



# Shabbat Shalom

15 Sh'vat 5777  
February 11, 2017

Parashat Beshalach

## This Week at Beth El Synagogue

### Saturday, February 11:

Shabbat Mishnah Study	8:45 am
B'nai Mitzvah Peer Tutoring	9:00 am
Orthodox Kehillah Services	9:00 am
Main Sanctuary Services (Bat Mitzvah of Tali Samuel-Devaney)	9:30 am
Healing Yoga	10:00 am
Children's Services	10:30 am
Havdallah	6:35 pm

### Sunday, February 12:

Talmud Torah (Pre-K-7th grade)	9:30 am
Weekly Sunday Minyan	9:30 am
Annual Beth El Red Cross Blood Drive	9:30 am
Knitting Chevra	10:00 am
Kitah Gimel Family Beit Midrash (Havdallah)	10:30 am
Planting Trees for Tu B'shevat	1:30 pm
Teen Park Clean Up	3:00 pm
Shiva Minyan for Marsha Schonberg	7:00 pm

### Monday, February 13:

Shiva Minyan for Marsha Schonberg	7:00 pm
Sisterhood Board Meeting	7:30 pm

### Wednesday, February 15:

Weekly Wednesday Minyan	8:00 am
Talmud Torah (2nd-6th grade)	4:40 pm

### Thursday, February 16:

Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Greyber	11:30 am
Tish at Rabbi Greyber's	7:30 pm

### Friday, February 17:

Candle Lighting	5:41 pm
Got Shabbat?	6:00 pm

This weekend's Kiddush lunch is sponsored by:  
Lynn Samuel & Sena Devaney in honor of Tali's Bat Mitzvah, with Aviva Starr & Sherry Samuels, Daphne Friedman & Josh Granek, Rachel Galanter & Stacie White, and Hinda Lind.

Beth El is a welcoming community of members with diverse backgrounds, ideas, levels of knowledge, and observance. We are an egalitarian Conservative congregation, and a member of the Southeast Seaboard district of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ), and the Orthodox Union.

### Upcoming Events:

- ✧ Sat. 2/18 Shabbat Mishnah Study
- ✧ Sat. 2/18 Shabbat Morning Orthodox Kehillah Services
- ✧ Sat. 2/18 B'nei Mitzvah Peer Tutoring
- ✧ Sat. 2/18 Shabbat Morning Services
- ✧ Sun. 2/19 Talmud Torah (Pre-K-7th grade)
- ✧ Sun. 2/19 Weekly Sunday Minyan
- ✧ Sun. 2/19 Kitah Vav B'nai Mitzvah Family Beit Midrash
- ✧ Sun. 2/19 Chevra Kaddisha- Women's Taharah Group Training
- ✧ Sun. 2/19 Talmud Torah Faculty Meeting
- ✧ Tue. 2/21 Finance Committee Meeting
- ✧ Tue. 2/21 Ritual Committee Meeting
- ✧ Wed. 2/22 Talmud Torah (2nd-6th grade)
- ✧ Thu. 2/23 Executive Committee Meeting
- ✧ Thu. 2/23 Tish at Rabbi Greyber's
- ✧ Fri. 2/24 Family Kabbalat Shabbat Services
- ✧ Sat. 2/25 Shabbat Mishnah Study
- ✧ Sat. 2/25 Shabbat Morning Orthodox Kehillah Services
- ✧ Sat. 2/25 B'nei Mitzvah Peer Tutoring
- ✧ Sat. 2/25 Shabbat Morning Services

### Gabbai Schedule

Contact the scheduled gabbai if you'd like to request an *aliyah*, other honor, or to volunteer to lead a service in the Main Sanctuary. Gabbaim will try to accommodate requests made on Shabbat morning (by 10:15am, before the Torah service) but we ask for your understanding if all honors have been previously claimed during the week.



2/18 Yitro Roger Perilstein rperilstein@hrc-pa.com	919-286-9814
2/25 Mishpatim-Shekalim Shula Bernard shulabernard@gmail.com	919-967-9393
3/4 Terumah Diane Markoff Diane.markoff@earthlink.net	919-969-8953
3/11 Tetzavveh-Zachor David Kirsch dkirsch@md.duke.edu	919-286-4516

# Parashat Beshalach

Adapted from <http://www.jtsa.edu/jts-torah-online>

As a camp director, Beshallah speaks to me in certain rather obvious ways. It is focused on the power of song—both the Song of the Sea (Exodus 15:1-18) and Deborah’s Song (Judges 5:1-31) in the haftarah—and camp is nothing if not filled with song and music. Experience, similarly, is central to the entire endeavor, especially as recounted in the Passover seder. And Beshallah also represents the birth of possibility, the beginning of an independent community. In other words, this week’s parashah encapsulates the basic work we in the camp business embark on every summer.

On a deeper level, as the director of Camp Ramah in Wisconsin (our movement’s oldest camp, founded seventy years ago), I can recognize three less obvious qualities that are present in Beshallah, qualities that also help create the magic and the impact of a summer at a camp like Ramah: fragility and transience, a model community committed to excellence, and creativity.

The power of Ramah comes from its fragility and transience. It is not there every time our campers and staff want it to be there; it is not the site of regular life-cycle events; our campus has never felt the celebration of the full Jewish holiday cycle. Especially at the outset of each summer, everyone is foreign. The experience of leaving Egypt for the Israelites is similarly fraught: Beshallah captures a liminal moment, one that heightens the drama of the narrative and catalyzes individual and communal growth. The swift move in the story—leaving Egypt, standing on death’s doorstep between the Egyptian army and the Sea of Reeds, then traversing that sea on dry land—captures the fragility and power of moments that are scarce and heightened. Like a summer at camp, such moments cannot be forgotten. We all recognize the fleeting nature of the experience, and this in-between-ness is one of the sources of Ramah’s profound inspirational and transformational ability.

The single-minded commitment of the mass of individuals who left Egypt—including (according to various Biblical sources) six hundred thousand men and additional women and children, as well as an *erev rav* or *asafsuf* (Exod. 12:38, Num. 11:4), understood to be a sundry group of non-Israelites—is inspiring. The dramatic moment in time, an opportunity to escape and start a new life, bonds people together. Those bonds create a model community. That model community acts as one. Many other stories of the Torah have moments of dissent. The two central events of the parashah, the leaving of Egypt and the episode inside the Sea of Reeds and on its far side, have none. This paradigmatic community is able to achieve phenomenal things because of its commitment to a single goal.

The Israelite community flees Egypt and enters the split sea (the midrashic literature adds the story of Nahshon ben Aminadav’s bravery (BT Sotah 36a)). After successfully crossing, the group extemporaneously breaks into song. Both episodes are examples of how a model community can nurture excellence of the human spirit and excellence in creativity. At camp, in much different circumstances, we aspire to create similar communities defined by excellence: the excellence of individuals and the excellence of the group. Shared values, self-sacrifice, and the encouragement of self-expression all contribute to this goal. We teach our campers and staff a particular interpretation of the well-known commandment in Leviticus: Love your neighbor as yourself (19:18). We love our neighbors, our fellow campers, as much as we love ourselves. We provide space for them to excel, while they do the same for us.

Finally, the most magical ingredient—impossible without the first two—is creativity. Transience, trust, and the encouragement of excellence combine to create a laboratory in which something fresh, new, and compelling can emerge. In Beshallah, this creativity is represented by the Song of the Sea (Exod. 15:1-18), which erupts from the fragility of the moment and the power of the community. For us at camp, creativity emerges in myriad ways as we help campers and staff members achieve mastery of specific disciplines, then empowering them to experiment with that mastery. The dance studio and the woodshop, the lake and the tennis court, the woods and the ropes course are all sites for that mastery and creativity to happen. And whether it is writing a new song for the bonfire or adding a new tradition to a cabin or the entire camp, the opportunities for growth are endless.

Beshallah is the origin story of the Jewish nation. Ramah’s founding seventy years ago in the wake of the Holocaust, at a time when American Jewry’s ability to thrive felt fragile, took place at a similar reset in our history. As Ramah turns the corner into its eighth decade, we remain committed to recreating an echo of an echo of the power of Beshallah: to incubate new Jewish individuals, friendship groups, and communities that, through these fragile and transient model communities, will unleash their creative potential to redefine Judaism in each generation, and to continue our mission as Jews to better the entire world.

# Refuah Shleymah רפואה שלמה

Batya bat Shprintza (Barbra Roberman)	Ovadya ben Esther Malkah (Ovadya Fleishman)	Alvin Jacobson Anne Boyd
Chana bat Malka	Sarah bat Hinda (Sylvia Dante)	Alan Marty Christine Walters
Chana Leah bat Sarah (Anna Crollman)	Sarah Gittel bat Rut (Sue Perlo)	Ezra Rapport Helen Rosenberg
David ben Sarah (David Leitner)	Shalom ben Sprintze (Stanley Ramati)	Jack Reich Jeff Shields
David Yosef ben Avraham v'Chana (Donald Goldstein)	Shimon ben Shlomo haLevi v'Sheyne (Stuart Levine)	Joyce Romm Ken Walkters
Esther bat Yankale Sura	Shira Batya bat Meirav	Lauren Schiro Netta Boswell
Esther Malka bat Chaya Fruma (Elinor Fleishman)	Shmuel ben Shoshana	Orrie Wilner Richard Roth
Herschel David ben Aharon haKohen u'Bela Miriam	Shraga ben Devorah Leah (Phillip Samuel Ramati)	Sidney Barker
Israel ben Zalman u'Malkah	Shraga Feivel ben Leib (Philip Skoletsky)	
Malka bat Leah (Meg Anderson)	Tuvia ben Shmuel v'Tziporah (Tovia Lebovich)	
Malka Chana bat Basha Rachel	Tziporah bat Esther	
M'cor Eyshel bat Esther Tzvia	Ya'akov Roni ben Margalit	
Mishulamit bat Maryam (Marcia Hagan)		
Miriam Shifra bat Issur (Margaret Sachs)		

Please contact the synagogue office with any additions or changes to this list.

## Yahrzeits יארצייט

May their memory be a blessing

Ada Lou Carson	Mary Zeitune de Szulik	Dora Levine
Ben Ornoff	Sue Speier	Deborah Katz
Elaine Ostroff Perilstein	Ruth Goldberg	
Carol Strollwerk	Anne Cohen	
Arnold Korn	Bernie Kessler	

## BE Remembered

Beth El Synagogue extends condolences to: Wendy and Lew Borman and their family on the death of Wendy’s father—Jim Gratz—who passed away on Friday, February 3 in Indiana.

Roy Schonberg and Cheryl Marcus and their family on the death of Roy’s mother, Jacob, Jessica and Rachel’s grandmother and Clay’s great-grandmother—Marsha Schonberg—who passed away Monday, February 6 in Durham after living a long and full life. Shiva minyanim will be held at Roy & Cheryl’s home on Sunday and Monday, February 12-13 at 7:00 pm.

Adam and Beth Goldstein and their family on the death of Adam’s mother and Jared, Michael and Eliana’s grandmother—Rita Wolfson (Rachel bat Israel Mordechai HaLevi)—who passed away Wednesday morning, February 1 in Chapel Hill.

Ari and Diana Medoff and their family on the death of Ari’s uncle—Philip Silber—who passed away on Sunday, January 22 in New Jersey.

May the Ever Present One comfort them among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

**Beth El Synagogue**  
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Rabbi: Daniel Greyber  
Rabbi Emeritus: Steven Sager  
Synagogue President: Noah Pickus