



Shofar Notes

UPCOMING EVENTS

BEECC Family Havdalah Pajama Party (CBE)
Saturday, February 10 6:30 PM

Kadima Program (Grades 6-8) (CBE)
Sunday, February 11

CBE Volunteers at The Closet (offsite)
Tuesday, February 13

Hazak/Adult Education Program:
Speaker: Peter Levenberg – "The Jewish Community of South Africa" (CBE/online)
Tuesday, February 13 7:30 PM

Torah for Tots (CBE) – for Ages 0-6 years (CBE)
Saturday, February 17 11:00 AM

Israeli Dancing (CBE)
Wednesday, February 21 – watch for details!

Chevre Kadishah Informational Meeting with Rabbis Warner Ferratier and Neil Tow (Zoom)
Sunday, February 25 2:30 PM

BEECC PA Dine-Out Spirit Night (offsite)
Wednesday, February 28 - watch for details

CBE's World Famous Purim Carnival (CBE)
Sunday, March 17
Preschool Families 11:00 AM
Everyone else 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Purim Shpiel and Talent Show (CBE)
Saturday, March 23 (Erev Purim) 8:15 PM

Save the Dates: Cheers to 45 Years Scholar-in-Residence Weekend - watch for details!
Friday, May 17 - Sunday, May 19

Details at www.bethemeth.org



FROM THE RABBI:

JEWISH INFRASTRUCTURE

When other rabbis ask me what I like about Congregation Beth Emeth, I answer them a little differently than I answer people who aren't clergy. With most people I talk about how much I like the people here. When rabbis ask, I say "I get to officiate more Bar and Bat Mitzvah ceremonies than funerals."

There are a couple of reasons why I am one of the fortunate few pulpit rabbis who can give this answer. We here at CBE are blessed to be a relatively young congregation, with a relatively young membership. Many of us come from elsewhere, so when we have losses in our families, we end up taking care of those losses out of town. So far, there has not been a strong need for the CBE community to have infrastructure in place to deal with multiple losses simultaneously.

Although we may not have a strong need for the resources to help multiple families deal with loss at the moment, now is the time to start planning for it, especially since Northern Virginia is sadly lacking in the kind of Jewish infrastructure that allows for humane, efficient help when families are at their most vulnerable moments. Not only does Northern Virginia not have its own funeral home, we also do not have a Jewish Burial Society (Chevre Kadishah).

While there is a Jewish funeral home planning to open its doors in the next 18 months, (I'll share more information about it when it becomes available), this will not address the need for a local Jewish Burial Society. Therefore, for the last several months, I have been working with Rabbi Neil Tow, at Sha'are Shalom in Leesburg, to establish a shared Jewish Burial Society for our communities.

Seeing to the needs of the deceased is considered the highest form of good deed, as it is a service that can never be repaid. While it is not difficult, it does require a little bit of training so that each person's remains can be treated with the utmost respect, and in accordance with Jewish tradition.

The first step in forming a Chevre Kadishah to see to these needs is to find a group of volunteers, and then to hold training. Rabbi Tow and I will be holding an informational meeting with our Liaison on Sunday, February 25th, at 2:30 p.m. on Zoom. Anyone above Bar/Bat Mitzvah age is welcome, however, those with a background in nursing, physical therapy, or medicine are particularly encouraged.

Eventually, each of us will need others to help return us to the earth from which we were created. In the meantime, I hope everyone will consider participating in this learning so that we can be there for our community members when this sacred moment occurs. Please go to <https://www.bethemeth.org/form/chevre> to volunteer or contact me at rabbwarner@bethemeth.org.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ellyn Hirsch (president@bethemeth.org)

Our congregation has navigated challenges over the past months, emerging more resilient. The CBE Board, dedicated staff, and volunteers adapt to change, viewing it as an opportunity for growth and connection within our community.

Noteworthy projects are in progress, including the search for an Executive Director and Religious School Director expected to begin about **July 1, 2024**. Leslie Lesch leads the Executive Director search, and Shauna Peters is leading the Religious School Director search, both supported by committed committees.

Financial efforts led by Jeff Skigen (Treasurer), Heather Holway (Accounting Manager), and Alex Stillman (Budget & Finance Committee chair) have been working hard to align spending with income, asking each budget department to reduce spending by 10%. The FY24-25 budget process will focus on expense savings.

As our community faces rising costs, especially in security and infrastructure, we continue to rely on the generosity and engagement of our members for support. Recent activities, from Shabbat lunches to Trivia Night, have brought the congregation together across generations.

In positive news, we secured two Jewish Federation Security Micro-Grants, totaling \$5,000, specifically for our preschool's security. Gratitude goes to Steve Pregozen, Scott Wollek, and Renee Williams for securing these grants.

Looking ahead, a major fundraiser, Shalach Manot, starts on **February 1st** with the theme "Cheers to 45 years: L'Dor v'Dor."

Please consider participating to spread Purim joy throughout the congregation, fostering a sense of belonging with a "synagogue hug." Your continued financial support is crucial in sustaining a stronger, more connected community.

Ellyn

CBE'S WORLD-FAMOUS PURIM CARNIVAL



**SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 11:30 AM-2:00 PM
(11:00 AM FOR PRESCHOOL FAMILIES)**

Carnival games, inflatables, crafts, delicious lunch with **hamantaschen**, 50/50 raffle, **tzedakah** opportunity, and much, much more. Guests welcome, bring your friends!

Watch your email and the March *Shofar* for details and registration. If you'd like to help organize the Carnival or a game, or to help support the event with a sponsorship, please contact zachm@bethemeth.org.

BETH EMETH@45 YEARS: L'DOR V'DOR

Paul Moskowitz, VP for Development

From Generation to Generation. One look at the Confirmation pictures in the Education Wing shows examples of last generation's children who are now this generation's parents. That has been Beth Emeth's role in Fairfax County since our start in 1979. That's right, the year that C-SPAN started broadcasting, and the Sony Walkman was released is the same year we were founded.

Over the next few months you will be seeing a lot more detail on how we will celebrate Beth Emeth @ 45 L'dor V'dor on the weekend of May 17 through May 19, 2024.

We will have our Scholar-in-Residence Cantor **Steven** here from Chicago leading us in everything from study to Broadway. We'll have a family dinner, a swanky evening party, and an outdoor picnic. Plus lots of ways to learn, enjoy each other's company, and celebrate. And of course, there will also be a opportunity to help us sponsor this marathon weekend.

If you would like to be part of planning the celebration, or just want to let us know you are willing to help, please email vpdevelopment@bethemeth.org.

Paul

NOW OPEN:REGISTRATION FOR BEECC '24-25 AND SUMMER@BEECC!

Early Bird Discount: Register by February 9th!
\$100 off Year Round Program • \$75 off All Other Programs

If you have children between the ages of two and five (or who will be two by **September 30, 2024**), we invite you to register them now! Use the QR code below or go to <https://www.bethemeth.org/form/beecc-24-25-registration.html>.

This upcoming school year brings a few changes as BEECC continues to grow our school and make sure our offerings support our families' needs. Register in one easy step for both the upcoming school year and our **Summer @ BEECC** program with our new **year-round, full-day option**.



We are happy to announce the launch of a **Young Two's class** in January 2025 for children who turn two between **October 1 and December 31, 2024**. This half-day class will meet three days per week and provides a perfect transition into our Two's class for the 2025-26 school year. If space allows, additional students may continue to join the class as they turn two through **May 31, 2025**.

Just as our class curriculums are child-led and honor the full citizenship of each and every child, we will always prioritize the needs and rights of each and every family in our community.

PURIM SHPIEL & TALENT SHOW SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 8:15-10:30 PM

Save the date for a really fun Erev Purim event, emceed by our own Josh Winston! All ages invited, costumes encouraged. Got talent? Send us a pitch at <https://www.bethemeth.org/form/talent-show-2024>. The talent show is free to attend; votes in the talent show will be in the form of donations to help support CBE's Purim festivities. Watch your email and the March *Shofar* for more details and RSVP.



SISTERHOOD

For anyone looking for a career change, the Paint and Sip at Pinot's Palette in January proved we have many artists in Sisterhood! What a fun event it was! Sisterhood Shabbat was a lovely evening, with services led by Robyn. The music with Nick May was full of life and *ruach*. There is something magical about hearing voices joining together in prayer and song. Thank you to all who participated!



Calendar of Planned Events

- Saturday, February 10 – Movie Night
- Monday, March 18 – Hamantaschen Exchange
- Sunday, April 14 – Mock Seder
- Thursday, May 16 – Spring Spritzer/Installation

Let's stay warm during these cold, winter months, by spending quality time with friends and loved ones.

Sandy and Felice

Shabbat Judaica on Sale!



Have a Shabbat Shalom with amazing deals at the Sisterhood Gift Shop in February! **Save 20% on Shabbat Judaica items for in-store purchases only.** Don't miss this perfect opportunity to refresh and beautify your Shabbat essentials.

SOCIAL ACTION UPDATE

After a very busy fall and winter, it's time to say todah rabah to everyone who helped support our committee's many efforts and activities. Thanks go to:

- Rachel Foster for coordinating CBE's support of JCCNV's efforts to feed less fortunate neighbors during Christmas week at Bethlehem Lutheran Church;
- Jill Weisman for coordinating CBE's support of Hypothermia Week at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Reston. CBE has a long history of supporting this program, including providing chicken dinner on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day;
- Gail Greenberg for again coordinating nightly entertainment during the Hypothermia Week;
- Alina Kirshon-Goldman for bringing her talented music students to perform during dinner.

And last but not least ... to the many congregants who volunteered time and energy to prepare and serve dinner, and who donated food, drinks and centerpieces, breakfast and snacks. You did a mitzvah!

Rich Weisman, Social Action Chair

POZEZ JCCNV MONTHLY WIDOW/WIDOWER SUPPORT GROUP

Next meeting: **Tuesday, February 20th, 5:15-6:30 PM** at CBE. Free. Questions? Contact Shari Berman, shari.berman@thej.org.



AROUND CBE

MAZAL TOV TO

Sami & Fran Besalel on the birth of their grandson **Reese William Baughn III (Liam)** on November 30th to **Tova Besalel** and her fiancé, Reese Baughn.

Madeline Berger, daughter of **Jamie & Martin Paul**, who recently started a position as Graphic Designer/Marketing Manager for the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. She was happy to brag to them during interviews of her many active years in CBE USY and staffing USY events.

Bob Cohen, who had a key part in the play "Shoah" at Castaways Theater in Woodbridge.

CONDOLENCES TO

The Malyn family on the death of **Elaine Malyn**, mother of **Neil Malyn**, mother-in-law of **Hilary Malyn**, and grandmother of **Bryan and Daniel Malyn**.

TODAH RABAH TO

All who volunteered to provide dinner at Bethlehem Lutheran Church on December 25th and 27th and all who supported St. John Neumann Catholic Community by providing the hypothermia prevention dinner on January 15th.

The Kirshon-Goldman family and the many volunteers for providing and serving the Shabbat luncheon in honor of David's Bar Mitzvah.

SCHOOL NEWS

*Diane Lowenthal, VP for Education
and Shauna Peters, Chair, School Committee*

When we surveyed CBE Religious School (RS) families last year, you expressed interest in strengthening connections to our community. We were thrilled with your response to class Shabbat services and dinners, the CBE RS Amazing Race program, the RS Hanukkah Party, and Community Candlelighting.

We have appreciated seeing our students and families enjoying their time together at CBE and working toward building a stronger community.

We are grateful to all who have made these events possible including: Lori Heisler, the RS Committee, the teachers and *madrachim*, and Sheri Levitan. In addition, we'd like to thank all volunteers who continue to help prepare, serve, and clean up after meals.

We look forward to seeing you at upcoming RS events, including a special Purim celebration this Spring!

Super Bowl LVIII

Enter Our Fun Pool

To Benefit Religious School Activities

<https://www.bethemeth.org/super-bowl-2024>

Deadline Sunday, 2/11 at 12:00 PM

But Why Wait?

(No Football Knowledge Needed!)






Congregation Beth Emeth
12523 Lawyers Road
Herndon, VA 20171

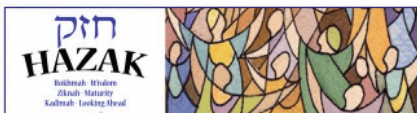
Rabbi: Warner Ferratier
President: Ellyn Hirsch
Affiliated with the United Synagogue
of Conservative Judaism
703.860.4515 x101
www.bethemeth.org (email info@bethemeth.org)

REMINDERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reminder – new security procedures: Guests/visitors must make a reservation to attend services/related events. Check weekly email for details and reservation form.



Minyanaires WhatsApp Group – Can you be "on call" and fill in to make a minyan when needed? If yes, look for info soon about joining our new WhatsApp chat group!



HAZAK/ADULT EDUCATION

SPEAKER: PETER LEVENBERG:

"THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF SOUTH AFRICA"
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 7:30 PM (CBE/ONLINE)



Peter Levenberg is a member of our congregation who has spent most of his life in South Africa. He is a Senior Barrister (trial lawyer) and served frequently as an Acting Judge in the South African High Court. Peter was born, raised, and educated in the vibrant Johannesburg Jewish Community. He practiced law there for many decades, both in pre- and post-apartheid South Africa. Peter will talk about the history, religious and cultural practices and outsized

influence of the world's eleventh largest Jewish Community. You will hear about the mostly Lithuanian origins of South Africa's Ashkenazi Jews as well as South Africa's little known black Lemba people who claim Jewish ancestry. Info: <https://www.bethemeth.org/hazak>.

IT'S SHALACH MANOT TIME!

At CBE, fulfilling the mitzvah of Shalach Manot (*mishloach manot*, Purim gifts of food to friends) has evolved into an annual fundraising event. Thanks to all of you, Shalach Manot raised a record-breaking amount in 2023! We're looking forward to exceeding that amount this year. Around **February 1st**, members will receive an email with information and easy online ordering instructions, with the option to request a paper version. Place your orders from **February 1-March 3**. Each gift includes a special bag filled with goodies with the theme "Cheers to 45 Years: L'Dor v'Dor" and a list of members who contributed toward your gift. While each member household will receive a gift, we hope you will take this opportunity to have your name included on the bags of your friends, classmates, or the whole congregation. Please contact me at fundraising@bethemeth.org if you have not received the information or if you have any questions.

Rachael Fineberg, Fundraising Chair



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 28, 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.

Cover photos: Top - Grades 3-7 witnessed placement in our CBE ark of a Torah that belongs to the Moses family. The Torah was commissioned in Germany in 1875 and survived the Holocaust. Left - A crowd at CBE's Community menorah lighting.