

HILLEL HAPPENINGS

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY



ALMOST AT THE PROMISED LAND

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The state of being "in between" is often not a comfortable one. Although I am a short adult, I clearly remember the frustration of not being 'grown up' enough to see over the counter at the bank, and being impatient until I finally was. That feeling of being on the way towards something, but not being able to identify the exact end point of that journey, is where we are this autumn at TBH. As we celebrate The Festival of Sukkot (it is the only holiday referred to simply as (אהחג remind ourselves of our fragility. Agriculture is an act of faith: we sow seeds in the belief that the ground was created with what they need in order to thrive, grow, give fruit and nourish us. In Israel, the act of faith is extreme, at least in Biblical times, as it rained only for six months a year at best. Modern Israel developed drip irrigation, so even with drought conditions it is possible to farm. Most Israelis have visited a working farm, as the roughly 300 kibbutzim left in Israel are popular getaways. Here in CT, we CAN visit farms, and some of us go to farmers markets or join a CSA to get high quality local vegetables, but we're not dependent on agriculture. Or are we? I fear that the original use of the small huts (sukkot), i.e. to enable the grain to be harvested even by moon light, has been forgotten. It's fun to cut branches and string up colorful gourds in the Sukkah, and the Etrog has a wonderful scent no matter where or when you smell it. But our existential dependence on God, who provided a world that allows us to grow what we need to sustain ourselves - that has faded from the meaning of this holiday. In the Mishnah, the law is clear: only a Sukkah which is built specifically for the holiday fulfills the commandment. A free-standing gazebo doesn't, nor does a pergola; even the most beautiful screened-in porch, none of these meets the requirement. It has to come into being, as it were, no earlier than the end of Yom Kippur. In Israel, the tradition is to join together the first section of your Sukkah as soon as Yom Kippur ends and the shofar is blown, even before eating! The intensity of internal concentration on our spiritual lives that we share on Yom Kippur is replaced by intense physical activity in building a temporary shelter for Sukkot. We move from introspection and reconciliation to almost unbridled celebration, culminating with an outright party on Simchat Torah! As I write this, it really does sound a little unbalanced. But we need a remedy to the unsustainable atmosphere of Yom Kippur, we need to remind ourselves that the life of the spirit has value but the needs of the day to day must be recognized. This in-between time of Sukkot is the first opportunity in 5784 for us to share our gratefulness for what we can harvest. I suggest we use this time to not only count our blessings as individuals, but also to draw strength from the blessings this community has. We have a warm and welcoming house of worship not only because of the clergy who lead worship, but foundationally because of the members who welcome any who come to join. We have children who Enjoy their Jewish education and comport themselves knowledgably on the bima, even continuing on as madrichim, role models for the younger children. We have educational and social opportunities that bring us together, and we are exploring ways to expand these. So this Sukkot holiday, even if it's gray and wet, take a moment and look at what fertile ground TBH is, and how all of us, together, can bring in the bountiful harvest.

-Rabbi Leah Benamy

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

TBH Family,

I hope everyone enjoyed the High Holy Days as much as I did, and it was great to connect with so many of you in person. I wanted to personally thank Rabbi Benamy and Cantor Benamy for their hard work in preparing for the holidays so we all could have meaningful worship during these holiest days of the year. I would also like to thank all the volunteers who helped prepare and execute all that is needed so we can come and be present for the holidays. From the Religious School to RPC, to the Men's Club, and countless other groups and individuals behind the scenes who make it all happen, please accept my sincerest gratitude.

This time of year is always my favorite. From the leaves changing and the cooler weather (usually), to Sukkot and Simchat Torah, I just love the transition. It echoes a lot of transitions going on here at TBH. From the Religious School being back in full swing, and committees and clubs meeting regularly, it is an exciting time to be at TBH.

Lastly, I wanted to remind you that if you have not filled out your High Holy Days pledge cards, please do so and return them to Sam in the office. Last week we discovered some leaks in the building and

unfortunately now have to re-seal the entire roof at TBH. This was not in our already tight budget for this year. We need your financial help to keep TBH being the place where we all can enjoy it, but that cannot happen without you, so please think again about contributing to TBH if you can.

I hope you get to go out and enjoy this wonderful time of year, and if you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to myself or any member of the Board.

L'shalom.

Jeff Levin

jlevin@tbhsw.org

FROM THE RABBI EMERITUS' STUDY



South Windsor, CT Augusta, ME Scranton, PA Williamsport, PA Carmel, IN Terra Haute, IN Springfield, MO Tulsa, OK Oklahoma City, OK Amarillo, TX Albuquerque, NM Yuma, AZ

It all started with Temple Beth Hillel in South Windsor, Connecticut.

All of these cities have Reform synagogues, and all are recipients of the URJ Ner Tamid award. Mindy and I visited each synagogue and met the people. They have made such wonderful communities. If you find yourself in one of these cities, you have a home away from home.

You can follow us, and see great pictures, at Tour To The Wonderful on Facebook. Lshana tova,

Rabbi Jeff and Mindy

The Treasurer's Corner

TBH Family,

It's important for everyone to stay informed about TBH's financial situation. We are highly reliant on your support, donations, and volunteering to enable us to offer all the great services we have available to our members. During the Holidays, we had to replace our large commercial refrigerator and found a leak in the sanctuary ceiling, which we need to fix before it causes additional damage. In addition, our HVAC system will need to be replaced soon and we are considering investing in solar panels for long-term energy independence. These are all expensive items that are not budgeted for, and we could really benefit from financial help from our TBH family.

Our dues and donations to the General Fund are key contributors to our bottom line. If you have not made a High Holy Days donation yet, we ask that you please consider doing so. If you have already donated and have the means to help us further, that would be amazing. Nothing is too small - everyone's donations can add up!

Secondly, it is important you know that TBH has always welcomed everyone as members, regardless of their financial situation. If you need financial assistance and have not reached out to the Abatement Committee, we ask that you do. This enables us to forecast our finances more accurately for the year. If you already have an abatement but haven't revised your level of support in a while, perhaps you could contribute a little more this year? Keeping the TBH family together is a priority. If supporting us financially is a challenge, please consider other ways to support the community, such as volunteering. Everyone coming together will keep TBH on track for a long and successful future. Together, we can!

- שלום L'shalom, Dan That Disbursements Treasurer <u>dthat@tbhsw.org</u>

October Social Action News

SEEKING A USED REFRIGERATOR, FOOD, TOILETRIES & MORE

TBH members continue to collect/donate food, toiletries, household items and clothing for the South Park Inn in Hartford and the North End's Walk in the Life Church of God. Our newest effort: helping a group of over 50 local Muslim women collect household items to assist Syrian refugees coming to Connecticut. If you have useful housewares or furniture that could help a family start a new life here, do NOT bring to Temple but tell Laura Soll-Broxterman and she will notify that group. If they want your items, they will contact you directly to

arrange for pick-up. We seek a volunteer to be TBH's phone point person in this effort.

NEEDED NOW: A Used Refrigerator: Archbishop Dexter Burke's Walk in the Light Church refrigerator is beyond repair and needed to chill food and baby formula for the congregation and neighbors. Have one you don't use or are buying a new one? Call Archbishop Burke at 860-910-3545 - he can come pick it up.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR OCTOBER CTMOM 2023 FREE STATEWIDE DENTAL CLINIC

Temple Board member Gabe Izraelevitz is a coordinator of an annual statewide event in great need of volunteers – and you don't need to be a health professional to help! The Connecticut Foundation for Dental Outreach and the Connecticut Mission of Mercy Free Dental Clinic will present their *CTMOM 2023 event*, a multi-day dental clinic for state residents who otherwise could not afford this care. This year's event is on Friday, October 27th and Saturday, October 28th at Floyd Little Athletic Center in New Haven (also needs help on set-up day October 26th). Volunteers are needed to help with patient registration, patient escorts, food service, and more. Breakfast, lunch, snacks, and an event T-shirt are provided. You must sign up to volunteer at https://cfdo.org/ct-mom/volunteers where there is full event information.

OCTOBER 15TH MANCHESTER CROP HUNGER WALK Register Now to Walk or Donate Funds

TBH is a supporter of the Manchester Community CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, October 15th.

CROP Hunger Walks are community-based walk fundraising events held in cities and towns across the U.S. After each CROP Hunger Walk, 25% of the funds raised are returned to the host community to support local hunger fighting efforts. Registration is open now – to start a group of walkers or walk individually or to simply make a donation, go to http://crophungerwalk.org/manchesterct

SAVE THE DATE: SOCIAL ACTION MEETING FOR ALL AGES Next Month – Wednesday, November 15th at 7 p.m. in Temple Let's brainstorm and share new ideas - Tikkun Olam!

How can Temple members increase our outreach into the Greater Hartford community? Hands-on activities? Collections of special items? Events with other organizations? Activism? We will talk about our current activities, and what we might do in the future. *Details to come*.

TODAH FOR YOUR CONNECTICUT FOODSHARE FOOD & FUNDS DURING THE HIGH HOLY DAYS

Together, we collected more than 15 full boxes and bags of food, and over \$700 in cash and checks for CT Foodshare. This nonprofit serves nearly 400,000 hungry people across our state by distributing nutritious food through local partner programs and volunteers.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL UPDATE

The temple is once again buzzing with activity on Sunday mornings! Students are learning and praying together, and having a good time doing it! Subjects this year include Bible Studies, Hebrew Workshop, and Judaic Studies. An important part of our religious school is building strong bonds, so students take part in a community-building activity together each Sunday. Last week, they worked together to prepare the sanctuary for Yom Kippur, and then played a spirited game of "Would You Rather?" in the Chapel!

We would like to give a special thank you to our Hebrew School students, as well as their parents and our teachers, for decorating our Sukkah! We hope that everyone in the community stops by to see our handiwork! The Religious School hosted an evening of the "Sukkah Hop" in our TBH Sukkah, as did several members of our congregation at their own homes. We hope you all were able to come and make the Sukkot blessings with them.



JTCONNECT REGISTRATION

IS OPEN
FOR THE 2023-2024 PROGRAM YEAR!

WE PROUDLY OFFER 4 PROGRAM PILLARS:

- JEWISH LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP CLASSES ON SUNDAYS AND MONDAY EVENING AT (3) SYNAGOGUES IN OUR COMMUNITY
- SOCIAL ACTION PROJECTS SUPPRTING LOCAL COMMUNITY NEEDS AND NONPROFITS
- YEARLONG TEEN PHILANTHROPY PROGRAMS AT (2) SYNAGOGUE SITES
- SOCIAL EVENTS THAT BRING TEENS TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE JEWISHLY THORUGHOUT THE YEAR

REGISTERED JTCONNECT STUDENTS CAN TAKE CLASSES AT ANY SITE WE OFFER THEM, AND ATTEND ALL OF OUR SIGNATURE PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

WE'VE GOT SCHOLARSHIPS! INQUIRE BY EMAIL CAROLINE@JTCONNECT.ORG OR CALL 860.727.6157

REGISTER TODAY! <u>www.jtconnect.org</u>



Israel Experience Travel Scholarship Program

A Program of the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Hartford

Attention Greater Hartford area Jewish high school-aged students:

Are you interested in traveling to Israel?

Apply today for one of several scholarships, each valued up to \$6,000!

Who is eligible?

All Greater Hartford area Jewish high school-aged students currently in grades 9, 10, and 11

Program requirements include:

- Priority given to immersion programs lasting from 4 weeks to 1 semester
- Participation in a pre- and post-educational program
- Participation in 10 community service hours within the Greater Hartford Jewish community
- Financial information is not required; however, priority will be given to students with a demonstrated financial need and who have never traveled to Israel

Application Deadline: January 31, 2024

TBH Music & Choir



TBH Choir is on break through October, then beginning in November, will meet at the Temple every Tuesday from 7pm to 8pm

All are welcome!
Please contact Rebecca Chaimovitch with questions:
richaimovich@gmail.com or 860-881-7998

New TBH Music Group!

Temple Beth Hillel is starting a new Music Group and everyone is invited to join, participate, or come and listen! We are seeking singers and players of any and all instruments to collaborate and fill the Temple with joyous music!

For information and to sign up,

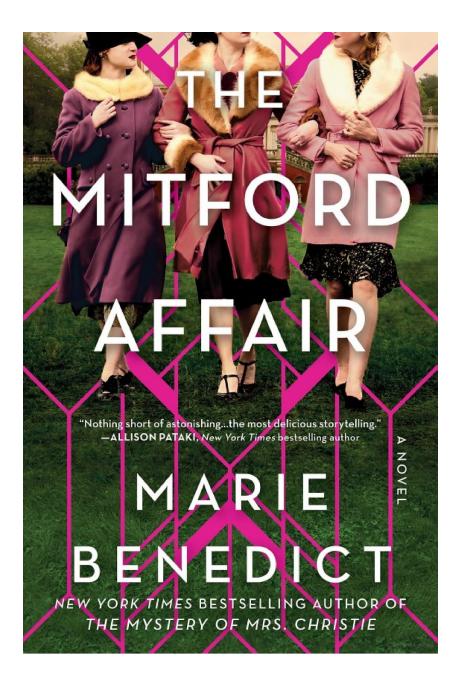
contact David Weinberg at iconoquest@gmail.com

TBH BOOK CLUB

The next TBH Book Club meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 10th at 1:00 p.m. at Temple.

We will be reviewing The Mitford Affair by Marie Benedict.

Come join us!



<u>Upcoming</u> <u>Meetings</u>

10/9
Executive
Committee Meeting

10/12 Board of Trustees Meeting 7 pm

10/18 Rabbi Search Committee Meeting 7 pm

10/19 Membership Committee Meeting 7 pm

10/24 Rabbi Search Committee Meeting 7 pm

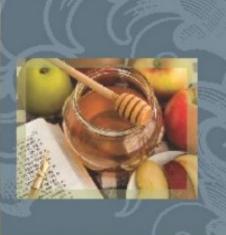
11/1
Executive
Committee Meeting

11/2 RPC Meeting

For additional meetings, please go to www.tbhsw.org

THE EXCITEMENT OF THE FIRST SHOFAR BLAST
THE SWEET TASTE OF AN APPLE DIPPED IN HONEY
THE BLESSINGS OF A NEW YEAR ...





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Helena.Friedman@gmail.com • 860-282-8466 • tbhsw.org/life-legacy-program/

DONATIONS

GENERAL FUND

Marla Adelsberger In memory of Barbara L Levin, Marla's mother
June Silver In memory of Albert Reich, father of June Silver
Deborah Benoit In memory of Erwin Rosenberg, father of Deborah
Bev & Dave Finnicum In memory of Anne Albert, mother of Bev Finnicum

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Sherry & Stu Rosen In memory of Betty Frank, mother of Sherry Rosen

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

Nancy Gordon In memory of Morris Gerlis, grandfather of Nancy Gordon In memory of Abraham Gerlis, uncle of Nancy Gordon

Michael & Barbara Brezel In memory of Philip Freedman- father, great grandfather, grandfather,

uncle

Michael & Barbara Brezel In memory of Frida Brezel- Mother, great grandmother, grandmother,

∆unt

Michael & Barbara Brezel In memory of Beverly Bursack Freedman- mother, great grandmother,

grandmother, aunt

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

Michael Skott For JT Connect

Judy & Steven Larocco Thank you for High Holy Days

RETIRE THE MORTGAGE FUND

Janet Lassman In memory of Elizabeth Harris, mother of Janet Lassman

A special thank you to Mill on The River for welcoming us at their venue for Tashlich and Thank you to all our TBH High Holy Days donors!



YAHRZEIT DATES

On October 7, we observe the yahrzeit of:

Beverly Bursack Freedman Mother of Barbara Brezel

Celia Hyman Grandmother of Dana Frank

Ruth Solomon Mother of Judy Locker

Albert Reich Father of June Silver

On October 14, we observe the yahrzeit of:

Meyer Danuff Grandfather of Eileen Clouser

Tillie Goldfarb Grandmother of Lois Wasserman

Newton Frank Father of Dana Frank

Edith Nissenblatt Mother of Mindy Radler-Glickman

Ruth Sloate Mother of Mark Sloate

Dorothy "Dottie" Weiner Mother of David Weiner

Barbara L. Levin Mother of Marla Adelsberger

On October 21, we observe the yahrzeit of:

Jacob Cohen Father of Roz Cooper

Abraham Gerlis Uncle of Nancy Gordon

Simon Frank Father of Sherry Rosen

Frances Schwartz Mother of Shelley Haslett

Elizabeth Harris Mother of Janet Lassman

Doris Millstein Mother of Eileen Clouser

Frida P. Brezel Mother of Michael Brezel

Fannie Guttman Mother of Richard Guttman

Elaine Halpern Mother of John Halpern

On October 28, we observe the yahrzeit of:

Esther Bradbard Mother of Leland Bradbard

Ruth Liebman Mother of Howard Liebman

Murray Rosen Father of Stuart Rosen

Irving I. Hertzendorf Brother of Gladys Nadel

Max Wernick Father of Michael Wernick

Philip Freedman Father of Barbara Brezel

SIMCHAS

BIRTHDAYS

Mrs. Janet Lassman	10/2	Mrs. Sarah Kaprove	10/10	Mr. Jason Chaimovitch	10/22
Mrs. Kristen Keegan	10/5	Mrs. Marilyn Reveley	10/10	Rosalind Cooper	10/24
Donna Waksman	10/8	Sherry B. Skott	10/11	Mr. Albert Klein	10/26
Mrs. Marlene Abrahamson	10/10	Mr. Jeffrey Kamenetz	10/14	Mr. Theodore Groenstein	10/27
		Mrs. Vicki Daniels	10/15	Mr. Marty Seefer	10/28

Anniversaries

Mr. & Mrs. John Halpern	10/6	Mr. & Mrs. Howard Liebman	10/23
Mr & Mrs Rick Moylan	10/6	Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Waksman	10/30
Rahhi & Mrs Alan I efkowitz	10/23		

TORAH PORTIONS

Vezot ha'Bracha Deuteronomy 33:1–34:12 Vezot ha'Bracha, which means "and this is the blessing." These are the first words of Deuteronomy 33:1. This Torah portion is ordinarily read on the day of Simchat Torah ("Rejoicing of the Torah") in conjunction with the beginning of the book of Genesis to mark the conclusion of one year's Torah cycle and the beginning of the next. The portion contains Moses' final blessings over the twelve tribes, his ascent up Mount Nebo to overlook the land of Canaan, and his death and burial.

Parshat Bereishit Genesis 4:23-5:24 Bereishit ("In the Beginning"), the first parashah in the annual Torah reading cycle, begins with God's creation of the world. The first people, Adam and Eve, eat from the Tree of Knowledge and are banished from the Garden of Eden. Their elder son, Cain, kills their younger son, Abel, and Cain is destined to a life of wandering.

Parashat Noach Genesis 6:9-11:32 Noach ("Noah") begins as God decides to destroy mankind with a flood. At God's command, the righteous Noah builds an ark, where Noah, his family, and select animals survive the flood. Noah's children bear children, and several generations develop. God confounds the speech of people building the Tower of Babel.

Parashat Lech-Lecha Genesis 12:1-17:27 Lech Lecha ("Go Forth") recounts Abraham's (here known as Abram) first encounter with God, his journey to Canaan, the birth of his son Ishmael, the covenant between him, his descendants, and God, and God's commandment to circumcise the males of his household.

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From Generation to Generation.





TBH INFORMATION

Rabbi: Leah Benamy, RabbiLeah@tbhsw.org

Temple Administrator: Sam Cain, <u>admin@tbhsw.org</u>
Membership: Alex Lassman, <u>Alexlassman@gmail.com</u>
Board of Trustees President: Jeff Levin, <u>jlevin@tbhsw.org</u>

Rabbi Emeritus: Jeff Glickman, rabbi@tbhsw.org

OFFICE HOURS

You can reach the TBH Office at 860 282-8466 or <u>admin@tbhsw.org</u>. Office hours are 9:00 am-2:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

In an emergency and you are in need of Clergy, please contact Rabbi Leah by Temple Office phone or her cell phone 203-390-1384, or by email, rabbileah@tbhsw.org In the event the Rabbi cannot be reached, contact Rabbi Emeritus Jeff Glickman at 860-655-0353 or e-mail rabbi@tbhsw.org. Always feel free to reach out to the Temple office

Rabbi has made arrangements with several of the other Rabbis in the area in the event that neither the Rabbi nor Cantor is available. These Rabbis will treat TBH Members as if they were members of their congregations. Please contact these Rabbis in the following order:

- 1. Rabbi Kari Tuling of Kol Haverim in Glastonbury (860-633-3966)
- 2. Rabbi Randall J. Konigsburg of BSBI in Manchester (860-643-9563)
- If these Rabbis are not available, the following Rabbis are available for fee:

Rabbi Michael Pincus of CBI in West Hartford (860-233-8215)

Rabbi Richard Plavin retired from BSBI in Manchester (860-643-9564)

The deadline for the next Bulletin is <u>October 24, 2023</u> Please forward all e-mailed materials to <u>Admin@tbhsw.org</u> AND to the entire Communications Committee at <u>communications@tbhsw.org</u>:

ONLINE SERVICE INFORMATION:

If you are unable to attend in person, you can "join in" our on-line services and events and stay in touch in several ways. Friday Evening Services begin at 7 p.m. and Saturday Morning Services start at 9 a.m.

To watch...

- ► Go to the Temple's website: www.TBHSW.org and scroll down.
- ► Go to our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/TBHSW

Advertising Rates for Hillel Happenings

\$36.00 for a 1/4 page single issue \$60.00 for 1/2 page single issue \$100.00 for full page single issue \$100.00 for business card size ad for all 12 monthly issues

Please contact the Temple to make arrangements. Admin@tbhsw.org