

Hakol

the voice of temple beth david



TEMPLE BETH DAVID

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Tevet /Shevet 5778

January 2018

Temple Beth David Phone Directory
(631) 499-0915

**Please note the change of the
three digit extensions**

	<u>Extension</u>
Shari Chaikin	313
Caterer	315
Clergy Office	312
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Temple Office	310
Temple President	357
Religious School	317

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

499-1034 or 499-1043



*Rabbi's Message by
Rabbi Beth H. Klafter*

As we turn to a new secular year in the world around us this month, we also turn to a new book of the Torah. During the first week of January, we will be reading the first chapters of the second of the five books, the Book of Exodus. In English it is customary to name books based on the theme or perhaps the heroes of the literature. In this case, as may be familiar to many, the "Exodus" refers to the journey the Israelite people made *exiting* the enslavement of Egypt to reach the freedom of our homeland. In Hebrew, on the other hand, books and weekly Torah portions get their titles from the first significant Hebrew word we read. In Hebrew, the book is called, "Shemot," which literally means, "names." The first verse reads, "*V'eleh shemot b'nei Yisrael ha'ba'im Mitzrayima...*" "These are the names of the children of Israel who came to Egypt." Names identify us and define us. The Jewish people have been called by three different names. Each of them connects us to our people's history in a different way.

First, we were called Hebrews, from the Hebrew word, *Ivrim*. Abraham, the first patriarch, was known as *Avraham ha-Ivri*. *Ivri* is from the Hebrew root, *avar*, which means "across." The rabbis of the Midrash explained that Abraham stood across from the others; he forged his own path of monotheism and faith. We, too, are called upon to stand alone, if necessary, as a people of conviction and faith.

Our second name is Israel, *Yisrael*, or the Children of Israel, *B'nei Yisrael*. Jacob, Abraham's grandson and our third patriarch, has a name change in the book of Genesis. The narrative tells us that Jacob wrestled with a 'being' while he slept alone on his way to see his twin brother, Esau. This 'being' blesses him and changes his name from Jacob to Israel "for you have wrestled with gods and men and have prevailed" (Genesis 32:29). The name Israel means "wrestles with God." Indeed, we are a people who grapple with our beliefs and the world around us. When we are not satisfied with the world, we struggle to make the world better as partners with the Divine.

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COMEDY NIGHT

presented by the TBD Ways and Means Committee

January 27th 2018 at 7:00PM

starring

Steven Scott

America's Got Talent Contestant

and

Sherry Davey

Single Mom, Actress, Comedienne



Don't miss TBD's annual laugh-fest! You supply your own desserts, snacks and "grownup" beverages. We supply non-stop fun, raffles, a 50/50 drawing and an evening of great comedy!

Just \$40 per person - guests welcome!
Watch for the Acceptiva link on the TBD website

TBD Comedy Night.
It's a Religious Experience.





*Cantorial Notes by
Rabbi/Cantor Audrey Halpern*

Dear Members,

Since the end of Simchat Torah and the beginning of reading Genesis in our yearly Torah cycle of portions, we have heard a lot about our ancestors and their family chaos. In truth, they are a more pathological version of the kinds of drama and rivalry we may experience in our own lives today. From infertility issues to the intense sibling rivalry that seems to be passed from generation to generation of our people, the themes are timeless and disturbing on a personal level for many of us. We draw comfort from our shared issues and we can learn from their mistakes and their failures. The following is an excerpt from a D'var Torah I delivered on a recent Friday evening this Fall:

My son Jonathan was 10 1/2 years old when Rachel was born. One day that summer when she was only a couple of weeks old, he came into my room, took one look at me cradling this newborn in my arms, and collapsed on the floor, sobbing. His words left a painful imprint on my heart. "You're always so nice to Rachel!" he cried. Oh my God, I thought. Have I been ignoring him in my new-mother bliss? Whatever it was, there has evolved over the years a 'friendlyish' - tongue-in-cheek competition between them about who is my favorite.

This week we read from Parshat Toledot. It literally means generations. I believe that this portion teaches us much more than the names that are repeated over and over. Isaac, Rebecca, Esau and Jacob and on and on with their wives and where they physically travel. But what fascinates me about Toledot is the timeless nature of the themes that we hear about. This week we read that Isaac is aging. He becomes increasingly aware of his own mortality and he calls for his oldest son, Esau. This son, we are told, is the rugged one, the hunter, the more physical, probably less intellectually gifted than his twin brother Jacob. Isaac favors him and Rebecca favors Jacob.

But when the sweet, lovely Rebecca hears Isaac instruct Esau to hunt and cook for him so that Isaac will then confer his blessing upon this son, she becomes a deceitful plotter who puts Jacob up to tricking the nearly blind Isaac into giving this blessing to Jacob instead. It works, as we know, but the brothers are set up for a lifetime of division and rivalry. Esau's words when he realizes what has happened, are piercing and a reminder to us not only as parents, but as leaders as well. "Is there no blessing for me?" is a question that we hear as cantors and rabbis and mothers and fathers. It, of course, reminds me always of my little Jonathan who cried in my room 22 years ago and who is now dealing with his own two year old's adjustment to being the older brother of a new baby sister!

But it happens when we have students who are more like Esau. They aren't gifted in Hebrew, but they are great wrestlers or baton twirlers. Our job is to find their blessing as well. We tend to focus all our energy on young families when it is often the older, longer standing members of our congregation that provide the very backbone of our community. How do we demonstrate our esteem for them? Instead of being overlooked, they should be honored with as many blessings as we can muster.

Jacob and Esau are the prototype for diversity and their dramatic story must compel us to find more than one blessing so that our people can embrace all of our brothers and sisters and mothers and fathers. At this season of a new secular year, let us always be reminded to find the blessing in each one of us so that we may all add our unique light to the world.

B'sshalom,
Cantor Audrey Halpern
Rabbi/ Cantor Audrey Halpern

In Honor of our Cantor

Friday and Sunday

April 20 & 22, 2018

TEMPLE BETH DAVID
INVITES YOU TO JOIN US
AS WE CELEBRATE

30 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH



Cantor Audrey Halpern

A WEEKEND CELEBRATION OF MUSIC AND DINING

The Temple Beth David community is thrilled to celebrate the 30th year since Cantor Audrey Halpern began serving our congregation. Her magnificent voice has graced thousands of services in our sanctuary and brought deeper meaning to the life events of hundreds of families, spanning three generations.

Cantor Halpern's skilled, one-to-one pastoral counseling and support have helped countless members of our temple family, and her contributions to TBD's history - past, present and future - are deeply appreciated.

Our celebration begins on Friday, April 20 at 8:00PM, with a Shabbat service guaranteed to stir your memories and warm your heart. All are welcome!

On Sunday, April 22 at 4:00PM, we will host a Concert followed immediately by a Gala Dinner to honor Cantor Halpern for her continuing service.

TICKETS AVAILABLE JANUARY 2, 2018

Gala Dinner and Concert: \$136

Concert Only: Adults \$36

Children 16 & Under: \$18

Pay by check or use the Acceptiva link
at www.TBDCommack.org



TEMPLE BETH DAVID

SEARCHING FOR THE BEST IDEAS TO GROW YOUR BUSINESS

TEMPLE BETH DAVID
INVITES YOU TO HONOR
CANTOR AUDREY HALPERN
FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE
TO OUR CONGREGATION



We hope you will mark this occasion with a donation from your heart in Cantor Halpern's honor to the congregation's Economic Crisis Relief Fund, one of her most enduring and meaningful initiatives.

The purpose of the Fund is to enable all individuals and families to maintain their membership and enroll their children in our Religious School, regardless of their financial situation.

Every donation will be recognized on a commemorative plaque that will be installed near the Cantor's office in Summer, 2018. Your donation will allow our congregation to continue to open our arms to all who want to join us for many years to come.



- Benefactor \$10,000**
- Founder \$5,000**
- Partner \$2,500**
- Patron \$1,000**
- Champion \$500**
- Sponsor \$250**
- Friend \$100**

3-TO-1 DONATION MATCH
 A generous TBD family has announced they will add three times the amount of every donation to the Economic Crisis Relief Fund. We hope you will share in this remarkable gesture by choosing a donor level from the list.

Payment can be made via check or online at www.TBDCommack.org. For more information, please contact Beverly Wolcott at lbjrd@aol.com



TEMPLE BETH DAVID
 SHARING JEWISHLIFE WITH EVERY MEMBER OF OUR CONGREGATION

From the President's Desk

Happy New Year! Last year I provided my New Year resolutions for 2017. My first thought was to determine how well I did in fulfilling my resolutions, and whether I should update them for 2018.

My resolutions from last year were:

- Enjoy being temple president. My term will be over soon enough and I should embrace my time as president.
- Live a healthier lifestyle. TBD aids my healthier lifestyle from a spiritual perspective.
- Lose weight. This is all on me. I have to take it easy at the onegs by eating less cookies.
- Spend more time with family and friends. This is easy, since I consider TBD my second family because so many of my friends are temple members.
- Save more, spend less. I can personally donate more to the health of our Temple.

The fatal flaw with New Year's resolutions — and most goal-setting, for that matter — is that we typically bite off more than we can chew. We're not setting realistic goals. As such, we end up disappointed and, often, with a forgotten resolution by the time February rolls around. Did my resolutions succeed or did they fail? I think to be honest it was a bit of a mixed bag.

- I enjoyed and participated in many of the events and festivals. Some of the events were new which helped add excitement to our Temple. We were able to accomplish upgrades to our building thanks to generous donations and new revenue streams to our Temple. There were some administrative tasks I could have easily done without. Overall, I feel I accomplished this resolution.
- Although TBD did continue to provide me the foundation for a healthier lifestyle from a spiritual perspective, life (specifically work) kept getting in the way. This was at best a wash.
- Unfortunately I didn't lose any weight. The cakes and cookies at our onegs are just too tempting. On the plus side I didn't gain any weight.
- Spend more time with family and friends. As I expected, this was indeed easy as I continue to consider TBD my second family because so many of my friends are temple members. I can honestly say I have managed to create new friendships over the past year.
- Save more, spend less. Fortunately, my family was able to donate more to the health of our Temple. Donations from my family and I were also in the form of time. I was certainly able to fulfil this resolution.

When I researched the popular resolutions for 2018, I found the seven most popular resolutions are:

- Get Healthy
- Get Organized
- Live Life to the Fullest
- Learn New Hobbies
- Spend Less/Save More
- Travel
- Read More

This should come as no surprise as they are very similar to my resolutions from last year. The one resolution that I would add to my list is, I would love to travel more. This will come as a surprise to my family as I have not enjoyed travelling in the past. In retrospect, I think it was the actual travelling I was not fond of but always enjoyed the sites and activities at the final destination. Maybe I need to change the way I have traveled in the past.

I encourage all of you to look back at your 2017 New Year resolutions and decide how well you did and if, like me, you feel they need to be updated. Like last year, I encourage you to take advantage of the many wonderful programming, events, and festivals here at Temple Beth David. I suspect it will bring you emotional and spiritual satisfaction, and help you “enjoy life to the fullest.”





—Neal Brandendorfer



Shirley Offman Religious School News

May this New Year bring peace and tranquility to our homes, community, our country and the world! On December 8, we were treated to a special Shabbat service, with many of our fifth graders participating and doing a wonderful job. Our sixth graders visited their adoptive grandparents at Gurwin and spread some Chanukah cheer. As I write this, we are anticipating hosting an exciting Chanukah Celebration on Sunday, December 17. We expect a full house, with as many as 200 people attending. Activities include a Bounce House and Inflatable Games from The Big Bounce Theory, a Chanukah play performed by members of Brotherhood, Balloon Sculpting by Brandini, Chanukah cookies for all to enjoy, Chanukah Scratch Art supervised by Brianna Kraut, and dreidel decorating with Youth Group volunteers. Everything is free and open to the community, with entertainment for all generations! It is always so heartening to see grandparents with their grandchildren enjoying a special time together here at Temple Beth David.

Particularly noteworthy is how all the different groups of the temple pitch in to make the day a success. My thank you's to all of you are many:

- Craig Cooper for designing a beautiful flier to get us off to a great start.
- Brotherhood and Sisterhood for their time, talent and financial support to help make this event possible.
- Abe Kaplan of "The Big Bounce Theory" for donating his services.
- Stacey Kravette, Randi Lieberman and their Youth Groups.
- Brianna Kraut for volunteering her time.
- Our student aides for assisting wherever they were needed.
- Marian Kent for the cookie connection.

There is nothing like teamwork to get a job done and this really is a labor of love. I hope that the New Year heralds many good things for us all. January promises to be a busy month for us, and I look forward to seeing you at Religious School and at temple events. Be on the lookout for our Hamentashen flyer!

Stay warm,

Shirley Offman
Shirley Offman



Our visit with our adoptive grandparents at Gurwin.

Religious School Calendar Reminders:

- January 2—School Reopens
- Sunday, January 14 & Monday, January 15—No Religious School classes
Martin Luther King, Jr. observance
- Saturday, January 20—Religious School Havdalah Program 4:00-5:00 p.m.
- Sunday, January 21—Sixth Grade PACT Foundation Program 9:15-11:00 a.m.
- Tuesday, January 23—Holocaust Speaker for Seventh Grade with Parents 6:40-8:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 31— Fourth & Fifth Grade PACT Foundation Program 6:15-8:00 pm.

Spotlight on Sisterhood

Happy New Year 2018! Where did 2017 go? It seems in the blink of an eye, 2017 came and went. Hopefully your New Year's celebrations were wonderful and that the New Year brings everyone good health, good times and fresh starts!

The end of 2017 was filled with many Sisterhood festivities including our annual Chanukah Sale which was a tremendous success! It always warms our hearts to help the youngest students manage their money and choose presents for their families. Thank you so much to Linda Langer, Susan Vaimberg and Irma Sarisohn for their efforts in chairing and running the sale again. Thank you to all our Sisterhood members who helped out and to the Religious School for helping us get everything organized.

A big thank you goes out to Deborah Faust for chairing the annual Sisterhood Cookie Swap on December 19. The evening was both delicious and fun! We were so happy to see such a great turnout! Thank you to Toni Spring and the Cultural Arts committee for holding another successful Sisterhood Movie Night! It's wonderful to get together with so many good friends on these cold nights!

As we begin the New Year, we continue to set new objectives and goals for Sisterhood. We try hard to encourage the woman of TBD to join us in socializing, learning and fundraising for both temple and non-temple causes. We continue to work on our knitting/crocheting project of making baby blankets and baby items for a charity in NYC. Please contact Holly if you are interested in participating in this worthwhile project.

Our upcoming events:

- Sunday, February 4 at 9:00 a.m. Sisterhood Breakfast and Tree of Life necklace lesson in the Social Hall
- Thursday, February 8 at 7:30 p.m.. Sisterhood Board Meeting in the Social Hall
- Tuesday, February 13 at 7:00 p.m. Learn Challah making and baking with Rabbi Klafter & Cantor Halpern
- Tuesday, March 6 at 7:30 p.m. Sisterhood Board Meeting in the Social Hall
- Thursday, March 15 Sisterhood's Annual Ladies Night Out . Watch for more details!!

As always, we welcome new members and all new ideas. Sisterhood meetings are open to all, and we look forward to seeing you in 2018.

Be well,
Holly & Barbara
Holly Dornfeld hsdn@optonline.net
Barbara Klein brklein@verizon.net



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.

AA Meetings - "New Soil"

Sundays 11:30 a.m. Open meetings
Thursdays 7:00 p.m. Closed meeting

All meeting are held at: Temple Beth David

**TBD SISTERHOOD
 TU B'SHEVAT SEDER
 TUESDAY, JANUARY 30TH
 AT 7:30 PM IN THE SOCIAL HALL
 Please join us as we welcome the
 New Year of the Trees.**



In the bleakness of winter we will bring some brightness and joy by celebrating the gifts of the earliest blooming fruit trees native to the Land of Israel. We will meet to discuss and share the bounty of fruits particularly from those that are described in the Torah: grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates, and together we will learn why we slowly turn wine from white to red.

Please RSVP to gkresh@hotmail.com (631) 864-5038 or
dfriedman02@gmail.com (631) 423-0191.

We need to know how many people are coming so that we have enough fruit for the Seder. If you would like to bring something, please let us know.



**TEMPLE BETH DAVID SISTERHOOD
 CULTURAL ARTS COMMITTEE**

*Invites you to join us as we learn to make
 Wire-wrapped tree of life pendants*

Artist Michelle Lesser will be teaching us

Sunday, February 4, 2018 at 9 a.m.

Cost is \$18 per person

Learn a skill and spend time with friends!

All materials will be provided and you will be able to take your
 jeweled creation home with you that day.*



(NOTE: * If you have jewelry pliers, especially needle nose or round tip needle nose, please bring them with you; we want to make sure that everyone will be able to work at the same time. Thanks!) - **RSVP by January 28, 2018 -**

The Great TBD Challah Bake

Make your bubbe proud.

Please join the ladies of Sisterhood as we



Learn the art of challah baking

Rabbi Klafter will be teaching and enlightening us.

Cantor Halpern will be the "assistant baker."

Rabbi's mother, Corinne, was an expert baker, cook and teacher.

Challah was her specialty.

Rabbi Klafter is excited to share her family legacy with the TBD family.

At the end of the program we will take our dough home to bake.

This program is for young and old alike, so the whole

Mishpocha is welcome to join us!

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Watch for details next month!

Temple Beth David Sisterhood *presents*
The Great Harlem Bus Tour

Come join us as we explore Harlem's Jewish past.



Sunday, March 18, 2018

\$96 per person, all inclusive



A fun-filled jam packed day awaits as we board a Bus at TBD

BUS LEAVES PROMPTLY @ 8:30 a.m.! Don't be late; we cannot wait!

Our day includes a private tour of the Apollo Theater and lunch at famous Sylvia's restaurant. We will view vestiges of Jewish life embedded in buildings which once housed synagogues, the original Temple Israel and Anshe Chesed, We'll pass by the first JCC and see where the beloved Jewish storyteller Shalom Alechem lived . We will also stop outside Harry Houdini's brownstone and discover his "Shenanigans" in Harlem. Additionally, we will stroll through Astor Row, the street the Astors built, now known as Little Savannah. Our tour ends at approximately 4 p.m.

Sisterhood members will be given first priority for this all inclusive experience. RSVP and payment for Sisterhood must be received by January 15th.. Thereafter we will be open to all congregants with RSVP and payment due no later than February 10th. Hurry! Space is limited!

Make checks payable to Temple Beth David Sisterhood

Name _____ Sisterhood member : Y N e-mail _____

attending _____ Amt. enclosed _____ Phone # _____

Spotlight on Brotherhood

Okay, readers – here’s a challenge. The year was 1977. A legendary band released a song that began by naming two items often commonly used to ring in the secular New Year. The first three people to email me at CoopNYLI@aol.com with the name of the song win a desk calendar and a cool click pen from Cooper Productions. (Hint: the song title is one word, the band’s name is two words.)

What a Fall season we had! Our Member Dinner was a blast, with awesome Cuban cuisine and great entertainment. We hosted a breakfast visit from Congressman Tom Suozzi that was universally enjoyed and very well attended. Our first “Anatomy of a Service” presentation by Rabbi Klafter and Cantor Halpern was everything I had hoped for when I suggested the idea (enjoy Joan Herman’s article elsewhere in this HaKol). The “Anatomy” presentation was so well received, we’re discussing how to turn it into a series. Wrapping up the Brotherhood’s programs was the world premiere of playwright Steven Sarisohn’s remarkable Chanukah play by the Brotherhood Thespians....All of these activities made this a fantastic time to be a Brotherhood member.

And we’re just getting started! Not sure if this HaKol will arrive in time for December 25, but we hope you’ll consider joining us at the Gurwin Nursing Center on Christmas morning as we visit and entertain the residents, enabling many Gurwin staff members to enjoy the holiday with their families.

On January 1, get crazy (and almost naked) and join us at Steers Beach in Northport for the Annual Polar Bear Plunge. Registration is at 11:30 a.m., and everyone runs into the water at 12:00 noon, and is out of the water around 12:01, maybe earlier.

Our next planning meeting is on Tuesday evening, January 9 at 8:00 p.m. in the Social Hall. Then, on Sunday the 21st, we’ll be watching the NFL playoff game(s) together on the big screen. Tentative gathering time is 3:00 p.m. Plenty of food, beverages (BYOB) and we’ll rustle up some prizes for some spontaneous contests or raffles. Everyone is welcome – spouses, kids, anyone you’d like to share the “Big Game” with.

January ends on a high with TBD’s annual Comedy Night – technically a Ways and Means event, but led by Brothers Randy Klein and Ira Hecht. You can buy your tickets at www.tbdcammack.org.

February is “off the wall.” Literally. Join us on Sunday the 4th around 9:00 a.m. at Eastern Athletic Club in Dix Hills for WALLYBALL!!! If you’ve never played, google it and make sure you join us. It’s fast, fun, friendly and free! We start playing by 9:15 and we’re done in time for dads to head back to TBD for Religious School pickup.

Then on Saturday, February 10th it’s our third annual Karaoke Night! Remember to save the date, and watch for details in January. As I write every year, it seems EVERYONE has a great time – it’s the one night a year that the bad singers and the good singers ALL sound like finalists on “The Voice.” Don’t miss it!

Finally, mark your calendars now for our second annual Blues Night on March 24, marking the return of Long Island Blues Legend Kerry Kearney and his phenomenal band. In Dan Dornfeld’s own words, “Best TBD event ever.” (Note: This came moments after his triumphant debut playing harmonica with the opening act.)

From all of ours to all of yours: warm, brotherly wishes for a Happy New Year and a great 2018!

Craig Cooper
Brotherhood President.



TEMPLE BETH DAVID BROTHERHOOD INVITES YOU TO THE 2ND ANNUAL

Blues Flight

MARCH 24TH, 2018 8:00PM

STARRING LONG ISLAND'S

Kerry Kearney Band

(Special opening act to be announced. You won't want to miss it!)

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF

Blues & Brews

Bring your favorite beer or wine,
plus a little extra to share. Try some
new brews and enjoy some great blues!

Munchies will be provided.

WATCH FOR DETAILS TO BUY TICKETS ONLINE

\$15 prepaid, \$20 at the door (18 & over) Guests welcome!

Questions? Email CoopNYLI@aol.com

Seating is Limited

Don't Wait!



TEMPLE BETH DAVID



Israel's Agricultural Green Thumb

In New York it's winter. In Israel fruit trees are blossoming. The holiday of Tu B'Shevat, which Israel and Jews around the world are observing, celebrates this. Woven into the fabric of Judaism is respect for nature, an awareness of the changing seasons and thankfulness for the harvest. It may then be no surprise to discover that Israel is a world leader in agricultural technologies.

As a young nation, surrounded by hostile neighbors, one of the many challenges Israel has had to face was how to secure a reliable and sustainable food and water supply. You may remember from my previous Hakol articles, that Israel is 60% desert. Although the bible refers to Israel as the "Land of Milk and Honey," not all of the geography of Israel is naturally conducive to agriculture. It used to be, but since most Jews were expelled after the two Roman wars in 67-70 CE and 132-135 CE much of the land was neglected. Only through hard work and ingenuity did the early pioneers (Chalutzim) and then Israel, since 1948, transform the Jezreel Valley, Galilee swampland and acres of Negev desert into land that is cultivable and fruitful. Below are some of the Israeli agricultural organizations and companies that through their amazing technologies have not only transformed Israel, but through Tikkun Olam are now reducing drought and poverty stricken areas throughout the world.

Israel is teaching the world how to grow food more wisely. **MASHAV**, Israel's **Agency for International Development Cooperation**, is the most prolific organization actively sharing Israeli agricultural advances. They have trained over 200,000 agriculturalists and agronomists from more than 130 countries. Greenhouse management, drip irrigation, fish farming, land and water management, establishing forests, pest management, crop yield improvement, dairy farming and adaptation to climate change are among the topics taught in sessions held in Israel, Africa, South America, Central America, India and China.

Engineers from the **Netafim** developed Drip Irrigation technology that has revolutionized agriculture. It has 13 manufacturing plants all over the world. Farmers achieve greater crop yield using half the amount of water. Drip irrigation was discovered by accident in the late 1930's when Simcha Blass observed that one long row of trees was far taller than others. A water pipe had cracked and water was leaking slowly near the larger trees. When plastic piping was introduced in the 1960's, Blass and other water engineers at the Negev Kibbutz HaTzurim refined the technology and helped to make the desert bloom. Netafim is now taking this technology worldwide.

CropX Ltd. develops agricultural software. Through cloud based wireless sensors they provide precision automated solutions for efficient farm management. This software generates irrigation maps and automatic sprinkler systems, which apply the right amount of water to different parts of the same field. Their software increases crop yields, saves energy and water while conserving the environment. It serves farmers worldwide and has offices in Tel Aviv and California.

The Fair Planet nonprofit organization has a mission to help small farmers get access to cutting edge seed technology. It shows them how to grow the highest quality vegetable varieties with minimal changes to their traditional practices. Fair Planet recently completed a pilot project in Ethiopia. Local farmers were able to grow tomato varieties that were bigger and firmer with longer shelf lives. These improved varieties yielded more than five times the average crop. Higher prices could be charged which increased the farmers' earning potential and could provide a way out of the cycle of poverty.

If you have the will and the right farming methods, food can grow and flourish anywhere. Israel's desert landscape farmers and engineers proved it!

---Debbie Friedman

Adapted from articles on the website of "Israel 21C".

News from Isaiah 58



Our enthusiastic Thanksgiving Food Drive volunteers.

MITZVAH DAY, MAY 2018 IS COMING!!

Yes, it's early. We know. Here it is January, the holidays just ended, you finally have time to breathe, and you're reading about something not happening for another four months. We know. Thoughts about May are hard to focus on when it's cold outside and so far, away. BUT...if YOU have an idea for a new activity for this year's Mitzvah Day 2018...coming this way on May 6...NOW is a good time to start thinking about it.

- Is there something YOU, or you and some friends or family, would like to do this year that has never been done before?
- Would you like to be the captain or co-captain of an activity that will bring happiness to a group of needy children, teens, adults or seniors?
- Do you have ties to a charitable organization that could use some extra help that day, even if it is only sorting materials or stuffing envelopes?
- Are you the parent of a high school student who needs to fulfill a community service requirement?

May 6 will be TBD's 21st Mitzvah Day! If you'd like to be involved, have an idea, or if you have any questions, please contact one of us. NO commitments are necessary at this time.

Diane Kraut (631-457-9251/dianekraut@optimum.net)
Andrea Reich (516-818-2022/andrea129@optonline.net)
Mitzvah Day Co-Chairs



JBD Chai Club

Members of the Chai Club enjoyed the show *Company* at the Five Towns College in November, just before several member families departed for Florida.

A winter gathering is planned at the home of Sheila Eisinger where we'll play Scrabble, dominoes, mah jongg and enjoy one another's company. If you would like to join us, please email me at seising2@gmail.com. Watch for details of our winter activity!

--Sheila Eisinger

(Continued from page 1)

The third name for the Jewish people is *Yehudim*, Jews. Yehuda, Judah, is the fourth son of Jacob and Leah. It is also the same linguistic root as the Hebrew word, *todah*, meaning thanks. When we recite a blessing, we are giving thanks. Thus this name reminds us that gratitude is a fundamental Jewish value.

At this time of new beginnings in the outside world in which we live and at this time of names, let us embrace these three names of our people, celebrating our history and our place in the world.

Rabbi Beth H. Klafter

—Rabbi Beth H. Klafter

ANATOMY OF A SERVICE

When you attend Shabbat or holiday services, do you ever wonder why some familiar parts are always included, others are omitted, and still other prayers are recited in Hebrew, while sometimes they are spoken (or sung) in English? On Sunday morning, December 3, we were treated to a special program sponsored by the TBD Brotherhood, entitled “Anatomy of a Service.” Rabbi Klafter and Cantor Halpern presented a detailed and informative lesson in how our Reform service is structured. They began with the Introduction, or warm-up to prepare us for prayer, then moved on to the Shema and its blessings, then proceeded to the parts of the Amidah, the Tefillah, the Torah Service, and the Concluding Prayers. They explained that while much of the service is required, there are certain aspects that are optional. For example, the Torah may be taken out on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturday mornings, but for a Friday Shabbat service, the Rabbi and Cantor make a decision depending on what else is happening on that night.

Those of us at the meeting came away with a much better understanding of the “whys” and “hows” of the prayers and melodies we are accustomed to hearing in our Reform service. The presentation was an example of how much there is to learn, and how much our temple organizations and clergy are prepared to share with us (note the Rabbi’s and Cantor’s classes) to make us more informed Jews. Remember to check the temple website (tbdcommack.org) and *HaKol* for announcements of upcoming programs.

—Joan Herman



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Yahrzeits January 2018



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1/3	George Stern Abe Grumet Josef Rubin Nathan Dinces Harold Wolfson	1/14	Sigrid Grey Jesse Browser Harry Wolk Anthony Saeli	1/23	Frances Silberfeld Morris Reiff Harriet Aronberg
1/4	Benjamin Birnbaum Benjamin Blau	1/15	Abraham Flansbaum Renate Romano Ruth Friedberg Matthew Jay Schlesinger	1/24	Esther Birnbaum Louis Altschuler Minnie Gross Etta Feinberg Benjamin Fisher Edward Goldfarb Dorothy Mankuta
1/5	Elaine Stone Jacob Spiegel Henry Schechter Pearl Kwitkin	1/16	Leonard Kresh Murray Lieber Betty Stile Rothbaum Ruth Prager Irving Leon Florence Austin	1/25	Harriet Bloom Betty Chernick Cohen Rose Markowitz Herbert Caplan Molly Herman Martin Weiner Esther Pintoff Sylvia Semel
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1/9	Shirley Corson Weiner Jack Brass Ira Rubin Bette Klaif	1/20	Irwin Solomon Irving Newman Max Ratner Ruth Finkelstein Eric Zweig Max Zimmerman	1/29	David Lapidus Betty Cole Bernard Sirota Allan Forbes
1/10	Lucille Coren Madeline Isser Sophie Levin Etta Klein William Rosen Marion Wasserman Teddy Steinberg Harry Grumet			1/30	Michael Crawford Samuel Didner Jacob Freedman Rose Wexler
1/11	Bernard Cohen Vanburn Allicock Lenore Ziff Phyllis Dornbaum Frank J. Panaro Samuel Feldman			1/31	Magda Greenberger Charles Wexler Leonard Glaser Murray Goldberg Yetta Blumenthal Ruth Herman
1/12	Leah Zinner Max Rosenthal				
1/12	Esther Eisner				



What's Happening at TBD — January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Temple Offices Closed 11:30 am Brotherhood Polar Bear Plunge	2 Religious School Resumes	3	4 7:00 pm AA Meeting	5 7:30 pm Shabbat Service with Birthday Blessings.	6 9:15 am Torah Study & Service
7 11:30am AA meeting 6:30 pm 6/7/8 Youth Group	8 6:30 pm Hebrew HS @BE 8:30 pm Executive Committee	9 8:00 pm Brotherhood Planning Meeting	10 6:30 pm 4/5 Youth Group	11 7:00 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm Sisterhood Board Meeting	12 8:00 pm Shabbat Service	13 9:15 am Torah Study & Service
14 No Religious School 11:30 am AA Meeting	15 Temple Offices Closed No Religious School	16 7:00 pm Peanut Butter & Jelly Gang	17	18 7:00 pm AA Meeting 7:30 pm Budget and Finance Committee	19 8:00 pm Shabbat Service	20 9:15 am Torah Study & Service 4:00 pm R.S. Havdalah Experience
21 9:15-11:00 am 6th Grade PACT 11:30 am AA Meeting	22 6:30 pm Hebrew HS @BE 7:30 pm Connections Committee Mtg. 8:30 pm TBD Board Meeting	23 6:30 pm 4/5 Youth Group 6:40 pm 7th Grade Guest Speaker w/ parents	24	25 7:00 pm AA Meeting 8:00 pm Isaiah 58 Mitzvah Day Meeting	26 8:00 pm Shabbat Service with Youth Group & Anniversary Blessings	27 9:15 am Torah Study & Service 7:00 pm Comedy Night
28 9:00 am Brotherhood Breakfast Meeting 11:30 am AA Meeting	29 6:30 pm Hebrew HS @BE	30 7:00 pm Sisterhood Tu B'Shevat Seder	31 6:15-8:00 pm 4/5 Grade PACT	1 7:00 pm AA Meeting	2 6:00 pm Young Children Shabbat Program 6:45 pm Congregational Dinner 7:30 pm Shabbat Service with 6th Grade and Scouts	3 9:15 am Torah Study & Service



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Worship Schedule

Friday, January 5th
Shabbat Shemot
 7:30 pm Shabbat Service
 with Birthday Blessings

Saturday, January 6th
 9:15 am Torah Study and Service

Friday, January 12th
Shabbat Va'era
 8:00 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, January 13th
 9:15 am Torah Study and Service

Friday, January 19th
Shabbat Bo
 8:00 pm Shabbat Service

Saturday, January 20th
 9:15 am Torah Study and Service
 4:00 pm Religious School Havdalah
 Experience

Friday, January 26th
Shabbat Beshalach
 8:00 pm Shabbat Service
 with Youth Group &
 Anniversary Blessings

Saturday, January 27th
 9:15 am Torah Study and Service

HaKol
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