

Beth-Elements

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



May 2025



Brian Zimmerman, Rabbi

Dvrei Torah

Rabbi Brian Zimmerman

Hold the date! **Sunday night, June 1**, is our first Beth-El Interfaith Tikkun Leil Shavuot.

The custom of Tikkun Leil Shavuot, a night of counting and waiting in anticipation of the giving of Torah at Mount Sinai, goes back to at least the 16th century and the Northern Israel community of Sefat.

Preparing for this pivotal Jewish moment, mystics stayed up all night and re-enacted the moment of revelation.

We won't stay up all night, but we will be at Temple from 7 p.m. until midnight.

The conversation will take many forms.

There will musical presentations, both choral and jazz; visual artists will share their works and spiritual inspiration; a panel of clergy will discuss the nature of revelation; a social action committee will share the textual basis for their sacred mission; there will be text study; and maybe even some cooking.

We will spend the evening with religious leaders and members from Makom Shelanu, Broadway Baptist, Carter CME, University Christian Church, and South Hills Christian Church.

Join with friends, old and new, Christian and Jewish, eat cheesecake and other Shavuot treats, and share the journey of revelation with us.

The full schedule of events will be available by mid-May.

Bar Mitzvah



Campbell Schneider
May 3

Son of Sarina and Daniel Clearfield

Beth-El's 2025 Annual Meeting Sunday, May 18 3 p.m.

- All congregants are welcome and encouraged to attend.
- Wine & Cheese Reception.
- The congregation will vote on an updated set of bylaws as well as the new slate of Board of Directors nominees. (See p. 9.)

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, May 2

Tot Shabbat with Cantor Shoshana and Friends 5:30 p.m.
Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Zimmerman, John Sauvey, Hans Grim and the Beth-El Choir 6:15 p.m.

Saturday, May 3

Shabbat Morning Service and Bar Mitzvah of Campbell Schneider 10:30 a.m.

Friday, May 9

WRJ-led Shabbat service 6:15 p.m.

Saturday, May 10

Confirmation Class Havdalah Ceremony 6 p.m.

Friday, May 16

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

Friday, May 23

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

Friday, May 30

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

Saturday, May 31

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

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



Robert Simon

President's Message

..... Temple President Robert Simon

By the time you read this column, my term as president of Beth-El Congregation will be nearing its end. At our annual meeting on May 18, our President-Elect Michael Appleman will succeed me. I wish him great success.

As a fourth generation Beth-El president, it has been my honor and privilege to serve you the past two years. I could not have done it without the hard work and dedication of my wife, Cindy. Beth-El is an amazing community of warm, caring, dedicated, hard-working professionals and volunteers. I have enjoyed every minute of welcoming you at the front door upon your arrival for services or Religious School, hosting many of you in our home for Shabbat dinner or Sunday lunch, schmoozing with you in the gathering area on Sunday mornings, and presenting congregational gifts to our hard-working bar and bat mitzvah kids at their special celebrations.

Of course, I could not do any of those things without your participation, your hard work, and your dedication to our sacred community. It takes a village to run a synagogue. We saw that village come together on April 4 for our Religious School dinner and Shabbat service. I gazed with joy at a mostly full

main sanctuary and a bema crowded with beautiful Jewish kids — from toddlers to high school age. L'dor v'dor, from generation to generation. We look forward to the remaining events planned in May, including the Religious School Open House, the Mickey Goldman Spaghetti Dinner, honoring Michelle Hartman on May 4, the Religious School year-end celebration, and our annual meeting.

As we approach the end of my term, I'd like to reflect on all we've accomplished together the past two years. Beth-El Congregation renewed Rabbi Zimmerman's contract for five years, assuring us stability on the bema. We adopted a new logo and built a new website, which was slated to go live at the end of April. I have appointed a new Technology Committee to help oversee the website, determine our other technological needs, and make recommendations to the Board. The Board has adopted a new ethics policy, a new gifts policy, and approved new Bylaws, which will be presented to the Congregation at the annual meeting. In November 2024, Beth-El held its first congregational retreat at Greene Family Camp since 2012.

Over spring break, Beth-El drilled a new water well to irrigate our

President's Message continue on page 9

Jewish Person of the Year Award Luncheon: June 1

Sunday, June 1, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Congregation Ahavath Sholom



The B'nai B'rith Isadore Garsek Lodge will honor the Jewish Person of the Year on **Sunday, June 1**, at a luncheon that

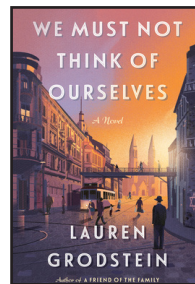
will also feature live entertainment. The honoree will be revealed at the celebratory luncheon. B'nai B'rith youth grants also will be presented.

Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at <https://square.link/u/PSuAOf0c>. For more information, please contact Alex Nason, anason53@gmail.com or Marvin Beleck, marvinbeleck@aol.com

People of the Book

..... Sheryl Levy

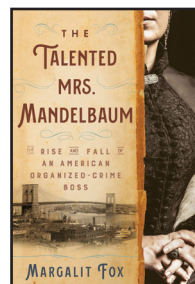
Tuesday, May 20, 10 a.m.



We Must Not Think of Ourselves by Lauren Grodstein

Congregation Beth-El's book group has lively discussions about books with Jewish themes or by Jewish authors. At our

next meeting on Tuesday, May 20, at 10 a.m. in the Beth-El library, we will share our impressions of *We Must Not Think of Ourselves* by Lauren Grodstein. The book is based on the true story of Emmanuel Ringelblum, who started a secret project in the Warsaw Ghetto named "Oneg Shabbat." Its mission was to record interviews with confined Jews and preserve them for posterity.



The Talented Mrs. Mandelbaum: **The Rise and Fall of an American Crime Boss** by Margalit Fox

Our summer selection, (date TBA), is *The Talented Mrs. Mandelbaum: The Rise and Fall*

of an American Crime Boss by Margalit Fox.

Please contact Sheryl Levy (slevy2608@gmail.com) for more information or to join our contact list. We'd love to have you. The more people, the better the discussions.

Attention campers:

12 p.m. Sunday, May 27

There will be a "Summer Camp Ice Cream Send-off" at Curly's Frozen Custard.

Stay tuned to your email from Rabbi Z.



Scenes from Religious School: a matzo message, magical matching, fun with friends, family, and many mitzvot.



Shoshana Abrams Kaikov

Religious School: Todah Rabbah

Education Director, Cantor Shoshana Abrams Kaikov

It's hard to believe we are about to complete another amazing school year! This is al-

ways a bittersweet time of reflection for me. Each school year feels like a beautiful journey together with our Religious School families, filled with Jewish learning, friendship and community building, mitzvah doing, growing, and reaching for the stars. As I look through photos from the 5785 school year, I am overwhelmed with feelings of gratitude.

I want to take this opportunity to say *Todah Rabbah* to...

Our teachers

Your dedication to our youth, the future of our Jewish community, is truly inspirational. You come to Beth-El on Sunday mornings with energy and excitement. You welcome our children with love and help to give them the ultimate Jewish learning experience. Thank you for teaching our children and inspiring them to carry on our traditions *L'dor Va-Dor*, from one generation to the next. I appreciate you more than you know. We are SO blessed to have you all at Beth-El.

Our madrichim

These days, being in high school is A LOT, and yet, you dedicate time from your busy school schedules to help support Beth-El each Sunday. You work closely with our teachers and offer support during lessons, gather supplies, and bond with our students. As our high school juniors and seniors, you serve as beautiful *dugmaot*, role models, for our younger students who look up to you more than you realize. Thank you for giving back to our school. It is my hope you have also gained real-life work experience and skills that will serve you well when you go off to college and out into the world. Mazel Tov to our graduating seniors! I am so proud of you!

Our Religious School parents and grandparents

I know your lives are incredibly busy and Religious School is a big commitment. We thank you for taking it seriously and making sure your child attends each week. Thank you for making your child's Jewish education a priority and for being our partners.

Our volunteers

You give so selflessly of yourselves and show up to support our school whenever we need you. A big thank you to our Education Committee Chair, Erica Berman, and all those who serve on our committee. Your service to our community is greatly appreciated. We could not do it without all our volunteers!

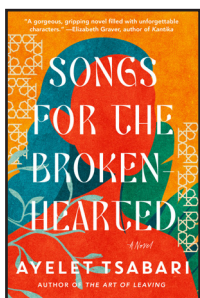
Our staff

I thank our incredible team of professionals at Beth-El for helping to ensure that our families have the most wonderful Jewish experience at Beth-El. Rabbi Zimmerman, Renee Woods, Galit Lerman, and our fabulous custodial staff — I appreciate you all!

It truly takes a village, and we have an AMAZING village at Beth-El. I look forward to seeing all of our wonderful families at our closing celebration Sunday, May 18. Details will be sent in my weekly parent emails. As we all begin to look toward the summer, I want to wish everyone a wonderful break. And we can't wait to see everyone back in September.

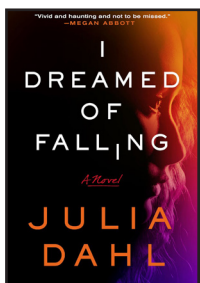
Library Reviews

..... Margie Zentner



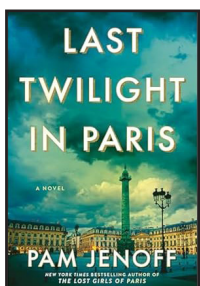
Songs for the Broken Hearted by Ayelet Tsabari

tells two narratives: one about young Yaqub and Saida, who fell in love in an Israeli camp for Yemeni immigrants in 1950 and the second about Zohara, a newly divorced graduate student who returns to Israel from New York in 1995 after her mom, Saida, dies. The story describes the effects of loss on a woman struggling to define herself as a Jew, a scholar, and an Israeli.



I Dreamed of Falling by Julia Dahl

is part family drama, part thriller, and a character-driven story about Ashley Lillian, who is found dead on the slope below her home after partying with her estranged ex-lover. Ashley's current partner, Roman Grady, who is the sole reporter for the local newspaper, questions why Ashley reconnected with her ex, why her phone is missing, and what accounts for the discrepancy in the cash-strapped couple's finances. Suddenly, Roman begins to fear all the people in their orbit.



Last Twilight in Paris by Pam Jenoff

recounts the story of Lévitán, a popular Jewish-owned Parisian department store that closed in 1941 and ownership passed to the Nazis. The store was reopened two years later selling the contents confiscated by the Nazis. In this dual timeline story, Helaine is imprisoned by the Nazis at Lévitán while, in 1953, Louise discovers a necklace at a secondhand store that holds the key to the mysterious death of her friend, Fanny. Only when Louise attempts to deliver the necklace to its owner does she discover the dark history of Lévitán.



Laurie James

Women of Reform Judaism

..... WRJ President Laurie James

We celebrated Passover with a marvelous Second-Night Seder on

teachers at the Religious School Shabbat service. Congratulations to Lauren McCormick, Jackie Brow, Orna Amsellem, Scott Slotter, and Edwin Cohen for your steadfast commitment over two decades to our students!

Finally, I hope to see you at the

WRJ Shabbat service May 9, or the **Social Action happy hour at the Tarrant Area Food Bank on May 14** for Wine in the Warehouse — come sip and learn about how the food bank helps in Fort Worth. To RSVP, contact Jenna Guess at the food bank: jenna.guess@tafb.org

April 13. Special thanks to Marge Van Giesen and Kim Factor, Co-Vice Presidents of Culinary, and Jenny Solomon, who chaired the first of two bake-ins to prepare for dinner for 200. Extra thanks to Marty Robinson and Jim Stein for manning the MRJ smoker with the turkeys. It took a dozen volunteers more than 20 hours to make this event happen.

Also in April, WRJ awarded Judaica gift shop gift certificates to our longest-standing Religious School



At top, Julie Goldstein lights the candles for the Seder. Above, WRJ prepared a Second Night Seder for 200 people.



Eric Deutsch

Men of Reform Judaism

..... MRJ President Eric Deutsch

This is my farewell column as MRJ president. At the annual

your great work.

In May, we will be hosting the annual **Mickey Goldman Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, May 4**, honoring volunteer of the year Michelle Hartman and the collegiate scholarship winners. See details on page 6.

We will be catering the **Religious School's end-of-year picnic** (date TBA), as well as hosting the wine and cheese reception for the annual meeting on May 18.

It has been a privilege to serve as your MRJ president, and I wish you all well.

congregational meeting May 18, Eric Lawrence will become MRJ president. I am proud to have served in this role for the past six years, and I want to thank all of my fellow MRJ members who have been so instrumental in the functioning of the MRJ during my term in office. Guys, we couldn't have done it without you, and the Congregation is indebted to you for

Contributions

Archive Fund

- Howard S. & Joan Katz

Floral Fund

- In Honor March 15 service
- Hilary Ryder & Matthew Henken
- In Memory of Harold Kaplan
- Eric & Phyllis Lawrence
- In Memory of Simon Oderberg
- Jane Oderberg

Library Fund

- In Memory of Suzanne Slatkin
- Sheila Kern
- In Memory of Steve Rapfogel
- Judie B. & Robert Greenman

Men of Reform Judaism

- Abe & Kim Factor
- In Honor of Campbell Schneider's Bar Mitzvah
- Sarina & Daniel Clearfield

Music Fund

- In Memory of Lola Gestring
- Martha Brown
- In Honor of Cindy and Steve Bond
- Martha Brown
- In Honor of the Speedy Recovery of Martha Brown
- Jane Oderberg
- In Memory of Lenwood Smith
- Martha Brown

Rabbi Mecklenburger's Discretionary Fund

- Elizabeth Vann

Rabbi Zimmerman's Discretionary Fund

- Melvin R. & Jody Platt
- Nathan Smith
- In Memory of Rick Williams
- Clayton Williams

Religious School Fund

- Howard S. & Joan Katz
- Fran & Eric Kreindler
- In Honor of the Speedy Recovery of Ginger Pine
- Jane Oderberg

Temple Fund

- Molly Marek
- Nathan Smith
- Michael & Beverly J. Ross
- In Honor of Edythe Cohen's Birthday
- Edwin & Meredith Cohen
- In Honor of Quattro Miller's Bar Mitzvah
- Michael & Elaine Griver
- In Honor of Michelle Hartman
- Edwin & Meredith Cohen
- In Memory of Max Prostok
- Jeff & Cynthia Prostok
- In Memory of Evelyn Siegel
- Edwin & Meredith Cohen
- In Memory of Evelyn Siegel
- Kamille Kemble
- In Memory of Dr. Julian Haber
- Marian Haber and family
- In Memory of David Menscher
- Arnold G. & Harriette Gachman
- In Memory of Eleanor Gachman
- Arnold G. & Harriette Gachman
- In Memory of Jack Gachman
- Arnold G. & Harriette Gachman
- In Memory of Frances Klotzman
- Arnold G. & Harriette Gachman
- In Memory of Evelyn Siegel
- Arnold G. & Harriette Gachman
- In Memory of Sandra Luskey
- Arnold G. & Harriette Gachman
- In Memory of Andries Voet
- Loesje Blumberg
- In Memory of Edward Sankary
- Lynny Sankary
- In Memory of Genevieve Sankary
- Lynny Sankary

Temple Fund (continued)

- In Memory of Edward M. Rubenstein
- Yvonne & Rogers Rubenstein
- In Memory of Adolph Smulian
- Lynny Sankary
- In Honor of Laurin Baum
- Jack & Marilyn Rubin
- In Memory of Julius Rosenfield
- Jane Oderberg
- In Memory of Rosalyn G. Rosenthal
- Billy & Rozanne Rosenthal
- In Memory of Elwood Minker
- Richard & Carol Minker
- In Memory of Sandra Luskey
- Billy & Rozanne Rosenthal
- In Memory of Mildred Belford
- Roger & Andrea Carroll
- In Memory of Evelyn Siegel
- Billy & Rozanne Rosenthal
- In Memory of Steve Rapfogel
- Timothy Runkle

Youth Fund

- Jeffrey N. & Randee Kaitcer
- Michael & Beverly J. Ross
- Donation toward the Gaga Ball Pit
- Seme Dewees-Cooper
- Amber Love
- In Honor of Quattro Miller's Bar Mitzvah
- Judie B. & Robert Greenman



The Tree of Life, located in the Hall of Remembrance, celebrates the lives of our congregants. The leaves on the tree commemorate life cycle events such as bar and bat mitzvahs, births, baby namings, marriages, and many more. The price of a leaf is \$300 and includes engraving and placement on the tree. To purchase a leaf, contact the Temple Office at (817) 332-7141.

New Member Profile



Meet the Hyary-Handler family:

Maia Hyary and Nick Handler; Felix, 7; Lila, 4.5; and Zoe, 8 months

When did you join Beth-El?

August 2024

What brought you to Fort Worth?

We moved from San Mateo, California, with our three children when Nick joined the faculty at Texas A&M Law School.

Why Beth-El?

It's a warm community where we have made great friends, and we've been able to participate in Jewish life and send our children to the wonderful Hebrew school.

What do you do for a living?

Maia is a consultant who works on federal contracts for state and local children and family services. Nick is a professor at Texas A&M Law School, where he teaches administrative law and civil procedure.

Where are you from originally?

Nick is from Essex County, New Jersey, just outside New York City. Maia is from Albany, New York.

What is your favorite way to spend a family weekend?

Felix and Lila both play soccer and love to explore the area's parks and playgrounds. We've also had a great time getting to know the city's excellent museums. We usually end the day at a fun restaurant.

Say "hi!" to Maia, Nick, and the kids when you see them at Beth-El.

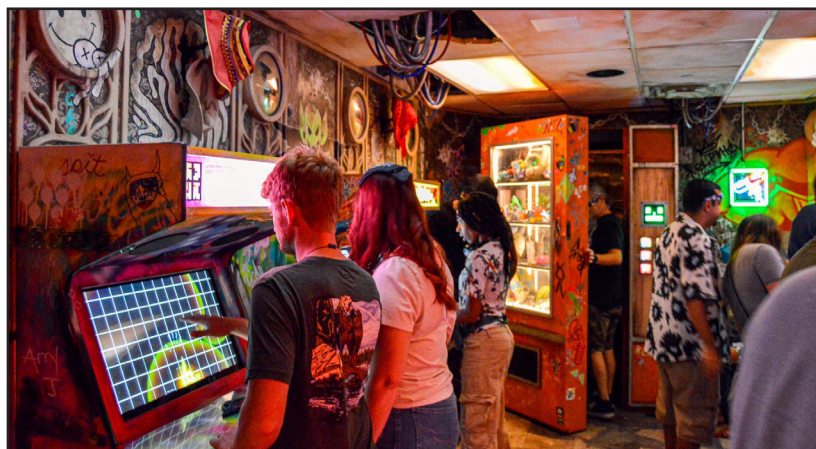


Photo by Edgar Palacios

FWFTY event: *Meow Wolf The Real Unreal*

Sunday, May 4 - Advance Reservations Required

Right after Religious School, we'll leave for a sensory explosion in Grapevine. You'll go room to room in search of clues and the answer to a strange and mysterious puzzle. The group will return to Temple at 4:30 p.m.

From the website: *Meow Wolf Grapevine's The Real Unreal is an immersive, explorable art and entertainment wonderland. The intricate dimensions of vibrant, mind-bending art invite visitors of all ages to immerse all of their senses in a narrative experience that explores the nature of reality. Meow Wolf isn't just a museum; it's a portal to new dimensions of creativity. Experience the magic of exploration as you traverse through captivating spaces that spark curiosity for all ages. Embark on an unforgettable journey into imagination and discover the diverse cultural landscape of different dimensions of creativity within The Real Unreal.*

Contact Rabbi Zimmerman for more information and reservations.

Mickey Goldman Spaghetti Dinner

Sunday, May 4, at 6 p.m.

For nearly 40 years, MRJ has celebrated the spirit of Mickey Goldman by honoring one of Beth-El's most devoted volunteers. Mickey was a beloved Beth-El member who every year would prepare spaghetti sauce from scratch and provide a family meal with all the fixings for the congregation. Mickey passed away nearly 50 years ago, but the Men of Reform Judaism have carried on his tradition and also added an honoree — someone who exemplifies

Mickey's spirit.

We are very happy to join together **Sunday, May 4**, at 5:30 p.m. to share some spaghetti, Mickey-style, and celebrate this year's honoree, **Michelle Hartman**.

Please consider joining us. The dinner is free, though donations will be accepted. Register online at bethelfw.org.



Michelle Hartman

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>Get the latest Beth-El News Sign up for Rabbi's weekly e-blasts by e-mailing: rabbiz@bethelfw.org</p>			1 6 pm Evening Minyan	2 5:30 pm Tot Shabbat 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	3 9 am Zoom Torah Study 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service and Bar Mitzvah of Campbell Schneider
4 9:15 am Gift Shop open 9:30 am Religious School 12:15pm FWFTY "Meow Wolf" 6 pm Mickey Goldman Spaghetti Dinner	5 7:30 pm Religious School Committee Zoom	6 12 pm Jewish Puzzle of Life 6 pm Evening Minyan	7 9:30 Archives Meeting 11 am Gift Shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan	8 12 pm PrimeTimers 6 pm Evening Minyan	9 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm WRJ-led Shabbat Service	10 9 am Zoom Torah Study 6 pm Confirmation Ceremony
11 No Religious School	12 7 pm Board Meeting	13 6 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm Curious About Conversion	14 9:30 Archives Meeting 11 am Gift Shop open TBD WRJ Social Action Happy Hour at TAFB 6 pm Evening Minyan	15 6 pm Evening Minyan	16 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	17 9 am Zoom Torah Study
18 9:15 am Gift Shop open 9:30 am Last Day of Religious School 3 pm Beth-El Annual Meeting	19	20 6 pm Evening Minyan	21 9:30 Archives Meeting 11 am Gift Shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan	22 6 pm Evening Minyan	23 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	24 9 am Zoom Torah Study
25 12 pm Summer Camp Ice Cream Send-off Curly's Frozen Custard	26 TEMPLE OFFICE CLOSED	27 6 pm Evening Minyan	28 9:30 Archives Meeting 11 am Gift Shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan	29 6 pm Evening Minyan	30 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	31 9 am Zoom Torah Study

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



WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS ELECTION

VOTE REFORM | SLATE #3

Vote through May 4 | ZionistElection.org

The World Zionist Congress Elections

Rabbi Brian Zimmerman

When the State of Israel was created, Diaspora Jews were given a voice. Every five years elections would take place in which all Diaspora Jews would have a chance to vote on a slate that represents them in Israel.

In Israel, church and state are not separate. Diaspora members of the World Zionist Congress allocate millions of dollars based on the number of members and their delegation. This means that for only a \$5 registration fee and five or 10 minutes of your time, you get a voice. **Vote for Reform, Slate 3**

There are 23 groups running slates, from Ultra-Orthodox to Reform. These 152 American seats determine matters as essential as: How much money goes

to which types of kindergarten classrooms, and what kind of funding goes to organizations that offer resources and security to Jews who are not Ultra-Orthodox.



They also advocate for a vision of Israel in which men and women, born Jews, and converts, have equal voices in the direction of the country.

Even if just 50 members of our congregation voted in this election between now and May 4, it would make an incredible difference for quality of life in Israel and a safe home for secular and Reform Jews.

Reach out to Rabbi Zimmerman if you have questions and please encourage your friends in the congregation to vote. **Cast your vote before May 4.**



Finding Our Place in the Jewish Puzzle of Life:

Tuesday, May 6, noon

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 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.



On April 4, the bema was crowded with Beth-El Religious School students of all ages – from toddlers to teens – for the annual Religious School-led Shabbat. L'dor v'dor.

2025 Slate of Temple Board Positions

Shown below is the slate we present for the congregation's consideration. All the individuals being nominated have agreed to serve if elected. Beth-El's bylaws state nominations may also be made from the floor.

The nominees will be voted on at Beth-El's 2025 Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 18, 3 p.m.

President:	Michael Appleman (elected President-Elect in 2024)
First Vice-President:	Nancy Schwartz
Second Vice-President:	Shayna Coyne
Treasurer:	Marc Sloter
Secretary:	Semé Dewees-Cooper
3-year Board Terms:	Max Pell Karl Rosenblum Ben Rosenthal Faye Slater
2-year Board Terms:	Benjamin Isgur (Director for 2-year term, filling the unexpired term of Eric Lawrence, newly elected President of MRJ) Jerry Appel (Director for 2-year term, filling the unexpired term of Marc Sloter, nominated for Treasurer)
1-year Board Term:	Steve Brown (Director for 1-year term, filling the unexpired term of Nancy Schwartz, nominated for 1st Vice President)

Respectfully submitted by the 2025 Nominating Committee:
Jeff Kaitcer, Committee Chair
Joseph Davidson
Kim Factor
Laurie Kelfer
Laurie James
Robert Simon

Beth-El Annual Meeting
3 p.m., Sunday, May 18

President's Message

(continued from page 1)

landscape and did so with donated money. The new well should save approximately \$19,000 annually that we spend on lawn irrigation. Last year, we held the most financially successful fundraiser in our history, raising \$110,000, and we were poised to exceed that total with the celebration of our 25th Anniversary in the new building on April 27. Through Cindy's efforts, we have established two new youth groups, the Macca-bees and Junior Maccabees, for our youngest members and their parents. Our Religious School enrollment has increased, the Rabbi's conversion classes are nearly full, and our membership is growing.

Due to the efforts of many, including Committee Chairperson Semé Dewees-Cooper, our Membership Committee is re-energized, reaching out to potential new members and planning a membership recruitment Shabbat service in the late summer.

We have accomplished so much together, and I could not be prouder of our synagogue, its professionals, its volunteers, and its members. I look forward to the next year, under our new President Michael Appleman. L'Shalom.

Did you know ... ***Beth-El has a Minyan?***

It meets Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 6 p.m.

Every weekday, members of our community read the names of those who are remembered that evening. Come say Kaddish in the company of community.

Check the weekly e-blast for any weekly changes or cancellations.

Healing Prayers and Visits

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 aloud at our Shabbat services,

call the Temple office or go directly to our website: **Community, Mi She-beirach/Prayer and Visit Request.**

Rabbi Zimmerman and Renée Woods will get the information from this site quickly.

Thanks in advance for your help.



The National Medal of Honor Museum opened March 25 in Arlington, Texas.

Then and Now: Jewish Medal of Honor Recipients

Hollace Ava Weiner, Temple Archivist



Hollace Weiner

The National Medal of Honor Museum, which opened March 25 in Arlington, honors more than 3,500 gallant American soldiers, among them 18

Jewish men who risked their lives to save others under fire.

Seven of those Jewish soldiers died in battle — two in World War I; three in WWII; one in Korea, and, most recently, Army Sgt. Christopher Andrew Celiz, who was killed in action in Afghanistan in 2018. Four of the Jewish Medal of Honor recipients fought during the Civil War when the award for bravery in battle was established.

Local Jewish War Veterans Martin Hochster Post #755, which meets at Beth-El and Ahavath Sholom, donated \$10,000 toward construction of the \$270 million museum and worked with planning committees. For its participa-

tion, Post #755 was given two copies of the coffee-table book *Medal of Honor: Portraits of Valor Beyond the Call of Duty*, by Peter Collier. It features a foreword by actor Bradley Cooper and an essay by the late Sen. John McCain, a POW during the Vietnam War.

One copy of the book is in the Beth-El library. The other is at Congregation Ahavath Sholom in Rabbi Andrew Bloom's study. Alongside each volume is a booklet, researched by the Fort Worth Jewish Archives, with thumbnail sketches of the 18 Jewish Medal of Honor recipients. The

hefty hard-cover volume from Artisan Books has 153 profiles, including those of four Jews:

- Army Lt. Jack H. Jacobs, who, as he dragged wounded soldiers to safety under fire in Korea, thought about the Jewish thinker Hillel who famously wrote: "If I am only for myself, what am I."

- Airman 1st Class John L. Levitow, who, during a night raid in Vietnam, threw a smoking flare from a lurching plane, saving those

on his aircraft and lighting the battle field below.

- Capt. Ben Salomon, a dentist who turned his tent into a surgical field

hospital during the 1944 Battle of Saipan, manned a machine gun, and killed over 100 Japanese attackers.

- Army Cpl. Tibor Rubin, a Hungarian refugee who fought in Korea,

repelled Chinese forces attacking his unit, and, as a POW, stole food for other prisoners and administered medical aid, saving more than 40 lives.

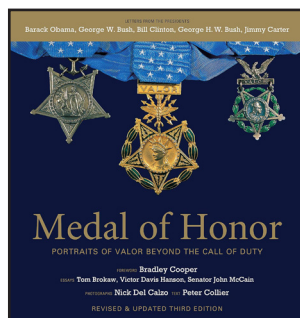
Two other Jewish immigrants, Army Sgt. Leopold Karpeles, a native of Prague, and Sgt. Maj. Abraham Cohn of Poland, rallied retreating troops during the Civil War's Wilderness campaigns in Virginia.



Jack H. Jacobs



Tibor Rubin



Medal of Honor: Portraits of Valor Beyond the Call of Duty
by Peter Collier

Yahrzeits

May 2

Cohen H. Baker
Ruth Berkowitz
David Bilsky
Mina Bloch
Sandra Tuchin Bloom
Bernard Bodner
Linda Rae Bomash
Shelly Bovin
Harriett Bressert
Sidney Bushner
Adolph Cohen
Robert Cott
Burton Davis
John Factor
Nathan Frankel
Morris B. Freed
Sidney Fried
Lola Gestring
Nathan Ginsburg
Charlotte Goldman
Dena Gressman
John Hannon
Mary Hendelman
Idella Herbert
Betty Herman
Hannah Klein
Dennis Kocinski
Elaine Leiken Francis
Manfred Rothchild Levy
Rose Eileen Litwin
Bennie Luskey
Lester M. Maskell
Lisa Micklin
Estelle Avery Mirkin
Gershon Miron
Casimira Nieva
Edward Osser
Mildred Pearlman

Odessa Friedman Plost

Sam Rosenthal
Mimi Ross
Theodore Saferin
Lester Schneiweiss
Pearl Schwartz
William Schwartz
John Stein
Duncan Thomas Ware
James Weltman
Bettye Weltman
Sophia Williams
Victor S. Young
Jerold Zieselman

May 9

Jack Berger
Naomi Carb Bronstein
Frances Carlisle
Hubert Chase
Belle Silverman Cohen
Sylvia Cohen
Lena Factor
Sylvia Fenton
Adolph Y. Ferstenfeld
Bill Goldberg
Miriam "Mimi" Klotz
Dr. Clarence A. Lehwald
Hilda Lesnick
Milanka Maka
Seth Mitchell
R. D. Moses
Goldie Roberts
Ben Sandler
Bayla Simon
Beverly G. Skugrud
Reuben Taylor
Patricia Uttrup
Barry Vann
Vukosava Vered
Maxine Zeidman

May 16

Ron Arnold
Estelle R. Blotner
John Brothers
Charles Meyer Carb
Sarah Carr
Sara Lee Carr
Mae Cohen
Sara E. Fleck
Louis Glasser
David William Gross
Gloria Hoffman
Sondra Flax Hollander
Sarah Levine
Deborah Ferstenfeld Mark
Max Pell
Alvin Polsky
Alvin Rosenblum
Florence Schwartz
Nan Sonderer
Harriet Storch
Sadie Weintraub
Mort Werner

May 23

Lillian Berger
David Berkowitz
Avette Covitt
Roslyn Ettinger
Minnie Cohen Friedman
Michael W. Goldman
Frank Levin
Mort Levitan
Don D. Mabry
Elizabeth Rubin
Esther Simon
Henry Weltman Simon
Elaine Stanton
Roselle Stein
Katherine Stone

May 30

Adele Arensberg
Billie Louis Aronoff
Alice Asch
Roberta Barr
David Berger
Alvin Blumberg
Kenneth Burke
Doris Diamond
Dora Goldberg
John N. Gurney
Fay Kurtz
Norma Levitan
Joan Mecklenburger
Jon Sanford Meyerson
Tamara Rousch
Bernice Tarshis
Ruth Zimmerman Napoleon
Sadie Schiff Wile
Aaron B. Wolfson

June 6

Mariam Anspacher
Jennie Chicotsky
Sarae Cohen
Edwin Couleur
Fay Kalish Fairman
Irvin J. Farb
Louis Feit
Bea Field
Charles Furst
Nessa Griver
Sarah Herman
Leonard Hollander
Mona Kaitcer
Jennie Kragen
Elizabeth Kuehn
Barbara Kurtz
Florence Lederman
William A. Nathan
Bernice Osser
Abe Pozez
Esther Robbins
Frances Silby
Natalie Levin Simon
Blanche Thoma
Pauline Kurtz Weiner





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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