



# Beth El Bulletin

September 2016  
Av/Elul 5776

Beth El Hebrew Congregation

## Worship Services

**Friday, September 2**  
Erev Shabbat Service,  
7:30 pm

**Saturday, September 3**  
Shabbat Morning Service,  
10:30 am  
Tot Shabbat, 11 am

**Friday, September 9**  
Erev Shabbat Service,  
7:30 pm

**Saturday, September 10**  
Shabbat Morning Service,  
10:30 am

**Friday, September 16**  
Erev Shabbat Service,  
7:30 pm

**Saturday, September 17**  
Shabbat Morning Service,  
10:30 am  
Tot Shabbat, 11 am

**Friday, September 23**  
Erev Shabbat Service,  
7:30 pm

**Saturday, September 24**  
Shabbat Morning Service and  
Bat Mitzvah of  
Heather Johnson  
10:30 am  
S'lichot Service, 7 pm

**Friday, September 30**  
Erev Shabbat Service,  
7:30 pm



Join Beth El Hebrew Women of Reform Judaism  
for



## Mahj Mayhem

(Not a tournament)

**Sunday, September 25, 2016 from 2pm-5pm**  
Beth El Hebrew Congregation  
3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304

**A fundraiser for Beth El Youth**

Loads of fun, friends, & food

Door prizes and raffle tickets for other prizes!

\$20 Pre-Registration by September 19

\$25 at the door

(\$18 is tax-deductible)

Make checks payable to *BE-WRJ* and send to *WRJ*,  
Beth El Hebrew Congregation at the address above by September 19.

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

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



More Mahj Mayhem  
info on page 22

## In this Issue

Rabbi's Remarks	3	Bat Mitzvah	11
Cantor's Column	4	Beth El Havurot	11
President's Point of View	5	Beth El/JCCNV Events	12
ECLC	5	Calendar	12-13
Inclusion Committee Special		ALIVE!	15
Event	6	Culture Club	15
Caring Community	6	Inclusion Committee	16
Readers of Beth El	6	Member News	17
WRJ News	7	Chapel in the Woods	18
Brotherhood News	8	Life After Loss Support	
Religious School	9	Group	18

Donations	19
High Holiday Choir Schedule	21
Lifelong Learning	22
Beth El House	22
Mahj Mayhem	23

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



## Rabbi's Remarks



**T**HE MONTH of Elul has just begun and is a reminder that it is time to start the process of introspection that characterizes the High Holy Day period. If done with *kavanah*, proper intention and attention, this exercise of introspection can

be of deep significance and can influence the way we conduct ourselves in the year ahead.

Although these sacred holy days are Toraitic in origin, their nature has changed over the centuries and under Rabbinic influence and through *minhag*, custom, have evolved into the Days of Awe we now celebrate. This evolution can be traced through the words and prayers found within our *Machzor*, *Mishkan Tefilah*, which we will be using this year for the second time.

As a Professor of Liturgy, Rabbi Jacob Petuchowski, used to say, "The first rule of Jewish liturgy is that you can add but not delete anything from the siddur and the second, if you have to choose between A and B, you choose A and B!"

This has resulted in the steady accretion of centuries of creative poetry and prayer (a lot of which has been edited out of the Reform prayer book). However, the essence of the liturgy still remains and is present in both the traditional prayers and modern creative writings we find in our *Machzor*.

How do we relate to these texts, both ancient and new? Do they resonate with our current view of the world or do they jar our modern sensitivities? Are they a hindrance or a help in our journey toward transcendence that these Days of Awe are supposed to invoke? Do they shatter those sublime moments so carefully created by the music of magical voices or raise us up on the crests of ecstatic meaning?

For many of us the answer is probably "I don't really know! It goes by pretty fast and I am not always paying much attention to the liturgy itself."

And so, to give each of us the opportunity to look at some the central liturgy of the service for both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we are devoting our September Lifelong Learning sessions to exploring our *Machzor*. However, rather than an overview, I want to look at specific prayers and some poetry. The intention is to explore intention, meaning and most importantly how we can relate to this liturgy today.

Please join us on Wednesdays, Sept. 14 and 28, at 7 pm as we prepare for this year's High Holy Days.

Our Lifelong Learning Committee has been hard at work planning out education for the year, but is still always looking for suggestions as to topics and areas of discussion that you are interested in exploring. Please respond to **Maryn Simon, Julie Fields** or me and we will do our best to include these requests into our schedule.

Wishing you and yours a *Shana tova u'metuka*  
A happy, healthy and fulfilling New Year  
**Brett**

# Reserved for Home of Peace article

## Cantor's Corner

### Slichot Evening of Klezmer Music Sept. 24, 7 pm

**T**HE SUMMER has come to an end, the sounds of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur can be heard throughout the halls of Beth El, and yes - whether we may feel ready for them or not, the High Holidays are approaching!

The holidays fall a bit later this year than they usually do, but no matter when they come, I always find myself saying, "they're early this year," or "wow, they're here so late!" The fact is, whenever they arrive, it can sometimes feel a bit jarring.

Our tradition recognizes this as well, which is why we have Slichot. Slichot is a holiday that falls on the Saturday evening before Rosh Hashanah. It is the official beginning of the high holiday season, and liturgically comprises of many of the greatest hits of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. It is a wonderful way to ease into the spirit of the high holiday season in a more informal and casual way than is possible during Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

At Beth El, for the past number of years we have ob-

served Slichot with our friends at Congregation Adat Reyim by putting together an entire evening of programming that eases us into the high holiday spirit.

This year's Slichot will be particularly special as we welcome back Caron Dale and her Klezmer band, Lox and Vodka. Two years ago, they performed at Beth El to a packed house, with an audience of music and dance lovers of all ages. I'm so delighted that they are returning as they create another exciting musical program that will bring us to our feet singing and dancing through the social hall. \*This program is a great program for children and congregants of all ages.\*

This special performance will be part of an evening of programming, so please keep your eyes open as we get closer to the date to find out more information.

I hope to see you there.

**Cantor Kaufman**



## Have you ever wondered?

### Carpenters Shelter

WRJ has supported Carpenters Shelter in the City of Alexandria for a VERY long time. Carpenter's comprehensive continuum of care offers continuous services, aiding the chronically homeless and shelter residents through their transition back into independent living.

We cook and serve the fourth Monday of the month. **Annette Kilian** did the cooking for many years before retiring at which time **Karen Aftergut** took it over as the chair.

WRJ has a budget to purchase the food required to cook the required food. Karen coordinates cooks and servers.

For more information, contact **Karen Aftergut** at [kscrapps@verizon.net](mailto:kscrapps@verizon.net)

### Bailey's Shelter

BEHC's Social Action Committee has been supporting Bailey's Shelter for more than 10 years. The Bailey's Crossroads Community Shelter (BCCS) is a 50-bed emergency shelter for adult men and women, open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

BEHC's effort depends entirely on the generosity of its volunteers who purchase food that they prepare and serve. There is no synagogue funding.

Key to our support to Baileys is to provide our teens with an opportunity to serve the community. This past year we had 5 who served regularly, as well as several who served on occasion when they were home from college.

For more information, contact **Julie Mueller** at [jmueller723@gmail.com](mailto:jmueller723@gmail.com)

### Beth El House (BEH)

BEH began when a group of visionaries from Beth El Hebrew Congregation's Social Action Committee met to discuss how tikkun olam (healing the world) could become a reality in Alexandria, VA. This group decided to establish a home for homeless families working toward independence, thus healing the world one family at a time.

Although BEH is a separately incorporated entity, our program continues because of the generosity of Beth El Hebrew Congregation and its congregants. We receive goods and services from very generous congregants.

For more information, contact **Melinda Selden** at [melindaselden@verizon.net](mailto:melindaselden@verizon.net)

## President's Point of View



**A**S THE SUMMER draws to a close, I want to talk about a favorite summer activity—reading. I am a book addict with a life-long love of books. Some of my fondest childhood memories involve books. One of these was getting my first library card. You had to be able

to write your name—and Julienne W. Bramesco was pretty challenging to my 1<sup>st</sup> grade self (there is a reason my daughters' names are Amy and Darci—actually several: Amy from *Little Women*, Darci from *Pride and Prejudice*). My dad was a New York City school teacher and he would bring books home for me from his school library. I did not love all his selections (loved *Marjorie Morningstar*, *Call of the Wild*, not so much) but sharing my reading with my dad is one of my happiest childhood memories.

What do I read? All kinds of books: espionage, murder mysteries, historical fiction, with a smattering of non-fiction (usually history thrown) in. I'm not a huge fantasy fan but I loved the Harry Potter stories (*Prisoner of Azkaban* was my favorite) and the Game of Thrones books (in spite of myself) and I never pass up a story about time travel, which technically qualifies as science fiction. I even dipped my toe in the horror-water when I realized what a masterful writer Stephen King is (try *11/22/63* if you don't believe me). I don't belong to a book club, since I prefer being the master of my own reading list. I do love

discussing books, however, and I have had many good discussions with some of the Beth El readers about books I never would have found without their book club (such as *City of Thieves*).

That library habit didn't last, though. Only one thing could be better than reading books, and that would be owning books. About ten years ago, I switched to the electronic format and I never looked back. I can go on vacation with my entire library! I still buy hardcover editions, and the true test of how much I loved a book is whether I own it in multiple formats (*Wild*).

One bad thing about electronic books is how easy it is to purchase new reading material. But I learned that I can satisfy my book loving and perform a mitzvah at the same time. Amazon has a program called Smile. When you use Smile, Amazon donates a portion of the purchase price to the charitable organization of your choice. All you have to do is go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and select Beth El. Then you shop the way you normally do and Beth El reaps the financial benefit. Just remember that it's Amazon making the charitable contribution for tax and other purposes, so we want to encourage you to use Smile in addition to your usual generosity, not in place of it. Next month I'll be wishing you a chag sameach and the holidays will be upon us, so enjoy these last days of summer reading!

**Julienne Bramesco**

## ECLC

**T**HE CORE of our ECLC program is based on our dedication to the Reggio Emilia philosophy which is based upon the following set of principles:

- Children must have some control over the direction of their learning.
- Children must be able to learn through experiences of touching, moving, listening, seeing, and hearing.
- Children must be encouraged to have a relationship with other children and with material items in the world that children must be allowed to explore.
- Children must have endless ways and opportunities to express themselves.
- Children's intellectual curiosity is rewarded.

One of the interesting elements of Reggio Emilia is that there is no set curriculum book! Teachers build the curriculum based on the interests of the children, so it is a new journey every year with every new

group. Children are encouraged to explore their environment and to ask questions based upon that exploration.

In the Reggio Emilia approach, the teacher is considered a co-learner and collaborator along with the child and not just an instructor. Teachers foster children's involvement in the processes of exploration and evaluation. Children retain the information gained because it comes in the context of the world around them; the world they live and play in. What better way is there to learn??

There is so much to hear and appreciate about the amazing Reggio Emilia philosophy and our outstanding ECLC. Our year is gearing up for excitement, exploration and learning and we can't wait to share more with you via this space each month! If you are interested in more than I can fit here, please ask!! I am always happy to share new about our program.

L'shalom!  
Dina Backer

## Inclusion Committee and WRJ Present: A ReelAbilities Film Festival Preview Event

**B**ETH EL, in cooperation with the JCCNV's 2016 ReelAbilities Film Festival, is presenting the acclaimed film *Anita* on Sunday, Sept. 11 at 4 pm in an exclusive sneak-peek event. Hosted by the Inclusion Committee and the Women of Reform Judaism, *Anita* was a top choice of viewers during the 2015 ReelAbilities Film Festival.

You will be captivated by *Anita*, the story of a young woman with Down syndrome who leads a happy, routine life in Buenos Aires, being meticulously cared for by her mother Dora. One tragic morning in 1994, everything changes. Anita is left alone, confused, and helpless after the bombing of the nearby Jewish community center (in fact, the Argentine Israelite Mutual Association, the deadliest bombing in Argentina's history). As Anita wanders through the city, she learns not only to care for herself, but also touches the lives of those around her, from an alcoholic to a family of Asian immigrants.

Following the movie, we welcome special guest, John Franklin Stephens, a self-advocate who has Down syndrome and is a Special Olympics Global Messenger. He first spoke out in a 2008 essay called "Using the Word 'Retard' to Describe Me Hurts." In 2012, he wrote an

open letter to conservative commentator Ann Coulter after she used the "r-word" as a slur. Frank, as he's known to friends, has gone on to speak about discrimination all over the country. Frank will talk about his experiences and answer questions from the audience.

**Admission is FREE.** Walk-ins are welcome, but to be sure there are enough refreshments, please RSVP at Brown Paper Tickets (<http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2563711>) or by sending your response form (see the enclosed flyer) to Beth El front office.

The ReelAbilities Festival is the largest US film festival dedicated to promoting an appreciation of people with disabilities. Locally, it is a program of the JCCNV. To view a trailer for *Anita*, visit Brown Paper Tickets (Spanish with English subtitles). For more information, contact Inclusion Committee Chair **Jeanne Holden** at [jeanneholden@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanneholden@yahoo.com). Also, see the flyer in this Bulletin.

**Jeanne Holden**  
Inclusion Committee Chair

## Caring Community

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

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

## Readers of Beth El

The Readers of Beth El, a group of Beth El members who live in the Burke and Springfield neighborhoods (or who don't mind traveling!) are now in our 7<sup>th</sup> year! We will kick off our fall reading schedule on Monday, Sept. 19, 2016, at 7:30 pm at the home of Lynne Orens with a discussion of *The Beekeeper's Apprentice* by Laurie King. This is the first of a series of Mary Russell-meets-Sherlock Holmes mysteries. If you wish to read ahead, our next book will be *Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown.

Lynne Orens

## WRJ News

**A**S I HELP my daughter, Mallory, pack for her return to college, I'm reminded that summer will be coming to an end shortly and WRJ will be kicking into full gear. To prepare for our fall season, we met in August to discuss our upcoming WRJ Paid-Up Member event on Sept. 10 from 1-3 pm. By now you should have received an invitation in the mail along with your membership form. Please join us to schmooze with old and new friends while enjoying a nosh. Admission is free with a paid membership to WRJ. RSVP by email [WRJhospitality@gmail.com](mailto:WRJhospitality@gmail.com) or call: **Suzie Shalewitz** 703-517-8806.

Our WRJ board meetings are open to all WRJ members and are usually held the first Wednesday of the month at 6 pm. We welcome you to attend and encourage you to be as involved as you would like to be. This may be for one event or more. No matter what your skills, we would love to have you join us. Please e-mail us at [WRJhospitality@gmail.com](mailto:WRJhospitality@gmail.com) or call **Jeanette Astrow** @ 703.451.7007.

On Sept. 25, mah jongg mavens of all skill levels are invited to join us for another afternoon of Mahj

Mayhem beginning at 2 pm. Tell your friends and mah jongg groups and come join us. Look for more details elsewhere in the bulletin.

Finally the High Holy Days arrive in early October. On the morning of Oct. 3, we'll be preparing apples and honey for our families to enjoy after the Rosh Hashanah family service. On Oct. 16, we'll be decorating the beautiful sukkah on the bimah. If you would like to volunteer, please e-mail us at [WRJhospitality@gmail.com](mailto:WRJhospitality@gmail.com) or call **Jo Ann Allen** @ 703.534.9113 for apples and honey or **Linda Shapiro** @ 703.931.5979 for sukkah on the bimah decorating.

B'shalom (with peace),  
**Jeanette Astrow**  
WRJ President

Upcoming dates:

September 11/25 – Knitting

September 25/26 – Carpenters Shelter cooking and serving

Mah Jongg – Tuesday/Thursday/Sunday

September 10 – Paid-Up Member Event

# WRJ Knitting article goes here

## Judaica Shop

**W**E JUST RETURNED from our August shopping in New York, where we found exciting and unique Judaic giftware and jewelry, as well as things to make your holiday table even more special. Our finds are made by talented Jewish-American and Israeli artists and other merchants who specially tailor products for us. We have new tallitot made in Israel that arrived in August. Stop by in September for candles, honey pots and apple dishes for your High Holiday celebrations. The gift shop is open a half hour before services on Friday nights, Wednesday nights from 6-8 pm during religious school, and on Sunday mornings during Sunday school hours.



## Brotherhood News

**T**HE PRINCIPLES, beliefs, and governing procedures that guide your Beth El Brotherhood were summarized in last month's Bulletin through a capsule review of our recently revised Brotherhood Constitution (see page 6 at <https://www.bethelhebrew.org/community/newsletter>). This month, insight on Brotherhood priorities is provided through a look at our 2016-2017 budget.

Most Brotherhood income derives from just three sources: (i) \$3,400 of dues, which now include an optional triple chai category as well as the historical double chai contribution level; (ii) \$9,000 in *net* income from our Brotherhood catering services (contact [catering@bethelhebrew.org](mailto:catering@bethelhebrew.org) to arrange for your own simcha reception and event); and (iii) \$1,200 in *net* income earned from our efforts to organize and host Beth El's annual congregation-wide Purim Carnival. Most of the remaining budgeted income are break-even offsets to the costs of sponsoring multiple social, community, and educational activities throughout the year, such as our upcoming Sept. 25 Public Policy Forum tentatively titled "US elections impact on Israel."

Our budgeted expenses cover a variety of purposes. Foremost, our funds support Beth El's Religious School and Temple youth, including a \$2,500 set-aside for our Youth Scholarship Program. We make substantial contributions in support of *Tikun Olam* activities, such as gifts to Beth El House, the Oral Rehydration Therapy effort, and the Rabbi's Good Deed Fund, including all profits from catering Rabbi Isserow's 25-Year Rabbinic celebration this past June (not included in the budget totals shown here). Contributions are budgeted for George Mason Hillel and holiday appreciation gifts for Beth El office and maintenance staff. Funds are earmarked for continuing improvements to the Chapel in the Woods and are used to field our Men's Softball Team. Lastly, our budget allows us to offer all Beth El members (whether part of Brotherhood or not) a variety of

free events, including our annual Mother's Day Brunch, end-of-year Religious School picnic, and the previously mentioned Sunday morning Public Policy Forums.

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

Beth El Hebrew Congregation: Brotherhood		Annual Budget 2016-2017	
	Income	Expenses	
<b>Total INCOME</b>	22995		
Dues (Double Chai)	2880		
Dues (Tripple Chai)	540		
Total Membership Dues	3420		
Events with Food Revenue			
Fall Policy Forum Breakfast	300		
Spring Policy Forum Breakfast	300		
Purim Carnival	2400		
Mothers Day Brunch	200		
Annual Meeting/Man of Year (Full '17)	300		
Classic Catering (10 Events in 16/17)	16000		
Support for Inclusion Committee	75		
Total Events with Food Revenue	19575		
<b>Total EXPENSES</b>		22750	
Administrative Expenses			
Temple Newsletter		350	
President's Discretionary Fund		125	
Beth El Bulletin Catering Advertisement		150	
Administrative Supplies and Postage		200	
Total Administrative Expenses		825	
Program Expenses			
Softball Team		500	
Contribution Expenses			
Beth El House	450		
Rabbi's Good Deed Fund	50		
Non-Senior Staff Gifts	1000		
GMU Hillel Shabbat	500		
ORT Project Contributions	500		
R.S. Teacher Appreciation Meal receipts	75		
Chapel-in-the-Woods	1200		
Sukkah Building expenses	150		
Yom Ha Shoa Candles	100		
Brotherhood Youth Scholarships	2500		
Confirmation Gift receipts	350		
Religious School	2500		
Kiddush Cups, Boxes, Liners, receipts	400		
<b>Total Contribution Expenses</b>		9775	
Events with Food Expenses			
School Picnic Expenses	1000		
Social in Sukkah	50		
Fall Policy Forum Breakfast	300		
Spring Policy Founm Breakfast	300		
Thanksgiving Brunch (Home 2016/17)	250		
Purim Carnival	1200		
Mothers Day Brunch	600		
Annual Meeting & Man of the Year	850		
Classic Catering	7000		
Support for Inclusion Committee	100		
Total Events with Food Expenses		11650	

## Religious School



**B**ETHEL IS VERY fortunate to be the recipient of two generous grants.

The first grant is with The Union of Reform Judaism (URJ). The funder is a large foundation with the goals of fostering youth engagement and innovative ideas. This grant is the "Better Together" grant.

The purpose of this grant is to have Bethel EL elders (elders is a term of art that this year's grant participants thought would be the most appropriate for the adults participating in the program e.g., -over 55.) join our seventh graders in sharing recipes and the stories behind the recipes and creating the recipe. Once a month, the students and adults had the opportunity to get to know one another and become friends with people they may never have had the opportunity to meet. Under the leadership of our program coordinator **Clair Sassin** and our seventh grade teacher **Sue Keitelman**, this was one of the most rewarding experiences that one could imagine for the Bethel community.

Beginning in September, we will be having another cohort of Seventh graders and adults participate in the Better Together Program. We hope that you will take the opportunity to consider being part this cohort. There is no real age requirement. The only requirement is that an adult wants to engage with a group of wonderful young adults. If you are interested, please contact me via email [bsmith@bethelhebrew.org](mailto:bsmith@bethelhebrew.org) or call me at 703 370 6644.

The second grant is funded by The Greater Washington Jewish Federation. This grant will have two cohorts. One exclusively composed of adults and the other of our eighth-graders and adults. These groups will explore the arts and impact of Jewish life on these arts. Watch the E bulletin and other Beth El media for more details.

L'Shalom,  
**Barry Smith**, Director of Education

### It's Audition Time!



### Join us for our 41st season

Are you an experienced choral singer, **especially a tenor or bass**? Join Zemer Chai in preserving the rich musical legacy of the Jewish people and in sharing exciting new works and premieres.

Our singers are from all walks of Jewish life and from all over the DC region, and beyond. Singers come from as far away as Baltimore, the Eastern Shore, and Annapolis for our unique weekly rehearsals in Rockville.

**Feed your soul and share your talents at the highest level of musical excellence!**

To schedule an audition, contact us at [audition@zemerchai.org](mailto:audition@zemerchai.org). Please include your voice part and previous choral/musical experience. We look forward to hearing from you!



### Fall Day of Learning

#### The Wisdom of Kabbalah

with  
**Dr. Daniel C. Matt**

Sunday, September 11  
9:00 AM - 4:45 PM

Explore some of the central teachings of Kabbalah (the Jewish mystical tradition) with one of the country's leading experts. Dr. Matt is translator of the first nine volumes of *The Zohar: The Pritzker Edition*. Our topics and themes include: the infinite nature of God (Ein Sof), the feminine aspect of God (Shekhinah), the mystical dimension of Torah, discovering God's presence in the material world, and meditation. We will study and discuss original texts of Kabbalah in translation, including selections from the Zohar. The day will feature a combination of formal lectures, partner study, and group discussions.

## Beth El in the Community



### ALEXANDRIA REENTRY COUNCIL

4840 Eisenhower Avenue  
Alexandria, Virginia 22304



Lisa D. Stapleton, Co-Chair  
Suzanne Chis, Co-Chair

Phone: (571)414-6816

July 28, 2016

Mr. Moshe Teichman  
Executive Director  
Beth El Hebrew Congregation  
3830 Seminary Road  
Alexandria, VA 22304

Dear Mr. Teichman:

On behalf of the Alexandria Reentry Council, I want to thank Beth El Hebrew Congregation for donating meeting space for today's "Fair Chance Business Summit". The Alexandria Reentry Council is a collaboration of State, City, and community agencies and organizations that work together to assist those returning from incarceration in becoming contributing members of society. The Reentry Council seeks to build a stronger and safer Alexandria by developing community partnerships, raising public awareness, and offering effective and integrated services to residents returning home from incarceration.

The purpose of today's Fair Chance Business Summit was two-fold. First, the Reentry Council wanted to familiarize Alexandria's business community with the White House's Fair Chance Business Pledge. We were honored to have United States Deputy Secretary of Labor Christopher Lu provide the Keynote Address and present a call-to-action for all members of the private sector to improve their communities by eliminating barriers for those with a criminal record and creating a pathway for a second chance.

Second, and because we believe that Alexandria is a city of second chances, we convened a panel of business and non-profit leaders to discuss how they are investing in our community and eliminating unnecessary hiring barriers for individuals with criminal records. As a point of information, formerly incarcerated citizens currently serving State probation in Alexandria have an unemployment rate of approximately 65%.

Our event was attended by 75 business and community leaders, including Alexandria City Councilwoman Redella S. 'Del' Pepper and Alexandria City Sherriff Dana Lawhorne. Again, thank you for the donation of Beth El Hebrew Congregation's meeting space so that we could hold this important community event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa D. Stapleton".

Lisa D. Stapleton  
Chief Probation Officer &  
Co-Chair, Alexandria Reentry Council

## Bat Mitzvah

**Heather Johnson**  
**September 24, 2016**

Heather Johnson, an honor-roll 8<sup>th</sup> grade student at Williamsburg Middle School in Arlington, is very active in sports, music, and the community. She plays the flute in the wind ensemble at school and also takes advanced jazz classes. She's been an avid soccer player for the past 8 years and is on a top team. She spends her free time baking delicious desserts, riding her bike, and playing Pokémon Go with her sister. For her mitzvah project, Heather spent many hours with a dear Catholic neighbor, Ms. Bettie Lorino, and they discussed their religions. Heather designed an information sheet for Bettie's church on the Jewish religion. We'd like to profusely thank Rabbi Isserow, Cantor Kaufman, and Lisa Sheldon for their enduring guidance and support.

Our 15th annual used Book Sale Fundraiser is Jan. 15 & 16, 2017.

We need your books, CDs, DVDs, & vinyl records..

Please bring your donations to the Beth El during office hours.

Need help or have questions: please contact Rhoda Goldman—703-992-9370 or e-mail [lenenieg@cox.net](mailto:lenenieg@cox.net).



## Join a Beth El Havurah

**T**HE HAVURAH Program at Beth El Hebrew Congregation provides a wonderful shared Jewish experience for everyone who participates. It is one of the many ways to enhance your experience as a Temple member.

### What is a Havurah?

Havurah (plural is "Havurot") comes from the Hebrew word, *haver*, meaning friend, or fellowship. Each Havurah is a small group of Beth El members who come together to learn, to socialize and enjoy Jewish living with their families. They may socialize together, worship together, celebrate Jewish holidays together, eat together, and study together. Think of Havurah as your extended family.

### What does a Havurah do?

The Havurah celebrates Jewish life. Through programs of study, observances of holidays and festivals, socializing and sharing of *simchas*, members personalize and vitalize their Jewish experience. They also participate together in Temple life and in community concerns.

### When and where does a Havurah meet?

A Havurah usually meets once a month in the homes of the members, in rotation. Each group decides on the most convenient dates and times for themselves.

### How large is a typical Havurah?

Each group may vary in size. We recommend a minimum of 12 people, however, there are no hard and fast rules about the size. Havurot exist for families and for individuals.

### Who may join a Havurah at Beth El?

Membership in a Beth El Havurah is limited to Temple members.

### How do I join a Havurah?

Complete the *Beth El Havurah Application* and mail it directly to **Linda Vogel** at 10355 Fitzpatrick Lane, Oakton, VA 22124. Email: [LindaV@cox.net](mailto:LindaV@cox.net)

## Beth El/JCCNV Events

**Film: *Nicky's Family*  
The Amazing Story of  
"Britain's Schindler"**

**Special guest appearance by Alice  
Masters, one of 669 Jewish chil-  
dren saved by Sir Nicholas Winton**

**Sunday, Sept. 11,  
3 pm–5 pm at the JCC  
Documentary | 2013 | 96 minutes**

Nicholas Winton has been dubbed "Britain's Schindler," and his story of rescuing 669 Czech and Slovak children before the outbreak of World War II was little-known until 1988, when his wife found a suitcase full of documents and transport plans in their attic. The film, *Nicky's Family*, uses a combination of archival footage, photographs, reenactments, and interviews with survivors. Dozens of Winton's "children" have been found and his "family" has grown to almost 6,000 people. **Fee: \$10 in advance/ \$14 at the door**

**Contact: [Shelly.Rosenstein@jccnv.org](mailto:Shelly.Rosenstein@jccnv.org),  
703.537.3062**

**Code #: 7458**

**RSVP: Submit payment and regis-  
tration form to the J, or call  
703.323.0880.**

**The National Park Service Turns  
100! Come Celebrate!!**

**Tuesday, Sept. 13, noon-2 pm  
(note day, time and location  
change)**

Agudas Achim Congregation, 2908  
Valley Drive, Alexandria

We'll kick-off the fall season with our first joint program with members from Agudas Achim Congregation. We will commemorate the 100th birthday of the National Park

Service with speakers Stephanie Heidbreder and Dorothy Cantor from the National Parks Conservation Association, a non-profit advocacy organization working to protect America's favorite places. Come learn about the parks in and around our Nation's Capital and how you can enjoy them in their p fall splendor.

A free, kosher hot dog lunch will be served prior to the program.

**RSVP is a must by Sept. 3 to  
[shelly.rosenstein@jccnv.org](mailto:shelly.rosenstein@jccnv.org) or  
703.537.3062**

**The Catskills: Its History and  
How it Changed America**

**Thursday, Sept. 22, 1 pm: Lunch  
(provided)**

**1:45 pm: Program**

*Guest Speaker: Stephen M. Silverman, founding editor of People.com.*

His books include critically acclaimed biographies of the filmmakers David Lean (*Lawrence of Arabia*) and Stanley Donen (*Singin' in the Rain*), and his work has appeared in *Esquire*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Newsweek*, *The New York Times*, *The Times of London*, *Smithsonian*, *Vogue*, and *The Washington Post*.

Join celebrated author Stephen M. Silverman as he reveals the secrets of the kibitzers and kingpins who helped develop the upstate New York mountain range — where, surprisingly, Jews were once strictly forbidden. The Catskills ("Cat Creek" in Dutch), is America's original frontier and first great vacationland. **If there is enough interest, a bus will be provided from BEHC to the J for an additional \$5.**

**Please check with Shelly for more information.**

**Fee: \$18/ \$15 J member includes program and lunch (tuna wrap, green salad, couscous, small dessert, beverage)**

**Code: #7378**

**RSVP: Submit payment and regis-  
tration form to front desk by Thurs-  
day, Sept. 15.**

**A View from Space**

**Wednesday, Sept. 28, 10:30 am-noon**

*Presented by Jack A. Kay, Associate Director for Research, NASA Earth Science Division*

Viewing the earth from space isn't just for astronauts. NASA scientists are using satellites to look at all elements of the earth system, including the atmosphere, oceans, and the earth's surface and interior. Jack will talk to us about how the earth responds to natural and human-induced changes, and how the knowledge gained from this research will help us anticipate and respond to future changes. He will show unusual pictures of land, oceans, atmosphere, and ice, and he'll discuss NASA's past accomplishments and future plans for studying the earth. Don't miss this very interesting and out-of-this-world program!

All Beth El/JCCNV events are \$4/\$2 for J or synagogue members unless noted otherwise. Coffee, tea, and dessert will be provided.

To RSVP or get more information for all Beth El/JCCNV events, please contact [Shelly.Rosenstein@jccnv.org](mailto:Shelly.Rosenstein@jccnv.org),  
703.537.3062

# ~ SEPTEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
			
<p><b>4 National Wildlife Day</b> 10a-12p WRJ Mah Jongg 1-4p Bridge</p>	<p><b>5 Labor Day</b> OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p><b>6 Read a Book Day</b> 12-2p JCCNV Adult Learning Institute Event: Turmoil in the Arab/Muslim World 1:30-3:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-10p EC Meeting</p>	<p><b>7 National Salami Day</b> 6-7:30p WRJ Board Meeting</p>
<p><b>11 Patriot Day 9/11</b> 10a-12p WRJ Mah Jongg 10a-12p Religious School 1-4p Bridge 3-5p JCCNV Event: Film: <i>Nicky's Family: The Amazing Story of Britain's Schindler*</i> 4-6:30p ReelAbilities Film: <i>Anita</i></p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13 Fortune Cookie Day</b> 12-2p JCCNV Event: Celebrate the National Park Service's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday at Agudas Achim 1:30-3:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-9:15p High Holiday Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>14</b> 6:15-8p Religious School 7p Lifelong Learning: Preparing for the High Holy Days</p>
<p><b>18 Air Force Birthday</b> 8:30-10a Brotherhood Board Meeting 10a-12p WRJ Mah Jongg 10a-12p Religious School 10a-1p Carpenters Shelter Food Prep 1-4p Bridge 1:30-4p URJ DC/MDVA Community Presidents Meeting</p>	<p><b>19 International Talk Like a Pirate Day</b> 7:30 pm Readers of Beth El at Lynne Oren's House: <i>The Beekeeper's Apprentice</i></p>	<p><b>20</b> 12p Walking Tour of Jewish Downtown DC 1:30-3:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-9:15p High Holiday Choir Rehearsal 7-10p Board of Directors Meeting</p>	<p><b>21 International Day of Peace</b> 6:15-8p Religious School</p>
<p><b>25</b> 10a-12p WRJ Mah Jongg 10a-12p Religious School 10a-12p Brotherhood Public Policy Forum 10a-1p Carpenters Shelter Food Prep 2p Walking Tour of Jewish Downtown DC 2-5 Mahj Mayhem 1-4p Bridge 6-8:15p High Holiday Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>26 Johnny Appleseed Day</b></p>	<p><b>27</b> 1:30-3:30p WRJ Mah Jongg</p>	<p><b>28 Ask a Stupid Question Day</b> 10:30a-12p Beth El/JCCNV 55+ Event: A View from Space 6:15-8p Religious School 7p Lifelong Learning: Preparing for the High Holy Days</p>

~ AV/ELUL 5776 ~			
Thu	Fri	Sat	Torah
<b>1</b> 6:30-8:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-11p Bridge	<b>2 VJ Day, WW II</b> 6:30-7:30p Wine and Cheese Pre-Service Oneg 7:30p Erev Shabbat Service  Candle lighting 7:07p	<b>3 Skyscraper Day</b> 9-10:30a Torah Study 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service 11a-12p Tot Shabbat  Havdalah 8:35p	<u>Re'eh</u> Deuteronomy 11:26-16:17 Isaiah 66:1-24
<b>8 National Ampersand Day</b> 10a-12p Board of Lady Managers 10:30a Culture Club: Meet at Independence Ave entrance to the Sackler Gallery 6:30-8:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-11p Bridge	<b>9 Teddy Bear Day</b> 6:30-7:30p Wine and Cheese Pre-Service Oneg 7:30p Erev Shabbat Service  Candle lighting 6:55p	<b>10 Sewing Machine Day</b> 9-10:30a Torah Study 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service 1-3p WRJ Paid-up Member Event  Havdalah 8:23p	<u>Shoftim</u> Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9 Isaiah 51:12-52:12
<b>15 Greenpeace Day</b> 6:30-8:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-11p Bridge 7:30-8:30p Interfaith Bible Study	<b>16 Mayflower Day</b> 6:30-7:30p Wine and Cheese Pre-Service Oneg 6:30-7:30p Communal Dinner 7:30p Erev Shabbat Service  Candle lighting 6:43p	<b>17 Citizenship Day/ Constitution Day</b> 9-10:30a Torah Study 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service 11a-12p Tot Shabbat  Havdalah 8:12p	<u>Ki Tetze</u> Deuteronomy 21:10-25:19 Isaiah 54:1-10
<b>22 Fall Begins</b> 1p JCCNV Event: The Catskills 6:30-8:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-11p Bridge	<b>23 Native American Day</b> 12-1:30p Jewish Historical Society of DC Luncheon 6:30-7:30p Wine and Cheese Pre-Service Oneg 7:30p Erev Shabbat Service  Candle lighting 6:31p	<b>24 Selichot</b> 9-10:30a Torah Study 10:30a Shabbat Morning Service and Bat Mitzvah of Heather Johnson 7-10p Selichot Service/Evening of Klezmer Music  Havdalah 8:00p	<u>Ki Tavo</u> Deuteronomy 26:1-29:8 Isaiah 60:1-22
<b>29 National Coffee Day</b> 5-9:15p High Holiday Choir Dress Rehearsal 6:30-8:30p WRJ Mah Jongg 7-9p Caring Community Committee 7-11p Bridge	<b>30</b> 6:30-7:30p Wine and Cheese Pre-Service Oneg 7:30p Erev Shabbat Service  Candle lighting 6:20p	<i>Psst... Hey students... suggest you note the special day            information for Sept. 22 before you head off to Religious            School!</i>	



## **ALIVE!** *ALexandrians InVolved Ecumenically!*

**I**T'S BACK to school time and ALIVE!'s food program is starting up its backpack program for Alexandria's youth. Children in need take home food on weekends and over school breaks. You can support this program by leaving granola bars, microwave mac & cheese, juice boxes, and other kid friendly, healthy food in the Can for Cans.

Don't forget to pick up bags at Rosh Hashanah services for our High Holy Day Food Drive. It is better to shop for food than to clean out your pantry. Food most needed by ALIVE! includes:

- Canned meat (tuna, chicken, beef stew, etc.)
- Canned vegetables, beans, soups, and fruits
- Cereal
- Peanut butter (and jelly)
- Multiple meal staples such as rice, spaghetti, and other forms of pasta
- Macaroni and cheese

Please buy items in cans or plastic but not glass. Also avoid buying "economy" sized products – regular sized products are easier to store and pack for families.

Thank you for continuing to support the ALIVE! food programs.

Please email **Linda Coleman**,  
[LLcoleman42@gmail.com](mailto:LLcoleman42@gmail.com)

### **WHO is a BEHC volunteer?**

Recent small group conversations have shown that a lot of members really do want to help out, but are wary of "joining" a group/committee that "meets" regularly or signing up for a task that recurs "regularly." All of us have very busy lives. What if you could put your name on a list to be called once in a while to help out with one thing? Would you be okay if we called you once or twice a year to help, say, for a 2-hour stint at the annual book sale or with a single catering event or ushering one Friday night only? Well, Engagement Coordinator Linda Waller is putting together that list. Please consider getting your name on it. Volunteering without a recurring time commitment is what YOU asked for and here it is. Try it on for size.

**WHO is a BEHC volunteer? YOU are!**

### **Culture Club Sept. 9**

**T**HE SUMMER crowds leave the Smithsonian Mall after Labor Day, so come join us at the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery for the *Turquoise Mountain: Artists Transforming Afghanistan* exhibit. We will meet inside the entrance near Independence Avenue at 10:30 am. For more details about this special gallery and this exhibit, check the website. Lunch will be in Shirlington (pay-as-you-go) or at a nearby place.

As always, Culture Club is open to all adult Beth El members and their guests, so bring a friend or a new member. Just joined Beth El? Just retired? Want to meet some other members? This is a welcoming monthly activity -- some come once or twice a year/some come every month -- we always have great conversations, see an interesting exhibit or film, and, of course, have lunch!! Just let me know if you are coming: [stafm@aol.com](mailto:stafm@aol.com)

**Meryl Goldhammer**

## Inclusion Committee News

**T**HANK YOU to **Rabbi Isserow** and the Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ) from all of us who have advocated improving accessibility at Beth El. When WRJ asked Rabbi Isserow how they might honor his 25 years of service to the rabbinate, Rabbi Isserow asked for help in defraying the cost of installing automatic door openers for Beth El's two main bathrooms. Now these door openers are not only in place and working, but automatic door openers are being installed on Beth El's main entrance doors, improving accessibility for all congregants.

At the August Inclusion Meeting, committee members welcomed the door openers and discussed other areas of progress. For example, our thanks go to **Roger Smith** for his generous donation to the Religious School of five books on inclusive teaching and reaching students with diverse needs and learning styles. The Cantor Sharon Steinberg Inclusion Fund helps to ensure that our congregation can welcome people with disabilities or other special needs and helps to fund activities to promote awareness and accessibility. The committee wants to thank those who have chosen to honor or memorialize a person or event by making a donation to the fund.

We also focused on the following upcoming events:

### FILM FESTIVAL SNEAK PEEK:

#### **ANITA on Sept. 11, 4 pm**

On Sunday Sept. 11, at 4 pm, the Inclusion Committee and Women of Reform Judaism are presenting the critically acclaimed film *Anita*, in cooperation with the JCCNV. *Anita* is the captivating story of a young woman with Down syndrome who leads a routine life in Buenos Aires, until one tragic morning when everything changes. Anita finds herself alone, lost, and confused after the 1994 bombing of their Jewish Community Center (the deadliest bombing in Argentina's history). As Anita wanders through the city, she learns to care for herself and touches the lives of all those with whom she comes into contact.

Following the movie, we welcome special guest, John Franklin Stephens, a self-advocate who has Down syndrome and is a Special Olympics Global Messenger. He first spoke out in a 2008 essay called "Using the Word 'Retard' to Describe Me Hurts." Frank, as he's known to friends, has gone on to speak about discrimination all over the country. Frank will talk about his experiences and answer questions.

**Admission: Free of charge, but please RSVP to [AnitaPreview.brownpapertickets.com](mailto:AnitaPreview.brownpapertickets.com)** so that we have enough seats and refreshments.

This presentation is a as a sneak peek event for the 2016 ReelAbilities Film Festival. The ReelAbilities Festival is the largest U.S. film festival dedicated to promoting an appreciation of people with disabilities.

### BAGEL BRUNCH WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

#### **Pamela Schuller on Oct. 23, 9:45 am**

On Oct. 23 at 9:45 am, the Inclusion Committee and the Religious School are co-sponsoring a bagel brunch featuring internationally known inclusion advocate Pamela Schuller speaking on "Comedy, Disability, and the Inclusive Community."

Schuller's extraordinary personal story of growing up with the most severe known case of Tourette syndrome in the United States—and turning that challenge into professional and personal success—is engaging, funny, a little bit heart-wrenching, and deeply meaningful. Named one of the "36 under 36" who are changing the face of the Jewish community by *The Jewish Week* (May 2016), Schuller is known for using storytelling, laughter, and improvisation to inspire listeners to a new understanding of inclusion for their communities.

Schuller holds a BA in Psychology and Youth Outreach through the Arts from Knox College as well as an MA in Child Advocacy and Policy from Montclair State University, where she focused on creating improvisational theater programs to help improve the self-advocacy skills of youth with disabilities. Pamela is also a stand-up comedian, probably because she sees the world from a different point of view: one where eye-level is four-foot-seven and barking without provocation is a completely normal and entertaining part of her day. She embraces what makes herself unique while challenging communities to view inclusion in a way that values our differences.

Admission: Free of charge for Beth El members, but donations at the door will be welcomed.

Cost for non-members, \$5.00. RSVP by Oct. 18 to me at [JeanneHolden@yahoo.com](mailto:JeanneHolden@yahoo.com). Updated information will be posted in our weekly emails and in the October Bulletin.

**Jeanne Holden**  
Inclusion Committee Chair

# Member News

### Welcome New Members:

Josh and Diana Gardner, and Alexandra  
Rabbi Ann Folb, and Joshua and Leah  
Alvin and Deborah Sptitzer, and Steven and Marla

### Mazel Tov to:

Carol and Joel Geisner on their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary



### Condolences to:

Daniel Solomon and Laura Dove and to their children Abigail and Jacob Solomon on the passing of Dan's mother Shelia Solomon

Paul and Myrna Beck on the passing of Paul's mother Roslyn Beck

Gay Sullivan on the passing of her aunt Liba Daub

Jake Gallun and Pamela Zitron on the passing of Jake's sister Judy Gallun Weinberg

*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.*

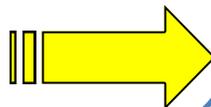


Do a good deed for your Congregation and, if you have a practice or a business, for yourself!

### *Advertise in the Bulletin!*

Make it easier for Congregants to patronize your business. E-mail [bulletin@bethelhebrew.org](mailto:bulletin@bethelhebrew.org) for more information.

**THIS COULD BE YOUR AD!**



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## Chapel in the Woods

### Students: Need community service hours?

Leave a lasting legacy by spending your community service hours in Beth El's Chapel in the Woods. We will help you write any necessary proposals for your schools, provide training and supplies, document the hours, and write recommendations. There are many different kinds of projects to choose from. Examples include clearing invasive plants and planting trees in the space that you have uncovered, installing wooden steps, or learning about and planting Virginia native plants. For information, contact [todd.bolick@gmail.com](mailto:todd.bolick@gmail.com).



### Congregants:

Please plan to attend workdays scheduled throughout the fall on Sundays Sept. 11, Oct. 23, and Nov. 13 from 10 am to noon. Please bring work gloves, and clippers if you have them. Other equipment will be provided. If you have Virginia native plants in your garden and would like to donate them, or for more information, contact [todd.bolick@gmail.com](mailto:todd.bolick@gmail.com)

## Life After Loss Support Group

**T**HE CARING Community Committee will again sponsor a support group for congregants who are dealing with the loss of a loved one.

For a number of years Beth El members have met to learn how to cope with their grief under the leadership of experienced clinicians. Congregants who have participated in the past have commented on the comfort and benefit they received from these meetings. Strategies are shared, anecdotes are recalled, and new friendships are formed. Many have written to say that the sessions have enabled them to move ahead in coping with their loss.

Please contact **Myrna Beck** if you are interested at 703-425-4955 or email: [pmb867@icloud.com](mailto:pmb867@icloud.com).

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

Registration for Preschool  
For Fall 2016 is now OPEN!

Our Preschool offers part time and full time programs for students who are 2, 3 or 4 years old by Sep. 30., and a new full time toddler program for students who are 16-23 months.

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

For more information or to set up a tour, please contact Director **Dina Backer** at 703-537-3084 or [dina.backer@jccnv.org](mailto:dina.backer@jccnv.org).

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



## The Congregation Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations

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

**Donor**

Nina Raben  
Masha Belenky

**In Honor of**

Yelena Raben's Birthday

### BETH EL GENERAL FUND

**Donor**

Eloise Polinsky  
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**In Memory of**

Albert Polinsky  
Yetta and Rabbi Abraham Ezring  
Charlotte Leibowitz  
Al Wartel  
Harold Foelak  
David Perlstien

### BETH EL MORTGAGE FUND

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Sophie Rixon

### ENDOWMENT FUND

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Dana Arnold  
Heidi Ackerman-Jordan and Jonathan Jordan  
Sue Rabin  
Sunny Greene  
Mark, Stacy, Samantha, and Alexa Weiner  
Linda Waller  
Nancy, Chuck, Sam and Ben Tobin  
Ilana and Carl S. Rappaport  
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**In Memory of**

David Perlstien

Elena Berger  
Shirley Chaifetz  
Roslyn K. Beck

Linda Waller  
Ruth Perlstien  
Rhoda and Lennie Goldman  
Ellen and Stuart Feldstein  
Diane and Peter Suchman

Judy Gallun Weinberg

### FAKOURY MUSIC FUND

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Janet Cady and Jeffrey Davidson

**In Memory of**

David Perlstien  
Dorothy Victor

### HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL FUND

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The Widawski Family

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Fred Alexander  
Henry Tovey  
Hela Widawski

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George Wohl, Lilli and Goldman

### MEMORIAL BOARD

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**In Memory of**

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### RABBI'S GOOD DEED FUND

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Illa Brown  
Susan and Roberto Mosse  
Janet Garber  
Linda and Harvey Wenick

**In Honor of**

Rabbi Brett Isserow

**In Memory of**

Murray Goldsmith  
Miriam Uze  
David Perlstien

Florence Feldman  
June Bauman Neill  
Honorable Philip R. Miller  
David Perlstien

Molly Mushkatel  
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Judy Gallun Weinberg  
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### SHARON STEINBERG FUND FOR INCLUSION

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**In Memory of**

David Perlstien  
Herbert and Ruth Skolnik

### RELIGIOUS SCHOOL FUND

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### MARC S. ROSS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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**In Honor of**  
Judy and Steve Hurok's special birthdays

**Donor**

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Neil Schluskel  
Karen Fink

**In Memory of**

Roslyn K. Beck  
David Perlstien

Shelli Ross

Roslyn K. Beck

David Perlstien  
Judy Gallun Weinberg

### SOCIAL ACTION FUND

**Donor**

Millie Schreiber

**In Memory of**

Dora Weiner

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

— *Moshe Teichman*

## A Letter to College Parents

**D**EAR PARENTS with College Students:

The Beth El College Committee keeps in touch with our Congregation's college students. Throughout the year, we mail them small care packages and notes, and we include them on the mailing list for the Bulletin.

For parents of **NEWLY ENROLLED** college students, if you would like us to include your student on the College Committee list, we must have a mailing address by the week before Rosh Hashana in order to mail the first care package.

For parents of **CONTINUING** college students, we need updated information before Rosh Hashana! Sometimes students keep the same P.O. Box at school but sometimes they change dorm rooms, or move off campus. To keep in touch, we need current information annually.

To add your student to the College Committee mailing list, or to keep your student on the list, please provide the following information to Susan Whitman at

[susangwhitman@gmail.com](mailto:susangwhitman@gmail.com):

Student's Name  
Name of School  
Mailing Address  
Expected Year of Graduation  
Student's Email Address  
Parent's Email Address

Thank you, and Mazel Tov to all parents on your student's college successes!

Susan Whitman

### Love and Religion: An Interfaith Workshop for Jews and their Partners

4 weeks, September 13, 20, 27, and October 6, 2016 7:00pm-9:30pm

Facilitator: Dr. Marion Usher

Learn more about Dr. Marion Usher, our Interfaith Couples Workshop facilitator, on the website and blog,

[www.JewishInterfaithCouples.com](http://www.JewishInterfaithCouples.com)

Natan Guttman's article "[Interfaith 101: No Line in the Sand](#)," in the *Jewish Daily Forward* discusses Marion Usher's workshop model and reviews her film "Love and Religion: the Challenge of Interfaith Relationships"



**FALL 2016  
SEMESTER**

**REGISTER NOW!**  
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Questions?

Contact:

[Sheila.Budoff@jccnv.org](mailto:Sheila.Budoff@jccnv.org),  
703.537.3068

#### How to Read eBooks on Your Mobile Device

**Monday, Sept. 12, noon-2pm**  
Mohammed Esslami, MLIS, Branch Manager, George Mason Regional Library

#### New Series! Jewish Geography: The Jewish Community of Cuba

**Tuesdays, Sept. 13-20, 2:30pm-4pm**  
William Recant, Ph.D., Asst. Exec. V.P. of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and Cantor Lisa Levine of Temple Shalom, Chevy Chase, nationally known cantor, composer, recording artist, author and workshop artist

**Special Author Event with Leslie Rupley, Author of Beyond the Silk Mills**  
**Monday, Oct. 31, 10:30am-11:45am**  
Leslie Rupley, Author and memoirist

**Trip to *People on the Move: Beauty and Struggle in Jacob Lawrence's Migration Series* (All Panels Reunited!) at the Phillips Collection**  
**Thursday, Nov. 3, depart the J 9:30am; return approx. 3:30pm**

**Redemption: A Comparison of Hanukkah and Purim**  
**Monday, Nov. 7-28, 10:30am-noon**  
Gilah Goldsmith, J.D., Retired gov't att'y and leader of Beth El Hebrew Congregation's weekly Torah study group

**Hineni (Here I Am): The Jewish-Black Partnership in the Civil Rights Movement**  
**Mondays, Nov. 7-14, 12:30pm-2pm**  
Bruce H. Turnbull and Stephen Horblitt, Co-Chairs, Civil Rights Task Force of the American Jewish Committee (AJC) Washington Regional Office (program not sponsored by AJC)

**One Foot in Two Worlds: Reading *Lolita in Tehran***  
**Mondays, Dec. 5-12, noon-1:30pm**  
Linda Blair, Ph.D. in American Literature, Retired FCPS English teacher and department chairman

**Poems from the New Holocaust: Anti-Semitism in the 21st Century**  
**Tuesdays, Dec. 6-13, 10:30am-noon**  
Eric Rozenman, Washington Director of the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America (CAMERA)



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## High Holiday Choir Rehearsal Schedule 2016

Cantor Kaufman – Musical Director

Lauren Carpel—Choir Conductor

Eric Schnobrick -Pianist

<b>Tuesday, August 9</b>	7:00-9:15 PM	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Thursday, August 18</b>	7:00– 9:15 PM	Choir rehearsal
<b>Tuesday, August 23</b>	7:00-9:15 PM	Choir rehearsal with Quartet
<b>Tuesday, August 30</b>	6:00-8:30 PM	Choir rehearsal
<b>Tuesday, September 13</b>	7:00-9:15 PM	Choir rehearsal
<b>Tuesday, September 20</b>	7:00-9:15 PM	Choir rehearsal with Quartet
<b>Sunday, September 25</b>	6:00-8:15 PM	CHOIR REHEARSAL AS NEEDED

<b>Thursday, September 29</b>	<b>ROSH HASHANAH DRESS REHEARSAL</b>	
	5:00-6:45 PM	Quartet, with Eric
	7:00-9:15 PM	Choir, with Lauren and Eric

<b>ROSH HASHANAH</b>		
<b>Sunday, October 2</b>	TBD	Call—Dinner
	8:00 PM	Services
<b>Monday, October 3</b>	9:00 AM	Call—Quartet, No Choir

<b>Thursday, October 6</b>	<b>YOM KIPPUR DRESS REHEARSAL</b>	
	5:00-6:45 PM	Quartet, with Eric
	7:00-9:15 PM	Choir, with Lauren and Eric

<b>YOM KIPPUR</b>		
<b>Tuesday, October 11</b>	TBD	Call—Dinner
	8:00 PM	Services
<b>Wednesday, October 12</b>	9:00 AM	Call—Quartet, No Choir
	Approximately 4:30 PM	Quartet and Choir

# Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia |Announces Adult Learning Institute (ALI) Special Kick-Off Event

## Turmoil in the Arab/Muslim World: What It Means for the U.S. and Israel

*Instructor: Ralph Nurnberger, Ph.D., Nationally recognized foreign policy consultant; retired Georgetown University international relations professor*

Gain insight on the challenges confronting the U.S. and Israel in the Middle East, including the rise of ISIS; the fragmentation of war-ridden Iraq and Syria; the role of Iran and its proxy, Hezbollah; threats to the traditional pro-Western states in the region; millions of refugees; and terrorism. Ralph Nurnberger, a leading expert on American policy in the Middle East, will discuss this complicated and rapidly changing situation.

**Fee: \$18/ \$12 J member**

Tuesday, Sept. 6, from noon–2 pm at the JCCNV, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax, VA. The optional lunch, with complimentary desserts, will begin at noon, and the program will begin promptly at 12:30 pm.

## BEHC Lifelong Learning

**I**F THE WORDS “Adult Education” conjure visions of squeezing yourself into a child-size desk in a stark looking classroom, please reconsider! We are continuously learning as we go through life and that is why the new title of adult education programming is “Lifelong Learning.” Beth El will continue to offer Lifelong Learning sessions on Wednesday evenings each month (usually the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays depending on holidays) from 7 to 8 pm. In addition, there will be occasional Sunday morning sessions. We encourage learners of all ages to attend the programs as often as possible. Our theme this semester is “Judaism and Other Faiths.”

Our first Wednesday night Lifelong Learning sessions will take place on Sept. 14 and 28. Join us as Rabbi Isserow leads us in study to prepare for Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. Please be sure to check the Bulletin and online calendar each month for future Lifelong Learning program dates.

We are always looking for new people and ideas for Lifelong Learning programs. If you have suggestions and/or would like to serve on the committee, please don't hesitate to let us know.

The Lifelong Learning Committee



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

**T**WENTY FIVE years ago, members of our congregation, inspired by tikkun olam and the need to help families struggling with homelessness and domestic violence, founded Beth El House. We have an impressive track record and are working on expanding our program. Our most recent success: one of our residents has successfully graduated the program, secured an apartment for her family, and is working full-time.

Thank you for the generous support, both volunteer and financial, that you've given us. We'll be sending our annual fund raising letter shortly and this year, we won't be calling you before the letter comes out. In this time of constant unsolicited phone calls and privacy concerns, we believe it's time to do our part to restore peace and privacy.

To volunteer or learn more about Beth El House please visit our website ([www.bethelhouseva.org](http://www.bethelhouseva.org)) or contact me at either [melindaselden@verizon.net](mailto:melindaselden@verizon.net) or 703.569.5443.

## NEW! Chai Mitzvah Program Coming to JCCNV!

Here's your opportunity to take part in a hands-on, experiential approach to Jewish learning.

Each individual will have the chance to explore learning, spirituality, and social action on their own terms at their own pace. During the nine month program each individual will:

- Choose an independent study topic unique to your needs and time commitment
- Choose a ritual/spiritual practice to engage in
- Choose a social action project to commit to
- Attend monthly group learning Sessions will be on Mondays from 2 pm–3:30 pm (nine sessions). Our own Rabbi Brett Isserow will facilitate two of the nine sessions. Topics include:
  - Adult Rites of Passage
  - Tzedakah/Philanthropy
  - Individual and Community
  - Interpersonal Relationships
  - Mindfulness/Conscious Living
  - Adding New Insights to the Seder
  - Israel and the Jewish Spirit
  - Gratitude
  - Judaism and the Environment

This program spans the spectrum of Jewish practice and is for people from any background of Jewish knowledge. Space will be limited due to the nature of this unique and individualized approach to deepening your personal engagement with Jewish life. There will be a celebration at the end of the journey; certificates will be awarded and JNF will plant a tree on each participant's behalf.

**Fee: \$140/ \$115 J member**  
**Code: #7596**

## Mahj Mayhem

**A**TTENDEES at our very first Mahj Mayhem last April overwhelmingly requested another such event in the fall. So the Beth El Women of Reform Judaism are proud to announce our second Mahj Mayhem on Sunday, Sept. 25, 2016 from 2 to 5 pm. This event is not a tournament, but a social afternoon of playing mah jongg to be held at Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304. This year's event expects to be even funnier, have more players attend, and of course food, and wonderful prizes.

Our Mahj Mayhem will not be using the rules for a tournament. In fact, there won't be rules other than those that will be decided before each game. We will have seating geared to tables with your friends and then other tables to meet new friends. The mayhem comes in, when we will have surprise "calls" during the game. If we told you, it would take away all the fun! You can win prizes either from earning raffle tickets and/or bidding on a chance to win gift certificates/prizes from local vendors and other donors.

For those of you who may have missed last April's Mahj Mayhem, be sure to save the date and time. It was so successful that we may have to cut off reservations to the first 50 who register. Please invite your friends to attend. Non WRJ members are always welcome to events.

Pre-Registration is \$20 (\$18 is tax deductible) by Sept. 19, 2016. After that date, undecided Mah Jongg Mavens will pay \$25. Make checks payable to *BE-WRJ* and send to WRJ, Beth El Hebrew Congregation at the address above.

Come join the fun and help Beth El Hebrew WRJ support Beth El Youth. You may even get to meet a few new friends during the games. Remember to register first!

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



## Next Month: WalkingTown DC

Grab your walking shoes and get ready for Washington, D.C.'s best public tour program featuring more than 50 guided walking tours in neighborhoods throughout the District. This popular annual event introduces residents and visitors to the art, culture, and history of Washington, D.C. through a series of "bite-size" lunchtime tours, after-work "happy hour" tours, and longer weekend tours. This program is organized by [Cultural Tourism DC](http://CulturalTourismDC.org).



**We are delighted to participate in this community-wide event by leading our signature walking tours of [Jewish Downtown Washington](http://JewishDowntownWashington.org).**

- Tuesday, September 20, 2016 at 12:00 p.m.
- Sunday, September 25, 2016 at 2:00 p.m

Sponsored by the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington.



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



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# The Bulletin

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## HOLD THE DATE

DCJCC 18th Annual Washington Jewish Music Festival Oct. - Nov.

High Holidays: Erev Rosh Hashanah Oct. 2; Rosh Hashanah Oct 3.; Erev Yom Kippur/Kol Nidre Oct. 11; Yom Kippur Oct. 12

High Holiday Choir Oct 2, 3, 6, 11, 12

WRJ Apples and honey, Oct. 3

DCJCC presents A Celebration of Contemporary Israeli Cinema Oct. 5-9

Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington Luncheon: Washington's Changing Jewish Food Scene Oct. 30

Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse 5K Oct. 9

Chapel in the Woods workday AND Sukkah deconstruction AND Erev Simchat Torah, Oct. 13

WRJ Decorates the sukkah on the bimah, Oct. 16.

WRJ Book Club dates, Oct. 18 and Dec. 13

Brunch/Keynote Speaker Inclusion Advocate Pamela Schuller Sunday, Oct. 23, 9:45 am

Biblical Archeological Society of Northern Virginia lecture: The Maccabees at Kedesh Oct 30

Foundation for Jewish Studies Event: Jewish in Space Nov. 3

Chapel in the Woods workday, Nov. 13

Beth El Trivia Night, Saturday, Nov. 19 from 6:30 to 9:30 pm

WRJ Hanukah luncheon and dinner, Dec. 21

Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington 56th Annual Meeting: Celebrity chef Pati Jinich of *Pati's Mexican Table* will speak about her Jewish-Mexican roots Dec. 11

No Va Jewish Film Festival Mar. 23-Apr. 2,, 2017