

Please check the online Beth El calendar or email office@bethelhebrew.org before leaving to attend ANY event. As we go to press, most April events are still online.



Beth El Bulletin

Beth El Hebrew Congregation

April 2021
Nisan/Iyar 5781

Worship Services

- Friday, April 2**
Erev Shabbat Services
6:30 pm
- Saturday, April 3**
Shabbat Morning Services and
Passover Festival/Yizkor Services
10:30 am
- Friday, April 9**
Erev Shabbat Services
6:30 pm
- Saturday, April 10**
Shabbat Morning Services
10:30 am
Happy Birthday, Israel
Tot Shabbat
11:00 am
- Friday, April 16**
Family Services
6:00 pm
Erev Shabbat Services
6:30 pm
Fifth Grade Student-Led Services
7:30 pm
- Saturday, April 17**
Shabbat Morning Services
10:30 am
- Friday, April 23**
Erev Shabbat Services
6:30 pm
- Saturday, April 24**
Shabbat Morning Services
10:30 am
Lag B’Omer Tot Shabbat
11:00 am
- Friday, April 30**
Erev Shabbat Services
6:30 pm



*Beth El
Brotherhood
and the*



*Beth El
Israel
Committee*

**Present a Public Policy Forum: The Relationship
Between America’s Reform Jews and Israel
Sunday, April 25, 10:00 am – Noon**

Moderator: Robert Siegel

**Panelists: Michael Barnett, David Horowitz, and
Rabbi Naamah Kelman**

See page 14 for more information

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*...and lots of tantalizing
tidbits scattered through-
out, so don’t skip a page!*





Rabbi's Remarks

DEAR FRIENDS,
Boy, is it good to be back home. It is good to be back at Beth El. It is good to be in the sanctuary once again, and it feels wonderful to be in the ark. After a

long year away, I have been reunited with my sisters. I understand the events of this difficult past year and accept that it was for the best that I left, but there is no place I'd rather be than here. I am home. I am back where I belong.

Don't get me wrong. There are worse places to be than in the Spinrad family home, which is where I lived for the past year of this pandemic. **Rabbi Spinrad** and his family took good care of me. They kept me safe and dry on a high cabinet in the dining room. Admittedly, it gets a little wild and crazy in their home sometimes, but it's always full of love and laughter. Come to think of it, I could say the same thing about your homes that I visited during this past year of living through the pandemic, as **Rabbi Spinrad** delivered me to our B'nei Mitzvah families. You're all a little crazy, but I see a lot of love out there.

While I personally have been around long enough to have seen much worse than this pandemic, I know that, collectively, this has been the most difficult year of your lives. Both at the Spinrad home and in your homes, here is what I saw: You are strong and resilient. You've proven that you can endure hard times and that the Jewish people are at their best under adversity. Your determination, resilience, and creativity have made your ancestors proud. And, for the rest of your lives and for the lives of those who will inherit your family and communal stories, know that you have been good ancestors



to your descendants.

Now, I need you to dig down deeper. I need you to hang in there a little bit longer. Allow my return to the ark to be Beth El's light at the end of a long tunnel, but recognize that you are still inside that tunnel. Move toward me with patience and forbearance. Be smart. You are still in the middle of a pandemic. I want you to hold images of our reunion, picture us dancing together cheek-to-cheek in celebration of having overcome and survived this perilous passage. But it's not going to happen tomorrow. Some of you are vaccinated and insist you're ready to step across Beth El's threshold and resume in-person congregational life once again.

We're not there yet, but I'll be here when we are. I promise. Let's do this right. Beth El has been a model synagogue throughout the pandemic. Stay the course until we're home again, and let's bring everyone with us. Beth El will hold 11 in-person B'nei Mitzvah from April to June under our outdoor tent. Led by Executive Director **Elizabeth Bayer**, the reopening task force, senior lay leadership, and the clergy team, these kinds of outdoor events will establish protocols and identify volunteers to help enforce and maintain them. Use this time to build up the collective confidence to step across the threshold again as we enjoy watching the number of vaccinated people rise and the number of COVID illnesses and deaths fall.

We can do this — we just have to be patient and stick together.

Love,
— **The Torah**

Positive Aging Offered Again: How Did We Get Old So Fast?

BECAUSE THIS INTERACTIVE seminar was so well received earlier this year, we are offering it to those who were not then able to join. The program, a series of four zoom sessions, explores the challenges and opportunities of growing older. It is a wonderful opportunity to have meaningful conversations about this exciting stage of life.

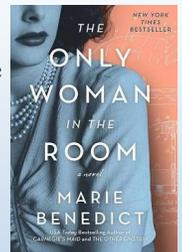
When: Four consecutive Mondays, 1:00 – 2:30 pm, beginning May 3. To reserve a spot or for more information, please contact Ruth Perlstein (703-978-9341 or rperl8607@gmail.com). Space is limited to 14 people.

— **Ruth Perlstein** and **Julie Mueller**

Readers of Beth El

THE READERS OF BETH EL will “meet” on Monday, April 5 at 7:00 pm to discuss *The Only Woman in the Room* by Marie Benedict.

This story is historical fiction of the life of Hedy Lamarr. Although she was best known as a Hollywood screen star, she also hid her Jewish background, escaped from the Nazis with secrets, and became a brilliant scientist in the U.S.



— **Lynne Orens**

Cantor's Corner



AS WE LOOK BACK at this past year, we can see so much that has been lost. First, we think of all those who have been lost and those families that will never again be whole. We hold you in our hearts and offer our love and condolences. We also think of all the life experiences that have been taken away or altered. School has gone virtual, family and friends have been separated, and our day-to-day way of life has been changed, at least temporarily.

It is often said that at the core of Judaism is the belief that life is about holding two, seemingly opposing truths, simultaneously. So while there has been great sadness and loss this year, our optimism asks us to look for the places of growth and joy that we have experienced as well. Across the board we have all learned new technologies and we have developed new skills that will benefit us long after this pandemic is over. Many have also observed that while they may be physically distant from those they love, they have also stayed in touch with their families and friends in new, meaningful ways as well. Perhaps many of us spent the first few weeks of social distancing on Zoom reunions with college and high school friends.

One of the aspects that I have been able to enjoy this year has been Shabbat. It probably wouldn't be a surprise to hear me, a cantor, say that I love Shabbat and that it is highly important in my life. It may be a surprise to hear though, that this year has offered some welcomed changes to my Shabbat observance. Including my years as a student cantor, I have largely observed Shabbat in the same way for 18 years. Yes, I have updated music frequently and have experimented with different styles throughout this time, but all of this was done within a specific framework.

A year ago, my cantorial and rabbinic colleagues and I had to transform the way we observed Shabbat, which for many of us largely meant the way in which we led services.

Within a matter of days, the way I was trained became irrelevant to this moment. Instead of using books and binders for my materials, I needed to now rely on using the resources I could put in my iPad. Instead of

standing on the bimah and looking into the faces of congregants, I needed to teach myself how to set up a TV studio in my living room — where during services I would train myself to have one eye on my computer screen and another eye on my iPhone, monitoring the Facebook chat to see who was attending services. And early in the pandemic when we were in absolute quarantine, I had to rely entirely on myself to provide musical accompaniment so I forced myself to learn enough guitar skills to accompany myself during services.

You know what? I have actually loved Shabbat services this year. Yes, I deeply miss being with you in person. I miss hearing your voices and I miss the many ways in which we have gathered formally and informally. There is something special and beautiful about the way in which we celebrate Shabbat online, however. I love the informality of services and the ease with which we can communicate in this online format, and I also love the way in which we can experiment musically and theologically. I've enjoyed creating a new Shabbat practice called Candles with the Cantor at 5:45 pm on Zoom, where we get to informally welcome in Shabbat together, and when Shabbat services are over, I love attending the post Shabbat service online oneg with my husband, Kirk, before we enjoy some challah and enjoy Shabbat dinner (usually Chinese take out!). I have found a new clarity of purpose and meaning when we have gathered online to pray this year. I know how hard the weeks are for so many of us. I feel blessed and privileged to have the opportunity to contribute to our Shabbat experiences, which I hope may give us a temporary break from whatever hardships we may be experiencing throughout the week.

It is far too early for us to know exactly what from this past year we will bring into the future, but for me, there is much about Shabbat this past year that I hope will find its way into our future lives.

— Cantor Kaufman

Help Scheduling Covid-19 Appointments

Are you struggling to find a COVID-19 vaccine appointment? Can't figure out how to upload your Medicare card or how to complete the online forms? We are pleased to be able to help.

Please complete this [form](#) to get help finding an appointment. Please do not include any personal identifying information or personal health information in your form or email. If you need additional help, please reach out to Leah Hirsch at leah.s.cohen@gmail.com or (571) 384-9736 or Nicole Jacobs at nikkij2080@gmail.com or 610-772-6482.

Volunteer slots are available for those who would like to help Beth El congregants find vaccine appointments. If you have some extra time and want to help, please contact Leah Hirsch or Nicole Jacobs at the email or phone numbers listed above.



President's Point of View

Hello Friends

HELLO FRIENDS!
Thanks to the many of you who were able to join us for our March 4 Zoom congregation financing meeting. For those unable

to attend, I am happy to report that the congregation approved the continuing spending resolution keeping in place the budget caps from FY 2019-2020 for the remaining months of FY 2020-2021.

In my column last month, I attempted to give the membership a two-year look-back/look-forward status update as to where Beth El stands financially in the midst of the pandemic.

To be clear... we are Beth El and we are moving forward. We are stable. Which is good. We will have enough money in our rainy day fund to meet any immediate emergency needs. We see a light at the end of the tunnel with vaccines on the way.

But what looks problematic to me on the financial horizon? I don't expect Beth El will receive ANY outside revenue from our traditional sources as part of our operating budget for FY 2021-2022, and without that we will need to find make-up revenue.

In the next month or so you will receive letters from me as Beth El president asking for your annual dues commitment. Beth El has a free-will, pay-what-you-can dues model predicated on the hope that members who are financially able to increase their annual commit-

ments will do so in order to help those members affected by our current financial downturn, thus alleviating additional strain. In those letters we will tell you what your FY 2020-2021 dues commitment was, and we ask that if you are able, please make a meaningful increase to that amount. For a benchmark, consider two percent of one's income.

To be honest, we will need the increase in revenue to offset our likely total loss again of any outside revenue streams. This has been the case for us since the pandemic started.

Our two PPP/SBA loans have helped cover the operating loss for the last two years, but those won't be available to us to help this next fiscal year. Ideally, our annual total dues commitments would increase by \$100,000 to \$150,000. If Beth El could reach a total gross dues commitment of \$1,200,000 this spring, we would be in good financial shape for the coming fiscal year and we would be able to run a balanced budget. I look forward to reporting our good progress towards this goal at the June annual meeting.

I am always available to chat with any member about Beth El's current financial picture. Look me up. I am in the directory. These are tough economic times, but we will survive as we have since 1859.

L'Shalom,
— Alan Cohn

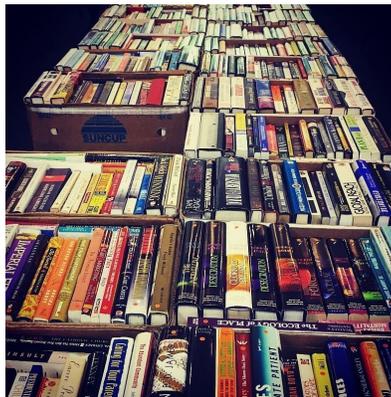
We Are Looking Forward to Our 19th Annual Book Sale (Someday) and It Will Be Bigger Than Ever!

Now is a great time to go through your book shelves and put aside the books, movies, music, and puzzles you no longer want for this very popular fundraiser.

Even while we are closed, you can bring your contributions to the building and leave them in the vestibule. If the stairs are a problem or you have a lot of books, unload near the loading dock and ring the bell there to let the staff know you have brought books. If you need help, just let us know and we will pick them up.

Eventually we will be asking for volunteers to help with this gigantic fundraiser. It's not too soon to let Rhoda know you are willing to help sort books when the time comes.

Questions or need help? Contact **Rhoda Goldman** at lennieg@cox.net or 703-992-9370.



Membership Team Growing

MEMBERSHIP IS PLANNING several outdoor events and activities in the upcoming months. Now that spring has sprung we are hoping to involve more of you in Beth El activities. Please join the Membership Team and bring your ideas and energy. We will be meeting virtually to come up with activities for our current members, as well as to discuss ways to increase our membership.

Email **Joanne Rhodes** (morah814@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining!

Religious School Report

Option B, C, or D



*In the morning I said to myself:
Life's magic will never come back.
It won't come back.
All at once the sunshine in my house
Is alive for me
And the table with its bread
Is gold
And the cups on the table and the flower--
All gold.
And what of sorrow?
Even in the sorrow, radiance.*

Zelda*

In her book, *Option B*, Sheryl Sandberg explains that “each one of us dreams of our lives as Option A, what we want and think will happen. When our loved ones die or when we experience a type of loss, we are forced to embark on Option B. Life is never perfect, so when we can’t have Option A, we try to make the best out of Option B. We go through the process of grief and begin to find ourselves again.”

The truth is that we are all living our Option B right now. All of us are living in the wake of loss and are trying to figure out how to navigate the option we never would have chosen if given the choice. And yet, as the poet Zelda writes, “even in the sorrow, radiance.” This month we are returning to light and hope. We are seeing a world where Options B, C, and D are welcomed with open arms. After all, this month our students and families will be able to learn together outside in person through The Tent: our Jewish Learning and Living pro-

gram. All of our students will have the opportunity to attend the Tent program in April and May. They’ll have ample space to learn in the Chapel in the Woods, under the portico, or in our new tent. While I certainly never imagined that Religious School would take place outside, I’m beyond grateful to the many people who have made and will make it a reality.

During the month of April we observe what rabbis affectionately call the yoms; Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), Yom HaZikaron (Day of Remembrance), and Yom HaAtzmaut (Israel’s Independence Day). Our joy in celebrating Israel’s independence cannot be separated from the darkness and pain we experienced in the Holocaust and in the sacrifices made to make the state of Israel a reality. Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center, was designed with this specific idea in mind. You enter Yad Vashem at the lowest point in the building and slowly you make your way up to the light and the founding of Israel. This year as we make our way through the yoms, I like to imagine that we too are walking up towards the light. As kids return to in-person school, and as more and more people are vaccinated, we are reminded that life’s magic will come back; that even in sorrow there can be beauty and radiance; that hope is never lost.

Rabbi Bailey Romano
bromano@bethelhebrew.org

* Sheryl Sandberg and Adam M. Grant, *Option B*, 13.

Nominating Committee Established

A NOMINATING COMMITTEE has been formed to fill the seven board positions of those members whose term is expiring (several are eligible for a second term). This is also the year where new senior leadership is nominated for the 2021-2023 term.

According to the Beth El Constitution, Section 4, “There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of the president, the vice presidents, and not less than three (3) nor more than five (5) additional members of the Board of Directors appointed by the president with the consent of the Board of Directors.” As has been custom, the nominating committee will also recommend a slate of officers that includes the treasurer and secretary in addition to president, executive vice president, and vice presidents.

This year’s nominating committee is composed of the following members: **Anne Giller-Wilde, Marsha Hertzberg, Janet Hlatky, Matt Mutterperl, Dean Pinkert, Jeffrey Sachs, Bruce Sherman, Jill Spivey, and David Weinraub.**

If you or someone you know would be interested in being considered for a board or leadership position, please contact any one of the nominating committee members (contact information is in the online Beth El Directory). Our first meeting is March 22, and we will bring our recommended slate to the board at the May meeting.

— **Marsha Hertzberg**



Executive Director's Entry

I WANT TO THANK everyone for the warm welcome I have received from the Beth El community, staff and clergy! I am so grateful to be included in this wonderful team.

I want to take a moment to recognize that although I wasn't the Executive Director *here* when the pandemic began one year ago, I was here with you in spirit. Like you, I experienced the shutdown of a building, the jump to online services and programs, the change in how we operate. One thing that really impressed me when interviewing was how Beth El clergy just went with it, when it was time to pivot to online. What they accomplished is nothing short of amazing. I know they didn't do it all on their own and volunteers and staff helped, but the fact that the clergy host Shabbat services on Zoom/Facebook without someone else running the technology is awesome! This is what it is all about and I wanted to join a team that gets things done.

My first two weeks have been jam-packed with learning. I have been getting the lay of the land, working on parking lot lighting as well as maintenance and our technology infrastructure. I have been making plans with RS leaders to get ready for the RS Tent Program and for the building to get a refresh before everyone eventually comes back. I have also been meeting with **Rabbi Spinrad, Cantor Kaufman, Rabbi Romano**, and the Reopening Committee to make safe and measured decisions about gathering in person. By the time you receive

this newsletter we will have sent the Covid-19 tent guidelines to the B'nei Mitzvah families. We know many of you are ready to begin meeting in person and would like to use the tent. Please know that we hear you and we are listening. We are asking for your patience and understanding as we learn to walk before we run. The tent is also an unexpected expense that was not in our budget. If your family has the financial capability to help us offset the cost of the tent by making a donation, it would be greatly appreciated.

As I get settled, I have a one personal request: please add your picture to your ShulCloud account. That way when I look up your phone number, I can see your picture and start to put faces and names together. There are some advantages and disadvantages of starting a job during a pandemic. One benefit is that I can ease my way in instead of meeting everyone at once at Shabbat Services or on Sunday morning. One disadvantage is that I will see your entire face on Zoom and only half your face in person and I may not recognize you with your mask on! Even though we may have met on Zoom, please reintroduce yourself when we eventually meet in person.

I will end where I started, I am beyond excited to be a part of the Beth El community and look forward to meeting everyone soon.

Elizabeth (Liz) Bayer
(pronouns: she/her/hers)
Executive Director
lbayer@bethelhebrew.org

Member News

Welcome New Members:

Benjamin and Sarah Malakoff, and Norah and Arthur Robbie Schaefer and Tandy Gustin, and Noah, Ethan, and Owen
Nancy Nugent

Mazel Tov to:

Stuart and Nancy Davis for being written up in both *Washington Jewish Week* and the *Washington Post* for their efforts to keep our property and our area green
Stanton and Dorothy Samenow, Charles and Judith Kramer, and Susan and Daniel Worden on their special anniversaries in April

Colin Campbell and Joseph Hanig on their special birthdays in April

Jeffrey and Sara Lesk on the birth of grandson Nathan Lesk Wisner

Condolences to:

Alan Cohen on the death of beloved cousin, Frida Oshman

The Goldberg family on the death of beloved nanny, Matilde Hernandez

Yonie Dow on the death of beloved cousin, Michael Goodman

Special Call Outs:

Mazel tov to Scott Fedder on the birth of granddaughter Emma Patricia Fedder. Emma is very special because so far as we know she is the first sixth generation Beth El member! Her great, great uncle, Henry Blondheim, was the first president of Beth El.



Mazel tov and welcome to Gregory Sampson and daughter, Zoe, who recently joined the Jewish people!

J-Care Journal



ONE OF THE KEY elements in the Reggio Emilia philosophy is the concept of process art, focusing not on the finished product but on the path taken. It's about exploring with the materials. What does the clay feel like? How can we mix the paint to get certain colors? Tangential to this is the concept of loose parts. Do mosaics always have to be made with pre-made mosaic tiles? Or even prepackaged glass pieces? Absolutely not. Loose parts are all around us. Spare buttons, spools (empty or full), old keys, paperclips, pen tops, ribbons, string, bows, yarn, jewels or gems that have fallen off other things. Anything, really. I recall a project where old shoulder pads became the base of a bird's nest project. The caps of applesauce pouches are awesome also. And, the world outside might be the best source of loose parts: leaves, sticks, stones, grass, fallen flowers, and more can all be collected and used (and reused).

When we give children objects that have open-ended purposes, we allow their creativity to grow. Think for a minute about the plastic food one might find in a toy kitchen. In that setting, the hamburger is a hamburger and the cucumber is a cucumber. But, what if we replaced that bin with a bin of random loose parts? The

toilet paper roll could be the cucumber, or corn on the cob, or a hot dog. A circular tree cookie could be a hamburger (or the plate for the hamburger) or a cake or a cookie or a bowl of cereal. Imagination is a wonderful thing.

In a traditional preschool, there are often pictures or projects that come home daily or weekly. With process art, there is far less to take home, but the exploration of the materials along the way is of greater value. That is not to say that we don't save anything: we do. Occasionally we will glue something down or glue something together and send it home. More often than not, we will explore, enjoy, take a few pictures to remember the moment, and then clean up and put it all away to be used again in a different exploration.

The Reggio Emilia philosophy gives us so much to think about. I'm so proud of our school's approach to learning and the energy we put into the tenets of the philosophy.

Dina Backer

Director, J-Care Alexandria

WRJ Social Action: Food Insecurity

THE CAPITAL AREA Food Bank reports that one in ten residents of the metro DC area is food insecure. Nearly one-third of them are children. Food insecurity is difficult to escape because when budgets are tight, food is often the first thing that's cut.

Beth El has been active in supporting efforts to feed the people in our community. ALIVE! has been an active Beth El partner for years and is the primary recipient of the tons of food that Beth El has collected over the years at Yom Kippur. But due to the pandemic, ALIVE! is not collecting food at this time.

Many of you may be familiar with another food program, the Arlington Food Assistance Center – AFAC. AFAC distributes more than 80,000 pounds of food to more than 2,400 families every week. In April, in conjunction with Good Deeds Week, Beth El will collect food for AFAC. From April 12–16, you can drop off your donations on the cart located between the two sets of glass entrance doors to Beth El. The doors will be open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, and on Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

AFAC is most in need of the following low-sugar and low-sodium items:

- Canned tuna
- Canned soups
- Canned vegetables
- Canned tomatoes
- Peanut butter (in plastic jars)
- Cereal

Please refrain from donating any prepared meals, or any foods that are opened, expired, or packaged in glass. Thanks to all for supporting our community!

Janet Garber

703-598-7904

garberj123@gmail.com

Brotherhood News

NOT SURPRISINGLY, our February on-line Purim Carnival was a great success. The traditional moon bounce obviously was missed, and everyone had to pop their own popcorn, but thanks to the leadership of **Rabbi Bailey Romano** and Brotherhood's First VP, **Matt Mutterperl**, and to the hard work of numerous volunteers, dozens of students could join in multiple events for a fun on-line experience. Among the activities were Scavenger Hunts, Minute to Win It, and Kahoot Games, **Bob Weiman** Magic Shows, Purim Role-Playing Games, and the always popular Count the Amount. A complete list of volunteers is provided in this *Bulletin*. Thank you to each and every one of you.

Also in late February, WRJ, Brotherhood, and the Caring Community Committee, in conjunction with Congregation Etz Hayim, organized a well-attended Zoominar on "COVID-19: Infection and Vaccination Q&A." Panelists included Brotherhood's **Steve Shapiro** and WRJ's **Jeannette Astrow**. WRJ President **Linda Shapiro** hosted the event. Congratulations and thank you.

Looking forward, Brotherhood continues to address pandemic obstacles by organizing events for your on-line enjoyment. Up next is an April 25 webinar, co-sponsored with the Beth El Israel Committee, on the "Relationship between America's Reform Jews & Israel." To be moderated by **Robert Siegel**, see the insert in this month's *Bulletin* for complete details or contact **Ron Sturman** (rgstruman@msn.com) for more information. We also look forward to a May 9 encore performance by the Rock Hard Bagels in a Brotherhood Mother's Day video *Salute to Women*.

Unfortunately, Brotherhood recently had to conclude that its catering services, on hold for the past year, will only once again take place when the Beth El social hall is available for congregant usage. Also, after considerable discussion and review of options, the 2021 Interfaith Dinner with Fairlington United Methodist Church was officially canceled. The upshot of our discussions is that FUMC will host the 63rd "near annual" interfaith event in 2022.

Read this reminder about Brotherhood's annual Youth Scholarship Program. The purpose of our program is to financially help Beth El Youth in grades 8 through 12 enhance their Jewish identity through learning experiences and leadership programs ranging from attendance at Jewish camps to participation in national Jewish young leadership activities. Applications will be considered for Beth El youth for events through the first of August after their graduation from high school or their 18th birthday, whichever comes last. Full details are available in our simple two-page application and instructions form, on-line at <https://www.bethelhebrew.org/community/brotherhood>.

John Jankowski
Brotherhood President
brotherhood@bethelhebrew.org

Caring Community Committee News

ALTHOUGH THE Caring Community Committee and its on-call people have been unable to do all of their usual activities due to the pandemic, these volunteers have continued to serve the congregation during the past year — often just by "being there" when a helping hand or a listening ear was needed.

Those who are not able to get out easily received Purim hamantaschen and on Passover, gift bags were delivered.

There are many volunteers to be thanked for preparing and delivering meals to members during periods of mourning, illness, or incapacity; for running errands; for providing information; and for leading support groups in specific areas of need. The outpouring of kindness and generosity during these difficult times has benefited not only the recipients, but all of Beth El. Of course, all such contact and assistance is kept strictly confidential. To access CCC services, contact **Ruth Perlstein** at 703-978-9341 or rperl8607@gmail.com.

Public Service Announcement: *The Golden Gazette* is a publication of the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging. It is a free 24-page monthly newspaper dedicated to informing and serving older adults in Fairfax County, Fairfax City, Alexandria, and Falls Church. Regular features include Caregiver's Corner, Senior Center highlights and the Community Calendar, as well as information on health, legal, financial, and consumer issues. It is available in print and via email by going online to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and clicking on subscribe, or by calling 703-324-4653. Largeprint and recorded versions are also available. Call the agency at 703-324-5633 and leave your name, address, and telephone number.

Golden
Gazette

WRJ News

WE ARE DELIGHTED to announce that **Esther Belenker** has been selected as our 2021 WRJ Woman of the Year for her ongoing service to Carpenter's Shelter. Her nomination for this honor notes that she has been the behind-the-scenes point person to keep WRJ's commitment to the Carpenter's Shelter going. Although there is more assistance now, Esther has been doing this for years and is affable and appreciative of all who help her. Please join us in wishing her *mazel tov!*

The drawing for WRJ's Annual Spring Raffle will be held May 30. Proceeds will benefit WRJ's activities and causes, including our Beth El youth. Each year, WRJ makes contributions to the Religious School and other Jewish youth programs to support the *Madrachim* Program and provide opportunities for youth to gain their needed service hours and acquire leadership skills. WRJ also purchases gifts for Bar/Bat Mitzvahs and Confirmations.

The raffle will be WRJ's only big fundraiser this fiscal year. Please support our activities and causes by offering tickets to your friends, neighbors, co-workers, and relatives, as well as buying some for yourself. Instructions and tickets are in this month's *Bulletin*.

The Nominating Committee has presented the following slate of WRJ officers, to be voted on at the May 2 general membership meeting and in-person social (details TBA):

President: **Linda Shapiro**
 Vice President: **Susan Meisner**
 Vice President: **Jo Ann Allen**
 Treasurer: **Dina Katz**
 Recording Secretary: **Naomi Mercer**
 Corresponding Secretary: **Judy Jankowski**

Counselor: **Jeanette Astrow**

In case you missed the February 28 panel Q&A Zoominar *COVID-19: Infection and Vaccination Q & A*, or if you want to see it again, it is available on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/VnDLbiUWLOk>. The Zoominar slides are also available in PDF format at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VaCaMCEu2Ni66Za1ek4Qvy-9HOQmN2iH/view?usp=sharing>. The Zoominar was produced by WRJ in conjunction with Congregation Etz Hayim, and covered:

- *Virus and Vaccine: How they work* (**Dr. Barry Ginsberg**, Etz Hayim)
- *What's happening at our medical sites* (**Jeanette Astrow**, Beth El WRJ)
- *What's happening: Here, there, everywhere* (**Steve Shapiro**, Beth El Brotherhood)

WRJ thanks Barry, Jeanette, and Steve for the many hours they spent preparing and rehearsing their presentations, as well as for the presentations themselves.

Pat Collins and Linda Shapiro
 WRJ Co-Presidents



DID YOU KNOW?

DID YOU NOTICE there is no *parasha*, no regularly assigned Torah reading, on our calendar for the Shabbat during Pesach? Because this Shabbat falls during Pesach, the regular cycle of *parashot* (Torah portions) is interrupted by a special holiday reading.

The Torah reading follows Moses pleading on behalf of the Israelites after the episode of the golden calf. The reading is tense and suspenseful: how will the breach in the relationship be repaired? God punishes the people but agrees to forgive them. Moses asks to behold God's presence. God agrees, but only partly.

Shabbat Chol Hamoed (the intermediate Shabbat) provides both the reason for the special reading and the answer to the relationship question. On the one hand, on Shabbat, God's presence comes to us. The Jewish mystical tradition describes the kabbalists of Tsfat going out to the fields to greet the oncoming Shabbat queen. The Talmud describes the Shabbat angels escorting us home (Babylonian Talmud Shabbat 119b). On the other hand, Pesach is the first of the three pilgrimage holidays. In Biblical times, Jews left their homes for Jerusalem to make the appropriate sacrifice at the altar in the Temple. On Pesach (and Shavuot and Sukkot) we seek God's presence.

Both these approaches co-exist on *Shabbat Chol Hamoed*: God seeks us and we seek God. The joy and sanctity of the day results from the mutual commitment: each partner seeks the other.

	Sat	Torah
3	National Chocolate Mousse Day	
9:00a	Torah Study	
10:30a	Shabbat Morning Services and Passover Festival/ Yizkor Services	

Israel Committee News

ON MARCH 1, Israel's High Court announced that conversions by Reform and Conservative rabbis would be valid with respect to the Law of Return that allows Jews, children, grandchildren, and spouses of Jews to receive Israeli citizenship. It was exhilarating news for Reform Jews who follow events in Israel. However, it is less transformational than many had hoped. It applies only to Jews who convert in Israel, and it does not necessarily protect their rights in religious court, which are dominated by the Orthodox Rabbinate and where their rulings affect important aspects of Israeli life like marriages and burials.

Even more concerning, the backlash by some Ultra-Orthodox Jews was very harsh, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu joined the chorus of criticism of the court's decision. His views were partially driven by his need to have the Ultra-Orthodox religious parties continue their participation in his ruling coalition. Either way, it damps down some of the excitement when it seemed Reform Jews might be offered significantly greater acceptance in Israel.

Many Reform Jews have a deep and meaningful connection with Israel. It is often personal, revolving around travel, volunteerism, or study. Yet unlike the experiences of the Orthodox and Ultra-Orthodox, Reform Jews do not enjoy the same bridges with Israel. That is partially due to Israel's own religious make up. Reform and Conservative Jews make up a tiny minority of Israeli Jews, while most Israelis identify as secular, Orthodox, or Ultra-Orthodox. Many of the secular Jews don't see institutions like synagogues as necessary for their identity. While also a minority, Orthodox Jews have long guarded their dominance over Israeli religious institutions

jealously; some even regard Reform Judaism as a different religion. This means that Reform synagogues and rabbis are cut off from government funding and institutional positions that Orthodox Rabbis enjoy.

Yet Reform Judaism is still relevant in Israel. Several Reform Jews serve in the Knesset (parliament) and Israel's March election could see the first Reform rabbi, Rabbi Gilad Kariv, elected to the Knesset as part of the Labour Party. Also, Reform Jews are influential in the World Zionist Congress because of their large representation in that institution. It has paved the way for a mixed-gender prayer area at the Kotel and for increased support for Reform communities in Israel.

This bond between Reform Jews and Israel may be complicated but it is worth talking about and strengthening. That is why the Beth El Israel Committee and Brotherhood are hosting the April 25 public policy forum on the *Relationship between America's Reform Jews and Israel*. I hope you will log on to the forum and join this conversation.

Correction: Len Rubenstein's February article included incorrect information about J Street's virtual national conference. Please note that the correct conference dates are April 18 – 19.

The Israel Committee values diversity of opinion regarding Israel. This includes opportunities for committee members to alert the congregation of learning opportunities representing different perspectives that form our decisions about Israel. This article was written by Alex Buttgenbach.

Questions about the Israel Committee may be addressed to the co-chairs:

Alex Buttgenbach
Co-Chair

buttgenbach@gmail.com

Ron Sturman
Co-Chair

rgsturman@msn.com



ALIVE! CONTINUES to provide food to Alexandrians in need through our two trunk-to-trunk distributions, pop-ups, partnerships with ten food pantries, and daily food deliveries. Towards the end of the year, we had helped an average of 3,000 families per month. In January, we provided food to 4,000 families.

If you'd like to make a financial contribution to help ALIVE! continue serving the Alexandrians most in need, a good time to do it will be on **April 28**, during the annual **Spring 2 ACTION** event presented by ACT for Alexandria. This is a 24-hour giving event during which organizations have the opportunity to not only receive direct donations, but to also receive matching funds and win \$\$ prizes for numbers of donors. Set a reminder to go to <https://www.spring2action.org> on April 28!

As always, thank you for your continued support of all the good that ALIVE! does for the people of Alexandria. For more information you can go to www.alive-inc.org or contact **Deborah Schaffer** at schaffer4@gmail.com.

B'nei Mitzvah

Helena Heyman
April 10, 2021

Helena Heyman is a seventh grade honors student at Carl Sandburg Middle School in Alexandria, VA. She enjoys playing tennis, reading, drawing, hiking, traveling, and hanging out with her friends.

Helena is passionate about the environment, so for her Bat Mitzvah project Helena is organizing a trash pickup on the banks of the Potomac River. Trash often gets swept into the Potomac River, which is where we get our drinking water from, so cleaning up the Potomac will help the entire community have access to better drinking water.

Helena thanks her tutor **Robin Thompson**, all of her religious school teachers, especially **Morah Dina, Rabbi Spinrad, and Cantor Kaufman** for helping her prepare for her special day. Helena would also like to thank her parents, sister, and extended family for supporting her throughout this challenging year.

Paige Madeline Hanig
April 17, 2021

Paige is a seventh grade AAP student at Carl Sandburg Middle School. She enjoys playing volleyball and spending time with her friends.

For her mitzvah project, Paige has led the Fort Hunt Elementary School Care and Share program for this school year. This school year the Care and Share program has helped more than 40 Fort Hunt students each week, as well as providing 40 families with holiday meal bags at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Spring Break. Paige is responsible for maintaining inventory and packing the weekly bags as well as organizing other volunteers who help.

Paige thanks her tutors, **Nancy and Lisa**, all of her religious school teachers, **Rabbi Spinrad, and Cantor Kaufman** for helping prepare her for this special day. She thanks her parents and her brother, **Dylan**, and sister, **Brooke**, for their love and support.

Rose Breckenridge
April 24, 2021

Rose Breckenridge is a seventh grader at Burgundy Farm Country Day School in Alexandria. Her favorite subjects are humanities, math, and French. Rose enjoys art, playing basketball, seeing friends, and playing with her dog, Lily.

For her mitzvah project, Rose is organizing a food drive at her school for Food for Others. As part of this project, Rose will assemble "power packs" for elementary students who may not have access to food on the weekends.

Rose would like to thank her tutor, **Jeanette Astrow, Cantor Kaufman, Rabbi Spinrad**, her religious school teachers, and her family for helping her prepare for her special day.



Lots to Celebrate at April Tot Shabbats

SPRING HAS SPRUNG and so have its Jewish holidays. We Zoomed together last month on the first day of spring for the "Dayenu!" Tot Seder, and now we look forward to two more special springtime Tot Shabbats.

On April 10, we will celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut, Israeli Independence Day, a few days early at our *Happy Birthday, Israel* Tot Shabbat. At it, we'll take a pretend trip together to Israel.

Then, on April 24, it's time for Lag B'Omer, when we'll pretend we're outdoors around a campfire.

Happy Birthday, Israel Tot Shabbat, April 10 at 11 am

Lag B'Omer Tot Shabbat at 11 am

Zoom information will be in the Tot Shabbat emails; if you are not on the mailing list, please email office@bethelhebrew.org.

See you there! Let's stay connected!
Miss Carol (Carol Boyd Leon)



~ April 2021 ~

Sun		Mon		Tue		Wed	
							
4	National Vitamin C Day/World Rat Day NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	5	Deep Dish Pizza Day/ National Dandelion Day	6	National Student Athlete Day/Tartan Day 12:00p Coffee and Clergy 6:00p HaMakom: A Place and Time to Pray 7:00p Introduction to Judaism 7:00p EC Meeting	7	No Housework Day/ World Health Day Noon Member Online Drop-In Chat 6:15p Religious School 7:00p WRJ Meeting
11	Barber Shop Quartet Day/National Pet Day 10:00a Religious School 10:00a Beginning Adult Hebrew 10:00a Intermediate Adult Hebrew 11:00a JCRC Yom Ha'Shoah 1:00p Community Commemoration	12	Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day	13	Scrabble Day/Be Kind to Lawyers Day 12:00p Coffee and Clergy 6:00p HaMakom: A Place and Time to Pray 7:00p Introduction to Judaism 7:00p Genius of the Rabbis	14	National Gardening Day Noon Member Online Drop-In Chat 6:15p Religious School
18	International Juggler's Day 10:00a Religious School 10:00a Beginning Adult Hebrew 11:00a Intermediate Adult Hebrew 2:00p Beth El Knitters	19	National Garlic Day/ National Amaretto Day	20	Volunteer Recognition Day 12:00p Coffee and Clergy 6:00p HaMakom: A Place and Time to Pray 7:00p Introduction to Judaism 7:00p Board of Directors Meeting	21	Administrative Professionals Day Noon Member Online Drop-In Chat 6:15p Religious School
25	World Penguin Day 10:00a Brotherhood Public Policy Forum: The Relationship Between America's Progressive Jews and Israel 10:00a Religious School 11:00a Beginning Adult Hebrew Intermediate Adult Hebrew	26	National Pretzel Day 7:30p Insiders and Outsiders: The Jews of Virginia	27	National Prime Rib Day/ Tell a Story Day 12:00p Coffee and Clergy 6:00p HaMakom: A Place and Time to Pray 7:00p Introduction to Judaism 7:00p RSY Team Meeting	28	National Great Poetry Reading Day Noon Member Online Drop-In Chat 6:15p Religious School

Nisan/Iyar 5781 ~

Thu	Fri	Sat	Torah
1 Sourdough Bread Day/Fun at Work Day	2 National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day 5:45p Candles with the Cantor 6:00p Shabbat Social Hour 6:30p Erev Shabbat Services 7:30p Oneg Table Talk <i>Candle lighting 7:15p</i>	3 National Chocolate Mousse Day 9:00a Torah Study 10:30a Shabbat Morning Services and Passover Festival/ Yizkor Services <i>Havdalah 8:24p</i>	
8 Zoo Lover's Day 7:30p Interfaith Learning	9 Winston Churchill Day 5:45p Candles with the Cantor 6:00p Shabbat Social Hour 6:30p Erev Shabbat Services 7:30p Oneg Table Talk <i>Candle lighting 7:21p</i>	10 National Siblings Day 9:00a Torah Study 10:30a Shabbat Morning Services 11:00a Happy Birthday, Israel Tot Shabbat <i>Havdalah 8:30p</i>	Parashat Shmini Leviticus 9:1 - 11:47 II Samuel 6:1 - 7:17
15 Titanic Remembrance Day/World Art Day	16 Librarians Day/Save the Elephant Day 5:45p Candles with the Cantor 6:00p Shabbat Social Hour 6:00p Family Services 6:30p Erev Shabbat Services 7:30p Oneg Table Talk 7:30p Seventh Grade Student-Led Services <i>Candle lighting 7:28p</i>	17 International Haiku Day/ World Circus Day 9:00a Torah Study 10:30a Shabbat Morning Services <i>Havdalah 8:37p</i>	Parashat Tazria-Metzora Leviticus 12:1 - 15:33 II Kings 7:3 - 7:20
22 Earth Day 	23 National Talk Like Shakespeare Day 5:45p Candles with the Cantor 6:00p Shabbat Social Hour 6:30p Erev Shabbat Services 7:30p Oneg Table Talk <i>Candle lighting 7:35p</i>	24 National Pigs in a Blanket Day 9:00a Torah Study 10:00a Family Services 10:30a Shabbat Morning Services 11:00a Lag B'Omer Tot Shabbat <i>Havdalah 8:44p</i>	Parashat Achrei Mot-Kedoshim Leviticus 16:1 - 20:27 Amos 9:7 - 9:15
29 National Shrimp Scampi Day/National Zipper Day	30 National Maj Jongg Day /International Jazz Day 5:45p Candles with the Cantor 6:00p Shabbat Social Hour 6:30p Erev Shabbat Services 7:30p Oneg Table Talk <i>Candle lighting 7:42p</i>	The first Earth Day was celebrated in the United States in 1970. It officially went global in 1990. In recent years, more than one billion individuals and more than 190 countries have mobilized every year on April 22 as a day of action to change human behavior and create global, national, and local policy changes. Some ways to celebrate Earth Day include: planting trees and flowers; riding a bike instead of driving; switching your paper bills to online bills and payments; volunteering with a local organization to clean up waterways and forested areas; installing a bird feeder and/or bird bath in your yard.	



**BETH EL HEBREW CONGREGATION
ONLINE PUBLIC POLICY FORUM**

Sponsored by Beth El Brotherhood & Beth El Israel Committee

Relationship between America's Reform Jews and Israel

Sunday, April 25
10:00 am – Noon

Join us for this online presentation by logging onto:

<https://zoom.us/j/94780008919?pwd=YkFNZXIxU1h0c0RlbnlWUWUptQWE5dz09>

Passcode: bethel

FORUM MODERATOR

Robert Siegel, Beth El member, is an award-winning journalist who co-hosted NPR's *All Things Considered* from 1987 until January 2018. He writes for *Moment Magazine*, conducts their one-on-one online interviews, and moderates public affairs webinars for the American Friends of the Rabin Medical Center in Israel and for the Beth El Public Policy Forums.

FORUM PARTICIPANTS

Michael Barnett is University Professor of International Affairs and Political Science at the GW Elliott School of International Affairs. His research interests include the Middle East, humanitarianism, and global governance and ethics. Books he has authored include *The Star and the Stripes : A History of the Foreign Policies of the American Jews*.

David Horovitz is the founding editor of *The Times of Israel*. He is the author of *Still Life with Bombers* (2004), and *A Little Too Close to God* (2000), and is also co-author of *Shalom Friend: The Life and Legacy of Yitzhak Rabin* (1996). He previously edited *The Jerusalem Post* (2004-2011) and *The Jerusalem Report* (1998-2004).

Rabbi Naamah Kelman is Dean of the Taube Family Campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Jerusalem. In 1992, Rabbi Kelman made history as the first woman rabbi ordained in Israel. She is also recognized as a founder of liberal Jewish educational programs and institutions in the Jewish State.

Questions about the forum can be directed to Ron Sturman: rgsturman@msn.com

The Congregation Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations

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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.

Update on Our Immigrant Family

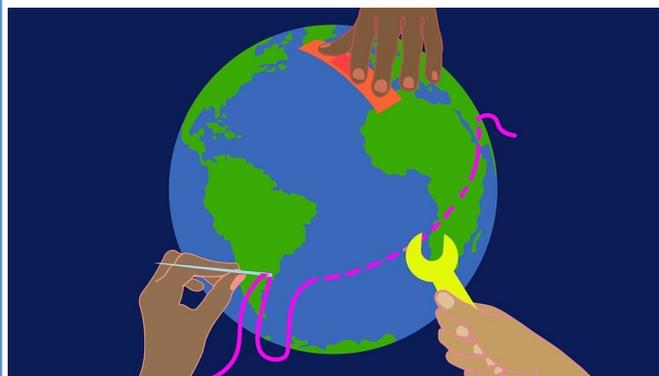
IN 2017, before the number of refugees accepted into the United States slowed to a trickle, Beth El joined with HIAS (formerly the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society that originally aided Jewish immigrants to the United States but now works with immigrants of all nationalities and religions) to help resettle an Afghan family.

When Jawid, Salima, and their four sons arrived here the first week of March 2017, they had nothing but what they brought with them on the plane. They had an apartment — but neither a stick of furniture nor a pot to heat water for tea.

Our congregation's response was immediate and enthusiastic. In a relatively short time, we furnished the apartment, provided clothing and toys for the kids, and other kinds of support. Our congregants told their friends and neighbors about their needs, and we made new friends as we worked with folks who were not Beth El congregants.

Today, the family is doing well emotionally and financially and is grateful to Beth El for helping it to build a new life in this country. They've been able to move from their small Route One apartment to a much larger town house in Falls Church. Jawid is working at a professional job, although not in his field of agronomy. The children are all doing well in school, and Salima is finding English less of a struggle. Most exciting — in November the family will start the citizenship process, and they are very eager to do so. It's a wonderful American success story, and Beth El can be proud of its part.

This has been a very positive experience for us, and it has brought the congregation together. Social action has always been part of our history. Helping with refugee resettlement struck a congregational chord that expanded well beyond the immediate confines of Beth El.



Chapel in the Woods: Want to Grow a Goat's Beard? (Just Kidding)

DESPITE THE COLD and ice, some progress was made in the Chapel in the Woods this winter, as many of the timbers surrounding the prayer circle in front of the ark were repaired. And this month, weather permitting, the seventh-grade Religious School students will replace years-old hosta in the prayer circle with coral bells, also known as alumroot, *L. Heuchera*. The deer who live in the woods love hosta — they chomp on it like lettuce, constantly eating it to the ground. Yet deer don't bother Virginia native *heuchera*, so the result of the switch will be some greenery left for humans and pollinators to enjoy nearly year-round.

Meanwhile, we are recruiting adults willing to help plant the terraces installed last summer to control erosion south of the bridge in the west ravine. Some 180 plants and roots have been ordered to control stormwater runoff in the ravine. These include Christmas fern, *Poly-*

stichum acrostichoides; Creek sedge, *Carex amphibola*, Mayapples, *Podophyllum*; and — new to the Chapel in the Woods — Eastern goatsbeard, *Aruncus dioicus*, also known as bride's feathers.

The tiny plugs of goatsbeard will eventually form tall, erect, bushy, clump-forming plants similar to astilbe. Mid-summer, they often rise four to six feet with compound, dark green foliage under showy, plume-like, feathery spikes of tiny, cream-colored flowers. Hence, the name. Goatsbeard requires full sun to part shade and prefers medium to wet soil.

Volunteers will work individually or in distanced pairs, with masks. To sign up for a day and time, please call **Stuart or Nancy Davis**, 703-671-5906, or write nmdaviswriter@aol.com. Please bring work gloves and trowels if you have them, other equipment will be provided. Families are most welcome.



Goatsbeard, *Aruncus dioicus*

Christmas fern, *Polystichum acrostichoides*



Creek sedge, *Carex amphibola*



Mayapple, *Podophyllum peltatum*

Spring is Coming: Gardening Around Beth El

SPRING IS NEAR, and soon flower bulbs will be sprouting through the mulch and soil. Over 1,000 snowdrops and purple grape hyacinths will hug the Holocaust statue. I hope to start a daffodil project near the rose bushes of the Holocaust garden. This started in Atlanta, Georgia back in 2010 where people around the world began planting daffodils representing all the children who died in the Holocaust. Anyone interested in donating time or bulbs to this project, please contact me.

More mulch will be added to the 66 planters located along the sidewalk and entrance and exit driveways. Flowers did marvelously last year! They are drought and deer-resistant perennials, so we should be seeing them again this year in all their magnificent colors. Volunteers for watering a few times in the summer would be welcome! Please contact me if you can help. Great family event! All hoses are outside in place already. You can schedule your time so you can be alone or with your family.

An exciting new garden is starting this year with our brand new natural play space. To hold down the soil near the slides, we will plant Aubrieta Rock Cress (blue flowers) and soft-to-touch Lamb's Ear (Stachys Byzantine). Both are creeping and are selected to prevent erosion.

Along the white picket fence bordering the parking lot, we will soon see a beautiful butterfly garden! Stay tuned to see those plants arrive in April when the weather is warmer! Again, let me know if you can assist with planting. It will be a few hours on a weekend.

And finally, I hope to start a Havdalah garden full of spices and aromatic herbs. This will be located near the sanctuary door along the exit driveway in the brick enclosed area. Again, anyone interested in helping by donating plants (perennials such as rosemary, sage, and others), please send me an email.

So... looking forward to warmer weather. April showers bring May flowers!

Spruce Fraser

spruce.fraser@gmail.com



THE HABERMAN INSTITUTE PRESENTS

Insiders and Outsiders: The Jews of Virginia



Credit: Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society

With Phyllis K. Leffler

Professor Emerita, Corcoran Department of History, University of Virginia

Jews have been both insiders and outsiders in America as antisemitism ebbs and flows, often in direct relationship to the virulence of white supremacy and racism. In Virginia and across the South, where the distinction of color has been the force for so much discrimination and differentiation, Jews were (and sadly today) are particularly vulnerable. The Virginia story is the story of America in many respects. How does this dual reality help us understand Jewish history – the place of immigrants, the acceptance of the so-called other, and the American mosaic of diversity?

Monday, April 26, 2021

7:30 - 9:00 PM EDT | VIA ZOOM

REGISTER AT [HABERMANINSTITUTE.ORG](https://www.habermaninstitute.org)

Thank you to our community partners for helping us bring this talk to the community.

Agudas Achim Congregation, Beth El Hebrew Congregation, Chabad Lubavitch of Northern Virginia, Congregation Ner Shalom, Congregation Olam Tikvah, Congregation Sha'are Shalom, Etz Hayim Congregation, Fauquier Jewish Congregation, Jewish Federation of Greater Washington, Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, and Temple Rodef Shalom



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Beth El Women of Reform Judaism's *Annual Raffle*

Winners will be randomly drawn for three Prizes:

- ❖ *\$100 Gift Certificate to Giant Foods*
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- ❖ *\$100 Gift Certificate to Whole Foods*

Drawing: May 30, 2021
Winners will be notified by phone.

**\$20.00 for a sheet of 14 tickets
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Tickets on the other side of this page!

Remember — this is not just *your* annual raffle. We urge you to offer tickets to your friends, neighbors, co-workers, and relatives. Let everyone in on the fun!

You may tear out and use the tickets on the other side of this page; copy them to give to other people; or print as many copies as you need from the email sent to WRJ members.



Instructions:

- ❖ Complete the tickets
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- ❖ Mail your check and the completed tickets to:
Jo Ann Allen
3204 White Street
Falls Church, VA 22044

For any questions, please call:

Jo Ann Allen at 202-431-4634

Many thanks for your support!

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The ECLC is BACK and REGISTRATION is OPEN!

Registration is open for the 2021-2022 school year beginning at the end of August!

The ECLC is a partnership of Beth El Hebrew Congregation and the Pozez JCC. We offer a 12-month, full-time program for preschool children who will be two, three, or four years old by Sept. 30. Our full-time toddler program accepts students from 16 - 23 months. Also, our new kindergarten program will offer a 10-month, full-time program.

The ECLC offers a Reggio-Emilia-inspired philosophy, is licensed by the Commonwealth of Virginia, and is open to all members of the community.

Year round program, Monday-Friday 8:00 am-5:00 pm.

Health and safety protocols are in place.

For more information or a virtual tour, please contact:

Director **Dina Backer**
dina.backer@thej.org

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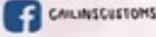
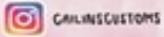
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www.bethelhebrew.org

office@bethelhebrew.org
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Hold the Date

Edlavitch JCC: JxJ Washington Jewish Film and Music Festival, throughout all of May

WRJ Event in the Tent, May 2

Haberman Institute: *JTS Evening of Learning: Racial Justice and Jewish Values*, May 2

Brotherhood Mother's Day Concert, May 9

Hebrew Union College: *Jews of Color*, May 11

Pozetz JCC: Wonder Women of Israel Series #3: Or Cohen & Dana Ben-Ezra, first female commanders in their role in the IDF, May 12

Hebrew Union College: *Intersectional Jewish Identities*, May 13

Confirmation Shabbat Service, May 14

Haberman Institute: *Confronting Climate Change: A Jewish Perspective on Community Responsibilities*, May 19

Last Day of Religious School, May 23

Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Washington Webinar on Genealogical Records from the Kingdom of Hungary, May 23

Pozetz JCC: Wonder Women of Israel Series #4: Sharon Gavish, Health & Cooking Expert, June 6

Hebrew Union College: *Not the Same as White: Latinx Students Talk About Jewish Schooling*, June 10

Please check the online Beth El calendar or email office@bethelhebrew.org before leaving to attend ANY event. As we go to press, the building/grounds may start opening up SLOWLY, but there are few in-person events in April.