



# Bethesda Jewish Congregation News

Rabbi Elhanan 'Sunny' Schnitzer

October/November 2014  
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## Kriat HaRav—The Rabbi's Call

Rabbi Elhanan 'Sunny' Schnitzer

Over the summer the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA), the parent organization of Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church (BHPC), took an action at their General Assembly to divest their pension plan of holdings in three US based companies, Hewlett Packard, Motorola Solutions, and Caterpillar, that do business with the Israel Defense Force.

The action was somewhat narrow in scope and defenders of the action highlight that PCUSA still has holdings in other companies that do business in Israel. But, the issue for Jews and for BJC is that PCUSA has added momentum to the growing BDS (Boycott, Divest, Sanction) movement picking up steam in Europe and within academia in the United States. The PCUSA action is hostile to Israel, one-sided in its focus, and has damaged Presbyterian Jewish relations in the United States.

I have received telephone calls and e-mails from colleagues asking how BJC can continue to share space with a Presbyterian congregation?

In response I can now say; "The leadership of BHPC does not support the action."

According to Rev. David Gray a vast majority of members of the church, do not support the action taken by their national organization. Rev. Gray tells me anecdotally that you can count on one hand the members of BHPC who agree with it. Within the BHPC session there are a number of church leaders who are staunch advocates for Israel and are very vocal in their upset with their national organization.

BHPC is not the only DC based Presbyterian Church to react this

way. In May the National Capital Presbytery rejected a divestment overture.

In July Rev. David Gray gave an interview to the *Jewish Week* stating that he does not believe divestment "is helpful, and its disadvantages outweigh the advantages. Change will come only when working with all parties. Divestment won't help that."

David said much more to the interviewer than appeared in the paper, but this is how the reporter "cherry picked" his words. Sometime later this month Rev. Gray will be a signatory to a letter that is supposed to appear in a "major American newspaper," rejecting the divestment action as well as the BDS movement. Rev. Susan Andrews and Rev. John Wemberly, former BHPC pastors, will also sign onto that letter.

From my personal conversations with Rev. Gray, he points out that most of the support for divestment came from Presbyterian churches on the West Coast and Midwest. The current national church leadership in Louisville is however in agreement with the actions taken at the General Assembly. Therein lies the challenge for BHPC, other DC area churches, and individual pastors who are raising their voices in protest.

It will take some time to create meaningful responses from supporters

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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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of Israel within PCUSA. Locally, BHPC wishes to work with the BJC Board to explore meaningful actions that will counteract the forces within PCUSA that have brought us to this unfortunate state of affairs and will strengthen the relationship between our congregations. Perhaps we will explore the creation of a joint response, not unlike what our congregations did back in 2005 when we crafted an overture to

the 2006 PCUSA General Assembly against the divestment option.

That resolution *was* adopted by PCUSA in 2006. Unfortunately, BDS supporters have relentlessly brought the issue back to the floor at every subsequent convention and changes in the makeup of PCUSA member congregations allowed the divestment advocates to narrowly win support for their position.

The forces against the State of Israel are tireless. Those who support Israel must realize the real dangers that threaten her place in the world and be ready to act on her behalf locally, nationally, and internationally. We will be a part of it.

## The President's Column

Joan Wolf

### Welcome to New Board Members

It is my pleasure to welcome Eileen Newman (Secretary) and Issie Resti (Education Committee Co-Chair) to the Board of Trustees! I gave them the task of interviewing each other—please congratulate them on stepping up to the 'volunteerism plate'. I look forward to another year of scintillating board meetings, interesting interchanges and the congregation's best interests as a dedicated commonality.

(From Issie) "I'm excited to introduce BJC Board Secretary Eileen Newman who grew up in Baltimore, but now lives in Potomac. Eileen brings

to us an appreciation of the classics. She's a Carole King fan and she actually likes writing in cursive. On a recent trip to Italy, she especially enjoyed seeing the synagogues of Rome and Florence. Eileen also likes learning new things, including how to chant from the Torah, a skill she has developed by taking the Rabbi's class on reading trope."

(From Eileen) "Israelle Resti (Issie), the Co-Chair of BJC's Education Committee was born in Baltimore, but was raised in Bethesda. She was named after her grandfather—you guessed it—Israel! Being the Education Committee Chair is a natural for Issie, as her [work and home] life revolves around children. The first thing she notices about people is how they speak to their children; the book she is currently reading is 'The Rainbow Fairy' series (to her children) and says her special talent is being able to read the series to them without gagging (usually). By serving on the BJC Board, Issie hopes to learn new ways to help everyone feel engaged in congregational life."

## Director of Congregational Education

Mindy Silverstein

We had a wonderful first month of school and I'd like to thank the teachers for creating such a warm and educational environment: Puran Corwell, Pre K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade mid-week Hebrew; Marina Milbert, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade; Tamar Dworkin, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade; Malka Ostchega, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade; Glenn Siegal, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Judaics; Orna Amrani, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade mid-week Hebrew; Rebecca

Gold, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Shabbat Hebrew; Gary Ratner, Ed Stern, and Mitch Kraus, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Judaics team; and Rabbi Schnitzer, 7<sup>th</sup> grade mid-week Hebrew and Tichon.

Kudos to our teen assistants, Benji Magin and Jordon Kochman, who are becoming our jack-of-all-trades and to Roz Young who is always willing to lend an ear and a hand, and a heartfelt thanks to the best education committee a director could ask for. Led by Co-chairs Sharon Curry and Issie Resti, Vicki Bailer, Lorraine McMillen and Karen Levy offer wonderful advice and ideas.

I am looking forward to a busy, fun and productive school year.



## Congregation News

### **Yom Kippur Chant Circle—The Journey of Forgiveness**

Forgiveness doesn't mean ignoring an injustice or letting someone treat you badly. It is about healing the memory of the harm. Join "Opening the Heart Chant circle" on Saturday, October 4 at 3:30 p.m., for our annual afternoon chant program as we step onto the path of T'shuvah.

*Chanting is a form of meditation that can open the doors of the heart. Experience the power and potential of this pathway to soul healing. No prior knowledge of singing, chanting, or Hebrew language is necessary.*

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

Nothing says autumn like the sight of our beautiful BJC sukkah. The flowers, fruit, and greenery all say to the eye, the time of repentance is over. Let's celebrate and give the rabbi a break the day after Yom Kippur. We need volunteers on Sunday, October 5 at 2 p.m. to organize, set up the structure, and hang the branches, fruits, and vegetables that make the sukkah such a joy to the eye and the soul. Our new Sukkah frame goes up in only 90 minutes. This is one of those projects suitable for all ages. Call the BJC office to volunteer.

### **Erev Sukkot Service**

On Wednesday, October 8 at 5 p.m., come join our BJC religious school students for a Sukkot service as we parade with the Lulav and Etrog around Covenant Hall and celebrate Heh Hag, *The Festival!* Israeli snacks will be served in our outdoor sukkah (weather permitting).

### **Simchat Torah, Consecration of New Religious School Students**

Once again, on Friday, October 17 at 7:30 p.m., we'll be entertained by the BJC Simcha Band. Join us for "Rollin' Up the Torah!"

### **BJC/BHPC Pulpit Exchange**

On Sunday, October 19 at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., Rabbi Schnitzer will deliver the morning sermon "Jerusalem Shel ma'lah" The Jerusalem of the Spirit.

### **Open Book Discussion: *Orpheo***

The BJC Book Club will meet on October 22 at 8 p.m. in the Library to discuss *Orpheo* by Richard Powers. Although there is a story line, essen-

tially, this is a book of ideas about the connections between music and genetics. The November book selection is yet to be determined. It will be announced in the weekly BJC e-newsletter.

Drop-ins and new members are always welcome. Contact Evelyn Ganzglass, 202-966-7037 or Ruth Rosenberg, 703-560-9525 for more information.

### **Family Service—Shabbat Under the Roof**

BJC's fabulously successful Shabbat Under the Stars multimedia service is now Shabbat Under the Roof. If you missed it in Sept., don't miss it on Friday, October 24 at 6:30 p.m. followed by a Pot Luck Shabbat Dinner, \$8 for adults, \$5 for kids 5-12, under 5 free.

### **It's Tot Shabbat!**

Join us on Friday, November 14 at 6:30 p.m. for BJC's unique service for pre-schoolers with music and puppetry. Rabbi Schnitzer gets us ready for the great American Festival of gratitude—Thanksgiving.

### **Joint Thanksgiving Service**

Join us for the annual Thanksgiving Service and Brunch. This event will begin as usual with a celebration of abundance with readings from

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sacred texts and music among spiritual siblings, including members of Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church and BJC. We look forward as well to the company of Muslim celebrants. Brunch following the Thanksgiving service is \$11/ adults, \$5/children 12 and under, at 12 noon. Contributions of side dishes and dessert are GRATEFULLY APPRECIATED. Thank you in advance for signing up online to bring a side dish (no beef or pork) for eight or more, if your last name begins with A-M, and for dessert for eight, if your name begins with N-Z. Signing up for brunch and dishes to share may be done on BJC's website, at [www.bethesda.jewish.org](http://www.bethesda.jewish.org).

### **BJC Blood Drive**

On Saturday, November 22, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., BJC will host a blood drive for the American Red Cross. Please consider donating to help someone in need. We also need volunteers to register donors and to provide refreshments. Student volunteers qualify for Montgomery County SSI credits. To make an appointment to donate or volunteer, please contact Roz Young at [admin@bethesdajewish.org](mailto:admin@bethesdajewish.org). For more information visit [www.redcrossblood.org/donatingblood](http://www.redcrossblood.org/donatingblood).

### **CE21—5775: Make It Yours!**



By now you have surely noticed changes around you. BJC's Congregational Engagement for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century—CE21—has moved from the theoretical to the practical. We've taken your input, your ideas, and your hopes for the future of BJC and have started the New Year with programming that has added to the richness of the High Holy Days.

We have a diverse, dynamic calendar of activities that allow you to make 5775 yours and to engage with our greater community to find your own way to explore Judaism, Jewish living and being an American Jew.

BJC affords us the opportunity to enrich a vibrant Jewish community that resonates with our individual values. Where else can you find a synagogue that is fun, thought-provoking, generous, and involved in the world around us? Of course, the only way this happens is if you participate and get involved. Take it from one who is: What you will receive is much more than you what will give.

Regardless of whether you want your Jewish journey to be musical, spiritual, cultural, educational, social, or philanthropic, BJC has something to offer. Be engaged. Be a part of our community. Join Our Journey...Make It Yours.

If you have thoughts, please let us know at [CE21bjc@gmail.com](mailto:CE21bjc@gmail.com) or 301-469-8636.

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

Maran Gluckstein

The root for the month of October is "z'char" רכז. Its basic meaning is remember, an imperative for anyone who wishes to honor the past, reflect with gratitude on past blessings, and avoid repeating mistakes. It is such an important idea in Judaism that we hear it all year round in various contexts. (Note: the middle letter of our three-letter root is sometimes pronounced with a guttural sound as in Bach and sometimes with a hard "k" sound as in kitten. Its pronunciation doesn't affect the meaning of the root.)

Rosh Hashanah is called Yom HaZikaron, the Day of Remembrance, and one of the three parts of the Shofar service is called Zichronot, memories. On Yom Kippur the memorial service is called Yizkor, literally he will remember, the first important word in the prayer asking God to remember our beloved departed. We hear the root twice in the Friday evening Kiddush reminding us why we observe Shabbat, once as Zikaron L'ma-aseh V'reishit (the remembrance of the work of creation) and then as Zecher L'tzi-at Mitzraim (remembrance of the Exodus from Egypt). The Shabbat before Purim, on which we read of the attack by Amalek from whom Haman was said to be descended, is called Shabbat Zachor. At the end of Pesach, Shavuot and Sukkot, there is a memorial service called Hazkarat N'shamot, the recalling of souls. And Israel's Memorial Day is called, fittingly, Yom HaZikaron. The special six branch menorah used in the observance of Holocaust Remembrance Day is often emblazoned with the word Zachor. In modern Hebrew, the souvenir you buy to remember a trip is a Mazkeret, and the secretary who reminds you of your upcoming schedule is your Mazkir or Mazkirah. A memorandum is a Tazkir and a reminder is a Tizkoret. I hope you will Zocher or Zocheret the meaning of our root when you encounter it.

### **Yahrzeits**

יארצייט

#### **October 2014**

Helaine Adinah Berkowitz, Sister of Susan Berkowitz  
Freda Corman Blumenthal, Mother of Diane Blumenthal

Leonard Busman, Father of Bruce Busman  
Edward T. Campiglia, Father of John Camp  
Bessie Cohen, Grandmother of Donna Goldberg  
Mitchell Cooper, Father of David Cooper  
Evelyn Dwork, Mother of Barry Dwork

Fanny Dwork, Grandmother of Barry Dwork  
Cliff Hecht, Husband of Joani Schnitzer  
Julius Hoffman, Father of Harold Hoffman  
Vivian Lievita Kramer, Grandmother of Harri Kramer  
Ethel Levine, Mother of Les Levine  
Myer Lieberman, Father of Ruth Rosenberg  
Tilden Mendelson, Grandfather of Jeremy Mendelson  
James Posner, Father of Ted Posner  
Bruce Scott, Brother of David Scott  
Myron Silbert, Uncle of Earl Silbert  
Julius Spiro, Father of Dan Spiro  
Howard Trussel, Father of Joy Gold  
Rhoda Turow, Grandmother of Stephen Turow  
Peter Van Berg, Brother of Bill Van Berg  
Henry P. Wolf, Father of Joan Wolf  
Benjamin Wolk, Father of Judy Feldman  
Rose Wolk, Mother of Judy Feldman

#### **November 2014**

Evelyn Adlerstein, Mother of Maran Gluckstein  
Kermit Bailer, Father of Byron Bailer  
Esther Blumberg, Grandmother of Linda Blumberg  
and Mark Blumberg  
Sonya Schwartz Choper, Sister of Linda Baum  
Martin Cohen, Father of Donna Goldberg  
Renee Cooper, Mother of David Cooper  
Albert Finkel, Uncle of Gail Weiss  
David Friedman, Father of Hannah Friedman Elson  
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  
Bessie Lieberman, Mother of Ellen Lieberman  
James Meehan, Father of Elizabeth Short  
Eric Neisser, Father of Michelle Neisser  
Morris Poogach, Father of Robert Poogach  
Roman Poogach, Grandfather of Robert Poogach  
Jack Scott, Father David Scott  
Philip Shtasel, Father of Sana Shtasel  
Sidney Tahler, Grandfather of Rori Kochman  
Carolyn Trywusch, Sister of Naomi Lichtenberg  
Naomi Walders, Mother of Larry Walders  
Fannie Yockelson, Mother of Naomi Lichtenberg

#### **Thank You**

#### **תודה רבה**

Richard and Carol Fogel for their generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of the marriage of their daughter, Sarah to Elliot Berger.

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

Adrienne and Louis French for their generous donation

to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of their daughter Ellie's Bat Mitzvah.

Joe Gootenberg and Susan Liebenhaut for their generous donations to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund and to BJC.

Jim and Liz Korelitz for their generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of the marriage of Katy Korelitz and Nate Dankner.

Harri Kramer and Russ Hogya for their generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in thanks for leading Shiva services for Harri's father, Bernie.

Richard Ratner for his generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund as a thanks for leading such a lovely baby naming service for Hannah.

Marvin and Ellen Sirkis for their generous donation.

Maureen Trenk for her generous donation to the Cuba Fund.

Stephen Turow and Linda Blumberg for their generous donation.

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

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

A very special thank you to all who so generously donated in memory of the Rabbi's father, Marvin Schnitzer.

#### **For Their Generous Donation to Enhancing the Flame**

Lorrie Van Akkeren

## Community News

### **Routes**

Routes—A Day of Jewish Learning, hosted by the Partnership for Jewish Life and Learning and held on Sunday, Nov. 2, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at The American University, is a unique program of 60 sessions in seven hours. Attendees engage with some of the country's most inspiring Jewish minds. Topics include Jewish mysticism, text study, great books, raising children, Jewish cooking, music and more. Rabbi and Rebbitzin Schnitzer will present sessions this year. For more information and to register visit: [www.facebook.com/routeslearning](http://www.facebook.com/routeslearning).

# October 2014 Calendar

Day	Date	Time	Event	Location
Wednesday	Oct. 1	4:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Religious School Torah Today	Classrooms Library
Friday	Oct. 3	8:00 p.m.	Kol Nidre	Sanctuary
Saturday	Oct. 4	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 Yom Kippur 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	Oct. 5	2:00 p.m.	Sukkah Set-ups	Covenant Hall
Wednesday	Oct. 8	4:15 p.m. 4:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Religious School Sukkah Celebration Torah Today	Classrooms Covenant Hall Sukkah
Thursday	Oct. 9		BJC OFFICE CLOSED—SUKKOT	
Friday	Oct. 10	8:00 p.m.	Choral Shabbat	Covenant Hall
Saturday	Oct. 11	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Religious School Adult Hebrew Shabbat Worship	Classrooms Lounge Covenant Hall
Wednesday	Oct. 15	4:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Religious School Torah Today	Classrooms Sukkah
Thursday	Oct. 16		BJC OFFICE CLOSED—SHEMINI ATZERET	
Friday	Oct. 17	7:30 p.m.	Simchat Torah Service and Consecration	Covenant Hall
Saturday	Oct. 18	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Religious School Adult Hebrew Shabbat Worship—Kirkpatrick Bat Mitzvah	Classrooms Lounge Covenant Hall
Sunday	Oct. 19	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Pulpit Exchange Rabbi Schnitzer Speaks at BHPC Pulpit Exchange Rabbi Schnitzer Speaks at BHPC	
Tuesday	Oct. 21	6:30 p.m.	Tichon Class	Youth Lounge
Wednesday	Oct. 22	4:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Religious School Torah Today BJC Book Club— <i>Orpheo</i>	Classrooms Library Library
Thursday	Oct. 23	7:30 p.m.	BJC Board of Directors Meeting	Lounge
Friday	Oct. 24	6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Family Service for All Ages Shabbat Dinner—Pot Luck	Covenant Hall Memorial Hall
Saturday	Oct. 25	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Religious School Adult Hebrew Shabbat Worship—Bratt B’Nai Mitzvah	Classrooms Lounge Covenant Hall
Wednesday	Oct. 29	4:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Religious School Torah Today	Classrooms Library
Friday	Oct. 31	8:00 p.m.	Shabbat Service	Covenant Hall

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

# November 2014 Calendar

Saturday	Nov. 1	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Religious School Adult Hebrew Shabbat Worship—Cantor Bar Mitzvah	Classrooms Lounge Covenant Hall
Sunday	Nov. 2	10:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m.	Routes—Community Day of Jewish Learning  Great Names Speaker Series—Earl Silbert	American University Covenant Hall
Tuesday	Nov. 4	6:30 p.m.	Tichon Class	Youth Lounge
Wednesday	Nov. 5	4:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Religious School Torah Today	Classrooms Library
Friday	Nov. 7	8:00 p.m.	N'tivim L'Shabbat—Music Service	Covenant Hall
Saturday	Nov. 8	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Religious School Adult Hebrew Shabbat Worship—Weidenfeld Bat Mitzvah Chant Circle BJC's 50th Anniversary Celebration	Classrooms Lounge Covenant Hall Covenant Hall Memorial Hall
Wednesday	Nov. 12	4:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Religious School Torah Today	Classrooms Library
Thursday	Nov. 13	7:30 p.m.	BJC Board of Directors Meeting	Lounge
Friday	Nov. 14	6:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Tot Shabbat Shabbat Service	Lounge Covenant Hall
Saturday	Nov. 15	9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Religious School Adult Hebrew Shabbat Worship—Parker Yang Bar Mitzvah	Classrooms Lounge Covenant Hall
Sunday	Nov. 16	10:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	Joint Thanksgiving Service with BHPC/and Idara e Jaferia Brunch	Sanctuary Memorial Hall
Tuesday	Nov. 18	6:30 p.m.	Tichon Class	Youth Lounge
Wednesday	Nov. 19	4:15 p.m.	Religious School	Classrooms
		6:30 p.m.	Torah Today	Library
		8:00 p.m.	BJC Book Club	Library
Friday	Nov. 21	8:00 p.m.	Simcha B'Shabbat All Music Service with Band	Covenant Hall
Saturday	Nov. 22	9:00 a.m.	BJC Blood Drive with American Red Cross	Memorial Hall
		9:00 a.m.	Religious School	Classrooms
		9:00 a.m.	Adult Hebrew	Lounge
		10:30 a.m.	Shabbat Worship	Covenant Hall
		12:30 p.m.	Class of 2017 B'Nai Mitzvah Family Meeting	Lounge
Wednesday	Nov. 26		BJC OFFICE CLOSED NO Religious School, Torah Today	
Thursday	Nov. 27		Thanksgiving—BJC OFFICE CLOSED	
Friday	Nov. 28	8:00 p.m.	Shabbat Service	Covenant Hall
Saturday	Nov. 29	10:30 a.m.	Shabbat Worship No Religious School, Adult Hebrew	Covenant Hall
Tuesday	Dec. 2	6:30 p.m.	Tichon Class	Youth Lounge
Wednesday	Dec. 3	4:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Religious School Torah Today	Classrooms Library



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**Newsletter Editor: Anita Farb—[anita.farb@gmail.com](mailto:anita.farb@gmail.com)**

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

The deadline for submitting articles for the December/January newsletter is November 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 October/November newsletter, mail it to the BJC office with your check made payable to BJC.

Deadline: November 7. 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.