



Beth El Bulletin

Beth El Hebrew Congregation

June 2016
Iyar/Sivan 5776

Worship Services

Friday, June 3

Erev Shabbat Service, 7:30 pm

Saturday, June 4

Shabbat Morning Service and
Bat Mitzvah of Danielle Sassin,
daughter of Clair Sassin,
10:30 am

Shavuot Tot Shabbat, 9 am

Friday, June 10

Brotherhood Shabbat/
Erev Shabbat Service, 7:30 pm

Saturday, June 11

Shabbat Morning Service and
Bar Mitzvah of Braden Stewart,
son of Mason and Julia Stewart,
10:30 am

Sunday, June 12

Shavuot/Confirmation Service
and Yizkor, 10:30 am

Friday, June 17

Soul Shabbat Service, 7:30 pm

Saturday, June 18

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

Friday, June 24

Erev Shabbat Service, 7:30 pm

Saturday, June 25

Shabbat Morning Service,
10:30 am

Celebrate Rabbi Isserow's 25 Years in the Rabbinate



ON Friday, June 17 there will be a special congregational dinner to celebrate Rabbi Isserow's 25 years in the rabbinate. This milestone was recognized by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) on March 30

when Rabbi Isserow and other HUC-JIR alumni were awarded honorary Doctorates of Divinity in recognition of their 25 years of distinguished professional service.

Beth El's Brotherhood will cater a deli-



cious buffet dinner (including a vegetarian option). The pre-service dinner is sold out; thank you for your overwhelming support. Please note that there will not be a wine and cheese pre-oneg.

The celebration will continue at Shabbat Services, and a very special Oneg provided by the Women of WRJ will follow the service.

Join us as we celebrate this milestone in the life of our beloved rabbi!



In this Issue

Rabbi's Remarks	2	Beth El/JCCNV Events.....	9	A Beth El Treasure.....	19
Cantor's Corner	3	Cherish the Jewish Educator	10	Culture Club	19
Judaica Shop	3	Confirmation Service.....	11	Strategic Plan Implementation Update	21
President's Point of View.....	4	Calendar	12-13	Beth El/JCCNV ECLC	22
Readers of Beth El	4	Beth El House	14	Martin Mintz Award.....	22
WRJ Social Action	5	New Beth El Program.....	15		
Brotherhood News	6	Donations.....	16		
WRJ News	7	Member News	17		
Ross Scholarship Award.....	8	Inclusion Events	18		
Caring Community	8				

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





I really look forward to the opportunity to explore some of this literature and even more sharing this knowledge with you in future adult education classes.

Rabbi's Remarks

MOST OF us are very familiar with the old cliché “Time flies when you are ...!” but sometimes in retrospect it does seem to go pretty quickly. It has been seven years since I took my last Sabbatical and the Congregation has granted me the gift of another. However, because of how the B’nei Mitzvah schedule has worked out I will be spreading this Sabbatical over two years. Instead of two three month chunks, I will be taking it over each July/August and December/January for both the 2016/7 and 2017/8 years.

As you will read elsewhere in this Bulletin, Beth El recently successfully applied for a Jewish Federation of Greater Washington Innovation grant. The proposal outlined a course which seeks to use Western culture as a portal into studying Jewish history, theology and philosophy throughout the ages. It requires the development of a curriculum for both adult learners and for 8th grade religious school students. That is my project for this sabbatical!

I am not sure whether the two months will be sufficient time, but it will allow me to get several of the earlier sessions and museum visits planned. I will also be consulting with several experts in the fields of art, literature, and music, as well as folks who have had extensive experience in curriculum development. If you have any suggestions, please contact me. I look forward to receiving some innovative ideas and being introduced to some unusual approaches.

One further goal for this Sabbatical is to read some of the books I have put aside until I can study them with greater concentration. Many deal with subjects that are too complicated or intense to read piecemeal and re-

quire several hours of dedicated, undisturbed time. I really look forward to the opportunity to explore some of this literature and, even more, to sharing this knowledge with you in future adult education classes.

Apart from these projects I am going to try to find some time to relax. It may sound strange, but I am also actually looking forward to having time to think! The constant pressure, the never-ending juggle of time and need for triage decisions too many times a day are not conducive to deep thought. In the months ahead I hope to set aside some time for meditation, for taking a few hours to refresh my own body, mind, and especially soul.

In this way, I hope to come back in the late summer with renewed energy, fresh ideas and new inspiration, all of which will benefit Beth El.

While I am away Cantor Kaufman will be available, and when he takes his well-deserved vacation, we have arranged for colleagues in the area to cover for us. I must ask for your patience and consideration over the summer. In normal circumstances the tasks are numerous and the demands made on us are intense, and it is all the more so when there is only one person available to respond.

Thank you, Beth El, for granting me the opportunity to take this Sabbatical and hopefully we will both reap the benefit of the time I will be able to dedicate to our Innovation project as well as that taken for rejuvenation and renewal.

Enjoy the summer and see you in the early fall.

Brett

17TH ANNUAL WASHINGTON
JEWISH MUSIC FESTIVAL



JUNE 3-15

The Howard and Geraldine Polinger Family
Foundation is the Major Sponsor of the
Washington Jewish Music Festival



Cantor's Corner

SHABBAT services on Friday nights in May and June are always exciting times for us at Beth El. In addition to the usual Friday night service, we often hold special themed services such as WRJ Shabbat, Brotherhood Shabbat, and Board Installation Shabbat, just to name a few!

In addition to these special occasions, this year we are hosting a momentous Shabbat service in honor of Rabbi Isserow's 25 years in the rabbinate.

To mark this occasion, earlier this Spring, Rabbi Isserow attended a special ceremony at the Cincinnati Campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, where he received an honorary doctorate. I am told that it was a beautiful and meaningful service that honored all of the leadership and learning that comes with 25 years of the Rabbinate.

It is now Beth El's honor to mark this special occasion in the life of our beloved rabbi. I hope you'll join the entire Beth El community on June 17, for what will be a beautiful evening honoring an individual who is so important to us, our families, and our entire community.

Words cannot express how lucky I feel to call Rabbi Isserow not just my colleague but also my rabbi. He is — as you know — a

remarkable person. Rabbi Isserow is the type of clergy partner that cantors pray to work with. He is the textbook definition of the word "mensch." With kindness, wit, humility, and a vast and deep knowledge of Torah, Rabbi Isserow leads Beth El in a way that empowers all of us to create Jewish meaning in our lives. Through his teaching of *mussar*, a subject of Jewish learning of particular importance to Rabbi, he continuously teaches us how we can dive deep within our Jewish texts to be the best versions of ourselves. Because of Rabbi Isserow, we are a stronger, kinder, wiser, and more compassionate Jewish community.

I know I speak for so many not just within the walls of Beth El, but also throughout the entire Alexandria community, when I say he is not just our rabbi, but also our friend.

Through classes, services, meetings, and all sorts of informal gatherings, Rabbi spends his time showing us how much we mean to him. Please join me as we celebrate Rabbi Isserow's 25 momentous years in the rabbinate, so we can show him how much he means to us.

Cantor Jason Kaufman



I know I speak for so many not just within the walls of Beth El, but also throughout the entire Alexandria community, when I say he is not just our rabbi, but also our friend.

Judaica Shop End-of-the-Year Sale In Progress

Stop by the Beth El Sisterhood Judaica Shop for some good deals on your favorite merchandise. All of our stock (except books and already reduced items) is 30% off! Get dad some "Jewish" socks for Fathers Day, shop for your favorite grad, or buy a special piece of jewelry that you have had your eyes on. No additional discounts apply during our sale. Summer hours at the gift shop begin when religious school ends. We will still be open on Friday nights a half hour before services begin during the summer months. Happy shopping!



President's Point of View



We are so grateful for the assistance of our loyal volunteers who perform services for the congregation to make this a better community without any expectation of remuneration.

I CONFESS that I love Game of Thrones. One of my favorite characters is Tyrion Lannister, masterfully played by Peter Dinklage. As little person (or dwarf as he is referred to in the books and the show) he is an outcast and therefore lives by his wits. Last Sunday night, Tyrion went to the dungeon to free some dragons in captivity. As he was making his acquaintance with the dragons, he said, "I'm here to help. Don't eat the help." Earlier this week when I was on the receiving end of an unhappy congregant's tirade, Tyrion's words came back to me.

This synagogue has wonderful and dedicated staff. We are also fortunate to have a cadre of tireless and willing volunteers. Some long-term members may remember a time when we had even more volunteers. The fact is that there are more demands on people's time than ever before. So many worthy organizations compete with Beth El for your time. And that's not counting the ever increasing demands of the workplace (requiring that we all do more with fewer resources) and the time you parents spend chauffeuring your children around. We are so grateful for the assistance of our loyal volunteers who perform services for the congregation — without any expectation of

remuneration — to make this a better community. The fact is that but for volunteers, your children would not eat before Religious School, you would have no bulletin to look forward to, no one would welcome you to Shabbat Services, and you wouldn't have a voice through the Board and Executive Committee.

Soon we will be installing a new Board, and as we close our fiscal year, it is time to say thank you. Thank you to our clergy and our staff. Thank you to all the volunteers who make Beth El our spiritual home. Thank you to those who give their time generously and thank you to those who are just beginning to dip a toe in the water. A thank you to Brotherhood, WRJ, all the committee chairs and their committees, and a special thank you to the incoming Board members and those Board members who are retiring this year. It is not possible to thank everyone personally in this column, but I will try to do so as I go about my business as your President. I hope that you will join me in doing so. And, please, let's be kind and patient with our volunteers. We're here to help. Please don't eat the help.

Julienne Bramesco



Are you interested in a social action project? If so, Beth El House can help you find a place to use your skills and talent to help families achieve sustainable independence. We're looking for an accountant to give about 10 hours a month. If you're interested, please contact **Melonie Barrow**, Beth El House Executive Director, at Melonie.barrow@gmail.com.

The Readers of Beth El will hold our last book group of the reading year on Monday, June 6, 2016 at 6:30 pm at the home of Ilene Reiter. We will enjoy a pizza and salad dinner and watch the movie version of *700 Sundays*, the book we read and discussed in September. We will be discussing book ideas for next year at this meeting. If you have any questions about our book group, please email **Lynne Orens** at lrens750@aol.com.



Ushers are needed For the following Friday night services: June 3, 10, 24.

If you are interested, please contact Michelle Coon by email at usher5776@gmail.com or by phone or text at 703-981-2126.

Chapel in the Woods

Plan to attend workdays scheduled throughout the summer on Sundays, June 12, July 10, and Aug. 14 from 10 a.m. to noon. Please bring work gloves, and clippers if you have them. Other equipment will be provided. If you have Virginia native plants in your garden and would like to donate them, or for more information, contact todd.bolick@gmail.com.



Carol Boyd Leon and her family wish to thank Rabbi Isserow for participating in the May 9 Celebration of Life memorial service for her husband, Joseph Massa, and the Beth El Caring Community for baking cookies and beautifully setting up the dessert reception that followed the service. “Miss Carol” also wishes to thank Cantor Kaufman for filling in for her at Tot Shabbat services during Joe’s month-long period of hospice care as well as during Carol’s bereavement period that followed.

INOVA Alexandria Fundraiser

The Board of Lady Managers, Founder and Supporter Since 1872, of INOVA Alexandria Hospital will host their 18th Annual Brunch at Union Street Public House, 121 South Union Street, Alexandria, Virginia, Sunday, June 12, 2016 from 11:30 am-2:30 pm. Donation amount per person \$30, \$40, \$55, children ages 6-12 \$15, and ages 5 and under free (gratuity included, cash bar) will benefit the INOVA Alexandria Hospital Surgical Services for the purchase of two LEICA OH-5 neurology microscopes critical to the hospital’s designation as a “Comprehensive Stroke Center.”

Beth El’s representatives on the Board are **Marjorie Harris and Nancy Leisch**. For reservations or information contact **Janet Barnett** at 703-751-6586.



WRJ Social Action

STAFF AND graduates of the **Friends of Guest House** program will visit Beth El on June 15 at 6 pm. Friends of Guest House is a non-profit, founded in 1974 to help women in Northern Virginia make a successful transition from incarceration to being self-sufficient, responsible members of the community. Guest House addresses the root causes of crime to reduce recidivism. Without transition support, 70% of ex-offenders nationwide will commit a crime again within two years. Among Guest House graduates, fewer than 10% re-offend.

Join us on June 15 at 6 pm to hear from graduates and the staff of Friends of Guest House regarding this highly successful program – the only program of its kind in Northern Virginia! Friends of Guest House is about 2.5

miles from BEHC.

THANK YOU – to all who contributed to our men’s and women’s **Professional Clothing Drive!** StriveDC was thrilled with the enormous collection of professional clothing to add to their “store” of clothing for people interviewing for jobs, and entering the professional workforce. Your generosity will give many men and women the extra assistance to get back on their feet!

Janet Garber
Garberj123@gmail.com
 703-256-7988

Brotherhood News

Brotherhood's annual End of Religious School Cook-out and Picnic is scheduled for June 5, the last day of Religious School classes.

IT SURE does not feel like spring is winding down for your Beth El Brotherhood! On June 10, our annual Brotherhood membership meeting will take place at 7 pm prior to the Brotherhood Shabbat Service. Thanks to Budget Committee members, **Todd Cohn** and **Roberto Mosse**, the 2016-2017 budget has been developed and is ready for presentation. Thanks to Constitution Committee members, **Todd Bolick** and **Jeremy Flachs**, we will be voting on a revised Brotherhood Constitution. Both reports are available for advance review at <https://www.bethelhebrew.org/community/brotherhood>.

The Brotherhood Man of the Year Award will be presented to **Norm Starler** during Shabbat services on June 10. (Because of other volunteer commitments, highlighted below, this year's meeting does not include a dinner.)

Brotherhood's annual end of religious school cook-out and picnic is scheduled for June 5, the last day of Religious School classes. Free hotdogs, hamburgers, sides, and sodas are available for all who simply show up at noon or thereabouts.

On June 17 there will be a special congregational dinner to celebrate **Rabbi Isserow's** twenty-five years in the rabbinate. Brotherhood catering will provide the delicious buffet dinner of chicken marsala and teriyaki salmon, with a vegetarian option available as well. The dinner will begin at 6 pm.

Speaking of Brotherhood catering, during the last couple of months Brotherhood provided b'nei mitzvah luncheons for **Ethan James**, **Joey Mesirow**, and **Alexa Rosman**. Thank-you for trusting Brotherhood with your important simchas! Huge thanks are extended to the numerous volunteers who make Brotherhood catering so successful, notably our chefs **Joel Bernstein** and **Jake Gallun**, lead contact, **Bob Shaver**, food purchaser **Henry Brooks**, and event volunteers (several of

whom helped at multiple events) **Jo Ann Allen**, **Susan Bomberg**, **Bernie Crane**, **Stuart Feldstein**, **Jay Heltzer**, **Jack Kaye**, **Annette Kilian**, **Jerry Leiss**, **Roberto Mosse**, **Susan Mosse**, **Susan Paley** and **Zeke Farkas**, **Dean Pinkert**, **Sue Rabin**, **Claire Sassin**, **Bill Schneider**, **Glenn Siegal**, **Mitch Singer**, **Vickie Spindler**, **Diane** and **Peter Suchman**, and **Rhubarb Woodmansee**. To learn more about how Brotherhood catering can serve you, please contact us at catering@bethelhebrew.org.

Our free Sports Forum featuring Cesar Brioso discussing his book *Havana Hardball* received cheers from the Beth El fans who attended. Kudos to event organizer **Ron Sturman** and volunteers **Jeff Davidson**, **Jack Kaye**, **Roberto Mosse**, **Steve Shapiro**, **Norm Starler** and **Gerrie Sturman**.

With the signing of a Joint Resolution by President Woodrow Wilson on May 8, 1914, Mother's Day was officially recognized as a day to celebrate moms in the US. About 75 years later, Beth El's Brotherhood initiated its annual Mother's Day Brunch. A really big thank-you goes out to the volunteers who made this year's festivities the best ever, including program chair, **Ron Sturman**, event manager, **Norm Starler** and chef team, **Jake Gallun** and **Pamela Zitron**. Thanks also to volunteers **Henry Brooks**, **Art Gershman**, **Miriam Collins**, **Matt Mutterperl**, **Karen Singer**, **Marty Singer**, **Gerrie Sturman**, **David** and **Michael Weinraub**, and the talented *Rock Hard Bagels* musicians: **Bob Holden**, **Paul Edelstein**, **Fred Reiner**, **Matt Scarborough**, **Dan Sreebny**, and **Bob Shaver**.

John Jankowski
Brotherhood President
brotherhood@bethelhebrew.org

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.

WRJ News

WHAT A JOY it was to have so many of you join us in May for WRJ Shabbat!! The food was delicious and varied, the energy was high, our Women of the Year, **Karen Aftergut** and **Evy Englander**, were gracious, our service was inspiring and fun, and a few people got lucky when they won a prize from our annual raffle.

Congratulations to our winners: **Nancy Soschin** won the \$200 Nordstrom gift card, **Sue Worden** won the \$100 Amazon gift card, and **Ruth Folkman** won the \$50 Judaica Gift Shop gift certificate. Many thanks to everyone who purchased tickets for this important fundraiser. We truly appreciate your support. Also, thank you to Cantor Kaufman and Rabbi Isserow for leading us in Kiddush and motzi, **Suzie Shalewitz** and **Janet Garber** for organizing the event, to

Jo Ann Allen for set-up, and to **Arline Sachs** for the scrumptious homemade challah that she generously provides to us every year.

We also gave a brief overview of our activities for the year along with a goal for the coming year. Our hope is to rejuvenate the "Book of Life" which records donations given to commemorate a special event in

history, an honor, or a life cycle event. The event is artistically recorded in an elegant book with the names of those who made the donations. We hope that many will take this opportunity to make a donation to WRJ and have their occasion commemorated as well. We have received our first donation in honor of **Evy Englander** being named one of our Women of the Year. If you would like to make a donation, please make checks out to BE-WRJ and send it into the synagogue.

On Wednesday, June 15, we will have a potluck dinner followed by a special presentation by "The Friends of Guest House." Full details are located in a separate article within this newsletter.

Have a great summer (if the weather ever matches the season),

Jeanette Astrow
WRJ President

Upcoming dates:

June 15 – Potluck followed by presentation by "The Friends of Guest House"

June 12 & 26 – Knitting

June 26 & 27 – Carpenters Shelter cooking and serving

Mah Jongg – Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday

Our hope is to rejuvenate the "Book of Life" which records donations given to commemorate a special event in history, an honor, or a life cycle event.



Photo Call from Beth El!

The Bulletin does not ONLY have to look forward to next month. If you had a fun or successful event last month, send us a few sentences and some photos and help us fill more of The Bulletin with pictures!

Also, have you noticed there is now a photo gallery on the public-facing Beth El website? Let's fill that up also!

Prospective new members look at the website and read The Bulletin! Let's show them the joy we take in participating in Beth El events!

Send photos (and captions to bulletin@bethelhebrew.org or office@bethelhebrew.org .

Taylor Daniels Awarded Ross Scholarship



TAYLOR DANIELS, a senior at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, was awarded the 22nd annual Marc S. Ross Scholarship at Shabbat services on May 13. The scholarship was established to honor the memory of this Beth El past president.

Taylor is an outstanding young woman who demonstrates her commitment to Judaism and its values in many ways. She was a dedicated student at our religious school through Bat Mitzvah, Confirmation, and Post Confirmation. Taylor chants Torah at High Holiday Services.

Taylor has been Assistant Office Manager in our religious school throughout high school. In addition, she was a Hebrew tutor and taught in our school. She has worn many hats because

she steps in where needed, is dedicated, reliable, efficient, and devotes herself to the tasks at hand. Taylor worked in the JCC Preschool in the summer and winter breaks. She excelled in this role as well. The children, their parents and other staff admired Taylor.

Taylor is an exceptional student and participated in the Science and Technology program in high school. She is a member of the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. She is team captain of the Girls' Varsity Lacrosse Team. Taylor has won numerous academic awards including AP Scholar With Honor and Science and Technology Service Award. Taylor plans to major in chemical engineering in college.

Taylor is an extraordinary young woman who has devoted herself to scholarship, leadership, and Jewish values. She exemplifies the main principles of this scholarship. Mazel Tov to Taylor and her family!

Caring Community

WE REALLY appreciate all of the contributions members have made to make Beth El a truly caring community.

Do you know of a congregant who is ill or in need of assistance? The Caring Community can provide visits, transportation, meals, assistance with funerals and shivas, a friendly ear, and resources for managing life events. All services are confidential and free of charge. If you need assistance or information, please call the Beth El office at 703-370-9400, **Ruth Perlstein** at 703-978-9341, or **Pamela Zitron** at 703-739-0161.

Have any of you had a good experience with home health care or other service? Please let **Pamela Zitron** (zitronspks@aol.com) know. She would like to develop a list of Beth El recommended resources along with the many resources she maintains.



Beth El/JCCNV Events

Accuracy in Middle East Reporting: A Close-Up Look

**Wednesday, June 1
10:30 am–noon**

Presenter: Eric Rozenman, Washington Director, CAMERA; former editor of B'nai B'rith's international Jewish monthly magazine and the Washington Jewish Week.

Join us for a very informative program with Eric Rozenman, the Washington Director of the Boston-based Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America (CAMERA). The topics he will cover include coverage of the 2014 Gaza War and the 2015-2016 "Stabbing Intifada." Started around a kitchen table in Herndon, VA, in 1982, CAMERA has 65,000 members in more than a dozen countries and offices in Jerusalem, Washington, Los Angeles and South Florida, in addition to Boston. CAMERA monitors the news media and other communications outlets according to traditional journalism standards including accuracy, objectivity, balance, context, absence of conflicts of interest, and willingness to promptly correct errors.

Separation of Church and State: Five Questions to Ask the Candidates (rescheduled from April)

**Agudas Achim Congregation,
2908 Valley Drive, Alexandria
(Please note location, day and time)**

Join with Agudas Achim congregants as Rabbi Jack Moline, Executive Director of the Interfaith Alliance discusses "Separation of Church and State: Five Questions to Ask the Candidates." The Interfaith Alliance is an organization that works with religious leaders and

politicians to help navigate the boundary between politics and religion in order to safeguard the separation of church and state. A free, kosher lunch will be served at noon followed by the program.

**RSVP is a must by
Monday, May 30 to
Shelly.Rosenstein@jccnv.org,
703.537.3062**

**Wednesday, June 15,
10:30am–noon**

A Musical Morning with Cantor Kaufman

Presented by: Cantor Jason Kaufman, Beth El Hebrew Congregation accompanied by Shelly Rosenstein, Adult Group Coordinator

What better way to welcome the summer season than with a morning of wonderful music! Back by popular demand, Beth El's own Cantor Jason Kaufman accompanied on the piano by the J's Group Coordinator, Shelly Rosenstein, will treat you to a program of Broadway music as well as beloved Jewish melodies. Cantor Kaufman received his cantorial ordination from the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music at Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC–JIR) in New York City, where he also received a Master's Degree in Sacred Music in 2010. We are so pleased to have him join us again!

Heurich House Museum Tour, Concert and Lunch

Wednesday, June 22, depart Beth El 10am; return 4pm

Join us for a cultural outing in the city as we begin the day with a private tour of the amazing Heurich House at Dupont Circle. This is one of the few grand mansions that has survived since the turn of the 20th

century and it is notable for its technological innovations, original interiors, and rich archival collections. This house, a landmark on the National Register of Historic Sites, was once owned by brewmaster Christian Heurich, and incorporates some of the most modern inventions of its day. Features include full indoor-plumbing, circulating hot-water heat, a venting skylight, and gas and electric light fixtures.

After the tour, sit back, relax, and enjoy a free, classical music concert in the mansion's conservatory. The concert is sponsored by the Friday Morning Music club, the Washington area's premier producer of free, classical music (check back with Shelly for performance details). After the concert, we will head to Shirlington for lunch, where you can stroll the streets and choose a restaurant of your liking. What a great way to spend a summer afternoon!

Fee: \$24/ \$20 J or synagogue member (includes concert, transportation and private museum tour). Lunch is on your own.

Code: #7375

RSVP: Submit payment and registration form by June 15th to the J, Attn: Shelly Rosenstein. Make check payable to JCCNV with "6/22" on memo line.

**Wednesday, June 29 –
No Program**

All Beth El/JCCNV events are \$4/\$2 for J or synagogue members 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



Beth El's Jewish Educators are a blessing to our congregation.

Cherish the Jewish Educator

ON JUNE 5, we will have our annual Teacher Appreciation Breakfast from 8-10 am. You are all invited. There is no charge to attend, we just need you to let us know how many people to expect.

Now that you have an official invitation to the Teacher Appreciation Breakfast, I want to spend a few words on why we should appreciate our Jewish Educators. In fact, we should not only appreciate them — we should cherish them. Why — because they are one of the most important links to creating for our children a Jewish identity and community, and assuring that the mission of the Religious School is accomplished? Our Jewish Educators spend many uncompensated hours communicating with parents and students, preparing lesson plans, and engaging in professional development.

Beth El's Jewish Educators are a blessing to our congregation. Many of them are members of Beth El and serve in Leadership positions. Many of our Jewish Educators have been with us for over five years which results in continuity and a strong connection to Beth El.

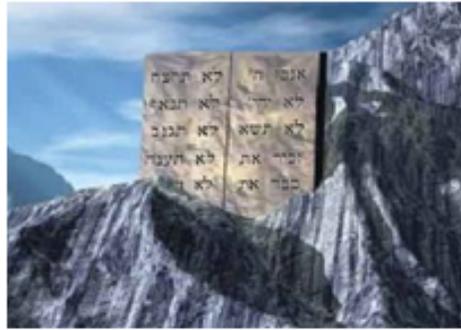
Below are the names of our teachers. Each one is a jewel that we cherish.

- **Clergy – Rabbi Isserow and Cantor Kaufman**
- **Assistant Education Director – Laura Naide**
- **Kindergarten – Joan Weber, Bethany Dettwyler**
- **First Grade – Carrie Katz, Tania Wingfield-Karpowitz, Stacy Tippens**
- **Second Grade – Leslie Frew (Hebrew), Debbie Katz**
- **Third Grade – Clair Sassin, Joanne Rhodes (Hebrew)**
- **Fourth Grade – Nancy Tobin (Hebrew), Tammy Duprey (Hebrew), Simon Gershman**
- **Fifth Grade – Dina Backer (Hebrew), Randy Schoch**

- **Sixth Grade – Glenn Siegal, Elizabeth Evans (Hebrew), Suzy Bah (Hebrew)**
- **Seventh Grade – Sue Keitleman, Susan Zernik, Ross Bell, Sabrina Sussman**
- **Eighth Grade – Michael Kurtzig, Larissa Bell**
- **Ninth Grade – Ross Bell, Jason Kromirs**
- **Confirmation – Todd Levine, Mary Meyerson**
- **Special Needs Coordinator – Marissa Smolinsky**
- **Youth Engagement – Nori White, Dina Backer, Marissa Smolinsky**
- **Tot Shabbat – Carol Boyd Leon**
- **Adult Hebrew – Barbara Silversmith, Jeanette Astrow, Suzy Bah**
- **Better Together Program – Clair Sassin, Sue Keitelman, Arne Meyrow**
- **Co-Teachers (Students) – Taylor Daniels, Leor and Sheir Clark, Isaac Aftergut, Jacob Levine, Noah Mutterperl, Marika Moritmer-Lotke, Shiri Abromovitch, Diana Haemer, Jenna Silversmith, Liz Brodie, Sarah Leckman**

L'Shalom,
Barry Smith,
 A Very Grateful Director of Education





Beth El Hebrew Congregation
Invites you to attend our Confirmation Service
On Sunday, June 12, Two Thousand Sixteen
6 Sivan, Five Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six
At ten-thirty in the morning
3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Virginia

Brett R. Isserow, Rabbi

Jason Kaufman, Cantor

Todd Levine & Mary
Meyerson
Confirmation Teachers

Barry Smith
Director of Education

Laura Naide
Assistant Education Director

Julienne Bramesco
President

CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 5776 (2015-16)

Jonathon Martin Ball
Zeke Paley Farkas
Jason Kyle La Kier
Justin Ethan La Kier
Abigail Harper Levine
Seth Elliot Lewis

Hannah Beth Meisner
Thea Zippora Mills
Tatiana Esther Rivera
Caroline Frances Schneider
Samuel Arthur Statter
David Elias Zahniser

Light dairy lunch following ceremony

~ June 2016 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
<p><i>June is: Adopt a Shelter Cat Month; African American Music Appreciation Month; Audio Book Appreciation Month; Caribbean-American Heritage Month, Cataract Awareness Month; National Turkey Lovers Month; Dairy Month; National Bathroom Reading Month; National LGBT Pride Month; National Migraine Awareness Month; National Steakhouse Month, National Zoo and Aquarium Month, and both Sorghum and Skyscraper month... because who doesn't think of sorghum and skyscrapers at the same time???</i></p>			<p>1 Global Parents' Day 10:30a-12p BEHC/JCCNV Event at BEHC 12-1p Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington event 6-7:30p WRJ Board Meeting 6:15-8p Religious School 6:15-7:15p Yoga 7-9p Intro to Judaism Class</p>
<p>5 World Environment Day Last Day of Religious School/Picnic 8-10a Teacher Appreciation Breakfast 9-10a Hebrew Enrichment 10a-12p Religious School 10a-12p WRJ Mah Jongg 11a-12p Religious School Closing Assembly 11a-2p DCJCC Music in the Park 12-4p 2016 NoVa Israel Fest 12:15-1:30 p End-of-year luncheon for gift shop ladies 1-4p Bridge 1-3p Choir Rehearsal 5p Zemer Chai Gala 40th Anniversary Concert, Adas Israel 6:30p Readers of Beth El</p>	<p>6 12p and 7p DCJCC Jewish Music Festival Events</p>	<p>7 ECLC Exhibit Opens, Main Hall DC JCC Film: Every Word Has Power: The Poetry of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel 1:30-3:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 1-10p EC Meeting 6:45p Alternative Shavuot Experience at Sixth and I 7p DCJCC Jewish Music Festival Event</p>	<p>8 World Oceans Day 10:30a-12p BEHC/JCCNV Event not BEHC 7-9p Intro to Judaism Class 7-8:30p Choir Rehearsal 7:15-8:15 Mussar with Rabbi Isserov 8:30p DCJCC Jewish Music Festival Event</p>
<p>12 Shavuot 10a-12p Chapel in the Woods Work Day 10:30 a- 2p Shavuot/Confirmation Service and Yizkor 11:30a-2:30p Fund Raiser Lunch for INOVA Alexandria Hospital 12-2p Confirmation Luncheon 1-4p Bridge 2-4p WRJ Knitting Group 6p LDP Graduation Dinner</p>	<p>13 Shavuot (Cont.)</p>	<p>14 Flag Day 11a-12:30p WRJ Book Club 1:30-3:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 6:30-9p RSY Meeting 7:30-9p HUC-JIR Event at Temple Shalom</p>	<p>15 Magna Carta Day 6:45a Serve Breakfast with Sixth and SOME 10:30a-12p BEHC/JCCNV Event at BEHC 6p WRJ Social Action Event with Friends of Guest House 7-9p Intro to Judaism Class 7-8:30p Choir Rehearsal 7p Jewish Music Festival Event 7:15-8:15 Mussar with Rabbi Isserov</p>
<p>19 Father's Day 8:30-10a Brotherhood Board Meeting 1-4p Bridge 2:30p DCJCC Poetry Workshop</p>	<p>20 Summer Solstice 7:30p DCJCC Poetry Evening</p>	<p>21 International Yoga Day 1:30-3:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-10p Annual Meeting of the Congregation</p>	<p>22 World Music Day 10:30a-12p BEHC/JCCNV All-Day Event Leaving from BEHC 7-9p Intro to Judaism Class</p>
<p>26 Forgiveness Day 10a-2p Carpenters Shelter Food Prep 10a-12p HBS Annual Meeting 1-4p Bridge 2-4p WRJ Knitting Group</p>	<p>27 Sunglasses Day</p>	<p>28 1:30-3:30p WRJ Mah Jongg DCJCC Author Event</p>	<p>29 International Mud Day 6:30-7:30p Torah Study Shabbat Dinner 7-9p Intro to Judaism Class</p>

Year/Sivan 5776

	Thu	Fri	Sat	Readings
	2 6:30-8:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-8p Beth El House 7-8p Funding Our Future 7-11p Bridge	3 National Donut Day 6:30-7:30p Wine and Cheese Pre-Service Oneg 7:30p Erev Shabbat Service and Presentation of the Martin Mintz Award Candle lighting 8:13	4 Hug Your Cat Day 9-10:30a Torah Study 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service and Bat Mitzvah of Danielle Sassin 11a-12p Shavuot Tot Shabbat 8p DCJCC Jewish Music Festival Event Havdalah 9:19	Bechukotai Leviticus 26:3-27:34 Jeremiah 16:19-17:14
at	9 Donald Duck Day 12-1p Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington event 6:30-8:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-11p Bridge 7p DCJCC Jewish Music Festival Event	10 National Iced Tea Day 6:15-7:30p Confirmation Shabbat Dinner 6:30-7:30p Wine and Cheese Pre-Service Oneg 7:30p Erev Shabbat Service and Brotherhood Shabbat Candle lighting 8:17	11 Worldwide Knit in Public Day 9-10:30a Torah Study 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service and Bar Mitzvah of Braden Stewart 3p Capital Pride 10:30p Jewish Music Festival Event Havdalah 9:24	Bamidbar Numbers 1:1-4:20 Hosea 2:1-22
d l	16 Fresh Veggies Day 11:30a Culture Club Potluck Luncheon 6:30-8:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-11p Bridge 7p Craft Spirits Tasting at Sixth and I 7p Jewish Cooking around the World at NVHC 7:30-8:30p Interfaith Bible Study	17 6-10p Celebration of Rabbi Isserow's 25 Years in the Rabbinate 6-7:30p Celebration Dinner 7:30p Erev Shabbat Service Candle lighting 8:20	18 International Picnic Day 9-10:30a Torah Study 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service Havdalah 9:26	Naso Numbers 4:21-7:89 Judges 12: 2-25
v	23 National Pink Day 6:30-8:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-11p Bridge	24 6:30-7:30p Wine and Cheese Pre-Service Oneg 7:30p Erev Shabbat Service and Installation of New Officers and Board of BEHC Candle lighting 8:21	25 Global Beatles Day 9-10:30a Torah Study 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service Havdalah 9:27	Behaalotecha Numbers 6:1-12:16 Zachariah 2:14-4:7
	30 Meteor Day 12:30-2p Beth El House 6:30-8:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-11p Bridge			



Beth El House

...helping homeless families, with an emphasis on victims of domestic violence, transition to independent living with dignity through its program of subsidized housing and individualized services....

WE ARE highlighting in this article an essential group of volunteers who serve as the Resident Services Selection Committee (RSSC) of the Beth El House (BEH) transitional housing program. For more information about BEH please go to our website at www.bethelhouseva.org.

The RSSC serves our residents in the following areas:

- (1) establishes and monitors resident policies, rules and regulations;
- (2) researches and offers resource referrals; and
- (3) interviews and selects prospective residents.

This information is passed on to the BEH Board of Directors for confirmation.

The RSSC partners with the Executive Director/Case Manager to use an Individual Action Plan which sets and tracks goals for each resident based on the following criteria:

- (1) families will be able to save more than when they entered the program in preparation for future self-sufficiency;
- (2) residents will have enough money for a security deposit and first month's rent for an apartment;
- (3) mothers will gain the skills to create responsible budgets;
- (4) families will improve in areas such as financial independence, education, increased confidence, improved literacy, employment, salary increases and parenting skills; and

- (5) residents will be provided individual clinical therapy through a licensed practitioner specializing in trauma care. BEH uses the Fairfax County Self-Sufficiency Matrices, adapted from the Arizona Self-Sufficiency Matrix, to measure resident progress.

The RSSC is chaired by **Bev Newborn** (elementary school educator, preschool parenting courses); **Jacqui Corcoran** (social work, family therapy); **Jennifer Collins** (social work, home staging); **Judith Chamot** (dietitian); **Jill Hanig** (social work, realtor); and **Merly Goldin** (attorney specializing in gender based violence). And a central member of this widely talented group is our outstanding Executive Director/Case Manager **Melonie Barrow** (Director of Family Programs for Transitional Housing and Homeless Services Program Supervisor).

BEH OPPORTUNITIES — Are you interested in a social action project? If so, we'd love to talk with you and help you find a place to use your skills and talent to help families achieve sustainable independence. If you can volunteer, we have short and long term projects that can be tailored to your interests and time commitment. We can only continue our service to the community with your help. ***Please note that we are looking for an accountant to give about 10 hours a month.***

If you're interested in helping BEH then please contact **Melonie Barrow**, Beth El House Executive Director, at Melonie.barrow@gmail.com.

A Sneak Preview of a New Program at Beth El

WITH THE generous support of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington (www.shalomdc.org), a multi-year pilot program is being formulated to introduce and explore Jewish history, theology, and practice in a unique and exciting way.

Over the centuries Judaism has evolved through a symbiotic relationship with different cultures. This program will use culture through art, music, and literature as a springboard to examine the lives, times, and thoughts of Jewish communities as they developed over the course of history in the Diaspora and in Israel.

The program will include multi-sessions over two academic years, including visits to the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC, and the Jewish Museum in Philadelphia. Each session will conclude with a light meal featuring food and music highlighting the specific period being studied and providing the opportunity for review and discussion of the session.

We anticipate that the pilot will have two tracks; the first for adult participants, and the second for the

Beth El 8th grade religious school class. The two tracks will be presented at different levels with extensive opportunities for interactive discussion among all participants, thus offering horizontal (peer group) and vertical (inter-generational) learning experiences. The program will encourage drawing parallels to issues that our community faces today.

The program will look at seven periods in the span of Jewish history. The several sessions may cover contemporary Jewish art — including film, music, and literature — with the emphasis on modern Israeli culture. For example, when considering the crossover period between the Renaissance and the Enlightenment, we would use the paintings of the Dutch Masters (especially Rembrandt) to discuss the Amsterdam Jewish community, linking back to the 1492 expulsion from Spain, the Converso's immigration, and then integrating a discussion on the role of philosophers like Baruch Spinoza in promoting ideas that led to the Enlightenment. This in turn would provide the foundation for the next session dealing

with political and philosophical revolutions of the 18th and 19th centuries and the formation of the Reform and Hasidic movements. Each session will conclude with the opportunity to review how the historical circumstances and theological ideas of each period may suggest solutions to the “big questions” that each participant identified at the beginning of the program. This will underscore the evolution of Jewish belief as well as emphasize the relevance of Jewish thought to contemporary issues, thereby encouraging individual spiritual exploration and growth.

Stay tuned for more detail as the pilot is formulated.

Rabbi Brett Isserow
Larry Vogel
Linda Waller

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

Registration for Preschool
For Fall 2016 is now OPEN!

Our Preschool offers part time and full time programs for students who are 2, 3 or 4 by September 30. And, a new full time toddler program for students who are 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 or dina.backer@jccnv.org.

We are growing, growing, growing so don't delay!

The Congregation Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations

ARNOLD G. FINK LEARNING CENTER & LIBRARY FUND

Donor Beverly Jeanne Davis..... *In Memory of* Rabbi Arnold G. Fink

BETH EL GENERAL FUND

Donor Colleen and Barrett Weiser *In Honor of* The Caring Community Committee
 Florence Foelak Myrna Beck, Ruth Perlstein and
 The entire Caring Community Committee

Donor Paul Wessel *In Memory of* Rosemary Wessel
 Judy Stark Carl Stark
 Kris Keydel Hans, Doris, Robert Keydel
 Erika Danty Karolina Block
 Larry Bosworth Martin Bosworth
 Andrea Nordell Elliott Thompson
 David Frank Samuel Frank
 Midge and John Burns Lynne Eisman, mother of Mitch Eisman

BETH EL MORTGAGE FUND

Donor Kaydence Otero
Donor Linda Simensky *In Memory of* Anita Simensky

ENDOWMENT FUND

Donor Jeremy Flachs
 Marsha Hertzberg
Donor Jeanette and Barry Astrow *In Honor of* Continued youth involvement at BEHC
Donor Susan Rabin *In Memory of* Harry Dangel, Jr., father
 Gail and Gary Lipkin Samuel Pavorsky
 Marjorie Harris Victoria Salomonsohn
 Sandra and Mark Werfel Sally Werfel
 Juliet and Michael Bluestein Freda Bluestein and Herman Needle
 Sandra Seitz Samuel Melnick

FAKOURY MUSIC FUND

Donor The Weiman Family *In Honor of* Cantor Kaufman and Robin Thompson
 for all their help preparing
 Lena for her Bat Mitzvah

Donor Laura Dove and Dan Solomon *In Appreciation of* Jacob Solomon's Bar Mitzvah

FROMA LIPPMANN FUND

Donor Myra Roney *In Memory of* Fred Grunwald

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL FUND

Donor Donna and Lou Widawski *In Memory of* Iser Widawski and Dominic Gasbarri

INA LERNER ISRAEL QUEST FUND

Donor Helene Butler *In Memory of* Mike Todd, beloved Godfather of Kaiya Levine

LANDO FUND

Donation Julie Lando *In Memory of* Sylvia Kadish, mother of Trudi Lando
 Steven and Barbara Pulver

PRAYER BOOK FUND

Donor Amy and Jeff Brodie *In Honor of* Lisa Sheldone, Liz and Ethan's B'nei Mitzvah tutor
Donor Eric Sokolove *In Memory of* Judy Sokolove

RABBI'S GOOD DEED FUND

Donor The Weiman Family *In Appreciation of* Rabbi Isserow and his help preparing
 Lena for her Bat Mitzvah

Donor Illa and Tim Brown *In Honor of* Rabbi Isserow, Ruth Perlstein, Judy Kramer
 and the entire Caring Committee
 Laura Dove and Dan Solomon *In Memory of* Jacob Solomon's Bar Mitzvah
 Dawn and Jack Kaye Rabbi Isserow receiving an honorary
 Doctorate of Divinity

Donor Sheila Fieldman *In Memory of* Goldie Fieldman
 Kathleen Levitz Laurel Schiffer Torgoff
 Leona and Doug Johnson Ida Keil
 Marcy and Greg Babitz Samuel Center
 Sybil and Ronald Levin Sarah Jacobson, Mary Jacobson and Jean Levin

SHARON STEINBERG FUND FOR INCLUSION

Donor Jeanette Astrow *In Honor of* The B'nei Mitzvah of
 Cassie Lustig and Joey Mesirow

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

Donor Samuel Ittelson *In Honor of* Lena Weiman's Bat Mitzvah

Donor Judi and Charles Broida *In Memory of* Benjamin Wenglin
 Ruth Perlstein and Diane Suchman Vic Cohen, father of Ayal Cohen

MARC S. ROSS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Donor Dawn and Jack Kaye *In Memory of* Harry Bressler
 Francie Fox Schweber Darleen Salomon

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.

— Moshe Teichman

B'nai Mitzvah

Danielle Sassin, June 4

Danielle A. Sassin is a seventh grade honor student in the Spanish immersion program at Gunston Middle School in Arlington. Her hobbies include tap dancing, gymnastics, swimming, acting and baking. She is on her school's dive team, enjoys sailing and wants to be a veterinarian. She loves to read, hang out with friends and take care of her two guinea pigs, Marty and Alex. Danielle thanks her mom, all her Religious School teachers, Jeanette Astrow, and the Rabbi and Cantor for all of their support.

Braden Stewart, June 11

Braden Stewart began attending Beth El's religious school just two years ago after he moved here from Montgomery, AL. Braden attends the Montessori program at Gunston Middle School in Arlington and plays euphonium in the concert band. In his free time, he enjoys sketching, designing Minecraft worlds, and traveling around the globe; his most recent stops have been Costa Rica and Montreal! Braden decided for his mitzvah project he would be a volunteer at The Fountains at Washington House retirement home, where he read to and played games with residents. Braden would like to thank his tutor, Laura Mandeles, Cantor Kaufman, and Rabbi Isserow, and is grateful for his grandparents, nana, and his great-aunt and uncle for making the long trip across the country to see him receive the Torah.



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.

THIS COULD BE YOUR AD!



Member News

Mazel Tov to:

Todd Bolick on his new job as District Executive Director in the National Capital Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Condolences to:

Lloyd and Susan Whitman and their children, Julian and Alana, on the death of Lloyd's stepfather, Charles Margolin.

Ellen and David Itkin and to their son Brady, on the death of Ellen's dear mother Helene Friedman Lloyd and Susan Whitman and their children, Julian and Alana, on the death of Lloyd's sister, Claire Fessler.

Carol Boyd Leon, Kaitlyn and Megan Massa, and Sarah Brett England, Jacob Boyd, and Jamie Boyd, on the death of Joseph Benjamin Massa.

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.



	ART GERSHMAN Coin Broker	
	703-960-2921	
	art@artcoins.com www.artcoins.com	
	Life Member of ANA LM 3968	

ReelAbilities Film, Keynote Speaker among Upcoming Inclusion Events

Treat no one lightly and think nothing is useless, for everyone has a moment and everything has a place.

— Pirkei Avot (Ethics of our Fathers), 4:3

THE Inclusion Committee has been investigating accessibility issues, and several of us have discussed potential improvements with the BEHC Executive Committee and Board, Executive Director Moshe Teichman, and the clergy. Even small changes can make a huge difference. For example, placement of the floor mats just inside the main Beth El doors was altered recently so that people who use walkers will not have to worry about these devices getting caught on the mats. (Special thanks go to **Evie Englander** for letting us know about this problem and how to correct it!)

In terms of disability/inclusion awareness, I am excited to announce two upcoming events. Please SAVE THE DATE for the following:

Sunday, Sep. 11, 4 pm
Anita

“Sneak Peek” film for the ReelAbilities Film Festival, co-sponsored by the Inclusion Committee and Women of Reform Judaism.

Initiated in NY in 2007 and now presented in many cities throughout the nation, the ReelAbilities Festival is the largest film festival in the U.S. dedicated to promoting an appreciation of the lives, stories, and artistic expressions of people with different abilities. Co-ordinated locally by the JCCNV, the Festival presents award-winning films by and about people with disabilities.

Anita is a film about a young woman with Down syndrome who leads an ordinary—if sheltered—life in Buenos Aires until one tragic morning in 1994, when she finds herself alone, lost and confused, following the bombing of the nearby Argentine Israelite Mutual Association building, the deadliest bombing in Argentina's history. As she learns to care for herself, Anita touches the lives of all those with whom she comes into contact.

Sunday, Oct. 23, 10:15 am
Brunch/Keynote Speaker
Inclusion Advocate Pamela Schuller

Author of the widely read op-ed, “I’m Not Your Mitzvah Project,” Pamela Schuller has worked for the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) for the past six years. She serves as an inclusion specialist for URJ youth programs, as well as the regional director of youth engagement for the Garden Empire Region. Pamela holds a bachelor’s degree in both psychology and youth outreach through the arts and a master’s degree in child advocacy and public policy from Montclair State University. Using storytelling and laughter, Pamela describes her own extraordinary experiences growing up with a disability and how she views inclusion differently.

In other news, the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington has created an online “Disabilities and Inclusion” page (<http://www.shalomdc.org/disabilitiesandinclusion/>) that is dedicated to advancing inclusion in our community. They are promoting information sharing, and they sponsored a roundtable discussion, which was attended by representatives of many local congregations’ inclusion committees including our own. Also, for information about upcoming disability and inclusion events in the local area (e.g., speakers, special programs, and even social skills workshops) please visit the Jewish Federation’s *Jconnect* page at <http://www.jconnect.org/Home/Special-Needs>.

Jeanne Holden
Inclusion Committee Chair

A Beth El Treasure

BEVERLY JEANNE DAVIS has been a member of Beth El for almost four decades. She was an art teacher in our school for over 30 years and has shared dozens of beautiful drawings with us. We have pictures of every holiday, the building itself, the Chapel in the Woods, Rabbi Fink, Rabbi Isserow, Cantor Steinberg, Cantor Schick, trees and birds in every season, children... the list goes on and on. What makes them even more special is the commentary she added to each of them. It's a little like a living history of Beth El. The pictures are now hanging on the bulletin boards in the Preschool hall and the Religious School halls and I urge you to take a few minutes next time you are here and go look at them; they are sure to brighten your day.

Beverly loves everything about being Jewish, but more than anything she loves Beth El. In addition to teaching art, she taught Hebrew, attended Torah study every Saturday and most every Tot Shabbat, even dressing up and making puppets for Purim and dancing and singing with Miss Carol. While still able, she attended every B'nei Mitzvah and wrote a personal note to each child telling them what a beautiful service it was and how happy she was to attend. On occasion, she would present the Kiddush cup and speak glowingly of the child which was easy because she had a personal knowledge of them.

She came to Beth El most every day of the week to visit The Rabbi Fink Chapel in the Woods to listen to the birds sing. As soon as the weather turned warm, she would buy beautiful red geraniums to plant. She took care of them herself, weeding, watering and picking off dead blooms and leaves. She would then come inside, visit the sanctuary and say a prayer, then walk or take the bus home.

At 90 years old she is still fiercely independent. With the support of her family she has taken up residence in an assisted living facility where she will have access to an aviary full of finches, an art room, a small garden where she can plant flowers and most importantly, new friends to make. She would love to get notes from her friends here at Beth El so if you would like to do that, please send them to the office and we will make sure she gets them.



Culture Club Annual Potluck Luncheon June 16

It's that time of year — some of Beth El's best cooks come together for our annual potluck luncheon to celebrate our adventures of the year in Culture Club.

Come join us for a delicious afternoon at Meryl's house on Thursday, June 16 at 11:30 am — whether you have participated every month, once in a while, or just want to get to know us, please come for the fun and camaraderie. You only have to be an adult Beth El member or guest of one to RSVP.

In order to coordinate the buffet selection, ***please RSVP no later than June 10*** and let me know what you are interested in providing for the potluck — as with all Beth El events, no shellfish or pork products. Beverages will be provided; lunch buffet is contributed by all participants. stafm@aol.com

Meryl Goldhammer

This year, we are very excited to celebrate Israel @ 68 on Sunday, June 5 from noon — 4:00 pm at Lerner Town Square in Tysons (8025 Galleria Dr., Tysons — next to the Tysons II Shopping Center. The festival space is on the corner of 123 & International Dr. and backs up to the metro).



The theme of this year’s celebration is: **Jerusalem**. June 5 is also **Yom Yerushalayim**, an Israeli national holiday commemorating the reunification of Jerusalem and the establishment of Israeli control over the Old City in June 1967.

Brotherhood’s Mother’s Day Brunch a Huge Success

FOOD prepared by the husband and wife team of **Jake Gallun** and **Pamela Zitron** and volunteer kitchen staff, and the rockin’ music of Beth El’s Rock Hard Bagels were the stars of this year’s annual tribute to women – Brotherhood’s May 8 Mother’s Day Brunch.

Beth El member **Sherri Shorestein** expressed in an email what so many people said of the event, “I want to thank... Brotherhood for a wonderful Mother’s Day brunch! The food was delicious, the entertainment was great, the roses were beautiful, and it was so wonderful to spend time with some of our Beth El friends. This was another fantastic event by the Brotherhood.”

Rabbi Isserow and **Cantor Kaufman** set the tone with a Motzi prayer and cantorial solo as about 85 people including the Rock Hard Bagels enjoyed a brunch of scrambled eggs and hash browns, three different salads, bagels, cream cheese and lox, cookies and rugelach.

Brotherhood president **John Jankowski** observed, “It took about 20 volunteers to bring this together. Brotherhood is proud to offer this annual event to thank women for all they do to bring meaning to their family lives and a sense of vibrancy to Beth El.”



Rock Hard Bagels Perform

Our Bustling Bagel Bar

MANY, MANY, many thanks to all of the Religious School parents who worked at the Bagel Bar on Sunday mornings this year! They continued the tradition of feeding many hungry students (and parents) and made it a success! Their efforts keep the Shapiro Religious School Scholarship Fund going. Thank you to the following folks (and sincere apologies if anyone was missed — we appreciate you very much, too):

David Berke
Gil Bolton
David Colton
Julie Dillinger
Anna Ellis
Traci Gravelle

Gordon Janis
Angela Lutzker
Susan Paley
Rodney Pick
Amber Reiter
William Salamon

Bob Shaver
Sheila Shoup
Linda Simensky
Rachael Turner
Beth Wagner
Nick Wagner
Stacy Weiner



Strategic Plan Implementation: Where Are We Now?

IN AUGUST 2015 the Board ratified a five year Strategic Plan for Beth El that defined five priorities for our congregation. We have organized task groups to direct implementation activities for each strategic priority. Below is a brief snapshot of what three of our task groups are doing to support strategic plan implementation. In next month's Bulletin we will describe the work of the remaining two task groups dealing with the *Strengthening our Governance*, and *Funding our Future* strategic priorities.

Strategic Priority:

Building a Welcoming and Cohesive Community

This task group is co-chaired by **Ilene Reiter** and **Linda Waller**. The task group's objectives are to help Beth El do a better job of recruiting and retaining members, welcoming and integrating new members into the congregation, and reaching out to members who would like to become more involved. As part of the implementation strategy we are participating in a Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) Community of Practice with the goal of helping congregants become better connected to Beth El and to each other, and to live meaningful Jewish lives. Throughout our strategic planning process, we consistently heard that our congregants seek a sense of community through their Beth El membership. The question, of course, is what exactly does that mean? How does that general feeling translate into tangible actions we can take to enhance our members' sense of belonging? To help answer the question, we are in the process of conducting "listening sessions" to help us better define what "community" really means to our congregants. Four small, informal sessions have been conducted to date and others will follow. At the conclusion of the listening campaign we will implement a series of small groups encompassing the wishes and needs of

our congregants. Some of these groups may be specifically Jewish in content; some may be more social. All will be focused on building connections.

Strategic Priority:

Furthering our Spiritual Journey

Implementation of this strategic priority is being led by **Rabbi Isserow**. Our efforts to date have been focused on securing grant funding from the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington to partially support an exciting new program devoted to the exploration of our Jewish history, theology, and practice. (See the accompanying article in the Bulletin that describes the program.) Fortunately, we received the grant and details of the program are being developed.

Strategic Priority:

Enhancing Communications and Collaboration

This task group is chaired by **Jay Lucas**. It has reviewed communications through the various sections and subcultures of Beth El and has found a dearth of hard data on which to base a new communications plan. We have thus prepared a survey to ask the congregation about its preferred ways of receiving and sending communications, and the effectiveness of the present channels of communications. This survey is currently being reviewed by the task group and will be presented to the Executive Committee in about a month. In addition, we have begun to formulate a plan for reaching out to unaffiliated households in communities such as Kingstowne and Cameron Station to make them aware of the many programs and services offered by Beth El.

Larry Vogel, Chair, Strategic Plan Implementation Group

Factoid: More than 1 million Americans and Canadians are affiliated with Reform congregations, making Reform Judaism the largest Jewish denomination in North America. The Reform Jewish Movement comprises nearly 900 congregations in the U.S. and Canada, more than 1,200 congregations worldwide, and the organizations and institutions that support the lay leaders, clergy, and Jewish professionals among its ranks. And probably all those other congregations are grappling with changing demographics and changing technology the same as we are. You read about URJ programs, grants, and Communities of Practice in The Bulletin because URJ and other congregations similar to ours provide the best resources for us to continue to grow and thrive in the face of change.



Beth El/JCCNV ECLC

IF YOU HAVE had the opportunity to walk down the pre-school hallways — both upstairs and downstairs — you may notice that our bulletin boards are amazingly full. And, you may also notice that these boards may not look like traditional boards displaying each child’s art piece in some way.

Instead, you will see a narrative of the activities that are happening in each classroom. As part of our Reggio Emilia Philosophy, we want to share all that we do and all that we learn. The “Documentation Narrative” allows us to do just that. It is

not just a display; it is a story. It doesn’t just tell what was done; it explains *why* it was done.

With child-centered exploration at the core of the Reggio Emilia Philosophy, children are more engaged, they learn to question (and how to research their questions), and they ultimately retain more information. The documentation is often a written record of the conversations and questions that happen in the classroom. All of our explorations are process-oriented, so not all of them have an individual “finished project.” Because of this, the

“Documentation Narrative” is a way of letting outsiders “peek” into the classrooms and into the minds of our young friends.

Our annual exhibit will be in the Temple’s main hall beginning on June 7. We hope that as you walk through, you will take a few minutes to see what is going on in our classrooms! Our Beth El families have much to be proud of from our youngest friends. We hope you enjoy the exhibit!

L’shalom,
— **Dina Backer**



Janet Garber Wins the 2016 Martin Mintz Award

THE 2016 Martin Mintz Award for outstanding volunteer service to Beth El is awarded to Janet Garber. Named for Martin Mintz, a much-loved and very active past president of Beth El, the award has been given each year since 1989 to a congregant who has demonstrated “effective, unselfish, humanitarian, continuing, long-term outstanding service to the congregation.”

Since joining Beth El, Janet jumped right in and has been an energetic, dedicated participant in almost all aspects of temple life. She serves on the Board of Directors and was on this year’s Nominating Committee. She is active in WRJ, where she has been a vice president and continues as its social action chair. In 2015, WRJ selected her Woman of the Year. Janet also serves as

a member of the Commission of Social Action of the URJ’s Religious Action Center (RAC). A longtime member of the Caring Community Committee, Janet takes a personal interest in assisting fellow congregants and transporting them to services. She served on the Strategic Planning Committee and is now active in the Strategic Plan Spirituality Implementation Group. In addition, Janet participates in a Mussar class, is active in social clubs and activities such as yoga and the running group, and freely volunteers her time to assist with various occasional temple activities such as the Purim Carnival.

The award will be presented at Shabbat services on June 3. Congratulations to Janet on winning this award!





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>

They are happier at home.
Have the peace of mind that they are safe and well cared for.

Our experienced and compassionate caregivers are here to help!



- Bathing
- Dressing
- Personal Hygiene
- Transferring/Lifting
- Companionship
- Meal Preparation
- Medication Reminder
- Laundry
- Light Housekeeping
- Transport/Errands

NurtureCare™
Home Care Since 1998
10301 Democracy Lane, Suite 200A
Fairfax, VA 22030

703.525.5900 www.NurtureCare.com

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

AUGUST
ARCHITECTURE | INTERIOR DESIGN

Residential & Commercial Architectural & Interior Design Services



VIRGINIA M. STEELE, AIA
e | vmsteele@augustarch.com
t | 571.620.2211

AUGUST ARCHITECTURE LLC
Fairfax, VA | www.augustarch.com

Hold the Date!

Jewish Playwriting Contest Winner *Redder Blood* World Premier, July 8-31

Chapel in the Woods Work Days, July 10 and Aug. 14

Brotherhood Board Meeting, July 17

Do Good with the Jewish Food Experience—Feed the Homeless, July 17

JCCNV Jewish Genetic Genealogy Workshop, July 25

Serve Breakfast to the Homeless with Sixth and I and SOME, July 20

Anita, "Sneak Peek" film for the ReelAbilities Film Festival, co-sponsored by the Inclusion Committee and Women of Reform Judaism, Sunday, Sep. 11, 4 pm

ReelAbilities Film Festival, Sep. 18-25

Brunch/Keynote Speaker Inclusion Advocate Pamela Schuller Sunday, Oct. 23, 10:15 am

THE RABBI JOSHUA O. HABERMAN
DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR SERIES

New Horizons-New Challenges: Reform and Liberal Judaism in Contemporary Israel

with

Rabbi Dr. Yehoyada Amir

HUC-JIR, Jerusalem

**Tuesday, June 14
7:30 pm - 9:00 pm**

Judaism has always played a complex role in the Zionist and Israeli project. Is it a religion or a national culture? Does it unite Israeli Jews with the Jewish people worldwide, or threaten to rupture their relationship? Does Judaism offer a rationale for a "Jewish and democratic" country, or grounds for an ethnocentric, separatist society? In his lecture, Dr. Amir, an Israeli Reform rabbi and professor who teaches at the Jerusalem branch of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, will discuss the role that today's Israeli Reform movement and the Reform rabbinate plays in answering these fundamental questions.

Event is at and co-sponsored by:

[Temple Shalom](#)

8401 Grubb Road
Chevy Chase, MD

Although there is no cost for this event, we ask that you register online at www.foundjs.org or by calling the Foundation office at 301-770-4787.

The Bulletin

Beth El Hebrew
Congregation
3830 Seminary Road
Alexandria, VA 22304



UNION for
REFORM
JUDAISM

A Proud Member of the URJ

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

June 2016
Volume 71 – No. 8
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
Moshe A. Teichman
Barry H. Smith
Dina Backer

President
Executive Vice President
Vice Presidents

Julienne Bramesco
Ilene Reiter
Matt Mutterperl
David Weinraub
Regina Begliutti
Joanne Rhodes
John Jankowski
Jeanette Astrow
Janet Platt
Laura Salisbury

Treasurer
Secretary
Brotherhood President
WRJ President
Bulletin Editors