

VOICE

The Voice of Beth El Congregation • September 2008 • Elul 5768 • Volume 55 • Number 11

WINNER OF THE 2007 USCJ INTERNATIONAL GOLD AWARD FOR BULLETINS & PUBLICATIONS

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 6 The Legacy Society –
Sam & Beverly Penn
- 8 & 9 High Holidays 5769
- 11 School News
- 13 Lights in the News –
Jory Schunick

The Importance of an Annual Appeal

By Rabbi Steven Schwartz

The idea of a communal appeal to help sustain a cherished institution is as old as the Jewish people. The Torah itself records multiple instances of Moses and Aaron turning to the Israelites for help. They were trying to build a community, sustain a culture and construct institutions that could thrive and provide benefit and spiritual nourishment for not only the current generation, but for many, many generations to come. And they knew that the only way to do that was to involve everyone in the task.

**OUR GOAL IS THE SAME –
TO CREATE A BETH EL
COMMUNITY OF MEANING AND
FAITH WHERE WE CAN LEARN
AND GROW TOGETHER,
WHERE WE CAN CELEBRATE
TOGETHER AND TOGETHER OFFER
COMFORT TO THOSE WHO FACE
LOSSES IN THEIR LIVES.**

— RABBI SCHWARTZ

It is striking to me that some 3,500 years after the time of Moses, we at Beth El are still engaged in that task and still facing that challenge. Our goal is the same – to create a Beth El community of meaning and faith where we can learn and grow together, where we can celebrate together and together offer comfort to those who face losses in their lives. Most importantly, we understand that our synagogue is a place where our children and grandchildren begin to define themselves as Jews and assemble the tools that they will use to live meaningful Jewish lives, and by doing so preserve the Jewish future for those who come after them. At this moment, we are

Continued on page 4

THE ROBERT & FLORENCE CHERTKOF ENDOWED

92nd St Y **LIVE** from NY's 92nd Street Y™

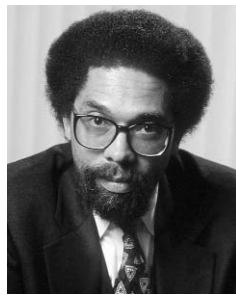
LECTURES, INTERVIEWS, PANELS & READINGS BROADCAST LIVE VIA SATELLITE

FALL 2008 SEASON

Thanks to the generous support of Robert and Florence Chertkof and the corporate sponsors listed below, we are proud to offer the following broadcasts this season. As always, we are the only organization in Maryland to offer these broadcasts and they are all free and open to the entire community.

CORNEL WEST AND SUSAN NIEMAN: RACE & RELIGION IN THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Thursday, October 16, 8:15 p.m.



What roles do race and religion play in the current election? What do these roles say about America as a society? How are these roles affecting the key issues concerning our country? Currently the Class of 1943 Professor at Princeton University,

Cornel West is one of America's most provocative public intellectuals and the author of "Hope on a Tightrope." Philosopher Susan Nieman is the director of the Einstein Forum in Berlin and the author of "Moral Clarity: A Guide for Grown-Up Idealists."

Sponsored by
PRINCETON
1936
SPORTS

DR. EDWARD HALLOWELL: TOO BUSY TO PLAY? WHY CHILDREN NEED TO PLAY IN ORDER TO LEARN

Thursday, November 13, 8:00 p.m.



This special presentation for parents and educators focuses on how and why "play" creates confident learners. Dr. Edward Hallowell is a child and adult psychiatrist who specializes in ADD/ADHD and who also has ADHD. He is the co-author of the book "Delivered from Distraction" and created the Hallowell Center for Cognitive and Emotional Health in Sudbury, MA. He received his medical degree from Tulane University Medical School.

Sponsored by
the Glass Mental Health Foundation.

RABBI DAVID WOLPE: WHY FAITH MATTERS

Tuesday, November 25, 8:15 p.m.

One of today's leading voices of contemporary religion, Rabbi David Wolpe discusses his personal journey through life-threatening illness, from the depths of darkness to the illuminating life of faith. With provocative personal stories, Wolpe tackles issues such as science and religion, atheism, whether religion causes war and how to read the Bible as a modern behavior. Wolpe is the senior rabbi of Sinai Temple in Los Angeles and the author of "Why Faith Matters."



Sponsored by



National Lumber Company

RADICAL ISLAM AND THE NUCLEAR BOMB: UNDERSTANDING CONTEMPORARY GENOCIDAL ANTI-SEMITISM WITH DR. CHARLES SMALL AND BRET STEPHENS

Monday, December 1, 8:15 p.m.



As Iran emerges as a regional power with a nuclear program that most experts agree includes a weapons component, it is a major exponent of genocidal anti-Semitism. The goal to wipe Israel off the map is an overt objective of radical Islam. What should be done to confront this threat, which is diametrically opposed to values of citizenship, human rights and basic notions of democracy? Dr. Charles Small is the founder and director of the Yale University Initiative for the Interdisciplinary Study of Anti-Semitism and he is a lecturer of ethics, politics and economics at Yale. Bret Stephens is a writer and news

Continued on page 4

BETH EL FAMILY

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO:

Mrs. Tami Borman and Mrs. Helaine Kasoff on the loss of their beloved mother, Grace Plimack.

Mrs. Barbara Diehl on the loss of her beloved father, David Surosky.

Mrs. Helen Friedman on the loss of her beloved husband, Edward Friedman.

Mrs. Betty Handwerger and Mrs. Norma Levitt on the loss of their beloved sister, Priscilla Plovsky.

Mr. Charles Heyman and Mrs. Joanne Levy on the loss of their beloved wife and mother, Eunice Heyman.

The family of the late Milton Klein.

Mr. Richard Kovens on the loss of his beloved mother, Evelyn Kovens.

Mrs. Penny Schwarz on the loss of her beloved mother, Rose C. Ulman.

Mr. Ira Stoyenko on the loss of his beloved father, David Stoyenko.

Mrs. Stella Ziman on the loss of her beloved brother, Samuel Singer.

A SPEEDY RECOVERY TO:

Mrs. Rita Shemer

OUR HEARTIEST MAZEL TOV TO:

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Berger and Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Whiteman on the engagement of their children, Whitney and Mitchell.

Mrs. Ralene Chalew on the engagement of her granddaughter, Talia Chalew, to Justin Abbott.

Mr. and Mrs. Steven Cohen on the engagement of their son, Adam, to Donna Mandarano.

Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Goldberg on the birth of their grandson, Jake Dylan Goolsby.

Mr. and Mrs. Ira Kasoff on the *Bat Mitzvah* of their daughter, Brooke. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Kasoff and Mrs. Ofelia Apter.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Monfred on the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Robert.

Mr. and Mrs. Dilip Paliath on the birth of their daughter, Madison.

Dr. Beth Schwartz and Harry Turner on the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Jeremy.

Mr. and Mrs. Steven Shapiro on the *Bat Mitzvah* of their daughter, Samantha.

IN MEMORIAM

EDWARD FRIEDMAN
EUNICE HEYMAN
MILTON KLEIN
SAMUEL "SAM" SINGER
ROSE C. ULMAN

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

SCHEDULE OF DAILY SERVICES

Morning

Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m.
Shabbat 10:00 a.m.
Sunday & Legal Holidays 9:15 a.m.

Evening

Monday – Thursday 7:30 p.m.
Friday 6:00 p.m.
Saturday sundown*
Sunday 5:30 p.m.

*check website or call 410-580-2727

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Weinblatt on the *Bar Mitzvah* of their son, Tyler. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Siegel.

Mr. and Mrs. William Weinstein on the marriage of their granddaughter, Kim Sugarman, to Nafi Gerber.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Bond on their 60th.
Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Book on their 60th.
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Goldman on their 5th.
Mr. and Mrs. Todd Hyatt on their 15th.
Drs. Joshua and Jessica Lubek on their 5th.
Mr. and Mrs. Elliot Schlanger on their 30th.

BAR & BAT MITZVAH



BAT MITZVAH

Jamie Lauren Rosenstein, daughter of Jill and Marc Rosenstein, will be called to the Torah as a *Bat Mitzvah* on September 13, 2008.



BAT MITZVAH

Samantha Jo Shapiro, daughter of Cathy and Steven Shapiro, will be called to the Torah as a *Bat Mitzvah* on September 13, 2008.



BAT MITZVAH

Brooke Madison Kasoff, daughter of Vivian and Ira Kasoff, will be called to the Torah as a *Bat Mitzvah* on September 20, 2008.



BAR MITZVAH

Robert Samuel Monfred, son of Leslie and Rick Monfred, will be called to the Torah as a *Bar Mitzvah* on September 20, 2008.

Beth El Baby



Noah Miles Schultz
(born February 1, 2008)

Parents – Lisa and Bryan Schultz
Grandparents – Esther & Fred Harris and Karen & Ron Schultz
Great-Grandparents – Ida Harris, Bernice Cohen and Mollie Bornstein

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 micah@bethelbalto.com.

BETH EL HOTLINE NUMBERS

Service Schedules: 410-580-2727
Upcoming Events: 410-580-2720
Congregation Closings & Program Changes: 410-580-5080
Early Childhood Education Closings & Program Changes: 410-580-5081
Religious School Closings & Program Changes: 410-580-5082



**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 **Micah Kleid** in the Outreach Office at **410-484-0411** or **micah@bethelbalto.com** so he can call and invite them to Beth El.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

MORNING SERVICE	8:00 a.m.
CANDLE LIGHTING	7:00 p.m.
EVENING SERVICE	6:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Parsha of the Week – SHOFETIM

MORNING SERVICE	10:00 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE	7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

MORNING SERVICE	8:00 a.m.
CANDLE LIGHTING	6:49 p.m.
EVENING SERVICE	6:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Parsha of the Week – KEE TETZE

MORNING SERVICE	10:00 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE	7:15 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

MORNING SERVICE	8:00 a.m.
CANDLE LIGHTING	6:38 p.m.
EVENING SERVICE	6:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20 – SELICHOT

Parsha of the Week – KEE TAVO

MORNING SERVICE	10:00 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE	7:15 p.m.
SELICHOT SERVICE	9:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

MORNING SERVICE	8:00 a.m.
CANDLE LIGHTING	6:26 p.m.
EVENING SERVICE	6:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Parsha of the Week – NITZAVIM

MORNING SERVICE	10:00 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE	7:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

MORNING SERVICE	8:00 a.m.
CANDLE LIGHTING	6:14 p.m.
EVENING SERVICE	6:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4 – SHABBAT SHUVAH

Parsha of the Week – VAYELEKH

MORNING SERVICE	10:00 a.m.
EVENING SERVICE	6:45 p.m.

INSTALLATION WEEKEND FOR RABBI STEVEN SCHWARTZ

By now, all members of the congregation should have received Save The Date cards for the multitude of exciting and spiritual events that have been planned for Rabbi Steven Schwartz's Installation Weekend, when we formally install Rabbi Schwartz as the new Senior Rabbi of Beth El Congregation. Below is a brief schedule of these events, with more information, including how to reserve your space for some of the events, available in the formal invitation to come and on our website.

Friday, October 31, 6:00 p.m.

A special themed *Kabbalat Shabbat* service
(Open to the entire community at no charge)

Friday, October 31, 7:30 p.m.

Shabbat Family Dinner

(Tickets will be sold for the dinner, space is limited)

Saturday, November 1, 8:00 p.m. to midnight

Blue Jeans & Kippot Ball

A gala affair with catered food, open bar, live music from Gypsy Dawg and special tributes and presentations to Rabbi Schwartz (Tickets will be sold, space is limited, for adults only)

Sunday, November 2, 6:30 p.m.

Ceremony installing Rabbi Steven Schwartz as Senior Rabbi of Beth El Congregation. Ceremony is followed by elegant Dessert Reception. All Members are **encouraged to attend**. Ceremony and Dessert Reception are **free**.

WHAT'S ON TAP?

BETH EL'S ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR OCTOBER 2008

By now, all members of the congregation should have received the 2008-2009 Adult Education Brochure in the mail; the brochure is also available on our website at www.bethelbalto.com under Adult Education. The new season kicks off in October and we hope to see you at many of these educational, enlightening and engaging programs!

"Getting Relationships Right" – Wednesday, October 29, 8:00 to 9:15 p.m.

In this ten-week course, **Rabbi Amy Scheinerman** will lead us in text study and conversation about relationships. Participants will study Jewish texts from the *Talmud* and *Midrash* to explore, in depth, what Judaism has to say about human relationships and our relationship with God. Topics covered will include – how to relate to strangers and how to draw them close; the dangers of ego and the need for community cohesion; overreaching and the danger of humiliation; the interplay of personal, communal and divine relationships; the way we balance our familiar relationships; our sacred pursuits; the way we relate to the world; contending with ourselves and our excuses; and how we can create more sacred lives for ourselves. This class will meet on Wednesday evenings in the Rabbi Jacob Agus Library from October through January.

Adult Institute of Jewish Studies

The 60th Annual Adult Institute of Jewish Studies, sponsored by the Baltimore Board of Rabbis, offers the entire Baltimore Jewish community the unique opportunity to learn from local rabbis and educators representing every Jewish denomination and to learn and socialize with a cross-section of the community. Participants may register for two, four-week courses which are offered on the following Tuesday evenings at Beth El Congregation from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. – **October 28; November 4, 11, 18**. More information to follow under separate cover.

Jewish Short Stories – Monday, November 3, 7:00 to 7:50 p.m.

Join our congenial group to enjoy great fiction by outstanding Jewish authors. **Gail Lipsitz** will lead discussions of selected short stories in a class that is free and open to all. The November short story will be available at the Beth El main office in October.

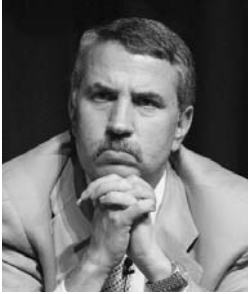
Look for more information about these and other events in the 2008-2009 Adult Education Brochure and online at www.bethelbalto.com.

commentator for *The Wall Street Journal* and he was the editor of *The Jerusalem Post* from 2002-2004.

Sponsored by
**Specialty Screen
& Window**

THOMAS FRIEDMAN

Thursday, December 18, 8:15 p.m.



New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman discusses “Geo-Greenism,” an ambitious national strategy he claims can help to save the planet from overheating and make America healthier, richer, more innovative, more productive and more secure. Friedman is a three-time Pulitzer Prize winner and the author of “From Beirut to Jerusalem;” “The Lexus and the Olive Tree: Understanding Globalization;” “Longitudes and Attitudes: Exploring the World After September 11;” “The World is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-First Century;” and “Green is the New Red, White and Blue.”

Sponsored by

Sol Levinson
& BROS., INC.

Annual Appeal — Continued from page 1

the crucial link in that chain, from one generation to the next, and so it becomes our responsibility to step forward and to support Beth El so that it can continue to thrive and grow for many years to come.

This year we celebrate the congregation’s 60th anniversary. Our founders never expected that we would become a synagogue of over 1,700 families, open 365 days a year, with top-quality programming for the very youngest and oldest among us, and everyone in between. We are proud of the beautiful physical space that we maintain, of the quality programming that we offer, of our worship services and of our staff. But more than anything else, we are proud of the spirit of Beth El Congregation – a spirit of warmth and welcome, of connection, of openness and caring and also a spirit of generosity. I ask you this year to feel that spirit and to participate with us in the Annual Appeal. The funds that we are able to collect at this time of year enable us to make Beth El the kind of place it is today, and to ensure that it will be the kind of place that we all dream of in the future.

In the Torah, it says that when Moses asked the people to contribute funds to the Tabernacle, the people gave “*asher yidvenu libo*,” they gave as their heart moved them to. We are deeply grateful for your past participation and we hope that this year your heart will move you to give again, and to do so generously. By doing so, you will be engaging in the Jewish present and also helping to create and ensure a strong and meaningful Jewish future for all.

Thank you, and may God bring us all a year of health and blessing. *L’shana tova!*

Lindsay Kleiman,
Barbara Katz
(l-r)

Lilith Book Club continued its monthly meetings on July 21 with a discussion of “The Heidi Chronicles” by Wendy Wasserstein. This new book club for women in their 20s, 30s and 40s will continue to meet on the third Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m. September’s book will be “The Zookeeper’s Wife” by Diane Ackerman.



Photo by Christina Delgado

JACK SHARE HIRED AS NEW RITUAL COORDINATOR

By Micah Kleid

Jack Share has already been an extremely active member of Beth El Congregation, serving as chairman of the Religious Services Committee for nine years and having been active in the congregation for over 35 years. Now, Share has been formally hired as the congregation’s new Ritual Coordinator.

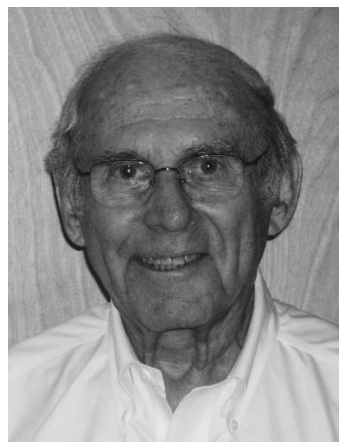


Photo by Micah Kleid

His responsibilities will include scheduling *B’nai Mitzvah* families for their Sunday night *Ner Tamid* and weekday morning *tefillin* ceremonies, ensuring there is coverage for the morning and evening *minyan* and coordinating the *shiva minyanim*.

“Jack is an overall *mensch*,” said Rabbi Steven Schwartz. “He’s also very organized, on top of everything, a great person to work with and cares deeply about the *shul* and its people.”

“I feel honored to have been asked to serve in the new position of Ritual Coordinator of Beth El,” Share said. “I look forward to being involved with the families of

the *B’nai Mitzvah* program, making sure that we have lay people to conduct services at *shiva* houses and, most importantly, assuring our congregants that they can count on Beth El as a synagogue that holds religious services 365 days a year.”

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 at our new and improved website!

- Our website can still be found at www.bethelbalto.com and now has videos, pictures, 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*.



The Beth El Judaica Shop has set up a partnership with Flowers & Fancies to benefit you as well as Beth El. Flowers & Fancies will be generously contributing a portion of your High Holiday purchase to Sisterhood, so please shop for your table centerpieces and other holiday floral needs at their shop at 11404 Cronridge Road in Owings Mills. Be sure to mention Beth El when ordering and all holiday orders must be made before Friday, September 26.



Beth El Sisterhood Judaica Shop

JUDAICA SHOP GRAND REOPENING!

Sunday, September 7

Offering Judaica and accessories for your holiday table, with new arrivals from the New York International Gift Show!

Store Hours:

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

For special appointments, please call **Adrienne Millman** at **410-484-4353**.

SISTERHOOD CALENDAR

October – No Meeting
Monday, November 3 – General Meeting
Sunday & Monday, November 9 & 10 – Unique Boutique
Monday, December 1 – General Meeting



2009 ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS ON SALE NOW AT THE BETH EL OFFICE!

Only \$25, they are perfect for birthdays, anniversaries, holidays and all other gift-giving occasions!

SISTERHOOD AND SISTERHOOD TOO MEMBERSHIP

Not yet a member of Sisterhood or Sisterhood Too? Please join our group of interesting, intellectual and enthusiastic women of all ages. We help support Beth El Congregation and Schools through our fundraising activities and give you the opportunity to grow Jewishly, to enjoy stimulating programs, go on trips and to fulfill your potential while meeting with old and new friends. Please contact **Margie Rubin** at **410-252-8066** if you are interested in joining. We look forward to welcoming you!

BIBLIO GROUP



We extend an invitation to all Sisterhood members and women associated with Beth El to join our Biblio group. We meet one Wednesday each month at 12:00 p.m. in the Kolker Room for a timely book review and lively discussion. Our first meeting of the 2008-2009 season will be on **Wednesday, September 17**. The reviewer will be Vera Newton, retired principal and former director of the Renaissance Institute of Notre Dame College. Please bring your own kosher bag lunch; beverages and dessert will be provided. Contact **Rita Silverman** at **410-484-1731** for more information.

BETH EL SISTERHOOD & CHICO'S AT THE VILLAGE OF CROSS KEYS

10 Village Square
Baltimore, MD 21210

CHARITY EVENT

October 16, 24, 30; November 6
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Must RSVP for appointments at **410-323-5911**.
DO NOT FORGET YOUR COUPONS!
10% of all sales donated to Beth El Sisterhood

FIFTH ANNUAL UNIQUE BOUTIQUE

Sunday & Monday, November 9 & 10

Fall is approaching, two months 'til our show. We're working all summer, and we're ready to go. So after the holidays, we'll soon celebrate. It's time for our show, remember the date. On November, the 9th and the 10th we'll be here, To bring you your vendors for our fifth year. Unique Boutique includes both old and new, For your shopping pleasure, they'll all welcome you.

Old Favorites

1. The Jewelry Lady (Amy Harris) – jewelry and high fashion accessories
2. Jerusalem Products (Alita Millen) – designer Israeli jewelry
3. Ibhana Creations (Meena Tharmaratnam) – jackets, shawls, scarves, hats, jewelry
4. Designed by Shelly (Shelly Spector) – personalized children's items
5. Iris Essentials (Iris Kaufman) – women's clothing, accessories, gift items
6. Little Gorilla Design (Cindy Perkins) – handpainted children's gifts and accessories
7. Simply Fabulous Accessories (Heidi Kagan) – belt buckles and leather belts
8. Debbie Does Jewelry (Debbie Stern) – designer style jewelry and accessories
9. Unitee (Tammi Mensh) – tees that unite body and soul
10. Beads by Bonnie (Bonnie Higgs) – jewelry, handbags, accessories
11. A 2 E Designs (Lisa Garson) – personalized gifts for children
12. Danajill Designs (Dana Kunzelman) – personalized baby and toddler tees and other accessories
13. Kids Stop (Sonia Obstler) – toys for infants to 12-year-old children
14. Rainbow Rags (Melissa Cohen) – tie-dye clothing for your children

New Faces for 2008

1. Pampered Chef (Ayme Lederman) – products for the kitchen
2. Lilly Anna's Designs (Jennie Kronthal) – jewelry and accessories
3. Swirl (Linda Lebovic) – beaded serving utensils and giftware
4. Fit Chic (Lisa Luray) – exercise clothing
5. Plum Blossom Kimono (Susie Lipschin) – Japanese textiles, Chinese goods
6. It's in the Bag (Lois Bedell) – handbags and accessories
7. The Fashnique (Neeta Singh) – capes, jackets, tops, jewelry, accessories
8. My Sisters and Me (Miriam Golob) – unique gifts and accessories
9. Arbonne International (Michele Greenberg) – skin care and wellness products
10. Inside Out and Backwards (Sandra Lever) – handmade notecards and envelopes
11. Belted Cow (Jim and Carl) – belts, totes, pet collars and leashes, handmade by New England craftsmen
12. Pink Pineapple (Laurie Gordon) – metalware, candles, aprons, placemats, tiles and more
13. Linda Rosenthal Studio (Linda Rosenthal) – jewelry, textiles, flowers, etc.
14. Delphinium Designs (Bette Dudley) – Italian ceramics and gifts
15. Christie Pirrung Stationary (Christie Pirrung) – personalized stationary and gifts

WIN A TRIP TO ... ANYWHERE!

In conjunction with Unique Boutique, Sisterhood will, once again, be offering a raffle with a grand prize of a **\$3,000 trip** to any place you choose! (Some restrictions apply.)

There will also be 2nd and 3rd place prizes. Raffle tickets will be \$18 each or three for \$50 and the drawing will be held on **Monday, November 10**. Tickets are available in the Beth El office or you can call **Frida Fraiman** at **410-363-6464** or **Yvonne Daniel** at **410-356-6219**.

SAM AND BEVERLY PENN

By Merle Setren

Beverly and Sam Penn need little introduction. They are deeply committed to giving back to Beth El some of the many blessings they count from their involvement. On Wednesday, July 23, Communications & Outreach Coordinator Micah Kleid and I spent a delightful half-hour at their lovely home chatting about their dedication to their beloved congregation and their hopes for Beth El's future.

Born and raised in Baltimore, Beverly and Sam share an appreciation of Baltimore's rich Jewish heritage from a knowledgeable perspective. Anecdotally, Beverly mentioned that her grandfather served as cantor at an Orthodox *shul* that broke away from Baltimore Hebrew Congregation. Typically, their affiliation with a synagogue began with a search for a Hebrew school for their eldest child. They chose Beth El, where men and women sat together and women participated during services in an integral way. Asked what they perceive to be the most significant change in the Jewish community, Beverly responded, "The increasing number and strength of the Orthodox community." She clarified her remark with a statement that a stronger Orthodox community offers additional resources for the community. Their grandchildren attended Krieger Schechter Day School, another outstanding resource in the community.

What they experienced at Beth El far exceeded their expectations. They echoed each other's sentiments that our rabbinate is unparalleled. Sam praised Rabbi Jacob Agus' intellect. Filled with emotion, Beverly described Rabbi Emeritus Mark Loeb as a close family friend; she found solace from his wisdom and advice when challenges arose. Their relationship with Rabbi Steven Schwartz blossomed when he officiated at their first grandson's *brit milah*. Rabbi Dana Saroken, they agreed, is "warm and wonderful."

"Beth El is a family member," Beverly stated twice. She added that Beth El plays a central role in their lives – most of their friends belong to Beth El and many of their extended family belong to Beth El. Sam mentioned that even his deceased mother, father and sister belonged and that his brother and sister-in-law are members as well. But it is Beth El itself, Beverly clarified, that is a member of the family. What is the biggest change at Beth El in the forty two years since they joined? Without a pause, Beverly answered "inclusion."

When asked about juggling volunteerism with their professional careers, both Beverly and Sam confessed that they began volunteering at Beth El after their respective retirements. Beverly retired from education eleven years ago; she taught English and reading in middle school and high school and later supervised staff development for Baltimore County schools. Sam worked in his family auto business and then parlayed his experience to a position with PHH Corporation Services, the largest automobile leasing company in the United States. Eighteen years ago, he began his second career in higher education. Quite remarkably, he started at the top as Executive in Residence at the College of Notre Dame and later as Executive in Residence at Towson University. He retired again in 1990.

Beth El is one of many organizations that have benefited from the Penns' desire to make a difference and give back to the community. Sam is currently a Trustee on the Board of Lifebridge Health and he is a past Chairman of the Board of Sinai Hospital. After completing her duties as President of Beth El in 2005, Beverly accepted the position of Chairman of Sinai Hospital Gift Shop. Other organizations for which they have volunteered include the Baltimore Jewish Council and the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

What should Beth El provide for future generations? Sam hopes that Beth El will continue to build strong educational programs for seniors, noting that he thoroughly enjoyed the series on American Presidents. Beverly emphasized the importance of engaging our youth. She wants Beth El to continue to develop stimulating programs to keep our youth and young adults connected to the synagogue. She voiced concern about the many secular activities that occupy so much of our youths' time, then praised Beth El's innovative programs such as *Chavura Chadasha*, the monthly young adult study sessions with the rabbis and Lilith Book Club for the "younger set." She also expressed the importance of maintaining Beth El's Memorial Park for future generations. Not surprisingly, she sits on that committee as a past chairman and serves as Vice President of the Jewish Cemetery Association of Greater Baltimore. In addition, she currently co-chairs the committee for Rabbi Schwartz's Installation and serves on two other Beth El committees – the Annual Appeal Committee and the Planned Giving Committee.

Beth El is truly blessed with Beverly and Sam Penn. For more than ten years, they have devoted countless hours of service and love to Beth El. *Dayenu?* Not for the Penns. With their recent commitment to the Beth El Legacy Society, they have reserved a place for Beth El in their will. Beverly and Sam have worked to ensure a vibrant future for their beloved congregation.

For more information about the Legacy Society, please contact Director of Development **Ailene Sher** at 410-580-5159 or ailene@bethelbalto.com.



Sam and Beverly Penn

THE RABBI JACOB AGUS LIBRARY

is closed for the summer.
If you wish to check out a book, please contact
Marlene Siegel at 410-484-1844.
The library will reopen in the Fall.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Beth El Brotherhood begins this year with a new focus on business networking. We will be offering opportunities for business-to-business and consumer-to-business connections including our Business and Occupation Networking Directory. In addition, we will continue our traditional variety of programs and services. We will be sending out our annual membership application form soon. Please keep an eye out for it and then return it as soon as possible.

For more information, please contact **Barry Budish** at 410-290-0345 or bab98@verizon.net.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, September 14, 10:00 a.m.	Breakfast & Political Forum
Sunday, September 14, 1:00 p.m.	Baltimore Ravens Tailgate
Sunday, September 21, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.	Board Meeting
Sunday, October 12, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.	Board Meeting
Sunday, October 19,	Brotherhood New Member Breakfast
Thursday, October 23, 8:00 to 9:00 a.m.	Networking Breakfast

THE OFFICERS FOR 2008-2009

President
Barry Budish
410-290-0345 (H); 443-739-5499 (Cell)
Bab98@verizon.net
1st Vice President (Publicity) – **Steve Sandbank**
2nd Vice President (Membership) – **Scott Steinberg**
3rd Vice President (Programs) – **Paul Weinblatt**
Treasurer – **Steve Katz**

BROTHERHOOD BREAKFAST & POLITICAL FORUM

Sunday, September 14, 10:00 a.m.
Schapiro Auditorium

The National Election in November

Featuring: Democrat John Cardin, 11th District, Maryland House of Delegates and Republican Anthony J. O'Donnell, District 29C (Calvert and St. Mary County), Maryland House of Delegates.

RSVP to 410-484-0411 or yvonne@bethelbalto.com by Tuesday, September 2.



CONTRIBUTIONS

ENDOWMENTS

THE RABBI JACOB AND MIRIAM AGUS SCHOLARSHIP

IN HONOR OF:

The birthday of Mr. Jonathan Foreman by his grandmother Mrs. Elizabeth Foreman

THE BETH EL ART FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Beulah Goden by Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Goodman. Dr. Sheldon Goldgeier by Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Goodman.

David Surosky by Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Goodman.

THE REBECCA C. BAER ADULT EDUCATION FUND

IN HONOR OF:

The Confirmation of Hannah Glick by Mr. Robert Glick and Mr. and Mrs. Norman Glick.

THE STANLEY L. BECKER MISHPACHAH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN OBSERVANCE OF YAHRZEIT OF:

Stanley L. Becker by Mrs. Carole Becker and Sons. Minerva Baider Reicher by Mrs. Carole Becker.

THE MELVIN AND NAOMI CHERNOFF MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN HONOR OF:

The special birthday of Mr. Alan Weiner by Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Chernoff.

THE LEONARD AND FRONA FRIEDMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Dr. Jerome Lenet by Mr. and Mrs. Elliot Dackman. Melvin Rothstein by Mr. and Mrs. Elliot Dackman.

THE FRUMAN FAMILY GARDEN BEAUTIFICATION ENDOWMENT FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Dr. Jerome Lenet by Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Herman, The Jolson Family, Mr. Leonard Fruman and Family.

THE JOEL ANDREW GELLAR MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Mark Goldstein by Mr. and Mrs. Larry Gellar.

THE SONYA AND JEROME GOODMAN ADULT HEBREW READING FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Harold Arenco by Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Goodman.

IN HONOR OF:

The birth of a first grandchild to Mrs. Barbara Forman by Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Goodman.

THE GREEN FAMILY RELIGIOUS SERVICES FUND

IN HONOR OF:

The birthday of Mr. Benjamin Green by Mrs. Irene Snyder. The new business endeavor of Mr. Benjamin Green by Mrs. Florence Schwartzman.

THE ARTHUR E. KLAFF MEMORIAL FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Dr. Sheldon Goldgeier by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Freeland.

THE DR. JEROME KOEPEL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN HONOR OF:

The special birthday of Mrs. Sandy Berman by Mrs. Marlene Koeppel.

THE ADAM KRONTHAL SPECIAL NEEDS FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Dr. Sheldon Goldgeier by Dr. and Mrs. Alan Kronthal, Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Kronthal.

Adam Kronthal by Dr. and Mrs. Alan Kronthal, Mrs. Randi Kronthal Sacco and Family.

Ethel and Morris Kelman by Dr. and Mrs. Alan Kronthal, Mrs. Randi Kronthal Sacco and Family.

Ida Mazy by Mrs. Randi Kronthal Sacco and Family.

THE M. HENRY AND ELIZABETH KUNTZ MEMORIAL FUND

IN HONOR OF:

The 75th birthday of Mrs. Marlene Kuntz by Mr. and Mrs. William Keeney.

THE HARRY LICHTER MEMORIAL FUND

IN OBSERVANCE OF YAHRZEIT OF:

Hy Zolet by Mrs. Hulane Zolet.

THE JOSEPH LIPAVSKY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Ernie Kopstein by Mr. and Mrs. Donald Wilson. Louis Ginsberg by Mr. and Mrs. Michael Steinhart.

IN HONOR OF:

The engagement of Mitchell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Whiteman, to Whitney Berger by Mr. and Mrs. Jay Morstein.

The marriage of the son of Dr. and Mrs. Leslie Katzel by Mr. and Mrs. Michael Steinhart.

SPEEDY RECOVERY TO:

Ms. Susan Manekin by Mr. and Mrs. Michael Steinhart.

THE H. ALLAN LIPSITZ ENDOWED ADULT EDUCATION FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Rabbi Dr. Eli Baum by Mrs. Diane Cole. Dr. Sheldon Goldgeier by Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Cohen. Herbert Robinson by Ms. Karen Chasen.

IN HONOR OF:

Mrs. Sandy Winters' leadership of "the eclectic Monday classes" by Mrs. Linda Napora.

THE RABBI MARK G. LOEB JUDAIC STUDIES COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN HONOR OF:

The 100th birthday of Mrs. Mary Shofer by Mr. and Mrs. Stanford Schneider.

Rabbi Mark G. Loeb's retirement as Beth El's Senior Rabbi by Mr. and Mrs. Milton Eisner.

SPEEDY RECOVERY TO:

Mr. Larry Ageloff by Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Feldman.

THE MITZVAH FUND

IN HONOR OF:

The 100th birthday of Mrs. Mary Shofer by Mrs. Esther Berelowitz.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Kleinman by Mr. and Mrs. Louis E. Goldbloom.

SPEEDY RECOVERY TO:

Mrs. Ruth Rudick by Ms. Elaine Eisner.

IN APPRECIATION FOR:

The *aliyah* she received on the Beth El Seniors' Shabbat by Mrs. Thelma Weiner.

The kindness of Mrs. Melinda Greenberg by Mr. and Mrs. Steve Landsman.

THE MORNING MINYAN FUND

SPEEDY RECOVERY TO:

Mr. Jerry Schnydmann by Mr. and Mrs. Raphael Kahn.

IN APPRECIATION FOR:

The kindness and concern shown by Dr. Moises Fraiman to Rene Daniel by Mr. and Mrs. Rene Daniel.

THE JULIUS OFFIT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN HONOR OF:

The 60th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Hess by Mr. and Mrs. Morton Offit.

The 80th birthday of Mr. Robert Levin by Mr. and Mrs. Morton Offit.

THE MICHAEL AND RHEA OFFIT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

SPEEDY RECOVERY:

Mrs. Sara Abeshouse by Mr. and Mrs. Lee Rosenberg.

THE PRAYER BOOK FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Jack Barrash on the occasion of his 99th birthday by Mrs. Lorraine Baumel and her Klavans Family.

Dorothy Lipman by Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Burgander, Jr.

IN OBSERVANCE OF YAHRZEIT OF:

Carol Fuld by Mr. and Mrs. George Fuld. Harry Kalish by Mr. and Mrs. Donald Kalish.

THE EDDY SCHUSTER MEMORIAL LIBRARY FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Dr. Jerome Lenet by Mr. and Mrs. Lee Barnstein and Family.

THE RICKY SIEGEL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Beloved brother of Mrs. Beth Oshrine by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Weinblatt and Family.

IN HONOR OF:

The *Bar Mitzvah* of the son of Mr. and Mrs. Marty Bass by Mr. and Mrs. Paul Weinblatt and Mr. Tyler Weinblatt.

SPEEDY RECOVERY TO:

Ms. Frieda Friner by Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Siegel. Dr. Larry Rogers by Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Siegel.

THE JEAN AND JOSEPH SUSSMAN SCHOLARSHIP

IN HONOR OF:

The birth of a great-granddaughter to Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Schaffel by Mr. and Mrs. Jules Shaivitz.

THE YAHRZEIT FUND

IN OBSERVANCE OF YAHRZEIT OF:

Frank Ehrlich by Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Goldman.

Benjamin Fader by Mrs. Esther F. Berelowitz. Jerome Franklin by Mrs. Phyllis N. Franklin. David Gilden by Mrs. Pauline Gilden. Raymond Gilden by Mrs. Sylvia C. Gilden and Family. Benjamin Goldman by Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Goldman. Aaron Hyatt by Mrs. Pauline Gilden. Morris Kessler by Mrs. Marilyn Holzman. Herman Kling by Dr. and Mrs. Lyndell Schwartz. Edward Ralph Levenson by Mrs. Pauline Gilden. Hal A. Miller by Mr. and Mrs. Lyon Miller. Courtney Leigh Siegel by Ms. Marsha Golob. Emanuel Stein by Mr. Isaac Marks. Hyman Zolet by Mr. and Mrs. Morry Zolet.

THE YOUTH EDUCATION FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Beloved father of Mr. Rob Santa Croce and Family by Mr. and Mrs. Keith Franz and Family.

Beloved mother of Mrs. Janice Tichauer by Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Bookoff.

Edith Carasik by Mr. and Mrs. Fred London, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Zukerberg.

Dorothy Lipman by Mr. and Mrs. Len Mazur. Henry Schwartz by Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Zukerberg.

Louis Shugarman by Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Zukerberg.

IN HONOR OF:

The engagement of the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dick Aarons by Mr. and Mrs. William Keeney.

SPEEDY RECOVERY TO:

Mr. Richard Kemper by Dr. and Mrs. Barry Hurwitz.

THE AL ZLOTOWITZ CHAPEL MAINTENANCE FUND

IN MEMORY OF:

Dr. Jerry Lenet by Mr. and Mrs. Myron Asher and Family.

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

IN MEMORY OF:

Beloved sister of Ms. Rona Burkoff by Mr. Thomas and Dr. Shari Kohn and Family to The *Mitzvah* Fund.

Mollie Eisenberg by Ms. Bernice H. Stein and Mr. Leon Dochinger to The Youth Education Fund.

Louis Ginsberg by Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Levin to The Robbins Family Foundation.

Beulah Goden by Mr. and Mrs. John Spector to The Morton Spind Confirmation Scholarship Fund.

Barry Gold by Mr. and Mrs. Donald Lebowitz to The Irving and Rose Lebowitz Memorial *Sefer Torah* Fund.

Dr. Neil D. Josephson by Ms. Sally Nelson to The H. Allan Lipsitz Endowed Adult Education Fund.

Dr. Sheldon Goldgeier by Mr. and Mrs. George Black to The Prayer Book Fund.

Edith Kaye by Mrs. Ruth S. Hyman and Children to The Abra Cylus Israel Education Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Evelyn Kovens by The Eastern Savings Bank Family to The Youth Education Fund.

Louise Leibowitz by Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Levin to The Robbins Family Foundation.

Dr. Jerome Lenet by Ms. Jane Krosin and Family to The Prayer Book Fund.

Sara Lilley by Mr. and Mrs. Jay Marks and Family to The Marilyn and Gary Berman Family Pre-School Scholarship Fund.

Dorothy Lipman by Mr. and Mrs. Herman Blinchkoff, Mrs. Blanche Schimmel to The Youth Education Fund.

Dorothy Lipman by Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Cohen to The H. Allan Lipsitz Endowed Adult Education Fund.

Dorothy Lipman by Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon Goldseker Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Napora to The Prayer Book Fund.

Dorothy Lipman by Mr. and Mrs. Jordan Max, Mr. Leo N. Sacks, Mr. and Mrs. David Schimmel, Thornhill Properties, Inc/George L. Panos, President to The *Mitzvah* Fund.

Pauline Schlian by Mrs. Ellen Sirkis Katz and Family to The Prayer Book Fund.

Bernard Zenitz by The Cramer Family to The Prayer Book Fund.

The 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Craven by Mr. Raymond Katzen to The Prayer Book Fund.

The 55th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Kantor by Mr. and Mrs. Lee Snyder to The Rabbi Mark G. Loeb Judaic Studies College Scholarship Fund.

The special wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Sollins by Mr. and Mrs. Norman Levin to The Beth El Art Fund.

The birth of a great-grandson to Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Klein by Dr. and Mrs. Dick Axman to The Joseph Lipavsky Scholarship Fund.

The special birthday of Mrs. Sara O. Abeshouse by Mr. and Mrs. Gordon T. Franz to The Michael and Rhea Offit

BETH EL QUIZ

On January 13, 2008, Beth El Congregation celebrated its 60th anniversary. In celebration of this momentous occasion, every Beth El Quiz question for the remainder of the year will be about the founding and history of the congregation.

Q: In what month and year did Cantor Emeritus Saul Hammerman release his first recording of liturgical compositions and Jewish folk music? (Hint: It was in the decade after he joined Beth El Congregation as its cantor.)

Answer on page 12.

Continued on page 8

Continued from page 7

Scholarship Fund.

The special birthday of Mr. Mark Greenberg by Mr. and Mrs. Mike Pintzuk to The Prayer Book Fund.

The 90th birthday of Mr. Herman Katkow by Mr. and Mrs. Homer Berlin to The Hark Family Fund.

The 100th birthday of Mrs. Mary Shofer by Mrs. Deanie Ehrlich and Ms. Roz Ehrlich, Ms. Barbara A. Kalina, Mr. and Mrs. Mishel Roseman, Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Straus and Jessie Schnitzer, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Scurnick, Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Siegel, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Sykes, Mr. and Mrs. Joel Winegarden, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Weintraub to The Rabbi Mark G. Loeb Judaic Studies College Scholarship Fund.

The 100th birthday of Mrs. Mary Shofer by Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Napora to The Prayer Book Fund.

The 95th birthday of Mr. Herbert Thaler by Mr. and Mrs. Ira Askin to The Rabbi Mark G. Loeb Judaic Studies College Scholarship Fund.

The 95th birthday of Mr. Herbert Thaler by Mrs. Naomi Levin to The Irene and Joseph Smelkinson Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The 95th birthday of Mr. Herbert Thaler by Mrs. Ruth Thaler, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Thaler to The Youth Education Fund.

Mr. Benjamin Green and Family on the occasion of opening a new store by Mr. and Mrs. Duke Goldberg and Family to The Green Family Religious Services Fund.

Mrs. Rina Janet for co-chairing, with Mr. Alan Dorenfeld, the wonderful tribute weekend for Rabbi Mark G. Loeb by Mr. and Mrs. Keith Franz to The Prayer Book Fund.

Rabbi Mark G. Loeb on the occasion of his retirement by Mrs. Dorothy Ehrlich, Mr. and Mrs. Ned Hiller to The Rabbi Mark G. Loeb Judaic Studies College Scholarship Fund.

Rabbi Mark G. Loeb for his "32 years of inspirational words and deeds" by Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Napora to The Rabbi Mark G. Loeb Judaic Studies College Scholarship Fund.

SPEEDY RECOVERY TO:

Dr. Leonard Berger by Ms. Ellen London to The Youth Education Fund.

Mr. Alan Hecht by Dr. and Mrs. Dick Axman to The Joseph Lipavsky Scholarship Fund.

Mr. Richard Kemper by Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Green to The Green Family Religious Services Fund.

Mr. Norman Shillman by Dr. and Mrs. Leonard Berger and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Zimmerman to The Youth Education Fund.

IN OBSERVANCE OF YAHRZEIT OF:

Loved Ones by Mrs. Estelle D. Hyman to The *Yahrzeit* Fund.

Rosadean Askin by Mr. Sanford K. Askin to The Joseph Lipavsky Scholarship Fund.

Anne Chernick by Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Chernick to The Sadie and Sylvan Nusbaum Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Samuel H. Davis by Mr. Richard G. Davis to The Prayer Book Fund.

Sally Hurwitz by Mrs. Bertha Robbins to The *Yahrzeit* Fund.

Morris J. Katz by Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Katz to The *Yahrzeit* Fund.

Oscar Klioze by Mrs. Olive Klioze to The *Yahrzeit* Fund.

Walter H. McIntosh by Dr. and Mrs. Roger McIntosh to The *Yahrzeit* Fund.

Anna Perlman by Mr. David Gould to The Ray S. and Nettie P. Gould Scholarship Fund.

Selma Robbins by Mr. and Mrs. Irving W. Robbins to The Robbins Family Foundation.

Leon Rosenthal by Mr. and Mrs. Louis J. Rosenthal to The *Yahrzeit* Fund.

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

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

Sarah Shenker by Mrs. Beatrice Frank to The Book Fund.

Courtney Leigh Siegel by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Adler to The Prayer Book Fund.

Joseph Snyder by Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Napora to The Susan Fine Langsam Memorial Fund.

Celia Sucoff by Mr. and Mrs. Mark Levine to The *Yahrzeit* Fund.

Myrna Tenser by Mr. David Tenser to The *Yahrzeit* Fund.

Elaine Gertrude Weinstein by Mr. Allan Weinstein to The Benjamin D., Gertrude Y. and Harold S. Weinstein Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Joseph Weinstein by Ms. Diane L. Weinstein to The *Yahrzeit* Fund.

IN APPRECIATION FOR:

The *aliyah* received on the occasion of their 40th wedding anniversary by Mr. and Mrs. Marc Kurlander to The H. Allan Lipsitz Endowed Adult Education Fund.

The *aliyah* she received on the occasion of her 100th birthday by Mrs. Mary Shofer to The Rabbi Mark G. Loeb Judaic Studies College Scholarship Fund.

The concern of Rabbi Mark G. Loeb, Rabbi Steven Schwartz and Rabbi Dana Saroken at the time of his brother's passing by Mr. Jerry Herling to The Rabbi Mark G. Loeb Judaic Studies College Scholarship Fund.

The hospitality of Mrs. Beverly Epstein by The Beth El Sisterhood to The Prayer Book Fund.

IN GRATITUDE TO:

Mr. Rafi Rone for speaking at the Sisterhood luncheon by The Beth El Sisterhood to The Prayer Book Fund.

Rabbi Dana Saroken for conducting the service for the naming of Lindsay Brooke Trager by The Trager Family to The Nathan and Pauline Mash Pre-School Fund.

Rabbi Dana Saroken for inviting her to participate in the Shavuot program by Ms. Helene S. Goldberg to The Marilyn and Gary Berman Family Pre-School Scholarship Fund.

HONORS AND MEMORIALS

IN MEMORY OF:

Marcia Waller Boom by her Husband and Children Norman N. Bloom, Dr. Rori I. Bloom and Megan Bloom Parker, a Lucite Plaque on the Memorial Wall.

Louis Book by Alvin and Rosalie Book, their children Ronald Max and Ellen Leslie, and grandchildren Zachary David and Jillian Elizabeth, a Lucite Plaque on the Memorial Wall.

Edward "Eddie" Offit by the Morning *Minyan* Group, a Lucite Plaque on the Memorial Wall.

Marcia M. Portney by her brother Norman N. Bloom, a Lucite Plaque on the Memorial Wall.

Samuel and Rose Shocket Reding by Sharon and Brock Abernathy, Sherri and Rob Marder, Robin and Bill Hall, Andi and Fred Weiss, and their grandchildren and great-grandchildren, a Lucite Plaque on the Memorial Wall.

Ida Fannie Book Rubin by Alvin and Rosalie Book, their children Ronald Max and Ellen Leslie, and grandchildren Zachary David and Jillian Elizabeth, a Lucite Plaque on the Memorial Wall.

Harry Shocket by the Morning *Minyan* Group, a Lucite Plaque on the Memorial Wall.

Harry and Florence Book Shocket by Benson, Bobby, Phyllis, and granddaughter Riva Leah Shocket, a Lucite Plaque on the Memorial Wall.

Jack and Ethel Shocket by Tzippe and Michael Mahr and Harriet Cooper and their grandchildren and great-grandchildren, a Lucite Plaque on the Memorial Wall.

Riva Leah and Ben Zion Shocket by Benson, Bobby, Phyllis and great-granddaughter Riva Leah Shocket, a Lucite Plaque on the Memorial Wall.

Sara Ruth Steinberg, April 2, 2008, by her sister Sandy and the Offit Cousins, a Plaque on the Memorial Wall.

Minna Waller by her sons and son-in-law Richard M. and Lawrence H. Waller and Norman N. Bloom, a Lucite Plaque on the Memorial Wall.

Their children Samuel Jacob and Kyle Oren by Melissa and Jeffrey Schechter, a piece of Artwork.

IN HONOR OF:

The 60th birthday of Susan Talles, August 26, 2008 by her friends, a Leaf on the Tree of Life.

The graduation of their son Samuel Jacob from Beth El Pre-School, June, 2004 by Melissa and Jeffrey Schechter, a Plaque on Noah's Ark.

The graduation of their son Kyle Oren from Beth El Pre-Kindergarten, June 2008 by Melissa and Jeffrey Schechter, a Plaque on Noah's Ark.

Their children Samuel Jacob and Kyle Oren by Melissa and Jeffrey Schechter, a piece of Artwork.

THE BIRTHDAY OF THE WORLD

By Rabbi Dana Saroken

Believe it or not, I'm writing this piece in between contractions. The birth of our third child is imminent and writing an article about birthing, or in this case the birthday of the world, is the only thing I have left to do before we head to the hospital. Thinking about the daunting yet amazing and miraculous experience that lies ahead, I can't help but consider what God must have been feeling and thinking way back when God set out to create not only God's first children, Adam and Eve, but the entire world and every animal, plant, constellation and miraculous gift that God created in those initial birthing days. Was God scared that everything would turn out alright? Was God frightened by the process of creation? Was God concerned about the unknowns that lay ahead? Perhaps, God was just excited by the possibilities and potential of what the creation would do and become and how their presence would transform the world.

In between deep breaths spent trying to empathize with God, I imagine that God is filled with all of these emotions, and others, too. Giving birth to anything new, whether a child, a new home, a new business venture, the actualization of a dream or anything else, can be wonderful, overwhelming and exciting, and the process always requires tremendous courage, hope and, most of all, faith. Courage, hope and faith not only inspire us to make radical changes in our lives, but they are what enable us and sustain us through our transitional and challenging moments; they give us the strength and vision to create new worlds that previously existed only in our minds.

Every year at *Rosh Hashanah* we celebrate the birthday of all of God's creations and we have the opportunity to remind ourselves of the parental love that God must feel for us and to think about what our supreme Parent and our human parents must have wished for us before we arrived into the world. We are also given the opportunity to contemplate what the special gifts that God gave to us were and are and what our unique contribution to the world was intended to be. We are also given the amazing opportunity to consider the lives that we are currently leading and to think about the disparities between our actual lives and the lives we would like to be living, to think about what's getting in our way, and how we can restructure or re-create our lives so that we can live the lives we dream of and be the people we dream of being.

There aren't many days in our lives when we are given the time or can take the time to think about such existential and profound questions, which is what makes the High Holy Days so special. So this year, let's all strive to make time, between now and the High Holy Days, to take advantage of the transformative nature of being given the opportunity to create, re-create and to begin anew. Let's make our upcoming year, the year that we allow ourselves to be, to do and to become everything that we were created for and together, let's become! *Shanah Tovah U'Metukah* – Wishing you a good, a sweet and a transformative New Year!

A TRADITIONAL TASHLICH GATHERING

Tuesday, September 30, 4:00 p.m.

On the afternoon of the first day of *Rosh Hashanah*, the entire Beth El family is invited to participate in the ancient tradition of the casting away of sins by a body of water.

In addition to this spiritually enriching ceremony, children are invited to bring their *shofarot*. Director of Education Dr. Eyal Bor will provide musical accompaniment while we cast our sins away.

Please join us on
Tuesday, September 30 at 4:00 p.m. at
Woodholme Country Club
300 Woodholme Avenue (Pikesville, MD)

DANCING WITH THE SHUL IS BACK!

Two Six-Week Monday Evening Classes Starting October 27 for Beginners and Intermediate Students!

Beginning Ballroom takes a "less is more" approach. Each session focuses on two dances with shared moves in order to create more polished dancers. Ideal for beginning or returning dancers. No partner necessary. Proper footwear required. The cost is \$75 per person for members and \$85 per person for non-members.

Continuing Ballroom is designed for students with a working knowledge of Foxtrot, Rumba, Cha Cha and Swing. It will be faster-paced, with more complex techniques. No partner necessary. Proper footwear required. The cost is \$75 per person for members and \$85 per person for non-members.

For more information, please contact renowned dance instructor Lee Gedansky at dance@beginningballroom.com. To RSVP for this class, please send your name, phone number, e-mail address and payment to Beth El c/o Dance Classes at 8101 Park Heights Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21208.

SELICHOT: THE HIGH HOLIDAYS BEGIN

Saturday, September 20, 9:00 p.m.

“The Gates Are Closing”

“The Gates Are Closing,” a play by Merle Feld, will be performed at Beth El on Saturday, September 20 at 9:00 p.m. The play will follow nine characters spanning a wide range of ages, backgrounds and professions as they grapple with issues of identity, meaning, loyalty, betrayal, repentance and forgiveness during the period of the High Holidays. “The Gates are Closing” had its first staged reading at the Jewish Repertory Theatre in May 1986, was a finalist in the Cleveland JCC National Playwriting Competition and also occasioned a New Jersey State Council on the Arts fellowship for the playwright. Since that time, it has been presented in hundreds of synagogues and college campuses across the United States and in Canada, England, Mexico and Australia.

Our production of “The Gates Are Closing” will be directed by Miriam Bazensky of the acting troupe Uncommon Voices and will be incorporated into our service. It will be immediately followed by a dessert reception. Both the play and reception are free and open to the entire community. We hope that you will join us for an evening of reflection and feeling as we begin to prepare together for the coming Days of Awe.

HIGH HOLIDAYS AT BETH EL ARE A FAMILY AFFAIR!

The Berman-Lipavsky Religious School Student Services are designed to be meaningful, spiritual and age-appropriate. Every year we strive to bring something new and exciting to the services as well as build on what was liked and valued.

This year teens have a choice! Last year, the Teen Service was moved to the Gorn Chapel, thus giving the service an authentic feel. This year, we are building on the move to give the teens a choice as to which service they want to attend – Traditional or Alternative. The Traditional Service, in the Gorn Chapel, will be led by Alex Saltzberg, future student rabbi at the Jewish Theological Seminary, and cantorially assisted by Sarah King. The Alternative Service, held outside under the tent, will be led by Ariela Lerman, Coordinator of Youth Activities, and Xandy Frisch, post-doctoral student in Bible Studies at Yale University. For more information on either service, please contact **Ariela** at ariela@bethelbalto.com or **410-484-4543**.

After-care has been expanded to one hour after Student Services for the convenience of our parents so that their prayer is not interrupted. At 12:35 p.m. teachers will escort the remaining students in their care to the Schapiro Auditorium where there will be supervised games until 1:30. Parents should come to the Schapiro to pick up their children. This service is for Kindergarten through seventh grade. Please pre-register for this free service by Sunday, September 28.

Due to the wonderful success of the Tot *Shabbat* High Holiday services for pre-school families, we have expanded the program by adding an additional service. Pre-school families will rotate among three programs, each 30 minutes long – a service led by Becky Gordon, High Holiday-appropriate arts and crafts and games. The time frame is from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Parents must remain with their children at all times and are requested to act as role models for their children (i.e. no talking during the service).

The School and Congregation have planned a meaningful Family Service on Second Day *Rosh Hashanah*, which will be held in the Myers Auditorium. Religious School families will have Torah honors and select religious school students will read from the Torah. This service will be shorter and end earlier to accommodate our families. Families are encouraged to bring their *shofarot* to blow during the service. If you would like an *aliyah*, please contact our school office at jill@bethelbalto.com or **410-484-4543**.

Tashlich is a family affair! This year it is to be held on the first day of *Rosh Hashanah*, at 4:00 p.m., at Woodholme Country Club. There is lots of parking and a good walk to the water through the grass. Beth El will provide the bread to cast away our sins as well as juice and cookies. Remember to bring your *shofarot*!

A complete High Holiday schedule will be handed out with the Berman-Lipavsky Religious School information packets. For more information, please contact our office at **410-484-4543** or jill@bethelbalto.com.

– Jill Eisen, Assistant Principal & Project Mishpacha Director

PREPARING FOR YOM KIPPUR

By Rabbi Steven Schwartz

As I sit typing this in late July we are working our way through the hottest days of the summer, with classic Baltimore humidity and temperatures in the mid- to upper-90s. It is hard to spend time thinking about the High Holy Days when they seem so far away and the relaxed rhythm of summer is still so strong. And yet we are in the period of time on our calendar that we call “the three weeks,” and for those in the know, that is a sure sign that the Fall holidays are right around the corner.

On the surface, the Three Weeks seem to be a stand-alone unit, having to do with commemorating the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple in ancient times. But in reality, the tradition understands these mid-summer days as a kind of prelude to *Rosh Hashanah* and *Yom Kippur*, a reminder to all of us that we should begin thinking about the work of *teshuvah* that we need to do and considering how we can go about getting our spiritual lives in order for the new year. The major idea at work here can be summed up in the line from the old Joni Mitchell song, *Big Yellow Taxi* – “You don’t know what you’ve got till its gone.” During the Three Weeks, we are supposed to feel the sadness of God seemingly abandoning the Jewish people – we remember the destruction of the Temple, exile and a near severing of the covenantal relationship between God and Israel. It is the absolute spiritual low point of the Jewish year.

Of course, we Jews have a lot of experience with what to do when we reach a low point — we start to climb. And from the end of the Three Weeks forward, the tradition encourages us to gradually elevate our souls, so that we can once again discover a close and loving relationship with God and be truly prepared for the High Holy Days.

When the Three Weeks conclude with the *Tisha B’Av* fast, we begin reading a series of seven special *haftarot*, called the *Shiva d’Nechemata*, or the Seven *Haftarot* of Consolation. Each week, these beautiful texts remind us that God is still there for us, that in fact God waits for our return, and they literally form a liturgical path that we can use to get ourselves ready to once again meet God on the High Holy Days.

For many Jews, that journey culminates with *Yom Kippur*, when people feel closer to God and to Judaism than they do during any other time of the year. But to truly appreciate what a blessing and opportunity *Yom Kippur*, our spiritual high point, offers us, we need to first experience the low point of the mid-summer, the Three Weeks of Sadness, and the first fast of the season, *Tisha B’Av*. Only then can we look back and see all the way down into the valley, and stand together on *Kol Nidre* eve, and say the *Shehechyanu* blessing, thanking God for enabling us to reach sacred moments in our lives.

BETH EL CONGREGATION ANNUAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Sunday, October 5, 10:30 a.m.

Beth El Memorial Park
9700 Liberty Road, Randallstown, MD

Led by Rabbi Steven P. Schwartz, Rabbi Dana Saroken
and Cantor Thom King.

START THE NEW YEAR OFF WITH A MITZVAH

By Noah Saposnik

As the Jewish New Year approaches, we are reminded of a holiday brimming with familiar smells, tastes and traditions. For many, *Rosh Hashanah* is a time to celebrate with family and friends. It is also a time to renew the commitment to Jewish heritage, customs and values.

Many families view this Jewish New Year as a time for the community to come together and give *tzedakah* for Jews in need. With that goal in mind, many volunteers have already come forward to help at Super Sunday, THE ASSOCIATED: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore’s annual phoning day.

Super Sunday has, for many years, been an important day on THE ASSOCIATED’s calendar. This year, the festivities will be held on Sunday, September 28, the day before *Rosh Hashanah*. The New Year’s Eve-themed event will feature the annual all day phone-a-thon, letter writing sessions for those not comfortable with phoning and a host of meaningful volunteer projects appropriate for the whole family.

Volunteers are needed at phoning sessions throughout the day. This year, start your “new beginning” knowing that the time you gave to your community on Super Sunday raised critical funds that were used to improve the lives of many in need.

To volunteer, please contact our office at **410-369-9302** or nsaposnik@associated.org. For more information, visit our website at www.associated.org/SuperSunday.

SENIORS

A NIGHT OF SONG

Beth El Seniors invites its members and their guests to its October dinner program on **Sunday, October 19** at 6:30 p.m. in the Offit Auditorium. Our featured entertainment for the evening will be Sonority recording star "**Chip**" **Weinman**, the singing lobbyist. Chip, who has a golden voice and is trained in the noted Skouson method, will entertain us with popular show tunes and ageless classics. We look forward to hearing him in person.

The cost for this wonderful evening is only \$18 for members and \$21 for guests. Reservations and payments are a must and because of the holidays are due by Friday, October 10. Please mail your check and seating preference to Beth El c/o The Seniors at 8101 Park Heights Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21208.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Everyone over 60 is welcome to our group and dues are only \$15 per person. For more information, please contact **Ed Berkowitz** at 410-296-8424, **Betty Zlotowitz** at 410-484-9840, **Jerry Fineblum** at 410-653-2631 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.



Beth El Torah Maintenance Fund

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.



Photo by Christina Delgado

Peter Engelman, Betty Zlotowitz, Ralene Chalew, Mary Shofer, Martha Glasner, Ed Berkowitz (l-r)

The new members and officers of the Beth El Seniors' Board of Directors were installed by Rabbi Steven Schwartz at their dinner meeting on July 13.

SENIORS & AARP SEMINAR

Thursday, September 18, 11:30 a.m.

A discussion on health care and financial security. Free and open to the entire community with breakfast being served.

Reservations are required to **Jennifer Holz** at 410-895-7602. **No walk-ins will be allowed.**



BEYOM IS KICKING OFF THE NEW YEAR WITH A BANG!
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT MANY OF THESE
GREAT EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER:

Torah at the Tavern Wednesday, September 3, 6:30 p.m.

Torah at the Tavern

Our monthly study session has a new name, a new date, new start time and, best of all, a new location! Join us on the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at Mt. Washington Tavern for Torah at the Tavern! This program is entirely free to attend and, if you RSVP by the Monday

before each one, the first round of drinks and appetizers are free too! Please note that there is no Torah at the Tavern in October due to the High Holidays.

Ravens Tailgate Party at Beth El! Sunday, September 14, 1:00 p.m.

See page 14 for more details.

Paintball Adventure Park Sunday, September 28, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.



Join us for an afternoon of paintball at Paintball Adventure Park (3939 Old Taneytown Road in Taneytown, MD). Only \$35 per person (includes admission, gun rental, equipment and ammunition). You MUST RSVP and pay before Friday, September 19.

Contact **Micah Kleid** at 410-484-0411 or micah@bethelbalto.com to RSVP for, or for more information about, any of these events.

For more information, visit our website at www.beyom.com.



Photo by Christina Delgado

Bobby Betlejewski, Tom Puwalski (l-r)

Bobby Betlejewski, Tom Puwalski and Julius Fischer, Jr. of Bobby B & Friends performed for the Beth El Seniors on July 13, entertaining them with a variety of swing standards to today's pop tunes.

BETH EL SCHOOLS 2008 KICK-OFF SHABBAT

Friday, September 5



Featuring a performance by Mark Novak and Renee Brachfeld

5:15 p.m. – Pre-School and Kindergarten storytelling, songs and more
5:45 p.m. – Yummy reception on the patio
6:00 p.m. – *Shabbat* Service for all ages with Novak and Brachfeld

Please RSVP by Thursday, August 28 to **Fran Davis** at 410-484-4543 or fran@bethelbalto.com or **Talia Berkowitz** at 410-602-2245 or talia@bethelbalto.com.

BETH EL SCHOOLS CREATES NEW HEBREW ULPAN COURSE

Beth El Schools is delighted to announce a new and exciting Hebrew *Ulpán* Course for Adults! This program will focus on modern themes and simple everyday conversations such as introductions, where people are from and where they live, what their profession is, how to shop in the *shuk* (Israeli market) and how to order food at a restaurant. The course will also teach you how to describe what you see, your emotions and Jewish customs and rituals. It will also give you a basic understanding of Hebrew grammar and phrasing and the confidence you need to speak Hebrew when you visit Israel.

The curriculum that was selected is *Darkonim – Passports to the Hebrew Language*, written by Dolly and Dr. Uri Korin. The instructor for this course is Malka Friedman, M.A. Ed., who has successfully taught our recent Hebrew Crash Course to 18 parents. Mrs. Friedman is a native Israeli and is excited about teaching her native language.

The class will run weekly on Thursdays beginning after the High Holidays and until May from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. The cost of the program is \$150 per person or \$225 per couple for members and \$175 per person or \$250 per couple for non-members. Religious School parents will receive free tuition as it is an alternative to Parent Education. For more information, please contact our office at 410-484-4543 or eyal@bethelbalto.com.

– Dr. Eyal Bor, Director of Education

PARENT EDUCATION CLASSES NOW COMBINED WITH FAMILY PROGRAMS

By Jill Eisen

Parent Education is an ever-evolving curriculum. It is our commitment to provide our parents with the opportunity to continue to explore and study Judaism and Jewish ideas through interesting, topical classes. It is our pleasure to open all classes to the congregation.

Rabbis Steven Schwartz and Dana Saroken and Rabbi Emeritus Mark Loeb will be our erudite instructors this year. During the first hour, parents and congregants will choose from the following sessions – Rabbi Schwartz will teach about the “Encounters between God and Biblical Characters,” Rabbi Saroken will focus on “The Impact of Speech in our Everyday Lives” and Rabbi Loeb will discuss “Loving Adversaries in Jewish Tradition: Sages Who Disagreed without Being Utterly Disagreeable.”

In the second hour, Rabbi Schwartz and Rabbi Saroken will take turns teaching “Walking with Justice,” where participants will study Jewish texts in pairs and in larger groups and will focus on social justice and its practical applications.

On Sunday, November 16, we will turn our learning into action as we join together with our families and community to participate in a *tikkun olam* project repairing a part of Baltimore.

There will be two family programs that will take place simultaneously during the second hour for *Gimel* and *Dalet*. Parents with students in these classes will come to the Schapiro Auditorium to learn with their children instead of participating in the second hour of parent education.

If you have any questions please contact our office at jill@bethelbalto.com or 410-484-4543.

CHALUTZIM

Hello, my name is Shelly Spector. For the upcoming year I will be planning exciting activities for the *Chalutzim* division of the Beth El Youth Academy (1st and 2nd graders). I am just now returning to teaching after eight years. Now that my children are part of the Berman-Lipavsky Religious School, I thought it was my turn. I will be teaching fourth grade Hebrew school along with *Chalutzim*.

We already have activities planned for one Sunday of every month of the school year; painting pottery, Pump-It-Up party and movies and pizza are just a few! Please join us for a fun-filled time by signing up for *Chalutzim*. We'll have a great time!

– Shelly Spector

MACHAR

Hello everyone and welcome back to an exciting year of youth activities! I am excited to be working with all of the youth groups this year, but I wanted to give you a taste of what *Machar* will be doing. *Machar* (for 3rd to 5th graders) will be going to the farm to pick pumpkins and apples, bowling, taking a trip to Laser Tag at Shadowland and doing fun and interesting art projects. I look forward to seeing everyone and make sure to come and stop by my office to say “hi” and see what programs are coming up next!

– Ariela Lerman, Coordinator of Youth Activities

KADIMA

Hello, my name is Michael Kollin. I'll be serving as Beth El's *Kadima* advisor for the upcoming year. I have worked with middle school students in the area for the past two years and I am excited to continue doing so through the amazing BEYA program here. Many events are planned for 2008-2009, from local “*shul*-ins” and away game parties to trips out for golf, bowling, skating and more! If you're an existing *Kadima* member, you're in for a great year. For those who have never experienced a *Kadima* event, this is your year to give it a shot!

– Michael Kollin

UNITED SYNAGOGUE YOUTH

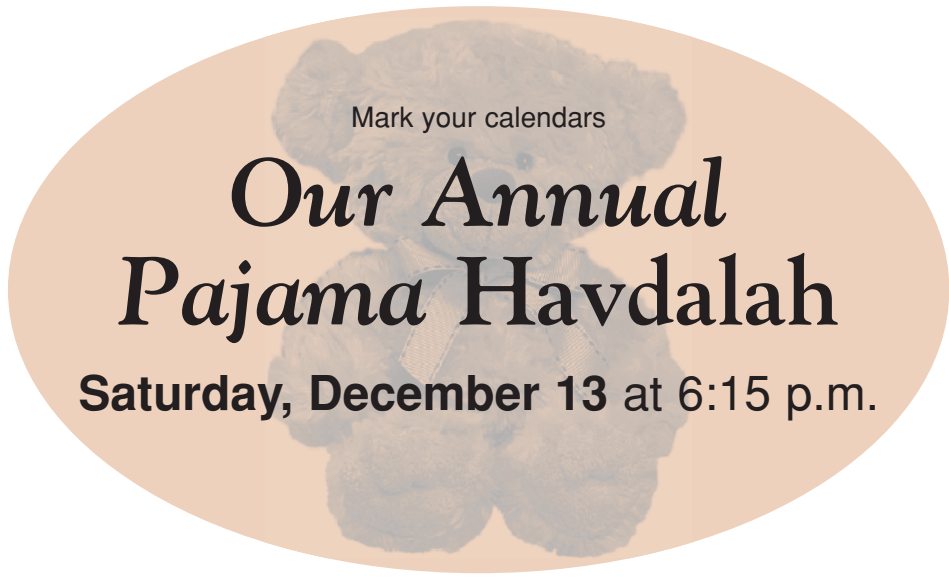
Hi! I'm Samantha Heringer, the 2008-2009 advisor for Beth El USY and I wanted to take some time to introduce myself and tell you about the events we have planned for this year. I am thrilled to work with the amazing teenagers at Beth El. I have been involved with USY for ten years, from chapter president, to Regional General Board to staff for my home region of Hagalil (New Jersey), but I'm so excited to be a part of the Seaboard region as an advisor.

For those who are not familiar with USY, we are a Jewish youth group for students in 9th to 12th grades and we have social, cultural, educational and entertaining programs with leadership opportunities created by the USYers, for the USYers. Our chapter, Beth El Baltimore, is continually growing and becoming involved with the Beth El community. You may have seen some of our members leading *Kabbalat Shabbat*, hanging around in our youth lounge or volunteering at the Israeli Fair in May and the Pre-School's Family Fun Night in July. This upcoming year we hope to expand our chapter's activities outside of the synagogue building. While we'll have an open chapter meeting with an event the second Sunday of every month from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. (anyone in grades nine to 12 may attend), we are also working on trips such as rock climbing, laser tag, snow tubing, a theater production, edible Olympics, day trips to nearby cities and more. The list is always being added to!

Please mark your calendars for our **CAR WASH** on **Sunday, September 14!** We will be washing cars to collect money for *tikkun olam* and to help support our chapter's growing needs. Your support is much appreciated!

Thank you to all of the families who helped to house the USY on Wheels bus (USY's cross-country summer bus trip) we hosted back in August. We had a great day and can't wait to host the New Frontier Region in December! If you have any questions or know of a potential chapter member, please send an email to bethelbaltousyadvisor@yahoo.com.

– Samantha Heringer



FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Our Family Fun Night and Fair was a huge success! Approximately 300 people joined together for an evening of fun with pizza, a moonbounce, science, face painting, balloons, an obstacle course, cotton candy, the playground, sno cones and more. The evening also included four different *tzedakah* projects as families donated toiletries and decorated cards for Israeli soldiers, learned about and made donations to help Go for Gaucher, which funds medical research for Gaucher disease and Meir Panim which helps children in Israel. We also had a variety of vendors (affiliated with Beth El programs) who were thrilled with the opportunity to showcase their businesses. A big thank you to the staff and teen volunteers who helped make this evening so successful!

LET THE FUN CONTINUE

Join us for a unique event on **Friday, September 5**. Families will come together outside at 5:15 p.m. for stories, songs and prayers with our special guest entertainers, Mark Novak and Renee Brachfeld. This will be followed by refreshments on the Kuntz Courtyard and a wonderful interactive family service with our entertainers and clergy. For more information or to RSVP for this free event, please contact our office at **410-602-2245** or talia@bethelbalto.com.

– Talia Berkowitz, Special Projects & Curriculum Coordinator

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO ENROLL FOR THE 2008-2009 PRE-SCHOOL, PRE-KINDERGARTEN AND KINDERGARTEN SCHOOL YEAR!

It is never too early to prepare a child for a bright future! Beth El has a wonderful learning experience waiting for your 2- to 5-year-old in our Pre-School and Kindergarten for the Fall 2008-2009 school year. Morning classes are for three, four or five days, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. with our very popular lunch option until 1:00 p.m. and full-day classes until 3:00 p.m.! Early drop-off begins at 7:00 a.m. and late-stay class is from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, observing candle lighting times for Friday closing.

Experience our hands-on, nurturing **Pre-Kindergarten** class for children who will be 5-years-old after September 1 or are not quite ready to move on to Kindergarten. These children enjoy a stimulating course of study rich in language, extended reading, number readiness, science and the arts.

Join our full-day, academically-oriented **Kindergarten** that is rich in math, reading and language skills, computer literacy and science experiences. Children learn and develop a strong foundation in reading with our phonics-based reading series and develop a full sight vocabulary. Emergent readers are enriched so as to extend their solid skill base. Promoting independence, individualization, self confidence and success for every child are our immediate social goals, even for the shyest 5-year-olds.

Our popular **Mommy & Me** experience meets on Tuesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. This class is designed especially for 18- to 24-month-olds along with their mommy, daddy, grandparent or caregiver and prepares these little ones for pre-school. It is also a wonderful entrée to our fabulous February 2's class which meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

All of Beth El's Early Childhood classes are facilitated by experienced, nurturing and professional teachers. Our children enjoy an integrated, updated secular and Judaic curriculum that services the needs of the individual child on his or her own level. The children enjoy in-house computer classes, music, physical education "Active Kids" gym classes, Hebrew language classes, pre-*Shabbat* celebrations, Torah stories, arts and crafts, science, cooking, beginning reading and number skills, outside play on our new playground, kosher snacks, children's active games, library, field trips and much more!

Please contact Early Childhood Director **Ellen Marks** at **410-602-2245** or ellenm@bethelbalto.com for an application, more information about our programs or to arrange for a personal tour of our completely secure facility. You can also visit our website at www.bethelbaltoschools.com.

INFANT & TODDLER CARE AT BETH EL!

Beth El's infants and toddlers are the happiest babies in town! The reason is because our professional and nurturing staff gives each child the deserving individualized and undivided attention so necessary during these tender and important developmental months and years. Mommies and Daddies provide our loving caregivers with the perfect feeding, sleeping and changing schedule that guarantees their little treasure will have a happy day!

We are proud and excited to welcome your 3 to 24 month-old to our Infant & Toddler Program for full-time care, Monday through Friday, from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (Friday closings in the winter months based on candle lighting times).

Contact our Infant & Toddler office at **410-580-2723** or infantdept@bethelbalto.com for more information or to arrange a tour.



Tzippi King

Congratulations to Tzippi King, a rising sophomore at Stern College for Women in New York City, who was recently awarded a scholarship from the Rabbi Emeritus Mark G. Loeb Judaic Studies College Scholarship Fund for her completion of a number of Judaic studies classes – including classes in Jewish texts and commentary, history, philosophy and *halacha* (Jewish law) and its progression – while studying at Michlalah Jerusalem College for Women at the Linda Pinsky School for Overseas Students in Israel.

Any college student who successfully completes a course in Judaic studies – Jewish history, Hebrew language, Holocaust studies, literature, etc. – is eligible for this scholarship. If you are interested in applying, please contact Director of Development **Ailene Sher** at **410-580-5159** or ailene@bethelbalto.com.

GO GREEN!

Tip #12:

Make your bathroom a "green bathroom" with these easy and helpful steps.

- Turn the faucet off when brushing your teeth.
- Buy a dual-flush low-flow toilet.
- Put rocks or sand-filled water bottles (be sure to seal them) in your toilet cistern.
- Fix a leaky toilet.
- Adjust the flush volume of your toilet cistern.
- Try a solar water heater to heat your tank.
- Wrap your water heater to insulate it.
- Shorten your shower by one or two minutes.



February 1960. This month, Cantor Hammerman will be honored by the USCJ Cantors Assembly of America with the David Putterman Lifetime Achievement Award.

JORY SCHUNICK

By Micah Kleid

Many Beth El members who own businesses are generous enough to discount their products and services when selling them to the congregation. However, none have taken the extraordinary step taken by Jory Schunick, owner of Just Posters & Signs in Owings Mills. Schunick and his family – his wife, Amy, and daughters, Jillian and Zoey – have decided to donate every dollar owed by Beth El to his company to the Rabbi

Mark G. Loeb Judaic Studies Scholarship Fund, which will eventually become part of the Rabbi Emeritus Mark G. Loeb Center for Jewish Education.

“Rabbi Loeb was such a great leader in the *shul*, everybody has such high regard for him and he’s always available if you need him,” Schunick explained. “There were some times in our personal lives where we went to him and he was great. He had a way about him where he wouldn’t judge you but he would help through any issues you had.”

“My family donates a lot to charities, we even started our own non-profit called Molly’s Hope, which helps prevent euthanasia in animals,” he added. “It’s ingrained in us to give back to the community and help people in need, and it’s natural for us to help the synagogue, so I’d rather see the *shul*

keep the money and direct it to people who need it, and I know Rabbi Loeb’s fund will do that.”

Schunick and his family have been members of Beth El for 11 years, when he and his wife began looking for a pre-school for their oldest daughter.

“We chose Beth El because it was the most family-oriented *shul* in the Baltimore area and they had a great pre-school program,” he said.

Since then, he and his family have attended nearly every event the congregation puts on throughout the year and they have become active members in *Chavurah Chadasah*, the new family

learning program through the Berman-Lipavsky Religious School.

“We really like all of the events because it brings our family together and Cantor [Thom] King, Rabbi [Steven] Schwartz and Rabbi [Dana] Saroken have really just been so instrumental in getting all the kids involved in *shul*,” he said. “They have tough footsteps to follow, but they’re really the people to do it.”

Schunick has been in the printing business for 14 years, first owning a pet supply company, but then founding and forming Just Posters & Signs when he realized that no company at the time did large-format printing. He and his partner then bought their own machinery and went out and started doing it themselves.

Clearly a man who, when he sees a niche to be filled, fills it himself, Schunick and his family have also opened a new restaurant, Tahina’s, in the new Best Buy shopping center in Owings Mills.

“MY WIFE AND I ARE VERY ATTACHED TO THE SYNAGOGUE, IT’S BECOME NOT JUST A PLACE TO GO ON THE HIGH HOLIDAYS, NOT JUST A PLACE TO PRACTICE RELIGION, BUT A PLACE TO SOCIALIZE, WHERE EVERYBODY’S FRIENDLY.”

— JORY SCHUNICK

“Amy and I and our family went to Israel last April and, when we came back, we realized there were no good falafel restaurants around here, so we decided to open our own,” he said. “Tahina’s will have falafel, chicken, beef, salads and all kinds of sauce, so it’s going to be great, great food at good prices.”

As for his and his family’s dedication to Beth El, Schunick explains that it has just come naturally to them over the years.

“My wife and I are very attached to the synagogue, it’s become not just a place to go on the High Holidays, not just a place to practice religion, but a place to socialize, where everybody’s friendly,” he said. “Jillian and Zoey just feel very welcome there, which helps us feel very welcome.”

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 Communications & Outreach Coordinator Micah Kleid at micah@bethelbalto.com.

BETH EL’S MINYAN AND WHAT IT MEANS TO ME

PART II

By Peter G. Engelman

[Editor’s Note: This is Part II of a two-part series, the first of which appeared in the August 2008 issue of *The Voice*.]

The daily *minyan* services are led mostly by lay members of the congregation. An exception is made on Tuesdays when Beth El’s Cantor Thom King leads the service. The members of the *minyan* play an active role in the services, but only if they are comfortable doing so. No one is ever asked to do anything that makes them uneasy. From leading the service in Hebrew or English to taking a Torah *aliyah*, everyone is welcome to participate and women partake equally with their male counterparts. From my own personal experience, I can tell you that there is nothing that refreshes an ego more than receiving a hearty “*Yasher Koach*” as one descends from the *bimah*. Receiving a warm handshake, hug or kiss does marvelous things for the soul; it is an act of love between human spirits on the mend.

The *minyan* is similar to other support groups where people come together to heal, however it is also very different. I have personally been a part of and have witnessed transformations in the *minyan* that are nothing short of miraculous. The rhythmic Hebrew chants reverberate through the chapel and the inner souls of its members; like a *mantra* recited in meditation, the vibrations massage the inner spirit, offering calm and tranquility. As the prayers are repeated day in and day out, unexplainable healing begins to take place.

A young woman who has just lost her mother comes into the *minyan* with swollen red eyes. Her heart is heavy and she cries as she chants the

Kaddish for the first time since “getting up” from *shiva*. This same young woman comes yet again, only this time it is six months later and she has been diligent in her attendance. She recites the *Kaddish* in unison with the other mourners in the congregation. She looks and acts totally different than when she first attended. Her eyes are clear and dry and she has a serene smile on her face. Her heart is no longer heavy with grief. It is obvious to all around that she is on the mend. After services, she is talkative and engaging. She has made new friends. In six short months, her soul has been rejuvenated; she has undergone a spiritual renewal and healing.

This example of healing is not an anomaly, nor is it anecdotal. It is a true account of what happens in the *minyan*. It occurs every day to all mourners who attend regularly. It occurred in 2001 with the loss of my mother and continues today after the loss of my son. I am living proof of the healing power of the *minyan*.

When Steven passed away, I needed the *minyan* more than ever. Like the woman in the example, I too came to services with tears and swollen eyes and was in a terrible way. When I returned from *shiva*, my fellow *Minyanires* were there for me waiting with outstretched arms and warm hearts. I knew what I had to do and they knew what to do. Nothing was ever said, but the action behind the scenes was there. Day after day, I recited the *Kaddish* for Steven and day after day, the *Minyanires* gave me encouragement, letting me know that it was okay for me to mourn, that this was the place for mourning. As I write this article, my heart is still healing. The loss of my son was an unnatural loss, in that it occurred in the wrong order between parent and child. The wound is much deeper and my recovery is admittedly slower. Occasionally my eyes still well with tears as I think of my beloved son, but I am among friends, the best friends in the world, friends who really understand what it means to lose a loved one.

The *Minyanires* are my brothers and sisters and I shall always be grateful to them for their support and love. The *minyan* has become my second home and I look forward to coming and praying and receiving God’s blessings. There is a saying – “Time heals all wounds.” There is another that says “God helps those who help themselves.” Coming to *minyan* incorporates the message of both.

RAVENS FOOTBALL IS BACK AT BETH EL!



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Come watch the Baltimore Ravens battle the Houston Texans at 4:15 p.m. on our 25-foot projection screen in the Offit Auditorium!



But first ... we're opening the Beth El parking lot at 1:00 p.m. for a tailgate experience like never before! Park your cars, set up your tents and grills and tailgate in our parking lot! Plus, the Ravens official mascot, Poe, and two Ravens cheerleaders, Chase and Paige, will be in attendance to take pictures and sign autographs!



The entire afternoon is free and open to the entire community and no reservations are necessary, but come early to get a good spot in the lot!

For more information, contact **Micah Kleid** at **410-484-0411** or **micah@bethelbalto.com**.

We kindly request that you bring only kosher food to the tailgate.

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	Ellen Marks
Assistant Administrator	Debbie Caplan
Event Coordinator	Diane Cole
Communications/Outreach Coordinator & Editor	Micah Kleid
Designer	Amy Wells
Staff Photographer	Christina Delgado

President	Michael Steinhardt
Sisterhood President	Marjorie Rubin
Brotherhood President	Barry Budish
Beth El Seniors President	Ed Berkowitz

Rabbi Emeritus	Mark G. Loeb
Cantor Emeritus	Saul Z. Hammerman

Rabbi Jacob B. Agus (1911-1986) Founding Rabbi

Do you have story ideas or suggestions for *The Voice*? If so, please e-mail them to micah@bethelbalto.com.

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.



Scientist Etienne Rossouw wows some children and their parents with his experiments.



Casedy Oberfeld paints a necklace on Alana Fisher.



Julie Elover, Naomi Lebowitz and Eden Oberfeld try their luck at the ball toss.



Zack Maine pops his head out of the tunnel after successfully completing the obstacle course.

Beth El Schools hosted their annual mid-summer Family Fun Fair on July 14, an event that was attended by over 200 families from the schools and community. In addition to free food and snacks, children also enjoyed *tzedakah* projects, a moon-bounce, obstacle course, face painting and balloons while parents shopped at tables hosted by local vendors.

Rebecca and Sarah Fruman show off their smiles after a fun-filled evening.



Photos by Christina Delgado

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS

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

Dated Material
Please Deliver by September 1

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Baltimore, MD
Permit No. 1030
RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED