

Relational Judaism Weekend: Dr. Ron Wolfson Returns

“Judaism is about relationship – with others, with God, with the tradition itself,” points out Rabbi David Wolpe of Sinai Temple, Los Angeles. Rabbi Wolpe enthusiastically shares, “There is no more sure-footed guide to the relationships in our lives than Ron Wolfson, teacher extraordinaire.” Temple Israel and Temple Beth El have joined forces to bring Dr. Ron Wolfson back to Charlotte, so that many more people in our Charlotte community may benefit directly from Dr. Wolfson’s teaching in his upcoming visit, the weekend of Friday, March 27 through Saturday, March 28.



Dr. Ron Wolfson

Motivated to help Jewish organizations across the country to address declining membership and ill attended programs, Dr. Wolfson authored the game-changing book, *Relational Judaism: Using the Power of Relationships to Transform the Jewish Community*. Wolfson applies the best thinking from the

corporate and nonprofit worlds, lending scholarship that is meticulously researched and peppered with real life examples, to outline a new paradigm for creating a vibrant Jewish community.

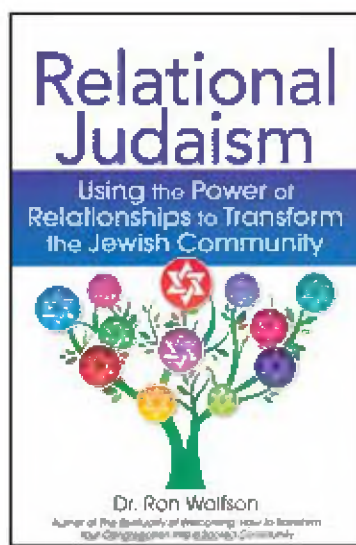
“Ron Wolfson is a dynamic and engaging scholar, who weaves a vision filled with hope for the future of Jewish communal life in the United States. His vision is

contagious and exciting,” says Rabbi Murray Ezring of Temple Israel. “Communal religious life is all about relationships. Our love for one another; our support for one another draw us closer to experiencing the Divine on earth.”

Temple Israel and Temple Beth El invites all Jews, affiliated and unaffiliated, young and old, lay leaders and staff, from all over the Charlotte area to attend this upcoming special Shabbat weekend, absolutely free of charge and created to benefit the Charlotte Jewish community at large. You are invited to engage in a conversation with Dr. Wolfson that will transform your thinking about the future of your Jewish life and of Jewish organizations. The following events are open to the public:

Friday, March 27 – Temple Beth El

Community Shabbat Services, 7 PM - Blessing and Kisses: the Power of Jewish Family Life. This lecture is sponsored in part by the Sadie Levin Scholar-in-Residence program in memory of the mother of Norm Levin, Temple Beth El’s Honorary Life President.



Saturday, March 28 – Temple Israel

Shabbat Services, 9:30 AM - Building Good Tents: Envisioning the Relational Synagogue of the 21st Century.

Saturday, March 28 – Sam Lerner Center at Shalom Park (Building A)

After services at both temples, the Jewish community will come together for a special Kiddush in



the Sam Lerner Center of Shalom Park. Immediately after Kiddush, Dr. Wolfson will present, Beyond Maxwell House: How to Have the Greatest Seder Ever.

For more information about these events, you may contact the Clergy Office of Temple Israel at 704-362-2796 or Temple Beth El at 704-366-1948. ☆

Temple Beth El: A Hub for Unique Communities Engaged in Jewish Living

By Cantor Mary Thomas

The synagogue is a beit t’filah - a house of prayer, a beit midrash - a house of study, and a beit k’nesset - a house of gathering. At Temple Beth El we have dynamic services and learning opportunities for all ages. We are a place of connection for many.

The Temple Beth El community has created one of the most successful youth engagement programs in the country. Yet, success is not without challenges. Synagogues throughout the country face the struggle of a “carpool culture,” where students are dropped off and parents rarely enter the synagogue for their own enrichment and spiritual development. When kids are served so well, parents may - subconsciously or not - focus their Jewish involvement and participation on their children, and not themselves. Oftentimes, this is based out of necessity: kids’ schedules are challenging, there is an incredible amount of driving to and fro, and work is demanding. When do you find time to buy groceries, go to the gym, or have the occasional date night, never mind the synagogue and Jewish living.

We hope to get ahead of this national trend of disaffiliation by strengthening Temple Beth El as a beit k’nesset - not just a house of gathering, but a hub for building unique, small communities engaged in Jewish Living. Through strong lay partnerships, we are building networks of Jewish Living Groups. These groups are small communities within Temple Beth El united by interest, affinity, or life circumstance.

Club Sandwich: Our first Jewish Living Group is Club Sandwich, comprised of members caring for family members in multiple generations, such as aging parents and teens still living at home. Club Sandwich has been

meeting since October 2014 and has observed holidays, havdalah, and has engaged in study while deepening their interpersonal relationships.

Tiles and Tribulations: Launched in February, the Tiles and Tribulations Mah Jongg Jewish Living Group is an intergenerational mix of Mah Jongg players from novice to expert who explore Jewish wisdom as they study their tiles. Women (and men) of all generations spent a Shabbat together: eating, praying, exploring the game, and getting to know one another. In March, Tiles and Tribulations continues to support the novices through extra practice sessions at Whole Foods while building ongoing Mah Jongg groups who will play and build Jewish content into the communities built around their games.

Bourbon and Banter: The Bourbon and Banter Jewish Living Group meets for the first time on March 7 for havdalah, bourbon, and Jewish learning. Bourbon and Banter will create community around good Bourbon and great Jewish ideas. RSVP to attend by March 4 at www.beth-el.com.

Other groups in development include an Outdoor Activities Group, which should also launch in March, Single Women in their 50s and 60s, and more. All you need to start a Jewish Living Group is a passion, two dedicated lay leaders, and a willingness to welcome Jewish perspective and content into that activity.

Temple Beth El will continue to grow as a place of prayer, study, action, gathering, but also as a focal point for a renewed engagement with daily Jewish life. Please contact CantorMary@beth-el.com for more information about the existing Jewish Living Groups or if you are interested in forming one of your own. ☆

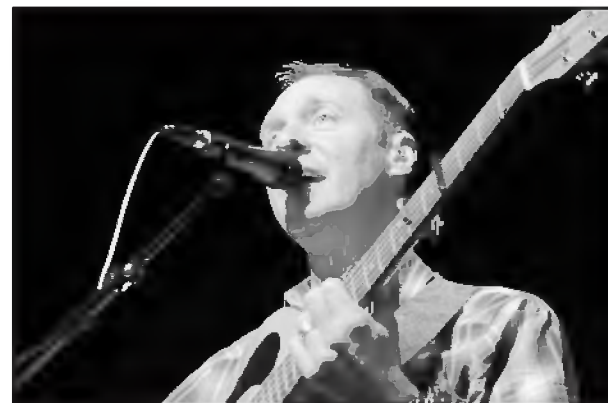
Dan Nichols Returns to Charlotte

Temple Beth El welcomes Dan Nichols as we celebrate our Jewish community and secular educators on Arthur Tirsun Teacher Appreciation and Education Shabbat.

We hope you will join us on Saturday, March 14 at 11 AM at Temple Beth El in the Blumenthal Sanctuary

Temple Beth El is excited to announce the return of beloved singer-songwriter, Dan Nichols. Dan Nichols is a singular talent in the world of Jewish music. He is one of the most dynamic, influential, and beloved Jewish musicians in North America. Dan’s melodies have become an integral part of the spiritual and liturgical experience of countless individuals and Jewish communities, including ours.

Dan will be joining our clergy to lead a magnificent, musical Shabbat morning congregational service that will honor our Jewish and community educators. He will be joined by the TBE Teen Vocal Ensemble, Teen Band, Youth Choir, and Religious School Song Leaders. Everyone is welcome to attend.



Temple Beth El is proud to honor our dedicated Jewish educators and area secular teachers. This Shabbat service is dedicated to Arthur Tirsun, a career educator who lived what he taught. Judaism was his life and he had the rare gift of being able to impart his Judaic wisdom, passion, and dedication to our students. All of the teachers at Temple Beth El Religious School possess those same attributes. Please join us to say thank you to our beloved teachers and the faculties of the Charlotte Jewish Preschool, the Consolidated Hebrew High School, Tikvah Charlotte, and the

Levine Sklut Judaic Library, as well as our area secular teachers. The public is welcome to join the celebration.

If you would like to honor a Jewish educator, please consider making a contribution to the Temple Beth El Arthur Tirsun Educational Shabbat and Religious School Fund. ☆



March Madness at Temple Kol Ami

March Madness has come to Temple Kol Ami. No, we don’t mean basketball. We mean all the amazing events that are planned for March at TKA. We start off the month with a Purim Carnival on March 1 for our amazing Religious School students. Then on March 6, these awesome kids will entertain us with a Purim Schpiel based on Dr. Seuss at Friday night Shabbat service. Finally, the weekend of March 20-22, Kol Ami welcomes Rabbi Bruce Aft of the Institute of Southern Jewish Learning for a Shabbaton. Rabbi Aft is coming to us from Northern Virginia, and will lead the congrega-

tion in a traditional Friday night service and a Saturday morning Tot Shabbat. Other plans for the Shabbaton include a congregational brunch, Torah study, Havdalah get-together, and spending time with the Religious School kids. We are excited to have the “Rabbi on the Road” join our community for a weekend of spirituality and learning.

Temple Kol Ami serves the Jewish population of York County, SC and the surrounding areas. We are a warm and welcoming congregation for Jews from all walks of life and level of observance. Shabbat services are



held the first and third Friday nights of each month at the Historic Sanctuary of Unity Presbyterian Church, 303 Tom Hall Street, Fort Mill, SC. For more information about Temple Kol Ami, check out our website www.templekolamisc.org. We would love to see you one Friday night in the near future. ☆