



CONGREGATION  
BETH EL OF  
MONTGOMERY  
COUNTY

## Parking Issues

As you know, we have been working with the Montgomery County Police Department to address the parking problems in the neighborhood streets around our building. The following is the police department's response to us. We hope everyone will take the extra time to park with care. For those of you with upcoming simchas, we have available written materials concerning the availability of on-street parking in the neighboring streets which you may want to provide to your guests. These materials will be available through the synagogue office at (301) 652-2606, ext. 316.

(See page 4 for further details...)

## 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.

## 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.

## Shabbat Schedule

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

Friday, January 16th, at 6:30 p.m.

Shemot: Exodus: 1:1 - 6:1  
Saturday, January 17th, 7:30 and  
9:15 a.m.

Abraham Clayman-Miller Bar  
Mitzvah at 9:15 a.m.  
Gan Shabbat at 10:00 a.m. in the MR  
Learners' Minyan at 10:00 a.m. in  
the APR  
USY Shabbat at 12:00 p.m. in the BR

Friday, January 23rd at 6:30 p.m.  
4th and 5th Grades' Siyum HaSefer

Vaera: Exodus: 6:2 - 9:35  
Saturday, January 24th, at 7:30 and  
9:15 a.m.

Paulina and Liza Nusinovich B'nai  
Mitzvah at 9:15 a.m.  
Jr. Congregation at 10:00 a.m.  
Nitzanim at 10:30 a.m. in the APR

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

Bo: Exodus: 10:1 - 13:16  
Saturday, January 31st, at 7:30 a.m.  
Saturday, January 31st, at 9:15 a.m.  
Simon Cohen Bar Mitzvah  
Emily Goldberg Bat Mitzvah  
Jr. Congregation at 10:00 a.m.  
Nitzanim at 10:30 a.m. in the APR

## 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.

**BETH EL SCROLL**  
 Congregation Beth El  
 of Montgomery County

8215 Old Georgetown Road  
 Bethesda, MD 20814-1451

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AFFILIATED WITH  
 UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF  
 CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

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## 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 January 10th, January 17th, January 24th and January 31st. 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.

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.

Shemot, January 17th: Benson D. Adams; Bernard and Beatrice Berger; Barbara and David Eisenstein; Frances G. Eisenstein and Charles M. Lehrhaupt; Eve and David Farber; Gary Friend and Tara Sonenshine; Nancy Graber; Al and Kiki Hellman; Ted and Anita Lieb; Linda and Ace Lipson; Zachary Evan Lipson; Hazzan Abraham and Sandy Lubin; Jeffrey Moak and Karyl Barron; Joseph and Dorene Rosenthal; Robert and Fran Rubin; Joel and Leslie Silver; Howard and Holly Stein; Dora D. Weinstein; and Trudy and Simon Weker.

Vaera, January 24th: Steven and Barbara Mandel; Aaron L. Marshal; Benjamin H. Marshal; and Claire Marwick.

Bo, January 31st: Bernice and Werner Blumenthal; Benjamin Bregman; Harvey and Dale Gold; Andrea and Alan B. Golden; Warren and Judith Greenberg; and Donna Vogel and David H. Margulies.

Dedications in the new Sefer Torah are welcome at any time. For information, call the Torah Project at (301) 652-2606, ext. 347.

## All in the Family

Mazal Tov to Matthew Slater and Faith Roessel on the birth of their son, Samuel Mark Slater, on December 11, 1997.

Mazal Tov to Ethan Kanter and Sue Danziger Kanter on the birth of their son, Charles Danziger Kanter, on December 16, 1997.

Congregation Beth El wishes a speedy recovery to Howard Copperman and Milton Doberman.

## 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.

## Keruv

### Keruv Calendar

**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.

## 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 send them to Congregation Beth El, 8215 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD 20814, attn.: Judy Platt. 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.

### Transportation to Rabbi Maltzman's Gala

If you are in need of transportation to Rabbi Maltzman's gala on Saturday, March 28th or you can provide transportation for other congregants, please call Cheryl Rod at (301) 299-8362.

## 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. If you would like to be invited to a congregant's home for Shabbat dinner, or if you would like to invite congregants to your home, please call Rachel Handloff, (301) 652-2606, ext. 308. "More than the Jews have kept Shabbat, Shabbat has kept the Jews."

## Evening Minyan

The following people are asked to help us with our daily Evening Minyan for the next three 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.

### January 11 - January 15

Robert and Sheryl Isaacs  
Bernard and Rita Jacobi  
David and Ilene  
Jacobowitz  
Gary Jacobs and Harriet  
Kerwin  
Milton and Colette Jacobs  
Jason and Michele  
Jacobson  
Mark and Joanne  
Jacobson  
Steven and Nancy  
Jacobson  
Andres Jaime and Hedy  
Howard

Zelda Janus  
Newton and Lois Jassie  
Jeffrey Jay and Molly  
Peter  
Mervyn and Marcia  
Jeffries  
Robert and Karen Judson  
Stanley and Gail  
Jutkowitz  
Fred and Rita Kahn  
Henry Kahn and  
Laura Primakoff  
Walter and Barbara Kahn  
Gail Kailo

### January 18 - January 22

Robert and Marcia Kalman  
Sarah Kalsner  
Robert and Carole  
Kaminsky  
William and Andrea  
Kampine  
David and Donna Kanin  
Helen Kanovsky  
Rose Kanovsky  
Ethan and Sue Kanter  
Steve and Aileen Kantor  
Daniel Kaplan and Kay  
Richman

Donald Kaplan and Evelyn  
Karson  
Leon and Laura Karadbil  
Sylvan and Yocheved  
Karlin  
Joseph and Susan Kattan  
Nadav and Lynn Katz  
Victor and Phyllis Katz  
Marshall and Helene  
Katzin  
Jay and Bernice Kaufman

### January 25 - January 29

Steven and Wendy  
Kaufman  
Steven Kaufman and  
Lori Shapiro  
Joseph and Ruth Kay  
Michael and Nancy Kay  
Sanford and Esther Kay  
Frederic and Maria Kaye  
Daniel Kazzaz and  
Audrey Corson  
Jerrold Keilson and  
Ellen Silver  
Kenneth and Nina Kellner  
Edward and Miriam Kely

Kenneth and Carol  
Kempner  
Lillian Kessler  
Sherman Kimball  
Bert and Susan King  
Laurence and Celia Kirsch  
Murray and Iris Kivitz  
Eleanor Klau  
David and Laura Klaus  
Irving and Katie Klein  
Michael and Francine  
Klein

## Cassette Tapes of "An Evening to Remember" Now Available

Last March, Hazzan Lubin hosted a magnificent concert at Beth El entitled "An Evening to Remember: Torah Through Music." It was a night rich with songs from the Shtetl to Broadway, featuring leading cantors from Baltimore and Toronto.

Cassette tapes of "An Evening to Remember" can now be purchased through the synagogue for those of you who missed the evening, or want to remember it on tape.

The cassette tapes will be on sale in the Sisterhood's Judaica Shop, or contact Hazzan Lubin's secretary, Selma Kriss, at (301) 652-2606, ext. 302.

The cost of each tape is \$12.00.

## 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.

## Baruch Dayan Emet

Congregation Beth El offers its sincere condolences to Tutti Sokol on the death of her mother, Rivkah Scharfman.



DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

Douglas M. Duncan  
County Executive

Carol A. Mehrling  
Chief of Police

December 9, 1997

Congregation Beth El  
8215 Old Georgetown Road  
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dear Congregation Members and Guests:

The Montgomery County Department of Police, Bethesda District, representatives of Congregation Beth El, and community members are all working hard to address the problem of illegal parking in the surrounding residential community. The goal of the Bethesda Police District is voluntary compliance. However, appropriate enforcement of the enclosed, described parking violations may occur if compliance is not observed. This violation list is being provided to you so that you will have an awareness of all primary and secondary offenses which are subject to enforcement.

The primary offenses are subject to strict enforcement. Secondary offenses will be enforced based upon the totality of the circumstances.

Members of the Bethesda Police District are committed to working with all parties in providing constructive solutions to the issue of illegal parking. Initial observations indicate that voluntary compliance is occurring.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Captain Edward A. Clarke  
Bethesda District Commander  
Montgomery County Police

EAC/mob

Enclosure

### Parking Lot Incident

On Sunday, December 14th, an unfortunate incident occurred on our parking lot between 8:40 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. One of our teachers' cars, a dark green Toyota Avalon, that was parked to the right of the handicapped spot was hit. The damage to the car is on its left side, the driver's side, above the tire's wheel well and on the quarter panel. It is impossible that whoever hit the car may not have seen the resulting damage. If you were responsible or saw this incident, please contact Religious School Director, Louis Nagel, at (301) 652-2606, ext.310.

### 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.

Below is a list of applicable parking violations and the accompanying fines:

<u>Violation Description</u>	<u>Fine</u>	<u>Violation Description</u>	<u>Fine</u>
Parked in violation of official sign	\$30	Parking opposite traffic on a two-way street (Driver's side wheels to left curb)	\$25
Parked within 35' of an intersection (in absence of official sign)	\$30	*Parking within 2' of another vehicle	\$25
*Parked over posted time limit	\$30	Parked in posted no parking zone	\$30
*Obstructing driveway within 5'	\$30	Parked and blocking another vehicle	\$30
Parking within 15' of fire hydrant	\$35	Violation of posted residential permit parking zone	\$30
Parking within 30' of stop sign	\$25		

\* Denotes secondary violations

## From the Desk of the Youth Director....

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.

## ESTELLE KIMBALL MEMORIAL LECTURE

featuring

**ANN S. LITT and  
LAURA K. RATNER**

Please join us to hear these speakers and participate in this informative workshop on

**"A POUND OF PREVENTION:  
HELPING CHILDREN DEVELOP  
A HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP  
TO FOOD AND THEIR BODIES"**

Congregation Beth El

Thursday, January 22, 1998\*  
at 7:30 p.m.

\*Snow date: February 19, 1998.  
For more information and reservations,  
call (301) 652-2606, ext. 311.

## The Youth Group Calendar

**Bonim** Advisor: Heather Handloff  
(Kindergarten - 2nd Graders)  
Bonim Hotline: (301) 652-2606, ext. 342  
Sunday, January 25th Marvatots Gymnastics  
Meet Heather and the Bonim Youth Group at Marvatots in Rockville for an afternoon of tumbling fun. The program will begin at 3:30 p.m. and end at 5:00 p.m. The cost is \$5 for Bonim members and \$10 for non-members. Reservations are required. Call the Bonim Hotline for more information. Please note, drop off and pick up is at Marvatots in Rockville.

**Machar** Advisor: Shana Flatt  
(3rd - 5th Graders)  
Machar Hotline: (301) 652-2606, ext. 341  
Sunday, January 25th Trip to the Newseum  
See yourself in the News. Join Shana and Beth El Machar and Kadima for a trip to the new Newseum in Arlington. Meet at Beth El at 1:30 p.m. The bus will return at 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members. Reservations are required. Call the Machar Hotline for more information.

**Kadima** Advisor: Adam Gluck  
(6th - 8th Graders)  
Kadima Hotline: (301) 652-2606, ext. 340  
Saturday, January 17th Wizards Game  
Join Adam and Beth El Kadima to see the Washington Wizards play the L.A. Clippers at the MCI Center. This trip will be with Har Shalom and B'nai Tzedek. The bus will leave from Har Shalom at 6:15 p.m. and return to Har Shalom at 9:45 p.m. The cost is \$21. Reservations are required. Call the Kadima Hotline for more information.

Sunday, January 25th Trip to the Newseum  
See Machar listing above for more information.

**USY** Advisor: Rachel Handloff and Lisa Itkin  
(9th - 12th Graders)  
USY Hotline: (301) 652-2606, ext. 308  
Saturday, January 10th Ice Skating, Movies and Milkshakes  
Meet Lisa and Beth El USY at 6:30 p.m. at the Bethesda Metro Ice Skating Rink. Skating is to be followed by a movie and then milkshakes at Johnny Rockets. Pick up is at Johnny Rockets. Cost: \$15 for members, \$25 for non-members. Call the USY Hotline for more information.

Saturday, January 17th USY Shabbat  
Join Beth El USY for our monthly Shabbat service. Meet in front of the Sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. For more information call Lauren Bregman, Religious Education Vice President, at (301) 652-0027.

Friday, February 6th - Beth El USY Interchapter  
Sunday, February 8th  
Beth El USYers will be hosting USYers from all over Seaboard Region for Shabbat. The theme for the weekend will be Jewish Music. A dance on Saturday night, Shabbat with friends, study groups, some great ruach zmirot sessions (song sessions with lots of enthusiasm), a social action activity, icebreakers and more. What a great way to spend the weekend! For more information, call Rachel at the USY Hotline.

### Save the Date!

Sunday, February 22nd, the Youth Department and Family Education Department will host a Shabbat Fair. Join us to learn more about Shabbat. Watch the Beth El Scroll and your mail for more information.

## Saul Bendit Adult Institute Starts 21st Year with Outstanding Semester

The Saul Bendit Adult Institute, Beth El's award-winning adult education program, has just ended one of its most successful and highly acclaimed semesters in recent years. An outstanding variety of courses presented by an exceptional teaching staff made the fall 1997 semester truly memorable, and made the beginning of the third decade of the Bendit Institute program very special. Twelve evening courses and six morning courses attracted 415 registrants; as is customary, most people registered for both first and second hour classes.

Rabbi Maltzman and Rudolph, Hazzan Lubin and Rabbi Emeritus Scolnic, as always, presented wonderful courses: Verse by Verse Through the Book of Exodus; Encounter with Judaism: Basic Beliefs; Midrash: Learning to Read Between the Lines of Torah; Beginners Torah Cantillation; Torah Cantillations: A Refresher Course; Theodor Herzl: Myth and Reality; and Jewish Best Sellers of 1996-97. In addition, the Institute offered well-received courses in Jewish literature, history and culture, and Hebrew reading and conversation. These included Dr. Saul Rogolsky's Jewish Writers: Wrestling with America; Joseph Hantman's Little Known Jewish Communities Around the World; Dr. Milton Jacobs' The Sephardic Community: History and Culture; Cheryl Kreiser's Hebrew Prayerbook Reading Beyond the Basics; and Yael Greenberg's The Basics of Conversational Hebrew.

Maintaining Bendit Institute tradition, two multi-lecturer courses were offered and attracted very large audiences. Our own Dennis Ross, Ambassador and Special Middle East Coordinator in the Department of State, was the opening lecturer in the course, Divergent Views on Two Fundamental Issues Affecting Israel. Dennis presented the American perspective on the peace process; Hasan Abdel Rahman and Dr. Amatzia Baram presented Palestinian and Israeli perspectives. The second issue, religious pluralism, featured Rabbi Kenneth Cohen and Yitzchok Breitowitz and journalist Shlomo Raz, presenting conservative, orthodox and secular perspectives, respectively.

The second multi-lecturer course addressed the topic, Seeking Justice: Post Holocaust Efforts for Redress and Reparations. Beth El was most fortunate to have some of the key individuals intensively involved in such issues as the Swiss bank investigation, the Nazi gold trade, restitution efforts, and redress for Russian Jews. Speakers included Miriam Kleiman, Ellen Chubin, Dr. Paul Miller, David Bernstein, Marc Ittelson, Mark Levin and Gregg Rickman.

The Saul Bendit Adult Institute began in the fall of 1977 with the establishment of a special fund by the family of Saul Bendit, in his memory, to support Jewish education. Rabbi Scolnic played a key role in establishing the Institute in consultation with Tanya Bendit. Initially, from fall 1977 to spring 1979, evening courses were offered on a trimester basis - fall, winter and spring. Fall and spring semesters began in the fall of 1979. Morning courses began in the fall of 1989. Long-time Committee chair and current vice-chair Al Fox reports that, through fall 1997, the Bendit Institute has offered 630 courses in the evening program and 94 courses in the morning program. Nearly 9,000 people have registered for evening courses and 1,265 have registered for the morning program during the fall 1977 - fall 1997 period. In addition, about 300 people have attended since 1989 Rabbi Scolnic's A Taste of Talmud, offered Tuesday mornings.

The Saul Bendit Adult Institute has long been recognized as an outstanding adult Jewish education program in the Washington area, and has received national and international recognition as well. At the 1989 convention of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism held in Toronto, Beth El received the prestigious Solomon Schechter Award as the first place winner in the

Adult Jewish Education category. At its 1995 convention held in Washington, Beth El also won the Solomon Schechter Silver Award in that category. In 1991, The Foundation for Jewish Studies presented its distinguished Yad Torah award to us for "leadership on behalf of adult Jewish learning."

A small group of dedicated and hard-working Beth El members comprise the Committee which develops the courses, contacts and arranges for the instructors, prepares the brochures and attends to the myriad details entailed in operating such a program. Currently, Stephanie Ventura is Committee chair and Al Fox is vice-chair. Members include Rabbi Maltzman and Rudolph, Hazzan Lubin, Rabbi Emeritus Scolnic, Charles Anello, Suzanne Bronheim, Steven Frank, Jill Gerstenfeld, Michele Herman, Dan Matz, Harry Mannheimer, Roy Millenson, Irwin Pernick, Roberta Safer, David Schultz, Charlotte Simos, Howard Stein, Jack Ventura, Sophie Weinberger and John Wolff.

Plans are now underway for the spring 1998 semester, which begins on March 17th (morning) and March 18th (evening). The Committee is always interested in suggestions for courses. Please call (301) 652-2606, ext. 349, and a Committee member will contact you.

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## 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!

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## Bulletin from the Jewish Funeral Practices Committee of Greater Washington

The contract for funerals now in force with Ives-Pearson, effective through June 30, 1998, provides a standard funeral package for \$785. Allowable price increases may push the price up 5%, to \$803. Sales taxes on merchandise elements of the package are added.

Extra trips, sometimes required to obtain the death certificate, are charged at \$75 per extra trip. The only options in the contract are limousine service at \$50 per hour with a minimum of three hours, and a shroud of higher than standard quality for \$30.

The contract contains the language that "any changes" from the standard package "will cause the General Price List of the funeral director to be used for quotations."

Contrary to previous practice, the new owners of Ives-Pearson, The Loewen Group, take the position that opting for a more expensive coffin than the standard relieves them of the duty to provide the rest of the funeral at the contract price, and moves all merchandise and services to their general, non-negotiated price list.

The result, in at least two cases so far, is that families who have requested a \$1500 coffin have received bills for the entire funeral of over \$5000.

Efforts to negotiate a solution to this problem have failed. However, given the Jewish value of modesty and equality in death, requests for coffins more expensive than the standard contract all-wood coffin have been unusual.

The Committee is not satisfied when anyone is exploited or victimized, and we are considering solutions for the post-contract period.

Robert M. Hausman  
Chair

## Sisterhood News

### Dear Sisterhood

Thank you for:

#### 1. Supporting Sisterhood Programs

Our current programs are Rosh Hodesh, Tallit Making Workshops and our Book Group. The Rosh Hodesh Study Group has again been most capably chaired by Marcia Merlin. This year we are studying "Mothers and Daughters in Twentieth Century Jewish Literature," led by Mollie Berch. Ms. Berch has encyclopedic knowledge of the subject and is delightfully informal in her presentations. After hearing about one mother-daughter story at the December Rosh Hodesh lecture, we decided to read it as a group for our next Book Group. The book is called *The Romance Reader*, by Pearl Abraham. In addition to being about mother-daughter relationships, it describes what life is like in an ultra-orthodox Hasidic community. Copies are readily available in the public library. Also continuing is our Tallit Workshop. Judy Spector and Amanda Ford are co-chairing this project. How lucky we are to have these two women in our congregation: Judy for organizing the project into manageable units and Amanda for her artistic brilliance and mastery of the needle. This project is particularly special as we, the women of Beth El, carry on a centuries-old tradition of women working together to create beautiful ritual objects with their hands. Judy Spector is always available for consultation, if you feel you would like to make a tallit at some time other than when the workshops are held.

#### 2. Supporting Sisterhood Service Projects

Our major service project remains catering Saturday morning kiddushim. Thank you to everyone who signed up to serve at kiddush or luncheon. I hope you met someone you had not known before. We also cooked for Mitzvah Day. Next year I hope more of you get involved with this project. In March, we will be baking hamentashen for Shalach Manot baskets to be distributed to residents of the Hebrew Home. Please call Janice Liebowitz, (301) 654-7377.

#### 3. Supporting Sisterhood Fundraising

This year Marcia Kalman is chairing a fundraiser for Passover. We will be selling baked goods from Hirsch's Bakery. Some of you may have bought them last year. This year we hope to expand sales greatly because all monies raised will go directly to Kostroma. Keep this in mind when you get the flyer in the mail. I cannot promise you that they are out of this world, but they are every bit as good as any of the other trucked-in Passover specialty items you will find at area stores. For those of you who have heard Claire Marwick and Judy Newman talk about the synagogue in Russia, you heard that they need many basic improvements made to their building. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could raise the funds for them to have a new bathroom installed? Marcia is looking for volunteers to work with her. Call her at (301) 897-8572. Our major fundraising recipient is the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS). We raise money through our dues and individual contributions to the Torah Fund. Have you noticed people wearing a beautiful pin at synagogue events? This is the 1997-98 Torah Fund pin. Also, we sell Women's League greeting cards through the Judaica Shop and at all meetings. The proceeds from the sale of these cards and Torah Fund pins go to JTS. Please consider making a personal donation to the Seminary in addition to that which we make in your name through your Beth El Sisterhood

dues. Marilyn Wind is our Torah Fund chair this year. Please call her at (301) 530-6726.

Additionally, we have our Clever Cookie fundraiser. Have you seen the sample we have on display in the Judaica Shop? It is a basket of six large molded cookies that have a theme: New Baby, Hanukkah, Purim, Birthday, Rosh Hashanah, etc. The cost is about the same as sending a floral display (starting at \$48.00, including postage), and people who have received them as gifts really enjoy them. We receive a percentage of every sale. Please, if you have ordered a basket and had positive feedback, talk it up amongst your friends. Brochures explaining the ordering procedures are in the Judaica Shop.

#### 4. Supporting the Judaica Shop

Thank you to all of you who signed up to work in the Judaica Shop. I was just speaking to Connie Krupin, and she is delighted to have so many new volunteers. We hope to be able to expand our hours as the new staff gains more experience. Also, thank you to our many customers. We love seeing you and helping you choose suitable items.

May 1998 be a year of good health and peace for all.

Yours,  
Joan

#### Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 11th	Board Meeting Women's League Education Day	9:30 a.m.  10:30 a.m.
January 13th, 20th and 27th	Tallit Workshop	7:45 p.m.

#### Hold the Date!

The Sisterhood Women's Health Seminar will be held at Beth El on Sunday, March 8th from noon to 4:00 p.m. Watch future issues of the Beth El Scroll for more details.

#### Thanks from Manna

The following letter was received from the Manna Food Center:

*Dear Friends,*

*Please accept this belated, but very sincere thank you for the 9,620 food items which you donated on Yom Kippur.*

*At the beginning of September, stocks on Manna's shelves are always alarmingly low. While some of us moan anxiously, a calm voice will always remind us, "The Yom Kippur collection is coming."*

*The needy of Montgomery County can count on the generosity of their Jewish neighbors. How much that means. May you be richly blessed throughout the year.*

Sincerely,  
M. Thomas Lawrey  
Executive Director

## 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 presents a variety of exceptional speakers and topics at its weekly Sunday morning breakfast programs. All congregants are invited to attend, with the talk at 10:00 a.m. following the 9:30 breakfast. We are now running our 24th annual Perspectives in Dialogue, a winter series of talks on topics of special interest. See the announcement in this issue.

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.

## Dedications

Dedications are available in our building both in honor of and in memory of loved ones.

## Memorial Tablets

Memorial Tablets keep alive the memory of your beloved departed, generation to generation.

Congregation Beth El memorializes your beloved departed on our numerous traditional bronze memorial Yahrzeit tablets which are located in the alcoves off the Sanctuary and Gallery. According to Jewish custom, each memorial light is kindled at the memorial nameplate on the yahrzeit date and whenever Yizkor is recited.

Each bronze memorial tablet is a \$300.00 contribution.

Anyone interested in the purchase of these memorial plaques may contact Steven Kravitz at (301) 652-2606, ext. 306.

## Tree of Life

Leaves on our Tree of Life are a special way of honoring a person or event. Leaves on the Tree of Life are available for a contribution of \$250.00.

Anyone interested in the purchase of a Leaf on the Tree of Life may contact Steven Kravitz at (301) 652-2606, ext. 306.

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

## Sanctuary and Building Dedications

You are offered the opportunity of honoring your loved ones through the dedication of Sanctuary seats and other items in the Sanctuary and throughout the building. Items may also be dedicated in honor of a special occasion. This is a most significant way to honor those who meant so much to us and for whom the synagogue was an important part of their lives.

A plaque bearing the name of the person(s) in whose memory or honor a Sanctuary seat has been dedicated will be attached to the armrest of the designated seat. Dedicated items in the Sanctuary other than seats will be identified on the dedication tablet in the Gallery. Sanctuary seats are available for \$1800.

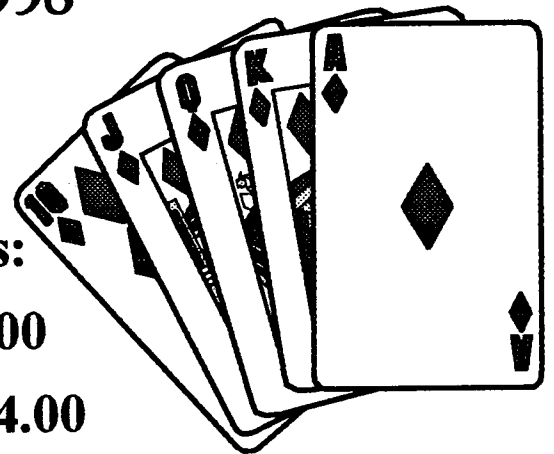
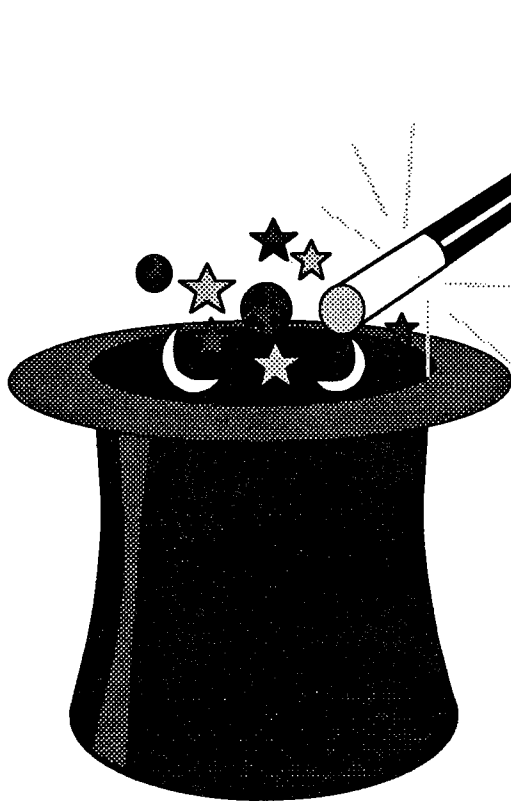
For a list of other dedications or further details, please call Steven J. Kravitz, Executive Director, at (301) 652-2606, ext. 306.



**Mens Club  
Of  
Congregation Beth El  
Presents  
Annual Magic Show & Spaghetti Dinner  
Starring Turley the Magician**

**February 1, 1998**

**6:00pm**



**Reservations:**

**Adults - \$5.00**

**Children - \$4.00**

**Mail Reservations To:**

**Mens Club Congregation Beth El  
8215 Old Georgetown Road  
Bethesda MD, 20814  
Attn: Treasurer**

**Please reserve \_\_\_ Adults \_\_\_ Children...**

**For \_\_\_\_\_**

**Check for \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed**