



HILLEL HAPPENINGS

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY



A Time to plant, a time to uproot (Ecclesiastes/Kohelet 3:2)

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This past Sunday, the Religious School hosted BSBI's Religious School for an experiential, environmental Jewish sharing of prayers, melodies, questions, answers, and lots of fruit for a joint Tu B'Shvat celebration. This holiday, that reminds us of our dependence on God and the Earth's bounty given to us by God, has been connected to modern Israel over the decades.

This year, that tie is poignant, and the glimpse we had of Tu B'Shvat on Kibbutz Lotan was deliberately brief. This issue, of feeling uncomfortable about our connection to Israel will not go away any time soon. While the Torah portions that we read in the coming

Shabbatot from the book of Exodus are inspiring and inform our Jewish identity (Mt. Sinai and the ensuing drama is around the corner), so does the present moment. As a rabbi, I feel an abiding commitment to ensuring that the State of Israel remain a safe haven for Jews who face persecution simply because they are Jews anywhere in the world.

Just as TBH opens its doors to all who want to join us for study and prayer, yet has a guard whose job it is to patrol and either prevent or minimize any threat, so too the State of Israel. Scaling up from one synagogue to an entire country, not to mention defining what is "protection", is tricky - no matter where you are. We see the issue of the porosity of the southern border of the US grow into a divisive issue in American politics.

So too, popular support among Israelis for the military response to the horrific border attack by Hamas is far from universal, but depending on what the sound bite of the day is, it may appear that way.

Knowing HOW to plant and HOW to tear down was a challenge a millenia ago, and it remains one today. Ecclesiastes is well known for the opening words of the book that bears his name:

The words of Koheleth son of David, king in Jerusalem.

הָבֵל הַבָּלִים אָמַר קֹהֶלֶת הֶבֶל הַבָּלִים הֵלֵל הָבֵל:

Utter futility!—said Koheleth—
Utter futility! All is futile!

מִהֲיִתְּרוֹן לְאָדָם בְּכָל-עֲמָלֹו שִׁיעָמָל תַּחַת הַשָּׁמֶשׁ:

What real value is there for humankind
In all the gains they make beneath the sun?

דָּוָר הַלֵּל וְדָוָר בָּא וְהָאָרֶץ לְעוֹלָם עֹמֶדֶת:

One generation goes, another comes,
But the earth remains the same forever.

And so we return to our dependence on God and the Earth. Whatever we strive to do, whatever gains we attain will not remain when we leave this Earth.

I ask us not to despair, even though these cold, short days of winter may lead us in that direction. We are not in a place for rejoicing, nor one of constant mourning, we are in the harder to hold place, the in between. Between the planting and the uprooting, the embracing and the refraining from embracing. Rather than seeing no point in making an effort if our personal lot is not improved, let us join our efforts together, as we encourage each other to do what good we can. We can choose to focus on the ongoing pain, there is much of it every day. But we can choose as well to call someone who is ill at home, or set a time to see a friend who is experiencing a challenge. Let us be like the first buds on the trees – something small that adds both beauty and hope of better things to come.

Praying for the release of all the hostages held captive in Gaza,
Rabbi Leah Benamy

President's Corner

TBH Family,

I hope everyone has stayed safe with the recent snowstorms we have had, and I know one thing is for sure: winter has finally arrived! I hope you have enjoyed some of the fun winter activities like sledding, skiing, and making snow people!

We definitely have been busy here at TBH this past month. From the fabulous Bar Mitzvah of Evan Healy to the Law Enforcement Appreciation Ceremony, to our weekly Shabbat services, many great things have been going on here at TBH!

Behind the scenes, there has been a lot going on as well. The Rabbi Search Committee has been evaluating the applications we have received and is working diligently on finding our next seated Rabbi. The committee is taking the time to interview each applicant and will be continuing to follow the CCAR process to ensure we secure the right person for our next Rabbi. This process is not a short one, so please be patient and know that as soon as the committee can share more details they will. Trust that the members of this large committee (14 members) are working diligently.

I also want to take this time to address another article you will see in this month's newsletter with regard to the Abatement Committee. It is no secret that we have been running a budget deficit for the past few years at TBH. The Abatement Committee has spoken with the Board of Trustees, and we are asking all who are on abatement to take another look at what they financially contribute to the congregation. We understand that everyone can't pay full dues at these trying financial times, but we need every dollar we can right now. If you can afford to contribute more, please let the Abatement Committee know. For those of you who continue to donate above and beyond your standard dues, I want to send a heartfelt thank you. It takes all of us doing our part to keep this fantastic community running.

I close by saying that it is an exciting time to be at TBH and I hope to see you here soon and, as always, please feel free to contact me or any member of the Board with any questions or comments.

L'Shalom,

Jeff Levin
TBH President
jlevin@tbhsw.org



From the Rabbi Emeritus' Study

Being Helpful

A short story I wrote based on a biblical miracle in 2 Kings 4. It gives a beautiful take on what it means to be a faith community.

Elisha helped many people. A woman came to him and said, "We have worked with you to help others, and now we are in need."

Elisha asked how he could be helpful and what they had in their home. She said that the only thing she had was a small jar of oil.

Elisha told her to borrow many empty jars, large and small, from her neighbors. She and her sons

collected the jars and brought them into their home. She poured the small jar of oil into the big jar, and it filled it up. Then her sons brought another and another, and they kept getting filled from the little jar! When there were no more jars, the oil stopped flowing.

A good reputation is a treasure.

Don't be ashamed to ask for help.

It is good to be a part of helping yourself.

Start with what you have. It can be a seed which grows.

A good community helps people who are hurting.

The miracle ends at the limit of trust.

Trusting is a kind of helping.

Everyone likes to be involved in a great project.

[Here are the actual verses in Second Kings, Chapter 4]

1. A certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, saying, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the Lord. And the creditor is coming to take my two sons to be his slaves."

2. So Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?" And she said, "Your maidservant has nothing in the house but a jar of oil."

3. Then he said, "Go, borrow vessels from everywhere, from all your neighbors—empty vessels; do not gather just a few.

4. And when you have come in, you shall shut the door behind you and your sons; then pour it into all those vessels, and set aside the full ones."

5. So she went from him and shut the door behind her and her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured it out.

6. Now it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel."

And he said to her, "There is not another vessel." So the oil ceased.

7. Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debt; and you and your sons live on the rest."

Save the Date!

Yom HaShoah Commemoration at TBH on

Sunday May 5th, at 2 p.m.

All are welcome!



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL UPDATE

On Sunday, January 28th, we invited the students and staff from Congregation Beth Shalom B'nai Israel to come to TBH and celebrate the holiday of Tu B'Shevat with us this year!



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL UPDATE

On January 20th, Temple Beth Hillel celebrated the Bar Mitzvah of Evan Kainoa Healy. Thank you to all who attended and made this event a great success. A special thank you to the Healy Family for hosting such a well-planned and meaningful celebration!

Bar Mitzvah



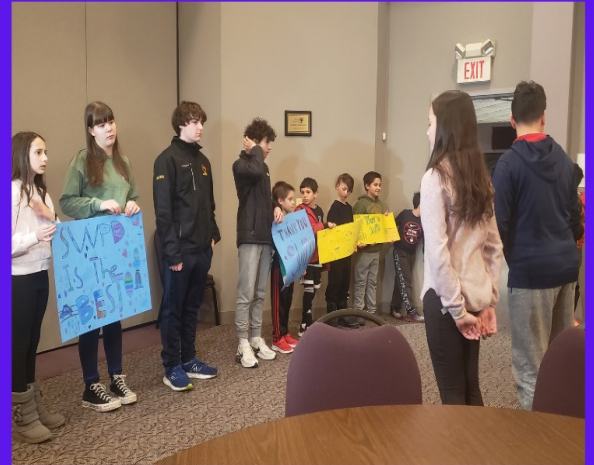
Celebrate with Evan!

Tuesday, February 13, Friends of TBH are meeting for brunch at **Oscar's All American Grill**, at **11:00 am**
855 Sullivan Ave.
South Windsor

As always, please contact either Barb Klein
(barbek@aol.com, 860-871- 0532) or Sue Adelberg,
(sadelberg211@aol.com, 860-745-0441) to let us know
if you will be able to join us.



On January 21st, In honor of the National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, our students showed South Windsor's Police Department some much needed appreciation. Channels Fox 61 and NBC Connecticut 30 were there to capture the moment!



NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY

We have invited representatives from the South Windsor police department to come and our religious school students surprised them with posters and certificates of appreciation! The children got to explore a police car and there was even media coverage!



TBH Men's Club

7



ALOHA!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

MEN'S CLUB DINNER & AUCTION

SATURDAY MARCH 23RD

HAWAIIAN THEME!

NOW ACCEPTING AUCTION DONATIONS

RSVP INFO COMING SOON

Our next event will be our annual dinner/auction scheduled for March 23, 2024. Get your Hawaiian shirts and grass skirts ready as the theme for this year is Luau. We will be soliciting auction items from local businesses and our congregation. If you have items you would like to donate or have contacts in the local community that can help us with obtaining additional items, please reach out to me by email or cell.

Gabe Izraelevitz
Men's Club President
gabeizraelevitz@gmail.com
860-490-2570

February Social Action News

ALL INVITED TO CONGREGATION-WIDE SOCIAL ACTION GATHERING: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH AT 7:00 P.M.

An **energized group of Temple members** gathered in January to focus on specific social action concerns that were important to them, and identified many project ideas that could appeal to our members. This included **thoughtful conversation** about **how to address** these concerns and the **development of next steps** that could make an impact.

Those **attendees are in the process of researching** possible projects in **three areas**. **We can champion several different projects** to inspire many members to get involved. The opinions and involvement of many members is essential – **here are the top ideas**:

Food & Nutrition

Grow/promote our Little Food Pantry. Encourage more TBH members to help monitor and restock the pantry.

Support community food programs in Greater Hartford with specific or ongoing projects.

This can include partnerships with South Windsor Senior Center and houses of worship.

Continue our relationship with Walk in the Light Church of God, and get more Temple members to take on the food, household and clothing deliveries to Archbishop Burke.

Quality of Life

- **Reach out to TBH members who might appreciate a visit** in their home, to read, chat, etc.
- **Become reading mentors** for children in a school or libraries.

Environmental

- **Create material to expand TBH member and community awareness** about various environmental concerns.
- **Educate TBH members about Recycling** (newest incentives) & Household products.
- **Host an outdoor clean-up/recycling event** at Temple or in a park or another nearby location.

Please Attend on Wednesday, February 7th at 7:00 p.m.

QUESTIONS? Contact Laura Soll-Broxterman at Lsoll@tbhsw.org
or Marla Adelsberger at marlaAdelsberger@gmail.com

SIGN UP TO HELP KEEP OUR LITTLE FOOD PANTRY STOCKED



Our Little Food Pantry (LFP) on the corner of Baker Lane and Governors Highway, offers food to anyone not easily able to meet everyday food and personal needs. **You can place donations of nonperishable food items and small toiletries into the pantry or in boxes** in the Temple lobby.

To make sure there is always food in the pantry, members are choosing one month to check on the pantry once a week and fill it with food from our lobby if needed. People already have signed up to help the first seven months of 2024, **but we seek volunteers to choose one of the following months: August,**

September, October, November or December.

Just choose your month and contact Laura at 860-688-4499 or Lsoll@tbhsw.org

**Join the CBI
community to**



Sunday, February 11, 2024

9:00 AM - Service and Orientation

9:45 AM - Meal Packaging



OUR MISSION

Rise Against Hunger is driven by the vision of a world without hunger. Our mission is to end hunger in our lifetime by providing food and life-changing aid to the world's most vulnerable and creating a global commitment to mobilize the necessary resources.

Ages 4 to 104, we need people of all ages to scoop, weigh, seal and pack 15,000 meals to Rise Against Hunger! We cover the cost of the meals at 30 cents each, prep them for shipping, and Rise Against Hunger distributes to schools around the world to feed hungry children.

ALL OF OUR YEP CLASSES WILL BE PARTICIPATING.

We hope you will join us too!

Please register at:

<http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/CongregationBethIsrael2024>

Sponsorships available at any amount!

Questions? - hrosenbaum@cbict.org

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 SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITY NEEDS AND NONPROFITS**
- **YEARLONG TEEN PHILANTHROPY PROGRAMS AT (2) SYNAGOGUE SITES**
- **SOCIAL EVENTS THAT BRING TEENS TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE JEWISHLY THOROUGHOUT 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!
WWW.JTCONNECT.ORG**

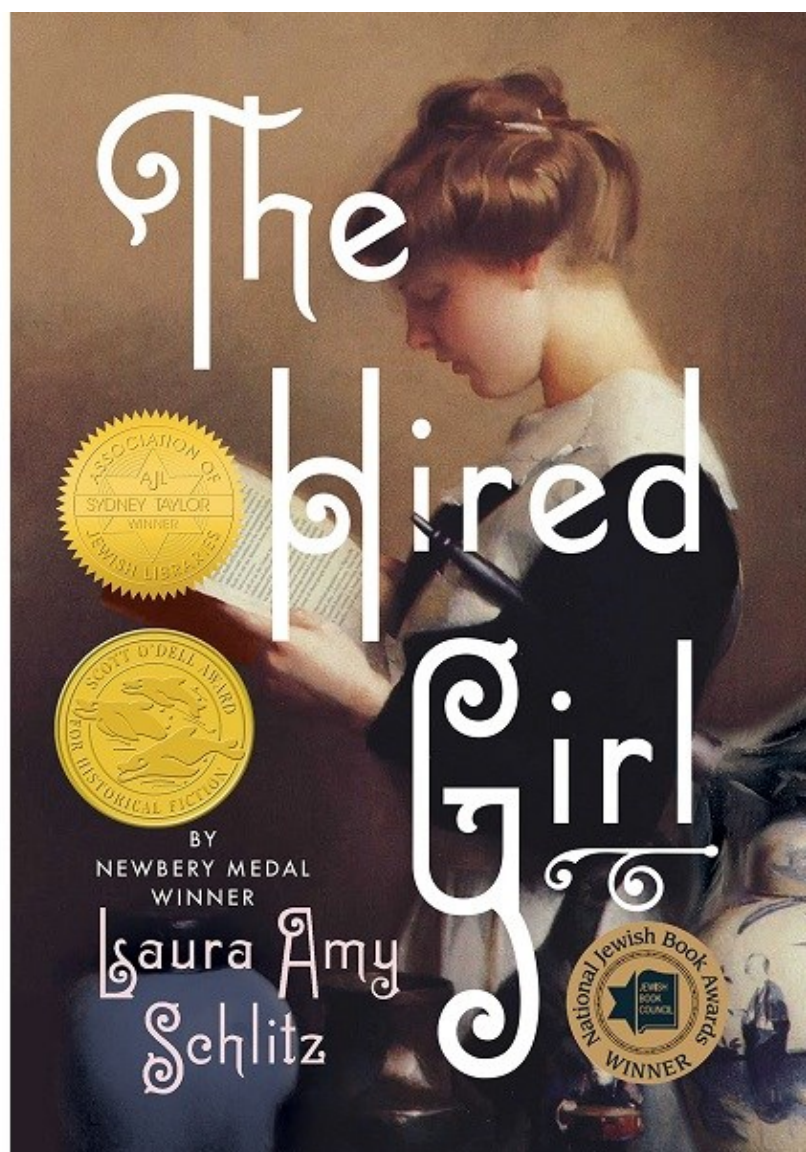


TBH BOOK CLUB

The next TBH Book Club meeting will be held
on **Tuesday, February 13th at 1:30 p.m.**
at Temple.

We will be reviewing
The Hired Girl
by **Laura Amy Schlitz.**

Come join us! All are welcome



Upcoming Meetings

2/1
RPC Meeting
7 pm

2/8
Board of Trustees
Meeting
7 pm

2/12
Membership
Committee Meeting
7 pm

2/18
Men's Club
Meeting
9:30 am

2/28
Lunch & Learn
12 noon

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

The Adult Education Committee is collecting recipes for a **TBH cookbook**! Please submit your favorite “JEW-ISH” recipes to the Temple office:

admin@tbhsw.org.

Let's share!



An Important Issue Impacts Our Synagogue: The Financial Health of Temple Beth Hillel

We depend upon the income raised from membership dues, High Holy Days pledges, and Life & Legacy commitments to pay for essential costs which includes insurance, utilities, maintenance, security, and staff salaries. In the next two weeks, we will begin reaching out to members who are not meeting their dues obligations, including abatement agreements.

We are a family. It is only fair that everyone participates and contributes to help our congregation thrive. To quote from Mishnah Avot: **אם אין קמח אין תורה**; “If there is no flour, there is no Torah”; meaning that while we would all like to have the opportunity to study, we must first meet our physical needs, such as eating. The budget of any organization supports its members’ activities, and there is no price to the feeling we all get when we gather as a community.

Our bylaws state that you must be a member in good standing to receive these important benefits and privileges:

- Complimentary High Holy Days tickets
- Honors on the bimah during weekly and High Holy Days services
- Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation
- Enrollment in religious school
- Pastoral care (including officiating at life cycle events)
- Participation in Men’s Club, Adult Education, Social Action events and activities, etc.
- Attendance at member-only events
- Opportunity for inclusion on the Tree of Life and Memorial Boards
- Discounted rentals of the temple space, including the social hall and kitchen for events
- Notification of Hillel Happenings, the Temple newsletter

You may elect to pay dues and fees on a monthly, quarterly, or annual basis. Options include paying by cash/check, credit card or automatic transfers from your bank account.

We understand that some may be managing challenges at home and might benefit from a temporary abatement (adjustment of fees) of your dues. All conversations are confidential. If you want to request an abatement of dues and other fees, please reach out to a member of the Abatement Committee and we will contact you to discuss a plan. Temple Beth Hillel Abatement Committee

Karen Donn (860) 948-0688, kdonn@tbhsw.org
 Laura Soll-Broxterman (860) 833-4466, Lsoll@tbhsw.org
 Jess Patterson (860) 268-7961, jesspattersonoils@gmail.com
 Alex Lassman (413) 209-4362, alexlassman@gmail.com

We count on your membership throughout the year and are grateful for your continued support of our community.

Karen Donn
 Chair, Abatement Committee

DONATIONS

GENERAL FUND

Susan Simons
 Susan Simons
 June Silver
 Bev & Dave Finnicum
 Bev & Dave Finnicum
 Laura Soll-Broxterman
 Laura Soll-Broxterman
 Fran Factor
 Gabe & Luann Izraelevitz
 Barbara Gordon

In memory of Edna & Harry Gold, Mother & Father of Susan Simons
 In memory of Sylvia May, Mother of Barry Simons
 In memory of Lois Sliver Smith, Sister of Stan
 In memory of Louis Albert, Father of Bev Finnicum
 In memory of Larry Albert, Brother of Bev Finnicum
 In memory of May Soll, Mother of Laura
 In memory of George Soll, Father of Laura
 In memory of Max Bolotin, Father of Fran Factor
 In memory of Thomas Salonia, Father of Luann
 In memory of Richard Teller, Brother of Barbara

BUILDING FUND

Joel & Gladys Nadel
 Rosalind Cooper

In memory of William Morris Nadel, Father of Joel
 In memory of Edith Cohen, Mother of Rosalind Cooper

HOSPITALITY FUND

Elaine Cantor
 Elaine Cantor

In memory of Leonard Cantor, Husband of Elaine
 In memory of Sydney Druckman, Brother of Elaine

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

Judy Fogg

In memory of Harry Kanner, Father of Judy Fogg

MUSIC FUND

Alan Gittleman
 Sally Goodman
 Stanley Goldberg

In memory of Marjorie Hutensky
 In memory of Marjorie Hutensky
 In memory of Marjorie Hutensky

RETIRE THE MORTGAGE FUND

Barbara Dworsky
 Sheila Alpert

In memory of Alan Dworsky, Husband of Barbara
 In memory of Irving Zelman, Mother of Sheila Alpert

Thank You!

Y A H R Z E I T D A T E S

On February 3, we observe the yahrzeit of:

Mamie Gitel Aronfsky
Mamie Gitel Aronofsky
Richard Teller
Lawrence Albert
Matthew Tovia
Martin Perlmutter
Adelina Polverini
Lew Schwartz
Louise Shook
Sol Tulchinsky

Great Grandmother of Dana Frank
Grandmother of Herb Shook
Brother of Barbara Gordon
Brother of Bev Finnicum
Grandfather of Alexa Carey
Father of Sherry Skott
Grandmother of Emily Breither
Brother of Shelley Haslett
Wife of Herb Shook
Father of Judy Bogatz

On February 10, we observe the yahrzeit of:

Alan Dworsky
Anna Rothberg
Max Hyman Berman
Lois Silver Smith
Irving Zelman
Abraham Doigan

Husband of Barbara Dworsky
Grandmother of Michael Rothberg
Father of Victor Berman
Sister of Stan Silver
Father of Sheila Alpert
Grandfather of Michael Rothberg

On February 17, we observe the yahrzeit of:

Abraham Waksman
Max Bolotin
Lois Allen
Harry Kanner
George Soll
Edith Cohen
Irving Ellis
Leonard Sloan
Adolph Snyder
May Soll

Father of Lawrence Waksman
Father of Frances Factor
Grandmother of Jeff Levin
Father of Judith Fogg
Father of Laura Soll-Broxterman
Mother of Rosalind Cooper
Father of Judy Glickman
Husband of Jill Sloan
Father of Teri Parrott
Mother of Laura Soll-Broxterman

On February 24, we observe the yahrzeit of:

Diana Crystal
David Hyman
Jacob Rothberg
Leonard Cantor
Morris Sirota
Lena Welensky
Adele Kossoy
Morris Weinstein
Nina Sloan
David Nissenblatt
Thomas Salonia
Samuel Cutler
William Westreich

Mother of Joyce Katz
Uncle of Dana Frank
Grandfather of Michael Rothberg
Husband of Elaine Cantor
Grandfather of Lawrence Waksman
Grandmother of Ed Luria
Mother of Lynn Welborn
Father of Judy Melocowsky
Mother-in-law of Jill Sloan
Grandfather of Mindy-Lu Radler Glickman
Father of LuAnn Izraelevitz
Father of Lois Wasserman
Uncle of Susan Ruchin

BIRTHDAYS

Judy Glickman-Lauder	2/1	Matthew Yustinich	2/6	Judy Locker	2/13
Ryan Levin	2/5	Mark Abrahamson	2/8	Rick Moylan	2/13
Dianne Aborn	2/6	Joyce Ben-Kiki	2/8	Libby Wallace	2/19
Judith Fogg	2/6	Susan Adelberg	2/11	Lynn Rothberg	2/26
Joel Nadel	2/6	Phyllis Liebman	2/12	David Weiner	2/27
		Benjamin Wallace	2/12		

Anniversaries

Theodore & Karen Groenstein	2/6
Mitchell & Margo Blutt	2/28

TORAH PORTIONS

Parashat Yitro [Exodus 18:1-20:23](#) Yitro ("Jethro") begins as Moses reunites with his father-in-law Yitro and accepts his advice to appoint judges who will help govern the Israelites. The Israelites prepare to encounter God at Mount Sinai. God descends amidst fire, smoke, thunder, and the blast of a shofar and gives the Ten Commandments.

Parashat Mishpatim [Exodus 21:1-24:18](#); [Numbers 28:9-15](#) Mishpatim ("Laws") recounts a series of God's laws that Moses gives to the Israelites. These include laws about treatment of slaves, damages, loans, returning lost property, the Sabbath, the sabbatical year, holidays, and destroying idolatry. The portion ends as Moses ascends Mount Sinai for 40 days.

Parashat Terumah [Exodus 25:1-27:19](#) Terumah ("Donation") opens as God tells Moses to collect donated materials in order to build a dwelling place for God called the Mishkan (Tabernacle). God describes how to build the vessels that will fill the Mishkan - including the ark, table, menorah, and sacrificial altar - as well as the Mishkan's walls and curtains.

Parashat Tetzaveh [Exodus 27:20-30:10](#) Tetzaveh ("You Shall Command") opens as God instructs Moses to appoint Aaron and his sons as priests. God details how to make the priestly clothing, how to sanctify the priests and offer sacrifices during the seven days of inauguration in the Mishkan (Tabernacle), and how to build the golden altar.

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Fax: 860.644.3668



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Broker / President, GRI
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VM: 860.644.5667 x101
E-mail: BenWallace@snet.net



Jason G. Jamrog, CFSP
Manager
Cell: 860-558-0614

Carmon Community Funeral Homes Samsel & Carmon

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Temple Beth Hillel

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Fax: 860-282-8466
Email: admin@tbhsw.org
Web site: www.tbhsw.org

From Generation to Generation.



TBH INFORMATION

Rabbi: Leah Benamy, RabbiLeah@tbhsw.org
Temple Administrator: Sam Cain, admin@tbhsw.org
Membership: Alex Lassman, Alexlassman@gmail.com
Board of Trustees President: Jeff Levin, jlevin@tbhsw.org
Rabbi Emeritus: Jeff Glickman, rabbi@tbhsw.org

OFFICE HOURS

You can reach the TBH Office at 860 282-8466 or admin@tbhsw.org.
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 the Rabbi is not 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 a 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 **February 25, 2024** Please forward all e-mailed materials to Admin@tbhsw.org AND to the entire Communications Committee at communications@tbhsw.org:

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