



Beth El Bulletin

Beth El Hebrew Congregation

November 2017
Heshvan/Kislev 5778

Worship Services

Friday, November 3
Shabbat Evening Service
7:30 pm

Saturday, November 4
Shabbat Morning Service
and Bar Mitzvah of Ethan
Mutterperl, son of Emily
and Matthew, 10:30 am

Friday, November 10
Shabbat Evening Service
7:30 pm

Saturday, November 11
Shabbat Morning Service
and Bat Mitzvah of Aurora
Stankow-Mercer, daughter
of Naomi Mercer and Kerry
Takenaka, 10:30 am
Tot Shabbat, 11 am

Friday, November 17
Family Service, 6 pm
Soul Shabbat Evening
Service, 7:30 pm

Saturday, November 18
Shabbat Morning Service
10:30 am

Wednesday, November 22
Interfaith Thanksgiving
Service at Christ Church
6:30 pm

Friday, November 24
Shabbat Evening Service
**6:30 pm (note time
change)**

Saturday, November 25
Shabbat Morning Service
10:30 am
Tot Shabbat of Giving
Thanks, 11 am

SONGS TO CHANGE THE WORLD

An Evening of Song with
**Cantor Jason Kaufman,
Eric Schnobrick and LEA**
December 2nd, 7:00 pm
7:00pm Wine and Cheese
7:30 Concert and Dessert
Tickets \$36

See enclosed flyer for more information.

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*...and this issue has more cool
things hidden throughout than
any issue before!!!!*





Rabbi's Remarks

MARGARET MEAD, the well-known anthropologist once said, "A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." These words have long been

a source of inspiration to me and, I have no doubt, to many others. As long as there were even a few like-minded people working in concert toward some elevated goal, there was a chance that things could be different - the world made a little better, a little safer, a little more bearable for all or some of its inhabitants.

Beth El was recently approached by a group with the impressive title of the Global Center for Refugee Education and Science. (GCRES). Their prime goal is to educate newly-arrived immigrant women. Most of these have had little or no schooling and are therefore illiterate even in the language of their birth country. This obviously presents a tremendous problem in terms of both learning a new language, English, as well as learning how to negotiate the complexities of our modern society.

We have welcomed the group into our building and hope that over the months to come they will find a home here at Beth El. There is no doubt about the need for this kind of program, especially one that is data-driven and relies on a sophisticated analysis of outcomes to ensure their progress and success.

Further on down the line there may well be an opportunity for us to get involved as possible mentors and help to supplement the great work that GCRES is doing.

While this is a little premature, if you are interested in helping to mentor one of these women please let me know. I will begin compiling a list of volunteers. It is too early to say what this would entail. The program has just begun and I still have to discuss this proposal with the organizers. I think that this is another opportunity to put our sacred values into action and in a concrete way bring positive change to individual lives.

Thanksgiving is just around the corner and it is time for our annual service with Christ Church. This service has been a long-standing tradition for our two congregations and I look forward to having as many of you as possible join us in Christ Church's historic sanctuary for this celebration of gratitude and friendship. The service is followed by a reception provided by members of the Church and it is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones.

We have been asked by Christ Church to change the time of our joint Thanksgiving Service from Thursday morning to Wednesday night. So this year we will be meeting at the Church at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, Nov. 22 for our first Thanksgiving evening service.

It is certainly of some comfort in these uncertain times to both be part of a life-changing outreach effort to those in need and at the same time be fortunate enough to celebrate our appreciation for the amazing gifts of life and love that we enjoy.

— Brett

Celebrate Hanukkah with WRJ

Wednesday, Dec. 6

12 noon — 2 pm: Hanukkah Luncheon

6:30 — 8 pm: Latke Social

Please join WRJ for our annual Hanukkah Luncheon and/or Latke Social.

The cost for each event is \$20 for WRJ members, \$25 for non-members.

The menu for the luncheon will be chicken, salmon, latkes, and salad, with sufganiyot (jelly donuts) and brownies for dessert. The main course for the evening may be different.

Bring a \$10 wrapped gift for a gift exchange with our own "spin" on the dreidel game.

Feel free to bring your own Hanukkah to light as we celebrate the Festival of Lights.

RSVP and questions: e-mail (preferred) WRJHospitality@gmail.com or call **Jeanette Astrow** at 703-451-7007.

WRJ Memberships Sold at All WRJ Events

Social Action Support: We will be collecting gift cards for the families at Beth El House and gift cards of \$25 or less and new unwrapped gifts for the Alexandria Domestic Violence Program to help make their holiday seasons a bit brighter.

Cantor's Corner

IT IS WITH great excitement that I announce that the next Cantorial concert at Beth El will be on Dec. 2 at 7 pm.

This year's concert will be called "Songs to Change the World." The concert will focus largely on music with the theme of *tikkun olam*, meaning repair of the world and social justice. It is my hope that the music will be meaningful, full of joy, and remind us of our sacred obligation to improve the world around us. Wine and cheese will begin our evening at 7 pm with the actual concert starting at 7:30. We will also be having a delicious dessert reception during intermission.

Once again, we will be joined by the extraordinary Eric Schnobrick on piano, and wonderful friend of the Beth El community, singer-songwriter LEA. I am very excited about the musical program that will be offered.

Each year, our concert has a special focus aligned with a particular fundraising goal that brings out the theme of the music. This year's fundraising goal is something that I am particularly excited about. "Songs to Change the World" will be raising money to help benefit friends of Beth El in the refugee community and HIAS, an organization with a long history of supporting and advocating for refugees of all backgrounds. Indeed, there are members of our own Beth El community who have been personally touched by the incredible work of HIAS.

Our world is facing the largest refugee crisis it has ever experienced. It is estimated that there are 21.3 million refugees in the world today, in addition to 37.5 million internally displaced people around the globe. The numbers are daunting. We know though that as a community of faith and purpose, that we are commanded and compelled to engage in this work and offer help,

however and whenever we can.

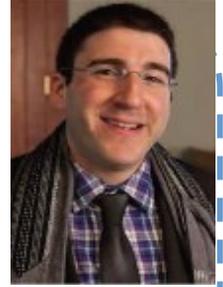
To that end, this past year, our community was blessed to become friends with and create a special relationship with a refugee family from Afghanistan. It has been a very rewarding experience and one in which we feel blessed to have been a part of. We as a Jewish community know that our people's modern and ancient history mirrors the story of the present-day refugee. This year, members of Beth El have come together to support the work of relocating this wonderful family to Northern Virginia. As you can imagine, not only does this involve generosity of spirit, but generosity of finances as well. This concert will help to continue to support this family, as well as others who we hopefully will be able to work with in the future.

Tickets for the concert are \$36 with opportunities for additional levels of support.

Please note — and this is very important — everyone is welcome. Regardless of what you can pay, or if you can pay at all, you are welcome to attend the concert as my guest. Just privately reach out to me and let me know. Additionally, each year, we have had very generous congregants make donations to the concert to confidentially sponsor individuals who will be attending free of charge. If you would be interested in helping to support the concert in this fashion, please let me know.

I can't wait to see you on Dec. 2 at 7 pm for "Songs to Change the World!"

— Cantor Kaufman



Simply Mahj!

Sunday, Nov. 19, 2017, 2-5 pm

Bring your favorite snacks,
2017 card, friends, and change

Each table can set its own rules —
play for money or not, Charleston or not...

Plan your own table when you arrive!



Sunday Morning Mahj



Mahj Mayhem

Admission \$10 — RSVP by Nov. 15 — Make checks payable to *BE-WRJ* and mail to: Beth El Hebrew WRJ, 3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304 — or RSVP now and pay at the door!

Questions: Contact **Michele Milden** at 703-820-7794 or simplymahj@aol.com.



President's Point of View

HAVE YOU BEEN in the position where you were interviewing people for jobs with your company, where just through talking to applicants you fell in love with your company all over again? We often get so wrapped up in the mundane day-to-day aspects of our jobs, and so overwhelmed by the negative that we can forget why we wanted to work there in the first place. That's a little like how I have felt conducting interviews with candidates for Beth El's Senior Rabbi position. Good interviews are more like conversations than question-and-answer sessions, and really good interviews are those where the interviewee is asked probing questions about the job and the company. It is quite natural, therefore, that in the past few weeks, I have had a number of conversations where I have described the reasons for my own Beth El affiliation, the circumstances that led to my leadership role, and why I think Beth El is such a special place.

My love for Beth El and its congregants and staff is hard to put into words. We are such a loving and caring community. The Beth El community cares — we celebrate our simchas and we mourn our losses together. On Shabbat evenings we have welcomed comparative reli-

gion students from NOVA, out-of-town visitors, and family members in addition to that week's yahrzeit families, newcomers, and the "regulars." Everyone is greeted with a glass of wine or lemonade and a chance to meet new people. Our Board consists of members of a diverse group of various synagogue stakeholder groups including an increasing number of our Religious School families. Our halls are teeming with activity; truly there is something here for everyone. So as I describe Beth El to applicants, I hope that my voice conveys contagious warmth and optimism. Beth El is in a great place. We have challenges, but we are as strong as our relationships.

Do you feel it too, or do you feel somehow disconnected? There are so many ways to experience Beth El, and a great place to start would be through Brotherhood or Sisterhood membership. Brotherhood and Sisterhood contribute to the Beth El community in so many ways, all while providing good company and often good food. As I have so often noted in this column, the more I give to Beth El, the more I get back. So please, don't hold back, don't just join us, experience us!

— **Julienne Bramesco**

Social Justice

Democracy is not a spectator sport! — Save the Date!

WRJ Region 4 is sponsoring an invitation to advocacy event on Sunday, Dec. 3 from 1:00 - 2:30 pm at Beth El Hebrew Congregation. Three successful advocates will discuss voting issues, immigration rights, and reproductive rights. This is a no-cost event. Please RSVP to **Patricia Collins** at collinspmaria@gmail.com.

Lifelong Learning Presents Jewish Art at the Smithsonian

PLEASE JOIN us on Wednesday, Nov. 15 at 7:00 pm to hear Sara Shoob enlighten us about Jewish art and artists in the Smithsonian's American Art Museum and Renwick Gallery.

Sara has a background in teaching and educational administration with an emphasis in history, social studies, and the arts. Before retiring, she was the K-12 Coordinator for Social Studies in FCPS. In retirement, she's a docent at the Smithsonian American Art Museum and Renwick Gallery. You'll enjoy her passion for sharing information about the collection.

In this presentation, Sara will discuss Jewish artists who have works on view or in the collection at American Art. You might recognize the names of Roy Lichtenstein, Lee Krasner, Sol LeWitt, and Helen Frankenthaler, but there are many more. We will ponder questions such as, "What does it mean to be a Jewish Artist?" and "How is an artist's Jewish background reflected in their work?"

Please contact **Debbie Spitzer** (debbie.e.spitzer@gmail.com) or **Maryn Simon** (happyduke8@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

Moments In Jewish Time

THERE ARE Moments in Jewish Time (Moments) when a particular event makes one feel very good that something is working. One of these Moments for me, was on the opening day of Religious School. It has been our practice to conclude the Opening Day with all of the students, parents, and other congregants joining the Cantor and Rabbi in a celebration of the beginning of the religious school year. This year **Cantor Kaufman** brought to this closing ceremony his wonderful Sunday Soul Band.

Imagine the scene: almost 200 young Jewish students and many parents sitting in our beautiful sanctuary with its new carpeting and aura of happiness. The Rabbi welcomes the students and their parents. Cantor Kaufman and his Sunday Soul Band engage us in song and music that stirs excitement and joy in both adults and students. These are the Moments that you realize what we do at Beth El instills in our youth and adults special feelings of Jewish identity, community, Jewish spirit, and the ability

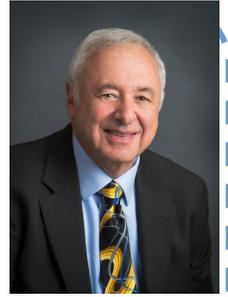
to share in the liturgy and the great heritage of the Jewish people.

I sat in the rear of the sanctuary for most of this beautiful event. I could feel the energy and happiness in our students, the parents, congregants, and our clergy. This Moment will be with me throughout this year and many more.

Of course, there was a tinge of sadness knowing that this was the last opening day for **Rabbi Isserow** to welcome our students. I know that he will be with us in a different capacity which makes all of us feel very good because his love of learning, teaching, and his joy of spirituality inspires us all.

B'Shalom

Barry Smith, Director of Education
bsmith@bethelhebrew.org



Readers of Beth El

THE READERS of Beth El will meet next on Monday, Dec. 4, 2017 at 7:30 pm. We will be discussing *The Bridal Chair* by Gloria Goldreich. This historical fiction explores the complex mind of Marc Chagall, a Jewish artist during the Nazi occupation of Paris, as told through the eyes of his daughter. We hope you will enjoy the book and can join us.

— Lynne Orens, Lorens750@aol.com, 703-569-5168

Judaica Shop

NEW GOODIES are arriving in the gift shop every week! If you are looking for gifts for others or Judaica for yourself, stop by the Sisterhood gift shop. We have a huge selection of new *mezuzot* for all ages; new necklaces, bracelets and earrings from Michael Bromberg, Mary DiMarco, and Ithil Metalworks; and beautiful decorative glass Judaica. We also have some new beauty products from Israel. Mark your calendars now to come to WRJ's annual Hanukkah Boutique on Sunday, Dec. 3, 2017.

— Sara Rojas Dejong and Lynne Orens

IT IS NOT TOO EARLY TO THINK ABOUT PRESCHOOL!

Our Early Childhood Learning Center offers part time and full time options for children who will be 2, 3, or 4 by September 30. Our Full-time Toddler Program accepts students from 16 -23 months.

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

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

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

The Lessons of Charlottesville



SHORTLY AFTER the Charlottesville neo-Nazi rally, I was sitting in a Jewish space where there was a purposeful dialogue being held about the impact of this event in modern America. I purposely stayed quiet for two reasons: I wanted to actively listen to other perspectives, and I felt as the son of a Holocaust survivor that I didn't want my thoughts to overshadow personal feelings of others. There was one comment that I really internalized.

An older gentleman shared that what he felt when he watched the events unfold on television was "alone." "Nobody has our backs as Jews. We're alone now." Nobody else challenged his statement. In fact, there seemed to be nodding in unison of a group of almost 40 people.

I think to a certain extent we are alone and nobody has our collective back. But, we are responsible for this as much as anyone else. We've allowed those old Civil Rights bonds to fray and break. We've forgotten that we had each other's backs. We've forgotten who our friends are. There is an old saying, "The enemy of my enemy is my friend." We need to rebuild a pathway to the African-American community specifically, and all minority communities generally. We are hated by the same groups no matter how hard we try to assimilate.

It is incumbent upon us as Jews to do acts of *tikkun olam*, to show *gemilut hasadim* to our brothers and sisters of different faiths and ethnicities, and give *zedakah* where we can. It is our responsibility to support others against oppression.

Keep in mind that even in modern America, many churches still serve a single clientele based on skin color. We have an opportunity to reach out to the African-American faith community in our area and begin to form a bond. We can help support our public schools in myriad ways. There are an abundance of opportunities to widen our footprint in strategic ways that will enhance our friendships with other groups.

In our time of need, we will not stand alone.

— **Adam Wallach**



While it would be impossible to thank everyone individually for making our High Holidays beautiful and meaningful, I do want to try! We had new head ushers this year, so thank you from the bottom of my heart to **Stuart Feldstein** and **Gary Avakian**. Not only did you work to ensure that our services went smoothly, I was pleased with how many new usher volunteers there were! Thank you everyone who ushered, I hope you enjoyed it as much I do.

Beth El's staff always manages to pull off the nearly impossible and make it look easy, so thank you to **Kaiya Levine**, **Sally Schneider**, **Annette Kilian**, **Boat**, **Arturo**, **Guillermo**, **Bismark**, **Francisco**, and **Hernan**. They put in long hours but always had a smile and friendly word for our guests. Thank you **Duane Loomis**, for putting aside your personal needs to attend to Beth El — your efforts are very much appreciated. Thank you to the choir — both the professionals and our volunteers — you have never sounded better. **Adam Wallach**, thank you for making the building sparkle and for jumping in with both feet. And **Rabbi Isserow** and **Cantor Kaufman**, you filled our sanctuary with warmth and spirituality.

I wish everyone a happy and healthy new year!

Julienne



Beth El is Part of Alexandria History

TAKE A BREAK from the fast pace of the holiday season and enjoy the unique charm and history of Old Town at Alexandria's most popular holiday event on Saturday, Dec. 9. Tour Gadsby's Tavern Museum, Carlyle House, and Lee-Fendall House. Tours will be ongoing from 4 pm to 9 pm.

This year, Lloyd House joins the tour hosting our very own Beth El Hebrew Congregation as we share traditions of Hanukkah and the history of our synagogue. More information about how to volunteer is coming soon.

The Archives Committee is looking for any photographs, documents, or objects related to Beth El history to share during the event. Please contact **Catherine Weinraub** at cats2w@yahoo.com. (See page 15)

Caring Community Committee

THE CARING Community Committee and its cadre of volunteers are here for all of us all year round. Rides are provided, meals are prepared and delivered, visits are made, assistance is given at shiva minyans and all the other helpful services provided by the CCC continue throughout the year.

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

Jewish Community Relations Council

Are you interested in our local politics? Plan to attend the Northern Virginia Legislative Reception sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of Northern Virginia. The reception is Tuesday, Dec. 12 from 7 - 9 pm at the JCCNV, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax, VA 22031. Come meet and mingle with your state senators and delegates over drinks and dinner! Discuss the issues that matter to you as JCRC unveils its 2018 Virginia Legislative Priorities, including maintaining the separation of church and state and fighting for a welcoming and safe Commonwealth. For more information and to register, please follow this link: <http://www.jccouncil.org/site/Calendar?id=111142&view=Detail>

— **Janet Garber**, garberj123@gmail.com, 703-256-7988

Renaissance Group

NEXT EVENT: a hike at Mason Neck State Park, the Star Spangled Trail in southern Fairfax County. New date: Sunday, Nov. 5, 2017.

We will meet at the Visitors Center at the end of the road. Located at 7301 High Point Road, Lorton, VA 22079, the park is easily accessed from Route 1 south of Fort Belvoir to a left on Colchester Rd. Go left on Gunston Rd. past the entrance to Pohick Bay Regional Park to right (at a sign for Mason Neck) onto High Point Road. Proceed to the guard station, where you'll pay a \$5 per vehicle fee and request a park map. Maps of specific trails are at several trailheads.

Plan on approximately 3 hours of mostly easy hiking, with several trail options and scenic stops. There are optional rentals of kayaks and bikes. Bring water and any snacks you might want. There are nice restrooms located at the visitors' center and at the picnic area.

There is a \$5 per vehicle fee to enter the park.

We'll have an optional pay-as-you-go 5 pm supper at Madigan's in Occoquan. If you wish a shorter hike, you might enjoy a stroll around the historic town of Occoquan.

Please RSVP to **Don and Susan Davis** by Oct. 27 at 703 765-1638, or by email to DrDonFTI@gmail.com. Please call or text our cell phones (202 409-7097 and 7098) with any last-minute problems or changes, so that we know whether to wait for you.

Culture Club

ON THURSDAY, Nov. 16, meet us at 10:30 am at the Phillips Collection to view Renoir and Friends exhibit focusing on The artist's *Luncheon of the Boating Party* and forty paintings leading to this masterpiece. For more details on the museum's location, admission, and this exhibit: phillipscollection.org. For lunch, we'll head back to Shirlington (pay-as-you-go).

Are you new to Beth El? Longstanding member? All adult Beth El members and their guests are welcome to participate. Simply let me know if you're coming at stafm@aol.com.

— **Meryl Goldhammer**, stafm@aol.com

WRJ News

OCTOBER BROUGHT Sukkot and lovely weather as we joined together with our Muslim sisters from around the area at our Interfaith Tea in the beautiful Brotherhood sukkah on the front lawn. Close to thirty women chatted, shared traditions, and learned how very much we have in common. We hope to continue getting together throughout the year.

Speaking of a lovely sukkah, **Linda Shapiro** and her creative volunteers — **Elaine Block, Pat Collins, Yoni Dow, Judy Jankowski, Steve Kalin, Elaine Marsh, Naomi Mercer, Joanne Rhodes, Donna and Faren Sachs,** and **Gerrie Sturman** created yet another masterpiece on the bimah. Many thanks to all of you for enriching the joy of the holiday for our entire community.

This year **Sara Deshong-Rojas** and **Michelle Coon** graciously organized a Potluck Break-Fast to follow the Yizkor and Neilah services. With over 100 in attendance, the MPR was filled to capacity. *Todah rabbah* to Sara and Michelle and to their set-up help, **Ellen Kovar, Kaiya Levine, Omar Rojas, Laura Sheehan,** and **Gerrie Sturman** for providing an extended family here at BEHC.

Attention all mah jongg mavens!! Join us for an afternoon of Simply Mahj on Nov. 19 from 2-5 pm as we

enjoy an afternoon with friends. All levels are welcome. See details located in this bulletin.

WRJ will celebrate Hanukkah on Dec. 6 with a luncheon at noon and a latke social at 6:30 pm. The cost is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. Please bring a \$10 wrapped gift for our Dreidel with a Twist gift exchange. Also in support of the families at Beth El House and the Alexandria Domestic Violence Program, please consider a gift card and/or a new unwrapped toy to help make their holidays a little brighter.

Our next WRJ Book Club discussion will be held Dec. 12 when we will discuss *Judas* by Amos Oz. All WRJ members are welcome to attend.

Don't forget to sign up to help support the MAJYK event being held here at BEHC by hosting participants or helping out in a myriad of ways. You can find the online sign-up located under Youth on the BEHC website. WRJ will provide Shabbat lunch and will need volunteers to help set-up, serve, and clean-up.

B'shalom,
Jeanette Astrow
WRJ President



WRJ Paid-Up Member Event

Brotherhood News

IT MAY BE different now, but as I sit here typing in October, we are experiencing a truly spectacular Indian summer. And what perfect weather it has been for enjoying events and experiences in our new tubular sukkah. During (my) past week, it was put to great use in hosting a Brotherhood Social in the Sukkah with Agudas Achim, a WRJ interfaith tea with members of Dar Al-Hijrah, and a variety of pre-school, Religious School, and member meals and outings. Thank-you to the Beth El Board for its financial support in acquiring our new mobile home, and special thanks to the men who helped construct it: Foreman **Bob Shaver** and his son **Joseph Shoup Shaver**, **Joel Augen**, **Todd Bolick**, **Todd Cohn**, **Jeremy Flachs**, **Josh** and **Michael Folb**, **John Jankowski**, **Steve Kalin**, **Jay** and **Reuben Lucas**, **Roberto Mosse**, **Matthew Mutterperl**, **David Sachs**, **Jeffrey Sachs**, **Roger Smith**, **Ron Sturman**, and **David Weinraub**.

Also, a sincere note of appreciation is extended to the organizers of the extremely successful talk, *The Kindness of Strangers*, featuring **Harold Mintz**. This free-coffee-and-bagels forum, with more than 50 attendees including our 10th grade confirmation students, was arranged by **Ron Sturman**, Brotherhood Program Chair, **Debbie Spitzer**, Life Long Learning co-chair, and **Jeanette Astrow**, WRJ President.

So why do men become involved with Brotherhood? We continue to explore this topic with monthly profiles provided by our current Brotherhood Board members. Meet **Matthew Mutterperl**, past Member-at-Large and

current Brotherhood Secretary. Matthew, his wife, Emily, and their four boys have been members of Beth El Hebrew for 10 years. His career has included the securities, banking, and insurance industries, and he recently moved into education, teaching Spanish to students of all ages. Matthew joined Brotherhood a few years ago because he saw all of the great and meaningful things that the group does for the Beth El community and the community beyond the synagogue, and he wanted to become part of that culture. He also joined to enhance existing friendships and make new ones. Matthew states he would like to have a meaningful influence on the future of Beth El. He has been chairman of the annual Purim Carnival and has assisted Brotherhood in many other ways, including catering, delivering Kiddush cups to B'nai Mitzvahs, helping build our sukkahs, and assisting at our Public Policy Forums and annual Religious School picnic. Matthew also has helped Beth El with fundraising and served on the Beth El Board of Directors for several years, including two years as Vice President.

If you have not already done so, please send your FY2017-2018 Brotherhood membership gift of \$36 or \$54 (your choice) to: Beth El Brotherhood, 3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304.

John Jankowski
Brotherhood President
brotherhood@bethelhebrew.org



Brotherhood building the new, tubular outdoor sukkah, left; WRJ Interfaith Tea in the sukkah, above and right



WRJ Social Action

THANKS TO ALL for your generous donations to the Northern Virginia Diaper Bank during the High Holidays! Once again we were able to make a significant contribution to our neighbors in Northern Virginia.

Beth El House Holiday Support: As part of our continuing partnership with Beth El House (BEH), we are again collecting gift cards to be used to buy holiday gifts for the families residing in BEH. Over 25 years ago, members of our congregation, inspired by *tikkun olam* and the need to help families struggling with homelessness and domestic violence, founded BEH to transition families to independent living with dignity. But their budget is limited, and there is no money for holiday gifts. If you want to contribute to this effort, please bring gift cards to the WRJ mailbox in the temple front office, by Sunday, Dec. 10.

Alexandria Domestic Violence Program — Children's Holiday Party: Once again, we will support the Alexandria Domestic Violence Program (ADVP) this year by providing gift cards (in denominations of \$25 or less) and toys (new and unwrapped) for their annual Children's Holiday Party. The holiday party is for the children and their mothers who have been recently served by the ADVP. More than 100 children and their

mothers attend the party, which includes dinner, activities, and gift cards and presents for the children and parents. If you are interested in supporting this effort, please bring any gift cards to the WRJ mailbox in the temple front office, and deposit toys in the collection bin in the lobby — no later than Sunday, Dec. 10.

Calendars: We continue to collect 2018 calendars for residents of ADVP. The calendars not only have a practical use, but also serve to brighten up the shelters. If you have calendars to donate, please put them in the collection bins in the lobby, by Sunday, Dec. 10.

Carpenter's Shelter: For years, Beth El has supported the Carpenter's Shelter in Alexandria, primarily by preparing and serving dinner to the residents once a month. Here is another way to support the great work of Carpenter's Shelter — the Run for Shelter! There is still time to register for the Sunday, Nov. 18 5K, 10K or Fun Run! The race begins and ends at the USPTO at 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Come on out and log some miles and race to end homelessness in Alexandria! You can register at <http://www.carpentersshelter.org/run-for-shelter/>.

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

ECLC News

NATURE IS one of the important tenets of the Reggio Emilia Philosophy that guides all of the learning in the ECLC. Children learn best when they explore the world around them. There is much to be learned through the nature that surrounds us. How blessed we are to have beautiful grounds that enhance the learning we do in our classrooms. The Chapel in the Woods and the trails that lead all through the back woods are visited often by most classes and there are always requests to go and visit Mr. Happy Tree!

While all we have is fantastic, we are ready for more! Our next endeavor is to rebuild our playground to create an outdoor classroom that mirrors our exploring and will help us continue to grow. Children learn by doing — imagine what they can do in a new, updated outdoor space.

With **Rabbi Isserow** and **Cantor Kaufman** lending us, as always, full support, and the outstanding leadership of Beth El working with us, our plans and our fundraising are beginning in earnest. We are grateful for several large gifts that have given us the seed money to create a restricted fund and to hire the expert consultant who will bring us together as a community to see our dreams come true.

More information will be coming soon — but please consider our playground fund if you have a gift to give!! Our children deserve the best and we can't wait to get started.

Here's to the great outdoors!

— Dina Backer

Member News

Welcome New Members:

Joann Gottlieb

Kimberly Benenson, and Alexandra

Mark and Tricia Lepofsky

Mazal Tov to:

Laura and Jeff Marin on the marriage of their daughter, Stacey, to Robert Goldaris in Washington, DC, on July 29, 2017

Joanne and Andy Rhodes on the birth of grandson, Brennan William Rhodes on Oct. 6, to Andy's son James and his wife Meghan Mott

Condolences to:

Judy and Charlie Kramer and their children Sarah, Jeffrey, and Carrie, on the death of Charlie's mother, Joyce

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.



Correction to October Bulletin: Chuck Harris's book is actually named *Mr. Chen's Sweet and Sour*.

EARLY ALERT – SAVE THE DATE!

RABBI ISSEROW'S RETIREMENT GALA

SATURDAY EVENING, JUNE 16, 2018

B'nei Mitzvah

Ethan Mutterperl

November 4, 2017

Ethan Mutterperl, son of Matthew and Emily Mutterperl, is proud to be following in the footsteps of his older brothers Noah and Joshua by becoming a Bar Mitzvah at BEHC (little brother Ben's Bar Mitzvah date is TBD).

This is Ethan's first year at Mark Twain Middle School, where he enjoys Spanish and playing tuba in band. Athletics has always been an important part of Ethan's life, whether memorizing starting line-ups or playing on the field (or court, depending on the season).

Not only does Ethan thank his family, he also adds his appreciation to his generous tutor **Robin Thompson, the Cantor, and the Rabbi**.

Aurora Stankow-Mercer

November 11, 2017

Aurora is an 8th grade honor student at Gunston Middle School in Arlington. She has been dancing in ballet for 11 years. Her hobbies include dancing, shopping, reading, baking, and hanging out with her friends. She was born in New York and has lived in 7 states.

Her mitzvah project is volunteering at Guest House, including collecting professional supplies to help residents find jobs and start new careers.

She thanks everyone for their support and love to help her become the person she is today.



~ NOVEMBER 2017 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
			1 Author's Day 9a-1p Global Center for Refugee Education and Science 10:30a-12p Beth El/JCCNV 55+: Mysteries and Histories of the Smithsonian's Musical Instrument Collection 5:30-6:15p Religious School Canteen 6-7p WRJ Monthly Board Meeting 6:15-8p Religious School 7-8p Introduction to Judaism
5 Daylight Saving Time Ends NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 10a-12p Transition Team Meeting 12-4p Genealogy Program 1-4p Bridge	6 Saxophone Day 9a-1p Global Center for Refugee Education and Science	7 Election Day/International Merlot Day 9a-7p Alexandria Polling Place 9a-1p Global Center for Refugee Education and Science 12-2p Beth El/JCCNV 55+ at Agudas Achim: The Dead Beat: Inside <i>The Washington Post's</i> Obituary Section 1:30-3:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-9p EC Meeting	8 Tongue Twister Day/Punster Day 9a-1p Global Center for Refugee Education and Science 10:30a-12p Beth El/JCCNV 55+: Fear, Elation, and Hope: The Emotional Impact of the Six-Day War on the Jewish Community 5:30-6:15p Religious School Canteen 6:15-8p Religious School 7-8p Introduction to Judaism
12 Chicken Soup for the Soul Day 10-11a Adult Hebrew Classes 10a-12p Religious School 10a-12p Chapel in the Woods Workday 12-3p BEFTY Lunch and a Movie 1-4p Bridge	13 World Kindness Day 9a-1p Global Center for Refugee Education and Science	14 World Diabetes Day 9a-1p Global Center for Refugee Education and Science 10a Book Sale Book Sorting 1:30-3:30p WRJ Mah Jongg	15 Clean Your Refrigerator Day 9a-1p Global Center for Refugee Education and Science 10a Book Sale Book Sorting 5:30-6:15p Religious School Canteen 6p Book Sale Book Sorting 6:15-8p Religious School 7-8p Introduction to Judaism
19 International Men's Day 10-11a Adult Hebrew Classes 10a-12p Religious School 2-5 WRJ Simply Majh	20 Universal Children's Day 9a-1p Global Center for Refugee Education and Science	21 World Hello Day 9a-1p Global Center for Refugee Education and Science 1:30-3:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 6:30-7:30p RSSC Beth El House 7-9p Board of Directors Meeting	22 National Jukebox Day NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 9a-1p Global Center for Refugee Education and Science 7-8p Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Christ Church 7-8p Introduction to Judaism
26 Cake Day NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 10a-1p Carpenter's Shelter Food Prep	27 Cider Monday/Cyber Monday 9a-1p Global Center for Refugee Education and Science	28 French Toast Day 10a Book Sale Book Sorting 9a-1p Global Center for Refugee Education and Science 1:30-3:30p WRJ Mah Jongg	29 Square Dance Day 10a Book Sale Book Sorting 9a-1p Global Center for Refugee Education and Science 10:30a-12p Beth El/JCCNV 55+: The Senior Medical Patrol (SMP) – What You Need to Know! 5:30-6:15p Religious School Canteen 6-7p WRJ Monthly Board Meeting 6p Book Sale Book Sorting 6:15-8p Religious School 7-8p Introduction to Judaism

ESHVAN/KISLEV 5778 ~

Thu	Fri	Sat	Torah
<p>2 Deviled Egg Day/Cookie Monster's Birthday 9a-1p Global Center for Refugee Education and Science 6:30-7:30p Beth El House Meeting 6:30-8p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-8p Mussar</p>	<p>3 Public Television Day 6:30-7:30 Pre-Service Wine and Cheese Oneg 7:30p Erev Shabbat Service</p> <p>Candle lighting 5:46p</p>	<p>4 National Book Lovers Day/Sausage and Sauerkraut Day 9-10a Torah Study 10:30 Shabbat Morning Service and Bar Mitzvah of Ethan Mutterperl</p> <p>Havdallah 6:53p</p>	<p>Vayera Genesis 18:1-22:24 2 Kings 4:1-37</p>
<p>9 Anniversary of Kristallnacht/World Freedom Day 9a-1p Global Center for Refugee Education and Science 10a-12p Board of Lady Managers Meeting 6:30-8p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-11p Bridge 7-9p Israel Reunion Trip Dinner</p>	<p>10 Veterans Day Observed 6:30-7:30 Introduction to Judaism Class Dinner 6:30-7:30 Pre-Service Wine and Cheese Oneg 7:30p Jewish War Veterans/Veterans Day Erev Shabbat Service</p> <p>Candle lighting 4:39p</p>	<p>11 Veterans' Day 9-10a Torah Study 10:30 Shabbat Morning Service and Bat Mitzvah of Aurora Stankow-Mercer 11a-12p Tot Shabbat</p> <p>Havdallah 5:46p</p>	<p>Chayei Sarah Genesis 23:1-25:18 1 Kings 1:1-31</p>
<p>16 Great American Smokeout 9a-1p Global Center for Refugee Education and Science 10a Book Sale Book Sorting 6:30-8p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-8p Mussar 7-11p Bridge 7:30-9p Interfaith Bible Study</p>	<p>17 Homemade Bread Day 6-6:30p Family Service K-3rd Grade 6:30-7:30p Communal Dinner 6:30-7:30 Pre-Service Wine and Cheese Oneg 7:30p Erev Shabbat Soul Shabbat Service Led by 7th Grade with Guest Rachel Wolman</p> <p>Candle lighting 4:34p</p>	<p>18 National Adoption Day 9-10a Torah Study 10:30 Shabbat Morning Service 6-9p Sixth Grade Immigrant Dinner</p> <p>Havdallah 5:41p</p>	<p>Toldot Genesis 25:19-28:9 Malachi 1:1-2:7</p>
<p>23 Thanksgiving Day OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>24 Black Friday/National Flossing Day OFFICE CLOSED 5:30-6:30 Pre-Service Wine and Cheese Oneg 6:30p Erev Shabbat Service</p> <p>Candle lighting 4:30p</p>	<p>25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women 9-10a Torah Study 10:30 Shabbat Morning Service 11a-12p Tot Shabbat of Giving Thanks</p> <p>Havdallah 5:38p</p>	<p>Vayetze Genesis 28:10-32:2 Hosea 12:12-14:10</p>

30 **Computer Security Day**
 10a Book Sale Book Sorting
 9a-1p Global Center for Refugee Education and Science
 6-9p WRJ Breast Cancer Workshop
 6:30-8p WRJ Mah Jongg
 7-9p Caring Community Committee Meeting
 7-8p Mussar



Jewish War Veterans

THE CIVIL WAR Veterans, active in the political life in the last third of the 19th Century, did not believe that Jews served in the armed forces. Therefore, in 1896, the Jewish War Veterans (JWV) was formed, to prove that this was not true and that, on the contrary, Jews had proudly served in the armed forces since the Revolutionary era. In fact, it was pointed out to those veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic, that four members of the Jewish faith had been awarded the Medal of Honor in Mr. Lincoln's Army. The JWV is currently the oldest continuous veterans' organization in the United States. Currently there are 15,000 members of the JWV. Seventeen members of the Jewish faith have been awarded the Medal of Honor since the Civil War.

Post 299 is located in Alexandria. The post is named in honor of Colonel Irving Heymont, a combat infantry veteran of both World War II and Korea. In 1945 he commanded a displaced refugee camp in a defeated Germany that rescued many Holocaust victims.

The members of the post participate in many service projects. In the last year members have decorated graves of Jewish veterans at local cemeteries, distributed blankets and coats to homeless veterans, and had fun socials. There are members representing every branch of the military, and we have some members that are still on active duty.

Friday, Nov. 10 is the Federal recognition of Veterans Day (Veterans Day is actually Nov. 11). On Nov. 10 Post 299 will participate in the Beth El's Sabbath evening services. Each participant will represent a different conflict from World War II to the war in Afghanistan currently being fought.



The picture is from a May 2017 JWV BBQ, and several members of Beth El are in the picture. Seated left to right are Jerry Liess, Mrs. Norton Paley, and Mrs. Liess. Standing from left to right are: Norton Paley, Richard Kurtz, Carolyn Miller, Michael Mann, Carol Kurtz, Lieut. Colonel Naomi Mercer, Naomi's husband Kerry Takenaka, and Henry Brooks.

Transition News

Pulpit Search:

The Pulpit Search Committee has been busy reviewing 30 resumes and personal statements as well as other supporting material. The committee is conducting screening interviews and is encouraged by the scope of talented and dedicated Rabbis who are interested in Beth El. Several candidates will be pursued based on those initial interviews, guided by the congregation's needs as communicated via the congregation-wide survey conducted this summer.

Transition News:

What we know for sure:

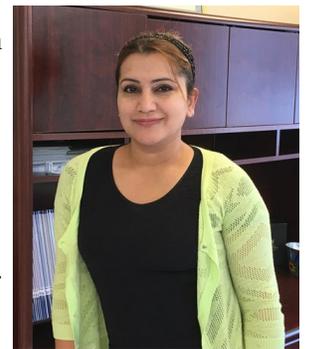
- The picnic that we have at the end of the school year will be open to the entire congregation so those of us who wish to congratulate the Rabbi on his retirement in an informal setting first, can do so.
- **Cantor Kaufman** will be planning a Soul Shabbat on Friday, June 15, 2018.
- On Saturday, June 16, all our activities will culminate with a Gala to honor **Rabbi Isserow**.

We hope everyone will participate in all these events.

—**Pamela Zitron**

Meet Maryam Sayed

MARYAM is our new front office staff person. "I'm originally from Afghanistan, but when I was very little, my family moved from Afghanistan to Moscow, Russia. I came to the USA about 15 years ago with my parents and my four sisters and brothers. I went to No Va Community College to get my two-year degree; then I attended George Mason University and got my BA in Communication and Media in 2016.



"I enjoy working with people of diverse cultural backgrounds. My unique background gives me insight into both eastern culture and western culture, I can speak five languages and I'm eager to learn more. I'm adept at building relationships with all kinds of people. I very much look forward to building lasting relationships with the people at BEHC. Please stop by the office and introduce yourself!"

60 Years at This Address!

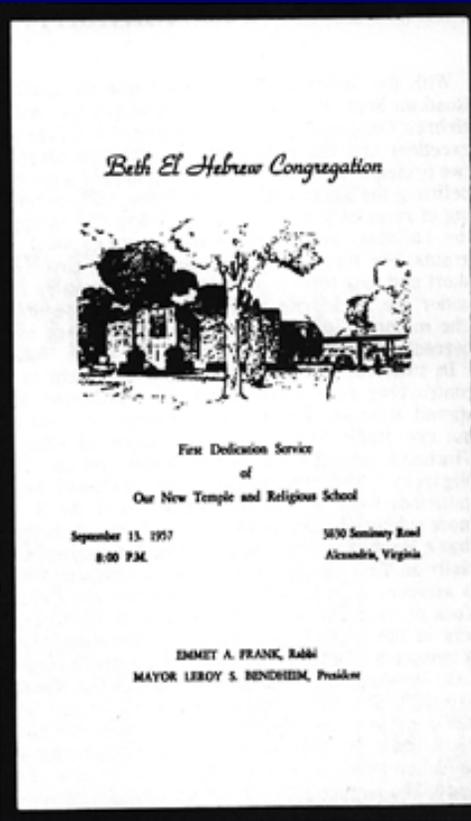
BUILDING THE NEW TEMPLE

Once the Seminary Road lot had been purchased, planning went into "high gear." By November, 1955, tentative sketches of the interior layout and exterior design were ready for the congregation's approval. The drawing of detailed plans and specifications and solicitations of construction bids then followed. Financing negotiations also began during this time.

In January, 1956, building plans were nearly complete. The sanctuary would seat some 400 people. When expanded to include the social hall, it would accommodate approximately 1,000. The building would also contain a Religious School of 18 classrooms, a library and an office for the Rabbi. In April, the congregation authorized the committee to negotiate with builders, setting a maximum construction expenditure of \$250,000. Groundbreaking followed on May 26, with the Cowles Construction Company as builder.

To raise the money for this endeavor, Beth El turned for assistance to a professional fund-raiser, the Wells Company, which supplied an expert know-how for a special drive. The solicitations were undertaken by a congregational committee, and it succeeded in obtaining about \$85,000 in pledges.

On Feb. 10, 1957, the ceremony of the laying of the cornerstone took place. Seven months later, on September 13, the day so long awaited came at last, when Beth El held its dedication services in the new Temple. The ceremony was highlighted by a procession of Torahs, the presentation of United States and Chaplain's flags, a worship service, and a dedication sermon by Rabbi Jay Kaufman, Vice President of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. The reception that followed marked the first use of the social hall.



From page 21, Beth El Hebrew Congregation 1859-1984, published in hard cover by BEHC in honor of the congregation's 125th anniversary



Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington

Looking Back - Reaching Forward



Climb Your Family Tree with Us

THE JEWISH Genealogy Society of Greater Washington (JGSGW) will hold its meeting at Beth El on Sunday, Nov. 5, 2017. The presentation is free for JGSGW members, but guests are welcome to attend for a \$5 fee which is applicable toward membership.

Following time for a Schmooze and Maven's table (expert help with genealogy problems), the meeting will begin at 1:30 for a presentation by Rabbi Gary Gans, "*Tante Frieda was Almost Deported by the Feds!*" Rabbi Gans will examine the story of his immigrant relative who, returning from a visit to Palestine in 1921, decided that it was better to declare herself to be unmarried and pregnant, than to admit that she had married an alien and lose her American citizenship under the laws in force at that time. She continued to claim citizenship for many years, committing one of the few confirmed cases of voter fraud, until this four-foot-tall, Yiddish-speaking woman, in a housecoat, was found out by the Feds in the 1950s and brought up on charges. He will show the methodological approach he used to uncover and document this story, and then address the ethical question that arise from family history research; Is it ever OK to reveal what was previously hidden? Did he violate his own family promises and privacy by going public? We expect this presentation to end with a lively discussion!

Rabbi Gary Gans was ordained by the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and is now Rabbi Emeritus of Congregation Beth Tikvah, Marlton, NJ, after serving as their Rabbi for 35 years. He has a Doctorate in Family Counseling, and is licensed in NJ and is past president of the South Jersey Board of Rabbis. In his free time he is a sworn chaplain with his local police department.

For more information, please contact Mary-Jane Roth at greenst@comcast.net

Easier Than Ever to Donate!

BETH EL is tickled to announce the recent upgrade of our mobile app. Among other actions you can now take and info to explore, you can contribute to Beth El Funds as easily as ordering a challah from Wegman's, a humidifier from Home Depot, or anything from Amazon.

A most satisfying way to test drive the latest app feature (and make a habit of it) would be to contribute to the Permanent Endowment Fund (PEF), an investment having lasting and increasing effects on the future of our religious home and its inhabitants.

Our financial markets, upon which the PEF depends, as I write, continue to operate in a remarkable way, making our investments take an upward trend. But we have the chore to make up for the 36-year dearth of significant congregational contributions. Your donations are needed now to swell the body of the PEF in order to increase the yield.

Remember use of the PEF is governed by the combined efforts of Beth El's Board and PEF trustees and is targeted for projects that cannot be covered by dues (our mortgage, for instance). Significantly, future increases in those same dues can be suppressed depending upon the PEF's growth. Remember too, that the Permanent Endowment Fund, because it is an investment established to grow, has a more meaningful, lasting impact as all other funds (i.e., dues) received are either fully spent or deposited with no possibility for growth.

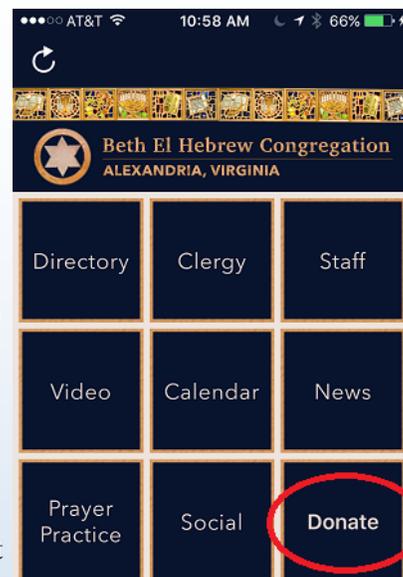
PEF donations may be made incrementally over time. It takes accumulation of \$500 to become a voting Member; \$1500, a Sponsor; and with a cumulative donation of \$5,000, a Visionary. Names of Members and above will be inscribed in the new prayer books and on the sanctuary entrance plaque.

Not in any way to be forgotten, are so many of our core congregants who have steadfastly supported and continue to support our other funds to which contributions can now also more easily be made by app.

PEF donations may also be made by going to the Bethelhebrew.org web site, **Support us** and **Make a Donation**. Or make your check payable to BEHC (note "for PEF" on check) for your incremental or full amount and send or drop it off to/at Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Rd., Alexandria, VA 22304. Other donations may be similarly made.

Beth El thanks you for your consideration.

For more information about the app, please contact **Adam Wallach**. For more information about the PEF, please contact **Evan Allen**.



ALIVE!

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in our High Holy Day Food drive. And thank you to friends new and old who along with the 4th and 7th graders from the Religious School helped move and sort the almost **1.5 tons** (2,916 lbs to be exact) of food we collected. We have helped feed a lot of hungry people!

We need you on Dec. 3 when it is Beth El's turn to go out with the ALIVE! trucks to pick up and deliver furniture. We'll be meeting at First Christian Church, 2723 King St, at 1 pm.

Imagine entering a home where there are no beds in which to sleep, chairs on which to sit, or a table at which to eat. Then imagine leaving that home with beds, chairs, and a table. Want to feel like you've done some good?

Sign up to help us on Dec. 3. We need helpers 16 and older. You do not have to be super strong to do this job. Really! Please contact me at schaffer4@gmail.com to sign up.

It's not too late to get tickets for the 3rd Annual Empty Bowls Alexandria which will be held on Nov. 18 at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria. You'll get unlimited soup and bread from area restaurants and a one of a kind ceramic bowl created by an area artist. Go to alive-inc.org to buy tickets.

For more information about ALIVE! and these activities, contact **Deborah Schaffer** at schaffer4@gmail.com or go to alive-inc.org.

Beth El/JCCNV Events

Mysteries and Histories of the Smithsonian's Musical Instrument Collection

Wednesday, Nov. 1
10:30 am-noon

Presenter, Gary Sturm, Smithsonian Curator Emeritus, Chair of the Smithsonian American History Museum's Division of Music, Sports, and Entertainment

A man who paid \$100 for the violin he played for nearly 50 years never told anyone it was a stolen 274-year-old Stradivarius until he made a deathbed confession to his wife. In 2015, a rare "Strad" built in 1734 was returned to its rightful owners 38 years after being stolen after a concert in 1980. Gary will enlighten us with stories such as these and take us on an in-depth look at the history of the Stradivarius (one sold for \$12 million!) as well as a look at the many other amazing instruments displayed at the Smithsonian. A multimedia presentation will reveal many interesting details about these instruments and how one goes about investigating and authenticating the history of them. Don't miss out on this special behind-the-scenes look at the Smithsonian!

Fear, Elation and Hope: The Emotional Impact of the Six-Day War on the Jewish Community

Wednesday, Nov. 8
10:30 am-noon

*Presented by Jennifer Raskas, JCRC
Director of Israel Action Center*

For Jews around the world, the time period of the Six-Day War was marked by an existential fear of the possible extinction of the State of Israel, followed by an unimaginable euphoria over the incredible military victories and capture of Jerusalem.

The emotional highs and lows have continued throughout the past 50 years. At this program, we will examine the emotional impact the Six-Day War has had on the Jewish people and the ramifications it continues to have for Israelis and Jews around the world. This will help us better appreciate the events of the past 50 years and uncover our own emotional mindsets regarding the 50th anniversary.

The Dead Beat: Inside *The Washington Post's* Obituary Section

Tuesday, Nov. 14
noon-2 pm

Location: Agudas Achim Congregation, 2908 Valley Drive, Alexandria

NOTE DAY AND LOCATION CHANGE!

Come join with Agudas Achim congregants as we welcome Harrison Smith, a member of *The Washington Post* obituary section staff. Mr. Smith's presentation will review all aspects of how the Post selects its obituary subjects to what makes an engaging obituary. Please reserve early and come prepared with your questions for the Q&A session following his presentation. A free, kosher lunch will be served at noon prior to the presentation.

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

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

The Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) – What You Need to Know!

Wednesday, Nov. 29
10:30 am-noon

The Senior Medicare Patrol, (SMP) Program, is a grant-funded program of the US Government Department of Health and Human Services. The goal of the SMP program is to empower seniors to prevent health care fraud. Chester Freedenthal, a volunteer for SMP and a JCCNV member, will present a program that will empower and assist Medicare beneficiaries, their families, and caregivers to report, detect, and prevent healthcare fraud errors, abuse, and medical identity theft. All attendees will receive a specially designed empowerment toolkit.

This is a very important topic so don't miss out!

NO PROGRAM NOV. 22

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



Jewish Community Center
of Northern Virginia

The Congregation Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations

ARNOLD G. FINK LEARNING CENTER & LIBRARY FUND

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Ina Dale and Thomas Concaugh..... Phillip W. Concaugh
Florence Foelak..... Bruce Foelak

In Memory of

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Bobbie and Art Gershman..... Lou Brousseau, father of Colleen Weiser
and Suzanne Fedder, mother of Scott Fedder

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.

Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington

Walking Tour: Jewish Sites at Arlington National Cemetery

Sunday, Nov. 12, 2017, 1-4 pm

In honor of Veterans Day, tour the cemetery and learn about the Jewish soldiers, politicians, and astronauts commemorated here. Witness the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and explore sites related to Jewish and American history, including the Confederate Memorial by Sir Moses Ezekiel. Includes 2 miles of walking, some uphill.

Tour starts at the Arlington National Cemetery Welcome Center — [Directions](#)

\$15 members | \$20 Non-members

Register [online](#) | rsvp@jhsgw.org | 202-789-0900

In partnership with the [National Museum of American Jewish Military History](#) and [Jewish War Veterans of the USA](#)

Building the new bimah, tekiah gedolah on the new bimah, first WRJ sukkah on the new bimah



Left, the Culture Club visited the Just Married exhibit at the Jewish Museum of Maryland in Baltimore



Bailey's Crossroads Shelter



Beth El is seeking volunteers to prepare and serve dinner on the 4th Sunday of each month at the Bailey's Crossroads Shelter. Each of the existing volunteers helped about once every three months. Each member is responsible for one element of the meal, prepared at home, brought to the shelter and then served together with other Beth El volunteers. Time at the shelter is generally about 1.5 hours. Teens may earn service hours for shopping, prep, and serving time. Interested? Contact [Julie Mueller \(jmueller723@gmail.com\)](mailto:jmueller723@gmail.com). Thank you!

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS NEEDED IN THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL



Do you enjoy working with children? Looking for a way to get involved with our religious school? Beth El Hebrew Congregation's Religious School is looking for substitute teachers for Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings during the school year. We are looking for subs in both Hebrew (K-3 and 4-6) and Judaics (K-3 and 4-9). We provide the lesson plans. If this is something you might be interested in, please email Barry Smith. THANK YOU!!!

5th and 6th Graders Prove Avid Gardeners

AT AN OCT. 6 workday, thirty 5th and 6th grade Religious School students, two teachers, and six other adult volunteers celebrated fall by planting Virginia native trees and flowers, mulching forest pathways, and pulling invasive species. The enthusiastic gardeners made short work of the day's goals.

Among the additions to Beth El's forest were two new species: native Wild Crabapple, *Malus coronaria*; and Late Purple Asters, *Symphotrichum patens*, a fall-blooming aster that grows in thin, dry woods and woods edges in part shade to full sun. "It's naturally occurring near Beth El and in similar woodland at St. Andrew's Methodist Church on the western border of St. Stephen's and St. Agnes Upper School Campus — this is the city's only remaining, extant spot, so it makes the Beth El planting all that more important," explains Rod Simmons, Alexandria's natural resource manager and plant ecologist, who donated the Virginia natives.

Please join the crew on Sunday, Nov. 12, for more fall planting in the Chapel in the Woods from 10 to noon. Please bring work gloves and trowels, if you have them. Other equipment will be provided. A light lunch will be served afterwards.

Also, come help during Chapel workdays from 10 to noon on the following Sundays: Dec. 10, Jan. 7, and Feb. 4, weather permitting.

—Stuart and Nancy Davis

2018 Used Book Sale

It's that time again! Our 16th Annual Used Book Sale Fundraiser is January 14 and 15, 2018.

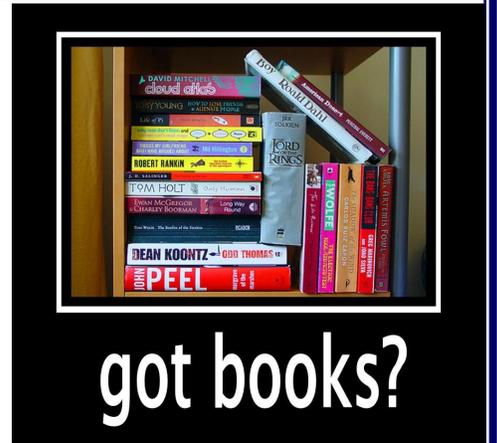
We need your books, CDs, DVDs, and records. Clear out clutter AND support one of our biggest fundraisers of the year!

Please take your donations to Beth El during office hours.

Need Help? Have Questions! Contact **Rhoda Goldman** 703-992-9370 or e-mail lennieg@cox.net.

NOTE: We need help with book sorting. A little dust and a lot of fun... and you just might have a chance to set aside your perfect find! Contact **Rhoda Goldman** at 703-992-9370 or e-mail lennieg@cox.net to volunteer.

Book Sorting Opportunities: Oct. 24, 25, 26; Nov. 14, 15, 16, 28, 29, 30; Dec. 19, 20, 21; Jan. 9, 10, 11; 10 am Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday morning, and 6 pm Wednesday evening..



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

WE NEED YOU! We have just welcomed two new families into the Beth El House (BEH) community. While both mothers are working, they are not earning enough to support their families. Without BEH they would be homeless. One mother dreams of completing college while another dreams of a higher paying job. Both families want to make a success of the BEH experience. We know that in recent months your compassion has gone out to so many families in need. However, please know that BEH cannot continue to make dreams a reality without your support. If this is your first donation, or if you have supported BEH over the years, we have successfully helped homeless families transition with dignity to independent living since 1992. Saving one family at a time is akin to saving with world. Help us to continue.

The new families have moved into garden apartments on the Route One Corridor. Each family receives individual care to determine their needs in three crucial areas: financial and economic stability; emotional well-being; and healthy interpersonal relationships. Services include: mental and physical health (especially stress management and clinical therapy to reduce trauma from domestic violence), employment, financial management, education, nutrition, and parenting skills.

This month you will receive a donation request by mail because we are honoring your need for privacy by avoiding telephone calls. Federal employees can support Beth El House through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC #41879).

CASE MANAGER — There is still time to either submit your resume or to inform others about this vacancy. We are fortunate that Melonie Barrow, our Executive Director, and our current Case Manager continue to serve the needs of our resident families. Case Managers assess the needs of our resident families, provide resources to meet those needs, and regularly monitor each family's development. Please email resumes to: bethelhouse.va@gmail.com.

Each of our resident families thanks you for your compassion and your generosity. Please know that we continue to be defined as a highly successful transitional housing program because of your support.

For additional information, or how you can help, please contact **Melinda Selden** (703-569-5443 or melindaselden@verizon.net) or visit our website at www.bethelhouseva.org.

See all these beautiful ads? Why aren't YOU advertising YOUR business to your Beth El friends and family?



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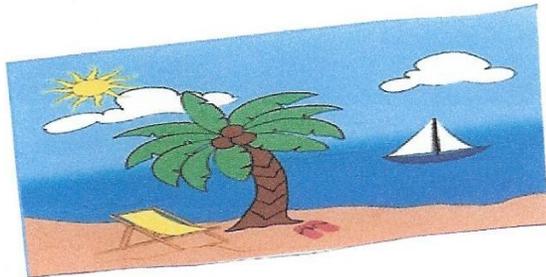
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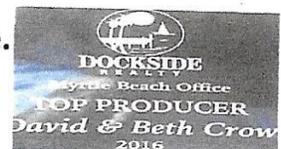


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JEREMY FLACHS

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



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

Advertise in the Bulletin!

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E-mail bulletin@bethelhebrew.org for more information.

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The Bulletin

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HOLD THE DATE

Cantorial Concert: *Songs that Change the World*:
A concert of music that calls us to action, Dec. 2

Chapel in the Woods workdays, Dec. 10, Jan. 7, and
Feb. 4

Judaica Shop Hanukkah Boutique, Dec 3.

Deadline for donations for all WRJ Social Action Holi-
day Programs, Dec. 10

Social Action Advocacy Event, Dec 3.

JCCNV: The Wonder of Growing Up Jewish, Dec. 3

JCCNV: Northern Virginia Legislative Reception spon-
sored by the Jewish Community Relations Council
(JCRC) of Northern Virginia, Dec. 12

Help ALIVE! deliver furniture, Dec. 3

Bender JCC: Piano Trio and Viola, Dec. 3

WRJ Book Club, Dec. 12

Readers of Beth El, Dec. 4

First Night of Hanukkah, Dec. 12

JCCNV: *What Makes a Book Jewish?*, Dec. 5

MAJYK at Beth El, Dec. 15-17

JCCNV Cinema J: *Footnote*, Dec. 6

Annual Book Sale, Jan. 14 and 15

WRJ Hanukkah Luncheon and Dinner, Dec. 6

Virginia Day for All People, Jan. 23, 2018

URL Biennial in Boston, Dec. 6-10

ReelAbilities Film Festival, Mar. 10-17, 2018

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

Jewish Federation: Good Deeds Day, Apr. 29, 2018

Old Town Alexandria Tour, Dec. 9

Rabbi Isserow's Retirement Gala, June 16, 2018