

Beth-Elements

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



March 2024



Brian Zimmerman, Rabbi

There he goes, again!

..... Rabbi Brian Zimmerman

Yes, it's that time of year again. Jumping and dancing, singing for joy, and breaking all the rules. It's Purim time!

We throw decorum to the wind and, in the face of imminent danger, we say: "Come and get me! Give me your best shot! I can take it!"

Purim is an act of holy defiance.

This year Purim feels even more pertinent, because it's one thing to rejoice when things seem safe and calm. It's another to do it when we have plenty of reasons to be fearful, as we do this year. Purim is a reminder there will always be enemies. Danger is just around the corner. But even in our sadness, we raise our heads high at Purim.

Some of you are probably thinking Rabbi is just seeking an excuse for his crazy behavior. It's true, Purim is one of my favorite holidays.

Growing up, many of us were taught not to make noise, laugh, or have too much fun at temple. Religion, we were told, is serious business.

But Purim is more than just loud, joyful noise. It is also an act of defiance.

As we lock the doors of our temples and wonder whether it's safe for our children to proclaim their Jewish identity,

Purim says there will always be danger but there must always be Jewish joy.

This is not just a Rabbi Brian thing. The thousand-year-old Mishnah Torah teaches that the Scroll of Esther will be read and remain relevant even when the books of the prophets are no longer read. The Scroll of Esther will stand tall alongside the Torah in messianic times.

The 1,300-year-old collection of teachings known as Midrash Mishlei goes further, explaining that even at the end of time, Purim will be celebrated when all other holidays except Yom Kippur are irrelevant.

What is the power of this holiday?

Passover follows only four weeks later and brings a somber, serious message about our responsibility to redeem ourselves and our world. But before it arrives, Purim teaches us Judaism is for living and laughing, children and joy. Even in the darkest of times, Purim remains relevant.

I hope you will join us the weekend of March 22 for three days of Purim song and celebration, culminating

on Sunday morning with our Religious School children putting on a Purim play and enjoying a school carnival.

Before we can be redeemed at Passover, let's remind ourselves that how we live now also matters.

Purim Sameach, Happy Purim. Yes, even more so, right now.

Purim celebration weekend

Friday, March 22 6:15 p.m.
Purim songs, hamantaschen, and shpiel

Saturday, March 23 10:30 a.m.
Purim study and Schnapps at Rabbi Zimmerman's house. RSVP to Temple office.

Sunday, March 24 9:30 a.m.
Religious school Purim shpiel and carnival

Worship Services

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

Daily Minyan with the community

Monday-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, March 1

Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Zimmerman and Student Cantor Samantha Chamberlin 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 2

Shabbat morning service of song and study at Rabbi Zimmerman's home with Student Cantor Samantha Chamberlin 10:30 a.m. All are welcome but please RSVP to the Temple office for more information and directions.

Friday, March 8

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

Friday, March 15

Kabbalat Shabbat with Dr. Michael Ross and Angie Friedman 6:15 p.m.

Friday, March 22

Tot Shabbat 5:30 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Zimmerman and Student Cantor Samantha Chamberlin 6:15 p.m.

Saturday, March 23

Shabbat morning service of song and study at Rabbi Zimmerman's home with Student Cantor Samantha Chamberlin 10:30 a.m. All are welcome but please RSVP to the Temple office for more information and directions.

Friday, March 29

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



Robert Simon

President's Message

..... Temple President Robert Simon

Greetings. I'm writing this column on the eve of that great American ritual, the Super Bowl. By the time you read this, our World Series winning Texas Rangers will have played their first spring training game on Feb. 23 against the Kansas City Royals. Go Rangers!

Beth-El Congregation has had an eventful winter season. During the mid-January cold snap, a pipe in the fire sprinkler system in the education wing froze and burst, flooding the north end of the building. Water damaged the carpet, ceiling, drywall, and bookshelves, all of which will have to be replaced. We have made an insurance claim, but we do not yet know its outcome. Emergency repairs have been made, but the replacement of the flooring and cabinetry will take time. The flood and resulting damage have inconvenienced the Religious School, the Congregation in general, and our tenant, Playhouse Academy. I thank and commend our Executive Director Amy Robbins, our Religious School Director Shoshana Abrams-Kaikov, and our hardworking staff for managing the problems and making the best of a challenging situation.

The Congregation had an extremely successful and well-attended MRJ Shabbat dinner and service in the gathering area on Jan. 26. Community Mitzvah Day on Jan. 28 was also a great success. Children and adults from all Tarrant County religious schools participated.

Our kindergarten and first-grade classes celebrated their Consecration on Feb. 9. Brad Sham, the voice of the Dallas Cowboys, will appear and speak at an MRJ and WRJ sponsored brunch on March 3 to raise money for Jewish Camp Scholarships. Beth-El Congregation will celebrate Purim the weekend of March 22-24.

Our youth groups are thriving. Cindy and I took the BEJY kids to the movie *Wonka* in January. On Feb. 11, we took them to a trampoline park. BEJY is open to all congregants in 5th-7th grade. The Beth-El Junior Maccabees, our youngest age group, held its first event Feb. 10 at an indoor playground. The Maccabees, for 2nd-4th grade, will have their first event this spring.

Our sacred community continues to grow. More than 20 new families have joined Beth-El since August 2023. (See right.) We are gratified they have joined us, and we strive to make them integral parts of our Jewish home.

On Feb. 7, I participated in a Zoom call with 90 URJ congregational presidents and rabbis. We discussed internal governance and how to keep the peace inside our Jewish home even when there is strife outside. URJ representatives



The Beth-El 3rd grade Religious School class enjoyed a Shabbat dinner on Feb. 2 at the home of Temple President Robert Simon. Attendees included: Rabbi Brian Zimmerman, Robert Simon, Lauren & Houdi Epstein, Nikki Slobodin, Grant Rubinson, Chelsey and Joe Davidson, Michael Appleman, and teacher Christine Levy. Robert and Cindy intend to have each Religious School class to their home for a Shabbat dinner! Next up: 6th grade on March 8.

stressed the importance of holding fast to three Jewish values: truthfulness, kindness, and respect. Tell each other the truth. Respect each other, even when we disagree, and always act with kindness. Be this God's will.

Welcome New Members

- Caterina Froehlich & Luke Altman
- Jennie & Alijah Ballard
- Jeffrey Berk
- Julie Blacker
- Leah Bortnick
- Suzy & Andrew Card
- Linka Miller & Warren Cohen
- Elisa & Daniel Cohn
- Valerie Davidson
- Benjamin & Sophie Deutsch
- Matthew Mockler & Sarah Goldstein
- Cailey Kaplan
- Amber Love
- Lauren & Jeff Nathan
- Ginger Pine
- Haley Reynolds
- Mark & Robin Schneider
- Gabrielle & Jaymes Seals
- Ulrika Shragge
- Emily Slifkin
- Ellen St. Clair
- Justin Todd
- Brittany & Jason Walker

Cantor Samantha Chamberlin

Only a few visits left to visit with our Student Cantor Samantha Chamberlin.

Fridays, March 1, 22, April 5
Saturdays, March 2, 23, April 6

Join us on the listed Friday nights at Beth-El and Saturday mornings at Rabbi Zimmerman's house to sing and celebrate Shabbat with Cantor Sam.



Samantha Chamberlin



At left and below:
Consecration of
kindergarten and
first-grade Religious
School students



Shoshana Abrams Kaikov

Religious School: 5784 Consecration

Education Director, Cantor Shoshana Abrams Kaikov

Last month, we came together as a community to celebrate a very special Jewish milestone with our kindergarten and first-grade Religious School students and their families: Consecration. We began this special evening with a delicious Shabbat dinner in the Great Hall, followed by a lovely service in the sanctuary celebrating our amazing kindergarten and first-graders, who all worked so hard to prepare a variety of Shabbat songs and prayers to lead our service with such incredible *ruach* (spirit).

During the service, each child received a Consecration certificate acknowledging they're embarking on a new, exciting chapter in their Jewish journeys, transitioning to more sophisticated learning. Along with their certificates, each student was presented with gifts, including ceramic Kiddush cups they painted during Religious School, Tzedakah boxes, miniature Torah scrolls, and a gift certificate to be used toward a Greene Family Camp experience.

I pray that our students will hold these sacred ritual items close to their hearts

and use them as often as possible in their homes. I hope they will fill their Tzedakah boxes many times over and give to many wonderful and worthy causes, and that the small Torah scrolls will be a reminder of continued faith. Let these gifts be a sign of the strong Jewish roots that ground each of our students at Beth-El.

We concluded this beautiful service by inviting parents to hold Tallitot over their children on the bima, and together we blessed our students with the words of the ancient priestly benediction.

A big Todah Rabbah to Scott Slotter (Tefillah teacher), Nicole Deutsch (first-grade teacher), Sarah Rubinson (kindergarten teacher), and Gloria Sepp (art teacher) for helping prepare our students for this special evening. Thanks also to Marc Slotter for always making



himself available to capture these special moments on camera. Dr. Ira and Sandy Hollander also make adorable goody bags for our Consecration students each year. Your generosity helps make this celebration even sweeter (literally).

Finally, thanks to Religious School parents for being our partners in your child's Jewish education and for making Religious School a priority. Mazel Tov to our AMAZING students. We are SO proud of you!!



Michelle Hartman

Women of Reform Judaism

WRJ President Michelle Hartman

Shalom, Women of Beth-El. We had an amazing time at our High Tea in February. Thank you to all who attended. We also just finished making 300 hamantaschen for Purim for the Religious School and some onegs. We hope you enjoy them. Thank you to all the helping hands that went into making all those holiday cookies.

At this time, we don't have any programs scheduled for March. But your board is hard at work and we will look for a possible date to have a Purim Happy Hour. Keep an eye out for an email invite. Looking into April, we have Passover coming up. Our first cook-in for the Second Night Seder will be



Join WRJ

Sunday, April 7. We will also need help **Sunday, April 21**, during Religious School with final Passover preparations. Please sign up to help and, of course, sign up to come to our **Second Night Seder at 5:30 on Tuesday, April 23.** It's fun for the whole family! See the invitation on page 11 of this bulletin and send in your RSVP or sign up at bethelfw.org. You won't want to miss this!



The WRJ Galentine's Day High Tea was a lovely gathering of friends at the Rose Garden Tea Room last month.



Eric Deutsch

Men of Reform Judaism

MRJ President Eric Deutsch

March and April are very busy months for the MRJ. We hope you can join us for our joint event with the WRJ, "A Morning with Brad Sham, the voice of the Dallas Cowboys" on Sunday, March 3. For details, please see the Temple website. All proceeds from this event go to fund Greene Family Camperships.

Also, please mark your calendars for **Sunday, April 7, for our annual Mickey Goldman Person of the Year Spaghetti Dinner honoring Jim Stein.** In

addition to celebrating Jim that evening we will also honor our MRJ collegiate scholarship recipients. Also in March and April, the MRJ will be providing catering for Religious School events.

If you're interested in more information about the MRJ, please contact me at Eric. Deutsch@haynesboone.com or 972-800-3578.



Jim Stein, Mickey Goldman Person of the Year

The Gift Shop is Open!

The WRJ Gift Shop at Beth-El is the easiest way to support Beth-El's Religious School.

Gift Shop Hours:

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

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

Sign up for weekly e-blasts from Rabbi by e-mailing: rabbiz@bethelfw.org

Contributions

Archive Fund

- In Memory of Irene Levey
- Dan and Trudie Oshman
- In Memory of Frances Plotsky
- Dan and Trudie Oshman

Caring Congregation Committee

- In Honor of Speedy recovery of Scott Minker
- Marilyn and Van Stenzler

Floral Fund

- In Memory of Edward Schultz
- Russ and Susan Schultz

Library Fund

- In Memory of Winnie Simon
- Judie and Bob Greenman

Mitch Stenzler Scholarsip Fund

- In Honor of speedy recovery of Sonja Stein
- Marilyn and Van Stenzler
- In Honor of speedy recovery of Jeannie Rosenblum
- Marilyn and Van Stenzler

Primetimers Fund

- In Honor of Roz Rosenthal
- Alyson and Richard Slutzky

Rabbi Mecklenburger's Discretionary Fund

- In Memory of Arnold Rubin
- John and Meg Rubin
- In Memory of Dr. Howard Britton
- Linda and Jeff Hochster
- In Memory of Lauren Hoffman
- Ellen and Gerry Hoffman
- In Memory of Hertha and Hans Friedman
- Kathy and James Friedman
- In Memory of Dorothy and William Steinman
- Kathy and James Friedman
- In Memory of Ernest Hochster
- Linda and Jeff Hochster

Rabbi Zimmerman's Discretionary Fund

- In Memory of Winnie Simon
- Marjorie and Eric Deutsch
- In Memory of Arnold Rubin
- John and Meg Rubin
- In Honor of the marriage of Melanie Cooper and Jason Welch
- Seme and Mark Cooper

Religious School Fund

- In Memory of Fanchon Florsheim
- Carol and Steve Kline
- In Memory of Corrine Jacobson
- Cindy and Steve Bond
- In Memory of Jenna Montroll
- Nicholas Montroll
- In Memory of Adrienne Kline
- Carol and Steve Kline
- In Memory of Leonard Frank
- Carol and Steve Kline
- In Honor of Sondra Pritchard's birthday
- Mark Pritchard and Robin Weinberg

Rosenthal-Siegel Education Endowment Fund

- In Honor of Edythe Cohen's birthday
- Rosalyn Rosenthal

Temple Fund

- In Memory of Fanchon Florsheim
- Steve Katten
- In Memory of Annette Lederman Schwarz
- Patricia and Herbert Schwarz
- In Memory of Irving Dollinger
- Harli Dollinger & Michael Bergamini
- In Memory of June Luftman
- Rene Ingram
- In Memory of Linda Hoffman
- Susan and Jonathan Knopf
- In Memory of Barbara Goldstein
- Julie and Red Goldstein
- In Memory of Dore Goldstein
- Julie and Red Goldstein
- In Memory of Peggy Farb
- Marla and Richard Parvey
- In Memory of Winnie Simon
- Holly and Bill Schur

Temple Fund (cont.)

- In Memory of Allan Sigman
- Marilyn and Michael Sigman
- In Memory of Rabbi Robert J. Schur
- Holly and Bill Schur
- In Memory of Maxine White Schur
- Holly and Bill Schur
- In Memory of Harry Rubin
- Marilyn and Jack Rubin
- In Memory of Barbara Rosenthal
- Renee and Kirk Pinto
- In Memory of Ruth Ross
- Beverly and Michael Ross
- In Memory of David Gross, Jr
- Rozanne and Billy Rosenthal
- In Memory of Roslyn Gentler Gross
- Rozanne and Billy Rosenthal
- In Memory of Max Weiner
- Hollace and Bruce Weiner
- In Memory of Helen Factor
- Hollace and Bruce Weiner
- In Memory of Aharon Salomon
- Galit and Shaul Lerman
- In Memory of Norman Schlinger
- Margie and Jay Frankel
- In Memory of Barbara Korman
- Margie and Jay Frankel
- In Memory of Henriette Voet
- Loesje Blumberg

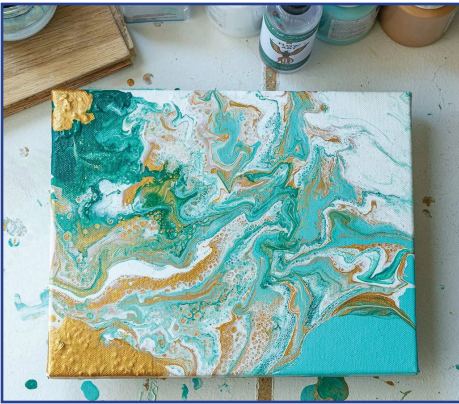
Temple Fund (cont.)

- In Memory of Nellie VanCoevorden
- Loesje Blumberg
- In Memory of Bernard Rubin
- Elaine and Michael Griver
- In Memory of Dorothy Schwartz
- Elaine and Michael Griver
- In Memory of Ruth Maizlish
- Stephen Maizlish
- In Memory of Irene Goldin
- Miranda Nadel
- In Memory of Raymond Lifchez
- Bill and Holly Schur
- In Memory of Rosanne Margolis
- Bill and Holly Schur
- In Memory of Bernard "Bubba" Rubin
- Marilyn and Jack Rubin
- In Memory of Bob and Elaine Mothner
- Marilyn and Jack Rubin
- In Memory of Fanchon Florsheim
- Beverly and Michael Ross
- In Honor of Roz Rosenthal's birthday
- Bill and Holly Schur
- In Honor of Carole Rogers
- Bill and Holly Schur

Mazel Tov



- Congratulations to **Tumbleweed Smith**, aka Bob Lewis, far right, for being named man of the year for outstanding service to the community, Big Spring, Texas Chamber of Commerce, February 1, 2024. He's pictured with his wife Susan and their sons, Kevin, far left and BZ Lewis
- Congratulations to **Seymour and Gail Roberts** on the birth of their grandson Leo Henry Kahn.



Acrylic pour painting is easy and fun.

Primetimers

..... Michelle Hartman

**Thursday, March 14
12 p.m.**

Happy Purim, Primetimers! Apologies for having to cancel February's event last minute. We appreciate your understanding. That being said, many of you were very excited to try the Pour Painting, so Gloria Sepp arranged her schedule so she can teach the class March 14! All materials will be included and you'll get to take home a piece of art that you made.

Lunch will be at noon and catered by Einstein Bros. Bagels, or you can bring your own. For \$10 you get potato chips and your choice of:

- Roasted turkey on a plain bagel with spinach, cucumber, lettuce, and tomato (onion chive cream cheese on the side)
- Nova lox on a plain bagel with onions, capers, tomato, and plain cream cheese
- Veggies on a sesame-seed bagel with avocado, tomato, lettuce, spinach, cucumber, red onion, and garden veggie cream cheese

Be sure to save room for yummy desserts! Please RSVP, even if you're not ordering lunch, so we have enough supplies, by Sunday, March 10, to hartman8729@sbcglobal.net or 817-706-3451. Please RSVP again even if you said you were coming to the event in February. Thank you!

Then and Now: *Legacy of Leadership*

..... Hollace Ava Weiner, Temple Archivist



Hollace Weiner

Since 1913, five men on the Simon family tree have served as presidents of Beth-El.

The first was Uriah Meyer Simon, a

Mississippi native raised in Tyler, Texas. After graduating from the University of Denver College of Law in 1904, he moved to Fort Worth and worked as a prosecutor for the Tarrant County District Attorney. At Beth-El, Simon had a role model — David Brown, who was his brother-in-law and cousin as well as Temple president and a founding member at Beth-El.

Uriah Simon became the local point person for the Industrial Removal Office, an agency that screened immigrants struggling in New York and matched them with jobs in Fort Worth. Among those immigrants was the Moses family, whose descendants at Beth-El include Buddy and Rochelle Moses, Alyson Moses Halpern, her husband, Blake, and their children, Ryder and Ledger. Uriah Simon also helped resettle the Zalefsky family, whose sons shortened their surname to Zale and became famous international jewelers and philanthropists.

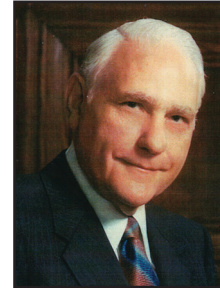
The next Simon to step into Beth-El's circle of leadership was U.M. Simon's son, attorney Richard U. Simon, Sr. He became Temple president in 1943. In the middle of his term, he resigned to serve as a WWII Army officer in Europe. A decade later, his brother Henry W. Simon, Sr., an attorney, became Beth-El president. His son, Henry W. Simon, Jr., another lawyer, sat on the bimah as Temple president in 1977 and 1978.



Uriah Meyer Simon



Richard U. Simon, Sr.



Henry W. Simon, Sr.



Henry W. Simon, Jr.

Five Temple Presidents on the Simon Family Tree. The record is unparalleled.

Beth-El's current president, attorney Robert Simon, is his son.

Robert's cousin, James "Jim" F. Simon, the son of Richard U. Simon, Sr., is Dean Emeritus at New York Law School. He wrote seven books on American history, law, and politics and is the preeminent scholar on the Supreme Court. Last fall he donated his papers to the University of Texas' Dolph Briscoe Center for American History. He is completing a book filled with the Simon family history. Stay tuned for a more complete picture of the Simons. They have been an integral part of Beth-El since its founding.



Robert Simon, current Temple President

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7:30pm Shabbat	2 9 am Zoom Torah Study 10:30 Shabbat Morning Service at Rabbi's home (RSVP)
	<p style="text-align: center;">Get weekly e-blasts from Rabbi by e-mailing: rabbiz@bethelfw.org</p>					
3 9:15 am-12:30 pm Gift shop open 9:30 am Religious School 9:30 Morning with Brad Sham	4 12 pm Chair Yoga 6 pm Evening Minyan	5 12 pm Jewish Puzzle of Life 6 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm Curious About Conversion	6 9:30 am Archives meeting 11 am-2 pm Gift shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan	7 6 pm Evening Minyan	8 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat	9 9 am Zoom Torah Study
10 No Religious School	11 6 pm Evening Minyan	12 6 pm Evening Minyan	13 9:30 am Archives meeting 11 am-2 pm Gift shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan	14 12 pm Primetimers 6 pm Evening Minyan	15 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat	16 9 am Zoom Torah Study
17 No Religious School	18 12 pm Chair Yoga 6 pm Evening Minyan 7 pm Board Meeting	19 6 pm Evening Minyan	20 9:30 am Archives meeting 11 am-2 pm Gift shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan	21 6 pm Evening Minyan	22 5:30 pm Tot Shabbat 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat	23 EREV PURIM 9 am Zoom Torah Study 10:30 Shabbat Morning Service at Rabbi's home (RSVP)
24 PURIM 9:15 am-12:30 pm Gift shop open 9:30 am Religious School 9:30 am Purim Celebratiom	25 6 pm Evening Minyan	26 6 pm Evening Minyan	27 9:30 am Archives meeting 11 am-2 pm Gift shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan	28 6 pm Evening Minyan	29 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat	30 9 am Zoom Torah Study
31 9:15 am-12:30 pm Gift shop open 9:30 am Religious School 9:30 am A God We Can Believe In	April 1 12 pm Chair Yoga 6 pm Evening Minyan	2 12 pm Jewish Puzzle of Life 6 pm Evening Minyan	3 9:30 am Archives meeting 11 am-2 pm Gift shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan	4 6 pm Evening Minyan	5 6:15 pm Shabbat service	6 9 am Zoom Torah Study 10:30 Shabbat Morning Service at Rabbi's home (RSVP)

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

Executive Director

.....Amy Robbins, Executive Director



Amy Robbins

Compromise is an important value in judgment. The Talmud teaches: "Rebbe Yehoshua ben Korcha says, compromise

is a mitzvah, as it is written (Zecharia 8:16), 'Judge truth and judgment of peace in your gates.' Seemingly when there is judgment there is no peace, and when there is peace, there is no judgment. But what is the judgment that encompasses peace as well? This is compromise."

On Jan. 16, a fire sprinkler head burst in Beth-El's education wing, resulting in significant flooding damage. Since then, Beth-El Congregation and staff, the Religious School, Playhouse Academy, and several Temple members have had to compromise.

Compromise is a pragmatic approach that enables people to get things done. It is better to create a solution where everyone benefits, where each side compromises a bit to maintain peace. I am grateful to witness this.

**Stay current on all Beth-El events.
Sign up for weekly e-blasts
by e-mailing: rabbiz@bethelfw.org**

A God We Can Believe In *Rethinking Reform Jewish Belief and Practice*



Sunday, March 31, 9:30 a.m.

This book offers 28 essays of faith, worship, holidays, and lifecycle events challenge contemporary Jews to rethink beliefs and practices. Members of the congregation will prepare and present short essays from the book and invite others to reflect and react to the ideas. The goal is not to take votes, but to deepen our perspectives as Jews. Rabbi Mecklenburger and/or Rabbi Zimmerman will be present at each class as needed to assist in this mostly lay-led conversation. The book is available online or through the Temple office.

Finding Our Place in the Jewish Puzzle of Life: A Search for Personal Theology with Rabbi Zimmerman

Tuesdays at noon, March 5 and April 2

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 knew it mattered but found yourself speechless?

This class led by Rabbi Zimmerman will study philosophers, occasionally bring in guest speakers, explore Jewish history and text, all with the goal of articulating a personal theology. If this appeals to you, please consider joining us.

Caring Congregation Committee

.....Carol Minker, Chair



At any moment in time, members of our Congregation may be in need — not of charity — but in need of *acts of loving kindness!* In order for the committee to do our best, we need to know who is ill, needs a welcome or virtual visit, or a meal. Please contact the Temple office, and a member of our committee will be in touch.



Request a visit

Do you know someone at home or in the hospital who could use a visit from the Rabbi or another Temple member? Do you have the name of an ill family member or friend that you would like to be read at our Shabbat service? You can

go directly to our MiShebeirach/Prayer and visit the request link on Shulcloud at www.bethelfw.org/community or call the Temple office.

Rabbi Zimmerman, Amy Robbins, and Pattie Wood will get the information from this site quickly. We can't visit or offer assistance if we don't know!

Thanks in advance for your help.



BEJYites had a blast at Altitude Trampoline Park on Sunday, Feb. 11. Pictured are Alexa Bregman, Madison Rosenstein, M.J. Danoski, Lily Henken, Julianne Bookatz, Jacob Strausz, Charley Davidson, Myra Pine, Alexander Ballard, Natalya Slobodin, and Conti Pell.



The Beth-El Junior Maccabees, our youngest age group, held its first event Feb. 10 at an indoor playground.

Welcomers Wanted

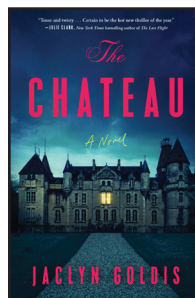
.....Edythe Cohen

The Welcomers are the people you meet wearing red name badges at services and special events. We are volunteers who greet everyone, wish all Good Shabbos, and thank our guests for joining us. If you are visiting, we will ask you to wear a name tag and help you meet others. Sometimes, you'll see the Welcomers working special events to help our guests find the Great Hall or other activities.

While you won't see the same person each Friday, we are all dedicated to working and serving on a rotational basis — about once a month. If you'd like to become a Beth-El Congregation Welcomer, please contact Edythe Cohen, ecohentx@att.net.

Library Reviews

.....Margie Zentner



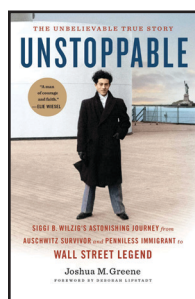
The Chateau by Jaclyn Goldis

is the luxurious setting for Goldis' new novel, which follows four girlfriends who studied abroad together and visited the grandmother of one of the girls on weekends. Now, 20 years later each woman has been invited back to the chateau for what is considered a reunion. Amid winery tours, market visits, and fancy dinners, it becomes clear each woman has a hidden reason for returning to the estate after all these years. Very quickly the secrets and lies turn into a fast-paced murder mystery.



Kunstlers in Paradise by Cathleen Schine

This Jewish Book Council pick is a clever, hilarious, and deeply affecting novel that tells the story of Mamie, who escaped Vienna in 1939 with her family. They made their way to California, where they joined a colony of distinguished musicians, writers, and intellectuals also escaping Hitler. Now, at age 93, Mamie gets a visit from her grandson, Julian, who is seeking fame and fortune in Hollywood. But it's 2020 and the pandemic sweeps in, cutting Julian and Mamie off from the world. In isolation, she shares stories of her early escapades with the likes of Thomas Mann to Greta Garbo, and it opens a new a world for Julian of lives that came before him.



Unstoppable by Joshua Greene

is the true story of Siggie B. Wilzig's astonishing journey from Auschwitz survivor to penniless immigrant to Wall Street legend. Siggie was only a teenager when he and his family were deported to Auschwitz. Siggie used his wits to stay alive and eventually goes to work for the U.S. Army hunting Nazis, a service that earns him a visa to America. He would go from selling neckties from the trunk of his car to becoming a CEO with assets of more than \$4 billion. *Unstoppable* is a deeply moving and inspirational story!

Yahrzeits

March 1

Virginia Abrams
Nelson Alter
Claire Benno
Stena Bloomberg
Dr. Howard A. Britton
Samuel Bzostek
Marie Meisel Cedars
Joseph Feuer
Barney Finkel
Birdie Gordon Freedman
Gertrude Gernsbacher
Ida Gilden Glazer
Ira Gordon
Roslyn Gentler Gross
Gratian A. Gurney
Dorothy Imber
Kathleen S. Jacobson
Roy John
Harold Klotz
Harvey Lefer
Joseph Levy
Celyne Lehman Levy
Addie Levy
Elsie Maier
Jennah Montroll
Louise Ann Rosenbaum
Morewitz
Arnold Pell
Sol Platt
Louis Pozez
Diane Pratt
Leo Roth
Emmy Lou Roux
Arnold Rubin
Joseph Sadow
Harold Schiff
Walter Smit
Frances Suder
Rose Rubinson Sussfeld
Dorothy Marie Taub
Solomon Taylor
Janet Marks Teter
Victor Tewele
Max Weiner
Sadie Schiff Wile

March 8

Bernard T. Baum
Dr. Isadore Berk
Max Bloomberg
Geraldine Schumer Brown
David Brown
Dr. Burnhardt
Willa Christie
Max Cohn
David Dorfman
Katherine G. Feinknopf
Mickey Goldman
Charlotte Goldman
Lillian Doris Groginski
Allen Hendelman
Teddy Hendelman
Christine Henton Kuehn
Joe Herman
Gussie Katzenstein
Billie Klapper
Otto Kuehn
Mary Potishman Lard
Elise Levy Fuchs
Pauline S. Mack
Herman Marx
Milton J. Mehl
Sidney Nass
Nelson S. Neckers
Henry S. Nurenborg
Joseph Oderberg
Harry Julius Rosenstein
Ben Rosenthal
Genevieve Sankary
Edward Sankary
Ben Silverman
Hattie Weltman Simon
Rose Urbach
Virginia Westermann

March 15

Dennis Alter
Otto Berlin
Cecilia Bressert
Doris Bronstein
Helen Bzostek
Kevin Capper
Ned Covitt

Cecile Weinshenker Echt
Florrie Epstein
Margot Feld
Samuel I. Fenton
Leonard Ferstenfeld
Monya Rothschild Friedberg
Adeline Friedman
Sol R. Gale
Robert Goldblum
Celia Goldstucker
Selma Greenberg
Isaac Harris
Samuel Hayman
Marina Jaramillo-Jalevi
Caren Koslow
Marjorie LaMere
Kathryn Harper Lasater
Julian Lerner
Mindy Lieberman
Louise Lipshitz
Herman Mann
Frank Merechka
Frank Murra
David Ross
Edmund Rothschild
Rose Schloss
Jean Schneiweiss
Kathi T. Schuler
Emanuel A. Siegel
Samuella Frelich Simon
Henry E. Sloter
Bennett Smith
Maurice Solomon
Betty Mae Stien
David L. Toby
Pearl Joseph Walen
Shirley Wasserman
Morton Wasserman
Bertha Weinbaum
Joseph Weisberg
Pauline Wittenberg

March 22

Leon Berenson
Ronni W. Belmont
Joe Bronstein

Moses J. Chicotsky
Maria Chon
Joseph Cohen
Louis Cohn
Jackie Cole
Frank Dover
Samuel Freyer
Gerald Friedman
Marion Goodman
Dr. Evan Hersch
Selma Hochberger
Ruth Hochman
Marilyn Hoffman
Bertram Jacobs
Philip Jacobson
Ian Matthew Kaitcer
Norma Dee Klar
Marvin Adrian Labovitz
Miriam Labovitz
David Lessem
Charlotte McGowan
Leona Meisel
Dorothy Pelberg
Nathan Rubin
Louis L. Sandler
Selma Schwarz
Flora Schwarz Seigel
Leo Selig
Dave Simon
Harry Teter
M. Rose Townes
Tilly L. Tuchin
Frances Weltman
Rick Williams

March 29

Frances Appleman
Louis Benno
Eva Berlin
June Britton
Fanny Brooks
Bessie Coopersmith
Louis Evans
Bernard Fleck
Pauline Schlinger Frankel
Shep Friedman

Marcus Friedman
Dina Sussmanowitz Friedmann
Carolyn Gilbert
Alan B. Gropper
Dr. Julian Haber
Dorothy Hertzman
Shiri Siena Kaikov
Harold Kaplan
Louise Karotkin
Leonard Karotkin
Richard Karotkin
Kenneth Klapper
Vera Lazarus
William Lentin
Helene Levin
David Menscher
Hal M. Meyerson
Ernest Mindlin
Maxine Newlander
Max Prostok
Burt Robins
Mona Roddy
Samuel N. Rosenthal
Rose Rosenthal
Joseph Rubenstein
Alvin Rubin
Sylvia Sacks
Leon G. Schwartz
Florence Soifer Jacobs
Sam Weinberg
Naomi M. Wile

• Reservations must be received by Friday, April 12 •

Beth-EI/WRJ members attending

Adults (ages 13 and up): _____ x \$30 = \$ _____

Children (ages 3-12): _____ x \$12 = \$ _____

Non-members attending (additional \$3)

Adults (ages 13 and up): _____ x \$33 = \$ _____

Children (ages 3-12): _____ x \$15 = \$ _____

Additional contribution
to help defray Seder expenses \$ _____

***Total \$ _____**

Enclosed is a check made out to
"WRJ" for the above **total**

Detach and return this form to: Beth-EI WRJ Second Night Seder, 4900 Briarhaven Road, Fort Worth, 76109
or **reserve online** at bethelfw.org

Please charge **total** to my

Mastercard Visa Discover Amex

Card #: _____

CVV: _____ Exp.Date: _____

Cardholder name: _____

Billing address: _____

Phone: _____

No charge for children under 3, but high-chair must be reserved. **Number of high-chairs needed:** _____

Songs! Stories! Maror! Mark your calendar and make your reservation today!

Second Night Seder

Tuesday, April 23, 5:30 p.m.



**Reservations must be received by
Tuesday, April 12.**

**After April 12, include an additional
\$7 per person.***



Send the form below with payment to
"WRJ"

to: **Beth-EI WRJ Second Night Seder,**
4900 Briarhaven Road,
Fort Worth, 76109

or reserve online at bethelfw.org

*"Let all who are hungry, come and eat.
Let all who are in need, come and share the Passover meal."
— Haggadah*

After many years of keeping the price the same, we now need to increase the price of attendance due to both food and labor costs. We want everyone to feel welcome. If you would like to attend, but price is a concern, please contact Rabbi Zimmerman.



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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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Beth-El Congregation
 4900 Briarhaven Road
 Fort Worth, Texas 76109
 www.bethelfw.org
 817-332-7141 phone
 fax 817-332-7157

Rabbi, Brian Zimmerman: rabbiz@bethelfw.org
 Rabbi Emeritus, Ralph Mecklenburger: rabbi@bethelfw.org
 Executive Director, Amy Robbins: director@bethelfw.org
 Executive Assistant, Pattie Wood: bethelofc@bethelfw.org
 Education Director, Cantor Shoshana Abrams Kaikov: shoshanakaikov@bethelfw.org
 Music Director, John Sauvey: jesbaritone@gmail.com
 Building Manager, Jaime Rivera: cust@bethelfw.org
 Bulletin Editor, Rick Press: rickbpress@gmail.com

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 FWFTY: Connor Maxon, Erin Beck-Johnson, Presidents

Contributions

- Make your contribution online at: **bethelfw.org** or fill out the form below and mail it with your check to Beth-El Congregation
- **Undesignated donations** will be placed in the Temple Fund.

\$10-minimum contribution: Temple Fund, Religious School Fund, Youth Fund, Library Fund, Music Fund, Mitch Stenzler Scholarship Fund, Rabbi Zimmerman's Discretionary Fund, Rabbi Mecklenburger's Discretionary Fund, President's Discretionary Fund, Religious School Director's Discretionary Fund, Temple Archives, Caring Congregation

\$50-minimum contribution: Rosenthal-Siegel Education Endowment Fund, Operating Endowment Fund, Endowment #2

Other funds: **Tree \$20, Prayer Book \$30, Floral \$50, Tree of Life Leaf \$300**

Contribution Form

Enclosed please find the amount of \$ _____

Designated Fund: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Donor Name(s): _____

Please send me

Address: _____

_____ (qty)

Phone: _____

additional forms.

Send acknowledgment to: _____

