

# October Bridge

*Beth El Congregation*

## A Message from our Rabbi

*Hag Leyl Kol Hakedoshim Sameakh*

*By Rabbi Jeff Kurtz-Lendner*

The title of this article is “Happy Halloween,” in Hebrew! Literally it translates to “Happy Eve of all the Holy Ones,” in other words, the night before All Saints Day, or “All Hallows Eve.” Growing up in religious school we were taught that Halloween was not a Jewish holiday and Jews shouldn’t observe it. I don’t know ANYONE in my religious school who followed that dictum. Many say it’s based on the Christian observance of preparing for All Saints Day, which is the day of the year on the Catholic calendar when every saint is honored at once. Actually, that observance of Halloween was a co-opted holiday from natural religions (often referred to as “pagan.”) In natural religious observances, it was the day to purge oneself from the demons in one’s life.

Regardless of whether the American version of Halloween was adapted from Christianity or from natural religions, the argument would still be made that Halloween is derived from a religious holiday from outside of Judaism. Hence the prohibition would remain.

So why the Hebrew title? Well, this is indeed what the holiday is called in Israel. Although it is not a recognized holiday on the Israeli calendar, nevertheless there are Israeli celebrations of the holiday throughout the country. Especially in, of course, Tel Aviv! You can find clubs, bars and restaurants in Tel Aviv adorned with Halloween decorations. In recent years, schools, community centers and amusement parks have begun to embrace the decorations with family events. And while trick or treating is not prevalent in Israel, they still have parties with pumpkins, costumes and trick or treat like experiences. Maybe in Israel the common candy given out is Halvah or Elite chocolate!

Whatever religious connotations Halloween may have had, today the way we observe Halloween has nothing at all to do with religious customs. Today it is a fun and silly

holiday. The biggest challenge we have is not protecting our children from the outside influences of an “alien religion” on Jewish practice, but instead, making sure our children don’t make themselves ill or get cavities. Sweets are great! Too much sweets, well maybe not so much.

For those of you observing Halloween, I wish you a “leyl kol hakedoshim sameakh!”

## A Message from our President

I hope everyone had a great month.

I think our new year has started spectacularly. Of course, September was highlighted by our High Holy Days. I’ve written many times about how I think “it takes a village” and that Beth El is our communal home. Other than the Rabbi, the Ashburns, Don (our piano accompanist), and John for livestream technical support, everyone else is a volunteer and it takes a whole lot of volunteers to keep our Temple running as smoothly as it does. There is always something you can volunteer for. There are many volunteer jobs that don’t need long time commitments. Our communal home is always looking for volunteers.

That being said, I want to thank several congregants for their commitments for the High Holy Days:

The Choir was wonderful and made the services much more meaningful. If you can carry a tune, volunteer to join the choir next year. I want to thank each of you for the time and effort that you put in to make your voices sound so harmonic. Thank you Ron Ornstein, Katie Rudnik, Wayne Berman, Kent Palmer, Sherri Alt, Mary Handley, Margee Greenfield Ney, Catherine Rogers, Rachelle Dorne, Katie Cohen, LeeAnne Shepherd, Rebekah Greenfield, Talia Robles, Cindy Baron (for Rosh Hashanah) and of course our pianist Don Smith.

Thank you Zach Bradley for your outstanding Shofar blowing.

Thank you Josh Shulruff for helping with the family service music

Thank you Mickey Glago for running the tech on Yom Kippur day

Thank you Mary Handley and Andy Kohen for the beautiful flowers that adorned the Bima

Thank you Ron Rubin for arranging security with HPD and handling the additional donations that come in during this season

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to bring in food for First Step and or the Oneg or participated in any way. Thank you!

Thank you Margee for handling all the honors for the Holidays. I truly believe that the more congregants who participate in the services makes the services much more meaningful and you made that happen. Thank you.

Thank you Leslie Harris for putting together the very wonderful slide show with pictures of our dear departed loved ones. The slide show really adds to the emotions of the Yizkor service. If you have good computer skills, you can volunteer to help Leslie next year. Thank you Leslie.

Thank you Judy Freudenthal for volunteering to read the long list of names that we wish to remember. Thank you Judy.

Thank you Maureen Goldberger for managing the L'Shanah Tovah booklets for the last several years. Maureen is looking forward to turning over the booklet to another volunteer. If you would like to work with Maureen next year and learn how to do it, please volunteer. Thank you Maureen.

Thank you Dan Bly for coordinating the Break the Fast. I know that you have been volunteering for this at least since I moved back to Harrisonburg in 2000. Although this is technically a men's club sponsored event, anyone can volunteer to help Dan for this

once-a-year event. We had over 50 people attend the Break the Fast. Thank you Dan.

Any thank you list would not be complete if I didn't thank Ron Ornstein for ALL he does at the Temple. He is always at the Temple doing something. Whenever I have a question (and I have many), I ask Ron. Whenever I'm not sure of something (which is a lot), I ask Ron. When I have a question on a procedure, I ask Ron. Ron, I thank you for all that you do to make our communal home that much better. Thank you Ron.

I said at the start of this message that it takes a lot of volunteering for things to run smoothly and now hopefully you will know what I mean.

Please think about volunteering and ask not just what the Temple can do for you, but what you can do for the Temple, our communal home.

I hope everyone has a great October!!!

Les Mintzer

# October Yahrzeits

Carrye Kohen - October 1  
Annette Biatch - October 1  
Carl Goldstein - October 1, 2010  
David Rubin - October 2, 1972  
Bernard N. Berger - October 4, 2010  
Jack Lichtenstein - October 5  
Paige Nash - October 6, 2003  
Leonard Raff - October 8  
Samuel Metzger - October 9, 1911  
David Baron - October 11  
Betty Nemoytin - October 12, 1991  
Israel Smith - October 13  
Harry Katzen - October 13, 1981  
Hattie Hirsch - October 15, 1927  
Milton Trubitz - October 15, 1991  
Sarah Lovinger - October 15, 1996  
Miriam Brooslin Cohen - October 16  
Rosa Wise - October 17, 1931  
Harriet Gould - October 18, 1991  
Rabbi Edward L Israel - October 19  
Mabel Rodbell - October 19, 1994  
Barbara M Levin - October 20  
Ruth Shwayder - October 20, 1967  
Ida Zindler - October 22  
Dorothy D Kaiser - October 22  
Phill Ungar - October 23, 2021  
Leon Hirsch - October 25  
Helen Wise - October 25, 1962  
Sarah Lebin - October 25

Marc Trubitz - October 25, 2010  
Bernice "Bunny" Gerson - October 25, 2018  
Rosalie Amberg - October 26, 1915  
Oscar Rodbell - October 27  
Marilyn Goldenthal - October 27, 2005  
Edith Bersson - October 29, 2006  
Amalia G Wise - October 31, 1939  
Evonne Schechter - October 31, 2020

## Recent Donations

*Trubitz Family Trust – Yahrzeit – Sidra N. Dubell  
and Marc Trubitz*  
*Dara & Michael Hall – Shana Tova to everyone*  
*Frances Flannery – Yahrzeit, Susan Flannery*  
*Leo Zindler – Yahrzeit, Beverly Zindler*  
*Michael & Nancy Clayman – Yahrzeit, Barbara  
Clayman*  
*Mary Handley – Donation towards Tree Removal*  
*Kenneth Seiver – Donation to the General fund  
and a donation to the Coat drive*  
*Deanna Cebulash – Yahrzeit, Ruth Dorothy Penn  
(Mother)*  
*Deanna Cebulash – Donation for the Bridge*  
*Janet Daniel – Annual Gift on Behalf of her  
children, Hannah & William.*  
*Diane Daniel – Shanah Tova*  
*Rebecca Brannon – Donation for the religious  
school*  
*Kathryn Rudnik – Shanah Tova*  
*Michael & Nancy Clayman – Memorial  
Donations*  
*Pamela Ungar – Yahrzeit, Phill Ungar*



*Andy Kohen and baby Blaine*

## **Welcome to our New Members.**

Beth El Congregation has three new members!

Welcome:

Ben and Sarah Selznick

Sarah Blackstone

Zach Bradley

# BETH EL CONGREGATION

## OCT 2023

ALL SERVICES LED BY RABBI AND LIVESTREAMED  
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
Religious School 9:30 am  Torah Tots 9:30 am			Ethics Class 12:00 pm Zoom	Men's Club Dinner 6:00 pm	Pizza in the Hut 6:30 pm End of Sukkot Simchat Torah Services 7:30 pm Sponsored Oneg	Torah Study 10:30 am Zoom
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Religious School 9:30 am			Ethics Class 12:00 pm Zoom  Sisterhood Meeting 6:00 pm		Shabbat Services 7:30 pm	Torah Study 10:30 am Zoom
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Blessing of the Animals 9:30 am Religious School 9:30 am			Ethics Class 12:00 pm Zoom	Board Meeting 6:30 pm Zoom also	Shabbat Services 7:30 pm Sponsored Oneg	Torah Study 10:30 am Zoom
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Religious School 9:30 am  Interfaith Dinner 5:30 pm			Ethics Class 12:00 pm Zoom		Shabbat Services 7:30 pm	Torah Study 10:30 am Zoom
29	30	31				
Religious School 9:30 am						