



tebeam

Volume 68 / No. 8 / June 2023

TEMPLE BETH AM WHERE PRIDE DWELLS

A Word from Rabbi Blumberg



Rabbi Sam Blumberg

WE ARE ALL CREATED IN THE DIVINE IMAGE

There's a profound Jewish idea that animates much of the way I see the world and which is the backbone of how we are meant to interact with others. Deceptive in its simplicity, it unfortunately remains elusive to so many. The teaching is from Genesis 1:27: "G-d created humanity in G-d's image."

That we are created in G-d's image
—*b'tzelem E-lohim* (בְּצֶלֶם אֱלֹהִים)—

means that we are compelled to recognize

and honor that each and every person (including ourselves!) has within them a divine spark, a piece of G-d which is imbued within us not because of anything we do, but by virtue of our being human. Whoever we are and whoever we meet—white, black, gay, straight, Jewish, Catholic, transgender, cisgender—every single one of the 8 billion people on

continued on page 3

President's Message



Carol Hanover

A YEAR OF IMPROVEMENTS— MORE TO BE DONE!

Our annual Congregation Meeting will take place on Wednesday June 21, beginning at 7:00 pm. Please mark this on your calendars and plan to attend. This is a wonderful opportunity to join together with fellow congregants to consider the "state of the congregation". We can look at numbers and the budget, or listen to reports, but the real state of the congregation

is evidenced by the sense of community that has developed among our members.

On June 30, 2023, I will complete 2 terms or 4 years as president of Temple Beth Am. Because there is no one appropriate (according to our Constitution) and willing to take over my job, we will have to vote an exception to our Constitution so that I can serve a third term,

continued on page 3

SERVICE SCHEDULE

IN PERSON: Masks are optional. Those feeling unwell or who have been near others who are unwell should enjoy our services from home, via Zoom.

ZOOM / TEMPLE MEMBERS: The link and password can be found in your TBA weekly email.

ZOOM / TEMPLE GUESTS: Please send an email to shalom@tempbetham.org to obtain the Zoom link information.

TBA NO LONGER SHARES THE PAGES OF THE MISHKAN T'FILAH DURING SHABBAT SERVICES ON ZOOM.

We encourage all congregants to purchase a Mishkan T'filah siddur for home use so that you can continue to follow along while on Zoom. (The online flipbook will still be available but can be difficult to navigate during the service.)

To purchase a copy of the siddur, visit www.ccarpress.org.

QUICK LINK FOR PURCHASING

Temple
Beth Am
בית עם



FRIDAY JUNE 2, 2023 / 14 SIVAN 5783

EREV SHABBAT SERVICE 7:15 PM

The Pulpit Flowers and Oneg Shabbat are sponsored by Bethany and Jason Lane
Marriage Reconciliation Service

SATURDAY JUNE 3, 2023 / 14 SIVAN 5783

Naso II Numbers 6:1-7:89

Haftarah Judges 13:13-25

SHABBAT MORNING MINYAN AND TORAH STUDY 9:00 AM

MORNING SERVICE AND BAT MITZVAH 10:30 AM

Emma Lane, daughter of Bethany and Jason Lane

FRIDAY JUNE 9, 2023 / 21 SIVAN 5783

PRIDE SHABBAT

TOT SHABBAT SERVICE 5:15 PM

EREV SHABBAT HALL'LU EVENING SERVICE 7:15 PM

SATURDAY JUNE 10, 2023 / 21 SIVAN 5783

Weekly Portion BEHAALOTCHA Numbers 8:1-12:16

Haftarah Zechariah 3:1-5; 4:1-7

SHABBAT MORNING MINYAN AND TORAH STUDY 9:00 AM

FRIDAY JUNE 16, 2023 / 28 SIVAN 5783

EREV SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE 7:15 PM

Temple Beth Am High School Graduation

Presentation of Temple Beth Am Scholarship Awards

SATURDAY JUNE 17, 2023 / 28 SIVAN 5783

Weekly Portion SH'LACH Numbers 13:1-15:41

Haftarah Joshua 2:1-11

SHABBAT MORNING MINYAN AND TORAH STUDY 9:00 AM

FRIDAY JUNE 23, 2023 / 5 TAMUZ 5783

EREV SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE 7:15 PM

The pulpit flowers and Oneg Shabbat are sponsored by

Vivo and Jennifer Moshe

June/July Anniversary Blessings

SATURDAY JUNE 24, 2023 / 5 TAMUZ 5783

Weekly Portion KORACH Numbers 16:1-18:32

Haftarah I Samuel 12:1-13

SHABBAT MORNING MINYAN AND TORAH STUDY 9:00 AM

MORNING SERVICE AND BAT MITZVAH 10:30 AM

Elianna Avital Moshe, daughter of Vivo and Jennifer Moshe

FRIDAY JUNE 30, 2023 / 12 TAMUZ 5783

EREV SHABBAT SUMMER SERVICE 6:30 PM

Members of the Worship Committee will participate.

SATURDAY JULY 1, 2023 / 12 TAMUZ 5783

Weekly Portion CHUKAT-BALAK Numbers 19:1-25:9

Haftarah Micah 5:6-6:8

SHABBAT MORNING MINYAN AND TORAH STUDY 9:00 AM

FRIDAY JULY 7, 2023 / 19 TAMUZ 5783

EREV SHABBAT SUMMER SERVICE 6:30 PM

SATURDAY JULY 8, 2023 / 19 TAMUZ 5783

Weekly Portion PINCHAS Numbers 25:10-30:1

Haftarah Jeremiah 1:1-2:3

FRIDAY JULY 14, 2023 / 26 TAMUZ 5783

EREV SHABBAT SUMMER SERVICE 6:30 PM

SATURDAY JULY 15, 2023 / 26 TAMUZ 5783

Weekly Portion MATOT-MASEI Numbers 30:2-36:13

Haftarah Jeremiah 2:4-28, 3:4

FRIDAY JULY 21, 2023 / 4 AV 5783

EREV SHABBAT SUMMER SERVICE 6:30 PM

SATURDAY JULY 22, 2023 / 4 AV 5783

SHABBAT CHAZON

Weekly Portion DEVARIM Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22

Haftarah Isaiah 1:1-27

FRIDAY JULY 28, 2023 / 11 AV 5783

EREV SHABBAT SUMMER SERVICE 6:30 PM

SATURDAY JULY 29, 2023 / 11 AV 5783

SHABBAT NACHAMU

Weekly Portion VE'ETCHANAN Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11

Haftarah Isaiah 40:1-26



Your temple is here for you whether in good times or bad. Please let Rabbi Blumberg know what is going on in your life.

rabbi@tempbetham.org

A Word from Rabbi Blumberg

continued from front page

earth were created in G-d's image. To me, this foundational text is the starting point of why it is paramount that we as a Jewish community support and advocate for those who identify as LGBTQ+.

I am proud that the Reform movement of which Temple Beth Am is a part has a very long history of supporting the LGBTQ+ community, starting in 1965 and continuing today. The CCAR (Central Conference of American Rabbis), the URJ (Union for Reform Judaism), and the WRJ (Women of Reform Judaism) have published resolutions upholding the rights of those who identify as LGBTQ+, including recognizing gay and lesbian marriages in 1996 and affirming the rights of transgender and gender non-conforming people in 2015. We must not rely only on our movement's stances but instead must actively pursue the inclusion of people with all gender identities and expressions as well as those of all sexual orientations.

In 2020 the CCAR Press published *Mishkan Ga'avah: Where Pride Dwells*, edited by Rabbi Denise L. Eger, which is "a celebration of LGBTQ Jewish life and ritual." It contains prayers, blessings, and readings that affirm all gender identities and sexual orientations. Among the readings included in the book are prayers for renaming ceremonies, readings for everyday, Shabbat, and holiday prayer services, and special prayers and blessings for LGBTQ wedding ceremonies. These are the kinds of affirmations that are necessary if we are to practice what we preach, and if we are to show that all are welcome and can find a home in our Jewish community.

In a world in which laws are passed that implicitly or explicitly discourage those in the LGBTQ+ community from sharing the fullness of what makes them human, we could all use a reminder that every person is made *b'tzelem E-lohim*. I hope you'll join us for our very special Hall'lu and Pride Shabbat service on **June 9** at 7:15pm, where we'll be

hosting a local LGBTQ+ youth who will share his personal story, as well as resources that have been helpful to him.

This June, Pride Month, may we all recognize the divine image in each and every person.

L'Shalom u'l'shleimut—in peace and to wholeness of being,

— Rabbi Sam Blumberg



**PRIDE SHABBAT
& SHABBAT HALL'LU**

Join us for a special Hall'lu service as we celebrate
Pride Shabbat and honor those in the LGBTQ+
community! Our featured speaker, an LGBTQ+
Jewish teen, will share his story as well as local
resources for LGBTQ+ youth.

JOIN US | JUNE 9 7:15 PM

Temple Beth Am // A Warm and Vibrant Reform Jewish Community

President's Message

continued from front page

which is beyond the 2-term limit that our Constitution allows. There are several other positions that need to be extended, as well. This is not optimal. A synagogue's leadership should be passed from generation to generation, or at least to others who may bring fresh ideas and viewpoints to the table.

Looking back at the last 4 years, I am amazed at the progress TBA has made in so many areas. The first action under my leadership was bringing Rabbi Blumberg and Cantor Wolff to TBA as clergy and as co-directors of our school. Both brought with them an enthusiasm and love of Judaism that has enriched every moment, from High Holiday Services to Lag BaOmer around a firepit. Our children have become enthusiastic learners and knowledgeable about Hebrew and Judaism and Israel as our school grows stronger. I consider TBA very lucky to have Rabbi Blumberg and Cantor Wolff with us.

The next major problem that caught my attention was the leaky roof – not just a dribble but torrents of water would land indoors when it was raining outdoors. With the help of several dedicated members, we were able to replace the approximately \$400,000 roof at no cost to TBA. Any profit made by the generation of energy by the solar installation on top of the new roof and newly created carport will pass to the solar company. After nearly 4 years, we are nearing the end of this project, with new roofing on all TBA roofs. Soon the solar cells will be attached to the grid and will gather sunlight to provide electricity – a step in the right

direction for ecology or as we call it "Tikun Olam", Repair of the World.

When Covid became a pandemic, we beefed up our ability to use Zoom for services and meetings. I am happy to say that many of us have become Zoom experts. We even have a gadget in the Library called "The Owl", that allows the Zoom camera to swivel to whomever is speaking during a meeting. Since the "Covid emergency" officially ended on May 11, we had the option to stop Zoom-broadcasting of services and meetings but have decided to continue to do so, recognizing the needs of congregants who cannot come to TBA, for whatever reason.

So, as I expect to begin a 3rd term, my attention is drawn to repair and replacement of HVAC equipment and better development of our green areas, improving security throughout the building, and perhaps looking at improvements to our beautiful Sanctuary that will make it more accessible to those who have mobility or other issues.

I still hope that many of you will consider joining a committee to make these things and so many more issues, large and small, a reality. No experience is necessary for most jobs. In closing, the state of TBA is good but could be better if YOU helped. Come to TBA in person and enjoy dessert and chatting with TBA friends, or join us on Zoom and participate via the Chat function. I invite you to come to TBA or join us on Zoom on June 21, for the annual congregation meeting.

B'Shalom,

— Carol Hanover, President

Understanding Jewish Music History: From Medieval Europe to the 1960's



Cantor David Wolff,
Lower School
Education Director

At Oneg Shabbat, after services on Fridays, congregants will sometimes approach me with questions about the music from our services. Often the questions focus on why a particular prayer sounded different from our other prayer music. Every service that Rabbi Blumberg and I lead features Jewish music from a vast array of sources and traditions. In this article, I will try to demystify some of the music you might hear in a Shabbat service at Temple Beth Am.

Sometimes congregants will mention that a particular prayer sounded “ancient” or “like the cantors of my youth.” Indeed, some of the music from our Shabbat services is quite

ancient. The *Bar'chu* (call to prayer) setting that we use most often (to refresh your memory, it begins and ends with “lai-lai-lais”) is based on traditional chant originating as far back as medieval times (perhaps the 1600s or earlier). This traditional chant, called *nusach* (נושא) comes from the soup of Jewish culture in eastern Europe. The particular *nusach* for our *Bar'chu* was traditionally heard only on Erev Shabbat (Friday night); when Jews in eastern Europe heard this melody, they knew that Shabbat was coming in! Jewish music historians believe that traditional *nusach* was heavily influenced by European popular music at the time; many traditional Jewish chants resemble folk dances or drinking songs that might have been heard in a medieval tavern!

We don't know exactly when this *nusach* began to be sung in synagogues, because Jewish music was not written down or recorded at that time. Jews did not have access to the academies of music in Europe, so all Jewish music was transmitted orally, from person to person. In contrast, we know many details about early Christian prayer music, because

church music was associated with European schools of music, and was all written down (notated). The setting for *Bar'chu* that we use is my own adaption of the traditional Erev Shabbat chant, metricized to have a swaying rhythmic feel, and harmonized to have guitar accompaniment.

Many of the musical settings we use for prayer at TBA were composed by Debbie Friedman. Among others, we pray with her settings of *Mi Shebeirach*, *Ahavat Olam*, *L'chi Lach*, the Havdalah blessings, *Mi Chamocha*, *Not By Might*, and *Miriam's Song*. In contrast to traditional *nusach*, where the source, composer, and history of our music are murky, we know exactly the source of Debbie Friedman's music. Her music is strongly influenced by the folk music of the 1960's; I often hear a connection between Joan Baez and Debbie Friedman, something in the sweetness of her melodies, and the rising motives, reaching up towards G-d. Her music captivated the Jewish world in the early 1970's, and since then has had a profound impact on Jewish music in every corner of the world.

Another cantor shared a humorous story about a group of Orthodox boys who were accustomed to praying *Mi Shebeirach* with Debbie Friedman's music. Her setting of that text has become so ubiquitous that these Orthodox boys assumed the music was hundreds of years old, something out of the soup of eastern European Jewish culture; little did they know that it was composed in 1987! Debbie Friedman's music masterfully joins together the sound of American folk music with the richness of millenia-old Jewish text and wisdom.

Just as traditional *nusach* is influenced by Medieval European folk music, Debbie's music is influenced by American folk music of the 1960's. These two disparate sounds are connected in their origins: both inspired by the popular music of the day, both unique in their connection to Jewish text and culture. I hope that, as you sing and pray with me during Shabbat services, this window into Jewish music history enriches your connection to Judaism, G-d, and TBA!

Marriage Reconsecration Service

Every year at Temple Beth Am, we celebrate the joy of marriage and Jewish home life as part of a special Shabbat Service. A Marriage Reconsecration Service, (a special celebration of the 5-year milestone anniversaries) The service will be held on Friday June 3 at 7:15 pm. If you are a couple married in a year that ends in a 3 or 8 who wishes to celebrate your anniversary during this special service and have not received a letter by May 30, please reserve your place by calling the temple office at 508.872.8300.

A picture will be taken of all of the couples immediately following the service.

LEARN @ TBA

Lifelong Learning with Rabbi Blumberg

Sunday, June 4, 11:15am-12:30pm

In the Levine Library and on Zoom

The Prayers of the Friday Night Shabbat Service



POSTPONED
More information to follow

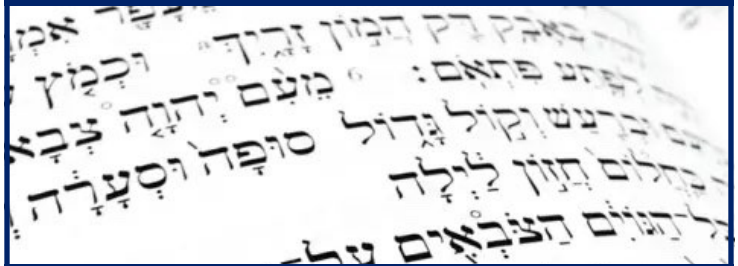
about you're learning new whether you've been participating in Shabbat services your whole life or are brand new to the experience.

A Mishkan T'filah Shabbat siddur is required for the class which will be available for in-person participants.

Click here for Zoom link for those unable to attend in person.

All are welcome and no prior classes are necessary.

LEARN TO READ HEBREW



TBA president Carol Hanover is teaching a beginner Hebrew class. The class is held twice each month. Until further notice, the class will be Zoom only.

Please contact the temple office for more information: shalom@tempbetham.org

Minyan and Torah Study



Please join us for Shabbat morning Minyan and Torah study Saturday mornings at 9:00 AM in the Levine Library.

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JOIN US.

Contact our Lower School Education Director, Cantor David Wolff
508.872.8312 or cantor@tempbetham.org

Temple Beth Am // A Warm and Vibrant Reform Jewish Community



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



On Monday, May 8th, our TBA community gathered in Gan Ha'am to learn, play, nosh, and sing around the fire pit for our 2nd annual Lag BaOmer celebration!



On Sunday May 14th, students celebrated the last day with a delicious treat from the Kona Ice Truck. Thanks to Brotherhood for their generosity



Reading builds strong leaders.

Greater Boston Jewish Coalition for Literacy

- Boston Public School Library Renewal Efforts
- B'nei Mitzvah Author Visit and Book Drive Projects
- Synagogue/School Partnership Development
- Professional Literacy Workshops for Volunteers
- Developing Awareness for the Value of Literacy Education



"Having Ellen come in has allowed me to work with other students who I would not easily be able to get to because of the high needs in my classroom. This program has done wonders for the students in our community." —*Stephanie Tesorero, Teacher*

"You help me when I'm mad and when I'm sad...when you are around I make better decisions." —*Kylie, student*

"Mr. Jeff was 100% a part of our classroom family. We loved having him come every week, he was helpful, kind and a great support." —*Gina Desir, Teacher*

"I thoroughly enjoy working with my tutor; she does an AMAZING job working with the students. She has been working with me for about 10 years!" —*Laura Butler, Teacher*

Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston Kraft Family Building, 126 High Street, Boston, MA 02110
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Tot Shabbat

Come and welcome Shabbat with blessings, music, and a story.

For children ages 0-7 and their families.

Pizza for all.

Friday, June 9
5:15 PM - 6:15 PM

Temple Beth Am of Framingham continues its commitment to **Jewish Learning for Young Children** with these fun FREE events!

JOIN US.

RSVP to shalom@tempbetham.org or 508-872-8300

Temple Beth Am, 300 Pleasant Street, Framingham, MA 01701
tempbetham.org 508-872-8300



Temple Beth Am // A Warm and Vibrant Reform Jewish Community



Youth Scholarship Presentation

Temple Beth Am youth will be presented with scholarships at the conclusion of service on Friday June 16th at 7:15pm. These scholarships focus on those who will be attending Jewish overnight camp, traveling to Israel, doing Tikkun Olam (Social Justice), or beginning their college/university journey. Temple Beth Am's scholarships were established by members of our congregation to assist our temple youth to enrich their Jewish foundation and experiences.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Isabella Moshe, daughter of Vivo and Jennifer Moshe will be attending Northeastern University

Lindsay Noah, daughter of Mike Noah and Melissa Noah will be attending the University of Massachusetts Amherst

Life CYCLES

IN JOY

THE TEMPLE REJOICES WITH

Alan and Sharon Silverman on the birth of their 3rd grandson,
Nolan Edward Silverman.

His proud parents are Greg and Shanon Silverman. His awesome big brothers are Mason and Connor.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

All couples celebrating a June or July wedding anniversary will be blessed at a service on June 23 at 7:15pm.

Please call the temple office if you are planning to attend.

DATE	NAME	YEARS
6/10/1973	Bill and Ellen Jagher	50
6/20/1993	Jonathan and Susan Rosenthal	30
7/25/1998	Martin Udelson and Carolyn Nathan	25
7/21/2013	Rabbi Sam and Amalia Blumberg	10

BROTHERHOOD

ANOTHER INCREDIBLE MONTH WITH BROTHERHOOD!

Brotherhood ended an incredibly successful year with both of our April and May breakfasts! We are looking forward to hosting the crowds again next year!

We hosted the legendary and Framingham's own Tom Caron. Over 80 members and guests joined us as Tom told stories from history with the Red Sox and the Boston sports culture. He did not disappoint us with reality, history and comedy.



Our May speaker, held May 21, was Dr. Michael Sganga, a local podiatry surgeon, locally known to many of our members for his fine work and medical assistance over

the years. Mike entertained us with an educational and informative presentation on ankle and foot pain and care. Michael, a Natick resident, even stayed after the delicious breakfast and spent another half hour answering individual questions for those that stayed.



We also sponsored our religious school's last day on Mother's Day by treating the student and their families to Kona Ice again this year. We were glad to hear that all who attended had a great time.

And lastly, once again, we continue to thank those that have been sending in donations towards our future sponsoring of the Yellow Candle program, the generosity has been incredible and we look forward to being a part of the program and remembering those that perished in the Holocaust, next year.



Brotherhood annual dues include 9 breakfasts
member rate - \$90 / senior rate - \$65

Nonmember / Guest fee for breakfast is \$15.

Breakfasts and Brotherhood membership are open to the public.

YOUTH

We had a great time at Education Shabbat and at our ice cream party. We loved honoring our educators and recapping our year.

Final Event of the Year!

SHILLMAN HOUSE

June 11

1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

For grades 6-12

Join Youth Programming as we head to Shillman House to do some discussion and learning with the residents. We will be talking about Tikkun Olam, as well as developing some interview questions to ask them! We will meet outside of Shillman House at 1:20 pm to get prepared and pick up will be at the front of Shillman House at 3:00 pm. You can either email to RSVP or respond yes on the google calendar invitation.

TO SIGN UP OR WITH QUESTIONS

Sarah Rosenthal, Youth Advisor
youthadvisor@tempbetham.org

HELP SAVE OUR PIANO!

TBA's Steinway piano is in need of costly repair! Its age is showing and it needs to be removed from the Choir Pit and taken to a piano repair facility so that it can return good as new for the High Holidays, restored to full-throated perfection.

All I ask is that when you choose to donate to TBA, and ponder the variety of funds, all representing worthy causes, stop and consider the Music Enrichment Fund. We need to raise \$5,000 to repair this lovely piano and if we all pitch in, we can make it happen. All 88 keys will thank you and so will Cantor Wolff! That's just \$56.81 per key!

FUNDRAISING @TBA

WEBSITE DONATIONS JUST A CLICK AWAY!

The TBA website can now accept credit card donations.

Please take advantage of this new capability on our website to acknowledge the memory of or to honor an accomplishment of a friend or a loved one.

Go to www.tempbetham.org — Click on DONATE

TREE OF LIFE

The TREE OF LIFE mounted on the wall of the temple lobby is a favorite way for members to commemorate "simchas" and honor family members and friends. Your gift of leaves (\$300) and stones (\$1000) will support continuing growth projects in the future. Pledge cards are available in the temple office.

SPONSOR FUTURE ONEGS

This is a great opportunity for your family to honor any type of special occasion or Kiddush.

Sponsorship is a \$100 donation.

For more information contact Patty Frankel via the TBA Office.



Please contact the temple office as soon as possible if you have a family story of life before, during, or after the Holocaust to be included in our upcoming fall programs.

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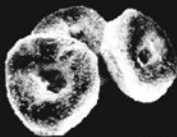
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Cantor David Wolff	Lower School Education Director
Rabbi Donald M. Splansky	Rabbi Emeritus
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TBA Member FB Group
TBA MEMBER GROUP

Public Facebook Page
Temple Beth Am of Framingham

Temple Beth Am is a warm and vibrant Reform Jewish community located in Framingham, MA, comprised of members from the greater Metro West area. Founded in 1956 and affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism, members and visitors find a relaxed and informal atmosphere in which people of all ages, backgrounds, and orientations come to worship, learn, enjoy music, explore Judaism, and find new friends.



CENTER FOR PROGRESSIVE
REFORM JUDAISM
IN METROWEST