



CONGREGATION BETH EL OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

16 Nissan 5756

VOLUME 45 ISSUE 16

April 5, 1996

Shabbat Schedule

Friday, April 5th, at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 6th, at 7:30 and 9:15 a.m.

Adult B'nai Mitzvah at 9:15 a.m.

Jr. Congregation at 10:00 a.m.

Worship and Study Minyan at 10:00 a.m. in the APR

Friday, April 12th, at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 13th, at 7:30 and 9:15 a.m.

Jacob Ackerman Bar Mitzvah at 9:15 a.m.

Jr. Congregation at 10:00 a.m.

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

Friday, April 19th, at 6:30 p.m.

Beth El Retreat

Saturday, April 20th, at 7:30 and 9:15 a.m.

Richard Wernick Bar Mitzvah at 9:15 a.m.

Jr. Congregation at 10:00 a.m.

Gan Shabbat at 10:00 a.m. in the APR

Beth El Retreat

Passover Festival Service Schedule

Wednesday, April 3rd

7:15 a.m. Fast of the Firstborn and Siyyum

6:30 p.m. Festival Service

First Seder

Thursday, April 4th

9:15 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Festival Services

7:30 p.m. Congregation Seder

Tuesday, April 9th

6:30 p.m. Festival Service

Wednesday, April 10th

9:15 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Festival Services

Thursday, April 11th

7:30 and 9:15 a.m. Festival Services

(Yizkor at both services)

Adult B'nai Mitzvah to be Celebrated at Beth El on April 6th

On Shabbat Chol Ha-moayd Pesach, April 6, 1996, twenty-seven women and one man will be called to the Torah as adult B'nai Mitzvah. This class, the largest in our Congregation's history, completed an eighteen month program which included mandatory classes, reading, social action projects, synagogue attendance and training in synagogue skills. We are proud of their accomplishments and salute their determination. The adult B'nai Mitzvah of 1996 are Judy Baldinger, Jody Benjamin, Joan Claxton, Pat Danoff, Ellen Eule, Diane Garfield, Josephine Gimble, Judy Goldman, Hattie Goodman, Sara Greenbaum, Marcia Greenblum, Michelle Hainbach, Lynn Katz, Eleanor Klau, Liz Krauss, Debby Leibowitz, Andrea Levine, Anita Lieb, Karen Lipkind, Jane Mehl, Edith Nash, Nancy Rose, Joel Simon, Sandy Simon, Tara Sonenshine, Nancy Wallace, Janyse Weisz and Martha Wexler.

All in the Family

Mazal Tov to Lillian Dorfman on the birth of her two grandchildren. Ingrid Alexandra Mellgren is the daughter of Jennifer and Dag Mellgren, and Daniel Jeffrey Dorfman is the son of Joel and Laurie Dorfman.

Mazal Tov to Jonathan Feibus on his upcoming marriage to Mary Levinsohn. Mazal Tov also to the parents of the couple, Howard and Susan Feibus and Mark and Jeannette Levinsohn.

The following letter was received from Rebecca Maltzman:

Thanks to all the people who gave generous donations in honor of my Bat Mitzvah. I really appreciate them and am glad they are going to a good cause. I'm also grateful to all the people who made an effort to join me. Thanks again!!

Mazal Tov to Judith Newman who will be honored on April 13th at a Volunteers' Reception for fifteen years as a reader for the Metropolitan Washington Ear (a closed circuit radio station for the visually impaired.) She does a weekly program called "Capitol Features."

Reminder to 1997 Bar and Bat Mitzvah Families

May 1st is the deadline for reserving rooms for your Shabbat dinners or Saturday night parties. Please call Miriam Davidson at (301) 652-2606, ext. 303 to make your reservation. After May 1st, synagogue, community or rental events may be booked on the Saturday evening following your simcha.

Board Talk

by Arthur N. Popper, Secretary

The following are highlights from the Board of Directors meeting on February 20, 1996. Congregants are reminded that the full minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors can be found outside the main office.

Bert Spector was approved unanimously as the new chair of the **Ways and Means Committee**.

We are forming a new **College Outreach Committee**. Anyone interested in participating should contact **Esther Wilner**.

Cantor Lubin talked about his activities as President of the Cantor's Assembly. His focus as President has been to raise the visibility of the Cantor's Institute at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Vice President **Benson Adams** reported on a proposed plan to hold a third High Holiday service. It was agreed that the third service gives us overflow capacity for members and that it helps us meet the needs of the community. The Board strongly approved the third service.

Marsha Rehns and **Susan Brinn Siegel** are chairing a committee for a Torah Writing at Beth El. Marsha reminded us that the 613th commandment is to write a Torah. While we cannot all do this, we can commission a scribe to write the Torah. There are several reasons to do this. First, this is a Mitzvah. Second, this project would potentially involve the whole shul by allowing people to participate in small or large ways. Thirdly, this would be the focus of a synagogue-wide educational program for all of our members. This would help teach people about Torah in a variety of different ways. The fourth component is fund raising. The proposal is to start this event at Slichot with a lecture and then continue with events over the year. We would conclude in May at the end of the writing with a large celebration where the last few letters are written. Anyone interested in helping plan this project should contact Marsha or Susan. The Board unanimously approved this project.

Membership Directory

The 1996 Membership Directory is now available! If you would like a Directory, please complete the coupon below and return it to the synagogue office. Please do **not** call the synagogue office as we will only process requests with the coupon. Please be sure to print clearly since the coupon is also your mailing label. We will also give out copies of the Directory in the synagogue office if you walk in during office hours.

Yes! I would like to receive the 1996 Beth El Membership Directory.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Notes from the Religious School Committee

This has been a busy year for the Religious School Committee, as anticipated. Actions have been taken to improve regular communications between teachers and parents. You should all be receiving a monthly calendar identifying the areas of study for each grade and teacher. We hope this calendar will help parents support their children's learning and assignments in Religious School. I welcome any comments regarding this new communication forum.

Members of the School Committee visited classrooms in December. These visits were very productive and provided us with important information about teachers, teaching styles, curriculum and the learning environment. School committee members were favorably impressed with the teachers, who were very receptive to these visits. This activity is certain to be a regular part of the committee's responsibilities. The visits provided the Education Director with supportive information concerning his own observations.

The School Committee has recently been focused on developing the school budget and tuition rates for next year, a several-month process culminating in a recommended budget to the Finance Committee of the synagogue and the Board. After action by the Board, the school budget must be approved by the congregation as part of the overall budget process.

The School Committee continues to look at other specific issues related to the Religious School, including the seventh grade and high school curricula, discipline, issues related to respect among students and between students and teachers, and safety concerns regarding carpool pickup. Discussions are ongoing regarding mechanisms to improve the school through expanded parent involvement. The School Committee has also been monitoring the activity of the 3-day/2-day Task Force, which has been meeting monthly since December. The Task Force has been discussing a variety of issues and collecting available relevant information. A report will be prepared in the next few months and another public meeting on the issue is anticipated.

Again, if you have any questions or concerns about the Religious School, I encourage you to contact me or other members of the Religious School Committee.

Linda Lipson
Chair, Religious School Committee

Membership Information

Aleen and Jurgen Seidel have moved to 8803 Mead Street, Bethesda, MD 20817, (301) 365-9560.

Baruch Dayan Emet

Congregation Beth El offers its sincere condolences to Rockey Lang on the death of her brother, Jakey Madeoy; to Leo Grossman on the death of his wife, Mary Grossman; and to the family of David and Molly Levin.

Community-Wide Observance of Yom Hashoah V'Hagvurah

The annual community-wide memorial observance for Yom Hashoah V'Hagvurah, sponsored by the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington, will be held on Monday, April 15, 1996 at B'nai Israel Congregation, 6301 Montrose Road, Rockville, MD. The program will commence at 8:00 p.m. The keynote address will be by Dr. Henry Feingold, historian and author of The Politics of Rescue.

In addition, for the ninth consecutive year, the Jewish Community Council will sponsor "From Generation to Generation: A Special Teen Program," to convene one hour prior to the community event. Survivors of the Holocaust will share their personal experiences with small discussion groups of teens. Afterwards, the teens are invited to attend the community-wide observance.

For additional information, please contact Jody Rabhan at the Jewish Community Council, (301) 770-0881.

Welcome Rabbi Rudolph

At the Congregation Meeting on February 27th, Rabbi William Rudolph was elected to become the full-time Associate Rabbi of Beth El by a unanimous vote. We are all delighted that as of July 1, 1996, he will be all ours. We will be meeting with Rabbi Rudolph, Rabbi Maltzman and Hazzan Lubin to discuss the ways in which various ritual and pastoral duties will be covered. All of us are looking forward to having more "hands" to help with all that needs to be accomplished at Beth El. It is fantastic that the extra pair of hands will be Rabbi Rudolph's.

BETHEL 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
 FAX Number 301-907-8559
 Web Site <http://uscj.org/seabd/bethesbe/>

AFFILIATED WITH UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

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Ba'al T'filah

A course designed for the lay prayer leader!
 by Hazzan Abraham Lubin. Learn to lead
 a weekday Ma'ariv or Shacharit Service
P'sukey D'zimrah, Preliminary Service on
 Shabbat and Festivals.
Call Hazzan Lubin
at (301) 652-2606, ext. 317.

Beth El Scroll is On-Line!

You can read the Beth El Scroll on the Beth El web page before it wends its way through the U.S. Mail. A big thank you to Helen Popper who translates the information of each edition into the right language and format for the web site. Let your college students know that they can now access information about Beth El and the Beth El Scroll by surfing the net.

The Evening Minyan

The following people are asked to help us with our daily Evening Minyan for the next two weeks. On Monday through Thursday, the Minyan begins at 8:00 p.m. and concludes at 8:15 p.m. **Please note that the Evening Minyan time is 8:20 p.m. on Wednesdays during the six weeks of the Saul Bendit Institute.** 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.

April 8 - April 11
 Adam and Sari Kurland
 Matthew and Francine Kurtansky
 Steven and Sherry Kurtz
 John and Jody Kusek
 Harry and Miriam Kuskin
 Arnold and Linda Kuzmack
 Emanuel and Davetta Landau
 David and Sandy Landsman
 Robert and Zeldia Landsman
 Allan and Rockey Lang
 Marvin and Delia Lang
 Bernard and Sylvia Laps
 Burton and Cynthia Lazarow
 Arnold and Dorothea Lear
 William and Karen Lebovich
 Vladimir Lechtman
 Lester and Ruth Lee
 Charles Lehrhaupt and Frances Eisenstein
 Deborah Leibowitz
 Frances Leibowitz

April 15 - April 18
 Joseph Leiter
 Myron and Lenore Lenkin
 Martin and Linda Leon
 Warren and Leslie Leonard
 Joe and Laurie Leone
 Allen and Barbara Lerman
 Herbert and Dianne Lerner
 Mark Lerner
 Thomas Lerner and Kirsten Erickson
 Sylvia Lesselroth
 Frances Lesser
 Howard Lesser and Hanna Gutmann
 Lawrence and Judith Lessin
 Charlotte Levenson
 Jeff and Judy Leventhal
 Boris and Leona Levine
 David and Jacqueline Levine
 Curtis and Wendy Levinson
 Herbert and Anita Levinson
 Jules and Priscilla Levinson

Nursery News

Beth El Nursery School Camp applications will be available March 1st for children who will be 3 years old by June 1st.

Please call (301) 652-2606, ext. 312 for information.

Camp hours are 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays.

**Session I is June 25th - July 12th
Session II is July 16th - August 2nd.**

Vatikkim Luncheon

We invite you to join us for our Vatikkim luncheon on April 18th. For our program, Marcia Kay, Assistant Editor of the Washington Jewish Week, will discuss the process of putting together our weekly local Jewish paper. This should be an interesting follow-up on our recent hour with Dr. Carl Stepp of the Department of Journalism of the University of Maryland.

Lunch is at noon and the program is at 1:00 p.m. Cost for members is \$5.00 and for non-members, \$6.00. Please fill out the reservation form below and 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.

Reservation Form

**Vatikkim Luncheon
Thursday, April 18, 1996**

Please reserve _____ places for me at the Vatikkim luncheon.
Enclosed is my check for \$_____.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

**Please have your response reach us
by April 16, 1996.**

No reservations will be accepted after this date.

Beth El Nursery School Spring Concert

Sunday, April 28, 1996

with

**"KinderSingers"
Val and Pam**

2:00 - 3:00 P.M.

Tickets: \$5.00

For more information,
call (301) 652-2606, ext. 311.

The Trimillenium The Excitement The Celebration

**Jerusalem
1996**



Come Be a Part of History!

The 49th Convention of the Cantors Assembly will be held in Jerusalem in conjunction with the celebration of Jerusalem's 3000 years.

Hazzan Lubin, who will preside over this convention, is inviting members of the congregation to join him and Sandy in a pilgrimage to Israel during this historic event.

For more details, please call Hazzan Lubin at (301) 652-2606, ext. 317.



Men's Club

The Purim Carnival held at the synagogue on March 3rd was the best ever. It seemed that everyone who attended, adults and children, had a great time. The food, which was very tasty and well organized, was ably prepared by Ronnie Treinish and his committee, including cooks Ed Golfer and Sandy Kay. Seth Levita supervised and coordinated the games. Sam Frishman served as the overall Carnival chairperson. The Men's Club wishes to thank all of the volunteers (young and old) who helped to make this such a wonderful activity: Herb Wisner, George Perlman, Gary Bernstecker, Bernie Rod, Marvin Yudkovitz, Howard Lesser, Cary Feldman, Dave Schultz, Bea Golfer, Lillian Kessler, Diane Kay and the members of Boy Scout Troop 1800. We are sure that the laughter and joy which we heard throughout the three hours of the carnival continued even after people went home.

On April 7th, during Pesach, the Men's Club will not have a breakfast or program. On April 14th, the Men's Club quarterly Board Meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m., following the Morning Minyan at 9:00 and the breakfast at 9:30. All members are encouraged to attend, to discuss the year thus far and to help in planning upcoming events.

THE MEN'S CLUB OF CONGREGATION BETH EL IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE

THE KAVOD AWARD HONOREES FOR 1996

MURRAY HABER

FOR SERVICE TO THE GREATER COMMUNITY

ROBERT KOENIG

FOR SERVICE TO THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

PETER NOVICK

FOR SERVICE TO CONGREGATION BETH EL AND THE MEN'S CLUB...

AWARDS BREAKFAST MAY 5, 1996 AT 9:30 AM

KAVOD AWARD BREAKFAST

**RESERVATIONS \$8.00 PER PERSON
(PLEASE RESPOND BY MAY 2, 1996)**

SEND RESERVATIONS TO

**MEN'S CLUB, ATTN HERBERT WISER
CONGREGATION BETH EL OF
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
8215 OLD GEORGETOWN ROAD
BETHESDA, MD 20814**

_____ WILL ATTEND

NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS _____

Congregation Beth El Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Contributions (As of March 4, 1996)

Bendit Adult Institute Fund

In Honor Of: Hebrew extension class by Helen Rib. In Memory Of: Beloved father, J. Arnold Pines, by Elaine Pines; Rae Leipner by Dr. and Mrs. Harold E. Fassberg.

Beth El Forest

In Honor Of: Rabbi Rudolph becoming Associate Rabbi by Andrea, Mike and Nate Druckman. In Memory Of: Harry Markowitz by Henry E. Freedman; Sarah Druker by Sam Nash and Family; Bessie Burke Drucker by Steven and Esther Kravitz; Gertrude Novek by Confirmation Class of Beth El; Dear father of Amy Spector by Rich and Rachel Handloff; Morris Eisenstein by Frances Eisenstein.

Building Fund

In Memory Of: Sarah Lewis by Irwin Aisenberg.

Cantor's Fund

Martin S. Dembo. In Honor Of: Birth of daughter to Howard and Susan Weiss by Martin S. Dembo; Cantor Lubin's help by Ronald Klein; A speedy recovery of Burt Robin by Ken and Carolyn Feigenbaum. In Memory Of: Gale Barcome by Bruce Barcome; Beloved father, Julius Kaplan, by Rosalie Sporn.

Chevra Kadisha Fund

In Memory Of: Cheryl Rod's mother by Iris, Julian and Anne Tishkoff; Miriam Kelty's mother by Iris, Julian and Anne Tishkoff; Harry Berman by Ken, Beth, Ben and Eli Berman; Gladys Haber, sister of Murray Haber, by Murray, Merle and Ira Haber; Harry H. Kahn by Marcia and Paul Merlin; Norman Schrank by Tom and Sarine Schrank; Suzanne Roschwalb by Roy H. Millenson; Myer Rubenstein by Bernard and Rita Jacobi.

College Fund

In Honor Of: Rabbi Rudolph's election as Associate Rabbi by Marilyn and Gary Wind.

Conservative Judaism in Israel

In Memory Of: Gladys Haber by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph George Kay; Minnie Haber and Ida Goldberg by Murray A. Haber; Jacob Burman by Bea and Bernie Berger.

Disabled Access Fund

In Memory Of: Milton Wittman by Evelyn Wittman and Family; Leo Horn by Mr. and Mrs. Jason Horn.

Fine Arts Fund

In Memory Of: Beloved husband, Sidney L. Kohn, by Esther G. Kohn; Mary Silverberg by Dr. and Mrs. Stanley M. Silverberg.

General Fund

Martin S. Dembo. In Honor Of: Rabbi Rudolph becoming Associate Rabbi by Margaret Bogler; Our aliyah for baby naming Hannah N. Murray by David and Julie Murray. In Memory Of: Marlene F. Lemberg by Mary Wichman; William A. Dembo by Martin S. Dembo; Rabbi Scolnic's sister by Margaret Bogler; George Adelstein by Robert S. Adelstein; Arnold Safer by Couples Plus Havurah; Sylvia Silberzan by Frances Edlitz.

Groner Ramah Scholarship Fund

In Honor Of: Speedy recovery of Howard Copperman by Erwin and Leena Groner. In Memory Of: Ida Harab, Rockey Lang's sister, by Erwin and Leena Groner.

Israel Experience Teen Fund

In Honor Of: Bat Mitzvah of Rebecca Ostrov by Claire Marwick; Speedy recovery for Helen and Lenny Rib by Carol and George Sege. In Memory Of: Father, Abraham Leon Cohen, by Priscilla Tievsky.

Kimball Nursery School Fund

In Memory Of: Beloved wife, Estelle Kimball, by Sherman Kimball; Irvin Silverman by Beth El Nursery School;

Irvin Silverman by Ellen M. Darr.

Library Fund

In Memory Of: Maxwell J. Oling by Gloria and Beryl Frank; Tillie Golumbic by Calvin and Norma Golumbic; Rose G. Feingold by Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Richter.

Mazon

Men's Club of Congregation Beth El; Elaine Pines. In Memory Of: Tillie Lotman and Phillip Janus by Zeida L. Janus; Bess Unger Cohn and Leah Hefter by Cyma and Jerome Hefter; Daniel Welsbach by Sylvia and Leonard Sheeskin; Sarah

Spero, grandmother of Stephanie Ventura, by Stephanie Ventura.

Men's Club Perspectives in Dialogue Fund

In Honor Of: Howard Copperman's recovery by Gloria and Beryl Frank. In Memory Of: Louis Katz by Roy H. Millenson.

Morning Minyan Fund

In Memory Of: Barbara Wolf, Sarah and Abraham Krupsaw, Abraham and Dora Wolf, Dan Rosen and Molly and Irving Weinstein by Sy and Faye Wolf; Abraham Levinson by Herbert Levinson; Nettie Edenbaum by Bob Edenbaum; Minna Levi by Wemer and Bernice Blumenthal; Norman Brody by Julian Levin; Samuel Tanenbaum by Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Tanenbaum; Katie Routhenstein by Isadore Routhenstein; Beloved mother, Katie Routhenstein, by Irene Routhenstein.

Music Fund

In Honor Of: A speedy recovery for Shirley Gross by Gloria and Beryl Frank. In Memory Of: Gertrude P. Weiss by Karen Satin Michael and Mitchell Weiss.

Prayerbook Fund

In Memory Of: Paul Klein by Suzanne and Sander Davidson and Family; Hershel Kanovsky by Helen Kanovsky, Jennifer and Emily Dorfman; Beloved father, Abraham Katz, by Linda Katz; Dr. Israel Kamens by Toby and Dean Rodman and Family; Parents, Benjamin and Fanny Mendeloff, by Bernard and Rita Jacobi.

Rabbi's Fund

Martin Dembo. In Honor Of: Bat Mitzvah of Rebecca Maltzman by Martin S. Dembo, Susan and Gary Tabach, Gertrude Cohen, Kenneth Eckmann and Rhonda Friedman and Blanche and Isaac Roubelin; Rabbi Rudolph becoming Associate Rabbi by Daniel and Elaine Mann. In Memory Of: Isadore Londner by Annabel Chasen; Louis Gemstat by Pearl Baker; Beloved mother, Fannie Kleine, by Herman Kleine; Gladys V. Haber by Murray, Merte and Ira Haber; Max Friedman by Phyllis Katz; David Raab by Arlene Shykind.

School Enrichment Fund

In Honor Of: A complete recovery for Helen Rib by Gloria and Beryl Frank.

Sisterhood Torah Fund

In Honor Of: Bernard and Rita Jacobi's new grandson by Milton and Faye Doberman.

Social Action Fund

In Memory Of: Father-in-law, Sam Lerner, by Clare Lerner; Dora Scheer by Iris Kivitz; Fred B. Moskowitz by Dan and Carol Moskowitz; Bernice Wald, mother of Cheryl Rod, by Ruth and Ron Rondberg.

Suls Youth Activities Fund

Elaine Pines. In Honor Of: Toby and Bernie Moss's trip to Israel by Judith and Dan Matz.

Torah Scroll Fund

In Memory Of: Murray Haber's sister, Gladys Haber, by Marilyn and Gary Wind; Adolph B. Kahn by Mr. and Mrs. Bernard H. Kahn.

Wolf "Israel Quest" Fund

In Memory Of: Barbara K. Wolf by Wolf Family; Jean Sherman by Lola and Gerald Sherman.

Foundation for Jewish Studies Lecture

Professor Marc Brettler of Brandeis University, Department of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, will explore the nature and purpose of the biblical historical texts in his lecture entitled "The Biblical Narrative in History and Imagination with Illustrations from Judges and Samuel." The lecture, sponsored by The Foundation for Jewish Studies, will be held on Tuesday, April 16th at B'nai Israel Congregation, 6301 Montrose Road, Rockville. There will be a reception at 7:30 p.m. and the program starts at 8:00 p.m. A singles reception follows the lecture. The lecture is free and open to the public. No previous Bible study is required. For more information, call The Foundation for Jewish Studies, (301) 770-4787.

Attention Grandparents and Grandchildren!

**Grandparents' Shabbat at Junior Congregation
Saturday, April 6th 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel**

**Come give your grandparents nachas
by showing off your knowledge of Shabbat prayers!**

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!

Thanks to Faith Roessel and Matthew Slater for sponsoring the Nitzanim kiddush on March 9th in honor of Carl Slater's fifth birthday.

Camp Ramah

Partial scholarships are now available for interested children who would like to attend Camp Ramah this summer. Please call Rachel Handloff, Youth Director, at (301) 652-2606, ext. 308, to receive an application.

Bimah Flowers

There are no Bar/Bat Mitzvah simchas on the following Shabbat service dates: July 13th and September 14th. If you would like to sponsor the bimah flowers for one of these dates in honor or in memory of a loved one, please call Lisette Brooks, Rabbi Maltzman's secretary, at (301) 652-2606, ext. 316. You can order the flowers yourself, or Lisette can place the order for you.

Congregation Based Shelter

For the third consecutive year, Beth El will open its doors to twenty homeless men and women in our community through our participation in the Congregation Based Shelter (CBS). The CBS is a system of rotating temporary overnight shelters housed in Montgomery County churches and synagogues for one week at a time. The program is run jointly by the county Department of Social Services, which carefully screens all homeless guests, and Community Ministry of Montgomery County. This year, Beth El's shelter week is from Sunday evening, April 28th through Sunday morning, May 5th.

Beth El will provide our guests with dinner, breakfast and a bag lunch for seven days. Our guests will sleep in the All Purpose Room and use the adjacent bathrooms. The rest of the building will be designated off-limits. Shelter hours are from 7:00 p.m. until 7:00 a.m. only. A paid CBS staff person is on duty during shelter hours.

As in past years, volunteers are needed to visit with shelter guests, serve dinner and sleep over. This year, volunteers are also welcome to prepare some dinners. Religious School students will also assist in meal preparations. Volunteers who spend the night are particularly appreciated. High school students take note: community service hours are available for time spent. In addition, contributions to the Social Action Fund are welcome to help defray costs associated with the program. Donations of clean, but used, linens are also requested this year. If you have sheets or towels, you may drop them off with Lisette Brooks, Rabbi Maltzman's secretary.

A mandatory meeting for all shelter volunteers will be held on Thursday, April 18th at 8:00 p.m. in the Social Hall.

Beth El's CBS week is a meaningful way to become involved with the homeless in our midst, and with the Beth El community. Our volunteers the past two years enjoyed a very rewarding experience. Won't you join us? To volunteer, call Debbie Ross at (301) 229-4131 or Julie Maltzman at (301) 530-9199.

**Winter Mission
to Israel**

Join Rabbi Jonathan and Julie Maltzman on a winter mission to Israel from December 22, 1996 to January 5, 1997.

Bar/Bat Mitzvah age children travel free! The itinerary includes a weekend in Eilat.

For further information and details, call Rabbi Maltzman.

Jewish Men and Women
Volunteers Needed for National
Institutes of Health Study

FAMILIAL
CANCER
IN THE
JEWISH
COMMUNITY



*Familial Cancer and the BRCA1
Gene in the Jewish Community
of Greater Washington*

Call (301) 251-4272

Education Notes

Jerusalem 3,000 Essay Contest

Discuss the special relationship that exists between North American Jews and the State of Israel, and what you would most like to see in Israel on your next trip there.

El Al airlines has pledged that it will organize a flight to bring Jewish immigrants to Israel from anyplace in the world with 12 hours notice. Why is this important to you and to the worldwide Jewish community?

These were the topics that sparked the winning entries to our Religious School essay contest. We congratulate our first place entrants Elizabeth Klein and Jenny Lewis and runners-up Miriam Kramer and Emily Danoff. Our contest was set to coincide with a national essay contest sponsored by Behrman House publishers. Our top entries were sent on to the national contest with first place prize of a trip to Israel. I would like to thank Jonathan Levy and Andrea Hoffman for planning the contest, soliciting sponsors and judging the essays. I also want to thank the teachers and parents who motivated student participation, particularly 5th grade teachers Sarah Roark and Rachel Plaksin. Prizes were donated by Bookoo Books for Kids. Consolation prizes came from Putt-Putt Golf.

Below are the winning essays:

Jerusalem 3,000 Essay Contest

I think the special relationship between North American Jews and Jews from the State of Israel stems from the fact that many Jews in both places escaped the Holocaust. North American Jews understand the importance of the State of Israel as a haven for persecuted Jews around the world. By showing that Jews will defend themselves and one another, Jews in every part of the world become safer. That is why a lot of North American Jews contribute money to the State of Israel and urge their governments to support the State of Israel politically in its struggles with Arab neighbors.

Many North American Jews study Torah and visit the State of Israel to see where their ancestors lived and worshipped. They also want to see how the modern State of Israel is growing. There are many things I would like to see on my next trip to the State of Israel. I would like to see the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem, the holiest place for Jews throughout the world. I would also like to go scuba diving to see tropical fish and beautiful coral at the southern city of Eilat. I would like to stay on a Kibbutz and help pick fruit. Finally, I would enjoy floating on the Dead Sea. I am sure there would be many other wonderful things to see and do.

Elizabeth Klein

El Al: Wings to Freedom

I think it is important that El Al Airlines keep helping Jews that are in life and death situations. The Torah teaches us to help one another, and El Al's offer to rescue Jews and take them to Israel with just twelve hours notice is a really big mitzvah.

During World War II, hardly anyone tried to help Jews escape the Nazis. If an offer like El Al's had existed then, maybe more Jews would have survived the Holocaust.

The Torah tells us that to save just one person is like saving an entire world. I am proud to be a Jew, knowing that I can depend on El Al and other Jews to help me if the Jews in our country get in trouble. I am glad to live in this period of time when I don't have to worry about Hitler and his soldiers, but Jews in other parts of the world aren't as lucky as me. There are still Jews dying every day in wars. If El Al had the opportunity to go on a rescue mission to Bosnia I think my point would be proven and lives would be saved.

It helps me to know that El Al will be there to save Jews-- not all, but enough to make a difference in the world.

Jenny Lewis

Education Notes, continued...

Ninth Grade Tikkun Olam

The Religious School's continuing relationship with group homes sponsored by the Jewish Foundation for Group Homes was fostered with a bowling outing on Sunday, February 25th. Gabe Ross, Ivan Askwith and Evan Goldman knocked down their share of pins, but their best marks came in the interactions, help and encouragement they gave to the developmentally delayed adults from the JFGH Cohen and Reich Homes. On my scoresheet they all scored a perfect 300. I give a special thank you to Debbie Ross for chaperoning this activity.

Fifth Grade Stained Glass Art

The beautiful stained glass art works that grace the windows in the school office, stairwell and the upstairs hall window were made by the fifth grade classes of Sarah Roark and Rachel Plaksin. The activity was organized by art teacher Alisa Lotati.

Fourth/Fifth Grade Retreat

The planning process is well under way for this year's 4th/5th grade Retreat. The theme "Israel: Homeland-Holyland" is in keeping with the year-long celebration of Jerusalem 3,000 - the anniversary of King David's conquest of the Holy City. The retreat will take place at Capital Camps the weekend of May 17th - 19th.

Sixth Graders to Boro Park

A unique encounter with Orthodox Judaism has been planned for our sixth graders the weekend of April 19th - 21st when the class travels to Brooklyn, New York. The students will spend Shabbat hosted by Orthodox families in Boro Park, visiting their shuls, getting to know their children and experiencing the Day of Rest in a traditional mode. This New York experience will conclude with a tour of Ellis Island. Planning assistance is being provided by a group of parents headed by Bert King. Conservative Judaism is often described as being in-between the tradition-bound Orthodox and the progressive practices of Reform. While our students have many experiences with the more liberal interpretations of our tradition and are part of a Washington Jewish community that one parent recently described as "invisible," this trip promises to open their eyes to a whole new point of reference.

Read-A-Thon

The Beth El Parent Association is pleased to present the Religious School's second annual Read-a-thon. Designed to promote reading Jewish literature for enjoyment, the Read-a-thon also will offer an opportunity to fulfill the mitzvah of tzedakah. Children are asked to participate by reading books and getting sponsors who will pledge a contribution based on the number of books read. In light of recent events, proceeds will go to help the families of victims of terrorism in Israel.

Students in all grades will be asked to record the number of books read. Sponsors of students in grades three and higher may want to consider the length of books these older students read. Every student will receive a prize for participating. Outstanding individual readers and tzedakah-raisers will be recognized, as well as classes. Last year we raised almost \$1,000 for Children's Hospital. This year we hope to exceed

that amount. This year's event is scheduled to begin in March and will end April 21st. All winners will be acknowledged in the Beth El Scroll. For more information, please contact the school office, (301) 652-2606, ext. 310.

Upper School Intersession

This year's version of Upper School intersession closed out its three week run on Tuesday, February 27th. The more than 70 students who make up our 8th, 9th and 10th grades experienced classes that could be described as an encounter with American Jewish culture. The heavily subscribed Jewish cooking classes were taught by Rachel Handloff and Rivka Degani. I was pleased to receive a shalach manot basket from the students in Marlene Sandberg's Purim class. Michael Shalom's Reader's Theater class encouraged students to explore new depths of feeling and expression. In Sheldon Novek's Jewish Humor class, the great comics from vaudeville to today entertained and enlightened. In this later class the students recognized what Sigmund Freud noted almost a century ago in his work Jokes and their Relation to the Unconscious: "I do not know whether there are many other instances of a people (referring to the Jews) making fun to such a degree of its own character." The students returned on March 12th for a two hour Take 30 program sponsored by the ADL, "Confronting Anti-Semitism."

Purim

This year's celebration of the Purim holiday was more extraordinary than ever before. Events began the preceding Wednesday and Thursday with Backwards Day. Besides students wearing clothes upside-down and inside-out, roles were reversed as members of the Vaad HaStudentim gave instruction in 3rd-7th grade classes. Michael Klaus was very professional taking over Ms. Roark's 5th grade class, and Ian Solomon and Marco Macherelli demonstrated their pedagogic skills switching places with 3rd grade teacher Debra Lebowich. Elizabeth Theodore and Rebecca Eisen were impressive in their occupation of the Principal's Office. Thursday's Backwards Day was capped with Purim spiels performed by Betsy Roth's and Rori Pollak's 7th grade class. Students performed adaptations of the story of Esther. One production was set in a 1960's hippie commune and the other put the story of Esther in Nottingham Forest complete with Robin Hood, Maid Marion and the Sheriff.

Our Kindergarten - 2nd grade teachers outdid themselves on Purimyada Sunday with an activities day of making shalach manot (that were later delivered to residents at the Ring House), graggers, masks and hamentashen. A highlight was the Purimspiel performed by Lili Schatz' 2nd graders. Teachers contributing to the success of this program were Edith Sievers, Juliann Goldman, Nicole Saffell, Stephanie Cohen, Deborah Rosenbloom and Ms. Schatz. The upper grades program on Purimyada Sunday was highly spirited. Third - fifth grade classes performed skits and songs. Highlights were the fifth graders' take off on Jeopardy and the third graders' shalach manot song.

Memorial Services

Commemorating the dead and wounded in the recent terrorist bombings in Israel, mid-week students held memorial services on March 6th and 7th. The services were organized by seventh grade students Rebecca Mates, Rachel Ross, David Edlow and Samuel Ganzfried. Elements of the services included prayers of peace, poetry and news briefs. We also used the opportunity to announce that receipts from the Read-A-Thon will go to help bombing victims and their families.

Sisterhood News

In the Spotlight: Dunya Hecht, Recipient of the 1996 Torah Fund Award By Harriet Filler

Since moving to Bethesda, Dunya Hecht has been an active member of the congregation and Sisterhood. She became Chairman of the Beth El Hospitality Committee to welcome other new members to the synagogue. After registering her daughter in the Religious School and her son in the Beth El Nursery School, she became active in the School and Youth Committees. For Sisterhood, Dunya has served as Co-Vice President of Catering and is still active on that committee. She has also been a Trustee for a number of years. She was employed as an aide in the Nursery School, has written the Sisterhood News column for the Beth El Scroll for several years and is very enthusiastic about meeting and getting to know so many people here at Beth El. She also was in the first Hebrew Marathon group, led by Yael Greenberg, followed up by learning more about the services, and credits this association, as well as learning from the Nursery School activities enriching holidays and Judaism in the Hechts' family life. Dunya is very proud that both of her children were Bar/Bat Mitzvah and confirmed at Beth El.

Born and raised in Brooklyn and Astoria in New York, Dunya went to Brooklyn College where she majored in anthropology and sociology, sang in the chorus and met her future husband, Alan Hecht. She did welfare case work in New York and later in Cleveland when the couple had married and moved there. They will celebrate their 30th anniversary this September. Jennifer was born in Cleveland and son Gregory arrived after the

family moved to Carrollton, Georgia to West Georgia College where Alan taught geology. They moved to Bethesda in 1976 while Alan was on sabbatical, and he currently is an administrator at the Environmental Protection Agency. While in Georgia, Dunya pursued her great interest in ballet, studying both in Georgia and Washington for 12 years. She also was involved in alternative social politics, organizing a Woman's Rap Group for consciousness raising and working on an underground alternative newspaper.

In addition to volunteering at Beth El, Dunya was active in the P.T.A. at Bradley Hills Elementary School, and chaired its Ways and Means Committee, also served as Great Books discussion leader four years and Cultural Arts Chair. She was also active in the group that studied the transition of Pyle from a junior high to a middle school. While her son was at Montgomery Blair Magnet School, Dunya produced the P.T.A. newsletter.

Now that Jennifer has completed her education and has moved back to this area, living and working locally, and with Gregory away at the University of Michigan, majoring in computer science, Dunya has been working on a Master's program at the University of Maryland. She is focusing on issues dealing with aging populations (family studies). Awareness of problems facing her own aging parents has led to Dunya's interest in being instrumental in creating different or alternative solutions to problems such as community based services, accessibility to

Torah Fund Reception to Honor Dunya Hecht

*Sunday, April 28th,
4:00 - 6:00 p.m.*

at the lovely home of Susan and Harvey Sherzer

Minimum contribution: \$28.00.

Couvert: \$12.00 per person.

Contribution of \$150.00 entitles donor to a Benefactor's Pin, which was created this year in Jerusalem by Israeli artist Michael Katz.

All contributions directly benefit the Jewish Theological Seminary.

For reservations, send your check with your invitation return card, or call Doris Povich, (301) 320-5440, or Cathy Binder, (301) 365-3806.