



# Bethesda Jewish Congregation News

Rabbi Elhanan 'Sunny' Schnitzer

February/March 2015  
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## Kriat HaRav—The Rabbi's Call

Rabbi Elhanan 'Sunny' Schnitzer

BJC's founding Rabbi, Edwin Friedman, gained renown in the worlds of synagogues and churches for his family systems theory of congregational dynamics. His book *From Generation to Generation* is required reading in many seminaries to this day. His third book; *A Failure of Nerve*, challenged leaders, both religious and corporate, to fully embrace their roles as "differentiated leaders" on a path to positive change and to build rewarding communal relationships. Non-reactive engagement, clarity of vision, and persistence in facing inertial resistance, are some of the hallmarks of this system.

How ironic that BJC's recent interactions with Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church (BHPC) over the issue of PCUSA's divestment of holdings in three companies doing business with Israel, have followed a pattern that highlights our failure to hold to Rabbi Friedman's principles. BJC and BHPC are in the somewhat unique position that our communal relationship encompasses "family members" with different belief systems, but underlying shared values, who must thrive together to achieve maximum success. Neither entity can afford to ignore the other until a crisis forces interaction, but inertial forces created this very situation over the past seven months. How many BJC or BHPC members have a real relationship with the spiritual siblings with whom we share our home? If we are honest—not many.

Luckily, as in any family relationship dynamic, the rules for improvement are well documented. Among them are: 1. Don't take your partner for granted. 2. Schedule time for meaningful interactions. 3. Communicate effectively—Talk it out.

Last month a small group of members from the two congregations met to discuss PCUSA's divestment action and how we might work together in response. As reported in an e-mail to all members

of BJC, the leadership of BHPC does not support the divestment action taken by Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA). In addition to discussions about how our congregations can be an effective voice to resist the BDS (Boycott, Divest, and Sanction) movement within PCUSA, there was also discussion about ways we can deepen our inter-congregational and personal relationships.

How do we promote our events to both congregations and lower the barriers of engagement? How do we share the building for maximum efficiency? How do we create social events for our various constituencies: families with young children, empty nesters, retirees, etc.? For example, the BHPC members in attendance had never visited the Holocaust museum. How might we create joint trips for various age groups to encourage understanding of the historical Jewish experience and relationship with Israel? What would the Christian counterpart to that sort of programming look like?

We ended the meeting excited about the potential for enriching the community at 6601 Bradley Blvd. and developing a new appreciation for the needs of both congregations on multiple levels. In the months to come, I hope that BJC members will take advantage of these opportunities for engagement as they are publicized.

### BJC News

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# The President's Column

Joan Wolf

## How Can You Help?

Did you know that there are many ways to support BJC? Obviously, you can simply 'round up' your dues, but you can also direct your donations to special funds, such as: Maran Gluckstein Family Education Fund; Social Action Fund; Religious School Education Fund; Torah Repair Fund; Hiddur Bima Repair Fund; Media/

Marketing Fund; Marvin Schnitzer Memorial Book Fund; Scholar-in-Residence Fund; Rabbi's Discretionary Fund or the Cuba Fund.

Or, just go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and select BJC—Amazon will donate .05% of the purchase price to us.

And, of course, donations to BJC's operations budget are always welcome.

Questions about how, what or why? Ask me!

Thank you, as always, for your devotion to and support of our wonderful community.

# Director of Congregational Education

Mindy Silverstein

With the start of a new calendar year comes the long list of well-intentioned resolutions. From exercising daily to the elimination of junk food, from spending more time with family and friends and, to taking care of our spiritual needs. We see the new year as an opportunity for fresh beginnings.

Because the new calendar year occurs in the middle of the school year, I also see it as an opportunity to take stock in how the religious school is progressing. Based upon written and oral evaluations, congregational

conversations, and "in the hallway" moments with congregants, I tweak and amend programs and curriculum as needed.

For example, parents have told me that they miss not having child made craft projects which may be used year after year. Towards that end, our 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders have made pottery pieces and our 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grades created and designed their own tallit.

Teaching Jewish values and ways to integrate them into our daily lives is a key component of our curriculum. This is why our family programs place such a heavy emphasis on values and why "aRound the Table" was created.

Yes, making resolutions for the secular new year is customary, but I'd like to suggest taking stock of either ourselves or our involvement with organizations become a part of that custom as well.

# Congregation News

## Great Names Community Lecture Series: E.J. Dionne



BJC continues its *Great Names Community Lecture Series* on Sunday, February 8 with a compelling presentation by E.J. Dionne, *Washington Post* columnist and political analyst. The

series, scheduled on Sundays at BJC from 3 to 5 p.m., is open to all and

brings timely and provocative topics to the community.

The lecture is free of charge. RSVP is preferred to secure a seat. Please call the BJC office or register online at: [bethesdajewish.org/registration](http://bethesdajewish.org/registration).

## Great Chefs Series Continues With...Men!

You are cordially invited to attend the third—and extremely unique—part of BJC's Great Chefs Community Cooking Series featuring BJC's own...male chefs, on Sunday, February 22 at 3 p.m. in the Lounge, when Dan Goldberg, Mark Hetfield and Jim Kretz will share their creative culinary skills with some superb specialties. For instance, Mark will share his famous Georgian Cheese Bread and also enlighten us about the country of Georgia and his travels in the region.

Want to know what Jim and Dan have in store? You need to be there to taste, listen and savor their talents! Simply reserve a seat by calling the BJC office or register online at: [bethesdajewish.org/registration/](http://bethesdajewish.org/registration/). \$12/members, \$15/non-members.

### **BJC Open Book Discussion**

The BJC Book Club will meet on Wednesday, February 25 to discuss *Animal Wise* by Virginia Morrell. This book explores the inner world of the animal mind, probing the moral and ethical dilemmas of recognizing that even “lesser animals” have cognitive abilities such as memory, feelings, personality, and self-awareness—traits that many in the twentieth century felt were unique to human beings.

We will meet on Wednesday, March 25 to discuss *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics* by Daniel James Brown, an improbable, intimate account of how nine working-class boys showed the world what true grit really meant. The University of Washington’s eight-oar crew was never expected to defeat the elite teams of the East Coast and Great Britain, yet they did, going on to shock the world by defeating the German team rowing for Adolf Hitler.

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.

### **Purim Spiel—Schmaltz (Grease): The Whole Megillah**



BJC is proud to present *Schmaltz (Grease): The Whole Megillah* on Saturday, March 7 at 6:30 p.m. Delicious hors d’oeuvres, dinner, dessert and unlimited libations are included in the price of a coveted ticket (\$36/members, \$42/non-members). Call the BJC office or register online at: [bethesdajewish.org/registration](http://bethesdajewish.org/registration).

The tunes write themselves as “Beauty School Dropout” becomes “Hebrew School Dropout” and Vashti laments to King Ahasuerus that she has been “Hopelessly Demoted By You”.

It’s going to be a rolled-up jeans-wearing, poodle skirt-sporting ramalama, ding dong time!

### **CE21—Do You Recognize the Change?**

This time last year, we were well into analyzing the information you supplied during our Congregational Conversations. From your input, we learned a great deal about what you wanted from BJC.

To be sure, many items are still being addressed. But here’s some of what’s changed in the past year as a direct result of your input and the work of the CE21 Task Force.

- We’re wearing name badges when we get together.
- We’ve launched a fabulous speaker series, Great Names in the Neighborhood.
- We’ve smacked our lips with the Great Chefs, a delicious series involving cooking from a Jewish perspective.
- We’ve added more family programming involving the religious school and the whole community.
- We’ve created opportunities for more congregant participation at High Holy Days.

- We’ve created social opportunities, such as our Beer and Wine Tasting (aka “Schmooze and Booze”).

Everything we’re doing reflects our CE21 primary goals.

1. Jewish learning is linked to Jewish living. Think of this as study, worship, and “doing Jewish.”
2. Learning journeys will help our congregants experience the connection between Judaism, Jewish living, and being Americans. Think of this in terms of our programs “being relevant.”
3. Congregation and community bonds are central to BJC. This is our “ensuring connectedness.”

### **Pinat Ivrit עבירת פינת Hebrew Corner**

Maran Gluckstein

Our Hebrew root for the months of February and March is מלך malach. As a verb, its meaning is reign. The opening line of Adon Olam, the familiar song which concludes many services, contains the root both as a verb—asher malach b’terem kol, the One who ruled before anything existed, and as a noun—azai melech sh’mo nikra, then King His name shall be called. The heroine of the Purim story is Esther HaMalka, Esther the Queen, who convinces her husband the king, HaMelech Ahashverosh, to save the Jews from annihilation. In fact, it’s a root we hear all year long starting with the weekly welcoming of Shabbat HaMalka, Sabbath the Queen, with the singing of Shalom Aleichem, which contains the words Melech malchei ham’lachim (the king of the kings of kings—the supreme king). The opening of every blessing is, “Baruch Atah Adonai, Melech HaOlam (blessed are You, Adonai, King of the universe), and the second line of the Shema contains

(Continued on page 4)

the word Malchuto, His kingdom. Throughout the High Holidays, we address our prayers to Avinu Malkeinu (our father our king), and one of the three sections of the Shofar service is called Malchuyot, kingdoms. Two of the books of the Bible are Melachim (Kings) 1 and 2, and we have many stories and songs about David HaMelech and Shlomo HaMelech, King David and King Solomon.

I hope you are blessed K'yad HaMelech, abundantly, lavishly—literally as the king's hand—in 2015. See you next time—L'hitra-ot.

## **Yahrzeits**

## **יָאָרְצֵיִט**

### **February 2015**

Barry Aronson, Husband of Debra Aronson  
Esther Bachrach, Mother of Burt Bachrach  
Herman Bachrach, Father of Burt Bachrach  
Elisha Barsky, Father of Lisa Strauss  
Herbert Nathan Cahan, Grandfather of Sandra Walter  
Harold Coplan, Uncle of Lois Rose  
Samuel Druckman, Grandfather of Linda Blumberg and Mark Blumberg

Anna Dubrow, Mother of Laurie Dubrow  
Morris Dubrow, Father of Laurie Dubrow  
Curtis Evey, Father of Bunny Roufa  
Georg Gluckstein, Father of Fritz Gluckstein  
Beatrice Haber, Mother of Miles Haber  
Minnie Kerwin, Mother of Aleen Chabot  
Gerald Killian, Brother in law of Richard Fogel  
Leon Jacobson, Father of Annie Cifarelli  
Bernice S. Kramer, Mother of Harri Kramer  
John Krettmeyer, Father of Nancy Glassman  
William V Levine, Father of Les Levine  
Marchia Olney, Mother of Phyliss Hoffman  
Morton Peterson, Father of Jon Peterson  
Nathan J Rosenberg, Father of Lorraine Levin  
Sarah Roger, Grandmother of Robert Poogach  
Benjamin Rouse, Husband of Bunny Roufa  
Herman Schlacter, Father of David Slacter  
Ernest Joseph Schmalz, Father of Lorraine McMillen  
Shirley Selditch, Mother of Renee Asher  
Abraham Sherman, Grandfather of Harri Kramer  
Sylvia Simon, Mother of Martin Simon  
Reve Madeoy Sugarman, Mother of Elsa Weinstein  
Judith Taylor, Mother of Lyne Taylor-Genser  
Shirley Tahler, Grandmother of Rori Kochman  
Lolly Toll, Wife of Steve Toll  
Goldjean Turow, Mother of Steve Turow  
Harry Walders, Father of Larry Walders  
Miriam Winkler, Mother of Robin Doroshow

### **March 2015**

Larry Adlerstein, Father of Maran Gluckstein

Nancy Brenits, Mother of Don Brenits  
Leo Blumberg, Grandfather of Linda Blumberg and Mark Blumberg  
Esther Chabot, Mother of Herb Chabot  
Grace Ertichek, Mother of Debra Aronson  
Joseph Ertichek, Father of Debra Aronson  
Susan Ferguson, Mother of Sandra Walter  
Annette Franzel, Aunt of Maran Gluckstein  
Joe Glassman, Father in law of Nancy Glassman  
J. Harvey Gleberman, Father of Ellen Gleberman  
Ilene Hoffman, Wife of Gary Hoffman  
Saul Horn, Father of Joani Schnitzer  
Pauline Jerome, Grandmother of Karen Jerome  
Dorothy Kaufman, Mother of Emily van Agtmael  
Donald Kerwin, Brother of Aleen Chabot  
Theodore Landsman, Father of Sandi Medlin  
Jerry Lichtenberg, Brother of Warren Lichtenberg  
Alice Lieberman, Mother of Ruth Rosenberg  
Shirley K. Ratner, Mother of Gary Ratner  
Molly Shaikun, Grandmother of Steve Turow  
Estelle Schneider, Mother of Cindy Bogorad  
Sam Schwartz, Father of Linda Baum  
Louis Singer, Father of Marlene Zakai  
Selma F. Sotnick, Mother of Cliff Sotnick  
Leonard Weinstock, Father of Tara Blanchard

## **Thank You**

## **תודה רבה**

Cathy Bernard, for her generous donation in memory of her mother, Norma, her father, Burton and her brother, Harold Bernard.

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

Jay and Elise Bratt for their generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of Aaron and Hanna's B'Nai Mitzvah.

Dixon and Susan Butler for their generous donation in honor of Joan Wolf.

Bruce and Wynne Busman for their generous donation in memory of Steve Turow's father, Alan Turow.

Bruce and Wynne Busman for their generous donation in honor of the Yahrzeit of Wynne's father, Irving Cassell and in memory of Al Folsom's sister, Jean Zisman.

Barry and Kathy Cantor for their generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of Simon's Bar Mitzvah.

Merle Cantor for her generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of Simon's Bar Mitzvah and as a thank for the Rabbi's care and concern after her beloved husband, Jay, passed away.

Annie and Mike Cifarelli for their generous donation in memory of Al Folsom's sister, Jean Zisman and Steve Turow's father, Alan Turow.

Shoshanah and Brian Drake for their generous donation in memory of Steve Turow's father, Alan Turow.

Ken and Dionne Fine for their generous donation of a new sound system to BJC.

Nancy Glassman for her generous donation.

Ken and Lolly Harkavy for their generous donation to BJC for being such a welcoming community.

Evan Krame for his generous donations.

Russ Hogya and Harri Kramer for their generous donation to in memory of Al Folsom's sister, Jean Zisman and Steve Turow's father, Alan Turow.

Bruce and Amy Mehlman for their generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund to help those in need.

Herb and Nancy Milstein for their generous donation in honor of BJC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Naomi Naierman and Kevin Marvelle for their generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund.

Talia and Isla O'Brien for their generous Hanukkah donation to the Cuba Fund to help young Jewish children in Cuba.

Ken Parker and Catherine Yang for their generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of Jeremy's Bar Mitzvah.

Stacey Rose-Blass for her generous donation in honor of the Yahrzeit of her mother, Priscilla Goldman Rose.

David and Judy Scott for their generous donation to the Cuba Fund in memory of Al Folsom's sister, Jean Zisman and in honor of the Yahrzeit of David's father, Jack Scott.

David and Jane Slacter for their generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of Annie's wedding.

Ed and Norma Stern for their generous donation in memory of Steve Turow's father, Alan Turow.

Lisa Strauss for her generous donation in memory of Barry Cantor's father, Jay Cantor.

Steve Turow and Linda Blumberg for their generous donation in honor of BJC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Lorrie Van Akkeren for her generous donations to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in memory of Barry Cantor's father, Jay Cantor and generous donation to the Cuba Fund.

Elsa Weinstein for her generous donations in memory of Al Folsom's sister, Jean Zisman and in honor of the Yahrzeit of her father, Joseph Sugarman.

Joan Wolf for her generous donation in memory of Steve Turow's father, Alan Turow.

Ira and Sheila Wolpert for their generous donation to the Cuba Fund.

*A special thank you to all who "rounded up" in their synagogue support payments.*

*A special thank you to all who donated to the new Scholar in Residence Fund.*

*For Their Generous Donation to Enhancing the Flame*  
Lorrie Van Akkeren



## BJC Annual Seder

*(First Night)*

**Friday, April 3 at 6:30 p.m.**

Cost: \$40\* per adult, \$18 per child, ages 7-12 and under 7, free.

What to Bring: Last names A-M, kosher for Passover side dish;  
last names N-Z, kosher for Passover dessert.

RSVP: Call BJC office or online at [bethesdjewish.org/registration](http://bethesdjewish.org/registration)  
(\*cost online will include credit card service fees) by March 27.

After that, the price is \$50.

# February 2015 Calendar



<i>Day</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
Wednesday	Jan 28	4:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Religious School Torah Today	Classrooms Library
Friday	Jan 30	6:30 p.m. 7:30 pm	Family Shabbat Pot Luck Shabbat Dinner	Covenant Hall Memorial Hall
Saturday	Jan 31	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m	Religious School Adult Hebrew Shabbat Worship - Parsha Beshalach Class of 2015 B'Nai Mitzvah Family Meeting In Grape Company—Schmooze, Brews, & Blues	Classrooms Lounge Covenant Hall Lounge Memorial Hall
Tuesday	Feb 3	6:30 p.m.	Tichon Class	Youth Lounge
Wednesday	Feb 4	4:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Tu B'Shevat Religious School Torah Today	Classrooms Library
Friday	Feb 6	8:00 p.m.	N'tivim L'Shabbat Music Service	Covenant Hall
Saturday	Feb 7	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m.	Religious School Adult Hebrew Shabbat Worship—Parsha Yitro Class of 2015 B'Nai Mitzvah Family Meeting	Classrooms Lounge Covenant Hall Lounge
Sunday	Feb 8	3:00 p.m.	Great Names with E.J. Dionne	Covenant Hall
Wednesday	Feb 11	4:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Religious School Torah Today	Classrooms Library
Thursday	Feb 12	7:30 p.m.	BJC Board of Directors Meeting	Lounge
Friday	Feb 13	8:00 p.m.	Shabbat Service	Covenant Hall
Saturday	Feb 14	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	<i>No Religious School</i> <i>No Adult Hebrew</i> Shabbat Worship—Parsha Mishpatim / Shabbat Shekalim <i>No Chant Circle</i>	Classrooms Lounge Covenant Hall
Tuesday	Feb 17	6:30 p.m.	Tichon Class	Youth Lounge
Wednesday	Feb 18	4:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Religious School Torah Today	Classrooms Library
Friday	Feb 20	8:00 p.m.	Shabbat Service (No Band)	Covenant Hall
Saturday	Feb 21	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Religious School Adult Hebrew Shabbat Worship—Parsha Terumah	Memorial Hall Lounge Covenant Hall
Sunday	Feb 22	2:00 p.m.	Great Chefs Cooking Series	Lounge
Wednesday	Feb 25	4:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Religious School Torah Today BJC Book Club— <i>Animal Wise</i>	Classrooms Library Library
Friday	Feb 27	6:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Tot Shabbat Shabbat Service	Longe Covenant Hall
Saturday	Feb 28	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	<i>No Religious School</i> <i>No Adult Hebrew</i> Shabbat Worship—Parsha Tetzaveh / Shabbat Zachor	Classrooms Lounge Covenant Hall

# March 2015 Calendar



Day	Date	Time	Event	Location
Tuesday	March 3	6:30 p.m.	Tichon Class	Youth Lounge
Wednesday	March 4	4:15 p.m. 4:45 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Erev Purim Religious School Reading of the Megillah Torah Today	Classrooms Covenant Hall Library
Thursday	March 5		<i>Purim</i>	
Friday	March 6	8:00 p.m.	N'tivin L'Shabbat	Covenant Hall
Saturday	March 7	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	Religious School/Purim Carnival—All Classes Adult Hebrew Shabbat Worship—Tilkin Bar Mitzvah—Parsha Ki Tisa Adult Purim Spiel	Classrooms Lounge Covenant Hall Memorial Hall
Wednesay	March 11	4:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Religious School Torah Today	Classrooms Library
Thursday	March 12	2:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Prime Timers Adult Ed Series BJC Board of Directors Meeting	Lounge Lounge
Friday	March 13	8:00 p.m.	Shabbat Service	Covenant Hall
Saturday	March 14	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Religious School Adult Hebrew Shabbat Worship Parsha Vayakhel—Pekudei Shabbat Parah	Classrooms Lounge Covenant Hall
Tuesday	March 17	6:30 p.m.	Tichon Class	Youth Lounge
Wednesday	March 18	4:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Religious School Torah Today	Classrooms Library
Friday	March 20	8:00 p.m.	Simcha B'Shabbat All Music Service with Band	Covenant Hall
Saturday	March 21	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Religious School Adult Hebrew Shabbat Worship—Tuszynski Bar Mitzvah—Parsha Vayikra	Classrooms Lounge Covenant Hall
Wednesday	March 26	4:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Religious School Torah Today BJC Book Club— <i>The Boys in the Boat</i>	Classrooms Library Library
Friday	March 27	6:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Tot Shabbat Shabbat Service	Lounge Covenant Hall
Saturday	March 28	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Religious School Adult Hebrew Shabbat Worship—Roe Bat Mitzvah—Parsha Tzav	Classrooms Lounge Covenant Hall
Wednesday	April 1	4:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	<i>No Religious School</i> Torah Today	Classrooms Library
Friday	April 3	6:30 p.m.	First Night of Pesach—BJC Seder	Memorial Hall
Saturday	April 4	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	<i>No Religious School</i> <i>No Adult Hebrew</i> Shabbat Worship - First day of Pesach	Classrooms Lounge Covenant Hall

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



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**Design Layout and Desktop Publishing:  
Yvonne Bryant—[ly\\_bryant@verizon.net](mailto:ly_bryant@verizon.net)**

The deadline for submitting articles for the April/May newsletter is March 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 April/May newsletter, mail it to the BJC office with your check made payable to BJC.  
Deadline: March 6. Rate structure for a business card: \$30 per month, 3-month minimum. Rates are slightly higher for cards that are not camera-ready art.