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CONGREGATION BETH EL

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Message from the Rabbi



I write this brief column the day after our synagogue honored me for twenty years of service. The tribute event was very special and showcased what makes our shul so special – so many clever and talented people (if you were there, you know of whom I speak), such a willingness to put time and effort into the community's endeavors, and a strong sense that we must do what we do with quality. I was so taken by how all that came together that night and by the electricity and spirit in the Sanctuary, but it wasn't the first time, and I know it won't be the last.

I want to share with you the final short paragraph of my remarks at the conclusion of the evening. It conveys what the night meant for me and what I think it meant for Beth El.

"Thank you for coming. It means a lot to me and I will always remember this evening. And I hope you will remember it too, as a time when our community came together officially to honor its senior rabbi, but really to honor its past and to help cement its future. Thank you."

And my thanks go to all of you for helping to create such a wonderful synagogue community.

Rabbi Bill Rudolph

Shabbat Services and B'nai Mitzvah

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

Friday, June 11

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service - APR

8:00 pm Family Shabbat Service - APR

Saturday, June 12

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

7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services

9:15 am Lauren Wolbarsht Bat Mitzvah

10:30 am Nitzanim - APR

Friday, June 18

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service - BR

7:45 pm Kol Haneshamah Service - SH

Saturday, June 19

Korah: Numbers 16:1-18:32

7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services

9:15 am Gabriella Kahn Bat Mitzvah

9:30 am Minyan Chaverim - APR

10:30 am Gan Shabbat - MR

8:00 pm Mincha, Seudah Shlishit,
Ma'ariv, Havdalah - APR

Sunday, June 20

10:00 am Danielle Levy Bat Mitzvah

Friday, June 25

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service - BR

Saturday, June 26

Hukat: Numbers 19:1-22:1

7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services

10:30 am Nitzanim - APR

Friday, July 2

6:30 pm Friday Evening Service - BR

Saturday, July 3

Balak: Numbers 22:2-25:9

7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services

9:50 am Worship & Study Minyan - APR

10:30 am Gan Shabbat - MR

Sisterhood News

Israeli Roses for Mother's Day

Receiving beautiful roses from Israel helped make Mother's Day special for over 65 women in the congregation family. Sisterhood thanks the volunteers who handled the orders, tended the roses on arrival, and gave up their own Mother's Day morning to package them for distribution. The Beth El Gallery looked like a flower mart! Thanks to project chairs **Esther Wilner, Pat Danoff, and Susan King** for making all the arrangements as well as Sunday volunteers **Julia Copperman, Pat Danoff, Gale Dutcher, Barbara Eisenstein, Judy Goldman, Susan King, Debbie Leibowitz, Ted Lieb, Nancy Rosenthal, Ellona Wilner, and Esther Wilner**. You can beautify your home and support the Israeli economy by ordering these lovely long-lasting flowers straight from the Negev. The prices are reasonable and delivery is to your door via FedEx. Visit the website www.mnmrose.com or call Esther Wilner at 301-320-2478 for information.

Sisterhood Education Program

"Put on a Happy Face," a makeup demonstration by Faye Mendelsohn held on April 25, was a huge success. Approximately 40 women of all ages attended and got complimentary personal makeup consultation. Thanks to **Brenda Bregman, Phyllis Solomon, Ellen Eule, and Laurie Webber** for a wonderful program.

Invitation and Stationery Sales

Need invitations, stationery or kippot? Contact Marilyn Hammerman at mhammerman@aol.com or 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**

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.

Sunday, June 6 - Congregant David Brooks will speak on "Readings from Pirkai Avot" (Ethics of the Fathers).

Thursday, June 10 - 8:30 p.m. "Hearing Men's Voices" - continuing monthly discussion group for men only. The topic each month is picked by the person facilitating that month's discussion. Men are invited to attend at any time - there is no requirement for attendance at previous sessions.

Sunday, June 13 - Program TBA

Saturday, June 19 - 8:00 p.m. Monthly Shabbat Mincha, Seudah Shilshit, Ma'ariv, and Havdalah Service.

Sunday, June 20 - Program TBA

Sunday, June 27 - Frank Ephraim will speak on his recently published book, *Escape to Manilla*.

Men's Club had their general membership meeting on May 9. Current officers who had been nominated to continue in their positions were confirmed by acclamation. This past year has been a good one - membership is up somewhat off the low of last year.

Ahavat Shir

Judith Newman, a dedicated member of the Ahavat Shir, was accidentally omitted from the list of Ahavat Shir singers included in the "Rhythm, Roast, and Ruach" program for Rabbi Rudolph. The Ahavat Shir participated in the "Shir HaK'Hillah Friday Evening Service on May 7, 2004.

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"

Baruch Dayan Emet

Congregation Beth El offers its sincere condolences to **Marilda Averbug** on the death of her father, **Noah Winkler**; to **Beryl Frank** on the death of his wife, **Gloria Frank**; and to **Meyer Zitter** on the death of his sister, **Jean Barrack**.

Message from the President

The Year in Review

Attempting to provide a thorough review of the past year's synagogue activities would be like counting cicadas—impossible, just because the number is overwhelming. Instead, I'll try to highlight several of the major events as well as the activities of the Board. Because so many individuals were involved in the activities, I've chosen intentionally not to include thanks to each and every one for fear that I might unintentionally overlook someone. Nevertheless, we are indebted to all of you for what you have provided to our community.

At the first Board meeting of the year, in June, I presented my goals for the members of the Board in their role as synagogue leaders. My expectations have been exceeded due to a tremendous group of dedicated volunteers who have served the synagogue exceptionally well over the past year and deserve our gratitude. Please thank a Board member the next time you see one!

Following the recommendation of the Atid and Governance Committee reports, the meeting culminated with approval of a motion to reduce the size of the Board to include the elected officers, auxiliary representatives, and immediate past president. Trustees and committee chairmen were assigned to one of six "centers," each led by a Vice President.

The annual Sisterhood-Nitzanim picnic was held on July 13.

In August, the construction project started with the demolition of the two houses south of the Beth El.

The Board held a retreat on September 7, focusing on leadership skills and Jewish leadership values.

The Youth Department Kickoff was held on September 14.

Late Friday Night Services returned to Beth El in September and continued on a regular basis throughout the year.

The synagogue-wide Fall Festival Fair was held on September 21.

Three different High Holy Day services were held, both a traditional and a lay-led service at Whitman and one at Beth El. Rabbi Rudolph presented "hachnasat

orchim" (welcoming the stranger) as the mitzvah on which he suggested we focus particular attention during the year.

Hazzan Lubin initiated the "Iyun T'Filah" programs on alternating Shabbat mornings to teach melodies, content, and the history of the liturgy.

The inaugural Atid Leadership Development Class began in the fall, with presentations by several prominent speakers including **Erica Brown**, **Rabbi Sid Schwarz**, and **Misha Galperin**.

The Saul Bendit Adult Institute started its programs of Tuesday and Wednesday classes in October.

The Men's Club's "Hearing Men's Voices" program continued throughout the year.

Beth El's Solidarity Mission to Israel took place from October 26 through November 3.

The "Salute to Israel" and Yom Hadash Musical Weekends in December were both a great success.

The "Worldwide Wrap" tefillin program was held in January.

The Sisterhood sponsored a Melaveh Malka program in early February.

Construction continued through the winter, and the topmost steel beam was placed in early March. Members were invited to sign the beam before it was placed. A construction loan agreement was signed with United Bank for \$7.3 million.

Megillah Madness returned to Beth El for Purim, with scores of participants and over 800 people attending. A large group also attended the traditional megillah reading.

"Taste of Beth El," a progressive dinner for approximately 300 members, was held in late March, providing an opportunity for eating and informal socializing.

Following dialogue with many members as well as the Ritual Committee, Rabbi Rudolph announced to the Board his plans to permit acoustic instruments to be played at Kabbalat Shabbat services throughout the year, with non-instrumental services always being available.

At April's Board meeting, the annual budget was approved for recommendation to the congregation. Based on the early results of the final stage of the Capital

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Campaign, the Board also unanimously approved a motion to move ahead with completion of the entire construction project.

The School Structure Committee, having conducted a six-month study of the Religious School options for change and the opinions of congregants, presented its report to the Board on April 29. Following hours of thoughtful deliberation on April 29 and May 13, the Board voted on a motion to direct the Religious School to pursue a dual-track (3-day and 2-day) program for Fall 2005. This did not pass, with 10 in favor and 12 opposed. Following the vote, discussion continued as to how to address the needs of those families who had expressed an interest in a 2-day program, but no conclusion was reached.

On May 8, a standing-room-only audience attended a tribute to Rabbi Rudolph for his 20 years of service to the congregation. The outstanding generosity of donors created a net profit of more than \$100,000, making it the largest single fundraising event in our history.

Several Centers have been working on innovative projects. The Center for Education and Lifelong Learning has been reviewing the adult Hebrew education opportunities at Beth El. The Center for Prayer and Spirituality has created a Worship Committee to discuss enhancement of worship services and is also investigating expansion of the Chevra Kedisha group to include more help to families during bereavement. The Center for Strategic Planning is attempting to improve communication capabilities inside and outside of Beth El and its Governance Committee is providing feedback and assistance in implementing the new governance structure. The Center for Budget and Finance is seeking ways to create less reliance on dues, including planned-giving programs and coordinated fundraising. A three-year budget cycle process has been created.

In summary, Beth El is a vibrant synagogue, bursting at the seams with energy, creativity, enthusiasm, and optimism, and we have not had a reduction in activities despite the limitations created by construction. We are financially sound. We are continuing to work actively to meet the goals established in the Atid report.

Your leadership thanks you for your continued trust and looks forward to serving you during what we anticipate will be another exceptional year.

B'shalom,
Brent

Splinters from the Board

April 27, 2004

by Tami Simon

President's Message. Brent Berger noted that the Atid Leadership course ended last week with a final dinner and presentations of the leadership projects. Brent is enthusiastic about the new pool of leaders in the community and will be calling upon those individuals to

take on positions in Beth El. Board members are encouraged tour the new construction, when tours are offered. Sheila Bellack noted that a tour of the construction site will be on the agenda for the annual congregational meeting. Finally, Brent reminded the board that May 8 is the Rabbi's Tribute fundraiser.

Center Reports. Phyllis Solomon reported that Taste of Beth El was a huge success. The committee that organized that event will also be organizing the next community building event, along with other committee members in her center. Leesa Fields reported that Saul Bendit enrollment is down this semester because the Wednesday evening session is off site. Thursday, April 29 will be the first of two board meetings to discuss the 2/3 day school structure issue, and all board members were strongly encouraged to attend. Judy Futterman reported that progress is being made on the Beth El website. The shul continues to host Open Houses for interested parties. There were several great ideas that stemmed from the leadership course for reaching out to new populations which are being considered. Finally, Shelly London reported that fundraising for the May 8 Rudolph tribute look great and will far surpass the budgeted figures

Financial Report and 2004-05 Budget Presentation. Sheila reported that as of March 31, 2004, the shul has 916 member units. While Religious School experienced a decrease in enrollment at the beginning of the school year, enrollment has remained steady since then. To date, all construction has been paid for by contributions from congregants and nothing has been drawn from the bank. The first draw will take place in a few days.

Capital and Construction Program. To date, the project is essentially on target and the Construction Committee is very pleased with how the fundraising is going. As of the end of March, we had received just under \$5 million in pledges. On a cash basis, the shul has loaned the campaign about \$140,000. Funds necessary to be raised are about \$620,000 to complete the project. A plan is being developed to reach our capital campaign fundraising goal.

Proposed Budget 2004-05. Walter Arnheim reported on the proposed budget. The budget made several key assumptions that were generally conservative. The proposal assumes that the number of membership units will remain the same. The dues and tuition increases will be approximately 10% and 8%, respectively, which should still keep Beth El within the range of other large Conservative shuls in the area. Some other fees will also increase. Finally, it was noted that Restricted Funds are an important component of the congregation and will help us determine future philanthropy of the shul. The proposed budget will be mailed to congregants prior to the Annual Meeting.

Motions. Sid Getz made a motion that there be

quarterly reports from committees in charge of membership and the capital campaign fundraising. The motion passed unanimously. Walter made a motion that the proposed budget for 2004-05 be approved for presentation to the congregation with the exceptions that (1) further discussion will continue on the *Scroll* publication issue by the Communication Committee and (2) the increase in Sisterhood's contribution will first need to be approved by Sisterhood at their next board meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Walter made a second motion on behalf of the finance committee to proceed with all phases of the construction project. The motion also passed unanimously.

Report to Congregation on Musical Instruments

For several years now, on several levels, there has been discussion about making a change in our ritual practices that would involve the use of musical instruments in some Friday night services at Beth El. Where instruments have been used here on an experimental basis during the spring and summer months and in synagogues around the country, the response has been dynamic in terms of both attendance and spirit. I believe that Beth El would benefit from a limited change in our ritual practices that would bring these services to our people year-round. Such a change fits within the parameters of Conservative Jewish practice and the decisions of the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards of the Rabbinical Assembly.

The documentation of the issues and the underlying halachic considerations have been made available to congregants and continue to be available. I do not wish to repeat all of this again and just ask that if you have not been privy to these discussions which have been conducted in full public light, that you contact me and I will send you the details.

The final stage in this multi-year process was a series of public meetings in the winter just concluded. Those discussions and e-mails and letters that I received over the course of these same months allowed me to hear a variety of viewpoints. There was a lot of passion about the issue but also a very encouraging sense of give-and-take and willingness to listen to other opinions. Technically, I heard from 30 people in favor of the limited change I was proposing and 21 against it. More important was the nature of the concerns. To summarize these concerns:

- Some were opposed to instruments on Shabbat regardless.
- Some were opposed to instruments being used in the Ma'ariv Service but not Kabbalat Shabbat (which is not a statutory Shabbat service)

- Some were opposed to instruments on Friday night because they were concerned that introducing them in Friday night services would lead logically to their being introduced into Shabbat morning services.

- Some were concerned that people would have no choice but to attend the service with instruments.

- Some were concerned that even if we would always hold another service on Friday nights without instruments (which we do), they would still hear the instruments.

- Some were concerned about the use of non-acoustical instruments which seemed so not-Shabbat-like.

Given these sentiments, I determined a course of action that is minimalist in the amount of change involved. It is a different decision than I was prepared to make at the beginning of this process. I have tried to listen to what people said while still moving forward to bring this added musical spirit into the lives of our members.

My decision is that musical instruments can be used for Kabbalat Shabbat services year-round but then must be put away once we reach the *Barchu* (=beginning of *Ma'ariv*). In addition,

- There will always be a traditional service when there is one using instruments (which I anticipate will be once or twice a month)

- We will keep as much distance (in physical location and time) as possible between the two services

- Only acoustical instruments will be permitted, thus approximating the kinds of instruments used in Biblical times

- The nature of the decision contains these positives for those opposed:

- It will continue to be the case that musical instruments are not used in Shabbat services at Beth El (since Kabbalat Shabbat is not a statutory Shabbat service but rather an introduction to the first statutory Shabbat service, the Ma'ariv).

- Related to this, concerns about the "slippery slope," namely that precedent will be set for the use of instruments on Shabbat morning too, should be reduced because we are still not permitting the use of musical instruments in Shabbat services.

The benefit to the Beth El community is that many more members (and guests) will be able to enjoy a meaningful Friday evening service, year-round, than do when the only option is a service without instruments.

Rabbi Bill Rudolph

Footnote: Since this decision was reached, Congregation Har Shalom in Potomac has been advertising new Friday night services using musical instruments. Adas Israel has been using instruments for decades, evening and morning. At this point in time, of the four largest Conservative synagogues in our community, three are using musical instruments on Shabbat. Beth El's usage is the most limited of the three.

Set The Table With Torah

by Louis Nagel

June 5: Parshat B'ha'alot'kha

This week's portion is one of those incredible narratives with many elements worthy of special attention. I am particularly fond of ethical instructions that appear often as asides throughout the Torah such as appears here, "There shall be one law for you, whether stranger or citizen of the country" (Numbers 9:14). In this 50th year of Brown vs. Board of Education, we know this has not always been the case in America. What opportunities do we have to act on this verse? What obligations can we take on to act in the spirit of this teaching?

Throughout this portion are challenges to Moses' leadership. When do you have opportunities to be a leader? What does it mean to you to be a leader? In one of these passages, Moses gathers "seventy of the people's elders." The spirit of God visits the 70 and "they spoke in ecstasy, but did not continue." This is interpreted to mean that they had this incredible experience, but after it was over, they continued somewhat unchanged. Have you had a remarkable experience that changed you? As the narrative continues, two of the 70, Eldad and Medad, continue to "speak in ecstasy," prompting a concerned report to Moses that those two were "acting the prophet in the camp!" Joshua told Moses, "Restrain them!" Were you in Moses' sandals, what would you have done? Would you be worried about Eldad and Medad diminishing your influence? What does it tell you about the character of Moses that his reaction was, "Would that all the Lord's people were prophets, that the Lord put His spirit upon them!"

June 12: Parshat Sh'lach L'kha

What is the meaning of tzitzit? A friend of mine, Rabbi Sid Schwarz, remarked that the mitzvah we articulate in the form of tallit, coming from the verse, "make...fringes on the corners of (your) garments...thus shall you be reminded to observe all My commandments and to be holy to your God" (B'Midbar 15:38-40), tells us that what is most important in Judaism is the fringes. What lesson does this tell us about being a part of an inclusive, tolerant community?

Perhaps this verse relates to an earlier passage in this portion, the episode of the spies. God tells Moses to send scouts out to "the land...I am giving to the Israelite people." Upon their return, they report that "it does indeed flow with milk and honey, However...the people are powerful, and the cities are fortified" (B'Midbar 13:27-28). Countering the despair and rebellion that breaks out among the Israelites, one of the spies, Caleb, says, "Let us by all means go up and we shall gain possession of (the land)." Joshua, understanding the implications even further, says, "you must not rebel against the Lord. Have no fear of the people of the country...the Lord is with us" (B'Midbar 14:9). When have you risked being on

the fringes of the community to propose an unpopular course of action? What price is paid to either challenge the majority or go along with the group? What motivated your courage? Caleb and Joshua are said to have been motivated by faith in God. What is the source of your confidence?

June 19: Parshat Korah

How do you react to challenges to your integrity, accusations that your motivations are less than pure? Jewish history is landscaped with devious individuals who persuaded masses to question our intentions. Parshat Korah gives us one of our most ancient lessons in confronting demagogues.

Korah leads a rebellion against the leadership of Moses, beginning the conflict proclaiming, "You (Moses) have gone too far! For all the community are holy, all of them, and the Lord is in their midst. Why then do you raise yourselves above the Lord's congregation?" (B'Midbar 16:3) If you were Moses, how would you answer this challenge? Does assuming a position of leadership imply setting oneself above others? In the parsha two weeks ago, Moses demonstrated his humble welcoming of others "acting the prophet," so we have recent evidence that he is far from hungering for power.

Pirke Avot refers to Korah's rebellion as an illegitimate controversy "not for the sake of heaven" (a higher good). We see disputes raised around us all the time, in the news, at home, in the office, classroom and athletic field, for example. How do we regard these when they are "for the sake of heaven" (for the greater good) and when they are not? We see Moses and Aaron's leadership challenged, although Aaron is frequently described as a peacemaker. When controversy arises, how do you play the peacemaker?

Megillah Madness 2004 Videos

Relive all the fun, excitement and ruach of Megillah Madness by ordering a copy of this year's Purim video. The Megillah Madness III videos go on sale June 7. A few copies also remain of previous years' Megillah Madness videos. To reserve your copy or for further information, please contact Mitchell Solkowitz at mitchell.solkowitz@verizon.net.

All in the Family

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

Mazal Tov to **Sandra and Gerald Friedman** on the birth of their first grandchild, **Evan Jacob Friedman**, son of **Lisa and Steven Friedman** of Cleveland, Ohio, on April 8, 2004.

Rhythm, Roast, and Ruach

Rhythm, Roast, and Ruach: Celebrating Rabbi Rudolph's 20 years at Beth El played to a full house, May 8. Combining humor, nostalgia, warmth, and a variety of musical styles, the evening's participants paid tribute to Rabbi Rudolph's numerous accomplishments at Beth El while gently poking fun at his rare foibles.

The evening began with a Havdalah Service where more than 20 representatives from a spectrum of groups at Beth El held candles on a darkened bimah. Among the groups represented were administrative, kitchen, and maintenance staffs, Board of Directors, clergy, Family Camp, Megillah Madness, Men's Club, Nitzanim, Nursery and Religious Schools, the Rudolph Family, Saul Bendit Adult Institute, Senior Caucus, Sisterhood, Torah Study Class, Vatikim, Worship and Study Minyan, and Youth Groups. Music for Havdalah was provided by **Debbie Glick**, **Deborah Neipris Hendler**, and **Sheila Smallberg Cohen**, vocals; **Debbie Fink**, violin; **Sid Getz**, bass; and **Bob Litman**, keyboard. **Rabbi Gregory Harris** led the Havdalah rituals.

For the Tribute, **Rob Fersh** was a stellar MC, alternating between comedy and seriousness and adlibbing when the need arose, as when **Leslie Shedlin** sprinted down the center aisle to deliver telegrams from George W. Bush and John Kerry, each imploring Rabbi Rudolph to be his running mate. In his remarks, **Rabbi Emeritus Samuel Scolnic** spoke about his long working relationship with Rabbi Rudolph with never a cross word between them and about Rabbi Rudolph's special concern for older congregants. Congregation President **Brent Berger** gave Rabbi Rudolph dark glasses to wear and, accompanied by the theme from "Mission Impossible," described the challenges and pleasures ("all Dorothy's tuna fish you can eat") of being a rabbi at Beth El.

Gail Ross and **Joan Simon**, both dressed and mustachioed as Rabbi Rudolph, enacted a dialogue between Rabbi Rudolph and himself and highlighted their work with him on the Torah-writing project. Representing the Senior Caucus, **Sy Gross** sang *Der Neier Yid*, a traditional Yiddish song wishing good fortune to a Bar Mitzvah boy. Rabbi Harris spoke of what he had learned from Rabbi Rudolph, including how to clean a fish tank, and **Peter Novick**, a mainstay of the Shabbat Early Morning Minyan, recalled being congregation president and hiring Rabbi Rudolph without soliciting board advice. **Dede Feinberg**, immediate past president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and a Beth El congregant, praised Rabbi Rudolph's extraordinary fundraising for Israel within Beth El, and **Bob Litman**, singing the prayer for Israel to music he composed, underscored Rabbi Rudolph's devotion to Israel. Describing his working relationship with Rabbi Rudolph as some of the most productive years of his professional life, **Hazzan Abraham Lubin** sang a moving tribute with

words by **Sandy Lubin** in "You Did it Your Way" and concluded with *misheberach*.

Surprise guest **Gail Fribush** showed slides of what Rabbi Rudolph does when he's not at Beth El, namely biking, weightlifting, gardening, and home repairs (believe it) and generally being a knight in shining armor.

The Tribute Committee presented several gifts to Rabbi Rudolph: a keepsake box with a copy of the evening's invitation on the lid; to combine Rabbi Rudolph's concern for Israel and love of music, a contribution to the Taylor Music Therapy Center in Jerusalem, which trains music therapists and has 2400 students including 400 Arabs; and a tribute book filled with sentiments and photos from several hundred congregants. For Rabbi Rudolph's new office, **N. Amanda Ford** created a stunning wall hanging interpreting a talk given by Rabbi Yitzchak Breitowitz at the 2002 Community Torah Institute, in which he said the ideal synagogue is like a mountain (of refuge), a field (of growth), and a home (of love).

In his concluding remarks, Rabbi Rudolph acknowledged people with whom he has worked closely during his 20 years at Beth El and said he looked forward to a future of accomplishment and growth for all sectors of the congregation.

A champagne reception with a groaning board of desserts and two chocolate fountains worth every calorie followed in the social hall and gallery, with dancing to music by the Jeffrey Phillip Combo, a band organized by congregant Jeff Cooper. Decorations included favorite quotations along the windows of the Sanctuary, ladders of Israeli roses on the bimah, more roses and a mural of Jerusalem in the social hall, and historical photos of Rabbi Rudolph in the gallery.

In addition to the dedicated people who planned and executed the Tribute and were listed in the evening's program, much-appreciated kitchen help was provided by staff member **Charlene Brock** and congregants **Cathy Binder**, **Julia Copperman**, **Margery** and **Shelly London**, **Toni Schettewi**, **Judy Sherman**, **Joel Simon**, and **Helene Weisz**. Program proofreading was provided by **Judy Goldman**, and stalwart ushers were **Jerry Danoff**, **Leesa Fine**, **Judy Futterman**, **Jill** and **David Gessner**, **Sarah Kalser**, **Susan King**, **Janice Liebowitz**, **Alyssa Lipkind**, **Margery London**, **Judy Sherman**, **Roz Sporn**, and **Helene Weisz**.

Congregants whose participation in Beth El's most successful fundraiser was received too late to be included in the program were Supporters: **Harry** and **Rhonda Eisenstein**; Donors: **Thera Finbloom** and **Sam Swersky**, **Mitzi** and **Mitzi Goldman**, **Juan** and **Lelia Groner**, **Rhonda Kleiner**, **Sari Kurland** and **Robert Bloch**, **Stephen Levy** and **Lois Zuckerman**, **Bob Litman**, **Carol** and **Robert Luskin**, **David** and **Stacey Saltzman**, **Rabbi Sam** and **Judy Scolnic**, **Ellen** and **Sina Soumekhian**, **Leonore Swerdlow**, **Jeffrey Trauberman** and **Patricia Silver**, **Marta** and **Bernie Wassertzug**, and **Zaslow Stanton Family**.

Evening Minyan

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

June 6 – June 10

David and Merry Eisenstadt
Harry and Rhonda Eisenstein
Lawrence and Laura Eisen
Mitchell and Lisa Eisen
David and Lori Farber Eisner
Norton and Sandy Elson
Eugene and Eleanor Elzufon
Eric and Jessica Enig
Burton and Diane Epstein
Norman and Ellen Eule
William and Elaine Fairweather
Robert and June Falb
David and Eve Farber
Benjamin and Joyce Fassberg
Howard and Susan Feibus
Jonathan and Karen Feibus
Kenneth and Carolyn Feigenbaum
Kenneth and Diane Feinberg
Michael Feinstein and Melissa Kahn
Cary and Nancy Feldman

June 20 – June 24

Steven Frank
Steven and Regina Frank
Henry Freedman
Stanley Freeman
Karl Freiberg
Steven and Sheryl Freishtat
Barry and Barbara Friedman
Bernard and Paula Friedman
Gerald and Sandra Friedman
Helen Friedkin
Moshe and Sarah Friedman
Peter and Debra Friedmann
Philip and Beverly Friedman
Samuel and Eleanor Frishman
Craig and Judy Futterman
Jerome and Mona Gabry
Mordechai and Joan Galil
Patrick and Tracey Gallagher
Jeffrey and Lynne Ganek
Florence Gang

June 13 – June 17

Elliot and Lily Feldman
Lloyd and Ninetta Feldman
Eleanor Feldbaum
Shirley Feldman
Robert Fersh and Sharon Markus
Thera Finbloom
Leesa Fine
Bernice Finkelstein
Michael and Deborah Fink
Ira and Sheryl Fishman
Michael Fishman
Samuel and Tamar Fishman
Rosalyn Fleisher
David and Anne Fletcher
Lawrence Flugler and Linda Fassberg
Samuel Forstein and Faye Ehrenstamm
Murray and Anne Foss
Albert and Evelyn Fox
Russell Fox and Andrea Shandell
Beryl Frank

June 27 – July 1

Jonathan and Jane Gang
Jerrold and Sally Ganzfried
Michael Garel
Hy Garfinkel
William Garfinkel
Fenya Gelfer
Boris and Dora Gendelman
Sylvan and Esther Gerber
Michael and Joanne Geroe
Daniel Geselowitz and Sandra Cohen
Elaine Gessow
Sidney and Janet Getz
Stefanie Gilbert
Mark and SuzAnne Gladstone
Suzanne Glaser
Harry and Carol Glazer
Jeffrey and Marilyn Glick
Scott and Deborah Glick
Madelyn Glist
Frances Glovinsky

Beth El Worship and Study Minyan

The Beth El Worship and Study Minyan will meet on Saturday, June 5, in the All Purpose Room from 9:50 a.m. to Noon. The service, conducted entirely by members of the congregation, combines evocative Torah study with ample singing and ruach. Children of all ages are welcome, although the service is oriented toward adults. Contact **Dan Hirsch**, 301-654-7289, DOHirsch@aol.com; **Sid Getz**, 301-530-2215, Sidgetz@aol.com; or **Mark Levitt**, 301-365-5365, MLevitt@Nelliscorp.com, for more information.