



Beth Shalom Temple

Kol Yonah: The Voice of the Dove

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A Message from President Rob Jobrack

What are we and where are we going? Fine questions that every organization should periodically ask itself. I've been lucky enough to participate in some recent meetings of our re-energized Strategic Planning Committee. The members of the committee are attempting to address these two questions, as well as several others.

It's an interesting and needed exercise. In their discussions the committee is not afraid to ask tough questions and to challenge long-held assumptions.

Some of the interesting conversations have wrestled with things like: Do we have to have full-time rabbinic support? Does clergy have to be a rabbi? What are our obligations to non-affiliated Jews? What are our obligations to the Fredericksburg area? How do we get more members? How do we get current members to be more active? How do we raise the funds to do all the things we want to do? What do we want our congregation to look like in five years? Ten? Do we have a vision?

I'm not sure where we should be going. I have strong personal thoughts about the primary reasons any congregation exists, but am just one person with one set of views.

Over the past year, we've stabilized our congregational life and made some difficult transitions. We've added new social action programs and changed our religious school curriculum. We've reacted to events that have occurred in Pittsburgh by pragmatically assessing and enhancing our security. Most notably, we've learned to adjust to life without full-time clergy, tempered by the welcome addition of Rabbi Jennifer Weiner on a part time basis. But none of that tells us where our journey should be taking us. *(continued page 10)*

Upcoming Events

The Art of Remembrance: A Holocaust Presentation, Saturday, May 4th, 7:30 PM

MKS Book Club Meeting, Tuesday, May 7th, 6:00 PM, at Basilico. Selection is "Somone to Run With"" by David Grossman.

Yom HaAtzmaut Potluck Dinner, Friday, May 10th, 7:15 PM (Family Service at 6:30 PM)

Exploring Conversion, Saturdays, May 11th & June 1st, 12:30 PM

Mother's Day Brunch, Sunday, May 12th, 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM

VYBS Shabbat Service, Friday, May 17th, 7:30 PM

Annual Congregational Meeting, Saturday, May 18th, 7:00 PM

Last Day of Religious School & Bagel Bar, Sunday, May 19th, 9:00 AM
All members are welcome as we celebrate another successful year!

Know Your Neighbor Interfaith Picnic, Sunday, June 23rd, 12:00 PM

Heritage Festival Craft Show, Thursday, July 4th, All Day, in Downtown Fredericksburg. *We are now accepting vendor applications for the 45th Annual Heritage Festival Craft Show to be held on Wednesday, July 4, 2019 in downtown Fredericksburg. You may reserve a space by contacting the Heritage Festival Craft Show Committee by email at heritagefestivalcrafters@gmail.com.*

For our regular schedule of services and other weekly events, please visit the website calendar at www.bstva.org/calendar

Scouting at BST

*Longtime Scout & Member of BST Honored with Article in Scouter Digest**



Dick Haas (92 years old and affectionately known as “The Ancient One” or “TAO” to many throughout NCAC) and his son Mike have over 132 years of continuous BSA Scouting experience between them. They are also the only father/son team actively Staffing an NCAC Wood Badge training Course: a reflection of their unified and lifelong commitment to teaching other Scouters leadership skills to benefit all Scouts and Scouting Families.

TAO was a Scoutmaster for 15 years in New York State, and served as an Assistant Scoutmaster and in numerous BSA training and service positions that impacted hundreds of young men’s lives over multiple decades from the 1960s into the early 2000s. He remains an active Scouter in Stafford, VA, continuing to train and mentor adults in Scouting leadership skills. A World War II Navy veteran, TAO earned lifesaving awards for actions in 1964. Scoutmaster of the Year in 1970 in Greater New York Council, in 1976 TAO created a Scouting junior leader training course in New York that trained hundreds of Scouts across almost three decades. Upon moving to Virginia, he energized a similar youth-led leadership training conference which has been running in Aquia District since 2007. Friends and loved ones honored TAO in 2013 to commemorate his 76th BSA anniversary.

The elder Haas lives with Rita, his wife of over 62 years, in Falls Run in southern Stafford. He is a Life Scout who has been in Scouting for 82 years. TAO shook the hand of Scouting’s Founder, Lord Baden-Powell, while a member of the BSA’s contingent at the 1939 World’s Fair in Queens, NY. He earned his Wood Badge Beads in 1964, after training at Schiff Scout Reservation in New Jersey, and was his sons’ first Scoutmaster in Manhattan, NY. *(continued page 4)*

(continued) His son Mike, also a Life Scout, retired from the Marine Corps in 2004 and lives with Lisa, his wife of over 36 years, in northern Stafford. Mike earned his Wood Badge Beads in 2006 and has had the privilege of Staffing multiple courses. When Mike was honored with selection as one of two Wood Badge Course Directors for 2019, a year which celebrates the 100th Anniversary of the original Wood Badge Course organized and led by Lord Baden-Powell at Gilwell Park in England, it's no mystery he chose his dad to be one of his Course Mentors. Mike's other Mentor is John Peloquin, a former NCAC Wood Badge Course Director. Mike and John started their Scouting Trails together in Troop 26 ("26 Kicks!") in Stafford. Mike took the hand-off from John as Scoutmaster in the mid-2000s.

Thanks to Mike's tireless efforts, Fredericksburg enjoys a Ten Commandments Walk every year for its Boy Scouts and Beth Sholom celebrates Scouting Shabbat, encouraging Scouts to enjoy and explore their faith.

**from a Scouter Digest contributor. See the original article at:*

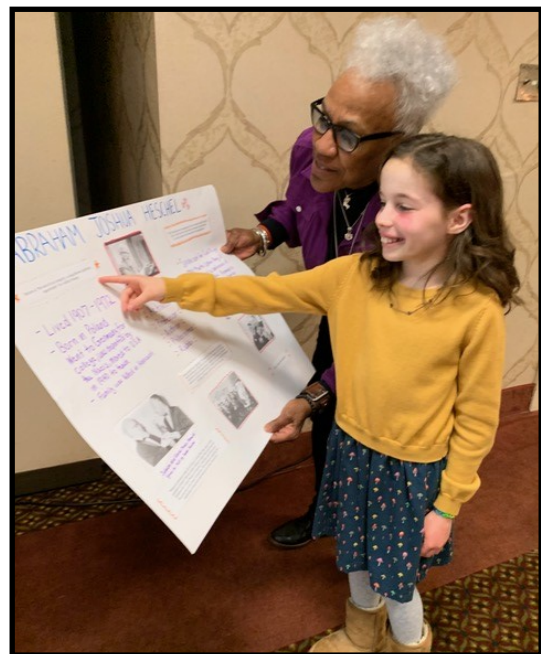
<https://weownadventure.com/scouting-is-for-life-the-ancient-one-aka-tao-continues-to-serve-as-a-scouting-mentor-for-his-59-year-old-eldest-son/>

BST Around Town

Vigil for New Zealand Victims at the Islamic Center of Fredericksburg, March 17th. Photo by Cindy Green.



Have a photo to submit? Email it to office@bstva.org!



Rachel Green and her competition-winning poster featuring Rabbi Heschel, with Gaye Adegbalola, the VP of the local NAACP chapter, at the Martin Luther King, Jr Prayer Breakfast on January 21st. Photo by Cindy Green.

Purim Shpiel "Dancing Queen" - March 16th.

Photos by Alan Mindlin

Around BST



BST Mitzvah Dinner & Dance
Fundraiser - March 9th.

Photos by Alan Mindlin.



Adult Education with the ISJL

Article and Photo by President Robert Jobrack*



Visiting Rabbi Aaron Rozovsky offered an adult education talk on Jews and Slavery in the sanctuary on January 27, 2019. Rabbi Rozovsky is the Director of Rabbinical Services at the Institute of Southern Jewish Life in Jackson, Mississippi.

Starting with Torah, Rabbi Rosovsky provided an overview of the Jewish people as slaves and slave owners. He reminded listeners that we shouldn't shy away from these parts of Torah: even though they are uncomfortable, they

offer wisdom on justice and mercy considering the context of the times they were written.

He went on to discuss the Jewish relationship with slavery in ancient Israel and during the diaspora. He addressed head-on the allegations that Jews were fundamentally responsible for the slave trade in America.

Using facts and citing sources without dodging painful truths, Rabbi Rosovsky noted that Jews owned slaves and participated in the slave trade, but in a far lesser proportion than the rest of the American population.

During the discussion that followed, members and Rabbi Rosovsky related personal experiences with these and other misconceptions that resulted from prejudice or ignorance. The rabbi offered insight into methods to address falsehoods about Jews and slavery and ways to improve discourse without denying painful truths about our history.

**Pictured: Rabbi Rozovsky addresses members of the congregation on Jan. 27.*

Want to learn more? Visit www.isjl.org or www.facebook.com/TheISJL

Purim with VYBS at BST

Written by VYBS and Margaret Rice

For around 15 years, the VYBS (Virginia Youth of Beth Shalom) youth group has been serving as the organizers and the leaders of the annual Purim Carnival at Beth Shalom Temple. In addition to the Carnival, they also serve dinner before the Purim Shpiel every year and make and sell Hamantashen to the congregation. They infuse Purim with joy and tradition at Beth Shalom! If you haven't taken part in Purim at BST in the past, or enjoyed some of the tasty, homemade Hamantashen, what are you waiting for?

Here are some questions answered by members of the youth group who have helped in previous years...

Q: What is the best part of making the Hamantashen?

A: Al: Eating them

Aviva: Filling the Hamantashen

Leah: The whole process

Q: What are some favorites among the Carnival games?

A: Gabriel & Leah: The Hamantashen Nerf Gun Game

Carrick: Gaga Ball

Aviva & Cora: Whipped Cream Game

Q: What, in your opinion, is the message of Purim?

A: Equality & to Not Judge Others

Q: What is one thing you'd like every teen who helps out with the Purim festivities to take away from the experience?

A: A good time!

Leadership and Voices

Written by President Robert Jobrack

Beth Sholom Temple has been around for over 80 years and a lot of people have served on our Board of Directors. Almost all of them lacked the time, experience, and specific knowledge to feel entirely confident in this role, but all did it. I know: as you read this you are thinking “There is no way I’ll ever serve on the board of directors.” In case you are having trouble articulating your reasons, here are four you can use:

1) “I don’t have the time.” Probably the most common rationale. I will tell you that no one has the time to do it, yet people have volunteered over the years. Everyone has lots of other stuff going on: lives, family, jobs, hobbies, etc. All of which create demands on our time, but anyone who is a worthy Board member has many things going on.

2) “I don’t know anything about congregational management.” Nobody ever knows what they are doing when first serving as a Director. We all become a lot more knowledgeable after a year on the Board, and the longer we stay the more we learn, but serving with no corporate memory might give you an open mind and a fresh perspective.

3) “Too much politics.” There will be politics since these are elected positions, but in the past few years most meetings have been mundane with a lot of consensus. Maybe we’ll have a contentious issue we can’t resolve and there will be politics in the future, but for the past few years there really hasn’t been political competition or disagreements.

4) “Someone else will do it.” This is my favorite reason for not serving on the Board. Maybe we’ll all take this approach then we won’t have to worry about nominations, ballots and elections. Congregational management will happen magically. *(continued page 9)*

(continued) So, why should you serve? Because a congregation with many members who have taken a turn at leadership makes for a more informed organization. Because folks who serve on the Board need time off from leadership to experience life as a regular congregant and someone has to take their place. Because it is a way to have a voice in the direction of Beth Sholom and address questions like: Should we have full time clergy? What repairs are most urgent in our building? How do we better communicate with membership? What local social action should BST engage in? How do we raise more money to do all of the above? Most importantly, it's a way of serving our Jewish community.

I urge you to consider serving as a Director. It's only a 12 month term and you will learn a lot about your congregation. After that year, even if you leave the Board, you will be a better congregant.

While the Board of Directors Ballot for the Annual Meeting on May 18th, 2019, at 7:00 PM, has been settled, nominations can still be made from the floor at that meeting. There is still the very important post of President vacant on the ballot, and BST needs someone to fill this role. If you or someone you know is interested in still being considered for this or another Board position at the Annual Meeting, you can contact President Robert Jobrack (president@bstva.org) or consult the BST Constitution for more information about the Board and its positions.

Oneg Teams

April 19th

Temple Sponsored Kiddush Only

April 26th

Ingalls

May 3rd

Cooper, Mindlin, Borsheim

May 10th

Levin, Boyd, Green

May 17th

Baer, Evans

May 24th

Temple Sponsored

May 31st

Coman, Contreras, Miller

June 7th

BST Sisterhood Sponsored

June 14th

Swanson, Freeman, James

June 21st

Snyder, Holmes, Zarate

June 28th

Lemmerman, Pearlman, Kobin

(continued from page 1) I worry about the future of Reform Judaism and our congregation over the long run. A 2013 Pew study of American Jewry found some distressing findings. Things like: The median age of Reform members is 54; only 17 percent of members say that they attend religious services even once a month; 80% of the movement's youth are gone by the time they graduate high school. Perhaps most importantly the number of U.S. Jews who consider themselves Jewish by religion (rather than only ethnically or culturally) has diminished considerably and is significantly lower with each generation since World War II.

What does this mean for BST? Again, I'm not sure. Is our success (so far) and endurance just a random anomaly? Is there something that distinguishes us from the congregations that have closed? Or are we merely putting our fingers in the dike as we hold on to traditions and practices out of habit?

I am sure of one thing though: these are not questions that should be left up to one person, or one committee. If we are serious about Judaism, then we all need to give some thought and offer thoughtful opinions on questions. Every opinion matters. We each have an opportunity to serve on the committee, to attend Board of Directors meetings, or to informally provide feedback and wisdom to the Directors. If we don't care enough to speak up, then we can't complain if the direction taken is not what we expected.

Contributions

General Fund

In Memory of

Harry Snitkin, Anna Snitkin, and Sidney Snitkin, from Sid & Ann Snitkin

Teresa Dudenas and Elaine Lewis, from Rick & Ginny Lewis

Ken Cary, from Dan & Cinde Hoffman

Anita Ingalls, from Steve Ingalls & Barbara Smiley-Ingalls

Jennie Korman, from Terry Schutt

Geoffrey Grady and Harriet Telpinsterin, from Allan & Ellen Grady

In Honor of

Dr. Neil Green, from Pia & David Borsheim

Rabbi Discretionary Fund

Richard & Wendy Safren

Laura Rosenthal

Education Fund

In Memory of

Bronte Borsheim Christian, from Pia & David Borsheim

Yahrzeit & Memorial Fund

In Memory of

Albert Burke, from Vivian Wolf & Steve Robertson

Pincus Denis, from Dick & Rita Haas

Murray Greenberg, from Steve Ingalls & Barbara Smiley-Ingalls

Esther Isman, from Dolly Carniol

Beatrice Bidner and Julius Schor, from Gil & Gloria Schor

Want to contribute an article? Contact office@bstva.org!