

Newsletter of Temple Beth Torah
Wethersfield, CT
Vol. 18 No. 4

Message from Rabbi Seth Riemer

Highlights:

Purim Shpiel March 1

Torah Study March 14
and April 11

Israeli Pot Luck Mar 27

As Iran's leaders continue to try to snooker us into letting them develop the Bomb, the Purim story comes up for its annual retelling. Parallels are eerily striking. In both cases...

- deceitful demagoguery (coordinated by Haman or by the Ayatollahs) serves to advance an anti-Jewish scheme of genocide
- Jews (those in Shushan petitioning King Ahashverosh or those in Israel's government petitioning the U.S. government) must gain clearance for the right to defend against this blatant threat.
- Supposedly powerful and influential Jews (whether we're talking about Queen Esther or about America's politically active Jewish community) are forced to question themselves over the right course of action: to be outspoken in confronting the evil, or to duck and hope that the storm will pass without affecting their lives.

It is definitely past the deadline for Iran to prove that it is acting in good faith and not just stalling while it moves toward weaponizing its already highly sophisticated nuclear technology. America and its allies, who are bending over backwards on the diplomatic front while imposing stiff economic sanctions, have not yet caused Iran to submit and cooperate through a negotiation process. In the case of Haman, there were no two ways about it: he ended up on the very gallows he had constructed for his Jewish

enemies. For the modern-day Hamans, death by hanging equals being foisted by the petard of their reckless nuclear ambition: seeing it blow up in their face. A taste of that came four-and-a-half years ago when American and Israeli cyber-spies planted the Stuxnet worm in Iranian nuclear facilities and inflicted terrible damage, including loss of life.

However, the Hamans of today, though as insidious as their Biblical forbear, are more sophisticated and cautious. Consequently, the options for modern-day Esthers are fewer and less attractive. Are we now required to contemplate the notion of a long, drawn-out chess game, a game with indeterminate outcome, between Mordechai and Haman—between Israel and its implacable Persian foe? Is the happy ending we celebrate on Purim—an ending in which our enemy is decisively vanquished, virtue triumphant—at this point no more than a wishful fantasy?

Remember, though, that the Purim story itself was not written by Jews very secure or autonomous in their political life. That tale projects onto the canvas of history anxious longings of a vulnerable, scattered Jewish minority—a Jewish community no more confident than we, or our Israeli brothers and sisters are, about our prospects or the guarantee of survival in an often unsympathetic and (increasingly?) hostile world. However, in order to survive in this real world we need to have an active and healthy fantasy life.

Even if we don't truly wish to see Iran incinerated through self-injury caused by its aggressive nuclear ambitions backfiring upon it, the thought of what it would be like to see the Haman-like Iranian government punished for its wickedness remains a very emotionally satisfying thing to contemplate.

Rabbi Seth

A Word from the Executive Committee

This month, we'd like to report to the Congregation that the State of the Congregation is Sound. A fitting pronouncement since we've recently heard President Obama's State of the Union address. Unlike the President of the United States, we are blessed not to have competing factions vying for our attention. Your Executive Committee is united in its resolve to keep the physical plant in good operating shape, to continue to recruit new members, and to develop new programs and to promote old favorites which will appeal to the congregation at large.

Regarding the building, we can announce that Kathi Mag has volunteered to act as "Facilities Director." In the olden days, she would have been known as the "shammes." A mixed metaphor to be sure, since women were not "allowed" to participate in the Temple management back in the day. Her first job was to organize our list of vendors so that when services are needed, those responsible would know whom to call. Barry Goldberg has volunteered to produce a wallet-sized laminated card with all the information needed and will

distribute it to those who need to have that information. In addition, Kathi will pro-actively inspect the facilities to be sure that all systems are working properly. Within the past six months, we have hired a responsible cleaning service to vacuum, sweep and dust (and clean the restrooms) each month.

One measure of a Congregation's commitment to its viability is the number of members who attend weekly services. We welcome your participation and encourage you to attend Friday evening services which are a lovely, relaxing, way to end a long work week. We recently changed the start time from 7:30pm to 7pm to make it more convenient for families to attend. We are open to your suggestions as to how we can make services more "relevant" and interesting for you. It is encouraging to note that the number of congregants and their guests who attend our various functions throughout the year (Chanukah, Purim, etc) has grown from year to year...and that is a healthy sign.

Condolences

Our sincerest condolences to Harold and Rita Nevins on the passing of Harold's dearest older brother Nathan S. Nevins. His funeral was February 24th, in Bridgeport. He passed away just two weeks shy of his 86th birthday. According to Harold, "my brother Nathan was a remarkable man who left large footprints for a devoted family to follow his many endeavors in future years."

It is with great sadness, that we share the passing of our dear, dear friend, Andie Goldberg. Our condolences go to her husband, Barry and her daughter, Michelle and her husband, Bill.

GOLDEN BOOK

IN MEMORY OF
 ANDIE GOLDBERG
 By Debra & Joseph Hammer & Family
 By Rhoda & Fred London
 By Kathi & Elliot Mag
 By Dr. Ronald Nadler
 By Rhaenel & Dan Stone
 By Wendell & Susan Coogan
 By Jan & Syd Elkin
 By Phil & Bernie Santangelo
 By Dr. & Mrs. Bernard Shapiro
 By Dr. & Mrs. Neil Shapiro
 and Staff From Shapiro Family
 Dentistry
 By Carol Gershenson
 By Susan and Jonathan Reuben

TORAH REPAIR FUND
 IN MEMORY OF ANDIE GOLDBERG
 By Cecile & Barry Bronfin

IN MEMORY OF
 NATE NEVINS
 By Rhoda & Fred London
 By Cecile & Barry Bronfin
 By Carol Gershenson
 By Judy and Marty Gold
 By Debra and Joseph Hammer & Family

IN HONOR OF
 Birth of Son To Sarah & Matthew Forrest
 By Debra & Joseph Hammer & Family

Donations to TBT can be sent to:

Rhoda London, 516 Coppermill Road,
 Wethersfield, CT, 06109. Donations can be
 directed to the Torah Repair Fund, Helping
 Hands, the Building Fund or as a general
 donation.

TBT Book Group

The TBT Book Group has not been able to meet for the past several months for a variety of reasons. We would like to start up again in the near future. If you are interested in joining us or would like to find out more about the Book Group, please call Bert Woodcock at 860.529.7575. Feel free to suggest a book or an article that you've read that you'd like to discuss, or an issue or topic you think would be of interest to discuss from a Jewish perspective. We are open to all ideas.

Purim Spiel and Megilah

Our Purim Spiel and Megilah reading took place Sunday, March 1st after school. As part of our TBT tradition, Cecile and Barry Bronfin brought tasty batches of hamentashen! Our Religious School children came in costumes and performed a Purim skit that they helped write. The groggers and noisemakers were loud enough to drown out the name of 'he who shall not be named'! Extra points to the two students, Carlee Rice and Julianna Rose, who made a Purim song using the music of Taylor Swift's song, 'Shake It Off'.

Torah Study

We meet once a month to discuss the weekly Torah portion. Our discussions are always lively and fun. We draw freely upon a wide range of subjects connecting Jewish scholarship (offered by Rabbi Seth) to comparative religion, social theory and the personal experiences of the participants. We have coffee, bagels, and other refreshments. Please come and join us at Temple Beth Torah at 9:30 am in the Social Hall on the following dates:

March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13

Israeli Supper with Emissaries March 27

Save the Date! Friday, March 27, our Israeli Emissaries will be visiting TBT. We will be hosting a Mediterranean Israeli Pot Luck Supper in their honor. **Shabbat Services will begin promptly at 6:30 pm**, followed by our dinner. Think about what you would like to bring.

Listed below is a sampling of dairy/parve food items we have enjoyed in the past.

falafel, baba ganoush, tabouleh, hummus, stuffed grape leaves, chopped salad, pita bread, spanakopita, figs, eggplant cutlets, couscous

salad, fruits, dates, olives, oranges, kugel, egg salad, tuna salad, cheese and crackers

dessert, soda, juice, ice tea, any other beverages

paper plates, plastic cups, napkins

RSVP to Kathi Mag at 860-655-0365 or kathimag625@gmail.com.

Temple Beth Torah

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

Rabbi Seth Riemer
(860) 665-8014
SethRiemer@aol.com

Executive Committee:

Sallyanne and Barry Scott,
Kathi and Eliot Mag, and Karen
Klein

Treasurer:

Barry Goldberg

Recording Secretary:

Carol Gershenson

Corresponding Secretary:

Rhoda London

Trustees

Ellen Sue Moses and Mark
Gould

Committee

Memorial Park

Barry Goldberg

Building

Kathi Mag, Gary Evans

Publicity

Debra Ehrlich

Education

Bert and Jeanne Woodcock

Membership

Karen Klein

Star Editor

Susan Sackler Reuben

Torah Study, Building Rental and Webmaster

Deb Hammer

Ways and Means

Judy Gold

High Holidays

Cecile Bronfin, Kathi and Eliot
Mag, Carol Gershenson, Fred
London, Sallyanne and Barry Scott,
Rabbi Seth Riemer and Barbara

Checknoff

Nominations

Cecile Bronfin

Artist-in-Residence

Phil Lohman with Ralph Horowitz

TempleBethTorahWethersfield.org

School Calendar and Challah Schedule

March	1	Brody	Purim
	8	Lev	
	15	Evans	
	22	Sondik	
April	12	Rose	
	19	Rice	
	26	Brody	
May	3	Lev	
	10	Evans	
	17	Sondik	
	31	Rose	
June	7	Brody	
	14	Rice	

Oneg Schedule

All of the members have been given an assigned date to sponsor the Oneg reception following Friday night services. Check our website

www.templebethtorahwethersfield.org to see when your date is. If the date conflicts with your schedule, you can swap dates with someone else. Thank you, for your cooperation.

Passover is 'early' this year. The first Seder is Friday, April 3. There will be no services that night.

Board Meetings

Upcoming board meetings are scheduled for Mondays, March 9, April 13 and May 11 at 7:00 p.m. The annual meeting is on Monday, June 8 at 7:00 p.m. The meetings are open to Temple members in good standing.



*Owned And Operated
By NKT 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



Susan Sackler Reuben
Connecticut Certified Master Gardener

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

Got Shopping Cards?

Do you shop at Stop and Shop or Big Y? We will be ordering shopping cards March 17. If you would like some, write a check payable to the Temple and send it to Susan Sackler Reuben along with a note saying what you would like. You pay the face value and get a shopping card for that amount. The Temple gets some needed funds.

TEMPLE BETH TORAH
130 Main Street
Wethersfield, CT 06109