





September 2023 Elul/Tishri 5783/5784 Rabbi Eric L. Abbott Rabbi Emeritus Sunny Schnitzer





SEPT 15 EREV ROSH HASHANAH

8:00 PM Service

SEPT 16 ROSH HASHANAH

10:00 AM Service 12:45 PM Tashlich

12:45 PM Tashlich (Memorial Hall)2:30 PM Family Service (Covenant Hall)

SEPT 24 KOL NIDRE

8:00 PM Service

SEPT 25 YOM KIPPUR

10:00 AM Service
1:30 PM Family Service
2:45 PM Torah Study
4:00 PM Musical Interlude
5:00 PM Reading of the Book of Jonah

6:00 PM Yizkor and Neilah

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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





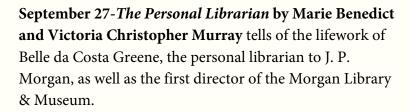






BJC Book Club Notice

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

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THE RABBI'S MESSAGE

Rabbi Eric. L Abbott

The High Holy Days are almost here, and so it's time to celebrate like Mordecai and Esther!

Wait—Mordecai and Esther? The heroes of the Book of Esther? What do they have to do with the High Holy Days?

Let me explain!

There is a fascinating connection between a biblical verse found in the Book of Esther and the month of Elul. Toward the end of the story, after Queen Esther saves the day and the Jews defeat their enemies, Mordecai announces to commemorate the fourteenth and fifteenth of Adar, what we now celebrate as the holiday of Purim:

...the same days on which the Jews enjoyed relief from their foes and the same month which had been transformed for them from one of grief and mourning to one of festive joy. They were to observe them as days of feasting and merrymaking, and as an occasion for sending gifts to one another and presents to the poor. (Esther 9:22)

Note how the verse discusses moving from grief to joy, which, as I mentioned last month, happens as we move from the month of Av to the month of Elul (which then transitions into Rosh Hashanah). During this month of Elul, as we prepare for the High Holy Days, we transition from grief to joy—and then to the rewarding yet challenging work of teshuvah, repentance.

Just as interesting is the last four words in Hebrew, which read, " אישׁ לֵרעהוּ וֹמְתּנוֹת לֹאביֹנְיִם ", (ish l'rei'eihu umatanot la'evyonim), meaning "[sending gifts] to each other and presents to the poor." The rabbis point out that the first letters of each Hebrew word—aleph, lamed, vav, lamed—spell out the month of Elul. Thus, in our tradition, there is a direct connection between the meaning of this verse and the month of Elul—the month we are currently in and which leads into Rosh Hashanah.

What are we to make of this connection? The Book of Esther, in memorializing the Esther story, commands us to send gifts to one another and to support those in need. In other words, we are to form a community, one in which we care for each other and in which we offer up our resources to meet the needs of others.

During our High Holy Days this year, let us do just that: build community. As you enter the sanctuary and search for a seat, skip the empty rows—go join someone. You'll earn bonus points if it's someone you don't know! During oneg, introduce yourself to someone. If you hear a cause, committee, or group that interests you, please join in (and if not—let's talk about starting one).

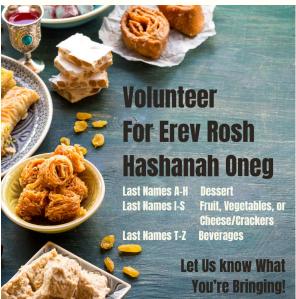
And just as importantly, let us build community during this month of Elul to help us prepare for the High Holy Days. Beyond attending our regular programming, Shabbat worship, or Selichot event, the best way you can help us build our community is to volunteer for the High Holidays. This is an all-hands-on-deck situation and there is a role for everyone, from ushering to parking, moving prayer books to setting up for Tashlich, and more. Please volunteer for one or more of this or other tasks by clicking this link (you do not need a SignUpGenius account to sign up). For more information, please contact Jim Korelitz, our High Holy Days Volunteer Coordinator, at jjkore@msn.com or 301-385-3015.

This High Holy Day season, may we find sweetness through the building of community. Shanah tovah um'tukah—may you have a happy and sweet new year!

HIGH HOLY DAYS AT BETHESDA JEWISH CONGREGATION











FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Issie Resti

Do you ever ponder exactly what it is about Judaism that draws you in? For those who chose Judaism, this may be a question asked and answered many times over. For those who were born into a Jewish family, perhaps you haven't recently -- if ever -- stopped to consider it. But I have found, at least for me, it's a good question to think about.

I've come to realize that a lot of what resonates with me about Judaism can be traced back to the fact that I'm a special education teacher. I love the way that Judaism values education above all else, even prayer. I love that so much of Torah reads like it was taken directly from an IEP. And I love that as Jews we celebrate our new year just as the new school year begins. In both my professional and personal life, the Fall, more so than January 1st, is when I reflect on how the previous year went. I think about what I can do to feed the aspects of my life that were rewarding and productive and what I might change to avoid or better overcome the challenges. It's a time to set goals and count blessings.

So what are my goals for this year? Well some, like drinking more water (which is not the same as drinking less Coke Zero), probably don't matter to you, but there are several that relate to BJC: I want to bring people who have been on the periphery into BJC more often. I want to find ways to get more congregants volunteering. I want to meet and have regular conversations with those of you with whom I've never spoken before. I encourage you to reach out to me to let me know what will get you through our doors more often -- is it a time constraint that keeps you away? Lack of reliable transportation? Are you craving a program you don't yet see on our schedule? It may seem like the obstacle keeping you from coming more often is insurmountable, but I'd like to hear about it anyway, because together we may be able to find a solution. And fair warning, if you don't reach out to me....I may just reach out to you.

While my blessings are too numerous to even attempt to enumerate here, I will share that one thing I am grateful for is that I belong to a congregation that has so many different ways to engage with this season of Elul. Nature lovers can join the religious school to go apple picking on the afternoon of the 9th, history buffs and musicians will especially enjoy the conversation around Defiant Requiem during Selichot that evening, and those of us that find meaning in food-based traditions shouldn't miss the challah bake on the 10th. All this before we even get into the High Holy Day services!

Whatever events you attend, I encourage you to reach out and let me know what those activities meant to you, how they enhanced your high holy day experience, and any suggestions you have for how we could do even better. May this new year be meaningful and sweet for us all!

B'shalom,

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

YOUTH EDUCATION 2023-2024 OPEN FOR REGISTRATION!



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

Welcome back for a new school year! We loved seeing so many people at the Back to Shul Shabbat! So much fun was had by all with face painting, water toys, the bounce house, the food trucks, and spending time together. It was wonderful seeing so many families stay for the musical Shabbat as well!

We hope by now you have had the opportunity to meet our new Religious School coordinator, Becky Leavey. Becky will be working with the religious school teachers and families to continue our program and its success! If you haven't had a chance to meet her, or even if you have, the perfect opportunity is coming up on September 9th at 2:00 PM at our Apple Picking event. We hope to see you there!

The High Holidays are coming up very quickly too and we would love to see you at the family services and Tachlich. Please make sure to RSVP to be included in the lunch count. We are looking forward to a fantastic school year. If you are interested in joining the Education Committee or just want to come to a meeting to find out what it's all about, fill out this Google form and we will be in touch with you. Everyone is invited! You don't have to have a child in the religious school to join the group.

Wishing everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

Shoshanah Drake and Kaitlin Blackburn Education Committee co-chairs





SNAPSHOTS

Getting Together for Worship, Meaning, and Fun

WORSHIP SCHEDULE UPDATE

BJC continues our Friday night worship at 7:30 PM. Saturday morning services will begin again on September 9th at 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 October, November, and December are available. Thank you for your generosity and time! Click here to sign up for a Friday Night Oneg.



Signups have begun but we have LOTS of openings to fill! We still need volunteers to help with tasks such as ushering, parking, removing/returning books, setup/cleanup for Tashlich, etc. NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED! You'll be teamed with at least one person who has done that task before.

Please volunteer for one or more tasks at SignUpGenius by clicking HERE. (Note: You do not need a SignUpGenius account to sign up).

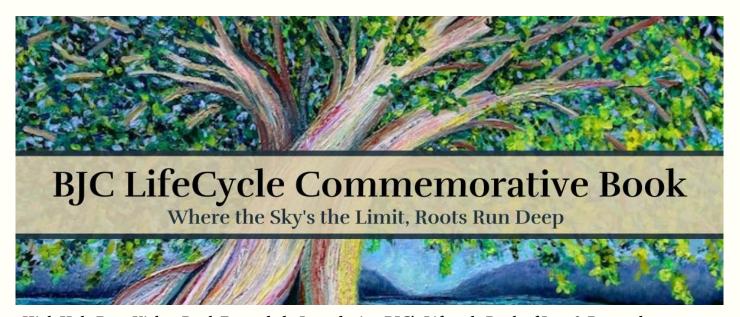
Want more information about a task, or having problems with the signup website? Contact Jim Korelitz, High Holy Days Volunteer Coordinator, at jjkore@msn.com or 301-385-3015.



Sunflower's Rosh Hashanah menu is now available for ordering with **pick up at BJC on September** 13!

The 2023 menu is designed to provide a range of holiday options for small family gatherings and large congregation events. There are three types of holiday themed platters, individually wrapped royal iced apple cookies, and a delicious selection of apple cakes, pies and tortes, and much more. Sunflower also has options that are gluten and nut free. Don't wait, order today!

ORDER HERE



High Holy Days Yizkor Book Expanded - Introducing BJC's Lifecycle Book of Joys & Remembrances

Submit your family's simchas, and also remember loved ones who are family by birth, by marriage, and by choice. Consider creating a tribute or memorial page with names, photos, joys, memories and dedications.

Our Lifecycle Book will be an enduring piece of BJC's history - and your family's history, too.

This is a volunteer run project. 100% of your tribute/memorial donations for submissions provide support for BJC programs, services, and operations. Printing generously donated by Centric.

Deadline for Submissions: September 5th

Learn More Here

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CAPITAL JEWISH MUSEUM TOUR

Twenty BJC members gathered at the Capital Jewish Museum for a guided tour. The tour took us through the Jewish history of the DMV, full of visuals and information how the Jewish community here evolved and grew over time.

We spent time in the historic synagogue, watching an informative video projected on to the walls. Then it was off to the second floor, with some amazing interactive exhibits. Our tour guide, Francesca, was knowledgeable and kept us moving even though we probably could have spent a few hours more looking at everything.

The BJC tour included the temporary exhibit of Ruth Bader Ginsberg. This comprehensive exhibit was fascinating to walk through, and the perfect way to end the tour.

Want to go? Our second date of October 8th is full, but contact Amy Kertesz in the office, and if there's enough interest, we will schedule a third date!

Many thanks to the Capital Jewish Museum for being so welcoming.

N CASE YOU VISSED T













BACK TO SHUL

What a wonderful time we had at "Back to Shul"!

Even the adults (and BJC staff) got in on the fun with face painting, though wisely left the bounce house to the kids.

Jumping around looked like a good time!

Beltway Bistro was in the lot for everyone to get dinner, and we ended the meal with frozen treats from Fred's Ice Cream. Ice cream is always a good idea! We laughed, we schmoozed, we made some new friends.

Musical Shabbat with the BJC band moved inside, and we played along with egg shakers.

Don't miss out on our fun events! Check the BJC events page on the website to see everything that's coming up in fall.

SOCIAL ACTION

OUR SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE FOR NCCF WAS A GREAT SUCCESS! By Harri j. Kramer

Thank you! BJC was able once again to support our backyard neighbors at the National Center for Children and Families with school supplies.

We filled the big box outside of the office about three times. While we didn't keep count of what we collected, there were almost three dozen backpacks, lots of spirals, many packs of loose-leaf paper, and pencils, colored pencils, crayons, markers, and myriad other stuff. All of these materials will help the students at NCCF start the school year right.

"For the past 25 plus years BJC has been supporting children and families here at NCCF in a variety of ways. It means so much to us to have such engaged neighbors who are invested in the education and preparedness of the children living on our Bethesda campus," said Dahlia Levin, NCCF Director of Development and External Affairs. "These new supplies brought smiles to our youngest clients and the reassurance that they would start the school year off strong."

In addition, Sheryl B. Chapman, the Executive Director of NCCF, told BJC's SAC Chair Karen Levi that getting school supplies for the children residing at NCCF is difficult, and that our school supply drive is a great mitzvah.

NCCF is a residential facility on Greentree Road. If you're not familiar with NCCF, click here to go to their website. In short, "NCCF operates on four integrated pillars of service: community supports, education and training, volunteerism, and advocacy. Our programs provide comprehensive and tailored services offered with cultural humility that help children, youth, and families become confident and self-sufficient, leaving dependency, trauma, and poverty behind.

BJC's relationship with NCCF goes back decades, and we intend to support our neighbors for many years to come. To learn more about volunteering with NCCF, click here.

Thanks again to all who contributed so generously.



Manna Food Drive

Help us combat food insecurity during the High Holy Days

Blue Bins Located in Parking Lot Sept 14- Sept 26

Collection Bags available outside BJC office and at HHD services

List of Most Needed Items

Grains

- Instant oatmeal packets, original flavor
- Brown rice (16 oz)
- Whole grain pasta (16 oz)

Protein

- Tuna, Salmon or Chicken, in water
- · Dry or canned beans (low sodium)
- · Natural nut butters

Fruits & Vegetables

- · Canned vegetables (low-sodium)
- Canned fruit (in juice)
- Fruit cups

Other Healthy Items

- · Shelf-stable, individual milk boxes
- · Cooking oils & spices
- Infant formula & baby foods

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 September 2023

Israel Altschuler, father of Bernard Altschuler Trudie Tauscher Bohm, great aunt of Elizabeth Kirkpatrick Barbara Cahan, grandmother of Sandra Walter Grace Rein Cohen, mother of Susan Kraut Sydelle Cohen, mother of Donna Goldberg Solomon Dwork, father of Barry Dwork Toba Farb, mother of Warren Farb Isadore Frankford, father of Norma Stern Frank Gold, father of Judith Scott Allene Gordesky, mother of Joan G Kaufman Shirley Barancik Lang, mother of Diane Horn Harvey Levine, brother of Cheryl Bordy Louis Levine, father of Cheryl Bordy Anne Pelter, mother of Lance Pelter, grandmother of Jeremy Pelter Hannah Pelter, grandmother of Lance Pelter Shirley Poogach, mother of Robert Poogach Ruth Segal, mother of Paul Segel Fanny Stern, mother of Edward Stern

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

Ross Heller

Michael and Aliza Brachfeld

Jill Costa

Emma Ernst

Rebecca and Aaron Leavey

NACHAS NOTES

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

THANK YOUS Through August 30

DONATION GENERAL

Hal and Cheryl Bordy in Memory of the Yahrzeit of Pauline Levine

Peg and Burt Bachrach In Memory of Sana Shtasel

Shoshanah and Brian Drake in Honor of Peg and Burt Bachrach for all they do for our BJC community

Shoshanah and Brian Drake in Honor of Charlotte Berkof and how much she enhances BJC in so many ways!

Joan Kaufman and Louis Hecht in Honor of Rabbi Eric Abbott

Joan Kaufman and Louis Hecht in Honor of Maran Gluckstein

Alan and Geraldine Schechter

Howard Teitelbaum

Antoine and Emily Van Agtmael

AS GOOD AS WE GIVE

Lorrie Van Akkeren In Memory of the Yahrzeit of Kenny Mandeville

RABBI ERIC ABBOTT'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Peg and Burt Bachrach in Gratitude for the Torah Today discussions this year **Lorrie Van Akkeren**

MARAN GLUCKSTEIN EDUCATIONAL FUND

Marissa and Brian Gould

RABBI SUNNY'S LEGACY FUND

Lorrie Van Akkeren with gratitude for the beautiful, moving service and Shehecheyanu on Friday, July 21, 2023

(cont.)

THANK YOUS (CONT.)

THANK YOUS Through August 30

LIFECYCLE BOOK OF JOYS AND REMEMBRANCES

Hal and Cheryl Bordy
Bruce and Wynne Busman
Alan Dubin
Barry Dwork
Maran Gluckstein
Sam and Lauren Kline
Jim Korelitz and Liz Sloss
Karen Levi
Ruth Salinger
Edward and Norma Stern
Lorrie Van Akkeren



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

CALENDAR for SEPTEMBER 2023

Day	Date	Starting Time	EVENT
Friday	9/1	7:30 PM	Shabbat Services- Covenant Hall and Online
Wednesday	9/6	6:00 PM	Torah Today
		7:30 PM	BJC High Holy Days Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	9/7	11:00 AM	Programming Committee Meeting- Online
Friday	9/8	7:30 PM	Shabbat Services- Covenant Hall and Online
Saturday	9/9	10:30 AM	Shabbat Services- Covenant Hall and Online
		2:00 PM	Apple Picking at Homestead Farm
		5:00 PM	
			Requiem with Dinner
		8:30 PM	Selichot Service
Sunday	9/10	4:30 PM	Challah Bake
Wednesday	9/13	6:00 PM	Torah Today
		7:30 PM	BJC High Holy Days Choir Rehearsal
Friday	9/15	8:00 PM	Erev Rosh Hashanah Services- BHPC
			Sanctuary and Online
Saturday	9/16	10:00 AM	Rosh Hashanah Services- BHPC Sanctuary
			and Online
		12:45 PM	
		2:30 PM	,
Monday	9/18	7:00 PM	Ü
Wednesday	9/20	6:00 PM	Torah Today
		7:30 PM	
Thursday	9/21	11:00 AM	Programing Committee Meeting- Online
		7:00 PM	3
Friday	9/22	7:30 PM	
Saturday	9/23	9:00 AM	
		9:30 AM	•
G 1	0 /0 /	10:30 AM	
Sunday	9/24	8:00 PM	,
Monday	9/25	10:00 AM	Yom Kippur Services- BHPC Sanctuary and
		1.90 DN 4	Online Family Common Hall
		1:30 PM	l
		2:45 PM	
		4:00 PM	Musical Interlude- BHPC Sanctuary
	1		

Day	Date	Starting Time	EVENT
	-		
		5:00 PM	Reading of the Book of Jonah- BHPC
			Sanctuary and Online
			Yizkor and Neilah- BHPC Sanctuary and
		6:00 PM	Online
Wednesday	9/27	5:30 PM	Bach and Antisemitism (Washington Bach
			Consort Panel)- Covenant Hall
		7:00 PM	Torah Today
		8:00 PM	Book Club- Online
Thursday	9/28	7:00 PM	Mahjongg- Lounge
Friday	9/29	5:30 PM	Pizza in the Hut Dinner with Sukkot Services-
			Outside in the BJC Sukkah
Saturday	9/30	9:00 AM	Adult Hebrew Class- Lounge
		9:30 AM	BJC Religious School
		10:30 AM	Shabbat Services- Covenant Hall and Online