

An Evening in Israel

The sights and sounds of Israel came to Congregation Beth El on Sunday, December 6 in an unforgettable evening of music and Israeli spirit. The Shikmim Choir of Israel, a twenty year old choir made up of men and women from all walks of life who come together in a shared love of music, performed to thunderous applause in our Sanctuary from the nearly 500 people who attended the event. Under the direction of the well-known Israeli conductor, Menashe Lev-Ran, the choir performed a range of musical pieces from traditional liturgy to Broadway hits. Our own Hazzan

Continued page 3...

CONGREGATION BETH EL OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY



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 1998 are reflected on that statement, our statement will include all payments received in the Beth El office through January 8, 1999. Contribution statements will be mailed by January 20, 1999.

Announcing the Beth El Cemetery Section at Judean Memorial Gardens

Congregation Beth El has established a cemetery section at Judean Memorial Gardens, conveniently located on Georgia Avenue in Olney, for our Beth El community. The section is identified by a granite marker with the congregation's name on it.

Sites can be purchased through the synagogue office for \$1,200 each. Perpetual care is included at no additional cost. Judean Gardens will discount the cost of liners, opening and closing, and monuments by 5% for Beth El members who purchase them pre-need. Members who wish to purchase sites in the Beth El section should call Carole Wellner at 301-652-2606, ext. 316, and she will mail the necessary form.

See p6-7 For Special Report Of The Inreach Committee

Scroll

Shabbat Schedule

Friday, January 1

6:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 2

7:30 & 9:15 a.m.

Vayechi, Genesis: 47:28 - 50:26

Jonathan Flugler Bar Mitzvah

at 9:15 a.m.

Jr. Congregation at 10 a.m.

Worship and Study Minyan

at 10 a.m. in the APR

Friday, January 8

6:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 9

7:30 and 9:15 a.m.

Shemot, Exodus: 1:1 - 6:1

Joshua Claxton Bar Mitzvah

at 9:15 a.m.

Jr. Congregation at 10 a.m.

Nitzanim at 10:30 a.m. in

the APR

Friday, January 15

6:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 16

7:30 & 9:15 a.m.

Vaera, Exodus: 6:2 - 9:35

Michael Brody Bar Mitzvah

at 9:15 a.m.

Jr. Congregation at 10 a.m.

Learners' Minyan at 10 a.m.

in the APR

Gan Shabbat at 10 a.m. in

the MR

USY Shabbat at 12 p.m. in

the BR

Membership Information

Frances Miller has moved to 14036

Great Notch Terrace, North Potomac, MD 20878-4238.

Beth El Worship and Study Minyan

The Worship and Study Minyan will meet on Saturday, January 2 in the All Purpose Room from 10 a.m. to noon. Evan Krame 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.

All in the Family

Congregation Beth El wishes a speedy recovery to **Marjory Weiss**.

LEARNERS' SERVICE

Our Learners' Service will meet on Saturday, January 16 in the All Purpose Room from 10 a.m. to noon. We then join the congregation for kiddush. The service, conducted on an interim basis by Rabbi Reuben Levine, 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.

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 was due by December 31, 1998. We appreciate your prompt payments. Thank you.

Evening Minyan

The following people are asked to help us with our daily Evening Minyan for the next two weeks. On Sunday through Thursday, the Minyan begins at 8 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 1 - 3

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
Bruce and Amy Kershner
Joseph and Leslie Kessler
Bert and Susan King
Laurence and Celia Kirsch
Murray and Iris Kivitz
David and Laura Klaus
Irving and Katie Klein
Michael and Francine Klein
Ronald and Mariette Klein
Herman and Paula Kleine

January 10 - 14

Etta Kline
Sidney Kline
Andrew and Katherine Koblenz
Edward and Helena Koenig
Robert and Evyan Koenig
Burton Kolko
Jeffrey and Sandi Komarow
Irwin and Rita Kopin
Neil and Holly Kopit
David Korn and Shara Aranoff
Bernardo and Rosa Kotelanski
Marvin and Barbara Kotz
Evan and Jodi Krame
Mark and Marjorie Kramer
Robert and Loretta Kramer
Steven Kramer and Sheila Lieber
Jack and Esther Kranton
Melvin and Andrea Kraus
Alan Kravitz and Sandra Kresch
Ira and Jill Krefting

An Evening In Israel (cont. from p 1)

Abraham Lubin also performed, both solo and with the choir.

Our synagogue that evening was adorned with Israeli posters and an authentic-looking "souk" or Israeli marketplace, designed by Connie Krupin, Brenda Bregman and a team of hard-working congregants. Following the concert there was a delightful reception provided by the Beth El Men's Club with Israeli foods and desserts, catered by Sue Fischer of Windows.

Congratulations to Tara Sonenshine, Benson Adams and the entire Concert Committee on this successful evening. Special thanks to the host families who opened their hearts and homes to the Israeli choir members and made them feel so welcome. Lastly, our congregation wishes to thank our own Hazzan Lubin for bringing his enormous talents to our

congregation and for the many beautiful and inspiring musical events he has hosted.

If you were unable to attend the concert, but would like to purchase a CD recording of the Shikmim Choir, please stop in at the Beth El Judaica Shop or the synagogue office, where they are available for \$15. Listed here are supporters who we were unable to acknowledge in the program that evening: Judith and Stanley Baldinger, Karyl Barron and Jeffrey Moak, Julia and Howard Copperman, Sandy and Norton Elson, Henry Freedman, Judy and Craig Futterman, Debbie and James Heller, Lila and Herbert Harvey, Cyma and Jerome Heffter, Rita and Bernard Jacobi, Linda and Ace Lipson, Lisa and Gary Rosen, Sharon and David Spiegel and Joseph and Edith Weisz. And again, we thank all those who found ways to support the program, "An Evening in Israel."

Fourth Grade Students Link Up with Students in Kostroma

Knowing that we have a sister congregation in Kostroma, a Jewish community trying so desperately to re-establish its Jewish roots, I began to wonder about how I could help strengthen these ties both as a congregant of Beth El and as a teacher in the Religious School. I approached Claire Marwick and told her that I would like our students to write to the students in Kostroma's Religious School with the hope of the two groups becoming pen pals. Last May, on the last day of school, my fourth graders wrote letters, and I am now receiving replies to these letters via e-mail. I have handed over specific replies to named students to their Judaic teacher and hope they will continue to write to their penpals. Since many of the replies are not addressed to any

specific student, I have decided to continue this project with my fourth grade class this year. I introduced the project before Thanksgiving when we viewed the video "Molly's Pilgrim." The children were very enthusiastic and decided to bring in snapshots of themselves to be attached to their letters. We will also send gifts to the children and to the school. You may follow our progress by watching the bulletin board on the second floor of the school wing, opposite the back stairs. I hope that this will be a concrete way of teaching Jewish values, specifically that all Jews are responsible one for the other.

If you are interested in this project or could supply us with things to send to this fledgling Sunday school, please contact me through our school.

Marcia Merlin

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, 1999. All input will be forwarded to the Nominating Committee for its consideration. If you are interested in joining a committee, please call the committee chairperson.

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Hazzan:
Abraham Lubin
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Steven J. Kravitz
Educational Director:
Louis A. Nagel
Family Education Director:
Sarah L. Roark
Nursery School Director:
Ellen M. Darr
Youth Director:
Rachel D. Sternberg
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Congregation Beth El Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Contributions (As of November 30, 1998)

Bauer Confirmation Fund

In Memory Of: Elizabeth by Dr. Heinz Bauer.

Bendit Adult Institute Fund

In Honor Of: Adult B'nai Mitzvah Program by Frances L. Horn; Thera Finbloom's Bat Mitzvah by Neil and Sherri Stahl. In Memory Of: Rivka Sheeskin and Freda Weisbach by Leonard and Sylvia Sheeskin; Beloved mother, Anita Rib, by Louis and Helen Rib; Samuel Drucker by Irwin and Hellaine Nepo.

Beth El Forest

In Memory Of: Irving Cohn by Joan and Joel Simon; Helen Fried by The Hermans; Dr. Joshua Bernhardt by Max and Judy Bernhardt; Rabbi Albert Platt by Max and Judy Bernhardt; Betty Lipson by Harold and Judith Zassenhaus.

Cantor's Fund

In Honor Of: Speedy Recovery to Judy Sherman by Rita Kahn; In Appreciation to Hazzan Lubin by Rita Kahn. In Memory Of: Morris Silver by Leslie and Joel Silver; Fannie Solomon by Dr. Byer and Mrs. Byer; Sylvia Cantor by Judith C. Goldman.

Chevre Kadisha Fund

In Honor Of: My dear Wife, Edith, by Joseph I. Weisz. In Memory Of: Julius and Anna Boman by Julian M. Tishkoff; Harry S. Neiterman by Charlotte and Bernard Resnick; Stanley and Alice Resnick by Bernard and Charlotte Resnick.

College Fund

In Memory Of: Philip Gravitv by Melvin and Harriet Gravitv.

Conservative Judaism in Israel

In Honor Of: For recovery of Gary Wind by Marsha Rehns and Walter Arnheim.

Crowell Religious School Endowment Fund

In Honor Of: Evelyn Karson's Bat Mitzvah by Neil and Sherri Stahl. In Memory Of: Isidor Paskow and Annie Crowell by Miriam Crowell.

Dedications To Embracing the Torah Project

In Honor Of: Doris Kahn Zaslów by Martha Zaslów.

Feld Memorial Lecture Endowment Fund

In Honor Of: Flora Feld's 80th Birthday by Robert and Harriet Shub.

Fine Arts Fund

In Memory Of: Leonard Baldinger by Melva and Irving Tofsky; Selma Siegel by Irwin and Hellaine Nepo.

General Fund

In Honor Of: Bernard and Cheryl Rod's 25th wedding anniversary by Isadore and Rose Rod; Doug Bregman's 49th by Lester and Vivien Marion; Janet Getz's Bat Mitzvah by Brent Berger and Carolyn Chabrow Berger; Evelyn Karson's Bat Mitzvah by Frances Spielman; Dennis Ross' Diplomacy by Robert Fersh and Sharon Markus; Bat Mitzvah of Janet Getz by Mark and Joanne Jacobson; Bat Mitzvah of Judy Sherman by Mark and Joanne Jacobson; Cheryl and Bernie Rod's 25th anniversary by West Bethesda Havurah; Gary Wind's speedy recovery by West Bethesda Havurah; A Refuah Sheleima for Gary Wind by Joan and Joel Simon. In Memory Of: Irving Fersh and Fred Markus by Robert Fersh and Sharon Markus; Gunter and Sylvia Chapin by Joel and Joan Simon.

Israel Experience Teen Fund

In Honor Of: Gail Ross - 50 Years of Israel and You! by Lester and Vivien Marion; Gail Ross' birthday by Walter and Deborah Cohn, Sharon and Andrew Tievsky, Joan and Joel Simon and Esther and Elliot Wilner. In Memory Of: Stanley Lieber by Marc and

Annette Lieber; Rose Kaplan by Mimi and Allan Meltzer; Fred Mandler by Sharon and Andrew Tievsky.

Kimball Nursery School Fund

In Honor Of: Baby Naming of Sarah Estelle Kimball by Louis Kimball; The engagement of Ethan Assal to Martha by Mickey and Mordy Feinberg.

Library Fund

In Honor Of: The Bat Mitzvah of Margery London by Aaron Levy-Forsythe. In Memory Of: Miriam Edelstein and Hannah Cassouto by Abraham and Louise C. Wagman.

Masorti

In Honor Of: Bat Mitzvah of Beth Berman by Neil Levy and Family.

Maxon

In Honor Of: The Maltzman Family by Dana Tievsky and Family; Speedy recovery for Gary Wind by Ellen and Norman Eule; Sharon Markus and Rob Fersh by Andrea and Alan Golden; A Refuah Sheleima for Gary Bernstecker by Joan and Joel Simon; Cheryl Kreiser by Sidney and Janet Getz. In Memory Of: Ethel P. Richman by David and Marjorie Richman; Myer A. Siegel by Robert and Paula Siegel; Jean Niederman by Etta Kline; Sam Lotman by Zelda L. Janus; Louis Janus by Mrs. Zelda Janus; Benjamin Miller by Phyllis Dickler; Dr. Jacob B. Shapiro by Annabelle and Bernard Band.

Morning Minyan Fund

In Honor Of: Judith Spector by Lillian Kessler; Alan Swoff's kindness by Barbara Freedman. In Memory Of: My husband, David N. Freedman, by Barbara Freedman; Harold Cohen by Barbara and Allen Lerman; Julie Ende by Mr. and Mrs. Asher H. Ende; Beloved sister, Sophie Nadler, by A. H. Ende; Bertha R. Schwartz by Dr. and Mrs. Deckelbaum; Irving Cohn by Howard and Julia Copperman; Irvin and Rose Levinson by Herbert and Anita Levinson; My beloved husband, Irving Bogler, by Margaret Bogler; Abraham Chinn, brother of Sarah Kalser, by George and Nettie Kitzes and Henry E. Freedman; Imre Letay by Katalina and Augustin Litvak.

Music Fund

In Memory Of: Lillian Cohen by Barbara Spitzer.

Prayerbook Fund

In Honor Of: Jerome Broder's 75th birthday by Lionel and Barbara Morris; The Bat Mitzvah of Margery London by Nora Levy-Forsythe; Bat Mitzvah of Janet Getz by Jeffrey and Yvonne Distenfeld. In Memory Of: William Davis by Libby and Harvey J. Gordon; Harry Perlman by Elaine and George Perlman; Mendel Goldberg by Frank and Harriet Weinstein; My father, Abraham Bernstein by Susan L. Winarsky; Ben Perlman by Elaine and George Perlman; My dear mother, Sophie Krigelman, by Reba Hirsh.

Rabbi's Fund

In Honor Of: Celia Goldman Kirsch's recent Bat Mitzvah by Nan and David Bender; My Aliyah by Elaine S. Pines; Susan Schwartzbart's Bat Mitzvah by Tobias A. Gottesman; Rabbi William D. Rudolph by Thomas S. Warrick and Rochelle E. Stern; Rabbi William D. Rudolph by Norman and Audrey Weissberg; In Appreciation to Rabbi Radolph by Rita Kahn; The unveiling of my mother, Magda Miselbach, by Katalina and Augustin Litvak; Rabbi William D. Rudolph by Lisa Alpert Rosen. In Memory Of: Rebecca Small by Dr. Albert Small; Dale Gold's father, Irving Cohn, by Dr. and Mrs. A. Larry Miller; Rabbi S. Sheps by Karl Freiberg; Abraham S. Wolf by Karl Freiberg; Sara Taitz by Eleanor Cohen; Susan Schwartzbart's father by Donna Kanin; Charlotte Mehlman by Eleanor Cohen.

School Enrichment Fund

In Honor Of: Ira Haber by Henry Freedman.

Sisterhood Hospitality Fund

In Memory Of: Irving Cohn by Bernice and Werner

Blumenthal; Benjamin Cantor, father of Judith Goldman, by Irwin and Hellaine Nepo; Dale Gold's beloved father, Irving Cohn, by Judith C. Goldman.

Sisterhood Remembrance Fund

In Memory Of: Beloved mother, Jillie Wolper, by Lillian Kessler.

Sisterhood Torah Fund

In Memory Of: Irving Cohn, father of Dale Gold, by Sisterhood of Congregation Beth El.

Social Action Fund

In Honor Of: Joseph Kay's 80th birthday by Gloria and Beryl Frank; Lillian Kessler, Beth El Men's Club Person of the Year, by Carole Wellner; Lillian Kessler's Blue Yarmulke Award by Miriam Davidson; Tricia and Howard Sachs by Andrea and Alan Golden; Bat Mitzvah of Evelyn Karson by Adah Rose Bitterbaum and Steve Epstein; Bat Mitzvah of Becky Eisenstadt by Ralph and Bette Madway; Bat Mitzvah of Janet Getz by Adah Rose Bitterbaum and Steve Epstein; Bat Mitzvah of Celia Goldman by Adah Rose Bitterbaum and Steve Epstein; Bat Mitzvah of Judy Sherman by Adah Rose Bitterbaum and Steve Epstein. In Memory Of: Morris Fromer by Marjory Weiss; Eve Gross by Eleanor and Richard Cohen; Honorable Ruth D. Vogel by Dr. Donna Vogel.

Suls Youth Activities Fund

In Memory Of: Harry Scheer by Iris J. Kivitz; Samuel Parnes by Stanley and Carole Schwartz.

Yatikkim

In Memory Of: Benno Heppenheimer by Herbert and Lila Harvey.

Barbara Wolf "Israel Quest" Fund

In Memory Of: Beloved father, Joseph Kopit, by Leo Kopit.

World Jewry

Retta Mills. In Honor Of: Max Bernhardt's special Aliyah by Max and Judy Bernhardt.

Young Equality Fund

In Honor Of: The Bat Mitzvah of Margery London by Ethan Levy-Forsythe.

Educational Fund in Memory of Norman Yastrov

There will be an educational fund established for Daniel, Benjamin and Seth Yastrov in memory of their father, Norman Yastrov. To make a donation to the fund, please call Carolyn Roth at (301) 933-8957.

Baruch Dayan Emet

Congregation Beth El offers its sincere condolences to **Lee Derkay** on the death of his mother, Minnie Derkay; to **Herbert Zalis** and **Marla Zalis** on the death of Esther Grabill, mother-in-law and grandmother; and to **Hattie Goodman** and **Daniel, Benjamin** and **Seth Yastrov** on the death of Norman Yastrov, husband and father.

MEN'S CLUB

Beth El's Men's Club is proud to announce our 25th annual Perspectives in Dialogue series starting this Sunday, January 3, and running throughout the month. See the ad in this issue for more information. Everyone is welcome. Even if you don't regularly attend the Sunday breakfasts, you won't want to miss these talks.

The Seaboard Region Blue Yarmulke Award Dinner honoring Lillian Kessler is on Sunday, January 10 at 6:30 p.m. at Adas Israel.

Mark your calendars for the annual Magic Show and Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, February 7, 1999. The kids will love it! Return the reservation form in this issue of the Scroll.

If you are not a member, please consider joining the Men's Club. We need you! For membership information,



please contact Bernie Rod, (301) 299-8632.

SECOND MEN'S CLUB/SISTERHOOD SQUARE DANCE A SUCCESS!

The second Men's Club/Sisterhood Square Dance on November 14 proved to be another successful and enjoyable event. Those of us who attended danced, ate and drank to our hearts' content. We are all grateful for the work performed by

the committees under the leadership of Laurie Friedman, Linda Mann and Roy Niedermayer. Thanks to Steve Frank, we have some super pictures of everyone who was there. If you would like to see these pictures, and take home one or more for souvenirs, please stop by the synagogue office and ask to see the pictures in the Men's Club mail box.

From the Desk of Rachel D. Sternberg, Youth Director

Bonim (Kindergarten -2nd Graders)

Advisor: Carrie Apfel

Hotline: (301) 652-2606, ext. 342

Vegetable Art, Sunday, January 10, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Do you like your veggies?? How about painting with veggies? Come make vegetable t-shirts and a Bonim banner! Cost is \$4 for members; \$6 for non-members. **RSVP to the Hotline by January 6.**

Machar (3rd-5th Graders)

Advisors: Darrin Gerson and Andrea Goldstein

Hotline: (301) 652-2606, ext. 341

Jeepers, Sunday, January 10, 1:30-4:30 p.m. Join Beth El and Ohr Kodesh Machar kids for an afternoon of fun and games at Jeepers in Rockville. Cost is \$10 for members; \$12 for non-members. Cost includes transportation, 2 hours of fun and games and a snack!! **You must RSVP by January 6 to the Hotline if you want to join us.**

Kadima (6th-8th Graders)

Advisor: Jane-Rachel Sanow

Hotline: (301) 652-2606, ext. 340

Hit the Ice with Kadima, Sunday, January 10, 3-5:15 p.m. at Cabin John Ice Rink. Join Kadima for fun on the ice. Meet at Cabin John Ice Rink at 3 p.m. Cost is \$6 per child. Please bring cash! **Please RSVP to the Hotline by January 6.**

USY (9th-12th Graders)

Advisor: Rachel Sternberg

Hotline: (301) 652-2606, ext. 308

Ice Skating on the Mall, January 9, 6:30-11 p.m., meet and pick up at Bethesda Metro.

Join Beth El and Olam Tikvah USY for an evening of ice skating on the Washington Mall and snacks downtown!!! Cost is \$7 for skating. Bring \$4 for the metro and don't forget \$5-\$10 for a snack!! **You must RSVP by January 6 to join us for this great event!!**

Basketball, USY Style: Do you like to play basketball? Then join the Beth El USY team in their quest to be the top team in Seaboard region. For more info, call the Hotline!!

USY Bagel Sale - January 10 - 10:30-11:45 a.m. If you want to help out, call the USY Hotline.

Take 30, January 5. Dinner at 6:15 p.m., and program starts at 7:00 p.m.

Fresh bagels will be sold by USY in the Rotunda on Sunday, January 10 from 10:30 - 11:45 a.m.

USY Bagel Sales \$.50

Coupon

**Get \$.50 off your
next dozen bagels.**

Report of the Inreach Committee

In December 1996 the Board of Congregation Beth El decided that it was time that the Congregation not only reach out to our surrounding community but that we also needed to reach in to our membership and see what more we could do to help and support their needs. The Board appointed two groups, one on Inreach and the other on Senior Members. The goal of these groups was to explore ways in which Beth El could improve its services to members. Both groups produced useful ideas and information, and in the fall of 1997 the Board decided to combine the work of the groups into a single, permanent, Inreach Committee. The goal of the Inreach Committee is to coordinate and address issues important to members of the Congregation. The Inreach Committee is made up of Beth El members from diverse backgrounds and is cochaired by Brent Berger, Arthur Popper, and Rabbi Bill Rudolph. The purpose of this report is to bring you up-to-date on the activities, successes, and future plans of the Inreach Committee.

Organization of the Committee

The Inreach Committee has divided itself into three areas of interest. These represent the needs and interests specific to (a) new members, (b) the membership as a whole, and (c) senior members.

Progress to Date

New Member Services

We quickly came to the conclusion that to start to integrate new members into Beth El, we had to find ways to make them feel welcome. Thus we developed several different activities to serve this purpose.

Welcoming: We returned to an old Beth El tradition of welcoming new members by delivering a gift basket to their home shortly after they joined Beth El. Volunteers collect, assemble, and deliver the baskets. The contents include a Beth El directory, nonperishable food items, and wine. The effort is widely appreciated. Judy Goldman has led this effort thus far.

Mentors: One of the issues we wanted to address is to find ways to help new members "connect" with current members. We therefore developed a plan, working with Suzanne Bronheim, to provide new members with "mentors" who could provide information and befriend them. Letters sent to new members offer them the opportunity to have a current member, preferably of similar age or family situation, assigned to them as a mentor. Mentors in the past have joined new members at services, welcomed them to their homes, and tried to help the new member integrate themselves into Beth El activities. Because many new members are either related to or friendly with current members, the requests for mentors have not been numerous. Nevertheless, we feel this is an important program to offer new members.

Home Socials: Again adopting something similar to past procedures, we sought ways for new members to get to know our clergy. As a result, Rabbi Maltzman, Rabbi Rudolph, and Hazzan Lubin have hosted new members to their homes for purely social reasons so that the new members could become better acquainted with a member of the clergy and meet other new members. The gatherings have been very well received.

Current Member Services

"PCR": With the leadership of committee member Ann Birk, we are in the process of developing a plan for a Personal Congregational Representative who will serve as an ombudsperson and representative for up to 25 member units. PCRs will be trained on the ins and outs of being an involved member of the congregation so that they can help members get any assistance they may need. A PCR will be assigned to every membership unit at Beth El. We hope to have this program running by the middle of 1999.

Life Cycle Issues: We have had many discussions as to how Beth El members and staff can best help those who may need support in difficult times such as death or illness, as well as offer congratulations on news of births, weddings, or other happy occasions. Our Clergy and the Hesed Committee do these functions, but in a large congregation such as Beth El, it is difficult to know about many of these events unless members, their family, or their friends keep us informed. Unfortunately, the very people most in need of support may not be known to us or may be uncomfortable in seeking help. How to better meet these needs remains one of the biggest challenges of the Inreach Committee. We are actively working on getting this program started by the end of this fiscal year under the leadership of committee member Susan Levine.

Havurot: Two new havurot, one for "babyboomers" and/or "emptynesters," and another for families with children in the age 10-13 age bracket (mostly Day School families we have learned), have recently been created. Members are also being channeled to existing havurot, especially for young families. Cheryl Rod and Judy Matz are trying to identify other subgroups within the Congregation for whom no havurot exists. "Time for Torah" will be integrated into the havurot programming for this year. It was observed that other groups within Beth El serve as de facto havurot, such as the Vatikim, Nitzanim, Jewish Family Camp, and 50+ Singles.

Shabbat Greeters: Rabbi Rudolph continues to organize this effort whereby designated greeters are assigned to approach "new faces" at the Oneg Shabbat each week. Only very positive feelings have been expressed about this effort.

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Senior Member Issues

Transportation: A transportation hotline (extension 351) has been established on the main switchboard. There are those members who probably need rides but are not comfortable requesting them, perhaps for fear of being a burden. To date, very few members have requested or offered rides. However, we intend to continue to try and pair up members so that we can ensure that all members who need transportation to and from Beth El can receive it.

Senior Members Focus Group Report: Committee member Dunya Hecht continues to work on the results of her focus group study of our senior members that took place last spring. Many issues exist that are particular to this large segment of our congregation, including those of keeping families with young adult children together for the holidays, communication, offering assistance to those with specific needs, and alienation.

Senior Director Project: In one of our most exciting proposals, Arthur Popper is organizing an effort to develop a grant proposal to help us obtain the services of a professional to work specifically with senior members.

Our goal is to add a person to the senior staff at Beth El who would work with more senior members, just as our Family Education Director and Youth Director meet special congregational needs. Beth El would be a leader in the Conservative Movement in offering such services to its membership. The focus group results of Dunya Hecht are key to this effort.

As we look back on our year as a committee, we feel that we have started to make inroads into the very extensive and complex needs of members of our Congregation. Beth El is a very special shul, and the leadership of Beth El is strongly committed to making Beth El as responsive as possible to the interests and needs of our membership. We look forward to continuing with our present successes and to future challenges. We would appreciate any input you may have in assisting us in better serving our membership.

Brent Berger
Arthur N. Popper
Rabbi William Rudolph

Now we can give you...



The Sun



The Moon



The Stars

The Women's Rosh Hodesh Group
of Beth El Sisterhood

invites you to its Tuesday evening discussion series

Topic: The Status of Jewish Women from the Biblical Period to the Present: What the Texts Say About Responsibility, Rape, Marriage, Divorce and Abortion

Leader: Rabbi Toby Manewith
Hillel Director, The American University

Dates: January 19, February 16 and March 16

Time: 7:45 p.m.

Place: Beth El Board Room

Questions: Call Marcia Merlin, (301) 365-3747, or Mimi Tygier, (301) 652-8211

You are welcome to join us for any or all of the series.
No reservation is needed.

Sisterhood News

Are You Interested in Health and Fitness?

The Sisterhood Women's Health Fair will be held on Sunday, April 25 from noon until 4 p.m. We are looking for people (men and women) to help plan a program that will build upon our successful event last year. Please call Pat Danoff, (301) 365-1180, Michele Herman, (301) 718-8710, or Mimi Tygier, (301) 652-8211, if you are interested in doing any of the following: serve on planning committee, find speakers and clinicians, do publicity, prepare healthy lunch, obtain or donate health-related literature, lead an exercise or hands-on session, set-up and take-down, perform basic health screening tests, or serve in any other capacity, large or small.

We are hoping to hear from the many health professionals in the congregation, but we also need volunteers from all backgrounds who want to make this event worthwhile. The date may seem far away, but the planning needs to start now! Please call if you can help in any way with this informative and fun afternoon.

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!

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.

**Beth El Men's Club
Invites the Congregation
to Join Us for the 25th Annual**

Perspectives In Dialogue

**A series of talks
by nationally known speakers
on topics of special importance
to our community**

Sunday, January 3, 1999

The Honorable Connie Morella

U.S. House of Representatives,
8th District, Maryland

January 10

William Safire

Author and Columnist,
The New York Times
"The Years Ahead"

January 17

Dr. Steven Rosenberg

Chief of Surgery,
National Cancer Institute
"Medical Progress in the 21st Century"

January 24

Shoshana Bryen

Director, Special Projects, Jewish Institute for National
Security Affairs (JINSA)
"U.S. Policy and the Security of Israel"

January 31

Ambassador Dennis Ross

Special Middle East Coordinator for the Clinton
Administration
**"The Future of the Middle East Peace
Process"**

All talks will begin at 10:00 a.m.
Danish and coffee at 9:30

Nursery News

1999-2000 School Applications are available; please call (301)652-2606, ext. 344, provide the information requested and an information packet/application will be mailed to you. Entertainment '99 Books available now in the school office, the synagogue office and the Judaica Shop.

Save Giant Receipts For B.E.N.S.!

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).

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.

Register for the Beth El Retreat

The annual Beth El Retreat will be held the weekend of March 5 - 7 at the Tidewater Inn in Easton, MD. Registration forms are available in the lucite holder outside the synagogue office.

Important Meeting for Parents of 2000 B'nai Mitzvah

**Please plan to attend the meeting on Sunday, January 31 at 11 a.m.
for the parents of children who will become
B'nai Mitzvah during 2000.**

If you will it....

Did you know that you can name Beth El in your will as a beneficiary of your estate?

We can give you the wording to have added to your will, so that you may make a contribution in your memory. The Beth El Support Foundation, our vehicle for the long-term financial needs of the congregation, is now looking for members who would be willing to contribute to the Support Foundation in this way. Our dream is to have an endowment program to help support the various needs of our congregation.

Please call Steven J. Kravitz, (301) 652-2606, ext. 306 for further details. You can help us reach our goal.

...our dream can come true.

HOLD THE DATE!

JANUARY 13, 1999

7:30 PM

AT BETH EL



**ORGANIZING MEETING
RABBI RUDOLPH'S
CONGREGATIONAL TRIP TO
ISRAEL**

JUNE 21 - JULY 5, 1999

*** LEARN ABOUT THE TOUR**

PROGRAM AND ITINERARY

*** MEET OUR ISRAELI GUIDES**

*** SEE WHAT IS NEW &**

EXCITING IN ISRAEL TODAY

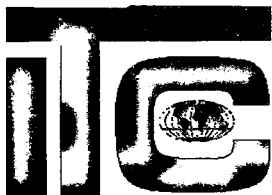
BETH EL INFO. LINE 301-652-2606

EXT. 318

TOUR OPERATOR:

ISRAEL TOUR CONNECTION

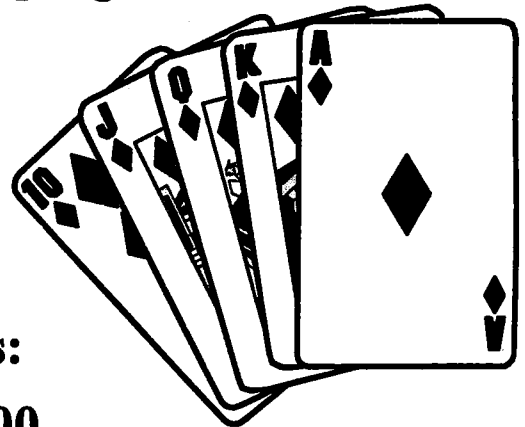
1-800-2-ISRAEL



**WINNER OF THE 1999 ISRAEL
MINISTRY OF TOURISM AWARD**

**The Men's Club
of
Congregation Beth El
Presents
Annual Magic Show & Spaghetti Dinner**

**Starring Malcolm the Magician
And
Bingo the Clown**



**February 7, 1999
6:30PM**

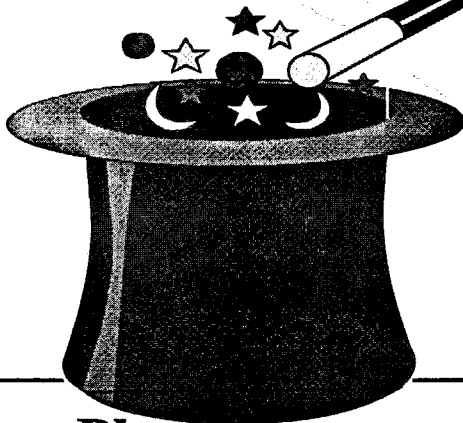
Reservations:

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