

Hakol

the voice of temple beth david



TEMPLE BETH DAVID

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November 2025

Temple Beth David Phone

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Rabbi's Message by Rabbi Beth Klafter

On the first of October, just a few hours before Yom Kippur began, Dr. Jane Goodall died of natural causes in her sleep while on a speaking tour in California. I spoke of her at the end of my sermon on Yom Kippur morning, reflecting briefly on her life and sharing her own words of poetry.

Our tradition teaches that it is significant when a death comes during the Ten Days of Awe. The very days are imbued with a sacred significance, as we make teshuva, and consider life's greatest questions. Though Dr. Goodall was not Jewish, I would like to believe that there is a connection between the day of her death and our holiest season. Her life was one of mission, driven by her passionate desire to repair and sustain our planet.

Shortly after her death, a program called, "Famous Last Words," was made public. Its producers at Netflix describe, "Earlier this year, Dr. Jane Goodall — a UN Messenger of Peace — sat down for a deeply reflective conversation about her legacy and to immortalise [sic] her final words with the understanding that it would only be shared with the world after she passed." I was profoundly moved by the interview. First, by the concept that she knew her words would be shared after her death, displaying a certain acceptance that the end of her life was approaching. Second, by the message itself which is one of the most meaningful "sermons" I have ever heard or read.

In her closing statement, she shared these words:

What message do I want to leave? I want to make sure that you all understand that each and every one of you has a role to play. Your life matters and you are here for a reason. And every single day you live, you make a difference in the world. And you get to choose the difference that you make. Even today, when the planet is dark, there is still hope. Don't lose hope. We have to do everything in our power to make the world a better place for the children alive today and for those that will follow you.

I believe we can each be inspired by her life and her words both personally and as a community. This month, especially, TBD will be making a difference in the world around us, fulfilling our Jewish mission of Tikkun Olam. Our Thanksgiving Food Drive, sponsored by Isaiah 58,

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Message from

Thanksgiving Thoughts

As we move into November we anticipate the upcoming Thanksgiving Holidays. Having recently celebrated our High Holidays and Sukkot, both of which have elements to express gratitude for what we truly have (and don't have), this unique American tradition is approaching once again.

Today it has evolved into a day of seeing family and friends, watching football and eating. As many of us have done during our recent Holidays, it is yet another opportunity to take a moment and reflect on all that we have in our lives both personally and collectively. We are, of course, grateful for our health, family and friends. We are thankful that we live in a country that still respects the rule of law and has historically provided us with one of the best opportunities to grow and thrive as Jews.

The point is we should take none of this for granted. What we have, who we are—it can be lost in a heartbeat. So this year, let's take a minute not only to appreciate what we have, but also what we must fight for, to make sure it is there for our children and for generations to come. As we gather with family and friends, look around you and make time to savor the moment.

Ken

Save the Date!
Friday, June 19, 2026 @ 7:30 pm
Shabbat Celebration to Honor
Rabbi Klafter and Rabbi Halpern
Festive Oneg to Follow

Continued from page two

brings sustenance and hope to our neighbors. Children in our Religious School will be making a difference at Gurwin; for the first time in many years, they will be bringing their sweet voices to bring joy and hope to the lives of some of their residents on a Sunday afternoon this month. As Dr. Goodall expressed in her interview, each individual act brings us closer to making positive change.

I wish all of you a season of gratitude and a season of hope,

Rabbi Beth Klafter

Rabbi Beth H. Klafter



Clergy Reflections by Rabbi Audrey Halpern

Dear Friends,

This Thanksgiving season feels different.

Of course, as I write to you, we are still awaiting the release of the hostages, which appears to be imminent. Finally, there is something we can all agree upon as we join together to offer prayers and hope.

Maybe that is what made me think about my hope for this Thanksgiving. More than any time in my life, I have never felt that I am living in such a divided society. We think twice about who we want to be with for the holiday. Families are filled with tension about politics and things have gotten so contentious that the party one belongs to seems to define their very character.

Our friend groups have changed, and our social circles have quietly redefined themselves. We no longer want to be with THEM! (whoever the other side is).

How do we find our way back to civil discourse and calm conversation without persecution for disagreement? I cannot pretend to be immune to this same fallback response, but it is not productive and at Thanksgiving I am reminded that more than any individual, we must focus more on what unites us. Only then can we find our way to some kind of rapprochement. As I looked for inspiration, I came across this little poem that touched me.

*In every word, a promise flows,
Together as one, our spirit grows.
In laughter shared, and tears that fall,
We weave our dreams, embracing all.
In whispers soft, our hearts align,
A tapestry of souls, divine.
With strength in unity, hand in hand,
A brighter future, a stronger land.*

During this month of Thanksgiving, I pray that we may find ways to underscore the common bonds that unite us so that we can once again sit and eat and laugh and cry together in harmony and unity as a people of diverse feelings with mutual respect for all.

B'shalom,
Rabbi Audrey Halpern

Rabbi Audrey B. Halpern





Margie Gursky Religious School News

It's been a whirlwind of holiday services and festivities during these last few weeks. The last holiday was Simhat Torah along with our New Student Consecration. Amazingly, we have 35 new students, at least at the time I am writing this. It's so exciting to have such a vibrant school in our temple.

For the high holidays, the Children's Services were jam-packed with our families, their friends, neighbors, and grandparents. Rabbi Klafter came close to running out of the TBD lego toy she gave out to the children. Pizza in the Hut was another huge success for our Religious School families. During school hours, our youngest students made decorations for the sukkah and Rabbi Klafter brought the classes into the sukkah to teach them about the lulav and etrog. (See the photos.)

On the first Shabbat after you receive this issue of Hakol, November 7, the K-3 students will be displaying their artistic talent for the Art Show/Pre-Neg. I hope to see you all there!

Going forward, we have designated the week of November 16-19 as Kindness Week. We are kicking off this week by having our students sing a few songs to the Gurwin residents on Sunday, November 16 at 2:00 pm. During school hours Tuesday/Wednesday, November 18-19, parents are invited to join their children to work on activities to help our community.

Also, Rabbi Klafter and I will be starting our PACT Family Programs during November for fourth/fifth and sixth/seventh grades. Keep an eye out for emails about these programs. And before we all know it, we will be getting ready for Hanukkah!

Happy Thanksgiving to all our families!



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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@tbdcmmack.org
631-499-0915 x 312

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SUKKOT ACTIVITIES



TASHLICH 2025/5786



Sisterhood

The women of Sisterhood have been very busy the past several weeks.

Back in September, we had our first Israeli dancing session. We also had a Chair Yoga session at our annual Welcome Back Nosh.

In October, we decorated the beautiful Sukkah on the Bima and walked at Sunken Meadow for Breast Cancer.

This month on November 5 we will be hosting our Paid-Up Membership dinner at Spuntino's.

If you have always been curious about Sisterhood, please come to our next meeting on December 4 at 7:30 pm and check us out. We would love to have you join us!

Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

Warmly,

Jodi Maisel, President

516-313-8890/jodilie@optonline.net

Sisterhood Sukkah Decorating



Sisterhood Chair Yoga



SIMCHAS AND NACHAS

We are starting a new column in *Hakol* which we are hoping will bring a bit more community to our TBD family.

“Simchas and Nachas” will include happy news from our TBD family. So, if you have a birth (child or grandchild), promotion, new job, retirement, bar or bat mitzvah, graduation, engagement, or marriage announcement that you would like to share, please send it to Diane Kraut at dianekraut@optimum.net.

TEMPLE BETH DAVID
SISTERHOOD PRESENTS

Paid-up Membership Dinner

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2025
6:30 PM

SPUNTINO

687 OLD COUNTRY ROAD, DIX HILLS

REMEMBER THIS DINNER IS ONLY FOR **PAID-UP MEMBERS** AND YOUR **DUES MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, OCT. 29TH**

PLEASE BRING A **NEW, UNUSED** TOILETRY OR COSMETIC ITEM WITH YOU FOR DONATION TO A LOCAL GIRLS/WOMAN'S SHELTER

RSVP TO ROBIN PRAGER OR IRMA SARISOHN NO LATER THAN WEDNESDAY, OCT. 29TH AT
ROBIN.PRAGER@GMAIL.COM OR
IRMA.SARISOHN@GMAIL.COM

LOOKING FORWARD TO
SEEING YOU FOR AN
EVENING OF FUN, FOOD,
AND PRIZES

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.

Sundays:

October 12th and October 26th

November 9th and November 23rd

December 14th

10:30-11:30 AM in Room 4

Questions: Abby Taft, debbieabby4@gmail.com



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:
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

This past month we mourned the loss of Ben Piskorz. Ben and his wife Regina were members of our congregation for more than 50 years. Ben served on our Board of Trustees and acted as our parliamentarian. He knew so many members of our congregation that he became a fixture at high holiday services. Often, he was the first person to greet us when we arrived and walked down the hallway and into the sanctuary.

Ben was also a member of Brotherhood. He attended meetings and events frequently. In fact, Ben joined us at our first summer planning meeting just a few short months ago. Ben Piskorz was older than the rest of us but that did not stop him from offering his opinion nor engaging in the good-natured teasing that has become a hallmark of when Brotherhood members gather together.

Ben and Regina raised their family at Temple Beth David. His children were long-time members themselves. He was a grandparent several times over. His children and grandchildren graduated from religious school and celebrated their B'nai Mitzvot here many years ago. Why then did he remain an active member of our congregation? What did Temple Beth David offer to Ben Piskorz? Why was a man in his late 80's still an active member of Brotherhood?

Surely, Ben must have felt a spiritual connection. If you knew him, then you would know that he and Regina could be found at their regular location in the pew near the door of the sanctuary. A person seeking religious guidance or fulfillment can find it in many places so there must have been something special that kept him connected to Temple Beth David. I suggest that it was the friendships and sense of community that he developed and nurtured during the course of his 50 plus years of membership in our temple. Brotherhood played a role. I am certain of that.

Please consider joining Brotherhood. Help us honor Ben's memory by coming to some of our upcoming events to find out for yourself what Ben Piskorz knew and deeply felt about the importance of belonging to a congregation, and specifically, to Temple Beth David.

Sunday, November 2: Join us for a tour of the Lt. Michael P. Murphy Navy Seal Museum. Bring the family!

Friday, November 7: Don't miss the legendary Brotherhood sponsored Oneg.

Wednesday, December 10: Meet us at Millers Ale House for our monthly Millers Minyan. Food, Drinks and Fellowship.

Steven Sarisohn, President

631-455-2387/ssarisohn@sarisohnlaw.com





News from Isaiah 58

To all who generously gave food and funds to our Yom Kippur Food Drive, THANK YOU! We received bags, boxes, cartons and checks. What a generous outpouring at this harvest time! Many thanks to Joe Benesch for delivering the 48 bags of food and Beverly Horowitz for organizing the food drive with the JCC Community Food Pantry. All our donations create a movement to fulfill our mission to help those in the community struggling with food insecurity.

The Social Action Committee members are celebrating the start of a new year and a new season of giving. Leaders of Isaiah 58 Social Action have experience and know-how, but we are always looking for new ideas! You are welcome to any of our Zoom meetings and hear about our ongoing projects. If you are new, just send me your email address and you will receive the link for our next meeting. In November, we collect food for Thanksgiving and will pack the donations on November 16 at noon at TBD. If you can spare half an hour, be with us that day in 3D!

Begin the new school year by doing good things for our community and further the idea of “paying it forward.” If this is your time for earning community service credit, come to the temple and help make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, try looming a handmade hat, or help with our Thanksgiving Food Drive. Community Service Certificates are given to show proof of volunteering.

Our main mission is to help eradicate food insecurity. It remains a complex economic, social and financial problem for many people in our community. Remember to bring a canned good or other shelf-stable food item for our collection bin **each time** you come to TBD. It is a worthwhile habit that fosters gratitude, lifts us up and is a wonderful role model of giving for our children (and grandchildren!).

Hat Looming Club: 11/9, 11/23, and 12/14 from 10:30 -11:30 am Rm 4. Thank you to Abigail Taft for continuing this club and leading with dedication and style.

Caryn Cantley has given her time, energy and heart to the Peanut Butter and Jelly Gang project for years. Hats off to you, Caryn! Now we thank Debbie Morrison for stepping up to lead this community project. Donations of peanut butter, jelly, sandwich baggies and medium gloves are welcomed! Look for upcoming dates in Hakol and the Whole Magillah.

We cannot forget that we live with war, famine and climate change. Banding together to make a difference in the lives of others is our call to action. Hoping that peace arrives soon!

Jane Oberwager Gaines
Isaiah 58 Social Action Committee Chair

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





ISRAELI DANCING

All Are Welcome!

No Experience Necessary!

Sunday, December 14th

1:00 - 3:00 PM

TBD Social Hall

Questions: Deborah deborah@fausthouse.org



TBD SINGS!

**For Residents at Gurwin Nursing
& Rehabilitation Center
68 Hauppauge Rd, Commack**

Sunday, November 16th @ 2 PM



do a mitzvah!

RSVP: Mgursky@tbdcommack.org

HANUKKAH HAPPENING

Sunday, December 7th
9:30-11:00 AM

LEGO Contest (Bring your own Legos)
Make an Edible Menorah
Yummy Hanukkah Treats
Create an Electric Circuit Menorah
(Grades 3 and up)
Crafts, Games and much more for all
ages!



RSVP REQUIRED BY DECEMBER 3rd
ALL WELCOME! NEW FACES MUST RSVP AND BRING PHOTO ID



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In memory of Robert Ross

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In memory of Hermine Schleifer

In memory of Louis Schleifer

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In memory of Edward Feldman

Joel Kurtz

In memory of Mitten Kurtz

Bruce and Jill Sharp

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In memory of Abe Tilkin

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In memory of Arthur H. Silverstein

Susan Brudno

In memory of Herman Gutterson

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Lauren and Lindsay Cooper**

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Audrey Halpern

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Eric Robinson

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Jana and Aviva Greenberg

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Isaiah 58 Fund

Deborah Morrison

In memory of Beatrice Birn

Beverly and Stuart Horowitz

Lisa Wilks-Gallo

Larry Marcus Fund

Religious School Fund

Susan & Barbara Stearns

Garden Fund

Scott Douglas



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 — November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 9:15 am Torah Study & Service
2 9:00 am Brotherhood Event (out) 12:00 pm Sisterhood Walking Event (out)	3	4 No Religious School	5 4:30 pm Religious School 4:30 pm Together with Tots 6:30 pm Sisterhood Paid Up Membership Dinner (out)	6	7 6:00 pm Brotherhood Pre-neg 6:00 pm K-3 Art Show 6:30 pm Shabbat Service w/Birthday Blessings	8 9:15 am Torah Study & Service
9 10:30 am Hat Looming	10	11 Temple Office Closed No Religious School	12 4:30 pm Religious School 6:30 pm Fourth/Fifth Grade PACT 7:30 pm Steering Committee Meeting	13	14 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	15 9:15 am Torah Study & Service
16 11:00 am Isaiah 58 Meeting 12:00 pm Isiah58 Food Packing 2:00 pm TBD Students Sing at Gurwin	17 Brotherhood Paid Up Dinner (out)	18 4:30 pm Religious School 7:00 pm Executive Board 8:00 pm TBD Board Meeting	19 4:30 pm Religious School 5:30 pm Religious School Committee Meeting 6:30 pm Sixth Grade PACT	20 7:00 pm Budget & Finance	21 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	22 9:15 am Torah Study & Service
23 10:30 am Hat Looming 30	24	25 4:30 pm Religious School 5:30 pm PB&J (social hall)	26 No Religious School	27 Temple Office Closed	28 Temple Office Closed 7:30 pm Shabbat Service w/Ann Blessings	29 9:15 am Torah Study & Service



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Worship Schedule

Friday, November 7

Shabbat Vayera

6:30 pm Shabbat Service with Birthday Blessings

Saturday, November 8

9:15 am Torah Study and Service

Friday, November 14

Shabbat Chayei Sara

7:30 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, November 15

9:15 am Torah Study and Service

Friday, November 21

Shabbat Toldot

7:30 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, November 22

9:15 am Torah Study and Service

Friday, November 28

Shabbat Vayetzei

7:30 pm Shabbat

Saturday, November 29

9:15 am Torah Study and Service

HaKol
TEMPLE BETH DAVID
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