

Scroll

CONGREGATION BETH EL OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY



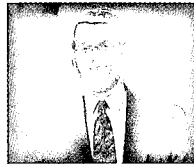
January 24, 2003

21 Shevat 5763

Volume 52

No. 8

Message From Rabbi Gregory Harris



Look out for the recycle bins because they are coming soon! For the past three months, I have enjoyed studying with a group of teenagers in Beth El's Upper School (8-10th grades), exploring the Jewish values obligating us to engage the world around us - in the language of the *Alenu* prayer: לְתַקֵּן עוֹלָם בְּמַלְכוּת שְׁדַי, *to perfect the world with the (leadership/ruling/kingship) of God.* Combining classroom discussions, invited guests from the community and participating in social service projects throughout Montgomery County, we have examined the Jewish obligation for *Tikkun Olam*.

We identified four Jewish values that prompted us to undertake a two-pronged initiative: recycling and purchasing recycled paper for the offices at Beth El. We share this with the broader Beth El community to help communicate the deep tradition of caring for the world and our position as guardians of the earth. Feel free to use these values as the core of a discussion at home about our responsibility for Creation.

- 1) *Ahavat ha-Beriot* (love of all of God's created beings): We are caretakers of God's creation and therefore must preserve its animals and resources;
- 2) *Ushemartem Et Nafshoteichem* (obligation to protect the general health of oneself and one's society): We have an obligation to create a healthier society by conserving resources;
- 3) *Lifnei Iver Lo Titen Michshol* (do not put a stumbling block before a blind person): We should not handicap future generations from benefiting from the fullness of creation;
- 4) *Hocheach Tocheach* (the obligation to be a social critic when you see that society or individuals are making terrible mistakes): Aware that constructive criticism creates a stronger community, the

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Shabbat Services

Friday, January 24

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service

Saturday, January 25

Yitro: Exodus 18:1-20:23

7:30 am & 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

Friday, January 31

6:30 pm Sing unto G-d a New Song - SH

Saturday, February 1

Mishpatim: Exodus 21:1-24:18

7:30 am & 9:15 am Shabbat Services

9:50 am Worship & Study Minyan - APR

10:00 am Jr. Congregation - Chapel

10:30 am Gan Shabbat - MR

11:00 am Shitufim - Rm. 209

Friday, February 7

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service

Saturday, February 8

T'rumah: Exodus 25: 1-27:19

7:30 am & 9:15 am Shabbat Services

9:15 am Day School Shabbat

10:00 am Bogrim - BR

10:00 am Jr. Congregation - Chapel

10:00 am Learners' Minyan - MR

10:30 am Nitzanim - APR

Friday, February 14

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service

Saturday, February 15

T'tzavveh: Exodus 27:20-30:10

7:30 am & 9:15 am Shabbat Services

9:15 am Jacob Greenblum Bar Mitzvah

9:15 am Nora Levy-Forsythe Bat Mitzvah

9:30 am Minyan Chaverim - APR

10:00 am Jr. Congregation - Chapel

10:30 am Gan Shabbat - MR

11:00 am Shitufim - Rm. 209

5:00 pm Mincha, Seudah Shlishit, Maariv, Havdallah - APR

Sisterhood News

Judaica Shop

We hope you have had a chance to visit the re-stocked Judaica Shop. Sisterhood would like to thank **Marcia Kalman**, the new buyer, for selecting many unique and beautiful items from a variety of vendors, and for making a special effort to carry goods from Israel and other Jewish communities throughout the world. Thanks also go to **Mindy Kalman** for working many hours during summer vacation to help her mom get the shop ready and for being such a great salesperson on Sunday mornings. Thank you to **Rhonda Zahler** for coordinating the hours of the volunteer sales associates and for spending many hours working in the shop. Sisterhood wants to especially acknowledge the seven years of dedicated service to the Judaica Shop by retiring Treasurer, **Ann Barcome**. Thanks, Ann, for keeping track of the inventory, making sure the bills are paid, and so much more. Sisterhood is pleased to welcome **Linda Fassberg** as the new Judaica Shop Treasurer.

Book Group

Everyone is invited to join the Sisterhood Book Group for an interesting discussion of the following selections: February 9 at 9:30 am, *Queenmaker* by India Edghill, and March 23, at 9:30 am, *Persian Brides* by Dorit Rabinyan. For information contact Andrea Golden 301-294-2375 or Suzanne Stone (ststone@abs.net).

Date/Acquaintance Rape Awareness Program

sponsored by
**Sisterhood and Jewish Coalition
Against Domestic Abuse (JCADA)**

Thursday, February 13
7:30 p.m.
in the
Beth El All Purpose Room

Women, men and especially teens are encouraged to join us to learn about the traits of abusive and healthy relationships, warning signs, and the dynamics of abuse.

Our speakers will discuss how to protect yourself, how to get help if you are a victim, and how to help your friends.

For information contact Ivy Fields
ifields@jewishfedwash.org or 301-299-5707
No Reservations Necessary

Sisterhood Education Program 2002-2003

Menopause A Guide to the Perplexed

Save The Dates
9:30-11:30 AM

February 2, 2003 **Rosh Hodesh**
Rochelle Sobel
"Cycles of Life and the
Spiritual Aspects of
Women and Change"

April 27, 2003 **Exercise and Nutrition**
"Build Better Bones and
Eat for Good Health"
NOTE: dress for activity

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

Sisterhood

Miriam's Cup Workshop



Wednesday, February 19
7:30 pm

Make a hand-painted glass
Miriam's cup for your Seder table
Cost \$10



Open to women, men, and youth (13 & up)
Return the form below by February 12
Call Annette Abrams (301-652-0214)
for information

Miriam's Cup Workshop

Name(s) _____

Phone _____

Check Amount _____
(payable to Beth El Sisterhood)

Mail by February 12 to: Annette Abrams
7803 Stratford Road
Bethesda, MD 20814

**The Men's Club of
Congregation Beth El of Montgomery County**

Invites the Community
To Join us for the 28th Annual

**Perspectives
in
Dialogue**

A series of talks by nationally known speakers
On topics of special importance to our community

February 2 **Douglas Feith**

Undersecretary of Defense for Policy
"Weapons of Mass Destruction & the
War Against Terrorism"

February 9 **Alan Guttmacher,**

Associate Director, Human Genome
Research Institute, NIH
"The Human Genome Project:
Implications for Health and Society"

No Admission Charge
All talks will begin at 10:00 a.m.

Danish and coffee at 9:30 a.m.
8215 Old Georgetown Road
Bethesda, MD
301-652-2606

Message from Rabbi Harris Continued

class offers this information to the Beth El community and will present their recommendations to the Board at an upcoming meeting.

As well as studying these values, the class conducted a needs-assessment of the synagogue. They developed a series of questions and conducted interviews with Louis Nagel, Religious School Principal, Jo Sohinki, Director of the Nursery School, Sarah Roark, Director of Family Education, and Sheila Bellack, Executive Director. They also exchanged emails with other area houses of worship to learn how their recycling program works.

While the students are in the final phase of completing their formal proposal for expanding the Beth El recycling program and purchasing partially recycled office paper, it is a reminder to all of us that lived values are the most meaningful. The purpose of these months of study for the class was to become familiar with some of the values that compel us to engage in *Tikkun Olam*. Together, we have learned that Judaism remains its most vibrant when people can discover the tradition's voices for the issues of our day.

Men's Club

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

January 26: The Third World Wide Wrap
The Beth El Men's Club is hosting the third annual "World Wide Wrap." Plan to be there! If you have an extra pair of tefillin, please bring them so that we can teach others. Please sign up on the poster in the rotunda.

Feb 2: Douglas Feith, Undersecretary of Defense for Policy: "Weapons of Mass Destruction & the War Against Terrorism."

Feb. 9: Alan Guttmacher, Associate Director, Human Genome Research Institute, NIH: "The Human Genome Project: Implications for Health and Society."

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AFFILIATED WITH UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF
CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

Splinters from the Board

Tuesday, December 17, 2002

Arthur Popper - presiding, **Jerome Danoff** - recording

Called to order 7:38 pm

Minutes from the November 19, 2002 meeting were approved as submitted.

A summary of the Atid process and final oral report was presented by co-chairs **Mark Levitt, Rob Fersh,** and **Suzanne Bronheim.** (The draft report had been distributed via email.) Other members of the Atid committee present were **Sheila Smallberg-Cohen, Barbara Cohen, Susan Levine, Marsha Rehns, Beryl Frank, Jeff Schwaber,** and **David Schultz.** The process included "parlor sessions" and subsequent gathering of information followed by identification of key themes. Important Engines of Growth are Governance/Leadership and Communications. Pillars of Support are Community Building, Spirituality, and Education. Members of the committee commented on each of these topics.

BREAK FOR MINYAN

In wrap-up Rob extended thanks to all involved including the clergy and especially Rabbi Rudolph. The following recommendations are contained in the report: (1) hire a social worker to help integrate members of the congregation into the whole community; (2) target ongoing planning for issues that are important, but not always urgent; (3) oversee all planning for youth activity to improve coordination; (4) develop an "education cabinet" to coordinate education activities at all levels; (5) work with clergy to enhance inclusiveness and meaningfulness of services; and (6) improve structure of governance.

From the floor the point was made that one reason Social Action was not frequently raised as an issue during the parlor sessions was that this congregation is already heavily invested in social action and that the report should reflect this. Also, if new hires result from implementation of these recommendations, we should be sure that adequate office space is available in the new construction.

President Popper announced that Rob Fersh would continue as Atid liaison to the Board.

The motion was then made that "The Board of Directors of Congregation Beth El of Montgomery County accepts the report of the Atid committee as a useful blueprint for mapping the future of the Congregation. The Board commits to leading the implementation of the Atid report, as appropriate, starting with the priority recommendations in the Executive Summary. Furthermore, the Board commends the work of the Atid committee and thanks them for their service to the Synagogue." Motion passed 28-1-1.

Arthur Popper, in the President's report, announced that the next Board meeting would be on Jan. 21 at 7:15 p.m., at which time **Linda Klonsky** will present the report on *Governance* ... Remember to wear head covering when

on the Bimah, and as Bimah officer be sure that others also do so... Be sure that all evening meetings break for the minyan. This is a synagogue policy.

The Board agreed that it would be the responsibility of the Board officer sitting on the Hazzan's side for bringing the challahs from the Bimah to the social hall after services.

Sheila Bellack, in the Executive Director's report, stated that recent flooding will result in temporary closing of the Gift Shop and replacement of the carpet shortly. Damage to the upstairs rooms was minimal... The entire building will be thoroughly cleaned over the coming Winter Break... Karl Smart, custodian, is now back at work... Meetings with B'nai Mitzvah families for 2004 and 2005 are now being held... The Bar/Bat Mitzvah handbook will be updated.

Many people attended the two recent meetings on the construction project. A summary report will be mailed to congregants next week. Plans are now 75% complete, and we hope to bring formal plans to the congregation around Pesach. Work should begin in June and take 1.5 to 3 years.

Howie Stein presented a report on the Saul Bendit program. The evening program has been very well attended, but the morning classes are still light. Participation by non-congregants has dropped slightly. Of special note, **Rabbi Harris's** classes have been very well received, and more have been requested.

Benson Adams reported that the Nomination and Recruitment Committee met last week. They have identified 112 individuals from various sources who are potential candidates for office. They hope to have a slate completed by the end of January or early February.

Meeting adjourned 9:28 pm.



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

**Congregation Beth El of Montgomery County
Fifth Annual
Community Torah Institute**

Although the Torah has been our constitution and inspiration through the ages, is it possible that its prescriptions and priorities are not the best ones for our growth and survival as a people today?

**The Precariousness of Jewish Existence:
Does the Torah Help or Hinder
Jewish Survival and Growth?**

**Sunday, February 23, 2003
1:00 to 4:45 p.m.**



Prof. Shalom M. Paul
Chairman, Bible Department,
Hebrew University;
Author, *The Almanac of the Bible*



Erica Brown
Teacher; Author, *The Sacred
Canvas: The Hebrew Bible
through the Eyes of the Artist*



Prof. Marc L. Raphael
Chairman, Dept. of Religion,
College of William and Mary;
Author, *Judaism in America*

Please join **Rabbi William Rudolph** and **Rabbi Gregory Harris**
when they host this distinguished panel of
Conservative, Orthodox, and Reform scholars
to explore the role of the Torah in the modern dilemma of
Jewish survival. Gain new perspective as the scholars call upon
their different backgrounds and training to explore and enlighten.

Admission is free. Refreshments will be served.
Call (301) 652-2606 ext. 318 to make your reservation.

Congregation Beth El

8215 Old Georgetown Road

Bethesda, Maryland

Set the Table with Torah

by Rabbi Greg Harris

January 25, 2003: Yitro

I believe this is one of the most challenging sections of the entire Torah. This is the moment of Revelation. The Israelites gathered around the base of Mt. Sinai, Moses ascended to the top and God spoke (ויִדְבֶר) the 10 Commandments. Jewish belief, practice, faith, and values all come into play here. This is the point of essential communication between God and Israel. Let's explore this now. We too frequently avoid "God talk" with our friends and family. It is one of the most exciting and personal areas to explore. *Why is our belief about God such a personal thing? Do you think God is involved in the details of everyday? Has God set Creation in motion and no longer gets involved? Does God interact differently in the Torah than today?* Here is one web site to explore ideas of God more. Take the time to sit with your family and explore this site. http://www.myjewishlearning.com/ideas_belief/god.htm

February 1, 2003: Mishpatim

The name of this *parsha* (Torah portion) means "rules" or "judgments." Many rules are set forth that cover robbery, injuries, fighting, kidnapping, responsibilities for borrowing something, lying, and other areas. These rules have to do with how people should interact with one another generally and with the most vulnerable specifically. While it should be obvious to take care of those in need, it is not always. We need special rules to remind us. *How do the mitzvot (commandments) help us focus on being better people? What rules in your house make you do something you know is right but you would neglect otherwise?*

The *parsha* ends with Moses telling the Israelites all the rules. The Torah says "all the people answered with one voice saying 'All the things that the Lord has commanded, we will do!'" (Ex. 24:3) It is interesting that the Torah says "with one voice." *Did they elect an individual leader to speak for them? Does this mean they all agreed? Did they agree to all or just most of the laws? Was this consensus?* Role play the debates that might have gone on if you were at Mt. Sinai and asked to agree to these rules.

February 8, 2003: T'rumah

For the Israelites who wandered through the desert, the Tabernacle was a physical place where God's presence could reside. God tells Moses to "let them make Me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them." (Ex. 25:8) The rest of the *parsha* describes in great detail what the Tabernacle should look like, the materials that should be used, and objects that should be made to create this sacred space. *Today, how do we create sacred space? Identify objects that make a space sacred. Is it the objects? Use of the space? Something else? Are there things in your home that identify it as a Jewish space? Do you think of your home as sacred space?*

The Beth El Men's Club invites you to

The World Wide Wrap

Sunday

January 26, 2003

9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Whether it is your first time wearing Tefillin or your 18,000th time, come join our celebration of this time honored mitzvah. Tefillin may be purchased in the Beth El Gift Shop or we can loan you a pair for this event.

Program Schedule:

- 9:00 a.m. Assistance with putting on tefillin
- 9:20 a.m. Service
- 9:50 a.m. Breakfast
- 10:20 a.m. Educational program

For further information contact
Jeff Moak at 301-320-9476 or at
jeffrey.moak@prodigy.net

Exciting information and ideas about the Wrap are
located at www.worldwidewrap.org



Shiru Ladonai Shir Hadash

Sing Unto God a New Song

Friday, January 31, 2003

6:30 p.m.

Join Hazzan Lubin and the Ahavat Shir
Choir in the popular musical
Kabbalat Shabbat Service.
Come and participate in the
lilting melodies of Sol Zim,
Craig Taubman and others and
share in the joy of Shabbat.

Come and bring your friends to this joyous
Shabbat celebration.

From the Executive Director

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

As a result of the very positive feedback to my first column dealing with frequently asked questions, I am now continuing with Part II.

Synagogue current events: We recognize that last minute changes to the Beth El calendar can't make it into the *Scroll*, so you can receive updated information by signing up for the Beth El listserv. Just send an e-mail to Pam Kocher at pkocher@bethelmc.org and she will add you to the list. In addition to individual announcements, we also send out *The Week Ahead*, a ten-day listing of Beth El activities. The other option is to call our Current Information Line (301-652-8569, ext. 350). The outgoing message on this phone line is changed at least weekly, and more often if necessary. If you would like a Beth El activity announced on either the listserv or the Current Information Line, please contact me.

Need to reserve a room for a meeting?: If you are planning a committee meeting or program, arranging a photographer for your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah, or anything else that requires the use of any space at Beth El, please contact either Pam Kocher or me. These arrangements are then entered on the synagogue master calendar and the space is reserved. If you would like to rent space for a family Shabbat dinner, a reception or other event, please contact Pam Kocher.

When is the Sisterhood Judaica Shop open?: The shop is open every Wednesday and Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to Noon, and on Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. When the Saul Bendit Institute is in session, the shop is also open on Wednesday evenings, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Office hours: The Beth El office is open Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and Sunday when Religious School is in session from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. The office is closed on Jewish holidays and major Federal holidays. All office closings are announced on the listserv, the Current Information Line, and the calendar on the back page of the *Scroll*.

Can I leave a message when the office is closed?: Yes, you can either leave a message on the main phone line (301-652-2606) or enter the extension number of the person you wish to reach and leave a message if he/she is not in.

Inclement weather: If you have any questions regarding classes, programs, services or other events at Beth El during inclement weather, please note the following:

1. If Montgomery County Public Schools are closed for inclement weather, then Beth El Nursery School and Religious School are closed as well and Vatikim is cancelled. If the County schools have a delayed opening, BENS will start at 10:15 a.m. and Religious

School classes will take place as usual. Call the office regarding Vatikim.

2. All religious services take place as scheduled.
3. A message is placed on the Current Information Line by 7:00 a.m. on the day when any class or program is delayed or cancelled, and/or the office hours are changed. Should inclement weather begin after 7:00 a.m., then the message will be recorded as soon as possible. The message will be updated during the day as needed.

I hope these questions and answers are useful to you. Please use our telephone system, listserv and website to their fullest capacity to remain current on Beth El activities and I look forward to seeing you at our services and other activities.

Cantors Mission to Israel

Hazzan Abraham Lubin was one of approximately 50 cantors from North America who recently returned from an historic Mission to Israel. The participants were members of the Cantors Assembly and the American Conference of Cantors, representing the Conservative and Reform movements, respectively. **Cantor Jack Chomsky** and **Cantor Yvonne Shore** co-chaired this Mission. During a time when tourism to Israel has been particularly low, the cantors of North America sought to demonstrate their solidarity with those who reside in and defend our Jewish homeland.

Using their unique skills as the sweet singers of Israel, these cantors presented concerts in Jerusalem and Gilo and visited the music conservatory at Ma'ale Adumim, bringing with them and donating 25 instruments to be used for instruction. The cantors conducted a memorial service for the victims of terror at Har Herzl, visited with cantorial students studying in Israel, attended lectures on prayer and Jewish music, and met with representatives from their movements for an update on the struggle for religious pluralism.

They participated in a morning service at a synagogue founded by immigrants from Syria and observed the unique musical style with which its worshippers chant our sacred liturgy. The cantors were also able to see, first-hand, the fruits of a joint collaboration between the Cantors Assembly and the Masorti movement called Operation Mazel Tov. This program provides funding for the B'nai Mitzvah training of Israeli children with special needs.

For many, the most moving part of the trip were the visits to Shaarei Tzedek and Hadassah hospitals, where the cantors met with victims of terrorism, offered prayers of healing and sang for the patients.

All who attended pledged, upon their return, to encourage their congregants to visit Israel as soon as possible.

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 26 - 30, 2003

Irving and Hamaline Peltz
Joseph and Linda Pelzman
David and Janet Perim
George and Elaine Perlman
Willa Perlmutter
Irwin and Carol Pernick
Jerry Pfeffer and Andrea Casson
Elaine Pines
Anthony and Marion Pitch
Dean Plotnick and Bev Dankowitz
Harold and Avril Plotnek
Mark and Teresa Plotkin
Milton Pochter
Michael Polis and Rhoda Barish
Mark Pollak and Janet Meyers
Richard and Sandra Pollen
Joel and Betsy Popkin
Arthur and Helen Popper
Aryeh and Alison Portnoy
Gregory and Lucy Portnoy

February 2 - 6, 2003

Jill Posin
Robert and Linda Posilkin
Michael and Adeen Postar
Albert and Doris Povich
Alexander and Jennifer Powers
Theodore Press
Barry Pupkin and Barbara Klein
Mannie and Harriet Rabin
Marco and Edith Rabinovitz
Shirley Racusin
Judd and Joy Rafey
Michael Raibman
David Raim and Leslie Shedlin
Mark and Jodie Rasch
Howard and Anita Ratain
Michael and Caren Ravitch
Sanford and Shelley Reback
Herman Rebhan
Harvey Resnik
Kerry and Carol Reynolds

February 9 - 13, 2003

Louis and Helen Rib
David Richman
Lenore Richter
Basil and Margaret Rifkind
David and Andrea Rifkind
Marilyn Ripin
Susan Rittenberg
David and Sarah Roark
Bernard and Cheryl Rod
Isadore and Rose Rod
Dean and Toby Rodman
Alexander and Beatrice Rosenberg
Amy Rosenthal
Arthur and Marianne Rosen
Bernice Rosenstock
David and Deborah Rosenbloom
Gary and Dawn Rosenfeld
Gilbert and Minerva Rosenberg
Gary and Lisa Rosen
Herbert and Nancy Rosenthal

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.

Elaine Gessow, 7308 Durbin Terrace, Bethesda, MD 20817

301-654-3055

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	10:30-11:30 am 1st, 3rd Shabbat	Rachelle Solkowitz, Sarah Roark
Shitufim	3rd & 4th grades	Room 209	11:00 am-Noon 1st, 3rd Shabbat	Anita Lieb, Nora Levy
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

Learners' Minyan is Back

The Learners' Minyan is back for the novice and questioning worshipper. If you have been saying, "I am not new to this but I have questions" - Come!; or "I am totally lost and I do not know anything" - Come!; or "I am not even Jewish but it sure seems interesting." Come! What I am trying to say is that everyone is welcome. No matter at what level you are, we will find interesting avenues of the service to explore. **The next service is Saturday, February 8 at 10:00 a.m.** Contact Rabbi Harris if you have questions about the Learners' Minyan.

Beth El Worship and Study Minyan

The Beth El Worship and Study Minyan will meet on Saturday, February 1, 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, February 15, 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 kitzing. For more information, please contact Debbie Feinstein at debbie_feinstein@yahoo.com or 301-767-1178.

All in the Family

Mazal Tov to **Melanie and David Bachrach** on the birth of their son, **Joshua Darr Bachrach**, on November 26, 2002. The proud grandparents are **David and Ellen Darr**.

Mazal Tov to **Larry Kaplan and Ann Leopold Kaplan** on the birth of their daughter, **Daphne Rebecca Kaplan**, on December 20, 2002.

Mazal Tov to **Hal and Elissa Scheinberg** on the birth of their grandson, **Avi Tzvi Scheinberg**, born on December 29, 2002. The proud parents are **Michael Scheinberg and Kyra Schuster**.

Baruch Dayan Emet

Congregation Beth El offers its sincere condolences to **Ann Birk** on the death of her father, **Dr. Samuel Climo**.

Attention Day School Families

Please join us on
Saturday, February 8, 2003

9:30 a.m. - Noon

Students from area day schools will lead
Shabbat Service in the Main Sanctuary

Many older students will be assigned individual parts.
Younger students will lead prayers in grade level groups.

To ensure that the service will run smoothly, there will
be a combined rehearsal and pizza party

at

**Beth El on Sunday, February 2, 2003 from
5:00-6:30 p.m.**

We are suggesting that each day school family make a
contribution of \$36 to cover the cost of a
special kiddush for the event.

Questions? Contact Sid Getz:
sidgetz@aol.com or 301-530-2215

Please return this form and your check to the synagogue office by mail or fax (301-907-8559) to indicate your interest in participating in the Day School service at Beth El.

Name of Student: _____ Grade: _____

Name of Student: _____ Grade: _____

Name of Student: _____ Grade: _____

Name of Student: _____ Grade: _____

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email address: _____

We *will /will not* also be at the rehearsal on Sunday,
February 2, 2003 from 5:00-6:30 p.m.

_____ contribution enclosed.

_____ Please bill my Beth El account \$36.

All Third through Sixth graders

Saturday, February 1, 2003

At the regular Shabbat Service beginning at 9:15 a.m., your friends in the *Shir Atid* youth choir will be leading the Musaf Service in song beginning at approximately 11:30 a.m.

Because this is a first Saturday of the month there will be a *Shitufim Minyan* (grades 3-4) service in Room 209 beginning at 11:00 a.m. and a Junior Congregation (grades 5-6) Service in the chapel beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Both of these services will be coming into the Main Sanctuary at 11:30 a.m. to hear the choir. If children who are not in the choir would like to lead a prayer, please contact Sarah Roark sroark@bethelmc.org, 301-652-8573 ext. 319.

The Feb. 1 Shabbat service will be followed by a special Kiddush luncheon in the Board Room for all the children in the Machar/Kadima (grades 3-6) age group.

Please contact Sheldon Novek,
(301-652-2606 ext. 308)
if you would like to attend the lunch.

Friday, January 31, 2003
9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Learn to Lead Children's Services

Workshop led by Sarah Roark,
Director of Family Education

Nitzanim and Gan Shabbat are always looking for qualified parent volunteers to lead services.

Come and learn:

The order and significance of the prayers
How to make a Torah story engaging
Some children's Shabbat songs

Walk away feeling empowered to be a volunteer prayer service leader.

Contact: Sarah Roark 301-652-8573 ext. 319
sroark@bethelmc.org

Shalom from the Youth Department

Hope that everyone had a great time at all of our January activities, and we have even more in store in February! The month starts off with a very special Shabbat luncheon for our Machar and Kadima groups in conjunction with the Shir Atid Choir's participation in the main service on Saturday, February 1. Hope you can join us for a fun and delicious Shabbat experience! More food when USY sells bagels again in the rotunda on January 26 AND February 2. The night of the 2nd also begins USY basketball league season and we're hoping our team does as well this year as they have done in the past!

One group that we are focusing on in February is our large and very important 8th grade class. Eighth graders are not yet old enough to officially be a part of USY (at least on a regional/national level) but are realistically ready to move on from their middle school years. So, they are being invited by our USY group to join them on our big SKI TRIP this year on Sunday, February 16 (President's Day weekend). They also have the opportunity of attending the first ever Inter-Regional 8th grade Shabbaton at Olam Tikva Congregation in Fairfax the weekend of February 28-March 2. It should be an awesome experience, and I greatly encourage as many 8th graders, those in our synagogue religious school as well as all of you at CES-JDS, to attend!

Machar is planning a sports and games day, Bonim will be going to MarVaTots and Teens for a gymnastics afternoon, and Kadima will be going swimming—lots of ways of keeping our kids active! February seems to be athletics month! Plus the skiing! There will be more information about each event in the youth department newsletter, "The Megaphone," so please consult that when it arrives! Should you have any further questions, as usual, I am always happy to answer them at either 301-652-8569 ext. 308 or at snovek@bethelmc.org.

We will begin filming the segments for our video "ISRAEL: Old and Young, Then and Now" in February and will continue through March. So if anyone wants to wait for the slightly warmer weather, you can! But we want you in this movie, so please make your appointment or call me with any questions. Our goal is to have it ready for distribution by Yom Ha'Atzma'ut in May.

And one more thing: Any high school age member of the congregation who would like to be a part of the tremendous Purim celebration here please contact me—I have been working with Scott Glick and your involvement in the Purim Schpiel will be a very special one, so tune up those vocal chords!

That's it for now...Have a great month!
B'shalom, Sheldon