





August 2023 Av/Elul 5783 Rabbi Eric L. Abbott Rabbi Emeritus Sunny Schnitzer



IN THIS ISSUE

Rabbi's Message page 3

Presidents Message page 5

Upcoming Events page 7-8

In Case You Missed It page 9

Social Action page 10

Remembrances page 11



Rabbi Abbott's
Online Scheduler
is now open!
Want to meet one-on-one?
Click here and pick a time
that works for you.

BJC REGULAR PROGRAMMING





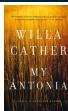






BJC Book Club Notice

The BJC Open Book Club meets virtually at 8 PM on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Our upcoming selection is:



August 23-My Antonia by Willa Cather- The novel, considered one of her best, was first published in 1918. It tells stories of the immigrant settler experience in Nebraska towards the end of the 19th century. The narrator Jim Burden, an orphaned boy from Virginia, tells his story and that of Ántonia Shimerda, the elder daughter in a family of Bohemian immigrants. Other characters include Antonia's desperately homesick father and her self-indulgent mother, as well as Russian brothers plagued by memories of a fateful sleigh ride, and the coy Lena Lingard.

If you are not already on the book club's email list and would like to join us for any or all of our meetings, please let Evelyn Ganzglass at eganzglass@gmail.com know and she will add you to the list.

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THE RABBI'S MESSAGE

Rabbi Eric. L Abbott

Elul: Beloved Time

This summer, as June turned to July, just as my workload around the office started to ease up and as I looked forward to the opportunities of summer—more time with family, more time preparing for the High Holy Days and upcoming year—our family's nanny had to take some unexpected leave (thankfully, she is okay). This unexpected change meant that Eliana and I now needed to take extra time to take care of our daughter, Rebecca. We immediately ran to our calendars, dividing up childcare and work schedules so we could each spend time at home and determine how to accomplish our work tasks. My thoughts also flew to my vision of this summer as it faded away: I saw my chances to get ahead of work disappear. I will admit that I felt disappointed and sad at the summer situation.

Of course, I soon realized that what felt like a negative situation was in reality a positive, beautiful one. I found myself connecting with Becca so much more. Moments with family blossomed as we went to the pool more, ate way too much ice cream, and simply enjoyed each other's company. What felt like grief had transformed into joy and growth.

So, too, with August. As August begins, we find ourselves in the month of Av, still reeling from the holiday of Tisha B'Av in which we commemorated the destruction of the First and Second Temple and other catastrophes for our people. Even as the holiday is behind us, Jews all over the world still feel the sadness and despair.

Soon, however, we will begin the next month, Elul. Elul is the month just before the High Holy Days (yes—they're only a month and a half away!), and so Jewish tradition has seen this as a period of preparation for the teshuvah (repentance) and growth that we seek during the Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. In discussing this month, the Rabbis draw a connection between Elul and a very famous piece of Scripture, Song of Songs 6:3:

אַנִי לְדוֹדִי וְדוֹדִי לִי

"I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine."

The Rabbis note that when you take the first letter of each word—aleph, lamed, vav, lamed—you spell "Elul." They also note that when you assign a number to each letter, the last letter of each word (yud, ten) adds up to forty. Rabbi Yisrael Meir Kagan (1838-1933 Poland) explains: "This verse alludes to the forty days from the beginning of Elul until Yom Kippur, for during these forty-days repentance is more readily accepted. Thus, a person should bring their heart near to their Beloved God with repentance, and then the Beloved will be close to them to accept the repentance with love."

By connecting this verse, "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine," to Elul and Yom Kippur, the Sages teach that this forty day period provides the opportunity to become closer to God. When we work on growth, when we perform acts of teshuvah, and when we try to better ourselves spiritually, emotionally, and morally, then we can not only change ourselves, but also our relationships with other people and, just as importantly, our relationship with God.

Thus, as Av turns to Elul, as sadness turns to happiness, may we also turn toward joy—the joy of preparing for the High Holy Days. Let us take these next forty-plus days to get spiritually ready. Whether by beginning to reflect on our sins, our strengths, and our growing edges; or by starting the work of teshuvah, of asking and granting forgiveness; or through learning about the holidays and what they mean to us (I always recommend Rabbi Alan Lew's This Is Real and You Are Completely Unprepared)—now is the time to strengthen our souls.

It is also time to get ready physically and logistically for High Holy Days at BJC! Make sure you check your inbox for our recent High Holy Day information email. Please volunteer for any number of roles, from parking duty to ushering. You could also write a piece to be read during services. There is even a chance to learn some Torah or Haftarah! Volunteerism is one of the pillars on which BJC stands, and we cannot run our holidays without you. Just as importantly, we make these physical preparations to enhance our spiritual growth.

And as we do, may we also continue to enjoy the last days of summer. May we spend more time with our loved ones, with friends and family. May we recognize that what might seem like a missed opportunity may, in fact, be an opportunity for something else—something even better. May we spend more time with those who are beloved in our lives.

"I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine."

This summer, through preparation for the High Holy Days and time with loved ones, let us make sure to make that true. Amen.



Hígh Holy Days Are Comíng

Keep your eyes on your inbox for an upcoming email with all the BJC 5784 High Holy information!

What's included:

Ticket Information
High Holy Days Schedule
Selichot
Tashlich
BJC Lifecycle Commemorative Book Info
Sunflower Bakery
And More!



FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Issie Resti

This month, some Jews celebrate Tu B'Av. If you've never heard of it, you are probably in the majority, not only of Americans but also of Jews. The name of this minor holiday translates simply as the date on which it occurs (the 15th of the month of Av).

It doesn't give us any real clues about what it is or how it's celebrated, so let me save you the trip down a Wiki rabbit hole: Tu B'Av is often referred to as the Jewish Day of Love and, at least in modern times (especially in Israel), people celebrate it in ways that are very similar to Valentine's Day: couples go out to dinner, give flowers and perform other romantic gestures for their partners. Thinking about Tu B'Av and learning more about how it's celebrated reminded me of conversations I've had with friends about love languages, the different ways that people experience and communicate love. As many of us know from our own relationships, finding the "right" way to communicate our feelings can be a challenge. Ideally it should be something that resonates with both people -- the giver and the recipient.

You might be wondering where on Earth I'm going with this. An announcement that we are selling red roses as a fundraiser? Nope. Encouraging dramatic marriage proposals during services to boost attendance on Shabbat? We are not (but also not discouraging it -- you do you). Here's my point: for many of us, we see our connection to BJC as an important relationship in our lives. We sought out a place that would give us love and support and that we could love and support in return. I think it's important for each of us to know what our BJC love language is. I invite you to share with me how BJC can best show you how much we love having you here. Is it a handwritten note from a Board member thanking you for lending your graphic design skills to the Yizkor book? A small gift to mark occasions such as Rosh HaShanah? A phone call from an acquaintance letting you know that they'd be happy to save you a seat at the next service? And what is the most meaningful way for you to demonstrate how important BJC is to you?

Some of us show our love through monetary donations, whether it be an annual contribution to Good As We Give or to a specific fund as a way of saying "thank you" to a great teacher or "I'll never forget you" to someone we've lost. Others focus on acts of service; at events like Back to Shul, they show up early or stay late to help with preparations or cleaning up. Some congregants devote not only time but also specific skills -- leading a challah bake, sharing their writing process during Authors Among Us, or overseeing the construction of the sukkah. You may not yet know your BJC love language, or you may think that what you have to give isn't enough. But please remember that for us, the most beautiful love language is the act of showing up -- kibbitzing with other congregants during the Big Train game, joining one of the tours of the Capital Jewish Museum, adding your voice to the songs and the prayers of Shabbat services. I encourage you to reach out to me, our staff, or the Board to talk about how we can help show the love and feel the love. There is something that brought you to BJC and that keeps you here, that makes you say "I love this place." We want to make sure that both you and BJC are able to express it in a way that is meaningful to you.

B'shalom,

Issie issieresti@gmail.com (301) 326-9142



BJC Youth Education Shoshanah Drake & Kaitlin Blackburn Education Committee Co-Chairs



We are so excited to welcome our new Religious School Coordinator!

Rebecca (Becky) Leavey is a lifelong Jewish educator, and communications professional with a background in directing strategic communication campaigns for non-profit, community, and media organizations. With a degree in communications from Boston University, she spent a decade as a television producer in both the Boston and Washington, DC markets. She then transferred her skillset to Moment Magazine, where she served as the Director of Marketing and Community Outreach for seven years.

Becky received her Master of Arts Degree in Jewish Professional Studies from Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership in May 2022. She has taught Judaics, Hebrew, and Hebrew Through Movement in religious schools in Boston,

DC, and Montgomery County for three decades, and is excited to learn and grow with the BJC community! In addition to her new role at BJC, Becky is the Program and Communications Director for the Haberman Institute for Jewish Studies.

She lives in Bethesda with her husband, two teenage daughters, and a sweet little shih tzu named "Lady." Becky will begin at BJC on August 1st. She will be working mostly remotely. The best way to be in touch with her will be through email - becky@bethesdajewish.org. Come meet Becky at the Back to Shul BBQ on Friday, August 25th

YOUTH EDUCATION 2023-2024 OPEN FOR REGISTRATION!





SNAPSHOTS

Getting Together for Worship, Meaning, and Fun

WORSHIP SCHEDULE UPDATE

BJC continues our Friday night worship at 7:30 PM. There are no Saturday morning services in July/August. Consult BJC Now for the latest information and for links to services if you prefer to worship virtually.

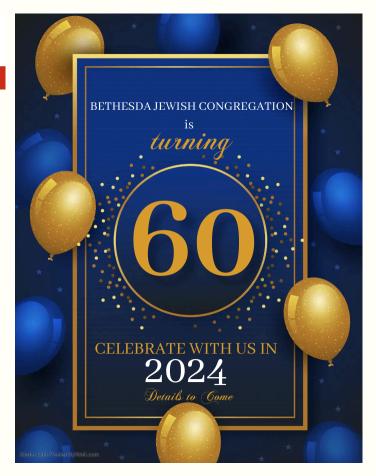


UPCOMING EVENTS

High Holy Days Volunteers Needed

One thing that makes BJC so special is the active participation of our membership in our services and events. This is especially true during the High Holy Days (and through Sukkot). We need your help to guarantee that everything runs smoothly for our members and guests. Volunteers help with tasks such as ushering, parking, removing/returning books, setting up and cleaning up for the Rosh Hashanah Kiddush and Tashlich, etc. We may also need volunteers to help with the online broadcast of our High Holy Days services.

Please look for upcoming announcements in the weekly BJC NOW emails with information on how you can sign up to volunteer.





BJC runs on volunteer power. Only one spot is open in September! Grab it while you can. Friday Night Oneg is super easy- we do the set up, you bring the snacks. Use this form to pick your date.



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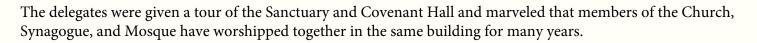
New Story Leadership Event Sponsored by the Inter-Congregational Partnership Committee

By Marty Ganzglass

Ten very articulate university age activists from New Story Leadership presented their stories and hopes for the future in Covenant Hall on July 9th.

The NSL delegates, most of whom are working as summer interns in Congressional offices, expressed their desire to learn how US policy toward Israel and Palestine is made and how to influence it. The five men and five women, Israelis and Palestinians alike, all spoke of the friendships they have established while part of the NSL program and the importance of getting to meet know and the importance of getting the getting to meet know and the importance of getting the getting to meet know and the importance of getting the getting to meet know and the importance of getting the get

while part of the NSL program and the importance of getting to meet, know and talk with "the other."



Caroline Mays, Executive Director of NSL, thanked Bradley Hills, BJC, and MIIC for sponsoring this annual event and said it was one of two highlights of the NSL summer program.

The event began with a joint blessing, read by Reverend David Gray, Rabbi Eric Abbott and Tasmeea Noor of the Maqaame Ibrahim Islamic Center (MIIC). (See photo)

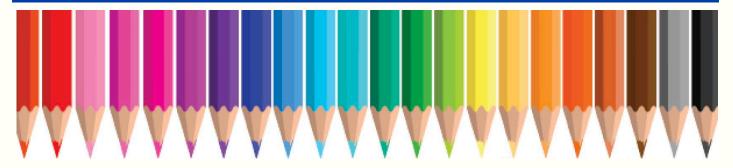


Rosh Chodesh Circle

The BJC Rosh Chodesh Women's Circle met to learn a little about the upcoming month of Av. As part of our meeting we made "affirmation jars" using tissue paper decoupage (and a lot of rhinestones.)

Interested in the Rosh Chodesh circle? Contact Amy Kertesz in the office for more information.

SOCIAL ACTION



School Supply Drive-National Center for Children and Families

By Harri Kramer

Just a few days left for our NCCF Backpack Drive!

For as many years as many of remember, we have supported the National Center for Children and Families (NCCF) -- helping their students get ready for back to school. This family shelter, which is just behind BJC on Greentree Road, has a large student population in all grades, and the families have limited resources for school supplies—which have only gotten more expensive.

NCCF has a target delivery date of our donations of August 10, but will take donations through the end of August. We make it easy for you! There will be a big box outside of the BJC office door. Below is a list of what is needed. Please dig deep and purchase what you can and deliver them to the box outside of the BJC Office.

Here's a list of what's needed by grade level for each backpack:

Grades K-2	Grades 3-5	Grades 6-12
 (1) 15-17 inch backpack (1) 12-pack pencils (5) glue sticks (1) pair scissors (5) composition books (5) folders (assorted colors) (1) 24-pack of crayons (1) 8-pack washable markers (2) pink erasers (1) pencil pouch (2) dry erase markers (1) ruler (1) pencil sharpener 	 (1) 15-17 inch backpack (2) 12-pack pencils (5) glue sticks (1) pair scissors (3) composition books (2) spiral notebooks (1) 12-pack colored pencils (5) folders (assorted colors) (1) pack wide-ruled paper (2) pink erasers (1) pencil pouch (2) dry erase markers (1) ruler (1) pencil sharpener (1) pair headphones or earbuds 	 (1) 17-19 inch backpack (1) 12-pack pencils (8) blue, black and red pens (2) highlighters (5) spiral notebooks (5) folders (assorted colors) (2) pink erasers (1) pencil pouch (1) pack of college ruled paper (1) 2" binder (100) 3x5 index cards (1) ruler (1) pencil sharpener (1) pair headphones or earbuds

If you can help deliver the goods to NCCF, please get in touch with Harri Kramer by clicking here. Thanks for helping BJC continue its long-standing tradition with our backyard neighbors.

OUR MEMBERS

REMEMBRANCES

Ever confused about when we remember the yahrzeit of your loved one? You can choose to remember this special date according to the Hebrew or English calendar. Get in touch with Geryl Baer in the office to review and verify the accuracy of your records.

Shloshim

Sana Shtasel, mother of Flanders (Frankie) and Alera Shtasel-Kretz

Yahrzeits August 2023

Milton Austin, father of Laurie Mabile Jack Barsky, brother of Lisa Strauss Burton Bernard, father of Cathy Bernard Leonard Bogorad, husband of Cynthia "Cindy" Bogorad Herman Cohen, grandfather of Donna Goldberg Noah Cohen, nephew of Nancy Glassman Minnie Druckman, grandmother of Linda Blumberg Skip Evey, brother of Wilma "Bunny" Roufa Howard Faigin, father of Marty Faigin Morris Heller, father of Carolyn (Carie) Schaffer Joyce Horn, mother of Dennis Horn Isadore Kornfield, father of Judy Folsom Vanessa Mallory Kotz, wife of Gary Kotz Bernard Kramer, father of Harri Kramer Pauline Levine, mother of Cheryl Bordy Warren Levy, father of Karen Levy Kenneth Mandeville, son-in-law of Lorrie Van Akkeren Elizabeth Mirsky Thorn, mother of Nancy Allinson Phil Schneider, father of Cindy Bogorad Louis Shapiro, uncle of Wynne Busman Kenneth Stein, father of Kathie Stein & Margo Stein Frieda Stepper, mother of Shirley Altschuler Irving Turow, grandfather of Stephen Turow

LET THE RABBI PROVIDE PASTORAL SUPPORT

Please be in touch with me in times of joy, sadness, or illness in your life or in the lives of a loved one or another member of the congregation. If you have a pastoral need, please call the BJC office at (301) 469-8636 or email me at rabbiabbott@bethesdajewish.org. For a lifecycle emergency during non-office hours, please call (301) 664-4585. When I am away, please contact Geryl Baer in the BJC office at (301) 469-8636, admin@bethesdajewish.org. She will know how to contact me or my substitute.

OUR MEMBERS

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Dawn Selis

Matthew Jessel & Jessica Pamer

NACHAS NOTES

Editor's Note: Share the joys in your life! Send to: amy@bethesdajewish.org

- Mazel Tov to Sandra Walter on her engagement to Victor Lewton
- Mazel Tov to David Williams and Rachel Mosher-Williams on the marriage of their son Sam Williams to Hannah Bleznak
- Mazel Tov to Craig Winslow on his 75th birthday
- Mazel Tov to Lorrie Van Akkeren on her 80th birthday
- Mazel Tov to Barry Dwork for his Letter to the Editor in WJW
- Mazel Tov to Karen Levi for her Letter to the Editor in WJW

THANK YOUS Through July 28

DONATION GENERAL

Anonymous

Nancy Allinson and Martin Dickinson

Martin and Vivian Blumberg

Linda Blumberg and Steve Turow

Bruce and Wynne Busman

Shoshanah and Brian Drake in Honor of Lorrie Van Akkeren's 80th Birthday

Shoshanah and Brian Drake in Honor of the engagement of Sandra Walter and Victor Lewton

Anita and Warren Farb in Memory of Lottie Mosher

Harri Kramer and Russ Hogya in Memory of Aaron (Harry) Kramer, beloved grandfather of Harri j. Kramer

Harri Kramer and Russ Hogya in Memory of Bernard I.H. Kramer, father of Harri j. Kramer

Harri Kramer and Russ Hogya in Memory of Sana Shtasel

Terri Reicher

Terri Reicher in Memory of Alice Rich

Terri Reicher in Memory of Jim Kretz

Terri Reicher in Memory of Michael Dalton

Terri Reicher in Memory of Richard Reicher

Margo Stein in Memory of Richard Reicher

Edward and Norma Stern

Larry and Davi Walders in Memory of Lottie Mosher

AS GOOD AS WE GIVE

Bruce and Wynne Busman in Memory of Sana Shtasel

Rachel Mosher-Williams and David Williams, David Mosher and Allyson Mosher in Memory of Lottie Mosher and to thank BJC for the outpouring of love and support

(cont.) 12

THANK YOUS (CONT.)

AS GOOD AS WE GIVE

Rachel Mosher-Williams and David Williams in Honor of the joyous occasion of the wedding of Sam Williams and Hanna Bleznak

Lorrie Van Akkeren

RABBI ABBOTT INSTALLATION WISH LIST

Susan Kraut and Eric Benderson

RABBI ERIC ABBOTT'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Jim Korelitz and Liz Sloss in Honor of Rabbi Abbott for leading the Torah Today class this past year **Lorrie Van Akkeren** in Memory of Bill van Berg

MARAN GLUCKSTEIN EDUCATIONAL FUND

Adult Hebrew Class in Honor of Maran Gluckstein **Shirley and Bernard Altschuler** in Honor of Lorrie Van Akkeren's 80th birthday **Samuel and Lauren Kline**

RABBI SUNNY LEGACY FUND

Rachel Mosher-Williams and David Williams, David Mosher and Allyson Mosher in Honor of Rabbi Sunny's support and involvement in Lottie Mosher's funeral and shiva



CONSULT BJC NOW FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION AND LINKS TO CONNECT VIA ZOOM CALENDAR for AUGUST 2023

Day	Date	Starting Time	EVENT
Friday	8/4	7:30 PM	Shabbat Services- Covenant Hall and Online
-			
Friday	8/11	7:30 PM	Shabbat Services- Covenant Hall and Online
Sunday	8/13	2:00 PM	First Tour of Capital Jewish Museum- DC
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Thursday	8/17	11:00 AM	Programming Committee Meeting- Online
		7:00 PM	Rosh Chodesh- Lounge
Friday	8/18	7:30 PM	Shabbat Services- Covenant Hall and Online
Wadaadaa	8/23	8:00 PM	Book Club-Online
Wednesday	8/23	8:00 PM	Book Club-Online
Thursday	8/24	11:00 AM	Programming Committee Meeting- Online
		7:00 PM	
Friday	8/25	5:30 PM	Back to Shul- Outside
		7:00 PM	Shabbat Services- Covenant Hall and Online
		F 00 == -	
Friday	9/1	7:30 PM	Shabbat Services- Covenant Hall and Online