



Beth El Bulletin

Beth El Hebrew Congregation

October 2019
Tishrei/Cheshvan 5780

Worship Services

Friday, October 4

Erev Shabbat Service, 7:30 pm

Saturday, October 5

Shabbat Morning Service and Bar Mitzvah of Gabriel Cohen, Son of Ayal and Sharon Cohen, 10:30 am

Sunday, October 6

Hebrew Benevolent Society Memorial Service, 10 am

Tuesday, October 8

Kol Nidre Service, 8 pm

Wednesday, October 9

Yom Kippur Services

Morning 10 am

Family 1 pm

Junior Congregation 2 pm

Afternoon 3 pm

Yizkor 4:30 pm

Neilah 5:30 pm

Friday, October 11

Erev Shabbat Service, 7:30 pm

Saturday, October 12

Shabbat Morning Service and Bat Mitzvah of Dahlia Turner, Daughter of Joshua and Rachel Turner, 10:30 am

Sukkot Tot Shabbat, 11 am

Monday, October 14

Sukkot Festival Service, 10:30 am

Friday, October 18

Erev Shabbat Service, 7:30 pm

Saturday, October 19

Shabbat Morning Service and Bar Mitzvah of Max Sherman, Son of Bruce and Erin Sherman, 10:30 am

Monday, October 21

Shemini Atzeret Festival Service with Yizkor, 10:30 am

Friday, October 25

Erev Shabbat Service, 7:30 pm

Saturday, October 26

Shabbat Morning Service and Bar Mitzvah of Adam Pedigo, Son of Chris and Amanda Pedigo, 10:30 am
Noah's Ark Tot Shabbat, 11 am

WRJ/Brandeis Book & Author Event

Sunday, Oct. 27, 2-5 pm



3 fascinating books
3 fascinating authors

**See page 18 for more
information**

Heller High Five Silent Auction

Sep. 20—Oct. 5



**Support BEHC teens
going to study in Israel**

**See page 19 for more
information**

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





Rabbi's Remarks

AS ANTI-SEMITISM raged across Germany in 1935, Rabbi Leo Baeck, president of the representative organization of German Jewry, wrote the following prayer that was disseminated to all rabbis in the country for reading at Kol Nidre services. When the Nazis found a copy of this prayer, they arrested Rabbi Baeck and placed him in prison. This prayer, which the Nazis prohibited on Yom Kippur in 1935, was preserved by many Jews because it gave them comfort and dignity, and it reminded them of their right to pride and self-respect at a time when they were so often maligned. So central was this prayer in describing the condition of Germany's Jews as their situation grew more perilous, it was made a part of the trial record of Adolf Eichmann that took place in Jerusalem in 1961.

By no means is the United States in 2019 Nazi Germany in 1935. However, white nationalism continues an ascent that has been met with too little denunciation from those in the uppermost echelons of political power. In the last year, the U.S. Jewish community experienced near-historic levels of anti-Semitism, including a doubling of anti-Semitic assaults and the single deadliest attack against the Jewish community in American history.

As this prayer gave strength to those who came before us, may we, too, be strengthened.

In this hour all Israel stands before God, the judge and the forgiver.

In God's presence let us all examine our ways, our deeds, and what we have failed to do.

Where we transgressed, let us openly confess: "We have sinned!" and, determined to return to God, let us pray: "Forgive us."

We stand before God.

With the same fervor with which we confess our sins, the sins of the individual, and the sins of the community, do we, in indignation and abhorrence, express or contempt for the lies concerning us and the defamation of our religion and its testimonies.

We have trust in our faith and in our future.

Who made known to the world the mystery of the Eternal, the One God?

Who imparted to the world the comprehension of purity of conduct and purity of life?

Who taught the world respect for humanity, created in the image of God?

Who spoke of the commandment of righteousness, of social justice?

In all this we see manifest the spirit of the prophets, the divine revelation to the Jewish people.

It grew out of our Judaism and is still growing. By these facts we repel the insults flung at us.

We stand before our God. On God we rely. From God issues the truth and the glory of our history, our fortitude amidst all change of fortune, our endurance in distress.

Our history is a history of nobility of soul, of human dignity. It is history we have recourse to when attack and grievous wrong are directed against us, when affliction and calamity befall us.

God has led our ancestors from generation to generation. God will guide us and our children through these days.

We stand before our God, strengthened by the Eternal's commandment that we fulfill. We bow to God and stand erect before men. We worship God and remain firm in all vicissitudes. Humbly we trust in God and our path lies clear before us; we see our future.

All Israel stands before her God in this hour. In our prayers, in our hope, in our confession, we are one with all Jews on earth. We look upon each other and know who we are; we look up to our God and know what shall abide.

"Behold, He that keeps Israel does neither slumber nor sleep" (Psalm 121:4).

"May the One who makes peace in the heights bring peace upon us and upon all Israel."

— **Rabbi Spinrad**

Let's Break the Fast Together

Join your Beth El family after the *Ne'lah* service on Yom Kippur for a *dairy* potluck. Bagels, cream cheese, and lox will be provided by the temple. Please RSVP how many will be joining us and what dish you are bringing to the following Sign-Up Genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040a4bafab22a46-break>. If you are available to help set up, please let us know that as well.

We look forward to seeing you and hope you have an easy fast.

Cantor's Corner



IT IS WITH great joy that Kirk and I invite you to our aufruf on Oct. 25 during Shabbat services at 7:30 pm. For those of you who may not be familiar with what an aufruf is, an aufruf is a traditional way of a congregational community celebrating with the bride and groom (or groom and groom) before their wedding as they receive a special blessing during Shabbat services.

Many of you have met Kirk, as he has come to services, concerts, and programs throughout the years, and has become an important part of our congregation. Many of you have also met our beloved beagle, Punky, who loves to come to Beth El as well.

I don't take for granted what an incredible moment in American and Jewish history we are living in, that we are religiously and legally getting married. This moment was made possible by generations of leaders who came before, who marched, who protested, and who demanded to have equal rights,



not just under secular law, but under Jewish law. It was made possible by individuals who risked everything — their family, friends, employment, and personal safety — to be who they were.

It was also made possible by those who paved the way in quieter and just as important ways. One of the first gay pride parades I marched in was the 2009 Equality March in DC, and I will always remember the speech a young student made when she said that, "The most powerful way to affect change is to just live your own truth." I'm grateful for those who lived their own truth, sometimes in pride, sometimes in fear, but always with courage,

so that we could live ours.

— Cantor Kaufman

Hebrew Benevolent Society Annual Memorial Service

THE ANNUAL Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, Oct. 6 at 10 am, at Beth El Hebrew Congregation. (Please note the change from the usual location at the cemetery.)

At this service, names of members' deceased loved ones will be read aloud. Names are not limited to those buried at Home of Peace Cemetery. However, we will no longer use the long list of names that has accumulated over the years. If you would like one or more names read, please email or write our secretary, **Hank Seiff**, with the names, at seiff@verizon.net, or 6812 Haycock Road, Falls Church, VA 22043, by Oct. 4.

If you would like to help support the Hebrew Benevolent Society, we do appreciate voluntary contributions. With today's low interest rates, donations have become a larger part of our budget. Please make your check payable to the *Hebrew Benevolent Society* and mail it to **Gilah Goldsmith** at 875 N. Jefferson Street, Arlington, VA 22205.

L'shanah tovah!

Congregation Sukkot Luncheon

SUKKOT IS A Hebrew word meaning "booths" and refers to the remembrance of when the Jewish people dwelled in temporary booths or huts in the desert. Sukkot, like so many other Jewish holidays, began as an ancient agricultural festival, marking the beginning of the fall harvest. We are commanded to dwell in our sukkah for seven days including eating in, and in some traditions sleeping in them, just as our ancestors did in the desert and during the harvest season.

Please join us for the first day of Sukkot at services beginning at 10:30 am on Oct. 14. You are cordially invited to dwell in the sukkah on the front lawn for a dairy pot luck lunch immediately following services. Please call **Jeanette Astrow** at 703-451-7007 or email her at jlastrow@verizon.net to RSVP and to coordinate food items. All are welcome to attend. In case of rain, lunch will be served inside.



President's Point of View

Flowers at Beth El

MANY HAVE seen first-hand the great sprucing up the Chapel in the

Woods Committee has been doing out back for the last couple of years... but I wanted to draw your attention to the work our very own **Spruce Fraser** and **Becky Dansk** have been doing with our security planters around Beth El. They are bringing them to life.

Most of us know Spruce as a librarian at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, but she has a deep background in ecology, geography, environmental studies, and resource management with deep-rooted familial connections. Spruce's father was a forester and her mother was an economic botanist and mycologist. Spruce even spent time living on a forestry station in Canada.



Spruce has filled some of the entranceway planters with zinnias (see photo below). She has also filled the remaining empty entranceway planters with soil and has ordered perennials for them. Colorful coneflowers, Russian sage, and gallardia plants are a few varieties we will soon enjoy.

With the help from Becky, and her friends, Jason and John, free soil has been placed in the exit driveway planters. The City of Alexandria has been kind to offer this soil for us, plus enough native Virginian plants to fill them.

Spruce has also been sprucing up the Holocaust Garden. Creeping thyme will be soon be seen between the rocks.

Expect to see more flowers in the next year.

Thanks to Spruce and Becky!

— Alan Cohn



Executive Director's Entry

L'SHANAH TOVAH! I hope that your new year is sweet and that you may have good health and prosperity. As we move into our new year, I wanted to share a reminder to everyone and a story about the first time

I ever visited our synagogue.

While many of you already know this, I wanted to remind everyone that we are ambassadors for Beth El. Regardless of whether you are on the board of directors, someone who volunteers often, or a congregant who visits on a more targeted basis, we are all ambassadors. It is important that everyone who visits knows that we are happy that they are joining us for whatever event they attend. Please feel free to ask if they want to sit with you. It is important for everyone to walk away feeling a warm connection to Beth El.

Approximately two-and-a-half years ago, just prior to my assuming the role of executive director and making Beth El my family's spiritual home, I came up to Alexandria for an erev Shabbat service. I don't know if any of you still watch the television show Undercover Boss, but I do. The concept of the show is that the CEO or other top executive goes undercover and assumes different positions within the organization in order to see what is working and where more attention is needed. Being able to get an unbiased view from the ground level is really

helpful in terms of strategic thinking and problem solving.

I contacted our synagogue president at the time, **Ju-lienne Bramesco**, to let her know that I was coming up from Fredericksburg to be part of a Friday night service. She kindly offered to introduce me to congregants before services. I asked her to make sure that she didn't mention to anyone that I would be there. I wanted to get an honest look at Beth El. All congregations claim to be warm and welcoming, so I wanted to see how accurate that claim was for this congregation.

When I arrived for the Shabbat social hour, I was immediately greeted by **Linda Waller**. I was offered a glass of wine and immediately introduced to congregants who were also there enjoying the opportunity to unwind prior to entering the sanctuary. People were very kind and even asked me to sit with them at the service.

What really struck me was how congregants wanted to talk to me and find out about me and my family. While they spoke very highly of Beth El, they didn't oversell the congregation either. I walked away that evening with a strong sense of the congregation and how open and welcoming we can be.

Adam Wallach
Executive Director

Religious School Report

The Boy Who Learned How to Pray



A LONG TIME ago, there lived a Jewish shepherd. The shepherd had one son, David. The boy was 12 years old, but he didn't know much about Judaism. Everyday the young boy was sent into the fields to mind the cows. While in the fields, the boy picked up a reed and made himself a flute, and sat all day long in the grass, playing upon his flute.

But when the boy reached his 13th birthday, his father said, "After all, he must be taught something about being Jewish." So he said to the lad, "Come, we will go to the synagogue for the High Holy Days." He got in his wagon and drove his son to town. And all that time, the boy carried his flute in his pocket.

On Yom Kippur, his father took him to the synagogue of the Baal Shem Tov. They sat together, and the boy was very still. Then the moment came for the Amidah. The boy saw the men all about him rise with their little books and read from them, praying in sing song voices in words he did not understand. He saw his father do as the other men did. Then the boy pulled at his father's arm.

"Papa," he said, "I want to sing too. I have my flute in my pocket. I'll take it out and sing."

But his father caught his hand. "Be still!" he whispered. "Do you want to make the rabbi angry? Be still!"

David sat quietly on the bench, but when the men stood, the boy also rose.

"Father," he said, "I want to sing too!"

His father whispered quickly, "Where is your flute?"

"Here in my pocket."

"Let me see it."

The boy took out his flute and showed it to his father. His father seized his son's hand. This wasn't the time to interrupt the service. The boy wanted to cry, but he was

too afraid, and so he remained still and quiet.

Finally, it was time for *Ne'lah*. The candles burned, trembling in the evening wind and the hearts of the worshippers trembled like the flames of the candles. All through the synagogue you could feel the warmth of holiness. Then the Baal Shem Tov raised his hands over the congregation and chanted the words of the Amidah.

The boy couldn't hold back any longer. He grabbed the flute, set it to his mouth, and began to play his music.

Silence fell upon the congregation. What would the Baal Shem Tov say? A child interrupting the service?

The rabbi smiled and exclaimed, "The cloud is pierced and broken, and evil is scattered from over the face of the earth! On this Yom Kippur," he said, "our prayers have been answered; our pleas have found the ear of God. We have been granted forgiveness."

Last month, on our opening day of Religious School, there were tons of joyful noise in our building as more than 200 students and more than 150 parents came back from the summer or joined us for the very first time. We are bursting at the seams and bursting with pride at our students and their learning. No matter where you or your children are on your Jewish journey, whether your soul soars with the words of the Amidah on your lips or with a flute in your hand, may this year be a year of learning for you and yours. May it be a sweet year filled with laughter, growth, and connection.

L'Shanah Tovah and G'mar Chatimah Tovah,

Rabbi Bailey Romano

bromano@bethelhebrew.org

Judaica Shop News

AS THE High Holy Days approach, we think about hosting our loved ones and friends. What better way than to make the Judaica Shop your one-stop shop for all your holiday needs. The shop will carry newly-purchased merchandise, including beautiful jewelry, apple and honey dishes, and fair-trade kippot. Don't miss our selection of beautiful serving pieces. Keep us in mind for B'nei Mitzvah and wedding gifts. Remember Sisterhood members receive 10% off all purchases.

We look forward to shopping with you.

Sara Deshong-Rojas

Sararose0409@gmail.com

Congregational Kudos

- To **Sandi Goldman** for the wonderful High Holiday usher training
- To **Dorrit Lowsen** for representing Beth El across a range of social media
- To **Dana Arnold** for doing even more than before to support the office
- To **Ronit Goldstein** for all-around awesomeness
- To all the people who pitch in in ways large and small, highly visible and hardly visible

WRJ News

SEPTEMBER came in with a bang: WRJ sponsored a potluck for Guest House residents on Sep. 20, that was followed by an inspirational d'var Torah and question-and-answer period about Guest House at the following oneg.

We held our first open house tea on Sep. 22 as we introduced women of Beth El to new congregants, **Rabbi Bailey Romano**, and the myriad activities of WRJ. We also collected umbrellas, alarm clocks, simple watches, and Amazon gift cards for Guest House residents.

Carpenter's Shelter volunteers served 52 residents, including 11 children, on Aug. 26. We appreciate the volunteers who make this possible: **Karen Aftergut, Esther Belenker, Patricia Collins, Kris Keydel, Sheryl Leeds, Lisa Sokol, Libby Starler, and Sue Worden**. Held on the fourth Monday of the month, the next Carpenter's Shelter date is Oct. 28.

On Aug. 28, WRJ presented **Rabbi Bailey Romano**, Director of the Religious School, with a check for \$1,000.00 at the ice cream social. This will help defray some expenses for the Religious School teachers.

In October, WRJ will again provide apples and honey to welcome Rosh Hashanah and have a community Break-the-Fast following Yom Kippur services. We in-

vite congregants to register for Break-the-Fast so that we may provide the appropriate amount of food. The Sign-Up-Genius link is <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040A4BAFAB22A46-break>.

Decorating the bimah with a sukkah is a delightful highlight of October and serves as a frame for photographing the newly consecrated preschoolers. WRJ also sponsors an interfaith tea in the outdoor sukkah to develop positive partnerships with the local mosque and Christian congregations.

The Book and Author Event co-sponsored by the Brandeis National Committee of Northern Virginia and BEHC WRJ will be held on Sunday, Oct. 27. This popular event fills up early, so make your reservation soon.

More details will be forthcoming for the October events.

Reminder: The WRJ's next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 6 at 6:30 pm. Members are welcome.

Linda Shapiro and Pat Collins
WRJ Co-Presidents

sisterhood@bethelhebrew.org and
BEHCWRJ.President@gmail.com

WRJ Book Club 2019-2020 Schedule

HERE'S YOUR chance to get a head-start on your fall reading!

- Oct.15: *Billy Bathgate* by E.L. Doctorow
- Dec. 10: *Patrimony* by Philip Roth
- Feb. 11: *Inheritance, A Memoir* by Dani Shapiro
- April 14: *American Pastoral* by Philip Roth
- June 9: *Spies of No Country* by Matti Friedman

The WRJ Book Club has been in existence for more than 20 years and is, I believe, a cultural benefit to the congregation. We try to choose and read the best in Jewish themed literature!

— **Rita DiTrani**



Religious School and Youth Programs Team

THE RSY TEAM would like to invite all congregants to join us at one of our meetings, to help in supporting **Rabbi Bailey**, the Religious School, and our youth programs.

If you have questions or suggestions, or want to get involved, you can now email us at bethel-RSYteam@gmail.com. Please join us on Oct. 22, Nov. 12, and Dec. 10. Our meetings are at 7 pm in the Seminar Room.

Donna Sachs
RSY Team Chair

Brotherhood News

IT LOOKS AS if fall is in the air and the High Holidays are now before us. Those two events always signal the beginning of a new year of Brotherhood activities. Hopefully you were able to join us in late September for the first of several Sunday morning Bagels and Banter gatherings. Brotherhood provided the bagels (and coffee) and Beth El men provided the banter. These events, first introduced last year, have proven to be a simple and successful way of bringing men together for a little social conviviality and camaraderie. If you missed the first get-together, mark your calendars now for the next one on Nov. 3. If you are dropping your kids off at Religious School, stay awhile and meet old and new friends. If you do not have children in Religious School, please consider making the short drive to Beth El for some Sunday morning male schmoozing on topics of your choice.

Please also join us on Sunday, Oct. 13 on the front lawn to assist in our annual sukkah raising. Work will begin by 9:30 am and should be done by noon as long as we have a sufficient number of helping hands. (Although you don't need to sign up to assist, if you know in advance you are able to help, please send an email to brotherhood@bethelhebrew.org.) The sukkah take-down is currently planned for Sunday morning, Oct. 27, and we hope for your help with that as well.

Thursday evening, Oct. 17, Brotherhood will again host its annual Men's Social in the Sukkah, scheduled to take place from 7 to 9 pm. Brotherhood will provide the refreshments free of charge, although participants are requested to do the traditional BYOB. (All are welcomed to just join us, but if you know in advance you

will be attending, please RSVP to **Ron Sturman** at rgsturman@msn.com.)

After a relatively quiet summer, Brotherhood catering is also gearing up for a full year of activity. Thank you to **the Breckinridge-Drachman family** in kicking off the year by choosing Brotherhood to cater the Bat Mitzvah luncheon for **Eliana** and **Sophie**. Special thanks are extended to our chefs, **Joel Bernstein** and **Jake Gal-lun**, event organizer **Bob Shaver**, food purchaser **Judy Jankowski**, event manager **Howard Wahlberg**, set-up lead **Sue Rabin**, and to our numerous volunteers, **Julie Fields**, **Bobbie Gershman**, **Steve Kalin**, **Kathie Levitz**, **Barbara Mintz**, **Matt Mutterperl**, **Inna Naygauz**, **Donna Sachs**, **Faren Sachs**, **Bill and Kate Schneider**, **Ron Sturman**, and **Diane Suchman**. Whether you would like to learn how you might volunteer a little of your time, or seek information on how Brotherhood catering can help with your simcha celebrations, contact us at catering@bethelhebrew.org. All proceeds earned from Brotherhood catering are contributed back to Beth El causes, and most specifically to help our Religious School and Beth El youth programs.

Finally, if you have not yet done so, please show your support for Brotherhood efforts by providing the office your FY2019-2020 Brotherhood membership dues of \$36, \$54, or \$72 (your choice).

L'shanah tovah,
John Jankowski
Brotherhood President
brotherhood@bethelhebrew.org

ECLC News

JUDAISM teaches us to find and celebrate the moments of *kodesh* (holiness) in our lives. It's our job to seek them out and to be intentional about making them a part of our daily lives. In the ECLC, Shabbat is recognized and celebrated. Because we are not together as a school when Shabbat actually begins or ends, we have to be a bit more creative. On Fridays, during morning snack, we welcome Shabbat with candles, kiddush, and challah. Each class will have its own ritual to make the moment special and holy. After lunch, we come together as a school for some Shabbat togetherness in our beautiful sanctuary. Led by **Cantor Kaufman**, we welcome Shabbat with songs and sometimes even a peek at the Torah. In essence, we are saying goodbye to each other, goodbye to our week, and hello to Shabbat and our weekend.

Shabbat traditionally ends with the havdalah ceremony on Saturday evening. We carry the joy of Shabbat with us until we come together on Monday morning. Just at the start of school, we gather together, say goodbye to Shabbat, goodbye to the weekend, and hello to each other and the wonderful week that is ahead of us. *Shavua tov* from the mouths of small folks is a treat that I treasure each week. These are *kodesh* moments that we can carry with us.

Wishing you special *kodesh* moments that fill your hearts as we welcome in 5780.

Dina Backer
dina.backer@theJ.org



Words of Wisdom

OUR GOAL — and self-description — at Beth El is that we are a *kehillah kedosha*, a sacred, inclusive, and welcome synagogue and community. Yet some coming to Beth El have experienced being mislabeled, patronized, profiled, or subjected to inappropriate assumptions or questions. We all want to be fully welcome and welcomed at Beth El. Here are five things to keep in mind:

1. Avoid making assumptions about another person's gender identity, sexual orientation, religious identity, Jewish background, race, or reasons for joining us.
2. Respect a person's identity and self-label, and respect a person's chosen name and pronouns.
3. Refrain from commenting whether someone looks Jewish or not.
4. Avoid assuming that people want to speak about their identity, particular when their identity is different from yours. Engage in conversation about interests rather than identities. Offer to answer any questions about Beth El if they are visiting.
5. Do not expect another person to become your resource on understanding their identity.

Help Us Out

EMERGENCIES are rare, but they do happen. If you have a medical background, please help keep our congregation safe by identifying yourself to the sanctuary usher at services and letting them know where you will be sitting. If you are here for a large event other than services or really busy building time, consider letting the office know where in the building you will be.

Thank you.

Common Scents

AS HIGH HOLIDAYS approach, when the sanctuary will be more full than at any other time of the year, please remember that some people are allergic/sensitive to perfumes and colognes. With so many people in one place, the combined effect can be very strong. Please be considerate.

Thank you again.

The Caring Community Committee Is Ready to Assist

THROUGHOUT the year, the members of the Caring Community Committee (CCC) respond to a wide variety of requests for help from congregants in special circumstances. In addition, members of the on-call caring group have responded generously to notices of *mitzvah* opportunities.

For the CCC program to work to its fullest, we need to know when there is a need for our services. Do you have a prescription that needs to be picked up from a pharmacy? Do you need a meal brought in for you or your household? Would you like to have a phone call or a visit from a caring new friend? Let CCC Chair **Ruth Perlstien** know at 703-978-9341 or rperl8607@gmail.com. If you would like to offer occasional help in doing such *mitzvot*, let Ruth know that as well.

If you have engaged the services of a caregiver for yourself or a family member and would recommend that person to others with similar needs, please let **Pamela Zitron** know at Zitronspks@aol.com. She would also welcome information on helpful community resources.

By the time members receive this newsletter, 32 bags filled with holiday treats will have been delivered to members of the congregation who are homebound — another project of the CCC.

Member News

Welcome New Members:

Jason Schlosberg and Donna Lombardo, and Jocelyn and Claire

Gordon and Lisa Brightsen and Gracie

Jamie and Matthew Mellon and Eliana, Georgia, and Bennett

Dana and Marc Chodos and Noah, Sarah, and Jacob Gabrielle Kaufman

Roberta (Bobbie) Cohen

Lisa Shapiro and Daniella

Michael Berk and Emma

Jamie and John Taber and Jackson, Charlotte, and Nathan

Alex Weinstein and Charlotte

David and Donna Hayford and Tamara and Jennifer

Mazel Tov to:

Sheila Wexler who has been re-elected to a second two-year term as president of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington, and is also the featured volunteer in the September issue of the Groceries-to-Go Newsletter of Senior Services of Alexandria

Florence Foelak, Rosalind Newman, Jill Hanig, and Linda Vogel who are having special birthdays in October Mitchell and Lillian Singer, Michael and Karen Weinberger, Daniel Root and Susan Klemens, and Julian and Gail Hart who are having special anniversaries in October

A newsletter issue without condolences is a joy to us all.

Life Is Rich

LIFE IS RICH Shabbat will be a fun night for all ages. Babysitting will be available. There will be a buffet dinner with a drink, a chance to meet and connect with our congregation, an abbreviated Shabbat evening service, and a screening of *Life is Rich* followed by conversation with our special guest, the filmmaker Bonnie Rich.

When: Nov. 15

6 - 6:45 pm Family-friendly buffet dinner

7 - 7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service

7:45 - 9 pm Film screening and conversation with Bonnie Rich

The price of our family-friendly buffet dinner is \$10 per person, with a maximum of \$30 per family. Babysitting for two hours (7 - 9 pm) is \$15 for one child and \$5 for each additional child. To register for dinner, either call the Beth El office or visit our website.

To learn more about the film, visit www.lifeisrichfilm.com.



Renaissance Group Fall Event

THE RENAISSANCE Group will kick off its 13th year on Oct. 20, with a catered dinner and our very own Appraisal Roadshow. Steve Gouterman, owner of Paradigm Experts, and Todd Peenstra, of Peenstra Appraisals, will present the educational and fun show.

The Appraisal Roadshow is where members and guests are invited to bring their personal valuables to be evaluated (for free) by appraisal experts. Items brought can include jewelry, silver, coins, timepieces, rare books, glass, artwork, vintage toys, etc. The appraisers will select different items from those they have examined and educate the audience with relevant knowledge about these personal property categories. They will then tell the audience the true value of each and how much to insure them for.

More details will follow about time and cost in an email to Renaissance Group members.

For information about joining the Renaissance Group, please contact **Linda Vogel** at Lindav@cox.net.

Looking forward to a great turn out.

Beth El Knitters

WOULD YOU like to participate in an informal group of knitters? All levels are welcome — from those who can knit complicated cables with their eyes closed to those who spend most of their time unknitting mistakes. We meet twice a month, usually on the second and fourth Sundays, from 2 - 4 pm at the Panera on Duke Street.

If you'd like to be added to the notification list, please let **Elaine Marsh** know at emarsh@cox.net. Elaine sends a reminder a few days beforehand.

October Tot Shabbats

THE TWO Tot Shabbat services in October both focus on fun.

On Saturday, Oct. 12, Tot Shabbat celebrates Sukkot. Weather permitting, we will be outside in the sukkah. Whether we're indoors or outdoors, we'll sing special kid-friendly Sukkot songs and make Sukkot decorations to hang in the sukkah or take home.

On Saturday, Oct. 26, Tot Shabbat includes the story of Noah's ark. The children help act it out by wearing animal hats and masks that I'll provide, and lumbering, leaping, or perhaps slithering onto the ark as we sing "[Noah, Oh Noah.](#)"

Hope to see you there!

Carol Boyd Leon (a.k.a. "Miss Carol")



WEDNESDAY, Oct. 16, all ages are invited to help sort the food collected during the High Holy Days food drive. We'll start at 6 pm in the social hall. Think you'll be there? Please send a message to the email below.

The residents of the ALIVE! House transitional shelter need toothpaste (regular sized) and body soap (liquid or bar). These items can be left in the Bin of Bounty outside of the kitchen.

Remember to keep Dec. 8 open for Beth El's day to go out with the ALIVE! trucks to pick up and deliver furniture. This important and rewarding activity is available to anyone 16 years old and up. We go out at 1 pm and are finished in around 3 hours.

For more information about any of the above, contact **Deborah Schaffer** at schaffer4@gmail.com.

Readers of Beth El

THE READERS of Beth El will meet on Monday, Oct. 28 at 7:30 pm. We will be reading and discussing *My Own Words*, by Ruth Bader Ginsburg. This book is a collection of Justice Ginsburg's writings and speeches on a variety of topics throughout her illustrious career.

If you want to read ahead, our next book will be *Promised Land* by Marvin Fletcher.

Please let me know if you have any questions!

Lynne Orens
Lorens750@aol.com

B'nei Mitzvah

Gabriel Cohen October 5, 2019

Gabriel is a seventh grade honor student at George Washington Middle School. He enjoys running, reading, drawing, and hanging out with his friends.

For his mitzvah project, Gabe volunteered at the ALIVE! organization, boxing food and meals for people who need additional assistance. He also volunteered at an art camp over the summer, helping counselors with setting up and cleaning up for a group of five- to eight-year-olds.

Gabe thanks his tutor, Jeanette Astrow, all of his Hebrew school teachers, Rabbi Spinrad, and Cantor Kaufman for helping him prepare for this special day. He also thanks his parents and his sister, Alana, for their love, support, and helping him prepare.

Adam Pedigo October 26, 2019

Adam is a seventh grader at Carl Sandburg Middle School. He loves three-point shots, walk-off home runs, and retro basketball shoes.

For his mitzvah project, Adam volunteered at the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria where he spent time reading to and making blankets and toys for shelter animals.

Adam thanks his tutor, Lisa Sheldon, all of his Religious School teachers, Rabbi Spinrad, and Cantor Kaufman for helping prepare him for this special day. And he thanks his parents, his sister and sometimes tutor, Mayah, and his two dogs, Ruby and Rocky, for their love and moral support.

Dahlia Turner October 12, 2019

Dahlia Turner is an eighth grade honors student at Thomas Jefferson Middle School. She likes playing guitar and hanging out with friends.

For her mitzvah project, she worked with a non-profit organization to feed cats that were up for adoption. She also cleaned their cages and gave them toys to play with.

Dahlia thanks Rabbi Spinrad, Cantor Kaufman, her tutor, Robin, and all her Hebrew school teachers for helping her become a Bat Mitzvah. She would also like to thank her friends and family for their support.

Max Sherman October 19, 2019

Max James Sherman is a seventh grader at George Washington Middle School, where his favorite subjects are history and math.

Max loves playing and watching baseball. He is an avid San Francisco Giants fan. He loves to play catcher and shortstop for the Alexandria Red's White travel team. Max enjoys attending summer camp at Camp Interlaken JCC in Eagle River, Wisconsin.

He has chosen to help Cantor Kaufman with the voter phone bank for his mitzvah project. Max wants to thank Cantor Kaufman, his tutor, Jeanette Astrow, Acadia Schechter, and his grandfather, Barry Sherman, for helping him prepare for his Bar Mitzvah.

WRJ Welcomes Rabbi Romano with a Donation



~ October 2019 ~ Tis

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
<i>On Yom Kippur, may all your prayers be heard and may you and yours be blessed with a sweet, healthy, and peaceful year</i>		1 Rosh Hashanah (End) BUILDING CLOSED	2 International Day of Non-Violence 5:30p RS Canteen 6:15p Religious School 6:30p WRJ Meeting
6 Mad Hatter Day/American Libraries' Day 10a Tashlich at Burke Lake Park 10a Hebrew Benevolent Society Annual Memorial Service (at BEHC) 2p High Holiday Choir Rehearsal	7 National Child Health Day	8 Erev Yom Kippur OFFICE CLOSED 8p Kol Nidre Service	9 Yom Kippur OFFICE CLOSED 10a Yom Kippur Mooning Service 1p Yom Kippur Family Service 1p Yom Kippur Study Session 2p Yom Kippur Junior Congregation Service 3p Yom Kippur Afternoon Service 4:30 Yizkor Service 5:30p Neilah Service 6:45 Break-the-Fast
13 Sukkot (Start) Outdoor Sukkah Set-up 10a Religious School 10a Leadership Development Group 10a Kever Avot Memorial Service 10a Mah Jongg 10a Adult Hebrew Classes 1p Bridge 1p WRJ Indoor Sukkah Set-up 2p BEFTY Apple Picking 4:30 PM Club 67 Pizza in the Sukkah	14 Sukkot (Cont.)/ Columbus Day OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 Sukkot Festival Service 11:45 Potluck Lunch in the Sukkah	15 Sukkot (Cont.) 11a Book Club 1p WRJ Mah Jongg 6:30p Brotherhood Social in the Sukkah 7p Board Meeting 7p Genius of the Rabbis	16 Sukkot (Cont.) 10:30a JCC Event: The Jews of Singapore 5:30p RS Canteen 6p ALIVE! Food Drive Sorting 6:15p Religious School
20 Sukkot (End) 10a Religious School 10a Mah Jongg 10a Adult Hebrew Classes 1p Bridge 10a Chapel in the Woods Workday 1p 20s and 30s Group 6p Renaissance Group	21 Sh'mini Atzeret and Simchat Torah OFFICE CLOSED 10:30a Shemini Atzeret Festival Service with Yizkor	22 Make a Dog's Day Day Book Sorting 1p WRJ Mah Jongg 6p RSY Team Meeting	23 National Mole Day Book Sorting 10:30a JCC Event: A Tribute to Ol' Blue Eyes – Frank Sinatra 5:30p RS Canteen 6:15p Religious School 6:30p A Life of Meaning: An Introduction to the Sacred Path of Reform Judaism
27 National Black Cat Day Sukkah Take-Down 10a Religious School 10a Mah Jongg 10a Adult Hebrew Classes 2p WRJ Book and Author Event	28 National Chocolate Day/National Champagne Day 2p Carpenter's Shelter Food Prep 7:30p Readers of Beth El	29 National Oatmeal Day/Internet Day 1p WRJ Mah Jongg	30 National Candy Corn Day 10:30a JCC Event: Trip to President Lincoln Cottage and Robert H. Smith Visitor Education Center 5:30p RS Canteen 6:15p Religious School 6:30p A Life of Meaning: An Introduction to the Sacred Path of Reform Judaism

Shrei/Chesvan 5780 ~

	Thu	Fri	Sat	Torah
	3 National Techies' Day 6:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 7p Bridge 7p EC Meeting	4 National Vodka Day 6:30p Shabbat Social Hour 7:30p Erev Shabbat Service <i>Candle Lighting 6:29p</i>	5 World Teachers' Day Last Day of Heller High Fundraiser Silent Auction 9a Torah Study 10:30 Shabbat Morning Service and Bar Mitzvah of Gabriel Cohen <i>Havdalah 7:35p</i>	Vayeilech Deuteronomy 31:1 - 31:30 Isaiah 55:6 - 56:8
	10 World Mental Health Day 6:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 7p Bridge	11 National Sausage Pizza Day 10:30a Culture Club 6:30p Shabbat Social Hour 7:30p Erev Shabbat Service/ 4 th Grade Student-Led Service <i>Candle Lighting 6:18p</i>	12 National Chess Day 9a Torah Study 10:30 Shabbat Morning Service and Bat Mitzvah of Dahlia Turner 11a Sukkot Tot Shabbat <i>Havdalah 7:25p</i>	Haazinu Deuteronomy 32:1 - 32:52 II Samuel 22:1 - 22:51
	17 Sukkot (Cont.) 9:30a Senior Services Event: Wellness-Body, Mind, Spirit 6:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 7p Bridge 7p Social in the Sukkah 7p Caring Community Committee 7:30 Interfaith Learning	18 Sukkot (Cont.) 6:30p Shabbat Social Hour 7:30p Erev Shabbat Service/ Religious School New Student Consecration <i>Candle Lighting 6:08p</i>	19 Sukkot (Cont.) 9a Torah Study 10:30 Shabbat Morning Service and Bar Mitzvah of Max Sherman 2p WRJ Interfaith Tea in the Sukkah 4:30p Club 45 Snacks in the Sukkah <i>Havdalah 7:15p</i>	Chol ha'Moed Sukkot Exodus 33:12-34:26
	24 National Bologna Day Book Sorting 6:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 7p Bridge	25 World Pasta Day 6:30p Shabbat Social Hour 7:30p Erev Shabbat Service/ Auf Ruf of Cantor Jason Kaufman and Mr. Richard Kirk McPike <i>Candle Lighting 5:59p</i>	26 National Make a Difference Day 9a Torah Study 10:30 Shabbat Morning Service and Bar Mitzvah of Adam Pedigo 11a Noah's Ark Tot Shabbat <i>Havdalah 7:05p</i>	B'reshit Genesis 1:1 - 6:8 Isaiah 42:5 - 43:10
coln's to the	31 Halloween 6:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 7p Bridge			

Culture Club

Friday, Oct. 11, 10:30 am

National Museum of American History

JOIN US AS we start the new year at the National Museum of American History. We're planning to view, time permitting, three exhibits:

1. *Giving in America*, the historical role of philanthropy in shaping the United States;
2. *American Democracy: A Great Leap of Faith*;
3. *Everyday Luxury: Silk Quilts from the National Collection*.

But there's so much more at this museum... something for everyone!

We always leave time for schmoozing over lunch. Lunch is pay-as-you-go in the museum's *Eat at America's Table Cafe*. For more information about the museum: www.americanhistory.si.edu.

Culture Club welcomes all adult Beth El members and their guests. Are you a new BEHC member or recently retired? This is a wonderful way to meet new people or reconnect with old friends. There is no roster — some members come every month; some occasionally. The activity is planned but transportation is not. Some participants organize carpools, use Uber/Lyft or take public transportation. Please let me know if we should watch for you: stafm@aol.com.

— Meryl Goldhammer



WRJ Social Action Committee

Diapers: One last reminder that we are collecting diapers with our ALIVE! food collection at the High Holy Days. Because of the bulky nature of diapers, you don't need to wait until Yom Kippur to drop off your donations. You can bring them in any time through Yom Kippur (Oct. 9) and put your diaper donation in the social action bins in the Beth El lobby.

2020 Calendars: We are collecting 2020 calendars to share with our social action partners in Alexandria. If you have calendars you would like to donate, please place them in the Social Action bins in the Beth El lobby.

Thanks to all for your support of our community!

Janet Garber

garberj123@gmail.com

703-598-7904

Leaves Are Falling!

Fall on those piles of books you've already read and bring them in now for the 2020 Annual Giant Book Sale!
The book sale is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year, but we can't do it without your books.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Rhoda Goldman at lennieg@cox.net or 703-992-9370.



Are you a business owner or Human Resources professional who would be interested in learning about a source of good employees?

THE TEMPLE Rodef Shalom Inclusion Committee and the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington are planning a breakfast at the Pozez JCCNV in Fairfax on Nov. 12: ***Win-Win Hiring Solutions: Employing Individuals with Disabilities***. The goals are to raise employer awareness of the benefits *to their own business* when hiring individuals with disabilities and to provide employers with possible pathways to employing individuals with disabilities. The event will include a panel presentation on the benefits for both the employer and employee, and also a discussion with resource providers.

If you are a business owner or HR professional who would benefit from attending this event, please send your name and contact information to Andy Baldwin, Co-chair, Temple Rodef Shalom Inclusion Committee at andrewbaldwin48@gmail.com, and they will send you an invitation to this important event.

Thank you for giving your attention to this crucial issue.

Jeanne Holden

BEHC Inclusion Committee Chair

Club 67 Fun

CLUB 67 is our informal youth program opened to all sixth and seventh graders. With events several times a year, it is a chance to have fun, hang out with friends and make new friends outside of the classroom. Club 67 is our "middle" youth group... following Club 45 (fourth and fifth graders) and leading to BEFTY, the senior youth group for eighth to twelfth graders.

Beth El youth groupers also participate in the NFTY MAR regional events.

Club 67 has a fall filled with fun. Mark your calendars now and watch for more!

Pizza in the Hut

Sunday, Oct. 13
4:30 - 6:30 pm

Games and Friends in the
Sukkah!
Pizza for dinner

Sunday at the Movies

Sunday, Nov. 10
12 noon - 2 pm

Lunch, movie and popcorn!

NFTY MAR Majyk Weekend

Dec. 6 - 8
Temple Beth Ami (Rockville, MD)

A weekend with Mid Atlantic sixth,
seventh, and eighth graders from Mary-
land, Virginia, DC, and North Carolina

More Youth Activities

Club 45 Snacks in the Sukkah

Saturday, Oct. 19, 4:30 - 6:30 pm

Join us for the first Club 45 event of the year. We invite all fourth and fifth graders to nosh and play games in the big outdoor sukkah. Parents are invited to conclude the afternoon with havdalah with their children in the sukkah. In the event of rain, this event will be indoors.

Consecration for New Students

Friday, Oct. 18

Pictures will be at 6:45 pm

Erev Shabbat service/Consecration service
starts at 7:30 pm

High Holiday Events

- ◆ Rosh Hashanah Family Services, Sep. 30, 1 pm
- ◆ Rosh Hashanah Junior Congregation Services, Sept. 30, 2 pm
- ◆ Tashlich at Burke Lake Park, Oct. 6, 10 am - noon
- ◆ Yom Kippur Family Services, Oct. 9, 1 pm
- ◆ Yom Kippur Junior Congregation Services, Oct. 9, 2 pm
- ◆ Simchat Torah Assembly and Celebration, Oct. 20, 11 am - 1 pm

High Holiday 5780 Greetings to All of Our Beth El Family and Friends

EVAN AND JO ANN ALLEN

DANA ARNOLD

ARLENE AND GARY AVAKIAN

BARRY AND JEANETTE ASTROW

KEN BERGER AND FAMILY

THE BRAMESCO LAW FAMILY

ELLEN AND STUART FELDSTEIN

ELLEN GALE

RHODA AND LENNIE GOLDMAN

ALAN AND JACKIE GROPMAN

MARSHA HERTZBERG

JANET HLATKY

JUDY AND JOHN JANKOWSKI

JAY JARVIS AND AUDREY LIEBROSS

JAY LUCAS AND MAXINE COHEN

THE MEISNER FAMILY

MICHELE MILDEN AND
MICHAEL WIENER

ANNETTE AND NORTON PALEY

RUTH PERLSTEIN

JOANNE AND ANDY RHODES

MYRA WENDEL RONEY AND
PAULA RONEY

BARBARA ROSENFELD

SHELLI ROSS AND FAMILY

FRANCIE AND ALAN SCHWEBER

ROBERT AND JANE SIEGEL

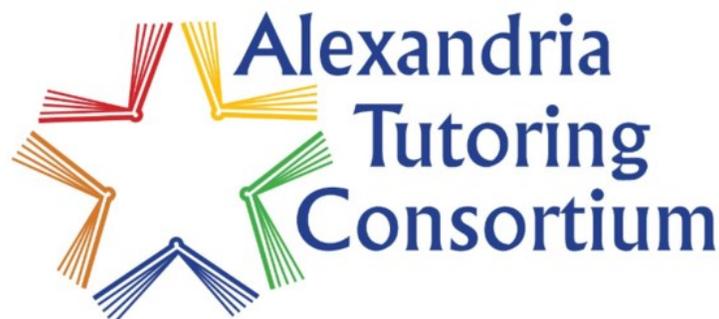
ALVIN AND DEBORAH SPITZER

LINDA AND LARRY VOGEL

LINDA WALLER AND CHRIS KOCSIS

Help a child learn to read! Register to Tutor!

THE ALEXANDRIA TUTORING CONSORTIUM (ATC) needs volunteer reading tutors to work with kindergarten and first grade students in the Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) for 30- or 40- minute sessions, once or twice a week, October through May. We provide training, books, all materials, and support throughout the school year. We especially need tutors at West End schools, including William Ramsay, John Adams, James Polk and Patrick Henry. Please contact ATC Executive Director Lisa Jacobs at atc@opmh.org or 703-549-6670 ext. 119 to learn more, or sign up now at <https://alexandriatutors.org/tutors/sign-up-to-become-a-tutor>.



Beth El/JCCNV Events

The Jews of Singapore

Wednesday, Oct. 16
10:30 am-noon

Presented by Joshua Greene, Retired macroeconomist, International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Singapore, one of the world's most dynamic economies, is home to East Asia's second-largest Jewish community. Join Joshua Greene, Visiting Professor at Singapore Management University, a member of Singapore's only non-Orthodox Jewish congregation, and a longtime member of the Pozez JCC, for a lively discussion of Jewish life in Singapore, including the community, its Jewish institutions, and notable religious traditions.

All programs are \$5 unless noted otherwise. RSVP to Shelly.Rosenstein@theJ.org, 703.537.3062



A Tribute to Ol' Blue Eyes— Frank Sinatra

Wednesday, Oct. 23
10:30 am-noon

Presented by: Natalie Neviasky, who has a background in television, fine arts and specializes in "edutainment" for senior adults

Come reminisce and celebrate the life of Frank Sinatra — singer, actor, and producer — who was one of the most popular and influential musical artists of the 20th century. He was also one of the best-selling music artists of all time, having sold more than 150 million records worldwide.

Natalie will present an interactive, fun, trivia-challenging presentation devoted to this great and much loved star. Remember Sinatra for his life; his personal and professional successes, failures, and contradictions; his voice; and his music. Natalie's programs are always educational, enlightening, and fun!



Tour of President Lincoln's Cottage and Robert H. Smith Visitor Education Center

Wednesday, Oct. 30
depart Beth El 10:15 am
return 1:30 pm

Abraham Lincoln and his family resided seasonally on the grounds of the Soldiers' Home to escape the heat and political pressure of downtown Washington. Lincoln lived in the cottage June to November 1862 through 1864. During the first summer there, Lincoln drafted the preliminary draft of the Emancipation Proclamation. A reproduction of the desk where he drafted it is in the cottage. (The original is in the White House.)

There will be time to visit the adjacent Robert H. Smith Visitor Education Center, which has exhibits about the Soldiers' Home, wartime Washington, Lincoln as Commander-in-Chief during the Civil War, and a special exhibit gallery.

There will not be a stop for lunch — you may bring food for the bus.

Fee: \$28 (includes bus transportation and docent-led tour)

Code: # 10109

RSVP: Submit payment and registration form to the J, Attn: Shelly Rosenstein. Make check payable to Pozez JCC with "10/30" on memo line.

First Monarch Butterfly Caterpillar Seen in Our Chapel in the Woods



JUST TWO YEARS after **Jeremy Flachs** planted common milkweed in the Chapel in the Woods, Monarch butterflies found the plants and made them their home. The butterflies laid eggs on the plants; last month caterpillars emerged from the eggs, as seen in the photo to the left.

Come learn more about these and other Virginia natives on Chapel in the Woods workdays on Sundays, Oct. 20 and Nov. 10, from 10 to noon, followed by a light lunch. Please bring work gloves and a trowel if you have them; other equipment will be provided.

For more information call **Nancy and Stuart Davis**, 703-671-5906.

Book & Author Event

Sunday, October 27, 2019

2:00 to 5:00 PM

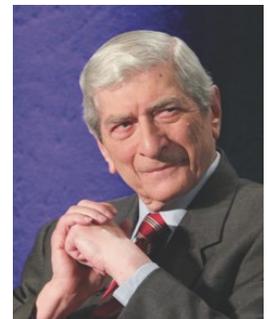
Beth El Hebrew Congregation
3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Virginia

Moderator: Robert Siegel, Former Host of NPR's *All Things Considered*

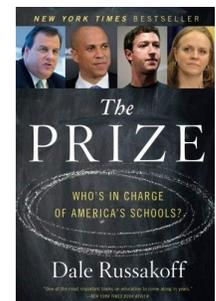


Featured Books and Authors:

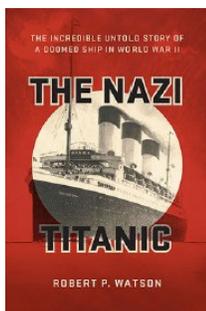
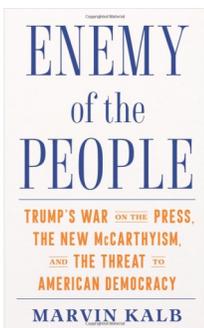
Marvin Kalb is a nonresident senior fellow in Foreign Policy at the Brookings Institution and senior adviser at the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting. He focuses on the impact of media on public policy and politics. He is also an expert in national security, with a focus on U.S. relations with Russia, Europe, and the Middle East. His distinguished career in journalism spans more than 30 years, including award-winning reporting for CBS and NBC News as chief diplomatic correspondent, Moscow bureau chief, and anchor of NBC's *Meet the Press*.



Dale Russakoff spent 28 years as a reporter for the *Washington Post* and is now a freelance writer, focusing on education and immigration. She is the author of *The Prize — Who's in Charge of America's Schools* (Houghton Mifflin, 2015), a New York Times best-seller about Mark Zuckerberg's \$100 million gift to the public schools of Newark, NJ. Her work has appeared in the *New Yorker*, the *New York Times Magazine*, *ProPublica* and elsewhere.



Robert Watson, Ph.D. is Distinguished Professor of American History and Director of Project Civitas at Lynn University. He has published roughly 40 books and he has won the Independent Publishers' Gold Medal for History as well as the John Barry and John Lyman Book Awards. *The Nazi Titanic* has been optioned to be made into a movie. Watson is a frequent media commentator and has been a visiting scholar with numerous historic sites.



Hooray for Books, Alexandria, VA, will be on site for book sales and signings.

Refreshments will be served before and after the program.

Cost: \$25/pp (\$23 is tax deductible) by October 23, 2019 *Your check is your reservation.*

\$30/pp (\$23 is tax deductible) at the door, cash or check

Please send your check, payable to BE-WRJ to:

Women of Reform Judaism, 3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304

Proceeds will benefit Beth El Youth and The Brandeis Library Book Fund.



Silent Auction

When: September 20 through October 25
Fridays during Shabbat Social Hour, Sundays during Religious School

Where: Beth El lobby outside the Main Office

Why: Supporting the Heller High Five semester in Israel

What: Select menorahs and mezuzot and a tzedakah box
100% of the money goes to support the teens going to Heller High

Five Beth El teens — the Heller High Five
**Alexis Colton, Aurora Mercer, Kate Schneider,
Dahlia Spinrad, and Samara Tanner**

will be studying for a semester in Israel during the 2019-2020 school year at the URJ's Heller High. We are grateful to the Beth El community for its continued support of our fundraising efforts.



The Heller High Five are grateful to the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington for granting each of us a scholarship toward the cost of attending Heller High.

We would also like to thank Beth El's Women of Reform

Judaism and Brotherhood for the opportunity to volunteer at your events throughout 2019.

The Congregation Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations

ARNOLD G. FINK LEARNING CENTER

Donor	In Memory of
Paula Roney	Blanche Roney
Julie Fields	Harriet F. Ballard
Barbara & Sam Rothman	James J. Cohen
Florence Foelak	Bruce J. Foelak

BETH EL GENERAL FUND

Donor	In Appreciation of
Joseph M. Johnson	Torah Study group
Donor	In Memory of
Ellen Efros & Fritz Kahn	John Heffner
Ellye & Arlene Polinsky	Myer Hoffman
Jack Wilkenfeld	Esther & Norman Wilkenfeld

CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Donor	In Appreciation of
Dawn & Jack Kaye	Cantor Jason Kaufman

INA LERNER ISRAEL FUND

Donor
Linda Waller

LANDO FUND

Donor	In Memory of
Annemarie & Robert Lando	Julie Lando

MARC ROSS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Donor	In Honor of
Shelli Ross	Jan Pomerantz & Everett Wilcox's anniversary
Donor	In Memory of
Myra Roney	Samuel Wendel
Alan Gropman	Joseph Pass

PERMANENT ENDOWMENT FUND

Donor	In Honor of
Joan & Tobin Naidorf	Julie Lando
Donor	In Memory of
Myrna & Paul Beck	Elizabeth Wayne

RABBI'S GOOD DEED FUND

Donor	In Appreciation of
Barbara & Sam Rothman	Dina Backer's leadership of the ECLC
Donor	In Memory of
Preschool Bumblebees	Jack Gropman
Alan Gropman	Saul S. Chipman
Susan Worden	

RABBI ISSEROW PLAYGROUND FUND

Donor	In Appreciation of
Northern Virginia Bridge Assoc.	Support of Thursday night bridge

REFUGEE ASSISTANCE FUND

Donor	In Memory of
Julianne Mueller	Thomas E. Johnson

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

Donor	In Memory of
Marcia & Gregory Babitz	Milton Babitz

SOCIAL ACTION FUND

Donor	In Appreciation of
Julie Fields	Jeanette Astrow's service as WRJ president
Donor	In Memory of
Yonie Dow	Julie Lando
Judith & Charles Kramer	Joseph Kramer

Thank you for your generous donations. No donation is too small. All donations are acknowledged in The Bulletin two months following their receipt. Acknowledgements are mailed with a minimum of \$18 per person per acknowledgement.

Culture Club Visit to Jewish Museum of Maryland



19th Annual Northern Virginia Jewish Film Festival

Nov. 7-17

FOR 19 YEARS, the annual Northern Virginia Jewish Film Festival (NVJFF) has been bringing you films that put the spotlight on the diversity that exists within Judaism, the complexities of life in Israel, and what it means to be human in the 21st century.

This year the NVJFF will bring more of these memorable stories to life as we celebrate our opening night on Nov. 7 and offer excellent films through Nov. 17. The NVJFF will be screening films in Arlington (Arlington Cinema and Drafthouse), Reston (Reston Community Center's Center Stage) and Fairfax (Angelika Film Center and Cinema Arts Theatre) so we can better serve Northern Virginia's film-loving community. Learn more online [here](#).

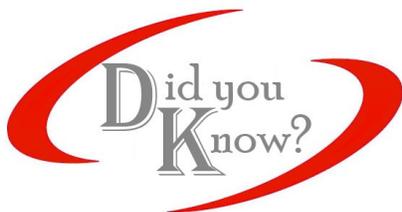


...and so much more!

Save the Date
ANNUAL CONCERT
with
CANTOR
JASON KAUFMAN



7:00 pm
February 8, 2020
Beth El Hebrew Congregation
Alexandria VA



LOOK AT THE calendar... there is no regularly scheduled Torah portion for the Shabbat that is mid-Sukkot! Instead we traditionally read from Exodus, which you may recall is mostly related to a certain spring holiday. Why?

This Torah portion calls attention to the connection between Yom Kippur and Sukkot. Recall that God came down in a cloud when talking to Moses. God as a cloud traveled with the camp of Israel during the wandering. When Israel sinned with the golden calf, the protective cloud departed. Moses pleaded with God to forgive us and return to the people of Israel.

And the rabbis provide the connection: On the 10th of Tishrei (Yom Kippur), God forgave us and gave us the second tablets. On the 11th, God directed the building of the Mishkan Torah. From the 12th-14th people brought donations of building materials. On the 15th they started building... just as we build sukkot to this day. And Mishkan can also mean hut or dwelling. There's the semi-direct connection between atonement/forgiveness and building a structure to honor God.



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Give your preschooler the gift of great learning experiences, new friends, and lots of fun! The Pozez JCC – Beth El ECLC is ready for you!

Our Early Childhood Learning Center offers a 12-month program with part-time and full-time options for children who will be two, three, or four years old by September 30.

Our full-time toddler program accepts students from 16 to 23 months old.

The ECLC, offering a Reggio Emilia-inspired educational philosophy, 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@thej.org.



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

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Hold the Date

Pozez JCC Art Gallery: *Judy Wengrovitz — A Retrospective*, Oct. 16-Dec. 2

Pozez JCC Adult Learning Institute: *America's Jewish Military*, Nov. 4 and 11

No Va Jewish Film Festival, Nov. 7-Nov. 17

Rodef Shalom: Noam Katz Concert, Nov. 16

Pozez JCC Adult Learning Institute: *The Jews of Ireland*, Nov. 19

Jewish Genealogy Society Meeting, Nov. 24

NFTY MAJIK, Dec. 6-8

Judaica Shop Hanukkah Boutique, Dec. 8

Pozez JCC Annual Northern Virginia Book Fair, Dec. 8-11

Brotherhood Public Policy Forum: Reform Judaism, Dec. 8

WRJ Simply Mahj, Dec 8

Pozez JCC Literature and Lunch: *Drive-Thru Dreams*, Dec. 10

Pozez JCC: Zemer Chai Hanukkah Concert, Dec. 15

WRJ Hanukkah Lunch and Dinner, Dec 18

Renaissance Group, Jan. 12, 2020

Brotherhood Public Policy Forum: *Yom Kippur War*, Jan. 12, 2020

Annual Giant Book Sale, Jan. 19-20, 2020

Cantor's Concert, Feb. 8, 2020

ReelAbilities Film Festival, March 2020