



20 KISLEV 5751

OUR 40TH YEAR NO. 8

DECEMBER 7, 1990

### Off the Bimah

In addition to a Religious School population of over 250 students, a Nursery School filled to capacity at over 100 youngsters, our congregation can boast an enrollment at assorted Day Schools of nearly 60 children. All of the families attached to these sundry educational programs are sacrificing time and resources in order to provide their youngsters with a quality Jewish education. One further opportunity awaits them: a summer experience at Camp Ramah in Palmer, Massachusetts. Camp Ramah is perhaps the greatest and most idealistic accomplishment to date achieved by the Conservative Movement. One or two month opportunities are available - and in the spirit of International Conservative Movement Shabbat (November 23-24), I have pledged to enhance the image of Ramah at Beth El and to foster a closer relationship between our youngsters and the camp. (An interesting coincidence: Hazzan Abraham and Sandy Lubin's daughter, Sharyn, is the camp's new administrative assistant.) I hope one day to see one or two dozen young members of our synagogue annually spend a summer at Palmer.

During the High Holy Days, I dubbed this "The Year of the Family." Camp Ramah can provide participating families with a boost of loyalty, identity, and everyday religious experience. How vital this is for young people increasingly searching for greater meaning in their lives.

Consider seriously the Ramah experience.

Rabbi Jonathan Z. Maltzman

מזל טוב

The Congregation is cordially invited to attend the Bat Mitzvah of Franny Elson, daughter of Sandy and Norton Elson, on Saturday morning, December 8, and the Bar Mitzvah of Jonathan J. Darr, son of Ellen and David Darr, on Saturday morning, December 15.

### SHABBAT SERVICES

Friday Evening, December 7, at 7:45 p.m.

SHABBAT FAMILY SERVICE

Saturday Morning, December 8, at 9:15 a.m.

SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE

Friday Evening, December 14, at 6:30 p.m.

SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE

Saturday Morning, December 15, 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.

שבת שלום

### Adult Institute Sets Record

The Adult Education Committee announced that our Saul Bendit Adult Institute, now in its 14th year, completed a very successful six-week fall term on November 20. Over 300 members of the congregation and others from the community registered for almost 500 hours of instruction each evening in the 15 courses offered, and a record 100 people attended the four daytime courses.

The committee has begun planning for the next spring term that will start in March and would appreciate suggestions on courses, instructors, or other comments that may help in planning programs of interest to you. Call Al Fox at 301-320-5571 or Dr. Gerald Ehrenstein at 301-229-0127.

A special thanks to the outstanding instructors who so graciously accepted our invitations to teach, and to Evelyn Fox for acquiring and arranging the refreshments served during the break each evening.



## Sisterhood News

### Calendar

- Dec. 11 First Chanukah Candle  
 Dec. 16 Sisterhood Meeting: Speaker - Jeanette Kuvin Oren  
 Jan. 6 Board Meeting

### Plan to Attend Meeting December 16 at 10:30 a.m.

Everyone, members and guests, is welcome to hear Jeanette Kuvin Oren, a freelance artist who specializes in calligraphy, illumination, papercuts, and graphic design. Jeanette is one of our own Beth El members who is very talented and who will give us a lecture illustrated with slides on the history and technique of her art. Samples of her work will also be available for viewing and for sale. This will no doubt be a fascinating program which is a must for your attention and attendance.

The meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday morning, December 16, with brunch; the program will follow. Those who would like to use our babysitting facilities, please call Elizabeth Bauer at 301-654-8321.

### Come to the Gift Shop Before Chanukah Begins on December 12

Be ready when it is time to light the first candle on Tuesday evening, December 11!!! Look over the Chanukah items in the Beth El Sisterhood Gift Shop. There's a complete selection of menorahs, books on the holiday for all ages, decorative items to adorn your home with Chanukah symbols, special gift wrap paper, candles to fit your menorah, and special holiday candies, including chocolate "Chanukah gelt." You can also find many gift items for children and adults - not only books, but baby bibs, coloring books and crayons, decorative dishes and trays, fancy glass bowls, musical tapes and records (including Cantor Abraham Lubin's tapes of his performances - go ahead, treat yourself), new mezuzot for your home or to give to someone who has recently moved, and hand-painted leather and suede kipot, the ones that were so popular at the Holiday Bazaar. Don't delay - the shop is open Sundays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12 Noon. To arrange for another time or to locate a special item you do not see, call Gift Shop Chairman Lil Kessler at 301-299-6201.

Be Prepared! Plan ahead to obtain your Giant, Magruder's, and Shalom certificates so that you will have them in your purse or pocket when you arrive at the cash register. That is the only way Beth El can benefit from these stores' charitable donations. Not only are they good for groceries, but these certificates can be used in the Giant pharmacies and in Magruder's liquor store. Do your Chanukah shopping with scrip in hand!!

## Hebrew Marathon A Success



### Rabbi Golinkin (center), Students, and Teachers of the Hebrew Marathon

Sunday, October 21, the day of Beth El's Hebrew Literacy Marathon, was long, but our 46 students and three teachers and coordinators, Yael Greenberg, Rita Kopin, and Elissa Scheinberg, as well as our "registrar" and photographer, Hal Scheinberg, were all smiles. At 5 p.m., the program's originator, Rabbi Noah Golinkin, handed out certificates of completion. In 7½ hours, the students had learned to read the entire Aleph-Bet, vowels, and 180 sight words. Six follow-up sessions are currently in progress.

The Hebrew Literacy marathon is one of several programs created by Rabbi Golinkin to promote reading skills for American adults. His mission is to provide the means for every Jewish man and woman to read Hebrew by the year 2000. He wants everyone to feel comfortable both at the synagogue and in home rituals. Using his structured materials, volunteer teachers work with groups of students to guide their learning. These programs have been successful in synagogues throughout the United States and Canada.

### Make a note...

**SUPER SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3**  
 "Just Say Yes!"

J.C.C. of Greater Washington  
 Rockville, Maryland  
 Co-chairmen:  
 Donna Lawrence and Jeff Menick



Also, don't forget **SUPER WEEK, FEBRUARY 5-11**, seven days of dial-a-theme to contact those not reached on Super Sunday  
 Co-chairmen: Mandy Hecker and Paul Froszner

**UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER WASHINGTON**  
 (301) 236-7200

### All in the Family

Refuah Schlema to Milton Doberman, Irving Simos, Irvin Hamburger, and Jack Cohen.

Mazel Tov to Irving Zimmerman on His Special Birthday.

## Men's Club News

On Sunday, December 9, our speaker will be our own Rabbi Jonathan Maltzman. His topic will be "December is for Chanukah." We shall have our Minyan at 9 a.m., followed by the breakfast at 9:30 a.m. and Rabbi Maltzman's talk at 10 a.m. All are welcome.

On Sunday, December 16, we shall have as our speaker Mr. Theodore Levin. His topic will be "The Jewish Community in China Post-World War II." Since this Sunday falls during Chanukah, the Service will run a bit longer than usual. We shall, therefore, have the Minyan at 8:45 a.m., followed by the breakfast at 9:30 a.m. and Mr. Levin's talk at 10 a.m. All are welcome.

The annual Men's Club "Perspectives in Dialogue" series will begin on Sunday, January 6, and run through February 3. We suggest you circle these five Sundays on your calendar now because these lectures are always well attended. The kickoff speaker this year will be the ever-popular Edward Luttwak on January 6. Watch for further information in the next issue of the Scroll.

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

E. Goott	N. Green
S. Gross	M. Haber
I. Hamburger	M. Hammerman
B. Harte	J. Heffter

## From the President

Questions have been asked regarding what happens to money we collect for JNF for trees, MAZON, Mercaz, National Enrollment Plan, Masorti, or any of our designated funds. Whatever money we collect goes to the fund for which it is designated. If you buy a tree in the Beth El Grove, we give you a certificate and submit the money to JNF. For each of the pass-through funds, we send checks out on a regular basis. We do not send a check immediately upon receiving each donation; this would not be practical.

For Beth El designated funds, all donations received are credited to the fund designated. Occasionally, as with all large operations, mistakes are made. If we inadvertently credit your donation to the wrong fund, please let the office know and the mistake will be rectified. I hope this clarifies some of the questions I have heard. If you need any further clarification, please call me.

Just a reminder - Please check off and pay your National Enrollment Program and Mercaz dues. Your contribution to the National Enrollment Program helps the Jewish Theological Seminary. We must support the Seminary to ensure their ability to educate our Rabbis, Cantors, and educators. A strong Seminary is vital to the Conservative Movement. Your membership in Mercaz is also very important - the more members in Mercaz, the more votes we will have and the more influence we will have when the Jewish Agency Funds are allocated in Israel. A strong Conservative Movement presence will ensure that our institution in Israel will receive funding.

Shalom,  
Marilyn

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## 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

## A Piece of Cake

Although it seems a long way off, Pesach will be here before you know it. Beth El has arranged a special treat for you this Pesach - something new in this area. Passover Pastries, subsidiary of National Kosher Foods, Inc., will begin baking delicious cakes, cookies, muffins, and macaroons just before the holiday. A sample cake arrived in the synagogue office last week, and Cantor Lubin and the office staff declared it "delicious."

An order form is enclosed in this Scroll. Please disregard the form's request for multiple names and addresses - list only your own name and address. The due date for orders will not be January 25 but will be January 17. Please make careful note of this. Checks should be made out to Congregation Beth El and are to be directed to Toby Moss. Your pastry will be available at Beth El just before Passover.

Why not order several cakes for your friends and family as well as for yourself? You won't find a more appropriate and welcome gift to bring to a Seder table or to a visit with friends. We're sure you realize that, as you enjoy these superb cakes, you will be helping to raise much needed funds for our synagogue.

## Tuning in with Cantor Lubin

Our tradition warns us not to rely on miracles. However, what we witnessed and heard on the evening of November 5 when the Kinnor Choir of Latvia appeared at Beth El was truly a modern day miracle. It is nothing short of miraculous that these teenagers, most of whom hardly identified themselves as Jews two years ago, were now expressing themselves religiously and culturally through the medium of Jewish song and dance.

I was informed by the talented director of Kinnor, Michael Leinwand, that six months after they were organized, they already began to appear in concert, both in Riga and in other cities in the Soviet Union. In August of this year, they gave a concert tour in Israel.

Perhaps it is reflective of the history of Riga's Jewish community that such a remarkable development would indeed occur in the city of Riga sooner than in any other place in the Soviet Union. Riga was, after all, a vital center of Jewish education and culture before the war years. It boasted a network of Hebrew and Yiddish elementary schools; a pedagogical institute; an institute for kindergarten teachers; a Yeshivah; numerous charitable institutions, among them Jewish hospitals; a Yiddish theater which was known even outside the borders of Latvia for its high artistic attainments; and on and on.

We at Beth El can feel justly proud to have hosted such a proud and talented group, for the spiritual and cultural enrichment of our own congregation as well as the greater Washington Jewish community.

It was, therefore, particularly sad to have read an article in the *New York Times* and subsequently in the Jewish press of the following episode:

In an effort to entertain and treat these young people, a community in Long Island which also had hosted the Kinnor Choir for a similar concert, chose to show them a good time on Shabbat as "they were given a whirlwind shopping tour." This in lieu of inviting them to a Shabbat Service at the Temple where a Bar Mitzvah was to be celebrated that Shabbat. What a missed opportunity to add a religious dimension to the overall experience of these impressionable young Jews who only recently discovered their own identity as Jews and were connecting with their Jewish brothers and sisters in this country.

I am proud to report to our congregation that, on the day following the concert at Beth El, our young guests were treated by our congregation to a meaningful tour of the District, including the national monuments, the White House, the Capitol, and the Smithsonian Institution. However, the highlight of the day was when we visited the site of the construction of the Holocaust Memorial Museum. There, on the ground floor in the midst of the rubble and construction paraphernalia, wearing the required hard hats, we stood on the cement stage of what will eventually be the theater for special memorial events, and we sang "Zog Nit Keinmol" ("Never Say That You Are on Your Final Road"), the song which became the official hymn of the Jewish Partisans of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. The memorial

tribute ended with the chanting of the traditional El Maley Rachamim Memorial Prayer in memory of all who perished in the Holocaust.

The Kinnor Choir finally left on Wednesday morning for their next destination loaded with gifts that included cassette tapes and books of Jewish content. I am confident that, as these youngsters return to their homes in Riga, they will have a very special and meaningful memory of their stay at Beth El and their experience in our community.

I am most grateful for the wholehearted and enthusiastic support of this historic event on the part of our beloved Rabbi Jonathan Maltzman and our devoted President Dr. Marilyn Wind as well as the hard-working committee under the able chairmanship of Morris Sedaka.

Finally, our gratitude to the entire Beth El family for your enthusiasm and generosity to make possible a memorable and historic cultural and spiritual event in the life of our congregation.



In Performance at Beth El - The Kinnor Choir Was Joined by Hazzan Abraham Lubin

## Todah Rabah - Thank You

Lots of hard-working people contributed to the success of the Kinnor Choir Concert on November 5. Special thanks are due to the Kinnor Committee, our USYers, our host families, the Beth El office staff, Rabbi Maltzman, and, of course, Cantor Lubin (the whole visionary idea this was!). We especially thank our donors. With their help, the evening was not only an emotional triumph, but a financial success. It was a great privilege for Jan and me to work with such an outstanding committee and to see Beth El mount this memorable event.

We want to acknowledge the following donors who came in too late to be included in the program:

Patron: Jack Singer

Sponsors: Joy Gold, Angela Green, Niza and Jacob Frenkel, Avi West

Morris Sedaka,  
Chair, Kinnor Committee

## 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.



## Shopping Certificates

Thank you for your support! We're coming along nicely but we could do so much better. Please:

-Let us know how we can make it more convenient for you to obtain certificates.

-If possible, place standing or advance orders. We're glad to see this practice growing. Many telephone calls are avoided and we can be sure to have available the denominations you wish.

-Help us by offering to (a) solicit telephone orders; (b) deliver orders taken by someone else; (c) send out order blanks; or (d) any other way you can think of!

Warmest thanks again and again to all those who are helping. This week, we feature Douglas Wolf, a real treasure, who makes unscheduled pick-ups in Landover when our supply of Giant certificates won't last the week; Howard Sachs, who volunteered as a telephone order-taker; and the Nursery/Sunday/Religious School crew - Ellen Eule, Roxanne Littner, Cheryl Rod, Sandy Simon, and Shirley and Seymour Gross. We're also indebted to the latest addition to our ranks: Malcolm Wolf, who will be our base in zip code 20854. Welcome aboard!

Buy and Use Shopping Certificates!!

## Notes from the Executive Director

For many years now we have been hearing from ecologists about how we are ruining our planet. It is also heartening to see how many B'nai Mitzvah have been making this a topic for their D'var Torah. Beth El has been trying to do its part as far as energy is concerned by purchasing long-life, lower energy-giving lamps and we are now, along with four neighboring synagogues, negotiating with a recycling company to have special pick-ups of our recyclable trash. We will need your cooperation in this endeavor. You will shortly see alongside our regular trash cans a separate container for styrofoam products so that, when you have been attending a meeting where refreshments have been served, we will request that you separate the napkins and leftovers for the regular garbage can and throw away your styrofoam products in the containers provided. You will be hearing more about this when the plan gets underway. I was amazed to learn that there are companies willing to treat the styrofoam and manufacture items such as park benches and trays. So it will be a step in the right direction if Beth El can play a part in helping our planet.

My grateful thanks to Shirley and Seymour Gross, Heinz Just, Lillian Kessler, and Marcia and Saul Possick for their help in getting the survey out to you. If you still have not returned it to us, please do so.

**Lost and Found:** From time to time, we have items of jewelry handed in to us and they remain unclaimed. I have a collection of single earrings, a child's chai necklace, and a brooch. Please call me if you think something may belong to you.

Naomi Cohen

## Nominations

The Nominating Committee of Beth El is now soliciting suggestions from the Congregation for nominations of Officers and Trustees for 1991-92. The member submitting a recommendation for an Officer or Trustee must have the consent of that person.

All suggestions for nominations for Officers and Trustees should be sent to Beth El, Attention Max Krents, Chairman, Nominating Committee, and must be received by January 1, 1991.

## Constitutional Revision Committee

The Constitutional Revision Committee will hold a meeting in the Board Room on Monday, December 10, at 8:15 p.m. (after the Minyan) for any member of the Congregation who wishes to provide recommendations to the Committee regarding revision of the Beth El Constitution. For those unable to attend, written recommendations can be provided to Committee Chairman Benson Adams, c/o Beth El, no later than Friday, December 14.

## Nitzanim News

The next Family Shabbat 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 Congregation Fourth Annual 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-filled 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 form below for details.

**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!**

## Nursery School News

The application process for Nursery School 1991-92 will be completed the end of December. All Beth El members are given preference on admission through that time. Contracts are issued for our coming school year by mid-January and, after contracts are signed, Beth El congregants who apply late will be given preference on the "wait list." If you are interested in having your child attend Nursery School

at Beth El in September, please call 301-652-1228 immediately for information.

Thank you to all patrons of our annual Book Fair; we hope you are pleased with your purchases. A big thank you to the Book Fair Co-Chairmen Martha Wexler and Candice Kaller who did a terrific job! Thank you to Max Cohen for the donation of Jewish dolls.

The Chanukah celebration at the Nursery School is wonderful this year as all of the holiday falls during school rather than vacation. Our school is participating in a Chanukah Tzedakah Drive sponsored by the Board of Jewish Education with all Jewish nursery schools and day cares centers in the area to collect new toys for needy children. We will also celebrate with families and friends at our Annual School Chanukah Party on Wednesday morning, December 12. These family school parties are very popular and we usually have about 200 guests. Our classes are busy creating dreidels and Chanukiot, preparing potato latkes, lighting the candles, and learning how important it is to be "free"!

Happy Chanukah to all!

## Entertainment '91

For Sale by Beth El Nursery School  
\$35 each - Available in  
School or Synagogue Office

## Nursery School Book Fair a Financial Success

Todah Rabah from the organizers of the Beth El Nursery School Book Fair to all those who worked so hard to make it a great financial success as well as a lot of fun for those who visited and made purchases. Special thanks go to B. Dalton in Montgomery Mall for a wonderful array of children's literature, to Politics and Prose Bookstore on Connecticut Avenue for a thoughtful selection of adult Judaica, and to Once Upon a Time Bookstore in New Rochelle, New York for a huge choice of Jewish children's music on tape.

## Save Your Giant Register Tapes

The Religious School and Nursery School are collecting Giant register tapes to purchase a computer for the school office. Please place your pink tapes in the envelope on the Nursery School bulletin board or bring them to the synagogue office. And get double mileage - pay for your purchases with Giant certificates available from Sisterhood or in the synagogue office.