



Shabbat Shalom

13 Tishrei 5776
September 26, 2015

Parashat Ha'azinu

This Week at Beth El Synagogue

Saturday, September 26:

Havdalah—7:48 pm

Shabbat Mishnah Study	8:45 am
Orthodox Kehillah Services	9:00 am
B'nai Mitzvah Peer Tutoring	9:00 am
Chavurah Minyan	
Main Sanctuary Services	9:30 am
BE with Pride: NC Pride Parade	11:00 am

Sunday, September 27:

Weekly Sunday Minyan	9:30 am
Talmud Torah	9:30 am
Hebrew Level I	10:00 am
Hebrew Level II	11:00 am
Alephbet Kickoff (Pumpkin Patch)	12:30 pm
Erev Sukkot	

Monday, September 28:

Sukkot Service with Rabbi Bach	9:00 am
Midrash with Rabbi Sager	7:00 pm

Tuesday, September 29:

Sukkot Service with Rabbi Bach	9:00 am
--------------------------------	---------

Wednesday, September 30:

Weekly Wednesday Minyan	8:00 am
followed by shiur	
Talmud Torah	4:15 pm

Thursday, October 1:

Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Greyber	11:30 am
Synagogue Life Meeting	7:00 pm

Friday, October 2:

<i>Candle Lighting—6:39 pm</i>	
Kabbalat Shabbat Services	6:00 pm
Bat Mitzvah of Gavi Fischer	
Teen Shabbat Dinner @ Rabbi Greyber's	6:00 pm

This weekend's Kiddush lunch is sponsored by:
**Joel & Adele Abramowitz, Harriet & Michael Lakin,
Musia Lakin, Margie Satinsky, Eunice Shatzman,
and Cynia Shimm**

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. 10/3 Shabbat Mishnah Study
- ✧ Sat. 10/3 Shabbat Morning Orthodox Kehillah Services
- ✧ Sat. 10/3 B'nai Mitzvah Peer Tutoring
- ✧ Sat. 10/3 Shabbat Morning Services (Bat Mitzvah of Gavi Fischer)
- ✧ Sat. 10/3 Children's Services
- ✧ Sun. 10/4 Sunday Minyan-Hoshanah Rabbah
- ✧ Sun. 10/4 Talmud Torah (PreK-7)
- ✧ Sun. 10/4 Hebrew Level I and Hebrew Level II
- ✧ Sun. 10/4 Kitah Zayin Family Beit Midrash-T'fillin Workshop with Jared Resnick
- ✧ Sun. 10/4 Pizza in the Hut
- ✧ Mon. 10/5 Shemini Atzeret Services with Yizkor
- ✧ Mon. 10/5 Simchat Torah Services
- ✧ Tue. 10/6 Simchat Torah Services
- ✧ Wed. 10/7 Weekly Wednesday Minyan followed by Shiur
- ✧ Wed. 10/7 Talmud Torah (2-6)
- ✧ Fri. 10/9 Kabbalat Shabbat Services (Bat Mitzvah of Lala Bomze)

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.



9/26 Ha'azinu Sally Laliberte selalib@gmail.com	919-302-0035
9/28 Sukkot I Shula Bernard shulabernard@gmail.com	919-967-9393
9/29 Sukkot II Alan Mandel andelcpa@gmail.com	917-589-5673
10/3 Hol Hamoed Sukkot Diane Markoff diane.markoff@earthlink.net	919-969-8953
10/5 Shemini Atzeret Issac Price isaac@isaacprice.org	919-886-5453
10/6 Simchat Torah Matt Diamond mattdiamond@mindspring.com	919-688-0377

Parashat Ha'azinu

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

Moses calls on heaven and earth to bear witness to his poem. He recounts that God (who frequently is referred to as "the Rock") always has treated Israel with consistent justice. God punishes the people as a result of their sins, but reduces the punishment. Moses promises that God will redeem the Israelites.

God calls Moses to ascend Mount Nebo, where he will soon die.

Theme #1: National Divisions

When the Most High gave nations their homes and set the divisions of man, He fixed boundaries of peoples in relation to Israel's numbers. For the Lord's portion is His people, Jacob His own allotment. (Deuteronomy 32:8-9)

The Israelites are depicted as the measuring stick against which all other nations are compared.

The song says that when the "Most High" was dividing up the human population into different nations and granting each its national territory, He did so on the basis of the total number of the "sons of God" (or "sons of El"). That is, things were arranged so that each of these lesser deities would have his own nation to look after. But God kept Israel for Himself: "the Lord's own portion is His people, Jacob His allotted share." It is certainly significant that there is no hint here of monotheism, the belief that only one God exists -- indeed, the opposite seems to be just the point. Nor is any reason offered for God's choice of Israel -- it was apparently simply Israel's good fortune that things turned out that way. This contrasts somewhat with the rest of Deuteronomy, which stresses God's love of Israel's ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as the reason for Israel's privileged position. -- James L. Kugel, *How to Read the Bible*

Yahweh does not need his destiny of other deities. The closest hint to anything like this in the Old Testament would be in Deuteronomy 32:8 if the variant reading is correct and "sons of God" should be read instead of "sons of Israel." -- John H. Walton, *Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament*

The plain text was taken to mean that the 70 nations who peopled the earth were a macro-image of the 70 souls whom Jacob brought to Egypt. -- Targum Yerushalmi

Theme #2: The Key to Everything

For this is not a trifling thing for you: it is your very life; through it you shall long endure on the land that you are to possess upon crossing the Jordan. (Deuteronomy 32:47)

As Moses winds up his final address, he reaffirms that following the commandments is not simply an aspect of our personality, but the entirety of our being.

[Moses] could not, of course, give the Hebrews the intelligence to grasp the new religion with their reason, since their rational faculties had not yet been sufficiently developed, but he did get them to accept this religion blindly because of their faith in his leadership and to make it the basis for the Hebraic theocratic state. And so it came about that the unworthy Hebrews became the impure vessel for the pure truth of monotheism, and the Hebrew Torah, the religious scroll that embodied the best of Egyptian religious wisdom. -- Sol Liptzin, *Biblical Themes in World Literature*

Lest you say, "I will read a difficult portion and set the easy one aside," Scripture declares, "This is not a trifling thing for you". Lest you say, "I studied Jewish law and that is enough for me," Scripture declares, "You shall be mindful of this entire commandment" (Deuteronomy 11:22). You are to study Midrash of both law and Aggadot. -- Sifrei Deuteronomy

It has been taught in accordance with Rabbi Hisda: If one was walking in a dirty alley way, he should not recite the Shema; and what is more, if he was reciting and came to one, he should stop. Suppose he does not stop, what happens? Rabbi Meyasha the grandson of Rabbi Joshua ben Levi said: Of him Scripture says: Wherefore I gave them also statutes that were not good and ordinances whereby they should not live. Rabbi Assi said: Woe unto them that draw iniquity with cords of vanity. Rabbi Adda ben Ahabah said: Because he hath despised the word of the Lord. And if he stops, what is his reward? -- Rabbi Abbahu said: Of him Scripture says: Through this word you shall prolong your days. - Berakhot 24b

Beth El Synagogue

1004 Watts Street

Durham, NC 27701

919.682.1238

info@betheldurham.org

www.betheldurham.org

Rabbi: Daniel Greyber

Rabbi Emeritus: Steven Sager

Synagogue President: Rachel Galanter

Refuah Shleymah רפואה שלמה

Aharon ben David u'Miriam (Alan Goldman)	Ovadya ben Elinor (Ovadya Fleishman)	Elinor Fleishman Ilene Jacobson
Aliza Chana bat Leah	Reuven ben Chanoch v'Dinah (Robert Feurst)	Anne Krunkosky
Baracha bat Sarah	Rifka bat Idel v'Elka	Jennifer Krunkosky
Ben-Zion ben Sarah	Rut bat Sarah (Suzanne Furst)	Inez McFarling
Chana bat Malkah	Sara bat Hinda (Sylvia Dante)	Ezra Rapport Jack Reich
Daronit Esther bat Tuvia v'Leah (Jennifer Greyber)	Sarah Gittel bat Rut (Sue Perlo)	Pearl Rohde
David ben Avraham v'Sarah (David Weaver)	Shira Batya bat Meirav	Richard Roth Lauren Schiro
David ben Sarah (David Leitner)	Shmuel Ariyeh ben Karit	Susan Tolchin
Dovid ben Shayna Etta (David Riceman)	Shmuel ben Shoshana	Christine Walters Sharon Welensky
Eliezer David ben Feigel (Larry Berger)	Tziporah bat Esther	Yehudit bat Rachel
Eliyahu Chanan ben Sarah (Ed Gagnon)	Lee Ballen	Orrie Wilner Amy Wolf
Gershon Yonah ben Tevya haKohen v'Chanah Leah haLevi	Lucretia Bell Sonia Berman	
M'cor Eyshe bat Esther Tzvia	Anne Boyd Cynthia Brown	Please contact the synagogue office with any additions or changes to this list.
Miryam bat Rivkah (May Segal)	Lydia Cowan Davis	

Yahrzeits יארצייט

Julius Grossman	Morris Kaplan
Harry Harrison, Jr.	Marya Kirshner
Herbert Herzfeld	Louise D. Kushner
William Jacob Jackson Jr.	Anna Lipschitz

BE Remembered

Beth El Synagogue extends condolences to Gary and Abby Zarkin and their family on the death of Gary's father - Sam Zarkin - who passed away on September 12th in Seattle.

BE at Beth El

Beth El welcomes the following returning and new members to our congregation!

Ruth Aronowitz-Thomson, Perri (18) & Emma and Anna (15); Marc Brettler; Rabbi Jerry & Carole Fox; Laslo & Susan Gross; Adam & Rikki Sanogueira and Halleli (3); Craig & Rona Spitzer, Justin (8) and Max (4)