



Beth El Bulletin

Beth El Hebrew Congregation

April 2016
Adar I/Adar II 5776

Worship Services

Friday, May 6
WRJ Shabbat Service, 7:30 pm

Saturday, May 7
Shabbat Morning Service and
Bat Mitzvah of Alexa Rosman,
daughter of Mark Rosman and
Jacqueline Corcoran, 10:30 am
Happy Birthday Israel Tot
Shabbat, 9 am

Friday, May 13
Family Service, 6 pm
Erev Shabbat Service, 7:30 pm

Saturday, May 14
Shabbat Morning Service and
Bar Mitzvah of David Ball, son
of Rachel and Steven Ball,
10:30 am

Friday, May 20
Erev Shabbat Service, 7:30 pm

Saturday, May 21
Shabbat Morning Service and
Bar Mitzvah of Ethan Brodie,
son of Amy and Jeffrey Brodie,
10:30 am
Lag B'Omer Tot Shabbat, 11 am

Friday, May 27
Erev Shabbat Service, 7:30 pm

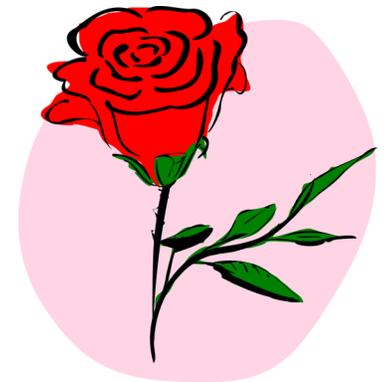
Saturday, May 28
Shabbat Morning Service and
Bat Mitzvah of Leena Heilizer,
daughter of Christina Shutes and
Anthony Heilizer, 10:30 am

Annual Brotherhood Mother's Day Brunch

BROTHERHOOD'S annual **Mother's Day Brunch** is on Sunday, May 8 at 10 am in the Social Hall. All women, and not just mothers, will be the guests of Brotherhood. Come enjoy a delicious Brotherhood-catered brunch and be entertained by Beth El's own **Rock Hard Bagels**. As is our tradition, ladies will receive a rose of appreciation, compliments of Brotherhood.

For payments received by May 4, the cost to gentlemen is \$8 per Brotherhood member and \$10 per non-Brotherhood member. The cost is \$12 for gentlemen who pay at the door. The brunch is complimentary for ladies.

To guarantee guests a seat, **advanced reservations are required** for all men and women attending so please RSVP by May 4 to Ron Sturman (rgsturman@msn.com).



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The greatest gift, besides the honorary doctorate, was the opportunity to reconnect with classmates and faculty, some of whom I have not seen for 25 years. It is difficult to describe just how much these people, and others who have passed away in the interim, influenced my life.

Rabbi's Remarks

TWENTY-FIVE years in the Rabbinate — I can clearly remember sitting in the Hebrew Union College Chapel in Cincinnati on Founders Day in 1990 and thinking, “A quarter century is so far away and I am going to be so old...!” Well, last month, on Founders Day 2016, I was back in Cincinnati and it was our turn to be honored by HUC with an honorary doctorate celebrating 25 years in the Rabbinate.

It was truly a celebration. Jinny and I were able to share some of our four years in Cincinnati with our kids. We showed them our apartment, the neighborhood we lived in, the University of Cincinnati Hillel House where Jinny was an intern, as well as visiting landmarks like Plum Street Temple, where Jinny and I were ordained as Rabbis. We also got to walk around the HUC Campus, some of which has not changed much but other parts of which have been radically upgraded and renovated.

The library building, housing the biggest collection of Jewish books in the U.S., has been completely revamped and updated. We were extremely fortunate to have a family tour of the Rare Book Room, given to us by David Gilner, the Director of Libraries, whose depth of knowledge and experience in the field is unparalleled. The American Jewish Archives Building is also on the campus, and it too has been expanded and modernized and is the repository of thousands of gems of American Jewish history.

The greatest gift, besides the honorary doctorate, was the opportunity to reconnect with classmates and faculty, some of whom I have not seen for 25 years. It is difficult to describe just how much these people, and others who have passed away in the interim, influenced my life. It went beyond the academic. They opened up a whole new world of Judaism for me, aspects of Torah, *Halacha*, theology and philosophy, a way of thinking and approaching Jewish texts

and tradition that I never knew was possible.

Along the way, they, both faculty and classmates, became friends and mentors, teachers and examples of what it means to be caring and compassionate *menschen*, who modeled Jewish values and the living of a Jewish life.

I have to admit that the whole doctorate experience was far more emotional and meaningful than I had thought it would be. I have always been highly skeptical about these honorary doctorates, but hearing the stories of my classmates' Rabbinate and reflecting on my own, I have come to realize that there is a lot more to this honor than just the passage of time.

How many hands have we held, bedtimes have we sat at, how many shovels of earth and shiva services? How many children bear Hebrew names that we blessed them with, how many B'nei Mitzvah, weddings and reconsecrations? How many services and seders, shofars and sukkot, how many tears and oh, oh so many smiles and much, much laughter.

In many ways those doctorates were earned in the tears we could not shed publicly, in the silent hurt we carry in our hearts, in the suppressed joy and happiness it would have been unseemly to share in public.

After 25 years each of us glimpsed this within the other and joined together in celebrating the moment, that moment of appreciation and recognition, made especially significant by the fact that it was bestowed upon us by the President of the College, our classmate and friend, Rabbi Aaron Panken.

One of these days I will get that Doctorate framed and hang it on the wall next to my Ordination certificate. Each will bring back its own share of memories and be a constant reminder of the wonderful people who have blessed my life between those significant moments.

Brett

Cantor's Corner

LIKE MANY of you, I enjoy the new Alexandria Wegmans supermarket. I know many of you enjoy going there, because almost every time I go, I see at least one Beth El Member — sometimes many more!

One of the things that I enjoy so much about this store is that every time I walk through the produce aisle, I see a fruit or vegetable that I'm not familiar with. I started the habit of always buying some fruit or vegetable that I've never tried. I've had some great experiments (Opal apples!) and not so great experiments. It's funny when you think about how often our eating habits are just a condition of habit. There's so much more out there for us to enjoy, but too often, once we find something we like, we stick with it, forgetting about all that is out there for us to try.

In a way, the synagogue experience can be a bit like going to the supermarket. We know what we like after many, many years of experimenting. Congregants often align with one or two parts of the synagogue and they find great enjoyment and meaning in that participation. I wonder though, what if everyone at Beth El could experiment, even for a month, participating in a part of the

community that they aren't yet familiar with. How could we broaden our experiences together? There may be a great Woman of Reform Judaism or Brotherhood program that you would find great meaning participating with. Maybe the Caring Committee has a need that you are uniquely capable of helping with. Have you checked the adult education schedule lately? What about the Religious School? Have you ever participated in one of the extraordinary Mussar classes that we offer? How have you engaged with one of the many of the Beth El social justice initiatives? How about attending a Wednesday evening yoga class, or joining me for a run some Sunday morning. What about Saturday morning Shabbat services? Near and dear to my heart, how about singing in the Beth El congregational choir?

There is always so much going on at Beth El. I encourage everyone, at least once, to try a program you haven't been involved with before. You never know, you may just fall in love with a new program. After all, I now swear by Opal Apples!

Cantor Jason Kaufman



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Report of the Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee chaired by Bob Holden has fulfilled its mission by offering the following slate for the Board of Directors: Todd Bolick, Henry Brooks, Sara Dejong, Donna Sachs, Ike Alberts, Alan Cohn, Ron Sturman, and Pamela Zitron. The slate will be proposed and voted upon at Beth El's Annual Meeting on June 21.

Thank you to Bob, Norm Starler, Marc Parsont, Debbie Katz, Janet Garber, Janet Platt, Ruth Perlstein, and Jeremy Flachs for accomplishing this task in record time!



We have a dedicated core of congregants who are in every sense a community, and our clergy are among our strongest assets.

President's Point of View

I AM GOING to break with one of my general rules and use this column for something that I never talk about, and that is money. Last month your Beth El Board of Directors did something courageous and innovative by modifying the fair share system of dues replacing it with something new, inviting and consistent with the practices of this synagogue. We voted for a "Free Will" system of dues, as a two-year experiment.

Let me say at the outset, that Beth El is in terrific financial shape! Our dues currently sustain our staff, our operations, and our beautiful facility. I would love to see membership grow, but that is the topic for another column. We have a dedicated core of congregants who are in every sense a community, and our clergy are among our strongest assets. One has only to hang out for a pre-oneg glass of wine (which I encourage anyway) to hear that our Rabbi and Cantor are usually cited as the reason why people join us. We also hear about how much people enjoy the services, and how the reputation of our Religious School is unsurpassed.

Regretfully, all this takes money. I had a great aunt who used to tell my mother "the Lord would provide." If only. As I have taken my leadership journey from a committee chair to president, I have learned three things: (1) it takes a lot of money to run this synagogue the way it should be run, (2) there is not a lot of fat in our budget, and (3) the Board is an excellent financial steward.

The new Free Will system is a way of harmonizing our dues collection practices with our reality. It is also more transparent. You will still be asked to choose a category of dues based on income. This is based on the philosophy that those who have more can give more to charitably cover for those who have less. You will be told, approxi-

mately, what it costs per member family to run a synagogue. What is different is that you will no longer have to meet with anyone—a committee chair or staff member—to justify your choice. We hope that this will eliminate what we have learned is a barrier to membership. No matter how kind our staff might be, people have told us that it is humiliating to have to bare your finances to anyone. We hope that by removing the humiliation factor, we will thus remove a barrier to membership. Moreover, by giving you the real costs, we know that you will choose a category of dues that makes sense for you and still sustains us.

You may ask, what are other congregations doing? The Free Will system is gaining momentum, but there are only about 30 synagogues in the URJ that have voted to try it. What have been their experiences? Reports have been astonishing: revenue has remained steady, and membership, bucking the general trend, has increased. The New York Times published an article on this at http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/02/us/the-pay-what-you-want-experiment-at-synagogues.html?_r=0

We hope to see those results replicated at Beth El. We hope, particularly as the only synagogue in Northern Virginia with this program, that we will see an increase in membership (although as I hinted, I think this is only one piece of the puzzle). I hope that the Beth El community will prove to be what I believe us to be, a generous congregation that steps up when necessary. We would not have tried this if we believed that our congregation was a bunch of *schnorrers*! So please, when you receive your letter, show your support for Beth El and its programs and choose your dues category thoughtfully. Thank you!

Julienne Bramesco



Ushers are needed for the following Friday night services: May 27, and 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.

Dinner to 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 twenty-five 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 delicious buffet dinner. Please note that the dinner will begin at 6 pm and there will not be a pre-oney. The cost is \$15 for adults and \$8 for children under 13.



Look for more information and a reservation form in the next Bulletin and in the Thursday Shabbat email.

Thanks to **Jeremy Flachs, Aramantha Flachs, Todd Bolick, Nancy and Stuart Davis, Linda Waller, Gilah Goldsmith, Pat Collins, Helen Manich, Steve Kalin, Harrison Bluestein, and Amir Neeman** for their work on the Chapel in the Woods. On Mar. 27, the team hauled and spread more than three quarters of a truckload of mulch, dug out invasives and weeds, cleared brambles, pruned, pulled ivy, and planted Winter Flowering Jasmine, Hellebore, and Wild Ginger.

PS from **Jeremy Flachs**: Yesterday, after my Hebrew lesson, I ventured back to the Chapel in the Woods to do more work, and found **Harrison Bluestein** hard at work spreading wood chips. I joined him and started to pull more ivy and then helped with the wood chips. Then **Amarantha Flachs** was released from Religious School and she joined us as we totally emptied the pile of wood chips from the left hand side of the parking lot. Now there exists only one pile of wood chips, near the playground.

Brotherhood Man of the Year

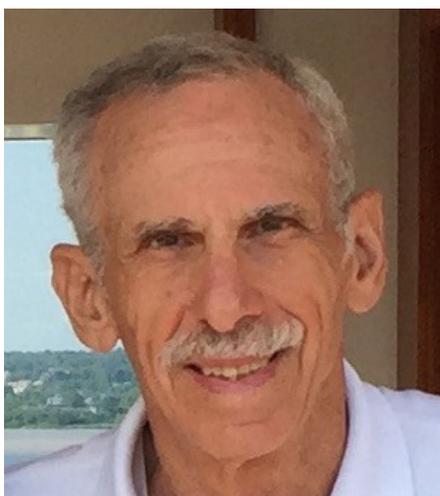
BROTHERHOOD'S annual Man of the Year award recognizes "a Brotherhood member who has done the most, worked the hardest, and has been the most dedicated supporter of Beth El Hebrew Congregation during the previous year." The 2016 award will be presented to this year's recipient, **Norm Starler**, at Brotherhood's Shabbat Service on Friday, June 10.

Norm and Libby Starler joined Beth El in 1989, and both of their adult children (**Annie and David**) received their full religious education, through Confirmation, at Beth El. From the very outset Norm became active in both Brotherhood and broader Beth El volunteer activities. Over the years he served the Temple on its budget committee, as a fair-share chair, as an at-large board member, and two years as a vice-president. This past year, Norm was once again elected to and served as a member of the Beth El Board of Directors.

Norm has been an extremely active Brotherhood volunteer as well, holding various offices (including Vice Presi-

dent) and assisting with numerous events, including several years as Purim Carnival chair. Last year he again served as an at-large Brotherhood board member, chaired its ad hoc nominating committee and co-chaired Brotherhood's Program and Entertainment committee. Both in years past as well as the one just ending, Norm could always be counted on to step up and help out at any number of Brotherhood functions—catering, Interfaith dinners, Religious School picnics, Mother's day brunches, political forums, and issue brunches. His face and helping hands are well-recognized as a mainstay at these gatherings. As background for this article, Norm emphasized how much he has benefitted from and enjoyed working with other Brotherhood volunteers, and how he was especially grateful to his wife Libby and family for their support through the years.

Come join us on June 10 to congratulate and show how grateful we are to Norm for all he has done for Brotherhood and Beth El.



The Book of Life, a long standing tradition and fundraiser for WRJ, is being resurrected after a long hiatus. The Book of Life allows congregants and indeed anyone to make a donation to WRJ in memory of a friend or loved one or in honor of a special event including a life-cycle event, special birthday, or historical event.

WRJ News

HAS IT really been a whole year since I was installed as president of WRJ? While there have been some personal challenges to overcome procrastination (yes, this was late again), I am extremely grateful to have the support, encouragement, hard work, and patience of my incredible board. They bring a wealth of information, experience, ideas, and most of all, friendship to our Sisterhood. More are always welcome.

All WRJ members are welcome to attend our meetings held on the first Wednesday of the month at 6 pm. (Our next one is **May 4**.) If you have ideas and energy, please join us. If not, please come anyway. Your presence is welcome and you may just enhance an idea offered by another.

Details on our upcoming **WRJ Shabbat potluck dinner, raffle drawing, and service on Friday, May 6 at 6 pm** are located elsewhere in this newsletter. The entire congregation is invited to attend as we celebrate WRJ and honor our Women of the Year, **Evy Englander and Karen Aftergut**, and their many contributions over the past few years.

Within three days, close to 100 women attended two separate events. Both were wonderful in different ways. Our Mahj Mayhem event brought close to 40 Mah Jongg mavens or soon-to-be-mavens together for a fun afternoon of play, prizes, and surprises. Many thanks to the planning committee lead by **Michel Milden and Jo Ann Allen** for their innovation in making the event so enjoyable. If you missed out this time, fear not. I'm certain we'll be doing this again in the future.

Next was the WRJ triennial Women's Seder. Sixty women came together to celebrate Passover from a woman's point of view. We remembered the bravery of Miriam, the sister of Moses, who ensured his safety as he floated down the Nile, as well as Shifra and Puah, the midwives who refused to kill the Hebrew male newborns. Special thanks to **Cantor Kaufman** for introducing more insight to our already thought-provoking hagaddah read-

ings. Our meal was expertly planned, coordinated, and prepared by **Jo Ann Allen** and her "wominions" as nearly everything was made from scratch — **Jane Dinsmore, Annette Kilian, Arlene Sacks, Anne Levy, Francie Schweber, Shelli Ross, Marsha Kohn, Jeanette Astrow, Sandra Seitz, Sally Schneider, Diane Suchman, Rachel Suchman, Sheryl Leeds, Nava Ezra, Sheir and Leor Clark, Rhubarb Woodmansee, and Linda Shapiro**. Also, thank you to **Simon Gershman** for providing support during the seder so we could enjoy ourselves. We were especially blessed to have a dear friend join us that evening. **Sylvia Kassalow**, a friend and mentor for many in our congregation, graced us with her ever-smiling face and presence. We were able to present her with a Goldengram signed by all those in attendance and sing Happy Birthday in honor of her upcoming 95th birthday later this month. Please don't hesitate to contact her by phone or mail. She would love to hear from you.

The Book of Life, a long standing tradition and fundraiser for WRJ, is being resurrected after a long hiatus. The Book of Life allows congregants and indeed anyone to make a donation to WRJ in memory of a friend or loved one or in honor of a special event including a life-cycle event, special birthday, or historical event. A page in The Book of Life will be designed with a small amount of artwork, the event being commemorated, and a list of the donors' name(s). We hope this will become a keepsake for our community over the coming years.

Upcoming dates:

May 4 – WRJ Meeting

May 6 – WRJ Shabbat

May 22 & 23 – Carpenters Shelter

May 8 & 22 – Knitting

Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday: Mah Jongg

Jeanette Astrow
WRJ President

Brotherhood News

ONCE AGAIN, a number of Brotherhood-sponsored functions and events are rapidly approaching.

Many of them could use your assistance; all of them are open to your participation. But first, I would like to thank the numerous Beth El volunteers who contributed so greatly to our annual Purim Carnival activities (list elsewhere in this issue). Special appreciation is extended to **Matt Mutterperl, Donn Blum-Kemelor, Jeremy Flachs** and **Fred Reiner** for their leadership roles and organizational skills that made this annual Beth El "March Madness" such fun and such a resounding success.

Beth El Brotherhood Softball is underway. Games are played from May and through early July at Ossian Field and Wakefield Park, both located in Annandale. All Brotherhood members, age 16 or older, are eligible to play. If you wish to join the team — or to be there to cheer them on — please contact co-managers **Jim Goldwater** (JimAuH2O@aol.com) or **Fred Silverberg** (my3sons.19@verizon.net) for exact dates and times.

Hopefully, there is still time to be reminded that on May 1 at 10 am in the Social Hall, Brotherhood is sponsoring a free bagel and coffee **Sports Forum on Cuba in American baseball history**. *USA Today* digital producer **Cesar Brioso** will discuss his book, *Havana Hardball: Spring Training, Jackie Robinson, and The Cuban League*. Walk-ins are welcome. (See related article.)

The following Sunday on May 8 at 10 am in the Social Hall, plan to attend Brotherhood's annual **Mother's Day Brunch**. All

women, and not just mothers, will be the guests of Brotherhood. (See related article.) Please RSVP by May 4 to Ron Sturman (rgsturman@msn.com).

The Brotherhood sponsored **Religious School end-of-year Picnic** is scheduled this year for June 5, the last day of Religious School classes.

On Friday night, June 10, the **Brotherhood annual meeting** will take place prior to the Brotherhood Shabbat service. The **Brotherhood Man of the Year Award** will be presented to **Norm Starler** during Shabbat services. (See related article.)

Unlike in previous years, there will be no preceding Brotherhood dinner. Rather, Brotherhood is sponsoring the 6:30 pre-service oneg, during which time (at 7 pm) Brotherhood members will break off into the Multi-Purpose Room order to approve last year's minutes and to vote on next year's budget. (Board members are currently in the middle of their two-year term.) Most importantly, Brotherhood members in good standing will be asked to approve a revised and updated **Constitution of the Brotherhood of Beth El Hebrew Congregation**, last amended in June 2005. Special thanks are extended to **Todd Bolick** and **Jeremy Flachs** for their work on the Constitution Review Committee. Copies of the budget and revised Constitution may be found on-line at <https://www.bethelhebrew.org/community/brotherhood>. For hard copies, please contact me or the Temple office directly.

John Jankowski
Brotherhood President
brotherhood@bethelhebrew.org

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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.



Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust

29th Annual Ceremony of Commemoration
by the City of Alexandria, Virginia

Tuesday, May 3
Noon

Market Square, 301 King Street

Refreshments following the ceremony

Each year since 1988, the City of Alexandria has sponsored a civic ceremony observing the Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust. The City's ceremony, which is planned by a committee of Alexandria citizens, is the only local government-sponsored commemoration of the Holocaust in the Washington metropolitan area.

Guest Speaker – Ambassador Stuart Eizenstat



Alexandria City Council
Mayor Allison Silberberg
Vice Mayor Justin M. Wilson
Councilman Willie F. Bailey Sr.
Councilman John Taylor Chapman
Councilman Timothy B. Lovain
Councilman Paul C. Smedberg
Councilwoman Redella S. "Del" Pepper

City Manager
Mark B. Jinks

The 2016 Northern Virginia Holocaust Commemoration

“Truth and Justice after the Holocaust”
Sunday, May 1, 5pm–8:30pm, the J

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the conclusion of the Nuremberg Trials. Our program reflects upon the work of this important tribunal and the lessons it set forth for combating injustices and crimes against humanity that continue into the present.

Hundreds of elected officials, dignitaries, interfaith leaders, Holocaust survivors, youth, and community members will participate in this annual observance held at the J. The program includes youth and professional art displays, B’nai B’rith’s “Unto Every Person There is a Name” reading of names of those who perished in the Holocaust, a youth workshop, and an adult seminar exploring our theme, “Truth and Justice after the Holocaust.” The evening culminates in a community commemoration with readings, poetry, a community interfaith choir, recitation of the Holocaust Kaddish, and the intergenerational candle lighting and pledges of the children and grandchildren.

This program is co-hosted by the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of Greater Washington, the JCCNV, and Agudas Achim Congregation of Alexandria. Each year more than two dozen synagogues, houses of worship and non-profits join us as co-sponsors and supporters. Details and registration at jcouncil.org/Holocaust.



Brotherhood Presents Sports Forum

CESAR BRIOSO, digital producer for USA Today Sports, will discuss his book, *Havana Hardball: Spring Training, Jackie Robinson, and The Cuban League*. Born in Havana in 1965, Mr. Brioso is a member of the Society for American Baseball Research and blogs about Cuban baseball history and Cuban teams at www.cubanbeisbol.com.

1947 was the most memorable season in the history of the Cuban League when the Almendares defeated its rival, Habana. At the same time, the Brooklyn Dodgers were beginning spring training on the island. One of the Dodgers' minor league players at spring training was

Jackie Robinson, as he prepared to break baseball's color barrier

Michael J. Baker, Jr., president of National Arts Television and seven-time Emmy Award winning host, reporter, and video producer, will moderate the forum and will present audience questions to Mr. Brioso.

The event is free but donations to offset the cost of refreshments will be welcomed. Please RSVP so we have enough seats set up and enough food. To RSVP or for additional information, contact **Ron Sturman** at: rgsturman@msn.com.

Board of Lady Managers INOVA Fund Raiser



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.

Beth El Permanent Endowment Fund

Annual Meeting of the Beth El Permanent Endowment Fund

Sunday, May 22, 2016, 10 am to noon

The Trustees of the Permanent Endowment Fund — **Evan Allen, Stuart Feldstein, John Jankowski, Sandra Seitz, and Dana Arnold** — welcome you to the annual meeting. Trustee terms are ending for **John Jankowski, Evan Allen, and Sandra Seitz**. The Nominating Committee proposes **Evan Allen** (for a second term), **Ernie Levy**, and **Janet Garber** to fill the expiring positions.

Any voting member may petition for an alternate slate of nominees directly to the Secretary, Dana Arnold, darnold.57@gmail.com, at least 20 days prior to the meeting and notice shall be provided to the membership by the Secretary at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

The Trustees look forward to meeting with you to discuss the Endowment Fund's progress and to elect the new trustees.

THE READERS of Beth El will meet next on Monday, May 2, 2016 at 7:30 pm to discuss *The Golem of Hollywood* by Jonathan and Jesse Kellerman. Two masters of psychological suspense weave a contemporary mystery set in LA steeped in religious mysticism, gruesome violence, and the supernatural. Men and women who enjoy Kellerman fiction please feel free to join us!

Readers of Beth El

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 Route 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.



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.

Caring Community members have recently assisted at shivas and delivered Passover bags to congregants who are homebound, recent widows and widowers, and centenarians.

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.

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

ALIVE! News

Don't forget the 35th annual Step ALIVE! Walkathon will be held on Sunday, May 1, to raise funds for ALIVE!'s Child Development Center (CDC), a high quality, full-day pre-school program serving children of low-income working parents. This 5k or 5 mile (walker's choice) stroll starts at 2:00 pm at First Christian Church, 2723 King Street, Alexandria, and ends at the same place with food, music and door prizes provided by the CDC. Register in advance online at www.alive-inc.org or at the event on May 1 starting at 1:15 pm.

Good Friends and Good Wine

BETH EL has had an ongoing wine tasting group for over 30 years. We meet once a month in members' homes.

There has been great interest in starting another group. If you are interested in joining this new group or finding out more about it, please contact **Linda Vogel** at lindav@cox.net (703-242-1880), **Harmony Knutson** at harmonycaak@me.com (202-256-5144) or

Ruth Perlstein rperl8607@gmail.com (703-978-9341).

Once we know who is interested, we will have a meeting to discuss forming the group.

Cheers,
Linda Vogel



**De-Stress, Relax, and Create –
Learn about the New Adult
Coloring Book Craze!**

**Wednesday, May 4
10:30 am – noon**

*Presented by Michele Endick,
JCCNV Lead Adult Group
Coordinator*

Adult coloring books provide adults with a new way to reduce stress and stimulate the senses. The templates/patterns are virtually endless — paisley, stained glass, floral, etc. After a short history of this “new” adult activity, we will “find our inner child” by coloring in pre-printed patterns of your choosing. We will also have special door prizes. This is a program to soothe the soul so come join us for a relaxing, stress-free morning!

**Innovations That Will Transform
Your World!**

**Wednesday, May 11
10:30 am – noon**

*Presenter: Steve Ewell, Executive
Director, Consumer Technology
Association (CTA) Foundation.*

Assuming you weren't among the thousands of people who attended the Consumer Technology Association's famous Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas in January, come join us to learn about innovations that will change the way we all age. One device will control all of a home's electronics. An autonomous car will help us live independently. Communications technology will enable us to experience the wonders of the world without leaving our home. Steve will talk to us about these and other technological advancements in the fields of health and fitness, robotics, virtual and augmented reality, and 3D printing. Through these technologies we will have greater control over our envi-

ronment, be able to connect with friends and family around the globe, and maintain our independence. The CTA Foundation was established with the mission to link seniors and people with disabilities with technologies to enhance their lives. Be the first to learn about this “out of this world” technology!

**Special Program: Catskills
Comedy and Reunion**

**Film:
*When Comedy Went to School
and Lunch***

**Wednesday, May 18
10:30 am – noon**

Documentary/2012/83 minutes

“I've been in love with the same woman for 49 years. If my wife ever finds out, she'll kill me!” *Ba-da-bing!* Borscht Belt humor! Don't you love it? In a 1970s survey, it was found that although Jews represented approximately 3% of the total US population, they accounted for 80% of professional comedians. Many of the greatest Jewish comedians got their start in the Catskill Mountains where they influenced many of today's popular entertainers. Join us for a fun morning at the movies as we watch the documentary *When Comedy Went to School*, which was the opening film for the 2014 Northern Virginia Jewish Film Festival. Enjoy featured clips and interviews with the likes of Jerry Lewis, Sid Caesar, Jerry Stiller, Mort Sahl, and Jackie Mason.

After the movie, we invite everyone to stay and schmooze with fellow members while enjoying a light bagel lunch. And, if you would like to bring a side dish, that would be wonderful. If you are looking for a morning of laughter, fun and schmoozing, this is the place to be!

Fee: \$12 / \$10 J and synagogue members (movie and light lunch)

Payment MUST be received no later than Monday, May 16. Make check payable to JCCNV and give to Shelly or send to JCCNV, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax, VA 22031, attn: Shelly Rosenstein

**Accuracy in Middle East
Reporting: A Close-Up Look**

**Wednesday, June 1
10:30 am – noon**

*Presenter: Eric Rozenman, Wash-
ington 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.

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

~ May 2016 ~ Nis			
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
<p>1 Batman Day 9a-10a Hebrew Enrichment 10a-12p Adult Hebrew Classes 10a-12p Brotherhood Sports Forum 10a-12p Religious School 10a-12p WRJ Mah Jongg 11a-12p Yom Hashoah Service 12-1:30p Intergenerational Choir 1-4p Bridge 5-8:30 Northern Virginia Holocaust Observance 2016 at the J</p>	<p>2 Garden Meditation Day 7:30p Readers of Beth El</p>	<p>3 National Teachers Day 6-8a Spring Bird Walk 12-1p Alexandria Holocaust Memorial 1:30-3:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-10p Executive Committee Meeting 7:30-9p Adult Education: Dr. Lisa Leff of American University</p>	<p>4 Star Wars Day 10:30a-12p JCCNV55+: Adult Coloring Book Craze 6:30-7:30p WRJ Board Meeting 6:15-8p Religious School 6:15-7:15p Yoga Tonight's normally scheduled adult education is yesterday.</p>
<p>8 Mother's Day 9a-10a Hebrew Enrichment 10a-12p Adult Hebrew Classes 10a-12p Brotherhood Mother's Day Brunch 10a-12p Religious School 10a-12p WRJ Mah Jongg 12-1:30p Intergenerational Choir 1-4p Bridge 2-4p WRJ Knitting Group</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 World Lupus Day 1:30-3:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 6:30-9p RSY Meeting</p>	<p>11 Yom HaZikaron (Israel) 10:30a-12p JCCNV55+: Transformative Technology 6:15-8p Religious School 6:15-7:15p Yoga 7-9p Introduction to Judaism Class</p>
<p>15 8:30-10a Brotherhood Board Meeting 9a-10a Hebrew Enrichment 10a-12p Adult Hebrew Classes 10a-12p Religious School 10a-12p Leadership Development Program 10a-12p WRJ Mah Jongg 1-4p Bridge</p>	<p>16 National Sea Monkey Day</p>	<p>17 World Telecommunications Day 1-3p NARFE Meeting 1:30-3:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 2-4p AHA Event 7-10 Board of Directors Meeting</p>	<p>18 International Museum Day 10:30a-12p JCCNV55+: Catskills Comedy 6:15-8p Religious School 6:15-7:15p Yoga 7-8p Adult Education 7-9p Introduction to Judaism Class</p>
<p>22 World Goth Day 9a-10a Hebrew Enrichment 10a-12p Adult Hebrew Classes 10a-12p Religious School 10a-2p Carpenters Shelter Food Prep 10-11a Permanent Endowment Fund 10a-12p WRJ Mah Jongg 1-4p Bridge 2-4p WRJ Knitting Group</p>	<p>23 World Crohn's and Colitis Day Carpenters Shelter Food Service</p>	<p>24 National Escargot Day 1:30-3:30p WRJ Mah Jongg</p>	<p>25 National Wine Day 6:15-8 Religious School 6:15-7:15 Yoga 6:15-8p Better Together Group 7-9p Introduction to Judaism Class</p>
<p>29 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 10a-12p WRJ Mah Jongg 1-4p Bridge</p>	<p>30 Memorial Day</p>	<p>31 World No Tobacco Day 1:30-3:30p WRJ Mah Jongg</p>	<p><i>Hopefully, by the time y May is National Barbecue National Hamburger Mo Americans in your life h isn't too bad, maybe yo</i></p>

san/lyar 5776 ~

Thu	Fri	Sat	Torah Portion
5 Holocaust Day 6:30-8:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-8p Beth El House 7-11p Bridge 7-8p Funding Our Future	6 Military Spouse Appreciation Day 6-7:30p WRJ Shabbat Dinner and Service 6:30-7:30p Wine and Cheese Pre-Service Oneg 7:30-8:30p Erev Shabbat Service 7:40p Candle lighting	7 World Naked Gardening Day (!!) 9-10a Happy Birthday Israel Tot Shabbat 9-10:30a Torah Study 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service and Bat Mitzvah of Alexa Rosman 6p Evening with Friends (various locations) Havdalah 9:11p	Acherei Mot Leviticus 16:1-18:30 Ezekiel 22: 1-19
12 Yom HaAtzma'ut (Israel) 10a-12p Board of Lady Managers 6:30-8:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-11p Bridge	13 Friday the 13th 6-6:30p Family Service 6:30-7:30p Congregational Dinner 6:30-7:30p Wine and Cheese Pre-Service Oneg 7:30-8:30p Erev Shabbat Service 7:30-8:30p Family Oneg 7:47p Candle Lighting	14 American Indian Day 9-10:30a Torah Study 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service and Bar Mitzvah of David Ball 6p Evening with Friends (various locations) Havdalah 9:18p	Kedoshim Leviticus 19:1-20:27 Amos 9:7-15
19 Hummus Day 6:30-8:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-11p Bridge 7:30-8:30p Interfaith Bible Study	20 National Pizza Party Day 6-7:30p Art Showing 6:30-7:30p Wine and Cheese Pre-Service Oneg 7:30-8:30p Erev Shabbat Service 7:53p Candle Lighting	21 Armed Forces Day 9-10:30a Torah Study 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service and Bar Mitzvah of Ethan Brodie Havdalah 9:24p	Emor Leviticus 21:1-24:23 Ezekiel 44:15-31
26 Lag B'Omer 12:30-2p Beth El House 6:30-8:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-11p Bridge	27 Amnesty International Day 6:30-7:30p Wine and Cheese Pre-Service Oneg 7:30-8:30p Erev Shabbat Service 7:59p Candle Lighting	28 International Jazz Day 9-10:30a Torah Study 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service and Bat Mitzvah of Leena Heilizer Havdalah 9:30p	Behar Leviticus 25:1-26:2 Jeremiah 32:6-27

When you read this, it won't have snowed for a few days and we can trust that spring has arrived! This is Arthritis Month, Arthritis Awareness Month, National Bike Month, National Blood Pressure Month, National Salad Month, and National Older Americans Month. So make sure the older folks have their blood pressure under control, and then take them out for barbecue! If their arthritis is under control, you can go for a bike ride, too!



We certain will miss Laura's smile and energy. Our happiness for her is that she will begin a new journey that will have an incredible impact on Jewish lives.

A New Jewish Director of Education – Our Loss Is the Community's Gain

OVER TEN years ago, I met **Laura Naide**. She was our Nursery Workshop Jewish Educator. In later years, she taught our first grade. Three years ago, Laura became our first Assistant Educator. Her responsibilities include managing the Religious School Office, a full-time job in and of itself, and using her talents and experience to assist in the educational components of our Religious School. Last year the Board increased her hours to include creating programs for teacher professional development and to reimagine our Youth/Parent Engagement programs. In addition to work, family, and self, Laura enrolled in the URJ Executive Master's Program in Jewish Education. This task alone is a full-time job.

Laura announced in April that she has agreed to be the Director of Education at Etz Hayim. This is a wonderful opportunity for her. It is also an incredible gift to the Jewish Educational Community.

Laura excelled in all that she did for our Religious School and in her Master's Program. On May 4, I was honored to see her receive her degree. Laura's energy is in her creativity and love of teaching. Now as the new Director of Education for Etz Hayim Religious School, she can fully utilize her teaching skills, energy, creativity and dedication.

Laura has many accomplishments as our Assistant Education Director. In addition to her coordination of our *Madrichim* program and teaching Comparative Judaism (co-teaching with Joanne Rhoads) she has revitalized our youth engagement program and instituted an internal professional development program for our Jewish Educators.

We certain will miss Laura's smile and energy. Our happiness for her is that she will begin a new journey that will have an incredible impact on Jewish lives. We all wish her the best.

Recruitment of New Religious School Students

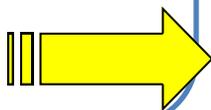
Registration for 2016-17 Religious School years will commence in mid-May. If you know of families who want to enroll their children in our school, please have them contact Laura or me at 703-370-6644 or bsmith@bethelhebrew.org. Remember, families with children in kindergarten through second grade do not need to become members.

L'shalom,
Barry Smith
Director of Education

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.




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WRJ Shabbat, Friday, May 6 at 6 pm

WRJ would like to invite you to the **Annual Pot Luck Dinner**

We will hold our **annual meeting**, honor the **WRJ Women of the Year**, and draw winners of our **annual raffle**, followed by **Shabbat Services** at 7:30

Congratulations to the 2016 Women of the Year

Karen Aftergut and Evy Englander



Please RSVP to wrjhospitality@gmail.com or call Jeanette Astrow @ 703.451.7007 with the number of people in your party and the dish you are planning to bring (meat, dairy or vegetarian). Pot luck contributions should have at least 8 servings. NO desserts, please.

WRJ Women of the Year

Evy Englander has served as our corresponding secretary, sending out birthday and anniversary wishes as well as get well wishes and condolence cards. She is ever-present at our meetings and helps out at our events whenever possible. Evy helps with communications and regularly attends WRJ's knitting group. She also serves as a reading buddy to first graders at Polk School in Alexandria as part of a community project coordinated by WRJ's social action committee. Within our larger BEHC community, Evy attends the Mussar class, works with Ryan on the re-cataloging project in the library, and is a new member of the inclusion committee. Outside of Beth El, Evy volunteers with King Street Cats and serves as a receptionist in the office of Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Arlington. In her "spare" time, Evy take a Civil War history class. She comes by her interest in history honestly as she served for 30 years as a research librarian for the Marine Corps History and Museums Division when it was still located at the Washington Navy Yard and before its relocation to Quantico. Evy hails from Ohio and lived on the same street as Pamela Zitron but not at the same time.

Karen Aftergut coordinates the volunteers who cook, deliver, and serve a monthly meal to the residents of Carpenters Shelter here in Alexandria. She trained under the tutelage of Annette Kilian and eventually allowed Annette to retire. Her latest volunteer efforts for WRJ include our annual hamentashen fundraiser. Not only does she coordinate adult volunteers to bake thousands of hamentashen for our fundraiser, she also partners with the middle school classes to teach kids how to make the hamentashen as well as provide energetic eager bakers to our ranks. Prior to that, she volunteered in the Judaica Shop, at the Bagel Bar, and in the pizza canteen. Karen's volunteerism has deep roots in her family as she fondly remembers her cousin receiving his Eagle Scout Award. Karen served as her sons' den mom as she encouraged CJ and Isaac to continue with Boy Scouts until they earned their Eagle Scout Awards too. She and her husband, Jeff, were never far from their boys' activities at Beth El, in school, or on the baseball field. Karen's latest activity includes gardening. Her interest began as a way to honor and remember her father who passed away three years ago. The garden in her yard became a refuge. She has progressed to the level of Master Gardener at Green Spring Gardens where she now works as a Visitor Services Assistant in the Horticulture Center. Karen hails from New Jersey and North Carolina, graduated from Tulane University where she met Jeff, and served as a Patent Examiner for the US Patent Office for 15 years before becoming a stay at home mom. Karen enjoys scrapbooking and was a Creative Memories consultant during that time.



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....

THIS IS a recap of Beth El House (BEH) — our history, services and successes — for all of our new congregational members and for those who want to recall our journey.

BEH was established as an independent social action organization (501[c][3]) in 1992 by members of Beth El Hebrew Congregation who wanted to assist homeless families work toward independence with dignity. Now in its 22nd year of service, BEH continues to help Fairfax County homeless families. BEH has been extremely successful in preparing its residents for future self-sufficiency and is committed to continuing to achieve its 80% success rate.

BEH assists women and children who are survivors of domestic violence transition to independent living by providing subsidized housing and individualized services for up to two years with one year of aftercare. Families reside in individual garden apartments provided by Good Shepherd Housing along the Route 1 Corridor in Fairfax County. Program goals are targeted toward self-sufficiency and confidence in three crucial areas associated with family permanence: financial and economic stability; emotional well-being; and healthy interpersonal relationships.

Each family is provided with in-depth, individualized services designed to strengthen their potential

for long term success. Each family's needs are assessed and resources are provided through referrals, community programs, and volunteer assistance. In addition to a subsidized rental housing unit, each family receives customized assistance in areas such as: mental health, physical health, employment, financial management, education, nutrition, parenting skills, and stress management. These skills are enhanced by clinical therapy to reduce trauma-related issues. At the monthly Mothers Meetings residents engage in an array of basic living skills including parenting, nutrition and exercise. These meetings also serve as a setting for peer support and establishing a sense of community.

During the weekly case management sessions the resident and the case manager discuss individual needs and goals. Every three months the resident and case manager review goals, assess progress, and create a new service plan. Once a resident achieves stable employment and housing and has met all of her goals, she is able to graduate from the program and begin the one year of aftercare, which includes continued case management.

For further Information or to volunteer, please contact **Kelli Pacilio** (BEH President) at kpacilio@mris.com or visit our website at www.bethelhouseva.org

Spring Birding At Beth El



Henry Brooks and Jeremy Flachs will lead a bird walk in Beth El's Chapel in the Woods from 6:00 am to 8:00 am on May 3. We will meet at the rear of the parking lot and will not venture far from the edge of the lot. Rain date is May 4. It is recommended that participants use an insect repellent like Deet; wear long pants tucked into socks, shoes (not sandals or flip flops), and a long sleeved shirt; and if you have them, bring a bird guide and binoculars. Spring migration should be in full swing. For questions, email Henry @ hbrooks-1@comcast.net or Jeremy @ Jeremy.flachs@flachslaw.com

Thank You, Purim Carnival Volunteers

The congregation, the Brotherhood, and the organizers of the Purim carnival want to thank the many volunteers that made the day so much fun for children and adults alike.

Shiri Abramovitch	Janet Garber	Matthew Mutterperl	Clair Sassin
Isaac Aftergut	Art Gershman	Noah Mutterperl	Caroline Schneider
Ben Berman	Simon Gershman	Joshua Mutterperl	Kate Schneider
Aaron Berman	Bobbie Gershman	Ethan Mutterperl	Sally Schneider
Donna Blum-Kemelor	Diana Haemer	Ben Mutterperl	Leah Shosteck
Todd Bolick	Ford Heilizer	Emily Mutterperl	Jenna Silversmith
Janet Cady	Arlene Hewitt	Laura Naide	Mary Skinner
Sheir Clark	David Itkin	Amir Neeman	Roger Smith
Leor Clark	Sarah Jacobson	Zeke Paley-Farkus	Barry Smith
Alix Coughlin	Becca Jacobson	Heidi Parsont	Abby Solomon
Mike Coughlin	John Jankowski	Janet Platt	Ron Sturman
Jeff Davidson	Heather Johnson	Fred Reiner	Rachel Suchman
Joy Drachman	Jack Kaye	Amber Reiter	Michael Tanner
Paige Ellis	Ian Key	Andy Rhodes	Shoshanna Tanner
Nava Ezra	Annie Lebow	Aliyah Rothbart	Samara Tanner
Ethan Feil	Dolly Lebow	Donna Sachs	Rachel Turner
Amarantha Flachs	Jerry Liess	William Salamon	
Jeremy Flachs	Roberto Mosse	Danielle Sassin	

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 two, three, or four years old 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.

**#Adulting: An afternoon of Workshops for Young Couples at the DC JCC
Sunday, May 15, 1-4 pm**

Drawing inspiration from Rabbi Daniel Judson and Rabbi Nancy Wiener's Book *Meeting at the Well: A Spiritual Guide to Jewish Engagement*, young couples of all backgrounds, recently married (within the last 5 years), engaged or in long term relationships, are invited to explore major themes of moving from two individuals to one unit; workshops will delve into the topics of finance, spirituality, intimacy, wedding planning, familial relationships and other common challenges of the modern couple.

The event includes heavy appetizers and beverages, a vendor market of home products and services. One ticket per couple; buy tickets at the DC JCC website. Nobody will be turned away for inability to pay.



The Congregation Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations

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Helen and Stanley Miller.....	Harry Want
Beverly Jeanne Davis.....	Rabbi Arnold G. Fink
Toby (Fink) Laping.....	
Janice and Steven Schlesinger.....	Robert Walitsky
Susan and Larry Solomon.....	Arby, Alyce and Jerry Solomon

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	Norma Thalhimer
William Kramer.....	Shirley Fishbach

ENDOWMENT FUND

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SOCIAL ACTION FUND

Donor	In Support of
Annette Kilian.....	ORT
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Bobbie and Art Gershman.....	Joan Deschere

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

Alexa Rosman, May 7

Alexa Rosman is being called to her Bat Mitzvah on May 7 and has been attending Beth El since she was in the “twos” preschool class. Alexa is a 7th grader at Williamsburg Middle School and enjoys drawing, playing the guitar, and being on the Internet. For her Mitzvah project, she fostered two adorable puppies named Violet and Venus for *A Forever Home* until they were adopted to good families. She is thankful to her tutor Laura Mandeles, Cantor Kaufman, Rabbi Isserow, and all the teachers she has had at Beth El throughout the years for helping her prepare for this special day.

David Ball, May 14

David Ball is a 7th grade honors student at Carl Sandburg Middle School. He loves spending time with his friends, playing video games, and listening to the Rolling Stones. He plays basketball and soccer, has a wicked sense of humor, a refined palate, and a very high EQ, for which his parents are very thankful and proud. For his Bar Mitzvah Project, David volunteers with kids who have mental and physical disabilities to teach them the game of soccer. David would like to thank his parents, the Cantor, the Rabbi, and especially his tutor, Lisa Sheldone, for helping him prepare for his Bar Mitzvah.

Ethan Brodie, May 21

Ethan is a 6th grade student at Stratford Landing Elementary school. Ethan is an avid baseball fan and enjoys cheering on the Nats! (Also a Caps and Wiz fan). Ethan discovered an interest in weather at a very young age and is often referred to as our weatherman. He communicates with local and national weather people on social media. His Mitzvah project is ongoing as he makes PUPcicles (using his own money to buy ingredients) for the Alexandria Animal Shelter. He delivers them weekly and spends time with all of the animals. Ethan would like to thank Lisa Sheldone, his tutor, the Cantor, and Rabbi for their help and guidance in preparing for his “call up to the big leagues.”

Leena Heilizer, May 28

Leena Heilizer is a 7th grade student at the Nysmith School who enjoys music, sleep-away camp and cooking. Leena decided that her enjoyment of cooking should be a part of her mitzvah project so she prepared meals for the Volunteers of America food pantry. Leena is grateful for the support of her tutor, Laura Mandeles, Cantor Kaufman, Rabbi Isserow and her grandmother, “Grandma Juicy,” during the process of preparing for this special day.

Member News

Mazel Tov to:

Elisa and Ian Barsotti and big sister **Isabel** on the birth of **Benjamin Cole Barsotti**, born Apr. 4, 2016

Rabbi Brett Isserow who received his honorary doctorate from HUC marking his 25 years in the rabbinate

Linda Waller who received the Lee District Community Champion award at the 2016 Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards ceremony

Laura Naide who received her Masters in Jewish Education

Welcome New Members:

Colleen and Rory Lettvin, and **Madison and Theodore**

Dorrit and Michael Lowsen, and **Asher**

Condolences to:

Dean Pinkert and **Susan Paley** and to their children **Rose** and **Zeke**, on the passing of Dean's dear mother Jeanne Pinkert

Carol and Sidney Citron and to their daughters **Lauren** and **Rachel** on the passing of Carol's dear mother Toby Kleinman

Mitch and Anne Eisman and to their daughter **Maddie** on the passing of Mitch's dear mother Lynne C. Eisman

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.*

Beth El/JCCNV ECLC

THE FIRST year of my graduate program at HUC was in Israel, on the Jerusalem campus. There was a staff member there who used to say by Purim, the year is over. “PURIM, PESACH, and PACKING.” While we may not be packing, as May and June roll in, we can feel the shift in our program. Our graduating 4s are starting to tour their new kindergarten classes in their new schools. Normally, in the past, we would be preparing to shift from school to camp. This year we are working out the details of what a year round school will mean to us.

Endings and transitions are always bittersweet as we reflect back on the year. We have had such an incredible year of learning with so many explorations that ranged from hatching butterflies to recycling and repurposing found materials (check out the pallet display in the glass

case outside the social hall!) to coloring to planting to cars and trucks to community helpers and so much more. Each exploration involved hands-on activities, a thoughtful process and sometimes, open-ended art. We explored our Judaism in much the same way as we learned about Jewish values and celebrated the Jewish holidays throughout the year.

A school, especially a good one, doesn't operate in a vacuum. It takes many people to move all the moving parts! Our amazing classroom educators, support educators, specialists, and substitutes take care of the daily care and learning in the classroom. Our amazing Assistant Director, Alison Kerlin, keeps tabs on all the happenings, making sure everyone is headed in the right direction and has all the supplies they need. Our school is backed and supported unconditionally but both the

leadership of the JCCNV and the Leadership of Beth El. Beth El's support also comes from the Beth El front office as well as the custodial team. We are grateful for everyone's help — for every set up, for every time we coordinate a program, for all the involvement from the Rabbi and the Cantor. There simply aren't enough thank yous to cover it all. All of us are thankful for the wonderful parents who lend us their wonderful, special incredible children. Their smiling faces make all the difference every day.

How blessed I feel to be involved with work that I love in a place where we all can thrive!

Thanks everyone for a wonderful year!

L'shalom,
— **Dina Backer**

Adult Education

Special Program

Beth El, in partnership with the Foundation for Jewish Studies, is very pleased to have Dr. Lisa Leff as our guest speaker on Tuesday, May 3 from 7:30 to 9 pm.

(Please note different day and time than our regular Adult Education/Lifelong Learning classes.) Dr. Leff is a Professor and Director of the Undergraduate History Program at American University. She received her BA from Oberlin College, and her MA and PhD from



the University of Chicago. Her historical research focuses on Jews in France. Dr. Leff will be discussing her most recent book, entitled *The Archive Thief: The Man Who Salvaged French Jewish History in the Wake of the Holocaust*. This is the story of Zosa Szajkowski, who gathered tens of thousands of documents from Berlin and France, and moved them to the US. Dr. Leff traces his life, his escape from France, and

his years in New York, where his publications and actions opened up many questions about Jewish nationalism, Jewish archives, ownership of documents, and Jewish history writing. Please join us for what promises to be a very interesting and intriguing evening.

Creating an Ethical Jewish Will

Presented by Barry Smith, Director of Education at Beth El

Part two of our class on “Creating an Ethical Jewish Will” is scheduled for Wednesday, May 11 at 7 pm. Participants are asked to create their own ethical wills. Even if you didn't join us for the first class, please considering sharing your thoughts and ideas about what you would put on your own ethical will. Consider your beliefs and opinions on Judaism and what you have learned from your Jewish experiences. What are key values and concepts you wish to pass on to your posterity? How does Judaism guide your life? Visit this sites for inspiration: www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/jewish-wills and www.ethicalwill.com/whatsin We hope you will join us for this spiritual and meaningful class.



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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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Biodiversity, Beth El, and You!

THROUGH enormous effort, large swaths of soil in the Chapel in the Woods now lie uncovered after being cleared of ivy, multiflora roses, and other invasive species. While many more tough vines and thick roots need to be yanked out and hauled away to preserve and build on this work, other ground covers and shrubs must replace the invasive plants — and drive them out.

At www.plantnovanatives.org, a consortium of 13 Virginia environmental groups explain why many of the new plants should be Virginia native species. Native species:

- Have attractive flowers, berries and foliage.
- Require less maintenance, time, and money. Because they are well-suited to the environment and climate, they need less water, fertilizer, and pesticides.
- Support birds, pollinators, and other wildlife by offering food and shelter. And because most native plants have natural predators, they are less likely to grow out of control.

This spring at least six drought-tolerant, hardy native ground covers will be planted in the main Chapel area to learn what varieties will do well in the deep shade and spread quickly. In the fall, several native shrubs will be added to the mix.

The first plants will include Partridge Berry, *Mitchella repens*; Green and Gold, *Chrysogonum virginianum*; Woodland Phlox, *Phlox divaricata*; Wild Geranium, *Geranium maculatum*; Foam Flower, *Tiarella cordifolia*; and Arkansas Blue Star, *Amsonia hubrichtii*.

Visit the Chapel in the Woods to discover an opportunity for you to make a personal contribution to global biodiversity and reduce the effects of climate change. Learn how to identify invasive species and help control them at home and in the Chapel. A Sunday morning workday will be held from 10 am to noon May 15. 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.

Congratulations to Laura Naide

On May 4, Laura Naide, Beth El's Assistant Education Director, will receive her Master of Arts in Religious Education from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City. Laura has studied for over two years in HUC's Executive Master's program with a cohort of students that includes Education Directors, Rabbis, Museum Educators and Youth Professionals. Her courses have included Rabbinic Texts, Educational Leadership, Curriculum Development, and Modern Jewish Thought. Courses took place online with intensive in-person sessions at each of HUC's campuses (Cincinnati, Jerusalem, Los Angeles and New York). Laura thanks the congregation for all of the support and encouragement she received during this educational journey!

Mahj Mayhem a Huge Success!

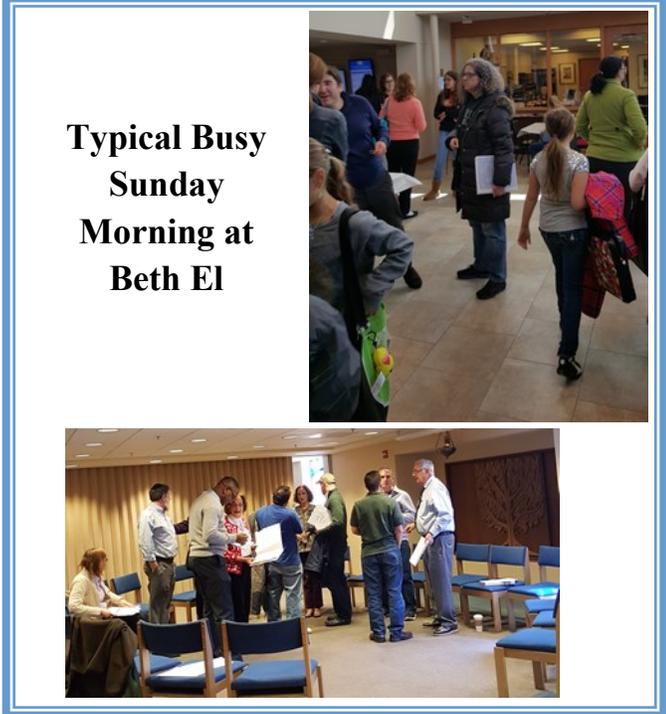
Thank you to the following WRJ and Brandeis members who helped to make our first Mahj Mayhem such a wonderful success: **Jo Ann Allen, Jeanette Astrow, Sara Deshong, Jennifer Dublin, Janet Garber, Sheryl Leeds, Anne Levy, Michele Milden, Janet Platt, Sandra Seitz, Bette Shanley, and Bronna Steiman.** A special shout out to **Sara Deshong** for the great door prizes. See photos over there... 

Thank you to all the attendees, who helped to raise money for WRJ and Brandeis Scholarships. A repeat performance of Mahj Mayhem has been unanimously requested for the fall! We'll see you then!

Awesome April at Beth El!



**Chapel in the Woods
Clean-Up**



**Typical Busy
Sunday
Morning at
Beth El**



Mahj Mayhem



**2016 WRJ Women's
Seder**



The Bulletin

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John Jankowski
Jeanette Astrow
Janet Platt
Laura Salisbury

Hold the Date!

Annual Meeting of the Congregation and election of new Board of Directors members, June 21

Beth El/JCCNV event: *Accuracy in Middle East Reporting: A Close-Up Look*, June 1

DC JCC 17th Annual Jewish Music Festival, June 3-15

Israel Fest 2016: Israel @ 68, June 5

DC JCC Film — *Every Word Has Power: The Poetry of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel*, June 7

ReelAbilities Film Festival, Sep. 18-25

Religious School End-of-Year Picnic, June 5

Brotherhood Annual Meeting, June 10

Board of Lady Managers brunch supporting INOVA Alexandria Hospital, June 12

Celebrate Rabbi Isserow's 25 Years in the Rabbinate

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

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

Stay tuned for more information.