



Bethesda Jewish Congregation News

Hazzan Sunny Schnitzer

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Hazzan's Call—Kriat HaHazzan

When is enough, enough?

In the High Holiday liturgy we read; "U'tshuvah, U'tfilah, U'tsedkah ...Repentance, Prayer, and Charity - avert the evil decree." In our liturgy we declare emphatically that we can change the world through our own actions in ways that are positive and life affirming.

The Torah tells us that "God created man in His own image" (Bereisheet 1:27). The Chofetz Chaim comments that "image of God" means that humankind has the ability to emulate the Divine. Performing acts of kindness reflects one of God's attributes.

If we think: "I have done enough" or even "Why should I help others?" we alienate ourselves from Godliness.

The very survival of humanity depends on kindness. Every person, without exception, needs the help of a fellow human being. The prophet Michah (6:8) tells us, "... What does God require of you, but to act justly, to love kindness and to walk humbly with God." Kindness is something we must do. It helps our fellow human being, helps the world get one more step closer to perfection, and raises our level of spirituality.

And we must stay with it even if we are tired, or our resources depleted, or our patience near exhaustion. In truth there is rarely "enough."

The Hebrew word "tzedakah" is commonly translated as "charity." But this is misleading. True tzedakah, true charity implies that your heart motivates you to go beyond the call of duty. There's a basic human responsibility to reach out to others. The ultimate righteous act is to make a statement that says "I will do whatever I can to help." A true "tzaddik," is a righteous person, someone who fulfills all their obligations, whether in the mood or not.

Some of our members have asked me; "why do you keep taking

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groups from BJC to Cuba?" It is too far, the cost too high, not enough of us can go. My answer, as always, is, "if we will not go, who will go for us?"

In Cuba little BJC makes a huge difference. Because of our work there are literally hundreds of people who are a little better fed, a little better off, and a little more connected to the outside world, in a place where those conditions are enjoyed by few. The name of our congregation is known throughout the Jewish community of the entire island. And because of our commitment, the Jews of Cuba have deepened their commitment to remaining a vital part of the Jewish people.

In Feb., another group of BJC members and friends will return to Cuba. On this trip we will, for the first time, visit Santiago and Guantanamo as well as all of the communities we have visited before. We will deliver food, medical and personal hygiene supplies, as well as new siddurim and other Hebrew books.

I hope that everyone in the congregation, whether going with us or not,

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BJC News

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will take this great work to heart and take pride in our role in re-establishing the Jewish community in Cuba. If you'd like to join us on our mission, read the information contained in this newsletter and please call me in my office, soon.

Maybe we can't fix the entire world but we do make a difference in this little corner of it.

And as we know from our Talmud; "a person who saves one life, it is as if that person saves the entire world."

L'shanah Tovah Tikateivu v'Tikateimu, May you be inscribed and sealed for the good.

A thought or two . . . from the President

Edward Stern

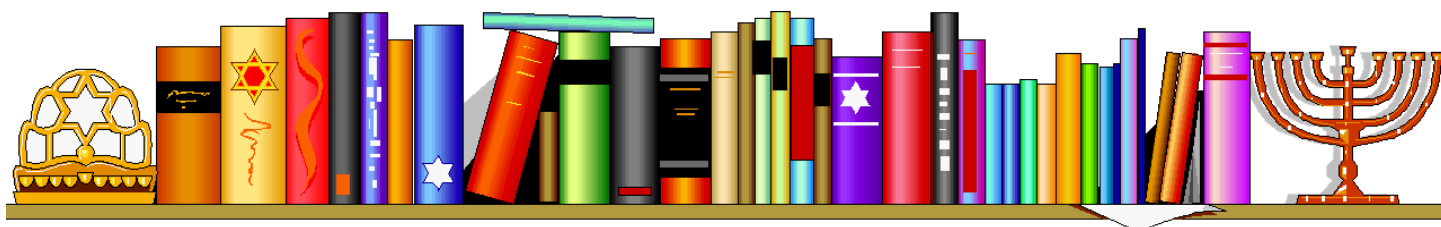
YOU, you members of this Congregation, are a very nice group of people. That is my opinion, but many will agree. This leads me to say: Let us not keep this nice group just to ourselves. Let us invite and welcome in some more people. High Holidays are often the time when people join the Congregation. But, after the Holidays, our doors are still open for new members. That's where you, you members, come in.

You have enjoyed being part of this Congregation. Some of your friends and acquaintances outside BJC very likely would also enjoy our services, programs, and classes. Don't be shy. Go ahead and invite people to a ser-

vice, a program, or a class. Give them a chance to get to know us. It could be good for them and good for us. To borrow a thought from Rabbi Hillel: if not now, when?

While I am thinking of you all, let me reveal that the Congregation doesn't run on miracles or even on your dues and contributions. Of course, we need money to cover the costs of operation. But we also need your time. Lots of people contributed their time to enable us to hold High Holiday services. (I hope I thanked you—I meant to.) That is only the beginning of the year. There is more to do. One way to do it is to work on a BJC committee.

Again, don't be shy. Please think about participating in the Membership Committee, or the Education Committee, or the Social Action Committee, or the Program Committee. We have good committee chairs. They are listed on the back of the BJC Newsletter. They have good ideas, and they would welcome your ideas and your help. Talk to them, sit in, and join a committee. We need you to make this work. (Oh, I started on the Program Committee about 30 years ago.)



Sh'ma Koli—Hear My Voice

Chava Gal-Or, Director of Congregation Education

Community—Let me count the ways. . .

There are many definitions for the word community including:

1. A group of people living in the same locality and under the same government.
2. The district or locality in which such a group lives.
3. A group of people having common interests: the scientific

community; the international business community.

4. A group viewed as forming a distinct segment of society: the gay community; the community of color.
5. Similarity or identity: a community of interests.
6. Sharing, participation, and fellowship,
7. Society as a whole; the public.
8. A group of plants and animals living and interacting with one another in a specific region under relatively similar environmental conditions.
9. The region occupied by a group of interacting organisms.

With so many beautiful ways to look at community, we can always work together to rethink our interpretation. The beauty of being the Director of Congregational Education at BJC is that our community is truly awesome! I am amazed at the truly good natured energy that exists within our BJC *kehillah*, community. And within our community we are filled with opportunities to grow, to do *Tikkun Olam*, and congregate together. Over the coming month and into the proceeding months, we will have a chance to take advantage of many opportunities for praying, learning and growing together.

- Saturday, Oct. 3—Special Sukkot Service followed by lunch for the entire BJC community. Younger children in grades Kindergarten through 4th will also have an opportunity for some grade specific Sukkot programming. More information will follow.
- Friday, Oct. 9—Simchat Torah Celebration will take place at 7 p.m. during that time our new students will be welcomed into the community with a special Consecration Service.
- Saturday, Oct. 24—Religious School Open House will give parents an opportunity to visit their child's classroom.

This year, Religious School Families will also have the opportunity for Intergenerational Family Education Programs:

- Grades K-1, Saturday, Nov. 7—Learning together: Shema V'ahavta (Teach your children)
- Grade 2, Saturday, May 1—TBD
- Grades 3, Saturday, May 8—What Does It Mean to be Part of the *Kehillah*, the Community?
- Grade 4, Saturday, Jan. 16—The Many Faces of My Jewish Family
- Grade 5, Saturday, Feb. 6—Coincidence, Courage, or the Hand of God: A Family Exploration of the Book of Esther

- Grade 6, Saturday, Nov., 21 – Dor L'Dor (From Generation to Generation): Sharing our Family Stories and Traditions

We will have Intergenerational Programs for the entire BJC community on:

- Saturday, Dec. 12—A morning of Hanukkah learning
- Saturday, Mar. 13—A morning of Passover learning

Social Action is also another way to work within both our BJC community and the larger Washington area community, too. The following activities are planned for the fall:

- Regular food collection for Bethesda Help Food Closet
- NCCF Block Party (grounds cleaning) on Sunday, Oct. 25
- Volunteering at Thrive DC (formerly Dinner Program for Homeless Women)
- American Red Cross Blood Drive on Nov. 21
- Thanksgiving food collection and baskets for NCCF and Anacostia Children's Center
- Martha's Table Sandwich Making with Religious School on Dec. 5

This year take one or more of the opportunities to be a part of our BJC community. The brief list above is not conclusive by any stretch of the imagination, but it is a taste of what we have at BJC.

Looking forward to seeing each of you soon!

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.

Congregation News

Extreme Sukkah Makeover – BJC Edition

Once more we will need a rush job to erect our Sukkah in the five days between Yom Kippur and Sukkot. It's easy, it's fun, and you get to build something beautiful with great people. So, on Wednesday, Sept. 30 at 5:45 p.m. in Covenant Hall, bring your power drills, screw drivers, and the kids (they make the decorations)—we'll bring the pizza.

N'tivim L'Sukkot!—A Special Sukkot and Shabbat Service

Join the BJC Gemach Carlebach Trio on Friday, Oct. 2 at 8 p.m. for a Sukkot and Shabbat service with a Hasidische tam! (Hasidic flavor)

Sukkot Celebration, Family Service and Lunch

Join us on Saturday, Oct. 3 at 9:45 a.m. in the Sukkah for songs and games followed by a special family service and lunch in the outdoor Sukkah behind Covenant Hall (weather permitting). Come shake your lulav, and sniff the etrog in the most beautiful Sukkah in town! RSVP for Lunch to the Religious School Office. This will be a Religious School day following the regular Saturday schedule.

Simchat Torah Celebration and Consecration

Don't miss BJC's Simchat Torah celebration and consecration of new religious school students on Friday, Oct. 9 at 7:30 p.m. with the Machayah Klezmer Band.

Join us for rollin' up the Torah and a night of Israeli Dancing!

Adult Study—Jewish Law and Literature

This fall, beginning on Saturday, Oct. 17, the Jewish Law and Literature study group, hosted by Edward Stern, will read and discuss Jewish Responsa. The Responsa are questions and answers from a panel of Rabbis on some tricky, but very real and heart-felt issues. Ed invites you to read some contemporary problems at <http://ccarnet.org/documentsandpositions/responsa/>, and propose problems you want to discuss in the class. The study group will also consider older questions and answers.

National Center for Children and Families (NCCF) Grounds Clean-Up

Please join other BJC and Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church volunteers on Sunday, Oct. 25 from 12:15 until 3:30 p.m. for our annual NCCF Block Party. We will enjoy a picnic lunch with those at the Center, help to beautify the NCCF grounds, and do other important volunteer work. More information will be available soon, but please put the event on your calendar now, and contact Maddy Killefer, mk50ck@verizon.net, if you have any questions.

Open Book Discussion: *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*

Join us on Oct. 28, for a discussion on *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies* by Jared Diamond, professor of geography and physiology at UCLA. The book won the Pulitzer Prize and an award as the best science book in 1998.

The author attempts to explain why Eurasian civilizations, as a whole, have survived and conquered others, while attempting to refute the belief that Eurasian hegemony is due to any form of Eurasian intellectual, moral, or inherent genetic superiority. Diamond argues that the gaps in power and technology between human societies originate in environmental differences, which are amplified by various positive feedback loops, and that even when cultural or genetic differences have favored Eurasians (for example Chinese centralized government, or improved disease resistance among Eurasians), these advantages were only created due to the influence of geography and were not inherent in the Eurasian genomes.

For information, please contact Evelyn Ganzglass 202-966-7037 or Ruth Rosenberg 703-560-9525.

BJC Cuba Mission 2010

The next BJC mission to Cuba is scheduled for Feb. 11-22, 2010. This trip will feature BJC's first visit to the Jewish communities of Guantanamo and Santiago, Shabbat in Havana and Sancti Spiritus, and a visit to Camaguey, Santa Clara and Cienfuegos.

Take advantage of what may be a last opportunity to see Cuba before new regulations liberalizing travel to Cuba change the culture and look of the island. (Remember what happened in the last few decades in China)

Cost (\$2,800 pp dbl occupancy/single supplement \$200) includes: Round trip flight Miami/Cuba and internal flight from Havana to Santiago, 11 nights hotel, all breakfasts and lunches, five dinners, air conditioned bus, full-time guide and translator, restaurant tips, Cuban religious visas, and Miami departure tax.

October 2009 Calendar

Day	Date	Time	Event	Location
Wednesday	Sept. 30	4:15 p.m. 5:45 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Religious School Sukkah Building Kemach and Torah	Classrooms Covenant Hall Library
Friday	Oct. 2	8:00 p.m.	N'tivim L' Shabbat & Sukkot	Covenant Hall
Saturday	Oct. 3	8:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 9:45 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:15 p.m.	Adult Hebrew Religious School School Sukkot Celebration Sukkot Family Service Sukkot Lunch-RSVP Office	Library Classrooms Classrooms Covenant Hall Covenant Hall
Tuesday	Oct. 6	7:00 p.m.	Lecture—Eboo Patel	Sanctuary
Wednesday	Oct. 7	4:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Religious School Kemach and Torah	Library
Friday	Oct. 9	8:00 p.m.	Simchat Torah Service and Celebration with Band	Covenant Hall Memorial Hall
Saturday	Oct. 10	10:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	No Religious school Simchat Torah Service Chant Circle Community Simchat Torah	Covenant Hall RM 305 6th & I Synagogue
Wednesday	Oct. 14	4:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Religious School Kemach and Torah	Classrooms Library
Friday	Oct. 16	8:00 p.m.	Simcha B'Shabbat All Music Service	Covenant Hall
Saturday	Oct. 17	8:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 9:45 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Adult Hebrew Ed Stern's Adult Ed Religious School Religious School Shabbat Worship—Anjali Banerji Bat Mitzvah	Lounge Library Classrooms Classrooms Covenant Hall
Wednesday	Oct. 21	4:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Religious school Kemach and Torah	Classrooms Library
Friday	Oct. 23	6:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Tot Shabbat Shabbat Worship	Lounge Covenant Hall
Saturday	24-Oct	8:45 a.m.	Adult Hebrew	Lounge
		9:00 a.m.	Religious School	Classrooms
		10:30 a.m.	Shabbat Worship—Jake Ditchek Bar Mitzvah	Covenant Hall
Sunday	Oct.25	12:15 p.m.	NCCF Block Party and Clean-up	NCCF
Wednesday	Oct. 28	4:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Religious School Kemach and Torah Open Book Discussion: Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies	Classrooms Library Library
Friday	Oct. 30	8:00 p.m.	Shabbat Worship	Covenant Hall
Saturday	Oct. 31	8:45 a.m.	Adult Hebrew	Lounge
		9:00 a.m.	Religious School	Classrooms
		9:00 a.m.	Shabbat Worship—Jacob Bailer Bar Mitzvah	Covenant Hall
Wednesday	Nov. 4	4:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Religious school Kemach and Torah	Classrooms Library

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

Community News

Acts of Faith: Interfaith Leadership in a Time of Religious Crisis

On Tuesday Oct. 6, 2009 at 7:30 p.m., Eboo Patel, Director of Interfaith Youth Core will speak, as part of the Annual Susan R. Andrews Lecture Series, on the topic *Acts of Faith: Interfaith Leadership in a Time of Religious Crisis*.

America is the most religiously diverse country in human history and the most religiously devout nation in the West at a time of global religious conflict. We hear frequently of religious extremists leading movements of violence in the name of God. What does it take to be a different kind of leader, an interfaith leader, building a movement for understanding and cooperation between different religious communities?

Eboo Patel (recently appointed by President Obama to the President's Advisory Council of Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships) will articulate the theology within the Muslim faith that inspires his work to build religious pluralism, and provoke our community to consider the theology within our faith that might move us to do the same.

The Susan R. Andrews Lecture Series on Progressive Theology was created in honor of her ministry at Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church (BHPC) from 1989–2006. Rev. Andrews' unceasing passion for interfaith work led to the blossoming of the relationship between BJC and BHPC. This year our two congregations will be joined by members of Idara al Jaferia Mosque.

Yahrzeits

יארצייט

Helaine Adinah Berkowitz, Sister of Susan Berkowitz
Leonard Busman, Father of Bruce Busman
Bessie Cohen, Grandmother of Donna Goldberg
Sonya Schwartz Choper, Sister of Linda Baum
Evelyn Dwork, Mother of Barry Dwork
Fanny Dwork, Grandmother of Barry Dwork
Julie Effros, Daughter of Maggie Greenwald
Bertha Feder, Mother of Harriet Kaplan
Ida Feldman, Mother of Barry Feldman
Miriam Feldman, Sister of Betty Kline
Albert Finkel, Uncle of Gail Weiss
Molly Friedman, Mother of Hannah Elson
Ethel Gluckstein, Mother of Fritz Gluckstein
Pauline Grossman, Sister of Peter Feldman
Pepi Harden, Mother of Sandi Medlin
Cliff Hecht, Husband of Joan Schnitzer

Ethel Himberg, Mother of Harvey Himberg
Sam Klotz, Father of Norman Klotz
Ethel Levine, Mother of Les Levine
Dorethea Lippman, Mother of Laura Lippman
Mollie Sharfman, Mother of Bernard Sharfman
Philip Shtasel, Father of Sana Shtasel
Myron Silbert, Uncle of Earl Silbert
Carolyn Trywasch, Sister of Naomi Lichtenerg
Henry P. Wolf, Father of Joan Wolf
Benjamin Wolk, Father of Judy Feldman
Fannie Yockelson, Mother of Naomi Lichtenberg

Thank you

תודה רבה

Bruce and Linda Baum for their generous donation to BJC in honor of the engagement of the Hazzan's daughter and the birth of the Walders' twin grandsons.

Bruce and Wynne Busman for their generous donation to the Hazzan's Discretionary Fund in honor of the baby naming of their granddaughter, Isla O'Brien.

Phyllis Cassell for her generous donation to the Hazzan's Discretionary Fund in honor of the baby naming of her great granddaughter, Isla O'Brien.

Annie and Mike Cifarelli for their generous donation to BJC in honor of the Yahrzeit of Mike's mother, Lucille Cifarelli.

Warren and Anita Farb for their generous donation to the Maran Gluckstein Family Education Fund in honor of the birth of their grandson, Jacob Walker Farb.

Peter and Judy Feldman for their generous donation to the Hazzan's Discretionary Fund in honor of the marriage of his daughter.

Al and Judy Folsom for their generous donation to BJC in honor of the Yahrzeits of their fathers, Isadore Kornfield and Maurice Folsom.

Israel and Elise Gotay for their generous donation to the BJC Cuba Fund.

Barbara Holtz for her generous donation to the Hazzan's Discretionary Fund in honor of Joel Aronson's brother, Dan, in hopes for his speedy recovery.

Todd and Melissa Keller for their generous donation to the Hazzan's Discretionary Fund in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Chase.

Marvin and Diane Schntizer for their generous donation to BJC in memory of Scott Greenberg.

Fanny Stern for her generous donation to BJC in memory of her nephew, Scott Lev.

Lorrie Van Akkeren for her generous donation to the Hazzan's Discretionary Fund in honor of the Yahrzeit of Kenneth Mandelville.

Davi and Larry Walders for their generous donation to the Hazzan's Discretionary Fund in honor of the birth of their grandsons, Aaron and Caleb.

Charlotte Wall-Bluestone for her generous donation to BJC in honor of the Yahrzeit of Nathan Sanders Wall.

For their generous donations to Enhancing the Flame

William and Rochelle Banta

Peter and Judy Feldman

Maran and Fritz Gluckstein

Ruth Rosenberg

David and Jane Slacter

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

The deadline for submitting articles for the
Nov. newsletter is Oct. 2.

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

Deadline: Oct. 2. 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.