



Torah Study, To be or not to be

From the
Beit Midrash of
Rav Julius



What a month of June this has been.

We at Beth Jacob have been living through a partial re-birth, precipitated by the enhanced *kiddush* that has been introduced through the leadership of our President, Marty Shapiro, and the generosity of one of our new members, Harry Leiser.

And there has been an evolving change to an institution that I had introduced into the Beth Jacob community some years ago: Torah study. Of course, the study of Torah has been a feature of Jewish communities for well over two millennia. But there is a certain style that we have been pursuing these last few years, and it might help to review its genesis as well as its evolved forms, and to see how it fits within the new Beth Jacob Shabbat morning lineup.....

It was in my first of four trips to Los Angeles over a 15 year period to attend the Bnei Mitzvah of members of a close family, to a synagogue of about 2,000 families and about 6-7 rabbis and cantors rotating through the Synagogue. Not surprisingly, the senior rabbi was someone who I came to learn was a 'living legend' in the religious world: Rabbi Harold Schulweis. That the word 'Schul' was in his name was not an accident, as he adopted the entire facility as his private 'living room' into which we were all invited.

During the Torah service Rabbi Schulweis would interrupt the aliyot approximately 2-3 times. And for a cumulative period of about 20-25 minutes, would raise open ended questions about one thing or another about the Torah portion. And he would engage perhaps 2-3 people in each 'study break' with an initial question or proposition and then engage in colloquy with the individual.

After the service concluded, I engaged Rabbi Schulweis over kiddush. I remarked that I have always experienced the rabbi's delivery of a teaching during the service -- whether it be in the formal confines of the High Holy Day season, or just any Shabbat or Festival -- as a full frontal *clergy* delivery, with no opportunity for lay response. He responded by saying that this was 'frontal delivery' -- first, his; and then the congregants.

His confident assurance that the congregant's response was "Torah," startled me. And he must have read the doubt on my face, as he continued:

Rav Julius on Vacation

Rav Julius will be on vacation from July 7 to August 4. Much of the time he will be in a time zone that is 12 hours ahead of us (period in July), and the other time (period in August), 6 hours ahead. If you want to reach him while he is away, it is best if you email him with your desire and your window of availability and he will try to schedule a call with you.

In the meantime, the Synagogue has rabbis on call for any member needs while Rav Julius is away. If you have a need for a rabbi, please email Marty Shapiro (mshap3804@aol.com) **and** the Beth Jacob office (bethjacob@snet.net), **and** copy Rav Julius (ravjulius@gmail.com) and one of us will get back to you.



During those Shabbatot, we will turn to a familiar structure we have been following for the past few years:

--**Friday nights July 12, 19, 26,** and August 2, our services will be held exclusively on ZOOM, (the Sanctuary will be closed.) Friday nite services will be led by members, Faye Ringel and Michael Gere.

--**On Shabbat mornings July 13, 20, 27, and August 3,** Beth Jacob members are invited to attend the services at Ahavath Achim Synagogue, Colchester, officiated by Rabbi Alter, in person or on Zoom. The Zoom invitation will be sent to each congregant by email on a timely basis.

Cantor Amy Kanarek is Returning!

Beth Jacob is thrilled to announce that once again Cantor Amy Kanarek will be joining us for the *Yamim Nora-im*, the High Holidays/High Holy Days. We will include her bio in the next VOICE as we get closer to Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. But we hope that with this announcement, you will strongly consider having the *mishpacha* visit you this year for the holidays.

Continued From Page One

Torah' ... While I have prepared a journey for the morning based on 'my Torah' upon which we will initially proceed, it need not be the entirety of our journey. And you, the listener, are welcome to share 'your Torah' with 'my Torah'."

I reflected on those words over the ensuing decades. For some of that time, I would attend (with Ellen) a Torah study hour run by our Reform synagogue (we had memberships in both Reform and Conservative synagogues). And their Shabbat morning schedule was almost always a Bar Mitzvah celebration attended by the family and friends, but not by any coterie of 'regulars' who came for the davening. And preceding it was an hour long Torah study, after which virtually all of the 'regulars' left to celebrate the rest of Shabbat privately.

Notwithstanding the apparent success of these two models for imparting the wisdom of Torah, when I first came to Beth Jacob, I was too insecure to pursue any route other than the traditional frontal delivery, although I would frame it in a context that would invite discussion. But I was not able to generate a response much of the time.

So, when the Pandemic caused a disruption to the in-person traditional attendance at Shabbat services, we moved the services on to the ZOOM platform. The Friday night experience translated well perhaps due to its overwhelming emphasis on communal singing. But there was little appetite for a Shabbat morning Zoom experience, with its reliance on mumbling or silent meditations of the Hebrew prayers. So, that Shabbat morning resembled the experience that I had in the Reform synagogue with its exclusive reliance on Torah study to meet its members' Shabbat morning needs.

Fast forward a few years later, and we have slowly migrated our services and Torah study back to where they were 4-5 years ago. Well, nearly so, as we have shortened the pre-Shacharit portion a little; and have dropped *Mussaf* and most of the time, the *Haftarah*.

And Torah study has been impacted. When it was first popularized within our exclusively ZOOM community for the first few months of the Pandemic, we did nothing else but study Torah. There was a start time; but for most of us, what else were you going to do that you needed to know its 'end time'? And so, we regularly engaged in study for an hour or so, and there were Shabbatot that extended to seventy-five or even ninety minutes before we exhausted the last morsel of text.

But as we have been integrating it into the service, it has been on an ever-tightening leash, such that its current iteration is designed for it to be about 20 minutes.

And yet, that is the beauty of Torah. While there are many subject matters that cannot produce significant nuggets of wisdom in anything much less than a university class period (45-90 minutes long), the rabbis posit a much shorter period of Torah study which can yield results. Hence, when the rabbis teach us in the *Pirkei Avot* that we should set aside a fixed time of study each day (*which we happen to be learning this week* in our *Pirkei Avot* class each Thursday morning, but taking a vacation until my return in August); and that that when we begin, it is enough if we just study *fifteen* minutes each day to fulfill that objective.

So, as we continue to combine the Torah study experience into the Shabbat morning prayer experience; and just as importantly, have more of you join in the Torah study experience, we expect to re-shape how we approach our journey in our experience of Shabbat. And there may be other variations that we can try out.

For example, consider this idea being considered for the **Shabbat on which I plan to return from vacation, August 10, at 10:00 am**, which is also referred to as 'Shabbat Chazon' or Shabbat of Vision as it is named after the vision that the prophet Isaiah has over Judah and Jerusalem of their prophesied destruction. This is the Shabbat that precedes *Tisha B'Av*, the Ninth of Av, the saddest day in the Jewish calendar, during which Jews have suffered many calamities, including the destruction of both the First (586 BCE) and Second (70 CE) Temples, as well as many other catastrophes. And the format for Torah study for that Shabbat will be an introduction to the general topic of mourning for losses in the past and during the service proper.

And with that teaching in mind, **Beth Jacob will observe *Tisha B'Av*, the Ninth of Av, on Monday night, August 7:30**. This will be the first time that Beth Jacob has observed *Tisha B'Av* in the years that I have been here. And I think that after October 7, and the teaching that will be made available during the previous Shabbat, more than a few of you might want to share in the experience of *Tisha B'Av*.

And if any of you have any ideas or thoughts that you would like to share with me regarding the way we will observe it at Beth Jacob, please reach out to me as soon as you can so that we can try to implement it.

B'Shalom,
Rav Julius

Bar Mitzvah

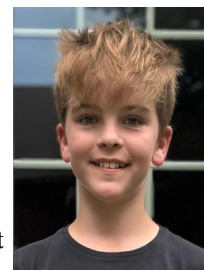
Jacob Federman Bar Mitzvah Saturday, September 7th

My name is Jacob Federman, and I am having my Bar Mitzvah on September 7th this year! I am very excited to lead the service because of all the preparation I've done with Rabbi Julius.

I was born in Nashville, Tennessee, but I moved when I was little and turned one year old in Connecticut. I live with my dad Jeremy and my brother, Jasper. I love football and basketball and I play them with my two best friends every day. My favorite class is English because I love to write! Last year, I started a fundraiser in the weeks after October 7th and gave out blue square pins in exchange for donations to give to the Friends of the IDF.

My friends and family are very important to me, and so are getting good grades and sports. Hebrew has also become important in my life, and I practice every day so that when my Bar Mitzvah date arrives I can give a great service! I am really thankful to my dad and Rabbi Julius for being such great teachers over the past several months while I have been learning my Torah portion and the Shacharit service!

- Jacob Federman



PRESIDENT'S BOX

JULY

Were you sorry to see June end?

I certainly did!

We began June with our new Shabbat morning service schedule, starting at 10:00 am, finishing +/- Noon (+/- two hours). Following services on each of the Shabbot in June, we had a catered kosher Kiddish and lunch. Enjoying some tribal specialties that we seldom cook for ourselves these days. The attendees were greatly pleased with the presentations, and the opportunity to sit, enjoy the food, and the socializing in a pleasant, relaxed manner. The motivation behind and the sponsorship of this innovation is Harry Leiser, one of our several new members, who joined Beth Jacob this Spring. New families members, with children, were greeted with enthusiasm. Seeing kids on our Bema, who will later become a Bar/Bat Mitzvah at Beth Jacob, was greatly enjoyed. Jewish and Hebrew education of children at Beth Jacob is making a comeback.

If you haven't participated as yet, resolve yourself to come. Enjoy a few hours on Shabbat morning to participate in a little more Yiddishkeit, to mingle with your fellow congregants and enjoy this reawakening of our Congregation spirituality. This enlivening in June will become our regular weekly routine, beginning in early August, following a short summer hiatus.



PRESIDENT'S BOX

AUGUST

Now the July hiatus is almost over, and we're preparing to begin the warm-up to the High Holydays that are pushed back this year into October. The Rav told me this is about the latest in the secular calendar year that RH & YK can ever fall. The new Fiscal Year has begun, and the Dues Statements have been sent. Some early responders have already started to reflate our Treasury. Our Building and Security Committee are preparing for a possible Republican Primary to be held on August 14. *A..N..D* the big event, the National Election on November 5th! We are the voting place for Norwich District Four, so we are preparing, with extra security in the event Norwich slides, like so many larger cities, to demonstrations, and/or protests that we've, fortunately, not seen in our City so far. As of this writing, we have submitted an application to the State of Connecticut for a Grant of \$50,000+ to upgrade and improve our physical and operational security. This effort is conscientiously being pursued by Jerry Schwell, with factual help from Barbara in the office, and others with the knowledge to fill that many data, or verbal 'boxes' on the lengthy application. Jerry and I are very optimistic that we will, indeed, receive this grant.

Our now accepted Shabbat format will resume on Shabbat August 10th, followed by a new program for Beth Jacob, observing Tisha B'Av. (see Tisha B'Av information in next column).

Millie and I are still away at our summer hideaway in Northwestern New York. But we will be returning soon, refreshed, and looking forward to another fulfilling year at Beth Jacob.

Tisha B'Av -- the Ninth of Av

Beth Jacob is observing Tisha B'Av for the first time in many years, on not surprisingly, the 9th day (Tisha) of the Jewish month of Av (B'Av) Tisha B'Av, the Ninth of Av, which this year falls on Monday night, August 12 at 7:30. As most of you know, this is the saddest day in the Jewish calendar, with many calamities having been experienced by the Jewish people over the millennia on this day, including the destruction of both the First and Second Temples.



We think that after October 7, more than a few of you whose confidence in Judaism or the State of Israel has been shaken, could use some healthy sorting out. And to help with that endeavor, we will devote Torah study the preceding Shabbat morning, August 10, to the subject of the Jewish perspective of expressing mourning for the past, of the proper way. We learn what we are encouraged to do in our expressions of grief, and what we are absolutely prohibited from doing, notwithstanding the feelings of grief.

For those of you who remain in the community during August, we hope that you will take advantage of one or both of these opportunities relating to Tisha B'Av:

Monday night, August 12, 7:30: Observance of Tisha B'Av, the Ninth of Av

Shabbat morning, August 10, 10:00 am: Torah study whose subject matter is an understanding of why, and just as importantly, how, we observe periods of mourning such as Tisha B'Av and Shiva Asar B'Tammuz (the 17th day of the Jewish month of Tammuz, three weeks earlier), that both respects the event over which we grieve, but more importantly, how we do so in a manner consistent with our faith.



Beth Jacob is pleased to announce the new members who have joined our family:

**Clayton & Jacqueline Church
and their daughters,
Jennifer and Jayla**

We hope that you will find Beth Jacob to be your spiritual home, a place for you to engage with old friends or acquaintances, and meet new ones, to learn and explore Jewish traditions, to participate in celebrating life's *simchas* and find emotional support during times of struggle or loss. May this be only the beginning of a long relationship with us — and this special, sacred community.

The High Holy Days 5785 will be here before you know it. We are now in the process of updating the Annual Memorial Booklet, which provides a wonderful opportunity to honor the memory of your departed loved ones. The contribution to Beth Jacob is a mitzvah that will help us add vitality to our many programs and services and perpetuate a Jewish place of worship that has touched your family at some point.

If you would like to include a listing in the Memorial book, please fill out, and return, the enclosed 2024 Memorial Booklet Form together with your check, payable to Beth Jacob Synagogue by Tuesday, September 3rd. Payment must be included in order to print the listing.

The Memorial Booklet also contains the full Yizkor Services to be used throughout the year. It is a special tradition at Beth Jacob. Please join us in treasuring those of blessed memory.

Beth Jacob Synagogue 2024 Memorial Booklet Form

Please circle request: **NEW** **MAKE CHANGE** **SAME AS LAST YEAR**

<input type="checkbox"/> Inside Back Cover.....\$750 (currently unavailable)	<input type="checkbox"/> One quarter page.....\$225
<input type="checkbox"/> Full Page.....\$550	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Memorial Name Listing.....\$30
<input type="checkbox"/> One-Half Page.....\$350	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Memorial Name Listing (ea) \$18

Please inscribe the following names: (Print CLEARLY new names or changes to be made)

1.	\$30	6.	\$120
2.	\$48	7.	\$138
3.	\$66	8.	\$156
4.	\$84	9.	\$174
5.	\$102	10.	\$192

Additional Comments:

Memorial offered by:

Enclosed: \$

Deadline for placing a Memorial listing is: Tuesday, September 3, 2024



JULY 2024 YAHRZEITS



July 1 25 Sivan

Nison Adoff
Frances Plotnick —
Wife of Herbert Plotnick
Maxwell Margolis

July 2 26 Sivan

Israel Budnick
Jacob Oberman
Samuel Gorin —
Father of Lester Gorin

July 3 27 Sivan

Anne Moskowitz
William Sherman
Nathaniel Gere —
Father of Michael Gere
Maurice Schoenberg

July 4 28 Sivan

Braina Furman
Gertrude Schatz

July 6 30 Sivan

Rutherford Blinderman
Samuel Katz

July 7 1 Tammuz

Philip Feldman

July 9 3 Tammuz

Leon Katz

July 10 4 Tammuz

Samuel Adelman
Morton Brown —
Father-in-Law of Hazel Brown
David Goldblatt
Betty Cramer
Boris, Mina and Isadore Liberman

July 11 5 Tammuz

Lena Burchman
Ann Silverman

July 12 6 Tammuz

Esther Cramer
Lillian Seserman

July 13 7 Tammuz

Yetta Cohn
Annie Goldberg

July 14 8 Tammuz

Minna Forman
Rose Chait

July 15 9 Tammuz

Hattie Perlman —
Grandmother of Gabe Stern

July 16 10 Tammuz

Harry Fischer
Gertrude Cohn

July 17 11 Tammuz

Abraham Gootman

July 19 13 Tammuz

Susan Lax

July 20 14 Tammuz

Robert Miller
Dorothy Later —
Mother of Nancy Gordon

Esther Knasin

Jacob Reisler

July 21 15 Tammuz

Rachel Gordon

Annie Fishbone

July 23 17 Tammuz

Gloria Mandel

July 24 18 Tammuz

Belle Bruckner

July 25 19 Tammuz

Lucille Malchman
Louis Schoenberg —
Brother of Anita Jainchill
Matilde Beit

Sarah Smotrich

Barnet Fishbone

July 26 20 Tammuz

Max Wolfman

July 27 21 Tammuz

Sylvia Fischburg Eisenberg —
Mother of Kenn Fischburg
Ruth Berke —

Mother of Helen Berke

July 28 22 Tammuz

Ethel Davis

Minnie Clark

Jacob Gotthofer

Shima Kessler

Lena Selkowitz

Dora Kenig

Louisa Reisler

July 29 23 Tammuz

Thelma Weisman — *Aunt of Kay Winakor. Jerry and Murray Navick*

Samuel Eisenstein

Henry Levine

July 30 24 Tammuz

Morton Rosen

Justin Dressler

Mishebeirach

Beth Camassar	Matthew Young
Betsy Wilson	Michael Clancy
Billy Maynard	Michelle Nash
Emma Fries	Pamela Magliano
Emma Clancy	Cannata
Henry Joseph Hinckley	Tate Campbell
Janet Rasin	Tiffany Gravel
Jenn Rockwell	Wayne Rosenfield

July 2

July 5

July 8

July 10

July 16

July 20

July 21

July 28

July 31

July Birthdays

Eugene Winakor

Jeremy Federman

Michael Gere

Rosa Goldblatt

Irene Schienberg

Stacy Gould

Terri Slater

Mindy Pedersen

Clayton Church



July Anniversaries

July 10

Harvey & Judith Polinsky

July 11

Michael & Joan Gordon

Jerald & Gail Navick

July 12

Jerry & Deborah Schwell

July 25

Alan & Frances Ruditzky



AUGUST 2024 YAHRZEITS



August 1 26 Tammuz

Arthur Goldblatt —
*Uncle of Ellen DeLeon and
Michael Goldblatt*
Lillian Bloch —
Mother of Joan Gordon
Morris Foster

August 2 27 Tammuz

John Meyer
Herman Smotrich
Sadie Steinman
Harold Friedland
Joseph Botwick
Louis Coit

August 4 29 Tammuz

Morris Sussman
Eva Ann Gotthofer
Benjamin Ringel —
Grandfather of Faye Ringel
Hal Kaplan —
Father of Jane Katzoff

August 5 1 Av

Bessie Snitkin
Nathan Millstein
Samuel Hecht

August 6 2 Av

Shirley Fraitag
Herman Budnick

August 8 4 Av

Beatrice Bumgarner
Augusta Shereshevsky
Abraham Curland

August 9 5 Av

Kate Goldstein
Leon Seserman
Miriam Beit

August 10 6 Av

Leonard Pogel
Shirlee Meyers
August 11 7 Av
Jodie Ellen Stewart —
Daughter of Lester Gorin

August 12 8 Av

John Landman
Abraham Werman
Charles Seder
Lillian Feldman
Esther Shereshevsky

August 13 9 Av

Celia Mindel

August 14 10 Av

Rose Hankin

August 19 15 Av

Suzanne Berkman
Sarah Hertz —
Mother of Dr. Jeffrey Hertz

August 20 16 Av

Dora Foster
Martha Gorin —
Mother of Lester Gorin

Seymour Beit

August 22 18 Av

John Blum
Minnie Eisenberg

August 23 19 Av

Harry Gootman
Phyllis Soloff
Anna Golub
Ralph Botwick
Rose Botwick

August 25 21 Av

Samuel Clark
Max Barber
August 26 22 Av
Max Barsky —
Grandfather of Faye Ringel

Ruth Berkman

August 27 23 Av

Isadore Berkman
Sarah Cooperman

August 28 24 Av

Abraham Cohn
Sara Goldstein

August 29 25 Av

Raymond Perlman —
Uncle of Gabe Stern

Jennie Crumb

Judge Eli Cramer

August 30 26 Av

Irval Labb — *Wife of Robert Labb*
Abner Schwartz
Celia Chasen
Abraham Later —
Father of Nancy Gordon
Yetta Brody

August 31 27 Av

Katie Navick — *Mother of Jerry and
Murray Navick*
Albert Brauman —
Grandfather of Stacy Gould
Alexander Pasnik
Saul Goldberg
Morris Epstein



*The Beth Jacob Congregation
offers its condolences to Linda and Jerry Holzschlag
and Family on the loss of Linda's mother,
Yvonne Sousa*



Candle Light Times

July/August

July 5	8:10 pm	August 2	7:48 pm
July 12	8:07 pm	August 9	7:40 pm
July 19	8:02 pm	August 16	7:30 pm
July 26	7:56 pm	August 23	7:19 pm
		August 30	7:08 pm

August Birthdays

August 2	Vicki Seroussi
August 4	Marc Bokoff
August 10	Linda Holzschlag
August 17	Faye Ringel
August 20	Harvey Polinsky
August 25	Jerald Navick



August Anniversaries

August 11	Brian & Harriet Burchman
August 12	Michael & Rosa Goldblatt
August 17	Norman & Jane Katzoff
August 29	Marc & Kathleen Kashar
August 30	Joseph & Lorraine Biber

Ba-rukH atah A-do-nai, e-lo-hay-nu-me-lekh ha-olam, a-
sher kid-sha-nu-bemitz-vo-tav ve-tzi-vanu Le-had-lik
ner shel Shabbat.