

# September Bridge

*Beth El Congregation*

## A Message from our Rabbi

*Mishkan HaNefesh: The New Reform High Holiday Prayer Book*

Rabbi Jeff Kurtz-Lendner

Several years ago the Central Conference of American Rabbis published a new Mahzor, the high holiday prayer book, titled Mishkan HaNefesh. Thanks to a generous donation by Andy Kohen, supplemented by the Men's Club, the Sisterhood and several other members, this year we will be introducing this Mahzor for our Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services.

What does this change mean for you, as a congregant and worshiper?

One of the best new additions to this book is, like in our Shabbat prayer book, Mishkan T'filah, all of the Hebrew is transliterated into English. That will make the Hebrew

much more accessible to those whose Hebrew reading skills are limited.

For the most part, other changes will be found in the translations. The substance of the English representations of the prayers have not changed. But the translations reflect a more modern usage of American English, as well as include the current philosophical norms of the 21st Century American Jewish Community. Just as Gates of Prayer and Gates of Repentance replaced the Union Prayer Books back in the 1970's, reflecting language and philosophies current to that era, now the prayer books have been updated once again to keep them relevant for the next generation.

The most notable variation during High Holidays services, however, will be recognized in how the Shofar Service is rendered. If "Rosh Hashanah" were to be a brand, the symbol of that brand would be the Shofar. Since for the majority of people who attend Rosh Hashanah services, the sounding of the Shofar is the highlight of the service, in Mishkan HaNefesh the sounding of the Shofar is repeated through the morning service. Instead of having one long Shofar sounding service towards the end, the new

prayer book includes shorter Shofar sounding services towards the beginning, in the middle and again at the end.

What do you need to do? NOTHING. Just come to services and enjoy the comfort of being in your spiritual home during the most important season of the Jewish year. Pages will be announced, the music will mostly be the same and any alterations will be taken care of by myself along with those helping to lead the service.

I look forward to seeing you soon as we celebrate the Jewish New Year together. Leshana Tova u'metukah. May we all have a good and sweet new year.

## **A Message from our President**

I hope everyone had a great month.

As summer is ending, events at our “communal home” are starting to pick up steam. September, October, and November are going to be active months with lots of events at the Temple.

In September we will be celebrating the High Holy Days with new prayer books for both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. I want to

wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year. I'm very optimistic that this will be a great year for Congregation Beth El. The new year brings forth an opportunity for each and every one of us to participate in making Beth-El an even better place to share our commonality. There is always a committee to bring your talent to volunteer to serve on. Whatever our successes are, it is because of congregant volunteers who choose to serve. I would like to see as many congregants as possible serve in some capacity. When we work together, we are a mighty force so please think about volunteering. Speaking of volunteering, I want to thank Roni and Abe Goldberg for stepping up and volunteering to be SHORTY advisors. After all, our youth are the future, and they are now in good hands. I'm looking forward to seeing an active SHORTY. The Holidays will end with our traditional communal Break-the-Fast sponsored by your Men's Club. It was well attended last year, and I anticipate another good crowd again this year. There will be a \$10.00 charge for each adult (13 and over), a \$5.00 charge for children 6 to 12 years of age, and no charge for children 5 years of age and younger. Please let me know if you plan to attend. I want to thank Dan Bly once again for coordinating the Break-the-Fast and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Have a great month everyone!!!

# September Yahrzeits

Lena Paul Miller - September 2  
Beverly Zindler - September 3, 2011  
Rose Minskoff - September 5, 1942  
Edythe Sanders Nettles - September 5, 1959  
James Handley - September 5, 2015  
Arthur H Hirsch - September 6, 1940  
Thomas Blatt - September 6, 1956  
Dr. Alfred Agrin - September 6, 2004  
Rabbi Stephen Levinsohn - September 8  
Norman Kaiser - September 8  
Lee G Loewner - September 10, 1936  
Alfred Raff - September 11, 1981  
Gilbert Litvin - September 11, 1969  
Sidra Nemoytin Dubel - September 12, 1993  
Susan Flannery - September 13, 2021  
Fannie Myerberg - September 16  
Harry Blatt - September 16, 1959  
Bertha B Kaye - September 16  
Barbara Clayman Callihan - September 16, 1990  
Beth A Ney - September 16, 2000  
Virginia Pearl Blatt - September 17, 2018

Roslyn Loewner - September 18, 1940  
Solomon Loewner - September 18, 1927  
Gladys Wise - September 18, 1919  
Joseph Ney - September 18, 1988  
John "Bud" Shapiro - September 19, 2008  
Simon Marrick - September 20, 1972  
Samuel R. Nebelkopf - September 20, 1961  
Kattie Ney - September 21, 1887  
Kalman Meyer - September 23, 1964  
Jeanne Meyers Pomerance - September 24, 2009  
Berdie F Ney - September 25, 1942  
Kattie Iseman - September 25, 1909  
Nettie Berney - September 25  
Theodore Weiss - September 25, 1952  
Ben Handler - September 25, 1973  
Sara Loewner - September 25, 1982  
Mark Strauss - September 25, 2016  
Ruth Dorothy Penn - September 25, 2014  
Samuel Fisher - September 27, 1968  
Alexander Nemoytin - September 27, 1967  
Belle Neckowitz - September 29  
Julius Berman - September 29  
Charles Rodbell - September 29, 1968

# Recent Donations

*Linda Kohn – In Loving Memory of Sadie Bialock, Linda's Mother*

*George Harris – General Fund Donation*

*Leonard and Marilena Berman – Yahrzeit of Julius Berman*

*Allan Poster – Yahrzeit of Rose Carr*

*Michael & Maureen Goldberger – Yahrzeit of Bette O'Callaghan*

*Lois Poster – Yahrzeit of Husband Marvin Poster*

*Tonya Tyree – Donation for the Harness the Sun Project*

*Michael & Maureen Goldberger – Mazel Tov on the arrival of Blaine Middleton*

*Michael & Maureen Goldberger – In memory of Steve Schwalb*

*Eddie Ney & Margee Greenfield-Ney - Donation to Rabbi Discretionary Fund in honor of Middleton Bris*

*Andrew Kohen – in honor of the Bris of Blaine Middleton*

*Andrew Kohen – In Memory of Steve Schwalb*

*Mary Handley – Donation of material to support her work on the Beth El Orchard*

*Edward & Ellyn Goldberg – Donation to Weinbach Fund*

*Carol Loar – Donation to Weinbach Fund*

*Arnold Kahn & Ellie Swecker of Yahrzeit of Ronni Kahn*

*Bill & Leslie Ney – Yahrzeit of Carol Ney & Regina Ney*

*Bill & Leslie Ney – In Memory of Steve Schwalb*

*Lenore Price – Yahrzeit of Max Wolf Landsman*

## Spotlight

*This month's spotlight:*

*Barbara and Clarence Ashburn, Don Smith*

Barbara and Clarence Ashburn started as our neighbors, then became our cleaner/caretakers, and have over time become a part of our Beth El 'extended family.' They began taking care of the Temple and grounds over twenty years ago. I don't remember the exact year, but clearly remember what prompted their start. Our previous cleaner walked out on us abruptly one winter. Michelle, Judy Freudenthal (longtime housekeeping committee chairperson) and I came in about a week after a huge Hanukah dinner to find all the dishes still stacked, uncleaned, not even scraped (just picture week old brisket fat and applesauce), piled high all over the counters. Once that memorable catastrophe got cleaned up, we needed new cleaners and somehow Clarence offered that he and Barbara would appreciate the work. Thus began our long term relationship. Judy, looking back over her many years of housekeeping annual reports finds the same sentence repeated over and over; "The Ashburns continue to do an outstanding job." Just so everyone knows, they don't "just" do the weekly cleaning. They take tremendous pride in making sure everything shines, is organized, and in working order. Clarence

knows the ins and outs of the building as well as anyone. He is Mr. fix-it for the simple things and is generally the person who meets and 'supervises' various workers (exterminator, fire extinguisher guy, electrician, plumber, HVAC, and so on...) as they service the Temple. He helps with the grounds as well; trimming, raking, watering, sweeping, and, oh by the way, maintains the cemetery grounds as well. He lets me know (in my role as the building trustee) when something needs attending to and reminds me when I inevitably need reminding. :) They also help with all our big events, setting up for B'nei Mitzvot, our annual dinners and fundraisers like pizza bingo, the Beth El bazaar, Sisterhood yard sales, and the like. They are often cleaning up late into the night after we are all cleared out. In the summer when it's quiet, the Temple gets a thorough cleaning with, among other things, floor waxing and washing of all the kitchen dishes and cupboards. Barbara and Clarence are a team, dedicated to caring for our Temple as they would their own home. They appreciate it when we try our best to help them out by not leaving them an excessive mess. They appreciate being sincerely appreciated, so when the opportunity arises, please let them know that we appreciate that they "continue to do an outstanding job!" Oh, and if you think of it, wish them a Happy 60th Anniversary!!

This is the 40th year that Don Smith has been the Beth El accompanist. Doing the math...that means he's come to Beth El to play the piano ( or the organ back in the day) for us well over 1000 times. Don is an integral part of our Beth El extended family. He has been spending his Friday nights with us for a long long time (longer than I've been here!) He is the cornerstone of the choir - accommodating our quirks and enhancing our sound. He is an amazingly skilled professional, whose patience and flexibility allow us to provide the kind of musical experience not often found in a congregation of our small size. More than just a musician,

he is a friend with whom we share stories, laughter, frustrations of daily life and years of memories. When he does his job well, which is always, we hardly notice because the music is so naturally smooth. That's because he is on cue. So when you can, say hello and let him know how much his music adds to our experience. Congratulations Don! We are so appreciative of you and all you have given and continue to give as we sing together into the future!

# BETH EL CONGREGATION

## SEPT 2023

### ALL SERVICES LED BY RABBI AND LIVESTREAMED UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					01	02
					Shabbat Services 7:30 pm Sponsored Oneg	Torah Study 10:30 am Zoom
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
			Ethics Class 12:00 pm Zoom		Shabbat Services 7:30 pm	Torah Study 10:30 am Zoom  Selichot Services 8:00 pm
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Religious School 9:30 am			Ethics Class 12:00 pm Zoom		Erev Rosh HaShonah Services 8:00 pm Sisterhood Oneg	Rosh HaShonah Services 10:00 am Tashlich immediately following Services  Family Service 4:00 pm (No Livestream)
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
NO Religious School  Yizkor Service at Cemetery 11:00 am			Ethics Class 12:00 pm Zoom  Board Meeting 6:30 pm Zoom also		Andy Kohen Shabbat Shuvah Lay-led Services 7:30 pm (No Livestream)	Torah Study 10:30 am Zoom
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
NO Religious School  Kol Nidrei Services 8:00 pm	Yom Kippur Services 10:00 am Family Service 2:00 pm (No Livestream) Afternoon Service 4:00 pm Yizkor Service 4:45 pm Break the fast following Services		Ethics Class 12:00 pm Zoom		Lay-led Erev Sukkot Shabbat Services 7:30 pm (No Livestream)	Sukkot