

Newsletter of Temple Beth Torah
Wethersfield, CT
Vol. 14 No. 6

Special Interest Articles:

- Chimney Repair
Fundraiser
- Summer Book
Discussion
- Gift Cards
- Board for
Coming Year

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Message from Rabbi Seth Riemer

A summer poem for TBT

Summer is a quiet moment to reflect at the still point where you pivot from spring (life rising and forming) back to fall (the soil—your Root Principle—from which vital longings forever surge up).

These months file past like dry, predictable *yeshiva bochers* tiptoeing into God's classroom—
Tamuz Av Elul...

then *Tishrei*: a New Year will rear its innocent head surprised at the sudden attention it receives from you and me—who are dust mourning for Jerusalem.

We are wilted spring lilies parched with thirst, weary, seeking new life. But there's assurance for the soul *planted in God's courtyards*, in old pews illumined by the pure glow of Light that filters through stained glass and strikes the yellowing leaves of sacred pages—a sparkle that reanimates strange, familiar Hebrew letters, prodding them to dance and play like *klezmerim*,

challenging them to mean something—to sing again.

Meanwhile here am I, waiting out *golus* / exile in the sinking solstice when tender recollections of that sanctuary must last me till we meet again, not so much Roy and Trigger on the happy trails, the sagebrush paths, but Jewish seekers on the trail of sweet forgotten *Shabbos* melodies, in the path of our holy sages, as angel wings brush against our eyes and trigger memories, providential longings. Yes: now pause. Watch time pirouette for a brief stretch on her eternal dance.

Savor the breath of tranquil summer repose along the incessant circling round, the turning and returning: a melody of hope and a pause from creation to redemption—from *let there be light* to *a redeemer will come to Zion...*

Kayitz Same'ah / Happy
Summer!
Rabbi Seth



Temple Beth Torah
130 Main Street, Wethersfield, Connecticut

June 18, 2010

Dear TBT member,

Several years ago when we had the new furnace installed for the sanctuary, we chose to vent its exhaust out a north side areaway. The exhaust is expelled by a motor that kicks in when the furnace is activated. This seemed an economical solution at the time because the original chimney that served the earlier furnace had seriously deteriorated. Well, this turned out to be a false economy for two reasons. One is that each time the thermostat calls for heat, the exhaust motor kicks in in a truly noisy and intrusive way. We have had it serviced many times and it continues to work itself loose from its base. Additionally, we have seen a spike in our electricity bill during the heating season. The solution is to correct the situation by making the repairs to the chimney which involves masonry, a new liner and a hookup. Then, the natural draft of the chimney will pull exhaust out. The present exhaust motor would be disconnected.

Safeside Chimney Co. of East Hartford has estimated the job at \$2790.00. We do not have a budget for this. Other wealthier congregations reach out to pay for such projects with an assessment.

Our Building Committee Co-chairman, Phil Lohman, has made a proposal. Phil's offer is to draw and produce a 11"x17" color poster of Temple Beth Torah based on the sketch shown here. Thirty high quality copies will be made using Wethersfield's Allegra Printers' amazing digital printer. The plan is that through this solicitation, 28 people will donate \$100 each toward the project. Subscribers will get a numbered, dated and signed by the artist, poster with a personal message that appreciates their participation in the project. Phil's plan is to initially do the artwork and make a single prototype. Upon reaching the goal of 28 participants, the full run will proceed. If we receive more than needed for the project, more posters can be made and the extra dollars will be applied to the Building Fund.

At this writing we already have eleven enthusiastic subscribers. Naturally, the hope is to have the project completed before the fall high holiday season.

Please take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to contribute. Expect follow up calls.

Sincerely,

Debra and Joe Hammer, Presidents
Judy and Marty Gold, Vice Presidents



Chimney Exhaust Progress

The Building Committee reports that the response to the "Chimney Repair/TBT Poster Project" email letter to the membership and friends, from the Hammers and the Golds, has been wonderful. To date we have checks or commitments from the folks listed here. This moves us half way there. The down payment has been made to the contractor and work will progress soon. But, *and it's a big but*, we need at 13 more contributors to fulfill the project. This is work is important. Please reread the letter that appears above. Please write your check to Temple Beth Torah now and mail it to Phil Lohman, 434 Main Street, Wethersfield, 06109. Many thanks to all.

CONTRIBUTORS TO DATE: The Bronfins, The Golds, The Schleins, The Horowitzs, The Kaplans, Cy Levine, Carol Gershenson, Susan James, The Mags, The Scotts, The Hammers, Fred Cohan, Helene Rosenblatt, Marlene Ellenberg, Deb Ellenberg-Gray, The Reubens, The Alperes and The Nevins.

**GOLDEN BOOK
DONATIONS**

In Memory of JACOB
LONDON

By Rhoda & Fred London

In Honor of
JONAH LONDON'S First
Birthday

By Rhoda & Fred London

HADASSAH RIEMER'S Bat
Mitzvah

By Mira & Barry Schlein

Wishing a Speedy and Complete
Recovery To

BARRY GOLDBERG

BARBARA KAPLAN

ELLIOT MAG

By The Hammer Family

AVAILABLE FUNDS

GOLDEN BOOK –
minimum amount \$10.00

PRAYERBOOK FUND –
Bookplate put inside front cover
of Siddur \$36.00

EDUCATION FUND

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

MEMORIAL BOARD –
Engraved metal plate with name of
deceased - \$200.00

Make checks payable to Temple Beth
Torah and mail to:

Rhoda London

516 Coppermill Road

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Co-Vice Presidents:

Judy & Marty Gold

Treasurer:

Barry Schlein

Recording Secretary:

Carol Gershenson

Corresponding Secretary:

Rhoda London

Trustees

Mira Schlein, Elliot Mag,
Heather Latorra

Memorial Park

Harold Nevins

Building Committee

Phil Lohman, Ralph
Horowitz

Grounds Committee

Susan Sackler Reuben

Men's Club

Bruce Kaplan

Publicity

Kathy Mag

TBTeens

Jan Wahnun &
Josh Ferreebee

Education

Cecile Bronfin, Fred Cohan

Membership

Sallyanne and Barry Scott

Star Editor

Susan Sackler Reuben

Webmaster

Leonard Slutsky

Ways and Means

Judy Gold, Andie Goldberg,
Neil Gordon, Mira Schlein,
Rhoda London

Web address:

templebethtorahwethersfield.org

TBT Book Discussion Saturday 7/24/10

A summer book discussion group is being formed and will hold its first session on Saturday, July 24 at 9:30 a.m. Ellen Moses and Mark Gould have graciously offered to host this event at their home at 79 Natchaug Drive in Glastonbury. If you are interested in participating or have any questions, please contact Neil Gordon (860-529-9043 or kb1hsi@yahoo.com).

For this first session we plan to read the novel "The Yiddish Policemen's Union" by Michael Chabon, a popular and well known author. At that time we can also decide as a group what book to read for our second session (Saturday Aug. 21), so please bring any ideas and recommendations you may have.

**Message from the
Co-Presidents**

At our Annual Meeting on June 14, we had a record turnout, at least for what we've experienced over the past 12 years or so. As returning co-presidents, this was GREAT to see! Cecile did a terrific job "recruiting" members to fill the

various roles on our Board. The bulk of our lively discussion centered on the Temple's fiscal standing, and where we go from here. If you weren't in attendance, you missed out on some very heartfelt and interesting perspectives on what it means to be a member of TBT, and our shared responsibility to ensure the continuity of our special community. With great sensitivity to the current economic climate, we arrived at the

decision to enact a modest increase to the annual dues. Family membership for the upcoming year will be \$1,050 and individual membership will be \$650. There will be no change in school fees. Anyone anticipating difficulty in meeting this obligation is strongly encouraged to speak confidentially with Barry Schlein. TBT has had a long-standing policy of never denying membership when there is hardship – we will work something out.

Our conversations also included a preview of some new offerings for the summer and fall seasons, as we strive to find ways to engage the membership and draw new interest to TBT. For those who enjoy intellectual camaraderie, there are summer gatherings planned for a new book group. For those interested in a more physical endeavor, we are planning an Israeli self-defense martial arts workshop. For the music appreciators, a community concert featuring

Blackledge Music is in the works. Shabbat dinners, in homes or pot lucks, are being planned. And for the fun of it (fundraising, too), a rescheduled game night!

So... enjoy the summer months! The High Holidays come early this year and we get going right after Labor Day weekend with a bang! As you speak and meet with folks who may be unaffiliated with a synagogue, please let them know about our charming shul and welcoming community, and encourage them to contact us through the website.

You will find details regarding upcoming events in this issue of The Star. As always, you can stay up-to-date by checking our online Calendar page, found on the TBT website -- www.TempleBethTorahWethersfield.org.

Deb and Joe

Officers and Committee Chairs 2010-2011

Our nominating committee presented the slate of officers for the coming year at the annual meeting in June. Many of the nominees currently hold the position. They were unanimously voted into office for another year.

Co-Presidents - Deb and Joe Hammer
Co-Vice Presidents - Marty and Judy Gold

Treasurer - Barry Schlein
Recording Secretary - Carol Gershenson
Corresponding Secretary - Rhoda London
Trustees - Mira Schlein, Elliot Mag and Heather Latorra.

Committee chairs:
Board of Education - Cecile Bronfin
Adult Education - Fred Cohan

Memorial Park - Harold Nevins
The Star - Susan Reuben
Landscaping – Susan Reuben
Men's Club President - Bruce Kaplan.
TBTeens - Josh Ferrebee, Parent adviser - Jan Wahnnon
Web-master - Leonard Slutsky
Membership - Sallyanne and Barry Scott
Graphic Artist - Phil Lohman
Publicity - Kathy Mag
Building - Phil Lohman and Ralph Horowitz.
Ways and Means Committee:
Susan Reuben, Andie Goldberg, Judy Gold, Mira Schlein, Neil Gordon, Rhoda London
High Holy Day Committee
Barry Schlein (chairman), Bruce Kaplan, Elliot Mag, Fred London
Cecile Bronfin, Kathy Mag, Mira Schlein and Carol Gershenson.

No Cost Fundraiser: Store Gift Cards

Attention all shoppers. Help our Temple Fundraiser. Buy gift cards to use like money when you shop. Most popular cards:

Stop and Shop, Stew Leonard's, Waldbaum's, Dunkin Donuts, Home Depot, Sam's Club, Claire's, Crown, Barnes and Noble, Mobil, TJ Maxx

Our next card order will be placed in early August. Check the card vendor's website to see the extensive list of stores that we can choose from - www.glscrip.com Plan for a month at a time, including birthday gifts.

I would like to order store cards

Name _____ phone _____

Name of Store: _____

Denomination: _____ Total Value _____

Write check to: Temple Beth Torah

Mail to: Susan Sackler Reuben 25 Howland Road, W. Hartford, CT 06107. We'll arrange for delivery. Attach extra paper for other orders.



TBTeens and TBTweens end the year with a pizza lunch and some socializing.

The TBteens/TBTweens group has been successful in holding several fun social activities this year. They had a game night/ice cream social, bowling/grinders and a social event/lunch. The end of the year event featured pizza and games. The kids had cards, art, baseball and some made-up games. All enjoyed themselves. Thank you to Josh Ferrebee and Jan Wahnnon for organizing the event.



Todah Rabah

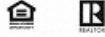
Thank you very much to the members who recently sponsored a Shabbat Oneg or morning refreshments for Torah Study: Bromberg, Ellenberg, James, Reuben, Riemer/Checknoff, Alpert, Ferrebee/Wahnnon, Hammer, Moses/Gould, Gershenson!

Thank you to Susan James for rounding up a television for TBT! This makes possible some future TBT movie events!



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Pictures from the April Bowling Event for TBTeens and TBTweens. Jonathan and Grace won the adult and teen challenge, respectively.

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