



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

www.bethtorah.net

February—March 2017
Shevat—Nisan 5777



Upcoming Temple Events

Finding and Living the Sacred w/ Rabbi Block	Wednesday, February 01, 2017	7:30pm
Religious School, 10th Grade	Sunday, February 05, 2017	9:00am–12:30pm
Torah Tots	Sunday, February 05, 2017	11:00am–12:00pm
TBT Board Meeting	Thursday, February 09, 2017	07:30pm
Trading Places Shabbat	Friday, February 10, 2017	07:30pm
Scout Shabbat	Saturday, February 11, 2017	10:30am
Religious school, 8th, 9th, 10th grades, Post Confirmation	Sunday, February 12, 2017	9:00am–12:30pm
Torah Tots	Sunday, February 12, 2017	11:00am–12:00pm
No Religious School	Sunday, February 19, 2017	
Shabbat Shira	Friday, February 24, 2017	7:30pm
Ritual Committee	Saturday, February 25, 2017	9:00am
Learner's Service	Saturday, February 25, 2017	10:30am
6th Grade Immigration Field Trip	Sunday, February 26, 2017	9:00am–12:30pm
Religious School, 10th Grade	Sunday, February 26, 2017	9:00am–12:30pm
Torah Tots	Sunday, February 26, 2017	11:00am–12:00pm
Finding and Living the Sacred w/ Rabbi Block	Wednesday, March 01, 2017	7:30pm
Murder Mystery Dinner	Saturday, March 04, 2017	6:00pm–10:00pm
Religious School, 8th, 9th Grades	Sunday, March 05, 2017	9:00am–12:30pm
Torah Tots	Sunday, March 05, 2017	11:00am–12:00pm
TBT Board Meeting	Thursday, March 09, 2017	7:30pm
Shabbat Service	Friday, March 10, 2017	7:30pm
Thomas Bar Mitzvah	Saturday, March 11, 2017	10:30am
Purim Shpiel, Lunch & Carnival	Sunday, March 12, 2017	10:30am
Ladies Book Club	Tuesday, March 14, 2017	7:30pm
Religious School, 8th Grade	Sunday, March 19, 2017	9:00am–12:30pm
Torah Tots	Sunday, March 19, 2017	11:00am–12:00pm
Shabbat Service	Friday, March 24, 2017	7:30pm
Erstling Bat Mitzvah	Saturday, March 25, 2017	10:00am
5th Grade Family B'bai Mitzvah Meeting	Sunday, March 26, 2017	9:00am–10:30am
Religious School, 8th, 9th, 10th Grades	Sunday, March 26, 2017	9:00am–12:30pm
Torah Tots	Sunday, March 26, 2017	11:00am–12:00pm

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

Temple Beth Torah Contact List

Main Number & Mailing Address

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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.

In this Issue

Cantor Selection	page 4
Donations	page 5
Hollywood Homicide Event	page 7
Interfaith Scout Shabbat	page 8
Jewish Learning w/ Rabbi Block	page 4
Ladies Book Club	page 5
President's Message	page 3
Purim Carnival	page 4
Rabbi's Message	page 5
Shabbat Shira	page 3
Torah Tots	page 8
Trading Places Shabbat	page 4
Yahrzeit List	page 6

A Message from President Jayne Ayers

Where you want to be

I recently stayed at a Staybridge Suites in Columbus, Ohio. My client made the reservation. I generally stay at the Marriott or the Embassy Suites, so I was a bit apprehensive as I wasn't familiar with this hotel.

Wow—was I surprised when I arrived. The lobby was very stylish and seemed to have everything I needed—complimentary breakfast in the morning, complimentary reception in the evening :-), wifi, lots of TVs sharing the news, a small convenience store, etc. The staff was very nice and *much* to my greater surprise, my room was quite lovely. It was clean, bright, modern and the bed was comfy. I could control the thermostat in my room and the TV was nice and big so I could see it when I finally climbed in to bed.

While sitting at the desk, working on my computer, I noticed the message on the key packet. It was simple and clear. It said the following:

Warm
Welcoming
Home-Like
Community
Caring
Thoughtful
Social
Down-to-earth

A fresh approach to comfort

How brilliant and how *perfect!*

I was fairly disappointed in myself. I had judged this hotel, sight unseen, and without appropriate cause. Hadn't talked to anyone about it or checked reviews. I just made up my mind that I was "downgraded". Boy—did I feel like a jerk.

The hotel had *everything* I needed. And, when I read through the list, there's nothing else I could think of that I *truly needed*.

Does this at all sound familiar or resonate with you?

I think we all joined Temple Beth Torah for the same rea-

sons as listed above. We weren't looking for the biggest or flashiest synagogue. We weren't looking for a synagogue that was impersonal or felt overwhelming. We all wanted a place that felt comfortable, home-like, welcoming, down-to-earth. We wanted a place that isn't too fancy, isn't too stuffy—that's just right.

Temple Beth Torah is just what we needed.

A place where our families can develop lifelong friendships, that our children can talk to and ask the Rabbi the questions about Judaism and life that are on their minds. Where we can share in each other's mitzvah's during Friday night services and extend a warm hand shake to meet the people next to you, behind you and across the aisle.

We may not have a large staff. We are not a perfect organization. We *do* have a group of very dedicated individuals who donate their time, talents and treasures to ensure that our members and families enjoy the benefits of the Temple Beth Torah that so many have spent years upon years creating and building.

We *do* need more help—more time, talent or treasure. We will gladly accept whatever you can contribute.

We will be sharing a list of the Board and committee positions that are available for the 2017–2018 year. We hope you will consider becoming involved. Please contact me and let me know how you can help—President@bethtorah.net.

After all, we need to bring in new members who are looking for the same things we were:

Warm
Welcoming
Home-Like
Community
Caring
Thoughtful
Social
Down-to-earth

Temple Beth Torah—it's where you want to be

Shabbat Shira Friday Night February 24th

This is the Shabbat of Song. We are doing a *Fiddler on the Roof* theme this year with about 15 members young and young at heart performing a few numbers. We will also be asking the congregation to join us and sing Sabbath Prayer



and Sunrise Sunset. We will be doing Tradition, Matchmaker, Do you love me, Far from the home I love, Anatevka and To Life. Costumes and make-up too!

Cantor Selection Process

The Cantor Selection Committee is in full swing and has already met multiple times in order to begin the process to hire a new Cantor. As the chairman of the committee, I am so thankful for the members who have volunteered to participate in the planning, posting, interviewing and selection of our new Cantor; Elaine Baine, Elizabeth Brotman, Debra Kabalkin, Matt Kestenbaum, Joanne Wertz and Linda Sue Wever.

The Committee is committed to selecting a Cantor who will inspire the congregation through music while connecting with members spiritually. The committee has already identified and prioritized specific Cantor job requirements, met with stakeholders across the temple to ensure we are getting ideas and opinions from all major areas of TBT, developed an updated Job Description and job application and postings and identified the digital websites that we will be posting the position to.

The Committee's timeline is to begin to post for the job in February, complete interviews and tryouts no later than June, and make an offer to the new Cantor so (s)he can begin with services in July.

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

The Rabbi & The Cantor

Dont Miss this *Trading Places*
Shabbat Service—
A Must See!



Once upon a time, on a cold and windy Stygian morning, Rabbi Block prayed in the corner of a little shul in Olney Maryland. His prayer was a simple request. "Master of the universe, Creator of all, The Holy One, Blessed be He grant my simple request" he prayed. "May I be a cantor instead of a Rabbi, even if for only one Shabbat!"

In a far away town, in Northern Virginia, Cantor Laird stopped loading the dishwasher and prayed a simple prayer. "Praised are You God of all creation please grant your humble servant my request" she sang. " May I be a Rabbi instead of a Cantor, even if for only one Shabbat!"

That night HaShem visited Rabbi Block in a dream. "Because you have been my faithful servant for these many years I will grant your petition to be a Cantor for one Shabbat."

That very same night HaShem visited Cantor Laird in a dream. "I have arranged for you and Rabbi Block to trade roles on **Friday night February 10, 2017**. You will be the Rabbi and he will be the Cantor. May I have mercy on the ears of anyone who hears Cantor Block!"

Purim Carnival



Sunday, March 12 at Temple Beth Torah
12:30-2:00 PM

**(Following the Purim Shpiel—
presented by the 4th and 5th grade students)**

Game tickets

5 for \$1 at Religious School

(see the Brotherhood Representative at the Bagel Bar)

4 for \$1 at the Temple on March 12th

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 schedule is as follows: December 7, January 11, February 1, March 1, April 19, May 10, & June 7. Please plan on coming to some or all.

A Message from Rabbi Kenneth Block

Telephone

I love the game of telephone, in Hebrew it is called telephone *shavor*, which means the phone is broken. It was a very popular game in seminary. We played the game in speech, elocution, and Hebrew language classes: the rules were very simple, whoever started had to use common verses from the Scriptures or a line from a popular song or a nursery rhyme. My dear reader, you have played this game enough times to remember that what was recited at the end bore little or no resemblance to what was said initially. It is for this reason that courts don't allow hearsay evidence. "My uncle's cousin's sister's brother's bank teller heard the defendant say: 'I could kill her!' That is enough evidence for me he must be guilty.

Part of the fun for us was backing up the chain and have each participant say what he or she heard. And then ask what they said to the next person in the chain. Usually the change started with person number 2 and rarely with number 3. On occa-

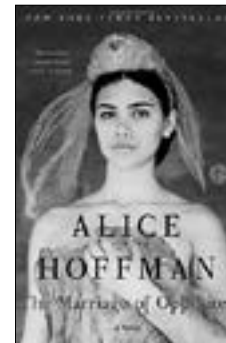
sion someone thought that they recognized the message and instead of saying what they heard passed on their corrections. This just added to fun since the original was an intentional misquote!

In Leviticus, chapter 19, referred to as the holiness code, it says "do not go about as a tale bearer", i.e. do not gossip. God in His infinite wisdom knew that if people repeated what they heard it would quickly turn into a game of telephone. And the result would be harmful. Yet even a command from God has not stopped us from elevating gossip to a source of TV and radio entertainment.

The temptation to repeat something we have heard is tremendous and sometimes overpowers us. At that moment pause and remind yourself of the Yiddish saying: Vas ist das chochma, what is the wisdom of my repeating what I heard? I want to pass this on because...?

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 March 14th is *The Marriage of Opposites* by Alice Hoffman. You don't have to read the book to enjoy book club! Contact Beth Thomas at mbtjthomas@gmail.com.



Thank you for Your Donation

Elizabeth & Stephen Ward
Philip & Evelyn Picker
David & Josie Barondess
Howard & Gail Sulkin
Geraldine Chelnik
Roberta & Ronald Milberg
Roberta & Ronald Milberg
Craig & Tracy Cheifetz
Murray & Kate Mack

In Memory of Jessica Hirsch and Rosalind Gordon
Contribution
In Memory of Stuart Barondess
In Memory of Mark Sulkin & Herman Sulkin
In Memory of Morris Hemmendinger & William Chelnik
In Honor of the Birth of Hannah Noelle Danisek
In Memory of Bennett Fleishman & Roberta Davis
Choir Donation
High Holidays—In Memory of Philip Mack, Irene Mack & Bessie Mack

Thank you to all of the Temple Beth Torah families that contributed to Operation Backpack. Your kind donations enabled the temple to send 100 backpacks to kids in need in Afghanistan.

In Remembrance

Congregant(s)	Remember	Relationship	Date of Death	Hebrew Date	When Hebrew Date Occurs
Mary & Jeff Horner	Thomas Gibbs	Father of Mary	2/4/76		
Julie Pearl & Bob Borsato	Rose Ann Pearl	Mother of Julie	2/4/07	16 Shevat 5767	2/12/17
Barbara & Joseph Sutliff	Jeffrey Iancu	Brother of Barbara	2/4/13	24 Shevat 5773	2/20/17
Kathleen & Matt Kestenbaum	Dora Kestenbaum	Grandmother of Matt	2/5/14	5 Adar I 5774	3/3/17
Mary & Jeff Horner	Anne Gibbs	Mother of Mary	2/6/02	24 Shevat 5762	2/20/17
Barbara & Joseph Sutliff	Beryl Goldman	Uncle of Barbara	2/8/82	15 Shevat 5742	2/11/17
Daria & Jeffrey Parnes	Mary Makowski	Mother of Daria	2/8/93	17 Shevat 5753	2/13/17
Cindy Minionis	Roger Minionis	Father in Law of Cindy	2/10/06	12 Shevat 5766	2/8/17
Gail & Howard Sulkin	Henry Bisk	Grandfather of Howard	2/11/1951	5 Adar I 5711	3/3/17
Gail & Howard Sulkin	Fannie Bisk	Grandmother of Howard	2/12/78	5 Adar I 5738	3/3/17
Gail & Howard Sulkin	Irving Bisk	Uncle of Howard	2/12/90	17 Shevat 5750	2/13/17
Andrea & Daniel Rosenthal	Nancy Rosenthal	Mother of Daniel	2/15/98	19 Shevat 5758	2/15/17
Sandie & Howard Beny	Linda Beny	Mother of Howard	2/16/03	14 Adar I 5763	3/12/17
Deborah Mayer & Todd Hillman	Charles Walker	Grandfather of Todd	2/18/96	28 Shevat 5756	2/24/17
Lori Childers	Maxy Buchhalter	Uncle of Lori	2/18/99	2 Adar 5759	2/28/17
Maria & Marcello Rotjman	Aldo Mario Rojzman	Father of Marcello	2/20/13	10 Adar 5773	3/8/17
Stefani & Manuel deGuzman	Anne Silberman	Great Aunt of Stefani	2/21/95	21 Adar I 5755	3/19/17
Audrey & David Lipps	Jenny Lipps	Grandmother of David	2/29/76	28 Adar I 5736	3/26/17
Joanne & Rob Doolittle	Esther Rosenblith	Grandmother of Joanne	3/3/90	6 Adar 5750	3/4/17
Tamara Yaunches	Irving Uze	Grandfather of Tamara	3/3/97	24 Adar I 5757	3/22/17
Joanne & Rob Doolittle	Bertram Weiner	Father of Joanne	3/5/08	28 Adar I 5768	3/26/17
Melissa & Jay Margolis	Elsie Serota	Grandmother of Melissa	3/6/92	1 Adar II 5752	2/27/17
Daria & Jeffrey Parnes	Marion Parnes	Mother of Jeffrey	3/7/03	3 Adar II 5763	3/1/17
Elizabeth & Stephen Ward	Henry Beecher Ward	Father of Stephen	3/8/06	8 Adar 5766	3/6/17
Kathleen & Matt Kestenbaum	Emanuel Kestenbaum	Grandfather of Matt	3/9/1963	13 Adar 5723	3/11/17
Barbara & Joseph Sutliff	Stanford Thal	Uncle of Barbara	3/9/80	21 Adar 5740	3/19/17
Lori Childers	Paul Rappaport	Grandfather of Lori	3/11/98	13 Adar 5758	3/11/17
Lori & Eric Kravchick	Barry Kravchick	Father of Eric	3/11/06	11 Adar 5766	3/9/17
Nancy Watson	Edward Goldfarb	Father of Nancy	3/15/88	26 Adar 5748	3/24/17
Alissa & Charles Blackmore	Steven Simon	Father of Alissa	3/15/89	8 Adar II 5749	3/6/17
Josie & David Baroness	Edward G Spiegel	Uncle of David	3/15/07	25 Adar 5767	3/23/17
Joanne & Darcy Wertz	Esther Linchuck Bonesz	Mother of Joanne	3/16/10	1 Nisan 5770	3/28/17
Daria & Jeffrey Parnes	Anna Pflaster	Grandmother of Jeffrey	3/17/83	3 Nisan 5743	3/30/17
Josie & David Baroness	Jacob David Spiegel	Grandfather of David	3/18/1969	28 Adar 5729	3/26/17
Stacey & Jeff Huse	Norman Weber	Father of Stacey	3/18/13	7 Nisan 5773	4/3/17
Susan & Ken Fried	Edward Chandler Doughty	Father of Susan	3/18/16	8 Adar II 5776	3/6/17
Deborah Mayer & Todd Hillman	Edward Feld	Grandfather of Deborah	3/19/96	28 Adar 5756	3/26/17
Ina Mayer	Edward Feld	Father of Ina	3/19/96	28 Adar 5756	3/26/17
Ana Kocur & Irwin Kaplan	Joseph Goldstein	Grandfather of Irwin	3/20/95	18 Adar II 5755	3/16/17
Stefani & Manuel deGuzman	Sidney Nast	Grandfather of Stefani	3/21/60	22 Adar 5720	3/20/17
Roberta & Ronald Milberg	Jack Davis	Stepfather of Ron	3/22/15	2 Nisan 5775	3/29/17
Deborah Mayer & Todd Hillman	Madeline Feld	Grandmother of Deborah	3/24/05	13 Adar II 5765	3/11/17
Ana Kocur & Irwin Kaplan	Stanley D. Kaplan	Father of Irwin	3/24/07	5 Nisan 5767	4/1/17
Beth & Ron Glaser	Harold Glaser	Father of Ronald	3/26/73	22 Adar II 5733	3/20/17
Lauren & Pete Laird	Alice Sinsheimer	Grandmother of Lauren	3/27/11	21 Adar II 5771	3/19/17
Barbara & Joseph Sutliff	David Mostov	Uncle of Barbara	3/29/05	18 Adar II 5765	3/16/17
Dorothy & Donald Lewy	Hortense Rothman	Mother of Dorothy	3/31/08	24 Adar II 5768	3/22/17
Joanne & Darcy Wertz	Jack Melnick	Uncle of Joanne	3/31/11	25 Adar II 5771	3/23/17

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



Frequently Asked Questions

❖ **What is included with my ticket?**

The ticket price includes a cocktail hour, 3-course dinner catered by Maggiano's, 3 hours of professional entertainment, cash bar, souvenir photo, and optional babysitting (prior arrangements necessary).

❖ **Where can I get tickets?**

Tickets are available on Sunday mornings from 11:30-12:30 or by contacting jenstawasz@gmail.com. Get them before February 21 for a \$10 per person discount!

❖ **I love TBT, and I want to do more to support events like this. What can I do?**

We love you, too! For a \$100 donation to TBT, you can get your name on a gold star on the TBT Hollywood Walk of Fame, which will be displayed prominently on Murder Mystery Night.

❖ **Can I bring my non-TBT friends?**

YES! This event is open to everyone. Bring your friends; bring your mother-in-law; bring your mailman! You don't have to belong to TBT to have a great night out.

❖ **What do I wear?**

The theme is "Hollywood Homicide." We encourage you to come in costume as your favorite celebrity or as a guest at the Oscars, but you can wear whatever you feel comfortable wearing.

❖ **What do I have to do while I am there?**

The only thing you HAVE to do is have a good time! There will be professional entertainers who will orchestrate the crime and give you everything you need to solve WHODUNNIT! Watch out—YOU may be the dead guy or be accused of the crime!



Temple Beth Torah
PO Box 2020
Centreville, VA 20122

Interfaith Scout Shabbat

Boy & Girl Scouts & their families of all faiths wanted
February 11, 10:30 AM

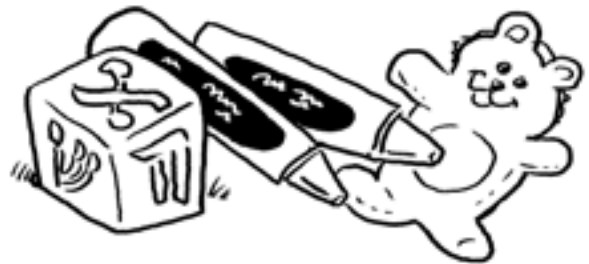
Invite all of your troop friends, leaders, etc to celebrate and earn a patch/rocker. Organized by Maria Rojtman (Marshmallow) scoutways@gmail.com. We need to network and learn more about our scouts and their troops in the area.

Send this link to your friends to share our flier:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0bw4dcwesy07jskzfw5mslz0tuu/view?Usp=sharing>

Register your children for patch/rocker and/or service hours at
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1faipqlsed-uf449-qveptoxnhpn4cbsj-cguqsqigizlgb2ievdkdyq/viewform>



It's not too late to join our spring session of
Torah Tots



Torah Tots is a program for preschoolers (aged 2–pre-K) to attend with a parent or other adult. We meet on Sundays at 11 AM at TBT. Each week we read stories, have music with our awesome music teachers, do an art project, and have snack of challah and juice where we get to practice the Hebrew blessings.

Torah Tots is a great way to meet other families with young children, and TBT membership is not required to participate. For more information, see our website <http://bethtorah.net> or contact Jennifer Harding at (703) 938-4034 or harding3007@verizon.net.