



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

www.bethtorah.net

September–October 2018
Elul 5778–Cheshvan 5779



Upcoming Temple Events

Yom Kippur Family Service	Wednesday, September 19, 2018	09:00 am–10:00 am
Yom Kippur Morning Service/Yizkor	Wednesday, September 19, 2018	10:15 am–01:00 pm
Yom Kippur Afternoon Service	Wednesday, September 19, 2018	04:00 pm–06:00 pm
Break-the-Fast	Wednesday, September 19, 2018	06:00 pm–08:00 pm
Sukkot at Religious School, Grades 8–9	Sunday, September 23, 2018	09:00 am–10:20 am
Sukkot at Religious School, Grades 4–7	Sunday, September 23, 2018	09:00 am–12:30 pm
Sukkot at Religious School, Torah Tots	Sunday, September 23, 2018	10:30 am–12:00 pm
TBT Picnic, Frying Pan Farm Park	Sunday, September 23, 2018	01:00 pm–03:30 pm
Ladies Book Club	Tuesday, September 25, 2018	07:30 pm–09:30 pm
Schoolwide Fire Drill	Sunday, September 30, 2018	
Grades 4–7 Religious School	Sunday, September 30, 2018	09:00 am–12:30 pm
Torah Tots	Sunday, September 30, 2018	10:30 am–12:00 pm
Grades K–3 Religious School	Sunday, September 30, 2018	10:30 am–12:00 pm
Simchat Torah/Consecration Service	Friday, October 5, 2018	07:30 pm–09:00 pm
Kabalkin Bar Mitzvah	Saturday, October 6, 2018	09:30 am–12:00 pm
NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	Sunday, October 7, 2019	
Shabbat Services	Friday, October 12, 2018	07:30 pm–08:30 pm
Klaiman Bar Mitzvah	Saturday, October 13, 2018	10:00 am–12:00 pm
Ritual Committee	Sunday, October 14, 2018	09:00 am–10:30 am
Grades 8–9 Religious School	Sunday, October 14, 2018	09:00 am–10:20 am
Grades 4–7 Religious School	Sunday, October 14, 2018	09:00 am–12:30 pm
Torah Tots	Sunday, October 14, 2018	10:30 am–12:00 pm
Grades K–3 Religious School	Sunday, October 14, 2018	10:30 am–12:30 pm
Adult Study Group	Wednesday, October 17, 2018	07:30 pm–09:00 pm
Grades 4–7 Religious School	Sunday, October 21, 2018	09:00 am–12:30 pm
Torah Tots	Sunday, October 21, 2018	10:30 am–12:00 pm
Grades K–3 Religious School	Sunday, October 21, 2018	10:30 am–12:30 pm
Grades 8–9 Religious School	Sunday, October 28, 2018	09:00 am–10:20 am
Grades 4–7 Religious School	Sunday, October 28, 2018	09:00 am–12:30 am
Torah Tots	Sunday, October 28, 2018	10:30 am–12:00 pm
Grades K–3 Religious School	Sunday, October 28, 2018	10:30 am–12:30 pm

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

Temple Beth Torah Contact List

Main Number & Mailing Address

Temple Beth Torah
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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 mematlarge1@bethtorah.net
(Special projects)

Mike Thomas (571) 287-7796 mematlarge2@bethtorah.net
(Building Logistics)

Joe Sutliff (703) 968-6852 marketing@bethtorah.net
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Rabbi

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

Cantorial Soloist

Lauren Laird lauren.d.laird@gmail.com

High Holiday Chair

Lauren Laird highholidays@bethtorah.net

Membership Chair

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

Sean Mansfield (703) 674-7725 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

Erev Rosh Hashanah Remarks

L'Shana Tovah!

This fall has brought many changes to my family. We are now the proud parents of a High School Freshman and a Freshman Football player. I know that many of you are thinking—BIG DEAL, BEEN THERE, DONE THAT. But for me, it's all new. And other than being in complete denial, I am full of anxiety as I worry time is flying by and soon Charlie will be leaving for college. But, that's another conversation.

Charlie attends Westfield High School, as I know many of your children do or have in the past.

So far, I am very impressed with the teachers, Principal and coaching staff. This year's theme at Westfield is "Engagement". How appropriate. I've decided to adopt it as TBT's official theme for this coming year.

I know what you are thinking—here we go again. It's the High Holidays and Jayne is going to ask us for money and to volunteer. Well...you are partially right.

There's no way to sugar coat it. A few of us have taken on the entirety of running this Congregation and Community. Not unlike many of you who have held leadership positions in the past. But frankly, we...need...help. We can't continue to do it all anymore. We need you to be ENGAGED at TBT. Whether it's continuing to teach your children Jewish traditions at home, ENGAGE in their classes at TBT, ENGAGE in the brotherhood or sisterhood by stepping up to help at events or helping with the many tasks we have outlined on the flipchart in the foyer. We need you to ENGAGE.

I like to say we are a Jewish co-op. We all have to take our turn and help. And not just signing up for our Chaverim dates. We need more help. We need you to volunteer to be part of the Board and our committees. We will have many open positions next spring, including President and Vice President. Most of us are serving our third term. We are all VERY dedicated to continuing the wonderful traditions that make us TBT. BUT, we can't do it alone anymore. How does that saying go? More hands make lighter work? We need more hands.

We know that you all have opinions and suggestions on how we can do things better. Many of these have been shared with me and honestly, many I have overheard. Help bring your suggestions to fruition and help find and implement solutions.

I plan to reach out to each of you over the next few months to see how you can contribute your time and expertise. Or, you are welcome to see me to discuss how you can help. Happy to meet you individually to answer any questions you may have.

Now, back to football. If anyone has any suggestions on how to clean these football uniforms, I am all ears!

GO BULLDOGS and GO TBT!

Many thanks,
—Jayne

A Musical Note from Lauren Laird

L'Shanah Tovah!

I am honored and excited to serve as Temple Beth Torah's Cantorial Soloist for the High Holiday services and B'nai Mitzvot again this year. Over the summer, it was an absolute pleasure working on the service structures with Rabbi Block, developing the music with Lori and our fabulous choir, and getting to know our awesome fall Bar Mitzvah students. With many traditional favorites and a couple new pieces, I am confident you will enjoy what we have prepared.

Being a part of TBT has been one of the joys of my family's life since moving to the area a few years ago. The TBT community welcomed us with open arms and made us feel like part of the family from the moment we walked through the door. My husband and I, like many of TBT's members, are a blended family. When I married Pete, I became an

instant mom—a stepmom—and then, a few years later, we welcomed Ewan to our pack. Although Pete wasn't raised Jewish, he feels a part of TBT too—you probably see him on Sundays when he brings Ewan to Torah Tots where they enjoy learning the Jewish traditions, holidays, and prayers together. (A quick thank you to Jen Harding for your amazing work teaching the Torah Tots—and parents!)

My greatest experience at TBT was serving as the interim Cantorial Soloist in 2016-2017. When I led my first service at TBT in June 2016, I found that I had realized a dream I didn't know I had—to lead and serve my Jewish community. Shortly after I started preparing for High Holidays in 2016, I contacted the cantor from where I grew up in California to seek her mentorship. I believe her exact

words were: "Well, it's about time you realized your true path!" She helped me see that I had been preparing for this my whole life: singing in the temple choir, studying voice since I was 13, performing in community theater productions, being a madricha throughout high school, tutoring B'nai Mitzvah students, teaching religious school for nearly two decades, and leading High Holiday services for young professionals. I am grateful to be able to lead our community again this fall.

Over the next few months, I am excited to continue working with our B'nai Mitzvah tutor, Sylvia, to develop the best service for each student. I also plan to connect with other cantors in our area and participate in Guild of Temple Musician activities, of which I am a member. I will also continue developing my vocal abilities with my voice coach. It will be a busy time but also a fun, challenging, and rewarding experience.

Temple Beth Torah is a unique congregation in the shadow of our nation's capital serving a blend of traditional Jewish and interfaith families. It is a place of belonging, of caring, and of love. I look forward to seeing each of you either at High Holidays or over the coming months! May your year be full of peace, laughter, and love.

Shanah Tovah U'metukah/Have A Good and Sweet New Year!

—Lauren

NORTHERN VIRGINIA 3RD ANNUAL

Great Big Challah Bake

**Thursday
Oct 25th, 7pm**

Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia
8900 Little River Turnpike

Join a diverse group of Jewish women and girls of all ages & stages as we come together as one community and unite with thousands from across the globe to knead, braid and make challah
#WeKneadEachOther

General Admission: \$18
Student Admission (10yrs and up): \$10

Tribute & Sponsorships: Honor a special and inspiring woman in your life who will be featured in our program

THE EVENING INCLUDES:
All baking supplies, light refreshments, apron and a take-home gift and more!

ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY OCTOBER 18.
Space is limited—register early! At
<https://the3rdgreatbigchallahbakenova.bpt.me>

For information contact: laurie.albert@jccnv.org or raizelg@gmail.com

NORTHERN VIRGINIA
CHABAD LUBAVITCH OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA
GESHET
Jewish Day School
TEMPLE BETH TORAH
Little River Synagogue
WOTRS
CHABAD LUBAVITCH
Alexandria-Arlington
Partner Agency of
The Jewish Federation
OF GREATER WASHINGTON
Chabad of Reston-Herndon
The Shabbat Project
KEEPING IT TOGETHER

A Message from Rabbi Kenneth Block

Community the Facebook Way

One of my colleagues, Rabbi Louis Feldstein, in a sermon jokingly suggested that one could build a community by using Facebook methods in the real world. So one day I decided, perhaps it's not a joke, perhaps one could have a community using the Facebook way. On Sunday I stopped using social media and instead I was determined to make friends without the benefit of Facebook but still using its methods.

So, I leave home and set off for Brookside Gardens in Montgomery County. Wasting no time as soon as I park the first person I meet I tell them what I have eaten, how I feel, what I did last night, and what I will do tomorrow. Then the next person I meet I give them pictures of our vacation in Colorado, our son's dog, and the plants on my porch. Energized by their enthusiastic response to how cute Miles, a Miniature Pinscher, is I forge ahead. The view from my porch really pleases the next couple I meet, so without hesitation I show them my photo album of "Winter in Silver Spring". This is working out better than I ever expected. I share with everyone else I meet intimate details of my childhood, the eulogy I gave at my sister's funeral, pictures of my grandchildren from birth to the present, and back in the parking lot I enthrall my final friends with photos of myself from my circumcision through age 72.

As I enter my car I face the Brookside Gardens visitor Center and call out "I love you all". I did in person what all my "friends" do on Facebook. It works! I now have a community including the two Sheriffs' deputies standing next to my car.

Facebook is not a community. Facebook is a great way to share our lives, inform others of our activities, keep friends updated on our health and well-being, but it is not a community. It is not worthy of our spending as much time on it as we do.

We do spend as much time as we because we crave community, we want to belong. And Facebook is an easy way to create the illusion that we belong to a community and have friends.

The good news is that we do not need to pretend that we belong to a community. I would suggest that while there are many places that such communities could be formed, the synagogue is truly the best place—the most natural place.

Temple Beth Torah is a place where we can connect with one another and with God. Our community requires us to be present and responsible for each other. Together we can create an environment in which we help to provide a feeling of protection, respect and connectivity. Then we will fulfill God's commandment: "You shall be holy for I the Lord your God am holy".

Contemporary Issues in Judaism

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

"Rabbi Block where do we go when we die?" And I replied: "we all go to the same place when we die, where Moses and Rabbi Akiva give constant and everlasting classes on the Bible and the Talmud."

For me this is eternal bliss, while for others this is eternal suffering.

Through out Jewish history different ideas about the afterlife have been expressed. At different times in history and in different countries, Jews had different ideas. These varying thoughts were never reconciled or canonically decided. Thus, even today, Jews believe in different, often irreconcilable, theories of what life after death is like.

We will be exploring these views in our classes.

The blast will keep you current on dates resuming in the fall.

In Remembrance

Congregant(s)	Remember	Relationship	Date of Death	When Hebrew Date Occurs
Kathy & Michael Erstling	Ethan Tucker	Nephew of Michael	9/1/17	8/21/18
Mark Lichter	Fredric Lichter	Brother of Mark	9/1/03	8/15/18
Tamara & Frank Simone	Edward Simone	Brother	9/1/14	8/17/18
Julie & Adam Lenfestey	June Davy Klein	Grandmother of Julie	9/5/13	9/10/18
Mary & Jeff Horner	Connie Dembicer	Aunt of Jeff	9/6/12	8/30/18
Barbara & Joseph Sutliff	Joanne Mostov	Aunt of Barbara	9/6/71	8/27/18
Barbara & Joseph Sutliff	Donald Eckber	Uncle of Barbara	9/7/12	8/31/18
Maria & Marcello Rotjman	Genevieve Cavey	Mother of Maria	9/12/91	9/13/18
Mary & Jeff Horner	Martin Horner	Father of Jeff	9/13/10	9/14/18
Barbara & Joseph Sutliff	Ida Iancu	Grandmother of Barbara	9/15/79	9/3/18
Jayne Ayers & Tye Jurgensen	Edna Ayers	Grandmother of Charlie	9/16/16	8/24/18
Dorothy & Donald Lewy	Lawrence Lewy	Father of Don	9/20/01	9/12/18
Barbara & Joseph Sutliff	Albert Iancu M.D.	Father of Barbara	9/20/15	9/16/18
Amber & Marques Jackson	Florence Schrieber	Grandmother of Amber	9/28/12	9/21/18
Bonnie & Earl Schendell	Morton Brownstein	Father of Bonnie	9/29/14*	9/15/18
Tamara Yaunches	Martin Andrew Uze	Father of Tamara	9/29/70	9/8/18
Gail & Howard Sulkin	Sylvia Sulkin	Mother of Howard	9/30/16	9/7/18
Kathy & Michael Erstling	Sheila L. Erstling	Mother of Michael	10/2/17	9/21/18
Devin & Mac McCrory	Julia Grosberg Karten	Grandmother of Devin	10/5/02	10/8/18
Ina Mayer	Robert M. Mayer	First Husband of Ina	10/6/89	9/16/18
Deborah Mayer & Todd Hillman	Robert M. Mayer	Father of Deborah	10/6/89	9/16/18
Lori & Eric Kravchick	Fay Kravchick	Grandmother of Eric	10/12/85	10/6/18
Barbara & Joseph Sutliff	Sylvia Thal	Aunt of Barbara	10/12/15	10/8/18
Gerry Chelnik	Bernhard Hemmendinger	Brother of Gerry	10/15/95	9/30/18
Gerry Chelnik	David Chelnik	Husband of Geraldine	10/18/11	9/29/18
Beth & Ron Glaser	David Chelnik	Father of Beth	10/18/11	9/29/18
Kathleen & Matt Kestenbaum	Philip F. Acker	Grandfather of Matt	10/18/01	10/10/18
Melissa & Jay Margolis	Max Margolis	Grandfather of Jay	10/19/72	10/20/18
Melissa & Jay Margolis	Herman Silber	Grandfather of Jay	10/23/95	10/8/18
Andrea & Daniel Rosenthal	Tessie Gomels	Grandmother of Andrea	10/25/13	10/30/18
Elizabeth & Stephen Ward	Julius G Hirsch	Father of Elizabeth	10/27/05	10/3/18
Amber & Marques Jackson	Katherine Strawbridge	Grandmother of Marques	10/28/12	10/21/18
Barbara & Joseph Sutliff	Stanley Akers	Uncle of Barbara	10/29/77	10/26/18
Anne & Michael Beaudreau	Ashby Alexander Byrd	Father of Anne	10/30/06	10/17/18

*After sunset

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

Welcome to Temple Beth Torah!

Please join us in making our newest members feel at home in our congregation!

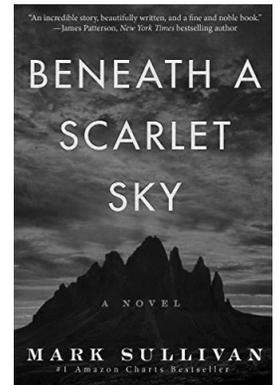
Pamela Fisher

Sheila Ronis

Sandy, Brad, Chelsea, Danielle and Becca Levin

TBT Ladies Book Club

Please join us for this “pot-luck” style book club that usually* meets every *other* month on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30PM. *September’s get together has been changed to September 25th due to High Holidays and other scheduling issues. This club is open to all TBT women. Plan to bring a drink or appetizer to share! Our book for the September 25th meeting is *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* by Mark Sullivan. You don’t have to read the book to enjoy book club!



Contact Beth Thomas at mbtjthomas@gmail.com for more information.

Thank you for Your Donation

Amber & Marques Jackson	In Loving Memory of Mickey Parker and Ben Schrieber
Amber & Marques Jackson	In Loving Memory of Tyrone Jackson
Dorothy & Donald (John) Lewy	In Loving Memory of Miriam Lewy
Linda Mitchell	In Honor of the High Holidays
Sheila R. Ronis	In Honor of the High Holidays
Dorothy & Donald (John) Lewy	In Honor of the High Holidays
Roberta & Ronald Milberg	Contributions for High Holidays & Marketing Efforts

...and we are judged

What is kol nidre about anyway? Literally, this night means “all vows”. We step into the synagogue and here the first daunting melodies that call us to worship as we await to be judged.

Who shall live and who shall die? As I reflect on this past year, I truly have been granted another year. I begin to ask for forgiveness from God, others and myself for my sins and ask for another good year.

I am judged for the promises I made to myself and to others. I beg pardon and ask that these sins are pardoned. The Hebrew word teshuvah, usually translated as “penitence,” means I am looking inward, returning, and retracing my steps, and coming home. The most characteristic sense of sin is less one of guilt than of being lost. Teshuvah means finding your way back home.

To those who repent from their sins, I wish a g’mar chatima tova, that they will be granted a happy new year & pray they are inscribed be in the book of life. I show God I have the ability to grow, change, and redefine myself. It is a day to cleanse myself of past failings and sins, and begin this new phase of my life.

Sound the shofar, may this day of fasting and self denial inspired acts of creativity, generosity and joy. May we go from strength to strength.

—Nancy Watson

Temple Beth Torah
PO Box 2020
Centreville, VA 20122

The Day of Atonement

Courtesy of Union for Reform Judaism

Yom Kippur, which dates from biblical times, is referenced in three separate passages in the Torah. The Torah refers to Yom Kippur as Shabbat Shabbaton, “a Sabbath of complete rest,” while the Talmud denotes Yom Kippur simply as Yoma, “The Day.”

The Torah portrays Yom Kippur primarily as a cultic festival, a day centered almost exclusively upon the Temple in Jerusalem. It was on this day that the *kohen gadol*, the high priest, performed the complicated rituals and sacrifices that purified the Temple from the defilement that had attached to it as a result of the sins of the Israelite people. This defilement had caused God’s presence to depart from their midst. There also was another aspect to the day: *atonement*, the spiritual cleansing of the people themselves. Their role was to serve as an attentive and expectant audience outside the Temple precincts, awaiting the hoped-for successful outcome of the high priest’s service. Their role, according to the Torah, was to abstain from work and to practice “self-denial.” Our tradition has defined “self-denial” as *inuyim* (afflictions): fasting and refraining from certain other activities that satisfy our physical needs.

With the Temple’s destruction, the second aspect of

Yom Kippur, focused on atonement, came to predominate. The atonement we now perform is turned inward; it is an act of self-purification in which we purge our own lives from the stain of our misdeeds. Like the Israelites during the Temple period, we continue to fast, understanding this self-denial as a cleansing of our soul, an act of self-discipline, and a sign that on this day we rise above our most basic biological necessities to focus our attention on matters of the spirit.

Our prayers traditionally last all day, as did the service of the high priest. We recall the priest’s service in poetic form, and the recitation of *N’ilah* (closing) at the conclusion of Yom Kippur hearkens back to the time when the “closing of the gates” was a feature of the Temple’s everyday ritual. Finally, the drama of the ancient sacrifice has become an internal drama, which we experience as a grand spiritual and emotional sweep that us from the haunting melody of *Kol Nidre*, through the recitation of the prayers, *selichot* (poems of supplication and forgiveness) and *viduyim* (confessions of sin), culminating in *N’ilah*, when we stand one last time before God in the fading moments of the year’s holiest day.