

**Rabbi Felix Aber**  
**Religious School**  
**of**  
**Temple Beth-El**

[www.tbeithaca.org](http://www.tbeithaca.org)

402 North Tioga Street  
Ithaca, New York 14850

**Parent Handbook**

Rabbi Suzanne Brody

Director of Education and Youth Programming

(607) 273-5775 x203

[director@tbeithaca.org](mailto:director@tbeithaca.org)

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# 🌿 Welcome 🌿

Dear Religious School Families,

Welcome to a new year of learning at the Rabbi Felix Aber Religious School of Temple Beth-El! I invite you to enjoy reading this handbook carefully, as it includes modifications are implementing in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. As you begin to explore further, you will notice some of the many powerful opportunities for enriching the Jewish lives of our students by expanding Religious School education beyond the classroom walls. I look forward to partnering with you in nurturing this generation of enthusiastic, well-educated members of our Jewish community, and I welcome you and your family to enjoy participating in the full range of programs at Temple Beth-El throughout the year ahead.

Should you have any questions, or if I can be of assistance to you and your family, please be in touch by phone (273-5775) or email ([director@tbeithaca.org](mailto:director@tbeithaca.org)).

B'shutfut (in partnership),

Rabbi Suzanne Brody

Director of Education and Youth Programming

## ☞ Attendance ☜

Regular **on time** attendance, both in -person and on-line, is essential to a student's successful learning experience. Our lessons explore topics in which each session builds upon those preceding. Excessive absence, tardiness, and/or frequent early pickups all interrupt learning and leave students with frustrating gaps in their knowledge and understanding. If circumstances do not allow for regular attendance, please contact the Director of Education as soon as possible to make suitable arrangements that will minimize such disruptions.

If your child must be absent from Religious School for **any** portion of the day, please call or email ahead to notify both the Religious School Office (273-5775 or [director@tbeithaca.org](mailto:director@tbeithaca.org)) and your child's classroom teacher, and we will make every effort to help your child stay current with classroom activities to ease the return to Religious School.

### School Schedule

- *Nitzanim* (Preschool, for children at least 3 years old by December 1) meets monthly on Sundays (9- 10 am -- See separate calendar for this year's *Nitzanim* dates).
- *Gan/ Aleph* (Kindergarten) meets weekly on Sundays (9 am – 12:30 pm).
- *Gesher* (optional afterschool program for 2<sup>nd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> graders available for an additional fee) meets weekly on Wednesdays (2 pm – 3:45 pm, busing available from ICSD elementary schools with advance registration).
- *Kitah Bet* (2<sup>nd</sup> grade) through *Kitah Zayin*+ (7<sup>th</sup> grade) meet twice weekly, as follows:  
 Wednesdays: 3:45-5:45 pm  
 Sundays: 9 am – 12:30 pm
- *Midrashab* (8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades) meets weekly on Thursdays (6 – 7:30 pm).

Sunday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday/Saturday
<i>Nitzanim</i> (preK) 9-10: am	<i>Gesher</i> (Afterschool for 3 <sup>rd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> grades) 2-3:45 pm	<i>Midrashab</i> (8 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> grades) 6 -7:30 pm	Special Shabbat programs -- See calendar and weekly emails for details
<i>Gan – Zayin +</i> (K-7 <sup>th</sup> grades) 9 am-12:30 pm	<i>Bet– Zayin</i> (3 <sup>rd</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> grades) 3:45-5:45 pm		

**\*\*\*Please see separate calendar for the year for special dates\*\*\***

## Arrival and Departure

- **Entrance:** Please use the Tioga Street courtyard entrance for Religious School arrivals and departures.
- **Gesher:** Students enrolled in *Gesher*, our Wednesday afterschool program (2 - 3:45 pm), are met at their buses and escorted into the building.
- **Early arrival:** If students (not enrolled in *Gesher*) arrive more than five minutes before class begins, they must remain with a parent or guardian in either the Youth Library or in Pardes Hannah until their teacher is ready to open the classroom and begin the day's activities.
- **Pickup:** Parents or their designees should plan to pick up on Sundays at 12:30 pm and on Wednesdays at 5:45 pm. Please help us to be good neighbors, and take advantage of on-street parking on either Court or Tioga Streets when arriving to pick up your students.
  - **Gan through Dalet (K – 4<sup>th</sup> grade):** Children should be met **inside the building at their classrooms, or in the foyer outside the Religious School Office.** This is an excellent opportunity to glimpse the work your child is doing, or to chat briefly with the faculty.
  - **Hei (5<sup>th</sup> grade) and above:** With written parental/guardian consent, students may leave the building by themselves. Students being picked up by a parent, guardian, or other designated caregiver should be met in the foyer outside the Religious School Office.
  - **Late pickup:** Students not met by 12:40 pm on Sundays or by 5:55 pm on Wednesdays will be asked to wait in the Religious School Office or in the Youth Library, and a \$25 fee may be charged to the family for afterschool care.
  - **Early pickup:** For your child's safety and protection, if your child must leave class early, please inform both the teacher and the Director in advance of the need for an early dismissal, and pick up your child directly from the classroom with as little interruption to the lesson in progress as possible.
  - **Change in pickup:** If you must change either Sunday or Wednesday transportation arrangements during the school day, please notify the Temple Office (273-5775) **at least one hour before pickup** to enable us to communicate that change to your student.

## Inclement Weather / School Closing

- In the event that school must be cancelled on a Sunday, parents will be contacted by 8 am via text, email, and our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/rfars.org/>). We will also contact local radio stations and ithacanet.org to announce school closings.
- On Wednesdays and Thursdays, **if the Ithaca public schools are closed or dismissed early, or if ICSD afterschool activities are cancelled, there will be no Gesher, Religious School or Midrashah.**

Otherwise, school will be in session even if the weather is inclement. Always use your best judgment in determining whether roads will be safe enough for you to travel.

## ☞ Behavior ☞

All students deserve a safe environment. We are committed to providing a mutually respectful and cooperative school setting. Behaving honestly and responsibly ensures one's well-being and that of others. Please take some time to review this section together with your family:

- Students, faculty, and parents are all encouraged to participate in the wide variety of synagogue and school activities. We love it when you join us for all kinds of religious, cultural, and purely social events, in addition to Religious School classes and programs! These activities are listed in the monthly Temple Bulletin, weekly Religious School emails, and at the Temple Beth-El website ([www.tbethaca.org](http://www.tbethaca.org)).
- Each member of the school community is expected to demonstrate respect for others, respect for the facility, and respect for the property of others.
- Individual differences are always embraced and appreciated.
- In addition to schoolwide policies, each class may formulate its own specific set of guidelines to ensure smooth progress, safety, and well-being for all.
- If a student experiences difficulty in class, the teacher will use positive means to engage that child. If this first step is insufficient to support that student's success, the teacher will discuss the behavior privately with the child.
- If difficult behavior persists, the Director may be consulted to help establish a plan for that child's successful experience at school. The Director may:
  1. Speak with the student
  2. Observe classroom interactions
  3. Contact the student's parent/guardian
  4. Require that the student be dismissed from school for the remainder of that day
  5. Following a second involuntary dismissal, meet with the teacher, the student, and the parent(s) to discuss concerns and to establish a long-range plan to enable the student to participate successfully.

## ☞ Clothing ☞

We firmly believe that Jewish education not be confined to the classroom or even to the synagogue. Students will spend time outdoors for *hafsakab* (break), *tefillah* (prayer), class discussions, and other educational activities.

**Please ensure that your child arrives at school with weather-appropriate clothing (including hats, coats, gloves, and boots, as needed).** In addition, and in keeping with Conservative Jewish practice, boys past the

age of Bar Mitzvah will wear *kippot* in school, and will wear *tallit* and *tefillin* during *tefillot*. Girls are also encouraged to wear *kippot*, and once past the age of *Bat Mitzvah*, *tallit*, and *tefillin* during *tefillot*. All students are encouraged to wear clothing that is modest and appropriate for the study of *Torah* and religious subjects (e.g. shirts that cover shoulders and midriff, jeans without holes, skirts or shorts that reach at least halfway to the knees, and t-shirts devoid of offensive wording or images).

## ∞ Curriculum ∞

Our goal is to provide the best possible Jewish education for children from preschool (age 3 by December 1) through high school (12<sup>th</sup> grade). At the Rabbi Felix Aber Religious School of Temple Beth-El, we employ innovative and experiential learning techniques based on tradition, current best practices in education, and the individual needs of each student.

The Jewish Studies program is built around *Torah* (the vast body of Jewish learning), *Avodah* (worship), and *G'milut Hasadim* (acts of loving kindness). *Torah* is our core text, linking us to the past and directing our deeds. Prayer is our spiritual compass: it creates a life rhythm and forms a structure of daily, weekly, holiday and life-cycle observance. Acts of loving kindness bring Jewish values to life, and inform our interactions with others and with the world in which we live.

The Hebrew curriculum connects students with *tefillah* and helps make Jewish practice relevant through active use of the language. By combining Hebrew Through Movement (HTM) with participation in prayer services, students experience Hebrew as both a living language and as an expression of the spiritual heritage of our people.

We strongly encourage parents to enroll children beginning with the preschool class (*Nitzanim*), and we look forward to students continuing through high school. High school students may enhance their Jewish learning by participating in our active Temple Beth-El youth group (USY), by serving as *madrichim* (teacher aides) in the Religious School, and by learning together at *Midrashah* (8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades).

Jewish education is most effective when parents serve as role models, and we encourage and value all parents' involvement in their children's education by providing many opportunities for the entire family to celebrate Judaism together. Our goal is for students to experience Judaism as relevant to their lives both inside and outside Religious School. What we do in the classroom, we believe, must matter to us in our homes and throughout our daily lives.

The goals and values of our Religious School program reflect those of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, of which Temple Beth-El is a member congregation. Our program facilitates students growing into adults who can:

- *Find ongoing and evolving meaning in Jewish celebrations and learning throughout their lives.*
- *Make ethical decisions informed by Jewish values.*
- *Understand the importance of mitzvot and act according to them.*
- *Appreciate the Torah's significance as the central and sacred text of Judaism.*
- *Know that Hebrew is the language of the Jewish people, the language of Israel, and the sacred language of our prayers and our Torah.*
- *Be familiar with the basic vocabulary of the siddur and understand the Hebrew of selected prayers.*
- *Learn the rich four thousand year history of Jews in Israel.*
- *Identify and demonstrate concern for K'lal Yisrael.*

## Overview of Classes

Occasionally, due to matters of class size, consecutive grades are combined and follow a curriculum utilizing portions of each grade's curriculum.

### **Nitzanim (Preschool: children ages 3 and 4 and their parents)**

The *Nitzanim* program is designed to introduce preschool children and their parents to Jewish holidays and concepts. We meet monthly and focus on holidays of the season. Each session includes stories, arts and crafts, songs, and, of course, traditional holiday snacks!

### **Gan (Kindergarten)**

*Kitah Gan* provides students with the fundamental building blocks of a Jewish education. Students will explore the basics of Jewish holidays, Jewish culture, prayers, and Bible stories, and they will start to become familiar with the sounds and shapes of the Hebrew language. Students in *Kitah Gan* will also make a Hebrew name necklace, dance, sing and celebrate being Jewish together.

### **Aleph (1<sup>st</sup> grade)**

Students in *Kitah Aleph* begin to learn about our ability and responsibility to improve the world, the connection between *Torah* and holiday celebrations, and the importance of Hebrew as both the language of *tefillah* and the language of Jewish people worldwide.



## **Bet (2<sup>nd</sup> grade)**

Students in *Kitah Bet* increase their facility with reading and writing Hebrew, and expand their knowledge of Israel. They explore concepts of G-d and holiness as they deepen their understanding of biblical texts and the lessons our tradition can teach us.

## **Gimel (3<sup>rd</sup> grade)**

In *Kitah Gimel*, students begin combining the skills gained in Hebrew Through Movement with their decoding abilities to develop a more meaningful connection to the words and concepts of some of Judaism's central prayers. Students' connection to *Torah* is enhanced through the introduction of a variety of commentators and *midrashim*.

## **Dalet (4<sup>th</sup> grade)**

The *Kitah Dalet* curriculum explores Jewish life cycle events and Jewish values. Knowledge of the *Torah* continues to expand and deepen. Similarities and differences between modern Israel and the United States are explored. Students add to their vocabulary and their facility with prayers through practice in reading, writing, and speaking in Hebrew.

## **Hei (5<sup>th</sup> grade)**

Students in *Kitah Hei* experience stories of the Jewish tradition as they relate to various aspects of leadership. Hebrew vocabulary and familiarity with prayers continue to develop throughout the year. Values, ethics, and *mitzvot* continue to be emphasized, as is the study of Jewish history through the Age of Enlightenment.

## **Vav (6<sup>th</sup> grade)**

Our early middle school students focus on values relevant to their everyday lives, exploring concepts of G-d and *mitzvot*, and the ways we interact with one another. They discuss the changing societal role of the Jewish people in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, and shift their attention to modern Jewish history in the United States and Israel. *Kitah Vav* students experience stories of the Jewish tradition in a new way as they encounter Manga Midrash (a different way of looking at and interpreting text), and start learning how to craft their own *divrei Torah*. As they begin preparing to celebrate becoming *b'nei mitzvah*, students in *Kitah Vav* are encouraged to continue attending *Shabbat* services regularly with their families, and improving their prayer skills.

## **Zayin (7<sup>th</sup> grade)**

In addition to completing the B'nei Mitzvah Family Education Unit, students in *Kitah Zayin* expand their facility with *tefillot* through participation in regular *Shabbat* and weekday services with the rest of the congregation. They study the past as they grapple with the history of the Holocaust, and they look to the future using the *mitzvot* as a Jewish lens with which to examine both who they are now and what kind of adults they wish to become.

## Midrashah (8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades)

Through *Midrashah*, we facilitate and direct students' transition from children to knowledgeable, independent, critically thinking and committed Jewish adults. To that end, we provide information, experiences, atmosphere, guidance, topics, and materials to engage our students as they grow and mature.

## ☞ Field Trips ☜

Students will have the opportunity at each grade to participate in class field trips that complement classroom learning. Parents will be notified of field trips well in advance of the scheduled trip dates, and will always be asked to sign field trip permission forms. Most field trips require additional chaperones to provide transportation, supervision, and additional safety for students. This is a wonderful way to become involved with your child's Religious School experience! Please be sure to pay careful attention to the times listed on the field trip permission forms, as trip times will occasionally differ from customary school arrival and/or dismissal times.

## ☞ Financial Information ☜

### Tuition

- Our school relies on tuition payments in order to provide the necessary faculty and staff, programming opportunities and materials to ensure a quality Jewish education for all who are enrolled. Tuition rates are determined each year based on anticipated expenses and projected enrollment.

### TUITION AND FEES 2020-2021/5781

Grade Level	Members	Non-Members
Nitzanim (Preschool: age 3 by December 1)	No charge	\$50
Gan & Aleph (Kindergarten & 1 <sup>st</sup> grade) 1 day	\$550	\$1035
Bet thru Zayin (2 <sup>rd</sup> - 7 <sup>th</sup> grades) 2 days	\$800	\$1,500
Midrashah (8 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> grades) 1 day	\$550	\$1035
Gesher After School Program	\$225	\$225

Fees (books and snacks) are included above (\$65 for one-day students and \$100 for two-day students).

### PAYMENT DUE DATES

Single payment—September 1

Two payments— September 1 & January 15

- Tuition and fees payments must be received by the due dates (see above).
- Should parents know in advance that students will be present for only one semester, that information should be communicated at the time of registration. Tuition and snack fees will be prorated accordingly.
- Parents who choose to remove a student from school during the academic year are required to complete their annual financial obligation.
- In order to register for school, all previous financial obligations to the school must be met.
- When three or more siblings from one family are simultaneously enrolled in Religious School, a 10% discount may be applied to the total tuition and fees, provided the family maintains a current membership at Temple Beth-El.
- Emergency circumstances will be addressed on an individual basis.

## Financial Assistance

Finances should never be a barrier to a Jewish education! Scholarships for Religious School are available to Temple Beth-El member families in need of financial assistance. All requests are kept confidential and must be made in writing to the Registrar ([registrar@tbeithaca.org](mailto:registrar@tbeithaca.org)). Please be aware that available funds are limited and will be awarded based on need and availability of funding at the time of the request.

## ☞ Food ☜

Our Sages taught “אין קמח, אין תורה” (“*If there is no bread, there is no Torah.*”), and we know that hungry students cannot focus properly on their learning. We therefore provide each class with a small kosher snack. Out of respect and concern for both *kashrut* and allergies among our students and faculty, **any additional food that you may wish to provide (either for personal consumption, or to be shared with the class) must be approved in advance by both your child’s teacher and by the Religious School Director.**

**Again this year:** We will be publishing the Religious School snack menu in advance of the start of classes. If you know that your child will not eat the snack listed, **you may provide a fresh fruit or vegetable** to be enjoyed in its place on that day. All families are expected to assist in the purchase and delivery of snacks according to a schedule (which can be found on our website and in the weekly emails). Please use our tax exempt certificate, follow the suggestions regarding specific snack items (including our *kashrut* guidelines found online at <http://tbeithaca.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/TBE-Kashruth-pages.pdf>), brands, and amounts needed, and remember to turn in your receipts for prompt reimbursement. Thank you for helping to keep our students’ brains well fed!

## ✪ Homework ✪

Certain skills improve immeasurably with even small amounts of practice between class sessions. Homework (such as *tefillah* practice and/or Hebrew reading practice) reinforces what has been taught in class, and helps to build lifelong Jewish learning habits. Due to the lengthy time interval between class sessions, assignments will actively refresh a student's memory, and will help that student to prepare for the next lesson.

## ✪ Illness and Immunization Policies ✪

**Our health-related policies are in place for the protection, safety, and well-being of ALL of our students, families, faculty, and staff.**

Please keep your children at home if they:

- a) have a fever or have had one in the previous twenty-four (24) hours
- b) are vomiting, or have had intestinal disturbance in the previous twenty-four (24) hours
- c) have heavy nasal discharge and/or cough
- d) have discharge from eye(s)
- e) have symptoms of a possible communicable disease
- f) exhibit any of the symptoms of COVID-19 as listed by the CDC
- g) have had an exposure to a COVID-19 positive person within the past 14 days

If children show symptoms of illness upon arrival at Religious School or during the school day, we will call and request that they be picked up from school.

*All students, faculty, and staff who participate in the Rabbi Felix Aber Religious School must meet all New York State immunization requirements for school attendance.*

*Those Temple Beth-El families who choose to not vaccinate, yet wish to pursue a Jewish education for their children, are encouraged to meet with Rabbi Brody to discuss the options available to them.*

## ✪ Parents ✪

### Parental Involvement

Jewish education is a joint venture between the family, the synagogue, and the Religious School. Parents are encouraged to become involved in as many ways as possible, including opportunities to:

- Participate in school-wide activities and in class-specific programs, including attending class services.
- Schedule and attend parent-teacher conferences with your child's teachers during the designated times. This will provide you with the chance each year to share goals and expectations of your child's Jewish education.
- Read and review your child's progress report card with your child.

- Join a school committee (*i.e.* youth library, curriculum, technology, facilities).
- Attend synagogue services with your child on *Shabbat* and holidays. Actions speak volumes, and exposure builds familiarity and fluency. There are special youth and family services in the Chapel most weeks, and there are always opportunities for fun activities, sweet treats, and relaxing with the community.
- Participate in regular Sunday morning *tefillot* opportunities (9 am *minyan* in the Chapel) and/or regular weekday *minyanim* (7:30 am Monday – Friday, also in the Chapel).
- Expand your own Jewish knowledge by attending parent programs and/or adult education opportunities.
- Volunteer at least once each year (*i.e.* chaperoning a class field trip, helping a teacher with a special art project, sharing your special talents or hobbies with faculty and students, and assisting Rabbi Brody).
- Plan and attend your child's class get-together.

## Parent Feedback

Feedback regarding your child's Religious School experience in the classroom should always be directed **first** to your child's classroom teacher. The Religious School Director is also always ready to listen, as are members of the Religious School Board. Questions and suggestions are encouraged and welcome, and responses will be forthcoming in a timely manner.

## Parents/Visitors in the Classroom

- Requests to visit a classroom should be made to the Director at least twenty-four hours in advance of the visit. Visits are permitted at the Director's discretion, and in consultation with the classroom teacher.
- Approved visitors/volunteers must check in at the Religious School Office before proceeding to the classroom.
- Signed permission from a visiting student's parent(s) must be submitted to the Director in advance of the visit.

## Prospective Students

**Enrolling is easy!** Families considering enrolling students in our school are encouraged to meet with Rabbi Suzanne Brody, Director of Education and Youth Programming (607-273-5775 or [director@tbeithaca.org](mailto:director@tbeithaca.org)). Whenever possible, anyone interested in visiting the school will be invited to attend a large group or all-school activity or to observe individual classrooms for part of a school day.

## 🌀 Special Needs 🌀

- At the Rabbi Felix Aber Religious School, we believe that every child is created in G-d's image. We value the uniqueness of each student's place in our community, and will do all that we can to create a positive learning experience for all. Accommodations and supports will be implemented within our means and within the structure of our program on an individual basis. We are committed to building open communication and partnership with families to most effectively meet the needs of each child. While doing so, both our program, and our commitment to serving children with a wide range of learning needs, continue to evolve to provide the best opportunity for all of our students.
- Parents of children with special needs should discuss those needs with the Director **prior to** enrollment in the school, or at such time as a special need may become known or may change. The School may require copies of the student's most recent secular school education plan, academic assessments and/or recommendations, as well as those of other professionals who work with the student. Parents may need to provide written consent if securing such documents becomes necessary. Based on this information, the Director will determine how best to devise an appropriate learning environment to further the Jewish education of this child.

## 🌀 Textbooks 🌀

Textbooks are included within the annual tuition and fees payments, and are the property of each student. Students should keep all completed texts at the end of the year. Occasionally, the school will retain texts during the summer so that learning from the previous year may be continued at the beginning of the new school year.

## 🌀 Shabbat Programming 🌀

Shabbat is an important part of the week, and we want to celebrate with your family! Throughout each month, a variety of lively programs and experiences for children, teens, and adults help us to experience the magic of the day that the Jewish philosopher Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel referred to as "the palace in time." Children and families are always welcome! Even when services are advertised as designed with a particular age group in mind, siblings and friends of other ages are always welcome to attend and participate.

In addition to the joy of Shabbat itself, an incentivized tracking system provides opportunities for all Religious School and Midrashah students to earn prizes for Shabbat attendance.

## **Class Shabbat and All-School Shabbat Services**

Each year, students have the opportunity to demonstrate how much they have learned, and families have the chance to celebrate Shabbat together with both a *Kabbalat Shabbat* service followed by dinner and a Shabbat morning service followed by lunch. Younger grades gather in homes or in the Chapel to welcome Shabbat together, and older grades lead services for the entire congregation in the synagogue's main sanctuary.

## **Family Friendly Fridays**

Periodic Friday evenings feature a 6:15 pm *Kabbalat Shabbat* service with a short study session and story followed by dinner, and are designed to appeal to families with children of all ages.

## **Tot Shabbat**

This special Shabbat service is designed for families with very young children, ideal for babies and children under five years old (though older siblings and those who are young at heart are welcome, too). Join us as we pray, sing, and learn stories from the Torah.

## ☞ Contact Information ☜

### Religious School Office

Rabbi Suzanne Brody, Director

Phone: (607) 273-5775

Email: [director@tbeithaca.org](mailto:director@tbeithaca.org)

Jane Griffith, Secretary

Phone: (607) 273-5775

Email: [secretary@tbeithaca.org](mailto:secretary@tbeithaca.org)

### Religious School Board (2019-2020)

Christie Avgar.....342-2854.....[cavgar@gmail.com](mailto:cavgar@gmail.com)

Jill Greene.....330-2858.....[jlaffs@yahoo.com](mailto:jlaffs@yahoo.com)

Elaan Greenfield ..... 351-6879 .....[dearelaan@gmail.com](mailto:dearelaan@gmail.com)

David Kraskow..... 273-9069 .....[dkraskow@cayugamed.org](mailto:dkraskow@cayugamed.org)

Linda Mandel..... (315) 246-0344.....[lmandel79@hotmail.com](mailto:lmandel79@hotmail.com)

Rochelle Proujansky ..... 277-0138 .....[rep@twcnyc.nyrr.com](mailto:rep@twcnyc.nyrr.com)

Aleza Simons ..... 273-2575 .....[alezas@gmail.com](mailto:alezas@gmail.com)

Deborah Starr ..... 273-6070 .....[deborah.starr@cornell.edu](mailto:deborah.starr@cornell.edu)

### Ex Officio

Rabbi Suzanne Brody, Director..... 273-5775 .....[director@tbeithaca.org](mailto:director@tbeithaca.org)

Rabbi Rachel Safman, Rabbi.....273-5775.....[rabbi-safman@tbeithaca.org](mailto:rabbi-safman@tbeithaca.org)

**Registrar**.....[registrar@tbeithaca.org](mailto:registrar@tbeithaca.org)

### Class/Staff Lists

A school directory will be provided to each family shortly after school begins. **Please let us know immediately of any changes to your address, telephone numbers, email addresses, employment information, or emergency contacts.** We can only communicate with you if we have accurate information with which to reach you.



## ☞ Glossary of Hebrew Terms ☞

**Aleph**—first letter of the Hebrew alphabet, with the numeric value of one.

**Avodah**—worship.

**Bet**—second letter of the Hebrew alphabet, with the numeric value of two.

**Dalet**—fourth letter of the Hebrew alphabet, with the numeric value of four.

**Gan Yeladim (or Gan)**—Kindergarten.

**Gimel**—third letter of the Hebrew alphabet, with the numeric value of three.

**G'milut Hasadim**—acts of loving kindness.

**Hei**—fifth letter of the Hebrew alphabet, with the numeric value of five.

**Hafsakah**—break

**K'lal Yisrael**—the Jewish People.

**Kabbalat Shabbat**—the Friday night service to welcome Shabbat.

**Kippah** (plural: Kippot)—skullcap or traditional head covering worn to show respect.

**Kitah** (plural: Kitot) – class.

**Madrich** (female: madricha; plural: madrichim) – teacher's aide.

**Midrash (plural: Midrashim)**—interpretation.

**Midrashah**—study; refers to the post-*b'nei mitzvah* classes at Temple Beth-El.

**Minyan**—a quorum of ten adults, needed in order to conduct important portions of prayer services.

**Mitzvah** (plural: Mitzvot)—literally “commandments,” sacred deeds.

**Nitzanim**—literally “buds,” refers to the preK religious school program at Temple Beth-El.

**Shabbat** (plural: Shabbatot)—the Sabbath, seventh day, day of rest.

**Shaharit**—morning service.

**Siddur** (plural: Siddurim)—prayer book.

**Tallit** (plural: Tallitot)—ritual prayer shawl.

**Tanakh** – The Jewish Bible, comprised of *Torah*, *Neviim* (Prophets), and *Ketuvim* (Writings)


**Tefillah** (plural: Tefillot)—prayer.

**Tefillin**—phylacteries; set of two small leather boxes containing scrolls of parchment inscribed with verses from the *Torah*; worn on the head and arm during weekday morning prayers.

**Torah** (this word has many meanings, including the following)— the Five Books of Moses, the parchment scroll containing the Five Books in Hebrew, the Hebrew Bible in its entirety, the Law, Jewish knowledge.

**Vav**—sixth letter of the Hebrew alphabet, with the numeric value of six.

**Zayin**—seventh letter of the Hebrew alphabet, with the numeric value of seven.



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