

THE ART
OF
JEWISH
COMMUNITY

Beth-El Congregation

2024-2025

Lifelong Learning Book

4900 BRIARHAVEN RD
817.332.7141

FORT WORTH TX 76109
BETHELFW.ORG

ART OF JEWISH LIVING

Minyan

Did you Know? Beth-El now has a Daily Minyan.

Members of our community read the list of Kaddish and Sheloshim names Tuesday - Thursday at 6 PM. It takes just twenty minutes for this sacred act of remembering and supporting the community.

**Check the weekly Eblast for any change or cancellation in the daily schedule.*



Kabbalat Shabbat

Friday evenings, all are invited to join the Beth-El Community for a Wine and Cheese Welcome with Friends at 5:30 PM and Shabbat Services at 6:15 PM

**Exceptions will be shared in advance.*



Saturday Shabbat Mornings: A Palace in Time

10:30 AM on September 28, October 5, November and December

More Dates to come for 2025

Experience a more intimate Shabbat service of song, study and rest with Rabbi Brian and Mimi Zimmerman and Angie Friedman once a month on selected Saturday mornings at the Zimmerman's home.

All are welcome. We will study Torah, sing, and take time to embrace the pause that is Shabbat morning rest. A light dairy Kiddush lunch always follows.

Tot Shabbat



Please join us at Beth-El once a month at 5:30 pm for a fun family celebration of Shabbat through music, dancing and art! This service is geared towards ages 0-5. A light snack will be provided.

We can't wait to celebrate with you!

These Fridays at 5:30 in the chapel

September 20 October 18 Sukkot Family Dinner

November 15 December 6

January 17 February 21

March 14 May 2

Sukkot and Simchat Torah Outdoor Celebrations

LUNCH IN THE SUKKAH

The Sukkah will be open every day (during office hours) for those who wish to bring a bag lunch and enjoy this harvest festival.

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 16

5:00 to 7:00 PM - Please join Rabbi Zimmerman, Mimi (and maybe Winter!) for a come-and-go hello with Wine, Cheese and Dessert to welcome Sukkot.

As a Special thanks to our members for all you do, please join us after work, before dinner, after dinner, with kids or without kids, for Wine, Cheese and desserts for all ages sponsored by Rabbi Brian and Mimi to welcome the holiday, shake the Lulav and give thanks to you for being a member of Beth- El.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17

6:00 PM - MRJ Dinner in the Sukkah

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18

6:00 PM - Sukkot Dinner and Family Service (Advance Reservations are required for dinner)



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

Noon - Religious School and Youth Group Lunch and Party in the Sukkah

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22

5:30 PM - WRJ Happy Hour in the Sukkah

7:30 PM - Curious about Conversion Class in the Sukkah

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23

6:15 PM - Simchat Torah Celebration in the Sukkah

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24

10:30 AM - Simchat Torah and Yizkor Service with Makom Shelanu at Beth-El

Chanukah

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8:

Religious School Chanukah Family Celebration

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

Our Annual Pre-Chanukah Tot Bounce House Celebration

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

All Temple, All Ages Family Pre-Chanukah Party and Dinner



Purim

SUNDAY MORNING, MARCH 9

Beth-El Religious School Purim Family Celebration

FRIDAY, MARCH 14

Join us after 6:15 PM services for a special Purim Play with Irish tunes and new lyrics by Rabbi Zimmerman for “Shuffle Off to Shushan,” our musical Irish Purim Shpiel! Audition for a role in advance or come enjoy the shpiel and support our actors.



Passover

The WRJ Second Night Seder will take place on Sunday, April 13, 2025 at 5:30 PM. Reservations are required for Second Night Seder dinner and will be available closer to the date.

Shavuot

INTERFAITH TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT

MANY VOICES, ONE GOD

SUNDAY NIGHT, JUNE 1ST

7 PM UNTIL MIDNIGHT

What is Tikkun Leil Shavuot? A mystical, hundreds of years old tradition of staying up late to explore the giving of Torah in its myriads of ways.

Join members of our Jewish and interfaith communities to discuss and study revelation and religious mission through text, music, comedy, art, cooking, social action and more.

Members of the Jewish and non-Jewish community will join us for concurrent sessions taking place all night. A schedule will be available in early May. Drop in for one session or stay all night.

THIS EVENT IS MADE POSSIBLE IN PART THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF FORT WORTH AND TARRANT COUNTY.



ART OF JEWISH STUDYING

Religious School



Happy 5785!

The Beth-El Religious School is a fun, vibrant, and exciting place where our children come each week to learn, grow, and make beautiful Jewish memories that will last them a lifetime. We are dedicated to creating a nurturing and experiential Jewish educational program that excites and engages our youth! We welcome all of our families with open arms.

Religious School begins on Sunday, September 8 at 9:30 AM with our opening assembly and bagel breakfast.

SAVE THESE DATES:

- Sunday, October 20: Noon – All school Sukkot Party
Sunday, December 8: School Chanukah Carnival
Saturday Night, February 1, 2025: Havdalah Under the Stars
Sunday, March 9: All School Purim Shpiel and Carnival
Friday, April 4: All Religious School Shabbat Service



Hebrew Classes Are Back!

Beginner's Hebrew classes will be offered Sundays at 12:15 PM beginning September 15! Learn to read the Hebrew Alphabet by Chanukah! This class allows new students to master the alphabet. No prior knowledge of Hebrew is required for the beginner class.

For those who wish to continue with the more advanced readers, Prayerbook Hebrew classes will begin January 12! Comfort with the letters and slow reading is expected for this class.

Our teacher is Seme Cooper, a member of our religious and Hebrew school teacher team.

Please note that both classes have a registration and book fee. They are opened to all in the community, Jewish and non-Jewish. If there are financial concerns, contact Rabbi Zimmerman.

THESE CLASSES ARE MADE POSSIBLE IN PART BY THE GENEROSITY OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF FORT WORTH AND TARRANT COUNTY.

Curious About Conversion

Classes begin September 3



Do you know someone who is not Jewish but who has expressed a serious interest in Judaism? The class meets monthly on Tuesday nights.

All who are interested in conversion can explore the customs and culture, festivals and philosophy of Judaism. This year-long class meets monthly and looks at some of the broad themes and ideas, customs and concepts of Jewish life as well as offers participants a safe place to ask questions and to meet others who have already converted.

A prerequisite for this class is an in-person conversation with Rabbi Zimmerman and a commitment to the readings and assignments that are a part of the initial conversion process. While taking this class is a requirement for conversion, it does not commit one to converting. Contact Rabbi Zimmerman with any questions or for more information about this ongoing class.

Finding Our Place in the Jewish Puzzle of Life: A Search for Personal Theology with Rabbi Zimmerman

Have you ever been asked why you are Jewish and found yourself groping for an answer? Has your son or daughter asked you why he or she has to have a Bar or Bat Mitzvah and you knew it mattered but found yourself speechless? As you confront evangelicals with a sure sense of afterlife theology, do you find yourself unable to articulate your own religious belief system?

A conversation without easy answers, this twice monthly class will study philosophers, current articles, interviews and explore Jewish history and texts all with the goal of articulating a personal theology. If this conversation appeals to you, please consider joining us.

Even if you cannot attend twice a month, the ongoing classes will build on each week but also stand independently.

*The First and Third Tuesday of the month at Noon except where noted **

September 3 and 17

October 8* and 15

November 12* and 19

December 3 and 17

January 7 and 21, 2025

February 11* and 18

March 4 and 11*

April 8* and 22*

May 6

Shabbat Preparation with Mikraot Gedolot and Coffee

Rabbi Zimmerman would like to begin a once-a-month Friday morning gathering and study out of the building. This will be a social way to get ready for Shabbat and spend a few minutes looking at *Mikraot Gedolot*, the biblical commentary Jews have used for Torah study for centuries, now translated into English for the first time.

No Hebrew or prior bible study knowledge is required. If interested, contact Rabbi Zimmerman to discuss timing and location.

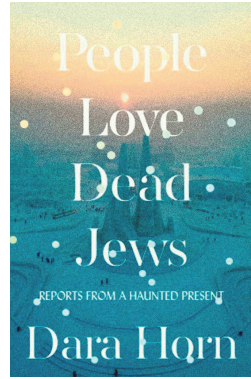


Study with Rabbi Mecklenburger

AN ADULT DISCUSSION OF “PEOPLE LOVE DEAD JEWS”

From Persia’s Shushan to Russia’s Manchuria to America’s Ellis Island, from Shakespeare to Anne Frank and the Holocaust!

Everywhere you turn, says author Dara Horn, Jews become symbols of suffering. “People Love Dead Jews” is sometimes profound, sometimes debatable, and never dull. Join our rabbis on Sunday mornings approximately once a month, 9:30 – 10:40 AM during Religious School, to discuss this fascinating book chapter by chapter. You will love some parts and perhaps hate others, but you will learn much from this unique volume. The book is available in hardback, paperback, Kindle and Amazon.



The class meets in the Board Room on Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17 and Dec. 15. Study dates for 2025 to be announced.

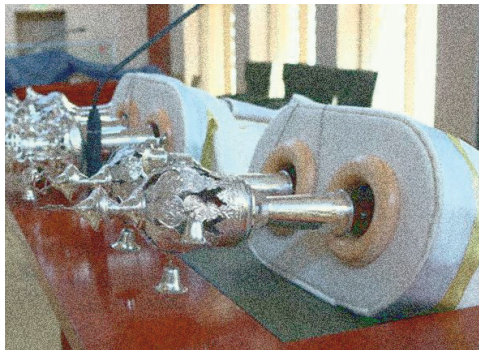
Saturday Torah Study

THE KEY TO UNLOCKING SHABBAT: 9 AM ON ZOOM EVERY SATURDAY

Our Virtual Torah Study continues every Saturday at 9 AM all year long. Join Temple members, Rabbi Mecklenburger and Cantor Monica O’Desky for a line-by-line Torah study and conversation.

This class is a chance to study from your own home and begin the morning with an awareness of Shabbat.

Contact the Temple for Zoom link information. All are welcome to join.



ART OF JEWISH GATHERING

The Beth-El All-Age Family Retreat

November 1-3, 2024 at Greene Family Camp

Join us at Greene Family Camp for a weekend of games, song, campfire, kids activities, adult conversations, arts, ropes and more.

Activities for all ages, from tots to full nests to empty nesters.



Contact Rabbi Zimmerman or Cindy Simon (817-714-5877) right away if you have questions or concerns.

You MUST RSVP by October 15. No late reservations accepted.

Tot Shabbat

Please join us at Beth-El once a month at 5:30 PM for a fun family celebration of Shabbat through music, dancing and art! This service is geared towards ages 0-5 years. A light snack will be provided.

We can't wait to celebrate with you!

These Fridays at 5:30 PM in the chapel.

September 20

October 18 Sukkot Family Dinner

November 15

December 6

January 17, 2025

February 21

March 14

May 2



Sylvia Wolens' Primetimers

Primetimers is a group of adults who come together once a month for meaningful interactions from field trips to musical programs and speakers. Participants and leaders come from the Tarrant County Jewish community.

Join us for new and creative luncheon programs - all are welcome!

Upcoming events, usually on the Second Thursday of the month, include:

SEPTEMBER 19, 2024 Healthy Living Inspired by Jewish Teachings with Remi Haik.

OCTOBER 10, 2024 How to Help Prevent Elder Financial Abuse presented by Tamara Castaldo, case worker for JFS (an agency of the Jewish Federation of Fort Worth & Tarrant County).

FUTURE DATES:

November 14

December 12

January 9, 2025

February 13

March 13

April 10

May 8

Do you have a special talent or skill you'd like to share? Would you like to be added to the email list for upcoming activities? Contact Michelle at hartman8729@sbcglobal.net!



FWFTY, Maccabees, Jr Maccabees and more!

What's it all mean?

Beth-El Congregation values youth engagement and offers age-appropriate ways for youth to connect with the Temple. We know the future of the Temple lies with our youth and their Jewish identity. Find the right connection for your youth.



BETH-EL'S FOUR YOUTH GROUPS & EVENTS FOR AGES OF YOUTH

JUNIOR MACCABEES (BIRTH-KINDERGARTEN)

Co-chairs for this group are Brittany Walker (brittany.harwood.walker@gmail.com) and Lian Horenblas!

MACCABEES (1ST - 4TH GRADE)

Chelsey Davidson, mrschelseydavidson@gmail.com, is our chair for this group.

BETH-EL JUNIOR YOUTH OR BEJY (5TH - 7TH GRADE)

Have a kid in this age group? Contact our BEJY advisor and youth committee chair, Cindy Simon, teamsimon1998@gmail.com.

FORT WORTH FEDERATION OF TEMPLE YOUTH OR FWFTY (8TH - 12TH GRADE)



Have a teen in this age group? Contact rabbiz@bethelfw.org or FWFTY Co-Presidents, Conor Maxon and Erin Beck-Johnson.

These different groups enjoyed a wonderful year of fun activities including outdoor splash days, Meow Wolf, roller skating, WhirlyBall, Cidercade and a tour of the Bureau of Engraving.

Please join us!

Beth-El's Movie Nights 2024-2025

COME SPEND A NIGHT AT BETH-EL'S MOVIE NIGHTS!

The cost is free and snacks are provided. So what are you waiting for? Check the bulletin and Eblasts for more information.

Movies to Heal the Soul

Secular films, Jewish texts, High Holy Day Preparations

How do we find our way back when we have strayed from the path? Where is God in a deeply impersonal world? Is change and repentance still possible in a broken world?

Join Rabbi Zimmerman for this film series of his favorite “secular” American films that explore deeply religious and personal ideas followed by a discussion that incorporates relevant Jewish texts considering God, the possibility of change and relationships in modern society.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 6 PM

PIG

Nicolas Cage in his best film role portrays a hermit who lives in an Oregon Forest with his truffle finding pig. When the



prized companion is kidnapped, Cage must return to the cutthroat world he left to find his only remaining companion. Part meditation, part action film and part dry satire of the high-end food service industry, “Pig” is a study in finding your way back after a great loss.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21, 6PM

ONE LIFE

Anthony Hopkins stars as Sir Nicholas “Nicky” Winton in this true story of a young man who, in the months leading up to World War II, rescued over 600 children from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia. This is an inspiring film about the power of one man to save a life in midst of unthinkable evil.

The 2025 Film Series Presents New Voices, New Stories:

HOW YOUNGER GENERATIONS TELL THEIR JEWISH STORY

Rabbi Zimmerman is preparing a new series centered around Younger American Jewish Directors, Writers, Actors and their vision. Details and films are still being considered as of the printing of this book. Please hold these dates and check in the bulletin and Eblast later this fall for titles.

2025 DATES

February 15	April 5
August 23	November 8
December 6	



Temple Mah Jongg Gatherings

COME JOIN THE FUN AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS

Two groups will meet every other week beginning in October.

Thursdays from 10 AM - Noon - Beth-El Congregation

and

Saturdays at 1 PM - Broadway Cityview gated community's activity room

Contact Michelle Hartman (hartman8729@sbcglobal.net) to join and get dates.

No prior experience required!

ART OF JEWISH PRESENCE

Brite Divinity School Opportunities

SEPTEMBER 16: 27th Annual Gates of Chai Lectureship in Contemporary Judaism, “The Hebrew Bible and the Afterlife: Misconceptions and Reconsiderations”

SEPTEMBER 24: Cristol Webinar “Rabbis and Demons in the Talmud”

November 20: Cristol Webinar “Photographic Representations of the Holocaust: Reading the Invisible and the Absent in Post-Holocaust Photography”

The Program in Jewish Studies at Brite Divinity School
Invites you to attend

The 27th Annual Gates of Chai
Lectureship in Contemporary Judaism

**The Hebrew Bible and the Afterlife:
Misconceptions and Reconsiderations**

Featuring
Dr. Benjamin D. Sommer

Monday, September 16, 2024
Dee J. Kelly Alumni Center
2820 Stadium Drive
On the TCU Campus
7:00 p.m.
Reception to follow

BRITE
DIVINITY SCHOOL

brite.edu/gates

JEWISH STUDIES
PROGRAM

People of the Book Club

Our Temple book group, **People of the Book**, meets on Tuesday mornings approximately every six weeks. We take turns leading a discussion on a variety of books. Each book has some Jewish connection to either its author or its content. We encourage everyone to join us for the lively discourse that takes place.

Our most recent books include:

All Those Things We Never Said by Marc Levy
A Remarkable Kindness by Diana Bletter
Florence Adler Swims Forever by Rachel Beanland
Invisible City by Julia Dahl

For more information or to be added to the email reminder list, contact Sheryl Levy at slevy2608@gmail.com

Social Action/Social Justice

The Torah tells us *Tzedek, Tzedek Tirdof*, “Justice, Justice, you shall pursue.” After the studying, celebrating and debating, Judaism is also about doing. We work to make the world a more just place.

This year, we hope to provide assistance to several local organizations, which in turn provide essential help in our community and around the world. If you have an organization or an idea that you think the Temple should assist and if you would like a leadership role in new or current projects, please contact Rabbi Zimmerman.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN A CHILD’S LIFE



In just one hour a week, you can help first grade children learn to love reading by becoming a Reading Mentor in a joint Beth-El/Ahavath Sholom program.

You’ll be paired with first graders at nearby Westcliff Elementary on South Drive and work one-on-one with one or two children for 30 minutes weekly during the school year, from mid-October through May. If you have a conflict or are traveling,

a substitute tutor can cover for you.

No experience is needed; just attend a 90-minute training session to learn how to help a child improve his/her reading skills using a simple, structured guide.

Not only do the students improve their reading skills and confidence, but they also typically do better overall both academically and socially.

For more information, contact Phyllis Levy 817-346-3550 or Jim Stanton 817-307-9167.

As the Talmud states: *The true guardians of a community are the teachers.*

PROMOTIONAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF FORT WORTH AND TARRANT COUNTY

TARRANT COUNTY COMMUNITY MITZVAH DAY
Sunday, January 26th 10 AM
Congregation Ahavath Sholom

On Sunday, January 26, join the entire Jewish community of Tarrant County as we gather for the the third annual Community Mitzvah Day.

200+ Religious School students from Congregation Ahavath Sholom, Beth-El Congregation, Chabad of Fort Worth, Chabad of Southlake, Congregation Beth Israel, and Congregation Beth Shalom are expected to participate In this event with an outward care focus.

It is an opportunity to teach children the importance of providing kindness and care to others as they engage in an effort to improve the quality of many lives in our local and global communities, both Jewish and non-Jewish.



SUPPORT DEZAVALA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

With approximately 80% of the children who attend DeZavala living below the poverty line, Beth-El continues to support this historic school in serving Fort Worth students. School supplies from the FWISD lists are collected during the High Holy Days for delivery to the school. Donations can be dropped in the collection bins throughout the building.

In addition, Beth-El's WRJ is partnering with local Christian congregations to provide Snack Sacks, nutritious snacks that go home on Fridays to ensure children have food until they return to Monday's free breakfast. Also, Beth-El is spearheading a Thanksgiving food pantry for these families to pick up needed food staples for the Thanksgiving and Winter Break. Contact Ruth Roper or Pattie Wood to assist with these collections.

Beth-El Men of Reform Judaism (MRJ)

The MRJ is a social membership organization of men who join in friendship for programs to benefit the temple and its congregants, the local Jewish community and the MRJ organization. They offer fellowship, conduct activities throughout the year, and serve as a source of ongoing support to the temple. Some of the ongoing and upcoming activities include:



USHERING for High Holy Day services

STREAMING AND RECORDING of Shabbat and Bar/Bat Mitzvah services

SEPTEMBER 29 Building the Temple Sukkah

OCTOBER 17 MRJ night in the Sukkah

OCTOBER 20 Annual Matzo Ball Classic golf tournament - Fun and fundraising at the same time

MRJ AFTER HOURS Happy Hour and other social events

LATKES, LATKES, LATKES Hundreds of them cooked, for sale, and served during Chanukah

DECEMBER 24 Christmas Eve Chinese dinner and trivia

PROFESSIONAL CATERING SERVICES for Temple and community events such as Bar/Bat Mitzvah luncheons, Movie Nights, Cuisine of Our Heritage programs, Chanukah Dinner, Religious School programs and Jewish War Veterans and the Annual Meeting

FEBRUARY 28 Annual MRJ Shabbat service led by members

MAY 4 Sponsor the Annual Mickey Goldman Spaghetti Dinner and Award recognizing a temple member who has made a significant difference to both our Temple family and community

PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS for graduating high school seniors, and camperships to Greene Family Camp

Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ)

Beth-El's Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ) embraces the essence of "Sisterhood," bringing together a diverse group of women to celebrate and strengthen their common bonds. Whether you grew up Jewish, have a Jewish partner, or you're raising a Jewish child in a world that isn't always understanding, WRJ provides opportunities to grow in a warm, supportive environment.



Our members are leaders within the congregation and the community, who advocate for progressive Jewish values and cultivate spiritual growth and lifelong friendships. Our focus this year is nurturing our connections.

WRJ supports activities for all ages and stages: please join us for a happy hour or in the kitchen to make hamantaschen or help create the magic of our Second Night Seder.

WRJ relies on membership participation in all aspects from planning holiday receptions and programming to operating the Gift Shop in Beth-El. Your support of the Gift Shop helps raise additional funds for the Religious School and Camp Scholarships.

WRJ President: Laurie James, wrj.bethel@gmail.com, 817-994-4781

WRJ CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2024-2025

September 15	Rosh Hashanah Bake-In, Beth-El kitchen
September 21	Membership kick-off
September 29	Rosh Hashanah Bake-In, Beth-El kitchen
October 22	Happy Hour in the Sukkah
November 10	Annual Brunch
December 22	Chanukah Book & Cookie Exchange
February 13	Happy Hour
February 23	Hamentashen Bake-in
March 30 & April 6	Second Night Seder Cook-in
April 13	Second Night Passover Congregational Seder
May 9	WRJ Shabbat



High Holy Days Service Schedule

ROSH HASHANAH

Wednesday, October 2	7:30 PM	Evening Service
Thursday, October 3	9:00 AM	Family Service
	10:30 AM	Morning Service

KEVER AVOT CEMETERY SERVICES

Sunday, October 6	10:00 AM	Hebrew Rest Cemetery
	11:00 AM	Greenwood Cemetery

YOM KIPPUR

Friday, October 11	8:00 PM	Evening Service
Saturday, October 12	9:00 AM	Family Service
	10:30 AM	Morning Service
	12:45 PM	Discussion in Library
<i>Israel, America, and Jewish Fort Worth: Navigating the New Jewish World</i>		
	2:15 PM	Afternoon Service
	3:30 PM	Jewish Reflection and Song
	4:15 PM	Yizkor and Concluding Service

OUR MISSION: *To meet the spiritual, educational, social and religious needs of its members through the teachings and practices of Reform Judaism and to connect members to their Jewish identity and community.*