

# Beth-Elements

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



June-July 2025



Brian Zimmerman, Rabbi

## Dvrei Torah

..... Rabbi Brian Zimmerman

Summer means graduations, vacations, and transitions; a time for endings and new beginnings. Personally,

it is a time to say goodbye to the high school seniors who have grown up at Beth-El and are now ready to take the next steps outside our Temple walls.

I will miss them, but I know that I will be blessed to see their impact from a distance.

One of the great treats of my rabbinate is the opportunity to teach our 10th grade confirmation students. When they arrive for the first classes in the fall, I am struck by how much they have grown since their Bar and Bat Mitzvah. They are older, but still unsure of their steps; more worldly, but also still kids. And with so many questions.

My focus on confirmation is about questions as much as answers. I ask our students to look at themselves, their families, and their own Jewish narratives in the context of the larger Jewish story, from the Bible until the present.

I challenge them to expand their Jewish identities and take nothing for granted.

We take a Shabbat field trip to Austin. We discuss God and afterlife. We struggle

with the challenges of the modern state of Israel in our own role as American Jews. We visit the historic Hebrew Rest Temple Cemetery, and this year even sampled a kosher chili cook-off in Dallas.

At the close of our year together, there is a service of confirmation. Our students stand in the chapel underneath a Talit Chuppah while holding our Holocaust Torah Scroll. The students affirm their Jewish identity under a canopy of Torah built

by their parents and our Temple. Their stories and the story of our people's past converge.

These are challenging times. No one knows this better than our teenagers. And yet, my role gives me a unique window into the future. Perhaps

that is why I end the school year feeling so optimistic.

For all the world's challenges — and there are many — there are also reasons to be filled with hope. We are not simply stranded in the wilderness. We are always on the journey from Egypt to Israel. We are ending and beginning at the same time. And our children are ready. They are carrying our Torah into the future in their own unique and special way.

(This year's Confirmation Class photo is on page 3.)

## Bat Mitzvah



**Madison Rose Smith**

June 21

Daughter of  
Ashley Rosenstein

## Worship Services

### June Minyan with the community

Tuesday-Thursday (no Minyan in July).....6 p.m.

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

### Sunday, June 1

Interfaith Tikkun leil Shavuot .....7 p.m. to midnight!  
Study with friends from Beth-El, Makom Shelanu, Broadway Baptist, Carter CME, South Hills Christian, University Christian, and more.  
Music, study, art, cooking, texts, and cheesecake.

### Friday, June 6

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

### Friday, June 13

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

### Friday, June 20

Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Zimmerman and Madison Smith ..... 6:15 p.m.

### Saturday, June 21

Shabbat morning service and  
Bat Mitzvah of Madison Smith ..... 10:30 a.m.

### Friday, June 27

Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Zimmerman and Student Cantor Samantha Chamberlin, featuring a special musical presentation by Curt Thompson of the Mimir Chamber Music Festival ..... 6:15 p.m.

### Friday, July 4

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

*July Worship Services continue on page 2*



Michael Appleman

## President's Message

..... Temple President Michael Appleman

*Hineini.*

It is Abraham's response in Genesis, and it is Moses' response in Exodus. It is, perhaps, most commonly translated as, "Here I am!" But, of course, it is believed to have a deeper meaning.

Some have commented that it is an expression of readiness; a command, followed by a proclamation; a heroic statement. As in, "Behold! It is I! I am here and I am present and I am prepared and ready to do Your work."

While I do not, by any stretch of the imagination, intend to compare myself to Abraham and Moses, I am here and prepared to do the work of serving this Congregation as its next president. Like my immediate predecessor Robert Simon, to whom we owe a great deal of thanks for all that he and Cindy did in the past two years, wrote in his first and last messages in this bulletin, it is an honor and a privilege to do so — as it was for my grandfather, Frank (1961-62), and my mother, Louise (1987-89).

Like Robert, I was born into this Congregation. I had my bar mitzvah on the stage downstairs in the temple on Broadway because the main sanctuary was being remodeled (and I received many Cross pens from members of this Congregation, some of which I still have and use). My children were born into

this Congregation, too; they attend Religious School and, if all goes well, they will celebrate their bar mitzvahs in just a few years. Perhaps they will even be co-presidents in, say, 2060. *L'dor v'dor*, indeed (and *Shehecheyanu* if I am still around to see it happen!).

Not to be outdone, my wife, Jen, has contributed and has pledged to continue contributing to this community in many ways. Like many of you.

This Congregation would not be what it is without you, your service, and your contributions — in time, effort, and resources. I was not given enough space to name names, but our MRJ, WRJ, board, officers, committees, choir, and greeters come to mind. Thank you for all you have done and will do. We cannot say it too frequently. If you have not volunteered or participated in any of our events, but want to, please come join us. There are many opportunities, as you will see on the other pages of this bulletin.

I am looking forward to the next two years. If you gave me a Cross pen many years ago, please say "Hi" and let me thank you again (surely my mother made me write you a note back then). If you are (relatively) new to the Congregation and we have not yet met, please come introduce yourself. I will endeavor to do the same. Then let us engage in the work we are called to do and embrace Beth-El as our spiritual home.

## Celebrate Pride with Beth-El

**Saturday, June 28, 10 a.m.**

Join our friends from Makom Shelanu for a pride service in the chapel.

On Saturday evening, Beth-El and Makom Shelanu will host a Jewish welcome booth at Fort Worth's downtown Pride Fest. If you would like to be part of the set-up, break down, or the welcoming team during the fest, please contact Rabbi Zimmerman. We would love to have your help and see your smiling face.

## Security Training: Situational Awareness

**Thurs., June 5, 7 p.m., Ahavath Sholom**

**Wed., June 11, 10 a.m., Beth-El Congregation**

Our Jewish community will join together this month for training sessions to help improve "situational awareness" and increase safety at worship services — as well as everyday situations.

**Roy Gray, an experienced trainer and Jewish Federation of Greater Dallas Deputy Director of Community Security,** will lead safety training that focuses on using situational awareness to respond to threats. We'll learn to protect our families and our community by using techniques for observing, reporting, and reacting to suspicious behavior, as well as identifying and evaluating potential risk situations.

One-hour training sessions will be offered at **Ahavath Sholom on Thursday, June 5, at 7 p.m., and Wednesday, June 11, at 10 a.m.** Light snacks will be served 15 minutes prior to each session.

Sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Fort Worth & Tarrant County, the sessions are open to everyone in the Jewish community. Please RSVP to 817-569-0892.

— Jim Stanton

## Worship Services

*(continued from page 1)*

**Friday, July 11**

Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Zimmerman.. 6:15 p.m.

**Friday, July 18**

Kabbalat Shabbat with Angie Friedman ..... 6:15 p.m.

**Friday, July 25**

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

All services in person and streamed at [youtube.com/BethElCongregation](https://youtube.com/BethElCongregation).



Shoshana Abrams Kaikov

## Religious School: Todah Rabbah

Education Director, Cantor Shoshana Abrams Kaikov

It's hard to believe summer is here and we are approaching the 5786 school

year! My daily rhythm here in the office is changing as I work on plans for what promises to be another fantastic year ahead filled with fun and engaging Jewish learning.

Parents, as always, I will be in touch throughout the summer with registration information, details about the coming school year, and information about fun opportunities to come together with your Beth-El Religious School family. We welcome all our families with open arms — those who joined us this past year, those whom we missed, and those who will be joining our community for the first time this coming year. I encourage you all to visit our AMAZING new Temple website (thank you, Marc Slotter!). As we get a bit further into summer, we will be posting the 5786 school calendar,

curriculum updates, registration forms, Tot Shabbat dates, and more!

**Opening day of Religious School will be Sunday, Sept. 7.**

I am excited to share that I will be representing Beth-El along with Rabbi Zimmerman at Greene Family Camp once again this summer. I look forward to seeing many of our Beth-El students there and making beautiful Jewish memories together.

As we reflect on the school year behind us, I feel a powerful sense of gratitude to our families, teachers, madrichim, community members, and staff. To say this year has been incredible would be an understatement, and we owe it to our amazing community. We could not have done this so successfully without you. And, as we look toward the exciting year ahead, I urge us all to take time to bless this moment. *Shehecheyanu!* I wish you all a relaxing, safe, and fun *kayitz* (summer). As always, please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions.

## We're Hiring!

The Beth-El Religious School is hiring for the 5786 School Year!  
**Available positions Include:**

- Hebrew teacher for 4th-7th grades (Sunday mornings)
- Hebrew Zoom teacher for 4th-7th grades (times vary)
- Religious School teachers (Sunday mornings)
- Religious School madrichim/teacher aides (Sunday mornings)

To learn more and apply to join our team, please contact Cantor Shoshana at [shoshanakaikov@bethelfw.org](mailto:shoshanakaikov@bethelfw.org).

## FWFTY News

..... Rabbi Brian Zimmerman

Thanks to our amazing outgoing FWFTY Board, led by Connor Maxon and Erin Beck-John-

son, who served as co-presidents and are heading off to college in the fall.

Thanks also to Chloe and Cayden Koon, Ben Carlisle, and Natalie Strausz for their service on the 2024-25 FWFTY board and for returning for 2025-26. They will be joined by Eli Simanek and Sloane Wessinger, and Natalie will be our new FWFTY president. I can't wait!

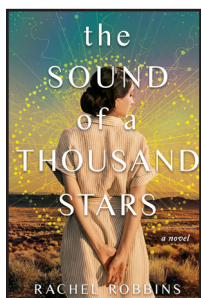


The 2025 Confirmation class: top row (left to right) Sloane Wessinger, Victor Dujan, Sam Henken, Ryan Shulman, bottom row (left to right) Dr. Red Goldstein, Brenna Danoski, Elizabeth Florsheim, Lauren Rekhelis, Rabbi Brian Zimmerman, Cantor Shoshana Kaikov



# Library Reviews

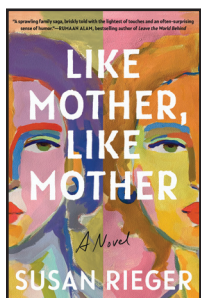
.....Margie Zentner



## **The Sound of a Thousand Stars** by Rachel Robbins

tells the story of a Jewish physicist's scientific pursuits and painful love affair, both of which unfold in a secret New Mexico town during World War

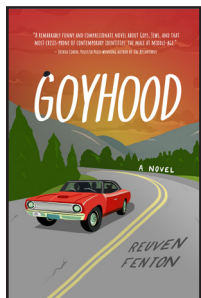
II. Alice Katz and her mentor, Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, explore the boundary between progress and peril during the birth of the nuclear age and their part in developing the atomic bomb.



## **Like Mother, Like Mother** by Susan Rieger

is a novel of mothers and daughters and what it means to investigate past and present. Lila Pereira was only 2 years old when her father commits her

mother to an insane asylum, where she dies. After Lila grows up with her abusive father, she decides she would be an ineffectual mother until she meets Joe Maier, who she knows would make a perfectly good mother himself. Grace, their youngest daughter, takes on the job of finding out what really happened to her grandmother all those years ago. Uncovering that mystery takes readers on a messy, complex journey with witty characters and humor.



## **Goyhood** by Reuven Fenton.

This funny and poignant story of estranged twin brothers — one a rabbi and one a reprobate businessman — who learn they're not Jewish after their mother's death is this

month's selection for **People of the Book**. See page 6 for details and a chance to join a Zoom call on July 15 with the author.



Laurie James

# Women of Reform Judaism

.....WRJ President Laurie James

Thanks to Mimi Zimmerman who put together a lovely and

meaningful WRJ service in May. Thanks also to Genie Long for the music, and Angie Friedman and the WRJ Board and members who played key roles in the service.

This year, your Sisterhood did a number of traditional things, including planning an exceptional Donor Brunch fundraiser, hosting a lovely Rosh Hashanah reception, making generous donations to Religious School and camperships, and hosting the Second-Night Seder.

We've done some new things, too, including reviving Rosh Chodesh (a big thanks again to Mimi and Semé Dewees-Cooper), and joining MRJ to fund scholarships for five college-bound students. Feeding 200 people at Passover and supporting the youth of this congregation is a privilege, but it's also a lot of work. We could use your help.

On MLK Day we had a great roundtable discussion regarding social action, but we don't have a social action coordinator yet. WRJ also needs a vice president of membership, a communications secretary, and eventually we'll need a president-elect. So, please feel free to pick something you'd like to do. We are told we're not obligated to heal the whole world, but we should do the good we can, in all the ways we can, for as long as we can. Information about the annual WRJ membership meeting in June will be coming in your email! Information on the location of Rosh Chodesh Tammuz on June 26 will also be coming soon.

A big thank you to the current 2025-2026 board:

- VP Programming Eve Shulman
- VP Religious School Shayna Coyne
- VPs Culinary Kim Factor and Marge Van Giesen
- VP Gift Shop Michelle Hartman
- Treasurer Jenny Solomon
- Recording Secretary Jeanie Rosenblum



Eric Lawrence

# Men of Reform Judaism

.....MRJ President Eric Lawrence

As I write this, I am two weeks away from succeeding

Eric Deutsch as president of MRJ — a daunting task since he has led this group with such skill for the past six years.

Fortunately, our MRJ members are making the transition as easy as possible for me, stepping up and volunteering to help with various tasks and functions. To that end, we now

have volunteer committees to assist with specific tasks.

Of course, this can-do spirit comes as no surprise. Just watching the efforts that went into the Mickey Goldman Spaghetti dinner honoring Michelle Hartman and food prep for the 25th Anniversary Fundraiser, all within a week in May, shows the heart of this group. I look forward to contributing to MRJ's efforts, and continuing this volunteer group's proud tradition of service at Beth-El.

# Contributions

## Caring Congregation

In Honor of  
Laurin Baum's 80th birthday  
· Jen, Michael, Sam and James  
Appleman

## Floral Fund

In Memory of Mary Chon  
· Yuyo Westermann

## Mitch Stenzler Sunday School Scholarship Fund

In Honor of Michelle Hartman, the  
Mickey Goldman Person of the Year  
· Sonya Stenzler  
In Honor of  
Sonya Stenzler's 90th Birthday  
· James & Sonja Stein  
In Honor of  
Sonya Stenzler's 90th Birthday  
· Jane Oderberg  
In Honor of  
Sonya Stenzler's 90th Birthday  
· Bessie Bodzy  
In Honor of  
Sonya Stenzler's 90th Birthday  
· Marilyn Blindeman  
In Honor of  
Sonya Stenzler's 90th Birthday  
· Michael & Beverly J. Ross  
In Memory of Hubert Chase  
· Sonya Stenzler  
In Memory of Mitch Stenzler  
· Sonya Stenzler and family

## Prime Timers

In Honor of Michelle Hartman, the  
Mickey Goldman Person of the Year  
· Steven & Jeanne Ginsberg  
In Honor of Michelle Hartman, the  
Mickey Goldman Person of the Year  
· Carole Rogers

## Rabbi Mecklenburger's Discretionary Fund

In Memory of Lenwood Smith  
· Nathan Smith  
In Memory of Alvin Polsky  
· Sandra Polsky & Sons,  
Joseph and Julian

## Rabbi Zimmerman's Discretionary Fund

In Honor of Michelle Hartman, the  
Mickey Goldman Person of the Year  
· Eric & Marjorie Deutsch  
In Honor of  
Sonya Stenzler's 90th Birthday  
· Howard & Laurie Kelfer  
In Memory of Ruth Napoleon  
· Sheryl Levy  
In Memory of Irving Napoleon  
· Sheryl Levy  
In Memory of Lenwood Smith  
· Nathan Smith  
In Memory of Edgar Parvey  
· Marla & H. Richard Parvey  
In Memory of Irvin J. Farb  
· Marla & H. Richard Parvey  
In Memory of Dr Joe Kethley, DDS  
· Gordon & Louise Appleman

## Religious School Director's Discretionary Fund

In Honor of Shoshana Kaikov  
· Ira & Sandra Hollander  
In Memory of Elaine Stanton  
· James Stanton

## Religious School Fund

In Memory of Ron Arnold  
· Rina Arnold

**Prime Timers is taking a  
break for the summer –  
see you in the fall!**

## Temple Fund

In Honor of  
Sonya Stenzler's 90th Birthday  
· Karen Kaplan  
In Honor of Jim Stanton  
· Noreen & Bill Houston  
In Honor of Joan Katz  
· Ira & Sandra Hollander  
In Memory of Beverly Rosenfield  
· Steve & Carol Kline  
In Memory of Mort Werner  
· Lon & Laurie Werner  
In Memory of Edwin Couleur  
· Dana & Jacob Rosenstein  
In Memory of Lenwood Smith  
· Nathan Smith  
In Memory of Bill & Dora Goldberg  
· Bruce & Hollace Weiner  
In Memory of R.D. Moses  
· Rochelle & Buddy Moses  
In Memory of Pauline Weiner  
· Bruce & Hollace Weiner  
In Memory of Roberta Barr  
· Bruce & Hollace Weiner  
In Memory of Steve Rapfogel  
· Richard & Carol Minker  
In Memory of LeDona Miller  
· Keith & Karen Zeff

## Temple Fund (continued)

In Memory of David William Gross  
· Billy & Rozanne Rosenthal  
In Memory of Dr Joe Kethley, DDS  
· Richard & Carol Minker  
In Memory of Roslyn Ettinger  
· Alan Ettinger  
In Memory of Steve Rapfogel  
· Jack & Marilyn Rubin  
In Memory of Bayla Simon  
· Roger Simon  
In Memory of Steve Rapfogel  
· Mary Anderson  
Donation of Kitchen Linens for Seder  
· Abe & Kim Factor

## WRJ

In Honor of Michelle Hartman, the  
Mickey Goldman Person of the Year  
· Ira & Sandra Hollander  
· Michael & Beverly J. Ross  
· Jane Oderberg  
In Honor of Shoshana Kaikov  
· Ira & Sandra Hollander

## *A note of thanks...*

*Thank you to everyone that came to my 90th  
Birthday Party. You brought me best wishes, beautiful  
cards and love. You made the party unbelievable  
and beyond my wildest dreams. Thank you from the  
bottom of my heart*

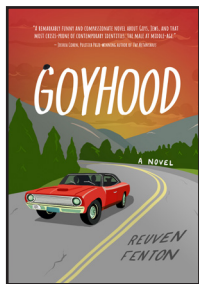
*—Sonya Stenzler*



# People of the Book

Sheryl Levy

Tuesday, July 15, 10 a.m.



## Goyhood by Reuven Fenton

The Beth-El's book club next selection is the story of a Talmud scholar who discovers upon his mother's death that he and his twin brother are not Jewish. A remarkable roadtrip ensues as they search for answers and identity. Reuven Fenton, a longtime reporter for the New York Post, will be joining our discussion via Zoom. We will meet in person Tuesday, July 15, at 10 a.m. in the Beth-El library. Please contact Sheryl Levy (slevy2608@gmail.com) for more information.



## Mimir's Curt Thompson returns to Beth-El

Friday, June 27

We are excited to welcome back Curt Thompson, violinist, founder, and executive director of the Mimir Chamber Music Festival, which will celebrate its 28th season this summer (mimirfestival.org).

Curt will perform at Beth-El and pre-view the festival's upcoming season with a special sermon and concert at the end of Shabbat services on Friday, June 27.

Special thanks to Jane Cohen who brings this special Shabbat evening to us every summer.

# Annual Fundraiser and Torah March April 27

Sheryl Levy



## Special Screening



October 8

2025 Documentary  
1h 40m

Date and Time  
TBD

The Jewish Federation of Fort Worth & Tarrant County is presenting a showing of the movie "October 8" at Beth-El in conjunction with a community Tisha B'av commemoration.

More details to come in weekly e-blasts.

## Save the Date: August 15

### BBQ and Barchu membership event!

Beth-El's Membership Committee is seeking your suggestions for unaffiliated individuals/potential new members we can invite to this event. If you have names to share, please contact Membership Chair Semé Dewees-Cooper at: semecha@sbcglobal.net

## Beth-El Celebrates 25 Years at Briarhaven at Annual Fundraiser

On Sunday morning, April 27, the Beth-El community and special guests gathered for our annual fundraiser, highlighted by a historic Torah Walk re-enacting the Torah March in 2000 from our Temple downtown to our new building on Briarhaven Road. The walk was followed by a delicious brunch prepared by MRJ and a beautiful closing

program by our Religious School children. Thanks to the hard work of committee members, other volunteers, and Beth-El's incredible generosity, we raised more than \$116,000, surpassing our goal of \$100,000 while keeping expenses below 10% of the money raised.

Thanks to our hard-working Annual Fundraiser Committee: Event Chair Julie

Krauss Goldstein, Hollace Weiner, Bruce Weiner, Erica Bekerman, Joan Katz, Sandra Hollander, Laurie James, Jim Stein, Ruth Roper, Robert Simon, Marc Slotter, Jeff Kaitcer, Michael Appleman, and additionally, thanks to our wonderful Beth-El staff Rabbi Zimmerman, Rabbi Mecklenburger, Renee, Max, Shoshana, Jaime, Jaime Jr. and Sandra.

### Torah Circle \$10,000 and up

Melvin R. & Jody Platt  
Billy & Rozanne Rosenthal  
Charles & Stephanie Haymes Roven

### Prophets \$5,000 - \$9,999

Bryan & Yolanda Becker  
Cynthia Gilbert  
Howard S. & Joan Katz  
Richard & Carol Minker

### Eternal Light \$2,500-\$4,999

Steve Brown  
Red & Julie Goldstein  
Ira & Sandra Hollander  
Benjamin & Madolin Rosenthal  
Michael & Beverly J. Ross  
Cindy & Robert Simon  
James Stanton  
Bruce & Hollace Weiner

### Talmud \$1,500 - \$2,499

Larry & Barbara Bushner  
Semé Dewees-Cooper  
& Mark Cooper  
Judith Cohen  
Benjamin Isgur  
& Shoshana Thoma-Isgur  
Howard & Laurie Kelfer  
Leonard & Laurie Roberts  
Marilyn & Van Stenzler

### Shofar \$1,000 - \$1,499

Richard & Judie W. Greenman  
James & Margaret DeMoss  
Gordon & Louise Appleman  
Marty & Marilyn Englander  
Judie B. & Robert Greenman  
Jeffrey N. & Randee Kaitcer  
Brad Nowlin  
Russ & Susan Schultz  
William & Holly Schur  
Henry W. & Karen Simon  
Marc & Jude Slotter  
Ellen St. Clair  
Rabbi Brian & Mimi Zimmerman

### Magen David \$500 - \$999

Michael & Jennifer Appleman  
Laurin & Cheryl Baum  
Howard & Roberta Bellet  
Martha Brown  
Robert & Donna Chicotsky  
Jay & Margie Frankel  
Abe & Kim Factor  
Eric & Phyllis Lawrence  
Sheldon & Phyllis Levy  
Deborah & Frank Loneragan  
Daniel & Trudie Oshman  
Jack & Marilyn Rubin  
John & Meg Rubin  
Stephen & Nancy Schwartz  
Leonard & Rose-Marie Schweitzer  
James & Sonja Stein  
Lori Sturman

### Menorah \$250 - \$499

Cynthia Alkon  
David & Erica Bekerman  
David P. & Drew Brigati  
Deidra Bihari Cizon  
David & Jill Clay  
Julie & Kevin Diamond  
Barbara & Maxine Durst  
Edgar & Debbie Feld  
Henry & Kimberly Florsheim  
Tere Goldstein & John Lanier  
Caren Handleman & Steve Pew  
Laurie & Jason James  
Charles Johnson  
Steve & Carol Kline  
Ilana & Kurt Knust  
Pezhman Kojoori & Erika Lapin-Kojoori

Michael Krauss  
Fran & Eric Kreindler  
Danielle Lehrman  
Hannah Love & Leah Sloan  
Jay Martin & Donna Solomon  
Ralph & Ann Mecklenburger  
Gege & Richard Muenchausen  
Jane Oderberg  
Rick Press & Liz Manion  
Carole Rogers  
Doug & Ruth Roper  
Gary & Faye Slater  
Ric Spiegel & Mary Collins  
Gail & Alan Wittenberg  
Deran Wright

*Thank you to everyone who attended and donated generously so Beth-El can continue to thrive and offer a wonderful, warm environment to our Jewish community.*

### Other Gifts

Al & Vicky Abrams, Felice Anspacher, Bob & Susan Archenhold, Rina Arnold, Ronnie Barker, Leslie & Gary Bregman, Dale W. & Antonia Bronstein, Josh Bushner, Caroline Cho, Marc & Jane Cohen, Zayne Cohen, Charles & Sharon Cooper, Shayna Coyne, Eric & Marjorie Deutsch, Anthany & Gabby Everett, Lezlie Ferrell, Cathy & Charles Freid, Steven & Jeanne Ginsberg, Susan Goldman, Sarah Goldshtrom, Adam Hollander & Adele Reeder, Mordecai & Shoshana Kaikov, Karen Kaplan, Alden Karotkin, Greg Karsh, Tricia Krauss-Lehrman, Benjamin Lehrman, Maxine Levy, Molly Marek, Larry McGee & Marilyn Hochberger McGee, Miranda Nadel, Lauren & Jeffrey Nathan, Greg & Marcy Phillips, Jerry & Deidra Pozez, Jeanie & Karl Rosenblum, Ashley Rosenstein, Eve Shulman & Derek Jessup, Rick & Lesli Siegel, Sonya Stenzler, Brenda & Jerry Vitemb, Robert & Gail Weltman, Margie Zentner



## New Member Profile



Meet the Love-Sloan family above, from left: Leah Sloan, Sophia, 5; Hannah Love

### What brought you to the area?

We moved to Arlington in 2018, primarily for work — Hannah to accept a position at UTA and Leah, who has since retired, to teach high school math in Duncanville. We welcomed Sophia in 2020 in the early months of the pandemic.

### Why Beth-El?

Sophia participated in the Jewish Federation's PJ Library literacy program, and we met Cindy Simon. When Sophia was 3, we began to look at religious school options for her. Beth El has been incredibly welcoming to our family, and our friend group has expanded to include several other Beth-El families. We had missed the community we had before moving to Arlington, and are delighted to have found that again at Beth-El. Leah had fun in Hebrew class and has especially enjoyed playing bass guitar with Scott Slotter for Religious School functions and events.

### Where are you from originally?

Both Hannah and Leah were born in Abilene. Hannah was raised there; Leah grew up in Corsicana. We first met through the Abilene school district.

### What is your favorite way to spend a family weekend?

We enjoy going to the Arboretum, the Botanic Gardens or the zoo, and are always up for trying a new restaurant. Hannah and Sophia like to do crafts and create art together. Sophia and Leah like to garden and explore many of the area parks.

## The Mickey Goldman Spaghetti Dinner



MRJ President Eric Deutch awards Michelle Hartman with The 2025 Mickey Goldman Person of the Year award on May 4.



MRJ/WRJ scholarship recipients from left: Leo Simanek, Erin Beck-Johnson, Connor Maxon, Emily Florsheim, and Isaac Isgur

## Student Cantor Samantha Chamberlin Returns!

We are thrilled to share that Samantha Chamberlin will be returning to Beth-El for her fifth-year cantorial placement.



Samantha Chamberlin

Samantha made monthly visits from 2022 to 2024 as a second- and third-year cantorial student at Hebrew Union College in New York. In the last year, she served a biweekly pulpit about an hour from New York City. Following this intensive internship, she had a number of options for

her fifth and final year of study and asked to return to Beth-El. We are very fortunate to have this opportunity to learn from her and share with her the joys of our Fort Worth Jewish community.

Although Samantha will formally join us for 10 months beginning in August, she will be at Beth-El for the Shabbat weekend of **Friday, June 27**. If you would like to visit with Samantha or host her for a Shabbat meal in the late summer or fall, please contact Rabbi Zimmerman. We want her to get to know as many of our wonderful families as possible during these visits.



# June - July - 2025 - 5785

| Sunday   | Monday                                   | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday   |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| <b>EREV SHAVUOT June 1</b><br>12 pm B'nai B'rith<br>Person of the Year<br>Lunch<br>5:00 Tikkun Leil<br>Shavuot | <b>SHAVUOT 2</b><br>TEMPLE OFFICE CLOSED | <b>3</b><br>Noon<br>Jewish Puzzle of Life<br>6 pm Evening Minyan | <b>4</b><br>9:30 Archives Meeting<br>11 am Gift Shop open<br>6 pm Evening Minyan   | <b>5</b><br>6 pm Evening Minyan<br>7 pm Situational<br>Awareness Training at<br>Ahavath Sholom | <b>6</b><br>5:30 pm Shabbat<br>welcome<br>6:15 pm Kabbalat<br>Shabbat Service   | <b>6</b><br>9 am Zoom Torah Study  |
| <b>8</b>   | <b>9</b><br>7 pm Board Meeting           | <b>10</b><br>6 pm<br>Evening Minyan                              | <b>11</b><br>9:30 Archives Meeting<br>10 am Situational<br>Awareness at BEC<br>11 am Gift Shop open<br>6 pm Evening Minyan | <b>12</b><br>6 pm Evening Minyan   | <b>13</b><br>5:30 pm Shabbat<br>welcome<br>6:15 pm Kabbalat<br>Shabbat Service  | <b>14</b><br>9 am Zoom Torah Study   |
| <b>15</b>  | <b>16</b>                                | <b>17</b><br>6 pm Evening Minyan                                 | <b>18</b><br>9:30 Archives Meeting<br>11 am Gift Shop open<br>6 pm Evening Minyan  | <b>19</b><br>6 pm Evening Minyan   | <b>20</b><br>5:30 pm Shabbat<br>welcome<br>6:15 pm Kabbalat<br>Shabbat Service  | <b>21</b><br>9 am Zoom Torah Study<br>Shabbat Morning<br>Service and Bat<br>Mitzvah of Madison<br>Rosenstein |
| <b>22</b>  | <b>23</b>                                | <b>24</b><br>6 pm Evening Minyan                                 | <b>25</b><br>9:30 Archives Meeting<br>11 am Gift Shop open<br>6 pm Evening Minyan  | <b>26</b><br>6 pm Evening Minyan   | <b>27</b><br>5:30 pm Shabbat<br>welcome<br>6:15 pm Kabbalat<br>Shabbat Service  | <b>28</b><br>9 am Zoom Torah Study<br>10 am Pride Service<br>with Makom Shelanu<br>Pride Fest, Downtown      |
| <b>29</b><br><div>No Evening Minyan in July</div>  | <b>30</b>                                | <b>July 1</b><br>Noon<br>Jewish Puzzle of Life                   | <b>2</b>   | <b>3</b>   | <b>4</b><br>INDEPENDENCE DAY<br>TEMPLE OFFICE CLOSED<br>5:30 pm Shabbat<br>welcome<br>6:15 pm Kabbalat<br>Shabbat Service | <b>5</b><br>9 am Zoom Torah Study  |
| <b>6</b>   | <b>7</b>                                 | <b>8</b>   | <b>9</b><br>9:30 Archives Meeting<br>11 am Gift Shop open  | <b>10</b><br>12 pm<br>PrimeTimers  | <b>11</b><br>5:30 pm Shabbat<br>welcome<br>6:15 pm Kabbalat<br>Shabbat Service  | <b>12</b><br>9 am Zoom Torah Study   |
| <b>13</b>  | <b>14</b>                                | <b>15</b><br>10 am People of the<br>Book                         | <b>16</b><br>9:30 Archives Meeting<br>11 am Gift Shop open   | <b>17</b>  | <b>18</b><br>5:30 pm Shabbat<br>welcome<br>6:15 pm Kabbalat<br>Shabbat Service  | <b>19</b><br>9 am Zoom Torah Study   |
| <b>20</b>  | <b>21</b>                                | <b>22</b>  | <b>23</b><br>9:30 Archives Meeting<br>11 am Gift Shop open   | <b>24</b>  | <b>25</b><br>5:30 pm Shabbat<br>welcome<br>6:15 pm Kabbalat<br>Shabbat Service  | <b>26</b><br>9 am Zoom Torah Study   |
| <b>27</b>  | <b>28</b>                                | <b>29</b>  | <b>30</b>  | <b>31</b>  |   |  |

For additional information and updates about events, please visit our website at [www.bethelfw.org](http://www.bethelfw.org) or see Rabbi's e-blasts.

# Then and Now: *Where are they now?*

Hollace Ava Weiner, Temple Archivist



Hollace Weiner

One's a Supreme Court scholar; another's a Doctor of Divinity.

**James F. "Jim" Simon, a member of Beth-El's Confirmation Class of '54,**

came from a family of Yale-educated lawyers. Predictably he chose the same path. Aware that Yale had a Jewish quota in the 1950s, he worried about making the cut — especially since his best-and-brightest friend Sherwin Goldman (Beth-El '55) was also applying. Jim's cousin, Henry Simon (Beth-El '52), was already a sophomore at Yale. When the Ivy League school accepted both younger boys, "I wondered," Jim writes, "... if the two of us, plus Cousin Henry, had filled Yale's Jewish quota for Fort Worth for years to come."

Jim Simon ultimately became dean of New York Law School as well as a Supreme Court scholar and author of 10 books. The latest, published May 13, is a memoir titled "Courting History: A Supreme Court Historian Reflects on his Life and Career."

Of local interest are his reflections of growing up Jewish in Fort Worth. His rabbi was Milton Rosenbaum, who made little impression on the boy. "I remember singing ... Ein Keloheinu with gusto, knowing that the benediction would follow, and I could go home," he writes. His most vivid memory was the confirmation class dinner at the Big Apple, a Jewish-owned barbecue restaurant that specialized in pork ribs — decidedly unkosher.

Jim's friend Sherwin urged him to get acquainted with Rosenbaum's successor,

Rabbi Bob Schur, "an outspoken advocate for civil rights" who marched with Black clergy to protest segregation in the city and beyond. The idealistic new rabbi became Jim's "close friend" and "mentor on Reform Judaism. ... I would raise the question of whether I could be a good Jew when I had serious doubts about the existence of God. The rabbi spoke ... with erudition about the Reform Jewish tradition and the ... ethical responsibility to serve the larger community. ... He assured me that I, too, could be a good Jew in the Reform tradition by continuing to question my religious beliefs while engaging in the great issues of the day."

Jim Simon's latest book is on the shelf in the Temple library.

**Daniel J. "Red" Goldstein, Beth-El Confirmation Class of '70,** received a diploma from Paschal High, but a college diploma eluded him. Although he took classes at TCJC, TCU, SMU, UT Austin and the University of Phoenix, he never had enough credit hours, time, or money to finish. For 12 years he worked in the family business, Goldstein Brothers Jewelers, a downtown fixture since the 1890s. He hated it. Yet he developed strong customer relations as well as business and appraisal skills.

When he moved to Merrill Lynch in 1987, the brokerage firm invested in his education with corporate courses in advanced finances, but no diploma. Red was so successful he became a trust portfolio manager. In 2009, he and two colleagues opened Teak Tree Capital Management, LLC, specializing in financial planning and asset management.

Fifteen years ago, Red accepted an appointment to the Board of Visitors at TCU's Brite Divinity School. Three years later he advanced to the Board of Trust-



The Rev. Dr. Stephen Cady, President of Brite Divinity School, presents an honorary Doctor of Divinity diploma to Daniel "Red" Goldstein. It is Goldstein's first diploma since graduating Paschal High in 1972.

ees. He is the only Jew ever to sit on a seminary school board in the country, according to the Rev. Dr. Newell Williams, a historian of Christian history. In 2017, Red published a book, "Spirit Point: Balancing the Six Aspects of Life."

Red Goldstein concluded his Brite board service this spring, and at a ceremony May 10, the Rev. Dr. Stephen Cady, president of Brite, honored him with a black doctoral robe, a scarlet sash, also known as a hood, and an honorary Doctor of Divinity diploma.

The applause from the audience was loud, long, and enthusiastic.

## *Finding Our Place in the Jewish Puzzle of Life:*

**Tuesdays, June 3, July 1, noon**

A conversation without easy answers, this monthly conversation moves between recent articles, current events, philosophy, and older Jewish prayers and texts all with the goal of articulating a personal theology. Come regularly or drop in when you are in the neighborhood.



## 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

## June 13

R. C. "Archie" Archenhold  
Gertrude Chicotsky  
Joseph Cristol  
Simon "Si" Davidson  
Jessonda Fox  
Grace Goodman  
Saul Haber  
Syd Kboudi  
Morris Kotkin  
Edith Maximon  
Edgar Parvey  
Bernice Rapfogel  
Dorothy Shelby  
Felicia Shloss  
Sandra Stein  
Arthur "Skip" Urbach

## June 20

Abraham Anolik  
Lee Anspacher  
Sharon Balick  
Dave Chicotsky  
Eleazer (Les) Deutsch  
Phillip Dutton  
Brian David Fritzer  
Fredda Isenberg  
Ruby Kantor  
Paula Kelfer  
Suzie Kornblit-Rosenberg  
Rosann Mundt Lamensdorf  
Louis Lesnick  
Lillian Maass  
Joseph Maurice Polsky  
Chanah Robinowitz  
David Rousch  
Frank Schumer  
Rick Simon  
Carol St. Onge  
Jan Stanton  
Lillian Steinbach  
Maryanne Townes  
Phyllis Weiss

## June 27

Valerie Rosenthal Aronoff  
Arvie Cooper  
David Felder  
Simon Florsheim  
Frederick W. Hall  
Erica Hochster  
Harry Hoffman  
Joseph Leiken  
Florence Leiken  
Sidney Stern  
Imre Ungar  
Betty Jean Rosen Weil

## July 4

Martin Bellet  
Marcus Cristol  
Sharon Finkelstein  
Brad Gaber  
Belle Goldblum  
Sadie Gross  
Dr. Allen H Kline  
Irving Klotzman  
Allen Klotzman  
William Roddy  
Ruth S. Rosen  
Anna Belle Rosenthal  
Marian Rubinson

## July 11

Larry Lewis Boyles  
Karen Delavan  
Bertha Harris  
George Jacobs  
Dona Miller  
Sarah Schumer  
Sally Lynn Schur  
Louise Snelgrove  
Ben Walter Suby  
Anne Varvaro  
Erna Lesaius Zentner

## July 18

Stephen Allen  
Abraham Antweil  
Helene Baginsky  
Elizabeth Finkel  
Rudy Kemp  
Anita Klein  
Alfred M. Rosenfield  
Seyman Rubinson  
Rochelle Sachs  
Rolly Schur  
Marvin Schuster  
Sylvan Schwartz  
Bebe Schwartz  
Richard Weisberg

## July 25

William A. Bermont  
Minnie Schorr Bihari  
Sylvia Schwartz Bronstein  
Lucille Brothers  
William Wyatt Campbell  
Meredith R. Carb, Sr.  
Gabriel Cohen  
Sullivan Collins  
Sara Feit  
Charlotte Fleischmann  
Yvette "DeeDee" Friedberg

Morris Hendelman  
Pauline Kleier-Levy  
Sandra Rubin Koslow  
Jeanie Krumbein  
David Krumholz  
Julius Kunen  
Herman Lehmann  
Elaine Levy  
Roger Maass  
Hugh Reeder  
E. M. "Manny" Rosenthal  
Herbert Rothstein  
Gussie Weiner

## August 1

Reube Archenhold  
Pearl Bodner  
Judith Cooper  
Marvin Cummings  
Leah Landman Goldstucker  
Dr. David Gorfein  
Irvin Lehrner  
Penny Lehwald  
Peter Oshman  
Harry Roth  
Barbara Schmidt  
Mitch Stenzler  
Jerry Wolens

## 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 Shebeirach/Prayer and Visit Request.**

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

Thanks in advance for your help.



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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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, Renée Woods:  
director@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

Student Cantor: Samantha Chamberlin

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Shayna Coyne, 2nd Vice President

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Steve Brown, Kim Factor, Kimberly Florsheim, Matthew  
Henken, Benjamin Isgur, Max Pell, Karl Rosenblum, Ben  
Rosenthal, Faye Slater

WRJ: Laurie James, President

MRJ: Eric Lawrence, President

FWFTY: Natalie Strausz, President

### 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.

**\$18-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: \_\_\_\_\_

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