



JGSGW November Meeting *Sunday, November 5, 2017*

**Beth El Hebrew Congregation,
3830 Seminary Rd., Alexandria, VA**

1:00 PM Shmooze and Mavens Table

**1:30 PM Meeting: *"Tante Freida was Almost Deported by the Feds!"*
with Rabbi Gary Gans**

Rabbi Gary Gans' immigrant relative decided it was better in 1921, to claim to be unwed and pregnant then admit the truth that she married an alien while visiting Palestine. She should have been automatically denaturalized according to the U.S. law then extant! She committed one of the few confirmed cases of voter fraud as an undocumented resident living in the U.S.

This methodological approach will show the step-by-step approach that revealed documents that the family was convinced were long buried. Over 30 years later, the Feds caught her lie. Through disciplined research and good luck, he uncovered the court records from the 1950's, showing this 4 foot tall Yiddish speaking, old woman in a housecoat, almost brought down the US government! This Cold War tale involved governments behind the Iron Curtain, Israel, and the U.S.



He will also address the ethics of family secrets and confidentiality. Is it ever OK to reveal what was previously hidden knowledge? Did he violate his own family promises and privacy by going public?

Rabbi Gary Gans was ordained by the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and served as the rabbi of Congregation Beth Tikvah, Marlton, NJ for 35 years. In 2016 he was elevated to Rabbi Emeritus. He earned his doctorate from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in family counseling.

Gans is a licensed therapist in NJ, specializing in family relationships, grief, and the impact of life-cycle events. He is an officer of the Crescent Memorial Cemetery, Pennsauken, NJ and past-president of the South Jersey Board of Rabbis. In his free time Gary is a sworn chaplain with his local police department.