

Newsletter of Temple Beth Torah
Wethersfield, CT
Vol. 14 No. 3

Special Interest Articles:

- Message from Rabbi Seth Riemer
- TBTeens and TBTweens ice cream social

Individual Highlights:

Message from the Co-	
Presidents	2
School Calendar	4
Golden Book	4
Scrip/Gift Card	
Order Form	7

Message from Rabbi Seth Riemer

Dear Friends,

Here goes—I'm about to test the waters...

Is anyone interested in being part of a Shabbat morning service at TBT? I'm thinking of a once-a-month event involving

- traditional Hebrew prayers with lots of music and *ruach* (joyful energy)
- plenty of room for learning about how to perform and understand the worship customs (with patient attention to Hebrew)
- time for meditation
- a modest Kiddush to follow.

The whole thing (post-service schmoozing time included) would last something on the order of two hours.

This would be a chance for us to get in touch with the beautiful, spiritually profound and emotionally stimulating aspects of Jewish prayer life. It would also be an opportunity for more social bonding. It's a tentative proposal because I don't know if that's what our members are necessarily interested in. I realize that everyone's activity plate is full. I don't want this to be just another social chore (you know, the kind that contribute to stress and burn-out); Instead it can calm and stimulate our souls—bringing tranquility and restoring energy. Then we will be able to better appreciate the world surrounding and within us.

It's not meant to replace our once-a-month Shabbat morning study and our weekly Shabbat eve service. Rather, it would to open up another dimension of Judaism's rich and boundless cultural and religious treasure-house.

Part of this comes from my personal feelings. I love to daven (pray in the Jewish mode) on Shabbat morning and have been pretty much

doing so by myself, anyway, for some time. But praying all alone is not as fulfilling—in the Jewish experience—as praying with a group. Making this a regular habit is a time-honored, defining feature of our religion. I have the option of going to other synagogues and praying with them, but my personal preference is to do that with you.

It could appeal to several groups of people within our congregation:

- those (whether Jewish or not) unfamiliar with, but hungry to learn about, Shabbat morning services in particular and Jewish worship in general
- families of bar/bat mitzvah students (I'm thinking it would provide context for them so that they understand better, on the day of the bar mitzvah service, what it's all about)
- people interested in connecting their personal spiritual quests with Jewish prayer (Judaism has within it vital resources and sophisticated techniques for those hungry to explore the worlds of meditation and mysticism—you don't need to leave the framework of Jewish religion to encounter God or a sense of the Holy).

Please let me know if you're interested. (I'm at sethriemer@aol.com and 860-665-8014.) I'll go ahead and organize it *if* a minyan and a half (i.e., the critical mass of 10 requisite Jewish adults—males 13 and older, and females 12 and older—plus 5 more of the same) are willing to make an advance and *firm* commitment to do this every month. If not, that's okay—no harm in asking, right?

While I wish the group to be defined, in a conventional way, by the minimal number of beney mitzvah (i.e., adult Jewish participants), all—Jews and non-Jews, adults and children—who wish to participate can

help make this an unconventionally delightful occasion and enrich it with their presence.

Wishing you kol tuv / all the best in 2010.

Rabbi Seth

Message from the Co-Presidents

Dear friends,

As we draw to the close of this secular year, it seems an appropriate time to sprinkle thanks like confetti, in appreciation of our members who do so much for TBT!

December may have been a short month for us, but it was certainly action packed. We had a full house on the 4th when the Simsbury Light Opera Choristers performed. Two Susans helped make that spectacular event possible – thanks to Susan Reuben for the connection and quick action to get us on their concert schedule, and to Susan James for locating and delivering the keyboard necessary for the concert to go on! Again, we thank the Smith, Kane and Cook family for the Oneg refreshments that evening.

Two weeks later, we had ourselves a party – a Hanukah party! And what's a Hanukah party without latkes, lots of 'em – thanks to the culinary efforts of Judy and Marty Gold! Thank you to Neil Gordon for coordinating and decorating, to Josh Ferrebee for providing the tunes, to the Bronfins for the piñata and stuffing, to Cindy Fenton for the edible activities, and to Sam and Lily Hammer and Mark and Grace Alpert for all of their help setting up, decorating and breaking down the tables and chairs. Rabbi Seth went above and beyond by stacking chairs and taking a turn at the sink for dishwashing! Of course, thanks to all for bringing food and drink and family menorahs to add to the brightness and warmth of the evening. No menorah

was brighter than the beautiful TBT menorah out front, kept faithfully lit each evening of the holiday by Ralph Horowitz and Phil Lohman. [Quick reminder note here: if you haven't done so already, please forward your party donation check to Barry Schlein, 263 Hartford Ave, Wethersfield – thanks!] Speaking of Barry, our thanks go out to him for keeping our finances organized and our renters happy!

Just a few days after Hanukah ended, TBT members were wrapping books, discs and other gifts at Borders to raise funds for the Temple. Judy's list of "wrapper elves" appears elsewhere in this newsletter. Thank you, Judy, for coordinating our volunteers all day and working several shifts yourself!

In the New Year 2010, we've got several special events on tap for January. On Sunday, Jan. 17, the TBTeens/Tweens hold their second event of the year – an ice cream social (please see details in this issue). On Friday, Jan. 22, we will share a musical Shabbat with Arnie Davidson, a friend of Rabbi Seth. On Friday, Jan. 29, the evening will begin at 7:00pm with a brief Shabbat service, followed immediately by our Tu B'Shevat Seder (more details in this issue). The January Torah Study will be on Saturday, the 9th at 9:30am.

So... bundle up, and come on out to TBT for warm camaraderie and spirituality!

Wishing you a very happy and healthy New Year,

Deb and Joe

After its first great success,
 TBTeens & TBTweens is having its 2nd event:

2010 Game Night and Ice Cream Social



When: January 17, 2010

New Date!

Where: TBT Social Hall

Time: 6:00-8:00 p.m.

New Time!

Cost: \$5.00 pp

RSVP: Josh 860-202-6478

**Details: There will be cards, bingo, and music.
 If you play an instrument or have a special talent
 you would like to share, bring it, no matter how
 crazy!!!**

TBT Book and Brunch with Author Michelle Cameron

On Sunday, November 8th, Michelle Cameron, author of The Fruit of Her Hands: The Story of Shira of Ashkenaz, came to talk about her book while about thirty members and friends listened, ate and asked questions. We learned about author's thirteenth-century ancestor, Meir ben Baruch of Rothenberg, a renowned Jewish scholar of medieval Europe and his wife, Shira, a devout but rebellious woman who preserves her religious traditions as she and her family witness the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe. Meeting Ms. Cameron was a special treat. Her warmth and considerable knowledge made her story come to life.

We would like to extend many thanks to Frank Biritta, owner of Brookside Bagels by the Cove (on Main Street, Wethersfield) for donating several dozen delicious bagels and cream cheese for our brunch. Frank is a very community-minded individual who was happily willing to support our efforts to raise money for our TBT. Please consider patronizing Brookside Bagels when you're in Wethersfield!

As always, there was a group of willing volunteers present, willing and able to set-up, serve and clean-up. It's always a pleasure to be with TBT friends!

Marguerite Alpert

Temple Beth Torah

130 Main Street
Wethersfield, CT 06109

PHONE:
(860) 529-2410
Rabbi Seth Riemer

Co-Presidents:

Deb & Joe Hammer

Co-Vice Presidents:

Judy & Marty Gold

Treasurer:

Barry Schlein

Recording Secretary:

Carol Gershenson

Corresponding Secretary:

Rhoda London

Mira Schlein – Trustee
Barry Goldberg – Trustee
Andie Goldberg - Trustee

Committee Chairs:

Cecile Bronfin – **Education**

Deb Ellenberg Gray – **Ways
and Means**

Bruce Kaplan – **Mens' Club**

Phil Lohman and Ralph

Horowitz– **Building**

Susan Sackler Reuben –

Landscape

Lori Koplin – **Publicity**

Harold Nevins –

Memorial Park

Barbara & Bruce Kaplan -

High Holidays

Star Editor:

Susan Sackler Reuben

Webmaster:

Leonard Slutsky

We're on the Web!

See us at:

templebethtorahwethersfield.org

Golden Book

In Memory of
Beloved Father, HARRY KAHN
By Andie & Barry Goldberg and
Michelle & Bill Cyr

In Appreciation of the TBT
Congregation For Such
Kind Thoughts & Prayers
During Son, BARRY'S Recovery
From Surgery
By Gloria Scott

Wishing Congratulations To
PHIL & GERALDEEN LOHMAN
On The Birth of a Baby Girl To Phil's
Daughter
By Mira & Barry Schlein

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In Loving Memory of
AL ELLENBERG
By Todd & Pam-Eve Nicholson

School Calendar and Challah Hosts

Jan. 10 Hammer, 17 Reuben, 24 Alpert, 31 Cohan

Feb. 7 Cook, 28 Fenton - Purim carnival

March 7 Ferrebee, 14 Koplin, 21 LaTorra, 28 McHenry

Apr. 4 Sondik, 11 Veilleux,

May 2 Hammer, 16 Reuben, 23 Cohan

June 6 Cook, 13 Fenton

The school Purim Carnival will be on Feb. 28. Start thinking of ideas for games. We have three so far – Haman's paddle ball, Shushan mini-football toss and the ever-popular "who can stand on one leg with eyes closed longest" (Eric Blinn is the reigning champion, 20 minutes!)

Email from Anna Flaxman, daughter of Felicia Shpall, to Sisterhood

Subject: Thank you

Hello, I'm not sure if any one remembers me, for I haven't been to TBT in years now. But I would just like to thank every single one of you for honoring my mother in such a special way. Someday I would like to visit and I hope the doors will be open. It means so much to me.

--Anna

Mazel Tov

To Phil and Geraldene Lohman on the birth of their second grandbaby, Ruby Blue Wild-Arons, daughter of Melissa and David Arons of Brooklyn, NY. She was born on Nov. 12, 2009.

New Website Calendar Format

Check out the new format for our calendar of services and events! Follow this link <http://templebethtorahwethersfield.org/home/calendar> or cut and paste it into your browser. The calendar will appear in a list-style view. Click on any event to see the full description/details.

Beyond the Pale Jewish Theater Experiment

Our first production, of my comedy "Converted Imperfect", is in rehearsal. Our original plan was to have performances in January, but we have had to push that date forward till the spring (probably early March). Stay tuned for late-breaking news. Those interested in participating (whether as actors or as behind-the-scenes crew), please contact me at sethriemer@aol.com or 860-665-8014. New auditions are scheduled for January 4 & 6, 7:00 p.m., at TBT.

Rabbi Seth

Tu B'Shevat Seder

Calling all tree huggers, nature lovers and fruit eaters: please join us on Friday evening, January 29 at 7pm to celebrate Shabbat and Tu B'Shevat, the New Year of Trees. The Tu B'Shevat Seder originated with the Jewish mystics. Our Seder is very participatory and lots of fun for all ages. We sample many different varieties of fruit and partake of 4 cups of wine/juice, going from very pale white to deep red. Neil Gordon has graciously agreed to be our RSVP coordinator. Email him at kb1hsi@yahoo.com or call 860-529-9043 to let us know you'll be attending. All we ask you to bring is some fruit or juice!

Wethersfield Conservation Challenge

The Wethersfield Green Summit Committee, in conjunction with the Town of Wethersfield, is offering a town Conservation Challenge. From March 1, 2010 through May 31, 2010, Wethersfield residences, businesses, municipal buildings, faith congregations, and schools will have the opportunity to participate in the Green Summit III Conservation Challenge. The goal of this Challenge is to reduce electrical consumption and water usage by ten percent in participating residences and facilities in the town.

In order to take part in the Green Summit III Conservation Challenge, inclined and eager residents, building owners or facility managers are requested to start by attending one of the two Educational Forums that will present the details of the program. These Educational Forums will be held Wednesday, January 13 (snow date: January 27) and Thursday, February 11 (snow date: February 25) from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers at the Wethersfield Town Hall. Forum attendees will learn how to save 10% on electrical and water usage, learn about free or discounted energy audits, and receive information from Northeast Utilities about financial incentives and grants available to residents and businesses.

The first 500 Wethersfield residents who sign-up to participate in this Challenge will receive a special Conservation Kit that contains a variety of energy saving devices, such as CFL bulbs, an LED night light, a doorsweep, child safety caps, shower timer, and a coupon from the MDC for two free rain barrels. At the conclusion of the three month Conservation Challenge, awards will be presented to the registered participants who reduce electrical and water usage the most over the three-month period.

For additional information about the Conservation Challenge please call 860-721-0197 or visit the website at www.greensummitwethersfield.com.





Kvell Corner

Hannah Horowitz, student conductor of the Harvard University Band recently took part in the 90th reunion. A special concert was held at Sanders hall in Harvard where over 200 alums and 80 band members were on stage during the concert. The premier event of the evening was the introduction of a new Harvard Fight song, written and arranged by Hannah.

In the picture above, Hannah is bowing after the playing of her new song *Harvard Eternal*. Hannah is a 2007 graduate of Wethersfield H.S. where she was drum major of the marching band. Hannah is a junior at Harvard and is majoring in Earth and Planetary Science. Hannah also plays flute in the Harvard Bach Society Orchestra. She is the daughter of Ralph and Maureen Horowitz and the Granddaughter of Angeline Armillei.

(The Kvell Corner is available to all who want to share their pride and joy.)

Shabbat Onegs

Folks, the field is wide open in this new year for sponsoring an Oneg. Please sign up for a date on the kitchen door calendar, or shoot a quick email to me at dlh88@sbcglobal.net with a possible date or two. I'm sure we can accommodate your schedule!!! Thank you to the Koplins for sponsoring an Oneg in late November, and to the Golds for signing up in January. I believe January 8 and 22 are open, and then lots of Fridays after that. Thanks to Ed Guzy for always making sure we are set for Shabbat Kiddush! Also, I'm looking for a volunteer to sponsor coffee and morning treats for Torah Study on Jan. 9. Thanks, in advance, for pitching in!

Doh

Gift Wrapping Fundraiser

'Tis the season! We helped many wrap their gifts at Borders book store. It was fun and exciting to be in the midst of the holiday spirit. I would like to thank all our TBT members for their skill and time in making our day a success. Susan and Jonathan Reuben, Cecile Bronfin, Rita Nevins, Phil Lohman, Elliot Mag, Irene Smith, Marlene Ellenberg, Rhoda and Fred London, Andie Goldberg, Gloria and Stanley Zwirn, Mira and Barry Schlein, Jan Wahnon, Sallyanne and Barry Scott, Lori Koplins, and Deb Hammer and Marty Gold. Thanks one and all.... Fundraising is always a team effort. Wishing all a very Happy and Healthy New Year.....

Judy

Temple Beth Torah SCRIP GIFT CARD ORDER FORM – 2010

Deadline: January. 14 (we need \$1000 total order for Stew Leonard's to get fundraiser \$; next order – Feb. 14

Name _____ Phone _____ Date _____

	# of Cards	Total \$	TBT Earns
GROCERY STORES			
Shaw's	\$25		4%
Shaw's	\$50		4%
Stop & Shop	\$25		4%
Stop & Shop	\$100		4%
Waldbaum's/A&P	\$25		4%
Waldbaum's/A&P	\$100		4%
Crown Supermarket	\$50		5%
Crown Supermarket	\$100		5%
Stew Leonard	\$50		5%
Stew Leonard	\$100		5%
RESTAURANTS			
Applebee's	\$25		10%
Bertucci's Italian	\$25		10%
Boston Market	\$10		12%
Bruegger's Bagels	\$10		7%
California Pizza	\$10		4%
Cheesecake Factory	\$25		5%
Chili's	\$25		11%
Chuck E Cheese	\$10		8%
D'Angelo/Papa	\$10		10%
Denny's	\$10		7%
Domino's Pizza	\$5		5%
Dream Dinners	\$75		8%
Dunkin Donuts	\$10		4%
Home Town Buffet	\$25		5%
KFC	\$5		8%
Olive Garden	\$25		9%
Outback Steakhouse	\$25		5%
Panera Bread	\$10		9%
Panera Bread	\$25		9%
Pizza Hut	\$10		8%
Rainforest Cafe	\$25		9%
Red Robin	\$25		9%
Ruby Tuesdays	\$25		8%
Starbucks	\$10		7%
Subway	\$10		3%
TGI Friday's	\$25		9%
The 99 Restaurant	\$25		13%
Texas Roadhouse	\$25		8%
GASOLINE / AUTO			
Gulf	\$25		2%
Shell	\$25		2.5%
Sunoco	\$50		1.5%
AutoZone	\$25		5%
Jiffy Lube	\$30		10%
Pep Boys	\$20		4%
BIG BOX STORES			
K Mart	\$25		4%
Kohl's Department	\$25		4%
Kohl's Department	\$100		4%
Wal-Mart / Sam's	\$25		2%
HOME Improvement			
Ace Hardware	\$25		4%
Home Depot	\$25		4%
Lowe's Home	\$25		4%
Dick's Sporting	\$25		8%

	# of Cards	Total \$	TBT Earns
RETAIL			
Amazon.com	\$25		4%
American Eagle	\$25		9%
Banana Republic	\$25		9%
Barnes and Noble	\$25		9%
Bath and Body Works	\$10		13%
Bath and Body Works	\$25		13%
Bed, Bath and Beyond	\$25		7%
Best Buy	\$25		3%
Best Buy	\$100		3%
Borders/Waldenbooks	\$10		9%
Borders/Waldenbooks	\$25		9%
Build A Bear Workshop	\$25		8%
Champs Sports	\$25		9%
Claire's	\$10		9%
Crate and Barrel	\$25		8%
CVS Pharmacy	\$25		6%
CVS Pharmacy	\$100		6%
Eddie Bauer	\$25		10%
Footlocker/Lady/Kids	\$25		9%
Game Stop	\$25		3%
Gap/GapKids/GapBaby	\$25		9%
Home Goods	\$25		7%
iTunes	\$15		4%
JCPenney	\$25		5%
JCPenney	\$100		5%
J Crew	\$25		13%
JoAnn Fabrics	\$20		6%
Lands' End	\$25		17%
Land's End	\$100		17%
Limited	\$25		9%
L.L. Bean	\$25		15%
L.L. Bean	\$100		15%
Lord & Taylor	\$25		8%
Macy's	\$25		10%
Macy's	\$100		10%
Marshalls	\$25		7%
Nike	\$25		12%
Office Depot	\$25		4%
Old Navy	\$25		9%
Payless Shoes	\$20		13%
Pier I Imports	\$25		9%
Pottery Barn/Teen/Kids	\$25		8%
Radio Shack	\$25		4%
Restoration Hardware	\$25		12%
Restoration Hardware	\$100		12%
Sears	\$25		4%
Shutterfly	\$25		9%
Staples	\$25		5%
T.J. Maxx	\$25		7%
The Children's Place	\$25		12%
Toys R Us/Babies R	\$20		1.5%
Walgreens	\$25		6%
Williams Sonoma	\$25		8%
ENTERTAINMENT			
Blockbuster	\$10		7%
	Total # Cards	Total \$ Due	

- Cash _____ Check # _____ Payable to "Temple Beth Torah"
- Send order form and payment to Susan Sackler Reuben
25 Howland Rd. W. Hartford, CT 06107



Owned And Operated
By NRT Incorporated.

Maureen Horowitz, ABR, GRI
REALTOR®

(860) 205-9678 Cell, (860) 722-3063 VM
(860) 563-1010 Office, (860) 563-4303 Fax
maureen.horowitz@cbmoves.com



RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

1331 Silas Deane Highway
Wethersfield, CT 06109

ColdwellBankerMoves.com



Garden Design by Susan
(860) 561-2104

ADVERTISING SPACE

AVAILABLE

Great Rates!



Jewish Cooking Workshop Part 2

The Challah workshop was fun and educational for all who attended. The next workshop will be rugelach. Details are being worked. Who is interested? Contact Susan Sackler Reuben.

TEMPLE BETH TORAH

130 Main Street
Wethersfield, CT 06109