



Shabbat Shalom

19 Nisan 5777

April 15, 2017

Parashat Pesach V (CH'M)

This Week at Beth El Synagogue

Saturday, April 15:

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| Shabbat Mishnah Study | 8:45 am |
| NO B'nai Mitzvah Peer Tutoring | 9:00 am |
| Orthodox Kehillah Services | 9:00 am |
| Main Sanctuary Services | 9:30 am |
| Havdallah | 8:31 pm |

Sunday, April 16:

NO Talmud Torah (Pre-K-7th Grade)
NO Weekly Sunday Minyan

Monday, April 17:

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| Office Closed | |
| 7th day Passover Services- Main Sanctuary | 9:00 am |
| Orthodox Kehillah 7th day Passover Services (Yizkor) | 9:00 am |

Tuesday, April 18:

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| Office Closed | |
| 8th day Passover Services and Yizkor | 9:00 am |
| Finance Committee Meeting | 7:30 pm |

Wednesday, April 19:

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| Weekly Wednesday Minyan | 8:00 am |
| NO Talmud Torah (2nd-6th Grade) | |
| BE Board Meeting | 7:30 pm |

Thursday, April 20:

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

Friday, April 21:

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| Kabbalat Shabbat Services | 7:00 pm |
| Candle Lighting | 7:36 pm |

Upcoming Events:

- ✧ Sat. 4/22 Shabbat Mishnah Study
- ✧ Sat. 4/22 B'nei Mitzvah Peer Tutoring
- ✧ Sat. 4/22 Shabbat Morning Orthodox Kehillah Services
- ✧ Sat. 4/22 Shabbat Morning Services
- ✧ Sat. 4/22 Parasha Study
- ✧ Sun. 4/23 Chapel Hill-Carrboro CROP Walk
- ✧ Sun. 4/23 Talmud Torah (Pre-K-7th Grade)
- ✧ Sun. 4/23 Weekly Sunday Minyan
- ✧ Sun. 4/23 Simchat Tot!
- ✧ Mon. 4/24 Yom HaShoah
- ✧ Tue. 4/25 Sisterhood Potluck
- ✧ Tue. 4/25 Va'ad HaChinuch Meeting
- ✧ Tue. 4/25 Ritual Committee Meeting
- ✧ Wed. 4/26 Weekly Wednesday Minyan (Rosh Chodesh)
- ✧ Wed. 4/26 Talmud Torah (2nd-6th Grade)
- ✧ Sat. 4/22 Shabbat Mishnah Study
- ✧ Sat. 4/22 B'nei Mitzvah Peer Tutoring
- ✧ Sat. 4/22 Shabbat Morning Orthodox Kehillah Services
- ✧ Sat. 4/29 High School Senior/New Driver Shabbat
- ✧ Sat. 4/29 Teen Lunch and Learn

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.



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| 4/17 Pesach VII Stan Levy slevy@mindsprings.com | 919-408-0782 |
| 4/18 Pesach VIII David Rubin David_s_rubin@hotmail.com | 919-967-7725 |
| 4/22 Shemini Roger Perilstein rperilstein@hrc-pa-com | 919-286-9814 |
| 4/29 Tazria-Metzora Alan Mandel andelcpa@gmail.com | 917-5895673 |

This weekend's Kiddush lunch is hosted by:
Chavurah Aleph: Gladys Siegel, Sue & David Klapper, Laura & Bob Gutman, Elaine & Lee Marcus, JoAnn & David Rubin, Pearl Levine, Jane Gabin & Richard Cramer, Leah Austin, Annette Kirshner and Sandy Berman

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 Pesah

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

As we come, again, to the end of another Passover season, many of us are looking forward to moving beyond the matzah intensity. We are obliged, also, to ask ourselves what it means to have retold the story of our people's quest for freedom, what new insights we might have gained, what the lessons are that we should take back into the world. I want to talk about our commitment to fight oppression as it manifests itself today in our lives and in the lives of others, and I want to make some observations about the roles there are to play in these struggles, about what we can learn about how to lead in these endeavors.

We tell and retell our story to remind ourselves that we have been where others are today. We are instructed to use the memory of our people's past experiences as a "compass for doing justice", speaking out and acting on behalf of those who are today's victims of oppression and inequity, as we are commanded again and again in the Torah (e.g. Exod. 22:21, Deut. 24:22).

We tell our story, and we expand on it to remind ourselves that our redemption is not complete as long as there are still people suffering. It is because of what we experienced when we fled despotic regimes that we must recognize the needs of today's immigrants—people similarly fleeing terrorism and oppression, looking for refuge, for safety, and for a new start.

And so, both implicitly and explicitly, we need to acknowledge these contemporary problems—the denials of basic human rights, discrimination based on gender and sexual orientation, thefts of land and water from subsistence farmers, mounting terrorism and displacement—and think about what we can do as individuals, in organizations, and as the entire Jewish community to help today's victims.

Our *Dayenu* prayer—as rewritten in the 2017 American Jewish World Service Haggadah—would then read:

If the world hears the cries of the oppressed, but does not come to their aid—it *will not be enough*.

If we empower others to escape violence but fail to offer them refuge—it *will not be enough*.

If our generosity supports the needs of today, but forsakes the needs of tomorrow—it *will not be enough*.

However, if we persevere until stability, peace, and justice have been attained...*Dayenu! Then it will be enough*.

And as we recite and reflect on the Exodus story, we recognize the role of a strong leader, Moshe, taking command of our people, providing them with a vision of the Promised Land, and urging them on to a better future. But we are also given several reminders that Moshe is not perfect—that he sometimes doubts his own capacity to do the job, that he wonders if his followers will actually be there for him, will stick with him on the journey. We all know and sometimes share these doubts: How did I end up in this position? How can I convince people to work with me? What if they figure out that I don't have all the answers?

There are two elements of the story that have implications for the roles we do and are called on to play in the world. One is that leadership can be scary, as it was for Moses: in order to lead, we have to acknowledge our anxieties and determine when and how to take risks. The other is that Moses is not the only hero of the Passover / Exodus story. He is alive, first of all, because of the bold actions of the midwives Shifra and Puah, whose decision to save Jewish lives is often cited as the first example of civil disobedience. And then, when Moses and his followers got to the Red Sea, it was not Moses, according to the Midrash, but Nahshon who stepped in first, waded out into danger, and was saved as the seas parted.

In rabbinic commentary on Nahshon (נחשון), we are told that he is so named because he went down into the waves / *nahsho* [נחשו] while Moses was talking with God, and we are taught that he is rewarded for this bravery (Num. Rabbah 13.7). We are told that Moses was "prolonging his prayer," delaying taking his next step. It was Nahshon who first faced the fear of stepping out into the unknown, who prayed as he walked that the waters not swallow him up (BT Sotah 37a).

According to the Rabbis, there is a lesson here for us as leaders, a lesson articulated by God, who said to Moses, "My beloved ones are drowning in the sea and you prolong your prayer to me? Speak to the children of Israel that they go forward" (Exod. 14:15-16).

It is possible that Moses learned from Nahshon, or was reminded again from this incident, that there are times to move forward despite one's fears. We are reminded when we listen to the story that leaders are not perfect, that they need help and encouragement. And we are taught that there are times when we must stop thinking and talking and take action, when we must exercise moral courage, stepping into whatever sea confronts us and hoping that we do it in a way that induces those who have been with us to join us in taking that next step, moving our cause forward.

Refuah Shleymah רפואה שלמה

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| Adelah bat Avrom v'Chenya (Adele Abramowitz) | Gudeman) | Alvin Jacobson |
| Bedonna Riva bat Ya'akov v'Sarah (Donna Goldstein) | Miriam Shifra bat Issur (Margaret Sachs) | Anne Boyd |
| Chaim Michael ben Flora (Howard Margolis) | Moshe Yosef ben Vishka Elka (Michael Perkins) | Alan Marty |
| Chana bat Malka | Moshe Yosef ben Vishka Elka (Michael Perkins) | Christine Walters |
| Chana Leah bat Sarah (Anna Crollman) | Ovadya ben Esther Malkah (Ovadya Fleishman) | Ezra Rapport |
| David ben Sarah (David Leitner) | Sarah bat Hinda (Sylvia Dante) | Helen Rosenberg |
| David Yosef ben Avraham v'Chana (Donald Goldstein) | Sarah Gittel bat Rut (Sue Perlo) | Jack Reich |
| Esther bat Yankale Sura | Shalom ben Sprintze (Stanley Ramati) | Jan Rogers |
| Esther Malka bat Chaya Fruma (Elinor Fleishman) | Shira Batya bat Meirav Shmuel ben Shoshana | Jeff Shields |
| Herschel David ben Aharon haKohen u'Bela Miriam | Shrage ben Devorah Leah (Phillip Samuel Ramati) | Joyce Romm |
| Israel ben Zalman u'Malkah Leah bat Miriam (Eileen Abramson) | Shraga Feivel ben Leib (Phillip Skoletsky) | Ken Walkers |
| Malka bat Leah (Meg Anderson) | Sura Malka bat Rivka (Molly Grossinger) | Lauren Schiro |
| Malka Chana bat Basha Rachel | Tuvia ben Shmuel v'Tziporah (Tovia Lebovich) | Netta Boswell |
| M'cor Eyshel bat Esther Tzvia | Tziporah bat Esther | Orrie Wilner |
| Mishulamit bat Maryam (Marcia Hogan) | Ya'akov Roni ben Margalit | Richard Roth |
| | Yehoshua Heschel ben Tova Gitel (Joshua Shatz) | Sidney Barker |
| | Yehoshua Yitzchak ben Ya'akov v'Sarah (Howard Goldstein) | |
| | Miriam bat Batya (Joyce | |

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

Yahrzeits יארצייט

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| Benjamin Greenberg | Benjamin Silverstein | Marcel Davidow |
| Raymond Morley | Lillian Gradin | Helen Prakin Frank |
| Lily Poss Segar | Saul Leibel | Ida Goldberg |
| Bayla Finkel | Erwin Freddman | |
| Harry Deutsch | Bettye Siegel | |
| Leslie Gerson | Joseph Cohen | |

BE Remembered

Beth El Synagogue extends condolences to Scott Snyder, Rachelle Bienstock, Julia, Shira, and their family on the death of Scott's father, Julia and Shira's grandfather—Barry Snyder— Benyamin ben David— who passed away on Friday, March 31, 2017 in New York City.

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

Beth El Synagogue
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www.betheldurham.org
 Rabbi: Daniel Greyber
 Rabbi Emeritus: Steven Sager
 Synagogue President: Noah Pickus