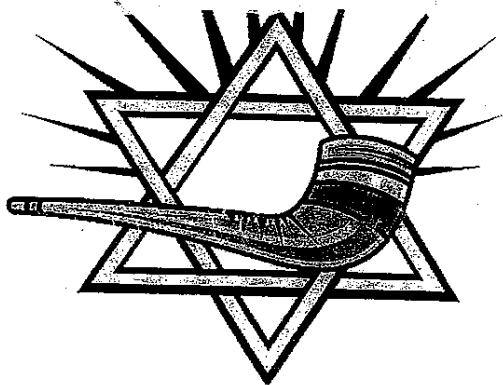


C O N G R E G A T I O N

Beth Israel



141 HILTON AVENUE HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK 11550 Tel: 516-489-1818



September 2017

אלול תשע"ז
תשרי תשע"ח

Elul 5777
Tishri 5778

Dates and times for the High Holy Day Services are:

SELICHOT	SATURDAY, SEPT 16th	7:00 PM
ROSH HASHANAH	WEDNESDAY, SEPT 20	6:30 PM
	THURSDAY, SEPT 21	9:00 AM
	FRIDAY, SEPT 22	9:00 AM
KOL NIDRE	FRIDAY, SEPT. 29	5:45 PM
YOM KIPPUR	SATURDAY, SEPT 30	9:00 AM

September 2017

RABBI, MICHAEL EISENSTEIN

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Parshat Ki Teitzei SVCES 9:30 am
3	4 Labor Day	5 MAH JONGG	6	7	8 Elul 10	9 Parshat Ki Tavo SVCES 9:30 am
10	11	12 MAH JONGG	13 SIST BD MTG 1 pm	14	15	16 Parshat Nitzavim-Vayelech SVCES 9:30 am
17	18	19 MAH JONGG	20 Erev Rosh Hashanah SVCES 6:30 pm	21 Rosh Hashanah 9:00 am	22 Rosh Hashanah 9:00 am	23 Parshat Ha'Azinu svces 9:30 am
24	25 BOARD MEETING 7 PM	26 MAH JONGG	27	28 Tishrei 1	29 Erev Yom Kippur	30 Yom Kippur Yizkor svces 9 am BREAK FAST

B'NEINU (BETWEEN US)

בחדש השביעי באחד לחדש, יהיה לכם שבתון זכרון תרועה, מקרא קדש

"In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall be a solemn rest unto you, a memorial proclaimed with the blast of horns, a holy convocation." — HASHEM, LEVITICUS 23:24

For those of you who missed the August 21st class on *Preparing for the High Holy Days* – and to those of you who did not miss it – there is still time to prepare! While it is smart to order the Rosh Hashanah brisket in advance, it is also a good idea to have some expectations or goals for these days. After all, they only come once a year!

"You can't tell the players without a scorecard" is equally applicable to the *machzor* and services as well as to a ballgame.

So why not join us on **Tuesday, September 12 @ 7:30pm** for some more insight into getting the most out of the upcoming Holy Days. (Yes, you can call them *holidays*. My personal preference is *Holy Days*; both refer to the same thing.) In the meantime, I've dusted off my shofar and have been practicing – but not so much as to freak out Cosmo, Lennon, Dallas and Shelby.



I would like to repeat part an item of interest from last month's column as it remains a significant issue. Too often (and once is even too many times!) we have found ourselves short in getting a minyan together in a shiva house.

We had another funeral among the congregation and, on the final night of shiva, were fortunate that the family next door – all five of them! – walked in just as we were about to start. Otherwise, the mourners – your fellow congregants – would not have been able to recite the Mourner's Kaddish.

Please pay attention to the emails or phone squad calls that announce a shiva minyan and make your best effort to attend. At the current time, you may contact me directly if you want to make yourself available to perform this easy mitzvah. Hint: many people often make a shiva call on the first or second day – it gets more difficult as the week goes on.



September will end with Yom Kippur and October will bring us an "early" Sukkot. The weather should be a little fairer than last year, which ended with a storm that did significant damage to more than a dozen pieces of the sukkah frame. Replacement parts have been ordered and we will be up and running or, more accurately, we will be sitting, in the sukkah right on schedule.

Many thanks to those who donated to the Sukkah Repair Fund. There is still time to donate if you wish.

The big event in the sukkah will be our **Sukkot Dinner** which will be on **Wednesday, October 4th @ 6pm**. Seating in the sukkah is limited. RSVP's accompanied by a check will be treated on a first-come, first-served basis.



From myself and my family,
we wish all of you a year of blessings.
L'shana tovah tikateivu v'umetookah.

— Rabbi Michael
516.547.3581 RABBI.MICHAEL@ME.COM

YES I/We want to attend the SUKKOT DINNER (October 4 @ 6pm)

_____ persons @ \$30 per person for a total of \$_____.

Reservations based on the order RSVP & payment is received.

RSVP's beyond Sukkah seating capacity will be wait-listed. Don't delay!

Send to: Congregation Beth Israel, 141 Hilton Ave, Hempstead NY 11550.

Name(s) _____

Contact info (phone or email): _____

HIGH HOLIDAY HONORS

On Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur we look to members of our congregation to participate in making these holidays meaningful to all. It is also the only time that most of us are here together in the course of the year.

Traditionally, the high holidays also present an opportunity for Jewish congregations around the world to supplement their income in order to continue to operate on a financially sound basis. For us it is a necessity since our dues structure is not sufficient to pay our bills; it is kept artificially low to permit many of limited means to join our ranks.

The *machzor* (holiday prayer book) tells us who will be afflicted in the coming year in a variety of ways. It also says "But repentance, prayer and deeds of kindness (*tzedakah* or charity) can remove the severity of the decree."

Here are some of the honors which you may be asked to perform:

Opening/Closing Ark

Torah Carrier

Aliyot – Blessings Over the Torah

Hagbah – Lifting the Torah

G'lilah – Dressing the Torah

Prayer for Peace, Country and Congregation

Please see your honor as a chance to keep Beth Israel alive and strong. May you avert the severe decree and enjoy a year of good health and prosperity.

In Charlottesville, the Local Jewish Community Presses On

By Alan Zimmerman , 8/14/2017

At Congregation Beth Israel in Charlottesville, VA, we are deeply grateful for the support and prayers of the broader Reform Jewish community. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of Heather Heyer and the two Virginia State Police officers, H. Jay Cullen and Berke Bates, who lost their lives on Saturday, and with the many people injured in the attack who are still recovering.

The loss of life far outweighs any fear or concern felt by me or the Jewish community during the past several weeks as we braced for this Nazi rally – but the effects of both will each linger.

On Saturday morning, I stood outside our synagogue with the armed security guard we hired after the police department refused to provide us with an officer during morning services. (Even the police department's limited promise of an observer near our building was not kept — and note, we did not ask for protection of our property, only our people as they worshipped).

Forty congregants were inside. Here's what I witnessed during that time.

For half an hour, three men dressed in fatigues and armed with semi-automatic rifles stood across the street from the temple. Had they tried to enter, I don't know what I could have done to stop them, but I couldn't take my eyes off them, either. Perhaps the presence of our armed guard deterred them. Perhaps their presence was just a coincidence, and I'm paranoid. I don't know.

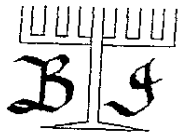
Several times, parades of Nazis passed our building, shouting, "There's the synagogue!" followed by chants of "Seig Heil" and other anti-Semitic language. Some carried flags with swastikas and other Nazi symbols.

A guy in a white polo shirt walked by the synagogue a few times, arousing suspicion. Was he casing the building, or trying to build up courage to commit a crime? We didn't know. Later, I noticed that the man accused in the automobile terror attack wore the same polo shirt as the man who kept walking by our synagogue; apparently it's the uniform of a white supremacist group. Even now, that gives me a chill.

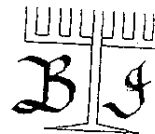
When services ended, my heart broke as I advised congregants that it would be safer to leave the temple through the back entrance rather than through the front, and to please go in groups.

Local police faced an unprecedented problem that day, but make no mistake, Jews are a specific target of these groups, and despite nods of understanding from officials about our concerns – and despite the fact that the mayor himself is Jewish – we were left to our own devices. The fact that a calamity did not befall the Jewish community of Charlottesville on Saturday was not thanks to our politicians, our police, or even our own efforts, but to the grace of God.

This is in America in 2017.



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