

Hakol

the voice of temple beth david



TEMPLE BETH DAVID

Vol. XVI No. 5

Tevet/Shevat 5782

January 2022

Temple Beth David Phone Directory (631) 499-0915

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|-------------------------|-----------|
| Bookkeeper | 329 |
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| Custodial Staff | 328 |
| Religious School Office | 317 |
| B'nai Mitzvah Tutor | 313 |
| Temple Office | 310 |

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Rabbi's Message by Rabbi Beth H. Klafter

Our current Hebrew year, 5782, brought us the High Holidays, the fall holidays, and Chanukah very “early” in the secular year. This month it brings us *Tu B'Shevat* early, too! *Tu B'Shevat*, the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shevat, also known as the “New Year of the Trees,” more typically arrives in February.*

As I have explained previously, the new year of the trees is one of four new years mentioned in the Torah. On this date, every tree which had been planted during the preceding months is considered new. It is important to know the exact age of a tree to fulfill two precepts of Jewish law. The first called, *Orlah*, decrees that for the first three years of its growth, the fruit of a tree may not be eaten, reminding us that all food ultimately comes from God. But what if we don't remember the exact date when it is planted and begins bearing fruit? We note this date as the new year of all trees so we know when the third year of its growth is marked. Similarly, to fulfill the commandment of *Ma'aser*, tithes, our ancestors had to mark a specific date to quantify the produce of a tree in order to offer one tenth of its produce for the year to the priests of old.

While these regulations may not apply to the trees on Long Island in 2022, by recalling them we are reminded that we are bound to the land of Israel. Thus in recent generations, we have come to observe *Tu B'Shevat* as a day to celebrate the trees of modern Israel. This is the source of the Jewish National Fund's efforts for all of us to ‘plant a tree’ in Israel at this time. We don't have to be in Israel to plant a tree and we surely don't have to get our hands dirty either. Today we can do so from the warmth and ease of our homes through the Jewish National Fund (visit <https://usa.jnf.org/jnf-tree-planting-center>).

Planting a tree is a vote for the future. On this subject, one of my favorite teachings from the Talmud comes from Rabbi Yohanan ben Zakkai. He taught: *“If you are holding a seedling in your hand and you hear that the Messiah is coming, plant the seedling first and then go and greet the Messiah.”*

Join me, then, during the cold of our winter, bring warmth and new growth to our world and our homeland.

Rabbi Beth H. Klafter

—Rabbi Beth H. Klafter

*A calendar note: 5782 is a leap year on the Hebrew calendar. An entire month will be added to the calendar after Shevat. Therefore, Purim and Passover will actually be ‘late’ this year!

In This Issue

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Rabbi Klafter | 1 |
| President's Desk..... | 2 |
| Rabbi Halpern..... | 3 |
| Religious School..... | 4 |
| Brotherhood..... | 6 |
| Isaiah 58..... | 6 |
| Sisterhood..... | 8 |
| Gracious Gifts..... | 9 |
| Yahrzeits | 10 |
| Calendar | 11 |

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Message from President Craig Cooper

Many of my temple friends joke with me about the length of my columns in Hakol. This week, I am recovering from wrist surgery and the result is that I will be abiding by the KISS principle: “Keep It Simple, Stupid!”

Winter is typically a quiet time at Temple Beth David, owing to a variety of factors ranging from no B’nai Mitzvah celebrations to the inability to hold activities outdoors. If nothing else, the next few months will give each of us a chance to catch our collective breath. Please keep an eye on the weekly Megillah emails as well as our Hakol newsletters for updates on a variety of exciting programs beginning in the spring.

As always, leadership welcomes feedback, suggestions and any thoughts on what your temple can do to make your experience in our congregation as meaningful and rewarding as possible.

My wife Tammy and I wish you and your loved ones a happy secular new year!

TBD'S TOGETHER WITH TOTS

ARTS AND CRAFTS * MUSIC * STORYTIME

Learn together about Shabbat and holidays with your 3 or 4 Year old child/grandchild

Classes will meet Sunday mornings throughout the school year, 9:30-10:30am, with our esteemed early childhood educator. All families with young children are also invited to join us for TBD Holiday Events.



TBD'S TOGETHER WITH TOTS SERIES:

November 7, January 9, February 6 and April 3

TBD HOLIDAY EVENTS:

December 5, March 13, May 15

Fees: Members \$100/Child; Non-Members \$125/Child

Temple Beth David, 100 Hauppauge Road, Commack, NY

For more information, please contact us:

(631) 499-0915/school@tbdcommack.org

Clergy Reflections by Rabbi Audrey Halpern



Dear Friends,

It occurred to me that I am writing this to you at the end of a long holiday weekend and you will probably receive it at the end of the next holiday weekend. The holidays are often emotion filled times when we miss people who have passed or simply live far away, and our expectations are high for our family time. They can be challenging in a myriad of ways because when children return or parents visit, friends stop by and our tables are filled, our emotions can be triggered in unexpected ways. Needless to say, we mostly love to be with those who are close to us, but old dynamics can creep in, exhaustion exacerbates emotions and either we, or those around us can feel envy, isolation and even despair.

I have heard from so many of you that the holidays are the hardest time of year, and every therapist knows that the old saying, “comparison is the thief of joy,” is never truer than on a holiday or special occasion. It is human nature, but how can we cope with these very natural feelings.

Firstly, I think that we can remind ourselves that just like on Facebook, nobody’s life is really picture perfect. We can acknowledge that though someone else may seem to have it all, we can be certain that every life and every family faces its own unique challenges.

Secondly, though it may sound like a cliché, we also need to take stock of the good we each enjoy. I was recently with a group of women who all spontaneously took out their phones and began sharing pictures of their baby grandchildren. I noticed (fortunately before I took out my own phone) that a couple of the women suddenly became quiet and did not take out their phones. So, I would add that the third thing we can do is to try to be sensitive to others who may feel particularly vulnerable at the holidays.

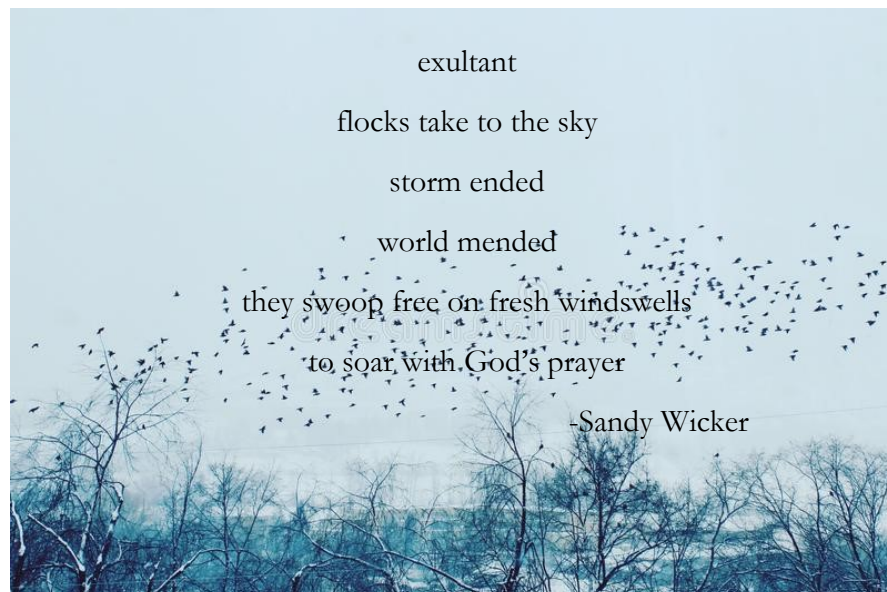
There is a reason that the Torah instructs us to care for the widow and the orphan. It is more than a physical caring – it can be an emotional attunement as well. We must always care for those who are having a hard time, but the holidays can be the most poignantly trying times of the year and the most critical time to show kindness.

Many people suffer from the holiday blues and extreme loneliness and depression. Those of us who are surrounded by lots of family must remember that while family always brings a little ‘touch of tired’ it is nothing when we think of what it must be to face loneliness.

As I rest up from my own family chaos, I write to you to express my availability to listen and to be present if this time meant to celebrate and rejoice has been difficult for you in any way. In the meantime, I offer my sincere hope that 2022 will find all of us filled with renewed hope, health, and a true sense of connection to one another.

Rabbi/Audrey B. Halpern
B’shalom,

Rabbi Audrey B. Halpern





Margie Gursky Religious School News

Chanukah at TBD Religious School was loaded with fun this year! The students worked hard and enjoyed making menorahs, tzedakah boxes and picture frames, as well as eating yummy latkes and sufganyiot (donuts). See the photos of some of our classes' festivities. Sadly, because of a spike in COVID cases in our community right after Thanksgiving, we had to change our Chanukah Happening to Zoom. We are hopeful that we will be able to have other fun in-person events in this new year.

Ms. Pomeranz and Mr. Hertel ensured that all of the sixth graders understood that Chanukah is not only about presents, but also about helping others. They organized a "Socks for the Homeless" drive with both sixth grade classes. The students made signs and repeatedly went into the classes to encourage the others to bring in socks for the less fortunate. It was a huge success, as we collected 178 pairs of socks! Thank you to all who helped make that happen. See the photos of the students amidst the piles of socks!

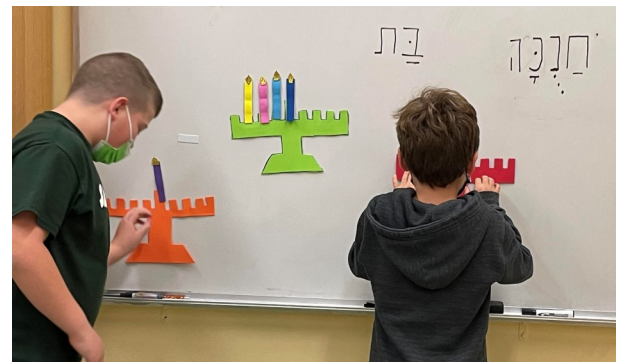
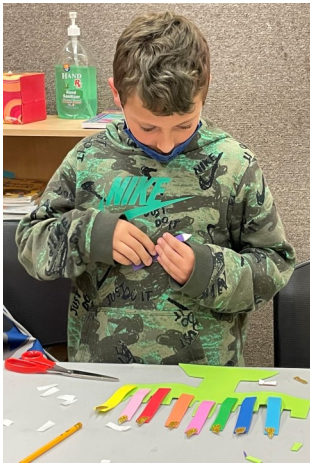


We do have some programs coming up in January and February. Currently, we have Bingo scheduled for January 9 in the evening, so if you haven't bought your Bingo cards yet, please do. There will be prizes for all winners! This is always fun for families. Also, on the morning of January 9, we will have our second session of *TBD's Together with Tots* program for families with three or four-year old children (non-members are welcome). Please call or email me if you have questions. And as part of our PACT program for fourth and fifth graders and their families, we will be holding a Havdalah program on January 22. Finally, keep an eye out for information about the "Make a Challah with Rabbi Klafter" program on February 13.

Stay warm and safe during these winter months!



Chanukah in the TBD Religious School





Spotlight on Brotherhood

As we write this message, we are in the middle of Chanukah. The message of Chanukah is hope. This past 18 months has been a challenge, but we are all finding ways to return to some form of normalcy. Even a single Chanukah candle can light up the darkness. From the Brotherhood to the entire TBD family, we hope your Chanukah was filled with the light of hope and friendship.

We also trust that you were able to navigate 2021 successfully and in good health. We wish **A very happy 2022 to all of TBD!!!** In 2022 Brotherhood will continue to serve as a network for social interaction among friends. Members gather for all kinds of occasions and events - sports, schmoozing, education, fundraising and recreation. Please join us and become a Brotherhood member!

We have some terrific events coming up in January and February: a breakfast and speaker with a financial planning expert, a fun afternoon of Axe Throwing, Volleyball, Movie night (where we rent out the movie theater), TopGolf, and Planning Meetings. Starting in March, we have much more to come--from the Purim Spiel to Blues night, and more sporting events like softball and golf. There will be many more occasions and activities for all of us to get together and to help contribute to the whole TBD community.

Keep an eye on our Constant Contact messages/emails. We look forward to having you join us. In the meantime, we extend our best wishes to you and wish you a Happy New Year!

—Steve & Adam
Brotherhood co-Presidents



News from Isaiah 58

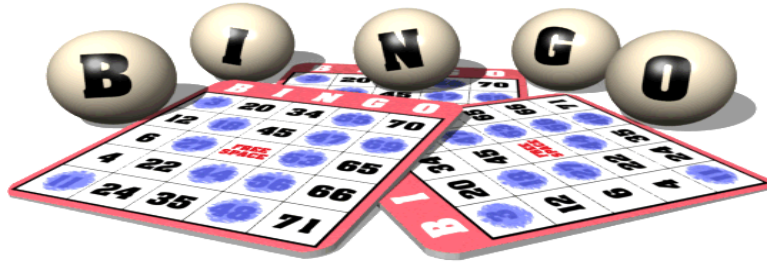
The new calendar year 2022 holds great promise for the Isaiah 58 Social Action Committee. We can safely meet in person, with COVID protocols in place, and fulfill our mission to provide food donations to the local food pantries, perform acts of service for the community at large and give hats, baby blankets, Bags of Fun and monetary donations to those in need. And the need is great!

The good fortune and good luck I have experienced in my life make me appreciate all that I have. Seeing children and families who have not been so fortunate reminds me to be generous in spirit and deed. Somehow, some way, we give back. Big or small, every bit counts. Leading an incredible, dedicated, hard working group of volunteers is one way to spread the abundance I have been given and give back to the community where I live. Working with our local agencies, including Long Island Cares, local pantries and the Suffolk JCC, enhances our mission and our reputation. Take a look at the glass case in the temple lobby to sample the many thank you letters we receive for our work in the community. Isaiah 58 and TBD have been working hard for 25 years!

Please join us in our efforts this year to help those around us in need. If you have a group such as Scouts, Key Club or Rotary, Students for 60,000 or any other organization, join forces with us. Many hands make light work! Come make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, loom hats with our Hat Looming Club or celebrate our 25th annual Mitzvah Day in May. Volunteers are needed now to shop for food and make deliveries of donated goods. Each role in our organization is like a cog in the wheel – are you ready to donate your time and effort to help others? Join us and feel the lift and joy of being part of our team! Look on the temple website and search for Isaiah 58 to make a monetary donation if you prefer. All donations gratefully accepted! We will do the shopping for you.

Preparing for this new year is exciting and hopeful. Wishing you peace, health and prosperity in 2022! Best wishes for a Happy New Year from the members of Isaiah 58!

--Jane Oberwager Gaines



ANNUAL RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUNDRAISER!

EMCeed By TBD's Amazing Abe!

**Sunday, January 9th @ 7:00-8:00 p.m. (In-Person at
TBD if conditions allow, otherwise on Zoom)**

**BINGO GAME BOOKLETS MUST BE
ORDERED/PAID IN ADVANCE ONLINE**

<https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=36dGjU>

\$10 for each 8-Game Booklet/3 Booklets for \$25

**Game Booklets must be picked up at TBD by January 6th or let us know if
you want us to mail them to you for a \$2 fee.**

BRING YOUR FRIENDS!

GRANDPARENTS ARE WELCOME!

Adult and Kid Prizes for Winning Cards!

Sisterhood



Happy New Year! This month we are planning to have our Tu B'Shevat seder on Tuesday, January 18th. Let us hope the weather stays acceptable. I am sure Debbie Friedman and Glenda Kresh will do a fantastic job. We had our book discussion on The Invisible Woman by Erika Robuck. I thank Jodie Maisel for running it. Keep a look out for the next book.

Here is some of the fun we had in December. Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.

--Karin Brandsdorfer
Sisterhood President



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in appreciation of Rabbi Halpern*

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Gabey Fenster

In memory of George Stern

General Fund

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In memory of Jeffrey Stuart Ettinger

In memory of Morris Ettinger

Terry & Linda Steinberg

In memory of Moe Steinberg

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In memory of Gerald Anglim

Martin Horowitz

In memory of Beatrice Horowitz

In memory of Sam Horowitz

Michael Haberman

In memory of Ruth Harris

Susan Dreilinger

In memory of Samuel Dreilinger

Edward Seltzer

In memory of Max Seltzer

Ann Schlesinger

In memory of Betty Manley

Gary Bixhorn

In memory of Gloria Bixhorn

In memory of Seymour Bixhorn

Maricar & Richard Haberman

In memory of Ruth Harris

Sybil Gray

In memory of Rose Weinberger

Joyce & Steven Feldman

In memory of Judy Feldman

In memory of Harry Feldman

Maxine & Paul Alschuler

In memory of Gladys Zeichner

Marcia & Howie Ettinger

In memory of Morris Ettinger

Alita & Michael Ditkowsky

In memory of Robert Wagner

Madge Schneider

In memory of Leon Schneider

Linda & Gary Levine

In memory of Barbara Bloom

Marilyn Tananbaum

In memory of Murray Schwartz

Sandra Kant

In memory of Josef Rubin

Andrea & Geoffrey Weisman

In memory of Mollie Drucker

Gabey Fenster

In memory of Joseph Berger

Jan & Tony Esposito

In memory of Franklin Lerner

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In memory of Beatrice Jaffe

In memory of Milton Jaffe

Jill & Bruce Sharp

In memory of Jerome Freedman

Susan Wilks

In memory of Elaine Stone

Linda & Joel Evans

In memory of Murray Lieber

Sandy & Hal Wicker

In memory of Benjamin Wicker

In memory of Hyman Levy

Allen Leon

In memory of Irving Leon

Isaiah 58 Fund

Lisa Wilks & Bill Gallo

Sandy & Hal Wicker

In honor of Norma Leonard's

90th Birthday

Kenneth Pasetzky

Diane & Jeffrey Kraut

In memory of Ira Rubin

Barbara & Susan Stearns

Garden Fund

Robert Stearns

In memory of Estelle Stearns



To make a donation to
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special occasion or in memory of a
loved one, please contact Robin in the
temple office at
499-0915 ext. 310 or
Robin@tbdcommack.org.



Yahrzeits January 2022



| | | | | | |
|------|---|------|---|------|--|
| 1/01 | Barbara Bloom Ruth Friedberg Renate Romano Charles Sibener | 1/10 | Marvin Weisman | 1/23 | Alan Beberman Manny Hubscher Amy King Isidore Meistrich Morris Reiff Irene Saltzer Frances Silberfeld |
| 1/02 | Florence Austin Norman Goldfinger Leonard Kresh Irving Leon Murray Lieber Ruth Prager Betty Stile Rothbaum | 1/11 | Harriet Bloom Herbert Laurence Caplan Betty Chernick Cohen Molly Herman Esther Pinto Martin Weiner | 1/24 | Esther Birnbaum Edward Goldfarb Theresa Rose Leonard Leonard Schnitzer Herb Thal |
| 1/03 | Carl Aronin Ronald Barth Morton Fenster Arthur Klatzman Leon Lazer Hyman Sid Levy Esther Perlstein Harry Satran Dale Solomon David Sussman Harold Wolfson | 1/12 | Esther Eisner Joseph Hirschberg Adele Matican Lucille Rosenthal Grace Simon Leah Zinner | 1/25 | Melvin Bernstein Rose Markowitz Sylvia Semel Leslie Winston |
| 1/04 | Benjamin Birnbaum Gerry Meistrich Gigi Michaels Henry Isaac Prentiss Berta Schneider Abraham Schwartz Benjamin Wicker Joel Wigler | 1/13 | Ira Feldstein Robert Flamm Anne Hirschberg Louis Sedell | 1/26 | Donald Heller Molly Kay Milton Lackowitz Bertha Posner Helen Stecher |
| 1/05 | Etta Alter Jerome Nathanson Elaine Stone | 1/14 | Robert Forbes Anthony Saeli Benjamin Seidman | 1/27 | Barry J. Kaas Rose Solomon George Zinner |
| 1/06 | Irving Newman Max Ratner Irwin Solomon Max Zimmerman Eric Zweig | 1/15 | Ira Block Allan Forbes David Lapidus Matthew Jay Schlesinger Bernard Sirota | 1/28 | Evelyn Adler Elliot Grant Nathan Kaplan Rose Lieber Isabel Login Norman Mason Max Rosenblum Stanley Sacks Lillian Wadler |
| 1/07 | Morie Arden Morris Felson Harry Gutmaker Alan Kaplan Lillian Michaels Lawrence Rivman | 1/16 | Samuel Didner Mikhail Samandarov Rose Wexler | 1/29 | Betty Cole Anna Derrow Beatrice Jaffe Sara Lee Orlan Harriet Sperber |
| 1/08 | Michael Goodman | 1/17 | Judith Blum Murray Goldberg Magda Greenberger Ruth Herman Shirley Watine Charles Wexler | 1/30 | Selma Cooper Jacob Freedman Shari Ganz Bertha Henner Barbara Lemberg Dorothy Saltzer |
| 1/09 | Harriet Aronberg Bette Joachim Klaf Shirley Corson Weiner | 1/18 | Beatrice Bell Jill Kavner Bennet Kleinman Mae Kroch Walter Moskowitz George Steinman | 1/31 | Sheldon Beck Yetta Blumenthal Stephan Fleischman Melvin Gillman Leonard Glaser David Lerman Harry Perlstein Jack Schoenfeld |
| 1/10 | Louis Altschuler Etta Feinberg Minnie Gross Dorothy Mankuta | 1/19 | Estelle Yohay Garrison Perry Sandler Steven Sharp | | |
| | | 1/20 | Steven Richard King | | |
| | | 1/21 | Evelyn Rosenberg Louis Friedman Theodore F. Levine | | |
| | | 1/22 | Fannie Berger Shana Kant Alan Oberwager Caroline Shmagn Dr. Howard Weiselberg | | |



What's Happening at TBD — January 2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|--|----------|--|--|
| | | | | | 31 TEMPLE OFFICES CLOSED 5:00 pm Shabbat Service with Anniversary Blessings | 1 |
| 2 | 3 2:00 pm Haftarah Study Group | 4 Religious School Resumes | 5 Religious School Resumes | 6 | 7 7:30 pm Shabbat Service with Birthday Blessings | 8 9:15 am Torah Study & Service |
| 9 9:00 am Brotherhood Speaker Breakfast 9:30 am Together with Tots 7:00 pm Religious School Bingo | 10 2:00 pm Haftarah Study Group 7:30 pm Budget & Finance Mtg. | 11 7:30 pm Isaiah 58 7:30 pm Sisterhood Meeting | 12 7:00 pm Rabbi Klafter meeting with March/April B'nai Mitzvah families | 13 | 14 8:00 pm Shabbat Service | 15 9:15 am Torah Study & Service |
| 16 | 17 TEMPLE OFFICES CLOSED | 18 7:30 pm Sisterhood Tu B'Shevat Seder | 19 7:30 pm Brotherhood Movie Night | 20 | 21 8:00 pm Shabbat Service | 22 9:15 am Torah Study & Service 4:00 pm 4th/5th grade PACT Havdalah |
| 23 9:30 am –10:15 am 6th Grade PACT on Zoom | 24 2:00 pm Haftarah Study Group 7:00 pm Executive Board 8:00 pm TBD Board Meeting | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 8:00 pm Shabbat Service with Anniversary Blessings | 29 9:15 am Torah Study & Service |
| 30 Brotherhood Axe Throwing | 31 2:00 pm Haftarah Study Group | 1 8:00 pm Brotherhood Planning Meeting | 2 | 3 | 4 7:30 pm Shabbat Service with Birthday Blessings | 5 9:15 am Torah Study & Service |



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Worship Schedule

Friday, December 31

Shabbat Vaera

5:00 pm Shabbat Service with Anniversary Blessings

Friday, January 7

Shabbat Bo

7:30 pm Shabbat Service with Birthday Blessings

Saturday, January 8

9:15 am Torah Study and Service

Friday, January 14

Shabbat Beshalach

8:00 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, January 15

9:15 am Torah Study and Service

Friday, January 21

Shabbat Yitro

8:00 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, January 22

9:15 am Torah Study and Service

Friday, January 28

Shabbat Mishpatim

8:00 pm Shabbat Service with Anniversary Blessings

Saturday, January 29

9:15 am Torah Study with Service

HaKol
TEMPLE BETH DAVID
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