

Hakol

the voice of temple beth david



Vol. XV No. 2

Tishrei/Cheshvan 5786

October 2025

Temple Beth David Phone

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Rabbi's Message by Rabbi Beth Klafter

On the first morning of Rosh HaShanah last month, I shared a favorite Jewish text which comes to my mind again as we approach this month as well.

In Pirke Avot, a section of the Talmud, (5:22) we read:

Ben Bag Bag taught:

Turn it [that is, Torah] over, and [again] turn it over, for all is contained here. Look into it; and become gray and old in it. Do not move away from it for you have no better portion than it.

Like Ben Bag Bag, I also continue to turn the Torah, again and again. And each time I do, I discover something new in a letter, a word, or a dramatic story. (I also noted in my sermon that I have become a bit gray after all these years of turning the scroll.) This month we will unroll the entire Torah scroll as is our custom here at TBD on Simhat Torah. We will see the words and the columns of Hebrew all around us. Simhat Torah will be celebrated on Monday, October 13th. (Yizkor Memorial Service for the festival is at 6:15 pm, followed immediately by Simhat Torah Family Service and Consecration of the New Students in our Religious School at 6:30 pm).

As we celebrate the “joy of the Torah,” the literal translation of “Simhat Torah,” I am reminded of the many times that I am asked by adults and students alike, “Is the Torah true?” My first response is usually, “It depends upon what we mean by ‘true.’”

The most traditional answer is that the Torah is true because God revealed the Torah in its entirety to our teacher and leader, Moses, atop Mount Sinai. Moses then brought God’s word down the mountain to deliver it to the Children of Israel. This is the story depicted in the Torah itself in the middle of the book of Exodus. If this is our theological understanding, then all of the words and letters were revealed by God and they are all, therefore, divine and immutable. Thus, the Torah is true, just as it is true that the sky is blue and the sun is hot.

As a Reform Jew and a Reform rabbi, I embrace a different view of the Revelation of Torah. I believe that God inspired Moses and the Children of Israel with the essential messages and meanings of the Torah. The details were written by human beings, inspired by others.

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Message from

Hello everyone, fall is here! We are past the Holidays. It's time to settle in and continue our journey. There is much to do. Over the past several months we have taken steps to accommodate and align our new situation with NSSA. It's going well. During the weekdays, NSSA is busy in the "school wing" and former youth lounge doing what they do best. During the late afternoons our Religious School is active in our "school wing." During the Holidays and every Shabbat, our Sanctuary has been alive with congregants celebrating and commemorating.

As time moves on, we come closer to the date when our clergy will be retiring. For over 35 years we have had services and religious practices that have been consistent and very well received. It's now time for us to check in with ourselves, and the Reform movement, and look for new opportunities that may be available. We need to work hard to understand our own DNA and determine how we will maintain and enhance our temple community going forward.

Since last year, we have had an active steering committee to help us find our way. The previous goal was to achieve financial stability for the Temple. We have accomplished that and if we can live within our means, we can maintain Temple Beth David as a vibrant institution for a long time to come.

This year, the goals involve fewer tactical and more strategic issues.

What will be the solution to our physical space that will be optimal and affordable?

What do we want in our clergy going forward knowing that we will no longer be able to provide the incredible range of support we have received from Rabbi Klafter and Rabbi Halpern in the past?

How can we streamline and optimize our processes and governance and adapt it to a congregation of our size and in our time?

What kind of financial planning can we do to assure an income stream consistent with our budget?

These are tough questions. We are still in uncharted territory and have not faced issues of this magnitude since our founding in the 1970's. We will need to work together to create a Temple Beth David that meets the needs of our community and our congregation. It's both a challenge and an opportunity. Working together, we can find solutions and emerge with a temple that is stronger and more vibrant than ever.

Ken

Continued from page two

I say that the Torah is true because it speaks truths to us: truths about being a human being, about living our lives with others, about building a community. The stories of the Torah are true in my opinion because they form the foundation of our faith and our shared imaginations across generations.

On Simhat Torah, we complete reading the final words of the Torah in the book of Deuteronomy and immediately read the first words in the book of Genesis. Each week in the New Year, we will read another parsha, portion, as the story of our people and our religion unrolls before our eyes and ears. As Ben Bag Bag taught, "Turn it for all is contained there."

I hope you will join us for some JOY on Monday, October 13th!

Shana Tova,
Rabbi Klafter

Rabbi Beth H. Klafter



Clergy Reflections by Rabbi Audrey Halpern

Dear Friends,

With every festival and holiday, at every annual event, I am reminded that it is the last time. It is a strange feeling. For those of us who have known each other for thirty-eight years; we understand that we have shared a lifetime of memories--simchas and undoubtedly sorrows as well.

Sitting at breakfast this morning, Steve and I reminisced yet again about the parody we sang together of "Do You Love Me?" as he concluded the speech he gave during the anniversary celebration. It recounted, Fiddler style, our history and meeting as cantor and congregant twenty-five years prior. Remember at the end when he asked the question as Gary struck those introductory notes and I jumped out of my seat in the pew and leapt onto the bima? He loves to remind me that our duet got the biggest ovation of the night!

These moments are etched in my memory and during the holidays they are especially poignant. I miss so many people from the past and I am grateful to so many of you. Sukkot is just such a reminder for it is the quintessential symbol of the home. And the fragility of the sukkah is a constant that does not let us forget that 'all that we prize is but lent to us.' We are inheritors but only for a time for as the quote goes on to say, 'and the time comes when we must surrender it.'

How do we persevere in the face of the temporal nature of life when illness and death are knocking? I have learned these painful lessons from so many of you. We take hold of the precious moments and let them find an enduring place in our hearts where we will turn for strength.

It is no accident that our Jewish calendar starts the New Year with a vivid reminder of just how fragile life and home and all that we love really is. We share that bond of vulnerability. It is the very essence of our humanity.

But our calendar then takes us to the next level with Simchat Torah. By recounting our people's trials and tribulations as told through reading and rereading Torah, we see through the eyes of our ancestors how to take hold of life and give it purpose and lasting value. As we grow older and feel those inevitable losses creeping up, we also sense an earned wisdom and insight. That is why, on Simchat Torah, we begin to read the whole Torah again from the beginning.

The very same words and stories are seen through our eyes of experience, and we find greater meaning and a deeper understanding.

In this holy season, may we recognize the gifts we have and share them and cherish them. May we reach out and think of others and may we always remember that when we are together we are home.

B'shalom,
Rabbi Audrey Halpern

Rabbi Audrey B. Halpern

October B' Mitzvah

October 18 Mia Harvey
October 25 Benjamin Tabackman
 Jordan Zelkin
 Sam Mernick



Margie Gursky Religious School News

I sit here writing this on our first day of classes. We had no issues getting everyone used to the new dropoff and pickup procedures at our new entrance. Now I hear the many little voices coming from the classrooms, both new students and students from last year. Shortly after you receive this issue of HaKol, we will be having Pizza in the Hut on October 6th to celebrate Sukkot and our New Student Consecration during our Simhat Torah Service on October 13th. I hope to see you there!

I am so grateful to our Student Aides who came to help in the classrooms as well as in the office. And NSSA has been incredibly gracious, allowing us to use one of their classrooms so we can spread out a little more. Our partnership with NSSA will only enhance TBD's status in our community.

This past Sunday, we had our Apples & Honey Kickoff which was absolutely amazing! We had at least 150 people making crafts, eating pancakes, decorating cupcakes, schmoozing, and just generally having a great time. Thank you so much to Brotherhood, Sisterhood, our teachers Joan Gilbert, Nancy Hertel and Debbie Ball, our board members, teen volunteers, our Religious School Committee members, Becky Camera and Rachel Vikingstad, and of course, Rabbi Klafter for making this such a great event. Please see the photos of this event in this issue of HaKol.



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Do you have something to celebrate?
A birthday, an anniversary or special
occasion? Maybe you just want to show
your love for TBD?

Sponsor a Friday night oneg!

Contact Wendy Perry



Do you need help getting to
Friday Night services?

We have member volunteers
who will drive you to and
from services.

Volunteer drivers also needed.

Contact Wendy Perry
Wendy@tbdcommack.org
631-499-0915 x 312





PIC-COLLAGE

Sisterhood

September was a lovely month of reconnecting with our sisters and making new friends. We supported the Religious School kickoff by donating cupcakes, frosting, and sprinkles to run a cupcake decorating booth. It was such a hit that, for the first time, we ran out of cupcakes by the end of the day! Thank you to all who donated supplies and guided the children at the table. During the event, I was delighted to meet so many new and potential temple members. Three new women already joined Sisterhood. We're so excited to get to know them and any other new members.



Sisterhood had its first meeting of the year and we are busy adding events to our calendar. We are always open to new ideas and we invite everyone to attend our meetings. Also, you may contact me at any time with questions or suggestions.

Our Welcome Back Nosh was a huge success. We dined and chatted nonstop and then enjoyed a session of Chair Yoga, led by Katie Nerrie.

Join us on October 5 at 9:30 am to decorate the Sukkah on the bimah. It's always fun to collaborate with each other to create a beautiful holiday symbol. We have the supplies, we just need you!

Our next meeting will be on October 9 at 7:30 and all are welcome. We usually meet in a classroom; however, always check any last minute emails to see if we moved to the temple zoom.

Our yearly Breast Cancer Walk will occur on Sunday, October 19 at 9:30 am on the Sunken Meadow Boardwalk. You may walk a lot or a little; it's up to you, so help us support those who have fought or are currently fighting breast cancer. If you are unable to attend, you can still show your support by making a monetary donation to our team. Watch for details in the Whole Megillah and on the Sisterhood Facebook page.

I'm looking forward to our year together in Sisterhood!

Warmly,

Jodi Maisel

President 516-313-8890 jodilie@optonline.net

Temple Beth David Sisterhood
Annual Breast Cancer Walk

Sunday, October 19th, 2024 9:30am

Sunken Meadow State Park

Field 1, through the pavilion

Team breakfast to follow



To Donate to our team,

- Search Making Strides Long Island
- Scroll down and click donate
- Temple Beth David is the group name
- Click on Sisterhood of Temple Beth David, Commack, NY
- Donate any amount and Thank You!

**Sisterhood of Temple Beth
David, Commack NY**

Questions?

Debra Blatt debrablatt@gmail.com (631)793-4890

NEW YEAR!

NEW SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE TIMES

Starting in September, Friday evening Shabbat Services will begin at 7:30 pm except for the FIRST Friday of the month which will remain at 6:30 pm.



First Friday of the Month @ 6:30 pm
Family Services with Monthly Birthday Blessings
“Pre-Neg” 6:00-6:30 pm

All other Fridays, Oneg Shabbat follows services

Todah Rabbah, many thanks to all who helped to make the High Holiday season at TBD beautiful and meaningful:

- Our administrative staff, Wendy Perry and Myra Shak
- Our building staff, Joe Benesch and Tom Williams
- Dr. Gursky and our wonderful Religious School faculty
- The presidents of TBD who have honored us with their dedication and participated in the Kol Nidre processional
- Members of the Board, leaders of Sisterhood and Brotherhood, who assisted in the Lobby and ushered in the Sanctuary
- Brotherhood and Sisterhood who provided goodies for the Children's Services
- Ken Marenus who spoke on Rosh HaShana and Jeffrey Friedman who spoke on Yom Kippur
- Leaders of the Community Yizkor Service, coordinated by Jodi Maisel
- Our Shofar Blowers: Adam Bolender, Aaron Bolender and David Gaines
- Tashlich was organized by Craig Cooper, as in past years Bringing so much to all of our worship – Dr. Gary de Sesa; and on the High Holidays, Karen and Andrew DiMartino
- Our Clergy, Rabbi Klafter and Rabbi Halpern, for leading us into the new year with wisdom and beautiful music.

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 Wednesdays 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:

**October 8, November 5, December 3, January 7, February 4,
March 4, April 15, May 6**

TBD Holiday and Family Events (RSVP required):

September 8, October 16, December 15, March 16, May 18.

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



TEMPLE BETH DAVID
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Temple Beth David

100 Hauppauge Road, Commack, NY

(631) 499-0915

school@tbdcommack.org

Spotlight on Brotherhood

I apologize. Typically, the HaKol editors give me a deadline to write an article for our monthly temple publication. I procrastinate but am usually able to produce (what I believe) is something of substance for you to read. Not this month. September has been a busy one for Brotherhood. I had to find the time to sit down and recall all our past activities, and a few we look forward to.

- On September 7 we helped Religious School begin their new year by cooking pancakes for all those in attendance at its kickoff event (rave reviews by the way).
- On September 14 Brotherhood kicked off the Fall season with a tailgating event, complete with burgers, hot dogs, chili and games of cornhole. We even tossed around the old (shhh) pigskin.
- On September 17 we celebrated the last “Wednesday is Sundae at Carvel” for the season.
- On October 14 we will move indoors to Miller’s Ale House to begin our monthly Miller’s Minyan.
- Did you notice the ushers for the High Holiday Services? That was Brotherhood guiding you to your seats and handing out crisp red apples to welcome the New Year.
- On the morning of October 5, we will build our Sukkah.
- Come join us for dinner on the evening of October 7 as Brotherhood will serve and eat our meal inside the Sukkah.

We have spent a good deal of energy planning an ambitious and exciting calendar of events. We encourage you to join Brotherhood and see what we have to offer. New and prospective members are always welcome! If you missed any of our September events, it is not too late to get in on the fun in October.

Steven Sarisohn
Brotherhood President
631-455-2387
sssarisohn@sarisohnlaw.com



All Are Welcome!

No Experience

Necessary!

Sunday, December 14th

1:00 - 3:00 PM

TBD Social Hall

Questions: Deborah Faust, deborah@fausthouse.org



News from Isaiah 58

The new year has begun!

During the High Holidays, our 29th Annual Congregational Food Drive is a welcome way to DO SOMETHING together. The bags of your donated food are delivered to our partner, the SYJCC right after the Yom Kippur holiday. Thank you to all those who gave food, monetary donations, gift cards and cared so much to donate on Yom Kippur. When everyone donates, we help so many!

At the temple Social Action Committee, we pledge to help feed needy families all year long and provide food to the local food pantries. At TBD, the Isaiah 58 Committee makes a monthly food contribution to our surrounding communities. It involves food shopping, schlepping donations and delivering to the pantries and we thank all our volunteers! Joan Herman, Laraine Shapiro, Lin Wasserman and their team shopped to fill the empty shelves at the food pantries. Please let me know if you would like to help shop or deliver. This new year, please consider donating food or a gift card each time you come to the temple or make a monetary donation online and we'll shop for you!

We collect canned food, dried goods and, also, baby items to deliver to the pantries. This season, this day, please make a food donation of canned goods, shelf stable products, personal care items like toothpaste and shampoo or babies' needs such as diapers and baby food. Help us donate 1,000 pounds of food and needed items!

The Hat Looming Club kicked off its September meetings and invites you to come and learn how to loom a hat for donation. No experience necessary. Abigail Taft and Deborah Faust lead this active group of loomers. Look in the Magillah or Hakol online for future dates, which are usually every other Sunday at TBD in Room 4 from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Jane Oberwager Gaines
Isaiah 58 Social Action Committee Chair

THE HUNGRY NEED OUR HELP EVERYDAY!

Please try to bring a non-perishable item with you when you come to Temple and place it in our food bin located in the lobby. We periodically empty the bin and bring



To make a donation to
Temple Beth David for a
special occasion or in memory of a loved one,
please contact Wendy in the Temple office at
499-0915 ext. 312 or
wendy@tbdcommack.org



PIZZA IN THE HUT

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6TH!

**5:45 PM VISIT THE SUKKAH,
SHAKE THE LULAV/ETROG, EAT PIZZA,
MEET OTHER RS FAMILIES**

6:30 PM FAMILY FRIENDLY SUKKOT SERVICE

**Bring a NUT-FREE Dessert to Share
RSVP REQUIRED by October 5th**

**Suggested Donation:
\$5/person, \$18/family**



**631-499-0915 X 323
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THE FALL HOLIDAY SEASON CONTINUES....

It is traditional to begin building the Sukkah immediately after Yom Kippur ends. Join the TBD Brotherhood and Sisterhood on Sunday morning, October 5th to build and decorate the outdoor sukkah and the indoor sukkah.

Celebrate Sukkot on Monday evening, October 6th

5:45 pm Religious School Pizza-in-the-Hut
(Reservations in advance required)

6:30 pm Sukkot Service

Mark Your Calendar

Monday evening, October 13th - Simhat Torah

6:15 pm Yizkor Memorial Service

6:30 pm Simhat Torah & Consecration Celebration



CELEBRATE SIMHAT TORAH & TBD'S NEW STUDENTS!



MONDAY, OCTOBER 13TH

YIZKOR AT 6:15 PM
SIMHAT TORAH/NEW STUDENT
CONSECRATION SERVICE AT 6:30 PM

JOIN OUR RABBIS, AND TOGETHER, WE WILL
UNROLL THE ENTIRE TORAH SCROLL!



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Gracious Gifts from Thoughtful People

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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



What's Happening at TBD — October 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 No Religious School 7:30 pm Kol Nidre Service	2 Temple Office Closed 10:00 am Yom Kippur Day Morning Service 1:00 pm Children's Service 3:00 pm Community Memorial Service 4:00 pm Afternoon Memorial & Concluding Service	2 6:00 pm Pre-neg 6:30 pm Shabbat Service w/ Bday Blessings	4 9:15 am Torah Study & Service
5 9:00 am Brotherhood Sukkah Building 9:00 am Sisterhood Sukkah Decorating 10:00 am LI Commemorates October 7th	6 5:45 pm Pizza-in-the-Hut 6:30 pm Sukkot Service	7 Temple Office Closed No Religious School 7:00 pm Brotherhood Heroes in the Hut Dinner	8 4:30 pm Religious School 4:30 pm Together with Tots 7:30 pm Steering Committee Meeting	9 7:30 PM Sisterhood Meeting	10 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	11 9:15 am Torah Study & Service
12	13 Temple Office Closed 6:15 pm Yizkor 6:30 pm Simhat Torah and Consecration Service for New Students	14 Temple Office Closed No Religious School Brotherhood Millers (out) 7:30 pm Isaiah 58 Meeting (on Zoom)	15 4:30 pm Religious School	16	17 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	18 9:15 am Torah Study & Service 10:00 am Bat Mitzvah
19 9:00 am Brotherhood Taking Sukkah Down 9:00 am Sisterhood Breast Cancer Walk @Sunken Meadow Boardwalk 1:00 pm Dancing Through the Tears	20	21 4:30 pm Religious School 6:40 pm Packet Meeting Spring 2026 7:00 pm Executive Board 8:00 pm TBD Board Meeting	22 4:30 pm Religious School	23 7:00 pm Budget & Finance	24 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	25 9:15 am Torah Study & Service 10:00 am B'Mitzvah 11:30 am Bar Mitzvah 12:30 pm Kiddush
26 Brotherhood Football	27	28 4:30 pm Religious School	29 4:30 pm Religious School	30	31 6:00 pm Pre-neg 6:30 pm Shabbat Service w/ Ann Blessings	1 9:15 am Torah Study & Service



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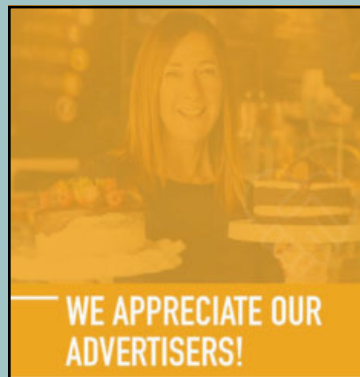
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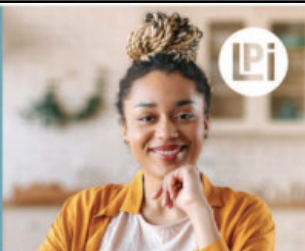
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Worship Schedule

Friday, October 3

Shabbat Ha'azinu

6:30 pm Shabbat Service with Birthday Blessings

Saturday, October 4

9:15 am Torah Study and Service

Friday, October 10

Intermediate Day

7:30 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, October 11

9:15 am Torah Study and Service

Friday, October 17

Shabbat Bereshit

7:30 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, October 18

9:15 am Torah Study and Service

10:00 am Bat Mitzvah—Mia Harvey

Friday, October 24

Shabbat Noach

7:30 pm Shabbat

Saturday, October 25

9:15 am Torah Study and Service

10:00 am B'Mitzvah—Benjamin Tabackman and
Jordan Zelkin

11:30 am Bar Mitzvah — Sam Mernick

Friday, October 31

Shabbat Lech Lecha

7:30 pm Shabbat w/Anniversary Blessings

HaKol
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www.tbdcommack.org

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