



CONGREGATION
BETH EL OF
MONTGOMERY
COUNTY

Save the Date!

On Sunday, December 6, 1998, Congregation Beth El and Hazzan Abraham Lubin will present "An Evening in Israel," a special concert bringing you the sounds and soul of Israel through music.

This special program will feature The Shikmim Choir of Israel, a 36-member choir under the direction of conductor Menashe Lev-Ran, a famous Israeli musician. The Shikmim Choir will visit our congregation during its tour of America.

If you are interested in working on the Concert Committee planning this wonderful event, please contact Tara Sonenshine, (301) 907-8248, or Hazzan Lubin. Mark your calendars for this special evening.

Changes to our Sanctuary Dedication Panels

You may have noticed several of the glass panels from the Sanctuary Dedications were missing during the end of June and early July. Special thanks to the families for their patience in waiting to have the artwork created and the glass panels etched. The new dedications are: Murray and Marilyn Hammerman and Family, who dedicated the ark in memory of Abraham and Freida Hochberg; Walter Arnheim, Marcia Rehns, and Ethan and Phillip Arnheim, who dedicated the Jacob's Ladder tapestry, "Beth El," in honor of Edith Levenson Arnheim, and in memory of Richard Arnheim, Ruth Lieber Rehns and Fred Rehns; Harvey, Rebecca, Seth and Jessica Resnik, who dedicated the Jacob and the Angel tapestry, "Israel," in memory of Audrey Ruth Frey Resnik; and Janet Meyers, Mark Pollak and Zoe, Todd and Adina Pollak, who dedicated the Tree of Life window in memory of Florence T. Meyers. Thanks also to Connie Krupin for making all the arrangements.

We want to thank all those who made contributions to the synagogue in honor of Zachary's Bar Mitzvah. We are grateful for your generosity and thoughtfulness. We felt that our joy was shared by the entire congregational family and this was a feeling that will be cherished by us always.

With our deep and lasting gratitude,

Rabbi Jonathan, Julie, Rebecca
and Zachary Maltzman

Shabbat Schedule

Friday, July 31st, at 6:30 p.m.
Devarim, Deuteronomy: 1:1 - 3:22
Saturday, August 1st, at 7:30 and 9:15 a.m.
Worship and Study Minyan at 10:00 a.m. in the APR
Saturday, August 1st, at 8:45 p.m.
Tisha B'Av Service in the Chapel
Friday, August 7th, at 6:30 p.m.
Vaet'hanan, Deuteronomy: 3:23 - 7:11
Saturday, August 8th at 7:30 a.m.
Reuven Birnkrant Bar Mitzvah at 9:15 a.m.
Nitzanim at 10:30 a.m. in the APR
Friday, August 14th, at 6:30 p.m.
Ekev, Deuteronomy: 7:12 - 11:25
Saturday, August 15th, at 7:30 a.m.
Jennifer Arosemena Bat Mitzvah at 9:15 a.m.
Friday, August 21st, at 6:30 p.m.
Re'eh, Deuteronomy: 11:26 - 16:17
Saturday, August 22nd, at 7:30 a.m.
Megan Krefting Bat Mitzvah at 9:15 a.m.
Nitzanim at 10:30 a.m. in the APR
Friday, August 28th, at 6:30 p.m.
Shoftim, Deuteronomy: 16:18 - 21:9
Saturday, August 29th, at 7:30 a.m.
Jack Ross Bar Mitzvah at 9:15 a.m.
Nitzanim at 10:30 a.m. in the APR

Scouting Report: Troop 1800 and Pack 1800

We are proud to announce that Alex Levita, son of Seth and Laurel Levita, has been awarded the "Medal of Merit" by the Boy Scouts of America for saving the life of his mother. Alex's exploits were featured on a Channel 4 news report last November. Alex has been a member of Pack 1800 and is presently transitioning into Boy Scout Troop 1800.

On June 7, 1998, Jeffrey Wolf received the Eagle Scout Award. The Eagle Scout Award is the highest achievement a scout can attain. Jeffrey is the son of Douglas and Annette Wolf and the grandson of Sy Wolf.

September will begin the fourteenth year for Cub Scout Pack 1800 and the sixteenth year for the Scout Troop. Both the Pack and the Troop are sponsored by Congregation Beth El and the Men's Club.

Continued on page 4...

BETH EL SCROLL
 Congregation Beth El
 of Montgomery County

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All in the Family

Sarah Roark would like to thank Max Cooper, Calvin Cooper, Benjamin Margulies and Jeff Wolf of Beth El's Boy Scout Troop 1800 for their help at the Religious School End of the Year Picnic. "You lead by example. Thank you for your time and outdoor cooking skills."

Mazal Tov to Jeffrey Wolf, son of Douglas and Annette Wolf, on becoming an Eagle Scout, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts. The presentation was made at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor convened by Beth El Troop 1800 on Sunday, June 7, 1998.

Mazal Tov to David and Harriet Brooks on the birth of their granddaughter on June 15, 1998. She is the daughter of Renana Brooks and Robert Rovinsky.

Mazal Tov to Samuel and Rose Saady on the occasion of their 50th anniversary on June 23, 1998.

Mazal Tov to Audrey and Colin Winston on the birth of their son, Reuben Daniel Winston, on July 2, 1998. Reuben is the grandson of Ida Winston.

Congregation Beth El wishes a speedy recovery to Sylvia Lesselroth and Dennis Feldman.

Membership Information

Mark and Janet Willen have moved to 9520 Clement Road, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Robert and Andrea Levine have moved to 12109 Reach Way, Potomac, MD 20854, (301) 424-7445. Steven L. Frank has moved to 13007 Turkey Branch Parkway, Rockville, MD 20853, (301) 933-4744. Steven and Beth Rosenthal will move to 5305 Moorland Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814 on August 10th. Henry and Laurie Smith have moved to 4301 Bradley Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

Sisterhood Book Club

The next meeting of the Sisterhood Book Club will be on Sunday, August 9th at 9:30 a.m. in the Board Room. The book to be discussed is *The Seamstress: A Memoir of Survival* by Sarah Turvel Bernstein.

Evening Minyan

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

August 2 - August 6

David and Annette Abrams
 Morris and Joyce Abrams
 James and Anne Ackerman
 Richard and Ilene Ackerman
 Benson and Natalie Adams
 Robert and Miriam Adelstein
 Irwin Aisenberg

Dorothy Alberstadt
 Marla Allard
 James Altman and Rita Gendelman
 Larry and Myra Altschuler
 George and Michlean Amir
 Jack and Faye Amster
 Allison Anand

Theodore and Miriam Anders
 Charles and Elizabeth Anello
 Jeffrey and Terri Annis
 Richard Ansbacher and Terry
 Whitehouse
 Wayne Arden and Lisa Handley
 Walter Arnheim and Marsha Rehns

August 9 - August 13

Louis and Karen Aronson
 Natalie Arosemena
 Dennis Askwith and Sherlyn
 Goldstein-Askwith
 Tsvi and Ruth Assal
 Marcello and Marilda Averbug
 Jonathan Avrach

Joachim and Elizabeth Baer
 William and Pearl Baker
 Stanley and Judith Baldinger
 Anne Ball
 Bernard and Annabelle Band
 Jonathan Band and Leesa Fields
 Marvin and Dolly Band

Richard and Florence Bank
 Bruce and Ann Barcome
 Terrence Barham
 Solomon and Rita Barr
 Abraham and Gertrude Bass
 Raymond and Vivian Bass
 Rosalyn Bass

August 16 - August 20

Heinz Bauer
 Jesse Baumgold and Linda Golden
 Leonard and Gabriela Bechick
 Arthur and Sandra Becker
 Roy and Elaine Becker
 Seth and Meredith Beckhardt
 Richard Belferman

Sheila Bellack
 Gerald and Shelly Belson
 Barbara Bender
 David and Nanette Bender
 Howard and Sondra Bender
 Julie Bender
 Robert and Jody Benjamin

Charles and Renee Bennett
 Jane Krubiner Berardi
 Martin and Ellen Bercovici
 Audrey Berger
 Bernard and Beatrice Berger
 Brent Berger

August 23 - August 27

Edward and Marcy Berger
 Howard Berger and Linda
 Goldsmith
 Jeffrey and Naomi Berman
 Joseph Berman and Marsha Gentner
 Kenneth and Beth Berman
 Stuart and Ellen Berman

Susan Berman
 Max and Judith Bernhardt
 Sanford and Anita Berns
 Gary and Rachelle Bernstecker
 Jerald Bernstein
 Wayne and Sandra Berson
 Jay and Sharon Berzofsky

Jacques and Isabelle Besnainou
 Irving and Vivian Beyda
 Steven and Ellen Bezner
 Jonathan and Cathy Binder
 Ann Birk
 Sheila Birnbach
 Alan and Debra Birnkrant

Book of Dedications

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 August 1st, August 8th, August 15th, August 22nd, August 29th, September 5th and September 12th. Although the list below have only the names of people who make dedications, the book will also list specific dedications and names of honorees.

Devarim, August 1st: Benson D. Adams and Rachele and Mitchell Solkowitz.

Vaetchanan, August 8th: Ilana Bar-Levav; Rhoda Barish and Michael Polis and Family; Jesse, Linda, Benjamin, David and Rachel Baumgold; Brent Berger; Evelyn Bitterbaum; Hope and Philip Borish; Beth, Kenneth M., Ben and Eli Berman; Daniel A. Bregman; the David Darr Family; Leesa Fine; Dede and Ken Feinberg; David Fogel and Ilana Bar-Levav; Elizabeth Goldman; Amy and Gene Goott; Robert Halperin and Candace Kaller; Rose, Linda and Jerry Herman and Family; David and Donna Kanin; Jeff and Sandy Komarow; Rita and Irwin J. Kopin; Warren, Leslie, Lauren, Ariel and Ilana Leonard; Susan Levine and Bob, Sam and Naomi Janney; Curtis Levinson and Wendy Schneider-Levinson; Rabbi Jonathan and Julie Maltzman; Gary Marx and Julie Rabinowitz; Debra, Jonathan, Michael and Brett Morgenstern, Irwin and Hellaine Nepo; Lucy D. Ozarin; Elaine Pines; Helen, Arthur, Michelle and Melissa Popper; Doris and Albert Povich; Marsha Rehns and Walter Arnheim; Helen and Louis Rib; Jennifer and Kelly Rubin; Kim, Mark, David, Aaron and Daniel Schifrin; Wendy, Gary, Erica and Ian Schonman; Andrea, Herman and David Segal; Ruth Shartsis; David B. and Susan Brinn Siegel; and Audrey and Colin Winston.

Ekev, August 15th: H. Richard Belferman; Patricia and Jerome Danoff and Family; Martin Dembo; Jeffrey and Marilyn Glick and Family; Lynn Goldin and Henry Birnkrant; Edna and Max Krents; and Abbe D. and Rhonda K. Lowell.

Re'eh, August 22nd: Amy and Gene Goott; Sue and Bruce Hanley; Linda M. Katz and Donald S. Stein; Andrea Shandell and Russell Fox; Judy, Andrew, Matthew and Jennifer Sherman; and Michelle Siegel.

Shoftim, August 29th: Jacob and Diana Pankowski.

Kee Tetze, September 5th: Patricia and Jerome Danoff and Family; Gary Friend and Tara Sonenshine; Celia Goldman and Rachel, Miriam and Max Kirsch; Barbara and Allen Lerman; Robert Lipman and Nancy Rose; and Susan and Ken Rubin.

Kee Tavo, September 12th: Rosalie M. Sporn.

Congregation Beth El
proudly presents

Selichot Night
of
Music and Prayer
Saturday, September 12, 1998
9:30 p.m.

Special Program
"Music of the Jewish Spirit"
with

Hazzan Abraham Lubin and guest artists

Zina Gendel, violin

John Kaboff, cello

Maria Nusinovich, piano

We will welcome our new Youth Director, Rachel Sternberg
at a reception following the program

11:00 p.m. Selichot Service
with

Rabbi William Rudolph and
Hazzan Abraham Lubin

New Directories Mailed

Our 1998 Directory of members was mailed June 15th to the entire membership. Please note that the first page has a listing of whom to call for various items. Special thanks to John Wolff for his good work in helping to create the directory. Any changes or corrections can be identified on your High Holiday Registration Form or by calling Selma Kriss in the synagogue office at (301) 652-2606, ext. 302.

Beth El's Own Torah and Haftarah Trope CD-ROM Now Available

A customized CD-ROM based on Hazzan Lubin's Manual for Torah and Haftarah Cantillations and Blessings publication and cassette is now available at a cost of \$69.95. To place an order, please call Hazzan Lubin or Selma Kriss at (301) 652-2606, ext. 302, or return the form below. For more information, call Hazzan Lubin.

Torah and Haftarah Trope CD-ROM Order Form

I would like to order _____ copy/copies of Beth El's CD-ROM.

A check, made payable to Congregation Beth El, for \$69.95 per copy is enclosed.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Scouting Report: Troop 1800 and Pack 1800 (continued from page 1)

Although we serve the neighborhood (as do all Cub Scout Packs and Boy Scout Troops), our primary purpose is to provide a Jewish Scouting experience at Beth El.

Some of the Cub Scout activities we hold during the year are outdoor hikes, pinewood derby and participation in activities sponsored by the Jewish Committee on Scouting of the National Capital Area, including a campout on Memorial Day weekend (Sunday through Monday).

The Boy Scout Troop has an active outdoor program, including summer camp. Ten young men have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout here at Beth El.

All activities of both the Cub Pack and Scout Troop are scheduled to give proper respect to Jewish holidays and the Sabbath. All meals served at scouting activities, including camping trips, are kosher. Jewish scouting awards such as the Maccabee, Aleph and the Ner Tamid awards are encouraged and counseling is provided by the Rabbis and teachers at Beth El.

If your son and his friends are interested in Cub Scouts (ages 6 through 10 years old) or Boy Scouts (ages 10 ½ through 18 years old), an organizational meeting will be held on Monday, August 31st at 7:00 p.m. in the All Purpose Room at Beth El. At this meeting we will distribute a preliminary program for the Cub Scout Pack and discuss plans for the Pack and the Troop for the 1998-1999 season.

If there are any questions, or if you cannot attend the meeting and have a son interested in the Beth El Scouting program, please contact David Levine at (301) 299-9507.

Attention Day School Families

Please save the second day of Sukkot (Tuesday, October 6th) when all area day school students will lead services at Beth El. All ages are welcome. Please let us know whether your children would like to participate. Identify names, ages and Torah reading ability by calling Helene Weisz at (202) 966-7376 by June 15th. More information will follow in the fall.

Learners' Service

Our Learners' Service will not meet during the summer months, but will resume on Saturday, October 17th 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.

Do an Easy Mitzvah!

For those of us with easy transportation, getting to Beth El is not a problem. For some members, however, getting to Shabbat or holiday services, meetings, minyans or other scheduled activities is difficult. If you can offer a ride on an occasional or regular basis to another member, please let us know by calling the new Ride Line at the synagogue office, (301) 652-2606, ext. 351. Once we receive messages from enough drivers, we will begin accepting requests on the same extension. If you have any questions, please call Brent Berger, (301) 770-1356.

Look for Raffle Tickets Enclosed in High Holiday Packet!

The date for the raffle drawing for the Selma Hurwitz print to benefit the renovation of the Kostroma synagogue has been postponed until Selichot, September 12th. We have enclosed a flyer and raffle tickets in the High Holiday mailing for your convenience. All you need to do is send in your check and ticket stubs to Beth El in order to be entered in the drawing. Thank you for your participation.

Beth El Tikkun

We now have available copies of the Tikkun of Beth El's own new Torah which is regularly used in the Sanctuary. Torah readers may now acquire their own copy so that they can visualize exactly how it looks in the new Torah scroll. The Tikkun was prepared by Hazzan Lubin, complete with index and pagination. Copies are available in the synagogue office at \$20.00 each. There is also a reference copy available in our library.

Baruch Dayan Emet

Congregation Beth El offers its sincere condolences to Martha Strauss on the death of her husband, Edwin Strauss; to Susan King on the death of her sister, Randi Gould; to Susan Yanovski on the death of her father, David Zelitch; to Edward Shapiro on the death of his brother, Leon Shapiro; to Sylvia Abraham on the death of her husband, Alexander Abraham; to Evyan Koenig on the death of her mother, Dorothy Horowitz; and to Mariette Klein on the death of her father, Dr. Leslie Krausz.

Social Action Donations Needed

At the risk of sounding like a perturbing PBS commercial, or an annoying telephone call during dinner, the Social Action Committee is in need of financial contributions from loyal congregants, like you. We have produced many wonderful programs this year, bringing smiles, warming hearts, and filling up emptiness around our community. Our first annual Mitzvah Day and support of the Community-Based Shelter were highly successful programs, but required more resources than our budget allowed. Your financial contributions to the Social Action Fund really do help those in need. Likewise, your donations of non-perishable food items in the basket near the Board Room really are delivered to hungry families in our community. Please consider making a contribution to the Social Action Fund when remembering a loved one or marking a milestone.

Worship and Study Minyan

The Beth El Worship and Study Minyan will meet on Saturday, August 1st in the All Purpose Room from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Mark Dorf will lead the discussion on the weekly Torah portion. The service, conducted entirely by members of the congregation, combines evocative Torah study with ample singing and "ruach." Children of all ages are welcome; although the service is oriented towards adults. Contact Dan Hirsch, (301) 654-7289, Sid Getz, (301) 530-2215, or Mark Levitt, (301) 365-5365, for more information.

Family Education News

Walk-a-thon

Thank you to all those who took part in the mitzvah of providing shelter by walking in their purple t-shirts at the June 14th Walk-a-thon. We raised \$372 for Yachad, an organization which helps families with low incomes find housing.

Looking for a Way to Get More Involved in the Synagogue?

The Family Education Advisory Committee is looking for new members to replace some of the dedicated congregants who have served so well over the last few years. Family Education will be running about twenty programs next year, some new and exciting, some tried and true. The committee meets once a month to oversee and help out with these programs. Our objectives this year include increasing and facilitating home rituals and enhancing the celebration of Shabbat and the Pilgrimage Festivals. If you are interested in joining, please contact Sarah Roark at (301) 652-2606, ext. 320, or Rob Ferst at (301) 530-2181.

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!

Chesed Committee

If you can give a few minutes of your time to call a Beth El member who may be sick or homebound, please volunteer for the Chesed Committee by calling Rhonda Kleiner Lowell at (301) 294-8858.

Men's Club News

If you've never been to a Men's Club meeting, consider yourself invited! Our Sunday morning breakfasts at 9:30 will continue throughout the summer, with the exception of August 2nd, Tisha B'Av. There may be occasional breakfast programs, so check the Shabbat Announcements and the poster in the Rotunda. For membership information, please contact Bernie Rod at (301) 299-8362.

The Men's Club is pleased to announce the election of the following members to positions on the Men's Club Board: Marvin Yudkovitz, President; David Goldman, Executive Vice President; David Levine, Treasurer; and Howard Lesser, Treasurer. The following members are Committee Chairmen: Bernie Rod, Membership; David Goldman, Programs; Dan Geselowitz, Publicity; Ed Golfer, Hospitality; Roy Niedermayer, Sports; David Schultz, Perspectives in Dialogue; Gary Bernstecker, Kavod Awards; Ron Treinish, Blue Yarmulke Award; and George Perlman, Nominations. Board of Directors members are Howard Copperman, Cary Feldman, Sam Frishman, Jamie Heller, Sanford Kay, Lillian Kessler, Bob Koenig, Harry Lipkind; Roy Millenson; Alex Rosenberg; Rabbi Samuel Scolnic; Alan Swoff and Herb Wiser. Ex-officio members are Rabbi Jonathan Maltzman, Rabbi William Rudolph and Hazzan Abraham Lubin.

Help Wanted

Beth El Nursery School needs a nurturing teacher's aide to be part of our creative learning environment, beginning in September, 1998. Monday - Friday, 8:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., with optional afternoon hours. Call Ellen Darr, Director, at (301) 652-2606, ext. 311.

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!

Keruv

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 and conversion 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 (JSClaxton@aol.com).

Vatikkim Luncheon

Mr. Leonard Bebchick, who served as President of our congregation during 1993 - 1995, will be our luncheon speaker on August 20th. His talk is entitled "What Our Money Does Overseas - the Work of the Jewish Agency: An Update." Please join us for a nourishing and informative luncheon program!

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 mail it to Bea Goldman, 3214 Henderson Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20902, (301) 942-9434, or Margaret Bogler, 5901 Montrose Road, #502S, Rockville, MD 20852, (301) 816-2189.

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

Reservation Form

Vatikkim Luncheon on Thursday, August 20, 1998

Please reserve _____ places for me at the Vatikkim luncheon.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Number: _____

**Please have your response reach us by August 18th.
No reservations will be accepted after this date.**

Religious School News

Religious School Substitute Teachers Needed

From September through June, there are days that the Religious School needs substitute teachers. Generally it is on short notice, but often planned well in advance. Sometimes it is for one or two lessons, and occasionally for a week or two. All teachers prepare lesson plans, so usually all a substitute has to do is take the lesson and run with it. School is in session Sundays (early session 9:00-11:00, late session 11:15-1:15), Monday-Thursday (4:15-6:15) and Tuesday evening (Upper School, 8th-10th grades; 7:00-9:00). If you are interested and available to substitute for any of the times school is in session, please contact Louis Nagel, Education Director, (301)652-2606, ext. 310.

At the Crossroads

Think of the family stories that you recall with little prodding. You might remember events from your childhood, places you experienced, people who were a constant presence and other individuals who only had walk-on roles. There are probably stories of which you have little or no personal recollection, but by someone else's retelling, are brought to an enhanced level of recognition. At another level are the family stories that preceded our times, tales passed down. Those accounts are sometimes referred to as "the tales we live, the tales we tell." In essence they form the family myths that explain choices once made and sometimes serve as guidance for future behaviors. A genre that I have discovered are those of "how we lost/quit/gave-up-the-faith" and another parallel set "how we discovered/rediscovered/came-back-to or into-the-faith" stories.

In my personal investigation I learned my family's story of assimilation and return. As told by my grandmother, the story begins around the turn of the century:

Mom used to light the Shabbat candles every Friday night just as she learned from her mother who learned from her mother and on back. When times got tough, the family had to work seven days a week to earn a living. We would spend all day Saturday making badges for the Mummies' New Year's Day parade. One week she lit the Shabbat candles and before she said the prayer, she collapsed, fainted. She came to pretty quickly and then said the prayer. A week later the exact same scene repeated itself. On the third week it happened again the same way. Except, that time, after coming to she didn't say the bracha. She said, "God is telling me that I have no business lighting the Shabbat candles when I know I'm going to work on Shabbat. I can't be a hypocrite about this, but we have no choice but to work. That's it for the candle lighting." My mother only used those candlesticks for the High Holidays and Passover, holidays she knew she would observe.

My grandmother was prompted to tell me this story because I was the one to have resurrected the tradition of lighting Shabbat candles in our family. It was never a regular practice in her house and neither was it a practice in her daughter's house. It was a ritual that took a two-generation hiatus. In a faith that is handed down from generation to generation, we can only wonder what practices are lost in such transformations. When the Christian conquerors of Egypt in 391 ordered the destruction of the products of pagan culture, the Great Library of Alexandria, believed to hold "all the knowledge in the world," was demolished. It is not known what works of philosophy were destroyed for all time and what important scientific advances were cut off before they could come to fruition. We do know that the thread of knowledge was unbroken. Like a stroke patient, new networks were created and progress advanced.

Many of us represent the generation that rekindled the candles. We are also the ones who re-lit the lamp of knowledge.

The Talmud shows us that it only took one sage to hide in a cave to inspire ten disciples who each went on to raise their disciples and further the spread of knowledge. Some of us are those sages, others among us are the disciples. In whichever role we are cast, we are told to "go out and raise many disciples," a responsibility that begins with our children. We are lucky to live in an age where Jewish knowledge is flourishing like never before and easily accessible. The great beauty of Jewish knowledge is its diversity. The Jeopardy board could be filled with Jewish topics: Theological Perspectives, Sports Heroes, Ancient History, Biblical Criticism, Ethical Dilemmas, Philosophical Perspectives... In our lifetime it has come to be accepted that we can not know all there is to know. The Talmud does not allow for despair in saying, "yours is not to complete that task, but neither are you free to desist from it." To the generation that has re-lit the candle or those passing on the torch, I welcome you to a partnership in the year ahead, to inspiring our children toward the blessings we wish on them at brit milah or namings, to Torah...and Maasim Tovim (Jewish study and Great Deeds).

Starting the New School Year

We are about a month away from the start of the school year. Some important September dates are:

September 5	Opening Day Junior Congregation
8	Opening Day Tuesday Classes
	Opening Day Upper School Classes
9	Opening Day: Wednesday Classes Gr. 1-2 Enrichment Class
12	Opening Day Junior Congregation (with required Religious School Attendance for 6th graders)
13	Opening Day Sunday Classes
20-22	No School - Rosh Hashanah
29-30	No School - Yom Kippur

Many teachers make decisions after the close of the school year on whether or not they will be returning to the faculty. At this time I would like to acknowledge those who have served on our staff and will not be returning next year. They are Donna Nichols, Melanie Darr, Lili Schatz, Lorit Chai, Rori Pollak, Hilary Siegel and Etan Kelman. They will all be missed and are to be praised for their past efforts on behalf of our children. Under their tutelage there were many significant learning experiences children will be able to reflect on fondly.

Tikkun Olam

Thanks to the dedication and interest of teachers, students and parents, one exciting aspect of our school's curriculum that has gotten stronger over the years has been our Tikkun Olam program. Every month of the school year we conduct a different project to advance the cause of justice in our community and throughout the world. This year we will open with a tzedakah drive. On their first day of class, students are encouraged to bring a dollar for tzedakah which will go to Yachad, the Jewish Community Housing Development Corporation. Yachad organizes the annual Sukkot in April project which our Congregation actively supports. Subsequent drives will be Canned Food (October/Sukkot), Winter Clothing (November, Mitzvah Day), School Supplies (for our sister school in Poland, December), Tu B'Shvat Tree Project (January), Essential Items (personal hygiene items, February), Chometz/Kosher for Pesach Foods (March/April), Prepare Food for Local Shelters (May), and Bal Tashchit (Environmental Awareness, June). Each project is connected to a mitzvah and classroom lessons, geared toward understanding the mitzvah and enhancing participation, and are carried out at each grade level.

Education Notes

Read-A-Thon

When the final pledge sheets were turned in, we found that this year's Religious School sponsored Read-A-Thon once again exceeded its pledge goal in raising \$1059.50. In honor of Israel's 50th anniversary, students from the Vaad HaStudentim (Student Council) chose the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel to be the beneficiary of this project. Pledge sheets from almost 50 students were turned in and many others participated by reading books independent of the fund raising aspect of the Read-A-Thon. Prizes were awarded to the top three finishers in the categories of money raised and books read. Recognized for those accomplishments were the following students: Most Books Read (Kindergarten-2nd grade): David Lipman (2nd) - 78 books; Noah Schoenholtz (2nd) - 25 books; Nick Talisman (2nd) - 20 books; (3rd- 7th grades): Elana Lipman (5th grade) - 50 books; Arielle Levy (3rd grade) - 21 books; David Schoenholtz (7th grade) - 16 books. Most Money Raised (Kindergarten-2nd grade): Noah Schoenholtz (2nd) - \$63; Nick Talisman (2nd) - \$60; Benjamin Judson (1st) - \$36; (3rd - 7th grades): Sam Geselowitz (3rd grade) - \$75; Benjie Kubic (4th grade) - \$73; Lightning Jay (5th grade) - \$70. We are proud of all our students who took part in this effort. Consolation prizes that went to all participants were Slurpee coupons provided courtesy of Southland Corporation (7-Eleven) and a Free Yogurt sundae coupon from Everything Yogurt and Salad Café of Montgomery Mall (which was donated by congregant and Religious School parent Bob Phillips). Our other sponsors included: Bethesda Theater Café, Borders Books, Ofichel Video, Barnes and Noble, Ben and Jerry's Baskin Robbins, Crown Books, Kar Ben Books and Israeli Accents. I would also like to thank the Parents Association for their support of this effort. Janice Liebowitz and Barbara Friedman were tremendously helpful in organizing the sponsors and arranging for the prizes. Carolyn Webber also helped by preparing a certificate and distributing ice cream to the classes that read the most books.

Junior Congregation

During the past school year, Junior Congregation has taken place in the Chapel every Saturday from 10:00 - 11:15 a.m. Junior Congregation is open to all, but required weekly for Religious School sixth graders and monthly for fourth and fifth graders. The service is led by Cheryl Kreiser and Sarah Roark, who teach the order and meaning of the prayers and lead a discussion on the weekly Torah portion. Students are encouraged to take part in leading the service. At the end of the year, the sixth grade students showcase their liturgy literacy by leading the entire service with their parents in attendance. The following fourth and fifth grade students should be commended for their exceptional attendance at Junior Congregation: Becki Annis, Ethan Benjamin, Daniel Bregman, Gregory Caplan, Ezra Cohn, Liora Diamond, Abraham Einhorn, Matt Fox, Dori Fox, Ben Ganzfried, Rebecca Kaplan, Ethan Levy-Forsythe, Elana Lipman, Emily Mirengoff and Zach Moak. Have a terrific summer and come back to Junior Congregation in the fall.

WHILE STANDING ON ONE FOOT

A New and Unique Program

A Hebrew Reading "Marathon" for Beginners

Begin to read Hebrew in a single day



As developed by Rabbi Noah Golinkin, creator of the Hebrew Literacy Campaign, "While Standing on One Foot"

Builds on Jewish vocabulary already possessed by most Jews, e.g., mazel tov, kosher, shalom, Rosh Hashanah, minyan

By the end of this experience, each participant will:

- recognize and be familiar with all the letters of the Alef-Bet
- learn to read and comprehend 180 functional Hebrew words
- learn to feel at ease and have fun with Hebrew

Place: Congregation Beth El
8215 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda **Registration fee:** \$25.00
Date: Sunday, October 25, 1998 (Includes lunch and textbook.)
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Follow-up classes, leading to participation in Shabbat Services, will be offered.
For further information, call Yael Greenberg at (301) 469-7860.

Hebrew Marathon Registration

Name: _____
Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Enclose check payable to Congregation Beth El and send to the office marked "Attention: Hebrew Marathon"
Deadline for registration is October 18, 1998