

HILLEL HAPPENINGS

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY



SEDER AND CHAOS

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As the month of Nissan approaches, we feel the warmer air and wonder "Where will I make Seder this year?", or at least some of us do. Some of us know exactly where we will be on April 22, 2024, and I must come clean and admit that I was unable to secure a reputable caterer so we can hold Seder at TBH, so it won't be Baker Lane for me! This year, we will make Seder at The Nutmeg in East Windsor, and we don't have to worry about cleaning up!

There will be online registration very soon, and we plan to have at least 50 participants. I will make a shameless plug here to tip the balance for anyone who is "on the fence" – my oldest son, Shai, will join TBH's Seder, and that may well be his first encounter with the congregation.

Seder means order, and while the tradition of following a certain order (Kadesh ur'chatz, carpas, yachatz...) for "the telling of the Exodus" is well known, many houses turn chaotic in the lead up to Passover. This holiday is unique in that leavened food (chametz) is not only not allowed to be eaten, it is also not permitted to be owned! The fictitious sale of all of Israel's leaven to a Muslim has happened most years, but somehow I think this year will be different.

If you grew up in a Jewishly observant home you may remember searching for the very last crumbs with a feather and a spoon and taking them outside perhaps, to burn with a candle. "Biyyur Chametz" is a very visual exhibition that, while picturesque, sets a nearly impossible bar to reach. Can we really find every single molecule of forgotten snacks and nibbles? Is that a significant part of Passover, or have we been overthinking something "mindful"? Instead of allowing everyone in the house, even the smallest, to take an active part in the preparations for this holiday, it often becomes a stressful memory tester of a ritual. No matter how you prepare for Seder this year, I urge you to do so with intentionality, rather than on "auto-pilot".

We ready ourselves to celebrate our people's ancient escape from slavery while there are yet living, breathing children and adults held captive in Gaza by Hamas. This year we are challenged as never before to not lose hope that the value of human life will prevail over the value of political ideas or real estate. I have few easy answers, none that comfort me in any event.

Let us face this challenge together, not to focus on the tremendous suffering, but to strengthen our community's bonds with each other, though we feel distant.

May the chaos be subdued so that each of us find some seder inwardly. Rabbi Leah Benamy

President's Corner

TBH Family,

Welcome to spring! It is a time of new beginnings, plants and flowers blooming and the weather warming up. We here, at TBH, are in a transformation period as well. It is at times like these that we take a pause to look at who we are and where we plan on going.

One of the areas the Board has been looking at is our finances. While we continue to run at a deficit, the Board is *working diligently to close this gap*. But, we cannot do it on our own. While we look at external sources of income and ways to keep the budget balanced, we also must look inward to make sure we are all doing all we can to help support this place we love.

So, if you are one of the many people who are on abatement, we ask you to please take a look at what you can do to help us close this gap. We have an unusually high number of members on abatement, and can significantly close the gap in our budget if those members would pay even a little more. So please take a look at what you currently contribute and see if there is a way you can help out more.

While finances are important, there is another area in which we need help from you. Our Temple has many different committees in need of support as well. From Adult Education, to Membership, to Social Action, to Religious Practices, there are numerous committees seeking members to help out in creating programs that are of interest to us all. Please consider reaching out to one of these committee chairs to see when they meet and help us make this the best TBH we can be!

As always, your Board is here for any questions you may have, so please feel free to reach out to any of its members, including myself.

L'Shalom,

Jeff Levin, TBH President jlevin@tbhsw.org



FROM THE RABBI EMERITUS' STUDY

Here is a piece I wrote inspired by the Book of Job:

Why A young child's book about Job Why are some people bigger?

Why can some people sing easily, or ride a bike without any trouble?

Why do some people seem to have such a hard time?

Why does everyone, even good people, have sad times?

My family doesn't even know the answers. We might never know.

One thing we do know –

If we try to help others, our problems become so much smaller.

Happy Passover! Rabbi Jeff and Mindy Glickman

Important Message about Saturday Morning Shabbat Services from Religious Practices Committee:

The reverberations from COVID have affected attendance at Shabbat services, especially on Saturday mornings. When there is not a minyan, i.e. 10 Jews over the age of 13 physically present, no group Kaddish is recited nor is Torah read from the scroll. Shabbat morning services without these elements are brief, about 20 minutes. So, moving forward, the Religious Practices Committee (RPC) has agreed to have Torah study begin at 9 a.m. and, if there is a minyan, a full Shabbat morning service at 10:15 a.m.

Special scheduled Shabbat morning services including Family Discussion Shabbats and B'Mitzvah ceremonies will continue as previously scheduled, beginning at 9 a.m.

RPC will continue to discuss designating one Shabbat morning service a month, in consideration of those who would like to come to say Kaddish with a minyan, or simply pray in the morning.

Save the Date!
Yom HaShoah Commemoration
at Temple Beth Hillel
Sunday, May 5 at 4:30 p.m.
All are welcome!



FRIENDS OF TBH are meeting for lunch:

Thursday, April 11 at 12:00 noon,

BJ's Restaurant
320 Buckland Hills, Manchester, near the Mall

Let us know if you can join us:

Barb Klein (<u>barbek@aol.com</u>, 860-871-0532) or Sue Adelberg (<u>sadelberg211@aol.com</u>, (860-745-0441)



MEN'S CLUB

On March 23rd, the Men's Club hosted its annual Auction Dinner. With great music, great food and even better participants, the evening included a Heads/Tails raffle, a silent auction, a bid board, and a live auction.

Congratulations to Nikki Senelick as our Heads/Tails winner!

The Men's Club would like to thank the following people who spent an incredible amount of their free time soliciting the wonderful items or provided items in our auction:

Adam Kaprove
Angelica Hoffman
Dan Rosow
Dan That
David Weiner
Ed Luria
Eddie Widofsky
Gabe Izraelevitz
Glenn Zinn

Gwendolyn Barnett
Helena Friedman
Jared Senelick
Joel Goldfarb
Judy Fogg
Lance Chernack
Laura Soll-Broxterman

Rabbi Leah Benamy Mike Skott Phil Maltz Rick Seidman Sally Goodman Scott Glick Steve Brouillard

We also would like to thank the following businesses who provided items for our auction:

110 Grill Yard Goats Alexia's Pizza Bear's BBQ Buckland Grill &Pizza Cabela's Cheesecake Factory Elicit Brewing Company Giuseppina Italian Bakery

Home Depot Homegoods Mexicali Oakland Pizza Oscar's All American Grill Panera Pastene Italian foods Red Cabin Red Sox Lux Bond and Green Sal's Pizza Starbucks Stop & Shop Texas Roadhouse Total Wine Vernon Diner Williams Sonoma



New Social Action Projects for Temple Members

Our Temple's energetic and invested group of social action advocates are moving forward on new projects and invite members of all ages to get involved:

S ENVIRONMENTALISM ACTIONS TO PROTECT OUR EARTH S

The Social Action Committee recently chose *Environmentalism* as a focus area for the group and congregation members. We observed that good people want to protect the earth for their future and that of their kids, but they just don't know how.

Our goal is to make sustainability accessible to everyone, matching their level of commitment, time, and investment. To achieve this, one of the actions we will be taking is sharing tips, on a regular basis, that you can try in your own household to become a little more aware of the three "R's" - Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.

Here are the first three easy tips that you can employ to help our planet:

Reduce food waste. It's simple. Plan ahead on groceries and use what you have on hand.

According to the EPA, 1/3 of all food in the U.S. goes uneaten.

You will save money, reduce greenhouse gases and conserve natural resources.

Save water by turning off the faucet while brushing your teeth.

According to the EPA, a typical faucet runs at two gallons per minute.

This simple action means one person can save over 200 gallons of water per month.

Avoid single use plastic containers whenever possible.

Substitute reusable bottles and shopping bags, avoid individually packaged snacks.

Currently about 40% of plastic waste comes from single use plastic.

FIELD TRIP FOR NEW CROCK POT PROJECT TO SUPPORT LOCAL ORGANIZATION & FOOD PANTRY AND FAMILIES IT SERVES

TBH will participate in an impactful *Crock Pot project* with the Manchester Area Conference of Churches (MACC) and its food pantry. This will involve our members securing and assembling ingredients for meals for 200 families in need who have crock pots.

To learn more, TBH members will visit and tour MACC at 466 Main Street in Manchester on Tuesday, April 2nd at 4 p.m. We expect the visit to last about an hour.

(Park behind the community kitchen or behind the emergency food pantry right next-door)

If you want to join the tour to MACC or have questions, contact Marla Adelsberger by Monday morning, April 1: (860) 668-5501 or marlaladelsberger@gmail.com

HELP FILL TBH'S LITTLE FOOD PANTRY

Place nonperishable food and small toiletries directly into our pantry outside on the corner *OR* in the boxes in our lobby.

Volunteers check the pantry once a week and fill it with food from our lobby.

We still need a member to sign up for the month of December.

If you want December, contact Sam in the Temple office at 860-282-8466.

AN IMPORTANT ISSUE IMPACTS OUR SYNOGOGUE: 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 קורה; "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, Laura Soll-Broxterman (860) 833-4466, Jess Patterson (860) 268-7961, Alex Lassman (413) 209-4362, kdonn@tbhsw.org Lsoll@tbhsw.org jesspattersonoils@gmail.com 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

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL UPDATES

Our Youth Group and Madrichim put on a live-action reading of Megillat Esther for the religious school students on Purim. It brought many laughs, as students and parents alike fulfilled one of the mitzvot of Purim! Immediately afterward, students and their families were able to enjoy the annual *Temple Beth Hillel Purim Carnival!*

Special thanks to our Youth Group, Mrs. Chaimovitch, and our Youth Group Parents for all of your help with the carnival! Some very tasty Hamantaschen were baked by Mrs. Liebman & Mrs. Waine (and friends), as well as the Breither family – we thank all of them as well! Thanks to the many religious school parents who stepped in wherever it was needed; it takes a village, and our village is such a special one!

The next few pages feature photos from our celebration!



RELIGIOUS SCHOOL UPDATES



More Purim celebration photos on the next page

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL UPDATES



Join the Religious School Committee

The TBH Religious School Committee meets regularly, and would welcome the help and input of additional congregants. It is not a large time commitment. If you are interested in being a committee member or would like to hear more about our committee, please reach out to Sarah Kaprove at rsc@tbhsw.org

TBH BOOK CLUB

The next TBH Book Club meeting will be held on **Tuesday**, **April 9 at 1 p.m. at Temple.**

We will be reviewing *Famous Father Girl* by Jamie Bernstein.

Come join us! All are welcome



FAMOUS FATHER GIRL

a Memoir of Growing Up Bernstein

UNABRIDGED

JAMIE BERNSTEIN

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

4/3
Exec Committee
Meeting
7 pm

4/4 RPC Meeting 7 pm

4/11 Board of Trustees Meeting 7 pm

> 4/17 Social Action Gathering 7 pm

4/18 Membership Committee Meeting 7 pm

For additional meetings, please go to www.tbhsw.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 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

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

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



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!



DONATIONS

GENERAL FUND

Men's Purim Gala donation Cynthia Lupo

Judy Melocowsky In memory of Edward Melocowsky and Morris Weinstein,

loving Husband and Father of Judy

MEN'S CLUB FUND

Alan and Donna Gittleman Thank you for Men's Purim Gala

HOSPITALITY FUND

Sue Adelberg In memory of Melvin Adelberg, Husband of Susan

LANDSCAPING FUND

Barbara & Michael Brezel In memory of Claire Sommers, Sister of Michael

MUSIC FUND

Judith Scott In memory of David Scott, Father of Judith

RETIRE THE MORTGAGE FUND

Barbara Dworsky In memory of Sheldon Cook, Brother of Barbara Phyllis Green

Thanking Rabbi Leah for her visit

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Judith Scott In memory of Valerie Scott, Sister of Judith

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In memory of Paul Mitnick, Father of John John Mitnick

YOUTH FUND

Robert Rodner In memory of Sidney J Rodner, Father of Robert Rodner

Marla & Peter Adelsberger In memory of Joel Levin, Father of Marla



YAHRZEIT DATES

On April 5, we observe the yahrzeit of:

Ruth Clouser Grandmother of Doug Clouser

David Scott Father of Judy Scott

Samuel N. Gordon Father of Nancy Gordon

Elsie Luria Mother of Ed Luria

Bernard "Woody" Widofsky Father of Eddie Widofsky

On April 12, we observe the yahrzeit of:

Milton Albom Father of Sue Wernick

Joel Levin Father of Marla Adelsberger

Jean Nadel Mother of Joel Nadel

Paul Mitnick Father of Jonathan Mitnick

On April 19, we observe the yahrzeit of:

Sidney Rodner Father of Bob Rodner

Ed Melocowsky Husband of Judy Melocowsky

Melvin Adelberg Husband of Susan Adelberg

Florence Brouillard Grandmother of Stephen

Henry Polverini Grandfather of Emily Breither

Ruth Davidson Mother of Joel Davidson

Nathan Melocowsky Father of Ed Melocowsky

Cirila Sanchez Mother of Ana Pearl

Ada Berger Mother of Marilyn Davidson

Henri Chaimovitch Grandfather of Jason Chaimovitch

Claude Patterson Father of Ralph Patterson

Stella Turshen Mother of Marcia Andrus

On April 26, we observe the yahrzeit of:

Herbie Bergman Uncle of Carol Bettigole

George Hiller Grandfather of Jill Bernstein

Yetta Novosett Mother of Michele Snyder

Mary Temple Grandmother of Harriet Mindlin

Sheldon Cook Brother of Barbara

David Crystal Father of Joyce Katz

Royal Crystal Brother of Joyce Katz

Herman Michelis Grandfather of Gabe Izraelevitz

Robert Welensky Grandfather of Ed Luria

SIMCHAS

BIRTHDAYS

Amy Patterson	4/2	Barbara Gordon	4/9	Laurie Zimmerman	4/21
Kalypso Szabat	4/3	Ana Pearl	4/12	Dana Frank	4/24
Phyllis Green	4/5	Gladys Nadel	4/13	Marlene Auster	4/25
Justin Liberman	4/5	Kenneth Wasserman	4/16	Gwendolyn Barnett	4/26
Amy Healy	4/8	Jason Healy	4/19	Mrs. Teri Parrott	4/26
Sally Goodman	4/9	Marcia Andrus	4/20	Mark Lassman	4/28

TORAH PORTIONS

Parashat Sh'mini: <u>Leviticus 9:1-11:47</u>; <u>Exodus 12:1-20</u> Shemini ("Eighth") opens with the consecration of the Mishkan (Tabernacle). Two of Aaron's sons are consumed by a fire sent from God when they attempt to offer a "strange fire." God describes the animals, birds, and fish that are permissible and prohibited for consumption, as well as some laws of ritual purity.

Parashat Tazria: <u>Leviticus 12:1-13:59</u> Tazria ("She Bears Seed") opens by describing the purification process for a woman after childbirth. It then describes different forms of tzaraat, a discoloration condition on skin or clothing, and the requirement of an infected person to dwell alone outside the camp and be inspected by a priest.

Parashat M'tzora: <u>Leviticus 14:1-15:33</u> Metzora opens by describing the purification process and accompanying sacrifices for one infected with tzaraat, a discoloration condition on the skin. It then describes the process of treating a house infected with tzaraat and the ritual impurity generated by certain bodily discharges.

Chol HaMo-eid Pesach Holidays <u>Exodus 33:12-34:26</u> Moses said to the Eternal, "See, You say to me, 'Lead this people forward,' but You have not made known to me whom You will send with me. Further, You have said, 'I have singled you out by name, and you have, indeed, gained My favor." 1496 Sullivan Avenue South Windsor, CT 06074 Bus: 860.644.5667 Fax: 860.644.3668



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Ben Wallace Broker / President, GRI

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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, jlevin@tbhsw.org

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 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 <u>April 23, 2024</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 Torah Study starts at 9 a.m., Services start at 10:15 a.m.

To watch...

- ► Go to the Temple's website: <u>www.TBHSW.org</u> 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