



BETH-EL CONGREGATION

AUGUST 2017

Divrei Torah

Rabbi Brian Zimmerman



There is an old joke that makes the rounds every year about this time. A God fearing man and an atheist sit together every week at Shabbat services. A visitor to the Synagogue asks them about their beliefs. Upon learning that the atheist does not believe that there is a God, the visitor asks, "Sir, why do you come to worship

every Shabbat if you do not believe in God?"

The Atheist replies, "My friend Shlomo comes every week to talk to God and to pray on behalf of the Jewish people. Me, I come to talk to Shlomo."

It is a uniquely Jewish joke. Strange as it may seem to outsiders, our belief in a divine power is only one piece of a complicated puzzle of our Jewish identity. But, the joke asks another pointed question.

Why do we pray together at the Temple? Some of us come for community, some come to gain strength at times of great challenge, some for the cookies, some for the singing, some yearn for grounding and a sense of order in a seemingly random world and some to celebrate moments of achievement in the presence of friends. For still others, it is the chance to listen to the reading of Torah, learn about a new idea in Judaism or hear from a guest speaker with a different perspective.

The Hebrew word for worship is Avodah, which comes to us from the special service of sacrificial offering that our Israelite ancestors brought when the temple stood in Jerusalem. Now our Avodah offering is the prayer of our hearts, the songs we sing, the reading of Torah, our sacred text and the many different written prayers we read.

Of course, the temple does not hold a special monopoly over worshipful moments. Some seek out moments of quiet contemplation amidst walks through the forest while others find moments of sacred inspiration in the holy work they do for the needy. Some even seek that holy spark of communal worship around a summer campfire. There are as many places to worship as there are reasons.

It is nothing short of a miracle that in this modern age of complete freedom and choice we still join together to

Worship Calendar

Friday, August 4 _____ 7:30 PM

Shabbat Service

Torah reading will include the *V'ahavta* prayer. All who desire and are able are invited to join Rabbi Zimmerman on the *bimah* to chant this week's Torah portion.

Scott Slotter will lead the music

Friday, August 11 _____ Kabbalat Shabbat Early Service

Wine, Cheese, and Shabbat candles at 5:30 PM

Kabbalat Shabbat at 6:00 PM

B'nai B'rith Senior Scholarship Presentations.

Charna Blumberg and Christine Levy will lead the music.

Friday, August 18 _____ 7:30 PM

Shabbat Service

Torah reading: *Re'eh*

John Sauvey will lead the music.

Friday, August 25 _____ Kabbalat Shabbat Early Service

Wine, Cheese, and Shabbat candles at 5:30 PM

Kabbalat Shabbat at 6:00 PM

Elul Reflections

John Sauvey will lead the music.

Friday, September 1 _____ 7:30 PM

Shabbat Service

Elul prayer study: Avinu Malkaynu

Beginning August 25th and continuing until Rosh Hashanah, our Friday night stories, sermons, reflections and music will focus on the themes of the High Holy Days and preparation for the work of forgiveness and a New Year of opportunities.

worship as one community and in one agreed upon style. Even those of us who are occasional service attendees sense that there is a strength in joining in one place as one people at certain moments of the year. Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and major life cycle events are just a few examples.

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President's Message

Jeff Kaitcer, President

Continuing our impromptu survey of letters of the Hebrew Alphabet and, more importantly, to give me some sort of gimmick each month, our theme for this issue of the bulletin is: ב—Bet.

ב is the second letter of the Hebrew alphabet and frequently occurs at the beginning of many of our most important prayers, especially those prayers beginning with the word “baruch.” Baruch obviously means “blessed,” but in reviewing the origin of the letter, however, ב seems to have been derived from the West—semitic word for “house,” (this from the noted, extremely reliable source—Wikipedia). Taking a somewhat small leap of fancy, one could combine the two concepts and extrapolate from that the letter ב should be amalgamated in making our Temple a “blessed house.” Don’t worry—I am not now going to now proceed with analyzing the letter Bet from a Zohar numerological perspective. Not only do I think it is too esoteric for this type of column, but I would also reveal my ignorance in prattling on about the subject when, in actuality, I know virtually nothing about it. I will leave such discussions to our more learned Rabbi. For all of this, I am sure, the readers are extremely grateful. However, this does provide me with a jumping off point in reviewing what has gone on, and what is upcoming in our “blessed house.”

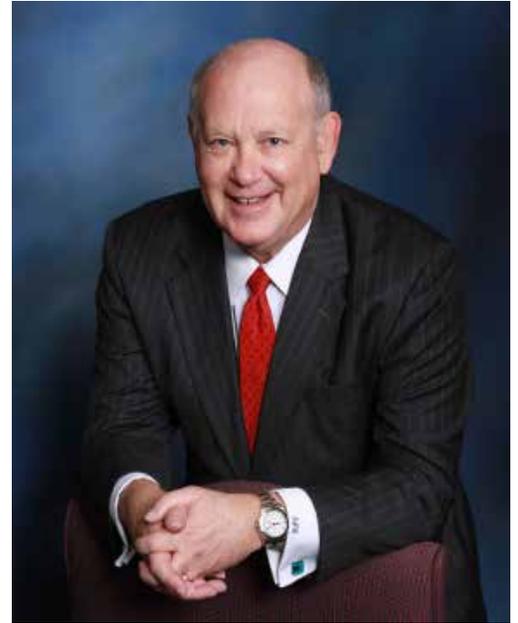
Summertime historically sees more casual and intimate Shabbat services in the Chapel and this summer has been no exception. For those of you who have missed them this summer, you are losing out. We had a standing room only crowd for the Sermon in Song performed magnificently by visiting musical scholar Dr. Curt Woodland from TCU who, along with Curt Thompson, Founder and Executive Director of the Mimir Chamber Music Festival, and Associate Professor of Violin and Director of Chamber Music studies at TCU, made our hearts and spirits soar with an awesome mini-concert in June. June also saw a wonderful new arrangement of *Adon Olam* from Musical Director John Sauvey, and his wonderful choir, which for the summer, has turned our Chapel into a venue for a song from the hit Broadway show “Hamilton.” Hopefully, John and the choir

will repeat this outstanding performance in the near future. This summer also saw the return to the pulpit of our Emeritus Rabbi Mecklenburger, who showed us that, notwithstanding any health challenges he may have suffered, the man still knows how to lead a service and give a *D’var Torah*. Indeed,

it was one of the most significant privileges of my thus far short term as president, to be able to sit on the Bimah with Rabbi Mecklenburger, while he so ably conducted the service.

Last, but not least, speaking of ably conducting services, Dr. Michael Ross and his team of dedicated volunteers, provide us with the opportunity to worship weekly, notwithstanding the absence of our Rabbi due to other commitments. With new melodies from Angie Freeman accompanied by an accomplished guitarist Scott Slotter, each new Shabbat brings a fresh perspective on meaningful worship.

Of course, the Temple is not comprised of one religious service after another, (although sometimes to me it seems that way). Many of our other congregants are involved in the day-to-day operation of the Temple. Without them we would be lost; from the work of many past presidents, to Laurie Kelfer’s dedication to the building issues, to WRJ’s operation of the Judaica Shop, to MRJ’s ceaseless efforts. Moreover, we have a great supporting staff led by Suzie



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Staff: Brian Zimmerman, Senior Rabbi; Ralph D. Mecklenburger, Rabbi Emeritus; Ilana Knust, Education Director; John Sauvey, Music Director; Suzie Koonsman, Administrator; Sareth Collins, Congregational Secretary; Jaime Rivera, Custodian

Selichot Scholar

Dr. Mark Washofsky will be our Speaker on Friday and Saturday, September 15 & 16

Rabbi Mark Washofsky Ph.D. is the Solomon B. Freehof Professor of Jewish Law and Practice at HUC-JIR in Cincinnati. He guided the Reform Movement's response committee for over two decades, has written extensively on Jewish law and the process of ancient and modern

Jewish decision-making. He has been teaching and mentoring rabbinic students for over three decades as they confront the challenges of Jewish leadership in the



twenty first century. He has written dozens of essays and articles on topics as diverse as medieval halakhic literature, the application of legal theory to the study of Jewish law, Jewish bioethics, outreach and conversion.

We are honored to have Dr. Washofsky with us as our Tarrant County Reform Jewish community joins together for our annual Selichot scholar weekend. Specific topics and times will be in our September newsletter. Locations are listed below. Save these dates in your calendar for an exceptional weekend of learning opportunities.

Friday, September 15, at 7:30 PM

Beth-El Congregation

Saturday morning, September 16

Congregation Beth Shalom in Arlington

Saturday evening, September 16

Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville

From the President, continued from page 2

Koonsman who, with our custodial staff, make our Temple run smoothly.

As we approach the High Holy Days, I know that the Rabbi, the Worship Committee, the choir and those who are given honors to assist in leading the service from the Bimah, will provide a wonderfully enriching spiritual experience for all of us. We also want to give thanks to those who work behind the scenes in making sure our Temple runs smoothly.

To conclude this month's probably over-lengthy epistle, our house is in fact "blessed" by the tireless work of our staff and volunteers. So, may we all join in saying this bracha for our Temple house.

אֲשֶׁר יוֹשְׁבֵי בֵּיתְךָ -
עוֹד יְהַלְלוּךָ סֵלָה

—"Blessed are they who dwell in your house. They will be still praising you Selah."

Divrei Torah, continued from page 1

And yet, given the many different reasons we come together, it is no surprise that modern temples and churches often find it hard to connect so many people joining together with such varied needs. One person's inspiration can serve as another's source of agitation.

You will notice some changes in the coming months. A slight change in the early service Shabbat time beginning in September, more information on the cover of the newsletter about what to expect at Friday night services, some creative Shabbat morning options every couple of months beginning in the winter and more opportunities to learn some new tunes for those who crave them while keeping some consistency for those who like predictability.

We will also alternate at Shabbat evening services between text study opportunities, chances to explore specific prayers, services that offer story or reflection, guest speakers and formal sermons. This information will be listed below the soloist or choir information on the cover of the monthly bulletin. Each of us seeks different experiences when we worship. Hopefully the sharing of more information in the newsletter will allow each person to seek out the worship experience he or she desires.

Of course, for many of us, our decision to attend is based on the calendar, the demands on our time and our own energy level from week to week and day to day. Still, perhaps our ongoing communication will help you prepare for that week's Shabbat experience or circle the dates that sound most interesting.

September will bring the arrival of our new adult learning program booklet, the start of religious school as we resume our full Sunday school program, exciting updates on music and worship, announcements of our guest scholars for the next year, and lots of exciting news from our youth, social action, MRJ and WRJ and other temple groups as the new year begins.

We have lots to share. But, as always, the most important piece is you.

Beth-Elements

Save the Dates—April 13, 14, 15

The Texas Jewish Historical Society's annual gathering will be at Beth-El April 13-15. Would you like to volunteer for the Host Committee? That will entail joining the group for Friday night dinner (catered by MRJ) and/or for a Saturday-night BBQ at which Klezzoup!, the Temple's homegrown Klezmer musicians, will perform. Local volunteers will be encouraged to mingle with out-of-towners during dinner, bring homemade dishes for the oneg Shabbat, and help with registration. To volunteer contact either Jack Gerrick, Morty Herman, Susan Lewis, or Hollace Weiner, who all serve on the TJHS Board. The weekend's musical theme is "Orchestrating Our Heritage."



High Holy Days

If you haven't received your High Holy Days booklet in the mail yet, you will soon. **Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown on Wednesday, September 20.** Members in good standing will receive their membership cards in the mail. Please make sure that your membership commitments are up-to-date. If you need more information or if you need assistance, please call Suzie Koonsman at the Temple.

The High Holy Day booklet will also be available again this year online. Please visit www.bethelfw.org and click on the High Holy Days tab on the front page of the website. *L'Shanah Tovah!*

Facility Rental

The Great Hall, catering kitchen, Board Room, and Gathering Area are available to the public to be rented for an occasion, reception, or group meeting.

For additional information regarding availability, to take a tour, or to schedule an event, please call the Temple at 817-332-7141 or send an email to betheladmin@bethelfw.org.

Summer Study Opportunities

Lay-led Torah study continues every Saturday at 9:00 AM all summer. Join our Temple members for a line-by-line Torah study and conversation. Torah Study does not end when summer arrives--it continues every week on Shabbat at 9:00 AM.



Parshat Hashavuah: A Weekly Dialogue with the Torah Portion to prepare for Shabbat

Join Rabbi Zimmerman on August 6, at 12:00 PM for our final summer session to prepare for Shabbat with the study of timely sections from the weekly Torah portion. This dialogue with Torah goes back through hundreds of years of Torah conversations. Rabbi Zimmerman will pick an ancient or modern commentary as our study source to seek new insight into Torah and its role in our lives.

Prepare for Shabbat as you engage with our sacred texts.

Thursday, August 3 at 12:00 PM

Pirke Avot: Wisdom from Our Ancestors: Mishnah Study

Every Wednesday at 11:00 AM through



Rosh Hashanah, Rabbi Zimmerman and members of the Mishnah Class will continue to study this special book of the Talmud that explores moral, religious and ethical teachings essential to daily life. Even if you have not joined prior Mishnah classes or can only attend one class, join us and prepare for the upcoming High Holy Day

season with ancient reflections on lives meaningfully lived.



At any Moment in Time, Members of our Congregation may be in Need—Not of Charity—but in Need of Acts of Loving Kindness! In order for the Caring Congregation Committee to do its best job, we need to know who needs a welcome visit, who is ill, and who needs a meal. Please contact the Temple office, and a member of our committee will be in touch. We want to know, for the Caring Congregation cares! —Carol Minker, chair

Havdallah at the Drive-In

Saturday, August 26

Attention all Beth-El Members! Boomers, Empty Nesters, FWFTY, BEJY, Young families, MRJ, WRJ, Movie-Goers of all ages.

Join Rabbi Zimmerman for a summer send-off to Shabbat

All Ages are invited!

The Coyote Drive-In has four screens.
At least one always shows family films.

Where: Coyote Drive-In Movie Theater, 223
NE 4th Street, Fort Worth, 76164

Drive: To the screen of the movie you picked

Meet: At the playground area near the snack
bar anytime after 7:00 PM to meet new friends from the Temple.

Join: The Rabbi at the playground area for Havdallah at 8:00 PM right before the movies begin.

Cost: \$8 per adult, \$5 kids ages 5-11, kids under 5 are free!



You can buy tickets that night, but we recommend getting tickets a couple of days in advance to guarantee your choice of movies. Advance tickets and more information about the Drive-In can be found at <http://coyotedrive-in.com/fortworth/>

Don't love movies? Then come hang out at the bar area with friends and watch a sporting event. Remember, this is a family event. No unsupervised children allowed at this event, as there will not be chaperones.

Sunday the Rabbi Sang Sondheim

**An evening of Broadway Music, memories,
and musings with Rabbi Adam Roffman**

Performance dates are Sunday, August 20 & 27 at Stage West, at 7:30 PM

Rabbi Zimmerman will attend the August 20 performance.

Tickets for either show are available at www.orchardtheatre.org/home.

Price: \$30 per ticket; \$100 for 4 tickets

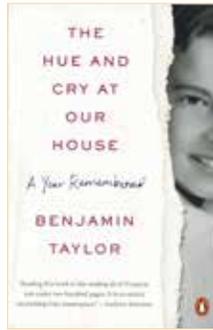
Having studied musical theatre at the internationally acclaimed Circle in the Square Theatre in New York, Rabbi Roffman embarked on a career in musical theatre before turning to his pursuit of the rabbinate. In this one-man show, he recounts his journey through the beloved musical theatre characters he played, ones that "got away" and those he only dreamed about. The score is filled with Broadway classics from many shows including *Guys and Dolls*, *Pippin*, *Follies*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Company*, *Oliver!*, *Little Shop of Horrors* and *Phantom of the Opera*.



The proceeds benefit The Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County and the Orchard Theatre.

The Hue and Cry at Our House: A Year Remembered
by Benjamin Taylor, Penguin Books

The Beth-El Archives received this newly published paperback from Penguin Books because it includes a photo from the Temple Archives—a 1936 group picture with the author’s mother at front and center. Although I do not often read autobiographies, I was excited to turn the pages of this book: It is written by a native of Fort Worth who is Jewish, gay, has Asperger’s, and shook JFK’s hand the day the president was assassinated.



Benjamin (Bobby) Taylor, a writer and faculty member of the graduate schools of the New School and Columbia University, grew up on Ranier Court, the son of Sol and Annette Taylor and the younger brother of Tommy, who grew into a handsome financial whiz.

This book is the story of Taylor’s life, focusing on the year JFK was killed. But the story goes beyond 1963, as Taylor moves back and forth in time, providing an intimate portrait of life in Fort Worth in the 1960s, with the Jewish community as a backdrop. It is a story of one family’s life, yet at the same time a commentary on things we have in common, especially those of us who grew up in that era, and more so in a town like Fort Worth.

I found the book captivating and poignant, though at times a little disconcerting; the story is so personal that Taylor includes the address of the home he grew up in and the schools he attended, beginning with Westcliff Elementary. He relates incidents using individuals’ real names; I even knew his elementary-school music teacher.

About his middle school move to Fort Worth Country Day, he says: “Farewell, gentle high-minded Westcliff Elementary. Hello, brutal, snobbish Fort Worth Country Day.” (In my opinion, all middle school is brutal).

As for religious school, he remarks: “The good boy vanished when I got to Ahavath Shalom [sic], and in his place stood an imp of the perverse.” Of his brother Tommy, ten years his senior, he writes: “He was much too large and glamorous to get to know, really, though he lived only one bedroom away.”

The author writes with such love for his childhood friend Robert Anton, who died too young when he took his life in 1984, that

when I reread the chapter, I cried again.

Taylor notes that his father’s love was conditional, but his mother loved him just for being alive. Yet, in the end the boy seems to have come to peace with his father: “. . . he knows I am not his invention, but something unaccountable” and “that I am as correct as nature made me.”

Taylor’s prose is beautiful, with eloquent use of metaphors, and the story he tells is about all of us. The book’s title is both a comment on the nation’s distress as well as on family relationships. Before Kennedy’s assassination rocked a nation, deaths rocked Taylor’s extended family. “The hue and cry at our house,” he writes, “was against disorder, bedevilment, despair.

I highly recommend this book but caution that if you are a Fort Worth, especially over the age of 50, you might feel a little frisson of discomfort at the author’s honesty.

This quote aptly sums up Benjamin Taylor’s memoir: “What I tell is over half a century old, but everything is still happening, and the past is now. I heap up this monument because my family—Annette, Sol, Tommy, Robby—too, have vanished, and I cannot allow oblivion to own them altogether.”



1936 Presentation Ball. Taylor’s mother, Annette Bockstein Taylor, is fourth from the right. Also pictured, left to right, are Charlotte Miller Mehl, Eleanor Klotzman Gachman, Bertha Samson Shanblum, Annette Taylor, Shirley Ginsburg Anton, Betty Joe Drescher Silberstein and Louise Klar Lipshitz. Their escorts in the back row are Nolan Glazer, David Samson, Phil Hurwitz, Willard Glazer, Irving Rosenthal, Mithell Victor, and Joseph Shanblum.

Beth-El Youth Programs



North American Federation
of Temple Youth

An affiliate of UNION for REFORM JUDAISM & branch of Netzer Olami

Youth Committee

Corey Mandel & Jenn Tencer, Co-Chairs

"We can not always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."—FDR

The Youth Committee, unofficially rebranded as YuCo, is moving forward with bold plans to broaden the degree of connection and scope of involvement. We hope to increase interest by focusing on our new mission statement: To engage the families of Beth-El Congregation by providing all youth with opportunities to participate and experience the feeling of community.

The pre-Greene Family Camp gathering at Blaze Pizza and Steel City Pops was a fun time for all. Younger campers got to see some familiar faces to help with the transition

and older kids spent more time with lifelong friends before shipping off to Bruceville, Texas. Plus, some great GFC swag was handed out for the campers. This is a new tradition we hope to continue.

On Sunday, September 10 (first day of Religious School), the YuCo will be hosting a meet and greet from 11:30-12:00 for parents. Come chat with the Co-chairs and other members of the committee, youth group advisors and parents like you. Learn more about our vision, hear from kids what their involvement has meant in their lives and see

how it all relates to you.

Following that we will host lunch for the kids who stay to study Hebrew. This is a free introduction to the upcoming YuCo 2nd Sunday lunch for which you will be able to pre-pay online. Visit with us (or stay tuned) to learn more details.

On Sunday, September 17, there will be a YuCo back-to-school pool party at the Hulen Bend Estates Amenities Center from 12:30 - 3:30 PM.

We welcome your involvement in these and all YuCo events.



Greene Family Camp Session II: Beth-El's campers, counselors, and advisors.

BEJY

Beth-El Junior Youth

Nancy Schwartz & Marc Slotter, Co-Advisors

BEJY Kicks Off with a Lock-In and Movie

We hope that everyone has enjoyed an amazing summer with family and friends (and no school!). There is not much time left of summer. One of the best parts about the summer coming to an end is the start to a new year at Beth-El with your friends in BEJY.

BEJY is kicking off its 2017-2018 school year with an exciting combination of events. We are thrilled to be participating with our families and the rest of the congregation at the Coyote Drive-In for Havdallah and a movie

on August 26. After the movie, we ask that parents bring their BEJY aged kids (grades 6 - 8) back to the Temple and drop them off for a lock-in. Our most recent lock-in was a HUGE success with food, games, movies and more. Please watch your mail, email, and Facebook for full details.

If you have questions, please e-mail us at BEJY@bethelfw.org or you can call Nancy at 732-856-0163.

We are looking forward to a great year with our 6th, 7th and 8th graders!

Men of Reform Judaism

Howard Bellet, President

I hope you and yours are enjoying a great summer. As I am writing, I find it a bit startling to realize that by the time this article is published and you are reading it we are well into the last half of 2017. After a bit of a break over the past two months, Beth-El MRJ is kicking off its “new” year with a lot of activities and events already scheduled.

Now, I will catch everyone up on MRJ over the summer months and tell you about some important activities coming up in the immediate future. On Sunday, June 4, Beth-El MRJ members were once again honored to prepare brunch for the local Jewish War Veterans chapter’s annual meeting. We “laid low” over the next five weeks until July 15, when we had our Summer Social & BBQ event. Sixteen Beth-El MRJ members, spouses, and a number of “new” members enjoyed a great evening of food and friendship. Special thanks to Alan and Loretta Feinberg for their gracious hospitality and opening their home to us.

With the heat of summer and lull in activity quickly passing, the months ahead will be very busy for MRJ members. As I wrote this for the bulletin, I was not certain as to whether or not we will be having a monthly membership meeting in August. If we are, I will send an email announcement as to the date, location and time and also have Rabbi mention it in his weekly communication.

On Sunday morning, September 10, we will man a table during opening morning of Beth-El Religious School’s 2017-2017 year. All you dads who have children going to Religious School be sure to stop by and visit with us. You can find about the many projects and activities we do throughout the year, and learn how you can get involved with our great organization. This date is also that of our regularly scheduled monthly meeting for September, so join

us for that at 11:15 AM.

One of our first big tasks as we kick off our year will be ushering during High Holy Day services. This is something we do every year, and once again we need volunteers to help. Please email me at hbmrijprez@gmail.com to let me know if you are available to assist with ushering on Erev Rosh Hashanah, Rosh Hashanah, Erev Yom Kippur, and both morning and afternoon services on Yom Kippur. The dates are, respectively, Wednesday evening, September 20; Thursday, September 21; Friday evening, September 29; and Saturday, September 30.

Sometime in between the end of the High Holy Days and the start of Sukkot, we will be setting up the sukkah at Beth-El. Still trying to figure out the logistics and time when we will do this, so look for an email from me with all of the details.

The annual MRJ Matzo Ball Classic Golf Tournament is scheduled for Sunday, October 15. More details will be forthcoming. Suffice it to say that Tournament Chair Mike Kalpin and his crew are already making plans for another great event. The Matzo Ball Classic is one of our major fundraising events of the year and we look forward to having lots of golfers and lots of fun.

I will finish this month’s column by asking our existing members and inviting others among you who’ve not been active in Beth-El MRJ to “come on out” and help us have yet another great year. Until next time, if you have suggestions or ideas, or would like to talk to me about MRJ activities please contact me.



Howard Bellet, MRJ
President

Beth-El Wish List

Did you know? Since the “Wish List” was started in January 2016, Beth-El has received almost \$400,000 in contributions from generous members and Temple friends. These gifts include the following:

Assistive listening system
 Passover Seder plate
 Landscaping
 Dedication of the Café
 Cameras in the sanctuary and chapel
 Monthly streaming subscription
 Matzoh and *afikomen* covers
 Re-carpet and re-upholster the chairs in the sanctuary and the chapel
 Microphones
 Music stands
 Restroom occupancy monitors
 Decorative waste receptacles

AV equipment shelving
 Floor polisher machine
 Kitchen faucet sprayer
 Plate rack covers
 Kitchen towels
 Food processor
 Dining and buffet tables
 Board room lighting
 Havdalah set

Refurbish silver Torah crowns
 High Holiday custom white Torah covers
 A set of silver Torah crowns

We are grateful for the generosity of our Temple family! Thank you! Some items are still needed. Please look at www.bethelfw.org/donations/wish-list to see the list of items!

Religious School

Ilana Knust, Educator

BETH-EL CONGREGATION
Religious School

First Day of Religious School: Sunday, September 10, 9:30 - 12:00
Please spend the whole morning with us!

Remember the days of old; reflect upon the years of other generations. Ask your father, and he will tell you, your elders, and they will inform you. ~Deuteronomy 32:7



A special-needs social worker (specializing in teens) will help 7th-9th grade students to become part of the group or have one-on-one time when they need it. We want to create a better classroom community where all students respect and connect to each other.

Eighth and 9th grades (post B'nai Mitzvah will participate in a spiritual prayer curriculum filled with music, challenging discussions, debates, art and more (from 11:30 AM to 12:00 PM). We hope for better understanding of prayer and a stronger connection to Judaism in a personal and spiritual way.

B'nai Mitzvah (5th and 6th grades) will be offered a trope class during Religious School.

Afternoon Hebrew school classes will have a tutorial program for new students and those who need extra help.

In order to create a respectful and happy learning environment, a dress code and cell phone policy will be enforced! Dress code: Whatever is considered appropriate at your child's school is appropriate at Beth-El. Cell phones: Phones may be used only during breaks or with teacher's permission.

Dear Parents/Guardians and members of our Religious School,

I trust that your summer has been a blessing to spend time with family and friends doing the things you enjoy

I welcome you with a personal commitment to an interesting, stimulating and full of excitement. We embark on this journey with a pledge to you, our students and parents—this will be a year of engaging, meaningful, and rigorous work in our Religious School.

This year's theme is *A Journey Through the History of Our People* (see more information on our website).

We value and we need your involvement and support! We hope this year will be filled with family time, where parents and children get to know each other.

I'm looking forward to the many changes made in order to further raise the bar for our students, our families, and our communities.

~Ilana Knust

NEW—Innovative and highly experiential and project-based curriculum for 3rd–7th grade students (to learn more, see our website)

This year, we found professional and dedicated teachers who care to teach Jewish children and about making a difference. See more info on our website.

A cantorial intern will teach 6th grade in order to make sure our students understand, relate and connect with the B'nai Mitzvah service, meaning, process and ideas.

NEW—*Torah curriculum for our 2-year-old, Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade students that is filled with engaging and practical interactive tools for teaching Torah, holidays and Jewish values for young students. This curriculum brings to life our Torah and Jewish traditions through age-appropriate games, songs, yoga, play and activities that children adore.*

Did You Know?

Presented by the Worship Committee

Did you know that August 23 begins the month of Elul?

Every morning in the month of Elul we blow the shofar with four loud blasts. We do this almost every morning, but not on Shabbat and not on the day before Rosh Hashanah. Elul will end on September 20.

Elul is the month of preparedness for Rosh Hashanah. Hearing the shofar every morning is a call to repentance. It rouses us from complacency. With the sound of the shofar each morning, we begin our journey to ask family, friends and neighbors for forgiveness for wrongs we may have incurred



the past year. We also grant forgiveness to others.

Also, during the month of Elul, letters written include “wishes that the recipient have a good year.”

So in the month of Elul, as you awaken to your alarm clocks in the morning, think of it as our shofar waking you up.

Is there anything you would like to know about our worship services and rituals? Email your questions to BethElQuestions@gmail.com.



College Outreach

The Temple needs your college student's new addresses so that they can be a part of our Beth-El college outreach program.

This year will feature gift cards, some campus visits, and gatherings during winter break and more!

But we can't invite your son or daughter if we don't have their information!

Please fill out this form and return it to the Temple.

The sooner we get this information, the sooner we can keep them connected to Beth-El!

Student's Name _____

College Address _____

Email _____

Cell phone _____

Birthday _____

Please return this information to the Temple even if you supplied the information last year.

Parents, do you want to help out with our college program?

We are always looking for helpers ready to work.

Contact Michelle Hartman, college committee chair at hartman8729@sbcglobal.net or Rabbi Zimmerman at rabbiz@bethelfw.org.



Yahrzeits

August 4

Reube Archenhold
Reuben Blumberg
Pearl Bodner
Pearl Feffer Brody
Carmen Cocchi
Marvin Cummings
Sidney Eisman
Maurice N. Fairman
Morris N. Freed
Meyer Gernsbacher
Dr. Robert Lawrence
Gilstrap
Phillip Henry Greenwall
Florence Gross
Maurice Kahn
Jerome Kestenber
Sally Kestenber
Beatrice Wolf Lang
Irvin Lehrner
Sidney Levenson
Dan A. Levy
Louis Maskell
Dr. Robert Edward Moore
Peter Oshman
Nettie White Ritchey
Harry Roth
Paul Schnyder
Mitch Stenzler
Marcelle Werlin
Esther Winesanker
Jerry Wolens

August 11

Nannette Brener
Walter J. Bressert
Edith Maskell Cohen
Marie Cohen
Nancybelle Webster Cohen
Noel Arthur Cohen
Louis Daiches
Paul Feinberg
Nathan Frank
Henry Gernsbacher
Jonathan E. Kemp
Clarisse Lavine

Al Lazarus
Bertha Marcus Levy
David Luskey
Carol Mayer
Edward Michaels
Beatrice Narrett
Sidney Narrett
Faye Nathan
Daniel Neckers
Shirley R. Neckers
Rose Neumegen
Rose Pearlman
Russel Peyton
Bernard Rabinowitz
Leon Raphael
George Joseph Rashti
Al Rossman
Esther Yentis Sacks
Ruth Sandler
Esther Schlinger
Rose Freeman Shimshoni
Claire Smith
Madelyn Gross Walters
Bessie W. Wertheim

August 18

Usher Apelblat
Donna Askin
Jennie H. Baker
Sandra Baum
Elihu E. Berwald
Michael Brown
Charles Cristol
Paul Diviness
Dora Sturman Doyschen
Joseph Foreman
Ethel Goldstein Friedman
Leon Gachman
Anne Gilbert
Sam Goldman
Ella Rosenbaum Harris
Goldye Kelfer
Bernard Lipman
Louis Max Miller
Sarita Parvey
Lois Peltz

Lee Ross
Harriet Sadow
Nathan Schoenfeld
Miriam Schultz
Louis H. Schur
Esther Berman Singer
Gertrude Steinharter
Louis Tuchin
Jerome Stanley Waxman
Bertha Weil
Jean Whatley

August 25

Benjamin H. Berk
Molly Berkowitz
Irving I. Bock
Gertrude Bornfried
Leba Nehalinski
Coopersmith
Belle Covitt
Ashley Fetterman
Harold Gernsbacher
Regina S. Gernsbacher
Jeanne Glasser
Doris Grisham
Rose Hochberg
Frieda Jacobs
Sadie Keller
Ted Krakover
Lester M. Landman
Oscar Lavine
Ruth Lawrence
Henry Mack
Jaine Gernsbacher
Meyerson
I. William Nusbaum
Irving D. Pruden
Hyman Rabinowitz
Henry David Schlinger
U. M. Simon
Joseph Harold Singer
Martin Sonkin
Walter Stone
Mary Ellen Von Till
Dr. William Nathan
Zuckerman

The Judaica Shop

I hope that everyone is having a wonderful summer. It is hard to believe that it is already August and we are looking forward to school starting again and getting ready for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The Judaica Shop has everything you need to have a sweet year and a beautiful holiday table. We will be re-opening when the Religious School re-opens, so come see on September 10!. Our hours from then on will be Sundays from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM and Wednesdays from 11:00 AM until 2:00 PM.

Please come in and take a look around. Feel free to browse and if there is an item you are looking for and cannot find please feel free to ask. We are more than happy to order it for you if we can. Also, if you need something from the shop at a time we are not open please call Reggie Rog for a special appointment.

We still hope to get some new volunteers to help in the shop. If you have any spare time and would like to help please contact Reggie Rog at 817-989-1862.

Shop Hours

**By Appointments only in the summer:
Call Reggie at 817-989-1862**

The Temple Family

Mazel Tov

- to Mimi Zimmerman on receiving the Honorary Doctor of Jewish Non-profit Management from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion
- to Louise Appleman, re-elected President of the Tarrant County College District Board of Trustees.
- to Lori and Brad Sturman, parents, and Joan and Howard Katz and Marla and Scott Sturman, grandparents, on the birth of Elizabeth Margo Sturman.
- to Noreen and Bill Houston, grandparents, on the birth of Felicity Rose Lemme, daughter of Andi and Doug Lemme, of Dallas.
- to Michael and Marilyn Sigman, on the marriage of their daughter, Rebecca, to Chad Grossman.

Our Sincere Condolences

- to the many family and friends of Freda Gail Stern, sister of Beth-El member Lila Berlin and the late Kenneth Baum, and of Dallas' Lester Baum.

Thank you

- Thanks to the volunteers who help in the Temple office: Rusty Feld, Trudi Post, Marla Parvey, and Sandy Hollander and the bulk mail crew, Bob Archenhold, Jim Stein, Michael Goldman, Sam Rosen, and Bill Margolis. We will miss Gary Steinberger who previously was in charge of getting the crew together. We so appreciate Sandy Hollander who has volunteered to take Gary's place and continue on with the bulk mail. ~The Office Staff

Contributions

Rosenthal-Siegel Education Fund

In Honor of _____

Evelyn Siegel, on her 90th birthday

From

Judy Cohen
Sari Bahl
Amy Stien

Joan and Howard Katz
Rozanne and Billy Rosenthal
Roz Rosenthal

a speedy recovery for Rabbi Mecklenburger
Carol and Richard Minker

Rosenthal-Siegel Education Fund

In Memory of _____

Henry Loeb
Bernie Appel
Elaine Stanton
Buddy Freed
Sadie Gross
Anna Belle Rosenthal
Sara Betty Gilbert

Jacqueline Loeb
Roz Rosenthal

Rozanne and Billy Rosenthal

Prayerbook Fund

In Honor of _____

a speedy recovery for Rabbi Mecklenburger

From

Cynthia and Burton Gilbert

Prayerbook Fund

In Memory of _____

Elaine Stanton

From

Cynthia and Burton Gilbert
Michael and Beverly Ross
Dorette and Peter Forman

Floral Fund

In Honor of _____

the marriage of Sidra and Geoffrey Potter
Rabbi Ottenstein
Anna Westerman, on her birthday

From

David, Rachel, and Reuben Cristol
Roz Rosenthal
William and YuYo Westerman

Floral Fund

In Memory of _____

David William Gross
Sadie Gross
Anna Belle Rosenthal
Elizabeth Kuehn
Marian Rubinson
Rolly Schur
Louise Snelgrove

From

Roz Rosenthal

the Appleman family
the Rubinson family
Bill and Holly Schur
Russ and Susan Schultz

Library Fund

In Honor of _____

a speedy recovery for Rabbi Mecklenburger
a speedy recovery for Jerry Berkowitz
a speedy recovery for Jill Fenton

From

Karen Kaplan
David, Rachel, and Reuben Cristol

Library Fund

In Memory of _____

Elaine Stanton

From

Judy Cohen
Margie Zentner
Judie B. and Bob Greenman
Judy Cohen
Rachel, David, and Reuben Cristol

Belle Silberman Cohen
Bernie Appel
Barbara Goldstein
Marcus Cristol
Bernice Cristol Selman
Joseph Cristol
Erna Guggenheim

Margie Zentner

Mitch Stenzler Sunday School Scholarship Fund

In Honor of _____

Harvey Anton, on his birthday
Marty Stenzler, on his 60th birthday

From

Sonya Stenzler and Hubert Chase
Julie and Red Goldstein

Mitch Stenzler Sunday School Scholarship Fund

In Memory of _____

Bernie Appel
Elaine Stanton

From

Edie and Richard Yentis

Archive Fund

In Honor of _____

a speedy recovery for Rabbi Mecklenburger

From

Len and Rose-Marie Schweitzer

Rabbi Zimmerman's Discretionary Fund

In Honor of _____

Rabbi Zimmerman

From

Sandy and Ira Hollander
Joe Klein
Jewish Women International
MunSon Lyons
Marjorie and Alan Kottler
Jim Stanton
Graham & Anntoinette Baker
Marni Phon & Rabbi Ottenstein

Mimi Zimmerman, on obtaining her honorary doctorate
of Jewish Non-Profit Management

Rabbi Zimmerman's Discretionary Fund

In Memory of _____

Guillermo Guzman
Rosalyn Pawgan
Felicía Shloss
Rhoda Fontanelli
Gertrude "Trudy" Lehrner
Sandra Rubín Koslow

From

Jane & Arthur Pawgan
Loretta and Alan Feinberg
Susan Smith
Arlene and Michael Reynolds
Meg and John Rubin

Rabbi Mecklenburger's Discretionary Fund

In Honor of _____

a speedy recovery for Rabbi Mecklenburger

From

Steve & Jean Ginsberg
Jane and Arthur Pawgan
MunSon Lyons
Joan and Howard Katz
Joyce and Jack Gerrick

Rabbi Mecklenburger's Discretionary Fund

In Memory of _____

Mimi and Hal Klotz
Sandra Rubín Koslow

From

Klotz/Phillips family
Meg and John Rubin

Rabbi Ottenstein's Discretionary Fund

In Honor of _____

Rabbi Ottenstein

From

MunSon Lyons
Jane Oderberg
Joan and Howard Katz

President's Discretionary Fund

In Honor of _____

Laurie Kelfer, for her service to Beth-El
Jeff Kaitcer

From

Laurie James
MunSon Lyons

Religious School Fund

In Honor of _____

a speedy recovery for Lynny Sankary
a speedy recovery for Rabbi Mecklenburger

From

Jeanie and Ken Huffman
Len and Rose-Marie Schweitzer
Jeanie and Ken Huffman
Pauline, Gail, and Alan Wittenberg
Rina Arnold
Jewish Women International

Evelyn Siegel, on her 90th birthday
a speedy recovery for Effie Ann Cole
Beth-El Religious School

Religious School Fund

In Memory of _____

Elaine Stanton

From

Jeanie and Ken Huffman
Jane and Arthur Pawgan
Sheri and Richard Allen
Rina Arnold
Jori Andrade
Sheri and Richard Allen
Beverly and Michael Ross
Maddie and Larry Lesnick

Marc Luftman
Ron Arnold

Bettye Baccus
Sara Betty Gilbert
Bernie Appel

**Religious School Fund
In Memory of _____ From**

Brad Gaber Carol and Steve Kline
Harry Hoffman Ellen and Gerry Hoffman
Gabriel Cohen Michele and Fred Reynolds
Jerome Selig Harriet and Joel Selig

**Temple Fund
In Honor of _____ From**

a speedy recovery for Rabbi Mecklenburger Ed and Lynny Sankary
Marilyn and Jack Rubin
Leslie and Sylvan Florsheim
Arlene and Michael Reynolds
Sheri and Richard Allen
Holly and Bill Schur
Jewish Women International
Holly and Bill Schur
Ed and Lynny Sankary
Amy Stien
Laurie and Howard Kelfer
Holly and Bill Schur
Jeff and Randee Kaitcer
Holly and Bill Schur
Amy Stien
Sheri and Richard Allen
Holly and Bill Schur
Laurie S. and Howard Kelfer
Arlene and Michael Reynolds

Beth-El Congregation
Evelyn Siegel, on her 90th Birthday

Herman Morris, on his 90th Birthday
Jeff Kaitcer, on his election as Temple President
a speedy recovery for Sonja Stein
Laurie Kelfer
Marcia Kurtz's Federation Award
Rabbi Mecklenburger
Rabbi Ottenstein
the birth of Elizabeth Margo Sturman

the naming of Eila Sydney Hollander and Clara Judith Wagner

**Temple Fund
In Memory of _____ From**

Adolph Smulian Ed and Lynny Sankary
Alfred Rosenfield Steve and Carol Kline
Allen Klotzman Cheryl and Laurin Baum
Arnold and Harriette Gachman
Stanley and Marcia Kurtz
Sheri and Richard Allen
Amy Stien
Don and Meredith Dalton
Holly and Bill Schur
Ed and Lynny Sankary
Holly and Bill Schur
Richard and Julie Abrams
Richard and Marla Parvey
Jacob and Dana Rosenstein
Cheryl and Laurin Baum
Leslie and Sylvan Florsheim
Lynda Eaton
Melissa and Craig Schwartz
Jeff and Randee Kaitcer
Linda and Jeff Hochster
Alice Dustin
Jane Oderberg
Julian and Marian Haber
Ed and Lynny Sankary
Bruce and Hollace Weiner
Marilyn and Jack Rubin
Nonie and Melvin Schwartz
Arlene and Michael Reynolds
Trudie and Dan Oshman
Holly and Bill Schur
Sam and Joan B. Rosen
Jane and Roger Nober
Steven and Jeanne Ginsberg
Marjorie and Alan Kottler
Laurie S. and Howard Kelfer
Terri and Gary Fulton
Linda and Jeff Hochster
Sam Ross
Stanley and Marcia Kurtz
Pauline, Gail and Alan Wittenberg
Don and Meredith Dalton
Trudie and Dan Oshman
Leslie and Sylvan Florsheim

Burton Abrams
Edgar Parvey
Edwin Couleur
Elaine Cohn Nogen Stanton

Buddy Freed

Barbara Kurtz
Bettye Baccus

Buddy Freed

Elaine Stanton

Erica Hochster
Eva Rosenberg
Fay Kurtz
Gertrude Simon Wiitenberg
Hal Klotz

Harriet Ann Lopin

**Temple Fund
In Memory of _____ From**

Harry Archenhold Leslie and Sylvan Florsheim
Imre Ungar Tamas and Jutka Ungar
Irving Klotzman Arnold and Harriette Gachman
Issac Kleinman Samuel and Diane Kleinman
Jay, Sophia, Maryan, and William Fried Dianne Fried
Joel Klar Margie Klar
Lena Factor Abe and Kim Factor
Madlyn Barnett Lon and Laurie Werner
Mae Cohen Bernice Etkoff
Marcus Lopin Leslie and Sylvan Florsheim
Minni Schorr Bihari Gordon and Deidra Cizon
Mort Werner Lon and Laurie Werner
Nathan Marx Jacobs Amy Stien
Pauline Weiner Bruce and Hollace Weiner
Ron Arnold Jane Oderberg
Stephen and Mary Weis
Bruce and Hollace Weiner
Rick Klotz
Sara Betty Gilbert Ruthie G. Nierman
Susan Ellman and Joel Rosenthal
Jane Oderberg
Leslie and Sylvan Florsheim
Trudie and Dan Oshman
Susan and Bob Archenhold
Leslie and Sylvan Florsheim
Arnold and Harriette Gachman
Cornelia Friedman

Simon Florsheim
Steve Menscher
Wolf Friedman

**Operating Endowment Fund
In Memory of _____ From**

Frederick W. Hall Charles G. Hall and Valerie Hall Frost
Edith Maximon Charles G. Hall and Valerie Hall Frost
Edwin S. Wittenberg Gail, Alan, and Pauline Wittenberg

Tree Fund

In Honor of _____ From
Clara Judith Wagner Michael and Beverly Ross
Eila Sydney Hollander
Adelene Myers Corrine Jacobson

Tree Fund

In Memory of _____ From
Elaine Stanton La Quinta
Sarah Betty Gilbert Carol Courter
Buddy Freed Joan and Howard Katz
Bernie Appel

Endowment #2 Fund

In Honor of _____ From
a speedy recovery for Rabbi Mecklenburger Sheldon and Phyllis Levy

Endowment #2 Fund

In Memory of _____ From
Elaine Stanton Sheldon and Phyllis Levy

Youth Fund

In Memory of _____ From
Joe Garnick Sheri and Richard Allen
Elaine Stanton Sam and Kay Rosenwasser
Angela Klein
Paul Schwartz Gail McDonald

Wish List

Purchase of _____ From
Cameras in the Sanctuary and Chapel Elaine and Allen Schuster
Arnold and Harriette Gachman
Jobe and Helen Richards Foundation
Men of Reform Judaism
Debbie and Les Rosenthal
Jobe and Helen Richardson Foundation

Landscaping in front of the building
Two waste receptacles
AV equipment storage cabinet drawers
Passover Second Night Seder Matzoh and Afikomen Covers
Joan and Howard Katz

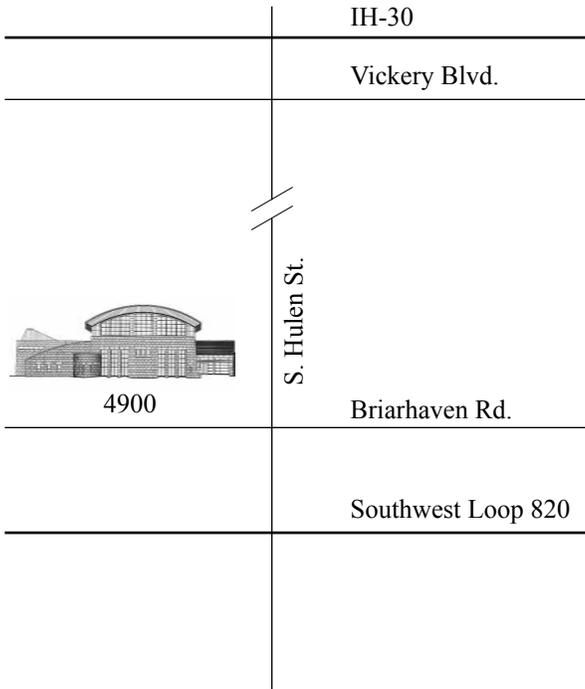
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Make your donation online at www.bethelfw.org.

Contribution Form

Please find enclosed \$ _____ as a donation to the _____ Fund, given in honor of/ memory of _____.

Please send acknowledgment to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Donor Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please send me _____ contribution forms.

Funds (minimum of \$10 except where noted): Temple, Religious School, Youth, Library, Mitch Stenzler Sunday School Scholarship, Rabbi Mecklenburger's Discretionary, Assistant Rabbi Ottenstein's Discretionary, Educator's Discretionary, President's Discretionary, Tree (\$12), Prayerbook (\$30), Floral (\$35), Rosenthal/Siegel Education Endowment (\$50), Operating Endowment (\$50), Endowment #2 (\$50), Tree of Life Leaves (\$300). Please note, **ALL** endowment funds have a minimum contribution amount of \$50.

Please note that any contribution submitted without a designated fund will be placed in the Temple fund.

Make checks payable to Beth-El Congregation and mail to: 4900 Briarhaven Road, Fort Worth, TX 76109. (817-332-7141) **or make your donation online at www.bethelfw.org/donations.**