



Bethesda Jewish

October 2023 Tishri/Kislev 5784 Rabbi Eric L. Abbott Rabbi Emeritus Sunny Schnitzer



IN THIS ISSUE

Rabbi's Message page 3

Presidents Message page 4

Upcoming Events page 7-8

In Case You Missed It page 9-10

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





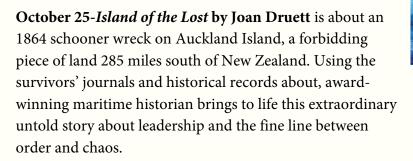






BJC Book Club Notice

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



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.



BIC Administration

Spiritual Leader

Rabbi Eric L. Abbott rabbiabbott@bethesdajewish.org

Synagogue Director

Geryl Baer

geryl@bethesdajewish.org

Program & Communications Director

Amy Kertesz

amy@bethesdajewish.org

Religious School Coordinator

Rebecca Leavey

becky@bethesdajewish.org

Rabbi Emeritus

Rabbi Sunny Schnitzer rabbisunny@bethesdajewish.org

Board of Trustees

President

Issie Resti

Vice President

Ken Fine

Treasurer

Steve Turow

Secretary

Michelle Goldstein

Trustees

Helen Dalton Helen DiStefano

Karen Levy

Ted Posner

Lauren Rathmann

Lorrie Van Akkeren

Board Members & Committee Chairs

Chesed Society

Lorrie Van Akkeren

Education

Kaitlin Blackburn & Shoshanah Drake

Financial Advisor

Terri Reicher

High Holy Days

Jim Korelitz

Intercongregational Partnership

Liaison Marty Ganzglass

Membership Diane Blumenthal & Liz

Sloss

Immediate Past Presidents

Wynne Busman & Harri Kramer

Programs Diane Horn & Joan Kaufman

Social Action Karen Levi

Student Representative

Gabby Mendelsohn





THE RABBI'S MESSAGE

Rabbi Eric. L Abbott

My Sad Visit to the Mona Lisa

I remember when I finally laid eyes on the Mona Lisa. If you have never been to Paris and seen this famous piece by Leonard da Vinci in person, you might assume that the painting is a massive portrait and that you can approach it easily, inspect its fine details, even find a moment of deep contemplation as you gaze upon this masterpiece. You would, of course, be mistaken, for the Mona Lisa is neither big nor accessible. Smaller than a typical movie poster, it sits behind glass, which itself is set back behind a railing, and crowds often block the artwork from view. When I discovered this, I felt a bit sad: this treasure, a gift to humanity by da Vinci, is inaccessible.

Thank goodness the Torah, our greatest gift, is within our grasp.

That is what we celebrate this upcoming holiday of Simchat Torah. This holiday, found at the end of Sukkot, glorifies the Torah through song, dance, and ritual. At BJC this year in early October, we will take out the Torahs and dance with them, we will sing boisterously and vociferously, and we will even unroll it in its entirety so we can take it all in.

One might assume that the Torah, the most precious Jewish artifact, would be kept away behind glass like the Mona Lisa. Fortunately, we do the opposite. Rabbi David Kalb of the Jewish Learning Center of New York teaches: "How powerful it is...that the Torah is something so sacred—we're so careful with it all year round—but at the end of the day, we're dancing with it. Passing it. It's out there. It really makes a statement: the Torah should be out there in the world. It shouldn't be sequestered." As we read on Yom Kippur, the Torah is not some distant thing in the heavens or across the sea, but right here within reach—ready to be unrolled, danced with, and celebrated.

I invite you to do this unrolling, dancing, and celebrating with us on Simchat Torah. Please join us on Friday, October 6 for a musical Simchat Torah Shabbat (with the band!). Not only will we celebrate the Torah, but also our students. We will honor all religious school students this year, and we have a special treat for our newest students to commemorate their Consecration. This holiday is for all ages: all students of Torah should come and participate.

Yet beyond our annual celebration, I hope that Rabbi Kalb's message of Simchat Torah motivates us throughout the year: to bring Torah out into the world. Come study with us in Torah Today (Wednesdays, 7 PM, online) so we can dive deeply into Torah and then take that wisdom into our lives. Pray with us on Shabbats, including our new Tot Shabbat and Family services on the first Friday of the month starting in November, so that our spiritual growth can inspire our lived experiences. Join us in enacting the Jewish value of *tikkun olam* by performing acts of justice and love—join our Social Action Committee. Or participate in any of the countless other opportunities BJC has to offer!

No matter which ways we choose to join this community, I hope that we will each do so by engaging fully in Torah and letting it guide our lives. May we do so on this Simchat Torah and may we do so in all moments of life.



FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Issie Resti

October is, without a doubt, my favorite month. My kids (those I teach and those I'm raising) and I have finally settled into a routine, the preparation for both the meals and spiritual renewal that mark Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is finished, and perhaps most importantly, Costco starts stocking those really huge bags of

chocolate. This is when I feel like I can pause and take a deep breath in, and while the roses might be gone, I'm more than happy to take time to stop and smell the bonfires. While the calm afforded by the slower pace of October can be soothing, I also find it challenging because I don't want to let myself slip too far into being comfortable. I worry that if I relax too much, I might become complacent or lose momentum.

So too it can be with life at BJC. Throughout September, BJC buzzed with energy. But many of the events imbued with urgency and great significance that bring us to synagogue at the start of the year -- Selichot, the first day of Religious School, Kol Nidre -- are now over. It can be easy to let months and months pass without walking back through the doors. But it shouldn't be that way, and reasons to come back in abound!

There are ongoing opportunities to gather with your fellow congregants to learn Torah with Rabbi Eric (Wednesday evenings -- include a special class in the Sukkah on Oct 4) or Hebrew with Maran (Saturday mornings). Friday, October 6th, we will mark both Simchat Torah and our new religious school students' consecration. You can join us on a tour of the Capital Jewish Museum on Sunday, October 8th. This wide array of events gives you the opportunity to not only expand your intellectual horizons, but also your social ones. Meet new people, discuss new ideas, visit new places. Let's combat complacency, maximize momentum, and do our part to maintain the vibrancy that we've all enjoyed over the past month.

B'shalom,

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

YOUTH EDUCATION 2023-2024 OPEN FOR REGISTRATION!



BJC Youth Education Becky Leavey Religious School Coordinator

With new and returning Judaics and Hebrew teachers, and a community of engaged (and adorable!) children, our first week of school is off to a fantastic start! Our curriculum is based on Jewish values, which I continue to see demonstrated in so many ways -warm welcomes to new families, beautiful *ruach* (spirit), *chevra* (friendship) in our Religious School Shabbat service, a clear dedication to Jewish learning and culture... the list grows each time I engage with our religious school community!

Please plan to join with us for these amazing upcoming programs!

Friday, October 6 at 5:30 PM... Consecration and Simchat Torah Celebration. Enjoy a delicious deli Shabbat dinner, dance with the Torahs, and welcome our new Religious School students to the BJC community. There will be gifts for new religious school students and a special evening for all!

And, last but far from least, you are invited to join our Religious School committee! You can help shape our students' experience! Just fill out this form and Kaitlin or Shoshanah will connect with you to talk about how you can lend your talents to the community!

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy 5784!

Becky Leavey (She/Her)
Religious School Coordinator
Becky@BethesdaJewish.org | BethesdaJewish.org



HIGH HOLY DAYS



The High Holy Days are now over (for this year) and we want to thank the many volunteers who ensured that all of the services and events ran so smoothly. There were 58 volunteer slots filled by 44 volunteers, so a special thanks to those who did double (and triple) duty. Our volunteers (i.e., you) served in numerous roles, such as ushers and parking assistants (and book movers), and helped with the setup and cleanup of the Oneg and Tashlich at Rosh Hashanah. And you built a beautiful sukkah where we were able to have a meal, shake and hold a lulay and etrog, and connect with our cultural and religious heritage.

All of your efforts were very much needed and appreciated—and hopefully you found it rewarding, too.

Just one more thing: Sukkot does not end until Oct. 6 so we are not taking down the sukkah until Sunday, Oct. 8. We can use a few more volunteers to take down the sukkah starting around 1:30pm. Please click HERE to go to the SignUp Genius website and help with this task. Or, contact the High Holy Days Volunteer Coordinator, Jim Korelitz, at jjkore@msn.com or 301-385-3015.

Manna Food Drive By Paul Segal

Our High Holy Day food drive was a big success! Thanks to everyone who helped fill 5 large blue bins with nonperishable food for MANNA.

Food insecurity in our community remains a significant year-round problem. Hunger is prevalent yet often goes unnoticed, and its prevalence remains steadily on the rise.

To learn more about how MANNA works to end hunger in our community and how you can help, please visit https://www.mannafood.org/.



SNAPSHOTS

Getting Together for Worship, Meaning, and Fun

WORSHIP SCHEDULE UPDATE

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



UPCOMING EVENTS



SNAPSHOTS

Getting Together for Worship, Meaning, and Fun







BJC runs on volunteer power! Grab your preferred Oneg date while you can. Dates in November and December are available. Thank you for your generosity and time! Click here to sign up for a Friday Night Oneg.

N CASE YOU VISSED T

SELICHOT









SELICHOT - A VERY MOVING EVENING By Harri j. Kramer

Our Selichot program showcasing the film, "Defiant Requiem" transported the nearly full house of Covenant Hall to another place and time and back again.

After a brief introduction by BJC Program Co-chair Joan Kaufman, Maestro Murry Sidlin set the stage for how he became involved with telling the story of Verdi's Defiant Requiem concert at Terezin, which during WWII was a transit ghetto and concentration camp 40 miles northwest of Prague.

Sidlin spoke briefly about how he first discovered the book, *Music of Terezin*, which led to his journey of discovery about Conductor Rafael Schachter, the central character in "Defiant Requiem." Through many twists and turns, Seldin ultimately encountered an individual who was at Terezin and could validate the stories. Much of the film centers on his recollections, as well as those of others who were there. In short, these Jews, who were rounded up from their homes and stripped of their possessions, worked all day, and then came together in the evenings in a dank cellar to practice the Verdi opera. One of the few things Schacter brought with him was the score for *Defiant Requiem*. As there were no means to copy the score, this amazing chorus had to memorize the Latin of the opera.

The film explains why Terezin, known to the Germans as Theresienstadt, was the showcase the Germans used to convince the International Red Cross that the prisoners were well cared for and happy in their pursuits. In fact, by singing a Catholic mass to the Nazis, the prisoners were able to sing that which they could never say.

An amazing component to the film was the modern story of the musicians who went to Terezin to perform this masterpiece. We watched Maestro Sidlin with his orchestra and chorus, many of whom traveled from the Washington, DC area to perform. For many, this experience helped them understand the Holocaust at a deep and personal level.

After we watched this award-winning documentary, Maestro Sidlin stayed a long time to answer our questions. We encourage you to learn more by going to www.Defiantrequiem.org. (cont.)

N CASE YOU VISSED T

(cont.)

BJC was joined in this program by many members of Adat Shalom. After the film, we enjoyed a delicious dinner, sitting together and getting to know each other. After dinner, we went back to Covenant Hall, where Rabbi Eric led us in a beautiful Selichot service. A highlight for many was coming together as community around a table to change the Torah covers into their High Holy Day whites. Our service ended with the amazing Shoshanah Drake blasting the shofar to Tefilah Gedolah. A perfect ending to a moving evening.

Maestro Sidlin's collection of essays, Conduct Unbecoming, is available at Politics and Prose.



UNITY WALK By Marty Ganzglass

The annual Unity Walk, celebrating the unity of people of all faiths in the face of the terrorism of 9/11, took place on Sunday September 10th. Organized by the Interfaith Council of Greater Washington and beginning at the Washington Hebrew Congregation and ending at the Islamic National Mosque on lower Massachusetts Avenue, the event drew large crowds. After being welcomed by Rabbi Susan Shankman of Washington Hebrew and Cardinal Gregory of the Archdiocese of Washington, people left the synagogue to the accompaniment of the jazz of DC's Different Drummers.

The many houses of worship that line Massachusetts Avenue welcomed walkers with food, water, and brochures. Docents explained their rituals and beliefs and the Sikh Gudwara offered a delicious fresh cooked vegetarian lunch.

An added bonus for those of us from BJC and BHPC was a brief chat with Rabbi Eric's wife Rabbi Eliana Fischel on her home turf of Washington Hebrew.

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

Yahrzeits October 2023

Estelle Barrios, mother of Rochelle Banta Freda Blumenthal, mother of Diane Blumenthal Leonard Busman, father of Bruce Busman Herbert Chabot, husband of Aleen Chabot, father of Elliot Chabot Bessie Cohen, grandmother of Donna Goldberg Mitchell Cooper, father of David Cooper Evelyn Dwork, mother of Barry Dwork Fanny Dwork, grandmother of Barry Dwork Molly Friedman, mother of Hannah Friedman Elson Samuel (Sol) Gordesky, father of Joan G. Kaufman Jerome Grunes, father of Allen Grunes Pepi Harnden, mother of Sandra Medlin Cliff Hecht, husband of Joan Schnitzer Robert H. Klein, father of Paul Klein Vivian Kramer, grandmother of Harri Kramer Lillian Landaw, aunt of Lance Pelter Ethel Levine, mother of Leslie Levine Mae Mosher, grandmother of Rachel Mosher-Williams James Posner, father of Ted Posner Samuel Rein, father of Susan Kraut Bruce Scott, brother of David Scott George Shapiro, uncle of Wynne Busman Diane Szczepaniak, wife of Allen Grunes Matthew Tarker, father of Lisa Tarker

Rhoda Turow, grandmother 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

Evan and Lindsey Jacobson Emily and Adam Greenberg Rachel Miller-Ziegler and Matt Higgins Madeline and Michael Klebanov

NACHAS NOTES

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

• Mazel Tov to Hannah and Maddie Kline on their 16th birthday!

THANK YOUS Through September 27

DONATION GENERAL

Diane Blumenthal and Craig Winslow in Honor of the Board of Directors **Hal and Cheryl Bordy** in Memory of the Yahzeits of Louis Levine and Harvey Levine **Elizabeth Chang**

Shoshanah and Brian Drake in Honor of Diane and Craig being wonderful members of BJC and always sharing a smile and kindness

Shoshanah and Brian Drake in Honor of Jeremy Mendelson for making BJC a better place and being a part of our community

Allen Grunes in honor of Rabbi Abbott and Alicia DePaolo for leading wonderful services

Harri Kramer and Russ Hogya in Memory of David H. Williams, Sr.

David Laufer and Ellen Gleberman in Honor of the upcoming wedding of Samantha Laufer to Kolya Glick

Wendy Mellinger and Robert Poogach

Ruth Salinger

Carie Schaffer

AS GOOD AS WE GIVE

Diane Blumenthal and Craig Winslow Lorrie Van Akkeren

RABBI ERIC ABBOTT'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Les and Marsha Levine in Memory of Lottie Mosher Diane Blumenthal and Craig Winslow Lance and Maureen Pelter Judy and David Scott in Memory of Bruce Scott Lorrie Van Akkeren

(cont.)

THANK YOUS (CONT.)

THANK YOUS Through September 27

MARAN GLUCKSTEIN EDUCATIONAL FUND

Judy and David Scott in Memory of Frank Gold

LIFECYCLE BOOK OF JOYS AND REMEMBRANCES

Victoria and Byron Bailer

Bruce and Linda Baum

Cathy Bernard

Diane Blumenthal and Craig Winslow

Cindy Bogorad

Michael and Annie Cifarelli

Helen Dalton

Helen Distefano

Anita and Warren Farb

Susan Leibenhaut and Joseph Gootenberg

Joel and Katherine Hoffman

Karen Jerome and Jonathan Eig

Leah Katzelnick and Michael Baumer

Madeline Goldberg Killefer

Julie and Mitchell Kraus

Karen Levi

Les and Marsha Levine

Ellen Liberman

Jonathan Peterson and Lisa Getter Peterson

Carie Schaffer

David and Judy Scott

Robin and Stuart Sorkin in Honor of Rabbi Eric Abbott and the impact he has made in his early tenure as our new spiritual leader

Terri Reicher

Larry and Davi Walders

Sandra Walter

Rachel Mosher-Williams and David Williams



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

CALENDAR for OCTOBER 2023

Day	Date	Starting Time	EVENT
Wednesday	10/4	7:00 PM	11
Thursday	10/5	11:00 AM	
		7:30 PM	9
Friday	10/6	5:30 PM	
		6:30 PM	
Saturday	10/7	9:00 AM	8
		9:30 AM	3
_		10:30 AM	
Sunday	10/8	2:00 PM	Capital Jewish Museum Tour
Tuesday	10/10	7:30 PM	0
Wednesday	10/11	7:30 PM	Sacred Earth Book Launch Panel
Thursday	10/12	11:00 AM	Programming Committee Meeting- Online
		2:30 PM	Rosh Chodesh Circle
		7:00 PM	8
Friday	10/13	8:00 PM	Shabbat Services- Covenant Hall and Online
Saturday	10/14	9:00 AM	8
		9:30 AM	3
		10:30 AM	
Wednesday	10/18	7:00 PM	
Thursday	10/19	11:00 AM	Programing Committee Meeting- Online
_		7:00 PM	Mahjongg
Friday	10/20	7:30 PM	
Saturday	10/21	9:00 AM	8
		9:30 AM	3 0
		10:30 AM	Shabbat Services- Covenant Hall and Online
Wednesday	10/25	7:00 PM	
	10.00	8:00 PM	Book Club- Online
Thursday	10/26	7:00 PM	•
Friday	10/27	8:00 PM	Shabbat Services- Covenant Hall and Online
Saturday	10/28	9:00 AM	Adult Hebrew Class- Lounge
		10:30 AM	Shabbat Services- Covenant Hall and Online
			B'not Mitzvah of Joan Kaufman and Andrea
	1		Hancock