

November 1, 2002

26 Heshvan 5763

Volume 52

No. 4

Message from the Rabbi



It's a new year, and I want to focus on the human relationships that so determine our well being in this or any year. I thank Rabbi Michael Gold for the original thought that derives nicely from the first Torah reading in Genesis.

I find the image of the first man and woman, naked and not ashamed, to be one of the most powerful in the Bible. We human beings are born with a certain amount of human dignity. Consider it like a bank account, with everybody given a set amount from the moment of birth. Other human beings have the ability to go into our bank account and add to or take from our human dignity.

To protect our dignity, we place walls that prevent others from touching our account. We cover ourselves up. The more we cover up, the more we prevent people from taking dignity from our personal account. However, those same human barriers also prevent others from adding to our account and enhancing our dignity. To keep the protective walls up is the safest way to live our lives. But it is also the saddest way to live our lives. Our bank account, our well of human dignity, is never diminished. Nor is it ever enhanced. We remain untouched, other humans cannot affect us.

Relationships begin when we start to lower our protective barriers. This is true for any kind of relationship, whether at work, among neighbors, with friends, or with our family. When we lower the walls that protect us, we become vulnerable, but we also give others the ability to raise us up.

The key is trust. The greatest relationships in our lives are those where there is the most trust. We open ourselves up to another human being, with the full trust that they will not act in a way which lowers our dignity. The rewards are immense, as are the sense of comfort and support we have in this difficult world.

I wish for all of us a year of lowered walls and trusting relationships, as well as personal and communal peace.

Rabbi Bill Rudolph

Shabbat Services

Friday, November 1

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service

Saturday, November 2

Haye Sarah: Genesis 23:1-25:18

7:30 and 9:15 am Shabbat Services

9:15 am Robert Dicker Bar Mitzvah

9:15 am Sam Raim Bar Mitzvah

9:50 am Worship & Study Minyan- APR

10:00 am Gan Shabbat - MR

10:00 am Jr. Congregation - Chapel

11:00 am Shitufim - Rm. 209

Friday, November 8

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service

Saturday, November 9

Toldot: Genesis 25:19-28:9

7:30 and 9:15 am Shabbat Services

9:15 am Benjamin Comer Bar Mitzvah

9:15 am Michael Groeneman Bar Mitzvah

10:00 am Bogrim - BR

10:00 am Jr. Congregation - Chapel

10:00 am Learners Minyan - MR

10:30 am Nitzanim - APR

Friday, November 15

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service

Saturday, November 16

Synagogue-wide Shabbaton

Vayetze: Genesis 28:10-32:3

7:30 and 9:15 am Shabbat Services

9:30 am Minyan Chaverim - APR

10:00 am Gan Shabbat - MR

10:00 am Jr. Congregation - Chapel

11:00 am Shitufim - Rm 209

Friday, November 22

6:30 pm Friday Evening Services

Saturday, November 23

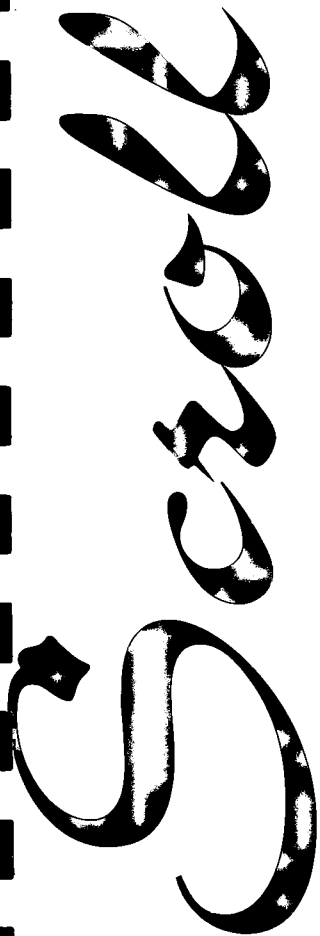
Vayishlah: Genesis 32:4-36:43

7:30 and 9:15 am Shabbat Services

9:15 am Carly Lauren Schmand Bat Mitzvah

10:00 am Jr. Congregation - Chapel

10:30 am Nitzanim - APR



Sisterhood News

Tallit Workshop

Sisterhood is pleased to announce that its always-popular, award-winning Tallit Workshop is being offered again this year. If you have admired the many beautiful and unique, hand-made tallitot worn at Beth El or if you've ever thought of making one yourself, this is your chance! Both experienced sewers and enthusiastic non-sewers are welcome. Machine sewing assistance will be provided. The class will be limited to 12 participants, with priority given to Sisterhood members. Participants may make one tallit each.

Note: All classes will be held on Tuesdays, from 7-9 pm in the Social Hall.

November 19: Introductory session

December 8: Trip to G-Street Fabric on Sunday afternoon

December 10, 17, January 7, 14, 21, (28 make-up date):
Work sessions

February 4: Tying of the Tzitzit

If there is sufficient interest, we will repeat last year's successful one-session 'Hat and Bags' class for making kippot and tallit bags on February 18.

Reserve your place now. If you have expressed interest in the class but haven't spoken directly with Amanda Ford or Holly Stein, please call or email Holly Stein at hhstein@juno.com or at 301-593-7297.

Sisterhood Book Group

Everyone is welcome to attend the monthly meeting of the Sisterhood Book Group. On November 3 at 9:30 a.m. we will discuss *Journey to the End of the Millennium* by A.B. Yehoshua. On December 1 at 9:30 a.m. the book selection will be *Going South: Jewish Women in Civil Rights* by Deborah Schultz. For information contact Andrea Golden at goldnfam@aol.com, 301-294-2375 or Suzanne Stone at ssstone@sjogrens.org, 301-365-3253.

Invitation and Stationery Sales

Need invitations, stationery or kippot? Contact Marilyn Hammerman at 301-881-0011, mhammerman@aol.com. She has over 20 years experience in providing Beth El members with Bar/Bat Mitzvah, wedding, and party invitations, as well as stationery and kippot. Marilyn has an extensive collection of sample books to look through and she will match the price of all competitors. Sisterhood receives 100% of the profits. Call Marilyn today for great selection and great prices on invitations, stationery, kippot and other things for your special simcha.

Sisterhood Judaica Shop

Visit the re-stocked and re-decorated Judaica Shop and see the collection of new merchandise, including many beautiful things from Israel. Selected items are on sale. Shop hours are Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and

Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Call Marcia Kalman at 301-897-8572, rwmdk@aol.com, for information.

Washington Jewish Week

Sisterhood is no longer handling Washington Jewish Week subscription renewals. Please send your renewal form and check directly to WJW.

Men's Club News

Please join us on Sunday mornings. The Men's Club has a Morning Minyan at 9:00 a.m., followed by a "Bagel and Lox" breakfast at 9:30 a.m. and our speaker at 10:00 a.m. Please read on below; not all Sundays will have a breakfast.

Sunday, November 3: Men's Club board meeting

Saturday, November 9: The Beth El Men's Club will hold our second "Shabbat Minchah / Maariv / Havdalah" program. The program will start about one hour before sunset. This week we will start at 4:45 pm.

Sunday, November 10: No program because this is Mitzvah Day at Beth El.

Sunday, November 17: Washington Jewish Week editor **Debra Rubin** will speak to us on "The Role of the Community Jewish Press." Award-winning journalist Debra Rubin became editor of the Washington Jewish Week in August 1999. Previously she was managing editor of the New Jersey Jewish News. Rubin holds a bachelor's degree from Rutgers University.

Keep this date open – The Men's Club is very excited about our new program of having Shabbat Minchah / Maariv/Havdalah. We are planning to have speakers and a Seudah Shlishit. The time will vary from week to week to fall about an hour before sunset. The next date is December 14. There will be no breakfast or program the following morning. If you would like to help with the service, please contact Seth Levita at 301-929-0783 or better still, e-mail at levita@starpower.net.

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Rabbi Rudolph Recognized for Leadership

Rabbi William Rudolph will be presented with the Matthew Simon Rabbinic Leadership award by the United Jewish Communities at the General Assembly in Philadelphia in November. This award is given to a congregation's spiritual leader who contributed knowledge, commitment, and leadership to the community and is involved in charitable causes. It is named to honor Rabbi Simon, the retired spiritual leader at B'nai Israel Congregation in Rockville.

Message from the President

On occasion, I am made aware of problems that some of our members have encountered that may be difficult to resolve and of which not everyone may be aware. I recently received several e-mails expressing concerns about children playing in the hallways during Shabbat Morning Services and the danger that they may unintentionally create for all members or for themselves. Be assured that I very much welcome the presence of youngsters at Beth El and believe that their presence is a sure sign of our ongoing vitality. And the occasional exuberant scream or bimah wanderer is a healthy sign. However, I do have concerns about children running in the halls and potentially harming themselves or others. In my opinion, the most effective way to address such problems, which are, of course, not unique to Beth El, is for parents, caregivers, or people who have invited children to Beth El to take responsibility and ensure that their children and those for whom they are responsible understand that the shul on Shabbat is not a place for running and expending excess energy. It is a place where we should treat others respectfully. Accordingly, I would like to ask each parent to take responsibility for ensuring that their children are not put in a position where they can unintentionally harm others.

In order to better understand the issues and try and find ways to let kids be kids and yet let others enjoy their Shabbat, I am setting up an ad hoc committee to come up

with recommendations that might help us further address the issues.

Let me bring you up-to-date with renovations. By the time you read this, our oversight group will have met with our architect to give him any final changes in the plans. The final plans will be based on the oversight group's meetings with the leadership of our auxiliaries, school, and many other organizations as well as feedback received from the congregation based on the plans that are posted in the Gallery and sent to all members.

After we meet with the architect, he will start on the final phase of the design. During this phase, the architect will specify and draw everything from the wattage in the light bulb of every fixture to the thickness of the drywall sheets used throughout the building. This will take several months and involve very close interactions with our own experts on our Construction Committee. It will be the job of this committee to make sure that the materials selected are appropriate for their intended use, meet our needs, and stay within a reasonable cost. Fortunately, Beth El has a number of members who do this kind of evaluation for a living, and many of them serve on the committee and stand ready to ensure that our building renovation is done in the best possible way. This work will also enable the contractor to finalize his estimate for the project.

At the same time, we are planning a number of open informational meetings sometime in December to bring members up-to-date on the project and answer questions. Once the architect has completed the plans and the contractor has provided a firm price to construct the project, we will be able to finalize negotiations with a lender and develop a construction and financing plan for the project. At that time, we will schedule meetings with the Board and then the entire congregation to review the project and its impact on our members and reach a decision on proceeding with the project. We expect to have the project sufficiently along to bring the decision on going ahead with the renovation to the membership in about six months and hopefully start construction in early summer, assuming we get all permits from the County in a timely fashion.

We will keep you up-to-date on the project, and we greatly appreciate all the input and feedback that we have received so far. If you have questions or ideas, please always

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Scroll, USPS Number 009813, is published every three weeks, except July and August, by Congregation Beth El of Montgomery County, 8215 Old Georgetown Rd., Bethesda, MD 20814. Periodical postage rate paid at Bethesda, Maryland and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Scroll, 8215 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD 20814.

feel free to contact Don Silverstein, our Construction Chair, Bert King, our Coordinator for Capital Campaign and Construction, or myself. Your input is an invaluable tool in keeping the lines of communication open and offering fresh perspectives on the needs of the "new" Beth El.

Splinters from the Board

Tuesday, September 24, 2002

Arthur Popper - presiding, Jerome Danoff - recording
Called to order 7:34 pm

A D'var Torah was presented by **Rabbi Greg Harris** on *Pirkah Avot* 3:1. We should look in all directions, both forward and back. Within our own community we should still work for the benefit of all Judaism.

Minutes from the August meeting Item #9 should be modified to say that support for Argentinean Jews will be only in the form of monetary support, whereas support for Russian Jews currently also includes clothing and medication. Minutes were approved as corrected.

In the President's Report, **Arthur Popper** reminded us of synagogue policy that all check requisitions require two signatures. He thanked **Helen Popper** for preparing the Board handbook which was then distributed. Both **Kathy Hooley**, our bookkeeper, and **Karl Smart**, one of custodians, have recently undergone surgery. They will be out of commission for some time. We are hopeful for their full recoveries. "Leadership in Governance" will be emphasized by this year's synagogue administration. We will have several programs in leadership training in the coming months. All past presidents have been invited to meet on October 27 with current President Popper and **Brent Berger**, executive vice-president, to brainstorm issues related to the synagogue. The Seaboard Region Convention will be Friday, October 18 through Sunday, October 20 in Williamsburg, VA. The High Holiday Services went very well. Much thanks and appreciation to the support staff for their hard work. Particular thanks and appreciation to **Cheryl Rod**, **Herb Levinson** and their ushering crews for their efforts. [From the floor, appreciation was also expressed to President Popper for a very nice "State of the Synagogue" address during the holidays.]

BREAK FOR MINYAN

A financial review has been completed for the period ending June 2001 as reported by **Jeff Sabot** (representing *Kaufman, Davis, PC, CPA*).

Rob Fersh, speaking for the Atid committee, said that invitations will go out next week for the Atid program on October 20 which will follow the installation of Rabbi Greg Harris. [Thanks to Suzanne Bronheim, Mark Levitt, and Rob Fersh for their work on Atid.]

Howie Stein, representing Saul Bendit, reported that there will be a free kick-off lecture on October 2 at 7:30 pm followed by Israeli dancing and refreshments. In

addition to the traditional class times, Saul Bendit will now also include a Tuesday evening class, and a once-a-month class to allow more flexibility in scheduling.

We completed the High Holidays well ahead of budget. Ticket sales brought in approximately \$60,000 while we were expecting only \$30,000. A lot of expense was saved by using the Whitman cafeteria for our third service. More details will be available at a later meeting.

Thanks to the hard work of **Jeff Annis**, **Dale Gold**, and **Don Silverstein**, we are very close to having a deal on the property at 8301 Old Georgetown Rd (directly across from Huntington Pkwy). A presentation was made by President Popper to support this purchase.

Motion was made that the Board recommend that the membership of Congregation Beth El authorize the purchase of the property at 8301 Old Georgetown Rd. The motion was passed 32-0-1.

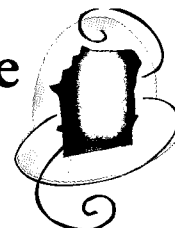
Meeting adjourned 9:34 pm.

Please join us for

Roundtable

with the

Rabbi



Wednesday, November 6, 2002

2 p.m.

Board Room

**Come help us celebrate the November
birthdays. We will have
dessert and coffee with a roundtable
discussion led by
Rabbi Rudolph.**

**If you have questions, need
transportation,
or plan to attend,
please call Rabbi Rudolph at
301-652-8573 ext 318**

Evening Minyan

The following people are asked to help us with our daily Evening Minyan for the next three weeks. On Sunday through Thursday, the Minyan begins at 8 p.m. and concludes at 8:15 p.m. **On Wednesdays, through November 13, Minyan will be 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 they can attend at Beth El.

November 3 – November 7

Jon and Susan Jerison
Steffie Johnson
Robert and Karen Judson
Stanley and Gail Jutkowitz
David and Louise Kahaner
Fred and Rita Kahn
Henry Kahn and Laura Primakoff
Marvin and Elaine Kahn
Gail Kailo
Stephen and Alice Kalish
Robert and Marcia Kalman
Sarah Kalser
Robert and Carole Kaminsky
David and Donna Kanin
Helen Kanovsky
Steve and Aileen Kantor
William and Sue Ann Kanter
Dan Kaplan and Kay Richman
Donald Kaplan and Evelyn Karson

November 10 - November 14

Lawrence and Ann Kaplan
Seth and Sharon Kaplan
Leon and Laura Karadbil
Sylvan and Yocheved Karlin
Mark and Sarah Kass
Jeffrey and Mollie Katz
Marshall and Helene Katzin
Michael and Sharon Katz
Jay and Bernice Kaufman
Steven and Wendy Kaufman
Frederic and Maria Kaye
Joseph and Ruth Kay
Michael and Nancy Kay
Sanford and Diane Kay
Jerrold Keilson and Ellen Silver
Kenneth and Nina Kellner
Edward and Miriam Kelty
Ruth Ann Kelty
Kenneth and Carol Kempner
Bruce and Amy Kershner

November 17 – November 21

Joseph and Leslie Kessler
Lillian Kessler
Bert and Susan King
Laurence and Celia Kirsch
Murray and Iris Kivitz
David and Laura Klaus
Libby Klavan
Katie Klein
Marianne Klein
Michael and Francine Klein
Rhonda Kleiner
Ronald Klein
Etta Kline
Raymond Klugman
Andrew and Katherine Koblenz
Edward and Helena Koenig
Robert and Evyan Koenig
Alexis Kohn
Burton and Linda Kolko
Joshua and Lauren Kolko

New Members

The Beth El community extends its warm welcome to the following members who have recently joined or rejoined the synagogue. If one or more of these families live in your neighborhood, please reach out and personally welcome them. We encourage the new members to take advantage of the wonderful activities Beth El has to offer and hope you will let us know if you have questions or concerns that we can help to address.

Paul Arkush, 2101 New Hampshire NW, #304, Washington, DC 20009

202-332-4695

parkush@mindspring.com

Leyzar and Bela Charno, 4521 East-West Highway, #612, Bethesda, MD 20814

301-652-9093

Sumner Katz and Martha Witebsky, 7200 Lenhart Drive, Chevy Chase, MD 20815

301-652-7990

Ruth Ann Kelty, 6504 43rd Avenue, University Park, MD 20782

301-277-1994

ruth.kelty@noaa.gov

Jay and Robin Rosenblum, 7719 Maryknoll Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20817

301-320-1757

Jacob Rosenblum, Michael Rosenblum

All In The Family

Mazal tov to **Rabbi Samuel and Judy Scolnic** on the birth of their grandson, **Myles Ilan (Ilan Yedid)** on September 14. He is the son of Donna and Robert Gregor. He is also the grandson of Shaya and Dolly Gregor of Sydney, Australia.

Nitzanim Sponsor

Todah Rabbah to **Paul and Carolyn Weinberg** for sponsoring the Nitzanim Kiddush on September 28 in honor of the sixth birthday of **Raquel**, the third birthday of **Max**, and the first birthday of **Josh**.

Baruch Dayan Emet

Congregation Beth El offers its sincere condolences to **Michael Schwartz** on the death of his brother, **Stefan Schwartz**, and to **Edith Sievers** on the death of her brother, **Chayim Rosenblum**.

Scholar-in-Residence Weekend

Dr. Neil Gillman

Friday, November 15 - Sunday, November 17, 2002

Congregation Beth El of Montgomery County
8215 Old Georgetown Road Bethesda, Maryland 20814



Dr. Neil Gillman is the Aaron Rabinowitz and Simon H. Rifkind Professor of Jewish Philosophy at the Jewish Theological Seminary. He graduated from McGill University, was ordained at JTS, and received his PhD in philosophy from Columbia University. His many books include the very popular *Sacred Fragments: Recovering Theology for the Modern Jew* and *Conservative Judaism: A New Century*.

Friday, November 15, 2002

Services begin at 6:30 pm followed by community Shabbat dinner.

After dinner Dr. Gillman will speak on

What is Spirituality in Judaism?

How do we Find it in a Modern Conservative Congregation?

Saturday, November 16, 2002

Services begin at 9:15 am to include

Inauguration of the new *Etz Hayim* Chumash

Dr. Gillman will explain the significance of this new Torah translation and commentary to which he is a contributor.

Services are followed by kiddush at 12:00 noon.

After kiddush, we will study the Torah reading *Va'yaytzay*
with Dr. Gillman using *Etz Hayim*.

Sunday, November 17, 2002

9:00-11:00 a.m.

Where was God on 9/11?

A Family Education Program for Families with Children in grades 7-12

This writing workshop will offer the awesome opportunity for families to address tough theological questions among themselves and with one of Judaism's great minds.

Breakfast will be served.

Sponsored by Congregation Beth El Family Education

For information or to RSVP for Sunday's workshop

contact: Sarah Roark, sroark@bethelmc.org

R.S.V.P. by Friday, November 8 for the Friday night dinner

RETURN TO SYNAGOGUE OFFICE

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO; Congregation Beth El

(Friday, November 15, 2002 Shabbat Dinner Reservation, all other events are free)

Family Name(s) _____

Phone _____

Number of Member Adults _____ @14.00 /person

Amount \$ _____

Number of Non-Member Adults _____ @16.00/person

Amount \$ _____

Number of children (ages 2-12) _____ @6.50/person

Amount \$ _____

Total Amount \$ _____

Please seat us with _____

Please provide _____ vegetarian meals.

Set the Table with Torah

By Sheldon Novek, Youth Director

November 2: Haye Sarah

As a piece of literature, the parsha known as *Chaye Sarah* has always perplexed me. Its very beginning and its very end deal with the deaths of both Abraham and Sarah. Our spiritual mother and father, the matriarch and patriarch of the Judeo-Christian world came to the ends of their lives, the accounts of which provide “bookends” for this week’s portion. In between, the middle sixty-seven verses deal with the meeting and courtship of Isaac and Rebecca. Other than the suggestion that Rebecca filled the void in Isaac’s life created by the death of his mother Sarah, the inclusion of the marriage negotiations between Abraham’s emissary, Eliezer, and Rebecca’s brother Laban seems altogether trivial in comparison with the obituaries which otherwise “frame” the portion.

Two very short passages, however, have caught my attention, one at the beginning and one at the end. After Sarah dies, Abraham realized that he needed a place in which to bury her, and in Genesis 23:4 it says, “I am a stranger and a sojourner amongst you”—thus solidifying the identity of Avraham Avinu as a wanderer, and traveler, someone who was not native yet wished to be welcomed and accepted. This has been our place as Jews for the nearly four millennia since this story would have taken place. We have been wanderers, travelers, sojourners, begging acceptance and welcome wherever we have found ourselves living. For Abraham, that acceptance came relatively easily in his acquisition of a burial place for Sarah; the Hittites were actually honored that he would be a landowner among them.

The second passage which deserves notice is found at the end of the portion as it states how Abraham’s death brought together his somewhat estranged children, Isaac and Ishmael, to bury him. In his death, his two sons were reunited, sending us the message that perhaps Israel can live in a real and lasting peace some day. Their descendants, whose hatred for and fear of one another create our daily headlines, need to recall how their Biblical ancestors came together when they needed to.

November 9: Toldot

Perhaps we learn so much about Rebecca from last week’s portion to help us to better understand her actions in this week’s. Isaac is old and blind, we can presume feeble, and wants to give the proper blessings to his twin sons, Jacob and Esau. We all know that Rebecca enlisted her favorite Jacob’s assistance to trick his aging father into giving him Esau’s rightful blessing of the first born. When I teach this, I always ask my students if Isaac was conniving, clever, deceitful, or whether he was simply a gutless coward who didn’t know how to say “NO” to his mother. His only concern, as we find in the text, was how he would compensate for Esau’s hairiness when he himself

was not; he didn’t complain that doing this would be wrong, unethical or cruel.

What was Jacob thinking? One of my students regarded him mostly as someone who did not use at all good judgement, which should come as a lesson to us. Even our parents, or those close to us, could mislead us, even in some small way, and we need to be always conscious of what is right and what is wrong. Jacob ran away to his uncle Laban, and Esau, as it says, “went unto Ishmael”. We see here, again, the seeds of hatred and vengeance planted. Why is our generation being forced to bear the bitter fruits of that harvest?

November 16: Vayetze

Possibly the most notable passage in this portion but one that would only seem so to members of this congregation is Genesis 28:17-19; Jacob names the place where G-d appeared to him in his dream of the ladder. “How full of awe is this place! This is none other than the house of G-d, and this is the gate of Heaven...and he called the name of that place Beth El”!

Following that, we are presented with the list of Jacob’s progeny, children of both of his wives as well as of their two handmaids. In my 10th grade confirmation class recently, we discussed the issues of handmaids, marriage, surrogacy, adultery and polygamy. Even though it was the practice of the time to enlist the service of concubines for heirs, it still can raise some eyebrows of those of us with modern sensibilities. This was Jacob whose love for Rachel cost him 14 years of indentured servitude. These were his 12 sons whose subsequent descendants’ family groups which we call tribes bore their names. These are the Chagall windows in Jerusalem! And all from different mothers—is this a problem for us, or just another Biblical anachronism? In whatever way we reconcile it, with the birth of Jacob’s 13 children (including his one daughter Deena), this portion sets the stage for the forthcoming four books of the Torah during which we become well acquainted with the tribes and their ultimate conquest of the promised land.

New Saul Bendit Classes Still Available

The Saul Bendit Adult Institute has two new kinds of classes this semester that are still open for enrollment. One is “Bible As Art”, with Phillip Ratner as the instructor, to be held at the Ratner Museum, 10001 Old Georgetown Road. The dates are Tuesday evenings, November 5, 12 and 19, from 7:30-9:00 pm. The other is a monthly literature class: “Reading Israel: A Taste of Recent Israeli Fiction in Translation,” led by Michlean Amir. The first class met in October, the next will be on November 6, starting at 7:30 pm. For either course, use the registration form found in the brochure in the lucite holder in the synagogue gallery or on the Beth El Website. For more information, call 301-652-2606, ext. 349.

Israel Action Committee Summary

The Israel Action Committee, chaired by Warren Greenberg, supports the State of Israel with rallies, fund-raising drives, and greater involvement of Beth El members with Israel. On April 30, 2002, we sponsored a rally at Beth El and raised nearly one million dollars for Israel. We also donated an ambulance to the Magen David Adom in Israel, and supported the nationwide rally for Israel in April. Our media committee monitors news coverage of Israel by the Washington Post. In August, our community outreach committee, in collaboration with the Embassy of Israel, had a special program for more than 50 high school and college students on the importance of Israel for the Jewish people, and how to defend Israel from any anti-Israel bias at their respective schools. We are planning a mission to Israel in May or June 2003. We have involved our high school students in sending supportive e-mails to a synagogue in Jerusalem. We have our own listserv: bethel-IAC@yahoo.com, and our own web site: www.bethelmc.org/IAC.htm.

We are always looking for new members. Please join us by sending a note to our listserv.

Minyan Chaverim

Minyan Chaverim is now meeting on the third Shabbat of each month and will meet next on Saturday, November 16, from 9:30 am to Noon in the All-Purpose Room. Minyan Chaverim is a community-led service, featuring complete recitations of Shacharit and Musaf as well as 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.

Beth El Worship and Study Minyan

The Beth El Worship and Study Minyan will meet on Saturday, November 2, in the All-Purpose Room from 9:50 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 toward 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.

Honors on Simchat Torah

Each year on Simchat Torah morning, as we honor the Torah, we also honor those who have given service to Beth El. Two individuals receive the two key aliyot, the last one in Deuteronomy and the first one in Genesis. This year's honorees were **Peter Novick** and **Cheryl Rod**. Peter, a past president, has organized and led our Early Shabbat morning minyan for many years now. The minyan, which celebrated its 18th anniversary last spring, continues to grow despite the early hour. Peter also leads some of our High Holiday services and is a key volunteer in conducting shivah minyanim. His service to the needy in the larger community is also exemplary.

Cheryl Rod has held positions in Sisterhood and on our College Committee. Currently, she chairs our Ushers Committee, and in that role recruits and coordinates ushers for Shabbat and holidays, makes sure the bimah Board seats are filled, and distributes the aliyot to congregants and B'nai Mitzvah families. These are never simple tasks, yet Cheryl fulfills them with skill and tact and makes sure the focus is on the worship experience and not herself.

*"Purim's back
and we're having
some fun now . . ."*



It looks like Haman's cruisin' for another bruisin'.

*Megilla Madness returns to Beth El on
March 17, 2003.*

If you'd like to participate or help out with any aspect of next year's Purim celebration at Beth El, please come to an organizational meeting in the Board Room on
Sunday, November 17, 2002
7:30 pm

For further information contact Scott Glick (scott.glick@comcast.net) or Sheila Smallberg Cohen (Sheila1880@aol.com).

Hazzan Lubin to Attend Cantors Assembly Mission – Conference in Israel

Hazzan Abraham Lubin will join a group of 50 Hazzanim, representing Conservative and Reform congregations from North America who will embark on a unique solidarity mission on November 17. The trip is under the auspices of the Cantors Assembly and the American Conference of Cantors, the two most active cantorial organizations in the world. Hazzan Lubin is a former president of the Cantors Assembly and is presently a member of its Executive Board.

Plans call for concerts, visits with leading government officials, and visits with terrorism victims in hospitals.

One unique aspect of the mission is the opportunity to lead services in numerous Masorti (Conservative) congregations throughout the country.

“We know that the members of our congregations will be thrilled with the presence and participation of these Hazzanim,” noted Masorti Executive Director Rabbi Ehud Bandel. “The dedication and loyalty of Jews from around the world who visit us in Israel during these difficult times is vital to our spirit as we look forward to a brighter future for tourism, for Israel and for our movement.”

The inspiration for Hazzan Lubin to join this mission is a result of Beth El’s Israel Task Force under the able leadership of Warren Greenberg. A rally on behalf of Israel last spring, when almost a million dollars was raised, was one of the most outstanding and successful events of the year. This event became a model for similar efforts by other congregations throughout the country.

We wish Hazzan Lubin a safe and successful mission.

Sisterhood Education Program
2002-2003

Menopause A Guide to the Perplexed

Save The Dates
9:30-11:30 AM

December 8, 2002 **The NIH Study on Hormone Replacement Therapy**
Sherry Sherman, Ph.D.
Dir. Clinical Endocrinology and Osteoporosis Research

February 2, 2003 **Rosh Hodesh**
Women and Change – A Spiritual Exploration

April 27, 2003 **Exercise and Nutrition**
Build Better Bones and Eat for Good Health

Please join us; we have something for women of all ages. Meet your friends, enjoy a light brunch and learn.

Shabbat Morning Family and Youth Services at Congregation Beth El

Service Name	Applicable Ages	Room No.	Times	Leaders
Nitzanim	birth to kindergarten	APR	10:30-11:30 am 2nd,4th,5th Shabbat	Rachelle Solkowitz, Glenda Koby, Audrey Winston - Pres.
Gan Shabbat	kindergarten - 2nd grade	Meeting Room	10:00-11:00 am 1st, 3rd Shabbat	Rachelle Solkowitz, Lisa Rosen
Shitufim Minyan	3rd & 4th grades	Room 209	11:00 am-Noon 1st, 3rd Shabbat	Anita Lieb
Junior Congregation	5th grade and up	Chapel	10:00-11:15 am Every Shabbat	Cheryl Kreiser
Bogrim	7th grade and up	Board Room	10:00-11:30 am 2nd Shabbat	Sheldon Novek

Please feel free to speak with the individual leaders or coordinators about any one of the services, or contact Sarah Roark, 301-652-8573, ext 319

Peter and Ellen Allard Weekend

The weekend with award-winning national recording artists **Peter and Ellen Allard** delivered everything it promised and more. Young families welcomed Shabbat together in the sanctuary with a rocking Kabbalat Shabbat service. Dancing and hand motions helped us move with the spirit of some traditional songs and Allard specials such as *Building a Better World*. Services were followed by a dinner with tables creatively adorned by centerpieces made by the BENS classes and homemade challah made by Rachelle Solkowitz. Rabbi Harris led songs and blessings before and after the meal.

Saturday's combined Nitzanim and Gan Shabbat service, in the APR, was filled with warm encircling songs of joy. Adults held tallitot aloft while children wound their way underneath, all the while chanting *Mah Tov*. Ellen and Peter composed a new song on their trip down about the seven days of creation for a singing Torah story.

Sunday's concert capped off the whole event. Audience members included Beth El families and many visitors from the Greater Washington area. Thanks to the hard working BENS volunteers who advertised the concert in the Gazette, Washington Jewish Week, Washington Post, and Washington Parent, as well as to all area Jewish nursery schools (you'd be surprised how many there are!). Infectious tunes like *Driving in my Car* and *Lotsa, Lotsa, Matzah* will stick with us long after the concert. One of many highlights was the fathers who got up and danced to *Ocho Kandelikas*, a Ladino Hanukah song composed by local artist Flory Jagoda. The Allards drove seven plus hours to come to Beth El from their home in Massachusetts. Peter and Ellen have released five recordings, two songbooks, and have won numerous awards, including 2 Parents' Choice, a Parent's Guide, and 3 Children's Music Web Awards. You can find their music on line at www.peterandellen.com. The event was co-sponsored by Congregation Beth El Family Education and Beth El Nursery School, with help from Nitzanim.



Peter and Ellen Allard

Vatikkim Luncheon

The speaker for the November luncheon will be our friend, **Dr. Gerald Schneider**. He talked to us last December on Jewish humor, and this will be the fourth time Dr. Schneider will share his expertise with us. A true renaissance man, he will take us this time "behind the headlines." Everyone is welcome. Please don't miss this interesting and exciting program.

Everyone is welcome! Lunch is at Noon, and the program starts at 1 pm. There will be no charge for paid up Vatikkim members at this luncheon. Non-member cost is \$8 per person. Please fill out the reservation form below and mail it to Bea Goldman, 3214 Henderson Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20902; 301-942-9434, or to Phyllis Blum, 1411 Stratton Drive, Rockville, MD 20854; 301-340-3046.

Reservation Form

Vatikkim Luncheon on Thursday, November 21, 2002
Please reserve _____ places for me at the Vatikkim luncheon.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please have your response reach us by Tuesday, November 19, 2002. No reservations will be accepted after this date.

Beth El Mitzvah Day Volunteer Registration Form

Please return this form to Beth El as soon as possible

Name: _____

Children's Names and Ages: _____

Phone Numbers: (day and evening) _____

Project Choice (Call project captain for details.) _____

I can help with the following:

- Bring donations for the Interfaith Clothing Center
- Make tax-deductible contribution to defray the cost of Mitzvah Day.
- I need transportation to Mitzvah Day activities.
- I can provide transportation to Mitzvah Day activities.