



Beth El Bulletin

Beth El Hebrew Congregation

April 2019
Adar II/Nissan 5779

Worship Services

Friday, April 5

Erev Shabbat Service,
7:30 pm

Saturday, April 6

Shabbat Morning Service,
10:30 am
Tot Shabbat, 11 am

Friday, April 12

Erev Shabbat Service,
7:30 pm

Saturday, April 13

Shabbat Morning Service,
10:30 am
Tot Shabbat Seder,
10:30 am—2 pm

Friday, April 19

No Shabbat Service;
Enjoy your Seder!

Saturday, April 20

Shabbat Morning Service,
10:30 am

Friday, April 26

Yizkor Service, 10:30 am
Erev Shabbat Service,
7:30 pm

Saturday, April 27

Tot Shabbat, 8-9 am
Shabbat Morning Service,
10:30 am



**Religious School
K-3 Model Seder,
April 7**

**Religious School
Sephardic/Chocolate
Seder, April 10**

**Tot Shabbat
Seder,
April 13**

**Judaica Shop
Passover Boutique,
April 7**

**ECLC Model
Seder,
April 12**

**BEHC Community
Second Seder,
April 20**

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Rabbi's Remarks

Interview with Rabbi Folb

BETH EL IS BLESSED with many talented and passionate people, each of whom brings distinct gifts to our congregational community.

This month, I sat down with one very special member, **Rabbi Ann Folb**. Thanks to Rabbi Folb, Beth El presents an excellent learning opportunity for students of all levels of Jewish knowledge during our biweekly course “The Genius of the Rabbis” on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 7:00 – 8:30 pm.

Rabbi Spinrad: Tell us a little bit about yourself.

Rabbi Folb: I was born and raised in Chicago. From an early age, I loved being Jewish including both attending services and religious school. As a teen, I attended the first camp of the Reform Movement, Camp Olin Sang Ruby Union Institute (OSRUI) at Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. That experience was a formative one for me. The rabbis I met there and the rich Jewish environment began my journey to the rabbinate, although it was not a straight path.

Rabbi Spinrad: Your bio reads that you were ordained from Hebrew Union College in 2007, the same seminary that Cantor Kaufman and I attended. Can you tell us about the intervening years between your formative Jewish experiences and becoming a rabbi?

Rabbi Folb: In 1963, I enrolled in the joint undergraduate program that the Hebrew Union College had with the University of Cincinnati. The letter that I received prior to my coming stated that, “Women were welcome to study at the Hebrew Union College but so far none had completed the course and they did not know what the future for women in the rabbinate would be. So far they had chosen careers in Jewish education.”

Rabbi Spinrad: Not so encouraging. At that time, had the Reform Movement ordained any women rabbis?

Rabbi Folb: Not yet, and the College would not until 1972. I opted to attend anyway. While there, I met another student, Howard Folb, and we were married. I decided that two rabbis in one family would have a very difficult career path and pursued a master's degree in social work. Most of my career has been in the field of mental health. After Howard died in 1998, I decided that I still wanted very much to become a rabbi. I returned to

HUC and was ordained in 2007.

Rabbi Spinrad: That's amazing! Forty years after you began on your path to the rabbinate, you reached your goal. And what brought you to Beth El?

Rabbi Folb: Our youngest child, Joshua Folb, and his family, wife Belinda and son Michael, live in Arlington and are members of Beth El. They introduced me to this fine congregation and its dedicated leaders. After returning from South Africa, where I led the Progressive congregation in Pretoria, I decided to follow them here.

Rabbi Spinrad: We are glad you did. We are honored to have you not only as a member of our congregation, but as a member of our teaching faculty. Tell us about “The Genius of the Rabbis.”

Rabbi Folb: I have been fortunate to be invited to teach a biweekly course at Beth El that I have entitled “The Genius of the Rabbis.” We are looking at the various creative ways in which our teachers have helped Judaism remain a vibrant way of living and serving our covenantal tradition over several thousand years. This has not always been an easy task, but I believe that their solutions can help us find our own in an age that still presents challenges to Judaism and to Jewish life. The backbone of the Jewish people has always been *chavrutta*, the partnered study of sacred texts, with a teacher to help facilitate learning.

Rabbi Spinrad: Who is your targeted audience?

Rabbi Folb: The class is geared toward an adult audience, and it is appropriate for all who are interested. I aim to make our learning rigorous yet inclusive, an important line to walk. Every student has different levels of confidence and Jewish knowledge.

Rabbi Spinrad: Is it too late to join the class?

Rabbi Folb: Not at all, and we would love to have you join us. The class is set up a bit like a survey, following the outline of Barry Holtz's classic text, *Back to the Sources*. We will be covering the Bible and some of its commentaries, foundational Rabbinic texts the Mishnah and the Talmud, Midrash, Codes, as well as a bit of philosophy and liturgy. While not mandatory, I encourage all of our learners to purchase *Back to the Sources*.

Rabbi Spinrad: Thank you, Rabbi.

— Rabbi Spinrad



Cantor's Corner

RECENTLY, I HAD the privilege of joining with our Confirmation class as they lobbied on Capitol Hill. This was part of a program with the Religious Action Center, called L'takein (that means "to repair," as in "repairing the world"). I'm proud to be an active supporter of the work of the Religious Action Center, and this specific program is one that I believe in strongly. In today's world, educating our community — particularly our youth — on how to be engaged in respectful civic discourse and how to advocate effectively on issues of importance is time well spent. I'm so pleased that this was our fifth year participating in this program and that our congregation supports our efforts as strongly as we do.

L'takein is a four-day experience, starting on a Friday right before Shabbat at a nearby hotel, followed by a weekend of intense learning and fun sightseeing in Washington, DC. The program culminates with an incredible experience on Monday, wherein our students lobby their congressional representatives, utilizing all of their newfound skills.

L'takein is part youth group event, part crash course in current events, and part hands-on training for effective political advocacy. Oh, how I wish I had gone on this program myself, when I was a Confirmation student! We are very lucky to have the Confirmation program that we have at Beth El, thanks to our Director of Education, **Bary Smith**, and Confirmation teacher, **Maryn Simon**.

This year we had four students who participated with L'takein. One of my greatest joys as cantor at Beth El is to partner with our Confirmation class and join them on

their lobbying day in DC. This year our four students, **Rabbi Spinrad**, **Maryn Simon**, and I met with the offices of Senators Kaine and Warner, and Congressman Beyer. Our students discussed issues that spoke to them in a meaningful way from those they spent the previous three days studying. In each of their senate and congressional meetings, they beautifully articulated their beliefs, which they supported with facts as well as personal anecdotes. They made me so incredibly proud!

An anecdote shared in our meetings that I found incredibly meaningful was when one of our students expressed concern for the immigrant community in her school. She was inspired by the knowledge that years ago her family came to this country as immigrants in need of support, as well. I'm pleased to know that this specific story found its way directly to Senator Kaine.

How lucky we are as a community that it is so easy for us to take advantage of the opportunities that exist in DC and Alexandria! Religious School students fly from all over the country to DC to participate in this program, and we are lucky enough to live so close to Capitol Hill that we were able to Uber from our meetings back home to Alexandria after our day of lobbying!

Our congregants continue to be civic leaders in our community, and this incredible L'takein program is a wonderful example of us taking advantage of the many opportunities that are right in our back yard. This program has become a mainstay of our religious school experience, and I am already looking forward to being a part of it next year.

— **Cantor Kaufman**





President's Point of View

I SUSPECT THAT like many of you, I joined Beth El when it was time to give my daughters a Jewish education. I greatly enjoyed mine and wanted to provide the education that would create the best environment to ensure that my daughters would embrace Jewish values and traditions. The religious school is the incubator for the next generation, but it is so much more than that. Although the member satisfaction survey is several years old, it was notable that the religious school was an area where we compared favorably to similar congregations. Parents come to us not simply because we have a religious school but because of the religious school we have. For that reason, the religious school director position is critical to the future of Beth El, and the Search Committee is working hard to bring the best candidate to us.

The preschool wasn't around when Darci and Amy were little, but it has had a profound impact on Beth El. First, the partnership between the JCCNV and Beth El has resulted in a preschool that contributes a significant portion of Beth El's income, taking some of the pressure off individual members, and in some way perhaps allowing us to offer free will dues. That's important, but perhaps as important is the role the preschool plays in recruiting new members. Young families who come to the preschool are encouraged to become acquainted with us,

share Shabbat and holidays with us, and meet and learn from the clergy. To meet us is to love us, and we have found, in no small part due to the efforts of the Preschool Director, **Dina Backer**, that preschool families have contributed to membership growth and thus the health of Beth El.

It is with the recognition of the significance of Beth El's programs for children that I ask for your assistance in making the Brett Isserow Playground a reality. The playground design will be on display shortly in our lobby, and what you will see is the latest thinking in playground design. The playground is in accordance with the Reggio-Emilia philosophy and has been designed to complement the preschool's program. Reggio-Emilia is a student-centered approach that uses self-directed, experiential learning in relationship-driven environments.

Unfortunately, the Board and I have learned that playgrounds are expensive, and this dream cannot become a reality without your support. Please support our fundraising efforts, and consider a gift to the playground fund when recognizing life cycle events. Children learn through play, and their experiences in our preschool can set up a love for Judaism that lasts a lifetime. Whether or not you have children in the preschool, you can have a hand in shaping the future. Thank you, and best wishes from my family to you for a joyous Pesach!

— **Julienne Bramesco**

Judaica Shop

LOOKING FOR A special wedding gift, baby gift or menorah? Be sure to check out the WRJ gift shop. We have just what you need at a great price. We even offer free gift wrap.

Don't forget our Passover Mini Boutique on Sunday, March 31 and Sunday, April 7 from 9:30 - 1:00 p.m.

Thank you for shopping the shop!

— **Sara Deshong and Roberta Sultzer**



"Leave Your Mark" on the New Playground with a River Rock Painting Kit

KITS ARE AVAILABLE for \$10 and all sales benefit the fundraising campaign to build a new playground at Beth El. The kit includes a rock, paint, and a brush to help get you started! Paint the rocks at home and return them to the pre-school office to be integrated into the new playground design!

River Rock kits will be on sale at the Judaica Shop during the pre-school model Seder on Friday, April 12 from 10 am - 12:15 pm.

For more information or to request a kit, contact

Ellen Kovar
ellenkovar@att.net



Religious School Report: Family Environment Day — A Win for Our Congregation



ON SUNDAY February 24, our fourth and fifth grade students and their parents had the opportunity to suggest ways to improve our Beth El environment. The morning began with an excellent presentation by **Gilah Goldsmith** on how the teaching of our Torah directly relates to the protection of our environment. Subsequent to this discussion, the parents enjoyed an in-depth text study and our students engaged in a game designed to show how our environment is interconnected to how we live our daily lives. This game and discussion was led by our wonderful 8th and 9th grade madrichim. (Thank you, **Nancy Davis** and **Kimberly Warshaw**.) After these activities, we watched the film *Hometown Habitat*. This film demonstrates how we are all interconnected to the environment and how faith communities are addressing these interconnections of our environment to their places of worship.

The program culminated with students and parents making feasible suggestions on how we can enhance the quality of the environment at Beth El. The suggestions were:

- Increasing our recycling activities at Beth El Hebrew Congregation, including composting;
- Eliminate the use of styrofoam plates and cups;
- Catch rainwater in rain barrels and use water for gardens;
- Plant a garden on front lawn;

- Eliminate the bamboo growing on Beth El property and replace it with native species;
- Eliminate use of plastics;
- Build birdhouses.

Beth El has already taken many steps to enhance the environment, for example, installing LED lighting and using timers, and recycling paper.

Please do not hesitate to pass on your ideas on how we can implement these projects or other actions that you believe will assist in improving our environment.

Our goal is to have the classes examine these ideas and determine what can be reasonably implemented. For example, we are investigating the feasibility of using only paper products. Increased cost is an issue that needs to be addressed.

This program was designed to be one more Beth El effort to demonstrate the relevancy of Judaism to our everyday lives. In my opinion, we accomplished this mission.

L'Shalom

Barry Smith, Director of Education
bsmith@bethelhebrew.org

ECLC News

AS SPRING rolls in (finally), we are all anticipating much more outdoor play time. Fun in the sun and fresh air are important parts of who we are! As you know, new outdoor play space is in the works for us in the very near future. Much hard work and effort goes into a project as big as this one. Currently, the plans are drawn, the contractors are ready, and we are in the fundraising portion of the project. We are in the process of raising \$150,000. We are grateful to the trivia night and wine tasting fundraisers for getting us started! Everyone should have received a letter explaining the project.

This project has been in our hearts for so long, and this “ask” comes from a place of love for our young friends. Please help us if you can so that our kids will have the best opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors in an environment that promotes growth and exploration. The space will be truly awe inspiring!

Please watch for updates and details to come. If you need information or have questions about contributing, please do not hesitate to be in touch.

— **Dina Backer**



Executive Director's Entry

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE that we are approaching 2nd Seder again! Last year was the end of an era. Those of us who were able to attend got to witness the very last Seder from Rabbi Isserow.

For me, it was also the beginning. It was my first time at 2nd Seder. It was also the first time that we brought in Chef Xavier Beverly from the Camel restaurant in Richmond. His brisket received rave reviews!

I would like to personally invite all of you to attend our 2nd Seder celebration this year! The menu looks absolutely delicious! It will be served family style, so no need to choose only one entrée!

- **Beef Brisket**
Tender slices of beef brisket served in a savory au' jus garnished with fresh herbs
- **Lemon & Herb Chicken Breast**
Tender and juicy chicken breast pan-seared and served in a lemon & herb chicken stock garnished with fresh herbs
- **Matzo Ball Soup**
Light and fluffy matzo balls served in chicken broth with shredded carrots and fresh parsley to garnish

- **Spinach Kugel**
Fresh chopped spinach blended with shredded potatoes and fresh herbs baked to perfection
- **Roasted Potatoes**
Seasoned red potatoes roasted to perfection garnished with fresh herbs

For members to attend, each adult needs to purchase a ticket for \$60. Each member child only costs \$25. If you are not a member, do not worry. You can still join us to celebrate our exodus from Egypt and our trip to the Holy Land! Non-member adult tickets cost \$80, while non-member children tickets are only \$30.

We look forward to seeing you at Beth El on April 20, 2019 at 6:00 pm to help celebrate Pesach!

Adam Wallach
Executive Director



Trivia Night Was Awesome!

WHAT GAME was invented on board a Canadian couple's yacht?
Which is lowest-value number that includes an "a" in its name?
How old was Elvis when he died?
What building is located at 350 Fifth Avenue in New York City?

On March 3, 90 people (including 12 BEFTY teens) racked their brains to answer these questions and more at Trivia Night 2.0. Participants enjoyed a light dinner and many treats as they contemplated topics ranging from TV, music, science, bible, math, and geography. **Howard Wahlberg** did a fantastic job with questions and wit as the Trivia Master. The evening raised \$2,000 for the Rabbi Isserow Playground Fund.

Many thanks to the hard work of the Trivia Night Committee: **Patrice Gotsch, Traci Gravelle, Pavlina Ittelson, Anne Levy, Mary Meyrow, Julie Mueller, Matt Mutterperl, Inna Naygauz, Sue Rabin, Sally Schneider, and Rachel Turner.**

Join the fun at Trivia Night 3.0 in 2020!

P.S.: The answers to the questions above are hidden in this issue of the Bulletin!



Inclusion News

A Successful Shabbaton with Rabbi Lauren Tuchman

WE DID IT! From March 1-3, Beth El hosted Rabbi Lauren Tuchman as our special guest and teacher for a weekend of learning focused on building truly inclusive congregations. Rabbi Tuchman aspires to change the way congregations view inclusion, broadening the concept beyond people with disabilities to include all who may feel marginalized, in order to create communities in which everyone's presence is celebrated. The weekend was thought-provoking and inspiring.

According to one congregant, it was marvelous to have a full weekend with Rabbi Tuchman so that even busy congregants could find an event to fit their schedules. Another said that she loved how Rabbi Tuchman's programs built upon each other, covering additional and different aspects of issues at each session. A third congregant stressed that "the representative of the message is very important — even if it is a message that others have spoken about in the past," and noted that Rabbi Tuchman was a wonderful messenger conveying an important message.

Rabbi Tuchman is, to the best of her knowledge, the first-ever blind woman to enter the rabbinate. An engaging speaker, she combines information from Jewish texts, her own experiences, and current events to advocate an approach to inclusion based on building person-to-person relationships and welcoming each individual as a whole being rather than on simply providing accommodations. Rabbi Tuchman said that she disagrees with approaches to inclusion that are couched in language "welcoming the stranger," since none of us should be strangers if "we were all at Sinai."

On Friday night more than 70 congregants and staff welcomed Rabbi Tuchman at a delicious community dinner. Afterward, even more of us turned out to fill the sanctuary for evening services, where Rabbi Tuchman joined **Rabbi Spinrad** and **Cantor Kaufman** on the bimah and talked about the weekly Torah portion and the concept of inclusion. On Saturday, Rabbi Tuchman joined Beth El's regular Torah study group and then attended morning services. Afterward, 20 of us —including **Rabbi Spinrad** and **Cantor Kaufman** — took part in a very moving potluck Lunch & Learn with Rabbi Tuchman. Later in the afternoon, BEHC youth coordinators **Marissa Smolinsky** and **Nori White Plunkett** and Beth El teens met with Rabbi Tuchman for an informal salon-style discussion on issues of inclusion, exclusion, and marginalization. Then, on Sunday morning, about 50 of us took part in a highly interactive Inclusion Forum with Rabbi Tuchman, which was moderated by **Robert Siegel**, a Beth El member who is also an

award-winning journalist.

The weekend was co-sponsored by Beth El's clergy, Inclusion Committee, WRJ, Brotherhood, and the Religious School. Sunday's Inclusion Forum was also co-sponsored by the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia.

Sincere thanks go to all of the people who contributed to the weekend's success:

- To **Barry Smith** for suggesting the weekend concept and for providing advice and information each step of the way.
- To **Julienne Bramesco, Rabbi Spinrad, Rabbi Isserow, Adam Wallach, Linda Waller, Jeanette Astrow, John Jankowski, and Ron Sturman** for helping develop the weekend's concept and/or implementation.
- To Friday night volunteers **Dawn Kaye** and **Debbie Katz**; to **Richard** and **Joyce Gordon** who sponsored the Shabbat Social Hour; and to **Jo Ann Allen**, who made sure we had enough delicious treats at the Oneg Shabbat.
- To all the people who helped with Saturday's Lunch & Learn, especially **Jeanette Astrow, Linda Waller, Diane Suchman, Arlene Tave, and Diane Cramer**.
- To **Marissa Smolinsky** and **Nori Plunkett White**, for managing the teen event .
- To **Jerry Terlitzky**, for managing Sunday's Inclusion Forum, to **Robert Siegel** for skillfully moderating that discussion; and to **Michael Folkman, Stuart Davis, Fred Reiner, Joel Augen, Norm Starler, and Bob Holden** for helping at the event.
- Also, a big thank you goes to the office staff, **Becky McMurry, Maryam Sayed, Robyn Ziperstein, and Lenetta Mallory**, for taking care of all the behind-the-scenes details, and to the custodial staff, **Arturo, Boat, Guillermo, Hernan, and Ruben**, for doing all the heavy work. We could not have done it without you.

Putting the event together was both exhausting and exhilarating. Above all, it was extremely rewarding to create an event that brought congregants together to reflect on the kind of congregation we are and want to be in the future.

Jeanne Holden

Inclusion Committee Chair

jeanneholden@yahoo.com

Pictures from this wonderful weekend are on page 17.

WRJ News

HAPPY SPRING! WRJ will celebrate the new season with some Chapel in the Woods renewal. Join us on Sunday, April 7 from 10 am-noon as we plant native species in the newly-terraced ravine to help prevent erosion caused by run-off from our parking lot. A light lunch will be served immediately after. Please RSVP to wrijhospitality@gmail.com so we can ensure we have enough food. Long sleeves, long pants, socks, and closed toe shoes are a must. Bring work gloves if you have them.

Change of date! WRJ Shabbat will be celebrated on Friday, May 31 beginning at 6 pm with a potluck dinner, our annual meeting with election of officers, celebration of our Woman of the Year, **Pat Collins**, and our annual raffle fundraiser drawing. Raffle tickets will be coming in the mail shortly. We hope you will consider supporting this annual fundraiser. Shabbat services will follow at 7:30 pm.

As mandated by our bylaws, we present our proposed slate of officers for the 2019-2021 term. Thank you to **Sue Meisner** and **Naomi Mercer** for their hard work in gathering our leaders for the next two years.

- Co-Presidents: **Patricia Collins** and **Linda Shapiro**
- Vice Presidents: **Jo Ann Allen**, **Dorrit Lowsen**, and **Sue Meisner**
- Treasurer – **Dina Katz**
- Recording Secretary – **Naomi Mercer**
- Corresponding Secretary – **Judy Jankowski**

- Immediate Past President – **Jeanette Astrow**
- Counselor – **Suzie Shalewitz**

As many of you know, last year Beth El received a significant bequest from the Benheim family estate. At the February board meeting, the board invited members to offer ideas on what should be done with the bequest. Some of the suggestions included placing the entire amount into the Permanent Endowment Fund to grow, the addition of an elevator to make the second floor accessible to all, and a request for \$50K for the Playground Fund. WRJ and Brotherhood received smaller but still generous bequests as well. At our April meeting on April 3 at 6:30 pm, WRJ will open the floor for discussion regarding how we should disburse or invest our bequest. Bring your new ideas and/or support for already proposed ideas. We want to hear from you.

Join WRJ's book club group on Tuesday, April 9, at 11 am to discuss *Nine Folds make a Paper Swan* by Ruth Gilligan. New members are always welcome. WRJ membership is required.

Please note a change of date for Mahj Mayhem which will now be held on May 19 from 2-5 pm.

Chag Pesach Sameach,

B'shalom,
Jeanette Astrow
WRJ President



WRJ Shabbat

Friday, May 31st at 6:00 pm

WRJ would like to invite you to the **Annual Pot Luck Dinner**

We will hold our **annual meeting**, honor the **WRJ Woman of the Year**, and draw winners of our **annual raffle**, followed by **Shabbat Services** at 7:30pm

Congratulations to the 2019 Woman of the Year

Patricia Collins

Brotherhood News

IT HAS ONCE AGAIN been a rather event-full several weeks for your Beth El Brotherhood. Since the last *Bulletin*, we partnered with the Fairlington United Methodist Men's Club in our 61st annual joint interfaith dinner attended by about 100 Beth El and Fairlington congregants. The guest speaker, Erin McKenney of *Just Neighbors*, focused on efforts to provide much-needed legal services to recent immigrants to the US, and past president **Linda Waller** provided informative (and some amusing cultural) anecdotes of Beth El's own efforts in this important area. At the dinner, Fairlington's Pastor Mary Beth Blinn informed guests with great sadness how on that day The United Methodist Church General Conference approved their "Traditional Plan," continuing the denomination's ban on the ordination and marriage of LGBTQ United Methodists. Dinner table conversations focused on how the Jewish and Methodist faiths have dealt with this all-important social, cultural, and religious issue.

In late February, Brotherhood hosted its second informal just-show-up Sunday morning *Bagels and Banter* gathering. Attended by more than two dozen Beth El men, participants were unanimous in their praise for this friendship-building opportunity. Look for further gatherings in the months to come.

Brotherhood also provided both financial and logistical support for the Inclusion Committee's forum featuring Rabbi Lauren Tuchman's talk on the Transformative Power of Inclusive Torah. Thank-you to Brotherhood event volunteers, **Jerry Terlitzky** (manager), **Stuart Da-**

vis, Mike Folkman, Bob Holden, Judy Jankowski, Fred Reiner, Norm Starler and Ron Sturman.

The defending division champion **Beth El Softball Team** is looking for players to join the squad for the 2019 season. The Fairfax County Church Softball League regular season, which begins in April and concludes with a single-elimination tournament following Independence Day, consists of eight doubleheaders (weather permitting). Anyone interested in playing — or simply rooting for the home team — along with some competition, sportsmanship, fun, and a little exercise (without injuries) should contact the coach, **Josh Krantz**, at

joshuakrantz@gmail.com, or **Jim Goldwater**, at jimau-h2o@aol.com. Games generally are held on Sunday afternoons and weeknights (no games for us on Friday nights or Saturdays). All players must be members of Brotherhood (annual dues are \$36).

To date we have received no applications for our **Brotherhood Youth Scholarship**, which is available to support opportunities for students in grades 8 through 12 that will "enhance their Jewish identity through learning experiences and leadership programs that are available beyond our own temple community." Application forms are available at <https://www.bethelhebrew.org/community/brotherhood>.

John Jankowski

Brotherhood President

brotherhood@bethelhebrew.org

61st Annual BEHC-Fairlington United Methodist Church Interfaith Dinner



2019 Mah Jongg Lessons



April 25 (Thursday): 6:30 - 8:30 PM
 April 28 (Sunday): 10:00 am - noon
 May 2 (Thursday): 6:30 - 8:30 pm
 May 5 (Sunday): 10:00 am - noon
 May 9 (Thursday): 6:30 - 8:30 pm
 (no class on Mothers' Day)
 May 16 (Thursday): 6:30 - 8:30 pm

**GUARANTEED YOU WILL LEARN TO PLAY
 EVEN IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND ALL CLASSES!**

\$36 payable to BE-WRJ at first class
 Includes book and 2019 Mah Jongg Card.

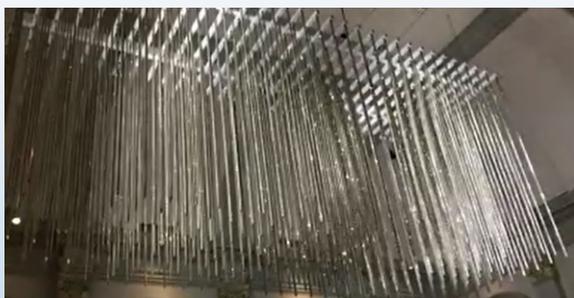
Register: susangwhitman@gmail.com
 or fran.vogel@verizon.net

Peter Pan Purim Shpiel



Culture Club Visited the Renwick Gallery in March

Renwick's beautiful light sculpture above the grand staircase. Created by NYC-based artist Leo Villareal, the light sculpture has 320 mirrored steel rods and 23,000 LED lights and a custom computerized program to illuminate them. Originally installed for the "Wonder" exhibit.



↑ Meryl Goldhammer, Nancy Soschin, Judy Jankowski, Lynne Somoroff, Fred Reiner



→ Judy Jankowski, Nancy Soschin, Lynne Somoroff, Meryl Goldhammer,

If you are interested in visiting local museums with a group of like-minded folks, contact **Meryl Goldhammer** at stafm@aol.com.

WRJ Social Action

THINK SPRING! TIME TO CLEAN OUT CLOSETS!

April 15-30, 2019

Collect professional clothing for WOMEN and MEN

For the last two weeks of April, Monday April 15 through Tuesday April 30, we will collect gently used professional clothes to help economically challenged women and men in our community as they apply for jobs and join the professional work force. This will be our seventh year collecting professional clothing! Bring your donations to the Social Action bins in the Beth El lobby. Thank you for your continued support of our community!

FRIENDS OF GUEST HOUSE

Beth El and WRJ have a long relationship with Friends of Guest House — an organization to help women successfully reenter the community from incarceration — and located only 2.5 miles from Beth El. Guest House has an event you might be interested in:

Artwork by clients of Friends of Guest house: April 2, 6-8 pm. Principle Gallery, 208 King Street, Alexandria, VA. A display of artwork by clients of Guest house who worked with Aubrey Rainbow, a Master's level art therapy student at George Washington University to create these art works. All are invited to this free event. [RSVP](#)

Janet Garber

703-256-7988

garberj123@gmail.com

Education Director Search Update

THE EDUCATOR Search Committee continues to move forward with its work. The committee has conducted first and second interviews by phone and ZOOM meetings with applicants and has met to discuss next steps. Plans are being made to bring candidates to Beth El for face-to-face meetings. The committee will continue to share updates regularly.

Committee members include **Joel Augen, Dina Backer**, Beth El President **Julienne Bramesco, Debbie Katz, Maryn Simon, David Spindler, Rabbi David Spinrad, Gal Spinrad**, and Chairperson **Patrice Gotsch**. Committee members can be reached via email at search@bethelhebrew.org.

— **Dina Backer**

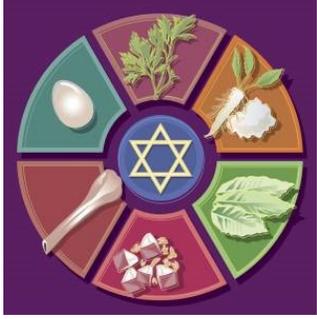
Caring Community Committee

ONE NEVER KNOWS when a loved one will have a medical emergency. All of us need to be prepared in the event of an unexpected crisis. The Caring Community Committee (CCC) maintains a resource file that includes checklists that can be helpful. To access such information, contact **Ruth Perlstein** at 703-978-9341 or **Pamela Zitron** at zitronspks@aol.com.

On Sunday, May 19, from 1-2 pm, the CCC will sponsor a presentation by **Rabbi David Spinrad** on ethical wills – a subject that should be of interest to adults of every age. At that event, some of the above-mentioned resource information will be available.

The Purim bags delivered to homebound Beth El members were prepared by **Myrna Beck** and **Pamela Zitron** and assembled by the 6th and 7th grade Religious School students. Second graders designed and created holiday cards for the bags. Thank you to all!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
	<p>1 International Fun at Work Day/ International Tatting Day (lace, not tattoos!)</p>	<p>2 National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day/ Equal Pay Day Noon-2p Joint Program with Agudas Achim at Agudas Achime: The Sunflower Bakery 1-3p WRJ Mah Jongg 6:30-9p Executive Committee Meeting 7-8:30p Genius of the Rabbis with Rabbi Folb 7-9p Introduction to Judaism</p>	<p>3 Fan Dance Day/Pony Express Day 5:30-6:15p Religious School Canteen 6:30-8p Religious School 6:30-8p WRJ Meeting</p>
<p>7 World Health Day 10a-Noon Adult Hebrew Classes 10a-Noon Brotherhood Bagels and Banter 10a-Noon WRJ Mah Jongg 10a-Noon Religious School 10a-Noon WRJ Chapel in the Woods Workday 2-4p Lifelong Learning/JCCNV Author Event: <i>Dinner in Camelot</i></p>	<p>8 Zoo Lover's Day</p>	<p>9 Winston Churchill Day 11a-12:30p Book Club 1-3p WRJ Mah Jongg</p>	<p>10 National Siblings Day/ASPCA Day 5:30-6:15p Religious School Canteen 6:30-8p Religious School 7-8p Acquire a Teacher, Make a Friend; Study with Rabbi Spinrad</p>
<p>14 National Dolphin Day NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 10:30a-Noon Life after Loss Group</p>	<p>15 Tax Day (Taxes Due)/World Art Day/ Yom HaAliyah</p>	<p>16 National Eggs Benedict Day/ National Librarian Day 1-3p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-9p Board of Directors Meeting 7-8:30p Genius of the Rabbis with Rabbi Folb 7-9p Introduction to Judaism</p>	<p>17 Bat Appreciation Day/International Haiku Appreciation Day NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 10:30a-Noon JCCNV Event: The Evolving Role of a First Lady</p>
<p>21 Easter Sunday/Passover (Cont.) NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL</p>	<p>22 International Earth Day/Passover (Cont.) 2-5:30p Carpenter's Shelter</p>	<p>23 Passover (Cont.)/ Appreciate the English Language Day 1-3p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-9p Introduction to Judaism</p>	<p>24 Administrative Professionals Day/ Passover (Cont.) 10:30a-Noon: JCCNV Event: Rooting Around: An Introduction to and Overview of Jewish Genealogy 5:30-6:15p Religious School Canteen 6:30-8p Religious School 7-8p Acquire a Teacher, Make a Friend; Study with Rabbi Spinrad</p>
<p>28 International Astronomy Day 10a-Noon Adult Hebrew Classes 10a-Noon WRJ Mah Jongg 10a-Noon WRJ Mah Jongg Class 10a-Noon Religious School 10a-Noon Religious School Chapel in the Woods Workday 1-4p Bridge</p>	<p>29 National Shrimp Scampi Day/Day of Remembrance for All Victims of Chemical Warfare</p>	<p>30 National Honesty Day/International Jazz Day 1-3p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-9p Introduction to Judaism</p>	

Par II/Nissan 5779 ~

Thu	Fri	Sat	Torah
<p>4 School Librarian Day/National Burrito Day 6:30-7:30p Beth El House Meeting 6:30-8:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-9p Introduction to Judaism 7-11p Bridge</p>	<p>5 National Dandelion Day/National Deep Dish Pizza Day 6:30-7:30p Shabbat Social Hour 7:30 Erev Shabbat Service</p> <p>Candle lighting 7:17p</p>	<p>6 International Day of Sport for Development and Peace 9-10:30a Torah Study 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service 11am-noon Tot Shabbat</p> <p>Havdalah 8:26p</p>	<p>Tazria Leviticus 12:1-13:59 Ezekiel 45:16-46:18</p>
<p>11 National Pet Day/Barbershop Quartet Day 6:30-8:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-8p Caring Community Committee 7-11p Bridge</p>	<p>12 Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day/International Day of Human Space Flight 6:30-7:30p Shabbat Social Hour 6:30-7:30p Community Dinner 7:30 Erev Shabbat Service Led by Fifth Grade</p> <p>Candle lighting 7:24p</p>	<p>13 National Peach Cobbler Day 9-10:30a Torah Study 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service 10:30a-2p Tot Shabbat Seder</p> <p>Havdalah 8:33p</p>	<p>Metzora Leviticus 14:1-15:33 2 Kings 7:3-20</p>
<p>18 International Juggler's Day/National High Five Day 6:30-8:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-11p Bridge 7:30-8:30p Interfaith Class</p>	<p>19 Good Friday/Passover (First Seder) NO SERVICE; ENJOY YOUR FIRST SEDER!</p> <p>Candle lighting 7:31p</p>	<p>20 Passover (Cont.)/Volunteer Appreciation Day 9-10:30a Torah Study 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service 6p Community Second Seder</p> <p>Havdalah 8:40p</p>	<p>Pesach Deuteronomy 14:22-16:17 Isaiah 10:32-12:6</p>
<p>25 World Malaria Day/Passover (Cont.) 6:30-8:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 6:30-8:30p WRJ Mah Jongg Class 7-11p Bridge</p>	<p>26 Passover (Cont.)/Arbor Day OFFICE CLOSED 10:30a Yizkor Service 6:30-7:30p Shabbat Social Hour 7:30 Erev Shabbat Service</p> <p>Candle lighting 7:31p</p>	<p>27 Passover (End)/International Sculpture Day 9-10:30a Torah Study 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service</p> <p>Havdalah 8:47p</p>	<p>Shemini Shel Pesach Deuteronomy 14:22-16:17 Isaiah 10:32-12:6</p>



Happy Passover

22,422 ORT packets is a new record!

IN SIX HOURS ON March 10, over 300 volunteers from around the community made enough oral rehydration therapy packets to save 320 lives according to the World Health Organization. Plus, a good time was had by all. Special thanks to our financial contributors Beth El Brotherhood, Beth El Religious School students, Immanuel Church on the Hill, Christ Church, Third Baptist Church, Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community, and the Rabbi's Good Deed Fund.

Debby Schaffer and I want to thank those who stayed all day: **David Itkin, Paula and Bill Whitacre, Annette Kilian, Simon and Jess Gershman.** Thanks also to those who helped set up the night before: **Gerrie and Ron Sturman, Libby and Norm Starler, David Itkin, Stuart Davis, Teresa Evans, and Bill, Sally, and Kate Schneider.**

If anyone would be interested in apprenticing with me next year, please let me know. I am not planning on retiring, but it is essential that we do have someone who can carry on when I do make that decision.

Today rabah,
Bobbie Gershman



The last packet!



ALIVE!

THANK YOU to those of you who gave Alexandrians in need a place to lay their heads during our February Housewares Drive. And thank you to those who supported our *mishloach manot* food drive for Alexandria's school children.

May 5 is the 38th annual Step ALIVE! Walk for the ALIVE! Child Development Center — the largest fundraiser for the ALIVE! CDC. The ALIVE! CDC is a full-day, year-round nationally-accredited early education and child care program for 3- to 5-year-olds living within the city limits of Alexandria. Our financial support helps them hire quality teachers, buy materials, and provide tuition assistance on a sliding-fee scale based upon family income and size. You can register as a real or virtual walker and join Team Beth El at alive-inc.org. You can choose from a 5 K or five-mile walk that goes into Old Town starting from First Christian Church. Then join fellow walkers back at the church where there will be food and music.

May 5 is also Tzedakah Tzunday. All tzedakah brought in by Religious School students that Sunday will go to the ALIVE! CDC. Cash or check contributions (payable to ALIVE! with CDC in the memo line) can be brought to the Religious School or left in the ALIVE! mailbox in the Beth El office.

For more information, contact **Deborah Schaffer** schaffer4@gmail.com or go to alive-inc.org.

Member News

Mazel Tov to:

Pat Collins on the birth of her first grandchild Robert Erasmus Machamer

Ernie and Ann Levy on their special wedding anniversary

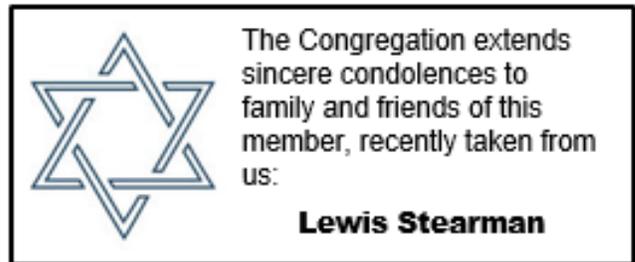
Sarah and Casey Dubac on the birth of son Elias Joel Dubac

Condolences to:

Lisa Clark, Rebecca Gammon, Steve Clark, and Conner Clark, on the passing of beloved husband, father, and grandfather Robert Clark

Rory and Debbie Shick, Wade Shick, Kyle and Relda Shick, and Albert and Dawn Shick, as well as numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, on the passing of beloved father, grandfather, and great-grandfather Sonny Shick

Mildred Stearman, Joe Stearman, and Doug Stearman, as well as numerous grandchildren, on the passing of beloved husband, father, and grandfather Lewis Stearman



May the memory of the dear departed always be a blessing and inspiration to all who knew and loved them.

May our synagogue community bring comfort to those who mourn them.

May the families know of no more sorrow.

Amen.

Dayenu! Tot Seder April 13

IT'S THAT TIME of year! Help get your young family ready for Passover and start the celebration a little early by coming to Beth El's Dayenu! Tot Seder on Saturday, April 13.

The music-filled Seder uses a colorful Haggadah designed for young children. The Dayenu! Haggadah, published in 2009, was created by our own **Miss Carol**. The music includes some traditional melodies and some new favorites, such as *Let's Get Ready for Passover* and *Little Baby Moses*. **Miss Carol** will lead the Seder and **Mr. John** will play the djembe.

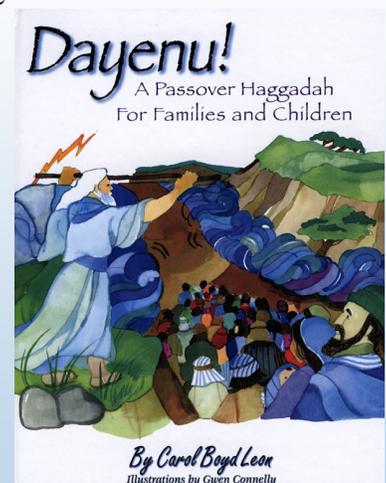
The Seder starts at 11 am, but everyone comes a little early so children can make a frog hat and parents can help set out food. Children sing, dance, and even ask the first question!

A place is set for each family, so reservations are required. Please sign up using this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0b4ea8af2ea5fd0-beth3>

And get a preview of the Beth El Tot Seder by watching this video, seen by more than 215,000 people so far!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UHgiF5J04ew>



Chapel in the Woods

Countdown: 400 Plants to Go

ON SUNDAY, APRIL 7, congregants will begin planting the first of 400 Virginia natives that will eventually check erosion and prevent invasive species such as English ivy and porcelain berry from growing back in the upper west ravine of the Chapel in the Woods.

These plants are being purchased with funds provided by a grant from the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Service and matching dollars from the congregation. The volunteer hours spent planting also count toward matching the grant at the rate of \$27 per hour.

The April 7 workday from 10 to noon will be followed by a light lunch. Members of Women of Reform Judaism are scheduled to attend, but many hands will be needed, so everyone is welcome: Last fall, in a wonderful month-long effort, congregants planted 300 Virginia natives in the new Audubon garden.

On Sunday, April 28, students and parents in the Religious School will take their turn planting in the west ravine as well, and all congregants are welcome to attend that event as well. This workday from 10 am to noon will also be followed by a light lunch.

Please bring trowels and work gloves, if you have them; other equipment will be provided. For more information, contact **Nancy** and **Stuart Davis** at 703 671-5906.

Dear Deer

AS YOU WALK in the new Audubon garden, you may notice some small black plastic boxes on metal stakes. As you pass, they may flash blue and white strobe lights at you. These devices are among the sometimes futile strategies gardeners resort to these days in an effort to protect tender young sprouts — so lovingly planted — from being devoured by the region's burgeoning deer population.

They are not UFOs. They are not foreign surveillance tools. They are somewhat high-tech, in that they boast solar panels, rechargeable and regular batteries, and emit three levels of high-pitched sounds — too high for humans to hear — that scare away some deer.

Application of a bad-smelling organic spray containing rotten eggs constitutes a second line of defense. Both deterrents will only be used briefly because Virginia natives will flourish, and actually support wildlife, after they become established. Fortunately, some of the new plants, such as ferns, are not high up on the deer menu.



Alexandria's 2019 Yom Hashoah Commemoration

MEMBERS OF Beth El Hebrew Congregation and Agudas Achim Congregation are on the City of Alexandria committee that has planned the Holocaust Remembrance Day Commemoration that will take place at Alexandria City Hall on Thursday, May 2 from noon – 1:00 pm.

This yearly event, Yom Hashoah, recalls the period between 1933 and 1945 when Nazi Germany and collaborating nations targeted for destruction six million Jews and five million other victims, including the Roma (Gypsies), political dissenters, intellectuals, homosexuals, artists, the disabled, and the mentally challenged.

In 1988, Alexandria's Mayor, James P. Moran, inspired by a trip to Israel, initiated the Days of Remembrance Commemoration, and Alexandria became the first municipality to have a formal observance of the Holocaust. 2019 will be the 32nd year that the City of Alexandria has sponsored this event.

Ron Sturman

rgsturman@msn.com

Support the Rabbi Isserow Outdoor Play Space

All donations are welcome and appreciated!

For sponsorship opportunities or more information, contact Dina Backer at 703-537-3084 or dina.backer@jccnv.org.

Please send donations to the Beth El office and note "playground" on your check — or donate online at <http://bit.ly/BethElPlayground>.



Beth El's Youth Are Going Strong

RECENTLY, Club 67 gathered for a pre-Purim hangout and assembled the *mishloah manot* bags that the Caring Community Committee distributes to some of the homebound residents of our congregation. Thank you CCC for letting us help with this great project!



And, six BEFTYites traveled to Durham, North Carolina, for NFTY MAR's *TheVent*. Our teens had an awesome time seeing old friends, making new friends, and learning, playing, eating and praying with teens from other reform synagogues across the Mid-Atlantic Region (MD, DC, VA, NC).

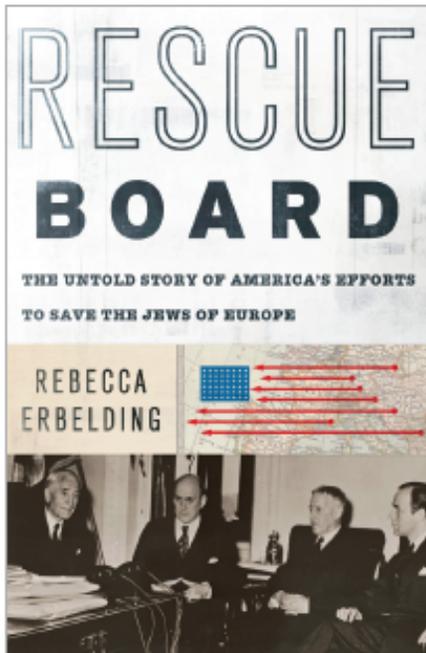
— Dina Backer

Inclusion Weekend with Rabbi Tuchman

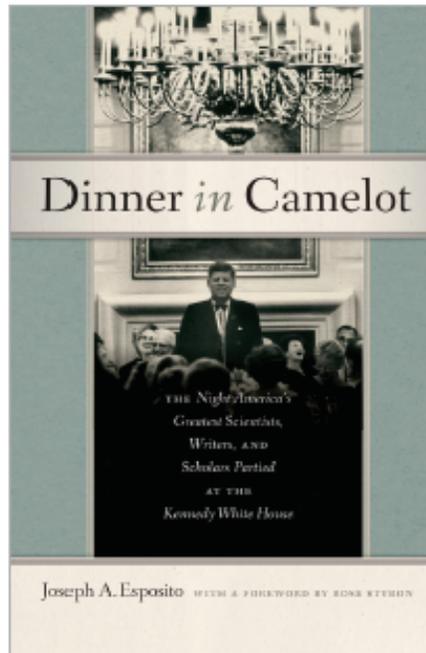


THREE^{for} THREE!

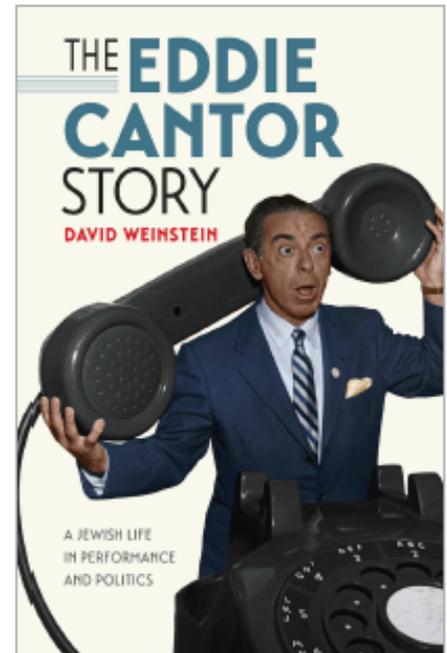
Come enjoy three authors in three months
at the J/Beth El Outreach Programs!



Author: Rebecca Erbelding
Wednesday, March 13, 10:30am



Author: Joseph A. Esposito
Sunday, April 7, 2pm



Author: David Weinstein
Wednesday, May 8, 10:30am

Location: Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria
Fee: \$5 (pay at the door)
RSVP: Shelly.Rosenstein@jccnv.org



Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia
8900 Little River Turnpike • Fairfax, VA 22031
jccnv.org • Phone: 703.323.0880 • Fax: 703.323.1993

Partner Agency of
The Jewish Federation
OF GREATER WASHINGTON



Beth El/JCCNV Events

The Sunflower Bakery

Tuesday, April 2
noon – 2 pm

Joint Program with Agudas Achim at
Agudas Achim

Join us as we learn about The Sunflower Bakery, an inclusive workforce-training organization guided by Jewish values and engaged in community building. Co-founder Sara Portner Milner will talk about her vision to expand the range of employment training and opportunities for young adults with learning differences in the pastry, baking, and related food industries. A free, kosher lunch and yummy treats will be provided.

Fee: Free. Donations are appreciated! RSVP is a must by March 22.

All Beth El/JCCNV events are \$5 for all participants unless noted otherwise. All events are on Wednesdays at 10:30 am at BEHC unless noted otherwise. Coffee, tea, and dessert will be provided.

To RSVP or get more information for all Beth El/JCCNV events, please contact Shelly.Rosenstein@jccnv.org, 703-537-3062

Author Event: *Dinner in Camelot: The Night America's Greatest Scientists, Writers, and Scholars Partied at the Kennedy White House*

Sunday, April 7, 2-4 pm

Presented by Joseph A. Esposito, writer, historian, educator

This is a joint program with Beth El Hebrew Congregation Lifelong Learning.

Dinner in Camelot brings alive in vivid detail the largest and most important dinner of the Kennedy era. On April 29, 1962, 49 Nobel Prize winners were joined by other leading American scientists, writers, and thinkers. The guest list included Linus Pauling, who had picketed the White House earlier in the day; J. Robert Oppenheimer, whose presence represented redemption from his political exile in the 1950s; John Glenn, the hero of the hour who had recently orbited the earth; and such great writers as Robert Frost, James Baldwin, William Styron, Pearl Buck, Katherine Anne Porter and John Dos Passos. The talk will be followed by a clip from the 1962 documentary with Jacqueline Kennedy, *A Tour of the White House*, and a book sale and signing.

Mr. Esposito served in three presidential administrations and is currently an adjunct faculty member at Northern Virginia Community College.

The Evolving Role of a First Lady

Wednesday, April 17
10:30 am–noon

Presented by Janette Muir, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education / Associate Professor, George Mason University

From Martha Washington to Melania Trump, women have played important roles in supporting their presidential spouses. This talk highlights the changing role of first ladies and the way the Office of the First Lady has evolved over time. According to Muir, who has written about first ladies and their rhetoric for many years, the job of the first lady is such a “major” and “essential” one that “if there wasn’t a first lady, they would invent one.” This program will be a great follow-up to our April 7 author event about the Kennedys in the White House.

**Rooting Around:
An Introduction to and Overview
of Jewish Genealogy**

Wednesday, April 24
10:30 am – noon
(rescheduled from January)

Presented by Faith Klein, founding member, Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington (JGSGW)

Have you wanted to learn more about your family’s heritage but didn’t know where to start? There are now many hands-on and technical resources available to make this adventure efficient and fun. Join us at this informal meeting as Faith gives us an overview of what Jewish genealogy involves and leads you on a pathway to begin your own family research. There are many challenges and warnings when exploring, but it can be extremely rewarding at the same time. Come learn how you can begin finding your family!

Renaissance Group

THE RENAISSANCE GROUP is a social group of 50+ empty nesters. We get together for programs and events that are suggested and run by our members. There is a one time fee of \$10 to join and programs range anywhere from dinners with speakers to hiking, wine tasting, trips, theater, etc. Any empty nester single or married over 50 is welcome to join.

As spring approaches, it’s time to start thinking about programming for the coming year.

I would like to get a group together for a planning meeting to brainstorm ideas for future programs. It would be nice to also have some new and different programs this year.

Anyone interested in being part of this planning group, please send me an email at lindav@cox.net, and I will set a date.

— Linda Vogel

The Congregation Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations

ARNOLD G. FINK LEARNING CENTER & LIBRARY FUND

Donor	In Memory of
Linda & Harvey Wenick.....	Helen Wenick.....
Stacy & Mark Weiner.....	Libby Landy.....

BETH EL GENERAL FUND

Donor	In Appreciation of
Sheri Stroud.....	Rabbi Isserow officiating at Ken Stroud's funeral

Donor	In Memory of
Rosalie & Monroe Lesser.....	Dorothy Lesser.....
Millicent Rosenberg.....	Marion Sneiderman.....
Millicent Rosenberg.....	Julia Malenka.....
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Deborah Sherman.....	Sue Olam.....
William Kramer.....	Samuel Steinberg.....
Judith & Larry Bosworth.....	Martin Howard Bosworth.....
Enid & Dennis Lehr.....	Elias Lehr.....
Judy Stark.....	Hannah Stark.....
David Ratner.....	Lives lost at the Tree of Life synagogue

BETH EL SECURITY FUND

Donor	In Memory of
Steve Harvith.....	Reji Krasney.....

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Donor	In Appreciation of
Mark Graboyes.....	Cantor Kaufman and Adam Wallach providing Haftorah honors

PERMANENT ENDOWMENT FUND

Donor	For the Recovery of
Gerrie & Ron Sturman.....	Peter Orens.....
Gerrie & Ron Sturman.....	Ashley Schornstein.....

Donor	In Honor of
Karen & Michael Weinberger.....	Linda & Larry Vogel's special anniversary

Donor	In Celebration of
Susan & Roberto Mosse.....	Joel Goldhammer's birthday

Donor	In Memory of
Jane Kraft & Marvin Burstein.....	Babette Newman.....
Judy & John Jankowski.....	Irv Goldberg.....
Judy & John Jankowski.....	John Jankowski, Sr.....
Lois Frieman.....	Selma & Louis Rosheim.....
Vicki Warren.....	Paul M. Harris.....
Vicki Warren.....	Clyde Warren.....
Vicki Warren.....	Marjorie A. Harris.....
Jerry Andersen.....	Shirlie Rolnick.....
Annette Kilian.....	Lillian Lindenberg.....
Annette Kilian.....	Joseph & Rebecca Love.....
Annette Kilian.....	Reva Rack.....
Barbara Mintz.....	Martin Mintz.....
Lucy Civitello & Howard Cohen.....	Michael Civitello.....
Jay Jarvis.....	Sonny Schick.....

LANDO FUND

Donor	In Memory of
Amy Lando & Andrew Bershadker.....	Robert Lando.....
Amy Lando & Andrew Bershadker.....	Joseph Kaddish.....

PRAYER BOOK FUND

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Dorothy Saks.....	Florence Aliber Lipsky.....
Mr. & Mrs. Morton Zetlin.....	Sonny Schick.....

RABBI EMERITUS DISCRETIONARY FUND

Donor	In Honor of
St. Paul's Episcopal Church.....	Rabbi Brett Isserow.....

RABBI'S GOOD DEED FUND

Donor	In Memory of
Linda Tolkan.....	Morris Kahn.....
Beth El Brotherhood.....	Henry Neuberger Sr.....
Donor	In Memory of
Laura Bloodgood.....	Freda Young.....
Nancy Davis.....	Debby Mulford.....
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Honey & Al Nashman.....	Isadore Weinstein.....

RABBI ISSEROW PLAYGROUND FUND

Donor
Evelyn Englander.....

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

Donor	In Memory of
Bobbie Gershman.....	Ronald Bressler.....

Thank you for your generous donations. No donation is too small. All donations are acknowledged in The Bulletin two months following their receipt. Acknowledgements are mailed with a minimum of \$18 per person per acknowledgment.

Readers of Beth El

THE READERS of Beth El will meet on Monday, April 29 at 7:30 pm. We will read and discuss *Karolina's Twins* by Ronald Balson, who spoke in the fall at the book and author program at Beth El. "*Karolina's Twins* chronicles the journey of a young Jewish Polish schoolgirl who becomes a Holocaust survivor racked with regret, but also with much resolve. Lena Woodward is on a mission she has let lapse for 70 years. She must find her best friend's abandoned twin daughters and is now determined to return to Poland to keep her sacred promise to her dead friend."

— Lynne Orens, lorens750@aol.com

Member Profile: Larry Vogel

A LONG-STANDING and successful congregation is like an intricately woven tapestry where many threads form a picture. Larry Vogel, a longtime Beth El member, is one of the key threads in our Beth El congregational tapestry.

Larry, his wife Linda, and their three young children were transferred to Northern Virginia by the United States Navy in June 1976. Officers were transferred every few years, so Larry and Linda wanted to set down Jewish roots as quickly as possible — and they landed at Beth El. Larry relates that about a month after arriving in Northern Virginia, he and Linda met Beth El's Rabbi Fink and asked about a junior youth group (Junior NFTY) for their children. While there was such a group, it had no leader. Rabbi Fink asked Larry and Linda to take it on and that, Larry says, marked the beginning of his volunteer experience at Beth El.

Larry's list of volunteer activities is long and touches on almost every part of Beth El life. He has chaired numerous committees including Financial Management, Information Technology, and Buildings and Grounds. He chaired the Communications and Coordination Task Force, two strategic plan committees, and co-chaired the recent strategic plan planning committee.

Larry chaired the committee that brought Rabbi Isserow to Beth El after Rabbi Fink's retirement and also chaired the new rabbi's transition committee. Larry has held every Beth El board officer position but secretary, serving as treasurer, vice president, executive vice president, and president from 1987 to 1989. He continues to serve as a board member.

Larry has also worked on building relationships within the Beth El community. Along with Linda, he founded and co-chaired the Renaissance Group for empty nesters. The Beth El Wine Tasting Group has existed for more than 25 years and has now spun off another wine tasting group. And the chavurah program has helped Beth El members meet and build relationships with other congregants.

Beth El recognized these significant accomplishments by awarding its highest volunteer award — the Martin Mintz award — jointly to Larry and Linda in 2001.

Most of us would have considered our dance card more than full at this point, but in 2000, Larry was invited to join the URJ board where he served for 18 years, just recently stepping down.

As a URJ board member, he was president of the URJ Mid-Atlantic Council that includes 72 congregations from New York to North Carolina. He also held the position of first vice chair, East District, including all congregations on the east coast; vice chair of the URJ Budget Committee; co-founder of the URJ Bridge Builder Program; vice chair of the Joint Commission on Synagogue Management; and a congregational mentor

for the URJ Benchmarking Project.

Larry also participated in numerous committees including the URJ MUM committee; the Dues Policy Committee (2002-2004, and 2013-present); the Local Arrangements Committee for the Washington, DC, Biennial (Larry and Linda have attended seven URJ Biennials); the New Congregations Admissions Committee; and the President's Resolution Committee.

When asked about changes he's seen in the congregation in the 43 years that he's been a member, Larry comments that Beth El is not immune to the social changes of the larger community. Fewer people have the time or inclination to make long-term commitments and are more likely to volunteer for one-off projects. He also observes that both at Beth El and the URJ, those committed to serve have a strong desire for community and social interaction.

You will not be surprised to learn that Larry flunked retirement. Having served more than 20 years in the US Navy (including a year in Viet Nam during the Tet Offensive), he retired as a Navy Commander, Civil Engineering Corps. He went on to hold senior management positions with the Aerospace Corporation and currently with Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC, Inc.).

Larry would like Beth El to know that during all his years of service, including a stint as president of the Northern Virginia Jewish Community Center and most recently, as a board member on the North American Advisory Board of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, he is forever grateful for the strong support and understanding of his wife, Linda.

PSA: Free AARP iPad Workshops at the Burke Branch of the Alexandria Library

Wed., April 3

- Intro to iPads — 11 am-12:30 pm
- Beyond the Basics — 1-2 pm
- Intro to iPads — 3:30-5 pm
- Beyond the Basics — 5:30-6:30 pm



Intro to iPads includes texting, photos, apps, and safe browsing.

Beyond the Basics includes maps and navigation apps, voice dictation, more on photos, and device security.

Volunteer Opportunity: Advocating for Older Adults in Alexandria

ALEXANDRIA is an age-friendly livable community, and continues to look for ways to spread the word about programs and services available to older adults. This includes the services that the City of Alexandria's Division of Aging and Adult Services and Senior Services of Alexandria (SSA) and local non-profits provide including Meals on Wheels, home repairs, transportation, home-making, and caregiver services.

As part of the Alexandria's Commission on Aging Strategic Plan, one goal is to provide ways to get out the word about all of the services available to older adults. One of these programs is the senior ambassador program that recruits volunteers to advocate for older adults and spread the word about programs and activities in the City of Alexandria. SSA, an Alexandria-based non-profit, manages this program and provides training. It is a very flexible volunteer opportunity where the senior ambassadors choose how and when to best share information with their community. There are currently more than 50 ambassadors trained and active in Alexandria. If you are interested in serving the Beth El Hebrew Congregation in this way, please contact SSA at 703-836-4414 ext. 113 or email communications@seniorservicesalex.org.

For more information about other services and programs that the City of Alexandria provides, contact them at 703-746-5999 or visit their website at alexandriava.gov/aging. For other services provided by SSA, go to seniorservicesalex.org or call 703-836-4414.

EARLY WARNING!

IT'S NOT TOO SOON TO START BRINGING IN BOOKS FOR THE 2020 ANNUAL GIANT BOOK SALE!

Answers to trivia questions on page 6:

Yahtzee (duh!)

One thousand

42 years old

The Empire State Building



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JCCNV-Beth El Early Childhood Learning Center

Our ECLC offers a twelve-month program with part-time and full-time options for children who will be two, three, or four years old by September 30.

Our full-time toddler program accepts students from 16 to 23 months old.

The ECLC is licensed by the State of Virginia and is open to all members of the community.

For more information or to set up a tour, please contact Director **Dina Backer**, at 703-537-3084, or at dina.backer@jccnv.org.

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If you have questions, please call Lonnie Rich, 703-299-3440 or email at lrich@rrbmdk.com

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The Bulletin

Beth El Hebrew
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HOLD THE DATE

JCCNV: *Meaning Making through Art Making* — art of the camps and ghettos, Mar. 29 - May 10

Ner Tamid Dedication, May 3-5

Lunch and Learn with artist Claude Reidel, May 4

JCCNV: Holocaust Commemoration, May 5

Bender JCC: *The Mysterious Disappearance of Zerubbabel*, May 8

Mother's Day Brunch, May 12

Bender JCC: Mount Vernon Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra — *Spring is in the Air*, May 12

WRJ Shabbat, May 31

Mahj Mayhem, May 19 (NOTE DATE CHANGE)

JCCNV: *The Unaccompanied Minor* — *Autobiographical Theater* by Elan Zafir, May 19

Bender JCC: *A Lifetime of Perspective* — Art by Older Adults, May 19 - Jun 17

RAC Consultation on Conscience, May 19-21

JCCNV: *Tosca* at the Kennedy Center, May 20

Marc Ross Scholarship Presentation, May 24

Zemer Chai Spring Concert, June 2

JCCNV: "Make & Take" Cooking Event — Pie Squared by Cathy Barrow, June 6

Shabbat Service in Honor of Barry Smith, Retiring Director of Education, June 7

Last Day of Religious School, June 9

Brotherhood Shabbat, June 14

Beth El Congregation Annual Meeting, June 25

Martin Mintz Award Presentation, June 28