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CONGREGATION BETH EL

May 14, 2004

23 Iyar 5764

Volume 53

No. 13

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Tuning In With Hazzan Lubin

"From the mouth of babes...."



We are all seeking wisdom and hope during these times of so much violence, fear, frustration and hopelessness. As Jews, we are particularly anguished at the cycle of tragic events in Israel. As Americans, we are still in disbelief at what the enemy was able to inflict on us on 9/11, totally unprepared for the sheer magnitude of human loss and economic devastation. There is a feeling of trepidation and uncertainty at what the next day or the next month will bring. Where do we find the wisdom to try to cope with all this futility and senselessness? More than that, where does one look for a ray of hope, a light at the end of the tunnel? Strangely, the wise Psalmist taught us almost 3,000 years ago: "From the mouth of babes hast Thou founded strength" (Psalm 8:3). Truer words have not been spoken since. I find strength in the innocence of a child's seemingly

Continued on Page 3

Shabbat and Festival Services

Friday, May 14

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service - BR
8:00 pm Family Shabbat Service - APR

Saturday, May 15

B'har-B'hukkotai: Leviticus 25:1-27:34
7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services
9:15 am Ross Bender 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

Friday, May 21

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service - BR

Saturday, May 22

B'midbar: Numbers 1:1-4:20
7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services
9:15 am Stefanie Milner Bat Mitzvah
9:50 am Worship & Study Minyan - MR
10:00 am Jr. Congregation-BR
10:30 am Nitzanim - APR
7:30 pm Mincha, Seudah Shlishit,
Maariv, Havdalah - APR

Tuesday, May 25

Erev Shavuot
6:30 pm Tikkun Leil Shavuot

Wednesday, May 26

First Day Shavuot
Exodus 19:1-20:23

9:15 am Festival Service

9:15 am Confirmation & Bikkurim

6:30 pm Festival Service

Thursday, May 27

Second Day Shavuot
Deuteronomy 15:19-16:17
7:00 & 9:15 am Festival Services
(Yizkor at both Services)

Friday, May 28

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service

Saturday, May 29

Naso: Numbers 4:21-7:89
7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services
9:15 am Alyssa Cogen Bat Mitzvah
9:15 am Ruthie Lieban Levine Bat Mitzvah
10:00 am Jr. Congregation-BR
10:30 am Nitzanim - APR

Friday, June 4

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service - BR

Saturday, June 5

B'ha'alot'kha: Numbers 8:1-12:16
7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services
9:15 am Cassandra Maxwell Bat Mitzvah
9:15 am Jacqueline Kantor Bat Mitzvah
9:50 am Worship & Study Minyan - APR
10:00 am Jr. Congregation-BR
10:30 am Gan Shabbat - MR

**Annual Congregational Meeting - Tuesday, May 18, 2004,
at 8:15 p.m. Members must be current in dues and tuition
in order to vote.**

Sisterhood News

Invitation and Stationery Sales

Need invitations, stationery or kippot? Contact Marilyn Hammerman at mhammerman@aol.com, 301-881-0011. 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 today for great selection and great prices on invitations, stationery, kippot, and other things for your special simcha.

JUDAICA SHOP SALE

CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS

ALL MERCHANDISE
REDUCED

Save The Date

Sunday, June 6
10:30 a.m.

Sisterhood General Meeting
and Elections

Speaker:
Nancy Rosenthal

“The Second Diaspora -
The Coming of Jews to
the New World”

Men's Club News

On Sunday mornings, Minyan is at 9:00 a.m. followed by breakfast at 9:30 a.m. Programs begin at 10:00 a.m.

Thursday May 13, 8:15 p.m.: Hearing Men's Voices – continuing monthly discussion group for men only. This month, **Ben Bronheim** will facilitate a discussion on “Our Mentors - Teachers Who Have Changed Our Lives Both Jewishly and Secularly.” Men are invited to attend at any time – there is no requirement for attendance at previous sessions.

Sunday, May 16: **Vaness Ripps**, Jewish Foundation for Group Homes. Please note: On Sunday, May 16, a number of Men's Club members will be attending the “It's Academic” Final at Olam Tikvah.

Saturday, May 22, 7:30 p.m.: Monthly Shabbat Mincha, Seudah Shilshit, Maariv, and Havdalah Service.

Sunday, May 23: Kavod Award Breakfast - Advance reservations requested; \$10 admission.

Sunday, May 30: Memorial Day, no program.

Save the Date October 22-24, 2004

Shabbaton Weekend at Congregation Beth El with Scholar-in-Residence Noam Zion.

You'll recognize his name from the terrific Haggadah he co-edited, *A Different Night: The Family Participation Haggadah*. There will be many interesting opportunities to engage in learning with Mr. Zion on his specialty of making all the holidays relevant times for Jewish study.

Noam Zion is the Director of Jerusalem's Shalom Hartman Institute's (SHI) Resource Center for Jewish Continuity and a graduate in philosophy from Columbia University in New York. Mr. Zion is also co-editor of *A Different Light* Hanukkah Set. Zion has edited several other educational books for SHI, including *The Origins of Violence - A Study of the Cain and Abel Story*, *The Dynamics of Tzedakah* and *The Tradition of the Zealot*.

JCC Maccabi Games Are Coming to Montgomery County!

The 2004 JCC Maccabi Games will be held here from August 8-13, 2004. Fourteen hundred athletes from across the globe between the ages of 13 and 16 will be competing in these Olympic style games. Over 400 local athletes will compete. Beth El will support this major effort in many ways. We will be seeking host families to house some of these wonderful youth athletes during the games. We also hope that many Beth El youth will join the local Maccabi teams to participate in the amazing experience.

Additional information and the tryout form are available on the website: www.jccgwmaccabi.org
More information will be coming soon.

Message from the President

The business year of the shul will be concluding soon, and I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting on May 18. Together, we have accomplished many things, and I look forward to presenting a report of our past year's activities at the meeting.

Among other important business at the meeting, we will be holding elections for six Trustees and a member of the Support Foundation. To our outgoing Trustees – **Jody Bleiberg, David Schultz, Esther Wilner, and Colin Winston**, and to **Barry Friedman**, whose term on the Beth El Support Foundation is ending, *todah rabbah* for your service to the Congregation.

Wishing you and your families a *chag sameach*,
Brent

Israel Action Committee

Beth El, through the Israel Action Committee, is again responding to the dire needs of helping terrorist attack victims in Israel. We started working with Ziv. The Ziv Tzedakah Fund, founded and chaired by Danny Siegel, is about Mitzvahs and Tikkun Olam - fixing up the world with whatever talents and resources we have as individuals. We have selected two cases to help. In order to preserve the dignity of these victims, we will use initials to describe the cases that Beth El is supporting.

a. The A family consists of parents in their 40s and five children aged 1 1/2 to 16 years old. The entire family was injured in a shooting incident on September 15, 2000, including the six-year-old girl who was critically injured in the head and now at age nine still has to walk around with a helmet to protect her head because she had to have one of the bones in her skull removed. Both parents are unemployed. The mother can barely function now and the father, who was involved in two other shooting incidents, has been trying to keep the family together to the best of his ability. The family is receiving intensive help from the local social worker to help them recover from the impacts of the tragedy. Due to the trauma experienced

by the children, they all wet their beds, and consequently their beds are totally destroyed although they use plastic sheets. The family is in dire need of beds. Beth El sent a check to help purchase these and now all the children have new beds.

b. A 24-year-old law student was sitting in the Hebrew University cafeteria when a terrorist attack occurred there in July 2002. She was seriously injured in her arms and legs and has undergone many surgeries. Her right index finger was severed during the attack. The doctors surgically replaced it, but it was not a successful operation. Her finger will have to be amputated but the doctor said they would wait until after her wedding in August 2004 so that her fiancé will be able to put her wedding ring on that finger. Despite her hospitalization and rehab treatments, she is an amazing young woman who will be finishing law school and beginning her mandatory apprenticeship (very low pay in Israel) in a few months. Her family does not have the means to help her and her groom, a policeman, furnish the apartment with the bare necessities. The bride has asked for financial assistance in helping her set up her household after the wedding. Beth El is joining other organizations in doing so by buying a refrigerator for the young couple. Ziv has notified us that Beth El is truly making a difference as she will surely go on to become a very productive member of Israeli society. One terrible tragedy stopped her life as she knew it but fortunately strangers in America are willing to help get her on track again.

Tuning In With Hazzan Lubin continued

simple words. I see light in the shining face of a baby's smile. I am full of hope for a better future, a brighter tomorrow when I observe the excitement of a youngster meeting the challenge of mastering and putting together the last piece of an intricate jigsaw puzzle and displaying a beautiful and colorful picture of a circus scene.

The Psalmist, a long time ago, recognized the intricacies of God's creation and saw wisdom and gained strength and hope "from the mouth of babes..."

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AFFILIATED WITH UNITED SYNAGOGUE
OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

Splinters from the Board

March 23, 2004

by Tami Simon

Construction Update. Don Silverstein reported that substantial completion of phase I will occur by the end of August. By end of July or early August, the new parking lot entrance should be completed as well as the traffic lights. Phase II should be started after the High Holidays. The budget, so far, is looking good. Sheila Bellack reported that she will be meeting with committee chairs and auxiliary representatives to provide the draft shul calendar for activity planning and to make committees aware of space restrictions so all groups can plan accordingly.

Governance Update. Sid Getz reported that evaluations were conducted to determine the success of the new governance structure. Several themes appeared as a result of those evaluations: (1) insufficient communication, and engagement, (2) unclear center objectives, and (3) improved organization. The governance committee had several short term and long term recommendations for the board including: (1) meet with each center's leadership to clarify basic guidelines for communication between the board, center leadership, committee chairs and committees, (2) increase engagement with trustees and center leadership, (3) clarify center objectives by working with the center leadership to define, plan and execute center objectives, and (4) revisit organization of the current structure and propose improvements.

Report on musical instruments in the Friday evening service. Rabbi Rudolph briefly described his position on this topic. His goal is to maximize Jewish people "doing Jewish." This means giving the maximum number of Jews an opportunity to do as much as they want to do within the parameters of our religion and the Conservative movement. Rabbi Rudolph determined that the best decision for our shul and the most minimal change would be to permit musical instruments throughout the year, although not after the service reaches Ma'ariv. There will be several measures implemented as a result of this decision: a traditional service paralleling the service with instruments will always be available; only acoustic instruments will be permitted; the two services will be separated physically so music doesn't interfere with the traditional service; and the separate services may also be offered at different times.

Nursery School Report. The BENS fundraiser was on Feb. 28. About 250 people came to the event and the net was approximately \$18,000.

School Structure Committee. Leesa Fields reported that the school structure committee will be meeting again in its continuing deliberations concerning the 2/3 day religious school discussion. The

final committee recommendation will be based on input from a variety of sources. The committee will then present its recommendations at one Board meeting and then offer a question and answer session coupled with the final Board vote in a separate meeting.

Uni-session. The Religious School Committee has approved a new Sunday school uni-session from 10:00 a.m. to Noon for 2004-05. Information has already been sent to parents.

Beth El Budget. Shelly London reported that Walter Arnheim will present a proposed budget (from the Budget Committee) in late April. There will also be a fundraising committee meeting this week and will discuss the fundraising event in honor of Rabbi Rudolph. Judy Futterman added that the budget is a very impressive effort and takes into account the short and long term needs of the shul. The Budget Committee discussed efforts to improve membership. Two membership Open Houses will be taking place this spring.

Rochelle Solkowitz reported that the service on March 6 was a great success. The Chevra Kadisha is getting re-organized and trying to pull in new members. They would like to offer new services for mourners. There will also be a broader discussion regarding the roles of the Worship and Ritual Committees.

Rabbi Rudolph reported that there has been some staff restructuring since Carole Wellner left at the end of December. Jill Gessner has been hired as our Program Coordinator, and her responsibilities include assisting the College Outreach Committee, Inreach Committee, Social Action Committee, and PR and working with the clergy in the organization of life cycle events. She will also help the shul apply for awards and grant writing.

All in the Family

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.

Mazal Tov to Anne and David Fletcher and Michele Herman on the birth of their son and grandson, Grayson Herman Fletcher, born on March 16, 2004.

Mazal Tov to Barbara and David Eisenstein on the birth of their grandson, Ethan Michael Weinberg, born on April 14, 2004. Parents are Amy Eisenstein and Alan Weinberg.

Mazal Tov to Michele Herman on the engagement of her son, Andrew Herman, to Katie Rusnak, daughter of Marilyn and Ray Rusnak of Chicago.

Tikkun Leil Shavuot

A Traditional Shavuot Eve Nighttime Study Session

Tuesday, May 25, 2004

5 Sivan 5764

Clergy and learned congregants will lead the adult program:

6:30 p.m. Mincha

6:45 p.m. Dairy Dinner

7:15-8:00 p.m.

Teaching Session I

8:00 p.m. Maariv

8:15 p.m.-1:00 a.m.

Multiple Teaching Sessions



School-age children are encouraged to attend and will be split into two age groups for Fun and Educational Programming from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

This program is a combined effort of Family Education, Religious School, and Youth Department

R.S.V.P. to the synagogue office by Wednesday, May 19, 2004.

Name(s) of
Adult(s) _____

Name(s) of
Child(ren) _____

If children are attending, please list their grades in school.

There will be a \$5.00 fee per person to cover the cost of a dairy dinner.

If your child is sensitive to certain foods, please contact Sarah Roark in advance at 301-652-8573 ext.319; sroark@bethelmc.org.

Set the Table with Torah

By Rabbi Greg Harris

May 15: B'har-B'hukkotai

This double portion concludes the book of Leviticus. In this section, 45 verses (a huge amount for any one topic in the Torah) is spent on spelling out blessing and curses which will come upon the Israelites if they follow God or move away from God. In the Torah, there is a cause and effect relationship between our relationship with God and receiving blessings. For me, though, my relationship with God is far more complex and rewarding than a simple check list. Have a discussion with your family about a) What does God want us to do? b) How are we blessed by doing that? c) How are we "cursed" by not doing these things?

May 22: B'midbar

This begins the book of Numbers. I have long felt that this book is about the Israelites "teenage" years. They are in the difficult transition to becoming independent. There are many struggles along the way. Three examples from Numbers are: the spies lie about what the Promised Land is like, Korach tries to stage a rebellion against Moses, and Moses loses his "cool" as he hits the rock rather than speaking to it for water for the Israelites. These seem to be about lying, challenging authority, and extreme frustration when people won't do what you want. These are all part of the Israelite experience and common for young adults. What are other difficult experiences that are part of transitioning to adulthood?

May 29: Naso

May the Lord bless you and protect you.

May the Lord deal kindly and graciously with you.

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

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

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.

Tired of doing the
same old thing
Saturday night?

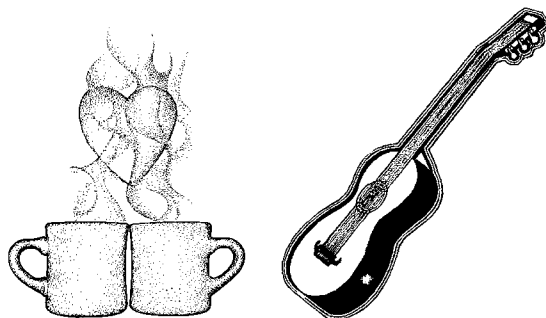
Finding that you
can't relate to the
music today?

Missing the spirit and
ruach of a traditional
sing-along or kumsitz?

**Well, you just might want
to come to Beth El's own**

Beit Cafe

**Israeli Coffeehouse on
Saturday Evening, May 22
9:00 p.m.**

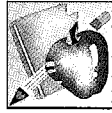


Come and perform a
couple of songs,
in English or Hebrew,
open-mic/coffee house style in
an intimate setting.
Fun night of music,
desserts and coffee.

Limited number of slots available on
a first-come, first-served basis.

We can accompany you.

All interested, please e-mail
Sally Pessin at sallyp@erols.com



**Religious School
Open House**

**For Parents of Prospective Students
Children Welcome**

**Sunday, May 23
9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
All-Purpose Room**

This is an opportunity for parents to meet the Religious School Director, Louis Nagel, and Family Education Director, Sarah Roark, and also tour the school.

RSVP to Louis Nagel at 301-652-8569, ext. 310 or lnagel@bethelmc.org

If you know of families in our community who might be interested in our Religious School and would like to receive an invitation to the Open House, please contact Mr. Nagel.

Interested In Joining/Forming A Havurah?

Are you new to Beth El? Have you been around awhile and want to connect more with members at the same stage of life or with the same interests? Joining a havurah might be the answer. Current havurot at Beth El have been together from 2 to 20 years and more! Members will tell you that their personal/family lives as well as their involvement at Beth El have been enriched as a result of their havurah participation.

We are now looking to form new havurot composed of members with common interests (examples: young families or families with young or religious school age kids, hiking, biking, photography, empty-nesters, or cooking - you name it). Let us know of your interest and we will try to match you with other members.

For more information or to let us know of your interest, contact Ann and Larry Kaplan at havurah@bethelmc.org.

**Family-Friendly
Friday Night Service
June 11, 2004**

**Social Hall
8:00 p.m.**

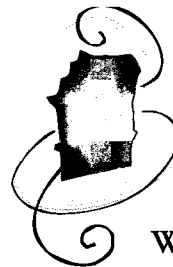
Remember the Friday Night Services of your youth?
Wish you could come to a short Shabbat Service together after work and dinner?

Here's your chance to attend a prayer service full of stories, songs, and fellowship, led by Rabbi Bill Rudolph and Sarah Roark.

Special honors will be given to anyone with a June birthday.

Services will be followed by a desert oneg.

Please join us for



**Roundtable
with the
Rabbi**



**Wednesday, June 2, 2004
2 p.m.**

Board Room

Come help us celebrate the June birthdays.

We will have dessert and coffee with a roundtable discussion led by Rabbi Rudolph.

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

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.

May 16 – May 20

Michael and Jodi Chernoff
 Rick and Joan Claxton
 Robert Clayman and Carol Miller
 Mark Clein and Nancy Lemann
 Daniel and Mara Clement
 Frans Coetzee and
 Marilyn Shevin-Coetzee
 Mark and Jocelyn Cogen
 Charles and Helen Cohen
 Jeffrey Cohen and Leslie Fried
 Richard and Eleanor Cohen
 Robert and Sheila Cohen
 Stephen Cohen and Deborah Friedman
 Stanley and Selma Cohen
 Susan Cohen
 Walter and Debbie Cohn
 Edward Comer and Joan Schaffer
 Jeffrey and Ferne Cooper
 Mitchell and Renee Cooper
 Robert and Diane Coplan
 Julia Copperman

May 23 – May 27

Miriam Crowell
 Stephen and Pamela Crystal
 Michael Cutler and Dale Rosenthal
 Jerome and Patricia Danoff
 David and Ellen Darr
 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
 Alan and Jane Dorfman
 Jonathan and Cynthia Dorfman

May 30 – June 2

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 and Ronald 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
 Isabel Einzig
 Allen Eisenberg and
 Constance Stromberg
 David and Barbara Eisenstein

New Members

The Beth El community extends its warm welcome to the following members who have recently joined or rejoined the synagogue. If one or more of these families live in your neighborhood, please reach out and personally welcome them. We encourage the new members to take advantage of the wonderful activities Beth El has to offer and hope you will let us know if you have questions or concerns that we can help to address.

Daniel and Jolie Brown, 5134 Manning Drive, Bethesda, MD 20814

301-652-8511

Jordana Brown, Dustin Brown

Adam and Harriet Kuhn, 8705 Lowell Street, Bethesda, MD 20817

301-469-8705

Abraham Kuhn, Jacob Kuhn

adamandharriet@yahoo.com

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

Minyan Chaverim

Minyan Chaverim meets on the third Shabbat of each month and will meet next on Saturday, May 15, at 9:30 a.m. 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 potluck(kosher dairy) lunch at a nearby home. For general information, contact **Debbie Feinstein** at debbie_feinstein@yahoo.com. To volunteer, contact **Michael Harrison** (Services) at miharrison2003@yahoo.com; **David Margulies** (D'var Torah) at dmargulies@niaid.nih.gov; **Melanie Bachrach** (Torah and Haftarah) at melanie@bachrach.us; **Steve Kuperberg** (Gabbai) at kup_98@yahoo.com; or **Michael Simon** (potluck lunch) at michael_simon@rosslyn.sparta.com.

Beth El Worship and Study Minyan

The Beth El Worship and Study Minyan will meet on Saturday, May 22, in the Meeting 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.

Nitzanim News

Todah Rabbah to **Adam and Harriet Kuhn** for co-sponsoring the Nitzanim Kiddush on April 10 in honor of **Abe's** 6th birthday.

Todah Rabbah to **Bucky and Mindi Jacobson** for co-sponsoring the Nitzanim Kiddush on April 10 in honor of **Lily's** 4th birthday.

Baruch Dayan Emet

Congregation Beth El offers its sincere condolences to **Estelle Abraham** on the death of her mother, **Ray Deutsch**; to **Elliot Wilner** on the death of his mother, **Edith Wilner**; to **Bea Goldman** on the death of her husband, **Jack Goldman**; to **Helen Shell** on the death of her father, **Leonard Finkelstein** and to **David Marshall** on the death of his mother, **Barbara Marshall**.

31st Annual Kavod Awards Sunday, May 23, 2004

Please join the Congregation Beth El Men's Club in honoring these members of our Congregation for their extensive volunteer activities in the following areas:

Darryl Sherman,
Service to Congregation Beth El

Daniel Mann,
Service to the Jewish Community

Bert King,
Service to the General Community

Breakfast – 9:30 a.m.
Ceremony – 10:00 a.m.

Cost – \$10 per person

For further information contact
Herb Wiser at 301-530-2615

Please reserve _____ seats for me for the Kavod Award Breakfast and Ceremony. I have attached a check for _____.

Send to:
Congregation Beth El Men's Club
8215 Old Georgetown Road
Bethesda, MD 20814

Greetings and News about Bahia Blanca

"We hope your Pesach was filled with blessings as precious as our friendship." This message was sent to members of Congregation Beth El from the Kehila of Bahia Blanca. Although Pesach is now past, our sister community in Bahia Blanca thinks of us still and sent wishes to us all.

This Jewish community continues to look for creative solutions to problems caused by the country's economic crisis as well as problems faced by the Jewish community worldwide. It is in this second area that they share news of a new initiative. In Argentina, college students do not live in dormitories but rather live in rented rooms or apartments or for the more affluent ones, in apartments purchased by the parents (this was the pattern of the past) in their college town. Hillel does not exist on most campuses nor do other organized Jewish organizations, making it difficult to keep students connected to their Judaism. Because Bahia Blanca has two universities and several institutes for post-high school training, members of the Kehila see many young college students come from small towns in the countryside to their city and lose their connection to Judaism.

In an attempt to address this problem in one small way, the Kehila has rented a house and begun to rent rooms to Jewish college students. The Joint may fund a project to contribute money toward rent payments until all of the rooms are rented and the house rents make it self-sufficient. At last report, there were three students living in the house, with one scheduled to move there in May. Potential students have been identified for the next school year. They hope that this initiative will make a difference for the Jewish students and the community.

As always, you can donate to this hardworking, caring Jewish community by sending a check to Congregation Beth El, World Jewry Committee-Bahia Blanca. Even our small donations make a big difference in the lives of so many.

Kostroma Jewish Leaders Meet with Governor

Recently, Jewish Community Rabbi Nison Rupp and Chairman Mikhail Geidman met with Kostroma's Governor Victor Sheshunov to discuss issues of Jewish interest. High on the agenda was the need for a new cemetery. The present facility is at capacity. A favorable decision is expected.

Rabbi Rupp invited the governor to visit the synagogue and suggested that it be included in the tourist brochure of the city, with a view to attracting more visitors to the city.

The visit concluded with the presentation of a gift to the governor on behalf of the congregation: a Hanukkah menorah from Israel.

Among other items of particular interest appearing in the synagogue's bulletin: Rabbi Rupp commented that Kostroma joined Beth El's Men's Club in "carrying out the mitzvah of putting on tefillin" as part of the "American Project: Worldwide Tefillin Wrap." Jeff Moak, Beth El's chair for the event, was responsible for the successful "twinning" of the congregations.

More news in next issue!

Kostroma Bids Farewell to Pesach

This year for Passover, the Jewish community of Kostroma hosted four students including the nephew of Chief Rabbi Berel Lazar. The future rabbis assisted the local Jewish community in arranging and leading the Passover festivities, including two public seders, prayers, and a 'Moshiach's Meal.'

On the last day of Passover, Jewish youth of Kostroma and elderly community members gathered for the 'Moshiach's Meal' in the synagogue. Renowned local sculptor Josif Dashefsky was among those celebrating the holiday. 'I feel that I need to come here, and each time I like it more and more.' He called on participants to recall their history and traditions, which are the source of vital energy of the Jewish people. A festive dinner followed the gathering in the synagogue.

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Join us as we celebrate
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