

Scroll

CONGREGATION BETH EL OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Montgomery County

Message from the Rabbi

January 3, 2003

29 Tevet 5763

Volume 52

No. 7



Very well attended talks by our recent Family Education Scholar-in-Residence, Jewish Theological Seminary Prof. Neil Gillman, resonate in interesting ways with the work of our Atid future planning group. Prof. Gillman pointed to three main avenues of expression for our Jewishness – behaviors/actions are one, the intellectual approach is a second, and spirituality a third. He didn't have much time for the first or third and was not hesitant to say so, though by the end of the talks he admitted to some role and credibility to these approaches too.

The Atid group, which is about to turn over its report and recommendations to the Board after a long and fruitful year's work and then go out of business (how rare that is in Jewish communal life!), concluded that Beth El needs to focus its efforts at building Beth El's Jews in three areas – community, education, and spirituality. The second and third are, of course, very similar to Prof. Gillman's intellectual and spiritual avenues. The first is more similar than it seems, because it too is about actions, things we need to do to create a community, that encourage the greatest amount of activity in a warm and unified way.

Where the approaches of Gillman and Atid don't quite resonate is where Atid is in a stronger position in my mind. Atid recognizes the validity of all three of its focuses, and while all of them may not appeal to each of us, each is necessary and important. Each must be embraced, not just

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Shabbat Services

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

11:00 am Shitufim- Rm. 209

Friday, January 10

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service

Saturday, January 11

B'Shallah: Exodus 13:17 - 17:16

7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services

9:15 am Seth Tobar Bar Mitzvah

10:00 am Bogrim - BR

10:00 am Jr. Congregation-Chapel

10:00 am Learners Minyan-MR

10:30 am Nitzanim- APR

4:30 pm Mincha, Seudah Shlishit, Maariv,

Havdallah-APR

Friday, January 17

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service

Saturday, January 18

7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services

9:15 am Matthew Sherman Bar Mitzvah

9:15 am Samuel Futterman Bar Mitzvah

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, January 24

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service

Saturday, January 25

Yitro: Exodus 18:1-20:23

7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services

9:15 am Jacob Ansbacher Bar Mitzvah

9:15 am Jacob Daniel Kass Bar Mitzvah

10:00 am Jr. Congregation-Chapel

10:30 am Nitzanim- APR

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 Members Attend Women's League Convention

Beth El Sisterhood had our best attendance ever at the Women's League for Conservative Judaism Convention in Philadelphia, November 17-19. Representatives from Beth El included: **Pat Danoff, Judy Goldman, Rita Kahn, Marcia Kalman, Debbie Leibowitz, Jackie Levine, and Karen Lipkind**. In addition to meeting old friends, shopping for Judaica, and attending many interesting and educational sessions, Beth El representatives picked up a unique programming award for last year's Melaveh Malka evening, and displayed a *bayn gavrah* (Torah cover) at the handicrafts show, which was designed by **Tamar Fishman** and made by **Marilyn Hammerman** and **Amanda Ford**. Sisterhood President **Pat Danoff** had the honor of blowing the shofar to announce the arrival of the newly completed Women's League Torah Scroll at the dedication ceremony attended by over 1200 women.

Gift Wrapping for Juvenile Diabetes

Several Sisterhood members braved a snow storm on December 5 to wrap packages at Montgomery Mall for the benefit of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Sisterhood would like to thank **Mimi Tygier** for bringing this project to our attention and for making all of the arrangements. The talented and creative package wrappers included **Pat Danoff, Barbara Eisenstein, Dale Gold, Judy Goldman, Susan King, Suzanne Strauss, and Mimi Tygier**. Yasher Kochachen.

Women's Health Series

On December 8, the second session in the Sisterhood Women's Health Series entitled "Menopause: A Guide to the Perplexed" featured a presentation by Dr. Sherry Sherman from the National Institutes of Health. The presentation included an overview of the stages of menopause, common symptoms, and risk factors for osteoporosis and heart disease. Dr. Sherman also discussed the research findings of the Women's Health Initiative and Study of Women's Health Across the Nation, with particular emphasis on the issue of hormone replacement therapy. Sisterhood would like to thank Dr. Sherman as well as the series planning committee: **Laurie Webber, Barbara Eisenstein, Brenda Bregman, Phyllis Solomon, and Ellen Eule**.

The series continues on Sunday, February 2, at 9:30 a.m., when we will have a Rosh Hodesh study session which will explore the spiritual aspects of "Women and Change." Women of all ages are welcome.

Book Group

Everyone is invited to join the Sisterhood Book Group for an interesting discussion of the following selections: February 9, at 9:30 a.m., *Queenmaker* by India Edghill, and March 23, at 9:30 a.m., *Persian Brides* by Dorit Rabinyan. Contact Andrea Golden 301-294-2375 or Suzanne Stone 301-365-3253.

Domestic Abuse Awareness Program

Men and women are encouraged to attend an awareness program on domestic abuse within the Jewish community on Thursday, February 13, at 7:30 p.m. Beth El Sisterhood will co-sponsor the program with the Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse (JCADA), and the Women's Division of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington. Come and learn more about this important issue. For information contact Ivy Fields at ifields@jewishfedwash.org.

Sisterhood Challah Baking Workshop

for women and men

Friday, February 7
9:15 a.m.—noon

in the Beth El kitchen
Learn to prepare challah then take
it home to enhance your celebration
of Shabbat Shalom at Home

RSVP to Glenda Koby
301-718-9464 or gjkoby@yahoo.com

SAVE THE DATE

Sisterhood

Miriam's Cup Workshop

Wednesday, February 19

7:30 p.m.

Make a hand-painted glass

Miriam's cup

for your Seder table

Watch the next Scroll for details

If you are interested in being considered for
a position on the 2003-2004

Sisterhood Board of Directors

please contact Esther Wilner

at 301-320-2478 or ewilner@erols.com

We are looking for new board members of all ages

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 am. Sundays when we have the "Perspectives in Dialogue," we will serve danish pastry and coffee at 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, January 5 - the Men's Club will host a program entitled "Crisis in Bahia Blanca, A Small Argentinian Jewish Community." The program will include a video and a presentation by Beth El congregants Rosa Kotelanski (who was born and raised in Bahia Blanca) and Howard Stein.

Saturday, January 11 - At 4:30 p.m., we will have our Shabbat minchah, seudah shlishit, maariv, and havdallah service.

Sunday, January 12 - "Perspectives in Dialogue." Martin Sieff, International Editor, UPI: "A Journalist Looks at the Current Middle East Crisis."

Sunday, January 19 - "Perspectives in Dialogue." Tom Neumann, Executive Director, Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs: "National Security Challenges in the 21st Century."

Sunday, January 19 - 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 p.m., at 8101 Park Heights Ave, Baltimore, Maryland.

Sunday, January 26, 2003 (Super Bowl Sunday) - The Third World Wide Wrap.

Stock Transfers

From time to time, members of Beth El contribute stock for payment of dues, pledges, and/or tuition. In order to credit a member's synagogue account correctly, it is essential that either Sheila Bellack or Kathy Hooley be contacted with the name(s) of the stock(s) being transferred and the number of shares, as well as the name of the donor. If you have recently transferred stock to Beth El and your synagogue account has not been credited, please call Sheila or Kathy as soon as possible.

Message from the Rabbi continued

tolerated. That is my approach too. Every item on the delicious menu of Jewish life is not going to work for each of us all the time, but it needs to be as well prepared and presented as possible, so that those who order that item now will be pleased by it, and those who want it someday but not today will find it there ready and waiting and fresh. A good synagogue needs to do all of these major things well, and that must be our goal.

Rabbi Bill Rudolph

IRS Charitable Contribution Rules

The 1993 tax law requires you to have a "contemporaneous" receipt for all charitable contributions of \$250 or more after December 31, 1993. If you make a contribution of \$75 or more for which you also receive something of value in return, you are also required to have a receipt showing the non-deductible value of what you received.

In order to reduce your paperwork and ours, we take advantage of the provision of the law that allows the use of an annual statement, which will satisfy your "contemporaneous" receipt requirement. **In order to ensure that all payments made by you during 2002 are reflected on your statement, the statement will include all payments received in the Beth El office through January 8, 2003. Contribution statements will be mailed before the end of January 2003.**

Saul Bendit Update

The Saul Bendit Adult Education Committee is hard at work finalizing details for the Spring semester. Reserve Tuesday mornings, from March 4 to April 8, and Wednesday evenings from March 5 to April 9, for another exciting array of classes. Contact Howie Stein at hhstein@juno.com or 301-593-7297 for more information.

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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 25 at 7:30 p.m.

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.

Message from the President

I am writing this as I enter my last five months of being president of Congregation Beth El. The past 1½ years have been busy, and I think we would all agree that our goal of seeing a renaissance at Beth El is well on the way to being achieved. However, I still have three goals that I wish to fulfill, or at least come close to reaching, before my term as president ends. I want to briefly mention these to you here and then discuss them further over the next few months as we move forward on each.

The first of these projects is construction. Over the coming months, we will be moving forward quickly as the final plans are developed and costs are finalized. Our goal is to have a congregation meeting to discuss and (hopefully) approve the project in the spring and then groundbreaking in mid-June. By the time you read this, many of you will have attended our meetings on December 12 or 15 to learn more about the project, and hopefully all of you will come out and support our moving forward at the congregation meeting.

The second project I want to bring to fulfillment deals with leadership at Beth El. Our intent here is to develop something akin to a "leadership academy" where Beth El members with leadership experience and/or interest in leadership can gain the knowledge and understanding that will help them assume leadership roles in a Jewish environment. While basic leadership skills are the same no matter what the setting (e.g., the ability to listen, to inspire, to guide), additional knowledge and some special skills are required in a not-for-profit, volunteer, religious environment. Our intent is to provide a program that will enable people to develop these special leadership skills and then apply them to leadership positions at Beth El. When I talk about leadership, I mean not only as elected officers or trustees but also as committee chairs and other important roles in our congregation.

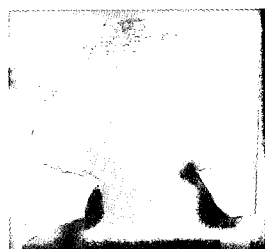
The third area that interests me greatly is governance. Within the next few issues of the *Scroll*, you will learn the results of our governance process study that we did with the help of Linda Klonsky, the Synagogue 2000 consultant who also worked with our Atid Committee. The intent is to present these findings to the Executive Committee and the Board in January and then develop an implementation plan that will enable us to govern Beth El more effectively and yet ensure that our members will be informed of what is happening in the shul. Once we have a recommended plan, we will report it to our membership. Should any constitutional amendments be proposed, the congregation will have to deliberate and vote upon any such changes.

I realize I have not told you very much about any of these issues here. But please understand that these are all "works in progress" and even between my writing this column (early December) and your receiving it in your mailbox (early January), major steps forward will have been

taken on each of these issues. Thus, rather than give you incorrect information, my intent here was just to let you know that these are my areas of interest and indicate how we are progressing in them. Of course, if you have thoughts on any of these issues now, or later on, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me, with Executive Vice President Brent Berger, or anyone else in Beth El's leadership. We want and encourage your advice and input. Be assured that what you have to say will be heard and considered seriously.

Finally, as we enter a new (secular) year, permit me, on behalf of Helen and our daughters Michelle and Melissa, to wish all of you a happy, healthy, and peaceful new year. Our prayer is simple – that the new year should bring nothing but milk and honey for the U.S., for Israel, and for the world.

Meet Trustee Barbara Klein



Now, I would like to introduce one of our new trustees, **Barbara Klein**.

I grew up outside of Philadelphia and came to the Washington area in 1974 to attend law school at George Washington University. After graduation, I worked for the government and then for a private law firm for several years. In 1980, I met Barry Pupkin (on a blind date!!!) and we were married in 1984. During the first several years of our marriage, we lived downtown at Logan Circle which, at that point, was a "changing" (but not yet changed) neighborhood. When I became pregnant in 1986, we decided that our urban pioneer days were over, and we moved to our current home in Bethesda. David was born in 1987, followed by Stephen in 1990. David is now a sophomore at the Field School in D.C., and Stephen is in the seventh grade at the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School in Rockville.

We joined Beth El in 1991 because it was the closest synagogue to our home and because it was the only way we could get our children into the excellent nursery school. Although we joined for practical reasons, we soon discovered that we liked the warmth and friendliness of the shul. Many of our closest friends are now synagogue members.

Even though Beth El is more traditional than the Reform temple in which I was raised, I feel that I have found a spiritual home here. An especially meaningful part of our family's spiritual life at Beth El has been our participation in the Worship and Study Minyan, which we have been involved in since its inception. I cannot sing, and my Hebrew reading is far from perfect, but, with the encouragement of Minyan participants, I read Torah (once) at the Minyan – a terrifying but wonderful experience. I never could have done that without the warm support of the Minyan.

Much of my involvement in Beth El seems to revolve around food. I have organized the shelter cooking for Mitzvah Day for the last 3 years, have taught the Sisterhood's challah baking workshop for the last 2 years, and am co-chair (with Tutti Sokol) of the committee putting together the newest addition of the fabulous Sisterhood cookbook (estimated publication date is next fall). My non-food related Beth El activities include serving on the In-reach Committee, the Recruitment and Nominations Committee, and the Governance Committee. I also mentor a fourth grade boy at Woodlin Elementary School and am in the process of making my younger son a tallit, thanks to Sisterhood's wonderful Sisterhood Tallit Workshop taught by Amanda Ford and Judy Spector.

Professionally, I am currently taking several years off from liquidating investment companies, which is what I did for almost eighteen years. When I am not attending meetings at Beth El, planning my younger son's Bar Mitzvah, or schlepping my children from activity to activity, I enjoy cooking, reading, yoga, and kickboxing, and have a brown belt in Tae Kwan Do.

Splinters from the Board

Tuesday, November 19, 2002

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

Minutes from the October 29, 2002 meeting were approved as submitted.

In the President's Report **Arthur Popper** announced that **Debby Reiser** has been nominated to chair the Fundraising committee. Motion to accept was passed...**Brent Berger** is looking into the purchase of a defibrillator that would cost \$3-5,000... There will be open meetings on Thursday, December 12 and Sunday, December 15 to present information and discuss ideas with the congregation about the construction plans... Draft reports on *Committee Functions/Responsibilities* were distributed... Rabbi Rudolph is planning to submit a letter or a *Scroll* article to the congregation summarizing the issues on the use of musical instruments in Friday evening services. Open forums will be held on Jan. 9, 23, and Feb. 3 for discussions with congregants. Input is invited at any time.

Executive Director, **Sheila Bellack** reported that there is now an outside light illuminating the entrance ramp. New regulations will be developed on use of the refrigerator and freezer. The custom fitted lift to the Bimah should be installed within the next 4-6 weeks. Approximately 50 of the Hertz Humashim have been claimed so far. **Karl Smart**, our long-time custodian, is recovering nicely from his recent surgery and visited us this week. He hopes to return to work in December. We now have 948 membership units at Beth El.

BREAK FOR MINYAN

Judy Futterman, Treasurer, reports that we are on track with the budget, and the General Fund is in good shape. We are ahead of last year on Shopping Certificates (scrip).

Rob Fersh announced that Atid activities will wrap up in December with a written report and a presentation to the Board.

An ad hoc committee to examine issues related to children's services and other activities within the synagogue has been formed with **Judy Futterman**, **Rabbi Greg Harris**, **Jo Sohinki** (Nursery School Director), and **Louis Nagel** (Religious School Director). They will examine all aspects of children in the synagogue including main services, auxiliary services, candy distribution, presence at Kiddush, babysitting, and more.

The Israeli Action report was given by **Warren Greenberg** summarizing what we have been doing to support Israel. This has included fundraising, attending rallies, presenting special speakers, and purchasing Israeli products. Warren made the motion that the expression, "*Israel needs us; we need Israel*," be added as a tagline to all Beth El documents, correspondence, and announcements indefinitely with the exception of condolence notices (and similar documents at the discretion of the Executive Director). Motion passed 48 - 2.

Esther Wilner reports that the May 4 concert, "*Bimah to Broadway*" will start at 7:30 pm, and basic tickets will be \$36. Additional donations will be accepted at \$250, \$500, and \$1000+ which will procure reserved seating.

The Religious School Report given by **Louis Nagel**, **Educational Director**, and **Michelle Hainbach**, **School Committee Chair** noted that there are now 425 students enrolled, and we are fully staffed. Louis, as well as Sarah Roark, presented workshops at the recent BJE Teachers' Professional Day, and we had our own mini-educational day here. Thanks to the Board for providing allocations (within the approved budget) to pay for these activities, and thanks to the Sisterhood who provided a gift to send two teachers to the CAJE conference. We started the school year with a Parents' Coffee Reception (there will be another in January) and a Back-to-School night. We now have a monthly newsletter and a school directory. E-mail is regularly used for communication between teachers and parents, and time is provided at committee meetings for parents to talk. The annual Book Fair will take place on February 23.

Announcements

- Thanksgiving annual interfaith service (with the Methodist Church) will be at Beth El on Tuesday, November 26.
- Women's League Convention was this past weekend in Philadelphia with 1200 participants. Seven members of Sisterhood attended and participated in the dedication of a

new Torah. **Pat Danoff** blew the shofar during this dedication.

- The Men's Club will feature a speaker from the Indian Embassy this Sunday.
 - Howie Stein introduced the video which was prepared to familiarize viewers with the problems in Argentina, particularly Bahia Blanca. Board members were invited to remain after the meeting to view the video.
- Meeting adjourned 9:15 pm.

Set the Table with Torah

by Sarah Leventhal Roark

I would like to recommend a website I just found: www.myjewishlearning.com.

January 4, 2003: Va-era

Verses 6:6-8 include five different verbs as God promises redemption (free, deliver, redeem, take, bring). The four cups of wine drunk at the Pesach seder symbolize the first four promises. There was a Talmudic debate about whether the fifth cup should be part of the seder (see Plaut p. 427). The decision was to leave it on the table, but not to drink from it. Elijah, when he comes to announce the arrival of the Messiah, will also decide all controversies. The fifth cup is therefore his, so that when he arrives he will make his ruling. A non-traditional use of the fifth cup, from the Shalom Hartman Haggadah, *A Different Night*, is for all around the table to add a little of their wine to the fifth cup to symbolize that it is all of us, through our actions, who will contribute to bringing about the Messianic age.

When Moses brings God's message to the Israelites, they do not believe him. They are irritable from their hard work. *How often do we fail to hear the important messages, because we are only focused on completing our work?*

This parasha includes the miracles of the rod turning into a staff and the first seven plagues – blood, frogs, lice, *arov* (translated as either swarms of insects or wild beasts), disease of the livestock, boils, and hail. The hail ruins the crops of barley and flax, but does not hurt the wheat, which ripens a little later, and would of course be needed to make matzah.

January 11, 2003: Bo

In Bo, God begins by explaining to Moses why he has hardened Pharaoh's heart, in part so that we will tell our children about the wonders so that "you (not they) may know that I am the Lord". A Chasidic explanation of this verse (see Plaut p.454) reminds parents, grandparents, and educators that we must know God to teach and through teaching to learn more about God. Many parents want books on how to talk about God with their children (and there are plenty out there), but adults really need to clarify their own views on God and through doing so will find it easier to be honest in their dealings with children.

The plagues continue: first locusts and then three days of darkness. *If the plagues are increasing in severity,*

discuss why darkness is ninth? What is so terrifying about the darkness described in midrashim as – so thick you could touch it and so dark that no one could see their neighbor?

The sacrifice of the pascal lamb, to be eaten with unleavened bread and bitter herbs, and the sign of the lamb's blood on the doorpost are all described. When Moses comes to tell them all these details (12:27), "the people then bowed low in homage." Unlike their previous reaction, they have been successfully convinced by all the plagues.

The killing of the first-born Egyptians takes place and then the Exodus begins. Moses is reminded that this Passover celebration is no one-time event, but that the Jews throughout time will need to remember the Exodus. In Canaan they will not only commemorate on the fourteenth of Nissan, but also (13:15) sacrifice to the Lord every first-born male animal and redeem every first-born male human.

January 18, 2003: B'shallah

The Egyptians and Israelites meet at the Sea. After the miraculous crossing, first by Moses and then by Miriam the victorious Song of the Sea is chanted. Midrash tells us that the angels began to sing too, but God told them not to rejoice, because She was saddened by the destruction of human life. We remove drops of wine from the seder cups when we recite the plagues to reduce our joy in light of the Egyptians suffering.

Some interesting, and much less sympathetic, food for thought is posed by a Rashi commentary on this section. *If the livestock was killed by the plague of cattle disease and the hail – where did the animals come from to pull the Egyptian chariots?* In verse 9:20 it states that "those Egyptians who feared the Lord" brought their animals inside to protect them from the hail. Rashi says that these are the animals that were used to pull the chariots. A caring person cannot read this whole story and not wonder about the same question Abraham posed to God before the destruction of Sodom: what about the death of the innocent? Did all the Egyptians deserve the plagues, especially the tenth plague? Rabbi Shimon cited the animals who had been saved from the hail being used to pull the chariots as proof that all the Egyptians were bad, even if it seemed they might have done something good (protected innocent animals). In fact, he said it much more harshly, "The best of the Egyptians-kill him (otherwise he will afterwards pursue you)." (p. 75 *Rashi's Torah Commentary*).

Which view of the Egyptians works best for you: the view that the angels should not sing and we should detract from the wine or the view that the Egyptians got what they deserved? Do you think these views are not contradictory, and if so, how do you reconcile them? What does this say about how we view the German people as a whole during the time of the Nazis? Are there other historical examples of placing culpability on a large group for persecution perpetrated by some of its members.

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.

January 5 – 9, 2003

Laura Mayer
Betty McDonald
Eileen Meier
Theodore Meltzer
Allan and Shereen Mendelowitz
Paul and Marcia Merlin
David and Carole Metzger
Howard and Rena Milchberg
Daniel and Julie Miller
Jay and Lillian Miller
Laura and James Miller
Lee and Sheryl Miller
Philip Miller
Roy Millenson
Max and Betty Milner
Mark Milner and Hattie Ulan
Harvey and Susan Mininberg
Jack and Johanna Minker
Paul and Yvonne Mirengoff
Andrew Mitz and Carol Fried

January 12 – 16, 2003

Jeffrey Moak and Karyl Barron
Greta and J. Moffatt
Jonathan Morris
Jack and Annette Moshman
Daniel and Carol Moskowitz
Ida Moss
Michael and Judith Muntner
Barry Myers and Robin Gross
Louis and Faina Nagel
Ken and Helene Nankin
Edith Nash
Twila Nattel
Gary and Annick Nemirovsky
Irwin and Hellaine Nepo
Barry and Karen Neuman
Robert and Beatrice Newell
Judy Newman
Milton and Rhoda Nichaman
Roy Niedermayer and Gail Ross

January 19 – 23, 2003

Sheldon and Liat Novek
Peter and Diane Novick
Richard and Varda Nowitz
Gregory and Yelena Nusinovich
Bette Nussbaum
Robert and Rosine Nussenblatt
Phillip Ochs and Sheila Cohen
Joshua and Jennifer Odintz
Samuel and Debra Olchyk
Gertrude Oliner
Stephen and Joyce Oliner
Alan and Linda Orenstein
Aaron and Elizabeth Oser
Doris Oshinsky
Max Osias
Lucy Ozarin
Mark and Rina Palchick
James Papirmeister and Ava Dauerman
Raymond Paretzky and Karen Zacharia
Alan and Sharon Parver

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.

Lawrence and Robin Tabak, 5204 West Cedar Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814
Benjamin Tabak

301-986-6858
robinleslie2000@yahoo.com

Member Information

New phone number: **Arthur and Sandra Becker**, 9704 Beman Woods Way, Potomac, MD 20854, phone: 301-365-0099.

All in the Family

Mazal Tov to **Josh Rosenbloom**, son of **David and Deborah Rosenbloom**, upon being elected President of Harvard Hillel. Josh served as Religious Chair of USY during his high school days. We should have known that he was destined for even greater things.

Mazal tov to **Steve and Ellen Bezner** on the birth of their grandson **Henry**, son of **Michael and Rachel Bezner**.

Mazal tov to **Blanche and Mark Wine** on the birth of their grandson **Michael Norman Lee**, son of **Lara and Joe Lee**.

Nitzanim

Todah Rabbah to **Bruce Spiegel and Glenda Koby** for sponsoring the Nitzamin Kiddush on December 7 in honor of the sixth birthday of **Julia**.

Baruch Dayan Emet

Congregation Beth El offers its sincere condolences to **Merrily Sterns** on the death of her mother, **Beatrice Auerbach**; to **Jonathan Levin** on the death of his sister, **Tova Solter**; and to **Eugene Elzufon** on the death of his brother, **Milton Elzufon**.

Beth El Worship and Study Minyan

The Beth El Worship and Study Minyan will meet on Saturday, January 4, in the All-Purpose Room from 9:50 a.m. 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.

Minyan Chaverim

Minyan Chaverim is now meeting on the third Shabbat of each month and will meet next on Saturday, January 18, from 9:30 a.m. 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.

Learners' Minyan is Back

The Learners' Minyan is back for the novice and questioning worshiper. In an informal and interactive environment, come to learn about the service, prayers, choreography, customs, and how-to's of a Shabbat service. This minyan will meet next on Saturday, January 11 at 10:00 a.m. Look for more information on the Beth El listserv and in the Shabbat announcements or contact Rabbi Harris 301-652-2606 ext. 305.

Synagogue Retreat



Our Scholar-in-Residence for the Synagogue Retreat, February 28 to March 2, is **Professor Zvi Gitelman**. Professor Gitelman is Chair of the Judaic Studies Program and Professor of Political Science at the University of Michigan. He is an expert on Israel, Israeli politics, and on the Jewish community in the Former Soviet Union and those from that community who have emigrated to Israel. He also was a key figure in the recent unsuccessful attempt to force the U-M to divest itself of investments in Israeli firms. Professor Gitelman is one of the brightest and most stimulating speakers on the American scene, and we are fortunate to have him as our guest scholar. For more information, or a registration form, please contact Rabbi Rudolph at 301-652-8569, ext. 318. Spaces are very limited this year, so please register early.



SHIR ATID (Song of the Future)

Our newly formed
Children's Choir
Elizabeth Simon, Director

will participate with us at the
Shabbat Morning Service

February 1, 2003

Come and bring your friends

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	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

Shabbat Shalom at Home

On February 7, 2003 (5 Adar I 5763), Congregation Beth El will celebrate our sixth annual *Shabbat Shalom at Home* and no one need celebrate alone. This program has done much to make our community feel warm and hospitable. We hope you will once again invite a fellow congregant to your home, or let Sarah Roark know that you would like to be invited somewhere. Every year we call all families who are new to the synagogue to offer them an invitation at the home of a congregant. If you would like to offer your home, please let me know.

We appreciate that many of you have kept the How-to Guide to Your Home Friday Night Service in years past. We have therefore decided this year to mail it only to new families. Multiple copies are also available in the lucite holder if you would like to pick some up.

Few religious practices rival the importance of Shabbat observance in making a difference in how we conduct our lives and how we survive in our hectic world. Choose February 7 to add something new to your lifelong practice of Shabbat. For those who do not observe regularly, we urge you to make a special effort to participate on February 7.

Audio tapes of Sally Heckelman singing the tunes for the Friday night service on one side and the Havdallah service on the other are still available from Sarah Roark. We hope this evening will bring special meaning and enjoyment to each of you. Needless to say, we hope that *Shabbat Shalom at Home* will be not just a one-time event, but the beginning of a richer and more consistent Friday night observance for many members.

As always, we would appreciate hearing your reactions to this or any Family Education program. You can call Sarah Roark, Director of Family Education, at 301-652-8573, ext. 319 or e-mail at sroark@bethelmc.org.

Shalom from the Youth Department

The end of 2002 was a very busy time for all of our youth groups. From mid-November on it was non-stop for our USY—kind of like the “snowball effect”...(sorry)...13 of our USYers attended the Seaboard Region’s Fall Convention in Williamsburg VA and had an incredible time. Despite the late nights and early wake-up calls, everyone enjoyed the convention and spending the weekend with nearly 200 other USYers from around the region. And on the heels of Fall, we hosted the annual Turkey Trot Dance and the building withstood 150 kids the night before Thanksgiving! That was also a blast! I have many thank-you’s. First to **Sheila Bellack** who played traffic director when the buses picked everyone up on their way to Fall Convention. Then to **Angel** and his crew for their help and assistance cleaning up after the dance. Most of all, though, to **Adeen Postar, Nancy Rose, Evelyn Karson, and Linda Schatz** for going above and beyond at the dance—helping with clean-up when my feet literally stopped moving! You have raised the bar when it comes to parent coverage and involvement and I cannot be more grateful to you for your help and support!

In December, 22 USY and KADIMA participants went to see *Eight Crazy Nights* and we all really enjoyed Adam Sandler’s silliness as well the latest incarnation of his Hanukkah song. The same day, our Machar and Bonim kids were painting and creating works of art at Made by You, where 36 of them made dreidels, mezuzot and magen david boxes. Despite some confusion at first due to the wonderfully high number of children who were there, everyone had a grand time and the projects looked wonderful! Before the end of the year we got in two more activities: USY attended the BCC production of *Les Mis* which our own Elana Lipman and Beckie Webber were in, and which was a very ambitious and fantastic production! Our Kadima went out that same night to Shaare Tefilah’s Saturday Night Live activity which was also lots of fun!

One thing that has come to my attention is that with the large number of little ones who want to be part of our program, we have happily reached the point that we will need parent volunteers not just to drive sometimes, but to help out at the activities, facilitating and simply being extra pairs of hands and feet—please let Sheldon or Julia know if and when you will be able to assist—this is a good problem since so many of your children are enjoying our programs and the great friendships they are making while participating.

Some other quick thank-you’s and acknowledgements: Thanks so much to **Adeen and Michael Postar** for hosting our December Shabbat dinner—the food was delicious and presented beautifully—you both were very gracious hosts and we thank you. And Mazal Tov to **Noah Schoenholtz** and his family (brother David is our USY president and mom Janice is our board meeting challah baker!) on his

SAVE THE DATE

Fifth Annual Community Torah Institute

February 23, 2003
1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Theme

*The Precariousness of Jewish Existence:
What in the Torah contributes to,
or works against,
our survival and growth as a people?*