

July 2023
Tamuz 5783

Rabbi Eric L. Abbott
Rabbi Emeritus Sunny Schnitzer



**FOOD TRUCK
FRIDAY
& MUSICAL SHABBAT**

7 Starr Wings

**FRED'S
ICE CREAM**

Food, Drinks, Fun

JULY 14 5:30 PM

6601 BRADLEY BLVD, BETHESDA MD

BETHESDAJEWISH.ORG

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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 10-11

Remembrances
page 12



**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

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

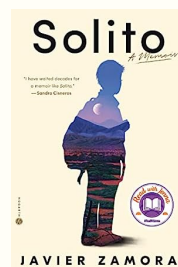
**single in
the city**
A new group for our age 50+ single members

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 selection is:

July 26- *Solito: A Memoir* by Javier Zamora. In his new memoir "Solito", the poet Javier Zamora recounts his experience traveling from El Salvador to the United States as an unaccompanied minor on a trip to reunite with his parents. He doesn't travel alone, joining a group of adults and children also moving north, and they help him along the journey in vital, life sustaining ways. Zamora treks through his own memories and nightmares, revisiting a childhood he has lost.



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.

BJC Administration

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Student Representative
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THE RABBI'S MESSAGE

Rabbi Eric. L Abbott

Relationships: Past, Present, and Future

One year ago this week, on July 1, 2022, I began the exciting work of being your Spiritual Leader here at Bethesda Jewish Congregation. I decided, for this one-year anniversary, to look back at some of what I had written as I first embarked on this journey. In my very first piece for BJC Insights, I quoted Dr. Ron Wolfson, who teaches, “People will come to synagogues...for programs, but they will stay for relationships.”¹ In my first sermon on Friday night, I echoed that theme, stating, “This is exactly what I hope to continue to build at BJC: A community built on relationships, cooperation, and shared values.” In both cases, I invited the community to partner with me in the work of relational Judaism and to join me for coffee dates so I could get to know you (and, in return, you know me).

Thankfully, that invitation paid off. In this past year, I have gone on at least 58 coffee dates (and ice cream dates!) with 80 individuals—and that excludes all of the work-related meetings, pastoral calls, Zoom sessions with prospective members, life cycle gatherings, and other ways in which I have engaged individuals. During these sit-downs, I have gotten to know so much of what makes the folks at BJC tick and why folks joined our community, from the importance to interfaith acceptance to spirituality and music to the desire for a more fluid and accepting Jewish space.

As I have built these relationships, I have also been seeing the relationships that exist between community members. I have seen members come together to support each other during times of grief, providing support at funerals and shiva. I watched as our Saturday morning regulars welcomed the newest member of our minyan gathering, baby Eli. I have discovered whose kids play sports together on the weekends, who drives whom to BJC events, and who used to be neighbors (and even one case of one member living in another member’s childhood home!). Even just last week, I observed with awe as two members dropped everything to support their friend after the loss of a loved one.

These moments stand out because they reflect the power of relationships and the beauty of BJC. We have the potential to create meaningful and lasting friendships and relationships, and many of us have.

Yet I know that not everyone can relate to these deep bonds within the community. Dr. Wolfson, the aforementioned expert in relational Judaism, shares a story of what can go wrong in a synagogue:

A rabbi confides in me, “A woman who was a member of my synagogue for twenty years resigned. I was shocked because she showed up to all of our programs. So, I called her to ask why she was leaving. You know what she said? ‘I came to everything, and I never met anybody.’”²

I hope, I pray that this is not true of us, and yet I know that it very well could be. I know that some of us come to events yet still do not know other people’s names, nor they ours. I know there are families in the religious school who do not yet know the other grownups.

1 . Dr. Ron Wolfson, *Relational Judaism: Using the Power of Relationships to Transform the Jewish Community*, p. 2.

2 . *Ibid.*, 17

And so I challenge us: Let us make these relationships even more meaningful. Let us continue the sacred work of building a covenantal community. Let us deepen the relationships with those we already know and broaden our interactions to meet new people:

- **Do you only come on Saturday mornings? Join us on a Friday night! And vice versa!**
- **Do you drop your kids off for religious school and then do some shopping? Stay and schmooze with the other grownups!**
- **Too scared to join us for Torah Today? The good news is, I recognize that not everyone grew up studying Torah and this might be your first time, and so I strive to make our learning accessible to all—including providing opportunities to share of ourselves (for, after all, it is the subject we each know best).**
- **And, of course, my coffee date invitation is still open.**

Yet perhaps what is more important than attending new programs is that when we do show up, I hope that we strive to actively, consciously get to know each other. Ask each other's names; check in about someone's week; learn what they do for fun outside of BJC; find out what makes them tick. It might take some effort, and, for some of us, we might have to push ourselves out of our comfort zone a bit. Yet, I believe, it is worth it.

Our tradition teaches, "Two are better off than one...for should they fall, one can raise the other; but woe betide the one who is alone and falls with no companion to raise them."³ May we continue to build a synagogue in which we can raise each other up in times of joy and in times of grief. May we continue to build relationships that may have a lasting impact of support and camaraderie. May we continue to build a community of covenant and love. Amen.



FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Issie Resti

As I reflect on everything June brought-- including the celebration of Pride Month, the occasion of my son becoming a bar mitzvah, and the end of the current BJC board cycle, I find myself thinking a lot about labels. I'm going to make what may be a controversial statement about them: I think labels can be great.

Can they also be problematic? Of course, especially when ascribed by others and applied for the purpose of denigrating people or promoting stereotypes. But I think when we are given the space to choose them for ourselves, labels can serve to unite, to educate, to build community. So as I begin my presidency, I thought I would share some labels that I use to describe myself and that inform the way I view BJC:

Mother

Wife

Teacher

Daughter

Friend

Advocate

I'm intentionally not explaining any of them further. Whether you already know me well, my face looks vaguely familiar, or you have no idea who I am (yet), I hope this list serves as a jumping off point for us to have a conversation -- about things we may have in common, about how I see these facets of myself informing my time as president, about why I chose these labels over others...about anything. I also invite you to share with me your own labels and how well you think BJC is doing at communicating that we value those aspects of you. No institution can meet all the needs of every person, but the more we know about who you are and what's important to you, the better informed we will be when making decisions about how to allocate our resources and the more we can help congregants connect to each other.

Whatever you want to talk about, I can be reached at issieresti@gmail.com or (301) 326-9142. You're also likely to run into me at some of the events happening this month. Next weekend is packed: the installation of the new board will take place on Friday, July 7th (Shabbat service and dessert - what a great combination), Saturday the 8th brings the return of the Chant Circle, then on Sunday we invite you to join the Palestinian and Israeli students of New Story Leadership as they share their stories. And don't miss Food Truck Friday and Musical Shabbat Under the Stars on Friday, July 14!

As you come out for these events, if you happen to see **Harri Kramer** or **Wynne Busman**, our immediate Past Presidents, please extend a "Thank you" for everything they've done during their presidency to lead the congregation. They have promised to share their wisdom with me, but we can all agree they leave big shoes for me to fill!

B'shalom,

Issie



BJC Youth Education

Shoshanah Drake & Kaitlin Blackburn
Education Committee Co-Chairs

Summer is here and we hope you are enjoying it! The BJC Education Committee is busy making plans for next school year. It is sure to be filled with great learning, community building, and fun events! If you are interested in being a part of the action, please let either of us know!

Don't miss out! Register now for next school year. There is an early bird registration discount of \$25 off if you register by August 1st. While you are registering, also look into joining us on Friday, July 14th for the Food Truck Friday/Musical Shabbat. It will be a fun event where the kids can enjoy some food, play on the playground, and sing along as we celebrate Shabbat. On July 9th older students might enjoy attending the New Story Leadership event. It is a wonderful way to start or continue conversations with your children about Israel and Palestine. Keep your eyes out in BJC Now for other events and activities you and your family might enjoy. We hope you have time to rest, relax, and enjoy each other during the summer months.

See you at BJC throughout the summer and at Religious School in September!

Shoshanah Drake and Kaitlin Blackburn, Education Committee Co-chairs

YOUTH EDUCATION 2023-2024 OPEN FOR REGISTRATION!



YOUTH EDUCATION 2023-2024

Come See What We Offer!

A UNIQUE ALTERNATIVE TO TRADITIONAL SCHOOLING

- Saturday Judaics for Grades K-7
- B'nai Mitzvah Prep
- Tichon Teen Class for Grades 8-10
- One-on-One Hebrew Instruction
- Interactive Learning
- Family Education Programming
- First Year Synagogue Membership Included for New Families

[BETHESDAJEWISH.ORG/YOUTH](https://bethesdajewish.org/youth)





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

July 7- Shabbat & Board Installation at 7:00 PM

Come for Shabbat services as we officially welcome and install the BJC board for the upcoming fiscal year! Celebrate with the BJC community.



July 8- Chant Circle at 12:00 PM

We're delighted to welcome Rebbitzin Yaffah Schnitzer back to BJC to lead a chant circle! RSVP is requested.

July 9- New Story Leadership at 3:30 PM

The summer program of New Story Leadership is once again coming to BJC to share their stories with us. NSL is a delegation of Palestinian and Israeli university students. Please register to attend this event.

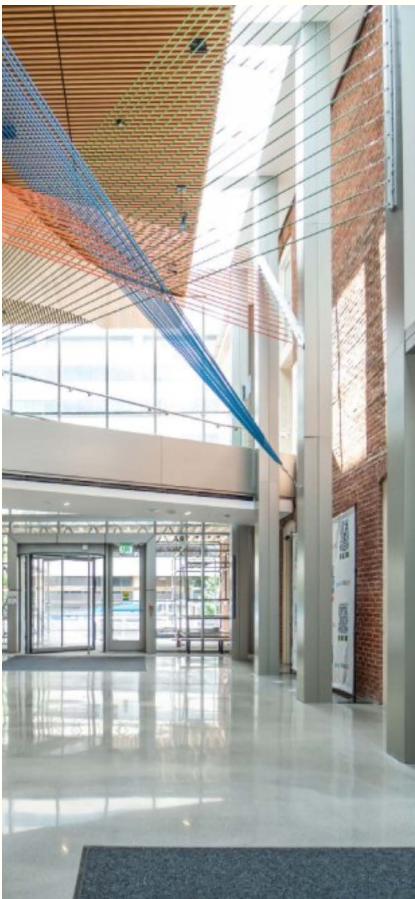


July 14- Musical Shabbat/Food Truck Friday at 5:30 PM

Join us outside for Shabbat! 7 Starr Wings and Fred's Ice Cream will be on hand for dinner purchases. Fun water play for kids! Stay for the musical shabbat under the stars.

[BETHESDAJEWISH.ORG/EVENTS](https://bethesdajewish.org/events)

UPCOMING EVENTS



LILLIAN AND ALBERT SMALL
**CAPITAL
 JEWISH
 MUSEUM**

TAKE A GUIDED TOUR
 WITH BJC!

**AUGUST 13
 2:00 PM**

LIMITED SPACE
 PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE



BJC runs on volunteer power. Only four spots remain in July, August, and September! Grab them 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.](#)

Honey

from the Heart **FUNDRAISER** for Rosh Hashanah


 Bethesda Jewish
 CONGREGATION

SEND A JAR OF
 HONEY TO WISH
 YOUR LOVED ONES A
 "SWEET NEW YEAR"

\$14 a jar

FREE SHIPPING IF YOU
 ORDER BY

AUGUST 1



ORDER
 HERE



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Capital Pride Parade

BJC was delighted to march in the Capital Pride Parade this year! It was a long and hot day, but we waved flags, handed out tons of Pride swag to the crowd, carried our banner proudly, and cheered whenever we heard a "Shabbat Shalom" from spectators. We did our best to represent the "Peace, Love, Revolution" theme. We all had so much fun and we can't wait to do it again next year! Thank you to all our members who supported our Pride events this June! Whether you bought a shirt, marched in the parade, or came to Pride Shabbat, we appreciate you. And remember, it's Pride365 at BJC, so be on the lookout for more programming.

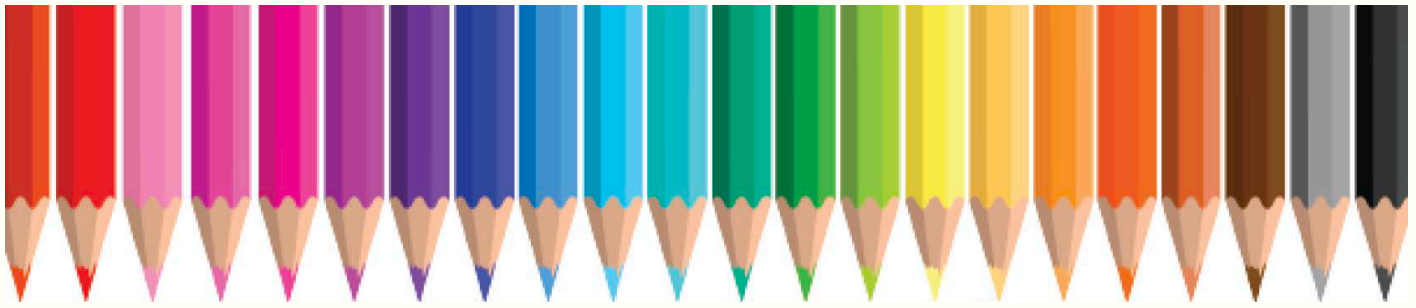


Bethesda Big Train vs Southern Maryland Senators

Our Saturday night outing to see Bethesda Big Train was a hit! It happened to be "Pride Night," with tons of Pride themed giveaways. Everyone enjoyed a picnic dinner from Catalyst Hot Dogs and Gregorio's Trattoria. Then it was on to watch the game! BJC's Program Director Amy Kertesz was asked to throw out a first pitch- and made it over the plate. After a discouraging start, the game went into extra innings, and while we're sad Bethesda Big Train couldn't pull out the win, we were thrilled to cheer them on.

Thank you to Big Train for an exciting game, and thanks to everyone who joined in the fun!

SOCIAL ACTION



School Supply Drive- National Center for Children and Families

By Harri Kramer

We realize it's only July, but we know that for many of you, we're already thinking about back to school. And it won't be long before we're subjected to endless sale promotions. Here's your chance to take advantage of those offers!

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

- (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

Grades 3-5

- (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

Grades 6-12

- (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.



Bethesda Help

Neighbors Helping Neighbors in Need

Bethesda Help

by Stephen Turow

Linda Blumberg and I have been delivering food on behalf of Bethesda Help for almost 3 years. Food delivery consists of in-person deliveries to persons and families who call to request help. The food quantities are determined by family size, with special, nutritious snack packs for children in those families. To assure that families have access to fresh, non-shelf stable food, each delivery comes with \$20-\$40 in Giant gift cards, again depending on the size of the family. Individuals and families are eligible for up to 2 deliveries per month.

In addition to food, Bethesda Help provides assistance with prescription glasses and metro fare cards. The Officers of the Day (ODs), who receive client calls the night before delivery, also provide information to assist clients who are having difficulty paying utility costs. The ODs also are trained to refer families that need alternative financial assistance to appropriate private and governmental entities. Bethesda Help also needs more ODs – a task that does not require work outside your home.

Bethesda Help takes clients in lower Montgomery County. Clients find Bethesda Help through notices at schools, community centers, and word of mouth. In addition, school counselors who recognize that students need food assistance refer parents to Bethesda Help. Bethesda Help averages 10-15 deliveries per day to individual families, five days a week (excluding holidays) throughout the year.

Linda and I have enjoyed working with Bethesda Help because it is a limited time commitment each month, well-organized, and offers a tangible way to perform an act of tikkun olam by directly assisting people facing food insecurity.

If anyone is interested in volunteering with Bethesda Help and would like more information, please call or [**email me directly**](#).

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

Richard Paul Reicher, father of Terri Reicher

Lottie Mosher, husband of David Mosher and mother of Rachel Mosher-Williams

Yahrzeits July 2023

Roz Bogorad, mother-in-law of Cindy Bogorad

Anna Fagan, grandmother of Karen Jerome

Maurice Folsom, father of Al Folsom

Hedwig Gluckstein, mother-in-law of Maran Gluckstein

Daniel Goldstein, father of Jim Goldstein

Hope Horn, mother of Joan Schnitzer

Irving Jacob, grandfather of Donna Goldberg

Aaron (Harry) Kramer, grandfather of Harri Kramer

Martha Kraus, mother of Mitchell Kraus

Frank Kretz, father in Law of Sana Shtasel

Eva Levi, mother of Karen Levi

Judith Posner, mother of Ted Posner

Julia Robinson, daughter of Kurt Kohn

Sara Schlacter, mother of David Slacter

Marla Schwartz, sister of Linda Baum

Herman Chaimovitz Teitelbaum, grandfather of Howard Teitelbaum

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

NACHAS NOTES

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

- Mazel Tov to Al and Judy Folsom on the marriage of their grandson
- Mazel Tov to Leah Katzelnick and Michael Baumer on the birth of their son Eli Harel
- Mazel Tov to the Resti family on the Bar Mitzvah of Joshua Resti, son of Justin and Issie Resti

THANK YOUS Through June 23

DONATION GENERAL

Cathy Bernard

Linda Blumberg and Steve Turow in Honor of the Marriage of Samantha Blumberg and Jess Jackoway

Diane Blumenthal and Craig Winslow in Memory of Richard Reicher, father of Terri Reicher

Diane Blumenthal and Craig Winslow in Memory of Doris Rauch

Diane Blumenthal and Craig Winslow in Honor of the birth of Eli Harel Katzelnick-Baumer

Bruce and Wynne Busman in Memory of Sara Kippelman, sister of Barry Dwork

Bruce and Wynne Busman in Memory of Lottie Mosher

Shoshanah and Brian Drake in Memory of Richard Reicher, father of Terri Reicher

Bruce and Edith Goldstein in Honor of Lorrie Van Akkeren's special birthday

Harri Kramer and Russ Hogya in Memory of Sara Kippelman

Maran Gluckstein in Memory of Richard Reicher

Jim Korelitz and Liz Sloss in Memory of Lottie Mosher

Karen Levi in Memory of Sara Kippelman, sister of Barry Dwork

Jeremy and Sarah Pelter in Honor of Stephen Turow and Linda Blumberg for their incredible Tichon volunteerism

Cari Schaffer

Edward and Norma Stern in Memory of Lottie Mosher

AS GOOD AS WE GIVE

Lorrie Van Akkeren in Honor of Aleen Chabot's 90 ½ birthday

RABBI ERIC ABBOTT'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Linda Blumberg and Steve Turow in Honor of the Marriage of Samantha Blumberg and Jess Jackoway

Bruce and Wynne Busman in Memory of Richard Reicher, father of Terri Reicher

Helen Dalton in Honor of Rabbi Eric Abbott for the beautiful and heartfelt memorial tribute for Michael Dalton

David and Judith Scott

Lorrie Van Akkeren

MARAN GLUCKSTEIN EDUCATIONAL FUND

Edward Elson and Hannah Friedman

Lorrie Van Akkeren in Honor of Maran Gluckstein's adult Hebrew class



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

CALENDAR for JULY 2023

Day	Date	Starting Time	EVENT
Friday	6/30	7:30 PM	Shabbat Services- Covenant Hall and Online
Friday	7/7	7:00 PM	Board Installation/Shabbat Services- Covenant Hall and Online
Saturday	7/8	12:00 PM	Chant Circle- Covenant Hall
Sunday	7/9	3:30 PM	New Story Leadership- Covenant Hall
Wednesday	7/12	6:30 PM	Adult Hebrew Class
Thursday	7/13	11:00 AM 7:00 PM	Programming Committee Meeting- Online Board Meeting
Friday	7/14	5:30 PM	Food Truck Friday/ Musical Shabbat- Outside
Monday	7/17	7:00 PM	Rosh Chodesh Circle- Lounge
Wednesday	7/19	6:30 PM	Adult Hebrew Class
Thursday	7/20	11:00 AM 7:00 PM	Programming Committee Meeting- Online Mahjongg - Lounge
Friday	7/21	7:30 PM	Shabbat Services- Covenant Hall and Online
Wednesday	7/26	6:30 PM 8:00 PM	Adult Hebrew Class Book Club- online
Thursday	7/27	11:00 AM	Programming Committee Meeting- Online
Friday	7/28	7:30 PM	Shabbat Services- Covenant Hall and Online