

Beth-Elements

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

November 2025



Brian Zimmerman, Rabbi

A Pause for Gratitude

..... Rabbi Brian Zimmerman

Who knows what tomorrow will bring, let alone three weeks from now? And when we speak of

the Middle East it is even truer. But as I finish this article, 20 hostages have been returned home to Israel to the day when they were abducted two years ago.

Even as we rejoice in the long-awaited return of the remaining living hostages and a pause in this brutal war, we know that many obstacles remain.

Every fighter in Hamas will need to resist the temptation to stage errant and deadly attacks. Rogue settlers in the West Bank and the Israeli government will need to fully invest in a cessation of provocative and violent acts. Both groups have individuals that see no benefit to peace. Leaders will need to resist the desire to resume hostilities at the first sign of conflict. And yet as narrow as the path to peace may be, we hold out hope. A desire for better days does lie ahead.

As your bulletin arrives in the mail, we are midway between Sukkot, the

Jewish festival of thanksgiving, and the American holiday of Thanksgiving in late November, which found its basis in our Jewish festival of gratitude.

The *Middah*, the character trait that makes this possible, is called *Hakarat HaTov* — recognizing the good in every moment. Not only recognizing but cultivating the muscles in our body that make gratitude possible.

This time between Sukkot and Thanksgiving provides a great opportunity to develop a daily exercise of gratitude. To thank one extra person a day. To pause and say a blessing for our health. To give *Tzedakah* more easily. To hug a child. To thank a friend we take for granted. Gratitude is a muscle that always needs strengthening.

And to this list we add the hope, however tenuous, that peace can be a reality. Gratitude for the cease fire and a prayer to the end of any further death and destruction.

As we move forward in this time of *Hakarat HaTov*, gratitude, I want to thank each of you for all you do to make our community a place of safety and a place for prayers of peace and hope.

Our goal should be to live life in radical amazement. ... get up in the morning and look at the world in a way that takes nothing for granted. Everything is phenomenal; everything is incredible; never treat life casually. To be spiritual is to be amazed.

— Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel (1907-1972)

Worship Services

Minyan with the community

Tuesday-Thursday 6 p.m.

Welcoming Shabbat reception

Join us every Friday night before the service, for wine and cheese with friends 5:30 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 7

Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Zimmerman and Angie Friedman 6:15 p.m.
MRJ Cuisine of our Heritage: Cuba.
Dinner to follow the service. Please RSVP to the Temple office. More details, page 5.

Friday, Nov. 14

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

Saturday, Nov. 15

Shabbat Morning of Song, Study, and Prayer at Rabbi Zimmerman's house with Rabbi Zimmerman and Student Cantor Sam Chamberlin 10:30 a.m.
(Pilot of the new Reform Movement Torah Commentary, details page 2.)
All are welcome, but please RSVP in advance.

Friday, Nov. 21

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

Saturday, Nov. 22

Makom Shelanu at Beth-El 10 a.m.
All are welcome

Friday, Nov. 28

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

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



Michael Appleman

President's Message

..... Temple President Michael Appleman

We did it.
We made it
through the
High Holy Days
— an intense

period of reflection, contrition, and forgiveness. All are uncomfortable but all lead to forgiveness, joy, and hope. Let us take advantage of this opportunity we have been given.

Regarding the High Holy Days, and all that goes into them and all that goes along with them, one final note of appreciation to our staff, choir, student cantor, rabbi, and others for making everything possible. Thank you to those who participated in the services by sitting on the bimah, carrying a Torah, reciting a blessing, or otherwise. Your contributions made our gatherings more enjoyable and more meaningful.

And, of course, thank you to all who attended, whether live or via our video stream. We hope that those who watched us from afar this year will join us next year in person if able. Your presence will contribute to the wonderful community we have. Unfortunately, we cannot promise that it will be the same as "in Jerusalem!" Or will it? That discussion will take more space than I am afforded in an issue of this Bulletin. Or make a great sermon.

Further along these lines, our Worship Committee, led by Russ Schultz, met shortly after the conclusion of Yom Kippur to compare notes, share observations (each member's and those received from some of you), and begin discussing next year (already!). Generally, things received high marks, and the efforts of many (some of whom are identified more specifically above) were rightfully applauded. We know, however, that not everything was perfect, despite striving for it. We are aware of and acknowledge the mistakes and we apologize for them. We will do better next time. And, like the Gates of Repentance, which are never closed, please feel free to contact Russ or me with any compliments or constructive criticisms.

We will try to continue providing events and settings in which all may achieve *t'shuvah*, not just during the High Holy Days (thank you, Rabbi Eliezer). Look at the other pages of this bulletin and check out our website for opportunities to gather together, whether for regular Shabbat services, Torah study, and *minyans*, or special events, such as *b'nai mitzvah*, movie nights, and the many holidays we celebrate.

Come join us for any or all!

Reform Torah Commentary

Saturday, Nov. 15, 10:30 a.m.

Beth-El is excited to be part of a group of more than 100 North American congregations that will pilot one week's Torah portion section from the new Torah Commentary.

No prior preparation or knowledge is required. Our feedback will be collected



for consideration as the commentary continues in its editing process.

Join us for a short service at Rabbi Zimmerman's home, followed by a lengthier full Torah study and Shabbat lunch.

RSVP to the Temple office by Friday morning, Nov. 14, to attend.

Security Session

..... Jim Stanton

De-escalation training
Thursday, Nov. 6, 6:30 p.m.
Beth-El Congregation

Our series of security training sessions continues with de-escalation training led by officers from the Fort Worth Police Intel/Homeland Security Unit. It will be presented for the entire community on Thursday, Nov. 6, at Beth-El.

You'll learn to:

- Recognize nonverbal cues and signs of stress.
- Use active listening, empathy, and calm communication to defuse tense situations.
- Develop a safety plan and understand when and how to respond.
- Practice real-life scenarios to build confidence in handling disruptive or crisis moments.

By the end of the 90-minute session, you'll leave with practical tools to help ensure the well-being of those around you — whether at BEC, community gatherings, or out in public.

Evening schedule:

6:30 p.m. Enjoy dessert treats and community time.

7 p.m. Training begins.

Advance registration required. Call the Jewish Federation at 817-569-0892 or use the QR code.

Presented by Beth-El Congregation, Congregation Ahavath Sholom, Congregation Beth Israel, Congregation Beth Shalom, Makom Shelanu Congregation and the Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County.

Together, we can strengthen our safety and our community.

RSVP to Federation office:
Call 817-569-0892 or email
c.simon@tarrantfederation.org



Shoshana Abrams Kaikov

Religious School

Education Director, Cantor Shoshana Abrams Kaikov

Gratitude is one of our greatest Jewish superpowers. In fact, the very word *Yehudi* (Jew)

comes from the Hebrew root *lehodot* — to give thanks. From the moment we wake up until the moment we go to sleep, Jewish life gives us countless reminders to notice the good and say “thank you.”

Every morning, before we even get out of bed, it is traditional to say *Modeh Ani*: “I am thankful before You.” This small, simple prayer is actually a big deal. It reminds us that just waking up is a gift. Before eating, after eating, when seeing a rainbow (my favorite!), hearing thunder, or smelling something delicious — there’s a *bracha* (blessing) for that.

Judaism invites us to practice gratitude not once a year in November, but one hundred times every single day.

In our Religious School classrooms, gratitude is woven into everything we do — through songs, stories, and even snack time. When our students sing *HaMotzi*, they’re not just blessing the bread, they’re taking a pause to notice how amazing it is that we have food to share and people to share it with. That’s what gratitude does. It helps us see the extraordinary in the ordinary.

Studies show that gratitude boosts happiness, strengthens relationships, and builds resilience. Our ancestors have known this for thousands of years. The Talmud teaches, “Who is rich? One who rejoices in what they have.” Gratitude doesn’t just make us happier; it makes us

Jewishly wise.

As we move into November, a month filled with autumn colors, cozy meals, and Thanksgiving gatherings, let’s remember that gratitude isn’t just seasonal; it’s spiritual. It’s a daily practice that keeps us grounded.

This month, I invite all of our Beth-El families to create your own family gratitude ritual at home. Keep a gratitude jar in your kitchen. Write notes of thanks and read them together on Shabbat.

Let your home shine with *hakarat ha-tov* — the sacred practice of recognizing the good. When we lead with gratitude, we don’t just say “thank you,” we say *hineni* — “here I am,” ready to bring light, kindness, and joy into the world.



Religious School students of all ages enjoyed making music and shaking the lulav in the sukkah.



Ruth Roper



Marilyn Stenzler

Women of Reform Judaism

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

Shana Tova, Ladies

A Call for Compassion campaign

This year our sisterhood will be supporting George Clark Elementary School in addition to

continuing our work, along with Broadway Baptist Church, to help De Zavala Elementary. We'll provide snack sacks for the entire year.

Many of these children are being raised by siblings, cousins, and other guardians — they are unsung heroes in our community. And now we are asking you to stand with them. WRJ is seeking monetary donations to provide

nutritious snacks to these elementary school students.

Nutrition is not a luxury, it's a necessity for learning, growth, and success. A well-fed child is a focused child, and your contribution can make that difference. Make checks payable to Broadway Baptist Church and mail them to Ruth Roper, 2650 Riverwood Trail, Fort Worth, TX 76109. Thank you for your generosity!

Party time, ladies!!!

Our next Sisterhood event is the **Annual Brunch on Sunday, Nov. 16**, at Beth-El, 9:30 a.m.-noon. There will be a silent auction, catered lunch, and B-I-N-G-O. This annual fundraiser supports our Religious School, scholarships to Greene Family Camp and other related temple activities. Please come out to support the event and make us strong.

See invitation on page 9.



Eric Lawrence

Men of Reform Judaism

.....MRJ President Eric Lawrence

First off, a big thank you to Nate Larson for coordinating the effort to build

the Sukkah on the back patio.

As I write this, Jeff Kaitcer, Jay Martin, Marty Robinson, Bruce Weiner and many others are preparing for the Annual MRJ Matzo Ball Classic Golf Tournament, which was Sunday, Oct. 26. It is MRJ's single largest fundraiser of the year. Now, looking forward, things start to get even more interesting ...

Friday, Nov. 7, will be the "Cuisine of Our Heritage" dinner focusing on the food of Cuba, which had a large and vibrant Jewish community prior to the

reign of Fidel Castro.

Also in November, our MRJ crew will start prep for the latke-making operation and sale. We will let you know when to get orders in. Latke distribution will be during Religious School hours on Sunday, Dec. 14.

The Temple Chanukah Dinner will be **Friday, Dec. 19**, following the service, prepared by the MRJ catering crew and led, as always, by Jim Stein and Marty Robinson.

Capping off our December will be the Beth-El tradition of Christmas Eve Chinese food and Jewish trivia. Don't miss it!

My sincere thanks to all our MRJ members for everything they do in service to our congregation.

Library Reviews

..... Margie Zentner



The Stolen Queen by Fiona Davis

is a dual-timeline historical novel set in New York City and Egypt. The story follows two women: Charlotte, an anthropologist in 1930s Egypt, and Annie, a

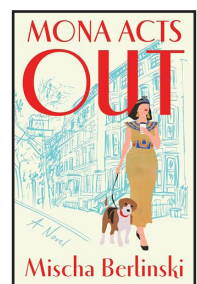
young woman working at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1970s New York. The narrative intertwines their stories as they navigate mysteries related to a stolen Egyptian artifact and a potential curse. Davis fills this novel with well-developed characters, historical details, art, and intrigue.



The Lost Story by Meg Shaffer

is a heartwarming fairy tale for adults, blending fantasy, mystery, and coming-of-age themes. It follows two former lost boys, Rafe and Jeremy, and a woman

named Emilie as they confront their pasts and embark on a quest to find Emilie's missing sister. The story, which features vivid descriptions and engaging characters, draws heavily from C.S. Lewis's *The Chronicles of Narnia*.



Mona Acts Out by Mischa Berlinski

is a novel that follows a celebrated actor, Mona Zahid, as she navigates a midlife crisis in the #MeToo era. The story, set during Thanksgiving, finds Mona grappling

with her mentor's downfall, her niece's role in it, and her own potential infidelity, all while preparing for a demanding role as Cleopatra. Darkly funny and deeply rooted in the world of theater, the story explores themes of power, betrayal and ambition.



Malecón, Havana, Cuba
by RenaatPeeters

MRJ Cuisine of our Heritage: Cuba

Friday, Nov. 7 following the Kabbalat Shabbat Service

The Men of Reform Judaism continue Beth-El's culinary expedition around the world on Friday, Nov. 7, with a new installment of the popular dinner series, "Cuisine of Our Heritage."

This time, congregants are invited to take a trip to Cuba, which has been home to Jewish life for centuries. Some historical accounts trace the first Jews reaching Cuba in 1492, aboard Christopher Columbus's ship, escaping the Spanish Inquisition.

In the early 1900s, a fresh wave of Jewish migration from Eastern Europe emerged in Cuba, building a thriving Jewish community of about 15,000. But between 1959 and 1961, amid Fidel Castro's revolution, about 94% of Cuba's Jews fled, many to the United States, bringing with them a rich culture and cuisine.

Vicky Abrams, mother of Beth-El Religious School Director Shoshana Abrams Kaikov, emigrated to the U.S. from Cuba and she will join us to share details about Jewish life and delicacies in Cuba.

And MRJ will cook up some of Cuba's most iconic Jewish dishes: garlic baked chicken, black beans, white rice, and a salad with pineapple. You won't want to miss it!

There is no charge for dinner, but donations are appreciated. Please RSVP to bethelofc@bethelfw.org so we can ensure there will be plenty of food for everyone.

Contributions

Archive Fund

For the Rapid Recovery of

Ben Rosenthal

· Judith Cohen

For the Rapid Recovery of

Scott Minker

· Judith Cohen

In Honor of Brigitte Altman's

100th Birthday

· Judith Cohen

In Honor Sonya Stenzler's

90th Birthday

· Judith Cohen

Floral Fund

In Memory of Marion Kaplan

· Eric & Phyllis Lawrence

Caring Congregation Fund

In Memory of Carol Miller

· Jeanne Ginsberg

In Memory of Steve Ginsberg

· Morton & Barbara Herman

In Memory of Cynthia Gilbert

· Morton & Barbara Herman

In Memory of Mort Meyerson

· Suzanne & Jack Greenman

Rabbi Mecklenburger's Discretionary Fund

In Memory of Dorothy Daniels Polsky

· Sandra Polsky

Rabbi Zimmerman's Discretionary Fund

In Honor of Tumbleweed Smith's

(Bob Lewis) induction into the

Texas Radio Hall of Fame

· Susan & Bob Lewis

Religious School Director's Discretionary Fund

In Memory of Steve Rapfogel

· Morton & Barbara Herman

Temple Fund

· Allen & Elaine Schuster

· Haley Kral

· Marcia P. Kurtz

In Memory of Clara Zack

· Susan & Bob Lewis

DeZavala School Supplies

· Tere Goldstein & John Lanier

· Daniel & Trudie Oshman

Save the Date ...

Jan. 9, 5 p.m.

Celebrate Edythe Cohen's 98th birthday

You're invited to a pre-Shabbat reception on Friday, Jan. 9, at 5 p.m. celebrating the 98th birthday of beloved congregant Edythe Cohen. During the service that will follow, Rabbi Zimmerman will say a blessing in her honor. Please come for this very special evening.

Beth-El Movie Night



September 5

Rated R
1h 35m

Saturday, Nov. 8

6 p.m. Free

This film presents a fictionalized, gripping account of the ABC sports crew at the 1972 Munich Olympics, the only network television crew able to provide live coverage of the hostage situation with Israeli athletes as it unfolded. Please stick around for a post-film discussion with Beth-El's Eric Kreindler, senior executive producer at NBC5



Yentl

Rated PG
2h 13m

Saturday, Dec. 6

6 p.m. Free

Let's revisit this 1983 romantic musical drama directed, co-written, co-produced, and starring Barbra Streisand. Based on Isaac Bashevis Singer's short story "Yentl the Yeshiva Boy," this is the story of a Jewish woman in Poland in 1904 who disguises herself as a man to receive an education in Talmudic law. Set to a musical score, "Yentl" is the kind of movie they don't really make anymore.

What Really Changed When Isaac Was Not Sacrificed?

Rabbi Seymour Rossel
Sunday, Nov. 9, 9:30 a.m.
Beth-El

There is much controversy about the meaning of Abraham attempting to sacrifice his only son, Isaac. Rabbi Rossel has his own theory – one you might find enlightening or challenging. Let's examine together what changed forever and why.

Rabbi Rossel is the author of 34 books, and he holds a B.A. in History with a Minor in Education from SMU in Dallas as well as an M.A. in education



Seymour Rossel

from NYU's Institute of Hebrew Culture. Rossel was ordained as a Rabbi in 2000 by the Westchester Bet Din. He has served as Dean of the

School of Education at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion as well as Curriculum Expert for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.



Central Market reps will share details about classes such as Couples Cook: Beef Wellington, Thursday, Dec. 4

Primetimers

.....Michelle Hartman

Thursday, Nov. 13, noon

Happy Fall, Primetimers! I hope by the time you read this our temperatures have finally cooled down and you're getting excited for our next program on Thursday, Nov. 13, in the Great Hall. We are welcoming **Central Market** this month so they can educate us on many of the classes they offer, from beginner to advanced and everything in between. Come see what you might be interested in. Lunch starts at noon and the program at 12:30 p.m.

Of course, lunch will be catered

from Central Market. For \$13 you get mixed berries, penne mozzarella salad, a chocolate chip cookie, and your choice of sandwich:

- Turkey
- Roast beef
- Tomato mozzarella

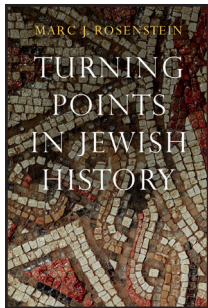
Make sure you save room for a couple of delicious fall treats! Please RSVP to Michelle Hartman at hartman8729@sbcglobal.net or 817-706-3451 by Sunday, Nov. 9.

November - 2025 - 5786

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Get the latest Beth-El News Sign up for Rabbi's weekly e-blasts by e-mailing: rabbiz@bethelfw.org					1 9 am Zoom Torah Study
2 9:30 am Religious School 9:30 am Modern Concerns in Jewish Law	3	4 1:30 pm Mahjong 12 pm Jewish Puzzle 6 pm Evening Minyan	5 9:30 Archives Meeting 11 am Gift Shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan	6 6 pm Evening Minyan	7 5:30 pm Tot Shabbat 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service MRJ Cuisine of our Heritage: Cuba	8 9 am Zoom Torah Study 6pm Movie Night: "September 5"
9 9:30 am Religious School 9:30 am What Really Changed ... Sacrificed? 10:45 am MRJ meeting	10	11 TEMPLE OFFICE CLOSED	12 9:30 Archives Meeting 11 am Gift Shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan	13 12 pm Primetimers 6 pm Evening Minyan	14 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	15 9 am Zoom Torah Study 10:30 am Shabbat Morning of Song, Study and Prayer at Rabbi Zimmerman's house
16 9:30 am Religious School 10 am Turning Points 10 am WRJ Annual Brunch	17 7 pm Board Meeting	18 1:30 pm Mahjong 12 pm Jewish Puzzle 6 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm Curious about Conversion	19 9:30 Archives Meeting 11 am Gift Shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan	20 6 pm Evening Minyan	21 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	22 9 am Zoom Torah Study 10 am Makom Shelanu
23 No Religious School MRJ Latke Cook-in	24	25 1:30 pm Mahjong	26 11 am Gift Shop open	27 TEMPLE OFFICE CLOSED	28 TEMPLE OFFICE CLOSED 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	29 9 am Zoom Torah Study
30 No Religious School	Dec. 1	2 1:30 pm Mahjong 12 pm Jewish Puzzle 6 pm Evening Minyan	3 9:30 Archives Meeting 11 am Gift Shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan	4 6 pm Evening Minyan	5 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	6 9 am Zoom Torah Study 10:30 am Shabbat Morning of Song, Study and Prayer at Rabbi Zimmerman's house 6pm Movie Night: "Yentl"

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 Sunday, 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)

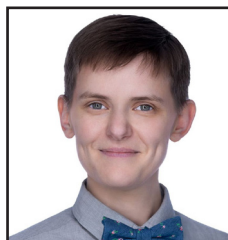
Organ Donation

Sunday, Nov. 2, 9:30 a.m.

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.

In the next class, we will explore the *halakhic* debates around organ donation and the questions that lie at the intersection of medicine, ethics, and Jewish law.

What does it mean to save a life when technology can sustain the body long after the soul seems to have departed?



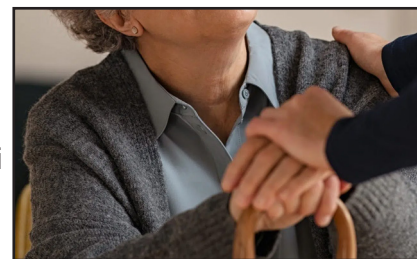
puck glass

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.



Beth-Elements Monthly Photo Contest

**Do you attend the functions mentioned in the bulletin?
Send in your photographs!**

The next time you are at a Beth-El function, pull out your phone and take some candid photos of your friends and family — or anything Beth-El, and email them to Liz Manion: eliz_manion@att.net

The winners will get their photos published in the next issue of *Beth-Elements*!

Your photos must be submitted by the 15th of the month and include a caption to be eligible for publication.





Read2Win

..... Jim Stanton

Reading Mentoring Program

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. Reading mentors will be paired with first graders at Westcliff Elementary on South Drive, working with one or two children for 30 minutes each.

A 90-minute training session will prepare you to help a child improve their reading skills. 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.

People of the Book

..... Sheryl Levy

Tuesday, Dec. 16, 10 a.m., Beth-El Library



The Thread Collectors

by Alyson Richman and Shaunna J. Edwards

The Thread Collectors is the story of two families, a slave family and a Jewish family

during the Civil War. I will be leading the discussion.

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.

Join us for the WRJ Annual Brunch

Bingo

Benefiting Beth El's Religious School and Camperships

BINGO! BRUNCH! AUCTION!
RAFFLE! PRIZES!

Sunday, November 16th
9:30 to Noon
Beth El Congregation

\$65 per person includes brunch
and a bingo card.

Additional levels of support available.

For more information and to join the fun,
please reach out to
WRJBingoBrunch@gmail.com

Members & Non-Members Welcome



Suggested Levels of Support

\$1,000+ Full Card Philanthropist

\$500-999 4-Corner Supporter

\$250-499 Pattern Patron

\$65-249 Dauber Donor

To get tickets or donate,
scan the QR code
or visit:

<https://bethelfw.shulcloud.com/form/the-2025-wrj-annual-brunch.html>

Then and Now: *"The Sound of Texas" Captures Shofar Notes from Beth-El*

Hollace Ava Weiner, Temple Archivist



Hollace Weiner

shofar echoed for the first time at Beth-El's new synagogue on Briarhaven Road. During the intervening hours, several hundred congregants walked more than seven miles from the old Temple to the new, carrying five Torahs. Singing and kibbitzing, they metaphorically walked in the steps of their ancestors to their next place of worship.

The sounds of the shofar became part of "The Sound of Texas," a syndicated radio show broadcast to small towns across the state since 1969. The program is produced, directed, recorded, and narrated

At 8 a.m. on Aug. 13, 2000, the shofar sounded for the last time at Beth-El's 80-year-old Temple on W. Broadway Avenue.

Around noon, a blast from the

by seasoned journalist and longtime Beth-El congregant Bob Lewis, better known by his media moniker, Tumbleweed Smith.

At age 90, Tumbleweed still broadcasts five days a week and writes a weekly newspaper column. On Nov. 1, he was inducted into the Texas Radio Hall of Fame in Kilgore. In mid-October, he was in The

Woodlands accepting a Media Award from the Country Music Association of Texas. Ten years ago, he was honored with a bronze star on the Fort Worth Stockyards Trail of Fame.

His 20-minute radio documentary, "Texas Jews Go to Cuba," won a statuette and Gold Award of Excellence from the Academy of Interactive and Visual Awards. It describes the Texas Jewish Historical Society's (TJHS)

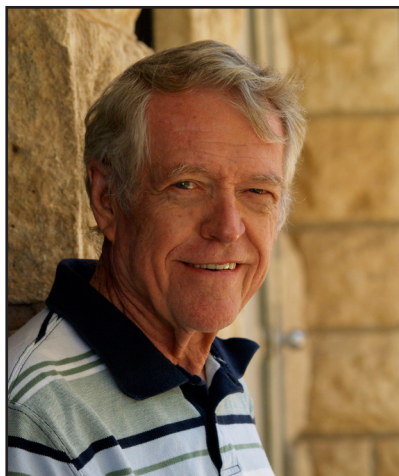
2014 humanitarian trip to Jewish institutions in Cuba.

Tumbleweed's wife, Susan Zack Lewis, is a past president of the TJHS and both

are board members for life. Susan is Tumbleweed's sound engineer, ad manager, and proofreader for his books and CDs. A 30-minute audio program, "It's Fun to Be Jewish," is chock full of Texas twangs and Yiddish humor. Tumbleweed routinely makes personal appearances at civic clubs and corporate events. His Texana collection of more than 14,000 oral histories will become part of the Texas Archives at Baylor University in Waco.

Tumbleweed and Susan are the only Jewish family in Big Spring, a county seat 258 miles west of Fort Worth. Despite the distance, they attend services often. Their two grown sons, Kevin and Brian Zack (BZ) Lewis became b'nai mitzvah at Beth-El in 1977 and 1981 — thanks to the patient, persistent, long-distance tutoring of Rabbi Bob Schur (z'l).

Mazel Tov to Tumbleweed and Susan for incorporating Judaism into their lives and for recording "The Sounds of Texas."



Bob Lewis, aka Tumbleweed Smith, was inducted into the Texas Radio Hall of Fame on Nov. 1

Scan the QR code with your smart phone to play a recording of "The Sounds of Texas" broadcast when Beth-El's Torahs were carried to their new home, or visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/3rb6k3ap>



Finding Our Place in the Jewish Puzzle of Life:

A Search for Personal Theology with Rabbi Zimmerman

Tuesdays, Nov. 4 and 18, 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.

Oct. 7 Commemoration

On Oct. 16, The Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County sponsored a meaningful community commemoration for the victims of the Oct. 7, 2023, attacks and honored those who served.

A crowd of 100 people were in attendance, including two IDF soldiers who spoke passionately about how much they appreciated our support.

Am Yisrael Chai!



Barry Abels, Director of The Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County



Howard Rosenthal, Associate Director of The Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County

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Yahrzeits

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

November 14

Michael Archenhold
Louis Barnett
Edith Granek
Richard Heniford
Gerald Kelfer
Jerome Lamensdorf
Henry Luskey
Mary Jane Miller
Emily V. Pew
Gerald Pollack
Shaol Pozez
Martha Rousch
Norma Schlinger
Roman Shloss
Ronald Slotter
Isaac Suder

November 21

Delsie Gans Altman
Ethel Appleman
Harris Belford
Donald Blank
Patti Blank
Meredith R. Carb, Jr.
Judith Lee Feinberg
Martine Ginsburg
Alan Gold
Morris Kelfer
Mollie Kessel
Robert Koslow
Michael J. Moore
Herman Isaac Morris
Andrew Roux
Hans Joachim Thoma

November 28

Stanley Alan Bihari
Fred Bihari
Bernard M. Brooks
Louis Samuel Cristol
Annette Dover
Moshe Epstein
Leonard Frank
Norman Goldin
Earl Henken
Laszlo Kiss
Ruth Lehmann
Margaret Lemmons
Anna Lesnick
Sam Levine
Harriet Ann Lopin
Edgar J. Myers
Louise Nusbaum
Charles W. Post
Lillian Raimey
Ben H. Rosenthal
Carolyn S. Rubin
Arnold Schweitzer
Anita Suby

December 5

Louis Appleman
Jack Arensberg
Michelle Levin Asperi
Dr. Donald M. Cohen
Irene Polan Cohen
Fanchon Florsheim
Hertha Szigeti Friedman
Hans Friedman
Stephen Goldman
Douglas Hamrick
Pearl Hayman
Veronka John-Steiner
Henry Kaplan
Adrienne Kline
Barbara Korman
Judith Gerrick Morris
Jack Roberts
Dorothy Steinman
William Steinman
Nellie Van Coevorden



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:
shoshanaikaikov@bethelfw.org

Music Director, John Sauvey: jesbaritone@gmail.com

Building Manager, Jaime Rivera: cust@bethelfw.org

Student Cantor: Sam Chamberlin

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· 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**

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additional forms.

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