



Scroll

CONGREGATION BETH EL

Message from Rabbi Harris



As I was sitting on the airplane returning to BWI, my head was filled with new ideas, I was exhausted, and I could not wait to get back to Beth El. I was returning from spending the previous four days as part of the first PEER (Professional Education for Excellence in Rabbis) class. I am proud to share that I have been selected to participate in this innovative year-long program focused on refining my skills in organizational management and spiritual leadership.

Nineteen rabbis have been selected from around the country and across movements (Conservative, Reform, and Orthodox) to participate in this exciting program. This unique program is specifically designed for rabbis 2-5 years out of seminary as we begin our careers in congregational settings. The intent is to complement our seminary training with the necessary skills required in synagogue life. To do this, the PEER program includes two intensive retreats

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Shabbat Services and B'nai Mitzvah

Friday, December 12

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service – APR

Saturday, December 13

Vayishlah: Genesis 32:4-36:43

7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services

9:15 am Benjamin Judson Bar Mitzvah

9:15 am Corey Goldstone Bar Mitzvah

10:00 am Jr. Congregation – BR

10:00 am Learner's Minyan – MR

10:30 am Nitzanim – APR

4:00 pm Mincha, Seudah Shlishit,
Maariv, Havdalah – APR

Friday, December 19

Erev Hanukkah

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service – APR

Saturday, December 20

1st Day Hanukkah

Vayeishev: Genesis 37:1-40:23

7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services

9:15 am David Jackson Bar Mitzvah

10:00 am Minyan Chaverim – APR

10:00 am Jr. Congregation – BR

10:00 am Gan Shabbat – MR

11:00 am Shitufim – Rm. 209

Sunday, December 21

2nd Day Hanukkah

10:00 am Joshua Cohen Bar Mitzvah

Friday, December 26

7th Day Hanukkah

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service – APR

Saturday, December 27

8th Day Hanukkah

Miketz: Genesis 41:1-44:17

7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services

10:00 am Jr. Congregation – BR

10:30 am Nitzanim – APR

Friday, January 2

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service – BR

Saturday, January 3

Vayiggash: Genesis 44:18-47:27

7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services

9:15 am Sarah Krame Bat Mitzvah

9:50 am Worship & Study Minyan – APR

10:00 am Jr. Congregation – BR

10:30 am Gan Shabbat – MR

Important Meeting for Parents of 2005 B'nai Mitzvah

Parents of children who will become B'nai Mitzvah in 2005 should plan to attend the meeting on Sunday, January 11, 2004 at 11:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Sisterhood News

Thanks to All for a Great Sisterhood Membership Dinner

On Thursday, October 30 about 160 members of Beth El Sisterhood got together for a terrific evening of fun and food and a celebration of the good works of **Janice Liebowitz**. Janice was our Torah Fund Award winner this year and we were all delighted to honor her many volunteer activities in Beth El's Social Action Committee, initiation of Sisterhood's Caring Committee and the delivery of Shabbat dinners for Sisterhood families experiencing loss, and many, many other activities.

The theme of the dinner was a celebration of our new cookbook, *Dor Va'Dor*. **Dorothy Beverly**, **Margaret Smith**, and **Charlene Brock** cooked a lovely and delicious dinner using recipes from the cookbook. We would also like to thank **Gertrude Weker** who helped us welcome new Sisterhood members with kind words and an inscribed prayerbook. Thanks also to **Esther Wilner**, **Joan Simon**, **Amanda Ford**, **Laurie Webber**, **Judy Spector**, **Judy Newman**, and **Barbara Eisenstein** for cooking and helping us set up the centerpieces. More thanks go to **Hattie Goodman** for copying and folding our program and menu, **Karen Lipkind** for a very uplifting D'var Torah, **Pat Danoff** and **Leslie Dellon** for all of their help and support, and our cookbook pros **Barbara Klein**, **Tutti Sokol**, **Rachelle Solkowitz**, and **Sara Greenbaum** for providing us with such a wonderful product to celebrate. Thanks as always to **Rabbi Rudolph**, **Cantor Lubin**, and **Rabbi Harris** for their thoughtful words and kind support. A good time was had by all!

Adeen Postar and Gale Dutcher

Beth El Beats the Bug

On November 2, Sisterhood and Adventist HealthCare sponsored the fifth annual flu shot clinic for members of the congregation and the community. We administered 130 shots to seniors and at-risk and healthy individuals. Nobody was turned away and there was almost no waiting line throughout the morning. Sisterhood would like to thank **Sue Heitmuller** and **Lisa Koshute** and their nursing staff at Adventist HealthCare Community Health Partnering Program for bringing the clinic to Beth El. We would also like to express our appreciation to **Pat Danoff** for making all the arrangements and to the following Sisterhood members for helping with paperwork and crowd control to ensure that many of us beat the flu bug and that the morning was almost painless for everyone: **Leslie Dellon**, **Gale Dutcher**, **Barbara Eisenstein**, **Amanda Ford**, **Emily Goldman**, **Judy Goldman**, **Marilyn Hammerman**, **Susan King**, **Debbie**

Leibowitz, **Helen Popper**, **Adeen Postar**, **Nancy Rosenthal**, **Gail Ross**, **Fran Rubin**, and **Esther Wilner**. Kol Ha'kavod.

Sisterhood Judaica Shop

Sisterhood Judaica Shop is open Sundays 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and Wednesdays and Thursdays 9 a.m.-Noon. Compare our prices. And you pay no sales tax. In keeping with Rabbi Rudolph's sermon about Hachnassat Orchim, when you are invited for dinner, why not buy a gift from Israel from the Judaica Shop? For information, to make an appointment, or to place a special order, call Marcia Kalman at 301-897-8572.

Invitation and Stationery Sales

Need invitations, stationery, or kippot? Contact Marilyn Hammerman at 301-881-0011, mhammerman@aol.com. She has over 20 years experience in providing Beth El members with Bar/Bat Mitzvah, wedding, and party invitations, as well as stationery and kippot. Marilyn has an extensive collection of sample books to look through and she will match the price of all competitors. Sisterhood receives 100% of the profits. Call Marilyn Hammerman today for great selection and great prices on invitations, stationery, kippot, and other things for your special simcha.

SISTERHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Zen of Mental Health Repair and Maintenance

Reduce Your Stress —
Improve Your Health with Yoga

Esther Geiger, Long Time Yoga Instructor at Unity Woods Yoga Center, the Area's Largest Professional Yoga Studio

Dress for light exercise

January 25, 2004, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Baruch Dayan Emet

Congregation Beth El offers its sincere condolences to **Frances Glovinsky** on the death of her sister, **Gertrude Gerber**; to **Jeff Annis** on the death of his father, **Herbert Annis**; and to **Dean Plotnick** on the death of his mother, **Sara Plotnick**.

Message from Rabbi Harris *continued*

in which we study successful models of congregational life, rabbinic leadership, and nonprofit management. I will also be taking on-line courses taught by experts on organizational dynamics and web-based meetings to explore contemporary trends and their impact on Jewish life. This unique program is generously funded by the Lynn and Charles Schusterman Foundation.

It was inspiring to be surrounded by the energy, excitement, and passion of my colleagues. From the study sessions led by top faculty to the late night discussions sharing our experiences of beginning our rabbinates, I know I will grow both professionally and personally from the PEER program.

I want to thank Rabbi Rudolph and Brent Berger for their support of my involvement in this program and I look forward to sharing my experiences with you as the year progresses.

Men's Club

Men's Club will be having a fairly full calendar during the coming weeks. Our program schedule is as follows:

December 11, Hearing Men's Voices: continuing Men's discussion group looking at challenges that all men face in life, family, and religion. Discussions are led by different people each month, at 8:15 p.m. (after minyan) in the All Purpose Room.

December 13 - Monthly Men's Club-led Saturday evening Mincha, Seudah Shlishit, Maariv, and Havdalah at 4:00 p.m.

Sunday Mornings: Programs begin at 10:00 a.m., preceded by Minyan at 9:00 a.m. and breakfast at 9:30 a.m.

December 14 - 1st Perspectives in Dialogue program, Debbie Yow, University of Maryland, Director of Athletic Programs

December 21 - Hanukkah Service, D'var Torah on Hanukkah, Speaker to be announced

December 28 - Speaker to be announced

January 4 - Fast day, services but no breakfast or program.

Message from the President

Beth El is abuzz with activity these days, and with less space available due to construction, the opportunities to greet one another are increased. This has helped facilitate observance of the mitzvah of hachnassat orchim, welcoming the stranger, which we are emphasizing this year, and one that I believe we have been doing particularly well. Many Shabbat visitors have remarked to me, unsolicited, about how warmly they have been greeted at Beth El. Rabbi Harris has fostered a welcoming environment by asking people attending evening minyan to introduce themselves following the service. At the October Board meeting, Board members were requested to invite new members to their homes for Shabbat dinner. All of us have a stake in creating a warm community for both visitors and members alike.

In any large community like Beth El, members often find a smaller, more familiar niche within the larger whole. Havurot, minyanim, auxiliaries, classes, and other shared experiences such as trips to Israel, Family Camp, and the softball team provide opportunities to connect in a more intimate way. We hope to create even more groups in the future for those not as well-connected. It is my hope that when congregation-wide events take place, such as our terrific Mitzvah Day or the Salute to Israel Weekend on December 5-7, we will experience increased ruach and cohesiveness as we share participation with those whom we know and meet others who are not yet familiar to us. And speaking of these events, a special thank you to **Janice Liebowitz**, all the project leaders and everyone who participated in this year's Mitzvah Day, and to **Debbie Fink** and her committee members for a spectacular Israel weekend.

On a different note, one of our warmest Beth El members, **Judy Sherman**, has decided to step down from her position as Vice President for Administration to spend more time with her family. Following the Executive Committee's recommendation, the Board unanimously selected **Joel Simon** to serve the remainder of Judy's term and **David Margulies** was selected as a new trustee to complete Joel's term as trustee. We thank Judy for her many wonderful contributions to Beth El and look forward to benefiting from her leadership in the future.

B'shalom, Brent

BETH EL SCROLL

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Splinters from the Board Tuesday, October 28, 2003

By Tami Simon

D'var Torah. In keeping with his High Holiday sermon, **Rabbi Rudolph** discussed "hospitality" (hachnassat orchim) with the Board. He brought biblical text for us to study and we learned the following lessons: (1) Hospitality must be active; we should make an enthusiastic and proactive effort to be hospitable. (2) People may be reluctant to accept your hospitable invitation, but you should insist on delivering the invitation; not only will the recipient of the invitation benefit, but you will also benefit from meeting new members of your Jewish community; and (3) Reach out to people you don't know. No one will be a stranger if new faces are always welcomed into our community and homes. A large shul needs to make an extra effort in this regard.

President's Report. **Brent Berger** reported that there was a successful meeting with many of Beth El's neighbors recently to discuss the construction project. Please avoid blocking neighbors' driveways.

Announcements. Beth El Salutes Israel Program. From Friday evening, December 5 through Sunday morning, December 7, several events will take place at Beth El celebrating Israel. This is not a fundraiser, it is a spirit raising weekend for the whole family.

From Men's Club: **Rabbi Scolnic** is Beth El's Blue Yarmulke Man of the Year. The celebration to commemorate this honor will be held on Sunday, January 18, 2004 at Ohr Kodesh.

Construction Update. **Bert King** and **Don Silverstein** reported that the bank's appraisal of the shul property was completed recently (the loan is limited to 80% of the appraisal). As we can all see, construction progress is being made. However, until the beginning of the calendar year, we won't see much erected in the construction space because they will be digging, moving the dirt, and laying a foundation. Steel is scheduled to be placed sometime in January. Demolition of the chapel wing has begun and the asbestos was removed and we've received a clean bill of health.

Uniwest Contract. **Joel Simon** reported on the progress of the Uniwest contract. As background, on June 24, 2003, the Board approved a series of resolutions. In particular, it approved a resolution to hire Uniwest as the general contractor and for the president of the congregation to sign a contract with Uniwest providing for the payment to Uniwest not to exceed \$7.5 million. The resolution also authorized the president to make necessary changes to the

contract, as appropriate. The first issue before the Board was to increase the maximum price by about half a million dollars. The Construction Committee now has a better idea of what the amount will be based on input from multiple subcontractors and others affiliated with the construction process. The final number should be closer to \$7.9 million. Thus, **Joel Simon** moved to amend the resolution adopted by the Board on June 24, 2003 to increase the amount of the guaranteed contact amount from \$7.5 to \$7.95 million. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Bank Loan. **Joel Simon** reported that the bank loan has not yet been finalized. The aggregate loan is divided into three phases (divided up along with the construction phases). The loan commitment letter was recently signed by Brent Berger. **Joel Simon** made a second motion ratifying the loan commitment letter. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Center for Ritual. **Rachelle Solkowitz** summarized that the Worship Committee is off and running. They are working on the idea of expanding the Chevra Kadisha for mourners. They are also addressing the idea of putting up an eruv in Bethesda (perhaps including some of the hotels). The committee is also thinking about making services accessible over the internet or phone for populations that can't make it to shul.

Center for Community Building. **Phyllis Solomon** explained that a progressive dinner is currently being planned (and will use recipes from the Sisterhood cookbook) for March 27, 2004. An empty nester havurah will be organized in addition to other inreach programs.

Financial Report. **Sheila Bellack** reported that membership is currently at 921 units. Beth El budgeted for 910 this year. School registration is currently 393. All other numbers are basically on target with the Beth El budget. We are about \$133,000 ahead of where we were at September 30 last year.

Center for Education and Life Long Learning. **Leesa Fields** reported that the Religious School committee is currently analyzing the 2 day vs. 3 day religious school program. A committee was created to specifically address this issue. Parents will receive letters addressing the program concerns, information will be included in the *Scroll*, and a survey will be distributed regarding the status of the religious school. In addition, town hall meetings will be held. The information collected from the survey and meetings, in addition to the Religious School Task Force committee report, will culminate into a final report and recommendations to the Board.

**The Mitzvah Mall
will be open for donations
this year from**

December 1 through December 21

The Mitzvah Mall is your one-stop shopping place for Hanukkah, Bar Mitzvah, Birthdays, Anniversaries, and they make great teacher gifts!!



All you do is choose an organization and decide the amount you would like to donate. The Mitzvah Mall personal shoppers will then let you know what your donation can "buy."

Send a donation of \$5, \$10, \$20, or \$25.
Designate one of the following charities:

- Bethesda Cares
- Capital Area Food Banks
- Interfaith Clothing Center
- Magen David Adom
- Shepherd's Table
- Whitman Walker Clinic

You will receive a lovely gift card telling what your donation purchased for you to present as a gift or let us send it for you. You can visit the Mitzvah Mall in the rotunda on Sundays until December 21 or send in your check payable to Congregation Beth El to the synagogue office to the attention of Sarah Roark. Your tax-deductible donation will appear as Social Action Fund on your synagogue year-end tax summary. If you have questions, contact Sarah Roark at sroark@bethelmc.org or 301-652-8569, x319.



Welcome to the Mitzvah Mall

Donor's Name _____

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

_____ We do not need a gift card sent for this donation, simply acknowledge it on our tax summary.

_____ Address (or Religious School backpack) to which gift cards should be sent:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Check the organization(s) to which you would like your donations sent and designate the amount (\$5, \$10, \$20, \$25):

_____ Bethesda Cares \$ _____

(provides for the needs of the homeless in Bethesda)

_____ Capital Area Food Bank \$ _____

(distributes millions of pounds of food to the hungry in Washington)

_____ Interfaith Clothing Center \$ _____

(provides clothing, school supplies, and infant supplies to needy families in Montgomery County)

_____ Magen David Adom \$ _____

(makes blood drives and ambulances possible in Israel)

_____ Shepherd's Table \$ _____

(provides food, health care, and information to needy people in our area)

_____ Whitman Walker Clinic \$ _____

(educates about AIDS and assists those suffering from the disease)

Please make checks payable to Congregation Beth El. Your tax-deductible donation will appear as *Social Action Fund* on your synagogue tax statement.

Return this form to the school office or mail to:

Sarah Roark

Congregation Beth El

8215 Old Georgetown Road

Bethesda, MD 20814

Set the Table with Torah

By Sarah Roark

December 13: Vayishlah

In Biblical study one looks for repetitive themes, compares verses that are juxtaposed, and searches for explanations of apparent discrepancies. Throughout the book of Genesis recurrent themes act as threads that weave the stories together. In Vayishlah, we find two brothers, Jacob and Esau, who are reunited late in life. Previously their father, Isaac, was reunited with his brother, Ishmael, who was ousted from the family camp by his stepmother Sarah, and Joseph will later be reunited in Egypt with the brothers who threw him in the pit. What does this theme tell us about the intensity of our relationship with our siblings?

The meeting between Jacob and Esau is told in great detail. Jacob's feelings about it, his preparations for it, the prayer he prays to God, the presents he brings for his brother, and the encounter he has the night before are all outlined in two whole chapters. Compare this to the mere three verses towards the end of the portion (35:27-29) where we are told that Jacob comes to see his 108-year-old father, Isaac, in Hebron before his death. What must that meeting have been like?

Two other interesting verses to compare are 32:4 and 36:6-8. The first says that Jacob sent his messengers to Seir to meet his brother, which makes one assume that Esau lived in Seir, in Edom, when Jacob returned, and yet, the second section says that Esau moved to Seir because Jacob returned and the land was not enough to support them both. How can both of these things be true? Could they be different people's versions of the truth? Add to the mix verses 35:10-11 in which God blesses Jacob with the name Israel and promises him the land as he has done in the past with his father and grandfather. Whose claim to the land is legitimate? Was the decision to leave mutual and amicable or did Esau resentfully tell his descendants that Jacob kicked him out? How does your interpretation of these verses inform your understanding of conflicting beliefs held by Israelis and Palestinians?

December 20: Vayeishev

Vayeishev relates the well-known story of Joseph who tattles on his brothers, receives a jealousy-provoking gift of a coat from his father, and tells about his dreams of his siblings and parents as wheat sheaves and celestial bodies bowing down to him. His brothers respond by first throwing him in a pit. They change their minds when Judah suggests they sell Joseph to some passing Ishmaelites who take him to Egypt and sell him to Potiphar. Is Judah to be praised for "saving" him by suggesting that Joseph be sold rather than killed? What does this saying mean: "Some are guilty, but all are responsible." How does it relate to the conduct of Joseph's brothers? How does the phrase relate to the concept of communal confession in Judaism?

The brothers tell Jacob his son is dead and bring him the cloak stained with goat's blood as proof. And then, curiously, perhaps to indicate the passage of time, the narrative of Joseph's life is interrupted by a story about Judah. Judah marries Shua and they have three sons. Midrash states that Judah, who was responsible for Jacob losing his son, will know the pain of a parent losing a child. The first son marries Tamar, they fail to have children, and he dies. The second son must therefore marry the childless widow of his older brother, but Onan intentionally fails to impregnate her, and then he dies. Judah sends Tamar back to live with her father to wait until the third son is old enough to marry her. Tamar goes to live with her father, but Shelah comes of age and Judah does not send for her. So she tricks Judah into sleeping with her and has twin sons, Zerach and Peretz, by him. Peretz is ten generations separated from David. By accepting responsibility for the twins, Judah proves that he is now maturely capable of accepting responsibility for his actions. At the end of the next parasha, he takes responsibility for all his brothers in front of the Egyptian, who he does not know is his brother Joseph.

The theme of deceit runs throughout. Rebekah and Jacob deceive Isaac, Laban and Leah deceive Jacob, Shimon and Levi deceive Shechem, the brothers deceive Jacob, Tamar deceives Judah, Potiphar's wife deceives Potiphar, Joseph deceives his brothers – have I left anyone out? Do you agree or disagree with this statement, "The Torah seems to see the matter of deceit as expedient and acceptable as long as the end result is the way things should be. For example, Tamar is not condemned for her part in the deception, and in fact she is rewarded with not one boy, but twin boys, and the lineage of King David." (from *The Women's Torah Commentary*, edited by Elyse Goldstein)

December 27: Miketz

Due to his gift for interpreting dreams, Joseph is promoted from convict to second-in-command. He marries Asnat. They have two sons, Menashe and Ephraim. (It's all connected...Interestingly, Rabbinic legend identifies Asnat as the daughter born to Dinah after the rape by Shechem and also the adopted daughter of Potiphar who "gave" her to Joseph after he realized Joseph was innocent of the crime for which he had been thrown in jail.)

Jacob sends his sons to Egypt for food. The brothers come to Joseph, who does not reveal that he recognizes them and sends them back to get Benjamin. Jacob is reluctant to send Benjamin but is eventually convinced of the necessity. The brothers return and feast with Joseph, still unaware of his identity. When he lets them go, he plants a goblet in Benjamin's bag, then overtakes them and says whoever has the goblet must stay and be my slave. Here Judah takes responsibility even though the cup was not in his bag.



Yom Hadash Musical Weekend

Congregation Beth El of Montgomery County
8215 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD 20814

December 12-14, 2003

Yom Hadash is the Nelson brothers' three piece contemporary band that fuses world music, pop, rock, and r & b influences with traditional Jewish melodies and ideals

Friday, December 12

Yom Hadash will lead an upbeat Friday Night Service combining traditional and contemporary melodies (without instruments) Service time 7:00-7:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary.
(This service will be in place of the Family Friendly Friday Night Service.)
Followed by dessert oneg.

ALL AGES



Saturday, December 13 (morning)

Yom Hadash will lead a Shabbat morning combined *Nitzanim* and *Gan Shabbat* service 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the All Purpose Room.

This service is for families with children in second grade and younger.

Sunday, December 14

Nelsongs, the Nelson brothers' rockin' kids' revue will have two shows at 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington 6125 Montrose Road, Rockville, MD 20852.

\$5.00 tickets available at the door.

These performances will be for young children and their families.

They will coincide with the JCC Chanukah Festival.

Saturday, December 13 (evening)

Teen Concert Splash! 7:30-10:30 p.m.
Concert Performance by Yom Hadash
Followed by free time in the pool and/or teen center
\$10.00 tickets available at the door.

at Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington

This regional event is open to Beth El students in grades 8-12.

TEENS



**FAMILIES
WITH YOUNG
CHILDREN**

Evening Minyan

The following people are asked to help us with our daily Evening Minyan for the next three weeks. On Sunday through Thursday, the Minyan begins at 8 p.m. and concludes at 8:15 p.m. During the week of your assignment, we would appreciate your attending as many evenings as possible so that those who are saying Kaddish will have a Minyan they can attend at Beth El.

December 14 – December 18

Stephen and Joyce Oliner
 Mark Ordan
 Alan and Linda Orenstein
 Gary and Robin Orseck
 Aaron and Elizabeth Oser
 Doris Oshinsky
 Max Osias
 Lucy Ozarin
 Mark and Rina Palchick
 James Papirmeister and Sherry Dauerman
 Raymond Paretzky and Karen Zacharia
 Alan and Sharon Parver
 Irving and Hamaline Peltz
 David and Janet Perim
 George and Elaine Perlman
 Willa Perlmutter
 Irwin and Carol Pernick
 Andrew and Sally Pessin
 Jerry Pfeffer and Andrea Casson
 Dean Plotnick and Bev Dankowitz

December 21 – December 25

Harold and Avril Plotnek
 Mark and Teresa Plotkin
 Milton Pochter
 Michael Polis and Rhoda Barish
 Mark Pollak and Janet Meyers
 Richard and Sandra Pollen
 Adam and Meredith Polsky
 Joel and Betsy Popkin
 Arthur and Helen Popper
 Aryeh and Alison Portnoy
 Gregory and Lucy Portnoy
 Jill Posin
 Robert and Linda Posilkin
 Michael and Adeen Postar
 Albert and Doris Povich
 Alexander and Jennifer Powers
 Theodore Press
 Barry Pupkin and Barbara Klein
 Mannie and Harriet Rabin

December 28 – January 1

Marco and Edith Rabinovitz
 Shirley Racusin
 Judd and Joy Rafey
 David Raim and Leslie Shedlin
 Mark and Jodie Rasch
 Howard and Anita Ratain
 Michael and Caren Ravitch
 Sanford and Shelley Reback
 Herman Rebhan
 Neil and Julie Mendel Reinhard
 Harvey Resnik
 Kerry and Carol Reynolds
 Louis and Helen Rib
 David Richman
 Lenore Richter
 Basil and Margaret Rifkind
 David and Andrea Rifkind
 Marilyn Ripin
 Susan Rittenberg
 David and Sarah Roark

Nitzanim

Nitzanim wishes all of Beth El a very happy Hanukkah and hopes that everyone will enjoy the Festival of Lights. Please join Nitzanim at **Yom Hadash Musical Weekend** on December 12-14. Check out the flyer in the lucite holder or the article in this edition of the *Scroll*.

Our next event is a Tu B'Shevat Seder and Dinner at Beth El on February 1 at 4 p.m. Please contact Bucky Jacobson if you wish to chair this event.

Please remember to join with your children in celebrating the wonder of Shabbat by singing our songs, reading our prayers, and sitting with your kids while our wonderful leaders teach our children the Shabbat Service. If you wish to sponsor a Nitzanim kiddush or event, please contact Bucky Jacobson at 301-320-2739 or rodgerjacobson@att.net.

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, Rodger Jacobson - Pres.
Gan Shabbat	kindergarten-2nd grade	Meeting Room	10:30-11:30 am 1st, 3rd Shabbat	Rachelle Solkowitz, Sarah Roark
Shitufim	3rd & 4th grades	Room 209	11:00 am-Noon 1st, 3rd Shabbat	Anita Lieb, Nora Levy
Jr. Congregation	5th grade and up	BR	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, January 3, 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, December 20, 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 301-767-1178 or debbie_feinstein@yahoo.com.

Learners' Minyan

Rabbi Harris leads this monthly minyan focused on learning the how's and why's of the Shabbat Service. Each month focuses on a different part of the service. It is highly participatory and discussion oriented. All are welcome. The next service is Saturday, December 13, at 10:00 a.m. in the Meeting Room. Contact Rabbi Harris if you have questions about the Learners' Minyan.

Mitzvah Day Thank You

Many thanks to everyone who shared their time and talents to make our seventh annual Mitzvah Day a rich and rewarding success. With the participation of numerous congregants, Sisterhood, and Religious School teachers and students and with cooperative weather, Beth El volunteers accomplished the following:

- planted 400 daffodil bulbs at Glen Echo Park
- made over 200 breast cancer awareness pink ribbon pins for distribution at mammography clinics in Montgomery County
- assembled 100 mailbox treats for residents of Children's Inn at NIH
- collected, sorted, and delivered several carloads of clothing, household goods, and toys for the Interfaith Clothing Center
- prepared dinner and desserts to serve over 250 clients at Shepherd's Table and Sophia House
- helped children at Greentree Shelter create their own

family photo album

- decorated over 200 cards and bookmarks to be used in gift baskets for children and adults with cancer
- accompanied 12 dogs and one guinea pig to visit residents living at Jewish Foundation for Group Homes
- gleaned approximately 3,600 apples that will be distributed to local soup kitchens and shelters
- raked countless leaves in the Beth El neighborhood and raised over \$200 to purchase winter coats for children at Greentree Shelter
- sorted several tons of food at the Capital Area Food Bank
- entertained residents of the Hebrew Home with Beth El musicians, singers, and special guest Lucky, one very smart dog
- had a sing-a-long with Revitz House residents
- baked doggie biscuits for our best friends at the Montgomery County Humane Society

The support and efforts of many individuals ensured our success. Thank you to project leaders: **Sam Swersky, Diana Huffman, Leslie Dellon, Barbara Klein, Jon Simon, Peter Novick, Janet Getz, Ellen Silver, Joan Simon, Rhonda Kleiner, and Jody Benjamin**. Thank you to sorters **Lily Stone, Barbara Gold, Laura Deninsky, Karen Spergel, Jake, Ike and Jennifer Simon, Barry and Rebecca Boden, Rachel Gafni, Ellen Berman, Helen Kanovsky, Ethan Senator, Josh Portnoy, Rhoda Nichaman, Sandra Cohen, Brian, Sara Jane, Andy and Mia Harris, Lois Zuckerman, Ashley Wilson and Adam** from Andrea Golden's class and those who were too busy sorting to sign in. Thank you to Religious School teachers for organizing class activities and to Sisterhood for underwriting the entire cost of the meals prepared for Shepherd's Table and Sophia House. Special thanks to **Sarah Roark** for ensuring the robust participation of the Religious School. Thank you to **Rabbi Greg Harris** for his assistance in helping to develop new activities and for his commitment to Social Action. Thank to **Janice Liebowitz**, our Social Action Chair for coordinating this event. We regret that individual names of volunteers are too numerous to list, but we thank everyone who volunteered and made a difference through Tikun Olam.

December 31 is Fast Approaching

At the end of the calendar year, many congregants use the opportunity to make a tax-deductible contribution to Beth El. This might include payment of dues, capital campaign pledge, Ner Tamid, or any gift to the General Fund, other Restricted Funds, or the Beth El Support Foundation (endowments). Support our congregation and take advantage of a tax break at the same time. If you wish further information, please contact Sheila Bellack at 301-652-8569, ext. 306.