



6 KISLEV 5751

OUR 40TH YEAR NO. 7

NOVEMBER 23, 1990

From the President

Yasher Koach to Cantor Abraham Lubin, Morris Sedaka, and the committee who worked so hard to make the visit of the Kinnor Choir a success. Beth El was one of only fourteen congregations in the whole United States to have the privilege of hosting this group. We are pleased that so many people were able to attend the concert since it was truly an historic event.

The Hebrew Marathon was an outstanding success. Yasher Koach also to Yael Greenberg, Rita Kopin, and Elissa Scheinberg. I've not only received the highest praise for their organization, commitment, and professionalism from the forty-six students who were lucky enough to participate but also from Jane Lewitt, the United Synagogue Seaboard Region education consultant. Beth El's Hebrew Marathon was a textbook example of how one is supposed to work with ideal teachers and eager students. Clearly, these conditions were met and we can boast forty-six students who have made the leap to Hebrew literacy. We already have six people who have indicated an interest in participating in a Hebrew Marathon if we do it again. If there are enough people who want a Hebrew Marathon, we will run another one in the spring. Please let the office know if you would be interested.

Shalom,
Marilyn

שבת שלום

The Congregation is cordially invited to attend the Bar Mitzvah of David James Danoff, son of Patricia and Jerome Danoff, on Saturday morning, November 24, and the Bar Mitzvah of Aaron D. Murphy, son of Ellen Murphy and Robert Murphy, on Saturday morning, December 1.

SHABBAT SERVICES

Friday Evening, November 23, at 6:30 p.m.
SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE

Saturday Morning, November 24, at 9:15 a.m.
SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE

Friday Evening, November 30, at 6:30 p.m.
SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE

Saturday Morning, December 1, at 9:15 a.m.
SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE

An Early Shabbat Service is held at 7:30 a.m.

The Congregation is invited to attend the Kiddush following Morning Services.

מזל טוב

All in the Family

Refuah Schlema to Calvin Golumbic.

Mazel Tov to Frieda and Abraham Hochberg on the birth of their great-grandson, Shmaya Itzhak Zell, son of Robin and Marc Zell.

Mazel Tov to Judith Newman on being honored on October 25 by the Metropolitan Washington Ear for ten years of volunteer service as a reader for the radio station for the blind and visually handicapped.

Mazel Tov to Zelda and Phil Janus who are celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary on November 24.

Mazel Tov to Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Richter on the engagement of their daughter, Ruthann, to Mr. Jay Hammer, son of Mr. & Mrs. Jack Hammer of New York. The wedding will take place next spring.

Mazel Tov to James Lyman on being named to the Board of Directors of the Jewish Federation of Group Homes.

Mazel Tov to Marian and Ted Anders on the birth of their grandson, Michael Jonathan, son of Doris and Jeffrey Anders. He was born on October 18.



Sisterhood News

Calendar

- Dec. 16 Sisterhood Program Meeting: Jeanette Kuvin Oren
Jan. 6 Board Meeting, 11 a.m.
Jan. 12 Las Vegas Night

A Bazaar Thank You from Sisterhood President

The Sisterhood Bazaar and Silent Auction held on Sunday, October 28, were a great success.

My thanks to the wonderful people who helped: Jack Edlow, my advisor and anchor; Gary Fuchsman, a major advisor and supporter; Sheila Birnbach, who organized the Silent Auction and saw to its smooth functioning with the kind help of Gaye and Harold Passes; Ina Young for her splendid publicity; cashiers Dr. & Mrs. Robert Greenberg, Bea Breger, Lee Harvey, and Norma Golumbic; those who got the contracts for items at the Silent Auction: Rebecca Cook, Linda Greenberg, Harriet Filler, Rita Jacobi, Lillian Kessler, Diana Kramer, and Mildred Wine; and Sam Margolis and the Beth El Boy Scout Troop who managed and served the lunch. We all enjoyed the new appetizers from the Royal Dragon Restaurant.

Todah Rabah to all of you, true brethren and sisters with a common goal - the synagogue.

Elizabeth Bauer

December 16 - Papercut Artist Jeanette Kuvin Oren Guest Speaker

Join us on Sunday, December 16, for an interesting program featuring one of the many talented members of our Congregation. Jeanette Kuvin Oren is a freelance artist specializing in calligraphy, illumination, paper cutting, and graphic design. She received degrees from Yale and Princeton in child development and social policy and has held positions in both areas. She is a member of ArtSites, a Washington area artists cooperative, and is the mother of two young children.

Jeanette will present a fascinating lecture, with slides, on the history and technique of her art. Samples of her work will be available for viewing and for sale.

The meeting begins at 10:30 a.m. with brunch and the program following. Babysitting is available: call Elizabeth Bauer at 301-654-8321.

Todah Rabah

It was a pleasure to hear Dr. Shulamith Reich Elster speak to Sisterhood members and guests at the November 1 Sisterhood Paid-Up Membership Dinner. In addition to our illustrious speaker, there are a number of people who helped to make the evening a success. Many thanks to Manette Sznol for working so hard and long to get the membership list and reservations in order, helping design the programs,

and rushing to type and reproduce the programs, to Miriam Crowell and Julie Copperman for the beautiful floral decorations, to Davida Adelberg, Bea and Ed Golfer, Shirley Gross, and Claire Marwick for being early risers to set the tables, to Judy Goldman, Sandi Levy, and Susan Levy for greeting our members and guests and manning the reservation table, to Trudy and Simon Weker for donating the new members' gifts, to Ina Young for her menu ideas, and to Yael Greenberg, Julie Maltzman, and Susan Sherzer for their beautiful thoughts, prayers, and readings. I'm very grateful for all their support and willingness to help.

Hellaine Nepo,
Membership Vice President

Think Sisterhood Stationery for Chanukah

Stationery items suitable for teachers' gifts and personal need are available from Stationery Chairman Marilyn Hammerman. She suggests personalized lunch bags, suitable for both adults and children; blank (no verse) birthday cards; and colorful, personalized child-sized calling cards which can be used as gift enclosures.

Personalized stationery and note cards are always available, with selected items 40-50% off. Order personalized items immediately to receive in time for the holidays. Remember, all proceeds from the sale of these items goes to Beth El Sisterhood and thereby helps to provide for our many contributions to synagogue life.

Call Marilyn at 301-881-0011 for further information and to place your order.

Men's Club News

There will be no Men's Club speaker on Sunday, November 25. All available speakers will be recovering from their Thanksgiving feasts. We shall have our usual Minyan at 9 a.m., followed by a leisurely, turkey-less breakfast at 9:30 a.m.

On Sunday, December 2, the Men's Club will install the Synagogue Menorah. There will be no speaker that morning so that everyone can participate in this important mitzvah. We shall have our Minyan at 9 a.m., followed by the breakfast at 9:30 a.m. and the Menorah Installation at 10 a.m. All are welcome.

Looking ahead a bit, on Sunday December 9, our speaker will be our own Rabbi Jonathan Maltzman. His topic will be "December is for Chanukah." All are invited.

The Men's Club would like to thank the following individuals who have agreed to sponsor one or more breakfasts this year:

K. Freiberg
A. Friedman
C. Futterman
E. Golfer

J. Frenkel
S. Frishman
H. Gold
J. Golub

Notes from the Executive Director

First, a happy Thanksgiving to you all.

By now, you should have received the Beth El Survey. Please be good enough to take some time to complete and return it in the stamped, addressed envelope provided by the deadline Monday, December 3. We need your help and cooperation in this venture to ensure that we have up-to-date information on you. Some of you have had additional children since you completed your original application form. Some of you have new telephone numbers at home or in the work place. This is a constant problem of non-communication. Our goal is to get everything on the computer (for years this was never done), so that in the event we want to run a report for Nitzanim on locating children with certain birthdates etc., or if we are trying to establish who would be interested in a particular project because of his/her profession, we will have the information at our fingertips.

Attention Snowbirds! If you are planning to leave for warmer climes soon, please give Helen your winter address and the anticipated return date so that you will not miss out on any Beth El news.

You may have noticed that we do run advertisements from time to time in the Scroll. This does help defray a minute part of the costs. Most of these ads come from outsiders. If you would like to place your business card in the Scroll, please call the office. The circulation runs to about 1,000 so you would get pretty good exposure.

Naomi Cohen

Beth El Scroll

CONGREGATION BETH EL of Montgomery County
8215 Old Georgetown Road
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Rabbi	Jonathan Z. Maltzman
Rabbi Emeritus	Samuel Scolnic
Hazzan	Abraham Lubin
Executive Director	Naomi Cohen
Educational Director	Emily Feinberg
Nursery School Director	Ellen Darr
Youth Director	Edie Caroff

OFFICERS

President	Marilyn Wind
First Vice President	Erwin Groner
Second Vice President	Susan Sherzer
Secretary	Gloria Frank
Financial Secretary	Ellen Elow-Mintz
Treasurer	Gary Fuchsman

Synagogue Office	301-652-2606
FAX Number	301-907-8559
School Office	301-652-2608
Nursery School	301-652-1228

AFFILIATED WITH UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF AMERICA

Todah Rabah

In my previous article, I mentioned the debt of gratitude we owe the congregants who volunteered to be ushers during the High Holy Day Services. This is indeed a Mitzvah since the ushers, while on duty, are not able to sit with their families and enjoy the Services but make it possible for the Congregation to participate in a spiritual and meaningful High Holy Day Service. Many thanks to the following congregants who served as ushers:

At Beth El: Howard Copperman, Chairman; Ira Kline, Mike Platt, Jack Edlow, Anne Ball, Dennis Askwith, Ron Klein, Ed Shykind, and Jeff Annis, Captains; Allan Mendelowitz, Don Weinroth, Arthur Frank, Harry Mannheimer, Gary Wind, Burman Berger, Bernie Berger, Mark Levitt, Charles Adelberg, Irwin Pernick, Dave Schultz, Joseph Schultz, Mark Weinberg, Mark Wine, Peter Friedmann, Darryl Sherman, Howard Feibus, Aaron Budgor, David Spiegel, Fred Sulmer, Robert Kurlantzick, Irene Vogel, Jason Horn, Gabriella Bechick, Herbert Harvey, Harry Lipkind, Karen Lipkind, and Brent Berger

At Walt Whitman: Elliot Robinson, Chairman; Tony Pitch, Barry Bukatman, Miriam Kelty, Robert Gerwin, and Herb Rosenthal, Captains; Hal Hurwitz, Marshall Sneiderman, Jean Mayers, Julian Spirer, Al Povich, John Kane, Jacques Schettewi, Bruce Wine, Diana Kramer, Jake Stillman, Edward Kelty, Joseph Gottesman, Joel Popkin, David Kobes, Robert Blumenthal, Jacob Blumenthal, Allen Lerman, Martin Dembo, Dan Oren, Don Weinroth, Marc Alberstadt and Marty Sterenbuch

I also want to thank Diane Goldman for the wonderful job she did in organizing the babysitting during the High Holy Days, enabling parents of young children to attend Services free from worry.

Erwin Groner,
Chairman, High Holy Day Committee

Save the Date!
March 9, 1991

Big 40th Anniversary Dinner Dance
Honor the Past - Celebrate the Future

Shabbat Havurah

Mr. Meyer Fishbein, member of the Ellis Island Restoration Commission, will speak on the topic, "Ellis Island: Yesterday and Today," at the Shabbat Havurah on Saturday afternoon, December 1, immediately following the Kiddush. The meeting will be in the Small Chapel.

All members of Beth El are cordially invited to attend and to participate. There are no permanent members of the Shabbat Havurah. The discussion will conclude by 1:30 p.m.

New Member List 1990-1991

We are happy to welcome 12 new additional member-families to our Congregation. We hope their association with the Congregation will bring to them and to their children the inspiration and spiritual uplift of Judaism. The names and addresses of our new members are listed below. If one or more of these families live in your neighborhood, we would love you to reach out and personally welcome them.

ALBERSTADT, Marc and Laura, 1126 Dewey Road, Kensington 20895	301-946-5752
ALLIS, Roberta, 13034A Shadyside Lane, Germantown 20874	301-972-1109
FAJNER, Luis and Graciela, 6904 Persimmon Tree Road, Bethesda 20817	301-229-3344
GEIGER, Melvin and Sondra, 4400 Bramber Street, Kensington 20895	301-946-9156
GESELOWITZ, Daniel and COHEN, Sandra, 6506 Landon Lane, Bethesda 20817	301-229-8649
GOLDSTEIN, David and Joan, 12605 Exchange Court North, Potomac 20854	301-424-5185
KAILO, Gail, 4404 Ambler Drive, Kensington 20895	301-897-5139
OSTROV, Jerome and BARUCH, Roberta, 6844 Glenbrook Road, Bethesda 20814	301-907-9226
RAIZON, Arnold and Hilary, 5437 Grove Ridge Way, Rockville 20852	301-897-5406
SENATOR, Ted and Kay, 215 Granville Drive, Silver Spring 20901	301-608-2269
SIVAN, Ron and Dalia, 608 Marcia Lane, Rockville 20851	301-424-3513
ZISSMAN, Jeremy and Sharon, 23 Dudley Court, Bethesda 20814	301-493-8762

A Hearty Thank You

We extend a hearty thank you to Marilyn and Murray Hammerman for their generous donation of a FAX machine for the office. Our FAX number is 301-907-8559.

Save up to 50% on Dining, Movies, Sports, Travel, and More

Vatikkim Paid-Up Membership Luncheon

The December Vatikkim Luncheon will be this year's Paid-up Membership luncheon. It will be held on Thursday, December 20. Come join us to enjoy Cantor Abraham Lubin's Musical Chanukah Program.

Lunch is at 12 Noon. There is no charge for paid-up members (dues are \$10) and a \$6.00 charge for non-members. The program is at 1 p.m.

Please fill out the following reservation form to pay in advance. Checks should be made payable to Beth El Vatikkim and sent to:

Bea Goldman, 3214 Henderson Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland 20902, Phone: 301-942-9434 or
Lillian Kessler, 11809 Rosalinda Drive, Potomac, Maryland 20854, Phone: 301-299-6201.

Reservation Form

Please reserve _____ places for me at the Vatikkim Paid-Up Membership Luncheon.

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (for non-members only).

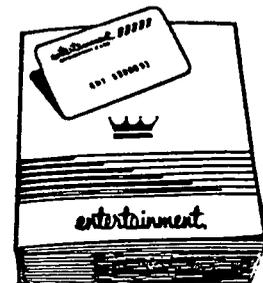
Name _____

Phone No. _____

Please Respond by December 18.

The Perfect Gift!

The right size • The right color
The right flavor • The right time...



\$35.00

entertainment.

Entertainment '91 is the ultimate discount book, providing over \$8,000 worth of discount coupons. It is available in two editions: Washington/Maryland and Washington/Virginia.

The books are available in the synagogue office or the Nursery School office for \$35. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of these books will benefit the Nursery School.

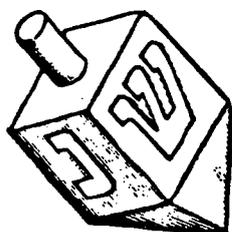
Support Beth El Nursery School and give a favorite Chanukah gift at the same time!

Please Join Us



CONGREGATION BETH EL ANNUAL CHANUKAH DINNER DANCE

Saturday, December 15, 1990
7 p.m.



MUSIC BY RONNIE BARAS
SPECIAL MYSTERY PERFORMER
MASS MENORAH LIGHTING
DANCING



Adults - \$25

12 Years and Under - \$7.50

Special Categories (Includes Two Adults):

Candle Lighters - \$100

Maccabees - \$250

Grand Maccabees - \$500

Send the form below with your check made payable to Congregation Beth El to: Mrs. Jacquelyn Levine, 8605 Bunnell Drive, Potomac, Maryland 20854.

Chanukah Dinner Dance Reservation Form

Name _____ Phone No. _____

Address _____

Number of Adults _____

Number Under 12 _____

Category _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

I/We would like to sit with _____

Nitzanim News

Nitzanim would like to thank Leah Brasch and Dan Koch for sponsoring the Kiddush after the Shabbat Morning Children's Service on October 20 in celebration of the birth of Bernard Joseph and in honor of his older brother, Milton. Nitzanim would also like to thank the following people for sponsoring the Kiddush on November 17: Audrey Corson and Daniel Kazzaz in honor of the second birthday of their son, Zachary, and Leslie Shedlin and David Raim in honor of the first birthday of their son, Sam.

The next Family Shabbat Evening Service will be held on Friday, December 7, at 7:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Children with a birthday in December will be invited onto the Bimah.

The next Gan Shabbat Service for children in Grades K-3 will be held on Saturday, December 8, at 10:45 a.m. in the All Purpose Room.

Parents of young children are encouraged to attend the Fourth Annual Congregation Chanukah Dinner and Dance on Saturday, December 15, at 7:30 p.m. Ask to sit with Nitzanim. Call a babysitter now and get ready for a fun evening!

Nitzanim and Religious School Grades K-3 will hold a joint Chanukah Party on Sunday, December 16, from 1-3 p.m. This year Robyn Helzner will be our special guest artist. We will also have crafts, food, and gifts for the children. Please see the reservation for in this Scroll for details.

Robyn Helzner has become one of the leading American performers of both traditional and contemporary Jewish folksongs. Weaving folksongs, stories, and fun into a unique and delightful musical program, she actively involves the audience in spirited renditions of English, Hebrew, Yiddish, and Ladino folksongs. A leading interpreter of Jewish children's songs, Robyn's style and musical repertoire appeal to audiences of all ages.

Religious School News

As I write this article, the date is October 30. Thanksgiving is almost a month away. Of course, you will receive this issue of the Scroll just in time for Turkey Day. May I be among the first to wish you and yours a joyous family holiday and encourage you to attend the Thanksgiving Program that Beth El will sponsor this year. Also, plan to look ahead to our gala Chanukah program on December 16, featuring the very talented and popular folksinger Robyn Helzner. A reservation form will be found in this Scroll. As was the program last year, we plan to have traditional Chanukah foods to feast on and crafts tables for children in Grades K-3. Children under six must be supervised by a parent. If you are a Nitzanim family, please contact Gail Fribush at 301-897-8010 for more information.

With the holiday season approaching, the issue of raising a Jewish child in a non-Jewish world crystallizes. I encourage you to read the article at the end of this section written by Dennis Prager, as it addresses the topic globally and will give you much to think about.

- The calendar of events through January 1 is as follows:
- Nov. 22-25 No School - Thanksgiving Recess
 - Dec. 2-8 Grandparents Week - Bring a grandparent or special relative to class with you. More information to follow.
 - Dec. 11 First Chanukah candle lit.
 - Dec. 16 Chanukah Program featuring Robyn Helzner, food, and crafts from 1-3 p.m. in the Social Hall for Grades K-3. More information to follow.
 - Dec. 17, 18 Chanukah Program for Grades 4-7 during school hours.
 - Dec. 19 Last day of Chanukah.
 - Dec. 21-Jan.1 No School - Winter Recess

Congratulations October's "Star" Recipients

Grade Alef: Allison Lipsit, Gregory Smolen, Joshua Kalman, Daniel Palchick, Jennifer Rubin

Grade Bet: Ari Schoenholtz, Leah Silver, Jacob Ackerman, William Casey, Anna Cohn, Rebecca Eisen, Jacob Goldsmith, Abigail Hauslohner, Jennifer Lebovich, Joshua Rosenbloom, Shira Savada, Jeffrey Zahler, David Edlow, Sam Ganzfried, Perri Pleeter, Ariel Hurwitz, Melissa Cornfeld, Rebecca Mates, Justin Shapiro, Elana Graber, Richard Wernick, Emily Eckland, Kendra Rubinstein

Grade Gimel: Leslie Bliss, Sara McDonald, Esther Rosing, Sam Janney, Maya Lotati, Sara Moller, Jessica Caslani, David Turnbull, Jessica Binder

Grade Dalet: Ivan Askwith, Steven Seiden, Cherisse Leopold, Lauren Wine, Daniel Spiegel, Rachel Edlow, Adam Danoff, Max Cooper, Michelle Axelrad, Erin Rosenthal, Naomi Rosenberg, Marissa Levy, Peter Fox

Grade Hai: Lauren Shapiro, David Weiner, Jonathan Simon, Michael Hurwitz, Jessica Frankel, Joshua Turnbull, Ethan Arnheim, Ben Krefting, Melissa Klein, Nathaniel Allard, Ben Hayes, Ariel Vinitzky, Ilana Simon, David Elson, Benjamin Bregman, Hillary Allard

Grade Vav: Melissa Popper, Dana Wine, Daniel Ballon, Alex Eule, Ava Alkon, Debbie Weinberg, Deborah Kobes, Corinne Schneider, Jeff Matty, Jeff Light, Erica Bobb, Jonathan Moller

Grade Zayin: Ari Lipman

Meet Our Teachers: Lillian Lipson - Grades 2 and 4

A native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Lillian has lived in the Greater Washington area for many years. She matriculated at Gratz College for religious education and Temple University for secular education. She continues to take courses at the Jewish Teachers Institute (now the Board of Jewish Education) and the University of Maryland, specializing in Early Childhood Education. She has been involved in Judaic Education for most of her adult life. Every class that she has taught has brought forth great pleasure at the accomplishments of her students. She looks forward with great anticipation to teaching at Beth El, and we are delighted to have her with us. Her warmth and enthusiasm are genuinely appreciated by her students.

From Our Classrooms: Grades 6 Report

The sixth grade students have studied the concept of Aggadah (plural - Aggadot). An Aggadah tells a story that happened long ago, portrays two people talking about an important issue, and conveys a message to the reader by telling what someone else did or said.

Aggadah Is... by Corinne Schneider

An aggadah is a story.
It gives us pride and glory.
It teaches us a moral that we'll use forever.
It might even teach us to be closer together.

The story of life.
The story of love.
The story of the heavens above.

Aggadot help us learn.
Aggadot have a moral we earn.
Your Rabbi will teach them all the years that you live,
And one day they'll be all yours to give.

Aggadah by Ava Alkon, Dana Wine, and Melissa Popper

One Passover, Chaim Eddleman was walking down the street to his grandma's Seder. He brought with him a box of matzah. As he walked, he saw an old man starving and begging for food. Feeling sorry for the old man, Chaim gave him a big portion of the matzah. When he got to his grandma's house, there wasn't enough matzah for the whole family. His grandma was angry, but after he told her what happened, she forgave him and explained to everyone that the matzah had gone to a good cause.

Aggadah by Daniel Kimmel and Jeremy Bronheim

"Peter, you didn't give your sister a birthday present! Now what are you going to do about that?" Peter's father asked Peter.

"Well, you remember that time when you lost all that money in the depression and then gave the rest to charity. You never gave me a birthday present, do you remember that? Peter answered his father.

"Yes," his father replied to the question.

"Well, it's the same thing! You see, I've given all my money to charity and so I have nothing left to give to my sister," Peter said to his father, satisfying him.

Raising a Jewish Child in a Non-Jewish World by Dennis Prager (Reprinted from Moment Magazine, June 1988)

It is often said that the difficulty in raising a Jewish child is that we live in a Christian society. But it is not Christianity that challenges our children's Jewish identity. It is secularism. Unlike previous generations of American Jews, most American Jewish children today are not growing up in a Christian society. Ironic as it may seem, if most American children were living among Christians, keeping them Jewish would be much easier.

Jews living in a religious society are far more likely to retain their Jewish identity than Jews living in a secular

society. When the non-Jewish majority is strongly Christian or Moslem, a Jew who takes on the majority culture's identity assumes the identity of another religion. But when, as in America today, the majority culture is largely secular, a Jew need not take on another religious identity in order to identify with the majority culture. He or she merely becomes secular - and being secular is not perceived by most Jews as posing as great a danger to Jewish identity, or as having values as alien to Judaism, as does another religion. Most Americans - or at least most of those Americans with whom Jews tend to relate - have abandoned Christianity. Consequently, Jews have felt increasingly less different from the majority of Americans.

Thus, the first thing an American Jewish parent who wants his or her child to be Jewish needs to realize is that an open, secular society - with all its advantages - poses a far greater challenge to raising a Jewish child than does a Christian America. Today, we do not lose our children to Christianity; we lose them to everything else.

There was a time when Judaism had to compete with Christianity; today, it has to compete with cheerleading practice or soccer. And it usually loses.

Parents must ask themselves if there is any time when the secular is sacrificed for the Jewish. If you have playoff tickets for Friday night or Rosh Hashana, will you give them up? Will your child ever have to say no to a party, to band or soccer practice for the sake of something Jewish? Have you chosen to visit Israel rather than Europe, Hawaii, or another destination in order to further your child's links with Israel?

Our children are growing up in a world that is as non-Jewish as the medieval Christian world was. While the modern secular world is considerably less dangerous to Jewish bodies, it is considerably more dangerous to Jewish survival. If your child attends public school or a private secular school, your child is as immersed in a way of life as far from Judaism as if he or she were being educated in a monastery.

Even Jews who know little or nothing about Judaism know that Judaism differs from Christianity. At least they know, "We don't believe in Jesus." Thus, in a Christian society, even Jewish children entirely ignorant of Judaism are aware that they are different. But in a secular society, most Jews, especially children, do not have a clue as to how they differ. Jews should be able to say, "We don't believe in secularism." But most Jews do believe in secularism.

Being Jewish means being different. Knowing that one is different is the key to the survival of any minority. If we are not distinctive, if our values are not distinctive, we have no reason to survive. Parents who want their children to remain Jewish need to create a home that is Jewishly distinctive. The more distinctive, the greater the chance of one's child's remaining Jewish; the less distinctive, the greater the chance of assimilation.

This leads to a simple rule: The more Judaism, i.e., the more distinctively Jewish practices, the better.

Examples of Jewish practices are: lighting Shabbat candles; wearing a Kippah (at least at home during meals or on Shabbat); no television on Shabbat; sending your children

to Jewish camps rather than secular or sports camps; time spent visiting Israel; etc...

Judaism is a very physical religion. To be Jewish is to do. It does not suffice to feel Jewish. Feeling Jewish without acting Jewish is like feeling ethical without acting ethically. It doesn't count. The deeds count, not the feelings. That is the power of Jewish rituals.

Until Next Time,
Emily Feinberg, Educational Director

**Chanukah Party
for Beth El Children 8 and Under
Religious or Day School Grades K-3,
Nitzanim, and Bonim
(Restricted to Members of the Beth El Family)**

Sunday, December 16, from 1-3 p.m.

Entertainment, Crafts, Food, Fun

\$1 Per Person Regardless of Age

Name _____ Phone _____

Children's Names _____ Age _____

Parents, please stay with children under six. Please bring a new gift (around \$5-10) wrapped and labelled with the age and/or sex for whom it is suitable. These will be donated to the Jewish Hospice for use throughout the year.

Please send your reservation to the Beth El office. Mark the envelope **Chanukah Party**.

Reservations required by December 12!

Youth Activities...Galore!

Bonim (Grades K-2) - Join us on Sunday afternoon, December 16, from 1-3 p.m. as our Bonim members share a Chanukah Party with the Beth El Nitzanim group. We have an entertaining program planned which will include songs, crafts, and delicious holiday treats. Watch your mailbox for details. We will once again be asking each participant to bring a toy, valued at \$5-10, to donate to children at the Jewish Hospice. We had a very successful Toy Drive last year, and it was most rewarding to be able to bring a bit of cheer into the lives of these critically ill youngsters at holiday time. We look forward to your support again.

Machar (Grades 3-5) - Our Machar group enjoyed a fun-

filled afternoon at Putt-Putt Golf 'n Games at the end of October. Congratulations to the following students who place as tournament winners:

First Place - Peter Fox and Josh Rosenberg

Second Place - Adam Danoff

Third Place - Jeremy Sidman and Erin Rosenthal

Todah Rabah to those who helped us with transportation and chaperoning at the event - Mark Rosenthal, Fredda Loewenstein, Laurence Sidman, Linda Perle, Patricia Gillman, Marc Caroff, Jessica Caroff, and Jessica Binder's Uncle David. We appreciate your efforts.

A Chanukah Party is planned for our Machar group on Sunday, December 16, from 4:30-6 p.m. We will enjoy holiday crafts and yummy treats. More information will be reaching you shortly.

Kadima (Grades 6-8) - Our Kadima members will be going to Congregation Har Tzeon-Agudath Achim on Sunday, December 2, for a Chanukah Party from 2-5 p.m. An exciting afternoon is planned, featuring ice breakers, non-competitive games, latkes, and dreidel. The kadimaniks will also be making Chanukah cards to send to the American servicemen now serving in the Persian Gulf. The activity fee is \$5, and members are also encouraged to bring a canned food item for the homeless. Several area Kadima chapters have also been invited. Do join us - your friends will be there.

USY (Grades 9-12) - We welcome home the following USY members who represented Beth El at the Regional Fall Convention in Virginia Beach on November 16-18 - Melissa Lerman, Elyssa Greenberg, Eric Spiegel, Jennifer Goldman, Amy Eisenstein, Orli Frenkel, Michael Weintraub, and Advisor Burman Berger. The convention theme was "B'zelem Elokim" and focused on the development of self-esteem and drug and alcohol awareness for teens.

Many thanks to Elyssa Greenberg for organizing the USY/Kadima International Nite program. A lovely evening was experienced by the teens who attended and, as always, Dorothy and Elsie did a wonderful job preparing dinner for us.

Our USY Volleyball League games are scheduled at 9:30 p.m. on November 28 and at 7 p.m. on December 5 at the Regional Office. Turn out to cheer for our team on those nights.

On Saturday evening, December 1, our USY group, along with others in Seaboard Region, has been invited to the Adat Reyim Senior Youth Group First Annual Formal Dance. It will be held at Adat Reyim in Virginia from 8:30 p.m. to Midnight, and the cost is \$10 per person and \$18 per couple.

Sunday, December 2, is a Sunday SAT date for those who registered for an alternate date on which to take the SAT. This option is always available by filing the appropriate registration form and enclosing a letter of explanation signed by myself or Rabbi Maltzman. Upcoming Sunday SAT dates are January 27 and March 17. USY stresses Shabbat observance. We encourage you to apply for the alternate date. SATs and Shabbat don't mix!

Shalom U'lihitraot,
Edie Caroff, Youth Director

Youth Activities Calendar of Events

For information and reservations for all events, contact Edie Caroff, Youth Director, at 301-652-2608, or your child's Advisor. Please join us!

Bonim (Grades K,1,2)

Advisor: Michelle Marcus (301-493-5094)

Dec. 16 Bonim/Nitzanim Chanukah Party

Machar (Grades 3,4,5)

Advisor: Michelle Marcus (301-493-5094)

Dec. 16 Machar Chanukah Party

Kadima (Grades 6,7,8)

Advisor: Stacey Morrison (301-530-9328)

Dec. 2 Chanukah Party at Congregation Har Tzeon-Agudath Achim, Silver Spring

Dec. 14-16 Fall Kadima Kallah at Beth Tikva, Rockville

USY (Grades 9-12)

Advisor: Burman Berger (301-424-1269)

Nov. 28 Regional Volleyball League

Dec. 1 Adat Reyim Formal Dance, Virginia

Dec. 2 SAT Sunday Date

Dec. 5 Regional Volleyball League

Dec. 23 International Convention, Tampa, Florida

Youth Chairman: Dr. Michael Ackerman (301-493-8927)

Next Youth Committee Meeting - Thurs., Dec. 13, at 8:15 p.m. - Board Room

New members are always welcome!

Social Action Committee

Men's Shoes

The jobless and homeless men who wander our streets need decent shoes. Please put the shoes that linger in your closets to good use by giving them to these men. Especially needed are work shoes and boots. Socks without holes and wool knit gloves are also needed.

There will be a box in the Nursery School hall for your donations.

Thank you.

Blanche Lozner,
Chairman

Chanukah Story Telling for Children

Marian Richter will be telling Chanukah stories for children ages 4 and up at Border's Book Shop, Rockville Pike at Nicholson Lane, on Sunday, December 9, at 3 p.m. Everyone is invited.

Baruch Dayan Emet

Congregation Beth El offers its sincere condolences to Isadore Routhenstein and Shirley Levine on the loss of their beloved wife and mother, Edna Routhenstein, to Erwin Groner and Manette Sznol on the loss of their beloved mother and grandmother,

Lottie Groner,

to Rhea Troffkin on the loss of her beloved uncle, Abe Chotkin, and to Susan Sherzer on the loss of her beloved grandfather, Sol Abramson.

"May the Almighty comfort the Mourners in this period of their bereavement."

Announcing the 1991 Beth El Retreat

The 1991 Beth El Retreat will be held January 25-27. We will be sharing a weekend of relaxation and recreation amidst the West Virginia mountains at the beautiful Coolfont Resort. The amenities at Coolfont include a swim and fitness center, tennis, hiking trails, cross country skiing, and more. Coolfont is only a two-hour easy drive from Washington, but you will feel that it is a world apart.

We have reserved space for 60 participants, of which 15 are reserved for children. Spaces will be filled on a first come, first served basis. The cost of the weekend, including lodging and meals, is \$175 per person and \$90 for children under the age of 12. There is no charge for infants in cribs.

Your reservation must be accompanied by a deposit in order to be confirmed. The deposit required is \$100 per person over 12 and \$50 per child. The single room supplement is \$25.

For further information, call Bunny Porath at 301-907-8990 or Elissa Scheinberg at 301-340-7325.

Please complete the form below and send it with your deposit to the synagogue office. Reservations must be received by October 26.

Retreat Reservation Form

I would like to make the following reservations for the Synagogue Retreat on January 25-27:

_____ No. of Adults _____ No. of Children

I have enclosed a check for \$ _____.

Name _____ Phone No. _____

Address _____