

Av / Elul 5785

August 2025

Congregation Beth Israel

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Lebanon, PA 17042

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From the Cantor's Desk...

We recently completed reading the book of Numbers – Bamidbar. The Israelites are on the cusp of entering into the land that has been promised but the journey is not yet over. We continue with the Israelites on their journey from slavery to freedom, from blind obedience to self-responsibility. Freedom is not anarchy. For each person to be free, we have to put restraints on ourselves and buy-in to some rules that will allow us to co-exist. The Torah, in these closing chapters of the book of Bamidbar, lays out some basic planning for living in the new land. Division of property, inheritance, rights of the public servants, the Levites, who are tasked with caring for the common good and a strong admonition against bloodshed, particularly, malevolent bloodshed. In Chapter 35 vs 34 says, “Do not defile the land in which you live, in which I also live, for I, Hashem, live among the children of Israel.”

The portion is paired with the second Haftarah of rebuke in which Jeremiah, living some 800 years later describes what has actually happened in the land. He admonishes “You entered and defiled my land and made my possession an abomination.” There was some debate among the sages as to whether the words “lo titame” are a command not to defile the land, or whether it is a statement that the land is incapable of being defiled because God lives there among the Israelites. Others read the statement to mean the land may be defiled, but that God will remain with the Israelites no matter how debased they become. This is certainly a kind of magical thinking to think that our natural and social world can continue undefiled despite our actions.

Professor Yeshayahu Leibowitz, z”l, an orthodox Israeli Zionist, scientist and theologian cited these verses in support of his view that no land, person or object is inherently “holy,” including the land of Israel, the Temple, a Torah scroll, religious object or any other thing-equating the word “holy” only with God. Declaring a land, people or thing as “holy,” he held was a sort of idolatry and magical thinking.

While I cannot say that I agree completely with Leibowitz’ theological views in general, this disavowal of the “holiness” of everything other than God resonates as a way for free persons to order our lives. We need to strive for functional holiness through our actions -- not defiling the land, showing kindness to those in need, pursuing justice with compassion and striving to walk with God. While this will not make us holy immediately, it may lead, as God promises to us in Leviticus 19:2, that we “will be holy” at some future date, not because of any immanent characteristic, but only if we act so as not to defile our world.

FROM THE DESK (ok, the dining room table) OF the PRESIDENT:

Thank you to everyone at CBI for all your good wishes and especially the charming dish-garden. If I can nurture the plants half as well as all of you are nurturing me it will be a fabulous two years. I'd like to also welcome our two newest board members, Daisy Krevis and Deb Schaffer!

—Liz

Take a look at CBI's Officer listing for 2025-2027 term!

President

Elizabeth Feller-Ballot

Vice President

Judith Clark

Financial Secretary

Benjamin Shankroff

Treasurer

Fred Horowitz

Secretary

Stacey Knarr

Board of Directors

Marcia Buzgon

Barbara Fishman

Diane Griffiths

Thomas Kantor, M.D.

Sidney Pollack

Stephen Weiss

Jill Bennett-Weiss

Fred Shattls

Robert Magdule

Mindy Miller Lisman

Deb Schaffer

Daisy Krevis

Trustees

Bernerd Buzgon, Esq.

Joseph Clark, M.D.

Stu Perlmutter

Benjamin Slotznick

Judith Clark

Honorary Trustees

Sara Schneider

CONGREGATION BETH ISRAEL

Thursdays
in August

Please check website
for updates

*Coffee
with the
Cantor*

Ancestor Coffee-
house & Creperie
36 E. Main St
Annville, PA



MONTHLY BOOK CLUB

Wednesday, August 20th
7:30 PM via zoom only

Our Lecture book! The Collected Regrets of
Clover!!! Reviewed by Liz Feller-Ballot

CBI/ Steven P. Buzgon
lecture series
presents...



SEPT 10, 2025
LECTURE 8PM
\$25 GENERAL

Author of:
The Collected
Regrets of Clover

MIKKI BRAMMER

Congregation Beth Israel
411 South 8th street Lebanon, PA 17042

Reception Ticket Holders Only \$125 -- Reception at 7PM



BETH ISRAEL'S HIGH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

SELICHOT HYBRID SERVICES

Saturday September 13th 8:00 PM

ROSH HASHANAH HYBRID SERVICES

Evening Service (Day 1)

Monday	September 22 nd	7:00 PM
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Morning Service

Tuesday	September 23 rd	9:00 AM
Torah Service		10:00 AM
Shofar		10:30 AM
Sermon		11:00 AM
Tashlich		1:30 PM

Tashlich following services (meet at the Quittapahilla Creek near the Lebanon City Library and ritually throw our sins away!). Park at the library or on the street there

(Day 2)

Wednesday Morning	September 24 th	9:00 AM
Torah Service		10:00 AM
Shofar		10:30 AM
Sermon		11:00 AM

SHABBAT SHUVAH HYBRID SERVICES

Friday Evening- Regular Shabbat	September 26 th	7:30 PM- 8:45 PM
Saturday Morning Shabbat	September 27 th	9:30 AM- 10:30 AM

YOM KIPPUR HYBRID SERVICES

Kol Nidre Service

PRE KOL NIDRE DINNER *registration*	October 1 st	4:00 PM PROMPT
Wednesday evening	October 1 st	6:00 PM SHARP

Thursday, October 2nd

Yom Kippur Morning Service		9:00 AM
Torah Services		10:00 AM
President's Message		approx.. 10:45 AM
Yizkor & Sermon		11:00 AM
Online Study Session		4:30 PM
Mincha		5:45 PM
Neilah		6:15 PM
Shofar Blowing		7:26 PM
Break Fast		Following Service

Come and break the fast with fellow congregants!

SUKKOT HYBRID SERVICE

Tuesday Service Day Only	October 7 th	9:00 AM
Friday Shabbat	October 10 th	7:30 PM
Saturday	October 11 th	9:30 AM

SHEMINI ATZERET/ SIMCHAT TORAH HYBRID SERVICES

Morning Shemini Atzeret w Yizkor	October 14 th	9:00 AM
Evening Simchat Torah	October 14 th	7:00 PM

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All services are HYBRID: Thurs. 7:30 AM Minyan, Fri. 7:30 PM,
Sat. 9:30AM & Sun. 9AM Minyan 1st Saturdays are 60 min Shabbat

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7:30PM Service CL: 8:33 PM	2 Shabbatin 60 9:30AM Service
3 9AM Minyan Tisha B' Av	4	5	6	7 7:30AM Minyan 11AM– Coffee w/ Cantor	8 7:30PM Service CL: 8:31 PM	9 9:30AM Service
10 9AM Minyan	11	12	13	14 7:30AM Minyan 11AM– Coffee w/ Cantor	15 7:30PM Service CL: 8:27 PM	16 9:30AM Service Havdalah @ Ben Shankroff
17 9AM Minyan	18 BULLETIN DEADLINE	19	20 BOOK CLUB 7:30PM zoom only	21 7:30AM Minyan 11AM– Coffee w/ Cantor	22 7:30PM Service CL: 8:21 PM	23 9:30AM Service
24 9AM Minyan	25 BOARD MEETING 7PM	26	27	28 7:30AM Minyan 11AM– Coffee w/ Cantor	29 7:30PM Service CL: 8:21 PM	30 9:30AM Service
31 9AM Minyan						

AUGUST HOLIDAY EVENTS

Service scheduled hybrid (in person & zoom mix) unless stated

- Aug 2— Tisha B' Av— 9PM w/ Beth El Lancaster (*online only*)
- Aug 3— Tisha B' Av— 9AM regular service

Let's Celebrate our Members with AUGUST Birthdays & Anniversaries!

Adam
Greenebaum

James & Janet
Sligh

Joseph & Judith
Clark

Isaac
Cowan

Bert & Gretchen
Weintraub

Judith
Horowitz

Dr. Irwin
Roseff

Jon
Darkes

Bev
Magdole

Stuart & Louise
Perlmutter

Robert
Magdole

Dr. Jere
Zarkin

Tom & Deb
Schaffer

Y A H R Z E I T S



Av August

7	1	Michael Magazino — Husband of Susan Magazino, and Father of Alexis Magazino & Stefani Magazino
8	2	Fay Berliner — Mother of Iris Alster, and Grandmother of Wynne Kantor & Dr. Thomas Kantor
11	5	Herman Grosky — Father of Sandra Smith
11	5	Samuel Kantor — Grandfather of Allan Feldman
11	5	Isabelle Resnick — Aunt of Tom Bowman & Diane Griffiths
12	6	Rachel Kantor — Grandmother of Wynne Kantor & Dr. Thomas Kantor
13	7	Howard Buch — Father of Bev Magdule
15	9	Vera Miller — Grandmother of Carol Prouse
16	10	Jules Levinson — Father-in-Law of Wendy Schneider-Levinson
18	12	Mark Bennetch — Son of Nelson & Joanne Bennetch
21	15	Irene Caden — Mother of Margi Wolfson
21	15	Michael Druck — Nephew of Iris Alster
24	18	Benjamin Kass — Father of Lenore Scharf Father of Merle Kass Raab
24	18	Cynthia D. Miller — Mother of Mindy Miller Lisman
24	18	Minna Wolfson — Mother of Raymond Wolfson & Fred Wolfson
26	20	Harry Berliner — Father of Iris Alster, and Grandfather of Wynne Kantor & Dr. Thomas Kantor
27	21	Arthur M. Isman — Father of Stewart Isman
28	22	Peter M. Breit — Brother of Steven Breit
28	22	Marvin Cetron — Brother of Ted Cetron

**O u r t h a n k s f o r R e m e m b e r i n g
B e t h I s r a e l i n J u l y**

Y A H R Z E I T S:

Tom & Linda Siegel

Fay Gitman

H O L O C A U S T F U N D:

Dr. Joseph & Judith Clark

HADASSAH ON CALL

New Frontiers in Medicine— Hadassah On Call takes you behind the scenes at Hadassah hospitals in Jerusalem. Meet the healthcare superheroes who save lives every day. Hear how Hadassah innovations are changing medicine. And learn tips for staying healthy. From secrets to living better as we age to sleep disorders and women's health, stay ahead of the curve with Hadassah On Call. Check out the options by going onto Hadassah's website – Podcasts.

TIME SENSITIVE DATES

- **AUG 11— NYG & Flower Fund Paperwork DUE**
- **AUG 15— Holocaust Bus Trip— Registration & Payment DUE**
- **AUG 31— LAST DAY OF THE FISCAL YEAR— ALL DUES PAID BY TODAY!**

SICK & VISITING NOTICE:

As part of the duties for the Sick & Visiting Committee, please reach out to the office if you are sick. We will do our best to visit or check in on you.

MOMENT MAGAZINE!! Fred Horowitz will review the magazine after Minyon on Sunday September 14th. Lox and Bagels will be served!

MAILING SECTION ONLY

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