



A Welcoming Reform Jewish Congregation serving  
Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William counties

[www.bethtorah.net](http://www.bethtorah.net)

**October–November 2017**  
Tishrei–Kislev 5778



## Upcoming Temple Events

Shabbat Service	Friday, October 27, 2017	07:30 pm
Jakob Huse Bar Mitzvah	Saturday, October 28, 2017	10:00 am
Religious School, K-7, 10	Sunday, October 29, 2017	09:00 am
Torah Tots	Sunday, October 29, 2017	10:30 am
NO Religious School	Sunday, November 05, 2017	
Veteran's Day Shabbat	Friday, November 10, 2017	07:30 pm
Nosh-n-Drosh	Saturday, November 11, 2017	10:30 am
Religious School, K-7, 8/9, 10, Post-Confirmation	Sunday, November 12, 2017	09:00 am
Torah Tots	Sunday, November 12, 2017	10:30 am
Ladies Book Club	Tuesday, November 14, 2017	07:30 pm
Pajama Shabbat	Friday, November 17, 2017	07:00 pm
Women's Led Shabbat Service (more details soon)	Saturday, November 18, 2017	10:30 am
Mimosa Brunch	Saturday, November 18, 2017	12:00 pm
Religious School, K-7, 8/9, 10	Sunday, November 19, 2017	09:00 am
Torah Tots	Sunday, November 19, 2017	10:30 am
NO Religious School	Sunday, November 26, 2017	

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

## Future Events—Watch for more details soon!

Tequila Shabbat! Coming December 1, 2017

Interfaith Potluck & Discussion on December 10, 2017 (see page 4)

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## Temple Beth Torah Contact List

### Main Number & Mailing Address

Temple Beth Torah  
PO Box 2020  
Centreville, VA 20122  
Phone: (703) 263-2252

### President

Jayne Ayers (703) 803-3581      president@bethtorah.net

### Vice President

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

### Treasurer

Mike Erstling (571) 224-8535      treasurer@bethtorah.net

### Recording Secretary

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

### Corresponding Secretary

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

### Members at Large

Jennifer Stawasz (703) 352-0153      events@bethtorah.net  
(Internal Events, B'nai Mitzvah Committee Co-chair)

Cheri Kaplan (703) 449-8843      mematlge1@bethtorah.net  
(Fundraising, Miscellaneous projects)

Mike Thomas (571) 287-7796      mematlge2@bethtorah.net  
(Building Logistics)

Joe Sutliff (703) 968-6852      marketing@bethtorah.net  
(Web Presence, Marketing)

### Rabbi

Kenneth Block (410) 459-6161      rabbiblock2@yahoo.com

### Cantor

Adam Davis (773) 362-4760      cantor@bethtorah.net

### High Holidays

Jeff Horner (703) 266-4921      highholidays@bethtorah.net

### Membership

Jennifer Harding (703) 938-4034      membership@bethtorah.net

### Ritual Committee Chair

Linda Sue Wever (703) 802-1713      ritual@bethtorah.net

### Care Committee Chair

Lori Kravchick (703) 830-4678      caringcommittee@bethtorah.net

### Sisterhood

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

### Brotherhood

Open position      brotherhood@bethtorah.net

### Past President

Linda Sue Wever (703) 802-1713

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## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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

# Inventory—Cheshbon HaNefesh

*The following is the text of my remarks to the congregation at Rosh Hashanna services.*

LSHANA TOVA! For those I haven't met, my name is Jayne Ayers and I am the TBT President.

### *INVENTORY—Cheshbon HaNefesh*

It means many things to each of us. Right now, it has an unimaginable significance in Texas, Florida, Mexico and the Caribbean. I am glued to the news and keeping all of these people affected by the storms and earthquakes in my prayers.

In the world of Temple Beth Torah, it's an important word this time of year. We inventory our Religious School and our needs for the coming year. We inventory our building and make sure we have all the essentials. We inventory our members, their families and friends and make sure everyone is accounted for and welcomed for the High Holidays.

But what I find equally important are my personal inventories. Family members that are near and far. My husband, our children, my business, our home, our health insurance, our friends, our pets. My commitment to Judaism and Temple Beth Torah. The things I am most grateful for and those that are closest to my heart.

I have mentioned this before. I took a sabbatical from Judaism for a while. I was confused about what it meant to me. I took inventory of what I was missing by my absence from Judaism and decided I wanted to fill that void.

My Christian Grandmother was an amazing woman and probably the one person I learned the most from. She never stopped learning. And wasn't embarrassed by what she didn't know—she was excited by every new detail she picked up through her studies, politics and relationship with her faith.

At times, I am embarrassed by what I don't remember or know about our faith, but am more than grateful for what I am learning as I become more and more involved in our TBT family and re-introduced to our Jewish teachings and traditions.

As I reflect on the past year, I have quite a long list of things I would like to improve on for the upcoming year. Our traditions teach us that it is our responsibility—and through our deeds—to contribute to building a whole, just and compassionate world. I would like to make more of a difference—to

help those in need and stand proudly for what I believe is right and important.

I DO feel that we, as a community, are mighty and strong. We CAN make a difference by our deeds. And of course, that starts right here at TBT. We are planning to increase the number of community service projects we participate in. We want to remind ourselves and instill in our children the importance of the work of Tikkun Olam.

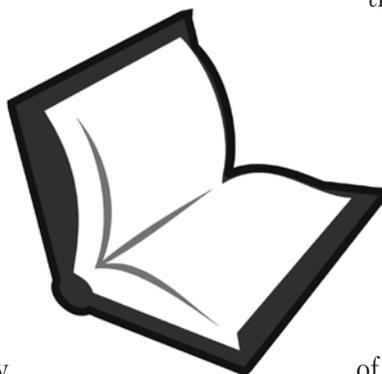
We often ask for contributions. Not only in the form of money, but more importantly, in the form of time. It's not a surprise we are a volunteer run organization. And there are many that are doing the majority of the work that it takes to keep our community moving forward.

As we begin the new Jewish year of 5778, and you take your own personal inventory—Cheshbon HaNefesh—we hope that you can commit to contributing at least your time to TBT. Even one hour a week or a month will make a big difference and will allow those that spend a great deal of their personal time, a bit of support and a much-needed hour of time for themselves or their families. We are planning several events to outline our needs in hopes you will be able to help. We will be sure to let you know when these events are.

Donating time brings great joy to many of us. And involvement stirs a great dedication to our TBT Community. I wish each of you a sweet year filled with good health, fulfillment and much much peace.

L'Shanah Tovah

—Jayne



### **Temple Beth Torah extends a warm welcome to our new members:**

Lynn & Len Mark  
Jessica, Elliott, and Faye Pimentel  
Laura Veach  
Aaron Sulkin & Brittany Martz

# It's Tefilah Time

With the year underway, I've been getting to know many for the TBT families and notably, the students in our Religious School. Each Sunday, I'm privileged to engage students in Tefilah (prayer). Our weekly challenge in Reform congregations is to create a learning lab for students to explore spirituality and their role in Jewish communal life.

Tefilah time provides opportunities for sacred words in a foreign tongue to feel more familiar in our mouths. Its also a time to explore the meaning of these prayers, as well as how and what it means to have a spiritual life, what that sounds like and the role each of us can play in a community of peers.

To accomplish these aims, we've made minor modifications to Tefilah. While as with any changes, there may be some modest confusion among students, ultimately these will strengthen our students comfort, confidence, and competency in Jewish prayer.

For 7th graders with a Bnai Mitzvah on the horizon, the desire to practice leading is palpable. In reality Tefilah time prepares students to participate in one as a member of a Jewish community for all the days of their lives. Since younger grades also participate in Tefilah time, the format must accommodate a diversity of skill levels in the room. 4th graders are just learning to piece Hebrew letters into words.

Unfortunately, when 7th graders step up to the Bima to practice "leading" as a group, those being "led" are fewer in number, it allows less confident 7th graders to

"hide" in the group's midst, whose fast pace leaves younger, less experienced students feeling lost.

A few small format tweaks are helping address these issues. First, our students are now seated together as a block in the pews, as a Cantor leads prayers facing them assisted by a selected student for each. This allows the Cantor to offer explanations, interpretations and lets students ask questions and offer insights to the group.

Now when called up to lead a prayer, students will do so at the side the Cantor, and in front of a sizeable, real congregation that includes their most competent peers, as it will be at their Bnai Mitzvah. Their peers, knowing they will soon do so as well, have more impetus to participate as they never know when they may be asked to lead. This in turn models for younger students who see, hear and eventually gain their growing confidence. Standing shoulder to shoulder with friends, reciting the words of our people, students experience what it is like to be part of a Jewish spiritual community.

In 30 short minutes, it is impossible to cover an entire morning service, and so each week we cover a slightly different set of prayers. Over the course of the year we will cover most of those that are part of TBT's standard format using our standard melodies. Still, one of hallmarks of Reform Jewish practice is adopting new melodies to reflect the aesthetics of the times. Over the course of the year, Tefilah time lets us hear a variety of melodies they will hear at summer camps, eventually Hillels and throughout their Jewish lives.

Pure recitation, however, is not the goal, as it precludes some important educational opportunities. Tefilah time offers a chance to apply Hebrew reading skills learned in the classroom. It is also an opportunity to explore the feelings about the words being said. For Jewish prayer is to take hold in our students' hearts, we have to spend time making our prayers meaningful.

Each week, we'll rotate our focus onto a specific prayer, its translation and interpretation offered by our Reform siddur (prayerbook). More importantly, we'll tease out the personal meaning each of our students carry within them. Tefilah time provides safe space to explore this territory of spirituality, ask questions, and articulate their feelings. This is critical to their spiritual growth, and to do it together, in front of and with the support of fellow students is truly a remarkable gift to our children.

Already, we've received good feedback about these adjustments to Religious School Tefilah. All parents and congregants as welcome to join us Sundays at noon to participate. Who knows, you might learn something!

*Cantor Adam*

### Interfaith Potluck & Discussion: To Tree or Not to Tree?



Come join us for an Interfaith Pot Luck dinner on Sunday, December 10th at 6:30 at TBT. Share ideas, swap tips or just start the holiday season with friends old and new. Whether your adjustment to an interfaith celebration was easy or complicated, you can help take the stress out or add to the fun. Please bring a dish to share or just show up—the whole family is welcome!

Contact Joe Sutliff at [marketing@bethtorah.net](mailto:marketing@bethtorah.net)

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## A Message from Rabbi Kenneth Block

# A Great Miracle Here & There

We all recognize what the letters on the dreidel mean. A great miracle happened there, if we are in Israel, here is substituted for, there. The Torah and the Hebrew prophets make it more than clear that “you shall not treat God as a Magician.” When we believe and then act that by following the ritual and then reciting our prayers in a narrowly prescribed manner God will be moved to grant our wish, we are, indeed, treating God as a Divine Magician.

It is rare that we think of a miracle as anything but magic. Watching Monday Night Football, Washington vs Kansas City, the Chiefs’ 29-20 win over the Redskins demonstrates the truth of this statement. According to the announcers we witnessed one miracle after another until finally God’s favorite team won.

Hubris is not a strong enough word to describe our belief and practice that our words can persuade God to intervene, preventing us from being shot, or sparing our house from destruction, or carrying a football directly into a receiver’s hands.

Rabbi Harold Kushner states it succinctly, “if such prayers worked, no one would ever die, because no prayer is offered more sincerely than a prayer for life, for health and recovery from illness, for ourselves and for those we love.... People who pray for miracles usually don’t get miracles any more than children who pray for bicycles, good grades, or girlfriends get them as a result of praying.”

If miracles are not the same as magic what are they? We return to Chanukah for our answer. The battle cry of the Hasmoneans came from the prophet Zachariah chapter 4 verse 6: “Not by might, not by power, but by my spirit says the Lord of Hosts”. A miracle occurs when we put hubris aside and allow our spirit to be guided by God’s spirit. Shakespeare said it best: “there’s the rub”. Putting aside the ego and letting God’s spirit guide us is truly a miracle.

When we pray for courage, for strength to bear the unbearable, for grace to remember what we have left instead of what we have lost, we often find our prayers answered. The true miracle is in the discovery that we have more strength, more courage than we ever thought we had.

We believe in miracles! For us, an unexpected turning point in our experience of life is a miracle insofar as it transcends our understanding. How can it be that the Maccabees overpowered the massive Syrian-Greek army? How can it be that the modern State of Israel, surrounded by hostile Arab countries on all sides, continues to exist? David Ben-Gurion was fond of explaining Israel’s existence as a miracle: “Anyone who doesn’t believe in miracles is not a realist.”

The miracle lies in the attempt to do what cannot be

done, to overcome odds, to remain optimistic even in times of darkness, to strive for success when there is every reason to doubt. The miracle is not in the magic of wishes come true, but rather in the strength of letting God’s spirit guide us rather than letting our ego guide us. The miracle was not in the Maccabees’ defeat of the Syrian-Greek army: it was in the battle cry “Not by might, not by power, but by my spirit says the Lord of Hosts”

A prayer, a wish, can not control the actions of an individual whether he holds a football or a gun, the course of a storm, or the outcome of a relationship. A miracle can occur when we decide who should hold a gun or a football, when the storm is over we use our resources to rebuild, when we deal with our relationships.

The wonder that life can be what we never thought it could be, and the wonder that we have the strength of spirit emerge from darkness into light.... That’s a miracle!

### Reclaiming the *Holy Land* for the Jewish People

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

Once again the Temple Mount is at the center of an Israeli Palestinian crisis. Our Wednesday night study group will explore how we arrived at the continuing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian State. Even though we are studying a history each class will be self contained so that you do not need to obligate yourself for every class.

The September 6th class will explain the one event that created the entire mess that has resulted in the Arab Spring; the Sunni Shia conflict; Israel vs Palestine; the movement for Kurdish independence; the Iranian incursions; and more. Plan on attending to understand why the Sykes-Picot Agreement, also called Asia Minor Agreement, (May 1916), a secret convention made during World War I between Great Britain and France, with the assent of imperial Russia, resulted in the dismemberment of the Ottoman Empire thus creating this mess.

Never heard of the *Sykes-Picot Agreement*? All the more reason to attend. When you leave class on the 6th what is happening in the Middle East will be crystal clear and why solving the conflicts is so thorny.

The tentative dates are: **October 18, November 1, December 6, January 3, February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2, & June 6.** The blast will keep you current.

## In Remembrance

Congregant(s)	Remember	Relationship	Date of Death	Hebrew Date	When Hebrew Date Occurs
Devin & Mac McCrory	Julia Grosberg Karten	Grandmother of Devin	10/5/02	29 Tishrei 5763	10/19/17
Ina Mayer	Robert Mayer	Husband of Ina	10/6/89	7 Tishrei 5750	9/27/17
Deborah Mayer & Todd Hillman	Robert Mayer	Father of Deborah	10/6/89	7 Tishrei 5750	9/27/17
Lori & Eric Kravchick	Fay Kravchick	Grandmother of Eric	10/12/85	27 Tishrei 5746	10/17/17
Barbara & Joseph Sutliff	Sylvia Thal	Aunt of Barbara	10/12/15	29 Tishrei 5776	10/19/17
Gerry Chelnik	Bernhard Hemmendinger	Brother of Gerry	10/15/95	21 Tishrei 5756	10/11/17
Gerry Chelnik	David Chelnik	Husband of Geraldine	10/18/11	20 Tishrei 5772	10/10/17
Kathleen & Matt Kestenbaum	Philip F. Acker	Grandfather of Matt	10/18/01	1 Cheshvan 5762	10/21/17
Melissa & Jay Margolis	Max Margolis	Grandfather of Jay	10/19/72	11 Cheshvan 5733	10/31/17
Melissa & Jay Margolis	Herman Silber	Grandfather of Jay	10/23/95	29 Tishrei 5756	10/19/17
Andrea & Daniel Rosenthal	Tessie Gomels	Grandmother of Andrea	10/25/13	21 Cheshvan 5774	11/10/17
Elizabeth & Stephen Ward	Julius G Hirsch	Father of Elizabeth	10/27/05	24 Tishrei 5766	10/14/17
Barbara & Joseph Sutliff	Stanley Akers	Uncle of Barbara	10/29/77	17 Cheshvan 5738	11/6/17
Anne & Michael Beaudreau	Ashby Alexander Byrd	Father of Anne	10/30/06	8 Cheshvan 5767	10/28/17
Debra & Darin Kabalkin	Jacob Bienstock	Father of Debra	11/3/14	10 Cheshvan 5775	10/30/17
Lisa & Eric Desman	Herbert Desman	Father of Eric	11/5/2014*	13 Cheshvan 5775	11/2/17
Josie & David Barondess	Harry Spiegel	Uncle of David	11/7/76	14 Cheshvan 5737	11/3/17
Barbara & Joseph Sutliff	Esther Ruth Polen	Cousin of Barbara	11/13/98	24 Cheshvan 5759	11/13/17
Gerry Chelnik	Morris M Hemmendinger	Father of Gerry	11/17/66	4 Kislev 5727	11/22/17
Ina Mayer	Daniel Teller	(Second) Husband of Ina	11/23/05	21 Cheshvan 5766	11/10/17
Heidi & Robert Hirsh	Betty Kramer	Grandmother of Heidi	11/24/01	9 Kislev 5762	11/27/17
Lori & Eric Kravchick	Max Kravchick	Grandfather of Eric	11/25/97	25 Cheshvan 5758	11/14/17
Sarah & Dave Weintrob	Ruth Weiss	Grandmother of Dave	11/30/2012*	17 Kislev 5773	12/5/17

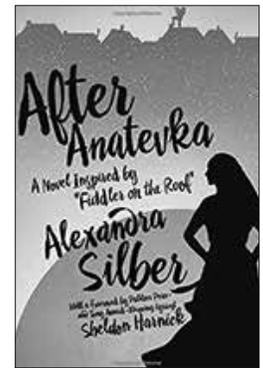
\*After sunset

Additions and corrections to the yahrzeit list may be sent to [yahrzeit@bethtorah.net](mailto:yahrzeit@bethtorah.net)

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## 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 November 14th meeting is *After Anatevka* by Alexandra Silber. You don't have to read the book to enjoy book club!  
Contact Beth Thomas at [mbtjthomas@gmail.com](mailto:mbtjthomas@gmail.com).



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## Thank you for Your Donation

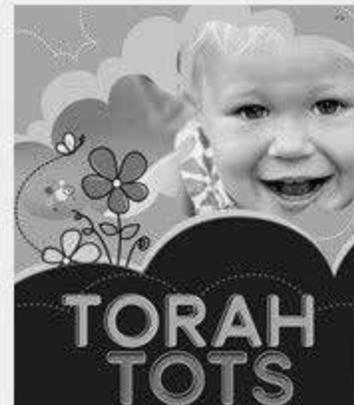
Bruce & Elizabeth Brotman	In Loving Memory of Victoria Brotman
Roberta & Ronald Milberg	TBT Events Donation
Mary & Joshua Rosenthol	In Honor of the Horners for the wonderful job they did with Dara's Bat Mitzvah
Ken & Susan Fried	In Loving Memory of Leonora Lunsford
Barry & Lee Linchuck	In Honor of Joanne's Bat Mitzvah
Aileen Stein	In Honor of Joanne's Bat Mitzvah
Dorothy & Donald (John) Lewy	In Loving Memory of Lawrence Lewy and Miriam Lewy
Jayne Ayers & Tye Jurgensen	In Loving Memory of Edna Ayers
Jayne Ayers & Tye Jurgensen	In Loving Memory of Kenny Ayers
Jayne Ayers & Tye Jurgensen	In Loving Memory of Mickey Katz
Elizabeth & Stephen Ward	In Loving Memory of Julius G. Hirsch
Dorothy & Donald (John) Lewy	High Holiday Donation
Roberta & Ronald Milberg	High Holiday Donation
Geraldine Chelnik	High Holiday Donation
Darcy & Joanne Wertz	High Holiday Donation
Ina Mayer	High Holiday Donation
Linda Mitchell	High Holiday Donation
Todd Hillman & Deborah Mayer	High Holiday Donation
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Michael & Kathryn Erstling	High Holiday Donation
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David & Josie Barondess	High Holiday Donation
Bruce & Elizabeth Brotman	High Holiday Donation
Matt & Kathleen Kestenbaum	High Holiday Donation
Ronald & Beth Glaser	High Holiday Donation
Jeff & Mary Horner	High Holiday Donation
Jeffrey & Daria Parnes	High Holiday Donation
Barbara & Joe Sutliff	High Holiday Donation
James & Lisa Sinsheimer	High Holiday Donation for Music Fund
Ronald & Roberta Milberg	High Holiday Donation for Marketing Outreach
Ina Mayer	In Loving Memory of Robert M. Mayer

Temple Beth Torah  
PO Box 2020  
Centreville, VA 20122

## Temple Beth Torah Religious School News

TBT Religious School is off to a great start! The beginning of the school year is always busy with the High Holidays and Sukkot. On October 1 each class had the opportunity to decorate our school sukkah and shake the lulav and etrog. A special thanks to Joe Sutliff for organizing our Sukkot activities. We followed our Sukkot celebration with Pizza in Hut. Our 6th graders performed a mitzvot by visiting a Jewish group home to setup their sukkah and help the residents decorate and learn about Sukkot. On October 13, 4 of our youngest learners were consecrated and we had a special naming for our newest student. Two students also received their own siddurs as part of Chagigat Siddurim. On October 29 our 4/5th graders will be participating in Mitzvah Mania. Even though November 5 is a day off for our students, our teachers will be hard at work in our teacher in-service day planning our long-term curriculum goals. We look forward to an eventful and exciting fall at TBT Religious School.

For AGES 2 to PRE K



**A Great Way to Meet  
Other Families with Small Children**

Classes on Sunday 10:30 – Noon

Singing

Story Time

Crafts

Snack Time

Holiday Prep

Friendship



For more info. contact [torah tots@bethtorah.net](mailto:torah tots@bethtorah.net)