

VOICE

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IN THIS ISSUE:

- 4 Adult Education
- 5 Hereld Day of Study
- 8 Israel Recap
- 15 Purim



ANNUAL ISLAND SHABBAT SERVICE RETURNS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15

Join us on **Friday, January 15 at 7:30 p.m.** for the return of our annual Island *Shabbat* service as we bring the warmth and sunshine of the Caribbean to Baltimore! Enjoy the sound of the Islands with a "Margaritaville *Adon Olam*" finale!

Services feature the return of the Calypso Klezematics, students from *Chavurah Chadasha*, the Catonsville High School Steel Band, and will be followed by a delicious tropical-themed *oneg!*



THE WAY YOU MAKE ME SPIEL

PURIM AT BETH EL, SATURDAY & SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27 & 28

You definitely want to make plans to join your friends at Beth El on Saturday, February 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the Rubin Sanctuary for our annual *Purim Spiel*. The theme this year is **The Motown Megillah** and features songs from the classic days of the Motown scene sung in between the chapters of a family-friendly *Megillah* reading. Toes will be tapping and bodies will be swaying in time to the fun music and funky beat as everyone sings along with Cantor Thom King and the Beth El Choir this *Purim*!

After the *spiel*, the hits just keep on coming with the Beth El All-Star Motown Revue. Spend the evening from 8:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. reliving the heyday of Motown as our Beth El clergy, staff, and officers grace the stage in the Myers Auditorium in a karaoke-based performance. You'll enjoy taking the trip back to the cool tunes and groovy vibes of acts like The Supremes, Aretha, Sam and Dave, the Jackson 5 and more of your Motown favorites. A Motown Trivia Quiz and "open karaoke" will let everyone have the chance to show their soulful side! A light pizza dinner

will be available for purchase, and there will plenty of complimentary hamentaschen and deserts.

The *Purim* celebration continues on Sunday morning with our traditional Sunday morning *minyan* and *Megillah* reading at 9:00 a.m. At 9:30 a.m. a special event for our Berman-Lipavsky Religious School parents will be led by Rabbi Greenspoon. Following that, at 10:00 a.m., the Berman-Lipavsky Religious School and their families will meet in the Rubin Sanctuary for a special *Megillah* reading and program dedicating our new Beth El *Megillah*, co-produced by our Religious School *Dalet* class and the children in our sister community of Ashkelon (see page 15 for a photo and more of the story!). Our annual *Purim* Carnival (Sponsored by the Brotherhood, Berman-Lipavsky religious School and the Pauline Mash Preschool) kicks the morning's celebration into overdrive from 10:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Everyone is working hard to make sure that this year's *Purim* Carnival will be remembered as one for the ages!

Clearly there is something for everyone this *Purim* at Beth El. You do NOT want to miss out, so make your plans now for a great weekend of fabulous *Purim* festivities.

Ties that Bind Bring Out Olympian Efforts in our Students

Sunday, February 7
Hay/Vav Family Program

9:30 a.m. in the Myers Auditorium

Co-sponsored by Berman-Lipavsky Religious School and the Beth El Brotherhood

This year Ties that Bind will be a little different. In the past this was often the first introduction to *Tefillin* for the families. However, this year the students in *Hay* and *Vav* have been practicing wrapping *Tefillin* since September. They know the mechanics of wrapping but not why this is an important tradition unique to Judaism. In Act I, Rabbi Schwartz, Rabbi Saroken and Rabbi Greenspoon will lead us on a journey of discovery. We will explore the sacred objects of other religions: the Muslim prayer rug, the Christian rosary beads, and the Buddhist prayer wheel. Then we will discover in depth the importance of our *Tefillin*. Act II leads us to Olympian efforts as the *Hay* and *Vav* classes will be divided into teams to compete in a relay race wrapping *Tefillin*, reciting the *Shema* and *V'ahavata*, and putting the *Tefillin* away properly. The winning team's photography will be placed on the front page of *The Voice* and will receive a cake and ice cream party. Act III tells us it is never too late to learn how to put on *Tefillin* as we listen to stories from our elder congregants. The objective of the morning is to have the families construct meaning out of *Tefillin* while having fun.

THE ROBERT & FLORENCE CHERTKOF ENDOWED

92nd St **Live** from NY's 92nd Street Y™
LECTURES, INTERVIEWS, PANELS & READINGS BROADCAST LIVE VIA SATELLITE

GAIL COLLINS WITH NORA EPHRON:
WOMEN COME OF AGE



Gail Collins and Nora Ephron

Tuesday, Jan 12, 2010, 8:00 p.m.

New York Times op-ed columnist Gail Collins and author/ screenwriter Nora Ephron discuss the cataclysmic changes that have overhauled American women's lives during the past five decades. Nora Ephron is the author of *I Feel Bad About My Neck* and the screenwriter of numerous films, including *When Harry Met Sally...*, *Sleepless in Seattle* and *Julie & Julia*.

MALCOLM GLADWELL AND ADAM GOPNIK



Malcolm Gladwell

Tuesday, Feb 16, 2010, 8:00 p.m.

Award-winning journalist Adam Gopnik has been writing for *The New Yorker* since 1986. His books include *Angels and Ages*, *Through the Children's Gate*, *Paris to the Moon*, *Americans in Paris* and *The King in the Window*. Malcolm Gladwell has been a staff writer for *The New Yorker* since 1996. In 2005 he was named one of *Time* magazine's 100 Most Influential People. His most recent book, *What the Dog Saw*, is a collection of essays. This will be a free flowing discussion about the world of ideas.

Free and open to the community.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Mrs. Lucile Cohen and Mrs. Janet Salkin on the loss of their beloved son and brother, Howard Cohen.
 Mrs. Amy Feinberg on the loss of her beloved father, Alvin Salganik.
 Mrs. Charlotte Gordon on the loss of her beloved brother, Morton Rolnick.
 Mr. Harvey Gordon on the loss of his beloved sister, Mildred Zemel.
 Mrs. Betty Helfman on the loss of her beloved daughter-in-law, Ellen Kreisler Helfman.
 Mr. Stephen Katz on the loss of his beloved sister, Eileen Marks.
 Mrs. Joyce Weiner Oshrine and Mr. Irwin Schwartz on the loss of their beloved mother, Rose Schwartz.
 Mrs. Irene Miller on the loss of her beloved husband, Herbert H. Miller.
 Dr. Lauri Reamer on the loss of her beloved father, Harvey Kershman.
 Mrs. Bella Savitt on the loss of her beloved husband, Dr. Harry L. Savitt.
 The Family of the late Dr. Bernard Weinstein.

SPEEDY RECOVERY TO:

Mr. Werner Marx

OUR HEARTIEST MAZEL TOV TO:

Mr. and Mrs. Keith Berenson on the birth of their granddaughter, Lucy Jane Berenson.
 Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Better on the birth of their granddaughter, Lily Rachel Perlis.
 Mr. and Mrs. Shepard Brown on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Julia.
 Mr. and Mrs. Edward Frank on the marriage of their son, Scott to Rachel Blackman.
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Heitt on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Bennett.
 Dr. and Mrs. Richard Kline on the birth of their granddaughter, Eva Mae Taylor. Great-grandmother is Mrs. Fran Richman.
 Mr. and Mrs. Paul Leckner on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Joshua.
 Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Motsko on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Madison.
 Mr. Stuart Saval and Mrs. Kara Saval on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Zachery. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Howard Saval.
 Mr. Jason Steinhardt on his marriage to Dr. Tina Tran. Parents are Mr. and Mrs. Michael Steinhardt. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. David Balachow.
 Mr. and Mrs. August Treff on the birth of their grandson, Elijah Jay Sponseller.
 Mr. and Mrs. Art Wien on the marriage of their son, Aryel to Ruchy Ross.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

Mr. and Mrs. Evan Drachman on their 10th.
 Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Mendelsohn on their 45th.
 Dr. and Mrs. Raymond Caplan on their 50th.
 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Cooper on their 55th.
 Mr. and Mrs. Perry Snyder on their 30th.
 Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Zuskin on their 60th.
 Mr. and Mrs. Eric Winkler on their 5th.
 Drs. Edwin and Lisa Ostrin on their 10th.
 Dr. and Mrs. Dan Kessler on their 20th.
 Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Herbst on their 45th.
 Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Ageloff on their 30th.
 Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Snyder on their 40th.
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Guth on their 45th.
 Mr. and Mrs. Julian Sober on their 20th.

IN MEMORIAM

**HERBERT H. MILLER
 DR. HARRY L. SAVITT**

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

SCHEDULE OF DAILY SERVICES

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

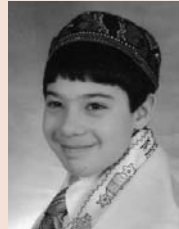
*check website or call 410-580-2727

**BAR & BAT
 MITZVAH**



BAT MITZVAH

Madison Suzanne Motsko, daughter of Michelle and Andrew Motsko will be called to the Torah as a *Bat Mitzvah* January 23, 2010.



BAR MITZVAH

Joshua Michael Leckner, son of Olivia and Paul Leckner, will be called to the Torah as a *Bar Mitzvah* February 6, 2010.



BAR MITZVAH

Bennett McMaster Heitt, son of Drs. Michael Heitt and Sandy Hawkins-Heitt will be called to the Torah as a *Bar Mitzvah* on February 13, 2010.



BAR MITZVAH

Zackery Alan Saval, son of Stuart Saval and Kara Saval, will be called to the Torah as a *Bar Mitzvah* February 20, 2010.



BAR MITZVAH

Noah K. Albertsen, son of Randi and William Albertsen, will be called to the Torah as a *Bar Mitzvah* March 6, 2010.

BAR MITZVAH

Daniel Benjamin Ferber, son of Stephanie and Jon Ferber, will be called to the Torah as a *Bar Mitzvah* March 6, 2010.

Beth El Baby



Audrey Eleanor Frank
 September 8, 2009

Parents:
 Mary and BJ Frank

Grandparents:
 Ellen and Ed Frank
 Carol and Bob Knepel

The Voice welcomes photos of Beth El babies wearing their "I'm a Baltimore Beth El Baby" T-shirts. Please e-mail jpeg images – along with the name of the infant and family members and the infant's birth date – to sandi@bethelbalto.com.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31

MORNING SERVICE 8:00 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE 5:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1

(Synagogue Office closed)

MORNING SERVICE 9:15 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE 6:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2

Parsha of the Week - VAYEHI

MORNING SERVICE 10:00 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE 6:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8

MORNING SERVICE 8:00 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE 6:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9

Parsha of the Week - SHEMOT

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15

MORNING SERVICE 8:00 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE 6:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16 - ROSH HODESH SHEVAT

Parsha of the Week - VAERA

MORNING SERVICE 10:00 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE 5:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22

MORNING SERVICE 8:00 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE 6:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23

Parsha of the Week - BO

MORNING SERVICE 10:00 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE 5:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29

MORNING SERVICE 8:00 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE 6:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30 - TU B'SHEVAT - SHABBAT SHIRAH

Parsha of the Week - BESHALAH

MORNING SERVICE 10:00 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE 5:15 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5

MORNING SERVICE 8:00 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE 6:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Parsha of the Week - YITRO

MORNING SERVICE 10:00 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE 5:15 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12

MORNING SERVICE 8:00 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE 6:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13 - SHABBAT SHEKALIM

Parsha of the Week - MISHPATIM

MORNING SERVICE 10:00 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE 5:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19

MORNING SERVICE 8:00 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE 6:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Parsha of the Week - TERUMAH

MORNING SERVICE 10:00 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE 5:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

MORNING SERVICE 8:00 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE 6:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27 - SHABBAT ZAKHOR

Parsha of the Week - TETZAVEH

MORNING SERVICE 10:00 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE 5:45 p.m.
PURIM MEGILLAH READING 7:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 5

MORNING SERVICE 8:00 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE 6:00 p.m.

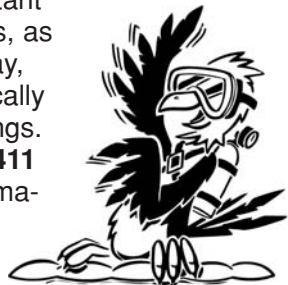
SATURDAY, MARCH 6 - SHABBAT PARAH

Parsha of the Week - KEE TISSA

MORNING SERVICE 10:00 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE 6:00 p.m.

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!



SEMINARY SHABBAT 2010

The weekend of February 20, Beth El will welcome Jewish Theological Seminary Rabbinical Student Gabi Capela for our annual Seminary *Shabbat*. Gadi will join Beth El on Friday evening for a *drasha* at services. He will continue his stay at Beth El on Saturday morning, leading the weekly *parsha* study at 9:00 a.m. and speaking during services in the Rubin Sanctuary. We encourage everyone at Beth El to welcome Gadi, as a future leader in the Jewish community.



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 call and invite them to Beth El.

ADULT EDUCATION CONGREGATIONAL PROGRAMMING

DEAR BETH EL FAMILY AND FRIENDS,

There is an inspiring amount of adult learning that occurs at Beth El, as we are up and running with the year's offerings. The sound of learning has a special sweetness to it. The engagement of students and teacher with exciting subjects literally creates a hum that you cannot miss. The sound of a person experiencing an "A-ha!" moment also has a unique energy to it. I am blessed to hear those sounds on a regular basis around Beth El. Here's a small sample of what I've enjoyed overhearing recently:

The presentation from Rabbi Schwartz on the Jewish perspectives to the current debate over healthcare was a timely and important conversation that clarified the issues for many of us; Dr. Robert Freedman's "A Short Course on Israeli Politics" was hugely successful and extremely timely with a lot of participation from a full class roster;

Students in all of Sandy Winters' classes are asking great questions and Sandy's sharing her passion in her responses; The lively and insightful conversation that defines the *Shabbat* Morning Torah Study;

The sounds that accompany the sense of delight and wonder I see in students across the classes as they gain new dimensions of understanding or a "new-to-them" concept from Judaism's deep treasury of wisdom.

The opportunities for Adult Education at Beth El are not drawing down because of winter time. We have a couple of special scholars joining us shortly. **Later this month on January 24 we will host Dr. Amy Kalmanofsky of the Jewish Theological Seminary for the JTS Herald Day of Study.** Dr. Kalmanofsky is an exciting and engaging teacher both within the walls of the Seminary, and beyond them with congregational community learners. More about Dr. Kalmanofsky and the JTS Herald Day of Study is on Page 5 of this Voice.

Of course, don't forget all the special programs that are right around the corner: **Island Shabbat, The Ties that Bind**, our production with Baltimore Hebrew Congregation of **The Orphan Queen**, and our in-house **Purim** festivities all take place during January and February. Be sure to look at the ad on page 9 of this Voice for an exciting recital of classical and klezmer music here at Beth El on Sunday, Feb. 28th at 3:00 p.m. in the Gorn Chapel. I look forward to seeing you around Beth El for an adult education class or a program soon!

— Rabbi David Greenspoon

ADULT EDUCATION UPDATES!

Agus Academy

8:00-9:00 p.m. in the Agus Library

Rabbi Schwartz continues Finding God Through Our Holy Texts on Jan 4 and Jan. 11.
Cantor King presents Finding God in Music on Jan. 25, Feb. 1, 8, and 22.

Monday Morning Mini-Series

10:45-11:45 a.m. in the Agus Library with Rabbi Greenspoon

In January we will focus on Legends and Lore of Jerusalem.
In February we explore Bible Stories We Don't Teach Our Kids

Jewish Short Stories

Gail Lipsitz resumes **January 4** and continues on **February 1**. The class is held from **7:00-7:50 p.m.**, in the Agus Library.

First Wednesday Pikesville Lunch & Learn at Beth El Contemporary Issues Series

12:00-1:00 p.m. in the Offit Auditorium.

Please feel free to bring either a dairy or meatless lunch.

First Wednesday Lunch and Learn at Beth El

Art & Survival in Terezin With Elizabeth Hlavek

January 6

Elizabeth's presentation is on art work that was made clandestinely in concentration camps. Elizabeth will discuss Brandeis and other various artists who made art as a form of escape and sustenance, and how it ultimately helped them to survive.

Social Issues Facing the Jewish Community Today With Marc B. Terrill, President, THE ASSOCIATED

February 3

We live in a time where the Jewish community and Jewish philanthropy is facing unprecedented challenges. Marc Terrill will share his unique insights on these challenging times.

Third Wednesday Towson Lunch and Learn with the Institute for Christian and Jewish Studies

Jewish Views of the Afterlife

Presented by Rabbi David Greenspoon

12:00-1:30 p.m. at ICJS

January 20: Rabbinic Responses and The World To Come

February 17: Medieval Musings: Philosophy and Fantasy

All texts will be provided in translation. No prior knowledge of the material or the ability to read Hebrew is required, there is no fee, and everyone is welcome to join. Classes will meet at the Institute for Christian and Jewish Studies, 95 Dulaney Valley Road in Towson.

Downtown Lunch and Learn at Fedder and Garten

Pirkei Avot/Ethics of the Fathers

January 13, 27, February 10, 24, 12:00-1:00 p.m.

The clergy of Beth El continues the exploration of the classic rabbinic work Pirkei Avot/Ethics of the Fathers. Classes will meet at Fedder and Garten, 36 S. Charles Street. Guests are welcome.

Special Programming Items

Wellness at Beth El with Elise Rubenstein

Join us for the final two work-shops on wellness and self-care by Elise Rubenstein, a Beth El congregant and a Nutritional Health Counselor. Please RSVP to Rabbi Greenspoon so that appropriate materials can be prepared. The workshop is offered without charge, and is open to the entire community, so feel free to bring a friend!



Why Diets Don't Work!, Thursday, January 7, 8:00-9:00 p.m.

There is a reason why we all have tried so many different diets and are still struggling with our weight. Finally, come learn the most important thing that you can do to lose the weight for good. Understand how your diet and lifestyle are your keys to great health.

My Food and My Bones, Thursday, February 4, 8:00-9:00 p.m.

Why are so many Americans dealing with bone health issues? We will debunk the myths about milk and calcium and give you the real keys to bone health and flexibility. It's not what you may think!

From Kafka's Castle to Freud's Couch: The Jewish Experience in Central Europe

Dr. Ken Moss, Johns Hopkins University

Four Wednesday Evenings, 8:00-9:00 p.m., Agus Library

Mysticism and science, ultra-Orthodoxy and radical assimilation, golems and psychoanalysis, café culture and Zionist revolt — the Jewish experience in Central Europe seems a patchwork of contradictions and extremes. In this series of lectures, Dr. Moss will acquaint us with the rich Jewish histories of Central Europe and try to make some sense of this contradictory picture through a focus on the region's three great cities: Prague, Vienna and Budapest.

Registration fee: \$50 for Beth El members; \$75 for friends and guests

BETH EL TO HOST THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY'S HERELD DAY OF STUDY

PROFESSOR AMY KALMANOFSKY
JANUARY 24, 2010; 11:15 A.M.

Beth El will be the host for the Jewish Theological Seminary's Hereld Day of Study here in Baltimore on Sunday, January 24. This program is sponsored by the Seminary for the entire Baltimore area Conservative Movement congregations. Professor Amy Kalmanofsky will speak on the topic "Two Strange Stories of Resurrection in the Bible."



Break-out sessions will allow participants to explore these fascinating accounts and gain deeper insights and meaning from the texts.

Dr. Kalmanofsky received her PhD from the Jewish Theological Seminary in 2005 and an MHL and rabbinic ordination from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in 1995. She is an assistant professor of Bible at JTS, teaching courses on biblical literature, religion, and feminist interpretation of the Bible. Her articles "Israel's Baby: The Horror of Childbirth in the Biblical Prophets" and "The Monstrous Feminine in the Book of Jeremiah" appeared in *Biblical Interpretation and Lectio Difficilior*. She also contributed to *The Torah: A Woman's Commentary* and her

book *Terror All Around: Horror, Monsters and Theology* appeared in 2008. Currently she is working on a book entitled *Sister to Sister: The Literary Representation of Sisters in the Hebrew Bible*.

The special program starts at 11:15 a.m. with a complimentary brunch and concludes at 1:00 p.m. There is no charge to attend, but RSVP's are necessary. Beth El members are asked to contact **Rabbi Greenspoon** at 410-484-0411, or david@bethelbalto.com to RSVP or for more details.

SAVE THE DATE!!

Passover Cooking Class

with Monroe Zeffert from Zeffert and Gold Catering

Thursday, March 18

\$25 per person

Reserve your spot early, this class is limited to 24 lucky participants.

Contact **Rabbi Greenspoon** at 410-484-0411, or david@bethelbalto.com for more details.



KEEP IN TOUCH WITH BETH EL!

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*.



A LETTER FROM ITALY

Late Tuesday evening October 6th, as we sat in our Milan hotel, our good friend Mark Loeb offered his critique of "L'Orfeo", the opera we had just seen at La Scala. Mark, direct as ever, pulled no punches as he lauded some performances, while giving a stinging criticism of the staging. Yet, our Rabbi was in a blissful state not only because he had seen this seminal Italian opera for the first time, but had been moved at intermission to a seat next to the Royal Box. The best seat in La Scala for the best man I have ever known.

We hugged and kissed and said we'd be in touch soon. We took photos, now so priceless. Mark was so happy; he was learning Italian, and doing so many meaningful things in Milan in just his first month there. Just before *Rosh Hashana*, he officiated at a destination wedding on the island of Elba, the exile home of Napoleon. Then he returned to Milan, not just to conduct services, but also to start an evening study group.

Mark has always been renowned for his wonderful counsel, whether political, religious or, most important, in personal relations. Mark was passionate and compassionate. He was very proud that he was helping a sixteen year old Italian youth, who wanted to learn about his heritage. The teen's mother was Jewish, his father Catholic, but Mark included both the father and son in the study group. Does not this speak volumes as to how remarkably inclusive Mark was?

On a personal level, Mark was looking forward to the many friends and family who would come to visit. We were so glad to be the first; sadly, we never imagined that we would be the last.

We mourn our friend, true citizen of the world. How fortunate we all were to have known him, to have loved him, and have been loved by him.

Our memory of this last day of his life, seeing him so happy and excited about the future, makes us fervently believe that Mark would say to all of us: "Don't mourn, just live a purposeful life, just live a committed life."

Shalom,
Lee and Sandy Gordon

DEAR BETH EL CONGREGATION CLERGY, STAFF, & MEMBERS,

We want you to know how much we appreciate the overwhelming number of donations, letters and cards that have been received in memory of our brother, Rabbi Mark G. Loeb.

Your thoughtfulness and support has helped us to get through a very difficult time. The loss of our brother leaves a tremendous hole in our family and in our hearts.

We will always remember, with fondness, the warmth with which we were received at Beth El at the many celebrations honoring Mark.

Carol Francis, Judy Kaplan and families

MELINDA JOY SIEGEL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

THE ASSOCIATED: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore is currently accepting applications for the Melinda Joy Siegel Memorial Scholarship Fund through March 22, 2010. The grant will enable young adults to participate in the Brandeis Collegiate Institute (BCI) 2010 Summer Institute in Brandeis, California from June 22nd through July 18th. Applicants must be accepted to the BCI program before they are considered for the scholarship.

The Melinda Joy Siegel Memorial Scholarship was established in 1986 by Beth El Congregants, Marlene and Hillard Siegel, to honor the memory of their daughter, Melinda, who died of lymphoma. For more information or to request a scholarship application, please call or email **Linda Speert** at 410.369.9282 or lspeert@associated.org or visit www.ajula.edu. Scholarship applications must be submitted by March 22, 2010.

2010 CENSUS

The 2010 Census is around the corner. The census defines who we are as a nation and affects the political representation and direct allocation of billions of dollars in government funding. This March when your census form arrives in the mail please do your part and complete it.

Census questionnaires will be mailed out, and if you do not receive one there are locations throughout the city that have them available for pick-up. For more information on the Census or to get involved please visit 2010census.gov.

GENERAL PROGRAMS

Rev. Frank Boswell, Senior Pastor, Hunt Valley Presbyterian Church, spoke to Sisterhood on **December 7** on *How Faith can be Expressed Through Public Life in Professional and Volunteer Work*. He pointed out how adults should be role models, passionate about their actions and words. He expressed that faith is key to life's fulfillment and guides individuals through pathways to find their passion. In Rev. Boswell's view, the ultimate goal is to find one's passion and let that be the guide to whatever path one chooses — working, volunteering, or socializing.

January 4, 2010, 11:30 at Beth El

TOPIC: "The changing role of Jewish women in the Family" Much attention has been paid in recent decades to the changing roles for women in Jewish ritual, the rabbinate and synagogue leadership. SANDY WINTERS, a long-time member of our senior staff, will present a program that will focus on the impact of women's liberation on families, both nuclear and extended.

"A MUSICAL TRIBUTE TO RABBI LOEB"

Sisterhood Music Month - February 1, 2010, 11:30 a.m.

Jonathan Palevsky, program Director for WBJC, will present a program to honor Rabbi Loeb's huge love of opera and classical music. The talk and music will revolve around the pieces he liked and the discussions the two of them had. Please send coupon for reservation.

BIBLIO

Wednesday, January 13, 2010, at 12:00 p.m. in the Kolker room. Presenter will be Mara Garcia-Bunuel, retired chair of foreign languages at The Friends School; Fullbright Fellowship winner and active coordinator of literature courses at the Renaissance Institute of Notre Dame College. She will survey the works of W.G. Sebald with an emphasis on "AUSTERLITZ and THE IMMIGRANTS." Please join us with your own dairy lunch. Dessert and beverage will be provided. RSVP to **Rita** at **410-484-1731**.

Wednesday, February 10, 2010 meeting and discussion. Anita Potemken, an insightful reviewer, will tell the story of an angst-ridden man in MIDDLESEX by Jeffrey Eugenides. Meet at 12 noon in the Kolker Room with a dairy lunch. Dessert and beverage will be provided.

BOOK REVIEW

On **Wednesday, January 27, 2010** in the Myers Auditorium at 11:30 a.m., there will be a petite luncheon and Book Review presented by Rabbi Saroken. She will speak about the book, *Day After Night* by Anita Diamant (author of *The Red Tent*). This novel is based on a true story of the October, 1945 rescue at the Atlit internment camp in Israel. Through four young women who escaped to Israel from Nazi Europe, Ms. Diamant develops her story of tragedy and redemption. The cost of the luncheon is \$10.00 per person and a reservation coupon is requested. For those just coming to the review, please be at the Myers by 12:30 p.m.

On **Thursday, March 18, 2010** at 7:00 p.m. in the Myers Auditorium, Rabbi Schwartz will review Pulitzer Prize winning author, Michael Chabon's new book, *Manhood For Amateurs*. This memoir is presented in a series of essays which are interesting and thoughtful.

There is no charge to attend the reviews. Both reviews are open to members and the community, but reservations are required. If you have questions, please call **Judy Pachino** at **410-486-6620** or **Marlene Siegel** at **410-484-1844**.

BOOK REVIEW REGISTRATION

Name: _____

Telephone: _____ Cell _____

Guest name(s): _____

Amount enclosed _____ (Petite Luncheon and Book Review) (\$10 per person)

I wish to attend only the review on January 27.

I wish to attend the review on March 18.

Please send check for \$10.00 per person and this coupon to Judy Pachino or Marlene Siegel c/o Beth El Sisterhood, 8101 Park Heights Ave. 21208, by January 20th.

TORAH FUND

We have received many generous donations in response to our letter asking for support for the Rabbis, Cantors and Educational leaders. A benefactor must contribute \$180 and our goal is to reach 20 benefactors this year. Everyone who gives at least \$18.00, will receive 6 beautiful occasion cards. Please call **Jane, 410-484-4218** or **Hilda, 410 486-4453** for any questions.

SEABOARD REGION,

WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

EDUCATION DAY: **Sunday, January 31** at B'nai Israel Congregation, Rockville, MD 20852

Registration: 9:15 a.m.; General meeting: 9:45 a.m.

1st Speaker: 10:00 a.m.; Lunch: 11:45 a.m.; 2nd speaker: 1:00 p.m.

Speakers: Ilana Blumberg, author and Professor of English, will discuss her book, *Houses of Worship: A Jewish Woman among Books*.

Sara Shalva, a Melton Program teacher, will discuss "Approaches to Prayer."

Cost: \$36.00 (includes copy of Ilana's book) For reservations and carpool information please contact **Joan Flaks** at **410-486-6246** or **Estelle Kabik** at **410-833-2769**.

CULTURAL TRIP SERIES

There are two cultural trips planned for the Spring. On **Wednesday, April 21**, there will be a trip to the Baltimore Museum of Art. Our group will have lunch at Gertrude's before going to see the exhibit, "Cezanne and American Modernism". This exhibit is the first to explore how Cezanne transformed Modern art in America.

The second trip is to Washington, DC on **Tuesday, May 4**. Our first stop will be the National Crime and Punishment Museum. After the visit, we will have a leisurely lunch at the District Chop House and then see the lovely United States Botanic Garden.

Registration for both trips will be held in the Agus Library on **Wednesday, February 24** at 9:30 a.m. For questions, please call **Janet Penn, 410-484-5702** or **Marlene Siegel, 410-484-1844**.

JOINT SISTERHOOD

Save the date and mark your calendar for **Wednesday, April 14, 2010**, for Joint Sisterhood meeting. Beth El is the host this year, so we would love to see a great turnout! Please watch for details to come.

EVENING SISTERHOOD GROUP

Want to participate in Sisterhood activities but can't because of work or other daytime responsibilities? Evening Sisterhood is designed with you in mind. If you are interested in learning more and helping plan for this year's activities, please contact **Barbara Zirkin** at **410-484-4912**, **barbzirk@comcast.net**, or **Amy Sacks** at **410-484-8507**, **absacks@yahoo.com**.

SAVE THE DATE

Women's Seder at Beth El on **Wednesday, March 17, 2010**. A wonderful program for women of all ages. Price and program to be announced.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Information regarding the Nominating Committee Report will appear in the next issue of the *Voice*.

Schedule for the remaining Sisterhood lunches for this year:

Meeting Dates	Cut Off Date	Meeting Type
Monday, January 4	Wed. December 23	General
Monday, February 1	Wed. January 20	General
Wednesday March 17*	Wed. March 3	Women's Seder
		Inter-Generational Mtg.
Monday, April 14 *	Monday, April 5th	Joint Sisterhood Mtg.
Monday, May 3	Monday, April 19th	Closing Meeting

* The March and April meetings are not part of the subscription series. Monthly meeting checks should be forwarded to Beth El Office, Attention Eunice Friedman, or Karen Lent, 8101 Park Heights Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21208. If you have any questions, Eunice can be reached at 410-484-3365.

YES, I WILL ATTEND THE MUSICAL TRIBUTE ON FEBRUARY 1 AT 11:30 A.M.

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Guest name(s): _____

Send check for \$14.00 to Beth El. Walk-Ins will be \$16.00.

RSVP Deadline: Wednesday, January 20 Send to: Beth El –

Sisterhood c/o Eunice Friedman and Adrienne Millman, 8101 Park Heights Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21208

Eunice Friedman (410-484-3365), and Adrienne Millman (410-484-4353)

SENIORS

A NIGHT ON BROADWAY

Beth El Seniors invites its members and guests to its February 2010 dinner program to be held on **Sunday, February 14**, at 6:30 p.m. in the Offit auditorium. Our featured entertainers for the evening will be **Chick Szczybor**, tenor and **Paula McCabe**, soprano. This talented duo will perform Broadway show tune favorites. The cost for this event is only \$18 for members and \$21 for guests. **Reservations and payments are a must and are due by Friday, February 5.** Please mail your check and seating preference to Beth El c/o The Seniors, 8101 Park Heights Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21208.

REMINDER

Beth El Seniors reminds its members that **Ken Skrzysz**, Baritone and **Doug Yetter**, Pianist will be performing for us on **January 10, 2010.** **Reservations are due no later than Monday, January 4, 2010.**

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

All persons over 50 are welcome to our group and 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 Gilden** 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*. It is a *mitzvah* to contribute to a process that pays for keeping these scrolls inspected, repaired and fit for use.

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, his work is infused with the customs and traditions of our religion.



The November 8 Senior Dinner was a rousing success and the entertainment by Frank Currari and Trish delighted the packed Offit Auditorium.

S O C I A L A C T I O N



Thank you to all the volunteers who delivered food and gifts to the homebound for **Moveable Feast** on Christmas Day!

Shalach Manot – Purim Sweet Deliveries

Each year, the Social Action Committee led by Eileen Rome delivers sweets on Purim to our homebound members. If you know of anyone who would like to receive a *Shalach Manot* package, contact **Debbie Caplan** at 410-484-0411.

Need a Ride?

Our transportation committee offers members rides to *shul* and doctors appointments. Call **Debbie Caplan** at 410-484-0411.

Community Crisis Center

The drive for donations continues. Please bring your donations to the main office and Tammy Schnydman will make sure to deliver the items to the crisis center.

Food Donations (Non-perishables only): canned fruits and vegetables, tuna, chicken and soups; peanut butter, jelly, cereals, pasta, crackers (Please watch expiration dates)

Toiletries: toilet paper, bars of soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant (both genders), and toothpaste (No sample/trial size items)

Woodholme Elementary School

In just two months, Beth El volunteers compiled over 60 volunteer hours at Woodholme Elementary. It's not too late to get involved! Future training dates are scheduled for: Friday, January 22; Friday, February 19; and Friday, March 19. Training always takes place from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Please contact **Tammy Schydmann** at 410-484-8315 for more information about this wonderful volunteer opportunity.

Clothing and Linen Collection

Just a reminder – we continue to collect clothing as well as bed linens and towels in good condition. Our dedicated volunteers will sort and deliver everything to an appropriate location such as Baltimore County Social Services.

Save the Date – A Night For Women: Health and Awareness

On **March 11** at 7:00 p.m., the University of Maryland, in conjunction with Beth El, will offer an educational evening on Women's Health. Doctors from the University of Maryland Medical System will be here to lecture and answer your questions. Topics to include: Cardiac Disease in Women, Hormonal Imbalance and Thyroid Disease, Osteoporosis and Osteoarthritis, and Genetic Counseling.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to **Michael Klein** of Klein's Shop Rite for his donation of donuts that we distributed to area fire and police stations on Christmas Eve.

BROTHERHOOD

MONOPOLY TOURNAMENT

On Sunday February 7th, from 11:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. (just after the Ties That Bind) join the Beth El Brotherhood for a Monopoly Tournament. There is a \$7 per person entry fee to participate in the Monopoly Tournament, call Barry Budish to make a reservation. The entry fee at the door (without a reservation) will be \$10 per person. Prizes for the winners include sports memorabilia and gift cards.



Call **Barry Budish (443) 739-5499** for reservations and to let him know if you can bring a Monopoly set. The "short version" of the game will be played in order to play multiple games quicker.

THE BROTHERHOOD CALENDAR

Sunday, January 31	Blue Yarmulke Man-of-the-Year Dinner
Sunday, February 7	Ties That Bind followed by Monopoly Tournament from 11:30 a.m. –2:00 p.m.

ISRAEL FACTS

Talk about self-sufficiency...

Israel produces 93% of its own food supply requirements.

Where is the love?

Relative to its population, Israel is the largest immigrant-absorbing nation on earth. Immigrants come in search of democracy, religious freedom, and economic opportunity.

In bookworms we trust:

Israel has the world's second highest per capita of new books, as well as having more museums per capita than any other country in the world.

— George Fuzayl, Executive VP
Israeli Affairs USY
Grade 12; Pikesville High School



Name the Israel Facts Column!

Have an idea of what to call the Israel Facts column? The Israel Affairs Committee wants to hear it. Adults and children are all invited to participate in the contest. Submissions should be emailed to **Hedy From** at hfrom@earthlink.net by the deadline of January 20, 2010. The Israel Affairs Committee will award a prize to the winner of the contest, and the new name will appear in the March *Voice*.

Going To Israel?

Connect with our sister city!

Kehillat Netzach Israel, in Baltimore's sister city of Ashkelon would like to reach out to our members/families while they are in Israel.

They may send care packages and/or extend invitations for Shabbat or holidays.

Email **Debbie Caplan** at Debbie@bethelbalto.com for details on this exciting program.

OUR TRIP TO ISRAEL

On October 5, 2009 forty-four of us, mostly Beth El members, made a pilgrimage to Israel together. We were led by Beth El's Senior Rabbi, Steven Schwartz and Dr. Eyal Bor, Director of Education, and an Israeli Sabra. After arriving at Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport, we spent 10 days on the ground immersed in a rich dose of 4000 years of Jewish history flowing from biblical times, to first and second temple periods events, military conquests, conceiving of Zionism by Theodore Herzl, the Holocaust, the declaration of the State of Israel in 1947, and the wars that followed.

Our Israeli guide Reuven Zusman possessed an incredible depth and grasp of the history, events, and people of the last 4000 years and provided a clear and textured picture of each place along our journey. Our itinerary chronology was as follows: Haifa B'hai Gardens with its beautiful view of the city and harbor, Tiberius and the Sea of Galilee, Golan Heights with a view of Syria and Lebanon and review of a fierce tank battle that occurred there where 40 Israeli tanks were victorious over 400 Syrian tanks; We visited the Yarden Winery, an ancient synagogue in Safed, Maimonides burial site, fabulous ancient Roman ruins of Beit Shean, lunch at a Druze Village, walls of the Temple Mount and newly excavated tunnels, the Arab quarter, Cardo, Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Cemetery of the Heroes, Herzl Museum, Yad Vashem and the Children's Memorial, and of course the Wailing Wall at sundown, marking the start of *Sabbath*. On Saturday morning, we attended a Re-constructionist *Sabbath* service and later took a walking tour of the area near our hotel. On Sunday we resumed our tour visiting the Supreme Court, The Knesset and its Chagall Hall, and then an afternoon enjoying the public food market and shops. Next day it was on to Masada, the Dead Sea, lunch at a Kibbutz, and a visit at Abraham's tent for a camel ride and re-enactment of ancient greeting and hospitality shown to travelers. Our next day started with a tour of The Ben-Gurion University in the Negev, then on to the Palmach Museum, dedicated to the Israel Defense Forces. We also visited Baltimore's sister city of Ashkelon, an ancient seaport city south of Tel Aviv, where Rabbi Schwartz received a beautiful ornate Megillah they made for Beth El.

On our last day, Oct 28, we began with a tour of Independence Hall where we experienced a re-enactment of David Ben-Gurion's declaration of the establishment of the State of Israel, then on to a modern high rise with a 360 degree view of Tel Aviv, followed by a group discussion of the highlights of our trip at a Mediterranean seaside park, closed out with a group round of singing Hava Nagila led by Dr. Bor playing superbly on his clarinet. We ended our last day with a dinner at a Tel Aviv restaurant and then a 1 AM flight departure on El Al back to the US.

Our trip was enriched by the bond that grew between us from the sharing of the feelings we felt as we experienced together our wonderful itinerary and our reinforced connection to our roots in Israel. I heartily recommend a journey like this to you.

Robert Chertkof

I am one year older than the State of Israel. It took me all this time to visit this fantastic country. The trip was wonderful, exciting, exhausting but so much fun for all.

I was so impressed with the progress Israel has made in such a short time. They made a desert bloom thru hard work, innovation with technology, pure will, and determination. If other countries would let them, they could help teach all they know for cultivating land, using the sea around them and using technology to make their lives better.

I loved all the history that surrounded us from the ruins at Beit Shean, the Western tunnel tour, the ruins outside our hotel in Tiberius, the synagogue at Beit Alfa, Masada and many more. I truly felt the friendly ghosts of our ancestors and also their not friendly conquerors.

Walking around Jerusalem was so comfortable with a very safe feeling. The young people are so full of life and enthusiasm. We went to a beautiful new mall where they danced in the middle court area to a DJ. We joined the fun and danced too, on a Monday night.

Rabbi Schwartz and Dr. Bor added their knowledge, religious thoughts and feelings to broaden our understanding of all we saw and experienced. The group was great and everyone enjoyed the trip and getting to make new friends. Visit Israel and you can truly appreciate where your Bond money goes and know that all those trees you have planted through the years live.

Jane Krosin



CANTOR'S CORNER

DEAR FRIENDS,

By the time you read this, you might think we are in the midst of the mid-winter doldrums... but wait! Get that Hawaiian shirt out; it's time for a little Caribbean cruise to Island Shabbat. Our indomitable friend Jim Wharton and his incredible steel drum band will be returning to join us in what will undoubtedly be a fun and unique way to bring in Shabbat. So please **SAVE THE DATE of January 15, 2010 at 7:30**. Take out your summer clothes, connect with your "inner pirate", and join us!!

Speaking of fun, I want to tell everyone about two more upcoming events that are NOT TO BE MISSED!! The first is a joint venture between Beth El and Baltimore Hebrew Congregation: our production of "**The Orphan Queen**". This is a musical retelling of the Purim Story written by Cantor Robbie Solomon (of SAFAM fame) and will be performed at Baltimore Hebrew Congregation on **Feb.20 and 21**. Being "Cantor King" I will naturally be portraying the part of "The King". This work has been performed very successfully in the New England area and elsewhere, and we are proud to be a part of this Baltimore debut event.

And when it comes to events, our annual **Purim Spiel** is an event to end all events! I will not tell you what this year's theme is but I'll give you a hint: What do The Supremes, The Jackson Five and The Temptations all have in common? If you are thinking Berry Gordy, you are on the right track!! SO... if you love sequins and glitter, then there "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" to keep you from our *Purim Spiel*.

B'Shira,
Cantor Thom King

MUSIC TO CHERISH IN THE GORN CHAPEL



Date/Time: **Sunday, February 28, 2010 @ 3:00 p.m.**

Location: Gorn Chapel

Musicians: **Israeli pianist Michal Tal, cellist Evan Drachman, and our own Dr. Eyal Bor on clarinet**

The concert will include classical and klezmer music and a very special memorial piece, *Kaddish*, written by Tzvi Avni (the 2001 laureate of the Israel Prize of Music).

Concert Presented by the Israel Affairs Committee and Beth El Schools

ANNUAL APPEAL

DONORS 2009-2010

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 Arthur & Deborah Gerson
 Dr. Marvin Getz
 Shirley Gilden
 Joseph & Kathryn Glen
 Louis & Ruth Glick
 Dr. Steven & Lori Glubo
 Ivan & Sheila Goldberg
 Marion Golding
 Edward & Jennifer Goldmeier
 Marsha Golob
 Melvin & Charlotte Gordon

Mitchel & Elise Gordon
 Nancy Gordon
 Matthew & Courtney Gotlin
 Wilma Greenberg
 Rabbi David & Anne Greenspoon
 Robert & Terry Grosshandler
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 Steven & Zivah Ring
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 Rona Schultz
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 Robert & Deborah Schwartzman
 Marian Scumick
 Rosalie Sellman
 Dr. Frank & Merle Setren
 Keith & Jennifer Shapiro
 Alvin Y. Shapiro
 Diane Shapiro
 Morris & Beatrice Shapiro
 Jack & Beverly Share
 Norman & Joy Shillman
 Gertrude Shobin
 Joel & Gail Shugarman
 Helen Silverberg
 Estelle Silverman
 Dr. Bruce & Deena Sindler
 Stanley & Marsha Sindler
 Miriam Smelkinson
 Robert & Jacqueline Smelkinson
 Bernard & Carol Smullian
 Michael & Rebecca Snyder
 Perry & Susan Snyder
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 Elliot & Jocelyn Steelman
 Scott & Amy Steinberg
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 Herbert & Sheila Sweren
 Gary & Susan Talles
 Ruth Thaler
 Stuart & Sheryl Title
 Sylvan Tompaklov
 Betty Waghelstein
 Charles Weissman
 Annette Weiner
 Morton & Esther Weiner
 Brian Weisman
 Eric & Melissa West
 Marcia White
 Philip & Beverly Willen
 Sandy Winters
 James & Juli Wolf
 Rita Wolf
 Sally Wolf
 Bernice Wolfson
 Daniel & Esther Zerden
 Dr. Norman & Loretta Zimmerman
 Brian & Jennifer Zlotnick

DOUBLE DISCOUNT LEAD TRUST

The FLP/CLT Bailout: James Kestrel was in the process of transferring ownership in his stake of Printing Shop, Inc. After weighing his options, he decided that the Charitable Bailout Plan was an excellent way for him to transfer a third of his shares to his cousin, Ruby, while still providing his wife and charity with substantial benefits. James now had to determine the best way to transfer his remaining shares in Printing Shop, Inc., to his children. The value of James' remaining shares was approximately \$1.2 million. Unfortunately, James had used his entire exemption equivalent six years ago when he made very large gifts to his four children. Therefore, he needs a plan that will allow him to transfer his shares to his children, and eliminate or greatly reduce the tax burden associated with such a transfer.

Double Discounting Through a Lead Trust and LLC: Barry and Tracy Fletcher, both age 55, own farmland inherited from Tracy's grandfather five years ago. At that time, the farmland was valued at \$1.5 million and, therefore, this is their cost basis in the property. The current fair market value of the land is \$2.5 million.

Double Your Discount, Leverage Your Gift: Ralph and Virginia Thompson, both age 65, own a number of business assets which they would like to transfer to their three children. One of the business assets is stock in a closely held "C" corporation that the Thompsons started 15 years ago on a shoestring and now is worth \$2.5 million. The three children all work for the corporation and are minority shareholders. Ralph and Virginia have been utilizing their gift exclusions to transfer shares to the children over the past seven to eight years and have been able to transfer \$500,000 of value to them. However, they desire the complete ownership of the company to be transferred to the children within the next few years.

Facilitating a Lead Trust Through a Corporate Recapitalization: Timothy and Molly Armstrong own 90% of the outstanding stock in a manufacturing company, and the other 10% is owned by another family. The stock is divided into four classes of common stock, which are non-voting Class B and voting Classes C, D and E. The corporation had redeemed a number of Class B shares over the past three years, but there has never been any intent to change the proportionate interests of the shareholders by such redemptions. The corporation's charter provides that dividends can be paid only on the Class B shares. If dividends were to be paid on the other classes, the charter provides that those classes must participate equally in the dividends. All classes are to share equally in any liquidating distributions.

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**BERMAN-LIPAVSKY RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
JANUARY & FEBRUARY CALENDAR**

FOR PROJECT MISHPACHA and CHAVURAH CHADASHA CREDIT

Sunday, December 20 – Sunday, January 3 Monday, January 4	Winterbreak <i>Chavurah Chadasha</i> Monday Class Resumes
Tuesday, January 5 Wednesday, January 6	Hebrew School Resumes Hebrew School and <i>Chavurah Chadasha</i> Wednesday Classes Resume
Thursday, January 7	Federal Hill Satellite School and Howard County <i>Chavurah</i> Classes Resume Jewish Cooking Class and so much more by Jill Eisen 6:30-8:00 p.m.; Age 13 - Adult; Registration required
Sunday, January 10 Monday, January 11	Parent Education; 9:30 a.m. Confirmation and Post-Confirmation; 6:00 p.m.
Friday, January 15 Sunday, January 17	Island <i>Shabbat</i> ; 7:30 p.m. <i>Tarbut v'Shira</i> Concert in Honor of Martin Luther King; 10:45 a.m.
Monday, January 18	No <i>Chavurah Chadasha</i> Monday Class
Tuesday, January 19 Wednesday, January 20 Saturday, January 23	Parent Book Club; 5:15 p.m. Parent Book Club; 5:15 p.m. Simchat Shabbat Service for K-2nd graders; 10:45 a.m. <i>Chavurah Chadasha Havdalah</i> Dinner; 6:15 p.m.
Sunday, January 24	<i>Bet</i> Family Program II: <i>Shabbat</i> ; 9:30 a.m.
Monday, January 25 Sunday, January 31	Confirmation; 6:00 p.m. Parent Ed Extra: Personalizing Passover; 9:30 a.m.
Sunday, February 7	Hay/Vav Family Program: Ties that Bind; 9:30 a.m.
Monday, February 8	Confirmation and Post-Confirmation; 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, February 11	Jewish Cooking Class and so much more by Jill Eisen; 6:30-8:00 p.m. Age 13 - Adult; Registration required
Friday, February 12	<i>Chavurah Chadasha</i> A & B <i>Shabbat</i> Dinners
Saturday, February 13	<i>Chavurah Chadasha</i> Parent Ed; 9:45 a.m. <i>Shabbat</i> Family Service; 10:45 a.m.
Sunday, February 14	<i>Gan/Mechina</i> Family Program; 9:30 a.m. <i>Aleph/Bet</i> Family Trip to the <i>Matzah</i> Factory; 9:30 a.m.
Tuesday, February 16 Wednesday, February 17 Saturday, February 20	Parent Book Club; 5:15 p.m. Parent Book Club; 5:15 p.m. Simchat Shabbat Service for K-2nd graders; 10:45 a.m.
Sunday, February 21 Monday, February 22 Tuesday, February 23 Friday, February 26	Parent Ed; 9:30 a.m. Confirmation; 6:00 p.m. School Committee; 6:30 p.m. <i>Chavurah Chadasha B</i> <i>Shabbat</i> Dinner; 6:00 p.m. <i>Chavurah Chadasha A</i> <i>Shabbat</i> Dinner; 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, February 27 Sunday, February 28	Purim Spiel; 7:00 p.m. Hebrew School, Megillah Play and Carnival; 9:30 a.m.

**JEWISH COOKING CLASS &
SO MUCH MORE BY JILL EISEN**

Thursdays: January 7, February 11, and March 11
6:30-8:00 p.m. (Age 13 – Adult)
Fee: \$15 per person plus a few materials
Registration required 10 days before the class;
minimum of 10 people for the class

Jill Eisen, the Assistant Principal of the Berman-Lipavsky Religious School, will lead a cooking demonstration on the culinary delights of the Jewish Holidays, *Tu B'Shvat*, *Purim* and Passover as well as creative ideas on how to make the Holidays festive in your home with decorations and Jewish cultural tips from America and around the world. Call **Fran Davis** to register at **410-484-4543**. The cost is \$15 per class plus bringing materials. The material list will be emailed the Monday before the class.

SIMCHAT SHABBAT

Saturday, January 23
10:45 a.m. in the Gorn Chapel
Families with children in K-2nd grade

"This was the perfect service for my 2nd grader after Tot *Shabbat*. It had just the right amount of prayer, movement and fun to keep my 2nd grader and myself interested and entertained. I recommend it for all families with children in kindergarten through 2nd grade," said Dr. Ellen Wruble Hakim when asked about Simchat *Shabbat*.

FOOD DRIVE



Beth El is creating a children's grocery store after the holidays to support a local crisis center. Grandparents and grandchildren, parents and children from the schools are all encouraged to come in, pick out and buy food which they can then bring to a dedicated area at Beth El set aside for the food drive. What a great way to share the *mitzvah* of giving with our young loved ones and what a sense of pride they will feel about helping someone less fortunate. Most items will be \$2 or less. The store will be located in Room 213 and will run Monday, February 1 from 9:30-noon, Sunday, January 31 and Sunday, February 7 from 10:00-1:00. For more information, please call **Fran** at **410-484-4543** or email at **Fran@Bethelbalto.com**.

**TOT SHABBAT IS HAPPENING
AT BETH EL.**

Bring your baby or preschooler to a Tot *Shabbat* service at Beth El to meet new families, and enjoy songs, stories and snacks! Services take place in the Kreitzer Memorial Room and begin at 11:15 a.m.

Saturday, January 9	Saturday, April 10
Saturday, January 16	(3's Honored)
(2's Honored)	Saturday, April 24
Saturday, January 23	Saturday, May 1
Saturday, January 30	(Grandparents Honored)
Saturday, February 27	Saturday, May 15
(PreK Honored)	Saturday, May 22
Saturday, March 6	Saturday, June 5 (2's
Saturday, March 20	Honored)
(4's Honored)	Saturday, June 12
Saturday, March 27	Saturday, June 19
	Saturday, June 26

On Saturday, November 21 families gathered together for the annual Pajama Havdalah event. Parents and children had a great time singing, eating and creating Havdalah art projects. Above, The Krosin family (Seth, Dan, Callie) worked together to make an excellent edible Havdalah candle. Also above, Asher Freiman and Emory Fisher enjoy making their very own Kiddush cups.



**M&M's (MUNCHKINS & MISHPACHAS)
SERVICE SCHEDULE**

Services take place in the Gorn Chapel
5:15 pm with a sweet *Oneg* following

- January 8 (date shift due to New Years)
- February 5
- March 5
- April 9 (date shift due to Passover)
- May 7
- June 4



INFANT & TODDLER CARE AT BETH EL IS GROWING!

- ☼ Programs for infants and toddlers from 3 to 24 months
 - ☼ Offering full time care Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Contact **Ellen Marks**, Program Director, at **410-580-2723** or **ellenm@bethelbalto.com** for more information and to arrange a tour of our infant and toddler area.

ENROLL NOW FOR FALL 2010-2011 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 new 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 two playgrounds, 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 parent, grandparent, caregiver.

Please call **Debbie Rabin**, Preschool Director, for applications, more information, or to arrange for a personal tour of our secured facility at **410-602-2245** or **deborah@bethelbalto.com**.

BETH EL LIGHTS IN THE NEWS

EVAN DRACHMAN

The rich sonorous tone of Evan Drachman's cello has filled concert halls around the world. His travels have taken him to Sweden, Britain, Italy, France, Taiwan, Macao, Singapore, Malaysia, India, Ukraine, Russia and the United States. But when Evan comes home to play his cello, more often than not, the place is Beth El.

For Drachman, becoming a cellist was not an accident. His grandfather was the famed Russian cellist Gregor Piatigorsky. Although Piatigorsky never directly encouraged his grandson to play the cello, his presence and magnetic personality made music irresistible. Unfortunately, Evan was never able to study with his grandfather, since Piatigorsky died shortly after he began to study the cello. Following in the tradition and learning second-hand much of his grandfather's wisdom, Evan studied with many former Piatigorsky pupils. Each night Evan read from Cellist, Piatigorsky's autobiography, living and reliving the adventures of a young man

forging his way through Europe brandishing only a cello. He listened to his grandfather's recordings over and over, absorbing each nuance of the masterful playing. The one lesson Evan received from his grandfather ended in a promise never to take the cello seriously. Piatigorsky did not want his grandson to spend his life "alone in a hotel and an airplane". Many years later Evan heard from his grandmother that his grandfather, even back then, already knew the truth. He said, "It is too late. He has tasted the blood of music and there is no turning back". Piatigorsky used to say, "One cannot choose music the way one can choose to be a dentist. It (music) chooses you. You have very little to say in the matter. You are taken with it". Evan was taken with music.

Evan Drachman

A decade later at Evan's graduation from The Curtis Institute of Music, his teacher, Orlando Cole, suggested that he perform a warm-up concert before his big recital. Cole sent Evan to a retirement community outside of Philadelphia where 200 residents came out to hear the performance. A week later the Curtis Hall recital hosted Evan's parents, Orlando Cole and his two best friends. The question arose...which concert was the warm up?

Drachman realized that artistic fulfillment came from the music itself and the receptiveness of the audience, not the grandeur of the venue. Evan said, "As a cellist, I am constantly striving to attain the heights of the masterpieces that I play. The pursuit of great art begins when you first discover its magnificence. I don't believe there is an end other than the natural one". He decided to find a way to bring music to people who really wanted to hear it. Evan started The Piatigorsky Foundation, a public non-profit whose mission is to bring live classical music to people who otherwise would not have the opportunity to hear it. Artists from The Piatigorsky Foundation perform in retirement communities, schools, churches, synagogues, libraries, town halls, prisons...any place where people gather where they do not have access to clas-

sical music. This season The Foundation will perform over 200 concerts in 19 States.

Evan's family has been affiliated with Beth El for nearly 40 years. Evan and his two brothers, Jonathan, and Eric, attended Beth El's Hebrew School and celebrated their *Bar Mitzvahs* here. Evan's father, Daniel Drachman, has served on many committees and continues to blow the *shofar* in the Rubin Sanctuary for the High Holidays. Evan's mother, Jephtha Drachman, is the family's facilitator. She brought Evan and his brothers to every music lesson, Beth El class, school and synagogue event. She lights the candles on Shabbat and sustains the family in countless ways.

In honor of Evan's older brother Jonathan, Piatigorsky performed a short improvised piece for Jonathan's *Bar Mitzvah*. It is called Prayer. While the work was never written down, Evan was able to transcribe the music from a recording of the *Bar Mitzvah* to manuscript form and has since included it on two CD's.

Evan considered his own *Bar Mitzvah* to be his first public recital. He studied under Joseph Lipavsky and views that experience as the start to his performing career. Mark Loeb was the Rabbi for the *Bar Mitzvah* service. Rabbi Loeb joined the Board of Directors for The Piatigorsky Foundation when it was founded in 1990 and performed the wedding ceremony when Evan married his wife, Joan.

"Rabbi Loeb and I shared many values and ideas, most notably our love for music and art. He was a strong presence in my life. I miss him," Evan added.

The connection to Beth El clergy that Evan started over 30 years ago continues today. He has performed at Beth El's *Selichot* and *Kol Nidrei* services with Cantor Thom King for many years. A few months ago they collaborated on a program at Beth El featuring the music of Felix Mendelssohn. Evan has the highest regard for Cantor King, "He is a man of exceptional musical talent. His compositions are inventive and beautiful. His voice is resonant, expressive and emotionally nuanced. Thom has become a good friend and colleague. I look forward to many shared musical projects in the coming years."

Dr. Eyal Bor, Beth El's Director of Education, has a special intertwined musical history with Evan. "I first met Dr. Bor when my son Eli began religious school at Beth El. I immediately noticed his love of music and beautiful clarinet playing. He told me a wonderful story about a concert my grandfather performed in Israel. During the concerto one of my grandfather's strings broke. Rather than stop the performance, he leaned over and traded cellos with a member of the orchestra. With that cello he finished the concert. That cellist was Dr. Bor's father. Eyal was in the audience for that performance. I wish I had been!"

There is a new generation of the Drachman family at Beth El. Evan and Joan's son Eli is in *Morah Talia's* Aleph class at religious school and Oliver is in pre-school with *Morah Ruth* and *Morah Shelley*. Time will tell if another generation of Beth El's most musical family will one day perform in their second home.

The Voice welcomes the opportunity to feature Beth El members who are giving back to the community, achieving major professional accomplishments or experiencing life-cycle happenings. Please send suggestions to Mike Leavey at mike@bethelbalto.com.



CONTRIBUTIONS

ENDOWMENTS

Donations through December 1, 2009.

THE ADULT CHOIR FUND

IN MEMORY OF:
Herbert Block by Mr. and Mrs. Alan Berkowitz.

IN HONOR OF:

Mr. Albert Bloomfield on becoming President of The Jewish Funeral Directors of America by his proud aunt, Ms. Marcia A. Friedlander.

The 30th wedding anniversary of Drs. Myriam and William Kline by Dr. and Mrs. Richard Kline and Family.

The wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Julian Kline by Dr. and Mrs. Richard Kline and Family.

The birth of a grandson, Elijah Jay to Mr. and Mrs. Augie Treff by The Beth El Adult Choir, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Obstler. Obstler.

The birth of a great-granddaughter Evelyn Daniel Epstein to Mr. and Mrs. Stan Sacks by The Beth El Adult Choir, Mr. and Mrs. John Denick, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Obstler

THE DAVID BAER YOUTH FUND

IN OBSERVANCE OF YAHRZEIT OF:

Celia Baer by Ms. Linda Baer, Mr. John Rudesill and Mrs. Alexander Baer.

THE REBECCA C. BAER ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM FUND

IN OBSERVANCE OF YAHRZEIT OF:

Bessie Bachman by Ms. Linda Baer, Mr. John Rudesill and Mr. Alexander Baer.

Alice Cohan by Ms. Linda Baer, Mr. John Rudesill and Mr. Alexander Baer.

THE STANLEY L. BECKER MISHPACHAH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Jerry Gross by Mr. and Mrs. Marc Lipchin.
Lois Fish by Mr. and Mrs. Marc Lipchin.

THE BERLIN-NORWITZ CHILDREN'S CHOIR FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Herbert Block by Dr. and Mrs. Steven Berlin.
Sarah Smith Friedman by Dr. and Mrs. Steven Berlin.

THE MARILYN AND GARY BERMAN FAMILY PRE-SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Irving Jacobson by Mr. and Mrs. Steve King, Mrs. Eileen Marks., Mr. and Mrs. Jay Marks and Family, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Posner, Dr. And Mrs. Bruce Zukerberg.

Manuel "Mannie" Grossman by Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Silverman.

THE EYAL BOR EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Pnina Bor by Mr. and Mrs. Jory Newman

THE COLLINS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

SPEEDY RECOVERY TO:

Mrs. Vivian Mishner.

THE LOUIS AND ESTHER DOPKIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Selma Buchsbaum by Mr. and Mrs. Albert Katz.

THE SYLVAN DORENFELD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN HONOR OF:

The 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Manny Steinberg by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Dorenfeld.

THE JACOBO AND SARA FRAIMAN FUND FOR ADULT JEWISH EDUCATION

IN MEMORY OF:

Max Mendelsohn by Dr. and Mrs. Moises Fraiman.

THE LEONARD AND FRONA FRIEDMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Annette Rena Brandt by Mr. and Mrs. Elliot Dackman.

THE FRUMAN FAMILY GARDEN BEAUTIFICATION ENDOWMENT FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Annette Rena Brandt by Dr. and Mrs. Alan Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Fruman.

Manuel "Mannie" Grossman by Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Herman and Family.

Shirley Horowitz by Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Herman and Mr. Scott Herman.

THE SONYA AND JEROME GOODMAN ADULT HEBREW READING FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Sandy Jetter by Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Goodman.

IN HONOR OF:

The 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Manny Steinberg by Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Eisenbach., Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Goodman.

Ms. Roz Seibold for being appointed to the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing by the Governor, by Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Goodman.

THE CANTOR SAUL AND AILEEN HAMMERMAN MUSIC FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Irving Jacobson by Mr. and Mrs. Norman Abrahams.

THE DR. NATHAN HYMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Manuel "Mannie" Grossman by Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Better, Mr. and Mrs. Barry Budish, Mr. and Mrs. Hal Hackerman, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kemper, Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Kemper, Mr. and Mrs. Steven King, Mr. and Mrs. Martin J. Kirsch, Mr. and Mrs. Alan Kleiman, Dr. and Mrs. Martin Passen, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Posner, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Slatkin, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Whiteman

THE LEROY F. KAPPELMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Herbert Block by Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Engelman and Family.

THE ARTHUR E. KLAFF MEMORIAL FUND

IN HONOR OF:

The special birthday of Dr. Elliott Berg by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Freeland.

SPEEDY RECOVERY TO:

Ms. Suzanne Cohen by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Freeland.

Mrs. Fay Holzman by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Freeland.
Dr. Alfred Kronthal by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Freeland.

THE DR. JEROME KOEPEL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Malya Rifka Scheinberg by Mrs. Marlene Koepfel.

THE ADAM KRONTHAL SPECIAL NEEDS FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Selma Buchsbaum by Mr. and Mrs. Jules Willen.
Ethel and Morris Kelman by Dr. and Mrs. Alan Kronthal, Mrs. Randi Kronthal Sacco and Family.

Adam Kronthal on the occasion of his Yahrzeit by Dr. and Mrs. Alan Kronthal, Mrs. Randi Kronthal Sacco and Family.

Ida Mazy by Dr. and Mrs. Alan Kronthal, Mrs. Randi Kronthal Sacco and Family.

Ida Mazy by Dr. and Mrs. Alan Kronthal, Mrs. Randi Kronthal Sacco and Family.

THE DR. HARRY AND ZELDA LEVIN FACULTY DEVELOPMENT FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Dr. Paul Schenker by Dr. Roger Levin.

IN HONOR OF:

The Levin Family by Mr. Harry A. Levin.

SPEEDY RECOVERY TO:

Mr. Kenneth Blumberg by Dr. and Mrs. Roger Levin.

THE HARRY LICHTER CHESED FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Harvey Kershman by Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Lichter.

IN HONOR OF:

The 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey C. Kasoff.

The marriage of Aryeh Wien, son of Mr. and Mrs. Art Wien to Ruchy Ross by Mrs. Hulane Zolet.

THE JOSEPH LIPAVSKY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Sylvan Goldman by Mr. and Mrs. Steve Snyder.

IN APPRECIATION FOR:

The compassion of Dr. Allan Gelber by Mr. and Mrs. Steven Ring.

THE H. ALLAN LIPSITZ ENDOWED ADULT EDUCATION FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Joseph Silverman by Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Greenspun.

IN HONOR OF:

The 55th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Friedman by Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Greenspun, Ms. Karen Lent., Mrs. Janet Penn.

The 40th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Barry Green by Mr. and Mrs. Steve Mosgin and Family.

The birth of a grandson Gideon Shai to Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Kleiner by Mrs. Dora Smith.

The birth of a son, Gideon Shai to Mr. and Mrs. George Wielechowski by Mrs. Dora Smith.

The new home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Resnick by Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Greenspun.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Block by Mrs. Dora Smith

IN OBSERVANCE OF YAHRZEIT OF:

Allan Lipsitz by Mr. and Mrs. Avi Harris.

THE RABBI MARK G. LOEB JUDAIC STUDIES COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Herbert Block by Mrs. Jeanette Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Wilson.

Manuel "Mannie" Grossman by Mr. and Mrs. Elliot Merenbloom.

IN HONOR OF:

The 55th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Friedman by Mr. and Mrs. Keith Franz.

The birth of a grandchild to Dr. and Mrs. Ed Mishner by Mr. and Mrs. S. Jerry Cohn.

IN GRATITUDE FOR:

The recovery of Mr. Steve Silverman by Mr. and Mrs. Elliot Merenbloom.

THE RABBI MARK GORDON LOEB MEMORIAL FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Rabbi Mark Loeb by Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Book and Family, Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Buslik, Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon Dobres, Mr. and Mrs. Alan Kleiman and the girls.

IN HONOR OF:

The birth of a granddaughter, Kaitlyn Elizabeth to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rosen by Mr. and Mrs. John Denick.

THE ISRAEL AND REBECCA MASSING MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN HONOR OF:

Dr. Kerry Stewart for the award he recently received by Mrs. Gert Escann and Family.

THE MAX MENDELSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Herbert Block by Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell Keiser.
Harvey Kershman by Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell Keiser.

Max Mendelsohn by Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Berg, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Caplan, Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Hettleman, Ms. Ina Kronthal, Ms. Karen Lent, Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Luskin, Mr. and Mrs. Steven Morrison, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Ofit, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Paladino, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Savitz, Mr. and Mrs. Eric Schwartz, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Slatkin, Mr. and Mrs. Julian Sober, Mr. and Mrs. Stevan Weinberg, Mr. and Mrs. Alan Weiss.



Beth El Sisterhood Judaica Shop

Next time you are at Beth El, take a look at the Gift Shop. The variety and quality of items may surprise you!

Store Hours

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

Volunteers are needed to work in the Gift Shop. Please contact **Susan Hackerman** at 410-486-2523 or **Bette Dahne** at 410-358-5818 for information or to volunteer.

HELP WANTED

Looking for someone interested in managing the Judaica Shop. Must be experienced in retail sales and be computer literate. Shop allows for flexible hours. Understanding of all the facets of running the shop preferred.

For further information please contact **Judy Frankle** at 410-486-2672.

Continued on page 13

Continued from page 12

IN HONOR OF:

The 55th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Friedman by Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Caplan, Mrs. Sheila Rosenfeld.

THE MITZVAH FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Melvin Fine by Mr. and Mrs. Adam Rosen and Family.
Irving Jacobson by Ms. Jackie Friedman, Mr. and Mrs. James Marmer, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Shrager.
Jack Jacovsky by The Baums. Daniel Pollack by Mr. and Mrs. Larry Rosenberg.
Herbert H. Miller by Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon Milner.
Daniel Pollack by Mr. and Mrs. Augie Treff.

IN HONOR OF:

The 40th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. George Fuld by Mr. and Mrs. David Traub.

The birth of a grandson, Gideon Shai to Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Kleiner by Dr. and Mrs. Marc Gertner.
The birth of a granddaughter, Kaitlyn Elizabeth to Mr. and Mrs. John Aboosh, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rosen by Mr. and Mrs. Ted Denick.

The birth of a great-granddaughter, Evelyn to Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Sacks by Mr. and Mrs. Ted Denick.

The 85th birthday of Mrs. Gigi Franz by Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Haman and Family.

The 8th birthday of Ms. Blossom Friedman by Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Haman and Family.

The 101st birthday of Mrs. Mary Shofer by Mrs. Esther Berelowitz.

IN OBSERVANCE OF YAHRZEIT OF:

Gertrude Fader by Mrs. Esther F. Berelowitz.

THE MORNING MINYAN FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Hannah Katz by Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Cohen.

IN HONOR OF:

The 20th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Maury Zolet by Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Venick and Family.

Ms. Shayna Kritz for being named as one of the 20 best and brightest professionals in their 20's in the Greater Washington Area Jewish Community by Ms. Jeri Lynn Ganz and Daughters.

**THE SADIE AND SYLVAN
NUSBAUM MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

IN MEMORY OF:

Herbert Block by Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Chernick and Family.

IN HONOR OF:

The birth of a granddaughter to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Miller by Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Chernick and Family.

**THE JULIUS OFFIT
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

IN MEMORY OF:

The 85th birthday of Mr. Morton Offit by Mr. and Mrs. Howard Krause.

**THE LOUIS PERLMAN
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
FUND**

IN HONOR OF:

The birthday of Mrs. Lindsay P. Frango by Dr. and Mrs. Richard Kline and Family.

The birthday of Mrs. Ashley P. Jenoff by Dr. and Mrs. Richard Kline.

THE PRAYER BOOK FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Herbert Block by Mr. and Mrs. Avrami Rakovsky, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Rottman.
Irving Jacobson by Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Greenwald.

IN HONOR OF:

The *Bar Mitzvah* of Jack Levy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Levy by Mr. and Mrs. Bradd Caplan, Dr. and Mrs. Richard Edlow.

IN OBSERVANCE OF YAHRZEIT OF:

Pearl Printz by Ms. Esther P. Weiner.
Zelda Schrum by Mr. and Mrs. Norman Schrum.
Melvin Schweitzer by Mrs. Ginny Schweitzer.
Emmanuel Velelli by Mrs. Josephine Becker

**THE RABBI STEVEN SCHWARTZ
TRIBUTE FUND**

IN HONOR OF:

The new office of Dr. Sean Holmes by Mr. and Mrs. George Fuld.

The new home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Trippe by Mr. and Mrs. Hank Horowitz.

IN APPRECIATION FOR:

The kindness of Rabbi Steven Schwartz for performing the *Auf Ruf* for Danielle Dorenfeld and Jonathan Okun by Ms. Julie Okun.

SPEEDY RECOVERY TO:

Mr. Jack Share by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Slatkin.

THE PUSIN PRESCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Pusin Preschool Scholarship Fund was recently created by Drs. Michael and Sharon Pusin. The Fund will provide assistance to families in need. With this contribution, the Pusins fulfill a request of Michael's father, Herman (Hy), who passed away in June.

At the suggestion of Ailene Sher, Director of Development, the Pusins decided that the money Hy left for Beth El would be used to fund a Preschool Scholarship. Hy was blessed with two great-grandchildren, the oldest of whom is in preschool in Newton, MA. Michael and Sharon feel strongly that "No child should be denied a preschool education because of a lack of funds. Preschool education gives children a solid foundation in a child's most formative years. We are very grateful for the opportunity to have created this much needed fund. To be sure, we hope that the Scholarship will assist families in need and that it will assist Beth El in attracting new students and their families to the congregation."

The members of the Pusin family are no strangers to Beth El. Michael's parents, Selma & Herman, joined Beth El when the congregation was located on Hilton Street. Michael recalls, "The land on which Beth El now stands was formerly the home of the Baltimore County Humane Society. Shortly before construction began, we attended 'satellite' High Holiday services in a Humane Society barn that was soon to be bulldozed." Michael, his sister Carol (of blessed memory), wife Sharon (Highstein) and daughter Dr. Stacey Brauner all attended Beth El Hebrew School and were *Bar & Bat Mitzvahed* at Beth El.

Beth El has come a long way since then, thanks to families like the Pusins. This scholarship will assist a new generation of children to have a Jewish foundation and education from Beth El. Gifts like this ensure that Beth El will continue to thrive for many years to come.

Carol Sue Kramer by Dr. Morton D. Kramer.
Louis Lefcovich by Mr. and Mrs. Mark Lefcovich.
Marilyn "Cookie" Rosenthal by Mr. Larry Rosenthal.
Mel Schweitzer by Mr. and Mrs. Jory Schunick.
Emmanuel Velelli by Mrs. Josephine Becker.
Leon Weiner by Mrs. Thelma Weiner.

**THE RICKY SIEGEL MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

IN MEMORY OF:

Stanley Rudick by Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Siegel.

**THE MORTON SPIND
CONFIRMATION SCHOLARSHIP
FUND**

SPEEDY RECOVERY TO:

Dr. Eric Cohen by Mr. and Mrs. Steve Weintraub.

IN HONOR OF:

The special birthday of Mr. A. Ronald Rubin by Mr. and Mrs. Steve Weintraub.

**THE MELVIN AND ANITA
STEINBERG COLLEGE
OUTREACH PROGRAM FUND**

IN MEMORY OF:

Conrad Hankin by Mr. and Mrs. Mickey Steinberg.

**THE STEINHARDT-BALACHOW
FAMILY YOUTH FUND**

IN HONOR OF:

The marriage of Jason Steinhart, son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Steinhart to Dr. Tina Tran by Mr. and Mrs. Hal Hackerman

**THE JEAN AND JOSEPH
SUSSMAN SCHOLARSHIP**

IN MEMORY OF:

Stewart Wilder by Mr. and Mrs. Jules Shaivitz.

**THE DENNIS AND RONA
WEINER SOCIAL WELFARE
FUND**

IN MEMORY OF:

Herbert Block by Dr. and Mrs. Bill Leboe and Family.

**THE ELLIOT AND SUSAN
WEINSTEIN SCHOLARSHIP
FUND**

IN HONOR OF:

The *Bar Mitzvah* of the grandson of Dr. and Mrs. Howard Ratain by Mrs. Rosalie Sellman.

THE YAHRZEIT FUND

IN OBSERVANCE OF YAHRZEIT OF:

Aaron M. Cohen by Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Cohen.
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Murray Gold by Mrs. Phyllis Gold.

SPECIAL DONATIONS

IN MEMORY OF:

Beloved parents of Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Horowitz by Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell Keiser.

Herbert Block by Mr. and Mrs. Myron Asher and Family to The Al. Zlotowitz Chapel Maintenance Fund.

Herbert Block by Mr. and Mrs. George Black to The M. Henry and Elizabeth Kuntz Memorial Fund.

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Manuel "Mannie" Grossman by Mrs. Toby Hoffman and Family to The Fruman Family Garden Beautification Endowment Fund.

Irving Jacobson by the Families of Morah Phyllis Cramer's Students in Room 3 to The Marilyn and Gary Berman Family Pre-School Scholarship Fund.

Jerrold Kaplan by Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Eisenstadt and Family to The Rabbi Mark G. Loeb Judaic Studies College Scholarship Fund.

David Korb by Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Eisenstadt to The Rabbi Mark G. Loeb Judaic Studies College Scholarship Fund.

Rabbi Mark G. Loeb by Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Berg and Family, Mr. and Mrs. John Denick, Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Drucker, Mr. and Mrs. Alan Francis, to The Rabbi Mark Gordon Loeb Memorial Fund.

Harriet Meier by Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Guth to The Prayer Book Fund.

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Herbert H. Miller by Mr. and Mrs. Joel Hack to The Joseph Lipavsky Scholarship Fund

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Max Mendelsohn by the Children of Louis Goldstein to The Max Mendelsohn Scholarship Fund.

Continued on page 14

and Mrs. Robert Rosen by Mr. and Mrs. George Black to The M. Henry and Elizabeth Kuntz Memorial Fund.

The birth of a great-granddaughter, Kaitlyn Elizabeth to Mr. and Mrs. Mishel Roseman by Mr. and Mrs. George Black to The M. Henry and Elizabeth Kuntz Memorial Fund.

The birth of a grandson, Gideon Shai Wielechowski to Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Kleiner by Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Friedman.

The birth of a son, Gideon Shai to Mr. and Mrs. George Wielechowski by Dr. and Mrs. Charles Mann to The.

The 90th birthday of Mr. Jerry Baum by Mr. and Mrs. Albert Rosner to The Prayer Book Fund.

The 90th birthday of Mr. Albert Boxerman by Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Seltzer to The Dr. Morris and Jeanette Seltzer Pre-School Scholarship Fund.

The 90th birthday of Mrs. Deanie Ehrlich by Mr. and Mrs. Lee Gordon and Family to The Rabbi Mark G. Loeb Judaic Studies College Scholarship Fund.

The 50th birthday of Mr. Bruce E. Friedman by Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon Levitt to The Morning *Minyan* Fund.

The special birthday of Mrs. Dale Kahn by Mr. and Mrs. Don Gordon to The H. Allan Lipsitz Endowed Adult Education Fund.

The 85th birthday of Mr. Morty Offit by Mr. and Mrs. Jules Shaivitz to The Julius Offit Scholarship Fund.

The marriage of their son Scott Frank to Rachel Blackman by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Frank to The Mitzvah Fund.

The marriage of Ann Katz and Saul Offit by Mrs. Bea Hackerman to The Julius Offit Scholarship Fund.

The naming of Zander Shae Kennedy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donny Kennedy by Mr. and Mrs. Duke Goldberg, to The Green Family Religious Services Fund.

The naming of Izzie Sarah Uhfelder, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Uhfelder by Mr. and Mrs. Duke Goldberg.

The new home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Resnick by Mr. and Mrs. Ed Obstler to The Rabbi Mark G. Loeb Judaic Studies College Scholarship Fund.

The honor recently bestowed upon Ms. Marla Marder by her parents and grandfather The Bankers to The Youth Education Fund.***

Dr. Stuart Dankner for "a job well done on Matthew's surgery" by The Lipnick Family to The Youth Education Fund.

Mrs. Marissa Myers for receiving the Young Leadership Award from UCSJ Seaboard Region by Mr. and Mrs. Alan Weiner.

SPEEDY RECOVERY TO:

Mr. Kevin Fruman by Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Herman and Family to The Fruman Family Garden Beautification Endowment Fund.

IN OBSERVANCE OF YAHRZEIT OF:

Loved Ones by Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Chernoff to The *Yahrzeit* Fund.

Loved Ones by Mr. Benjamin L. Hackerman to The *Yahrzeit* Fund.

Loved Ones by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Lichtenstein to The *Yahrzeit* Fund.

Abraham Blum by Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Cutler to The *Yahrzeit* Fund.

Hannah B. Cierler by Ms. Millicent Cierler to The Prayer Book Fund.

Daniel E. Cohan by Mr. Robert Cohan to The *Yahrzeit* Fund.

Gussie Cohan by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cohan to The *Yahrzeit* Fund.

Neal Deoul by Mrs. Katherine Deoul and Ms. Shannon Deoul to The *Yahrzeit* Fund.

Max Greenwald by Dr. and Mrs. Ronald Greenwald to The *Yahrzeit* Fund.

Berner Gross by Mrs. Linda Dreizen to The *Yahrzeit* Fund.

Ester Hackerman by Mr. Benjamin L. Hackerman to The *Yahrzeit* Fund.

Susan Hackerman by Mr. Benjamin L. Hackerman to The *Yahrzeit* Fund.

Jack Himelfarb by Mr. and Mrs. Don Himelfarb to The *Yahrzeit* Fund.

Esther Huddles by Ms. Linda Huddles and Mr. Gary Huddles to The Paul Huddles Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Dr. Jerome Koeppel by Mr. Howard Koeppel and Mr. Mark Hsiao to The Dr. Jerome Koeppel Memorial Fund.

David L. Kopelman by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Caplan to The Daniel W. Caplan Pre-School Media Resource Fund.

Mary Veronica McIntosh by Dr. and Mrs. Roger G. McIntosh to The *Yahrzeit* Fund.

Bertha Michaelson by Mr. and Mrs. Louis Michaelson to The *Yahrzeit* Fund.

Steven Michaelson by Mr. and Mrs. Louis Michaelson to The *Yahrzeit* Fund.

Lyon A. Miller by Mrs. Jeanette G. Miller to The *Yahrzeit* Fund.

Lyon A. Miller by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Silberg to The Melvin and Anita Steinberg College Outreach Program Fund.

Tillie Rubinowitz by Mr. and Mrs. Michael Sher and Family to The Marilyn and Gary Berman Family Pre-School Scholarship Fund.

Lillian Rudick by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Trippe to The *Yahrzeit* Fund.

Jerome Salkin by Mr. Jay Salkin to The *Yahrzeit* Fund.

Harry Schwartz by Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Cutler to The *Yahrzeit* Fund.

Gloria M. and Joseph Weinstein by Ms. Diane Weinstein to The *Yahrzeit* Fund.

Rose Weinstein by Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Cutler to The *Yahrzeit* Fund.

Bertha P and Henry Neal Zareswitz by Mrs. Barbara Z. Lipman to The *Yahrzeit* Fund.

IN GRATITUDE FOR:

Their Blessings received by Dr. and Mrs. Leon D. Katz to The Rabbi Steven Schwartz Tribute Fund.

The escape from a more serious injury of Manny Steinberg by Mr. and Mrs. Manny Steinberg to The Sylvan Dorenfeld Memorial Scholarship Fund

The kindness of Rabbi Steven Schwartz, Rabbi Dana Saroken and Cantor Thom King, during their time of bereavement for their beloved Herbert Block by Mrs. Ruth Block and Family to The Ricky Siegel Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The kindness of Rabbi Steven Schwartz, Rabbi Dana Saroken and Cantor Thom King, during their time of bereavement for their beloved Annette Rena Brandt by Mrs. Nancy B. Gertner and Family to The Marilyn and Gary Berman Family Pre-School Scholarship Fund.

Her recovery from surgery by Mrs. Dorothy Stein to The *Mitzvah* Fund.

HONORS AND MEMORIALS

IN MEMORY OF:

Stanley Berlin by The Morning *Minyan* Group, a Sanctuary Plaque.

IN HONOR OF:

The 60th wedding anniversary of Jean and Joel Coonin, December 25, 2009 by their Children and Grandchildren, a Leaf on The Tree of Life.

YOUTH PROGRAMS AT BETH EL

By Lisa Rothstein

November and December were busy months for Beth El Youth Programs! Our first ever Shabbat sports and games program was held after the "Shabbat Smorgasbord" on November 14. We look forward to repeating this program again soon!

On November 15, our USY and Kadima chapters participated in a city-wide showing of *Darius Goes West*, a beautiful documentary which chronicles the adventures of Darius Weems and his friends as they travel from Georgia to Los Angeles in hopes of getting his wheelchair on MTV's "Pimp My Ride." We partnered with Shoshana S. Cardin High School, BBYO, BEIT-RJ and the youth groups of Beth Israel, Chizuk Amuno, Beth Am and Beth Shalom-Columbia. This was a major Tikkun Olam project and raised money for Charley's Fund, which funds research for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. Thank you to Anne Tanhoff Greenspoon who organized this wonderful program.

Also in November, our USYers learned about Jewish weddings as they recreated the wedding of advisor, Samantha and her new husband, Wilson Knight. They collected food donations for a food bank and had a great time! Thanks to Cantor King for officiating and Diane Cole for all of her help in ordering food and taking care of other details for the program. Six USYers—Ross Hyatt, George Fuzayl, Sarah King, Miles Greenspoon, Rachel Lurie and Rachel Balenson—spent the weekend at Virginia Beach for the annual Seaboard Region Convention. In December, Ross Hyatt also attended International Convention in Chicago.

Kadima baked chocolate chip *challah* in the youth lounge kitchen and went to Players with Beth Israel for a night of laser tag, glow golf, bumper cars and more.

Chalutzim played mini-golf at Mitchell's in Reisterstown and Machar went bowling at Pikesville Lanes Both enjoyed a special joint *Chalutzim/Machar Hanukkah* party, complete with games, *menorah* making and more.

January and February are just as exciting! There are many programs planned at Beth El as well as regional programs for our USY and *Kadima* chapters. We are currently working on joint *Shabbat* programs to be held at the Owings Mills JCC. Stay tuned for more information. Don't miss the fun! Please feel free to contact me for program suggestions.

SAVE THE DATES:

Saturday, January 9

Kadima "Saturday Night Live" @ B'nai Israel/Rockville

Saturday, January 30

USY Formal @ Beth Emeth/Herndon, VA

Sunday, January 31

Machar Tu B'Shevat Program

Fri-Sat, Feb. 5-6

Claire Sodden Memorial Weekend

Sun. Feb. 21

Machar Hamantaschen Baking

Sat., Feb. 27

Joint *Purim* Program with Beth Israel & Chizuk Amuno

GO GREEN!

As the weather cools, the heating bills go up! Try these tips to help save money and energy in the cold months:

1. Turn down the thermostat when leaving the house. Even better, purchase a programmable thermostat, so you won't have to remember!
2. Seal air leaks on exteriors walls, doors, and windows with caulk or weatherstripping. To check for leaks, hold a lit incense stick next to the opening and watch the smoke, or walk around with a damp hand to feel for air flow.
3. Seal leaking ducts with mastic sealant or metal tape. There are firms that will come out and test your ducts for leaks and fix them for you. Check in the phone book under "duct sealing" or "duct testing."

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*.



Students and parents of the Gimel Class at the Berman-Lipavsky Religious School recently enjoyed an educational, fun and historic trip to downtown Baltimore. While there the students toured the Lloyd Street Synagogue and received a guided tour of the Jewish Museum of Maryland.

A NEW MEGILLAH

By Rabbi Steven Schwartz

MThere is something about the story of *Purim* that captures our imagination from the time we are children and that always stays with us. Maybe it is because the story is almost fairy tale like in its narrative. There is a King (Ahashveros) and a Queen (Vashti), a great palace, a wicked villain whom everyone loves to hate (Haman), and of course the classic story of a plain girl who makes her way into the palace and discovers her destiny (Esther). And just for good measure, we can add the character of a fairy godmother, or in this case “fairy uncle,” Mordecai. It even has a “Hollywood” ending – the good guys win, the bad guys lose and are punished, and they all live happily ever after (at least the good guys!). It is a story we love to tell, to listen to, and to act out through our annual Purim Spiels.

IAnd like all great stories, it brings us together with others when we share it with them. That is part of the power in Judaism of reading our sacred stories. They unite us with Jews both through time and through space. Through time in the sense that we have been reading and sharing these stories for generations; and through space because all over the world on *Purim* eve Jews come together to again hear the story of Esther and to celebrate one of our most joyous festivals.

RThis year at Beth El the reading of the *megillah* will have an extra special feeling of connection and celebration. This past fall Dr. Eyal Bor and I had the chance to lead a congregational trip to Israel with a wonderful group. We had a terrific time and saw all the highlights, from the Western Wall to the beautiful hills of the Galilee. But what may have made the strongest impression on many of us was the lunch that we had in Ashkelon, a lovely Israeli town about an hour south of Tel Aviv.

DWhile there, we visited Ashkelon’s Conservative Synagogue, Netzah Yisrael. We were welcomed by the *shul’s* pre school children, as they sang some of the classic songs that connect us as Jews. Members of our group sang and danced with the children as Dr. Bor beautifully played Israeli music on his clarinet. There were tears in more than a few eyes, but the best was yet to come.

POur hosts invited us for a lovely lunch that we shared together. Afterwards there was a special program as the leaders of Netzah Yisrael and their rabbi, Rabbi Gustav Surazski presented the Beth El pilgrims with a beautiful Megillat Esther, or Scroll of Esther. The scroll came about as a joint project of the children in our Berman Lipavsky Hebrew school and children from Ashkelon’s community as they studied the *Megillah* and illustrated scenes from the text. Some of the drawings were selected and super imposed on the scroll of the megillah itself, beautifully written by Rabbi Surazski. The final product is a true work of art, and will forever remain a symbol of the connection between us and our Israeli brothers and sisters. We will read from the scroll for the very first time this coming *Purim*, Saturday evening February 27, 2010! Please come and join us for a wonderful evening of fun and fanfare.

Editor’s Note: The scroll was Dedicated by Mr. Victor Cohen in memory of his beloved parents and in honor of his children and grandchildren.



Kehillat Netzach Israel in Ashkelon, the only Masorti/Conservative Synagogue in Ashkelon, is the Beth El’s sister congregation through a special partnership organized by THE ASSOCIATED. This past year, Beth El, Kehillat Netzach Israel Ashkelon and the local Arts and Music School embarked on a special three way project producing a Children’s Megillah. All the children learned about Purim at the same time. The Beth El children and the children in the Art School each drew 9 panels. The Megillah was written by Rabbi Gustavo Surazski.



MEET THE ORPHAN QUEEN – The Story of Esther as Told in Music & Song

Prepare for a dazzling two evenings of musical theater, as Beth El and Baltimore Hebrew Congregation join forces in presenting “The Orphan Queen – the Story of Esther” on February 20 and 21, at 8:00 pm at BHC. This original Broadway-style musical, which has played to rave reviews in various other cities, will be making its Baltimore debut. Proceeds from the sale of tickets will benefit the Beth El and Baltimore Hebrew religious schools.

“The Orphan Queen,” which features 32 original songs, was written and produced by Baltimore Hebrew Congregation’s Cantor Robbie Solomon. The full-length original musical, which has been produced in several locations since its first run in 1977 – including a four-week engagement at the Jewish Theatre of New England in 1999 – is a creative interpretation of the Esther story. Victoria Mansouri will be directing the Baltimore production, and Maria Broom is the choreographer. The cast will be made up of younger actors and actresses, as well as veterans of the local stage and members of the synagogue community. Beth El’s own Cantor Thom King will play the role of Ahashverosh, and Cantor Solomon will portray Mordechai.

“The show is very much about the process of transmitting the story and the joy of our tradition to a new generation,” says Cantor Solomon.

The play, which takes place in two acts, is set in Persia during the reign of King Ahashverosh, a man fond of raucous parties. Act I opens with the chorus introducing the story and its philosophy with the singing of “Chance.” The story continues through four more scenes in the first act, each punctuated with original musical numbers, including “Swingin’ Purim,” “Vashti’s Song,” “Conspiracy” and “Prince of Deception.” Act II opens as the King, during a sleepless night, orders his scribe to read to him from his book of the chronicles, which reveals that Mordechai had saved the King’s life by unmasking an assassination plot. The King contemplates how to reward this hero in “How Shall I Honor this Man.” Near the end of the play, Esther reveals that she is a Jew and denounces Haman, singing “Everybody Loves a Party.”

“Purim is the ultimate example of the Jewish response to difficult circumstances and hard times,” explains Solomon, an internationally known composer of Jewish choral works. “Instead of wallowing in sorrow...we rally around an optimistic outlook and make good-hearted fun of our tormentors.”

In addition to creating “The Orphan Queen,” Cantor Solomon has authored dozens of songs of Jewish content, including “World of Our Fathers,” “Peace by Piece,” and “Falasha Nevermore.” He is also well known as a performer/song writer with the popular Jewish musical group SAFAM, which has more than 10 CDs of original works in its repertoire. In addition, he has published and recorded a choral series with Transcontinental Music Publications and collections of pieces written for numerous synagogues around the country.

Tickets for The Orphan Queen range from \$18 to \$50. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit the Orphan Queen website, www.orphanqueen.com.

AGUS LIBRARY HOURS



Mondays:
9:15 to 10:30 a.m.
7:30 to 9:00 p.m.
(Only when classes are in session)

Tuesdays:
9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Wednesdays:
11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
7:30 to 9:00 p.m.
(Only when classes are in session)

Thursdays:
2:30 to 4:00 p.m.



The Orphan Queen

The Story of Esther

An original musical by
Cantor Robbie Solomon

**Saturday & Sunday,
February 20 & 21**

Baltimore Hebrew Congregation
7401 Park Heights Ave. 21208

Tickets: \$18-\$50
Hurry! Space is limited

Visit orphanqueen.com
or call **443-524-0281**

Presented by Baltimore Hebrew Congregation
and Beth El Congregation

The Sisterhood had an opportunity to visit the Ohr Hamizrach Sephardic Center. Daniel Golfeiz, their executive director, presented a brief history of the Iranian Jewish Community.



Standing left to right are: Yvonne Daniel, Jane Krosin (hidden), Susan Hackerman – Sisterhood President, Frida Fraiman, Marlene Morrison, Janet Penn, Susan Himmel, and Gloria Luchinsky. The women recently returned from the Beth El trip to Israel.

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



Dated Material
Please Deliver by January 1



Hannah Lobel, Liam Sperr, Alex Stein and Cameron Sandbank all took part on the “Kadima Chocolate Chip Challah Baking” on November 5. The attendees learned everything from how to braid a challah to what to add to make it sweet, including delicious add-ons like chocolate chips.

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

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



PURIM AT BETH EL

MOTOWN MEGILLAH

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27 AT 7:00 P.M.

Rubin Sanctuary
DJ, Dancing and refreshments follow!
Beth El All-Star Motown Revue, Motown Trivia Quiz, and Open Karaoke
in the Myers Auditorium, 8:00-10:00 p.m.

Megillah Reading
Sunday, February 28 at 9:30 a.m.

Annual Purim Carnival
Sunday, February 28
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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
Assistant Rabbi	Dana Saroken
Assistant Rabbi	David Greenspoon
Cantor	Thom D. King
Executive Director	Gilbert Kleiner, F.S.A.
Director of Education	Eyal Bor, Ph.D.
Director of Development	Ailene Sher
Pre-School Director	Debbie Rabin
Assistant Administrator	Debbie Caplan
Event Coordinator	Diane Cole
Editor	Mike Leavey
Designer	Amy Wells

President	Raphael Kahn
Sisterhood President	Susan Hackerman
Brotherhood President	Barry Budish
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 is a progressive congregation affiliated with the United Synagogue that fulfills the spiritual, educational and social needs of its members by nurturing religious practices and traditions, Jewish values and Tikkun Olam.



Please recycle