



# Bethesda Jewish Congregation News

Rabbi Elhanan 'Sunny' Schnitzer

January 2014

Tevet/Sh'vat 5774

תבת/שבט תשע"ד

Volume 49, Issue 4  
Monthly, Except July

## Kriat HaRav—The Call of the Rabbi

Rabbi Elhanan 'Sunny' Schnitzer

### A Story by Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav

A certain king built himself a palace and summoned two men to decorate it for him. The king divided the palace into two parts, putting one man in charge of one half and the second in charge of the other. The king set a time limit within which they had to complete their work.

The two men went off. One of them struggled hard to teach himself the art of painting and plastering as best as he possibly could, and he did so well that he was able to paint his part of the palace with very beautiful and highly unusual murals of animals and birds and the like. Everything was executed with wondrous beauty.

However, the second man paid no attention to the king's command and did nothing whatsoever about it. As the date for the completion of the work approached, the first man had already finished his side in all its beauty and wonder. The second man then began to look at himself and ask what he had done! He had wasted his time on futility and nothingness without giving a thought to the king's instructions.

He tried to think what to do. He realized that in the few days left before the time expired, it would be impossible even to teach himself to paint let alone actually paint his part of the palace. The closing date was almost upon them. But he had an idea. He plastered his entire portion with a kind of shiny tar. He plastered this dark tar over his entire section, and the tar was like a mirror: it reflected everything, just like a mirror. He then hung a curtain in front of his section to act as a partition between it and that of the other man.

When the appointed time came, the king went to inspect the work the men had done in the allotted time. He examined the first side with its amazingly beautiful paintings executed with exceptional skill. However, the other side was covered with a curtain, behind which everything was dark: nothing whatsoever was visible.

Then the second man stood up and drew aside the curtain. The sun was shining, and because of the tar, which reflected everything like a mirror, all those remarkable paintings were visible on his side too. All the painted birds and other wondrous forms painted in the first man's side could be seen in the second man's side as well.

Everything the king had seen in the first man's section he also saw in this man's section. Not only that, but even all the precious objects and furnishings which the king had brought into the palace were all visible in the second man's side as well. This found favor in the eyes of the king.

*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](http://www.bethesdajewish.org)  
[admin@bethesdajewish.org](mailto:admin@bethesdajewish.org)



Torah Crown

### 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 .....	3
Community News .....	5
Calendar .....	6

(Continued from page 1)

How would you interpret the meaning of this tale? Please feel free to write to me with your thoughts and

share this story with friends. I will share my interpretation next month.

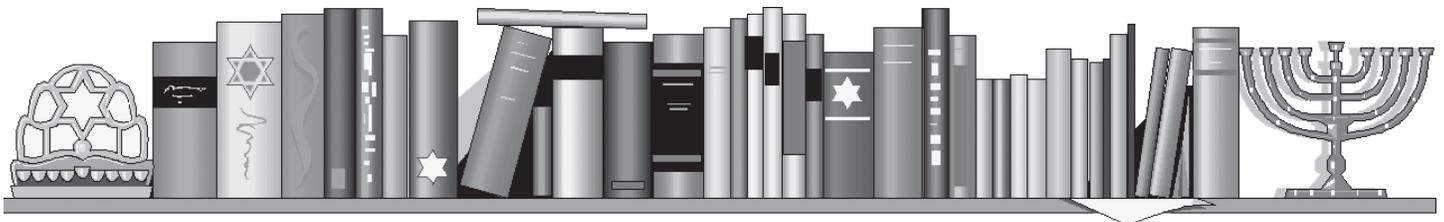
## The President's Column

Joan Wolf

### Meet BJC Trustees Dan Goldberg and Elizabeth Kirkpatrick

Both Dan and Elizabeth are originally from NYC, though he moved to Massachusetts and she moved to Connecticut. Dan went to Stevens Institute of Technology in New Jersey (he loves New Jersey!) and Elizabeth attended American University. While Elizabeth first notices people's eyes, Dan looks to see if they are happy. He loves the mountains and the farthest he has traveled is Kazakhstan. She loves the beach and has journeyed to Cambodia. Dan

reads magazines like the *New Yorker* and slate.com and Elizabeth is currently reading *The Invisible Bridge* (about a Hungarian family around WWII and a bridge in a labor camp, that is also about a metaphorical bridge between the different Jewish families). Favorite moments at BJC were special for both: Dan says that the top 'event' is meeting his wife, Donna. He adds that being part of the Purim Spiel with all the laughter and letting-your-hair-down-fun is also right at the top! Elizabeth remembers her daughter Rachel's Bat Mitzvah as a very special time and being a part of the Purim Spiel was also a favorite special event! Perhaps YOU should join in the fun? Next month's column: Where do your synagogue support funds go?



## Interim Director of Education

Mindy Silverstein

One of the values which threads its way through the BJC religious school is *g'milut chasadim*—deeds of compassion. Each month, one class is assigned to cook a meal or a side/dessert, depending on the age of the children. The food is taken to Stepping Stones, a temporary shelter for women and children, where approximately 25 residents enjoy the meal. So far, Pura's class made brownies, and both Marina's and Tamar's class made apricot chicken. Not only do the students

increase their comfort level in a kitchen, learn a bit about kashrut, but they also learn that we have a responsibility to perform acts of *g'milut chasadim*, to make the world a better and holier place.

Another way in which the students practice *g'milut chasadim* is by the weekly contribution of *tzedakah*. Each time the students meet, the *tzedakah* box is passed around and the children contribute what they can comfortably afford. This year, all the money being collected is going to Stop Hunger Now.

### Stop Hunger Now

Stop Hunger Now is an international hunger relief agency that has been fulfilling its commitment to end hunger for more than 15 years. Since 1998, the organization has coordi-

nated the distribution of food and other lifesaving aid to children and families in countries all over the world. Stop Hunger Now is a meal packaging program which combines rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables and a flavoring mix into small meal packets.

On Saturday, March 8, 2014, from 10 a.m.-Noon, BJC and Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church are once again teaming up to bring the Stop Hunger Now organization to our site. Each meal costs only 25 cents and our goal is to package at least 10,000 meals. All the Religious School, Saturday School and Tichon students will be participating in this activity. All BJC members are invited to participate as well. Additionally, we

are looking for financial contributions to help offset the cost of the meals. If you are able to help, please contact Mindy at [eddirect@bethesda-jewish.org](mailto:eddirect@bethesda-jewish.org). All help and financial contributions are greatly appreciated.

(Adapted from [stophunger.org/mission-history](http://stophunger.org/mission-history))

## From the Rabbi

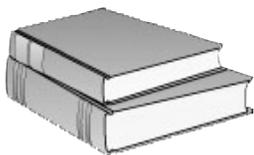
Please be in touch with me in times of joy, sadness or illness in your life or in the lives of a loved one or another member of the congregation. This is particularly necessary now that the HIPAA regulations have made getting any kind of information from the hospitals extremely difficult. I greatly appreciate your help in keeping me

informed of the health needs of our congregation. Office Number: 301-469-8636, #3.

## Congregation News

### Open Book Discussion: *My Promised Land*

Please join us on Jan. 22 to discuss *My Promised Land, The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel* by Ari Shavit. In the book, Shavit, a well-known Israeli journalist, tells a deeply personal narrative history of the State of Israel. He asks difficult, but important questions as he examines the complexities and contradictions of the Israeli condition. 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 more information.

### Family Shabbat Dinner

Join us for our Family Shabbat Service on Friday, Jan. 31 at 6:30 p.m. followed by a Pot Luck Shabbat Dinner. All students will have a part in the service.

The cost of the dinner is \$8 per person, children under 5 are free. BJC furnishes the main dish. We ask that families whose last names begin with A-N bring a salad or side dish for 6 and families whose last names begin with O-Z bring a dessert for 6. RSVP to the BJC office by Jan. 28.

### CE21—Conversations

Obviously, some of you have a lot on your minds. Our CE21 Congregational Conversations brought out the Jewish wish lists many of you

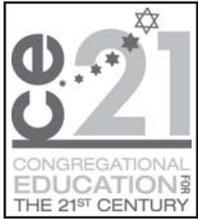
didn't even know you had. It was so great to see our community come together in so many different ways to talk about learning and BJC. And there was the added benefit of getting to know some new people.

In our first congregational conversation, we had brand new members meeting with some of BJC's longest-standing members. We shared history, our most memorable Jewish learning experiences, and the kinds of programming and unusual learning opportunities we'd like to see in the future. For example, someone suggested using cooking together to learn about the times and the culture related to specific recipes.

In another conversation, for once some of us drove over the river—in the other direction—to meet with our many congregational

*Continued on page 4*

friends who live in Northern Virginia. It was a different dynamic, but a no less robust conversation about hopes, dreams, and visions for BJC and the future, as well as thinking about Jewish learning outside of a classroom. What would you think about going on a family hike, picnicking, and then spending a little time studying some Jewish text?



The ideas we mine from these conversations are going to help the CE 21 Task Force chart the path forward for our congregation. We know you have opinions, but if you don't share them and give us your feedback and ideas, we'll never know what's important to YOU.

Starting to feel sorry you missed a conversation? Stay tuned, we're going to try and have another session or two this month for those of you who wanted to come in December, but couldn't.

As always, if you have a question about CE21, want to know more, or get involved, just get in touch. [CE21bjc@gmail.com](mailto:CE21bjc@gmail.com), 301-469-8636.

Harri j. Kramer, Chair, Leadership Team

### **American Red Cross Blood Drive at BJC**

On Saturday, Feb. 1, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., BJC will host a blood drive for the American Red Cross. Please consider donating to help someone in need. The process takes about one hour. We also need volunteers to register donors and to provide refreshments. Student volunteers qualify for Montgomery County SSL credit. To make an appointment to donate and/or you are willing to volunteer, contact Roz Young, [admin@bethesdajewish.org](mailto:admin@bethesdajewish.org). For more information, visit [www.redcrossblood.org/donating-blood](http://www.redcrossblood.org/donating-blood).

### **Modern Jewish History with Rabbi Schnitzer**

On February 5, 12, 19, & 26, 2014 from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., there will be a continuation of last year's very popular Judaism 101 class. In this four session course we will take a look at Jewish history in the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, & 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Judaism and the Jewish people have changed radically in the last 300 years from the Haskallah (the Jewish Enlightenment) to the American Jewish experience, the Shoah, and the end of a 2000 year exile from the Jewish homeland of Israel.

Syllabus and materials will be provided to all students. Advance registration is preferred. Please call the BJC office at 301-469-8636.

### **In Search of Volunteers**

Have a spare hour or two to join in more BJC activi-

ties? We are always looking for volunteers/participants for all of our events. We want to hear of your interest and ideas, so please send a note to [BJCVolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:BJCVolunteer@gmail.com). All are welcome!

- *Habitat for Humanity Build* @the Maple Hill Townhome community: Jan. 5, 2014 and other future dates. If not building, you can help out by providing food and drinks for volunteers, etc.
- *Stepping Stones Shelter*—Cook dinner for families in transition once monthly on a Monday or Tuesday evening (always the third week of the month) from 4:30pm-6 p.m.
- *Meetcha Mocha Cafe* is back and open every Saturday morning when Religious School is held! Speakers on various topics will be there on the second Saturday of every month. We need volunteers to donate and set-up breakfast foods between 8-9 a.m.
- *Fellow Gardeners Unite*—Fight weeds around our building! No meetings, just pull weeds during the growing season to avoid a jungle in the fall. Join our weed-fighting corps!
- *Red Cross Blood Drive*—9 a.m. start, Saturday, Feb 1, 2014
- *Stop Hunger Now* and other activities at BJC—Saturday, March 8, 9 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
- *Rally for Darfur at Sudanese Embassy*—April 27, 2014

### **Yahrzeits**

יארצייט

Barry Aronson, Husband of Debra Aronson  
Esther Bachrach, Mother of Burt Bachrach  
Amy Lynn Barsky, Sister of Lisa Strauss  
Elisha Barsky, Father of Lisa Strauss  
Edward Baum, Father of Bruce Baum  
Harold Bernard, Brother of Cathy Bernard  
Norma Bernard, Mother of Cathy Bernard  
Herbert Cahan, Grandfather of Sandra Walter  
Margaret Campiglia, Mother of John Camp  
Meyer Chabot, Father of Herb Chabot  
Charles Coplan, Father of Lois Rose  
Billie Evey, Mother of Bunny Roufa  
Cecelia Folsom, Mother of Al Folsom  
Mordecai Frank, Father of Stuart Frank  
Diane Goldberg, Mother of Madeline Killefer  
Ida Goldstein, Mother of Lorrie Van Akkeren  
Georg Gluckstein, Father of Fritz Gluckstein  
Edward Kerwin, Father of Aleen Chabot  
Bernice Kramer, Mother of Harri Kramer  
Nathan Kramer, Uncle of Harri Kramer  
Ann Leister, Grandmother of Joy Gold

Walter Levine, Father of Meryl Simon  
Morton Peterson, Father of Jon Peterson  
Benjamin Rouse, Husband of Bunny Roufa  
Abraham Sherman, Grandfather of Harri Kramer  
Freeman Smith, Father of Candace Smith  
William Abbe Sternfeld, Father of Eliot Sternfeld  
Louis Spector, Father of Judy Fried  
Ann Umans, Mother of Dorothy Umans

### **Thank You**

### **תודה רבה**

Diane Blumenthal for her generous donation in honor of the Yahrzeit of her father, Herbert Blumenthal.

Annie and Mike Cifarelli for their generous donation to the Education Fund for Stop Hunger at in honor of Roz's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with BJC.

Neil and Gabrielle Ditcheck for their generous donation in honor of Roz's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with BJC.

Diana Fooksman for her generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of her wedding.

Martin Freeman for his generous in honor of Roz's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with BJC.

Eric and Patricia Friedman for their generous donation in honor of Roz's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with BJC.

Israel and Elise Gotay for their generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund.

Mark and Lauren Greenstein for their generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of their daughter, Mei Mei's Bat Mitzvah.

Warren and Naomi Lichtenberg for their generous donation in honor of Roz's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with BJC.

David and Judy Scott for their generous donation in honor of Roz's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with BJC.

Robin Sorkin for her generous donation in honor of Roz's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with BJC.

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

### **For Their Generous Donation to Enhancing the Flame**

Lorrie Van Akkeren

## Community News

### **Joint Thanksgiving Service—The Earthly and the Spiritual**

"How to be spiritual in a secular world" was the theme of this year's joint Thanksgiving service on Nov. 17 at BJC-Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church (BHPC), co-led by the head clergy of BJC, BHPC, and the Idara-e-Jaferia Islamic Center (Shia Muslim), along with Hedieh Mirahmadi, founder of the International Cultural Center (Sufi Muslim). Rabbi Sunny Schnitzer, Rev. David Gray, and Imam Jalil Nawee read from the Torah, New Testament, and Quran. These three clergy, BHPC's associate pastor, Rev. Kori Phillips, and Dr. Mirahmadi shared their thoughts on the earthly and spiritual and invited all to wonder about it as well.

On the way to brunch from the main sanctuary, attendees gathered to assemble baskets of Thanksgiving foods for families served by the Anacostia Community Outreach Center in DC and the National Center for Children and Families in Bethesda.

The more than 150 who walked into Memorial Hall for the brunch beheld a room of green and

purple fresh-floral centerpieces, donated by Joan Weir. They were made for a party the night before and not at all with the morning's theme in mind, but as it turns out the colors fit. Green, sources say, symbolizes life, *humanity*; and purple, green's opposite, is "the color of people seeking spiritual fulfillment" ([crystalcure.com/green.html](http://crystalcure.com/green.html); *Dictionary of Symbols*, by Jean Chevalier and Alain Gheerbrant).

Thanks to all who joined and in many ways contributed to this year's Thanksgiving service and brunch. Cash offerings from the service went to the Interfaith Build project, in which BJC, BHPC, the Islamic Center and ICC participate. Habitat for Humanity Metro Maryland runs the project; HMMM's executive director, John Paukstis, spoke at the service. Brunch sales covered the catering costs for all, including members of Idara-e-Jaferia, who BJC and BHPC again this year invited as guests, as well as a group from the center in Anacostia. Many also brought dishes to share.



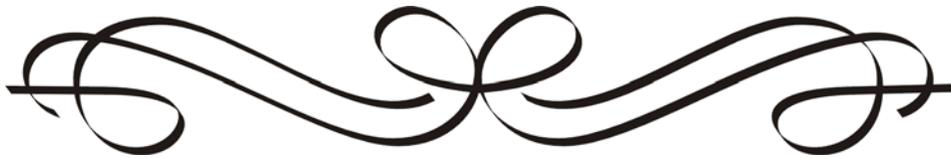
# January 2014 Calendar



Day	Date	Time	Event	Location
Friday	Dec 27	8:00 pm	Shabbat Service	Covenant Hall
Saturday	Dec 28	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	No Adult Hebrew No Religious School Shabbat Worship	Covenant Hall
Wednesday	Jan 1		BJC Office Closed No Religious School No Kemach and Tanach	
Friday	Jan 3	8:00 p.m.	N'tivim L'Shabbat—Music Service	Covenant Hall
Saturday	Jan 4	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Adult Hebrew Religious School Shabbat Worship	Lounge Classrooms Covenant Hall
Tuesday	Jan 7	6:30 p.m.	Tichon Class	Youth Lounge
Wednesday	Jan 8	4:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Religious School Kemach and Tanach	Classrooms Library
Thursday	Jan 9	7:30 p.m.	BJC Board of Directors Meeting	Lounge
Friday	Jan 10	6:30 p.m.	Service of Meditation	Covenant Hall
Saturday	Jan 11	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m.	Adult Hebrew Religious School Meetcha Mocha Café Discussion Shabbat Worship Class of 2016 B'Nai Mitzvah Meeting Chant Circle	Lounge Classrooms Rm 109 Covenant Hall Lounge Covenant Hall
Wednesday	Jan 15	4:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Religious School—Tu B'Shevat Seder w/Tichon Kemach and Tanach	Classrooms Library
Thursday	Jan 16		Tu B'Shevat	
Friday	Jan 17	8:00 p.m.	Simcha B'Shabbat All Music Service w/band	Covenant Hall
Saturday	Jan 18	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Adult Hebrew Religious School Shabbat Worship	Lounge Classrooms Covenant Hall
Tuesday	Jan 21	7:00 p.m.	Social Action Committee Meeting	Lounge
Wednesday	Jan 22	4:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Religious School Kemach and Tanach BJC Book Club— <i>My Promised Land</i> , <i>The Triumph and Tragedy of Israel</i>	Classrooms Library Library
Friday	Jan 24	8:00 p.m.	Shabbat Service	Covenant Hall
Saturday	Jan 25	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Adult Hebrew Religious School Shabbat Worship Class of 2014 Family B'Nai Mitzvah Class BJC's Booze and Shmooze Event	Lounge Classrooms Covenant Hall Lounge Memorial Hall

Tuesday	Jan 28	6:30 p.m.	Tichon Class	Youth Lounge
Wednesday	Jan 29	4:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Religious School Kemach and Tanach	Classrooms Library
Friday	Jan 31	6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Family Shabbat Service PotLuck Shabbat Dinner	Covenant Hall Memorial Hall
Saturday	Feb 1	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m.	Adult Hebrew Religious School Shabbat Worship Class of 2014 Family B'Nai Mitzvah Class	Lounge Classrooms Covenant Hall Lounge
Wednesday	Feb 5	4:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Religious School Kemach and Tanach Adult Ed-Modern Jewish History	Classrooms Lounge Lounge

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



# Bottom's Up BJC!



Warm hearts and rosy cheeks  
await at BJC's mid-Winter

## "Schmooze & Booze"

Come after dinner . . . join BJC's own Michael Schecter and Kevin Gleeson at this fun and informal *adults-only* gathering as they present a selection of wines and beers to taste, discuss and taste some more!

**Saturday, January 25th at 8:00 pm**

**\$25.00 per person**

**We'll name the official BJC House Wine & Beer!**

Wine & Beer Flights ♦ Gourmet Cheeses & Breads

Please RSVP by January 10th to Roz Young at 301.469.8636 or [admin@bethesdajewish.org](mailto:admin@bethesdajewish.org)



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

Vice-President

Treasurer

Secretary

Trustees

Joan Wolf

Rachel Mosher Williams

Alan Dubin

Lorrie Van Akkeren

Don Brenits

Shoshanah Drake

Dan Goldberg

Moses Hetfield

Russ Hogya

Elizabeth Kirkpatrick

Martha Schrenk

### **Committee Chairs**

Marketing/Membership

Programs

Social Action

Education

High Holy Days

Past President

Intercongregational Partnership

Robin Sorkin

Marlene Zarkai

Ruth Magin

Sharon Curry

Warren Farb

Bruce Busman

Elise Yousoufian

### **BJC Administration**

Spiritual Leader

Director of Education

Executive Director

Rabbi Sunny Schnitzer

Mindy Silverstein

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 February newsletter is January 4.  
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 February newsletter, mail it to the BJC office with your check made payable to BJC.  
Deadline: January 4. 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.