

VOICE

The Voice of Beth El Congregation • December 2011 • Kislev/Tevet 5772 • Volume 58 • Number 10

WINNER OF THE 2009 USCJ INTERNATIONAL GOLD AWARD FOR BULLETINS & PUBLICATIONS

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Doing Your Year-End Taxes
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Cover Chanukah

Share Your Light, From One Menorah to Another

Wednesday, December 21

On Wednesday, December 21 the second night of *Chanukah* we will meet outside at the giant *chanukiah* (*menorah*) in front of the synagogue and do a brief lighting at 6:00 p.m. After we will gather in the Offit Auditorium where we will warm up with hot chocolate, eat *latkes* and *sufganiyot* (jelly filled doughnuts) and sing our favorite *Chanukah* songs with the children, the cantor and the choir. Everyone should bring their own *chanukiah* (*menorah*) and we will enjoy the festival of light together!



REMEMBER:
To light the first Chanukah candle in
your home on Tuesday evening,
December 20

OUR LEGACY GUARANTEES FLAME OF JEWISH LIFE

By *Erv Sekulow*

It is with sincere gratification and appreciation that it can be reported that 67 families, and growing weekly, have become members of the Legacy Society. What has motivated these congregants to join the Legacy Society? One would hope that it was because they want to ensure the future financial stability of Beth El—a financial stability that will offer assurance that our synagogue will be there for future generations to celebrate life's most sacred moments—baby namings, *b'nai mitzvah*, *brit milah*, weddings, anniversaries, and sadly, deaths and memorials.

Members know that they can make a confidential testamentary estate provision of any financial amount to ensure the future financial stability of Beth El. Further, they are aware that the ultimate repository of their bequest will be the synagogue's endowment fund. The purpose of this endowment is to underwrite the myriad of programs and capital expenditures that make

Beth El the special place that it is and will remain for future generations. Further, members have recognized and endorsed the necessity to secure Beth El's viability, so that in future years it will continue to be a beacon for Jewish life - a beacon that continues to serve as a religious sanctuary for prayer, learning and Jewish values. It is expected that the synagogue and its leadership will always serve to perpetuate the traditions, heritage and culture of Judaism so that future generations can participate in a rewarding Jewish experience.

For each of us it should be our lasting legacy to guarantee that the flame of Jewish life, its traditions and heritage, prospers and grows for each succeeding generation. It is through Legacy Society membership that you can become a partner in securing and achieving the Beth El of tomorrow and beyond.

So won't you help us to ensure that the flame of the Jewish faith and all of the attributes

Continued on page 4

Herbert Bearman Foundation, Inc. Grant Supports Beth El

Beth El is taking this opportunity to thank the Herbert Bearman Foundation, Inc. for their extremely generous grant. Their support enabled the congregation to provide opportunities for our students to study the Hebrew language, Jewish holidays and to improve our school's computer systems. Not only has their kind gift helped the students, but the congregation as well. With their contribution Beth El has been fortunate enough to update our operating system that was originally installed in 1991. The new conversion will take place in February 2012.

"This generous gift from the Herbert Bearman Foundation, Inc. will enable Beth El to keep up with the rapid pace of change in today's world of computers, social networking, and instant communication. Our members expect the very best from the congregation on every level - this gift helps us to continue to meet those expectations!" exclaimed Rabbi Schwartz.

This is not the first time the Herbert Bearman Foundation, Inc. has awarded Beth El with such generosity. A past project included the dedication of the daily prayer books that are used in both the morning and evening services.

Beth El could not be more than appreciative of the Herbert Bearman Foundation, Inc. and their most thoughtful and kind gifts.

*Moreh Rich Dinetz and
Morah Limor Basin's Kitah
Vav (7th grade) class enjoy
the refurbished computer lab
during Hebrew School,
courtesy of the Herbert
Bearman Foundation.*



OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Mrs. Terri Akman, Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Akman and Dr. Samuel Akman on the loss of their beloved husband, son and brother, Bryan Jay Akman;
 Mrs. Edith Austerlitz on the loss of her beloved husband Daniel (Danny) Austerlitz;
 Mr. Alvin Craven on the loss of his beloved sister, Miriam Kind;
 Mrs. Annette Gober on the loss of her beloved husband, Dr. Harold S. Gober;
 The family of the late Steven Gross;
 Mrs. Bonnie Levy on the loss of her beloved mother, Ida Liner;
 Mr. Nathaniel Sandler on the loss of his beloved sister, Mrs. Diane Diamand;
 Mrs. Cindy Saval on the loss of her beloved father, Alfred Serlin;
 Mrs. Rita Silverman, Mr. Ben Silverman, and Mrs. Nancy Boguslaw on the loss of their beloved husband and father, Mr. Larry Martin Silverman;
 Mr. Howard Snyder on the loss of his beloved father, Edwin J. Snyder;
 Dr. Rona Stein on the loss of her beloved father, Dr. Herman Stein;
 Judge Blanche G. Wahl on the loss of her beloved husband, Marvin Chester Wahl;
 Mrs. Judy Zaba on the loss of her beloved sister, Joanne Glassman.

A SPEEDY RECOVERY TO:

Israel Morrison
 Faye Trippe
 Joseph Trost

OUR HEARTIEST MAZEL TOV TO:

Mr. and Mrs. R. Spencer Allen on the birth of their granddaughter, Rachel Allen;
 Mr. James and Dr. Lisa Abrams on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Bennett Abrams; grandmother is Mrs. Marlene Koepfel;
 Dr. Dan and Ayelet Gincel on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Roi Gincel;
 Mr. Kenneth Goldberg and Ms. Robin Silver-Goldberg on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Samantha Goldberg;
 Dr. and Mrs. Ronald Greenwald on the birth of their twin grandchildren, Ashley Paige and Zack Brandon Nullman;
 Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Hazman on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Brent Hazman; grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. David Hazman; great grandmother is Mrs. Irene Porter;
 Dr. and Mrs. Richard Kline on the engagement of their son, Joshua to Jessica Brovitz; grandmother is Mrs. Fran Richman;
 Mr. and Mrs. Jordan Levine on the birth of their son, Jack Solomon Levine; grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Levine and Mr. and Mrs. Saul Offit;
 Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Silverman on the engagement of their son, David to Jennifer Wilson; grandparents are the late Mr. Larry Silverman and Mrs. Rita Silverman and Mr. and Mrs. Morton Rodbell;
 Mr. and Mrs. Stevan Simons on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Jared Simons; grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Joel Shugarman and Mr. and Ms. Michael Simons;
 Ms. Randi Zenith and Mr. William Shapiro on the engagement of their daughter, Jennifer to Jeffrey Engorn, son of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Engorn; grandfather is Alvin Y. Shapiro.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES:

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Kohn on their 55th
 Dr. and Mrs. Moises Fraiman on their 50th
 Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Schapiro on their 50th
 Mr. and Mrs. Joel Smeyne on their 50th
 Mr. and Mrs. James Dickman on their 45th
 Dr. and Mrs. Gary Lattin on their 45th
 Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Schnydmann on their 45th
 Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Cutler on their 40th
 Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Gerson on their 40th
 Dr. and Mrs. Marc Gertner on their 40th
 Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Joffe on their 40th
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Lessans on their 40th
 Hon. and Mrs. Charles Shubow on their 40th
 Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon Shugarman on their 40th
 Mr. and Mrs. Mitchel Gordon on their 35th
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Sher on their 35th
 Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell Keiser on their 25th

BAR & BAT MITZVAH



BAT MITZVAH
Samantha Claire Goldberg, daughter of Robin Silver-Goldberg and Kenneth Goldberg will be called to the Torah as a *Bat Mitzvah* December 10, 2011.



BAR MITZVAH
Jared Owen Simons, son of Stacy and Stevan Simons will be called to the Torah as a *Bar Mitzvah* December 10, 2011.

IN MEMORIAM

**BRYAN JAY AKMAN
 DANIEL AUSTERLITZ
 DIANE DIAMAND
 DR. HAROLD S. GOBER
 STEVEN JEFFREY GROSS
 ISADORE H. MILLER
 LARRY MARTIN SILVERMAN
 MARVIN CHESTER WAHL**

We mourn the passing of our members and extend sincere condolences to their families.

Beth El is compiling a list of our members who would like to receive email notifications of congregational obituaries. If you wish to be added to this list, please email **Sandi Block** at sandi@bethelbalto.com.

BETH EL HOTLINE NUMBERS

Service Schedules:
410-580-2727

Congregation Closings & Program Changes:
410-580-5080

Early Childhood Education Closings & Program Changes:
410-580-5081

Religious School Closings & Program Changes:
410-580-5082

SCHEDULE OF DAILY SERVICES

Morning		Evening	
Monday –		Monday –	
Friday	8:00 a.m.	Thursday	7:30 p.m.
<i>Rosh Chodesh</i>	7:45 a.m.	Friday	6:00 p.m.
<i>Shabbat</i>	10:00 a.m.	Saturday	sundown*
Sunday &		Sunday	5:30 p.m.
Legal Holidays	9:15 a.m.		

*Check website or call 410-580-2727

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

MORNING SERVICE	8:00 p.m.
EVENING SERVICE	6:00 p.m.
CANDLE LIGHTING	4:24 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

Parsha of the Week – VAYETZE

MORNING SERVICE	10:00 p.m.
EVENING SERVICE	4:45 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

MORNING SERVICE	8:00 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE	6:00 p.m.
CANDLE LIGHTING	4:23 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

Parsha of the Week – VAYISHLACH

MORNING SERVICE	10:00 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE	4:45 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

MORNING SERVICE	8:00 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE	6:00 p.m.
CANDLE LIGHTING	4:24 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

Parsha of the Week – VAYESHEV

MORNING SERVICE	10:00 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE	4:45 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21 – CHANUKAH – DAY 1

MORNING SERVICE	7:45 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE	7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22 – CHANUKAH – DAY 2

MORNING SERVICE	7:45 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE	7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23 – CHANUKAH – DAY 3

MORNING SERVICE	7:45 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE	6:00 p.m.
CANDLE LIGHTING	4:28 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 – CHANUKAH – DAY 4

Parsha of the Week – MIKETZ

MORNING SERVICE	10:00 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE	4:45 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 – CHANUKAH – DAY 5

MORNING SERVICE	9:15 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE	5:30 p.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26 – CHANUKAH – DAY 6

Office Closed – Federal Holiday (Christmas)

MORNING SERVICE	9:15 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE	5:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27 – CHANUKAH – DAY 7

MORNING SERVICE	7:45 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE	7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28 – CHANUKAH – DAY 8

MORNING SERVICE	7:45 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE	7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30

MORNING SERVICE	8:00 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE	6:00 p.m.
CANDLE LIGHTING	4:32 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

Parsha of the Week – VAYIGASH

MORNING SERVICE	10:00 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE	4:45 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1 — NEW YEAR'S DAY

MORNING SERVICE	9:15 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE	5:30 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 2

Office Closed – Federal Holiday (New Year's)

MORNING SERVICE	9:15 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE	5:30 p.m.



ONE TIME PERFORMANCE

BETH EL'S ISRAEL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE PRESENTS:

"MUSIC TO CHERISH"

A REPEAT BETH EL RECITAL BY

ISRAELI PIANIST MICHAL TAL

ACCOMPANIED BY

CANTOR THOM KING AND DR. EYAL BOR

SAVE THE DATE

AT 3 PM FEBRUARY 19 2012 SUNDAY

SELECTIONS WILL INCLUDE
CLASSICAL, KLEZMER, MUSIC FROM JERUSALEM

SPONSOR A SHABBAT KIDDUSH

Sponsoring a Beth El *Shabbat Kiddush* is the perfect way to celebrate a birthday, an upcoming wedding or any other *simcha*. Sponsors names are mentioned from the bimah when the rabbi does the weekly announcements.

Contact **Diane Cole**, Event Coordinator,
at 410-484-0411 or diane@bethelbalto.com
and she will help you plan your special *Kiddush*.

SHABBAT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Religious Services Committee is looking for volunteers to work as ushers for Shabbat and holiday services. You would only have to commit to about once a month. We are also looking for people to be greeters on *Shabbat* mornings when there is a **B'nai Mitzvah**.

Training will be provided. If you are interested please contact either **Lee Snyder** at 410-486-5591 or email lee.snyder@trgc.com or **Morris Saks** at 410-484-8482 or email msaks@gsg-cpa.com.



Erv Sekulow: The synagogue and its leadership will always serve to perpetuate the traditions, heritage and culture of Judaism.

484-0411 or Erv Sekulow, Chair, Legacy Society, at 410-653-9303.

of Judaism and Beth El will be sustained in perpetuity by becoming a member of the Legacy Society? It is a membership that will reward you with the satisfaction and self-esteem that you have fulfilled your responsibility to ensure for future generations a life filled with the beautiful and cherished tenants of Judaism. Find out more and have your questions answered by calling **Ailene Sher**, Director or Development, at 410-

Winter weather is right around the corner! In case of severe weather please check these outlets for late openings and cancellations.

- 1.) Visit our Website – www.bethelbalto.com, at the top beneath the picture slideshow will be the announcement you are looking for!
- 2.) Call the weather hotline – 410-580-5080
- 3.) Check Beth El Congregation's page on Facebook, www.facebook.com, type in the search bar "Beth El Congregation of Baltimore" and our page should come up. "Like" it while you're there too!
- 4.) Be sure to check your email!

SENIORS



Our next scheduled meeting will be a luncheon on **Sunday, January 15, 2012** at 1:00 p.m. in the Offit Auditorium. Our entertainment will be the Beatrice Gilbert Trio, with Catherine Eisenbiel, Shirah Layton and pianist, Lois Nielsen. **Reservations and payments are due by Wednesday, January 4.** Cost is \$20 for members and \$23 for guests. Please list on a separate sheet of paper those members with whom you would like to sit and your preference if any for a diet dessert. For further information call **Ed Berkowitz** at 410-296-8424.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

All persons over 50 are welcome to join our group. Dues are only \$15 per person. For more information, contact **Ed Berkowitz** at 410-296-8424, **Betty Zlotowitz** at 410-484-9840, **Jerry Fineblum** at 410-653-2631, **Shirley Lipman** at 410-415-5588 or **Pauline Auslander** at 410-764-8011.

TORAH MAINTENANCE FUND



A project of the Beth El Seniors is to support the maintenance and repair of our synagogue's Torahs and *Megillot*. Contributing to a process that pays for caring for these sacred scrolls and preserving them for future generations is a *mitzvah*.

Torah Maintenance Fund cards are available at the Beth El Office or call **Dorothy Fineblum** at 410-653-2631. Our all-purpose cards are still six for \$10 or \$2 each.

The card features a drawing by world famous artist Ira Moskowitz. Born in 1912 as the son and grandson of rabbis, he has infused his work with the customs and traditions of our religion.

Paper Recycling Available at Beth El

Brought to you by Beth El's Environmental Committee



Paper recycling bins are located in our back parking lot. This drop off location is open to anyone in the community. All paper products may be deposited except for food containers and cardboard. We earn money for Beth El through this program so the more you bring, the more we will earn.

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS LOOKING TO JOIN A SYNAGOGUE?

Whether he/she is new to town or a native Baltimorean, and whether they are a family, a couple or single, Beth El has something to offer each and every one.

Please invite them to events they might find of interest, and please contact **Debbie Caplan** in the Outreach Office at 410-484-0411 or debbie@bethelbalto.com so she can invite them to Beth El.





America and Israel are Better Together and So Are We.

Join Rabbi Dana Saroken and Fellow Members
of Beth El Congregation in Washington, D.C., this March.

AIPAC POLICY CONFERENCE

March 4 – 6, 2012
Washington, D.C.

The AIPAC Policy Conference offers pro-Israel citizen activists the opportunity to lobby their members of Congress on Capitol Hill about issues affecting the United States and Israel. Participants hear from heads of state and choose from dozens of workshops about the most pressing issues of the day.

REGISTER BY DECEMBER 2, 2011 FOR \$399 PER PERSON.
AFTER DECEMBER 2 THE REGISTRATION IS \$499 PER PERSON.
Registration forms are available on the AIPAC website at www.aipac.org/pc
or the Beth El website at www.bethelbalto.com or in the main Beth El office.

For more information about the Beth El delegation or the conference, contact
AIPAC Area Director **Tara Brown** at (410) 223-4190 or tbrown@aipac.org.

MESSAGE FROM RABBI SAROKEN

Dear Friends,

Over the past months we have seen a dramatically changing landscape in the Middle East. As the United Nations considers the Palestinian Authority's request for statehood many within the Jewish community wait with baited breath to see what the future of Israel and Jerusalem will be. Now is the time for those of us, invested in the welfare and well-being of a Jewish homeland, to strengthen our connections with Israel and to make sure that we are prepared to be educated advocates.

There are many ways, that we can do this: By reading Israel's newspapers such as the *Jerusalem Post* and *Ha'Aretz* on-line, by subscribing to Israel's monthly magazine, the *Jerusalem Report*, or joining forces with some of the organizations that work to collaborate with Israel to ensure a promising future. The organizations that exist run the political spectrum from J-Street to the New Israel Fund and AIPAC so whatever your politics may be there is a place for you and I urge you to find that place and invest your time, energy and resources.

For those of you who are looking for a way to become more involved, educated and connected to Israel there is an opportunity coming up. This March from the 4th to the 6th AIPAC, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee will be hosting its premiere event, the annual Policy Conference at the Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC. My hope is that this year, Beth El will send its first delegation ever to be counted among Israel's supporters and advocates.

With over 100,000 members, AIPAC is a strong grassroots movement of activists committed to ensuring a safe and secure Israel through a strong and healthy relationship between the United States and Israel. At last year's Policy Conference, President Obama and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed over 10,000 members of the "pro-Israel community, as did other politicians, experts and thinkers. Perhaps, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton best articulated the importance of the conference when she declared, "Never in AIPAC's history have so many of you, leaders, advocates, students and concerned citizens, gathered to make your voices heard. Your tireless activism has made you an unparalleled force, not only in this town, but throughout the country and the world."

For two days at the Conference, we will hear from top Middle East experts and political leaders about the Peace Process and all of the issues that are affecting and impacting Israel at this pivotal time in history. On the third day of the conference, we will join fellow pro-Israel activists from around the country on Capitol Hill to speak directly with our elected officials and lobby on behalf of the vital US-Israel alliance.

For more information on the Policy Conference, please contact myself, Lou Narrow or any of our members who participated in last year's Policy Conference including Robb Cohen, Alan Dorenfeld, Rafi Rone, Joel Shalowitz or Beth El Israel Affairs Committee through Hedy From. You can also see clips of last year's Policy Conference on-line at www.aipac.org/PC2010 or be in touch with **Tara Brown**, AIPAC's Area Director at **410.223.4190** or tbrown@aipac.org for more information. For those who would like to commute to the conference we will be assisting in transportation ride shares for our congregants and I would personally, be thrilled to have you join us!

In the months and years ahead, whatever your politics may be, may we all be blessed to work together as American Jews to ensure a promising future for our People and in our Homeland.

B'Shalom,
Rabbi Dana Saroken



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO DELIVER FOOD AND GIFTS ON CHRISTMAS DAY

Moveable Feast brings hope and caring to people living with HIV/AIDS and breast cancer by planning, preparing and delivering nutritious, high quality meals and groceries to people who are unable to provide or prepare meals for themselves.

Once again Beth El is committed to help deliver food and gifts at Christmas time.

This year we will be delivering on Sunday, December 25 starting at 9:00 a.m. Each car/van will be asked to complete 5 or 6 delivery stops.

To volunteer as a driver or passenger, or for more information, call **Debbie Caplan**, Assistant Administrator at **410-484-0411** or Debbie@bethelbalto.com.



Photos Courtesy of Bradley Zisow, Bradley Images

A panel from Megillat Esther was dedicated by Elizabeth and Charles Jacobs in honor of Jennifer's bat mitzvah. In the photo pictured from left to right are Hilary, Bradley, Charles, Elizabeth and Jennifer Jacobs. If you would like to dedicate one of the few remaining Megillah panels in honor or in memory of a loved one, please call Ailene Sher at 410-580-5159 or email ailene@bethelbalto.com

IT IS RAELY TRUE

Did you know that ...

- The glue on Israeli stamps is kosher!
- Many bus stops in busy areas have tzedakah boxes.
- The most popular product in Israel is the soup nut.

Submitted by **Marisa Rubin**,
Beth El Baltimore USY
Chapter President



Private Dolphin Session

SAVE THE DATE!

PJ on the Town and Beth El Congregation at the National Aquarium

**Sunday, December 18, 2011,
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**
Discount tickets and Discount parking

Did you see the Jellyfish? How about that Dolphin? Come join us as we explore the National Aquarium through a Jewish lens. There will be snacks, activities and of course lots of time to explore. This program is geared for families with children ages 2-6. There is a limited number of tickets available, please contact **Jill Eisen, jill@bethelbalto.com**, for additional information.

M&M SHABBAT

M&M is a spirited Friday night service for kids from newborns to six year olds. Join Rabbi Saroken and Cantor King the first Friday night of the month for a short half hour service from 5:15 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. in the Gorn Chapel. We'll bring in *Shabbat* together through music, prayer and movement. Feel free to bring your own musical instruments. Siblings of all ages are welcome! Each M&M's *Shabbat* service is followed by an informal oneg with grape juice for kid-dush, *challah* for *motzei*, sweet treats and of course, a great community. Bring your children, grandchildren or special friends as everyone is welcome!

**M&M Shabbat
"Save the Dates!"
December 2**

**2012:
January 6; February 3;
March 2; May 4; June 1**

ENROLL NOW!

PRESCHOOL, MOMMY & ME, & PRE-K

- ☛ Flexible Schedule Options for Children 2 - 5
- ☛ Part-time, full-time and extended day options available
- ☛ The children enjoy our music program and physical education "Active Kids" gym classes, Hebrew language classes, Torah Stories, pre-*Shabbat* celebrations, arts and crafts, science, cooking, beginning reading and number skills, outside play on our playground and field, Kosher snacks, children's active games, library, field trips, and much more.
- ☛ Fall and spring MOMMY AND ME classes for 18-24 month olds and their parent, grandparent, or caregiver.

Please call Preschool at **410-602-2245**.

**BETH EL CONGREGATION TO
CO-SPONSOR JVC COMMUNITY
MITZVAH DAY!**

How can you and your family make a difference in the life of an individual, family or even a community?
Check Out the www.bethelbalto.com for the details!

DECEMBER BERMAN-LIPAVSKY RELIGIOUS SCHOOL CALENDAR

Friday, December 2	M&M Shabbat, 5:15 p.m.
Saturday, December 3	Chavurah Parent Ed, 9:45 a.m. Family Shabbat Service, 10:45 a.m.
Sunday, December 4	No Sunday School: Teacher Professional Development
Monday, December 5	Confirmation and Rabbi's Schmooze, 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 10	M&M's Plus, 10:15 a.m. Tot Shabbat, 11:15 a.m.
Sunday, December 11	Parent Ed, 9:30 a.m. Youth Activity: Build a Bear
December 11 – 18	Dreidel Shop
Wednesday, December 14	Faculty Enrichment, 6:15 p.m.
Friday, December 16	M&Ms Plus and Gimel/Dalet Families Shabbat Dinner and Services Tot Shabbat, 11:15 a.m.
Saturday, December 17	Bet Family Program I
Sunday, December 18	PJ on the Town and Beth El at the National Aquarium, 2:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 20	Outside Chanukah Lighting Ceremony, 5:45 p.m.
Wednesday, December 21	Outside Chanukah Lighting Ceremony, 5:45 p.m.; Chanukah Program 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 25 – Monday, January 2	Winter break



Rabbi Saroken and Rabbi Cantor will lead a family centered Kabbalat Shabbat on the third Friday night of each month followed by dinner!

After sharing Shabbat dinner with family and friends adults will schmooze, while the children participate in various Club M activities! (See schedule below.)

Once a month, M&M's PLUS will meet on Shabbat mornings with Rabbi Cantor and Morah Becky Gordon. This will be followed by our monthly "Club M" gaga tournament in the youth lounge!

M&M's PLUS prepares school aged children to participate in both the Friday night and Shabbat morning services.

**M&M PLUS
Schedule**

Shabbat Mornings:	Friday Evenings:
November 12	November 18
December 10	December 18
January 21	January 20
February 11	February 17
March 10	March 16
April 21	April 20



Listed below are the Club M activities for each Friday following M&M's PLUS Kabbalat Shabbat.

November 18: Human Foosball

December 18: Twist Like A Dreidel Twister!

January 20: Paper Bag Dramatics

February 17: Tag You Are It!

March 16: Magic Comes Alkal

April 20: Circle Games



If you RSVP for 4 out of the 6 dinners before November 1, the cost for each dinner will be \$25 per family. If you plan to RSVP for dinners individually, the cost for each dinner is \$35 per family. We need all RSVP's one week in advance. Please address checks to M&M's PLUS, ATTN: Fran Davis.



THE T'FILAH TEAM

By Becky Gordon



Photos by Sophie Brooks

Back Row: Jordan Kaplan, Landen Orbach, Eli Drachman, Brooke Chernoff, Julianna Zemil, Elliot Brown, Lexi Taylor, Robert Rosenberg, Zoe Davidson, Kyle Schechter Front Row: Shannon Elover, Julia Adelman, Carter Hollins, Jillian Fleischer, Melanie Heller, Brendan Shrager, Jonah Taylor. Floor: Morah Becky Gordon

There's something new at the Berman Lipavsky Religious School this year, something new, and exciting, sweet and full of promise - the "T'filah Team (TT)." It's a group designed to groom students to become leaders in our prayer services and in the community.

Last winter, there was a scheduling conflict, a logistical snafu, when both the congregation and the religious school were scheduled to hold *Shabbat* morning services in the Gorn Chapel. Rather than shift one group or the other, it was decided to combine the services. They were to be led by the rabbis and the cantor with students from each grade assigned to lead specific prayers. The children reviewed the prayers in music class and with their classroom teachers. Though well prepared for the task, very few students attended the service. At first, this was quite disappointing, but as each small group stood with the clergy at the bima they proceeded to confidently lead the prayers they had learned. Their voices, their Hebrew skills, their heartfelt prayers were so well received that the small numbers soon seemed insignificant. Though small in number, they had great presence and several congregants remarked that they would love to see the children participate in future services. From this experience, a kernel of an idea began to form — why not capitalize on the interest of the few? Cultivate students who excel in Hebrew, enjoy learning prayers and find it rewarding to lead during services? Provide them with a structure that will encourage their attendance and leadership in services? And so, the T'filah Team began to take shape.

The first step was to gauge interest in the program. Parents of more than 60 students, ranging from second to fifth grade and recommended by their teachers, were contacted and the goals of the TT were explained. Most were very flattered their children had been recommended, saw great value in the program, but consistently expressed concern about busy schedules and a hesitance to commit their children to yet another activity. To address their concerns, the program was designed to allow flexibility while maintaining integrity with dates of services falling on Friday nights, Saturday mornings and Saturday evenings, as well as Sunday performances at community assisted living facilities. Out of 19 dates, TT members would need to commit to a minimum of six services or programs and attend at least 10 out of 18 practice sessions. My goal was to have 13 to 15 participants, and I was thrilled when 18 really great kids signed on (quite an auspicious number!).

Practices occur on Sundays, immediately after the conclusion of religious school classes. Song sheets are distributed, we sing for 40 minutes and then share a well-deserved (and well received) lunch. The children receive points for attendance, promptness, coming prepared and for exceptional participation and *derech erez* (considerate behavior towards others). The more points they accumulate, the more chances they have to win a bi-monthly raffle. We've met three times and have already built an impressive and eclectic repertoire. Enthusiasm is high and toward the end of our last practice, several students requested that we sing a couple of the prayers, "Just one more time!" Several of the TT members participated with Cantor King's children's choir at the *Erev Rosh Hashanah* service and we're looking forward to upcoming *Shabbat* services. We're so excited to be performing during *Chanukah* for seniors in the community that we've scheduled back to back performances at two assisted living facilities on December 18!

I'm already so proud of the T'filah Team and extend gratitude to them for their enthusiasm and commitment, to their parents for making their children's participation possible and to Dr. Bor for his support of this innovative program. Stay tuned for more exciting reports about the T'filah Team!



T'filah Team members learning their first prayer.



Jillian Fleisher enjoying dessert.

WHAT'S NEW IN INFANT & TODDLER CARE AT BETH EL ?

- ✿ Part Time Infant/Toddler care options now available with quarterly contracts
- ✿ Full Time and Part Time spots available for children
- ✿ Now enrolling for Two Year Old Classroom, opening in January.

Contact **Dee Curtin**, Program Coordinator, for more information or to schedule a tour to see the Infant & Toddler wing at Beth El, 410-580-2723 or dee@bethelbalto.com.

Komen Walk for the Cure

This photo was taken by Phil Cohen of our Beth El Team. We had 56 team members and raised almost \$3,750. It was a beautiful morning and the Beth El Team had a wonderful time helping a good cause.





CONTRIBUTIONS

ENDOWMENTS

Donations through October 28, 2011.

THE ADULT CHOIR FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Edward Frango by Phyllis and Dr. Richard Kline.
Myrtle Several, grandmother of Rabbi Dana Saroken,
by Freddy and Steve Silverman.

IN HONOR OF:

The 30th wedding anniversary of Shazy and Cantor Thom King.
The special birthday of Mrs. Fran Richman by Ronnie and Dr. Bert Glaser.
The special birthday of Ronnie Glaser by The Beth El Adult Choir.
The birthday of Mrs. Joan Lessans by Phyllis and Dr. Richard Kline.
The engagement of the son of Phyllis and Dr. Richard Kline by The Beth El Adult Choir.

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Stanley Schwartzman by Mrs. Florence Schwartzman.

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Patricia Modell by Mrs. Marlene Koepfel.

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Adam Kronthal by Dr. Alan and Jennie Kronthal, Mrs. Randi Kronthal Sacco and Family.
Ida Mazy by Mrs. Randi Kronthal Sacco and Family.
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The engagement of Emily Cohen, daughter of Judy and Robert Cohen to Jordan Lieberman, son of Diane and Dr. Jeffrey Lieberman by Faye and Marc Sherman and Mrs. Jacqueline Wilen.
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IN OBSERVANCE OF YAHRZEIT OF:

Samuel Lowitz by Susan and Jack Sugarman.
Daniel Ben Silberman by Susan Silberman Sugarman.



Preschoolers harvested the summer veggies and put them in the sukkah. They then tilled the soil and planted lettuce. They also planted bulbs and perennials for the spring.

THE JULIUS OFFIT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN HONOR OF:

The 80th birthday of Mr. Joe Klein by Shirley and Morton Offit.

THE PRAYER BOOK FUND

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IN OBSERVANCE OF YAHRZEIT OF:

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Melvin I. Asher by Carol and Marshall Asher.
Ruth Astrachan by Temma and Harold Rubin.
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Benjamin Jacob Goldstein by Sonia and Ed Obstler.
Ester Sarah Hackerman by Benjamin Hackerman.
Mary Japko by Ms. Rica Reisman.
Donald Kahn by Sheryl and Mark Sagel.
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Ruth Kimmelman by Jackie and Marvin Shuman.
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Carl Tocker by Mrs. Arlene Stein.
Arnold Wilder by Jackie and Alan Wilder.

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H. Leonard Seidman by Mrs. Lenora Talles.
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Bryan Akman by Denise, Keith, Seth and Kara Franz to The Youth Education Fund.
Bryan Akman by Laura and Glenn Miller to The Melvin & Anita Steinberg College Outreach Program Fund.
Beatrice Aronovitch by Harold Rottman to The Mitzvah Fund.
Mollie Bloom by Wendy and Dr. Ronald Branoff to The Prayer Book Fund.
Steve Blum by Wendy Zimmerman to The Prayer Book Fund.
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The father of Mr. Bob Daniels by Denise and Keith Franz to The Youth Education Fund.
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The 90th birthday of Mrs. Fran Richman by The Magaziner Family to The Youth Education Fund.
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The special birthday of Mrs. Fran Richman by Bobbi and Aron Perlman to The Louis Perlman Memorial Scholarship Fund.
The special birthday of Mrs. Hulane Zolet by Mrs. Sandy Winters to The Sonya and Jerome Goodman Adult Hebrew Reading Fund.

The engagement of Emily Cohen, daughter of Judy and Robert Cohen, to Jordan Lieberman, son of Diane and Dr. Jeffrey Lieberman, by Barbara and Michael Steinhardt to The Steinhardt-Balachow Family Youth Fund.

The marriage of Meghan and Daniel Adler, by Mrs. Sylvia Resnick Weinberg to The Youth Education Fund.

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Janice Baumel by Bonnie and Neale Deutsch to The Yahrzeit Fund.
Freda Caplan by Erma and Bernard Caplan to The Daniel W. Caplan Pre-School Media Resource Fund.
Aaron M. Cohen by Mr. Gilbert Cohen to The Yahrzeit Fund.
Celia Cohen by Mrs. Blanche Reicher to The Agus Library Book Dedication Fund.
Meyer M. Cohen by Ms. Carol Rosenfeld to The Youth Education Fund.
Mildred Cohen by Ms. Carol Rosenfeld to The Youth Education Fund.
Sylvia Cohen by Mrs. Blanche Reicher to The Agus Library Book Dedication Fund.
Bertha Datykin by Mrs. Estelle Hyman to The Yahrzeit Fund.
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HONORS AND MEMORIALS

IN HONOR OF:

The Bat Mitzvah of Jennifer Emily, daughter of Elizabeth and Charles Jacobs, November 5, 2011, a Megillah Panel.

Ezra Cooper Alquist, grandson of Roberta and Robert Kodeck (Nana and Pop-Pop), October 4, 2011, Noah's Ark.

The 80th birthday of Hulane Zolet, with love by David, Karen and Morry Zolet, October 7, 2011, a Plaque on The Simcha Wall.

The birthday of Deborah Bernstein, by her husband Gary S. Bernstein, October 29, 2011, a Sea of Galilee Picture.

ROCK CONCERT HELD AT BETH EL: JOANIE LEEDS AND THE NIGHTLIGHTS

By Denise Franz, Treasurer

On a sunny Sunday morning in October, Joanie Leeds and her band, the Nightlights, had children, parents and grandparents jumping, dancing and singing at Beth El. "Joanie Leeds inspired the entire crowd to participate! The energy that filled the Offit Auditorium was outstanding! Both parents and children loved the performance," explained Dr. Bor, Director of Education. Joanie Leeds, an extremely charismatic and enthusiastic singer and songwriter from New York, has a national reputation for her music and she proved why she is so adored by children as we rocked to her sounds in the Offit Auditorium. In preparation for the concert, Joanie's music was played throughout the halls of the preschool. The children knew the songs well; and like rock star groupies they were thrilled to meet Joanie and take pictures with her after the concert. Rabbi Schwartz, Rabbi Saroken, Rabbi Cantor and Cantor King were all seen swaying to the music. Special thanks to the chair of the event, new member and preschool Mom, Dori Chait.



"A special thanks to Denise Franz for helping make the arrangements for the event and thank you to the members of the Pauline Mash School for Early Childhood Education for promoting the show."

– Dr. Eyal Bor,
Director of Education.

FLASH ...YOU WON'T MISS IT AFTER ALL

Paid up members are invited to brunch on **Sunday, December 18, 2011**. We have rescheduled author, Antero Pietiela to talk about *Not in My Neighborhood: How Bigotry Shaped a Great American City*. Brunch is at 11:00 a.m. in the Offit Auditorium with Mr. Pietiela's presentation immediately following brunch. Take advantage of the rescheduling to read this highly recommended book, available in the Beth El Library.

Members may bring a guest at a charge of \$12.00 per person. **NOTE: RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR EVERYONE.** Please complete the coupon below before Thursday, December 8, 2011.

BIBLIO

On **Wednesday, December 21, 2011**, those that love to read and those who love to share opinions about their favorite books take center stage. This day is set aside each year for full member participation.

Join us for this special day at 12:00 p.m. in the Kolker Room. Bring your own kosher, brown bag lunch. Beverages are provided. Everyone is welcome. Our hostess, Millie Keller will provide dessert.

For additional information, please phone: **Rita Silverman** at 410-484-1731 or **Barbara Berkowitz** at 410-296-8424.

**SISTERHOOD MEMBERSHIP
JOIN! WE WANT YOU!**

We would like to invite you to be a part of the Sisterhood. What could be more fun than attending the General Meetings/ Luncheons with excellent programs, our monthly Biblio book club, and Book Reviews with Rabbi Schwartz and Rabbi Saroken? Sisterhood has so much to offer. We have cultural trips throughout the year and a marvelous Judaica Shop for your personal and holiday shopping. Do not miss out on being a part of this great group of women!

For more information, please call **Susan Hackerman**, Past President and Membership liaison at 410-486-2523.

**JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY-
TORAH FUND**

This year Torah Fund has gotten off to a great start. We are up to 24 benefactors.

The benefactors that have received their beautiful pins are enjoying wearing them. Cards are in stock and ready for purchase for your special occasions. For \$18.00 you will receive 6 cards, individually they cost \$4.00. All donations are greatly appreciated as they help to support the education of our future clergy.

Please contact **Jane Krosin** at 410-484-4218 or **Hilda Dopkin** at 410-486-4453 for cards and for more information on becoming a Torah Fund Benefactor.



**JANUARY SISTERHOOD
LUNCHEON/MEETING**

On **Monday, January 9, 2012** at 11:30 a.m. Sisterhood's program is entitled "Art as Midrash." A New York artist, Fran Medoff, and our Torah teacher, Sandy Winters, will combine their talents. Fran has created works of art that depict her unique interpretations of Biblical women. Sandy will share Midrashic insights on these women.

Reservations must be made by Monday, January 2. Walk-ins are \$17.00.



BOOK REVIEWS BY OUR RABBIS

Sisterhood will present two petite luncheons each followed by a book review. The first review will be on **Wednesday, January 25, 2012** in the Meyers Auditorium at 12:00 p.m. Rabbi Dana Saroken will review the much talked about *Hush* by Eishes Charyil. Following the petite luncheon on **Wednesday, March 21, 2012**, Rabbi Steven Schwartz will review the book *In the Garden of Beasts* by Erik Larson.

Be sure to mark your calendar so you do not miss hearing our Rabbis' insightful and interesting reviews of these two outstanding books.

**PAID UP MEMBERSHIP BRUNCH
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18
11:00 a.m. in the OFFIT AUDITORIUM**

Name of paid up member _____

Phone _____

Best Telephone # To Be Reached _____

Email _____

Name of guest _____

Reservations must be made by Thursday, December 8, 2011. Return to:
Beth El Sisterhood
c/o Linda Mondell or Judy Schwartz
8101 Park Heights Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21208

They can also be made by emailing or phoning:
Linda Mondell at LHmondell@gmail.com, 410-486-6822 or
Judy Schwartz at jmaysch@comcast.net, 410-653-9253.

**MONDAY, January 9, 2012 SISTERHOOD MEETING
Offit Auditorium at 11:30 a.m.
General Meeting/Luncheon**

Name _____

Phone number _____

Cell Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Send check for \$15.00 along with the coupon no later than Monday, January 2, 2011 to:
Beth El Sisterhood
c/o Linda Mondell or Judy Schwartz
8101 Park Heights Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21208

**Reservations must be made by Monday, January 2.
They can also be made by emailing or phoning:**
Linda Mondell at LHmondell@gmail.com, 410-486-6822 or
Judy Schwartz at jmaysch@comcast.net, 410-653-9253.



The Beth El Environmental Committee welcomes all who are interested in working to educate our community about how to live an environmentally-friendly lifestyle as well as to plan projects to promote sustainability and "green" solutions at Beth El. Join this active and fun group of dedicated members!

For more information, please contact **Donna Brown**, Chair, at deebeedesigns@yahoo.com.

SAFETY AND SECURITY TIPS

By Andrea Hyatt and Jon Krieger

Tips for Preparing Your Home for Winter

Fireplace

- Have your chimney inspected and cleaned prior to using.
- Stack your firewood in a dry area away from your home.
- Make sure your flue is open prior to using.
- Purchase a fire extinguisher.
- Make sure fire is extinguished prior to going to bed.
- Always have the Fire Department respond if you have used an extinguisher to put out any fire.
- Review fire safety with young children. Have an exit plan and a central place for all members of the household to meet once outside the home.

Water Lines

- Turn off the water to your outside spigots.
- Drain the water from hoses and store inside.

Carbon Monoxide

- Purchase and install a Carbon Monoxide Detector.
- Have a licensed plumber check all gas lines and connections for leaks and proper venting.
- Remember-carbon monoxide is ODORLESS and COLORLESS!

Dryer

- Clean the inside and *outside* dryer vents.

GO GREEN FOR THE WINTER

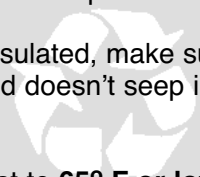
- **Seal any leaks** with insulation, caulking, weather stripping, and door snakes.

These tips also help with optimal energy saving:

- If your attic isn't insulated, make sure to **insulate the entrance** so the cold doesn't seep into your house from above.
- Set your thermostat to **65° F or lower**, and wear layers of warm cotton clothing in dark colors that absorb light and heat.
- Consider investing in a **programmable thermostat** that fulfills heating needs around your schedule. You set it so the heat kicks on for a specified amount of time before you arrive home or before you get up in the mornings.

Source: <http://greenlivingideas.com/2008/01/31/winter-energy-conservation-tips-for-the-home>

GO GREEN!



Now there are two easy ways to keep in touch with Beth El between issues of *The Voice*! In addition to signing up for E-Voice, the complete, online version of *The Voice*, you can also sign up for our bi-weekly family update and visit us online.

- Our website can be found at www.bethelbalto.com and now has videos, pictures and a full calendar of events and services, dedicated pages for the schools and all the affiliates and committees and more!
- To sign up for the bi-weekly family update, which will keep you up to date on everything happening at Beth El, send your name and e-mail address to **Dora Smith** at dora@bethelbalto.com.
- To receive *E-Voice* in your inbox each month up to one week before everyone else receives *The Voice* in the mail, send your request to **Dora Smith** at dora@bethelbalto.com. You must indicate if you want to receive both *E-Voice* and *The Voice*.
- Now you can follow us on Facebook too.

KEEP IN TOUCH

SPRING 2012 CULTURAL TRIPS

Mark your calendar for these
two fabulous trips:

*Philadelphia Museum – Magic Gardens,
Philadelphia, PA*

Thursday, April 19 (8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.)



Philadelphia Museum of Art
www.philamuseum.org

This trip offers a day of unique and diversified experiences. Our first stop will be the Philadelphia Museum of Art to view the special exhibit *Van Gogh Up Close*. Vincent Van Gogh was an artist of exceptional intensity not only in his use of color and exuberant application of paint but also in his personal life.

Drawn powerfully to nature, his works, particularly those created in the years just before he took his own life, engage the viewer with the strength of his emotions. This exhibition focuses on the tumultuous feverish artistic experimentations that began when Van Gogh left Antwerp for Paris in 1886 and continued until his death in Auvers in 1890.

After lunch on your own at the Museum, our group will take a short ride to Philadelphia's Magic Gardens. We will have a docent led tour of mosaicist Isaiah Zagar's remarkable Magic Gardens. The Gardens include a fully mosaic indoor gallery and a massive outdoor labyrinthine mosaic sculpture. Zagar began working on the Gardens in 1994 and for the last 17 years has dedicated his work to beautifying the South Street neighborhood of his city.



Cost \$77 per person

Registration for Beth El and Sisterhood members will be Monday, December 5 at 10:00 a.m. in the Shapiro Auditorium. If you have any questions, contact Marlene Siegel at 410-484-1844 or Judy Frankle at 410-486-2672.

*Belmont Estate & Kenmore House,
Fredericksburg, VA*

Thursday, May 17 (7:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m.)



On this lovely spring day, we will travel to historic Fredericksburg, VA. In the morning, our group will visit Belmont, the home and studio of American impressionist artist Gari Milcher. The 18th century house contains an outstanding collection of European and American antiques; English, Chinese, French, and Bavarian china; Oriental and

Savonnerie rugs; and paintings by Frans Snyder, Bertha Morisot and many others. The stone studio displays the works from Melcher's prolific career and the formal gardens contain large period rose collections and walking paths.

Leaving Belmont, we drive to the Kenmore Inn, constructed in 1793, for lunch in its charming dining room. Following lunch, we will tour the historic Kenmore House, the elegant plantation home of George Washington's sister Betty and her husband Colonel Fielding Lewis. This mansion is known for its ornate plasterwork ceilings and the Aesop's fable theme in the dining room. To conclude our visit, you will have free time to explore charming Old Town Fredericksburg and its shops.



Cost: \$88 per person

Registration for Beth El and Sisterhood members will be Monday, December 5 at 10:00 a.m. in the Shapiro Auditorium.

If you have any questions, contact **Marlene Siegel** at 410-484-1844 or **Judy Frankle** at 410-486-2672.



ANNUAL APPEAL DONORS 2011-2012

THINK ABOUT BETH EL WHILE DOING YOUR YEAR-END TAXES

With 2012 just around the corner, it's the time of year when everyone starts thinking about year-end tax planning. Please consider Beth El Congregation in those plans and utilize the most advantageous income tax charitable deductions to benefit you. An appropriately-planned 2011 year-end gift or account payment can significantly reduce your taxable income while at the same time providing meaningful financial support for the congregation and its programs and services.

There are four types of charitable gifts for you to consider as 2011 comes to a close. First, there is no easier way to earn a 2011 year-end charitable deduction than by giving a gift of cash. If you itemize the donation, you can lower your 2011 income taxes simply by writing a check before December 31. In addition, gifts of cash are fully deductible, up to a maximum of 50 percent of your adjusted gross income.

If you own stock, it is always better to contribute it over cash because a gift of appreciated stock will generally offer you tax savings in two ways – first, you avoid paying any capital gains tax on the increase in value of the stock and second, you receive an income tax charitable deduction for the full fair-market value of the stock at the time of the gift.

Many people are unaware that you can also make a gift of real estate; when an owned residence has appreciated in value so much that its sale would mean a sizeable capital gains tax, a year-end gift of the property to the congregation would avoid that tax as well as earn you a charitable deduction for the full fair-market value of the property.

Finally, if you are considering a major gift, a life-income gift is the most generous way to make such a donation. This is done by transferring cash or stock to the congregation by establishing a charitable remainder unitrust or charitable remainder annuity unitrust which would provide you with an annual return of five percent or greater. The income would be paid to you for life, after which the assets would be distributed to Beth El. Such a donation not only increases your income, but also makes a meaningful and tax-deductible donation to the congregation at the same time.

By considering a year-end gift to Beth El – whether it is in support of the Annual Appeal, a contribution in honor of a special event, or a memorial dedicated to a loved one or – your charitable, and tax-deductible, gift will make an immediate impact on the financial well-being of the congregation and would be appreciated by all those who take advantage of our scholarships, programs and other areas of synagogue life that your contributions help make possible.

For more information or to make a contribution, please contact Director of Development **Ailene Sher** at **410-580-5159** or **ailene@bethelbalto.com**.

Donations October 17, 2011 through November 9, 2011

Harry & Faye Adler	Bruce & Caren Hoffberger	Dr. Dustin & Jessica Rabine
Ira & Myra Askin	Richard & Ellen Hollander	William (Billy)* & Norma Rief
Stanford & Lois Bensky	Elayne Hurwitz	Sharron Rosenbaum
Esther F. Berelowitz	Marvin & Barbara Hurwitz	Lawrence & Nancy Rosenberg
James & Harriet Berg	Dr. Bruce & Andrea Hyatt	Michael Rubenstein & Hedy From
Steven & Heidi Berman	Arthur & Joan Janofsky	Lena Rubin
Kathleen Blackwell	Albert & Roslyn Katz	Jay & Janet Salkin
Robert & Dori Blitzstein	Dr. Leon & Gail Katz	Lenore R. Sborofsky
Brian & Shelley Bluefeld	Martin Katz	Dr. Michael & Joan Schultz
Alvin & Rosalie Book	Cantor Thom & Shazy King	Dr. Beth Schwartz
Jack & Marcia Boonshaft	Michael & Clara Klein	Doris Schwartz
Robert & Cynthia Bradus	Arnold & Sue Kohn	Kenneth & Ilene Schwartz
Elaine Brownstein	Thomas & Dr. Shari Kohn	Dr. Mayer & Alice Schwartz
Bernard & Erma Caplan	Jon N. Krieger	Eugene Seidel & Terry Posner Seidel
Nathan & Glenda Chernoff	Hugo & Elaine Kuntz	Roberta Selnick
B. Stanley & Margery Cohen	Ann Kurlander	David Shadur & Beverly Bing
Irwin & Jaclyn Cohen	David & Alice Kuryk	Joel & Gail Shugarman
Robert F. & Judy Cohen	Stephen & Abby Lazinsky	Harry & Gayle Siegel
Paul & Barbara Cooper	Frederick & Jill Leiner	Dr. Mark & Gail Silberman
Elliot & Susan Dackman	Sheila Leiss	Ellwood & Thelma Sinsky
Bernard & Judith Davis	Dr. Sheldon Lerman & Carol Macht	Gary & Stephanie Sinsky
Evan & Joan Drachman	James LeVecchi	Daniel & Karla Smelkinson
Stephen & Diane Ehudin	Burton & Bettye Levinson	Edwin & Annette Snyder
Neil Eisenberg & Deborah Thompson	Mark & Marsha Levine	Sigmund Snyder
Donald & Eileen Himelfarb	Ronald & Melanie Levine	Edward & Halaine Steinberg
Daron & Beth Fisher	Allan & Joanna Levy	Melvin & Anita Steinberg
Dr. Jeffrey & Syndy Gaber	Joseph & Ilene Liberman	Stephen & Ruth Thaler
Ronald & Cyrille Goldman	Gail Lipsitz	Dr. Gerald & Nancy Title
Dr. Stephen & Harriett Goldman	Steven & Lisa Luray	Dr. James & Diane Vogel
Jason & Allyson Gordon	Dr. Charles & Susan Mann	Isaac & Nan Waranch
Howard & Emily Goren	Marc & Nancy Medin	Arnold & Arleen Weiner
Matthew & Courtney Gotlin	M. John & Kris Meyer	Thelma Weiner
Dr. Ira & Risa Gottlieb	Gilbert H. Miller	Norman Wigutow
Benjamin & Barbara Green	Royce Minkove	Betty Zlotowitz
Melinda Greenberg	Richard & Leslie Monfred	
Robert Hankin	Sylvan & Eileen Offit	
Stuart Hankin	Howard & Marcia Ottenstein	
Frederick & Esther Harris	Dilip & Tracey Paliath	
Mark & Rachel Hess	Dr. Ira & Dr. Leslie Papel	
Gordon Heyman	Brian & Stefanie Penn	
	Martha Pritzker	

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT STEVE SILVERMAN

I think it is safe to say that every day our Congregation deeply feels the loss of our beloved former spiritual compass, Rabbi Mark G. Loeb. It's hard to believe that we just celebrated his second *yahrzeit*, and quite frankly, every Friday night at the conclusion of services I walk out of the Gorn Chapel and picture in my mind Rabbi Loeb precariously perched upon the book cases in the hallway, greeting and kibbitzing with the congregants as we walk past. That image of Rabbi Loeb always reminds me of his deep love of our congregants and our spiritual home, Beth El.

Rabbi Mark G. Loeb was truly a man of compassion, of generosity, and of vision, especially as it pertains to the future of Beth El. As is befitting his personal legacy, we continue to be led by his example and by his actions.

Therefore, it should come as no surprise, that when Rabbi Loeb's Will was probated, we received a letter from the executor of his estate, advising that our Endowment Fund would be receiving a substantial bequest. Rabbi Loeb was one of the first congregants to join our Legacy Society, and during his rabbinate, he was a tireless supporter and advocate of not only the concept of the Society, but of its goals and mission.

In an early Legacy Society letter to our congregants, he wrote: "Synagogues preserve Jewish identity and Jewish knowledge. They provide a central place and a central meaning for our communal life. They also provide a place where we can celebrate, where we can grieve, where we can remember, where we can reflect and where we can feel with pride the essence of our great heritage. They also serve as a spiritual connection for the generations of our families, and thus it makes profound emotional sense to leave behind in this world a memento of our lives to tell future generations that we were here and did our part in assuring the survival of our faith."

Our congregation is truly indebted to Rabbi Loeb, and as I said earlier, he is missed every day. May his righteous memory continue to be a blessing and an inspiration in our lives.

For information about the Beth El Legacy Society, please contact **Ailene Sher**, Director of Development for Beth El Congregation at **410-484-0411**.



Beth El Legacy Society welcomes its newest member:

Anita Potemken

Contact **Ailene** at **410-580-5159** or **ailene@bethelbalto.com** to request a Letter of Intent. All we need to know is that you have made provision for Beth El in your Estate Planning. Not only will you be ensuring the future of our congregation, but you will be helping to ensure Judaism for generations to come.

ADULT EDUCATION & CONGREGATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Monday Mornings:

Our Prayers - Where They Came From/ What They Mean

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Instructor: Sandy Winters

Dates: December 5, 12, 19, 2012; January, 9, 16, 23, 30

Monday Evenings:

Agus Academy (Fall):

What does it Mean to be a Conservative Jew

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Dec 12, 19

Instructors: Rabbis

January 9, 16, 23, 30

Instructor: Sandy Winters

On Monday evening, January 9 at 7:00 p.m. the Jacob Agus Academy will feature a program entitled "Women at the Well." New York artist Fran Medoff will share her unique artistic interpretations of Biblical women and Sandy Winters will teach Midrashic insights on these women.

Jewish Short Stories

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Instructor: Gail Lipsitz

Dates: December 5; January 3

Room: Agus Library

Intermediate Siddur Hebrew

6:00 p.m. - 6:50 p.m.

Instructor: Wendy Farley

Dates: December 12, 19

Room: Schuster Library

Saturday:

Parashah Study

9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

Instructor: Rabbis, Sandy Winters

Dates: Saturday Mornings

Room: Agus Library

For complete listings and descriptions of all courses for the Fall/Spring semesters, please consult the Adult Education Brochure

Attention Snow Birds – Make Sure We Have Your Winter Address!



As the weather gets colder, many of our congregants head south for the winter. It is important that our office receives your winter address, as well as the projected dates you will be away, because the post office will NOT automatically forward *The Voice* and other Beth El mailings.

Please contact **Sandi Block** at **410-484-0411** or **sandi@bethelbalto.com** with this information before you leave Baltimore and bring back some warmth and sunshine when you return!

Chanukah – From back page

world. Unfortunately the military victory didn't last that long. Within a century, Israel was once again under foreign rule, this time the Romans. One hundred and forty years later, Jerusalem was defeated and the Temple lay in ruins. There were many Jews who felt there was just no point in celebrating *Hanukkah* any more.

But it was then that one small detail of the original victory made the difference. It was so insignificant that it didn't make the news at the time. When the Maccabees came to rededicate the Temple, they found a single cruise of oil with the seal of the High Priest still intact. With it they were able to relight the temple candelabrum, the *menorah*. Miraculously it burned for eight days, not one, which is why to this day we light lights for eight days. It became a symbol of hope that something would always survive any catastrophe and allow us to begin again. That symbol of the human spirit gave Jews the strength to survive the next 2000 years. (Jonathon Sacks)

In this season of miracles, we have the opportunity to pause, to watch the lights of our candles flicker and dance and bring light into our world. They remind us of the historical miracles but they also remind us that everywhere we look, if our eyes are opened wide, our ears are truly listening, and if our hearts and minds are open we can find endless miracles.

Yet the *mitzvah* of *Chanukah* isn't to retell the story, nor is it limited to lighting the *chanukiah*. If that were the case we could put the *chanukiot* on our tables, pull back our curtains and enjoy ... but our laws teach us that our light should be visible to the passerby on our street. The point is that we will share our light! And so, it's up to us as Jews, to not only enjoy the holiday but to figure out ways that we can bring the light of the flames out into the world, that we can use the days to help transform a world that is broken and dark. Whether we buy gifts for a family in need, bring a coat or blanket to a homeless person, donate school supplies to a school, serve a meal in a soup kitchen, or volunteer ... the point is that we all have the power to create miracles in our world ... to be the candle in the darkness.

Chag Sameach and may the light that God planted within you shine bright!

BETH EL

Memorial Park

The Beth El Memorial Park has served the needs of the Beth El Congregation and the entire Baltimore Jewish Community for more than two generations. A "Makom Kodesh" (a "holy place"), it is a beautifully maintained cemetery of more than 15 acres, located at 9700 Liberty Road, Randallstown, MD.

Many families choose to purchase lots well in advance of their time of need. This relieves families of an added burden during an emotionally stressful time. Individual or family plots may be purchased with convenient payment plans. Please contact Debbie Caplan at 410-484-0411 or debbie@bethelbalto.com for more information.



AGUS LIBRARY HOURS

Monday	9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. 6:45 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (when classes are held)
Tuesday	9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.
Wednesday	9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.
Thursday	2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

If these times are not convenient for you, contact **Marlene Siegel** at **410-484-1844** to make an appointment.

If you wish to donate books to the Agus Library, please contact Marlene Siegel at 410-484-1844. **Because of the limited space, please do not bring books to Beth El until you have spoken to Marlene Siegel.**

SCHUSTER LIBRARY HOURS

Sundays:
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Tuesdays & Wednesdays:
4:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

CHANUKAH

By Rabbi Dana Saroken

I was in the office when I heard the news ... Gilad Shalit, the 19 year old Israeli soldier who had been kidnapped five years earlier by the Palestinian Authority was not only alive but he was being returned to Israel. *Al Ha'nisim* ...It truly was a miracle! I walked down the hallway with tear-stained cheeks. I simply couldn't believe the news.

On my way, I heard more news that amazed me: You see, in Israel, when terrorists are being released from Israeli jails, the custom is that the government will call the families of those who have been killed by that particular terrorist or killer to ask their permission to release him or her. It's hard to imagine ever receiving this call but countless families did before Shalit was released in exchange for 1,027 Arab prisoners. In response to this request, parents of a girl who had been murdered responded to this question by saying, "We will never be able to hold our daughter again, but Aviva and Noam Shalit will." Yes. I can't imagine how hard those words must have been to say, how hard it must have been to give permission for the person who took your child's life and tore your heart and your life into pieces to go free. *Al Ha'nisim* ... For this too was a miraculous act of generosity.

I walked down the hallway further ... And there was a man. A father of a young man ... the young man had been in trouble. He had moved to Baltimore to begin a new life for himself and that life hadn't been the life that he had imagined. His life seemed to be in a downward spiral and someone from our congregation took the bold and risky step of calling his family and letting them know that their loved one needed them. "Come out and be with him. It's crucial." A beautiful reunion took place soon thereafter. A life was saved. A glimmer of light had been sparked in a life where darkness prevailed. *Al Ha'nisim* ... thank you God, for the miracles that surround us!

This month, we celebrate the miracle of *Chanukah*. Our tradition teaches us that when Israel came under the empire of Alexander the Great, one particular leader, Antiochus IV, decided to force the pace of Hellenization, forbidding Jews to practice their religion and setting up in the Temple in Jerusalem a statue of Zeus Olympus.

This was all too much, and a group of Jews, the Maccabees, fought for their religious freedom, winning a stunning victory against the most powerful army of the ancient world. After three years they re-conquered Jerusalem and rededicated the Temple. And that's what Hanukkah means — rededication. It was one of the most stunning military achievements of the ancient

Continued on page 13

BETH EL CONGREGATION
 קהילת בית אל המאכלת
 8101 Park Heights Avenue
 Baltimore, Maryland 21208

Dated Material
 Please Deliver by December 1

Shop at the Judaica Shop!

The Judaica Shop has an extensive selection of gifts for all of your upcoming events. Gifts for all ages are available in all price ranges!

Please support the Shop by buying *Chanukah* gifts, *Bar and Bat Mitzvah* gifts, and wedding gifts.

We offer free gift wrap — let us take the stress out of your shopping!



STORE HOURS

Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
 Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 Tuesday, 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
 Friday, 11:00a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

We are available other times by appointment.
 Please call the Beth El Office 410-484-0411 or Barbara Green at 410-486-4080.

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BETH EL CONGREGATION
 8101 Park Heights Avenue
 Baltimore, Maryland 21208
 Phone: 410-484-0411
 School Phone: 410-484-4543

www.bethelbalto.com

Senior Rabbi	Steven P. Schwartz
Associate Rabbi	Dana Saroken
Rabbi-Educator	Faith Cantor
Cantor	Thom D. King
Executive Director	Gilbert Kleiner, F.S.A.
Director of Education	Eyal Bor, Ph.D.
Director of Development	Ailene Sher
Assistant Administrator	Debbie Caplan
Event Coordinator	Diane Cole
Communications Coordinator	Amanda Freed
Designer	Amy Wells

President	Steven Silverman
Sisterhood Presidents	Judy Pachino and Janet Penn
Beth El Seniors President	Ed Berkowitz

Rabbi Jacob B. Agus (1911-1986) Founding Rabbi
 Rabbi Mark G. Loeb (1944-2009) Emeritus
 Cantor Saul Z. Hammerman (1926-2008) Emeritus

Beth El, a progressive and inclusive congregation affiliated with the Conservative Movement, fulfills the spiritual, educational, and social needs of its members by nurturing religious practices and tradition, Jewish values and Tikkun Olam.

