



Shabbat Shalom

29 Nisan 5776

May 7, 2016

Parashah Achrei Mot

This Week at Beth El Synagogue

Saturday, May 7:

Havdalah—8:50 pm

Shabbat Mishnah Study	8:45 am
Orthodox Kehillah Services	9:00 am
B'nei Mitzvah Peer Tutoring	9:00 am
Main Sanctuary Services	9:30 am
Children's Services	10:30 am
Shiur with Esther Lederman	1:00 pm

Sunday, May 8:

Sunday Minyan	9:00 am
Teen Holocaust Program	3:00 pm

Monday, May 9:

Synagogue Life Committee Meeting	7:00 pm
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Tuesday, May 10:

Hebrew Level I with Donna Goldstein	6:00 pm
Hebrew Level II with Donna Goldstein	7:00 pm

Wednesday, May 11: Yom HaZikaron

Weekly Wednesday Minyan	8:00 am
Talmud Torah (2-6) Tefillah Boot Camp	4:15 pm

Thursday, May 12: Yom HaAtzm'ut

Sulam Session #7	7:00 pm
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Friday, May 13:

Candle Lighting—7:49 pm

Kadima Shabbat Dinner (5th graders invited) 6:30 pm
at Rabbi Greyber's

Upcoming Events:

- ✧ Sat. 5/14 Shabbat Morning Mishnah
- ✧ Sat. 5/14 Shabbat Morning Orthodox Kehillah Services
- ✧ Sat. 5/14 B'nei Mitzvah Peer Tutoring
- ✧ Sat. 5/14 Shabbat Morning Services
- ✧ Sat. 5/14 Montly Parashah Study
- ✧ Sat. 5/14 Simchat Tot Shabbat Picnic
- ✧ Sun. 5/15 Sunday Minyan
- ✧ Sun. 5/15 Annual Meeting, Volunteer of the Year and BBQ
- ✧ Mon. 5/16 Sisterhood Board Meeting
- ✧ Tue. 5/17 Hebrew Level I/II with Donna Goldstein
- ✧ Tue. 5/17 Ritual Committee Meeting
- ✧ Tue. 5/17 Finance Committee Meeting
- ✧ Wed. 5/18 Weekly Wednesday Minyan
- ✧ Sat. 5/21 Shabbat Mishnah Study
- ✧ Sat. 5/21 Shabbat Morning Orthodox Kehillah Services
- ✧ Sat. 5/21 Last B'nei Mitzvah Peer Tutoring
- ✧ Sat. 5/21 Shabbat Morning Services
- ✧ Sat. 5/21 Chavurah Minyan
- ✧ Sat. 5/21 Healing Yoga

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.



5/7 AhareyMot-MacharChodesh Alan Mandel andelcpa@gmail.com	917-589-5673
5/14 Kedoshim Jon Wahl jmwahl@email.unc.edu	919-942-3827
5/21 Emor Sally Laliberte selaib@gmail.com	919-302-0035
5/28 Behar Diane Markoff diane.markoff@earthlink.net	919- 969-8953

This weekend's Kiddush lunch is sponsored by:
Beth El Synagogue

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.

Parashat Achrei Mot

Adapted from <http://www.uscj.org/>

Returning to the immediate aftermath of Nadav and Avihu's deaths, Aaron is disallowed from entering the Holy of Holies at will. God instructs Moses to guide his brother and remaining nephews in a ritual for the Day of Atonement. Included in the ritual are two goats, one designated for "Azazel," which carries the burdens of the people's sins. Yom Kippur is defined as a day of self-denial to make expiation for all Israelite sins.

General guidelines for sacrificing are detailed, including the need to present slaughtered animals to the Tabernacle, and to avoid consuming blood.

In an effort to avoid Egyptian or Canaanite laws, the people are instructed to steer clear from improper sexual relations, including incest and bestiality, lest the Promised Land become defiled.

One of the Torah's seminal chapters, Leviticus 19 exhorts the Israelites to be holy because God is holy. Holiness is achieved, in part, by honoring our parents, protecting our children, rejecting idolatry, giving to the poor, offering sacrifices sincerely, and dealing with strangers and neighbors with decency and fairness.

The second part of the portion, Leviticus 20, returns to some of the same themes, focusing heavily on sexual ethics and avoiding idolatry.

Theme #1: Don't Walk Like an Egyptian

You shall not copy the practices of the land of Egypt where you dwell, or of the land of Canaan to which I am taking you; nor shall you follow their laws. My rules alone shall you observe, and faithfully follow My laws: I the Lord am your God. (Leviticus 18:3-4)

God challenges the Chosen People to remain unique, even when surrounded by those whose practices are completely different.

During the reign of Czar Nicholas I of Russia, a decree was issued by the government that Jews were required to wear hats with visors (or brims) just like Gentiles. This created a storm among the Jews: "A Gentile law" -- "Let him be killed rather than transgress." [During times of persecution people can die even over something as trifling as a shoelace.] Chasidim sat in the study house of Rabbi Menachem Mendl of Kotzk in heated and furious debate. Some were religiously strict, others lenient. Suddenly, the rebbe opened the door and asked, "Why the commotion? What has happened?" They replied to him that the government had issued a decree that Jews must change the way they dress, and clothe themselves like Gentiles. "The clothing of Jews is only tallis and tefillin," snapped the rebbe. And he closed the door as he left. -- Menachem Mendl of Kotzk

The passage should be interpreted in its plain sense. If you follow the practices of the Egyptians -- for what purpose did I bring you out of Egypt? If you follow the practices of the Canaanites, why should I expel them for your sakes? On this condition did I bring you out of Egypt and on this condition did I drive out the Canaanites -- that you should not emulate their deeds. -- Be'er Yitzhak

Those non-Jewish practices and insights which strengthen Jewish survival, which sensitize us as a people, which teach us how to be loving, caring, and sensitive, which increase our understanding of Judaism and prompt us to practice it fully, pose no threat to our Jewishness. On the contrary, we benefit from their inclusion. An openness to learn, however, should not be mistaken for the blind adoption of all Gentile standards. ... Much in modern life deserves our opposition. But insights that strengthen Torah, that make Jewish identity vibrant and central, deserve our study and our adoption. -- Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson, The Bedside Torah

Beth El Synagogue
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Rabbi: Daniel Greyber
Rabbi Emeritus: Steven Sager
Synagogue President: Rachel Galanter

Refuah Shleymah רפואה שלמה

Aharon ben David u' Miriam (Alan Goldman)	Reuven ben Chanoch v' Dinah (Robert Feurst)	Ezra Rapport Jack Reich
Baracha bat Sarah	Sara bat Hinda (Sylvia Dante)	Michael Rockman
Batya bat Shprintza (Barbra Roberman)	Sarah Gittel bat Rut (Sue Perlo)	Richard Roth Carmen Sadowsky
Ben-Zion ben Sarah	Shira Batya bat Meirav	Lauren Schiro
Chana bat Malkah	Shmuel ben Shoshana	Susan Tolchin
Hannah Leah bat Sarah (Anna Crollman)	Tuvia ben Shmuel v' Tziporah (Tovia Lebovich)	Christine Walters Derick Williams
David ben Sarah (David Leitner)	Tziporah bat Esther	Orrie Wilner Amy Wolf
David Yosef ben Avraham v' Hannah (Donald Goldstein)	Sonia Berman	Please contact the synagogue office with any additions or changes to this list.
Eliyahu Chanan ben Sarah (Ed Gagnon)	Anne Boyd	
Malkah bat Leah (Meg Anderson)	Cynthia Brown Elinor Fleishman	
Malka Hannah bat Basha Rachel Miriam Shifra bat Issur (Margaret Sachs)	Jennifer Krunkosky Inez McFarling	
M'cor Eyshel bat Esther Tzvia	Lorraine Morley	
Ovadya ben Elinor (Ovadya Fleishman)	Faye Davis Rapp Gordon Rapp	

Yahrzeits יארצייט

Arthur Brody	Boris Mikhalevsky
Sylvia Fridovich	Israel Rockman
Lena Goldberg	Estelle Henner Rose
Zelda Goldstein	Frank Schwartz
Pauline Klein	Sigmund Segal
Martin Lakin	Johannes van der Horst
Melvin Mack Margolese	

BE Mazel Tov

Mazel Tov to the following Beth El members on their birthdays!
Miriam Barker, Jon Bellman, Shelah Bloom, David Donahue, Sharon Freedman, Peter Goldberg, Ron Grunwald, Daniel Hirschman, Doris Iarovici, Drew Langsam, Esther Lederman, Isaac Price, Barak Richman, Judy Siegel

Mazel Tov to Laura Lieber on becoming a full professor at Duke.

BE Remembered

Beth El Synagogue extends condolences to:

Matt, Susan, Maddie and April Springer on the death of Matt's mother, Maddie and April's grandmother, Myrna Barbara Springer, who passed away peacefully April 24 in Stamford, Connecticut.

Sam Gross and his family on the death of Sam's brother, Dr. Stanley Gross, who passed away on April 23, in Greenwich, Connecticut.