

Temple B'nai Chaim  
Georgetown, CT  
Templebnaichaim.org

## HIGH HOLY DAYS AT



TEMPLE  
B'NAI  
CHAIM

**HHD GUIDE FOR 2023/5784**

***A Year of Connection & Joy***

***Find Your Voice at TBC***



A Proud Member of the URJ

## TEMPLE B'NAI CHAIM

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### Executive Committee

President	June Mara
First Vice President	Joe Sondheimer
Second Vice President	Elise Serby
Third Vice President	Stephen Davis
Treasurer	Simon Curtis
Secretary	Susan Farber
Past President	Cindy Baulsir

### Board of Trustees

Trustee at Large	Julia Saunders
Trustee at Large	Richard Lerner
Trustee at Large	Barbara Massy Bear
Trustee at Large	Marty Ullman
Trustee at Large	Bonnie Heft

### Committee Chairs

Adult Education Chair	(Open)
Communications Chair	Stephen Davis
Development	(Open)
Education Chair	Dara Marceau
Finance Chair	(Open)
Governance Chair	Brett Harrison
House Chair	Steve West- Rosenthal
Membership Chair	Susan Farber
Ritual Chair	Barbara Dobbin/Ria Miller
Sisterhood President	Pam Klem/Sharon Sobel
Social Action Chair	Jane Alexander/Peggy Zamore

### Non-Board Positions

Dues Relief	Simon Curtis/Cindy Baulsir
B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator	Elise Serby
Men's Club	(Open)

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If you need additional High Holy Days tickets for visiting family members or friends, please [click here](#)



## ***A Message from TBC Cantor Harriet Dunkerley***

In the heat of summer, it is often easy for me to luxuriate in the longer days, glorious sun, more relaxed schedules, less aware of the cycle of the moon and the turning of the year. That often changes abruptly with the full moon of Av that occurred only two weeks ago. This is the time when I, along with so many of my Jewish clergy colleagues become hyper-aware of the steady march toward Elul and Rosh Hashanah. As my thoughts turn to High Holy Day Melodies, Sermon Topics and the State of my

Soul, I extend the invitation for each of you to also take stock of this past year. At TBC, we declared 5783 "A Year of Healing and Repair: A Time for Action," and I believe we have worked earnestly and honestly toward that vision. Have you taken part? Have you found your voice inside of TBC's commitment to the repair of our world? Has anyone invited you to participate in something that may feed your soul, nourish your senses, fulfill a spiritual need to make a difference?

There have been many opportunities, and yet, it remains even clearer that our work is far from finished, and that we have room for so many more to participate in the sacred work of connection, community and Tikkun Olam. We are of course, so much stronger and more effective together. Where one voice singing may not be heard, a chorus joined together in the Song of Social Action and Justice is impossible to ignore!

So, whether your spirit leads you to pray in our beautiful sanctuary or on the streets of injustice, there is a space reserved for you here at TBC. Without you, the prayer is lessened. The invitation is to bring yourself and all the light, passion and commitment you carry to join us in our sacred, spiritual journey toward a world restored to wholeness in body, mind and spirit. It is time to move now to the next step – into 5784, "A Year of Connection and Joy – Find Your Voice with TBC," and together our song will be lifted to the Heavens, our light will shine far and wide. May this New Year call you to your highest potential, your favorite version of you, your authentic and marvelous self, and may you embrace the opportunity to connect in joy with your ever-expanding TBC Family. I look forward to walking the path with you, singing and praying together, inside our 'house' or out in the world connected in the work of Teshuvah and Tikkun Olam. With wishes for a Shanah Tovah u'Metukah - a Good and Sweet Year...

*Cantor Harriet Dunkerley*



## ***Student Cantor Gabe Snyder Will Be Joining Us for the High Holy Days!***

Gabe is a proud product of Temple Israel in Boston, Temple Beth Elohim in Wellesley, URJ Eisner Camp, NFTY Northeast, NFTY in Israel, Genesis at Brandeis University, and, most importantly, a loving and vibrant Jewish family. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies in 2018 from Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, NY, where he mainly focused on comparative theology and religious theory. Outside of the Religion department, Gabe studied vocal performance, served in senior leadership roles at Skidmore Hillel, worked as assistant to the director of the Skidmore Community Choir, and participated in Skidmore's Opera Workshop, singing roles including

Figaro in *La Nozze di Figaro*, Papageno in *Die Zauberflöte*, and Elviro in *Serse*. In 2016, Gabe was selected as a member of the inaugural cohort of the Smashing Idols Fellowship at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR).

Now in his final year of the Cantorial Ordination program at the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music at HUC-JIR, Gabe has served as student cantor at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire in Great Barrington, MA (2019-2021), Congregation B'nai Jeshurun in Short Hills, NJ (2021-2022), and, currently, Temple Beth Shalom in Arnold, MD.

Gabe completed a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education at New York Presbyterian Hospital in 2023. Additionally, he worked as an intern for the CCAR Press, taught 5th grade Jewish History at Congregation Emanu-El in New York City, and tutored b'nai mitzvah students at Congregation Beth Elohim in Brooklyn. At HUC, Gabe has served on the Kallah Committee for three years (most recently in the self-appointed role of Rosh Morale), crafting a unique and enriching retreat experience for students and faculty at the beginning of each school year. In the fall of 2020, Gabe and now-Rabbi Amanda Katherine Weiss, with the support of the Be Wise Fellowship and Men of Reform Judaism, launched a weekly podcast, *Drinking and Drashing: Torah with a Twist*, in which they explored the weekly Torah portion with guests from a wide range of professions and interests, turning Torah into tangible tactics.

Gabe lives in Brooklyn, NY with his cat, *Clawdia-Jean Cregg*. In those rare moments not in school or at work, Gabe can often be found exploring Prospect Park, playing guitar, practicing calligraphy, baking bread, or enjoying potatoes.

## ***Message from the Ritual Committee***

The Ritual Committee has been working together this past year with temple leadership, Cantor Dunkerley, and the Religious School on planning our worship experiences. We have instituted new Shabbat offerings; Family services were moved to Saturday morning at the request of school parents and have been well received. Shabbat services also emphasized our Social Action initiatives. We have added Shabbat Schmooze, wine, cheese and fellowship, on summer Fridays and a Shabbat beach picnic. New ideas for worship and fellowship are welcome.

We welcome each other home for the High Holidays in person and plan for services that will comfort and inspire us as we greet this incoming new year. Services continue online as well to keep everyone included and well. We seek and welcome new, additional committee members. Please consider joining our monthly Ritual Committee meetings and offer feedback on what you seek and value in your worship experiences.

Our Ritual Committee sends its warmest Shana Tovah wishes for a sweet, happy and healthy new year ahead. May we all find our best selves inscribed for a joyous, prosperous and healthy new year.

*Ria Miller/Barbara Dobbin*

## ***Message from Sisterhood***

The Sisterhood calendar has traditionally been a very complete one, including activities for almost every month of the year, providing diversity of experiences, and satisfying a wide range of interests. Some of our events, such as the Honey Sale, Shalach Manot greetings, and the Tu B'Shvat Seder, are long-standing successes, and others, including Havdalah dinners and a day-long retreat were more recently offered to the women in our community. After reviewing each event and considering changes, it would be tempting to simply replicate our calendar year after year, falling into our cycle of events with the same regularity we find in the printed calendars we receive each fall.

But while such an approach would be easy, it would not be satisfying for either the Sisterhood Board or our membership. We welcome challenges and the prospect of doing new things, of experimenting with untried programs, and developing additions to our roster of favorites. We have always been involved in advocacy and social action and embrace community service. As members of Women of Reform Judaism, we attend regional and national conferences and take note of what other sisterhoods are offering, especially those in our area. We create new projects through suggestions and by committee. And we're always ready to listen to new ideas.

As a result, it is possible for the women of Temple B'nai Chaim to see membership in Sisterhood as participatory, rather than merely supportive, active rather than passive. There are many organizations to which we gladly lend our names and give our money, but TBC Sisterhood encourages personal involvement and the hope that each of our members will take something away from the experience, as well.

So, as we come into the last weeks of the summer, and you start to plan into the fall, you can count on Sisterhood's sponsorship of the Honey Sale, Yom Kippur Break Fast, our annual Paid-Up Brunch and Chanukah party. But this is also the time of year when we consider the gaps that ought to be closed, and the opportunities to implement new programming.

If you would like Sisterhood to serve a need not already met by our own programs or those of the synagogue, your input would be welcomed and appreciated. If you would like to serve on one of our committees, the door to our meetings is always open. As you fill up those dates on your calendar, please consider adding in some time for Sisterhood. We would love to have you join us!

Best wishes,

***Pam Klem and Sharon Sobel (Co-Presidents, Sisterhood)***

## ***Message from Social Action***

A Message from the Social Action Committee Tikkun Olam - Repairing the World in this most challenging time - We all need to pitch in! The desire to take action to make the world a better place is the only requirement for participation in the Social Action Committee. From the smallest job to the most complex, each act of kindness and caring makes a huge impact on improving peoples' lives, achieving social justice and equity. Check out ChaiLites for calls to action to sign up for what interests you.

This year we will continue to work on policies at all levels through our 3 congregant chosen ACTION GROUPS- Women's Health Care/Reproductive Rights, Antisemitism Kulanu and Gun Violence Prevention Group. Look for calls to action for these groups.

The Social Action Committee at TBC provides the focus and mechanism for congregants to get involved in a multitude of projects with very varied objectives and populations served. Without regard to religion, the Social Action Committee provides assistance to a wide variety of projects locally, nationally and internationally. Support for all of our projects comes directly from our membership with various ways to donate including: a general donation to the fund from members in celebration of events such as Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Weddings, Anniversaries, Birthdays, Births, Deaths; and directed donations to one of our projects. Bridge of Hope - International Cystic Fibrosis Project, Rise Against Hunger - Meal packing with food sent to a country in need. Laundry Love - Jointly with Sisterhood, Food/Paper Products/Diaper/Wipes Collection Menstrual Supplies Collection, Dorothy Day Hospitality House aka Danbury Soup Kitchen -- Staff/Donate Funds Community Food Pantries, i.e., Daily Bread, Danbury -- Staff/ Donate Funds/Items Thanksgiving Gift Cards through Wilton Social Services Department, Chanukah Gift Cards for Wilton children, Danbury Farmers' Market Community Collaborative- Fresh Produce Food Security Project. We always need help.

The more members we have the more progress we can make in repairing the world, in Tikkun Olam. To get involved contact: [socialaction@templebnaichaim.org](mailto:socialaction@templebnaichaim.org)

*Jane Alexander and Peggy Lamore, Co-Chairs*

## ***Message From June Mara, President***

I so look forward to spending the upcoming High Holy Days with you in our beautiful building and sanctuary. We have designated 5784 as a "Year of Connection and Joy – Find Your Voice with TBC." We anticipate that it will be an opportunity to continue to expand the social justice initiatives we started last year, as well as an opportunity for each of us to champion programming and events that are most meaningful to us and help us to feel connected, fulfilled and joyous.

In addition to financial support, we also need you, your time and your talents to sustain us. We come to synagogue on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur so that we can start the new year afresh. We review the past year to consider what we have accomplished and what we could have done better or differently. Perhaps we think about things we didn't do but should have or things we did do but shouldn't have. All of our lives are so busy, and this is one of the few chances we have to slow down and listen to what is in our hearts. The key is to make time – even an hour a week – to set priorities and follow your heart.

Your service and commitment to TBC may be as simple as sharing your ideas with us. What can we at TBC do that would make a difference to you? Is there some program or activity you would like to initiate for yourself, or your family? If it appeals to you there are undoubtedly others who would share your enthusiasm. It can be anything – from social action to bird watching to yoga. How better to connect than participating in something you love with a group that shares your passion?

I hope 5784 fulfills its promise to be a year of connection and joy, where you can find your voice at TBC.

L'Shanah Tovah Tikatevu

*June Mara, President*



# SERVICE TIMES



Zoom



In-person

## Selichot Service

Saturday, September 9



**Selichot Experience with United Jewish Center of Danbury– Havdallah, Program and Dessert reception @ 7:30pm in the TBC Social Hall, Candlelit Service @ 8:30 pm @ TBC.**



## Erev Rosh Hashanah

Friday, September 15



**Erev Rosh Hashanah Service – 7:30 pm followed by a Festive Oneg**



## Rosh Hashanah Day One

Saturday, September 16



**Family Service – 9:00 am to 10:30 am**

Adults and families who enjoy the participatory feeling of our TBC Family Services will feel comfortable at this service



**Traditional Service – 11:00 am to 1:30 pm**

Meant for adults and families who enjoy the classic High Holy Day prayer experience



**Contemplative Tashlich Ritual and Walk @ Merwin Meadows, Wilton – 2:00 pm**

## Rosh Hashanah Day Two

Sunday, September 17



**Rosh Hashanah Morning Service and Outdoor Shofar Experience – 10:00 am**



## Shabbat Shuva Service

Friday, September 22



**Shabbat Shuva Service – 7:00 pm**



**Erev Yom Kippur**  
Sunday, September 24



**Kol Nidre Service – 7:30 pm**

**Yom Kippur**  
Monday, September 25



**Family Service – 9:00 am to 10:30 am**

Adults and families who enjoy the participatory feeling of our TBC Family Services will feel comfortable at this service



**Traditional Service – 11:00 to 1:30 pm**

For adults and families who enjoy the classic High Holy Day prayer experience

**Study Session – 2:00 pm**



**Afternoon Healing Service – 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm**



**Yizkor Service – 4:45 pm to 5:45 pm**



**N'ilah Service and Havdalah – 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm**

**Sisterhood Break Fast – 7:15 pm**

**Sukkah Raising and Decorating**  
Wednesday, September 27



**Sukkah Raising and Decorating – 4:30 pm - Open to the Community**

**Sukkot Shabbat Service**  
Friday, September 29



**Sukkot Shabbat Service & Pizza in the Hut – 6:30 pm**

**Simchat Torah Shabbat**  
Friday, October 6



**Simchat Torah Shabbat – 6:30 pm**



### ***Yom Kippur Study Session***

We Are All Jonah – an exploration of why at different times, we all flee – from uncomfortable conversations, truths we don't want to own, work we don't want to do – and what Judaism and our texts have to offer in response: The opposite of flight is presence – some might call that prayer. What is prayer and what can we learn about it and presence from the Story of Jonah?

Join Cantor Harriet as she leads us in a most unexpected discovery on Yom Kippur afternoon.

### ***Health and Safety***

Wearing a mask inside our building is optional; full vaccination is required. We do ask that if you have cold-like symptoms – coughing, sneezing, scratchy throat, for example – you join us via zoom.

### ***Memorial Book***

TBC will again publish an online Memorial Book with the names of all loved ones whom you wish to memorialize at the Yizkor Service on Yom Kippur. The names of your loved ones that you listed on your membership renewal form will be shown on screen during the Yizkor Service. A PDF version of the Memorial Book will be available to anyone who contacts the office to request one ([officeadmin@templebnaichaim.org](mailto:officeadmin@templebnaichaim.org)).

## **Prayer Books for Those Attending From Home**

If you would like to have copies of Mishkan Hanafesh (our High Holiday prayer books) for use at home during the High Holy Days, you can pick up a copy of the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur books at the front entrance of TBC on *September 9<sup>th</sup>* from *10:00 am to 12:00 noon*.

Books must be returned by *September 30<sup>th</sup>*. You can deposit the books into a box that will be provided for that purpose at the front entrance of the temple. For any books not returned by *September 30<sup>th</sup>*, we will charge your account \$50 to cover the cost of the book.



## **Michael Heft Food Drive & Miriam Messe Diaper Collection**

A list of items will be online and handed out at Rosh Hashanah services. Please bring the bags to Erev Yom Kippur and morning services. If you are able to help sort and repack food Yom Kippur morning, and/or deliver the items after services, please contact Jane Alexander @ [Jane@nodhill.net](mailto:Jane@nodhill.net).

## **High Holiday Appeal**

According to Jewish tradition, tzedakah (charity), tefillah (prayer), and teshuvah (repentance) are all part of the Yom Kippur observance. Giving tzedakah before every holiday is a mitzvah of long standing.

Your contributions to the High Holiday Appeal help support us throughout the year and pay for the additional expenses we incur for the High Holy Days. Here are some specific extraordinary expenses in need of your generous support:

Police/Security \$4,000  
Choir \$5,000  
Student Cantor \$4,000  
Flowers \$2,000  
Erev Rosh Hashanah Oneg \$700  
Piano Tuner \$200  
Sustaining Donation for Temple Repairs \$360  
General Donation \$180  
Printing Tickets \$50

Please give generously to the High Holiday Appeal. You can make your contribution online by [clicking here](#) or by sending a check to Temple B'nai Chaim, P.O. Box 305, Georgetown, CT 06829. Thank you in advance for your generous support.