



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Hazak Adult Education Program:

Guest Speaker: Gadeer Kamal-Mhree, "Warts and All" (CBE/online)

Tuesday, January 9 7:30 PM

### CBE Volunteers at The Closet (offsite)

Monday, January 15

### Torah for Tots (CBE)

Saturday, January 20 11:00 AM

### BEECCPA Kids Havdalah and Movie Night (CBE)

Saturday, January 20 5:30 PM

Young families are invited for food, kid-friendly Havdalah, movies and popcorn.

### Minyan & Munch (CBE/online)

Guest Speaker: Chuck Cascio, "Never Ask 'Why'" Sunday, January 21 10:00 AM

### Tu B'Shevat (Birthday of the Trees) (CBE/online)

Wednesday, January 24 6:45 PM

### Sisterhood Shabbat (CBE/online)

Friday, January 26 6:30 PM

### BEECC PA Silent Auction and Bagel Brunch (CBE)

Sunday, January 28 10:00 AM

All are welcome! Stop by and bid on some fantastic items!

### Save the Dates: Celebrate CBE@45! Scholar-in-Residence Weekend

May 17-19

Details at [www.bethemeth.org](http://www.bethemeth.org)

## Celebrate Tu B'Shevat with Beth Emeth

### "BIRTHDAY OF THE TREES"

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 6:45-8:00 PM

Sample Wines, Cheeses, & Special Fruits

Plant Parsley for Congregational Seder

\$18/Person, all net proceeds will be donated to JNF

RSVP BY WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

[bethemeth.org/event/trees-2024](http://bethemeth.org/event/trees-2024)



# Shofar Notes



## FROM THE RABBI:

### A QUESTION OF NAMES

As we begin the secular year 2024, we also begin reading *Shemot*, the book of Exodus, in the Torah. The book is called *Shemot*, which actually means "names" because it is the first significant word in the first verse of the book. The verse goes on to name Joseph and his brothers, and reminds us that together with their households, a total of 70 people, they migrated to Egypt.

Names are significant, both in the Torah, and in our day. There is the name we are given at birth, the name we choose to be called (often a nickname), and the names we pick up as we go through life. Our names are our most personal identifiers.

Recently, the Committee on Jewish Laws and Standards (CJLS) took up a question about names. They were asked how a person who does not want to be identified by gender would be called to the Torah. While I find it an interesting question from both an academic and grammatical perspective, to many people, it's a question of intensely personal and intimate relevance.

If you'd like to read the full answer to the question, you can access it on the Rabbinical Assembly website. The short answer, is that they suggested language to use for all Torah honors which do not require a person to identify by gender. At a recent Ritual Committee meeting we decided to adopt the CJLS's recommendations.

Mostly, unless you pay VERY close attention during the Torah service, you won't even notice the change. Basically, instead of hearing "*Ya-amod*," "*Ta'amod*," or "*Yamdu*" when the *gabbai* is calling, you'll hear "*Na La-amod*." Instead of referring to the *aliya* by the gender of the person reciting the blessing, we'll refer to the number of the *aliya* itself. We've actually tried this out on a couple of different Shabbat mornings, and not a single person has commented on it.

We're highlighting it now, because for those people to whom this issue is most relevant, it offers them the chance to give their name to the *gabbai* in a non-gender specific way.

A person who identifies as male would still give his name as "*Yitzchak ben Avraham v'Sarah*." (Isaac, son of Abraham and Sarah). A person who identifies as female would still give her name as "*Dina bat Ya'acov v'Leah*" (Dina, daughter of Jacob and Leah). A person who prefers not to identify their gender should give their name as "*Tal mi-beit Yoni v'Ronit*" (Tal, from the house of Yoni and Ronit).

While for some, I imagine that this change seems overly political. I would argue that we are simply offering a respectful way to call people the way they want to be called. Technically, I should be called Rabbi Ferratier. It is the correct formal way to address me. Everyone at CBE, though, knows that I prefer to be called Rabbi Warner. To call me anything else would be inconsiderate at best, and rude at worst. All of our members and guests should be afforded the same courtesy and respect, especially when being called to for an honor during the holiest moments of our services.

My students sometimes ask me whether anything ever changes in Judaism. I usually answer them "as little as possible." However, when a tiny change can make such a large impact, without harming anyone in the process or significantly altering our tradition, there is no reason not to implement it after careful thought. This is one such change.

Shalom, Rabbi Warner

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Ellyn Hirsch (president@bethemeth.org)*

First, I wish each of you a happy and healthy new year. Our community would not be as successful as it is today without all of you. May the new year bring you warmth, love, and light to guide your path. May 2024 bring our world peace, hope and resilience as we fight antisemitism and bigotry, and stand with Israel during this dark and troubling period.

Sunday, December 3 kicked off a new chapter for BethEmeth @45 – our 45th anniversary year. At a milestone meeting of the congregation, we adopted two new documents: Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws 2024, that will take effect **July 1, 2024**. So, what's next? Over the next few months, the Board will be working to finalize the Administrative and Financial Policy Manual, which will codify the necessary policies, procedures, and financial guidelines for our Board and staff.

In January, our Nominating committee will begin their work to fill the 24-25 slate due by April 1st. This will be done in accordance with bylaws 2024, with two tracks: a Slate for the Officers and the Board of Directors, and the Slate for the Chairs of Standing Committees. While the chairpersons of the standing committees are no longer seated on the board, their work is an integral part of our success, and their robust programming is the heart of our congregation. As in the past, each committee will have an Executive Committee liaison to work closely with them to foster open communication between the committees and the Board.

In preparation to enter fiscal year 2024-25, we will file our new Articles of Incorporation, effective July 1, 2024, with the Virginia State Corporation Commission and complete all the necessary legal paperwork to complete the incorporation process.

Lastly, the BethEmeth@45 L'dor v'dor Committee is starting to plan for an exciting weekend celebration of our 45th anniversary, **May 17 - 19, 2024**. There will be activities for all. Details will follow soon. Volunteers welcome. Please contact Paul Moskowitz at [vpdevelopment@bethemeth.org](mailto:vpdevelopment@bethemeth.org).

At this challenging time, our capacity to create and manage change, no matter how large or small, is critical in sustaining us individually and as a community. As individuals, you can and must continue to opt into living vibrant Jewish lives by supporting the causes meaningful to you, engraining your Jewish identity within your children and grandchildren, and actively participating in your CBE community.



**Super Bowl LVII**  
**Enter Our Fun Pool**  
 To Benefit Religious School Activities  
 Enter starting Monday 1/29 at 12:00 AM  
 Deadline Sunday, 2/11 at 12:00 PM  
[bethemeth.org/super-bowl-2024](https://bethemeth.org/super-bowl-2024)  
 (No Football Knowledge Needed!)



## RITUAL MATTERS

*Shari Hirsch, VP for Ritual*

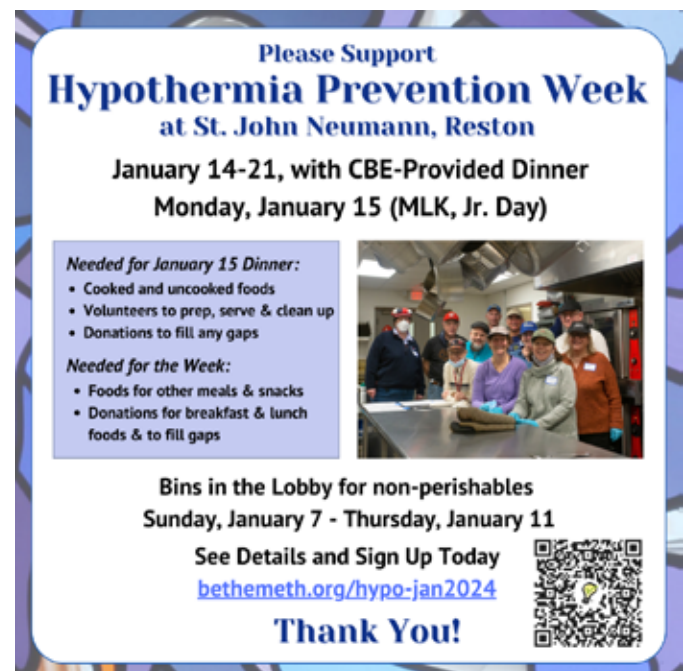
Last month, I shared with you the Ritual Committee's recommendations for the next High Holidays. Our goal is to create a High Holiday experience that goes beyond just meeting the congregation's needs and is infused with kavanah—meaning—and ruach..

In addition to the recommendations I reported on last month, together with Rabbi Warner, the Ritual Committee has decided to launch a search for a new chazzan for the next High Holidays. CBE is immensely grateful for Dr. Nathanson's years of service and the traditional meaning he brought to our prayers.

Our newly-formed search committee is seeking a *chazzan*, a cantorial student or a cantorial soloist who is warm, approachable, and can bring meaning to our prayers. We hope that this individual will possess the ability to lead us in traditional nusach and teach innovative melodies as well. In keeping with CBE's tradition of a strong lay leadership, the new chazzan will share responsibilities with our corps group of lay leaders.

Thank you to **Diane Novick, Nick May, Debbie Smith, Denise Moldover, and David Cerny** who along with Rabbi Warner and myself will lead the search for our new chazzan. And, as always, I am happy to hear feedback or answer any questions you may have.

*See you in shul! – Shari*



**Please Support**  
**Hypothermia Prevention Week**  
 at St. John Neumann, Reston  
 January 14-21, with CBE-Provided Dinner  
 Monday, January 15 (MLK, Jr. Day)

**Needed for January 15 Dinner:**

- Cooked and uncooked foods
- Volunteers to prep, serve & clean up
- Donations to fill any gaps

**Needed for the Week:**

- Foods for other meals & snacks
- Donations for breakfast & lunch foods & to fill gaps

**Bins in the Lobby for non-perishables**  
 Sunday, January 7 - Thursday, January 11  
 See Details and Sign Up Today  
[bethemeth.org/hypo-jan2024](https://bethemeth.org/hypo-jan2024)  
**Thank You!**



## SISTERHOOD

What a wonderful time we had at Sisterhood's Paid Up Membership Luncheon (Dec. 3), with close to 50 women in attendance. Our own Felice and Valerie did all of the shopping and planning, and a fabulous team of helpers prepped and cooked. Thank you to all of the volunteers and to everyone who attended.



### Calendar of Planned Sisterhood Events

Tuesday, January 16 – Paint and Sip  
 Friday, January 26, 6:30 PM – Sisterhood Shabbat  
 Saturday, February 10 – Movie Night  
 Monday, March 18 – Hamantaschen Exchange  
 Sunday, April 14 – Mock Seder  
 Thursday, May 16 – Spring Spritzer/Installation

*Sandy and Felice*

### Gift Shop Post-Hanukkah Sale

We hope you had a very happy Hanukkah filled with light, love, and latkes! Our post-Hanukkah sale runs (in person only) from **January 3 -24**. Save up to 50% on all things Hanukkah – menorahs, dreidels, decor, and more. Please check out our online gift shop for lots more items – <https://www.bethemeth.org/gift-shop>.

**Order 2024 Mah Jongg Cards – Orders must be received by January 15th!** Standard size \$14.00; Large size \$15.00. Cards sent directly to you from the Mah Jongg League. Make checks payable to CBE Sisterhood and mail to CBE, Attn: Gail Levine, Mah Jongg Cards. Questions? Contact Gail at [sisterhood@bethemeth.org](mailto:sisterhood@bethemeth.org).



## YOUTH & JYP UPCOMING EVENTS

Shalom, Beth Emeth! Great events and great times are ahead. Questions? Contact Zach: [zachm@bethemeth.org](mailto:zachm@bethemeth.org).

### Youth:

**January 8th** Second Monday

**January 27th** Kadima Ice Skating

**January 28th** Machar goes to Launch. This program is for our 3rd-5th graders and requires at least 8 sign-ups.

**February 10th** Kadima Havdalah

### Jewish Young Professionals (JYP):

**January 20th** JYP Board game night

### VISIT THE NEWLY RE-ORGANIZED CBE LIBRARY!

Interested in learning about Jewish topics in a deeper way than Googling? Looking for Jewish fiction for adults? Children's books with a Jewish flavor? Thanks to the efforts of Shawn Dilles, all our books are now in an online catalog so you can see what's available for check-out and reference, or just stop by next time you're here to peruse all the great resources in the Glazer Library! Learn more and access the catalog at <https://www.bethemeth.org/library>. Questions? Contact [library@bethemeth.org](mailto:library@bethemeth.org).



## AROUND CBE

### MAZAL TOV TO

**Melanie (Mel) Hillelsohn** (daughter of Melissa & David), who was featured in the cover story in the January *Chantilly Living* magazine for her work with Habitat for Humanity DC-NOVA.

### CONDOLENCES TO

**Bonnie Silas** on the death of her father Sherman Char, grandfather of **Lauren and Allison Silas**.

**Michael Cohen** on the death of his mother Ruth Barbara Cohen, grandfather of **Cayla and Eryn Cohen**.

### TODAH RABAH TO

Trivia Night captains **Lisa Croll and Ellen MacDonald**, and all who helped organize the very successful event.

**Stan Feuerberg, Gwen Sloan, Dave Schreiber, Marty Zelman, and Debbie Smith** for leading services and delivering d'varei torah while Rabbi Warner attended a conference.

The Constitution Task Force – **Paul Levine (Chair), Kate Brown, Stan Feuerberg, and Andy Golkow** – for their hard work over two years; to **Ellyn Hirsch, Jeff Skigen and Robyn Feuerberg** for making the meetings a success, and to everyone who attended the meetings and provided feedback during the process.

## CBE SECURITY TASK FORCE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Since October 7th, our anxiety levels have increased. The goal of the Security Task Force is to relieve our anxiety and provide a safe environment to worship, learn, and socialize at CBE. To accomplish this, we have taken the following steps:

1. Increasing security presence during services, Religious School and BEECC
2. Enhancing our check-in procedures for services while still maintaining a welcoming environment
3. Revising our check-in and check-out procedures for Religious School and BEECC
4. Labeling exits and Safe Rooms
5. Providing information inside the sanctuary regarding security matters
6. Reviewing and revising our Emergency Action Plan
7. Seeking grants or other funding sources to enhance our physical security infrastructure
8. Working with other synagogues and other Jewish organizations to share best practices
9. Discussing security information and intelligence with local and federal law enforcement.



In January, we will be conducting our first congregational security training and preparedness drills. Please look for future announcements about this important training. Although we have made progress in addressing our security, we need your assistance. We need volunteers to act as Floor Captains during services, Religious School and BEECC peak periods – to work with security guards to check-in and welcome members, registered guests, and parents to our building. Acting as Floor Captain is quite rewarding as you are a critical component of creating our safe environment. We'll train you and provide you with a very stylish Floor Captain gold name tag badge to wear. If you would like to assist us as a Floor Captain or provide security suggestions or feedback, please contact me at any time. I hope to see you in the building. Stay safe.

*Steve Pregozen, CBE Secretary/Security Task Force Chair*



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– REMINDERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS –

Looking for a great preschool? Registration for the 2024-25 school year opens on **January 2**. Go to [www.beecc.org](http://www.beecc.org) for all the info.



**Torah for Tots** – Experience the joy of Shabbat at our monthly interactive program for children ages 0-6 and their grown-ups. **Saturday, January 20th, 11:00 AM.**



**Pozes JCCNV Monthly Widow/Widower Support Group@CBE** – Tuesday, January 16, 5:15 - 6:30 PM at CBE. Free. Contact Shari Berman, [shari.berman@thej.org](mailto:shari.berman@thej.org).



**WINTER/SPRING  
ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES  
TAUGHT BY RABBI WARNER FERRATIER**

**Talmud in Translation: Wednesdays, 7:00-7:55 PM**  
January 31, February 7 & 28, March 6, 20, & 27, April 3, May 1, 22, & 29, June 5

We'll study Tractate Sanhedrin, courts, the death penalty, the rebellious child, and who has a part in the world to come. This is a new term of the ongoing "Talmud in Translation" series. No prerequisites, new participants welcome! <https://www.bethemeth.org/event/talmud-spring-2024>.

**New! The Prophets – From Joshua to 2nd Kings**  
Monthly on Wednesdays, 7:00-7:55 PM: February 21, March 13, April 17, May 15

We'll study the history of the people Israel from the 15th to the 6th century BCE. <https://www.bethemeth.org/event/prophets-spring-2024>.

**Judaism 101: 10 Sundays starting January 21, 9:45-10:45 AM**  
For those who would like to learn about Judaism and Jewish practices, including anyone who is Jewish, non-Jewish partners, and those interested in conversion. <https://www.bethemeth.org/event/judaism101-spring-2024>.

Questions? Please contact [rabbiiwarner@bethemeth.org](mailto:rabbiiwarner@bethemeth.org).



**HAZAK ADULT EDUCATION  
GUEST SPEAKER: GADEER KAMAL-MREEH:  
"WARTS AND ALL"  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 7:30 PM (CBE/ONLINE)**



Gadeer Kamal-Mreeh is an Israeli but not a Jew, an Arab but not a Muslim, a minority within a minority. Gadeer was the first non-Jewish anchorwoman to broadcast the main evening news in Hebrew and Arabic languages in Israel and the first Druze woman to become a Member of the Knesset. Come listen to her unique story and learn about the Druze people, the Arab minority, and Israeli society. Info: <https://www.bethemeth.org/hazak>.

**MINYAN & MUNCH  
GUEST SPEAKER: CHUCK CASCIO: NEVER ASK "WHY"  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 10:00 AM (CBE)**



Local author Chuck Cascio will speak about *Never Ask "Why"*, a book he edited that details the formulation of the NFL Players Association, players' free agency and on-the-field safety, contract rights, and impartial arbitration of disciplinary actions, and other issues. Mr. Cascio was also a *Washington Post* Special Correspondent and an adjunct professor of communications and business writing at American University and George Mason University. He served with distinction as a teacher at South Lakes High School in Reston. **RSVP**