



Bethesda Jewish Congregation News

Rabbi Elhanan 'Sunny' Schnitzer

October 2013

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Kriat HaRav—The Call of the Rabbi

Rabbi Elhanan 'Sunny' Schnitzer

This summer I attended my first NEW CAJE conference. CAJE is the Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education. At one time more than 4,000 Jewish educators attended the annual conference. In 2009 CAJE closed its doors.

Its influence was sorely missed in the Jewish world.

Almost immediately one of the founders of CAJE, Rabbi Cherie Koller Fox, founded NEW CAJE, and refocused the organization on its founding principles.

CAJE is a place where Jewish educators come to share best practices, experiment with new models of learning, and share their passion for Jews and Judaism. It is one of the few truly transdenominational events in the Jewish world. Attendees range from black hat orthodox rabbis, to secular humanist teachers, and everything in between. Best of all, everyone learns from each other with total respect. This year a number of orthodox men had, for the first time, the personal experience of davening with women leading a Shabbat service. Those who attended said that it was a life changing experience. Only at CAJE!

I came away from this year's conference with mixed emotions. Jewish education for children continues to change from the models that my generation recalls with some distaste, to a cutting edge educational experience. There are exciting new approaches to curricula and pedagogy.

But, the focus is still on education for children and families with adolescent and pre-adolescent children. I see this as part of the problem for Jewish continuity, not a solution to the rapidly dwindling numbers of American Jews who are actively engaged and affiliated with the Jewish community.

For American Judaism to thrive into the next century, I believe our synagogues and institutions must become centers of learning and social activity for adults as well as children. We must move from pediatric models to a whole life approach. It must be more than merely slogans about being a "community of lifelong learners," we must become a place that "matters in our world." Engagement with the synagogue must be stimulating intellectually and socially.

This is not a new concept. In Hebrew the word synagogue does not exist. The words that take the place of synagogue are Beit Knesset (House of Meeting), Beit Midrash (House of Learning), and Beit T'filah (House of Prayer). It is in reference to the first two terms where we must do a better job of building places with meaning.

I am not negating the spiritual component of the synagogue. But in a world where science has, for lack of a better word, "debunked" traditional understandings of God, until we give

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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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those alienated by the traditional focus on the synagogue as a House of Prayer a new reason to show up, and then perhaps create opportunities to open the mind to new holistic understandings of the essential divine unity of all creation, we will continue to struggle.

There are success stories out there. Locally, the Synagogue at Sixth and I is

one such model. The question is how can a synagogue in the suburbs replicate the urban models that have been successful in DC, New York, and Miami? That is our challenge.

Our BJC community is in the midst of a process that has the potential to create answers to the challenge. CE21 is moving into the phase where we will begin serious conversations about creating solutions. We need your energy and ideas. When the call comes to participate, please answer.

The President's Column

Joan Wolf

Who Are They, Anyway?

Serving on the BJC Board of Trustees is an honor—here is an opportunity to get to know your leadership team.

Enjoy the first installment of 'Who Are They Anyway?' featuring Vice President Rachel Mosher-Williams and Trustee Russ Hogle:

The Russ and Rachel experience (Russ & Rachel think that veiled 'Friends' reference is cute)

Q: In short, what did you do from age 18-30?

After graduating from high school, Russ went to work on a steam ship on the Great Lakes for 18 months. This involved hauling coal and stone, lots of sailor-like language, and kissing up to the captain, which apparently wasn't hard for Russ because he was dating the captain's daughter. Sounds like the setting for a Gilbert & Sullivan opera. Then he went to Devry Tech Institute in Chicago, graduated as an electronics technician, and worked for AT&T in Cleveland, OH. Russ moved to the Washington area in 1968.

After high school and some travel that summer, Rachel went straight to William & Mary. She received her degree in English and decided it was time to have

a partner in life so she got married. After a great six years, children arrived to add to the fun. She continued with her education, receiving a Master's degree in Public Administration from George Washington University and went to work for the Urban Institute doing policy research.

Q: Where are you from?

Russ was born in a small town, Painesville, OH, located about a mile from Lake Erie, about 30 miles east of Cleveland. Rachel was born in Columbus, OH and managed to stay for two years before her parents moved to the Washington area for career changes (her father was/is a physicist for the US Government).

Q: What are you most proud of?

Russ is proud of his family—a wonderful wife and two great children. Ditto for Rachel except for the wife part. She is proud of her husband along with the two kids.

Q: What do you first notice about people?

Russ notices how they interact with others. Rachel notices whether people look her straight in the eye or not.

Q: Do you have a special talent?

Russ plays well with the other kids. Rachel can memorize information quickly, especially phone numbers.

Q: What is your favorite Jewish holiday?

Russ is fond of Hanukkah—everyone is happy, there's great food, and it's so special with young kids. Rachel loves Passover—not for the week of observing Matzot—but because of the Seder, which includes a home-centered service filled with beautiful symbolism and a beautiful story of freedom, yummy food and lots of wine and group participation. She remembers giggling with her sister during Seders as a kid and then giggling with her kids as an adult.

Q: What are the top two things on your bucket list?

Russ wants to see more of this country and more of the world. Rachel doesn't have a bucket list yet—is she old enough?

Q: Favorite cereal and ice cream?

Russ loves all Kashi cereal types and is partial to Moose Tracks ice cream. Rachel likes Honey Nut Cheerios (though she now buys the store brand to be thrifty) and loves Ben & Jerry's New York Super Fudge Chunk ice cream.

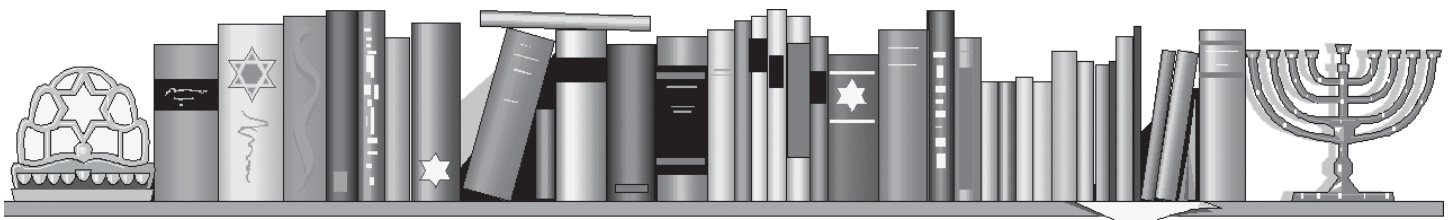
Q: Person (dead or alive) you'd like to take to lunch?

Russ wants to break bread with Bette Midler, just to see if she's as funny in person as she is on stage, film and TV. Rachel wants to have tea with Eleanor Roosevelt because she was a person of great depth, intellect and compassion. Also, she could gossip about her husband.

Q: Favorite qualities about BJC?

Both Russ and Rachel appreciate the fact that BJC is open and friendly to all who want to join our community. That has been important to both Rs since their families are interfaith.

Want to be part of 'Who Are They Anyway?' Be brave and let me know (joanwolfjoanwolf@aol.com)! We at BJC are a fascinating bunch!



Director of Education

Mindy Silverstein

My husband and I recently bought a new bed. Within five minutes of placing the order, we decided that the room-painting project, which was slated for Dec., should be moved up as it made more sense to paint before the bed arrived. By looking at the new scenario before us, we realized that if we changed our painting plan, we would be saving ourselves from double work down the road.

Likewise, as you and your family continue your journey with BJC, you too may be faced with circumstances that may cause you to pause and examine your current path. Opportunities may arise sooner than you expect, or in some cases, sooner than you are ready for. Be open to the possibilities. Like us, it may serve you well down the road.

- Upcoming School Events

- Oct. 5 Consecration Service, 10:30 a.m.
- Oct. 12 Meetcha Mocha Café Discussion (see below)
- Oct. 15 Tichon Begins, 6:30 p.m.
- Oct. 19 Parent Visitation, Pre K-4, 6-7, 11:30 a.m.
- Oct. 29 Tichon, 6:30 p.m.
- Nov. 2 Parent Visitation, 5th Grade, 11:30 a.m.

- Meetcha Mocha Café Monthly Discussion Topics

It was mentioned in last month's newsletter that in addition to the weekly Meetcha Mocha Café (Room 109, 8:55 a.m.), we would also be hosting monthly discussions on various topics. Below are the topics for the upcoming year. Hope to see you there!

- October 12 What if...Building a Shul from Scratch
- November 9 National Jewish Book Month
- December 14 Interfaith Family
- January 11 Great Vacations
- February 8 History of Hollywood and the Jews
- March 8 Stop Hunger Now! Program
- April 12 Coping with Aging Parents
- May 10 Sharing Your Latest Craft Project

- Hanukkah—It's Really Early! Did you know that the first night of Hanukkah is Nov. 27? The Religious School will be selling Hanukkah candles again this year. Check your Nov. newsletter for the order form or the BJC website under forms after Oct. 15.

Congregation News

Learn to Chant Torah! Learn to Leyn Like a Pro!

Trope class begins at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 9, and continues on the 16th, 23th, and 30th.

Every student will receive a CD for home study as well as charts, musical notation, and practice sections to prepare Torah readings. Basic Hebrew decoding abilities are a prerequisite.

All participants will be given the opportunity to use their newly acquired skills to chant at a Shabbat service.

This is also a great opportunity for those who have studied trope in the past, but have become a little rusty, to hone their skills. Please call Rabbi Schnitzer for more information or to register.

Youth Group Off to a Great Start

Jessica Grinspan

To the parents of our Grades 3-7 Religious School students: Thanks to all for helping make the kick-off event to our brand new youth group a success! We had a wonderful representation of BJC students at both the pizza party and the baseball game, where we fostered friendships and made great strides toward achieving this year's overarching goal of building community.

We're already looking forward to our next youth group activities! On Sunday, Oct. 13, we will head to Butler's Orchard in Germantown, where students can enjoy a hayride, explore a pumpkin patch, find their way through a corn maze, and much more. Then, on Sunday, Nov. 10, we will gather at Congregation Beth El in Bethesda to hear the Maccabeats, a famous Jewish cappella group, perform in a fun and upbeat concert. Stay tuned for specific details about these exciting events!

BJC Israel Trip 5773 Report

In May BJC members and friends enjoyed a different sort of trip to Israel. Travelers received an inside look at the social and political situation in the region through visits with Israeli and Palestinian political leaders, religious leaders, and social activists from across the spectrum.

On Saturday, Oct. 19 at 2 p.m., members of the group will share their personal impressions and observations.

Ta Sh'ma—Come hear.

Open Book Discussion—*And the Mountains Echoed*

Please join us on Oct. 23 to discuss *And the Mountains*

Echoed by Khaled Hosseini. This novel explores the many ways in which families nurture, wound, betray, honor, and sacrifice for one another; and how often we are surprised by the actions of those closest to us, at the times that matter most. 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.

CE21—Time to Chat?

Harri J. Kramer, Chair, Leadership Team

Let's start with a quick recap: CE21 stands for Congregational Education in the 21st century. Since early 2013, a dedicated cadre of individuals who represent many different facets of our congregation have been meeting, studying together, learning, thinking, and dreaming about BJC. We're challenging assumptions and trying to think differently about education in the broadest possible ways. Our task force members are parents of toddlers, parents of school age children, adult learners, empty nesters, and several high school students.

We're working with the Partnership for Jewish Life and Learning in a guided, collaborative process that helps Jewish congregations rediscover and cultivate their strengths. Our goal is to reimagine our Jewish experience so that it can be more relevant and easily interwoven into our busy lives.



What's important to know about CE21 is: it's a long-term process; we'll be focused on this for a while. CE21 is for learners of all ages—not just the Religious School! We're not focused on curricula or subject matters, but rather educational opportunities. CE21 is focused on the whole congregation,

not just a small group.

Our direction will be based on a draft visionary description statement. As I mentioned last month, we're about to embark on a series of Congregational Conversations to get *your* input on this draft. While our Task Force is awesome, they can't speak for everyone. Your opinion matters a great deal.

When you get a call or an e-mail inviting you to get together and chat with fellow congregants, please accept! We know from seeing the energy of our congregation coming together at the High Holy Days that you all love to talk with each other. That's what

our Congregational Conversations will be...great chats with a focus.

Get in touch if you have questions or ideas: CE21bjc@gmail.com, 301-469-8636.

Social Action

Have a few spare hours for social action? Help plan and *participate* (all families welcome)!

We want to hear of your interest and ideas, so please send a note to bjcvolunteer@bethesda.jewish.org.

- Habitat Unity Build @the Maple Hill Townhome community: Oct. 6, Nov.3, Dec. 1, Jan. 5, 2014. If not building, you can help out by providing food/drinks for volunteers, etc;
- Stepping Stones Shelter-Cook dinner for families in transition; 4:30 p.m.-6 p.m. on a Monday or Tuesday (always the third week of the month).

Green Notes: Saving Money and Making Your Home More Comfortable

Members of BJC, living in Maryland and the District, with support from the nonprofit Groundswell Strong Homes project, have joined together to obtain group discounts from contractors who implement improvements following individual home energy audits. The recommended improvements are specific to each home and each homeowner can select all or only a portion of the recommended improvements. The contractor also assists the homeowner in applying for the appropriate tax credits or rebates for the energy savings from utilities and governmental authorities.

In addition to visual inspections of the interior and exterior of the house, the contractor uses Thermographic Imaging to show locations of temperature difference and Blower Door tests to identify the "airtightness" of the home. A proposed set of improvements are developed and reviewed with the homeowner including the cost of each and the estimated savings upon completion. (Some improvements could take 10 or more years to payoff and are not economical for everyone). Once the work is done, retesting is performed to determine the percent of improvement in "airtightness" and a full report is provided to the homeowner.

To date, a dozen families have completed the home improvements or have signed contracts and the work is in process. For more information, contact Michael Reed (michael.reed@groundswell.org or 202-350-1187).

Yahrzeits

Helaine Adinah Berkowitz, Sister of Susan Berkowitz
Leonard Busman, Father of Bruce Busman

אֲרֵיזִים

Sonya Schwartz Choper, Sister of Linda Baum
Albert Finkel, Uncle of Gail Weiss
Miriam Gleberman, Mother of Ellen Gleberman
Ethel Gluckstein, Wife of Fritz Gluckstein
Harry David Haber, Father of Miles Haber
Pepi Harnden, Mother of Sandra Medlin
Doreen Kahn, Mother of Ralph Kahn
Sam Klotz, Father of Norm Klotz
Eric Neisser, Father of Michelle Neisser
Morris Poogach, Father of Robert Poogach
Sidney Tahler, Grandfather of Rori Kochman
Howard Trussel, Father of Joy Gold
Carolyn Trywusch, Sister of Naomi Lichtenberg
Benjamin Wolk, Father of Judy Feldman
Fannie Yockelson, Mother of Naomi Lichtenberg

Thank You

תודה רבה

Bruce and Linda Baum for their generous donation in honor of the birth of their granddaughter, Daisy Baum and the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Eli Baum Lagdameo.

Bruce and Linda Baum for their generous donation in honor of the Yahrzeits of Linda's mother and sister, Beatrice Schwartz and Marla Joan Schwartz.

Martin and Vivian Blumberg for their generous donation.

Al and Judy Folsom for their generous donation in honor of the Yahrzeits of Judys' father, Isadore Kornfield and Al's father, Maurice Folsom.

David Laufer and Ellen Gleberman for their generous donation to the Cuba Fund.

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

James Korelitz and Liz Sloss for their generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund.

Marcia Loeb for her generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of the Yahrzeit of her mother, Ann Marmelstein.

David and Judy Scott for their generous donation to the Cuba Fund in honor of the Yahrzeits of Judy's father Frank Gold and David's brother, Bruce Scott.

Harold and Henrietta Steinman for their generous donation in honor of Andrea Hancock's birthday.

Dr. Mark and Marilyn Tyma for their generous donation in memory of Peter Feldman.

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

For Their Generous Donation to Enhancing the Flame

Lorrie Van Akkeren

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October 2013 Calendar

Day	Date	Time	Event	Location
Friday	Sept 27	8:00 p.m.	Choral Shabbat	Covenant Hall
Saturday	Sept 28	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Adult Hebrew Religious School Shabbat Worship	Lounge Classrooms Covenant Hall
Wednesday	Oct 2	4:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Religious School Kemach and Tanach	Classrooms Library
Friday	Oct 4	8:00 p.m.	N'tivim L'Shabbat Music Service	Covenant Hall
Saturday	Oct 5	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Adult Hebrew Religious School Shabbat Worship-Concretion	Lounge Classrooms Covenant Hall
Wednesday	Oct 9	4:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Religious School Kemach and Tanach Trope Class	Classrooms Library Library
Thursday	Oct 10	7:30 p.m.	BJC Board of Directors Meeting	Lounge
Friday	Oct 11	6:30 p.m.	Service of Meditation	Covenant Hall
Saturday	Oct 12	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Adult Hebrew Religious School Shabbat Worship—Gleeson B'Nai Mitzvah	Lounge Classrooms Covenant Hall
Tuesday	Oct 15	6:30 p.m.	Tichon Class	Youth Lounge
Wednesday	Oct 16	4:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Religious School Kemach and Tanach Trope Class	Classrooms Library Library
Friday	Oct 18	8:00 p.m.	Simcha B'Shabbat All Music Service with Band	Covenant Hall
Saturday	Oct 19	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 2:00 p.m.	Adult Hebrew Religious School Shabbat Worship—Greenstein Bat Mitzvah Report on BJC Trip to Israel	Lounge Classrooms Covenant Hall Lounge
Sunday	Oct 20	2:30 p.m.	Jewish Islamic Dialogue Society Meeting	Covenant Hall
Wednesday	Oct 23	4:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Religious School Kemach and Tanach BJC Book Club— <i>And the Mountains Echoed</i> Trope Class	Classrooms Library Lounge Library
Friday	Oct 25	8:00 p.m.	Shabbat Service	Covenant Hall
Saturday	Oct 26	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Adult Hebrew Religious School Shabbat Worship	Lounge Classrooms Covenant Hall
Sunday	Oct 27	12:00 p.m.	NCCF Block Party	NCCF
Wednesday	Oct 30	4:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Religious School Kemach and Tanach Trope Class	Classrooms Library Library
Friday	Nov 2	8:00 p.m.	Shabbat Service	Covenant Hall
Saturday	Nov 3	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Adult Hebrew Religious School Shabbat Worship	Lounge Classrooms Covenant Hall

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

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Larry and Davi Walders in honor of the birth of Bruce and Linda Baum's granddaughter, Daisy Baum.

Community News

Book Discussion Invitation

The Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church (BHPC) book group has invited all interested BJC members to join them for a discussion of *King Peggy: An American Secretary, Her Royal Destiny, and the Story of How She Changed an African Village*. They will meet on Sunday afternoon Oct. 6, from 3-5 p.m. in the library.

National Center for Children and Families (NCCF) Block Party

Please join us on Sunday, Oct. 27, at 12 p.m., rain or shine, along with members of BHPC when we work with the NCCF to beautify their grounds. NCCF shelter strives to create total, healthy living environments for vulnerable children, youth and families.

This annual project brings BJC and BHPC together for a picnic and fun-filled afternoon. Adults and children 12 and over are welcome to participate, community service hours will be given. NCCF at 6301 Greentree Rd., is just a few hundred yards from our building. Please contact Maddy Killefer, mck50ck@verizon.net, 301-229-6713.

Joint Thanksgiving Service

Join us on Sunday, Nov. 17, at 10:30 a.m. for this annual morning of inspiration and music with our spiritual siblings, the members of BHPC and BJC, and members of the Islamic Center (in Burtonsville) for celebration of abundance led by clergy of these three congregations. There will be readings from the texts of Christian, Jewish and Islamic traditions.

Brunch following the Thanksgiving service is \$11/ adults, \$5/children 12 and under) at 12 noon. Discussion among the three congregations will follow the meal.

Brunch reservations are requested to the BJC office.



Besta Pizza

Ibrahima Diallo
Manager
Tel: (301) 657-1114
Cell: (240) 498-4026
Fax: (301) 657-3577
Web Site: www.mybestapizza.com
Email: info@mvbestapizza.com

Save the Date Save the Date Save the Date
Celebrate Roz Young's 10th Anniversary
Save the Date Save the Date Save the Date

Mark Your Calendars! Roz is a '10'!!

Join us in a smashing tribute to her decade
of service and love

Saturday, November 16th • 6:30 pm • at BJC

Special Concert by Sam Glaser
Soulful singer, composer and musician

Named one of the top 10 Jewish musicians
in the US by *Moment Magazine*

Save the Date Save the Date Save the Date
As Our Beloved Executive Director at BJC
Save the Date Save the Date Save the Date



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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 November newsletter is October 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 November newsletter, mail it to the BJC office with your check made payable to BJC. Deadline: October 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.