

Beth-Elements

The Bulletin of Beth-El Congregation - A Reform Synagogue Serving Tarrant County



December 2024 - January 2025



*Chanukah begins at
Sundown Dec. 25*

Worship Services

Minyan with the community

Tuesday-Thursday..... 6 p.m.

Welcome Shabbat with wine, cheese, and friends at 5:30 p.m. Fridays, before the 6:15 p.m. services.

Friday, Dec. 6

Tot Shabbat with Cantor Shoshana and friends 5:30 p.m.
Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Zimmerman and Morgan Ducar of Greene Family Camp..... 6:15 p.m. (Details on page 6)

Friday, Dec. 13

Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Zimmerman and Angie Friedman 6:15 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 20

Kabbalat Shabbat and Chanukah singalong with Rabbi Zimmerman, John Sauvey, and the Beth-El Choir..... 6:15 p.m.
MRJ Chanukah dinner to follow. See page 4.

Saturday, Dec. 21

Shabbat morning service of song and study at Rabbi Zimmerman's home with Angie Friedman..... 10:30 a.m.

Friday, Dec. 27

Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Zimmerman, John Sauvey, and Hans Grim..... 6:15 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 3

Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Zimmerman and Angie Friedman 6:15 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 10

Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Zimmerman, John Sauvey, and the Beth-El Choir..... 6:15 p.m.

January Services.....continued on page 2

Divrei Torah

..... Rabbi Brian Zimmerman



Brian Zimmerman, Rabbi

Beth El has a special relationship with De Zavala Elementary School. For years, we have collected school supplies at Yom Kippur to help families on tight budgets offset the costs.

Recently, Ruther Roper, who coordinated the WRJ Donor Brunch programming, decided to add Snack Sacks and food for families to bring home to enhance the after-school snack program. She discovered De Zavala was not even registered for this program.

Through her perseverance, Ruth arranged for three neighborhood churches to cover the year of school snacks. She then coordinated a massive food drive at Beth-El so the neediest students and families would have extra bags of food during the Thanksgiving break.

The Women of Reform Judaism helped

with the efforts, students from the sixth and eighth grades packed the bags, and Marty Rubinson, Jim Stein, and Jaime Rivera worked many hours to deliver the bags of packaged food to the school for distribution. Marilyn Stenzler's incredible generosity provided the essential seed money to make this project real. Pattie Wood served as the office point person to make it all run smoothly.

Through their efforts and your

donations, these students will have extra food during weeks without school when adequate meals are often missing. The afterschool snack program is an important link to ensuring that growing students who may be living with food insecurity get the nourishment they need to have a starting chance.

Will this act of *Tzedakah* solve the systemic deficiencies

found throughout Fort Worth, a wealthy city with thousands of hungry and homeless children? No. But through

.....continued on page 2

B'nai Mitzvah



Seth Dujan
Jan. 18

Son of Rochelle and Alexis Dujan



Tristan Lawrence
Jan. 25

Son of Laura and Russell Lawrence



Robert Simon

President's Message

..... Temple President Robert Simon

Greetings and an early Happy Chanukah. Beth-El Congregation has remained busy in the post-High Holy Days and Sukkot period. On Oct. 20, the Men of Reform Judaism sponsored its Annual Golf Tournament at Hawk's Creek Golf Club. The event generated a large turnout of both men and women who played under bright sunshine and blue skies. Thanks to MRJ, the golfers, and the sponsors who helped underwrite the event, which raises money for Jewish camp and college scholarships.

GFC retreat

On Nov. 1-3, Beth-El held a Congregational Retreat at Greene Family Camp. Seventy-three congregants spent the weekend together, introduced a new generation of kids to Greene Family Camp, celebrated Shabbat, and helped build community. We hope to have congregational retreats every few years. I thank my wife, Cindy, for her tireless efforts chairing this retreat!

WRJ brunch

On Nov. 10, the Women of Reform Judaism hosted its Annual Brunch, which raises money for Religious School and Jewish camp scholarships. The event featured a great program, strong attendance, and lively bidding for silent auction items. It also generated donations of food for De Zavala Elementary children and their families. Largely

Schmoozing with the Simons

Sundays, Dec. 8, Dec. 15, Jan. 12, Jan. 19, 9:15 a.m. in the Gathering Area.

through the efforts of WRJ, De Zavala will establish a permanent food pantry that will bear the name of Suzanne Slatkin, of blessed memory.

Bequest from Roz Rosenthal Estate

Beth-El has received a generous bequest from the Estate of Roz Rosenthal, of blessed memory. Roz departed this earth in March 2024 at the age of 99 after a lifetime of commitment to our synagogue and the Fort Worth Jewish community. Beth-El gratefully acknowledges the boundless generosity of Roz Rosenthal and the entire Rosenthal family. Their gracious philanthropy, hard work, and dedication to Beth-El allowed us to build our magnificent synagogue, maintain it, and provide the worship and educational programming that keeps our congregation vibrant.

New by-laws

On Dec. 9, the Board will approve a new set of by-laws, which will be presented to the congregation for approval sometime next year, either at or before the annual meeting in May. I will schedule at least two workshops on Sunday mornings to discuss the by-laws.

Irrigation well

The congregation has raised enough money to proceed with drilling a well for lawn irrigation purposes. We will start the project in the near future. The well is expected to save enough money in irrigation expenses to pay for itself in three years. L'shalom.

Worship Services

(continued from page 1)

Saturday, Jan. 11

Shabbat morning service of song and study at Rabbi Zimmerman's home with Angie Friedman..... 10:30 a.m.

Friday, Jan. 17

Tot Shabbat with Cantor Shoshana and friends.....5:30 p.m.
Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Zimmerman and John Sauvey 6:15 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 18

Shabbat morning service and Bar Mitzvah of Seth Dujan..... 10:30 a.m.

Friday, Jan. 24

Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Zimmerman, John Sauvey, and the Beth-El Choir..... 6:15 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 25

Shabbat morning service and Bar Mitzvah of Tristan Lawrence 10:30 a.m.

Friday, January 31

Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Zimmerman and John Sauvey 6:15 p.m.

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All services are in person and streamed at youtube.com/BethElCongregation.

**Get the latest Beth-El News:
by e-mailing: rabbiz@bethelfw.org**

**Get the latest Religious School News:
by e-mailing:
shoshanakaikov@bethelfw.org**

Divrei Torah

(continued from page 1)

acts of goodness, our Temple members have guaranteed these students will have a richer Thanksgiving. And through Ruth's kindness and the generosity of three local churches, snacks to take home

will be an important reality throughout the school year. It may not solve the systemic problems, but it might just make some children's lives a little bit brighter.

We are reminded by Rabbi Moshe Davis, remembered for blessing, that: "A candle is a small thing. But one candle can light another. And see how its own

light increases as a candle gives its flame to the other. You are such a light."

Thank you to our members who passed a light along to these children. I wonder what lives they will touch as this one act leads to many others in the future.

May you have a Chanukah filled with light, hope, empathy, and kindness.



Shoshana Abrams Kaikov

Religious School: *Chanukah Happenings*

Education Director, Cantor Shoshana Abrams Kaikov

I absolutely love this time of year! The chill in the air, cozy fireplaces, hot cocoa, winter hats and scarves, the excitement and anticipation for possible snow – it is such a welcome change after the brutal Texas heat! It is also the darkest time of the year, and we intentionally celebrate Chanukah, the Festival of Lights. We gather with our loved ones to light the candles, banish the darkness, and invite in the light. We indulge in fried latkes (calories don't count during Chanukah), recall great miracles, and rededicate ourselves to illuminating the world around us with acts of *Chesed* (loving kindness).

This year, I am excited to share that we will celebrate Chanukah with programs for the whole family:

Chanukah Pajamukah, Sunday, Dec. 8, 9:30 a.m.-noon We invite all our Religious School families to put on their favorite Chanukah pajamas and join us for a whole LATKE fun!! Morgan Ducar will be joining us from Greene Family Camp to share information about the 2025 summer session. Want to volunteer? We'd love to have your support! Contact me at shoshanakaikov@bethelfw.org or click on the SignUp Genius link in my weekly parent emails if you are available to help. Our Religious School Chanukah celebration is one of our biggest programs of the year, and we welcome your support and involvement!

Tot Shabbat Chanukah Style, Dec. 6, 5:30 p.m. Join me for a fun, festive, family celebration of Shabbat and Chanukah through music, dancing, stories, and art. The service is geared toward

ages 0-6. A light snack will be provided. We can't wait to celebrate with you!

Pump it Up Chanukah Party, Dec. 14, 9:30 a.m. Toddler-4th Grade Religious School Families are invited to jump and play at Pump it Up in Arlington. The cost is \$10 for the first child and \$7 for each additional child. Space is limited. Please RSVP to shoshanakaikov@bethelfw.org to reserve your spot!

Congregational Chanukah Service and Dinner, Dec. 20, 5:30 p.m. Join your Beth-El family for this annual celebration! We will begin with wine and cheese, followed by a Chanukah service and family-friendly dinner.

I look forward to seeing you at our Chanukah festivities. Wishing you all a *Chag Urim Sameach!* May your celebration be filled with light and joy!



The Maccabees and their parents enjoyed their first event of the fall at the Fort Worth Dream Park.



BEJY held their first fall event in the Beth-El Sukkah.

Youth News

FWFTY and NFTY TOR Day Six Flags over Texas Saturday, Dec. 7

Join other high school youth-groupers from DFW temples for a day of roller coasters and fun. You can meet us there or get a ride from the Temple. You must reserve in advance to have a spot. Contact Rabbi Zimmerman as soon as possible.



Jr. Maccabees in the Beth-El Library at their fall event.



Laurie James

Women of Reform Judaism

..... WRJ President Laurie James

WRJ just celebrated a fabulously successful Annual Brunch and Auction. Thanks to everyone who donated some magnificent gifts. Hot items included a year's worth of dumplings from Teddy Wong's, several designer-esque purses, college counseling, and mahjong sets.

December's WRJ activity is our beloved "Bookies and Cookies," which will be a members-only event **Dec. 22** – please check your emails for details. We're still planning January's event, so stay tuned!

After the Greene Family Camp retreat in November, there was some interest in revamping **Rosh Chodesh**, which is **Dec. 1 at 5 p.m.**, and we're working that out with WRJ members Seme Dewees-Cooper and Mimi Zimmerman.

A special thanks to locally owned restaurant Teddy Wong's for donating two auction items, along with free dumplings for our WRJ members in attendance at the Brunch. For the list of Brunch donors, please see page 6.

Not sure if you're a member? Reach out to me.



The WRJ Annual Brunch and Auction had something for everyone.



The wine pull was a hit, thanks to Shayna Coyne and Marge Van Giesen for this awesome presentation.



The Annual Brunch helped raise funds for Beth-El's Religious School and Jewish Camperships.



Eric Deutsch

Men of Reform Judaism

..... MRJ President Eric Deutsch

December and January will be very busy months for the MRJ.

We'll be making latkes in the Temple kitchen **Sunday, Dec. 8**. Latkes are available for purchase at bethelfw.org and through the link in Rabbi's weekly e-blasts. All latkes must be purchased by Friday, Dec. 6, and picked up Sunday, Dec. 15. (see order form on page 11). MRJ also will be serving latkes at the Religious School and Temple

Chanukah celebrations.

On Tuesday, **Dec. 24**, at 6 p.m., join us for our annual **Christmas Eve Trivia Contest/Chinese Dinner**. Cost is \$15 per adult or children 13 or over; Kids under 13 are free. You do not have to be a Beth-El member to play. (See page 12 for details.)

On January 12, we'll be catering the Jewish War Veterans Brunch. We'll also cater two b'nai mitzvot in January. Got MRJ questions? Contact me at [eric.deutsch@haynesboone.com](mailto:deutsch@haynesboone.com).



Chanukah service and dinner Friday, Dec. 20, 6:15 p.m.

Chanukah comes to Beth-El a few days early this year! Join us at 6:15 p.m. for a brief Chanukah service and singalong followed by an amazing MRJ chicken and latke dinner!

No cost, but **please RSVP** to the Temple in advance so we can plan on having enough delicious food for all.

Contributions

Archives Fund

- In Honor of Brigitte Altman's 100th birthday
- Dean Altman
- In Honor of Gary and Faye Slater
- Judith Cohen
- In Honor of a speedy recovery for Hollace Weiner
- Judith Cohen
 - Marilyn and Van Stenzler
- In Honor of Hollace Weiner
- Carole Rogers
- In Honor of Laurie Kelfer
- Judith Cohen
- In Honor of Louise Appleman
- Judith Cohen

Caring Congregation

- In Memory of Anita Kboundi
- Marilyn and Van Stenzler

Floral Fund

- In Memory of Larry Schultz
- Susan and Russ Schultz
- In Memory of Suzanne Slatkin
- Marilyn and Van Stenzler

Library Fund

- In Memory of Carl Kuehn
- Jeanne and Steve Ginsberg
- In Memory of Joseph Zentner
- Margie Zentner

Mitch Stenzler Scholarship Fund

- In Honor of a speedy recovery for Suzie Koonsman
- Marilyn and Van Stenzler
- In Memory of David Stenzler
- Marilyn and Van Stenzler

Rabbi Mecklenburger's Discretionary Fund

- In Honor of Rabbi Mecklenburger
- Cynthia Alkon
- In thanks for Rachel Rosenstein and Joe Kappes' Wedding Ceremony
- Dana and Jacob Rosenstein
- In Memory of Gerald Kelfer
- Carole Rogers
- In Memory of Robert Koslow
- Meg and John Rubin

Rabbi Zimmerman's Discretionary Fund

- In Honor of Beth-El's High Holiday Services
- Sharon and Steven Blumenfeld
- In Honor of Rabbi Zimmerman
- Erica and David Bekerman
 - Lucy and Paul King
 - Nathan Smith
- In Appreciation of the Shofar Blowers' house call to Brigitte Altman
- Leslie and Alan Magee
- In Memory of Emily Veda Pew
- Caren Handleman and Steven Pew
- In Memory of Robert Koslow
- Meg and John Rubin

Religious School

- In Honor of the Ben Rosenthal Family
- Carole Rogers
- In Honor of the Religious School
- Nathan Smith

Temple Fund

- In Honor of and with thanks to Rabbi Zimmerman
- The Koss Family

Temple Fund (continued)

- In Honor of thanks to all for Brigitte Altman's 100th birthday wishes
- Leslie and Alan Magee
- In Honor of Doug Roper "for your friendship"
- Carole Rogers
- In Honor of Beth-El Congregation
- Nathan Smith
- In Memory of Ben H. Rosenthal
- Rozanne and Billy Rosenthal
- In Memory of Fredric Altman
- Leslie and Alan Magee
- In Memory of Miriam Schultz
- Leslie and Alan Magee
- In Memory of Lynn Altman
- Leslie and Alan Magee
- In Memory of Laszlo Kiss
- Jutka and Tamas Ungar
- In Memory of Leonard Frank
- Carol and Steve Kline
- In Memory of Lois Flamholz
- Carole Rogers
 - Hedy Collins
- In Memory of Louis Barnett
- Lon and Laurie Werner
- In Memory of Suzanne Slatkin
- Carole Rogers

Youth Fund

- For the GaGa Pit
- Kim and Abe Factor

MRJ

- In Honor of improved health for Guy Bustillos
- Carole Rogers

WRJ

- In Honor of Brigitte Altman's 100th birthday
- Laurie and Jason James
- In Honor of a speedy recovery for Michelle Hartman
- Marilyn and Van Stenzler
- In Memory of Suzanne Slatkin
- Susan and Guy LaMere

Wish List: Irrigation Well

- Judie and Bob Greenman
 - Beverly and Michael Ross
 - Ellen Adrian
 - Louise and Gordon Appleman
- In Honor of the ongoing work of Laurie Kelfer
- Jim Stanton

With thanks...

The Altman/Magee family would like to thank everyone who sent happy birthday wishes to Brigitte Altman on her 100th birthday.

Mazel Tov!

... to **Ashley Uptegraft and Will Phillips** on their marriage! Ashley is the daughter of Susie Benson and the late Nathan Uptegraft, granddaughter of Lynny and the late Eddie Sankary. Ashley and Will reside in Charlotte, N.C.

... to **Rachel Rosenstein and Joseph Kappes** on their marriage! Rachel is the daughter of Dana and Jacob Rosenstein. The couple resides in New York City.

... to **Jessica Siegel and Chris Mirkin**. Jessica is the daughter of Susie and Jon Siegel, and granddaughter of Evelyn and the late Martin Siegel. The couple live here in Fort Worth.

Meet GFC's Morgan Ducar



Friday, Dec. 6, 6:15 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 8, 9:30 a.m.

Beth-El

Join us the weekend of Dec. 6 to meet **Morgan Ducar, Assistant Director of Greene Family Camp**. On Friday night, Morgan will lead us in a joyous Friday night Shabbat service. On Sunday, she will be at our Religious School Chanukah celebration to meet with parents and students to share information about Greene Family Camp. Morgan is a great song leader and an amazing person. Don't miss these special chances to meet her.

Registration is now open at Greene Family and other Jewish camps. If you need scholarship assistance, please contact Rabbi Zimmerman or Cantor Shoshana Abrams Kaikov for the required form. **The scholarship request period ends Jan. 31.**

Beginning Hebrew Pt. 2

Sundays at 12:15 p.m., beginning Jan. 12

If you know the Hebrew Alef Bet and you are ready to improve your reading skills, this class is for you. Made possible by a grant from the Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County.

Learn to read prayers by Passover!
Call the office to register.

2024 WRJ Annual Brunch

The WRJ's Annual Brunch and Auction would not have been possible without generous donations from the following

people. Thank you for your kindness and participation in raising funds for our Religious School and Jewish camperships:

Philanthropist \$1K

Joan Katz

Rosanne Rosenthal, in memory of Roz Rosenthal

Marilyn Stenzler

Benefactor \$500-999

Yolanda Becker

Judith Cohen

Alden Karotkin

Carol Minker

Beverly Ross

Patron \$250-499

Kim Factor

Alice Finkelstein

Margie Frankel

Laurie James

Randee Kaitcer

Phyllis Levy

Jane Oderberg

Ellen St.Clair

Hollace Weiner

Supporter \$58-249

Vicky Abrams

Ellen Adrian

Cynthia Alkon

Felice Anspacher

Louise Appleman

Rina Arnold

Cheryl Baum

Roberta Bellet

Ellen Berenzweig

Leslie Bregman

Joan Brotman

Martha Brown

Barbara Bushner

Melody Bustillos

Denise Bynum

Denae Chance

Jill Clay

Carol Courter

Shayna Coyne

Luann Feld

Cynthia Gilbert

Jeanne Ginsberg

Julie Goldstein

Julia Gorfein

Judie B. Greenman

Trina Hartman

Sylvia Hill

Cydney Hiles

Ellen Hoffman

Linda Hochster

Sandy Hollander

Laurie Kelfer

Carol Kline

Fran Kreindler

Dr. Erika Lapin-Kojoori

Phyllis Lawrence

Maddie Lesnick

Sheryl Levy

Maxine Levy

Hannah Love

Liz Manion

Leslie Magee

Ann Mecklenburger

Sherry Oden

Trudie Oshman

Marla Parvey

Marcy Phillips

Michele Reynolds

Ruth Roper

Jeanie Rosenblum

Rozanne Rosenthal

Chava Rousch-Carlisle

Marilyn Rubin

Ellen Rubinson

Lynny Sankary

Ellen Schultz

Susan Schultz

Valerie Simanek

Sherry Simon

Cindy Simon

Faye Slater

Nikki Slobodin

David Solomon

Jenny Solomon

Sonja Stein

Mercedes Street

Karen Telschow Johnson

Kelly Trager

Shoshana Thoma-Isgur

Marge Van Giesen

Brenda Vitemb

Class Favorites Not in Attendance

Jutka Ungar

Edythe Cohen

Karen Kaplan

Ricki Klos

Loretta Feinberg

Sandra Polsky

2024 MRJ Matzo Ball Classic

On Sunday, Oct. 20, nearly 50 golfers tee'd it up for MRJ's annual Matzo Ball Classic at Hawks Creek Golf Club. It was a great event. Congratulations and thanks to our tournament co-chairs Jeff Kaitcer and Jay Martin and all the volunteers

who helped make it a success.

Thanks, also, to the generosity of our sponsors. We raised more than \$8,000 for college scholarships and summer camperships.

MRJ would like to recognize the following for their contributions:

Gold sponsors:

Future Foam, Jeff Nathan
Gamtex Industries, Arnie Gachman

Silver sponsors:

Clearfork Foods, David Eberstein
Eric Deutsch Family
Factor/Campbell Attorneys, Abe Factor and Kim Campbell
Judge Jeff Kaitcer and Judge James Munford
Bruce Weiner

Hole sponsors:

Ameriprise Financial, Howard Bellet
Michael Bergamini & Harli Dollinger
Blumberg Law, Dan Blumberg
Robert Chicotsky
Clearfocus Financial, Marc Slotter
Tony and Gabby Everett Family
Forshey Prostok Attorneys, Jeff Prostok
Katten Benson Zachry Attorneys, Steve Katten
Alan Magee Architect
Cantor Monica O'Desky
Mitch Reitman
Les Rosenthal
Michael Ross
Russ Schultz and Family
Slater Flooring, Gary and Faye Slater
Karen Telchow Johnson, Attorneys
Westmoor Manufacturing, Jeff Hochster
Whitaker Chalk Attorneys, Mike Kaitcer and Robert Simon
Women of Reform Judaism
Rabbi Brian Zimmerman

Additional contributors:

Adam Ackermann
Cowtown Signs, Roger Carroll
Eddie Feld
Doug Wright
W. Weir Wilson

Library Reviews

..... Margie Zentner



The Sequel

by Jean Hanff Korelitz

is a sequel to Korelitz's *The Plot*, but there's still a sense of newness in this fun and suspenseful read. Now living a contented life of a literary widow and enjoying her late

husband's royalty checks in perpetuity, Anna finds herself in a familiar predicament. Now for the second time in her life and with her own debut novel, a work of fiction intercedes. Someone out there knows far too much about her late husband, her brother, and just possibly, herself.



Very Bad Company

by Emma Rosenblum

Every year executives at the trendy tech startup, Aurora, gather the company's top employees for an exclusive retreat in Miami. This year, Caitlin Levy, Aurora's newest hire, is

joining the team as Head of Events. The benefits are outstanding: a seven-figure salary, stock options, a bonus, and limitless vacation days. What could possibly go wrong? Perhaps a murder in this slick, humorous story of corporate culture wrapped in a mystery.



Creation Lake

by Rachel Kushner

is an entertaining novel about a seductive, cunning American woman who infiltrates an anarchist colony in France. Sadie, a secret agent, is sent in to do dirty work

but Bruno Lacombe, a mentor to the young activists, is seducing her with his ingenious counter histories, his artful laments, and his own tragic story. With a backdrop of centuries-old farms and ancient caves, Kushner provides the reader with a taut and dazzling novel.

December - 2024 - 5785

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 No Religious School 5 pm WRJ Rosh Chodesh	2 Chair Yoga 9:15 am	3 12 pm Jewish Puzzle Of Life 6 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm Curious About Conversion Class	4 9:30 am Archives Meeting 11 am-2 pm Gift shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan	5 6 pm Evening Minyan	6 5:30 pm Tot Shabbat 6:15 pm Shabbat Service	7 NFTY TOR / FWFTY at Six Flags 9 am Zoom Torah Study
8 9:30 am Religious School 10:30 am MRJ Meeting	9 7 pm Board Meeting	10 6 pm Evening Minyan	11 9:30 Archives Meeting 11 am-2 pm Gift shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan	12 12 pm PrimeTimers Event 6 pm Evening Minyan	13 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Early Shabbat Service	14 9 am Zoom Torah Study 10 am Tot Chanukah Bounce House
15 9:30 am Religious School 9:30am Book Discussion : Dara Horn "Dead Jews"	16 Chair Yoga 9:15 am	17 12 pm Jewish Puzzle Of Life 6 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm Curious About Conversion Class	18 9:30 Archives Meeting 11 am-2 pm Gift shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan	19 6 pm Evening Minyan	20 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Early Shabbat Service 7:15 pm Temple Chanukah Dinner	21 9 am Zoom Torah Study 10:30 am Shabbat Song, Study and Lunch at Zimmerman home 6 pm Beth El Film Fest "One Life"
22 No Religious School 2 pm WRJ Bookies and Cookies	23	24 TEMPLE OFFICE CLOSED MRJ Trivia and Chinese Food Night	25 CHANUKAH TEMPLE OFFICE CLOSED	26 CHANUKAH 6 pm Evening Minyan	27 CHANUKAH 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Early Shabbat	28 CHANUKAH 9 am Zoom Torah Study
29 CHANUKAH No Religious School	30 CHANUKAH	31 CHANUKAH 6 pm Evening Minyan				

Sign up for Rabbi's weekly e-blasts
for the latest Beth-El News!
e-mail: rabbiz@bethelfw.org

January - 2025 - 5785

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 CHANUKAH TEMPLE OFFICE CLOSED	2 CHANUKAH 6 pm Evening Minyan	3 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Shabbat Service	4 9 am Zoom Torah Study
5 No Religious School	6 Chair Yoga 9:15 am	7 10 am People of the Book 12 pm Jewish Puzzle of Life 6 pm Evening Minyan	8 9:30 Archives Meeting 11 am-2 pm Gift shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan	9 12 pm PrimeTimers 6 pm Evening Minyan	10 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Early Shabbat Service	11 9 am Zoom Torah Study 10:30 am Shabbat Song, Study and Lunch at Zimmerman home
12 9:30 am Religious School	13 7 pm Board Meeting	14 6 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm Curious About Conversion Class	15 9:30 Archives Meeting 11 am-2 pm Gift shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan	16 6 pm Evening Minyan	17 5:30 pm Tot Shabbat 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Early Shabbat Service	18 9 am Zoom Torah Study 10:30am Shabbat Morning Service and Bar Mitzvah of Seth Dujan
19 9:15 am-12:30 pm Gift shop open 9:30 am Religious School	20 Chair Yoga 9:15 am	21 12 pm Jewish Puzzle of Life 6 pm Evening Minyan	22 9:30 Archives Meeting 11 am-2 pm Gift shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan	23 6 pm Evening Minyan	24 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Early Shabbat	25 9 am Zoom Torah Study 10:30am Shabbat Morning Service and Bar Mitzvah of Tristan Lawrence
26 Community Mitzvah Day 9:30 am Religious School	27 7:30 pm Religious School Committee Zoom	28 6 pm Evening Minyan	29 9:30 Archives Meeting 11 am-2 pm Gift shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan	30 6 pm Evening Minyan	31 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Early Shabbat	

For additional information and updates about events, please visit our website at www.bethelfw.org or see Rabbi's e-blasts.

Beth-El Movie Night



One Life

War/Drama, PG

Saturday, Dec. 21

6 p.m.

Anthony Hopkins starts as Sir Nicholas "Nicky" Winton in this true story of a young man who, in the months leading up to World War II, rescued more than 600 children from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia. The film cuts between past and present as he struggles with memories and questions of what more he could have done. An inspiring film about the power of one man to save a life in midst of unthinkable evil.

Dinner provided with maybe a latke or two!

Please RSVP to the Temple in advance for an accurate food count.

Finding Our Place in the Jewish Puzzle of Life:

Tuesdays at noon, Dec. 12, 19; Jan. 7, 21

Have you ever been asked why you are Jewish and found yourself groping for an answer? Has your son or daughter asked you why he or she has to have a bar or bat mitzvah and you found yourself speechless? This twice-monthly class led by Rabbi Zimmerman will study philosophers, bring in guest speakers, explore Jewish history and text to articulate a personal theology. Please consider joining us.

Beth-El All-Ages Retreat at Greene Family Camp

Cindy Simon



Thanks so much to everyone who spent the weekend with us at GFC November 1-3! So excited to have exposed our next generation to Greene! We did Israeli dancing, had song sessions, made bourekas, designed challah covers, tie dyed, went on the swing, played

baseball, had Rosh Chodesh, and had a friendship circle! Thanks to the fantastic committee who made this weekend happen: Rabbi Zimmerman, Shoshana Kaikov, Ginger Pine, Michelle Hartman and Chelsey Davidson! Hoping to plan our next Beth-El weekend at GFC soon!



Pictured above, scenes from the all-ages retreat at Greene Family Camp

Edythe Cohen will be 97 on Jan. 11!

Please join her **Friday, Jan. 10**, for a chance to sing happy birthday. In addition to our usual pre-service Shabbat treats, there will be cakes and other goodies to take home on your way out. Come give Edythe a hug and express your appreciation for her many years of friendship and service to the Temple.



Sixth- and eighth-graders packed 280 Snack Sacks to share with those who struggle with food security.

Jim Stein, Marty Rubinson, and Jaime Rivera load the food collection and Snack Sacks from the High Holy Days collection and the WRJ Brunch social action project.



Both projects will go to the Suzanne Slatkin Food Pantry at De Zavala Elementary School.



FWFTY sleepover at the Temple:

Playing ice cream football

Late night at Velvet Taco



MRJ holiday latke order form

It is time again to order delicious latkes made by the Beth-El Men of Reform Judaism. Latkes are \$10 per dozen; 3 dozen for \$25.

Such a deal!

_____ Dozen Traditional Latkes

Name:

Phone:

Email:



Total due \$ _____*

Please fill out this order form and return it to the Temple office (preferably with payment by check to Beth-El MRJ) **on or before Friday, Dec. 6.** (Note early deadline.)

*Payment due at pick up, if not prepaid. Cash or check only. Please have exact amount; we may not have change on hand. Or scan the QR code to order online.

You can email your order form to: **eric.deutsch@haynesboone.com**, or drop it off or mail it to the Temple office (attention: MRJ Latkes).

Latkes will be available for pick up on **Sunday, Dec. 15 during Religious School hours.**

Primetimers

..... Michelle Hartman

Dec. 12: Brassical Quintessence

Jan. 9: Lynne Golodner

Lunch noon; program 12:30 p.m.

Happy Chanukah, Primetimers! We have a wonderful program Dec. 12 with lunch starting at noon and a concert in the chapel at 12:30 p.m. by the Brassical Quintessence from the Chamber Music Society of Fort Worth. There will be two trumpets, a horn, trombone, and tuba to round out this wonderful musical performance. You can bring your own lunch, or order one from Central Market for \$13. It includes mixed berries, penne mozzarella salad, a chocolate chunk cookie, and your choice of sandwich: chicken salad, roast beef, or tomato mozzarella. There will be yummy treats for all. RSVP by Sunday, Dec 8.

On Jan. 9, visiting author Lynne Golodner will speak to us about the importance of writing positive and strong Jewish characters, especially in these times, and also what it's like for Jews in publishing. Lynne has published two novels, "Woman of Valor" and "Cave of Secrets," both of which she will have available for sale. As usual, lunch will be at noon and the program will start in the Great Hall at 12:30. Lunch catering hasn't been set up yet, but you can be sure it will be delicious, as will the desserts! Please RSVP by Sunday, Jan. 5, to hartman8729@sbcglobal.net or 817-706-3451.



MRJ Trivia Contest & Chinese Dinner

Tuesday, Dec. 24, 6 p.m.

Members and non-members welcome. Suggested minimum \$15 donation per adult.

Complimentary for kids under 13.

Wondering what to do on Christmas Eve? Especially when it is on a Tuesday? The Annual MRJ Trivia Contest and Chinese Dinner is the answer!

Questions will be based on our shared Jewish experience. Topics covered include music, sports, history, movies, and literature, all designed to test teams' general knowledge of

Jewish culture.

Dinner will be catered by Szechwan Restaurant with the trivia challenge to follow. Participants will be able to form their own team of 6-8 trivia mavens. Just mention their names on your online reservation form. Or we can place you on a team.

Recruit your friends and family to join your team. Please visit bethelfw.org to make your reservation.

Space is limited, reservations are an absolute must.

Find the perfect gift ...

Visit the Gift Shop before Chanukah!

Gift shop hours:

Sundays, 9:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

All purchases at the WRJ Gift Shop support Beth-El's Religious School.

Healing Prayers and Visits:

<https://bethelfw.shulcloud.com/form/beth-el-mi-shebeirach-or-visit-request>

If you know someone at home or in the hospital who could use a visit from the Rabbi or another Temple member, or if you have the name of an ill family member or friend that you would like to

be read at our Shabbat services, call the Temple office or go directly to our website: Community, Mi Shebeirach/Prayer and Visit Request.

Rabbi Zimmerman, Renée Woods, and

Pattie Wood will get the information from this site quickly.

Thanks in advance for your help.

Then and Now: *Holocaust Sisters' Saga*

Hollace Ava Weiner, Temple Archivist



Hollace Weiner

Eighty-three years ago, Elsa and Inge Kokotek – Holocaust orphans who fled Nazi Germany and spent two years hidden in a French chateau – arrived at Fort Worth's Texas & Pacific Station and into the arms of their aunt and uncle.

The sisters' picture, snapped by a *Star-Telegram* photographer as they stepped off the train, is among 11 historic photos that are part of a permanent exhibit that opens Monday, Dec. 2, at 4 p.m. in a passageway at the T&P Station, 221 W. Lancaster Ave. Eight of the Kokotek sisters' out-of-town descendants plan to attend the ribbon cutting.

Their relatives, Sol and Ruth Englander, were congregants at Beth-El. They enrolled their older niece, Elsa, 13, in the Temple Confirmation class. She began attending McLean Junior High, where she rapidly learned English and became an honor roll student. Her little sister, Inge, 9, never did adjust. She hoarded food in her bedroom at 3216 Greene St. She pulled off her dolls' heads and buried them under the gravel driveway. Her Aunt Ruth, whose own daughter by a previous marriage was stranded in Europe, could not handle the Kokotek sisters. During the summer of 1942, Aunt Ruth demanded her husband, Sol, find another home for the girls.

The uncle, a German immigrant who manufactured burlap bags, phoned the sisters' social worker, a Mrs. Gibbs. She contacted the Jewish Federation of Dallas and drove the girls to the upscale home of Les and Helen Jacobs.

Helen, a volunteer who found housing for Jewish refugees, said the girls could

spend the night at her house. One night stretched into years. For Elsa, the transition was seamless. Inge, however, ended up in a home for disturbed teens in St. Louis. She ran away several times before she returned to Dallas and finished high school and married.

The Kokotek sisters' picture came to my attention two years ago when a historian assembling the T&P photo exhibit asked me, as director of the Fort Worth Jewish Archives, to track down the sisters' story. I did, with help of yellowed membership files at Beth-El; news articles in the *Texas Jewish Post*, *Fort Worth Press*, and *Star-Telegram*; databases at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, and technical assistance from the Ackerman Center for Holocaust Studies at UT-Dallas. Eventually, a cell number on a blog led me to Inge's daughter, a retired Navy captain in Virginia.

The Kokotek sisters were among 1,000 unaccompanied Jewish children who reached the U.S. from Europe, a minuscule number compared to the more than 1.5 million Jewish children who perished.



Holocaust survivors Inge, 9, and Elsa Kokotek, 13, upon their arrival in Fort Worth in 1941. Fort Worth *Star-Telegram* Collection/UTA Special Collections.



From left, Elsa Kokotek, 13, her uncle, Sol Englander, her sister Inge Kokotek, 9, and Aunt Ruth. They are not related to the Englander family at Beth-El today. Fort Worth *Star-Telegram* Collection/UTA Special Collections.

Yahrzeits

Dec. 6

Louis Appleman
Adele Arensberg
Michelle Levin Asperi
James Barlow
Pauline Bassist
Herman Baum
Rose Berk
Frank Seymour Berlin
Dr. Donald M. Cohen
Irene Polan Cohen
Seymour Drescher
Fanchon Florsheim
Hertha Szigeti Friedman
Hans Friedman
Fanny Wolf Goldman
Stephen Goldman
Bertha Haas
Pearl Hayman
Gary Allen Herman
Arthur Hertz
Esther Herzfeld
Rose Hochman
Veronka John-Steiner
Dorris Q. Katten
Max Klein
Adrienne Kline
Shelagh Lenhoff
Marcus Lopin
Morris Miller
Judith Gerrick Morris
Edouard M "Bud" Propper
Charles S. Reynolds
Jack Roberts
Seymour Roberts
Alex Rosenthal
Mollie Miller Roth
Nathan E. Rubin
Aharon Solomon
Dorothy Steinman
William Steinman
Annie Sturman
Leah Taurog
Nellie Van Coevorden
Nathan Seth Wachtman
Sylvia Weinberg

William Westermann

Dec. 13

Meyer Ander
Ann D. Aston
Lorraine Bellet
Etta Brachman
David Brown
Benjamin Chance
Abraham Jacob Cooles
Earl I. Evans
Henry P. Florsheim, Jr
Ben M. Gilbert
Edward Glass
Mary Haas
Sam Hiller
Darwin W. Hirsh
Regina Schlinger Hochman
Gertrude Lehrer
Irene Levey
Ethel Minker
Frieda Miron
Elaine Mothner
Dora Levy Roddy
Ann W. Fred Rolnick
Dorothy Rosenstein
Helen Rosenthal
Ben Rosenthal
Bernard "Bubba" Rubin
Morris S. Schiff
Jack I. Schwartz
Arnold Schweitzer
Gregory Upshaw
Gregory Upshaw
Gregory Upshaw
Henriette Voet

Dec. 20

Meyer Abramson
Louis Henry Altman
Fortune Babani
Phyllis Beck
Sidney Berenzweig
Marie Friedman Berger
Carl Boxer
Helen Shields Cohen
David Eisenman

Audrey Faden
Grace Marie Fohr-Bentley
Leon Friedman
Jacob Gernsbacher
Helen Klar Gordon
Sol Gordon
Louis Greenberg
Elece Zeve Haas
Lee Jackson
Ruth Kantor
Malcolm "Mickey" Kohn
Larry Kornbleet
Tilly Kotkin
Isadore Marx
Margaret Jo Massey
Amanda Mayer
Louise Menscher
Harry Sam Miller
Samuel Neumegen
Peggy Norris
Will S. Nurenborg
Margarete Reitman
Sam Rosen
Barbara Rubin
Maggie Levy Rubin
Pauline Schweitzer
Max Stenzler
Andrew Tanenhaus
Berniece "Beanie" Weil

Dec. 27

Frank Appleman
Carl Lee Bomash
Flora Jean Campbell
Philip Cooles
Robert Diamond
Bernard Doyschen
Gaye Felder
Lazar Friedberg
Sidney Frolkis
Bluma Fruhman
Mildred Gale
Harold Gilbert
Lilaine Goldman
Leia Reese Goldstein
Sarah Gordon

Norma Greenberg
Ismar Heilborn
Ernest Hochster
Herman Hollander
Cary Isenberg
Susie Jackson
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Alvin Kaplan
Ruth Williams Leaffer
Celine Haas Levy
Ida N. Lipshitz
Leo Lipshitz
Margaret L. Lynch
Bob Mothner
Sol Nackson
Marsha Oderberg
Virginia Allison Pratt
Hyman Robins
Harold Rosen
Ephraim G. Rosen
Nathan Rosenberg
Edna Tennant Rubinton
Jose Silva
Judith Solomon
Sidney Strassman
Sara M. Winston

Jan. 3

Marie Adams
Ellen Skillen Alkon
Frieda Steinberg Berlin
Robert I. Bloom
Harriet Boxer
Dr. Sidney Cohen
Abraham Cohen
Pauline Cohen
Melanie Cohn
Esther Weber Freed
Bernard Fruhman
Bella Ginsberg
Barbara Goldstein
Lena Gordon
Frank Greenbaum
Goldie Greenbaum
Max Hirsch
Elsie Jacobs

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Rose Anolik Kamber
Greta Kemp
Herman Nathan Levi
Abraham Levy
Theresa Levy
Harry Meisel
Phyllis Orlow
Tobias Oruch
Maurice Pell
Frances Plotsky
Gertrude Pozez
Dorothy Roper
Austin Sampson Carter
Hannah Weber Sandler
Margot Schwartz
David J. Schwartz
Dorothy Schwartz
Adrienne Simon
Winnie Simon
Dorothy Solomon
Betty Solomon
Joseph Solomon
Sam Solomon
Oscar J. Steinberg
Marcella Vann

Jan. 10

Mark Altschuler
Herman Baginsky
Florence Baronoffsky
Kevan Lawrence Berlin
Lila Lee Berlin
Esther Bock
Benjamin Thomas Bressert
Nathan Brownold
Malcolm Cohen
Sarah Friedman
Elsie Furst
Irene Goldin
Bernard W. Goldman
Sarah Goldstick
Harold Goodman
Joe Harris
Celia Potter Hitman
Linda Hoffman

Linda Hoffman
Helen Jacobs
Clara Klein
Mollie Solomon Klein
Rosalie Krochmal
Charles Landman
Marian Lederman
Esther Leventhal
Miriam Levitan
Rachel Levy
Ruth Maizlish
Rabbi Harry A. Merfeld
Mildred Miller
Stuart M. Morewitz
Rachael M. Neumegen
Michael Newman
Sidney Raimey
Laura Rohrbach
Dorothy Rosen
Dan Rosenthal
Herman Rosenzweig
Rebecca Sandberger
Hyman Sankary
Major M. Schoenbrun
Leaba Weinshenker Silver
Hannah Simon
Ray Simon
Gertrude F. Slotter
Ida Weil
Anita Lobe Weiner
Joseph Wolffson
Debra Zelazny

Jan. 17

Linda Abramson
Paul Alkon
Nettie Ander
Frieda Belle Antweil
Isaac Babani
Ella Robins Bettis
S. R. Bloom
Solomon Braun
Edward Brunstein
Sarah Brunstein
Irving Dollinger
Shaindy Balick Fenton

Harry Friedman
Anna Shaw Friedson
Jack Gerrick
Ida Greenberg
Sophie W. Groussman
Hulda Guggenheim
William Hartman
Helen Isgur
Corrine Jacobson
Corrine Jacobson
Jerome Kantor
Albert Kelfer
Lillian L. Klotzman
Betty Kohn
Rose Label
Jacob Landman
Maurice "Poy" Levey
Zelda Levin
Jerome Levy
Isaac Lifchez
June Luftman
Melvin "Mel" Phillip Meyers
Jacob Milner
Samuel M. Posnock
Richard Pritchard
Henry Rosenberg
Adele Shwarts Rosenberg
Sally Rosenblum
Arthur H. Rosenthal
Fannie Friedberg Rubenstein
Pearl Rubin
Mandel B. Schultz
Esther Shamus
Erma Sloin
Stan Steiner
Kelly Walters
Dorothy Weinshenker
Evan Westermann
Meyer L. Wile
Dina Wolf

Jan. 24

Herman Abrams
Edgar Anspacher
Mildred Butterman
Miriam Butterman

Dr. Barry Bzostek
Helen Ann Carb Hurst
Ida Cohen
Phyllis Ettinger
Edwin Friedman
Rose Fuller
Lawrence Gernsbacher
Robert Gould
Marjorie Griver
Irene Hamrick
Ted Nathan Herman
Rose Hollander
Sylvia Krakover
George LeMaire
Edgar Gerald Long
Edwin Luftman
Norma Mack
Theodore Mack
Sam Menscher
Max Minker
George Moidel
Goldie Nackson
Leo Reitman
Mary Rollo
Bernard Rousch
Annette Lederman Schwarz
Ray Sepin
Sam Simon
Carl Sperling
Robert Stien
Herman Winkler
Pauline Winkler
Herbert Yentis
Sara Carb Zeve

Jan. 31

Robert Abrams
Fannie B. Bloom
Ed Bond
Max Broude
Jeanette Bushner
Gordon Cizon
Stanley Cott
Sol Englander
Peggy Farb
Ira Flax

Jack A. Frankrich
Leah Fuchs
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Beth-El Congregation
4900 Briarhaven Road
Fort Worth, TX 76109

Our mission: To meet the spiritual, educational, social, and religious needs of its members through the teachings and practices of Reform Judaism and to connect members to their Jewish identity and community.

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