

Temple Beth Tikvah  
12411 Park Shadows Trail  
Houston, Texas 77058

**CHAILIGHTS**  
**ELUL – 5781**  
**Goodbye 2020!**

**So, nu?**

## **FROM THE RABBI:**

**THIS FRIDAY, Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>, we will have a special guest joining us and sharing a D'var Torah.** Dave Bailey, a former congregational minister who has a long background working with spiritual communities, community development, and professional development of church leaders in Africa, will give a talk entitled "Insights into Goodness." Dave is a thoughtful, deep, and engaging speaker. We are planning to have him teach a series of Adult Education classes at a time TBD in the fall/winter which you will not want to miss!

It is hard to believe we will be celebrating Rosh Hashana socially together while physically distant in just three weeks. Cantor Francyne, Deb, Joe and I are working hard to make our High Holy Days services on Zoom meaningful ones and you can help us by saying, "YES" when Joe asks you if you'd like to do an English reading, and for those of you who are game, a Hebrew passage. I look forward to our synagogue community celebrating this unique and undoubtedly historic time together, creating beautiful memories with one another.

If you would like to join together on Yom Kippur afternoon at 2 p.m. for an interactive time of reflection and discussion (the time we usually have had for meditation), I'm happy to add that into our day, prior to our 3 p.m. afternoon service, **IF THERE IS INTEREST.**

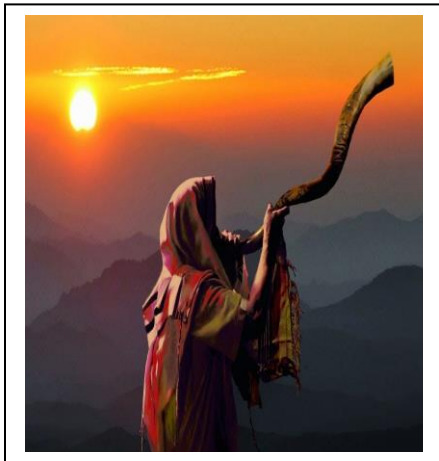
I can send out prompt questions beforehand for you to contemplate. Please email me at [rebdeb18@comcast.net](mailto:rebdeb18@comcast.net) or text me at 832.978.4624 if you are interested in adding such an introspective time to our day's schedule.

I have reached out to Rabbi Barry at Temple Sinai in Lake Charles to see how we can support them in the devastating aftermath of Hurricane Laura. I will let you know after I receive direction from him.

Finally, speaking of helping, we have so many in need of support, and my discretionary fund has greatly dwindled because of these needs. If you can help replenish my discretionary fund so I can continue to help those in need in our Temple community and beyond, I would be most appreciative.

Looking forward to seeing you this Friday night at 7 p.m. as we kick off Labor Day weekend and enjoy the insights of our virtual guest this Shabbat.

Warmly, Rabbi Deborah



## THE PREZ SAYS Deb Nowinski

I love September. There is something so magical about this month. Maybe it's the way we are melting out of the heat of the summer and into the hope of a fall breeze: or something that resembles it.

The festivals. The carnivals and fairs. The start of the harvest into October. Okay, the "everything pumpkin," I'm not too crazy about.

Elul comes from the Babylonian word, "ululu". The original came from the Akkadian word "harvest"

Elul is not only a time to harvest but a time to grow closer to G-d. It is no wonder the Rabbis chose *"the Song of Solomon"* to describe our desire for this closeness. *"I am my beloved and my beloved is mine."* Many Jewish couples engrave it in their wedding rings. It is a commitment, a contract that plants their love.

To me, it is no different for the ten days of awe. It is our contract, our commitment to G-d. It's those words that guides us through life. As we stand before G-d every year, we recommit, repent, review the past year, and promise to be a better partner and person. We plant the seed of a better year in our heart and hope we it blooms for the next year. EJ and I hope you and yours have a happy healthy year filled with love, commitment and well...as much pumpkin as you want.

See you on the ZOOM.

## **THE CHAI ROAD – JOE WALLACK RITUAL DIRECTOR/FUNDRAISER**

Before I had children, when I looked back on my childhood, the worst part was because I lived in a non-Jewish city, it took me five hours a day to go to Hebrew School. 45 minutes to be driven to the edge of the bus route, 45 minutes to be driven to the end of the bus route, 45 minutes to be driven home. 5 hours, 3 days a week, uphill both ways.

My parents though always considered it their greatest accomplishment. Because I was put on the path, I had a Bar Mitzvah and maintained a Jewish identity. Twenty years later I got married and had kids (actually my wife had them) and because I lived in Clear Lake there was a Hebrew School at TBT and had B'nai Mitzvahs there which my parents witnessed. When I look back now on my childhood, I think the best part was my going to Hebrew School even though it took 5 hours a day, it made me who I am today. Jewish.

You may ask, "so what? What difference does it make that you retained your Jewish identity?" A few years ago, the Unitarian Church installed its first gay Minister. I was there along with several other people from TBT. Would I have been there if I hadn't spent the last twenty years at TBT? Probably not. After that I was at the Islamic Center of Clear Lake for an anti-hate rally with several other members from our TBT. Would I have been there if I didn't still have a Jewish identity? No.

Being Jewish makes you different from most people. Ironically, it gives you a certain freedom. For people who do not like you because you are Jewish, they are

not going to like you any more just because you stand up for other people who are different than most people.

And more importantly, now every Friday I help feed hungry Jews healthy food. Would I be doing that if I wasn't Jewish? I don't think so.

If it's important to you to keep a Hebrew School in Clear Lake area so that your children and their children and your Community's children can have a Jewish education, have B'nai Mitzvots and maintain a Jewish identity, **then I ask you to consider making a donation to TBT in connection with the HHD.**

- 1) TBT 5781 Book of Remembrance** – it's traditional and appreciated to make a donation in memory of those you choose to list in The Book.
- 2) Pledge Drive** – This is an important part of our budget and can be in honor of whoever you choose.
- 3) Please make checks payable to: TBT  
12411 Park Shadows Trail  
Houston, Tx 77058**

This year, because of a significantly reduced physical presence at TBT we are going to have a significantly increased electronic presence "TBTelethon" (Tefilah, B'nai, Tzedakah) for Joey's kids to help us reach our goal of \$10,000. We will have live acts machers, movers & shakers and alta cockers standing by handle your pledges!



## BOXES AND BOOKS!

Please allow me to kvell over what the Religious Students have done to usher in our HHD!

Under the awesome direction of **Jill MacGregor**, the students got to work on decorating bountiful boxes that will be chocked filled with goodies and other fun stuff inside!

Thanks to our Joe Wallack and Brent who will deliver the fruits, and the parents that baked up some special treats – this will be a High Holy Day to remember.

I can't be prouder of everyone who has pitched in and delivered under deadline!!!

We will distribute the boxes on:

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>  
FROM 2-4 P.M. at TBT.**

Sisterhood volunteers will be there to distribute not only the boxes by our PRAYER BOOKS! Thank you, sisters!

You MUST sign up by emailing either [denowinski@gmail.com](mailto:denowinski@gmail.com) or Jill MacGregor [jill.macgreg@gmail.com](mailto:jill.macgreg@gmail.com)

Also, please RETURN your prayer book in good shape back to TBT after the Holidays.

I hope this lovely creative endeavor starts a new tradition at TBT!

Although we are not together, we want you to know we **STILL CARE AND MISS YOU ALL! It's like a HUG IN A BOX.**

Here's to a bountiful box of happy





### **FROM JUDITH OPPENHEIM:**

**Please send me your Yahrzeit names before September 12th: [judopp@aol.com](mailto:judopp@aol.com)**

**If there is a change in your Yahrzeit list, please send it to me. If you would like to see a snapshot of what you sent last year, I can send it to you to help you. Or if it's the same as last year, just email me that nothing has changed, and I will keep it as is.**

**This year, I will be emailing the list to everyone. Thank you.**

**We thank JUDITH for doing this every year and helping us remember our loved ones during the 10 days of awe.**

### **SISTERHOOD NEWS**

Nancy Schwartz reported that the annual Sisterhood meeting went very well this year. The ALZHEIMER WALK will go on, even though COVID is still around. This year, they will open the ceremony over ZOOM. People who want to be involved with the walk, can walk independently or if you want to, Nancy said you can walk

in groups if you socially distance. A group could even meet at her new home! She would like to know who would like to be a team captain? For more information on this worthwhile cause, please contact Nancy at [nancyaya14@gmail.com](mailto:nancyaya14@gmail.com)

The walk is on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **BOOK CLUB**

The next book club will be on September 13<sup>th</sup> "The Giver of Stars". Carol Zucker will lead the discussion. Stuart will send out the Zoom information.





Here is our calendar for September

**4<sup>TH</sup>** – Shabbat with the Rabbi and special D’var Torah with Dave Bailey 7pm

**9<sup>th</sup>** – Board of Director Meeting 7 p.m.

**11<sup>TH</sup>** – Shabbat music with MYRNA! 7

**13<sup>th</sup>** – Combined start of Religious school with B’nai Israel in Galveston on Zoom ...Book Club...**PICK UP BOXES AND BOOKS FROM 2-4 AT TBT**

**18<sup>th</sup>** Rosh Hashana Eve at 7:30 p.m. (Dinner on Zoom at 6 p.m.)

**19<sup>th</sup>** – Rosh Hashana Day 10:00 a.m.

**27<sup>th</sup>** – Kol Nidre 7:30 p.m.

**28<sup>th</sup>** Yom Kippur – 10 a.m. Afternoon services – IF interested we could have an interactive reflective discussion – if you want this please email the Rabbi

Yizkor – 4:00 p.m.

Neilah – 5:00 p.m.

We can break the fast with each other on Zoom after.

## **BIRTHDAYS!**

1 – Rachel Moliver

2 – Julia MacGregor

3 – Cinammon Howell

4 – Michael Davis

9 – Jason Taylor

9 – Cori Novy- Wilson

11 – Mollie Becker

15 - Winston Maierson

15- Abigail Maierson

19 – Clay Moliver

19 – Deb Nowinski

20- Joelliane Castrosegal

21 – Barbara Zelon

22 – Eljay Waldman

23 – Judith Oppenheim

23 – Melanie Maierson

25 – Hillary Sullivan

25 – Hunter Moliver

25 – Michele Hamer

29 - Ruth Levine

## **ANNIVERSARIES:**

3 – Deb and EJ Nowinski







