

**“HAVE YOU GIVEN TO THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN?”**

June 30, 2000

27 Sivan

VOLUME 49

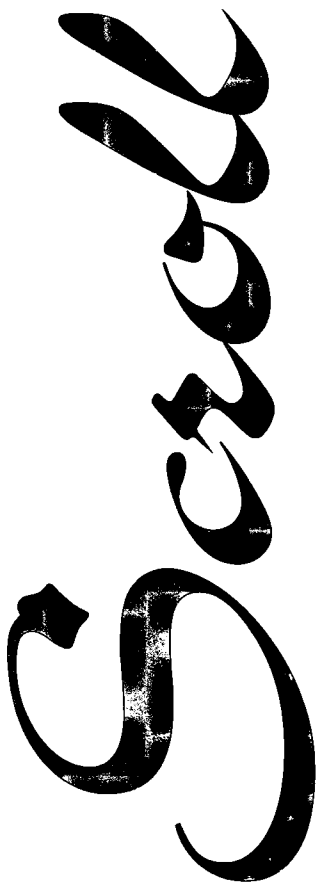
No. 21



These kids have. What an inspiration. 62% of the Congregation have been inspired. What about the other 38% who have not contributed?

As one of their tzedakah projects, the children of Beth El Nursery School collected pennies during the year as their contribution to the Beth El Capital Campaign. Each child made a “pushka” out of a plastic tennis

can and brought it home to collect their pennies. At weekly Shabbat assemblies, the children poured their pennies into large, clear jugs, which they could see growing with coins week by week. On May 23, the Nursery School presented their penny collection to the synagogue at the Congregation Meeting by wheeling the jugs in on a red wagon. Making the presentation to the synagogue were Alison, Tanya, and Amanda Silverstein; David and Naomi Solkowitz; and Isabella Zissman. The pennies will be tallied at the end of the school year.



**Shabbat Schedule**

<b>Friday, June 30</b>		<b>Saturday, July 15</b>
6:30 pm	Friday Night Service	7:30 and 9:15 am Shabbat Services
<b>Saturday, July 1</b>		Chukat-Balak: Numbers 19:1-25:9
7:30 and 9:15 am	Shabbat Services	9:15 am Michael Prada Bar Mitzvah
Shelach: Numbers 13:1-15:41		10 am Gan Shabbat, MR
9:15 am	Zachary Moak Bar Mitzvah	Adult B'nai Mitzvah Study Session
10 am	Worship and Study	12:30 pm Perek Yomi, Chapel
	Minyan, APR	<b>Friday, July 21</b>
12:30 pm	Perek Yomi, Chapel	6:30 pm Friday Night Service
<b>Friday, July 7</b>		<b>Saturday, July 22</b>
6:15 pm	Special Singing	7:30 and 9:15 am Shabbat Services
6:30 pm	Friday Night Service	Pinchas: Numbers 25:10-30:1
<b>Saturday, July 8</b>		9:15 am Suzanne Smith Bat Mitzvah
7:30 and 9:15 am	Shabbat Services	10:30 am Nitzanim, APR
Korach: Numbers 16:1-18:32		12:30 pm Perek Yomi, Chapel
9:15 am	David Gang Bar Mitzvah	<b>Friday, July 28</b>
9:30 am	Minyan Chaverim, MR	6:30 pm Friday Night Service
10:30 am	Nitzanim, APR	<b>Saturday, July 29</b>
12:30 pm	Perek Yomi, Chapel	7:30 and 9:15 am Shabbat Services
<b>Friday, July 14</b>		Mattot-Mase: Numbers 30:2-36:13
6:30 pm	Friday Night Service	9:15 am Ethan Levy-Forsythe Bar Mitzvah
		10:30 am Nitzanim, APR
		12:30 pm Perek Yomi, Chapel

## Sisterhood News

### Reminders

The Sisterhood Catering Committee can always use volunteers to help on a regular basis with the Shabbat kiddushim and luncheons. Jackie Levine, 301-299-9507, or Marcia Kalman 301-897-8562, can tell you how you can get involved in this worthwhile activity.

Have you shopped at the Sisterhood Judaica Shop? Stop in to see the lovely, new items in stock. The Judaica Shop is open on Thursdays and Sundays from 9 am to Noon or by special appointment.

Sisterhood has beautiful, special greeting cards available for all occasions. Proceeds from the cards benefit the Jewish Theological Seminary. Call Rita Kahn 301-654-7716 to purchase cards.

Your subscription to *Washington Jewish Week* can benefit Sisterhood at no additional cost to you. Call Leslie Dellon, 301-530-4645, for more information.

An easy way to get information about Sisterhood or to leave messages, is to call the Sisterhood hotline number 301-652-2606, ext. 333. Calls will be answered as quickly as possible.

### Beth El goes to the Bowie Baysox

Who: Anyone!

What: Youth Department sponsored trip to the **Bowie Baysox**

When: Sunday, July 23 at 1:05 p.m.

Where: Meet in front of the Flag Pole at the Stadium at 12:40 to get your ticket

Why: For FUN! Just because it's summer, doesn't mean you can't do fun stuff with your Beth El friends.

Cost: Kids: FREE

Adults: \$5.

Call Ariele, at 301-652-8573, ext. 308, ASAP (or no later than July 9) to reserve your tickets.

## Experience Israel

Each year on the Sunday closest to Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel Independence Day), fifth graders from synagogue schools throughout the Greater Washington area come together to *Experience Israel*. The simulated visit to an Israel housed at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds begins with receiving passports and dollars which need to be exchanged for shekels. The hardworking Experiential Education staff at the Board of Jewish Education (including Beth El upper school teachers, Marlene Sandberg and Cheryl Kreiser) assists each school in choosing an aspect of Israeli culture around which to create an activity. Participating teachers and student bodies prepare for weeks in advance researching their topic and making decorations for their booth. Some favorites are bargaining at the shuk and creating Holocaust related tiles at Yad Vashem.

Beth El's Sunday curricular focus is current events. For the past few years, Sarah Roark has led the activity for the Knesset (government) site. Last year the program occurred the day before the real elections in Israel. The students voted for Ehud Barak, predicting the next day's actual results. This year's "vote" was issue-based. Students voted on whether or not Israel should withdraw from the Golan and Lebanon. This year real life did not go as predicted by the students, who voted in a two-thirds majority against withdrawal from Lebanon. Special thanks to Alan Scher, father of Henry and Dara, who, after a successful stint campaigning last year, agreed to re-volunteer at the Knesset. Sherri Stahl also served as a parent volunteer this year. High school students Aaron Levy-Forsythe and David Schoenholtz, who enjoyed this memorable program when they were fifth graders, also gave of their valuable time and effort.

## Nitzanim

Nitzanim Shabbat Services are held on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month at 10:30 am 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!

Todah Rabah to **Don and Michelle Hainbach** for sponsoring the Nitzanim Kiddush on June 24 in honor of the fourth birthday of their son, **Sam Hainbach**.

## Men's Club News



For the third year of the last four, the Beth El Men's Club has won the Seaboard Region's "It's Academic" competition. After four grueling rounds, the Beth El Men's Club won in the finals over four other Clubs. Several of the contests were very tight, with our Club winning the final two rounds by very small margins. It's Academic features a college bowl format. Questions in the competition are based on Judaica as well as a very wide variety of secular topics.

The participants were (from left to right) Colin Winston, Howard Lesser, Dave Schultz, Ted Senator, Ben Bornstein, and Steve Frank. Not shown: Darryl Sherman.

You are invited to attend the Beth El Men's Club's regular Sunday breakfast programs and to join the Men's Club. The Men's Club supports programs including the renowned Perspectives in Dialogue series, political forums, awards, and other events.

The Men's Club also sponsors youth programs including scouting, the Purim Carnival, the annual Magic Show, Israeli scholarships, school books, Bar Mitzvah kiddush cups, and other important activities. Your participation makes it possible! For membership information, please call Marvin Yudkowitz at 301-564-4580.

## High Holiday Packets

Check your mail boxes for our High Holiday packet during the next few weeks. Please return your registration form as soon as possible so that the staff can have sufficient time to process it. All registration forms are due by August 15, 2000.

Please be sure, when filling out the registration form, to indicate the location you desire and the total number of tickets needed. The form should be accompanied by a check for at least one-quarter of the total dues, building fund (if applicable) and school tuition (if applicable) due, plus the entire amount of membership in any auxiliaries or youth groups and any past due amount from 1999-2000.

The tickets will be mailed two weeks prior to Rosh Hashanah.

## All in the Family

Mazal Tov to **Mervyn and Shirley Weiner** on the marriage of their son, **Dr. Lewis R. Weiner**, and **Vanessa C. Lever** on May 20, 2000 in Providence, RI.

Mazal Tov to **Bob and Julia Loeb** on the birth of their son, **Ezra Joseph Loeb**, on June 4, 2000.

Mazal Tov to **Stuart and Margie Seides** on the engagement of their daughter, **Alison Seides**, to **Nicholas Sternberg**, son of **Martin Sternberg** and **Sandra Sternberg** of Cape Town, South Africa.

## Vatikkim News

Please note that there will **not** be a luncheon meeting in July because it the Fast of the 17th of Tammuz. We will have a very special meeting on July 13, however, when Naomi Frankfort and her "hearing ear" dog, Shayna Ponim, will teach us how a human-canine partnership can achieve miracles. Be sure to mark your calendar for this unusual program.

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## 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 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.

### July 2 to July 6

Dorothy Alberstadt  
Marla and Nicholas Allard  
James Altman and Rita Gendelman  
George and Michlean Amir  
Morley and Lori Amsellem  
Jack and Faye Amster  
Allison and Neal 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  
Louis and Karen Aronson  
Natalie Arosemena  
Michael and Karen Askarinam  
Dennis Askwith and  
Sherlyn Goldstein-Askwith  
Ethan and Martha Assal

### July 9 to July 13

Tsvi and Ruth Assal  
Marcello and Marilda Averbug  
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  
David Barach and  
Ariele Hausner-Barach  
Bruce and Ann Barcome  
Jeffrey and Patty Baron  
Solomon and Rita Barr  
Abraham and Gertrude Bass  
Raymond and Vivian Bass  
Rosalyn Bass  
Heinz Bauer  
Jesse Baumgold and Linda J. Golden  
Leonard and Gabriela Bechick  
Arthur and Sandra Becker

### July 16 to July 20

Richard Belferman  
Sheila Bellack  
Gerald Belson and Shelly Greenberg Belson  
Barbara Bender  
David and Nanette Bender  
Howard and Sondra Bender  
Robert and Jody Benjamin  
Charles Bennett and Renee Marlin-Bennett  
Jane Krubiner Berardi and Michael Berardi  
Martin and Ellen Bercovici  
Audrey Berger  
Bernard and Beatrice Berger  
Brent Berger and Carolyn Chabrow Berger  
Edward and Marcy Berger  
Eric Berger and Barrie Tabin  
Howard Berger and Linda Goldsmith  
Jeffrey Berman and Naomi Chernick-Berman  
Joseph Berman and Marsha Gentner  
Kenneth and Beth Berman  
Stuart Berman and Ellen Kappel Berman

### July 23 to July 27

Susan Berman  
Robert Bernard  
Max and Judith Bernhardt  
Sanford and Anita Berns  
Gary and Rachelle Bernstecker  
Jerald Bernstein  
Michael and Jamie Bernstein  
Jay and Sharon Berzofsky  
Jacques and Isabelle Besnainou  
Frederick and Vera Bettelheim  
Irving and Vivian Beyda  
Steven and Ellen Bezner  
Jonathan and Cathy Binder  
Ann Birk  
Sheila Birnbach  
Alan and Debra Birnkrant  
Henry Birnkrant and  
Lynn R. Goldin  
Evelyn Bitterbaum  
Marc and Linda Blackman  
Joseph and Jody Bleiberg

# Home Hospitality Needed Sunday, August 6, 2000

USY on Wheels is a fabulous program where groups of USYers travel around the United States and Canada for 6 weeks on a bus. Beth El will be welcoming one of these busses to our congregation on Sunday, August 6, 2000 for one night.

Please fulfill the mitzvah of Hachnasat Orchim (hospitality) by allowing these USYers into your home for the night. All you need to provide is a place for at least two people to sleep, transportation to and from the synagogue, breakfast, and a bag lunch.

If you are in high school, please join us for an evening program on Sunday. We also welcome any congregant to daven with us for morning minyan on Monday, August 7.

Please call Ariele Hausner-Barach, Youth Director, by July 17, to let her know that you are interested in hosting USYers. Her number is 301-652-8573 ext. 308.

## Hazzan Lubin's Tenth Anniversary Celebration

It was a night to remember. On Sunday, June 4, our Hazzan was honored for his decade of service to Beth El in an evening rich with song and tributes.

The sanctuary was filled to capacity, and arriving congregants were greeted by lively Klezmer music provided by The Klezical Tradition, a trio of performers from Connecticut under the musical direction of the talented Adrienne Greenbaum. Our synagogue was decorated in "Carnegie Hall" fashion with theatrical curtains and all the props and trappings of an elegant concert hall. The guest of honor, Hazzan Lubin, was seated in the front row with his wife, Sandy, and his extended family.

The nearly three-hour concert featured highly acclaimed Hazzanim: Jeffrey Nadel of Beth Sholom Congregation, David Perper, and Kimberly Komrad, with well-known pianist Bruce Steeg as accompanist. Our own Ahavat Shir choir performed a special tribute number that they had written. The music ranged from traditional Hassidic medleys and Sephardic folksongs to more contemporary Broadway tunes.

Throughout the evening, speeches and tributes centered around the themes of Abraham Lubin as scholar, Hazzan, and "Mensch!" Rabbi Maltzman delivered a warm and moving tribute, as did Rabbi Rudolph, who offered his own poem about the Hazzan. Susan Sherzer, who chaired the Cantorial Search Committee ten years ago, added a special touch. But the most moving tribute was surely that of Hazzan Lubin's children. His daughters, Stephanie and Sharyn, sang a humorous song they had written to the tune of "Raindrops on Roses," and his son, Harlan, spoke of his father's scholarship, love of music, and professional responsibility.

Presentations by Congregation President Benson Adams included a letter from former Israeli Ambassador Zalman Shoval and one from the President of the Cantor's Assembly. Our own Religious School Director, Louis Nagel, and Nursery School Director, Johanna Sohinki, also made presentations on behalf of the young people of our congregation, as did Connie Krupin who presented the guest book. Toward the end of the concert, Hazzan Lubin graciously thanked everyone and joined his colleagues in a moving musical close to a wonderful evening. The concert was followed by a lively reception with music, dancing, and goodies.

Kudos to Tara Sonenshine, Chairperson of the Committee that planned the evening. The members of the committee were Benson D. Adams, Brenda Bregman, Sheila Smallberg Cohen, Sandy Elson, Debbie Friedmann, Diane Goldman, Hattie Goodman, Seymour Gross, Michele Herman, Bert King, Connie Krupin, Anita Lieb, Margery London, Shelley London, Judy Newman, Sonja Schultz, Judy Semo, Susan Sherzer, Offie Soldin, and Esther Wilner.

Mazel Tov to Hazzan Lubin. We salute you and thank you for all you do for this congregation and for this community.

Here are some of the tributes and pictures from this wonderful evening. Check our Web page for more pictures.



The Finale (from left to right): Hazzan Jeffrey Nadel, Hazzan Kimberly Komrad, Adrienne Greenbaum and Cookie Segelstein (of The Kelzical Tradition), Hazzan David Perper, Hazzan Abe Lubin, Bruce Steeg (Pianist), and Walter Mamlok (of The Klezical Tradition)



Abe and Sandy Lubin enjoying the Concert with family and friends

## The Melody of Abraham Lubin

by Rabbi Jonathan Maltzman

Why is there so little art in the four millennia tradition of Judaism? Where are the landscapes, the portraits, the statuary? In the tradition that has produced psalmists, sages, rabbis, scholars, scribes, where are the painters, the architects, the sculptors?

Some explain the absence of physical art on theological grounds. The second commandment looms large over our people "You shall not make unto you a graven Image, nor any manner of likeness of anything that is in heaven above or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow unto them nor serve them," This is the Jewish God, a God without a name, without a form, without a body. This is God invisible, intangible, unutterable, a God found in the soul and spirit.

There are others who explain the absence of art on historic grounds. Ours is a people who began its career in wandering, as fugitive slaves and whose later life was dogged by expulsions, pogroms, persecutions and endless exiles. A homeless people does not carry with it burdensome statuary. From Egypt it carries a *matzah* on its back, from Sinai a portable Ark, and portable memories, it carries a tune.

The trope of Torah and Haftorah some musicologists speculate came about because the sacred text has no written vowels. The vowels had to be sung. So the vowel *holom*, the "OH sound" is intoned at the higher pitch because it is placed above the letter; but the vowel *herik*, the sound of "EE" which appears as a single point below the letter receives a lower note. Music is the secret grammar of the Torah.

Others say that the absence of physical art was because the sensibility closest to God was a niggun, a melody. For the intimate relationship with God is best expressed not through any of the senses such as taste or sight or smell or touch but by the sense of sound, "Hear O Israel the Lord our God, the Lord is one."

A building is in space. Music is in time. Space asks where; time asks when. The unique Jewish question: When is God? The answer that is given is that God Y.H.W.H. is in all three tenses, past, present, and future. That is the essence of His name *Adonai*. *Hayah, Hoveh, Yihyey?* was, is, will be. When is that found? Those tenses in God are best expressed in melody which is not segregated, nor segmented. The melody is like an uninterrupted flow of time. If you

listen attentively to the entire melody, the past is in the present and the present is in the future and all tenses are interdependent. You must have patience to listen to the entire melody because to interrupt it here is to distort it. A melody must be simultaneously remembered and anticipated. How will the melody be resolved? This is the surprise of the resolution.

This is the way we listen to the song of our people. Our ears are strained toward the outcome. That resolution of the future makes sense of the whole past. In theology, it is called the Messianic hope.

Abe Lubin has haunted our prayers for ten years now We cannot read the words of the Siddur without hearing his Rashi Musical commentary, his interpretive melodies.

I need the melody to understand the word. The melody belongs to the word like the soul belongs to the body. So the sages in the Talmud Megillah 323 observed that those who read the Torah without chanting, or study the sages without a melody, do not do good.

From the earliest days melody attached itself to a text. In the absence of vowels there was the grammar of melody with which I first learned the Mishnah" four questions "*Mah nishtanah halaileh hazeh mikol haleiluth* "...

Melody opens the mouth. The greatest of our leaders, the greatest prophet and teacher, Moses, was a stutterer and a stammerer? *Kvad peh?* heavy of tongue when he spoke. But when he sang "*Az yashtr Mosheh*", he did not stammer and he did not stutter. He sang and the song set him free and lightened his tongue. Such is the power of melody that it can make the tongue-tied fluent.

The mystics speak of the therapy of a melody. In the thirteenth century Jewish mystics spoke of the melody as having the potency to sweeten the bitterness of the strict judgment, to sweeten the din (judgment) with chesed (with mercy and compassion). Whose heavy heart has not been lightened with a song? The melody helps remove the pedestrian dust from the soul.

Jews sing theology. God is the "*shir ha-olam*," the Song of the Universe. And like God, the Song is incorporeal, wordless, timeless, not in space, external, the connecting nexus that holds us together.

Abe, you have given us melody. You have given life to listless letters. What shall we wish you on this celebration? Give us a new song, new melody, new

life, new hope, new future. May the old in you be renewed and the new be sanctified.

I conclude with the lines of Edna St. Vincent Millet that she wrote upon hearing a Beethoven symphony:

Sweet sounds, oh beautiful music, do not cease. With you alone is excellence and peace. Mankind made plausible, his purpose plain. This moment is the best the world can give. The tranquil blossom on the tortured stem, a city spellbound under the aging sun. Music, my rampart, and my only one.

We say of Abe what the poet had said of such a great musician. His name is now eternally enshrined in this sacred space where his soaring music uplifted spirits, delighted the heart and soul by inspiring and consoling so many, and filling worshippers with light and beauty.

## **A Tribute in Words of One Syllable**

by Rabbi William Rudolph

Since you are fresh from a break, I could probably talk at length and get away with it. But those were not my instructions. It is my pleasure and privilege to work with Hazzan Abe Lubin - as a Hazzan and a mensch, there are few who top him, and you know that (which is why so many of you are here). He also has many particular fine qualities, yet (as I prepared for these words) it was not clear what I could say that would be new or different, and I hate redundancy.

I considered a tribute in song, but looked at the lineup of real singers and ditched that plan immediately. Ultimately, I came up with this plan: those who know some Hebrew, and some liturgy, know how careful and exacting and amazingly accurate Abe is with every word and syllable of the worship service. His whole heart, and his impressive knowledge, invariably seem to go into every single syllable that he chants. That is an unusual and special quality. I want to highlight that quality, among the many about which you are hearing tonight. And to do so, to make the point most emphatically, my tribute will be entirely in words of one syllable. Since that turns out to be not so simple, you will benefit from a tribute which will be, if nothing else, concise.

I want to say, friends, how much I like to work each day with Abe. He is a pro's pro. He knows all there is to know about his field, I need not fear when he is here. It is clear too that he loves this work. His

voice is great, but what is in his heart is I think more great. It is our luck that Beth El is where he plies his trade, sings his songs, fills the hearts.

Abe's sense for what the text says and means is quite rare, you can know what the words mean if you just hear him sing them (even if you dropped out from your shul's school, or were sick each day of the week that they taught the alef beis, or if you have no ear for "do a deer"/ "re a drop of gold sun"/ mi fa so la ti do).

His face shines with the light of the words of our texts, those we study and those we pray. Few know them as well as he, or have a feel for them like his. And there is not much on the full C D Rom of the words of G-d and His reps on earth, those we call Rav, that turns out to be not in his head.

When Abe is up here, you feel so much of the time that he is in two worlds, that he could leave us all here - when his eyes close, it feels like his soul may be far from here, it may be up there with those who serve on High, where there is sure to be a place for one who sings as he does and "is" as he is, but not too soon, please G-d.

Is there a match for our Abe? Not in any one soul is there a match, but if you join three or five folk with their fine traits and skills and voice and heart, you might come close to that match. The voice, the soul, how much he knows in so many realms, you have a hard time to think all that can be found in any one of us. But it can be, it is, in our Abe, and we are so full of good luck to share him these ten years with the ones he loves, and may it be so for a lot more time. From strength to strength, please G-d. And G-d bless.

## **TRIBUTE FOR DAD'S "TENTH"**

(sung to the tune of "My Favorite Things")

by daughters Stephanie and Sharyn

Beth El board meetings, and singing Hatikvah,  
Funerals and weddings, and teaching Bar-Mitzvah,  
Planning good fundraisers ...he even sings...  
These are a few of his favorite things ...

Passover seders - straight from the cheder,  
For Purim he dresses, and always impresses,  
With joy he comes day after day to Beth El,  
This is a job that he loves you can tell ....