

The Shofar

November 2017



Temple Beth Tikvah



The month of November has only one Jewish holiday in it: Thanksgiving. "Wait," you say, "Thanksgiving? That's not a Jewish holiday!" True, it is not technically a part of the Jewish calendar, but it is, though secular, one of the most Jewish of holidays. It is Jewish because it is based upon two of the most Jewish of values: THANKS and GIVING.

Judaism teaches that we are to give thanks every day. There is so much to give thanks for, even in times of trouble. Judaism also teaches that the act of giving - of ourselves, of our good fortune, of your monetary resources - is a spiritual discipline.

This particular Autumn has been about as gorgeous as Autumn gets here in New England. While we have been enjoying beautiful weather, we are keenly aware of other places and other people who have not been as fortunate as we have been.

At this season on Thanksgiving, I want to give you the opportunity to express thanks for our good fortune by giving to others who are in need. There is a long list. We continue to focus our concern upon those affected by hurricanes in Florida, Texas, and the Caribbean, and those affected by the dreadful wildfires in California. Those disasters hit close to home when we learn of people we know or communities we connect with that are suffering.

Our Jewish community suffered a dreadful loss as the Reform Movement's Camp Newman burned to the ground in Santa Rosa, California. I spent many years in leadership at URJ Camp Swig, which was the precursor to Camp Newman. Fortunately, no lives were lost at Camp Newman, but when I think of the summer spirit and all those facilities teeming with the joys of Jewish children, I shudder for their breathtaking loss. We can help rebuild our Reform Jewish Camp Newman by going to campnewman.org to lend our support.

We are also well connected to the synagogue in St. Thomas where my colleague, Michael Feshbach, serves as Rabbi. He writes:

"I am grateful that the damage to the synagogue itself was limited, although it was significant. We lost all our *machzors*, most of our *haggadot*, some of our *siddurim*, cabinets and other furniture in the museum, extensive damage in both of our historic cemeteries. We may have lost our keyboard and we have water pumps and perhaps a generator switch which needs to be replaced. We double-wrapped the scrolls during both storms (some of which were saved from the fire in our building in 1831!) but were taken by surprise by the *Kol Nidrei* night deluge. We found a damp ark and ruined white materials the morning of Yom Kippur. One scroll was slightly wet; we believe it is not permanently damaged. We have real damage and need support, but we know things could have been much worse. We must take care not to let there be too long-lasting damage to the spirit of the place. And we know we can come back better than we were."

Those interested in helping can go to the Facebook page "The Hebrew Congregation of St. Thomas" or to their webpage at www.synagogue.vi.

We are a small but mighty people. "Kol Yisrael Eruvin zeh b'zeh," we are all connected to one another. At this season of Thanksgiving, we show our thanks by giving to those in need.

L'Shalom
Rabbi, 

President's Column



Shalom. The contemplation and exhilaration of the High Holidays are now behind us. They were polished off by wonderful and lively Sukkot and Simchat Torah celebrations with perhaps 100 congregants at each service, many of them children from our Religious School. What now? Nothing until Chanukah? Actually TBT does not shut down after the High Holidays and has a full slate of services and activities ahead of us this fall.

In addition to weekly Shabbat services and Torah study, Jewish Mindfulness & Meditation will have another Saturday morning session November 4, and the TBT Book Club continues to meet on the third Thursday of every month (see the *Shofar* for details). Lessons in Hebrew reading start on November 12, as a prelude to next January's Torah Chanting class. And the can't-miss event of the Fall is this year's Scholar-in-Residence weekend: TBT will be blessed when Rabbi Deborah Zecher brings her love of Broadway and Bible to TBT. At the Friday, November 17 service, Rabbi Zecher will present a "Sermon in a Song." Then on Saturday, November 18, from 6:00-9:30pm, join your fellow congregants for dinner, Havdalah, and Rabbi Zelcher's presentation on "Broadway Bible," combining rabbinic insights with her knowledge and performance of Broadway show tunes. Forget an expensive trip to New York and come to Broadway in Madison instead. Free to congregants (and non-members can come with a contribution). Just let the office know you're coming.

There will also be multiple opportunities this Fall to learn and socialize with members of other synagogues. The URJ's Biennial Convention is in Boston December 6-10, and already seven TBT members (perhaps a record!) will be going to join with thousands of other Reform synagogue members nationally. Registration is still open. Several of our teen members of the SALTY Youth Group will be attending the regional BBYO Convention in Danbury on November 10-12. All in all, a busy and fulfilling Autumn at TBT.

Jeff Babbin



A BIG THANK YOU to all who participated in the High Holiday Food Drive. This was one of the most successful food drives in recent years.

90 bags of food to the Guilford Food Bank
1185 lbs of food to the Madison Food Pantry
Over 450 lbs of fresh food for the Branford Community Dining Room from our online drive.

NOVEMBER 14TH - READ ALOUD DAY at Ross-Woodward School. Participate! It's really fun and only takes a few hours. Tina has done it a few times and can vouch for the fact that it's fun and the kids are great. This project is headed up by Kate Lee. See info elsewhere in this shofar or contact Kate Lee at kflee181@gmail.com.

We are currently working on Mitzvah Day ideas and projects. This takes place on December 17th for the students during parent-teacher conferences in the Religious School. More info to come.

Challah Baking: Some logistics have to be worked out. For now, we are collecting names if you are interested in learning to bake challah. If so, send your name and email to Tina or Sarah.

Lastly, we need you! Those who benefit from what we do need you! We need your ideas and participation. Many of our projects only take a few hours of your time, and are a "once and done" kind of thing. Please contact us to be added to our email list for meeting notices and minutes of the meetings.

Sarah Mervine (sarahmervine@gmail.com)
Tina Silidker (tslids@gmail.com)



Join us for
Shabbat.



**NOTE 6pm START TIME
on 11/24 T-day Wknd!**

In honor of the holiday, our Friday-in-Thanksgiving-Weekend service will begin at 6pm, with a PreNeg in the lobby, followed by Shabbat Service in the sanctuary.

November Shabbat Services

November 3@ 6:00pm
Greet Shabbat with Wine & Cheese

November 10@ 7:15pm
Birthday Blessings

November 17@ 7:15pm
Scholar-in-Residence

November 24@ 6:00pm

Torah Study TBT Library Saturdays 9am



November

November 4: Vayeira
Genesis 19:1-20:18

November 11: Chayei Sarah
Genesis 24:10-24:52

November 18: Tol'dot
Genesis 26:23-27:27

November 25: Vayetze
Genesis 30:14-31:16



Jewish Mindfulness & Meditation

Saturday, November 4@ 8am
TBT Library



Read Aloud Day at Ross-Woodward Classical Studies Magnet School

185 Barnes Avenue, New Haven
Tuesday, November 14th
10am-12pm

All are invited to participate - books are provided and light refreshments will be served. Ross-Woodward is easily accessible from Rte. 80, I-95, or I-91. Carpooling along the shoreline can be arranged!

The children look forward to our visits and this is a wonderful chance to promote literacy and model good reading habits.

If interested, please contact Kate Lee at kflee181@gmail.com.



Jewish Experience in Film

Wednesdays January 17th-February 7th
TBT Social Hall

(See full flyer in December Shofar)

All are welcome - no charge

Feel free to bring snacks

Oneg Shabbat

Thank you for hosting an Oneg Shabbat in October:

October 6th: The Stein Family, in celebration of the naming of their daughter, Livvi; and **Sylvia Horwitz**, in celebration of her wedding.

October 13th: Julie Schlessel & Tammy Aiello, in celebration of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Jacob Schlessel

October 20th: Sue Groll & Ted Langevin, in celebration of the marriage of their daughter, Sharon, to Kwadwo Otempong

October 27th: Shelley & Ron Capozzi, in celebration of their 10th anniversary and in memory of Shelley's mother, Sarah Melzer, on what would have been her 99th birthday

Please call or email the office to host a future oneg!



To Ellen & Art Seigel, on the birth of their first grandchild, Lauren Augusta Seigel, born on August 23, 2017, in Boca Raton, Florida, to Lindsay & Daniel Seigel

To Sue Groll & Ted Langevin, on the marriage of their daughter, Sharon Langevin to Kwadwo Otempong

Our November Children



Slater Boms, Matthew Perrotti, Brendan Cohen, Harrison Tore, Miriam Taylor, Charlotte Lee, Alexandra Rothstein, Juliana Montgomery, Benjamin Coe, Brianna Friend, Cameron Cohen, Luke Perrotti, Samuel Reed, Ilana Foggie, Hannah Lambek

*Join us at Shabbat Services on November 10th
as we bless our November children*

Todah
Rabah

תודה רבה



High Holiday Bimah Flowers

Myron & Sandra Brand, *in memory of Ellen Bell*
 Geoff & Barbara Chupp, *in memory of Hannah Miller Lee*
 Faye Cramer, *in honor of Richard and Pamela Cramer*
 Murray & Martha Czaczkes, *in memory of Harry & Eva Czaczkes*
 Norma Diamond, *in memory of Irving Diamond and Eva Bowden*
 Alan & Jennifer Friedman, *in memory of Hannah Miller Lee*
 Robert Geiman & Tanya Oks-Geiman, *in memory of Igor Oks, father of Tanya Oks-Geiman*
 Henry & Helenne Gettenberg, *in honor of their great-grandmothers, Esther Tiplitsky and Marietta Gettenberg*
 Jason & Kate Glazer, *in memory of Linda Goldstein*
 Kevin & Shaun Glazier, *in memory of Sloan Gentile*
 Ed & Rose Gleich, *in memory of Sam & Mary Blank*
 Mitchell & Linda Hirsch, *in memory of Samuel Hirsch and Elisabeth Werthetmer*
 Phyllis Kaufman, *in memory of Maureen Dugan, dear friend*
 Jonathan Levine & Suzy Frisch
 Judy Merriam, *in memory of Wendy Gross*
 Donald & Carol Miller, *in honor of Stephanie Miller's marriage*
 Tom Pinchbeck & Bonnie Garmisa, *in memory of Hannah Lee and in memory of Estelle & Sparky Garmisa, beloved mother and father, and Kris Pinchbeck, Tom's mother*
 Ed & Gloria Sack, *in memory of John Harris Sack*
 Richard & Barbara Stahl, *in memory of Barbara's parents and Rick's mom*
 Alan & Marjorie Starensier, *in memory of Hannah Miller Lee*
 Roxanne Tulenfeld, *in memory of Victor Tulenfeld*
 Alan & Rhona Weiss, *in memory of Art Beck*



High Holiday Music Donations

The Babbin-Schwartz Family
 Ron & Shelley Capozzi, *in memory of the Milsztein Family and the Melzer families, both from Poland*
 Murray & Martha Czaczkes, *in honor of Cantor Margolius*
 Norma Diamond
 Ed & Rose Gleich, *in honor of Walter Stutzman*
 Myron & Carole Gubitz
 Phyllis Kaufman, *in honor of the Kaufman grandchildren*
 Jeffrey Leonard, *in memory of Joseph Leonard*
 Jonathan Levine & Suzy Frisch
 Marco & Jennifer Silva, *in memory of Sharon Besser and Harry Bartocetti*
 Walter Spigelman & Susan Richman, *in memory of Joel Silidker*
 David Stein & Christine Dokko, *in memory of Kenneth D. Stein*
 Richard & Sandra Whelan, *in memory of Ida & Bill Goldberg*

Heartfelt 
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!
 High Holiday Volunteers

Thank you to all our volunteers who helped our holidays run smoothly.

Parking Lot Volunteers
 Ushers
 Greeters

Bennett Paul & the Break-the-Fast Crew
 The Salty BBYO Babysitters & Children's Service Leaders

Thank you to all of you for your cooperation with our new parking procedures.

High Holiday Food Bank Donors

Thank you from the Social Justice Committee to everyone who participated in the TBT High Holiday Food Drive!

TBT Building Project Update

The engineering survey completed by GNCB Consulting Engineers, LLC, confirmed that the building is structurally sound but that there are a number of concerns which will need to be addressed in the renovation project. Most pressing of these is the "skin" of the building which combined with our angled walls and flat roof have led to leaks and wood-rot. The Artis Energy Solutions audit outlined a number of energy and cost saving steps that are under consideration. Some of these include switching to LED lightbulbs and other more comprehensive measures that will be considered a part of the renovation planning, such as upgrading our windows and HVAC systems. We engaged a CES, a mechanical engineering firm in Middletown, CT, to perform the mechanical evaluation of the building and are awaiting their findings with regard to our electrical, HVAC, septic, and water systems.

Suzy Frisch and Bruce Topolosky met with our architect, Duo Dickinson, on October 19, 2017, to review the reports and to discuss how to move forward regarding decisions for renovations. Based on the information we are gathering from engineering surveys and our collective input from the past 18 months of congregational work, we began to identify key themes. As per Duo, we can roughly divide our needs into several major categories: replacing exterior elements of the building, redirecting automotive and pedestrian (congregant) traffic including outdoor access as well as indoor flow, and the ambience of the entry, sanctuary, and social hall. As we move forward, we will continue to seek your feedback on how to reach our goals in each of these areas.

Suzy, Bruce, and Shaun Glazier have continued to meet, by phone, with our development consultants, Peter Heller, Kim Gerstman, and Ross Mudrick. Ross is our writer and has begun work on a statement which will help us to articulate why TBT is important and why we should invest in our future. He is currently working with ideas gathered from congregational work, his conversation with Rabbi Offner, and conversations with board and committee members. Our next phone check-in will include Rabbi Offner and Jeff Babbin. Heller & Co. will next visit TBT on November 10 and at that time, they will begin to meet with more people to hear ideas about the future of TBT.

There are opportunities for us all to engage in this exciting work and we strongly encourage you to do so! We are in the process of revising the Building/Renovation Committee. The Fundraising Committee will be expanding its scope of work as our project and goals become better defined. We are looking forward to everyone's participation! If you are interested in helping to see our project through to success, please contact Bruce or Suzy:

Bruce@Topolosky.net
sgfrisch@aol.com



URJ BIENNIAL 2017

DECEMBER 6 - 10 • BOSTON, MA

UNION *for* REFORM JUDAISM



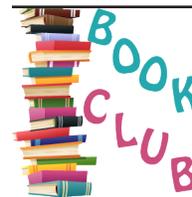
URJ Biennial

Back in New England for the first time since 2001, the URJ Biennial is headed to our area! It's never been easier to be a part of the biggest and most exciting Jewish gathering in North America - now just a short drive from home. Recharge your spiritual batteries during these five Jewishly jam-packed days, filled with spirited worship, cutting-edge learning sessions, countless networking opportunities, robust late-night entertainment, and so much more.

Flexible registration options allow you to attend all five days (Weds-Sun) or to capitalize on three-day options (Weds-Fri or Fri-Sun).

And don't forget: the URJ Biennial is home to the very best Chanukah shopping in the Northeast, giving you the opportunity to shop from more than 150 artisans, Israel travel operators, Jewish publishers, and other professional services. Get all your gifts in one place at the bustling Biennial marketplace!

Register at urj.org/biennial. TBT is already ably represented by: Rabbi Offner & Nancy Abramson, Cantor Margolius, Jeff Babbin, Suzy Frisch, Jill Lesage, and Judy Merriam - why not you? Feel free to contact any of them with questions or for tips.



TBT Book Club

As always, Book Club will be meeting at the Hearth on the third Thursday of every month at 7:30 pm.

November: Bridge Ladies by Betsy Lerner
December: The German Girl by Armando Correa
January: Circling the Sun by Paula McClain
February: The Bridal Chair by Gloria Goldenreich
March: A Gentleman in Moscow by A. Towles
April: Many Lives, Many Masters by Brian Weiss

For further information, contact Myra Josephson at myrajosephson@gmail.com or 203-488-3350



Nursery School News

This New Year has been wonderful in our preschool! And the month of November will keep us busy with Parent Conferences, a visit from A Place Called Hope (Owl Rehabilitation), and our annual gathering with our families.

It's an attitude of gratitude to be sure!

If you would like information on TBT Nursery School, contact Director Bernadette Stak by emailing nsdirector@tbtshoreline.org or calling 203-245-8039

Adult Learning

Brush up on your Hebrew and learn to chant the Torah. Already know the alphabet? Feel free to join us for step two.

Sundays, 12:15–1:15, in the TBT Library.



Step One Hebrew Reading

- November 12, 19,
- December 3, 10, 17
- January 7

Contact the TBT office to register or for more information:

203-245-7028

office@tbtshoreline.org



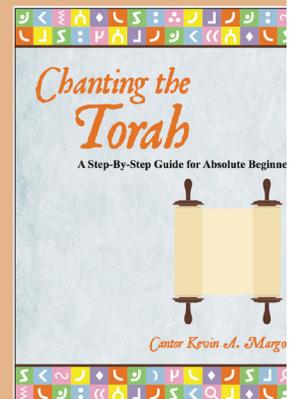
temple beth tikvah
בית תקווה

Step Two

Chanting the Torah

Including a rapid-review of Hebrew reading.

- January 21, 28
- February 4, 11, 25
- March 11, 18, 25
- April 8, 29
- May 6



We will use the pilot edition of Cantor Margolis's textbook, *Chanting the Torah*.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Joan & Franklin Green, in memory of Sally Chorches Green
The Auerbach Family, in memory of Bedrich Auerbach
Mollie S. Bland, in memory of her husband, Howard J. Bland
Sharon & Rich Korn, in appreciation for the High Holiday services, especially for their granddaughter, Mia
Joan & Franklin Green, in memory of Isaac Shapiro
The Mandel Family, with best wishes to all for a healthy and happy new year!
Bonnie Stoddard, in appreciation for Rabbi's support
Bonnie Stoddard, in appreciation for Walter Stutzman's music during Paul's funeral
Maureen & Len Fried, in loving memory of Maureen's father, Sidney Maxen
Margo Merin, in recognition of her daughter-in-law, Anna Rothfus Merin, receiving a fellowship to Quinnipiac University School of Law
Margo Merin, in celebration of the 89th birthday of her husband, Charles Barr
Margo Merin, in memory of her father, Louis Meringolo
Margo Merin, in loving memory of her aunt, Florence Shapiro
Susannah Lee, in honor of the naming of Avery Grace Lee
Francine Farkas, in appreciation of Yom Kippur Services
The Auerbach Family, in memory of Magda Auerbach
Lynda E. Rosenfeld & Richard M. Weiss, in memory of Regina Rosenfeld
Margo Merin, in memory of Elsie Kleiner

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Bonnie Stoddard, in appreciation for Cantor's music during Paul's funeral
The Kohn Family, in memory of Sidney I. Kohn
Margo Merin, in loving memory of her cousins, Sybil & Irv Katz
Margo Merin, in loving memory of her grandparents, Masha & Jacob Kliger
Margo Merin, in memory of Raya Finkel, who perished in Auschwitz
Margo Merin, in memory of Moshe Finkel, son of Raya Finkel, who perished in Auschwitz
Margo Merin, with thanks for Cantor's officiation at the service of Elsie Kleiner

Endowment

The Children, Grandchildren & Great-Grandchildren of Sam Spigleman, in his loving memory
The Mandel Family, in loving memory of Milton Mandel
Russell & Debbi Davis, in honor of Helen Davis's 87th birthday, and Helen's commitment to TBT
Barbara Amram, in memory of Terry Brundage

General Fund

Eleanor & Joe Weissberg, in memory of Jonas Weissberg

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

Phyllis Kaufman, in memory of Paul Stoddard, husband of Bonnie Stoddard
Cheryl Brown, in memory of Jack Rozene

Cheryl Brown, in memory of Florence Rozene
Kate & Bill Lee, in memory of Shim Paley
Phyllis Kaufman, in honor of the birth of Art & Ellen Seigel's first grandchild
Rabbi Howard Sommer, in memory of Jacob Krauss
Amy McCauley, in memory of Anna Goldstone
Sherie & Alan Groves, in appreciation
Rabbi Hesch Sommer, in memory of Susan Sommer
Sheila Rubin England, in memory of Minnie B. Cohen
Phyllis Kaufman, in memory of her dear father, Milton Cooperberg
Phyllis Kaufman, in memory of her dear mother, Gertrude Cooperberg

Helen Katz Goodkind Beautification Fund

Helen Winokur, in memory of David Krivin & Arthur Masler
Helen Winokur, in memory of Elva Winokur
The Mandel Family, with gratitude to Kim Romine for her Kol Nidre kindness

Marg & Israel Ticotsky Education Fund

The Gettenberg Family & Esther Tiplitsky, in memory of Sidney Tiplitisky

Judith K. Barr Adult Education Fund

Ina & Sid Berson, in memory of Ina's father, George Berson
Myra Josephson, in memory of Paul Stoddard

Library Fund

Roselyn Fenton, in memory of Wayne Fenton
Saul Gordon, in memory of his sister, Lillian Gordon

Rabbi Howard F. Sommer Fund for Continuing Jewish Education

Lisa B. Walker & Richard K. Kaplan, in memory of Henry M. Kaplan and Richard A. Walker
Rabbi Hesch Sommer, in memory of Laurence B. Sommer

Judaica Collection Fund

Shula & Ray Sterman, in honor of Jill Lesage, wishing her good luck in her new career

Youth Scholarship Fund

Saul Gordon, in memory of his brother, Alexander Gordon

Building Fund

Sally Spiegel, in memory of Paul Stoddard, Bonnie Stoddard's husband

**In Memoriam**

Paul Stoddard, 9/20/17
 husband of Bonnie Stoddard

Michael Vlock, 9/29/17
 husband of Karen Pritzker

"May God Comfort All Who Mourn"

TEMPLE BETH TIKVAH SHOFAR

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NOVEMBER 2017

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