



Bethesda Jewish Congregation News

Hazzan Sunny Schnitzer

June/July 2009 Sivan/Tamuz/Av 5769

סיון\תמוז\אב תשס"ט

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Hazzan's Call—Kriat HaHazzan

Hazzan Sunny Schnitzer

Let's talk about heroes. Not the type of heroes who face down bullets, flames, or criminals, but those who perform tasks both great and seemingly small for our congregation. It may seem to you that there is very little heroism involved in stuffing an envelope, editing the bulletin, making calls to congregants, or attending a committee meeting. But when we stop to realize that good and effective communication is what makes a community function, what brings a constituency to a program, what facilitates relationships, then we can readily see the heroic aspect of seemingly mundane tasks. It may seem that there is very little spiritual uplift in setting out cookies, slicing brisket, or making Charoset. But when we stop to realize that a sweet taste, a shared meal, a holiday flavor can make a shul feel like home, can inspire a childhood memory, can cause a Friday to be a Shabbat or a Monday or a Wednesday to be a Yom Tov, then we can appreciate that the kitchen can also be a source of holiness.

Showing up for the shiva minyan, calling the phone list, serving the children, greeting the visitor, playing in the band, singing in the choir, these are ways of insuring Jewish survival. We Jews are called upon to be a people engaged, a *kehillah*, a holy community, engaged in the tasks that define us.

One of the gauges of our success as a community is that each year more and more of our members participate as volunteers, doing tasks both large and small, bringing their enthusiasm and their warmth, their fire for doing, caring, and making a difference.

One of the functions of a synagogue is to insure that those hear the call to get out and do something have a place to go and do it. No matter what offering one makes as a volunteer—all offerings are

of equal value. Volunteering is a contribution of both time and service given as a holy act, and is valuable to the entire community. Without our volunteers we would be lost. No one should ever feel isolated or unwanted—there is always a place for everyone. We are so lucky to have you and your talent, and we want you to always feel included. Your commitment and accomplishments are outstanding and for all of this we thank you for the hours you've given, and all the things you do.

Bethesda Jewish Congregation Volunteer Honor Roll 5769

Ben Bailer
Daniel Bailer
Vicky Bailer
Miriam Banerji
Robin Banerji
Rochelle Banta
Susan Berkowitz
Stacey Rose Blass
Linda Blumberg
Mark Blumberg
Don and Teri Brenits
Bruce and Wynne Busman
Jill Camp

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BJC News

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Joe Camp	Mark Herman	David Pomper
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Shelley Dane	Zane Hogya	David Roe
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President's Perspective

Karen L. Jerome

How quickly two years have flown by. It feels like just yesterday that I was returning from Israel and penning my first column. Now I am writing the last one. As I think back on my tenure, I find my reflections to be mostly positive.

I am happy because I know that I'm leaving BJC on more stable financial footing than she was two years ago, in spite of the nation's current economic woes. I am also pleased that the

congregation has had continued slow, but steady growth since July 2007. In addition, just a year ago we hired Chava Gal-Or, our wonderful Director of Congregational Education. We undertook many social action projects, some by ourselves and some in conjunction with our spiritual siblings at BHPC. We've also begun to rekindle our relationship with the Idara-e-Jaferia Islamic Center, sharing a lovely three-way Thanksgiving service this past fall. We've added new services, such as a second Friday night music service each month and the monthly 6:30 p.m. Friday service and dinner that welcomes all and enables participation of the religious school students. We've grown, we've changed, we've improved.

So what are my concerns? As I composed the previous paragraph

I realized that the first accomplishment I listed was the financial one. It disappoints me that when I think about BJC the first thing that comes to my mind is the finances. Of course, the job of the Board is to ensure the congregation's financial solvency so that everything else can happen. Careful budgeting and the Enhancing the Flame campaign have been the keys to our success. It's been hard work. We cannot let up on this.

Perhaps my last paragraph will discourage others from stepping up and volunteering to help run the synagogue. Rather, I hope it will encourage others to take their turns, do their share to keep our community healthy and vibrant. There's a very dedicated core of involved souls at BJC who generously and happily give their time. But it's less than 20% of the synagogue's membership. I fear that we may be at risk to lose them to burn out. I encourage, no, I implore others to take a more active role. Please say yes when you're called upon to volunteer. We're all busy. Make a little time for BJC, even if it's only for an isolated, time-limited project.

I am also disappointed about not having achieved more. Our plans for a congregational retreat never got off the ground. We were unable to successfully launch a Havurah program, which we hoped would foster community within the community. Again, this demonstrates low levels of involvement in the synagogue. However, we have begun new membership/marketing efforts aimed to both increase current member engagement and grow our numbers. I am optimistic that we'll make progress.

I want to end by simply thanking you for the opportunity to serve the congregation over the past two years. I look forward to a great future for BJC.



Sh'ma Koli—Hear My Voice

Chava Gal-Or, Director of Congregation Education

*Lo alecha ham'lacha ligmor,
Lo alecha ligmor.*

*V'lo ata ben chorim l'hibatil mimena,
V'lo ata ben chorine*

It is not your duty to complete the work.

Not up to you to finish it.

But neither are you free to desist from it.

Becoming your director of Congregational Education at BJC has been a pure gift. The BJC community is filled with lay leaders, staff, members (both young and old) that do their part to make a difference not only within our BJC, but also within the larger community from downtown DC to Darfur to Israel. I love working for a community that cares the way each of you do.

Our students are taught by very dedicated teachers and madrichim (teaching assistants) who work with me. Every one of the teachers cares and will do all that they can do to teach your child "according to his/her way".

Todah Rabbah (Many Thanks) to:
all of our religious school teachers:

- ✧ Kindergarten/1st grade and 7th grade Hebrew—Jana Klejner;
- ✧ 2nd grade—Marina Milbert
- ✧ 3rd grade—Rebecca Gold
- ✧ 4th grade Judaics and 5th grade Hebrew—Malka Ostchega
- ✧ 4th grade co-teacher—Rachael Lapon
- ✧ 4th grade Hebrew and Tikhon - Annie Cifarelli
- ✧ 5th grade Judaics and 4th grade Hebrew—Tamar Dworkin
- ✧ 5th grade Judaics and 6th grade Hebrew—Tamar Strauss-Benjamin
- ✧ 6th grade Judaics—Glenn Siegal

Continued on page 4

- ✧ 7th grade Hebrew and bar/bat mitzvah prep—Hazzan Schnitzer
- ✧ 7th grade Judaics—Gary Ratner and Mitch Kraus
- ✧ Tikhon—Mark Breitbart
- ✧ Confirmation, Hebrew Tutor and Substitute - Michael Twitty
- ✧ Student madrikhim (aides)—Maxi Cifarelli, Abby Blass, Sadie Hodya, Zane Hogle, Amy Sharfman, and Julie Arbitt
- ✧ All the staff at BHPC, especially building manager Farid Beltran and all of the sextons
- ✧ Annie Cifarelli for all the delicious food she provided for many of our events
- ✧ My partners in working together for the BJC community: Roz Young and Hazzan Sunny Schnitzer.

- ✧ All of the volunteers are included on the BJC Volunteer Honor Roll in this issue.

Next Year

Keep your eyes open, Religious School Registration will be due on or before June 30th. Please call me if you have any questions or need to discuss any special issues.

As the summer continues, think about ways that you and your family can continue to do the work of taking care of others. You don't have to be in Religious School in order to make sandwiches and give them to those in need. Each of us can do our part to make a difference to do Tikun Olam (repair the world).

From Hazzan Schnitzer

In July and August, I will be taking a mini-sabbatical as I conclude my seventh year of service to BJC. While I will be out of the office for two months and often out of town, please let me know of family needs during this hiatus. If I cannot personally be present, there will be other local clergy on call. I look forward to returning in September renewed and recharged to continue the holy work of building our community

Congregation News

Annual Pulpit Exchange—Rev. David Gray speaks at BJC

Join us for a Shabbat service on Friday, June 5 at 8 p.m. with the new spiritual leader of Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church (BHPC), Rev. David Gray. Rev. Gray will speak with us about Sabbath and the Calvinist notion of expanding the Sabbath from one day to everyday.

Hazzan Schnitzer will speak at BHPC on Sunday, June 14.

Cuba comes to Bethesda!—Rebeca Langus of Cienfuegos Visits

Through the efforts of a dedicated group of folks from Boston and Hazzan Schnitzer, Rebeca Langus, leader of Jewish community of Cienfuegos, and known to many BJC members, has obtained permission and the necessary visas to visit the US. Rebeca will spend a Shabbat with us at BJC.

On Friday, June 12, Rebeca will join us for our Friends and Family Shabbat at 6:30 p.m. where she will speak to our religious school students and join us for Shabbat dinner.

At morning services on Saturday, June 13 at 10:30 a.m., Rebeca will be offered a special Aliyah and will speak about the Jews of Cuba at a luncheon in her honor immediately following services. Please RSVP to the BJC office for dinner or lunch.

Also, we are looking for BJC members who are fluent in Spanish and would like to spend a morning or afternoon showing Rebeca the sights of DC. Please call Hazzan Schnitzer if you are interested.

Prospective and New Member Open House

We reach out to strangers. We share the fact that we are a community and others are encouraged to join us. We talk; we welcome; we include.

Don't keep it a secret. Share your commitment to BJC with a friend or a stranger.

Bring them to the Open House Reception on Friday, June 19 at 7 p.m. followed by our all Music Service Simcha B'shabbat at 8 p.m. You are our best advertising!

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June 2009 Calendar

Day	Date	Time	Event	Location
Wednesday	June 3	6:30 PM	Kemach and Torah	Library
Friday	June 5	8:00 PM	N'tivim L' Shabbat—Hasidic Music Service Rev. David Gray of BHPC will speak at the service	Covenant Hall
Saturday	June 6	10:30 AM	Shabbat Worship	Covenant Hall
Wednesday	June 10	6:30 PM	Kemach and Torah	Library
Thursday	June 11	7:30 PM	BJC Board Meeting	Lounge
Friday	June 12	6:30 PM	Family and Friends Service Rebeca Langus of Cienfuegos Cuba will speak	Covenant Hall
		7:30 PM	Shabbat Pot Luck Dinner	Memorial Hall
Saturday	June 13	10:30 PM	Shabbat Worship	Covenant Hall
		12:15 PM	Lunch and Learn with Rebeca Langus of the Cienfuegos, Cuba Jewish Community	Memorial hall
		4:30 PM	Chant Circle	RM 305
Sunday	June 14	11:00 AM	Hazzan Schnitzer at BHPC—Pulpit Exchange	
Wednesday	June 17	6:30 PM	Kemach and Torah	Library
Friday	June 19	7:00 PM	Prospective Member Open House	
		8:00 PM	Simcha B' Shabbat Service	Covenant Hall
Saturday	June 20		<i>No Shabbat Worship on Saturdays until Sept. 12</i>	
Wednesday	June 24	6:30 PM	Kemach and Torah	Library
		8:00 PM	Open Book Discussion— <i>Unaccustomed Earth</i>	Library
Friday	June 26	6:30 PM	Tot Shabbat	Lounge
		8:00 PM	Shabbat Worship	Covenant Hall

July 2009 Calendar

Day	Date	Time	Event	Location
Wednesday	July 1		No Kemach and Torah	
Friday	July 3		<i>No Shabbat Worship—This Friday Only</i>	
Wednesday	July 8		No Kemach and Torah	
Friday	July 10	6:30 PM	Family and Friends Service	Covenant Hall
		7:30 PM	Shabbat Dinner Potluck w/BBQ	Memorial hall
Wednesday	July 15	6:30 PM	Kemach and Torah	Library
		8:00 PM	High Holy Day Choir	Choir Room
Friday	July 17	8:00 PM	Shabbat Worship	Covenant Hall
Wednesday	July 22	6:30 PM	Kemach and Torah	Library
		8:00 PM	BJC Book Club	Library
Friday	July 24	8:00 PM	Shabbat Worship	Covenant Hall
Wednesday	July 29	6:30 PM	Kemach and Torah	Library
Friday	July 31	8:00 PM	Shabbat Worship	Covenant Hall

For the latest updates and weekly E-news, please refer to the BJC website.

Open Book Discussion: *Unaccustomed Earth*

Please join us on June 24 at BJC to discuss *Unaccustomed Earth* by Pulitzer Prize winner Jhumpa Lahiri. This collection's five powerful stories and haunting triptych of tales about the fates of two Bengali families in America map the perplexing hidden forces that pull families asunder and undermine marriages. "Unaccustomed Earth," the title story, dramatizes the divide between immigrant parents and their American-raised children, and is the first of several scathing inquiries into the lack of deep-down understanding and trust in a marriage between a Bengali and non-Bengali.

Drop-ins and new members are always welcome. Contact Evelyn Ganzglass 202-966-7037 or Ruth Rosenberg 703-560-9525 for more information.

BJC Summer Service Schedule

Beginning Saturday June 20—*No Saturday services until September 12.*

Friday July 3—No Friday Night Service—Enjoy your holiday weekend.

Join the Band!—Well actually, join the BJC High Holiday Choir!

Did you enjoy the music at last year's High Holidays? Did you look up at the choir and think wistfully, "Gee, I'd like to do that?" Well now, you can!

A vibrant and full sounding choir is a key part of creating for the congregation the spirit of the Days of Awe. It also can enrich the holiday experience of the singer as well. There is something deeply satisfying about leading worship through song. The BJC choir needs more voices.

Rehearsals begin on July 15 and run through September 23. All rehearsals will be on Wednesdays, from 8 to 9:30 p.m. No one makes every rehearsal, after all it is summer, but by the time September rolls around everyone is ready. Please call Hazzan Schnitzer if you would like to experience Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur from the inside.

Yahrzeits

יארצייט

Sylvia Berkowitz, Mother of Susan Berkowitz
Burton Bernard, Father of Cathy Bernard
Henry Robert Bluestone, Husband of Charlotte Wall-Bluestone
Roz Bogorad, Mother of Len Bogorad
George Borden, Father of Vicky Bailer
Robert Carson, Father of Michael Carson
Dorothy Castleman, Mother of Mark Greenstein
Elaine Cohn, Mother of Debra Cohn
Anna Fagen, Grandmother of Karen Jerome
Janet Feldman, Mother of Lisa Ginns

Maurice Folsom, Father of Al Folsom
Hedwig Gluckstein, Mother of Fritz Gluckstein
Freda Goldman, Grandmother of Stacey Rose-Blass
Daniel Goldstein, Father of Jim Goldstein
Elliot W Himberg, Father of Harvey Himberg
Dora Hoffman, Mother of Harold Hoffman
Irving Jacobs, Grandfather of Donna Goldberg
Harry Jerome, Grandfather of Karen Jerome
Steven Kaufman, Husband of Lorraine Levin
Marvin Kornbluh, Father of Beth Shapiro
Ida Kornfield, Mother of Judy Folsom
Martha Kraus, Mother of Mitchell Kraus

Mark Your Calendar High Holy Days

Selichot

Saturday, Sept. 12, 9 p.m.

Rosh Hashanah

Friday, Sept. 18, Evening Service, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 19, Morning Service, 10 a.m.

Children's and Pre-K Service, 1:30 p.m.

Tashlich, Cabin John Park, 3:30 p.m.

Yom Kippur

Sunday, Sept. 27, Kol Nidre, 8 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 28, Morning Service, 10 a.m.

Children's and Pre-K Service, 1:30 p.m.

Yom Kippur Discussion, 2:30 p.m.

Musical Interlude, 3:30 p.m.

Reading of the Book of Jonah, 5 p.m.

Yizkor and Neilah Services, 5:30 p.m.

Sukkot

Wednesday, Sept. 30, Build Indoor Sukkah, 5 p.m.

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

Simcha Torah

Friday, Oct. 9, Light Dinner, 6:30 p.m.

Service, 7:30 p.m.

Tickets for non-members: \$195 per person for services are available in the BJC office now. Tickets for Children's and Pre-K Services are only \$75 for families. Baby sitting is available at no charge for all adult services (excluding Yizkor and Neilah)

Tickets will be available after July 15, 2009.

BJC does not furnish the High Holy Day prayer books, but they are available for sale in the office now for \$25 per book.

Frank Kretz, Father of James Kretz
 Harry Ladner, Grandfather of Joanna Schlesinger
 Joseph Laufer, Father of David Laufer
 Amanda Levy, Great Aunt of Roz Young
 Irving Luckom, Father of Jane Jacobs
 Harry Mendelson, Grandfather of Mark Shmueli
 Anna Mermelstein, Mother of Marcia Loeb
 Ann Rosenberg, Mother of Lorraine Levin
 Charles Salkind, Father of Diana Aronson
 Sara Schlacter, Mother of David Slacter
 Beatrice Schwartz, Mother of Linda Baum
 Marla Schwartz, Sister of Linda Baum
 Coleman Silbert, Father of Earl Silbert
 Irvin I Silvers, Father of Howard Silvers
 Charles Stern, Grandfather of Melissa Keller
 Charleen Tompkins, Significant Other of Michael

Carson
 Irvin Turow, Grandfather of Stephen Turow
 Estelle Warshawsky, Grandmother of John
 Warshawsky

Alex Weiss, Uncle of David Weiss
 Irwin Yockelson, Brother of Naomi Lichtenberg
 Mabel D. Young, Grandmother of Roz Young
 Pauline Levy Young, Mother of Roz Young

Thank you to... תודה רבה

Dee and Joel Aronson for their generous contribution to the Hazzan's Discretionary Fund in honor of the Yahrzeit of Dee's mother, Sadie Salkind.

Richard and Amy Harris for their generous donation to the Hazzan's Discretionary Fund in honor of their son David's Bar Mitzvah.


Lorrie Van Akkeren for her generous donation to the Hazzan's Discretionary Fund.

For their generous donations to Enhancing the Flame:

John and Jill Camp
 Peter and Judy Feldman
 Larry Slifman and Barbara Ranagan
 Lorrie Van Akkeren

BJC Office Hours

Tues.-Thur 9:30-4:30 p.m., Fri. 9:30-3:00 p.m. Closed Sat., Sun., Mon. and Jewish Holidays. Messages won't be returned when the office is closed.




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Newsletter Editor: Anita Farb—abfarb@yahoo.com

**Design Layout and Desktop Publishing:
Yvonne Bryant**

The deadline for submitting articles for the Aug. newsletter is July 3.

Please email your article in an MS Word attachment.

Put your ad in the BJC Newsletter

To place your card or other-sized ad in the Aug. newsletter, mail it to the BJC office with your check made payable to BJC.

Deadline: July 3. Rate structure for a business card: \$20.00 per month, 3-month minimum. Rates are slightly higher for cards that are not camera-ready art.