



# Beth El Bulletin

Beth El Hebrew Congregation

March 2016  
Adar I/Adar II 5776

## Worship Services

### Friday, March 4

Erev Shabbat Service,  
7:30 pm

### Saturday, March 5

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

### Friday, March 11

Family Service, 6 pm  
Beth El House Erev Shabbat  
Service, 7:30 pm

### Saturday, March 12

S'more S'more Shabbat  
Morning Service  
10:30 am

### Friday, March 18

Erev Shabbat Service,  
7:30 pm

### Saturday, March 19

Shabbat Morning Service and  
Bar Mitzvah of Ethan James,  
son of Bonnie and John  
James, 10:30 am  
Purim Tot Shabbat, 11 am

### Friday, March 25

Erev Shabbat Service,  
7:30 pm

### Saturday, March 26

Shabbat Morning Service,  
10:30 am

## Oral Rehydration Therapy Project

**I**S IT POSSIBLE to have fun, save lives and make or renew a friendship at the same time? It is if you help with the Oral Rehydration Therapy project on Mar. 6. By volunteering for just two hours between 9 am and 3 pm, you can do all these things. Over the years, the 170,000 packets of sugar, salt, soda, and potassium that we made have been sent to Sierra Leone, Haiti, Darfur, the Philippines, and Indonesia to help prevent children from dying of dehydration due to cholera. We hope to make another 20,000 packets again this year. Every 70 packets have been estimated to save one life.



On Mar. 6, join in this extraordinarily successful ecumenical event. Not only can you help save lives, you can help

strengthen our community ties at the annual Oral Rehydration Therapy Project. Volunteer for two or more hours to help fill the packets with electrolytes between 9 am and 3 pm on Sunday, Mar. 6. We need more than 150 volunteers to reach our goal of 20,000 packets so each individual volunteer counts.

Or help to offset the cost of supplies by sending a check to the Rabbi's Good Deed Fund marked ORT.

Special thanks to Brotherhood for their continued financial support.

To sign up to volunteer or to get more information, contact **Bobbie Gershman** at [gershman18@verizon.net](mailto:gershman18@verizon.net) or 703-960-2921. No skills necessary; chat with old friends, make new ones. We hope to see you there!

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





The interfaith nature of the group afforded us the opportunity to have discussions that we normally wouldn't have a chance to do.

## Rabbi's Remarks

**M**Y ARTICLE last month pointed out the importance of interfaith dialogue and the resulting relationships that we would be able to form with other congregations in the Alexandria area.

In this spirit, in early February we celebrated another of our annual interfaith dinners with Fairlington United Methodist Church. This tradition apparently started in 1958 and has continued, alternating venues, since then. This year we were the hosts and, as usual, Brotherhood organized and catered for the substantial crowd who attended. We had a nice mix of folks from both congregations and were delighted to welcome the new Lead Pastor, Mary Beth Blinn, and Associate Pastor, Devon Earle, to Beth El for the first time. Both are very keen to expand and deepen the relationship between our two congregations and I look forward to exploring ways for this to happen.

Our guest speaker that was Sister Maureen Fiedler, whose radio show, Interfaith Voices, airs on WAMU. Coincidentally, through a thought provoking and anecdote laced presentation, she outlined why we should engage in Interfaith work and urged us to continue our efforts in this regard. We will do our best to oblige!

A few years ago we undertook an interfaith pilgrimage to Israel with Christ Church. Their Rector, Pierce Klemmt, and I led the pilgrimage. The interfaith nature of the group led us to visit places that are not usually on the itineraries of Jewish groups and opened the way to have discussions that we normally wouldn't have.

Building on that success, even though it is almost a decade later, we are once beginning to plan another Interfaith trip to Israel, this time with Westminster Presbyterian Church. Pastor Larry Haywood, his wife, Pastor Maggie Haywood (Harmon Presbyterian Church in MD), and I are in the process of reviewing the itinerary and the land arrangements and we hope to finalize those

soon. We are aiming to go at the end of April or beginning of May 2017. It is an ideal time to travel to Israel - good weather, after the Peach rush, and before the summer frenzy!

If you are interested in finding out more about the trip please get in touch with me. We are looking forward to putting together a good group of folks and would love to have both first-timers, as well as those who have been to Israel before, join us for what promises to be a most memorable experience.

The relationships that we forge through these interactions are essential for a number of reasons. Not only does it broaden our understanding of each other's beliefs and traditions but even more importantly it lays the ground work for deeper discussions about vital issues that confront our communities.

You may remember that a few years ago, a strongly worded anti-Israel resolution came before the National Plenary of the Presbyterian Church. All of a sudden, the Jewish Community scrambled to create dialogue opportunities with Presbyterian Churches all around the country, but found that it was "too little, too late!"

In order for that not to occur again we opened dialogues with several denominations and have continued to maintain those relationships. This is another of those vital opportunities. The objective is not to indoctrinate or push any particular point of view, but rather let the experience, discussion and face to face encounters with actual people speak to the issues for themselves.

I invite you to join us all on this odyssey so that we may explore the history, tradition, and beliefs that inspire us, in the cradle of where it all began.

L'shalom

**Brett**

## Cantor's Corner

I HAVE BEEN asked numerous times by congregants to create an adult Bar/Bat mitzvah class. I've been very moved by those who have approached me with the desire of learning more about their Judaism. Therefore, thanks to all of the requests, I am very happy to announce that we are in the early stages of creating an adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah program for our entire congregation.

I understand that there have been adult Bat/Bar Mitzvah programs in the past at Beth El. I have heard how enjoyable and affirming these programs were, and I have learned that for many of these individuals, how meaningful it was having a Bat/Bar Mitzvah at a time in their life when they felt they could most fully appreciate it.

An adult Bat/Bar Mitzvah can be an enormously meaningful experience. On the most basic level, the program will provide opportunities for Hebrew education and exploration of prayer book liturgy. Most importantly however, the class will provide hands-on experiences that I hope will help to strengthen one's Jewish and spiritual identity.

At the culmination of the class, there will be a Shabbat service where each student will read from the Torah, help lead the service, and offer a short D'var Torah. Additionally, each student will participate in some sort of mitzvah project (a charitable project to help support the Beth El community). Other than that, the specifics (and schedule!) of the class will be determined based on the interests and experiences of those who sign up.

I am delighted that I will be teaching this course, but it is my hope that we bring in outside teachers as well to deepen our studies together.

There will be a fee for the class, but no one will be turned away due to financial concerns.

Please contact Sally Schneider in the Beth El office or at [sschneider@bethelhebrew.org](mailto:sschneider@bethelhebrew.org) if you would like to be included.

**Cantor Jason Kaufman**



**An adult Bat/Bar Mitzvah can be an enormously meaningful experience.**

## Readers of Beth El



THE READERS of Beth El will meet next on Mar. 14, 2016 at 7:30 pm at the home of **Jeannette Astrow**. We will be reading and discussing the *Nazi Officer's Wife: How One Jewish Woman Survived the Holocaust* by Edith Hahn Beer. This is an autobiographical story that has received excellent reviews. Please join our small but lively group of Beth El neighbors in Springfield and Burke. If you wish to read ahead our next book for discussion on May 2, 2016 is *The Golem of Hollywood* by Jonathan Kellerman

## Friday Pre-Service Onegs

Did you know that every Friday evening, we have a wine/lemonade, cheese and crackers gathering before Kabbalat Shabbat services? Join us any time between 6:30 and 7:30 pm, and then head into the sanctuary for the service. It's a relaxed and fun way to make the transition from a hectic week to Shabbat, chat with old friends, and make new ones. If you would like to sponsor a pre-oneg please let the office know. (Pre-oneg sponsorships are \$100.)

## President's Point of View



**Board service is a mitzvah, and also a great honor.**

**W**E ARE more than halfway through Beth El's fiscal year, and it is time to start planning for next year. To that end, I recently convened a nominating committee to propose a slate of nominees for the Board of Directors to be presented at the Annual Meeting on June 21. I thought it might be appropriate and interesting, therefore, to describe what Board service looks like.

First off, let me describe the Board. It currently consists of the six officers, 14 directors elected at large, leaders of the auxiliary groups such as WRJ, Brotherhood, the Hebrew Benevolent Society, and the Permanent Endowment Fund. Additionally, according to the Beth El Constitution, all past presidents are voting members of the Board.

Who are directors? The nominating committee generally looks to the committee leadership, enthusiastic volunteers from the auxiliaries, and other projects, and graduates of the Leadership Development Program. There is no specific profile for a Board member; as I told the Nominating Committee, good Board members are passionate about Beth El, interested in learning more, open-minded, willing to put in the time, and willing to support Beth El's programs. There is no financial commitment required for Board service, just that directors are in good-standing with their membership, and that they are willing to support programs however they can. The time commitments are not onerous. Board members receive a packet of information that they are encouraged to read prior to the meeting, and attendance at the monthly Board meeting is required unless the member is excused. Work on additional committees, projects, and task forces is encouraged.

Board meetings follow a set format and are guided by Robert's Rules of Order. The first

fifteen minutes are dedicated to congregants. During this time, any congregant may address the Board on any subject. Following congregant time, the Rabbi begins with a D'var Torah, teaching us about the week's Torah portion, and reminding us that our work is sacred. We then go into administrative reports. Because these are distributed beforehand, the Board only discusses issues that are identified at the meeting as warranting further discussion. We also have a monthly Treasurer's report. Our current Treasurer, Regina Begliutti, has been providing basic instruction on how to read the financial reports, and has changed some of the reports' formatting to meet the needs of the Board members. Following the monthly reports, we go into the meat of the meeting. We may receive an informational report on the status of a particular area or committee. We have been receiving regular reports from the Strategic Action Strategic Planning Task Forces. We also take up any resolutions that require Board action, such as fair share proposals for the coming year, budgets, or spending certain amounts of funds. From time to time, we will also go into "executive session" where we discuss confidential matters.

The joy in attending Board meetings comes from spending quality time with like-minded people, those committed to Beth El's mission and values. We don't always agree, but we disagree civilly and we leave our Board meetings with our relationships intact. Please come visit us to see what the Board is about on the third Tuesday of the month. And if you are approached by a member of the Nominating Committee, please consider serving. Board service is a mitzvah, and also a great honor.

**Julienne Bramesco**



## Pesach is Coming!

**I**T IS NEVER too early to start thinking about Passover! Make sure you have everything you need to make a truly meaningful and memorable seder. Check out the Sisterhood's Judaica Shop for seder plates, Elijah and Miriam cups, fun symbols of Passover for the kids, and all the paper supplies that make hosting a seder easier.

## Adult Education

**O**N MAR. 25, 1911, one of the worst fires in New York City history occurred at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory. 146 people died, most of them very young women, and many of them Jewish immigrants from eastern Europe, as were the two owners of the factory. Beth El's Adult Education Committee is pleased to have historian Mary Lipsey come speak to us about this tragedy and its implications, as well as the improvements in working conditions which were brought about afterwards. Mary taught history in Fairfax county for many years, and has been a docent at the National Museum of American History and the National Archives, as well as being involved in other history-related activities. Please join us on Wednesday, Mar. 30, from 7-8 pm for what should be a very interesting and thought-provoking program.

## Film Festival Sneak Peek

**T**HE TRADITION continues! Beth El, in cooperation with The JCCNV, is offering a preview of one of the films that will be shown during the JCCNV's Annual Film Festival in April. Join us on **Sunday, Apr. 3, at 7 pm** as we view the film *Sabena Hijacking*. You will be on the edge of your seat as you watch the riveting true story of the hijacked plane on its way from Brussels, Belgium, to Tel Aviv, Israel, on May 8, 1972. Hijackers from "Black September," the armed wing of Fatah or the PLO, took command of Sabena Flight 571, endangering the lives of all aboard.

Following the movie, we welcome back special guest, Adam Harmon. Mr. Harmon served with Israeli paratrooper and special operations units for over 15 years and has briefed the US defense and intelligence communities on counter-terrorism best practices since 2003. He is the author of *Lonely Soldier: Memoir of an American in the Israeli Army*. Mr. Harmon will provide insight into the story of the Sabena Hijacking as well as answer some of the "what ifs" on the minds of many of us regarding potential issues Israel may be facing in the coming years.

Dessert and movie snacks are included in the admission price of \$10. Though walk-ins are welcome, in order to make sure there are enough refreshments, please send your RSVPs and checks for \$10 per person to the Beth El office. Act quickly as this is a very popular event. Think about making this event part of your Chavurah meeting, a WRJ or Brotherhood social outing, or calling up your friends (non-Beth El members welcome) to join you for a thought-provoking and enjoyable evening.

We look forward to seeing you on the evening of Apr. 3!

**Sunday, Mar. 6, 3–5 pm**

**Location: Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax, VA**

## Purim—It's a Laugh!

Take and Bake — make your own hamantaschen (triangle cookies) **with Lauren Katz, the winner of ABC's Great Holiday Baking Show!**

Experience **The Great Zucchini**; no one makes preschoolers laugh as much as he! Voted **Best Children's Entertainer** by the readers of Arlington Magazine

Dress children in their favorite costume for the **Purim Parade**

**Mishloach Manot** (food gifts) **Mitzvah** (good deed) — help make bags for the hungry

**Crafts for all ages** even your newborn

Fee: \$5 per person; Adults and children 2+ (including snack); FREE Children under 2

Register online at: [JCCNV.org](http://JCCNV.org), code#7343; or [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2506048](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2506048)

Contact: [Samantha.Brown@jccnv.org](mailto:Samantha.Brown@jccnv.org) or 703-537-3019

*The j.family ambassadors program is made possible thanks to the generous support of The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and its United Jewish Endowment Fund.*

## WRJ News

**B**Y NOW the first signs of Spring should be showing through and some of our Beth El snow-birds will also have returned – just in time for Purim in March. Our hamentashen baking continued through February with many hours spent creating yummy treats for our community and to fill the many dozens of hamentashen orders for our very important WRJ fundraiser. Don't forget to send in your orders ASAP. The deadline is Mar. 4 with distribution on Mar. 13 at the Purim Carnival. There will be a limited supply available for sale at the Purim Carnival but only while supplies last.

Looking forward to April, Passover arrives with the first seder on the Apr. 22. The Judaica Shop will have their **Passover Boutique on Sunday, Apr. 3** to fill all of your seder and housewarming gift needs. **Sunday, Apr. 10 gives us Mahj Mayhem.** From 2-5 pm we'll have an opportunity to join together with friends for an afternoon of fun, food, and friendship. This is not a tournament but door prizes will be available. On **Tuesday, Apr. 12**, let's join together as Cantor Kaufman leads us in a **Women's Seder**. Details will be coming later this month in the weekly Shabbat announcements as well as through the WRJ e-mail. For further information, please contact

**Jeanette Astrow** @ [jlastrow@verizon.net](mailto:jlastrow@verizon.net) or call 703.451.7007

We welcome all of our WRJ sisters to join us at our WRJ meetings on the first Wednesday of each month at 6 pm. Come hear what we are planning, offer your ideas for programs, and let us know if there is anything you would like to help us with. It's a great way to meet and get to know new people. No amount of your time is too small.

B'shalom,  
**Jeanette Astrow**  
WRJ President

Upcoming Events:

**Hamentashen Order Deadline** – March 4  
**Hamantaschen Order Pick-up and Purim Carnival** – March 13  
**Carpenters Shelter** cooking and serving - Mar. 27/28  
**Knitting** - March 13/27  
**Mah Jong** – Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday  
**Passover Boutique** – April 3  
**Mahj Mayhem** – April 10  
**Women's Seder** – April 12

## Beth El Inclusion Committee

**P**LEASE join Beth El's Inclusion Committee on Sunday, Mar. 6, 2016 at 10:30 am in the multi-purpose room for a general meeting. All are welcome.

The Inclusion Committee aims to eliminate physical barriers in our building and grounds, to raise awareness about including people with disabilities and, ultimately, to welcome all who come through our doors so that they can participate fully in worship and other activities. We have made visible progress and we're not finished!

Disability touches each of our lives. You may have a disability, or you may have a friend, colleague, son or daughter, parent, or other relative with a disability. All of us benefit through Beth El Hebrew Congregation's commitment to accessibility and inclusion.

What can you do?

- If you have ideas or expertise relevant to disability or if you are simply interested in what we are doing, come to our meeting and join our discussion.
- Consider joining the committee or volunteering to help with a project.
- Join our email list and be notified about meetings and other activities.

Join us. Talk to us. Educate us.

Questions, contact **Jeanne Holden**, Inclusion Committee chair, at [jeanneholden@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanneholden@yahoo.com).

## Brotherhood News

**E**ARLY IN the morning on Feb. 2, a crowd gathered at Gobbler's Knob awaiting the emergence of the groundhog named Punxsutawney Phil. After a tap of a cane on Phil's tree-trunk cage, his door was opened, and the animal emerged. Phil was held aloft to cheers and applause. His actions were closely analyzed as he attempted to flee. Interpreting Phil's behavior, the sages proclaimed, "There is no shadow to be cast! An early spring is my forecast!"

And of course that can only mean Spring Training has arrived. And with it, the return of ... **BETH EL BROTHERHOOD SOFTBALL!!!** Players are looking forward to a great new softball season, and we are also looking for new softball players. One needn't be a member of Beth El to play, and teenagers as young as 16 are welcome so long as their parents sign a consent form. However, every player on Beth El Brotherhood's softball team must be a member of the Beth El Brotherhood to play: the cost of Beth El Brotherhood membership is \$36 per year.

Games are played in May and June with a single elimination tournament in early July. Games are played at Ossian Field and Wakefield Park, both located in Annandale, VA (Fairfax County). Left fielder **Jim Goldwater** and Pitcher **Fred Silverberg** are this year's co-managers. Anyone and everyone interested in playing should contact Jim at [JimAuH2O@aol.com](mailto:JimAuH2O@aol.com) or Fred at [my3sons.19@verizon.net](mailto:my3sons.19@verizon.net). Play Ball!

As the weather warms up, clean-up and beautification of our **Chapel in the Woods** also renews afresh. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Brotherhood's CIW co-chairs, **Jeremy Flachs** ([jeremy.flachs@flachslaw.com](mailto:jeremy.flachs@flachslaw.com)) and **Todd Bolick** ([todd.bolick@gmail.com](mailto:todd.bolick@gmail.com)) for dates and times. We can always use your assistance and this spring more extensive improvements are now possible thanks to the generous donation of a chainsaw by our West-Coast Brotherhood member, **Jay Jarvis**.

A quick reminder that the annual **Beth El Purim Carnival** takes place on Sunday, Mar. 13 (12:00 to 2:00 pm). For details or to volunteer, please contact the Purim chair, Brotherhood Board member **Matt Mutterperl** ([Matt@mutterperl.com](mailto:Matt@mutterperl.com)) or Volunteer Coordinator, **Donna Blum-Kemelor** ([razzjazzdb@yahoo.com](mailto:razzjazzdb@yahoo.com)). For considerably discounted advance ticket sales, look for Brotherhood Treasurer, **Roberto Mosse**, selling them during Religious School hours in the Hayman Foyer on the two Sundays prior to Purim. Current Brotherhood members will receive additional discounts on ticket purchases.

Finally, thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers who helped make our 58<sup>th</sup> Interfaith Dinner with Fairlington United Methodist Church such a resounding success. More than one hundred people came out to enjoy a delicious dinner, excellent speaker (Maureen Fielder), and community camaraderie. Thank you **Ron Sturman** (event organizer); **Bob Shaver** (head chef); **Norm Starler** (event manager); **Mike Baker**; **Arlene Blumenthal**; **Jeffery Davidson**; **Jeremy Flachs**; **Art, Bobbie**, and **Simon Gershman**; **Annette Kilian**; **Roberto Mosse**; **Eric Naide**; **Dan Root**; **Glenn Siegal**; **Gerrie Sturman**, as well as the countless others who pitched in at the end of the evening to help put things in order!!!

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



**PLAY  
BALL!**

## Beth El's Chapel in the Woods

The trees and underbrush protect the wetland at the bottom of the hill and the marshy area catches rainwater.

**W**E HAVE a beautiful wooded area that serves not only as a quiet place to meditate and enjoy nature but also as an environmental antidote to the sea of asphalt that surrounds our Beth El building on all sides. While it's not realistic to reduce or remove our parking lot, we can still do a lot to use our land in an environmentally responsible manner, preserve habitat and ecosystems, and filter groundwater pollutants (much of which flows off our parking lot).

There's a lot going on in our wooded area. The trees and underbrush protect the wetland at the bottom of the hill and the marshy area catches rainwater and parking lot runoff, and permits some vegetation to grow even during droughts. The trees absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen, slow global warming, house birds and animals, and play roles in many ecosystems. They hold the soil in place and in turn, the soil filters groundwater pollutants. (You can find more information about the role of trees at <https://www.ncsu.edu/project/treesofstrength/benefits.htm>).

Beth El's Brotherhood created and maintains the Chapel in the Woods and is working on removing invasive plants such as English Ivy that kill native trees and shrubs. The work plan is to continue ivy removal and to replace invasive species (such as English Ivy, Porcelain Berry, Bindweed, and Mustard Garlic, among others) with Virginia native species. Native species are environmentally suited to our area. They don't require watering and they provide food for local birds and animals.

If you'd like to be part of creating a model forest and wetland, meet other Beth El folks, and help Brotherhood maintain our beautiful Chapel in the Woods, please contact **Jeremy Flachs** ([jeremy.flachs@flachslaw.com](mailto:jeremy.flachs@flachslaw.com)) or **Todd Bolick** ([todd.bolick@gmail.com](mailto:todd.bolick@gmail.com)) or just join us for one of our workdays. We'll be working in the Chapel in the Woods from 10 am to noon on Mar. 27, Apr. 17, and May 15. (Work gloves are recommended and clippers if you have them; other equipment and snacks will be provided.)



## Brotherhood Presents a Sizable Financial Gift to Beth El Religious School

*Pictured l. to r.: David Weinraub; John Jankowski, Brotherhood President, Rabbi Brett Isserow*

**T**HE ANNUAL Religious School Purim Carnival sponsored by the Beth El Brotherhood will take place on Sunday, Mar. 13. from 12 - 2 pm in the Beth El Social Hall.

Tickets will be sold at a discounted price of \$10 (for a Superticket which gives unlimited access to all games) on Sunday, Feb. 28 and Sunday, Mar. 6 in the lobby. Tickets for lunch at the event will also be sold at the discounted price of \$7 on those two dates. Prices at the door will be \$12 for the Superticket and \$9 for the lunch ticket.

Volunteers are needed for this event, so for more information or to volunteer, please contact either **Matthew Mutterperl** (Chairman) at [matt@mutterperl.com](mailto:matt@mutterperl.com) or **Donna Blum Kemelor** (Volunteer Coordinator) at [razzjazzdb@yahoo.com](mailto:razzjazzdb@yahoo.com). Students can earn community service hours as well for volunteering at the Carnival.

## Purim Carnival



Purim Fun  
for Everyone!



## 2016 Communal Seder

**P**ESACH IS still more than a month away, BUT: arrangements for the Beth El Hebrew Congregation Communal Seder have already been completed.

We have selected a caterer who has created a fabulous chicken, beef, vegan, and children's menu!

Please plan to join Rabbi Brett Isserow and Cantor Jason Kaufman at our festive seder!

Save the date—Saturday, Apr. 23—on your calendar!

## S'MORE SHABBAT SERVICE



Saturday, March 12, 10:30 AM  
With our 5th and 6th grade classes  
For a musical Shabbat service  
And for a *s'more-ulous* oneg!

## WUPJ Travel in 2016

**T**HE WORLD Union for Progressive Judaism is presenting a series of travel experiences in 2016. The first is a wonderful trip led by WUPJ President Rabbi Dan Frelander to Berlin and London from Apr. 7-14. The trip marks the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the WUPJ. Come explore the WUPJ's past, present and future, along with other important Jewish and secular sites. Stay a few extra days in London and celebrate Shabbat at the European Union for Progressive Judaism Biennial. Contact **Larry Vogel** at [LVOGEL@cox.net](mailto:LVOGEL@cox.net) for more information

## Culture Club to Renwick

**A**FTER A two-year renovation, the Renwick Gallery recently re-opened with a full building installation: *Wonder*. Meet us on Friday, Mar. 18 in the lobby of this fabulous museum at 10:30 to see this exhibit and all the improvements to this very special museum. Depending on what participants choose, we will either eat near the museum or return to Shirlington.

What is Culture Club? It is a monthly adventure to visit museums in the Washington, Baltimore, and sometimes even beyond, as well as to go to movies and other types of cultural events. And, even more so, it is open to

all adult Beth El members (and their guests) who wish to enjoy being social — so come every month or just once in awhile, but we hope you will join the fun!

Schmoozing and lunch are always part of the plan, so it is perfect for members new and old. Most museums are free, but all expenses are pay-as-you-go. There is no roster; just let me know if you are coming so we will watch for you. [stafm@aol.com](mailto:stafm@aol.com)

**Meryl Goldhammer**

**W**HAT HAS become an annual fundraiser for Beth El, Evening with Friends, will return this year as a two-weekend event in

which to visit with friends and make new ones. Each individual home will have a special theme and many will have a special guest. Evening with Friends will take place on May 7 and May 14 of 2016. Enjoy a nice meal at someone's home and the opportunity to develop long-lasting friendships. If you would like to volunteer to host a dinner, please contact **Matthew Mutterperl**, the program chair, at [matt@mutterperl.com](mailto:matt@mutterperl.com) or 703-339-9755.

## Evening with Friends



## Ross Scholarship Nominations

**T**HE MARC S. ROSS Scholarship Committee is presently accepting nominations for the Marc S. Ross Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded annually to a graduating high school senior continuing in higher education who has made a significant contribution during his/her high school years to the temple and/or the Jewish community.

The recipient will be a Beth El member in good standing who best exemplifies the values of scholarship, integrity, and devotion, which were so embodied in the life of Beth El Past President, Marc Ross. The award will not be based on financial need.

The deadline for receiving nominations is Monday Mar. 14, 2016. Nominations can be made by anyone, including parents. All temple members are encouraged to nominate a young man or woman whom they feel would be eligible for the award. **Without being nominated, an otherwise qualified candidate will never be considered by the committee.**

A nomination letter, no longer than two pages should be sent to: **Harold Damelin**, Chairman, 2003 Mayfair McLean Court, Falls Church, Virginia 22043. Any questions regarding the scholarship should be directed to Harold, who may be reached at (703) 298-7062 or by email at [hdamelin@gmail.com](mailto:hdamelin@gmail.com).

## Beth El/JCCNV Events

### Rest Easy: Getting a Good Night's Sleep

**Wednesday, Mar. 2,  
10:30 am–noon**

*Presenter: Mary Belanich, Manager,  
Senior Health, Virginia Hospital  
Center*

Are you always tired when you wake up in the morning? Do you have problems falling or staying asleep? Well, you are not alone! As you get older, changes to your sleep patterns are a part of normal aging. Mary will tell us about practical strategies to help with the most common sleep problems, common self-care skills for insomnia and using professional resources when self-care isn't enough. Make sure you set your alarm the night before so you won't miss a minute of this important program!

### The Newly Renovated National Museum of American History

**Wednesday, Mar. 9,  
depart Beth El 10:30 am;  
return approximately 2:30 pm**

Before thousands of tourists descend upon Washington this spring, join us for a trip to the Smithsonian's renovated National Museum of American History. Browse the newly opened wing on American innovations, watch the museum's 20-minute 3D signature film *We the People* celebrating the national ideals of democracy and freedom, and enjoy the very special exhibit *Frank Kameny, Civil Rights Pioneer*. Remember to visit the three million other artifacts on display! There will be time to have lunch on your own in one of the museum's cafes.

**Fee: \$14/ \$10 J or synagogue member Code: 7244**

**RSVP: Submit payment and registration form to the J, Attn: Shelly Rosenstein. Make check payable to JCCNV with "3/9" on memo line.**

### Living an Active and Rewarding Life

**Wednesday, Mar. 16,  
9:30 am–noon**

**(note earlier start time)**

*Joint Program with Senior Services of Alexandria and AARP at Beth El Senior Services of Alexandria is teaming up with AARP for a fun speaker series called "Living an Active and Rewarding Life." You will be able to participate in AARP's "Life Reimaged" interactive program which helps individuals rediscover what truly matters and focuses on what they really want to do in the next chapter of their life. The event is free with light refreshments.*

**RSVP: [seniorservicesalex.org](http://seniorservicesalex.org) or call Senior Services at 703.836.4414, ext. 110**

**March 23 — No Program**

### Northern Virginia Jewish Film Festival Preview Event: *Rosenwald*

**Wednesday, Mar. 30,  
10:30 am–12:30 pm**

*Documentary | 2015 | USA | 100 minutes*

Aviva Kempner's *Rosenwald* is the extraordinary story of Julius Rosenwald, the son of German-Jewish immigrants and head of Sears, Roebuck & Co, who was an exceedingly generous and visionary philanthropist. Inspired by the Jewish values of *tzedakah* (charity) and *tikkun olam* (repairing the world), and by black educator Booker T. Washington, Rosenwald used his considerable wealth to improve the plight of Southern blacks, whose treatment Rosenwald saw as analogous to the pogroms that plagued East European

Jews. Rosenwald partnered with black communities to build over 5,300 schools for black children during the Jim Crow era. Distinguished alumni of Rosenwald schools include Congressman John Lewis, the late poet Maya Angelou, and many others. Rosenwald also provided critical funding for the civil rights movement and fellowships to aspiring black artists, such as Marian Anderson, James Baldwin, Langston Hughes, and Jacob Lawrence. Please join us for this very important and powerful film.

**Fee: \$9/ \$7 J or synagogue member (pay at door) RSVP: [Shelly.Rosenstein@jccnv.org](mailto:Shelly.Rosenstein@jccnv.org), 703.537.3062**

### An Interfaith Program with Rabbi Isserow

**Wednesday, Apr. 6,  
10:30 am–noon**

Is just one God enough? How about a thousand or none at all? Join Rabbi Brett Isserow as he continues his series of interviews with clergy of other faiths, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Baha'i, and various denominations of Christianity. While we will explore beliefs and practices, these interviews also endeavor to give us an insight into the inspiration and motivation that encouraged these individuals to become clergy and how this choice has shaped the trajectory of their lives and the lives of those whom they serve.

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](mailto:Shelly.Rosenstein@jccnv.org).

## ~ March 2016 ~ Ad

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
 <p><b>GoodBye February</b></p>		<p><b>1 Virginia Primary Election</b> 2-4p WRJ Mah Jongg</p>	<p><b>2 Peanut Butter Lover's Day</b> 10a-12p Beth El JCCNV 55+ Program 6-7:30p WRJ Board Meeting 6:15-8p Religious School 6:15p Yoga 7-8p Adult Education 7-9p Introduction to Judaism Class</p>
<p><b>6 National Dentist's Day</b> 9-10a Hebrew Enrichment 9a-3p Oral Rehydration Therapy Packing 10a-12p Adult Hebrew Classes 10a-12p Religious School 10a-12p WRJ Mah Jongg 10:30a-12p Inclusion Committee Meeting 11a-12p Beth El House Speaker and Walk-A-Thon 1-4p Bridge</p>	7	<p><b>8 International Women's Day</b> 2-4p WRJ Mah Jongg 6:30-9p RSY Meeting 7-10p Executive Committee Meeting</p>	<p><b>9</b> 6:15-8p Religious School 6:15p Yoga 7-9p Introduction to Judaism Class</p>
<p><b>13 Daylight Saving Time Begins</b> 9-10a Hebrew Enrichment 10a-12p Kol Nova Purim Spiel 10a-12p Adult Hebrew Classes 10a-12p Religious School 10a-12p Leadership Development Program 10a-12p WRJ Mah Jongg 12-2p Purim Carnival 1-4p Bridge 2-4 WRJ Knitting Group</p>	14	<p><b>15 Ides of March</b> 2-4p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-10p Board of Directors Meeting</p>	<p><b>16</b> 10a-12p Beth El JCCNV 55+ Program 10a-12p Senior Services of Alexandria 6:15-8p Religious School 6:15p Yoga 7-8p Adult Education 7-9p Introduction to Judaism Class</p>
<p><b>20 Spring Begins/International Earth Day</b> NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 8:30-10a Brotherhood Board Meeting 10a-12p WRJ Mah Jongg 1-4p Bridge</p>	21	<p><b>22</b> 2-4p WRJ Mah Jongg</p>	<p><b>23 Erev Purim</b> NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 6:15p Yoga 7-9p Introduction to Judaism Class</p>
<p><b>27 Easter</b> NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 10a-2p Carpenter's Shelter Food Preparation 10a-12p WRJ Mah Jongg 12-2p Kol Nova Rehearsal 1-4p Bridge 2-4 WRJ Knitting Group</p>	28	<p><b>29</b> 2-4p WRJ Mah Jongg</p>	<p><b>30 National Doctor's Day</b> 10a-12p Beth El JCCNV 55+ Program 6:15-8p Religious School 6:15p Yoga 7-8p Adult Education 7-9p Introduction to Judaism Class</p>

## Adar I/Adar II 5776 ~

Thu	Fri	Sat	Torah Portions/Prophets
<b>3 National Anthem Day</b> 6:30-8:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-8p Beth El House 7-11p Bridge	<b>4</b> 6:30-7:30p Wine and Cheese Pre-Service Oneg 7:30p Erev Shabbat Service  Candle lighting 5:47	<b>5</b> 9-10:30a Torah Study 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service 11a-12p Tot Shabbat 2-6p Oral Rehydration Therapy Project Set-up  Havdalah 6:46	Exodus 35:1-38:20 2 Kings 11:17-12:17
<b>10 Popcorn Lover's Day</b> 6:30-7:30p Season of Mussar Class 6:30-8:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-11p Bridge	<b>11</b> 6-6:30p Family Service 6:30-7:30p Congregational Dinner 6:30-7:30p Wine and Cheese Pre-Service Oneg 7:30p Erev Shabbat Service/Beth El House Shabbat/Soul Shabbat 7:30-8:30p Family Oneg Shabbat  Candle lighting 5:54	<b>12 National Girl Scout Day</b> 9-10:30a Torah Study 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service 3:30-6:30p Purim Carnival Set-up  Havdalah 6:53	Exodus 38:21-40:38 1 Kings 7:51-8:21
<b>17 Saint Patrick's Day</b> 6:30-8:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-11p Bridge 7:30-8:30 Interfaith Bible Study	<b>18</b> 6:30-7:30p Torah Study Dinner 6:30-7:30p Wine and Cheese Pre-Service Oneg 7:30p Erev Shabbat Service  Candle lighting 7:01	<b>19</b> 9-10:30a Torah Study 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service and Ethan James Bar Mitzvah 11a-12p Purim Tot Shabbat  Havdalah 8:00	Leviticus 1:1-5:26 1 Samuel 15:1-34
<b>24 Purim</b> 10a-12p ECLC Purim Carnival 6:30-7:30p Season of Mussar Class 6:30-8:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-11p Bridge	<b>25 Good Friday</b> 6:30-7:30p Wine and Cheese Pre-Service Oneg 7:30p Erev Shabbat Service  Candle lighting 7:08	<b>26 Spinach Lover's Day</b> 9-10:30a Torah Study 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service  Havdalah 8:07	Leviticus 6:1-8:36 Leviticus 6:1-8:36
<b>31</b> 12:30-2p Beth El House 6:30-8:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-11p Bridge	<b>Notes:</b> March is many things to many people. Here are just a few: Irish American Month, Music in Our Schools Month, National Craft Month, National Frozen Food Month, National Nutrition Month, National Peanut Month, National Women's History Month, Red Cross Month, and Social Workers Month.  The second week of March is National Bubble Week, and also National Crochet Week.		



**A congregation provides community and strength to individuals and families.**

## A Personal Note

**I**N FEBRUARY, my father-in-law (Ben Wenglin) died. His death was relatively unexpected. He was a beloved man and a very important person my family's life. As in any life cycle event, there are unexpected questions that arise. During the dying and mourning process, it seems that these questions take on more urgency.

During this time, issues arose and the first reaction was to ask the Rabbi. My in-laws were not "religious" but they strongly identified as Jewish and but never affiliated with any congregation. At their request, I called Rabbi Isserow. Brett interrupted his meeting and immediately took my call. His response was realistic and comforting to my mother-in-law.

Rabbi Isserow was going to be out of town during shiva. Cantor Kaufman without hesitation said he would be at the shiva house, which was in Rockville. His beautiful voice and words of comfort were greatly appreciated by my family.

As we recited the service and the mourner's Kaddish, I looked around the room and

observed adults and children reciting the prayers with the Cantor. I saw faces recognizing melodies that brought back to them many memories. During shiva, many friends came including Beth El congregants. What I realized was that this was community. I felt what I had always known that a congregation provides community and strength to individuals and families. That we teach our children Hebrew so that anywhere they go, anywhere in the world, they can be part of a Jewish community.

My family and I are very thankful to our Beth El community. The building of community does not come overnight. My hope is that I will be able to convey this importance of community to our youth and adult community.

B'shalom,  
**Barry Smith**  
Director of Education

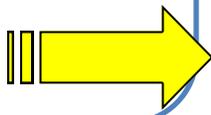


For a fun and informative internet search experience, ask your search engine if vegetarian or vegan meals/restaurants are "automatically" kosher! You will find lots of interesting answers, including, of course, yes, no, and maybe. You will also find out that, at least on the internet, no two people agree on what is or isn't kosher, or how kosher is kosher enough!

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

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## Bailey's Shelter

**B**AILEY'S has just been named a regional hypothermia center. We need additional families to help with the cooking. You may cook it in the comfort of your home and either deliver it to Beth El or the shelter. Assistance is also needed to serve guests and residents cafeteria style in two dinner shifts (5 and 6 pm), the second and fourth Sunday, December through March. You are welcome to just prepare a dish, or join us to serve for one or both shifts, or do both. Please contact **Julie Mueller** at [jmueller723@gmail.com](mailto:jmueller723@gmail.com).



### *Invest in the Future of Beth El Hebrew Congregation*



*Kol Yisrael Areivim Zeh LaZeh*

**Each of us is responsible  
For preserving our future.**

**The act of creating a legacy empowers you to complete the work of your heart and to enjoy the peace that it brings.**

**By leaving a legacy gift to BEHC, you ensure the Jewish traditions and programs that mean so much to you will continue to exist for future generations. Please call Moshe Teichman to have a conversation on how you can invest in our future.**

## Caring Community

**A**LMOST everyone at some time faces illness, loss, or sudden changes or challenges. At these times the Caring Community can provide calls, 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 or call **Ruth Perlstein** at 703-978-9341 or **Pamela Zitron** at 703-739-0161.

In addition to delivering holiday baskets to congregants who are homebound, recent widows and widowers, and centenarians, committee members have been delivering welcome baskets to our newest Beth El members.

The Caring Community has a number of resources to meet various needs. “**Groceries to Go**” is a wonderful program for residents of the City of Alexandria. To participate you must be over 60, have a credit or debit card, and have difficulty grocery shopping on your own. There is nei-

ther a delivery fee nor a minimum order. Please contact call 703-836-4414, ext. 120 or email: [friendlyvisitor@seniorservicesalex.org](mailto:friendlyvisitor@seniorservicesalex.org).

Since we are interested in maintaining a list of providers recommended by your fellow congregants, please contact **Pamela Zitron** at [zitrolpks@aol.com](mailto:zitrolpks@aol.com) if you have any suggestions.



## 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....*

**Residents Update** — One resident is in the process of taking final exams which will qualify her to work as a medical assistant and do medical billing/coding. Her mentor will help her find employment. She has thrived in the BEH program and is a great success. We will be looking for another resident shortly to replace a resident and her family who are scheduled to leave the program.

**Herb Cooper-Levy** — has joined the Beth El House team and will assist with grant writing. He directed local and national affordable housing nonprofit organizations for more than 26 years. In those capacities, he raised more than \$65 million. He has also written a BEH grant and facilitated an organizational meeting.

In his retirement, Mr. Cooper-Levy currently serves as the Community Coordinator of Kol Ami (the Northern Virginia Reconstructionist Community) and the Executive Director of FocusMusic, a nonprofit that produces folk music concerts.

**Thank You** — **Richard Gordon** generously offered his expert services as a tax attorney concerning financial issues. To Richard who helped us out pro-bono we express our gratitude. Are there services

that you can offer us? **Henry Suchman**, a fine graphic designer ([www.suchmandesign.com](http://www.suchmandesign.com) - [henry@suchmandesign.com](mailto:henry@suchmandesign.com)) and another committed congregant, has designed the BEH Walkathon and Shabbat service flyer. We look forward to using his services in the future as well. Please consult his website or email address above if you wish to contact him.

**BEH Walkathon (3/6/16) and Shabbat (3/11/16)** — Our religious school children will be offering their tzedakah gelt to Beth El House this year since there is no registration. We hope you will allow your children to remember the homeless with generosity. If you receive this edition of the Bulletin after the Walkathon, we look forward to seeing you at the Shabbat service on Mar. 11. Please remember that if you have ever been involved in BEH, we would like to recognize you at the service.

**BEH Needs You** — We are seeking Board and committee members who can offer their skills to enhance the BEH program. Please consider joining with us to help homeless families move to independence with dignity in our outstanding program.

**For Further Information or volunteering** — Kelli Pacilio (BEH President) – [kpacilio@mris.com](mailto:kpacilio@mris.com)



## Do you have a good fish story?

**W**E WOULD like to put together a booklet of Pesach stories to share with the congregation. We know every family has them and they are the source of much Seder merriment. Please send your favorite in an unformatted word document to Janet Platt, bulletin co-editor, at [bulletin@bethelhebrew.com](mailto:bulletin@bethelhebrew.com). Please send original material only! Thank you!

Join Beth El Hebrew WRJ and Brandeis National Committee  
Northern Virginia Chapter  
for



# Mahj Mayhem

(Not a tournament)

**Sunday, April 10th, 2016 from 2pm-5pm**

Beth El Hebrew Congregation  
3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304

**A fundraiser for Beth El Youth and Brandeis Scholarship Fund**

Loads of fun, friends, & food  
Door prizes and raffle tickets for other prizes!  
\$20 Pre-Registration by April 1  
\$25 at the door  
(\$18 is tax-deductible)

Make checks payable to *BE-WRJ* and send to WRJ,  
Beth El Hebrew Congregation at the address above by April 1.

**\*\*\* Bring your new 2016 Mah Jongg card \*\*\***

For questions, contact Michele Milden at [mbmilden@aol.com](mailto:mbmilden@aol.com)  
or 703-820-7794.



## The Congregation Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations

### ARNOLD G. FINK LEARNING CENTER & LIBRARY FUND

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Beverly Jeanne Davis..... Rabbi Arnold G. Fink

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Neil Schlusel

**In Memory of**

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*

## Make Your Voice Heard!

The Beth El Board wants to hear from congregants. What's working? What's not? What would like to see or do at your synagogue?

We have congregant time at the start of every Board meeting — come at 7 pm and let the Board know what's on your mind. No need to make a reservation — just come!

And, of course, congregants are welcome to attend all Board meetings. Mark your calendar for the third Monday of the month. The full Board information packaged is always posted on the members only section of our website.



## Photo Call from Bulletin Editors!

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!

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

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

## Bar Mitzvah

March 19, 2016

**Ethan James** is a seventh grade student at Frost Middle School in Fairfax County. In his free time, Ethan enjoys practicing Tae Kwon Do, playing electric guitar, and using his computer. He has been working hard at his Mitzvah project by volunteering with ALIVE!, packing food and delivering furniture for people in need. Ethan is very grateful to his tutor Morah Laura, the Rabbi and Cantor, and all of his Beth El religious school teachers, who have taught him so much over the years.



## Member News

### *Welcome New Members:*

Katherine Lauria

### *Condolences to:*

Barry and Marilyn Smith, on the death of Marilyn's dear father, Ben Wenglin

Mary Meyerson, long time Beth El educator, on the death of her father, Glenn F. Friedl

Dan Root, Sue Klemens, and daughter Melinda, on the death of Dan's father, Benjamin H. Root

Marc and Pavlina Ittelson, and son Samuel, on the death of Marc's dear mother, Judith Ittelson

*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.*

## Caregivers' Support Group

**T**HE CAREGIVERS' Support Group is part of the Caring Community. The group meets the second Sunday in the month in Rabbi Isserow's study. If you are caring for your husband, child, or friend, come to our support group to share strategies, share resources, and support one another.

I am a licensed social worker and I have worked for the Department of Human Services for twenty-five years. If you are coming to our support group on Mar. 13, please call me at 703-370-5552 or email [franciefs@comcast.net](mailto:franciefs@comcast.net).

**Francie Fox-Schweber**



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](mailto:dina.backer@jccnv.org).

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

## Beth El/JCCNV ECLC

**Intentionality leads to learning that is not only fun, but also meaningful.**

**O**NE OF the things we love best about the Reggio Emilia philosophy is the way it can tie in so many components of critical learning through the explorations.

While our focus is not “academic” in nature (no drilling flashcards or learning letters and numbers out of context), we do want to ensure that our young friends are indeed ready to move from us into the world of kindergarten and elementary school. Through our explorations, we are able to learn and use these skills to help us.

The upcoming holiday of Purim is a great example. As classes learn about Purim, they will hear stories

(language arts skills) and their imaginations shine as we act out the stories and try to imagine ourselves in the shoes of the great Megillah characters. Geography is a consideration when we learn where the Purim story takes place. When we bake hamantaschen, we use math skills to measure the ingredients, and we are all about science when we experience the chemical reaction that is cooking. We practice our fine motor skills when we make groggers and masks, and our carnival strengthens our gross motor skills as we shoot baskets, bowl down the Haman pins, and pin the crown on Queen Esther. And, the knowledge of our Jewish heritage is ex-

panded as we learn the customs, music and meaning of the holiday itself.

Though our youngest friends will tell you that it is all just so much fun, the grownups (or those of us pretending to be grownups) know that every exploration of every day starts with intentionality. The intentionality leads to learning that is not *only* fun, but also meaningful. Meaningful learning from age appropriate context creates a long-lasting knowledge base. There is no better way to experience the world around us!

— **Dina Backer**

### *Little-known facts about Judaism:*

- Speed dating was invented by a rabbi in 1999.
- Marilyn Monroe was Jewish. She converted when she married playwright Arthur Miller.
- The population of Jews in the whole world is about the same as the margin of error in the Chinese census.
- Locusts are the only insect that is kosher.
- There is one kosher butcher in Cuba.
- More than 400 descendants of Nazis have converted to Judaism and moved to Israel.

## WRJ Social Action

This year, we will collect professional clothing for women and men during the month of April. If you are starting your closet cleaning early, hold on to those clothes for our April clothing drive! This year our clothing donations will all go to Strive DC. Strive DC reaches out to DC’s hard-to-employ adults -- those with limited education, little or no work history, issues with crime, substance abuse and homelessness. Clothing is only one element that Strive DC uses to train and equip people for the workforce.

**Janet Garber**  
[garberj123@gmail.com](mailto:garberj123@gmail.com)  
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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.



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# 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Book Sale a Huge Success

**O**UR 14TH annual Used Book Sale was a huge success. It takes a village to make this happen.

Many thanks to all the amazing volunteers who worked long and hard sorting books and working during the sale days.

Our office and custodial staff are the best. We could not have accomplished this sale with out them.

I am grateful to the volunteers who drove many miles to pick up book donations from homes and businesses.

My sincere thanks to all,

**Rhoda Goldman**



# 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Interfaith Dinner Inspired

**O**N FEB. 9, Beth El hosted the 58<sup>th</sup> annual interfaith dinner with Fairlington United Methodist Church. This tradition dates back to 1958 and has continued, alternating venues, since then. This year we played the “who has been married longest” game and discovered one attendee who has been a participant for 50 years!!!



We had a nice mix of folks from both congregations and were delighted to welcome the new Fairlington United Lead Pastor, Mary Beth Blinn, and Associate Pastor, Devon Earle, to Beth El for the first time.

Our guest speaker was Sister Maureen Fiedler, whose radio show, Interfaith Voices, airs on WAMU. Coincidentally, through a thought provoking and anecdote laced presentation, she outlined why we should engage in Interfaith work and urged us to continue our efforts in this regard.

This year we were the hosts and, as usual, Brotherhood organized and catered for the crowd of more than 100 people. (Editor’s note: the food was WONDERFUL!!) Brotherhood thanks all of the wonderful volunteers who helped make our 58<sup>th</sup> Interfaith Dinner with Fairlington United Methodist Church such a resounding success. Thank-you **Ron Sturman** (event organizer), **Bob Shaver** (head chef), **Norm Starler** (event manager), **Mike Baker**, **Arlene Blumenthal**, **Jeffery Davidson**, **Jeremy Flachs**, **Art**, **Bobbie** and

**Simon Gershman, Annette Kilian, Roberto Mosse, Eric Naide, Dan Root, Glenn Siegal, Gerrie Sturman,** and the countless others who pitched in at the end of the evening to help put things in order!!!



# ary at Beth El!

## Hamantaschen Baking a Big Intergenerational Hit

**W**OW, WE have had some great baking sessions including the past two Sundays, rotating between about 10 - 12 volunteers. We have made apricot, poppy, and prune hamantaschen since we began in January. Some of our January and early February volunteers included **Enid Liess, Laura Ouellett, Michele Milden, Susan Whitman, Marsha Kohn, Sue Meisner, Nava Ezra and her daughters, Leor and Sheir, Libby Starler, Barbara Silversmith, Pamela Zitron, Shoshanna Tanner and her family and Sarah Jacobsen and her family.** And not only did **Pat Collins, Steve Kalin, Suzie Shalewitz and Jeanette Astrow** come out to help bake and bag, but they also took turns leading some of the baking sessions that I could not make. A huge thank you to all those that helped bake, including those that helped after I wrote this for the bulletin. A big thank you goes out to all those who have been dropping off dough including **Sarah Jacobsen, Barbara Silversmith, Libby Starler, Jeanette Astrow, Pat Col-**



**lins, and Kathleen Levitz** to name a few. I'm sure there are many others that I missed.

By the time you read this I am hoping our Feb. 14 Valentine's Day baking session will also have been a huge success, with everyone bringing a **LOVED ONE** to bake together. Whether that was someone's son,

daughter, husband, wife, mother, father, mother-in-law, father-in-law, partner, you get the idea... I was hoping for a **FAMILY EVENT!** I enticed bakers with **RASPBERRY and CHOCOLATE CHIP** hamantaschen, if they joined me. A really big hit last year!

And then on Sunday, Feb. 28, **Sue Keitelman** and her 7th graders and adults in the Better Together program used the dough they made earlier in January not only to bake hamantaschen to eat, but also to bake for our cause. Their leader that day was another Beth El religious school student, **Jacob Levine.** Now a 12<sup>th</sup> grader working/volunteering for several years as a RS Madrichim, assistant teacher, substi-



tute teacher, and all-around great kid, Jacob learned the ins and outs of hamantaschen baking when he himself was in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, from two other RS students who taught a Jewish cooking elective that year, **Sarah Shalewitz and Allison Kaye,** who of course were taught by their Moms, **Suzie Shalewitz and Dawn Kaye!** L'dor V'dor!!!

**Karen Aftergut**



# The Bulletin

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# Hold the Date!

The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia will once again be returning to the Angelika Film Center and Cafe at Mosaic District in Merrifield, VA, for their 16<sup>th</sup> **Annual Jewish Film Festival**. The festival runs from Apr. 7 through 17. There will be entertaining and challenging films for the audience, as usual, with some excellent supporting programs. The films and schedule will be announced in the early spring, so keep an eye out for the JCCNV brochure, or go online to their website for further information.



Beth El WRJ and Brandeis National Committee invite you to **Mahj Mayhem** — not a tournament, just a lot of fun! Also friendship, food, and prizes. Sunday, Apr.

10, 2016 2–5 pm, at Beth El. \$20 with pre-registration, \$25 at the door. Details page 17.

Beth El supports the ALIVE! Child Development Center the first Sunday of May by participating in the **Step ALIVE! walkathon**.

**Evening with Friends** May 7 and May 14... see page 10 for more information.

**Beth El Communal Seder**, Saturday, Apr. 23

## Celebrate Rabbi Isserow's 25 Years in the Rabbinate

Mark your calendars for a special congregational dinner and musical Shabbat service on Friday, Jun. 17.

We'll be celebrating Rabbi Isserow's 25 years as a congregational rabbi and his honorary doctorate that will be awarded by HUC in March.

Stay tuned for more information.