

Shabbat Shalom

Sukkot

October 11, 2025 | 19 Tishrei 5786

Havdalah 7:16pm

בית יעקב
BETH JACOB
CONGREGATION

Welcome to Beth Jacob Congregation, a Jewish community that comes together to nurture relationships with God and each other. We are a Conservative synagogue that values Torah (study), Avodah (reverential service) and Gemilut Hasadim (acts of loving-kindness). We believe every person has an equal opportunity to be part of our community regardless of age, race, ability, special needs, financial status, sexual orientation or gender identity. We're glad you've joined us this Shabbat!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Shabbat services this week.

Gabbaim:

Neal Gale, Stuart Kaufman

D'var Torah:

Rabbi Tamar Magill-Grimm

Senior Rabbi:

Rabbi Tamar Magill-Grimm
RabbiTamar@Beth-Jacob.org

Executive Director:

Sonya Rapport
Sonya@Beth-Jacob.org

Director of Congregational Programming:

Frances Fischer
Frances@Beth-Jacob.org

**Interim Limudim Coordinator and
Rabbinic Intern**

Rimon Reches
Rimon@Beth-Jacob.org

Youth and Education Coordinator:

Marisa Goffman
Youth@Beth-Jacob.org

Co-Presidents:

Leonard Oppenheimer & Tessa Silver
President@Beth-Jacob.org

Rabbi Emeritus:

Rabbi Morris Allen

Greeters & Security:

Eli Gottfried, Lydia Schultz

Mashgiach: Michael Keller

Kitchen Crew:

Matt Leichter, Leonard Oppenheimer,
Bernard Levinson & Hanne Loeland,
Ann Bernstein

Torah Reading

First / Rishon Aliyah	Exodus 33:12-33:16	p. 538	Hannah Hofrichter
Second / Sheni Aliyah	Exodus 33:17-33:19	p. 539	Natan Paradise
Third / Shelishi Aliyah	Exodus 33:20-33:23	p. 539	Nina Samuels
Fourth / Revi'i Aliyah	Exodus 34:1-34:3	p. 540	Giulia Girgenti
Fifth / Chamishi Aliyah	Exodus 34:4-34:10	p. 541	Sara Lynn Newberger
Sixth / Shishi Aliyah	Exodus 34:11-34:17	p. 542	Giulia Girgenti
Seventh / Shevi'i Aliyah	Exodus 34:18-34:26	p. 543	Jonathan Ehrlich
Maftir	Numbers 29:23-29:28	p. 935	Elaine DuFresne
Haftarah	Ezekiel 38:18-39:16	p. 1260	

Kohelet (orange book)

Chapter 5	p. 64	Jonathan Ehrlich
Chapter 6	p. 66	Sara Lynn Newberger
Chapter 7	p. 67	Natan Paradise
Chapter 8	p. 69	Brad Elkin

Hoshanah Raba

Monday, 7:00am,

Followed by Breakfast in the Sukkah

This week's kiddush is Sponsored by Lynne & Stuart Sanders
in celebration of their 10th anniversary. Mazal Tov!

Ecclesiastes and the Quest for Truth

Approaching this enigmatic work as a statement of philosophy -- rather than an account of one man's search -- has confounded commentators across the centuries.

By Rabbi Benjamin J. Segal

Ecclesiastes is “the greatest single piece of literature I have known,” according to the American novelist Thomas Wolfe. So controversial that it was almost withdrawn from circulation by the rabbis, the story has engaged readers for over 2,000 years, its articulations part of a universal cultural inheritance: All is vanity. To everything there is a season. There is nothing new under the sun. All these and more come to us from Ecclesiastes.

The book is the tale of a search for verifiable truths about life by someone named Kohelet. Written toward the end of the biblical period (300-200 BCE), the book uniquely applies the kinds of questions that bothered early Greek philosophers to a Jewish world of faith. The nexus of monotheism and reliance on individual search and judgement is basic to its eternal appeal.

Kohelet is a story of one man’s search for absolutes in a world filled with doubt and contradiction. Once the book is seen in this way, a pattern of growth becomes visible and the book can be understood as the account of a quest. Kohelet was designed not to answer questions, but to raise them.

Kohelet is pictured in three stages of the search. In the first, he is portrayed as a king who has everything but still yearns for satisfaction. In the second, he becomes a wandering observer, concluding with the recommendation that the good life is one that seeks enjoyment. In the final section, Kohelet offers some retrospective thoughts as he approaches death.

Along the way, Kohelet dismisses the worth of many common social values. Wealth and hard work are deemed useless. Justice and wisdom seem to go unrewarded. Planning leads to naught. Political power appears to have the final say. Nothing lasts and nothing is substantial, a view summed up in the observation that “all is vapor” (often translated as “vanity”).

The key to understanding Ecclesiastes is recognizing the change Kohelet undergoes. Kohelet constantly returns to seeking enjoyment as the only sure bet, but he evolves from dismissing it, to appreciating it when it arbitrarily comes, to recommending that one seek it. His early reliance on his own ability to understand gives way to the admission that no one understands. From recommending the pursuit of a “good heart” through anger and vexation, he later veers toward drinking. He first prefers death to life, but later radically reverses that order. A negative view of women is replaced by the advice to seek out and marry a woman you love. Remarkably, his early dismissal of the eternity of the spirit evolves to the spirit returning to God upon death.

Reinforcing this pattern of change are shifts in the text. Terms that are repeated early on — particularly “anguish” (re’ut ru’ach) and “what advantage” (yitron) — disappear halfway through, just as the enormous emphasis on “I” dissipates toward the end. As the book progresses, Kohelet increasingly offers advice, resorts to metaphor, and focuses on death.

Torah Commentary

CONT.

One possible understanding of this progression is that advancing age and the nearness of death are the most decisive factors in shaping one's worldview. Toward the end, Kohelet grows more trustful of received traditions, more open to compromise, and more suspicious of his early observations. He becomes more teacher than observer, his personal urgency overcoming the impulse to philosophical musing.

However, the end does not obviate the beginning. His earlier searing descriptions stay with the reader: the lack of justice and certainty, the uselessness of wealth and wisdom, the arbitrariness of political power. Readers may wonder whether Kohelet, in light of his approaching death, found wisdom or weakly retreated from painful questions.

Nevertheless, it is Ecclesiastes' prodigious achievement that despite suggesting that questioning ultimately can only take you so far, questions continue to haunt the reader. Though Kohelet never denies that there may be answers on the other side of the heavens, the book is clear that mankind's knowledge in this world has its limits.

Inclusivity and Accessibility During Services

We recognize the variety of needs within our community and strive to provide access to all through physical, emotional, and/or sensory accommodations. The majority of our prayers and scripture readings are conducted in Hebrew, so we invite those who do not read Hebrew to use a copy of the transliterated prayerbook (siddur) found on the table near the entrance to the sanctuary. We have large print books, braille prayerbooks, and listening devices available on the bookshelf in the lobby. There is also a sensory-friendly room just off the sanctuary with a speaker and window from which services can be experienced. Please ask the greeter near the sanctuary door if you need help locating any of these. Please reach out to our office if there are needs that aren't being met.

TODAY at Beth Jacob



Limudim: Our Learning Community

We begin with breakfast at 9:00am. We are so excited to see our building full of families engaged in fun and meaningful Jewish learning!

Science Fiction Table at Kiddush

In the sukkah harkening back to our agrarian roots--
what better way to talk about Science Fiction? Everyone welcome.

Children are Welcome in our Sanctuary!



We encourage children's participation in services and love having them in our sanctuary. Older children are encouraged to lead parts of the service and/or read Torah once able to do so. Younger children are invited to carry crowns during the Torah service and are also invited to the bimah for Adon Olam each week. At the end of services they can visit the rabbi's magic tallis bag to receive a lollipop or mini bubbles. Parents, please let Rabbi Tamar know if you do not want your child to receive one of these items.



Yahrzeit List for Week Beginning October 11, 2025 / 19 Tishrei 5786

The seventh aliyah is reserved for those observing yahrzeits during the coming week. If you are observing a yahrzeit this week, please come forward at the seventh aliyah and give your full Hebrew name to the gabbai who will call you to the Torah. Your full Hebrew name includes your name and then ben/bat/mibeit and your parents' names or Avraham and Sarah. Please say your name loudly and clearly, so that the gabbai can hear it.

Masks are required on the bimah during the Torah service. If you do not have one, please get one from the basket by the greeter and put it on prior to coming up for an aliyah.

October 11 / 19 Tishrei

Ida Feldstein
Isadore Milavetz
Lillian Rosenthal
William Goldetsky
Malvin Sobleman
Jack Mogelson

October 12/ 20 Tishrei

Gloria Dim
David Eiger
Eivind Hoff
Shoshana Kaufman
Rebecca Leichter
Rae Levine

October 13 / 21 Tishrei

Jane Abrahamson
Eleanor Conn
Louis Karter
Anita Kieffer
Yechiel Shapir
Donna Gail Epperson

October 14 / 22 Tishrei

Reyzya Gerber
Reyzya Gerber
Abraham Liefschultz
Alex Mains
Sarah Meltz
Herbert Otto Oppenheimer

Howard Schulman
Henry J. Silberstein
Nettie Silver
Charles Slutzky
Marvin Smith

October 13 / 21 Tishrei

Jane Abrahamson
Eleanor Conn
Louis Karter
Anita Kieffer
Yechiel Shapir
Donna Gail Epperson

October 15 / 23 Tishrei







Lee Aizman
Phillip Boslov
Rich Bryan
Jack Levinsohn
Al Mains
Gilbert Moreno
Arnold Sperling
Yazhok Templeman
Joseph Uditsky
Ruth Wieting
Morris Tragar
Morris Tragar
Gertrude Bernstein

October 16 / 24 Tishrei

Mollie Boderman
Sylvia Helfrick
Barbara Lazer Rosenthal
Faye Lazer
Sarah Hirsch Allen
Marsha Rivkin

October 17 / 25 Tishrei

Peter Gersh
Sayde Goldberg
Robert Goldish
Richard H Goldman
Bertha Landsman
Bertha Makiesky
Esther Nagorner
Francis John Pint
Donald Elmer Schultz
Bella Sefkin
Mayer Siegel
Edward Tilsen
Rabbi Regina Jonas
Irwin Feinstein
Morris Berezovsky

Ongoing	
<p>For the Jew in the Pew Every 1st, 3rd, and 5th Saturday 9:15 am in the Saide Chapel Join Rabbi Lynn Liberman in the Chapel for some thoughtful study of the Book of Psalms.</p>	
<p>Tot Shabbat First Shabbat of the Month 10:00 - 10:30 am in The Nursery Join us on the first Shabbat of the month in the nursery for Tot Shabbat. We will have a song-filled Shabbat Morning Service for BJC's littlest ones (0-3 years old). We will then have an oneg and playtime for parents to schmooze and kids to play.</p>	
<p>Pre-Shul Playgroup—Every Friday at 10:30 am Join our open play time for young children and their caregivers. Meet in the nursery every Friday morning from 10:30am until naptime.</p>	
<p><u>ADULT EDUCATION:</u></p> <p>Introduction to Judaism, with Rabbi Cathy Nemiroff Monday evenings, starting October 27 This class is a general introduction for people who are curious, considering conversion, or would like a refresher. Zoom link will be given to those who register. Beth-Jacob.org/Intro</p> <p>Discover Mussar New Va'ad starting October 23 Whether you have been part of a va'ad or you have never done Mussar, this group is for you. Learn and practice the traits of Mussar to lead a more ethical and meaningful life. Our facilitator is Gayle Zoffer, and we will meet every other Thursday from 10-12 at Beth Jacob. Register at Beth-Jacob.org/Mussar</p> <p>Morning Mishnah, with Rabbi Tamar Magill-Grimm Wednesdays at around 8:00 am (after minyan) in the Saide Chapel and online Join on Zoom at Beth-Jacob.org/Minyan</p> <p>Tanach, with David Rischall Sundays 7:30-8:30 on Zoom: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/79546614386 Questions? Call David at 651-230-3911.</p>	 
<p>Limudim Adult Ed Tuesdays 6:30-7:30</p> <p>Talmudic Folklore with Rabbi David Thomas Why the Jewish Holidays are Wise with Sara Lynn Newberger Hebrew for Adults with Lydia Schultz</p> <p>Register at Beth-Jacob.org/LimudimAdultEd</p>	

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARE A SUKKAH!

Spare space in your Sukkah? Looking for a Sukkah invitation? Check out the Share a Sukkah thread on the Beth Jacob Facebook Group and make a shidduch.

SAVE YOUR LULAV & ETROG

Bring your lulav and etrog back to Beth Jacob after Chag, and we will give them to J-Pride, which is doing a special event to repurpose them!



**Collection for those facing Homelessness
From Sukkot through November**

We will have a collection box in the lobby for items needed by those facing homeless or housing insecurity. Items most needed are socks, underwear, diapers, and feminine products.



Simchat Torah Dinner

Tuesday, October 14, 6:00pm

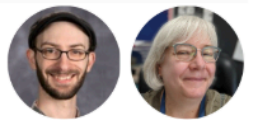
Designed for busy families (but all are welcome) \$10 per person
Beth-Jacob.org/STDinner



Honor D.Marcos and Lydia on Simchat Torah

Wednesday, October 15, 9:30am

After the dancing and noshing, we will honor our Chatan Torah with the last aliyah of the Torah, and our Kallah Bereishit with the first aliyah of the Torah! Join in the festivities and wish Mazal tov to our honorees.



Meet Our New Shaliach Tal

October 25 After Kiddush

Tal brings warmth, energy, and a deep love of community to our St. Paul Jewish community. Come meet him and be delighted!



**Installation of Rabbi Tamar Magill-Grimm as
Senior Rabbi of Beth Jacob Congregation**

November 7 - 6:00pm Kabbalat Shabbat followed by a Potluck dinner and toasts in honor of Rabbi Tamar.

November 8 - 9:00am Shabbat morning services with a d'var Torah from Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld, President of Hebrew College.

November 9 - 10:30am Rabbi Tamar's Installation. Ceremony will be followed by a catered brunch.

