

Shavuot

THE TIDINGS

BULLETIN OF
BETH ISRAEL, NORTHFIELD, NJ

MAY-JUNE 2026

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May-June Services and Programs

Parashat Emor Leviticus 21:1-24:23

1 Erev Shabbat Service,
Fri Wolff Chapel, 5:30 PM

2 Shabbat Morning Study, 9:15 AM
Sat

Parashat Behar-Bechukotai Leviticus 25:1-27:34

8 Erev Shabbat Service,
Fri Wolff Chapel, 5:30 PM

9 Shabbat Morning Study, 9:15 AM
Sat Shabbat Morning Service:
Bar Mitzvah of Leo Vanderschuere,
Engelberg Sanctuary, 10:30 AM

Parashat B'Midbar Numbers 1:1-4:20

15 Erev Shabbat Service, Wolff Chapel, 5:30 PM
Fri Wolff Chapel, 5:30 PM

16 Shabbat Morning Study, 9:15 AM
Sat



Shavuot

21 Psalm Psalm Study for Erev Shavuot
Thu Shirat Hayam Congregation,
700 N. Swarthmore Ave, Ventnor, NJ
Dairy Reception, Study and Service, 6 PM
See flyer on page 9, below

22 Erev Shabbat and Shavuot Festival Service,
Fri including the Adult Bar Mitzvah of Jim Berg,
Wolff Chapel, 5:30 PM
Oneg Reception follows the service

23 No Shabbat Morning Worship/Study
Sat

Parashat Naso Numbers 4:21-7:89

29 Erev Shabbat Service,
Fri Wolff Chapel, 5:30 PM

30 Shabbat Morning Study, 9:15 AM
Sat

All services held in the
Beth Israel Engelberg Sanctuary,
and Erev Shabbat (Friday Night)
services in the Wolff Chapel
are streamed on our website,
www.cbinorthfield.org, as well as
on our You Tube Channel
(Google "Beth Israel Northfield You Tube")

Shabbat Morning Study is usually both in
person and available on Zoom.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6096413600>

or use Meeting ID 609 641 3600.

Parashat B'ha'alot'cha
Numbers 8:1-12:16

5 Erev Shabbat Service,
Fri Wolff Chapel, 5:30 PM

6 Shabbat Morning Study, 9:15 AM
Sat

Parashat Shelach-Lecha
Numbers 13:1-15:41

12 Erev Shabbat Service,
Fri Wolff Chapel, 5:30 PM

13 Shabbat Morning Study,
Sat Details TBD

Parashat Korach
Numbers 16:1:18:32

19 Erev Shabbat Service,
Fri Wolff Chapel, 5:30 PM

20 No Shabbat Morning Study

Parashat Chukat-Balak
Numbers 19:1-25:9

26 Erev Shabbat Service,
Fri Wolff Chapel, 5:30 PM

27 No Shabbat Morning Study
Sar

Save the dates now...
for the Summer 2026

Beth Israel Beach Services!

July 17, 2026
August 21, 2026

**Huntington Avenue Beach,
Margate, New Jersey at 5:30 PM**
Possible Picnic Shabbat dinner;
more details to come!

May the Force Be With You!

Farewell Message from Rabbi Michael L. Feshbach



So it turns out there is a new movie in the *Star Wars* franchise coming out this month. I am sure I will make time to see it. What I am less sure about is the logic behind the release date of late May. After all, shouldn't a *Star Wars* movie have been released... on *Star Wars Day*? You know, "May the 4th?" (Sound it out...)

Let us recall, if you will, the nature of "the Force." According to Wookieepedia (yeah, that's a thing) and as defined in the first movie (by release date), the Force is "an energy field created by all living things. It surrounds us and penetrates us, it binds the galaxy together."

If there is any Jewish influence here, particularly from the realm of mysticism and Kabbalah, this is the core spiritual sense that, at the deepest level, there is a oneness at the heart of the world, a unity to the universe. That everything is connected. That, indeed, that which seems separate and apart is merely an accidental conglomeration of energy, temporarily congealed in ways which superficially seem different

Or, from science, our understanding of gravity teaches that every single object in the universe has some "pull" on, some influence on and connection with every other object.

As my time with you, here, at Beth Israel, comes to a close, I find myself wondering about this idea. What has been our connection, our pull, our influence on one another? Indeed, what has mattered, from our time together?

Sometimes these ties can "pull" in the wrong direction. Where the interconnectedness of our lives was more of an irritant than an inspiration, I am sorry.

And yet I think, or at least I hope, that there were many wonderful ways in which our lives came together as well. I know that I have learned and benefited from you, the people in this congregation and the story of this community. You are a meaningful part of my journey; you have meant much and had an impact on who I am. I can only hope that the same is true for you, from my time here.

If I were to have the space and place for a final appeal, as your rabbi and teacher, a last way in which I could hope to have some pull on you, it would be to say the following:

- Remember that Jewish law is called *halacha*. It is from the root *h.l.ch*, which means "to walk." It is a way of life. It is not just what is said in a service, but how we walk in the world. What we "teach" and "preach" is meant to "reach" into the reality of daily life. The values we hope for in our prayers were never meant to stay in one building, to be just in one place – and a Sanctuary is not meant as a shield *from* the world. It is, rather, training *for* our life in the world, and our attitude and actions during the rest of the week. Thus, religious communities of all kinds have always felt called – compelled – to address moral issues from the point of view of their own spiritual traditions. This can *seem* to be "political" – but what political means, here, is actually telling people to vote for or against a particular person. That we do *not* do. (And would not, even if the tax code allowed us to.) But addressing moral issues? That is part of our history, our heritage, our mission and our mandate.

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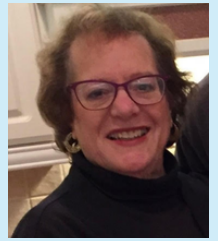
- Remember that we are part of a national and world-wide Reform movement dedicated to historic truth (science is compatible with spirituality; evolution happens in social systems such as religion as well as in biology) and progressive values. We have been at the cutting edge of preserving Jewish identity in the modern world and working to make the world a better place. Whatever individual hesitation we might have about one position of the Reform movement or another, I hope we take deep pride in our amazing, revolutionary impact on Jewish life and the societies in which we live. And I hope we can strive to be knowledgeable and active participants in that national and world-wide movement.
- Jewish identity cuts across continents and centuries; it is a portal which transports us through both space and time. As such, one of the keys which can most quickly unlock access to that portal is, in fact, the Hebrew language. Although we have claimed that much of our spiritual life can be led in translation, nevertheless a connection with Hebrew can help “deepen” and, in cultural terms, “thicken” our Jewish identity. Whatever level of Hebrew you do have, I urge you to find some way – online, alone, in classes in person, some way to strengthen that connection. Although this plea is about language, I believe doing this will prove rewarding in ways it is hard to describe in words.
- Finally, Israel. What a fraught and frustrating topic! And yet, remember, please: if the entire history of the Jewish people were to be written on one page, all 4000 years of triumph and tragedy, the past 100 years alone would merit two paragraphs – smoke and destruction in the graveyards of Europe, and rebirth and renewal on the distant shores of a Mediterranean sea. I am reminded of a rabbinic couple living in Israel, flying back home from time in the US. The woman, an American Reform rabbi who had moved to Israel and met her husband there, stared at the approaching skyline of Tel Aviv and said to herself: “Wow. Look at what we have built here!” Her husband, a native Israeli Reform rabbi, looked at the same skyline and said: “We have so much work to do!” Remember: please... this is a great but ongoing story. It needs us. It needs you. Even at times which are hard, and complicated, and filled with controversy.

So, as with the Four Questions we recently recited, these are my four thoughts for you, as our time together draws to a close: 1) Religion is part of, not apart from the rest of our lives. 2) The Reform movement can be a source of great pride – and it needs us. 3) Hebrew remains an important part of a deep Jewish life. And 4) Israel, however we relate to it, is not the entirety of Jewish identity, but it is an essential aspect of it.

My personal email is Michael.feshbach@gmail.com. I would welcome ways in which we might stay in touch, as we all move into the next chapter of our lives.

May you go and grow from strength to strength. And, yes, why not? May the Force be with you!

Message from Linda Karp, President



As we approach May our thoughts turn to our gardens, flowers and soon beach time!

Spring is universally recognized as a season of renewal, growth, and symbolizing a fresh start as nature awakens from winter's dormancy. It offers an opportunity for personal, emotional, and spiritual refreshing—it's a time for increased energy, longer days, and warmer weather.

Keep your eyes peeled for migratory wildlife and for the return of our snowbirds!!! This is a perfect time to become more active in all that Beth Israel has to offer. This is a time for socializing with your Synagogue family.

We are busy with lots of activities and programs, and each one needs your help to be successful. Volunteering at our spring thrift sale, attending our monthly book group, helping with a Shabbat dinner or attending Shabbat Services gives us the opportunity to enhance friendships and to help our Synagogue.

If there is an activity you would like to see happen, please let us know. We are always looking for new ideas.

We need to meet our budgeted expenses, and we are trying to do this without increasing your financial commitments. Here are some ways to help raise funds to meet our expenses, so please try to support them.

- Purchase a leaf on the Weis Tree of Life – to honor a loved one
- Purchase a plaque in the Chapel – to honor a loved one
- Buy Shoprite Script – Temple earns \$5 for every \$100 purchased
- Join our Covenant Society – Voluntarily increase your financial commitment
- Attend programs & events – support and work on our activities

The more you become involved, the more you appreciate being a member of Beth Israel and the more we appreciate you!

I wish the best for each of you!

Linda

Spring is Sprung

Message from Executive Director Susan Sokalsky




Summer at the shore is outdoor time. However, your professional staff is working hard on the calendar for next season, planning innovative worship experiences, interactive Religious School curriculum and programs for the multi generations of our Beth Israel family.

We are so excited to announce the VERY SPECIAL WEEKEND of August 7 and 8. We will celebrate 40 years in our Northfield home (no longer the “new” building).

Friday evening will be a Rededication Shabbat Service followed by a fabulous Oneg Reception. Saturday evening will be a 1980’s Hollywood Style Gala with fabulous food and music by “The Usual Suspects”.

For 16 years we have not had a major FUNDRAISER. The “new” building is no longer new, and we need to fund our Building Repair Reserve to provide for significant future repairs (bathroom renovations, HVAC systems). There will be much more information coming soon! Our Beth Israel family remains vibrant. May we go from strength to strength.

We are always here for you. Stop by and say hello.



Shavu'ot
The Feast of Weeks
Celebrating the Gift of Torah
Thursday, May 21, 2026

Erev Shavu'ot Festival Evening
at Shirat Hayam,
700 N. Swarthmore Ave, Ventnor, NJ
Dairy Dessert, 6:00 PM
Creative Study Session, 6:45 PM
Evening Service, 8:00 PM
See flyer on the next page

Friday, May 22, 2026

Erev Shabbat and Festival Evening Service,
including the reading of the Ten Commandments
and the "Second" Bar Mitzvah of Jim Berg
Wolff Chapel, 5:30 PM

***Yizkor* Memorial Prayers for loved ones we have lost**
will take place towards the end of this service.
Special Oneg Shabbat follows the service

Psalm Pslam+!

erev Shavuot

Thursday May 21

Fresh perspectives

on Biblical text

as prose, poem, song...

Here's how it works:

be creative!

Share your favorite
Psalm or other biblical
text, poem or topic.

Read! Sing!

Interpret! Dance!

Rewrite! Teach!

Let us know how
much time you need
to present your piece.

hosted by



SHIRATH HAYAM

CONSERVATIVE & REFORM סניף תורה

700 N Swarthmore Ave

Ventnor NJ 08406

609-822-7116 x101

Thursday, May 21, 2026

6:00 dairy dessert buffet

6:45 Psalm Pslam+!

8:00 evening service

Register to participate in

the Psalm Pslam+! before May 12, 2026

For more info or registration contact

Rabbi Jacki at

rabbi.jacki@shirathayamnj.org OR

Rabbi Feshbach at

rabbi.feshbach@cbinorthfield.org OR

Rabbi Kremer at

rabbi.kremer@shirathayamnj.org



Covenant Society

Beth Israel is devoted to being open
to anyone who wishes to participate in Jewish life.
The members of our Covenant Society, through their generosity,
allow us to fulfill this sacred mission.
We thank these families.

SUSTAINER

Anonymous

Drs. Arthur & Julianne Childs
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Mark Lippman
Robert & Susan Mayer
Darren & Brett Matik
Dr. Leonard Popowich

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Dr. George & Arlene Groch
Josh & ToniAnn Lubeck
Patti Rosenberg

EZRAT YISRAEL (Helpers of Israel) Continued

Tom & Robin Shields
Steve & Pam Sinderbrand
Mark & Lisa Stein
Dr. Glenn & Geri Zuck

EZRAT YISRAEL (Helpers of Israel)

Larry & Rosalie Clofine
Shora Haydari
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Elliot & Adrienne Beinfest
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Stu & Rita Stromfeld
David & Angela Thierman
Golda Wood

We thank those members
who wish to remain Anonymous

if you are in a position to do so,
please consider participating in
our Covenant Society.
This is what enables us
to remain open
to any and all those
who would come to us!



Life & Legacy contributors

Life and Legacy is a partnership of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation
and the Jewish Community of Atlantic and Cape May Counties
that promotes after-lifetime giving.

Beth Israel Legacy Donors remember the past
and make a promise to the future
that Beth Israel will remain a thriving dynamic Jewish home.
Join us on this sacred quest.
Call for more information.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

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Dr. Howard & Linda Karp	Tom & Robin Shields	
JoAnne Kettler		

**We share
the news of...**

Mazal Tov to:

**Paul & Jodi Goodman
on the birth of their Grandchild**

**Dr. Lonny Matlick
on the marriage of his son Sam to Brielle**

**Dr Larry and Ilene Reich
on the marriage of their daughter Leanna to Juan**

"There are stars up above..."

**We mourn
the loss of...**

**David Schoenen
Lynne Kupperman
Penny Bilofsky**

THANK YOU

GRACIOUS GIFTS

In Memory Of:

George Kripitz – Jean Kripitz
Yetta Romm – Harriet Young
Wendy Joy Yantes Kimble – Peter & Shelly D’Orazio
Perry Wolf – Barbara Goldberg
Jacob Robinson – Barbara Scarpa
Saul Feldman – Lynn & Barry Stein
Mayer Peck – Betsy Peck
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Susan & Jim Meyer, Bob & Susan Mayer, Elaine Trulli, Cindy & Jack Plawner,
Anne Neustader, Andy & Mark Sandson
Ina Cohn – Jerry Cohn
Esther Cohn – Jerry Cohn
Beverly Popowich – Leonard Popowich
Paul Nassau – Ingrid Ljubich
Rose Barkin – John Heyman
Herbert Rosenfield – Ellen Rosenfield
Sarah Blumstein – Ellen Rosenfield
Samuel Nissman – Ellen Rosenfield
Alan Rosenfield – Ellen Rosenfield
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Clara Kleiner – Sharon Altman
Beverly Kresberg – Jody & Jill Levchuk
John Conner – Marge Gosin
Malcolm Perkins – Marcia Perkins
Melissa Eisenstein – Marcia Perkins

Mazal Tov to

Paul & Jodi Goodman on the birth of their Grandchild –
Bruce & Susan Gamberg

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In Memory Of:

Lynne Kupperman – Martha Moskowitz

BRICKMAN/GROSS FAMILY CONTINUING EDUCATION FUND

In Memory Of:

Carol Gibbs – Howard & Gayle Gross

Irving Gross - Howard & Gayle Gross

Adele Gross - Howard & Gayle Gross

ROSENBERG/SINDERBRAND RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

In Memory Of:

Lynne Kupperman – Patti Rosenberg



BETH ISRAEL

You belong with us...

Welcome to Beth Israel,
a congregation, a community,
a family of families with a storied history,
a vibrant present and an exciting future.

Beth Israel is a warm and welcoming home for all,
a beautiful place to explore your spirituality,
lift your spirits, and celebrate the infinite value
that lies within each of us.

In coming here now,
you step into that treasured tradition,
putting your own stamp on our ever-evolving story,
and helping to shape it
for generations to come.

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