

Beth-Elements

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



September 2026

Divrei Torah

.....Cantor Sam Chamberlin



Sam Chamberlin

Most people have a favorite Jewish holiday. Passover, Chanukah, and Purim are among the most popular answers. Yom Kippur, in my experience, is a lot less com-

mon — unless they're talking about Kol Nidre (which wasn't in our Reform prayer books for a while, but that's another story).

What keeps Yom Kippur off the list of favorite holidays? The fasting probably plays some part. Or all that standing in uncomfortable dress shoes.

But I suspect it's not the physical discomfort as much as it is the emotional distress. Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, asks a great deal of us. Not only do we have to think deeply about what we've done wrong in the past year, we have to apologize to those we have wronged.

And what if the person refuses to accept our apology? The unfortunate reality is that we can only control our actions, not their response. The Talmud tries to address this, teaching that if we apologize sincerely three times the other person has to forgive us (Yoma 87a:13). Why three times? The Rabbis chose it based on the triple repetition of the word "please" in the Bible when Joseph's brothers are asking for his forgiveness (Genesis 50:17). Joseph's brothers ulti-

Divrei Torah continued on page 2

High Holy Days and Shabbat Services

Minyan with the community

Tuesday-Thursday.....6 p.m.

Welcoming Shabbat reception

Join us every Friday night — except Rosh Hashanah — for wine, cheese, and to welcome Shabbat with friends.....5:30 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 4

Kabbalat Shabbat with Rabbi Zimmerman and Cantorial Soloist Sam Chamberlin.....6:15 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 5

Shabbat morning service of study, song, and prayer in preparation for the High Holy Days at Rabbi Zimmerman's house with Rabbi and Angie Friedman.....10:30 a.m.

Selichot program at Beth-El. Details, page 6: "Crimes and Misdemeanors".....6 p.m.

Selichot service of preparation.....8:45 p.m.

Rosh Hashanah

Friday, Sept. 11

Rosh Hashanah service.....7:30 p.m.*
followed by the WRJ's Rosh Hashanah reception in honor of our clergy and their spouses

Saturday, Sept. 12

Rosh Hashanah family service.....9 a.m.*
Rosh Hashanah morning service.....10:30 a.m.*

Sunday, Sept. 13

Kever Avot memorial service
Emanuel Hebrew Rest Cemetery.....10 a.m.
Beth-El Section of Greenwood Cemetery.....11 a.m.

Friday, Sept. 18

Kabbalat Shabbat T'shuvah service with Rabbi Zimmerman and John Sauvey.....6:15 p.m.

Yom Kippur

Sunday, Sept. 20

Kol Nidre.....8 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 21

Yom Kippur family service.....9 a.m.*

Yom Kippur morning service.....10:30 a.m.*

"What is American Jewish Zionism?"

discussion in the library.....1 p.m.*

Niggun Circle and Reflection in the Chapel with Rabbi Zimmerman and Cantorial Soloist Sam Chamberlin.....2:15 p.m.*

Afternoon service.....3 p.m.*

Yizkor and Neilah.....4:15 p.m.*
followed by Break the Fast

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

Friday, Sept. 25

Outdoor in the Sukkah: Short Kabbalat Shabbat Sukkot service and dinner.....6 p.m.

Reservations required. See page 6 for dinner information.

Friday, Oct. 2

Simchat Torah Shabbat service and Bat Mitzvah of Maryjain Danoski with Rabbi Zimmerman, Cantorial Soloist Sam Chamberlin, and Angie Friedman.....6:15 p.m.

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Services are in person and streamed at youtube.com/BethElCongregation with the exception of both 9 a.m. family services, the afternoon Yom Kippur discussion, and Reflection in the Chapel. These services will be in person only.



Michael Appleman

President's Message

..... Temple President Michael Appleman

At our most recent Board meeting, as we do at all our Board meetings,

we asked Rabbi for a brief *d'var Torah* before discussing Temple business.

This time, Rabbi spoke of *Elul* and its imminent commencement and professed that the "High Holy Days" are more properly called the "Days of Awe" (the *Yamim Noraim*). He then mused about "awe" and what it means in this context. I submit that Merriam-Webster's definition — "an emotion variously combining dread, veneration, and wonder that is inspired by overwhelming greatness (as in beauty, power, or size) — would meet with Rabbi's approval.

Rabbi then turned the tables. He made inquiry of us (a pop quiz!). What do we hope to encounter during the Days of Awe? What would make the High Holy Days successful?

A few of us remained silent, maybe preferring to ponder the question beyond the five minutes or so we would allot to this exercise, or, perhaps, being fearful that our comments would be insufficient. A few hardy souls offered responses.

Dr. Yolanda Becker, our President-Elect, related her experiences as a transplant surgeon, admiring the

compassion and generosity of donor families, and how moved she is by the gratefulness of the recipients' families. Others spoke of gathering with friends and family, whether at services or at meals in and around them, or delighted in the sense of community while at Beth-El.

Regardless of whether we responded to Rabbi out loud or not, we all came out of the exercise prepared for *Elul*, possibly with a more specific topic on which to reflect this year than in others. Now, in these last few days before Rosh Hashanah, you, too, have something specific to consider.

Not only must we reflect, we are commanded to ask for forgiveness — from others and, of course, from G-d — and we are at least strongly encouraged to change our ways. After all, repentance, prayer, and charity temper judgment's harsh decree.

I still haven't come up with my answer to Rabbi's question, but perhaps I will share it from the pulpit during the few moments I have been offered to address you as a congregation. Or, perhaps, I will keep the specifics to myself and just talk about lemon cookies again.

Whatever happens, may you have a good and sweet year, full of happiness and blessings, and may you be inscribed and sealed in the Book of Life.

Celebrate Sukkot



Sukkot begins at
sundown on Sept. 25

Order an Etrog from Israel and celebrate Sukkot in your own home!

Make this the year you order a Lulav and Etrog set!

Lulav and Etrog sets are only \$36

But you must contact Rabbi Zimmerman at rabbiz@bethelfw.org before **Sept. 7** to place your order.

A note of thanks

.....
...to each of you for the calls, the notes, the hugs, the Shiva visits, the attendance at Minyan, and the incredible support in the weeks after the passing of my father, Rabbi Sheldon Zimmerman.

Mimi, Saul, and Molly, as well as my extended family, join me in thanking you for your kindness.

Divrei Torah

(continued from page 1)

mately do forgive him, but is that always a realistic expectation?

Some interpretations of this Talmud text teach that we are absolved of the wrongdoing after three sincere apologies, even if the person does not forgive us.

But what does it mean to apologize sincerely? The words "I'm sorry" have very little weight on their own.

They must be paired with an honest acknowledgment of the harm we caused. It does not matter if you intended to cause harm or not, it is the impact you had on the person you harmed that matters.

For example, you may have thought you were just making a joke, but if it was hurtful to someone who heard you, apologize not just for the joke but also for the hurt you caused. "I'm sorry you feel that way" is not a sincere apology. Try something like, "I am sorry I caused

you pain with my actions," followed by additional details.

The best apologies are the ones that don't have to be repeated, because you have changed your behavior.

Yom Kippur gives us the chance to atone for our wrongdoings and then start with a clean slate, pledging to do better in the new year. I hope we can all embrace this opportunity to offer sincere apologies, and then try to avoid making the same mistakes in the new year.



Shoshana Abrams Kaikov

Religious School: *Beginning Again*

.....Education Director, Cantor Shoshana Abrams Kaikov

There is something magical about this time of year.

The High Holy Days are approaching. A new school year has begun. The weather is becoming cooler (we hope). Hallways are filling with laughter, classrooms are buzzing, families are finding their way back through our doors, and there is a beautiful sense that something new is beginning.

At Beth-El Religious School, we are thrilled to welcome our new and returning families into another year of Jewish learning, connection, celebration, and joy! And what a year it is already shaping up to be! Our school is thriving and most importantly, our children are growing into their own unique Jewish identities. Beth-El is a happy place to be, and there is nothing I love more than watching our building come alive on Sunday mornings.

Perhaps that is why I love the High Holy Days season so much. Judaism gives us permission, actually, it invites us, to begin again.

Rosh Hashanah reminds us that we can start fresh. Yom Kippur asks us to pause, reflect, repair, and return. The Hebrew word *teshuvah* is often translated as "repentance," but its deeper meaning is returning. And one of my favorite words in our liturgy is *Hashiveinu*, return us.

Return us to ourselves.

Return us to what matters.

Return us to the people we want to be.

Every year, the High Holy Days offer us the extraordinary opportunity to ask: Who am I becoming? What light am I bringing into the world? And what do I want to do differently this year?

Our 5787 Beth-El Religious School theme, "Be the Light/Heyu Ha'Or," feels especially meaningful during this season. Jewish tradition teaches us that light represents hope, wisdom, holiness, courage, and the Divine presence. But light

is not something we are meant to keep to ourselves. A single flame can ignite another without becoming any dimmer.

That is what Jewish community is supposed to do.

We bring our light to one another. We learn together. We celebrate together. We stumble and repair together. We grow together. And then we carry that light beyond the walls of Beth-El and into our homes, our workplaces, our schools, our friendships, and the wider world.

As we enter this sacred season and this exciting new school year, may we

embrace the Jewish gift of beginning again. May we return, *hashiveinu*, to our best selves. May we bring our fullest, brightest selves to Beth-El. And may the light we kindle here become a light that reaches far beyond us.

Because the goal isn't simply to find the light.

The goal is to become it.

L'Shanah Tovah! Let's shine!

Religious School wish list

Custom T-shirts for our students, teachers, and madrichim.....\$3,000

Tot Shabbat
Sweet Beginnings

Let's celebrate Shabbat and the Jewish New Year together!

Friday, September 4th
5:30pm
at Beth-El Congregation

with Cantor Shoshana

SINGING • DANCING • STORYTELLING • ARTS & CRAFTS • & OF COURSE, A NOSHI!

For little ones ages 0-6

With special guest **Cindy Simon** from PJ Library!

Jewish Federation of Fort Worth & Tarrant County
PJ Library
JEWISH BEDTIME STORIES AND SONGS
www.pjlibrary.org

We can't wait to celebrate Shabbat and the Jewish New Year together! ♥



Ruth Roper



Marilyn Stenzler

Women of Reform Judaism

WRJ Co-Presidents Ruth Roper and Marilyn Stenzler

Hello, ladies! Another year has begun with the promise of cooler weather and sisterhood at Beth-El. We'll have the opportunity to connect with existing members and meet new ones as WRJ prepares

for the annual **Rosh Hashanah** reception in honor of the clergy. Please bring your plated desserts to Beth-El the morning of Sept. 11. The reception follows immediately after the Erev Rosh Hashanah service, and everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Beth-El's adopt-a-school this year is **George C. Clarke Elementary**. Ruth Roper, chair of the snack sack project, in partnership with Broadway Baptist Church, will be raising funds to ensure

students receive week-end nutrition. School supplies, as in years past, will be collected and delivered to George C. Clarke Elementary.

WRJ has recently adopted a new social justice initiative: Taste Project, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit established to feed, educate, and serve the Fort Worth community. Taste believes that everyone should have access to healthy food, so the restaurant's menu has no prices.

A WRJ team volunteered at Taste on Friday, Aug. 7.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact WRJ Social Action Chair, Mimi Zimmerman at mimizimmerman123@gmail.com.



WRJ Social Action Chair Mimi Zimmerman, Faye Slater, Ceil Price, Hollace Weiner, and Pamela Hinz, volunteered Aug. 7 at the Taste Project, a faith-based eatery at 1200 S. Main in Fort Worth, where diners pay what they can for delicious food.

WRJ Rosh Hashanah Reception

Friday, Sept. 11, 2026
following the 7:30 p.m. service
honoring our clergy and their spouses.



Eric Lawrence

Men of Reform Judaism

MRJ President Eric Lawrence

With Religious School about to start and High Holy Days just around the corner,

most of MRJ's September activities revolve around the holidays. Our members will again be helping as greeters for the holiday services.

MRJ will also be putting up the Sukkah for all the events that will take place there, including the **MRJ fellowship event on Oct. 1**.

Planning has begun for this year's **Matzo Ball Classic Golf Tournament on Sunday, Oct. 18**, at Hawks Creek Golf Club. My sincere thanks, once again, to

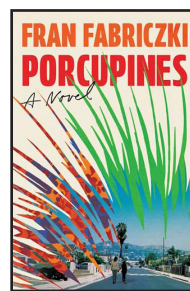
Jeff Kaitcer and Jay Martin for leading this event. Those interested in playing in the tournament, or being a sponsor, please contact Jeff or Jay for more information. They will gladly get you signed up and ready to go.

We're all looking forward to a busy, effective, and fun MRJ effort this year. Anyone interested in joining MRJ please contact me at elawr1951@yahoo.com.

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

People of the Book

Sheryl Levy



Porcupines
by Fran Fabriczki
Oct. 6, 9:30 a.m.

Our **Oct. 6** selection explores a modern immigrant's experience coming from Hungary to Los Angeles.

People of the Book, Beth-El's book group, meets on selected Tuesdays in the Temple library. We have lively discussions about books with Jewish themes or by Jewish authors. Please contact Sheryl Levy, slevy2608@gmail.com, for more information or to be put on the contact list.



Contributions

Aug. 11-Sept. 10

Caring Congregation

In Memory of Susan Lau
· Maxine Levy

Floral Fund

In Memory of Peter Oshman
· Daniel & Trudie Oshman

Library Fund

In Honor of Bob and Dick Greenman
the Mickey Goldman Persons of
the Year
· Edwin & Meredith Cohen

Mitch Stenzler Scholarship Fund

In Honor of a Welcome to
Cantor Sam & Jon Chamberlin
· Marilyn & Van Stenzler
In Memory of Ruth Sandler
· Sonya Stenzler and Family
In Memory of Dr. Morley Allen Herbert
· Marilyn & Van Stenzler
In Memory of Mitch Stenzler
· Sonya Stenzler

Rabbi Zimmerman Discretionary Fund

In Memory of
Rabbi Sheldon Zimmerman
· Jerry & Sheril Appel
· Frank & Janice Feinberg
· Jeanne Ginsberg
· Michael & Pam Kalpin
· Joan and Howard Katz
· Howard & Laurie Kelfer
· Sheldon & Phyllis Levy
· Susan & Bob Lewis
· Stephen Maizlish & Joyce Goldberg
· Richard & Carol Minker
· Alyse Nackson
· Mark Pritchard & Robin Weinberg
· Richard and Cantor Sheri Allen
· Louis & Leigh Schultz
· Allen & Elaine Schuster
· Cindy & Robert Simon
· Jim Stanton

Rabbi Zimmerman Discretionary Fund (cont.)

· James & Sonja Stein
· Marilyn & Van Stenzler
· Sonya Stenzler
· Cathy Walensky
In Memory of Roger Maass
· Steve & Cindy Bond
In Memory of Michael Handleman
· Caren Handleman and Steve Pew

Religious School Fund

For the 5787 Religious School Year
· Jacob & Emily Davis
· Tony & Gabby Everett
In Memory of Suzie Koonsman
· Edwin & Meredith Cohen
· Larry & Maddie Lesnick
· Cindy & Robert Simon
In Memory of
Rabbi Sheldon Zimmerman
· Michael & Elaine Griver
· Nichole and Drew Weinberg
In Memory of Elsie Blum
· Michael & Elaine Griver
In Memory of Dr. Morley Allen Herbert
· Michael & Elaine Griver
In Memory of Harry Jacob Kline
· Steve & Carol Kline
In Memory of Miriam A. Schultz
· Louis & Leigh Schultz

Temple Fund

In Memory of Melvin Blumberg
· Loesje Blumberg
In Memory of Reuben Blumberg
· Loesje Blumberg
In Memory of Irwin Lehrner
· Andrea and Roger Carroll and Doris
Lehrner
In Memory of Ted Krakover
· Carol & Jerry Courter
In Memory of
David McLaurin Campbell
· Abe & Kim Factor

Temple Fund (cont.)

In Memory of Maurice N. Fairman
· Richard & Judie W. Greenman
In Memory of
Oscar and Clarisse Lavine
· David M. & Diana Lavine
In Memory of Abraham Leventhal
· Harry Leventhal &
Judi Massis-Leventhal
In Memory of
Rabbi Sheldon Zimmerman
· Eugene & Bobby Levy
· Doug & Ruth Roper
· Michael & Beverly J. Ross
· Russ & Susan Schultz
· Bruce & Hollace Weiner
In Memory of
Jaine Gernsbacher Meyerson
· Janis Meyerson
In Memory of Jerry Wolens
· Billy & Rozanne Rosenthal
In Memory of Madelyn Gross Walter
· Billy & Rozanne Rosenthal
In Memory of Jean Whatley
· Michael & Beverly J. Ross
In Memory of Dr. Morley Allen Herbert
· William & Holly Schur

WRJ

In Honor of Ruth Roper's Birthday
· Marilyn & Van Stenzler

Youth Fund

In Honor of Cindy Simon, B'nai Brith
Person of the Year
· Edwin & Meredith Cohen
In Memory of Dr. Morley Allen Herbert
· David & Elisa Nudleman

Selichot Weekend of Preparation

Sept. 4-5

Cantorial Soloist Sam Chamberlin and Rabbi Zimmerman will share special holiday tunes, stories, and teachings to prepare us for our holiday observance. On Saturday night, Rabbi will show one of his favorite films and lead a discussion of its messages and challenges for our new Jewish year.

Friday, Sept. 4

6:15 p.m.

Shabbat Service of music, preparation, and reflections for the holidays: *The Work of T'shuvah*.

Saturday, Sept. 5

10:30 a.m.

Shabbat study, song, and preparation for the new year with Rabbi Zimmerman and Angie Friedman at Rabbi's house.

6 p.m.

Selichot dinner program, movie, and discussion: *Crimes and Misdemeanors*

A rabbi, a philanthropist and a television producer walk into a wedding and



Crimes and Misdemeanors

Rated PG

119 minutes

Saturday, Sept. 5

6 p.m. Free

discuss the meaning of life.

It sounds like the beginning of a joke and, in a way, it is.

Woody Allen's most thoughtful and Jewish film also explores questions of reward, punishment, love, and free will. Prepare for the High Holy Days season with this beautiful, funny, and challenging film starring Alan Alda, Martin Landau, Mia Farrow, and Angelica Huston

8:45 p.m.

Selichot Service with Rabbi Zimmerman and Cantorial Soloist Sam Chamberlin

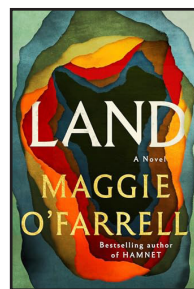
Minyan is Back!

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 6 p.m., Beth-El chapel

Remember, our Tuesday through Thursday Minyan is not just for me. It is a great way to support our whole community. I will continue to do my best to recite Kaddish for my dad for the next year. Thanks to all who lead and attend to make this possible.

— Rabbi Zimmerman

WRJ Book Club



Land

by Maggie O'Farrell

Wednesday, Oct. 7,

7 p.m.

Land is a historical novel set in 1865 Ireland that explores themes of family, memory, and the lasting impact of the Great Hunger. WRJ's book club selects fiction written by women and features a wide range of themes. For more information, contact Jeanierosenblum@gmail.com

Meet Me in the Sukkah!

Sukkot and Simchat Torah

Outdoor Celebrations: Sept. 28-Oct. 2

Lunch in the Sukkah

The Sukkah will be open every weekday Sept. 28-Oct. 2 during office hours for those who wish to bring a bag lunch and enjoy this harvest festival.

Sukkot dinner and all-ages family service

Friday, Sept. 25, 6 p.m.

Pizza (and lasagna) in the Hut \$5 per person for all over 3 years old. RSVP for dinner by Sept. 23.

Pooch Havdalah

Saturday, Sept. 26, 7 p.m.

Please join Rabbi Zimmerman, Mimi, and Winter the Wonder Dog for Pooch Havdalah in the Sukkah. Well-behaved dogs (and other pets) very welcome! Please join us just before sunset for wine, cheese, and desserts plus special snacks for pets. We will observe the third snack meal of Shabbat and join in a brief outdoor Havdalah ceremony and pet blessing for all pets present.

Curious about Conversion Class

Tuesday, Sept. 29, 7:30 p.m.

WRJ Happy Hour

Wednesday, Sept. 30, 6 p.m.

MRJ Barbeque Dinner

Thursday, Oct. 1.

Simchat Torah and Bat Mitzvah

of Maryjain Danoski

Friday, Oct. 2, 6:15 p.m.

Simchat Torah and Yizkor Service

Saturday, Oct. 3, 10:30 a.m.

Weather permitting, unroll the whole Torah with us (if we have enough people) and join a celebration of the ending and immediate beginning of our Torah cycle.

September - 2026 - 5786-87

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 12 pm Jewish Puzzle of Life 6 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm Curious About Conversion	2 9:30 Archives Meeting 11 am-2 pm Gift shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan	3 6 pm Evening Minyan	4 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 5:30 pm Tot Shabbat 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	5 SELICHOT 9 am Zoom Torah Study 10:30 a.m. Shabbat morning of study and song at Rabbi Zimmerman's home 6 pm Movie "Crimes and Misdemeanors" 8:45 pm Selicot Service
6 No Religious School	7 TEMPLE OFFICE CLOSED 7 pm Board Meeting	8 6 pm Evening Minyan	9 9:30 Archives Meeting 11 am-2 pm Gift shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan	10 6 pm Evening Minyan	11 EREV ROSH HASHANAH TEMPLE OFFICE CLOSING AT NOON 7:30 pm Rosh Hashanah Service WRJ's Rosh Hashanah Reception hosted by WRJ following Service	12 ROSH HASHANAH 9 am Family Service 10:30 am Morning Service
13 9:30 am Religious School 10 am Kever Avot Memorial Service at Emanuel Hebrew Rest Cemetery 11 am Kever Avot Memorial Service at Greenwood Cemetery	14	15 12 pm Jewish Puzzle of Life 6 pm Evening Minyan	16 9:30 Archives Meeting 11 am-2 pm Gift shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan	17 12 pm PrimeTimers 6 pm Evening Minyan	18 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Kabbalat Shabbat Service	19 9 am Zoom Torah Study
20 9:30 am Religious School 9:30 am Sunday Conversations 8 pm Kol Nidre	21 YOM KIPPUR TEMPLE OFFICE CLOSED 9 am Family Service 10:30 am Morning Svc 1 pm Discussion 2:15 pm Niggun Circle 3 pm Afternoon Service 4:15 pm Concluding Svc	22 6 pm Evening Minyan	23 9:30 Archives Meeting 11 am-2 pm Gift shop open 6 pm Evening Minyan	24 6 pm Evening Minyan	25 EREV SUKKOT 5:45 pm Kitchen Remodel Dedication 6 pm Outdoor Shabbat Service and Family Dinner	26 SUKKOT 9 am Zoom Torah Study 7 pm Pet Havdalah in the Sukkah
27 SUKKOT 9:30 am Religious School Mahjong for Moms	28 SUKKOT	29 SUKKOT 6 pm Evening Minyan 7:30 pm Curious About Conversion	30 SUKKOT 9:30 Archives Meeting 11 am-2 pm Gift shop open 5:30 pm WRJ Happy Hour in the Sukkah 6 pm Evening Minyan	Oct. 1 SUKKOT 6 pm Evening Minyan MRJ in the Sukkah	2 EREV SIMCHAT TORAH 5:30 pm Shabbat welcome 6:15 pm Simchat Torah and Bat Mitzvah of Maryjain Danoski	3 SIMCHAT TORAH 9 am Zoom Torah Study 10:30 am Simchat Torah and Yizkor in the Sukkah

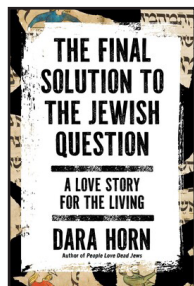
For additional information and updates about events, please visit our website at www.bethelfw.org or see Rabbi's e-blasts.

Sunday Study with Rabbi Mecklenburger

An Adult Discussion of "The Final Solution to the Jewish Question" Sept. 20, 9:30 a.m., Board Room

This coming school year during Religious School hours, approximately once a month, adults are invited to read and discuss a provocative book: *The Final Solution to the Jewish Question: A Love Story for the Living*. It promises to uncover the myths and lies of anti-Semitism — not only their history, but also how to refute them.

Dara Horn, whose book *People Love Dead Jews* that we found sometimes



controversial but consistently provocative two years ago, is the author. This book is described as addressing questions about the resurgence of anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism. In meetings with the White House and Congress, and in conversation with communities of all backgrounds, Horn was surprised to discover "there was far more ignorance than malice and saw an opportunity for change."

Upcoming dates: Oct. 11, Nov. 8 and Dec. 13. Dates for 2027 to be announced in the fall.



Finding Our Place in the Jewish Puzzle of Life:

A Search for Personal Theology with Rabbi Zimmerman Tuesdays at noon, Sept. 1 and 15

Our Tuesday afternoon conversations, now in the fourth year, are a chance to explore the world in which we live seeking context and answers from past Jewish teachers.

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.

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



Curious About Conversion

First class: Tuesday, Sept. 1, 7 p.m.

The Curious About Conversion class begins Tuesday, Sept. 1.

Do you know someone who is not Jewish, but who has expressed a serious interest in Judaism?

Come explore the customs and culture, festivals, and philosophy of Judaism. The class is open to all those interested in conversion. This yearlong class will meet every three to four weeks and study some of the broad themes and ideas, customs, and concepts of Jewish life as well as offer participants a chance to meet others who have already converted. All in a safe place to ask questions.

A prerequisite for this class is an in-person or phone conversation with Rabbi Zimmerman and a commitment to the readings and assignments that are a part of the initial conversion process. While taking this class is a requirement for conversion, it does not commit one to converting. There is no expectation that all participants will choose this path. Please contact Rabbi Zimmerman for more information or with any questions about this ongoing class.

Beth-El Kitchen News

Friday, Sept. 25, 5:45 p.m.

Please join us for the dedication of the kitchen remodel!

Primetimers

Michelle Hartman

Noon, Thursday, Sept. 17

Chag Sameach, Primetimers! Wishing you all a happy, healthy new year.

Primetimers' next event will be Thursday, Sept. 17, at noon. We will start with lunch in the Great Hall, then move to the chapel at 1 p.m. for chair yoga with Valerie Simanek. No experience necessary — just come by and see how relaxing and energizing a few simple poses while seated in a chair can be!

Lunch will be catered this month by Reata, or you can bring your own. For \$13 you get house-made chips, a chocolate chip cookie, and your choice of:

- Smoked chicken salad sandwich

- Turkey sandwich
- Grilled chicken wrap
- Vegan wrap

Be sure to save room for delicious fall-themed desserts.

Please RSVP to Michelle Hartman at hartman8729@sbcglobal.net or 817-706-3451 by Sunday, Sep. 13. Get on the email list if you aren't already.

Start the new year off right and join us — first-timers are more than welcome! Primetimers is for anyone who has time on a Thursday to stop by for lunch and a fabulous program, regardless of age. I hope to see you there!

The Bible's Back Pages

The Key to Unlocking Shabbat: 9 a.m. on Zoom every Saturday beginning Sept. 26

Discover the hidden mysteries of the Bible, some uplifting, some shocking. "But I know all those Torah stories!" some will think. Maybe not! We will look at the history books — Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings. Which parts are history and which parts legend? Heroes and heroines, rapes and murders, warriors, prostitutes, and magic-working prophets. The stuff they didn't teach you in Sunday School! Shabbat mornings on Zoom, 9-10 a.m. with Cantor Monica O'Desky and Rabbi Mecklenburger. Study from your own home and make your Shabbat special! Contact the Temple for the Zoom link. All are welcome to join.

Coming Soon:

Cantillation with Cantor Sam Sunday, Oct. 4

Have you ever wanted to chant Torah? Come learn the basics of Torah cantillation to start you on your journey!

Save the Date:

WRJ Annual Bingo Brunch Sunday, Nov. 15, 2026

This is WRJ's biggest fundraiser and supports Religious School. Mark your calendar and stay tuned for more details!

Library Reviews

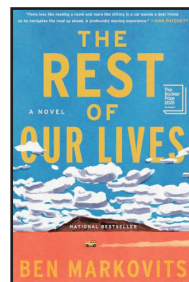
Margie Zentner



One Good Thing by Georgia Hunter

follows the journey of a young woman, Lili, as she navigates the dangers of Nazi occupation to protect the young son of her best friend, Esti. The novel, hailed by

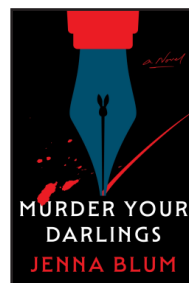
Hadassah Magazine and the Jewish Book Council, sheds light on the lesser-known aspects of the war in Italy, such as Mussolini's racial laws, the role of the Catholic Church, and local resistance.



The Rest of Our Lives by Ben Markovits

is a midlife-crisis road-trip story that navigates complexities of aging, marriage, and a career at a crossroads. Tom Layward's wife had

an affair 12 years ago and although the couple agreed to stay together for the children, Tom resolved to leave his wife as soon as his youngest child left the nest. Now, as he is driving his youngest daughter to college, Tom faces the question of when is it too late to live differently.



Murder Your Darlings by Jenna Blum

is a psychological thriller and satirical take on the publishing industry. The story follows Simone "Sam" Vetiver, a mid-career novelist struggling

with a messy divorce and a severe case of writer's block. Her life takes a turn when she receives a flattering fan letter from William Corwyn, a successful author known for his "female-centric" blockbusters. This darkly funny mystery balances suspense with biting commentary on writer culture.



Hollace Weiner

Then & Now: *Alton Silver*

.....Temple Archivist, Hollace Ava Weiner

Who was Alton Silver, namesake of the once popular BBG chapter?

To the teenagers in Fort Worth's B'nai B'rith Girls (BBG), Alton Silver was a student rabbi, a handsome guy, and a counselor who performed magic shows and taught swim lessons at the city's first Jewish summer camp. Alton was hearing impaired, but he was a natural-born lip reader who taught with words, hand signals, nods, and smiles.

In 1965, he died at just 27 years old after a pulmonary embolism — a sudden blockage in an artery in the lungs — developed following back surgery. The teenagers renamed their group Alton Silver BBG #221 to honor his memory.

"His goal was to become the first deaf rabbi ordained in America," said his niece, Jennifer Silver-Hudnall. "Instead, he lost his place in history."

When he died, Alton was halfway through Hebrew Union College (HUC), the Reform seminary in Cincinnati. "He was doing everything that a rabbi does," said his niece, who lives in Saginaw and plans to publish something about her uncle's remarkable life.

At Gallaudet, the famed Washington D.C. university for the deaf and hard-of-hearing, Alton was valedictorian in 1961. According to files at the American Jewish Archives, he organized Gallaudet's Hillel Students Association and led the first Shabbat and High Holy Days services on campus. The Hillel Foundation awarded him a Gold Key citation. During his years

at HUC, he had a monthly pulpit at Brooklyn's Congregation Beth Or for the Deaf, home to 175 congregants. In Chicago he once led High Holy Days services for 300 worshippers under the auspices of the Hebrew Association for the Deaf. He became the first chaplain of the Jewish Deaf Congress, an international group with roots dating to 1912.

Born in Chicago in 1937 with less than 10% of a

healthy infant's hearing, Alton grew up with an amazing ability to read lips. He moved to Fort Worth in 1955 with his brother, Joel, and his parents, Leaba and Moris Silver. His father, a furrier, was head designer and cutter at Koslow's Exclusive Furriers on West Seventh Street.

In a 1962 *Star-Telegram* profile, he related that *LIFE* magazine asked him to read Queen Elizabeth's

lips when she attended her one and only football game, a 1957 upset by the unranked Maryland Terrapins triumph over North Carolina's Tarheels, 21-7. According to reports, the queen described the battle as "wonderful" and compared and contrasted American football with British rugby.

With his family, Alton traveled to Europe and lived in Israel for several months. In Tarrant County, he established the first Red Cross swimming program for the deaf and was photographed



Above, detail from a 1968 photo of the BBG #221 banner. The number means it was the 221st chapter organized in the United States.

Photo: Fort Worth Jewish Archives



Alton Silver at the Forest Park Pool in Aug. 1960. Photo: Fort Worth Star-Telegram, UTA Libraries Special Collections.

twice in the *Star-Telegram*.

Rebecca Reznikoff Isgur, who remembers Alton's magic shows, attended the first Fort Worth Day Camp and took swimming lessons from him. Rebecca was in college when Silver died in 1965. His widow, Janet Lawson Silver, a graduate of Gallaudet, survived him.

For several years after his death, Alton Silver BBG #221 donated money to the Rabbi Silver Torah Fund of Temple Beth Or of the Deaf. The chapter's service projects included talent shows and Valentine's Day parties at All Church Home. The girls had slumber parties, swimming parties, songwriting contests, and weekly volleyball tournaments.

In 1971, membership reached a high of 65. The original BBG #221 was founded in 1946 and was active locally and regionally through the 1990s. It declined in the next decade, but girls from Beth-El and Ahavath Sholom revived the chapter from 2011 to 2016. The Alton Silver chapter became dormant after 2016, but it lives on through pictures and scrapbooks in the Fort Worth Jewish Archives.

Yahrzeits

Sept. 4

Melvin Blumberg
Julie Bush
David McLaurin Campbell
Jim Corder
Ira Diamond
Elias Friedmann
Marcus Ginsburg
Lora Goldin
Leslie Kaitcer
Seymour Lawrence
Tillie Levine
Joseph Strassman
Sam Taub
Nathan Uptegraft

Sept. 11

Fredric Gans Altman
Harry Archenhold
Claire Blackman
Alice Burke
Jack Cohen
Lillian Deutsch
Jack Dewees
David A. Feld
Albert Gerrick
Carol Gold
Michael Kanzer
Frank Koptowsky
Julius L. Kottler
Carl Kuehn
Hildegard Lehmann
Sondra Pritchard
Jacob Ross
Marc "Manny" Sands
Henry Schwartz
Eugene Urbach
Minette Urbach

Sept. 18

Jerry Berkowitz
Dr. Elliott Blumberg
Jeanne Brown
Herman Forman
Jacob Frankel
James Robert Kunen

Val Pikkel
Frances Rothstein
Paul Schwartz
Reed Warner
Clara Zack
Myer Zevin

Sept. 25

Genia Altshuler
Sylvia Becker
Frances Feuer
Andrew Friedberg
Edith Zodin Gachman
Steve Grisham
Bernie Hollander
Ethel Kaplan
George LaMere
David Lesky
Dorothy Daniels Polsky
Jack Sherman
Carol Toobin
Rhea Waxman

Oct. 2

Chandler Greines Cohen
Louise Freeman
Jean Frolkis
Chester Gestring
Mollie Ginsburg
Anita Kboudi
Jerry Lamensdorf
Victor Leventhal
Corrie Nackson
Mark Pell
Sam Reznikoff
Norman Rubin
Elaine Gressman Samson
Sarah Smulian
Rose Ungar
Seymour Weisser
Hortense Weltman

Beth-El College Outreach

PLEASE send Rabbi Zimmerman your college student's address even if you did it last year. Most addresses change every year!

Your college student will receive packages during the year, maybe a visit. ALL parents who get Rabbi (rabbiz@bethelfw.org) the address by Sept. 30 guarantee their student will receive a Starbucks card for a sweet New Year on campus.

Cards go in the mail late September.

Send Rabbi Zimmerman your college student's information:

Name

Address.....

Email

Phone

Birthday

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.



Coming Soon:

Learning Jewish Culture, select Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

The Jewish world of prayer, music, books, and study can be overwhelming. The first step is embracing that we will never know it all. The second is to rejoice in a faith and culture so rich there is a way into its inner-chambers through whatever interests you. Join us on four different Sundays for 90 minutes of Jewish learning.



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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director@bethelfw.org

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shoshanaikaikov@bethelfw.org

Music Director, John Sauvey: jesbaritone@gmail.com

Cantorial Soloist, Sam Chamberlin:
schamberlin@bethelfw.org

Building Manager, Jaime Rivera: cust@bethelfw.org

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· Make your contribution online at **bethelfw.org** or fill out the form below and mail it with your check to Beth-El Congregation

· **Undesignated donations** will be placed in the Temple Fund.

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

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

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

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☐ In Honor of: _____

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