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CONGREGATION BETH EL

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Message from the Rabbi



Many people in our synagogue have been spending a lot of time working on (and agonizing about in the most positive ways) two important substantive issues that are being discussed at this time. One involves the structure of our Religious School and the other the use of musical instruments in Friday evening services after Shabbat begins.

Any change raises concerns about the direction of the institution involved. So, I am often asked in the meetings on these subjects, where do I see Beth El going? In the brief time a small column permits, let me reiterate my vision for Beth El. It is a vision that has not changed lately or really since I

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Shabbat and Festival Services

Friday, March 26

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service - BR

Saturday, March 27

Vayikra: Leviticus 1:1-5:26

7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services

9:15 am Joseph Mitz Bar Mitzvah

9:15 am Rachel Yanovski Bat Mitzvah

10:00 am Jr. Congregation-BR

10:30 am Nitzanim - APR

11:00 am USY Shabbat - Rm. 209

Friday, April 2

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service - BR

Saturday, April 3

Tzav: Leviticus 6:1-8:36

7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services

9:50 am Worship & Study Minyan - APR

10:00 am Jr. Congregation-BR

10:30 am Gan Shabbat - MR

Monday, April 5

Erev Passover - 1st Seder

7:15 am Fast of the Firstborn & Siyyum

6:30 pm Festival Service

Tuesday, April 6

1st Day Passover - 2nd Seder

9:15 am & 6:30 pm Festival Services

Wednesday, April 7

2nd Day Passover

9:15 am Festival Service

Friday, April 9

4th Day Passover

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service - BR

Saturday, April 10

5th Day Passover

7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services

9:15 am Leah Groner Bat Mitzvah

10:00 am Jr. Congregation-BR

10:00 am Learners' Minyan - MR

10:30 am Nitzanim - APR

Sunday, April 11

6th Day Passover

6:30 pm Festival Service

Monday, April 12

7th Day Passover

9:15 am & 6:30 pm Festival Services

Tuesday, April 13

8th Day Passover

7:00 & 9:15 am Festival Services

(Yizkor at both Services)

Friday, April 16

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service - BR

Saturday, April 17

Shemini: Leviticus 9:1-11:47

7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services

9:15 am Jonathan Ochs Bar Mitzvah

9:30 am Minyan Chaverim - APR

10:00 am Jr. Congregation-BR

10:30 am Gan Shabbat - MR

11:00 am Shitufim - Rm. 209

7:00 pm Mincha, Seudah Shlishit, Maariv,
Havdalah - APR

Friday, April 23

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service - BR

Saturday, April 24

Tazria-Metzora: Leviticus 12:1-15:33

7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services

9:15 am Aliza Bran Bat Mitzvah

9:15 am Alyssa Stein Bat Mitzvah

10:00 am Jr. Congregation-BR

10:30 am Nitzanim - APR

11:00 am USY Shabbat - Rm. 209

Sisterhood News

Melaveh Malka: A Joyous Evening

On Saturday, February 7, approximately 150 Beth El members gathered to say farewell to the Sabbath Queen. Beginning with our own Ahavat Shir Choir and Havdalah Service, and continuing with a lovely dinner, delightful music presented by the Shir Delight Band, singing, and dancing, the celebration filled the crowd with joy and ruach.

Sisterhood especially wishes to thank **Hazzan Abraham Lubin**, the guiding force behind the evening, for overseeing all the musical aspects of the program as well as for his lovely solo numbers. Shir Delite delighted us with one familiar tune after another, culminating in numbers which had many people "dancing in the aisles."

Sisterhood also offers many thanks to **Judy Baldinger** and **Judy Goldman** for chairing and for coordinating all the arrangements. We thank **Karen Lipkind** for taking the reservations, **Annette Abrams** for designing the poster, **Gale Dutcher** for preparing the spice bags, **Sheila Smallberg Cohen** for coordinating the Choir, **Michele Herman** for organizing rides, **Debbie Leibowitz** and **Karen Lipkind** for sign-in, and **Pat Danoff** for setup. Last but not least we wish to thank **Dorothy Beverly** and her staff for preparing the delicious meal—using as her inspiration selected recipes from Beth El's own cookbook.

The evening was a great success. We look forward to the next one.

Thank Yous

Sisterhood thanks **Glenda Koby** for organizing the Challah Workshop. Unfortunately, due to inclement weather, the workshop had to be cancelled. We appreciate all Glenda did to notify those who had expressed interest in attending. She also provided recipes to all.

Sisterhood thanks **Mimi Tygier** and **Dale Gold** for organizing and coordinating the fundraising project with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Thanks also to those who volunteered to help.

SAVE THE DATE

SISTERHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM

Put on a Happy Face

Personal Makeovers and Beauty Tips

Faye Mendelsohn Make Up Artist;
Faye Mendelsohn and Associates

Sunday, April 25, 2004

9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Men's Club News

The past few weeks have been very busy ones for the Men's Club. On March 7, we had the annual Purim Carnival. On March 11, we had the monthly "Hearing Mens Voices" which is a discussion group for men only (the only Men's Club function that is not open to women). On March 13, we had the monthly Shabbat Mincha, Maariv, and Havdalah Service and Seudah Shilshit. This was followed by a Men's Club organized wine tasting led by a member of the Men's Club.

Sunday, March 28, at 10:00 a.m. Hazzan Lubin will make a presentation, "In the Beginning...the Genesis of the Synagogue."

Sunday, April 4, at 10:00 a.m. - "Passover: Past, Present, and Future" - Dr. Elliott Wilner

Thursday, April 8, at 8:15 p.m. - Monthly "Hearing Mens Voices," a discussion group for men only.

Saturday, April 10, at 7:00 p.m. (note time change due to daylight saving time) Monthly Shabbat Mincha, Seudah Shilshit, Maariv, and Havdalah.

Sunday, April 11, at 10:00 a.m. - Presentation by Rabbi Scolnic, Rabbi Emeritus of Beth El - topic to be announced.

Sunday, April 18, at 10:00 a.m. - "The Major Challenges Today in Intercollegiate Athletics" Debbie Yow, Director of Athletics, University of Maryland. This is the 4th program in this year's Perspectives in Dialogue series.

Tired of the same old meals during Pesach?

The Dor Va'Dor Sisterhood Cookbook

contains 40 Passover recipes plus hundreds of others for year-round enjoyment.

Books are available for \$18 in the Beth El Office and Judaica Shop or for \$21 by mail.

For Information, pick up a flier in the Gallery or call Tutti Sokol at 301-229-5263.

Cookbooks make great
seder hostess gifts !

Message from the Rabbi *continued*

began here twenty years ago. I just have better positioning now to try to implement the vision, so more people ask me about it now.

I think a synagogue should maximize the ways its members can express their Jewishness. Because every member doesn't have the same needs or express his/her Jewishness the same way, we need to offer a variety of choices in every realm of our operation - choices in learning and in praying are the ones that come most quickly to mind. We have been building a shul that lets people learn in different settings, at different times, with different kinds of teachers, with friends, and with strangers. I could use up a whole page listing the learning opportunities that now exist. The Religious School structure question is in part a test of whether this philosophy can or should extend to our children.

And we have been building a shul that lets you pray in a variety of minyanim on Shabbat and the High Holidays, and that richness is one of our greatest strengths and provides a set of gateways that brings many newcomers into our ranks. The musical instrument issue fits within this realm.

All decisions that we make must of course fit within the parameters of the Conservative movement as defined by common practice and by the rulings of the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards.

There is one other major piece of my vision that I want to share anew, and that is the importance of empowerment. The more our members are empowered to create the Beth El program, the more we will grow and prosper. Purim is coming, so Megillah Madness is on my mind when I write this, and that is one fine example of the amazing creativity and energy and Yiddishkeit of our membership. Any of our new study groups, downtown or in your homes or at Panera's, similarly point to the power you are exercising in owning your Jewishness and making it accessible to others. Some clergy are afraid of letting go of the program, not this one nor my colleagues here. The more partners we have, the better for all of us.

Message from the President

We at Beth El continue to benefit from the exceptional talents and energy of so many people. **Mindi Jacobson**, who chaired the BENS fundraising event, and **Scott Glick**, the Purim celebration maestro, as well as the members of their hardworking committees, deserve our gratitude for bringing us two terrific events.

Despite the cool temperatures, the stores are now stocked with food for Pesach, and the preparations for the cleaning and seders are beginning. The seders give us an chance to cleanse ourselves of all types of chametz, reconnect with family and friends, and the perfect opportunity to participate in the mitzvah of hachnasat orchim, welcoming the stranger. If you have extra room at your seder table, and would like to invite someone you don't know from the community, please contact the synagogue office or Rabbi Rudolph.

Wishing you and your families chag sameach v'kasher,

Brent

All in the Family

Mazal Tov to **Barry (Bernard) and Paula Friedman** on the birth of their granddaughter, **Jade Alexia Masri**, on February 5, 2004. Parents are **Sharif and Amy Masri**.

Mazal Tov to **Erwin and Leena Groner** on the birth of their grandson, **Benjamin Logan Hulit**, born on February 23, 2004. Parents are **Felicia and Richard Hulit**.

Mazal Tov to **Fran Katz Watson and Bobby Watson** on the birth of their son, **Jonah Watson**, born on February 17, 2004.

Mazal Tov to **Mati and Ariel Dinar** on the birth of their grandson, **Gideon Paz Dinar**, born on Monday, March 1, 2004. Parents are **Shlomi and Rebecca Dinar**.

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Set the Table with Torah

By Hazzan Abraham Lubin

March 27: Vayikra

While the Book of Genesis tells of the creation of the world and of the people of Israel and the Book of Exodus speaks of Moses, the Exodus from Egypt, and the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai, the Book of Leviticus looks to the future of the people and how they are to worship God on the land that God has promised them. We are introduced to a system of sacrifices that may seem primitive and foreign to our world. The rabbis of antiquity long ago replaced sacrifice with prayer, first by necessity (when the Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed) and then by preference for a more abstract connection with God.

However, we might recognize that something was lost with the sanitization of our worship. Our biblical ancestors lived in a physical world, as do we, and they "got their hands dirty" in the material and messy sacrifice of an animal. While we certainly do not have any urge to go back to sacrificing animals as a form of worship, we might learn that confronting God once meant, and can still mean, facing our own mortality in a very real way.

April 3: Tzav

This week's portion continues the instructions to Aaron and his sons concerning different types of sacrifice. We hear of the *olah*, burnt offering; the *minchah*, meal offering; and the *chatat*, sin offering. The incredibly specific details of the *zevach sh'laminim*, sacrifice of well-being, are also included.

The sacrificial rituals of our ancestors and the actual sacrifices seem to have been a way of linking us with God by asking us to share what we possess with God. Ours is a God whose reality is intimately bound up with us, the people of Israel, whose Torah is an instruction on how we are to live a God-filled existence. Thus offering sacrifices was a method of connecting us in an intimate way with this God who is unseen.

On *Erev Shabbat* (and other times), our tradition commands that we give *tzedakah*, often in the form of cash inserted into a *tzedakah* box. Giving and sharing what we have is not just an option, or a nice altruistic suggestion, or a "random act of kindness." It is, rather, as this *parashah* reminds us, a commandment.

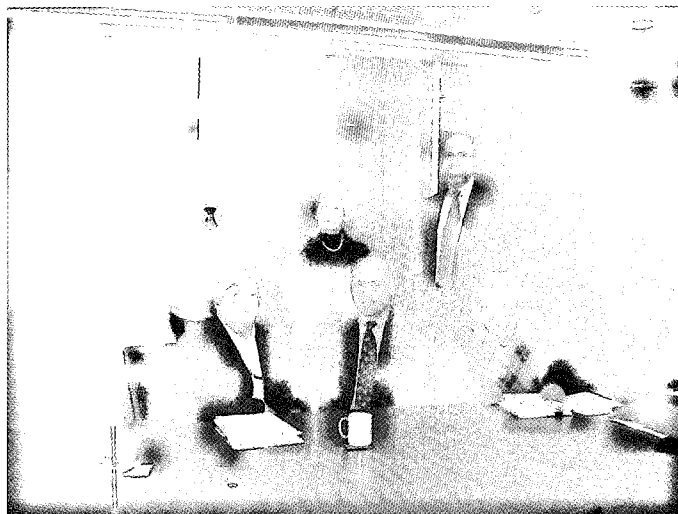
Questions for Discussion

1. Since we can easily rationalize not giving *tzedakah*, why do we still perform that mitzvah?
2. Can you suggest five reasons for giving *tzedakah*?

Beth El Cemetery Section At Judean Gardens

Cemetery sites are currently available in the Beth El section at Judean Gardens in Olney for \$1,250 each. Please contact Sheila Bellack at 301-652-8569, ext. 306, for further information.

Construction Photos



At our closing with United Bank on February 5, 2004. Seated (left to right): Sheila Bellack, Brent Berger, Joel Simon. Standing (left to right): Bert King, Bobbie Hart (United Bank), John Hollingshead (United Bank).



It's going up! The erection of steel for the new addition.

Special Program: "Mel Gibson's 'Passion': Exploring the Biblical, Historical, and Theological Issues"

April 18, 1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Building on the intense interest in this film and the response to my sermon about it, we are offering this Sunday afternoon session that is open to members as well as the community. Presenting will be **Dr. Rosann Catalano**, a theologian and professor who is the Roman Catholic theologian on the staff of the Institute for Christian & Jewish Studies, and **Rabbi Charles Arian**, a former Hillel and synagogue rabbi who is now the Jewish Scholar at the Institute. I have heard both speak about the film and these issues and know we are in for a wonderfully stimulating and informative afternoon. No charge, refreshments provided.
Rabbi Bill Rudolph



Please join us for
Rhythm, Roast, and Ruach

An evening of celebration in honor of

Rabbi Rudolph's 20 Years at Beth El

Saturday, May 8, 2004

at

8:30 p.m.

Havdalah Service

Tribute to Rabbi Bill Rudolph

Champagne, dessert reception, and dancing

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

Tickets: \$75 per person (\$50 tax-deductible)

Sponsor: \$500 (two tickets, \$450 tax-deductible)

Supporter: \$1000 (two tickets, \$950 tax-deductible)

Benefactor: \$2500 (four tickets, \$2400 tax-deductible)

Hatikvah Circle: \$5000 (four tickets, \$4900 tax-deductible)

See your invitation for details, or call 301-652-2606

The Celebration Begins...

Friday, May 7, at 7:00 p.m.

Welcome Shabbat at a Musical Service

Beth El Sings - Shir Ha-K'hilah

featuring the participation of

Shir Atid,

Ahavat Shir,

and the Beth El Band

followed by

Oneg Shabbat

Pesach Yizkor Book Listing

Our Pesach Yizkor Book will be available on Tuesday, April 13, 2004.

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

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

Please check one:

____ I/We would like to use the same listing(s) from the 2003 Yom Yippur Yizkor Book.

____ I/We did not have a listing in the 2003 Yom Kippur Yizkor Book. Please include the names listed below in the Pesach Yizkor Book.

____ I/We had a listing in the 2003 Yom Kippur Yizkor Book and would like to have that listing plus the following names:

In Memory Of

Remembered By

Name _____

Phone _____

Please return this form by Monday, March 29, 2004.

Selling of the Chametz

During the week of Passover, it is forbidden, according to Jewish tradition, to eat chametz or even to own the chametz that has been put away in your home. Therefore, we annually observe the custom of **Mechirat Chametz**, selling the chametz to someone who is not bound by Jewish law. If you would like to have Rabbi Rudolph sell your chametz, please mail in the following form so that it is received by Monday, April 5, 2004 or drop it off in the Rabbi's office.

I, _____,

hereby authorize Rabbi Bill Rudolph to sell my chametz before Passover, April 5, 2004 according to Jewish law.

Signature _____

Address _____

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

Congregation Seder

The Congregation Seder, conducted by Beth El's clergy, will be held on Tuesday evening, April 6, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the Social Hall.

I/We would like to make the following reservations:

____ Adults @ \$30 \$ _____

____ Nonmember Adults @ \$38 \$ _____

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

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

____ Children under 2 no charge

____ Total \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone No. _____

I/We would like to be seated with _____

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

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

Price includes a contribution to Mazon.

Reservations must be accompanied by a check and sent to: Beth El, Attn: Seder. Reservations are limited and due by Monday, March 29, 2004 or the first 200 people, whichever comes first.

No Refunds or Phone Reservations!!

Siyyum for the Firstborn

The annual Siyyum for the Firstborn will be held on Monday, April 5 at 7:15 am. The Morning Minyan will include a brief study session, so that firstborn can eat on Erev Pesach, and a special breakfast honoring our firstborn will follow.

Our thanks to **Faye and Sy Wolf**, who are sponsoring the Siyyum in memory of **Barbara Wolf, Sarah and Abraham Krupsaw, Abraham and Dora Wolf, Dan Rosen, and Molly and Irving Weinstein.**

Pesach (Passover) Guidelines

The following Pesach guidelines have been made available through the Conservative Movement. It is an incomplete list but helpful nonetheless. Please feel free to call on Rabbi Rudolph with any individual questions and be sure to fill out the form to sell your chametz. As always, we will conduct the "Mechirat Chametz" on Monday, April 5, 2004 after the Siyyum. Have a wonderful holiday with family, friends, and congregation.

Permissible or Not? Chametz or Kosher?

This year Pesach falls on Monday evening, April 5 through Tuesday, April 13. The following guidelines are designed to help you in your celebration. A Pesach home atmosphere is created each year by the traditional practice of thoroughly cleansing the home in all its parts and by the removal of all **Chametz** or leaven in preparation for the welcoming of Pesach; also through the meticulous avoidance of the use of **Chametz** or leaven throughout the Pesach days, both at home and when away. The term Chametz or leaven is applied not only to foods, the use of which is to be avoided during Pesach, but also to the dishes and utensils in which foods are prepared or served during the year and which may not be used during Pesach except as herein indicated.

Foods During Pesach

1. Forbidden for Use

The following foods are forbidden for use during Pesach: Leavened bread, cakes, biscuits and crackers, cereals, coffee substances derived from cereals, wheat, barley, oats, rice, and all liquids which contain ingredients or flavors made from grain alcohol. Most processed food fall under this category. Note: Some communities permit the use of legumes and rice (Kitniyot).

2. Permitted Foods

A. Requiring No "Kosher L'Pesach" Label

The following foods are permitted in unopened packages or containers: Natural coffee, sugar, tea, salt, pepper, onion and garlic powder, dates, dried fruits, nuts, eggs, meat, fish, honey, milk, vegetables (except peas and beans, string beans being permitted). They require no "Kosher L'Pesach" label. Such things as aluminum foil, plastic wrap, detergents and metal polishes also require no supervision.

B. Frozen Fruits and Vegetables

Fruits and those vegetables normally permitted for Pesach use are permitted also in their frozen state.

C. If Certified for Pesach Use by Rabbinical Authority

Matzot, matzo flour, Pesach noodles, candies, cakes, beverages, canned and processed foods, butter, jams, cheese, jellies, relishes, salad oils, vegetable gelatin, shortenings, vinegar, wines and liquors are permitted if they are certified by competent rabbinical authority as fit for Pesach use. Labels and tags marked "Kosher L'Pesach" are of no value unless they bear a rabbinical signature.

Dishes and Utensils

Only dishes and utensils specially reserved for Pesach should be used with the following exceptions:

Silverware, knives, forks, and spoons made wholly of metal, if used during the year, may be used on Pesach if thoroughly scoured and immersed in boiling water. All table glassware is permitted after thoroughly scouring. Fine translucent chinaware, if not used for a year, is permitted.

Metal pots and pans used for cooking purposes only (but not for baking), if made wholly of metal, though used during the year, may be used on Pesach if first thoroughly scoured and immersed in boiling water.

Utensils used for baking during the year cannot be used during Pesach.

Earthenware, enamelware, and porcelain utensils used during the year may not be used on Pesach.

The stove is prepared for Pesach by thorough scrubbing and cleaning of all parts and turning on full flame in the bake oven and all the grates.

A dishwashing machine may be used for Pesach after thorough scouring with boiling water and running it through a cycle while empty. Some authorities say you must use new trays.

Microwave ovens are made kosher for Pesach by a thorough scrubbing and placing a container of water in the oven and turning on the power until the oven is filled with thick steam.

Sinks should be scoured and boiling water should be poured over them. Some authorities call for a sink liner if the sink is made of porcelain or enamel.

Megillah Madness

by Scott Glick

A third century Babylonian teacher named Rava once said that on Purim, one should drink enough wine until one does not know the difference between blessed Mordechai or cursed Haman. While there may not have been any liquor served at Beth El on 14 Adar this year, we certainly were high on the joy we all felt during Megillah Madness. And while Purim may be an ancient story of court intrigue, deception, miscommunication, drunken parties, assassination plots, a foolish king, a delinquent queen, villains, a strong hero and one beautiful heroine, in the 21st century at our shul, Purim has become a way of building a strong and vibrant community, where we truly mean it when we sing "we are family."

Many people have thanked me for all the time and energy that I have devoted to Purim, but the truth of the matter is that Megillah Madness would not have been the success that it was without the support, assistance, and enthusiastic participation of so many, many talented and dedicated members of this shul. It

was truly a “team” effort beginning with many people that we all need to thank. First, thanks go to **Annette Abrams** and **Lori Amsellem** and their entire committee for all the spectacular decorations they put up throughout the shul. I still can’t get over all of those flashing disco lights and those incredible lava lamps. I also want to thank **Bob Litman** and **Sally Pessin**, my writing partners this year. Whenever I was stuck for a word, or a phrase, or even for an entire song for one of the chapters, they were right there with inspiring and wonderful lyrics. And of course, my partner in this entire production was **Sheila Smallberg Cohen**. During the past three years, Sheila’s support and guidance, and her wonderful musical assistance and coordination, have been just as essential to the success of Megillah Madness as any parody-writing that I have done.

I also want to thank all of our talented and dedicated song group leaders — **Leslie Shedlin**, **Judy Futterman**, **Ed Berger**, **Elizabeth Simon**, **Hazzan Lubin**, **Paul Haar**, **Marge London**, **Lori Amsellem**, **Sally Pessin**, **Sheila Smallberg Cohen**, **Susan King**, and **Henry Kahn** — for all their work in organizing and rehearsing their groups. We are blessed with an abundance of talent at Beth El, and so I also want to thank all of the other wonderful singers (who numbered more than 55 adults and 29 children in all), who worked so hard on getting ready for Purim this year. And speaking of the kids, we had two groups this year — the kids who sang and performed with Cantor Lubin in Chapter 3 were great as were all the kids in Shir Atid performing in Chapter 9, who were under the wonderful direction of **Elizabeth Simon**. And how about **Mindy Smith** dancing up a storm to the disco beat down the center aisle — wasn’t she great!

Special thanks also go to my fellow musicians, **Bob Litman**, his son **Ethan**, **Sid Getz**, **Andy Schoenholtz**, and **Jerry Danoff**, whose musical talents added so much to the evening. Thanks also go to **Debbie Fink** and **Jonina Duker** for all their great choreographic contributions. I also want to thank **Barrie Tabin Berger** and **Rachelle Solkowitz** for organizing all of our chapter sign holders, **Debbie Glick** and **Ruth Silverstein** for their work with our Purim High School Cheerleaders in their wonderful, albeit brief, cameo appearances, and **Sheldon Novek** for his work in inspiring the teenagers to get “into the act” and become partners with all of us.

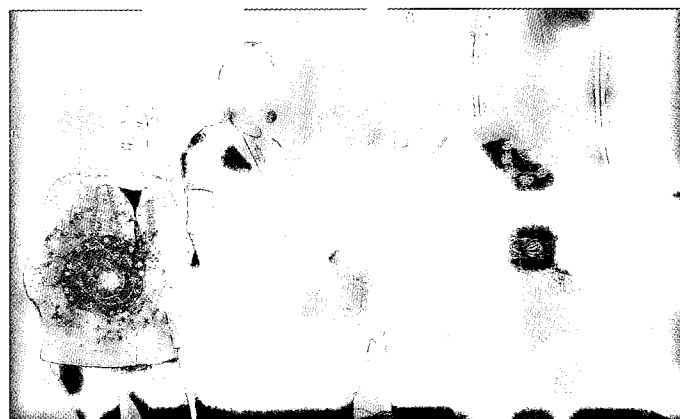
We are blessed to have a wonderful clergy “team” leading our shul. The guidance and enthusiastic support of **Rabbi Rudolph**, **Rabbi Harris**, and **Hazzan Lubin** have made Megillah Madness, and all the other wonderful things that we have shared together at Beth El, possible. Indeed, according to an unofficial Rabbinical report on crowd size, we had close to 1,000

people at Beth El for Purim this year. That’s really incredible when you think about all the construction and parking issues that we have faced over the past few months.

I also want to give special thanks to **Mitchell Solkowitz**, our videographer and technical coordinator, whose assistance to us was invaluable throughout the entire planning process for Megillah Madness. Even at the last moment, when we discovered that the spotlight we had ordered would have been dangerously bright for the performers and attendees, Mitchell showed up with an auxiliary light system that allowed everyone in the back to see. And a big thank you goes to **Melissa Kahn**, who had the unenviable task of figuring out how to transfer wireless microphones from group to group throughout the entire evening. Instead of becoming a huge logistical nightmare, Melissa kept us all on track and we didn’t skip a beat with the mike handoffs.

Thanks also go to **Barry Levine** for keeping the spotlight on all of the action, **Sani Barr** and **Debbie Gottlieb** for handling the food, especially at our dress rehearsal, **Judy Futterman**, for keeping track of the budget, and **Jonina Duker** and **Carl Slater**, who were on ushering duty with the cub scouts to help keep the aisles clear. Finally, thanks to **Pam Kocher**, **Sheila Bellack**, and the office staff for all of their behind the scenes help and administrative assistance, which was so important to the success of Purim.

The energy, excitement, and ruach that we have created together during the past three years has been incredible and will not end because I’m stepping aside to allow others to direct and lead our Purim shpeil. And so I want to thank all of Beth El for giving me the opportunity to make a contribution to our shul. I hope that our Beth El family continues to experience the joy that can come from events such as Megillah Madness for a long, long time. Yasher koach to all of us.



“Esther and the Shvesters,” from right to left, Gail Ross, Marge London, Brenda Bregman, Debbie Glick, and Pat Danoff