

Our Tent Clergy



Rabbi Lisa Sacks

We welcome Rabbi Lisa Sacks, our Director of Community Engagement and Lifelong Learning as the leader of our tent service. We are fortunate that Rabbi Sacks will also deliver the sermon in the sanctuary on Kol Nidre.

Rabbi Sacks is delighted to join Bet Torah as the new Director of Community Engagement and Lifelong Learning. She is excited to get to know the community over the next few months and looks forward to facilitating meaningful opportunities to connect and learn from our tradition and from one another.

Rabbi Sacks will be ordained this coming April from the Academy for Jewish Religion, a pluralistic seminary based in Yonkers. During her time in rabbinical school, she served both Conservative and Reform synagogues in a variety of roles, most recently as the student rabbi for Ohev Shalom Congregation, a Conservative community in York, PA, where she also led High Holy Day services for the past two years.

Prior to entering the rabbinate, Rabbi Sacks had a wide-ranging career in the public sector working in local, state and national politics, serving as an Assistant Commissioner for the City of New York, as the Executive Director of Beit Rabban Day School, and as the Chief Financial Officer of Hazon, the Jewish environmental organization. She has a BA in government from Cornell University, an MPA from Columbia University, and also spent a year learning at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies on a Dorot Fellowship.

Originally from Santa Cruz, Rabbi Sacks now lives in Hastings-on-Hudson with her two daughters, Gigi and Lucy Richer. She is thrilled to continue the tradition of the Tent Service in offering a more relaxed atmosphere, inspiring prayer intentions, and an engaging participatory experience.



Cantor Deborah Bletstein

We welcome back Cantor Deborah Bletstein, whose beautiful voice and extensive cantorial experience will again enrich the High Holy Days at Bet Torah.

Cantor Deborah Bletstein, a close friend and colleague of our own Cantor Randy Herman, comes to us from her home state of Michigan, where she recently relocated after serving as cantor of Congregation Neveh Shalom the largest Conservative shul in Portland, Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. Cantor Bletstein has served as a guest hazzan at numerous congregations throughout the United States and is sought after as a concert artist for her abilities to seamlessly cross over genres of hazzanut, musical theatre, jazz, pop, rock, and folk—most notably specializing in contemporary and gospel Jewish music.

Again This Year

An Additional Complete Yizkor Service

Yom Kippur - 12:50 pm in the Tent
immediately following the Tent Service
With Rabbi Sacks and Cantor

Yizkor memorial books will be available.



Tent FAQs...

I would like to try the Tent Service, but I really like the traditional Sanctuary Service. What can I do?

Try both! One option is to attend one service the first day of Rosh Hashanah and the other one on the second day (or Yom Kippur morning). And Rabbi Brusso will be delivering his sermon in person at both the Sanctuary and Tent Services.

Is the Tent Service intended mainly for children?

No. Both the Sanctuary and Tent Services are appropriate for congregants of all ages. As in years past, we expect that many children will take part in children's programming as well. The Tent Service is compelling, accessible, and relevant for congregants with different levels of familiarity with Judaism. It is also more participatory than is possible in the main sanctuary.



**New Options for
Yom Kippur
Afternoon ...
2:00 to 3:30**

- Meditation
- Study & Discussion –
Interpreting Troubling
Biblical Texts

Look for details in your
email and on the website

Selichot



As we approach the Days of Awe, we begin to open and to contemplate. We open to the honest work of self-examination, reviewing the past year and the impermanence of life. We contemplate, pray and meditate in search of a better understanding of our connection with the Divine.

Selichot opens the crack necessary for the coming days and holds us in community as we begin our holy day journey culminating with Yom Kippur and Sukkot. Come together in the warm support of our community as we open and contemplate together, engaging with music, poetry, prayer and meditation.

Saturday Evening, September 21

9:30 pm Dessert Reception ♦ 10:00 pm Service