

The Kibbitzer

Congregation Beth Shalom of Brandon

706 Bryan Road, Brandon, FL 33511

Phone (813) 6816547

www.BethShalomBrandon.org

November 2025/5786 Volume 36 Issue 7

Released!



Israelis erupt in joy as last living hostages released after 738 days in Gaza

As 20 captives begin return to Israel, tens of thousands gather at Hostages Square in Tel Aviv and around the country to watch live feeds of their release

The Times of Israel, Toi Staff, 13 October 2025

Israelis celebrated throughout the country on Monday as the final 20 living hostages were returned to Israel after 738 days of captivity in the Gaza Strip.

Tens of thousands of Israeli flooded Tel Aviv's Hostages Square — two years to the day since the October 7 attack according to the Hebrew calendar — to watch a live feed of the hostages' release.

In the square, which has been the site of hundreds of protests and rallies calling for the hostages' release over the past two years of war, revelers popped champagne bottles, cheered and hugged one another.

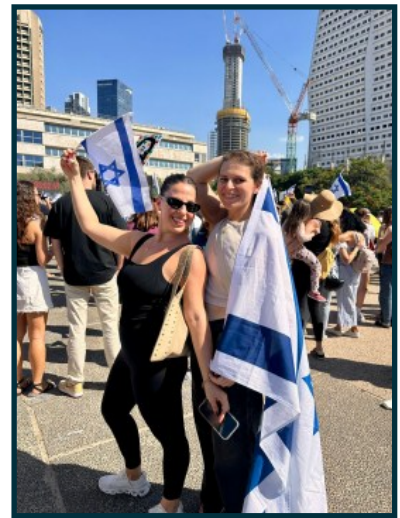
Some waved Israeli and American flags, some held signs thanking US President Donald Trump for his efforts to secure the hostages' release, and others stood silently, taking in the moment.

In living rooms around the country, the families of the captives tearfully watched the scenes and embraced each other in relief and joy as their loved ones appeared on screen and were returned to Israel.

Others lined the roads outside the Re'im base in southern Israel, where the released hostages arrived after being transferred by the Red Cross to Israeli forces in Gaza, cheering on the families that came to be reunited with their loved ones and waiting to welcome the freed hostages once they made their way to hospitals in central Israel.



Hostage Square, Tel Aviv, 13 October 2025



President's Column



9 October 2025

Shalom, friends,

As I sit down to write this, our High Holy Days have just passed, and we're about to gather for Sukkot under our beautiful Sukkah, enjoying my wife's Oneg with delicious snacks and wine. I wanted to take a moment to reflect and share some gratitude with you all.

Steve Billor

Last month, I was hoping for a good turnout for our High Holy Days—and I'm thrilled to say we had an amazing gathering! It was wonderful to see familiar faces, some members we haven't seen in a while, and so many new families joining us. I truly believe that some of our visitors will become part of our CBS family in the future.

Our services were especially moving this year. We began with a heartfelt Rosh Hashanah celebration, and returned for Erev Yom Kippur, where a cellist and pianist played Kol Nidre so beautifully that everyone was captivated. Hearing Kol Nidre performed twice was a real treat, and our own Cantorial soloist, Sandy Santucci, concluded the evening with her delightful singing. After Yom Kippur, we broke the fast together, sharing wonderful food prepared by our dedicated volunteers, all under the careful supervision of Gerry Gutenstein.

I want to express my deepest thanks to everyone who made "Mitzvah Donations" during the High Holy Days. Your generosity helps keep our synagogue strong. Remember, we have members who will match donations up to \$15,000 through November—so if you haven't sent in your High Holy Day Mitzvah donation yet, please consider helping us continue our important work.

Looking ahead, our next big event is the B'nai Mitzvah of Jack and Abby Rosenthal on October 25th. I hope our congregation will come together to celebrate their achievements. The Rosenthal family has warmly invited everyone to join in this special occasion, and I know many of us share in their excitement as if Jack and Abby were our own children.

With the Jewish New Year upon us, I encourage you to make this the year you become more involved in our synagogue and your Jewish faith. Let's start fresh together, finding new direction and meaning with Hashem and our community.

Thank you (Todah Rabah) for taking the time to read this. I'm grateful for each of you.

Warmly,
Steve Billor



L'Dor Vador in Today's Complex World



Gabe Lifschitz

In last month's *Kibbitzer*, I emphasized the importance of prioritizing families—especially parents with children. By raising awareness, we can create educational and social programs that welcome children and foster continuity, all while maintaining our commitment to meaningful religious services.

Our Board has made great strides in organizing services and managing the funding we receive from both congregants and generous donors. Still, there is much work ahead.

In previous articles, I shared a diagram outlining three key areas where we can focus our mitzvot: communication, education, and infrastructure (including building, grounds, and support). We can't do everything—but by concentrating on shared objectives like supporting parents with children, strengthening education, and maintaining our building, we can continue to serve the community effectively.

At the intersection of these three circles lies our guiding principle: the Torah. It defines our identity and affirms our sense of belonging. Every communication we share should reflect our commitment to *L'dor Vador*—from generation to generation—by centering families. Every statement we make, every question we ask, should include the words “parents with children.” That's where *L'dor Vador* begins.

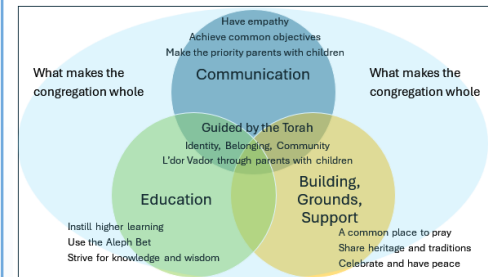
Last month, we replaced our fire alarm panel, which had been damaged by lightning. Thanks to this upgrade, our congregation remains in compliance with county and fire marshal regulations, allowing us to safely hold services and welcome children. It's worth noting that churches using commercial spaces often face challenges assembling safely without proper fire alarm and sprinkler systems.

As we approach the end of hurricane season, I encourage you to prepare for next year by purchasing disaster prep items that are now permanently tax-exempt. You can find more information on the City of Tampa's Facebook page.

I welcome your questions and comments about maintaining our building for the future. Your support and engagement are a true mitzvah.

Shalom,

Gabriel Lifschitz



Focus Areas for a Stronger Future

Communication: Keep parents informed and engaged through newsletters, announcements, and outreach.

Education: Create meaningful programs that inspire the next generation; Hebrew School, holiday workshops, and youth events.

Infrastructure: Maintain our building and grounds to ensure safety, accessibility, and a welcoming space for all.

“At the center of it all: the Torah, guiding our values and actions.”

Donations

High Holiday Appeal

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Congregation Beth Shalom

Shabbat Services

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[pwd=V3RIZzRXWkdaTjhsejBpNWJFTjIBUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83776565288?pwd=V3RIZzRXWkdaTjhsejBpNWJFTjIBUT09)**

Meeting ID: 837 7656 5288

Passcode: 101324

CBS Office Hours

The administrative office is currently open by appointment only. We can be reached by calling the office, (813)6816547, email, cbsbrandon@outlook.com.

Although our hours are limited, we are always here for you. Do not hesitate to reach out with any needs, concerns, or questions.

Congregation Beth Shalom

provides a meaningful spiritual home for people of all ages and levels of knowledge, a place to learn and to question, a place to worship and to celebrate, and a place to find a community that cares.

We offer:

- ✧ Friday worship services at 7:00 PM
- ✧ Complete B'nai Mitzvah preparation
- ✧ Adult Education classes
- ✧ Communitywide events
- ✧ Community Food Bank

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Business Card \$20/month

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Becoming a partner in our congregation offers an opportunity for enduring friendships and a personal spiritual journey. A place in our Jewish community.

Members also have free access to many of our educational and entertainment events.

November Yahrzeits

Florence Finkel

Aunt of Steven Feldman

Ellen Fuksman

Grandmother of Jason Howard

Ruth Gutenstein

Mother of Gerald Gutenstein

Milton Richter

Grandfather of Neil Spindel

George Santucci

Husband of Sandy Santucci

Mildred Spindel

Grandmother of Neil Spindel



Dinner with the Tribe



Babushka's

Saturday,
November 15, 2025
6:30 PM

Babushka's
12639 North 56th Street
Temple Terrace 33617

I grew up savoring the comforting flavors of Eastern European food, and every time I pass by this spot, I feel that familiar tug to indulge again. Why not share the experience together?

Whether you're vegetarian or just craving something nostalgic and delicious, there's truly something for everyone—pierogi, stuffed cabbage, beef stroganoff, and Blinchiki are just the beginning. It's a feast of favorites!

I'm expecting a great turnout, so be sure to save your spot by reaching out to Anita at niewdnarb@yahoo.com. Let's gather, eat well, and enjoy the warmth of good company and even better food.

Candle Lighting Times

Date	Time	Parsha
November 7	5:17 PM	Vayeira
November 14	5:14 PM	Chayei Sarah
November 21	5:12 PM	Toldot
November 28	5:11 PM	Vayeitzei



Join Us for Shabbat!

Every Friday night at 7:00 PM, our congregation comes together to welcome Shabbat with beautiful tunes and inspiring prayers. After the service, we continue the celebration with an oneg.

Would you like to sponsor an oneg to celebrate a mitzvah?
Please reach out to Toby Koch at (813) 6540877.



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Friday of the month



MEMBERSHIP

Becoming a partner in our congregation offers an opportunity for enduring friendships and a personal spiritual journey. A place in our Jewish community.

Members also have free access to many of our educational and entertainment events.



Bingo Fund Raiser for Faith Family UCC and Brandon Christian Disciples of Christ Food Bank

Sunday, November 2nd

- **Ten Games for \$10 – three cards per game**
- **Minimum \$25 value prize each game**

**Location: Congregation Beth Shalom
706 Bryan Road, Brandon, FL 33511**

**Doors open at
12:30 pm**



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A B'nai Mitzvah We Will Remember

By Neil Spindel, their teacher 27 October 2025

This past Shabbat, our sanctuary wasn't just full — it was *alive*. We gathered to celebrate the B'nai Mitzvah of Jack and Abby, the first students of our newly reborn Hebrew school, the Brandon Jewish Youth Academy. And what we witnessed was nothing short of extraordinary.

When we began this journey together, Jack and Abby didn't yet know how to read Hebrew. They were curious, a little nervous, and very determined. Week after week, lesson after lesson, they learned their letters, their vowels, blessings, melodies, and then — eventually — full Torah and Haftarah chanting. They studied history, values, mitzvot, the rhythms of the Jewish year, and the “why” behind everything we do. They asked big questions. They argued like true students of Torah. They made each other better.

And somewhere along the way, something deeper happened: *we* learned too. We learned how powerful a small community can be when it decides to invest in its children. We learned that Jewish education isn't about the size of the building — it's about the size of the heart beating inside it. And we learned that when you give kids ownership of their Judaism, they rise higher than you ever imagined.

Then came *the* moment.

Standing before the open Ark — in a sanctuary filled with friends, family, congregants, and guests — Jack and Abby chanted Torah and Haftarah with clarity, confidence, and reverence. Their voices rang out, unwavering. Their speeches were thoughtful, emotional, and wise beyond their years. More than one person was seen wiping away tears. I overheard one non-Jewish guest saying that they didn't realize what an emotional roller coaster the day would be.

And the pride. Oh, the pride. Parents. Grandparents. Friends. *Me!* Our whole kehila kedosha — our sacred community — on its feet, cheering, hugging, glowing. And of course, throwing the candy!

After the service, the kids were practically lifted off the ground with love. Compliments, blessings, laughter, and smiles all around. People said it was the best bar or bat mitzvah they had ever attended. And I believe them — not because it was a swanky affair, but because it was *true*. It was real Jewish joy. Real accomplishment. Real community. This was not just a milestone for two remarkable young people. This was a milestone for *us*. For our synagogue. For our future. For Jewish continuity — here, in Brandon.

The dream of the Brandon Jewish Youth Academy is no longer an idea. It is alive. It is happening. And now the whole congregation has seen what our children are capable of when we teach them, support them, and believe in them.

To Jack and Abby — we are so proud of you.

To Ianna and Eric — thank you for being partners in building something new.

To everyone who has encouraged, donated, attended, and cheered this project on — thank you for believing in what we are building *together*.





Neil Spindel, Rabbi Katz, Jack & Abby Rosenthal



Jewish Book Month 100



Jewish Book Council

Heart of a Stranger by Angela Buchdahl



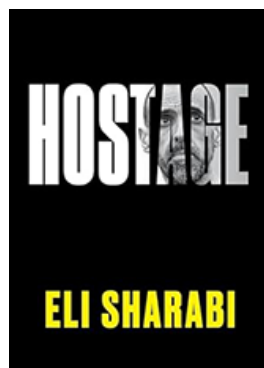
Jewish Book Month 100: One Community
with Rabbi Angela Buchdahl in Conversation with Abigail Pogrebin

Tuesday, November 18th, 1:00 PM, Virtual

From the first Asian American to be ordained as a rabbi, a stirring account of one woman's journey from feeling like an outsider to becoming one of the most admired religious leaders in the world. Angela Buchdahl was born in Korea and grew up in Tacoma, Washington, the daughter of a Korean Buddhist mother and Jewish American father. Today, Angela Buchdahl is revered by Jews and non-Jews alike for her invigorating, joyful approach to worship, and her belief in the power of faith, gratitude, and responsibility for each other. Angela's memoir, *Heart of a Stranger* is a spiritual guide for everyday living, which is exactly what so many of us crave right now.

[Click Here to Register!](#)

HOSTAGE by Eli Sharabi



To read Eli Sharabi's memoir about his 491 day captivity by Hamas, written and published mere months after his release, defies logic in some ways. It defies what is taught in both psychology classes and writing classes: that one needs time to process, to obtain perspective. Reading Eli Sharabi's memoir, *Hostage*, breaks those conventions wide open.

The prose reads like it is bursting forth, urgent and pressing .

The book opens on October 7, 2023, after terrorists have burst into Sharabi's house. Before the first ten pages are over, Sharabi is in Gaza, kidnapped along-side a Thai agricultural worker named Khun. But before Sharabi even crosses that border, he goes into survival mode: "I focus and concentrate on one mission: surviving to return home." Sharabi recounts his captivity in the present tense, with stark detail. We are introduced to Almog Sarusi, Hersh Goldberg-Polin, Alon Ohel, Ori Danino, Eliya Cohen, Or Levy, and, eventually, Ohad Ben Ami. He writes about moving from the house in which he was initially kept to the tunnels, about the various conditions of different tunnels, and he details the moods and whims of his captors, which often foreshadowed how the hostages would be treated.

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NOTABLE DATES & EVENTS

November 2nd was the day on which the famous **Balfour Declaration** was made in 1917. However, there are several important facts which people tend to forget today about that important document which led to the establishment of a homeland for the Jewish people.

November 7th was Billy Graham's birthday. Reverend Graham was one of the world's most fruitful evangelists, and even came to Israel to preach the Gospel.

November 20th is 50 days after Yom Kippur, which is when Ethiopian Jews celebrate their arrival to the Promised Land. The celebration is called **Sigd**, which means "worship".

November 27th is Thanksgiving for our friends in the US. There are many similarities between the Thanksgiving celebrations and the Feast of Tabernacles, to the point that some have wondered if the early pilgrims were basing Thanksgiving on that biblical feast.

November 27th 1947 was the date that the **UN partition plan** was decided. Just as rumors were abounding that the Bible was a recent work of Zionist fiction and that the Jews had no history in the land, the **Dead Sea Scrolls** were discovered, and our claim to a historic homeland was verifiably proven. G-d's timing is always impeccable!

November 30th In response to the steps towards the restoration of Israel, many Arab nations expelled their Jewish citizens in fury. There were riots, lootings and massacres, causing almost all to flee to the new Jewish state. Over 50% of Israel's Jews were from Muslim nations, and this is the date chosen to **Remember Jews exiled from Arab lands and Iran.**

HALF OF ISRAEL'S JEWS CAME FROM MUSLIM COUNTRIES

Not long after Yeshua walked the earth, the Jewish people were scattered from Israel in what would become known as the second exile, the first being the Babylonian exile of 586 BC. The diaspora was flung far and wide – north, south, east and west of Israel, just as God promised. Where they went and what happened next is a bit of a mystery to many. But it doesn't have to be – their steps have been well documented.

MIZRACHI JEWS, JEWS OF THE EAST

Many Jewish people ended up in what would eventually become Muslim countries; Iran, Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Morocco, Yemen, and so on. Some Jews that were taken out of Israel in the first exile of 586 BC never returned, choosing to settle in Iran and Iraq and establishing large communities there. Jewish people lived and thrived in many different countries, and often enjoyed success and security in the places where they settled. There are Jewish gravestones in Iran that are some 2500 years old, meaning that Jewish communities have been there far longer than the Muslim conquerors that arrived in the seventh century from Arabia[1]. Jews have also lived in Tunisia since 200 BC, in Libya since the third century BC and in Syria since 500 BC, as well as other countries of the Middle East, many centuries before Islam.

In short, there have been Jewish communities living in many different Middle Eastern countries for more than 2,300 years. As Islam spread, there was a point in history when almost all of the Jewish diaspora found themselves in Muslim countries, and the truth is that Muslims were often kinder to their Jewish communities than Christian countries had been.

Over time, many Jews headed west to Europe and north to Russia, but some later headed back to Turkey, Greece and the Middle East after experiencing persecution and expulsions in Europe. Few people realize that over 50% of Israel's Jewish population did not come from Europe but from Middle Eastern countries.

It's a story that many never get to hear about, but now each year, on 30th November, Israel has determined to commemorate the time when 850,000 Jewish people were expelled from Muslim lands, most of whom found refuge in Israel.

"The lives of one million Jews in Muslim countries will be jeopardized by partition," warned Egypt's delegate to the UN. The Muslim nations were furious about the Partition Plan of 29th November 1947, a resolution giving Jewish people part of the Holy Land, and vowed there would be consequences. It was no idle threat. Jewish people living in Iraq, Iran, Syria, Egypt, the Yemen, Morocco, Algeria and many other lands were forcibly expelled and in many cases their bank accounts frozen and their property seized. There were riots, pogroms and massacres. Jews were horrifically persecuted, and discriminated against by law in many places. Almost a million Jewish people were suddenly homeless and penniless, forced to make their way back to the land of their forefathers.

"The Jews had been in Iraq for more than two and a half millennia, since it was called Babylon, and remembered in Psalms. For centuries it was the center of Jewish learning... In the 40s, everything changed. Nazism, Arab-nationalism and anti-Zionist feeling created a wave of antisemitism. Violent pogroms flared up, young Jewish men were publicly hanged, Jews were forced

from jobs. By the 1970s nearly all had left, many in 1951 when 110,000 people were flown to safety in Israel... Now those few Jews who remain are hidden away. They will certainly be the last of the ancient Babylonian Jewish line, says Canon Andrew White, the ‘Vicar of Baghdad’.[2]

PERSECUTION, MURDER AND THEFT BEGAN LONG BEFORE 1947

Six years before the UN partition plan of 1947, some 180 Jews were murdered in Iraq by Arab rioters in a pogrom (or farhud – an ancient word that means “violent dispossession of the governed”), 2,000 were injured and tens of thousands of others were robbed. “Like all the Jews, we shut ourselves up in the house because we were afraid,” Gladys Cohen recalled at a ceremony to mark the tragedies of the Mizrachi Jews. “I was 10 years old and asked what happened. They told me the Arabs had risen up against the Jews to hurt them, and all the Jews were running to hide.” She told of the horrors of old people and infants beaten to death, and her husband and his brother were taken and “disappeared”, never to be seen again.[3]

Even further back, despite the fact that there is often a cozy picture painted of coexistence under the Ottomans, the truth is that Jews were second class citizens under Muslim rule, even if it was a preferable situation to the extreme violence and persecution they experienced at the hands of Christian countries. Equal rights were only introduced across the Ottoman Empire in 1839 due to pressure from Europe on the Turks, who needed support in the struggle against Egypt.

“At the time of the Ottoman Empire the Jews’ fate depended on the Governor’s mood and whim and the amount of corruption that he exacted. So when there was a lull in the persecution – bless them – they called it “the golden age”. It was not a golden age. It was an age when the Jews were persecuted less,” writes Moshe Kahtan, Iraqi-born British Jew.[4]

JEWISH COMMUNITIES OVER 2,000 YEARS OLD HAVE BEEN VIRTUALLY WIPED OUT ACROSS THE MIDDLE EAST

In 1917 the Jews comprised a third of Baghdad’s population, now only seven remain. It is a similar story in almost every country in the Middle East. Persecution, legally endorsed oppression and murderous riots have resulted in the Jewish people having to flee for their lives, often leaving with nothing.

GO BACK TO POLAND?

It is pure ignorance to think that Israel is a matter of European colonialism, housing Germans and Polish Jews in a Middle Eastern country that is not their own as a guilt response to the Holocaust. The Jewish people were scattered in all directions, and have been regathered back to their original homeland. A Jewish homeland was secured in the land of their fathers many years before the Holocaust, thanks to the Balfour Declaration of 1917, and over half of the Jews who came to Israel were not fleeing the Nazis, but were forcibly expelled from Middle Eastern countries. And they cannot go back.

*“It will also come about in that day that my Lord will again redeem
—a second time with His hand—the remnant of His people who remain*

from Assyria, from Egypt, from North Africa, from Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, Syria,
and from the islands of the sea.

*He will lift up a banner for the nations, and assemble the dispersed of Israel,
and gather the scattered of Judah from the four corners of the earth.”*

(Isaiah 11:11-12)[6]

As hard as these tragic events have been, we can see God's hand at work, redeeming and working despite some of mankind's worst inhumanity. He is bringing his people home, just as he promised, from the north, south, east and west.

"While our brethren, the Jews of Europe, were persecuted and slaughtered, hatred and incitement came to us in the Arab countries," said Janet Dallal, who had organized an event to commemorate the expulsion and flight of the 850,000 Mizrachi Jews. Janet had fled with her family from Iraq, and told Haaretz, "Every community dealt with it differently but, ultimately, there was an ingathering of the exiles. I don't know whether it was thanks to Hitler or [Grand Mufti of Jerusalem] Haj Amin al-Husseini, but out of the bitter came the sweet."

"When he roars, his children shall come trembling from the west; they shall come trembling like birds from Egypt, and like doves from the land of Assyria, and I will return them to their homes, declares the Lord." (Hosea 11:10-11)

[1] Lecture at the University of Haifa by Isaac Yomtovian, author of *My Iran*, 19 November 2017

[2] *The Last Jews of Iraq*, Producer: Hannah Marshall, A Loftus Audio production for BBC Radio 4.

[3] Haaretz, *Jews of Arab Lands Israel Commemorates Flight of 850,000 Jews From Arab, Muslim Countries*, Ofer Aderet, Nov 30, 2015

[4] Cited in "In Ishmael's House, A History of Jews in Muslim Lands", Martin Gilbert (Yale University Press, 2010)

[5] Ibid, p.80

[6] In Isaiah 11:11, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, and Hamath", are ancient names for North Africa / Northern Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran / Persia, the Babylon area in Iraq, and Syria respectively.

Table compiled using statistics from Jewish Virtual Library and Stand With Us

ONE FOR ISRAEL



<https://www.oneforisrael.org/holidays/special-days-in-israel/half-israels-jews-came-muslim-countries/>

Sigd: An Explanation



What's Sigd all about?

Sigd (pronounced sihgd with one syllable) is celebrated on the 29th of the Hebrew month of Cheshvan, exactly 50 days after Yom Kippur (this year it's on November 12–13). The name "Sigd" means "prostration" in Ge'ez, an ancient South Semitic language. Sigd commemorates Beta Israel's desire to return to Jerusalem that was originally expressed by the prophets Ezra and Nehemiah while exiled in Babylon. Sigd is also a time for renewing the Israelite covenant with God, preserving Jewish identity, fasting and praying in communal repentance, and creating unity.

Praying for the Great Temple in Jerusalem to be rebuilt is the central religious theme of Sigd. Upon the modern-day return of Jews to Israel, many Beta Israel questioned whether there was a need to continue celebrating Sigd if we already fulfilled the prophecy of returning to Israel. But because the Third Temple has never been restored, the religious mandates to observe Sigd remain, and the Beta Israel continue to recognize and observe the traditions of this special day.

History of Beta Israel

A Jewish community in Ethiopia — the Beta Israel (House of Israel) — has existed for at least 15 centuries. Most likely, the Beta Israel arrived in Ethiopia between the first and sixth centuries, coming as merchants or artisans from various countries in the region.

Facing religious persecution in Ethiopia, more than 90,000 Beta Israel have made *Aliyah* (immigrated) to Israel since 1977 through various emergency operations and through the Jewish Agency. Because they lived in complete isolation from other Jewish communities for so long, some Beta Israel holidays and celebrations do not exist in other Jewish communities.

How do people celebrate Sigd?

Beta Israel folks traditionally begin Sigd in the evening with prayers and preparation of special food to be eaten after the fast. In the morning, it is traditional to bathe in a river before climbing the highest mountain around them, dressed up in traditional white clothing. Some carry stones on their head to signify the sins for which they are repenting. Once at the top of the mountain, the stones are placed where the *kesim* (spiritual and religious leaders) stand during the ceremonial prayers and readings.

Kesim carry beautiful, colorful umbrellas meant to create shade for the community. Once on top of the mountain, scriptures (which are called the *Octateuch*, the five books of Moses plus Joshua, Judges and Ruth) are read aloud. The community spends the day asking for forgiveness (much the same way as on Yom Kippur) and redemption to return to Jerusalem after being in exile for thousands of years, and expressing their love of Torah and God. The vibe is festive, humble, and communal.

Traditionally, members of the Beta Israel community fast on Sigd. The fast ends mid-day with a feast and lots of dancing. Sigd is also an opportunity for households to come together to make *injera*, a famous flatbread eaten with all meals. Other customary Sigd meals include lamb stew, and *doro wot*, a chicken stew. To wash it all down, bottles of homemade *tej* honey wine and beer are served with *dabo*, a thick wheat bread, delicious Ethiopian cheese, and honey.

Sigd in Israel

Since 2008, Sigd has been recognized as a state holiday in Israel. It's celebrated for an entire month leading up to the 29th of the Hebrew month Cheshvan, and it is an opportunity to raise Ethiopian Jewish visibility and educate non-Ethiopian Israelis about Beta Israel customs.

Leaders from different cities organize buses to bring in people from all over Israel to the ceremony that is held on the Armon HaNatziv promenade which looks out over the Old City of Jerusalem and the site of the Temple Mount.

<https://www.hillel.org/what-even-is-sigd-a-short-explainer/>

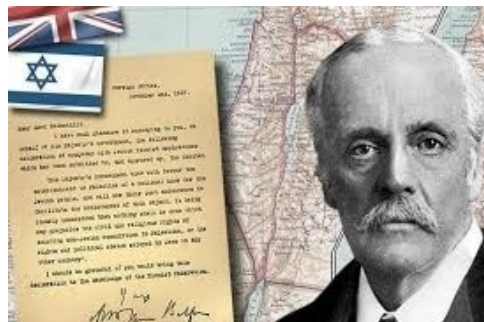




November 2025

November "Rabbis"

Friday, Nov 7	Neil Spindel
Friday, Nov 14	Steve Billor
Friday, Nov 21	Neil Spindel
Friday, Nov 28	Gabe Lifschitz



Balfour Declaration

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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1

2 Bingo! Balfour Declaration 	3	4 6:30 Executive Mtg 7:00 Board Mtg	5	6	7 No Shabbat Service	8 Shabbat Service 10:00 AM 
9	10	11	12	13	14 Erev Shabbat Service 7:00	15 DWTT 6:30 Babushba's  
16 Watch Party 2:30 PM 	17	18	19	20 SIGD 	21 Erev Shabbat Service 7:00 	22
23	24	25	26	27 	28 Erev Shabbat Service 7:00 	29

30

