



# The STAR (light!)

A Temple Beth Torah Newsletter  
October-November-December 2024:  
Tishrei-Cheshvan-Kislev 5785

# Rabbi Alan's Message...

## WE CAN LIGHT UP THE DARKNESS

Bring on the light! As we approach the end of the secular year 2024, many religions and cultures around the world celebrate the power of light. They include lighting trees, lanterns and lamps, fireworks and bonfires and we as Jews light the candles of the *chanukiah*, the Chanukah menorah, adding a candle, and brightness each night, for 8 nights. Each custom demonstrates the revelation that each of us have within us an inextinguishable light. Let us marvel at what we see in the mirror with the same wonder as we gaze at our burning lights. Ask yourself as you look at your reflection with awe; You are amazing: how did you do that? Our tradition wants us to marvel at our own unique light and to live that life fully, to live to your true calling to fulfill the mission that God has given to each of us.

As we gaze at our lights, let's do so with gratitude. Through the light let each of us recognize our compassion, justice, and capabilities and how we benefit others as others have benefited us. Through those lights, let us recognize that what we are doing and who we are with are meant to be.

Like fish in water, we are in reality, being ourselves. Ask yourself how do I feel when I am doing certain things, does it come easily? Is it natural for me? Trust your inner wisdom and stay tuned to that light within as we gaze at the lights that glow in front of us.



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# Rabbi Alan's Message... cont'd.

In this season of light, remember that light signifies victory of light over darkness. We remember the Greeks who wanted to extinguish and remove the light from us in 167 BCE and yet we as a people persevered; as good overtakes evil and thoughtlessness. We celebrate for eight nights beginning the evening of December 25.

Let us use this time to celebrate the light that you are and the many ways you shine your light. Consider your purpose, how you have overcome challenges in your life simply by being you. Just as the moon lights the sky (and those who know me know how much I love the moon) and the moon has more songs than the sun; you are a light as you share your gifts with our congregation, the Jewish community and the wider community.

In this season of gratitude for light and life, include your willingness, determination, courage, and endurance as you continue to live in the light. Remember, your light brightens even one corner of your world, as your light can only represent love and love of life.

Rabbi Alan

## TBT CHANUKAH CELEBRATION:

Our congregational Chanukah celebration will take place on Sunday, December 22 at 11:00 AM.

Bring your Menorah for our Community light.





NEW MEMBERS:

ELYSE AND STEVE FELTMAN

# A Message from the Co-presidents...

With another New Year “in the book,” so to speak, we have many to express our appreciation to ~

- All those who accepted important roles on the bima, led so capably by our multi-talented spiritual leader Rabbi Alan, including David and Sallyanne for orchestrating, Joe R. for expertly chanting challenging Haftarot, and our tremendous guest shofar blower, Sam S.! In addition, we thank all of the willing participants that took on Torah honors and readings.
- While we’re on the bima, we’d be remiss if we did not acknowledge the gorgeous fresh flower arrangements donated by Carol G. and Leslie L. for Rosh Hashanah, and the Scotts and Golds for Yom Kippur. We also thank Kathi for coordinating the deliveries.
- On Kol Nidre, Helene R. and her flute set the mood so beautifully!
- The team of Joe and Janet R., and Helene S., sponsored a delicious “Break-Fast” for those gathered to conclude the Yom Kippur holiday. We thank you!
- Elves and angels took on housekeeping chores, plumbing efforts, prayer book swaps, gardening and more – your work does not go unnoticed, and we are grateful for it!

See you soon! ~ David and Debra

**Thanks to ALL who participated in this annual fundraiser!!**



Marc Chagall, The Shofar

**MAY YOUR NEW YEAR  
BE HAPPY, HEALTHY  
AND SWEET !**

**L'SHANA TOVAH  
FROM THE  
TEMPLE BETH  
TORAH FAMILY**

*L'Shana Tova Tikkateva  
A Happy Healthy New Year*

Rabbi Alan and Jody Lefkowitz

Ruth Brainin

Valerie Carpenter and Evelyne Carpenter

Debbie Ehrlich

Carol Ann Gershenson

Judy and Marty Gold;  
Monica, Lee, Jack and Adam Gold;  
Deborah, Aaron, Ryan and Zachary Jainchill

Deb and Joe Hammer; Sam and Lily

Maureen Horowitz;  
Hannah Horowitz, Cristi and Diana Proistosescu

Karen and Bob Klein and Family

Rhoda and Fred London;  
Inna, David, Sam, Jack and Jonah

Levine-Rosenblatt Family

Kathi and Eliot Mag;  
Saul, Bela and Gracen;  
Leslie, Chris, Jack and Ben Poland

Ellen Sue Moses and Mark A. Gould

Rita and Harold Nevins

Helene Rosenblatt

Sallyanne and Barry Scott;  
Todd, Lindsay and Tenley  
Aaron and Ilana

# Bima Flowers for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur



# Kol Nidre: Special Guests - Deputy Mayor Forrest and family



# Kol Nidre with a Special Surprise:

A Torah was gifted to TBT. It originated with the East Hartford congregation that Helene S. had been an active member of. She received the honor of holding that Torah for the chanting of Kol Nidre. Rest assured, she's on the petite side, but very mighty!!!

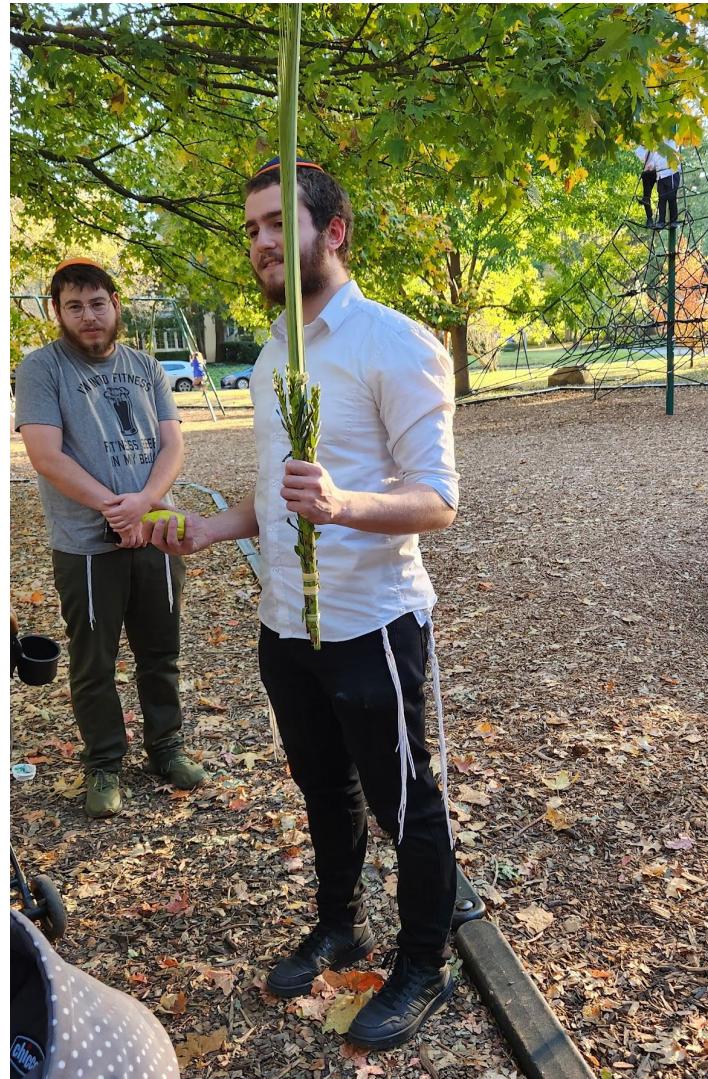


# Our Sukkah: Made Better With Celebrants!

Thank you, Gary, for construction!!!!



# Maureen and granddaughter observed SUKKOT traditions in Carle Park, Urbana, Illinois!



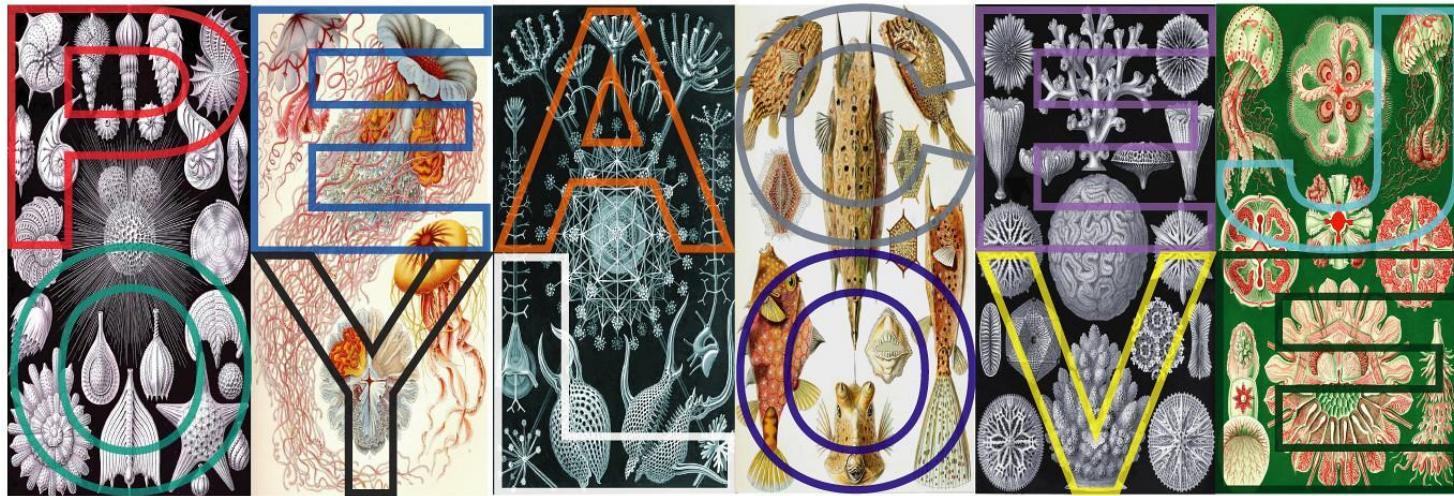
"I wanted to share this. 4 young men arrived at the neighborhood park I went to with my granddaughter and other friends. They explained the lulav and etrog to us. I gave the lulav a shake. It was so nice!" ~ M.H.

# Honoring Phil's Memory - Nov. 9



Friends and family of Phil gathered to collectively honor this very special and dear man by sharing stories and other memories at the Keeney Center. Some of Phil's many projects were on display. It was a heartwarming afternoon for all of us there. Others from TBT not pictured include Kathi M., Gary E. and Donna F. The Wethersfield Onion is just one of Phil's beloved creations!

# We begin a new Adult Education Series on Finding Happiness and Joy



Join us this Wednesday, November 13 in the TBT Social Hall at 7:00 pm. as we welcome guest speaker Audrey Carlson, founder of the Hartford Happiness Club. From her website bio, *“None of us is exempt from tragedy and loss... But all of us have a choice. I invite you to join this journey of seeking joy and peace and happiness. It is indeed a trip worth taking and sharing with others along the way.”*

Light refreshments. Registration by email to [TBT.W.CT@gmail.com](mailto:TBT.W.CT@gmail.com)

# Helene R.: A True Artist in Our Midst



Helene enchanted us with her flute renditions of Kol Nidre and other Jewish melodies as we entered the sanctuary for our Kol Nidre Shabbat service. She teaches, performs, is the founder/leader of several performance groups, and much more!

She performs with other faculty of the Community Music School THIS Sunday, Nov. 17 @ The Kate, 300 Main St., Old Saybrook.

Full details available at <https://conta.cc/40yHSU2>

# Donations to TBT, gratefully received

In MEMORY of PHIL LOHMAN

Maureen Horowitz

Debra and Joe Hammer

In MEMORY of DAISY, beloved pup of Sallyanne and Barry Scott

Karen and Bob Klein

In MEMORY of JUDY FAIR, cousin of Karen Klein

Karen and Bob Klein

In MEMORY of MEL ROSENBLATT, brother, and for YAHRZEIT of STANLEY ROSENBLATT, father

Helene Rosenblatt



# Donations to TBT Memorial Park, gratefully received

By the MARKS FAMILY FOUNDATION

By SARAH MICHAELS, in memory of Rose  
Michaels, Stanton Revzon and Ronald Michaels



