



Shabbat Shalom

21 Elul 5775
September 5, 2015

Parashat Ki Tavo

This Week at Beth El Synagogue

Saturday, September 5:

Havdalah—8:19 pm

Shabbat Mishnah Study 8:45 am

Orthodox Kehillah Services, 9:00 am

Main Sanctuary Services 9:30 am

Bat Mitzvah of Leel Liberty

Selichot 8:00 pm

Sunday, September 6:

USY and Kadima Wet'N'Wild with Beth Meyer 8:30 am

Monday, September 7:

Temple Office Closed-Labor Day

Tuesday, September 8:

Wednesday, September 9:

Wednesday Morning Minyan and Class 8:00 am

Board Meeting 7:30 pm

Thursday, September 10:

Friday, September 11:

Candle Lighting—7:10 pm

Please note that Sunday minyan and Midrash with Rabbi Sager will resume in the coming weeks. Please check your e-notice for more details.

Upcoming Events:

- ✧ Sat. 9/12 Shabbat Mishnah Study
- ✧ Sat. 9/12 Shabbat Orthodox Kehillah Services
- ✧ Sat. 9/12 B'nai Mitzvah Peer Tutoring
- ✧ Sat. 9/12 Shabbat Morning Services
- ✧ Sat. 9/12 Monthly Parsha Study
- ✧ Sun. 9/13 Weekly Sunday Minyan
- ✧ Sun. 9/13 Erev Rosh Hashanah Services
- ✧ Sun. 9/13 Erev Rosh HaShanah Orthodox Kehillah Services
- ✧ Mon. 9/14 Rosh HaShanah Services 1st Day
- ✧ Mon. 9/14 Rosh HaShanah Day 1 Orthodox Kehillah
- ✧ Mon. 9/14 Rosh HaShanah Children's Services
- ✧ Mon. 9/14 Tashlich in Chapel Hill
- ✧ Mon. 9/14 Tashlich in Durham
- ✧ Tue. 9/15 Rosh HaShanah Services 2nd Day
- ✧ Tue. 9/15 Rosh HaShanah Day 2 Orthodox Kehillah
- ✧ Tue. 9/15 Rosh HaShanah Children's Services
- ✧ Wed. 9/16 Weekly Wednesday Minyan followed by Shiur

Beth El Synagogue

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Rabbi: Daniel Greyber

Rabbi Emeritus: Steven Sager

Synagogue President: Rachel Galanter

This weekend's Kiddush lunch is sponsored by:
Perri and Gabriel Liberty in honor of their daughter, Leel, becoming a Bat Mitzvah

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.



9/5 Ki Tavo

David Rubin

david_rubin@unc.edu

919-967-7725

9/12 Nitzavim

David Kirsch

dkirsch@dm.duke.edu

919-286-4516

9/19 Vayeilech Shuva

Roger Perilstein

rperilstein@hrc-pa.com

919-286-9814

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 Ki Tavo

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

Israelites in the Promised Land will be required to bring some of their first fruits to the priests and to declare their gratitude to God for the blessings bestowed throughout history. They must also declare that they have tithed appropriately.

The Israelites must literally put the commandments into stone.

A ceremony is described in which the people must gather between two mountains and hear of sins that take place in private, many of them sexual in nature.

If God's commandments are fulfilled, Israel will be blessed in many ways. If they are not, Israel will be punished in dozens of ways, leading to their return to slavery in Egypt.

Moses reminds the people of the many miracles God performed during the years of wandering in the wilderness, including the defeat of several peoples.

Theme #1: Peaks and Valleys

After you have crossed the Jordan, the following shall stand on Mount Gerizim when the blessing for the people is spoken: Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Joseph and Benjamin. And for the curse, the following shall stand on Mount Ebal: Reuben, Gad, Asher, Zebulun, Dan, and Naphtali. (Deuteronomy 27:12-13)

The text sets the stage for a grand pronouncement of specific curses, an event that is to take place inside the Promised Land.

[These curses apply to] those who say that it is not necessary to observe the commandments of the Lord in practice, claiming that the important thing is that one should understand their meaning and that one should be good "in one's heart," and nothing more. -- Ketav Sofer

There are no corresponding proclamations of "Blessed" [in the section of curses between the mountains], nor, according to common sense, would it be reasonable to contrast these verses with blessings, save for the last one; for just because a person does not, for example, lie with his mother-in-law does not mean he is blessed. -- Menahem Ben-Yashar, "The Covenant at Shechem", from A Divinely Given Torah in Our Day and Age, Volume I

Even if they had accepted only the seven Noahide laws they would not have been driven out. -- Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch

Theme #2: Gesundheit!

Now, if you obey the Lord your God, to observe faithfully all His commandments which I enjoin upon you this day, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. All these blessings shall come upon you and take effect, if you will but heed the word of the Lord your God: Blessed shall you be in the city and blessed shall you be in the country. (Deuteronomy 28:1-3)

The exhaustive list of curses in this portion is preceded by a briefer, but no less significant, list of blessings.

Some people observe their Judaism and perform its commandments within the walls of their own homes, but are ashamed of their religion when they go out among people, fearing that they might be called "fanatical," "old-fashioned" and such. Therefore Scripture says: "Only if you will not be ashamed to observe the commandments even in the city, when you are among others, will you receive the blessings." In the same vein we read in the opening paragraph of the Shulhan Arukh: "And he shall not be ashamed in the presence of those who deride him." -- Divrei Shaarei Hayyim

Do not imagine that if you devote yourself wholly to the service of God, doing only the minimum for your own domestic needs, that you will endanger your own security from the designs of the surrounding nations. For they will be harbouring evil against you and you will be ignorant of it. The text therefore reassures us that "there shall come upon thee all these blessings when you hearken to the Lord." Even while you are engaged the whole time in hearkening to the Lord doing His service, the blessings will protect you. - Malbim

The promise of blessings is followed by the caution "if you heed". We are bidden to heed God despite the blessings. -- Itture Torah

BE B'nai Mitzvah

Mazel tov to Leel Liberty on becoming a bat mitzvah!
Mazel tov to Gladys Siegel on the marriage of her granddaughter Hanna Siegel to Shane Hoffman!

Refuah Shleymah רפואה שלמה

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

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

Yahrzeits יארצייט

Nora Barth	Irene Oakes
Carol Bowen	Jacob A. Ornstein
Susan Cox	Julius Weinstein
Jeanne Dreifus	
Sondra Gevarter	
Carrie Gladstein	
Anna Grossman	
Jill Goldstein Lafrance	
Anne Levinsohn	
Mollie Liptzin	
Norma Lovins	
Malvina Markman	

BE at Beth El

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

Jack and Diane Sasson;
Eva Donaldson, Roselyn Kachuck, Sasha (10) and Isaiah (7); and
Caroline and Maurice Solomon.