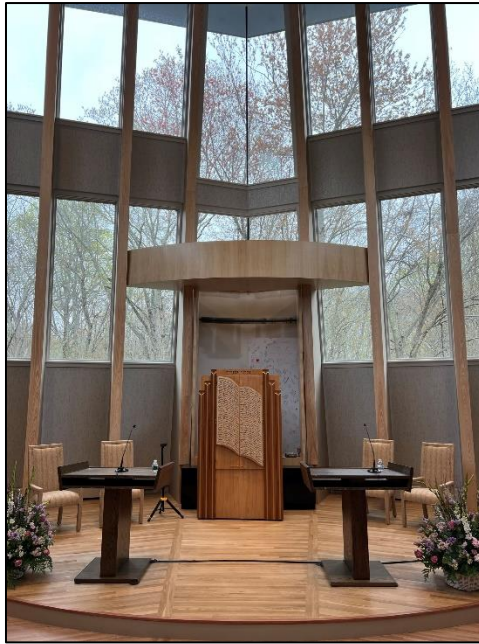
We hope that you will join us in this fun and exciting work!

May 2023 TBT Renovation

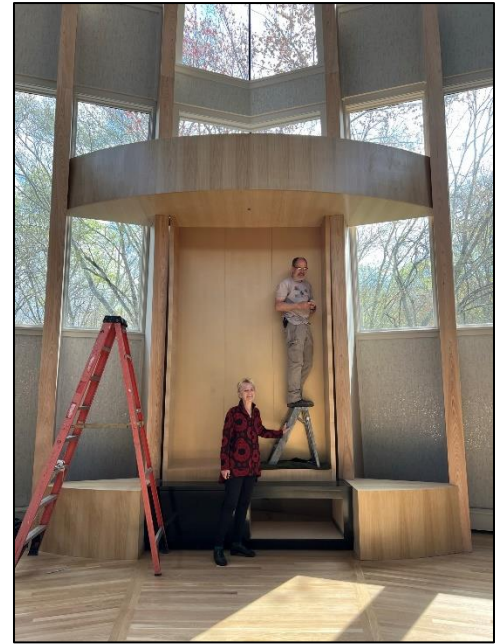


Rabbi Moss and Rabbi Offner
preparing to install the ark ...

Well, at least kibbitzing about
installing the ark ...



The portable High
Holiday ark being
used for a Saturday
morning service and
Bat Mitzvah.



Ben Baker, fine
cabinet maker, and
Linda Cummings,
photographer and
designer of the new
ark doors, preparing
for the installation of
the doors.

New in April!

- The installation of our new ark has started!
- And the bimah construction is almost complete.
- The new kitchen is operational, and we hosted our first Kiddush luncheon following services on Saturday, April 22,
- The new sanctuary audio system is being installed this month,
- Landscaping and garden installation has begun.

Have you joined us in Building Community? Now is the Time!

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 Suzy Frisch at sgfrisch@aol.com, or to Bruce Topolosky, John Lesage, 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

Joan & Franklin Green in loving memory of Morris Green

Barbara & Alan Lipman in loving memory of Jean Morales

Evelyn Korn in loving memory of Ethel Weinstein

Evelyn Korn in loving memory of Samuel Weinstein

The Annual Fund

Sheila England

The Endowment Fund

Mark Greenberg in loving memory of Hank Greenberg

Cheryl Burack in loving memory of Arnold Burack

Carol Van Steenburgen in loving memory of Barbara Johnson and of Wendy Gross

Judy Merriam in loving memory of Wendy Gross

The Building Fund

Barbara & Alan Lipman in loving memory of Samuel Azouz

Ellen & Art Seigel in loving memory of Phyllis Kaufman

Andrea SanMarco in loving memory of Irene Gluck

Andrea SanMarco in loving memory of Mally SanMarco

The Leonard Family in loving memory of Lilo F. Leonard

Susan & Michael Lurie in loving memory of Estelle Galitzer, of Louis Galitzer, and of Pearl Lurie

The Cantorial Fund

Arlene & Bennett Paul in loving memory of Isabel Paul/Raymond Lane

The Helen Katz Goodkind Beautification Fund

Mona & Robert Goodman in loving memory of Bernard Bromberg

Helen Winokur in loving memory of Charles Winokur, and of Louis and Sadie Shatz

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

Rabbi Howard Sommer in loving memory of Gertrude Freeman

The Youth Scholarship Fund

Don & Nancy Herzog in loving memory of Sydell Herzog

**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**

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

Creating a Jewish Legacy for the Benefit of Temple Beth Tikvah

In partnership with the Jewish Foundation of Greater New Haven and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation, we are bringing the Create a Jewish Legacy program to TBT.

Designed to help you fulfill your philanthropic goals while strengthening our Jewish community, now and in the future, this program gives us the tools to help each of us create a legacy at TBT.

Legacy giving has already helped us to create an endowment and has inspired families to provide endowed gifts to help us reach important goals.

A legacy gift ensures that you will be remembered and that your Jewish values will continue beyond your lifetime.

Keep an eye out for Shofar columns with more information about this program!

TEMPLE BETH TIKVAH SHOFAR

196 Durham Rd., Madison CT 06443
(203) 245-7028
www.tbtsshoreline.org

Rabbi
President
Cantorial Soloist/
Educator
Proofreader

Danny Moss
Karen Goldberg
Dr. Leah Cassorla

Hattie Sussman

May 2023

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