

Beth El Bulletin

August 2017
Av/Elul 5777

Beth El Hebrew Congregation



Worship Services

Friday, August 4

Shabbat Evening Service
6:30 pm

Saturday, August 5

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

Friday, August 11

Shabbat Evening Service
6:30 pm

Saturday, August 12

Shabbat Morning Service
10:30 am

Friday, August 18

Shabbat Evening Service
6:30 pm

Saturday, August 19

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

Friday, August 25

Shabbat Evening Service
6:30 pm

Saturday, August 26

Shabbat Morning Service
10:30 am

Teen/Family Israel Trip June 24 — July 5, 2018

TRAVEL WITH your Beth El friends to a land of history and wonder (and beaches). Explore and expand your personal Jewish identity, while learning about both Jewish history and the modern state of Israel. The tour will be led by Rabbi Isserow and Cantor Kaufman. Please contact the office for more information.



Above: Caesarea



Right: Ein Gedi

Highlights:

- Tel Aviv
- Swim in the Mediterranean Sea
- Jaffa old city
- Caesarea
- Zichron Ya'acov
- Tsfat
- The Golan Heights
- Kayaking on the Jordan River
- Jerusalem
- Masada
- Ein Gedi
- Dead Sea
- Camel ride
- Aylon Institute
- Shabbat with Israeli teens
- Archeological dig at Bet Guvrin

In this Issue

Rabbi's Remarks	2	Interfaith Connection	10	Mahj Classes.....	20
Cantor's Corner	3	Readers of Beth El	10	Judaica Shop.....	20
President's Point of View.....	4	Member News.....	11	WRJ Social Action	20
Chapel in the Woods	4	ALIVE!	11	Culture Club Event	20
Religious School News	5	Calendar	12-13	Beth El in Your Neighborhood.....	21
Lone Soldier Program	5	High Holiday Choir	14	Book Sale.....	21
WRJ News	6	Beth El/JCCNV Events.....	15	Notice to Parents	21
Author Event.....	6	Donations.....	16	Summer Friday Dinners.....	22
Caring Community Committee	6	Refugee Family Update.....	17		
Brotherhood News	7	ECLC News.....	18		
Transition News.....	8	2017 Confirmands.....	19		
		Renovation News	19		

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





Rabbi's Remarks

EVER FELT that you don't know why on earth you are doing what you are doing? Sometimes it takes a crisis to make us face the reality of how we are feeling. In others it may just be that eventually

we tire of being ground down by dissatisfaction and depression. In either case, frequently we can look back over the past years and see the discontent growing, our sense of fulfillment waning. Our desire for and fear of change are engaged in an ever more frantic deadlock which we have studiously ignored until the tension within us reaches unbearable proportions. When and if the adjustment happens, then like any other fault line the reverberations are felt by all those around us, sometimes with unintended, but severe collateral damage.

How do we prevent these crises? The simple solution would be to evaluate our lives frequently, self-checking for the warning signs that may lead to the big bang and then taking timely preventative measures to ensure we are on track. Unfortunately, like exercise, it is easy to talk about, but much more difficult to cultivate the habit.

Our tradition encourages us to do this evaluation at least annually and as we begin the month of Elul, we are reminded that this is the time of year for us to enter into a deep and frank introspection of who we are, how we live our lives, and how we relate to those about us. It is not only a superficial weighing of our past actions, both good and not so good, but an honest, critical examination of our deepest motivations and desires.

We look back at the past year, remembering that it is not our job to pass judgment upon ourselves. However, it is our responsibility to address our shortcomings, to apologize and make restitution where possible, resolving not to repeat those same mistakes in the future. We look forward to the year to come facing the searching questions we are frequently afraid to ask and, more often, even more scared to answer. But answer them we must, if in-

deed we want to truly engage in the process of self-assessment that Judaism demands of us.

A number of years ago we introduced the concept of Mussar practice into our congregation. Those of us who have tried to engage assiduously in this practice have realized just how difficult it is to change not only our habits but some of our deepest automatic responses to everyday things that happen about us.

Usually when we have to confront something "big" or earth-shattering, we draw on reserves we never thought we had available, but somehow on the level of the common and normal, we seem to lack those resources. It is truly difficult to change our knee-jerk reactions. Our response to perceived provocation is often an outburst of anger, impatience, sarcasm or some other harsh or hurtful reaction. Frequently those we love, depend upon, or even just work with are the ones who bear the brunt of our unreasonable behavior even though they may not be the cause.

The month of Elul calls upon us to reflect of our behavior and to resolve to find ways of addressing our shortcomings. It is possible to change, it just takes hard and consistent work!

This is what Elul and the High Holy Days are all about. We know that no matter how hard the internal struggle, no matter how painful the confrontation with our weakest selves, and no matter how difficult it is to stand with our deepest secrets revealed before our God, we will emerge relieved, renewed, and refreshed, determined to try again, reach a little higher, push a little further, and strive a little harder to reach that spiritual promised land.

May our efforts this year bring each of us wholeness and peace.

L'shalom
Brett

THE
MUSSAR
INSTITUTE



Rabbi Isserow would be happy to talk to you about Mussar or you can learn more at www.mussarinstitute.org

Cantor's Corner

THIS PAST June I had the opportunity to attend the annual convention for the American Conference of Cantors (ACC). The ACC is the professional organization that I, as a reform cantor, am a member of and serves as the community of clergy that I am fortunate to be associated with. It is a community of clergy dedicated to serving the Jewish people, our rich musical tradition, and working in partnership with our rabbinic colleagues to further the ideals of our movement.

The ACC's mission statement, written on its website, is as follows:

The American Conference of Cantors supports its members in their sacred calling as emissaries for Judaism and for Jewish music. ACC leadership draws upon the energies and aspirations of its individual members, while responding to the expressed needs of the larger membership and the Reform Movement. The Conference inspires its members to embrace a shared dynamic vision of the cantorate. This vision is realized through programs and initiatives that will ensure a strong and successful organization. Each such effort is conceived according to carefully determined goals and criteria. Through our members we provide our communities with a compelling experience of text, music, learning, relationship to one another and connectedness to God. We establish our organization as a self-assured and securely funded entity, acting in full partnership with other representational bodies of the Reform Movement and worldwide Jewry.

I have been a member of the ACC since ordination in 2010, and the past handful of years, have taken on more of a leadership role, serving as a co-chair of the its Social Action and Justice Committee, as well as serving as one of its representatives on the URJ Commission on Social Action. I have found great meaning in this work and feel grateful to serve the cantorate in this way. I appreciate the time I was able to spend at this year's convention as well as all the



Cantors Jason Kaufman and Jacki Rawiszer, who co-chair the ACC Social Action and Justice Committee

conventions and conferences I'm able to participate in throughout the year. (I'm also very grateful to the Rabbi, staff, and all lay leadership who provide the support for me to spend time outside of our individual community in this way).

Conventions serve numerous purposes. On the most basic level, it is great to see colleagues and especially former classmates of mine. Cantorial school is a five-year program. Former classmates of mine truly have become the best of friends and family. It's always wonderful to see them and to hear about the work they are doing in their synagogues. We share resources with each other and inspire each other by the work that we do individually in our community.

Also, the farther I am from ordination and from regular classes at cantorial school, the more I appreciate having the opportunity to learn from colleagues, professors, and guest scholars. Life-long learning is not just essential for one's professional duties, but it is also a Jewish value. As much as I learned in cantorial school, I'm well aware how much more there is for me to learn. These conventions provide opportunities to deepen my education and to sharpen my skills.

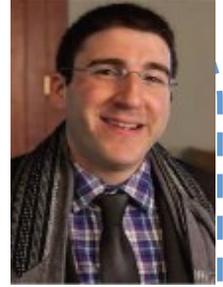
Conventions truly are not a vacation. (Though I often come home from them feeling like I need one!)

The URJ Biennial gathering, is indeed the biggest URJ convention, and this year's gathering in December in Boston, will be as inspiring as the many that have come before it. Beth El has often had a great showing of members from our community who have attended the conference in the past. These members have come back to Beth El inspired and ready to enrich the life of our community. Attended by thousands, the Biennial convention will be filled to the brim with engaging programming, music, speakers, study sessions — and the list goes on and on.

I hope that you'll spend these summer months looking at your calendar and finding a way to join us in Boston this December. Please go to the URJ website to find out more information and to register.

Life-long learning is a Jewish value. May we continue to find unique and individual ways to constantly be engaged with Jewish learning, for its own sake.

— **Cantor Kaufman**





President's Point of View

SUMMERS are often a slow time here at Beth El, but not so this year! We have begun pulling the carpet in the sanctuary, welcomed a new Executive Director, begun the first

summer session of the pre-school, and welcomed back Fairfax Collegiate. And truly, the High Holy Days are right around the corner — as of today's column, there are only 70 days until Rosh Hashanah!

I want to thank everyone for their thoughtful comments on the rabbi search. Between emails, phone calls, surveys, and face-to-face discussions, we heard from between 250 and 300 of you! Now the hard work begins. Last night, we met with the Board to get feedback as we finalize the application for filing with the CCAR. The application is a document that tells the applicants who we are and what we are looking for. What are we looking for? I don't want to steal the committee's thunder, so let me just say nothing less than someone wise and wonderful! And we deserve that — we are the historic Beth El Hebrew Congregation!

After we file our application, the hard work will really begin — the committee will screen resumes and inter-

view candidates. This will probably begin in mid-August and continue as long as we receive resumes. It is our hope that we will be able to present a candidate to the board, and then to the congregation for selection no later than January. Yes, you read that correctly, by our constitution, the senior rabbi must be approved by 2/3 of the members present at a special membership meeting. It will be the job of the Pulpit Search Committee as well as mine, to make sure that you have the information to make an informed vote. The Search Committee takes its work extremely seriously and understands its mission is to find a candidate that suits Beth El and all of its various constituencies.

It is a great honor to serve as your President, especially during such a great transition. I will continue to tell you that I am optimistic about the future. As hard as it is to let go of **Rabbi Isserow**, this change is exciting! If you are feeling anxious, please share that—the Transition Committee is available to listen and to help you through the rough parts of this transition. Now more than ever, we are a family and we will support each other.

— **Julienne Bramesco**

EARLY ALERT – SAVE THE DATE!
RABBI ISSEROW'S RETIREMENT GALA
SATURDAY EVENING, JUNE 16, 2018

Chapel in the Woods Aug. 27

COME AND join us on Sunday morning, Aug. 27 at 10 am for the last Chapel-in-the-Woods workday of the summer. You can enjoy the plantings from the completed grant project funded by the Virginia Department of Natural Resources. The rhododendron have been blooming and the American Holly have been looking great, thanks to **Arturo and Germain** of the maintenance staff, who have been faithfully watering once a week. The plants in the two test garden areas have been doing wonderfully. The native plants in the first test garden can be weaned off the watering after being fully established at the end of this growing season.

You can be an important part of this endeavor by helping to maintain the two new test gardens and clearing other areas of damaging invasive plants. Tools will be provided, but bring gardening gloves, if you have them. A light lunch, iced tea, and ice water will be served.

To RSVP and for more information, contact **Nancy** or **Stuart Davis**, 703-671-5906, or write nmdaviswriter@aol.com.

Religious School: Looking Forward

“**A**VIABLE organization continually engages in self-evaluation.” This is the opening sentence of the *Attitudes to Post-B'nei-Mitzvah Education at Beth El: Findings of the Post-B'nei-Mitzvah Education Working Group* (report). In January 2017, I suggested to the Religious School and Youth Committee (RSY) that an independent working group was required to examine the causes for the continuing drop-off of our students from the Religious School after their B'nei Mitzvah. This phenomenon is not unique to Beth El, but it is incumbent on me to examine what was happening in our community.

As of the writing of this article, our Clergy and the RSY are evaluating the report and its recommendations. In my opinion, the work of the Working Committee sets forth for the Religious School post B'nei Mitzvah, i.e., Confirmation Program, a clear path forward. For at least the past three years, Clergy, Educators, and the RSY have been examining the issues discussed in the report and we have taken steps towards addressing the issues identified in the report. The importance of the report is that it clearly articulates the issues based on data and analysis, and offers suggestions that confirm a path we have already embarked on. More importantly, it provides specific recommendations that can we can use to measure success, and stimulates a path for meaningful change that is based on a solid and realistic foundation.

My initial summary findings and recommendation are:

Awareness — Clearly articulate the importance of the Confirmation program (7th thru 10th grades) throughout

our students' and their parents' participation in the Religious School;

Connection — Aggressively review curriculum in grades 7 through 12 and assess if it promotes a connection of students and parents to our religious school and to the congregation;

Program Organization — Integrate curriculum and focus on experiential learning; and

Curriculum — Conduct a rigorous review of curriculum to assure it is relevant to the student and is learner-centered.

The report is available to any congregant upon request.

I have committed to the Working Group that I will work with our stakeholders to address the recommendations and underlying issues. I will report to the congregation and the Religious School community.

The Working Group was made up of: **Barry Smith** (active observer and resource), **Rachel Ball**, **Jeffrey Brodie**, **Jesse Ellis**, **Debbie Katz**, **Todd Levine**, **Susan Paley**, **David Phillips**, **David Spindler**, **David Weinraub**, and **Susan Paley** who also mediated discussions. Our gratitude to the hard work and dedication of these individual cannot be adequately expressed.

L'shalom,

Barry Smith

Director of Religious Education

bsmith@bethelhebrew.org



The Beth El 7th Graders are still raising funds to provide travel for an Israeli Lone Soldier

Israel's Lone Soldiers are those whose families live abroad and choose to leave their countries of origin to serve the State of Israel. From the students' own words, "these soldiers risk their lives every day to protect our Homeland; they deserve a chance to take a break and see their family."

The students are seeking to raise \$1800. They have raised \$1,398 to date — ONLY \$563 TO GO! Please contribute if you can! SO CLOSE!

If you are able to help this wonderful cause, please donate through the link below and we will announce when the goal has been achieved.

www.gofundme.com/hero-flight



WRJ News: Women Who Do!

WHILE SUMMER holds more downtime for most, Mah Jongg continues on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday with Sunday starting at 11 am during the Summer. Carpenters Shelter cooking and serving will be held on Monday, Aug. 28.

There is also much planning going on. We hope you will join us on Sep. 9 from 1 to 3 pm for our annual Paid-up Member kick-off event. We'll nosh and schmooze as we hear about the coming year's programming. Meet the Author returns on Oct. 22 at 2 pm. We'll celebrate Hanukkah a little early this year with our luncheon and dinner taking place on Dec. 6 where we will be collecting presents and gift cards for Beth El House and the Domestic Violence Shelter. On Dec 10, our Fall Mah Jongg event will be a gathering of friends to Simply Mahj. Mayhem will wait until the Spring on April 22. Stay tuned as we work out a date to gather with our interfaith sisters.

Our Fall Book Club dates are Oct. 10 (*The Invisible Wall* by Harry Bernstein) and December 12 (*Judas* by Amos Oz) In the Spring, we'll host a pre Passover event on Mar. 6. WRJ Shabbat will be held on May 4.

Our beautiful sukkah on the bimah will be set up on Oct. 1. The Hanukkah boutique will be set up and held on Dec. 2 and 3.

Our Social Action activities will be in full swing supporting the Northern Virginia Diaper Bank in the Fall. Watch for future dates as we continue to cook and serve meals monthly for Carpenters Shelter.

We welcome all WRJ members to join us at our meetings normally held the first Wednesday of the month (September thru June). Our first meeting in the Fall will be held Sep. 6 at 6 pm. We welcome you to be as involved as you would like to be. This may be for one event or more; in the kitchen or designing fliers, boosting our social media presence or maybe even joining the board. No matter what your skills, we would love to have you join us. Please e-mail us at WRJhospitality@gmail.com or call **Jeanette Astrow** @ 703.451.7007. We'll connect you with the right project or event to help with.

See you in the Fall,
Jeanette Astrow
WRJ President

WRJ/Brandeis Book and Author Fundraiser

We're back by popular demand! Beth El Hebrew WRJ and Brandeis National Committee of NOVA will co-sponsor a Book & Author fundraiser on Sunday, Oct. 29 at 2 pm at Beth El. Our own **Robert Siegel**, from *NPR's All Things Considered*, will be the moderator. Marvin Kalb, renowned American journalist, will be one of the guest authors. Stay tuned for more info next month!

Assistance All Year from the Caring Community Committee

THE CARING Community Committee and its cadre of volunteers do not take time off in the summer. Rides are provided, meals are prepared and delivered, visits are made, assistance is given at shiva minyans and all the other helpful services provided by the CCC continue throughout the year.

If you could use a helping hand or a listening ear, contact the office at 703-370-9400, or CCC Chairperson **Ruth Perlstein** at 703-978-9341 or rperl8607@gmail.com and Ruth will take it from there.

Upcoming WRJ Activities

- **Mah Jongg** — Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday (Sundays during the summer 11 am-1 pm)
- **Sep. 9** — Paid-up Member event
- **Oct. 29** — Meet the Author
- **Dec. 3** — WRJ Mid-Atlantic Area 4 Day (details to be announced)
- **Dec. 6** — Chanukah luncheon and evening Latke Social
- **Dec. 10** — Simply Mahj (no mayhem until the Spring)
- **TBD** — Interfaith Tea

Brotherhood News

THE DOG DAYS of August generally represent a “slow period” for your Beth El Brotherhood. Our softball season is behind us (although at time of writing, play-off results had not yet been recorded) and there currently are no program events on the books until Autumn. And our next catering event is not scheduled until September, although we were quite busy at the end of this past fiscal year.

Catering finished out June serving the dinner reception for **Leah Zahniser**'s bat mitzvah and providing wedding reception services for Brotherhood chef **Joel Bernstein** and his (now) wife **Quinn Jennings**.

A huge thank-you to volunteer chefs **Joel Bernstein**, **Jake Gallun**, and **Matt Warschaw**. All the events were relatively large requiring many volunteers, including event organizer, **Bob Shaver**, and all-around help from **Dana Arnold**, **Logan Bernstein**, **Monica Bernstein**, **Alan Cohn**, **Stuart Feldstein**, **Jeremy Flachs**, **Judy Jankowski**, **Annette Kilian**, **Harmony Knudsen**, **Jerry Liess**, **Naomi Mercer**, **Matt Mutterperl**, **Josh Mutterperl**, **Inna Nayguaz**, **Sue Rabin**, **Donna Sachs**, **Jeffrey Sachs**, **Pat Sheehy**, **Glenn Siegel**, **Norm Starler**, **Howard Wahlberg**, and **Rhubarb Woodmansee**. To learn more about how Brotherhood catering can help with your simchas, please contact us at catering@bethelhebrew.org.

Have ideas for Brotherhood programs or events? Want to help out or become involved? Want to learn more about the goals and activities of your Beth El

Brotherhood? Have suggestions or even complaints? Or simply want to say thank-you to the men who currently lead this important Beth El organization?

The men elected to the July 2017-June 2019 multi-generational Brotherhood Board are:

- 1st VP (liaison to catering) — **Jeffrey Sachs**
- 2nd VP (membership; national programs) — **Stuart Davis**
- 3rd VP (program events; youth scholarships) — **Ron Sturman**
- Treasurer — **Roberto Mosse**
- Secretary — **Matt Mutterperl**
- Members-at-large — **Joel Augen**, **Todd Cohn** and **Jeremy Flachs**
- Immediate past president — **Roger Smith**

And whether you have free time to participate or are not currently available to do so, please remember to show your support for Brotherhood efforts by mailing in your FY2017-2018 Brotherhood membership gift of \$36 or \$54 (your choice) to:

Beth El Brotherhood
3830 Seminary Road
Alexandria Virginia 22304.

Please join Brotherhood.

John Jankowski
Brotherhood President, continuing
brotherhood@bethelhebrew.org

Thanks to Joel Bernstein for sharing some pictures of his Brotherhood-catered wedding reception with The Bulletin.



Transition News

THE TORAH portion I read at the Friday, June 30 service speaks to transition and change. It is called **Chukat** and is from the Book of Numbers. There are many themes that emerge from this Parsha:

First is the theme surrounding **Rituals**:

The ritual being learned in this Parsha is how to purify people who come in contact with the dead. A red heifer was burned using cedar wood, hyssop, and scarlet thread. The ashes were used in a purification ceremony. All who were sprinkled with the ashes became ritually pure. This is significant because within this Parsha Miriam, Moses and Aaron's sister, dies and later on, so does Aaron.

As Jews, ritual life is important to us. The rituals we will be utilizing over the next year and a half will be preparation, contemplation, and performance in saying goodbye to Rabbi Isserow and hello to a new rabbi.

Second is the theme of **Discontent**:

This Parsha speaks to the anger and frustration that emerge within the Israelites because their 39-year journey has been filled with struggles. There is not enough water for them or their livestock. And, of course, as they have throughout their journey, they turn on Moses and Aaron. "Why did you make us leave Egypt to bring us to this wretched place, a place with no grain or figs or vines or pomegranates? There is not even water to drink!" they say. And, it's true, the portable well the Israelites brought with them runs dry. And, on top of that, they have to fight to cross parts of the desert controlled by others, as they head to the Promised Land.

As Jews we express our discontent without much prompting. Some times our individual voices of discontent have had a major impact on changing laws, on helping people and standing up for what we believe.

During our transition, I hope we can coalesce our voices into one positive voice that propels us forward. Look what happened to our ancient people when there was not a collective voice. G-d forbid we have to go through this search and transition for many years to come!

Which brings me to theme number three: **Transition and Leadership**:

From the time the Jewish people leave Egypt, they essentially have three leaders: Miriam, Aaron, and, of course, Moses. In this Parsha all is about to change. Miriam and Aaron die, and after 38 years Moses is told he will

not enter the Promised Land.

Why is Moses not entering the Promised Land? Moses prays to G-d for help at the height of the Israelites frustration because there is no water. G-d directs Moses to talk to rocks and the water will flow. Instead of talking to the rocks, Moses strikes the rocks with his staff. The water flows, but Moses' boss is not happy with his not following explicit directions. Moses is punished for his defiance. The staff of leadership is handed down to the next generation.

We, as a congregation, are about to pass the mantle of leadership. I have written in the bulletin about this, and I say it again, nothing stays the same. Everything does change as it did for the Jewish people who had the same leaders for 38 years. The Parsha states that the people do find their collective voice after hearing that Moses will not be joining them.

The commentary I read from Rabbi Tzvi Hersh Weinraub from the Orthodox Union points out that throughout our history we have had times when there have been clear leaders, but we have also known times when we looked into the future and there was no prominent leader or leaders emerging. Rabbi Weinraub says that at "such times we must all assume leadership responsibilities."

The Beth El community is a strong community. I have no doubt that we, collectively, will discover our voice and find a spiritual leader that reflects as many of our values as a community that they possibly can. What we must always remember, like the Jewish people found their voice as a nation, that we at Beth El will find ours.

Be a part of that transition. Add your voice. Keep our community moving forward. Let's give our thoughts and ideas to those appointed to the task of finding our new rabbi and let us do it with respect and understanding and with faith that the best possible outcome will emerge.

It is time we take a major step into a new future and not be stuck in the ways of our past. And when a new leader is upon us, let us embrace them with respect and be open to them leading us forward into new and exciting times.

Pamela Zitron
zitronpks@aol.com

**"Life is pleasant. Death is peaceful. It's the transition that's troublesome."
 - Isaac Asimov**

Annual Meeting = Awesome Attendance



Note brilliance of newly cleaned chandeliers!



Some members of the Religious School and Youth (RSY) Committee (not the whole committee) got together for dinner. Pictured are: Donna Sachs, Gordon Janis, Joanne Allen, David Weinraub, Joan Weber, Debbie Katz, David Spindler, and Diane Cramer.

JCCNV–Beth El ECLC Registration Is Open!!

Our Early Childhood Learning Center offers part time and full time options for children who will be 2, 3, or 4 by Sept. 30.

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

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

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

Give your preschooler the gift of great learning experiences, new friends and lots of fun!

Only a few spots left! Do not delay!

It's Audition Time!



Sing global Jewish music at the highest level!

THANK YOU to our wonderful capacity crowd at the June "HOME" concert. You inspire and uplift us! And now...



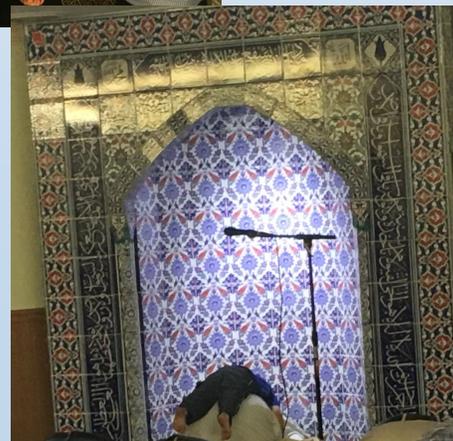
We are **scheduling auditions** for our 42nd season. We particularly welcome tenors and basses.

- **WHO:** We are experienced choral singers who come from all walks of Jewish life, joining together to share the rich musical heritage of the Jewish people
- **WHAT:** Zemer Chai sings the full range of the Jewish repertoire, preserving the cultural legacy of Jews throughout the world, and sharing exciting new works and premieres at the highest level of musicianship.
- **WHEN:** Our unique rehearsals are Wednesday nights in Rockville, led by our noted artistic director Eleanor Epstein.
- **WHERE:** Our singers live throughout the DC metro area - Baltimore, Annapolis, Alexandria, and even the Eastern Shore!
- **HOW:** Schedule your audition by contacting us at audition@ZemerChai. Please include your voice part and choral/musical experience.

Feed your soul and share your talents at the highest level of musical excellence!

Interfaith Connection: Local Fairfax Mosque

IN LATE June, a few Beth El Members plus the Rabbi and Cantor visited a local mosque for an iftar, the break-fast meal at the end of a day of Ramadan. Our hosts gave us a tour of the facility, allowed us to observe the evening prayer service, fed us an amazing meal, and let us play with their babies! We learned a lot about the peaceful, service-oriented Turkish strain of Islam called *Gülenism* or *Hizmet*. *Hizmet* has social service programs such as schools and hospitals all over the world. In addition to a social service, *tikkun olam* orientation, we discovered another thing many of us have in common: Jews who don't necessarily speak Hebrew can chant and take joy from Torah and Muslims who speak Turkish, not Arabic, can chant and get spiritual nourishment from chanting Koran!



Readers of Beth El

WE FINISHED our book year in June by watching a great documentary of the the 1936 Olympic crew team on which the book, *Boys in the Boat*, was based. It was a fun evening with pizza and conversation. We reviewed books for the upcoming year and decided on a few to start us out. Our first meeting of the fall will be on Sep. 16, 2107 at the home of **Lynne Orens**. We will read and discuss *Here I Am* by Jonathan Safran Foer, his first novel in eleven years. To read ahead for Oct. 30, we will be discussing *The Lilac Girls* by Martha Hall Kelly.

Lynne Orens

Lorens750@aol.com

Member News

Welcome New Members:

Dana and John Wedeles, and children Nora and Samuel
Carlyn and Steven Butcher, and children Arren and Farah

Rami Cohen and Kara Lewis, and children Aviva and Naomi

Gilberto Martinez and John Newmark

Josh and Jami Segal, and children Brayaen and Isla

Jeremy Goldstein and child Jane

Kelly Mae Ross

Mazal Tov to:

Arne Meyrow and Mary Sherris-Meyrow on the birth of their new grandson, John William Pierce

Jack Schramm on winning the 2017 Distinguished Law Alumni Award from the Washington University (St. Louis) School of Law, and also on the publication of his new book, *Passionate Purpose: A Global Governance Journey*

Condolences to:

Donna Kooperstein on the passing of her dear mother, Elaine Irma Kooperstein, July 4, 2017 in New Jersey



The Congregation extends sincere condolences to family and friends of former member, recently taken from us:

Lois Cohen

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

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

May the families know of no more sorrow.

Amen.



ALIVE!

HERE IS a list of ALIVE!'s programs which work towards meeting the needs of Alexandrians living in poverty and how Beth El participates in these programs.

Last Saturday/Family Emergency Food Program:

- Bin of Bounty — our year round food drive
- High Holy Day Food Drive — special food collection on Yom Kippur (and sorting event)
- SOUPer Bowl Sunday — canned soup drive
- Religious school grade level food collections

ALIVE! House: Tzedakah Tzunday — Tzedakah given by religious school students and congregants is earmarked for this transitional shelter.

Furniture Program: In December we follow the ALIVE! trucks to pick up and then deliver furniture to people with little or none.

Housewares Program: Housewares Drive — Every February we collect new or slightly used housewares and bedding.

Child Development Center: Step ALIVE! Walkathon — Congregants walk and/or sponsor walkers.

Next month I'll have the dates for all of the above. For more information about ALIVE! and what you can do to help, go to <https://www.alive-inc.org/> or contact **Deborah Schaffer** at schaffer4@gmail.com.

~ August 2017 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
		<p>1 Tisha B'Av 1:30-3:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-9:15p High Holiday Choir Rehearsal 7-9p EC Meeting</p>	<p>2 Ice Cream Sandwich Day AND Coloring Book Day 10:30a-12p JCCNV Event: Witnessing Worship: Connecting Through the Lens of Faith</p>
	<p>6 International Friendship Day AND International Fresh Breath Day 11a-1p WRJ Mah Jongg and Mah Jongg Class 1-4p Bridge</p>	<p>7 Lighthouse Day AND Assistance Dog Day</p>	<p>8 International Dalek Day AND International Cat Day 7-9:15p High Holiday Choir Rehearsal 1:30-3:30p WRJ Mah Jongg</p>
<p>13 International Left-Handers Day 10a-12p Transition Team Meeting 11a-1p WRJ Mah Jongg 2-4p WRJ Knitting Group 2-3p Coffee in Your Neighborhood at Ilene Reiter's House</p>	<p>14 V-J Day</p>	<p>15 SpongeBob SquarePants Day AND Pythagorean Theorem Day 1:30-3:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-9:15p High Holiday Choir Rehearsal 7-9p Board of Directors Meeting</p>	<p>16 Roller Coaster Day AND Wave at the Surveillance Cameras Day</p>
<p>20 International Tongue Twister Day AND Sand Castle Day 9a-1p Religious School Teacher Orientation 11a-1p WRJ Mah Jongg 1-4p Bridge</p>	<p>21 Senior Citizen's Day AND Spumoni Day Approximately 2:42p: Total Eclipse Visible at BEHC at 81.38% Obscuration</p>	<p>22 Eat a Peach Day AND Pecan Pie Day 1:30-3:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-9:15p High Holiday Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>23 Day For The Remembrance of The Slave Trade & Its Abolition</p>
<p>27 Global Forgiveness Day AND Tug-of-War Day 10a-12p Chapel in the Woods Workday 11a-1p WRJ Mah Jongg 1-4p Bridge 2-4p WRJ Knitting Group</p>	<p>28 Bowtie Day AND Radio Commercials Day 10a-1p Carpenters Shelter Food Prep</p>	<p>29 More Herbs, Less Salt Day AND According to Hoyle Day 11a Culture Club Event: Mazal Tov! Mazal Tov! 1:30-3:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-9:15p High Holiday Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>30 Toasted Marshmallow Day AND Cabernet Sauvignon Day 10:30a-1p JCCNV Event: Movie: <i>Besa: The Promise</i></p>

Av/Elul 5777~

Thu	Fri	Sat	Torah
<p>3 Watermelon Day AND Clean Your Floors Day 6:30-8p WRJ Mah Jongg and Mah Jongg Class</p>	<p>4 Chocolate Chip Cookie Day AND International Beer Day 5:30-6:30p Wine and Cheese Pre-Service Oneg 6:30p Erev Shabbat Service</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Candle lighting 7:57p</p>	<p>5 Clown Day and Oyster Day 9-10a Torah Study 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service 11a-12p Tot Shabbat</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Havdallah 9:04p</p>	<p>Va'etchanan Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11 Isaiah 49:14-51:3</p>
<p>10 Smithsonian Day AND Duran Duran Appreciation Day 6:30-8p WRJ Mah Jongg</p>	<p>11 S'mores Day 5:30-6:30p Wine and Cheese Pre-Service Oneg 6:30p Erev Shabbat Service</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Candle lighting 7:49p</p>	<p>12 International Youth Day AND World Elephant Day 9-10a Torah Study 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Havdallah 8:55p</p>	<p>Ekev Deuteronomy 7:12-11:25 Isaiah 49:14-51:3</p>
<p>17 Black Cat Appreciation Day AND Vanilla Custard Day 6:30-8p WRJ Mah Jongg</p>	<p>18 Bad Poetry Day AND Fajita Day 5:30-6:30p Wine and Cheese Pre-Service Oneg 6:30p Erev Shabbat Service</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Candle lighting 7:39p</p>	<p>19 International Orangutan Day AND World Photo Day 9-10a Torah Study 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service 11a-12p Tot Shabbat</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Havdallah 8:46p</p>	<p>Re'eh Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17 Isaiah 54:11-55:5</p>
<p>24 Pluto Demotion Day AND International Strange Music Day 6:30-8p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-11p Bridge 7:30-9p Interfaith Class</p>	<p>25 Whiskey Sour Day AND National Park Service Day 5:30-6:30p Wine and Cheese Pre-Service Oneg 6:30p Erev Shabbat Service</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Candle lighting 7:29p</p>	<p>26 Official Dog Day of August AND Toilet Paper Day 9-10a Torah Study 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Havdallah 8:36p</p>	<p>Shoftim Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9 Isaiah 51:12-52:12</p>
<p>31 Trail Mix Day AND Love Litigating Lawyers Day 6:30-8p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-11p Bridge</p>	<p><i>Only in August are BEHC activities light enough for the inclusion of so many wacky daily observances. I encourage you to explore the bizarre juxtapositions above: toasted marshmallows and cabernet, for example, or cats and custard. Now squarepants and Pythagoras actually, oddly, makes some sense. Having daleks and Duran Duran in the same month... not so much!</i></p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Average Historical Cloudiness for August 21</p> 



High Holiday Choir Rehearsal Schedule 2017

Cantor Kaufman — Musical Director

Lauren Carpel — Choir Conductor

Eric Schnobrick — Pianist

Tuesday, August 1	7:00 — 9:15 PM	Choir rehearsal
Tuesday, August 8	7:00 — 9:15 PM	Choir rehearsal
Tuesday, August 15	7:00 — 9:15 PM	Choir rehearsal with Quartet
Tuesday, August 22	7:00 — 9:15 PM	Choir rehearsal
Tuesday, August 29	7:00 — 9:15 PM	Choir rehearsal
Wednesday, September 6	7:00 — 9:15 PM	Choir rehearsal with Quartet
Tuesday, September 12	7:00 — 9:15 PM	Choir rehearsal

ROSH HASHANAH DRESS REHEARSAL

Sunday, September 17	2:00 — 3:45 PM	Quartet, with Eric
	4:00 — 6:15 PM	Choir and Quartet

ROSH HASHANAH		
Wednesday, September 20	6:00 PM	Dinner
	6:45 PM	Call
	8:00 PM	Services
Thursday, September 21	9:00 AM	Call — Quartet, No Choir

YOM KIPPUR DRESS REHEARSAL

Wednesday, September 27	5:00 — 6:45 PM	Quartet, with Eric
	7:00 — 9:00 PM	Choir, with Lauren and Eric

YOM KIPPUR		
Friday, September 29	6:00 PM	Dinner
	6:45 PM	Call
	8:00 PM	Services
Saturday, September 30	9:00 AM	Call — Quartet, No Choir
	4:15 PM	Approximate Call for N'ilah

RSVP to Sally at office@bethelhebrew.org please.

Beth El/JCCNV Events

Witnessing Worship: Connecting Through the Lens of Faith

Wednesday, August 2
10:30 am-noon

Presented by Nina Tisara, Artist-Photographer and Rev. Lisa Cole Smith, Artistic Director and Pastor of The Church at Convergence

Join us for this special program with local artist-photographer Nina Tisara. Her recent exhibit, *Witnessing Worship: Connecting Through the Lens of Faith*, was presented to help people have a deeper understanding of one another through a look at her moving and sensitive photographs of diverse worship practices of yesterday and today. She will be joined by Reverend Lisa Cole Smith, an actor, director, pastor, and creative entrepreneur who founded The Church at Convergence, a congregation in Alexandria that believes in supporting arts, imagination, and creativity.

The exhibit, held at The Church at Convergence, was designed to encourage conversations about the struggles and joys shared by the local community on matters such as race, religion, gender, and politics. Commenting on the photo exhibit, Reverend Cole Smith said: "We see people like us engaged in religious acts that are foreign to us, and we see people who are in some way different from us expressing things that are so familiar and personal...perhaps listening to one another's stories is a good way to begin seeking unity." The exhibit was made possible in part through the cooperation of the Office of Historic Alexandria. Bagels and cream cheese will be served after the program.

Special End of Summer Movie and Lunch

BESA: The Promise

Wednesday, August 30
10:30 am-1 pm

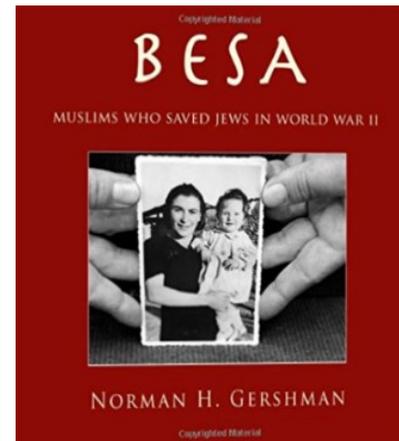
Documentary / 2012 / USA / 86 minutes

During World War II, Albanian Muslims provided shelter for thousands of Jewish refugees from Germany, Austria, and Bulgaria. Invoking the ancient moral code of *besa* (a vow to care for anyone facing danger), many people, including Muslims, Catholics, and Orthodox Christians in Albania sheltered, hid, and protected Jews from the occupying German troops. *Besa: The Promise* addresses the broad history of the rescues by following two characters affected by the experience: Rexhep Hoxha, a Muslim-Albanian storekeeper, and Norman H. Gershman, a Jewish-American photographer. Toward the end of World War II, Hoxha's family had provided shelter to a Bulgarian Jewish family who left three Hebrew books behind when they fled to Palestine. The film focuses on Hoxha and Gershman's attempt to return these three books to their original Jewish owners, the Aladjem family, now living in Israel. – *National Endowment of the Humanities Website*

After this moving film, stay and enjoy lunch with other members. Please complete the registration form with your choice of sandwich by August 26.

Fee: \$12 (includes movie and lunch). Please indicate choice of tuna, Mediterranean (vegetarian), or turkey sandwich on registration form. Contact Shelly for more details.

Use Code: 8493



No Programs August 9, 16, or 23

All Beth El/JCCNV events are \$5 for all participants unless noted otherwise. Coffee, tea, and dessert will be provided.

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



The Congregation Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations

ARNOLD G. FINK LEARNING CENTER & LIBRARY FUND

Donor
Sophie Krasik

Donor
Catherine Hargenrader *In Honor of*
Janet Hlatky's Bat Mitzvah
and spiritual journey

Audrey Liebross and Jay Jarvis Jeanette Astrow receiving the
Martin Mintz Award

Sophie Krasik The Bat Mitzvah of Donna Sachs

Donor
Florence Foelak *In Memory of*
Harold Foelak

BETH EL GENERAL FUND

Donor
Joseph M. and Rosalie Johnson

Donor
Martin Weiner *In Memory of*
Coleman Leviten

Werner Stargardt Elfriede Stargardt

Enid and Dennis Lehr Irwin Allen Lehr

ENDOWMENT FUND

Donor
Women of Reform Judaism

Donor
Judy and John Jankowski *In Honor of*
Judy Jankowski's Retirement

Ellen and Stuart Feldstein Ike Alberts' Bar Mitzvah

Rusty Olshine Marjorie Harris' Birthday

Barbara Mintz Jeanette Astrow receiving the
Martin Mintz Award

Barbara Mintz Ellen and Stuart Feldstein's Anniversary

Susan and Roberto Mosse The marriage of
Joel Bernstein and Quinn Jennings

Donor
Jerry Andersen *In Memory of*
Bessie Srulson

Annette Kilian Reuben Lindenberg

Rae Ellen James Shirley D. Frank

Rusty Olshine David Perlstein

FAKOURY MUSIC FUND

Donor
Jeanette and Barry Astrow *In Honor of*
The B'nei Mitzvah of
Michelle Coon and Janet Hlatky

Donor
Carol Schrier-Polak and Rudy Polak *In Memory of*
Rosalie Schrier

Sheila Wexler Isadore and Rella Wexler

Arne Meyrow and Mary Sherris-Meyrow Sam Meyrow and Esther Sherris

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL FUND

Donor
Ursula Hennessey *In Memory of*
Rita Alexander

INA LERNER ISRAEL QUEST FUND

Donor
Women of Reform Judaism

LANDO FUND

Donor
Julie Lando

MEMORIAL BOARD

Donor
Sheila Wexler *In Memory of*
Isadore Wexler and Rella Wexler

PRAYERBOOK FUND

Donor
Julie Brodie and David Stover *In Memory of*
Pearl and Marvin Brodie

PLAYGROUND FUND

Donor
Nigel Crocombe and Elizabeth Cote

Pat Collins

Women of Reform Judaism

Donor
Catherine and David Weinraub *In Honor of*
Donna Sachs' Bat Mitzvah

Kaiya and Todd Levine The B'nei Mitzvah of
Ike Alberts, Michelle Coon, Janet Hlatky and Donna Sachs

Jeanette and Barry Astrow The B'nei Mitzvah of
Ike Alberts and Donna Sachs

RABBI'S GOOD DEED FUND

Donor
Hilary Shure and Hollande Levinson *In Honor of*
Rabbi Isserow

Donor
Ruth Grover *In Memory of*
Miriam Uze

Linda Tolkan Warren Gelles

Stacy, Mark, Samantha and Alexa Weiner Abraham Apar

Sheila Fieldman Arnold Fieldman

Susan and Larry Solomon Harry J. Friedman

Michaele and Fred Silverberg Stuart Cooper

Susan and Roberto Mosse Gunther Mosse

Gerald Kassalow Sylvia Kassalow

SHARON STEINBERG FUND FOR INCLUSION

Donor
Edward G. Skolnik *In Honor of*
Nancy Skolnik

SHAPIRO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Donor
Women of Reform Judaism

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

Donor
Kirsten and Scott Nathanson *In Honor of*
Maryn Simon and Todd Levine
and Gus Nathanson's Confirmation

Jeanette and Barry Astrow Our amazing and dedicated
religious school teachers

Donor
Arlene Tave *In Memory of*
Sam Tave

MARC S. ROSS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Donor
Sandra and Bob Seitz *In Honor of*
Jeanette Astrow receiving the
Martin Mintz Award

Donor
Myra Wendel Roney *In Memory of*
Evelyn Wendel, beloved mother

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

Donor
Michael Cook and Michele Reday *In Support of*
Our refugee family

Gerrie and Ron Sturman

Ilene Reiter

Pat Collins

Donor
Whitney and Bill Babash *In Honor of*
Janet Hlatky becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Kaiya and Todd Levine Jeanette Astrow receiving the
Martin Mintz Award

Donor
Sandy and Howard Marks *In Memory of*
Janet Collins and
Warren Gelles

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

— Adam Wallach

Ever Wondered What Goes On When You're Not Around? One Example: The Arabian Nights — Themed Quinceañera



Refugee Family Update

DURING THE first week of March, Jawid, Salima, and their four children, Shabir, Bashir, Mounir, and Shahir made the kind of change that most of us will never know when they left Kabul, Afghanistan, on a Special Immigrant Visa and came to the United States as refugees. We have been fortunate in participating with them on their journey and not only have we made new friends, but we've been able to act on a long-awaited goal of helping refugees. That's not a new goal for Beth El — we have a history of working with Vietnamese Boat People and Russian Jews. Look for an upcoming article in the Bulletin about the Beth El refugee experience.

Jawid and his family have come a long way since that first week in March when they settled into an apartment on Route One with no furniture and only the items that they were able to carry on their flight from Kabul to Northern Virginia. (For congregants who may be new to this story: Some months earlier, Beth El joined HIAS' (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) refugee welcome campaign. This followed several years of searching for ways to help refugees following one of Rabbi Isserow's High Holy Days sermons. And then, as providence so often decrees, our long discussions of what and how much we had the resources to do fell by the wayside when we were given the opportunity to help a newly arrived Afghan refugee family. For more information on the family and our efforts, refer to articles in earlier Bulletins.)

More than a quarter of a year has now passed and the family is settling in and becoming more familiar with life in America and Northern Virginia. They've experienced weather very different from what they were accustomed to in Kabul. They've discovered Costco and its opposite — a Fairfax County farmers market. They've learned that Americans love their pets — especially dogs. They've also had significant family milestones. Jawid, while continuing to search for work in his profession (he is an agronomist and project manager), is working at a local car dealership. Salima has begun English lessons. Shabir graduated from sixth grade at Cameron Elementary School and will begin middle school at Mark Twain. Bashir and Mounir, the two middle children, love school and on weekends pestered their parents about when Monday would come. Shahir, the baby, turned one year old on July 12 and began to walk. Shabir, Bashir, and Mounir attended six weeks of a Fairfax County summer camp, thanks to a generous congregant who covered the costs and other congregants who provided transportation.

Thanks to all of Beth El's generous congregants who have donated time, money, contacts, resume help, clothing, furniture, and more. The family is very grateful.

ECLC News

AS A SOCIETY, we rightfully place high value on education. As far as I am concerned, educators, who sometimes spend more hours each day with our kids than we do, deserve much thanks and glory for their tireless efforts and ongoing love and support for the students in their charge. It takes a special person to provide this love and support to a preschool age child. Our youngest friends are eagerly jumping into the world all around them and it is our job to guide them through, being role models for social interactions, creative learning, and sharing in this world. Early childhood educators make an exceptional and important impact on the lives of our young ones.

We are excited that our school is expanding. Word-of-mouth has given us an incredible reputation and we are so proud of the work we are doing here. At the end of August, we will be opening eight classrooms, two more

than the current six from the 2016-17 school year. Currently (as I write this in the middle of July) we are interviewing for awesome, extraordinary educators to join our strong staff team. We are looking for dedicated, energetic individuals with experience in a classroom. Not all awesome teachers will be the right fit for our Reggio Emilia inspired approach. Some teachers are better in a traditional setting.

If you (or know someone who) might be a good fit for our program, please feel free to be in touch and let's talk about it. We are looking forward to adding the right people to our team!

L'shalom,
Dina Backer
dina.backer@jccnv.org
 703-537-3084

Make a Difference in the ECLC

Our **GROWING** preschool is offering a chance for you to make a difference in the life of a young child! The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia — Alexandria satellite is looking for qualified, career-minded professionals to work in their Early Childhood Learning Center with children from 16 months - Pre-K. Knowledge of Judaism helpful. Knowledge of Reggio Emilia Philosophy preferred.

Positions available:

Co Educator — Full-time position for experienced professional with experience or knowledge of emergent curriculum, Reggio Emilia-inspired approach, or project approach; CDA, AA, or BA in Early Childhood Education (or child related field) is required.

Substitute/Support Educators — Full and part-time long and short-term substitutes. Flexible schedule, based on day-to-day needs of learning center; Experience with young children required.

If interested, please contact Director **Dina Backer** at 703-537-3084.

* We tend to hire from within... so get to know us now to be considered for upcoming open positions.



2017 Confirmands



*Front Row — Matt Lustig, Julia Blethen, and Grant Honker
Second Row — Gus Nathanson, Daniel Narcho, Andrew Johnson, and Josh Hilbert
Third Row — Rabbi Isserow, Maryn Simon, Todd Levine, and Cantor Kaufman*

Beth El Renovations

YOU WILL notice some changes taking place at Beth El over the course of the summer. The sanctuary is being properly wired before the carpet is laid in August.

This means that services will be held in either the Chapel (MPR) or the Social Hall on Friday nights and on Saturday mornings, they will either be held in the Chapel or the seminar room. Tot Shabbat will be held in either the Chapel or the social hall, depending on the calendar.

The social hall is being re-carpeted in August.

Services will not be streamed during this time due to the renovations.

By the high holidays, the Beth El campus will be sparkling! Thank you to everyone who is working on these renovations and beautification!

View from the live feed camera, July 13, 8 pm



New Mah Jongg Class!!



July 20 (Thurs): 6:30 pm — 8:30 pm
July 23 (Sun): 11:00 am — 1:00 pm
July 27 (Thurs): 6:30 pm — 8:30 pm
July 30 (Sun): 11:00 am — 1:00 pm
August 3 (Thurs): 6:30 pm — 8:30 pm
August 6 (Sun): 11:00 am — 1:00 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 2017 Mah Jongg Card.

Register: susangwhitman@gmail.com
or sararose0409@gmail.com

Judaica Shop Summer Hours

OUR SUMMER hours will be limited to 30-45 minutes before the start of Friday night services. We will continue our 30% off sale on everything (excluding books, cards, and other already reduced items) through the end of July. We want to clear the shelves to bring you new and exciting Judaica and gifts this fall! If you need a special order or to see something and cannot come in on a Friday evening, email Sara or Lynne to make an appointment.

Sara Deshong Rojas (sararose0409@gmail.com)

Lynne Orens (lorens750@aol.com)

WRJ Social Action Heads-Up

Just a reminder that we will once again **collect diapers** for the Northern Virginia Diaper Bank over Yom Kippur, September 29-30, when we also collect food for ALIVE!

Janet Garber
garberj123@gmail.com
703-256-7988

Culture Club: Mazal Tov! Mazal Tov! Tuesday, Aug. 29, 11 am

WE ALL LOVE a good wedding! Join us as we return to the Jewish Museum of Maryland in Baltimore for a very special exhibit: “Just Married!” Artifacts and stories from the 1800s to the present will expose us to everything from the traditional chuppah to same sex marriages. After the exhibit, we’ll walk to the deli for lunch. Please note the Museum admission is \$10/\$8 seniors and lunch is pay as you go.

As always, Culture Club monthly activities are open to all adult Beth El members and their guests. Come reconnect or make new friends — we always have fun! Just let me know you’re coming and if you are willing to drive.

stafm@aol.com
Meryl Goldhammer



Return of Friday Dinners with Old Friends and New Ones

AS WE DID last summer, after early Friday Shabbat services and the oneg, those who wish will meet in the lobby and pick a restaurant.

Early services will begin on June 23 and run through the end of August.

And of course, our wine and cheese pre-onegs will continue — they'll begin at 5:30 pm with the service at 6:30 pm.

— Linda Waller

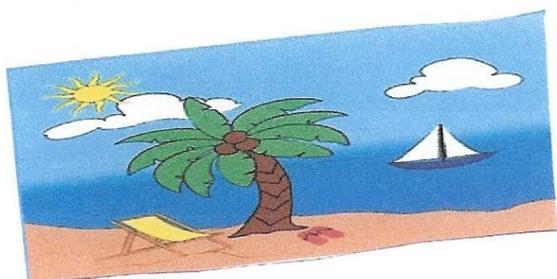


Elinor Coleman's
VINTAGE MIRAGE
 Jewelry • Clothing • Accessories
 Contemporary Designer Consignments
 & Genuine Vintage 1900s to Today
 Wedding Dresses & Veils

117 South Columbus Street
 Old Town Alexandria, VA 22314

Store Hours:
 Tues. - Sat. 11am - 6pm
 Sunday 12 noon - 5pm

Phone: (703) 535-8200
 instagram.com/vintagemirageboutique
 facebook.com/vintagemirage
 info@vintagemirage.com • www.vintagemirage.com



WHY SHLEP TO FLORIDA? RETIRE TO SUNNY MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA.

NO SNOW-MILD WINTERS-SHORTER TRIPS TO/FROM FAMILY MEMBERS LIVING UP NORTH.

Many beautiful private homes & condos available for sale for year round or vacation use at **VERY ATTRACTIVE PRICES AND VERY LOW PROPERTY TAXES.**



Golf, beaches, restaurants, live theatre, symphony orchestra, senior center, gyms, shopping, Coastal Carolina University programs for seniors, fine medical facilities (Medicare accepted)

A Community with a Vibrant Jewish Reform Temple.



Call realtor Beth Crow....843-222-4712





SHOSHANNA TANNER
Real Estate Reimagined.

*Change Your Address. Support Your Community.
Imagine the Possibilities.*

When you use me to buy or sell your home, I will donate 10% of my commission to Beth El Hebrew Congregation or a 501(c)(3) organization of your choice.



Shoshanna Tanner, J.D., LL.M.,
REALTOR®
Accredited Staging Professional®
Multi-Million Dollar Sales Club
Cell: 202.957.9399
Shoshanna@c21redwood.com



Brotherhood Catering

Bar/Bat Mitzvahs
Receptions
Fundraisers
Parties

Catering@BethElHebrew.org



Have You Been Injured in an Accident?

For a Free Consultation, call 
JEREMY FLACHS

Jeremy Flachs is a member of Beth El. Jeremy handles cases in both Virginia and the District of Columbia, where he has been licensed for 35 years. His law firm focuses only on serious personal injury claims.



- Serious Injury from Car and Truck Accidents
- Wrongful Death
- Slip & Fall
- Medical Malpractice

No Attorney Fee if No Recovery
Servicing Clients in Virginia and DC

We believe in the existing legal system which compensates for injury caused by another's carelessness.

6601 Little River Turnpike #315 Phone: 703-879-1998
Alexandria, VA 22312 Fax: 703-462-9090
jeremy.flachs@flachslaw.com <http://www.flachslaw.com>



Do a good deed for your Congregation and, if you have a practice or a business, for yourself!

Advertise in the Bulletin!

Make it easier for Congregants to patronize your business.
E-mail bulletin@bethelhebrew.org for more information.



R&B Inc.

- Air Conditioning
- Heating
- Sheet Metal
- Plumbing
- Electrical
- Parts
- UNICO
- Duct Cleaning

MICHAEL WHITE
Service Manager

1710 Mount Vernon Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22301
E-mail: mike@rbincorporated.com

Tel.: (703) 683-1996
Fax: (703) 683-4751

FixIt Home Services

Jude Steele, Owner
jude@steelefixit.com
(571) 210-7300

25+ years of experience in construction & engineering

- Mechanical
- Plumbing
- Masonry
- Electrical
- Doors/Windows
- Remodels
- Basements
- Any job size

www.steelefixit.com



ART GERSHMAN
Coin Broker

703-960-2921

art@artcoins.com
www.artcoins.com

Life Member of ANA LM 3968 



The Bulletin

Beth El Hebrew
Congregation
3830 Seminary Road
Alexandria, VA 22304



Member: Union for
Reform Judaism
Founded in 1859
Office 703-370-9400

Aug 2017
Volume 72 – No. 9
School: 703-370-6644

www.bethelhebrew.org

office@bethelhebrew.org
bulletin@bethelhebrew.org

Rabbi
Cantor
Executive Director
Director of Education
Preschool Site Director

Brett R. Isserow
Jason R. Kaufman
Adam Wallach
Barry H. Smith
Dina Backer

President
Executive Vice President
Vice Presidents

Julienne Bramesco
Ilene Reiter
Alan Cohn
David Weinraub

Treasurer
Secretary
Brotherhood President
WRJ President
Bulletin Editors

Clair Sassin
Joanne Rhodes
John Jankowski
Jeanette Astrow
Janet Hlatky
Laura Salisbury

HOLD THE DATE

Friday Night Services Go Back to “Normal” 7:30 Start Time, Sep. 8

WRJ Paid-Up Member Event, Sep. 9

First Day of Religious School, Sep. 10

Jewish National Fund Annual Community Breakfast at JCCNV, Sep. 10

JCCNV: My Journey with Jewishness (Cello and Piano Concert), Sep. 13

Teen Israel Trip Car Wash Fundraiser, Sep. 17

Bender JCC: Violinist Rachel Barton Pine, Sep. 17

Erev Rosh HaShanah/Rosh HaShanah, Sep. 20-21

High Holy Days Memorial Service at Garden of Remembrance Memorial Park, Sep. 24

JCCNV: No Va Cycle Fest, Sep. 24

Erev Yom Kippur/Yom Kippur, Sep. 29-30

Erev Sukkot/Sukkot, Oct. 4-5

60th Anniversary Celebration of 3830 Seminary Road, Oct. 14

WRJ/Brandeis Book and Author Event, Oct. 29

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Christ Church, Nov. 22

Theatre J: *The Last Night of Ballyhoo* by Alfred Uhry, Nov. 29-Dec. 31

Bender JCC: Tempest Trio & Daniel Getz Concert (Piano Trio + Viola), Dec. 3

Virginia Interfaith Center: 2017 Fundraising Dinner and Awards Celebration, Dec. 7

WRJ Hanukkah Luncheon and Dinner, Dec. 6

WRJ Mahj withOUT the Mayhem, Dec. 10

Virginia Day for All People, Jan. 23, 2018

Bender JCC: Multifaith Film Festival, Mar. 22-26, 2018

Rabbi Isserow’s Retirement Gala, June 16, 2018