

Beth El Quarterly Bulletin

December 2015

Tevet 5776

Save the Date!

MLK Day of Service is January 17th @ 10:00 am!

The Social Action Committee will create opportunities for all to participate in tikun olam projects, including a variety of collections, cooking and the chance to garden at SEEDS!

More information to come!



Connect with us!



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The place for updates, photos and community!



betheldurham

See and share photos of events at #betheldurham!



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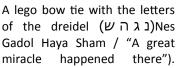
betheldurham
Lots of Jewish inspired ideas!



BethElSynagogueDurham

Connect with us on google+ to view our YouTube channel!

FROM OUR RABBI: Words Fall Short





Flowers to brighten up our kitchen table. A meal for our family. Another meal. And another. A hug. Another. And another. A card. Another card. And another. Emails. A squeeze of the hand. Someone who says, "We are thinking of you." "You are in our prayers." I've lost count. "God's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease and God's mercies never fail" (Lamentations 3:22). So many acts of lovingkindness. Words of gratitude fall short.

The last few months have been hard. Excruciating. And yet pedestrian too. We have met so many people who have struggled with cancer, who are suffering from illness. Yes, there have been times we have given in to the temptation to shrivel up and shrink away, to live just waiting for another day to be over, to cry out and ask why. But when the darkness subsides, I can see light again, can acknowledge the overwhelming love with which we are blessed, how many people I see at Harris Teeter or pass on the street who, behind their eyes, is concealed a drama of life and death; I can remember how important it is for us all to hold each other up, and how life is better, richer, stronger, more filled with light when we open ourselves up and live together.

Words of gratitude fall short. Perhaps a song can say what words cannot (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PQZCAMznc3U). Israeli singer, Yonatan Raza'el, based on the prayer Jacob offered alone, across the river from all he loved, afraid at night of what future was in store.

In This Issue:

Beth El Professional Team	2
Gabbaim Schedule	2
Upcoming Events	3&4
New Members	3
Letter From President	5
Committee Write Ups	6
Talmud Torah & Upcoming B'nei Mitzah	7
Youth Activities	8
Yahrzeit Reminders	9

The Beth El Bulletin is the newsletter of Beth El Congregation.

We appreciate any feedback and input.
Bulletins are also archived online three months at a time.
The online version has some contact information omitted for the privacy of our members.

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First Vice President: Noah Pickus

Second Vice President: Debbie Goldstein

Recording Secretary: Richard Hart Financial Secretary: Roy Schonberg

Treasurer: Sheila Goldstein

COMMITTEE CONTACTS:

Chevra Kadisha (Burial Society): David Klapper

Community of Caring: Rhoda Silver

Finance: Roy Schonberg

House Committee: Laura Flicker

Lifelong Learning: Susan Breitzer and Yonat Shimron

Membership: Andrea Ginsberg Orthodox Kehillah: Sheldon Hayer Ritual Committee: Aviva Starr

Social Action: Hope Hartman and Jacki Resnick

Synagogue Life Committee: Lois Price

Va'ad haChinuch: Eric Lipp

Men of Beth El (MoB): Mike Resnick

Sisterhood: Laura Flicker Kol Koloteinu: Krisha Miller

Bulletin Deadline

March Bulletin: Friday, February 12 Please submit items to emily@betheldurham.org

Gabbai Rotation

Please contact the weekly Gabbai, if you'd like to request an aliyah or help lead services.

Please do not call on Shabbat or other holidays

12/26 Vayehi

Alan Mandel

1/2 Sh'mot

David Rubin

1/9 Vaera

Jon Wahl

1/16 Bo

David Kirsch

1/23 Beshallah Shira

Diane Markoff

1/30 Yitro

Bernie Fischer

Bat Mitzvah of Quihu Louie

2/6 Mishpatim

Roger Perilstein

New Member Shabbat

2/13 Terumah

Alan Mandel

Bat Mitzvah of Mir Starr Samuels

2/20 Tetzavveh

Isaac Price

2/27 Ki Tissa

Jon Wahl

Bar Mitzvah of Adam Kirsch

3/5 Vayakhel Shekalim

David Kirsch

3/12 Pekudei

David Rubin

3/19 Vayikra Zachor

Matt Diamon

Bath Mitzvah of Sophie Breitzer

3/26 Tzav

Elise Goldwasser

The Gabbaim schedule through — 2016 is available online:

http://betheldurham.org/gabbaim/

To arrange a yahrzeit minyan or to request an aliyah to have *El Malei Rachamim* recited, please contact our Gabbai coordinators, Bernie Fischer and Sol Levine at aliyot@betheldurham.org.

BE a Member Mark Your Calendar. Beth El Synagogue welcomes the following new members to our community:

Community Shabbat Dinner (Guest Chef TBA) Friday, February 5, 2016 Join the

Synagogue Life Committee for a Shabbat Dinner

with a guest chef and a family friendly Kabbalat Shabbat Service!

Torot Kehillateinu (Teachings from Our Community)

March 6, 2016 @ 2:00 pm

The Synagogue Life Committee and Beth El community will

together to honor Professor Joel Fleishman. Professor Fleishman has been at Duke University since the early 1970s.

Eric Pas Jewish Camp Scholarship

Applications are now available for partial scholarship funding for a Beth El family who needs financial assistance in sending a child to a Jewish camp. Funding will be made available on a need basis and information will be kept confidential. In the past 16 years, the scholarship fund has distributed over \$40,000 and has been able to sponsor 60 Beth El children. Our children have participated in our local Federation camp as well as Ramah Darom in Georgia. Young Judea, and two overseas programs. If you would like further information or an application please call Michele Pas at 493-3175, or email to mjbpas@aol.com.

Please consider making a contribution. Beth El members' continued financial support of this fund will allow more of our Beth El children to have a Jewish camp experience.

Kavanah & Derek Anderson Shira Anderson & Yochai Ben Haim Ruth Aronowitz-Thomson Zina & Boris Astrakhan Miriam & Dennis Barker Leah Bergman & Edgar Roach Susan & Morton Berkowitz Marc Brettler

Eva Donaldson & Roselyn Kachuck Carole & Rabbi Jerome Fox

Susan & Laslo Gross Marilyn Hogle

Claire Payton & Jonathan Katz

Rebecca Levine

Evelina Moulder

Harriet Moulder

Rikki & Adam SaNogueira

Diane & Jack Sasson

Helene & Adam Singer

Caroline Lynch-Solomon & Maurice Solomon

Lyubov & Leonid Spevak

Tamila & Daryl Spinner

Rona & Craig Spitzer

Janice & Larry Stolzenberg

Terri & Bob Tyson

The Community of Caring We are here for YOU!

For anyone in need of a meal due to illness, surgery, grief or other special circumstances.

For anyone who needs a ride to/from a doctor's appointment, to the hospital, or nursing home so you can visit a friend or loved one.

For anyone who would like a friendly visitor to see you at home or in the facility where you live.

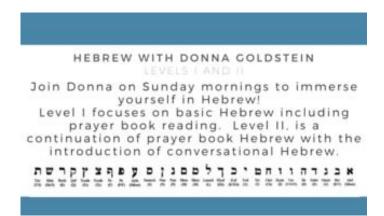
And for anyone who would like to be a part of this wonderful organization by participating in any of the above.

> Please call or email Rhoda Silver at: 919-688-0077 / Rhoda.Silver@gmail.com

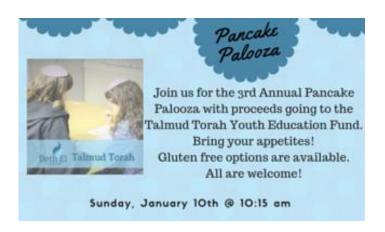
Want to know more about what's happening at Beth El? http://www.betheldurham.org/calendar/ http://betheldurham.org/community-announcements/

BE @ Beth El

Check our these upcoming events at Beth El! Visit www.betheldurham.org for more information on these events.









BE at a Glance-February

2: Sisterhood Board Meeting

4: Synagogue Life Meeting

5: Community Shabbat Dinner

6: Monthly Parsha Study

7: Simchat Tot

7: Hebrew with Donna Goldstein

7: Sulam

10: Board Meeting

11: Lunch and Learn with Rabbi Greyber

12: Kitah Zayin Family Beit Midrash

12: Kabbalat Shabbat Services

(Bat Mitzvah of Miriam Sage Starr Samuels)

13: Shabbat Morning Services

(Bat Mitzvah of Miriam Sage Starr Samuels)

14: Walking with Mitzvot

14: Hebrew with Donna Goldstein

14: Knitting Chevra

16: Va'ad Meeting

19: Kitot Bet/Gimel/Dalet Shabbat Service and Dinner

19: USY Shabbat Dinner Home Host

20: Healing Yoga

21: Kitah Zavin Family Beit Midrash

21: Hebrew with Donna Goldstein

26: Kitah Zayin Friday Class

26: Kabbalat Shabbat Services

(Bar Mitzvah of Adam Kirsch)

26: Shabbat Morning Services

(Bar Mitzvah of Adam Kirsch)

27: Children's Services

28: Hebrew with Donna Goldstein

28: Walking with Mitzvot

28: Wine and Jazz Social Action Fundraiser

26: Monthly Durham Community Café Dinner

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Beth El community,

Recently, we spent eight nights adding more light to the darkness. As you lit the menorah, perhaps you reflected on the creation of sacred communal space in the face of overwhelming obstacles. Or perhaps you nostalgically remembered your childhood experiences—the first time you got to hold the shamash, opening presents with your family, playing dreidel for jelly beans. Or maybe you were just trying to remember the words to the blessings while making sure nobody set the couch on fire.

Just as each of us has a unique experience kindling the lights, there is no one way we participate in the Beth El community. Beth El offers multiple minyanim in addition to a full calendar of learning, social action, and social events for all ages. I want to share a few opportunities for some additional ways to engage.

- The nominations committee is accepting names of people who are interested in chairing committees or serving
 on the board next year. We hope that by reaching out to everyone for ideas, we will engage members in leadership who we might otherwise have overlooked. If you have skills that you want to offer to the board or know
 someone who you think should be part of our lay leadership, please reach out to Barak Richman, chair of the
 nominations committee.
- The website will soon have additional information about the current committees to help potential committee
 members know who is on the committee, what kinds of responsibilities committee members have, and the process for joining and leaving the committee. We hope this makes the path to participating in committee work a
 clearer one.

I am proud that this spring, Beth El will be hosting the Sulam for Emerging Leaders (SEL) program. Sulam is a USCJ leadership engagement initiative to develop the next generation of lay leaders by immersing participants in an experience of Jewish learning, organizational knowledge and personal spiritual growth. In addition to developing potential leaders at Beth El, SEL will give us a chance to explore how well USCJ's programs meet Beth El's needs. SEL will be led by the rabbi and a volunteer trainer, Tal Wittle, who both went to New York to receive training in how to use the SEL curriculum materials. Thank you to the Rabbi, Tal, and our groundbreaking cohort of Sulam participants for kicking off this exciting program.

Although we want to make it easier for those who want to be part of making decisions for the community to find a way to join our leadership, we also want to make sure to communicate well to those who don't want their life at Beth El to include meetings. I am pleased to update you on the progress on our planned renovation of Beth El's facilities to meet our needs now and in the decades ahead. Many thanks to everyone who took time to look at the drawings posted in our lobby and provide feedback, as well as to the members of the Building and Grounds Task Force for getting us to this point in the process. Based on your feedback and our own assessment, we have concluded that our next step is to ask our architects--Weintein/Friedlein--to develop a revised plan that achieves Beth El's goals for an inclusive, flexible, and accessible space in a single building, but on a scale that addresses Beth El's financial capacity. To complement this effort, our capital campaign chairs--Nathan Bearman and Gary Zarkin--have worked closely with the board leadership to clarify Beth El's fundraising potential for a capital project. They have put together an initial working plan that lays the ground work to start a capital campaign in the coming year. The Board will be considering next steps in January and February, and I will continue to communicate with the congregation as we move forward.

Looking forward to seeing you at Beth El, in whatever ways you choose to be involved.

--Rachel

Chevra Kadisha

Look for our Chevra Kadisha to partner with Rabbi Sager and SICHA the first weekend in February as we sponsor a kiddish and present a program to take some of the 'mystery' out of what we do. The goal is to continue to interest and recruit the next generation of Chevra Kadisha members and ensure that our traditions carry forward and we remain strong and able to fulfill the mitzvah of providing a traditional Jewish funeral for Beth El members and the extended community. We will bring in a kosher casket, men's and women's shrouds, and examples of some of the reading materials we provide for shomrim (guardians of the deceased). The formal program will include some of our current members talking about how they became involved with the Chevra Kadisha and what it means to them as they perform tahara (ritual cleansing, dressing, and placing the deceased in the casket), take a 'shift' as a shomer, or act as pallbearers when burial is in our cemetery.

More information will be forthcoming in the near future and we hope it will be a successful weekend for all of us. In the meantime, if you are interested in learning more about becoming involved in Beth El's Chevra Kadisha, please feel free to contact either David Klapper or Shula Bernard.

The MoB: an organization you can't refuse!

During the 2013 annual Beth El Shabbaton at Emerald Isle, a men's group was initiated as part of the continued building of our community. What emerged in the following few months was the MoB, a macho acronym for "Men of Beth El." Now here we are, nearly three years later, with a membership of 80 guys and a MoB-steer(ing) committee guiding us through numerous enjoyable manly and community activities. Included among the many highlights are:

- Annual brunch with speakers and discussions
- Hosting the Sukkot "Pizza-in-the-Hut" lunch
- Bowling three times a year
- Durham Bulls Nights
- Hosting the annual wine tasting, with surprisingly good Kosher-for-Pesach
- Participating with Beth El's Social Action Committee in the annual Beth El Digs SEEDS Day
- And much more!

All these activities reflect our mission statement:

"Schmooze, Have Fun, Help the Community"

The MoB contributes to the well-being of our synagogue community through fellowship and service. Its membership is multi-generational and reflects a broad range of interests. The MoB participates in holiday, charitable, and social activities and engages in joint functions with other groups within Beth El, including Sisterhood, Social Action, and Talmud Torah, as well as the broader community.

You, too, can become a member of the MoB! Upcoming events include a Jewishthemed movie night in late January or early February, the Kosher-for-Pesach wine tasting hosted by Jared Resnick (West End Wine Bar) at the Freedman Center on March 7, Beth El digs SEEDS with Social Action on April 10 or 17, 3B's (bocce, billiards, bar shuffleboard) and Mincha at West End Billiards in May, and Durham Bulls in June. We hope that you will join us for at some or all of these events!

This is an invitation and organization you can't refuse! Contacts: Mike Resnick (MoB Boss): Scott Smith: or Bob Wechsler.





Social Action

The Social Action Committee brings you exciting opportunities for involvement this winter and spring! The Martin Luther King Jr weekend offers two Days of Service. We need everyone, kids and grownups alike!

On Sunday, January 17, we will collect and assemble many things. We will gather food for our Pantry and local food banks. Children's books are missing from the lives of many disadvantaged children, and we will collect them. For the Men's

Shelter. we will collect gently-used men's shoes and new packages of men's tshirts and underpants, and for the Women's Shelter (items for first aid kits, and items for cleaning supply kits.) (Detailed lists of items wanted will be available soon.) The kitchen will be a busy place, as we cook tuna casseroles for the Community Café.

On Monday, January 18, we hope to have many shul members assemble for work at SEEDS, the nonprofit educational community garden in Durham. The new pond on the grounds still needs work, and there will be many other projects. On Sunday, January 31, the synagogue will be humming with Beth El's Annual Blood Drive. If you can donate blood, please consider it – blood is Life itself. In February, help grow our Mitzvah Fund! For projects that involve financial support, the Social Action Committee's sole resource is the Mitzvah Fund. Help grow the fund, and have a great time as well!

Come to the Social Action Fundraiser on Sunday, February 28, at West End Billiards—wine, cheese, pizza, games, friends, and a wonderful jazz singer promise a good time for all while raising funds for good causes.

There's more happening later in the spring. The committee will again organize our Passover Food Drive, and there will be another SEEDS Day of Service. The needs of our shelters and kitchens, of course, are ongoing.

The wants are huge, the time is short, the satisfaction of helping those in need is great. The Social Action Committee is proud of everyone in the Beth El community as the community seeks to respond to our neighbors in difficult times!

Talmud Torah

First semester at Talmud Torah has come to an end and we have accomplished a lot in these first few months of school! Our teachers and students have all settled into our routine and each day is full of different types of activities like skits, cooking, book work, games, debates, arts & crafts, and singing, just to name a few. Of course we're still working on Hebrew and prayers, the weekly parsha and the holidays but always through an engaging, unique, creative lesson. I recently overheard a discussion between two parents at drop off, talking about how different our Talmud Torah is from their own Sunday school experience. They were mentioning how wonderful our teachers are and how excited their kids are to arrive each week (and how they push their parents to get them to class EARLY!)

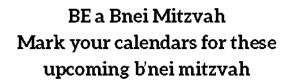
One change to our school year so far has been the implementation of our MENSCH initiative. We know that when students are engaged and work together to build a community in a positive way, the outcome will be far greater than if they were learning in isolation. In Talmud Torah, being a "mensch" is more than just being a good person-it involves being Mature, Enthusiastic, Neat, Sensitive, Clean and Helpful. Students nominate other students when they witness someone in our school community exhibiting one of these traits. Nominees then receive special recognition—an honorable "Mensch-en" in our weekly newsletter as well as during Havdallah. The most exciting part of

getting an honorable mensch-en is that you get the honor of holding the candle during our weekly Havdallah service! Getting to hold the Kiddush cup or the B'samim (spices) during our weekly school Havdallah service on Sunday mornings is always something that everyone wants the chance to do. Up until this point, the candle has been reserved for teachers only, so when we introduced it as a reward for those students who are working to create a positive learning environment for themselves and for others, they jumped at the chance to accept the honor.

Come join us each Sunday at 9:45 when we end Shabbat and start a new week together at Talmud Torah!

Elisabeth Albert Education & Youth Director





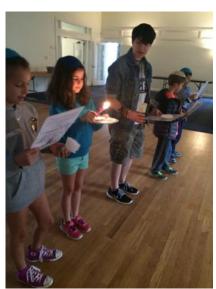
Beth El Talmud Torah

Quihu Louie January 31, 2016

Miriam Sage Starr Samuel February 13, 2016

> Adam Kirsch February 27, 2016

Sophie Breitzer March 13, 2016





BE in Kadima

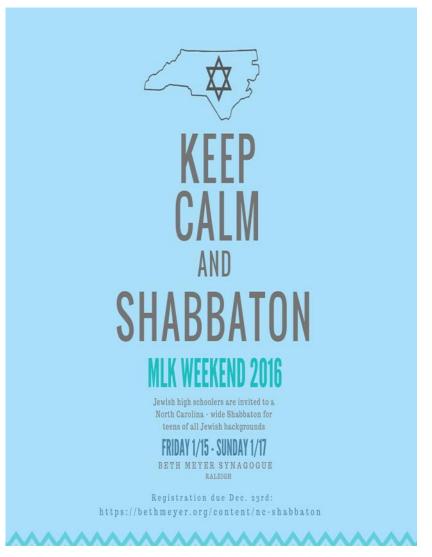


Our Kadimaniks are growing by the minute, and I don't just mean their height! Already this year we have had a variety of events: a BBQ, a room dedicated for teen-use only on the high holidays, a cookie competition, and a movie night! We have managed to get new middle schoolers at all these events, and have continued building friendships and learning as a branch off of the wonderful B'nei Mitzvah program at Beth El. In December, Kadimaniks participated in a Tikun Olam project called "Gifts for Giving", where we helped local families buy goods off their holiday shopping list. We roll in to 2016 with Kadima on Ice, and spend the rest of the school year with social action, Shabbat dinners, and holiday based activities. Rebecca is in touch with all Kadima families and many kids about upcoming events and other opportunities.

BE in USY

We are off to a great start with our USY events for the year! USY (high school teens), have participated in a variety events so far, with even more fun activities to come. Previous events include: Sukkot Shabbat dinner, Wet n' Wild trip with Beth Meyer Synagogue, hanging out on Franklin Street, and a "Chopped-style" cooking event imagined and designed by our teens, with other Jewish youth in the area. We have begun building friendships, leadership, and connections with our community and Jewish life, and that's all before December!

There is even more to look forward to for 2016! We have a variety of different Shabbat dinners (one almost every month!), some USY regional events where we come together as an even larger community, an NC-wide Shabbaton with Jewish youth communities across the state, a tikun-olam fashion show, along with some dates that have been left open for the teens to plan for themselves! Rebecca is in touch with all USY families and many teens about upcoming events and other opportunities.



If you are not receiving this information and would like to, please e-mail Rebecca@betheldurham.org so we can get you on the list!

Yarhzeit Reminders

Tevet		January	Shevat		January	Shevat		February	Adar I		February
20	Jack Gindes	1	14	Anita Halberstadt	24	28	Philip Falk	7	10	Barabara Mildred	19
21	Arnold Grier	2	14	Teresa Man	24		Aronowtiz			Kraft	
21	Moshe Shweky	2	14	Walter Schlesinger	24	28	Ruther Watnick	7	10	Samuel Levine	19
22	Herman Bernard	3	15	Ada Lou Carson	25	20	Scherr	0	10	Ann Marks	19
22	Sam Markman	3	15	Ben Ornoff	25	29	Michael Jay Gladstein	8	12	Paulina Belenko	21
23	Pat Marcus	4	15	Elaine Perilstein	25	29	David Margolis	8	12	Margaret Hurwitz	21
24	Jerry Becker	5				29	Sadie Rosalie	8	12	David Kachuck	21
24	Mary Hart	5	15	Carol Stollwerk	25		Shimm		12	Samuel marck	21
24	Ann Jackson	5	16	Arnold Korn	26	29	Florence Telen	8	13	Dora Most	22
24	Alfred Korkin	5	16	Mary Zeitune de Szulik	26	30	Benjamin Eli Grossman	9	14	Bertha Badt- Strauss	23
25	Irene Lyons	6	17	Sue Speier	27	30	Joseph Levin	9	14	Lucille Concors	23
26	Arlene Ammerman	7	40	De the Calable and		30	Armand A. Zaleon	9	14	Yehudit Frider	23
28	Rolfe Moulder	9	19	Ruth Goldberg	29	Adar I	Armana A. Zaleon	February	15	Sara Wagner	24
29	Edwin Price	10	20	Anne Cohen	30	1	Emanuel Evans	10	17	Jacob Able	26
			20	Bernie Kessler	30	1	Rebecca Levtow	10	17	Harold Bobroff	26
		January	20	Julius Saffron	30	1	Harry Shatzman	10	17	Bertha Derby	26
Shevat			January	21	Dora Levine	31	1	•	10	17	Bertha Simons
2	Sam Margolis	12		Dora Levine			Michael Shrott		18	Sigmund Meyer	27
2	Yehuda Ohayon	12	Shevat		February	Adar I		February	19	Jack Mlyn	28
2	Miriam Zucker	12	22	Paul Gidwitz	1	1	Sonja van der Horst	10	19	Dora Rosenblatt	28
3	Yetta Brandt	13	22	Sidney Markman	1	3	William Hoffman	12	19	Alex Satinsky	28
4	Hanah Landau	14	22	Bert Weaver	1	3	Ethel Perault	12	20	Sadie Lipton	29
4	Barbara Lipp	14	23	Hannah Libman	2	3	Lilliam Rubin	12	20	Rachelle Malley	29
4	Barry Margolin	14	23	Louis Saper	2	5	Frederic Philip	14	20	Jacob Most	29
6	David Herschel	16	24	Shmuel Lebovich	3	3	Alpern, MD				
	"Harry" Nydick		24	Muriel Modell	3	5	Simon Korkin	14			
7	Ellen Egger	17		Bob Roberman	3	5	Alex Marks	14			
8	Frances Lynn	18	24			5	Samuel Sody	14			
8	Ester Margolese	18	25	Herb Shatzman	4	7	Max Drucker	16			
9	Bartow Culp	19	25	Marie Whitehurst Wells	4	7	Albert Krolik	16			
9	Jerry Ulrich	19	26	Neil August	5	8	Paul Herman	17			
10	Ernie Bronstein	20	26	Sarah Berg	5	10	Sam Abramowtiz	19			
10	Gertrude Brown	20		Hoffman		10	Marguerite	19			
10	Alan Grossinger	20	26	Alex Rubin	5		Bretzfiled Eger				
10	Eva Baden Slifkin	20	27	Milton Mills	6	10	Ruther Zeighauser	10			
11	Rae Korkin	21	27	Joanne Sachs	6		Rleishman				
12	Leon Kahn	22		Skibell							
12	Gerard Rohde	22									
13	Jim Wells, Sr.	23									

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BETH EL SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Friday evening services:

Services are held on Friday evenings only in conjunction with other programming or special occasions.

See monthly calendars for noted dates and times.

Saturday morning services:

Services in the Orthodox Kehillah begin at 9:00 a.m.

Services in the Main Sanctuary begin at 9:30 a.m.

Weekday minyanim in the Main Sanctuary*:

Sunday mornings at 9:30am

Wednesday mornings at 8:00am

*Please let the office know in advance if you need to say Kaddish, even if a minyan has already been scheduled.

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday through Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. / Fridays: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m..

BETH EL WEBSITE: www.betheldurham.org

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