



18 TEVET 5751

OUR 40TH YEAR NO. 10

JANUARY 4, 1991

### Off the Bimah

According to a study recently made public, Conservative and Reform Jews are deeply divided from their rabbis and from traditional beliefs about crucial issues arising from marriages to non-Jews. According to the press release, "the differences emerged over willingness to recognize the children of a non-Jewish mother as Jewish and over the propriety of a rabbi's officiating at an interfaith wedding."

The following case study was used:

Ruth is a 35-year-old Jewish college professor. She has never been married, though she would very much like to be. Although she works at a large state university with dozens of Jewish men, many are already married (about half to gentile women). The others are either "too old" for her or unsuitable. The reality of her daily life is that Ruth meets many more "eligible" gentile men than Jewish men. In fact, she has not had a date with a Jewish man in about 3 years.

Six months ago, Ruth met Henry, a non-Jewish colleague from another department, who is 37-years-old, an agnostic of Methodist origins. The two have fallen love, much against Ruth's early misgivings, and Henry has asked Ruth to marry him. Ruth is eager to marry and loves Henry, who is socially, intellectually, and in virtually all other ways an ideal match, except that he is not Jewish. But, she also has very strong feelings about wanting to have a "Jewish family." "I want to have Jewish children," she says.

Ruth was brought up in a rather traditional Conservative Jewish home. She went to Hebrew School three days a week until a year past her Bat Mitzvah. She attended a Jewish summer camp for several years during her early adolescence and spent two summers in Israel, positive experiences that have remained wellsprings for her continuing Jewish self-identification.

She has asked Henry if he would ever consider converting to Judaism, but he is resistant. He says he has not given religion much thought as an adult and has felt little need for it. On the other hand, he has a close relationship to his widowed mother who has belonged to the same church virtually all of her adult life. He is very concerned that his mother would feel crushed by his conversion.

Henry is very understanding of Ruth's feelings, precisely because of his mother's attachment to her church, and has made it clear that he will be fully supportive of raising their future children as Jews. Indeed, since the two have become

### SHABBAT SERVICES

Friday Evening, January 4, at 7:45 p.m.  
SHABBAT FAMILY SERVICE

Saturday Morning, January 5, at 9:15 a.m.  
SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE

Friday Evening, January 11, at 6:30 p.m.  
SHABBAT EVENING SERVICE

Saturday Morning, January 12, 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.

serious about each other, Henry has gone with Ruth to her parents' home on many Friday evenings for Shabbat dinners as well as to several Friday Night and Shabbat Morning Services at Ruth's synagogue.

Although no wedding date has been set as yet, both Ruth and Henry are eager to marry. She is hoping that, given a little more time before they finalize their wedding plans, Henry may yet decide to convert. Her own parents' eagerness to see Ruth married have even diminished their early resistance to her relationship with Henry. If he agreed to convert, Ruth would be delighted. But she is afraid that if she pushes the conversion issue too hard, she will either lose him or get him to do something for which he might later resent her.

The responses to this study indicated that more than 70% of Conservative laity said they would like to see their Rabbis officiate at interfaith marriages if the couple was committed to raising their children as Jewish; only 5% of Conservative Rabbis indicated a willingness to preside at such marriages.

Does this represent a demographic "revolution" or merely a natural tension between the personal concerns of the laity and the desire of the rabbinate to sustain a higher degree of tradition?

What should Ruth do? What, if anything, should the Jewish community do about their marriage plans?

What would you do?

Rabbi Jonathan Z. Maltzman



## Sisterhood News

### Calendar

Jan. 6	Board Meeting Seaboard Branch Study Day
Feb. 10	Joint Meeting with B'nai Israel Sisterhood Kitchen Shower
Mar. 3	Joint Meeting with Men's Club
Mar. 10	Board Meeting
Mar. 24	Patroness Luncheon

### January 6 - Seaboard Branch Study Day

The Annual Lunch and Study Program of the Seaboard Branch of the National Women's League for Conservative Judaism will be held on Sunday, January 6, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Beth Tikva Synagogue, 2200 Baltimore Road, Rockville. Registration begins at 10 a.m. There are two morning workshops scheduled concurrently from 10:30 a.m. to 12 Noon: "Zemirot and Birkat Hamazon" led by Beth Tikva's Cantor, Rochelle Helzner, and "Shabbat and Holiday Kiddushim" led by Cantor Moshe Meirovich of Congregation Har Tzeon-Agudath Achim. Lunch will be at 12 Noon. There is a \$4 covert. At 1 p.m., the afternoon study program entitled "The Sound of Jewish Music" begins. Rabbi Morton Leifman, Dean of the Cantor's Institute of the Jewish Theological Seminary, will speak on "Overview of the Development of Jewish Liturgical Music with Examples." Call Trudy Weker at 301-365-2747 immediately to make your reservation for the lunch or for further information.

### February 10 - One Big Day for Sisterhood

Join us for an exciting joint meeting with the Sisterhood of B'nai Israel to be held on Sunday morning, February 10, at 11:30 a.m. at B'nai Israel Synagogue, 6301 Montrose Road, Rockville. Following the brunch, the dynamic speaker, Rabbi Avis Miller, will address the group on the topic "Should a Woman Wear a Tallit and Kipah?"

Then, drive back to Beth El for the Kitchen Shower at 3 p.m. There will be games and fun as we replenish our kitchen.

### Kitchen Shower

Save the date: Sunday, February 10 at 3 p.m. Beth El Sisterhood invites all of its members, associates, and friends to attend a shower to benefit the kitchen which is in great need of refurbishing. Recently, the Sisterhood Board was informed that one of the refrigerators and the freezer were beyond their last legs and no longer repairable. The motion to go ahead with the purchase of these very much used and needed items, which were not anticipated in our budget, carried a provision to raise funds separately to pay for them. Result: the Kitchen Shower.

There will be a gift register (like a bridal register) with a list of the many things that need to be replaced or

replenished. You can select and pay for a particular item or make a contribution for a general fund. Since just about everyone eats at an Oneg Shabbat or Kiddush on Shabbat or has children who have received holiday goodies, now is the time to show your appreciation for the food very often provided by Sisterhood. There will also be games like Mah Jongg and bridge, demonstrations of napkin folding and table decoration tricks, and lots more! Watch the mail for your invitation and please respond generously. Everyone is encouraged to come and enjoy the fun.

### Gazebo Purchases Will Benefit Beth El Sisterhood

Hear ye! Hear ye! A new way to help Sisterhood raise funds which will not cost you anything. The Gazebo, an unusual gift shop, makes up gift baskets to order for all occasions - Bar/Bat Mitzvah baskets, football baskets, etc. It is located in the lobby of the Air Rights Building, 7315 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda. Get your unique gifts there, bring your sales slips to the synagogue office, and Sisterhood collects 5% of your purchase price.

### Nominations Sought

The Nominating Committee would welcome suggestions for nominees for Officers and Board Members for the 1991-92 year. Please contact Chairman Harriet Filler at 301-469-7740, Judy Scolnic at 301-530-1079, Judy Newman at 301-460-5564, Ellen Darr at 301-649-7633, or Jackie Levine at 301-299-9507 by January 20 with your suggestions.

### Gift Shop

Be sure to patronize our Beth El Sisterhood Gift Shop. Lil Kessler has many Bar/Bat Mitzvah gifts, religious items, and books. Books about Ellis Island that many of you have asked for are on order.

And don't forget to purchase Giant, Magruder's, and Shalom certificates to use when you buy groceries, drugstore items, and liquor (Magruder's).

### Ethiopian Cottage Crafts

In order to be self-sufficient and to have money to send to their loved ones still trapped in Ethiopia, Ethiopian women in Israel have started their own cottage industry creating distinctive hand embroidered Jewish ritual items such as kipot, tallit sets, challah cloths, and matzah covers. By purchasing one of these items, not only will you acquire a beautiful work of craftsmanship, but you will also be performing a mitzvah.

The tallit sets come in different sizes and would have particular significance for B'nai Mitzvah who are choosing to pair with Ethiopian youngsters. The Sisterhood Gift Shop is carrying small kipot which are appropriate for all ages and both genders. For other items, please call Margaret Rifkind at 301-770-3278.

## Attention Torah Readers

Cantor Abraham Lubin will lead a series of seminars in which he will teach subjects related to cantillations. He is an expert on all aspects of the subject from vocalization to usage of trope signs for understanding of Hebrew text. He can tell us of the relationships between trope signs and hand signals of the Gabbai, of the significance and vocalization of rare signs - in short, he can greatly enrich our current knowledge and appreciation of this fascinating subject.

Join us on Sunday mornings! First Session: Sunday, January 20, at 11 a.m.

Please call Roz at the synagogue office (301-652-2606) to indicate your interest in the class and whether you can or cannot attend the first session.

## Beginner's Adult Cantillation Class Offered

If you have not celebrated a Bar or Bat Mitzvah in your youth or if you, otherwise, had not learned the Torah and Haftarah Cantillations (Trope), you now have an opportunity to do so. An adult beginner's class in cantillations will be offered on Sunday mornings by Cantor Abraham Lubin. The only prerequisite for this class is the ability to read Hebrew.

First Session: Sunday, February 3, at 11 a.m.

Please call Roz at the synagogue office (301-652-2606) to indicate your interest in the class and whether you can or cannot attend the first session.

## 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

## From the President

The United Synagogue Seaboard Regional Convention held in Norfolk on December 7-9 was extremely rewarding for all of us who attended. The theme of the weekend was "The Conservative Jewish Family." The scholar-in-residence, Dr. Morton Siegel, held stimulating study sessions Friday evening and Saturday afternoon. Rabbi Jerome Epstein, Chief Executive Officer of United Synagogue, not only gave the sermon Saturday morning and spoke on his assigned topic Sunday but also gave us a report on his meeting with the Pope and the discussions in which he participated at the Vatican on Jewish-Catholic relations.

Beth El members served as leaders of several workshops. Yasher Koach to Ellen Elow-Mintz, Gloria Frank, and Paula Horowitz for the outstanding job they did in their presentations. Mazel Tov to Paula Horowitz on her election as a Vice President on the Regional Board.

Beth El was honored to receive six Awards of Excellence. Awards were received in Adult Education, Nursery School, Elementary Education, Kadima-USY, Social Action, and Soviet Jewry. Mazel Tov to Al Fox and the Adult Education Committee and all those responsible for the informal education programs; Ellen Darr and the Nursery School Board; Emily Feinberg, Suzanne Bronheim, and the School Committee; Edie Caroff, Michael Ackerman, and the Youth Committee; Blanche Lozner and the many people active on social action projects; and Debra Friedmann and the Soviet Jewry Committee. While we all know what a wonderful place Beth El is and what marvelous programs take place here, it is really rewarding to have our efforts recognized regionally. I thank all of you whose efforts made these awards possible.

Shalom,  
Marilyn

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## Leila Rosen Young Equality Fund Sponsors Shabbat Talk by Dr. Linda Kuzmack

"Jewish Women, Jewish Causes" will be the topic of Dr. Linda Kuzmack's talk at Shabbat Morning Services on January 5. The talk is sponsored by the Leila Rosen Young Equality Fund. Dr. Kuzmack, Beth El member and Director of the Oral History Department of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, has recently published the book "Woman's Cause: The Jewish Women's Movement in England and the United States," from which the talk derives. Dr. Kuzmack, who holds an M.A. in Jewish Studies from Baltimore Hebrew College and a Ph.D. in History from George Washington University, has given a number of well-received talks at Beth El on the oral history project at the Holocaust Memorial Museum. In this talk, however, she will focus on the role of Jewish women in social and religious causes.

The Leila Rosen Young Equality Fund was established in 1987 to support activities and projects that further the equal participation of all segments of the Jewish community in the life of this Congregation and the Jewish community at large.

## Notes from the Executive Director

First, a heartfelt thank you to those of you who sent their good wishes to me and my husband, who is recovering from neurosurgery. Thank God he is doing well, though the road to recovery will be a long one.

Like so many organizations, we too are feeling the economic crunch and we are now seeking all kinds of ways to curb our spending. We will be cutting back on the number of statements issued. Statements will now be sent out quarterly but you may still, however, pay us monthly; in fact, you would ease our cash-flow problems if you continued to pay your dues on a regular monthly basis and, remember, you may still pay by credit card if you so desire. This lack of prompt payment, by the way, is one of the major reasons why we are hurting.

Another way of reducing costs will be to cut the repetition of articles in the Scroll. This duplication was done as a convenience to you so that if you happened to miss a reservation form, it would be appear in a later issue. This practice has become costly that, in the future, only one notice or reservation form per function will appear. If you plan to attend, do make sure to clip the reservation form.

In a recent article, I told you how pleased I was because we were going to do our bit at Beth El to help clean up our planet by recycling plastic ware. This recycling will have to go on the back burner for a while as the written quotes for the trash removal came in considerably more expensive than we were first led to believe. I do hope that these measures will help us and we are looking for more ideas. I urge you to also support our efforts at fundraising, especially by purchasing the Giant, Shalom, and Magruder's certificates.

By the way, those of you who didn't attend our Chanukah Dinner Dance missed an excellent, fun-filled evening. Our thanks to Dave Levine and his committee who put together a wonderful event.

Naomi Cohen

## All in the Family

Mazel Tov to Mindy Lieberman and Mark Goldstone on the birth of their son, Corey Harrison Goldstone, on December 10.

Mazel Tov to Caryl and Gerald Brody on the birth of their grandson, Zachary Matthew Gillman, son of Andrea and Scott Gillman, on December 6.

Mazel Tov to Rita and Irv Kopin on the birth of their grandson, Jordan Herbert Windmuller, son of Gail and Andy Windmuller.

Refuah Schlema to Edna Krents and Milton Doberman.

Mazel Tov to Sherman Kimball on the birth of his first grandchild, Emily Marie Povich, daughter of Ilissa and Lon Povich, on December 14.

Mazel Tov to Gertrude Weiss on the listing of her son, Dr. Michael D. Weiss, son also of the late Harry Weiss, in the 1990 edition of "Who's Who in the East" and on being biographed by the Mathematical Association of America in a publication distributed to university students nationwide.

## Yom Rishon AIDS Food Drive - Sunday, January 27

*"If you offer your compassion to the hungry, then shall your light shine in darkness..."*

*Isaiah 58*

On Sunday, January 27, Congregation Beth El is sponsoring a food drive to benefit the Whitman-Walker Clinic Food Bank. This campaign is being sponsored by the Washington Committee of the National Jewish AIDS Project, which has asked each synagogue to participate in this regional effort to replenish the Food Bank's much needed stock. The Food Bank provides nutritional support to people living with AIDS, some of our community's neediest residents. This is a simple but meaningful way for us to respond to the AIDS crisis in our community. Please participate in this worthwhile project. Bring food from the following list (supplied by the Food Bank) on Sunday, January 27, to the synagogue. Food will be collected during the preceding weeks on a daily basis for your convenience. A container will be placed in the school corridor. I thank you in advance for your support. If you have any questions or would like to help in this effort, please call Julie Strauss Maltzman at 301-530-9199.

### Suggested Shopping List:

Canned Fruits	Canned Vegetables
Canned Beans	Tuna Fish
Canned/Boxed Juices	Peanut Butter
Jelly	Canned Soups
Mustard	Ketchup
Mayonnaise	Vinegar
Cooking Oil	Instant Milk
Carnation Instant Breakfast	Plain Macaroni/Spaghetti
Spaghetti Sauce	Macaroni and Cheese
White/Brown Rice	Ramen Noodles
Hot/Cold Cereal	White/Whole Wheat Flour
Reg./Decaf. Coffee (Ground/Instant)	Reg./Decaf. Tea
Jello	Pudding
Crackers	Cookies
Popcorn (Reg./Microwave)	Bar Soap
Toothpaste	Facial Tissue
Liquid Dish Detergent	Dishwasher Detergent
Disposable Razors	Shaving Gel/Cream
Paper Towels	Liquid Supplements (Ensure/Sustacal)
Adult Depends/Serenity	Baby Diapers
Baby Food	

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## Shabbat Havurah

Hagai Ben Gurion, nephew of David Ben Gurion and Shaliach at the Jewish Community Center, will speak at the Shabbat Havurah on Saturday, January 5. His topic will be "An Israeli Looks at the American Jewish Community." Everyone is invited to attend after the Kiddush in the Small Chapel.

**EXTRA!! EXTRA!!**

**LABOR DAY GARAGE SALE MOVED TO M.L. KING JR.'S BIRTHDAY**

Bethesda, MD (AP) -- Officials of Congregation Beth El have announced that their annual Labor Day garage sale, popularly known as the BETH ELEPHANT SALE, has been rescheduled this year to take place over the Martin Luther King's Birthday Weekend, Saturday, January 19, to Monday, January 21.

In July 1989, when the doors opened for this popular fund-raising event, the line of anxious customers extended for several blocks down Old Georgetown Road. Some four hours and 800 customers later, Congregation Beth El had raised almost \$5,000 for its general operating fund.

The success of this project depends on you and your whole family -- by either your contributing merchandise to the sale, by your helping to run the sale, and/or by your coming to shop.

Even elephants can change their minds, so here are two additional changes this year: (1) CLOTHES AND SHOES are being accepted and sold for the first time, and (2) large items that require more than one medium-strong person to carry are being discouraged.

Here's the schedule. Please grab your calendars and pencil in as much time as you can afford to help out. Then call the Chairmen, Dennis or Ivan Askwith, 330-6994, and let them know when they can count on you. The synagogue needs over 100 volunteers of all ages to make this project a success.

**BETWEEN NOW AND  
10 AM, MONDAY, JAN. 21**

Bring your merchandise to the synagogue anytime it's open, except on the Sabbath. Pick up a receipt at the office and take a tax deduction for

whatever you deem the merchandise worth.

Need some ideas? We need small appliances, baby accessories, books, cameras, camping equipment, clothes, your car, computers, desk supplies, dishes, games, garden equipment, glassware, handbags, hardware, housewares, jewelry, kitchenware, lamps, luggage, magazines, musical instruments, paintings, pet supplies, radios, shoes, sports equipment, stereos, televisions, tools, toys, typewriters.

**PLEASE -- ONLY CLEAN, ATTRACTIVE,  
SALEABLE, IN-WORKING-CONDITION, USED OR  
NEW MERCHANDISE.**

**SATURDAY NIGHT, JANUARY 19  
7:30PM TO 10:00PM**

Volunteers with strong backs (your teenagers!) needed for 1 to 3 hours to carry merchandise from the storage areas into the Social Hall. Volunteers with weak backs needed to sort the merchandise to its proper location.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 20  
9:00AM TO 5:00PM**

Volunteers needed for 1 to 8 hours to sort and clean merchandise and to mark prices on each item. No prior experience required. Full instructions provided in six languages. Lunch provided if you work hard and long. Opportunity for pre-sale purchases.

**HOLIDAY: MONDAY, JAN. 21  
8:30AM TO 1:30PM**

Volunteers needed for 1 to 5 hours as guards, cashiers, porters, salespersons, kitchen help, etc. Lunch provided if you work hard and long. Doors open for shoppers at 9:30AM. Line forms early.

## A Piece of Cake - Last Chance!

Beth El has arranged a special treat for you this Pesach - something new in this area. **Passover Pastries**, a subsidiary of National Kosher Foods, Inc., will begin baking delicious cakes, cookies, muffins, and macaroons just before the holiday. We know what you think of most packaged Pesach cakes, but you will be delightfully surprised when you cut into these Passover Pastries.

Even if you love baking your own Pesach cakes, as I do, you'll be especially glad you ordered at least one or two cakes so that you'll be prepared with some delicious treats for the first few days of the holiday.

An order form is included 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.

Toby Moss

### Beth El Men's Club

Cordially Invites You to

#### "Perspectives in Dialogue - 1991"

Sunday, January 6

**Mr. Edward Luttwak**

"The Crisis"

Sunday, January 13

**Dr. Jacob Frenkel**

"The World and Eastern Europe:  
Prospects and Challenges"

Sunday, January 20

**Mr. William Safire**

"What's Going to Happen in Washington"

Sunday, January 27

**Dr. Steven Rosenberg**

"Recent Developments in Cancer Research"

Sunday, February 3

**Mr. Thomas Newman**

"Achieving Jewish Security in Our Times"

Morning Minyan: 9:00 a.m. Breakfast: 9:30 a.m.

Discussion by Speaker Followed by

Dialogue with Congregation 10 - 11 a.m.

The Congregation and Community are invited.

Contributions welcome to finance the breakfast.

## Shabbat Congregation Service and Dinner

The next Shabbat Congregation Dinner will be held on Friday, January 25, 1991 at 7:15 p.m. It will be preceded by a brief Shabbat Evening Service at 6:30 p.m. Members of the Congregation, their families, and the community are invited to attend.

Reservations are: Adults - \$9.75; Non-member Adults - \$11.75; Children 6-12 - \$6.75; Children under 6 - \$4.00; Paid-up youth group members - \$4.75.

If you have 8 or more reservations or are a member of Vatikim, tables will be reserved for you if you indicate below.

### Reservation Form

Congregation Shabbat Dinner Friday, January 25  
We would like to make the following reservations:

_____ Adults @ \$9.75	Total \$ _____
_____ Non-member Adults @ \$11.75	Total \$ _____
_____ Children 6-12 @ \$6.75	Total \$ _____
_____ Children under 6 @ \$4.00	Total \$ _____
_____ Youth Members @ \$4.75	Total \$ _____
	Grand Total \$ _____

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

I am a member of Vatikim and wish to sit at a Vatikim reserved table (yes or no) \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to reserve a table for \_\_\_\_\_ (8-12) in my name

RSVP by Friday, January 18

No Refunds or Phone Reservations!

## Men's Club News

On December 2, the Men's Club installed the synagogue's Chanukah Menorah. Everyone pitched in, and we soon made light work of a heavy task. This menorah was donated to Beth El several years ago by Beatrice and Bernard Berger and Jean and Sidney Liebson in memory of Bessie and Aaron Burman. An appropriate plaque recognizing this donation was affixed to the menorah.

Our program of speakers will resume on January 6 with our annual **Perspectives in Dialogue** series; see the box at left for details. Also, please circle Saturday, January 19, **Men's Club Shabbat**, on your calendars.

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

J. Kay

E. Kelty

H. Kleine

I. Kline

S. Kay

L. Kessler

S. Klimen

R. Koenig

## Nitzanim News

The next Family Shabbat Evening Service will be held on Friday, January 4, at 7:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Children with a birthday in January will be invited onto the Bimah.

The next Gan Shabbat Service for children in Grades K-3 will be held on Saturday, January 12, at 10:45 a.m. in the All Purpose Room.

The next Shabbat Morning Children's Service for parents and children under six years old will be held on Saturday, January 19, at 10:30 a.m. in the All Purpose Room. The 45-minute service is led by Rene Boni and consists of traditional prayers and songs plus a story and Kiddush.

On Sunday, January 27, Nitzanim will hold its annual Tu B'Shevat Seder to celebrate the Birthday of the Trees. Advance reservations are required. Use the form below and reserve your place now.

### Nitzanim Tu B'Shevat Seder

(For children under 6, siblings, and parents)

Sunday, January 27

3-5 p.m.

Sample and bless fruits, make crafts, plant seeds

Cost: \$2/adult, \$1/child  
(Maximum \$6/family)

For information, call:

Leora Hoffman 301-493-9109

Katy Koblenz 301-681-8169

For reservations, fill out the form below and send it with your check payable to Congregation Beth El to: Leora Hoffman, 6313 Tulsa Lane, Bethesda 20817.

#### Reservation Form

Nitzanim Tu B'Shevat Seder Sunday, January 27

We would like to make the following reservations:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Adults \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Children \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

RSVP by Wednesday, January 23  
No Phone Reservations!

## Religious School Wins Award of Excellence

At the Seaboard Region Convention of United Synagogue on December 7-9, the Religious School was awarded the Convention Award for Excellence in Elementary Education. Look for pictures of this wonderful honor in upcoming issues of the Scroll.

## Religious School News

Tzedakah - "righteousness" - is a concept we endeavor to teach our students as a way of life. In school, when our students give Tzedakah - Keren Ami - we want them to feel that they are directly effecting change in the world.

The organizations on the list below represent the voice of our students in determining the recipients of their Keren Ami funds.

- The National Conference on Soviet Jewry
- North American Conference on Ethiopian Jewry
- Trevor's Campaign for the Homeless
- The Jewish Community Hospice
- The Jewish Social Service Agency
- Mercaz and the Masorti Movement
- The Ronald McDonald House, Washington, D.C.
- MAZON - The Jewish Response to World Hunger
- The Ark Shelter for the Jewish Homeless in Chicago
- Rainbow Place Shelter, Rockville
- The Hebrew Sheltering Society, Silver Spring
- A donation of a new toaster oven and two new toasters during the Tikun Olam Festival at the BJE on November 18. These will go directly to new Russian immigrants.

The calendar items for the month of January are:

- Jan. 1 No School - New Year's Day
- Jan. 2 Wednesday - School resumes.
- Jan. 12 Youth Shabbat canceled - date changed to March 9. There will be regular Junior Congregation.
- Jan. 13 Grade 2 trip to the Jewish Discovery Room. Both sessions from 10 a.m. to 12 Noon.
- Jan. 15 End of first semester of High School.
- Jan. 20 Meeting of Confirmation parents and Rabbi at 11 a.m. in the Chapel  
Grade 7 switches to Sunday class from 9-11 a.m. in Room 206.
- Jan. 21 No School - Martin Luther King's Birthday
- Jan. 22 Second semester of High School begins.
- Jan. 22-28 Reports cards go home this week.
- Jan. 27 AIDS Food Day Drive - Bring in a can of food.
- Jan. 29 Regular school day.
- Jan. 30-31 In-school Tu B'Shevat Sedorim for students.

### Chanukah Program Enjoyed by All

On December 12 and 13, our third to seventh grade students had in-school Chanukah celebrations. We started the festivities with a Chanukiah Lighting, followed by a song fest led by the talented Jeffrey Reibman on guitar. Individual students and whole classes got a chance to lead in the singing. We topped off our fun with a feast of latkes, jelly donuts, applesauce, sour cream, and punch. Look for the pictures outside the school office during January.

Until next time,  
Emily Feinberg, Educational Director

## Youth Activities...Galore!

**Bonim (Grades K-2)** - Our Bonim members will visit residents at the Hebrew Home of Greater Washington on Sunday, January 6. We will leave Beth El at 1:15 p.m. and return at approximately 4 p.m. We do need parent volunteers to join us for this special activity. Please note the date change.

**Machar (Grades 3-5)** - Sunday, January 13 is Machar Movie Day at Montgomery Mall. Plan to spend a fun-filled afternoon with your friends, enjoying the latest release. Watch your mailbox for details. Parents and siblings, both older and younger, are welcome too.

**Kadima (Grades 6-8)** - Come see all of your friends, dance the night away, shed those sweaters and jackets, and play at the Adas Israel Beach. Join us for the Kadima Fun in the Sun Dance on Saturday evening, January 19, from 7:30-11:30 p.m. The cost is only \$5, and all proceeds go to Yad B'yad, Kadima's charity project. So, break out those swimsuits, the sunscreen, and your flip-flops and get psyched for a really great time!

The action continues on Sunday, January 20, when our Kadimaniks will participate in their Annual Scavenger Hunt at Montgomery Mall. Bring \$5 in cash, comfortable walking shoes, and, most of all, your imagination. Members of the winning team will once again earn valuable gift certificates. Be there!

**USY (Grades 9-12)** - Our USYers have an exciting Scavenger Hunt planned at Baltimore's Inner Harbor on Sunday, January 6. January 12 is the date of the Third Annual Seaboard Region USY Formal to be held at Congregation Har Shalom in Potomac from 9 p.m. to 12 Midnight. Couples and singles are welcome. The cost is \$8 per person in advance and \$9 at the door. Semi-formal attire is requested. Prior to the dance, a dinner will be held at Temple Israel in Silver Spring at 6:30 p.m. It will feature continental cuisine; the cost is \$9 per person. Bus transportation will be available from the dinner to the dance. Contact me for more information, if needed.

In solidarity with the State of Israel, USY has declared January 23 through February 23 a special month to focus its activities around Israel on the chapter and regional level. January 23 also marks the opening date of our Annual Youth/Tikun Olam Fundraising Drive. We will again be selling Passover candy, and profits from the sale will be used to enhance our growing youth program as well as to raise much needed funds for the Tikun Olam charities sponsored by United Synagogue. We call for your participation with the sincere hope of making this our most successful drive ever! Watch the next issue of the Scroll for our colorful brochure and your order form.

Attention, USY artists! January 25 is the deadline for the Seaboard Region USY Yearbook Cover Design Contest. Entries should reflect the theme "The Best of Times," and are to be submitted in clear black ink to the regional office.

During the first two weeks in January, we ask the Congregation to join us in supporting Operation Shalach

**Manot.** Operation Shalach Manot offers us the opportunity to participate in two mitzvot - the giving of Mishloach Manot, gifts to others on Purim, and the showing of support to individual Israeli soldiers. For every \$18 contributed by congregational members, students, or youth groups, an Israeli soldier will receive a Mishloach Manot package on Purim which will include holiday treats and a pair of warm army socks. If you are interested in participating, kindly forward your check to the Beth El office, marked to my attention. Please make your checks payable to Beth El Youth and note that your contribution is for Operation Shalach Manot. Donations in any amount are welcome, and all contributions will be acknowledged. In addition, to encourage participation, Operation Shalach Manot is offering one youth and a parent a free trip to Israel. Chosen by lot, they will represent Jewish North American youth at a special ceremony in which the Shalach Manot are presented to the Israeli Army. All participants in Operation Shalach Manot will receive a certificate of thanks from the Israeli Defense Force. Do consider supporting this worthwhile tzedakah project. All monies must be sent in to me by January 18. I look forward to hearing from many of you.

Shalom U'lihitraot,  
Edie Caroff, Youth Director

### Introducing The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism Operation Shalach Manot

Yes! I want to join congregants throughout North America in sending Mishloach Manot to Israeli soldiers this Purim.

Enclosed is my contribution for:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$18 (recommended amount)

\_\_\_\_\_ Other (donations in any amount are welcome)

All monies must be received by January 18.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

Kindly forward this form and your check, made payable to Beth El Youth, to Edie Caroff, Youth Director, at the Beth El office. Any questions? Contact Edie at 301-652-2608.

Thank you for your support.

## Shabbat Babysitters Needed

We are looking for additional babysitters for Shabbat Morning Services. Teenagers interested in babysitting approximately once a month, please call Lynn Goldin at 301-913-9067.



## 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-2)

Advisor: Michelle Marcus (301-493-5094)

- Jan. 6 Visit to the Hebrew Home
- Feb. 17 Bob Devlin/Marc Spiegel Performance

### Machar (Grades 3-5)

Advisor: Michelle Marcus (301-493-5094)

- Jan. 13 Machar Movie Day at Montgomery Mall
- Feb. 1 Machar Dinner with the Rabbi

### Kadima (Grades 6-8)

Advisor: Stacey Morrison (301-530-9328)

- Jan. 19 Regional Fun in the Sun Dance at Adas Israel Congregation
- Jan. 20 Scavenger Hunt at Montgomery Mall
- Feb. 10 Major League Indoor Soccer, Baltimore

### USY (Grades 9-12)

Advisor: Burman Berger (301-424-1269)

- Jan. 6 Scavenger Hunt at the Inner Harbor, Baltimore
- Jan. 12 Regional Formal Dance at Congregation Har Shalom, Potomac
- Jan. 13 Volunteer at Shepherd's Table
- Jan. 18 Deadline for Operation Shalach Manot
- Jan. 20 Youth Lounge Nite - Volunteer at Beth Elephant Sale

Youth Chairman: Dr. Michael Ackerman (301-493-8927)  
Next Youth Committee Meeting - Thurs., Jan. 17, at 8:15 p.m. - Board Room

New members are always welcome!

## Camp Ramah Meeting

Rabbi Michael Swartz, the new director of Camp Ramah in New England, will be meeting with Ramah alumni, campers, parents, and others at Adas Israel Congregation on Sunday, January 6, from 2-4 p.m. Set in the foothills of the Berkshire Mountains in Palmer, Massachusetts, Camp Ramah offers a full range of camp activities in addition to Hebrew language, Jewish studies, daily and Shabbat Tefillot, and Israel programming. Rabbi Swartz is looking forward to greeting old and new friends. This is an occasion for old friends to get together and for prospective campers to learn about the summer camping programs and opportunities for summer work. Videos of the camp will be shown. For further information, contact Billy Planer at 202-362-4433 or Alice Kalish at 301-229-3022.

## The Evening Minyan

The following people are asked to help us with our daily Evening Minyan for the next two weeks. It is only through the help and participation of all our members that we can maintain our daily Evening Service. The Minyan begins at 8:00 p.m. and concludes at 8:15 p.m. During the week of your assignment, please attend as many evenings as possible. We are anxious that those who are saying Kaddish have a Minyan that they can attend at Beth El. It is a Mitzvah of the first order.

### January 7 - January 10

Molly and David Levin  
Naomi and Edgar Levin  
Judith and Jonathan Levin  
Ellen and Joseph Levin  
Rose and Theodore Levin  
Mirella and Daniel Levinas  
Leona and Boris Levine  
Jacquelyn and David Levine  
Gloria and Donald Levine  
Janet and Howard Levine  
Susan and Ira Levine  
Isobel Levine  
Diana Huffman and Kenneth Levine  
Shirley Levine  
Susan Levine

### January 14 - January 17

Anita and Herbert Levinson  
Seth Levita  
Joan and Melvin Levitsky  
Kay Klass and Mark Levitt  
Jonathan Levy  
Lois and Joseph Levy  
Naomi and Martin Levy  
Sandra and Marshall Levy  
Linda and Neil Levy  
Sheryl and Richard Levy  
Susan and Stuart Levy  
Rina and Warren Levy  
Joellen and Roger Lewis  
Nancy and Steven Lewis  
Slava and Leon Leykin

## Baruch Dayan Emet

Congregation Beth El offers its sincere condolences to Charlotte Simos on the loss of her beloved husband, Irving "Ozzie" Simos, to Barbara Rosing on the loss of her beloved mother, Harlee Popick, and to Michele Herman on the loss of her beloved mother, Henrietta Dewald.

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