

Scroll

CONGREGATION BETH EL OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY



March 7, 2003

3 Adar II 5763

Volume 52

No. 10

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Message from the Rabbi



Just back from Israel, I am so impressed by the courage and resolve of our brothers and sisters who are building the homeland. They go about their daily lives, despite what goes on in that most difficult neighborhood, with a resoluteness that is amazing. I couldn't help compare that to our response here in Washington to last fall's sniper, with the accompanying images of people pumping gas while hiding under their cars. Maybe we just don't have as much experience dealing with terror and fear.

I write this little column as people around me are responding to the Code Orange declaration, which I sincerely hope will be a false alarm, with a cascade of duct tape and plastic sheeting. For my family, a few jugs of water will do, but some would say we should be doing more. It is so easy at times like this to judge others. Those in line at Home Depot may look to some to be too afraid when there is nothing specific to fear, while there are others who would see a reaction like my family's to be entirely too relaxed, almost irresponsible in our failure to react to these threats.

It is fascinating to speculate on why people react as we do, which I suspect is based on how we are put together and how we view the world. What is far more important than such speculation is to learn to "judge" each other with understanding and compassion and the benefit of the doubt. By doing so, we would understand that our reaction to terror may be right for us but not for others and that there is nothing wrong with them. By doing so, we would recognize that, while we come from the same mold, we come out of that amazing mold in very different ways. Underneath it all, however, we are all God's creatures and together as a community we can gain strength from one another.

Rabbi Bill Rudolph

Shabbat Services

Friday, March 7

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service

Saturday, March 8

P'kudei: Exodus 38:21-40:38

7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services

10:00 am Jr. Congregation - Chapel

10:00 am Learners' Minyan - MR

10:30 am Nitzanim - APR

Friday, March 14

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service

Saturday, March 15

Va-yikra: Leviticus 1:1-5:26

7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services

9:15 am David Lipman Bar Mitzvah

9:15 am Stephanie Parver 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

5:30 pm Mincha, Seudah Shlishit, Maariv,
Havdallah - APR

Friday, March 21

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service

Saturday, March 22

Tzav: Leviticus 6:1-8:36

7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services

9:15 am Daniel Shrago Bar Mitzvah

10:00 am Jr. Congregation - Chapel

10:30 am Nitzanim - APR

Friday, March 28

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service

Saturday, March 29

Sh'mini: Leviticus 9:1-11:47

7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services

9:15 am Dana Bleiberg Bat Mitzvah

9:15 am Olivia Berardi Bat Mitzvah

10:00 am Jr. Congregation - Chapel

10:30 am Nitzanim - APR

Sisterhood News

Theater Night: The Rothschilds A Big Success

On Saturday, January 25, nearly 200 people attended a one-man performance by Bernie Dean of the Broadway musical *The Rothschilds*, and enjoyed a chance to schmooze with friends and sample desserts from Kasher Pastry Oven. Congregant theater critics gave very positive reviews to both the show and the goodies. Sisterhood would like to thank the Theater Night at Beth El Chairs, **Judy Baldinger** and **Judy Goldman**, for making arrangements for the show and reception. Thanks also to **Karen Lipkind** and **Joanne Lipkind** for taking the reservations and helping with set-up, and to **Pat Danoff** for handling publicity and other details.

Menopause Series #3

The third meeting of the Sisterhood Menopause Series was held on Rosh Hodesh Adar, February 2. **Rochelle Sobel**, a teacher at J.D.S., presented a historical framework for women and their relationship to the cycles of the moon. Attendees also participated in a Rosh Hodesh service and had an opportunity to share some of their feelings concerning personal prayer and changes in their lives. The session was planned by Sisterhood Board members **Brenda Bregman**, **Barbara Eisenstein**, **Ellen Eule**, **Phyllis Solomon**, and **Laurie Webber**. Sisterhood thanks them for putting together this third meeting and others in what has become a very popular series of programs. The final meeting will be on Sunday, April 27, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., when the topic will be "Diet and Exercise." We will eat a healthy light brunch, then meet in the Social Hall for a presentation and exercise session. Participants are encouraged to dress for activity, but observers are welcome too.

Bake Hamantaschen for the Hebrew Home

Everyone is welcome to join Sisterhood members when we bake hamantaschen on Friday, March 14, at 9:00 a.m. in the synagogue kitchen. The baked goodies will be put in Shalach Manot baskets and delivered to residents at the Hebrew Home. To sign up or for more information call **Janice Liebowitz** at 301-654-7377. No experience is necessary, so please come and lend a hand.

Book Group

Plan to come to the next meeting of the Sisterhood Book Group on Sunday, March 23, at 9:30 a.m., when we will discuss *Three Daughters* by Letty Cottin Pogrebin. On April 20 at 9:30 a.m., the featured book will be *Old Men at Midnight* by Chaim Potok. For information contact Andrea Golden at 301-294-2375, or Suzanne Stone at ststone@abs.net. Women and men are welcome.

Sisterhood Membership List Available

A complete listing of Beth El Sisterhood members is available to other members as an electronic list via e-mail,

or as a hard copy list via regular mail. Contact Gale Dutcher at 301-984-0025 or dutcher@nlm.nih.gov if you would like to receive one or both copies. Please remember that this list is for use by Sisterhood members only and should not be distributed outside the synagogue.



Israeli Roses
For
Mother's Day -
Watch the
next *Scroll*
for ordering
information

The Sisterhood Judaica Shop

will carry Kasher for Passover



Barton's Candy



Stop by the shop and pick some up,
while supplies last.

Wednesday and Thursday mornings
9:00 a.m.-12 noon,
Sunday mornings
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., and
Wednesday evenings
during Saul Bendit Institute.

For info call Rhonda Zahler at
301-320-5826.

Men's Club News



The Men's Club would like to take this opportunity to once again congratulate **Bernie Rod** on receiving the 2003 Blue Yarmulke Man-of-the-Year from the Seaboard Region Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs.

Thursday, March 13 - "Hearing Men's Voices" is a new, for-men-only program. Please see the ad for this event in this *Scroll*. Space is limited; pre-registration is mandatory.

Saturday, March 15 - the Men's Club will again host a Shabbat mincha, seudah shlishit, maariv, and havdallah service starting at 5:30 pm. This event has been well attended and is a lot of fun. Anyone interested in being a sponsor for this or any other Men's Club event should contact **David Levine** at 301-299-9507.

Sunday, March 16 - The Purim Carnival: Games, food, and fun fun fun! This year will be bringing the return of "Haman's House of Horror." See the ad in this *Scroll*. Buy your tickets early.

SAVE THE DATES:

Thursday, March 13 - Hearing Men's Voices

Thursday, April 10 - Hearing Men's Voices

Thursday, May 8 - Hearing Men's Voices

Sunday, May 18 - The Kavod Awards

Thursday, June 12 - Hearing Men's Voices



Hold the Date!
"From Bimah to Broadway"
 to Beth El
 Three outstanding artists will
 present the exciting
 Musical Event of the Year
 Sunday, May 4, 2003 at 7:30 p.m.

Message from the President

As you are hopefully aware, **Hazzan Abraham Lubin** and a very able and dedicated committee co-chaired by **Esther Wilner** and **Susan Sherzer** are putting together what promises to be a truly wonderful musical evening and dessert reception for us on Sunday, May 4. The program, entitled "From Bimah to Broadway," features performances by our own Hazzan Lubin and two of his most eminent colleagues, **Hazzan Amy Goldstein** and **Hazzan David Propis**. Music will range from Jewish to show tunes to opera.

If you have attended any of the programs arranged by Hazzan Lubin in the past, you know that these are always memorable experiences. I strongly encourage you to put the date on your calendar and come to what promises to be a remarkable evening. Of course, by participating in the concert, you will also be contributing to Beth El because all proceeds from the evening go to our General Fund.

Fundraising

As you may recall, this year's budget includes a good deal of fundraising. Membership dues account for over 70% of our income and fundraising helps close the remaining gap. The Chair of our Fundraising Committee, **Deborah Reiser**, is working hard to develop new and interesting ways to increase fundraising at Beth El, and if there is anyone in the congregation who has experience as a fundraiser, or who wants to participate in fundraising, please consider joining Debbie's committee. You can contact her at dereiser@lercheary.com or 301-984-6042.

I also want to remind you that a painless and easy way for all of us to support Beth El while doing your normal shopping is through grocery scrip. Scrip is identical to cash, but each dollar purchased through Beth El gives a 4-5% rebate to the shul. Scrip can be purchased for a wide range of food stores in the area, including Katz's, Shalom, Giant, and Safeway. In some cases, you receive actual certificates, and in other cases, you receive a debit card. They are used just like cash and they **help support Beth El**. If every Beth El family would use scrip every time they shopped, we would be able to control dues far more effectively than now. Indeed, we would like to see every

BETH EL SCROLL

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 of Montgomery
 County

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 Maryland 20814-1451

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FAX Number
 301-907-8559

Web Site
www.bethelmc.org

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family have a standing order for scrip – these are mailed to the home (or picked up at Beth El) on a regular basis.

We realize that many people want to use charge cards for food purchases to get miles or other rewards, and so **we accept credit cards for scrip purchases** in excess of \$400. Thus, in purchasing scrip, you get your miles or other rewards and provide a source of important income to Beth El and do this without costing you any more than the actual cost of your groceries. Of course, we still need and ask for other contributions and remind you that if you want to make a donation to Beth El for some special reason, we strongly encourage you to do so to the General Fund.

To purchase grocery scrip, please contact **Kathy Hooley** in our office at 301-652-8569, ext. 304, or khooley@bethelmc.org. If you want to help sell scrip at Beth El events (e.g., on Sunday mornings, at meetings, etc.), please contact our scrip chair **David Bachrach** at 301-649-0558 or david@i-g.net.

Leadership

In my last article, I talked about new governance ideas - a critical component of which is leadership development - and indicated that sometime in the next few months, we would present to the Board a new and exciting plan for developing and training leaders. Executive Vice President **Brent Berger**, **Rabbi Gregory Harris**, and I recently met with two of the leaders of the committee exploring leadership training, **Michael Feinstein** and **Jerry Herman**, to hear about their progress and the ideas that will be presented to the Board in March. The plan calls for a very comprehensive leadership training institute to help current and future Beth El leaders develop their leadership skills within a Jewish context. This would be in addition to the continuous leadership training we have already talked about as part of the governance plan (see my article in the last *Scroll*) for current Board members. This continuous training would include an annual retreat and other activities to enhance the effectiveness of leadership at Beth El.

I have thought extensively about leadership during my years of service to this special community as I held a variety of positions and also as part of my academic career. I believe that most of us can learn to be leaders, and that few of us (unlike Moses) are born leaders. Indeed, most people aspiring to leadership benefit greatly from leadership training and from learning from a good mentor to guide them in developing leadership skills. Beth El needs to “grow” leaders. To do this we need to provide opportunities for members to participate in the governance of the community - first as members of committees and other Beth El groups, then as leaders in these groups, then members of the Board, and subsequently as officers. Based on my own Board experience, I believe that individuals who have taken this route are, *by far*, the most effective leaders for Beth El.

Thus, if you consider our current officers, you will find that every one of them has held previous leadership roles at Beth El, and this is a key factor in their effectiveness. For example, **Marvin Yudkowitz** was President of the Men’s Club, **Gail Ross** has served in a variety of leadership capacities in Sisterhood, **Susan Levine** has chaired numerous committees, **Judy Sherman** chaired the Membership Committee, and **Brent Berger** has chaired the Rabbinic Search Committee and the Inreach Committee. While I’ve not done the calculations, I suspect that our current Executive Committee has, combined, 50 or more years in leadership roles at Beth El, and this clearly shows by their ability to work effectively for the shul.

As we begin our second half-century and move forward with the implementation of the Atid recommendations, it is imperative that Beth El strengthens our foundations for our bright future. We must continue to provide opportunities for members to serve with various Beth El committees and groups, observe and learn from excellent leaders, participate in leadership training, and be mentored within a Jewish setting. This will help our congregation be the best that it can be. The ultimate opportunity for leadership at Beth El is as an officer, and it is imperative that our officers be people who have past leadership experience at Beth El (or who have demonstrated that they have finely honed leadership skills in Jewish organizations), who know our shul well, and who are willing to put in the time and energy to move our shul forward by using their leadership skills to help mentor and train future leaders.

If you have an interest in synagogue leadership, I urge you to get involved, join committees, and get to know Beth El. Service and leadership at Beth El are truly rewarding and wonderful experiences because one works with an amazing group of congregants, clergy of exceptional quality and warmth, and a professional staff that is, in my view, second to none. Additionally, in providing leadership at Beth El, one gets to help our community and our movement – two priceless opportunities.

Senior Caucus

Join the Senior Caucus on a guided tour of
the Ratner Museum
10001 Old Georgetown Road at Lone Oak Drive on
Tuesday, March 25
from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

The tour includes a short introductory film by
sculptor and founder Philip Ratner, over 50 of his
Biblical sculptures, as well as paintings by current
artists.

Call Dick Belferman at 301-530-5117
if you would like to attend.

Splinters from the Board

Tuesday, January 24, 2003

Arthur Popper - presiding, **Jerome Danoff** - recording
Called to order 7:20 p.m.

D'var Torah was presented by **Hazzan Abe Lubin** who spoke of the advice given by Jethro, father-in-law of Moses, to appoint the right kind of people to lead...and Moses took his advice.

President Popper described how the Atid process lead to the examination of governance by our consultant **Linda Klonsky**. Linda's report to the Board will be followed by discussion, then a finalized report for the congregation. He gave thanks to all committee members and other individuals who had contributed to this report.

Linda Klonsky took the floor, distributed copies of her report, and explained the process to be followed during this meeting. She then "walked" the Board through the report.

Suzanne Bronheim directed the formation of small discussion groups and assigned locations for the small meetings to follow Minyan.

BREAK FOR MINYAN

After Minyan, small group meetings were held from approximately 8:20 to 8:40 p.m. At 8:45, the full Board reassembled and presented the results of the small group discussions. Many points in the report were well received. Some questions raised included how this governance structure would be phased in and over how long a period. How would this be integrated with the planned construction project?

Linda indicated that this is a fairly new model of governance. It requires a level of expertise from volunteers - hence, the expectation of leadership training. This will result in a more efficient system with proactive leadership. Several other synagogues are working to adopt variants of this governance model.

Hazzan Lubin reminded the Board of the cultural/musical program on May 4. Tickets will be \$45 with higher levels of sponsorship possible. The goal is to net \$30-50,000. **Esther Wilner** and **Susan Sherzer** are co-chairs for this event. President Popper closed the meeting by thanking Linda and Suzanne.

Meeting adjourned 9:31 p.m.

Stories of Life

For many years we have had students from Pyle Middle School come read stories to our lower school students. An annual assignment from Mrs. McDermott's seventh grade class is to interview someone over 70 years old and to tell a story from their life. A final step in the project is to read the story to a group of young children.

Halima Korkut, a Bosnian Muslim, stopped by my office to request the opportunity for her daughter, Leyla, to read the story of her grandfather, Dervish Korkut, to a Religious School class. The story she told Scott Rosenbaum's third

graders and Marla Sevi's fifth graders was of "Poppy" and his role in saving the Sarajevo Haggadah, the most valuable Hebrew illustrated manuscript in the world. Leyla's narrative began with the origin of the Sarajevo Haggadah in 14th century Spain. When the Jews were exiled from the Iberian peninsula, the Haggadah was among the possessions of a family that settled in Sarajevo. By the end of the 19th century it was part of the Sarajevo State Museum collection.

When the German army occupied Yugoslavia in 1941, Nazi officers came to the museum to take that particular art treasure. Poppy told the soldiers, "one of your officers came yesterday and took the book." He then hid the Haggadah in the mountain home of a friend where it remained throughout the war.



Sarajevo Haggadah

At present the Sarajevo Haggadah is considered a Bosnian national treasure and is kept safe in an underground bank vault.

Erica Casser Schiff, a Religious School student and classmate of Layla's, told a story of her great grandfather and his experience in Heder with a rabbi who had a tendency to doze off in the middle of a lesson. Erica's wonderful illustrations conveyed well her mischievous ancestor melting wax to glue the rabbi's beard to the table.

This project has often been used as an opportunity for our students to explore their family histories and for important lessons in our religious heritage. It is wonderful to see that this year it allowed a wonderful tale to take on new life in the family lore and for another it illustrated a relationship of respect and understanding between Muslims and Jews. I look forward to a future with more such tales.

It's Not Too Late For Saul Bendit Classes

If you missed the first week of classes for the Saul Bendit Adult Institute, don't despair! It's not too late to sign up. Late registration will be accepted for all classes that have space. Just stop by the table outside the Social Hall before classes on Tuesday morning or Wednesday evening to register. Don't miss out on this great opportunity for Jewish adult education!

Additional note: One of our special features, the Tuesday class at the Ratner Museum entitled "Bible as Art, Part II", taught by Phillip Ratner, has not yet begun. Participation in last semester's Part I is not required to join this very popular course. Classes will be held on March 25, April 1 and April 8, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. You may register now, or at the museum on the night of the first class, March 25, on a space available basis.

For more information, check the brochures, available in the lucite holders in the synagogue lobby.

Purim



Carnival

**Sunday, March 16
from noon till 3 p.m.**

**Be at Beth El for good food,
fun games and
Haman's Haunted House**

On Carnival day (2 @ \$1.00) Two Tickets for One Dollar

**Advance ticket sales will be in the Beth El rotunda on
Sundays from 9 a.m. until noon February 23, March 2 & 9**

**Advance ticket price will be (3 @ \$1.00) Three Tickets
for One Dollar.**

**If you have any questions or if you would like to work at
the carnival, please contact Bernie Rod by email at
rod@erols.com or by phone at (301) 299-8632**

SAVE THE DATE !!!

MEGILLAH MADNESS!



Get ready for a little rock 'n roll, a whole lot of Motown and some rhythm and blues, because it's going to be a

ROCK 'N' ROLL PURIM

MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2003
7:30 PM

Congregation Beth El of Montgomery County
8215 Old Georgetown RD, Bethesda, MD
301-652-2606

Non-Members Welcome

Pesach Yizkor Book Listing

Our Pesach Yizkor Book will be available on Thursday, April 24, 2003.

Please complete and mail the form below without delay. Please **PRINT** or **TYPE** the form to avoid errors.

I/We are enclosing a contribution to Congregation Beth El of \$ _____

Please check one:

I/We would like to use the same listing(s) from the 2002 Yom Yippur Yizkor Book.

I/We did not have a listing in the 2002 Yom Kippur Yizkor Book. Please include the names listed below in the Pesach Yizkor Book.

I/We had a listing in the 2002 Yom Kippur Yizkor Book and would like to have that listing plus the following names:

In Memory Of

Remembered By

Name _____

Phone _____

Please return this form by Monday, March 31, 2003

Selling of the Chametz

During the week of Passover, it is forbidden, according to Jewish tradition, to eat chametz or even to own the chametz that has been put away in your home. Therefore, we annually observe the custom of **Mechirat Chametz**, selling the chametz to someone who is not bound by Jewish law. If you would like to have Rabbi Rudolph sell your chametz, please mail in the following form so that it is received by Wednesday, April 16, 2003 or drop it off in the Rabbi's office.

I, _____
hereby authorize Rabbi Bill Rudolph to sell my chametz before Passover, April 16, 2003 according to Jewish law.

Signature _____

Address _____

I enclose a donation for "Maot Chittim," feeding the hungry. Please make checks payable to Congregation Beth El.

Congregation Seder

The Congregation Seder, conducted by Rabbi Bill Rudolph and Hazzan Abraham Lubin, will be held on Thursday evening, April 17, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. in the Social Hall.

I/We would like to make the following reservations:

_____ Adults @ \$30 \$ _____

_____ Nonmember Adults @ \$38 \$ _____

_____ Children 7-12 @ \$19 \$ _____

_____ Children 2-6 @ \$11 \$ _____

_____ Children under 2 no charge

_____ Total \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone No. _____

I/We would like to be seated with _____

Yes! I would like to be seated at a Senior Singles table.

Yes! I would like to be seated at a Vatikim table.

Price includes contribution to Mazon.

Reservations must be accompanied by a check and sent to: Beth El, Attn: Seder. Reservations are limited and due by Monday, April 7, 2003 or the first 200 people, whichever comes first.

No Refunds or Phone Reservations!!

Purim Festivities

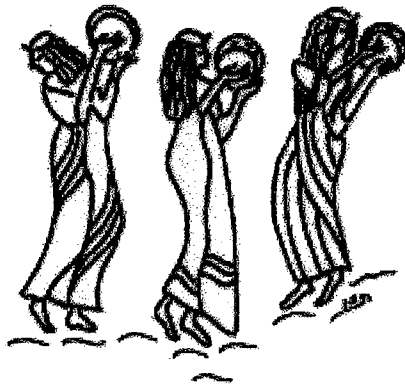
On Monday, March 17, there will be two Purim services in the Sanctuary. The Young Family Service, "Bit o' Megillah," will be at 6:30 p.m. and "Megillah Madness - A Rock 'n' Roll Purim" will begin at 7:30 p.m. As is our custom, there will also be a full traditional reading of the Megillah in the Chapel at 8:30 p.m.

The Purim Carnival will take place on Sunday, March 16, from noon to 3 pm.

Beth El Sisterhood Women's Seder

Featuring the Music of Calliope

**Sunday, March 30, 2003
5:30-8:30 pm**



"And Miriam.....took a timbrel in her hand and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances." Exodus 15:20.

**Cost: \$20 for Sisterhood members
\$25 for non-members**

Please bring toiletries (any size) for the Community Based Shelter.

Opportunity will be provided to contribute "wheat money"
(cash or check) to feed the hungry in our community.

**Note: Due to space limitations, only 175 reservations will be
accepted, so send in the form early to avoid disappointment.
Final reservation deadline is March 21st.
No phone reservations or payment at the door.**

Women's Seder Reservation

Name(s) _____

Phone Number _____
of Sisterhood members @ \$20 _____
of non-members @ \$25 _____
Total Amount of Check _____
(made out to Beth El Sisterhood)

Send to:
Amanda Ford
6508 80th Street
Cabin John, MD 20818

Evening Minyan

The following people are asked to help us with our daily Evening Minyan for the next three weeks. On Sunday through Thursday, the Minyan begins at 8 p.m. and concludes at 8:15 p.m. **On Wednesdays through April 9, Minyan will be at 8:20 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.

March 9 – 13, 2003

Samuel and Judith Scolnic
Daniel and Freda Segal
Donald and Sharon Segal
Jack and Lila Segal
Theodore Segal and Joyce Wasserstein
George and Carol Sege
David and Rochelle Seitzman
Joseph and Judith Semo
Ted and Kay Senator
Erwin and Elaine Shalowitz
Elliot Shaller and Ellen Werner
Mark and Sabina Shalom
Michael Shalom
Barry and Carolyn Shanoff
Edward and Roslyn Shapiro
Hyman and Barbara Shapiro
Melvyn Shapiro
Sarah Shapiro
Sigmund and Carolyn Shapiro
Vadim and Alla Shapiro

March 16 – 20, 2003

Bernard Sharfman and Susan David
Ruth Shartsis
Leonard and Sylvia Sheeskin
Sholom and Theda Shefferman
Victor and Isobel Sheifer
Robert Shepard and Julie Black
Andrew and Judy Sherman
Darryl Sherman and Sara Greenbaum
Esther Sherman
Frances Sherman
Gerald and Lola Sherman
Harvey and Susan Sherzer
Raymond and Barbara Sherbill
Jon Shields and Barbara Cohen
Menachem and Deborah Shoham
Charles and Merle Shoneman
Jeff and Ellen Shrago
Hugh and Ruth Sickel
Marc Sickel and Melanie Daub
Steve and Lisa Sidel

March 23-27, 2003

Lawrence and Hilda Sidman
Martin Sieff and Deborah Yavelak Sieff
Jay Siegel and Mona Sarfaty
Jacqueline Silber
Dana Siller and Lisa Amans
David and Julie Silver
Donald and Ruth Silverstein
Steven Silverman and Nina Falk
Stanley and Harriet Silverberg
Alan and Elizabeth Simon
Bruce and Lori Simon
Charlotte Simos
Joel and Joan Simon
Jonathan and Sandy Simon
Lee and Amy Simowitz
Michael and Tamara Simon
Daniel and Irene Simpkins
Jack and Flora Singer
Jana Singer

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.

Guido and Natalie Barbarosch, 12022 Chase Crossing Circle, #403, Rockville, MD 20852

Nicolas Barbarosch, Carolina Barbarosch

301-881-8829

gbar@comcast.net

Michael and Kelly Meltzer, 3307 Moline Road, Silver Spring, MD 20902

Jennifer Meltzer

301-946-3914

m.media@mac.com

Jason and Donna Shimshi, 6303 Stoneham Road, Bethesda, MD 20817

301-564-0399

shimshi@erols.com

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
Junior Congregation	5th grade and up	Chapel	10:00-11:15 am Every Shabbat	Cheryl Kreiser

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

Beth El Worship and Study Minyan

The Beth El Worship and Study Minyan will meet on Saturday, April 5, 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.

Why Do We Do This?

Come to the Learners' Minyan and find out. This minyan has been growing with shul regulars and new comers. 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 what level you are, we will find interesting avenues of the service to explore. The next service is Saturday, March 8 at 10:00 a.m. Contact Rabbi Harris if you have questions about the Learners' Minyan.

Minyan Chaverim

Minyan Chaverim is now meeting on the third Shabbat of each month and will meet next on Saturday, March 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 kibitzing. For more information, please contact Debbie Feinstein at debbie_feinstein@yahoo.com or 301-767-1178.

Nitzanim

Todah Rabbah to **Lisa and Jerry Sorkin** for sponsoring the Nitzanim Kiddush on February 8 in honor of the third birthday of their daughter **Emma Sorkin**.

Baruch Dayan Emet

Congregation Beth El offers its sincere condolences to **Peter Novick** on the death of his mother, **Ethel Novick**; to **Ruth Kay** on the death of her husband, **Joseph George Kay**, Past President of Congregation Beth El; **Evelyn Margolis** on the death of her mother, **Ruth Meltzer**; and to **Kenneth Brown** on the death of his mother, **Miriam Brown**.

Bahia Blanca Thanks Beth El

The Jewish Community of Bahia Blanca, Argentina is very thankful for all the monetary support that Congregation Beth El and its members are providing. Your donations have allowed the Jewish residents to have an extra source of funds to obtain food, meet rent or nursing home payments, buy medicine, and maintain the Jewish institutions of the community, which strive to prevent assimilation.

The Bahia Blanca Subcommittee of the World Jewry Committee wants to thank everyone, from B'nai Mitzvah age through seniors who has made a donation. We are proud that on "Day School Shabbat," the students chose to recognize our congregation's involvement with the Bahia Blanca Kehila (community). We also want to extend our appreciation to the following Beth El groups that have invited members of the subcommittee to speak to them: Sisterhood, Men's Club, Vatikim, World Jewry Committee, Senior Caucus, classes from the Religious School and Simcha Havurah. Other groups or individuals interested in learning more about the financial crisis affecting the Jews of Bahia Blanca and all of Argentina may contact Rosita Kotelanski at shoske@aol.com or Howie Stein at hhstein@juno.com.

Vatikim Luncheon

With the first sign of spring, the Vatikim are resuming their monthly catered luncheons on Thursday, March 20.

We are looking forward to a Leight (sic) program by **Walter Leight**, the oldest full-time employee at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and humorist par excellence. This will be his second appearance with the Vatikim. Come and enjoy an hour of laughter!

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, March 20, 2003.
Please reserve _____ places for me at the Vatikim luncheon.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please have your response reach us by Tuesday, March 18. No reservations will be accepted after this date.

Set the Table with Torah

by Sheldon Novek

March 8, 2003: **P'kudei**

Blue, purple, scarlet, silver and gold...five regal, definitive and "statement-making" colors that fill the pages of this particular parsha! The author's attention to detail and specifications combined with the mysteries of the tabernacle, the priesthood and the holy ark help create a window into our past. The last parsha in the book of Exodus, the narrative in P'kudei, in painstaking detail, describes how to construct the mishkan, the tabernacle which housed the Aron haKodesh—the holy ark. It also spends much time on the blueprints for the garments worn by the Kohen Gadol—the high priest. I am neither architect nor clothing designer, but I have always been intrigued with this section of the Torah and with P'kudei in particular when it goes into the detail about the vestments of the Kohen Gadol. The listing of the 12 stones that made up the ephod which was worn by the high priest gives us a wonderful sense of the colors of the time. The mysteries of the priesthood, of its relationship to G-d the creator, G-d the protector and G-d the travelling companion provide us with more questions than answers, but that only gives our imaginations more opportunities to soar! P'kudei relates when G-d was "welcomed" into the camp of wanderers, and that they didn't move unless He did and that when He did, so did they.

March 15, 2003: **Va-yikra**

In stark contrast to the color and precision of last week's parsha, as we begin the third book of the Torah, Va-Yikra, we are immersed head first immediately in the discussion of sacrifices and tabernacle/future Temple ritual. It teaches us about the different types of sacrifices that the people could bring to the altar to ask forgiveness of G-d, to thank Him, to offer Him praise or to acknowledge a special occasion. There were those chosen from the herd (cattle), as well as those chosen out of the flocks (fowl). There were also meal offerings, such as flour, wheat and barley. Other foods that were offered were leaven, honey and salt, in addition to an offering of the first fruits as the growing season permitted.

What intrigues me about the entire concept of a sacrificial-based culture was how and why the practice originated in the first place. The underlying goal of the ancient Hebrews was to try to produce something that would reach upwards to the heavens and to G-d. Unlike when the people tried to actually reach G-d in the Tower of Babel story, here they merely wanted to "send" something to their Creator that they treasured and which they thought He would desire and be pleased with. One commentator suggested that "it promoted the feeling of solidarity in the nation or family."

March 22, 2003: **Tzav**

Parshat Tzav continues the discussion of the sacrificial offerings that B'nai Yisrael were accepting as their form

of worship, repentance and "fixing" their mistakes. The cornerstone of this portion, however, is the consecration of Aaron and his sons as the first "kohanim" and the creation of the priesthood. It says in Exodus 28:41, "...and you shall anoint (Aaron your brother and his sons with him) and consecrate them and sanctify them, that they may minister unto Me in the priest's office." The ceremony is described in the following chapter and then again much more completely in this week's Tzav.

Today we still recognize people as either a Kohen, a Levite or an Israelite. Even though we no longer have a Temple service that would require the services of the ancient rites of the Kohen, we still give them special honors in our updated synagogue services such as reserving the first Torah aliyah for Kohanim; some congregations still invite the kohanim to bless the congregation during Musaf in a ceremony known as "duchaning." Kohanim are, of course, also not permitted to come into contact with the deceased, thus preventing them from attending funerals. The honor of being a kohen, dating back to Aaron, will always hold a special and mystical place in the modern Jewish world.

Please join us for

Roundtable

**with the
Rabbi**



Wednesday, April 2, 2003

2 p.m.

Board Room

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

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