

# Hakol

*the voice of temple beth david*



TEMPLE BETH DAVID

Vol. XIV No. 9

Nisan/Iyar 5780

April 2020

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## Important Notice to All Congregants

*HaKol* is prepared and printed during the month prior to its publication date. As we are all aware, the Covid-19 health crisis is necessitating last minute changes in people's lives and schedules. We urge you to go to our temple website, [tbdccommack.org](http://tbdccommack.org) to get the latest news on any changes and/or cancellations in our temple events and programs, Religious School, or services.

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## Rabbi's Message by Rabbi Beth H. Klatzer

*Dear Friends,*

I am writing these words the morning after Cantor Halpern and I masqueraded as "Bacon and Eggs" in celebration of Purim (check out our photo in this issue). We laughed at the irreverence of it all, as is our tradition. As you know, Purim commemorates the story of the Jews of Shushan, the bravery of Queen Esther and Mordecai who spoke up for themselves and their community in the face of evil. We honor the memory and the actions of Queen Vashti, who refused to be treated as an object of the King. As I said last night to the children and adults, their actions continue to inspire us today. Indeed, the lessons of our tradition and our holidays provide grounding and guidance for us in the year 5780/2020 in profound ways.

We all know that news of the impact of Covid 19 is changing the global, national and local landscape daily. I cannot begin to anticipate with certainty precisely what will occur in the coming weeks, who may become ill or perish, which plans will be altered or cancelled. Though I can say with certainty that things will be changing and personal and communal anxiety will continue.

It is in this context that I turn my thoughts from Purim to Passover, *Chag HaAviv*, the festival of spring. With certainty we know that no matter what is happening in the world, as the sun sets on Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, Passover

(Continued on page 2)

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ver will begin. The specifics of our observances may have to change to protect our health; relatives might not be seated side-by-side at a table; we might “dip” our fingers in hand-sanitizers during the Seder more than the parsley in salt water. Nonetheless, we will recall and recount the story of our ancestors, the slavery in Egypt and the plagues. In fact, in ways, Covid 19 feels like the plague of this season.

Let us remember that the story of our people does not end in Egypt with the plagues. Those scenes are followed by the Exodus and the return to our homeland. One of the names of Passover is *Chag HaHerut*, the festival of freedom. Freedom from Pharaoh, freedom from darkness and illness, freedom from the hardships and enslavements of the Children of Israel. I pray that we find strength and encouragement from the ancient story. Strength to journey together, to support one another and to find our way to the land of good health, celebration and freedom.

Chag Sameach, Happy Passover!

*Rabbi Beth H. Klafter*

Rabbi Beth H Klafter



*Margie Gursky*

*Religious School News*

*I* am writing this during the midst of the coronavirus craze. I don't know if this is the beginning, the middle or the end of it. Not knowing what is going to happen in three months, three weeks, or in an hour has created a lot of anxiety all around.

I know Passover is right around the corner, and I am hopeful that the virus does not keep us from having seders with our families and friends. As bad as this coronavirus gets in our community, whether we get sick, our kids' schools are closed or we cannot go to work, whatever it is, we have to keep our perspective. In ancient Egypt, our Israelite ancestors were plagued with similar anxiety. When Moses told them to leave, they had no idea where they were going, what they were going to eat, if they would survive. But they all decided to have faith and followed Moses to freedom. Our freedom may seem compromised temporarily, but this too shall pass(over).

In spite of the current health crisis, we have had lots of fun during the previous month, as you can see from the photos below.







## Cantorial Notes by Rabbi/Cantor Audrey Halpern

Dear Friends,

As Passover approaches, the tastes and the sounds are already coming back to me. Before we know it, we will be gathered at our tables and singing the words, “*Dayeinu*, it would have been enough.” The truth is that the Book of Exodus is chock full of crazy adventures. We crossed through the Sea of Reeds as the waters parted just in time for all of us and then swallowed up our enemies; Moses ascended the mountain and returned with the tablets etched with the Ten Commandments and Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law told him to set up judges because the work of interpreting the law was too great for him alone. At the end of *Parshat Mishpatim*, we heard two of the most famous words in Judaism – *na’aseh v’nishma*, “We will do and we will hear.” These are the words our ancestors said when they accepted the covenant at Sinai.

This reaction stands in sharp contrast to the complaints and sins and rebellions that mark so many of the wilderness years. There is even a Talmudic tradition that says God had to suspend the mountain over the heads of the Israelites to persuade them to accept the Torah. But this one verse seems to suggest just the opposite. *Na’aseh v’nishma* – we will do and we will hear everything that God has said.

As you can imagine, the rabbis have, and continue to have, a field day interpreting the meaning behind what this means as well as the order of these words. Rashi believes that it means we will do and *then* we will hear—thereby expressing the people’s total faith in God. Other commentators offer that *nishma* can also mean not only to hear, but to hearken – to respond faithfully.

But there are still others, myself included, who believe that there are certain things that we only understand by doing. If each of us waited for the voice to tell us to come to services, it may never happen. Yet somehow, by going through the motions, even if in a robotic way, we get ourselves here and then by doing, we can begin to feel the meaning. So it is with many – even most of the laws. The meaning is found in the doing.

Passover is another one of those instances. It doesn’t matter what we believe or don’t believe about the exact recounting of the story. The meaning of Passover, from family around the table to the lessons of slavery and redemption – all of it becomes mixed together into a festival that embodies so much of what it means to be the Jewish people. What unites us as a people is action, not reflection. We may understand God and what is commanded of us in different ways, but there is still a Jewish way of life that unites us as a people. This Passover, may the tastes and the sounds; the stories and the traditions all bind us together so that we may hear God’s voice as one.

*Chag Pesach Sameach* – Happy Passover to all of you, my friends.

B’shalom,

*Cantor Audrey Halpern*

Rabbi/Cantor Audrey B. Halpern



Purim @TBD



## From the President's Desk



*My* first thought for the month of April was to write about spring and Passover, but after working with the Budget and Finance Committee to create our 2020-21 temple budget I decided to go in a different direction. Since this is my last April article, I still wanted to include this Passover quote because I found it so powerful. Therefore, I am sharing it even though my article has a different focus.

*"Passover is a time of reflection and joy.  
When we emerge from our cocoon of doubt to fly freely on the wings of faith,"*  
(Source unknown)

Now back to my budget train of thought....

Each year around this time I begin wondering why we always seem to be tight on money. My brain must be totally in sync with what John Barrymore was thinking when he said, *"Why is there so much **month** at the end of the money?"* Like our home budget, the budget here at TBD is much the same. We often feel like we are left with not enough money at the end of the month, yet somehow we always manage to make it work. Why is that our financial situation and what is it we "get" for our money?

In terms of the financial "why" we have **month** at the end of the money, the answer is simple. It is because we are a warm and welcoming community which strives to make sure anyone can be a part of our temple family regardless of how much **month** they have at the end of their money. We hold costs down by being a bare bones operation. We have often gone to our staff and asked them to do a little more in the hours that they work. This giving back is often critical to our financial well-being. Our staff is always so supportive, and considering their bills are not going down, they always manage to be willing to make do with a little less.

Here at Temple Beth David how do we "get" a lot of **month** for our money? We "get" two amazing leaders, Rabbi Klafter and Cantor Halpern, who are always there for us whether in times of joy or times of sorrow. That support in times of sorrow is priceless; when we need it most somehow it magically appears and is there sustaining us until we are ready to move forward on our own. In times of joy they help us appreciate this gift life has to offer and appreciate its true value.

We "get" to partake in a myriad of events, both spiritual and secular, and have the opportunity to give back far beyond our small community through the vast array of opportunities designed for social action. It seems to me that if one wanted to, one could find something to do every day of the week, (except maybe on Thursday). Here at Temple Beth David, I see miracles every day in all we are able to offer, making the most of our money. Being in the building several days a week I see how much **month** we get for our money.

I want to close by going back to my "first thought" and wishing you and your families a happy and healthy Passover holiday. May the month of April remind you of the commemoration of our freedom from slavery as well as our need to stretch our temple budget so we can give back and continue to benefit from all our temple has to offer.

*Beverly Wolcott*

—Beverly Wolcott  
Temple President





We are again offering our

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Pay your 2020-2021 dues in full now and enjoy these discounts:

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Billing ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

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TEMPLE BETH DAVID

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**Phyllis Finkelstein**

*In memory of Harvey Finkelstein*

### Rabbi/Cantor Halpern's

#### Discretionary Fund

**Phyllis Finkelstein**

*In memory of Harvey Finkelstein*

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*In memory of Charlotte Gershowitz*

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*In memory of Sylvia Alschuler*

### Capital Improvement Fund

**Erica & Michael Greenberg**

*In memory of Arnold K. Greenberg*

### Choir Fund

**Gabey Fenster**

*In memory of Bernard Fenster*

### Economic Crisis Relief Fund

**Beverly & Steven Wolcott**

*In loving memory & gratitude*

### General Fund

**Nancy & Steven Zove**

*In memory of Harry Warshaw*

*In memory of Frances Dorskind*

**Susan & Dan Knopp**

*In memory of Robert Knopp*

**Jaclyn & Bernard Orlan**

*In memory of Norman Berkowitz*

*In memory of Leonard Orlan*

**Sandra Grova**

*In memory of Jacob Reiss*

**Audrey & Barry Krostich**

*In memory of Dorothy Berkman*

**Steven & Joyce Feldman**

*In memory of Jean Plust*

**Michelle Levine-Troupp**

*In memory of Lee Goldstein*

**Eleanor & Paul Rostoker**

*In memory of Anne Rostoker*

**Rita & Gil Link**

*In memory of Robert Link*

**Kim Doyno**

*In memory of Howard Cooper*

**Joyce & Martin Schorr**

*In memory of Elliot D. Schorr*

**Sheila & Frank Eisinger**

*In memory of John Eisinger*

**Linda Kaplan & Robert Glassman**

*In memory of Alan R. Kaplan*

**Rochelle & Jack Feldman**

*In memory of Harriet Seidman*

*In memory of Lillian Feldman*

*In memory of Sydel Barfus*

**Samantha Schneider**

*In memory of Richard Schneider*

**The Vaimberg Family**

*In memory of Edward Streger*

**Joan & Mel Ettinger**

*In memory of Edythe Neiman*

**Marjorie Janicola**

*In memory of Maurice Livingston*

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*In memory of George Grova*

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*In memory of Lester Bieber*

**Kenneth I. Pasetsky**

*In memory of Jack Saltzer*

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*In memory of Marcus Gluck*

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*In memory of Sydel Kravis*

**Rochelle & Monroe Hollander**

*In memory of Barbara Lemberg*

*In memory of Evelyn Adler*

**Susan & Dan Knopp**

*In memory of Abraham Rosencrantz*

**Joyce & Marty Rubenstein**

*In honor of Peppi Schwartz' 90th Birthday*

**Joan & Roy Gilbert**

*In memory of Harry Gilbert*

**Sydelle & David Metal**

*In memory of Jake Schaffer*

**Judy Goodman**

*In memory of Minnie Goodman*

**Sheila & Frank Eisinger**

*In memory of Charles Eisinger*

**Moroff Family**

*In memory of Samuel Reifer*

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*In memory of Mynette Marcovici*

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*In memory of Yetta Kipperman*

**Sheri Weisz**

*In memory of Iris Beckerman*

**Lita Goldklang**

*In memory of Fred Goldklang*

**Karen Horowitz**

*In memory of Rose Zelenko*

*In memory of William Zelenko*

**Marty Horowitz**

*In memory of William Horowitz*

**Merryl & Glenn Rogers**

*In memory of Charlotte Gershowitz*

*In memory of Warren Simonoff*

**Eileen Monford**

*In memory of Etta Mosesson*

**Helene & Bill Sommer**

*In memory of Eli Sommer*

*In memory of Sonia Sommer*

*In memory of Alvin Wilichinsky*

**Beverly & Stuart Horowitz**

*In memory of Irvin Horowitz*

### Isaiah 58 Fund

**Jane & David Gaines**

**Lita Goldklang**

**Sandy Wolfson**

**Carole Yudin**

*In memory of Burton Yudin*

**Maxine & David Fischer**

### Life Long Learning Fund

**Saturday A.M. Torah Study Group**

*In honor of Peppi Schwartz' 90th Birthday*

### Religious School Fund

**New Soil**

**Linda Schwartz**

*In memory of Joel Schwartz*

*Wishing Joel Evans a speedy recovery*

**Gabey Fenster**

*In memory of Carolyn Schwartz*

### Barbara & Susan Stearns

#### Garden Fund

**Robert Stearns**

*In memory of Barbara Stearns*

**Iris & Mort Glick**

*In memory of Evelyn Bryer*

*In memory of Harry Bryer*



# **Yahrzeits April 2020**

4/1 Gail Heller  
Charles Eisinger  
Isidore Siegel  
Samuel Reifer  
4/2 Harry Bryer  
Aron Alter  
Stephen D. Solomon  
Bella Grossman  
Yolanda Bryan  
4/3 Albert Schorr  
Edward Chasan  
Betty Sedell  
Herman Samuels  
Alta Brill  
Anna Green  
4/4 Arnold Hoffenberg  
Siegfried Joseph  
Bella Joseph  
Phineas Wigler  
4/5 Albert Soren  
William Horowitz  
David Beberman  
Henry Login  
Leonard Berke  
4/6 Clara Berger  
Audrey Lightstone  
Robert Rosenberg  
Rose Weissman  
Irving Rosenthal  
4/7 Rose Schnitzer  
Herman Silberfeld  
Etta Mosesson  
4/8 Julia Rosenthal  
Sylvia Carlin  
Herman Klein  
Tillie Schwartz  
4/9 Norman Leonard  
4/10 Henrietta Rose  
Donald Slotnick  
Iris Beckerman  
Edna Friedman  
4/11 Irving Zuckerfein

4/11 Shirley Gleeman  
Jacob Ziff  
Burton Yudin  
4/12 Clare Vann  
Henry Austin  
Milton Weisslander  
Morris Werbowisky  
Herbert Rosin  
Tillie Eisner  
4/13 Lewis Fox  
Joseph Kelson  
Mildred Boyer  
George Strumpf  
Archie Lent  
4/14 Dorothy Klayman  
Ida Stern  
Irving Ellenport  
Sylvia Alschuler  
Larry Marcus  
Michael Edward Birn  
Abe Seidenberg  
Roslyn Goldstein  
Morton Katz  
4/15 David Lesser  
Jeanette Lipton  
Harriet Ross  
4/16 Nathan Chasan  
Irving Feldman  
Florence Sharp  
Jason F. Gruen  
Gertrude Korpus  
Louis Spiegel  
Edith Ball  
4/17 Lawrence Wiener  
Jean Steinberg  
Mabel Penn  
Burton Feldman  
Edward Schneider  
4/18 George Freedman  
George Penn  
4/19 Robert Carlin  
Francis Sardina

4/19 Eva Freedman  
4/20 John Cazassus  
Betty Kaplan  
Sophie Wohl  
4/21 Ina Tockerman  
David Bier  
Herbert Falk  
Jerome Berk  
Inge Fleischman  
Abe Stern  
4/22 Mark Bieber  
4/23 Rita Hecht  
Julius Cipnic  
Sarah Goodman  
Ed Teichman  
4/24 Leo Birnbaum  
Aida Bender  
Sam Zelevansky  
Peter Bouroff  
4/25 Anne McCormack  
William Marenus  
Rita Barnowitz  
4/26 Mark Plust  
Irving Devack  
Sidney Monford  
Dottie Wagner  
4/27 Lilian Cohen  
Sylvia Pinsker  
Claire Brandsdorfer  
Dorothy Spatt  
Irving Rosenberg  
4/28 Earl Miller  
Rosalind Nacht  
Shirley Steinberg  
Edith Snyder  
Jack Berger  
4/29 Belle Goldstein  
Adolph Niederman  
Elizabeth Lieberman  
4/30 Ruth Klinger  
Saul Weissman

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### Calling Heaven

Can You hear me, God?  
Yes, it's me,  
calling again...

My heart is full  
my page is blank  
How do I ask  
no less write  
thank You  
for your blessings  
yet beg You  
for your help  
to get me  
from here to there  
without more tears  
remorse for years  
of silence  
not that my soul  
screamer of screams  
dreamer of dreams  
does not scold  
me constantly  
but in my wider world  
injustice  
political chaos  
inhumanity  
man vs. man vs. woman  
became cliché  
and what did I do?  
what did I say?

O.K., God  
I'll call back  
tomorrow....  
—Sandy Wicker

**HaKol**  
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