

Newsletter of Temple Beth Torah  
Wethersfield, CT  
Vol. 17 No. 1

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## Message from Rabbi Seth Riemer

Dear friends at TBT,

The four years I have been with you (yes, it has been that long!) have gone by fast for me. It hasn't seemed more than a few days. Some of that seeming swiftness has to do with the pleasant, light and courteous and gentle way you have acted toward me. Kindness always makes life happen more smoothly and prevents temporal gridlock. It has all seemed practically effortless because you have been so kind. I am grateful for that—and to you. God has looked favorably upon our relationship, I know.

Another probable explanation for this impression of swiftness is the fact that I am beginning to get up there in years at age 59. Some of you, my considerable seniors, will laugh about that—"he's just a baby," you think. I know, I know. However, there is no denying that, even with mental sleight of hand to trick me into imagining otherwise, I am—we all are—getting older.

Ah, but that's no reason to feel depressed. We're approaching the Jewish New Year, when, along with the chance to make amends, and occasion for soul-searching, there's time to slow down, pay attention and remember all the good sweet things about life and to appreciate what we've got.

I'm sure some scientist has come up with an explanation for why people, as they age, start to experience life as a rapid—in-a-flash—kind of thing. The sense of an accelerating pace must have something to do with our instinctual consciousness of how fleeting it all is—of one's-life-passing-suddenly-before-one's-eyes—and that all good things must come to an end, in the time we can measure at least. To repeat: I can live with that (as if I, or any of us, had a choice in the matter?!).

I am, to be very frank with you, not *terribly* afraid of aging—I'm actually glad I get to have that experience among others, and to have struck the good fortune to meet you as friends on that path into the unknown, the encounter with Mystery. Even though the bones and joints and muscles ache from time to time, and sickness does pay its call, along with tragic consequences—even for all that can we agree this thing called "Life," confirming the "Big Bang" theory, is a **BLAST** and worth doing? (Thank you, Holy Blessed One!)

In reflecting on this chapter we at TBT share together in the Book of Life, I want to say, for I have the faith to believe, we're at least on that same page of gratitude and mutual appreciation.

So maybe we should leave subtle reasonings and dark speculations aside and—like our ancestral stardust from the original divine Moment—consciously catch what we can of Creation’s splendor as it flashes right now, and now, and

now: before our eyes. For the year about to start, I wish you this blessing.

Shanah tovah!  
Rabbi Seth

## Message from the Co-Presidents

Hello TBT Family,

Can you believe it, summer has come to an end and fall is just around the corner? School is starting for many of our children and Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are only a few weeks away.

Enormous thanks to Deb Hammer for creating our new and wonderfully inviting TBT website. Please check it out if you have not yet done so. Everything you need to know about TBT is there! Our Web address is:  
[www.TempleBethTorahWethersfield.org](http://www.TempleBethTorahWethersfield.org)

TBT also has a new email address: [tbt.w.ct@gmail.com](mailto:tbt.w.ct@gmail.com). Any correspondence should be sent to that address.

On July 23<sup>rd</sup> and July 30<sup>th</sup>, the children from the Keeney Center had a tour of TBT. Our first tour was led by Phil Lohman and Harold Nevins. The second was led by Sallyanne Scott. All the children and staff as well, had a wonderful time. Many questions were asked and answered. The theme for the visit, “Neighbors - Then and Now” allowed the students to visit their neighbors, learn about their buildings, what they were like in the past and what they do now. It was

a nice way to let the community know who we are!

Our first Friday night Shabbat service is September 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. We look forward to seeing all of our TBT family! Deb and Joe Hammer will host the Oneg (reception after service) in honor of Lily’s Bat Mitzvah on August 25<sup>th</sup>.

Religious school begins on Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. We are delighted to introduce Audrey Hoss (a UCONN student and TBT member) as teacher of our younger group. Barry and I have known Audrey since she was a little girl. The Scott and Hoss families carpooled together for Religious school many years ago! Rabbi Seth has asked that the Religious school families remain at TBT on the first day of Sunday school, so that we can officially enroll your child(ren) and have a brief orientation session about the school year and various activities and assignments. Come join us for coffee, tea, and donuts.

Judy Gold, Cecile Bronfin and Sallyanne Scott got together over the summer to plan some really exciting fund-raisers for the coming year! October 23<sup>rd</sup> is scheduled for our Game Night. Please encourage all your friends to attend. It is a night packed full of fun, games and great

desserts!

Old favorites like the Sukkot Pot Luck will be back on Friday, October 5th, with Shabbat Services at 6:00pm, immediately followed by our wonderful Sukkot Pot Luck Dinner.

On Sunday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm, we celebrate Simchat Torah (Rejoice in the Torah) by unwinding the Torah Scroll all around the sanctuary. Our Chanukah Party is scheduled for Sunday December 16<sup>th</sup> from 11:00-1:00. Please mark your calendars for all of these events!

Congratulations to Alice Burstein, our new TBT treasurer. We wish Alice the best of luck and great success in her new role!

Remember, for any of our TBT events to be successful, we need YOUR participation. Whether it is time or money, your support is needed so we are able to continue to offer a variety of events to all of our members.

As you know, TBT is known for our wonderful Shabbat Onegs (Sabbath receptions after services). Included in this issue, is the Fall Oneg Host Calendar. Please check to see which date you will be hosting the Oneg. If

you cannot fulfill your hosting duties, please find a substitute or switch with a friend.

We trust you were able to give some thought as to how you can help TBT. I hope that part of your New Year's resolutions is to continue to help TBT run smoothly. As we have said before, it is not always easy to write a check and some of us cannot meet our full financial obligations. We can, however, set aside some time to volunteer at Temple Beth Torah. So if writing a check is not in your budget, we anticipate you volunteering your time. As you well know, the bathrooms need to be cleaned each week, the rug in the Sanctuary vacuumed, the refrigerator emptied and washed, tidying inside and out the building, to name a few responsibilities. We don't have the funds to pay for an outside cleaning service, so please let us know when you plan to pitch in!

We look forward to seeing all of you at our first Shabbat service on Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. Please stop by and say Shalom!

*L'Chaim and L'shana Tova,  
(To Life and to a good year)*  
Sallyanne and Barry

## High Holiday Food Drive

Our annual mitzvah (good deed) at this time of year is our High Holiday Food Drive. Flyers and grocery bags will be available in the entry as you leave TBT on Rosh Hashanah. The local food banks welcome all types of healthful, non-perishable food items. Our goal is for each family to return at least one bag,

filled with non-perishable food items or donate some money, by Yom Kippur. The bags of food will be distributed to the Wethersfield Food Pantry.

Your generous donations are greatly appreciated.

**ADULT EDUCATION**

The adult education program continued to be active during the summer. In addition to the TBT Book Group meeting, we had two new home-based activities - 1) a series of Shabbat "Mini-services and dessert" and 2) the Shabbat Candle Lighting Event. If you took any photographs during this candle lighting event and would be willing to have them displayed on our newly renovated website, please send them to Deb Hammer who has been working very hard to make this site an exciting representation of the life and activities of TBT.

For the New Year, the book group will meet monthly beginning in October. Other ongoing learning activities such as the Rabbi's Torah study are also planned (dates to be announced). In addition, special events are being considered, including the possibility of a "field trip" to learn more about the 200 years of Jewish History in the Hartford area, and later, a trip to the Yiddish Book Center on the campus of Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts. If you think these ideas would be of interest to you or if you have other ideas, please contact Bert or Jeanne Woodcock.

**TBT Oneg Host Schedule Sept. to Dec 2012**

Sept. 7	Deb and Joe Hammer
Sept. 14	Kathi and Eliot Mag
Sept. 21	Cecile and Barry Bronfin
Sept. 28	Sallyanne and Barry Scott
Oct. 5	Sukkot Pot Luck in the Sukkah
Oct. 12	Andie and Barry Goldberg
Oct. 19	Marguerite and Mark Alpert
Oct. 26	Jan Wahnnon and Ernie Ferrebee
Nov. 2	Susan Mahler and Dean Kavalkovich
Nov. 9	Judy and Marty Gold
Nov. 16	Susan and Fred Cohan
Nov. 23	Thanksgiving break, no services
Nov. 30	Ellen Sue Moses and Mark Gould
Dec. 7	Marlene Ellenberg
Dec. 14	Carol Gershenson
Dec. 21 and 28	Winter Break, no services
Jan. 4	Alice Burstein

Shalom! (Peace and Hello!) This is the TBT Oneg Calendar. If you cannot participate on your "Host" date, please find a substitute. As a Host, you will need Kedem Grape Juice and a challah. You can also bring cake/brownies, fruit, soda, seltzer, cider, etc. or whatever else you feel like sharing. Tablecloths are in the kitchen, upper cabinets about 3 down from the refrigerator. If you use a cloth one, please take it home, wash it and bring it back the next time you come to TBT. In the lower cabinets to the left of the sink, you will find napkins, dessert plates, plastic cutlery and hot and cold drink cups. We should also have ample small wine/juice cups. Just before services are over, count heads and pour the juice. Keep in mind that we don't usually get huge crowds on a typical Friday night, so plan for about 15 people. Thanks for cleaning up when you are done!

**Temple Beth Torah**

130 Main Street  
Wethersfield, CT 06109  
(860) 529-2410

Rabbi Seth Riemer  
(860) 635-3139  
rabbisethriemer@aol.com

**Co-Presidents:**

Sallyanne and Barry Scott

**Co-Vice Presidents:**

Kathi and Eliot Mag

**Treasurer:**

Alice Burstein

**Recording Secretary:**

Carol Gershenson

**Corresponding Secretary:**

Rhoda London

**Trustees**

Mira Schlein, Heather  
Latorra, Susan Mahler

**Committees:****Memorial Park**

Harold Nevins, Marlene  
Ellenberg

**Building**

Susan Mahler, Dean  
Kavalkovich, Bert Woodcock,  
Michael Suconick

**Publicity**

Susan James, Neil Gordon

**TBTeens**

Jan Wahnnon &  
Josh Ferrebee

**Education**

Cecile Bronfin, Bert and  
Jeanne Woodcock

**Membership**

Karen Klein

**Star Editor**

Susan Sackler Reuben

**Website**

Deb Hammer, Sam Hammer

**Ways and Means**

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

**High Holidays**

Barry Schlein, chair; Mark  
Gould, Cecile Bronfin, Mira  
Schlein, Kathi Mag, Carol  
Gershenson

**Mitzvah**

Susan Mahler

**Golden Book**

In Honor of the Birth of  
EMMA CLAIRE JAINCHILL  
By Rita & Harold Nevins

In Honor of  
CY LEVINE  
In Celebration of His  
Contributions to TBT  
By Ed Kerekian  
By Irene Lagan

In Honor of the Yahrzeit of  
SADYE GOLDBERG FELD  
By Rhoda & Fred London

In Memory of  
GRACE REUBEN  
By Susan and Jonathan  
Reuben

**PRAYER BOOK FUND**

In Memory of  
SHERRY FICHANDLER  
HOWARD  
By Lillian, Charles and  
Jonathan Alpert

**Cemetery Service**

Shalom:

Another year has come and gone. Where does the time go? The mitzvah of remembering our loved ones at this Rosh Hashanah time inspires one and all to bond, dedicate and remember past generations. It gives our lives added meaning to complete the link to our loved ones by reciting the Kaddish (Mourners' prayer) at this time of the year.

TBT MEMORIAL PARK services will be held SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2012 AT 11:30 A.M. Once again, Rabbi Seth Riemer will lead us in an inspiring MEMORIAL SERVICE where one and all can participate. Hopefully, you will be able to join us in honoring and remembering our departed.

Donations to the MEMORIAL PARK are always appreciated and are used to defray the rising costs of maintaining the grounds.

Yours Truly,  
Harold Nevins

**AVAILABLE FUNDS**

- GOLDEN BOOK –  
Minimum donation \$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  
Wethersfield, CT 06109

## Cemetery Plots

Many new members of TBT are not aware that we have a beautiful park-like cemetery in Wethersfield available to our membership at a reduced price, which includes perpetual care. We must emphasize that all our membership is offered burial in the Memorial Park. Your estate planning is not complete if you have not considered making a purchase. Contact Harold Nevins at 860 416-7122 for further information and a tour of the Memorial Park.

## Sukkot Pot Luck

Our Annual Sukkot Pot Luck is scheduled for Friday evening, October 5 at 6:00 pm. We will start with a short version of Erev Shabbat service. Afterwards, depending on the weather, we will eat in or out, among the stars and the mosquitoes (bring some spray).

## Simchat Torah

Rejoice in the Torah on Sunday, October 7 at 7:00pm. This marks the end of one cycle and the beginning of the next cycle of reading the Torah. Let's get a great turnout and dance with the Torah and see it unwrapped around the sanctuary.

### Quiz Question

Who is a major Jewish Prophet, whose life from birth to death is included in Torah? The Torah is even known as the 5 books of His Name.

The first Temple member, including children, who responds with the correct answer, will get a small prize. Send answers to [ssreuben@snet.net](mailto:ssreuben@snet.net)

## Calendar for September and October

### SEPTEMBER

7 First service of the season,  
7:30 p.m.  
9 First Day of School  
9 – 11 a.m.  
16 Erev Rosh Hashanah  
7:30 p.m. service  
17 Rosh Hashanah  
9:00 a.m. services  
10:00 a.m. Jr. Congregation  
12:30 a.m. (approx) Tashlich  
at Cove, after services, meet  
at synagogue  
18 Rosh Hashanah  
9:00 a.m. services

23 Memorial Service at the  
cemetery 11:30 am  
25 Kol Nidre 7:30 pm  
26 Yom Kippur  
9:00 a.m. service  
10:00 a.m. Jr. Congregation  
5:00 p.m. afternoon service

### OCTOBER

5 Sukkot Service and Pot Luck  
Supper 6:00 p.m.  
7 Simchat Torah 7:00 p.m.  
23 Game Night

## Big Tent Judaism

Temple Beth Torah was invited to participate in a program organized by the Greater Hartford Jewish Federation called the Big Tent Judaism. The premise is that there are many unaffiliated Jews in the Hartford community and the existing synagogues and organizations can all become more welcoming to newcomers.

The Jewish Outreach Institute is being sponsored by the Jewish Community Foundation and all sessions are free to the local groups. They have held two workshops and individual meetings with each of the 29 Jewish groups in this area. They called and checked the website of each of the groups to see how easy it currently is to connect with these groups. They made suggestions to us about how we can improve our website so someone searching for us is able to find us and know what activities are available. Deb Hammer, Sam Hammer and Leonard Slutsky have been working on the website this summer. Take a look at our new website: [www.TempleBethTorahWethersfield.org](http://www.TempleBethTorahWethersfield.org)

## Sunday School

Schedule for TBT Hebrew School  
Fall 2012

Sept.	9	Poland
	16	Guay
	23	Ferrebee
	30	Latorra
Oct.	14	Sondik
	21	Woodcock
	28	Poland
Nov	4	Guay
	18	Ferrebee
Dec	2	Latorra
	9	Sondik
	16	Woodcock

Children should attend Friday night services regularly. Services are 1 hour long beginning at 7:30 pm followed by an Oneg. The children should celebrate and observe the holidays. There will be Jr. Congregation services for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

There will be a family pot luck supper in the Sukkah for Sukkot. Simchat Torah is a fun celebration. We will have a Chanukah party with potato latkes.

Audrey Hoss will be teaching the younger children this year. Rabbi Seth Riemer will be teaching the older children. Nancy Stillman is the school representative to the board. Enjoy the rest of the summer. See you in September.

Cecile Bronfin

## Take a look at our new website [TempleBethTorahWethersfield.org](http://TempleBethTorahWethersfield.org)

Deb Hammer, Sam Hammer and Leonard Slutsky have updated the Temple's website. They have cleaned it up so it is easier to navigate and includes a short video that the Scotts put together, with several members describing what they like about the Temple. The changes are in line with the suggestions that we received from the Big Tent Judaism. We have a page for photos so if you have pictures from any Temple event, let our webmasters know. Our new webmasters are Deb Hammer and Sam Hammer.



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(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

Susan Sackler Reuben

Connecticut Certified Master Gardener

25 Howland Road West Hartford, CT 06107  
860 561 2104 ssreuben@snet.net

## Gift Cards

Purchase gift cards for all of your shopping trips - supermarket, discount store, gas, pharmacy etc. Our top selling gift card is Stop and Shop, followed by Stew Leonard's which we purchase in Nov/Dec. Crown Supermarket encourages shoppers to recharge their cards at the cashier. We will get a check from them.

We make 4 or 5% per card. Add all of the cards together and this could be our biggest fundraiser, with no extra cost to the shoppers. We can order anything at [www.glscrip.com](http://www.glscrip.com) When you order \$500 worth of gift cards in this Jewish calendar year, you will get a copy of the Stew Leonard cook book as a thank you gift, while supplies last. Contact Susan Reuben to purchase your cards. The next order will be mid to late September and will be available for pickup at the Temple.

**TEMPLE BETH TORAH**  
130 Main Street  
Wethersfield, CT 06109