



CONGREGATION BETH EL OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY



November 10, 2000

12 Heshvan 5761

VOLUME 50

No. 6

Scroll



Tuning In with Hazzan Lubin

“Six years you may sow your field and six years you may prune your vineyard and gather in the yield. But in the seventh year the land shall have a sabbath of complete rest, a sabbath of the Lord: you shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard. You shall not reap the aftergrowth of your harvest or gather the grapes of your untrimmed vines; it shall be a year of complete rest for the land.” (Leviticus 25:3-5)

The concept of a sabbatical is traced to this unique biblical law which had as its main purpose to save the soil from danger of exhaustion and to protect it as the ultimate resource for life itself. It is one of the earliest injunctions concerning ecological and spiritual renewal. In a comment upon this verse, the noted scholar Felix Perles (1874-1933) wrote: “Just as the freedom of the individual was a fundamental principle of the Torah, so was the freedom of the land from the absolute ownership of man.”

When you read this I will be enjoying the first week of my six-month sabbatical period, something I have been unable to do in my 40 years as a Hazzan. I look forward to this time away from my professional responsibilities to spend more time with our expanding family (we are expecting our fifth grandchild to arrive in December, please God). I also plan to study and work on some long deferred research projects and to teach our young cantorial students at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York and Jerusalem. I have plans to travel to Eastern and Western Europe as well as, of course, to Israel. I hope to be able to read more and to think more. This will be a wonderful opportunity to look deeply into my heart and soul and ponder upon the spiritual content of my life and my work.

Sandy joins me in expressing our deep gratitude to this precious congregation for your support, good wishes and generosity of spirit in affording us the opportunity to enjoy this sabbatical.

Today Rabbah!

Shabbat Services

Friday, November 10	9:15 am	Elana Lipman Bat Mitzvah
6:30 pm Friday Evening Service		Asa Reynolds Bar Mitzvah
Saturday, November 11	10 am	Jr. Congregation, Chapel
Lekh L'kha: Genesis 12:1-17:27		Gan Shabbat, MR
7:30 and 9:15 am Shabbat Services	11 am	Shitufim Minyan, Room 209
9:15 am Andrew Weisberg Bar Mitzvah		Havdallah at Home
9:30 am Minyan Chaverim, MR	6 pm	Gr. 2 Havdallah Happening, Sanctuary, SH
10 am Jr. Congregation, Chapel		Friday, November 24
10:30 am Nitzanim, APR	6:30 pm	Friday Evening Service
12:30 pm Perek Yomi, Chapel		Saturday, November 25
Friday, November 17		Chaye Sarah: Genesis 23:1-25:18
Shabbaton Weekend	7:30 and 9:15 am	Shabbat Services
6:30 pm Friday Evening Service	9:15 am	Rebecca Annis Bat Mitzvah
with Rabbi Karyn Kedar		Lightning Jay Bar Mitzvah
Saturday, November 18	10 am	Jr. Congregation, Chapel
Vayera: Genesis 18:1-22:24	10:30 am	Nitzanim, APR
7:30 and 9:15 am Shabbat Services	12:30 pm	Perek Yomi, Chapel

To the Parents of Children Born Between 1/1/90 and 12/31/90

There will be a year 2003 B'nai Mitzvah parents scheduling meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2000, in the Sanctuary at 10 am. If you have not received a letter about your child's upcoming Bar or Bat Mitzvah, please call Carole at (301) 652-2606, ext. 316.

Sisterhood News

Sisterhood hopes that all congregants enjoyed receiving the beautiful New Year card containing greetings from their friends at Beth El. We appreciate the support of the families who participated in the project and hope that next year we will have many more names included on the card. Sisterhood would like to thank Ellen Elow-Mintz for taking a good idea from the Board and almost single-handedly making it a reality. We also want to thank Debby Stark for helping to compile the names. Todah Rabah to Ellen and Debby.

Back by Popular Demand—Beth El Sisterhood's Award-Winning Tallit Workshop

If you've always wanted to make your own tallit or you just need to make the bag to match it or a kippah, now is your chance to sign up for Sisterhood's award-winning Tallit Workshop! Please make note of the class dates and reserve your place now.

November 16 Introductory Session with Rabbi Rudolph, 7-9 pm (attendance required)

December 3 Shopping Trip to G Street Fabrics on Sunday afternoon (attendance optional)

Dec. 5, 12, 19, Jan. 2, 16 Work Sessions, 7-9 pm (attendance encouraged)

January 23 Siyyum to celebrate completion of Tallitot and Tying of the Tzitzit as a group, 7-9 pm (attendance Required)

(Limited to 20 students making 1 tallit each. First priority given to Sisterhood members. For sewers and non-sewers who are willing to try. Machine sewing assistance provided.)

New this year, one session only, Hats 'n Bags Workshop on January 30, 2001, 7-9 pm: Learn how to make a simple custom kippah and your own tallit bag. (Participation in previous tallit workshops not required-sign-up separately. First priority given to Sisterhood members.)

To sign up for one workshop or both, call the Sisterhood "hot line" at Beth El at 301-652-8573, ext. 333, and indicate which workshop: Tallit or Hats 'n Bags. Questions? Contact Judy Spector at globusinc@msn.com or leave message on the Sisterhood "hot line" number listed above.

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.

Men's Club News

The Men's Club invites you to join, and invites the congregation to attend the Beth El Men's Club regular Sunday breakfast programs.

The Men's Club 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 Yudkovitz at 301-564-4580.

For the Sunday morning programs, the bagel and lox breakfast is at 9:30 am (after the 9 am Minyan), with the program from 10-11 am. Check the Men's Club poster in the Rotunda for updated details.

Upcoming programs include:

November 12: Ari Roth of DCJCC, "Changing Jewish Theater in America"

November 19: Hanna Gutmann Lesser, "How the Elections Will Affect the Congress"

November 26: Business meeting

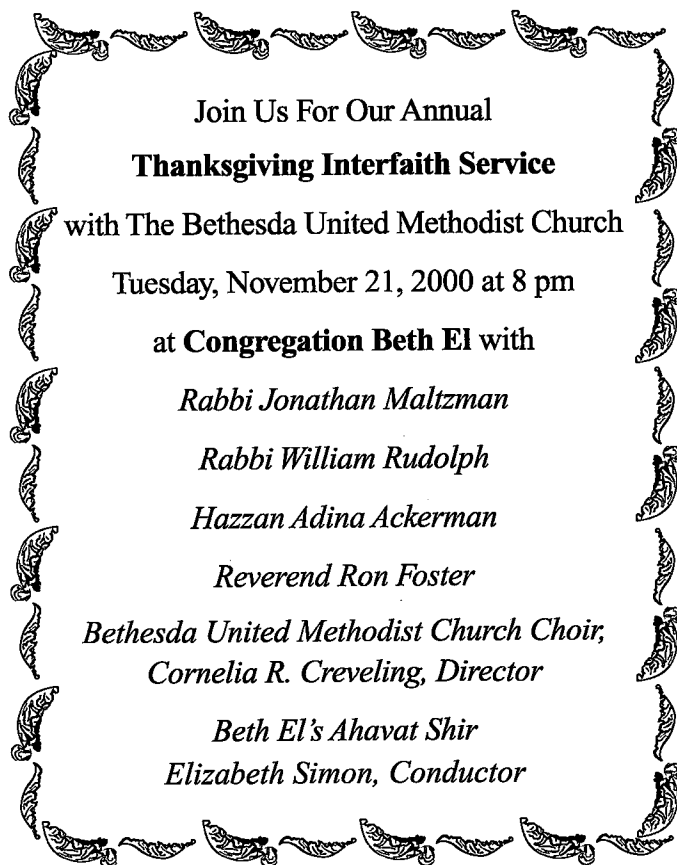
December 3: Mark Weinberg, "South Africa: What Next?"

SAVE THE DATE!

The synagogue retreat will take place the weekend of March 2-4, 2001. Watch for details in the upcoming weeks!

High Holiday Thank Yous

Todah Rabah to the many people who made this year's High Holiday services a success. First of all, thank you to all the clergy at Beth El, Holiday Inn, and DoubleTree for keeping us inspired and on track. Thank you to usher captains Herb Levinson at Beth El, Cheryl Rod at Holiday Inn, and Miriam Kelty at DoubleTree and their dedicated volunteers: Gary Wind, Alan Hecht, Mac Krents, Bert King, Faith Schwartz, Ed Shapiro, Debbie Leibowitz, Marvin Yudkovitz, Ed Leviton, Mark Weinberg, Cheryl Rod, Helen Popper, Judy Sherman, Julian Levin, Michele Herman, Howard Troffkin, Diana Pankowski, Jerry Broder, Jeff Annis, Ron Klein, Bob Koenig, Brent Berger, Arthur Popper, Howard Feibus, David Fogel, Jack Edlow, Ira Hoffman, Steve Mandel, Bob Luskin and Darryl Sherman (at Beth El); Gail Dutcher, Bob Nussenblatt, Eric Nussenblatt, Judy Goldman, Janice Liebowitz, Judy and Joe Semo, Judy Spector, Pat, Jerry and Emily Danoff, Hilda Sidman, Rhonda and Robert Zahler, Martha and Yuli Wexler, Ginger and Robert Teitel, Bernie Rod, and Suzanne and Benjamin Bronheim (at Holiday Inn); Ed Kelty, Rose and Sam Saady, Bruce Barcome, Merry Eisenstadt, Dorothy Alberstadt, Rachelle Bernstecker, and Rick Claxton (at DoubleTree). Each one of them contributed to the smooth running of our services. Yasher Koach to all those who sat on the bimah in each of our locations. Todah rabah to senior staff Louis Nagel, Joyce Singer, Sarah Roark, and Ariele Hausner-Barach for arranging the family and children's services and babysitting. Our thanks also to our seminar speakers, Norman Ornstein and Rabbi William Rudolph. Finally, thank you to our Executive Director, Sheila Bellack, Kathy Hooley, Hattie Goodman, Phyllis Scholl, Carole Wellner, Miriam Davidson, Hien Thanh, Karl Smart, Ofilio Murillo, Maynor Diaz and additional PMM staff, Dorothy Beverly, Elsie Hercules and Margaret Smith for all the behind-the-scenes work. To all, a job well done. And a special thank you this year to all our members for their cooperation in dealing with the change in service sites.



Join Us For Our Annual
Thanksgiving Interfaith Service
 with The Bethesda United Methodist Church
 Tuesday, November 21, 2000 at 8 pm
 at **Congregation Beth El** with
Rabbi Jonathan Maltzman
Rabbi William Rudolph
Hazzan Adina Ackerman
Reverend Ron Foster
Bethesda United Methodist Church Choir,
Cornelia R. Creveling, Director
Beth El's Ahavat Shir
Elizabeth Simon, Conductor

Vice President Appointed

The Board of Directors has appointed **Cary Feldman** as Development and Finance Vice President.

All in the Family

Mazal Tov to **Richard and Eleanor Cohen** on the birth of their grandson, **Ethan Max Cohen**, on June 28, 2000. Ethan's parents are **Adam and Elizabeth Cohen** of Chicago, IL.

Mazal Tov to **Ira and Kristen Mirsky** on the birth of their son, **Adam Michael Mirsky**, on August 23, 2000.

Mazal Tov to **Eric and Alissa Horvitz** on the birth of their twin daughters, **Lillian Margot and Madeline Hannah Horvitz**, on September 26, 2000.

Congregation Beth El wishes a speedy recovery to **Brenda Schmand**.

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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 pm and concludes at 8:15 pm **On Wednesday, November 15, the Evening Minyan begins at 8:20 pm** 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.

November 12 to November 16

Stephanie Hesse
David and Ellen Heyman
Daniel Hirsch and Brenda Gruss
Hans Hirsch
Reba Hirsh
Joseph and Lisa Hochheiser
Abram and Andrea Hoffman
Howard Hoffman and Julia Mack
Ira and Meredith Hoffman
Joseph and Margery Hoffman
Lee Hoffman and Leslie Whipkey
Thomas and Judith Hoffman
Jerome Holiber
Elmira Hopp
Josephine Horn
Paul and Sharon Horn
Mitchell Horowitz and Abbe Levine
Sidney and Paula Horowitz
Eric and Alissa Horvitz
David Horwitz

November 19 to November 23

Ely and Barbara Hurwitz
Harold and Selma Hurwitz
Eva Hutinet
Jonathan Isaacs and Elizabeth Krauss
Robert Isaacs and Sheryl Krongold Isaacs
Miriam Israel
Esther Isralow
Gregg and Janet Ivers
Amy Berman Jackson
Bernard and Rita Jacobi
David and Ilene Jacobowitz
Gary Jacobs and Harriet Kerwin
Rodger and Mindi Jacobson
Steven Jacobson and Nancy Rothman Jacobson
Zelda Janus
Newton and Lois Jassie
Jeffrey Jay and Molly Peter
Mervyn and Marcia Jeffries
Steffie Johnson
Robert and Karen Judson

Weekday Service Schedule

Morning Minyan

7:30 am Monday to Friday

9 am Sunday and Major Civic Holidays

Evening Minyan

8 pm Sunday to Thursday

8:20 pm Wednesdays during Saul Bendit Institute

Thirteen Years and 293 Sukkah Kits Later

In 1988, Jerry Danoff designed a simple, easy-to-assemble sukkah and built one for his family. So many friends in Nitzanim admired it that he decided to make a few more. From that humble beginning, the Beth El Sukkah Kit Project was born. Since that time, the Danoff family and members of the congregation have produced 293 sukkah kits and 47 sukkah extensions.

This year, 18 new kits and 6 extensions were made and they were sold out by early September. Pat, Jerry, David and Adam cut and drilled the lumber, while Emily counted and bagged the hardware. The proceeds from all twelve years of the project, which now exceed \$11,000, were donated to the Beth El Youth Department.

Dwelling in a sukkah on a beautiful Fall evening is something special one never forgets. If you keep meaning to build a sukkah, but never quite get around to it, contact the Danoffs next August so that your family can experience the magic of this wonderful holiday.



Entertainment 2000 Books are Here!

Beth El Nursery School is once again offering the Entertainment book. Entertainment features hundreds of two-for-one discounts on fine and casual dining, 50% off sports and theater tickets, coupons for travel, fast food and auto services.

This unique fundraiser costs only \$35.00 and provides money to the Nursery School (\$7.00 per book), as well as savings to you. Entertainment 2000 books are available in the synagogue and school offices, Monday-Thursday from 9 am to 5 pm and Friday from 9 am to 3 pm, and in the Judaica Shop Sundays and Thursdays from 9 am to noon.

LOST!

A white wool tallit bag with blue stitching trim and a matching tallit were lost at the Holiday Inn on the first day of Rosh Hashanah. It is believed to have been inadvertently picked up in the men's room by an elderly gentleman wearing a gray plaid suit. It has great sentimental value. Please return it to the synagogue office; no questions asked.

Vatikkim Luncheon on Thursday, November 16

Beila Organic, former Upper School librarian at the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School, will speak on "The Romance Of The Early 16th Century Printers, " when printing was a family affair and an Art, both Holy and dangerous. If you enjoy reading books, you won't want to miss this program.

Lunch is at noon and the program is at 1 pm. This being the annual paid-up membership luncheon, there will be no charge for paid-up members of Vatikkim. Non-member cost is \$8. Please fill out the reservation form below and mail it to Bea Goldman, 3214 Henderson Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20902, 301-942-9434, or Phyllis Blum, 1411 Stratton Drive, Rockville, MD 20854, 301-340-3046.

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, November 16,
2000

Please reserve _____ places for me at the
Vatikkim luncheon.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please have your response reach us by November
14. No reservations will be accepted after this
date.

Minyan Chaverim to Meet Second Shabbat of Each Month

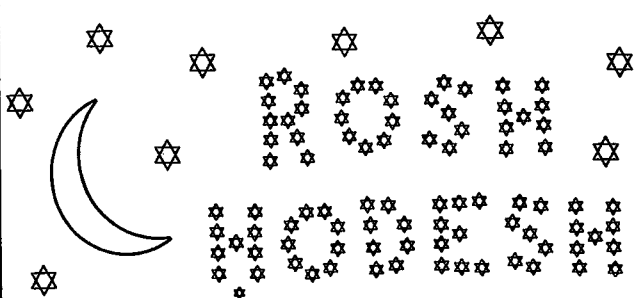
Minyan Chaverim meets on the second Shabbat of each month, from 9:30 am to noon in the Meeting Room. Minyan Chaverim is a community-led service, featuring complete recitations of Shacharit and Musaf as well as a full Torah reading, and emphasizing a spirited and participatory nusach. Following the synagogue kiddush, participants (and for that matter, all comers) are invited to attend a pot-luck (Kosher dairy) lunch at a nearby home, which includes a Torah discussion, zmirot, and plenty of good kibitzing. For more information, please contact Debbie Feinstein at debbie_feinstein@yahoo.com or 301-767-1178.

WANTED!!!

We are seeking members to be part of a technology committee to assist the shul with various technology issues, such as the web site, office systems including computers and telephones, etc. If you are interested, please send a note to Gary Rosenfeld at grosenfeld@bethelmc.org.

Religious School Committee Open Meeting

The Religious School Committee will hold an open meeting on Monday, November 13 from 8:15 to 8:45 pm. During that time, any member of the Religious School community is welcome to address the Committee on any issue of relevance to the Religious School. (At 8:45 pm, the meeting will close for regular Committee business.) A second open meeting will be held in the Spring. Any questions, please contact Celia Goldman Kirsch 301-365-2525, Religious School Committee Chair.



Beth El Sisterhood
Women's Rosh Hodesh Study Series

Topic: Jewish Liturgy: An In-depth Look at the Text of Our Worship Service

Explore the philosophical and emotional aspects of the prayer service. Answer such questions as: What would we like to say to G-d as we pray? How does the liturgy express our deepest longings and hopes? What does the liturgy say to us and for us?

Leader: Marilyn Fine, M.A.
Community Educator in Hebrew and Judaic Studies

Dates: November 30th, December 21st, January 25th, February 22nd, and March 29th (make-up)

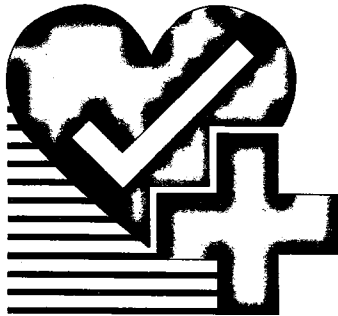
Time: 7:30 pm

Place: Congregation Beth El Board Room

Info: Cyma Heffter (301-229-5287)
Laurie Webber (301-652-1510)

Please join us for any or all of the sessions
No reservation required

Do You Know What To Do If Someone Is...



Having a Heart Attack

Not Breathing

Choking

Come to Our CPR Classes We Will Teach You

These classes cover Adult, Child, and Infant CPR techniques. Whether you are a parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, babysitter, or just a good Samaritan, these are skills that you should not be without.

This course is taught through **Michael J. Kay, Engineers, PC.**

The classes are divided into two age groups.

Youth

Adults

11 years to 17 years

18 years and older

For more information, or to sign up for these important skills, please contact:

Ariele Hausner-Barach at 301-652-2606 ext. 308

Please RSVP a week in advance. Thank you.

Youth Classes will be held on:

Sunday, November 12, 2000 from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Cost: \$15

Sunday, April 22, 2001 from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Adult Classes will be held on:

Sunday, December 3, 2000 from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Cost: \$26

(THIS DATE HAS BEEN CHANGED FROM NOVEMBER 19)

Sunday, April 29, 2001 from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Please make checks payable to : Congregation Beth El
send to : CPR Class
8215 Old Georgetown Road
Bethesda, MD 20814

Shabbaton Weekend November 17-18

"Expand your boundaries," writes Rabbi Karyn Kedar in her book, *God Whispers*. Rabbi Kedar will lead the Shabbat service and speak at the dinner, Friday evening (November 17). She will also be teaching after kiddush on Saturday morning (November 18). On Sunday morning, November 19th, Rabbi Kedar will sign and sell her book. Expanding boundaries and breaking down barriers "is an important spiritual lesson," Rabbi Kedar explains. "The doors that bar us from our dreams are imaginary. If you do not see them, you will walk right through them." Rabbi Kedar was eight when she decided that she wanted to be a rabbi. She says that her parents never suggested that girls don't become rabbis (as they didn't at the time), and their acceptance allowed her to pursue her dream without boundaries. "We must be aware of building gates that keep us out and maintaining boundaries that keep us in," she counsels. "Go forth into the unknown...with an expanded vision of who you can be."

For more information, call Sarah Roark at 301-652-8573 x320. The Shabbaton is a project of the Family Education Advisory Committee:

Havdallah at Home: Saturday November 18

Havdallah is a lovely short ceremony with more symbolic meaning per minute than almost any other Jewish ritual. A many-wicked candle, wine, and fragrant spices grace the end of Shabbat and usher in a new week. This year's Havdallah at Home is made more special by concluding the Shabbaton with Rabbi Karyn Kedar. If you participated in Havdallah at Home last year, you know how delightful Havdallah can be, especially when you know that many other Beth El families are celebrating with you. If you have never conducted a Havdallah ceremony, make this year's Havdallah at Home a gift to yourself. Invite friends and family to join you on November 18. Havdallah candles will be distributed in the Rotunda on November 12. Religious School families will also be invited on Sunday, November 12 during the day to join their children's classes in making Havdallah. Tapes of Sally Heckelman conducting both a Shabbat and a Havdallah ceremony will be for sale. Instructions for the ceremony are on the Beth El website.

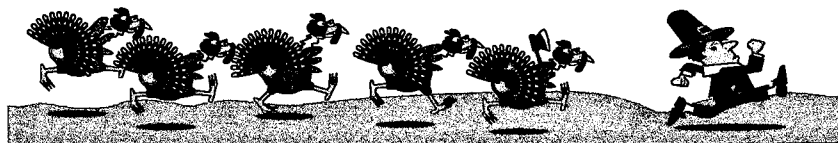
Havdallah at Home is a project of the Family Education Advisory Committee. For information call Sarah Roark at 301-652-8573, ext.320.

**Attention Grandparents
and Grandchildren**



**Saturday, November 25th
is Grandparent's Shabbat
from 10:00-11:15 in the chapel.**

Take advantage of this special opportunity to chant the Saturday morning service, discuss the Torah portion, and celebrate Shabbat - together!!



L'dor vador nagid gadlecha
From generation to generation they will praise
your name.

Questions contact Sarah Roark ext.320

Shabbaton 2000

November 17-18
19-20 of Heshvan 5761

God Whispers: Hearing the Quiet Life Lessons

With

Rabbi Karyn Kedar

Rabbi Kedar is a learned spiritual leader who has a gift for touching her students by entwining traditional text with stories of the everyday. She is a moving speaker who received rave reviews as a teacher at Beth El's Saul Bendit Institute. Experience her powerful storytelling ability before the Shabbaton with a copy of her book *God Whispers*, available in the Sisterhood Gift Shop.

Erev Shabbat - November 17, 2000

Friday Night Service from 6:30-7:30

Rabbi Kedar's loving interpretations of the evening Shema and its blessings will inspire new understanding. (Babysitting will be provided).

Friday Night Dinner in the Social Hall following services

At dinner Rabbi Kedar will speak on the topic *Inviting God to Prayer*.

*On Sunday morning
Rabbi Kedar will sign
copies of her book
in the gallery*

Shabbat - November 18, 2000

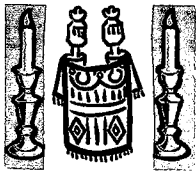
Rabbi Kedar will deliver a brief D'var Torah at the regular Shabbat morning service. Following kiddush at 12:15 please join us for a teaching in the All Purpose Room. This one hour textually based discussion will focus on our connection to God through prayer.

Havdalah at Home

The Beth El community is encouraged to conclude this Shabbat by participating in the annual synagogue-wide Havdalah at Home.

Shabbaton 2000 is organized by Family Education. Questions contact Sarah Roark at 301-652-8573 ext.320. Reservations for dinner will be taken in the synagogue office.

Set the Table



with Torah

Set the Table with Torah

by Rabbi William Rudolph

An introductory word: a discussion about the week's Torah portion is a good Shabbat dinner custom. Make the discussion as long or short, as simple or complicated, as your dinner crowd can handle.

Lekh L'kha (Genesis 12:1-17:27)

For Week of November 5-11

This portion marks the beginning of Jewish history, with the call to Abraham to leave his home and begin a new life and a new religion and a new way of looking at the world.

Abraham, we all agree, was the first Jew. Look over the beginning of the portion, and the end of the previous portion called Noah, and see if you can determine from the Torah what made Abraham the first Jew, the first to be called by God to begin a new nation. If it is not obvious, then you are a good reader. It is not in fact at all clear why Abraham was chosen. Later on, Abraham exhibited courage (in confronting God Who was about to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah and demanding that God do justice) and he exhibited faith (when he was willing to sacrifice his son Isaac at God's command), but there was nothing in the early phases of his life to make him stand out.

The Rabbis dealt with this question by telling the story about his father owning an idol shop and Abraham destroying the idols when he realized they were lifeless pieces of wood that his father crafted in the woodshop the day before. Did you find that story when you looked over the text? It isn't there to be found, but was evidently a tradition the rabbis knew of that tried to answer the same question with which we began: what was it about Abraham that caused God to choose him as the father of our people?

Think about your own life. If God were looking you over, what job do you think S/he would assign to you? Do you wish it was a bigger assignment, with more responsibility? Or are you content to be a "worker bee" who does the little things necessary to make the world function? Why do you think some people want to be leaders and others don't? Are we born to be leaders or not?

Vayera (Genesis 18:1-22:24)

For Week of November 12-18

This portion has as much pizzazz as any in all of the Torah. Abraham and Sarah are informed by three men (angels?) that they will have a child despite their old age, God tells Abraham that S/he is going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah because of their sins and Abraham makes sure that God is acting justly, Lot protects Abraham from the men of Sodom, Abraham passes off his wife Sarah as his sister to save her life (or his), Hagar and Ishmael are sent out into the wilderness because of Sarah's jealousy, and Abraham is tested by God with the binding of Isaac. The latter two episodes are important enough to be the two readings chosen for Rosh Hashanah.

Abraham performs an act of special courage when he argues with God about the fate of Sodom and Gomorrah, and shows special faith when he is willing to sacrifice Isaac at God's command. Read over those two stories (Genesis 18:16-32 and Genesis 22). Which act was a bigger test? How would you have fared if faced with those two situations? Why did Abraham argue for lives of the people of Sodom and Gomorrah, who were not Jewish and were evil, and not argue for the life of Isaac, his beloved son?

Please cut out this article and save it for your Friday Shabbat dinner discussion. For further discussions of Parshat Hashavua geared toward families, get on the web at www.jewishfamily.com "Portion of the Week" and www.uahc.org "Shabbat Table Talk". You may also want to try these two websites: <http://learn.jtsa.edu/topics/parashah/archive.shtml> and <http://www.torah.org>

Beth El Worship and Study Minyan

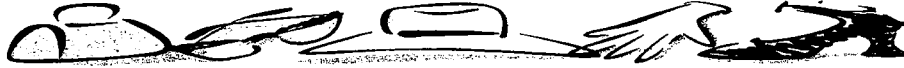
The Beth El Worship and Study Minyan will meet on Saturday, December 2 in the All Purpose Room from 10 am to noon. The service, conducted entirely by members of the Congregation, combines evocative Torah study with ample singing and ruach. Children of all ages are welcome, although the service is oriented towards adults. Contact Dan Hirsch, 301-654-7289, DOHirsch@aol.com; Sid Getz, 301-530-2215, Sidgetz@aol.com; or Mark Levitt, 301-365-5365, MKEMJ@aol.com, for more information.

MITZVAH MALL

The Mitzvah Mall will be open for donations this year from November 5 through December 22.

The Mitzvah Mall is your one stop shopping place for Chanukah, Bar Mitzvah, Birthdays, Anniversaries, and they make great teacher gifts!!

All you do is choose an organization and decide the amount you would like to donate. The Mitzvah Mall personal shoppers will then let you know what your donation can "buy"



Send a donation of \$5, \$10, \$20,
or \$25.

Designate one of the following
charities:

Bethesda Cares
Capital Area Food Banks
Interfaith Clothing Center
Magen David Adom
Shepherd's Table
Whitman Walker Clinic



You will receive a lovely gift card telling what your donation purchased for you to present as a gift or let us send it for you. You can visit the Mitzvah Mall in the rotunda on Sundays between Nov. 5th and Dec. 22nd or send in your check payable to Congregation Beth El to the school office to the attention of Sarah Roark. Your tax-deductible donation will appear as Social Action Fund on your synagogue year end tax summary. If you have questions contact Sarah Roark (ext.320).

Welcome to the Mitzvah Mall

Donor's Name _____

In Honor of _____

Address (or Religious School backpack) to which gift cards should be sent:

Check the organization(s) to which you would like your donations sent and designate the amount (\$5, \$10, \$20, \$25):

- Bethesda Cares \$ _____
(provides for the needs of the homeless in Bethesda)
- Capital Area Food Bank \$ _____
(distributes millions of pounds of food to the hungry in Washington)
- Interfaith Clothing Center \$ _____
(provides clothing, school supplies, and infant supplies to needy families in Montgomery County)
- Magen David Adom \$ _____
(makes blood drives and ambulances possible in Israel)
- Shepherd's Table \$ _____
(provides food, health care, and information to needy people in our area)
- Whitman Walker Clinic \$ _____
(educates about AIDS and assists those suffering from the disease)

Please make checks payable to Congregation Beth El. Your tax-deductible donation will appear as *Social Action Fund* on your synagogue tax statement.

Return this form to the school office or mail to :
Sarah Roark

Congregation Beth El
8215 Old Georgetown Road
Bethesda, MD 20814