

Ritual Task Force

Meeting Slides w/Meeting Summaries

The Ritual Task Force, appointed by the JSEC Committee, met for a series of nine (9) Zoom meetings from February 2, 2021 to April 6, 2021, to consider the ritual practices of Congregation B'nai Israel (CBI) and Beth Shalom Synagogue (BSS).

What follows are the slides used at all meetings plus the deliberation and discussion summaries* following each meeting.

*designated by yellow highlighted title banners

JSEC Ritual Task Force

6:30-7:45 pm Tuesday April 6, 2021

[CLICK to JOIN](#)

DIAL IN (use Meeting ID & Passcode)

312-626-6799

929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 825 4525 8593

Passcode: 944307

AGENDA

Final Summary

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ
בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוָּנוּ לְעֲסוֹק בְּצָרְכֵי צְבוּר

*Barukh Atah Adonai eloheinu melekh ha'olam
asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav v'tzivanu
la'asok betzorkhei tzibur.*

Blessed are You, ADONAI, our God, ruling Spirit of the Universe,
who has consecrated us with Your commandments, and commanded
us to occupy ourselves with the needs of the community

Ritual Task Force Mission

(in a nutshell)

- **Understand & clarify** what the differences are between the CBI & the BSS *minhagim* (customs & practices)
- **Suggest how to approach & resolve** these differences in an inclusive way

10 Jewish Principles for Discussions

1. Recognize that each of us is created in God's image & act accordingly
2. Arguments for the sake of heaven should not involve an ulterior motive or any ego & are destined to endure
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Siddur / Prayer Book

CURRENT PRACTICES

Congregation B'nai Israel

●SHABBAT

- Gates of Prayer for Shabbat & Weekdays
- Union Prayer Book every 4-6 wks
- Sukkat Shalom: A Shelter of Peace (CBI Shabbat evening prayer book)
- Mishkan T'filah for Shabbat morning

●FESTIVAL SERVICES

- Some festival services celebrated if it occurred on a Friday Sections from Gates of Joy are incorporated into the Shabbat Service

●HIGH HOLY DAYS (HHD)

- Gates of Repentance

Beth Shalom Synagogue

●SHABBAT & FESTIVALS

- Mishkan T'filah for Shabbat & Festivals

●DURING ELUL (month prior to HHD)

- Mishkan HaLev

●HHD

- Mishkan HaNefesh

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Ritual Task Force Mission

- Understand & clarify differences
- Suggest options to resolve differences

Kabbalat Shabbat / Friday Evening Service Logistics

CURRENT PRACTICES

Congregation B'nai Israel

PRE-COVID

- **5:30 pm** Pre-neg (but not consistently)
- **6 - 7 pm** (7:15) KabShab Service
- Times can be modified for special Shabbatot (see Special Shabbatot slide)

Beth Shalom Synagogue

PRE-COVID

- **6 pm** Pre-Neg
- **6:30 - 7:30 pm** KabShab Service
- Times can be modified for special Shabbatot (see Special Shabbatot slide)

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- Suggest options to resolve differences

SHABBAT MUSIC

CURRENT PRACTICES

Congregation B'nai Israel

- Instrumental music has long been a part of CBI Shabbat services, traditionally drawn upon guitar and piano and less frequently the organ which is usually used for Union Prayer Book services.
- Routinely guitar accompaniment during Kabbalat Shabbat/Friday evening Shabbat services; less typically on Shacharit Shabbat/Saturday morning, unless it is a special occasion Shabbat morning.

Beth Shalom Synagogue

- Instrumental music has long been a part of BSS Shabbat services
- Routinely guitar accompaniment during Kabbalat Shabbat/Friday evening Shabbat services; less typically on Shacharit Shabbat/Saturday morning, unless it is a special occasion Shabbat morning.

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2021-02-10 Mtg #2 Summary: Shabbat Evening & Related Matters (1 of 3)

During our Ritual Task Force discussions regarding *Shabbat* liturgy, it became apparent that there will be a need for a unified prayer book; and yet there was a clear recognition of the necessity for service diversity to best meet the prayerful needs of all congregants. While the “*Mishkan*” prayer book series was advanced as the main source for *Shabbat*, High Holy Day, and other Holiday services; it was also recognized that the Union Prayer Book was still a cherished source for spiritual inspiration for some congregants on Friday Evening *Shabbat* services as well.

Of note, there was a discussion regarding the merits of one service versus two when offering a Union Prayerbook *Shabbat* Service; of which 3 of 12 members of the taskforce voiced support for having two separate *Shabbat* services. It was determined that our ultimate vision would be to designate a single spiritual text that would help to avoid the concept of “which night do I belong on or which service is mine?”; however, to best meet the needs of all congregants initially, some variability of service would be necessary. A comfortable balance of Hebrew and English in the services is recommended; however this will depend upon the Rabbi’s awareness of the congregants and their understanding of and desire for Hebrew readings. It was recognized that as the Rabbi grows familiar with the members, that he/she/they would come to know how to best lead a service based upon knowing the congregational audience.

2021-02-10 Mtg #2 Summary: Shabbat Evening & Related Matters (2 of 3)

To best interweave the Divine within the Congregation, there was support for a pre-neg (or in the case of some special celebrations, an *Oneg*). It was also felt that the new congregation should strive to hold only one *Erev Shabbat* service and only one *Shabbat* morning service. Limiting the number of *Shabbat* services offered, would provide a greater opportunity for fellowship and the chance to meet one another. Services should be limited to a single, 60-minute Friday evening *Shabbat* service and 90-minute Saturday morning *Shabbat* service (with some flexibility based upon life cycle events or holidays).

All agreed that musical accompaniment can enhance *Shabbat* services. Insofar as the musical instrumentation, all agreed that piano and/or guitar greatly enhance the worship experience. Furthermore it was concluded that other instrumentation (stringed instruments, woodwinds and other orchestral instruments) could also be appropriate. However in specifically discussing the use of an organ, it was felt that an organ would be less desirable.

2021-02-10 Mtg #2 Summary: Shabbat Evening & Related Matters (3 of 3)

In our discussions regarding a cantor or cantorial soloist, it was felt that we should invest in local talent within the synagogue to meet our weekly *Shabbat* musical needs, while utilizing a cantor or cantorial soloist for the High Holidays.

It was clear that familiar prayers and melodies are both important to the worship experience, while additional exposure to new prayers and melodies can also enhance worship as well. It is once again recognized that as the Rabbi gets to know the congregants, he/she/they will know how to balance both the familiar and the introduction of new musical elements into the service.

Shacharit Shabbat / Saturday Morning Service and Havdalah Service Logistics

CURRENT PRACTICES

Congregation B'nai Israel

- **9:30 - 10:45 am** Torah study & Shabbat am service (Shacharit Shabbat)
- **Prior to 2021**
 - ~10 – 11 Shabbat am service thru Misheberach
 - ~11 – 11:45 Torah Study
 - ~11:45 – 12:15 Concluding service + OnegImprovisational character of service & Torah study is important to its participants. (ie: any aspect of rituals & texts open to discussion or musing. Usually Torah study is unscripted. Personal or reflective discussion rather than scholarly or Rabbinical. The goal is to find relevance in Torah to our lives as opposed to review the interpretations of our scholars and sages.
- **5:30 pm** Havdalah & meditation

Beth Shalom Synagogue

- **9:30 am** Torah Study
- **10:30 am** Shacharit Shabbat service (1.5 hours) Followed by Kiddush
Lunch frequently hosted by Eileen & Ben Shieber.
- **Havdalah** events have on occasion been convened as part of an adult education gathering (ex: Old Fashioned Judaism & Havdalah)

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- Suggest options to resolve differences

SPECIAL SHABBATOT

FUTURE OPTIONS

- **Tailgate Shabbat:** a “tailgate” atmosphere & food (w/ social distancing) held out of doors in our parking lot w/ amplified presentations (zoomed simultaneously)
- **Sisterhood Shabbat**
- **Religious School Class Shabbat**
- **End of Summer/Beginning of School Shabbat**
- **Dairy Potluck Shabbat Dinner**
- **Shabbanukah or Havdalukah** (Shabbat or Havdalah during Chanukah)
- **Scholar-in-Residence or Artist-in-Residence**
- **Annual Nature Shabbat:** (Sat AM @ Bluebonnet Swamp) special prayer booklet by Jerry Freedman

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Shabbat Torah Service

CURRENT PRACTICES

Congregation B'nai Israel

- **Hakafah:** circling through congregation with Torah scroll at beginning of the Torah service
- **Torah Aliyot:** 1 aliyot with the rabbi chanting Torah portion for the week
- **Hagbah/G'lila** (raising & dressing the Torah scroll) done with each Torah reading
- **Haftarah:** New format for the Saturday morning services is still being developed as to content, but for now the answer is no

Beth Shalom Synagogue

- **Hakafah:** at beginning of the Torah service (a second hakafah might sometimes occur on the occasion of a bar/bat mitzvah)
- **Torah Aliyot:** Minimum of 3 aliyot, each w/ 3 verse minimum (in Hebrew)
- **Hagbah/G'lila** (raising & dressing Torah) following the Torah reading
- **Haftarah** (chanted in Hebrew) occasionally abbreviated for the sake of time.
Special Haftarot are used for all Special Shabbatot (Rosh Chodesh, Machar Chodesh, Shabbat Chanukah 1, Shabbat Chanukah 2, Shabbat Shekalim, Zachor 1, Zachor 2, Parah, HaChodesh, HaGadol)

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2021-02-15 Mtg #3 SUMMARY: Shabbat Morning & Related Matters (1 of 2)

Considerable time was spent examining the details of each congregation's *Shabbat* morning practices — both *Torah* Study & *Shabbat* morning services (including *Torah* reading/chanting). The minhag of both congregations is a bit different.

Historically, CBI's *Shabbat* morning service tends to be more conversational & personal, focusing on the relevance of *Torah* to our lives; while in contrast, BSS *Torah* Study uses the foundational *Torah* text & Rabbinic & modern commentaries to engage with the *Torah* portion of the week to glean the *Torah*'s teachings & how those teachings can enrich our lives today.

There are also some differences in how these two components of *Shabbat* morning are conducted. In one of the congregations, the *Torah* study is incorporated into the *Shabbat* morning service, in place of the formal chanting of the *Torah* scroll; in the other congregation, the *Torah* study precedes the *Shabbat* morning service.

2021-02-15 Mtg #3 SUMMARY: Shabbat Morning & Related Matters (2 of 2)

However it is important to note that both congregations have a *Torah* Study & a *Shabbat* morning service each Saturday. Regardless of the current order of these rituals, each congregation spends between 2.25-2.5 hours on their *Shabbat* morning practices (that include *Shabbat* morning service & *Torah* Study).

The overall similarities in the congregations' *Shabbat* morning practices, will serve as an excellent foundation for which the incoming Rabbi and the congregants can collaborate in finalizing the details of the new congregation's *Shabbat* morning minhag.

Selichot Logistics

CURRENT PRACTICES

Selichot / special penitential prayers conducted late in the evening – often by candlelight – on the Saturday night a week before Rosh HaShanah.

Congregation B'nai Israel

- Earlier services/dinners have been held at times. A special Selichot Service was held as part of the Saturday Morning Minyan on the Saturday of Selichot
- Changing of the mantles was done as part of the Saturday Morning Minyan service

Beth Shalom Synagogue

- **8 pm Service & Change Torah Mantles**
Saturday evening a week before Rosh Hashanah
- **2019:**
6-8 pm Dinner & a Movie then Selichot service

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Selichot Logistics

FUTURE OPTIONS

•Other Elul events discussed:

- Educational offerings about Chesbon HaNefesh & preparing spiritually for HHD
- Shofar blowing
- Yoga
- Round Challah Baking
- Bike ride
- Meditation

•Other associated events?

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2021-03-01 Mtg #5 SUMMARY: High Holy Days & Related Matters

Elul - All agreed that during the Hebrew month of *Elul*, traditionally a time for personal reflection and spiritual preparation for the New Year, that Congregation New endeavor to offer a variety of opportunities for congregants' to engage in the act of *Cheshbon HaNefesh*, literally translated as "accounting of the soul."

Selichot - One of the *Elul* milestones, *Selichot*, the Saturday evening service a week prior to *Rosh Hashanah*, is considered important by each legacy congregation. The task force encouraged that a discussion be had and guidance be sought from the new rabbi regarding various options and formats that could be established as part of Congregation New's *Minhag* for *Selichot*.

Kever Avot v'Imahot Logistics

CURRENT PRACTICES

Kever Avot v'Imahot קִבְרֵ אֲבוֹת וְאִמָּהוֹת literally “graves of the fathers & mothers” the custom of visiting the graveside of parents or close relatives during the month of Elul & praying there.

Congregation B'nai Israel

- **4:30 pm** Memorial Service (*Kever Avot v'Imahot* (on Sunday afternoon between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur)

Beth Shalom Synagogue

- **Hasn't consistently been observed at BSS but was in 2020**
- **Timing:**
 - any Sunday morning in Elul (such as the Sunday morning after the Saturday evening of Selichot
 - the Sunday between RH and YK

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Kever Avot v'Imahot Logistics

FUTURE OPTIONS

- **Both cemeteries will be maintained — JSEC**
- **Will need to have two services — one at each cemetery**
 - **OPTION 1**
 - **Sunday prior to RH for BSS cemetery**
 - **Sunday between RH & YK for CBI cemetery**
 - **OPTION 2**
 - **If not Option 1 then Congregation New will need to clearly communicate any changes to the congregants**

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2021-03-01 Mtg #5 SUMMARY: High Holy Days & Related Matters

Kever Avot v'Imahot קִבְרֵי אָבוֹת וְאִמּוֹת literally “graves of the fathers & mothers” the custom of visiting the graveside of parents or close relatives during the month of *Elul* & praying there. Congregation B’nai Israel has a long-standing *Minhag* of visiting the Jewish Cemetery on the Sunday between *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur* at approximately 4pm. Beth Shalom Synagogue visits the graves of the “fathers and mothers” on the Sunday prior to *Rosh Hashanah*. Because there will be 2 cemeteries, hence the need for 2 services, it is recommended that maintaining the relative days for *Kever Avot*, remain the same as it would allow adequate time to visit the graves and have a brief prayer service. Because of the longstanding tradition of the timing of *Kever Avot* at each congregation, it is strongly recommended that any change to the current timing be clearly communicated well in advance.

HIGH HOLY DAYS SEATING

CURRENT PRACTICES

Congregation B'nai Israel

- **Seating Arrangements:** Open Seating
- no reserved seats
- **Tickets:** We have never charged or issued tickets to members or outsiders who wanted to attend High Holy Day Services
- **High Holiday Appeal** - an opportunity for congregants to provide an offering during the High Holy Day period.

Beth Shalom Synagogue

- Annual Cantor Fund contributions allow BSS HHD services to be enriched by the addition of a cantor.
- Cantor Fund donors (at the level of \$125/person, or \$500/family) may request HHD reserved seats.
- Other than Reserved Seating for Cantor Fund donors, seating is open.
- **Tickets:** We have never charged or issued HHD tickets to members or non-members.

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High Holy Days HONORS

CURRENT PRACTICES

Congregation B'nai Israel

- All congregant families are offered at least one of the many honors that are possible during the HHD services. These include:
 - Giving HHD Appeal testimonial
 - Greeters
 - Sitting on Bima
 - English or Hebrew readings
 - Opening & Closing the Ark
 - Carrying Torah scrolls for Hakafot
 - Torah Blessings
 - Hagbah (raising Torah)
 - G'lilah (dressing Torah)
 - Haftarah Blessings & Haftarah chanting
 - Shofar Blowing

Beth Shalom Synagogue

- All congregant families are offered at least one of the many honors that are possible during the HHD services. Congregants encouraged to donate in honor of their honor & HHDs. These include:
 - Greeters
 - English or Hebrew readings
 - Opening & Closing the Ark
 - Carrying Torah scrolls for Hakafot
 - Torah Blessings
 - Torah Chanting
 - Hagbah (raising Torah)
 - G'lilah (dressing Torah)
 - Haftarah Blessings & Haftarah chanting
 - Shofar Blowing & Calling the Shofar blasts

High Holy Days MUSIC

CURRENT PRACTICES

Congregation B'nai Israel

- Hired a Cantor or Cantorial Soloist. Used a combination of Cello, Organ, Piano and Guitar instrumentation

Beth Shalom Synagogue

- Professional cantorial services supplemented by home grown talent.
- Cello & piano for Kol Nidre.

Rosh Hashanah Services Logistics

CURRENT PRACTICES

Congregation B'nai Israel

1 Tishrei

- History of pre-RH community dinners
- **7 pm** Erev RH service 1.5 hr
- **8:30 pm** Sisterhood Oneg
- **8:45 am** Joint Children's Service*
- **10 am** RH Morning service (1.5-2 hr)
- Tashlich & Bagels
(Sunday morning btwn RH & YK)

2 Tishrei

- Not celebrated formally

Beth Shalom Synagogue

1 Tishrei

- History of pre-RH community dinners
- **7 pm** Erev RH service (1-1.5 hr)
- **8:30 pm** Sisterhood Oneg
- **8:45 am** Joint Children's RH service*
- **10 am** RH 1 morning service (2-2.5 hr)
- **2:30 pm** Tashlich (on day 1 if not Shabbat)

2 Tishrei

- **6 pm** Erev RH 2 dairy potluck
- **7 pm** Erev RH 2 service (1 hr)
- **10 am** RH 2 morning service (2 hr)
- **12 pm** Brotherhood Lunch

**30 minute Joint HHD Children's services have historically alternated between the two legacy congregations (RH @ CBI or BSS then YK @ the other).
Service led by BaRFTY & the Rabbi of the legacy congregation.*

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Tashlich - CBI's *Tashlich* service is usually conducted on the Sunday between *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur*, as part of the religious school experience, involving both students and their parents or caregivers. BSS has observed *Tashlich* on the traditional first day of *Rosh Hashanah* (or on the second day of *Rosh Hashanah* if the first day coincides with Shabbat).

2021-03-01 Mtg #5 SUMMARY: High Holy Days & Related Matters

Rosh Hashanah / Yom Kippur - General Considerations (1 of 4)

Entry Practices – Historically neither legacy congregation has required High Holy Day (HHD) tickets for entry into services.

Seating practices - CBI's HHD seating is first come, first served. Since 2008, BSS has encouraged participation in the HHD Cantorial Fund by offering the option for donors at the levels of \$125/individual or \$500/family to preselect and reserve specific HHD seats.

High Holiday Appeal - Both congregations have a means of special offerings during the HHD's, each is a bit different.

Each year, the CBI President appoints a congregant who makes the High Holy Day Appeal on Erev Rosh Hashanah and requests each family to consider a special donation to the synagogue during the upcoming High Holy Day season.

At BSS, there are a number of ways in which HHD donations are solicited. The BSS President's HHD remarks from the *bima* encourage congregants to make HHD donations. And congregants who have taken part in HHD service honors are encouraged to make a HHD donation in honor of their participation.

Both congregations provide addressed donation envelopes that are placed inside all the HHD *Machzorim*.

2021-03-01 Mtg #5 SUMMARY: High Holy Days & Related Matters

Rosh Hashanah / Yom Kippur - General Considerations (2 of 4)

High Holiday Text - During an earlier meeting of the Ritual Task Force, the “*Mishkan Hanefesh*” high holiday text was identified as the preferred book for all adult high holiday services at Congregation New.

High Holiday Honors - Both congregations’ HHD Honors are very similar. This is an inclusive list of those honors for planning purposes: Greeters, English or Hebrew readings, Opening & Closing the Ark, Carrying *Torah* scrolls for *Hakafot*, *Torah* Blessings, *Torah* Chanting, *Hagbah* (raising *Torah*), *G'lilah* (dressing *Torah*), *Haftarah* Blessings & *Haftarah* chanting, *Shofar* Blowing & Calling the *Shofar* blasts.

CBI also honors its prior Presidents with an invitation for the president and spouse to sit on the *Bimah* along with the Rabbi.

2021-03-01 Mtg #5 SUMMARY: High Holy Days & Related Matters

Rosh Hashanah / Yom Kippur - General Considerations (3 of 4)

High Holiday Music - Both congregations have a goal of either a high holiday cantorial soloist or cantor. BSS has a Cantorial fund that is used to offset the cost of having a high holiday cantor (see seating practices above).

Both congregations utilize a cello and piano for *Kol Nidre*. Guitars or other instruments are also used at CBI.

Of note is the CBI musical interlude, which historically has been used to set the tone for the *Yizkor* service, with music by the Cassin's playing viola and cello, and a few piano offerings as well. (*Kol Nidre* is always played again as part of the interlude)

2021-03-01 Mtg #5 SUMMARY: High Holy Days & Related Matters

Rosh Hashanah / Yom Kippur - General Considerations (4 of 4)

High Holiday Greeters - both congregations utilize greeters to welcome congregants and guests to the synagogue.

High Holiday Childcare - The Ritual Task Force unanimously agreed that offering High Holiday childcare services was an important way in which to facilitate full HHD participation by the caregivers of families with young children.

Rosh Hashanah - Specifics

Rosh Hashanah is celebrated on *Tishrei* 1 and 2 at BSS. CBI has *Rosh Hashanah* services only on day 1 of *Tishrei*. In discussing this practice, it was felt that both days should be offered at Congregation New, so that those who find celebrating the second day of *Rosh Hashanah* as part of their spiritual practice would have it available for them.

All agreed that a morning youth service should be offered with the option of babysitting services being available so that caregivers of families with young children could remain at the synagogue for morning services.

Insofar as the length of service, both congregations service length are about the same and so close that it is felt that the Rabbi for Congregation New can work within the usual parameters for *Rosh Hashanah* services.

Yom Kippur Services Logistics

CURRENT PRACTICES

Congregation B'nai Israel

10 Tishrei

- **7 pm** Kol Nidre/Erev YK service (1.5 hr)
- **8:45 am** Joint Children's YK Service*
- **10 am** Morning Service 10 am (2 hours)
- **1:30 pm** Interactive Discussion with Rabbi
- **2:30 pm** Musical Interlude
- **3 pm** Afternoon Service
- **4 pm** YIZKOR/Memorial Service
- **5 pm** Concluding Service
- **6 pm** Break Fast

Beth Shalom Synagogue

10 Tishrei

- **7:30 pm** Kol Nidre/Erev YK service (1.5hr)
- **8:45 am** Joint Children's YK Service*
- **10 am** YK morning service (2-2.5 hr)
- **3 pm** Study Session
- **4:30 pm** YK Afternoon service
- **6 pm** YIZKOR/Memorial Service
- **6:30 pm** Neilah/Concluding service
- **7:15 pm** Sisterhood Break the Fast

FYI: YK sunset over next decade is between 6:36 and 7:09 pm

**30 minute Joint HHD Children's services have historically alternated between the two legacy congregations (RH @ CBI or BSS then YK @ the other). Service led by BaRFTY & the Rabbi of the legacy congregation.*

10 Jewish Principles for Discussions

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5. Be patient & empathetic
6. Should you offend, then respectfully ask for forgiveness
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Ritual Task Force Mission

- Understand & clarify differences
- Suggest options to resolve differences

2021-03-09 Mtg #6 SUMMARY: Yom Kippur & Rest of Holidays

Yom Kippur - Specifics (1 of 3)

The Ritual Task Force evaluated *Yom Kippur* by evaluating the individual prayerful experiences at each Synagogue. Discussion was had regarding the global *Yom Kippur* experience and with similarities noted, a review of the differences ensued. Short of timing, the offerings were very similar. There were several differences identified: the start time for evening *Yom Kippur* services, CBI's musical interlude for the afternoon, the amount of down time between morning and afternoon services and the targeted time at which point the services would conclude on the day of *Yom Kippur*.

There was a discussion about the various start times of the *Erev Yom Kippur / Kol Nidre* services over the years for both congregations. It was agreed that a 7:30 pm start time would be the most appropriate for the *Erev Yom Kippur / Kol Nidre* service.

2021-03-09 Mtg #6 SUMMARY: Yom Kippur & Rest of Holidays

Yom Kippur - Specifics (2 of 3)

In discussing the musical interlude, all agreed that Congregation New should strive to have the musical interlude during the day of *Yom Kippur*, and specifically prior to *Yizkor*, in order to set the mood for that service.

In regard to mid-day offerings, a discussion was had as to what might be done during the mid-day downtime between morning services and the start of *Yom Kippur* afternoon offerings. The previously conducted lay led CBI midday meditational or other meaningful readings were described and discussed. The concept would be to have a lay led opportunity during which time the Rabbi could take a break and those that wished to stay could continue with *Yom Kippur* readings and meditations, until the afternoon offerings would start.

2021-03-09 Mtg #6 SUMMARY: Yom Kippur & Rest of Holidays

Yom Kippur - Specifics (3 of 3)

Finally a discussion was held in regards to the timing of when the *Yom Kippur* services would end. The actual time of sunset was reviewed for the upcoming 10 years, and it was noted that sunset occurred somewhere between 6:36 pm and 7:09 pm. After a thorough discussion, it was determined that the best targeted time to conclude would be 6:30 pm. It was noted that those who wanted to fast to the exact time of sunset would still be able to do so; and for those for whom the conclusion of the service would be the appropriate time for a break the fast experience, could also be accommodated.

Overall it was agreed that given some flexibility, the Rabbi of Congregation New could work together with a ritual committee to identify the best times that would meet the needs of Congregation New and meld the activities for a meaningful *Yom Kippur* experience.

High Holy Days TORAH SERVICES

CURRENT PRACTICES

Details of HHD Torah services included here to document current minhagim of each legacy congregation.
Since Torah & Haftarah decisions are ultimately Rabbinic this slide was not discussed during Ritual Task Force Mtg.

Congregation B'nai Israel

- **Hakafah:** circling through congregation with Torah scroll at beginning of the Torah service
- **Torah Aliyot:** a minimum of 3 aliyot on High Holidays
 - **RH 1:** 5 aliyot Genesis 22:1-19
 - (no maftir)
 - **RH 2:** No Readings
 - **YK AM:** 6 aliyot Deut. 29:9-14;30:11-20
 - (no maftir)
 - **YK PM:** No Afternoon Torah Service
- **Hagbah/G'lila** after Torah reading
- **Haftarah:**
 - **RH 1:** 1st Samuel 1:1-26
 - **RH 2:** No readings
 - **YK AM:** Jonah Chapters 1-4^{in English}
 - **YK PM:** No Afternoon Torah service
- Haftarah blessing & reading chanted in Hebrew.(at times depending upon the reader's Hebrew skills the Haftarah blessing & reading will be in English, or the Hebrew Haftarah blessing w/English Haftarah reading.

Beth Shalom Synagogue

Blessings & chanting in Hebrew except YK PM Haftarah. HHD trope used.

- **Hakafah w/2 scrolls:** 2nd Torah for Maftir
- **Torah Aliyot:**
 - **RH 1:** 5 aliyot Genesis 22:1-19⁷ on Shabbat 22:1-24 + Maftir (Numbers 29:1-6)
 - **RH 2:** 5 aliyot Genesis 1:1-2:3 + Maftir (Numbers 29:1-6)
 - **YK AM:** 6 aliyot Deut. 29:9-14;30:1-20⁷ on Shabbat + Maftir (Numbers 29:7-11)
 - **YK PM:** 3 aliyot Leviticus 19:1-18; 32-37 (no maftir on YK afternoon)
- **Hagbah/G'lila** after Torah reading
- **Haftarah:**
 - **RH 1:** 1st Samuel 1:21-2:10
 - **RH 2:** Jeremiah 31:10-20
 - **YK AM:** Isaiah 58:1-14
 - **YK PM:** Jonah Chapters 1-4^{in English}

Sukkot Services Logistics

CURRENT PRACTICES

Congregation B'nai Israel

- **Brotherhood builds Sukkah** Sunday morning prior to Sukkot
- **Sukkot Picnic** (Sunday morning after religious school during Sukkot)
- **Shabbat Service with Oneg in Sukkah** (Shabbat during Sukkot)

Beth Shalom Synagogue

15-21 Tishrei

- **Brotherhood Sukkah Build** Sunday morning prior to Sukkot
- **Erev Sukkot:**
Decorating Sukkah, Dairy Potluck in the Sukkah, short evening service
- **1st morning of Sukkot:** Festival Morning service
- **Saturday evening of Sukkot**
Sukkah Hop & Progressive Dinner
- **Kohelet / Ecclesiastes studied**

10 Jewish Principles for Discussions

1. Recognize that each of us is created in God's image & act accordingly
2. Arguments for the sake of heaven should not involve an ulterior motive or any ego & are destined to endure
3. Listening quietly & reflectively while others speak
4. Speaking truthfully but careful
5. Be patient & empathetic
6. Should you offend, then respectfully ask for forgiveness
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Ritual Task Force Mission

- Understand & clarify differences
- Suggest options to resolve differences

Sh'mini Atzeret & Simchat Torah Logistics

CURRENT PRACTICES

Historically, Sh'mini Atzeret & Simchat Torah were two separate holidays (a day of reflection after Sukkot & a celebration of Torah the following day). However, in Israel & in Reform congregations, which generally observe one day of holidays rather than two, Sh'mini Atzeret is observed concurrently w/ Simchat Torah.

Congregation B'nai Israel

- 1st Sunday religious school following Simchat Torah
 - Consecration
 - Festival celebration
- No Yizkor Service

Beth Shalom Synagogue 22 Tishrei

- EVENING:
 - Brotherhood Simchat Torah Deli Dinner
 - Simchat Torah Evening Service w/Consecration
 - Torah Mantles changed at beginning
 - 7 Hakafot (7th = Candy Hakafah)
- MORNING:
 - Sh'mini Atzeret Festival Morning & **YIZKOR** service

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Ritual Task Force Mission

- Understand & clarify differences
- Suggest options to resolve differences

Chanukah Logistics

CURRENT PRACTICES

Congregation B'nai Israel

- Chanukah Party
- Usually some type of congregational celebration / Latke dinner often as part of a Shabbat Celebration

Beth Shalom Synagogue

25 Kislev - 2 Tevet

Depending on when Chanukah falls, there is one of two community Chanukah celebrations with latkes

- **Shabbanukkah** Party, Dinner & Service
- **Havdalukkah** Party, Dinner & Service

10 Jewish Principles for Discussions

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Ritual Task Force Mission

- Understand & clarify differences
- Suggest options to resolve differences

Tu B'Shevat Logistics

CURRENT PRACTICES

Tu B'Shevat / New Year of the Trees is a minor, festive holiday that falls on the 15th day of the month of Shevat (named by the addition of the two Hebrew letters — ת Tav (representing 9) & ו Vav (representing 6) that equal 15).

In the 17th century, Kabbalists created a ritual for Tu B'Shevat that is similar to a Passover seder. Today, many Jews hold a modern version of the Tu B'Shevat seder each year. The holiday has become a Jewish Earth Day with special emphasis on tree planting.

Congregation B'nai Israel

- Celebrated at Sunday religious school during the week of 15 of Shevat
- Seder conducted at Saturday Morning Minyan Service closest to 15 Shevat

Beth Shalom Synagogue

- Usually observed sometime during the week of the 15 of Shevat
- Variety of Tu B'Shevat observances, such as:
 - **Tu B'Shevat Seder** during Torah Study
 - **Tu B'Shevat Seder** during Religious School
 - **Tu B'Shevat & Pet Blessing**

10 Jewish Principles for Discussions

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Ritual Task Force Mission

- Understand & clarify differences
- Suggest options to resolve differences

Purim Logistics

CURRENT PRACTICES

Four Mitzvot of Purim:

- (1) Sending *Mishloach Manot*^{Hebrew} or *Shalach Manot*^{Yiddish} / food & drink gifts to friends
- (2) *Matanot La'evyonim* / giving to the poor
- (3) *Seudah* / festive meal
- (4) Hearing the reading of the Megillah Esther

Congregation B'nai Israel

14 Adar

- **Megillah reading / Purim Dinner** on evening of Purim
- **Purim Carnival & celebration** during closest Sunday Religious School

Beth Shalom Synagogue

14 Adar

- **Shalach Manot fundraiser**
- **Matanot La'evyonim** / giving to the poor
Collect donations for Food bank or St. Vincent de Paul Pharmacy
- **Purim Dairy Potluck Party with Hamantashen**
- **Purim service** (+/- Schpiel)

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- Suggest options to resolve differences

Pesach Logistics

CURRENT PRACTICES

Congregation B'nai Israel

- **1st Night** Seder Celebrated in homes
- **2nd Night** Community Seder at synagogue

Beth Shalom Synagogue 15-21 Nisan

- **1st Seder** celebrated in homes
(KabShab Shabbat services cancelled if 1st Seder falls on a Friday evening)
- **Pesach 1 Morning Service**
- **2nd Seder** celebrated as a community
- **Pesach 7 Morning Service & YIZKOR**
- **Shir HaShirim / Song of Songs** studied

10 Jewish Principles for Discussions

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Ritual Task Force Mission

- Understand & clarify differences
- Suggest options to resolve differences

Yom HaShoah Logistics

CURRENT PRACTICES

Congregation B'nai Israel

- Community-wide Yom HaShoah observance, in conjunction with BSS & JFGBR, on the nearest Sunday afternoon

Beth Shalom Synagogue

- Community-wide Yom HaShoah observance, in conjunction with CBI & JFGBR, on the nearest Sunday afternoon to **Nisan 27**
- The Advocate sponsors Holocaust Essay writing competition

10 Jewish Principles for Discussions

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Ritual Task Force Mission

- Understand & clarify differences
- Suggest options to resolve differences

Yom HaShoah Logistics

FUTURE OPTIONS

27 Nisan

- **Continue community-wide Yom HaShoah observance, in conjunction with JFGBR, on the nearest Sunday afternoon**
- **The Advocate sponsors Holocaust Essay writing competition**

10 Jewish Principles for Discussions

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Ritual Task Force Mission

- Understand & clarify differences
- Suggest options to resolve differences

Yom HaAtzmaut Logistics

CURRENT PRACTICES

Congregation B'nai Israel

- No specific activities

Beth Shalom Synagogue

5 Iyyar

- **Israel Independence Day celebration**
celebrated with a party on the nearest weekend to 5 Iyyar

10 Jewish Principles for Discussions

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Ritual Task Force Mission

- Understand & clarify differences
- Suggest options to resolve differences

Lag B'Omer Logistics

CURRENT PRACTICES

Lag BaOmer is a minor, festive holiday that falls on the 33rd day of the seven-week period between Passover and Shavuot, a period of time known as the Omer. (The numerical value of the Hebrew letter **ל** *lamed* is 30, and the value of **ג** *gimel* is three; *lamed* and *gimel* together are pronounced “lag.”)

Congregation B'nai Israel

- No specific activities

Beth Shalom Synagogue 18 Iyyar

- Have seldom observed this particular minor holiday
- During all synagogue services beginning at the 2nd Seder and continuing until Shavuot, BSS observes the counting of the Omer, known as *S'firat HaOmer*

10 Jewish Principles for Discussions

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Ritual Task Force Mission

- Understand & clarify differences
- Suggest options to resolve differences

Shavuot Logistics

CURRENT PRACTICES

Congregation B'nai Israel

- Shabbat near Shavuot is usually celebrated as Shavuot and Confirmation (if there is a conflict with Dream Street, the date may be adjusted)

Beth Shalom Synagogue

6 Sivan

- Erev Shavuot & Confirmation
- Tikkun Leil Shavuot / Evening Study Session
- Shavuot Morning Service & **YIZKOR**
- Study the Book of Ruth

10 Jewish Principles for Discussions

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Ritual Task Force Mission

- Understand & clarify differences
- Suggest options to resolve differences

Tisha B'Av Logistics

CURRENT PRACTICES

Observed on the 9th (tisha) of the Hebrew month of Av, is a day of mourning the destruction of both ancient Temples in Jerusalem. In modern times, many Jews understand Tishah B'Av as a day to remember many tragedies that have befallen the Jewish people throughout history, and to reflect on the suffering that still occurs in our world.

Congregation B'nai Israel

- No specific activities

Beth Shalom Synagogue 9 Av

- Evening Tisha B'Av service
 - Sanctuary lights dimmed
 - congregants sit on low stools or on the floor
 - Eicha / Lamentations is chanted

10 Jewish Principles for Discussions

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Ritual Task Force Mission

- Understand & clarify differences
- Suggest options to resolve differences

2021-03-09 Mtg #6 SUMMARY: Yom Kippur & Rest of Holidays

Holidays (1 of 3)

In regard to the other Jewish Holidays, it was determined that making certain offerings (spiritual and historical events) was important and the following were considered:

- **Selichot** - Prep for high holy days held on the Saturday a week before before Rosh Hashanah
- **Kever Avot v'Imahot** - Visiting the graves of our loved ones
- **Rosh Hashanah** - The Jewish New Year
- **Yom Kippur** - The Day of Atonement
- **Sukkot** - The Feast of Tabernacles or in some translations the Festival of Shelters
- **Sh'mini Atzeret** - The eighth (day) of assembly. The day (or two days) after Sukkot.*
- **Simchat Torah** - Jewish holiday that celebrates and marks the conclusion of the annual cycle of public Torah readings, and the beginning of a new cycle*

*Historically, Sh'mini Atzeret & Simchat Torah were two separate holidays (a day of reflection after Sukkot & a celebration of Torah the following day). However, in Israel & in Reform congregations, which generally observe one day of holidays rather than two, Sh'mini Atzeret is observed concurrently w/ Simchat Torah.

- **Chanukah** - The festival of lights, celebrating the rededication of the temple
- **Tu B'Shevat** - A celebration of trees, a "new year or birthday" of trees
- **Purim** - Commemorates the defeat of Haman's plot to massacre the Jews as recorded in the book of Esther

2021-03-09 Mtg #6 SUMMARY: Yom Kippur & Rest of Holidays

Holidays (2 of 3)

- **Pesach - Passover** - Major Jewish spring festival which commemorates the liberation of the Israelites from Egyptian slavery
- **Yom HaShoah** - A day of remembrance of the Holocaust
- **Yom HaAtzmaut** - Israel Independence Day celebration
- **Lag B'Omer** - Seven-week period between Passover and *Shavuot*, a period of time known as the *Omer* - being the 33rd day of the Omer, traditionally in commemoration of the end of the plague that killed Rabbi Akiba's students or of the bravery of Bar Kokba, also the day that Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, "the Rashbi", a Mishnaic sage and leading disciple of Rabbi Akiva in the 2nd century, and the day on which he revealed the deepest secrets of kabbalah in the form of the *Zohar*
- **Shavuot** - Commemorates the anniversary of the giving of the Torah by God to the Children of Israel at Mount Sinai
- **Tisha B'Av** - Day of mourning the destruction of both ancient Temples in Jerusalem. In modern times, many Jews understand *Tishah B'Av* as a day to remember many tragedies that have befallen the Jewish people throughout history, and to reflect on the suffering that still occurs in our world.

It was noted that only BSS celebrated the following festivals and events: *Sefirat Ha Omer* (Counting of the Omer) between 2nd Day *Pesach* & *Shavuot*, *Tisha B'Av* (a day of mourning the destruction of both ancient Temples in Jerusalem). *Yizkor* service during the Festival morning services at the end of *Sukkot* & *Pesach*, and also during the *Shavuot* Festival morning service.

2021-03-09 Mtg #6 SUMMARY: Yom Kippur & Rest of Holidays

Holidays (3 of 3)

After some very heartfelt discussion, and a look forward to all of the holiday offerings and other Jewish experiences, it was determined that the overall plan would be to initially offer all holiday and event experiences for all congregants to participate in, even if it was for only a few. The hope and expectation would be that with enthusiastic public relations and creative programming and as fellowship grows in Congregation New, that participation would also increase. However, if after a look back fails to demonstrate enthusiastic participation, then changes in service or event offerings could be modified.

B'NAI MITZVAH REQUIREMENTS

CURRENT PRACTICES

Congregation B'nai Israel

- Be members in good financial standing at the beginning of the formal B'nai Mitzvah training (5th Grade)
- All dues & fees paid in full two months prior to B'nai Mitzvah date
- Enrolled in Religious school, as well as B'nai Mitzvah class; and attend throughout the year of B'nai Mitzvah
- Attend a minimum of 10 Shabbat services in the year prior to B'nai Mitzvah
- Submit a Mitzvah Project to RS director and spend a minimum of 10-15 hours on the approved project
- Individual tutoring provided by lay and rabbinic leadership when needed

Beth Shalom Synagogue

- Be members in good financial standing to begin B'nai Mitzvah preparations
- In most recent years, individual tutoring provided by lay and rabbinic leadership
- Encouraged to attend Shabbat services in the year prior to B'nai Mitzvah
- B'nai Mitzvah Project encouraged but not required

B'NAI MITZVAH FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

CURRENT PRACTICES

Congregation B'nai Israel

- Be members in good financial standing at the beginning of the formal B'nai Mitzvah (BM) training (5th Grade)
- \$300 BM Class deposit (due @ time of registration)
- \$300 BM Class balance (due @ first class)
- \$100 BM Service fee (kippot, candy, gifts, certificates, etc) (due two months prior to date)
- \$125 Cantorial Soloist or Musician / service (due two months prior to date)
- Donation to Rabbi's Discretionary Fund (optional)
- Room Rentals & Associated Fees^{as of 6/1/2011}
(all prices include security & custodian)
 - Shabbat Dinner in Youth Room: \$300 for 4 hours
 - Kiddush Luncheon in Auditorium: \$400 for 4 hours
 - Saturday Night Party in Auditorium: \$400 for 4 hours
 - Saturday Night Party in Auditorium & Youth Room: \$500 for 4 hours
 - Custodial overtime (beyond 4 hours) \$25/hour
 - Linen Rental \$3 / linen

Beth Shalom Synagogue

- Be members in good financial standing to begin B'nai Mitzvah preparations
- Donations encouraged in honor of B'nai Mitzvah teachers (Rabbinic or lay)

B'NAI MITZVAH RECOGNITION

CURRENT PRACTICES

Congregation B'nai Israel

- CBI B'nai Mitzvah minhag is to provide the following:
 - Sisterhood Shabbat Candle holder set
 - \$150.00 Certificate towards the NFTY/HSJ trip to Israel
 - Kiddush Cup For Bar Mitzvah and Candle Sticks for Bat Mitzvah Celebrants (Sisterhood)
 - Bar/Bat Mitzvah Certificate
 - Commemorative Torah Portion (Dr. Brandt)

Beth Shalom Synagogue

- BSS B'nai Mitzvah minhag is to provide the following:
 - personalized embossed Mishkan T'filah siddur
 - Congregational assistance with Friday Night Oneg prep & refreshments
 - B'nai Mitzvah Shabbat Daf
 - Sisterhood/Brotherhood gift to B'nai Mitzvah
 - B'nai Mitzvah certificate
 - NFTY in Israel certificate
 - Use of Kitchen, Social Hall, Green Room, Library during B'nai Mitzvah weekend
 - Custodial fees
 - Linens

BAR & BAT MITZVOT MILESTONES

CURRENT PRACTICES

Congregation B'nai Israel

- **B'nai Mitzvah** leads some of the services
- **Torah Blessings:** chanted in Hebrew
- **Torah Aliyot:** a minimum of 3 aliyot
- **Haftarah blessing & reading** chanted in Hebrew (at times depending upon the reader's Hebrew skills the Haftarah blessing & reading will be in English, or the Hebrew Haftarah blessing w/English Haftarah reading.)
- **Dvar Torah:** After engaging with the words of the Parshat HaShavuah (week's Torah portion), the bar/bat mitzvah shares what he/she has gleaned.
- **Tikkun Olam/Mitzvah project**

Beth Shalom Synagogue

- **Kabbalat Shabbat & Shacharit Shabbat:** B'nai Mitzvah leads some of the Shabbat services
- **Torah Blessings:** chanted in Hebrew
- **Torah Aliyot:** minimum of 3 aliyot (each with a minimum of 3 verses) chanted
- **Haftarah Blessings:** chanted in Hebrew
- **Haftarah:** some portion of the Haftarah chanted in Hebrew
- **Dvar Torah:** After engaging with the words of the Parshat HaShavuah (week's Torah portion), the bar/bat mitzvah shares what he/she has gleaned.
- **Tikkun Olam/Mitzvah project**

B'nai Mitzvah (1 of 6)

Both organizations have formal *b'nai mitzvah* programs which have been documented in writing and in practice. The group drifted into the realm of “finances of the b'nai mitzvah prerequisites and requirements,” and after a discussion it was determined that this would be a topic best forwarded to and addressed by the finance taskforce.

Upon becoming a *b'nai mitzvah*, traditionally at age 12 or 13, our Jewish young people are ceremonially recognized by the community as being able to take on new religious privileges and responsibilities -- the foremost of which is being called up to the *Torah* to recite the *Torah aliyah* blessings before and after the reading of the week's *Torah* portion.

B'nai Mitzvah (2 of 6)

The Ritual Task Force acknowledges that a partnership, between the congregation and the families with children, is essential for our youngest congregants to be able to reach this Jewish life cycle milestone. It is recommended that Congregation New be committed to offering Jewish and Hebrew education to our school aged and adult members, as well as offering *Shabbat* and Jewish Holiday programming that meets the needs of families with young children in order that they can connect deeply with the rhythms, values and practices of Jewish life. It is also recognized that the caregivers of these pre-*b'nai mitzvah* age congregants must show a mutual commitment to the goal of their child eventually being prepared for their *b'nai mitzvah* by prioritizing attendance at these *Shabbat*, Holiday and educational offerings. One possible way to formally demonstrate this mutual commitment between the congregation and the family to raising Jewishly-educated children is to present all of our Consecration students with a *yad*. This *yad* could be mounted on a frame for future removal and use during their subsequent training and then later on the *Shabbat* when they are called to the *Torah* as a *b'nai mitzvah*.

B'nai Mitzvah (3 of 6)

Reaching the goal of becoming a *b'nai mitzvah* at age 12 or 13, should be an enriching Jewish experience for both the student and the family. In order for this *b'nai mitzvah* goal to be reached in such a positive manner, the caregivers in families with young children must be made aware of the specific objectives that their child should meet each year of their religious and Hebrew education. The Ritual Task Force would encourage making several opportunities available to those on the path to *b'nai mitzvah* and their families by offering a *b'nai mitzvah* family education program once in 5th grade and twice in 6th grade.

The ceremonial coming of age during the *Shabbat b'nai mitzvah* celebration demonstrates that the *b'nai mitzvah* is prepared to take their place as an adult member of the congregation. Their willingness is demonstrated by their participation in three important components of Jewish life -- Jewish communal worship, the *Torah* service, and *Tikkun Olam*.

B'nai Mitzvah (4 of 6)

The titles of *bar mitzvah* and *bat mitzvah* are given to all Jews who reach the age of 12 or 13, regardless of whether or not they have studied to commemorate the occasion with a ritual, ceremony, or celebration. The Ritual Task Force hopes that Congregation New will build a community that will engage and inspire families such that all of them will want to mark this milestone in a formal way. That typically includes a demonstration of acceptance of the *bar* or *bat mitzvah's* place as an adult member of the community by participating as such in *Shabbat* worship.

Each of our students is *b'tzelim elohim*, created in God's image, and as such, each will possess different abilities and learning styles. It is important that Congregation New be committed to creating an individualized learning plan that will ensure each child's success. The Ritual Task Force hopes that Congregation New will focus upon creating a meaningful b'nai mitzvah experience that will best reflect each student's strengths and interests while helping them achieve success in each of the three areas of adult Jewish life -- **Jewish Communal Worship**, **Torah Service**, and **Tikkun Olam**.

B'nai Mitzvah (5 of 6)

Regarding **Jewish Communal Worship**, the *b'nai mitzvah* should strive to become familiar with the structure and meaning of the *Shabbat* evening and *Shabbat* morning worship. The *b'nai mitzvah* may lead some or all of the *Shabbat* services during their *b'nai mitzvah Shabbat*.

Being called to the **Torah** for an *aliyah* blessing for the very first time is the pinnacle of the communal celebration of a *b'nai mitzvah*. In addition to being given the honor of a *Torah* blessing *aliyah*, the *b'nai mitzvah* may also learn to read or chant some of the week's *Torah* portion, *Haftarah* blessings and *Haftarah* portion during the *Shabbat Torah* service. At the end of the *Torah* service, the *b'nai mitzvah* has the opportunity to teach the congregation, by sharing their *D'var Torah* (literally, words of *Torah*). The *D'var Torah* is the *b'nai mitzvah's* chance to reflect on the teachings that they gleaned from the week's *Torah* or *Haftarah* portion, or what the *b'nai mitzvah* experience has taught them.

B'nai Mitzvah (6 of 6)

Tikkun olam, repairing the world, is central to Reform Judaism, and it encompasses all of our responsibilities as Jews to bring the world closer to God's vision of wholeness and perfection. Today, *Tikkun Olam* is identified with working for social justice, peace, freedom, equality and the restoration of the environment. It therefore follows that each *b'nai mitzvah* student be encouraged to explore how they translate their Jewish values into tangible actions and improvements in the lives of others through a *b'nai mitzvah tikkun olam* project.

B'nai mitzvah preparations should be a time for the entire family to have an enriching and joyful Jewish experience. The future congregation should, through family education and programming, demonstrate how families can carve out time together to create powerful and memorable Jewish experiences. Such examples of memorable Jewish time together might include: working on a *Tikkun Olam* project together, making *challah* as a family, or marking the beginning and ending of *Shabbat* with candle lighting & *Havdalah* observances.

JEWISH DIETARY RESTRICTIONS @ TEMPLE/SYNAGOGUE

CURRENT PRACTICES

Congregation B'nai Israel

B'nai Mitzvah Handbook (CBI website 3/1/21)

In an effort to make as many people as possible comfortable eating in our synagogue, we ask that you be sensitive to the Jewish dietary laws when arranging your menu.

- Pork (bacon, ham, pepperoni, etc.), shellfish (crabs, oysters, crawfish, etc.) and fish such as catfish and shark may not be served inside the Temple.
- Dairy products and meat (including chicken) may not be mixed at the same meal (ie: chicken parmesan, cheeseburgers, etc.).
- Prior to finalizing your menu choices with the caterer, you must submit a list of the food and beverages that will be served to the Rabbi for approval.

Beth Shalom Synagogue

BSS 2021 Yearbook (adopted by BSS board 10/13/2009)

We hope that all Jews will be comfortable in our Synagogue and at our functions. Our kitchen policy represents an earnest effort to observe and respect the laws of Kashrut. We recognize that the kitchen facilities are not strictly Kosher, but these policies are intended to be as inclusive of the Jewish community as possible.

The following guidelines must be observed when food is served in our Synagogue building.

- No pork (or pork by-products) or non-kosher seafood.
- Meat and dairy products not be served simultaneously.
- **Meat must be certified Kosher.** Meat meals should be served with parve products and parve desserts.
- Baked goods and commercially prepared products using only vegetable oil (**free of lard/animal fat**) should be served.

2021-03-31 Mtg #8 SUMMARY: Dietary Restrictions @ Congregation New

The dietary guidelines of both synagogues were compared and found to be remarkably similar, with the exception of Beth Shalom's requirement for certified Kosher meat. To that end the following guidelines are recommended:

While it is recommended that private, off premises parties, held in conjunction with Jewish celebrations or life events, and hosted by private individual(s) follow these Dietary Guidelines, it is neither mandatory nor required.

The following dietary guidelines apply to all foods served during any Synagogue sponsored activity for Congregation New, whether on premises (inside or outside) or off premises.

- Pork (bacon, ham, pepperoni, etc.), shellfish (crabs, oysters, crawfish, etc.) and fish such as catfish and shark may not be served inside the Synagogue.
- Dairy products and meat (including chicken) may not be mixed at the same meal (ie: chicken parmesan, cheeseburgers, etc.).
- Preparation of any baked goods or other foods should use only vegetable oils, and be free of lard or animal fat.
- While we are interested in preserving Jewish traditions, and in being mindful of the practices of our current and future congregants, as well as the general Jewish community, Kosher meats are preferred and encouraged. If a meat is not certified as Kosher, it should be clearly labeled as such.
- For on-premises events, congregants are asked to submit a complete food and beverage menu to the Rabbi for approval prior to finalizing their choices for any event they are sponsoring.

SYNAGOGUE SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

on Shabbat & other days requiring Shabbat type observance

2021-03-31 Mtg #8 SUMMARY: Synagogue Supported Activities on Shabbat

The next issue that was discussed was what Synagogue supported activities could occur on *Shabbat* and other holy days. The work prohibition on *Shabbat* extends to these *Shabbat*-like holy days, *Rosh Hashanah*, *Yom Kippur*, first day of *Sukkot*, *Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah*, first and seventh day of *Pesach*, and *Shavuot*.

Three categories of activities were identified by the Ritual Task Force as potentially having the merit to be supported by Congregation New on *Shabbat* and *Shabbat*-like holy days.

The three categories are:

- Jewish educational activities (such as a scholar/artist in residence, Jewish book club or Jewish cooking club)
- *Tikkun Olam* activities (such as preparing food for food pantry)
- Hiddur mitzvah (beautifying the *mitzvah*) activities (decorating for an on premises *b'nai mitzvah* party)

Activities should be evaluated upon their individual merits and their support of the three categories listed above.

It was unanimously agreed that worship services, *Torah* study and any accompanying festive meal should be prioritized on *Shabbat* and these *Shabbat*-like holy days, and that none of these three other supported activities should interfere with worship, *Torah* study or the festive meal.

In Conclusion (1 of 3)

During the collaborative effort to understand the established customs and rituals of our two congregations, the Ritual Task Force members developed mutual respect for and trust in each other. It was in this state of shared understanding that we were able to engage with each other in an open, honest, and sincere fashion while examining the many issues of ritual and custom.

The following two items were felt to require more in-depth consideration if and when Congregation New is established.

Additional discussions are needed regarding how to best utilize the Union Prayer Book during Congregation New's Friday evening Shabbat worship. Further discussions between Congregation New's rabbi, those who embrace the Union Prayer Book liturgy, and other congregants will be necessary in order to determine the optimal approach to creating a fulfilling Shabbat experience for all.

In Conclusion (2 of 3)

While the Ritual Task Force endorsed Congregation New's observance of all the Jewish holidays and commemorations detailed in this summary; it is recommended, that after an appropriate period of time (2-4 years) after the new congregation is established, a review be undertaken to determine whether there is value, relevance and congregational support for the programming and activities that are initially established.

The Ritual Task Force members prioritized finding inclusive solutions to resolving differences identified during our systematic exploration of our Shabbat and holiday observances, b'nai mitzvah preparations, and kashrut standards. Ultimately our discussions did not identify any major barriers to building a stronger, more inclusive and unified Reform congregation in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

In Conclusion (3 of 3)

We welcome inquiries requesting clarification that would permit a reader to better understand this report. To that end, we have included each Ritual Task Force member's contact information below.

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REMINDER

Please forward your thoughts & concerns to us after each meeting so that we can be aware of your ideas & address them at an appropriate time.

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FUTURE MEETING DATES

JSEC Taskforce on Ritual

TIME

TBA

DAY & DATE

TBA