

Hakol

the voice of temple beth david



TEMPLE BETH DAVID

Vol. XIV No. 5

Kislev/Tevet 5780

December 2019

Temple Beth David Phone Directory

(631) 499-0915

Please note the change of the
three digit extensions

	<u>Extension</u>
Shari Chaikin	313
Bookkeeper	329
Caterer	315
Clergy Office	312
Custodial Staff	328
Religious School Office	317
Temple Office	310

Can't get to *Shabbat* Service?
Call to hear Friday Service live via telephone

(631)499-1034 or (631)499-1043

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Chanukah Happening

**SUNDAY
DECEMBER 15TH
11AM-1PM**

*Activities for
All Ages!*

- Arts & Crafts
- Chanukah Cooking
- Bounce Houses
- Stem Workshop
Activity for Older Kids!
- Spin Art
- Latke Making
- Lego Menorah Contest
for all ages!
- Dreidel Spin Contest
*made at home from
recycled materials!*

More information will be coming soon!

Rabbi's Message by Rabbi Beth H. Klafter



Dear Friends,

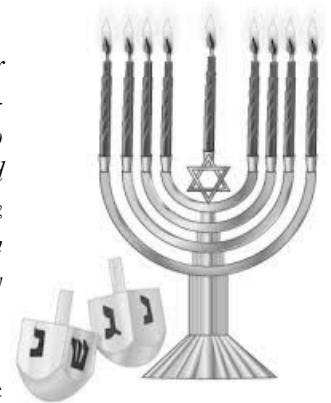
December can be called a month of miracles and light! Though Chanukah is actually a “minor” holiday on the Jewish calendar, we know that it is “major” in our homes and our world. The holiday celebrates the military victory of Judah Maccabee, the reclaiming and rededication of our ancient Temple. There are several mitzvot (“commandments”) and several customs associated with the holiday.

We are commanded to celebrate for eight days, beginning on the 25th day of the Hebrew month of Kislev. Just as the High Holidays in the fall were “late” this year, Chanukah is “late” on the secular calendar, beginning on Sunday evening, December 22. We are commanded to be happy! As a congregational family we will prepare ourselves for Chanukah on Friday evening, December 13 when the Adult and Junior Choirs will share their voices during Shabbat Services. This year’s Chanukah Experience will be held on Sunday, December 15 with a wide range of activities – some new for this year – for children and teens of all ages. Watch for more details!

In our own homes, we are required to light the *chanukiyah*, the menorah used only on Chanukah. As you may be aware, there are different customs about how to light the candles. The school of Rabbi Hillel taught that we start with one candle and add candles each night so that on the last night we kindle eight candles plus the *shames*. Rabbi Shammai taught that we start with a full *chanukiyah* and take one away each night. (Hillel won that argument!) It is a custom to eat food cooked in oil – most often latkes or, as in Israel, jelly donuts (*sufganiyot*, in Hebrew). It is also time to spin the dreidel and play games with our friends!

Traditionally, during our worship, there is a prayer included in the service on Chanukah. In Hebrew, it begins with the words, “*Al Ha Nisim*,” meaning, “for the miracles.” The prayer reads:

We give thanks for the redeeming wonders and the mighty deeds by which, at this season, our people was saved in days of old. In the days of the Hasmoneans, a tyrant arose against our ancestors, determined to make them forget your Torah, and to turn them away from obedience to Your will. But You were at their side in time of trouble. You gave them strength to struggle and to triumph, that they might serve You in freedom. Through the power of Your spirit the weak defeated the strong, the few prevailed over the many, and the righteous were triumphant. Then your children returned to Your house, to purify the sanctuary and kindle its lights. And they dedicated these days to give thanks and praise to Your great name.



Truly, the “miracle” of the festival is that even in the darkest of days, we dedicate ourselves to our people and to God. As we gather together to celebrate Chanukah, I wish you a festival of warmth and light!

Rabbi Beth H. Klafter

Rabbi Beth H. Klafter, RJE

Hold the Date:
Tuesday evening, January 7, 2020, 6:30-7:30 pm
Presentation about Reform Movement's summer camps
for students and parents.



Cantorial Notes by Rabbi/Cantor Audrey Halpern

Dear Friends,

It's getting colder and the nights are longer but the festival of Chanukah is coming with its message of triumph and victory of the few over the many! Few questions are more frequently asked than those of how to light the Menorah. Technically, it is a *Chanukiah* – the eight candles with a *shamash*. I am going to give you a few answers before you even have to ask this year!

One light is kindled on the first night of Chanukah; an additional light is added each succeeding night, so that eight lights are kindled on the eighth night. The lights are kindled after sundown and on the first night the three blessings are recited before the candles are lit. The following nights there are two blessings. The *Shebecheyanu* is only sung on the first night. The first candle is placed on the right side of the menorah; the second candle is placed directly to the left of the first one on the second night and so on. The lighting starts on the left and moves to the right. Thus the newest candle is always the first to be lit.

Traditionally, the Menorah or *Chanukiah* is placed where it is visible to passers-by. The *shamash* is special because it is used to light all of the other candles. The Chanukah lights themselves are not intended to be used to kindle other lights. The *shamash* remains lit with the other candles.

On Shabbat, the Chanukah lights are lit before the Shabbat candles, and though there are varying opinions about whether to light the Havdalah candle before or after the Chanukah lights on Saturday evening, it is often the custom to light them before Havdalah.

The most important take away for me, however, is the symbol of light. In the midst of the winter, we can see the light of the Menorah and remember that the warmth we find with our people, with our families and with our faith gives us a sense of belonging and joy that transcends snow and ice and pierces any darkness that surrounds us. May the light of Chanukah shine brightly for us all.

B'shalom,


 Rabbi/Cantor Audrey Halpern

**December
Bar Mitzvah**



December 14

Tyler Jacobson

AA Meetings - "New Soil"

Sundays 11:30 a.m. Open meetings
Thursdays 6:30 p.m. Closed meeting

All meeting are held at: Temple Beth David

Religious School Calendar Reminders:

December 6 Family Shabbat Dinner 6:45 pm
 Sixth Grade Shabbat Service 7:30 pm
 December 8 PACT 4/5 9:00 am– 11:00 am
 Dec. 10,11,15 Chanukah Gift Sale
 Dec. 13 Shabbat Service with Jr. Choir 8:00 pm
 December 15 Chanukah Happening 11:00 am
 December 17 PACT 6th 6:15 pm
 Dec. 22- Jan 2 No Religious School-December Recess

From the President's Desk



Kalu Ndukwe Kalu, a Nigerian-born American political scientist who studies institutional development, wrote the following in his book, **Citizenship a Reality Far From**.

*"The things you do for yourself are gone when you are gone,
but the things you do for others remain as your legacy."*

Reading this quote left me pondering about two ideas:

1. *What does it mean to be a good citizen?*
2. *What is the legacy you want to leave to the world?*

My thoughts about being a good citizen:

What does citizenship mean to you? Do you think of yourself as just a citizen of America or do you consider yourself a citizen of other groups and organizations? Although in its purest definition a citizen means you are a participatory member of a political community and have the duties, obligations and functions associated with that role. From my perspective being a good citizen means caring for others both within and outside of your community. So I ask you, how do you fill your role as a citizen of Temple Beth David? How have you cared for others both within and outside of your community?

My thought about the legacy I want to leave behind:

Today's generation has been trained to always think we need more, more, more, and not only do we need more, we need it now. December is a giving season; we give gifts to our loved ones and it almost seems that we give more and more each year as the advertisements come earlier and earlier each year. What gifts are you giving this year? Is it costing you more money than last year? Have you lost the spirit of the holiday in this display of consumerism?

This year as we celebrate the gift of the miracle of Chanukah let us think not just about the gifts we give our family and friends but about our answers to the two questions below:

1. What are the gifts you will give to our community that will enable you to continue to be a good citizen?
2. What will become your legacy, the way in which people will remember you?

Happy Chanukah to you and your family; may you enjoy the miracle of the season.

Beverly Wolcott

Beverly Wolcott,
Temple President

Chai Club

The Chai Club had a luncheon on November 23, as its last 2019 event. We enjoyed conversation with friends and wished our snowbirds a healthy, happy winter. New members are always welcome. For more information contact Sheila Eisinger at seising2@gmail.com.

*Margie Gursky**Religious School*

As I am writing this, I am still glowing with pride over our PACT Mitzvah Day! We had about 120 people here (students and parents) working together as a community to help those less fortunate than themselves. For needy children, we had families putting together Bags of Fun – bags of small toys and candy. Thanks to the Taft/Morrison family who successfully ran this program. We also are fortunate enough to have Bennett Vogel and his parents who weekly run a hat looming program throughout the year on Sunday mornings. The hats are donated to the Dolan Center, a free health clinic in our area. If you are interested in participating in this program during the year, please contact Debbie Vogel (dmlvogel@gmail.com).

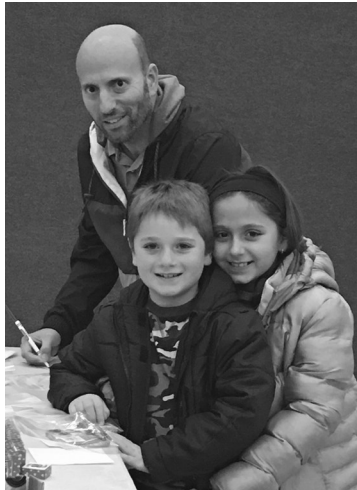
Also, we need to thank Lori Gary for taking on the dog toy making activity. She demonstrated and assisted each family to create fun toys for our canine friends who live at Little Shelter. Families also participated in creating cards for Gurwin residents as well as Lone Soldiers. The Gallo and Goldstein families ran the food drive at Stop and Shop this year and came back with an immense amount of food for needy families. Isaiah 58 will donate the food before Thanksgiving so that hopefully many families will have more to put on their festive table this year. And finally, about 10 families spent the morning playing Bingo with Gurwin residents, helping to brighten their day.

In addition to the students and parents who made this day an overwhelming success, I have to take this opportunity to thank our teen student aides who assisted with all of these activities, as it would not have been such a great event without them. A big shout out to Morgan Gary, Ilana Kaplan, Shoshana Kofler, Austin Levine, Lizzy Ziolkowski, and Marnie Ziporkin!

PACT Mitzvah Day was a shining example of how our TBD community can help so many others when we all work together. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped run the program! Enjoy the photos from this amazing day! Wishing you all a Happy Chanukah!



More PACT Mitzvah Day Photos



HAPPY CHANUKAH 2019!

Temple Beth David's Sisterhood **CHANUKAH BOUTIQUE** is back! Shop the latest trends in Chanukah gifts. Something for everyone – grandparents, parents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, friends and teachers!

Hebrew School Classes will visit the Boutique in the Temple lobby.

- **Tuesday, December 10**
- **Wednesday, December 11**
- **Sunday, December 15**



Prices range from \$.50 to \$10.00. We want children who intend on buying gifts for friends and family to enjoy the shopping experience, so please make sure children remember to bring their allotted money with them.

Happy shopping!

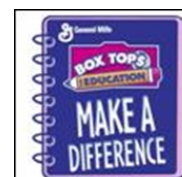


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amazonsmile



Did you know that the TBD Religious School collects "Box Tops for Education?" Over the years we have earned hundreds of dollars to support our programs with donations of Box Tops. Please bring your Box Tops to the School Office or simply drop them in the folder outside our Religious School office door.