

CONGREGATION BRITH SHOLOM

PRESIDENT: STEVEN L. GLICKMAN

RABBI: MICHAEL SINGER

RABBI EMERITUS: RABBI ALLEN JUDA

VOLUME XXIX NO. 7 ~ JULY 2018 TAMMUZ 5778 ~ ELUL 5778

TISHA B'AV SERVICES

In the Chapel

Saturday, July 21 ~ 8:30 PM

Maariv/Havdalah followed by Tisha B'Av service.

Rabbi Singer will chant Eicha.

There will be English readings.



**PUBLISHED MONTHLY
CONGREGATION BRITH
SHOLOM**

BETHLEHEM, PA 18017

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SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

All information must be received in writing or copy ready by the **15th** of each month. Any article received after the deadline will be published in the next Bulletin. Visit our website at www.brithsholom.net



Law vs. Morality: What Does Judaism Say?

One of the things I am most proud of as a Jew is the moral compass our Torah and tradition have established as its core. Our faith has given the world monotheism, mitzvot (including the 10 Commandments), and strong ethical principles which make up the backbone of Judaism and many other religions moral codes. Our Torah, as a blessing and gift of God's love, is here to guide our behavior both through its stories and laws. It represents an evolving, dynamic, and creative tradition that aspires to the highest moral values and ideals.

As Jews, we use the lens of *Halacha* (Jewish law - literally meaning to walk along the path) to help us make our daily choices, give us sacred opportunities, connect us to our rich past and to our future. For centuries, our Rabbis have been charged with interpreting the *Halacha* for their communities and often, case by case, ensured that God's word was reflected with humility, compassion, and kindness.

In one of the most quoted stories, the Talmud (Shabbat 31a) recounts a potential convert who goes to the famous sage Hillel asking for him to teach him the entire Torah while he stands on one foot. Hillel instead of rejecting this brazen request outright, as did his colleague Shammai, agrees. Hillel inverts God's command in Leviticus 19:18, "Love your neighbor as yourself" and says to the convert, "'What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor. That is the whole Torah; the rest is the explanation of this—go and study it!" This became known as *Ikar Torah* or as I like to think of it - God's Prime Directive (or commonly known as the Golden Rule).

In essence, *Halacha* by its very nature cannot be immoral, unjust, and damaging to God's name and holiness. As God's guiding path of life, it must live up to the highest moral and ethical ideals, of which - loving our neighbor, caring for the stranger (36x in the Torah - more than any other commandment), orphan, poor, and widow is recounted over and over again in our sacred texts. When it fails to do so, our Rabbis recognized that the *Halacha* is either being misunderstood or needing to be limited, changed, or even occasionally uprooted. No commandment from

God could be immoral or denigrating to God's name or to human beings, who were created in God's image. Law without ethics, is not merely corrupt and unjust but violates the Commandment of "taking God's name in vain" as it denigrates God's reputation in the world, let alone many times violating *Ikar Torah* - God's Prime Directive. Immoral laws also have the detrimental effect of pushing people away, profaning the holiness of the Torah which God has entrusted to us, and damaging the moral authority at the core of our tradition.

Like all ancient religious traditions, Judaism has its share of problematic texts and moral dilemmas. As caretakers of the tradition, Rabbis have found overt and sometimes creative ways of addressing many of them. The Torah itself teaches that we are to, "do the right, and the good.", meaning that it is not always possible to legislate every ethical situation or moral dilemma but instead relies upon the *middot* (moral character & measure of humanity- *middah* means literally to measure) of compassion, dignity, respect, and love to help guide us on the path. Throughout history there have been both Jewish and more often secular laws, enforced by governments, that have been (and are) immoral, unjust, and indeed evil. They sought to claim authority/ authenticity from God's word or revelation. To that assertion, Judaism answers with a resounding, NO!, reminding each of us that as we walk with God down the path of life, loving each other trumps any law.

Rabbi Michael Singer



Schedule of Services

SHABBAT

Everyone is invited to attend and participate in the beauty of the Shabbat Services and the Kiddush that follows.

Services begin Shabbat morning at 9:00 AM.

MINYAN—is held in the Chapel

Monday and Thursday mornings.....7:45 AM

Holiday mornings.....9:00 AM

SHABBAT PINHAS

Friday, July 6 ~ Candle Lighting: 8:17 pm ~ **SATURDAY, July 7**

Torah Portion: Pinhas~ Numbers 25:10-30:1 ~ Haftarah: Jeremiah 1:1-2:3 ~ Havdalah: 9:41 pm

SHABBAT MATTOT-MASSEI

Friday, July 13~ Candle Lighting: 8:14 pm ~ **SATURDAY, July 14**

Torah Portion: Mattot-Massei ~ Numbers 30:2-36:13~ Haftarah: Jeremiah 2:4-28, 3:4 ~ Havdalah: 9:38 pm

SHABBAT HAZON

Friday, July 20 ~ Candle Lighting: 8:09 pm ~ **SATURDAY, July 21**

Torah Portion: Devarim ~ Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22 ~ Haftarah: Isaiah 1:1-27 ~ Havdalah: 9:33 pm

SHABBAT NAHAMU

Friday, July 27 ~ Candle Lighting: 8:03 pm ~ **SATURDAY, July 28**

Torah Portion: Va'ethanan ~ Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11 ~ Haftarah: Isaiah 40:1-26 Havdalah: 9:27 pm



The Experience of Tisha B'Av

On Saturday, July 21, we will join Jews all over the world in the commemoration of Tisha B'Av, the 9th of Av, the date on which "...five misfortunes befell our fathers ...On the ninth of Av it was decreed that our fathers should not enter the [Promised] Land, the Temple was destroyed the first and second time, Bethar was captured and the city [Jerusalem] was ploughed up."(Mishnah Ta'anit 4"6) As fantastic as it may seem, it is also the date of many of our other tragedies including the expulsion from England in 1290 and from Spain in 1492.

The Tisha B'av service can be a profound personal spiritual experience connecting us to all those who have enacted this ritual over the centuries. Our custom at Brith Sholom is to gather and pray together on that night and the following morning.

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In the Chapel

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Rabbi Singer will chant Eicha.

There will be English readings.



Starry Services

Led by Alan Cohen

You are cordially invited to join us for outdoor

Friday night services

In the beautiful Brith Sholom Courtyard

7:30 P.M.

Friday nights ~ July 20 and August 17, 2018

Oneg Shabbat to follow

No RSVP required

Save the Date

Kaplan - Goldblat Aufruf

We would be honored to have the entire congregation
join us at services

On August 11, 2018 to celebrate the aufruf of
Irving Kaplan and Casey Goldblat

Everyone is invited to be our guest at the Kiddush
following services.

We hope to see you there



BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE FOR YIZKOR ON YOM KIPPUR

For the Yizkor Memorial Service on Yom Kippur, we distribute the Book of Remembrance in which we publish the names of our dear departed whom we remember on the holiest days of our year.

Please fill in the form below and mail it to the Brith Sholom office, 1190 W. Macada Rd., Bethlehem, PA 18017. **DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING NAMES IS SEPTEMBER 10, 2018**

To honor the memory of our dear departed with TZEDAKAH, a charitable contribution, is a “mitzvah” in our tradition. The funds raised through this Book of Remembrance are used towards the maintenance and upkeep of our Brith Sholom Cemetery.

Tear off this form and return to our office

I wish to inscribe the following names of my departed loved ones in the Book of Remembrance to be distributed in the Yizkor Memorial Services on Yom Kippur and enclose the amount of \$_____ for the Cemetery Fund.

Name _____ Name _____

Name _____ Name _____

Name _____ Name _____

Name _____ Name _____

Remembered by _____

Once again this year, we will mention the names of members’ relatives who died out of town during 5778. These names will be read on Yom Kippur at the time we mention our own members who have died during this past year. If you wish to have a relatives’ name included, please fill in the lines below.

Name _____ Date _____

Name _____ Date _____

Name _____ Date _____



It is with gratitude that we acknowledge the following gifts given to the synagogue in memory of or to honor and commemorate the people or events mentioned. It is a sacred obligation and a unique privilege for each of us to be able to show such traditional support and respect for our heritage and loved ones.

(Minimum contributions to each of the donation levels are: Temple/\$10; Chai/\$18; Silver/\$25; Double Chai/\$36); Golden/\$50; Platinum/\$100

PLATINUM DONATION

In loving memory of brother,
Ervin Gross
Shirley Gross

DOUBLE CHAI DONATION

In honor of our 60th wedding anniversary

Sarah and Richard Sandler

In memory of Meyer Shleifer on the occasion of his yahrzeit

Ruthie & Harry Shleifer

In honor of David Shaffer because he is such a good guy and a mensch!

Ruthie & Harry Shleifer

In loving memory of our dear daughter and sister, Ellen Beth Wruble-Greenberg on the 3rd anniversary of her passing

Sandy, Norm and Susan Wruble

SILVER DONATION

In memory of beloved father, Louis Aberbach

Marilyn & Thomas Doluisio

In memory of Herman Klibansky

The Riskin Family

In loving memory of Florence Margulies

Ruth Kugelman

In honor of Roz doing the Haftarah

Roz & Alan Cohen

CHAI DONATION

In memory of Mr. Lawrence Berkove

Rabbi Michael & Alexis Singer

In honor of the birth of the first grandchild for Stan & Lora Geftic

Rabbi Michael & Alexis Singer

In honor of the birth of Stan & Lora

Geftic's first grandchild, Gracyn Alana Geftic

Casey Goldblat & Irving Kaplan

In honor of Ron Gould's birthday

Casey Goldblat & Irving Kaplan

In memory of Blanche Snyder

Edis & Aaron Snyder

TEMPLE FUND

In memory of Harry Milestone

Nanci Goldman & Steve Bergstein

In memory of beloved grandfather and great grandfather, William Gherstin

Michael, Frances Wendy & Norman Kaufmann

In memory of beloved brother and uncle, Thomas P. Kaufman

Michael, Frances, Wendy & Norman Kaufmann



YAHZRZEIT PLAQUES

These bronze plaques are permanent tributes to your loved ones. Unlike many of the other synagogues both here in the Valley and in other places, our Yahrzeit Memorial Wall has individual lights that are turned on during the week of the Yahrzeit. It does not matter how long ago a grandparent, parent or, G-d forbid, a child has died, the memory is still there. Traditionally, we show respect and love for our departed family members by this annual demonstration of remembrance. We say Kaddish in shul. We hold them in the forefront of our hearts and minds, and, for many of us, by the public illumination of their names on the Memorial Wall.

The price for a plaque is \$300. The price to reserve a space is still \$25.

To reserve a space or order plaques, please contact :

Sandy Wruble (610-865-2474)

It's Finally Here!

No muss, no fuss!

Pay with your credit card!



You now have the ability to pay by credit card on our website. The ease and convenience of filling in some information and clicking a button is only as far away as your computer.

*** note: there will be a processing fee of 3.1% for all credit card payment added to your donation/payment to cover our fees to process your transaction. The processing fee will be added to all credit card transactions.**

SUMMER IS A GREAT TIME TO VOLUNTEER

Are you looking for a personally meaningful activity that will benefit someone else? Consider becoming a Jewish Family Service volunteer. JFS has diverse volunteer opportunities, with varying time commitments, throughout Bethlehem. Our highly skilled JFS volunteer coordinator will help you find the activity which best matches your interests and time. Then she will provide you with the appropriate training and ongoing support. JFS volunteers regularly say that they feel a



great sense of satisfaction and the experience of volunteering enriches their lives. Please call JFS - 610-821-8722 - and ask for Chelsea Karp.



Kiddush News

DOUBLE CHAI

- ◆ Miriam Serow in honor of the 40th wedding anniversary of my parents, Sarah and Dick Sandler
- ◆ Gary, Jennifer, Daniel and Toby Lader in honor of the graduating seniors
- ◆ Dore, Benjamin and Jack Kottler in honor of Paul Kottler's birthday



Green thumb's up to our garden team, Maria & Richard Ain, Lauren Sakasitz and Judith Rodwin. If you would like to join this labor of love for an hour or two, contact Judith.

BLOOD DONORS NEEDED



Keep Brith Sholom in good standing.

Call Miller-Keystone Blood Center at (610) 691-5850 and make an appointment.

“Give the Gift of Life.”

Call today to schedule your appointment to donate blood on behalf of Brith Sholom

Thank You



Support

Congregation Brith Sholom!

Purchase Giant Foods Gift Cards and Congregation Brith Sholom gets 5% of the proceeds.

So when you purchase groceries you will be donating to the shul.

Giant Card contact:

Dore Kottler, rxdek@ptd.net or 610-395-3259

Thirteenth Annual Brith Sholom Golf Outing



Wednesday, August 15, 2018

Location—Locust Valley Golf Course

5525 Locust Valley Road—Coopersburg, PA - 610-282-4711

Delicious Kosher Steak or Chicken Dinner catered by Boscov's

Format: 1:00 PM Shotgun Start — Dinner at 6 PM

Scramble

\$120 per person includes cart, Greens fee and dinner

For Non-Golfers - \$45 per person – Dinner only

_____ Individual (s) (Golf/Dinner) @ \$120 - Name _____

_____ Individual (s) (Dinner only) @ \$45 - Name _____

Foursome (Golf/Dinner) @ \$450

Name _____ Name _____

Name _____ Name _____

Sponsors:

Dinner Sponsor \$1,000—(including Foursome)

Drink Sponsor (2) - \$750—(Including Foursome)

Hole Sponsors (18) - \$250

Hole In One: 2018 Ford Mustang furnished by Nazareth Ford

Mail with your check payable to Congregation Brith Sholom to:

Jerry Hausman ~ 1201 Butztown Road #24 ~ Bethlehem, PA 18017

It's that time again!!!!



New Years Greeting Book and Directory

Dear Fellow Congregants:

One of Brith Sholom's most referenced publications is the Annual New Year's Greeting Book and Directory. For decades, our congregants have utilized the directory to wish fellow congregants a happy and healthy new year, to honor or memorialize a relative or friend, or to give special thanks. The directory is also one of Brith Sholom's major fundraising resources each year.

Your message shows visible support for our synagogue and the proceeds directly supplement our annual operating budget. We celebrate Rosh Hashanah on September 10th and 11th and Yom Kippur on September 18th. You should have received notification and a form in the mail. Please complete the form to reserve your greeting space - apply a special 10% discount if you complete and return the form by July 5, 2018. If you need a form, please notify the office and one will be sent to you. **Final deadline for all greetings is August 6, 2018.**

The directory is our best means of sharing contact information with each other. Regardless of whether or not you place a greeting, every member of the congregation is entitled to a listing in the directory. We would also like to include your children's names (graduate school and younger), current e-mail addresses and wedding anniversary dates. There is no charge for including this information, just fill in the appropriate lines on the form. Please check last year's book to see if corrections are needed, (children, address, telephone number, email). Lastly, if there have been any changes in your family during the past year, please indicate them on the form; we want your directory listing to be accurate.

The Greeting Book this year will be dedicated to Immediate Past President and First Lady, **Edward and Ursula Levy**. We are extremely proud to be honoring them and you can read all about their life and times in the Greeting Book when it is published.

Thank you in advance for your continued support of our congregation. Please don't hesitate to call MICHAEL E. RISKIN during weekday business hours at (610)868-8543 if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely yours,

Michael E. Riskin

Michael E. Riskin
New Year's Greeting Book & Directory
Chairman

P.S. Please take note of the fact that the goal of the Committee this year is to have this Book distributed in a timely manner and therefore, there will be no extension of the Deadline Date of Monday, August 6, 2018.

YAHIRZEIT

WEEK OF JULY 7, 2018

* Abraham Feuer	24 Tammuz	July 7	* Philip A. Sigal	28 Tammuz	July 11
Jacob Leibowitz	24 Tammuz	July 7	* Yolana Spitz	28 Tammuz	July 11
* Rose Horowitz	25 Tammuz	July 8	* Cecelia Brisker	29 Tammuz	July 12
* Anna Israelite	25 Tammuz	July 8	Nathaniel J. Brisker	29 Tammuz	July 12
* Aaron Abrams	26 Tammuz	July 9	Mary S. Goidich	29 Tammuz	July 12
Martha Kroppe	26 Tammuz	July 9	* Abraham Staller	29 Tammuz	July 12
Sylvia Lader	26 Tammuz	July 9	* Frances M. Jaslow	29 Tammuz	July 12
* Simon Levin	26 Tammuz	July 9	* Gizella Albert	1 Av	July 13
* Joseph V. Weisz	26 Tammuz	July 9	Sylvia Rosenfeld	1 Av	July 13
* Meyer Perlman	27 Tammuz	July 10	Eva Spitzer	1 Av	July 13

WEEK OF JULY 14, 2018

Judith Ain	2 Av	July 13	* Dora Frankel	4 Av	July 15
* Eugene Diamond	2 Av	July 13	* Samuel Pisarev	4 Av	July 15
Belle Gould	2 Av	July 13	Herman Goren	7 Av	July 19
David Kotkin	2 Av	July 13	* Mary Klibanoff	7 Av	July 19
* Sol A. Taffet	2 Av	July 13	* Solomon Branker	8 Av	July 20
* Arthur Neuman	2 Av	July 13	Aaron Eden	8 Av	July 20
Allen A. Sarachek	2 Av	July 13	* Isidor Goldberg	8 Av	July 20
George Bryen	3 Av	July 14	* Theodore Goodman	8 Av	July 20
Louis D. Fromm	3 Av	July 14	James Mayer	8 Av	July 20
Harold Mindlin	4 Av	July 15	* Jacob Weisz	8 Av	July 20
* Jacob Phillips	4 Av	July 15	Irving Steinberger	8 Av	July 20
* Albert S. Spear	4 Av	July 15			

WEEK OF JULY 21, 2018

* Jacob S. Levitt	9 Av	July 21	Regina Romoff	14 Av	July 26
* Pearl Weinstein	9 Av	July 21	* Blanche Goodman	15 Av	July 27
Reuben Rosenberg	11 Av	July 23	Jefferson Lappen	15 Av	July 27
Rudolph Meyer	12 Av	July 24	Joseph Rosenzweig	15 Av	July 27
Abraham Phillips	12 Av	July 24			

WEEK OF JULY 28, 2018

* Nathaniel Block	16 Av	July 28	* Alice Turnauer	19 Av	July 31
* Leo Pozefsky	16 Av	July 28	Neil Kaplin	19 Av	July 31
Lila Dumoff	17 Av	July 29	Marcy Ouslander	19 Av	July 31
Mary Jane Frankel	17 Av	July 29	* Pauline Cooperman	20 Av	Aug. 1
* Brenda Jaffie	17 Av	July 29	* Sophia Goodman	20 Av	Aug. 1
Joseph D. Pestcoe	17 Av	July 29	* Carrie Horn	20 Av	Aug. 1
* Lena Schiff	17 Av	July 29	* Clementine Sax	20 Av	Aug. 1
* Irvin Shaffer	18 Av	July 30	Samuel Schiffer	20 Av	Aug. 1
* Gussie Sindel	18 Av	July 30	* Jean Stoller	20 Av	Aug. 1
* David Sosnow	19 Av	July 31	Ruth Wallack	21 Av	Aug. 2
Samuel Klayton	19 Av	July 31	* Abraham Silbert	21 Av	Aug. 2
* Dr. Henry Miller	19 Av	July 31			



JULY 2018

18 Tammuz, 5778

19 Av, 5778

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 18th of Tamuz, 5778	2 19th of Tamuz, 5778	3 20th of Tamuz, 5778	4 21st of Tamuz, 5778	5 22nd of Tamuz, 5778	6 23rd of Tamuz, 5778  8:17p	7 24th of Tamuz, 5778  9:41p
8 25th of Tamuz, 5778	9 26th of Tamuz, 5778	10 27th of Tamuz, 5778	11 28th of Tamuz, 5778	12 29th of Tamuz, 5778	13 1st of Av, 5778 <u>Rosh Chodesh Av</u>  8:14p	14 2nd of Av, 5778  9:38p
15 3rd of Av, 5778	16 4th of Av, 5778	17 5th of Av, 5778	18 6th of Av, 5778	19 7th of Av, 5778	20 Starry Services  7:30p  8:09p	9th of Av, 5778 <u>Erev Tish'a B'Av</u>  Service 8:30p  9:33p
22 10th of Av, 5778 <u>Tish'a B'Av</u>	23 11th of Av, 5778	24 12th of Av, 5778	25 13th of Av, 5778	26 14th of Av, 5778	27 15th of Av, 5778 <u>Tu B'Av</u>  8:03p	28 16th of Av, 5778  9:27p
29 17th of Av, 5778	30 18th of Av, 5778	31 19th of Av, 5778				

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1190 WEST MACADA ROAD
BETHLEHEM, PA 18017

Non-Profit Organization
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Lehigh Valley, PA

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