

BETHESDA JEWISH CONGREGATION  
INVITES YOU TO THE

# INSTALLATION

*of*

## RABBI ERIC ABBOTT

APRIL 14, 2023

6601 BRADLEY BLVD, BETHESDA, MD

INSTALLATION & SERVICE : 6 00 PM

DINNER & DRINKS: 7 30 PM

\$54 per adult \$36 per child

RSVP BY APRIL 5  
BETHESDAJEWISH.ORG

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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

Start Learning With Us!  
Adult Hebrew Class



LEARN MORE

[bethesdajewish.org](http://bethesdajewish.org)

Make this the year  
you learn Hebrew!

JOIN RABBI ABBOTT FOR  
WEDNESDAY TORAH STUDY  
7:00 PM ONLINE  
ZOOM LINK IN BJC NOW  
BETHESDAJEWISH.ORG

**MAHJONGG  
AT BJC**  
6601 BRADLEY BLVD, BETHESDA MD  
Join Our Monthly Session!  
GET YOUR **RAFFLE** TIX FOR PRIZES!  
**FREE TO PLAY! BEGINNERS WELCOME**  
REGISTER AT [BETHESDAJEWISH.ORG](http://BETHESDAJEWISH.ORG)

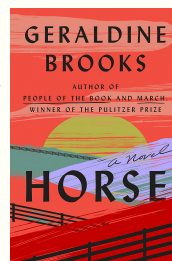
**single in  
the city**  
A new group for our age 50+ single members

**ROSH CHODESH**  
join the women of BJC  
for a monthly gathering

### BJC Book Club Notice

The BJC Open Book Club meets virtually at 8 pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Our upcoming selections are:

**April 26- *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks** is a gripping narrative of race and horse lore in America from civil wartime enslavement to contemporary police targeting of young black men, told from the perspective of its protagonists who are not always given a voice. The harsh reality of the lucre that drives horse racing runs parallel to the story of an incredible relationship between a champion thoroughbred and his gifted young black trainer. Despite the tragedies, this novel is also a beacon of hope, for the possibility of love and of positive societal change. 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 [eganzgl@gmail.com](mailto:eganzgl@gmail.com) know and she will add you to the list.



### BJC Administration

#### Spiritual Leader

Rabbi Eric L. Abbott

[rabiabbott@bethesdajewish.org](mailto:rabiabbott@bethesdajewish.org)

#### Synagogue Director

Geryl Baer

[geryl@bethesdajewish.org](mailto:geryl@bethesdajewish.org)

#### Program and Communications Director

Amy Kertesz

[amy@bethesdajewish.org](mailto:amy@bethesdajewish.org)

#### Rabbi Emeritus

Rabbi Sunny Schnitzer

[rabbisunny@bethesdajewish.org](mailto:rabbisunny@bethesdajewish.org)

### Board of Trustees

#### Co-Presidents

Wynne Busman & Harri Kramer

#### Co-Vice Presidents

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#### High Holy Days

Jim Korelitz

#### Intercongregational Partnership Liaison

Marty Ganzglass

#### Membership

Diane Blumenthal & Liz Sloss

#### Immediate Past President

Sandra Walter

#### Programs

Diane Horn & Joan Kaufman

#### Social Action

Karen Levi

#### Student Representative

Gabby Mendelsohn





# THE RABBI'S MESSAGE

Rabbi Eric. L Abbott

## "Passover Love Song" by Rabbi Hara E. Person<sup>1</sup>

The seder is a love song written  
in the language of silver polish  
and dishpan hands  
freshly grated lemon zest  
blanched almonds  
ground pecans  
shelled pistachios  
pitted olives  
sliced meat  
matzah meal  
white tablecloths  
to-do lists  
trips to Boro Park and Sahadi's

This is how it's done.

ashkenazi haroset  
vegetarian chopped liver  
my mother's real chopped liver  
Bonnie's matzah ball soup  
Israeli salad  
gefilte fish terrine  
chestnut farfel stuffing  
tzimmes  
leek and shallot kugel  
salmon in grape leaves with pine nuts  
turkey and brisket  
coconut macaroons  
sephardic lemon pistachio cookies  
pecan meringues  
chocolate dipped apricots

Remember.

tables stretched the length of the house  
tulips on the mantle  
my grandmother's blue glass plates  
Aunt Hannah and Uncle Joe's silver  
Nana's candlesticks  
the silver salt bowls from my mother  
Frieda and Solly's cut-glass horseradish pot  
the wedding present seder plate  
grape juice stains on the tablecloth  
thin paperback haggadot  
our mismatched family of friends  
silly half-versions of songs  
and don't lick the wine from your finger after the plagues

Don't be fooled by the easy domesticity of these words.

This is more than a recipe for nostalgia.

This is an urgent coded message of

survival

adaptation

love.

Read between the words.

Rabbi Person's beautiful poem strikes a chord for me as I consider the way my views of Passover have transformed over time. In my youth (and still today), I loved preparing for the ritualized meal: laying the tablecloth, setting out our nice cutlery, preparing extra bowls for the dipping, and placing countless other items that only come out once a year. While I would set everything up, the kitchen radiated the wonderful scents of chicken soup, brisket, and more, diligently tended to by my parents. Then, we sat down and began

the Seder. My family never walked through the Seder step by step. Instead, we would constantly interrupt with questions, with stories, and with singing. Finally, we got to the meal—and how delicious it was!

When I was a child and even through today, I looked forward to these sensory, delicious, heartwarming elements of the Seder: the food, the singing, and the conversations. As I grew older and older, however, and especially as I journeyed down my path toward the rabbinate, I also came to understand the deeper meanings behind the holiday. I internalized what Rabbi Person calls in her poem the “urgent coded message” of Passover. The holiday is not simply about the meal or its rituals—its purpose is much deeper.

What are some of the main messages of the holiday? While I’m sure other rabbis would create their own list, here are some of the elements of mine. First, we share our story. This is, as I’ve shared before, what Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner of the Religious Action Center calls “the defining master story of our tradition.”<sup>2</sup>

We tell the story of our ancestors: how they were “wandering Arameans” who travelled down to Egypt and became enslaved—until God redeemed them with miracles.<sup>3</sup> Yet we do not simply take the story and leave it be. “Once we were slaves, now we are free,” we say in the Haggadah; but then we do something about it. For many Seders—perhaps you celebrate this way in your own home—we apply that story to our own world. We ask, “Who else is still enslaved today? Who is marginalized and oppressed? How can we help them?”

This brings us to another key message: the importance of asking questions. The Mishnah tells us that a child is supposed to ask their parent questions about the Seder, and if the child is too young to ask, then the parent teaches them what to say (what we now know as the Four Questions).<sup>4</sup> But as my teacher Rabbi Larry Hoffman explains, the point is not to ask these specific questions, but rather simply to make sure that we ask any question at all. By asking questions, we notice that the night is different, that there is a story to tell, and that it is our duty to make it personal.

Finally, unlike many other holidays, we do not perform these rituals while sitting in the pews of a sanctuary; rather, we gather together with friends and family over a meal. The setting deepens the experience as it becomes full of storytelling, laughter, delicious foods, and love. This can happen whether we’re in our own homes, those of friends or family, or even right here at BJC (and I hope you will join us!). More than almost any other holiday, Passover literally brings the Jewish experience home.

Therefore, as we observe Passover this year, may we continue to smell and eat delicious food, sing fun, meaningful, and sometimes goofy songs (*Chad Gadya!*), and enjoy the festivities around our tables. As we do, I hope we also find ourselves inspired by the words of Rabbi Person’s poem as we take to heart some of the key teachings of the holiday: to share our Jewish “master story” and apply it to our lives; to ask questions; and to enjoy time with friends and family.

*Chag Pesach sameach*—Happy Passover!

1. Rabbi Hara E. Person, “Passover Love Song,” p. 376 in *The Torah: A Women’s Commentary*.

2. Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner, “In Every Generation: The Obligations of Our Exodus,” in *Moral Resistance and Spiritual Authority*.

3. Deuteronomy 26:5-9

4. M. Pesachim 10:4





## FROM OUR PRESIDENTS

Harri j. Kramer and Wynne Busman

HELLO FRIENDS!

We hope everyone had a joyous Purim! We had a blast being entertained and amazed by a mentalist – who had a great sense of humor, too. Our students had a wonderful celebration—many thanks to the teachers and the Education Committee, as well as our parents. And who didn't love getting a Mishloach Manot bag? Didn't get one/give one? There's next year to look forward to. Thank you **Amy Kertesz** for bringing this fun activity to us!

As we write, we're excited that Rabbi Eric has brought musical Shabbat back to BJC. Missed it on March 31? No worries – Shabbat Under the Stars with a lot of music returns on May 5.

As we transition to April, we have two big events ahead. First up, our annual BJC Passover Seder on April 6. **Rabbi Eric, Amy, and Geryl** have a wonderful evening planned for us. Rabbi Eric is creating a Haggadah just for us. And we're looking forward to more yummys from Attman's: Choose your main course--roast chicken, brisket, or herb crusted salmon. Dinner also includes matzah ball soup, chopped liver, gefilte fish, potato kugel, roasted vegetables, plus drinks and dessert. Come join your BJC family for this tradition.

Another very important April event is the installation of **Rabbi Eric**, taking place on Friday, April 14. Our evening begins with an early service, followed by a dinner. If you haven't received your invitation, please reach out to [Amy](#), call the office, or go to our home page on our [website](#). Of note, **Rabbi Eric** has shared with us enhancements he would love to bring to BJC that don't fit in our budget. Honor **Rabbi Eric** by considering an extra donation to help him achieve his vision for our congregation.

We continue to refine the budget for our fiscal year 2023-24. We are doing everything we can to maintain our high standards for supporting our congregation amid these inflationary times. We so appreciate all that our staff, **Geryl Baer** and **Amy Kertesz**, are doing to keep our costs down. Early warning: there will be small increases for synagogue support and religious school tuition. Sadly, we are going to add a small fee for our security. While we are applying for security grants and are receiving some funding from the county, it's not enough. At the end of April, you will receive an email package that will contain a summary of the budget, the actual budget, the slate of officers nominated for next year, and tips on our Annual Meeting.

Mark your calendars now for the BJC Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 11. It will be a hybrid meeting – both in person and via Zoom to meet the needs of all of our congregants. We hope that most of you can come in person, but Zoom will be an option.

In the meantime, we hope to see you in person during April. It should be a fantastic month at BJC!

B'Shalom,  
Harri and Wynne



## BJC Youth Education

Shoshanah Drake & Amy Rubinstein  
Education Committee Co-Chairs

Our March Purim Gamepalooza was great fun! Families played several “Minute-to-win-it” games, followed by a reading of the Megillah led by Rabbi Eric and a costume contest for both kids and adults. It was great to see so many students celebrating Purim with BJC.

April and May bring us the value of Shalom or peace. We will focus on Shalom in many ways both personally and globally. Our family event will be in coordination with the ICPC on April 23rd from 5 PM – 7PM as we join together with members of the church and mosque who share our worship space for a family picnic. We will have food trucks available and many activities in which students can participate. We will talk about Shalom together as a wider community and how we can work together, sharing peace with one another.

During Judaics classes, students will be discussing Pesach and learning about the parts of the seder. In addition, they are working on a special project to be shared at the Installation service for Rabbi Abbott.

As always, the Education committee is open for all BJC members. If you are interested in attending a meeting or getting more involved in our youth education programs, please contact co-chairs [Shoshanah Drake](#) or [Amy Rubinstein](#) for more information.

## GOOD AS WE GIVE

- Gifts are tax deductible - BJC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization
- Pledge now - pay monthly by credit card
- Consider tax benefits for donation of stocks
- Age 70.5+? Give directly from your IRA for added benefits



To talk about making a meaningful gift; or for help with stock, IRA, or language for your will, please reach out to:

Geryl Baer, BJC Synagogue Director, [geryl@bethesdajewish.org](mailto:geryl@bethesdajewish.org) 301.469.8636

Sandra Walter, Past President & Fundraising Chair, [sandra4bjc@gmail.com](mailto:sandra4bjc@gmail.com) 1.202.550.7692

Want to remember or celebrate someone on a birthday, an anniversary, a milestone, or just because you were thinking of them? Make the moment meaningful by giving a gift of tzedakah in their name and BJC will send them a beautiful tribute card that you are honoring them or their loved one. [Donate online](#), or send donation by mail to BJC Office. Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery of the card to the person you designate.

# IN CASE YOU MISSED IT



## PURIM AT BJC

What an amazing day of Purim fun we had here at BJC! The kids played hard at Gameapalooza, competing in a series of "Minute To Win It" games. Even the adults got in on the action- and were good sports when being wrapped up in streamers.

Everyone then joined in the fun for the costume contest and Megillah reading. Congrats to the winners, you all looked great!

Purim dinner was delicious, and mentalist Kourosh Taie blew everyone's mind with his amazing tricks. Standing ovation from the audience!

We hope everyone enjoyed themselves. Can't wait to see what's planned for next year!



# IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

## FROM PENGUINS TO POETRY

*By Karen Levi*

On March 14, 2023, the third Author's Among Us program was held. Members of the Interfaith Congregation Partnership Committee (ICPC) organized the event. Judy Ozone and Karen Levi moderated. Marilyn Allen provided excellent organization prior to the program. Two authors from each congregation presented in a multifaith panel. **Nancy Allinson** and **Karen Levy** represented Bethesda Jewish Congregation (BJC); **Clint Kelly** and **Michael Gibson** members of Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church (BHPC); and **Rabia Chaudry** and **Dil Banu** affiliated with the Maqame Ibrahim Islamic Center (MIIC).

The Authors Among Us event offered a wide variety of topics that might interest a book lover - from historical fiction to fiction to poetry to science to children's literature to contemporary social critique to legal advocacy to religious analysis to female body image. We look forward to a fourth program of Author's Among Us, most probably in the fall of 2023.

Missed the panel? [Watch it on the BJC YouTube Channel here.](#)





# SNAPSHOTS

Getting Together for  
Worship, Meaning, and Fun

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE UPDATE

BJC continues our Friday night worship at 7:30 PM and Saturday morning services at 10:30 AM. Consult BJC Now for the latest information and for links to services if you prefer to worship virtually.



**APRIL 6-Second Night Seder at 5 PM**  
Celebrate Passover at BJC at our community second night seder. Enjoy an engaging service and delicious meal. RSVP by April 2.

**APRIL 17-Yom HaShoah at 7 PM**  
Mark Holocaust Remembrance Day with this documentary showing of "The Last Days" winner of an Academy Award for Best Documentary.

**APRIL 23-Interfaith Family Fun Day at 5 PM**  
Join members of BJC, BHPC, and MIIC at this fun outdoor gathering. Arts and crafts for the kids, facepainting, and free ice cream. Dinner available to purchase from Beltway Bistro.





BETHESDAJEWISH.ORG/EVENTS

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**Bethesda Jewish Congregation is excited to officially install Rabbi Eric Abbott as our Spiritual Leader!**

We are thrilled that Rabbi Abbott joined our community in July of 2022. We invite everyone to come celebrate with us for his installation. The installation service will begin at 6:00 PM in Covenant Hall followed by a Shabbat dinner.

Please join us for this momentous occasion!

**RSVP by April 5**

*please*  
**JOIN US**

BETHESDA JEWISH CONGREGATION  
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO THE  
INSTALLATION OF RABBI ERIC ABBOTT

FRIDAY, APRIL 14TH  
INSTALLATION AND SERVICE 6:00 PM  
DINNER AND DRINKS 7:30 PM

6601 BRADLEY BLVD, BETHESDA MD



# BJC SOCIAL ACTION

*The Jewish Federation's Sara & Samuel J. Lessans*

## Good Deeds Week

*March 26 - April 2, 2023*

Sign up to **make a difference** for our community



Help Us Collect Personal Care  
Items For Yad Yehuda

**Join us in collecting personal care items to be donated to the Kosher Food Pantry, run by Yad Yehuda of Greater Washington.** Yad Yehuda of Greater Washington is a volunteer organization that serves as the Jewish community's financial safety net serving hundreds of individuals from every Jewish neighborhood in the Greater Washington area every year.

**A collection box will be outside of the BJC office from Friday, March 24 - April 15th.** What's needed: kids shampoo and body wash, liquid hand soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste for adults and kids, dental floss, deodorant, bandaids and Q-tips.

The box is in front of the BJC office and is ready to be filled!



We need volunteers for Friday Night oneg! Celebrate a birthday or anniversary with BJC by sponsoring a Friday night nosh. [Pick a date here.](#)

MEMBERSHIP

SOCIAL ACTION

PROGRAMMING

EDUCATION



# 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:**

Lewis Aaron Chabot, son of Aleen Chabot and brother of Elliot Chabot

### **Yahrzeits: April 2023**

Larry Adlerstein, father of Maran Gluckstein, grandfather of Malka Ostchega

Charles Altschuler, brother of Bernard Altschuler

Emily Austin, sister of Laurie Mabile

Claude Seth Banta, father of William Banta

Leo Blumberg, grandfather of Linda Blumberg

Nancy Brenits, mother of Donald (Don) Brenits

Rose Brucker, mother of Anita Farb

Dorothy Coplan, mother of Lois Rose

Jeannette Cover, mother of Albert Cover, grandfather of Joshua Cover

Helga Deda, aunt of Shirley Altschuler

Rose Dubrow, mother of Laurie Dubrow

Daniel Dwork, cousin of Barry Dwork

Susan Cahan Ferguson, mother of Sandra Walter

Annette Franzel, aunt of Maran Gluckstein

Collette Marie Terez Epstein Goldberg, mother of Daniel Goldberg

Gordon D. Goldstein, father of Lorrie Van Akkeren

Bernard Kahn, father of Laura Kahn

Rose Krettmayer, mother of Nancy Glassman

Lily Laufer, mother of David Laufer

James Lemert, husband of Nancy Glassman

Duane McMillen, father of Dale McMillen

Richard Fredric Pelter, brother of Lance Pelter, uncle of Jeremy Pelter

Selma Saxe, grandmother of Gary Kotz

Charlotte Stein, mother of Vivian Finkelstein

Harry Stein, father of Vivian Finkelstein

Leon Sukin, father of Hope Klauber

Donald Wilansky, father of Robin Sorkin

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## **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](mailto: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](mailto:admin@bethesdajewish.org). She will know how to contact me or my substitute.

# OUR MEMBERS

## THANK YOU TO OUR MARCH ONEG VOLUNTEERS

Barbara & Marty Faigin  
Judy & David Scott  
Terri Reicher  
Karen Levy  
Issie Resti

## NACHAS NOTES

Editor's Note: Share the joys in your life! Send to: [amy@bethesdajewish.org](mailto:amy@bethesdajewish.org)

- Helen Dalton had a Letter to the Editor published in The Washington Post on March 24 regarding technology and climate change.
- The Kramer-Hogyas celebrated its 30th Family Day on March 31, marking the day they all arrived in the United States from Russia to start their family.

## THANK YOUS

### DONATION GENERAL

**Bruce and Linda Baum** in Memory of Edward Baum  
**Bruce and Linda Baum** in Memory of Sam Schwartz  
**Jim Korelitz and Liz Sloss** in Memory of Jim Kretz  
**Robin and Stuart Sorkin** in Memory of Michael Dalton, husband of Helen Dalton  
**Robin and Stuart Sorkin** in Memory of Jim Kretz, husband of Sana Shtasel  
**Robin and Stuart Sorkin** in Memory of Alice Rich, mother of Geryl Baer  
**Lorrie Van Akkeren** in Memory of Lewis Chabot, brother of Elliot, son of Aleen Chabot

### AS GOOD AS WE GIVE

Lorrie Van Akkeren

### RABBI ERIC ABBOTT'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

**Helen Dalton** to Rabbi Abbott for a beautiful and most appropriate "prayers for comfort service" for Michael Dalton  
**Russ Hoya and Harri Kramer** in Memory of Lewis Chabot  
**Lorrie Van Akkeren**

### RABBI ERIC ABBOTT'S INSTALLATION WISH LIST

Curt Abbott and Irene Fordom-Abbott  
Diane Blumenthal and Craig Winslow  
Bruce and Wynne Busman  
Helen Dalton  
Shoshanah and Brian Drake  
Shelley Fischel  
Maran Gluckstein  
Harri Kramer and Russ Hoya  
Aaron Lion and Amy Rubinstein

David and Maris Mazie  
Jim Korelitz and Liz Sloss  
Danielle and Brian Lindholm  
Alan and Geraldine Schecter  
Judith and David Scott  
Robin and Stuart Sorkin  
Stephen Turow and Linda Blumberg



CONSULT BJC NOW FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION AND LINKS TO CONNECT VIA ZOOM

### CALENDAR for APRIL 2023

Day	Date	Starting Time	EVENT
Friday	3/31	7:30 PM	Musical Shabbat- Covenant Hall and Online
Saturday	4/1	10:30 AM	Shabbat Services- Covenant Hall and Online
Sunday	4/2	5:00 PM	Single in The City Chavurah- Offsite
Wednesday	4/5		First Night of Passover
Thursday	4/6	5:00 PM	Second Night of Passover Community Seder- Memorial Hall
Friday	4/7	7:30 PM	Shabbat Services- Covenant Hall and Online
Saturday	4/8	10:30 AM	Shabbat Services- Covenant Hall and Online
Friday	4/14	6:00 PM	Installation of Rabbi Abbott Covenant Hall and Memorial Hall
Saturday	4/15	9:00 AM 9:30 AM 10:30 AM	Adult Hebrew Class- Lounge Youth Education Shabbat Services- Covenant Hall and Online
Monday	4/17	7:00 PM	Yom HaShoah Documentary Showing- Lounge
Wednesday	4/19	7:00 PM	Torah Today- Online
Thursday	4/20	11:00 AM 7:00 PM	Programming Committee Meeting- Online Board meeting- Lounge
Friday	4/21	7:30 PM	Shabbat Services- Covenant Hall and Online
Saturday	4/22	9:00 AM 10:30 AM	Adult Hebrew Class- Lounge Shabbat Services- Covenant Hall and Online
Sunday	4/23	5:00 PM	Interfaith Family Fun Day- Outside Youth Education- Family Ed
Monday	4/24	7:00 PM	Rosh Chodesh Women's Circle- Lounge
Wednesday	4/26	7:00 PM 8:00 PM	Torah Today- Online Book Club- Online
Thursday	4/27	11:00 AM 7:00 PM	Programming Committee Meeting- Online Mahjongg- Lounge
Friday	4/28	7:30 PM	Shabbat Services- Covenant Hall and Online
Saturday	4/29	9:00 AM 10:30 AM	Adult Hebrew Class- Lounge Shabbat Services- Covenant Hall and Online