

Beth-Elements

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

February 2026



Brian Zimmerman, Rabbi

Divrei Torah

Rabbi Brian Zimmerman

It was Feb. 13, 2022. Exactly four years ago. We decided to bring in cantorial students from Hebrew

Union College to join us for monthly weekend visits and the High Holy Days.

I received an email from Russ Schultz, our president at the time: "Please find the attached resumé of an additional applicant for the cantorial intern position."

It said Sam Chamberlin, a first-year student completing a year in Israel, had been a drama specialist for three years at a Jewish summer camp and had multiple years of experience leading Shabbat at Temple Israel in Minneapolis. Sam had a Bachelor of Arts from Lawrence University in theater arts and performance with a minor in English.

What the resumé and the subsequent Zoom interview didn't prepare me for was Sam's warmth, accessibility, and love for creating moments of joyful worship and reflection. I did not know Sam would connect so deeply with our members, ask to stay with us for three of the remaining four years of her training,

and express an interest in moving to Fort Worth to become an ordained cantor at our congregation.

After more than a dozen very generous temple families committed to the financial support of this role, we intend to hire Sam to be the first full-time cantor of Beth-El Congregation.

What does this mean? Sam will be a full-time part of our professional staff, getting to know each of you, taking a full role in life-cycle events, teaching adults and students, and covering the

congregation when I am away. In addition, Sam's role will include outreach and engagement, including the development of a home-based Shabbat program that will give our families the tools to celebrate with children, friends, and neighbors through the creation of Shabbat videos, songs, resources, and visits.

We also anticipate that it will include greater outreach to our many homebound seniors and those now living at assisted-living facilities throughout the city. And we hope to enlist Sam's assistance in becoming a hub to those who cannot be here regularly... a beacon to create Jewish light for those in

Divrei Torah continued on page 2

B'nai Mitzvah



Charley Davidson
Feb. 21

Son of Chelsey and Joseph Davidson



Benjamin Herman
Feb. 28

Son of Celina and Lee Herman

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, Feb. 6

Tot Shabbat with Cantor Shoshana Abrams Kaikov and friends 5:30 p.m.
Kabbalat Shabbat with Student Cantor Sam Chamberlin 6:15 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 13

Religious School Consecration Shabbat Service with Rabbi Zimmerman, Cantor Shoshana Abrams Kaikov, and Scott Slotter 6:15 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 14

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

Friday, Feb. 20

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

Saturday, Feb. 21

Shabbat morning service and Bar Mitzvah of Charley Davidson 10:30 a.m.

Friday, Feb. 27

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

Saturday, Feb. 28

Shabbat morning service and Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Herman 10:30 a.m.

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



Michael Appleman

President's Message

..... Temple President Michael Appleman

Happy Secular New Year! May your 2026 (and the rest of your 5786) be healthy

and prosperous and filled with many enjoyable moments.

This is yet another opportunity to reflect, repair, re-energize and regain momentum, and we should be getting pretty good at it. We just did it back in September and October. While the High Holy Days should not be considered a "practice run," it is always nice to have a second opportunity.

So, what about Beth-El's 2025 and 2026? We celebrated 25 years in our fabulous facility on Briarhaven Road, and we raised some money because of your generosity to support the Temple, its congregation, and our programs. Robert Simon concluded his successful term as our president, and he handed the reins over to me. Our Religious School began another year of instruction to our youngest members, with increased enrollment over last year.

WRJ hosted a phenomenal Donor Brunch, and MRJ members were everywhere all at once it seemed, providing some brains and brawn, and a few good looks, too, while cooking

up a storm. Their efforts, and those of our WRJ when they, too, step into our kitchen, will be made easier, we hope, after we repair, remodel, and refresh that part of our facility in mid-2026 — again thanks to the generosity of several of you.

Also in mid-2026, as a result of the tireless efforts of Rabbi Z, Russ Schultz, and generous congregants, we anticipate that Samantha Chamberlin will join us as Beth-El's first full-time cantor. Ever. In December, the Board authorized hiring Sam after securing what we project will be the requisite financial commitments. We are still working our way through the necessary documentation as I write this column, but we anticipate being able to confirm our good fortune soon. See Rabbi Z's comments elsewhere in this Bulletin for more about what we foresee for this role, but it suffices to say here that we are looking forward to Sam's contributions to our community.

These are exciting times at Beth-El, with many good things happening, as you can see on the other pages of our Bulletin and on the congregation's website. Find a few that look interesting or entertaining, and come join us.



Summer Camp

Financial Assistance Update

Whether you go to Greene Family Camp or another Jewish summer camp, the deadline to apply for assistance has passed. But we know that camp is expensive, so if you need financial assistance, please register with your camp first then contact Rabbi Brian or Cantor Shoshana to get a financial aid application.

You **MUST** return all financial aid requests by **Feb. 22. No exceptions.** After that date, any remaining aid will be given out from the limited remaining funds available for the year and will no longer be on a needs-based selection process. Thanks to MRJ, WRJ, The Jewish Federation of Fort Worth & Tarrant County and an anonymous donor for making this assistance possible.

Divrei Torah

(continued from page 1)

communities such as Azle, Arlington, Southlake, Stephenville, and those even farther away with fewer Jewish resources. At the same time, we need to be more proactive in the lives of some of our longtime members.

Our Temple is rich with musical talent — from our soloist Angie Friedman to the choir under the direction of John Sauvey, and the Tot Shabbat talents of our amazing Education Director, Shosha-

na Abrams Kaikov, and others. How we utilize these gifts may change, but their important roles in our Temple will not.

I hope you will take the time, if you have not done so already, to come and meet Sam. There will be at least six more visits before the summer. Come attend a Friday night service or one of the



Sam Chamberlin

Saturday morning Shabbat "lunch-and-studies" at my home, our song circles, or join us in April when Sam will teach text from the fifth-year cantorial thesis on *Shechinah*.

I'm sure this article raises questions. It is wonderful to be in a position to experiment. Some of these questions will be answered soon and some answers are unknown at the moment, but I welcome the opportunity to sit with you and get your feedback on the best ways to utilize this wonderful new clergy addition to our Beth-El community.



Shoshana Abrams Kaikov

A tribute to the growing tradition of Tu B'Shevat

Education Director, Cantor Shoshana Abrams Kaikov

Tu B'Shevat arrives quietly each year, in the heart of winter, when the trees appear bare and the world rests in stillness. And yet, our tradition teaches that this is the very moment when new life begins. Beneath the frozen ground, roots are deepening and sap is beginning to rise. What looks still is, in truth, full of promise.

The Torah reminds us, "Ki ha'adam etz hasadeh." "A person is like a tree of the field" (Deuteronomy 20:19). Nowhere is this more true than in our children. Every child in our Religious School is a seed of possibility, carrying within them questions, values, and dreams that will shape the future of our Jewish community long after today.

Our tradition teaches, "Who is wise? One who sees what is born" (Pirkei Avot 2:9). To educate a child is to believe in a future we cannot yet see. It is to trust that the stories we tell, the melodies we sing, the blessings we teach, and the *mitzvot* we model will one day take root — even if we are not there to witness the full bloom.

The Talmud tells of a man planting a carob tree, knowing it would take 70 years to bear fruit. When questioned, he answered, "Just as my ancestors planted for me, I plant for those who will come after me" (Ta'anit 23a). This is the sacred work happening in our classrooms each week. When we invest in Jewish learning for our children, we are not just planting knowledge, we are cultivating identity, resilience, confidence, and belonging.

As I watch our students sing Hebrew words, wrestle with big ideas, show kindness to one another, and discover pride in being Jewish, I see *Tu B'Shevat* unfolding before my eyes. These moments may feel small, but they are foundational. They are roots.

May this *Tu B'Shevat* move us to nurture our children with patience, care, love, and intention. May we remember that the future of our congregation is already here — laughing in our hallways, asking brave questions, celebrating, and growing in ways both seen and unseen. May we be blessed to witness the forest that will one day rise from the seeds we are planting together today.

Happy *Tu B'Shevat!!!*

FWFTY News

Our 8th through 12th-grade youth group had a blast at the winter sleepover with homemade slime, a late-night downtown taco run, and whipped cream games.



If you have questions or an interest in joining FWFTY, please contact our advisor, Rabbi Brian at rabbiz@bethelfw.org, or our FWFTY President Natalie Strausz.



Ruth Roper

Women of Reform Judaism

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

Hello, Ladies. Happy New Year and welcome back!

The Bookies and Cookies event was a wonderful success — so many delicious cookies to share and great books to exchange.



Marilyn Stenzler

A shoutout to Jeanie Rosenblum for organizing the event, a shoutout to Kim Factor and Marge Van Giesen for the beautifully decorated tables, and Shayna Coyne for managing the book exchange. Thank you, ladies!

We have several events planned as we move forward. February: Our next outing is the always popular **Rose Garden Tea Room** located in The Mer-

cantile Antique Mall, on **Feb. 22 at 1:30 p.m.** The cost is \$25, and we have space for 40 guests. **March 1: the Hamantaschen Bake-In** in the Temple kitchen. We are looking forward to seeing you at these wonderful opportunities for sisterhood, inspiration, and growth, and we hope you will join us.

WRJ Food Pantry Drive

WRJ is partnering with Arborlawn United Methodist Church to support their Community Food Pantry. Please consider bringing a bag of nonperishable food as often as possible to the Temple. You can drop the bags off on Shabbat 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

WRJ Food Pantry continued on page 9



Eric Lawrence

Men of Reform Judaism

.....MRJ President Eric Lawrence

It has been a busy two months since the last MRJ update, here is a

quick review.

In December, we sold almost 100 dozen latkes to congregants and served many more at the Religious School celebration and the Temple Hanukkah Dinner. Our Christmas Eve tradition of Chinese food and trivia, which was always closely linked with late MRJ member Alan Feinberg, continued with Randee Kaitcer and Jeanie Rosenblum stepping in to lead the festivities and honor Alan. A special thank you to them and Jeff Kaitcer for everything they did to make this evening happen.

MRJ also helped with the Jan. 9 oneg honoring Edythe Cohen for her 98th birthday. We once again had the honor of serving brunch for the Jewish War Veterans on Jan. 11. Starting this month, MRJ is getting back to having monthly meetings, currently scheduled for **Feb. 22** and **March 22**. Please join us.

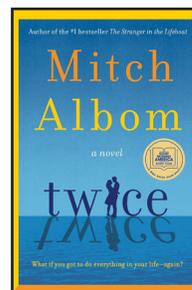
Jumping ahead a bit, MRJ is planning a theater night at **Stage West** for March 26. See page 8, for more information.

The Mickey Goldman Spaghetti Dinner on May 3, will honor two of our congregants, Bob and Dick Greenman. Thank you, gentlemen, for all you have done and continue to do in service to Beth-El Congregation.

Library Reviews

..... Margie Zentner

If you missed the Gates of Chai lecture at TCU Brite Divinity School in the fall, Rabbi Mecklenburger has donated two of Sara Hurwitz's books to the library. As a *Jew: Reclaiming Our Story from Those Who Blame, Shame, and Try to Erase Us* and *Here All Along: Finding Meaning, Spirituality and a Deeper Connection to Life — in Judaism* are both available in the new nonfiction area in the library.



Twice by Mitch Albom

is about a man born with the ability to re-live any moment of his life by simply saying "twice" with one crucial exception: he can never

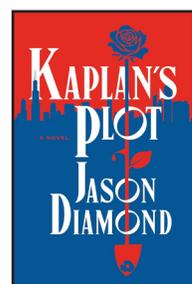
undo a second chance at love. A film adaptation of Albom's rich story has already been acquired by Netflix.



Gone Before Goodbye by Reese Witherspoon and Harlan Coben

is the suspense-filled story of a disgraced Army combat surgeon who accepts a mysterious job with an

anonymous, wealthy client. But when her patient vanishes, she becomes entangled in a deadly global conspiracy.



Kaplan's Plot by Jason Diamond

is a compelling family saga told across multiple timelines. When Elijah Mendes returns to Chicago after his tech startup fails, he begins caring for his dying

mother and also uncovers his family's gangster past. The story delves into generational trauma, the complexities of family legacy, and Jewish identity.

Contributions

Archive Fund

- In Honor of Hollace Weiner
· Susan & Bob Lewis
In Memory of Brigitte Altman
· Judith Cohen
In Memory of Dr. Donald M. Cohen
· Judith Cohen
In Memory of Mina "Dorothee" Abels
· Judith Cohen
In Memory of Saradel Baker
· Judith Cohen
In Memory of Dr Sydney Cohen
· Judith Cohen

Caring Congregation Fund

- In Honor of Carol Minker and family
· Celeste McCarron
In Honor of the Recovery of
Fred Roberts
· Richard & Carol Minker
In Memory of Alan Feinberg
· Howard & Laurie Kelfer
· Marilyn & Van Stenzler
In Memory of Brigitte Altman
· Richard & Carol Minker
In Memory of Dorothy Solomon
· Jenny Solomon

Library Fund

- In Memory of Hulda Guggenheim
· Margie Zentner
In Memory of Dorothy Schwartz
· Michael & Elaine Griver
In Memory of Bernard "Bubba" Rubin
· Michael & Elaine Griver
In Memory of Alan Feinberg
· Marla & Dick Parvey
· Sheldon & Phyllis Levy
· Margie Zentner
· Martin Rubinson & Denae Chance

Mitch Stenzler Scholarship Fund

- In Honor of Valerie and Eric Simanek
for their friendship.
· Sonya Stenzler
In Memory of Brigitte Altman
· James & Sonja Stein

MRJ

- Benjamin Isgur &
Shoshana Thoma-Isgur

Music Fund

- In Memory of Martin Brown
· Martha Brown
In Memory of Alan Feinberg
· Jeanne Ginsberg

Operating Endowment Fund

- In Memory of Rabbi Robert Schur
· Holly & Bill Schur
In Memory of Brigitte Altman
· Charles Hall

President's Discretionary Fund

- In Honor of Michael Appleman
· Kaye Appleman

Primetimers Fund

- In Memory of Irene Oshman Levey
· Daniel & Trudie Oshman
In Memory of Frances Plotsky
· Daniel & Trudie Oshman

Rabbi Mecklenburger's Discretionary Fund

- In Memory of Brigitte Altman
· Gail Brothers &
Edward Porter Brothers

Rabbi Zimmerman's Discretionary Fund

- In Honor of Hollace Weiner
· Tamas & Jutka Ungar
In Honor of Rabbi Zimmerman
· Mark Pritchard &
Robin Weinberg Pritchard
In Honor of Lane Weinberg's Bris
· Mark Pritchard & Robin Weinberg.....
Pritchard
In Honor of Rabbi Zimmerman
· Melvin R. & Jody Platt
In Honor of Edythe Cohen's 98th
birthday
· Sheldon & Phyllis Levy
In Honor of Rabbi Zimmerman
· K.D. & Nancy Ann Davis
In Memory of Edgar Anspacher
· Felice Anspacher
In Memory of Mildred Miller

- Felice Anspacher
In Memory of Brigitte Altman
· Bob & Susan Archenhold
· Susan & Bob Lewis
In Memory of George Berger
· Eric & Marjorie Deutsch
In Memory of Alan Feinberg
· Eric & Marjorie Deutsch
In Memory of Morris Miller
· Felice Anspacher
In Memory of Robert Beugen
· Eric & Marjorie Deutsch
In Memory of Maurice "Poy" Levey
· Daniel & Trudie Oshman

Religious School Director's Discretionary Fund

- In Memory of Albert Kelfer
· Howard & Laurie Kelfer
In Memory of Faye Sarfatti
· Howard & Laurie Kelfer
In Memory of Joseph Sarfatti
· Howard & Laurie Kelfer

Religious School Fund

- In Memory of Corrine Jacobson
· Steve & Cindy Bond
In Memory of Maxine White Schur
· Holly & Bill Schur
In Memory of Leonard Frank
· Steve & Carol Kline
In Memory of Brigitte Altman
· Howard & Laurie Kelfer
In Memory of Ruth Maizlish
· Stephen Maizlish &
Joyce Goldberg Maizlish
In Memory of Richard Pritchard
· Mark Pritchard &
Robin Weinberg Pritchard
In Memory of Alan Feinberg
· Leigh & Louis Schultz
In Memory of Marie Berger
· Steve & Carol Kline
In Memory of Adrienne Kline
· Steve & Carol Kline

Rosenthal-Siegel Education Endowment Fund

- In Honor of The Super 6
· Carole Rogers
In Memory of Evelyn Siegel
· Terry & Cynthia Siegel

Temple Fund

- In Honor of Lane Weinberg's Bris
· Mark Pritchard &
Robin Weinberg Pritchard
In Honor of Edythe Cohen's 98th
birthday
· Richard & Carol Minker
· Jim Stanton
In Honor of a Speedy Recovery for
Luann Feld
· Marilyn & Van Stenzler
In Honor of a Speedy Recovery for
Rusty Feld
· Marilyn & Van Stenzler
In Memory of Mandel B. Schultz
· Louis & Leigh Schultz
In Memory of Ruth Ross
· Michael & Beverly J. Ross
In Memory of Esther Leventhal
· Harry Massis & Judi Massis-Leventhal
In Memory of Sam Menscher
· Arnold G. & Harriette Gachman
In Memory of Lillian Klotzman
· Arnold G. & Harriette Gachman
In Memory of Linda Abramson
· Richard & Carol Minker
In Memory of Rabbi Robert Schur
· Holly & Bill Schur
In Memory of Barbara Goldstein
· Daniel & Julie Goldstein
In Memory of Dore Goldstein
· Daniel & Julie Goldstein
In Memory of Brigitte Altman
· Louis & Leigh Schultz
In Memory of Grandchildren of
Max and Lisa Nafthal
· Jack Goldston
In Memory of Brigitte Altman
· Michael & Beverly J. Ross
In Memory of Paul and
Margot Schwartz
· Richard "Rocky" Schwartz

Contributions continued on page 6

Contributions

(continued from page 5)

Temple Fund (continued)

In Memory of Louis Menscher
· Arnold G. & Harriette Gachman
In Memory of Morton H Meyerson
· Gordon & Louise Appleman
· Marilyn & Van Stenzler
In Memory of Brigitte Altman
· Martha Tullis
In Memory of Alan Feinberg
· Jim Stanton
In Memory of Brigitte Altman
· Holly & Bill Schur
In Memory of Brigitte Altman
· Noreen & Bill Houston
In Memory of Henriette Voet
· Loesje Blumberg
In Memory of Nellie Van Coevorden
· Loesje Blumberg
In Memory of Berniece Weil
· Lynny Sankary
In Memory of Marion Weil
· Lynny Sankary
In Appreciation of Rabbi Zimmerman
& High Holy Day Services
· Larry & Wanda Brunell
In Memory of Brigitte Altman
· Jane Oderberg
· Bruce & Hollace Weiner
· Rosalin Rogers
· Seme Dewees-Cooper & Mark Cooper
In Memory of Alan Feinberg
· Bruce & Hollace Weiner
· Jane Oderberg
· Seme Dewees-Cooper & Mark Cooper
· Sandra Williams
In Memory of Mina "Dorothee" Abels
· Jane Oderberg
In Memory of George Berger
· Jane Oderberg
In Memory of Dr. Sue Lurie
· Russ & Susan Schultz
In Memory of Bob Beugen
· Seme Dewees-Cooper & Mark Cooper
In Memory of George Berger
· Seme Dewees-Cooper & Mark Cooper
In Memory of Arvie Cooper
· Seme Dewees-Cooper & Mark Cooper

Temple Fund (continued)

In Memory of Jack Dewees
· Seme Dewees-Cooper & Mark Cooper
In Memory of Goldie Greenbaum
· Seme Dewees-Cooper & Mark Cooper
In Memory of Frank Greenbaum
· Seme Dewees-Cooper & Mark Cooper

WRJ

In Honor of The Super 6
· Carole Rogers
In Appreciation of Jaime Sr., Sandra
and Jaime Jr.
· Marilyn & Van Stenzler

Kitchen Remodel Project

· Steve Brown
· Gordon & Louise Appleman
· Steve Katten
In Honor of Billy Rosenthal 75th
Birthday
· Richard & Carol Minker
In Honor of Stanley Eisenman 75th
Birthday
· Richard & Carol Minker

Primetimers

.....Michelle Hartman

Thursday, Feb. 12, noon

Hello, Primetimers! Thanks to all who joined us in January and shared ideas for programs going forward. Our February event is slated for Thursday, Feb. 12, and it will feature our very own Genie Long, who will be performing some love songs to get us ready for Valentine's Day. We will finish up with a fun sing-a-long!

Lunch will be catered by Pak-a-Pocket or you can bring your own. For \$10 you get pita chips, hummus, and your choice of pita sandwich:

- Chicken shawarma
- Corned beef
- Falafel

We will have some yummy homemade desserts to share as well. RSVP to Michelle Hartman at hartman8729@sbc-global.net or 817-706-3451 by Sunday, Feb. 8.

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

Beth-El Studios Presents...

**The
Fantastic Film
Fundraiser**

Save the Date!
Sunday, April 26, 2026

February - 2026 - 5786

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 am Religious School	2 TU BISHVAT	3 6 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm Curious about Conversion	4 9:30 Archives Meeting 11 am Gift Shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan	5 6 pm Evening Minyan	6 Confirmation Class Austin Trip 5:30 pm Tot Shabbat 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	7 9 am Zoom Torah Study
8 9:30 am Religious School 10 am Turning Points 9:30 Sunday Conversations (See p. 8)	9 7 pm Board Meeting	10 12 pm Jewish Puzzle 6 pm Evening Minyan	11 9:30 Archives Meeting 11 am Gift Shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan	12 12 pm Primetimers 6 pm Evening Minyan	13 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service and Religious School Consecration	14 9 am Zoom Torah Study 10:30 am Shabbat Morning of Song, Study and Prayer at Rabbi Zimmerman's house
15 9:30 am Religious School 9:30 Sunday Conversations (See p. 8)	16 PRESIDENTS DAY	17 12 pm Jewish Puzzle 6 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm Curious about Conversion	18 9:30 Archives Meeting 11 am Gift Shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan	19 6 pm Evening Minyan	20 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	21 9 am Zoom Torah Study 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service and Bar Mitzvah of Charley Davidson
22 9:30 am Religious School 9:30 am Sunday Conversations (See p. 8)	23	24 6 pm Evening Minyan	25 9:30 Archives Meeting 11 am Gift Shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan	26 6 pm Evening Minyan	27 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	28 9 am Zoom Torah Study 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service and Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Herman
March 1 9:30 am Religious School 9:30 am Sunday Conversations (See p. 8)	2	3 12 pm Jewish Puzzle 6 pm Evening Minyan	4 9:30 Archives Meeting 11 am Gift Shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan	5 6 pm Evening Minyan	6 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	7 9 am Zoom Torah Study

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

Purim at Beth-El

Shabbat Purim Spiel: The Nightmare Before Purim

Friday, Feb. 27, 6:15 p.m.

Join us for a musical celebration of holiday confusion with Esther,

Haman, Mordechai, Judah Maccabee, lox, bagels, cream cheese...and more!

Want to volunteer for a part in the play? Contact Rabbi Zimmerman ASAP.

Purim Day

Tuesday, March 3, Noon

Join us in the Temple library for

hamantaschen, song, the story of Esther, great discussion and other treats.

The Great Religious School

Purim Spiel and Carnival

Sunday, March 8

Food, games, food. All are welcome!

Sunday Conversations

Sundays, 9:30, Beth-El board room

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.

Sunday, Feb. 8

Rabbi Mecklenburger: An Adult Discussion of "Turning Points in Jewish History"

The author of this year's discussion-starter book is 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 does 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?

Feb. 15

Rabbi Zimmerman: Whose Messiah?

Living in Christian Texas the topic of Messiah is rich with possibility and fraught with the chance for confusion. How often have you been asked what do Jews believe? Join Rabbi Zimmerman for a brief but thoughtful examination of the role of the Messiah in Jewish texts and history. Come with questions and leave prepared to share answers with non-Jewish friends.

Feb. 22.

Rabbi Seymour Rosell: Getting God's Answer—The Breastplate of Decision

Our ancestors employed some interesting ancient technologies when it came to answering questions that only God could answer. Looking at a few verses from the Book of Exodus takes us down a rabbit hole to the days of Moses, Joshua, the Judges, and the first three kings of Israel.

March 1

puck glass: Modern Concerns in Halakha (Jewish law)

Fertility technology, such as IVF, surrogacy, and egg donation, are medical miracles that raise profound *halakhic* questions. Who is the *halakhic* parent? How do Jewish ethics balance human creativity with Jewish status?

MRJ Presents

"A Case for the Existence of God"

Thursday, March 26

Stage West, 821 West Vickery Blvd.,
Fort Worth

Tickets \$34

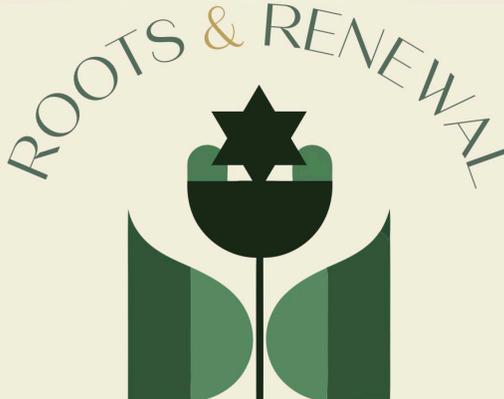
Spend an evening at Stage West Theatre with your Beth-El friends and join us for a night of theater featuring the regional premiere of "A Case for the Existence of God," by Samuel D. Hunter. The play focuses on two single fathers who form an unexpected bond in a Twin Falls, Idaho, bank cubicle while one is applying for a mortgage loan. What begins in an awkward

exchange deepens into something profound, as these two very different men, both fathers of young daughters, open up to one another about their struggles to secure a future.

MRJ has reserved a block of 36 seats for the 7:30 pm performance of this well-received play.

Dinner: You may wish to make separate dinner reservations by calling Stage West, 817-784-9378

Please contact Jerry Stein, 817-909-2001, for more information or to hold your seats.



The Jewish Federation of Fort Worth & Tarrant County
2026 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN KICKOFF

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY, 22
3:00 - 5:00 PM

FORT WORTH BOTANICAL GARDENS
LECTURE HALL
3220 Botanic Garden Blvd

Featured Guest Speaker
SAUL BLINKOFF
Hollywood Director & Visionary Disney Animator

SWEET & SAVORY BITES
Kosher Corner Included, Non-Alcoholic Beverages
Free Parking

\$65/Per Person

Purchase tickets on our website at
tarrantfederation.org/events/2026-rootsandrenewal
For more information, contact Cindy Simon at 817-569-0892



What Grounds Us, What Calls Us Forward

WRJ Food Pantry

(continued from page 4)

canned fruits and vegetables. If you are interested in volunteering at the 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 be in touch with Mimi Zimmerman at mimizimmerman123@gmail.com if you'd like to volunteer.

A Note of Gratitude ...

Thanks to everyone who made my 98th birthday celebration a success. Thanks to the guests, the friends who worked hard seeing everything went smoothly, MRJ members who prepared terrific food, and especially Rabbi Zimmerman, who gave me a blessing, and Rozanne Rosenthal, who made a surprise presentation. It was truly memorable!

— Edythe Cohen

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.

MRJ Matzo Ball Golf Tournament

.....Jeff Kaitcer

Thank you to all of the golfers and sponsors who helped make the 19th annual MRJ Matzo Ball Golf Tournament a rousing success. More than 40 players enjoyed a perfect day for golf on Sunday, Oct. 26, at Hawks Creek Golf Course. The tournament is MRJ's biggest annual fund-raiser, providing much-needed funds for summer camperships and scholarships. Extra thanks goes to the hard working Golf Tournament Committee, chaired by Jay Martin.



Congratulations to the tournament's 2nd place team: Marty Rubinson, Jason Tomlinson, Michael Tomlinson (one of whom is not pictured), and John Henry Lee.

Matzo Ball Golf Tournament Sponsors

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GamTex Industries (Arnie Gachman)

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Rabbi Brian Zimmerman

Then and Now: Statues Tell a Story

Hollace Ava Weiner, Temple Archivist



Hollace Weiner

Titled "Once Upon a Time," the charming arrangement of bronze statues in the Temple courtyard tells a story both poignant and playful.

Playful because the lively young mother gesturing with one hand is reading her daughters a story called "Toads and Diamonds." One girl, cuddling in her mother's lap, stretches out a barefoot leg. The other daughter, with bangs and braids, crouches on the pavement and affectionately pets a cat.

The sisters were modeled after Julie Krauss Goldstein and Tricia Krauss Lehrman. The statue was created in memory of their mother, Selma H. Krauss, who died of cancer on Oct. 25, 1998, one week after the groundbreaking ceremonies for Beth-El's synagogue on Briarhaven Road. Selma's husband, Irwin, a noted real estate developer, was chairman of Beth-El's Building Committee.

"Before my mom got too sick," Julie recalled, "she made it very clear to my dad that he should absolutely continue as

the building chair after her death. It would be a meaningful and productive way to help the Jewish community and process his grief. As usual, she was right, and he did as she asked."

To convey love for his wife and family, Irwin commissioned Colorado sculptor Victor Issa to create the vibrant bronze installation. Without telling his children why, Irwin asked them to gather family photos and videos, which he shared with the sculptor. When the new synagogue neared completion, he surprised his children and grandchildren with "Once Upon a Time."

"She loved reading to her kids and her grandkids," Julie said. "I get so much pleasure knowing that this bench and garden are a welcoming place for people to come to learn about Beth-El or have some quiet time for reflection and prayer. I've seen religious school kids



"Once Upon a Time," a bronze sculpture by artist Victor Issa, was commissioned by Irwin Krauss in memory of his wife, Selma Krauss. It depicts Selma reading to their daughters, Julie and Tricia, and is installed in the Temple courtyard.

come sit out here, even climb and play in this area, which is exactly what it's for."

Selma Krauss, who was 70 when she passed away, is buried in the Beth-El section at Greenwood Cemetery next to Irwin, who was 84 when he died in 2012. Come sit in the courtyard next to Selma. The book on her lap is etched with the words to "Toads and Diamonds," a classic fairy tale about a mother and two daughters.

Jewish Heritage Night

7:30 p.m. Feb. 5, Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo

There has been a Jewish presence in Fort Worth since the 1800s, and many Jews have played a major role in the growth and culture of the city.

On Thursday, Feb. 5, at 7:30 p.m., you're invited to gather with Jewish community members across North Texas for a very special night out at the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo. This fun and meaningful evening is made possible by the Jewish Federation of Fort Worth & Tarrant County. Tickets start at \$31.

For event details & tickets, please visit: www.tarrantfederation.org/events/rodeo-jewish-heritage-night or scan the QR code.



Save the Date

Jewish Authors of Tarrant County Book Fair

March 1, 12:15-2:30 p.m.

Beth-El Congregation

Jewish Authors of Tarrant County Book Fair brought to you by the Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County.

Please RSVP to Cindy Simon, c.simon@tarrantfederation.org. More details will be provided when your RSVP is received.

People of the Book

People of the Book is Congregation Beth-El's book group. We have lively discussions about books with Jewish themes or by Jewish authors. We meet on selected Tuesday mornings, 10-11 a.m. in the Beth-El library.

We just finished reading *Playworld* by Adam Ross, a coming-of-age story. Our February read is



The Lost Baker of Vienna

by Sharon Kurtzman

which tells the story of how people adjusted to life after the Holocaust.

Please contact Sheryl Levy, slevy2608@gmail.com, for more information or if you

would like to be put on the contact list. We would love to have you. The more people, the more ideas, the better the discussions.

Finding Our Place in the Jewish Puzzle of Life:

A Search for Personal Theology with Rabbi Zimmerman Tuesdays, Feb. 10 and 17, 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.

Yahrzeits

February 6

Robert Abrams
John Barrett
Martin Brown
Charles Christie
Don Herman
A. M. Herman
Dr. Richard Jolkovsky
A.J. "Bob" Kboudi
Gary Klapper
Peggy Lerner
Dennis Levy
Ivan Miller
Rose Pell
Ruth Ross
Rabbi Robert J. Schur
Maxine White Schur
Florence Sherman
Melissa Sherman
Allan Sigman
Anna Van Giesen
Stephen Richard Walters
Marion Weil
Sidney E. Weltman

February 13

Jimmie Allen
Helen Ginsburg Archenhold
Sidney Begelman
Max Birenbaum
Ellen Silver Bowsher
Frieda Cristol
Barbara "Bobbie" Freid
Dr. Daniel Gestring
Maria Gluck
Jack Greenman
Jerome M Levy
Israel Margolis
Jerry Harold Meyerson
Morton Plotsky
Marian Doris Pruitt
Barbara Rosenthal
Harry Rubin
Faye Sarfatti

Murray Schweitzer
Scott Sherman
Lucille Walderman

February 20

Corinne Stein Baum
Ruth Brody
Burton Gilbert
David Gross, Jr.
Audrey Weisser Hartwell
Lauren Hoffman
Helen Kanzer
Max Kaplan
Albert Kulakoff
Eli Nadel
Helene Sonia Nelson Dollinger
Edward Schultz
Rosalie Schwartz
Tikva Sheena
Richard U. Simon, Sr.
Thomas Taylor

February 27

Claire Benno
Paul J. Cohen
Ira Gordon
David Greenberg
Roslyn Gentler Gross
Gratian A. Gurney
Dorothy Imber
Roy John
Mary Jolkovsky
Fred Kemp
Cynthia Labovitz
Harvey Lefer
Judith A. Mabry
Jennah Montroll
Sol Platt
Emmy Lou Roux
Arnold Rubin
Allen Tilkin
Max Weiner

March 6

Virginia Abrams
Dr. Howard A. Britton
Geraldine Schumer Brown
Willa Christie
Joseph Feuer
Barney Finkel
Bella Furst
Charlotte Goldman
Mickey Goldman
Allen Hendelman
Teddy Hendelman
Christine Henton Kuehn
Billie Klapper
Harold Klotz
Louise Ann Rosenbaum
Morewitz
Nelson S. Neckers
Maria Rosa Nieva
Joseph Oderberg
Arnold Pell
Trudi Post
Louis Pozez
Walter Smit
Frances Suder
Rose Rubinson Sussfeld
Dorothy Marie Taub
Solomon Taylor
Rose Urbach
Virginia Westermann



Beth-El Congregation

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Fort Worth, TX 76109

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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.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Rabbi Emeritus, Ralph Mecklenburger:
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Executive Director, René 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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MRJ: Eric Lawrence, President

FWFTY: Natalie Strausz, President

Contributions

- Make your contribution online at **bethelfw.org** or fill out the form below and mail it with your check to Beth-El Congregation
- **Undesignated donations** will be placed in the Temple Fund.

\$18-minimum contribution: Temple Fund, Religious School Fund, Youth Fund, Library Fund, Music Fund, Mitch Stenzler Scholarship Fund, Rabbi Zimmerman's Discretionary Fund, Rabbi Mecklenburger's Discretionary Fund, President's Discretionary Fund, Religious School Director's Discretionary Fund, Temple Archives, Caring Congregation

\$50-minimum contribution: Rosenthal-Siegel Education Endowment Fund, Operating Endowment Fund, Endowment #2

Other funds: **Tree \$20, Prayer Book \$30, Floral \$50, Tree of Life Leaf \$300**

Contribution Form

Enclosed please find the amount of \$ _____

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In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Donor Name(s): _____

Please send me

Address: _____

_____ (qty)

additional forms.

Phone: _____

Send acknowledgment to: _____
