



CONGREGATION BETH EL OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

3 Cheshvan 5756

VOLUME 45 ISSUE 5

October 27, 1995

Shabbat Schedule

Friday, October 27th, at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 28th, at 7:30 and 9:15 a.m.

Estye Ross Bat Mitzvah at 9:15 a.m.

Jr. Congregation at 10:00 a.m.

Nitzanim at 10:30 a.m. in the APR

Friday, November 3rd, at 6:30 p.m.

Consecration and K - 1st Grade Shabbat Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 4th, at 7:30 and 9:15 a.m.

Danny Rogers Bar Mitzvah at 9:15 a.m.

Jr. Congregation at 10:00 a.m.

Shabbat Havurah at 12:45 p.m. in the Chapel

Friday, November 10th, at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 11th, at 7:30 and 9:15 a.m.

Aaron Finbloom Bar Mitzvah at 9:15 a.m.

Jr. Congregation at 10:00 a.m.

Nitzanim at 10:30 a.m. in the APR

Off the Bimah

A short time ago, a national Jewish educational service tripped over a bug in its computer fax software and sent out multiple copies of the same flyer to the same people. Many of the subscribers realized that a mistake had been made and called to alert the office to the error. But from many others they received nasty, angry, hostile phone calls and faxes that called them: "defilers of the environment", "wasters of paper", "destroyers of trees", "murderers" and on and on. They succeeded in making the editors feel like they should be placed behind bars for the terrible "sin" they had committed.

Let me therefore ask us all a question: What happened during this decade of the 90's that we suddenly have no tolerance for mistakes? What has happened to make everything a plot to "destroy our individual rights?" To assume that mistakes are intentional and require hostile and abusive responses is to commit a hurtful offense.

Maybe we can go back to a simpler time when people and synagogues and companies could make mistakes and all mistakes were not perceived as infringements on personal rights, values, and freedoms.

Rabbi Jonathan Z. Maltzman

Ner Tamid Assembly

On the High Holidays, many of you may have read about our new program for giving at this time of year: the Ner Tamid Assembly. It is based on programs at other congregations and is designed to help stabilize the income from this source so that yearly budget planning can be more effective. It also provides us with a way to recognize those of you who are long-term supporters of the High Holiday Appeal. We began this year with a targeted mailing about the Ner Tamid Assembly to those who, according to our best records, had contributed at or close to the minimum level during the last two High Holiday Appeals. During the phon-a-thon, we introduced the program to others who were donating at that level. Our plan was to expand the program next year. Fortunately, however, a number of you have expressed interest in the program, and we would be delighted to have as many of you join as possible. Members receive recognition within Beth El and will be invited to a dinner to celebrate our success.

It is very simple. To become a Ner Tamid member, you agree to make a minimum pledge of \$125 every year to the High Holiday Appeal. There are several levels within the program that denote the minimum level at which you plan to give: Bronze - \$125; Silver - \$250; Gold - \$500; or Platinum - \$1000. Level of commitment will not be publicized. If your circumstances unfortunately change over time, you can of course discuss your commitment again. Each year, members will be contacted to get their exact contributions for that Appeal. Please consider

(continued on page 2)

Attention Users of FM System Loops

We have recently purchased several new sets to be used with our FM system for the hearing impaired. Please help us keep these at Beth El and in working condition. Return sets to the ushering station after use and please make sure they are turned off. It is very frustrating for the next user to find a set with a dead battery. If you have accidentally taken one of these sets home, please return it to the ushering station. Thank you.

174th Sukkah Kit Sold

The Beth El Sukkah Kit Project recently completed an eighth successful year. Twenty-two kits were sold plus eight sukkah extensions. More than 174 families now celebrate the holiday in a Sukkah from Beth El. The constructions crew this year consisted of Bob Lipman and Pat, David and Jerry Danoff. All proceeds were donated to the Beth El Youth Department. Congratulations on a job well done!

If your family always intends to put up a Sukkah, but never gets around to it, mark your calendar next August to call the Danoffs and reserve a Beth El Sukkah kit. Building, decorating and dwelling in a Sukkah is a mitzvah and a wonderful family project.

Simchat Torah Honors

On Simchat Torah morning, Tuesday, October 17th, Beth El honored Murray Haber as Chatan Torah and Hans Hirsch as Chatan B'raysheet.

(Ner Tamid Assembly, continued from page 1) joining almost 100 individuals and families at Beth El who have pledged to give us this sustained support.

Please send the response below to Beth El or call Suzanne Bronheim at (301) 652-2606, ext. 330, to express your desire to join the Ner Tamid Assembly.

Yes, I/we would like to become a member of the Ner Tamid Assembly.

Name: _____

Level: ___ Bronze ___ Silver
 ___ Gold ___ Platinum

My pledge for this year is _____.

High Holiday Pre-Appeal Successful

Pledges for this year's High Holiday Appeal have reached a record level! At the time this Beth El Scroll goes to print, we have pledges for over \$50,000. In addition, almost 100 individuals or families have joined our yearly giving program -- the Ner Tamid Assembly. As a result, the goal of the leadership of Beth El to move the High Holiday Appeal for funds out of the religious service was reached this year. Many thanks to all of you who contributed so generously. In addition, Suzanne Bronheim wishes to thank all of the officers and Board members who took one or more evenings to make calls to help us meet our goal. Unfortunately, we were not able to reach all of you prior to the Holidays. If you have not made your pledge for this year, please use the form below to do so, or call it in to Suzanne Bronheim at (301) 652-2606, ext. 330. We would love to have 100% participation, so please consider even a donation of Chai (\$18) to add your support.

High Holiday Appeal Pledge

Name: _____

1995 High Holiday Appeal Pledge _____

Baruch Dayan Emet

Congregation Beth El offers its sincere condolences to Ava Kaufman on the death of her grandmother, Anna Freiberg; to Leslie Seiden on the death of her father, Samuel Bobyn; and to Paul Mirengoff on the death of his father, William Mirengoff.

Nitzanim

Nitzanim Shabbat Services are held on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month at 10:30 a.m. in the All Purpose Room. A special service for children ages six and under and their parents, Nitzanim Shabbat Services feature a Torah parade, stories, lots of songs and a snack. We hope you will join us!

Andrea and Michael Druckman sponsored the Nitzanim Kiddush on October 14th in honor of their son Nate's birthday.

Ner Tamid Assembly and High Holiday Appeal Donations

The following donations were received after the printing of our Yom Kippur Announcements:

Ner Tamid Assembly
 Bernard and Anita Ash
 Alfred and Kiki Hellman
 Bernard and Toby Moss
 Bruce and Susan Turnbull

Joseph and Ruth Kay
 Frederic and Maria Kaye
 Etta Kline
 Theodore and Anita Lieb
 Burt Liebowitz
 Claire Marwick
 Dan and Judith Matz
 Jack and Annette Moshman
 Henri Peker
 Michael and Judith Platt
 Philip and Alisa Rogers
 Robert and Fran Rubin
 Leonard and Adele Seeff
 Mark and Sabina Shalom
 Edward and Roslyn Shapiro
 Douglas and Carol Sherman
 Jonathan and Sandra Simon
 Bertram and Judith Spector
 Barry and Karen Spergel
 David and Sharon Spiegel
 Julian and Diane Spiner
 Arthur Wein
 Mervyn and Shirley Weiner
 Simon and Trudy Weker
 Yuli and Martha Wexler
 Colin and Audrey Winston

High Holiday Appeal
 Jack and Faye Amster
 Bernard and Annabelle Band
 Howard and Sondra Bender
 Sheila Birnbach
 Jeffrey and Sharon Caplan
 Jack and Deborah Cohen
 Mitchell and Renee Cooper
 Harry and Rhonda Eisenstein
 Harold and Vera Fassberg
 Robert Fersh and Sharon Markus
 Albert and Evelyn Fox
 Karl Freiberg
 Barry and Barbara Friedman
 Craig and Judy Futterman
 Edward and Jill Gerstenfeld
 Terry and Lynette Goldberg
 Jerrold and Karen Greenberg
 Kenneth and Ruthanne Grundfast
 Herbert and Lila Harvey
 Daniel Kaplan and Kay Richman
 Donald Kaplan and Evelyn Karson

Congregation Shabbat Service and Dinner Friday, November 17, 1995

Make your reservations now for the Congregation Shabbat Dinner. Members of the congregation, their families, and the community are invited to attend. The dinner will be preceded by the Shabbat Evening Service at 6:30 p.m. Reservations must be received by Friday, November 10, 1995. There will be no refunds. Please fill out the form below and send in your check to the office marked, "Attention: Shabbat Dinner".

SHABBAT DINNER RESERVATION FORM
Congregation Shabbat Service and Dinner
Friday, November 17, 1995

___ Adult Members @ \$12.50 each. Total _____
 ___ Non-member Adults @ \$15 each. Total _____
 ___ Children (6-12) @ \$8 each. Total _____
 ___ Children (under 6) @ \$4 each. Total _____

Grand Total \$ _____

Name _____
 Phone No. _____

I would like to sit with _____
 _____ I wish to sit at a Vatikim reserved table
 _____ I wish to sit at a 50+ Singles table

RSVP by Friday, November 10, 1995
NO PHONE RESERVATIONS NO REFUNDS!!
 (All rates include a 3% Mazon donation)

Board Talk

by Arthur N. Popper, Secretary

The Board of Directors of Congregation Beth El met on September 19, 1995. President **Suzanne Bronheim** started a new policy by sending out her President's Report to Board members in advance so that we could restrict this part of the meeting to questions and dealing with voting issues rather than a recitation of a lot of material. As expected, this significantly shortened the meeting and the tradition will continue.

Stephanie Ventura, chair of the Saul Bendit committee, reported that there is an excellent collection of Saul Bendit classes starting October 24th and 25th. A new brochure will be mailed shortly and members are encouraged to participate in the program. **Marilyn Wind**, president of the United Synagogue Seaboard Region and chair of our Ritual Committee, reminded the Board that the United Synagogue Biennial Convention will be here November 2 to 6 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, DC. She encouraged Beth El members to attend. This should be an exciting convention.

As part of the President's Report, Suzanne asked for approval of an updated Personnel Handbook and approval of developing a mechanism whereby employees can contribute to a formal retirement plan. Both requests were approved unanimously.

Second Vice President **Benson Adams** is responsible for High Holiday plans. Benson reported that High Holiday ticket sales to non-members were cut off on August 29th, which is earlier than ever, in order to insure that all Beth El members and their families would have seats at the two services. However, we are still deluged with non-member requests for tickets. Since there is such a great demand for tickets (and since this is a excellent fund raiser for Beth El), we are considering holding a third service next year that would be oriented towards families. Benson thanked trustee **Cheryl Rod** and Second Vice President **Cary Feldman** with helping in organization of the ushering for this year.

(continued next column)

Suzanne thanked members of the Board for help in the phon-a-thon. Since the response was so great, we will not do the same kind of fund raising appeal on the holiday as we've done in the past. Instead, we will have a Services appeal for members to participate in various activities and group, as we did last year. In addition, the same envelope will have a money card for people who want to give on that day.

Jeff Annis, chair of House and Properties, reported on work done to the building over the summer. These accomplishments included placing carpeting and new tile in several places in the building. It was also noted that different microphones have been installed on the Bimah and this has significantly improved the sound in the Sanctuary.

Arthur Popper reported for the Religious School Committee. He told us that we now have 420 students this year in the Religious School, up from 400 last year. In 1987-1988 we had 194 students. We have 68 students in the Upper School, indicating a very strong increase over the past several years. Fully 80% of last year's 7th grade has continued to the 8th grade. It was suggested that this strong increase in the Upper School is due to the excellent work done by **Louis Nagel** and the motivation provided by **Israel Quest**. Students in the 4th through 7th grades attend a full six hours per week and this has allowed us to add substantially to our programs in very positive ways. **Brenda Bregman** was thanked for her exceptional help in the Religious School office in getting things ready for the new school year.

The Board approved the purchase of a new copier for the office since our current machine, which was kindly donated by a member a number of years ago, is starting to cost more in repairs than would a new one.

Rachelle Bernstecker, Membership chair, proposed 35 new membership units to the Board. These were approved unanimously. We gained 35 units in the past two months (losing 10) and our current membership is 1,045 units.

Congregants are reminded that the full minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors can be found outside the synagogue office.

The Evening Minyan

The following people are asked to help us with our daily Evening Minyan for the next two weeks. The Minyan begins at 8:00 p.m. and concludes at 8:15 p.m. When Saul Bendit Adult Institute classes are in session, the Wednesday Minyan starts at 8:20 p.m. During the week of your assignment, we would appreciate your attending as many evenings as possible, so that those who are saying Kaddish will have a minyan that they can attend at Beth El.

October 30 - November 2
 Dorothy Alberstadt
 Marla Allard
 Larry and Myra Altschuler
 Linda Ames
 George and Michlean Amir
 Albert and Tamara Amos
 Jack and Faye Amster
 Theodore and Miriam Anders
 Charles and Elizabeth Anello
 Jeffrey and Terri Annis
 Richard Ansbacher and Terry Whitehouse
 Robin April
 Wayne Arden and Lisa Handley
 Mark Argosh and Paula Weinberger
 Walter Arnheim and Marsha Rehns
 Dennis and Sherilyn Askwith
 Tavi and Ruth Assal
 Marcello and Marilda Averbug
 Joachim and Elizabeth Baer
 William and Pearl Baker
 Stanley and Judith Baldinger

November 6 - 9
 Anne Bail
 Bernard and Annabelle Band
 Marvin and Dolly Band
 Richard and Florence Bank
 Bruce and Ann Barcome
 Sylvia Barmash
 Jeffrey and Patricia Baron
 Solomon and Rita Barr
 Abraham and Gertrude Bass
 Raymond and Vivian Bass
 Rosalyn Bass
 Heinz Bauer
 Jessie Baumgold and Linda Golden
 Leonard and Gabriela Bechick
 Arthur and Sandra Becker
 Harvey and Arlyn Becker
 Roy and Elaine Becker
 Seth and Meridith Beckhardt
 Richard Belferman

November 13 - 16
 Harris and Julie Belinkie
 David and Nanette Bender
 Howard and Sondra Bender
 Tanya Bendit
 Bruce and Christine Benjamin
 Robert and Jody Benjamin
 Robert and Susan Benke
 Jane Krubiner Berardi
 Martin and Ellen Bercovici
 Albert and Audrey Berger
 Bernard and Beatrice Berger
 Brent Berger
 Howard Berger and Linda Goldsmith
 Barrie Berman
 Joseph Berman and Marsha Gentner
 Kenneth and Beth Berman
 Stuart and Ellen Berman
 Susan Berman
 Max and Judith Bernhardt
 Sanford and Anita Berns

BETH EL SCROLL

8215 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Rabbi Jonathan Z. Maltzman
 Assistant Rabbi William D. Rudolph
 Rabbi Emeritus Samuel Scolnic
 Hazzan Abraham Lubin
 Executive Director Steven J. Kravitz
 Education Director Louis A. Nagel
 Nursery School Director Ellen M. Darr
 Youth Director Rachel B. Handloff
 President Suzanne M. Bronheim
 First Vice President Norman L. Eule
 Second Vice President Benson D. Adams
 Second Vice President Cary M. Feldman
 Treasurer Susan Brinn Siegel
 Financial Secretary Robert L. Koenig
 Secretary Arthur N. Popper

Phone Number 301-652-2606
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AFFILIATED WITH UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

Beth El Scroll, USPS Number 009813, is published semi-monthly, except monthly July and August, by Congregation Beth El of Montgomery County, 8215 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD 20814. Second-class postage rate paid at Bethesda, Maryland and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Beth El Scroll, 8215 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Congregation Beth El Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Contributions (As of September 27, 1995)

Bendit Adult Institute Fund

In Memory Of: Martha Mannheimer by Harry Mannheimer; Ella Cluck by Josephine C. Stein.

Beth El Forest

In Honor Of: Our anniversary by Mrs. Deborah Cohen. In Memory Of: Phyllis Levine by Steven and Linda Levine; Ruth Weiser and Lucy Weiser by Al and Evelyn Fox; Benson Soffer by Al and Evelyn Fox; Herman Perlman by Al and Evelyn Fox; Eva Sokol by Jose and Tova Sokol; Beloved father and husband, Max Sommer, by Rose and Sam Saady; Beloved son and nephew, Lawrence J. Wigler, by Rose and Sam Saady.

Cantor's Fund

Eugene Fidell & Linda Greenhouse. In Honor Of: In appreciation of Cantor Lubin's thoughtfulness by Melvin and Joan Levitsky; Birth of Ruth & George Kay's grandson, Taylor, by Rosalie M. Sporn. In Memory Of: Marvin Friedkin by Helen & Lisa Friedkin and Martin Dembo; Rose Richter by Melvin and Lenore Richter.

Fine Arts Fund

In Memory Of: Meyer Cohen by Naomi and Jack Cohen; Beloved mother, Rose Tofsky by Melva and Irv Tofsky.

General Fund

In Honor Of: Evan Rosing's Bar Mitzvah by David & Susan Brinn Siegel; Priscilla & George Tievsky's anniversary by Rosanne Druian; 46th anniversary of Evelyn and Ron Treinish by Lloyd, Linda, Matthew, Jake and Sammy Treinish; 50th anniversary of George and Priscilla Tievsky by Cyril and Margaret Schulman. In Memory Of: Grandfather, Solomon Streit, by Toby and Bernie Moss; Harry and Dora Dolnansky by Rosalyn D. Bass; Saul Possick by LeAnn Mayers and Margaret E. Cusack for the Lakeside Terrace Condominium.

Israel Experience Teen Fund

In Honor Of: 50th anniversary of George and Priscilla Tievsky by Marvin and Arleen Tievsky, Philip and Phyllis Margolius, Dr. and Mrs. Arnold Gould, Mr. and Mrs. William Leibenhaut, Zoe Engler and Sherry and Leonard Rodman. In Memory Of: Nathaniel T. Cohan by Rita and Sol Barr.

Library Fund

In Memory Of: Sara M. Richter by Melvin and Lenore Richter; Saul Possick by Elsie and Joseph Woolman.

Mazon

Elaine Pines. In Honor Of: The mitzvah to feed the hungry by Estelle and Herbert Wisser; Hannah Hoffman's baby naming by Lee Hoffman and Leslie Whipkey. In Memory Of: Joseph H. Bitterbaum by Adah Rose Bitterbaum and Steve Epstein; Our parents by Bernice and Sidney Euzent; Jacob Frank by Beryl and Gloria Frank.

Men's Club Perspectives in Dialogue Fund

In Honor Of: Isobel Levine's marriage by David and Susan Brinn Siegel; The recovery of Melvin Richter by Herbert Wisser; The recovery of Herbert Levinson by Herbert Wisser.

Morning Minyan Fund

In Memory Of: Doris Raffel by Janice Raffel; Florence Sohn and Henry Gross by Shirley and Seymour Gross; Diane Kay's mother by Rosalie M. Sporn; Evelyn Feinstein by Rosalie M. Sporn; Bernard A. Raffel by Janice Raffel; Morris Malech by Harry and Emily Malech; Rita G. Minker by Jack Minker; Ira Kline by Etta Kline.

Music Fund

In Memory Of: Bert Lustok by David and Susan Brinn Siegel; David Schechter by Paula and Herman Kleine.

Nitzanim Fund

In Memory Of: Alex Kuzminsky by Irene S. Vogel.

Prayerbook Fund

In Memory Of: Marvin Friedkin by Helen and Lisa Friedkin and Martin Dembo; Isidore Hollod by Adele and Sholom Shefferman; Ann Perim by Mark Milner and Hattie Ulan; Rose Fassberg by Harold and Vera Fassberg.

Rabbi's Fund

The Jewish Family Camp. In Honor Of: Sherry Askwith's special birthday by Sheila Bimbach and Don Seidman; Hannah Hoffman's baby naming by Lee

Hoffman and Leslie Whipkey. In Memory Of: Norman Levin by Isadore Levin; Rebecca Rubinstein by Marcia Possick.

Sisterhood Hospitality Fund

In Memory Of: Saul Possick by Ruth and Doug Mayers.

Sisterhood Remembrance Fund

In Honor Of: Marriage of Isobel Levine to Zev Griner by Clare S. Lerner.

Vatikkim

In Memory Of: Saul Possick by Sylvia Bozof and Myra Hopp.

Wolf "Israel Quest" Fund

In Memory Of: George Schonberg by Sam and Ellie Frishman; Sarah Krupsaw by Sy Wolf.

Family Education File

Family education is an approach to Jewish learning which involves more than one generation sharing in an educational experience. The programs focus on many areas of Jewish life including family values, social action, rituals and ultimate questions. It is my goal to include as many parts of the Beth El community in each program as possible. Due to cognitive abilities and age appropriateness, a target age of children is designated for each program. The programs always include the parents. They are frequently appropriate for siblings and grandparents. The participation of adult members of the Beth El community who do not have school age children would be welcomed. If you would like to attend or find out more about any of the upcoming programs listed below, please feel free to contact Sarah Leventhal Roark in the School office, (301) 652-2606, ext. 309.

On September 17th, Family Education's first program was held. The participants, fourth and fifth graders and their parents, learned about ten mitzvot connected to social action. The seventh graders led the centers. Some of the related activities were reading source quotes on the mitzvot, making Shana Tova cards for the Hebrew Home and collecting personal hygiene items to donate to Bethesda Cares.

The following programs are coming up:

The first two programs complement the display of the AIDS Quilt at Beth El during the last week of October:

Judaism and AIDS: Living with the Facts (Grades 8 - 11)

Tuesday, October 24th, 7:00 - 8:15 p.m. in the All Purpose Room

AIDS Awareness and Response (Grades 5 - 7)

Sunday, October 29th, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. (In conjunction with Religious School Open House)

Visit to the Maryland Jewish Historical Society (Grade 7)

Sunday, November 19th, leaving Beth El at 9:00 a.m., returning around 1:30 p.m.

A tour of the Lloyd Street Synagogue and museum will include the current exhibit on Henrietta Szold, after which a museum docent will provide us with a bus tour of Jewish Baltimore. Finally, we will lunch at a kosher restaurant in Pikesville. There will be limited space on the bus. Please let me know immediately if you would like to join this trip.

Mostly Mitzvah (Kindergarten)

Sunday, December 3rd, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Families learn about how to make mitzvot a more active part of their daily Judaism.

Volunteering at National Capital Area Food Banks (Appropriate for anyone over age nine)

Sundays, January 7th and January 28th, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Men's Club News

The Beth El Men's Club is actively scheduling multiple educational, social and recreational activities for the year. As those of you who attended some of our activities last year know, many of our programs proved to be stimulating, thought provoking and enjoyable. This year promises to be even better!

Here is a small sampler of some upcoming events:

Every Sunday the Men's Club has a lox and bagels breakfast following the morning minyan. Not only is the food wonderful, but the camaraderie and communication is warm and sociable. These breakfasts are usually followed by a program featuring a speaker, followed by discussion. Announcements will be made in the Beth El Scroll and Shabbat Announcements listing the speakers and topics. On October 29th, the speaker will be Anita Willens, publisher. Her presentation will be "The Yiddish Theater -- Then and Now." On November 5th, Rabbi Harold Axelrod, Jewish Chaplain in the U.S. Army, will speak on the topic, "A Jewish Rabbi in the Army." The Sunday morning minyan service begins at 9:00 a.m., the breakfast at 9:30, and the programs start at 10:00.

Additional scheduled speakers are:

November 12th: Ed Koenig, "Jews in Agriculture"

November 19th: Steve Dachi, "Jews in India"

December 3rd: Jack Edlow, "The Foundation for Jewish Studies"

December 10th: Men's Club Board Meeting

December 17th: Hanukkah Program

Are you a whiz at Trivial Pursuit? Then perhaps you would like to be a member of Beth El Men's Club team in the Seaboard Region's "It's Academic" competition (fashioned after "College Bowl"). We are looking for additional members for our team. If interested, please call David Schultz at (301) 530-1620. Both religious and secular topics are included.

How about softball? The team needs more members. Even if you can't play every week, sign up and play as often as you can. The season starts in the spring, but we want to start assigning positions and setting the batting order! Contact David Levine at (301) 299-9507 if interested.

We are hoping that many more of you will participate in some, many or all of these activities. Please join us.

All in the Family

Congregation Beth El wishes a speedy recovery to Florence Horwitz.

Membership Information

Joan Schaffer and Edward Comer have moved to 6200 Robinwood Road, Bethesda, MD 20817.

Yizkor Book Addition

The following Yizkor Book listing was received after printing of the book:

IN MEMORY OF
NORMAN MAURICE GREEN
RACHEL ALPERSTEIN
MAURICE ALPERSTEIN
MAURICE GREEN
TILLIE GREEN

REMEMBERED BY

Jeffrey and Cindy Green

Keruv

Dear Keruv: I don't seem to look Jewish enough to suit some people and when someone says "You don't look Jewish," I have no idea what to say. I don't think it's a compliment (although sometimes maybe it's supposed to be). Sometimes I think I'm being probed not too subtly about my family background, a test of whether I'm Jewish enough. I like how I look, but I don't like being tongue-tied. Please help me out. Congregant

Dear Congregant: Over the centuries -- millennia -- Jews have settled all over the world, in large and small communities of other Jews. Their communities, however, are usually surrounded by non-Jewish populations who have lived in the area for generations or who are also more recent migrants. Somehow, the communities of surrounded Jews came to look like the surrounding people and are sometimes indistinguishable from them. This doesn't surprise when we think about Jews of India or Shanghai or the Arab world -- intermarriage and conversion, after all, weren't invented by twentieth century American Jews. The stereotype that insists you can't/shouldn't look like your northern European/Jewish or middle European/Jewish forebears or any of your other ancestors is unfair and unfortunately something you and your face will be fighting for a long time.

Responding to "You don't look Jewish" with a question can make a person examine his/her own stereotypes and make it clear that you don't think it is something to be proud of. Try saying "Oh? What does a Jew look like?" Anyone asked that would have a hard time finding an answer in the faces of Israel or of our congregation. Another response, "How (or why) don't I look Jewish?" might also help someone examine their thinking or motives.

Keruv Calendar

Shabbat Discussions: Keruv welcomes everyone to our next Shabbat discussion, held after the morning services on December 16th. Our topic that day is "The December Dilemma." We will also talk about choosing Judaism, how to meet challenges with children, spouses and grandchildren, and how to integrate non-Jewish family members in Jewish life. We always welcome new ideas and people. Join us!

Hanukkah Party: You are invited to the annual Hanukkah party at the Levine-Janney home on Sunday night, December 17th, at 5:00 p.m. The address is 5835 Conway Road in Bethesda. We promise lots of latkes and dreidel games and Hanukkah fun. It's dairy potluck; please RSVP to Susan Levine at (301) 530-2919.

Keruv ("outreach") was formed to address the issues of intermarriage at Beth El. For information about Keruv and its discussion groups and other activities, call Susan Levine at (301) 530-2919.

Education Notes

Schools have an interesting relationship with the societies they serve. Contemporary society sees few problems that are not resolvable through education. Poverty, substance abuse, violence, even the general decline of western civilization are all resolvable, and the schools are the primary agents of change. That we largely believe this is a great statement of optimism. We take this idealism to its ultimate extreme with our penal system, the Department of Corrections. There we hold out faith that education can turn around all but the most deranged sociopath, and in that case there is reserved a measure of hope. So teaching attracts the optimist, the visionary and, to some extent, the martyr. Pay is poor, the demands would bring a union shop steward into management's office in a flash, and the end product

(continued on page 6)

(Education Notes, continued from page 5)

is to be seen decades into the future. But teachers know what they are doing is important. Take this characterization of general education over to the sphere of Jewish education and the stakes are raised *P-Shtayim*, as they say in Hebrew, to the second power. Add to the motivations a sense of saving the Jewish people, the fulfillment of a mitzvah and serving in a tradition that started with Abraham and included Moshe Rabbeinu, Hillel and Akiva among its practitioners. The Chinese curse is, "May you live in interesting times." For Jewish education there haven't been much more interesting times than today. Mattathias, Rabbi Akiva, Rabban Gamaliel, Janusz Korczak, they knew what they were up against in the Greeks, Romans and Nazis. Today's challenge is far less overt: it is this accepting, enlightened society in which we live. The French and the Iranians see menace in McDonald's, MTV and Hollywood. While their response to the threat to their culture is questionable, it is encouraging that Jewish leaders both here and in Israel at least recognize a hazard.

These are interesting times for Jewish educators. You must possess enormous optimism to think that in a maximum of six hours a week you can not only preserve, but build Jewish life. However, the drive to do so is abundant. Never before has the quality of Jewish education been higher and never have the achievements of the synagogue school been greater than today. Educators are by nature inclined toward adopting the latest pedagogic trend, and Jewish education has been as innovative as any educational sphere. Dramatic changes are taking place in the classroom. Cooperative learning, experiential learning and limitless other pedagogic approaches beyond the frontal lecture have become the norm. We model an attitude of open mindedness, inquisitiveness and promote achievement to the best of one's abilities. We have assimilated the philosophy of the self-esteem/self-actualization movement and measure achievement against the standards of cooperation, participation and working up to one's potential. Jewish education in general, and Jewish education at Beth El in particular has never been more progressive and has never been better.

Change is a process. Consider evolutionary change, political change, even personal change. From day-to-day, even year-to-year there is usually little to observe. But over longer periods of time the differences become clear. The Religious School, in many ways, represents a live, evolving being. It grows, pulses, matures like a living organism which if not nurtured will wither and fade. Trees sprout new branches. Branches grow and in turn branch out further. Similarly, our school programs expand and lead to further development. We have gone from having a fairly straightforward textbook-limited curriculum to adding the new branches of field trips, enrichment activities, retreat programming and family education workshops. Some of our greatest progress has been with Hebrew/Tefillah study. As anyone who has experienced the frustrations of foreign language study might anticipate, this is potentially the most disheartening aspect of the curriculum. In response our Hebrew program has evolved to an unparalleled level of student friendliness. We have been exceedingly successful in enriching the pre-reading programs in the kindergarten and first grades and are turning out greater percentages of second graders already reading tefillot. It is at the next level where our initiative in identifying our students' performance levels and arranging them into homogeneous study groups has allowed us to best provide a learning environment for Hebrew studies. We have been successful in making it possible for the more capable or exceptional student to progress at his/her pace while the less capable, more challenged student can progress at his/her pace. Even our ability to remediate problems has improved and been further advanced through the remedial Hebrew teachers. Our latest innovation has been the adding of monthly mincha or maariv services to the program. The two primary purposes this serves is to give practical application to our lessons and to build

community among the 4th-7th grades that participate in these minyanim. We are also proud of the students who have returned to the school to serve as teachers' aides. Our mid-week aides are Rachel King and Lindsay Shoneman.

Curriculum has been enhanced throughout the school, particularly with the addition of special programs. This year there will be a number of unique arts and crafts projects and several sessions with an Israeli folk dance specialist. Our first art/craft encounter was a fourth grade shofar making project a few days before Yom Teruah, the Day of Sounding the Shofar, more commonly referred to as Rosh Hashanah. Our first folk dance sessions will be on Sunday, November 19th and Sunday, December 17th.

The upper school made incredible strides last year with the additions of electives and the between semesters Intersession. We continue to offer electives in conversational Hebrew, ethics and Rabbis, and this year have added a course on Modern Israel. Our attention to the Upper School has paid off, as 80% of our 7th graders continued beyond Bar/Bat Mitzvah and our 10th grade/Confirmation class stands at 20 students.

We haven't shied away from the challenge presented to us, which is no less than the survival of the Jewish people. At least twenty years ago, and probably before then, the university schools of education began reciting the mantra of the home-school connection. While this message has to a great extent gone widely unheeded, Jewish education and Beth El have recognized this synapse as an essential juncture and have made bridging it a top priority. Our most dramatic response has been the addition of family education to our program of studies.

As of this writing, we are less than one month into the new school year. There have been many exciting additions to the faculty and enrollment continues to spiral upward. I hope you will join me in welcoming to Beth El's faculty: Nicole Saffell (1st grade), Liliana Schatz (2nd grade), Debra Lebowich (3rd grade), Esther Robbins (4th grade), Rachel Plaksin (5th grade), Lenore Levin (7th grade), Betsy Roth (9th grade), Sheldon Novick (10th grade), Marlene Sandberg (Upper School), and Zhanna Yurkansky (Music-Monday). The Religious School is also very proud to have the following upper school students serving as teachers' aides: Samuel Janney, Daniel Savada, Shira Dinar, Jonathan Stern, Melissa Popper and Tallie Lieberman. We also appreciate the participation of Wendy Greenbaum, Audrey Handelman, Arielle Hurwitz, Lizzy Theodore and JDS student Avi Shoham, who take care of teachers' children during school hours on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. We now have over 430 students enrolled in the school with the largest grades, 3rd and 5th, at 53 and 52 students, respectively. We're all looking forward to an excellent year.

Consecration/Ben Torah-Bat Torah Ceremony

On Friday, November 10th we will honor Beth El's children who will have begun their formal Religious School studies this year. The service will be followed by a Family Shabbat Dinner. The highlight of the program will be the Consecration Ceremony, recognizing children just entering the kindergarten, and a celebration of other students just beginning formal Jewish studies. Participation is open to our Religious School and day school children. The service will begin at 6:30 p.m. If you are interested in having your child participate in the evening's events and have not yet signed up, please contact the Religious School office.

Religious School Open House

Parents are invited to participate in a Religious School Open House on Sunday, October 29th. Classes will meet as scheduled. The day's program will include time for parents to meet with teachers.

From the Desk of the Youth Director

The Youth Group Calendar

BONIM (Grades K, 1, 2) Advisor: Heather Handloff
 Sunday, November 12th "A Little Princess"
 Join Bonim and Machar for a trip to the Glen Echo Theatre to see "A Little Princess." The bus will leave Beth El at 2:45 p.m. and return at 5:00 p.m. The cost for this trip is \$10.00 for members and \$12.00 for non-members. RSVP's are required. For more information, call Heather Handloff at (301) 652-2606, ext. 342.

MACHAR (Grades 3, 4, 5) Advisor: Ariel Glassman
 Sunday, November 12th "A Little Princess"
 See above. For more information, call Ariel Glassman at (301) 652-2606, ext. 341.

KADIMA (Grades 6, 7, 8) Advisor: Adam Gluck
 Sunday, November 5th Regional Kadima Day
 Join Kadimaniks from all over Seaboard Region for this day of social actions. Reservations are required. For more information, call Adam at (301) 652-2606, ext. 340.

U.S.Y. (Grades 9, 10, 11, 12) Advisor: Rachel B. Handloff
 Tuesday, November 7th Take 30
 During the month of November, the topic for Take 30 will be "Religious Liberty, The Separation of Church and State." Dinner will be served at 6:15 p.m. in the Board Room. The program will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the All Purpose Room. If you plan to join us for dinner, please RSVP by Monday, November 6th. Call Rachel Handloff at (301) 652-2606, ext. 308.

Saturday, November 11th The Fun Factory
 Join USYers from Beth El, Har Shalom, B'nai Israel and Adas Israel for Havdallah and an evening of Comedy. The bus will leave from B'nai Israel at 6:30 p.m. and return there at 10:45 p.m. The cost of the program is \$20. Reservations are required. Call Rachel if you have any questions at (301) 652-2606, ext. 308.

Sunday, November 12th USY Social Actions Sunday
 Join USY and members of Kulam USY for an afternoon for Social Actions. For more information, call Talia Matz (USY Social Actions/Tikun Olam Vice President) at (301) 469-0459.

Thursday, November 16th USY Fall Fling
 Join Beth El USY for dinner and meet chapter members attending Fall Convention. Bring your Ruach. Rules and regulations for Fall Convention will be covered. We will also unveil the Chapter T-shirt. This program will run from 6:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. and is mandatory for any USYers signed up for Fall Convention.

Friday, November 17th - USY Fall Convention
 Sunday, November 19th
 Join USYers from all over Seaboard Region for the Shabbat of a life time. For more information, contact Rachel in the synagogue office.

Wednesday, November 22nd Plymouth Rock Dance
 This regional USY Dance will be held at Adas Israel. More information regarding transportation and cost will be included in the next issue of the Beth El Scroll.

Nursery News

1996-97 B.E.N.S. Applications

1996-97 B.E.N.S. applications are now available by calling (301) 652-2606 Ext. 311. Children must be 2 years old by September 1, 1996 to attend B.E.N.S. for the 1996-97 school year. Applications are not available for pick up in the school office; so when you call, be sure to leave your name, phone number(s), address, child's name and birth date on the voice mail. An information/application packet will be mailed to you by our parent volunteer. Congregation Beth El families have preference in our enrollment procedure.

Think Pink - Save Giant Register Receipts

The Nursery School is trying to get a new computer for the school office, and in addition, we may be able to get some audio-visual equipment. Please put your pink Giant Register Receipts in the envelopes on the downstairs or upstairs bulletin boards.

Remember we are only saving Giant Receipts; the program runs from September 17, 1995 through March 2, 1996.

Save The Date

On Sunday December 10th, at 3:30 p.m., Jill Moskowitz will be performing her repertoire of Jewish and other Children's Songs in the Beth El Sanctuary. Tickets are \$5.00 at the door.

Entertainment '96 Books

These are available in the School Office, Synagogue Office and the Judaica Shop. They are \$35.00 each. Make your checks payable to Beth El Nursery School. If you would like to look at one to see what it has to offer, see Ellen. They also make wonderful gifts. The new books only cover the state of Maryland!!!

Vatikkim Paid-Up Membership Luncheon

Please join us for a real treat at our Vatikkim luncheon on November 16, 1995. Beryl Frank will take us on a couple of weeks' visit to Turkey with his report and slides on his and Gloria's recent experiences in this fascinating country at the border of Europe and Asia.

Lunch is at noon and the program is at 1:00 p.m. Since this is the annual paid-up membership luncheon, there will be no charge for members who have paid their Vatikkim dues for 1995-96. Cost for members who have not yet paid their dues is \$5.00 and for non-members, \$6.00. Please fill out the reservation form below, and, if applicable, make your checks payable to Beth El Vatikkim. Please mail the form and check to: Bea Goldman, 3214 Henderson Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20902, (301) 942-9434, or Lillian Kessler, 5450 Whitley Park Terrace, Bethesda, MD 20814 (301) 530-5650.

Please note that we will not accept reservations later than two days before the scheduled event to assure proper planning.

<p>Reservation Form Vatikkim Paid-Up Membership Luncheon on Thursday, November 16, 1995</p> <p>Please reserve _____ places for me at the Vatikkim luncheon. Enclosed is my check for \$_____. Name: _____ Phone Number: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please have your response reach us by November 14th. No reservations will be accepted after this date.</p>
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