

# Shabbat Shalom

Shoftim

August 30 | 6 Elul 5785

Havdalah 8:34pm

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  
Barb Curchack  
Leonard Oppenheimer

## Davenners:

Jo Pasternack

## D'var Torah:

Dr. Bernard Levinson

## Greeters & Security:

Lou Leichter, Will Thomas,  
David Zehavi, Davida  
Alperin, Geoff Marshall

Mashgiach: Sharon Press

## Kitchen Crew:

Naften & Tammy Sadoff,  
Keven Fischer, Ann Silver,  
Barry Kantrowitz

## Torah Reading

First / Kohen Aliyah	Deuteronomy 16:18-17:13	p. 1088	Elaine DuFresne
Second / Levi Aliyah	Deuteronomy 17:14-17:20	p. 1092	Hannah Hofrichter
Third / Shelishi Aliyah	Deuteronomy 18:1-18:5	p. 1093	Razele Hofrichter
Fourth / Revi'i Aliyah	Deuteronomy 18:6-18:13	p. 1094	Louis Hunter
Fifth / Chamishi Aliyah	Deuteronomy 18:14-19:13	p. 1095	Noam Sienna
Sixth / Shishi Aliyah	Deuteronomy 19:14-20:9	p. 1099	Giulia Girgenti
Seventh / Shevi'i Aliyah	Deuteronomy 20:10-21:9	p. 1103	Sara Lynn Newberger
Maftir	Deuteronomy 21:7-21:9	p. 1106	Sara Lynn Newberger
Haftarah	Isaiah 51:12-52:12	p. 1108	Jonathan Ehrlich

## **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

בית יעקב

This week's kiddush is sponsored by Beth Jacob in honor of our second year of Limudim beginning on Tuesday, and the joy of welcoming back all of the students after the summer!

## Justice, Justice You Shall Pursue

*Justice, expressed in Parashat Shoftim, is one of the eternal religious obligations of Judaism.*

**By Rabbi Dr. Bradley Shavit Artson**

Over the last several millennia, humanity has developed a large and growing body of profound writings, words that encapsulate the hopes, aspirations and potential of the human soul. Across the globe, religious traditions rightly exult in the majesty and depth of their sacred writings: the Bagavad-Gita, the Rig-Veda, the Dammapada, the Tao Te Ching, the Iliad, these are the spiritual heritage of humanity, a crowning glory of literary art and religious passion.

Reading these books constitutes an exposure to greatness. Yet there is something lacking in them all that the Hebrew Bible possesses in unique measure: a passion for justice for the poor, the weak, and the despised. Moses and Jeremiah consider justice and compassion to be the sine qua non of any true religiosity. One cannot claim to love God and not be passionate about justice. That is the primary Jewish contribution to the human spirit.

Yet there is a subtle Jewish assimilation afoot: because other religious traditions define “religion” primarily in terms of faith, prayer and ritual alone, there are now a significant number of Jews who do so as well with Judaism. By focusing on the mitzvot bein adam la-Makom (commandments between a person and God) as the primary definition of piety, we distort Judaism to fit the foreign contour of Christianity and other non-Jewish faiths. We betray the broad heritage of Torah when we fail to recognize justice and righteousness as primary religious categories of Judaism.

Shoftim opens with the summons to “appoint judges and officials for your tribes . . . and they shall govern the people with due justice. You shall not judge unfairly” (Deuteronomy 16:18). With those words, and in countless other places, Moses insists that justice is an eternal religious obligation, at the very core of what it means to be a Jew. And that insistence is not restricted to biblical Judaism. The Rabbis of the Talmud and Midrash were faithful proponents of the Sinai revelation here as well.

In Midrash Devarim Rabbah, they explain that God loves justice even more importantly than sacrifice. This bears out what Scripture says. “To do what is right and just is more desired by the Lord than sacrifice.” Scripture does not say, as much as sacrifice, but “more than sacrifice.” The midrash then goes on at length to explain the many ways in which justice is superior to sacrifice in the sight of God.

*Whereas sacrifice could only function while the Temple stood in Jerusalem, justice and righteousness were essential during the biblical period and are no less mandated today.*

*Whereas sacrifices could only atone for unintentional, accidental sins, acts of righteousness and justice atone even for intentional sins.*

# Torah Commentary

CONT.

*Whereas sacrifices are offered only by humanity, even God is obligated to practice justice and righteousness.*

*Whereas sacrifices are significant only in this world, righteousness and justice will remain a cornerstone in the Coming World.*

For all of these reasons, the midrash affirms the centrality of justice as a Jewish calling. We cannot consider ourselves pious Jews without a firm commitment to making the world a more just and righteous place.

How we treat the weakest in our midst (the “widow” and “orphan,” to use the Torah’s language) is still the irreplaceable core of our identity. None of this should imply that the other mitzvot are not important. All mitzvot, both ritual and ethical, reflect the commandments of God as understood by the Jewish people throughout history. All of them play an essential role in lifting us above our own self-centeredness and the despotism of time. All of the mitzvot act to refine character and to mold piety. All of the commandments express our passion for God and for our brit (covenant) with God.

That having been said, it remains to assert — as a matter of Jewish integrity and a rebuttal of those who would tailor Judaism to fit a Christian mold—that ethics and a passion for justice remain the engines driving the entire Jewish enterprise. Rituals are essential and beautiful, but they remain frosting. Goodness, justice and decency form the base. As the Torah insists, “Justice, justice shall you pursue.”

## 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.

## 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 August 30, 2025 / 6 Elul 5785

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.

### August 30 / 15 Av

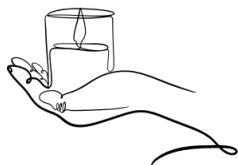
Randy Kustanowitz  
Bertha Specktor  
Rose Spiegel-Labelle  
Margalit Zaidenweber  
Donald Lippert  
Meyer Ostfield

### August 31 / 16 Av

Jack Brown  
Paul Dobo  
Goldie Gordon  
Steven Henderson  
Lawrence Hofrichter  
Simon Libman  
Brina Wysoker  
Eugene Knaus  
Ruth Shaw

### September 1 / 8 Elul

Benjamin Harris Chedeck  
Ruth Daniels  
Rose Fox  
Eleanor Frank  
Dr. Robert A. Heurich  
Pearl Horwitz  
Ida Liebman  
Ben S. Marofsky  
Chaya Polishuk  
Sarah Snell  
Emma Wolk  
Bessie Jacobs



### September 2 / 9 Elul

Muriel Gershcov  
Arnold Larry Goldman  
Jack Karter  
Elsie Jean Schultz  
Regina Strauss  
Michael Handler  
Krene Glicker

### September 3 / 10 Elul

Maurice Birnberg  
Idelle Berman Cobin  
Philip Levy  
Mary Pertzik  
Zelman Leib Pusin  
Gregori Roitman  
Anna Libby Taffel  
Louis Unowsky

### September 4 / 11 Elul

Grace Brenner  
Benjamin Garber  
Arline Kushner  
Isaac Ruderman  
Rose Swenty  
Samuel Baldinger

### September 5 / 12 Elul

Shirley Dworsky  
Hyman Edelman  
Morris Goldstein  
Russ Griffin  
Leah Liberman  
Bonnie Rosen  
Julius Schindler  
Abraham Smith

During Kiddush, we invite you to get to know someone better.  
Try to start a conversation with someone you don't usually speak with.  
Here are some questions to get you started.

1 - What is your favorite thing to do/eat  
at the State Fair?







2 - What is your favorite children's book?

3 - What can we do with all these  
tomatoes and zucchini?

שלוש  
שאלות  
שבט

THREE  
SHABBAT  
QUESTIONS

**Upcoming at Beth Jacob - August 30, 2025**

Ongoing	
<p><b>For the Jew in the Pew – No Class Today</b>  <b>Every 1st, 3rd, and 5th Saturday 9:15 am in the Saide Chapel</b>  Join Rabbi Lynn Liberman in the Chapel for some thoughtful study of the Book of Psalms.</p>	
<p><b>Tot Shabbat Next Week</b>  <b>10:00 - 10:30 am in The Nursery</b>  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 <u>oneg</u> and playtime for parents to schmooze and kids to play.</p>	
<p><b>Pre-Shul Playgroup–Every Friday at 10:30 am</b>  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><b><u>ADULT EDUCATION:</u></b>  <b>Morning Mishnah</b>, with Rabbi Tamar Magill-Grimm  <b>Wednesdays at around 8:00 am (after minyan)</b>  in the <u>Saide</u> Chapel and online  Join on Zoom at <a href="https://beth-jacob.org/minyan">Beth-Jacob.org/Minyan</a>    <b>Tanach</b>, with David Rischall  <b>Sundays 7:30-8:30 on Zoom:</b> <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/79546614386">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/79546614386</a>  Questions? Call David at 651-230-3911.    <b>Introduction to Judaism</b>, with Rabbi Cathy Nemiroff  <b>Monday evenings, starting October 20</b>  This class is a general introduction for people who are curious, considering conversion, or would like a refresher. Zoom <u>link</u> will be given to those who register. <a href="https://beth-jacob.org/intro">Beth-Jacob.org/Intro</a>    <b>Discover Mussar</b>  <b>New Va'ad starting October 23</b>  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 <a href="https://beth-jacob.org/mussar">Beth-Jacob.org/Mussar</a></p>	  
<p><b>Shabbatluck 6:00pm This Friday</b>  Join us for Kabbalat Shabbat and stay for a pot-luck Shabbat dinner.  Register at <a href="https://beth-jacob.org/shabbatluck">Beth-Jacob.org/Shabbatluck</a></p>	

**Upcoming at Beth Jacob - August 30, 2025**

**EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Limudim Open House**

**This Tuesday, September 2, 5-6pm**

Discover what makes our learning community special. Explore our classrooms, meet our new Limudim Coordinator, dedicated teachers, and youth madrichim, and go home with new books and stickers. Dinner provided.



**Learn to Blow Shofar**

Anyone can do it! Learn how to get sound out of the shofar, and learn how to follow the caller and play all the right sounds. Then you will be ready to blow shofar for the High Holidays! Contact Sara Lynn at 651-353-6960.



**Community Selichot Service**

**Saturday, September 13, 8:30pm**

Selichot prayers are designed to open our hearts and deepen the work of reflection and teshuva before the High Holidays.

Beth Jacob and Shir Tikvah will once again partner for a heartfelt night of learning, song, and connection, in preparation for the Days of Awe. In person at Shir Tikvah, 1360 W Minnehaha Pkwy, or on Zoom, [Beth-Jacob.org/Selichot](https://beth-jacob.org/Selichot).



**Upcoming Kiddush Sponsorship Opportunities**

**September 13:** Honoring loved ones with Yahrzeits in September.

**September 27:** Honoring all of our volunteer mashgichim and kitchen crews who make our kiddushes so wonderful!

[Beth-Jacob.org/Kiddush](https://beth-jacob.org/Kiddush)



**Rosh Hashanah Dinner**

**Monday, September 22**

The deadline is fast approaching for early bird registration for our community Erev Rosh Hashanah Dinner. Gather with our community to celebrate the start of a sweet new year!

[Beth-Jacob.org/RHDinner](https://beth-jacob.org/RHDinner)

