



Scroll

CONGREGATION BETH EL OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY



July 4, 2003

4 Tammuz 5763

Volume 52

No. 15



Tuning in with Hazzan Lubin

“Beyn N’har P’rat U-n’har Hidekel”
“Between the Rivers Euphrates and Tigris”

Sumer, Mesopotamia, Babylon, Hammurabi, Nebuchadnezzar, Euphrates and Tigris are some of the names associated with ancient civilizations and Biblical history. During the recent war in Iraq these names suddenly appeared with regularity in the media. Modern day Iraq and its environs is where the earliest important civilizations and cultures existed, namely, Sumer, Mesopotamia and Babylon. Iraq’s “elite” army divisions were named after King Hammurabi who is credited with the earliest code of law that preceded the Mosaic Law. Nebuchadnezzar was, of course, the Babylonian king who, after capturing and destroying Jerusalem and its Temple, took Jews captive to Babylon to begin the first, most prominent and longest, albeit productive, Diasporic existence of the Jewish people.

My earliest recollection of the rivers Euphrates and Tigris is from a song I learned as a child growing up in Jerusalem. The song was “Beyn N’har P’rat U-n’har Hidekel” (Between the Rivers Euphrates and Tigris). It was written by one of the greatest 20th century Hebrew poets, Chaim Nachman Bialik (1873-1934). Bialik describes these ancient rivers with the most romantic images. “Between the rivers Euphrates and Tigris” Bialik writes, “a date palm grows, and in its branches a hoopoe nests. O golden bird, fly away and seek my beloved, and when you find him, bring him to me. Youth is past. Find me, o my mother, a beautiful maiden to be my bride. And in the shade of the olive tree my lovely one would await me.”

I share with you these lines of Bialik because of the peaceful and romantic images of harmony and serenity he conjured up as he was envisioning these ancient rivers of Babylon. Would that we, too, would one day be able to think of present day Iraq and its great rivers as well as the entire Middle East, as a region of peace where hoopoe birds fly and are the harbingers of good and joyful tidings.

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Shabbat Services

Friday, July 4

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service

Saturday, July 5

Korah: Numbers 16:1-18:32

7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services

9:15 am Rachel Sachs Bat Mitzvah

9:50 am Worship & Study Minyan - APR

10:30 am Gan Shabbat – BR

Friday, July 11

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service

Saturday, July 12

Hukat-Balak: Numbers 19:1-25:9

7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services

9:15 am Alyssa Lesser Bat Mitzvah

10:30 am Nitzanim – APR

Friday, July 18

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service

Saturday, July 19

Pinhas: Numbers 25:10-30:1

7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services

9:15 am Brenda Segal Bat Mitzvah

9:15 am Leah Askarinam Bat Mitzvah

9:30 am Minyan Chaverim – APR

10:30 am Gan Shabbat – BR

Friday, July 25

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service

Saturday, July 26

Mattot-Mas’ei: Numbers 30:2-36:13

7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services

10:30 am Nitzanim – APR

Friday, August 1

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service

Saturday, August 2

D’varim: Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22

7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services

9:50 am Worship & Study Minyan - APR

10:30 am Gan Shabbat – BR

Watch Your Mail

High Holiday packets should be in members’ mailboxes by mid-July. Deadline for return: August 25.

Sisterhood News

Sisterhood Election and General Meeting

On June 1, the Sisterhood membership elected a new slate of officers for 2003-2004. **Leslie Dellon** will serve as the new President. She will be assisted by Co-Executive Vice Presidents **Amanda Ford** and **Karen Lipkind**, and by a group of capable and experienced board members. New members of the board include **Sandy Elson, Barbara Friedman, Audrey Griff, Nancy Rosenthal, and Holly Stein**. Sisterhood would like to thank outgoing president **Patricia Danoff** for her many years of service to Sisterhood. Other members who are leaving the board at this time include **Andrea Golden, Alissa Horvitz, Donna Kanin, Elaine Pines, and Cheryl Rod**. Sisterhood thanks them for their hard work while serving on the Board of Directors.

After the election, everyone enjoyed a wonderful presentation by Sisterhood member and fiber artist **Amanda Ford**. Through the use of slides and samples, she gave a retrospective of her work, which included magnificent pieces of Judaica (Torah covers, ark curtains, chuppot), wall hangings and quilts. Sisterhood thanks Amanda for sharing her creations and for giving those of us in attendance a better understanding of how she turns ordinary fabric and thread into true works of art.

קשר נשים

Kesher Nashim

Who are we?

We are a Beth El Sisterhood group which offers support to Beth El women newly diagnosed with cancer by pairing them with Beth El cancer survivors and resources. We encourage any women who are cancer survivors to join our group.

Do you need to be a member of Sisterhood?

No, you just need to be a member of Beth El.

Why do we call ourselves Kesher Nashim?

Kesher Nashim means "connecting women." We chose this name because we hope to establish connections between women newly diagnosed with cancer and those in our group who have gone through similar experiences.

How do you contact us?

Call Margie London (301) 718-1712 or Susan King (301) 652-7350 and they will connect you with a member of our group.

Men's Club News

The Men's Club wants to thank our outgoing President, **David Schultz**, for the wonderful job he has done over the past two years. Under his leadership, the Beth El Men's Club initiated several significant and successful programs. These efforts were highlighted by the two new monthly programs which began this past year - Saturday evening Shabbat Mincha, Seudah Shlishit, Maariv, and Havdallah Service and Hearing Men's Voices. These programs will be on hiatus during the summer and will restart in the fall. We wish to also thank all of the other officers, committee chairmen, and board members who helped to make this past year so successful.

Beth El Men's Club - 2003-2004 Officers

President	Cary Feldman
Vice President	Jonathan Levy
Vice President	David Margulies
Treasurer	David Levine
Secretary	Howard Lesser

Chairmen of Standing Committees

Programs	Barry Friedman
Membership	Marvin Yudkovitz & Allen Eisenberg
Kavod Awards	Herb Wiser
Publicity	Marvin Yudkovitz & Harry Lipkind
Purim Carnival	Bernie Rod & Bob Koenig
Blue Yarmulke	Dave Schultz
Sports	Roy Niedermayer
Youth Programs	Alan Golden
Ritual Committee	Alex Rosenberg & Darryl Sherman
Hearing Men's Voices	Bob Levine
Nominations	George Perlman
Special Events	Bob Koenig, Ken Levine, & Jeff Moak

Members of the Board of Trustees

Sanford Kay	Howard Hoffman
Lillian Kessler	Sam Frishman
Roy Millenson	Ron Klein
Tsvi Assal	Borys Gendelman
Mitchell Solkowitz	Ed Leviton
Jon Stone	Ron Treinish

The Sisterhood Cookbook

will be available around the
High Holidays.

Watch the August Scroll
for ordering information.

Message from the President

June 8 was an auspicious and joyous day at Beth El as several hundred people joined to celebrate the Groundbreaking for our construction project. We were addressed by **Rabbis Rudolph, Scolnic, and Harris, Hazzan Lubin, Senator Barbara Mikulski, Congressman Chris Van Hollen, and State Senator Brian Frosh.** Joining the dignitaries were our longtime members, **Howard and Sondra Bender,** whose generosity to Beth El and other worthy organizations is legendary. Nearly all of the living past presidents of Beth El were in attendance, adding to the sense of connection to the past as we looked to the future, represented beautifully by the strong voices of our children's choir, Shir Atid, and the presence of many little ones being carried by parents or strollers.

Bert King and Don Silverstein, who are spearheading the Capital Campaign and Construction, also spoke to the crowd, and Don demonstrated proper shoveling techniques for the ceremonial photographs. We were then welcomed into the beautifully decorated gallery for refreshments, accompanied by lively music and happy conversations.

We are indebted to our Executive Vice President, **Gail Ross,** who chaired the event and who was assisted by **Barbara Friedman, Judy Futterman, Rabbi Rudolph, and Sheila Bellack.**

Now, as the champagne and balloons are put away, the difficult work begins. Some of our staff will be moving into temporary offices in a trailer. Members will encounter some inconveniences along the way as well, particularly when the parking lot is being reconstructed. Some meetings and services will need to be held in different locations in the building. And we can expect to see lots of dirt and mud, hopefully from a distance. Nevertheless, with the construction professionals, synagogue staff, and lay leaders working closely together, we are hoping to keep the disruptions to a minimum. We will be asking for your patience and understanding, and will do our best to continue to provide frequent updates on our progress and challenges as we move forward.

As the summer is finally here, many of you will be taking a break from routine to travel for vacation. Have a safe and relaxing time, but please keep an eye out for the High Holiday mailing and more information on the new Leadership Development Program coming this fall.

B'shalom, Brent Berger



Our Groundbreaking Construction Crew, left to right: Brent Berger, Howard Bender, State Senator Brian Frosh, Sondra Bender, Congressman Chris Van Hollen, Senator Barbara Mikulski, Rabbi Rudolph.

Construction Update

This article is being written a few days after our successful Groundbreaking Ceremony on June 8. Several congregants have asked when the demolition of the houses will occur. Before that can happen, there is considerable preparatory work that must be completed. You have all noticed that the lawns for both houses have been dug up. This was to locate and cap off utility lines. Once that is complete, there is a rather lengthy regulatory process that we must navigate with the county and all the utility companies. We are in the midst of that now and expect the actual demolition occurring mid to late July. We are still on schedule and have every reason to anticipate that we will continue on that track.

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BETH EL SOLIDARITY TRIP TO ISRAEL

OCTOBER 26 - NOVEMBER 3, 2003

JOIN US FOR A TRIP OF A LIFETIME TO ERETZ YISRAEL



Can you imagine a better way to begin our Jewish New Year than going to Israel with our Beth El family and joining our own Israeli family in our ancient homeland?

The Beth El Trip is being conducted under the guidance of the Beth El Israel Action Committee, and led by fellow congregants Margery and Shelly London, who have distilled the best highlights of their many visits to Israel to create a memorable and unique itinerary.

All travel arrangements are being made by Gil Travel, which is one of the leading national firms specializing in Jewish interest travel, handling travel for Federation, American Friends of the Hebrew University, and Maccabi USA, among many other Jewish groups. The inclusive price for the entire travel package including EL AL flights will be \$1,975 per person. Business Class travel will be an additional \$1,800/pp. The Beth El group will have its own bus in Israel and will have the services of one of Israel's top guides throughout the trip.

What is unique about our Beth El trip is the focus on David Ben-Gurion's dream of making the Negev, the great southern expanse of Israel comprising 65 percent of its landmass, the center of Israel's strong and independent future. Upon arrival in Tel Aviv, our group will go directly to Be'er Sheva, the capital of the Negev Region, where we will be greeted by Yaakov Ternner, Mayor of Be'er Sheva, and former pilot and Brigadier General in the IDF.

We will be staying at Be'er Sheva's largest hotel, the Paradise Hotel (a former Hilton property) and this will be our headquarters from Monday until our departure on Friday morning for a memorable Shabbat weekend in Jerusalem. In Jerusalem, we shall be staying at the Inbal Hotel (formerly the LaRomme), located in a picturesque area near the ancient walled old city.

The itinerary follows (a detailed brochure, including a reservation form, will be mailed to all Beth El members).

Sunday, October 26

11:00 a.m.: Bethesda Hyatt. Brunch with Professor Avishay Braverman, President of Ben-Gurion University.
1:00 p.m. Depart from Bethesda Hyatt on luxury motor coach to JFK in New York.

Monday, October 27

Arrive Tel Aviv 4:00 p.m. Bus to Be'er Sheva and Paradise Hotel.
Welcoming Reception and Dinner-7:30 p.m. Mayor Yaakov Ternner

Tuesday, October 28

Breakfast 7:30 a.m.
Guided Tour of Be'er Sheva, Israeli Air Force Museum, Abraham's Well, and old city of Be'er Sheva.
Lunch with students at Ben-Gurion University; tour of campus; individual tours of graduate schools of interest (Engineering, Medicine, Social Work, Humanities, etc.).
Festive Dinner and home hospitality

Wednesday, October 29

Breakfast 7:30 a.m.
Visit Ben-Gurion home and gravesite at Sde Boker; tour Sde Boker Campus of Ben-Gurion University Blaustein Institute for Desert Studies, Ben-Gurion Archives and Heritage Center. Lunch at Sde Boker.
Maktesh Ramon-Israel's Grand Canyon at Mitzpe Ramon; adventurous jeep rides and tour Nabatean Spice Route sites. Tea at Mitzpe Ramon Inn.
Dinner in Be'er Sheva

Thursday, October 30

Breakfast 7:30 a.m.
Bedouin Market in Be'er Sheva
Visit to Rahat, Bedouin Town (including clinic)

Coffee in Arad- we will invite Amos Oz, Israel's great novelist, to join us at his favorite coffeehouse.
Masada (cable cars or, for the intrepid, walk up path)
Ahava—Factory Store at Ein Boquec (the Dead Sea)
Lunch at Kibbutz

Afternoon spa and treatments at Hyatt at Dead Sea
Festive Dinner at Hyatt; return to Be'er Sheva

Friday, October 31

Breakfast 7:30 a.m. Depart for Jerusalem.
Stop en route at Neve Shalom (Israeli-Palestinian kibbutz). Arrive at Inbal in Jerusalem - relax and prepare for Shabbat

Kabbalat Shabbat Service At Western Wall
Festive Beth El Shabbat Dinner with Rabbi Rudolph and special guests, Narkis Luvtin and her twins, Shir and Or, Beth El's adopted family whose husband and father was tragically murdered by a suicide terrorist in Rishon Lezion

Shabbat, November 1

Breakfast
Shabbat Services at synagogue of one's choice
12:30 p.m. Festive Shabbat Luncheon
Optional Lecture and/or Shabbat walk. Evening free

Sunday, November 2

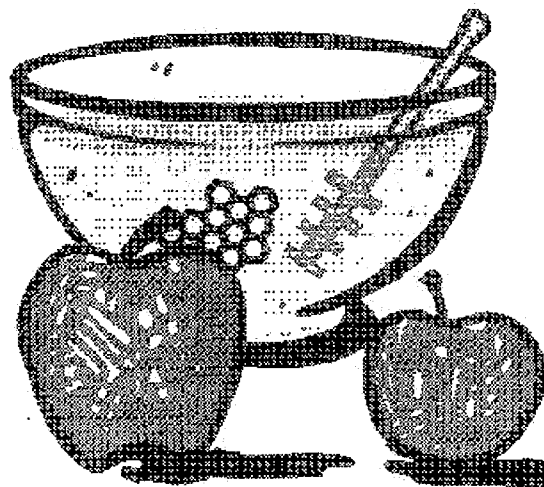
Breakfast
Tour of Jerusalem, Mount Herzl and Yad Vashem.
Lunch at Israel Museum
Afternoon free
Festive Closing Banquet-Israeli-Moroccan Style
Depart for Ben-Gurion Airport

Monday, November 3

Early a.m. departure and arrive in U.S. same morning; return to Beth El.

Shana Tova!

5764



Send New Year greetings to your friends at Beth El !

Sisterhood is making it easy for you to wish everyone at Congregation Beth El a Shana Tova, a Good Year. For an \$18 donation, your name(s) will be included on a New Year's card which will be mailed to the entire congregation in September.

Form must be received by August 25

Thank you for supporting Sisterhood by participating in this project.

I wish to be included on the New Year greeting card which will be mailed to the entire congregation in September.

Return this form by August 25 along with a check for \$18 made payable to Beth El Sisterhood.

Mail to: Beth El Sisterhood, 8215 Old Georgetown Rd., Bethesda, MD 20814

Name(s) as you wish it to appear (adults only, please)

Phone Number _____

Questions? Call Rhonda Zahler (301-320-5826) or Anita Lieb (301-762-3896)

Set the Table with Torah

by Hazzan Abraham Lubin

An introductory word: a discussion about the week's Torah portion is a good Shabbat dinner custom. Make the discussion as long or short, as simple or complicated, as your dinner crowd can handle.

July 5, 2003: Korah

The *Sidrah* reports another uprising against Moses. Earlier rebellions had broken out because of lack of water, insufficient food, and at the unfavorable report of the spies sent to scout Canaan. Now, another uprising took place, this one because of Korah's envy. Though he was of the tribe of Levi and a cousin of Moses and Aaron, Korah was jealous of their leadership of Israel. Into this revolt, Korah dragged as his supporters members of the tribe of Reuben. The Reubenites were descendants of Jacob's eldest son and therefore, believed themselves to be entitled to leadership over Israel.

Together, Korah, Dathan, and Abiram and two hundred and fifty like-minded men, challenged Moses and Aaron in their leadership. These rebels charged Moses and Aaron with taking too much power upon themselves. Moses was stunned. He had certainly shared the leadership responsibility by spreading it among seventy elders, many judges, and the tribal chiefs. Certainly the leadership responsibility which he carried was difficult and thankless. Now came this unfair challenge from Korah and his company!

Moses prayed to God that justice be done against the rebels. They were punished with death. It was, unfortunately, the only way in which the Israelites could be made to understand that Moses was truly the leader of Israel and that Aaron was legitimately the *Kohen ha-Gadol*.

Discuss the following issues:

1. What were the problems that brought on the different rebellions against Moses?
2. What argument did Korah and his rebel group use for their opposition to Moses and Aaron? (Numbers, Chapter 16:Verse 3.)
3. Was this a fair argument? Had not Moses established a government in which many men shared? (See Exodus, Chapter 18:Verses 13-26.)

July 12, 2003: Hukat-Balak

This week's Torah reading is a double portion, "Hukat" and "Balak." It is taken from the Book of Numbers. The portion of Balak is named after Balak, the King of Moab. When King Balak seizes the victory of the Israelites over the Amorites, he is alarmed. He fears that the Israelites will not be defeated in battle; therefore, Balak summons the prophet Balaam to come to Moab and place a curse on the Israelites so they can be defeated in battle.

Balaam responds that God has told him not to curse the Israelites for they are a blessed people; however, Balak is determined and God agrees for Balaam to return to Moab but Balaam must follow God's command. Upon arriving in Moab, Balaam begins to speak God's words in blessing of Israel. Balak is enraged by Balaam's blessings but the more Balak requests curses on the Israelites, the more blessings Balaam recites.

The most famous of these blessings we recite each and every morning: "Ma tovu ohalecha Ya-akov, mish-k'notecha Yisrael (How lovely are your tents O Jacob, your dwelling places O Israel).

Discuss the following issues:

1. Why might this blessing be recited upon entering the synagogue every morning?
2. Can anyone force God to do something against God's will?

July 19: Pinhas

This *Sidrah* refers to several different matters:

1. The reward of Pinhas for his quick action in putting to death Zimri, a leader in the tribe of Simeon. Zimri was involved in an act of idolatry and immorality with a Midianite woman. If a leader like Zimri could do wrong and go unpunished, there was the danger that many others might follow him. Pinhas, the grandson of Aaron decided to act and put to death the sinful Zimri. For this action Pinhas was rewarded with the High Priesthood.
2. There was the taking of a second census of the Israelites. Almost forty years had passed since the people had been counted, soon after the Exodus from Egypt. Now the new generation that had grown up in the wilderness would be entering Canaan. A military organization required men and it had to be determined how many were able to serve as a fighting force. The land would have to be divided and it was necessary to know how many people would share in the division of the country. The count showed that five of the tribes decreased in number, while seven had increased since the first census.
3. Women's right of inheritance was affirmed in their favor. The decision arose from a special case that was brought before Moses by the five daughters of Zelophehad of the tribe of Manasseh. As the census was being taken for the purpose of land division, these five women, whose father had died without leaving a son, asked for a share in the territory that would be divided on entering Canaan. Moses decided in their favor and in the favor of Israelite women in the future in order to keep property within the family. If a man left no sons but was survived by daughters, they could inherit their father's possessions rather than having it go to the nearest male relative.

Discuss the following issues:

1. Define idolatry.
2. Why did some of the Israelites turn to idolatry?

3. Why is idolatry considered a terrible wrong in Judaism?
4. Pinhas fought idolatry in his time. Did idolatry end with his battle against it?
5. Are there modern idolatries?

July 26: **Mattot-Mas'ei**

Mattot

This *Sidrah* discusses three subjects:

1. The making of vows. Men and women would take upon themselves special obligations beyond those required by the Law. It might be a promise to contribute something special to the service of God, such as providing special sacrifices. Or it might be a promise to avoid certain food or drink. Because these were considered sacred promises, or vows, a certain procedure had to be followed when a person could no longer fulfill them. Promises made were not to be treated lightly.
2. War against Midian. The Midianites had tried to corrupt the Israelites by tempting them to worship their pagan god, Baal-Peor. Twelve thousand Israelite soldiers, one thousand from each tribe, were led into battle by Pinhas. They defeated the Midianite enemy.
3. Tribes remaining east of the Jordan River. Having arrived in the territory east of the Jordan, two tribes, Reuben and Gad, together with one-half of the tribe of Manasseh, requested of Moses that they be permitted to settle there. Moses criticized the two and one-half tribes. Did they plan to separate themselves from the rest of Israel who would be settling on the west side of the Jordan River, in Canaan? The leaders of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh assured Moses that they were fully loyal and that they would share in every responsibility of Israel.

Discuss the following issues:

1. Why would people take vows upon themselves?
2. Why would a special procedure have to be arranged to dissolve vows?
3. Discuss the terms: "promise," "keeping word." Are these important in human relationships? Why?
4. What happens when promises made by people in governments are broken?

Mas'ei

The *Sidrah* reports on the wanderings of Israel from the time that they left Egypt to the time they reached the borders of Canaan. Forty encampment places are named – beginning with Rameses in Egypt and ending with the Plains of Moab by the Jordan River at Jericho. Soon they would be entering the land promised them by God. Moses warns Israel that, when they settle in Canaan, they must destroy all of the pagan temples of the Canaanites. Israel must take no part in the Canaanite idol worship. If Israel failed to comply with this command they would run into great trouble.

The *Sidrah* gives a detailed description of what were to be the boundaries of the Land of Israel. Moses appointed ten Israelite leaders, under the supervision of Eleazar and Joshua, to deal with the distribution of land among the tribes. The tribe of Levi, whose members were to serve as the religious teachers of the Israelites, was to be distributed among special residential cities, with land attached to each, spread among the territories of the other tribes. There were to be about forty-eight of these Levitical cities.

The *Sidrah* reports on cities of refuge, of which there were to be six, in various parts of the land. Should a man kill another by accident, he could seek refuge in these specially assigned cities from those who might want revenge. In these cities a man was safe until his case could be tried.

The *Sidrah* and the Book of Numbers ends with laws concerning the inheritance of property by women.

Discuss the following issues:

1. Why was there need for special cities of refuge?
2. How long was a person permitted refuge?
3. What do we mean by "a fair trial?"

Recruitment Begins For Atid Leadership Development Program

A congregational mailing sent out in mid-June announced the beginning of our exciting new leadership development program, which has been created in response to the Atid Committee's recommendations. Beth El is recruiting 20-25 congregants to participate in the Atid Leadership Development Program, which will start in November 2003. The program will feature a faculty of nationally recognized scholars in the areas of Jewish communal leadership and synagogue transformation.

The program is designed for members with leadership potential, members who have already volunteered in Beth El activities, or past/current Beth El leaders who plan to continue in leadership positions.

The following commitments are required of all participants:

1. A commitment to attend all eight sessions;
2. A commitment to take an active leadership position at Beth El after completing the program and mentor future participants; and
3. A \$100 fee to help offset program costs.

If you are interested in participating in this cutting-edge leadership development program, please review the full program description (including session dates) and complete an application, both of which can be found on Beth El's website at www.bethelmc.org or picked up at the office. Applications are due by July 10.

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.

July 6 – July 10

Julia Copperman
Miriam Crowell
Stephen and Pamela Crystal
Michael Cutler and Dale Rosenthal
Jerome and Patricia Danoff
David and Ellen Darr
Morton and Lillian Davis
William and Mindy Davis
Ralph and Vera Deckelbaum
James and Leslie Dellon
Martin Dembo
Howard and Babette Denis
Lee and Gloria Derkay
David Deutsch and Deborah Auerbach-Deutsch
Paul Devinsky
Michael Diamond and Barbara Mittleman
Elliott and Phyllis Dickler
Ross and Leane Dicker
Ariel and Mati Dinar
Faye Doberman

July 20 – July 24

Isabel Einzig
Allen Eisenberg and Constance Stromberg
David and Barbara Eisenstein
David and Merry Eisenstadt
Harry and Rhonda Eisenstein
Larry and Diana Eisenstat
Lawrence and Laura Eisen
Norton and Sandy Elson
Eugene and Eleanor Elzufon
Jeanne Ende
Eric and Jessica Enig
Burton and Diane Epstein
Norman and Ellen Eule
William and Elaine Fairweather
Robert and June Falb
David and Eve Farber
Benjamin and Joyce Fassberg
Howard and Susan Feibus
Jonathan and Karen Feibus
Kenneth and Carolyn Feigenbaum

July 13 – July 17

Alan and Jane Dorfman
Jonathan and Cynthia Dorfman
Stanley Doroff
Richard and Elizabeth Drachman
Craig Dreilinger and Amanda Ford
Mary Dubrow
Jonina Duker and Alan Lichtman
David Dunn and Tamara Dunietz
Mitchell and Heidi Dupler
Gale Dutcher
Lee and Donna Dymond
Steven and Marilyn Ebbin
William and Abbie Eckland
Michael and Laurie Edberg
Robert and Sandra Edenbaum
Frances Edlitz
Jack Edlow
Herman Eig
Eugene and Paula Einhorn
Jill Einstein

July 27 – July 31

Kenneth and Diane Feinberg
Michael Feinstein and Melissa Kahn
Cary and Nancy Feldman
Elliot and Lily Feldman
Lloyd and Ninetta Feldman
Eleanor Feldbaum
Shirley Feldman
Robert Fersh and Sharon Markus
Thera Finbloom
Leesa Fine
Bernice Finkelstein
Michael and Deborah Fink
Ira and Sheryl Fishman
Michael and Irene Fishman
Samuel and Tamar Fishman
Roselyn Fleisher
Lawrence Fluger and Linda Fassberg
Samuel Forstein and Faye Ehrenstamm
Murray and Anne Foss
Albert and Evelyn Fox

Baruch Dayan Emet

Congregation Beth El offers its sincere condolences to **Fran Leibowitz** on the death of her brother, **Rudolph Hindin**; to **Gertrude Weker** on the death of her husband, **Simon Weker**; to the **Roistacher family** on the death of **Edna Roistacher**; to **Ace Lipson** on the death of his father, **Julius Lipson**; and to the **Gordon Family** on the deaths of **Helen and Nathan Gordon**.

Beth El Worship and Study Minyan

The Beth El Worship and Study Minyan will meet on Saturday, July 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, MLevitt@Nelliscorp.com, for more information.

Minyan Chaverim

Minyan Chaverim meets on the third Shabbat of each month and will meet next on Saturday, July 19, 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 **Caren and Michael Ravitch** for sponsoring the Nitzanim Kiddush on June 28 in honor of the first birthday of their son **Jake**.

Enthusiastic About Beth El?

The Membership Committee is looking for new people to help Beth El grow. If interested contact Sharon Zissman. 301-675-9083 or sdzissman@aol.com

Tuning in with Hazzan Lubin (continued from page 1)

I can dream, can't I? My children have always told me that I am the eternal optimist. Well, the Jewish people have always had a dream, a prayer and a hope. Perhaps that is why we are still around despite the ravages and tragedies of history that have been inflicted upon us. It is not an accident that *Hatikvah* – "the Hope" is Israel's national anthem.

All in the Family

Mazal Tov to **Gary Halperin**, son of **Ina Young**, who has just published his first book, entitled *Feel Better Now....Meditation for Stress Reduction and Relaxation*.

Mazal Tov to **Rene and Meyer Zitter** on the birth of their granddaughter, **Sara Nicole Unger**, on May 19, 2003. Parents are **Lee and Lis Unger**.

Mazal Tov to **Fran Leibowitz** on the birth of her great-grandson, **Samuel Jordan Scullion**, on June 3, 2003. Grandmother is **Linda Leibowitz Schwarz** and parents are **Jessica and Jeff Scullion**.

Mazal Tov to **Judith Newman** on attending her 65th Class Reunion, Class of '38 at Cornell University.

The Sisterhood Judaica Shop

will be open during the summer on Thursdays from 9:00 a.m to noon or by appointment.

Call Marcia Kalman at 301-897-8572

Summer Shabbat Morning Family and Youth Services at Congregation Beth El

Service Name	Applicable Ages	Room	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	Board Room	10:30-11:30 am 1st, 3rd Shabbat	Rachelle Solkowitz, Sarah Roark

Nitzanim and Gan Shabbat meet year-round. Junior Congregation and Shitufim Minyan will resume in the fall.

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

Shalom from the Youth Department

This will probably be my shortest article for the year, since we are at low tide right now, so to speak. All the kids are either away at camp, on trips, working or relaxing. Hopefully, all their parents are relaxing too! We are in the midst of planning an especially exciting year of activities and programs for all ages beginning in September. There are a few bits of specific business that I would like to share with you now.

First, our kickoff event is scheduled for Sunday, September 7. Time and location are not definite yet, but by the next *Scroll*, I will have more information. Second, I am very excited to announce the addition of **Gabi Gershowitz** to our youth staff in the capacity of Kadima advisor. He grew up in Des Moines, IA, is now a college student at GW and has worked as a Kadima advisor before and has an extensive background in Jewish youth activities. I am very excited to have him on board and the middle schoolers will have a great time with him leading the way.

There are many more plans in the works and there will be more information forthcoming over the summer months. I would like to congratulate our new USY executive board for the coming school year:

Co-presidents: Ben Friedmann and Elana Lipman

Executive Vice-President: Rebecca Kaplan

Religious Education VP- Marc Rudolph

Social Actions/Tikun Olam VP- Stephanie Postar

Membership/Kadima VP- Lauren Flugel

Israel Affairs VP- Michael Prada

Tikshoret/Communications Committee- Eric Weissman and Rebecca Teitelbaum, Amanda Rudman and Aviva Birnkrant

Freshman Representative- Lila Rosenbloom

Our Kadima group is also fortunate to have several rising eighth graders at its helm. Leading the charge is Brandon Golden, ably assisted by Dana Bleiberg and Katie Friedman. I encourage any incoming 6th and 7th graders who would like to be a part of Kadima's planning to contact me and to get involved—nothing better than you planning your own events!

In the meantime, I wish all of you safe travels should you be traveling this summer, and hope you all have a great time wherever you go. My family and I will be traveling to Alaska during July, so I expect to have some exciting stories to tell myself! Have a great rest and enjoy the break!

L'hitra'ot,

Sheldon

What Was That Big Map at the Back of the Sanctuary?

Midweek third through seventh grade Religious School held culminating activities at the end of May. Events centered on Israel and how it is at the core of every other

topic in the curriculum. The twenty foot by thirty foot Attractive Land Map of Israel was rented from the Board of Jewish Education. Younger participants found cities on the maps that were the sites of Biblical events. Older students taped on a green line and discussed the implications of the Roadmap for Peace.



A Heartening Social Action Effort

by Sarah Roark

For the second year, seventh grade Religious School students concluded their studies with a hands-on social action project. They acted out their understanding of the mitzvah of doing *gemilut hassadim* (acts of loving kindness). Many generous families donated clothes, toiletries, and toys for "Take Away Bags." The bags are given to children who are being taken into emergency foster care, because they are fleeing abusive home situations. Such situations frequently require children to leave all of their personal belongings behind. The last Sunday of class time was devoted to sorting the donations and packing the bags with itemized content lists. Many of the donations were packed in duffles provided by the Parver family from those left after Stephanie's bat mitzvah. The effort resulted in a minivan full of donations transported to the Mayor's office by seventh grade parents, Sani Barr and Debbie Gottlieb. Sani and Debbie were accompanied by their daughters, Isabel and Maya, as well as Leah Askarinam. All three girls went above and beyond the class time to ensure that the project was done right. Bags are being