

Scroll

CONGREGATION BETH EL

July 2, 2004

13 Tammuz 5764

Volume 53

No. 15

Message from Rabbi Harris



"See you in the fall, Rabbi." "I want to get together after the summer, Rabbi." "I will not see you in shul, Rabbi, it's summer you know." It is strange to end the formal programming year at the synagogue. Classes end, thank yous are said, and people tell me goodbye for the summer. An assumption is made that while people are on vacation, Judaism is also on hold. Summer is a time for people to take a break from the demands of their "normal" life and often people set aside Judaism along with their meetings, carpools, and homework. Rather than the synagogue, places like Bethany, Dewey, Deep Creek and Ocean City become the gathering points for people.

So, does Judaism take a vacation when we are on vacation? Of course not. For me, Judaism is not simply a set of obligations but a world view. The values, rituals, and community that I draw strength from during the year are equally

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Shabbat Services

<p>Friday, July 2 6:30 pm Friday Evening Service - BR 8:00 pm Friday Evening Singing Service - APR</p> <p>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</p> <p>Friday, July 9 6:30 pm Friday Evening Service - BR</p> <p>Saturday, July 10 Pinhas: Numbers 25:10-30:1 7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services 10:30 am Nitzanim - APR</p> <p>Friday, July 16 6:30 pm Friday Evening Service - BR 8:00 pm Kol Haneshama Service</p>	<p>Saturday, July 17 Mattot-Mas'ei: Numbers 30:2-36:13 7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services 9:45 am Joint Study Session 10:30 am Gan Shabbat - MR 7:30 pm Mincha, Seudah Shlishit, Maariv, Havdalah - APR</p> <p>Friday, July 23 6:30 pm Friday Evening Service - BR</p> <p>Saturday, July 24 D'varim: Deuteronomy 1:1-3:22 7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services 10:30 am Nitzanim - APR</p> <p>Friday, July 30 6:30 pm Friday Evening Service - BR</p> <p>Saturday, July 31 Va'et'hannan: Deuteronomy 3:23-7:11 7:30 & 9:15 am Shabbat Services 10:30 am Nitzanim - APR</p>
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High Holiday Mailing

High Holiday packets were mailed to all congregants about two weeks ago. If you have not received this mailing, contact the synagogue office as soon as possible. High Holiday registration forms are due back to the office no later than August 12. If you need to make special financial arrangements for dues or tuition, please contact Sheila Bellack at sbellack@bethelmc.org or ext. 306.

Sisterhood News

Sisterhood Officers For 2004-2005

(approved by the membership on June 6, 2004)

President	Leslie Dellon
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Corresponding Secretary	Nancy Rosenthal
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One-Year Directors	Linda Fassberg Ivy Fields Audrey Griff Gail Ross Holly Stein Mimi Tygier

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.

Men's Club News

During the summer, Men's Club activities generally slow down but do not stop. Sunday morning services and breakfasts will continue through the summer, Minyan at 9:00 a.m. followed by breakfast at 9:30 a.m.

The Men's Club will continue the highly successful monthly Saturday Mincha, Seudah Shilshit, Ma'ariv, and Havdalah. These services have moved to the third Saturday of the month to more evenly distribute activities. During the summer, the service will be on July 17 at 7:30 p.m. and August 21 at 7:00 p.m.

The Men's Club will also continue the "Hearing Men's Voices" program during July and August at 8:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month. This monthly men's discussion group focuses on topics of interest to men and can involve family, religion, business, or any other subject. All men are welcome whether they have attended previously or not.

Ideas For High Holidays

The Worship Committee would like your help in creating an atmosphere at Beth El that will make the High Holidays experience even more meaningful for every congregant. We invite you to join us in this effort.

First, we want to provide a way for people to get into the spirit of the Holidays. We invite all congregants (and their children) to compose a brief prayer of reflection — in prose or poem, dialogue or narrative, reflections or personal memories, whatever moves you to reflect your feelings during the High Holiday season. We will compile them into a booklet for people to read during services. Look for a form you can use in the High Holiday packet.

Second, we hope to expand significantly the number of volunteer activities (e.g., ushers) to make for a warmer, more friendly, and comfortable experience. The idea is to have the same volunteer services performed but each for a shorter time, thus allowing more people to participate. Sign up with your spouse and/or children, another family, or a friend. The High Holiday packet will also include a sign-up sheet for those who wish to volunteer.

Third, come to at least one morning minyan during the month before the High Holidays begin (Sunday-Friday, August 17-September 15). It will be a wonderful opportunity to hear the sounding of the shofar and get in the mood for the Holidays.

The Worship Committee seeks any other ideas congregants may have for increasing the participation in and feeling of community and spirituality of Beth El's High Holiday experience. Call Susan Levine (301-530-2919) or e-mail her at bjanney@starpower.net.

Message from the President

Volunteers are the backbone of Beth El, and two exceptional individuals - **Michelle Hainbach** and **Cheryl Rod** - are now stepping down from their committee leadership responsibilities.

For the past two years, Michelle has led the Religious School Committee, and for many years, Cheryl has overseen the Ushering Committee. Both have approached their work with enthusiasm and demonstrated their love of the synagogue with their excellent service. We hope they will continue their participation in other leadership endeavors in the future.

Please take a minute to offer your own appreciation to Michelle and Cheryl when you have the opportunity.

B'shalom,
Brent

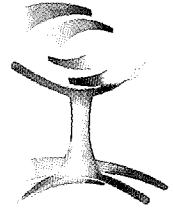
Message from Rabbi Harris *continued*

accessible during the summer months... but possibly without wearing a tie all the time. Judaism's relevance is not diminished by the season.

Our challenge then is to make our summer experiences Jewish experiences. Here are seven suggestions on how: 1) Light Shabbat candles on your vacation. 2) Find a local synagogue and see how another community celebrates Shabbat. 3) Read a Jewish book on vacation. 4) Visit a Jewish museum or point of interest this summer. 5) We are only 2 months away from the High Holidays so start reflecting on your year. 6) Attend Tisha B'Av services on the night of July 26 in whatever community you are in. 7) I might get in trouble for this one, but you might decide to pass on ordering Maryland's softshelled specialty this summer.

The summer offers us a chance to slow down, recharge our batteries, and reflect on our Jewish lives. Take Judaism on vacation with you. I have always found it to be a good travel companion.

The Kol Haneshama Musical Kabbalat Shabbat Service



Please join the Beth El Band
for a spirited Friday night service
featuring the melodies of
Shlomo Carlebach,
Craig Taubman, and
Congregation B'nai Jeshurun

July 16, 8:00 p.m.
Beth El Social Hall

**Musical instruments are used
during the Kabbalat Shabbat
portion of the service.**

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Abraham Lubin
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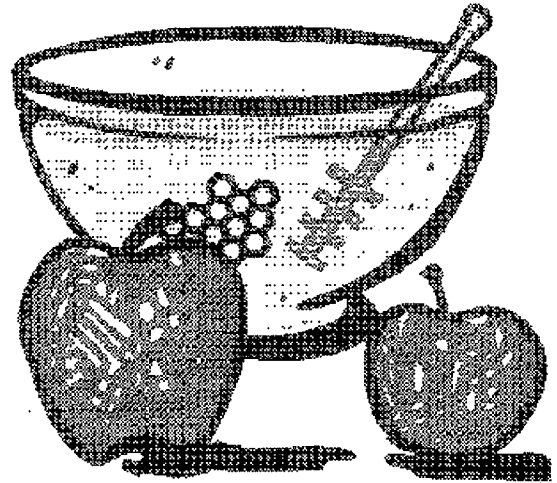
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OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

Shana Tova!

5765



Send New Year greetings to your friends at Beth El !

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

Form must be received by August 16

Thank you for supporting Sisterhood by participating in this project.

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

Return this form by August 16 along with a check for \$18 made payable to Beth El Sisterhood.

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

Name(s) as you wish it to appear (adults only, women and/or men, please)

Phone Number _____

Questions? Contact Pat Danoff at 301-365-1180 or pdanoff@yahoo.com

Shabbat in the Summer— Beth El Changes Pace for 2004

July 2004

July 2, Friday evening

Traditional Service 6:30 p.m.

Singing Service 8:00 p.m. —

Rabbi Bill Rudolph & Scott Glick

July 3, Shabbat morning

Early Minyan 7:30 a.m. Sanctuary Service 9:15 a.m.

Tefillah Comments and D'var Torah —

Rabbi Greg Harris

Worship & Study Minyan 9:50 a.m.

July 9, Friday evening

Traditional Service 6:30 p.m.

July 10, Shabbat morning

Early Minyan 7:30 a.m.; Sanctuary Service 9:15 a.m.

Dialogue: "What Does it Mean to be a

Committed Conservative Jew?" —

Rabbi Greg Harris and Hazzan Abraham Lubin

July 16, Friday evening

Traditional Service 6:30 p.m.

Kol Haneshama Service 8:00 p.m. —

Sid Getz and the Beth El Band

July 17, Shabbat morning

Early Minyan 7:30 a.m.

Sanctuary Service 9:15 a.m.

Joint Parsha Study-All Minyanim 9:45 a.m. —

Rabbi Greg Harris

July 23, Friday evening

Traditional Service 6:30 p.m.

July 24, Shabbat morning

Early Minyan 7:30 a.m.

Sanctuary Service 9:15 a.m.

D'var Torah re: Tisha B'av* —

Rabbi Greg Harris

[*Tisha B'av begins the evening of July 26]

July 30, Friday evening

Traditional Service 6:30 p.m.

July 31, Shabbat morning

Early Minyan 7:30 a.m.

Sanctuary Service 9:15 a.m.

Service conducted by members of the Minyan Chaverim, in the style of that minyan

August 2004

August 6, Friday evening

Traditional Service 6:30 p.m.

August 7 Shabbat morning

Early Minyan 7:30 a.m.;

Sanctuary Service 9:15 a.m.

Bat Mitzvah of Shelby Johnson

Worship & Study Minyan 9:50 a.m.

August 13, Friday evening

Traditional Service 6:30 p.m.

August 14, Shabbat morning

Early Minyan 7:30 a.m.; Sanctuary Service 9:15 a.m.

D'var Torah/Discussion: "Homosexuality and Jewish

Tradition – The View ca. 2004 C.E." —

Rabbi Bill Rudolph

August 20, Friday evening

Traditional Service 6:30 p.m.

August 21, Shabbat morning

Early Minyan 7:30 a.m.;

Sanctuary Service 9:15 a.m.

Storahtelling — Rabbi Bill Rudolph

August 27, Friday evening

Traditional Service 6:30 p.m.

Singing Service 8:00 p.m. —

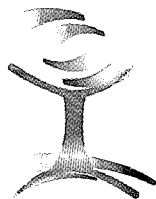
Rabbi Bill Rudolph & Scott Glick

August 28, Shabbat morning

Early Minyan 7:30 a.m.; Sanctuary Service 9:15 a.m.

D'var Neginah and Introduction of New Melodies —

Hazzan Abraham Lubin



Questions about any of these services? Contact:

Rabbi Bill Rudolph

wrudolph@bethelmc.org

Rabbi Greg Harris

gharris@bethelmc.org

Hazzan Abraham Lubin

alubin@bethelmc.org

Set the Table with Torah

By: Sheldon Novek

July 3: Parshat Balak

In Balak, we meet the character of Balaam, prophet, soothsayer, or sorcerer. . . (maybe Harry Potter's ancestor?) and are confronted once again with struggle between faith and rational thought. As children, we are read a plethora of books and view hundreds of hours of cartoons that all feature talking animals. Whether it be Donald Duck, a cat in a hat, or a bear cub stuck in a tree, animals have always amused us and made us smile, especially when they are made to speak! Let us not forget the king of this genre, who would never speak, "unless he had something to say," Mr. Ed! Well, in this week's parsha, we meet a donkey who did have something to say. And he said it to Balaam.

The ancient Moabites had asked Balaam to put a curse on the Israelites for they were getting to be too numerous. (Funny how that always seemed to attract attention in "the old days," but not so much anymore)...G-d then appeared to Balaam and ordered him, "You must not curse that people, for they are blessed" (Num. 22:12). But Balaam set out regardless, with the intention of cursing the Israelites, which incurred G-d's wrath. Rather than produce a Spielberg-esque lightning strike, G-d chose to speak to Balaam through the donkey on which he was riding. When the animal stopped upon seeing an angel of the L-rd standing before her in the road, Balaam beat the beast of burden not once, nor twice, but three times, but still she would not move. Then the donkey asked Balaam why he was beating her. These two engaged in a brief exchange (Balaam surprisingly not showing any surprise about this unusual occurrence), until G-d made the angel seen to Balaam as well, at which point Balaam understood what was going on.

There are two lessons in this story. The first is an early call to animal rights activists, concerning our humane treatment of animals. In ancient times, animals were used for farming and for transport, and the folks who owned them had to be sure to care for them properly to keep them "in good, working condition." We have different reasons for being concerned for an animal's welfare today, but it is still a very important part of being a mensch—being a good and decent person and always trying to do the "right" thing. The second lesson presented here is that sometimes we need to trust in someone else's instincts, and sometimes even our own! Balaam's donkey saw the angel in her way, but Balaam did not and simply presumed that she was being "stubborn as a mule"! Once G-d opened his eyes, he finally saw what was there. All too often our eyes need to be opened also to see what is in the middle

of the road before us. There is much we can learn from Balaam's donkey.

July 10: Parshat Pinhas

In Pinhas, the one passage that has always stood out to me is the story of the daughters of Zelophchad. He had five daughters, no sons, and he had already died in the wilderness. They came to Moses to inquire about their inheritance, which would normally first go to any surviving sons. Since none existed, they felt it only fair that they inherit that which was rightfully theirs rather than have it just be otherwise distributed. Moses sought G-d's intervention and His response was that the inheritance definitely should be given to his daughters, thus striking a very early stand for women's rights, or at least women's recognition. That was a very major decision back when women were not even officially counted as part of the population. There are still avenues of modern Jewish life today that do not hold women equal with men, but thank goodness much has changed and those are in the minority.

Later in Pinhas, we are given the list (for lack of a better word) of instructions for the sacrificial offerings and observances of all of what we still consider (some High) holy days. First is Shabbat, then Rosh Hodesh (marking the new moon). Then, in keeping with Nisan having been originally the first month of the yearly cycle, we are given the laws for Passover and subsequently Shavuot. Next we receive direction for what to do in the (then) seventh month, our current first month of Tishrei, what we now call Rosh HaShanah and then Yom Kippur. It finishes with the directives for Sukkot and Shemini Atzeret. These particular passages are read on each respective holiday as the Maftir (second Torah) reading.

July 19: Parshat Mattot-Mas'ei

Whereas we just left the daughters of Zelophchad in triumph, Mattot opens with the laws concerning vows taken by men and vows taken by women. It is written that a man's vow to G-d obligates him to carry out that vow or oath or pledge—it is nonrevocable. However, even though women were allowed to also make vows, they were only considered binding if she did so in her youth and before she married. If her father and subsequently her husband find out about the vow and for any reason disapprove of it, then the vow is automatically annulled and no oath or pledge that she once took is, from that point on, binding. Her father or husband needn't disapprove, but the option was there for them to do so nonetheless. Only a widow or divorced woman was exempt from this approval clause.

In Mas'ei, Moses instructs B'nai Yisrael in what will lie ahead for them as they ready themselves, in

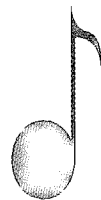
their fortieth nomadic year, to enter and subdue the Promised Land, as G-d tells him. G-d says first to Moses, "When you cross the Jordan into the Land of Canaan, you shall dispossess all the inhabitants of the land; you shall destroy all their figured objects; you shall destroy all their molten images, and you shall demolish all their cult places. And you shall take possession of the land and settle it, for I have given you the land to possess it." It seems as if this particular passage could serve as both a blessing as well as a curse. Our Arab adversaries might certainly take issue with the harsh tone and deliberate nature of the commands. On the one hand they might have a case that we just swarmed in and took over, endangering their culture and religious symbols as so often happened to us through the many centuries that followed. On the other hand, (as Tevye says), this was the land that had been promised to Abraham and his descendants, and they were merely fulfilling their divine destiny. Much to our dismay, this struggle still continues to ensue today.

July 26: Parshat D'varim

The first portion of the last book of the Torah is purely a recap. We are used to recaps after events such as sporting events (the Super Bowl leaps to mind, with Joshua triumphantly holding the tablets of the law and screaming, "I'm going to Canaan!"). But we also recap elections (think back to 2000), courtroom trials (remember OJ?), on-going news stories (for example, the sniper), even television shows (most recently *Friends* and *Frasier*). These are all things that have become part of our culture and our lives and either have come to an end or are in the process of ending. One can only recap what has happened already, but only once there is closure.

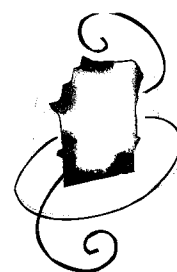
As in the first three chapters of D'varim, Moses recaps all of the travels and travails of the Children of Israel during the forty years since they left Egypt. He reminds them of the geographical locations across which they have trod, the enemies they have faced, and the victories over both they have celebrated. Surely the unforgiving heat and wind and sand of the Sinai were every bit as much a threat to their survival as were the other tribesmen. And, too, as a modern day recap does not necessarily mean that "it" is completely over, there can always be more to a situation; the recap simply catches one up and gives one an accounting to that point. In the case of D'varim, there is still much that G-d has to impart to the Israelites, but this passage serves as a reminder of how they got to that point and the then current status quo; from then they could continue to prepare for the conquest of the land.

**Friday
Evening
Singing
Service**



**Please join us for a
spirited Friday night service**

July 2, 8:00 p.m.
Beth El Social Hall



Please join us for

**Roundtable
with the
Rabbi**



Wednesday, July 7, 2004

2 p.m.

Board Room

**Come help us celebrate the
July and August birthdays.
We will have dessert and coffee with a
roundtable discussion led by**

Rabbi Harris.

**If you have questions,
need transportation,
or plan to attend,
please call Rabbi Harris at
301-652-8573, ext. 305.**

Evening Minyan

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

July 4 – July 8

Alan and Barbara Gold
Alan and Andrea Golden
Andrew Goldstein and Heidi Sigmon
Daniel Goldman and Katie Smeltz
Deborah Goldfarb
Diane Goldman
David and Joan Goldstein
Elizabeth Goldman
George Goldberg
Harvey and Dale Gold
Irving and Annette Goldberg
Beatrice Goldman
Judith Goldman
Javier and Ana Goldin
Luta Goldman
Max and Mitzi Goldman
Mason Goldman
Mark Goldstone and Mindy Lieberman
Neil and Carolyn Goldman

July 18 – July 22

Yael Greenberg
Marvin and Audrey Griff
Sid and Beth Groeneman
Erwin and Leena Groner
Alan and Barri Gross
Ames Gross and Stephanie Lowet
Seymour and Shirley Gross
Juan and Leilia Gruner
Milton and Libbie Gussow
Donald Gutman and Ivy Fields
Paul Haar
Murray Haber
Don and Michelle Hainbach
Irwin and Daphne Halpern
Robert Halperin and Candace Kaller
Mervyn and Eileen Hamburg
Joseph and Mildred Hamer
Murray and Marilyn Hammerman
Ken and Lisa Handelman
Bruce and Susan Hanley

July 11 – July 15

Seth and Joan Goldberg
Steven and Janet Goldhill
Stuart Goldberg and Virginia Maycock
Steven and Susan Goldstein
William and Emily Goldman
Bea Golfer
Arlene Golub
Ann Goodman
David Goodfriend and Susan Emmer
Hattie Goodman
Eugene and Amy Goott
Harvey and Libby Gordon
Phillip and Vivian Gorden
Jonathan and Deborah Gottlieb
Melvin and Harriet Gravitz
Eli and Marcia Greenblum
Jerrold and Karen Greenberg
Jeffrey and Sarah Greenberg
Naomi Greenwood
Warren and Judith Greenberg

July 25 – July 29

Elliot Harkavy
Brian and Sara Jane Harris
Gregory and Rebekah Harris
Michael and Jo-Ann Harrison
Sandra Harris
Bennett and Marlene Harte
Mandy Hart
Herbert and Lila Harvey
Julius and Irene Hauser
Dunya Hecht
Bernard and RuthAnn Heckman
Mindy Hecker
Nick Heffter
Anne Heilman
Thomas Helf and Michelle Brafman
Julia Heller
Clifford and Deborah Hendler
Jerry and Linda Herman
Michele Herman
Rose Herman

Beth El Worship and Study Minyan

The Beth El Worship and Study Minyan will meet on Saturday, July 3, in the All Purpose Room from 9:50 a.m. to Noon. The service, conducted entirely by members of the congregation, combines evocative Torah study with ample singing and ruach. Children of all ages are welcome, although the service is oriented toward adults. Contact **Dan Hirsch**, 301-654-7289, DOHirsch@aol.com; **Sid Getz**, 301-530-2215, Sidgetz@aol.com; or **Mark Levitt**, 301-365-5365, MLevitt@Nelliscorp.com, for more information.

Nitzanim News

Nitzanim is continuing to develop a core group of parents that is interested in volunteering to help us expand our programs. Please contact Bucky Jacobson 301-320-2739 or rodgerjacobson@att.net if you have an interest. We have developed a very active calendar for the 2004-2005 year but can make these events happen only with your help.

Thank you to **Tracy Bone and Barry Levine** for providing such a great location for our Spring Shabbat dinner and to all the families who helped make this a great event. Look to the Beth El listserv for details on more events over the summer.

Remember, Nitzanim services continue throughout the summer as regularly scheduled on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Shabbat of the month.

We are in need of a volunteer to lead our services on July 31. Please contact Bucky if you are interested.

You can honor your children on their birthdays by sponsoring our Nitzanim Kiddush. Contributions and sponsorships are welcome for any occasion. Please earmark your contributions to the General Fund to support the current synagogue activities.

For any of the above items or for other information on Nitzanim, please contact Bucky Jacobson 301-320-2739 or rodgerjacobson@att.net.

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.

Fred and Ilse Cutler , 6921 Winterberry Lane, Bethesda, MD 20817-2940	301-229-6185
Jonathan and Rebecca Gross , 5407 York Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814	301-951-0211
Jacob Gross, Zachary Gross	jgross@projectgradusa.org
Lisa Halpern , 320 Inspiration Lane, Gaithersburg, MD 20878	301-963-2396
Julia Halpern, Alexandra Halpern	
Mark Harkins and Laura Trivers , 5107 Brookeway Drive, Bethesda, MD 20816	301-229-6481
Micah Trivers Harkins, Laura Trivers Harkins	mark.harkins@mail.house.gov
David and Eliza Silverman , 8813 Ridge Road, Bethesda, MD 20817	301-365-3628
Andrea Silverman, Philip Silverman	dbsilver@erols.com
William and Paula Whyman , 6121 Shady Oak Lane, Bethesda, MD 20817	301-263-9442
David Whyman, Paula Whyman	whyman@mindspring.com

Minyan Chaverim

Minyan Chaverim usually meets on the third Shabbat of each month. On July 31, however, they will conduct the 9:15 a.m. Sanctuary Service instead of meeting earlier in the month for their own minyan. Minyan Chaverim is a lay-led service featuring complete recitations of Shacharit and Musaf as well as full Torah reading and emphasizing a spirited and participatory nusach. On July 31, following the synagogue kiddush, the entire congregation is invited to attend a potluck (kosher dairy) lunch at the nearby home of Rebecca and Jonathan Gross. If you plan to come for lunch, please contact Rebecca at 301-951-0211 or rebeccagross@hotmail.com, and let her know what kosher dairy dish you are bringing.

For general information about Minyan Chaverim, 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.

Summer Shabbat Morning Family and Youth Services at Congregation Beth El

Service Name	Applicable Ages	Room	Times	Leaders
Nitzanim	birth to kindergarten	APR	10:30-11:30 am 2nd,4th,5th Shabbat	Rachelle Solkowitz, Glenda Koby, Rodger Jacobson - Pres.
Gan Shabbat	kindergarten - 2nd grade	Meeting Room	10:30-11:30 am 1st, 3rd Shabbat	Rachelle Solkowitz, Sarah Roark

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

Please feel free to speak with the individual leaders or coordinators about any one of the services, or contact Sarah Roark, 301-652-8573, ext. 319

Shitufim Minyan

Todah Rabah to the members of our congregation who volunteered to read Torah at Shitufim Minyan. I am very grateful and proud of the ability of our teens to fulfill this mitzvah. These teens, in order of appearance, are **Naomi Janney, Daniel Getz, Judy Wexler, Rebecca Kaplan, Joel Finbloom, Olivia Berardi, and Josh Kaplan**. Your participation in this program demonstrates for the younger students the accomplishment they are capable of achieving as well.

Anita Lieb

Shalom from the Youth Director

Hi all—This is the very slow time during the summer when most kids are either away at camp, traveling with us their folks, or just plain chillin'! I hope you are having a pleasant and relaxing rest before next Fall “rears its ugly head!” One thing that I specifically want to bring to your attention is the need for housing for the JCC Maccabi Games athletes for the second week in August (Aug. 8-13). If you are interested in opening your homes, practicing one of Judaism's oldest and easiest mitzvot of “hachnasat orchim,” welcoming guests in to your home, then please contact either myself or Rabbi Harris or the JCC/Maccabi office directly to help out! They need lots of beds for all the kids who will coming here this summer to participate in the games. Their website is www.jccgwmaccabi.org, their phone number is 301-230-3704 and their e-mail is games@jccgw.org. It is a much needed mitzvah and will help to make it possible for these athletes to compete with one another and have an unbelievable experience!

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate our USY executive board which was elected recently for next year:

President	Rebecca Kaplan
Exec VP	Eric Weissmann
Social Action/Tikun Olam	Stephanie Postar
Membership/Kadima	Lauren Fluger
Israel Affairs	Lila Rosenbloom
Tikshoret	Abe Einhorn
Religious Education	Marc Rudolph
Fund Raising	Cara Landsman
Freshman Rep	Brandon Golden

Good luck to all of you and it's going to be a terrific year!

Again, to all, have a great summer and enjoy the down time!

Sheldon

Religious School Read-A-Thon

This year's Religious School-sponsored Read-A-Thon raised over \$750 for Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger. The Vaad HaStudentim (Student Council) chose the recipient from among a list of many worthwhile possibilities. This project was chaired by **Sharon Kaplan**, who was assisted by **Lisa Siedel, Heidi Dupler, and Karen Spergel**.

Students were recognized with awards for Most Books Read and Most Money Raised divided between Kindergarten-2nd grade and 3rd grade and up. Most Books Read winners were **Ariele Kaplan** (1st grade), **Sam Hainbach** (2nd), **Emily Rosenthal** (2nd), **Eliana Glick** (3rd), **Samantha Reback** (4th) and **Gregory Segal** (5th). Most Money Raised winners were **Ariele Kaplan** (1st grade), **Sam Hainbach** (2nd), **Emily Rosenthal** (2nd), **Gregory Segal** (5th), **Eliana Glick** (3rd), **Elana Stein** (5th), and **Isaac Kaplan** (4th).

We thank our sponsors: Barnes and Noble Books, Baskin Robbins, Bethesda Academy for Performing Arts, Israeli Accents, Kar-Ben Publishing, Tower Records, Toys etc., and Treetop Toys.

Religious School Committee

The Religious School Committee seeks several new members for the 2004-2005 school year. The Committee works with the school administration to set policies and monitor the school's operations. Committee members are expected to participate in monthly evening meetings and to undertake activities during the year relating to the school's policies, curriculum, and budget. Parents are also needed to coordinate specific activities and projects such as:

- the school directory (Aug.-Oct.)
- identify room parents for each class (Aug.)
- Welcome Back brunch for parents (Sept.)
- provide Purim shalach manot gift baskets for staff (March)
- the annual Read-a-Thon (either winter or spring).
- monthly Parent Coffees (throughout the school year).
- fundraising activities (various times during year).

Please call or email Jerrold Keilson, Chair of the Religious School Committee (jkeilson@aol.com or 301-468-6136), if you are interested in serving on the Committee or coordinating a specific activity.