

# Hakol

*the voice of temple beth david*



Vol. XIV No. 10

Sivan/Tamuz 5785

June 2025

## Temple Beth David Phone Directory (631) 499-0915

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## Rabbi's Message by Rabbi Beth Klafter

At the beginning of this (school and Jewish) year, I shared a story during my Yom Kippur sermon which seems appropriate to share again as we approach the end of this year.

On Yom Kippur, some may remember, I applied the message of my story to each of us personally as we considered *chesbon hanefesh*, the private accounting of our souls. This month, I believe its message can speak to us as a congregation, at this very moment in time.

I told the story of a cartoon from “Mutt and Jeff” in which we find Jeff on his hands and knees on the sidewalk under a streetlight. He tells a police officer that he is looking for a quarter that he dropped. Jeff goes on to explain that he dropped it two blocks down the street. “Then why are you looking here?” asks the officer. “Because the light is better here,” answers Jeff.

As I explained last fall, the joke appears under the heading, ‘the streetlight effect.’ A type of observational bias that occurs when people only search for something where it is easiest to look and, I would add, where they have always looked before.

We tend to function this way personally and communally, too.

As a holy community with a long history, many look for traditions where the light has been brightest since the founding of TBD well over six decades ago. Many have only known our building in its current design, which is about forty years old. Some remember the earliest days of TBD, meeting in a private living room, and then in the home on Scholar Lane in Commack. Some may remember that the current sanctuary is larger and wider than the first incarnation of our sacred space. Some of us feel most comfortable in a familiar place – under our own metaphorical street light. Sitting in a certain pew. Parking in a certain spot. It is natural to be hesitant to seek a new space which may, at first, feel less bright.

As a community, we are in a liminal moment of change, and a time of uncertainty too. It is helpful and healthy to recognize this and name it. It may be comforting to know that many others share similar feelings, wistful about the past and about the familiar.

Nonetheless, the sale of our building and property to Nassau Suffolk Services for Autism (NSSA) is already beginning to bring changes to our physical space. Renovations to some of our classrooms are underway; a

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## *Message from President Ken Marenus*

Wandering in the desert. ....

Thinking back on the Passover story, our 40 years of wandering in the desert often doesn't get the attention it deserves. Many interpretations state that we were Egyptian slaves for approximately 400 years, about 10 generations. If you think about it, during that time we had most likely lost the ability to govern and provide for ourselves. Hence our wandering for 40 years, about one generation, required us to quickly develop our own survival skills. It was the time for decisions on the future and determining how we were going to take care of our needs. If we had gone directly from Egypt to Canaan, we wouldn't likely have been successful in the transition since we didn't have the skills or culture to do it.

At Temple Beth David, we have had great stability for over 40 years. We now find ourselves in a place where we must take a close look at ourselves, make some decisions, and develop the skills we will need to be successful going forward. There are challenges ahead as well as some potential uneasiness as we leave our 40-year comfort zone and move into the future.

This will be an effort which will go down to the roots of who we are, what we do, and how we do it. It will need everyone's input and consideration. We are all a part of the community and each one of us has a voice that must be heard.

As we now wander in the desert, I hope we can do it all together, understanding that we are working together to create the Temple Beth David that will be here in 2066.

Bless us all,  
Ken

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Continued from page one

new entry way will be designed; some activities may be relocated within our building. We are not exactly sure where the new light poles - both actual and symbolic - will be positioned in the coming months and years.

Yet, there is much that we do know. We know that each decision is being made with care and sensitivity, from moving plaques which memorialize our loved ones to hanging cherished artwork. The leadership is consulting with professionals in the field of building design to meet our needs, given our resources. Several congregants with expertise are involved. The functional needs of the congregation are being carefully considered, including brand-new classrooms, offices for staff and professionals, and gathering spaces for our many activities.

I also know that our partnership with NSSA is a gift. Nicole Weidenbaum, Executive Director, and Kathy Mannion, Associate Director, are consummate professionals and already feel like dear friends to me and others. NSSA is the gold standard in education and support in the autism community on Long Island. They serve their students with care throughout their lives, along with supporting parents and families. It is a privilege to enable NSSA to expand their services with the sale of our facility. They truly do holy work every day.

Lastly, I also know that we are in this transition together. Like the ancient Israelites building the Tabernacle in the desert, each member of TBD has gifts to offer as we recreate our holy space. The Israelites were instructed to build so that God would dwell among them, as we, too, are doing. As we envision changes in our future, let us also remember that new street lights bring light and brightness.

May we continue to go from strength to strength, and from light to light.

Rabbi Klafter

*Rabbi Beth H. Klafter*



## *Clergy Reflections by Rabbi Audrey Halpern*

Dear Friends,

As I write this final article before summer, I am also thinking about our bagel brunch for Mother's Day. Gifts for a ninety-five-year-old mother are simple and somewhat gratuitous. For our mother, the gift of visits, of chicken soup I try to make regularly and of the peanut butter and jelly buckwheat wraps that she and I have become obsessed with are really all she wants.

My sister is flying in from Arizona and my brother was just here visiting her as well. In short, we do the best we can, but it's not perfect and neither was she. But she is our mother. So, when I listened to an interview with best selling author Dr. Lindsay Gibson, I was fascinated but deeply disturbed. In her book, *Adult Children of Emotionally Immature Parents: How to Heal from Distant, Rejecting, or Self-Involved Parents*, she describes parents we can all identify with – imperfect, just like all of us! Her ideas of creating a distance from our imperfect or immature, as she calls them, parents is somewhat disconcerting. In her book, clinical psychologist Lindsay Gibson exposes the destructive nature of parents who are emotionally immature or unavailable.

I have a very different take on this. There are certainly exceptional cases of abuse or neglect that would warrant either a complete severing of ties with a parent, or a permanent distancing. I would argue that there is such a large gray area and so many other factors at play. Our own coming of age and emotional maturity should help us deal with our parents.

The reality for most of us is that with time, we understand our parents' background and the reasons they are who they are. Their love for us and our gratitude to them for our very lives and for their continued attachment to us outweighs whatever may trigger us from time to time.

I believe as teachers, therapists and pastors, we must always try kindness, acceptance and love as our first line of defense. My mother has gained the grace over the past years to be able to look back along with me and laugh and roll her eyes about the crazy times in our family. She has become more patient and more loving and so much more grateful for every little kindness she is shown.

On this Mother's Day past and on this Father's Day coming, let us embrace even our less than perfect parents who have, for the most part, loved us more than anyone in the world.

B'shalom,  
Rabbi Audrey Halpern

Wendy Perry is TBD's full-time Temple Administrator.

Her office hours are as follows:

Monday 9 am - 4 pm	Thursday 9 am – 4 pm
Tuesday 10 am - 4 pm	Friday 9 am - 1 pm
Wednesday 10 am - 4 pm	



## Margie Gursky Religious School News

Another successful year of Religious School has ended. During the last few weeks, our fourth graders sang some prayers with Rabbi Halpern and received their personalized prayer books from Rabbi Klafter. It was a beautiful service for these families. Mitzvah Day was so much fun for the many volunteers and families who attended to donate and to participate in the many activities at TBD. Several families had a fun experience at Gurwin playing bingo with the residents. During our last days of classes, many of our students received awards for outstanding attendance in class, tutoring and family programs. And finally, we ended the school year with a bang at Family Fun Day! We had a great turnout as families old and new, joined to do crafts, play games and eat yummy treats. Thank you to all of our adult and team volunteers who generously gave their time and money to help make the day a huge success.

I would like to thank Rabbi Klafter for her incredible leadership in the Temple and in our Religious School. She is my role model and I learn from her each day. And of course, I want to thank our amazing teaching staff for their continued dedication to our school, as well as our parents, for their commitment to their children's Jewish education. I would also like to note that we just celebrated Ms. Pomeranz's 50<sup>th</sup> year of teaching at TBD! That is quite an accomplishment. In addition, I would like to thank our Student Aides for all of their help. I would also like to acknowledge the generosity of our Religious School parent Committee who worked hard to make our events a lot of fun. They say it takes a village to raise children, and I would like to think that it takes a village to educate them too. Together we make a great team teaching our students Hebrew, prayers, holidays and history, as well as instill Jewish values in the young hearts of our students. We hope our hard work will allow our students to grow up to become mensches and continue their own practice and faith in Judaism throughout their lives.

Transition times are always bittersweet. All of the familiar routines of the school year have ended and all of sudden there is a lot of free time in the summer. We think we and our children are all ready to relax and do more activities outdoors. But some children (and adults), initially have trouble adjusting to this new-found time. As usual, communicating with your children is key. Here are some quick tips to help smooth the transition: Create routines for daytime and bedtime. Incorporate your children's desires. Introduce your children to mindfulness. Stick to any previously created behavioral systems. Incorporate educational activities to counter summer learning loss (including Hebrew!) Finally, be flexible and have fun!

Before I sign off for the summer, please remember to register for the 2025-26 school year. It makes it a lot easier for us to plan for next year's classes and teacher schedules if you register before July 1<sup>st</sup>.



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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?**

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**Contact Wendy Perry**





**Do you need help getting to Friday Night services?**

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631-499-0915 x 312

## Family Fun Day



## ADL Comes to TBD

I feel compelled to highlight to the congregation that Sisterhood and Brotherhood hosted “Rising above together: how we can combat antisemitism and hate.” David White, presented this topic that affects us all. David is the associate regional Director of New York and New Jersey at the ADL. The ADL or the Anti-Defamation League has the following mission statement: “to stop the defamation of the Jewish people to secure justice and fair treatment to all.” If you want to learn more about this non-government organization, I recommend you go to the website [www.adl.org](http://www.adl.org).

I found it educational and vitally important for so many reasons. The talk made me feel like I’m not alone, since being a Jew in 2025 can feel lonely. I didn’t even realize until this talk, that I had been faced with anti-Semitism at work. It was thinly veiled as a boycott of Israel and places that give food to soldiers. Another reason that I was so glad to attend this talk is it provided advice on what to do for yourself and/or your children when faced with anti-Semitism. Did you know, that the latest place of Anti-Semitism being reported to the ADL is online gaming? David encouraged the audience to talk to their children and problem solve what to do in the future.

The anti-Semitism presentation also provided a great deal of data. Since October 7, over 10,000 incidents have been reported:

<https://www.adl.org/resources/press-release/over-10000-antisemitic-incidents-recorded-us-oct-7-2023-according-adl>

Although listening to the numbers was difficult, I felt grateful for an organization to be tracking this and simultaneously also working on ways to prevent some of it.

The last point I want to make is the importance of reporting anti-Semitism. Someone in the audience raised their hand and asked about a situation at work. David listened and encouraged them to reach out to the ADL in the future. He said even if you are not sure if you were a victim of anti-Semitism, reach out to the ADL, report it and get some feedback from the experts.

This is uncharted territory for me and I’m guessing for a lot of us in the congregation. One of the most compelling reasons for me to continue as a member of Temple Beth David is the importance of Judaism to me. I feel better equipped to face the future now that I am educated with knowledge and resources.

A positive that arose from this night is that Marian Kent, my co-chair for Social Action Committee, is working on the next presentation to continue to teach us all and provide us with resources to combat anti-Semitism.

Below are resources and links to programs that were discussed and potential future programs.

ADL's Signature Synagogue Program:

<https://nynj.adl.org/signature-synagogues-program/>

ADL's Words to Action Program: <https://www.adl.org/words-to-action>

ADL's Campus Report Card: <https://www.adl.org/campus-antisemitism-report-card>

Reporting an Incident to ADL: <https://www.adl.org/report-incident>

Thank you,  
Debra Blatt  
VP Sisterhood



## *Sisterhood*

The women of Sisterhood have had a busy end to the year.

Sisterhood had a wonderfully successful Fashion Show fundraiser, with a huge turnout and talented models. Thank you all for your support.

We once again collected baby items for our Mitzvah Day project, "Project Baby". Thank you to everyone who donated and to Lin Wasserman for chairing the project.

We gathered for our annual BINGO night and as always, had a blast! Thanks to Denise Jacobs for organizing and hosting.

We were transported to France for the evening with a cooking class and talk on women in France led by our member, Carole Traster-Wilkes. Merci, Carole!

Our end-of-year bash was a fun night hosted by our president, Jodi Maisel. We ate, chatted, and installed our board for the coming year 2025-2026. Please join us at Friday night services on June 20 at 8pm when our officers will be installed.

We have many fun activities planned for the fall and beyond. Watch out for our flyer in August for our Welcome Back Nosh in September.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy summer!!

Diane Kraut



## More Family Fun Day



## Mitzvah Day



# Religious School

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## *Spotlight on Brotherhood*

Spring is in the air and summer is around the corner. The Brotherhood continues to be active with events for fun and for community. We just had a large crowd join us for our annual Blues night with The Kerry Kearney Band. We raised money for Temple Beth David and for the Crohn's & Colitis foundation. On May 4th we collected bicycles as part of Mitzvah day.

Now that the weather is warmer, we are back to celebrating Temple members', monthly birthdays at Carvel. Check the weekly Megillah for dates and times.

Coming up we have our golf outing on June 1st, if you are interested in playing, please contact President Steve Sarisohn. Later in June we have another opportunity to have fun and raise some charitable funds. Join us at the St. James Brewery and buy drinks from guest bartender and brotherhood member Mike Ditkowsky.

For those of you who haven't had the pleasure of joining the guys in the Brotherhood, take the chance to make some new friends and do some good deeds while you're at it.

Steven Sarisohn,  
Brotherhood President

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## Music Class with Stacy Kelly





## News from Isaiah 58

**Y**ou ran the Mitzvah Day OyVey 5K? You waited to grab a spot and got your car washed at the Mitzvah Day Car Wash? What a day at Temple! Our 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Mitzvah Day on May 4<sup>th</sup> was a day dedicated to service, kindness and caring for others. Renewing Bingo at Gurwin was especially sentimental this year, honoring Sandy Wolfson and her decades of service. Many folks at the Gurwin Nursing Facility are not able to get out much. Having fun events for the residents where they live is a vital part of their health, wellness and socialization. Have you noticed how many project leaders gave their time, effort and energy to our tradition? Thank you to Deborah Faust, Craig Cooper, Marian Kent, Bonnie Sibener, Leslie Salander, Marcy Kaplan, Lin Wasserman, Brotherhood, Caryn Cantley, Debbie Morrison, Abby Taft, David Gaines, Randi and Logan Chisari, Laraine Shapiro, Jonathan Weissman and Brianna Kraut. Rachel Vikingstad led the way with her expert organizational skills, technology wizardry and genuine enthusiasm to make the day such a special gathering. Brava, Rachel! Many thanks to our clergy and our president, Ken Marenus, and his wife, Donna, the entire Temple staff, Dr. Margie Gursky, EliteFeats, Big Brothers Big Sisters, our Suffolk County police officers, our security and the folks from Fountaingate who joined us to help others. Dayenu!

We raised over \$500 that day! Thank you to everyone who gave so generously. The funds we raised are given to Long Island Cares to help provide food for those dealing with food scarcity and another portion goes to the American Red Cross for Ukrainian refugees. We donated 200 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to Helping Hand Mission, a full bin of donated food along with Bags of Fun and toilet paper rollers to the JCC Food Pantry. Books were donated to Book Fairies, baby clothing and supplies will be given to new mothers in need and school supplies will be given to children in August to start their school year with all the necessities. Clothing and prom gowns were donated to Dress for Success in Brookhaven. In the fall, hand-loomed hats will make their way to the Dolan Family Health Center. The activities of TBD's Isaiah 58 Social Action Committee keep us busy all year long!

Helping by giving feels powerful and spiritually uplifting especially in a time when we feel overwhelmed. When we band together, "Many hands make light work." At this time, as we prepare to share our building with others, we remember what it is like to "be a stranger in a strange land." Mitzvah Day activities next year may look a bit different but, surely, our annual tradition will continue on Sunday, May 3rd, 2026.

Isaiah 58 Social Action Committee has been helping those in need for 28 years. All are welcome to join us! Our next meeting is May 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. in Room 5 at the temple.

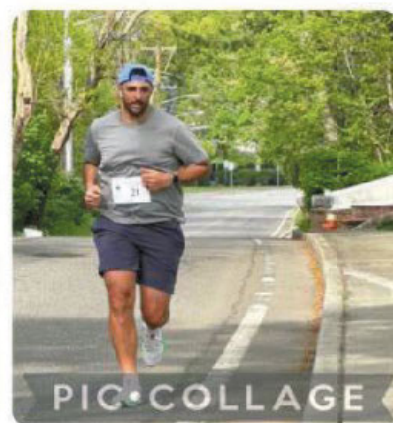
Be well, stay safe, enjoy the spring! Pray for peace.

Jane Oberwager Gaines  
Isaiah 58 Social Action Committee Chair

**To make a donation to  
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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**



## Oy Vey 5K Walk/Run



## More Mitzvah Day



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UNDER THE

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### Rabbi Halpern's Discretionary Fund

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*In memory of Lenore Lerner*

**Susan Zweig**

*In memory of Eric Zweig*

### Choir Fund

### General Fund

**Art and Leslie Salander**

*In memory of Molly Salander*

**Susan Weiner**

*In memory of Lawrence Weiner*

**Donna and Ken Marenus**

*In memory of William Marenus*

**Sandra Wicker**

*In memory of Sylvia Levy*

**Rose and David Anolik**

*In memory of Rachel Anolik*

**The Keval Family**

*In memory of Deborah Baxter*

**Judy Goodman**

*In memory of Benjamin Goodman*

*In memory of Sarah Goodman*

*In memory of Annie Welton*

**Raymond and Marsha**

**Greenberger**

*In memory of Michael Greenberger*

**Marc and Phyllis Grusensky**

*In memory of Morton Katz*

*In memory of Tess Grusensky*

**David Metal**

*In memory of Saul Metal*

*In memory of Sandy Wolfson*

**Joan and Larry Fleischman**

*In memory of Inge Fleischman*

**Barbara and Gary Sunshine**

*In memory of Arthur Blane*

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*In memory of Bertha Itzkowitz*

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*In memory of Ester Garson*

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*In memory of Eleanor Dorskind*

**Gabey Fenster**

*In memory of Ida Stern*

**Bruce and Jill Sharp**

*In memory of Vivienne Freedman*

**Leon Falk**

*In memory of Herbert Falk*

**Gail and Steve Wolfson**

*In memory of Sandy Wolfson*

**Edward Seltzer**

*In memory of Lawrence Seltzer*

**The Golden Family**

*In memory of Lowell Golden*

**Susan Brudno**

*In memory of Sophie Gutterson*

**The Brudno Family**

*In memory of Alan Brudno*

**Robin Carr**

*In memory of Sally Drucker*

**Lenore Seltzer**

*In memory of Irving Sutra*

**Jack and Rochelle Feldman**

*In memory of Donald Feldman*

**Joel Kurtz**

*In memory of Claire Kurtz*

**Randi Schleifer**

*In memory of Phillip Hart*

*In memory of Roslyn Goldstein*

*In memory of Nathan R. Goldstein*

**Aimee and Randy Himelfarb**

*In memory of Gussie Epstein*

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*In memory of Sandy Wolfson*

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*In memory of Jack & Edith Kraut*

**Patricia Gruman**

*In memory of Carole Yudin*

**Lisa Wilks-Gallo**

### Larry Marcus Fund

### Religious School Fund

### Susan & Barbara Stearns

### Garden Fund

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*In memory of Sylvia Glick*

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	Children's butterfly	\$ 36.00
	Foundation Stone	\$ 450.00
<b>Sanctuary</b>	One seat	\$ 800.00



## What's Happening at TBD — June 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Temple Office Closed 10:00 am Yizkor (on Zoom)	3	4	5 6:30 pm Sisterhood Installation (Out)	6 6:30 pm Shabbat Under the Stars and Milestone Anniversaries with regular Birthday blessings	7 9:15 am Torah Study & Service
8	9 7:00 pm Calendar Meeting	10 7:00 pm Executive Board Meeting 8:00 PM TBD Board Meeting	11	12 7:00 PM Sisterhood A French Experience	13 8:00 pm Shabbat Service	14 9:15 am Torah Study & Service
15	16 7:00 pm Congregational Mtg (on Zoom)	17 7:30 pm Steering Committee Meeting	18 7:00 pm Brotherhood Sundaes at Carvel	19 Temple Office Closed	20 8:00 pm Installation Shabbat Service	21 9:15 am Torah Study & Service
22	23 8:00 pm Sisterhood Book Club (on Zoom)	24	25	26	27 8:00 pm Shabbat Service with with Anniversary Blessings	28 9:15 am Torah Study & Service
29	30	1	2	3	4 Temple Office Closed 8:00 pm Shabbat Service with with Birthday Blessings	5 9:15 am Torah Study & Service



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## *Worship Schedule*

Friday, June 6

*Shabbat Nasso*

6:30 pm Shabbat Under the Stars and Milestone  
Anniversaries with Birthday Blessings

Saturday, June 7

9:15 am Torah Study and Service

Friday, June 13

*Shabbat Beha'alotcha*

8:00 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, June 14

9:15 am Torah Study and Service

Friday, June 20

*Shabbat Sh'lach*

8:00 pm Installation Shabbat Service

Saturday, June 21

9:15 am Torah Study and Service

Friday, June 27

*Shabbat Korach*

8:00 pm Shabbat Service w/ Anniversary Bless-  
ings

Saturday, June 28

9:15 am Torah Study and Service

***HaKol***  
***TEMPLE BETH DAVID***  
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