

Hakol

the voice of temple beth david



TEMPLE BETH DAVID

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Iyar/Sivan 5779

June 2019

Temple Beth David Phone Directory

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Please note the change of the
three digit extensions

	Extension
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Bookkeeper	329
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Religious School Office	317
Temple Office	310

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Rabbi's Message by Rabbi Beth H. Klafter

During the first week of June, I will be on the West Coast attending the biennial Convention of the Women's Rabbinic Network (WRN). My membership, participation and leadership in the WRN has been central in my rabbinate since my days at Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) in New York City over three decades ago. (Many of you are aware that Cantor Halpern and I studied there together then!)

The WRN is a constituent group of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), the organization of all Reform rabbis. It was created in 1975 by a (small) group of female rabbinic students to provide the support and advocacy they needed in those very early years of women in the Reform rabbinate. What began with several women meeting privately, now includes over 700 women who have been ordained since 1972 when Sally Priesand became the first female rabbi in the Reform Movement. Our membership is as varied as the 700 women: from rabbis ordained this spring to our *Vatikot* (honored elders); from women in large urban congregations to those serving small rural communities. We serve in a wide variety of professional roles, from Hillel directors to chaplains, CEOs of Jewish organizations, academics, therapists, educators, authors and beyond. In addition to the more personal support we offer to one another, the WRN, in conjunction with the Women of Reform Judaism ("Sisterhood") is leading a study about pay equity. WRN has also been instrumental in responding to the #MeToo Movement, advocating for women and raising awareness among women and men about these issues. From a small group, well over 40 years ago which provided personal and professional resources for women rabbis, the WRN has been the "voice" of women in the rabbinate for the rest of the Movement and beyond.

Many years ago, I served as the New York area coordinator and then as Treasurer of the WRN. This year I was invited to return to the Board; this time as Convention and National Events Co-VP. A primary responsibility will be to Co-Chair the next Convention in 2021 when we will celebrate Fifty Years of Women in the Reform Rabbinate. Though I must admit it is a somewhat daunting task, I am honored and excited to take it on.

At this year's Convention, we will be honoring my friend and colleague,

In This Issue

Rabbi's Message.....	1
Cantorial Notes.....	3
President's Desk	5
Chai Club.....	5
Religious School.....	6
Sisterhood.....	9
Brotherhood	10
Isaiah 58.....	12
Gracious Gifts.....	17
Yahrzeits	18
Calendar	19

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(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Rabbi Hara Person, as she becomes the Chief Executive of the CCAR, the first woman to lead one of the organizations of the Reform Movement. We will also recognize Rabbi Andrea Weiss, Provost of HUC-JIR. This May she was the first woman to ordain new rabbis and cantors at any major seminary. We will also have the opportunity to learn and pray, to share insights and creative ideas together. Since we will be in the Los Angeles area, we will also be meeting Dr. Mayim Bialik!

I look forward to this year's Convention and I will continue to share updates about the WRN in the months ahead.

Rabbi Beth H. Klafter



There is still time to contact us about the Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program!

Geared for Jewish adults in our Temple family who have not already become Bar or Bat Mitzvah, we will focus on learning the Hebrew alphabet and Hebrew reading. Each adult Bar or Bat Mitzvah will work towards reading/chanting from the scroll of Torah and chanting the traditional Aliyah blessings. The service will be held on a Friday evening during Shabbat worship next year for all participants.

Rabbi Klafter, Cantor Halpern, and Dr. Margie Gursky will be the teachers of the class. We are in the preliminary stages of planning because we first want to hear from interested adults. Please contact Rabbi Klafter at RabbiBHK@tbdcommack.org or by phone at 631.499.0915 x 319. (You will not be making a commitment just by reaching out to me to express your interest.)



Cantorial Notes by Rabbi/Cantor Audrey Halpern

Dear Friends,

This is the *Hakol* issue, we who write monthly articles wait for, the last one before our summer break! Of course we welcome the opportunity to share our thoughts and the happenings in our own corners of TBD, but to be completely candid, we, or at least I, also find myself wondering from time to time what I could possibly write to you that I haven't covered already in my 31 years of articles?

This morning, however, as I contemplated the summer ahead, so many thoughts filled my head. This is the season of endings; graduations and confirmations and the school year will soon draw to a close. We also celebrate the receiving of the Ten Commandments and the written law that guides us.

Being the child of pop culture that I seem to be becoming, I thought about small extractions that actually are Torah-based that I want to share with you since I hope you will have time to regroup and take in the warmth of summer to feel renewed.

In Judaism, "seven" is a very spiritual number. We find examples of this in writings of the mystics. Just think about the number of circles in a wedding! So, with "seven" in mind, I offer these suggestions for adding peace to your lives and enhancing your sense of well-being this summer:

Gratitude is always my number one. No matter what is going on in our lives, there is something we can be grateful for. A good meal, a caring nurse, a loving family member, a sweet pet, are all things that add beauty to our lives. You get the idea. I had a friend who recently complained to me that she had to spend the day shopping for a new car. I was incredulous and I couldn't help but tell her that not only do I love shopping for cars, but when I do I always think about how blessed I am to be able to buy a car. She stopped and said, "Of course, you're right. It's just my husband's bargaining I don't enjoy." "That's a horse of another color," I said as we both laughed.

Kindness is often an overwhelming thought to people who feel they are so busy they can barely get through the day. I strenuously disagree. My three-year old grandson recently bought French fries at McDonald's for a man he said was hungry. He was so thrilled that he added "...and I gave him my ketchup too!" It doesn't always take a big act; it can be something small, to add sunshine to the life of another.

Speech is a gift we take for granted and we don't always use to our best advantage. When we stop ourselves and try (and this is a hard one!) to use our words to help and not to hurt we can have a great power to better our relationships. (One helpful hint, I would offer is that sometimes not speaking is also a great gift.)

Listening is often the greatest gift we can give to another person. Sometimes we are so busy thinking of how we are going to respond that we barely hear what the other person is saying. When we truly listen, we don't only hear the words of the other, we hear what their heart is trying to say as well. (It takes practice.)

Self-Awareness is a lifelong work in progress. (I am still working on it.) Many of us have no idea the presence we bring into a room. The more we listen to others, the more we can be aware of our own reactions to people and situations. Knowing what our triggers are, how our own history colors our reactions to people and situations, can free us from remaining stuck in old patterns of behavior.

None of us will ever completely perfect the art of living (though it's certainly a worthy endeavor) and so the next suggestion I have for you is **Self-Acceptance**. By loving ourselves just as we are, we can relax and enjoy what we have and who we are. Each of us is born with unique gifts and we bring those gifts to the world in our own way. I know many people who have gone for job interviews and reported back that they got the job, not because they had every qualification but because they were confident in the skills they did possess and they were open to learning more. The same thing goes for dating. We often end up loving someone who is nothing like what we would fill out on a questionnaire, but that person had other gifts and a sense of accepting themselves confidently.

Finally, as wonderful as it is to listen and be kind, it's a great idea to remember to do something nice for yourself. **Self-Giving** is way of acknowledging that we care about our own well-being. So whether it is remembering to get a check-up, getting a massage, or buying yourself flowers or a new pair of shoes, this summer be good to yourself! Happy summer!

B'shalom,
Cantor Audrey Halpern

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From the President's Desk

As I write this article, my first year as President of Temple Beth David is coming to a close. When I began my ascent to becoming your Temple President, I had many conversations with Rabbi Klafter and Cantor Halpern questioning whether I was “religious” enough to serve in this capacity. If you remember my first speech, where I introduced myself to you, I spoke about how I was a “High Holiday Jew.”

This internal debate about “am I religious enough” certainly had me pause and wonder what makes me qualified to be a Temple leader, one who is tasked with running a congregation. I am not sure what I “really” thought I would be doing as Temple President, but I did think it was supposed to have something to do with my religiousness and spirituality. What I have learned this year is that it is about the running of a business that most of the day to day actions of a Temple President are consumed with. I spend time overseeing payroll, finalizing contracts with roofers, hiring alarm companies, and upgrading computer systems. I also run and attend meetings, tons of meetings, and handle other seemingly more managerial type functions. I am not complaining; I’m just commenting on the fact that the very things I wondered if I had enough of, are the very things I don’t have to use much at all. In fact, the things that I am good at, my strengths, are the very things I use daily in my role here at Temple Beth David.

I have always tried to lead by example, practicing what I preach. I find myself going to “one more” event (actually a lot more), giving a little more (actually a lot more), and overall just committing myself just a little more (actually a lot more). I strive to be the kind of leader defined by the words of John Quincy Adams, “If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.”

Why do I bring all of this up as I end my first year as president and prepare to begin my second? I hope that there are others out there who share my goal--the goal of making a difference, of becoming one who will step up and get more involved, to be someone who is willing to help in any way by sharing your strengths.

In closing, I hope I was able to be the type of leader you wanted and our congregation needed. If I fell short, please let me know so that I can do a better job in my second year as President of Temple Beth David.

Beverly Wolcott

TBD Chai Club



a moment of memory
photo enhanced
romanced by delight
with what's in the oven
another incredible edible
created by Chai Club's
host with the most

Werner Reich

“Latke Fling”

May 19, 2019

Thank you, Werner

For your hospitality—

Your positive vitality

--Sandy Wicker



Margie Gursky

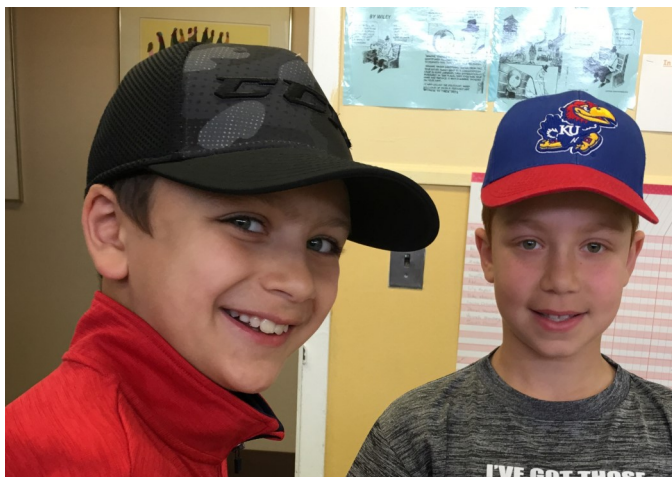
Religious School News

Wow, my first year of Religious School has now come to a close. In some ways it was a whirlwind of getting to know parents and children, as well as working side-by-side with Rabbi Klafter learning the ropes in the school office and running programs. It was fun supporting Cantor Halpern with her Junior Choir and to see what a talented group of students we have. My incredible staff of teachers as well as our Temple Administrator, Robin Kain, have been so helpful to me as I learned the inner workings of the Temple and Religious School. In addition, our amazing student aides (all 20 of them!) were such an important part of my success in the school this year. Many times during the year, they were showing me how to do things! Also, I would like to thank the parents who volunteered their time throughout the year. For next year, I would like to set up a more formal list of parents who want to volunteer, so if you do want to help, please contact me.

The month of May was filled with lots of fun programs and celebrations, including Fourth Grade Prayer Book Service, Family Shabbat Dinner, TBD Mitzvah Day, Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebrations with Amy Held as our guest speaker, Seventh Grade Family Celebration, and finally on the last day of school – Family Fun Day. Phew! That was a lot, but it was all a wonderful success with much learning, celebrating and community helping going on.

Although it would be nice to sit back and enjoy the summer, we have to think about registration for 2019-2020. Registration forms are now available. You can obtain them in a few different ways: Check your email, stop by the office or download them from the temple website. We would like to have all forms in by August 1st at the latest. If you submit your forms by June 30th, however, we are offering a coupon for a free Shabbat Dinner for your family. Our tentative schedule is on the next page. Please contact me if you have any questions. Our goal is to have all students registered for classes at times that best accommodate your family.

Enjoy the summer (but don't forget to register for next year)!





All registrations forms received by June 30th will receive a coupon for a free Shabbat dinner for their family.

2019-2020 Registration Forms will be available in early June. Our tentative schedule will be:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Day</u>
K-1	Sunday
2/3	Sunday, Tuesday or Wednesday
4 PACT	Wednesday
4	Sunday/Tuesday
5 PACT	Tuesday
5	Sunday/Wednesday
6 PACT	Wednesday
6	Sunday/Tuesday
7	Tuesday (6:40-8:30 pm)

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>
Sunday	9 am-11am
Tuesday	4:30 pm-6:30 pm
	6:40-8:30 pm-7th Grade
Wednesday	4:30 pm-6:30 pm

****Please note that according to Temple Policy, your account must be current to register for the next school year.**



Yom Ha'Atzmaut 2019 Israel's 71st Birthday!



Eleventh grader and Temple Beth David Religious School graduate Amy Held talked to our students about her recent trip to Israel with **Project Understanding**. Her slide show presentation kept the students mesmerized. After the presentation, we all gathered in the social hall for an authentic Israeli snack of pita, falafel and Israeli salad.



Saturday Morning Torah Study Group

Please join us for an informal, participatory Shabbat Service, followed by a discussion of the Torah portion of the week. Bagels provided. No knowledge of Hebrew or Torah is necessary.

Saturday Mornings at 9:15 AM, Classroom 5

If you have any questions,
please feel free to call Lisa Glantz 631-595-1853.



Spotlight on Sisterhood

As the end of the Sisterhood year approaches, I reflect back on my first year (of a two year term) as President and our many accomplishments. Sisterhood is very proud to have helped our community with donations, including a camp scholarship enabling a child to attend a Jewish camp (made possible through funds raised by selling and sending Purim baskets) and providing support for a needy family, helping to ease the burden of poverty. We have donated money to Alzheimer's Research, Breast Cancer Research, the Pittsburgh Victim Jewish Fund, and the Ronald McDonald House. We have listened to authors, celebrated Rosh Chodesh, visited a Brooklyn Distillery, decorated a Sukkah, noshed on bagels at breakfast, watched a movie together (The Book Club), and expanded our recipe collection while eating delicious cookies. We held a Chanukah sale for the Religious School students. We hosted a Tu B'Shevat celebration and a women's Passover Seder. We created succulent plant arrangements, learned how to play Mah Jongg, and had fun playing Bingo "with the ladies."

Our Sisterhood activities are open to everyone and are always filled with friendship, good times, and laughter. I am so proud of the amazing work this group of women has done. I want to thank all of you on the Sisterhood board who make all these wonderful things happen and express my gratitude to all the women who attended these events.

I extend a special thank you to Robin Prager, Barbara Klein, Lin Wasserman and their committee for the phenomenal job you did on this year's fabulous Big Event/Fashion Show held at Cinque Terre in South Huntington. You really outdid yourself, Robin! Thank you also to the board for all your donations and contributions. Thanks, too, to all the volunteer models. You really were able to highlight the "fashions of the show." This is Sisterhood's biggest fundraiser of the year and once again, a great time was had by all who attended.

Most of the board members will be continuing in their positions next year. Thank you for your continuing dedication to Sisterhood, which is greatly appreciated. On that note, though, it is never too early to start thinking about the search for the next "new" board. Somewhere out there, there are women who would like to show their dedication to Sisterhood by becoming members of the executive board. I encourage all women of Temple Beth David to join us for any event or meeting. A new calendar and board list will be sent out at the end of summer so you can decide when you would like to join us at an event. Our Sisterhood Installation Service will be held on Wednesday, June 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary, followed by desserts (Note: there is no dinner). Everyone is welcome to attend.

Finally, please rest, go on vacation, enjoy the sunshine and enjoy yourselves so you will be ready for another fabulous year of fun-filled events (and bring your ideas and your sense of humor.)

I wish everybody a
"Happy Summer!"
---Denise Jacobs
Sisterhood President



Spotlight on Brotherhood

A Year in Review

As the year comes to an end, I cannot help but think about the tremendous year we had at the Brotherhood! We kicked off the year in high gear in September at our Opening Breakfast that featured WFAN and CBS Sports Radio personality Zach Gelb. Zach is a local product and although he is still young, he already has a national sports radio show. Zach was both entertaining and informative about the sports issues of the day (and what path one must take to have a national sports radio show in their early 20's).

As Fall rolled around, our focus was mostly on football. We had a tremendous game at Hoyt Farm. Adam Brower summed up the game best when he said: "Everyone was a winner...except for the 6 people on the team who had the fewest points. They were losers." That was followed by our watching the Giants play the Falcons on Monday Night Football (early in the season before we realized what a Giant train wreck was coming our way!).

We held our Membership Dinner at Verde Wine Bar and Ristorante in Deer Park in November with entertainment provided by Ivan Stratienco. "The Amazing Ivan" astonished us during dinner with some incredible sleight of hand. The highlight of the night, of course, was his shrinking Steve Swartz's head—no easy feat (because he has a huge head)! Unfortunately, Verde has since closed, but we are fairly certain that it had nothing to do with us.

In February, we met Chris Welch, a former Marine who enlisted when he was 17 and served 20 years in the military, including four tours of duty in Iraq, during which he lost almost 200 men. When Chris was serving his last tour, he was served with divorce papers. Not surprisingly, when Chris returned to the US, he suffered from PTSD, depression and alcohol abuse. He was ready to give up and die. That is until he got connected with his service dog, who saved his life. With the help of his dog, Chris changed his life around and has been featured on television. We got to meet Chris and his dog, Onyx, and hear his remarkable story.

March was a busy month for the Brotherhood. We had our Third Annual Brotherhood Blues Night featuring the Kerry Kearney Band (a/k/a "Blues, Brews and Jews"). Once again, it was a fantastic night. Kerry is currently touring on the strength of his successful new album *Smokehouse Serenade*. Again, the warmup act featured the Brotherhood's own Mike Appollo, Craig Cooper, Phil Reinstein and yours truly. For highlights from the event, please visit our Facebook page and our YouTube channel. In addition to listening to great music, we also raised money and brought awareness to the Sophia Valsamos Foundation, which is doing some great things to empower young people to take a stand against bullying, find support around challenges and embrace each other's differences. To find out more information about the foundation, please visit them at <https://www.tsvf.org/>.

In April, we were fortunate to have Jamie from the Saint James Brewery teach us about some of the finer points of brewing beer. Established in 2012, Saint James Brewery creates artisanal ales using old world brewing techniques. It is a "Farm Brewery", which means that the ingredients are sourced from local farms. It was amazing to hear about how much actual science goes into every facet of the brewing process. After the educational portion of the night, we even had the pleasure of sampling some of their finer products to see what a difference their approach really makes. This was followed by a movie which, to be consistent, was "Beerfest." Certainly not high art, but very entertaining.

Also in April, we held our Yom Hashoah breakfast with the Chai Club. Evelyn Altenberg, a Professor from Hofstra University and the daughter of two Holocaust survivors, spoke about the plight of her parents emigrating from Germany to the United States. Her mother survived three years in nine concentration camps, including Auschwitz. Her father escaped from Europe via the Dominican Republic. We have all heard countless Holocaust stories and the diversity of these stories is remarkable. Evelyn described the amazing love story of her parents. While her father managed to join a Jewish community in the Dominican Republic, his only concern was how he could bring his fiancé there. Unfortunately, she was not able to get out of Europe, so while her father was creating a new life in the Dominican Republic, her mother was suffering the atrocities of concentration camps. Miraculously, they both survived and were reunited after the war.

One Holocaust survivor who passed this year was Dora Josephson, who is Brotherhood Member Phil Reinstein's mother. Over a decade ago, Dora spoke at a Brotherhood Yom Hashoah event. To honor Dora's memory and her unforgettable story, we are putting her story on our YouTube channel as well—so look for it.

These are just some of the highlights of the great year we had. In addition, we built a Sukkah, had Krav Maga