

Beth-Elements

The Bulletin of Beth-El Congregation • A Reform Synagogue Serving Tarrant County August 2025



Brian Zimmerman, Rabbi

Divrei Torah

Rabbi Brian Zimmerman

I hope this summer provided you with some quiet time to step outside of your own shoes, reflect, and gain

new appreciation and understanding. For some of us, that comes from listening to a great piece of music, reading a new book, or, if we are able, taking a trip.

For me, as an avid film buff, movies offer that chance. As summer winds down and the to-do lists begin to build, I'm here to remind you that there is still time for one more book, an outdoor concert, or even a movie or three.

August brings us that opportunity with three different Jewish movies at the Temple and in Fort Worth.

On **Sunday, Aug. 3**, the Jewish Federation sponsors a community *Tisha B'Av* afternoon program and the showing of "October 8," a movie that examines anti-Semitism in the two years since the October 7 massacre. We will have time before the movie to reflect on the tragedy that has befallen our people on that day and throughout history.

On **Thursday, Aug. 21**, at 6 p.m., the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth is showing the documentary "Sabbath Queen," which tells the story of Rabbi Amichai Lau-Lavie, a descendent of 39 generations of orthodox Rabbis who, upon discovering he is gay, breaks away to lead a life true to his soul while also trying to welcome outsiders into the Jewish community. The film took more than 20 years to make as it examined his ongoing struggle to find meaning and

grounding in the Jewish world.

The film's director, Sandi Simcha Dubowski, will be there and will take questions after the screening. I will be there, too, and hope you will join us. Tickets can be purchased at www.themodern.org. As with all the films in this column, ticket and RSVP information can be found in the weekly Shabbat e-blast.

Finally, on **Saturday, Aug. 23**, our MRJ will prepare a special barbecue dinner as the Temple presents the new movie "Bad Shabbos," a comedy still playing in movie theaters. Special thanks to our Brotherhood and especially Seymour Roberts for securing this film for us.

In this quirky comedy, a young Jewish man and his Catholic girlfriend go to Shabbat dinner at his parents' Upper West Side home. Things are stressful enough as the non-Jewish parents meet the Jewish family, but a body in the bathroom adds chaos and comic relief.

I hope you'll attend one or perhaps all three films.

I also hope they will entertain and challenge you to think about our lives as Jews in Fort Worth, our role in America and Israel, and approach the new Jewish year with some additional perspective on the personal work you wish to do.

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, Aug. 1

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

Saturday, Aug. 2

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

Friday, Aug. 8

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

Friday, Aug. 15

New and Prospective Members Shabbat Service with Rabbi Zimmerman and Student Cantor Samantha Chamberlin 6:15 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 22

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

Friday, Aug. 29

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

All services are in person; services can be streamed at: youtube.com/BethElCongregation.

High Holiday packets went out last week!

These packets are due back at the Temple by **Aug. 16**. If you have not gotten the mailing with ticket requests, childcare sign-up, the full holiday sched-

ule, the opportunity to donate for break-the-fast, and more information about our Yizkor booklet, please contact the office ASAP.



Michael Appleman

President's Message

..... Temple President Michael Appleman

As I write this column, it is early-ish July, deep in the heart of summer,

with all of its unstructured days (for those of us with school-age children, some of whom are "bored," despite swimming pools, play dates, camps, and other activities) and its heat (though I would suggest it has been relatively mild so far, but we know what's coming).

We are also one week from the devastating Central Texas flooding that wrought unimaginable destruction. Perhaps most publicized is the tragedy that unfolded at Camp Mystic, a place that is near and dear to the hearts of my family, which had us glued to screens of all shapes and sizes, chatting, texting, and scrolling for any shred of good news. You, too, likely know someone directly impacted by what occurred and what continues to unfold.

The only thing we can really do now from here is offer our support — physically and financially, spiritually and emotionally—to those who have lost so much (and, of course, work to figure out how to prevent something like this from happening again on such a scale). Judaism provides several ways to do so.

Kaddish, at least the Mourner's Kaddish, honors those who died by blessing, praising, and glorifying G-d. It is followed by "Zichronam Livrach,"

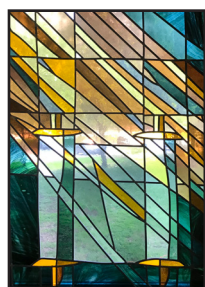
which asks that the deceased person's memory be a blessing. Sadness, yes, but a celebration of the person's life each time.

Mi Sheberach seeks healing, restoration (physically and spiritually), and strength. Oh, don't the survivors and the loved ones of those who were lost and are hurt need this? We need this, perhaps to help comprehend or come to grips with it.

Tzedekah and *mitzvot*. Simplified, as you know, these are "charity" and "good deeds." Donate and/or lend a hand. Help provide food and shelter, clothing, and whatever else someone who lost everything needs. And help clean up and restore the area. There are cars in the tops of trees and debris of all kinds strewn about. Much of what needs to be done is to be done by professionals, and they deserve to be compensated for their tireless efforts.

While what I am talking about is needed in massive proportions three or four hours away, the same is needed more locally, on a smaller scale, every week or even every day. Our almost-daily minyans do some. Our Shabbat services do some. Our Caring Congregation Committee does some. Rabbi Z's weekly eblast and the Congregation's website are the best sources for the most up-to-date information about programs and opportunities.

Come join us and let us make Beth-El not only our spiritual home, but also a home base for worthy endeavors.



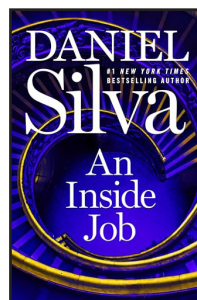
Daily Minyan

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

Beth-El's daily minyan resumes beginning Aug. 5. Support fellow congregants in their time of need with the opportunity to join in prayer and say *Kaddish* for those who are gone. It only takes 20 minutes of your time and is a great mitzvah.

Library Reviews

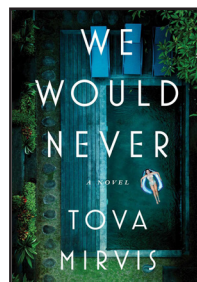
..... Margie Zentner



An Inside Job by Daniel Silva

is an action-packed tale of high-stakes international intrigue centered around the theft of a valuable Leonardo da Vinci painting from the Vatican.

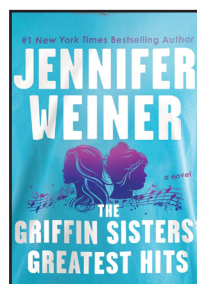
With Gabriel Allon once again at the helm, more than expected is revealed as he investigates the theft. Organized crime, art forgery, and Vatican secrets make this another fascinating story for the reader.



We Would Never by Tova Mirvis

is a literary thriller based on a true story of a Jewish grandmother in Florida. The plot revolves around Hailey Gelman, who becomes a suspect in her soon-

to-be-divorced husband's murder. Hailey's close-knit family is drawn in as the bitter divorce intertwines with the investigation. Their actions, driven by a desire to protect Hailey, lead them down a path of secrecy and wrongdoing.



The Griffin Sisters' Greatest Hits by Jennifer Weiner

explores the complex relationships between two sisters, Cassie and Zoe Grossberg, who achieve pop stardom as "The Griffin Sisters"

before their abrupt breakup. The story explores themes of ambition, forgiveness, and the power of family, all set against the backdrop of early 2000s pop culture. An engaging plot and richly developed characters make this a true love story between two sisters, their music, and the courage it takes to follow your dreams.



Shoshana Abrams Kaikov

Religious School

Education Director, Cantor Shoshana Abrams Kaikov

Dear Beth-El Religious School Families,

Welcome to the 5786 school year!!

It is truly an honor and a privilege to serve our *Kehillah Kedoshah* (sacred community) as Education Director, and I am thrilled to be embarking on my eighth year with you all!

The Beth-El Religious School is a warm, fun, and vibrant place where our children come each week to learn, grow, and make beautiful Jewish memories. Each year brings new opportunities to inspire, connect, and deepen our children's understanding and love of the Jewish tradition—and 5786 promises to be one of our most exciting and meaningful years yet!

At Beth-El, we believe Jewish learning should be joyful, hands-on, and rooted in community. From our littlest learners

in our toddler program to our thoughtful and growing teens, every student will experience a curriculum that is rich in tradition, creativity, and discovery. Our incredible teaching team is dedicated to nurturing a strong Jewish identity in every child, all while cultivating an inclusive and happy environment. We are so proud of the community we've built *B'yachad* (together)—one where friendships grow, Jewish values are lived, and Jewish learning is brought to life in fun and lasting ways.

Opening Day of Religious School is Sunday, Sept. 7 at 9:30 a.m.

All families registering for Religious School must be members in good standing. If you are currently a member in good standing, you may simply fill out the Religious School registration form by logging in to your ShulCloud account. If you are not a current member, please fill out the Temple membership form

followed by the Religious School registration. Both forms are on our beautiful new Temple website and should be completed as soon as possible. We appreciate your cooperation through this process.

If you have any questions about the forms, membership dues, or Religious School fees, please contact Executive Director Reneé Woods, 817-332-7141 or director@bethelfw.org.

Should you have any questions about Religious School, I am always available at shoshanakaikov@bethelfw.org, and we can set up a time to speak.

Thank you for continuing to be our partners in your child's Jewish education. I wish you all a sweet new year filled with health, happiness, and success. Here's to a fantastic school year filled with connection, celebration, and meaningful Jewish experiences!

L'Shalom,

Cantor Shoshana Abrams Kaikov

Become a Reading Mentor

Jim Stanton

In just one hour a week you can help a child learn to love reading by participating in a rewarding joint program between Beth-El and Ahavath Sholom congregations. By becoming a Reading Mentor, you'll be paired with first graders at nearby Westcliff Elementary on South Drive, working with one or two children for 30 minutes each during sessions that run from mid-October through May. If you have a conflict or are traveling, a substitute tutor can cover for you.

No experience needed.

In a 90-minute training session you'll learn how to help a child improve their reading skills, using a simple, structured guide. For more info, contact Phyllis Levy, 817 346-3550, or Jim Stanton, 817 307-9167.

Promotional support provided by the Jewish Federation of Fort Worth & Tarrant County.




You're Invited to...

Shabbat Sha-DONUTS!

Join your Beth-El Religious School friends to get excited for the school year the sweetest way we know - with treats, community, and Shabbat spirit!

Who: Religious School Families - New, Returning, and Curious!

What: Family - friendly playground social with DONUTS!

When: Saturday, August 23rd at 10:00 AM

Where: Beth-El Playground
(Please enter through the back school doors)

Join us for a HOLE lot of fun!

DONUT miss it!

RSVP to Cantor Shoshana at shoshanakaikov@bethelfw.org





Laurie James

Women of Reform Judaism

WRJ President Laurie James

This was a wonderful year for Sisterhood! WRJ made our \$12,000 annual contribution to Religious School, which comes in part from purchases made at the Judaica Shop and our fundraisers. The Judaica Shop's total sales this fiscal year were just under \$10,100, and the \$4,829 in profit goes right back into Religious School, camperships, and scholarships.

WRJ sponsored our traditional Rosh Hashanah reception, and members outdid themselves with our favorite treats. Also during Rosh Hashanah, member Nikki Slobodin came to do a fantastic program for WRJ on her apiary.

November found the members and friends raising a record-breaking \$27,000 during our Annual Brunch, and we also started a food pantry named for Suzanne Slatkin (z'l) at De Zavala Ele-

mentary. Many thanks to Ruth Roper and the Annual Brunch Committee for making the fundraiser a resounding success.

WRJ members Mimi Zimmerman and Semé Dewees-Cooper revitalized Rosh Chodesh in December, and we've had member-led Rosh Chodesh three times this year.

On MLK Day, WRJ held a great virtual round table regarding social action opportunities, and we hope to create additional programming if we can get a volunteer for Social Action Coordinator.

This spring, WRJ joined MRJ to fund scholarships for five college-bound students. March found the Sisterhood back in the kitchen making hamantaschen for the Religious School's Purim party, and we fed 200 people at the Second Night Seder.

Our Sisterhood Shabbat in May, featured an oneg with all of the late Linda Hoffman's (z'l) favorite goodies.

Our annual meeting has been postponed due to lack of a quorum, but we'll regroup next month.

A big thank you to the current WRJ 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

WRJ is actively recruiting for a Social Action Coordinator, a VP of Communications, and a VP of Membership. We are also looking for someone who can help set up a new Judaica Shop website.

Finally, after 26 years of being in Texas, I am keeping a promise to my husband, Jason, and we are moving back to Washington State. Thank you to Ruth Roper and Marilyn Stenzler for stepping in as Co-Presidents in my place. I will miss this congregation fiercely. Contact wrj.bethel@gmail.com if you're interested in any of the other leadership roles.

Save the Date:

The **2025 WRJ Donor Brunch** will take place **Sunday, Nov. 16.** Stay tuned for more details!



Eric Lawrence

Men of Reform Judaism

MRJ President Eric Lawrence

Last month, I attended my first Temple calendar planning session, and it was impressive to see all the interesting events for the next 12 months.

Thank you to all our MRJ members who helped cater a June Bat Mitzvah. A special thank you to Marty Robinson and Jim Stein (our kitchen leaders) for their efforts in smoking about 40 pounds of brisket over a two-day period. As every Texan knows, that is an art form as much as a culinary process. Appreciation also to Russ Schultz for helping and advising so early that morning and Howard Bellet for

working with the family on menu and preferences. Thanks also to our streamers for recording the service so the family can enjoy it for years to come.

Looking ahead to August, Mitch Reitman has again graciously agreed to host the MRJ Summer BBQ at his home. This has always been a fun and relaxing event for our MRJ members and their spouses.

MRJ also will host the annual Summer Movie Night and BBQ (see sidebar). I would like to recognize MRJ members Alan Feinberg, and Seymour Roberts for their work obtaining the terrific first-run movie for the event.

Thank you to all our MRJ members for making these events possible.

BBQ & Movie Night

The MRJ-sponsored annual summer movie comedy and BBQ will be **Saturday, Aug. 23.** Hot dogs and hamburgers will be served with all the fixins. Enjoy the baked potato bar! We will also have plant-based burgers and dogs.

A minimum donation for food of \$10 per adult (if able) is requested; complimentary for kids under 13. After dinner, enjoy the award-winning comedy "Bad Shabbos." Space is limited; please let the office know you plan to attend: bethelofc@bethelfw.org or call 817-332-7141 before the Aug. 23.

— Alan Feinberg

Contributions

Archive Fund

- In Honor of Robert & Cindy Simon
· Judith Cohen
In Honor of Edythe Cohen Birthday
· Judith Cohen
In Honor of the Speedy Recovery
Margie Zentner
· Judith Cohen
In Honor of Michelle Hartman, the
Mickey Goldman Person of the Year
· Judith Cohen
In Memory of Roz Rosenthal
· Judith Cohen
In Memory of Belle Silverman Cohen
· Judith Cohen
In Memory of Steve Ginsberg
· Judith Cohen
In Memory of Cynthia Gilbert
· Judith Cohen
In Memory of Elisa Kaplan-Miller
· Judith Cohen

Caring Congregation

- In Honor of Ruth Roper
· Esther Polland
In Memory of Steve Ginsberg
· James Stanton
· Grace C. Cosentino
In Memory of Cynthia Gilbert
· Bonnie Grossfeld
· Howard & Laurie Kelfer
In Memory of Elisa Kaplan-Miller
· Howard & Laurie Kelfer

Floral Fund

- In Honor of Anne Westermann
Birthday
· Yuyo Westermann
In Honor of Steve Brown's
81st Birthday
· Steve Brown
In Memory of Cynthia Gilbert
· The Warshauer Family

Library Fund

- In Memory of Erna Lesaius Zentner
· Margie Zentner
In Memory of Cynthia Gilbert
· Margie Zentner

Mitch Stenzler Sunday School Scholarship Fund

- In Honor of Sonya Stenzler's 90th
Birthday
· Suzie Koonsman
· Cathy & Charles Freid
· Marilyn & Van Stenzler
In Honor of the Birth of Eli Jacob Levy
· Marilyn & Van Stenzler
In Memory of Avette Covitt
· Marilyn & Van Stenzler
In Memory of Isaac "Izzy" David
Stenzler
· Marilyn & Van Stenzler
In Memory of Steve Ginsberg
· James & Sonja Stein
In Memory of Elisa Kaplan-Miller
· Sonya Stenzler
In Memory of Karen Delavan
· Marilyn & Van Stenzler

Music Fund

- Kyle Chapman
In Honor of the Birth of Eli Jacob Levy
· Jane Oderberg
In Memory of Steve Ginsberg
· Jeff & Linda Hochster

Prayerbook Fund

- In Memory of Steve Ginsberg
· Lois Luskey
· Jane Oderberg
In Memory of Cynthia Gilbert
· Jeff & Linda Hochster

Primetimers

- In Honor of the Birth of Michelle
Hartman's granddaughter
· Carole Rogers

Rabbi Mecklenburger's Discretionary Fund

- In Honor of Rabbi Mecklenburger
· Jeanne Ginsberg
In Appreciation of the wonderful
eulogy for Cynthia Gilbert
· Carole Rogers
In Memory of Cynthia Gilbert
· Steven & Kathy Gilbert Family Trust

Rabbi Zimmerman's Discretionary Fund

- In Honor of Mollie's graduation
· Michael & Beverly J. Ross
In Honor of Naomi Ann Post
· Austin Post
In Honor of Rabbi Zimmerman
· Jeanne Ginsberg
In Honor of leading the baby naming
· Matthew & Mockler Goldstein
In Honor of Michelle Hartman, the
Mickey Goldman Person of the Year
· Sheldon & Phyllis Levy
Donation to the Gaga Court
· Steve Brown
In Memory of Cynthia Gilbert
· Joan Skibell
· Carol & Hill Hirsh
In Memory of Steve Ginsberg
· Eric & Marjorie Deutsch
· Sheldon & Phyllis Levy
In Memory of Renee Stanton
· Sheldon & Phyllis Levy
In Memory of Lee Anspacher
· Felice Anspacher
In Memory of Elisa Kaplan-Miller
· Eric & Marjorie Deutsch

Temple Fund

- Nathan Smith
In Honor of Michelle Hartman, the
Mickey Goldman Person of the Year
· Alan & Leslie Magee
In Honor of Rabbi Zimmerman
· Jeffrey Berk

Temple Fund (continued)

- In Honor of milestone birthdays of
Laurin and Cheryl Baum
· Daniel & Trudie Oshman
In Honor of the Birth of Eli Jacob Levy
· Michael & Beverly J. Ross
In Memory of Steve Ginsberg
· Michael & Beverly J. Ross
· Louis & Leigh Schultz
· Marian and Jack Spitzberg
· Joy Lerner
· Noreen & Bill Houston
· Linda S & Patrick S Lewis-Moors
· Beverly & Bruce Laves
· Steve Brown
· Burton & Judith Schwartz
· Maria & Joseph Matthews
· Lea Ann Blum
· Doug & Ruth Roper
· Daniel & Trudie Oshman
· Alan & Leslie Magee
· Marilyn & Van Stenzler
· Lynny Sankary
· Jay & Margie Frankel
· Morton H. Meyerson
· Bruce & Hollace Weiner
· Amy Goldberger
· Lynn & Jarrold Glazer
· Elizabeth & Lehman Kendall
· Susan & Guy LaMere
· Donald & Meredith Dalton
· Patty & Elliott Garsek
In Memory of Cynthia Gilbert
· Michael & Beverly J. Ross
· Barbara Topek
· Lynny Sankary
· Jay & Margie Frankel
· Bruce & Hollace Weiner
· Susan Saxe and DeDe Seltzer
· Sherry Clark
· Lea Ann Blum
· Cynthia & John Adams

Contributions

continue on page 6

Contributions

(continued from page 5)

Temple Fund (continued)

In Memory of Cynthia Gilbert

- James & Faith Mallory
- Noreen & Bill Houston
- William & Holly Schur
- Linda Keller
- Susan & Guy LaMere
- Lynn & Jarrold Glazer
- Donna Smith
- Selma Sherman

In Memory of Elisa Kaplan-Miller

- Michael & Beverly J. Ross
- Susan & Guy LaMere
- Marilyn & Van Stenzler

In Memory of June, Edwin, & Mace Luftman

- Rene Ingram

In Memory of Edie Yentis

- Richard Yentis

In Memory of Grandfather

- Charles Furst
- Alyse Nackson

In Memory of Steve Rapfogel

- Susan & Guy LaMere

Tree Fund

In Memory of June, Edwin, & Mace Luftman

- Rene Ingram

In Memory of David Ingram

- Rene Ingram

WRJ

In Honor of Michelle Hartman, the Mickey Goldman Person of the Year

- Marilyn & Van Stenzler

In Memory of Syd Kboudi

- Marilyn & Van Stenzler

In Memory of Joan Berger Rosen

- Dede Samson Seltzer & Susan Samson Saxe

Youth Fund

In Memory of Steve Ginsberg

- Michael & Elaine Griver

In Memory of Cynthia Gilbert

- Michael & Elaine Griver

Primetimers

.....Michelle Hartman

Thursday, Aug. 14, noon

Welcome back, Primetimers! I hope you all had an amazing summer. We are kicking off our new season on Thursday, Aug. 14, with a program from the Fort Worth Zoo. No worries about the heat because THE ZOO IS COMING TO US! You read that right, the award-winning Fort Worth Zoo will be coming to Beth-El, and handlers will bring several exhibit pieces as well as THREE LIVE ANIMALS! You won't want to miss this event. Lunch will be catered by Pak-A-Pocket. For \$10 you will get pita chips, babaganoush, a pickle, and your choice of pita sandwich:

- Falafel
- Corned beef
- Turkey
- Chicken shawarma

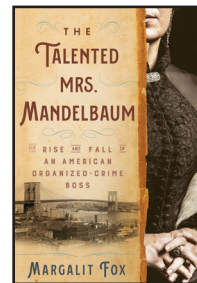
Don't miss out on the homemade baked goodies! Please RSVP to Michelle Hartman by Sunday, Aug. 10, at hartman8729@sbcglobal.net or 817-706-3451.



People of the Book

.....Sheryl Levy

Tuesday, Aug. 26, 10 a.m.



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

Our next book selection is "The Talented Mrs. Mandelbaum" by Margalit Fox. Mrs. Mandelbaum was America's first organized crime boss. (Who would've thunk it?)

We will meet at the Beth-El Library at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 26. There will also be a Zoom option. The Beth-El Library has one copy of the book, which I have borrowed and will read as fast as possible.

Please contact Sheryl Levy (slevy2608@gmail.com) for more information or if you would like to be put on the contact list. We would love to have you. The more people, the more ideas, the better the discussions.

Tisha B'Av event and film

Sunday, Aug. 3

1:30 p.m. Attention high school entering juniors and seniors, new college students, returning college students and parents! Jewish Federation, ADL & DFW area Hillel will present a discussion forum about the rise of anti-Semitism on college campuses. This is an opportunity to learn, listen, and share your concerns.

4 p.m. The Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County present a free community screening of "October 8" at Beth-El. Through interviews, news clips, and personal testimonials, the film explores how, over decades, a climate of hate and fear has created online anti-Semitism and disinformation

that have helped to exacerbate divisions in American society. (See page 9 for event poster.)

There will be a brief community program of speakers and prayers before the film to link these tragic events to Tisha B'Av as well as stories of personal resilience that have followed since October 7th.

To attend either program, please RSVP to Cindy Simon at c.simon@tarrantfederation.org



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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>				<p>1</p> <p>5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9 am Zoom Torah Study 10:30 am Shabbat Study, Service, Song and Lunch at Rabbi Zimmerman's House</p>
<p>3</p> <p>TISHA B'AV 1:30 pm Federation ADL Teen Event 4 pm Federation Community Film and Discussion: "October 8"</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:30 pm Religious School Committee Zoom</p>	<p>5</p> <p>6 pm Evening Minyan</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:30 Archives Meeting 11 am Gift Shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6 pm Evening Minyan</p>	<p>8</p> <p>5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Early Shabbat Service</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9 am Zoom Torah Study</p>
<p>10</p> <p>MRJ Member BBQ see p.4</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7 pm Board Meeting</p>	<p>12</p> <p>6 pm Evening Minyan</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:30 Archives Meeting 11 am Gift Shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan</p>	<p>14</p> <p>12 pm Primetimers 6 pm Evening Minyan</p>	<p>15</p> <p>5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Early Shabbat Service 7 pm New Temple Member Bar'khu & BBQ by MRJ</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9 am Zoom Torah Study</p>
<p>17</p> <p>10:45 am MRJ Meeting</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6 pm Evening Minyan 12 pm Jewish Puzzle of Life</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:30 Archives Meeting 11 am Gift Shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan</p>	<p>21</p> <p>6 pm Evening Minyan 6 pm "Sabbath Queen" Museum of Modern Art</p>	<p>22</p> <p>5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9 am Zoom Torah Study 10 am Religious School Shabbat Sha-DONUTS! 6:30 pm MRJ/Beth-El Dinner/Movie "Bad Shabbos"</p>
<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10 am People of The Book 6 pm Evening Minyan</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:30 Archives Meeting 11 am Gift Shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6 pm Evening Minyan</p>	<p>29</p> <p>5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9 am Zoom Torah Study</p>
<p>31</p>						

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

BBQ and Bar'khu

.....Semé-Deweese Cooper

New and Prospective Membership Shabbat Friday Aug. 15

**Services 6:15 p.m.; Dinner to follow
Reservations required**

Join us for Shabbat services and dinner.

- Welcome new members.
- Invite prospective members

Bring unaffiliated Jewish friends or family who may be interested in membership, and join Rabbi Zimmerman and Student Cantor Samantha Chamberlin for a Shabbat service followed by a joyous and delicious Shabbat BBQ dinner.

RSVP to the Temple office.

Beth-El Film Series



Bad Shabbos

1h 24m

Saturday, Aug. 23

6:30 p.m. Free

Join the Beth-El Film Fest and MRJ for the hilarious new movie, "Bad Shabbos".

A newly engaged couple introduce her non-Jewish parents to his Jewish parents for the first time over Shabbos dinner—but a murder and chaos await. Shabbat dinner has never been so funny.

A special BBQ dinner will be prepared by MRJ! Although there is no charge for this event, there will be the opportunity to make a donation to offset the cost of the food that MRJ is purchasing.

Please RSVP to the Temple office: office@bethelfw.org so MRJ knows how much food to purchase for the dinner. Visit bethelfw.org for more details.

Scenes from Greene Family Camp



Summer at URJ Greene Family Camp provides an unforgettable religious, cultural, recreational, and emotional summer camp experience for our Religious School students, grades 2-12; photos courtesy of Cantor Shoshana.

*Sunday, August 3
4:00 PM*

COMMUNITY SHOWING

Join us for a special program for Tisha B'Av

OCTOBER 8

GLOBALIZE THE
INTIFADA

October 8

explores the surge of antisemitism across U.S. campuses, social media, and public spaces following the October 7th Hamas attack on Israel. The film investigates Hamas's long-standing networks within American institutions and reveals how Iran, China, and Russia have fueled online antisemitism and disinformation to divide U.S. society.

**A day of
reflection on
Jewish history,
suffering and loss**

At Beth-El Congregation

To RSVP Contact Cindy Simon
817-569-0892 or email
c.simon@tarrantfederation.org

Then and Now: *Jewish Neighbors in Mistletoe*

Hollace Ava Weiner, Temple Archivist



Hollace Weiner

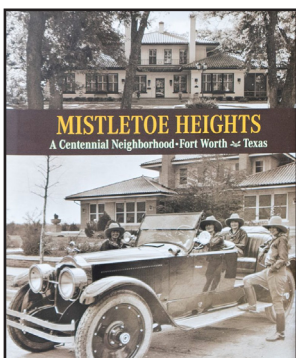
Fort Worth's Mistletoe Heights, despite its festive Christmastime name, has been home to dozens of notable Jewish families. A five-pound coffee-table book celebrating the neighborhood's 100-year history profiles several dozen "members of the tribe."

Among them were pawn-brokers Alex Wolf and Jake Klar, who sold fancy pearl-handled revolvers to Texas Rangers and infamous gangsters.

The 600-page *Mistletoe Heights: A Centennial Neighborhood, Fort Worth, Texas*, takes readers on an encyclopedic tour of the residential blocks between Forest Park Boulevard and the bluff above the Clear Fork of the Trinity. Author Melanie Arrington Smith, a descendant of the city's pioneer Daggett family, has written a veritable *megillah* about occupants of Mistletoe Heights houses over the past 10 decades.

The Carshon family of Fort Worth deli fame lived at 2400 Harrison Ave. Ironically, the owners did not cook for them-

selves at home. "Even though the family was in the restaurant business, the cooking was done ... by help that lived ... over the original carriage house," according to granddaughter Sarah Applebaum Baker. During Prohibition, the family brewed beer in the basement until the day it led to an explosion. Family weddings, at which orthodox rabbis officiated, were performed in front of a grand fireplace in the living room.



The Luskey family was likely on the wedding-guest list. The five Luskey kids, who grew up at 1122 Buck Ave., were written up in the newspaper when they sold lemonade, homemade ice cream, and staged a song-and-dance show to raise money for a War Dog Fund.

During World War II, dogs helped the army by sniffing out mines, standing on sentry duty, and even attacking enemy soldiers. Butch Luskey and his friend Grey McGown clambered up the Forest Park Gates, a climb nowadays off limits.

One of Mistletoe Heights' most remarkable extended families included Holocaust survivors Gertrude Rokman and Frieda Gelcman. After WWII, Gertrude and Frieda tracked down their

Fort Worth relatives by addressing an envelope to "Weisblatt, Texas." Remarkably, the Yiddish letter reached relatives who welcomed them into their Mistletoe Heights home at 1225 Clara St. The Weisblatts legally adopted Frieda, who was 13 when she reached Texas. She married Harold Jaffe, became a writer and lecturer on genocide and prejudice, and gave oral-history testimony to Steven Spielberg's Shoah Foundation. Frieda was 87 when she died last February in Boca Raton, Florida.

Mistletoe Heights was also the longtime home of Peggy Lavine, the widow of pawn shop operator Melvin Lavine, who was murdered on March 13, 1983. The slaying remained unsolved until 2013 when DNA analysis of a shard of glass led to an arrest, trial, and plea deal. Resolution arrived too late for Peggy, who in 1988 had passed away in her home, "a little French cottage" at 1121 Mistletoe Drive. Nonetheless, this remarkably researched book follows the case down to the last detail: the guilty man was paroled in 2019.

Other families profiled in this compendium include Berkowitz, Gilbert, Greenspun, Kassel, Landman, Lederman, Panasiewicz, Samuels, Schuessler, Schwarz, and Winterman. The book, priced at \$50, may be ordered at www.mhabook.com.

College Student Outreach

It's time again to connect with Beth-El college students. PLEASE send Rabbi Zimmerman your college student's address, EVEN if you did it last year.

We'll send them packages during the year, or maybe even visit their campus. ALL parents who get their student's address to Rabbi by Sept. 15, will be guaranteed that a Starbucks card will be sent to the student for a sweet New Year.

Send your student's name, address, e-mail, phone, and birthday by Sept. 15 to: rabbiz@bethelfw.org:

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 Reneé Woods will get the information from this site quickly.

Thanks in advance for your help.

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

August 8

Reuben Blumberg
 Carmen Cocchi
 Maurice N. Fairman
 Michael Handleman
 Jonathan E. Kemp
 David Luskey
 Carol Mayer
 Daniel Neckers
 Shirley R. Neckers
 Madelyn Gross Walters

August 15

Michael Brown
 Noel Arthur Cohen
 Paul Feinberg
 Joseph Foreman
 Leon Gachman
 Anne Gilbert
 Stanley Jolkovsky
 Goldye Kelfer
 Willy Fred Kuehn
 Clarisse Lavine
 Al Lazarus
 Peter Lederman
 Abraham Leventhal
 Rebecca Lulky
 Samuel Lurie
 Sarita Parvey
 Joseph P. Rodriguez
 Ruth Sandler
 Miriam Schultz
 Esther Berman Singer
 Claire Smith
 Gertrude Steinharter
 Jerome Stanley Waxman
 Bessie W. Wertheim

August 22

Molly Berkowitz
 Charles Cristol
 Paul Diviness
 Sheryl Feinberg
 Ashley Fetterman
 Ted Krakover
 Gladys Lawrence
 I. William Nusbaum
 Bernard Rabinowitz
 Louis H. Schur
 Myra Schussler
 Walter Stone
 Jean Whatley

August 29

Jim Corder
 Margaret Dinklage
 Phyllis Eertmoed
 Herbert Ehrlich
 Jeanne Glasser
 Doris Grisham
 Harry Jacob Kline
 Irwin Krauss
 Harold "Pacey" Laves
 Oscar Lavine
 Tillie Levine
 Helen Levitan
 Freda Margolis
 Ferdinand Rivera, Jr.
 Joel Rosen
 Sallye Rosenblum
 U. M. Simon
 Joseph Harold Singer
 Sam Taub
 Nathan Uptegraft

September 5

Melvin Blumberg
 David McLaurin Campbell
 Ira Diamond
 Elias Friedmann
 Marcus Ginsburg
 Carol Gold
 Lora Goldin
 Leslie Kaitcer
 Seymour Lawrence
 Hildegard Lehmann
 Marc "Manny" Sands
 Joseph Strassman
 Herberto Tabo



Finding Our Place in the Jewish Puzzle of Life:

A Search for Personal Theology with Rabbi Zimmerman

Tuesdays, Aug. 19, Sept. 2, and 16, noon

Our Tuesday afternoon conversations, now in its fourth year, are a chance to explore the world in which we live, seeking context and answers from Jewish teachers of the past.

This twice-monthly conversation moves between recent articles, current events, philosophy, and older Jewish prayers and texts—all with the goal of articulating a personal theology.

We continue this season with responses to anti-Semitism from Emil Fackenheim, Leo Baeck, and others.

Want to join us? Drop by anytime or contact Rabbi Zimmerman for more information.



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:
shoshanaikaikov@bethelfw.org

Music Director, John Sauvey: jesbaritone@gmail.com

Building Manager, Jaime Rivera: cust@bethelfw.org

Student Cantor: Samantha Chamberlin

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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 \$ _____

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☐ In Memory of: _____

Donor Name(s): _____

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Address: _____

_____ (qty)

additional forms.

Phone: _____

Send acknowledgment to: _____

