

A Welcoming Reform Jewish Congregation serving Chantilly Virginia and the surrounding area

www.bethtorah.net

December 2017–January 2018 Kislev—Sh'vat 5778



Upcoming Temple Events

Hanukkah Shabbat Service	Friday, December 15, 2017	07:00 pm-08:00 pm
Religious School, K-7, Hanukkah Party	Sunday, December 17, 2017	09:00 am-12:30 pm
Torah Tots	Sunday, December 17, 2017	10:30 am-12:00 pm
NO Religious School	Sunday, December 24, 2017	
NO Religious School	Sunday, December 31, 2017	
Adult Study Group	Wednesday, January 03, 2018	07:30 pm
Youth Led Shabbat	Friday, January 05, 2018	07:30 pm-08:30 pm
Tot Shabbat	Saturday, January 06, 2018	09:30 am-10:30 am
Nosh-n-Drosh	Saturday, January 06, 2018	10:30 am-12:00 pm
Religious School, K–7, 10	Sunday, January 07, 2018	09:00 am-12:30 pm
Ladies Book Club	Tuesday, January 09, 2018	07:30 pm
Religious School, K-7, 8/9	Sunday, January 14, 2018	09:00 am-12:30 pm
Shabbat Shira	Friday, January 19, 2018	07:30 pm-08:30 pm
Adult Participation Shabbat	Saturday, January 20, 2018	10:30 am-12:00 pm
Religious School, K-7, 10	Sunday, January 21, 2018	09:00 am-12:30 pm
Religious School,K-7, 8/9	Sunday, January 28, 2018	09:00 am-12:30 pm
Religious School, K-7, 8/9	Sunday, February 04, 2018	09:00 am-12:30 pm
Adult Study Group	Wednesday, February 07, 2018	07:30 pm
Shabbat Services	Friday, February 09, 2018	07:30 pm-08:30 pm
Anna Kaplan Bat Mitzvah	Saturday, February 10, 2018	10:00 am-12:00 pm
Religious School, K-7, 10, Post Confirmation	Sunday, February 11, 2018	09:00 am-12:30 pm

Proper attire is encouraged at all services. Please see the weekly Blast for Chaverim listings.

SAVE THE DATE for a very special Cantor's Concert and Congregational Celebration!
7pm, Saturday March 17, 2018

Temple Beth Torah Contact List

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Directions to Building

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From Route 66: Get off at Route 28 North. Go North to Route 50 West. Travel west on Route 50. Turn left on Pleasant Valley Rd. Turn left on Lafayette Center Dr. Turn left on Technology Court.

TBT Caring Committee

Have you ever wondered how to notify the TBT Board of a life-cycle event? TBT is here to support you. Contact: Lori Kravchick at caringcommittee@bethtorah.net

Chaverim Signup Reminder

Please remember to sign up for Chaverim duties at http://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050e4aa8ac2aa64-temple We need everyone to sign up for two dates. Please help make our wonderful TBT services successful!

Weather closures will be announced via an Email Blast, on our Facebook page and posted on the home page of the website www.bethtorah.net. Please use your judgment, as weather conditions may vary depending on where you live.

The **Temple Beth Torah Yahrzeit Memorial Wall** is a way to honor the memories of our departed loved ones. It is displayed in our sanctuary. A light will burn next to their name on all yahrzeit and yizkor observances. The order form can be found on our website at www.bethtorah.net. Click on Make a Contribution on the top right of the Home page.



Support TBT While Shopping on Amazon!

From now on, before you start shopping on Amazon, start with the link on the bottom of the Temple Beth Torah home page at bethtorah.net. Amazon will contribute to TBT every time you make a purchase after using the link.

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A Message from President Jayne Ayers

The Village

It's a funny thing, this "Village". If I wasn't jewish, I am not sure that Anetevka would necessarily come to mind, but it does.

As I started to ponder the question of what communitymeans to me, my thoughts immediately went to the past. And I started thinking about all the times when my "Village" was there for me. The times are too many to count and the memories are often too painful to recall.

I started to think of the people that made up my "Village" and the fact that *so* many are still such a big part. And, that some have left and some have been added. And some have been there just to see me through something significant. A one time Villager so to speak.

But, what really started my mind spinning is what's right in front of me *today*. My Village *today*. The people that help us get through each day. Would you consider the bus driver that takes your kids to school part of your village? *I do!* The receptionist at the doctor's office, the Barista at Starbucks? *I do!*

Do you ever think I sure do need that information from someone and voila—it shows up in your in box? Or, while wandering through the grocery store, you run in to a friend and within a 2 minute conversation, you share the frustrations of the day and you walk away feeling better? Or, when you are feeling down, you come across someone wearing a scarf on their head—realizing that they have most likely cancer and are going through chemotherapy and you say to yourself "God Bless you and I need to snap out of it!". Are these people part of our village?

Do you sit back and question why someone is in your life and who put them there? Does our village organically create itself or is there something or someone that *knows* what we need and creates our village for us? Hmmmm...something to ponder.

Don't get me wrong—I do believe that we attract what we need as far as friendships and relationships, but do you ever wonder if there is some sort of divine intervention when it comes to our Village?

I do like to live in the present (although sometimes I slip backwards) and I like to take inventory of what I am grateful for. My Village has grown the past few years and for that I am *most grateful*! And honored and humbled.

How and why do I deserve all of you? Why have you put your trust in me to make the best decisions for TBT? I don't make decisions without my Village. You have given me a *great* opportunity to give back and *learn*—from each and every one of you. You, the *villagers*, have given

me something to enjoy and cherish and take great pride in. An opportunity to learn and grow and gain experience. *And.....Friendships*. If I had to pick—I'd pick *Friendship* above all.

However we receive our Village—whether we create it or whether it's created for us, we need to take a minute and take inventory. Don't necessarily try to understand it, but *Embrace it. Drink it in. Recognize it. Respect it. Value it. Nurture it.*

To my *Village*, thank you. You have given me friend-ship and filled my bucket. I hope that I have done the same for you.

-Jayne

Reclaiming the *Holy Land* for the Jewish People

Presented by Rabbi Block—meets once a month on Wednesday nights.

Once again the Temple Mount is at the center of an Israeli Palestinian crisis. Our Wednesday night study group will explore how we arrived at the continuing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian State. Even though we are studying a history each class will be self contained so that you do not need to obligate yourself for every class.

The September 6th class will explain the one event that created the entire mess that has resulted in the Arab Spring; the Sunni Shia conflict; Israel vs Palestine; the movement for Kurdish independence; the Iranian incursions; and more. Plan on attending to understand why the Sykes-Picot Agreement, also called Asia Minor Agreement, (May 1916), a secret convention made during World War I between Great Britain and France, with the assent of imperial Russia, resulted in the dismemberment of the Ottoman Empire thus creating this mess.

Never heard of the *Sykes-Picot Agreement*? All the more reason to attend. When you leave class on the 6th what is happening in the Middle East will be crystal clear and why solving the conflicts is so thorny.

The remaining tentative dates are: January 3, February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2, & June 6. The blast will keep you current.

Cantor's Notes

December Dilemma?(headline??)

Its December. Or is it the Jewish month of Kislev? The so-called "December Dilemma" is not actually a battle between Christmas and Hanukah, nor Kwanza or even Festivus. Within Jewish tradition, there is a debate over whether Hanukah celebrates the "heroic" Maccabees and their martial victory over the Assyrian-Greeks (itself highly problematic) or the mysterious metaphorical miracle retold by the Rabbis of the Talmud about a small container of oil long outlasting its expected burn rate. But it is not this either.

The tussle is no longer even about, ironically, the argument of whether or not we Jews should be religiously and culturally distinct from the dominant society in which we find ourselves. It is clear that ship sailed long ago. In America, our holiday of victory over religious oppression by a group of religious fanatics against a secular society has found us celebrating our freedom to assimilate and acculturate.

Our freedom in America to celebrate our religious convictions, or the lack thereof, as we see fit have turned it into something of bizarre exercise of celebrating without really thinking through what and why. Its confusing enough to know Hanukah has historically been a minor holiday, as religiously important as Purim, without getting into a debate over the historicity of the holiday or dueling dual narratives we tell our children. There's even a part of the story that involves an elephant, so is it any wonder that we instead focus on chocolate coins, four sided-tops and mensches on benches?

The reality is that for adults, the ideas of knowledge, light and joy with which we adults now associate Hanukah are thematically and chronologically more aligned with other similar festivals of light celebrated by our neighbors than with any of the historical or ritual meanings we have learned. With sales on everything from Samsung tablets to Snuggies, however, it is effortless to give in and allow December to turn into that most American activity; conspicuous consumption. In short, when it comes to Hanukah and the giving of gifts, we've become the Greeks!

No matter if you light up a Menorah or a Christmas Tree, the relevant question today is whether we are celebrating the material or the ethereal. At the root of either holiday is a question with which we struggle more now than ever before—what is more important—material greed or spiritual need?

Americans of all faiths seem to get caught up in the most mercantile motifs pervade the winter months. I encourage everyone to take the opportunity to explore giving other forms of gifts in the winter holiday season. In an age where anything imaginable can be obtained in 48 hours via Amazon Prime, we ought to consider the true value of what philosopher-comedian George Carlin fondly referred to as, "stuff."

Nowhere in the Torah or the Talmud is there anything about our receiving gifts (besides receiving the gift of the Torah itself). Rather, we are taught that we should make "v'yike-chu li terumah me'et kol ish asher yidvenu libo tikachu et ter-

umat," or "Offerings from every person whose heart so moves them." (Exodus 25:2).

In the Torah, these gifts are indeed worldly goods, yet the salient point is that without determining a precise amount for these offerings, our ancestors offered them willingly and in great abundance. It is, as the saying goes, that the gift is in the giving. How then, amidst watching classic holiday movies, eating latkes or Chinese food, can we convey this message?

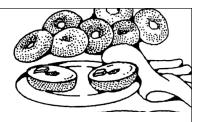
As important as giving our children a new X-box is giving the gift of teaching them compassion for those in need. More important than a new drone, is a night with popcorn on the couch in a loving home. Far more needed than a new iPhone, is making sure our children know regardless of what physical gifts they receive, that learning is precious and that the gift of time with others is the greatest kindness we can offer. Not only are most of these gifts free, we can demonstrate these attributes by modeling them for our children and making them a tradition unto themselves.

Perhaps the best gifts we can give them in this season of light is the lesson that giving, rather than receiving, is the most meaningful aspect of any exchange. And those gifts given willingly, without dictate of size and guided by the wisdom of our hearts are the truest measure of our humanity. Whether you light Hanukah candles or twinkling lights on a tannenbaum, may the gifts you give this season reflect the inner light and love that only comes from within.

Cantor Adam

Nash N'Drash

January 6, 2018, 10:30 am



Opening the Seventh Gate

A Guide to Practical Kabbalah & Jewish Mysticism

THE JEWISH MYSTIC, Rabbi Martin Buber taught that "every person born into this world represents something new, something that never existed before, something original and unique." The study of Kabbalah helps you to discover your own "uniqueness". Come to the discussion and find your inner truth, your mission in life.

A Message from Rabbi Kenneth Block

It's No Wonder I Became a Chaplain

Looking back, it's no wonder that I became a chaplain. That becoming is an integral part of my family history. I remember being ten-years-old because that's when I went with my father to the Lemuel Shattuck Hospital, the VA facility in West Roxbury or maybe it was in Jamaica Plain, MA to spend time with our hospitalized veterans. On some visits, we gave out cigarettes and personal hygiene items. On other visits, we played bingo or listened to stories about WW II.

When I think about it now, I realize I spent more Jewish holidays in VA hospitals and in veterans' cemeteries than I did in Temple. My father was an active member of the JWV. He was proud of his muddy boots. But he also took his responsibility very seriously. "To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan" (President Lincoln's second inaugural address, March 4, 1865).

Veteran's Days were spent marching in parades and placing flags on the graves of our veterans. I remember visiting the same graves every year. Even though all I knew were the names on the headstones, those men became my friends. I felt a remarkable affinity for them. Naturally, throughout college, the time I spent with my father decreased until Veteran's Day was the only thing we observed together.

I entered Hebrew Union College in June of 1968. In September of that same year, a representative of the military chaplaincy visited the campus, and I agreed to become a Navy Chaplain upon ordination. When June 1974 finally came around, the military was exiting Vietnam and downsizing the military.

So, in September of 1974, I became a VA Chaplain at the Perry Point, Maryland facility. My father, First Lieutenant Herbert Block, had trained me to be a Chaplain for the VA. "Trained" does not really describe what my father had done for me. He gave me his muddy boots and showed me how to wear them by example.

Forty years passed before I retired from the VA. And I spent everyone doing what Abraham Lincoln asked of me 146 years ago. The VA has trained and supported me throughout that service.

Being a chaplain has meant the building of a lifetime of memories, every memory stemming from a story that will never leave me. One of those stories took place in the retail store found in every VA facility, affectionately referred to as the PX or the Canteen.

A few years ago, I went to the canteen to see the weekly

clothes specials. John, a Vietnam veteran I have know for ten plus years, wheeled up to me in his chair to see what bargain I had found. One can never have too many camouflage shirts or a shirt with a military insignia on it from one's branch of the service.

I picked up one that identified the wearer as a U.S. Marine and draped it over John. "Once a Marine, always a Marine. Right, John?" I asked. I don't remember if he replied an "oo," an "ah," or a "Simper Fie." Perhaps he just laughed. The label was sticking up, so I reached down to grab the shirt by the label. "Made in Vietnam," the tag said. "Made in Vietnam."

I showed the label to him. He tapped his paralyzed legs and said, "Lost in Vietnam." He and I stood in silence for a moment. "You and I should have opened a clothing factory in Vietnam in the sixties. A lot of lives would have been spared," I said. "Amen" he said.

I bought a camouflage shirt that day. He bought the shirt with the Marine insignia. Both of them were made in Vietnam. I never will forget those men who bore the battle, who answered the call, who protected us without question.

And now, I just purchased three items from Amazon (free shipping with Prime) all made in Vietnam while I am following the details of President Trump's visit to Vietnam. In May, the Vietnamese were given a United States Coast Guard cutter and six new patrol boats to defend the swath of the South China Sea that Hanoi considers its own.

The president's first contact with Vietnam was on land contaminated by the United States military half a century ago. Danang's airport is on the site of an old American air base where barrels of the defoliant Agent Orange were once stored and mixed. Dioxin, a toxic contaminant, seeped into the ground and nearby water sources. Today it is a fully functioning airport for a city of 1.3 million people. The fact that this very location is the site of the APEC summit, attended by the president of the United States, speaks volumes.

If the leaders of our country had only listened to the Prophet Isaiah when he said: "nation shall not lift up sword against nation neither shall they learn of war anymore." Then 3,091,000 individuals would not have died during the period 1955–1974.

The melding of various religions is reflective of the US military chaplaincy. When you're in the trenches, separations of faith are not important to a soldier. Having faith is what matters most.

Thank you for Your Donation

Roberta & Ronald Milberg Ina Mayer Sarah & David Weintrob Marketing Outreach Contributions In Loving Memory of Robert M. Mayer In Loving Memory of Ruth Weiss

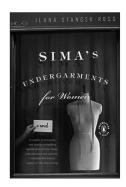
In Remembrance

Congregant(s)	Remember	Relationship	Date of Death	Hebrew Date	When Hebrew Date Occurs
Melissa & Jay Margolis	Harry Oppenheim	Grandfather of Melissa	12/XX/1978		
Elizabeth & Stephen Ward	Jessica S Hirsch	Daughter of Elizabeth	12/2/78	2 Kislev 5739	11/20/17
Elizabeth & Stephen Ward	Rosalind Gordon	Mother of Elizabeth	12/5/10	28 Kislev 5771	12/16/17
Josie & David Barondess	Florence Claire Elters	Aunt of David	12/6/86	4 Kislev 5747	11/22/17
Joyce & Brian Goodman	Seymour Goodman	Father of Brian	12/7/11	11 Kislev 5772	11/29/17
Gail & Howard Sulkin	Mark Alan Sulkin	Brother of Howard	12/7/1969	27 Kislev 5730	12/15/17
Barbara & Joseph Sutliff	Samuel Mostov	Grandfather of Barbara	12/10/1967	8 Kislev 5728	11/26/17
Lori Childers	Arthur Porter	Uncle of Lori	12/11/04	28 Kislev 5765	12/16/17
Bonnie & Earl Schendell	Muriel Goodman Brownstein	Mother of Bonnie	12/11/92	16 Kislev 5753	12/4/17
Gail & Howard Sulkin	Herman Sulkin	Father of Howard	12/14/98	25 Kislev 5759	12/13/17
Josie & David Barondess	Stuart H. Barondess	Father of David	12/15/04	3 Tevet 5765	12/21/17
Gerry Chelnik	William Chelnik	Brother of David	12/20/98	1 Tevet 5759	12/19/17
Barbara & Joseph Sutliff	Dvora Mostov	Grandmother of Barbara	12/20/1966	7 Tevet 5727	12/25/17
Dorothy & Donald Lewy	Arnold Jack Rosenthal	Cousin of Dorothy	12/22/10	15 Tevet 5771	1/2/18
Elizabeth & Bruce Brotman	Saul Brotman	Father of Bruce	12/27/87	6 Tevet 5748	12/24/17
Mark Lichter	Doris Lichter	Mother of Mark	12/30/94	27 Tevet 5755	1/14/18
Devin & Mac McCrory	Olius McCrory, Jr	Father of Mac	12/30/00	4 Tevet 5761	12/22/17
Barbara & Joseph Sutliff	Ida Goldman	Aunt of Barbara	12/31/95	8 Tevet 5756	12/26/17
Lauren & Pete Laird	Zigfried Delbrod	Grandfather of Lauren	1/XX/1977		
Laura Veach	Glenn Veach	Husband of Laura	1/1/17	3 Tevet 5777	12/21/17
Nancy Watson	Irving Goldfarb	Grandfather of Nancy	1/1/98	3 Tevet 5758	12/21/17
Alissa & Charles Blackmore	Gladys Kramer	Aunt of Alissa	1/3/09	7 Tevet 5769	12/25/17
Bonnie & Earl Schendell	Sydney Schendell	Father of Earl	1/5/05	24 Tevet 5765	1/11/18
Josie & David Barondess	William H Barondess	Grandfather of David	1/7/80	18 Tevet 5740	1/5/18
Barbara & Joseph Sutliff	Vincent E. Sutliff, Jr	Father of Joe	1/7/15		
Beth & Ron Glaser	Ethel Glaser	Mother of Ronald	1/10/96	18 Tevet 5756	1/5/18
Melissa & Jay Margolis	Ida Silber	Grandmother of Jay	1/10/08	3 Shevat 5768	1/19/18
Josie & David Barondess	Mary Opachinsky Spiegel	Grandmother of David	1/19/1959	10 Shevat 5719	1/26/18
Roberta & Ronald Milberg	Bennett P. Fleishman	Brother of Roberta	1/20/1961	3 Shevat 5721	1/19/18
Alissa & Charles Blackmore	Shari Simon	Mother of Alissa	1/21/09	25 Tevet 5769	1/12/18
Nicole & Mike Manning	Samuel Manning	Father of Mike	1/22/10	7 Shevat 5770	1/23/18
Barbara & Joseph Sutliff	Karuna Thal	Cousin of Barbara	1/22/08	15 Shevat 5768	1/31/18
Deborah Mayer & Todd Hillman	Monroe Mayer	Grandfather of Deborah	1/24/02	11 Shevat 5762	1/27/18
Roberta & Ronald Milberg	Roberta P. Davis	Mother of Ronald	1/24/91	9 Shevat 5751	1/25/18
Barbara & Joseph Sutliff	Jack Weinberg	Uncle of Barbara	1/24/76	22 Shevat 5736	2/7/18
Lori Childers	Tiby Kaplan	Aunt of Lori	1/25/00	18 Shevat 5760	2/3/18
Marci & Corey Jerome	Kenneth Jerome	Father of Corey	1/27/2016*	18 Shevat 5776	2/3/18
Mary & Jeff Horner	Murray Horner	Uncle of Jeff	1/28/99	11 Shevat 5759	1/27/18
Laura & Jeffrey Klaiman	Diane S. Klaiman	Mother of Jeffrey	1/28/97	20 Shevat 5757	2/5/18
Dorothy & Donald Lewy	Harry Rothman	Father of Dorothy	1/28/97	20 Shevat 5757	2/5/18

^{*}After sunset

TBT Ladies Book Club

Please join us for this "pot-luck" style book club that meets every *other* month on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30PM. This club is open to all TBT women. Plan to bring a drink or appetizer to share! Our book for the January 9th meeting is *Sima's Undergarments for Women* by Ilana Stranger-Ross. You don't have to read the book to enjoy book club! Contact Beth Thomas at mbtjthomas@gmail.com for more information.



B'Nai Mitzvah at TBT: You're Invited!

By Jennifer Stawasz, B'Nai Mitzvah Committee Co-Chair

A few weeks ago, I was talking with Cantor Adam about b'nai mitzvah at TBT, and he asked me a question. "Are b'nai mitzvah at TBT," he asked, "for the family or for the congregation?" My first response was that b'nai mitzvah are open for all TBT members and guests to attend, so, of course, they were for the congregation. However, I soon realized that Cantor Adam was asking something much more significant than that. Being new to our congregation, Cantor Adam wanted to understand if our b'nai mitzvah services were simply Shabbat services in which the bar or bat mitzvah participates, or if they were opportunities for the bar or bat mitzvah to be the star.

I didn't have an answer for Cantor Adam that day. Yes, b'nai mitzvah are opportunities for students to show off what they know, and we certainly don't want to take that away from our students. Yet b'nai mitzvah are also enjoyable Shabbat services for our members. How do we balance our focus on Shabbat with our focus on our b'nai mitzvah? I'm not sure if Cantor Adam knew it at the time, but what he was asking me to do was to frame the significance of the bar or bat mitzvah experience in the larger context of what it means to be part of Temple Beth Torah.

I've thought a lot about this topic since my conversation with Cantor Adam, and I'd like to share my thoughts.

Without a doubt, the day of the bar or bat mitzvah service at TBT is a day of celebration for the bar or bat mitzvah and his or her family. It is a moment to celebrate everything the student has accomplished with respect to becoming a Jewish adult and an opportunity to look forward to a bright future of Jewish life. Our students have earned their right to shine and feel proud of their achievements at TBT, and we want them to experience the joy (and perhaps relief) of their accomplishment.

So where does the congregation come in? Well, here's the really special part about TBT. Yes, the bar or bat mitzvah is about the child and about his or her family, but it is also about us—our TBT community. With each and every bar or bat mitzvah,

our TBT community gets to experience the joy of welcoming another student into the early stages of adult Jewish life. More importantly, we get to do so with the knowledge that we have helped them get there.

Yes, you heard me correctly. We have watched these children grow and develop. Moreover, because we are a volunteer community, it is very likely that each one of us has played a role in getting that bar or bat mitzvah to the bemah. Have you ever chaperoned a field trip? Have you sent in snack or challah for Sunday school? Participated in a Hanukkah party? Helped set up for an event? Taught or assisted teaching a class? Made a financial contribution? If you can answer yes to any of these questions, you have contributed, in a small or maybe large way, towards that bar or bat mitzvah student's success. And you, too, have reason to feel proud.

Have you ever attended a bar or bat mitzvah service? These services are open to all members, yet many families never attend until it is the year of their own children's b'nai mitzvah. If you have not attended one recently or ever, I encourage you to do so. In my opinion, the b'nai mitzvah services are among the most beautiful services we hold here at TBT. Why? It is because, whenever I go to a b'nai mitzvah service, that feeling of community shines through. I may not even know the student personally, but I am proud of what our community has achieved. I am proud that TBT has added another member to our tribe. I am proud that we are carrying on the traditions of our faith. And I am proud to be a part of our TBT community.

We have eight b'nai mitzvah coming up this Spring. Whether your children are young or grown, or you don't have children, I encourage you to pick at least one to attend. I feel confident that you will leave feeling the warmth and pride of our TBT community.

So, to answer Cantor Adam's question, YES! Yes, b'nai mitzvah are opportunities for our students to be stars. And yes, they are also about our congregation. A bar or bat mitzvah service is a chance for our entire TBT community to celebrate and take pride in a job well done!

Temple Beth Torah PO Box 2020 Centreville,VA 20122

Marketing blurb tk from Joe or larger Torah tots ad
(I will add to TOC accordingly)

