

Hakol

the voice of temple beth david



Vol. XV No. 10

Sivan/Tammuz 5786

June 2026

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(631) 499-0915

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Rabbi's Message by Rabbi Beth Klafter

On the Shabbat of my installation as Senior Rabbi of TBD, in November 2013, I began with This story about Albert Einstein: *He had been invited to deliver the commencement address at a university. After a lengthy introduction by the college president, Dr. Einstein approached the podium. He thanked the president for his kind words and then said, "Ladies and Gentlemen, I am sorry, I have nothing to say." And he sat down. A moment later, he stood and added, "If I ever do have something to say, I'll come back."*

Like Einstein, I, too, am tempted to end this article here with his comment because it is overwhelming to find the words, enough words, the right words for this, my last Hakol message. I began as the Director of Education in 2006, seven years before becoming your Senior Rabbi. Over the course of twenty years, I have written 200 articles – hundreds of topics and thousands of words! Twenty years!

There is so much to count: the number of Shabbat services and “Birthday Blessing” pencils; the hours of Religious School classes and the families in PACT (Parents and Children Together) over the years; the books in my office and the stories read; the lessons taught and learned; the babies named and the couples married; the joyous moments and challenging times shared. Yes, there is much to tally.

The lyrics from “Rent,” come to my mind: *Five-hundred-twenty-five-thousand-six hundred minutes. How do you measure a year? In daylight, in sunsets, in midnights, in cups of coffee; in inches, in miles, in laughter, in strife. How do you measure [twenty years] in a life?* No, this is not a season of numbers; not a time to quantify our lives together. It is, as in the title of this song, about “Seasons of Love” for me and for us here at TBD.

(continued on page 2)

Message from President Ken Marenus



The Times they are a Changin'

It's been a long two years, but some important things have happened. We sold our building, we paid off our mortgage, we have a twenty-year lease, and we have some money in the bank to stabilize our finances. Even though these major events in our temple life have occurred, they have had little impact on the daily operation of Temple Beth David and in practice, these changes have not been obvious to most of the congregation.

That is all about to change. The model we have had for many years is going to start evolving in a big way at the end of June. We will begin the process of redefining who we are and what we do. We will be looking at our worship practices and most other programs in the Temple. We will begin the process of selecting a "settled Rabbi". These are not unusual activities for a Temple. There are things we have been doing that may need to be updated and things we want to do that have yet to be defined.

We have hired an "Interim Rabbi," Dr. Kari Tuling, who will help guide us through the examination and change processes to come. Rabbi Tuling will be with us for one year and is skilled in this activity. She is one of a rare group of Rabbis trained to help congregations successfully go through transition. So, as we move forward into the future, we need to be appreciative, be enthusiastic, and view these changes as an opportunity for Temple Beth David. It's important to fasten your seatbelts but also enjoy the journey. It's been my pleasure and honor to be President during the beginning of this journey. Now it's time to welcome the future as a temple family.

Sincerely,
Ken Marenus

(Rabbi Klafter's Message continued from page 1)

And what is love but an obligation to care for one another; to make difficult days a little less painful; and to increase joy by celebrating together. It is to treat one another with kindness; to harness our collective power to bring love – not hate – into the world around us. Love is to connect with one another in spoken and unspoken ways; to bring sanctity and inspiration. Love is to share our humanity, bringing 'she'lemut,' wholeness and completeness, repairing ourselves and our world. It is to find sanctity and divine inspiration each day.

Rabbi Nachman of Bratzlav taught: How can we love God when we cannot see the Divine? We can love God by loving God's letters. How does a child learn the alphabet? One letter at a time – *aleph, bet, gimel, dalet*; and then these become words and the words can become Torah. Every person is but one letter in God's sacred book. The more letters you come to know, the more you can love God."

During my years at Temple Beth David, I have been blessed to come to know so many – from the youngest children in our classrooms, to our founding members; from learning Torah from the scroll, to living Torah values in the world beyond our walls. Together we have formed words and in doing so, we have brought the Divine presence into our lives. In all the days to come, I pray that God's presence is revealed to each of us, through the letters and the loves of our lives.

I hope to see you later this month on the 19th, when we will worship together and I will have the chance to reflect on my seasons and years at TBD and my decades in the rabbinate.

Rabbi Beth H. Klafter

Clergy Reflections by Rabbi Audrey Halpern



Dear Friends,

How strange and bittersweet it is to be writing this final Hakol article for you, my congregational family! Anytime we end a chapter in our lives and begin another, we look back and wonder what we might have done differently. And while I am filled with love and gratitude, there are naturally some moments of regrets as well.

For any of the times I have missed the mark over these years; for any pain I may have caused any of you by disappointing you or hurting you in any way at all, I am truly sorry. For all you have given to enrich my life and for the many sacred moments we have shared over these many years, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Every leader and especially our temple presidents over these many years and especially Ken Marenus who has served not once, but twice and always remained a trusted friend and advisor. Our educators, our staff, and the many members who have worked on committees or projects from Oneg Shabbats to operating the camera; Hakol to Brotherhood and Sisterhood and Isaiah 58; pulpit committees, finance committees and on and on. Sarah Reiff was the first face I encountered after Rabbi Troupp, of blessed memory, insisted I audition here. Her welcoming spirit beckoned me to move forward and make this my home. Gary de Sesa began the same day I did and we instantly fell in musical love – enjoying the beauty of fine music and the desire to share it with all of you. To all of you who work behind the scenes to create the home that TBD is for all of us – thank you all for the gifts of your heart that you share so generously.

Rabbi Klafter, working side by side with you has been an honor and a pleasure. Our private moments of laughter and tears; of sharing creative ideas and philosophical conversations – it has been nothing short of magical.

My children have expanded my heart in untold ways. Steven Rosenberg walked into my office as a single Bar Mitzvah dad and became the love of my life. I met him right here at TBD! Steven has made every moment of serving as your cantor first and especially for these many years as rabbi even more fulfilling and I could not have done any of it the same way without him by my side.

I think of the melodies of farewell – Time to Say Goodbye and one of my favorite arias from La Traviata, Addio del Passato – and so many gorgeous melodies filled with the parting words that are so hard to say. I started thinking about the different ways people say goodbye in different languages. Here is what I found:

Spanish: Adiós - “To God” (a farewell blessing)

French: Au revoir - “Until we see each other again”

German: Auf Wiedersehen - “Until we see again”

Italian: Arrivederci - “Until we see each other again”

Portuguese: Adeus - “To God”

Dutch: Tot ziens - “See you”

(continued on page 6)

Religious School News from Dr. Margie Gursky



Religious School successfully completed another year of learning, fun activities and friendship. Thank you to our amazing teaching staff for making this happen: Joan Gilbert, Liat Hanuka, Amy Tabackman, Stacey Kravette, Mor Schwartz, Shari Chaikin, Lior Levy, Debbie Ball, Marilyn Pomeranz and Nancy Hertel. I would like to especially thank Joan Gilbert for the amazing 39 years of service she gave to TBD; we will all be sad to see her leave as she is now retiring.

We led our last PACT programs for our fourth through seventh grade students and families. We held our award assemblies on the last day of Religious School for Tuesday and Wednesday students. And we kicked off summer with Family Fun Day. (Actually, I am writing this article before the event, so you won't see the photos until September.) A big thank you to our Brotherhood, Sisterhood, teachers, and parents for helping make this event another fun morning for our current families, prospective families and new families.

I want to extend a huge thank you to our Religious School Parent Committee (RSPC), chaired by Becky Camera. They worked together to make all our events run smoothly and be more fun. Also, I would like to introduce you all to Rachel Vikingstad who will be taking Becky's place as chair of the RSPC starting in the fall. We are looking for class parents/grandparents and members to help organize the events for this coming year. If you are interested in joining us and sharing your creative ideas, please let me know or reach out directly to Rachel (Rachel.vikingstad@gmail.com).

Early Bird Registration ended on May 17, and dozens of families took advantage of this discount. I have been giving tours to prospective families for several weeks now. A bunch of families have already signed up for next year. I intend to keep giving tours during June and August. (The Religious School office is closed for the month of July.) I appreciate all of you who have recommended TBD to your friends. I believe that word of mouth has increased this year, and I hope you all can keep it going! Thank you so much for your support and commitment to our school.

Before I sign off, I would like to thank Rabbi Halpern and Rabbi Klafter for the decades of service they gave to TBD. Our Religious School families surely will forever appreciate Rabbi Halpern's commitment to providing for us spirituality through beautiful music in our services and ensuring that each B'mitzvah student and family receives the tutoring, knowledge and reassurances they need to have a beautiful experience. In addition, Rabbi Klafter and Halpern's attention to the TBD families in need of lifecycle rituals and counseling has been immeasurable. Rabbi Klafter's Torah insights and sermons have provided everyone in attendance with something thought-provoking to take with them. Her PACT Family programs provided students and their families with a deeper understanding of Judaism, its history and values. Her innate ability to engage families at different levels of knowledge is amazing. It was always fun to watch her go into the classrooms and talk directly to the students, even the youngest ones, about God or what it's like to be a rabbi. I have worked directly with Rabbi Klafter during my eight years at TBD. I learned so much by watching her lead TBD and the Religious School through big challenges like the pandemic and the purchase of the building by NSSA, and even through everyday minutia. I can never fully express my appreciation for her mentorship and friendship. I will miss both of these incredible women.

(continued on page 6)

Mitzvah Day 2026



(Rabbi Halpern's message continued from page 3)

Japanese: Sayōnara - "If it must be so"

Chinese: Zàijìàn - "See you again"

Hebrew: Lehitra'ot - "To see each other again"

Russian: Do svidaniya - "Until the next meeting"

Polish: Do widzenia - "Until seeing (each other again)"

Finnish: Näkemiin - "Until we see again"

I am sure you noticed what I did as well. It is hard to say a goodbye that is too final and so we say – until later or until we see each other again. I feel that way as well. It is truly hard to say goodbye after sharing what feels like a lifetime of memories, but I know there will be times our paths will cross.

As wistful as this parting is, I was comforted when I reflected on our own word in Hebrew for goodbye – the classical Shalom. It is interesting because it is our greeting as well and it also means peace. But what I thought about most is that Shalom also means wholeness. We have come full circle. Our lives have gone round and round in all that we have gone through, and they continue in the ongoing circle of life. It fills us with a sense of wholeness and that is what I feel most of all at this moment of farewell. It is one of completeness and yes, one of peace.

I will borrow the words that my Aunt Bunny spoke to my Uncle Norman each evening when they went to bed, as I say to you now: "See you 'round the corner."

B'shalom – Always,



(Dr. Gursky's message continued from page 4)

After meeting with our incoming interim Rabbi Kari Tuling, I have complete confidence that she will be able to fully serve the TBD congregation and help us find the best possible settled rabbi. I hope you all take the opportunity this summer and fall to get to know her.

As we say goodbye to Rabbi Klafter and Rabbi Halpern, please join us to honor them at two different Shabbat services:

- **RS Honors our Retiring Clergy: June 5 @ 6:30 pm with a 6:00 pm "Make Your Own Sundae" Pre-Neg.**
- **TBD Honors our Retiring Clergy: June 19 @ 7:30 pm with a Chocolate Extravaganza Oneg immediately following the service.**

If you have any questions or concerns regarding registration or programming for next year, please feel free to reach out to me at MGursky@tbdcommack.org (631-499-0915 x312).

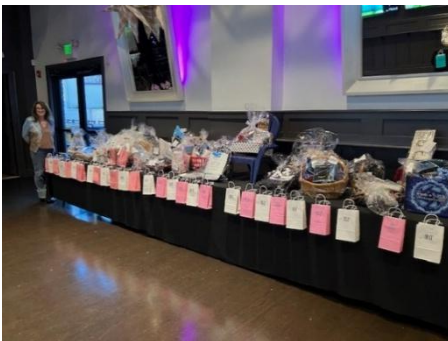
Sisterhood News

I can't believe that this is my last HaKol article. Two years certainly flew by quickly! It has been my honor to serve the women of Sisterhood and I will still be around in my role as Past President. Deborah Faust will make a wonderful new Sisterhood President.

As to recent events, Bingo was a fabulous fun night! Denise Jacobs flawlessly runs this event, with great humor and organization, providing prizes and light snacks. Who doesn't enjoy yelling out "Bingo?" And better yet, who doesn't like to win prizes? Then, in our book club, Sisterhood read a timely historical fiction novel called "Atmosphere" by Taylor Jenkins Reid. We discussed parallels to the recent NASA Artemis flight around the moon and the woman who was part of that crew. We always have great discussions, sometimes with tears, but always with laughter. Please consider joining us. Our flyers are posted on all the temple platforms. We also had another Israeli dance session, thanks to Deborah Faust. It's always fun dancing to our old favorites and learning new dances as well.

The French Experience Deux will take place in June under the leadership of Carole Wilk. Our first French Experience was enjoyed by everyone and we expect more of the same this time. Our discussion will include a talk on the two districts in Paris that have a rich Jewish history, Le Marais or the "Pletzl" (Yiddish for Little Square) and the 9th district (also known as the 9th arrondissement). We will be emphasizing their connection to Jewish culture and cuisine. Of course, this will be accompanied by food, including savory and sweet crepes, all for the reasonable price of \$18. While we don't have a date yet for this event, look for a flyer with details very soon on our Facebook page, as well as in an email and the Whole Megillah.

Finally, we will be repeating the great time we had last summer with Brotherhood at Sunken Meadow State Park. Stay posted to see the exact date of this event. Finally, please check out our pictures of our recent Sisterhood Fashion Show below.



With Gratitude,

Jodi Maisel



Shabbat UNDER THE STARS

FRIDAY, JUNE 5TH @ 6:30 PM

**HELP US HONOR THE CLERGY AS
WE PRESENT THEM WITH A GIFT
EVERY STUDENT PARTICIPATED IN
CREATING**

GLOWSTICKS FOR ALL

**MAKE YOUR
OWN SUNDAIES**

**BRING
FRIENDS &
FAMILY**

**ENJOY
SHABBAT
MUSIC**

RSVP BY JUNE 2ND:

<https://tbdcommack.shulcloud.com/form/Religious-School-Honors-the-Clergy.html>



Please join us for a Special Farewell to Honor
Rabbi Klafter & Rabbi Halpern



**Friday, June 19th
7:30 PM
Shabbat Service**



**Along with music, invited speakers, hugs, laughter, and
some tears, for opportunities to say
"thank you", "we love you", and "L'hitraot"**

Special Oneg to Follow

RSVP by May 15th: tbdcommack.org/rsvp



News from Isaiah 58



We celebrated our 29th annual Mitzvah Day and had a memorable morning! On this day, once a year, we unite to foster the idea of “Tikkun Olam” (repairing the world). Rachel Vikingstad, our Mitzvah Day Chair, our Project Leaders and committee members gathered early as we took a moment to remember Sandy Wicker and renewed our efforts to continue her project of Children’s Crafts.

We honored Rabbi Klafter and Rabbi Halpern upon their retirement and even had a visit from the Huntington Supervisor’s office to offer their hearty congratulations. We enjoyed a delicious bagel breakfast from Bagel Chalet and a cake that read “Congratulations and Thank you.” Thanks to Laraine Shapiro and Lynn Soriano for the breakfast help!

Our collective efforts for Mitzvah Day were inspiring and uplifting to all who were there! Tee-shirts and balloons in blue and white added to our feeling of solidarity. Nothing can compare to the outpouring of giving from individuals who offered donations. Agencies, both local and worldwide, were given PB&J sandwiches, clothing, baby items, food and monetary donations to help those in need. Books and bookmarks for Stony Brook Children’s hospital, Book Fairies, school supplies, hand-loomed hats, plants for Gurwin, Big Brother Big Sister donations plus bikes and a razor scooters, all went to folks who perhaps cannot afford these things on their own or need a little help. Off site, Bingo at Gurwin was such fun and the Talent Show at Fountaingate Gardens was an entertaining success. Our car wash, led by Craig Cooper, netted \$140 that will be donated to Long Island Cares. Thanks to Joe Benesch who delivered food to the East Northport food pantry.

Isaiah 58 Social Action Committee has been helping those in need for 29 years, and we are very proud of our reputation at Temple Beth David and in the surrounding community. Everyone is welcome to join in our efforts to be the change we wish to see in the world. Action is necessary to promote change. The entire committee is strong, resilient and ready for more. Please join us on Tuesday, May 19 at 7:30 p.m. for our planning meeting for next year.

Be well, stay safe, enjoy the summer!

Pray for peace.

Jane Oberwager Gaines



See photographs from Mitzvah Day on page 5 and 9!!



TBD SHABBAT SERVICES

JUNE
2026

05

6:30 PM

SHABBAT UNDER THE STARS
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL HONORS RABBI
KLAFTER & RABBI HALPERN
BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS
6PM PRE-NEG: MAKE YOUR OWN SUNDAE

12

7:30 PM

SHABBAT SERVICE
BOARD INSTALLATION
MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS
ONEG IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

19

7:30 PM

SHABBAT SERVICE
TBD HONORS RABBI KLAFTER &
RABBI HALPERN
FESTIVE ONEG IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

26

7:30 PM

SHABBAT SERVICE
ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS
ONEG IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

FOR MORE INFO : CONTACT WENDY:
WENDY@TBDCOMMACK.ORG/631-499-0915 X312

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Pay your 2026-2027 dues in full now and enjoy these discounts:

Pay in April and save \$100

Pay in May and save \$75

Pay in June and save \$50

*Discounts apply only to temple dues,
and not to assessments or tuition, which will be billed in July, 2026.*

Please call the temple office at (631) 499-0915 ext. 312 or 329 for your dues obligation for 2026-2027

Example based on Full Family Dues of \$2,400

Dues Discount By Month	April	May	June
Total Payment	\$2,300	\$2,325	\$2,350
Your Savings	(\$100 savings)	(\$75 savings)	(\$50 savings)

Name _____

Enclosed is \$ _____ (check preferred, please) or charge my credit card for:

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CREDIT CARD INFORMATION (a 3% convenience fee will be added to all credit card payments)

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Exp. Date _____ CVV Code _____

Signature _____ Billing ZIP Code _____

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Religious School

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2026-2027

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*\$200 deposit required at time of registration



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SAVE THE DATE!

COMEDY NIGHT

presented by the TBD Ways and Means Committee

October 17th 2026 at 7:00PM

starring

Chris Monty

“Paul Blart, Orange is the New Black, Kevin Can Wait”
and

Chris Roach

“Kevin Can Wait, L.I. Explained, Comic Strip Live”

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In memory of Alan Brudno

In memory of Sophie Gutterson

Raymond & Marsha Greenberger

In memory of Michael Greenberger

Wilhelm Dichter

In memory of Bronislaw Rabinowicz

Holly and Dan Dornfeld

In memory of Fay and Bernard Skolnick

Rose Anolik

In memory of Rachel Anolik Petrosic

Ellen Schnitzer

In memory of Barbara Schnitzer

Rhonda Weintraub

In memory of Anna Schnitzer

Alita and Michael Ditkowsky

In memory of Dottie Wagner

Constance Karpf

In memory of Daniel Feinstein

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In memory of Gussie and Samuel Epstein

Lenore Seltzer

In memory of Irving Sutta

Michael and Alita Ditkowsky

In memory of Irene Wagner

Linda and Joel Evans

In memory of Joseph Evans

In honor of Ken Marenus,

Temple President 2024-2026

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Rabbi Beth Klafter & Rabbi Audrey Halpern

Barbara and Randy Klein

Beverly and Steven Wolcott

Holly and Dan Dornfeld

Wendy and Jim Perry

Robin Prager

Norman and Arlette Miller

Steven and Irma Sarisohn

Diane and Jeff Kraut

Margorie Gursky and Stuart Rothenberg

Lin Wasserman

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Yahrzeit Memorial (located in sanctuary vestibule)	\$ 500.00
Tree of Life (located in sanctuary across from Yahrzeit plaques)	
Gold or Platinum Leaf	\$ 180.00
Foundation Stone	\$ 450.00
Sanctuary	
One seat	\$ 800.00
Two seats	\$1500.00

What's Happening at TBD – June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 1p Israeli Dancing	1 7p Calendar Meeting	2 7:30p Steering Committee Mtg	3 10a TBD Staff Meeting	4	5 6p RS Honors the Clergy Ice Cream Pre-neg 6:30p Shabbat Under the Stars, RS students and families honor Rabbi Klaffer & Rabbi Halpern w/Bday Blessings	6 9:15a Shabbat Morning Torah Study
7	8 7p Congregational Mtg	9 7p Executive Board 8p TBD Board Mtg	10 10a TBD Staff Meeting	11 6:30p Sisterhood Installation Bash (out)	12 7:30p Installation Shabbat Service with Milestone Anniversaries	13 9:15a Shabbat Morning Torah Study
14 9a Sisterhood Cultural Arts Event (out)	15	16	17 10a TBD Staff Meeting	18	19 Temple Office Closed 7:30p Shabbat Service in Honor of Rabbi Klaffer and Rabbi Halpern	20 9:15a Shabbat Morning Torah Study
21	22	23	24 10a TBD Staff Meeting	25 7p Budget & Finance	26 7:30p Shabbat Service w/Ann Blessings	27 9:15a Shabbat Morning Torah Study
28	29	30	1	2	3 Temple Closed 6p Pre-neg 6:30p Shabbat Service w/Bday Blessings	4



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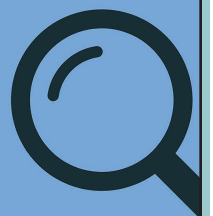
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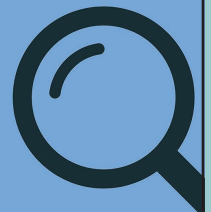
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Temple Beth David, Commack, NY

04-0360

Worship Schedule

Friday, June 5

Shabbat Beha'alotecha

6:30 pm Shabbat Under the Stars, RS students and families honor Rabbi Klafter & Rabbi Halpern with Birthday Blessings

Saturday, June 6

9:15 am Torah Study and Service

Friday, June 12

Shabbat Sh'lach

7:30 pm Installation Shabbat Service with Milestone Anniversaries

Saturday, June 13

9:15 am Torah Study and Service

Friday, June 19

Shabbat Korach

7:30 pm Shabbat Service in Honor of Rabbi Klafter and Rabbi Halpern

Saturday, June 20

9:15 am Torah Study and Service

Friday, June 26

Shabbat Chukat-Balak

7:30 pm Shabbat Service with Anniversary Blessings

Saturday, June 27

9:15 am Torah Study and Service

TEMPLE BETH DAVID

100 Hauppauge Road, Commack, NY 11725 (631) 499-0915 www.tbdcommack.org

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