

The summer was filled with a variety of wonderful events, including the return of our Sisterhood's annual Game Night and a Men's Club outing to a Long Island Ducks game for Jewish Heritage Night.



## Off the Bimah

#### The Sacred Art of Returning by Rabbi Jack Dermer



Dear Friends,

With this September edition of our Temple Beth Torah Times, the High Holy Days are right around the corner. In a few short days, we will join together with Jews throughout the world in picking up the "Machzor," the text that leads us through the holiest period of our yearly cycle,

and together, through song and sacred worship, recenter ourselves in the values of our tradition for the year to come.

The name of our special Holiday prayer book, "Machzor," comes from the Hebrew word which means "return."

To what are we returning?

On the most literal level, we are returning from the slightly quieter summer season to a full Temple Beth Torah sanctuary, finding our places once more in the pews, and feeling the comforting spiritual atmosphere that only a sanctuary – a Temple home – can provide.

We return, however, in so many other ways during this season.

Many have the custom of returning to cemeteries to visit the gravesites of loved ones – feeling close to them, sharing with them our hopes for the coming year, letting them know we will miss them around the holiday table, helps us to return to the cherished memories and the legacies of goodness that endure.

Some also take this time to return to old friendships and relationships left aside during the year. There is a longstanding custom of writing heartfelt letters or sending messages during this period, in the spirit of Teshuva, owning up to the mistakes we have made through the year, asking for forgiveness, and healing that which is broken when it comes to the people who matter in our lives.

Lastly and perhaps most importantly, we return during this time to the point of Godliness and divinity within ourselves. Quieting the external distractions of our daily business and taking a good hard look in the mirror of our souls, we ask ourselves, "in what ways have I lived to my potential, made proper use of sacred the gift of life, and in what ways have I fallen short

#### Preaching to the Chorus by Cantor Scott Sokol



Shiru l'Adonai shir chadash, shiru l'Adonai kol haaretz!

Sing unto the Lord a new song, sing unto the Lord all the earth!

Many years ago in my first cantorial pulpit we had a rather disturbing episode take place during my first Neilah service, in which Francene

was accosted by a congregant while she (and the other choir members) were humming during a setting I was singing. The congregant grabbed her music folder from the pews, and screamed that she was "making the synagogue sound like a church." It was a terribly upsetting moment for everyone that definitely left a strong impression on me (and of course on Francene).

Many years later, what I took away from this episode was that 1) people have very poor boundaries, 2) change is very difficult for some and 3) education about our tradition is important, as is a spirit of growth. So with those ideas in mind, and with the upcoming High Holiday season fast approaching, I thought that it would be a good idea to teach a little bit about the Jewish choral tradition, which has had both a profound effect on me personally, and more importantly has been a central part of Jewish worship and culture for millennia.

The Jewish choral tradition goes back to the time of the Great Temple when the Levi'im would sing Psalms and other prayers in massive choruses. This tradition paved the way later on for choral music in the Christian Church and indeed could be claimed to be the most important precursor of choral music in general. After the destruction of the Temple, Jewish choral music dissipated and indeed for a time was considered non-Halachic by many rabbinic authorities. Although there were a couple of notable exceptions (e.g., the choral music of Salomone Rossi in the 16th and early 17th Centuries), it was not until the 19th Century that Jewish choral music experienced a true renaissance. In the great synagogues of Eastern Europe and later in America and South Africa, choral music was considered a sine qua non of Jewish worship.

## Press from Our Leaders

Press from the President by Nancy Marshall, President



Well, the summer has been flying by. We are busy gearing up for a wonderful holiday season. But even before Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, exciting things are happening here!

We'll be having a Deli Shabbat Dinner at the Temple on Friday, September 1. We are looking forward to a deli-

cious and fun evening catching up with Temple Beth Torah friends.

This year, we are introducing a new and exciting program: **TBT Fest 5784**. On Sunday afternoon on September 10, we'll have the Temple hopping with jazz music, a dessert food truck and several activities for kids and adults alike. I'm looking forward to hearing the smooth jazz of Ken Maltz and Friends. Cantor Sokol will also be joining them for a few numbers.

Hopefully the weather will cooperate and it'll be held in the parking lot. Otherwise, we'll move it into the social hall. It's a great time to come back, reconnect with Temple Beth Torah friends, and show off all that we have to offer. Bring your friends, let them see what we're about. Our new Membership Vice President, Bonnie Heimowitz, will be at a membership table to answer questions. If anyone wants to volunteer to help her (which includes giving tours of our facility), please let us know.

We are also looking for volunteers to help us make this HUGE success. Please contact Lauren in the office or Ken Maltz if you are interested.

TBT Fest will be a great prelude to our holiday season! Believe it or not, we're into Elul and Rosh Hashanah is around the corner. Please be sure to settle your accounts so that you can pick up your tickets at the Temple office. Lauren will be there for ticket pickup during the TBT Fest as well as during her regular hours. We will announce additional times when they are available.

As you probably know, these articles are written a few weeks in advance of publication. I also want to report that last night we were lucky enough to be part of Celebrate Israel Night at the LI Ducks game. Men's Club secured tickets for us. The program was terrific, Israeli music, Hatikvah was sung along with the Star Spangled Banner, and they even had a Jewish trivia

#### TEMPLE BETH TORAH

SEPTEMBER EVENTS Friday, 9/1 + Shabbat Deli for Dinner Monday, 9/4 - Labor Day Tuesday, 9/5 - Executive Committee Meeting Thursday 9/7 - Bar Mitzvah of Ethan Rubin Saturday, 9/9 - Community Selichot Service @ OWJC Sunday, 9/10 - TBTFest & Open House Monday, 9/11 - Board of Trustees Meeting Friday, 9/15-Sunday, 9/17 - Rosh Hashanah Monday, 9/18 - Fast of Gedaliah Tuesday, 9/19 - Tashlich Sunday, 9/24 - Kol Nidre Monday 9/25 - Yom Kippur Friday, 9/29 - Blessing of the Pets & Outdoor Kabbalat Shabbat Friday, 9/29 - Sunday 10/1 - Sukkot

Contact Lauren @ TBT for more information: 516-334-7979 or admin@templebethtorahli.org

#### Rabbi (Continued from Page 2)

of the person I know I can be." We return during this season, with the help of our liturgy, to the still small voice of G-d, the voices of the values of our ancestors, and we pray that we will be motivated to change that which we have the power to change, that we may create in the coming year, a life of blessings for ourselves and those we love.

With deep excitement for the meaningful season we will share, I look forward to greeting everyone over the course of our Holy days, and wish, from Kayley and me, a Shanah Tovah U'Metukah – May it be a sweet and wonderful start to the year for all.

Rabbi Dermer

game between innings!

Looking forward to seeing many of you at TBT Fest, our warm up for the holidays, and then again during the High Holiday season.



## Around the Congregation

#### Cantor (Continued from Page 2)

The three greatest examples of this tradition were in the synagogues of Paris, Vienna and Berlin. In these communities, there was an efflorescence of musical composition which maintained authentic nusach, but presented it with artful choral arrangements crafted within the prevailing sensibilities of European harmony and counterpoint. The master of these forms in Paris was Samuel Naumbourg, cantor and composer; in Vienna it was cantor-composer Solomon Sulzer, and in Berlin composer and music director Louis Lewandowski. Many of their compositions have been maintained to the present day, although usually in watered down, less sophisticated versions. These include the best known melodies of Shema Yisrael, Tsadik Katamar, and Seu She'arim.

In more contemporary times, Jewish choral music has had a much deserved second renaissance. Hundreds of Jewish choruses have sprung up nationwide ranging from amateur to professional groups, and spanning all age ranges as well. One of the recent boons to the Jewish choral movement has been the growth of the Jewish a cappella movement across college campuses nationwide. Additionally each summer the North American Jewish Choral Festival brings together hundreds of Jewish choral singers from across the US, Canada and Israel for a week of learning and singing. This past summer was the 34th such festival, and I had the privilege of participating and teaching again as I have for many years.

On a personal level it was in a Jewish chorus, the world famous Zamir Chorale of Boston, that I met Francene, and for which I was proud to serve as assistant conductor and vocal coach for a number of years. In addition, about twenty years ago, I cofounded Koleinu: The Jewish Community Chorus of Boston and served for a time as the conductor of the Boston chapter of HaZamir: The International Jewish Teen Choir. (Francene is the assistant director of HaZamir nationally by the way.) My sons have grown up in HaZamir and the North American Jewish Choral Festival, and each has left a profound mark on their development.

This High Holiday season I am excited to bring some of this choral tradition back to Temple Beth Torah, and thank in advance my "meshorerim" (choristers) Francene and our friends Jill and Larry Sandberg. We received a lot of positive feedback last year, though I'm not so naïve as to assume it was everyone's cup of tea. I do hope however that regardless

#### The Next Step

#### Bar Mitzvah of Ethan Rubin Son of Cary and Marni



My name is Ethan Rubin and I am becoming a Bar Mitzvah on September 7th. I am excited for my special day. I have worked extremely hard with Rabbi Dermer this past year. I have learned so much from my sessions with him, especially that it takes a lot of work and commitment to prepare for such an important day. I have taken this work ethic from studying my Torah portion and applied it to my life outside of Hebrew School.

Most days you can find me either spending time with family and friends or on the tennis court. I have learned that to do well in school and on the court, it takes practice and a lot of focus and hard work.

For my Bar Mitzvah project, I have decided to raise money for Breast

Cancer research. Breast cancer has affected not only my family but so many others in our community. I am selling stadium blankets with the slogan "Forever Grateful" and hope to raise as much money as I can. All the proceeds of my sale will be going to the "Dubin Breast Center of The Tisch Cancer Institute". The ability to give back to one's community is the most important Jewish value that I have learned during my Jewish education at Temple Beth Torah. Thank you to my family and friends for all of their support.

of your personal aesthetic and experience with choral music, you will open your hearts and minds to the possibility of enhancing your spiritual appreciation of the High Holiday liturgy through this unique and authentic tradition.



## Around the Congregation

Recipe from Our Sisterhood: Apple Cake

Submitted by Rabbi Kayley Romick

From The Farm Girl Gabs

#### Ingredients:

Fresh Apples Orange Juice Vegetable Oil, Eggs, Flour Cinnamon, Vanilla Extract

- 1. You'll need an angel food pan for this cake. Grease and flour the tube pan thoroughly.
- 2. Next, you'll need to peel six apples. I like to mix apple varieties when I bake. It adds a delicious depth to the flavor of the recipe. For this cake, I used Cortland and Gala apples.
- 3. Slice the apples and combine with half of the cinnamon sugar mixture.
- 4. Sift flour, sugar, baking powder and salt together and pour in a large mixing bowl. Add the liquid ingredients and mix just until incorporated.
- 5. Pour half of the cake batter in the prepared pan. This is a thick batter. Layerhalf of the apple slices and sprinkle half of the remaining cinnamon sugar over top. Repeat once more with the remaining batter and remaining sliced apples.
- 6. Bake in a 350-degree oven for about one hour and twenty minutes. Let cool completely in the pan and when it's finished. This is a very dense cake, so you may have to bake an additional 15 minutes depending on your oven.



Join us in welcoming our new members to Temple Beth Torah:

Laura Zimmerman & Leonard Holtz Shani and Jeff Romick Gerald and Suzan Weinstein Howard and Sharon Applebaum Natalie York Lawrence Ceasar

Cays of this + that!



Mazel tov to our needlecraft group – Susan Checkla, Wendy Gray, Arline Herzog, Michele Lippman, Florine Polner, Monica Seidman and Betty Weiss. This team continues to crochet items for a nonprofit organization, Care to Knit, Inc., which donates to various charities. Future projects will consist of more hats, scarves, lap blankets, baby blankets and other accessories for additional charities including breast cancer support groups, nursing homes, Veterans' Hospitals, Madonna Heights, American Heart Association and Hospice of New York. If you would like to be part of their future mitzvah projects, come join them each week (beginners or experienced needlecrafters) or make a monetary donation to help us purchase yarn.



Mazel tov to Lorraine Greenberg on becoming a Bat Mitzvah at Temple Beth Torah earlier this summer. We're so proud of you!

Our condolences to the Herman family on the passing of Blanche Lerman, mother and motherin-law of Roberta and Alan Herman, grandmother of Jaime, Daniel, David, and Adam.

Our condolences to the Friedman family on the passing of Libby Friedman, beloved wife of Sheldon, mother of Mitchel and Ricky, and grandmother of Jack.

Our condolences to the Kay family on the passing of Sally Kay.

## Recent Events















## Recent Events



## Upcoming Events for September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
3	Labor Day <b>4</b>	5	6
Morning Minyan, 9:00 a.m. Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	Rabbi's Class, 7:30 p.m. Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.
10	11	12	13
Morning Minyan, 9:00 a.m. TBT Fest 5784 Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	Rabbi's Class, 7:30 p.m. Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.
Rosh <b>17</b> Hashanah	Fast of <b>18</b> Gedaliah	19	20
Second Day The schedule of services for Rosh Hashanah will be communicated to the congregation.	Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	Tashlich Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	Rabbi's Class, 7:30 p.m. Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.
Kol Nidre <b>24</b> Erev Yom Kippur	Yizkor <b>25</b> Yom Kippur	26	27
The schedule of services for Yom Kippur will be communicated to the congregation.	The schedule of services for Yom Kippur will be communicated to the congregation.	Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	Rabbi's Class, 7:30 p.m. Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.

## Upcoming Events for September 2023

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	1 Candle Lighting, 7:10 p.m. Shabbat Services, 6:30 p.m. Shabbat Deli for Dinner	2 Shabbat Services, 9:45 a.m. Minha Services, 7:10 p.m.	c
<b>7</b> Bar Mitzvah of Ethan Rubin Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	8 Candle Lighting, 6:59 p.m. Shabbat Services, 6:30 p.m.	Selichot 9 Shabbat Services, 9:45 a.m. Community Selichot Service @ OWJC Minha Services, 7:00 p.m.	
14 Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	Erev Rosh Hashanah 15 The schedule of services for Rosh Hashanah will be communicated to the congregation.	Rosh 16 Hashanah First Day The schedule of services for Rosh Hashanah will be communicated to the congregation.	1
21 Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	22 Candle Lighting, 6:35 p.m. Shabbat Services, 6:30 p.m.	Shabbat 23 Shuva Shabbat Services, 9:45 a.m. Minha Services, 6:35 p.m.	
28 Evening Minyan, 8:30 p.m.	Erev Sukkot 29 Candle Lighting, 6:23 p.m. Blessing of the Pets Outdoor Shabbat	Sukkot 30 First Day Shabbat Services, 9:45 a.m. Minha Services, 6:25 p.m.	

## Upcoming Event Spotlight

Our leadership and clergy work tirelessly to craft experiences which will be inspirational, meaningful and safe for all involved.

Temple Beth Torah is still active and thriving. If you haven't come by lately, please do! There's always something going on here at Temple Beth Torah!

We value our members and your opinions.

If you have ideas for future programs or events, or if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to our office, our co-presidents and/or our clergy.

## **Upcoming Events**

# TEMPLE BETH TORAH TBTFEST 5784

## SWEET TREATS FOR A

**SWEET NEW YEAR!** SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

2:00 - 5:00 PM

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Shofar Blowing Workshop & Holiday Crafts for Children Temple Tours for Prospective Members & More!

COME SEE OLD FRIENDS AND MEET NEW ONES! ALL ARE INVITED! PLEASE BRING A PROSPECTIVE MEMBER! A suggested donation of \$18 will help us cover costs. If you would like to be listed as a sponsor, and help support TBT programming, please let us know!

RSVP to Lauren @: <u>admin@templebethtorahli.org</u> or 516-334-7979 so that we can make sure our food truck is prepared!

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For more information, contact Lauren @ 516-334-7979 or admin@templebethtorahli.org

## A Guide to Temple Beth Torah

## CONTACT US

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> Rabbi Jack Dermer rabbi@templebethtorahli.org

Cantor Scott Sokol cantorsokol@templebethtorahli.org

Co-Presidents Michael Cohen & Nancy Marshall presidentetemplebethtorahli.org

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## TEMPLE FRIENDS INITIATIVE IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE?

TEMPLE BETH TORAH IS MORE THAN JUST A TEMPLE; WE ARE A RELIGIOUS FAMILY WHO CARES ABOUT EACH OTHER. WE HAVE A GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS, IN ADDITION TO OUR CLERGY, WHO TAKE TIME TO ASSIST TEMPLE MEMBERS IN NEED. WHETHER IT'S A FRIENDLY PHONE CALL, VISITS FROM FULLY VACCINATED VOLUNTEERS, PRESCRIPTION PICK UP, KOSHER SNACKS AND HOMEMADE TREATS DELIVERED, POST-SHIVA AND BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT - AT TEMPLE BETH TORAH, WE ARE THERE FOR EACH OTHER.

IF YOU ARE STRUGGLING OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU. ALL INFORMATION SHARED IS CONFIDENTIAL. CONTACT MICHELE LIPPMAN OR RABBI DERMER.



## SCHEDULE OF RELIGIOUS SERVICES

#### DAILY SERVICES

EVENING MINYANS (SUN - THURS), 8:30 P.M. SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES, 9:00 A.M.

#### SHABBAT SERVICES

FRIDAY EVENING, 6:30 P.M. SATURDAY MORNING, 9:45 A.M. SATURDAY MINHAH/HAVDALAH, SUNDOWN (SAME TIME AS CANDLE LIGHTING)

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