

Beth-Elements

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



October 2025



Brian Zimmerman, Rabbi

Divrei Torah

Rabbi Brian Zimmerman

And now, write for yourselves this song (this Torah), and teach it to the Children of Israel. Place it

into their mouths, in order that this song will be for Me as a witness for the children of Israel. — Parsha Vayeilech, Deuteronomy 31:19

In the Torah portion we read last week on the last Shabbat in September, we were instructed by Moses that each person should write for themselves a Torah and teach it to the children of Israel.

The actual word used is song and, in fact, the following week's Torah portion is a type of song to God and the Jewish people.

However, many interpret this to mean not just Moses' song, but the actual Torah — that Jews should write for themselves their own Torah.

Our own Torah scroll!

We also learn that if Israel ever chooses to be ruled by a king, that king is commanded to have his own personal Torah scroll to guide his decisions and be humbled before God.

For those of us who are not monarchs, how would we get our own Torah scroll? Where would we store it? And what about the cost to hire a scribe to write an entire scroll for a full year?

To this question, our tradition suggests the *mitzvah* is fulfilled if we read from a community Torah. In that moment of *aliyah*, ascension, we are surrounded by the community scroll and it becomes ours.

What does it mean to be surrounded by Torah?

On Monday night, Oct. 13, and Tuesday morning, Oct. 14, we observe Simchat Torah, the festive conclusion of a full month of Jewish holidays. After the spiritual intensity of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, and the physical demands of taking our meals outside during Sukkot,

we celebrate and read from the very last and very first verses of the Torah.

This year, weather permitting, we will once again meet in our outdoor Temple sukkah on Simchat Torah and unroll the scroll to surround ourselves with our

sacred teachings. I hope you'll join us at one of these celebrations. There will also be several other opportunities to dwell in the sukkah. (Look for more sukkot programming on page 6.)

Even if you are unable to join, I ask you to give some thought to the command to write our own scrolls in this new Jewish year.

How can we surround our days with Torah? What would a life look like lived under the gaze and scrutiny of Torah? How might our year be framed if we took it into our daily lives?

Bat Mitzvah



Constanza "Conti" Pell

Oct. 25

Daughter of Daniela & Max Pell

Yom Kippur Services

Wednesday, Oct. 1

Kol Nidre 8 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 2

Family service 9 a.m.

Yom Kippur morning service 10:30 a.m.

Discussion 12:45 p.m.

Jewish Reflection and Song in the chapel with Angie Friedman and Rabbi Zimmerman 2:15 p.m.

Afternoon service 3 p.m.

Yizkor and Neilah 4:15 p.m.

Followed by Break the Fast

Please note: The family service, discussion at 12:45 p.m., and reflection and song in the chapel will be in-person only.

Membership cards or special tickets are required for all High Holy Day services. If you did not receive yours, please contact the Temple office ASAP.

Worship Services

Friday, Oct. 3

Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Zimmerman and Student Cantor Sam Chamberlin.

Special Guest Speakers Janice and Frank Feinberg: "Jewish Journey to the Balkans" 6:15 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 10

Sukkot all-ages family dinner and service in the sukkah. Reservations required. See page 6 6 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 13

Simchat Torah celebration in the sukkah 6 p.m.

Worship Services continued on page 2.

Tuesday, Oct. 14 (weather permitting)
Simchat Torah and Yizkor service
in the sukkah..... 10:30 a.m.

Friday, Oct. 17
Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Zimmerman,
John Sauvey, and the Beth-El choir..... 6:15 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 18
Shabbat Morning of Song, Study, and Prayer
at Rabbi Zimmerman's house with Rabbi
and Angie Friedman 10:30 a.m.
All are welcome, but please RSVP.

Friday, Oct. 24
Kabbalat Shabbat and Jewish Ghost Story
Shabbat with Rabbi Zimmerman and
Student Cantor Sam Chamberlin..... 6:15 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 25
Shabbat morning service and Bat Mitzvah of
Constanza "Conti" Pell 10:30 a.m.

Friday, Oct. 31
Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Mecklenburger
and John Sauvey 6:15 p.m.

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.



Michael Appleman

President's Message

.....Temple President Michael Appleman

*Gut Yontif.
Shanah Tovah.
L'Shanah Tovah.
L'Shanah Tovah
Tikateivu.*

All of these are ways to greet each other at this time of year.

They are simply translated to "Happy holiday," "Good year," "To a good year," and "For a good and sweet year."

They are simply celebrated with apples and honey, round challahs, shofar blasts (sometimes slow; and sometimes fast), and, finally, at the end, a very welcome break-the-fast.

There is much more to all of this, though, as you know.

This is a time of introspection, reflection, and atonement. A time of *teshuvah*, which is commonly translated as "repentance" or "self-improvement." It is a time to look back (make amends or apologize to those we have wronged in the past year) and a time to look forward (resolving to do better in the coming year).

Looking back, what a successful year we have had at Beth-El Congregation. The list of events and activities is as long as Methuselah's life. The list

of congregants who volunteered to organize and operate these events and activities is as long. The contributions and participation of other congregants are as well.

And all are needed, with none being any more or less important. After all, not everyone can be a hero. Some of us must stand on the sidewalk and cheer as they go by in the parade.

But looking forward, there are or will be opportunities to be a hero. And the heroes of yesterday will yield to and cheer for the heroes of tomorrow.

Hear the shofar? That is the call. That tells us to get going. It is the Judaic "starter's pistol."

It is time to renew our commitment to action, specifically ethical and social action or social justice. It is time to engage with G-d and others, through prayer and changing one's conduct. It is time for personal growth and deepening our relationships with family and friends.

It is time to renew our good intentions, priorities, and our sense of spiritual connectedness.

You can do it. We can do it. Come join us. Let us do it together.

Jewish Journey to the Balkans



Friday, Oct. 3, 6:15 p.m., Shabbat presentation

Guest speakers Janice and Frank Feinberg (mom and dad of our student cantor) will speak about their "Jewish Journey to the Balkans, with Old Friends and New Friends."

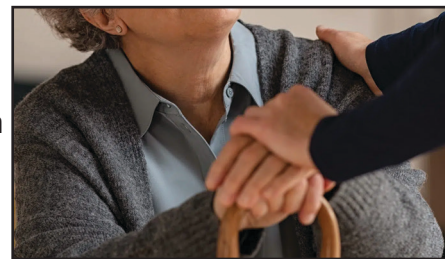
Healing prayers and visits

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.





Shoshana Abrams Kaikov

Religious School: a Joyful Start to the Year

Education Director, Cantor Shoshana Abrams Kaikov

I love this time of year — the awe-inspiring High Holy Days, the joy of Sukkot and Simchat Torah, and the beautiful way the seasons shift from summer into fall. It feels like the perfect moment to reflect, renew, and celebrate community together.

I am thrilled to share that our Religious School year is off to an incredible start! From the very first day, there has been an energy of joy, connection, and community filling our classrooms and hallways.

Our school is growing, and it has been wonderful to welcome both new and returning families to Beth-El. The year began with a festive bagel breakfast

that brought everyone together to start our opening day on a celebratory note. A big *todah rabbah* to MRJ for helping out on opening day! Our youngest learners and their families joined us for our first Tot Shabbat of the school year, where they experienced the beauty and wonder of Shabbat in an age-appropriate and joyful way through singing, dancing, storytelling, craft-making, and noshing. Just before Rosh Hashanah, our students enjoyed our Round Challah Bake-Off in honor of the Jewish New Year.

Creativity, delicious aromas, and holiday spirit filled the Temple! Each student left with a round challah of their own to bring sweetness to their holiday tables.

As we enter October, the momentum continues.

We are especially excited for our

upcoming program, **Beth-El Sukkot Family Havdalah Under the Stars on Saturday, Oct. 11, at 6:30 p.m.** It will be a chance to gather outdoors, mark the end of Shabbat together, and celebrate Sukkot under the autumn sky with our favorite Jewish melodies, our Beth-El family, and of course, s'mores! What could be better?

There is such positive energy in the air. Our students are engaged, our families are connected, and our community is filled with *ruach* (spirit). With so much learning, laughter, and celebration already underway, I just know this will be a truly meaningful year.

I look forward to sharing many more joyful moments together as we continue this exciting journey through the 5786 school year!



On the first day of Religious School, parents and students enjoyed the Bagel Breakfast hosted by MRJ.





Ruth Roper

Women of Reform Judaism

..... WRJ Co-Presidents Ruth Roper and Marilyn Stenzler

Hello, ladies! Another year has begun with the promise of

cooler weather, a fall breeze, and sisterhood. We extend a warm and heartfelt welcome to all, both new and returning, for a fantastic fall season ahead. Reconnect with friends and make new ones at our upcoming **Happy Hour on Thursday, Oct. 23, starting at 5:30 p.m. at Blue Goose** in University Village in Fort Worth.

The **WRJ Annual Brunch is also planned for Sunday, Nov. 16**, from 9:30 a.m. to noon, where we will celebrate your generous contributions with a game of bingo, the silent auction, and brunch. Ladies,

ladies, this is our largest fundraiser, where we raise the MAJORITY of our contributions for Religious School and summer camp for our kids. We look forward to seeing you at these wonderful opportunities for sisterhood, inspiration, and growth, and we hope you will join us for both events.

For those who have not signed up or renewed your WRJ membership, please fill out the form online at <https://www.bethelfw.org/jewish-life/adult-organizations/women-of-reform-judaism/> or pick up a paper form in the Beth-El office. We have many wonderful events planned, and without you, we're one sister short!

Save the Date:

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



Eric Lawrence

Men of Reform Judaism

..... MRJ President Eric Lawrence

I'd like to start off by recognizing everyone who helped orga-

nize and host the hamburgers, hot dogs, and movie event on Aug. 23. It was very well attended, and a great time was had by all. And thanks to Alan Feinberg for helping arrange the showing of a great movie.

With Religious School starting, a big "thank you" to Joe Davidson for leading the MRJ catering efforts for the kickoff event. We helped the school year get started right.

Upcoming events include building the sukkah, an MRJ evening in the

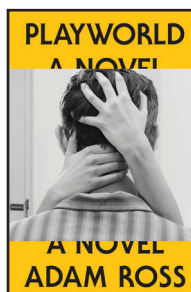
sukkah, and the second MRJ meeting of my term. Our first meeting went well and I'm looking forward to some interesting items on the next meeting's agenda.

Finally, the annual **Matzo Ball Classic Golf Tournament is coming up Oct. 26 at Hawks Creek Golf Club.**

This is our largest fundraiser of the year and helps us provide scholarships and camperships. We are still looking for sponsors and golfers, so please contact Jeff Kaitcer or Jay Martin if you wish to participate as either a sponsor or golfer. For more information on the Matzo Ball Classic, see page 9.

Library Reviews

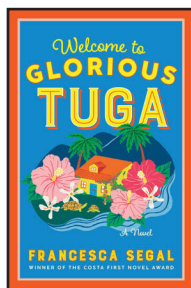
..... Margie Zentner



Playworld by Adam Ross

is a coming-of-age story set in the 1980s that delves into the complex life of child actor Griffin Hurt, who juggles his role on a popular TV show, "Nuclear Family," with the pressures of attending a

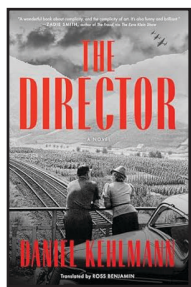
prestigious New York high school and disturbing demands from his wrestling coach. Griffin's parents, occupied with their own ambitions, offer little guidance, which leads him to seek solace from Naomi, a woman 22 years his senior. This is a novel bursting with laughter and heartache.



Welcome to Glorious Tuga by Francesca Segal

is an immersive story set on a fictional island in the South Atlantic, where Charlotte, a young veterinarian, travels to study endangered tortois-

es and uncover a family mystery. The book explores themes of belonging, community, love, and self-discovery amidst a diverse cast of characters, both islanders and newcomers. Filled with quirky humor, this is a delightful, captivating read.



The Director by Daniel Kehlmann

is a historical novel based on the life of German filmmaker G.W. Pabst, exploring themes of artistic compromise and complicity during the Nazi era. Kehlmann uses a blend of fact and fiction, incor-

porating elements of Pabst's real life with invented scenarios and characters to create a compelling narrative that's set against the backdrop of 1930s Hollywood and Nazi Germany. The story highlights the political and social climate that influenced Pabst's decisions and examines his career from silent films to his interactions with the Nazi regime.



Contributions

Archive Fund

In Memory of Joseph Harold Singer

- Judith Cohen

In Memory of Ester Singer

- Judith Cohen

In Memory of Pacey Laves

- Fran & Eric Kreindler

Music Fund

In Memory of Morton Meyerson

- Kim Coner

Floral Fund

In Memory of Seymour Lawrence

- Eric & Phyllis Lawrence

In Memory of Gladys Lawrence

- Eric & Phyllis Lawrence

Operating Endowment Fund

In Memory of Morton Meyerson

- William & Holly Schur

Rabbi Mecklenburger's Discretionary Fund

In Memory of Daniel Neckers

- Sandra Polsky and family

In Memory of Shirley Neckers

- Sandra Polsky and family

In Honor of Rabbi Mecklenburger

- Robert Rapfogel

Rabbi Zimmerman's Discretionary Fund

In Honor of Rabbi Zimmerman

- Howard & Laurie Kelfer

In Appreciation of the wonderful anniversary blessing during Shabbat Services

- Susan & Russ Schultz

Religious School Fund

- Adam Hollander & Adele Reeder

- Amber Love

Temple Fund

- Phillip & Jessica Poole

In Appreciation of the care and compassion to Morton and the Meyerson family at the end of his life

- Meyerson Family Foundation

In Honor of Sonya Stenzler's 90th Birthday

- Richard & Carol Minker

In Memory of Melvin Blumberg

- Loesje Blumberg

In Memory of Reuben Blumberg

- Loesje Blumberg

In Memory of Keith Fenton

- Rachel Cristol

In Memory of

- David McLaurin Campbell

- Abe & Kim Factor

In Memory of Morton Meyerson

- David & Shantel Ferdman

In Memory of Morton Meyerson

- Arnold G. & Harriette Gachman

In Memory of Keith Fenton

- Arnold G. & Harriette Gachman

In Memory of Joan Rosen

- Arnold G. & Harriette Gachman

In Memory of Leon Gachman

- Arnold G. & Harriette Gachman

In Memory of Oscar Lavine

- David M. & Diana Lavine

In Memory of Clarisse Lavine

- David M. & Diana Lavine

Temple Fund (continued)

In Memory of Cynthia Gilbert

- Richard & Carol Minker

In Memory of Steve Ginsberg

- Richard & Carol Minker

In Memory of Mort Meyerson

- Richard & Carol Minker

In Memory of Joan Rosen

- Richard & Carol Minker

In Memory of Keith Fenton

- Richard & Carol Minker

In Memory of Cynthia Gilbert

- Jane Oderberg

In Memory of Elisa Kaplan Miller

- Jane Oderberg

In Memory of Keith Fenton

- Jane Oderberg

In Memory of Madelyn Gross Walters

- Billy & Rozanne Rosenthal

In Memory of Nathan Uptegraft

- Lynny Sankary

In Memory of Sarah Smulian

- Lynny Sankary

In Memory of Keith Fenton

- Richard & Sara Zweig

To keep our Synagogue strong

- Jeffrey Berk

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

Sukkot and Simchat Torah outdoor celebrations

Lunch in the sukkah

The sukkah will be open every weekday (during office hours) for those who wish to bring a bag lunch and enjoy this harvest festival.

Monday, Oct. 6

6-7:30 p.m. Please join Mimi and Rabbi Zimmerman and Winter the Wonder Dog for a drop-in reception with wine, cheese, and desert to welcome Sukkot. (Well-behaved dogs welcome!) We will welcome the holiday, shake the Lulav, and give thanks to you for being a member of Beth-El. (RSVP to Mimi and Rabbi Brian: rabbiz@bethelfw.org.)



Tuesday, Oct. 7

Curious About Conversion class in the sukkah..... 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 9

MRJ dinner in the sukkah6 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 10

Sukkot dinner, all-ages family service in the sukkah6 p.m.
(Reservations required for dinner.)

Saturday, Oct. 11

Religious School families' "Havdalah Under the Stars" 6:30 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 13

Simchat Torah celebration in the sukkah6 p.m.
(Unroll the whole Torah with us — if we have enough people — and join in a celebration of the ending and immediate beginning of our Torah cycle.)

Tuesday, Oct. 14

Simchat Torah and Yizkor Service at Beth-El.....10:30 a.m.
(in the sukkah, weather permitting)

Primetimers

..... Michelle Hartman

Sukkot — Everything You Wanted to Know But Were Afraid To Ask!

Thursday, Oct. 9, noon

Chag Sameach, Primetimers! Thank you to everyone who came out to hear Student Cantor Sam Chamberlin teach us about the shofar liturgy. Our Oct. 9 program, which is smack dab in the middle of Sukkot, continues with the High Holy Days theme. Please join us for: Sukkot — Everything You Wanted to Know But Were Afraid To Ask!

What do the harvest season, rainfall, a prophetic reading about the end of days, and a very expensive lemon all have in common? Rabbi Brian Zimmerman will explain Sukkot, from the blessings, to the lulav and etrog, and everything in between. We will celebrate in the sukkah just outside the Great Hall, weather permitting.

Lunch starts at noon; you can bring your own or order one from Panera for \$13. That includes chips, a chocolate chip cookie, and choice of sandwich:

- Chicken salad
- Tuna salad
- Mediterranean veggie

As always, save room for some wonderful homemade fall desserts! The program will start around 12:30. Please RSVP to Michelle Hartman at hartman8729@sbcglobal.net or 817-706-3451 by Sunday, Oct. 5. This will be a fun and informative session you won't want to miss.



Pizza in the Hut (and lasagna, too!)

Friday, Oct. 10, 6 p.m.

All-ages family service and dinner in the sukkah

Join your friends outdoors in the sukkah for a short family-oriented service and dinner from Joe's Pizza. \$5 per person for all over 3 years old for an amazing meal and, hopefully, amazing weather!

Please RSVP to the Temple office by close of business Oct. 7 so we can order enough food.

Family Havdalah Under the Stars

Saturday, Oct. 11, 6:30 p.m.

Religious School Families

Join us as we bid farewell to Shabbat and welcome in a brand new week with a musical Havdalah jam session for the entire family!

Great music, friends, and s'mores will make for a special evening that is sure to warm up your soul!

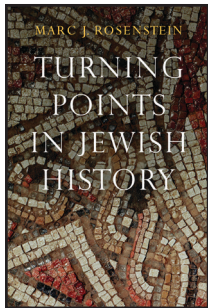
RSVP to shoshanakaikov@bethelfw.org

October - 2025 - 5786

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 YOM KIPPUR 1 pm Temple Office Closes 8 pm Kol Nidre	2 YOM KIPPUR TEMPLE OFFICE CLOSED See page 1 for Yom Kippur Services	3 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	4 9 am Zoom Torah Study
5 9:30 am Religious School 9:30 am Modern Concerns in Jewish Law 12:15 pm Adult Hebrew 4 pm Simchat Beit Shoayvah at Trinity Park	6 EREV SUKKOT 6 pm Join Rabbi, Mimi, Winter and pooches in the sukkah	7 SUKKOT 6 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm Curious about Conversion	8 SUKKOT 9:30 Archives Meeting 11 am Gift Shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan	9 SUKKOT 12 pm Primetimers Event 6 pm MRJ Dinner in the sukkah 6 pm Evening Minyan	10 SUKKOT 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6 pm Family Service and Dinner in the sukkah	11 SUKKOT 9 am Zoom Torah Study 6:30 pm Religious School Havdalah
12 SUKKOT 9:30 am Religious School	13 SUKKOT TEMPLE OFFICE CLOSED 6:15 pm Simchat Torah in the sukkah	14 SUKKOT TEMPLE OFFICE CLOSED 10:30 am Simchat Torah and yizkor in the sukkah	15 9:30 Archives Meeting 11 am Gift Shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan	16 6 pm Evening Minyan	17 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	18 9 am Zoom Torah Study
19 9:30 am Religious School 9:30 am Turning Points in Jewish History with Rabbi Mecklenburger 12:15 Adult Hebrew	20 7 pm Board Meeting	21 10 am People of the Book 12 pm Jewish Puzzle of Life 6 pm Evening Minyan	22 9:30 Archives Meeting 11 am Gift Shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan	23 5:30 pm WRJ Happy Hour at Blue Goose Cantina 6 pm Evening Minyan	24 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	25 9 am Zoom Torah Study 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service and Bat Mitzvah of Conti Pell
26 9:30 am Religious School 12 pm 5th graders and Parent B'nai Mitzvah Program 12:15 Adult Hebrew 1 pm MRJ Matzo Ball Classic	27	28 6 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm Curous about Conversion	29 9:30 Archives Meeting 11 am Gift Shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan	30 6 pm Evening Minyan	31 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	Nov. 1 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.

Sunday Conversations: "Turning Points in Jewish History"



An Adult Discussion with Rabbi Ralph Mecklenburger Sundays, Oct. 19 and Nov. 16, 9:30 a.m.

The author of this year's discussion-starter book is an American-born Reform rabbi, Marc J. Rosenstein, who earned a Ph.D. in history from the Hebrew University and now lives in Israel. Rabbi Rosenstein provides an introduction and a significant primary-source quotation for each period. For instance: how do our people's contact with Greek and Roman culture, Jewish mysticism, Achad Ha'am's Zionism, and contemporary feminism continue to influence our Judaism today?

The book is available in paperback from many book dealers.



Ralph Mecklenburger

Please join us on select Sundays between 9:30 and 10:45 a.m. in the Temple board room to explore ideas new and old, learn from great teachers, and challenge preconceptions in a supportive group setting.



Modern Concerns in Halakha "Jewish Law"

Sundays, beginning Oct. 5

Join Master Talmud Teacher and third-year JTS rabbinical student puck glass to consider the delicate dance of ancient Jewish legal texts and the challenges of modern life — and death — in a world the rabbis of the Talmud could only imagine.

The class will begin Sunday, Oct. 5, with a discussion of medical aid in dying (death with dignity) in Jewish law.

Future classes may study organ donation, life support/end-of-life care, digital privacy, and *lashon hara* "evil speech" in sharing on social media.

Become a Reading Mentor

Jim Stanton

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, see last month's bulletin or contact Phyllis Levy, 817 346-3550, or Jim Stanton, 817 307-9167.

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

Marking
October 7th

Save the Date

Oct. 16, 7 p.m.

Beth-El Congregation



On October 7th, 2023, the Jewish community suffered a profound loss.

As we mark two years since the horrific attacks, we invite you to join us for a community gathering to commemorate the victims, honor the heroes who emerged from tragedy, and pay tribute to the strength and resilience of the Israeli people.

Registration required by Oct. 15.

Contact Cindy Simon:

c.simon@tarrantfederation.org

All are welcome.

Event details and registration information will be coming soon. Please save the date and join us for this meaningful commemoration.

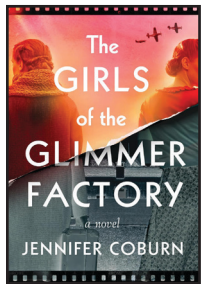
Beth-El's Water Well is Complete!

Please join us Oct. 10 at 5:15 p.m. before the 6 p.m. Sukkot Shabbat service as we celebrate the completion of the Beth-El water well and thank the well driller and landscaper who helped with the project.

People of the Book

..... Sheryl Levy

Tuesday, Oct. 21, 10 a.m.



The Girls of the Glimmer Factory by Jennifer Coburn

Our October selection is *The Girls of the Glimmer Factory*, a novel that looks into life at Theresienstadt, the ghetto the Nazis

built purely for propaganda reasons to show "how well Jews lived" in their camps. It is a story of resilience and resistance. We will meet on Oct. 21 at 10 a.m. to discuss. Please contact Sheryl Levy (slevy2608@gmail.com) for more information or if you would like to be put on the contact list.

People of the Book is Beth-El's book club, and we would love to have you join the club. The more people, the more ideas, the better the discussions.

Annual Gates of Chai Lecture

Wednesday, Oct. 29, 7 p.m.

TCU Brite Divinity School

Ancient Wisdom, Modern Life:

A Conversation with Sarah Hurwitz on Judaism, Flourishing, and Meaning

Sarah Hurwitz is the author of *Here All Along: Finding Meaning, Spirituality, and a Deeper Connection to Life – in Judaism (After Finally Choosing to Look There)*, which was a finalist for two National

Jewish Book Awards and for the Sami Rohr Prize for Jewish Literature. Her other books include *As A Jew: Reclaiming Our Story From Those Who Shame, Blame, and Try To Erase Us*, which won the Natan Notable Book Award. Sarah was a White House speechwriter from 2009 to 2017, starting out as a senior speechwriter for President Barack Obama and then serving as head speechwriter for First Lady Michelle Obama.



Sarah Hurwitz

MRJ's Annual Matzo Ball Classic Golf Tournament

Sunday, Oct. 26, at 1 p.m.

Hawk's Creek Golf Club

6520 White Settlement Road

Westworth Village, TX 76114

☐ \$130 Entry Fee

Each player receives a round of golf with cart and gift bag. Prizes for the longest drive and closest to the pin.

Name: _____

Team Members: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Matzo Ball Classic Sponsorships:

☐ \$1,000 Gold Sponsor

Recognition as dinner sponsor and includes 4 golf entry fees

☐ \$750 Silver Sponsor

Special recognition and includes 4 golf entry fees

☐ \$175 Hole Sponsorship

Enclosed is my check made payable to **Beth-El MRJ** for the amount of (Fees + Sponsorship): \$ _____

Detach and return this form with payment by Oct. 13 to:

Beth-El MRJ

4900 Briarhaven Road

Fort Worth, TX 76109



The Matzo Ball Classic is a Beth-El MRJ Activity and Fundraiser

Then and Now: *Letters from the Past*

Hollace Ava Weiner, Temple Archivist



Hollace Weiner

Van Stenzler trudged into the Beth-El library this summer, weighed down with a giant scrapbook filled with newspaper

front pages from World War II. Tucked between the pages were more than 100 airmail letters his dad, Dave Stenzler, had written home to San Antonio between 1944 and 1945.

Pfc. David Stenzler, 18, had enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Force on Jan. 29, 1944, eager to help America fight the war against Hitler. During his first months of basic training, he endured dust storms in West Texas, 120-degree heat at Yucca Air Field, Arizona, and steamy jungle conditions at the Avon Park bombing range in the Everglades.

By November he was an aerial gunner on a B-17 bomber, battling German fighter planes above the Rhineland, Balkans, Austria, and Berlin. With a nine-man crew (pictured), he completed 32 bombing missions with the 99th Bomb Group, 34th Bomb Squadron of the 15th Air Force. The crew dubbed their plane the "Miss Adventuress."

En route to enemy targets, Stenzler

never tired of crossing the Alps. "They really are all they are cracked up to be," he wrote in clear penmanship and colorful prose. "Some of the peaks pierce way up above the clouds and are snow covered so that they blend in with the clouds. I wish you could have been with me to see it all — but maybe after the war."

Between bombing missions, Stenzler lived in a tent camp near Foggia, Italy, a war-torn area the Allies had captured. To combat boredom, he built a "crystal (radio) set from parts of wrecked planes." In airmail letters, he told his family: "You would be surprised how many good programs can be picked up over here."

Stenzler, who was promoted to master sergeant, would be surprised by how many people are going to read his letters now. The Portal to Texas History at the University of North Texas has awarded



Pfc. David Stenzler, far right, standing, and the crew of the "Miss Adventuress," a B-17 bomber with the 99th Bomb Group, 34th Bomb Squadron of the 15th Air Force, 1944. (Photo courtesy of Van Stenzler, Fort Worth Jewish Archives.)

the Fort Worth Jewish Archives a grant to digitize the Stenzler correspondence. It includes 119 handwritten letters, one telegram, and 14 photos.

If you have old correspondence, vintage photos, or diaries gathering dust, please, like Van Stenzler, bring them to the Archives. Let us decide if your trash is treasure that's worth saving for future historians and future generations.



Finding Our Place in the Jewish Puzzle of Life:

**A Search for Personal Theology
with Rabbi Zimmerman
Oct. 21 and Nov. 4, noon**

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. These conversations are a chance to explore the world in which we live, seeking context and answers from Jewish teachers of the past.

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

There are stars
whose light reaches the earth only after
they themselves have disintegrated
and are no more.

And there are people
whose scintillating memory lights the
world after they have passed from it.

These lights —
which shine in the darkest night —
are those which illumine for us the path.

— Hannah (Szenes) Senesh,
Yesh Kochavim "There are Stars"



October 3

Graham Baker
Arthur Beck
Ted Brown
Chandler Greines Cohen
Louise Freeman
Jean Frolkis
Chester Gestring
Elise Schoenberg Greenman
Jerry Lamensdorf
Victor Leventhal
Mark Pell
Val Pikkell
Sam Reznikoff
Norman Rubin
George Sepp
Rose Ungar
Seymour Weissner
Hortense Weltman

October 10

Tessa N. Bermont
Gail Chance
Charles Etcoff
Leo Freeman
Daniel Gachman
Hyman Ginsberg
Solomon Griver
Alexander Handleman
Richard Hochberger
Sol Hochster
Leonard Hochster
Shirley James
Anita Kboudi
Henrietta Krumholz
Alfred Levine
Donald Louis
Selma Weiner Mayer
Mollie Platt
Antoinette Pollack
Harold Sloane
Cipa Rosenberg Taylor
Henry J. Weltman

October 17

Rolfe Becker
Milton Buttermann
Bessie Brown Carb
David Field
Ruth M. Friedman
Harold Frolkis
Robert C. Gurney
Faye Kaitcer
Marion Kaplan
Gertrude Kottler
Tom Krakover
Gloria Lederman
Rosanne Margolis
Jerome W. Mecklenburger
Bernice Meyerson
Ethel Collins Oshman
Frank Pell
Paul Schaefer
Dr. Edwin G. Schwarz
David Stenzler
Jim Zack
Jerome Stanley Waxman
Bessie W. Wertheim

October 24

Margaret Sheila Benjamin
Frank Rupert Benjamin
Rose Wagner Bock
Gustav Braun
Becky Carter
David Adan Dorontes
Liliana Kaplan Dujan
Herman L. Goldstucker
Max Granek
Meta Hochster
Betty Kessler
Selma Krauss
Yetta Moidel
Rona Rosenfield
Shirley Robinson
Irving Sachs
Sarah Schwartz
Derrell Slater
Mike Stein

October 31

Beverly Beck
Michael Boxer
Janey Macks Carter
Holly Clegg
Fay B. Cohen
Robert Gerson
Fannie L. Ginsberg
Esther Frindell Hoffman
Hugh Lamensdorf
Annie Mann Lehwald
Morris Lulky
Jack Orlow
Frances Schechter
Ann Schuster
Edwin Schwarz, Jr.
Suzanne Slatkin
Audrey Slotter
Bill Steinman
Jean Strassman
Max Switzman
Muriel (Mimi) Weissner
Joseph Zentner

November 7

Lynn Altman
Sheldon Anisman
Harold Baum
Miriam Voliansky Braverman
Helen Factor
David Ginsburg
Fabio Mamani
Kathleen Mitchell
Ada Parker
Nathan Resnick
Norman Rosenblum
Belle Schultz
Larry Schultz
Harry Schweitzer
Marlene Tilkin
Marion Werner
Ben H. Wile



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, Reneé Woods:
director@bethelfw.org

Education Director, Cantor Shoshana Abrams Kaikov:
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\$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**

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