



A Welcoming Reform Jewish Congregation serving
Chantilly Virginia and the surrounding area

www.bethtorah.net

June–July 2017
Sivan–Av 5777



Upcoming Temple Events

Shabbat Service	Friday, June 02, 2017	07:30pm
Price Bar Mitzvah	Saturday, June 03, 2017	10:00am
Finding and Living the Sacred w/ Rabbi Block	Wednesday, June 07, 2017	07:30pm
Shabbat Service	Friday, June 23, 2017	07:30pm
Yaunches Bat Mitzvah	Saturday, June 24, 2017	10:00am
Ladies Book Club	Tuesday, July 11, 2017	07:30pm
Shabbat Service	Friday, July 21, 2017	07:30pm
Sock Hop-Dalah	Saturday, July 22, 2017	06:00pm

Proper attire is encouraged at all services. Please see the weekly Blast for Chaverim listings.

Cantor Selection Process

Your Cantorial Search Committee is in the process of finalizing the recommendation to the Executive Committee for Temple Beth Torah's next Cantor/Cantorial Soloist. Following the approval of the Executive Committee, the recommendation will be presented to the congregation for a final vote. According to the Bylaws of TBT, the recommended candidate must be ratified by a two-thirds vote of the member units of the congregation.

Thanks to all members who took the time to provide feedback on both of our finalists, Adam Davis and Lauren Laird. We have received many responses back and have utilized those responses as input for extensive discussion within the search committee to ensure we provide the best recommendation. We have also completed extensive reference and background checks and had many conversations with Rabbi Block. The search team will use all of these components plus our conversations with each applicant based on the job requirement expectations in order to make the recommendation that we feel will best serve TBT in the role of a spiritu-

al leader of the temple, performing as Cantor/Cantorial Soloist, assisting within Religious School components such as T'filah and Bar/Bat Mitzvah training and helping to gain new members.

The final steps on how to present the recommendation to the congregation and the voting process are still being formulated, and in fact may have already been announced by the time this newsletter update is published. We envision that each and every member unit will be provided a ballot for voting electronically, to ensure that we have the necessary two-thirds vote and approval for the recommended candidate. We are all very excited for the culmination of this search process and the introduction of TBT's next Cantor/Cantorial Soloist.

If anyone has any questions about the search process or would like to provide thoughts and ideas please feel free to email me at dbarondess@yahoo.com.

David Barondess
Search Committee Chairman

Temple Beth Torah Contact List

Main Number & Mailing Address

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Vice President

Marci Jerome (703) 961-9009 vicepresident@bethtorah.net
(Calendar, Religious School)

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Recording Secretary

Debra Kabalkin (703) 722-6055 secretary@bethtorah.net
(Sisterhood VP)

Corresponding Secretary

Barbara Sutliff (703) 968-6852 correspond@bethtorah.net
(Newsletter)

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Sisterhood

Stacey Huse (703) 266-3037 sisterhood@bethtorah.net

Brotherhood

Open position brotherhood@bethtorah.net

Past President

Linda Sue Wever (703) 802-1713

Directions to Building

4212-C Technology Court, Chantilly, VA 20151

From Route 66: Get off at Route 28 North. Go North to Route 50 West. Travel west on Route 50. Turn left on Pleasant Valley Rd. Turn left on Lafayette Center Dr. Turn left on Technology Court.

TBT Caring Committee

Have you ever wondered how to notify the TBT Board of a life-cycle event? TBT is here to support you. Contact: Lori Kravchick at caringcommittee@bethtorah.net

Chaverim Signup Reminder

Please remember to sign up for Chaverim duties at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050e4aa8ac2aa64-temple>
We need everyone to sign up for two dates. Please help make our wonderful TBT services successful!

Weather closures will be announced via an Email Blast, on our Facebook page and posted on the home page of the website www.bethtorah.net. Please use your judgment, as weather conditions may vary depending on where you live.

The **Temple Beth Torah Yahrzeit Memorial Wall** is a way to honor the memories of our departed loved ones. It is displayed in our sanctuary. A light will burn next to their name on all yahrzeit and yizkor observances. The order form can be found on our website at www.bethtorah.net. Click on Make a Contribution on the top right of the Home page.



Support TBT While Shopping on Amazon!

From now on, before you start shopping on Amazon, start with the link on the bottom of the Temple Beth Torah home page at bethtorah.net. Amazon will contribute to TBT every time you make a purchase after using the link.

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A Message from President Jayne Ayers

The State of TBT

The following is the text of my speech to the congregation at our annual meeting.

Hello and thank you for being here today.

First, I would like say many thanks for your confidence in me during this past year of transition. We started our term almost one year ago—without a Director of Education or a Cantor. And, we have all stepped up and stepped in to fill these voids.

A big thank you for the hard work and investment of time that our Board members have demonstrated this year. It has taken each and every one of you to accomplish all that we have accomplished, including the day to day operations of our building, our Shabbat Services, Bnai Mitzvahs and our Religious School.

A special thanks to my co-horts—Marci Jerome and Mike Erstling. In addition to their expertise in Education and Finance, they are a constant voice of reason and have been invaluable advisors and partners as we make important decisions regarding TBT.

I would be remiss if I didn't call special attention to Lauren Laird. As many of you know, Lauren offered to “help” us with the Cantorial duties while we put a search committee in place and determined the Cantorial Search process. Help is an understatement. Lauren has not only taken on the Cantorial responsibilities for the past High Holiday services and our Shabbat services, but has performed many B'nai Mitzvah's, including helping to prepare our students *and* running our weekly Tefilah services during Religious School. Lauren is also a candidate for the Cantor position and has graciously offered to continue the Cantor responsibilities during the search process. Lauren—we can *never ever* thank you enough. We are so grateful to have you, Pete and Ewan as part of our TBT family.

So, a bit about the State of TBT.

- We have welcomed 8 new families to TBT
- As Mike said, our financial status is stable. With the money we have in reserves, we can fulfill the terms of our lease, even as our annual lease payments increase—even with our current number of members.
- The Pillars program brought a new way for our mem-

bers to make additional contributions to TBT. We hope you will consider becoming a Pillar in the coming year and take advantage of the additional member benefits. Your participation will help us develop new programs for our members and our students.

- We have had a successful school year—with approximately 80 students – ranging from first grade through 10th grade. Our students participated in many Field Trips, including a Rebecca Tea Party for the 2nd and 3rd graders, the Immigration program for the 6th graders, Holocaust Museum visit for 7th graders, and the 8th and 9th graders visited Floris Methodist Church and a Mosque—learning about different religions. We plan to expand our field trips for the coming school year.



- Our students participated in several Community Service projects. Making lasagne's for local Homeless Shelters, collecting food for the local Food Bank and preparing and sending back packs to children in Afghanistan. Our back pack program even received an article in the Washington Jewish Weekly.

- Our building has weathered a new owner and we a new neighbor. We continue to stay on top of all things related to our building and look forward to additional improvements, including bookshelves for our Religious School library. Did anyone even notice our new trashcans?

- Through the hard work of Joe Sutliff and Jeff Horner, we have been awarded a Google Grant to help improve our web presence and search engine optimization.
- Our Torah Tots program continues to thrive and grow—as we look forward to welcoming these youngsters in to our Religious School.
- We have had some awesome events – starting with the Brotherhood Picnic, school-wide Hanukkah party, Pizza in the Hut, Murder Mystery, Kid Junction outing, Sisterhood Golf outing and Community Seder. And, still to come, the Cinco de Mayo Member Appreciation Dinner, Teacher Appreciation Shabbat and this summer, our Sock Hop-dalah (try saying that 10 times fast).
- And the Team TBT initiative may not have gotten our members out to many more events than normal, but

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President's Annual Meeting Speech continued

it *did* create a positive and energetic program to help us get to know our fellow members a little better. Many thanks to the fabulous Jen Stawasz for being our Number One Cheerleader.

What's the plan for the coming year? Many things.

First—we will be continuing and finalizing the Cantorial Search process. The Cantorial Search Committee has advertised our position, reviewed many resumes, interviewed several candidates and narrowed down the candidates to two—Lauren Laird and Adam Davis. Adam will be participating in our Shabbat Service this Friday, April 28th with Rabbi Block. We hope that you and your family are able to attend. After that service, the Board will meet to determine which candidate we feel is the best choice for TBT and then based on our bylaws, will hold a congregational meeting and ask the Congregation to vote – requiring that we have 2/3's of our member family units vote to finalize a candidate. More information will be sent regarding the next steps in this process.

Dr. Marci Jerome—who has her PhD in Special Education, will continue to spearhead our Religious School. Working with Jeff Horner and our Cantor—they will be reviewing and updating all things Religious School—including the Curriculum. Our Cantor will have a very involved role in Religious

School—which is different from the past. We feel that adding some of the aspects of Religious School to the Cantor's duties—will benefit all students, especially as they reach 5th and 6th grade and begin preparation for the B'nai Mitzvahs.

Our priority for the year will be to increase our Marketing efforts and Membership. These two efforts go hand in hand and we ask that you, our members, help spread the word. In addition to making sure that when someone Googles Reform Synagogue or Interfaith Synagogue or the dozens of other ways we are known—that Temple Beth Torah pops up. We will also be evaluating print advertising and participation in both Jewish and non-Jewish events. We are actually exhibiting at the South Riding Spring Festival May 5th and will be sending out requests for help manning our booth. We are looking for additional opportunities to participate with other communities as well—and will certainly keep everyone posted.

It's been a great year here at TBT. Personally, it's been one of the most fulfilling experiences for me. I have learned, met many, many members and made life long friends.

My hope for the coming year is the same for all of us—and that our Jewish values keep us grounded in our sometimes turbulent world.

—Jayne

Finding & Living the Sacred

Presented by Rabbi Block—meets once a month on Wednesday nights.

Explanations for the sacred given by traditional Judaism does not hold up when examined thoughtfully in the light of our accumulated knowledge. Consequently we no longer see anything as sacred. The sacred and connections to the sacred are all around us. Finding the sacred depends not on insisting that we return to what we know is not believable. We all suspend disbelief in order to enjoy books and movies. We do not need to suspend disbelief in order to find the sacred. Rather we need to have the courage and the inspiration to let go of the old, and to imagine the new.

Rabbi Kushner says that spirituality is where you and God meet and what you do about it. It doesn't have to be, "other worldly," such as in Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus." For most people, spirituality is ordinary and every day. It's a buzzword today. Earlier generations probably called the same idea sacred or holy. One of the great Jewish philosophers of all time, Abraham Joshua Heschel, who is a great mystical theologian, suggested that spirituality is life lived in the continuous presence of the divine.

Each class is self contained and does not build on the previous class. Each month we explore a topic that teaches us how to be in the presence of the Divine.

The next scheduled meeting is June 7. Please join us.

High Holiday Torah Readers Needed



Once again we will be reaching out to the Post-B'nai Mitzvah students to assist us in reading the Torah on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

We will need a few more readers. If you are interested—adults, post-B'nai Mitzvah or returning post-graduates—please contact Jeff Horner at jhorner788@gmail.com.

A Message from Rabbi Kenneth Block

Don't Kill the Piano Player

In my 70 years living on this planet I have never seen the emotion of anger more pervasive. Along with anger goes the blame game, it goes like this. It's not my fault I am angry, you made me angry. If you hadn't done what you did to me I would not be angry. So it is your fault not mine that I am upset. Now you should be punished so I can feel better about what you did to me. Don't you see I am the innocent victim!

The reality is that anger is a self generated emotion. The fact that you deny this "inconvenient truth" does change the fact. Your anger is not my fault. Perhaps you will believe some Jewish advice.

Rabbi Eliezer says: "...*Do not be easy to anger.*" (Avot 2:10)

Anger is one of the traits most condemned in Jewish literature. "Someone who gets angry," we are told, "is like one who worships idols." (Maimonides, Mishneh Torah)

Anger can cause a sage to lose his wisdom, or a person who is destined for greatness to forfeit it. (*Talmud, Pesachim 66b*)

It's not hard to see why. When we get angry, we tend to act irrationally. Things said or done in anger are almost always destructive and cause for later regret.

Everyone gets angry occasionally, but some people are more prone to anger than others. They may have a short fuse and blow up over small things, or they may be chronically irritable. However it is manifested, anger that is not dealt with in a healthy way is dangerous for the angry person and for those close to him or her.

Dealing with anger is a lifelong challenge, but the results are unquestionably worth it. A person who learns to control, or at least reduce, his anger will be surprised by how greatly his life and relationships improve—at home and at work.

In the letters of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, there are several pieces of advice about dealing with anger. The Rebbe's guidance ranges from simple, practical suggestions to more advanced meditations that address the root causes of our anger; ourselves!

The Rebbe writes: *Regarding what you wrote about the traits of anger and pride: As with anything else, the way to correct these is step by step.*

The first step is to wait. Don't express your anger or pride verbally. In this way, those emotions will not gain momentum.

If you feel yourself getting angry, stop, take a deep and wait a minute before you react. The anger may dissipate when the heat of the moment has passed.

Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi explains that we must constantly remember that the Creator of the world is watching at every moment: "*Behold, God stands over him, and the whole world is full of His glory, and He looks upon him and examines his conscience and heart to see if he is serving Him as is fitting.*"

Somehow, it's easier to hang onto our self-control when we know that someone is watching. And the truth is, Someone is always watching. This idea is useful for dealing with most negative traits and behaviors.

Here's a practical piece of advice that is fairly easy to follow: If we realize that our anger has consequences, we will think and behave differently. If you hurt someone's feelings—even out of anger—you must apologize in person and ask for complete forgiveness.

It is by nature difficult for a person to apologize. Nevertheless, you should overcome that difficulty and do it. In that way, every time you are about to get angry, you will remember that afterwards you will have to brace yourself and ask for forgiveness.... That itself will help you weaken your tendency towards anger.

Finally, there is one idea that, when understood and employed properly, can uproot anger at its source. The Alter



Rebbe explains why anger is compared to idolatry. Granted, anger is a negative trait, but how can it be compared to idol worship?

The Alter Rebbe puts it like this: *The reason is clear to those that have understanding: because at the time of his anger, faith has departed from him. For were he to believe that what happened to him is of God's doing, he would not become angry at all.*

And though it is a person possessed of free choice who is cursing him, or hitting him, or causing damage to his money, and therefore is guilty according to the laws of man and the laws of Heaven for having chosen evil—nevertheless, as regards the person harmed—this was already decreed from Heaven, and "the Omnipresent has many deputies."

Getting angry means you don't have faith that what's happening to you is really coming from God. The person you're angry at is just a messenger. Now, obviously, he or she still had free choice, and will be held accountable. But getting angry is not the answer. Rather than asking, "Why is this person hurting me?" ask a bigger question: "What is God trying to tell me in this moment?"

Making these ideas part of your consciousness is the work of a lifetime.

In Remembrance

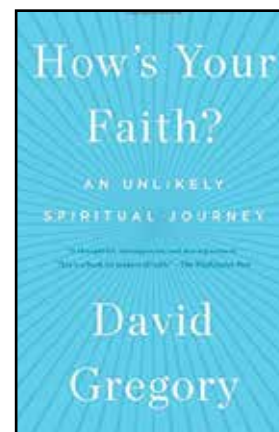
Congregant(s)	Remember	Relationship	Date of Death	Hebrew Date	When Hebrew Date Occurs
Anne & Eric Wieder	Ronnie Wieder	Mother of Eric	6/2/08	28 Iyar 5768	5/24/17
Audrey & David Lipps	Bernard Lipps	Father of David	6/4/02	24 Sivan 5762	6/18/17
Barbara & Joseph Sutliff	Lisa Chester	Cousin of Barbara	6/6/87	9 Sivan 5747	6/3/17
Barbara & Joseph Sutliff	Gloria Moreno Sutliff	Mother of Joe	6/6/09	14 Sivan 5769	6/8/17
Heidi & Robert Hirsh	Edward Robert Kargman	Father of Heidi	6/10/70	6 Sivan 5730	5/31/17
Bonnie & Earl Schendell	David Brownstein	Brother of Bonnie	6/11/14	13 Sivan 5774	6/7/17
Ana Kocur & Irwin Kaplan	Libby Goldstein	Grandmother of Irwin	6/18/15	1 Tamuz 5775	6/25/17
Linda Sue Wever	Beverly Yanoff	Mother of Linda Sue	6/18/97	13 Sivan 5757	6/7/17
Josie & David Barondess	Fischel Fred Spiegel	Uncle of David	6/19/71	26 Sivan 5731	6/20/17
Joanne & Rob Doolittle	Janet Weiner	Mother of Joanne	6/19/08	16 Sivan 5768	6/10/17
Daria & Jeffrey Parnes	Anna Botsko	Grandmother of Daria	6/25/83	14 Tamuz 5743	7/8/17
Audrey & David Lipps	Meyer Lipps	Grandfather of David	6/27/76	29 Sivan 5736	6/23/17
Audrey & David Lipps	Evelyn Safran Barnett	Grandmother Audrey	6/29/97	24 Sivan 5757	6/18/17
Elizabeth & Bruce Brotman	Victoria Brotman	Mother of Bruce	6/29/13	21 Tamuz 5773	7/15/17
Lauren & Brian Craypoff	Libby Schreiber	Grandmother of Lauren	6/30/11	28 Sivan 5771	6/22/17
Melissa & Jay Margolis	Louis Serota	Grandfather of Melissa	7/X/1985		
Joanne & Darcy Wertz	Evelyn Rosenbaum Linchuck	Mother of Joanne	7/5/72	23 Tamuz 5732	7/17/17
Joyce & Brian Goodman	Jeanne Goodman	Mother of Brian	7/5/91	23 Tamuz 5751	7/17/17
Barbara & Joseph Sutliff	Geraldyn Eckber	Aunt of Barbara	7/5/16	29 Sivan 5776	6/23/17
Lori Childers	Ida Rappaport	Grandmother of Lori	7/7/11	5 Tamuz 5771	6/29/17
Josie & David Barondess	Belle T Barondess	Grandmother of David	7/13/77	27 Tamuz 5737	7/21/17
Anne & Michael Beaudreau	Ruth Kornfeld	Grandmother of Anne	7/13/85	24 Tamuz 5745	7/18/17
Barbara & Joseph Sutliff	Shirley Iancu	Mother of Barbara	7/13/06	17 Tamuz 5766	7/11/17
Anne & Michael Beaudreau	William Wasserstrom	Cousin of Anne	7/13/09	21 Tamuz 5769	7/15/17
Linda Mitchell	Don Mitchell	Husband of Linda	7/17/12	27 Tamuz 5772	7/21/17
Beth & Ron Glaser	Richard Glaser	Brother of Ronald	7/20/11	18 Tamuz 5771	7/12/17
Lori & Eric Kravchick	Murray Prince	Grandfather of Eric	7/25/80	12 Av 5740	8/4/17

*After sunset

Additions and corrections to the yahrzeit list may be sent to yahrzeit@bethtorah.net

TBT Ladies Book Club

Please join us for this “pot-luck” style book club that meets every *other* month on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30PM. This club is open to all TBT women. Plan to bring a drink or appetizer to share! Our book for the July 11th meeting is *How’s Your Faith?* by David Gregory. You don’t have to read the book to enjoy book club! Contact Beth Thomas at mbtjthomas@gmail.com.



Thank you for Your Donation

Dorothy & Donald (John) Lewy
Roberta & Ronald Milberg
Ina Mayer
Elizabeth & Stephen Ward

Good Deeds Day
In Loving Memory of Irvin A. Fleishman
In Loving Memory of Edward Feld & Madeline Feld
In Loving Memory of Frances Galvin Ward

Team TBT *Wrap Up* by Jennifer Stawasz

So, in case you didn’t know, we’ve had this thing this year called *Team TBT!* Each family was placed on a social team, we had a little friendly competition, and we earned some points. Or at least that was how it was supposed to work. In reality, we all, myself included, got busy with our lives and forgot all about those pesky points. That’s ok. In my opinion, *Team TBT!* was still a resounding success. In order for me to explain why, let me explain to you the motivation behind the *Team TBT!* initiative.

Two years ago, at my son Aidan’s Bar Mitzvah, I had to give a speech. For months, I worked on ideas for this speech, and I came up with an elaborate metaphor in which I compared life to a Subway sandwich. I had all the details meticulously planned out. “You’re the meat,” I said. “You get to pick the kind of meat and all the vegetables.” I explained how each ingredient represented a life choice, and that some days you would make good choices, and other days, not such good choices. Then I added that we, as parents, are the bread. We are not what defines the sandwich, but we are what surrounds and supports it. I was pretty proud of this elaborate metaphor that I had spent so long developing.

A little later in the service, Mary Horner came up to present the gift from the Synagogue. Now, Mary had not known about my Subway sandwich analogy, mind you. But, in a way that seemed so natural to me, she added to it. She said, “If you are the meat, and your parents are the bread, I hope TBT can be the wrapper.”

It was beautiful! “How did she come up with that so quick-



ly?” I wondered. After all, I had spent countless hours developing my metaphor. And then it hit me. It came to her so naturally because that was the reality. She was already living it, but for me, I wasn’t quite there yet. If we allow it, I realized, TBT really can be the wrapper that holds us together, that catches the crumbs when they fall. That was a pivotal moment for me and my relationship with TBT.

Fast forward a year or more. Our TBT community was struck with quite a few shocks, and it occurred to me that we could all collectively benefit from a wrapper to hold us together. That’s how *Team TBT!* was born. *Team TBT!* has three principles: community, friendship, belonging. The goal was to make each and every member feel like TBT is your second

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Temple Beth Torah
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home, that you belong, and that you have a place that will be there if the crumbs begin to fall. In that respect, I believe we have made remarkable progress in the past year, building on the decades of community-building efforts that came before us.

This year alone, we have hosted two dinners—the Murder Mystery Night and the Cinco de Mayo celebration—each of which had attendance of over 75 people! We will be hosting a third—the Sock Hop Havdalah—on July 22. In addition, throughout the year, our community has come together in support of one another for holidays, religious services, charitable projects, social events, children’s events, moments of sadness, and moments of simcha. In the words of our beloved president, Jayne Ayers, “Our TBT family rocks!”

Team TBT! may be ending, but the spirit of *Team TBT!* is just beginning. Our community is growing. Our sense of friendship is strengthening. And you are an important part of our TBT family, one with whom I am proud to share a wrapper.

—Jennifer Stawasz



Sock Hop Shabbat–July 22

Come on, everybody, let’s do the twist!

**TBT will be hosting our very first
Sock Hop-dalah. Havdalah Services
followed by dinner and dancing.**

Get those poodle skirts ready.

More details coming soon.