

Beth-Elements

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



June-July 2026



Sam Chamberlin

Divrei Torah

Student Cantor Sam Chamberlin

As the weather heats up this summer, please take note of your favorite ways to keep cool. There's

a new family in town that needs your advice: me, my husband Jon, and our two cats! Whether you've heard me sing in services, we've had dinner together, or anything in between, I am so looking forward to getting to know you better when I begin serving as your full-time cantor on July 1.

Being your student cantor these past years has been an amazing experience, and I am so grateful to everyone who made this new position a possibility! Beth-El already feels like home to me, and I'm excited to get more acquainted with Fort Worth. I'm thrilled to be bringing my little family with me; Buttercup and Butterbean (our cats) can finally see where I've been going all these years. Many of you have met my husband already, and he is

also looking forward to this new chapter of our lives.

While studying to be a cantor these past five years, I was inspired to study Jewish Mysticism and Kabbalah by my late mentor Sim Glaser z'l. I greatly enjoy this subject, and my thesis and recital explore an aspect of it.

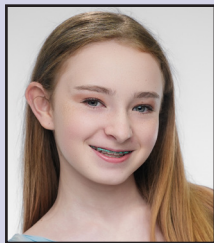
In Kabbalah there are many attributes of God imagined as different aspects that interact with each other, called sefirot. One of these is *Shekhinah*, the Divine Feminine, which might be familiar

to you as the bride mentioned in *L'cha Dodi*.

I recently had the honor of presenting my senior recital at Hebrew Union College about the music of *Shekhinah*. I plan to teach about her at Beth-El, but I'll leave you with this for now: the root of *Shekhinah* means indwelling, and she is the aspect of God that has accompanied the Jews in the desert and throughout

exile. *Shekhinah* can be found in the space and relationships between people, and I am so privileged and excited to dwell with all of you.

B'nai Mitzvah



Lila Nathan
June 6

Daughter of
Laura and Jeffrey
Nathan



Myra Pine
June 13

Daughter of
Ginger and Richard
Pine

Worship Services

Minyan with the community

Tuesday-Thursday through June 22 6 p.m.

Welcoming Shabbat reception

Friday night before the service 5:30 p.m.

Friday, June 5

Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Zimmerman and John Sauvey with special musical presentation from Piano Texas 6:15 p.m.

Saturday, June 6

Shabbat morning service and Bat Mitzvah of Lila Nathan 10:30 a.m.

Friday, June 12

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

Saturday, June 13

Shabbat morning service and Bat Mitzvah of Myra Pine 10:30 a.m.

Friday, June 19

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

Friday, June 26

Kabbalat Shabbat with Student Cantor Sam Chamberlin with special musical presentation from Curt Thompson of the Mimir Chamber Music Festival 6:15 p.m.

Friday, July 3

Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Zimmerman and Student Cantor Sam Chamberlin 6:15 p.m.
Special July 4th Scholar Weekend
For details, please see page 8..

.....continued on page 2

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

Please note: Minyan with the community is on hiatus in July and resumes Aug 5.
Contact Rabbi Zimmerman for summer kaddish arrangements.



Michael Appleman

President's Message

..... Temple President Michael Appleman

Shavuot is upon us as I write this. We have counted 49 Omer —

the period of spiritual preparation between Passover and Shavuot — and it is time to celebrate the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai by reinforcing our commitment with God.

Tradition and practice say that we are to study Torah throughout the night (we only went until midnight), and eat dairy (like cheesecake and blintzes, for example) to symbolize the sweetness of the Torah and the "land of milk and honey." We also are supposed to decorate with flowers and plants (Mount Sinai apparently was in bloom back then) and read the Book of Ruth (a story of loyalty to Judaism).

It is also said that Shavuot teaches that there is value in the preparation, that there is worth in the work, and that you "get out of it what you put into it." Moses and the Israelites did not know exactly where they were going, or that it would take 40 years to get there, or what hardships they would face during the journey. They just kept going, keeping faith that they would, in fact, reach the Promised Land. And that they would be ready when they got there — much like athletes practicing hard so the games seem easy by comparison. Sometimes, though, they are not, and the results are not as desired. This is

when we must dig deep, learn from watching the film, and try again.

We, too, should keep going, re-dedicating ourselves and working to improve ourselves (physically, mutually, and spiritually) to make us worthy of the gift of Torah, which we should "turn, and turn again." Beth-El offers many opportunities to do so, either as a volunteer or as a consumer of the offerings. Check the other pages of this Bulletin and the website for all of the details and come join us. We'll save you some cheesecake.

Worship Services

(continued from page 1)

Saturday, July 4

Makom Shelanu at Beth-El..... 10 a.m.

Guest speaker: Dr. Mark Berkson

Friday, July 10

Kabbalat Shabbat with

Student Cantor Sam Chamberlin..... 6:15 p.m.

Friday, July 17

Kabbalat Shabbat with

Student Cantor Sam Chamberlin..... 6:15 p.m.

Friday, July 24

Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Zimmerman and

Student Cantor Sam Chamberlin..... 6:15 p.m.

Friday, July 31

Kabbalat Shabbat with

Rabbi Zimmerman..... 6:15 p.m.

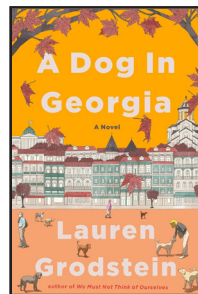
Celebrate Pride with Makom Shelanu

10 a.m. Saturday, June 20, Beth-El Chapel

Join our friends from Makom Shelanu at 10 a.m. for a special Shabbat Pride celebration and service in our chapel followed by a potluck Shabbat lunch.

Library Reviews

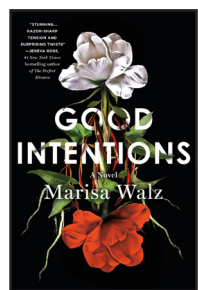
..... Margie Zentner



A Dog in Georgia by Laura Grodstein

follows a former chef named Amy Webb who travels to the Republic of Georgia from New York to find a missing dog named Angel. Amy, who is dealing with a mid-

life crisis and a fraying marriage, becomes obsessed with viral videos of a stray dog in Tbilisi who walks children to school. Impulsively, she joins the search, only to be forced to confront what she really wants in this warm and humorous novel of self-discovery.

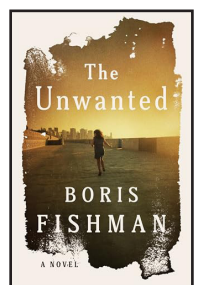


Good Intentions

by Marissa Walz

is a psychological thriller that explores the intersection of grief and obsession. Cady's perfect life is shattered when her identical twin sister dies in an accident. Instead of

a typical mourning, Cady becomes consumed by Morgan, a grieving mother she meets in the hospital waiting room and whose own tragedy occurred at the exact same moment as Cady's sister. Cady convinces herself that helping Morgan is the only way to process her own grief, but her fixation spirals into a dangerous obsession.



The Unwanted

by Boris Fishman

is a dystopian novel set in a war-torn country and centers on George, a professor and poet, Susanna, his wife, and Dina, their 8-year-old daughter. When George loses his job

at the university, the family is left without money or allies, and their harrowing journey of escape winds through refugee camps and across the sea as they aim for asylum in the U.S.

Also: Daniel Silva's newest, *Ransom*, will be in library July 15!



Shoshana Abrams Kaikov

Religious School

Education Director, Cantor Shoshana Abrams Kaikov

How is it possible that summer is already here... and somehow, we are already looking ahead to the 5787 Religious School year?

While the hallways may grow quieter for a few months, the energy behind the scenes is only just beginning. Plans are already underway for a year filled with joyful Jewish learning, meaningful connections, unforgettable celebrations, creative experiences, laughter, ruach, and moments that will stay with our students long after they leave our classrooms.

At Beth-El Religious School, we are not simply teaching Judaism. We are building Jewish identity, nurturing Jewish pride, creating lifelong friendships, and helping our children discover that Judaism is something to be lived, loved, questioned, celebrated, and carried proudly into the world.

Throughout the summer, I will be in touch with registration information, exciting updates, family opportunities, and all the details you'll need for another extraordinary year together. Whether your family is returning, newly joining our community, or finding your way back home to us, know this: our doors and hearts are open wide.

Be sure to visit our beautiful Temple website, where you'll soon find the 5787 school calendar, curriculum updates, Tot Shabbat dates, registration information, and more. We are deeply grateful to everyone who continues helping our school

grow, evolve, and shine.

Mark your calendars:
Aug. 30: Opening day of Religious School.

I am also thrilled to once again represent Beth-El alongside Rabbi Zimmerman at Greene Family Camp this summer. There is something magical about seeing our students singing under the Texas sky, dancing at Shabbat services by the lake, making life-long friendships, and experiencing the joy of Jewish community. Those moments remind us this work is truly sacred!

As I reflect on the year, my heart is overflowing with gratitude for our families, teachers, madrichim, clergy, staff, and community members. Thank you for believing in what we are creating together. And the truth is... we are only getting started.

We're hiring!

Are you passionate about Judaism and love working with kids? The Beth-El Religious School is hiring teachers and madrichim as well as Hebrew and Jewish art specialists to help inspire and engage our students on Sunday mornings.

Send your résumé to Cantor Shoshana Kaikov at shoshanakaikov@bethelfw.org. We can't wait for you to join our amazing teaching team!

As we enter this new season, we pause to say *Shehecheyanu*: Thank You, God, for giving us life, sustaining us, and bringing us to this special moment in time.

Wishing your family a summer filled with rest, adventure, laughter, sunshine, and meaningful memories. Have a joyful and relaxing *Kayitz* (summer)!

5787, we are ready for you!

Congratulations to the 2026 Confirmation class: (pictured left to right with their teachers) Student Cantor Sam Chamberlin, Chloe Koon, Benjamin Carlisle, Natalie Strausz, Eli Simanek, Cayden Koon, Alexa Bregman, Cantor Shoshana Abrams Kaikov, Rabbi Brian Zimmerman.

Photo by Marc Slotter





Ruth Roper



Marilyn Stenzler

Women of Reform Judaism

WRJ Co-Presidents Ruth Roper and Marilyn Stenzler

Hello, ladies! The WRJ Mother's Day Shabbat service, led by many of our WRJ sisters and assisted by Rabbi Ralph Mecklenburger, was truly memorable with close to 100 people in attendance.

Three generations of the Hollander family joined Rabbi to light the Shabbat candles to start things off. Joan Katz delivered one of the most moving speeches of the night, reflecting on women's multifaceted legacies — not just as mothers, but also teachers, mentors, and caretakers. She also highlighted and honored the many women who have impacted our lives and success.

The Appleman Family (also three gen-



Women were invited to the bimah to receive a blessing at the conclusion of the WRJ Mother's Day service.

erations) opened the Ark and recited a prayer with everyone joining in. Further spotlighting the theme of generational love, Cantor Shoshana Abrams Kaikov and her mother, Vicky Abrams, chanted blessings before and after the Torah reading.

The night ended beautifully with all the women, daughters, and grandchil-

dren standing on the bimah to be blessed by Rabbi, creating a moment that will be cherished by all.

Beth-El Movie Night



Eric Lawrence

Men of Reform Judaism

MRJ President Eric Lawrence

As the classic song goes, "Summertime ... and the living is easy."

MRJ has few

activities scheduled during the summer.

We normally have a BBQ for our MRJ family in August and will endeavor to do so again. An additional fellowship event is under discussion.

There will be an MRJ movie night on Saturday, Aug. 8. We'll be showing the 1979 classic comedy-western "The Frisco Kid." Please add this to your calendars.

Looking back on the past few weeks, it has been a busy time, ranging from the MRJ Shabbat service to the Mickey Goldman Spaghetti Dinner, honoring Dick and Bob Greenman. Congratulations to both



Rabbi and Jim Stein at Religious School's closing lunch

of them, as well as WRJ/MRJ scholarship winner Madeleine Yorkston. MRJ Past President Eric Deutsch stepped up to plan the event and serve as our emcee, and he did an amazing job.

It truly amazes me sometimes all the ways that our MRJ volunteers step up to serve Beth-El. Thank you, once again, for making Beth-El such a welcoming and vibrant place.



The Frisco Kid

Rated PG
2h 2m

Saturday, Aug. 8

6 p.m. RSVP

Save The Date! MRJ will prepare a wonderful summer meal while we watch the 1979 classic Jewish comedy-western "The Frisco Kid."

Rabbi Avram Belinsky (Gene Wilder) arrives in Philadelphia in 1850 with a Torah scroll and a dream of his new congregation in San Francisco. But after getting robbed by outlaws, he must rely on a benevolent bank robber played by Harrison Ford to travel across the country. "The Frisco Kid" is an anomaly — a comic western about the many different people of faith trying to find their way in a new and strange land.

Contributions

Archive Fund

In Honor of Hollice Weiner's 25 years of memorable exhibitions from the Jewish Archives

· Judith Cohen

In Honor of Len Schweitzer's 35 years FTW Chamber Music Society Board

· Judith Cohen

In Honor of Cindy & Robert Simon's Anniversary

· Judith Cohen

In Honor of Elaine Schuster's 80th Birthday

· Judith Cohen

In Honor of John Sauvey's 25 years as Beth El's Music Director

· Judith Cohen

In Honor of Red Goldstein's work on Art Committee

· Judith Cohen

In Memory of Saradel Baker

· Judith Cohen

Library Fund

In Honor of Dick and Bob Greenman, the Mickey Goldman Persons of the Year

· Jeanne Ginsberg

· Stanley & Barbara Eisenman

· Lea Ann Blum

· Steve Katten

· Barbara & Larry Glazer

Mitch Stenzler Scholarship Fund

In Memory of Ben Sandler

· Sonya Stenzler

In Memory of Hubert Chase

· Sonya Stenzler

MRJ

In Memory of Alan Feinberg

· Marilyn Hochberger McGee

Music Fund

In Honor of John Sauvey's 25 years as Beth-El's Music Director

· Susan & Bob Lewis

Rabbi Mecklenburger Discretionary Fund

In Memory of Mitzi Ogus

· Sandra Polsky, son Joseph, and Debbi and son Julian Tyle

In Memory of Alvin M Polsky

· Sandra Polsky, son Joseph and Debbi and son Julian Tyle

Rabbi Zimmerman Discretionary Fund

In Honor of Rabbi Zimmerman's 10 year anniversary

· Howard Rosenstein Family

In Memory of Roslyn Ettinger

· Alan Ettinger

Religious School Director Discretionary Fund

In Memory of Elaine Stanton

· Jim Stanton

Temple Fund

In Honor of Dick and Bob Greenman, the Mickey Goldman Persons of the Year

· Peggy & Dave Millheiser

In Honor of a Speedy Recovery for Dick Greenman

· Arnold G. & Harriette Gachman

In Honor of a Speedy Recovery for Bruce Weiner

· Doug & Ruth Roper

In Memory of John Factor

· Abe & Kim Factor

In Memory of Frances Klotzman

· Arnold G. & Harriette Gachman

In Memory of R.D. Moses

· Rochelle & Buddy Moses

· Peggy & Dave Millheiser

In Memory of Jennie Kragen

· Mark & Andrea Chicotsky

In Memory of Edwin Couleur

· Dana & Jacob Rosenstein

In Memory of Mildred Belford

· Doris Lehrner

Temple Fund (continued)

In Memory of William Gross

· Billy & Rozanne Rosenthal

In Memory of Jack Berger

· Steve & Carol Kline

Youth Fund

In Memory of William Schwartz

· Michael & Elaine Griver

Kitchen Remodel Project

In Honor of a Speedy recovery for Loretta Feinberg

· Marilyn & Van Stenzler

In Honor of a Speedy recovery for Bruce Weiner

· Marilyn & Van Stenzler

In Honor of a Speedy recovery for Jeanie Rosenblum

· Marilyn & Van Stenzler

Scenes from Shavuot



More than 60 members from Beth-El, Makom Shelanu, and five different churches joined us for an evening of study and reflection through art, music, baking, and conversation on the very nature of revelation, and how it affects our lives.



June-July - 2026 - 5786

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	June 1	2 6 pm Evening Minyan	3 9:30 Archives Meeting 6 pm Evening Minyan	4	5 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	6 9 am Zoom Torah Study 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service and Bat Mitzvah of Lila Nathan
7 11:30 am B'nai Brith	8 7 pm Board Meeting	9 12 pm Jewish Puzzle of Life 6 pm Evening Minyan	10 9:30 Archives Meeting 6 pm Evening Minyan	11 6 pm Evening Minyan	12 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	13 9 am Zoom Torah Study 10:30 am Shabbat Morning Service and Bat Mitzvah of Myra Pine
14	15	16 12 pm Jewish Puzzle of Life 6 pm Evening Minyan	17 9:30 Archives Meeting 6 pm Evening Minyan	18 6 pm Evening Minyan	19 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	20 9 am Zoom Torah Study 10 am Makom Shelanu Pride celebration
21	22	23	24 9:30 Archives Meeting	25	26 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	27 9 am Zoom Torah Study
28	29 No Evening Minyan in July	30	July 1 9:30 Archives Meeting	2	3 TEMPLE OFFICES CLOSED 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Scholar Weekend begins with Kabbalat Shabbat and Speaker Dr. Mark Berkson	4 9 am Zoom Torah Study 10 am Scholar Weekend continues at Beth-El with Makom Shelanu
5 9:30 am Scholar Weekend continues at Broadway Baptist Church	6	7	8 9:30 Archives Meeting	9	10 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	11 9 am Zoom Torah Study
12	13	14	15 9:30 Archives Meeting	16	17 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	18 9 am Zoom Torah Study
19	20	21	22 9:30 Archives Meeting	23	24 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	25 9 am Zoom Torah Study
26	27	28	29 9:30 Archives Meeting	30	August 1 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	2 9 am Zoom Torah Study

The Fantastic Film Fundraiser: Thank you, Fantastic Sponsors!

Producer

Melvin R. & Jody Platt
Charles & Stephanie Haymes Roven

Director

Steve Brown
Bryan & Yolanda Becker
Richard & Carol Minker
Billy & Rozanne Rosenthal

Cinematographer

Semé Dewees-Cooper & Mark Cooper
Joan & Howard Katz
Michael & Beverly J. Ross
Cindy & Robert Simon
Bruce & Hollace Weiner

Costume Designer

Daniel & Julie Goldstein
Howard Frankenthal
Benjamin & Madolin Rosenthal
Howard & Laurie Kelfer
Russ & Susan Schultz
Terry & Cynthia Siegel

Rabbi Brian and Mimi Zimmerman
Marc & Jude Slotter
Gordon & Louise Appleman
Michael & Jennifer Appleman
Larry & Barbara Bushner
Abe & Kim Factor

Judie B & Robert Greenman
Richard & Judie W. Greenman
Shoshana Thoma-Isgur
& Benjamin Isgur
Jeffrey N. & Randee Kaitcer
Leonard & Laurie Roberts

Doug & Ruth Roper
William & Holly Schur
Stuart & Ricki Schuster
Jim Stanton
James & Sonja Stein
Marilyn & Van Stenzler

Screenwriter

Eric & Phyllis Lawrence
Martha Brown
Robert & Donna Chicotsky
Judith Cohen

Sheldon & Phyllis Levy
Jay Martin & Donna Solomon Martin
Jane Oderberg
Daniel & Trudie Oshman

Sam Rosen
Jack & Marilyn Rubin
Lynny Sankary
Allen & Elaine Schuster

Stephen & Nancy Schwartz
Henry W. & Karen Simon
Howard & Nicole Slobodin

Stage Hand

Gary & Faye Slater
Seymour & Gail Roberts
Max & Daniela Pell
Shayna Coyne
Greg & Marcy Phillips
Barry Abels

Rina Arnold
Laurin & Cheryl Baum
Leslie & Gary Bregman
Michael & Myra Bumagin
Marc & Jane Cohen
Julie & Kevin Diamond

Tere Goldstein & John Lanier
Gerry & Ellen Hoffman
Steve Katten
Steve & Carol Kline
Susan & Bob Lewis
Rabbi Ralph & Ann Mecklenburger

Karl and Jeanie Rosenblum
Lewis & Diana Schwartz
Marge Van Giesen

Gaffer

Fran & Eric Kreindler
Pezhman Kojoori & Erika Lapin-Kojoori
Felice Anspacher
Miranda Nadel
Ellen Robinson
Jesse Stacey
Martin Robinson & Denae Chance
Janis Meyerson
Michelle & Cory Hartman

Deborah Kelfer
Cantor Sheri & Richard Allen
Bob & Susan Archenhold
David P. & Drew Brigati
Melody & Guy Bustillos
Jill & David Clay
Caren Handleman & Steve Pew
Ira & Sandra Hollander
Leslie D. & Debra Ann Rosenthal

Sonya Stenzler
Jenny Solomon
David & Erica Bekerman
Al & Vicky Abrams
Mordecai & Shoshana Kaikov
Maxine Levy
Karen Kaplan
Jerry & Sheril Appel
Julie Blacker

Jeanne Ginsberg
Steven Hays
Ilana & Kurt Knust
Alan & Leslie Magee
Scott Price
Carole Rogers
Ashley Rosenstein
Courtney Weston
Sandra Polsky

July 4 Scholar Weekend

July 3-5

Join Beth-El, Makom Shelanu, and Broadway Baptist Church for a special commemoration on America's 250th birthday and thoughtful discussions about the significant role that religion has played in shaping our country.

**Friday, July 3, Beth-El Congregation
6:15 p.m.**

Religious Pluralism and Multifaith Democracy

Dr. Mark Berkson, Professor and Chair in the Department of Religion at Hamline University, will join us to discuss the connection between religious pluralism and democracy, the risks of religious nationalism, and the resources that can be found within religious traditions — Judaism in particular — to promote pluralism and democracy.



Dr. Mark Berkson

**Saturday, July 4, Beth-El Congregation
10 a.m.**

Makom Shelanu Shabbat service,

Religion, Politics, and the Future of Democracy

What role should religion play in conversations and political activity among citizens in civil society? Should we keep politics out of religion? Or is our religion inextricably tied to politics? In this conversation, we will look at the ways religious traditions can inspire and promote political action, and also the ways they can lead in other directions.

**Sunday, July 5, Broadway Baptist Church
9:30 a.m.**

The Vanishing Wall Between Church and State (and Consequences for Democracy)

In this presentation, we will discuss the importance of the First Amendment's Establishment Clause and how recent Supreme Court decisions are changing the relationship between religion and the state, including public education. We will also reflect on why the nation's founders believed separation of church and state benefited both, and why there are secular and religious (particularly Baptist) arguments for separation.

Lunch

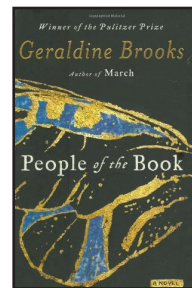
Religious Freedom and Its Limits: When Democratic Values Collide

What role has religious freedom played in American democracy? Does religious freedom give us the right to discriminate against others? In this discussion, we will examine the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment and the Supreme Court cases that have interpreted it. We will also see how freedom of religion has been a powerful shield to protect Americans against the state, and how it can also be used as a weapon against others.

People of the Book

..... Sheryl Levy

June 9, 10 a.m.



People of the Book by Geraldine Brooks

You're not seeing double. Our selection for June 9 is *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks. The book is about the Sarajevo Haggada and a

rare-book expert's search for the history of the book based on tiny artifacts she finds in the book's binding.

For **Aug. 11**, we are reading *One Good Thing*, by Georgia Hunter, set in Italy during WWII. It's a novel of friendship, motherhood, resilience and survival. *People of the Book* meets on select Tuesday mornings from 10 to 11 a.m. in the Beth-El library. Please contact Sheryl Levy (slevy2608@gmail.com) for more information or if you would like to be put on the contact list.

Gift Shop News

The WRJ gift shop will be open by appointment only during the summer. For an appointment, please call or text Michelle Hartman: 817-706-3451 or email bethel-wrjgiftshop@yahoo.com.



Healing Prayers & 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 at our

Shabbat service, please call or email the Temple office at office@bethelfw.org or Rabbi Zimmerman and rabbiz@bethelfw.org, or go to bethelfw.org to share your request. Rabbi Zimmerman or Renee Woods will get the information from this site quickly.



Finding Our Place in the Jewish Puzzle of Life:

Tuesdays, June 9, June 16, noon

This conversation moves between recent articles, current events, philosophy, and older Jewish prayers and texts all with the goal of articulating a personal theology. Want to join us? Drop by June 16 at noon, or contact Rabbi Zimmerman for more information.

Curt Thompson Returns to Beth-El

Friday, June 26, Beth-El

We're excited to welcome back violinist Curt Thompson, founder and executive director of the Mimir Chamber Music Festival, and pianist Michael Schneider for their annual Mimir kickoff concert.



**Master Violinist
Curt Thompson**

Mimir launches its 29th season in Fort Worth on June 29. Please visit mimirfestival.org for more information.

Curt will perform at the end of Shabbat services Friday, June 26. Please join us to welcome back this master violinist as well as Sam Chamberlin, who will be celebrating her first shabbat as a full-time cantor at Beth-El.

Special thanks to Jane Cohen for bringing this special Shabbat evening of music to our congregation every summer.

PianoTexas Festival

Friday, June 5, Beth-El

Dr. Tamás Ungár, founder and artistic director of the PianoTexas Festival and Beth-El member, will bring a sampling of this special musical event to our Shabbat service on Friday, June 5.

The 46th annual PianoTexas Festival will showcase extraordinary talent from around the world and unforgettable performances at TCU's Van Cliburn Concert Hall this summer, June 4-29.

For more information, please visit pianotexas.org.



PianoTexas Festival founder and artistic director Dr. Tamás Ungár

Medical Emergency Training

July 9, 6:30 p.m. Beth-El

July 16, 10 a.m., Ahavath Sholom

Would you know what to do in a medical emergency in the critical minutes before help arrives?

Beth-El will host a 90-minute, hands-on training session focused on Stop the Bleed, CPR, and AED usage on Thursday, July 9, at 6:30 p.m. It will be preceded by dessert treats at 6 p.m.

Stop the Bleed training teaches you how to help control serious bleeding in three basic steps: applying direct pressure, packing a wound, and using a tourniquet. Participants will also learn and practice CPR chest compressions and how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED) to assist someone experiencing cardiac arrest.

Several Stop the Bleed and first-aid kits, as well as AEDs, are located

throughout our building. Knowing how to use them can make a life-saving difference. The training is valuable for all congregants, including students (middle-school age and up).

Ahavath Sholom will host daytime training Thursday, July 16, at 10 a.m.

Both sessions are open to everyone in our community.

Attending emergency medical training is a

meaningful and practical expression of *Pikuach Nefesh*, the Jewish obligation to save a life. Please call the Temple office or email Cindy Simon at c.simon@tarrantfederation.org to register, which is required.

Training is provided in partnership with the trauma team at Cook Children's and the Jewish Federation of Fort Worth and Tarrant County.





Hollace Weiner

Then & Now: Beth-El's Beginnings with B'nai B'rith

Temple Archivist, Hollace Ava Weiner

It was 150 years ago, after the Texas & Pacific railway reached Fort Worth in

1876, that three Dallas men took the train to Fort Worth and organized Cowtown's first Jewish institution: a B'nai B'rith Lodge. Until then, travel from Dallas to Fort Worth required a stage coach or a fast pony.

Twenty-seven years later in 1902, Fort Worth's B'nai B'rith President Henry Gernsbacher, a New Orleans native, called a special meeting for unaffiliated Jewish men and asked if they would support a Reform congregation. Although Fort Worth already had a traditional shul, Congregation Ahavath Sholom, which began in 1892, Gernsbacher had grown up at a Reform temple where prayers were read in English rather than Hebrew, men did not wear yarmulkes or prayer shawls, and they sat with women in family pews. The 43 men attending voted to charter Beth-El.

Thus, the embryonic origins of our temple are rooted in B'nai B'rith, a social-service fraternity that welcomes Jews of all persuasions.

A year later, during Easter week in 1903, headlines described violent Russian pogroms — now called the "Kishinev Massacre." B'nai

Brith stepped forward to resettle immigrants. In Fort Worth, a committee led by immigration advocate U.M. Simon screened applicants. Among the refugees he welcomed was shoemaker Wolff Moses, whose descendants are today congregants at Beth-El and Ahavath Sholom. Another beneficiary was Sam Zalefsky, a wallpaper hanger whose sons shortened their last name to Zale and launched one of the world's largest retail jewelry chains. Simon, a recent law-school graduate, went on to become president of Beth-El, as did his two sons, a grandson, and a great-grandson.

Many of B'nai B'rith's past presidents — including wine-and-spirits distributor Mickey Goldman, optometrist Sol Lesser, and oilman Sol Brachman — became key Temple leaders. B'nai B'rith's role in shaping our congregation

and community has been crucial, but not entirely beneficial. The three-alarm fire that gutted Beth-El on Aug. 29, 1946, followed a night of "nickel" poker at a B'nai B'rith smoker attended by more than 100 cigar- and cigarette-puffing gents.

Come help blow out the candles at three events this fall marking B'nai B'rith's 150th birthday in Fort Worth:

- Oct. 16, 6:15 p.m., Kabbalat Shabbat at Beth-El
- Oct. 24, 9:30 a.m., Shabbat morning at Ahavath Sholom
- Nov. 4, 5:30 p.m., dinner dance party with no speeches and no fundraising at Ahavath Sholom featuring Goga and His Band. Tickets \$36. (Jewish homestyle supper, wine, soft drinks, and coffee included.)



B'nai B'rith
Isadore Garsek Lodge

Celebrating
150 Years
In Fort Worth

2026 JEWISH PERSON OF THE YEAR

06
MONTH

07
DAY

26
YEAR

11:30 AM - 2:00 PM
BETH-EL CONGREGATION

- CELEBRATE THE 2026 JEWISH PERSON OF THE YEAR
- B'NAI B'RITH YOUTH GRANTS PRESENTATION
- DELICIOUS LUNCH; (KOSHER MEAL WITH ADVANCE NOTICE)

COST \$36 PER PERSON

RESERVE YOUR TICKETS BY SCANNING THE QR CODE



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YEVGENIY OSTRINSKY AT YOSTRINSKY@BNAIBRITHFORTWORTH.ORG

MARVIN BELECK AT MARVINBELECK@AOL.COM

REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS:

JEFF KAITCER AT JEFFK3777@YAHOO.COM

ALEX NASON AT ANASONS3@GMAIL.COM

June 5

Mariam Anspacher
Alice Asch
Roberta Barr
Jennie Chicotsky
Sarah Cohen
Edwin Couleur
Fay Kalish Fairman
Louis Feit
Bea Field
Charles Furst
Nessa Griver
Sarah Herman
Leonard Hollander
Mona Kaitcer
Syd Kboudi
Jennie Kragen
Elizabeth Kuehn
Barbara Kurtz
Florence Lederman
William A. Nathan
Bernice Osser
Abe Pozez
Esther Robbins
Tamara Rousch
Frank Schumer
Felicia Shloss
Blanche Thoma
Pauline Kurtz Weiner
Ruth Zimmerman Napoleon

June 12

Abraham Anolik
R.C. "Archie" Archenhold
Gertrude Chicotsky
Arvie Cooper
Joseph Cristol
Simon "Si" Davidson
Irvin J. Farb
Jessonda Fox
Cynthia Gilbert
Grace Goodman
Saul Haber
Morris Kotkin
Edith Maximon
Edgar Parvey
Bernice Rapfogel
Dorothy Shelby
Sandra Stein
Arthur "Skip" Urbach

June 19

Lee Anspacher
Dave Chicotsky
Eleazer (Les) Deutsch
Eleazer Deutsch
Phillip Dutton
Brian David Fritzer
Fredda Isenberg
Ruby Kantor
Paula Kelfer
Suzie Kornblit-Rosenberg
Louis Lesnick
Lillian Maass
Joseph Maurice Polsky
Chanah Robinowitz
David Rousch
Rick Simon
Carol St. Onge
Jan Stanton
Lillian Steinbach
Maryanne Townes
Phyllis Weiss

June 26

Valerie Rosenthal Aronoff
Sharon Balick
David Felder
Simon Florsheim
Frederick W. Hall
Erica Hochster
Harry Hoffman
Rosann Mundt Lamensdorf
Joseph Leiken
Irving Napoleon
Sidney Stern
Imre Ungar
Betty Jean Rosen Weil

July 3

Martin Bellet
Marcus Cristol
Sharon Finkelstein
Brad Gaber
Belle Goldblum
Sadie Gross
Dr. Allen H Kline
Irving Klotzman
Allen Klotzman
Florence Leiken
William Roddy
Joan Rosen
Ruth S. Rosen
Anna Belle Rosenthal
Marian Rubinson

July 10

Larry Lewis Boyles
Keith Fenton
Bertha Harris
George Jacobs
Sarah Schumer
Louise Snelgrove
Ben Walter Suby
Erna Lesaius Zentner

July 17

Stephen Allen
Abraham Antweil
Helene Baginsky
Karen Delavan
Elizabeth Finkel
Rudy Kemp
Anita Klein
Ralph Lau
Dona Miller
Alfred M. Rosenfield
Seyman Rubinson
Rochelle Sachs
Sally Lynn Schur
Rolly Schur
Marvin Schuster
Sylvan Schwartz
Anne Varvaro
Richard Weisberg

July 24

William A. Bermont
Lucille Brothers
William Wyatt Campbell
Gabriel Cohen
Sullivan Collins
Sara Feit
Charlotte Fleischmann
Yvette "DeeDee" Friedberg
Morris Hendelman
Pauline Kleier-Levy
Sandra Rubin Koslow
Jeanie Krumbein
David Krumholz
Julius Kunen
Herman Lehmann
Elaine Levy
Roger Maass
Hugh Reeder
E. M. "Manny" Rosenthal
Herbert Rothstein
Bebe Schwartz
Gussie Weiner

July 31

Reuben Archenhold
Pearl Bodner
Sylvia Schwartz Bronstein
Meredith R. Carb, Sr.
Judith Cooper
Marvin Cummings
Leah Landman Goldstucker
Dr. David Gorfein
Irvin Lehrner
Penny Lehwald
Samuel Lurie
Harry Roth
Mitch Stenzler



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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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

Beth-El Board of Directors:

Michael Appleman, President

Robert Simon, Immediate Past President

Nancy Schwartz, 1st Vice President

Shayna Coyne, 2nd Vice President

Semé Dewees-Cooper, Secretary

Marc Slotter, Treasurer

Directors: Jerry Appel, Yolanda Becker, Erica Bekerman,
Steve Brown, Kim Factor, Kimberly Florsheim, Matthew
Henken, Benjamin Isgur, Max Pell, Karl Rosenblum, Ben
Rosenthal, Faye Slater

WRJ: Ruth Roper and Marilyn Stenzler, Co-Presidents

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 \$ _____

Designated Fund: _____

☐ In Honor of: _____

☐ In Memory of: _____

Donor Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Send acknowledgment to: _____

