

Vol. XIV No. 9

Iyar/Sivan 5785

May 2025

Temple Beth David Phone Directory
(631) 499-0915

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Bookkeeper	329
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*Rabbi's Message by
Rabbi Beth Klafter*

May is a particularly special month around Temple Beth David. Typically on the first Sunday in May, Isaiah 58 sponsors our Annual Mitzvah Day, a day of giving and doing. Isaiah 58, under the leadership of Dr. Jane Gaines and its dedicated committee, performs acts of kindness throughout the year: food collections, hat looming, PB & J, and more. Mitzvah Day is the highlight of the year; it is the opportunity for all TBD members, children, students and adults, individuals and families, to come together as a community to help others around us.

As we know, at the core of Mitzvah Day and central to our faith is the mitzvah and value of *Tzedakah*. *Tzedakah* is not only donating coins in a *Tzedakah* box; it is bringing justice into the world, providing for others in a myriad of ways. While all acts of *Tzedakah* are meaningful, Moses Maimonides, a prolific 12th century philosopher and author, created a *Ladder of Tzedakah*. The eight rungs on his ladder remind us to think consciously about how we fulfill this mitzvah. His ladder reminds that every person deserves to be treated with dignity, care and respect. Some of our students and parents have learned about this ladder. Approaching Mitzvah Day is an opportunity for me to teach everyone about Maimonides' dictum. Though not everyone will agree with the order of the statements, taking the time to consider the rungs on our own ladders of *Tzedakah* adds meaning to our acts of lovingkindness.

The highest form of *Tzedakah*, according to Maimonides, is at the top of the ladder:

1. Helping someone become self-sufficient so that the person is no longer dependent on the gifts and donations of others.
2. Giving anonymously, where the recipient does not know the giver and vice versa.
3. Giving in which the giver knows the recipient, but the recipient does not know the giver.
4. Giving in which the recipient knows the giver, but the giver does not know the recipient.
5. Giving generously before one is asked to give.

Continued on page two

*Message from
President Ken Marenus*



The Journey

As most of you are now aware, we are on a journey to transform our Temple Beth David. The need for this transition has been apparent for a while, and it is driven out of necessity.

It began nearly two years ago as we became aware of our perilous financial condition. Those who understood our position realized that considerable action had to be taken to preserve our 50 year+ year old Temple.

For each of us, Temple Beth David has been a place of joy, sadness and refuge. There is nothing quite as calming as sitting in our sanctuary listening only to the silence. Or late on Yom Kippur Day, thinking of our loved ones who have passed on. These are some of the things we didn't want to lose, to remain only in our memories. So, we now find ourselves well along the journey to the future. The first thing we had to do was secure our financial position, which we have done (God willing) through the sale of our campus. Of course, this was a significant step and requires that we be ever vigilant of our expenses going forward, making sure we never wind up in this position again.

At the same time, we are rethinking our physical space to design something that will be beautiful, functional and adaptable. To that end we have been speaking with an architect to create a vision of how we will be physically organized going forward.

Finally, we have begun the significant effort to determine what our religious practice will look like. This work began a few months ago with a survey of Shabbat services nationwide. We must be cognizant of the fact that we have had a stable presence provided by our clergy for almost 40 years. Now we need to approach the selection of our next clergy from an informed perspective.

There are many who have participated in this journey so far. They have brought their dedication, experience and interest to the table to ensure that when we emerge from this journey, it will have been the best possible destination for us. Please join us.

Ken

Continued from page one

6. Giving generously, but only after being asked.
7. Giving less than one can afford, but doing so pleasantly and with a smile.
8. Giving grudgingly with a negative attitude.

I hope I will see you on May 4th, as we all have the chance to climb this ladder: whether in the building creating and donating various items, outside at the car wash, on the streets in our neighborhood at the Oy Vey 5K, or at Gurwin down the street and more. (See more information in this issue about Mitzvah Day activities and collections.)

Rabbi Beth H. Klafter

Rabbi Beth H Klafter

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

urj ARZA **VOTE**
אַרְזָה **REFORM**



Clergy Reflections by

Dear Friends,

As you know, we write monthly articles for *HaKol*, and thanks to our generous and hardworking editors, Joan and Bonnie, we are given complete latitude about how and what we write to you about. My articles, as you have seen, tend to be of a personal, psychological nature with a religious slant at times, or not, depending on my view at a given moment. But this month, the monumental steps of our future are of paramount importance for us all.

For quite some time our temple leadership has been hard at work in finding the right path forward for our congregation. They have met with our neighbors at the NSSA right here on Hauppauge Road – an organization that provides support and education for individuals with autism; and as you have already heard, they have purchased our property.

It is unusual that what began as a financial problem for our temple would result in not only a wonderful and mutually beneficial solution, but also an alliance and a friendship. We are so blessed that Nicole Weidenbaum accepted the invitation to talk that was extended by Rabbi Beth Klafter. For there is nobody I know who would engage someone as bright and dedicated as Nicole in a more fruitful conversation than Rabbi Klafter. In fact, the way Nicole describes it, Rabbi Klafter brokered the deal.

Our president, Ken Marenus, our past president, Beverly Wolcott, and a host of others have volunteered their time and energy including, our co-editor's husband, Paul Sibener, along with Steve Sarisohn and Robert Miller, all attorneys-at-law, donated countless hours of time as well.

I know there are many others whom I should mention, and we will in the right moment, but suffice to say that our temple family has risen to the occasion of meeting another challenge and demonstrated that we are meant to remain right here in our home at 100 Hauppauge Road.

The agreement we made was reached in friendship, and that is the reason to celebrate today. Because not only will we be sharing space with our new owners, but we have so much in common in terms of shared values. Let me quote what appears on NSSA's website as their philosophy:

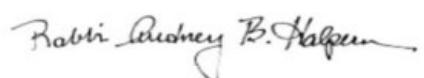
At NSSA we believe that each individual with autism, as well as their family members, deserves access to resources that will help them maximize their full potential. NSSA is dedicated to developing and providing those resources so that individuals with autism will be able to live lives filled with promise, dignity, and purpose and their families will have hope as well as peace of mind.

This mission stands for the rights of every individual to live a full and meaningful life. Our torah portion on this very week speaks of this message when Moses addresses the people and reminds them of family values: the treatment of each person; justice for each child and kindness. On this month when we celebrate our mothers, the lessons of the past guide us and remind us that as we go forward, we must also care for those in our families and in our communities. In a world that often has lost its way and leaves others behind, Moses' instructions about fairness and justice still ring true.

May this new step in our congregation's future bring fulfillment to all of us and may we go from strength to strength.

Happy Mother's Day to all!

B'shalom,



Rabbi Audrey Halpern

May B'Mitzvah

May 3	Madison Tanenbaum
May 10	Aaron Bolender
May 17	Natalie Nudell



Margie Gursky Religious School News

I hope that you all enjoyed your Passover holiday with your families. I can't believe it, but Religious School is just about over for this year, with our last Tuesday classes on May 13 and our last Wednesday classes on May 14. Family Fun Day on Sunday, May 18 is the big celebration for our students finishing the year. I hope that you will be able to join us for this fun event of games, crafts and ice cream.

But before we end the year, let me tell you how wonderful the month of April was. On the first Friday in April, we had our K-3 Art show and Shabbat service. Our second/third graders in Ms. Chaikin's, Ms. Kravette's and Ms. Kurtzman's classes decorated wine glasses with paint and colorful yarn. They were able to use these glasses during their Passover seders as Elijah's or Miriam's cup. Ms. Gilbert's K-1 class each made beautiful afikomen holders using flower stampers and paint. As a class, the children each helped to color and stamp a giant seder plate. I am sure both the decorated wine glasses and the afikomen holders will become family heirlooms! During the service, the students helped Rabbi Halpern sing *Hinei Ma Tov* as well as *Yom Huledet Sameach* (birthday song). The families schmoozed, ate cookies and candy, and *krelled* over their children's artwork and singing!

Rabbi Klafter and I held the last fourth/fifth grade PACT program which was a lot of fun for the students. With 11 stations of holy activities, the families rotated around the room and participated in the holiness of being Jewish; they spun dreidels, built a sukkah out of cards, recited the blessing as they put on a tallit and so much more!

Upcoming is a very special event; the first Friday in May will be our fourth grade's Prayer Book ceremony and Shabbat service. This is one of the most meaningful grade-level Shabbats as the students ceremoniously receive their personalized prayer books; they will use these books to learn to read and chant prayers during Religious School at their B'Mitzvah and throughout their lives. And I am sure our pre-neg that evening will contain some very yummy snacks! Everyone is welcome to join us.

Of course, the first Sunday in May is the TBD Mitzvah Day event which will include many activities for our Religious School families to participate in. I hope to see you all there as well as at our last couple of programs of the year.

Enjoy the photos we are sharing of your children at the Art Show, the recent PACT program, as well as a special art lesson Rabbi Klafter led for our seventh graders.

Don't forget: We are offering an Early Bird Special for those families who sign up their children for Religious School by May 18. Sign up early and save \$50/ child!

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A birthday, an anniversary or special occasion? Maybe you just want to show your love for TBD?

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Do you need help getting to Friday Night services?

We have member volunteers who will drive you to and from services.

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 631-499-0915 x 312

7th Grade Art Project with Rabbi Klafter



We are again offering our

DUES DISCOUNT PLAN

Pay your 2025-2026 dues in full now and enjoy these discounts:

Pay in March and save 4%

Pay in April and save 3%

Pay in May and save 2%

*Discounts apply only to temple dues,
and not to assessments or tuition, which will be billed in July, 2025.*

Please call the temple office at (631) 499-0915 ext. 310 or 329 for your dues obligation for 2025-2026

Example based on Full Family Dues of \$2,261

Dues Discount By Month	March 4% Discount	April 3% Discount	May 2% Discount
Total Payment Your Savings	\$2,170.56 (\$90.44 savings)	\$2,193.17 (\$67.83 savings)	\$2,215.78 (\$45.22 savings)

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Full Payment Plan in the month of _____

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Exp. Date _____ CVV Code _____

Signature _____ Billing ZIP Code _____

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Commack, NY 11725



TEMPLE BETH DAVID

Sisterhood

SISTERHOOD

The women of Sisterhood have enjoyed planning and participating in many diverse events throughout the year. April was a particularly busy month for us! Sisterhood members gathered for a pre-Passover Seder (thank you Deborah Faust); learned and played Mah Jong (thank you Denise Jacobs); held a fashion show and dinner at Napper Tandy's, our major fundraising event (thank you Jodi Maisel, Holly Dornfeld, Toni Spring, the committee and models); joined with Brotherhood to see Fiddler on the Roof at the Argyle Theater (thank you Toni Spring and Dan Dornfeld); and enjoyed discussing "Funny Story," by Emily Howard at our Book Club Zoom meeting (thank you Jodi Maisel).

May brings a beautiful Spring and hopefully a hint of summer as well as the promise of another active month for TBD Sisterhood. Please join us on Sunday, May 4 at 8:30 am to participate in the Oy Vey 5k Run and Walk, a Mitzvah Day Charity event. Look for more details in *HaKol* and the Whole Megillah.

Our next monthly Board planning meeting is Wednesday, May 7, when we will discuss June and summer events and start to think about plans for the Fall. Our annual Bingo night is on Thursday, May 15, and it is always a fun evening full of laughter and good times.

The next Book Club will meet on Tuesday, May 27, and we will discuss "The Time Keepers" by Alyson Richman. All are invited to participate. Book club uses the TBD Zoom which is included in the weekly Megillah emailed on Friday's.

Our "Sisters" certainly enjoy spending time together, having fun, and helping support our Temple community. We welcome women who are interested in finding out more about Sisterhood and would love to hear your ideas for future events!

Ada Lieberman and Irma Sarisohn

Sisterhood Lunch Following Anne Frank Exhibit @ Center for Jewish History

Sunday, March 30th



K-3 Art Show



4th/5th Grade PACT: Passport to Holiness





DONATE TO MS. CHAIKIN'S 7TH GRADE'S PET SUPPLIES DRIVE



PET FOOD



PET TOYS



PET BEDS



PET CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES



**Leave all Donations Outside the
Religious School Office by May 18th**



**TEMPLE BETH DAVID
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**

Spotlight on Brotherhood

IMPORTANT: BREAKING BROTHERHOOD NEWS

(Dateline: Commack NY) TBD Brotherhood announces the return of its widely popular ice cream social on Wednesday, May 14 at 7:00 pm at the Carvel store on Commack Road in the Meat Farms Shopping Center. Brotherhood members, their families and, in fact, all Temple Beth David members are invited to join us!

The origins of the ice cream social: The first known serving of ice cream at a social gathering in America was 1744. (for the Brotherhood, it was 2024) The temperance movement influenced the popularity of ice cream socials as they offered a sober and wholesome way to socialize. Socials served as a way of having good clean fun and an alternative to taverns and pubs. (See Brotherhood calendar for Bourbon night this summer!)

Sunday or Sundae? Ice cream sundaes were created when it became illegal to sell ice cream with flavored soda on a Sunday in the town of Evanston during the late 1800's. Clever merchants got around this by serving ice cream with syrup instead, calling it an ice cream Sunday. Retailers adopted the spelling of "Sundae" because advertising it as a Sunday Special would lead consumers to believe the treat was only available on Sundays. Nevertheless, during the 1890's blue laws prevented the sale of ice cream Sundaes on Sunday because of its popularity and its competition with the Christian sabbath.

At the Brotherhood ice cream social, we have no such problem. We meet on Wednesdays once per month. We plan to do so in June and throughout the summer! Ice cream has a community component. Sharing ice cream and interacting with friends have become synonymous. What better way to meet, greet and get to know your fellow congregants?

Why Ice Cream? If you really have to ask, "Ice cream stimulates the thombotinin, which is a hormone of happiness and helps in reducing the levels of stress in the body. Ice cream is made of milk, which contains L-tryptophan, which is a natural tranquilizer and helps in relaxing the nervous system. It also helps prevent symptoms of insomnia." Enough said. (source Catholic Health Services)

The United States consumes the most ice cream in the world; followed by Australia and then Norway. Help keep us #1! Support your country and join Brotherhood on May 14 at 7:00 pm. It's hard not to be happy while eating ice cream.

And, if you are from Long Island, then you know: Wednesday is Sundae at Carvel. Buy one get one free.

*Sunday, May 4-Mitzvah Day
Wednesday, May 14-Wednesday is Sundae at Carvel
Sunday, June 1-Golf*

Steven Sarisohn,
Brotherhood President

To make a donation to
Temple Beth David for a
special occasion or in memory of a
loved one, please contact Wendy in the
Temple office at
499-0915 ext. 312 or
Robin@tbdcommack.org





News from Isaiah 58

It's finally spring! The activities of TBD's Isaiah 58 Social Action Committee have been ongoing. Our accomplishments include: our annual Passover Food Drive, shopping for our local food pantries, looming hats and scarves, collecting school items for Supplies for Success, collecting peanut butter and jelly for the PB&J Gang, collecting travel size personal items and baby items, donating bikes and giving our collective efforts to our annual Mitzvah Day on May 4. The Mitzvah Day Run/Walk, The OyVey 5K, begins at 8:30 a.m. with registration at 8 a.m. Thanks to Deborah Faust for arranging this new activity for us.

Our car wash on Mitzvah Day begins at 10 a.m. and costs \$10. Thank you to Craig Cooper for stepping up to chair this event. Donations will go to Long Island Cares. Helping neighbors and giving to others feels powerful and positive. We do it together!

Isaiah 58 has been helping those in need for 28 years and we are very proud of our reputation in the community. All are welcome to join us in our efforts to be the change we wish to see in the world. If you need community credits, volunteer an hour of your time (or more!) and we will make sure you receive the credit.

Thank you to Beverly Horowitz for organizing the Passover Food Drive with SJCC. If you helped us in that endeavor, thank you! Thank you to all the Project Leaders who donated their energy, time and superior skills. A special thanks to Diane Kraut for all her guidance and support and Rachel Vikingstad for coordinating and organizing this year's 28th Mitzvah Day at TBD!

Jane Gaines, Isaiah 58 Social Action Committee Chair

Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwiches are back!

Let's come together & make sandwiches for those in need.

Date: Sunday, May 4, 2025

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Location: Youth Lounge at TBD

Due to health codes, please pull long hair back and/or wear a hat.



Please RSVP to Caryn Cantley caryn.cantley4@gmail.com



Temple Beth David

INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR OUR 28th
ANNUAL Mitzvah Day

SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2025

Oy Vey 5K Run/Walk @8:30AM

10:00AM – 12:00PM Temple Activities at TBD

A day of service, kindness and caring dedicated
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*For more information see
the weekly Megillah
emailed on Fridays.*

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Supplies, Food, Gently Used
Clothing, New or gently used bikes,
Women's business attire (on
hangers), books, craft supplies,
baby items for new mothers.

ACTIVITIES

Oy Vey 5K, car wash, PB&J, bags of
fun, crafts for hospitalized children,
hat looming.

Off-site bingo at Gurwin.



Proceeds will be donated to Long Island Cares!

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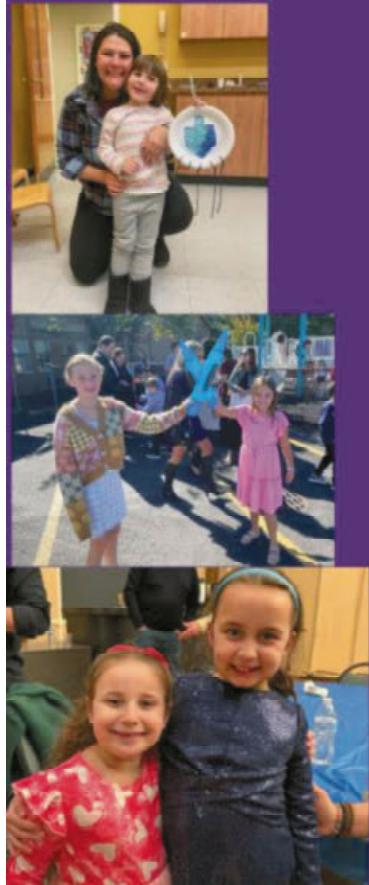
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In memory of Sidney Monford

Gabrielle Fenster

In memory of Philip Schwartz

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In memory of Charles Eisinger

Carol and Andrew Cott

In memory of Sandy Wolfson

Susan Vailmberg

In memory of Edward Streger

Deborah and Jonathan Faust

In memory of Rabbi Rievan W. Slavkin

Sam Login

In memory of Henry Login

Paul and Maxine Alschuler

In memory of Sylvia Alschuler

Sandra Grova

In memory of George Grova

Ann Aboulafia

In memory of Arnold Hoffenberg

Eleanor Werbowsky

In memory of Morris Werbowsky

Jeffrey Glick

In memory of Harry Boyer

Michael and Alita Ditkowsky

In memory of Gertrude Korpus

In memory of Dottie Wagner

Lita Goldklang

In memory of Fred Goldklang

Lorraine and Ira Lipton

In memory of Jeanette Lipton

Judith and Joel Kurtz

In memory of Henry Austin

Joan and Larry Fleischman

In memory of Edith Margolish

William and Laura Joseph

In memory of Ina Tockerman

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In memory of Howard Silverstein

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Foundation Stone \$ 450.00

\$ 800.00

Sanctuary

One seat



What's Happening at TBD — May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 6:30 pm 4th Grade Prayer Book Shabbat Service with Birthday Blessings	3 9:15 am Torah Study & Service 10:00 am B'Mitzvah Service
4 8:30 am TBD Oy Vey 5K Run/ Walk (check in 8:00 am) 9:00 am TBD Mitzvah Day	5	6 4:30 pm Together With Tots	7 7:30 pm Sisterhood Meeting	8	9 8:00 pm Shabbat Service	10 9:15 am Torah Study & Service 10:00 am B'Mitzvah Service
11	12	13 5:45 pm Last Tuesday Religious School Classes 7:00 pm Executive Board Mtg 8:00 pm TBD Board Mtg	14 5:45 pm Last Wednesday Religious School Classes 7:00 pm Brotherhood Sundaes at Carvel	15 7:00 pm Sisterhood Bingo in Social Hall	16 8:00 pm Shabbat Service	17 9:15 am Torah Study & Service 10:00 am B'Mitzvah Service
18 9:30 am RS Family Fun Day	19	20 7:30 pm Steering Committee Mtg 7:30 pm Isaish58 Planning meet- ing for next year plus MDay wrap up meeting	21	22	23 8:00 pm Shabbat Service	24 9:15 am Torah Study & Service
25	26 Temple Office Closed	27 7:00 pm Fall '25 B-Mitzvah Pro- gram for Parents and Students 8:00 pm Sisterhood Book Club (on Zoom)	28	29	30 8:00 pm Shabbat Service with with Anniversary Blessings	31 9:15 am Torah Study & Service



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Worship Schedule

Friday, May 2

Shabbat Tazria-Metzora

6:30 pm Shabbat Service with 4th Grade
Prayer book with Birthday Blessings

Saturday, May 3

9:15 am Torah Study and Service

**10:00 am Celebrate with us as Madison
Tanenbaum become B'Mitzvah**

Friday, May 9

Shabbat Achrei Mot-Kedoshim

8:00 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, May 10

9:15 am Torah Study and Service

**10:00 am Celebrate with us as Aaron Bolender
become B'Mitzvah**

Friday, May 16

Shabbat Emor

8:00 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, May 17

9:15 am Torah Study and Service

**10:00 am Celebrate with us as Natalie Nudell
become B'Mitzvah**

Friday, May 23

Shabbat Behar-Bechukotai

8:00 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, May 24

9:15 am Torah Study and Service

Friday, May 30

Shabbat Bamidbar

8:00 pm Shabbat Service w/ Anniversary Blessings

Saturday, May 31

9:15 am Torah Study and Service

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

Staff

Senior Rabbi Beth H. Klafter, D.D.
Rabbi Audrey Halpern, D.D., D.Min.
Rabbi Emeritus Leonard B. Troupp, D.D. ^{z"l}
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