

## Temple Beth Zion Welcomes Interim Senior Rabbi Sharon L. Sobel

BY JODY GOLDSTEIN

Temple Beth Zion has announced that Rabbi Sharon L. Sobel is currently Interim Senior Rabbi at the synagogue through June 2022. Rabbi Sobel is a second-generation Reform rabbi who grew up with the synagogue as her second home. Her parents and grandparents were ardent Zionists and instilled within her a strong sense of *ahavat Yisrael* – love of Israel. Their passion and commitment for Judaism, Israel, and the larger Jewish community inspired her to study for the rabbinate and pursue a career as a Jewish communal professional.

She comes to Temple Beth Zion with more than 30 years in the rabbinate, working with congregations both large and small. She has served both as a congregational rabbi, and also for the broader Reform movement as the head

of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) in Canada. She has knowledge, skills and specialty training in crisis management, board and leadership development, organizational behavior, strategic and long-range planning, and system theory.

Rabbi Sobel's responsibility as the TBZ Interim Senior Rabbi is to facilitate community-building and enable an atmosphere where strong, healthy relationships thrive and grow at Temple Beth Zion. It's her goal to make sure that people feel their voices are heard, their voices matter and that the community is richer, healthier and stronger through their participation and presence.

For Rabbi Sobel, Judaism is about community and building relationships, relationships between all types of people and each other and relationships between people and God. She has dedicated her professional life to the Talmudic teaching "*Kol Yisrael arevin zeh lazeh*" – all of Israel is responsible for



Rabbi Sharon L. Sobel

one another." This Talmudic teaching exemplifies who she is as a rabbi, as a Jew and as an individual.

The daughter of a Reform rabbi (Rabbi Richard J. Sobel, z"l, from Glens Falls, NY), Rabbi Sobel was ordained from

Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York, in May, 1989 and was awarded her honorary doctorate for 25 years in the rabbinate from HUC-JIR in 2014. She received her undergraduate degree in Mass Communications from Boston University's School of Public Communications. In her spare time, Rabbi Sobel loves to write, read, travel, cycle, run, entertain, garden and cook. You can read more on her personal website: "Food for Mind, Body & Spirit" at [www.rabbisharonsobel.com](http://www.rabbisharonsobel.com).

We are extremely grateful to our Search Committee led by Kenneth Graber and Eric Snitzer for their hard work in finding and bringing Rabbi Sobel to our community. We look forward to the next eighteen months of working together at Temple Beth Zion to build a greater sense of trust, community, spirituality, and joy.

*Jody Goldstein is a Vice President of Temple Beth Zion, and head of its Engagement Committee.*

## Rabbi Sara Rich Elected to Hillel Directors Cabinet

Hillel of Buffalo Executive Director Rabbi Sara Rich has been elected to the Hillel International Directors Cabinet. The cabinet is comprised of a group of directors of local Hillels to foster collaboration and best practices between campuses and Hillel International's Schusterman International Center, the organization's headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Serving a two-year term, Rabbi Rich represents Hillels with two to four staff members serving public universities. She was installed during the 2020 Hillel International Global Assembly, the movement's annual conference. The Global Assembly also included a workshop on Herd Community, Hillel of Buffalo's initiative to foster community among students during COVID-19. The workshop was co-led by Director of Engagement Logan Woodard and Springboard Innovation Specialist Macie Clawson.

This role will further the partnership between Hillel of Buffalo, Hillel International, and the 550 local Hillels serving communities around the world. The Directors Cabinet was initially created by current Federation CEO Rob Goldberg during his 15 years as a Vice President at Hillel International.

Rabbi Rich, who will celebrate her



Rabbi Sara Rich

tenth anniversary in the Hillel movement this summer, has strived to expand opportunities for every student in Buffalo to learn about Judaism, make a difference on campus and in the local community, and explore their connection to Israel. Since joining Hillel of Buffalo in 2017, she has brought a number of Hillel International initiatives to Buffalo, including the Jewish Learning Fellowship and the Organizational Design Lab, a user-centric approach to student engagement.

In addition to her Hillel work, Rabbi Rich is active locally as the chair of the Buffalo Board of Rabbis and Cantors, Secretary of the board of the JCC of Greater Buffalo, and member of the JCRC's Racial Justice Working Group.

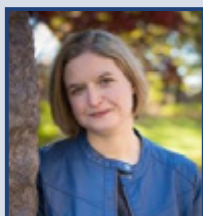
The Holocaust Resource Center of Buffalo, in conjunction with Erie 1 and Erie 2 Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES, are proud to present:

### A Conference for Educators Americans and the Holocaust

This conference will look at America's response to the Holocaust with a focus on the War Refugee Board and the Emergency Refugee Shelter in Fort Ontario. This conference will also explore the History Unfolded project, which allows students and teachers to learn what Americans could have known about the Nazi threat by examining local newspapers from the 1930s and 1940s.



Dr. Barry Trachtenberg  
Wake Forest University



Dr. Rebecca Erbeling  
United States Holocaust  
Memorial Museum



Eric Schmalz  
United States Holocaust  
Memorial Museum

**Monday, March 15, 2021**  
6:00 – 8:00pm ET  
Zoom

This conference is designed for middle and high school teachers in English Language Arts, Media Studies and Social Studies. Attendees will receive two hours of professional development. The registration fee is \$20.

Information and Registration at [www.elb.org](http://www.elb.org)

Questions? Email [Elizabeth@hrccbuffalo.org](mailto:Elizabeth@hrccbuffalo.org)

