

Please check the online Beth El calendar or email [office@bethelhebrew.org](mailto:office@bethelhebrew.org) before leaving to attend ANY event. As we go to press, there are still few in-person events in January!



# Beth El Bulletin

Beth El Hebrew Congregation

January 2021  
Tevet/Sh'vat 5781

## Worship Services

**Friday, January 1**  
Erev Shabbat Services, 7:30 pm

**Saturday, January 2**  
Shabbat Morning Services,  
10:30 am

**Starting January 8**  
online Erev Shabbat Services  
will begin at 6:30 pm

**Friday, January 8**  
Erev Shabbat Services, 6:30 pm

**Saturday, January 9**  
Shabbat Morning Services,  
10:30 am

Tot Shabbat, 11:00 am

**Friday, January 15**  
Erev Shabbat Services, 6:30 pm

**Saturday, January 16**  
Shabbat Morning Services,  
10:30 am

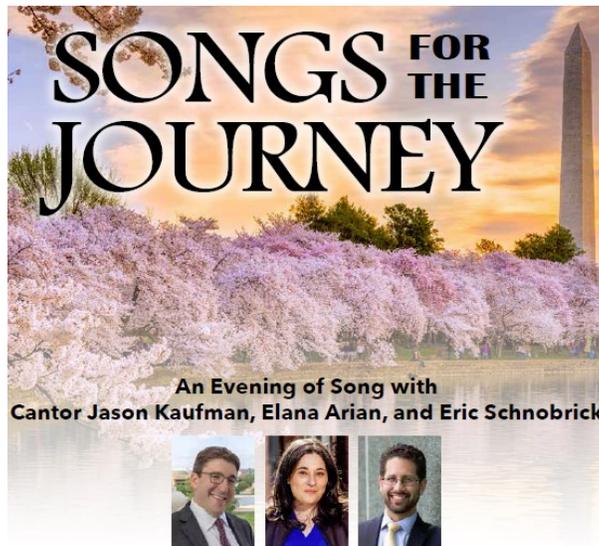
**Friday, January 22**  
Erev Shabbat Services, 6:30 pm

**Saturday, January 23**  
Shabbat Morning Services,  
10:30 am

Tot Shabbat, 11:00 am

**Friday, January 29**  
Erev Shabbat Services, 6:30 pm

**Saturday, January 30**  
Shabbat Morning Services,  
10:30 am



**FREE CONCERT**  
7:00pm January 30th, 2021  
[www.facebook.com/bethelhebrew](http://www.facebook.com/bethelhebrew)

Sponsorships benefit  
the Religious Action  
Center of Reform  
Judaism

Bronze: Up to \$180  
Silver: \$181-\$300  
Gold: \$301-\$500  
Platinum: \$501 and  
higher

To sponsor, go to  
[http://  
www.bethelhebrew.org/  
form/cantor-concert-  
2021.html](http://www.bethelhebrew.org/form/cantor-concert-2021.html)

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## Rabbi's Remarks: *For Those Who Can't Believe*

“IS GOD DEAD?” asked a famous 1966 *Time* magazine cover. In spite of the rising share of people who do not affiliate with any particular religion, according to a 2018 Pew Research Study, 90 percent of Americans overwhelmingly say they believe in God or a higher power. God is not dead. However, only 56 percent of Americans (and only 33 percent of American Jews) say they believe in the God described in the Bible. Personally, I think this is a good thing. For as much as I love and respect our biblical tradition, and for as frequently as I turn to it and to our sages' biblical interpretations for inspiration and guidance, a healthy skepticism of the God we encounter in the Bible is a critical step in developing cogent Jewish theologies for ourselves today.

But here's the problem: We are more confident talking about what we *don't* believe in than we are comfortable talking about what we *do* believe in. By the time we reach young adulthood, we have outgrown the mythic-literal childhood stage of spiritual development and have become skilled enough in abstract thinking that we start to understand the layers of meaning in the stories, rituals, and symbols of our faith and in seeing how the pieces of a religious tradition fit together. And yet, when it comes to God, the corner piece of the religious puzzle, we who are not biblical literalists often remain unconfident and uncomfortable talking about God. We believe, but in what? How do we fill in the missing God piece without compromising our intelligence, without sacrificing logic, and without denying the realities of our lived experience?

I don't believe in the God that you don't believe in, either. Like you, I am a traveler on my own path to figuring out what I do believe in. Thankfully, in Judaism there are many paths to God. We are not bound by a single theology. While threads like the belief in one God and the importance of performing mitzvot weave themselves throughout every path to holiness, there are a va-

riety of ways for us to grow in our ability to talk about and experience the God we do believe in as Jews.

I invite you to join me as we explore one path to God: five evening conversations covering the 1994 book *For Those Who Can't Believe: Overcoming the Obstacles to Faith*, by Rabbi Harold Schulweis. As Rabbi Schulweis writes in his introduction, *For Those Who Can't Believe* is written for those with a spiritual hunger “who cannot go home again but do not wish to live spiritually homeless. Home is too important to be abandoned. It must be made habitable again.”

*For Those Who Can't Believe* will meet on Zoom from 7:00 – 8:00 pm on the following non-consecutive dates and will discuss:

- **Wednesday, Jan. 20** (Ch 1: Touching God, Ch 2: To Whom We Pray and For What, and Ch 3: Miracles and Revelation: True or False?)
- **Wednesday, Feb. 3** (Ch. 4: Biblical Revelation: What Did God Really Say? and Ch. 5: Conscience and Religious Obedience: Is the Revelation Moral?)
- **Wednesday, Feb. 10** (Ch 6: Why Me? and Ch 7: The Two Faces of God)
- **Wednesday, Feb. 24** (Ch 8: In Search of Godliness and Ch. 9: The Place of Godliness in Transmitting the Memory of the Holocaust)
- **Wednesday, March 3** (Ch. 10: Why Should I Be Religious? and Ch. 11: Particularism and Universalism: Either a Jew or a Human Being)

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85768509954?pwd=ZkpvYWhoc2lWQzhQWkxiY3hYdFgydz09>.

Password: BELIEVE

The program is free, but please RSVP via the website so we know you are coming!

*For Those Who Can't Believe* is widely available wherever books are sold online. Please purchase the book in advance and come prepared to discuss chapters 1–3 on January 20.

— Rabbi David Spinrad

## How Did We Get So Old So Fast?

PLEASE JOIN US for a series of interactive Zoom sessions to explore the challenges and opportunities of growing older. Some topics may include, but are not limited to: relationships, loss and loneliness, and taking full advantage of the possibilities that aging presents.

We will begin Jan. 12 and meet on Tuesdays at 12:30 pm. You will need to reserve your spot because space will be limited. To join in or for more information call **Ruth Perlstein** at 703-978-9341 or [rperl8607@gmail.com](mailto:rperl8607@gmail.com).



## Cantor's Corner



**T**HOUGH OUR BUILDING may not be open, our Beth El community is strong, vibrant, and incredibly active online. I'm so proud and impressed with our ability to have adapted to our new reality. I want to particularly congratulate the extraordinary teachers in our Religious School who have created meaningful Jewish education for our youth in this unprecedented time.

It is truly remarkable how much programming there is on any given day at Beth El. Whether you are looking to join a class, a worship service, or something purely social in nature, there are countless opportunities for you to be involved with us. I invite you to truly read through this and all upcoming newsletters, as well as Beth El emails and social media posts to find new opportunities to become involved with our sacred community.

- I particularly want to draw your attention to the wonderful Zoom Shabbat Social Hour at 7:00 pm on Friday nights as well as the Zoom Oneg Table Talk that happens immediately after Shabbat evening services conclude. These two programs provide a great way not only to unwind after a long week, but also to connect with fellow Beth El members face-to-face. It has actually become a fun Kaufman/McPike family tradition for Kirk and me to join the Oneg Table Talk as we excitedly await delivery of delicious Chinese food every Friday night.

- This month, please join us for our annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Shabbat Service on January 15, led once again by our fifth graders. This has become a meaningful tradition for us at Beth El, and we are overjoyed to be creating this service once again for our community.
- And of course, on Jan. 30 I invite you to join me for my annual Cantor's Concert — this year titled *Songs for the Journey* — featuring the incredible Elana Arian and Eric Schnobrick. For those who feel so moved, sponsorships are available and can be purchased directly on our Beth El website. This year's concert will be in partnership with the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (the RAC) that I'm incredibly excited about.

As we enter these winter months, please continue to be safe, know that your Beth El community is here for you, and that there are so many ways to be involved.

— Cantor Kaufman

## Introduction to Judaism Classes Begin Jan. 5

**D**O YOU WANT TO learn about Judaism or want to increase your Jewish knowledge? Then the Introduction to Judaism class is for you. This course is perfect for interfaith couples, those raising Jewish children, spiritual seekers, individuals considering conversion, and Jews who want a meaningful adult Jewish learning experience. This 16-week course will give you a solid foundation in Jewish holidays, theology and core beliefs, life cycle celebrations, the Bible and other sacred texts, history, antisemitism, Zionism and Israel, and even Jewish food.

The class will be held by Zoom, so you don't have to worry about a commute. It meets on Tuesday evenings, 7:00 – 9:00 pm, and runs from January 5 to April 27, 2021. It will be taught by Beth El member **Rabbi Susan Warshaw**.

To register go to: <http://reformjudaism.org/intro/VA>. Once you have registered you will be directed to an Eventbrite page for payment. Tuition is \$300 for an individual, \$325 for partners, with a \$25 discount for members of a Reform Congregation. Once you have completed registration you will be sent a Zoom link, a book list, and other information.





## President's Point of View

### *Happy New Year!*

**C**HICKEN SOUP FOR the soul: the Internet tells me it's a shorthand phrase for a cure-all, a mysterious-but-effective way to solve problems. A way to nourish our inner-most needs.

And for me... that was seeing our Beth El members coming together for the lighting of our huge, new Hanukkah menorah for the each of the eight nights. It was chicken soup for my quarantined soul to see so many familiar faces. It was what I needed. It was what we, Beth El, a community of friends, also needed. So... let's do more!

Taking into account the sentiment from our congregational re-opening survey prepared by **Jess Gershman** coupled with the guidance of the re-opening task force led by **Jesse Reisman**, let's look at the lessons learned from parking lot events to date:

- The parking lot Rosh Hashanah Shofar service;
- The Religious School tent program;
- The James family outdoor Bat Mitzvah;
- The eight nights of hanukkiyah lightings.

Let's think of them as successful test runs for Beth El parking lot Judaism. Why not?

Working hand in hand with the membership committee chaired by **Joanne Rhodes**, we are thinking about lots of different types of parking lot member events, starting with religious events such as B'nei Mitzvah, havdalah services, and maybe even Shabbat services. These will be Virginia state health guideline-directed, RSVP-only, masked and socially-distanced gatherings following the rules of the re-opening committee.

But we will be offering many more opportunities, social as well as religious. How about a food truck night? Or a mini drive-in movie theater? Or a Rock Hard Bagels performance? Each of us is yearning for ways to continue to foster Beth El community as we try and stay safe, so please send your ideas to [office@bethelhebrew.org](mailto:office@bethelhebrew.org), or to **Janet Hlatky** or **Joanne Rhodes**, whose contact information can be found in the directory. Send them your thoughts, send me your suggestions, send us your great ideas!

We, as a community, need to do this. Fingers crossed that the vaccines come quickly, and we can all be back in the building together soon.

We are Beth El, and we are moving forward.

L'Shalom,  
— Alan Cohn

## Coffee and Clergy

**I**T IS SO HARD to be apart, especially during these long winter months. With that in mind, your Beth El clergy invite you to join them every Friday from 11:00 am – noon for coffee and conversation. Feel free to drop in for some or all of the hour to connect with your community. There is no need to RSVP or to register.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88467415874?pwd=OWwwOS9LeHRwTnJ2dXpveVEwTTNoUT09>.

Password:  
COFFEE



## Hanukkah Boutique 2020: A Little Strange, But a Big Success

**T**HANKS TO ALL who did their Hanukkah shopping with us during the past month! We know it was unlike all of our past boutiques, but then what about this year has been like any other?! We were able to stay safely masked and socially-distanced for shoppers and volunteers, while enjoying being back in the building even for a short time.

The shop was able to sell almost \$2,000 in merchandise, which will hopefully help to bring in new items next year. Special thanks to **Roberta Sultzer**, **Janet Hlatky**, **Claire Sassin**, and **Linda Waller** for their tireless help. We hope that as Passover approaches, we will be able to safely offer a sales time again.

**Lynne Orens**  
Interim Gift Shop Manager  
[Bewrjshop@gmail.com](mailto:Bewrjshop@gmail.com)

# Religious School Report

## *The Secret Garden: Tu B'Shevat and Resilience*



**T**U B'SHEVAT IS the New Year of the Trees, but in America it always feels a bit out of place. Why celebrate trees when the ground is hard and frozen? Why not celebrate “Jewish Arbor Day” when everything is in bloom? The answer I’d like to suggest is because we need to remember that even when there is still snow on the ground, the trees around us are preparing to bring new life into the world. *Tu B'Shevat* is our reminder that there is hope, that spring will come, and that new growth is right around the corner.

While I was growing up, one of my all time favorite films was *The Secret Garden* (1993). Mary’s story is one of true resilience and grit. Her parents die tragically, and she is taken from the only life she knows in India and shipped to England. She feels all alone in a giant house with an uncle who doesn’t want to see her; her heart is hardened and cold. The story of the garden is one and the same. The garden has been left alone to die, and yet, with a bit of love, both Mary and the garden begin to come back to life. The garden was never dead. It was always there, the blooms were just waiting to come to the surface, and Mary was too.

Over the last nine months, we have often felt like Mary. We are locked up in a house, far from the people who bring us joy, and the world around us seems bleak. We’ve experienced deep loss — of people, and of a sense of normalcy. And, yet, there is still hope, and *Tu B'Shevat* reminds us both of our resiliency and grit as Jews and our hope for the future.

*Tu B'Shevat* seders have become more and more popular over the last few years. The seder consists of

symbols and short blessings that lead us through the seasons of the year. Winter, the first season in the seder, is symbolized by nuts that are hard on the outside but soft on the inside. Almonds, however, are the most common symbol of the holiday.

Almond trees are the first trees to bloom in Israel on or near *Tu B'Shevat*. *Shakeid*, or almonds, are only mentioned four times in the Torah. One of those times is in Numbers 17:23 when Aaron’s wooden staff blossoms and produces almonds. Even in the cold of winter, almond trees begin to bloom. They not only make it through the winter, but they are eager to bring fruit into the world.

As the days begin to lighten and even as the snow falls, may we be reminded that like the secret garden, like Mary, and like almond trees, we too are resilient, and we too have hope. On January 15 our fifth grade students, taught by **Dina Backer**, will participate in our annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Shabbat service. Each year our young students bring to life MLK’s words, and each year they remind us that there is hope for a more peaceful and just world. In February 1968 in Washington, DC, King said these words, “We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.” In these challenging times, may we take these words to heart. May we be resilient and hopeful, knowing that spring will come and our gardens will bloom.

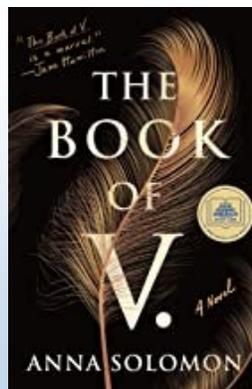
**Rabbi Bailey Romano**  
[bromano@bethelhebrew.org](mailto:bromano@bethelhebrew.org)



## Readers of Beth El

**T**HE READERS OF BETH EL will “meet” on Jan. 11 at 7:00 pm to discuss *The Book Of V* by Anna Solomon. The author creates new stories of women based on the Book of Esther, illuminating how women’s lives have and have not changed over thousands of years. While the library waiting list is long, the book is available on Kindle currently for \$2.99!

— Lynne Orens



## Renaissance Group

**W**ISHING YOU ALL a very happy and healthy New Year.

Hopefully we will be able to see each other again this spring.

— Linda and Larry



## Executive Director's Entry

**A**T THIS POINT in the pandemic, it is clear that Beth El is so much more than a building. It is all of us coming together via Zoom or Facebook or phone calls or drive-bys or emails. Beth El is people. Beth El is us.

But we do have a building. I thought you might be wondering what is going on at the building while you are not there, what a mostly closed Beth El building is like. To start with, the pre-school is open again, if not at full capacity. With all kinds of precautions in place, children have returned to four of our classrooms and are enjoying our new outdoor play space. And because almost nothing else is going on, you can hear the children's laughter throughout the building. That is very cool.

Boat and Arturo, our stalwart maintenance team, work a split shift to cover from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm every day, and spend 30 of every 90 minutes cleaning pre-school rooms and bathrooms. They keep up with cleaning the main hallway bathrooms and offices as well. On any given weekday, one or another of our office staff or clergy stop by to get snail mail, process bills and checks, copy Bar Mitzvah materials, and/or complain about how cold it gets in the building sometimes. Repair people and flooring people have been in and out doing repairs and installing new flooring (in a small part of the kitchen for safety reasons). All of this makes sense.

What makes way less sense is how much foot traffic a supposedly-closed building has. I don't mean the planned stuff, such as people who shopped the Hanukkah boutique or who call ahead to come in and pay a bill in person. I mean the other people: people who stop by to make arrangements to rent our social hall and seem shocked that our building is closed and that we have no idea when that will change... but who want their DJ to come tour the room anyway, "just in case"; people who want to sell us hand sanitizer or toilet paper from their trunks; people who ask if they can park their 18-wheeler in our parking lot for a week and pay us to do so; people who are walking their dogs and need to use a restroom; people who are new to the area and looking for a synagogue to affiliate with... no wait, that one's a good thing. I have talked to three of those couples these last few months. Here's hoping!

Being able to explore the building while it is mostly empty has been enlightening and delightful. I can flip random switches to see what lights go on. I can explore empty classrooms and storage rooms (including the one behind the *bimah*). Answering the phone and doorbell has been... um, eye-opening.

**Janet Hlatky**  
Interim Executive Director



## Carpenter's Shelter Needs Your Help!

**I**F YOU CAN HELP, Carpenter's Shelter would appreciate it. They are completely out of Target gift cards. A new family entered the shelter and both parents need new clothing for jobs they are starting. They would normally supply them with Target gift cards for this purpose, but are completely out, and a lot of the thrift store resources they would refer them to are not operating due to COVID. Target and Visa physical gift cards in \$25 increments and digital Amazon gift cards are extremely helpful in meeting these immediate needs for their clients. Any donations would be greatly appreciated! Gift cards can be mailed to Carpenter's Shelter, PO Box 22150, Alexandria, VA 22304, to Jamila Smith, Community Relations Manager at Carpenter's Shelter, or delivered directly to the shelter via the contactless donation process below. In addition, one of the families has also requested size 3 pull ups for a baby girl.

**Contactless Donation Process:** Donations can be made everyday between 9:00 am and 9:00 pm at the residential shelter at 930 N. Henry St, Alexandria. There is a table set up in the vestibule of the entrance. There are signed donation forms on the table for donors to complete. Donors can place their donations on the table and complete the signed donation form, keeping the white copy for themselves and leaving the yellow copy on top of their donation for the shelter's records. Due to limited storage space, any donations outside of the current needs list above would need to be pre-approved by Jamila.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d49aeae22a6f8c34-cswishlist>

## J-Care Journal



**T**HE FACES OF THE children tell the whole story. Our new **Rabbi Brett Isserow** Outdoor Play Space has been open now for several weeks, and I love watching the kids faces. I see the excitement on the way from the building when they know where they are going, on the playground while they are playing and when they come in, having had such a great time out there.

The Play Space was created with intention and with love with lots and lots of people contributing to every step of the process. Our visionary Assistant Director **Ali-son Kerlin** guided the creative process from start to finish. Her complete understanding of our Reggio Emilia philosophy helped keep us in the right direction. We are grateful to the original playground committee, **Jesse Ellis**, **Jay Heltzer**, and **Bob Weiman** for being our connection to the Beth El leadership and for all of their initial work in securing our partnership with Nancy Striniste and Early Space and J&G Landscaping. Ali's experience-based ideas and Nancy Striniste's talent and expertise led us to a fabulous plan.

**Alan Cohn** and the Beth El leadership were our champions and cheerleaders all the way. **Harmony Knutson** created a fundraising campaign in record time and Beth El members, preschool families, and friends and family of all of us in the community donated, completing the campaign in record time. Even our kids in the preschool helped with a gift of some of their *tzedakah* money. The generosity of everyone involved was humbling and overwhelming, and we are so grateful for every single contribution.

Then, in the middle of the pandemic, complete with our masks, we were standing with the builders from J&G in the middle of the (old) playground planning the actual start of the building. Having never personally built anything, I had no idea what to expect and was blown away watching the development day by day. The old equipment went away (ok... that was a little bitter-sweet), and then there was trenching for the water lines, placement of the paths, river beds, sandbox, and more. From the ground up, our dream developed in front of our eyes. Our undeniable hero during the entire building

process was **Jake Gallun**. When it was clear that we needed an on-site program manager, Jake stepped up and stepped in. He spoke the language and translated to the rest of us. He managed the contracts and checked the work almost daily until it was perfect. There are not enough words or ways to say thank you.

We hope everyone gets a chance to see the new space. Outside of school hours, everyone is welcome. We have very few rules: (1) Sand should stay in the playground; (2) If you take something out, put it back; (3) HAVE A GREAT TIME!

Finally, after too many years to even count, our kids are playing in the **Rabbi Brett Isserow** Outdoor Play Space. Truly a dream come true for us, and the fruits of an entire community working together to honor a great man who led us, inspired us, guided us, and meant so much to us for so many years. This is what Beth El is all about.

Here's to a new year of great fun in our new space.

**Dina Backer**  
Director, J-Care Alexandria



## The Caring Community Committee Is Here for You

**W**INTER IS HERE, and with it comes increased difficulty in getting around outside. The Caring Community Committee and its on-call list have stepped up their efforts to reach out to congregants who are especially impacted by this, and are making telephone calls to bring a bit of cheer and to provide a friendly ear to those in the congregation who would welcome them.

If you would like to participate in this Caring Conversation mitzvah, or if you would like to be the recipient of such a call, please get in touch with CCC chair **Ruth Perlstein**, 703-978-9341 or [rperl8607@gmail.com](mailto:rperl8607@gmail.com).

Chanukah gift bags were assembled and delivered to homebound congregants by CCC members, with the assistance of **Michael Katz** and **Casey Pick**. Many thanks to both students.

In December, on-call list members also provided meals to several congregants returning home from hospital/rehab stays; we are available to provide help in any way we can.

# WRJ News

## *Recipes and More from WRJ's Lotsa Latke Fest Virtual Hanukkah Celebration*

WRJ members and their guests gathered virtually on Dec. 9 for a pre-Hanukkah Zoom event to share latke recipes and tips for making latkes, trade advice on where to find *sufganiyot* in Northern Virginia, and to socialize with each other.

It turns out, air frying is a viable option for cooking latkes, and that latkes don't have to be limited to the traditional potato version. There are recipes for latkes using sweet potatoes, beets, Brussels sprouts, cheese, scalions, and zucchini. And if you insist on the traditional potato, there are recipes with and without binders. There are also plenty of foods besides latkes that Jews around the world eat during Hanukkah.

You can find the recipes and articles about Hanukkah foods around the world in a shared Google Drive folder maintained by the WRJ Hospitality account here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1EUN6ZAxSEkom7GKYSRxvTBNNFkSeb-DB?usp=sharing>

## *WRJ Members Contribute More Ideas to Stay Sane During the Pandemic*

As we move through a socially-distanced January, WRJ members share what they've been doing to maintain a positive attitude:

- **Shelli Ross** has had Shabbat Zooms with her family and her friend Neil's family. She writes, "We light candles and say the blessings for wine and challah together. We get to hear how everyone is doing. Our group is in Wyoming, Pennsylvania, Northern Virginia, Harrisonburg, Richmond, and DC."
- **Catherine Weinraub** has been thrilled to be able to keep up her job and love of history. She writes, "I have presented two Zoom lectures, one on the Alexandria Fire of 1855 and the Firemen's Monument in Ivy Hill Cemetery for the Barrett Branch Library and one on Revolutionary Women: Women of War for Ivy Hill Cemetery."
- **Laura Bloodgood** has been playing mahjong online with WRJ friends, learning more about knitting and bike riding around Alexandria. She also spent a lot of time gardening over the summer and looks forward to seeing everyone in person when it's safe to do so.
- With the cancellation of monthly workdays in the Chapel in the Woods, **Nancy Davis** and her husband **Stuart** have been going to the forest about twice a week and spending roughly two hours each time. One or two at a time, a number of people have joined them for masked and socially distant, if small, workdays. She writes, "Although these individual efforts have helped, they have not taken

the place of our regular, larger, work days and we do have some catching up to do regarding maintenance. At the same time, being outside, a safe activity, and watching the seasons uncover new growth and beauty, has brought peace, joy, and fitness. Practice *tikkun olam!*" Nancy invites you to join them on the milder and warmer days of winter and early spring. Nancy's contact info is in Beth El's online directory.

- **Jane Dinsmore** has been doing daily meditations with the Institute of Jewish Spirituality (<http://spirituality.org>). They are free, led by rabbis from all over, and take place from 12:30 pm – 1:00 pm on weekdays. Jane writes, "You don't need to be good at meditation. Just come when you can. I find it very relaxing and grounding!"
- **Joann Gottlieb** is relearning Spanish on Duolingo (free) and walking two miles at Arlington's Long Bridge Park.

## *Armchair Travel With Qesher*

Travel is one of many things we've missed during the pandemic. Qesher (connection in Hebrew) is a wonderful way to escape and broaden our experiences with the global diversity of the entire Jewish community. Qesher allows Jewish communities all over the globe to share our "unique history, culture, places, and most of all people and stories." This is armchair travel on steroids with new speakers from different regions who invite you to watch and learn in weekly 90-minute segments. Most programs are on Sunday at 1:30 pm in the USA, and involve international participation. Each program is live, but participation is limited. Qesher's international team "has personally experienced how Jewish life is lived in Europe, Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, and the Former Soviet Union."

The cost to "travel" with Qesher is minimal (registration is as low as \$9/program) and a portion of the proceeds go to *tzedakah*. Take a look at Qesher's upcoming events by clicking on to <https://www.qesher.com/upcoming-events/>, and let Zoom take you on a virtual guided tour with expert guides. You won't want to miss any of these worldwide adventures, and passports aren't needed. WRJ is exploring arranging for a dedicated sign-up portal for Beth El members if there is enough interest within the community.

For those who enjoy travelling with friends, consider signing up with them for the same program(s) so you can enjoy each other's company as well as meet new friends.

If you participate in one of Qesher's programs, please let us know and provide us with your feedback by emailing [WRJHospitality@gmail.com](mailto:WRJHospitality@gmail.com), so we can gauge interest in a dedicated sign up portal.

*continued on page 12*

## Brotherhood News

**I**N LATE NOVEMBER, about 50 members from Beth El and Christ Church gathered on-line to participate in a Season of Thanks with Christ Church webinar, led by **Rabbi David Spinrad** and the **Reverend Noelle York-Simmons**. While this Zoom gathering was no replacement for our in-person Thanksgiving meals, it was a lovely and meaningful experience. Thank you to **Ron Sturman** who coordinated the event for Brotherhood, **Howard Wahlberg** who moderated the Q&As, and **Henry Brooks** who shared with us the historical origins of this interfaith interaction, drawing upon his forty-five-years of past participation.

Since there were no dinner costs to Brotherhood for hosting the event, the budgeted funds were used in their entirety to (1) purchase pumpkin pies that were included as part of Christ Church's Thanksgiving delivery to 25 Afghan refugee families and (2) contribute to ALIVE! to help feed the homeless. Christ Church and Beth El both have been members of ALIVE! for decades. Other Brotherhood holiday donations include our annual contribution to George Mason Hillel, specifically earmarked for Shabbat kosher boxed meals that they distribute every second Friday, and holiday gifts to Beth El's non-senior staff, including to maintenance staff who have been laid off due to the pandemic.

In December, your Brotherhood once again hosted a Sunday morning on-line Bagels and Banter, providing an open forum for men to just gather and schmooze (thanks to **Ron Sturman** for its organization).

A thank you also to the multitude of volunteers who responded to an email request for assistance to assemble

Beth El's new nine-foot tall hanukkiyah, and specifically to the four Brothers who "won the lottery" to do the work: **Jeffrey Sachs, Steve Harvith, Jay Lucas, and Jerry Terlitzky**. I hope everyone was able to make at least one of the parking lot candle lightings that took place on each of the eight nights of Hanukkah.

Due to social distancing protocols, the number of upcoming events is understandably limited, but not entirely absent. On Sunday, February 7, Brotherhood will host an on-line policy forum moderated by **Robert Siegel** on "*Recognizing and Combating Antisemitism at Home and Abroad*." Panel members will include **Kenneth Stern** (AJC, Bard College); **Meredith Weisel** (ADL); and **Ira Forman** (US State Department, Georgetown University). Thanks in advance to **Jeff Davidson, Ron Sturman**, and the Brotherhood Program Committee for arranging what promises to be a very interesting discussion.

Also, be sure to keep on the lookout for future Brotherhood and office emails with news on the 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Interfaith Dinner between Beth El and Fairlington United Methodist Church, hosted this year by FUMC. Usually scheduled for a Tuesday evening in February, at the time of this *Bulletin*, FUMC had not finalized its plans for an alternative approach to our normal dinner get-together — which will be rescheduled to a May/June time frame, if it's feasible.

**John Jankowski**  
Brotherhood President  
[brotherhood@bethelhebrew.org](mailto:brotherhood@bethelhebrew.org)

## Tot Shabbat Celebrates the Trees

**D**URING OUR SATURDAY, Jan. 9 Tot Shabbat, when the Torah portion is Shemot (names), we'll talk and sing about names. Each child can tell their online friends their name, and we'll see if any of the older children know their Hebrew name or how their name was chosen. Then we'll learn about how to keep our name good!

Add a birthday celebration to our Saturday, Jan. 23 Tot Shabbat, and you've got Tu B'shevat Tot Shabbat! Each year on Tu B'shevat, we sing happy birthday to the trees. Then the children will pretend to be seeds that grow into tall trees as we sing *Tu Tu Tu B'shevat*, and I'll read a picture book about protecting the trees.

Tot Shabbat, Jan. 9 at 11:00 am:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82146348108>

Tu B'shevat Tot Shabbat, Jan. 23 at 11:00 am:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89554984811>

*Zoom gali gali!* Let's stay connected!  
**Miss Carol (Carol Boyd Leon)**



# ~ January 2021 ~ T

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed



In January it's so nice  
While slipping on the sliding ice  
To sip hot chicken soup with rice...  
Sipping once, sipping twice.

*Maurice Sendak*



<p><b>3</b> Festival of Sleep/JRR Tolkien Day</p> <p>10:00a Religious School 10:00a <b>Beginning Adult Hebrew</b> 11:00a <b>Intermediate Adult Hebrew</b></p>	<p><b>4</b> National Spaghetti Day/Trivia Day</p>	<p><b>5</b> National Bird Day/ Monopoly Game Day</p> <p>6:00p HaMakom: A Place and Time to Pray 7:00p EC Meeting 7:00p <b>Introduction to Judaism</b></p>	<p><b>6</b> Cuddle Up Day/National Technology Day</p> <p>Noon Member Online Drop-In Chat 6:15p Religious School 7:00p WRJ Meeting</p>
<p><b>10</b> Houseplant Appreciation Day</p> <p>10:00a Religious School 10:00a <b>Beginning Adult Hebrew</b> 11:00a <b>Intermediate Adult Hebrew</b></p>	<p><b>11</b> Human Trafficking Awareness Day</p>	<p><b>12</b> National Pharmacist Day/ Hot Tea Day</p> <p>12:30p <b>Positive Aging Workshop</b> 6:00p HaMakom: A Place and Time to Pray 7:00p <b>Introduction to Judaism</b> 7:00p <b>Genius of the Rabbis</b></p>	<p><b>13</b> International Skeptics Day/ Rubber Ducky Day</p> <p>Noon Member Online Drop-In Chat 6:15p Religious School</p>
<p><b>17</b> International Mentoring Day</p> <p>10:00a Religious School 10:00a <b>Beginning Adult Hebrew</b> 11:00a <b>Intermediate Adult Hebrew</b></p>	<p><b>18</b> <b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b> <b>BUILDING CLOSED</b> <b>J-CARE CLOSED</b></p>	<p><b>19</b> World Day of Migrants and Refugees</p> <p>12:30p <b>Positive Aging Workshop</b> 6:00p HaMakom: A Place and Time to Pray 7:00p Board of Directors Meeting 7:00p <b>Introduction to Judaism</b></p>	<p><b>20</b> National Cheese Lovers Day</p> <p>Noon Member Online Drop-In Chat 6:15p Religious School 7:00p <b>For Those Who Can't Believe</b></p>
<p><b>24</b> Beer Can Appreciation Day <b>NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL</b></p>	<p><b>25</b> Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day</p>	<p><b>26</b> Appreciate Your Spouse Day</p> <p>12:30p <b>Positive Aging Workshop</b> 6:00p HaMakom: A Place and Time to Pray 7:00p <b>Introduction to Judaism</b> 7:00p <b>Genius of the Rabbis</b></p>	<p><b>27</b> Chocolate Cake Day</p> <p>Noon Member Online Drop-In Chat 6:15p Religious School</p>
<p><b>31</b> Inspire Your Heart with Art Day</p> <p>10:00a Religious School 10:00a <b>Beginning Adult Hebrew</b> 11:00a <b>Intermediate Adult Hebrew</b></p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">  <div style="width: 65%;"> <p>Why not make the most of many adult education opportunities sh</p> </div> </div>		

# Sevet/Sh'vat 5781 ~

Thu	Fri	Sat	Torah
	<b>1 New Year's Day</b>  <b>BUILDING CLOSED</b> 6:00p Shabbat Social Hour 6:30p Erev Shabbat Services 7:30p Oneg Table Talk  <i>Candle lighting 4:39p</i>	<b>2 National Buffet Day/ Science Fiction Day</b> 9:00a <b>Torah Study</b> 10:30a Shabbat Morning Services  <i>Havdalah 5:48p</i>	<b>VAYECHI</b> Genesis 47:28-50:26 1 Kings 2:1-12
<b>7 National Bobblehead Day</b>	<b>8 Bubble Bath Day/ Argyle Day</b>  11:00a Coffee and Clergy 6:00p Shabbat Social Hour 6:30p Erev Shabbat Services 7:30p 8:30 Oneg Table Talk  <i>Candle lighting 4:46p</i>	<b>9 Law Enforcement Appreciation Day</b>  9:00a <b>Torah Study</b> 10:30a Shabbat Morning Services 11:00a Tot Shabbat  <i>Havdalah 5:55p</i>	<b>SHEMOT</b>  Exodus 1:1-6:1 Isaiah 27:6-28:13, 29:22-23
<b>14 Dress Up Your Pet Day</b>  7:30p <b>Interfaith Learning</b>	<b>15 National Bagel Day/ National Hat Day</b>  11:00a Coffee and Clergy 6:00p Shabbat Social Hour 6:30p Fifth Grade Student-Led Erev Shabbat and MLK Jr. Day Services 7:30p Oneg Table Talk  <i>Candle lighting 4:53p</i>	<b>16 Civil Service Day/Fig Newton Day</b>  9:00a <b>Torah Study</b> 10:00a Family Services 10:30a Shabbat Morning Services  <i>Havdalah 6:02</i>	<b>VA'ERA</b> Exodus 6:2-9:35 Ezekiel 28:25-29:21
<b>21 Squirrel Appreciation Day</b>  7:00p Caring Community Committee Meeting	<b>22 Roe v Wade Day</b>  11:00a Coffee and Clergy 6:00p Shabbat Social Hour 6:30p Erev Shabbat Services 7:30p Oneg Table Talk  <i>Candle lighting 5:00p</i>	<b>23 National Pie Day</b>  9:00a <b>Torah Study</b> 10:30a Shabbat Morning Services 11:00a Tu BiSh'vat Tot Shabbat  <i>Havdalah 6:09p</i>	<b>BO</b>  Exodus 10:1-13:16 Jeremiah 46:13-28
<b>28 Tu BiSh'vat</b>	<b>29 National Puzzle Day</b>  11:00a Coffee and Clergy 6:00p Shabbat Social Hour 6:30p Erev Shabbat Services 7:30p Oneg Table Talk  <i>Candle lighting 5:08p</i>	<b>30 Fruitcake Toss Day</b>  9:00a <b>Torah Study</b> 10:30a Shabbat Morning Services 7:00p Cantor's Concert  <i>Havdalah 6:18p</i>	<b>BESHALACH</b>  Exodus 13:17-17:16 Judges 4:4-5:31

of January by getting involved in one of the  
 tions coming around this month? They are  
 own above in bold.



## WRJ Social Action

**T**HE HOLIDAYS ARE OVER and we have all kinds of new toys! What do you do with that old sports equipment that is still perfectly good? Well, we have a win-win solution! Athletic equipment can be really expensive and there are lots of families in the area who cannot afford the cost of the equipment required for their kids to participate in sports. Leveling the Playing Field, a local non-profit established in 2013, takes donated sports equipment and redistributes it to underprivileged kids in the DMV area, through their school leagues, after school programs, etc. We can help make sure that every kid has a chance to get off the sidelines and into the game!

From Sunday, Jan. 24 through Sunday Jan. 31, we will collect gently used and new athletic equipment for Leveling the Playing Field. You can drop your donations on the cart located between the two sets of glass entrance doors to Beth El. While soccer equipment is the greatest need, baseball/softball, basketball, football, hockey, and playground/fitness equipment are all needed. There is a detailed list of acceptable and unacceptable equipment on-line at:

<https://www.levelingthefield.org/ways-to-help/donate-equipment/>.

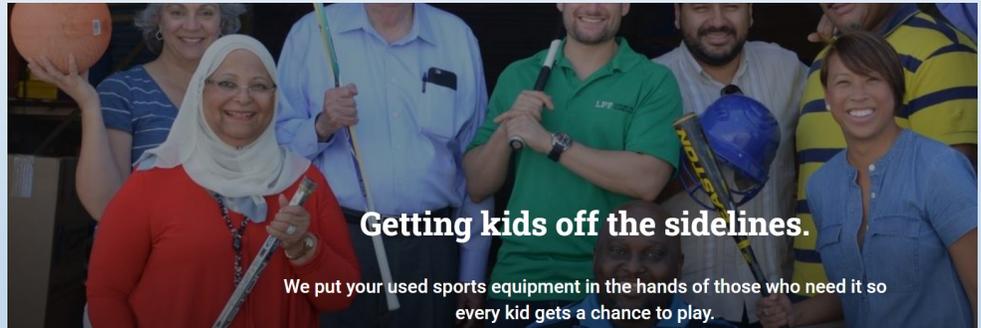
You can drop your donations at Beth El Monday – Thursday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, and Friday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm.

Thanks so much for supporting the kids in our community!

**Janet Garber**

703-598-7904

[garberj123@gmail.com](mailto:garberj123@gmail.com)



*WRJ News continued from page 9*

## Member News

### **Judaica Shop Update**

A special thanks to Shop Interim Manager **Lynne Orens**, Shop Assistant Manager **Roberta Sultzer**, and shop volunteer **Linda Waller** for staffing the Judaica Shop for the Hanukkah sale, and to Beth El's Interim Executive Director **Janet Hlatky** for helping with publicity. Due to the increase in COVID infections and the reluctance of our volunteers to regularly open the shop, we will not be having any more in-person shopping for the foreseeable future.

### **Reminder: WRJ Board Meetings Open to All WRJ Members**

The WRJ board holds its monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of each month (unless there is a conflicting holiday or other event) via Zoom, starting at 7:00 pm. All paid-up WRJ members are welcome to attend. The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 6. If you would like to receive the invitation for upcoming Zoom meetings, please email Co-President **Linda Shapiro** at [BEHCWRJ.President@gmail.com](mailto:BEHCWRJ.President@gmail.com).

This year, our best-laid plans have been upended, and we remain physically isolated for self-protection in our personal bubbles. We've kept in touch by social media, telephone, and the miraculous Zoom, and want to introduce you to another way Beth El members can be together.

**Pat Collins and Linda Shapiro**

WRJ Co-Presidents

[BEHC.WRJ.President@gmail.com](mailto:BEHC.WRJ.President@gmail.com)

### **Mazel Tov to:**

Sheila Wexler, Mildred Stearman, Nancy Leisch, Sue Rabin, and Marcia Wallach who have special birthdays in January

Robert Merker and Lorraine Spector, and Robert and Debra Ballen who have special anniversaries in January

### **Condolences to:**

Jeanne, Bob, Michael, Cynthia, and Jennie Holden on the death of beloved sister and aunt Irene Stibman Cohen

Michele Mildren and Michael Wiener on the death of beloved friend Denise Decker

Charlotte Strauss on the death of beloved friend Bill Stachelek



## Israel Committee News

As part of the Israel Committee's goal to encourage education and discussion on Israel and what Israel means to American Jews, we would like to share this selection of books on various topics ranging from Israeli history to revealing works of Israeli fiction. We know there are a lot of other great books out there, but we feel these books would be a good start for those wishing to learn more about Israel, and these are the books that our committee members can personally recommend. We will add other resources including movies and TV shows, courses, and podcasts in future Committee News columns. In the meantime, please email the co-chairs if you would like to add to the list.

### *Nonfiction*

*The Aleppo Codex* by Matti Friedman

*Catch-67: The Left, the Right, and the Legacy of the Six Day War* by Micah Goodman

*Doomed to Succeed: The U.S.- Israel Relationship from Truman to Obama* by Dennis Ross

*Eichmann in Jerusalem* by Hannah Arendt

*The Family: Three Journeys into the Heart of the Twentieth Century* by David Laskin

*From Beirut to Jerusalem* by Thomas Friedman

*Hannah Senesh: Her Life and Diary, the First Complete Edition*

*A History of Zionism* by Walter Laqueur

*Israel: A Concise History of a Nation Reborn* by Daniel Gordis

*The Israelis* by Donna Rosenthal

*Jerusalem: A Biography* by Simon Sebag Montefiore

*Justice in Jerusalem* by Gideon Hausner

*Let There Be Water* by Seth Siegel

*Like Dreamers* by Yossi Klein Halevi

*The Prime Ministers* by Yehuda Avner

*Raid on the Sun* by Rodger Claire

*The Revolt* by Menachem Begin

*The Star and the Stripes: A History of the Foreign Policies of American Jews* by Michael Barnett

*A Tale of Love and Darkness* by Amos Oz

*We Stand Divided* by Daniel Gordis

*White Nights* by Menachem Begin

### *Fiction*

*The Best Place on Earth* by Ayelet Tsbari

*Between Friends* by Amos Oz

*The Hilltop* by Assaf Gavron

*Only Yesterday* by SY Agnon

*Panther in the Basement* by Amos Oz

**Alex Buttgenbach**  
Co-Chair  
[buttgenbach@gmail.com](mailto:buttgenbach@gmail.com)

**Ron Sturman**  
Co-Chair  
[rgsturman@msn.com](mailto:rgsturman@msn.com)



**T**HIS IS THE TIME of year I usually write asking you to mark your February calendar for our housewares drive and SOUPer Bowl Sunday. But not this year. Instead I'm asking you to please continue to support ALIVE! and all it does for people in need in Alexandria. And thank you for all the support you've given in the past.

Here's a news story from December that talks about some of what ALIVE! has been doing:  
<https://tinyurl.com/y5mg7c3n>

For more information go to <http://www.alive-inc.org> or contact **Deborah Schaffer** at [schaffer4@gmail.com](mailto:schaffer4@gmail.com).

## Chapel in the Woods *Trees Suffer, Too*

**O**AK DECLINE SYNDROME is not like COVID, but it is no less real, and it is affecting our synagogue — this time, by the loss of trees. Beth El has lost two mighty oaks in the front yard as well as just one (that we know of) in the Chapel in the Woods. So far that’s a relatively light toll, as the syndrome has been knocking out red and white oaks from some whole neighborhoods throughout Northern Virginia.

In a recent webinar, officials with the state forestry department explained factors contributing to oak decline syndrome. Like COVID, death can appear to be sudden. For example, a huge oak on the synagogue property line beneath the east ravine seemed to turn brown and die in a matter of months during 2020. Unlike COVID, scientists say there are many factors that contribute.

Long-term trends such as climate change and development number among them. Sudden warm winter spells and cold spring weather do not give trees sufficient time to properly prepare for dormancy and new growing seasons, respectively, weakening the trees. Storms, physical damage from construction and salt in the soil also stress trees — and not just oaks.

These predisposing factors make the trees susceptible to the diseases, decay, and insects that deliver the final blows. Specifically, for example, oaks suffer from borers and beetles, cankers from fungal infection, root rot and other diseases, and decay.

Affected trees grow slowly with diminishing crowns, and water sprouts, and may drop leaves early. They rarely recover, reports Fairfax County Urban Forester Rachel Griesmer. But landholders can take proactive steps by mulching wide areas under trees, not using road salt near trees, and watering during droughts. Regular inspection by certified arborists can uncover specific problems.

Please help take care of Beth El’s trees by volunteering for masked and socially-distanced workdays on sunny days when the weather turns mild. Only a few people work at a time. To schedule a workday, call **Nancy** or **Stuart Davis** at 703 671 5906 or write to: [nmdaviswriter@aol.com](mailto:nmdaviswriter@aol.com).



*Our preschool children love the Chapel in the Woods, even in cold weather.*

# Building Our New Nine-Foot Hanukkiyah



**The audience had only one question: Can we climb on it?**



**And Enjoying It**



## The Congregation Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations

### HIGH HOLIDAY FUNDRAISING APPEAL

Nelson & Dorothy Saks  
 Norm & Libby Starler  
 Jack Wilkenfeld  
 Kara Lewis & Rami Cohen

### BETH EL GENERAL FUND

**Donor**  
 Priscilla Myerson  
 Joseph Johnson

**Donor** *In Memory of*  
 Sara & Len Heimowitz.....Alan Soschin

### BROTHERHOOD

**Donor**  
 Annette Kilian

### CHAPEL IN THE WOODS

**Donor** *In Celebration of*  
 Nancy & Stuart Davis .....The holidays & to buy saplings  
 for the Chapel in the Woods  
 in honor of Janice Rosales,  
 Sally Sporer & Fred Marienthal,  
 & Liz & Rob Whitley

**Donor** *In Honor of*  
 Jay Jarvis..... Norm Starler Brotherhood Man of the Year

### HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL FUND

**Donor** *In Memory of*  
 Janet Hlatky..... Judy Jankowski's beloved Uncle Paul

### MARC ROSS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

**Donor** *In Honor of*  
 Janet Hlatky..... Pat Collins' new chapter

**Donor** *In Memory of*  
 Lynne & Allan Somoroff ..... Alan Soschin  
 Linda & Bennett Oltman ..... Marc Ross

### RABBI EMERITUS DISCRETIONARY FUND

**Donor** *In Honor of*  
 Jay Lucas & Maxine Cohen ..... Joyce Gordon's colorful  
 COVID masks  
 Jay Lucas & Maxine Cohen ..... All those who worked so hard  
 to make the recent elections  
 honest, fair, and just

### PERMANENT ENDOWMENT FUND

<b>Donor</b>	<i>In Honor of</i>
Jay Jarvis & Audrey Liebross .....	Rabbi Spinrad
<b>Donor</b>	<i>In Memory of</i>
Kenneth Berger .....	Leonard Lipson
Kenneth Berger .....	William Kramer
Karen & Michael Weinberger.....	Milton Horn
Dana Arnold .....	Judy Jankowski's beloved Uncle Paul
Annette Kilian .....	Leon Lindenberg
Vicki Warren .....	Marjorie Harris
Joanne & Andy Rhodes .....	Alan Soschin

### RABBI'S GOOD DEED FUND

<b>Donor</b>	<i>In Appreciation of</i>
Yelena Raben & William Hurst	
Jerry & Silvia Teritzky	
<b>Donor</b>	
Mimi Kramer-Roberts, Gilda Kramer, Jeff Kramer & Families .....	Rabbi David Spinrad
Janie Kaplan .....	Being able to enjoy the beautiful & thoughtful holiday services from home
<b>Donor</b>	<i>In Honor of</i>
Michael & Linda Mass.....	The naming of granddaughter Eleanor May Mass
<b>Donor</b>	<i>In Memory of</i>
Pamela Zitron & Jake Gallun.....	Charlie Hauptman
Sheila Fieldman .....	Helen Rixon

### RABBI'S GOOD DEED FUND/COVID-19 EMERGENCY FUND

**Donor**  
 Martin & Jo Frost

### RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

<b>Donor</b>	<i>In Memory of</i>
Sherry & Mark Trachtman.....	Betty Troum
Greg & Marcy Babitz.....	Lorraine Babitz
Jane & David Dinsmore .....	Joan Kossoff

*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.*

## Congregational Kudos

**T**HANKS TO EVERYONE who helped make our outdoor hanukkiyah lightings a success!

- Brotherhood's builders who erected our new nine-foot hanukkiyah — which arrived without instructions!
- Spruce Frazer and Jesse Reisman who helped check in and provision cars as they arrived
- Religious School families, Brotherhood, WRJ, and the Sip and Schmooze Wine Tasting Group who "sponsored" various nights of the event and helped drive up attendance

## Welcome Back to the Board

**I**T HAD LONG BEEN the practice at Beth El, until pandemic hit, that any and all members were welcome to address the Board of Directors from 7:00 – 7:15 at the Board's monthly meeting, and then welcome to stay and observe the rest of the meeting (except when the Board goes into executive session). As with so many other facets of our lives, the Board has been working out how it does business over Zoom. Starting with our January 19, 2021 meeting,\* we once again invite you to join us to speak and/or observe. We will include the Zoom information in the weekly email the week before each board meeting, or you can see the board materials and get the link by mousing over **My Account** after you log in to Shul Cloud.

*\* Usually the board meets on the third Tuesday of a month, but sometimes that changes — always check the online calendar.*

## New on Our Website

### Events of Interest

**T**HERE ARE A HOST of events — local, national, international — that your leadership becomes aware of and wants to share with you. Events range from musical to medical. When they are not specifically Beth El-related, we are going to stop including them in the weekly email and post them on the website instead. The weekly email will contain a list of the events and a link to this page to learn more.

Here's some events coming up in the new year:

- Anti-racism events in January and February
- Alexandria Caregiver Support Program
- A special book launch

Find this page from the link on our homepage or point your browser at:

<https://www.bethelhebrew.org/events-of-interest.html>

### New to Our Area

**W**E ALL KNOW this is a pretty transient area compared to some metro areas in the country. Let's make newcomers feel welcome to the area and to Beth El.

So far the [New to Our Area](#) page has sections for Social Opportunities (ex. Pozez JCC), Social Services (ex. JSSA), Jewish Education (ex. J-Care and Gesher), and Jewish Dining (ex. Chutzpah and Main Street). We hope you will help us add information to those sections and suggest additional sections.

Find this page by mousing over [Welcome](#) on our homepage or point your browser at:

<https://www.bethelhebrew.org/new-in-area.html>

Send comments and suggestions to [bulletin@bethelhebrew.org](mailto:bulletin@bethelhebrew.org)

### We Are Looking Forward to Our 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Book Sale Someday

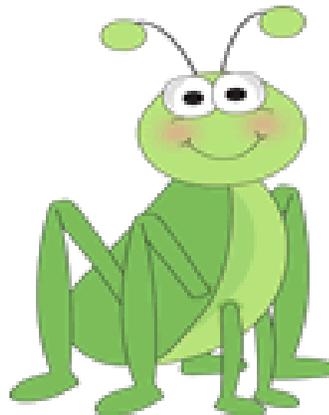
Now is a great time to go through your book shelves and put aside the books, movies, and puzzles you no longer want for this very popular fundraiser.

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, 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.

Questions or need help? Contact Rhoda Goldman at [lennieg@cox.net](mailto:lennieg@cox.net) or 703-992-9370.



*\*A noble soul recently brought us a whole neighborhood's worth — 60 boxes of books!*



### T's T-Shirt Plus

Design Anything on a T-Shirt or Baseball Hat

Beth El Member  
Jerry Terlitzky

Text or call me at  
(703) 508-4048

Email me at  
[tsshirtsplus@aol.com](mailto:tsshirtsplus@aol.com)

To get a price for a T-shirt or hat, email or text me your name and phone number. Attach what you would like – jpeg, artwork, words, etc.

Transfer and vinyl printing only

No minimum!

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Adults (S-3X) start at \$12  
Kids (2T-L) start at \$8

Baseball Hats  
Start at \$8

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**Business Logo Swag**  
**Birthdays \* Wedding Parties**  
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## REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

J-Care - Alexandria, a partnership of Beth El Hebrew Congregation and the Pozez JCC, offers 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.

J-Care Alexandria offers a Reggio Emilia-inspired philosophy, is licensed by the State of Virginia, and is open to all members of the community.

Year-round program, Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm.

Health and safety protocols are in place.

For more information or a virtual tour, please contact

Director Dina Backer  
[dina.backer@thej.org](mailto:dina.backer@thej.org)

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

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# The Bulletin

Beth El Hebrew  
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[office@bethelhebrew.org](mailto:office@bethelhebrew.org)  
[bulletin@bethelhebrew.org](mailto:bulletin@bethelhebrew.org)

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## Hold the Date

Adult Education: *For Those Who Can't Believe*,  
Jan. 20, Feb. 3, 10, 24, and March 3

The Caring Community Committee Presents *Positive Aging*, Feb. 2

Federation of Greater Washington: Behind the Scenes  
Interview with the Creators of New Netflix Series  
*Fauda*, Feb. 4

Brotherhood Public Policy Forum: *Recognizing and Combating Antisemitism at Home and Abroad*, Feb. 7

Pozez JCC and American Red Cross Blood Drive,  
March 8

Erev Purim, Feb. 25

First Seder, March 27

Congregational Passover Celebration, March 28

Passover Festival/Yizkor Services, April 3

Last Day of Religious School, May 23

Confirmation Shabbat Service, May 14

Please check the online Beth El calendar or email [office@bethelhebrew.org](mailto:office@bethelhebrew.org) before leaving to attend ANY event. As we go to press, the building may start opening up SLOWLY but there will be few in-person events in January.