



Shabbat Shalom

16 Av 5776
August 20, 2016

Parashat Va'ethanan Nahamu

This Week at Beth El Synagogue

Saturday, August 20:

Havdalah—9:16 pm

NO B'NEI MITZVAH PEER TUTORING

NO SHABBAT MISHNAH STUDY

Orthodox Kehillah Services 9:00 am

Main Sanctuary Services 9:30 am

Sunday, August 21:

School Clean-Up Day 8:00 am

Albrecht Strauss Unveiling 11:00 am

Monday, August 22:

Tuesday, August 23:

Va'ad HaChinuch Meeting 7:00 pm

Wednesday, August 24:

Weekly Wednesday Minyan 8:00 am

BE Board Meeting 7:30 pm

Thursday, August 25:

Friday, August 26:

Candle Lighting—7:32 pm

Kabbalat Shabbat Services 6:00 pm

Bat Mitzvah of Devon Fischer

Please note that the following programs have been suspended for the summer: Shabbat Mishnah Study and Sunday Minyan. Shabbat Mishnah Study will resume in September. Sunday Minyan will resume on Sunday, 9/11 at 9:30 am.

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

Upcoming Events:

- ✧ Sat. 8/20 Shabbat Morning Orthodox Kehillah Services
- ✧ Sat. 8/20 Shabbat Morning Services
- ✧ Sun. 8/21 School Clean-Up Day
- ✧ Sun. 8/21 Albrecht Strauss Unveiling
- ✧ Tue. 8/23 Va'ad HaChinuch Meeting
- ✧ Wed. 8/24 Weekly Wednesday Minyan
- ✧ Wed. 8/24 BE Board Meeting
- ✧ Wed. 8/24 Intro to Judaism
- ✧ Fri. 8/26 Kabbalat Shabbat Services, Bat Mitzvah of Devon Fischer
- ✧ Sat. 8/27 Shabbat Morning Orthodox Kehillah Services, Bat Mitzvah of Devon Fischer
- ✧ Sat. 8/27 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.



8/20 Vaetchanan Nahamu

Roger Perilstein
rperilstein@hrc-pa.com 919-286-9814

8/27 Ekev
David Kirsch
dkirsch@md.duke.edu 919-286-4516

9/3 Reeh/RoshHodeshElul
Matt Diamond
mattdiamond@mindspring.com 919-906-6545

9/10 Shoftim
Stan Levy
slevy@mindspring.com 919-408-0782

Parashat Va'ethanan Nahamu

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

The smell of Canaan he has had for all his life; that he should see the land only before his death is hard to believe. . . . Not because his life was too short does Moses not reach Canaan, but because it was a human life.

—Franz Kafka, in a diary entry from 1921

I am always moved by how human Moses appears as Va'et-hannan opens. He has already passed the mantle of leadership to Joshua, yet he still pleads with God, still hoping to enter the Promised Land. Perhaps uncomfortable with Moses's appeal to see the "goodly hill and Lebanon," to focus on natural beauty and the concrete, the commentators read this as his longing for Jerusalem and the Temple. But I can easily understand Moses's desire to engage his sense of sight, which had been deprived for so long while wandering in the desert wilderness.

Kafka identifies Moses's struggle and disappointment with the human experience, and picks up on the sensory in a different way. He understands human life as a never-ending struggle toward liberation, a struggle concluded only by death. We persist in pursuing goals, all the while knowing they cannot be achieved in our lifetime. What is Moses's goal? I think Kafka's choice of "the smell of Canaan" is telling. The image I have is of the scent-hound, who pursues his prey even though he cannot see it. Scent-hounds do not need to be fast—they can stick with a scent and follow it for long distances over all kinds of terrain. But how did Moses, who had never been to Canaan, recognize the scent to begin with?

What Kafka understands about Moses's journey is that it is not only a struggle *toward* something but also a kind of *return*. Moses was striving for a place that promised freedom and where the Israelite community could flourish, one he already knew. His longing, which Kafka reads as our longing, a human one, is for the safety and security of home.

Refuah Shleymah רפואה שלמה

Avigal bat David haLevi (Alice Gold)	M'cor Eyshel bat Esther Tzvia	Yakov ben Sarah (Jacob Schonberg)
Baracha bat Sarah	Mishulamit bat Maryam (Marcia Hogan)	Ya'akov Roni ben Margalit
Batya bat Shprintza (Barbara Roberman)	Miriam Shifra bat Issur (Margaret Sachs)	Yehuda ben David (Jerry Robins)
Chana bat Malka	Ovadya ben Esther Malkah (Ovadya Fleishman)	Anne Boyd
Chana Leah bat Sarah (Anna Crollman)	Reuven ben Chanoch v'Dinah (Robert Feurst)	Cynthia Brown Heidi Gross Hill
David ben Sarah (David Leitner)	Sarah bat Hinda (Sylvia Dante)	Tom Kronmiller Alan Marty
David Yosef ben Avraham v'Chana (Donald Goldstein)	Sarah Gittel bat Rut (Sue Perlo)	Lorraine Morley Ezra Rapport
Eliyahu Chanan ben Sarah (Ed Gagnon)	Shira Batya bat Meirav	Jack Reich Helen Rosenberg
Esther bat Yankale Sura	Shmuel ben Shoshana	Richard Roth Lauren Schiro
Esther Malka bat Chaya Fruma (Elinor Fleishman)	Shraga Feivel ben Leib (Philip Skoletsky)	Edward Thompson-Starkey Christine Walters
Malka bat Leah (Meg Anderson)	Tuvia ben Shmuel v'Tziporah (Tovia Lebovich)	
Malka Chana bat Basha Rachel	Tziporah bat Esther	Please contact the synagogue office with any additions or changes to

Yahrzeits יארצייט

May their memory be a blessing

Pearl Fisher Alexander	Mary Kirshner
William Cassell	Sheila Krolik
Neil Felmus	Hannah Lakin
Vivian Fishkin	Etta Lind
Rachel Geller	Eunice Luebke
Shlomo Geller	Mildred Marcus
Ida Grossman	Gertrude Popovsky
Donald Benjamin Hackel	Elizabeth Gay Thurston

BE Mazel Tov

Mazel Tov Andree Allen and Larry Kodack on their upcoming wedding.

Mazel Tov to Leslie Winner for receiving a "Champion of Justice" award from the NC Justice Center!

Mazel Tov to Yonat Shimron on being selected to participate in the 2016 East-West Center's Senior Journalist Seminar, a program promoting understanding and information on the role of religion in our world, with emphasis on US relations with Muslim majority regions.

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Rabbi: Daniel Greyber
Rabbi Emeritus: Steven Sager
Synagogue President: Noah Pickus