



# Bethesda Jewish Congregation News

Rabbi Elhanan 'Sunny' Schnitzer

August 2013

Av/Elul 5773

אב/אלול תשע"ג

Volume 48, Issue 11  
Monthly, Except July

## Kriat HaRav—The Call of the Rabbi

Rabbi Elhanan 'Sunny' Schnitzer

We will soon be in the month of Elul (August 7). And although we may be off at the beach or lazily dreaming in the heat of summer, come September 4, we're about to get a wake up call, the call of the shofar.

During the blowing of the shofar on Rosh Hashanah, notice there are three distinct sounds:

- Tekiah—one long, straight blast
- Shevarim—three medium, wailing sounds
- Teruah—9 quick blasts in short succession

Each of these Shofar sounds is designed to express one of the different themes of Rosh Hashanah.

The goal of the entire ten days of repentance, the Yamim Noraim, is to internalize that understanding so that it becomes a living, practical part of our everyday reality.

Tekiah—the long, straight shofar blast—is the sound of the King's coronation. In the Garden of Eden, Adam's first act was to proclaim God as King.

The first set of Shofar blasts are said to remind us that we are not in charge. There is another Sovereign in the universe. The first section of the Shofar service is entitled Malchuyot—Kingship for this reason.

We acknowledge the power to crown something other than ourselves, outside of ourselves, as king, to acknowledge that all too often we human beings are egocentric, filled with conceit and hubris.

From this we learn that it isn't enough that we acknowledge the limits on our power, and achieve a moment of humility. We must also share this understanding with others because we care

deeply for them as God did for Adam.

Shevarim—When we think about the year gone by, we know deep down that we've failed to live up to our full potential. In the coming year, we yearn not to waste that opportunity ever again. The Kabbalists say that Shevarim—three medium, wailing blasts—is the sobbing cry of a Jewish heart—yearning to connect, to grow, to achieve.

Every person has the ability to change and be great. This can be accomplished much faster than you ever dreamed of. Don't let yourself be constrained by the past. You know you have enormous potential.

At the moment the shofar is blown, we cry out from the depths of our soul. This is the moment when we can truly let go.

Teruah—On Rosh Hashanah, we need to wake up and be honest and objective about our lives: Who we are, where we've been, and which direction we're headed. The Teruah sound resembles an alarm clock, arousing us

*Continued on page 2*

### BJC News

Bethesda Jewish Congregation  
6601 Bradley Boulevard  
Bethesda, MD 20817-3042  
Tel: 301-469-8636  
Fax: 301-469-9529  
www.bethesdajewish.org  
admin@bethesdajewish.org



### In this issue...

Kriat HaRav—The Call of the Rabbi .....	1
The President's Column .....	2
Interim Director of Education .....	2
From the Rabbi .....	3
Congregation News .....	4
Calendar .....	6

(Continued from page 1)

from our spiritual slumber. The shofar brings clarity, alertness, and focus.

The Talmud says: "When there's judgment from below, there's no need for judgment from above." What this means is that if we take the time to construct a sincere, realistic model of how we've fallen short in the past, and what we expect to change in the future, we won't need to "wake up" to what we already know.

The reason we lose touch and make mistakes is because we don't take the time often enough to reconnect with our deepest desires and essence. The solution is to spend time alone everyday, asking: Am I on track? Am I focused? Am I pursuing goals which will make the greatest overall difference in my life and in the world?

This is the task of this month of Elul. Make it a habit to get in touch with yourself. Take the time to meditate, pray, or take a silent walk at the beach or in the forest, and when Rosh Hashanah comes around, the alarm clock of the shofar won't be nearly as jarring!

## The President's Column

Joan Wolfe

### Be a BJC Hero

Before I say anything about my presidency, let me just say a few words about our Past President, Bruce Busman. Throughout his term, Bruce was overly humble and like any great leader, deflected most of the praise to those around him—though it is true that Bruce was blessed with an extraordinarily talented group of Board members! His multi-year (and continuing) commitment to BJC is unrelenting and we owe him a debt of gratitude.

As for me, I am honored that you have given me the privilege of serving

as your President. BJC is an important part of my life and my children's lives. I commit to you that I will communicate, lead by example, provide feedback and close the loop with acknowledgement, remember the big picture and foster an environment of growth. My focus, along with a fabulous and energetic Board, is on our congregation's best interests. To that end, I will be counting on all of you to keep our membership thriving and growing.

"I need a good dentist. Got one?" When you have one, aren't you always excited to share that name? Share BJC, too! We need new members. Always. Haven't you run into someone who says, "We're here at BJC because of the So-and-So-Steins!" Be a BJC hero and bring people into our wonderful, musical, supportive, spiritual and special midst.

To our future heros!



## Director of Education

Mindy Silverstein

I just came back from an amazing two week vacation. My husband and I drove to Mt. Rushmore in South Dakota and made many stops along

the way. One stop was to Cleveland's Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame where I learned I could still buy a Bobby Sherman CD for \$14.99. (I have pictures.) We then went to Chicago where we took an architectural boat tour of the city and where I had my first taste of deep dish

pizza. (I have pictures of that as well.)

We then continued onto Madison, Wisconsin, (gorgeous campus—have pictures), Mitchell, South Dakota—home of the Corn Palace (pictures), and finally to South Dakota.

To get to Mt. Rushmore, drivers are given the choice to continue on the main road or to take a detour to visit the Badlands. We opted for the detour and therefore, the Badlands. The only way to describe the Badlands was awesome. Not awesome in the way that people say, "That was an awesome meal," but awesome in the way that talks to one's soul.

After parking the car at the first scenic overlook, we walked as close as we could get to the guardrail and just stared at the site before us. The Badlands...the depth and range of color... the expanse of mountain range... the purity of being untouched by any signs of modern life...sharing that moment with others who also sensed that this was a very special experience...it was majestic. I truly felt as if I were looking at a gift from God—an awesome moment or what some would refer to as a spiritual moment.

As we continued to drive through the Park, I couldn't get enough of the scenery; the more I saw, the more I wanted to see. It was indeed an amazing experience.

As I share this story with friends, I'm asked two questions. Why was I so moved and what can I do to keep that feeling alive? I think the simple answer is that my husband and I were willing to take a detour; we were willing to experience something off the beaten path—we were ready. The second part of

the question is a bit harder to answer, but I think a partial answer for me is found through music, art, self-reflection, prayer and family relations.

As we move into the upcoming school year, please look for the detours which you can take. If you usually don't attend Shabbat services, or participate in Chant circle, or any other BJC activities, be open to attending them...it may be the detour which moves you.

### **Mark Your Calendar!**

#### ***First Day of Religious School:***

Saturday, September 7, 9 a.m. for all students (Pre K-7<sup>th</sup> Grade.) Thereafter, Grades 3-7 arrive at 9 a.m., while grades Pre K-2<sup>nd</sup> arrive at 10 a.m.

Dismissal for all grades is 12:15 p.m.

First day of Mid-Week School:  
Wednesday, September 11, 4:15-5:45 p.m. (Grades 4-7)

If you haven't sent in your registration materials, please do so. You can find them on our website.

Continue checking your e-mail for school information and updates.

## From the Rabbi

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. This is particularly necessary now that the HIPAA regulations have made getting any kind of information from the hospitals

extremely difficult. I greatly appreciate your help in keeping me informed of the health needs of our congregation. Office Number: 301-469-8636, #3.

## Congregation News

### **Open Book Discussion: *Open Closed Open***

Please join us on August 28 to read poems by Yehuda Amichai from his collection, *Open Closed Open*. We will be reading these poems aloud to each other. Please come prepared to read one or more poems of your choosing. We meet at 8 p.m. in the Library. Drop-ins and new members are always welcome. Contact Evelyn Ganzglass, 202-966-7037 or Ruth Rosenberg, 703-560-9525 for information.

### **Dedication of New Ner Tamid and Selichot 5773**

This summer BJC installed a new solar powered Ner Tamid (Eternal Light). The solar powered system, with a rechargeable battery back-

up, will insure that our Eternal Light never goes out rain or shine. It is a powerful symbol of our commitment to sustainability and to repair of our world (Tikun Olam).

On Saturday, August 31 at 9 p.m. in the Covenant Hall, we will observe a formal dedication for our new light, created by glass artist David Klass, followed by a showing of "Jews and

*Continued on page 4*

(Continued from page 3)

Baseball.”

Did you know that Lipman E. (Lip) Pike became baseball’s first professional in 1866 when he played third base for the Philadelphia Athletics? He went on to be the batting champion in the first three years of the new National League from 1876–79. This delightful documentary chronicles the history of Jewish Americans in the national pastime.

The film will be followed by dessert and a Selichot service.

The final hour of the Shabbat before Rosh HaShannah was deemed by our rabbis to be a time of special power. Around the world Jews gather at midnight to begin the process of repentance with special prayers and songs. Join us and experience the “hush at midnight.”

## High Holiday Schedule

Saturday, Aug. 31

9:00 p.m. Selichot Program and Service

Wednesday, Sept. 4

8:00 p.m. Erev Rosh Hashanah Service

Thursday, Sept. 5

10:00 a.m. Rosh Hashanah Service  
1:30 p.m. Family Service for All Ages  
3:30 p.m. Tashlich—Cabin John Park

Friday, Sept. 13

8:00 p.m. Kol Nidre

Saturday, Sept. 14

10:00 a.m. Yom Kippur Service  
1:30 p.m. Family Service for All Ages  
2:30 p.m. Discussion with the Rabbi  
3:30 p.m. Musical Interlude  
3:30 p.m. Chant Circle  
5:00 p.m. Reading of the Book of Jonah  
5:30 p.m. Yizkor and Neilah

2. Habitat Unity Build—We need more volunteers for our Unity Build in the Maple Hill Townhome community at 9000 Emory Grove Rd, Gaithersburg: August 18, September 8, Oct. 6, Nov. 3, Dec. 1, Jan. 5. We also need folks to help out in other ways—e.g., providing food/drinks for volunteers, or making a contribution to the Unity Build
3. Meetcha Mocha Cafe
4. Christian–Jewish–Muslim Women’s group—All events are at people’s homes at a time and place of their choosing. Looking to grow this group, so please let us know if you would like to be involved
5. Christian–Jewish–Muslim Potluck Dinners—These informal events are roughly on an annual basis (date/time to be discussed)
6. Gun Control/Violence—Join our members interested in effecting the gun control/violence issues in our country
7. Thanksgiving and Brunch—Sunday, November 17: Organization has begun so please let us know if you can help—the more the merrier
8. Attention all Cooks and Bakers—We would like to have more folks available for pot-luck events throughout the year, so please send your name and specialty in order for us to keep this important list

We want to hear of your interest and ideas, so please send a note to [BJC\\_volunteer@bethesda.jewish.org](mailto:BJC_volunteer@bethesda.jewish.org).

### What Have Our 7<sup>th</sup> Graders Been Learning?

Those of us who do not have children in the religious school may not be aware of the wonderful curriculum. The following is an edited letter from teachers sent to the parents of last school year’s 7<sup>th</sup> graders, as a recap of their learning. (Editor)

Thank you very much for letting us teach your children this year in our 7<sup>th</sup> grade class, “Israel: Homeland, People and Teachings through a Historical Lens.” We have sought to provide them some understanding of the broad sweep of the history of the Jewish people and Judaism from the very beginning to present day Israel.

We’ve been particularly interested in: how Jews have creatively adapted to the threats and challenges they’ve faced over 3,000 years to be able to survive to this day; the evolution of the State of Israel and Jews’ return from 2,000 years of diaspora; political, religious and cultural aspects of life in Israel today; and the

### Social Action—In Search of Congregants to Join Us!

#### Ways to Get Involved

1. Stepping Stones Shelter—Cook dinner for families in transition; 4:30-6 p.m. on a Monday or Tuesday (always the third week of the month)

history and nature of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and possible ways to make peace.

We began with Judaism's universal foundational principles in the Torah, including one God, the brotherhood of all human beings under one creator, God's covenant with Abraham and the Golden Rule. Then, we looked at the period when the Jewish people originally lived in Israel—the united and divided kingdoms, the Assyrian, Babylonian, and Persian conquests and the destruction of the 1<sup>st</sup> Temple, 586 BCE. We studied the evolution of Rabbinic and synagogue-based Judaism.

Then, we looked at Christianity as an outgrowth of Judaism, similarities and differences between Islam and Judaism, and the Golden Age of Jews in Spain in the early Middle Ages.

We looked at the diaspora/dispersion of Jews into Europe, North Africa, South America and Asia. We saw various forms of religious discrimination and persecution of Jews in Europe, often promoted by the Catholic Church, over hundreds of years. But we also saw how some communities were much more welcoming to the Jews than others, allowing them fuller rights and more opportunity to integrate with the local society.

The Dreyfus Affair in France captured the world's attention with the rabid anti-Semitism it aroused. It gave rise to Theodore Herzl and the birth of Zionism—the aspiration to establish a homeland for the Jewish people in Palestine—at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In the last two months, the course focused on various aspects of the political, religious, cultural and educational life of modern Israel.

Finally, we were very lucky to have had three outstanding outside experts speak exclusively with our class.

Gary Ratner, Renee Asher, Ken Fine and Mark Blumberg

**Last Call For BJC Cuba Mission 2013  
(This May be the Last Mission for a While)  
November 5-14, 2013**

Make Your Reservations Now!

Cost: \$3495 per person, double occupancy  
(Single Supplement \$200 - Non BJC Members Additional \$100)

Plus: Cuba Departure tax \$25 (Cash Only)

Cost Includes:

- Flights Miami—Havana / Camaguey—Miami
- Hotel 9 Nights (Miami, Havana, Cienfuegos, Sancti Spiritus, Camaguey)
- All breakfasts and lunches, and four dinners; air conditioned motor coach; full time guide/translator; Cuban visas; Miami departure taxes

To register or for additional information contact Rabbi Sunny Schnitzer ([rabbi@bethesdajewish.org](mailto:rabbi@bethesdajewish.org)) or Roz Young ([admin@bethesdajewish.org](mailto:admin@bethesdajewish.org))

**Yahrzeits**

יארצייט

Pearl Aronson, Mother of Joel Aronson  
Jack Barsky, Brother of Lisa Strauss  
Lucille Cifarelli, Mother of Mike Cifarelli  
Adrian Curtis, Sister of Richard Fogel  
Lester Frank, Uncle of Roz Young  
Isadore Frankford, Father of Norma Stern  
Frank Gold, Father of Judy Scott  
Morris Jacob Heller, Father of Carie Schaefer  
Isadore Kornfield, Father of Judy Folsom  
Sherri C. Kost, Mother of Amy Kost  
Corey H. Rose, Brother of Stacey Rose-Blass  
Charles Salkind, Father of Dee Aronson  
Norman Samuelson, Father of Doug Samuelson  
Jack Silberman, Father of Paul Silberman  
Lillian Rosenberg Silbert, Mother of Earl Silbert  
Daniel Aaron Sotnick, Son of Cliff Sotnick  
Fanny Stern, Mother of Ed Stern  
Nathan Sanders Wall, Husband of Charlotte Wall-Bluestone  
Joseph Weiss, Father of David Weiss

**Thank you**

תודה רבה

Dee and Joel Aronson for their generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of the Yahrzeit of Dee's mother, Sadie H. Salkind.

Burt Bachrach for his generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund as a thank you for teaching the Judaism 101 class.

Burt Bachrach for his generous donation to the Maran Gluckstein Family Education Fund in honor of Maran's teaching of Adult Hebrew.

Abraham and Lenore Bressler for their generous donation in memory of Peter Feldman.

Bruce and Wynne Busman for their generous donation in memory of Peter Feldman.

Annie and Mike Cifarelli for their generous donation in memory of Peter Feldman.

David Cooper and Amy Scott for their generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of their son, Gabriel's Bar Mitzvah.

*Continued on page 7*



# August 2013 Calendar



Day	Date	Time	Event	Location
Wednesday	July 31	6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Adult Hebrew Kemach and Tanach	Covenant Hall Lounge
Friday	Aug. 2	8:00 p.m.	Shabbat Service	Covenant Hall
Wednesday	Aug. 7	6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Adult Hebrew Kemach and Tanach	Covenant Hall Lounge
Thursday	Aug. 8	7:30 p.m.	BJC Board of Directors Meeting	Lounge
Friday	Aug. 9	6:30 p.m.	Service of Meditation	Covenant Hall
Wednesday	Aug. 14	6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Adult Hebrew Kemach and Tanach	Covenant Hall Lounge
Friday	Aug. 16	8:00 p.m.	Shabbat Service	Covenant Hall
Wednesday	Aug. 21	6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Adult Hebrew Kemach and Tanach	Covenant Hall Lounge
Friday	Aug. 23	8:00 p.m.	Shabbat Service	Covenant Hall
Wednesday	Aug. 28	6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Adult Hebrew Kemach and Tanach BJC Book Club	Covenant Hall Lounge Covenant Hall
Friday	Aug. 30	8:00 p.m.	Shabbat Service	Covenant Hall
Saturday	Aug. 31	9:00 p.m.	Selichot Program and Service	Covenant Hall
Wednesday	Sept. 4	8:00 p.m.	Erev Rosh HaShanah Service	Sanctuary
Thursday	Sept. 5	10:00 a.m. 1:30 p.m. 3:30 p.m.	Rosh HaShanah Service Rosh HaShanah Family Service for All Ages Tashlich	Sanctuary Sanctuary Cabin John Park
Friday	Sept. 6	8:00 p.m.	Shabbat Service—Pulpit Exchange—Dr. Rev. David Gray	Covenant Hall
Saturday	Sept. 7	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Adult Hebrew <i>First Day of Religious School for Everyone</i> Shabbat Worship	Lounge Memorial Hall Covenant Hall
Sunday	Sept. 8	1:30 p.m.	9/11 Unity Walk	Embassy Row

For the latest updates and weekly E-news, please refer to the BJC website.



(Continued from page 5)

Ed Elson for his generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund.

Al and Judy Folsom for their generous donation in honor of the Yahrzeit of Judy's mother, Ida Kornfield.

Martin and Evelyn Ganzglass for their generous donation to the Social Action Fund for the Stop Hunger Project.

Lisa Ginns for her generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of her daughter, April's Bat Mitzvah.

Nancy Glassman for her generous donation to the Maran Gluckstein Family Education Fund as a thank you for teaching Adult Hebrew.

Allan and Anne Gold for their generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of the Yahrzeit of Allan's grandfather, Abraham Kaplan.

Todd and Melissa Keller for their generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of their daughter, Sadie's Bat Mitzvah.

Daniel Koffsky and Paul Koffsky for their generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund as a thank you to the Rabbi for presiding at the unveiling for their mother Louise Koffsky.

Sheila Kremer for her generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund as a thank you to the Rabbi and in memory of her mother, Frieda Levin.

Donald and Patricia McCue for their generous donation in memory of Peter Feldman.

Stephen and Susan Miller for their generous donation in memory of Peter Feldman.

Herbert and Nancy Milstein for their generous donation.

David and Lottie Mosher for their generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of the B'Nai Mitzvah of their grandchildren, Emma Ostefeld and Elijah Mosher.

Allyson Mosher and Sven Ostefeld for their generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of their daughter, Emma's Bat Mitzvah.

Evelyn Rabin for her generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of the Yahrzeit of her husband, Harvey Rabin.

Mike and Cheryl Richman for their generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of their daughter, Brooke's Bat Mitzvah.

Judy Scott for her generous donation to the Cuba Fund in honor of the Yahrzeit of her mother, Sonia Gold.

David and Judy Scott for their generous donation to the Cuba Fund.

Marvin and Ellen Sirkis for their generous donation in honor of the Folsom's wedding anniversary.

David Slacter for his generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of his daughter, Annie's engagement to Joe Schlingbaum.

Stuart and Robin Sorkin for their generous donation to the Cuba Fund in memory of Peter Feldman.

Marilyn Susskind for her generous donation in memory of Peter Feldman.

Steve Toll for his generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund for his compassion and understanding at the unveiling for Lolly Toll.

Lorrie Van Akkeren for her generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of Bruce Busman completing his term as President of BJC.

Lorrie Van Akkeren for her generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund.

**For their generous donation to Enhancing the Flame**

Herbert and Aleen Chabot

Stacey Rose-Blass

Stephen Turow and Linda Blumberg

Lorrie Van Akkeren



**Besta Pizza**

**Ibrahima Diallo**  
Manager

Tel: (301) 657-1114

Cell: (240) 498-4026

Fax: (301) 657-3577

Web Site: [www.mybestapizza.com](http://www.mybestapizza.com)

Email: [info@mvbestapizza.com](mailto:info@mvbestapizza.com)



6601 Bradley Boulevard  
Bethesda, MD 20817-3042

*Return Service Requested*

*Printed on Recycled Paper*

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Bethesda MD  
Permit # 1529

**Board of Trustees**

President	Joan Wolf
Vice-President	Rachel Mosher Williams
Treasurer	Alan Dubin
Secretary	Lorrie Van Akkeren
Trustees	Don Brenits
	Shoshanah Drake
	Dan Goldberg
	Russ Hogya
	Elizabeth Kirkpatrick
	Martha Schrenk

**Committee Chairs**

Marketing/Membership Programs	Robin Sorkin
Social Action	Marlene Zarkai
Education	Ruth Magin
High Holy Days	Sharon Curry
Past President	Warren Farb
Intercongregational Partnership	Bruce Busman
	Elise Yousoufian

**BJC Administration**

Spiritual Leader	Rabbi Sunny Schnitzer
Director of Education	Mindy Silverstein
Executive Director	Roz Young

**Newsletter Editor: Anita Farb—[anita.farb@gmail.com](mailto:anita.farb@gmail.com)**

**Design Layout and Desktop Publishing:  
Yvonne Bryant—[ly\\_bryant@verizon.net](mailto:ly_bryant@verizon.net)**

The deadline for submitting articles for the September newsletter is August 2. Please email your article in an MS Word attachment.

**Put your ad in the BJC Newsletter**

To place your card or other-sized ad in the September newsletter, mail it to the BJC office with your check made payable to BJC. Deadline: August 2. Rate structure for a business card: \$30.00 per month, 3-month minimum. Rates are slightly higher for cards that are not camera-ready art.