

Scroll

CONGREGATION BETH EL OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County

Tuning In With Hazzan Lubin

Playing with Three Strings



Even before he plays the first note on his violin and displays his amazing musical skills, the world renowned violinist, Itzhak Perlman, exhibits an even greater human skill and courage every time he walks onto the stage with braces on both legs and proceeds to take his position at the center with the aid of two crutches. Because he was stricken with polio as a child, Perlman performs in the world concert halls seated on a chair. The sight of his painful, yet majestic walk on stage toward his chair, is a ritual that his audience always watches with awe and inspiration.

I recently read a report of a concert at which Itzhak Perlman appeared on November 18, 1995 when one of the strings of his violin broke in the midst of his performance. The audience could hear it snap and the musical challenge and trepidation that Perlman faced at that moment was quite enormous. Either he would limp his arduous way off stage to find another violin or else he would have to find another string for the violin. Being the courageous musician that he is, Perlman did neither. He simply signaled to the conductor to begin again and he continued to play where he left off. He played the rest of the piece with unusual passion and clarity of tone.

Musicians and concertgoers know that it is practically impossible to play a symphonic work with just three strings. We know that, but Itzhak Perlman refused to know that on that fateful evening at Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center. He managed to use every conceivable trick of the trade and the musical creativity that he possessed in abundance, to modulate, change, re-compose the piece in his head and de-tune the strings to get new sounds from them that they never made before.

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Shabbat Services

Friday, December 13

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service

Saturday, December 14

Va-yiggash: Genesis 44:18-47:27

7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services

9:15 am Noah Schoenholtz Bar Mitzvah

10:00 am Bogrim - BR

10:00 am Jr. Congregation - Chapel

10:00 am Learners Minyan - MR

10:30 am Nitzanim - APR

4:00 pm Mincha, Seudah Shlishit,

Maariv, Havdallah - APR

Friday, December 20

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service

Saturday, December 21

Va-y'hi: Genesis 49:1-49:26

7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services

9:50 am Worship and Study Minyan - BR

9:30 am Minyan Chaverim - APR

10:00 am Gan Shabbat - MR

10:00 am Jr. Congregation - Chapel

Friday, December 27

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service

Saturday, December 28

Sh'mot: Exodus 1:1-6:1

7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services

9:15 am Joel Finbloom Bar Mitzvah

10:00 am Jr. Congregation - Chapel

10:30 am Nitznim - APR

Friday, January 3

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service

Saturday, January 4

Va-era: Exodus 6:2-9:35

7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services

9:15 am Sisterhood Shabbat

9:50 am Worship and Study Minyan - APR

10:00 am Gan Shabbat - MR

10:00 am Jr. Congregation - Chapel

Important Meeting for Parents of 2004 B'nai Mitzvah

Parents of children who will become B'nai Mitzvah in 2004 should plan to attend the meeting on Sunday, January 12, 2003 at 11:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Sisterhood News

Sisterhood to Honor Esther Wilner with the Golda Meir Award

Sisterhood is pleased to announce that **Esther Wilner** is this year's recipient of the Golda Meir Award for leadership of Sisterhood and the congregation. Esther's family joined Beth El in 1983, and over the years she has served in a variety of leadership positions. She was a member of the Youth Committee and was instrumental in re-establishing the College Outreach Committee, which she chaired from 1995-1999. She regularly leads P'sukei D'zimra and other services at our synagogue. Esther is currently a Trustee on the Beth El Board of Directors, and she is Co-Chair of the special musical program being planned for May 4, 2003.

Esther has also been an active Sisterhood volunteer. She works regularly in the Judaica Shop, was Co-Vice President for Membership, and served as Sisterhood President from 1999-2001. Esther is a native Israeli, and she conceived of and chaired an afternoon-long program entitled "Celebrate Israel," which featured Israeli dancing, art, music, and of course, food! She also chaired Sisterhood's popular Melaveh Malka evening. This past summer, Esther learned about a website featuring roses from the Negev in Israel. Since that time she has coordinated the sponsorship and ordering of the roses which beautify our synagogue on Shabbat and special occasions while helping the Israeli economy as well.

The Golda Meir Award will be presented to Esther at the Sisterhood Shabbat Service on January 4. Everyone is encouraged to join with the members of Sisterhood that morning as we worship together and honor her for many years of service to Congregation Beth El.

Beth El Beats the Flu Bug

On November 3, Sisterhood and Adventist HealthCare sponsored a flu shot clinic for members of the congregation and the community. We administered 125 shots to seniors, at-risk, and young and healthy individuals. Nobody was turned away and there was almost no waiting line throughout the morning. Sisterhood would like to thank **Lisa Koshute** and her staff from Adventist HealthCare Community Health Partnering Program for bringing the clinic to Beth El. We would also like to express our appreciation to **Pat Danoff** for making all the arrangements and to the following Sisterhood members for helping with paperwork and crowd control so that the morning was almost painless for everyone: **Julia Copperman, Pat Danoff, Leslie Dellon, Gale Dutcher, Linda Fassberg, Emily Goldman, Hattie Goodman, Marcia Kalman, Debbie Leibowitz, Jackie Levine, Helen Popper, and Adeen Postar.** Kol Ha' kavod.

Sisterhood Shabbat Service

**Saturday, January 4
9:15 a.m.**

**Celia and Audrey Resnik
Memorial Lecture**

by
Catherine Hall Myrowitz

Author of
*Finding a Home for the Soul:
Interviews with Converts to Judaism*

Golda Meir Award

to
Esther Wilner

Sisterhood members will lead the service

Sisterhood Book Group Schedule (clip and save)

Everyone is welcome to join us for a lively discussion about these interesting books. All sessions are at 9:30 a.m. in either the Board Room or the Chapel. For information contact Andrea Golden at 301-294-2375, goldnfam@aol.com, or Suzanne Stone at 301-365-3253, ststone@abs.net.

- | | |
|------------|--|
| January 5 | <i>Fairest Among Women</i> by Shifra Horn |
| February 9 | <i>Queenmaker</i> by India Edghill |
| March 23 | <i>Persian Brides</i> by Dorit Rabinyan |
| April 20 | <i>Old Men at Midnight</i> by Chaim Potok |
| May 18 | <i>Holy Days: The World of a Hasidic Family</i> by Lis Harris |
| June 15 | <i>Burnt Bread and Chutney: Growing Up Between Cultures-A Memoir of an Indian Jewish Girl</i> by Carmit Delman |

Tuning in with Hazzan Lubin continued

At the end of the concert there was an awesome silence in the room. And the audience then rose to its feet and awarded Perlman with a well deserved ovation and applause. The audience fully understood and appreciated what Perlman endured and had done that evening. He, in turn, wiped the sweat from his brow, raised his bow to quiet everyone present and said, not boastfully, but in a quiet tone: "You know, sometimes it is the artist's task to find out how much music you can make with what you have left."

What a powerful message for us during these stressful times and days when we live in fear and unease, not knowing what next might happen in this unpredictable world. The suicide/homicide bombers in Israel, 9/11, snipers in our neighborhoods and threats of violence all over the globe are enough to numb us into a state of helplessness. We find ourselves playing with only three strings, and the fourth string of innocence and safety is suddenly not there. What to do? Do what Itzhak Perlman did on that fateful evening when he lost his violin string. He continued playing despite this tremendous obstacle and discovered "how much music you can still make with what you have left."

Our task then is to keep on playing, to keep hoping and doing all we can to make this a better world. Let us never lose the hope for a better tomorrow and "be not afraid of sudden terror, neither of the destruction of the wicked when it comes." (Proverbs 3:25). In the words of the 19th century Hebrew novelist and early advocate of Jewish nationalism, Peretz Smolenskin: "Without Tikvah-hope, all activity will come to a standstill and life be ended."

Do You Know Someone Who's Looking to be Part of a Vibrant, Active, Warm, Jewish Community?

Are you aware that more than half of the Washington area Jewish population is unaffiliated with a synagogue? Many say that they can't find one that meets their needs. If you know someone like that - it might be a neighbor, relative, colleague, friend - then why not suggest that they explore Beth El?

Beth El provides a wide range of religious service options for both adults and children, a first-rate religious school, a vibrant youth program for kids of all ages from kindergarten through high school, an active Sisterhood and Men's Club, outreach to interfaith families, many havurot, Shabbat dinners, and other activities to meet various interests including social action, choirs (both adult and children), adult education, an award-winning Israel Action Committee, Family Education, programs for senior adults, and much more.

For further information, contact the synagogue office at 301-652-2606 or Karen Lipkind at 301-530-8615 or klipkind@yahoo.com.

Rabbi Neil Gillman Visits Beth El

The much anticipated visit of **Rabbi Neil Gillman** as our scholar-in-residence (Nov. 15-17) did not disappoint to challenge all who heard him. Over 700 people participated in different learning sessions with Rabbi Gillman during his visit. Throughout the weekend, he pressed people to think more deeply about their personal relationship with God, how community is formed, and the importance of continuing our Jewish learning. During Shabbat services, he officially introduced us to our new Humash - Etz Hayim, the modern translations, maps and essays in the back, and even practical points of Jewish law in the Humash that will add to the depth of our Shabbat experiences. The weekend culminated in an amazing family education program where parents and their children discussed the implications of 9/11 on their beliefs of God. This was the beginning of a powerful discussion which families are encouraged to continue around the kitchen table or wherever the opportunity presents itself. A special thanks goes to **Sarah Roark** for her work in setting up this special weekend of learning.



SAVE THE DATE!
Sunday, May 4, 2003
7:30 pm
Musical Event
of the Year



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of Montgomery
County
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Road Bethesda,
Maryland 20814-1451

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FAX Number
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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.

**The Men's Club of
Congregation Beth El, Bethesda**

is pleased to honor

Bernie Rod

as its Year 2003

Blue Yarmulke Man-of-the-Year
at the Seaboard Region
Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs
Blue Yarmulke Men-of-the-Year Dinner

Sunday, January 19, 2003
6:30 pm

Congregation Beth El
8101 Park Heights Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland

Cocktail Hour & Dinner: \$60.00 per person

Please reserve ___ seats for Cocktails and Dinner for me.

Please insert a congratulatory ad to honor Bernie in the following size:

___ Full-Page \$175.00 ___ Half-page \$125.00

___ Quarter-page \$75.00 ___ Name Listing \$36.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Reservations for the dinner are on a "first-come, first served" basis, and must be made not later than January 10, 2003.

Reservations can be made by mailing this form and a check made payable to "Seaboard Region FJMC" to: Dr. Arnold Rosenblatt, 1917 Windmill Lane, Alexandria, VA 22307

Men's Club News

On Saturday, December 14, the Men's Club will host its third Shabbat mincha, seudah shlishit, maariv, and havdallah service. It will start at 4:00 p.m. There will be no breakfast or program the following Sunday morning.

On Sunday, January 19, 2003, the Seaboard Region Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs will honor **Bernie Rod** with the "Blue Yarmulke Man-of-the-Year" Award. It will be held at Congregation Beth El of Baltimore at 6:30 pm at 8101 Park Heights Ave, Baltimore, Maryland.



**Save the Dates
for the
"Perspectives in Dialogue"**

Sunday, January 12, 2003

Martin Sieff

International Editor, UPI

"A Journalist Looks at the Current Middle East Crisis"

Sunday, January 19, 2003

Tom Neumann

Exec. Director, Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (former head of B'nai B'rith)

Sunday, February 2, 2003

Douglas Feith

Undersecretary of Defense for Policy

Sunday, February 9, 2003

Alan Gutmacher

Associate Director, Human Genome Research Institute, NIH

"The Human Genome Project: Implications for Health and Society"

Save the Date

**Sunday, January 26, 2003
(Super Bowl Sunday)**

THE THIRD WORLD WIDE WRAP

Message from the President

By now, you must all be aware of the wonderful diversity that Beth El offers its members for Shabbat worship. In addition to the always *hamish* service in the main Sanctuary at 9:15 am, we have an array of other minyanim that meet the spiritual needs of members with different interests and of all ages. I have written several times about my enjoyment of the Early Morning Shabbat Minyan that was founded by **Rabbi William Rudolph** and that is now so ably led by **Peter Novick**. But there is also the Worship and Study Minyan, Minyan Chaverim, the Learner's Minyan and services for children of all ages. I particularly enjoy Shabbat when the sanctuary is filled with members, and there are still more members attending one of the other services. We all come together in the social hall for a common Kiddush, and the place rings with the sharing of Shabbat and of food.

The most recent re-addition to our services is the Learner's Minyan. This was started by Rabbi Rudolph but was put on hold last year. **Rabbi Gregory Harris** has now assumed its leadership, and I had the opportunity to participate on November 9 (it meets again on December 14). This minyan is for members who do not know enough to feel comfortable with regular services or who want to get a better sense of our tradition before they participate at any of our services. I want to tell you, however, that whether you know very little or a lot, you will learn much and greatly enjoy this minyan. As many of you have already discovered, Rabbi Harris is a wonderful teacher, and his knowledge and enthusiasm for guiding us as we learn makes this minyan a special experience. There is nothing intimidating about this service, and it enables participants to ask questions, discuss, and really understand why and how we do various things in our services.

If you have not been to a Shabbat Service lately, I strongly encourage you to try it. Shabbat is always a special day, of course, and you will discover that with all our minyanim, you are bound to find a service that appeals to you and meets your personal needs. Indeed, think about becoming a part of the growing group of Shabbat "regulars" who continue to make services at Beth El a warm and powerful part of our lives.

Follow-up

Recently, I wrote about my concern with children running in the hall. I was very grateful to receive comments from many members about this issue and strong support for my interest in looking into ways to deal with it. While there are no answers yet, I want you to know that there is now an ad hoc committee, co-led by our treasurer **Judy Futterman** (jfutterman@bethelmc.org) and Rabbi Harris (gharris@bethelmc.org), that is exploring this issue. Judy and Rabbi Harris invite your input. If you have any thoughts about this, please feel free to contact either of them by

phone, e-mail, or letter. Their goal is to make Beth El safer for members of all ages.

Concert

In this issue of the *Scroll*, you will find a save-the-date notice about a concert on May 4 that is being organized by **Hazzan Abraham Lubin** and a committee cochaired by **Esther Wilner** and **Susan Sherzer**. Everything I have heard about this concert convinces me that it is going to be even better than the concerts that Hazzan Lubin has organized in the past. Please put Sunday evening May 4 on your calendar and plan on joining us for what I guarantee will be a wonderful and special Beth El evening.

Construction Update

We are still waiting for more detailed plans from our architect and prices from our contractor and his subcontractors (the people who actually do the construction). Both take time, but we will bring you up-to-date at the two congregation gatherings on December 12 and 15 (the two meetings will be repeats of one another, so there is no need to attend both). We do not have a true timetable since there are many variables, some of which are outside of our control. We are moving ahead as rapidly as we can, and we are on track to have ground-breaking around the time that school ends in June. Of course, we will not proceed with construction until we have brought the details to the Congregation in a formal meeting that will include a vote on whether to approve the project.

Accessibility

Hopefully by the time you read this, our new Bimah lift will be in place and available for use. We have been pushing to get this delivered as soon as possible, but the lift had to be constructed especially for us and that took time. We also now have a wheelchair accessible toilet in one of the restrooms in the first floor school wing. For those who need this accessibility, this will be a unisex restroom until the construction and renovations are completed.

The Scroll

Over the past 18 months, we have expanded the *Scroll*, made it more readable (I hope you have noticed the newly instituted Table of Contents on page 1), and tried to provide more material about our shul. At some point, we will have a survey to evaluate the *Scroll*, but that is in the future. Still, we are rather curious to know your views in an informal way. I would like to know what you like/don't like about the *Scroll*. Do you read it cover to cover, or do you mostly ignore it? What do you read? And ignore? Are there things that we can do to make the *Scroll* more useful to you?

If you have thoughts on this, please e-mail me (apopper@bethelmc.org) or send me a note. I cannot promise major changes at this point, but if we can make the *Scroll* better by implementing certain modifications now, we will do so.

Splinters from the Board

Tuesday, October 29, 2002

Arthur Popper - presiding, Jerome Danoff - recording

Called to order 7:35 pm

Minutes from the September 24, 2002 meeting were approved as submitted.

Ben Bronheim, Ritual Committee Chair, announced that the new Conservative movement *humash* will be introduced at Shabbat services this week. The old *humashim* will be offered to congregants for donations...The High Holiday Auxiliary Services in the Whitman cafeteria were popular, drawing 250 participants...He also reminded everyone that all synagogue activities should pause at 8:00 pm for the evening minyan.

Rabbi Rudolph presented deliberations by him and the Ritual Committee pertaining to the use of musical instruments as part of services. Although Friday evening musical services have been very popular, there are several complex issues to be considered. The Rabbi is prepared to present more fully the results of the halachic search on this topic. He also intends to hold open meetings for discussion and to get feedback from congregants before any final decisions are made. [At the request of the Board, more details of this issue will be presented at a future Board meeting.]

BREAK FOR MINYAN

In the *President's Report*, **Arthur Popper** announced that the *Blue Yarmulke Award* will be presented to **Bernie Rod** on January 19, 2003... An ad hoc committee has been formed charged with developing a "White Paper" by February 15 on Religious School plans and models. **Louis Nagel** and **Michelle Hainbach** will be leading this committee... There has been some concern recently with young children roaming in the building unsupervised during synagogue programs and services. **Judy Futterman** will convene an ad hoc committee to consider this issue... The Leadership Task Force led by **Jerry Herman** and **Susan Jerison** will have a report by the end of November. They plan to start a leadership development series. The effectiveness of our Governance is being reviewed. **Linda Klonsky** has been hired to direct this work. She is interviewing Board members and former leaders in a series of small meetings and will present a report during the January or February Board meetings.

Sheila Bellack distributed the High Holiday Report, which included comparisons of High Holiday expenses and income for the past four years – this year 2,854 tickets were dispersed and we realized a net of \$33,000. [From the floor, thanks were extended to Sheila for coordinating the High Holiday administrative and maintenance duties.]

The Treasurer's Report was given by **Judy Futterman**. Our total budget is approximately \$2 million. Income to date is \$840,000, which represents one-third of

the year's income. All income levels are reasonably close to expected levels. Expenses to date are \$767,000, which is also on target. Membership is currently at 946 units. **Gary Rosenfeld**, Budget and Finance Committee chair, added that we are planning to have a full audit in the coming year.

Bert King, giving an update on House/Construction, reported that an additional bank has expressed interest in providing a loan for our construction. Information meetings for the congregation are planned for Thursday, December 12 and Sunday, December 15...We hope to have the lift available for the Bimah sometime in December, and one of the stalls in the Men's Restroom (school wing) is now wheelchair accessible. This will be a unisex restroom until the construction and renovations are completed.

Claire Marwick reported on World Jewry. A secure fence is now in place around the synagogue in Kostroma, which has provided peace of mind (and protection). A new concern is related to the problems in the Jewish community of Argentina due to the current economic crisis there. Motion made that Congregation Beth El assist the Jewish community of Bahia Blanca [a small city in Argentina] during the current financial crisis. **Rosa Kotelanski** spoke of the specific hardships in this community and presented action plans for implementing Beth El support. The motion was seconded and passed.

Announcements

Benson Adams: The Nomination and Recruitment Committee will fill eighteen positions. The plan is to have a slate ready by February.

Pat Danoff: 350 people attended the joint (with Bethesda Methodist Church) Candidates Forum on Monday, October 28, featuring Connie Morella and Chris Van Hollen. Thanks to **David Schultz**, **Cary Feldman**, and **Leslie Dellon** for working on this program.

Shelley London: Conservative Headquarters in Jerusalem are very appreciative of the check sent by Rabbi Rudolph.

Hazzan Abe Lubin: On Tuesday, November 26, we will hold our annual joint Thanksgiving service (with the Methodist Church) here at Beth El... There will be a major Concert here on Sunday evening, May 4... The three clergy are now holding regular Tuesday afternoon study sessions which have been, in addition to educational, a strong bonding experience.

Meeting adjourned 9:25 pm.

Volunteers Wanted For Fundraising Committee

The Fundraising Committee, chaired by Debby Reiser, is looking for innovative, energetic volunteers to work on short-term and long-term fund-raising projects and goals for the shul. If you're interested, please contact Debby at 301-984-6042 (home), at 301-961-6094 (work), or at dereiser@lercheary.com.

Mark Your Social Action Calendars

Congregation Beth El is scheduled to volunteer at the **Community Based Shelter (CBS)** beginning with dinner on Sunday, December 22 and ending with breakfast and brown bag lunches on Sunday, December 29. Our responsibilities will include preparation of three meals (breakfast, brown bag lunches, and a precooked dinner) for each day, and setting up, serving, and some clean-up of dinner. We also are responsible for providing paper goods for the week. The shelter is located at 12250 Wilkins Avenue, near the intersection of Wilkins Avenue and Twinbrook Parkway. If you are interested in participating in this very rewarding mitzvah, please call Janice Liebowitz at 301-654-7377 or e-mail me at JaniceLiebowitz@aol.com. CBS also has a wish list which includes personal hygiene items, towels and washcloths, canned goods and non-perishable foods, laundry detergent and soap.

A second volunteering opportunity is available for those who would like to cook and serve dinner at Rainbow Shelter in Rockville on December 24.

Vatikim Luncheon

Our honored luncheon guest and speaker will be our own **Rabbi Gregory Harris**. He will speak to us on "Faith and Doubt in Judaism," the seeming dichotomy that distinguishes our religion from other beliefs. Come and join us in a spirited discussion on this important topic.

Everyone is welcome! Lunch is at Noon, and the program starts at 1 pm. Cost for members is \$7. 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 to Phyllis Blum, 1411 Stratton Drive, Rockville, MD 20854; 301-340-3046.

Reservation Form

Vatikim Luncheon on Thursday, December 19, 2002
Please reserve _____ places for me at the Vatikim luncheon.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please have your response reach us by Tuesday, December 17, 2002. No reservations will be accepted after this date.

CONGREGATION BETH EL OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

JOIN US FOR AN
 **OPEN MEETING** 
**ABOUT OUR
CONSTRUCTION PLANS**

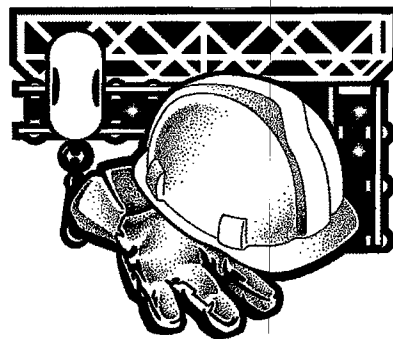
**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12
at 7:30 P.M.**

OR

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15
at 1:00 P.M.**

**Here's an opportunity for you to
review the plans, ask questions,
and learn more about the
process of moving our
exciting construction
and renovation project forward.**

**Be sure to join us at either
of the times listed above.**



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. 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.

December 15 – December 19

Judith and Jonathan Levin
Joseph and Ellen Levin
Kenneth Levine and Diana Huffman
Leona Levine
Mark Levitt and Kay Klass
Robert and Michele Levine
Robert and Andrea Levine
Seth Levita
Susan Levine
Jonathan Levy
Martin and Naomi Levy
Marshall and Sandra Levy
Neil Levy and Linda Perle
Stephen Levy and Lois Zuckerman
Warren Levy
Steven and Nancy Lewis
Herman Liebling
Richard Lieberman and Helene Weisz
Theodore and Anita Lieb
Alisa Lipkind

December 22 – December 26

Harry and Karen Lipkind
Robert Lipman and Nancy Rose
Ace and Linda Lipson
Edward and Estie Lipsit
Marvin and Julie Liss
Robert and Marjorie Litman
Robert Litowitz and Karen Dubin
Sandy and Daniella Livnat
Jules and Carolyn Lodish
Andrew and Linda Loewinger
Sheldon and Margery London
William Lotshaw and Marlinda Menashe
Peter Lowet and Laura Sloss
Abraham and Sandy Lubin
Robert and Carol Luskin
James and Muriel Lyman
Sheilah and Michael Lynn
Phyllis Maier
David and Claire Maklan
Lillian Maller

December 29 – January 2

Julia Maloney
Rhoda Mancher
Daniel and Elaine Mann
Harry and Laura Mannheimer
Arnold and Judith Marcus
Lawrence and Marlene Marcus
Ronald and Deborah Marcus
Mitchell and Sandra Marder
David Margulies and Donna Vogel
Philip and Phyllis Margolius
Robert and Elizabeth Margolis
Sam and Evelyn Margolis
Bruce Marks and Andrea Kessler
David and Linda Marshall
Claire Marwick
Marc and Laura Masurovsky
Michael Mates and Lona Feldman
Robert and Kathy Matty
Edward Max and Jody Green
James and Jan Maxwell

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.

Fenya Gelfer, 4521 East West Hwy, Apt. 905, Bethesda, MD 20814

301-656-8329

Yakov Sanovick and Etia Dvorkina, 4521 East West Hwy, Apt 703, Bethesda, MD 20814

301-951-5208

All in the Family

Mazal Tov to **Austin Lieb**, son of **Anita and Ted Lieb**, on his marriage on November 11 to **Mureille Payeur** in Bergerac, France. The wedding was performed by Rabbis Paulene Bebe and Tom Cohen of Paris, France.

Mazal Tov to **Bernard and Rita Jacobi** on the birth of their great-grandson, **Jacob Emilio Bruckheim**, on November 9, 2002. Grandparents are **Dr. Arthur and Susan Bruckheim** and parents are **Michael and Meredith Bruckheim**.

Mazal Tov to **Murray and Marilyn Hammerman** on the birth of their granddaughter, **Sydney Blair Fay Hammerman**, on October 28, 2002. Parents are **Dr. Steve and Wendy Hammerman** of Houston, Texas.

Mazal Tov to **Debbie Feinstein and Stephen Kuperberg** on the birth of their daughter, **Avital Frances**, on November 17, 2002.

Mazal Tov to **Dr. Harvey Resnik** on being granted the title of Emeritus Clinical Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science at the George Washington Medical School Graduation this past May. He also had the honor of placing the Doctoral Hood over his daughter **Rebecca Gabrielle**.

Mazal Tov to **Dr. Rebecca Resnik**, daughter of **Dr. Harvey Resnik**, on her graduation and her engagement to **Aaron Kane**, son of **Roseanne and Steven Kane** of Silver Spring.

Mazal Tov to **Ronald and Evelyn Treinish** on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson **Matthew Treinish**, son of **Lloyd and Linda Treinish**.

Mazal Tov to **Bart Widom and Debby Reiser** on the birth of their granddaughter, **Kelsey Widom**, on November 1, 2002. Parents are **Ken and Terry Widom**.

Baruch Dayan Emet

Congregation Beth El offers its sincere condolences to **Mark Schutz** on the death of his mother, **Rhoda Schutz**.

From the Executive Director

Do You Have a Question? Let Me Help You Find the Answer (Part I)

Many times, we receive calls in the office from members with a question but they don't know whom they need to speak with to obtain a response. To try and help alleviate confusion, I have outlined below some of the most common inquiries and who should be contacted. Part II of this column, which will include other questions we receive, will be in a future issue. At the end of this column are the phone extensions of all Beth El staff.

Bookkeeping: All questions related to the monthly statements should be directed to our bookkeeper, **Kathy Hooley**. Kathy also manages the standing grocery scrip orders. If you have a question about paying your Capital Campaign pledge, again, Kathy will be able to assist you. For anyone who has made an approved purchase on behalf of the congregation and wants to know how to be reimbursed, either Kathy or I can assist you.

Moving?: If you are moving or changing your telephone number, please contact **Phyllis Scholl** (who is also Hazzan Lubin's secretary). Even if the change is temporary (e.g. snowbirds), please let Phyllis know so you can continue to receive the *Scroll* and other Beth El communications.

Need to Make an Appointment with our Clergy?: **Rabbi Rudolph, Rabbi Harris and Hazzan Lubin** all maintain their own calendars; if you wish to meet with them, please contact them directly.

Scroll: So you are on a committee and are the one responsible for writing something for the *Scroll*. **Pam Kocher**, our office manager, will be happy to give you a publication schedule and any policies on how to submit material and the length of various types of materials. (Note, all submissions must be in electronic format.) Once you have written your article, please send it to Pam.

Grocery Scrip, Contributions and Morning Minyan Kiddush Sponsorship: **Hattie Goodman**, our receptionist, can assist you with all of these. Hattie also sends out the acknowledgements cards when a contribution is made in honor or in memory of someone.

Tree of Life or Cemetery Plots: If you would like information about purchasing a leaf on our Tree of Life in the rotunda, or about purchasing a cemetery plot in the Beth El section at Judean Gardens, please contact **Carole Wellner** (who is also the secretary for both rabbis).

Shabbat Announcements: Our weekly Shabbat Announcement sheet is full of important Beth El information. If you wish to include something, please contact **Phyllis Scholl**. The deadline is Wednesday morning of each week (possibly earlier if it's a short week). Please note that due to limited space in the announcements we sometimes have to exclude material.

Financial Adjustment: If you find yourself in a difficult financial situation and wish an adjustment to your

dues, school tuition, etc., please call me to discuss your concern. I will make every effort to work with you, in total confidence, and find a workable solution.

Religious School: All questions pertaining to the Religious School should be directed to either **Helen Shell**, the school's secretary, or **Louis Nagel**, our education director.

Nursery School: All questions pertaining to Beth El Nursery School (BENS) should be directed to **Helen Shell**, the school's secretary, or **Jo Sohinki**, the nursery school director.

Family Education: Whether it's a weekend program such as our recent Scholar-in-Residence event or one of the many Sunday morning programs run in conjunction with Religious School, then **Sarah Roark** is the person to contact. Sarah is also our assistant education director.

Youth Activities: Need to know what time your child's activity is? Want to help chaperone a program? For this and more information about our youth groups, contact our new youth director, **Sheldon Novek**.

Life Cycle Events: In case of a death in the family, please contact **Rabbi Rudolph** or **Rabbi Harris** as soon as possible (don't hesitate to call them at home after work hours). If you wish to schedule a baby naming or wedding at Beth El, the rabbis should be contacted as well. B'nai/B'not Mitzvah are scheduled 2-3 years in advance and parents receive communication from the office regarding a scheduling meeting. If you are planning on having a wedding or Bar/Bat Mitzvah reception at Beth El, please contact **Pam Kocher** or myself to schedule a date, obtain a list of caterers who may use Beth El facilities, etc.

How to Reach our Staff: Please dial 301-652-8569 or 301-652-8573 and then press the extension number of the person you wish to reach. Some of the e-mail addresses are listed at the bottom of page 3 in the *Scroll*. For other staff, use the following formula: the first letter of the person's first name, followed by full last name, @bethelmc.org. For example, Hattie Goodman's e-mail is hgoodman@bethelmc.org.

Sheila Bellack	ext. 306
Dorothy Beverly	ext. 314
Hattie Goodman	ext. 301
Rabbi Gregory Harris	ext. 305
Kathy Hooley	ext. 304
Pam Kocher	ext. 303
Hazzan Abraham Lubin	ext. 317
Louis Nagel	ext. 310
Sheldon Novek	ext. 308
Sarah Roark	ext. 319
Rabbi Bill Rudolph	ext. 318
Phyllis Scholl	ext. 302
Helen Shell	ext. 309
Jo Sohinki	ext. 311
Hien Thanh	ext. 324
Carole Wellner	ext. 316

Beth El Sisterhood

presents the Tony Award winning Broadway musical

The Rothschilds

by the writers who gave us *Fiddler on the Roof*

Starring nationally known performer

Bernie Dean

in a one-man show

Saturday, January 25th at 7:30 pm

at Congregation Beth El
8215 Old Georgetown Road
Bethesda, Maryland

Dessert reception following the performance

Cost: \$18 in advance, \$22 at the door

**For information call: Judy Goldman 301-652-1134
Judy Baldinger 301-657-4613**

Through music and narration, the show tells the inspirational story of one of the most important families in Jewish history. From their humble beginnings in the ghetto of Frankfurt to their achievement of enormous wealth, we see how the Rothschilds used their money and far-reaching influence to break down the ghetto walls and win freedom for their fellow Jews. The House of Rothschild largely financed the colonization of Palestine and played a significant role in the formation of the State of Israel.

Reservation for *The Rothschilds*

Name _____

Phone number _____

Number of Tickets _____ @ \$18 per person

Total amount of check enclosed \$ _____

(made out to Beth El Sisterhood)

Mail to:

Karen Lipkind

6124 Tuckerman Lane

Rockville, MD 20852

No tickets will be mailed. Names will be checked off at the door.

BETH EL WEEKEND RETREAT 2003
February 28 – March 2, 2003
SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE PROF. ZVI GITELMAN of the UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Sign up TODAY for BETH EL'S WEEKEND RETREAT 2003 to be held at the NEW Pearlstone Conference and Retreat Center in Reiserstown, MD. This beautiful and unique Jewish environment is strictly Kosher and is located in a serene country setting only 90 minutes from Bethesda. Enjoy this special weekend with Rabbi Rudolph, Hazzan Lubin, Gail and Sandy, your fellow congregants and friends as we share a relaxed Shabbat, including traditional Shabbat meals and services, and lots of intellectual stimulation. We will learn together, unwind and have lots of fun!

Beth El Retreat 2003 will begin on Friday evening, February 28, and end on Sunday, March 2 at noon. Our weekend will be chock full of interesting sessions on a variety of subjects. To lead us in discussion, we are honored to have a brilliant and internationally recognized scholar, Professor Zvi Gitelman, Professor of Political Science, and Preston R. Tisch Professor of Judaic Studies, at the University of Michigan. Professor Gitelman will be speaking about Israel, the Former Soviet Union, and about the campus divestment controversy at U-M in which he played a lead role.

Our weekend will include Shabbat afternoon free time with informal outdoor activities including nature walks, basketball and jogging. We will also have use of the on-site fitness center. The Pearlstone Center features a full-service dining room, an open recreation room and arts and crafts center. There are also areas for relaxing in informal groups, or reading while viewing the countryside.

Accommodations and Registration Information (Form due no later than January 27, 2003)

We are pleased to offer Hotel Style rooms, with two double beds and private bath in each room.

Double Occupancy \$225.00/person

Children (ages 13 -18 in parent's room) \$100.00/child

No pets.

Registrations and room requests taken on first come, first served basis. Refunds available only if substitutions are made.

Note: There are a very limited number of guest rooms for this Retreat, as we are sharing the facility with another group. [We will have the full facility for our use in 2004.] All rooms will be Double Occupancy, and we will make pairings as needed. We have no capacity for childcare personnel and child-oriented programming this year, and must be limited to children of Bar/Bat Mitzvah age who will be able to join in the regular (adult) program in all its aspects. Families with younger children are encouraged to join with our long-standing Jewish Family Camp program on Memorial Day Weekend at Capital Camps – contact Judy Futterman (jfutterman@bethelmc.org) for more information.

Retreat Questions? Call Rabbi Bill Rudolph, 301-652-8569, extension 318.

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL INFORMATION REQUESTED

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Daytime Phone _____ Evening Phone _____ Email _____

Number of children (include ages/names) _____

Roommate Requested (or we will make pairings) _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Special requests _____

All forms and payments are due in the synagogue office by January 27, 2003.