



Bethesda Jewish Congregation News

Rabbi Elhanan 'Sunny' Schnitzer

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Kriat HaRav—The Call of the Rabbi

Rabbi Elhanan 'Sunny' Schnitzer

At High Holiday services, more than once, I have spoken from the bimah about the need for commitment to community. There is no greater tool for the long term success of BJC, and our families. But commitment to community actually originates in a series of broader commitments to self.

One is a commitment to optimism.

Some of you know that I spent a year as a Chaplain Intern at Sloan Kettering Memorial in New York. There I met a 22 year old woman who had been in training for the U.S. National Field Hockey Team. A few months after her college graduation, doctors diagnosed her with Hodgkin's lymphoma. At that time the average lifespan for a person with her specific stage of the disease was two years. But if it's caught in the early stages, there is a good chance to live a normal life.

That was all she had to hear from her doctors. She knew she was going to live. She just knew it. I believed her and worked with her during my visits to keep her in that frame of mind. Although I left my chaplaincy internship before she recovered, I later heard that she played on two US Olympic teams. Optimism, combined with energy and persistence, makes all things possible.

I am a chronic optimist. Frankly, I can get a little obnoxious about it. But I don't apologize for it.

We live in a world where bad things happen to good people. But there is no better response to the difficult events in our lives than persistent optimism. Optimism holds open possibilities for change. The alternative, of accepting darkness, contains no hope. Martin Luther King, Jr. said: "Only when it is dark enough, can you see the stars."

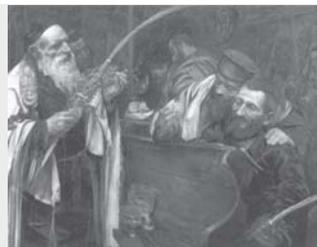
Just as important is a commitment to kindness. We've all heard the saying: "nice guys finish last." My experience has shown me the opposite. The most powerful and successful people I have met in this world are also unfailingly nice. The quality of kindness gives us the ability to take the mitzvah of "v'ahavtah l'reiaha kamo'ha—love your neighbor as yourself," and make it authentic and palpable and vibrant each and every day, especially when faced with a situation we would never in a million years have chosen. When we examine kindness we find it is a deep and abiding understanding of how connected we all are. That's the Oneness. That's Echad. We see that kindness inspires behaviors which can guide our families, communities, and the world we live in towards realizing greater safety and peace. I think this spirit underlies one of the Dalai Lama's most famous quotations: "My true religion is kindness."

There is no greater expression of kindness than to join together in

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BJC News

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community and to embrace the greatest of us and the least of us equally. Commitment to building community liberates us from the trap of self and connects us to the greater self. There is no greater power than that found within those who join together in a

common cause. What seemed impossible becomes joyously obvious when we are bound to others who share our dreams.

In this New Year may we be blessed to revive our spirits by sharing our dreams for our families and our BJC community, and pledging our energies to make them a reality.

L'Shanah Tovah Tikateivu—May You be Inscribed for a Good Year.

The President's Column

Joan Wolf

Where You Want to Be

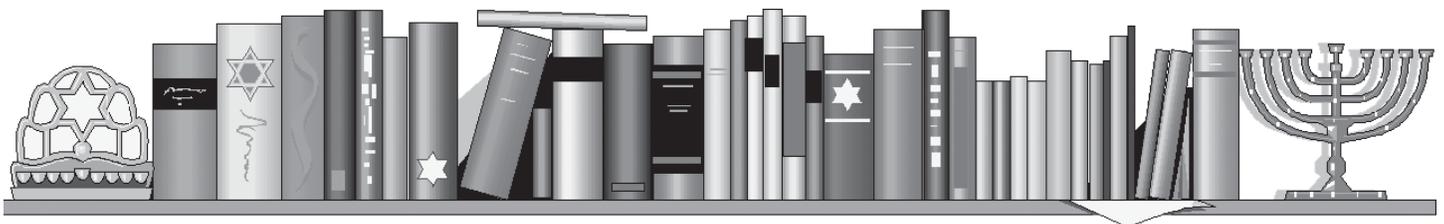
You are wherever your thoughts are. Make sure your thoughts are where you want to be.

Rebbe Nachman of Breslov
During this special time of year this sentiment is poignant—Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur are the holiest days of the Jewish calendar and are often seen as solemn and introspective. They certainly are for me, but are also a time of joy. We celebrate a New Year, greet many friends we may not have seen for awhile, and join together to pray, sing and observe our centuries-old traditions. It can also be an opportunity to set aside time from

crazy busy lives to get (more) involved at BJC. Simply contact Stacey Rose-Blass (Volunteer Coordinator) at bjcvolunteer@gmail.com—we want you!

Our new leadership team is committed to you. We represent newer and long-term members proudly: Rachel Mosher-Williams (Vice President), Alan Dubin (Treasurer), Lorrie Van Akkeren (Secretary), Ruth Magin (Social Action), Marlene Zakai (Program), Sharon Curry (Education), Robin Sorkin (Membership & Marketing), Moses Hetfield (Youth Representative), Elise Yousoufian (Intercongregational Partnership Liaison), Bruce Busman (Past President), Don Brenits, Shoshanah Drake, Dan Goldberg, Russ Hogya, Elizabeth Kirkpatrick, Martha Schrenk (Trustees), Warren Farb (High Holidays) and Anita Farb (Newsletter). Watch us grow, renew, revitalize and re-examine this special congregation that is deeply rooted in our hearts.

L'Shanah Tovah Tikateivu, Gut Yuntiff, Chag Sameach, G'mar Chatimah Tovah, Yom Tov and Happy New Year!



Director of Education

Mindy Silverstein

Welcome back! I hope you are as energized about this upcoming school year as I am.

We have some exciting programming planned. Our 5th-7th graders and their families will be creating their own tallit that will then be used during a

service. Our 3-7th graders will be introduced to a brand new youth group, and our Pre K-7th graders will be participating in an Ulpan style Hebrew enrichment program, courtesy of an ICE Grant, awarded by the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington.

Wishing you and your family a L'Shanah Tovah Tikateivu, a happy and healthy and sweet new year.

School Schedule

Saturday, September 7—First Day of Religious School

For this session only, grades Pre K-7 are to arrive by 9 a.m.*

- 9 a.m. All students, parents and teachers are invited to Memorial Hall for a short school-wide program followed by a brief parents meeting.
- 10 a.m. Parents are invited to visit their child's classrooms. The teachers will repeat their introductions two times. The first meeting is from 10-10:20 a.m. and the second session is from 10:25-10:45 a.m. This is to allow parents with more than one child in the school to visit each child's class. However, there is one exception to this, the 7th grade, because of the structure of their class, will need more than 20 minutes with parents. Therefore, they will only host one meeting time and that is at 10 a.m. If you have other children in the school, you are free to leave the 7th grade class at 10:20 to attend your other child's session.
- 10:45 a.m. All parents are invited to wait in the Meetcha Mocha café or to attend services, already in progress, until the Religious school dismisses at 12:15 p.m.

* For all other Saturday sessions, the schedule is Pre K-2nd grade, 10 a.m., and 3rd-7th grade, 9 a.m.

First day of Wednesday Religious school for grades 4th-7th—September 11, 4:15-5:45 p.m. If any student arrives before 4:15, please go directly to room 109—opposite Mrs. Silverstein's office. Students may not wait in unsupervised classrooms.

First day of Tichon, Tuesday, October 15, 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m.

Youth Groups

Youth groups for grades 3-4 and for grades 5-7 are being launched. The goals of the youth groups are to provide opportunities for students to connect with each other, to connect with BJC and to develop leadership skills. Jessica Grinspan, (mmytacism@gmail.com) youth director, developed and sent out a survey over the summer

asking students from this age group, along with their parents, for input and ideas. Based on those results, a Youth Calendar was developed.

Youth Calendar (as of 8/1/13)

9/21—Laser tag at Shadowlands—both groups

10/13—Pumpkin Patch (Grades 3-4)

11/10—Maccabeats (Grades 5-7 grades, Tichon and Adults)

12/8—Ice Skating (Grades 3-4)

2014

1/11-12—Havdalah, dinner, movie and a sleepover (Grades 5-7)

2/1 or 2/22—Open (Grades 3-4)

3/8—Open (Grades 5-7)

4/5—Chocolate Seder (Grades 3-4)

5/4—Geocaching (Grades 5-7)

Upcoming Events

9/7—First day RS

9/11—First day Wednesday school

9/15—Building a sukkah

9/19—Loading Manna trucks

Sukkot Programming follows

9/21—Youth Group Laser Tag

9/25—Simchat Torah Programming

9/29—Death Education Program for families of students in grades 4 and up

10/5—Consecration Services

Congregation News

High Holiday Schedule

Saturday, Aug. 31

9:00 p.m. Selichot Program and Service

Wednesday, Sept. 4

8:00 p.m. Erev Rosh Hashanah Service

Thursday, Sept. 5

10:00 a.m. Rosh Hashanah Service

1:30 p.m. Family Service for All Ages

3:30 p.m. Tashlich—Cabin John Park

Friday, Sept. 13

8:00 p.m. Kol Nidre

Saturday, Sept. 14

10:00 a.m. Yom Kippur Service

1:30 p.m. Family Service for All Ages

2:30 p.m. Discussion with the Rabbi

3:30 p.m. Musical Interlude

3:30 p.m. Chant Circle

5:00 p.m. Reading of the Book of Jonah

5:30 p.m. Yizkor and Neilah

Selichot 5773 and Jews and Baseball

Did you know that a Jew, Lipman E. (Lip) Pike became baseball's first professional in 1866 when he played third base for the Philadelphia Athletics at a salary of \$20 per week? He went on to be the batting champion in the first three years of the new National League from 1876–79. Come on Saturday, August 31 at 9 p.m. in Covenant Hall for a showing of the delightful documentary, *Jews and Baseball* that chronicles the history of Jewish Americans in the national pastime.

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

The final hour of the Shabbat before Rosh HaShanah was deemed by our rabbis to be a time of special power. Join us and experience the "hush at midnight."

BJC/BHPC Pulpit Exchange

Join us on Friday, September 6 at 8 p.m. for this special Shabbat between Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur.

Rev. David Gray of Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church (BHPC) will speak on the topic; "Why I believe there is a God."

This is What We Need to Build a Sukkah—YOU!

Last year, we set up a new sukkah in Covenant Hall. It replaced the old structure that was difficult to erect. What a pleasure last year! It went up in less than 90 minutes. We need volunteers to set up the structure, and hang the branches, fruits, and vegetables that make the sukkah such a joy to the eye and the soul. Come on Sunday, September 15 at 2 p.m. for one of those projects suitable for all ages.

Please RSVP to the BJC office.

Sukkot and Simchat Torah Celebrations

Come join us on Wednesday, September 18 and 25 at 4:45 p.m.

Special Saturday Morning Family Service and Consecration

Join us on Saturday, October 5 at 10:30 a.m. for a family friendly Shabbat morning service where we will welcome new students into our religious school. It is especially appropriate for our adult members to be present for our children and to model for them a commitment to lifelong learning. It takes a community to welcome its newest members. Be there!

New and Improved Meetcha Mocha Café

The Meetcha Mocha Café is back better than ever. Every Saturday at 8:55 a.m. sharp we promise to have a freshly brewed pot of coffee in room 109—the big

playroom across from the Education Director's office. Please join us when you drop your kids off for religious school, or stop by on your way to Adult Hebrew. Come to schmooze with fellow BJC families.

Starting October 12 and repeating the second Saturday of the month, Meetcha Mocha will offer posted conversation topics and even guest speakers for informal sharing from 9-10 a.m. Topics will be posted and will include subjects such as: Coping with Aging Parents, Parenting Your Teens, Sharing Your Latest Knitting Project, Holidays and Interfaith Families, Great Vacation. We are open to suggestions. Contact Mindy Silverstein at eddirect@bethesda.jewish.org if you have a great idea.

We are known as "the friendly congregation", so let's make some time on Shabbat mornings to make friends with each other!

Open Book Discussion: *Escape from Camp 14*

Please come on Tuesday September 24 (not the usual Wednesday) to discuss *Escape from Camp 14* by Blaine Harden. This is the story of Shin Dong Hyuk, an inmate born and raised in "the infamous "Camp 14" of the North Korean prison system. It is Shin's story of his life within, his escape from, and his life after prison—as told by the author, a *Washington Post* reporter. 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—Can We Talk?

Harri j. Kramer, Chair, Leadership Team Energy! When we met for Identity Day in the spring, that's what we all felt in the room. We created an amazing synergy, as often happens when our congregation comes together. From so many different voices and perspectives we heard our thoughts, passions, hopes, and visions for the future. Truly, we are more than the sum of our parts.

In a nutshell, Identity Day provided us a look back to re-examine our roots, our history, our traditions, and what makes BJC so unique. We realized that, yes, we have a lot of "old timers," and, yes, we have many who have been with our congregation for far fewer years, but who are no less passionate about what we all have in common—our future. Regardless of our time at BJC, whether we have toddlers or an empty nest, we spoke of what our hopes and vision for the future will be.

Identity Day was part of CE21—our congregational exploration into visioning BJC for the future. Your CE21 task force has been meeting since last winter going through a guided process of study,

interpretation, asking questions, and thinking about answers. Where is this headed?

We are now finalizing our draft Visionary Description Statement, which is a statement about what we want to be as a congregation of learners. Draft, you say? Yes, draft. Until we have input from you, our congregants, we cannot possibly finalize a draft. Soon you will begin to hear more about Congregational Conversations. We will be providing many opportunities for you to react to our draft, share your thoughts, and help us create a statement that will assist us charter where we want to go.

Your input is vital to the process. When you hear about the Congregational Conversation opportunities to provide feedback and ideas, please make an effort to attend. Just ask anyone of the 70 or more BJCs who came to Identity Day. Everyone who was there was clamoring for more.

If you have questions or ideas, you can write to CE21bjc@gmail.com or get in touch with the office.

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

On July 14, Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, BJC and the Idara e-Jaferia Mosque co-hosted a community forum featuring 10 young Palestinian and Israeli adults participating in the New Story Leadership for the Middle East (NSL) program. The Jewish, Christian and Muslim participants spoke powerfully of their experiences growing up in a conflict zone and the experiences that motivated them to participate in NSL, which provides the opportunity to work and live together for the summer with host families in Washington DC.

The NSL program seeks to create the space and the conditions for a new story to be told by a new generation of the most promising young Palestinians and Israelis by involving them in grassroots community service, work experience in significant organizations in Washington, DC, cultural immersion, an intense story-based curriculum (including listening and the art and craft of storytelling), public speaking and intense team training.

The participants shared their hopes in compelling narratives and solicited support for their Projects for Change.

The NSL activists are seeking advice, contacts and financial support to help them achieve their dreams. If you have any of these to offer, please contact Ronnie Haber or Evelyn Ganzglass and they will make the appropriate connections.

This is the third year BJC/BHPC has worked with

NSL to support interfaith dialogue and action. In 2011 our congregations donated the offering from our joint interfaith Thanksgiving Service to underwrite a portion of the cost of the 2012 program. This year's NSL participants and staff lent their muscle to the Habitat Interfaith Build that our congregations are supporting.

For more information about NSL go to newstoryleadership.org.

Yahrzeits

יָרֵצִים

Jacob Aronson, Father of Joel Aronson
Stephen David Berkowitz, Brother of Susan Berkowitz
Freda Corman Blumenthal, Mother of Diane Blumenthal

Edward T. Campiglia, Father of John Camp
Bessie Cohen, Grandmother of Donna Goldberg
Evelyn Dwork, Mother of Barry Dwork
Fanny Dwork, Grandmother of Barry Dwork
Solomon Dwork, Father of Barry Dwork
Toba Vallens Farb, Mother of Warren Farb
Molly Friedman, Mother of Hannah Elson
Cliff Hecht, Husband of Joan Schnitzer
Ethel Himberg, Mother of Harvey Himberg
Julius Hoffman, Father of Harold Hoffman
Vivian Lievita Kramer, Grandmother of Harri Kramer
Ethel Levine, Mother of Leslie Levine
Myer Lieberman, Father of Ruth Rosenberg
Shirley Poogach, Mother of Robert Poogach
Benjamin Rosenberg, Father of Phyliss Hoffman
Bruce Scott, Brother of David Scott
Myron Silbert, Uncle of Earl Silbert
Eleanor Leister Trussel, Mother of Joy Gold
Rhoda Turow, Grandmother of Stephen Turow
Peter Van Berg, Brother of Bill Van Berg
Alexander Weinstein, Father of Milton Weinstein
Henry Wolf, Father of Joan Wolf
Rose Wolk, Mother of Judy Feldman

Thank you

תודה רבה

Joel and Dee Aronson for their generous donation in honor of the Yahrzeits of Joel's mother, Pearl Aronson and Dee's father, Charles Salkind.

Al and Judy Folsom for their generous donation in honor of the Yahrzeit of Al's father, Maurice Folsom.

Richard and Rori Kochman for their generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of their daughter, Julia's Bat Mitzvah.

Barry and Barbara Korb for their generous donation in memory of Peter Feldman.

Susan O'Toole for her generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in memory of her mother, Ruth Jawitz.

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September 2013 Calendar



Day	Date	Time	Event	Location
Wednesday	Aug. 28	6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Adult Hebrew Kemach and Tanach BJC Book Club	Covenant Hall Lounge Covenant Hall
Friday	Aug. 30	8:00 p.m.	Shabbat Service	Covenant Hall
Saturday	Aug. 31	9:00 p.m.	Selichot Program, Film— <i>Jews and Baseball</i> & Service	Covenant Hall
Wednesday	Sept. 4	8:00 p.m.	Erev Rosh Hashanah	Sanctuary
Thursday	Sept. 5	10:00 a.m. 1:30 p.m. 3:30 p.m.	Rosh HaShanah Service Rosh HaShanah Family Service for All Ages Tashlich	Sanctuary Sanctuary Cabin John Park
Friday	Sept. 6	8:00 p.m.	Shabbat Service—Pulpit Exchange—Dr. Rev. David Gray	Covenant Hall
Saturday	Sept. 7	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Adult Hebrew <i>First Day of Religious School for Everyone</i> Shabbat Worship	Lounge Memorial Hall Covenant Hall
Sunday	Sept. 8	1:30 p.m.	9/11 Unity Walk	Embassy Row
Wednesday	Sept. 11	4:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	<i>First Day of Wednesday Religious School</i> Kemach and Tanach	Classrooms Library
Thursday	Sept. 12	7:30 p.m.	BJC Board of Directors Meeting	Lounge
Friday	Sept. 13	8:00 p.m.	Kol Nidre	Sanctuary
Saturday	Sept. 14	10:00 a.m. 1:30 p.m. 2:30 p.m. 3:30 p.m. 3:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Yom Kippur Service Family Service for All Ages Discussion with the Rabbi Musical Interlude Yom Kippur Chant Circle Reading of the Book of Jonah Yizkor and Neilah	Sanctuary Sanctuary Covenant Hall Sanctuary Lounge Sanctuary Sanctuary
Sunday	Sept. 15	2:00 p.m.	Build the Sukkahs	Covenant Hall
Wednesday	Sept. 18	4:15 p.m. 4:45 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	<i>Erev Sukkot</i> Religious School Sukkot Celebration Kemach and Tanach	Classrooms Covenant Hall Sukkah
Thursday	Sept. 19		<i>Sukkot</i> BJC Office Closed	
Friday	Sept. 20	8:00 p.m.	Simcha B'Shabbat	Covenant Hall
Saturday	Sept. 21	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Adult Hebrew Religious School Shabbat Worship	Lounge Classrooms Covenant Hall
Tuesday	Sept. 24	8:00 p.m.	BJC Book Club— <i>Escape from Camp 14</i>	Library
Wednesday	Sept. 25	4:15 p.m. 4:45 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	<i>Erev Simchat Torah</i> Religious School Simchat Torah Reading Kemach and Tanach	Classrooms Covenant Hall Library
Thursday	Sept. 26		<i>Simchat Torah</i> BJC Office Closed	

Friday	Sept. 27	8:00 p.m.	Shabbat Service	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

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

(Continued from page 5)

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

A special thank you to all who "rounded up" on their synagogue support

For their generous donation to Enhancing the Flame
Ed and Norma Stern
Lorrie Van Akkeren



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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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The deadline for submitting articles for the October newsletter is September 6. 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 October newsletter, mail it to the BJC office with your check made payable to BJC. Deadline: September 6. 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.