



Bethesda Jewish Congregation News

Hazzan Sunny Schnitzer

May 2009

Iyar/Sivan 5769

אייר סיון תשס"ט

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Hazzan's Call—Kriat HaHazzan

Hazzan Sunny Schnitzer

We live in a time of fear. Apprehension that the economy will get a lot worse before it gets better grows daily among people in all walks of life. Unemployment is at a 27-year high. Anxiety about the future is widespread, and with it comes a feeling of paralysis as we wait to see if the government's efforts to turn our economic ship around are going to be effective. Where will we get the money to provide for our loved ones if things get worse, is a question that looms large.

I once read an interview with British banker Sir James Goldsmith in which he said that making money is easy and banking is the dumbest profession in the world. Any idiot can do it.

Our Talmud doesn't agree. The Talmud says that making a living is very difficult. That making a living is like splitting the Reed Sea and that it is more difficult than pregnancy. The Talmud teaches us that; "when a man is relaxed about money he loves company. When he is worried about money he cannot tolerate company." We know all of this and it disturbs us greatly.

Within the current national malaise it becomes ever more important to find a basis for trust that does not depend upon external circumstance, but rather on a sense of hope and conviction that the present turbulence will lead to a positive outcome. Such hope and trust becomes more difficult to achieve when we perceive that our personal fortunes are in jeopardy. Perhaps we react this way because we do not realize that *we are* the economy.

We need to realize that the economy is not some abstract entity separate from us. The economy is us. Our thoughts, behaviors, actions, and mood collectively create the economy. Government can try to manipulate our actions through tax plans, regulations, and incentives but in a nutshell *we are* the economy. Our collective

mood, productivity, innovation, positive energy, and execution determines whether the economy is thriving or in a recession.

How to remain hopeful during a time of fear is an essential part of what a spiritual life is about. When we are afraid, that is the time to listen to the voice of the Divine within and to understand that this voice is not only present, but active within our life as a force for good and a force for stability.

It is more important than ever before to have a spiritual anchor to help us weather the storm. It is more important than ever before to place ourselves in environments, like our synagogue, that are supportive of a trusting and positive outlook, in order to remain free from the voices of fear that assault us every day from the media and negative people. The world as we know it is changing and we must change with it. The call is going forth to allow change to bring us to a new place in our collective history. It is asking that we have the trust and courage

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BJC News

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to find a new basis for our collective life. Together, in a new collective consciousness, we will find the answers to our dilemma.

So instead of starting your morning by turning on the news, consider taking a walk in prayer. Instead of looking

down at the newspaper, look up to the heavens. Instead of sitting alone in your home in fear and consternation, join with your sisters and brothers inside these walls and find peace, hope, and joy. This is the antidote to fear that you, me, and the economy need right now.

As the closing words to Adon Olam teach us; Adonai Li v'Lo Ira —God is with me, I shall not fear.

President's Perspective

Karen L. Jerome

Community. Nurturing. Support. Comfort. To me these are crucial aspects of synagogue life. I didn't quite realize this when I joined my first synagogue, BJC, seven years ago. However, the warmth that I discovered at BJC vaulted me from an occasional synagogue attendee to a regular.

There's something else I've discovered while at BJC. It's not just the clergy and staff that nurtures and sustains the congregants. It's fellow congregants who make the community. We truly support each other. We come together for shiva minyanim. We attend the simchas as well—B'nai Mitzvot, weddings, baby namings. Or we just pray together on a regular Shabbat. We may hear moving prayers, stories, music, and then we spend time catching up with each other. And always, there's food.

God may have provided manna in the desert, but that resource no longer exists. Thus, each year every member or

household is asked to do a few things to help feed the community. We're all asked to bring food to share at the Rosh Hashanah Eve Oneg and to provide the Oneg Shabbat for one Friday evening service during the year. The High Holidays are well covered. It's more difficult to ensure the Oneg on a regular Friday evening, though. Still, we're never without one. For this I want to especially thank Wynne and Bruce Busman, who, for the third year, are our Oneg coordinators. Theirs is truly a thankless task, and it's sometimes rewarded with inconsiderate behavior.

Based on the responses you submit at the beginning of each year to select a specific date or type of service, the Busmans arrange a schedule and write and call people to fill the slots. We have 228 members and 52 Friday nights. In spite of this, some slots would go unfilled, if not for Bruce and Wynne personally providing the Oneg or for several other congregants agreeing to host more than one.

So let's keep doing our good works and helping the world at large, as we do through our many social action projects. Please don't discount the importance of taking care of those within our own circle as well. When you are contacted by Bruce and Wynne I urge you to eagerly accept your volunteer assignment or come up with an alternate date if the one proposed simply won't work. And I also encourage you to wholeheartedly thank Wynne and Bruce for helping us to take care of each other. Comfort. Support. Nurturing. Community.

From Hazzan Schnitzer

Please be in touch with me in times of joy, sadness or illness in your life or in the lives of a loved one or another member of the congregation. This is particularly necessary now that the HIPAA regulations have

made getting any kind of information from the hospitals extremely difficult. I greatly appreciate your help in keeping me informed of the health needs of our congregation. Office Number: 301-469-8636, #3.

an appointment to donate (the entire process takes about one hour) or to volunteer. For more information about donating, go to www.givelife.org. Please make time on Saturday, May 9th to make a difference.

BJC Annual Meeting

Please come to the BJC Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 14 at 8 p.m. in Memorial Hall to vote to ratify BJC's new slate of officers and trustees, review and approve the 2009-2010 budget, and listen to a brief presentation by BJC Marketing chair Daryll Walter. We need a quorum, so please make time to attend.

Simchah B' Shabbat Service—Date change for May only!

For this month only, Simchah B' Shabbat all music service with the band and singers will *not* be on the third Friday, but will be on Friday, May 22.

An Evening of Study—BHPC and BJC—Tikkun Olam for All

We invite you to attend an evening of study on Tuesday, May 26 at 7:30 p.m. in Covenant Hall with members of Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church (BHPC) and BJC led by Rev. David Gray and Hazzan Sunny Schnitzer

The Call to Social Action in Jewish and Presbyterian tradition: Where does the call to be involved in social issues in the world come from? How can our spiritual teachings and traditions assist us in the decision as to whom and how to serve? How are our traditions similar and different in their approach to completing and perfecting this world and all worlds?

Join us as spiritual siblings share sacred words and sacred space in an examination of our religious motivations to serve humanity.

Open Book Discussion: Rabbit Run

Please join us on Wednesday, May 27 to discuss *Rabbit, Run*, the first of John Updike's quartet of novels about Harry "Rabbit" Angstrom, a modern American anti-hero. *Rabbit Run* depicts three months in the life of a 26-year-old former high school basketball player named Harry 'Rabbit' Angstrom and his attempts to escape the constraints of his life. Taken as a whole, the Rabbit novels illustrate the attitudes, joys, and sorrows of 20th century American middle class over the course of four decades. Because Updike increasingly includes histori-



cal and cultural references in each book, they also trace the trajectory of American life and the events that shape and define it over time.

Contact Evelyn Ganzglass 202-966-7037 or Ruth Rosenberg 703-560-9525 for more information.

You Are Cordially Invited...

The Confirmation Class of 5769, Ben Bailer, Robin Banerji, Sara Peterson, Sarah Sampliner and Katie Wetstone, invites you to join them as they lead the congregation in Shabbat Worship and become confirmed on Friday, May 29 at 8 p.m.

BJC Volunteers Work to Beautify BHPC/BJC Grounds

On Sunday, March 22nd a hardy group of fifteen BJC volunteers grabbed rakes, clippers, and "other implements of destruction" to help beautify the grounds around the building. A special thanks to the Warshawsky family, the Gleeson family, the Kirkpatrick family, Nancy Glassman, Maddy Killefer, and Marty Ganzglass for planting, cleaning, and helping to make BHPC/BJC a more beautiful place for all of us. BJC members volunteer on one Sunday afternoon in the spring and in the fall, with BHPC volunteers generally working on Saturdays. Please join us in the future. It's satisfying work, and your efforts will make a big difference in the grounds that we all enjoy.

Save the Dates Annual Pulpit Exchange with BHPC

Meet and hear the new Senior Pastor of Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church (BHPC) Rev. David Gray on Friday, June 5, 8 p.m. in Covenant Hall.

Big News! Rebeca Langus, Cuban Jewish Community Leader will Visit BJC

Welcome Rebeca Langus, leader of the Cuban Jewish Community of Cienfuegos, to BJC on June 12 and 13!

For many years, you have heard BJC members returning from Cuba speak of this warm and wonderful community and their dedicated leader. After five years of working through the bureaucratic red tape on both sides of the Caribbean, Rebeca has obtained a tourist visa to visit the US for three weeks. One of her stops will be here in Maryland to visit with us and her cousin who lives in Columbia. Details in the June newsletter.

Yahrzeits

Arthur Barrios, Father of Rochelle Banta
Pauline Borden, Mother of Victoria Bailer

יארצייט



May 2009 Calendar



Day	Date	Time	Event	Location
Friday	May 1	8:00 PM	N'tivim L'Shabbat—Hasidic Music Service	Covenant Hall
Saturday	May 2	8:45 AM 9:00 AM 9:45 AM 10:30 AM	Adult Hebrew Religious School Religious School Shabbat Worship—Chase Keller becomes Bar Mitzvah	Lounge Classrooms Classrooms Covenant Hall
Wednesday	May 6	4:15 PM 6:30 PM	Religious School Kemach and Torah	Classrooms Library
Friday	May 8	6:30 PM 7:30 PM	Family and Friends Kabbalat Shabbat Dinner—Potluck	Covenant Hall Memorial Hall
Saturday	May 9	8:45 AM 9:00 AM 9:00 AM 9:45 AM 10:30 AM 4:30 PM	Adult Hebrew Ed Stern's Adult Ed Class Religious School Religious School Shabbat Worship Chant Circle	Lounge Library Classrooms Classrooms Covenant Hall Room 305
Wednesday	May 13	4:15 PM 6:30 PM	Religious School—Last Day of Wednesday Classes Kemach and Torah	Classrooms Library
Thursday	May 14	8:00 PM	BJC Annual Meeting	Memorial Hall
Friday	May 15	8:00 PM	Shabbat Worship	Covenant Hall
Saturday	May 16	8:45 AM 9:00 AM 9:45 AM 10:30 AM	Adult Hebrew Religious School—Last Day of School Religious School—Last Day of School Shabbat Worship	Lounge Classrooms Classrooms Covenant Hall
Wednesday	May 20	6:30 PM	Kemach and Torah	Library
Friday	May 22	8:00 PM	Shabbat Worship—Simcha B' Shabbat Only on this special Friday in May	Covenant Hall
Saturday	May 23	10:30 AM	Shabbat Worship	Covenant Hall
Tuesday	May 26	7:00 PM	Joint Study with the Hazzan and Rev. Gray	Covenant Hall
Wednesday	May 27	6:30 PM 8:00 PM	Kemach and Torah Open Book Discussion: <i>Rabbit Run</i> by John Updike	Library Library
Friday	May 29	8:00 PM	Shabbat Worship—Confirmation	Covenant Hall
Saturday	May 30	10:30 AM	Shabbat Worship—Alison Gaynor becomes Bat Mitzvah	Covenant Hall
Wednesday	June 3	6:30 PM	Kemach and Torah	Library
Friday	June 5	8:00 PM	N'tivim L'Shabbat—Hasidic Music Service Pulpit Exchange with Rev. David Gray of BHPC	Covenant Hall

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

Rose P. Brucker, Mother of Anita Farb
Bernice Dubin, Mother of Alan Dubin
Pearl Dubrow, Mother of Davi Walders
Meyer Dubrow, Father of Davi Walders
William Dwork, Uncle of Barry Dwork
Daniel Effros, Son of Margaret Greenwald
Adolph Feder, Father of Harriet Kaplan
Sandy Glatt, Wife of Ted Glatt
Hilde Hirsch, Mother of Evelyn Ganzglass
Abraham Kaplan, Grandfather of Allan Gold
Adrienne Louise Kaplan, Daughter of Harriet Kaplan
Mary Klauber, Mother of Martin Klauber
Samuel Klauber, Father of Martin Klauber
Abraham Kraus, Father of Mitchell Kraus
Max Levi, Father of Karen Levi-Shandler
Elaine Levine, Mother of Meryl Simon
Rose Kline Levine, Grandmother of Bruce Baum
Lillian Lichtenberg, Mother of Warren Lichtenberg
William Margules, Father of Margaret Greenwald
Manuel Patz, Father of Eileen Newman
Vera Poogach, Grandmother of Robert Poogach
Harvey Rabin, Husband of Evelyn Rabin
Linda Ratner, Wife of Richard Ratner
Mozart G Ratner, Father of Gary Ratner
Irving Roger, Grandfather of Robert Poogach
Sadie Salkind, Mother of Diana Aronson
Rose Scott, Mother of David Scott
Leo Stern, Husband of Fanny Stern
Leo Stern, Father of Edward Stern
Nessa Wolfson, Mother of Miriam Banerji

Thank you to... תודה רבה

Erwin and Lillian Baida for their generous donation to BJC.

Bruce and Linda Baum for their generous donation to BJC in honor of the Yahrzeits of Linda's father, Sam Schwartz and Bruce's mother, Edith Baum and grandmother, Rose Kline Levine.

Phyliss R. Cassell for her generous donation to BJC as a thank you to the Hazzan for all his support during the recent loss of her husband.

Herbert and Aleen Chabot for their generous donation to BJC in honor of the Yahrzeits of Herbert's mother, Esther and Aleen's mother, Minnie Kerwin and brother Donald S Kerwin.

Jonathan Eig and Karen Jerome for their generous donation to the Hazzan's Discretionary Fund for the AIDS Concert.

Allan and Anne Gold for their generous donation to the Hazzan's Discretionary Fund in honor of the

Yahrzeits of Allan's father, Murray Gold and grandmother, May Kaplan.

Allan and Anne Gold for their generous donation to the Hazzan's Discretionary Fund in memory of Jonathan Peterson's father.

Steve and Laura Nash for their generous donation to the Hazzan's Discretionary Fund in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Gabrielle.

Stephen Turow and Linda Blumberg for their generous donation to the Hazzan's Discretionary Fund in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Samantha.

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

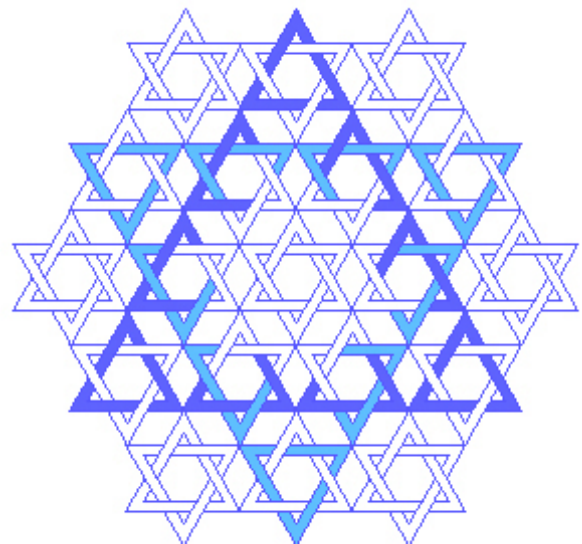
John and Susan Warshawsky for their generous donation to the Hazzan's Discretionary Fund for the AIDS Concert.

For their generous donations to Enhancing the Flame:

Jonathan Eig and Karen Jerome
Larry Slifman and Barbara Ranagan
Lorrie Van Akkeren
Charles and Edith Weiss

Mazel Tov to our Spring 2009 B'Nai Mitzvah

Samantha Turow Blumberg
Joshua Fried
Alison Gaynor
David Harris
Chase Keller
Gabrielle Nash
Anna Stearn





we'll tend to the details
so you don't have to

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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 June newsletter is May 1.

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 June newsletter, mail it to the BJC office with your check made payable to BJC.

Deadline: May 1. 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.