Reflections from the President

By Michael Rubenstein

Really? It's been two years since I became President? How can that be? It is hard to believe that my term is nearly over. But, alas, on May 17, Denise Franz will take over as President of Beth El.

So much has happened in the past two years. For example, we completed the Generations Campaign that will help the synagogue with needed capital improvements and will add money to our endowment. We opened The Soul Center, which is already bringing new people to Beth El. Our preschool was totally renovated and it continues to receive the highest rating from the State of Maryland. Our new downtown preschool has been extremely successful. We started a monthly Saturday morning learning service and have also begun a monthly Friday night service for young families called Shabbat Unplugged. We also welcomed, with excitement, our new Executive Director, Josh Bender.

It has been a humbling experience to work with our clergy, senior staff, employees, my fellow officers and board members. When you witness the dedication of these people and their openness to new ideas, and how issues are discussed in an atmosphere of true cooperation, it is no wonder that Beth El shines as brightly as it does.

So what will I miss most about not being President? Wednesdays. This was the day I would meet with the clergy and other members of the senior staff to talk about what was going on at Beth El, discuss problems that needed to be resolved, or just brainstorm about new ideas that would improve our community and our synagogue. For me, it was truly a special time that I will miss.

And even with our exceptional staff and lay leadership, we still would not be as successful as we are without our members, for you are the ones that have helped Beth El become what it is. It has been an honor and a privilege to have served as your President. I have enjoyed getting to know so many of you, listening to your suggestions and being able to help you whenever I could.

As I leave the presidency of this extraordinary place we call Beth El, I feel strongly that it is poised to become an even greater presence in the Baltimore Jewish community.

"As I leave the presidency of this extraordinary place we call Beth El, I feel strongly that it is poised to become an even greater presence in the Baltimore Jewish community."
In Memoriam

Jacob ‘Jack’ Bloom
Ruth S. Levin
Mae Nettler
Helen Louise Surosky

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

Our Deepest Sympathy to:

Sandy Bloom and Shirley Sheer on the loss of their beloved husband and brother, Jacob ‘Jack’ Bloom.

Dr. Morton Hollander on the loss of his beloved wife, Ruth S. Levin.

Steven Katz on the loss of his beloved sister, Helen Lenore Shiffman.

Maxine Levin on the loss of her beloved mother, Helen Louise Surosky.

Karen Nettler on the loss of her beloved mother, Mae Nettler.

Joyce Kronthal and Jay Rombro on the loss of their beloved sister and stepmother, Iris Sandra Rombro.

Sylvia Schneider on the loss of her beloved sisters, Dorothy Siedband and Captain Ethel Shilmover Grossman.

Sarah Shapiro on the loss of her beloved mother, Barbara Blaustein Hirschhorn.

Julian Sober on the loss of his beloved mother, Beverly Sober.

Susan Tannenbaum on the loss of her beloved brother, Dr. Barry Sheldon Handwerger.

Dr. Bert Vogelstein on the loss of his beloved father, Leopold ‘Lee’ Vogelstein.

Cyd Wolf on the loss of her beloved mother, Sally Marcus Wolf.

Dr. Eric and Linda Cohen on the birth of their twin grandsons, Billy Frederick and Leo James Gould.

Carol Cummins on the engagement of her granddaughter, Gillian Kassner, to Alexander Witkes.

Richard and Honorable Ellen Hollander on the birth of their granddaughter, Violet Galvin Hollander.

Dr. Myron Kellner on the birth of his grandson, Thomas Abraham Candido Kellner.

Marcia and Alan Pasarew on the marriage of their daughter, Allison, to Rob Feldhofer.

Dr. David and Sheryl Reicher on the birth of their grandson, Miles Isaac Levy.

Emelie Schwab on the Bat Mitzvah of her granddaughter, Sarah Elie Doane.

Dr. Robert and Shelley Shemer and Jane and Robert Zweig on the birth of their grandson, Asher Hudson Zweig.

Dr. Bert and Ilene Vogelstein and Karen Kreisberg and Howard Kleinman on the birth of their grandson, Lion One Vogelstein.

Susan and Jeffrey Zemil on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Sabrina Jill Zemil; grandparents are Sonia and Leon Guggenheim, Nancy Jachman and Gary Zemil.

Milestone Anniversaries:

Beth and Matthew Cohen are their 10th
Meryl and Kevin Fishkind on their 10th
Jan and Joseph Silhavy on their 20th
Andrea and Bruce Hyatt on their 25th
Terry and Gene Seidel on their 25th
Sima and Jeffrey Abarbanel on their 40th
Eileen and Steven Lesser on their 45th
Dale and Raphael Kahn on their 50th
Beverly and Donald Wilson on their 50th
Lois and Ted Gamerman on their 60th
Marlene and Ben Kuntz on their 65th

Our Heartiest Mazel Tov to:

Bar & Bat Mitzvah

Bat Mitzvah
Sabrina Jill Zemil, daughter of Susan and Jeffrey Zemil, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah during Havdallah services May 20, 2017.

Shavuot

Each year, it is customary for us to celebrate the Giving of the Torah over the holiday of Shavuot.

Tuesday, May 30
7:30 p.m. Holiday begins with mincha
8:00-8:45 p.m. Tikkan Leil Shavuot study/learning session
8:45-9:15 p.m. Dessert reception with traditional Shavuot cheesecake
9:15-10:15 p.m. Second learning session

Wednesday, May 31
10:00 a.m. Morning Services
6:00 p.m. Evening Services

Thursday, June 1
10:00 a.m. Morning Services and Yizkor
7:30 p.m. Evening Services
Interview with Denise Franz

Denise has lived in Baltimore for 37 years. She moved from Silver Spring after meeting her husband, Keith. She retired from the Federal government after 35 years as a statistician and considers Beth El her job now. After working to be paid, she now works to fill her heart. She is the mother of Seth Franz and Kara and Jason Usher.

How long have you been a member of Beth El and why did you decide to join?
I've been a member for 35 years since Keith and I were married. He was brought up Reform, I was brought up Conservative in Silver Spring, so we decided to join Beth El. Keith had a friendship with Rabbi Loeb and he married us. I liked Beth El from the first time I came here.

When I joined Beth El, I was involved with a number of people to start a young couples group. Now many of the same people are in the Empty Nesters/Baby Boomers group and I just think it's wonderful that Beth El has been so committed to keeping us involved over the years.

What advice has Michael given you about your upcoming presidency?
I think that Michael told me not to get into the weeds and to not micromanage, but to stay above it all, which I think is great advice.

What are you looking forward to as you step into your new role?
I am looking forward to continuing the relationships and friendships I have with many people at Beth El and meeting more members. I will continue to attend programs and work to move Beth El forward.

What steps have you taken to prepare?
I was an Acharai fellow, which is a leadership program through the Jewish community. I've been on the board for the Darrell Friedman Institute for Professional Development for several years and have attended many of its classes. I just finished the United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism's (USCJ) Sulam for presidents, which is a four-day training program for upcoming presidents where I attended with 18 other people who will be synagogue presidents in the next one to three months.

What committees have you served on at Beth El?
I've served on the School Committee, Social Action, Preschool, Adult Education, Membership, Memorial Park. I've been on almost every committee!

What three words would you use to describe yourself?
Extrovert, Energetic, and Responsible

What goals do you hope to achieve?
I hope to get more congregants involved in the synagogue. I would like to create some type of system where volunteers who have special expertise can be matched with projects that would be helpful in the shul.

What is your favorite thing about Beth El?
It has to be the people.

Please join us at the 69th Annual Congregational Meeting
Wednesday, May 17, at 6:15 p.m.
as we install Denise Franz as our new president
Evening Meditation Sits  
Tuesday, May 2, at 8:30 p.m.
Aaron Schneider will lead this 30-minute transformational gathering which will allow you to step out of the busyness of your life and experience the benefits of being present in the moment. $10 donation suggested. Generously sponsored by Robert and Florence Chertkof.

Mother Love  
Saturday, May 13, at 4:00 p.m.
This is not a grief group, rather it is a remembering group that helps people hold their mothers close. Whether your mother has been gone for a month or a decade, whether the relationship was easy or complicated, this group (for women and men) will have opportunities for laughter, for tears and most of all – for remembering.

Torah Yoga  
Sundays, May 7, 14, 21, at 9:30 a.m.
This yoga class will include 10 minutes of inspirational Torah at the beginning, and then a full hour-long yoga class. Please bring a mat and a water bottle. The yoga class will accommodate all levels of ability, showing modifications to poses to increase the difficulty level. $10/person. Class begins in the Soul Center, yoga is held in the Community Room.

Caregiver Café  
Thursday, May 18, at 2:00 p.m.
Take a breath, enjoy a snack, chat with fellow caregivers and meet health and human service professionals to learn about valuable resources that can help you take care of yourself and the ones you love.

Meditation Workshop with Rabbi James Jacobson-Maisels 
Sunday, May 7, from 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Rabbi James Jacobson-Maisels will lead a powerful half-day retreat weaving together practice and study and exposing us to the depths of the Jewish spiritual tradition. Participants will be introduced to Jewish mindfulness meditation, as well as a variety of other meditative techniques. A light lunch & snacks will be provided. $50/person.

YOGAhikes  
Sunday, May 21, from 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Loch Raven Reservoir
Let’s combine a vigorous hike and off-the-mat yoga to create 90 minutes of well-being for mind, body and soul. Join Dagmar Bohlmann and Kimberlee Strome for 90-minute YOGAhikes on selected Sundays. $20/person. Registration preferred. Visit soulcenterbaltimore.org to register.
A Day in the Life

By Rabbi Steven Schwartz

Of a rabbi, of course. This was Sunday, a busy one, filled with lifecycle events as Sundays so often are. My schedule had been complicated by a funeral (something you simply can’t plan for). I was writing the eulogy by 7:30, doing my best to pull together the threads of the conversation I had had with the family the previous day. A long and well-lived life, one worthy of both celebration and gratitude. The funeral was scheduled for 1:00.

But there were other things on the docket. First up a conversion of a six-month-old baby boy. I met the family, helped the parents navigate a moment that is both simple and at the very same time enormously complex. When the baby was out of the mikveh and dry and smiling, I was back in my office. My remaining schedule for the day: an unveiling at 12:15, the funeral at 1:00, and then a wedding downtown scheduled to begin at 3:30.

Of course I had to prepare for the wedding, put together a few comments to make to the bride and groom, make sure I knew exactly what the order of the ceremony would be. I spent the 40 minutes or so between the conversion and the time I had to leave for the unveiling doing the wedding prep. At 11:45 I was climbing into my car to head to the cemetery.

Now it would be a sprint – unveiling, funeral, burial, wedding, all in rapid succession. I met the family for the unveiling in the cemetery at 12:10, a small group gathered a year after their loss to pay tribute to memory and presence. At 12:25, I left the cemetery and drove to the funeral home. The funeral service began promptly at 1:00, with beautiful words of tribute spoken by the son and daughter of the woman who had died. From the funeral home back to the cemetery for the burial service. It was now 2:45. I left the cemetery for the second time that day, pulled onto the highway, and headed downtown.

I found the proper lot, parked, took my tallit and of course the ever present Rabbi’s Manual. I found the wedding coordinator(s!) and they led me to the bride and groom.

There is always a reaction when the rabbi arrives at a wedding – yes! This is actually going to happen! And soon! We signed the ketubah, were led downstairs, got in line for the procession, the music started, and we were off. Wonderful bride and groom, laughing and so at ease. In twenty minutes it was all over, the young couple joined together as husband and wife.

I took a breath. A kindly bartender poured me a bourbon, and I chatted with some of the wedding guests for a time, even got to wish the groom a Mazal Tov. But the day was over. Dusk was falling, and I headed home.

“There is always a reaction when the rabbi arrives at a wedding — yes! This is actually going to happen! And soon!”
The Voice of Beth El Congregation

Unique Boutique

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Year

Sunday, April 30, Monday, May 1, and Tuesday, May 2

Welcome to Unique Boutique’s 13th year, its Bar/Bat Mitzvah. We have over a dozen new vendors, and many of our favorites will be returning including Faye Mendelsohn Cosmetics, Essentials by Iris, Ibhana Creations, Glam Girl, Lena Long, Peach, It’s in The Bag, The Jewelry Lady, Sparkle and Bloom, Sababa Israeli Designer Jewelry, Barbara Brody Design, DG Designs, The Fashionique Boutique, Kids Stop, Sock Drawer and More, Shea Marne, Accessories by Bonnie, Swirl, and Black Dot Creations.

Watch your mail for the $100 coupon in Smart Shopper. Raffles offering outstanding services and merchandise will be held every hour throughout the three days. The silent auction has fabulous items to bid on.

We look forward to having all our Beth El congregants, school parents, friends, family and neighbors attend and support Unique Boutique. Please join us at our Bar/Bat Mitzvah Year. For more information, please visit www.bethelbalto.com.

Sisterhood’s Closing Meeting and Installation of Officers

Monday, May 22, 2017, 11:30 a.m.

Equally at home with solo, chamber and concerto performances, Solomon Eichner has established himself as an exciting versatile young artist. He is known for his commanding performances of the romantic keyboard repertoire and made his Carnegie Hall debut recital on April 30, 2016. Mr. Eichner was accepted to compete in the 2016 Hastings International Piano Competition in England as well as the Vladimir Horowitz Competition in Kiev, Ukraine.

Originally from Pikesville, Mr. Eichner studied privately in Maryland with Virginia Reinecke, Reynaldo Reyes and Irene Kreymer. He graduated with his Bachelor of Music degree from the Manhattan School of Music and Master of Music degree from the Peabody Conservatory. He is currently working on his doctorate in musical arts.

RSVP for the May 22 event by Wednesday, May 10, 2017

Name: ____________________________________________________________
Home Phone: __________________________ Cell Phone: ____________________
Email: ____________________________________________________________

If you are NOT a subscription holder, send a $20 check made out to:
Beth El Sisterhood - Luncheons | Attn: Marcia Boonshaft or Esther Harris | 8101 Park Heights Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21208

We regret that we are unable to seat walk-ins for the luncheon; however, all are welcome to attend the program which begins at 12:45 p.m. For questions, please contact Marcia Boonshaft at jmboonshaft@verizon.net or 410-484-3112 or Esther Harris at teach5ech@aol.com or 410-486-3177.

Slate of Officers for 2017-2018

Beth El Sisterhood officers for 2017-2018 will be formally installed along with the new board members at the closing general meeting and luncheon on Monday, May 22, 2017.

Co-Presidents: Ilene Merenbloom and Dale Kahn
Vice Presidents: Tammy Schnydmann, Roz Kurman, and Cherie Stewart
Recording Secretary: Harriet Weiner
Corresponding Secretary: Risa Gottlieb
Treasurer: Robin Kleiman
Comptroller: Bette Dahne
Budget Coordinator: Glenda Chernoff
Financial Secretaries: Nancy Medin (A-G), Alice Kuryk (H-O), Gloria Luchinsky (P-Z)
Parliamentarian: Judy Schwartz
Sisterhood Shabbat and Kiddush Luncheon
Saturday, May 13, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.
Sisterhood Shabbat celebrates members of Sisterhood conducting the entire Shabbat morning service. They read the Torah and Haftarah, serve as Gabbaim, and participate in all phases of the service. All congregants and their families are welcome to enjoy this melodic and awe-inspiring morning.

Sisterhood Spring Trips
Trip to St. Michaels on the Eastern Shore
Tuesday, June 6, 2017
This trip will begin with a narrated historic cruise on the Miles River. Following the cruise, you will have lunch on your own in one of the local restaurants and then be free to explore the shops and sights of this charming town.
Cost: $95 per person. Waitlist only. If you have any questions or wish to be put on the waitlist, contact Robin Kleiman at 410-653-0113 or robin.kleiman@gmail.com or Marlene Siegel at 410-484-1844 or marlenebsiegel@comcast.net.

Jewish Theological Seminary
The number of benefactors of the Jewish Theological Seminary is over 40 women from our Sisterhood. For $180, you will be a benefactor of this institution and receive this beautiful pin. The seminary is gratified to receive our support.
You may also purchase six simcha cards for $18.00. For more information, please contact Jane Krosin at 410-484-4218, Hilda Dopkin at 410-486-4453, or Gail Shugarman at 410-486-1661.

Biblio, Sisterhood's Book Club
Welcome to Biblio, Beth El Sisterhood's Book Club. We hold monthly gatherings at noon in either the Kolker Room or the Myers Auditorium. Biblio is open to the entire community and is tuition-free. Bring a dairy lunch; Beth El provides tea and coffee and hostesses provide dessert.

May 24, 2017    Jane Krosin    The Improbability of Love by Hannah Rothschild
June 14, 2017    Paula Gallagher    The 2016-2017 World of Books

The Voice of Beth El Congregation
On the last Sunday of March, Billy Wunderlich, head trainer at LifeBridge, was our guest for our final brunch of the year. This year, he exceeded his previous program from two years ago. Realizing that many of us don't want to spend a lot on equipment or have no place to store it, Billy focused on exercising at home with simple devices such as hand weights, elastic bands, etc. We may have some very sore members, so please pass the liniment!

The other issue of greater importance is the final approval of our by-laws. This issue that we've been dealing with for the past six months will hopefully be resolved at our May and June meetings. We also will entertain suggestions for our slate of officers for the 2017-2018 year. The Nominating Committee, chaired by Roger McIntosh, is open to nominations from any member in “good standing” (paid-up) who presents a nominee supported by ten members in good standing. Don’t wait if you would like to present a candidate or be a candidate. Roger needs your input as soon as possible.

I know the Purim Carnival took place some time ago, but I would like to make some final comments:

• The Sisterhood and Men’s Club demonstrated how well we work together on a joint project. We hope more joint efforts will come in the future because we are the perfect team to get work accomplished.

• Kudos to the leadership of the Carnival team. Special thanks to Barbara Levenson, Bobbie Selnick, Marcia Boonshaft, Jonathan Rosenberg and Roger McIntosh who were the driving force.

• Special thanks to all of our volunteers without whom we would not have been able to pull this off.

• Also instrumental in making the Carnival a success were Lori Downing and her team, Michael Ray and his group, the Religious School leadership, and Alyssa Geller and Sarah Rohan who worked closely with us on promotion and marketing.

It definitely takes an entire team of committed people to bring out the very best at an event like the Purim Carnival!

As I will not be returning as president next year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow officers and board members, along with our faithful Men’s Club members who supported our programs and attended a good number of events. Without all of you, Men’s Club would not work.

Jack Boonshaft
Beth El Men’s Club President

June Meeting

The Beth El Seniors will be holding their June dinner meeting on Sunday, June 11, at 6:30 p.m., in the Offit Auditorium. The cost for the evening is $21 for members and $24 for non-members. Our entertainment for the evening will be Mike Hurst.

Mike Hurst epitomizes the Legend of Elvis. Mike has nothing but respect for Elvis, the man and his music and considers it an honor to perform in his image to his fans. He has always been a fan of Elvis and considers him the greatest entertainer that ever lived. Mike’s entertaining started early in life, at thirteen he was fronting for his band at teen clubs and doing local parties. He later became a regular on C.S.A (Country Showcase America) Radio and TV show where he honed his skills. Come join us June 11 for an Elvis blast from the past.

Reservations and payments are due no later than May 30, 2017. Please advise if you would like a sugar-free dessert and with whom you would like to be seated. The seating committee will do its best to accommodate your seating wishes. Reservations received after May 30, 2017, will not be accepted. Mark envelope “Ruthye.” Mail to Beth El Seniors, 8101 Park Heights Ave. Baltimore, MD 21208. We offer an evening with entertainment, dinner and pleasant, friendly company. Join us and we won’t be strangers anymore. Tell your friends! For further information, call Ruthye Steinberg at 410-653-8242 or Ellen Budish at 443-857-7499.

Membership

Beth El Seniors is always welcoming new members 50 years of age or older to join our active organization. Dues are only $18 per person/$36 for a couple for a year. Each of our dinner meetings includes enjoyable entertainment for a price of $21 per member. Where else can you get such a deal? Contact Marcia Friedlander at 443-352-8233 for a membership application.

Torah Maintenance Cards

A project of the Beth El Seniors is to support the care and repair of our synagogue’s Torahs and Megillot. A kosher, usable Torah must be written by hand with a pen and special ink by a learned scribe. Every letter must be perfectly formed and every word must be correctly spelled. The ink cannot be chipped off even a little bit. The parchment on which the Torah is written must be flawless. The slightest tear or smudge will render the Torah unfit for use. The Beth El Torahs are regularly inspected and repaired. This is a costly process. It is a mitzvah to contribute to a process that keeps our sacred scrolls preserved for future generations.

Torah Maintenance Cards may be purchased at the Beth El front office or contact Dorothy Fineblum at 410-653-2631. These all-purpose cards are six for $10 or $2 each.
Tuesdays at the Movies
with Dr. Rosann Catalano

Dates: Tuesdays, May 2, 9, 16
Time: 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Location: Agus Library


Cost: $40 Beth El member, $45 non-member

V’achalta V’savatah:
You Shall Eat and Be Satisfied

Facilitator: Ben Kreshtool, Beth El Ritual Director

Dates: Thursday, May 4, 11, 18, 25
Time: 7:30-8:30 p.m.
Location: Agus Library

This four-part series will take an extensive look at the blessings of *Birkat HaMazon*. We will learn about the origins of the blessings and their meanings and the different types of blessings we recite after we eat.

Three Faces of Solomon:
How Song of Songs, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes Illustrate the Struggle and Triumphs of Adulthood with Rabbi Gila Ruskin

Dates: Wednesday, May 10, 17, 24
Time: 7:00-8:15 p.m.
Location: Agus Library

We all experience challenges and adversity. Meeting the challenges and overcoming the adversity leads to a special kind of wisdom. We will read selections from marvelous Biblical classics all composed by King Solomon at three stages of his adult life and compare them to Erik Erikson’s stages of adult development.

Cost: $40 Beth El member, $45 non-member
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<td>Boomers Dinner &amp; Discussion</td>
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<td>7:30 pm V’chalta V’savatah</td>
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<td>“Fifty Shades of Jewish War Veterans Flag Project” with Rabbi James Jacobson-Maisels</td>
<td>10:00 am Sisterhood Shabbat</td>
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<td>4:15 pm Bridge</td>
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The Voice of Beth El Congregation
**Upcoming Events**

**Evening Book Club for Men and Women**

**Thursday, May 4, at 7:30 p.m.**

The next book choice is *When Breath Becomes Air* by Dr. Paul Kalanithi. The discussion will be moderated by Dr. Robert Donegan, oncologist at GBMC, in the Kolker Room. Snacks and coffee are provided, but feel free to BYOB. Please share suggestions with Denise Franz at Denise.franz@gmail.com.

**Jewish War Veterans Flag Project**

The project with Beth El families will be held on Sunday, May 7, from 12:00-2:00 p.m. For more information, contact Barry Steelman at 410-486-0023 or barshe71@aol.com.

**Shabbat Unplugged**

**Friday, May 19, at 6:00 p.m.**

Relax and experience the joy of Shabbat at a musical Kabbalat Shabbat service led by Rabbi Dana Saroken and Josh Bender. Families with children in 3rd grade and above (and siblings!) are invited to join us for this fun and spirited service. Dinner is from 6:45-7:45 pm. $18/adults; $9/children.

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**The Officers and the Board of Trustees of Beth El Congregation cordially request your presence at the 69th Annual Congregational Meeting**

**Wednesday, May 17, at 6:15 p.m.**

- **6:15 p.m.:** Dinner with music by the Odessa String Quartet
- **6:45 p.m.:** Annual Hazkarah (memorial) service
- **Meeting and Installation**

Enjoy vocalists Julie Hiscox and Frederic Rey as they perform contemporary Broadway tunes.

An RSVP is required by Tuesday, May 9, to Sandi Block at sandi@bethelbalto.com or 410-484-0411. Childcare is available by reservation. This meeting is for members of the congregation.

**Beth El Congregation Nominating Committee Report 2017-2019**

**Officers and Board of Trustees**

- **President** .................................................................................................................Denise F. Franz
- **1st Vice President** ........................................................................................Edward Mishner, M.D.
- **2nd Vice President** ..................................................................................................Bruce Friedman
- **Secretary** ....................................................................................................................Jennifer Millman
- **Treasurer** ...................................................................................................................Edward Goldmeier
- **Comptroller** .............................................................................................................Hal Hackerman

**Board Members Term Expiring in 2018**

- **Benjamin Abrams**
- **Wendie Berenson**
- **Jennifer Berman**
- **Lauren Esakoff**
- **Hedy From**
- **Kevin Fruman**
- **Deborah Greenberg**
- **Tamara Intrner**
- **Dale Kahn**
- **Myra Katz**
- **Robin Kleiman**
- **Frederick Kobb**
- **Steven Kravet**
- **Michael Uhlfelder**
- **Melissa West**

**Board Members Term Expiring in 2019**

- **Herbert Better**
- **Ellen Budish**
- **Margery Daniels**
- **Marci Elkin**
- **Andrew Grossman**
- **Andrew Hoffman**
- **Joseph Koff**
- **Susan Kolker**
- **Regan La Testa**
- **Howard Moffet**
- **Kenneth Niman**
- **Leslie Papel**
- **Bruce Supovitz**
- **Steven Weinstein**
- **Jane Zweig**

**Past Presidents**

- **Reuben H. Levenson**
- **Melvin H. Chernoff**
- **Samuel J. Keiser**
- **Dr. William Raffel**
- **Julius Offit**
- **Milton Roseman**
- **Milton Snyder**
- **Ira Askin**
- **Robert N. Smelkinson**
- **Charles Yumkas**
- **Klaus Buchdahl**
- **Mildred Miller**
- **Sidney Friedman**
- **Louis Glick**
- **Elliot Merenbloom**
- **David Yumkas**
- **Albert M. Katz**
- **Alan S. Dorenfeld**
- **John P. Abosch**
- **Margot Gilbert Gilson**
- **Dr. Robert D. Keehn**
- **Beverly S. Penn**
- **Richard S. Hollander**
- **Michael D. Steinhardt**
- **Raphael Kahn**
- **Steven S. Silverman**
- **Jerome D. Schneydman**
- **Michael S. Rubenstein**

**Deceased**
Honoring the Beth El Choir for 20 Years of Memories

By Cantor Thom King

The tradition of synagogue choirs is a long and distinguished one, tracing its roots all the way back to King David. As we read in Chapter 15 of the First Book of Chronicles: “David told the leaders of the Levites to appoint their brothers as singers to sing joyful songs, accompanied by musical instruments: lyres, harps and cymbals, joyfully making their voices heard.”

Immediately upon my arrival at Beth El, Rabbi Loeb and I agreed that the formation of a choir would not only enrich our services but also give interested members another point of entry into the Beth El community. Auditions were held for the choir, with the expectation of finding a few interested volunteers to supplement our professional quartet. But to my surprise, the high level of talent that we were able to enlist among our members made the hiring of outside singers unnecessary. When presented with challenging music by both classical and modern composers, the Beth El Choir was always able to rise to the occasion and perform brilliantly, whether for Shabbat Services, High Holidays, an Opera or Oratorio concert, or even a Broadway Cabaret.

Over the years our choir members have formed a bond which transcends the simple act of singing. They have forged a powerful connection to each other as individuals, to the group, and to Beth El Congregation that is both unique and inspirational. They have devoted themselves to enhancing the musical and spiritual life of Beth El, while at the same time enjoying the associated health benefits: studies have found that group singing releases oxytocin, a chemical that manages anxiety and stress while enhancing feelings of trust and bonding.

It is therefore with enormous gratitude and pride that I announce the Beth El Choir’s 20th Anniversary Celebration. Fittingly, this expression of joy and gratitude will be presented as part of our Friday Evening Service on June 9, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. The service will feature the choir, accompanied by an instrumental ensemble, singing my own lively musical setting of the Friday Evening service, and will be followed by an elegant Oneg Shabbat reception, featuring wine and hors d’oeuvres, all of which is offered free and open to the public.

Whether you are one of our Friday evening regulars, or just someone who enjoys spiritually uplifting music sung by a great choir, join us for the Choir’s 20th Anniversary Celebration. I personally guarantee you a joyous and uplifting Shabbat experience!

Live From Beth El... It’s... LIVE FROM BETH EL!

We are pleased to announce a brand new annual event – our inaugural evening of entertainment, celebrations and honors. Live From Beth El will be held October 19, 2017; it will be open to the entire congregation and to the wider community as well, as we celebrate our proud 70-year history, and look forward to charting an exciting future together as a community.

Prepare to have your mind blown! Our entertainment for the evening will be Marc Salem, a nationally renowned mentalist and “magician of the mind.” Marc Salem says he can read your mind. Do you believe? He has been stumping audiences for decades, including Mike Wallace, who famously featured him on 60 Minutes. You can look forward to more entertainment and surprises!

Live From Beth El will celebrate the long and proud relationship that Beth El has enjoyed with Sharon and Alan Dorenfeld and their family. The Dorenfelds have demonstrated unwavering devotion to Beth El over many years and they have exemplified exceptional leadership qualities during their 50 year membership. They proudly represent four generations of a devoted Beth El family.

Live From Beth El will be a unique opportunity to be amazed, thrilled and entertained. Our hope is that every fall, families will know that Live From Beth El will be a chance to have a purely entertaining evening to reconnect with their friends and their family members across all generations, and to strengthen their bond with the Beth El community.

The proceeds from the event will be dedicated to a complete technological update for Beth El Congregation and the Sandra R. Berman Jewish Educational Center, ensuring that we are meeting the needs of our community today and thinking ahead about what those requirements will be in the future.

In addition to attending the event, there are opportunities to become involved through an ad book along with many different sponsorship levels. Please contact the event chairs, Michael Steinhardt and Beverly Penn, through the main office, for more information and details.

We look forward to seeing you!
Religious School Registration

Thank you for another positive year at Beth El's Berman Lipavsky Religious School. After implementing the siddur and Hebrew language tracks this past year, we are pleased to share that the track system has been successful. As we plan for next year, the teachers are collaborating to reflect on the curriculum and customize it to their classes. We look forward to adding some complementary components to the curriculum to enhance lessons and engage the students in new ways including expanding the use of technology in the classrooms.

What's New for Next Year

Online Application

This year we have made the registration process more user-friendly as we now offer the application online. The registration form is available to complete online on the Beth El website and the link is on the religious school email updates. Please be in touch if you have questions as you complete the form online. You have the option to pay the deposit online by credit card (with a 3% processing fee) or by check.

You are also welcome to complete the form by hand and send it in with a check. The application is available on the Beth El website or in the religious school office.

General Registration

As a reminder, we ask you to choose a “track” for your child in which they will continue throughout Religious School. The various tracks are described below; please look for the grade(s) that fit your family.

3rd-5th Grades: There are two tracks that have been developed for our 3rd-5th graders.

• SIDDUR SKILLS TRACK focuses on reading, singing, and chanting prayers as well as an in-depth look into why we pray, and what do our prayers mean.

• THE HEBREW LANGUAGE TRACK focuses on conversational Hebrew, helping students develop a vocabulary, basic grammar, and comfort using everyday Hebrew phrases. The students in the Hebrew language track will still have mastery of the prayer service from their participation in minyan.

As you discuss which track fits for your family, please be in touch with Dr. Eyal Bor if you have questions. A more in-depth explanation of the tracks can be found on the Beth El webpage.

It is really important that we know which track your family is interested. There is going to be a restructuring of classes, and teacher assignments based on the needs of our families. Please return the Religious School Registration form, noting your track choice, no later than Sunday, May 21, 2017. Late registration may affect track placement.

6th Grade: All of our 6th graders will be assigned the Siddur track for next year, as the curriculum will include the common prayers for Bar/Bat Mitzvah. It is crucial for the students to participate in this track as part of their Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparations.

7th Grade: This year our 7th graders will meet together twice a month. In addition to a class facilitator, Rabbi Schwartz and Rabbi Saroken will lead the classes. The structure of the class will be determined by the students themselves, focusing on a current events theme. Technology, guest speakers and local trips (Jewish sites in Baltimore, Jewish Museum of Maryland, social opportunities, etc) will be included in the curriculum of the class.

After School Enrichment

We will offer enrichment opportunities for students, and in some cases, parents, after religious school on Sunday. Some enrichment programs may include Israeli self-defense, as it was a success this past year, community service, Jewish magic, and parent/child holiday cooking. More details will be available soon.

Again, please submit your registration online, by mail, or in person to the Religious School office by the last day of Religious School on Sunday, May 21.

Thanks in advance for your prompt reply.
Dr. Eyal Bor, Director of Education
410-484-4543 | eyal@bethelbalto.com
Awards Winners

Lara Schein
Dr. Eyal Bor Award Winner

“It is a pleasure for me to recommend Lara Schein for the Dr. Eyal Bor Award. I met Lara on the first day of Religious School this year, and although it has been only 7 months, I quickly sensed her interest in and love of Jewish living. During class, Lara is a positive force, ready to participate, offer an insight, or share an opinion. She is proud of her Jewish identity and enjoys our lessons about Jewish history and how it applies to us today. Following her family’s trip to Israel, Lara returned to class so very excited about all that she saw and experienced, and she was happy to relate some of the highlight of her trip. Similarly, Lara approaches her Jewish studies with real excitement, asks deep questions, and adds a lot to our class. Becoming a Bat Mitzvah was a very inspiring experience for Lara, and she prepared for it with enthusiasm and purpose. Lara is not only an excellent student but she is also a fine young person. She recognizes the value of her Jewish education and is a positive role model for others. Lara is truly deserving of this honor.”

— Rachel V. Glaser, Atid (7th grade) teacher

Jacob Devine
Joseph Lipavsky Award Winner

“Jacob is a great model of a young Jewish leader. He never misses our Atid classes, in which he contributes all sorts of opinions and facts he provides from his limitless (it seems) base of knowledge. Jacob is a regular volunteer at Beth El on Sundays, helping out in any way he can with the younger students. He’s also active in the synagogue’s youth group and with various endeavors at Gilman School. Most importantly, Jacob’s kind-hearted nature and respectfulness of others are characteristics that we should all emulate.”

— Howard Gumnitzky, Atid (7th grade) teacher

Alexis Silhavy
The Morton H. Offit Distinguished Character Award Winner

“Alexis Silhavy is a model of Jewish teen leadership as she has continued her Jewish involvement at Beth El after her Bat Mitzvah. Lexi is an active participant in the 8th grade class at Achshav, Beth El’s high school leadership and Israel program. In addition, Lexi is a role model for the younger students when she eagerly volunteers to lead children’s activities during holiday programming at Beth El. The religious school staff looks forward to Lexi’s continued participation in synagogue life through high school.”

— Amy Goldberg, Director of Neighborhood Schools

School News

Andy Shankman
The Morton and Joan Baylin Award for Excellence Winner

“Andrew Shankman is one of the best teachers I have known. I like his calm nature and easy-going personality dealing with our students. He is unique because his style is geared to any group of students he works with. Whether it is an Achshav group or Vav students, he knows how to connect with and engage his pupils. Andy is a hard-working teacher who plans his lessons in full detail. He is a very hands-on teacher who is always interested in promoting students’ thinking. Andy is is a fantastic listener and truly cares about his students.”

— Dr. Eyal Bor, Director of Education

Marcy Hoffman
The Morton and Joan Baylin Award for Excellence Winner

Marcy continuously goes above and beyond to prepare the children for kindergarten. She lays the foundation for success by giving the children the tools needed to become socially competent, self-confident and engaged learners.”

— Mandy Barish, Director of Early Childhood Programs at Beth El

Please join us

Friday, May 5, at 6:00 p.m.
as we honor and recognize our award winners at a special Shabbat Service.
International Mishloach Manot!

Four soldiers from the Israeli army in our sister city of Ashkelon came to visit us and brought with them a gift from our pen pals - Mishloach manot bags!

High Marks for Beth El's Early Childhood Program

Beth El's Infant/Toddler Program and Pauline Mash School for Early Childhood Education once again has received a Maryland Excells Level 5 quality rating by the Maryland State Department of Education. This is the highest level that an early childhood program can receive from the State of Maryland. Mazal tov to Dr. Bor, Mandy Barish, Ilene Vogelstein, and the entire teaching staff.

“Your commitment to excellence is commended, and your continued efforts towards quality improvement will benefit the children, families, and the community you serve.” –Maryland State Department of Education

Chuggim Elective Classes

For students in 2nd-5th grades. Includes lunch and time to socialize with friends.

To register, contact Amy Goldberg at amy@bethelbalto.com or 410-484-4543.

Art with Yankee Doodle

Sunday, May 14, from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Students will create Spring holiday-themed art pieces. Some possible projects include candles/soap making, placemats and more! $18/student.

Neighborhood Schools Celebrate Passover with a Chocolate Seder

The students at Roland Park enjoyed a special seder to welcome in Pesach.

Shabbat Services for Children

IPPE Shabbat

Children of all ages are invited to join us for songs, stories, and a wonderful Family Shabbat experience. IPPE Shabbat is led by Rabbi Faith Cantor, Morah Becky and the T’filah Team and Mitzvah Monsters.

May 6
10:15 a.m. in the Schuster Library

Tot Shabbat

Join Morah Becky for an interactive service filled with song, prayer, puppets and Torah stories. For kids up to 5 years old and their families.

May 6, 20
11:15 a.m. in the Kreitzer Memorial Room

Torah Sparks/Sensory Shabbat

School-aged children can learn to lead Shabbat morning prayers through games, stories and more with Rabbi Faith Cantor. Sensory Shabbat is open to individuals and families with special needs. Services are sensory based and interactive. Devices and fidgets are welcome.

May 13
11:00 a.m. in the Gorn Chapel

School News
Contributions & Endowments

For your donations to be accurately processed and put into the monthly Voice, please include the full name and address to whom the donation is being sent. These contributions were made between February 21, 2017 and March 23, 2017.

THE ADULT CHOIR FUND
IN HONOR OF:
The special birthday of Michael Dopkin by the Beth El Choir

IN APPRECIATION OF:
Cantor Thom and Shazy King by Keith and Denise Franz

A SPEEDY RECOVERY TO:
Hilda Dopkin by June Sacks

IN MEMORY OF:
Phyllis Silverman by Dr. Steve and Sherry Berlin, Dr. Burt and Ronnie Gliser, Randy B. Jacobs, Keith and Denise Franz, June Sacks, the Beth El Choir Fund, Sonia Obstler, Ray and Dale Kahn, Keith and Wendie Berenson, Marshall and Dr. Joanne Rief, Randi and Laura Arndt, Barry and Ellen Budish, Dr. Charles and SueAnn Mann, Fred and Debby Kraft, Myra Cochin, Neil and Shelley Rothstein, Mark and Saralee Greenberg
Irene Porter by Burt and Renee King

THE RABBI JACOB & MIRIAM AGUS SCHOLARSHIP FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Helen Surosky by Barry and Adrienne Siegel

IN OBSERVANCE OF THE YAHRZEIT OF:
Rosalie Racusin by Elwood and Thelma Sinsky
Allen and Dorothy (Dobbye) Conn by Gordon and Frona Greenspun

THE SUSAN & SPENCER ALLEN TEEN TRAVEL TO ISRAEL FUND
IN HONOR OF:
The special birthday of Irene Snyder by Stuart and Tami Fine

IN MEMORY OF:
The Hon. Aaron Baer by John and Natalie Spector

THE AZWALINSKY ENDOWED HEALING SERVICES FUND
A SPEEDY RECOVERY TO:
Dr. Richard Schlossberg by Marshall and Dr. Joanne Rief

IN MEMORY OF:
Stephanie Levine by Ken and Ilene Schwartz
Marvin Saltsky by Ken and Ilene Schwartz
Jeanne Lazinsky by Ken and Ilene Schwartz
Lawrence Berlin by Alan and Karen Berkowitz

THE BETH EL ART FUND
IN APPRECIATION OF:
The warm hospitality we received from Beth El on February 4th by Mark Kaufman and Patty Kahn

IN OBSERVANCE OF THE YAHRZEIT OF:
Jeanette Davis Miller by Ranny Smullian

THE REBECCA C. BAER ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Lawrence Berlin by Myra Lichter

IN OBSERVANCE OF THE YAHRZEIT OF:
Esther Sylvia Cohen by Linda Baer, John Rudesill and Alexander Baer
Rebecca Charlotte Baer by Linda Baer, John Rudesill and Alexander Baer
Benjamin Cohen by Linda Baer, John Rudesill and Alexander Baer

THE JOAN & MORTON BAYLIN MEMORIAL EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD
IN OBSERVANCE OF THE YAHRZEIT OF:
Joan Baylin by Stephen and Rebecca Gordon

THE STANLEY L. BECKER MISHPACHAH SCHOLARSHIP FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Larry Allan Samet by Dr. David and Sheryl Reicher
Iris Krause by Jay and Ellen Morstein
Irene Porter by Carole Becker

THE SANDRA & MALCOLM BERMAN FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Larry Allan Samet by Malcolm and Sandra Berman

THE DR. EYAL BOR EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FUND
IN OBSERVANCE OF THE YAHRZEIT OF:
Mosey Albert Greenberg by Robert and Estelle Kabik
Simon Kabik by Robert and Estelle Kabik

THE MELVIN & NAOMI CHERNOFF MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND
IN MEMORY OF:
Lawrence Berlin by Jerry and Arlene Perloff

THE LOUIS & ESTHER DOPKIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND
IN HONOR OF:
The birth of Ellie Jane Gill, granddaughter of Susan and Howard Goldberg by Michael Dopkin
Michael Dopkin for his tutoring and preparation of Jenna for her Bar Mitzvah by James and Deborah Lubliner
The special birthday of Michael Dopkin by John and Susan Aboch, Irene Snyder

A SPEEDY RECOVERY TO:
Hilda Dopkin by Judy Pachino

IN MEMORY OF:
Phyllis Silverman by Michael Dopkin
Rita Frock by Michael Dopkin
Lawrence Berlin by Michael Dopkin
Beverly Sober by Michael Dopkin

IN OBSERVANCE OF THE YAHRZEIT OF:
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Beverly Sober by Berty and Barbara Green

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IN OBSERVANCE OF THE YAHRZEIT OF:
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Irene Porter by Elliot and Susan Dackman

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Gitta Jekel by Dr. Alan and Jeanette Davis
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Gloria Yousem by Jonas J. Yousem

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Gloria and Dick Greenspun on their new home by Jerry, Sonya and Heathier Goodman

IN MEMORY OF:
Larry Allan Samet by Jerry and Sonya Goodman

THE GREEN FAMILY RELIGIOUS SERVICES FUND
IN HONOR OF:
The special anniversary of Frank Blatt’s Bar Mitzvah by Elaine Weiner

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Larry Allan Samet by Rob and Debbie Schwartzman
Beverly Sober by Berty and Barbara Green

THE HARK – UHLFELDER FAMILY FUND
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IN MEMORY OF:

Jack Coonin by Sylvia Rosenblatt


Phyllis Silverman by Evelyn Berman, Sidney and Eunice Friedman, Howard, Rina Janet, Joe, Jen, Jess and Jack Millman, Hal and Susan Hackerman, Michael Rubenstein and Hedy From, Sara Fran Richman

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IN MEMORY OF:

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Larry Allan Samet by Steve and Susie Weintraub
The Voice of Beth El Congregation

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Contributions & Endowments

THE DAVID H. & ETTA WOOLF MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND
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The special birthday of Evelyn Wolf by Natalie Berman and Jackie Abrams

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IN OBSERVANCE OF THE YAHRZEIT OF:
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IN MEMORY OF:
Larry Allan Samet by Dr. Ed and Ann Mishner, Keith and Wendy Berenson, Marc and Faye Sherman, Marshall and Dr. Joanne Rief, Keith and Denise Franzi, Donna Pritzker Eisenstadt and David Pritzker, Jerry and Tzim Zilin
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Dr. Bert and Ilene Vogelstein

Beth El Annual Appeal Contributions
This gift is tax deductible to the extent provided by law. These contributions were made between February 16, 2017 and March 21, 2017.

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HONORS AND MEMORIALS
Leaf on the Tree of Life, in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of our granddaughter, Jenna Rachel Lubliner, March 18, 2017, by Susan and John Aboosh
Beth El Congregation
8101 Park Heights Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21208

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Beth El Memorial Park Open House
Monday, June 5, from 4:00 -7:00 p.m.

Please contact Sarah Rohan at 410-484-0411 or sarah@bethelbalto.com for more information.

Phone: 410-484-0411 • School Phone: 410-484-4543 • www.bethelbalto.com

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

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

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