



TEMPLE BETH TORAH

A Reform Jewish Congregation
Member, Union for Reform Judaism



UNION FOR **MEMBER**
REFORM JUDAISM
האיחוד ליהדות רפורמית
SERVING REFORM CONGREGATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA

www.bethtorah.net

Kishlev 5776—Shevat 5776

December 2015 —January 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, December 2	Tanach Study with Rabbi Block	7:30 PM
Friday, December 4	Shabbat Service - “December Dilemma”	7:30 PM
Saturday, December 5	Ritual Committee Meeting	9:00 AM
Saturday, December 5	Shabbat Service - Special Service - All in English	10:30 AM
Sunday, December 6	Religious School, 8th & 10th Grades	9:00 AM
Tuesday, December 8	Ladies Book Club	7:30 PM
Friday, December 11	Shabbat Service - Menorah Lighting and Chanukah Songs	7:30 PM
Saturday, December 12	Chanukah Party at TBT	10:30 AM
Sunday, December 13	Religious School, 9th & 10th Grade - Chanukah in Class	9:00 AM
Sunday, December 20	No Religious School	
Sunday, December 27	No Religious School	
Sunday, January 3	Religious School, 8th Grade	9:00 AM
Wednesday, January 6	Tanach Study with Rabbi Block	7:30 PM
Friday, January 8	Shabbat Service - Adult Learner’s Service	7:30 PM
Saturday, January 9	Tot Shabbat	9:30 AM
Saturday, January 9	Adult Learner’s Morning Service	10:30 AM
Sunday, January 10	Religious School, 9th & 10th Grades	9:00 AM
Sunday, January 17	No Religious School	
Friday, January 22	Shabbat Shira	7:30 PM
Saturday, January 23	Children’s Morning Service	9:30 AM
Saturday, January 23	Nosh n Drosh - Part 2 of <u>The Jewish Book of Why</u>	10:30 AM
Sunday, January 24	Religious School. 9th & 10th Grades	9:00 AM
Saturday, January 31	Religious School, 8th Grade	9:00 AM

Temple Beth Torah Contact List

Main Number & Mailing Address

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Database Administrator

Anne Beaudreau memberdata@bethtorah.net

Past President

Irwin Kaplan (703) 542-6029

Do you have concerns or questions for the Temple Beth Torah Board ?

This is YOUR synagogue and we want to hear what you have to say. You can e-mail Ombudsman, Joel Wasserman at wasserman.joel@gmail.com or (703)327-3560 and your questions will be brought up at the next board meeting. Please include your phone number and when is the best time to reach you. We look forward to hearing from you!

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.

Chaverim Groupings for Shabbat Services, Oneg and Set-up

Complete details, schedule, and contact information available at www.bethtorah.net. Please do your part as a TBT member. It is your responsibility to contact your group to coordinate food, drinks and set up. If you can not attend on your given date please switch with someone from another group and inform your Chaverim of the change.

It is your responsibility to find a substitute.

Chaverim selections can be found on Sign Up Genius. The link is on bethtorah.net.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Cantor's Message	Page 6
Caring Committee	Page 5
Chanukah Party	Page 11
Contact List	Page 2
Education Director's Message	Page 7
Ladies Book Club	Page 5
President's Message	Page 3
Rabbi's Message	Page 4
Tanach Study Group	Page 5
Yahrtzeit List	Page 10

Visit the TBT website at: bethtorah.net

A Message from the President

Linda Sue Wever

In a letter recently mailed out to the Congregation, Linda Sue Wever, TBT President, discussed the State of the Temple and reiterated the need for more member involvement and increased financial support. The hope is that each member will do a bit more to help TBT thrive and survive. The following is the letter referenced:

My fellow congregants,

The High Holidays have past and the New Year is well underway, so I wanted to reach out to you about the State of the Temple. First of all, I want to thank all those that stepped forward by volunteering and donated financially both during and after the holidays.

As I have mentioned in my appeals this year and last, the foundation of TBT is built upon the dedication and commitment of members like you, without whom we couldn't operate. The truth is, though, that we have not received enough of this dedication and commitment, and we need more, which is the reason for my letter.

Over the past five years we've seen our membership decline. In order to operate optimally and be a healthy Temple we need to have 120 membership units and, as of this year, we have decreased to fewer than 90 membership units. What does this mean? It means that we need to ask each of you to do more.

In order for our congregation to move from a state of fair to a state of good, and very good, we need to grow our membership and we need to bring in more revenue. Our numbers and donations need to increase over the next year, not decrease. We need people donating more and not less.

With each year, our expenses here at TBT grow (specifically with respect to our lease), and if our congregation and membership don't grow we will not be able to continue to be a place of Jewish learning, Jewish community and Jewish fellowship. We will just cease.

I need each of you to challenge yourselves, as I said during last year's High Holidays, to contribute more. Let's make a promise together that we will try and break new membership numbers and donations of years past and make 2015-2016 the year to beat as the best yet at TBT.

Please take the attached donation form, fill it out and bring or send it in, accompanied by a check, so that you and your family can say that you were there when the Temple needed you. You stepped up to show of your commitment and desire to have TBT here for your children and their children, and as a beacon for others within the community.

Also please try to make a commitment to volunteer for something at TBT - join a committee, be on a board, or work as a school teacher. Perhaps even consider helping with services and special events. We need your time to make our TBT community stronger.

I am so proud and honored to be a part of Temple Beth Torah and want to be able to have it standing here for many more generations to enjoy and to partake and for many more presidents to be able to stand up and say those 7 little words – "The State of the Temple is Excellent."

Please note that any contribution is tax deductible and if you make a donation before year's end it is deductible on your 2015 taxes. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

B'Shalom,

Linda Sue Wever

Temple Beth Torah President

A Message from the Rabbi

Kenneth Block

Gor Nicht Helfen

I grew up in Brookline MA near Coolidge Corner. My mother's parents and unmarried sister along with my sister and parents experienced life together in the Eisenhower 50's. Switching bedrooms was a common experience as family members died. Listening to a philosophy that spanned not only generations, but continents as well was another shared experience.

So when grandma, grandfather, aunt Lil, or my parents heard the news and responded with the Yiddish expression "Gor Nicht Helfen", meaning there is no hope, we all would nod in agreement. Parenthetically, I never remember hearing an expression that means there is hope. Their expression of futility and hopelessness was not reserved for the news as reported in the media of the day, but for any information, whether personal or public.

A leak in the roof, a broken washing machine, news of another victim of the big "C", the unGodly communists planning an attack, trouble in Israel, car trouble, tzoris is tzoris there is no hierarchy, no priority, all these events just prove that "Gor Nicht Helfen", there is no hope.

So let's make a list of all the reasons why there is no hope:

- ♦ The murder of French citizens by Muslim terrorists.
- ♦ The city of Baltimore recording 300 murder victims to date.
- ♦ The choices in the 2016 Presidential election.
- ♦ The Rabbi's upcoming sermons.
- ♦ Chilling video promising terrorist attacks on DC.
- ♦ 23 shootings on college campuses to date.
- ♦ Social Security recipients will not receive a COLA.
- ♦ About 48 million people — 1 in 6 Americans — contracted some form of food poisoning last year, according to the CDC.
- ♦ There was a major food recall every week last year.
- ♦ The FDA has had over 1000 serious drug recalls to date.
- ♦ Cheating in professional sports.

Please feel free to continue to add to your personal list at your leisure.

As long as human beings have recorded their experiences and reactions to life there have been more reasons to give up hope than to have it. Dante Alighieri defined hell as the place where there is no hope. So we can choose to live in hell at any time, just give up hope. However, it is not so easy to summon up hope these days. Not because there is more "hopelessness" around us but because the media revolution surrounds us, overwhelms us, and inundates us with how hopeless life is. And organized religion has not lived up to its responsibility to help us deal with life and has added to making living appear hopeless unless you sign on to their exclusive solution.

It wasn't until many years later and serving my student congregation in Logan West Virginia that I realized that I didn't need to live on the Titanic waiting for the inevitable iceberg or travel on the Hindenburg waiting for the inevitable explosion. There are reasons for hope and there are reasons for hopelessness. There is no calculus one can use to conclude that one is more dominant than the other.

Rabbi continued:

Hatikvah, the hope is our national anthem. Here is my message for the new year. Choose whether you will focus on hope or hopelessness. Which group occupies my thoughts? I know more people who have survived cancer than who have died from cancer. I know more people who have gotten their lives together after divorce than have not. I know more people who lived after an auto accident than died. I know more people who have been successful living with physical and emotional deficits than have not been successful.

Hope is not passive nor is it a spectacular sport. It is not about wishful thinking. Hope is about choosing our focus. Get a refund for the ticket you bought for the Titanic. Don't board the Hindenburg. Instead hope

Hatikvah

As long as in the heart within,
The Jewish soul yearns,
And toward the eastern edges, onward,
An eye gazes toward Zion.
Our hope is not yet lost,
The hope that is two-thousand years old,
To be a free nation in our land,
The Land of Zion, Jerusalem.

Temple Beth Torah's Caring Committee

Have you wondered how
to notify the TBT Board
of a life-cycle event?

- New baby
- Wedding
- Illness
- In need of care
- Loss of a loved one



TBT IS HERE TO SUPPORT YOU

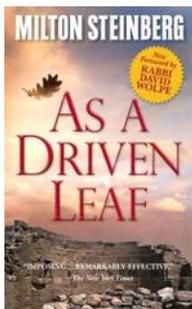
Contact: carecommittee@bethtorah.net



The first Wednesday of each month, Rabbi Block will be leading Tanach Study. 7:30 - 8:30ish. No Hebrew knowledge is required. We look forward to seeing you at the Temple for this adult study class.

TBT Ladies Book Club

Rabbi Block will be our special guest for this month's book club.



Please join us for this "pot-luck" style book club that meets every OTHER month on the second Tuesday of the month. This club is open to all TBT women. Plan to bring a drink or appetizer to share! Our book for **December 8** is As A Driven Leaf by Milton Steinberg. You don't have to read the book to enjoy book club!

A spirited classic of American Jewish literature, a historical novel about ancient sage-turned-apostate Elisha ben Abuyah in the late first century C.E. At the heart of the tale are questions about faith and the loss of faith and the repression and rebellion of the Jews of Palestine. Elisha is a leading scholar in Palestine, elected to the Sanhedrin, the highest Jewish court in the land. But two tragedies awaken doubt about God in Elisha's mind, and doubt eats away at his faith. Declared a heretic and excommunicated from the Jewish community, he journeys to Antioch in nearby Syria to begin a quest through Greek and Roman culture for some fundamental irrefutable truth. The pace of the narrative picks up as Elisha directly encounters the full force of the ancient Romans' all-consuming culture. Ultimately, Elisha is forced by the power of Rome to choose between loyalty to his people, who are rebelling against the emperor's domination, and loyalty to his own quest for truth.

A Message from the Cantor

Jinny Marsh

Temple Beth Torah's Shabbat programming has entered a new era:

On Friday, November 20, 2015 we had **Bourbon and the Bible** opening with a brief Kabbalat Shabbat service which included psalms in Chassidic style for L'chu N'Ran'na, Shiru LAdonai, and our old favorite, L'Cha Dodi. We also sang Samuel Goldfarb's Shalom Aleichem, and we closed with Rabbi Block's request for Julius Freudenthal's Ein Keloheinu. I'm sure the evening was enjoyed by all (*at the time of this writing-the event didn't yet happen!*).

Saturday morning, December 5, 2015 —All English Shabbat Service.

We will present a Saturday Morning Shabbat service from our Mishkan T'fila Siddur in English to enlighten our community with the meaning of our prayers and music.

Friday night, December 11, 2015 — Chanukah Shabbat Service (6th night.)

Our Adult and Junior Choirs will be singing a few of our Chanukah "favorites" as well as one new piece!

Friday night, January 22, 2016 — Shabbat Shirah - "Sabbath of Song “.

Our Temple Beth Torah Choir will present a **Beatles Shabbat** with tunes you're familiar with and all can sing along!



Friday night, February 19, 2016 - Pajama Shabbat.

Our nighttime favorites add a peaceful aura to this service. Starts 7 p.m. Please note early start time..



Friday night, April 8, 2016 - Daffodil Shabbat Service

A new addition this year to honor and remember our family and friends who have been affected by cancer.

Please put these dates on your calendar and join our choir for rehearsals, through the coming months as we prepare for these services! For choir information, please contact Lori Kravchick at momlori@hotmail.com.

Happy Holidays

Have you recently taken pictures at a Temple Beth Torah event? We'd like to start sharing photos on the TBT website and in the newsletter. Please send them (or a link to them) to webmaster@bethtorah.net.

A Message from the Education Director

Betsy Roth

It is traditional for a Jewish person to recite 100 Blessings a day. A Baracha, Blessing, can be recited by any individual. A person can also get credit for the Blessing recited by another. To get credit one must respond with the word Amen means “I believe-I agree with what you just said.” That is why so often in our prayer service, the Rabbi or the Cantor will recite a prayer, and we all say, “Amen!”

So why is it important to recite 100 Blessings a day? Doesn't that seem like a lot? How hard is it to get to 100? If you were to look in our Mishkan Tefillah Siddur (prayer book) you would notice that the Morning Service contains a section called Birchot HaShachar, Morning Blessings. These are a set of Blessings we say early on in the service. There are about 15 Blessings right there. One is off to a very good start to the day with the Birchot HaShachar.

Once again, so why is it important to recite 100 Blessings a day? I've given that question a bit of thought over the years and have come up with different conclusions at different times. Prospective seems to shift with the times. Our working day is often fraught with challenges and stresses. The 100 Blessings are a reminder, no matter how forced it may seem, to refocus and re-center oneself. Even in times of trouble, we are expected to look at our daily lives and find the Blessings that we are gifted with. The past few weeks, the world we live in has been bruised. We have witnessed, seen, and felt the pain of our own citizens and those abroad. We are not to turn away from this. We should be aware of world events. Perhaps we can even help to heal. Yet amidst all this turmoil we are asked to look at what we have to be grateful for during the course of our day.

I've never challenged myself to see if I actually get to 100 Blessings a day. I am sure that I don't. But knowing that, I give myself extra credit when I take the time to linger on a simple moment in my day that I am thankful for. I find so many moments of gratitude during a typical school day at TBT. For that I say Thank You! Amen!

UPCOMING AT TBT RELIGIOUS SCHOOL:

DECEMBER:

6th—Religious School, 8th Grade

13th—Religious School, 9th , 10th Grades

Chanukah at TBT!

20th—NO Religious School

27th—NO Religious School

JANUARY:

3rd—Religious School, 8th Grade

10th—Religious School, 9th, 10th Grades

17th—NO Religious School

24th—Religious School, 9th, 10th Grades

31st—Religious School, 8th Grade

Weather closures will be announced via an Email Blast and posted on the home page of the website bethtorah.net.

Please use your judgment, as weather conditions may vary depending on where you live.

SUPPORT TBT WHILE SHOPPING ON AMAZON!!

There is a new way to contribute to Temple Beth Torah!!! 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.

You can also go directly to AmazonSmile.com and designate Temple Beth Torah to receive a contribution each time you shop.

HELP WANTED

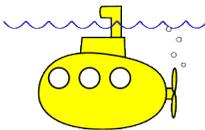
Looking for someone who is interested in how their dues are being spent, curious about why religious school costs what it does, likes playing with numbers and is good with children. TBT is looking for a replacement or apprentice to become our next Treasurer. If you want to get involved with the Temple's finances, please contact Eric Kravchick at ekravchick@hotmail.com.

Thank you,
The Board



SHABBAT SHIRAH Friday, January 22nd

Join us on Friday, January 22nd, 2016 for a "Beatles" Shabbat Shirah - all the prayers and songs will be set to Beatles music! Join the TBT Choir and Clergy for this special Shabbat Shirah service and sing along to such favorites as Michamocha ("Here Comes the Sun") and, Adon Olam ("Yellow Submarine"). Sure to bring back memories of the 1960s!



Saturday, December 5
10:30 PM

This Saturday morning Shabbat Service will be conducted all in English. Learn the meaning of the Hebrew prayers and music.

The December Dilemma -

Rabbi Block will discuss the Interfaith problems with the Holiday season. Christmas Tree? Hanukkah bush? Jewish ornaments? How many presents and when do you give them? These questions and more will be answered during this lively discussion. It is fun for all and answers many of your December questions.

Share the joy and friendship of
Temple Beth Torah!

Refer a new member. If they join,
you will get \$180 off your
membership!

Visit the TBT website at: bethtorah.net



TBT has partnered with the Dulles South Food Pantry to help feed the needy. A bucket will be placed in the front hall of TBT for food donations. Please donate to this local charity



THE 25TH PROJECT
helping the homeless close to home

We are also collecting clothing, underwear and socks for the homeless in partnership with The 25th Project.

These are ongoing projects.

Chaverim Signup Reminder

Please remember to sign up for Chaverim duties at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0444abaf23a20-chaverim>. We need everyone to sign up for two dates. Please help make our wonderful TBT services successful!

LIFECYCLE EVENTS

We will be featuring a Lifecycle Events section in upcoming issues of our newsletter so TBT members can help support each other through life's ups and downs. If you have a lifecycle event, such as a birth, death, engagement, or other exciting news, that you would like to share with TBT members, please contact Amy Moss at amyedits@icloud.com.



TBT Junior Choir

If you have a child in second through seventh grade, our new TBT Junior Choir is for your child!

Rehearsals are Sundays from 12:30-1 pm. All interested parties please contact Joanne Wertz at joannewertz@yahoo.com



*Temple Beth Torah Tree of Life
Commemorate a Simcha!*



YAHRTZEITS



Member	Remembers	Relationship	Date Passed Away
Bonnie & Earl Schendell	Muriel Brownstein	Mother of Bonnie	12/11/1992
Gail & Howard Sulkin	Herman Sulkin	Father of Howard	12/14/1998
Josie & David Barondess	Stuart Barondess	Father of David	12/15/2004
Audrey & David Lipps	Abraham Gold	Grandfather of David	12/15/1963
Shari Curtiss	Herman Cohen	Grandfather of Shari	12/16/1982
Ana Kocur & Irwin Kaplan	Ann Kaplan	Grandmother of Irwin	12/17/2004
Gerry Chelnik	William Chelnik	Brother of David	12/20/xxxx
Barbara & Joseph Sutliff	Dvorah Mostov	Grandmother of Barbara	12/20/1966
Shari Curtiss	Ben Feuer	Grandfather of Shari	12/21/1996
Kathy Hertz	Eleanor Scheman	Grandmother of Kathy	12/21/2010
Dorothy & Donald Lewy	Arnold Jack Rosenthal	Cousin of Dorothy	12/22/2010
Lisa Farrell	Barnett Dubois	Father of Lisa	12/24/2008
Karen & Matthew Bender	Mary Zuckerman	Grandmother of Karen	12/27/2003
Bruce & Elizabeth Brotman	Saul Brotman	Father of Bruce	12/27/87
Natalie & Gregory Bloomstein	Assya Muroch	Mother of Gregory	12/30/2005
Mark Lichter	Doris Lichter	Mother of Mark	12/30/1994
Devin & Mac McCrory	Olius McCrory, Jr	Father of Mac	12/30/2000
Karen & Matthew Bender	Isidor Boltan	Grandfather of Karen	12/31/1984
Barbara & Joseph Sutliff	Ida Goldman	Aunt of Barbara	12/31/1995
Mary & Jeff Horner	Murray Horner	Uncle of Jeff	1/X/1999
Nancy Watson	Irving Goldfarb	Grandfather of Nancy	1/1/1998
Cindy Minionis	William Sucher	Father of Cindy	1/2/1976
Alissa & Charles Blackmore	Gladys Kramer	Aunt of Alissa	1/3/2009
Audrey & David Lipps	Isaac Margolis Barnett	Grandfather of Audrey	1/3/1980
Bonnie & Earl Schendell	Sydney Schendell	Father of Earl	1/5/2005
Beth & Ron Glaser	Ethel Glaser	Mother of Ronald	1/6/1996
Josie & David Barondess	William H Barondess	Grandfather of David	1/7/1980
Lisa Farrell	Kevin Farrell	Brother of Jeffrey	1/10/1990
Josie & David Barondess	Mary Opachinsky Spiegel	Grandmother of David	1/19/1959
Roberta and Ronald Milberg	Bennett P. Fleishman	Brother of Roberta	1/20/1961
Alissa & Charles Blackmore	Shari Simon	Mother of Alissa	1/21/2009
Nicole & Mike Manning	Sam Manning	Father of Mike	1/22/2010
Barbara & Joseph Sutliff	Karuna Thal	Cousin of Barbara	1/22/2008
Deborah Mayer & Todd Hillman	Monroe Mayer	Grandfather of Deborah	1/24/2002
Roberta & Ronald Milberg	Roberta P. Davis	Mother of Ronald	1/24/1991
Barbara & Joseph Sutliff	Jack Weinberg	Uncle of Barbara	1/24/1076
Lori Childers	Tiby Kaplan	Aunt of Lori	1/25/2000
Nancy Watson	Marjorie Hecht Watson	Mother of Jonathan	1/26/2009
Laura & Jeffrey Klaiman	Diane S. Klaiman	Mother of Jeffrey	1/28/1997
Dorothy & Donald Lewy	Harry Rothman	Father of Dorothy	1/28/1997
Audrey & David Lipps	Fredda Freeman	Aunt of David	1/29/1997

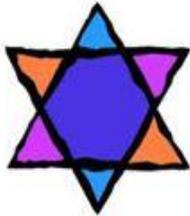


MAY THEIR MEMORY BE A BLESSING
אָבֵר לְזֵכְרָן לְיָמֵיהֶם

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 bethtorah.net. Click on Make a Contribution on the top right of the Home page.

Chanukah Party



Saturday, December 12
10:30am - 12:00N

- Make your own menorah
- Crafts
- Storytime with the Rabbi
- Macca-bake walk
- Interactive menorah
- Cookie decorating
- Dreidel game
- Latkes and donuts

Something for all ages! No cost!

Bring a non-perishable food item or new or used clothing item for the homeless

Non-members, guests and visitors welcome!

4212-C Technology Court • Chantilly, VA 20151 • 703.263.2252

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