

Hakol

the voice of temple beth david



TEMPLE BETH DAVID

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December 2024

Temple Beth David Phone Directory
(631) 499-0915

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*Rabbi's Message by
Rabbi Beth Klafter*

Dear Friends,

As I write these words, we are learning about a pogrom in Amsterdam, the violent and premeditated attack on Jews and Israelis. These events coincided with the week we observed Kristallnacht, the Night of the Broken Glass, marking the pogroms in and around Germany in which homes and businesses of Jews were smashed in 1938. We are also preparing for a new administration in the United States which brings uncertainty, challenges and fears for so many.

As you read these words, Chanukah is approaching, falling at the end of December this year. Chanukah is called the Festival of Lights, referring specifically to the multiple candles of the *chanukiyah*, the Chanukah menorah. I would like to suggest that we also consider it the festival of light – the light of courage, of faith, of truth and of hope.

The historical background of the holiday is familiar. During the period of the Second Temple, under the reign of Antiochus, a Syrian Greek leader, Jews were forbidden to observe traditional rituals. The sacred Temple was desecrated. The Maccabees stood up to fight, to regain control of the Temple and to ensure the freedom to continue to live as Jews. They were small in physical number and strength but large in spiritual commitment and faith. They prevailed.

Rededicating the previously desecrated Temple, they lit oil for the lamps which lasted for eight days. My friend and colleague, Rabbi Laura Geller, writes:

The miracle wasn't that the oil lasted an additional seven days, but rather that those ancestors lit the first wick at all, without being certain that the light would last long enough to complete the rededication of the Temple. The miracle was that they took the chance, a risk, a leap of faith. They took the first step even though they were not sure they had enough resources to succeed. What is the real miracle of Chanukah? It is the miracle of human courage that empowers us to take risks for the future even in our imperfect, uncertain world. It is the courage, even in the darkest of times, to create our own light.

This is the task ahead of us. To face the darkness of the season and of the world with that light. It is the light of resilience and resistance. Our people

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have a history of resilience, facing life's greatest challenges with strength and hope. We must join our hands and our hearts to resist changes in our lives and our nation which may undermine the values of Judaism: the divine worth of every individual; the freedom to have our voices heard; the pursuit of justice.

Resilience and Resistance: these are the lessons the Maccabees teach us, all these centuries later. These are the true gifts of Chanukah this year.

May your home and your heart be filled with light this season.

Rabbi Beth H. Klafter

Rabbi Beth H Klafter



Speaker from the Holocaust Museum & Tolerance Center addressed our 7th graders and adults.



Music with Miss Stacy

Clergy Reflections by Rabbi Audrey Halpern



*D*ear Friends,

In Ecclesiastes we read, “*A generation goes and a generation comes....*” Although I am not sure that the author was thinking about making Thanksgiving, that is the verse I pondered this morning as I began to realize that this is the first Thanksgiving in decades that I will not be hosting. Now, please understand, my sister-in-law Gloria did take a turn, and it was lovely, but this time is different. My time as the place to be on Thanksgiving is ended. Our daughter Rachel has moved to Plainview with Daniel and their two little beauties, and she has made it clear that she is ready and eager to take her place as the home that will undoubtedly become the hub, the central place of gatherings for holidays and celebrations.

In years past, by this time I would have multiple lists in my kitchen drawers: fruit and vegetables, supermarket items and things to bake. The timing of when to prepare and menus with each course from hot and cold hors d’oeuvres to soup, salad, turkey and every possible side dish – all homemade. There were tablecloths and chair rentals, and I was repeatedly counting the china. This self-admitted perfectionist drove the entire family crazy! As pretty as the flowers and the table were, it was tense every time. That was what I knew since my mother was exactly the same way. She hosted too and she was a good, albeit unwilling, cook and an elegant hostess who was miserable until everyone arrived!

Rachel is the exact opposite – relaxed and casual and happy to let others help. Everyone feels welcome and happy to be together and I must confess that I feel a little guilty for making such a fuss all those years. We learn from generations past, but we also learn from the next generation. They can teach us by what they have given up of what we taught and did.

But there is more. For those of us in this sandwich generation – caring for older parents and helping with grandchildren, we watch the shift as though from above. We are no longer in the center – calling the shots and making all the decisions. We slowly move to the periphery. This is a difficult transition that requires skill and grace. As the generations come and go, what I find as consolation comes in the next part of the verse from Ecclesiastes.

“A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever.”

Though this may sound wistful, we can learn something about the enduring nature of life. As we become the older generation, we still have an enduring influence, and I believe we possess a sacred gift – that of perspective. The problems and even the aspirations that consume us when we are younger are viewed through a wider lens from above and with an understanding of how to put the immediate in context of the years that have passed. We offer this to our children. I think of it as an earned wisdom, and it can only be gained with time.

As this generation comes, may we bless them at our celebrations and comfort them at their times of challenge so that something of us, too, will remain forever.

May this season bring all of you joy and wisdom, hope and peace.

B’shalom,
Rabbi Audrey K. Halpern
Rabbi Audrey Halpern



**Mark Your Calendars & Clocks:
Starting in January, 2025,
TBD First Friday Shabbat Services will begin
one hour earlier at 6:30 pm
with a "Pre-Neg" from 6:00-6:30 pm.**

Message from President Ken Marenus



Peter Herrmann, the Dobris Torah, and 1564

Hello All:

Given our proximity to Krystallnacht as I write this and the general state of things, a special memory comes to mind. At the entry to our Sanctuary there is plaque commemorating a very special event that happened on Yom Kippur almost 30 years ago. I was Temple President at that time, and I remember that day as though it were yesterday.

During the afternoon service Mr. Peter Herrmann was called to the Torah for an Aliyah. Peter was the sole surviving member of his family, all of whom had lived in the Czech town of Dobris in Bohemia since 1793. He had worshipped in its synagogue and his family had been subsequently murdered by the Nazis.

Temple Beth David had acquired a Torah that had survived the Holocaust from the Westminster Synagogue and the Memorial Scrolls Trust a few years before. From the day of its arrival at Temple Beth David, Rabbi Leonard Troupp had a deep interest and engagement in its history. Somewhere around 1995 a search began to see if there were any survivors who had a relationship with the Dobris Synagogue and perhaps this Torah.

After some extensive research, Rabbi Troupp discovered that there was one survivor; his name was Peter Herrmann. A committee was formed to continue the investigation and find Mr. Herrmann. The committee was composed of Werner Reich, Peter Lehman, Pearl Goldhagen and myself. We were able to locate him, made contact, and invited him to our Sanctuary to be reunited with the Torah. This effort was funded by the generosity of the Gershowitz, Lent and Silberman families.

It was an extremely fulfilling and meaningful event. We located Peter's daughter in Venezuela and flew her in for the event. The day prior to Yom Kippur we held a press conference in our Sanctuary that was attended by Newsday, Channel 12 Long Island and CBS. There was great expectation during that afternoon service. You could hear a pin drop as Peter came forward to recite the ancient blessings. There are some moments that become etched in memory for all time. This was one of them.

*Some Background:

Dobris is a small town in Bohemia about 20 miles southwest of Prague. Jews had lived in Bohemia and Moravia for more than a thousand years, and over that time a rich Jewish culture developed. As in most European countries, those Jewish communities were alternatively welcomed and expelled over the centuries and life was precarious. By the middle of the 19th Century, however, they no longer suffered from residential, demographic or occupational restrictions.

Following the *Munich Agreement* of 29 September 1938, the Sudetenland was absorbed into Germany and their Jews expelled. Virtually all the synagogues and ritual artifacts in the Sudetenland, as in Germany, were destroyed in the November 1938 Pogrom. The nazis invaded Bohemia and Moravia in March 1939, causing little destruction, possibly as they wished to benefit from the Czech armaments industry. However, the nazis immediately took over Jewish businesses and property, forcing the congregations to close, and, as elsewhere, using the Jewish community administration to enforce their demands and decrees.

According to the 1930 census, there were 117,551 Jews in Bohemia and Moravia (356,830 in all of Czechoslovakia). By 1943 some 26,000 had managed to emigrate. 82,309 Jews were deported to Terezin and other camps, of whom 71,000 were murdered and as were another 7,000 prior to deportation. Today, the population of the Czech Republic is ten million, with only 4,000 Jews.

There had been at least 350 synagogues in Bohemia and Moravia, but by the end of the war more than sixty had been destroyed. After only three years of freedom there was a Communist coup on 27th February 1948 which, amongst other things, took over the Jewish Museum and warehouses, subsequently transferring some 1800 Torah Scrolls to a damp warehouse that had once been the sixteenth century Michle synagogue.

1564 scrolls that survived the Shoah in Prague, were saved from further deterioration under the communists and brought to London in 1964, thanks to the generosity of Ralph Yablon who donated them to the Westminster Synagogue. Subsequently the Memorial Scrolls Trust was set-up as an independent charity to care for the scrolls.

*Source: Wikipedia and the Memorial Scrolls Trust

FEED YOUR IMAGINATION

TBD's TOGETHER WITH TOTS

ARTS AND CRAFTS * MUSIC * STORYTIME

**LEARN TOGETHER ABOUT SHABBAT AND
HOLIDAYS WITH YOUR 3 -5 YEAR OLD
CHILD/GRANDCHILD**

Classes will meet monthly on Tuesdays throughout the school year, 4:30-5:30pm. All families with young children are also invited to join us for TBD Family and Holiday Events.

TBD's Together with Tots Monthly Classes:

December 10, January 7, February 11,

March 11, April 8, May 6

TBD Holiday and Family Events (RSVP required):

December 15, March 16, May 18.

Fees: Members \$200/Child; Non-Members \$250/Child





Margie Gursky Religious School News

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday with your family and found much to be grateful for this year. Between the politics in the Middle East and in our own country, and all the daily challenges in our own families, life sometimes can be stressful. But those are the times to start looking around for what you are grateful for. Being kind to others and feeling gratitude for all of the good in our lives allows us to find a better balance as we ride life's roller coaster.

In the beginning of November, many of you came to TBD for Kindness Day (formerly RS Mitzvah Day). We had many projects for our students to do with their families that helped our community. Our families made 40 dog toys for Little Shelter, 25 friendship bracelets for Gurwin patients, 20 Thanksgiving cards for Gurwin patients, and 20 cards for Israeli soldiers. Several families took shifts in standing outside Shoprite to collect Thanksgiving food for the SYJCC Food Pantry. In addition, some of our students' projects helped TBD; students assisted Rabbi Klafter in organizing the prayer books in the sanctuary and painting almost 50 rocks to beautify TBD's grounds.

I would like to thank our volunteers: Ms. Pomeranz, Ms. Gilbert, Iris and Henry Ziporkin, Abbey Ziolkowski, Denise and Josh Jacobs. I would additionally like to thank our Religious School Committee for helping to brainstorm ideas and especially Becky Camera and Rachel Vikingstad for making the Mitzvah Tree (it is located in the hallway if you want to see it). Finally, I thank all of you who were able to come out that morning to share your kindness and gratitude with other TBD families and our community. Enjoy the photos!





SIMCHAT TORAH 2024



Sisterhood



Temple Beth David's Sisterhood has so much to offer! We are a vibrant community that offers the opportunity to connect and to support one another, our community, and the world around us. We are women from diverse backgrounds and different generations who come together to share our experiences, challenges, and gain a sense of belonging. This bond has forged deep friendships and support systems that help us navigate during the joys and the difficulties of life. By participating in Sisterhood activities, we have built lasting relationships that enrich our spiritual and personal journeys.

We send a big thank you out to Irma Sarisohn and Debra Blatt for planning and hosting a wonderful Paid Up Membership dinner at Sangria 71 on November 4th! It was so nice to spend time in the company of our "sisters." Thank you to Robin Prager who won the 50-50 raffle and generously donated her winnings back to Sisterhood. Another big thank you goes out to Toni Spring for planning and hosting the Sisterhood Cooking class on December 8 where we will make outrageously delicious potpies. We expect a great turnout and a lot of laughs since some of us are culinary challenged!

Our upcoming events include a Tu B'Shevat Seder on February 12 which reflects and celebrates the seasons and symbolizes the different aspects of the trees and of our lives. This is both a spiritual and a communal event for everyone and includes a short seder and sampling of the symbolic foods.

Our next Sisterhood meeting will be on January 8 and everyone is welcome to talk, help plan upcoming events, add some ideas for how Sisterhood could better serve our community, or to just laugh and have some coffee. Please join us for any meeting or event to say hello and share in the fun. If you are planning to come for the first time, call or text one of our board members to let us know, and we will welcome you with open arms.

Warmest Wishes,

Holly Dornfeld, Sisterhood Treasurer
Jodi Maisel, President 516-313-8890
Debra Blatt, VP 631-793-4890
Irma Sarisohn, VP 631-455-2139

**Our hearts and prayers are with the people of Israel
and we pray for the release of the hostages.**



Sisterhood Dinner

**TBD SISTERHOOD CULTURAL ARTS INVITES YOU TO
A COOKING CLASS**

Lynne is a Jewish mom on Long Island. She grew up in Zurich, Switzerland where she developed an affinity for food and the culinary arts through her culture and cooking with family.

DATE: Date/Time: Sunday, December 8th at 11 00am

LOCATION: TBD Youth Lounge

Space is limited!!

RSVP: toni.spring@gmail.com

Questions? Call/Text Toni Spring Cell (516) 810-4080

What To Expect: Join Lynne for a hands-on class where you'll learn to make a classic, comforting vegetable pot pie from scratch! Each student will create their own pie crust, guided step-by-step by Lynne, perfecting the art of a flaky, golden shell. Lynne will demonstrate how to prepare the savory filling, and then each student will fill their pies with pre-made, chilled filling*. You'll take your pie home, ready to bake or freeze for later. Students go home with a printed copy of the recipe. (*pre-made chicken filling additional \$8)

Timing: The class runs for 90 minutes to 2 hours and wraps up with a delicious tasting of Lynne's signature vegetable pot pie.

Pricing: \$40 per student; send check to Temple Beth David or Venmo @TBDSisterhoodCommack with message Pot Pie

RSVP: toni.spring@gmail.com along with payment by 11/13/24

Our recipes may include various ingredients, such as vegetables, nuts, eggs, meats, spices, wheat flours, etc. If you have any food allergies, please let us know at registration.



Spotlight on Brotherhood

When I submit my monthly *HaKol* article I try to give a short recap of what we have done the previous month and then direct most of my attention to what I believe are exciting and meaningful upcoming Brotherhood events and activities.

This month, I will digress from that format. On November 17 Brotherhood organized a private docent-led tour of the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County for Brotherhood members and congregants. We began our day with a bagel breakfast (of course) at TBD. We then car-pooled to the Center in Glen Cove where we met our docent, Bennie. Bennie's father was a Holocaust survivor who at the age of ten witnessed the murder of his entire family and then escaped into a nearby forest where he hid for three years. Bennie and his brother were born in Israel. Eventually, his family made their way to Brooklyn.



Although we have all read and learned about the Holocaust, Bennie's re-telling of our ancestors' history, the rise of Hitler and antisemitism in Nazi Germany and the ensuing Holocaust left me emotionally drained and with an unexpected knot in my stomach. I suspect that I am not alone in that regard. Collectively, we all gasped with surprise (and pride) upon seeing an exhibit featuring our beloved Werner Reich. The impact that the tour had on us cannot be overstated. In the two days prior to our tour, news reports told us of two separate Neo-Nazi marches in our country. I left the center quite aware of the unmistakable parallels to life in the United States today with the rise of the Nazis in Germany. And yet I also left the center with a degree of hope and inspiration. Bennie told us about the Center's tolerance and educational programs directed at students from many schools in both Nassau and Suffolk Counties. He ended our tour with one of the messages he often shares with them. He implores them to perform an act of kindness for or on behalf of a stranger each day for 30 days. He assured us, it makes a difference.

As we left the Center, many of us walked in silence through a serene garden dedicated to the memory of the 1.5 million children who perished during the Holocaust. Although you may not have been able to join us on November 17, please consider two of the messages that I found in the garden:

"I want to be useful or bring enjoyment to all people, even those I have never met. I want to go on living even after my death."

"You can't turn your back on people who need your help. There must be some sort of decency in your life. You can't maintain your self-respect if you knew that people would suffer and you said No. You just have to do it."

I am grateful for having shared this experience with my fellow Jews with whom we share a love of Temple Beth David and our Jewish faith.

--Steven Sarisohn
Brotherhood President



News from Isaiah 58

Thank you to everyone in our congregation who participated in our Thanksgiving Food Drive! We are grateful for YOU! Bags and bags of donated food were given to families who are experiencing food insecurity. Our mission continues into the new year AND EVERY MONTH. Gift cards, monetary donations and groceries are so appreciated! Many thanks to those of you who have generously donated each month. Making food a priority for others, just as we make feeding ourselves a priority, is a tall order and truly a mitzvah. Sharing our abundance with the JCC and our local food pantry helps others to provide for their families.

On behalf of the Isaiah 58 Social Action Committee, Happy Hanukkah! I hope you will break out your favorite menorah, enjoy the Festival of Lights and feel the warmth and glow from the candles. I am looking forward to vacation days and savoring latkes with family and friends!

Even though the days are shorter, Isaiah 58 members pack a lot of work into a short amount of time. Ongoing projects like Hat Looming and PB&J Gang need your help! Look for our dates during the winter and join in the fun. Any donations of jelly, zipper sandwich baggies and small and medium gloves would help our cause. Bins are located by the Religious School Office.

We welcome new members to join us knowing “many hands make light work.” Our next meeting is December 17, 2024 at 7:30 pm in Room 5 (on Zoom if weather is bad).

Jane Gaines,
Isaiah 58 Chair
djgaines@optonline.net



Hat Looming

Easy and Fun to make!

Beginners welcome, no experience needed!

Simple loom and finger-knitting.

Recommended for 4th graders and older.

All hats and scarves made will be donated to the Dolan Center, a family wellness center in Huntington that gives help and healthcare to families in need.

Sunday, December 8

Sunday, January 5 and January 26

Sunday, February 2 and February 9

10:30-11:30 AM

Room 5

Questions: Abby Taft, debbieabby4@gmail.com

Gracious Gifts from Thoughtful People

Rabbi Halpern's

Discretionary Fund

Sandra & Cary Gluck

In honor of the marriage of

Lisa & Markus Gluck

General Fund

Miryam & Larry Laifer

In memory of Edith Grave

Eric Robinson

In memory of Louis Goidell

In memory of Anna Goidell

Howard Lent

In memory of Estelle Lent

Marcy & Abe Kaplan

In memory of Roxanne Rosenbaum

Joan & Larry Fleischman

In memory of Alfred Margolish

Starla & Ron Goldman

In memory of Dorothy Goldman

Ann Aboulafia

In memory of Herman Hoffenberg

Arlene Senzer

In memory of Arthur Levin

Susan Brudno

In memory of Herman Gutterson

Joan & Roy Gilbert

In memory of Paul Morris

Gabrielle Fenster

In memory of Helen Berger

Jaclyn & Bernard Orlan

In memory of Samuel Orlan

Marjorie Janicola

In memory of Rose Livingston

Camille Robinson

In memory of Mark Robinson

In memory of Christee Robinson

In memory of Josephine Certonio

In memory of Jean Taverna

In memory of Nick Taverna

Mort Glick

In memory of Iris Glick

In memory of Max Glick

Linda & Alan Bryan

In memory of Shirley Zelevansky

Isaiah 58 Fund

Lisa Wilks-Gallo & Bill Gallo

Sandy & Hal Wicker

Jane & David Gaines

Jodi Maisel

In memory of Arnold Bornfriend

Water Main Repair

Anonymous

Danielle & Jared Bronz

Tammy & Craig Cooper

Alita & Michael Ditkowsky

Holly & Dan Dornfeld

Robin & Lance Edwards

Deborah & Jonathan Faust

Joyce & Steven Feldman

Lisa Wilks-Gallo & Bill Gallo

Ardis & Adam Gerrie

Marsha & Raymond Greenberger

David Harvey

Beverly & Stu Horowitz

Laura & William Joseph

Ann & Donald Kahn

Diane & Jeff Kraut

Jackie & Michael Lappin

Linda & Gary Levine

Jodi Maisel

Carol & Marc Mankuta

Donna & Ken Marenus

Jessica Krausz & Matthew Pawluk

Robin Prager

Merryl & Glenn Rogers

Leslie & Art Salander

Erica Feinblum

Sharon Berlin & Jeremy Scileppi

Bonnie & Paul Sibener

Debra & Scott Silberlust

Debbie & Brian Vogel

Moriel Weiselberg

Carole Traster-Wilk & Alan Wilk

Nancy & Steven Zove

There are many ways to honor a loved one's memory, remember a joyous event, celebrate a special day such as a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, a wedding or a baby naming.

Temple Beth David's permanent plaques give lasting remembrance and honor while helping the temple.

Yahrzeit Memorial

located in sanctuary vestibule

\$ 500.00

Tree of Life

located in sanctuary across from Yahrzeit plaques

Gold or Platinum Leaf

\$ 180.00

Children's butterfly

\$ 36.00

Foundation Stone

\$ 450.00

Sanctuary

One seat

\$ 800.00

Two seats

\$1500.00



What's Happening at TBD — December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 5:30 pm Religious School Committee Meeting 6:30 pm 4th/5th Grade PACT 7:00 pm Brotherhood X Golf 8:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	4	5	6 7:30 pm Shabbat Service with Birthday Blessings & 7th Grade Shabbat	7 9:15 am Torah Study & Service
8 10:30 am Hat Looming 11:0 am Sisterhood Cooking Class	9	10 4:30 pm Together With Tots 8:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	11 6:30 pm 6th Grade PACT 7:00 pm Peanut Butter & Jelly 7:15 pm Brotherhood Birthday Bash at Carvel 7:30 pm Steering Committee	12	13 8:00 pm Shabbat Service with Adult Choir	14 9:15 am Torah Study & Service
15 9:30 am Hanukkah Happening	16	17 7:00 pm Executive Board Meeting 7:30 pm Isaiah 58 Meeting 8:00 pm TBD Board Meeting	18	19	20 8:00 pm Shabbat Service	21 9:15 am Torah Study & Service
22 9:00 am Brotherhood Planning Meeting	23 Temple Offices Closed	24 Temple Offices Closed No Religious School	25 Temple Offices Closed No Religious School	26 Temple Offices Closed	27 Temple Offices Closed 8:00 pm	28 9:15 am Torah Study & Service
29	30 Temple Offices Closed	31 Temple Offices Closed No Religious School	1 Temple Offices Closed No Religious School	2	3 6:30 pm Shabbat Service with Birthday Blessings	4 9:15 am Torah Study & Service



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Worship Schedule

Friday, December 6
Shabbat Vayetzei
 7:30 pm Shabbat Service with Birthday Blessings

Saturday, December 7
 9:15 am Torah Study and Service

Friday, December 13
Shabbat Vayishlach
 8:00 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, December 14
 9:15 am Torah Study and Service

Friday, December 20
Shabbat Veyeshev
 8:00 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, December 21
 9:15 am Torah Study and Service

Friday, December 27
Shabbat Miketz
 8:00 pm Shabbat Service with Anniversary
 Blessings

Saturday, December 28
 9:15 am Torah Study and Service

Friday, January 3
Shabbat Vayigash
 7:30 pm Shabbat Service with Birthday Blessings

Saturday, January 4
 9:15 am Torah Study and Service

HaKol
TEMPLE BETH DAVID
100 Hauppauge Road, Commack, NY
11725
(631) 499-0915
www.tbdcmmack.org

Staff

Senior Rabbi Beth H. Klafter, D.D.
 Rabbi Audrey Halpern, D.D., D.Min.
 Rabbi Emeritus Leonard B. Troupp, D.D.²¹
 Cantor Emeritus Cantor Taormina²¹
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HaKol Staff

Editor Joan Herman
 Associate Editor Bonnie Sibener
 Copy & Layout Robin Kain

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