



Bethesda Jewish Congregation News

Rabbi Elhanan 'Sunny' Schnitzer

June/July 2014

Sivan/Tamuz/Av 5774

סיון/תמוז/אב תשע"ד

Volume 49, Issue 9
Monthly, Except July

Kriat HaRav—The Rabbi's Call

Rabbi Elhanan 'Sunny' Schnitzer

Last month California Clippers owner Donald Sterling was, in a private conversation, recorded making racist remarks to his girlfriend. He was not in a public forum. He was not giving an interview nor was he overheard at an NBA game. He was in the apartment of his girlfriend. He was in a private setting expressing his personal, albeit repugnant, opinion about African Americans.

He did not ban African Americans from attending Clippers games, playing on the team, or working for the team. Team policies do not seem to reflect his personal attitudes toward race. Yet, within a week of his remarks going public, the National Basketball Association informed him that he was banned from the game for life and must sell the team. There is no question that the disclosure of Sterling's heinous words was detrimental to the game. In an era where the NBA generates in excess of 5 billion dollars a year, anything that would cause fans to stay away from games, or advertisers to cancel sponsorships, is detrimental to the economic well-being of the league.

But lost in the cry for Sterling's head has been the question of his right to privacy.

If we're honest we know that people often make personal, hateful, or negative remarks about other people in private. We can and should legislate policies to promote racial and social equality and strive to create a society where race, religion, color, or sexual orientation do not impede full participation and enjoyment of everyone in the blessings of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. But have we crossed a line when we hold people responsible, not for their actions or public pronouncements, but for their most private thoughts? In an era of instant communication, the 24 hour news

cycle, blogospheres and twitterspheres, as well as massive government data collection of citizen communications, is personal privacy dead?

I share with you Judaism's teachings on personal privacy as taught by Rabbi David Golinkin of the Schechter Institute.

Proponents of the current, and heretofore unknown, massive invasion of privacy cite "national security" and "public's right to know." Yet there is no such "right" in Jewish law. On the contrary, in Judaism every human being has the right to privacy and confidentiality unless he or she specifically waives that right. According to Jewish law, disclosure of confidential information about anyone without the express permission of the person in question is forbidden. This conclusion is based on four prohibitions.

The Torah itself clearly shows great respect for visual privacy. In *Genesis 3:7*, we are told that Adam and Eve "perceived that they were naked and they sewed together fig leaves and made themselves loin cloths." Later on, in *Genesis 9:20-27*, we read the story of Noah who got drunk in his tent. Ham, father of Canaan, saw his father's nakedness and told his brothers Shem and Yefet, who took a cloth and walked backwards, covering Noah's nakedness without looking. When Noah woke up,

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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

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he cursed Canaan and blessed Shem and Yefet. Thus the Torah clearly indicates the importance of visual privacy and condemns those who violate this basic right.

In the Mishnah, this right to visual privacy gave birth to the concept of "*hezek r'iyah*" or damage caused by looking. The Mishnah in *Bava Batra* 3:7 states: "In a common courtyard, a person should not open a door opposite a door and a window opposite a window."

A second type of privacy protected by Jewish law is the privacy of one's domicile from unwanted or unannounced intruders. We learn in *Talmud* that "Rabbi Akiva commanded his son Yehoshua seven things: my son...do not enter your house suddenly, how much more so your friend's house." Also a *Midrash* states that one may not enter his friend's house without permission.

Protection from intruders also found legal expression regarding debtors and creditors. Even an officer of the court may not enter the debtor's house in order to take a pledge. Even a person with a very good reason may not invade another person's territorial privacy.

A third type of privacy protected by Jewish law is the privacy of one's mail, as defended by the *herem* (ban) of Rabbenu Gershom Me'or Hagolah. A rabbinic enactment attributed to him says that, "One should not read his friend's letter" and some versions add, "without his knowledge and without his permission."

Finally, there are sources that prohibit the disclosure of secrets or confidential information, or require the permission of the person in question before that information may be revealed.

Proverbs 11:13 says that: "A base fellow gives away secrets, but a trustworthy soul keeps a confidence." The Mishnah uses this verse to teach that judges are not permitted to reveal their deliberations after a verdict is reached. The Talmud adds to this a story about a student who revealed a secret from the House of Study twenty-two years after the fact. Rav Ami threw him out of the House of Study, saying: "This is a revealer of secrets!". We read in the Talmud "How do we know that when a person tells something to his friend, the latter may not repeat it until the person says to him 'go and say'? As it is written in Leviticus; 'And God spoke to [Moses] from the Tent of Meeting to say?'" Multiple rabbinic authorities have ruled from this that one may not reveal a confidence without the express permission of the confider.

We are in the dystopian future described by George Orwell in 1984, Our government will know, if it chooses, the contents of our e-mails and telephone calls. The media has decided that it has the right to share with the world our most intimate moments. It will be up to the American people to insist on our right to privacy enshrined in the Constitution and in Jewish tradition. We should be held responsible for our actions and public pronouncements, but not words shared in confidence with our intimates, or for our thoughts.

The President's Column

Joan Wolf

For The Times, They Are A-Changin'

BJC's Board of Trustees is a phenomenal group—they respectfully share opinions, participate in every possible event, class and service that their schedule permits and are committed to keeping the congregation's best interests at heart.

As my first year as President draws to a close, I look forward to the second year of my term. Other board members are currently completing their tenure and allowing for new additions. On

behalf of the entire congregation, I extend sincere thanks to Secretary Lorrie Van Akkeren for her detailed minutes and valued input. Additionally, a quintupled thank you goes to Treasurer-and-then-Trustee Don Brenits who served multiple terms and roles with deft precision and dedication. And finally, kudos to Youth Representative Moses Hetfield (Stanford-bound this fall!) for his active involvement and inimitable charm.

And, those changes create exciting enhancements to our board. Please congratulate and welcome Secretary Eileen Newman, Trustee Annie Cifarelli, Co-Education Chair Issie Resti and Youth Representative Rachel Kirkpatrick! I look toward the future with enthusiasm, promise and pride in our amazing community.



Director of Congregational Education

Mindy Silverstein

While driving to work one morning, I came across something I've never seen in over 35 years behind the wheel. Two emergency vehicles—one an ambulance and one a fire truck—came to the same intersection at the same time—both clearly on their way to two different emergencies. The ambulance needed to continue on Old Georgetown Road, while the fire engine needed to turn onto Democracy. The drivers of the cars knew to pull over to the side of the road in order to allow the emergency vehicles room to pass, but I was fascinated by the exchange between the fire truck and the ambulance. Who had the right of way?

Oddly enough, this started me thinking about a meeting I attended earlier in the week where one of my colleagues brought up the notion that Jewish values are not static ideas but rather, living and breathing principles which help guide our lives. Sometimes a situation calls for us to make one choice, and sometimes a situation asks us to make another. But each time we make a choice, it is because our principles and values led us there. And sometimes, the situation appears "grey," because our principles and values seem to conflict with each other.

For example, the value *Emet* means truthfulness and I believe most of us know what truthfulness entails. However, is there ever a time when one can be too truthful? Would you tell the truth to a friend, if it would embarrass him/her? Judaism teaches us the value of *Lo Levayesh*, do not embarrass. So which value is the correct one and how do we decide—which value has the right of way?

PS. In case you were wondering, the ambulance went first.

Thank You

A huge thank you to the Education Committee for their continuous support and guidance throughout the year.

Thank you to Sharon Curry, Issie Resti, Brian Trackman, Vickie Bailer and Karen Levy.

I'd also like to thank the parents who shopped for and helped run the various school programs, such as the Purim Carnival, Hanukkah

Celebration, Stop Hunger Now and the opening and closing day of school activities. Thank you to the parents who began the process of entering data into the computer of all resource materials owned by the school and thanks to the parents who drove and chaperoned field trips and who participated with their children in family education programs. And thank you parents for making the weekly commitment in bringing your children to our program. We couldn't do what we do without your help!

Registration Materials and First Week of School

Registration materials were sent electronically to all current students. If you haven't received your packet, you may either notify Mindy at eddirect@bethesdajewish.org or you may download it at: www.bethesda-jewish.org.

The first day of religious school for students in grades Pre K-7th is Saturday, September 6 at 9 a.m. The first day of school for our mid-week program, (4th-7th graders) is Wednesday, September 10 at 4:15 p.m.

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 in-

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

Congregation News

Join the Band!

Well actually, join the BJC High Holiday Choir!

Did you enjoy the music at last year's High Holidays? Did you look up at the choir and think wistfully, "Gee, I'd like to do that?" Well now, you can!

A vibrant and full sounding choir is a key part of creating for the congregation the spirit of the Days of Awe. It also can enrich the holiday experience of the singer as well. There is something deeply satisfying about leading worship through song. The BJC choir needs more voices. We welcome singers of all ages.

Rehearsals begin on July 16 and run through October 1. All rehearsals will be on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. No one makes every rehearsal, after all it is summer, but by the time September rolls around everyone is ready. Please call Rabbi Schnitzer if you would like to experience Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur from the inside.

Tikkun L'Eil Shavuot

It is a tradition on Erev Shavuot to stay up late and study Torah far into the night.

We may not study until dawn, as our ancestors did, but we will be up late to receive the revelation of Torah. We will join with the Rabbis, Hazzanim, learned teachers, and members of Adat Shalom on Tuesday, June 3 at 7 p.m. for an evening of study of all things Jewish. This event will take place at Adat Shalom, 7727 Persimmon Tree Lane, Bethesda, MD.

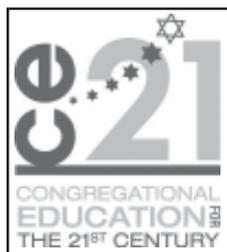
Open Book Discussion

Please consult weekly BJC e-letters for information on the book group's book selection for June 25 and July 23. 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.

CE—What's Going On?

Harri j. Kramer, chair
It's an exciting time for our Congregational Engagement for the 21st Century (CE21) initiative. At BJC,

we've been involved in CE21 for about a year and a half. What do we have to show for it? Aside from the obvious—our name tags and the launch of our speaker series—there are many other results. The most obvious has been the continued information and insights we are gleaning from our Congregational Conversations.



These comments and perspectives continue to frame our thinking about the future. It's also been great to see congregants who met each other at the conversations continuing to engage with each other at other BJC events or services.

What's next? The CE21 Task Force and its Design Team are currently working on taking all of the substantial input we've received and organizing it into a broad rubric that will shape our programming in the years ahead, with a particular focus on the coming year. We want to keep and expand what's working, but also explore new things, too, and to do so in a fashion that promotes ongoing learning and engagement.

What's wonderful about BJC is that we're all willing to try new things. Will they all be home runs? Probably not. But with each new foray, we explore and we learn. One of the critical elements in any new endeavor's success is participation. Please be part of the journey.

If you have thoughts, please let us know at CE21bjc@gmail.com or 301-469-8636.

Knitting and Crocheting Group

Attention all knitters and crocheters! The Homeless Children's Playtime Project is in need of baby blankets. If you are interested in working on this project at home, please contact Mindy for more details.

Save the Date

Plan to celebrate BJC's 50th Anniversary on November 8, 2014. Mark your calendars!

Yahrzeits

יארצייט

Correction to May Newsletter Yahrzeits:

Meyer and Pearl Dubrow, Father and Mother of David Walders

June Yahrzeits

Beatrice Barsky, Mother of Lisa Strauss
Henry Robert Bluestone, Husband of Charlotte Wall-Bluestone

George Borden, Father of Vicky Bailer
Betty Castleman, Mother of Mark Greenstein
Bernice Dubin, Mother of Alan Dubin
Janet Feldman, Mother of Lisa Ginns
Freda Goldman, Grandmother of Stacey Rose-Blass
Elliot W Himberg, Father of Harvey Himberg
Harry Jerome, Grandfather of Karen Jerome
Ida Kornfield, Mother of Judy Folsom
Joseph Laufer, Father of David Laufer

Manuel Patz, Father of Eileen Newman
 Linda Ratner, Wife of Richard Ratner
 Mozart Ratner, Father of Gary Ratner
 Doris Perlhefter Rauch, Aunt of Craig Winslow
 Ann Rosenberg, Mother of Lorraine Levin
 Herman Rosenweig, Father of Charles Rosenweig
 Beatrice Schwartz, Mother of Linda Baum
 Leona Silberman, Mother of Paul Silberman
 Charles Stern, Grandfather of Melissa Stern

July Yahrzeits

Roz Bogorad, Mother of Len Bogorad
 Shirley Cherenson, Mother of Ruth Magin
 Anna Fagen, Grandmother of Karen Jerome
 Maurice Folsom, Father of Al Folsom
 Hedwig Gluckstein, Mother of Fritz Gluckstein
 Irving Jacobs, Grandfather of Donna Goldberg
 Rena Jacobson, Mother of Annie Cifarelli
 Steven Kaufman, Husband of Lorraine Levin
 Harry Kramer, Grandfather of Harri Kramer
 Martha Kraus, Mother of Mitch Kraus
 Frank Kretz, Father of Jim Kretz
 Amanda Levy, Great-Aunt of Roz Young
 Anna Mermelstein, Mother of Marcia Loeb
 Judith Posner, Mother of Ted Posner
 Sara Schlacter, Mother of David Slacter
 Marla Schwartz, Sister of Linda Baum
 Coleman Silbert, Father of Earl Silbert
 Irving Turow, Grandfather of Stephen Turow
 Alex Weiss, Uncle of David Weiss
 Larry Young, Father of Roz Young

Thank You

תודה רבה

Clifford Atschull for his generous donation in memory of Milton Weinstein.
 Sandy and Linda Berman for their generous donation in memory of Milton Weinstein.
 Diane Blagman and Michael Botelho for their generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of the Yahrzeit of Diane's father, Jack Blagman.
 Hartman and Tara Blanchard for their generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Jackson.
 Maxine and Sylvan Diatz for their generous donation in memory of Milton Weinstein.
 Rhona and Charles Fink for their generous donation in memory of Milton Weinstein.
 Jonathan and Betsey Hudis for their generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Justin.
 Alan Kirschner and Zhongchi Liu for their generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor

of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Matthew.
 Les Levine for his generous donation in honor of the Yahrzeit of his father, William V. Levine.
 Warren and Naomi Lichtenberg for their generous donation in memory of Milton Weinstein.
 Laura Lippman for her generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund.
 Zelda Rosenthal for her generous donation in memory of Milton Weinstein.
 Carole Schulman for her generous donation in memory of Milton Weinstein.
 Lorrie Van Akkeren for her generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund.
 Elsa Weinstein for her generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund as a thank you for his help and in memory of her husband, Milton Weinstein.
 Phil and Crystal Weinstein for their generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in memory of Milton Weinstein.
 Eric and Kathryn for their generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Abigail.

For Their Generous Donation to Enhancing the Flame

Lorrie Van Akkeren

<p><i>Coming June 8!</i></p> <p>Free of charge! Open to the Community!</p>	
<p>GREAT NAMES</p> <p>STEVE LUXENBERG</p>  <p>author of <i>Annie's Ghosts: Journey Into A Family Secret</i></p>	<p>GREAT NAMES</p> <p>COMMUNITY LECTURE SERIES</p> <p>Sunday, June 8 • 3 to 5 pm</p> <p>Join us when author Steve Luxenberg comes to the dais at BJC!</p> <p>There will be a Q&A session following Mr. Luxenberg's discussion, then you'll have an opportunity to meet and him and purchase a signed copy of his book.</p> <p><small>RSVP preferred one week prior to the event to secure a seat by calling 301-653-8636 or emailing admin@bethesda jewish.org. All are welcome, including standing room only.</small></p>

June/July 2014 Calendar

Day	Date	Time	Event	Location
Wednesday	May 28	4:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Torah Today Joint Bible Study w/ BHPC	Library Covenant Hall
Friday	May 30	6:45 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Shabbat Dinner Shabbat Service—Confirmation Service	Memorial Hall Covenant Hall
Saturday	May 31	10:30 a.m.	Shabbat Worship—Ritter Bar Mitzvah	Covenant Hall
Tuesday	June 3	7:00 p.m.	Erev Shavuot Tikun L'Eil Shavuot with Adat Shalom	7727 Persimmon Tree Ln. Bethesda, MD
Wednesday	June 4		Shavuot—BJC Office Closed	
Friday	June 6	8:00 p.m.	N'tivim L'Shabbat Music Service	Covenant Hall
Saturday	June 7	10:30 a.m.	Shabbat Worship—French Bat Mitzvah	Covenant Hall
Sunday	June 8	3:00 p.m.	Great Names Series—Steve Luxenberg	Covenant Hall
Wednesday	June 11	6:30 p.m.	Torah Today	Library
Thursday	June 12	7:30 p.m.	BJC Board of Directors Meeting	Lounge
Friday	June 13	8:00 p.m.	Service of Meditation	Covenant Hall
Saturday	June 14	10:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m.	Shabbat Worship—Fine Bar Mitzvah Chant Circle	Covenant Hall Covenant Hall
Sunday	June 15	10:30 a.m.	Pulpit Exchange w/BHPC—Rabbi Schnitzer at BHPC	Sanctuary
Wednesday	June 18	6:30 p.m.	Torah Today	Library
Friday	June 20	8:00 p.m.	Shabbat Service	Covenant Hall
Wednesday	June 25	6:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Torah Today BJC Book Club	Library Library
Friday	June 27	8:00 p.m.	Shabbat Service	Covenant Hall
Wednesday	July 2	6:30 p.m.	Torah Today	Library
Friday	July 4	6:30 p.m.	Shabbat Service—Note Earlier Time	Covenant Hall
Wednesday	July 9	6:30 p.m.	Torah Today	Library
Friday	July 11	8:00 p.m.	Service of Meditation	Covenant Hall
Wednesday	July 16	6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Torah Today Choir Rehearsal	Library Choir Room
Friday	July 17	8:00 p.m.	Shabbat Service	Covenant Hall
Wednesday	July 23	6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Torah Today Choir Rehearsal BJC Book Club	Library Choir Room Library
Friday	July 25	8:00 p.m.	Shabbat Service	Covenant Hall
Wednesday	July 30	6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Torah Today Choir Rehearsal	Library Choir Room
Friday	Aug. 1	8:00 p.m.	Shabbat Service	Covenant Hall
Tuesday	Aug 5		Tish'a B'Av—BJC Office Closed	

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

HIGH HOLIDAYS 5775

Selichot

Saturday, September 20, 9:00 p.m., Covenant Hall

Erev Rosh Hashanah

Wednesday, September 24, 8:00 p.m., Evening Service

Rosh Hashanah

Thursday, September 25

10:00 a.m.	Morning Service
1:30 p.m.	Family Service
3:30 p.m.	Tashlich-Cabin John Park, 7400 Tuckerman Ln., Bethesda

Yom Kipper

Friday, October 3

8:00 p.m. Kol Nidre

Saturday, October 4

10:00 a.m.	Morning Service
1:30 p.m.	Family Service
2:30 p.m.	Yom Kipper Discussion
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 Services

Tickets for non-members: \$195 per person for service. Tickets for Children's and Pre-K Services are only \$75 for families. Child Care will be available at no charge for all adult services (excluding Yizkor and Neilah). Tickets will be available after July 15, 2014.

BJC does not furnish the High Holy Day prayer books, but they are available for sale in the office after July 15 for \$25 per book.

BJC/ISRAEL DUAL NARRATIVE TRIP

November 10-21, 2014

Please join us to learn about the opportunities for peace in the region and to meet members of the Knesset, peace activists and much more.

Cost: \$2,825 (Single Supplement: \$748) Deposit of \$350 due: July 10, 2014.

Cost Includes: Eleven nights lodging, Two meals per day, Two fulltime MEJDI trained guides (One Israeli, One Palestinian), Private bus and driver; All speaker's fees; All entrance fees. Airfare arranged by participants. Optional Petra/Jordan extension. Itinerary includes Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Neve Shalom/Wahat el Salam, Yad Vashem, Ramallah, Hebron, Bethlehem, Tent of Nations, Sderot, Be'er Sheva.

For more information or to book your tour go to www.mejditours.com/open-tour/bjc-2014-tour/ or contact Wynne and Bruce Busman at 703-941-5978 or webbeb@msn.com.

BJC CUBA MISSION 2014

December 5-15, 2014

Join us for the Bar Mitzvah of Daniel Langus and Ariel Levy in the new Santa Clara Synagogue!

Cost: \$3,395 per person, double occupancy (single supplement \$475) Plus Cuba Departure tax-\$25

Cost Includes: Round Trip Airfare from Miami, Hotel 10 Nights (Havana, Cienfuegos, Caibarien, Santa Clara, Camaguey), All breakfasts, lunches, and six dinners, Air Conditioned Motor Coach, Full time guide/translator, Cuban visas, Miami departure taxes.

Make Your Reservations Now! Deposit of \$500 due June 1.

For additional information contact Rabbi Schnitzer, rabbi@bethesdajewish.org, or Roz Young, admin@bethesdajewish.org.



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Newsletter Editor: Anita Farb—anita.farb@gmail.com

**Design Layout and Desktop Publishing:
Yvonne Bryant—ly_bryant@verizon.net**

The deadline for submitting articles for the August newsletter is July 3.
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 August newsletter, mail it to the BJC office with your check made payable to BJC.
Deadline: July 3. 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.