



The STAR (light!)

A Temple Beth Torah Newsletter
August 2024: Tamuz-Av 5784

Rabbi Alan's Message...

SUMMERTIME STAR NEWSLETTER 2024

THE RABBI'S WORD

We are well into the summer months of relaxation. During this time, we will welcome the month of Tammuz. According to the Talmud, the spiritual sense of sight which is associated with the month of Tammuz is the ability to “see through” physical realities, to behold the Divine source of what we encounter. Tammuz becomes a good time for letting go of what no longer serves us, and to begin to empty our hearts and open ourselves in preparation of the New Year, which will arrive in a short time, October 2 to be exact. For us as individuals and as a community, this becomes a good time for reflection in our own lives and in the life and future direction of our congregation, as we each take an inventory of our spiritual, in what brings us the greatest joy state. This unique sense of sight and vision means that what lies ahead is as much about what we actually see as how we perceive and respond to what we face. And as always, we are appreciative of our leadership.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy, relaxing, peaceful summer.

Kol tuv, with all goodness.

Rabbi Alan Lefkowitz

A Message from the Co-presidents...

Though we take a summer hiatus from holding weekly Shabbat services, the work at TBT continues in earnest!

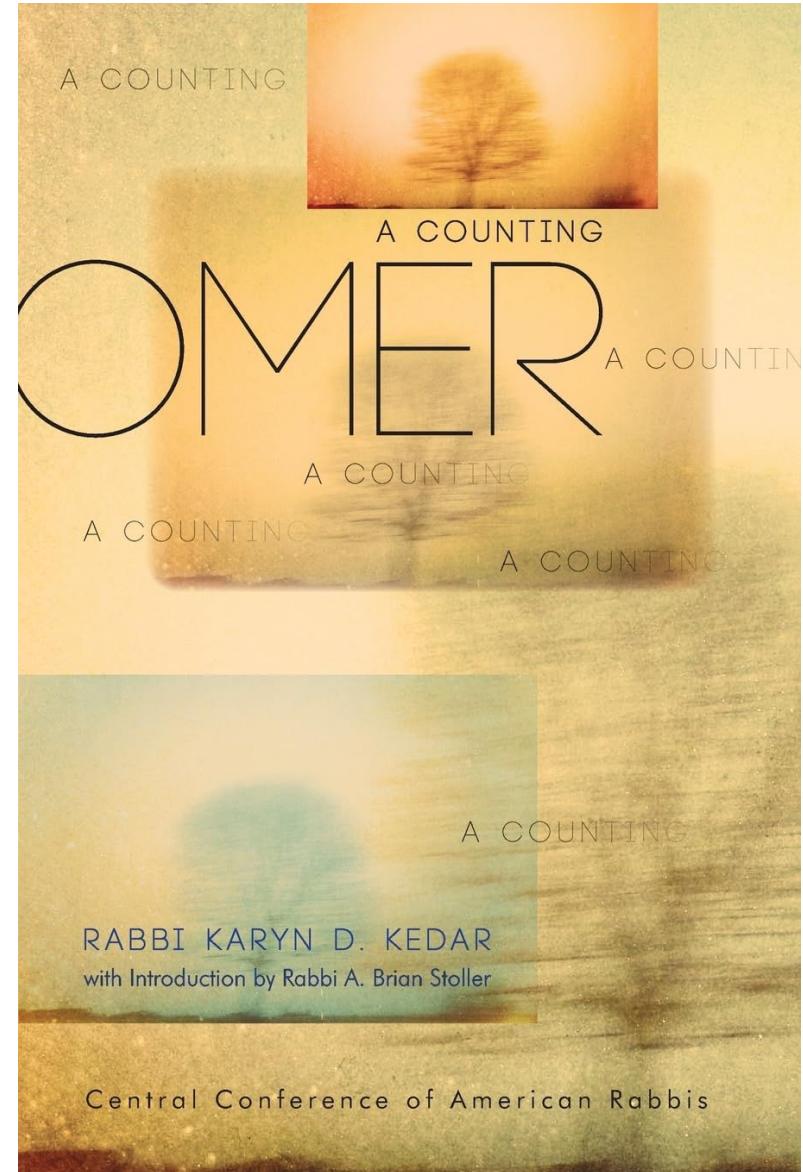
- David and team have been busy installing new doors throughout the building. These are code-compliant, safer doors, funded by our security grant award. A new keypad lock has been installed on the Social Hall door, which will go into action soon.
- A TBT angel has done some pruning to tidy up the little garden area near the Social Hall entrance, and we'll be trimming the large tree to the side of the kitchen to clear overhead branches from that roof area.
- Rabbi Alan, David and Deb have developed a basic calendar schedule for the upcoming year, and work has already begun for the High Holiday season.
- Gary has been putting in many hours bringing clearer organization and efficiency to our banking and insurance needs.
- Wayne continues to lead our informal discussion group, which met in mid-July to engage in a very timely discussion (with no easy answers!) about how we have conversations with people who strongly disagree with us.

See you soon! ~ David and Debra

Tikkun Leil Shavuot, June 12th

This annual gathering never fails to inspire and touch the heart! With a good-sized group present, brief lessons and personal stories were shared. You truly had to be there to appreciate the human wonderfulness of it. And, to top it off, Helene S. provided us with delicious cheesecakes! One book that Mara presented from was of interest to many. For those wishing to explore further, it was *Omer: A Counting* by Rabbi Karyn Kedar.

Todah rabah, to all of the participants!!!



Tikkun Leil Shavuot, June 12th



Recent losses in our TBT community...

Bruce Kaplan, husband of Barbara (Kalb) Kaplan

Barbara Checknoff, mother of Calmen, Ezra and Hadassah
Riemer, family of Rabbi Seth Riemer

Melvin Rosenblatt, brother of Helene Rosenblatt

May the memories of these special people be a
source of strength and a blessing to their loved ones.



TBT ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 10



On a perfect weather evening, THIS COUPLE was serenaded by Deb, with a parody of Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Getting to Know You*, entitled, ***Judy and Marty!***

TBT ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 10



Others present for the meeting, which included lively conversation, the election of our new slate of board officers, and some fine picnic dining!



TBT ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 10

Board Trustees

President

(co-presidents)

Debra Hammer/
David Forrest

Vice President

Joe Rosenblatt

Treasurer

Gary Evans

Recording Secretary

Carol Gershenson

Financial Secretary

Sallyanne Scott

Corresponding Secretary

Susan Matthews

Trustees (4)

Marty Gold
Judy Gold
Debbie Ehrlich
Susan Reuben

Cemetery Committee

OPEN, Chair
Debbie Ehrlich
Debra Hammer

Ritual Committee

Joe Rosenblatt

High Holiday
sub-committee

Membership Committee

OPEN

Ways & Means

Helene Rosenblatt

Education Committee

No Hebrew School

Immediate Past President

Sallyanne Scott

TBT ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 10



Meeting in our lovely agricultural setting!

Donations to TBT, gratefully received

In MEMORY of THELMA COHN, mother of Karen Klein

Sallyanne and Barry Scott

Carol Gershenson

In MEMORY of BRUCE KAPLAN, husband of Barbara (Kalb) Kaplan

Debra and Joe Hammer

In MEMORY of BARBARA CHECKNOFF, mother of Calmen, Ezra and Hadassah

Riemer, family of Rabbi Seth Riemer

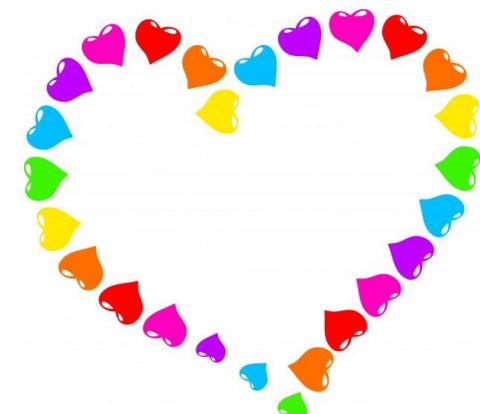
Sallyanne and Barry Scott

Debra and Joe Hammer

In MEMORY of MELVIN ROSENBLATT, brother of Helene Rosenblatt

Debra and Joe Hammer

Sallyanne and Barry Scott



Donations to TBT, gratefully received

In MEMORY of SHAYNA and MALCOLM LAMSON, parents of Debra Hammer

In MEMORY of GERALDEEN LOHMAN, wife of Phil Lohman

In MEMORY of STEVE LEON

In HONOR of PHIL LOHMAN, for his myriad of contributions to TBT

In HONOR of Harold and RITA NEVINS, wishing them blessings

In MEMORY of ABE SACKLER, father of Susan Sackler Reuben

Carol Gershenson



Other Donations to TBT, gratefully received

The adult children of Barbara Checknoff and Rabbi Seth Riemer - Calmen, Ezra and Hadassah - most generously donated a number of beautiful items to TBT. These include several tallitot, a charming tambourine to add to our percussion instruments, and several door-frame mezuzot (see pic). If any member is in need of a mezuzah, please let us know! In Barbara's memory, we'd like to "pay it forward" and see these used to continue Jewish tradition.



Grocery Gift Card Fundraiser Time!



While Judy is here in New England, she has offered to organize a Grocery Gift Card Fundraiser! It's very simple:

- Let Judy know which of these stores you shop at, and what value shopping card(s) you would like: Stop & Shop, Big Y, Stew Leonard's
- Send her a check or Zelle, and she will purchase your cards for you
- Stores then donate a % of the card value to TBT
- You use your card(s) as normal, enjoying the full value of the card(s)

Contact Judy TODAY to find out more details! (Please let us know if an email or phone number is needed.)



Congratulations
to Joe
Rosenblatt,
selected to be
the TBT
representative to
the JFGH
Community
Leadership
Initiative
Program!