



Bethesda Jewish Congregation News

Rabbi Elhanan 'Sunny' Schnitzer

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Kriat HaRav—The Rabbi's Call

Rabbi Elhanan 'Sunny' Schnitzer

Last year I attended an Iftar dinner, marking Ramadan, with some Turkish friends. I greeted them with; "bismillah al-rahman al-rahim—in the name of God the merciful and compassionate."

My hosts were amazed and delighted when I shared that the Hebrew word for compassion is the same as the Arabic.

The Hebrew/Arabic word *rahimim*—compassion, expressing the emotion of caring concern is central to our faiths. The shoresh (or root of the word) is found in the Hebrew word *rehem* meaning womb, an expression of motherly love.

The Talmudic rabbis (Yevamot 79a) considered compassion to be one of the three distinguishing marks of Jews. In Jewish teaching compassion is among the highest of virtues, and its opposite, cruelty, is among the worst of vices.

This compassion is extended to all sentient creatures, not just humans. Commenting on the law against killing an animal and its young on the same day (Leviticus 22: 26), the Zohar (iii. 92b) says: "Thus if a man does kindness on earth, he awakens loving-kindness above, and it rests upon that day which is crowned therewith through him.

Similarly, if he performs a deed of mercy, he crowns that day with mercy and it becomes his protector in the hour of need. So, too, if he performs a cruel action, he has a corresponding effect on that day and impairs it, so that subsequently it becomes cruel to him and tries to destroy him, giving him measure for measure."

There is, in this connection, a revealing tale in the Talmud (Bava Metzia 85a). A calf, being led to the slaughter, ran for protection to Rabbi Judah the Prince, but the Rabbi said to the calf: 'Go! For this you were created', whereupon the rabbi was visited with great suffer-

ing from an illness. Sometime later, Rabbi Judah noticed his servant sweeping out a nest of weasels from the corner of his palace. 'Let them be,' he ordered, 'it is written in Psalms 145: 9 "His tender mercies are over all His works"', whereupon the suffering departed from him.

The point of the story seems to be that cold calculation, even when justified, is no substitute for compassion.

Running through our Jewish tradition is the principle that compassion is a commanded behavior in all of our interactions, not merely when it is convenient. We live

in a world where the *raison d'être* of corporations is shareholders expectation of profit. Low prices are valued more than the living conditions of the workers who make our jeans, pick our tomatoes, and build our computers. This attitude has infected our generation in all walks of life and in too many courses of action. All too often we value efficiency over the value of a

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*A Jew is a Jew
when the soul
burns for justice
and the heart
yearns to heal.*

BJC News

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human being, or the world of creation. We should remember that for the Jew, compassion trumps efficiency.

A Jew is a Jew when the soul burns for justice and the heart yearns to heal.

The President's Column

Joan Wolf

Efforts to Be Proud Of

As I complete my final year serving as synagogue president, I feel inspired. In awe. Hopeful. And *proud*. This community is like no other and I am exceedingly proud to have contributed efforts toward its continued growth and harmony.

I want to express my thanks to our small but mighty staff. Thank you to Rabbi Schnitzer, who is an inspirational leader, teacher and comforting guide. Thank you to Director of Congregational Education Mindy Silverstein who lends her creativity and solid support to her staff and students. Thank you to Executive Director Roz Young and best of luck on your next chapter.

And, to the phenomenal members of our Board of Directors who have devoted their time and attention to the 'job' of institutional oversight, a heartfelt thank you. Our heartfelt thanks to those board members who are completing their terms: Bruce Busman, Sharon Curry, Marlene Zakai and Russ Hogle, Elizabeth Kirkpatrick and Martha Schrenk.

I wish all the best to continuing board members: Rachel Mosher-Williams, Shoshanah Drake, Alan Dubin, Eileen Newman, Robin Sorkin, Judy Folsom, Ruth Magin, Issie Resti, Elise Yousoufian, Rachel Kirkpatrick and Annie Cifarelli.

And, welcome Diane Blumenthal, Barry Cantor, Dan Goldberg, Sandra Walter and Marlene Zakai, starting her new term as trustee.

We are so fortunate to have a

special, little-known category of volunteers called

PleasePleasePleaseNeverStopServingInThisPosition: Warren Farb as High Holiday Chair, Wynne Busman as Oneg Coordinator, Anita Farb as Newsletter Editor and Yaffah Schnitzer as Chant Circle Leader.

And a special thank you to Congregational Engagement (CE21) Chair Harri Kramer and the task force members and design team members.

This has been the year of wonderful BJC worship memories, celebrations and events. We turned 50 this year and celebrated with a Havana Havdalah Gala deftly overseen by Marlene Zakai. Our second annual Wine & Beer Tasting was an enormous hit, special thanks to Mike Schecter and Kevin Gleason for their alcohol 'talents' and organization.

Our annual Purim spiel had the most newcomers, ever, in the cast! Great Names Community Lecture Series heads toward the season's completion this fall with Cokie and Steve Roberts. Thank you to Marty Ganzglass for overseeing the speaker series committee. Our Great Chefs Community Cooking Series launched with restaurateurs not to mention a historic look at Jews and chocolate! Created by popular demand and community outreach, our second annual Prayers for Pets happening was held.

Celebratory special events are only part of who we are. Our soul is rooted in being part of the larger community, committing to social action. From Darfur rally participation to food drives, blood drives, restaurant-proceeds directed to various non-profits, Habitat for Humanity, to the second annual Take Out and a Movie event on Christmas Day—we had a wonderful time together and raised funds for Bottoms Up in Cuba.

Thank you to all of the volunteers that selflessly licked envelopes, organized bulging storage spaces, hauled, donated, arrived early and stayed late, decorated, acted silly, supported those in need and far more than I could delineate in a sole sentence.

So, what next? Human *and* fiscal resources are paramount to meet goals. Share your talents and get involved in any and all aspects that inspire you. For me, I am so appreciative of the opportunity to do my part. We have every reason to believe that BJC's future will be bright, and your participation will only make it brighter. Thank you for allowing me the honor of working with this terrific community.



Director of Congregational Education

Mindy Silverstein

Religious School News

It's hard to believe that the 2014-2015 school year has ended and what an amazing year it's been! Some of the highlights include:

- Our Pre K-1st grade class *loved* all the holiday celebrations with the Rabbi and that they started to decode Hebrew.
- Our 2nd-4th graders *loved* learning about tzedakah with their families and making ceramic Kiddush cups.
- Our 5th graders *loved* making ceramic Seder Plates, their own tallit, and all the social action projects created in class.
- Our 6th graders went to Ellis Island, learned about their ancestors by "becoming " that ancestor, and then simulated the Ellis Island experience by traveling to Virginia to participate in a community wide program. They also had a fun time creating Matzah Mansions with Sharon Curry.
- Our 7th graders reenacted the signing of the Israeli Declaration of Independence, followed up with an art project. The students also discussed the narratives of Israelis and Palestinians in an attempt to understand how stories shape values and they had numerous in-depth conversations on a variety of topics including Pirkei Avot.
- Our Tichon students, 8th-10th grades, studied history, values, ethics, current events—through the lens of film and media. They attended a performance of "God's Honest Truth" at the DCJCC with dinner afterwards.

- Our school wouldn't be the wonderful community it is without our school wide celebrations of Tu B'Shevat, Purim, Hanukkah, Mitzvah Opportunity Day and Field Day.

The staff and I are looking forward to an exciting and educational next year.

School begins September 12 with our Pre K-7th grade students and parents arriving at school at 9 a.m. Our mid-week program begins on Wednesday, September 16, for our 4th-7th grade students.

Tichon, our teen program for grades 8-10, begins on Tuesday, October 6. Registration forms may be downloaded from our website.



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.

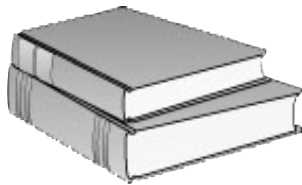
Congregation News

Shabbat Pulpit Exchange with Rev. Kori Phillips

BJC welcomes the spiritual leader Rev. Kori Phillips of our sister congregation, Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church (BHPC), to our annual pulpit exchange. On Friday, June 5 at 8 p.m., Rev. Phillips will share with us what is on her mind spiritually and temporally at this special Shabbat. Rabbi Schnitzer will reciprocate and speak at the BHPC Sunday morning service on June 14 at 10 a.m.

Shabbat Under The Stars

One more time! Before summer break and family vacations, we're taking Shabbat outdoors. Join us at 7 p.m. on Friday, June 12 on the lawn behind Covenant Hall for a "Pre-neg," a light dairy



supper, followed by a one hour multi-media service with BJC musicians at 8 p.m.

Bring a blanket and bring your friends. So that we know how much food to

prepare, please RSVP to the BJC office by telephone or on our website ticket and reservations page; <http://www.bethesdajewish.org/registration>.

Open Book Discussion: *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End*

The BJC open book discussion group will meet on Wednesday, June 24 at 8 p.m. in the Library to discuss *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End* by Atul Gawande. The author argues that modern medicine fails people near the end of life by making decisions about their living aimed primarily at ensuring their safety at the expense of retaining autonomy, especially when adult children are making the decisions.

Drop-ins and new members are always welcome. We have not yet decided whether to meet in July and August and if we do, what the readings will be. Information will be provided in the weekly e-newsletter. Contact Evelyn Ganzglass, 202-966-7037 or Ruth Rosenberg, 703-560-9525 if you have any questions.

It's Choir Time Again and We Need You!

Did you enjoy the wonderful sounds of the BJC choir last year?

Did you look up at the bimah and think wistfully, "Gee, I'd like to do that?"

Well, you can!

A vibrant and full sounding choir enhances the

High Holiday experience for the entire congregation and for the singer. We always need more voices. You don't have to have a fantastic voice or read music. You just have to be eager to sing.

Rehearsals begin on Wednesday July 15. All rehearsals will be on Wednesdays from 7:30 until 9:30 p.m. No one makes every rehearsal, after all it is summer, but by the time Rosh Hashanah rolls around everyone is ready.

Please call Rabbi Schnitzer to join this year's choir.

Will this be the year you experience the High Holidays from the inside?

Reaching Beyond Our Differences: Views from the Next Generation of Leaders in the Middle East

Join us on Sunday July 19, 3:30-5 p.m., when *New Story Leadership* presents the class of 2015, hosted by BJC and Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church. These inspiring young leaders from Israel and Palestine are living and working together this summer in DC. As they share their stories, and listen to each other's, they will soon create a new story of hope and peace for their people.

Following the presentations, please join us for an open discussion and reception.

For further information: Marty Ganzglass: mrganzglass@gmail.com or Ronnie Haber: rnhaber@erols.com.

Yahrzeits

June 2015

Beatrice Barsky, Mother of Lisa Strauss
George Borden, Father of Vicky Bailer
Alan Brenits, Brother of Don Brenits
Betty Castleman, Mother of Mark Greenstein
Anna Fagen, Grandmother of Karen Jerome
Hedwig Gluckstein, Mother of Fritz Gluckstein
Freda Goldman, Grandmother of Stacey Rose-Blass
Irving Jacobs, Grandfather of Donna Cohen
Ida Kornfield, Mother of Judy Folsom
Harry Kramer, Grandfather of Harri Kramer
Joseph Laufer, Father of David Laufer
Doris Rauch, Aunt of Craig Winslow
Ann Rosenberg, Mother of Lorraine Levin
Herman Rosenweig, Grandfather of Teri Brenits
Beatrice Schwartz, Mother of Linda Baum
Leona Silberman, Mother of Paul Silberman

July 2015

Sylvia Berkowitz, Mother of Susan Berkowitz
Burton Bernard, Father of Cathy Bernard

יארצייט

Roz Bogorad, Mother of Len Bogorad
Shirley Chersonson, Mother of Ruth Magin
Maurice Folsom, Father of Al Folsom
Daniel Goldstein, Father of Jim Goldstein
Rena Jacobson, Mother of Annie Cifarelli
Steven Kaufman, Husband of Lorraine Levin
Frank Kretz, Father of Jim Kretz
Martha Kraus, Mother of Mitch Kraus
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 Steve Turow
Irwin Yockelson, Brother of Naomi Lichtenberg

Thank You

תודה רבה

Bruce and Linda Baum for their generous donation in honor of Bruce being awarded an honorary doctorate from The Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Bruce and Linda Baum for their generous donation in honor of the Yahrzeits of Bruce's parents and grandmother, Edward and Edith Baum and Rose Kline Levine and Linda's father, Sam Schwartz.

Herbert and Aleen Chabot for their generous donation in honor of the Yahrzeits of Aleen's mother and brother, Minnie Kerwin and Donald Kerwin and Herbert's mother, Esther Chabot.

Brian and Shoshanah Drake for their generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of their son, Trevor's Bar Mitzvah.

Nancy Glassman for her generous donation in memory of Ruth Salinger's mother, Sara Dritch.

Peter Guterl for his generous donation to the Education Fund in memory of his wife, Wendie Ann Guterl.

Gary Hoffman for his generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in appreciation of the Rabbi's officiating at his wedding.

Russ Hogle and Harri Kramer for their generous donation.

Connie Levi and Alan Rabin for their generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of Karen Levi and Isabel Sandler receiving their Hebrew names.

Karen Levi for her generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of Karen and Isabel receiving their Hebrew names.

Alan Lichter for his generous donation in honor of the Yahrzeit of his father, George Lichter.

Jim and Maxine Perlmutter for their generous donation in honor of Rabbi Schnitzer.

Ruth Salinger for her generous donation in memory of her mother, Sara Dritch.

Paul and Barbara Silberman for their generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of Ellen Sirkis' birthday.

Marvin and Ellen Sirkis for their generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of Ellen's birthday.

Maria Perozek and Michael Tilkin for their generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of their son Ben's Bar Mitzvah.

Lorrie Van Akkeren for her generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of the Yahrzeits of her mother and father, Ida and Gordon Goldstein.

Davi Walders for her generous donation in honor of Joan Wolf's leadership and commitment to BJC and in honor of the Yahrzeits of her parents, Pearl and Meyer Dubrow.

Joan Wolf for her generous donation.

David Williams and Rachel Mosher Williams for their generous donation.

For Their Generous Donation to Enhancing the Flame

Lorrie Van Akkeren



June 2015 Calendar				
Day	Date	Time	Event	Location
Wednesday	May 27	6:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Torah Today BJC Book Club— <i>Letters from Earth</i>	Library Library
Thursday	May 28	7:30 p.m.	Joint Bible Study with BHPC	Covenant Hall
Friday	May 29	8:00 p.m.	Confirmation Service	Covenant Hall
Saturday	May 30	10:30 a.m.	Shabbat Worship—Ginns Bat Mitzvah	Covenant Hall
Wednesday	June 3	6:30 p.m.	Torah Today	Library
Friday	June 5	8:00 p.m.	N'tivim L'Shabbat Music Service Pulpit Exchange with Rev. Kori Phillips of BHPC	Covenant Hall
Saturday	June 6	10:30 a.m.	Shabbat Worship	Covenant Hall
Wednesday	June 10	6:30 p.m.	Torah Today	Library
Thursday	June 11	7:30 p.m.	BJC Board of Directors Meeting	Lounge
Friday	June 12	7:00 p.m.	Shabbat Under the Stars	Patio
Saturday	June 13	10:30 a.m.	Shabbat Worship—Hanrahan Bar Mitzvah	Covenant Hall
Sunday	June 14	10:00 a.m.	Pulpit Exchange with BHPC Rabbi Schnitzer will speak at service	Sanctuary
Wednesday	June 17	6:30 p.m.	Torah Today	Library
Friday	June 19	8:00 p.m.	Simcha B'Shabbat All Music Service with band	Covenant Hall
Saturday	June 20	10:30 a.m.	Shabbat Worship—Paulos Bar Mitzvah	Covenant Hall
Wednesday	June 24	6:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Torah Today BJC Book Club— <i>Being Mortal: Medicine and What Happens in the End</i>	Library Library
Friday	June 26	8:00 p.m.	Shabbat Service	Covenant Hall

Community News

Memorial to the Lost Comes to 6601 Bradley Blvd

Commemorating the lives of those lost to gun violence in our area, Memorial to the Lost, consisting of 156 T-shirts with the names of the victims will be installed on the Greentree Rd. lawn of our property on Sunday, July 12 at 11:30 a.m. The installation will be on site for two weeks. Rev. Gray and Rabbi Schnitzer will lead a special service followed by installation of the memorial. All are invited to plant a frame and hang a shirt. The event will conclude with the reading of the names of those whose tragedies have largely been forgotten since they occurred in 2014.

Iftar Dinner and *Love is a Verb* Movie

The Rumi Society and the Gulen Movement are putting on a Ramadan Iftar dinner and program here at BJC on Tuesday, July 14 at 7:30 p.m. in Memorial Hall! The program will begin with remarks from our guests followed by a showing of *Love is a Verb*, and a Middle Eastern dinner.

Love Is A Verb is an examination of a social movement of Sufi inspired Sunni Muslims that began in Turkey in the 1960s and now reaches across the globe. The group is called Hizmet, the Turkish word for service or The Gulen Movement after its inspiration, Fethullah Gulen, a man that Time Magazine named as one of the most influential leaders in the world.

This event is free, but RSVP is required either by calling the BJC office or on our website; www.bethesda-jewish.org/registration.

July 2015 Calendar				
Wednesday	July 1	6:30 p.m.	Torah Today	Library
Friday	July 3	8:00 p.m.	Shabbat Service	Covenant Hall
Wednesday	July 8	6:30 p.m.	Torah Today	Library
Friday	July 10	8:00 p.m.	Shabbat Service	Covenant Hall
Sunday	July 12	11:30 a.m.	Memorial to the Lost Service	
Tuesday	July 14	7:30 p.m.	Iftar Dinner and Program	Memorial Hall
Wednesday	July 15	6:30 p.m.	Torah Today	Library
Friday	July 17	8:00 p.m.	Shabbat Service	Covenant Hall
Sunday	July 19	1:00 p.m.	New Story Leadership	Covenant Hall
Wednesday	July 22	6:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Torah Today BJC Book Club (<i>Tentative</i>)	Library Library
Friday	July 24	8:00 p.m.	Tisha B'Av Shabbat	Covenant Hall
Sunday	July 26		Tisha B'Av	
Wednesday	July 29	6:30 p.m.	Torah Today	Library
Friday	July 31	8:00 p.m.	Shabbat Service	Covenant Hall
Wednesday	Aug 5	6:30 p.m.	Torah Today	Library

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

HIGH HOLIDAYS 5776 Save the Dates

Selichot

Saturday, September 5, 9:00 p.m., Covenant Hall

Erev Rosh Hashanah

Wednesday, September 13, 8:00 p.m., Evening Service

Rosh Hashanah

Monday, September 14

10:00 a.m. Morning Service
1:30 p.m. Family Service
3:30 p.m. Tashlich

Yom Kippur

Tuesday, September 22

8:00 p.m. Kol Nidre

Wednesday, September 23

10:00 a.m. Yom Kippur 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



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The deadline for submitting articles for the Aug./Sept. newsletter is July 7.

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 Aug./Sept. newsletter, mail it to the BJC office with your check made payable to BJC.

Deadline: July 7. Rate structure for a business card: \$30 per month, 3-month minimum. Rates are slightly higher for cards that are not camera-ready art.