

Please check the online Beth El calendar or email office@bethelhebrew.org before leaving to attend ANY in-person event. Schedules are in flux during coronavirus response.



Beth El Bulletin

Beth El Hebrew Congregation

April 2020
Nisan/Iyar 5780

Tikkun Olam Issue

Worship Services

- Friday, April 3**
Erev Shabbat Services,
7:30 pm
- Saturday, April 4**
Shabbat Morning Services
and Bar Mitzvah of
Quinn Coughlin,
son of Michael and Alix Coughlin,
10:30 am
Dayenu Tot Seder, 11 am
- Friday, April 10**
Erev Shabbat Services,
7:30 pm
- Saturday, April 11**
Shabbat Morning Services
and Bat Mitzvah of
Mia Escandarani,
daughter of Myriam Escandarani
and Alejandro Martin, 10:30 am
- Friday, April 17**
Erev Shabbat Services Led by Sixth
Grade, 7:30 pm
- Saturday, April 18**
Shabbat Morning Services
and Bar Mitzvah of Eli Kopp,
son of Karen Jupiter, 10:30 am
- Friday, April 24**
Erev Shabbat Services,
7:30 pm
- Saturday, April 25**
Shabbat Morning Services,
10:30 am
Happy Birthday Israel Tot
Shabbat, 11 am



**Annual Oral
Rehydration Therapy
(ORT) Event**
April 26
Sponsored by
Beth El Social Action,
Beth El Brotherhood,
Beth El Religious School, and
Immanuel Church on the Hill

See page 8 for all the information!

**Annual Professional
Clothing Drive**
April 16-30
Sponsored by WRJ Social Action

See page 18 for all the information!

**Deliver Food to Homeless
Shelters**

See page 10 for all the information!

Round-Up of Opportunities to Volunteer with Beth El

See page 21 for all the information!

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...and lots of tantalizing tidbits scattered throughout, so don't skip a page!



Rabbi's Remarks:

Our story will be told by our deeds.

I AM WRITING in the month of March. If you are reading this, it is April. Based on what we are learning by observing the devastating impact of the coronavirus in countries such as Italy and Spain, and by objectively assessing our own country's failure to put forward and execute a coherent, decisive national strategy in a timely fashion, today's statistics will be but a small fraction of what they are as you read my words. Like you, my days and nights have been filled by once unimaginable thoughts that slowly become reality. We are nowhere near being able to assess the enduring physical, emotional, and economic impact on our world, our country, our commonwealth, our counties, our cities, and on our neighborhoods, but I am certain that the impact of this global pandemic shapes the rest of our lives.

Amidst our uncertainty, know this is as fact: We are each writing the most significant chapter in the individual books of our lives. Together, we will submit a single chapter to our collective Book of Life. This chapter must be our generation's greatest contribution to the story of the Jewish people and all people, and I have faith that it can be so.

Because courage, resilience, and powerful ethical integrity grounds our collective Jewish identity, from some of our people's darkest chapters comes our greatest light. The Babylonian destruction of the First Temple and the ensuing exile gave birth to great biblical literature, including the faithful poetry of the Psalms. The

Roman destruction of the Second Temple and the ensuing Diaspora brought forth the Talmud and the Rabbinic Judaism we practice today. And although factually inaccurate to claim the modern State of Israel exists only because of the Holocaust, we cannot ignore the fundamental impact it will always have on Israel and the Jewish people.

We are not living through the utter devastations experienced by the prophet Jeremiah, by Hillel the Sage, or by activist and Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel. But our children and grandchildren are watching and taking their cues from us. On the day when they will ask us "Why be Jewish?" let our actions now speak for us then. Let us show our descendants that the power of the Jewish community rests not in the idolatrous god of individualism, but in the enduring value of our collective commitment to each other. Let us live the dual commandments to both bear responsibility for the welfare of the Jewish people *and* to be a "light unto the nations," giving the fullest measure of ourselves financially, emotionally, and physically to support the Jewish community and beyond even as we care for ourselves.

The only way I want to go through this is together, and it will take every one of us doing all we can as a covenantal community. Let our courage overcome our fear. I believe in you. I believe in us. I believe in Beth El Hebrew Congregation.

I am praying for your strength and for your health.

— *Rabbi Spinrad*

Special Program: Dementia Friendly Alexandria

April 26 at 10:30 am

ALEXANDRIA WAS declared a Dementia Friendly city in May 2019. Since then, the Dementia Friendly Alexandria action team has been leading information sessions to provide useful information for the community to learn the best ways to interact with those living with dementia and how to insure they maintain a good quality of life. The sessions address the different types of dementia, the difference between normal aging and dementia, and positive ways to communicate with individuals living with dementia.

Alexandria is part of the Dementia Friendly America movement; find more information at <https://www.dfamerica.org>. There was an article about this program in the *Alexandria Times* last November; read it here: <https://alextimes.com/2019/11/dementia-friendly-alexandria>.

On Sunday, April 26, at 10:30 am we will host a session at Beth El. The session lasts about one hour and will be led by two trained dementia "champions."

— **Ruth Perlstein**



Cantor's Corner

Despair lives in Matamoros, Mexico. So Does God.

RECENTLY, I VISITED the border cities of Brownsville, Texas, and Matamoros, Mexico, to learn more about our nation's asylum crisis. I am still processing what I witnessed and experienced — and I imagine I will be doing so for quite some time. In the coming weeks and months I will continue to share what I learned with our Beth El community.

For this trip, I joined a small group of leaders from the Reform movement to learn about the asylum crisis and report back to Reform congregations around the United States about how and why they should be engaged in finding a solution to this humanitarian crisis. Indebted to the knowledge that we, as Jews, are a community of immigrants, I have been disturbed with the systemic efforts to end our asylum system. While immigration challenges have affected every modern American administration, we have never had a situation as severe, inhumane, and self-inflicted as the one we are now presented with.

President Trump has instituted a "Remain in Mexico" policy, which forces those who present themselves at our borders seeking asylum — a 100% legal right — to wait in Mexico while awaiting their hearing. These individuals, fleeing persecution, are now being forced to live not just in poverty, but in incredibly dangerous surroundings. Along the Rio Grande River, there are countless tents full of families doing their best to live with dignity and pride. There are walls of portable toilets and makeshift washing stations lining the entrance to this encampment, thanks to the generosity of volunteers from around our nation and world who have donated and installed them.

The people there are waiting for a court date, which may or may not provide a fair hearing for their asylum plea. The vast majority of them will live in this tent city for many months until inevitably being denied asylum and deported, either back to their home country or to Guatemala, where they may or may not have any connection. In the meantime, besides being forced to live in extreme poverty, people in the encampment are victim to kidnapping, physical and sexual violence, and the emotional trauma of living in such an environment. The problem is so vast and systemic that it can feel above our capabilities to become involved.

The truth is, though, that there are ways that you can help! How?

1. Demand that our elected leaders defund the Remain in Mexico policy and actively work to reinstate a humane asylum process that is worthy of our great country.
2. VOTE — join our upcoming Civic Engagement Campaign so that we can do our part to ensure that our



Cantor Kaufman delivering food to the tent city encampment, crossing the border from Brownsville, Texas to Matamoros, Mexico

leaders share the basic values of human rights that are important to us.

3. Donate funds to organizations working on the ground in communities like Matamoros, such as Team Brownsville (www.teambrownsville.org). If you are able to spend time in Brownsville and Matamoros volunteering your time, even better! Additionally, look into volunteering your time with organizations such as the Religious Action Center, HIAS, and the ACLU that are working to find systemic solutions to this crisis.
4. Lawyers and medical professionals are in high demand. If you are a lawyer or work in the field of medicine, your skills are desperately needed. Please speak with me to find out how you can volunteer. You may even be able to volunteer remotely.

Before leaving the encampment, I was honored to help Team Brownsville serve dinner to over a thousand of those who lived in this encampment. We delivered food across the border that was prepared by volunteers at a local church with World Central Kitchen. I passed out bottles of water to a seemingly endless line of people, all created in the image of God, all with their own story of how they found themselves in this place. My limited ability to communicate in Spanish meant that I mostly smiled back and forth with the guests. Being with them, seeing their families, many with babies on their back, humanized this crisis and inspires me to share their stories with those who are willing to hear them and even those who aren't.

I am forever grateful that I have the honor to serve a congregation such as Beth El that supports and encourages me to participate in critical social justice initiatives. I'm also grateful that there are so many in our community who are animated by these issues.

With this in mind, I'm interested in creating an immigrant justice group in our congregation that will further explore how to engage our community in this important work. Though there is important work to be done at the border, there are also countless opportunities to engage in immigrant justice in our very own city. If you are interested in joining such a group, please contact me. We need your help!

As we get ready to celebrate Passover and read the ancient story of our liberation and freedom, it is incumbent upon us to work towards the liberation and freedom of all in our world.

May we all know what it is to live in peace and security.

— Cantor Jason Kaufman



President's Point of View

BY THE TIME you open the April Beth El Bulletin, hopefully you will also be receiving, either via email or traditional mail, our annual congregational dues letter.

Nearly five years ago, the Beth El Board, in an effort to provide a more open and inclusive dues structure, changed from a fair share, income reporting-based dues system to a free will, pay what you are able type of dues system. The free will dues system was designed to provide a benchmark or minimum annual contribution for each of Beth El's six hundred members, which is \$2,500 per family unit in FY 2020-2021.

The hope being that if every one of our members gave that EXACT amount Beth El could fully fund all of its fiscal operational needs. We know full well that not all of our members are capable of contributing that much or that specific amount; we therefore count on the generous and loving Beth El community members who are capable of giving more to do so.

But the free will dues system only works if we meet our minimum overall dues funding goal of 68% of our \$1,750,000 annual operating budget — this leads to a target dues collection amount of \$1,190,000. Over these five years, we have seen a small but steady decline in our dues contribution rate to a low this fiscal cycle of just under 60% of our operating budget needs. This trend is unsustainable.

Beth El needs these funds to pay our clergy, staff, and administrative salaries, fund employee benefits, operate the building on a daily basis, pay for its upkeep, keep the lights on, and the hallways, kitchen and public spaces clean and beautiful.

We must reverse this downward trend in our free will dues system or we will be missing the point of the value proposition all together — a flexible system that benefits all members.

So, what can you do to help?

If you are able, please contribute the minimum sustaining family amount for FY 2020-2021 of \$2,500.

If you can give more than the minimum sustaining amount to help support a Beth El member who is unable to give that much, please do so. This is how the system works best — doubling up for the benefit of others.

Return your dues letter right away so Beth El can do its very best future financial forecasting.

Thank you for your continued support of Beth El as we strive to fulfill the vision of individuals, families, and a community transformed by wise, loving, and soulful Jewish living in Alexandria, VA.

In addition: after consulting with the Executive Director Search Committee Co-Chairs, **Clair Sassin** and **Howard Wahlberg**, along with **Rabbi David Spinrad**, and given the tenuous nature of the world today, the Executive Committee has paused the Executive Director search and asked **Adam Wallach** to continue as our Executive Director until Dec. 31, 2020. I am happy to report that Adam has agreed to stay on and help Beth El through these troubling times. Without knowing how long the disruption from COVID-19 will last, we may have to revisit this temporary extension again. I would also like to commend Adam for his thorough planning and forward thinking which has served Beth El extraordinarily well as we have faced this pandemic together. This decision reflects our Jewish values and will serve our community well in the long run. As always, if you have questions or concerns in these times, I am available via email at ajcohndc@gmail.com or via telephone at 703-461-9111.

— Alan Cohn

Congregational Kudos

Thank you to WRJ Angels:

Jeanette Astrow	Debbie Katz	Donna Sachs	Rachel Turner
Pat Collins	Anne Levy	Faren Sachs	Susan Whitman
Anna Ellis	Angela Lutzker	Bronna Steiman	Stacy Weiner
Janet Hlatky	Nadya Philips	Gerrie Sturman	Any Zuker
Bonnie James	Virginia Ruiz		

These wonderful women set up and cleaned up for **Hannah Meehan**'s luncheon following her bat mitzvah. In addition to having fun in the process we added to the WRJs Youth Fund, thanks to Hannah's parents.

— Jo Ann Allen

Brotherhood News

ON MARCH 1, Brotherhood presented another in its series of public policy forums, *Future of Reform Judaism in Israel*, with forum panelists **Rabbi Josh Weinberg**, URJ Vice President for Israel and the Executive Director of ARZA (Association of Reform Zionists of America), and Beth El's **Rabbi David Spinrad**. The forum was moderated by Beth El member **Robert Siegel**, radio journalist who was the Sr. Host of the NPR evening news broadcast *All Things Considered* from 1987 until his retirement in January 2018. Thank you to volunteers **Norm Starler, Jeff Davidson, Spruce Fraser, Stuart Davis, Linda Waller, Gerrie Sturman**, and program organizer **Ron Sturman**.

Brotherhood hosted its annual Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 8. This year featured Captain Token, the Magician, and a new chef in the kitchen, **Matt Warschaw**. Many kids dressed up and played the more than forty games available in the Social Hall and the MPR (and won prizes), had complementary popcorn, the opportunity to count-the-amount and win a jar full of Tootsie Rolls, and were able to go outside on the beautiful day and jump on the Moon Bounce. A quick shout out to **Bobbie Gershman** and **Donna Blum-Kemelor** who helped organize the volunteers, **Clair Sassin** for delivering food to the volunteers, and **Simon Gershman** for watching over the kids on the Moon Bounce.

Last, Brotherhood would like to thank all of the volunteers that assisted in making this 2020 Purim Carnival a great success. Sincere apologies if you volunteered and your name is not on the list.

Matt Mutterperl

Brotherhood First Vice President
brotherhood@bethelhebrew.org

Executive Director's Entry

AT THE TIME OF writing this, Shabbat Services are live-streamed only. All Beth El events and meetings have been postponed or cancelled. Religious school has been suspended. The emergency plan is working.

As disconcerting as this public health emergency has been, one thing comforts me: Beth El will be here when the situation is contained. This synagogue community is 162 years old. Beth El has been here for you in the past and will be in the future.

I need to encourage everyone to take the necessary precautions to stay safe. The situation continues to change and we continue to adjust in order to keep congregants, staff, and children safe.

Regardless of whether our synagogue is open or closed, keep in mind that we still have overhead. It is really important, if you are able, to continue to meet your financial pledge.

If you need anything from us, please send an email to office@bethelhebrew.org.

Adam Wallach
Executive Director



Thank you, Purim Carnival Volunteers!

Backer, Dina
Backer, Maddy
Backer, Molly
Blum-Kemelor, Donna
Bolick, Todd
Brightsen, Lisa
Brightsen, Gordon
Brooks, Henry
Cady, Janet
Cohen, Helene
Cohn, Todd
Coughlin, Mike
Coughlin, Alix
Coughlin, Quinn
Dany, Shelley

Davidson, Jeff
Davis, Stuart
Dillinger, Paige
Dillinger, Julie
Ellis, Harper
Martin-Escandarani, Sol
Fields, Julie
Fink, Xander
Flachs, Jeremy
Folb, Michael
Fraser, Spruce
Gardner, Alex
Gershman, Jess
Gershman, Simon

Gershman, Bobbie
Giller-Wilde, Anne
Gottlieb, Joann
Gravelle, Jackson
Gravelle, Traci
Greenburg, Eileen
Hannan, Jacob
Hannan, Harrison
Heltzer, Max
Jacobson, Sarah
Jacobson, Becca
Jacobson, Rachel
Johnson, Amanda
Kalin, Steve
Katz, Debbie

Katz, Jon
Katz, Michael
Kaufman, Gabrielle
Kopp, Aaron
Kopp, Eli
Lowsen, Ben
Mervis, Mia
Mosse, Roberto
Mutterperl, Matthew
Mutterperl, Joshua
Mutterperl, Ethan
Mutterperl, Ben
Mutterperl, Emily
Partos, Dana
Pick, Casey
Phinney, Tobey
Phinney, Robert
Reisman, Jesse
Rubinstein, Alan
Rubinstein, David
Ruiz, Virginia
Sachs, Donna
Sachs, Faren
Sachs, Jeffrey
Salamon, Anna

Salamon, William
Sassin, Danielle
Sassin, Clair
Shapiro, Alan
Shapiro, Nancy
Siegal, Glenn
Smith, Roger
Sokolove, Charlie
Sokolove, Elena
Solomon, Abby
Spindler, Ben
Spindler, Jessica
Starler, Libby
Starler, Norm
Sturman, Ron
Suchman, Diane
Suchman, Sam
Tanner, Michael
Terlitzky, Jerry
Thomas, Landon
Turner, Dahlia
Turner, Rachel
Warschaw, Hannah
Warschaw, Matthew
Weiman, Theo

WRJ News

AS WE WRITE THIS, we're hoping that COVID-19 doesn't derail WRJ's Pre-Pesach Potluck (scheduled for March 24) and the Judaica Shop Pesach Boutique (scheduled for March 29 (10:00 am – 2:00 pm), not to mention our May events: Mahj Mayhem (May 3), and WRJ Shabbat weekend activities (May 8 and 9). Also, in recognition of, and with great thanks for, all that Brotherhood does for Beth El, WRJ will provide a special *oneg* for the Brotherhood *shabbat* on June 12.

WRJ Shabbat Weekend

Sara Deshong has arranged a wonderful WRJ Shabbat weekend, which will include our traditional Friday night service, and a new Saturday Brown Bag Salad Lunch & Learn. Both events will feature our guest **fredi Bleeker Franks**, from the Speakers Bureau of WRJ, Southwest District Representative on the WRJ Board of Directors. At the Friday night dinner, we will draw the winners of the annual Spring Raffle and honor our 2020 Woman of the Year, **Jeanette Astrow**. Our Shabbat service will include special readings. The Saturday Lunch & Learn will take place from noon to 2:00 pm; fredy will lead a discussion on empowering women in the context of WRJ. In addition, the WRJ Board will meet with fredy on Thursday evening for a special Board training session.

Carpenter's Shelter

Our loyal volunteers, **Esther Belenker, Kris Keydel, Debbie Kirzner, Inna Naygauz, and Libby Starler** prepared a delicious dinner for more than 40 residents of Carpenter's Shelter that includes many children. We welcome and encourage all members of Beth El (not just WRJ members) to volunteer, even if only once a year to

lighten the load for the other volunteers. It's a great way to meet other congregants for a minimal time commitment. It is a true mitzvah to feed the hungry, and this group effort feeds those in need, including children. April 27 is the next opportunity to serve. You may sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040a4bafab22a46-carpenters1>.

Social Action

We will be collecting professional women's and men's clothing April 16 – 30. Please place contributions in the Social Action bins past the lobby (in the hallway near the coat room). Clothing should be in very good or excellent condition.

Upcoming Events and Activities:

April 14 (11:00 am – 1:00 pm): Book Club
 April 27 (2:00 – 5:00 pm): Carpenter's Shelter food prep
 May 3 (2:00 – 5:00 pm): Mahj Mayhem
 May 8 (6:00 pm): WRJ Shabbat dinner and service
 May 9 (12:15 pm): Shabbat Lunch and Learn
 May 25 (8:00 – 11:00 am): Carpenter's Shelter food prep
 June 9 (11:00 am – 1:00 pm): Book Club
 Mah Jongg: Tuesdays (1:00 – 3:00 pm); Thursdays (6:30 – 8:30 pm); Sundays (10:00 am – noon)
 WRJ Meetings – Wednesdays (6:30 – 8:00 pm):
 April 1
 May 6
 Jun 10

Pat Collins and Linda Shapiro

WRJ Co-Presidents

BEHC.WRJ.President@gmail.com

World Zionist Congress Election Update

A BIG THANK YOU to Beth El members who voted in the World Zionist Congress election. I don't know how many of us at Beth El voted, but URJ reported on March 12 that voter turnout more than doubled from the 2015 election. This year 120,566 votes were recorded, and there were 1,200 paper ballots yet to be counted. About 25,000 ballots were cast in the final three days.



Ron Sturman

Chair, Beth El WZC Election Committee

ECLC News

AS I AM WRITING, we are still glowing from our wonderful Purim celebration. Each class started with a hamentaschen snack followed by the Megillah reading and carnival. Seeing all of our young friends in their costumes have a blast at our pre-school-sized games warms my heart and shows me that we are on target for creating a foundation of Jewish learning and memories for our kids. We are grateful to both **Rabbi Spinrad** and **Rabbi Romano** for coming and telling us the story of Purim. It was a spectacular day!

And... if Purim is behind us, it must be time to get ready for Pesach!

Chag Sameach!

Dina Backer

dina.backer@theJ.org



Annual ORT Event

IS IT POSSIBLE to have fun, save lives, and make or renew a friendship, all at the same time? It is if you help with the Oral Rehydration Therapy project on April 26 (note change of date). By volunteering for just two hours between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm, you can do both.

Over the years, the more than 200,000 packets of sugar, salt, soda, and potassium that we made have been sent to Sierra Leone, Haiti, Darfur, the Philippines, and Indonesia to help prevent children from dying of dehydration from cholera. We hope to make another 20,000 packets again this year. They will go to Haiti, which is still trying to recover from Hurricane Matthew and now has been hit by an earthquake. Every 70 packets have been estimated to save one life. So you can do the math.

There are several ways to help out with this enjoyable, fulfilling project.

- Volunteer for two or more hours to help fill the packets between 9:00 am and 3:00 pm on Sunday, April 26. We need more than 150 volunteers to reach our goal, so every person counts. These volunteers need to be over 14 to participate.
- In addition, children between the ages of eight and 14 can help out after school by being “runners.” They are invaluable to us, and the kids love helping.
- Help to offset the cost of supplies by sending a check to the Social Action Fund marked ORT.

This project is sponsored by Beth El Social Action, Beth El Brotherhood, Beth El Religious School, and Immanuel Church on the Hill. To sign up to volunteer or to get more information, contact Bobbie Gershman at gershman18@verizon.net or 703-960-2921.

No skills necessary; chat with old friends, make new ones. We hope to see you there.



Sisterhood Shabbat, May 8–9

WHAT A LOVELY WAY to spend the weekend with a special woman in your life! Invite a friend or your daughter, mom, grandma, or auntie to a delicious potluck Shabbat dinner and lovely potluck Lunch and Learn on Saturday. Meet wonderful new women and grow together! Don't miss Sisterhood Shabbat 2020!

We are looking forward to welcoming Fredi Bleeker Franks from the WRJ Speakers Bureau. Fredi will be joining us all the way from Houston, TX. Here's how the weekend will unfold!

- **Thursday:** Fredi will meet with our WRJ Board for training beginning at 6 pm. Bring a bagged dinner.
- **Friday:** join us for our annual potluck Shabbat dinner where we will honor our Woman of the Year. Share your favorite main dish or side for eight people. Look for Fredi to share the d'var Torah at Shabbat Services. She'll be discussing how to share our blessings.
- **Saturday:** come to our Lunch and Learn. Fredi will lead us in a discussion about empowering women. All generations welcome! Show off your favorite salad or dessert to serve eight people (vegan, veggie, or dairy). Our committee will supply breads/gluten free crackers and beverages.

Call or e-mail **Roberta Sultzer** at 401-487-9643 or rks1318@yahoo.com if you have any questions about the weekend. Let us know what you'll bring by RSVPing on Sign-up Genius, look for the link in the Thursday e-mail. We look forward to seeing you. It promises to be a spiritual and tasty Mother's Day weekend!

Sara, Joanne, Allison, and Roberta
Sisterhood Shabbat Planning Committee

Two Great April Tot Shabbats

“Dayenu!” Tot Seder on April 4

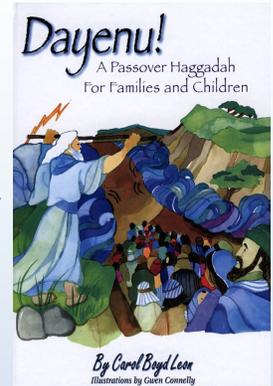
It’s almost that time of year — Passover! Start the celebration four days early by bringing your young family to Beth El’s “Dayenu!” Tot seder on Saturday, April 4.

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, which includes lunch, starts at 11 am, but everyone should come 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-beth5>.

And get a preview of our very own Beth El tot seder by watching this video, seen by more than 218,000 people: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UHgiF5J04ew>



Happy Birthday, Israel Tot Shabbat on April 25

The fun continues later in April with our annual “Happy Birthday, Israel” Tot Shabbat in honor of Yom Ha’atzmaut, Israel’s Day of Independence. Our always-musical Tot Shabbat includes a story in song as children join Miss Carol in taking a pretend airplane trip to Israel. The service begins at 11 a.m. in the chapel.

Annual Alexandria Days of Remembrance Ceremony Cancelled

Stay home and be well

SAVE THE DATE! MAJYK IS COMING! Dec. 18-20

Beth El is proud to announce that we will be hosting the NFTY MAR MAJYK event for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders.

Mark your calendars now! We will need everyone’s help to house and host these teens!

Watch for details!

Beth El Brotherhood Softball

THERE MAY NOT BE baseball for a while, but there will be softball. We’re not sure exactly when the season will begin, but the Beth El Brotherhood softball team will be starting its season soon, and we are still looking for some players. Everyone plays, we have fun, and there’s a lot of camaraderie (and a little exercise). Anyone interested should contact **Josh Krantz**, the manager (joshuakrantz@gmail.com) or **Jim Goldwater**, the assistant manager (jimauh2o@aol.com). Brotherhood softball team players must be dues-paying members of the Brotherhood: \$36.00 a year.

SAVE THE DATE!

**Culture Club to Renwick Gallery,
Friday, May 8**



Save the Date: Musician In Residence Weekend

I'M VERY EXCITED to announce that next year we will be inviting singer-songwriter **Elana Arian** to join us as a musical scholar in residence from Jan. 29 through Jan. 31, 2021. Elana is a long time friend and colleague, and is one of the most prominent Jewish musicians of our time. We are delighted that she will join us for an entire weekend of music. Please mark your calendars for the following dates. More information to follow.

- **Friday, Jan. 29, 2021, 7:30 pm:**
Soul Shabbat Services, with Elana Arian, Cantor Kaufman, and the Soul Shabbat Band
- **Saturday, Jan. 30, 2021, 7:00 pm:**
Cantor's Concert, with Cantor Jason Kaufman, Elana Arian, and Eric Schobrick — tickets go on sale later this year
- **Sunday, Jan. 31, 2021, 11:00 am:**
Religious School concert for students and their families led by Elana Arian

— **Cantor Kaufman**

Riley Goldberg's Mitzvah Project



Last year, Riley, a Beth El 5th grader, started an ambitious *tzedakah* project. This project sought to deliver leftover bread and baked goods from Riley's favorite local bakery, the Bread and Water Company, in Alexandria, VA, to homeless shelters in the Alexandria and Arlington area. Four shelters were signed up, which meant pickup and delivery four nights a week!

With the help of **Lenetta** and **Morah Tovah**, Riley and her family were able to enlist a number of families in the kindergarten and fourth grade classes, including **Rabbi Spinrad**!

Riley wants to re-ignite the project, and make it bigger and better. Shelters are ready to take donations in 2020, and the bakery is already on board!

The project will be using Signupgenius.com again to sign folks up; last year most families would pick one or two nights out of the year, with a few more ambitious parent/kid combos doing it once a month. There are still open slots in April and May! Please join us!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0d4da9ae2da57-rileys>

— **Rabbi Romano**

Member News

Mazel Tov to:

Nori and Rob Plunkett on the birth of Connor Maxwell in December

Carolyn and Bowen Vernan on the birth of son Kylen on Feb. 1

Norton and Annette Paley on their special anniversary in April

Leslee Levy, Ira Klugerman, and Ellen Gallagher on their special birthdays in April

Condolences to:

Risa Gordon, Marc Gordon, Alan Gordon (Susan), and Eric Gordon (Valerie); Hope Friedman (Jon), Heather Bishop (Brian), Wylder Gordon, Matthew Gordon, and Zachary Gordon; Caroline Friedman, Owen Friedman, and Harvey Bishop on the death of beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, and **Beth El member** Lois Gordon

WRJ Book Club Spring 2020 Schedule

- April 14: *American Pastoral* by Philip Roth
- June 9: *Spies of No Country* by Matti Friedman

The WRJ Book Club has been in existence for more than 20 years and is, I believe, a cultural benefit to the congregation. We try to choose and read the best in Jewish-themed literature!

— Rita DiTrani



B'nei Mitzvah

Quinn Coughlin April 4, 2020

Quinn is a 7th grade honors student at George Washington Middle School. Quinn loves playing baseball, basketball, listening to music, riding his bike, playing in the yard with his friends, camp, and traveling with his family. He volunteered with the Miracle League of Alexandria for his mitzvah project and loved playing sports with kids with special needs.

Quinn wants to thank his parents, brothers, tutor Robin Thompson, Cantor Kaufman, and Rabbi Spinrad for helping him prepare for his special day. He also wants to thank all of his religious school teachers for teaching him his prayers, and his dog Dash for listening to him practice everyday.

Mia Escandarani April 11, 2020

Mia is a 7th grade AAP student at Mark Twain Middle School. She enjoys playing volleyball, swimming, tennis and hanging out with her friends.

For her mitzvah project, Mia is making cards for hospitalized kids every week. She believes that this can make those kids happier if they see that someone cares about them.

Mia thanks her tutor, Lisa Sheldone, all her religious school teachers, Rabbi Spinrad, and Cantor Kaufman for helping prepare her for this day. And she thanks her parents and sister, Sol, for their love and support.

Eli Kopp April 18, 2020

Eli is a 7th grade honors student at Carl Sandburg Middle School. He enjoys reading, making movies, theater, and hanging out with his friends.

For his mitzvah project, Eli organized a supply drive to benefit the homeless people in Alexandria. Eli partnered with The Carpenter's Shelter to help those in need. He gathered over 300 items from neighbors, friends, and family that he donated to the shelter.

Eli thanks his tutor, Jeanette Astrow, for helping him learn his Torah and Haftarah portions. He also thanks all of his religious school teachers for getting him to where he is today. And he thanks all of his friends and family for supporting him.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
	April is National Autism Awareness Month and International Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month. There are lots of websites that can help YOU get involved in raising awareness this year.		1 International Fun at Work Day NO ECLC 10:30a JCC Event: The Sarajevo Haggadah CANCELLED 6:15p Religious School ONLINE 6:15p Lifelong Learning: Israel's Milestones and Meanings ONLINE 6:30p WRJ Meeting
5 National Dandelion Day/International Geologists' Day NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 10a Chapel in the Woods Workday 1p Bridge CANCELLED	6 National Tartan Day/National Carbonara Day NO ECLC	7 World Health Day NO ECLC 10a WRJ Mah Jongg 7p EC Meeting 7p Introduction to Judaism	8 Erev Passover/First Seder NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL NO ECLC
12 Easter/Passover (Cont.) NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL BUILDING CLOSED	13 Passover (Cont.) NO ECLC	14 Passover (Cont.) NO ECLC 11a Book Club 1p WRJ Mah Jongg 7p Lifelong Learning: Genius of the Rabbis	15 Passover (Cont.) NO ECLC 10:30a Yizkor Festival Service 5:30p RS Canteen 6:15p Religious School
19 National Garlic Day 10a WRJ Mah Jongg 10a and 11a Adult Hebrew 10a How to Play Mah Jongg Class 10a Religious School 10a Leadership Development Program Noon Club 45: Use the Force: Jedi Training to Combat Bullying 1p Bridge 5p Renaissance Group Dinner	20 Volunteer Recognition Day	21 Holocaust Remembrance Day 10a WRJ Mah Jongg 7p Board of Directors Meeting 7p Introduction to Judaism	22 Administrative Professionals Day/Earth Day 10:30a JCC Event: Degas at the Opera 5:30p RS Canteen 6:15p Religious School
26 Pretzel Day 9a Oral Rehydration Therapy 10a WRJ Mah Jongg 10a and 11a Adult Hebrew 10a How to Play Mah Jongg Class 10a Religious School 10:30 Dealing with Dementia 1p Bridge	27 National Prime Rib Day 2p Carpenter's Shelter Food Prep	28 Yom HaZikaron (Israel) 1p WRJ Mah Jongg 7p Lifelong Learning: Genius of the Rabbis 7p Introduction to Judaism 1p RSY Team Meeting	29 Yom HaAtzma'ut (Israel) 10:30a JCC Event: Byline: Ernie Pyle 5:30p RS Canteen 6:15p Religious School

isan/Iyar 5780 ~

Thu	Fri	Sat	Torah
<p>2 World Autism Awareness Day/National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day NO ECLC 7p Bridge CANCELLED 7p Caring Community Committee</p>	<p>3 Walk to Work Day/Tweed Day NO ECLC 6:30p Shabbat Social Hour 7:30 Erev Shabbat Services <i>Candle lighting 7:17p</i></p>	<p>4 World Rat Day/International Pillow Fight Day 9a Torah Study 10:30 Shabbat Morning Services and Bat Mitzvah of Quinn Coughlin 11a Dayenu Tot Shabbat <i>Havdalah 8:26p</i></p>	<p>Parashat Tzav Leviticus 6:1 - 8:36 Jeremiah 7:21 - 8:3; 9:22 - 9:23</p>
<p>9 Passover (First Day) NO ECLC OFFICE CLOSED 10:30a Passover Festival Services</p>	<p>10 Passover (Cont.)/Good Friday NO ECLC 6:30p Shabbat Social Hour 7:30 Erev Shabbat Services <i>Candle lighting 7:23p</i></p>	<p>11 Passover (Cont.) 9a Torah Study 10:30 Shabbat Morning Services and Bat Mitzvah of Mia Escandarini <i>Havdalah 8:32p</i></p>	
<p>16 Passover (End) NO ECLC 6:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 7p Bridge 7:30p Interfaith Learning</p>	<p>17 International Haiku Day/World Hemophilia Day NO ECLC 6p Family Service 6:30 Community Dinner 6:30p Shabbat Social Hour 7:30 Erev Shabbat Services/Sixth Grade Student-Led Services <i>Candle lighting 7:30p</i></p>	<p>18 Husband Appreciation Day/International Jugglers' Day 9a Torah Study 10:30 Shabbat Morning Services and Bar Mitzvah of Eli Kopp <i>Havdalah 8:39p</i></p>	<p>Parashat Shmini Leviticus 9:1 - 11:47 Haftarah for Ashkenazim: II Samuel 6:1 - 7:17 Haftarah for Sephardim: II Samuel 6:1 - 6:19</p>
<p>23 Take Your Daughter to Work Day 6:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 6:30 How to Play Mah Jongg Class 7p Bridge</p>	<p>24 Arbor Day 6p New Member Shabbat Supper 6:30p Shabbat Social Hour 7:30 Erev Shabbat Services/Sixth Grade Student-Led Services <i>Candle lighting 7:37p</i></p>	<p>25 World Malaria Day/World Penguin Day 9a Torah Study 10:30 Shabbat Morning Services 11a Happy Birthday Israel Tot Shabbat <i>Havdalah 8:46p</i></p>	<p>Parashat Tazria-Metzora Leviticus 12:1 - 15:33 II Kings 7:3 - 7:20</p>
<p>30 National Mah Jongg Day/International Guide Dog Day NFTY MAR Spring Kallah 6:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 6:30 How to Play Mah Jongg Class 7p Bridge</p>	<p>Please note: Due to recommendations for coronavirus-related social distancing, Beth El cancelled all in-person events at the synagogue on March 12. At this time we don't know when we will resume in-person events, so please check the online calendar – which is changing daily - or e-mail office@bethelhebrew.org to verify if an event is actually happening before you leave home. To the extent possible, office staff will be monitoring that email address from home during the hiatus.</p>		

Join Beth El Hebrew Women of Reform Judaism
for



Mahj Mayhem

(Not a tournament)

Sunday, May 3, 2020 from 2 pm - 5 pm

Beth El Hebrew Congregation

3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304

A fundraiser for Beth El Youth

Loads of fun, friends, & food

Door prizes and raffle tickets for other prizes!

\$20 Pre-Registration by April 28

\$25 at the door

(\$18 is tax-deductible)

Make checks payable to BE-WRJ and send to WRJ,
Beth El Hebrew Congregation at the address above by April 28.

***** Bring your 2020 Mah Jongg card *****

For questions, contact Jo Ann Allen at allenjoann@hotmail.com



Youth Groups Out and About



BEFTY's own Molly B raised money for NFTY-MAR's tzedakah action by cutting her hair ↑→



CLUB 67 gathers to help set up the book sale ↑

Super hero BEFTY-ites had a blast at NFTY MAR's Winter Kallah ↗

BEFTY goes ice skating at Pentagon Row →



Club 67 enjoyed an awesome Shul-In



ALIVE!

TZEDAKAH TZUNDAY has come and gone, but you can still make donations to ALIVE! by going to www.alive-inc.org. \$20 can purchase 100 lbs of food, help a family in a financial crisis, or help maintain ALIVE! House.

If you want to help the Child Development Center, go to www.alive-inc.org and click on events to find the registration for StepALIVE! and register with Team Beth El. It doesn't matter if you are a virtual or actual walker — all are welcome.

StepALIVE! will be on Sunday, May 17. We meet at First Christian Church, 2723 King Street, at 2:00 pm and walk to Old Town and back. Then there's food and music back at the church. This is the major fundraiser for the CDC — a childcare/preschool program for Alexandria's little ones at risk.

For more information about ALIVE! go to www.alive-inc.org or contact **Deborah Schaffer** at schaffer4@gail.com.

Beth El/Pozez JCC Events

The Sarajevo Haggadah

Wednesday, April 1
10:30 am – noon

Presented by Les Bergen, trustee of the Capital Jewish Museum

The Sarajevo Haggadah is one of the most famous Jewish books in the world. A religious and cultural icon, its history is replete with mystery and intrigue. Its survival is nothing short of remarkable — from the expulsion of Spanish Jews in the Inquisition, resurfacing in Italy in 1609 and later Sarajevo, courageously saved from a Nazi general and then hidden, and surviving 1990's Serb bombardment. Learn how it has become a symbol of interreligious respect and cooperation.

All programs are \$5 unless noted otherwise. RSVP to Shelly.Rosenstein@theJ.org, 703.537.3062

National Gallery of Art *Degas at the Opera*

Wednesday, April 22
depart Beth El 11 am; return 3 pm
(This trip will start at the J and will stop at Beth El. Please indicate if you will be leaving from the J or BEHC)

Visit 100 of the artist's best-known and beloved works in a range of media. Degas is celebrated as *the* painter of dancers. A music lover and regular visitor to performances, Degas explored the public spaces of the Paris Opera as well as more private ones, including dance studios and backstage. He was friends with many of the people he depicted in his paintings. Enjoy the art and an optional lunch (pay your own).

Fee: \$14 (includes bus transportation)
Code: #10573

Byline: Ernie Pyle

Please submit payment by April 20.
Wednesday, April 29
10:30 am – noon

Presented by Steve LaRocque, Actor, Playwright

Ernie Pyle was one of the greatest journalists of World War II and was famous for chronicling the day-to-day stories of everyday American soldiers. Join us as Steve brings Ernie Pyle to life as he recounts battles of World War II including the London Blitz, the Normandy invasion, and the glorious liberation of Paris – all in the words of Pyle himself!

Steve has been an actor/playwright for over 25 years, along with being a military veteran with 29 years on active duty.



Renaissance Group

THE RENAISSANCE GROUP will have another catered dinner, on Sunday, April 19, at 6:00 pm at the synagogue, featuring our very own Beth El and Renaissance Group member, **Dr. Stanton Samenow**, author of *Inside the Criminal Mind*.

Dr. Samenow will thrill us with his talk entitled, *Inside the Mind of a Forensic Psychologist*. You will remember he was an expert witness in the trial of Lee Boyd Malvo.

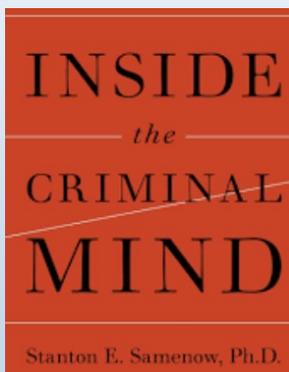
He will talk to us about one of his interesting cases involving a brilliant graduate student who was arrested for the brutal murder of his mother. He will share with us what a forensic scientist does, and in particular what he did in this case, after an extensive court-ordered evaluation of the subject, following a plea of insanity by the defendant's attorney.

Dr. Samenow has been a guest on numerous television and radio programs, including *60 Minutes*, *The Today Show*, and *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. He has also lectured in 48 states, in Canada, and abroad.

Cost for the dinner and program will be \$25 for Renaissance Group members and \$30 for guests.

Your check is your reservation, so please send your checks made out to LINDA VOGEL-RENAISSANCE GROUP, and mail it to

Linda Vogel
1650 Silver Hill Dr.
Apt. 1702
McLean, VA 22102.



Torah Study at Beth El

BETH EL'S long-running Torah study group meets every Saturday at 9:00 am in the Seminar Room and is open to all, regardless of level of learning. No need to RSVP. If you have any questions, please contact Gilah Goldsmith at Gilah.goldsmith@gmail.com.

PSA: Please use common "scents" when applying scents... some congregants are very "scentsitive."

Chapel in the Woods

Environmental Conservation: The Message of Deuteronomy

For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with streams and springs and fountains issuing from plain and hill... When you have eaten your fill, give thanks to the Lord your God for the good land which he has given you.

— Deuteronomy 8:7–10

THE EARTH IS in grave danger, with weather changes, too much carbon dioxide in the air, and the threat of a sixth great extinction event — the latter, for the first time, resulting from human action, warned Torah scholar Rabbi Shai Held, speaking on March 5 at the Edlavitch Jewish Community Center of Washington, DC.

The message of Deuteronomy, he said, is that the earth is an enormous gift, but that satiation leads to forgetting that we are recipients in a world we did not create. He asked, “How did we get to the point where environmental destruction serves to satisfy unrestrained want? Greed always leads to destruction of the earth due to denial of creation. We have lost the ability to see the world that we did not create. We are in denial of the fact that we did not create ourselves, treating the world as a resource to be exploited rather than as a gift.”

Individuals are not “the center of the universe,” he noted, rather, human beings are God’s stewards, sharing the planet with plants and animals as equals.

Beth El congregants have opportunities to give thanks for these gifts not only through prayer, but through service, by attending monthly workdays with the goal of restoring the two-acre forest behind the parking lot. The woodland, on a hillside, filters storm water that flows into Strawberry Run and on to the Chesapeake Bay. The property houses insects, including many pollinators, as well as birds and other animals.

Workdays will be held April 5 and May 3. There is no Sunday school on April 5; so the building may not be open. (The bridge event scheduled for that day has been cancelled.) The workdays are held from 10:00 am to noon, followed by a light lunch. Bring gloves and trowels if you have them. Other equipment will be provided.

For information, contact **Nancy and Stuart Davis**, 703-671-5906.



Beth El Permanent Endowment Fund
Beth El Hebrew Congregation

3830 Seminary Road • Alexandria, Virginia 22304 Tel: (703) 370-9400

Come join us for the Annual Meeting of the Beth El Permanent Endowment Fund Sunday, June 14, 10 am – noon Seminar Room

The Trustees of the Permanent Endowment Fund – **Dana Arnold** (Chair), **Jeremy Flachs** (Secretary), **Ernie Levy**, **Janet Garber**, **Dorrit Lowsen**, **Michael Bluestein** (Treasurer), and **Daniel Rothschild** welcome you to the annual meeting.

Trustee terms are ending for **Daniel Rothschild** and **Michael Bluestein**, who have been nominated for additional 3-year terms.

Any voting member may petition for an alternate slate of nominees directly to the Secretary, **Jeremy Flachs**, jeremy.flachs@flachslaw.com, 20 days prior to the meeting, and notice of the alternative nominees will be provided to the membership by the Secretary at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

The Trustees look forward to meeting with you to discuss the Endowment Fund’s progress and to elect the new trustees. We have a lot of exciting things to discuss with you.

The Congregation Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations

ARNOLD G. FINK LEARNING CENTER

Donor
Linda & Harvey Wenick
In Memory of
Helen Wenick

BETH EL GENERAL FUND

Donor
John Johnson
Donor
Gerry Terlitzky The Caring Community Committee
Donor **In Appreciation of**
In Memory of
William Kramer Maurice & Samuel Steinberg
Audrey Agronov Israel Agronov
David Ratner Herbert Ratner & Sarah Scott Medlar
Irv Baddock Miriam Terlitzky
Dina & Jonathan Katz Elaine Clevenson

RICHARD FAKOURY MUSIC FUND

Donor
Gerry Terlitzky
Donor **In Memory of**
Enid & Dennis Lehr Elias Lehr

MARC ROSS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Donor **In Memory of**
Naomi V. Tuttle John W. Tuttle
Shelli Ross Steve Beauch

PERMANENT ENDOWMENT FUND

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Brooksie Koopman & Mark Eaton
Elizabeth Hernandez & Jeremy Flachs
Donor **In Memory of**
Lois Frieman Selma & Louis Rossheim
Juliet & Michael Bluestein Herman Needle
Vicki Warren Paul Harris & Clyde Warren
Lucy Civitello & Howard Cohen Michael Civitello
Jane & Robert Siegel Edith Siegel

PRAYER BOOK FUND

Donor
Dorothy Saks **In Memory of**
Florence Lipsky

RABBI'S GOOD DEED FUND

Donor
Rosalie & Monroe Lesser
Gerry Terlitzky
Yelena Raben & William Hurst
Donor **In Appreciation of**
Melvin Rosenblatt Rabbi Spinrad's kindness during
Melvin's illness
M.L.King, Jr. Memorial Planning Committee Beth El's support to the annual
Alexandria MLK celebration
Donor **In Celebration of**
Jennifer Kaplan A brit milah for Cameron Morris Kaplan
Donor **In Memory of**
Sheila Fieldman Israel Fieldman
Michaele & Fred Silverberg Sol Silverberg
Deborah Sherman Susan Olom
Honey Nashman Isadore Weinstein
Marjorie Bauman Harold Bauman

RABBI EMERITUS DISCRETIONARY FUND

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Gerry Terlitzky
Donor **In Memory of**
Rebecca Hecht-Lewis Theresa Hecht

RABBI ISSEROW PLAYGROUND FUND

Donor
Gerry Terlitzky
Donor **In Memory of**
Rebecca Hecht-Lewis Rachel Hecht
Jacqueline & Alan Gropman Hilda Pass

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

Donor
Gerry Terlitzky
Donor **In Celebration of**
Beth EIRSY Team Rabbi Bailey Romano's installation

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 acknowledgement.

WRJ Social Action

**THINK SPRING
TIME TO CLEAN OUT CLOSETS
April 16-30 Collect professional clothing
for WOMEN and MEN**

GET READY! For the last two weeks of April, Thursday, April 16 through Thursday, April 30, we will collect gently used professional clothing 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 eighth 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.

Chavurot at Beth El

BETH EL CONTINUES to form new chavurot. We are trying to find out how many chavurot exist and can accept new members. Please forward the information to Linda Vogel at lindav@cox.net, so we can have a count of how many there are.

Also, if you have any interest in joining a Chavurah, please contact **Linda Vogel** at lindav@cox.net.



2020 Mah Jongg Lessons!!



Apr. 19 (Sunday)	10:00 am – noon
Apr. 23 (Thursday)	6:30 – 8:30 pm
Apr. 26 (Sunday)	10:00 am – noon
Apr. 30 (Thursday)	6:30 – 8:30 pm
May 3 (Sunday)	10:00 am – noon
May 7 (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 2020 Mah Jongg Card.

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

GMU's Hillel Green Gold and Jewish Shabbat Dinner, February 21



ReelAbilities Film Festival 2020



Update from the Heller High Five

HI EVERYONE, it's Dahlia Spinrad from the Heller High Five. We have done a lot these past few weeks and have had some amazing opportunities. Being a part of Heller High has allowed me to do and experience things I never thought I would get the chance to do so early on in my life. I have gotten to meet so many new people and create so many new friendships, as well as make stronger bonds with the other four girls of the Heller High Five.

A few weeks ago we went to Gadna, a four-day Israeli army training for teens. This program was very challenging for me and was not my favorite part of the trip so far. It was very intense and really challenged us to push ourselves as much as possible. The food was not very good and the cots were very uncomfortable. Despite all of the negative parts of the four days, in the end it helped me become closer with the girls in my group and create bonds that I may not have made otherwise. It challenged me to be my best self and that has helped me throughout the past few weeks.

After Gadna we got to go to Eilat, which I enjoyed a LOT more. We got to go shopping, hiking, snorkeling, and we got to spend time at the boardwalk. The hike was long and hot but the view at the top was beautiful and very worth the hike. The mall and the boardwalk were very fun and good breaks to just hang out and spend time with our friends. I personally chose not to snorkel, but the beach itself and the water were both very beautiful and it was a very fun day.

A few days after Gadna and Eilat, we went to Masada and the Dead Sea. Unfortunately we had a few technical difficulties so we couldn't hike up Masada to see the sunrise. Instead we took the trolley up and hiked down instead. We had Jewish history class on top of the mountain and got to see the beautiful views. After we hiked down, we went to the Dead Sea. The water was very beautiful and really cold. The salt on the floor of the sea hurt my feet, but once I got out far enough to float it was so cool. Being able to float so effortlessly was really trippy and not something I was expecting.

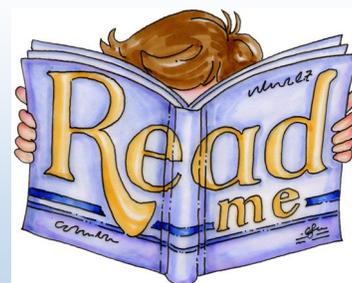
This past weekend I went to go visit some of my family who live here. It was really cool to see people that I hadn't seen since I was three. I got to spend Shabbat with them and experience what Shabbat is like in a Jewish household outside of the kibbutz. I've been having a great time so far and I am so grateful to have this amazing opportunity. I can't wait to see what's going to happen in the months to come.

Late-breaking news: all of the Heller High Five have returned home early due to coronavirus concerns.



Readers of Beth El

THE READERS OF Beth El will meet on Monday, April 27 at 7:30 pm to discuss *Here All Along* by Sarah Hurwitz, who served as a speechwriter for Presidents Clinton and Obama, and most recently as head speechwriter for First Lady Michelle Obama. This nonfiction book is Hurwitz telling of her own journey to find meaning, spirituality, and a deeper connection to life through rediscovering Judaism. It should be an interesting discussion following Passover.



— Lynne Orens

Core Values: Social Justice/Social Action

Carpenter's Shelter

WRJ has supported Carpenter's Shelter in the City of Alexandria for decades. Carpenter's comprehensive continuum of care offers services aiding the chronically homeless and shelter residents through their transition back into independent living.

Beth El has two groups providing meals. WRJ cooks and serves dinner the 4th Monday of every month. **Karen Aftergut**, kscrapps@verizon.net, coordinates shopping, cooking and serving. WRJ provides funding. **Susan Wartel**, susanwartel@gmail.com, coordinates Beth El volunteers to donate and serve nutritious hot lunches the 4th Sunday every other month.

For more information go to <https://carpentersshelter.org>. To volunteer, contact Karen or Susan.

Equal Justice Initiative: Community Remembrance Project, Alexandria, VA

The National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama includes over 800 steel monuments, one for each county in the United States where a racial terror lynching took place. Their Community Remembrance Project invites jurisdictions to claim and install a copy of their monument. The City of Alexandria is committed to claiming Alexandria's monument in partnership with EJI.

For more information, go to <https://www.alexandriava.gov/historic/blackhistory/default.aspx?id=106501> or contact **Rabbi David Spinrad** at DSpinrad@bethelhebrew.org.

ALIVE!

Beth El has been a member-congregation of **ALIVE!** since its beginning in 1969. **ALIVE!** is the largest private safety net for Alexandrians living in poverty. More than 700 volunteers a year help with **ALIVE!**'s seven programs: Child Development Center (Step**ALIVE!** Walkathon); Food Program (High Holy Day Food Drive); Family Emergency Program (Tzedakah Tzunday); Last Saturday Food Distribution (Bin of Bounty); Furniture (Dec.); Housewares (Feb. Drive); **ALIVE!** House Shelter (Tzedakah Tzunday). (Parenthetical projects are BEHC efforts.)

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

Alexandria Domestic Violence Program

WRJ has been supporting the Alexandria Domestic Violence Program (ADVP) for many years. ADVP is dedicated to empowering Alexandria residents by working for equality, safety and access to opportunities and services through advocacy and education. ADVP is dedicated to fair, compassionate and respectful treatment of ALL people regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression.

For more information, go to <https://www.alexandriava.gov/dchs/childrenfamily/default.aspx?id=96435> or contact **Janet Garber** at garberj123@gmail.com

Also...

In the fall, our voter engagement campaign.

In the spring, our oral rehydration therapy project.

All year long, fundraisers and opportunities of all sorts to volunteer.

Be a part of it all. Help us work towards *Tikkun Olam!*

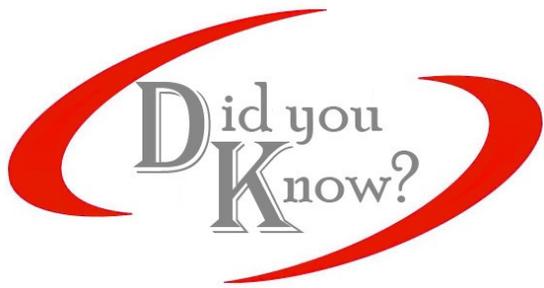


Friends of Guest House

WRJ has been working to build a strong relationship with Friends of Guest House for several years. Last year residents of Guest House both helped serve at and attended events at BEHC. This fall, Guest House provided a Shabbat speaker.

Friends of Guest House helps women successfully reenter the community after incarceration. Since its founding in 1974, Guest House has helped more than 4,000 women break the vicious cycle of incarceration, reunite with their families, and reintegrate into their communities.

For more information, go to <https://friendsofguesthouse.org/> or contact **Janet Garber** at garberj123@gmail.com



Look at the calendar: why is there no Torah portion listed for the Shabbat in the middle of Passover? We have special Torah readings for the holy days of Passover (first, second, and eighth) as well as special Torah readings for the intermediary days of Passover, including Shabbat. Not part of the regular portion sequence, the Torah reading on Saturday, April 11, describes Moses' receiving of the Second Tablets and God's revelation to him of God's Thirteen Divine Attributes. The verses are Exodus 33:12-34:26.

THE COST OF LIVING KEEPS GOING UP.
The cost of your funeral doesn't have to.

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> KING DAVID MEMORIAL GARDENS <
FALLS CHURCH
NationalFH-MP.com



POZEZ JCC-BETH EL ECLC Registration is open for the 2020-2021 School Year

Our Early Childhood Learning Center offers a 12-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 2020-2021 school year starts in August 2020.

The ECLC, offering a Reggio Emilia-inspired educational philosophy, 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 dina.backer@thej.org.



Whether buying or selling your first home, a transition home or your forever home, I can help you find your place or reimagine your existing space.

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Hold the Date

NFTY MAR Spring Kallah, April 30 – May 3

National Museum of American History:
The Vilna Vegetarian Cookbook, May 1

Mahj Mayhem, May 3

Washington Jewish Film Festival, May 7 – 24

Pozez JCC: *A Rosenberg by Any Other Name: A History of Name Changing in America*, May 7

Culture Club Visit to Renwick Gallery, May 8

WRJ Shabbat, May 8 – 9

Annual Brotherhood Mother’s Day Brunch, May 10

Bender JCC: *Digging Up Armageddon: Searching for the Lost City of Solomon*, May 10

Step ALIVE! Event, May 17

Pozez JCC: *Beyond Vital Records-Additional Sources to Trace Eastern European Ancestry*, May 17

Bender JCC: Mount Vernon Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra — *From Haydn to Hollywood*, May 17

Pozez JCC: ECLC Annual Exhibition, May 18 – June 12

Confirmation, May 29

Ross Scholarship Award, June 5

Edlavitch JCC: *Compulsion or the House Behind*, June 5-28

Last Day of Religious School, June 7

Permanent Endowment Fund Annual Meeting, June 14

First Day of Religious School, Aug 30

Erev Rosh Hashanah, Sept. 12

NFTY MAR MAJYK at Beth El, Dec. 18 – 20

URJ Biennial in DC, Dec. 8 – 11, 2021

Cantor’s Concert, Jan. 30, 2021