



Bethesda Jewish Congregation News

Rabbi Elhanan 'Sunny' Schnitzer

September 2011

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Kiriat HaRav—The Call of the Rabbi

Rabbi Elhanan 'Sunny' Schnitzer

Taking an extended break from work, as I am doing for the first time in my life, is an interesting thing. No sooner do I stop working as a rabbi, than I fill my time with other activities. My Spanish is markedly improved after weeks in immersion classes. My house is now in good repair. I visit other synagogues. I work for the Cuba America Jewish Mission. I even found time to join a gym.

In other words, I am as busy as ever.

While a change of scenery or a break to charge our "batteries" is usually a good thing, the desire to change everything and start over with a new career, a new relationship, or move to a new place, is not necessarily the answer we seek to the unease, loneliness, or unhappiness that gnaws at us from time to time.

A great scholar once visited his rebbe to ask for advice regarding a career change. He was tired of the rigors of academia and envious of those who seemed to have time to relax, play golf, own a boat, or travel the world.

"Teaching is exhausting," he complained. "All the hours of preparation, then the classroom time, then grading papers, not to mention the never ending questions of my students. No wonder I have neither the time nor the energy to partake of the pleasures others enjoy."

When he arrived at his rebbe's house, he found his teacher ill and in bed. Before he could speak and wish his rebbe a "r'fuah sh'leimah" (a perfect healing) the rebbe held up his hand to silence him and said:

"Let me teach you the secret of the verse in the Torah 'These are the offspring on Noah.' The word No-ah can mean 'easy' or 'convenient.' The word in the verse, 'these,' connects this sentence with another; "these are your gods o' Israel." What is the connection? We tend to make idols out of the easy and worship convenience rather than truth. There is no telling which is the greater of the lesser. All we can say is whether or not our effort is true to ourselves."

The scholar was awed that the rabbi could read his thoughts. But he was not yet satisfied. "What you say is true Rebbe, yet the Torah also tells us, 'Noah walked with God.' What does this mean? The Rebbe said; "We each have our own personal path to God.

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BJC News

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Some through meditation, some through labor, some through study. We tend to see the path of another as easier than our own, not knowing the struggles it entails.

But, if you abandon your path for another, you may find yourself lost, for you will wor-

ship the path and not the goal. Stay with your scholarship my son. Toil day and night to wrest the wonders and mysteries from the texts and share them with others. This is the way you will walk with God.

The scholar then turned and began his journey home.

So, as my sabbatical comes to an end, I return to my path; the path of service to our community and the Jewish people, wherever they may be. The break was sweet. The path is sweeter. I'll see you this Sept.

The President's Column

Bruce Busman

This summer has been quiet at BJC but the BJC Social Action Committee has been busy supporting the New Story Leadership (NSL) program. Each summer NSL brings Israeli and Palestinian young adults to the Washington area for six weeks of living and working together. These young leaders intern in Congressional offices and at other institutions, and participate in seven weeks of leadership training.

By the end of the summer, they have learned to lead and inspire by telling their story and to work together on common initiatives. Deep personal bonds are formed with each other and with their host families, and they join

a network of NSL graduates who will use their American experience to help build a more promising future for their region. We thank Marty Ganzglass, Evelyn Glanzglass, and Ronnie Haber for pursuing this opportunity for BJC to support New Story Leadership.

With the end of summer the BJC family is preparing for the high holidays. We are about to enter into the year 5772! The High Holy Days are a time to reflect on the past and gives us an opportunity to make a change in our lives for the better. Before the holidays, Selichot will be observed on Sept. 24. Selichot, meaning forgiveness, refers to the prayers recited by Jews prior to the onset of the High Holiday season. We always have a great movie, a lovely service, and delicious homemade desserts. Please join us for the Selichot service to begin the process of searching for deeper spiritual meaning in our lives, and experience the "hush at Midnight".

May the New Year be filled with health and happiness for you and your family. L'Shanah Tovah!



Sh'ma Koli—Hear My Voice

Chava Gal-Or, Director of Congregation Education

Reshaping the Box

"Think we can imagine our schools better than they are? It is time to take the best of what we have and to make

it better. Remember it is about the people, the students, the teachers, the parents, etc." These words were spoken by Chris Lehmann, principal of the Science Leadership Academy in Philadelphia, PA at the

webinar for educators called #140edu: The 140 Characters Conference.

People used to think that 'thinking outside of the box' was a good thing and then one day, I was interviewing for a position and I realized that I didn't really want to 'think outside the box'. I wanted to reshape the box again and again. And to be honest, reshaping the box is becoming a priority for me and I hope that you will join me, along with our Education Committee, teachers, and students.

Our students need to become complete partners in their educational process and we need them to bring to the table more of what they know as a means for gaining more knowledge. Our students are savvy when it comes to all that is electronic and to many other skills from movement, to sports, to art, to drama; our students and their parents have amazing skills to share in our setting. We just need to find ways to engage those skills in our setting.

The learning at #140 Conf was absolutely amazing and it gave me so much to consider! Rabbi Hillel was once asked by someone to teach him the entire Torah while standing on one foot. Hillel replied, "What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor: that is the whole Torah while the rest is commentary; go and learn it." The only way to strengthen the learning process is to take another presenter, Adam Bellow's blessing from this workshop, "My wish for all of us: stay thirsty, stay curious, stay life long learners and continue to change the world." Let's work together to learn the Torah's Commentary while doing whatever it takes to reach for the advice above.

Ideas for how you can help:

- Take a leadership role in our Community-wide Mitzvah Day, Saturday, Mar. 3rd.
- Help vision and plan some family education programs.

- Become involved in our Holiday Celebrations.
- Bring your talents to the classrooms.
- Are you a teacher, an actor, an athlete, a policy maker, a writer, or an environmentalist? There are so many ways to incorporate what you do into our Religious School!

Dates to Remember:

- Saturday, Sept. 10, 2011: 9 a.m.-12:15 p.m.—Day one of Religious School for all students, Preschool through Confirmation. (Preschool change from previous newsletter; preschool will begin 9/10/11)
- Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2011: 4:15-5:45 p.m.—Hebrew School for Students in Grades 4 through 7.
- Friday, Oct. 14, 2011: 6:30 p.m. Family and Friends Shabbat Service; followed by dinner and time in the Sukkah.
- Friday, Oct. 21, 2011: 7:30 p.m. Simchat Torah Services and Consecration for new students in grades K-3.

From the Rabbi

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 keep-

ing me informed of the health needs of our congregation. Office Number: 301-469-8636, #3.

Congregation News

Make This the Year You Learn Hebrew!

Our multi-level Hebrew class for adults will resume with the opening of Religious School on Saturday, Sept. 10. There is a depth and richness to being able to experience prayer and Torah in the original that is available to you through the study of our people's ancient yet

amazingly modern language. We have groups from beginners through advanced and welcome everyone. Tuition

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is free for BJC members and \$200 for non-members. We meet every Saturday that school is in session from 8:45–10 a.m. If you will be a new student, please contact our instructor, Maran Gluckstein, at 301-984-0948 so that she can be sure to have the proper books waiting for you. L'hitraot! See you soon!

High Holidays 5772

Selichot

Saturday, Sept. 24 9 p.m.

Erev Rosh Hashanah

Wednesday, Sept. 28 8 p.m.

Rosh Hashanah

Thursday, Sept. 29 10 a.m.

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

Tashlich 3:30 p.m.

Kol Nidre

Friday, Oct. 7 8 p.m.

Yom Kippur

Saturday, Oct. 8 10 a.m.

Family Service 1:30 p.m.

Conversation with Rabbi 2:30 p.m.

Musical Interlude 3:30 p.m.

Yizkor and Neilah 5 p.m.

Non-member tickets can be purchased for \$195 for all services. Please call the office or e-mail admin@bethesdajewish.org for more information. Active military personnel may receive complimentary tickets through their chaplain's office or by contacting BJC directly.

Selichot for 5771 - Movie and Discussion

Please join us on Saturday, Sept. 24 at 9 p.m. in Covenant Hall for a movie, *The Quarrel* followed by a discussion.

Two estranged friends—one a rabbi, and the other, an agnostic writer—are compelled to resume an argument that caused a separation between the pair many years earlier, after a chance meeting pushes the duo together once more. A chance encounter on the Jewish New Year offers Chaim and Hersh a final opportunity to face the past, clarify their conduct, and attempt to understand the vastly dissimilar lives they've led. On the forenoon of Rosh Hashana, Chaim gets bacon and eggs for his first meal of the

day and receives a telephone call from the lady he casually slept with the previous night, whereas Hersh is down by the lakefront guiding his yeshiva scholars in prayer. Their way of life and beliefs could not differ any further, however boyhood friendships many times will develop beyond rationality. While the two gentlemen reveal their Holocaust incidents and describe how the lives they lead have strengthened their viewpoints, 'the quarrel' that develops turns into a battle to determine whether they are best friends or angry foes.

The exceptional discourse captures an impartial look at both religious and secular thought to portray the most compelling arguments for both, as the two friends continue their long-inactive dispute.

Following the viewing of the film, Rabbi Schnitzer will lead a discussion. The evening concludes with dessert and a Selichot service.

Pulpit Exchange Shabbat

Rev. David Grey, senior pastor of Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, swaps pulpits with Rabbi Schnitzer on Friday, Sept. 30 at 8 p.m. in this annual event between our spiritual communities.

BJC Book Club

There will be no Book Club in Sept.

Green Notes

The Rabbi, in one of his sermons for last year's High Holidays, urged the Congregation to become more involved in environmental issues. The Environmental Subcommittee of the Social Action Committee is initiating Green Notes as a regular feature in our monthly newsletter. The goal is to make BJC and our Congregation greener.

For households: Did you know paper backs and hard bound books can be recycled together with newspapers, magazines and other paper? Other hints: always use paper not plastic to hold recyclable material left at the curb. You cannot recycle Styrofoam and clam shell food containers. If glass is broken, you can still recycle it but you should wrap it in newspaper.

Recycling Information: Everything you wanted to know but were afraid to ask: here are the email addresses and phone numbers of area contacts:

- **DC:** Recycling is required by law. Fines are levied if material is found in the trash that should be recycled. A 32-gallon recycling container costs \$45. The city accepts mixed curbside recycling. You can mingle plastics numbered 1-7, aluminum, steel, metals, glass and paper. <http://Dpw.dc.gov>. Contact Russell Klein, 202-645-8245; Russell.klein@dc.gov.

- **Montgomery County:** The County accepts curbside recycling but *not* mingled matter. Separate containers are required, one for paper and another for metal, glass and plastic. You can leave out home repair debris weighing less than 45 pounds.
www.montgomerycountmd.gov; 240-777-6445.
- **VA:** Virginia accepts curbside recycling but only Nos. 1 and 2 plastic containers. Recycle bins are free and can be requested from the State. There is a \$25 fine if you add recyclable materials to your normal trash.
www.deq.state.va.us/recycle. 703-385-7995.

If you have any questions or would like to participate in the Environmental Subcommittee, contact Stacey FitzSimmons at staceyfitz2@gmail.com.

Yahrzeits

יארצייט

Jacob Aronson, Father of Joel Aronson
 Jack Barsky, Brother of Lisa Strauss
 Stephen David Berkowitz, Brother of Susan Berkowitz
 Joy Budowsky, Mother of Don Budowsky
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 Frank Gold, Father of Judy Scott
 Julius Hoffman, Father of Harold Hoffman
 Michelle Hume, Daughter of Harriet Kaplan
 Sherri C Kost, Mother of Amy Kost
 Shirley Poogach, Mother of Robert Poogach
 Benjamin Rosenberg, Father of Phyliss Hoffman
 Lillian Rosenberg Silbert, Mother of Earl Silbert
 Ben Solomon, Father of Fred Solomon
 Daniel Araron Sotnick, Son of Cliff Sotnick
 Fanny Stern, Mother of Edward Stern
 Nathan Sanders Wall, Husband of Charlotte Wall-Bluestone
 Joseph Weiss, Father of David Weiss
 Rose Wolk, Mother of Judy Feldman

Thank you

תודה רבה

Timothy and Carol Alderson for their generous donation in memory of Lisa Strauss' mother, Beatrice Barsky.

For their generous donations to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of the wedding of Helen Wolfe and Tony deStefano:

Joanne and Kuno Bachbauer
 Lee and Ellen Burstyn

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 Nathan White and Ellen Schaefer
 Betty J. Whitney
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Peter and Judy Feldman for their generous donation in memory of Lisa Strauss' mother, Beatrice Barsky.

Al and Judy Folsom for their generous donation in honor of the Yahrzeits of Judy's mother, Ida Kornfield and Al's father, Maurice Folsom.

Harri Kramer and Russ Hogle for their generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of Bruce and Wynne Busman for all they do for BJC.

Alvin and Iris Lazarus for their generous donation to the Cuba Fund.

Wynn Segall and Anna Jenefsky for their generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Dora.

Lorrie Van Akkeren for her generous donation to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund in honor of the Yahrzeit of her son-in-law, Kenneth L Mandeville, Jr.

A very special thank you to all of you who "rounded up" in the first payment of synagogue support payments.

For their generous donations to Enhancing The Flame

Carol Holtzman
 Lorrie Van Akkeren

Community News

9/11 Ten Year Anniversary Unity Walk

Thousands of people jolted by 9/11 and religious intolerance have chosen to embrace their differences by

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coming together for the Unity Walk on Sept. 11 at 1 p.m. at 3810 Massachusetts Ave., NW.

Starting in 2005 in Washington, DC, and now in New York City; every church, synagogue, mosque and temple on Embassy Row and near Ground Zero open their doors to each other, and symbolically the world. The Unity Walk seeks to build bridges of understanding and respect in a post Sept. 11th world, highlighting how we are united rather than divided by our many faiths.

The 9/11 Unity Walk commemorates 10 years since the regrettable acts of terror, but also looks forward to the next nine decades as an opportunity to build a century of strength and peace. None of us alone is strong enough to bring down walls of intolerance or build communities of respect and understanding.

Join with Rabbi Schnitzer, Rev. David Gray, and the members of our two congregations in this historic commemoration.

BJC is looking to grow a little.

Share the love!

Bring a friend, neighbor, relative and colleague to our

New Member Open House

*Simcha B'Shabbat Service
"Joy of Shabbos"*

*Friday, September 16, 2011
Reception 7:00 pm • Service 8:00 pm*



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September 2011 Calendar

Day	Date	Time	Event	Location
Friday	Sept. 2	8:00 p.m.	Shabbat Worship Aufruf of Rabbi and Mrs Schnitzer's daughter Stephanie Clark and Robert Covitz	Covenant Hall
Wednesday	Sept. 7	6:30 p.m. 7:45 p.m.	Kemach and Tanach Choir Rehearsal	Library Choir Room
Thursday	Sept. 8	7:30 p.m.	BJC Board Meeting	Lounge
Friday	Sept. 9	8:00 p.m.	Shabbat Worship	Covenant Hall
Saturday	Sept. 10	8:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Adult Hebrew First Day of Religious School—Everyone starts at 9 today Shabbat Worship	Lounge Memorial Hall Covenant Hall
Sunday	Sept. 11	1:00 pm	D.C. Unity Walk—3801 Mass. Ave	
Wednesday	Sept. 14	4:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	First day of Wednesday Religious School Kemach and Tanach	Classrooms Library
Friday	Sept. 16	7:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	New Member Open House Simcha B'Shabbat All Music Service	Gathering Space Covenant Hall
Saturday	Sept. 17	9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Religious School Shabbat Worship—Roe Bat Mitzvah	Classrooms Covenant Hall
Wednesday	Sept. 21	4:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Religious School Kemach and Tanach	Classrooms Library
Friday	Sept. 23	6:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	Tot Shabbat Shabbat Worship	Lounge Covenant Hall
Saturday	Sept. 24	8:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 p.m. 9:00 pm.	Adult Hebrew Religious School Shabbat Worship Selichot Program and Service Film and Discussion "The Quarrel"	Lounge Classrooms Covenant Hall Covenant Hall
Wednesday	Sept 28	8:00 p.m.	Erev Rosh Hashanah	Sanctuary
Thursday	Sept 29	10:00 a.m. 1:30 p.m. 1:30 p.m. 3:30 p.m.	Rosh Hashanah Family Service Pre-K Service Tashlich	Sanctuary Sanctuary Lounge Cabin John Park, 7400 Tuckerman Lane
Friday	Sept 30	8:00 p.m.	Shabbat Worship Pulpit Exchange with Rev. Dr. David Gray	Covenant Hall
Saturday	Oct. 1	8:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Adult Hebrew Religious School Shabbat Worship	Lounge Classrooms Covenant Hall

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



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The deadline for submitting articles for the Oct. newsletter is Sept. 5.
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 Oct. newsletter, mail it to the BJC office with your check made payable to BJC.
Deadline: Sept. 5. 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.