



CONGREGATION
BETH EL OF
MONTGOMERY
COUNTY

Off the Bimah

Why do we place stones on a grave? For most of us, stones conjure a harsh image. It does not seem the appropriate memorial for one who has died. But stones have a special character in Judaism. In the Bible, an altar is no more than a pile of stones, but it is on an altar that one offers to God. The stone upon which Abraham takes his son to be sacrificed is called even "hashtiyah," the foundation stone of the world. The most sacred shrine in Judaism, after all, is a pile of stones—the wall of the second Temple.

In the words of the popular Israeli song, "There are men with hearts of stone, and stones with the hearts of men." So why place stones on the grave? The explanations vary, from the superstitious to the poignant. The superstitious rationale for stones is that they keep the soul down. There is a belief, with roots in the Talmud, that souls continue to dwell for a while in the graves in which they are placed. The grave, called a *beit olam* (a permanent house), was thought to retain some aspect of the departed soul.

(Continued on page 3...)

Quarterly Dues Payment

The congregation bills congregants on a monthly basis, as a convenience for the membership who may want to pay monthly. The minimum requirement is to pay quarterly the dues, building fund assessment and tuition. To remain a member in good standing, you must remain current in your dues. The second quarter of your combined dues, building fund and tuition is due by December 31, 1997. We appreciate your prompt payments. Thank you.

IRS Charitable Contribution Rules

The 1993 tax law requires you to have a "contemporaneous" receipt for all charitable contributions of \$250.00 or more after December 31, 1993. If you make a contribution of \$75.00 or more for which you also receive something of value in return, you are also required to have a receipt showing the non-deductible value of what you received.

In order to reduce your paperwork, and ours, we take advantage of the provision of the law which allows the use of an annual statement which will satisfy your "contemporaneous" receipt requirement. In order to insure that all payments made by you during 1997 are reflected on that statement, our statement will include all payments received in the Beth El office through January 9, 1998. Contribution statements will be mailed by January 15, 1998.

Shabbat Schedule

Friday, December 26th, at 6:30 p.m.

Miketz: Genesis: 41:1 - 44:17

Saturday, December 27th, 7:30 and 9:15 a.m.

Elana Kleiner Lowell Bat Mitzvah at 9:15 a.m.

Jr. Congregation at 10:00 a.m.

Friday, January 2nd, at 6:30 p.m.

Vayigash: Genesis: 44:18 - 47:27

Saturday, January 3rd, at 7:30 and 9:15 a.m.

Jr. Congregation at 10:00 a.m.

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

Friday, January 9th, at 6:30 p.m.

Teacher Recognition Shabbat Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Vayehi: Genesis: 47:28 - 50:26

Saturday, January 10th, at 7:30 and 9:15 a.m.

Elyssa Caplan Bat Mitzvah at 9:15 a.m.

Jr. Congregation at 10:00 a.m.

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

Guidelines for Life Cycle Events

Questions have arisen recently about Beth El's policy regarding the participation of clergy in life cycle events. To clarify the issues raised and to make all congregants aware of the policy, we are stating it here.

Members of Beth El are entitled to, without additional charge, the services of our Rabbis and Hazzan at their life cycle events as part of their membership. This privilege also applies to the weddings of members' children under the age of 30. Officiation of the Rabbi and Associate Rabbi or Hazzan at a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, wedding or funeral for a member of the congregation does not require payment of a fee for those services. If the congregant wishes to express his/her appreciation for the services of the clergy, it is appropriate, at his/her sole discretion, to make a donation to the Rabbi's or Cantor's fund, or some other fund of the congregation in their honor.

Important Meeting for Parents of 1999 B'nai Mitzvah...Please plan to attend the meeting on Sunday, January 25th at 11:15 a.m. for the parents of children who will become B'nai Mitzvah during 1999.

BETH EL SCROLL

Congregation Beth El
of Montgomery County

8215 Old Georgetown Road
Bethesda, MD 20814-1451

Rabbi

Jonathan Z. Maltzman
jmaltz5287@aol.com

Associate Rabbi
William D. Rudolph
rabbiwdr@erols.com

Rabbi Emeritus
Samuel Scolnic

Hazzan
Abraham Lubin
absa@erols.com

Executive Director
Steven J. Kravitz

Education Director
Louis A. Nagel

Family Education Director
Sarah L. Roark

Nursery School Director
Ellen M. Darr

Youth Director
Rachel B. Handloff

President
Norman L. Eule

First Vice President
Benson D. Adams

Second Vice President
Arthur N. Popper

Second Vice President
Gail H. Ross

Treasurer
Susan Brinn Siegel

Financial Secretary
Robert L. Koenig

Secretary
Linda R. Lipson

Phone Number
301-652-2606

FAX Number
301-907-8559

www: <http://uscj.org/seabd/bethesbe/>

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. Periodical 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.

Keruv

Keruv Calendar

Hanukkah: Put Keruv's annual pot-luck Hanukkah party on your calendar! We'll celebrate Sunday, December 28th at 6:00 p.m. at the Levine-Janney home, 5835 Conway Road, Bethesda. Please RSVP to Joan Claxton at (301) 320-9283 or Susan Levine at (301) 530-2919. We always have lots of latkes and dreidels and gelt for the kids. All are welcome.

Shabbat Dinner: Join us for our first dairy pot luck shared Shabbat dinner on Friday, January 9th at 7:00 p.m. at the home of David and Louise Lorr, 11026 Kenilworth Avenue, Garrett Park. Welcome Shabbat at maybe learn new zemirot with newcomers and old-timers in Shabbat observance. Please call the Lorr's at (301) 946-2075 or Joan Claxton for directions.

Tu B'Shevat Seder: Our second annual learners' Tu B'Shevat Seder will be held Sunday, February 8th from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the Claxton home, 7513 Holiday Terrace, Bethesda. This is the perfect way to learn to celebrate the birthday of the trees in your own home. Bring the family! Please call Joan Claxton for details.

Keruv wants your questions and comments! Feel free to ask about almost anything, and we will try to answer you in the Beth El Scroll or privately. Address: "Dear Keruv," in care of the synagogue office.

Keruv ("outreach") addresses the issues of intermarriage at Beth El. We hold drop-in Shabbat discussions, talk to Havurot, and have family-based holiday parties. For more information about Keruv and its activities, call Joan Claxton at (301) 320-9283.

Genealogy Club News

Beth El's Genealogy Club will hold its next monthly meeting on Sunday, January 11th, at 9:30 a.m. in the Board Room. After our usual problem-solving session, congregant Benjamin Ross will share his experiences in tracking down his relatives in the shtetl of Bransk. Bransk is the focus of a recent book, Shtetl, written by Eva Hoffman. We welcome genealogical novices and pros alike to our meetings.

Membership Information

Ruth Rondberg has moved to 3551 Karen Drive, Chesapeake Beach, MD 20732-3858, (301) 812-2560. Gary and Caryn Silverman have moved to 9401 Wing Foot Court, Potomac, MD 20854, (301) 767-0161.

Caregivers Support Group

Are you a caregiver for a family member, friend, child or adult, at home or long distance, who is ill or disabled? You know well the spiritual and emotional satisfaction as well as the constraints. Please do not isolate yourself. Share in network, discussion and problem solving. For more information, call Ann Birk at (301) 365-4447.

Evening Minyan

The following people are asked to help us with our daily Evening Minyan for the next two weeks. Please note that there is also a Minyan at 8:00 p.m. on Sundays. On Sunday through Thursday, the Minyan begins at 8:00 p.m. and concludes at 8:15 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.

December 28 - January 1

Barry and Sandra Harris
Mason and Robin Harris
Stanley and Lois Hartman
Herbert and Lila Harvey
Julius and Irene Hauser
Danielle Hazan
Alan and Dunya Hecht
Mindy Hecker
Bernard and RuthAnn Heckman
Jerome and Cyra Heffter
Anne Heilman
Thomas Helf and Michelle Brafman
James and Debbie Heller

Julia Heller
Alfred and Kiki Hellman
Clifford and Deborah Hendler
Jerry and Linda Herman
Michele Herman
Rose Herman
Stephanie Hesse

January 4 - January 8

Daniel Hirsch and Brenda Gruss
Hans Hirsch
Reba Hirsh
Henry Hoberman and Jodi Brenner
Abram and Andrea Hoffman
Howard Hoffman and Julia Mack
Ira and Meredith Hoffman
Lee Hoffman and Leslie Whipkey
Thomas and Judith Hoffman
Jerome and Caryl Holiber

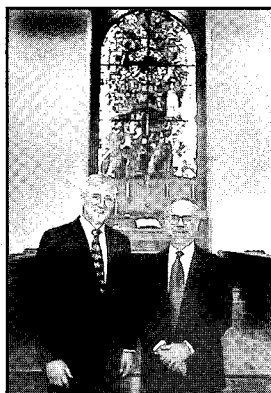
Leah Hollander
Elmira Hopp
Josephine Horn
Paul and Sharon Horn
Sidney and Paula Horowitz
Eric and Alissa Horvitz
David Horwitz
Ely and Barbara Hurwitz
Harold and Selma Hurwitz
Jonathan Isaacs and Elizabeth Krauss

Off the Bimah (Continued from page 1...)

Stones are more than a marker of one's visit; they are the means by which the living help the dead to "stay put." Even souls which are benign in life can, in the folk imagination, take on a certain terror in death. The "barrier" on the grave prevents the kind of haunting that formed such an important part of the Eastern European lore. The stories of I.B. Singer and the plays of the Yiddish theater are rich in the mythology of Eastern European Jewry; souls who returned, for whatever reason, to the world of the living. One explanation of stones on the grave is to ensure that souls remain where they belong.

Yet "tsror" in Hebrew means "a pebble." In ancient times, shepherds needed a system to keep track of their flocks. On some days, they would go out to pasture with a flock of thirty, on other days a flock of ten, and on the third day with fifty. Memory was an unreliable way of keeping tabs on the number in the flock that day. As a result, the shepherd would carry a sling over his shoulder, and in it keep the number of pebbles that corresponded to the number in his flock. That way he could at all times have an accurate daily count. When we place the stones on the graves, and inscribe the motto above on the stone, we are asking God to keep the departed's soul in God's sling. Among all the souls whom God has to watch over, we wish to add the name, the "pebble" of the soul of our departed. There is something suiting the antiquity and solidity of Judaism in the symbol of a stone. In moments when we are reminded of the fragility of life, Judaism reminds us that there is permanence amidst the pain. While other things fade, stones and souls endure.

Rabbi Jonathan Z. Maltzman



Rabbi Jonathan Z. Maltzman and Reverend Wayne DeHart at the Annual Thanksgiving service at Bethesda United Methodist Church on November 25, 1997.

Kol Ha-Kavod to Beth El's Doctors

More than thirty of Beth El's doctors responded affirmatively to our call for help in preparing medications for the Jewish community in Kostroma, Russia. This need is particularly urgent for the elderly.

Our warmest thanks to Doctors Marvin Band, Karyl Barron, Solomon Barr, Arthur Becker, Audrey Corson, Kenneth Eckmann, Norton Elson, Jerome Gabry, Jody Green, Kenneth Grundfast, Murray Hammerman, Bernardo Kotelanski, Robert Kramer, Alan Kravitz, Myron Lenkin, Howard Levine, Warren Levy, Ace Lipson, Mark Milner, Richard Pollen, Gary Roggin, Douglas Rosing, Henry Roth, Mona Sarfaty, Stephen Schechter, Alan Sheff, Irwin Shuman, Stanley Silverberg, Neil Stahl, Elliot Wilner and Howard Weiss. Thanks also to Robert Koenig for obtaining necessary vitamins. Very special thanks to Doctors Newton Jassie, Richard Pollen and Brent Berger who guided, advised and supervised, and to Allen and Rockey Lang and Alfred Rosenthal who packed. To all, and to anyone I might have unwittingly omitted, kol ha-kavod!

Claire Marwick
World Jewry Chair

Book of Dedications

The Book of Dedications, which will record all dedications in the new Sefer Torah according to the weekly Parsha in which the dedicated portion appears, is being planned. Congregants who would like to help create the book are invited to call the Torah line at (301) 652-2606, ext. 347. When completed, the Book of Dedications will be displayed outside the Sanctuary, and its pages will be turned weekly. Until the book is ready, we will publish in the Beth El Scroll the names of congregants whose dedications occur in the weekly portions covered by that particular issue of the newsletter. We encourage congregants to make a special effort to attend the Shabbat morning service when the Parsha of their dedication is read. The names that follow are for the Sabbaths of December 27th, January 3rd and January 10th. Although the lists below have only the names of people who make dedications, the book will also list specific dedications and names of honorees. Sheets with the details of dedications will be distributed every Shabbat morning.

Miketz, December 27th: The Benjamin Family; Ada and Louis Kramer; and John and Marion Wolff.

Vayigash, January 3rd: Mitchell and Cindy Caplan; Patricia and Jerome Danoff and Family; Karl Freiberg; Judith Cantor Goldman; Yael Greenberg; Michelle and Don Hainbach; Deborah Golub Liebowitz; Estie and Ed Lipsit; Jeffrey Moak and Karyl Barron; and Stephanie and Jack Ventura.

Vayechi, January 10th: Rabbi Kassel and Joan Abelson; Gary Friend and Tara Sonenshine; Paula and Sidney Horowitz; Dan Margulies; Carol and David Metzger; Carla and Jonathan Schraub; Eve and Howard Shapiro; and Donna Vogel and David Margulies.

Learners' Service

Our highly successful Learners' Service continues on the third Shabbat of each subsequent month, in the All Purpose Room from 10:00 a.m. to noon. We then join the congregation for kiddush. The service, conducted by Rabbi Rudolph, is designed for the novice worshipper. It moves slowly. It is very hands-on in orientation, from how to put on the talit, to knowing when to bow, to practicing how to have an aliyah. There is also a focus each time on a different major portion of the service. Questions and discussions are very much encouraged. No registration or advance sign-up required. Contact Rabbi Rudolph, (301) 652-2606, ext. 318, for more information.

Send Us Your Photos and Memorabilia

As many of you have no doubt heard, we will be celebrating Rabbi Maltzman's tenth anniversary at Beth El next March. A special tribute event is being planned for Saturday, March 28, 1998. That evening we will present Rabbi Maltzman with a dedication book full of photographs from his decade of service to Beth El. If you have any old candid or official photographs of Jonathan, Julie, Rebecca or Zachary Maltzman (Bar or Bat Mitzvah shots, retreat pictures, trips to Israel, etc.), please contact Judith Platt, and she will arrange to get your material. Your photographs will be returned to you after the book is assembled, and if we use the material, you will be given full photo credit. Contact Judith at (301) 951-8667; (202) 232-3335, ext.229; or by e-mail, JPLATT@publishers.org

Shabbat Shalom at Home

Friday, March 6th will be a Shabbat like no other. Plans are underway to rally all congregants to observe Shabbat evening in their homes on this particular evening. If you always have a Shabbat dinner, add new rituals. If you don't typically have a special Shabbat evening observance, we'll give you all the information and support you need to celebrate. If you want to be invited to a Shabbat dinner, we'll arrange it. If you want to have guests, we'll send them. Our goal is to have as many congregants participate as possible to see how special a time in the week Shabbat can be. Details will follow by mail and in the Beth El Scroll. For more information, call Sarah Roark, (301) 652-2606, ext. 320. "More than the Jews have kept Shabbat, Shabbat has kept the Jews."

Time for Torah II

Watch your mailbox during the next six to eight weeks for your personal invitation to a Time for Torah Home Gathering. We want to continue to capture the wonderful feelings of the Torah Writing Project's home Torah study sessions as we make them a permanent part of our educational efforts. Members will be hosting twenty-five home gatherings this winter and early spring. Any questions? Call Laurie Friedman, (301) 320-3960, or Mona Gabry, (301) 231-6915.

All in the Family

Mazal Tov to Susan and Darryl Grant on the birth of their son, Jacob Reuben Grant, on November 3, 1997.

Mazal Tov to Julie and David Murray on the birth of their son, Eric Sol Murray, on November 28, 1997.

Mazal Tov to Nancy Graber on her marriage to Alan Spivack on December 28, 1997.

Teacher Recognition Shabbat Dinner

Make your reservations now for the Teacher Recognition Shabbat Dinner on Friday, January 9, 1998, following Shabbat services.

Reservations are needed by Friday, January 2, 1998. There will be no refunds. Please fill out the form below and send in your check to the office marked, "Attention: Teacher Recognition Shabbat Dinner".

RESERVATION FORM		
Teacher Recognition Shabbat Dinner		
Friday, January 9, 1998		
Adult Members _____	@\$13.50 each	Total \$ _____
Non-Member _____	@\$16.00 each	Total \$ _____
Children(6-12) _____	@\$9.00 each	Total \$ _____
Children (under 6) _____	@4.00 each	Total \$ _____
Name _____		
Phone No. _____		
I would like to sit with _____		
Reservations will not be accepted after Friday, Jan. 2, 1998		
NO PHONE RESERVATIONS OR REFUNDS		
(All rates include a 3% Mazon donation)		

Men's Club News

Interested in joining the Men's Club? The Men's Club offers an opportunity for fellowship, education and fulfillment through participation in our breakfast programs, fund-raising and other sponsored activities. Please contact David Schultz, (301) 530-1620.

The Men's Club is pleased to announce that this year's honoree for the Blue Yarmulke award is David Schultz. The award dinner will be held on January 18, 1998 at Chizuk Amuno Congregation in Baltimore. To purchase tickets or for further information, contact David Levine, (301) 299-9507. Reservation forms are available in the lucite holder outside the synagogue office. The Men's Club will be sponsoring a bus to and from Baltimore for the evening. Please notify David Levine if you would like a seat (s) on the bus. There is no charge for the bus, although donations will be gratefully accepted.

Reserve Sunday, February 1st at 6:00 p.m. for the Annual Magic Show and Dinner. See future announcements and the Beth El Scroll for more information and reservation forms.

BETH EL MEN'S CLUB CORDIALLY INVITES
THE CONGREGATION AND COMMUNITY TO

"PERSPECTIVES IN DIALOGUE - 1998"

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4TH
PROFESSOR KEN HOLUM
DEPARTMENT OF ANTIQUITIES
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
"RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS IN CAESAREA"

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11TH
DR. WILLIAM KIRWIN
PRESIDENT
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
"CURRENT ISSUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION"

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18TH
RABBI LEONARD CAHAN
CONGREGATION HAR SHALOM
"RECENT CHANGES TO THE SIM SHALOM SIDDUR"

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25TH
TO BE ANNOUNCED

MORNING SERVICE - 9:00 COFFEE AND DANISH - 9:30

PRESENTATION - 10:00 TO 11:00 A.M.

PRESENTATION BY SPEAKER TO BE FOLLOWED
BY DIALOGUE WITH CONGREGATION

Religious School News

Mitzvah Day

Kol HaKavod to Abbie Eckland, Debbie Ross and the Social Action Committee for their exceptional organization of Mitzvah Day. Speaking for the Religious School community, we would like to thank them for including us in their plans from the very beginning. Every student in the school had the opportunity to be a part of Mitzvah Day. All Sunday morning teachers made participation a part of their program. Here are some highlights of the Religious School's participation in Mitzvah Day:

4th grade: Mrs. Merlin's and Mr. Stooegenke's classes practiced the mitzvah of kibud zekaynim, honoring the elderly, by performing for the residents at Ring House and nearby Springhouse.

5th grade: Under the leadership of our Family Education Director, Sarah Roark, the 5th grade Mitzvah Day activity was a family event. Sorting 6,000 pounds of food at the Capital Area Food Bank, Ms. Roark's and Mr. Holtzman's students fed the hungry, the mitzvah of ma'akil r'evim.

7th grade: Chen Leibstein and Amy Redlich led their students on the Beth El 3K Walk-a-thon for Bethesda Cares. For their efforts, the students raised \$300. The Fannie Mae corporation will then match the first \$100 and contribute \$500 for our school's participation. In total, the class raised \$900 for Bethesda Cares.

Consecration

On the evening of November 21st, the Religious School celebrated the beginning of the Jewish education of 42 students. The Shabbat service, Consecration and B'nai Torah ceremony were followed by the Kindergarten - First Grade Family Shabbat Dinner. Mazal Tov to the families of the Consecrants and B'nai Torah (students who began their Religious School studies after kindergarten). We hope to see them continue to be a part of the Religious School through Confirmation and beyond.

I would like to thank the teachers Juliann Goldman, Sharon Strauss, Donna Nichols and Ellen Swoff and our music teacher Sally Heckelman for preparing the children for their participation in this event.

The Consecrants were Drew Ansbacher, Daniel Berman, Nathan Bernstein, Saul Clayman-Miller, Benjamin Clement, Simon Engler, Alexander Grable, Ezra Gray, Alexandra Griff, Corey Hanley, Ellen Hoffman, Anna Isaacs, Jacob Kaufman, Lisa Kaufman, Gabriella Laskow, Joelle Levinas, Daniel Levy, Reid Litowitz, Adam Moskowitz, Lauren Murray, Ross Olchik, Dana Reback, Jenna Ross, Aaron Schifrin, Scott Schuler, Jennifer Sherman, Alison Silverstein, Jennifer Spencer, Michael Stahl and Julia Strauss.

The B'nai Torah were Daniel Cohen, Mira Cohen, Rachael Field, Nathaniel Green, Shira Heckelman, Gabriella Kahn, David Kivitz, Hannah Kurlansky, Joseph Mitz, Ross Nachbi, Talia Nachbi, Brandon Nichols, Megan Nichols and Zachary Shapiro.

Kostroma Update

The following was received by e-mail from Andrey Oshero, Director of the Kostroma Jewish Community Center:

"Shalom Haverim! I am writing this letter in new 5758. Great Holidays were very naym (Hebrew for "pleasant") and beautiful and satisfactory because there was a Torah and we read it. Our people came to minyan three or four times on Rosh Hashanah and it was minyan at all the prayers of Yom Kippur. Thank you."

Time to kvell, Beth El! You helped make it happen.

You will also want to know that the first two parcels of medicine hand-carried to Moscow were delivered to a synagogue member!

Sisterhood News

Dear Sisterhood

Sisterhood has been very busy this year, with an average of three programs a month. We hope you have found something that appeals to you. As the calendar year comes to a close, I would like to depart from my usual format to enumerate the many services and the support we provided this year to the entire membership of Beth El.

The main service we provide is catering the weekly Shabbat Kiddushim. To do so, we have a group of Sisterhood members who weekly volunteer hours of their time, meeting with host families, planning, ordering, arranging menu items on platters and serving. Through all of this we raise funds for Sisterhood. We raise a significant amount of money from our Sisterhood Stationery, run so competently by Marilyn Hammerman. Thanks to a dedicated staff, our Judaica Shop is also making an impressive contribution considering its limited hours of operation. Also, thanks to Cheryl Rod, we make a profit from Jewish Week subscriptions placed through Sisterhood.

What do we do with our profits? Like any good business people, we put it right back into business. Our "business" is Beth El. For those of you who may not be aware of the many ways Sisterhood supports Beth El, the following is a list of contributions we have made to Beth El and the community at large in 1997: \$3,000 - College Outreach; \$250 - Family Fun Day; provided refreshments for Mitzvah Day Ice Cream Social; baked and served 2,000 pastries at the Sefer Torah Siyyum; \$5,000 - dedication to the Torah Project; \$1,625 - purchase of a new refrigerator for the kitchen; repairs to an existing refrigerator; \$15,000 - contribution to Beth El's General Fund; \$200 - purchase Judaica items for Kostroma; \$1,500 - new kitchen equipment; \$4,100 - Jewish Theological Seminary (through Torah Fund); \$300 - Beth El Boy Scout Troop 1800; \$3,300 - non-sponsored Shabbat Kiddushim; \$170 - lucite display rack for the Gallery; sponsored the canteen at the Blood Drive. Additionally, Sisterhood pays for all coffee, wine and linens used at Beth El, regardless who is sponsoring the event. Sisterhood also gives a gift to every Bat Mitzvah child.

We are proud of the many contributions we made to the congregation in 1997. We stand ready to again serve you throughout the coming year.

Joan Simon

Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 6th	Rosh Hodesh Meeting	7:45 p.m.
January 11th	Sisterhood Board Meeting	9:30 a.m.
January 13th, 20th and 27th	Tallit Workshop	7:45 p.m.

Beth El Needs You!

The Nominating Committee will be convening soon and is looking for a few good people to lead our congregation into the 21st century. If you are interested in a position as an officer, trustee or committee chairperson, please advise the Nominating Committee in writing through the synagogue office prior to January 15, 1998.

Social Action News

Volunteer opportunities are available in our community on an ongoing basis. A flyer, located in the lucite holder outside the synagogue office, lists organizations to which Beth El belongs. Pick one up to see how you can become involved!

Congregation Beth El Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Contributions (as of November 24, 1997)

Bendit Adult Institute Fund

In Memory Of: Herman Abromowitz, father of Ellen Bezner, by Howard and Holly Stein; Beulah Elkinson and Bessie Griff by Audrey Elkinson Griff and Marvin Griff; Samuel Drucker by Hellaine and Irwin Nepo.

Beth El Forest

In Honor Of: Special Anniversary of the Lieders by Howard and Julia Copperman. In Memory Of: Jaime Kahan, father of Rosa Kotelanski, by Simcha Chavurah; Herman Abromowitz, father of Ellen Bezner, by Simcha Chavurah; Bernard Diamond, brother of Ethel Doberman, by Mr. and Mrs. Milton Doberman; Jaime Kahan, father of Rosa Kotelanski, by Paula and Herman Kleine; Minnie Boston by Sandra Pressman; Bernard Blum by Howard J. Hoffman; Frances Tribe by Beatrice Newell; Carol Brody's father by The Polis Family.

Cantor's Fund

Vivien Redman. In Honor Of: Cantor Lubin by Jeremy and Sharon Zissman. In Memory Of: Ethel Gluckstein by Mr. and Mrs. Jay Miller.

Chevre Kadisha Fund

Blanche and Ruben Lozner. In Memory Of: Harry Neiterman by Mrs. Charlotte H. Resnick; My most beloved sister, Audrey Goldberg, by Mr. and Mrs. Mark Shalom.

College Fund

In Honor Of: Gratitude to Rabbi Rudolph by Sharon and Andrew Tievsky. In Memory Of: Ellen Sweetwood by Sharon and Andrew Tievsky; Harlee Senzer Popick by Barbara P. Rosing.

In Honor Of: Two new grandchildren by Roy Millenson.

Disabled Access Fund

In Memory Of: Jason Horn by Irwin and Hellaine Nepo and Ruth J. Wald; Ingrid Leeds by Mrs. Josephine Horn.

Feld Memorial Lecture Endowment Fund

In Memory Of: Ruth Leventhal by Flora Feld; Harold Suskin by Flora P. Feld.

Fine Arts Fund

In Memory Of: Samuel Walters by Selma Hurwitz.

General Fund

Marshal C. Spatz; Mr. and Mrs. Elman. In Honor Of: Rosh Hashanah Aliyah by Dr. and Mrs. Louis Potash; Bernie Moss winning J. Allyn Taylor International Prize in Medicine by Marilyn and Gary Wind. In Memory Of: Beloved father of Carol Brody by Kim and Lyle Lieberman.

Israel Experience Teen Fund

In Honor Of: Marilyn Wind's election as Vice President of United Synagogue and Chairman of the Regional Council of Presidents by Toby and Bernie Moss.

Kimball Nursery School Fund

In Honor Of: Andrew and Meredith Lee's marriage by Beth El Nursery School Staff. In Memory Of: David and Ellen Darr's brother/brother-in-law by Sara Greenbaum and Darryl Sherman.

Masorti

In Memory Of: Mary Belferman by Jack and Stephanie Ventura; Frieda Dora Kay and Ida Rubinow by Mr. and Mrs. Joseph George Kay; Dr. Samuel Leibowitz, beloved husband, by Frances H. Leibowitz.

Mazon

Gregory Smolen. In Honor Of: Bat Mitzvah of Elizabeth Goldman by Max and Sheri Zweig; Elana Lowell's Bat Mitzvah by The Simon Family; Sarah Paloma Bolasny's Bat Mitzvah by Sheldon and Paola Bolasny; Bat Mitzvah of Emily Danoff by Joel and Joan Simon; Benjamin Margulies' Bar Mitzvah by Donna Vogel; The retirement of Hugh Sichel, M.D. from the Montgomery County Government by David Grodsky, M.D. In Memory Of: Maurice W. Cohn by Jerome and Cyra Heffter; Lillian Yale Kalik by Dorothea and Arnold Lear; Jack Begun by Stephanie J. Schissler; Aurora Pollak's grandfather, Abraham Arnold, by Beth El Religious School Teachers; Ruth Becker Holiber by Jerome and Caryl Holiber; Arielle and Adam Pankowski's grandmother, Sara Pankowski, by Cheryl Kreiser; Else Warms by Liesel and Jerry Deitch; Henry Rabin by Dr. E. M. and Harriet Rabin; Sylvia Deitch by Liesel and Jerry Deitch; Betty and Benjamin Deitch by Liesel and Jerry Deitch; Ernest Stern by Liesel and Jerry Deitch; Helene and Leo Stern by Liesel and Jerry Deitch; Bronya Sheykman by Vladimir and Jolie Lechtman.

Morning Minyan Fund

In Honor Of: Benjamin Margulies' Bar Mitzvah by Michele D. Herman; Ronnie Treinish's retirement by Treinish Family; My Aliyah by Etta Kline; In Memory Of: Sidney Coplan by Robert and Diane Coplan; Harry Minker by Jack Minker; Claire S. Rosoff by Robert and Janice Samet; Rosa Kotelanski's father by Michele D. Herman; Ruth Kopit Sheeskin by Julian Levin; Rose and Irvin Levinson by Herbert and Anita Levinson.

Music Fund

In Memory Of: Sam Kossman, beloved brother of Mary Dubrow, by Dorothy Alberstadt; Frances Tribe by Jack and Stephanie Ventura.

Perspectives Fund

In Honor Of: Special Birthday of Dan Kweller by Evelyn and Ronnie Treinish. In Memory Of: Isak Gruenberg, Helen Gruenberg, and Regina Gruenberg by Edith G. Weisz.

Prayerbook Fund

In Honor Of: My granddaughter Rebecca Kate Williams by Renee Kluger Subrin; A speedy recovery by Sue and John Rosenthal; My grandson, Nicholas William Yeager, by Renee Kluger Subrin. In Memory Of: Herman Altschul by Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Feigenbaum; Myer A. Siegel by Selma C. Siegel; My parents, Katye and Louis Kluger, by Renee Kluger Subrin; My Aunt, Pearl Rosenfeld, by Renee Kluger Subrin; Irving Troffkin by Howard and Rhea Troffkin; Jack Begun by Peter and Stephanie J. Schissler; Frieda Schissler by Peter and Stephanie J. Schissler; Marianne Schissler by Peter and Stephanie J. Schissler; Joseph Golickman by Harvey J. Gordon; Dr. Jerry Drexler, brother of. Renee Hock, by Mr. and Mrs. Sapoznikow; Liba Goldberg by Frank and Harriet Weinstein; Benjamin Periman by Elaine and George Perlman.

Rabbi's Fund

Natalie Golos. In Honor Of: The naming of granddaughter Jolie by Dolly and Marvin Band; The birth of Rachel by Cary and

and Nancy Feldman; Rabbi Rudolph by Harvey and Libby Gordon; Ethel Miller's speedy recovery by Dolly and Marvin Band; Rabbi Maltzman by Jeremy and Sharon Zissman; Rabbi William D. Rudolph by Donna Vogel and David Margulies; Rabbi William D. Rudolph by Fred and Rita Kahn. In Memory Of: David Schechter by Edmund Schechter; Irving Bogler, beloved husband, by Margaret Bogler; Lipman Redman by Neil Levy and Linda Perle; Jaime Kahan by Mr. and Mrs. Joel Silver; Harriet Schwartz by Zane Family; Fay Londner by Annabel and Irving Chasen; Rose Kogan by Ethel and Jack Werner; David Tievsky by George Tievsky, M.D.; Robert "Bob" Fishman by Julian Levin.

School Enrichment Fund

In Honor Of: Solomon Schechter Award to Family Education Program and Sarah Roark by Carl M. Leventhal.

Sisterhood Remembrance Fund

In Honor Of: Daniel and Ellen Elow-Mintz' gracious hospitality by Gertrude Matloff.

Social Action Fund

In Memory Of: Ruth D. Vogel by Donna Vogel.

Suls Youth Activities Fund

In Honor Of: Bar Mitzvah of Michael Siegel by Marilyn and Gary Wind; Bar Mitzvah of Matthew Goldhill by Marilyn and Gary Wind; Bar Mitzvah of Daniel Simon by Marilyn and Gary Wind; Our sons, Brandon and Cary, by Alan and Andrea Golden.

Torah Scroll Fund

In Honor Of: Fulfilling Mitvot regarding Tzitzit by Joan Simon.

Vatikkim

In Honor Of: Beryl Frank by John and Marion Wolff. In Memory Of: Joshua Bernhardt by Max and Judy Bernhardt.

Wolf "Israel Quest" Fund

In Memory Of: Nat DeGutz by Shoham Family; Harry Olsher by Seymour D. Wolf.

World Jewry

Benjamin Ross; Arlene and Edwin Shykind. In Memory Of: Beloved father, Samuel Sklaroff, by Claire S. Marwick.

Update on Our Newest Committee

Beth El has become a large synagogue, making integration of our members a bigger challenge than it was in earlier years. The Inreach Committee, which began its work last winter, is charged with developing solutions to this challenge. Under the leadership of Arthur Popper, the Committee has already implemented three programs: a Greeter system at Shabbat services, a Welcoming Committee that delivers welcome packages to the homes of new members, and a Mentor Program that pairs a seasoned shul family/member with a new family/member which is similar in "demographic profile."

Now on the drawing boards are plans for our Rabbis/Hazzan to open their homes as hosts for coffees for new members, a phone plan that will provide regular contact between synagogue leadership and each member unit, and a more systematic approach to follow-up for members who have sustained a loss or have chronic health or family issues.

The Task Force on Senior Members, under the leadership of Brent Berger, has now joined its efforts with those of the Inreach Committee. The Task Force has just completed a sampling of synagogue households with at least one member over age 65. A working group is now developing plans to deal with the main issues identified in the sampling: transportation, social services and programming to augment the efforts of the Vatikkim.

Gan Shabbat

Gan Shabbat, a service designed for 7 - 10 year old children, meets the third Saturday of each month starting in September in the Meeting Room at 10:00 a.m. We are looking for new members for this simplified service led by Les Ziskind. Bible stories and snacks are also a part of each service. Come join us!

From the Desk of the Youth Director....

I hope everyone is enjoying their winter break. The Youth Department encourages you to make participation in Beth El Youth Programs part of your New Year Resolutions. If you have never joined us before, make it a point to try us out. If you have participated and enjoyed yourselves, share the experience with others. We look forward to seeing you. Watch the Beth El Scroll and your mail for upcoming activities. Listed below is some Special Save the Date Information.

Host Families Needed! On the weekend of February 6th, 7th, and 8th, Beth El USY will be host to USYers from all over Seaboard region for this year's Winter Interchapter. Fifty to sixty USYers will spend Shabbat here at Beth El. We will need to provide home hospitality to these students. Each USYer needs a place to sleep and transportation to and from Beth El over the course of the weekend. All meals, except breakfast Saturday morning, will be provided by the synagogue. Fulfill the Mitzvah of Hachnasat Orchim (welcoming guests) and invite some USYers into your home. For more information, please call Rachel Handloff in the synagogue office at (301) 652-2606, ext. 308.

Whitetail Ski Trip for 6th -12th Graders planned for Sunday, February 15, 1998. Join us this year for our annual trip to Whitetail Ski Resort. Watch your mail and future issues of the Beth El Scroll for more information.

The College Corner

Having trouble picking the right school for you? Wouldn't it be nice to know someone who goes to the school you are interested in? We can solve your dilemma.

The College Outreach Committee has compiled a directory of Undergraduate Students. The directory lists Beth El members, the universities they attend, their year of graduation, address, telephone number, and e-mail address. The directory is available to Beth El members. If you are interested, please call Rachel Handloff in the synagogue office, (301) 652-2606, ext. 308.



THE FIRST TEN YEARS

LET'S CELEBRATE OUR SUPERLATIVE RABBI
WITH LAVISH PRAISE, LAVISH FOOD AND
LAVISH FUN

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER IS BEING PLANNED FOR
SATURDAY
MARCH 28, 1997
AT BETH EL
TO COMMEMORATE RABBI JONATHAN MALTZMAN'S
TENTH ANNIVERSARY AT BETH EL

EAT, DRINK, DANCE AND BE MERRY
BUT MOSTLY,

BE THERE!
\$50.00 PER PERSON

WATCH FOR YOUR INVITATION IN THE MAIL



Baruch Dayan Emet

Congregation Beth El offers its sincere condolences to Harry Lipkind on the death of his mother, Rose Lipkind; and to Burton Epstein on the death of his mother, Rosalind Epstein.

December 26, 1997 - January 8, 1998

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

26	27
Hanukkah - 3rd Day	Hanukkah - 4th Day
Candles 4:32pm Candles 6:30pm Friday Evening Service 7:00pm Lowell Shabbat Dinner - APR	7:30am & 9:15 a.m. Shabbat Services 9:15am Elana Kleiner Lowell B/M 10:00am Jr. Congregation 12:00pm Lowell Luncheon - SH, APR 7:30pm Lowell B/M Party - SH

28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Hanukkah - 5th Day	Hanukkah - 6th Day	Hanukkah - 7th Day	Hanukkah - 8th Day	Offices and Schools Closed		
9:00am Minyan - Chapel 9:00am-1:00pm Blood Drive - SH 9:30am Men's Club - SH 9:30am Men's Club - BR 1:30-5:00pm Youth Dept. Activities - APR	9:00am Caplan B/M Rehearsal - Sanctuary 7:00pm Cub Scouts - APR	6:30pm Aerobics - SH		9:00am Morning Minyan	Schools Resume 4:38pm Candles 6:30pm Friday Evening Service	7:30am & 9:15 a.m. Shabbat Services 9:15am UJA Shabbat 10:00am Worship and Study Minyan - APR 10:00am Jr. Congregation
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Religious School Closed						
9:00am Minyan - Chapel 9:30am Adult B/M Class - BR 9:30am Men's Club - SH 10:00am Perspectives in Dialogue - Sanctuary	Schools Resume 7:00pm Cub Scouts - APR	6:00pm Take 30 - BR 6:30pm Aerobics - SH 6:30pm Conversion Class - MR 7:00pm Take 30 - APR 7:45pm Rosh Hodesh Study Group - SH	6:45pm Hebrew Class - Room 201 7:00pm Boy Scouts - MR	Fast of 10th of Tevet 12:00pm Vatikim - SH 4:00pm Caplan Picture-Taking - Sanctuary 6:25-7:15pm Rel. Sch. Staff Mtg. - BR 6:30pm Aerobics - SH 7:00pm AMI Mtg. - APR 8:15pm Rel. Sch. Comm. Mtg. - BR	4:44pm Candles 6:30pm Friday Evening Service 7:00pm Teacher Recognition Shabbat Dinner - SH	7:30am & 9:15 a.m. Shabbat Services 9:15am Elyssa Caplan B/M 10:00am Jr. Congregation 10:30am Nitzanim - APR

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

Periodicals
 Postage
 Paid at
 Bethesda, MD 20814