

Beth-Elements

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



December 2025-January 2026

*Chanukah begins
at sunset ~5:22 p.m.
on Sunday, Dec. 14*



Brian Zimmerman, Rabbi

Divrei Torah

..... Rabbi Brian Zimmerman

As millions of Americans awaited the end to a government shutdown, living on pennies

as available funds were withheld, it was easy to feel helpless. And as one of the richest nations in the world used food as a political weapon, it was easy to feel powerless.

But as our faith reminds us, we have within our hands the power to save lives.

Recent events have reminded us that now more than ever our local support systems such as the DRC (the Day Resource Center for the Homeless), Jewish Family Services, and the Tarrant Area Food Bank are the only thing standing between life and death for many families in our county.

In our own neighborhood, there are those who devote themselves daily to providing that extra bag of food that can make the difference.

For years, Arborlawn United Methodist

Church has provided a weekly food pick up for all who are in need. Every Monday, volunteers prepare bags for Tuesday distribution to any in need.

I am proud to share that WRJ is partnering with Arborlawn to support their Food Pantry. We are requesting that Temple members assist in filling the Food Pantry by bringing a bag of nonperishable food as often as possible.

You can drop the bags off on a Friday night, Sunday morning, or any day the Temple office is open.

The most needed items include canned soups, tuna, beans, rice, peanut butter, pasta, tomato sauce, macaroni and cheese, cereal, oatmeal, and canned fruits and

vegetables.

Beginning this December, I encourage you to bring as much food as possible to Temple for donation. Our volunteers will bring those bags to Arborlawn Methodist Church across the street every Monday so they can be sorted and handed out on Tuesdays.

Divrei Torah continues on page 2

Tzedakah exalts a nation

— Proverbs 14:34

And the work of tzedakah shall bring peace

— Isaiah 32:17

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, Dec. 5

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

Saturday, Dec. 6

Shabbat Morning of Song, Study and Prayer at Rabbi Zimmerman's house with Rabbi Zimmerman and Student Cantor Sam Chamberlin 10:30 a.m.
All are welcome, but please RSVP in advance.

Friday, Dec. 12

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

Friday, Dec. 19

Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Zimmerman and Caroline Slotter 6:15 p.m.
MRJ Latke Chanukah Dinner to follow.
Please see page 4 for more information.

Friday, Dec. 26

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

Friday, Jan. 2

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

Friday, Jan. 9

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

Worship Services continue on page 2



Michael Appleman

President's Message

..... Temple President Michael Appleman

"Chanukah,
Oh Chanukah.
Come light the
menorah!"

This time of year, there are more topics for a Bulletin article than I know what to do with. This is a good problem to have. Even though it is not even Thanksgiving yet, let's look ahead to Chanukah.

Thanksgiving, by the way, is my favorite holiday and I think it really gets short-changed. Halloween decorations seem to go up right after Labor Day, and Christmas lights go up the moment Halloween comes down. The lights on some of my neighbors' houses are already lit! My children agree that Thanksgiving deserves greater respect. But I digress.

Chanukah. Or Hanukkah. The Festival of Lights celebrates the miracle of the tiny cruse of oil that burned not for one night, but eight. The cruse that Antiochus' army missed when they destroyed the temple. The cruse that the Maccabees found when rebuilding and rededicating the temple after vanquishing our Greek foes. The oil that G-d extended, which allowed fire to burn while more oil, holy and pure and right for religious ritual and sacrifice in the restored temple, was prepared and summoned from the proper sources.

Or so the story goes. I wonder

whether we would be celebrating like we do if Amazon was around back then! And whether the Maccabees should have been surprised. After all, a bush had burned without being consumed several hundred years before, so G-d had already played those cards. But why ruin a good story?

I have written in this space previously about rededicating ourselves. Chanukah is another opportunity to do so. Stand up for what is right, like the Maccabees. Do what you can, but build on what you do. It only takes one candle to transform darkness into light, but one candle is good for today. Tomorrow may need two. And so on. Finally, shine your light outward, by performing mitzvahs not only for G-d, but for our community, as well.

Speaking of mitzvahs, I want to thank our supportive donors whose contributions will allow us to begin Phase One of our kitchen repair and remodeling project. Though the kitchen's rebuilding may not have the same significance as the Maccabees' restoration of the temple, we, a grateful congregation, will be better able to celebrate our faith and traditions with proper refreshments and strengthen our sense of community because of their dedication and generosity.

Happy Thanksgiving. Happy Chanukah. And happy (secular) new year.

Celebrate Edythe Cohen's Birthday!

Jan. 9, 5 p.m.

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.

Divrei Torah

(continued from page 1)

If you are interested in volunteering, Food Pantry hours of operation are Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-noon. Volunteers are warmly welcomed, and the church is thrilled to have Jewish friends from across the street volunteering! Please contact Mimi Zimmerman, mimizimmerman123@gmail.com or 214-938-8504, if you'd like to volunteer.

As Jews, our faith is clear. We have the power to save a life when others will not. The pillars of a society are only strong when righteousness (Tzedakah) is a reality through the work of our hands and our hearts. Thank you in advance for this deed of loving kindness and generosity.

Worship Services

(continued from page 1)

Friday, Jan. 16

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

Saturday, Jan. 17

Shabbat Morning of Song, Study and Prayer at Rabbi Zimmerman's house with Rabbi Zimmerman and Student Cantor Sam Chamberlin..... 10:30 a.m.
All are welcome, but please RSVP in advance.

Sunday, Jan. 18

Community MLK Service at Carter CME with Rabbi Zimmerman and Student Cantor Sam Chamberlin (See p. 9)..... 6 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 23

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

Friday, Jan. 30

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

Saturday, Jan. 31

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

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



Shoshana Abrams Kaikov

Religious School

Education Director, Cantor Shoshana Abrams Kaikov

As the days grow shorter and the air turns colder, our Jewish calendar beckons us to

bring more light into the world. Chanukah arrives not only as a celebration of miracles long ago, but as a reminder that even a single spark of goodness, kindness, or faith can illuminate the darkness.

Several weeks ago, I sat with a group of our Religious School students and together we explored the question, "How can you bring light into the world?"

One child immediately answered, "I can be kinder to my brother." Another offered, "I can help someone in need." And a third said, with a big grin, "I can make people smile."

Simple answers, but profoundly true. I stood there thinking: This is Chanukah.

It isn't only about the oil that lasted eight days; Chanukah is also about the courage to light the first candle when we're not sure it will last. It's about believing that our small sparks of kindness and faith can brighten the world far beyond what we imagine.

Each week in our Religious School, I see those sparks everywhere — when students sing and dance with joy in *Tefillah*, when teachers share Torah in creative and meaningful ways, when an older student bends down to help a younger one find the right page in the siddur. This is what it looks like when light grows from one small flame to many.

The Maccabees didn't wait until they had enough oil to guarantee success; they lit what they had, and that courage became their miracle. Our children are learning to do the same, bringing light

even when it feels dark, leading with compassion, and trusting that their actions matter.

As we gather this Chanukah to light the candles, may we see in each flame the reflection of the light our children already bring to our community. May their curiosity, joy, and kindness remind us that the true miracle of Chanukah isn't only that the oil lasted, it's that someone lit the flame in the first place.

I look forward to celebrating Chanukah with each of you at Beth-El! Be sure to read our weekly family emails and visit our Beth-El Religious School Facebook Parent Group Page for details about our upcoming celebrations — the "Hanukkah Hoopla" (Dec. 14), Guitar-Led Chanukah Tot Shabbat (Dec. 19), and the Congregational Chanukah Celebration (Dec. 19).

Chag Urim Sameach!



Religious School students and teachers show signs of gratitude for blessings — and pie. ;-)

Holiday Events:

Hanukkah Hoopla

Dec. 14

During Religious School

Games, arts and crafts, sufganiyot, candle lighting, and dreidel making contest

Tot Shabbat

Ages 0-6

Dec. 19, 5:30 p.m.

See the weekly family emails and visit our Beth-El Religious School Facebook Parent Group Page For more information on these events.



Ruth Roper



Marilyn Stenzler

Women of Reform Judaism

WRJ Co-Presidents Ruth Roper and Marilyn Stenzler

Wow, what an amazing Annual Brunch in November. We couldn't have done it without the wonderful work of our Annual Brunch Committee. Thank you to them, and to all who attended, donated, and bought items

at the silent auction. Thanks to your generosity, we will be able to continue to contribute at least \$12,000 to Religious School and \$4,000 to camperships, and maybe even more!

Our next event will be **Sunday, Dec. 21**, at noon in the Beth-El library. This is a members' only event and we are serving a complimentary lunch for all who attend. If you're not a WRJ member yet, please sign up on the Beth-El website under the WRJ page. Please bring a book to exchange as well as a batch of your favorite cookies! We will trade our

books, white-elephant style, and everyone gets to take home a variety of wonderful cookies. Keep an eye out for the Punchbowl invitation.

Our January event is not to be missed. It is also a members' only event, so sign up for WRJ right away if you haven't already. We have Kay Thibodeaux, owner-operator of The Touring Chocolatier, coming to teach us the history of chocolate, how to taste for quality chocolate, and we will each make six chocolate truffles to take home (or eat while were there, lol)! Usual cost for this event is \$40 per person but thanks to WRJ subsidies, it will only be \$20 per person. The chocolate class will be **Sunday, Jan. 18**, from 9:45-11:45 a.m. in the Great Hall. Be on the lookout for your invitation in January. We need a full and accurate count of attendees by Thursday,



WRJ Annual Brunch Committee from left: Jen Appleman, Melissa Crowley, Madolin Rosenthal, Adele Reeder Hollander, Erica Bekerman, Nikki Slobodin (assisted committee), Shayna Coyne (assisted committee), not pictured: Drew Brigati

Jan. 8, so Kay can bring the necessary supplies. Late RSVPs will not be accepted. If you have any questions, contact Jeanie Rosenblum at jeanierosenblum@gmail.com.

We hope you all have a wonderful Chanukah and secular New Year. Be sure to **stop by the Gift Shop** any Sunday during Religious School, but especially on **Sunday, Dec. 14, for our Tax-Free Day**. All profits go to support Religious School and summer camperships. Amazon can't compete with that!



Eric Lawrence

Men of Reform Judaism

MRJ President Eric Lawrence

A big thank you to all involved in "The Cuisine of Our Heritage" dinner —

especially Jeff Kaitcer for planning it, Marty Robinson for directing the kitchen, and Vicky Abrams for sharing her Cuban Jewish family experience with us. Thanks also to Michael Ross, Billy Feitelson, Ben Isgur, Jerry Stein, Bruce Weiner, David Levine, Nick Montroll, and Peter Levy.

Looking forward, MRJ's next big effort is our mass production of latkes. We will prepare and cook thousands of these holiday treats. Watch the Temple

email blasts for a link to order latkes by the dozen. Pickup date will be Sunday, Dec. 14.

Speaking of holiday traditions, **Dec. 24 will be our Annual Chinese Dinner and Trivia Night**. We are planning an interesting change to the trivia contest, and it should be a great event. You don't want to miss it. Please RSVP.

As we do every year, MRJ will be catering a **luncheon for the Jewish War Veterans on Sunday, Jan. 11**. It is our honor to do so.

My sincere thanks to all our MRJ members. Without their efforts, none of this is possible.



MRJ Chanukah Dinner

Friday, Dec. 19
following 6:15 p.m. Shabbat service

Join us for our annual MRJ Shabbat Chanukah Dinner, right after the Chanukah Shabbat service. We'll enjoy chicken, salad, and those amazing MRJ latkes — plus jelly donuts.

2025 WRJ Annual Donor Brunch

Full Card Philanthropists

Ashli Blumenfeld
Ruth Roper
Madolin Rosenthal
Rozanne Rosenthal
Marilyn Stenzler

4-Corner Supporters

Louise Appleman Barbara Bushner Jane Oderberg
Yolanda Becker Kim Factor Hollace Weiner

Pattern Patrons

Felice Anspacher	Julie Goldstein	Carol Minker
Jen Appleman	Sandy Hollander	Beverly Ross
Drew Brigati	Joan Katz	Susan Schultz
Joan Brotman	Laurie Kelfer	Jude Sloter
Margie Frankel	Phyllis Levy	Rabbi & Mimi Zimmerman
	Ann Mecklenburger	

Dauber Donors

Vicky Abrams	Jeanne Ginsberg	Violet Larsen	Jeanie Rosenblum
Ellen Adrian	Julia Gorfain	Leah Lavine	Debra Rosenthal
Rina Arnold	Judie B. Greenman	Phyllis Lawrence	Chava Rousch-Carlisle
Erica Bekerman	Michelle Hartman	Pia Lederman	Marilyn Rubin
Robertta Bellet	Marilyn Hochberger McGee	Sheryl Levy	Ellen Rubinson
Leslie Brezman	Linda Hochster	Susan Lewis	Hilary Ryder
Martha Brown	Ellen Hoffman	Liz Manion	Cindy Simon
Melody Bustillos	Adele Hollander	Janis Meyerson	Sherry Simon
Denae Chance	Randee Kaitcer	Sherry Oden	Faye Slater
Sarina Clearfield	Deborah Kelfer	Trudie Oshman	Jenny Solomon
Shayna Coyne	Caroline Kethley	Marcy Phillips	Sonja Stein
Melissa Crowley	Ilana Knust	Jessica Poole	Kelly Traeger
Marjorie Deutsch	Fran Kreindler	Stefanie Rapisand	Laurie Werner
Lauren Epstein	Marcia Kurtz	Michelle Reynolds	

Donations as of November 8th

Contributions

Rabbi Zimmerman's Discretionary Fund

In Honor of Rabbi Zimmerman
· Rita Copperman
In Honor of Rabbi Zimmerman
· Sheri Allen
In Memory of Cynthia Gilbert
· David & Barash, Nan, and
Julia & Will Schwartz

Temple Fund

In gratitude for online services
· Stephen Friedman
In Honor of Billy Rosenthal's
75th Birthday
· Sharon & Steven Blumenfeld
In Honor of a Speedy Recovery for
Fred Reynolds
· Doug & Ruth Roper
In Honor of Rabbi Zimmerman
· William Koss
In Memory of Dr. Sue Gena Lurie
· Susan Schooner
In Memory of Dr. Sue Gena Lurie
· Russ & Susan Schultz
In Memory of Steve Rapfogel
· Robert Rapfogel

WRJ

To help with membership assistance
· Susan & Bob Lewis

DeZavala School Supplies

· Bruce & Hollace Weiner

Please note: contributions made after the 10th of the month will appear in the next bulletin.

Beth-El Wish List: Kitchen Remodeling Project

Thank you to a generous anonymous donor who **honored Billy Rosenthal**, as well as to **donors Steven Brown and Steve Katten**, for their contributions toward Phase One of the kitchen remodel-

ing project. Their support will allow us to replace the outdated walk-in refrigerator and the non-functioning freezer.

We will need to purchase all new commercial kitchen appliances so we

welcome further donations.

For any questions, please contact Laurie Kelfer 817-821-7422 or Laurie.kelfer@cbdfw.com

December - 2025 - 5786

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov. 30 No Religious School	1	2 12 pm Jewish Puzzle Of Life 1:30 pm Mahjong in the Library 6 pm Evening Minyan	3 9:30 am Archives Meeting 11 am-2 pm Gift shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan	4 6 pm Evening Minyan	5 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Early Shabbat Service	6 9 am Zoom Torah Study 10:30 am Shabbat Song, Study and Lunch at Zimmerman home 6 pm Movie Night "Ventl"
7 MRJ Latke Cook-in 9:30 am Religious School 9:30 am Sunday Conversations with Rabbi Mecklenburger	8 7 pm Board Meeting	9 1:30 pm Mahjong in the Library 6 pm Evening Minyan	10 9:30 Archives Meeting 11 am-2 pm Gift shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan	11 12 pm PrimeTimers Event 6 pm Evening Minyan	12 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Early Shabbat Service 8 pm FWFTY Lock-In	13 9 am Zoom Torah Study
14 CHANUKAH First Night 9:30 am Religious School Hanukkah Hoopla	15 CHANUKAH	16 CHANUKAH 10 am People of the Book: "The Thread Collectors" 12 pm Jewish Puzzle Of Life 1:30 pm Mahjong in the Library 6 pm Evening Minyan	17 CHANUKAH 9:30 Archives Meeting 11 am-2 pm Gift shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan	18 CHANUKAH 6 pm Evening Minyan	19 CHANUKAH 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Early Shabbat Service Temple Chanukah Family Dinner	20 CHANUKAH 9 am Zoom Torah Study
21 CHANUKAH No Religious School 12 pm WRJ Books and Cookie Exchange	22 CHANUKAH	23 1:30 pm Mahjong in the Library	24 6 pm MRJ Chinese Dinner and Trivia Night 9:30 Archives Meeting	25 TEMPLE OFFICE CLOSED	26 TEMPLE OFFICE CLOSED 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Early Shabbat	27 9 am Zoom Torah Study
28 No Religious School	29	30 1:30 pm Mahjong in the Library	31 9:30 Archives Meeting			

January - 2026 - 5786

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Sign up for Rabbi's weekly e-blasts for the latest Beth-El News! e-mail: rabbiz@bethelfw.org			1 New Years Day TEMPLE OFFICE CLOSED	2 5:30 pm Tot Shabbat 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Shabbat Service	3 9 am Zoom Torah Study
4 No Religious School	5	6 1:30 pm Mahjong in the Library 6 pm Evening Minyan	7 9:30 Archives Meeting 11 am-2 pm Gift shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan	8 12 pm PrimeTimers 6 pm Evening Minyan	9 5 pm pre-Shabbat reception celebrating Edythe Cohen's Birthday 6:15 pm Kabbalat Early Shabbat Service	10 9 am Zoom Torah Study
11 9:30 am Religious School 9:30 am Sunday Conversations with Rabbi Mecklenburger	12 7 pm Board Meeting	13 12 pm Jewish Puzzle of Life 1:30 pm Mahjong in the Library 6 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm Curious About Conversion Class	14 9:30 Archives Meeting 11 am-2 pm Gift shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan	15 6 pm Evening Minyan	16 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Early Shabbat Service	17 9 am Zoom Torah Study 10:30 am Shabbat Song, Study and Lunch at Zimmerman home
18 9:15 am-12:30 pm Gift shop open 9:30 am Religious School	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day TEMPLE OFFICE CLOSED	20 12 pm Jewish Puzzle of Life 1:30 pm Mahjong in the Library 6 pm Evening Minyan	21 9:30 Archives Meeting 11 am-2 pm Gift shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan	22 6 pm Evening Minyan	23 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Early Shabbat	24 9 am Zoom Torah Study
25 9:30 am Community Mitzvah Day 9:30 am Religious School	26	27 6 pm Evening Minyan	28 9:30 Archives Meeting 11 am-2 pm Gift shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan	29 6 pm Evening Minyan	30 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Early Shabbat	31 9 am Zoom Torah Study 10 am Makom Shelanu at Beth El

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

Beth-El Movie Night



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.

No charge and dinner will be provided. Please RSVP in advance.

Post-film discussion led by Rabbi Zimmerman and Student Cantor Sam Chamberlin.

Primetimers

Michelle Hartman

Thursday, Dec. 11, & Jan. 8, at noon

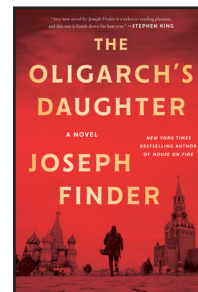
Hello Primetimers and Happy Chanukah! We have some great programs to look forward to this winter. On Thursday, Dec. 11, at noon we'll meet with a representative from the **TCU Silver Frogs** to go over many of the programs, shared interest groups, special events, and travel opportunities they have to offer all of us who are 55 and up! Lunch will be catered by Jason's Deli, or you can bring your own. For \$12, you get chips, a brownie, and your choice of sandwich: Chicken salad, Roast beef, or Veggie (comes with fruit instead of chips)

We will share some wonderful treats, so be sure to save some room! RSVP by Sunday, Dec. 7.

On Thursday, Jan. 8, at noon, **Ashley Atkins from Bedford Estates Senior Living** will join us for a frank discussion on dementia. More details about the program and lunch will be sent out via email and a Punchbowl invitation in mid-December. To sign up for the events or to get on our email list, contact Michelle Hartman at 817-706-3451 or hartman8729@sbcglobal.net. Everyone is welcome to join Primetimers, regardless of age.

Library Reviews

Margie Zentner



The Oligarch's Daughter

by Joseph Finder

is a breakneck thriller with a dash of romance. Paul Brightman is a Wall Street star who falls in love with Tatyana, a photographer. Unaware that Tatyana's father is a powerful Russian oligarch, Paul eventually finds himself caught between U.S. intelligence agencies and Russian operatives, and he must unravel a decades-old conspiracy in order to survive.



The Baker of Lost Memories

by Shirley Russak Wachtel

is a work of historical fiction told in dual timelines. It follows Lena, a young woman growing up in 1960s Brooklyn, her parents, who lived in Poland before World War II, and Ruby, the older sister Lena never knew. The novel explores the broken bonds of family and past trauma.



Life Hacks for a Little Alien

by Alice Franklin

will make you laugh, tear up, and feel hopeful. The debut novel follows a lonely little girl who didn't understand the world the way other children did. But when a late-night TV special introduces her to a mysterious, ancient manuscript, she and her only friend, Bobby, decide they must find this strange book. And that decision changes everything. *Life Hacks* isn't just helpful for a fictional alien, it can help readers understand the world from a different perspective.



BEJY enjoyed a late night boba tea at Kung Fu Boba after a wonderful family Havdallah.

FWFTY Sleepover

Chanukah Sleepover

Friday-Saturday, Dec. 12-13, 8 p.m.

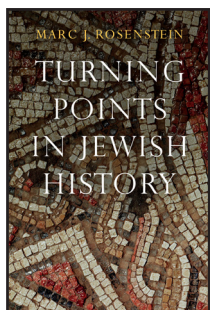
We'll meet at Beth-El at 8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 12, and enjoy a night packed with fun, food, and friendship.

Activities include: Velvet Taco run; a scavenger hunt; Maccabee noodle war; "That Cocoa Thing"; slime surprises; Dollar Tree white elephant; and more!

For more information and to RSVP in advance (required), email rabbiz@bethelfw.org

Sunday Conversations

Turning Points in Jewish History



**An Adult Discussion
with Rabbi Ralph
Mecklenburger
Sunday, Dec. 7 and
Jan. 11, 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.

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.

Interfaith MLK Commemoration and Service

Sunday, Jan. 18, 6 p.m.

Join Rabbi Zimmerman and Student Cantor Sam Chamberlin for a community commemoration and service honoring the legacy of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. on Sunday,

Jan. 18, at Carter CME Church, 4601 Wichita St, Fort Worth. Bring your friends. All are welcome!

Sponsored by the Faith and Justice coalition of Tarrant County

Beth-El to Host Community Mitzvah Day

Jim Stanton

Sunday, Jan. 25, 10 a.m.

On Jan. 25, Beth-El will proudly host this year's Community Mitzvah Day — a day when hearts and hands from across six Tarrant County synagogues come together to bring goodness into the world through acts of kindness and service. Our Religious School students, teachers, and volunteers will spend the morning immersed in meaningful mitzvah projects along with peers from across the Jewish community.

Mitzvah Day will begin with a musical welcome assembly and a Torah story play performed by students. These events will be followed by a variety of creative mitzvah activities, including assembling hygiene kits for the homeless, creating friendship bracelets, collecting and donating children's books, crafting

Jewish-themed art, designing heartfelt cards, and even making bath bombs to welcome guests with care. New this year, our youngest learners will have their own special space to participate in age-appropriate mitzvah projects.

Adults can participate by donating blood, joining a community knitting project, or attending a unique session on how to use ChatGPT.

To volunteer, please contact the Jewish Federation 817-569-0892.

Community Mitzvah Day is made possible through the generous financial support of the Dan Danciger/Fort Worth Hebrew Day School Supporting Foundation and the Jobe and Helen Richards Foundation, Chicotsky Family Trustees, with promotional support from the Federation.



Finding Our Place in the Jewish Puzzle of Life

**A Search for Personal Theology
with Rabbi Zimmerman**

Tuesdays, Dec. 2 & 16 and Jan. 13 & 20, 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.

Then and Now: Jewish Heritage Day at the Stock Show

Hollace Ava Weiner, Fort Worth Jewish Archives



Hollace Weiner

Jews may not fit the cowboy stereotype, yet local members of the tribe have always been at home on the range — especially at the Fort Worth Stock

Show. More than a century ago, Fort Worth's Jewish Monitor ran a banner headline urging readers to attend the Stock Show.

Texas native Frances Rosenthal Kallison, born in Fort Worth in 1908, learned to ride by hopping on the horses that hauled her father's furniture wagons to his Houston Street store. In 2016, she became the first (and only) Jewish woman in the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame. Cobbler Abraham Luskey, who made boots for the czar's army, transitioned to cowboy boots upon his arrival in Cowtown in 1911. In 2016, the multigenerational Luskey family was inducted into the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame. In 2015, Rabbi Andrew Bloom of Congregation Ahavath Sholom became the first Jewish clergyman to deliver an invocation at the Stock Show Rodeo. At rodeos throughout Stock Show history, men of the cloth most often ended their invocations (uncomfortably for us) "in Jesus name." But not that night.

The Stock Show's first-ever Jewish Heritage Day will be this season. The Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County is selling a block of tickets to the afternoon rodeo at Dickies Arena.

Among Fort Worth's longtime rodeo aficionados are the Greenman twins, Bob and Dick, who grew up riding horses on South Arlington's unpaved roads, branding cattle at the family's ranch — the Lazy J. Jim Cohen rodeoed while at

Western Hills High in the 1970s. His parents, Edythe and Noel Cohen, operated the Rodeo Shop on Camp Bowie W., at one time the nation's

largest wholesale manufacturer of chaps.

The Hochster family's Westmoor Manufacturing introduced the Panhandle Slim label and pearl-snap shirts into western wardrobes. Today, Westmoor is a third-generation business. Its co-founder, Ernest Hochster (1922-2006), is in the Western Image Hall of Fame. Another third-generation business, the Rosenthal family's Standard Meat Co., is headquartered in the landmark original offices of the Swift & Co. meatpacking plant, which opened in 1902. More recently, Liz Blitzer moved her premium hay enterprise, Hay



Top, "The Jewish Monitor" from March 5, 1920; Frances Kallison on her horse Bill, circa 1943.

USA, from California to Weatherford in 1993.

In the distant past, Russian immigrant Sam Rosen built houses for families working at Swift and Armour's meatpacking plants north of the Stockyards.

Historically and presently, the Stock Show has been part of our local heritage.



Healing Prayers and Visits

If you know someone at home or in the hospital who could use a visit from the Rabbi or another Temple member, or if you have the name of an ill family member or friend that you would like to be read aloud at our Shabbat services, call the Temple office or go directly

to our website: **Community, Mi She-beirach/Prayer and Visit Request.**

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

Thanks in advance for your help.

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

December 12

Meyer Ander
Ann D. Aston
Lorraine Bellet
Benjamin Chance
Henry P. Florsheim, Jr
Ben M. Gilbert
Dorris Q. Katten
Irene Levey
Marcus Lopin
Morris Miller
Elaine Mothner
Alex Rosenthal
Bernard "Bubba" Rubin
Pauline Schweitzer
Henriette Voet
William Westermann

December 19

Fortune Babani
Phyllis Beck
Sidney Berenzweig
Marie Friedman Berger
Carl Boxer
David Eisenman
Frank Greenbaum
Margaret Jo Massey
Louise Menscher
Harry Sam Miller
Ethel Minker
Peggy Norris
Margarete Reitman
Sam Rosen
Barbara Rubin
Gregory Upshaw
Berniece "Beanie" Weil

December 26

Louis Henry Altman
Flora Jean Campbell
Robert Diamond
Gaye Felder
Sidney Frolkis
Harold Gilbert
Sarah Gordon
Goldie Greenbaum
Ernest Hochster
Cary Isenberg
Rose Anolik Kamber
Alvin Kaplan
Tilly Kotkin
Leo Lipshitz
Sandra Luskey
Bob Mothner
Sol Nackson
Marsha Oderberg
Hyman Robins
Harold Rosen
Ephraim G. Rosen
Jose Silva
Judith Solomon
Sidney Strassman

January 2

Marie Adams
Ellen Skillen Alkon
Frank Appleman
Harriet Boxer
Dr. Sidney Cohen
Barbara Goldstein
Herman Hollander
Elsie Jacobs
Greta Kemp
Ruth Maizlish
Phyllis Orlow
Maurice Pell
Frances Plotsky
Gertrude Pozez
Richard Pritchard
Dorothy Roper
Margot Schwartz
Dorothy Schwartz
Adrienne Simon
Winnie Simon
Dorothy Solomon
Marcella Vann

January 9

Mark Altshuler
Herman Baginsky
Florence Baronoffsky
Malcolm Cohen
Elsie Furst
Irene Goldin
Harold Goodman
Joe Harris
Celia Potter Hitman
Linda Hoffman
Helen Jacobs
Esther Leventhal
Miriam Levitan
Mildred Miller
Stuart M. Morewitz
Michael Newman
Sidney Raimey
Laura Rohrbach

Dorothy Rosen
Hyman Sankary
Gertrude F. Sloter
Thomas Sokol
Debra Zelazny

January 16

Linda Abramson
Paul Alkon
Frieda Belle Antweil
Isaac Babani
Solomon Braun
Irving Dollinger
Shaindy Balick Fenton
Jack Gerrick
Hulda Guggenheim
William Hartman
Helen Isgur
Corrine Jacobson
Albert Kelfer
Lillian L. Klotzman
Maurice "Poy" Levey
Gilbert Levy
Jerome Levy
Melvin "Mel" Phillip Meyers
Pearl Rubin
Mandel B. Schultz
Stan Steiner
Kelly Walters
Evan Westermann

January 23

Nettie Ander
Edgar Anspacher
Ella Robins Bettis
Mildred Buttermann
Helen Ann Carb Hurst
Ida Cohen
Phyllis Ettinger
Marjorie Griver
Irene Hamrick
Ted Nathan Herman
Rose Hollander
Sylvia Krakover
June Luftman

Edwin Luftman
Sam Menscher
Goldie Nackson
Mary Rollo
Bernard Rousch
Annette Lederman Schwarz
Erma Sloin

January 30

Jeanette Bushner
Gordon Cizon
Peggy Farb
Ira Flax
Leah Fuchs
Dore Goldstein
Harry Gressman
Otha Grisham
Richard Kanterman
Sheldon Labovitz
Danny Lesnick
Isadore Joseph Levitan
Edgar Gerald Long
George Moidel
Dorothy Phillips
Morty Rapfogel
Leo Reitman
Wilhelmine Rosenthal
Joseph Sarfatti
N.W. Schaefer
Brenda Strausz
James Voris



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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fax 817-332-7157

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Rabbi Emeritus, Ralph Mecklenburger:
rabbi@bethelfw.org

Executive Director, Reneé Woods:
director@bethelfw.org

Education Director, Cantor Shoshana Abrams Kaikov:
shoshanakaikov@bethelfw.org

Music Director, John Sauvey: jesbaritone@gmail.com

Building Manager, Jaime Rivera: cust@bethelfw.org

Student Cantor: Sam Chamberlin

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Rosenthal, Faye Slater

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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 \$ _____

Designated Fund: _____

☐ In Honor of: _____

☐ In Memory of: _____

Donor Name(s): _____

☐ Please send me

Address: _____

_____ (qty)

additional forms.

Phone: _____

Send acknowledgment to: _____

