

Scroll

CONGREGATION BETH EL OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Hebrew text: הַמִּשְׁכָּן

Message from Rabbi Harris



One year ago, I pulled into the Beth El parking lot, parked the car, and sat quietly inside. Part of me wanted to turn the engine back on and keep driving. Maybe nobody noticed I had pulled into the lot. Maybe nobody even knew that it was my first day at Beth El as the new Assistant Rabbi. My head was filled with questions and doubts common to new beginnings. I sat alone in my car and waited for something to happen.

I began looking around and tried to imagine the parking lot full of cars, the playground filled with the noises and toys of children, and the front entrance bustling with people coming and going. I took some calming breaths and reminded myself that I was joining an extraordinary community. My largest hesitation was if I would be able to contribute to the special and deep relationships that already existed. I summoned my courage, took my keys out of the ignition (which at least committed me to not driving off), and walked into the synagogue.

As I complete my first year at Beth El, I have been humbled by my experiences. I have had the honor of officiating at baby namings and funerals; recognizing retirements and the start of a school year; shared joys and unexpected losses. With some, we wrote new prayers together, discovering our personal voice to speak to God or reclaimed ancient rituals to heal old wounds.

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June 6, 2003

6 Sivan 5763

Volume 52

No. 14

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Shabbat and Festival Services

Friday, June 6

First Day Shavuot

Exodus 19:1-20:23

9:15 am Festival Service

Confirmation

Concluding with Bikkurim

Ceremony

10:45 am Youth Service – Chapel

10:45 am Nitzanim – APR

6:30 pm Festival & Friday

Evening Service

Saturday, June 7

Second Day Shavuot

Deuteronomy 14:22-16:17

9:15 am Shabbat and Festival Service

(Yizkor is recited)

9:15 am Abram Olchuk Bar Mitzvah

9:50 am Worship & Study Minyan – APR

10:00 am Jr. Congregation – Chapel

10:30 am Gan Shabbat – MR

Friday, June 13

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service

Saturday, June 14

Naso: Numbers 4:21-7:89

7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services

9:15 am Rachel Segal Bat Mitzvah

10:30 am Nitzanim – APR

8:00 pm Mincha, Seudah Shlishit, Maariv,

Havdallah – APR

Friday, June 20

6:30 pm Friday Evening Traditional Service

6:30 pm Kol Haneshema Service

Saturday, June 21

B'ha-alot'kha: Numbers 8:1-12:16

7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services

9:15 am Brandon Golden Bar Mitzvah

9:15 am Michael Gross Bar Mitzvah

9:30 am Minyan Chaverim – APR

10:30 am Gan Shabbat – MR

Friday, June 27

6:30 pm Friday Evening Traditional Service

6:30 pm Friday Evening Singing Service

Saturday, June 28

Sh'lah L'kha: Numbers 13:1-15:41

7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services

9:15 am Hannah Moak Bat Mitzvah

9:15 am Miriam Elizabeth Annis Bat Mitzvah

10:30 am Nitzanim – APR

Friday, July 4

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service

Saturday, July 5

7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services

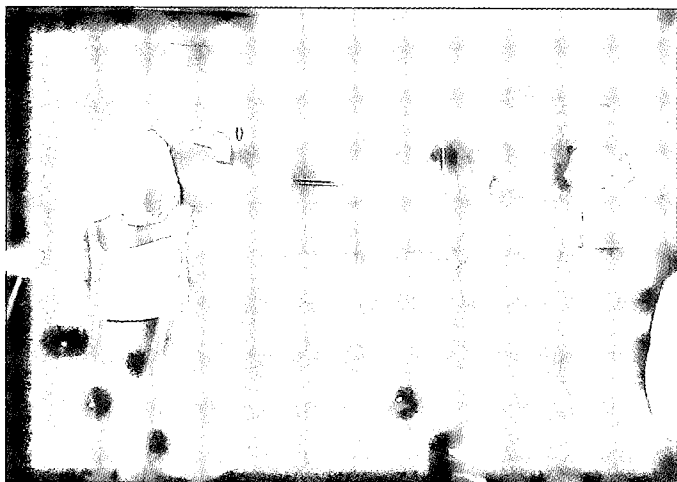
9:15 am Rachel Sachs Bat Mitzvah

9:50 am Worship & Study Minyan - APR

Sisterhood News

Menopause Series Final Session

The final meeting of the Sisterhood series "Menopause: A Guide to the Perplexed" was held on April 27. **Melanie Polk**, a dietitian from NIH, presented valuable information concerning how proper nutrition contributes to bone health, as well as the latest findings concerning the effectiveness of nutritional supplements in controlling menopausal symptoms. **Shari Druckman**, an exercise physiologist and personal trainer, discussed the role of exercise in weight control, and how to maintain cardio-respiratory and musculo-skeletal fitness after menopause. Participants practiced a variety of exercises using resistance provided by Dynabands. Sisterhood would like to thank the speakers, Ms. Polk and Ms. Druckman, as well as the series organizers, **Brenda Bregman, Barbara Eisenstein, Ellen Eule, Phyllis Solomon, and Laurie Webber** for putting together this wonderful sequence of educational programs. In addition to learning a great deal of useful information, attendees were especially gratified by the opportunity to share their experiences, concerns, and feelings about this transitional time in their lives.

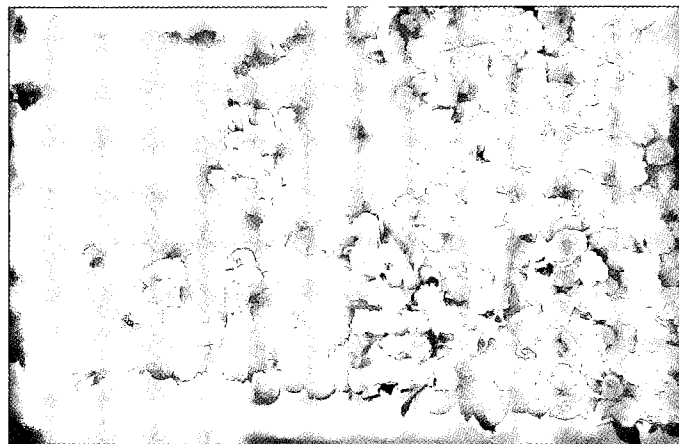


Sisterhood members work out with dynabands at the program on diet and exercise on April 27.

Israeli Roses for Mother's Day

Receiving beautiful roses from Israel helped make Mother's Day special for sixty women in the congregation family. Sisterhood would like to thank the volunteers and staff who handled the orders, tended the roses on arrival, and packaged them for distribution. The Beth El Gallery looked like a flower mart! Thanks to **Tamar Fishman, Esther Wilner, Pat Danoff, Anita Lieb, Rita Kahn, Barbara Eisenstein, Gale Dutcher, Helen Rib, Michele Levine, Hattie Goodman and Phyllis Scholl** for making the project a success. You can beautify your home and support the Israeli economy by ordering these lovely flowers straight from the Negev. The prices are reasonable and delivery is to your door via FedEx. Visit

the website www.mnmrose.com or call Esther Wilner at 301-320-2478 for information.



Israeli roses take a bath awaiting Mother's Day distribution.

Book Group

The final meeting before vacation of the Sisterhood Book Group will be on Sunday, June 15 at 9:30 a.m. when we will discuss *Burnt Bread and Chutney: Growing Up Between Two Cultures—A Memoir of an Indian Jewish Girl* by Carmit Delman. Call Suzanne Stone at 301-530-1122 for information. Women and men are welcome.

The Sisterhood Cookbook

*will be available around the
High Holidays.*

*Watch the August Scroll
for ordering information.*

The Sisterhood Judaica Shop

**will be open limited hours
during the summer.**

**Call Marcia Kalman at
301-897-8572
for hours or an appointment.**

Men's Club News

Sunday, June 8– The Men's Club speaker on June 8 will be Beth El congregant **Art Rosen**. His topic is "China and the Jews: From the Sung Dynasty to the Present." Mr. Rosen is a retired Foreign Service officer who was stationed in Shanghai after World War II. In between postings in Hong Kong, Singapore, Hanoi, Bangkok, and Australia, his family were members of Beth El, where his sons became bar mitzvah.

Thursday, June 12– The fourth session of *Hearing Men's Voices* will be held at 8:30 p.m. in the All-Purpose Room. We shall be discussing additional issues concerning fathers and sons. You'll be welcome whether or not you attended previous sessions.

Saturday, June 14 – Shabbat Mincha, Seudah Shlishit, Maariv, and Havdallah services will be held in the All-Purpose Room, beginning at 8:00 p.m. Come join us in this intimate farewell to Shabbat.

Sunday, June 15– Father's Day. The Men's Club will have a minyan and breakfast, but no speaker.

Sunday, June 15– Baseball Trip to Frederick Keys. Men's Club has reserved a block of box seats at a Frederick Keys baseball game. Reservations are required; please see the flyer on this page. Copies of the flyer are also available in the lucite racks outside the synagogue office door.

Sunday, June 22–Mr. **Ralph Robbins**, Executive Director of the Virginia Israel Advisory Board, will be the Men's Club speaker. His topic is "Learn from an Insider: Ways You Can Strengthen Israel with a Real Impact (Not through Israeli bonds, stocks, contributions or investments!)." Mr. Robbins will explain unique ways you can help strengthen Israel, providing practical insights into Israel-U.S. business relations and how you can help them grow. Mr. Robbins has served as the Executive Director of the VIAB, an office of the Governor, for almost 3 years. Prior to that, he lived in Israel for 24 years where he founded a private hospital (the American Medical Center) in the Tel Aviv area and consulted for companies that wanted/needed to build a U.S. presence. Mr. Robbins has an MBA from Wharton and graduated cum laude from the University of Vermont.

Sunday, June 29– This year's grand finale of the Men's Club Sunday morning speakers' program will be a talk by **Rabbi Greg Harris**. His topic had not been confirmed as we went to press. Check the Men's Club poster in the Rotunda.

The Men's Club of Congregation Beth El Presents:

"BASEBALL AT FREDERICK KEYS"



Fathers, mothers, sons, and daughters will be going to a Frederick Keys baseball game in Frederick, Maryland.

Sunday, June 15, 2003
Game time: 1:05 p.m.

Cost: \$12 per person (adult or child)
Includes one box seat ticket and fun tickets for children at amusement pavilion

Transportation will be by carpool from Beth El or you can meet us in Frederick at parking lot or box office.



If you have any questions, please contact:



Roy Niedermayer, Event Coordinator
(301) 229-7005 after 8 p.m.

To reserve your box seat at Baseball at Frederick Keys on June 15, send this form with payment to:
The Men's Club, Congregation Beth El, 8215 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda MD 20814.

Name _____

of Adult Tickets _____ @ \$12.00 = _____

of Children's Tickets _____ @ \$12.00 = _____

Total payment enclosed: _____

BETHEL SCROLL

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Message from Rabbi Harris continued

We have studied sacred texts to find insights of past generations and discovered new relevancies for our lives today. Yet we have just scratched the surface.

During this past year, I have witnessed a renewed vision for Beth El taking shape. While this is formally being done in meeting rooms, it is taking hold in the hallways of the shul and the homes of our Beth El community. Your creative energy and enthusiastic will to build our community are the foundation for the Beth El revival. Together, we are building a synagogue where people are inspired by the richness and meaningfulness of Judaism.

This first year has passed quickly. I want to thank the entire community for all the support and kindness you have extended to Rebekah, Benjamin, Maayan and me. I am fortunate to have joined this wonderful community and to have such generous colleagues in Rabbi Rudolph and Hazzan Lubin. My prayer is that over the next year, we continue to strengthen as a community, deepen our spiritual commitments, and support each other as we build upon Beth El's vibrancy.

...שהחיינו וקיימנו והגייענו לאמן הזה.

Praised are You, Lord our God, Ruler of the universe, for granting us life, sustaining us, and enabling us to reach this day.

All in the Family

Mazal Tov to **Carolyn Chabrow Berger and Brent Berger** on the birth of their daughter, **Anna Michelle Berger**, on May 14, 2003. Grandparents are **Bea and Bernie Berger**.

Mazal Tov to **Laura and Lawrence Eisen** on the birth of their son, **Eliot Max Eisen**, on March 1, 2003.

Mazal Tov to **Yelena and Gregory Nusinovich** on the birth of their twin granddaughters, **Ester and Hanah Markov**, who were born in Israel. Parents are **Maria and Igor Markov**.

Mazal Tov to **Leonard and Gabriela Bebchick** on the birth of their granddaughter, **Tehilla Sara Bebchick**, born in Jerusalem on April 21. Parents are **Chana and Brian Bebchick**.

Mazal tov to **Alexis Kohn** on her daughter, **Dore Jayne Grossman**, receiving her MSW from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

Mazal tov to **Dr. Stephen F. Levinson**, son-in-law of **Shirley Levine Wasserman**, for having an essay published in a new book called "Teachers With Class." Mazal tov also to **Marsha Serling Goldberg**, daughter of former Beth El members **Helen and Jacob Serling**, for co-authoring the book. The Serlings moved to Lake Oswego, Oregon many years ago.

Mazal Tov to **Ruth and Lester Lee** on the marriage of their daughter **Robin Lee** to **Gary Orseck**. Gary is the son of **Phyllis Orseck Cotton**.

Mazal Tov to **Judith and Jonathan Levin** on the birth of their granddaughter, **Esther Tova Levin**, born April 29. Parents are **Joshua and Dora Levin**.

The Men's Club of Congregation
Beth El Presents:

"HEARING MEN'S VOICES"



This program is to give men the opportunity to share with other men, significant issues that we deal with in our daily lives. We are instituting these men's only monthly programs at Beth El for four sessions this year.

We will meet in the All Purpose Room from 8:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Thursdays.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Bob Levine, Event Coordinator
(301) 424-7445 leviner@mail.nih.gov

David Schultz, Men's Club President
(301) 530-1620 dschultz@csc.com

To reserve your seat at "Hearing Men's Voices"
Send this form to: The Men's Club,
Congregation Beth El, 8215 Old Georgetown
Road, Bethesda MD 20814

of Seats _____ June 12

Space will be limited; pre-registration is mandatory!

Splinters from the Board

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Arthur Popper - presiding, **Jerome Danoff** - recording
Called to order 7:32 pm

The D'var Torah presented by **Rabbi Bill Rudolph** reminded us of the sacrifices made by others and commemorated by Holocaust Memorial Day.

The auditor's report was given by Jeff Sabot from Kaufman Davis PC. A motion was made to approve the audit and passed 34-0-1.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved as distributed.

Rabbi Greg Harris gave the final report from his committee which had been examining issues of decorum, including children running in the halls. The large number of children in the synagogue is actually a healthy sign, however, **Judy Futterman** will publish a statement in the *Scroll* encouraging parents to restrain their children.

Bert King reported that we just completed our *Sukkot in April* project with a record 25 participants.

BREAK FOR MINYAN

Gary Rosenfeld presented the budget. We are projecting 910 membership units for next year. This year's dues increase has been set at 5%, partially to cover increases this year and partially to offset costs of the construction loan. Our old mortgage was completed this year, but we will be taking a construction loan and new mortgage associated with the construction project. Motion was made to approve the budget and passed 34-0-1.

Judy Futterman gave the Treasurer's Report. Although the *Bimah to Broadway* fundraising concert is expected to be very successful, it is anticipated that there will be a modest deficit this year.

A concert update was given by **Hazzan Lubin** and **Esther Wilner**. \$52,000 has been collected, and more is expected. All Board members are encouraged to attend.

Brent Berger offered a toast and comments of appreciation to **Arthur Popper** for his many years of service including the past two as president. The entire Board concurred.

In the President's report, Arthur Popper gave thanks to the Executive Committee and Board, and especially to Brent and Sheila for all their support and help these past two years. Recognition was made to officers who were stepping down. In review of some of the synagogue accomplishments over the past two years, Arthur listed the hiring of two rabbis, the Atid process, reinvention of Purim, \$1,000,000 raised (plus an ambulance) for Israel, purchase of the neighboring property and start of the renovation process, redefinition of governance and development of leadership training, expansion of the pool of participants in synagogue programming, development of a web site, and an improved *Scroll*. We have excellent clergy and staff, and should do well with the incoming slate of officers. Finally, thanks were given to Helen Popper for her contributions, support, and understanding.

The new Board will be elected on May 27, 2003.

Meeting adjourned 9:14 pm.

Message from the President

It is with both great anticipation and humility that I accept the honor of serving as president of Beth El. I would like to thank the congregation for giving me the opportunity to lead. A terrific group of lay leaders have stepped forward to join our wonderful k'ley kodesh and professional staff in helping to move the congregation forward as we implement key elements of the Atid Committee's recommendations. I look ahead to the opportunity to work with and learn from so many bright and dedicated individuals.

I think we are all excited as our construction and renovation project begins. It is a wonderful testimony to the continued vitality of our shul. Despite the best efforts of the professionals involved, it is likely we will encounter some inconveniences as the next few years unfold. However, we should all try to remain mindful of the long-term benefits of our temporary situation when such issues arise. **Bert King** and **Don Silverstein** will continue to lead the project and regular updates will be communicated in the *Scroll* as we go from groundbreaking onward.

We are also embarking on a remodeling of sorts involving our governance and leadership. Based on the Atid report, the process of improving our Board's efficiency and effectiveness is beginning. As with our construction project, there may be some rocks in the road ahead, but we will work towards managing change successfully. **Sid Getz** and **Arthur Popper** are coordinating the Governance Committee. A new leadership development program for both current and future leaders of our congregation is being organized by **Michael Feinstein** and will begin in the fall.

A synagogue generally has three basic roles in our lives. It is a Bet Knesset, a place of community, a Bet Tefillah, a place of prayer, and a Bet Midrash, a place of learning. Beth El serves its members well in all three areas, but we can do even better. As synagogue leaders, we strive to achieve the goal of sustaining a place that positively changes people's lives. Lay leaders should be modeling the types of behaviors and values that our synagogue stands for, among them: mitzvah observance, tzedakah, and expanding our Jewish knowledge. I expect the leadership to explore their own growth as Jews, and to remind ourselves that we are in the "business" of doing mitzvot and facilitating others to do them as well.

In concluding, I would like to particularly thank two very special people. **Arthur Popper** has been an invaluable mentor, and has been a tireless, dedicated, and committed leader of Beth El for the past two years. He has left a legacy of achievements that will be difficult to match. I look forward to his continued involvement. Finally, and most importantly, I would like to thank my wonderful and patient wife, **Carolyn**, for her understanding and for making it possible for me to spend many hours away from home in the past and in the future.

FROM BIMAH TO BROADWAY



An Electrifying and Memorable Evening

With a capacity crowd in attendance, the Bimah of Beth El was transformed into the best of a Broadway stage. The sheer variety of music – from Yiddish, Sephardic, Hebrew and Cantorial to *Phantom*, *West Side Story*, and *La Boheme* – was a delicious potpourri of sound. Joining **Hazzan Abraham Lubin** were **Amy Goldstein** from New York, **Hazzan David Propis** from Houston and **George Peachey**, our Washingtonian, at the piano.

Following the delicious music was an array of lovely delicacies and champagne to boot, which were enjoyed by all.

With **Esther Wilner** starring in the role of chairperson and a cast of thousands, the event was a musical, social and financial success. Bravo to all who made it possible.

We express our gratitude to the following people who made this beautiful event possible:

Concert Committee

Esther Wilner, Chair
 Annette Abrams
 Benson Adams
 Merry Eisenstadt
 Sandy Elson
 Tamar Fishman
 Judy Futterman
 Michele Herman
 David Levine
 Anita Lieb
 Sheldon London
 Hazzan Abraham Lubin
 Sandy Lubin
 Dorene Rosenthal

Art Auction

Marsha Rehns, Coordinator
 Tamar Fishman, Artist

Decorations

Annette Abrams
 Lori Amsellem

Reception Organizers

Julia Copperman
 Barbara Friedman
 Toni Schettewi

Reception Assistants

Pat Danoff
 Emily Goldman
 Judy Goldman
 Margie Litman
 Gail Ross
 Barbara Spitzer

Ushers

Joan Claxton
 Rick Claxton
 Amy Goott
 Sara Greenbaum
 Michael Kay
 Cheryl Rod
 Herb Rosenthal
 Nancy Rosenthal
 Mitchell Solkowitz
 Rachele Solkowitz
 Barrie Tabin

Staff

Sheila Bellack
 Hattie Goodman
 Kathy Hooley
 Pam Kocher
 Phyllis Scholl

Flyer

David Fletcher

Special Contributions

Estelle Deutsch Abraham, in appreciation for her radio promotion, WUST "1120" Jewish Community Radio
 Benjamin Baumgold, video taping
 Ralph Deckelbaum, in appreciation for providing accommodations for performing artists at Holiday Inn, Bethesda
 Richard Nowitz, photography

Caution...Construction Zone

Our Groundbreaking Ceremony is Sunday, June 8. Shortly thereafter, our contractors, Uniwest, will be on-site setting up construction fencing and making other preparations for the beginning of our much-needed and long-awaited construction and renovation project.

1. First Phase and Relocation of Offices

The first phase, which will take approximately one year, consists of demolishing (in late June 2003) the two houses immediately to the south of Beth El and building the new three-story addition, consisting of school classrooms and offices (top floor), a new Chapel, secondary kitchen and social hall (main floor), and multi-purpose rooms and youth lounge (lower level). In order to accommodate their equipment, Uniwest requires access to the space currently occupied by the Chapel, library, courtyard, and clergy and family education offices. So, when the demolition of the two houses begins, all our clergy as well as our Family Education Director, Sarah Roark, will move to an office trailer located on the lawn outside the Sanctuary on Rayland Avenue. Most of their office furniture and those books and supplies that they will need will be moved into the trailer, while less crucial items will be packed and moved to off-site storage.

2. Library

Similarly, all the books in the library have been packed up and moved off-site. Many thanks to Library Chair **Evelyn Margolis** for organizing her packing crew to accomplish this huge task. While we regret the loss of this important resource for two years, we all look forward to the new, larger library opening at the conclusion of the construction project.

3. Minyanim

Religious services that currently take place in the Chapel will be moved to other parts of the building. The weekday Morning Minyan will be in the Board Room; weekday Evening Minyan will take place in the Sanctuary. Our early Shabbat Minyan will move to the All-Purpose Room, and Junior Congregation will move to either the All-Purpose Room or the Board Room...stay tuned for an update on this.

4. Sukkah

The Beth El Sukkah will return to where it was many years ago – on the lawn outside the Sanctuary. While space will be a little tight this first year (since the office trailer will also be there), we will make every effort for the Sukkah to be as large as possible.

5. Parking and Driveway

A very important aspect of the construction and how it will impact our members is the use of our current driveway. The construction crew will be working at Beth El Monday through Friday. While they are building the new three-story structure, there will be a wide gravel construction path in front of the synagogue, on the grass on the Old Georgetown

Road side. The current driveway will have a barrier across it on weekdays. Everyone coming to the synagogue Monday morning through Friday afternoon – whether it's for Morning/Evening Minyan, Nursery or Religious School, Vatikim, Senior Caucus, or any other purpose – will need to turn onto Maple Ridge (the first street south of Beth El), make the first left onto Rayland and enter the synagogue parking lot from the rear. On weekends, the current driveway will be open and available. In addition, a portion of the parking lot (hopefully, just the lower, most northerly portion) will be used as a staging area by Uniwest, so we will lose those parking spaces. During the summer, this may not present too much of a problem. However, watch the *Scroll* and our listserv for updates on how we will accommodate the vehicles of members and guests come the fall.

This article is being written almost one month prior to publication, so there is the possibility of changes occurring; we will make every effort to keep you up to date via the listserv, Shabbat Announcements and mailings. There is no question that, for the next two years, there will be some inconvenience as a result of the construction. However, in the end, we will have a larger, updated facility that will be able to accommodate all of the wonderful services, classes and activities that Beth El has to offer.



Shalom Bayit

by Judy Futterman

We are a congregation blessed with a large population of children, both old and young. And believe me, it is an enviable position. A synagogue without children has no vibrancy and certainly no long term viability. Parents bring their children to Shabbat Services to instill in them a sense of tradition, community and family. I think we all agree that a goal of Beth El is to provide such a warm and loving community.

It has been reported that some children in all age groups have in the past not acted appropriately on Shabbat in the Sanctuary, the hallways, interfering in Kiddush set up, and during the Kiddush reception. It has also been reported that many adults have reacted to these problems in a less than respectful manner, bringing the child to tears.

Some of the professional staff, including Rabbi Harris, Jo Sohinki, Sara H. Roark and Louis Nagel, with input from the community, have been examining this issue. They have concluded that this is a series of incidents rather than a systemic problem. They looked at the timing of youth services and made some adjustments. And though we have taken steps to minimize these occurrences, it is doubtful that we can eliminate them. There will always be guests and extenuating circumstances. So we are asking our adult community to help out. After all, we are an extended family and a community.

Adults should view a child's misbehavior as a teaching moment. That means getting their attention, coming down to their eye level, and explaining to them what the proper synagogue behavior should be. If you know the parent and they are not close by, please let the parent know of the child's misbehavior and your response. Trust me, the parent will be grateful. Everyone knows that parenting is not a science. It is an art, and help is always welcome.

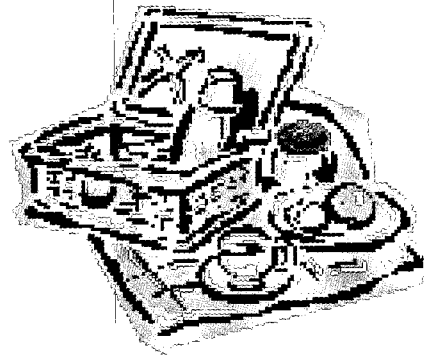
Keep in mind too, that engaging a child in services is a mitzvah. First, it gives the child a sense of community. I remember having two overactive boys for the last hour of services in the main Sanctuary on Shabbat. I remember spending a great deal of time apologizing. I would have been very grateful for assistance and understanding. Please keep in mind that these children are our treasures and our future.

Finally, if there is a current problem (please, no history), feel free to email me at jfutterman@comcast.net. Together, we can work out a respectful solution.

Join the Saul Bendit Adult Institute Committee

With this excellent year just over, the Committee is busy planning for fall. If you would like to join us, contact Howie Stein at hhstein@juno.com or call him at the phone number listed in the directory. We are always looking for fresh ideas and new people to continue our award-winning program.

SUMMER PICNIC!!!



BETH EL SISTERHOOD AND
NITZANIM
INVITE YOUR FAMILY TO OUR
SECOND ANNUAL PICNIC

SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2003
10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

MAPLEWOOD-ALTA VISTA
RECREATION CENTER
5209 ALTA VISTA ROAD,
BETHESDA, MARYLAND

We will supply drinks (assorted juices,
water, and soda), paper and plastic goods,
ice, and fun.

Each congregation family is responsible
for bringing:

- (1) its own picnic basket of food,
- (2) picnic blanket or chairs
(there are only a limited number of tables),
and
- (3) a side dish or dessert item to share
with everyone.

Please reply by July 6 to let us know if
you can come:

Caren Ravitch - (301) 986-0424;

carenravitch@hotmail.com

Glenda Koby - (301) 718-9464;

gjkoby@yahoo.com

Set the Table with Torah

by Rabbi Greg Harris

June 7, 2003: **Shavuot**

When I was a bit younger, I thought it was a treat to stay up well past my bedtime. When I was ten it was called a slumber party. In college it was called an all-nighter. Now I have the chance at *Tikkun Leil Shavuot*. *Shavuot* is the holiday that celebrates the giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai. Following 49 days after Passover, we re-experience that revelation by coming together for a full night of study and discovery of new meanings in our tradition. Today, our relationship with God is not revealed in the same way as on Mt. Sinai. How do you experience God's Revelation today? What is the role of Jewish rituals in it? Since the Israelites had the events of Mt. Sinai (Ex 19:16-20), do you think the Israelites had more clarity in their relationship with God than we do today?

June 14, 2003: **Naso**

May the Lord bless you and protect you.

May the Lord deal kindly and graciously with you.

May the Lord bestow His favor upon you and grant you peace. (Num 6:24-26)

This is one of the most famous prayers in the Torah. It is called the Priestly Blessing because it was said by Aaron, the High Priest, and his sons to bless the Israelites. This blessing is preserved in some communities through *duchening* where the *kohanim* bless the community, or in our community as the blessing all *b'nai mitzvah* receive on the *bimah*. The blessing asks for God's blessing and protection. What do God's blessings look or feel like? Is there a difference between chance and blessing?

June 14, 2003: **B'ha-alot'kha**

For some, one of the hardest things to say is "I do not know." To give a correct answer not only is helpful to others but makes you feel useful and good. So frequently, not being able to give an answer leaves one feeling inadequate. Have you ever felt pressured to give an answer you were unsure of? Moses is a terrific example of the humility it takes to say "I do not know." He was approached with a question about Passover rituals and he did not know how to respond. Instead of "faking it," he sought God's counsel for the answer. While we can not seek God's counsel like Moses, we should feel comfortable admitting what we do not know and working hard to find the correct answer.

June 28, 2003: **Sh'lah L'kha**

As Jews, we spend a large amount of time remembering our past and eating! So, where do the braids in the challah come from? We are told in this *parsha*, "When you enter the land to which I am taking you and you eat of the bread of the land, you shall set some aside as a gift to the Lord." (v15:18-19) That gift was a portion of bread that was twisted off and separated from the rest of the dough. The custom of braided or twisting the special Shabbat bread developed to remind us of this commandment and make the Shabbat table special with this unusual bread.

The Families of the Confirmation Class

*Cordially invite the Congregation to the
Confirmation Exercises*

on Friday, the sixth of June

two thousand and three

at 9:15 a.m.

Congregation Beth El

Beth El's 2003 Confirmation Class:

Rebecca Annis, daughter of Terri and Jeffrey Annis

*Hal Baseman, son of Rosalyn Rettman and
Kenneth Baseman*

Benjamin Bolasny, son of Paola and Sheldon Bolasny

Daniel Bregman, son of Brenda and Douglas Bregman

Stephanie Coplan, daughter of Diane and Robert Coplan

Meredith Dicker, daughter of Leane and Ross Dicker

Jaclyn Feldman, daughter of Nancy and Cary Feldman

Dana Footer, daughter of Marla and Richard Footer

*Dorothy Fox, daughter of Andrea Shandell and
Russell Fox*

Matthew Fox, son of Andrea Shandell and Russell Fox

Benjamin Friedmann, son of Debra and Peter Friedmann

Benjamin Ganzfried, son of Sally and Jerrold Ganzfried

*Michelle German, daughter of Linda Schatz and
Philip German*

Douglas Goldhill, son of Janet and Steven Goldhill

Dena Greenblum, daughter of Marcia and Eli Greenblum

Jamie Hanley, daughter of Susan and Bruce Hanley

Brandon Kramer, son of Margi and Mark Kramer

Andrew Lebovich, son of Karen and William Lebovich

*Ethan Levy-Forsythe, son of Patricia Forsythe and
Jonathan Levy*

*Elana Lipman, daughter of Nancy Rose and
Robert Lipman*

*Laura Mandel, daughter of Barbara and
Steven Mandel*

Zachary Moak, son of Karyl Barron and Jeffrey Moak

Michael Prada, son of Jana Singer and Vincent Prada ^{2nd}

Joshua Rosenthal, son of Beth and Steven Rosenthal

Erica Rotman, daughter of Gilda and Allan Rotman

*Marc Rudolph, son of Gail Fribush and
William Rudolph*

*Dawn Schwartz, daughter of Faith and
Michael Schwartz*

Joshua Simon, son of Joan and Joel Simon

*Rebecca Teitelbaum, daughter of Susan Kitt and
Steven Teitelbaum*

Ali Weisz, daughter of Janyse and Bernard Weisz

Evening Minyan

The following people are asked to help us with our daily Evening Minyan for the next four 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.

June 8 – June 12

Robert and Jody Benjamin
Jane and Michael Berardi
Audrey Berger
Bernard and Beatrice Berger
Brent and Carolyn Berger
Edward and Marcy Berger
Eric Berger and Barrie Tabin
Howard Berger and Linda Goldsmith
Kenneth and Beth Berman
Stuart and Ellen Berman
Max and Judith Bernhardt
Sanford and Anita Berns
Jay and Sharon Berzofsky
Jacques and Isabelle Besnainou
Frederick and Vera Bettelheim
Steven and Ellen Bezner
Jonathan and Cathy Binder
Ann Birk
Alan and Debra Birnkrant
Henry Birnkrant and Lynn Goldin

June 22 – June 26

Joel and Bernice Breslau
Gerald and Caryl Brody
Jerome and Hessa Broder
Kenneth and Carol Brody
Benjamin and Suzanne Bronheim
Mark and Lisa Bronfman
David and Harriet Brooks
David and Rose Brown
Kenneth Brown
Arthur and Susan Bruckheim
Lawrence and Susan Bruser
Abner and Ruth Byer
Jeffrey and Sharon Caplan
Sidney and Miriam Carter
Andrei and Lauren Cernea
Michael and Ruth Cernea
Adam and Jennifer Chaikin
Leyzar and Bela Charno
Annabel Chasen
Richard and Shelley Chasen

June 15 – June 19

Sarah Birnbach
Evelyn Bitterbaum
Marc and Linda Blackman
Joseph and Jody Bleiberg
Arthur and Mary Blitz
Edward and Debra Bloom
Ruth Bloom
Elliot and Betty Blum
Sharon Bobb
Barry Boden and Rachel Gafni
Jonathan and Laura Ann Bodner
Sheldon and Paola Bolasny
Yaakov and Linda Borenstein
Philip and Hope Borish
Laura and Raymond Bouvier
Samuel Boxerman and Debra Vodenos
Sylvia Bozof
Paul Bran and Nina Levine
Robert and Audrey Bredhoff
Douglas and Brenda Bregman

June 29 – July 3

Ronald and Judith Chasen
Rick and Joan Claxton
Robert Clayman and Carol Miller
Daniel and Mara Clement
Frans Coetzee and Marilyn Shevin-Coetzee
Mark and Jocelyn Cogen
Charles and Helen Cohen
Jeffrey Cohen and Leslie Fried
Richard and Eleanor Cohen
Robert and Sheila Cohen
Stephen Cohen and Deborah Friedman
Stanley and Selma Cohen
Susan Cohen
Alan and Rebecca Cohn
Walter and Debbie Cohn
Dorothy Come
Edward Comer and Joan Schaffer
Jeffrey and Ferne Cooper
Mitchell and Renee Cooper
Robert and Diane Coplan

Shavuot Services

On the first day, Friday, June 6, services begin with Shacharit at 9:15 a.m. Confirmation and a children's bikkurim processional are included. Nitzanim (APR) and a youth service for kindergarten and above (Chapel) on Friday begin at 10:45 a.m. Second day services are at 6:30 p.m. Friday and 9:15 a.m. Saturday. See the full schedule on the front page.