The Officers and the Board of Trustees of Beth El Congregation cordially request your presence at the

Annual Meeting and Election of Officers and Board of Trustees

Sunday, May 17, 2015

Entertainment from vocalist and storyteller Robyn Helzner

Morning Services: 9:15 a.m., Gorn Chapel
HaZkarah (Memorial) Services, Breakfast and Meeting: 10:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m., Offit Auditorium

Babysitting available for 3 years and older by reservation. RSVP deadline is Thursday, May 7.
RSVP with the names and number of guests to Sandi Block at sandi@bethelbalto.com or 410-484-0411.

This meeting is for members of the congregation only.

Beth El Congregation Nominating Committee Report 2015-2017
Officers and Board of Trustees

President...........................Michael S. Rubenstein
1st Vice President.................Denise F. Franz
2nd Vice President..............Edward Mishner, M.D.
Secretary..................................Joan Cohen
Treasurer..............................Bruce Friedman
Comptroller..............................Herbert Better

Board Members Term Expiring in 2016

Jennifer Berman
Donna Brown
Lauren Esakoff
Hedy From
William Intner
Dale Kahn
Marsye Kaplan
Steven Katz
Frederick Kobb
Steven Kravet
Steven Levin
Roger McIntosh
Morris Saks
Steven Weinstein
Melissa West

Board Members Term Expiring in 2017

Susan Allen
Jack Boonshoft
Ellen Budish
Scott Garfield
Edward Goldmeier
Andrew Grossman
Jane Krosin
Jennifer Millman
Howard Moffet
Kenneth Niman
Leslie Papel
Jeffrey Saval
Erin Welsh
Gail Willoughby
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
**Max Mendelsohn
Louis Glick
Elliot Merenbloom
David Yumkas
Albert M. Katz
Alan S. Dorenfeld
John P. Abosch
Margot Gilbert
Gilison
Dr. Robert D. Keehn
Beverly S. Penn
Richard S. Hollander
Michael D. Steinhardt
Raphael Kahn
Steven D. Silverman
Jerome D.
Schnydman
**Deceased
In Memoriam

Paul Derman
Morris Jack Katz
Gerald Richman
Mary R. Shofer

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

Our Deepest Sympathy to:

Dr. Bruce Berger on the loss of his beloved mother, Sally Berger.
Sheila Derman on the loss of her beloved husband, Paul Derman.
Alan and Rebecca Fink on the loss of their beloved daughter, Deborah Beth Fink Green.
Miriam Jacobson on the loss of her beloved sister, Anne Rubin.
Lisa Janofsky on the loss of her beloved mother, Janet Lustgarten.
Rhoda Katz on the loss of her beloved husband, Morris Jack Katz.
Richard Lessans and Ellen Morstein on the loss of their beloved father, Aaron Lessans.
Ilene Merenbloom on the loss of her beloved sister, Anne Rubin.
Marcia Pasarew on the loss of her beloved mother, Mary Kleinman.
Sara Fran Richman and Elissa Kohel on the loss of their beloved husband and father, Gerald Richman.
Herman Rosenthal on the loss of his beloved mother, Miriam Rosenthal.
Gary Schapiro on the loss of his beloved brother, Robert “Bob” Schapiro.
Hulane Zolet on the loss of her beloved sister, Shirley “Honey” Doris Biberman.

Our Heartiest Mazel Tov to:

Drs. Maya and Steven Brooks on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Jordan Ariel Brooks; grandparents are Gail and Michael Brooks.
Amy and Gary Cohen and Marlene and Dr. Howard Appelbaum on the marriage of their children, Lacey to Jason.
Joan and Jerry Cohn on the birth of their grandsons, Noah Brooks Mandell and Brandon Jacob Cohn.
Marge and Roy Deutschman on the birth of their granddaughter, Madeleine Ellen Gill.
Beth Fisher on the Bat Mitzvah of her daughter, Alana Rachel Fisher. Alana is the daughter of the late Daron Fisher; grandmother is Joan Flaks.
Drs. Sandy Hawkins-Heitt and Michael Heitt on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Aidan Max Heitt.
Heather and Brian Hoppenstein on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Brandon Joseph Hoppenstein.
Carol and Gil Kleiner on the birth of their grandson, Hudson Miles Rabine.
Linda and David Levine on the birth of their granddaughter, Eliana Reva Cooperstein; great-grandmother is Betty Zlotowicz.
Lisi and Dr. Albert Nigrin on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Ethan Jacob Nigrin; grandparents are Rita and Bob Fellerman.
Sheryl and Dr. David Reicher on the birth of their grandson, Maxwell Ezra Levy.
Freddye and Steven Silverman on the birth of their granddaughter, Zoe Rose Silverman.

Milestone Anniversaries:

Lucille and Guy Attia on their 5th
Pauline and Al Auslander on their 5th
Allyson and John Friedman on their 5th
Marni and David Greenspoon on their 5th
Heather and David Goldsmith on their 10th
Melinda and Greg McGothlin on their 10th
Lisa and Paul Steinhardt on their 10th
Julie and Murat Dorkan on their 20th
Stacey and Avraham Mizrahi on their 20th
Leslie and Jeffrey Sacks on their 20th
Harriet and Brian Schuster on their 20th
Patti and Ira Friedman on their 25th
Debbie and Michael Kuntz on their 25th
Rita and Richard Lehr on their 25th
Lisa and Steven Luray on their 25th
Kris and John Meyer on their 25th
Ronna and Hal Schenker on their 25th
Zivah and Steven Ring on their 30th
Cynthia and Danny Mendelson on their 40th
Harriet and Harvey Nusbaum on their 50th
Sheila and Howard Saval on their 50th
Lorraine and Howard Bronstein on their 55th

Bar & Bat Mitzvah

Bar Mitzvah
Brandon Joseph Hoppenstein, son of Heather and Brian Hoppenstein, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on May 16, 2015.

Bar Mitzvah
Ethan Jacob Nigrin, son of Lisi and Dr. Albert Nigrin, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on May 23, 2015.

Bat Mitzvah
Alana Rachel Fisher, daughter of Beth Fisher, will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on May 30, 2015. Alana is the daughter of the late Daron Fisher.

Bar Mitzvah
Jordan Ariel Brooks, son of Drs. Maya and Steven Brooks, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on June 6, 2015.

Bar Mitzvah
Aidan Max Heitt, son of Drs. Sandy Hawkins-Heitt and Michael Heitt, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on June 6, 2015.
The Baltimore Jewish Hall of Fame
Presents Official Inductee List for 2015

On May 20, 2015, Beth El President Jerome Schnydman and former Rabbi Mark G. Loeb (deceased) will be inducted into the Baltimore Jewish Hall of Fame.

The Baltimore Jewish Hall of Fame, created by the Jewish Community Center of Greater Baltimore in 2008, honors exceptional Jewish Baltimoreans who have made significant contributions to the community through their life’s work in fields such as science, medicine, business, community service, law, and the arts. Inductions are held biennially.

The spiritual leader of Beth El Congregation from 1980 to June 2008, Rabbi Mark Loeb was deeply engaged in public affairs. An activist for civil rights, he sat on the gubernatorial commission that recommended the abolition of the death penalty, and served as national President of MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, as well as the co-founder of the Institute for Christian & Jewish Studies.

Jerry Schnydmann is President of Beth El Congregation and a member of the JCC Board. Against the backdrop of a very productive career, he was highly regarded as a national lacrosse star at Johns Hopkins University where he was selected as 2nd team All American in 1965 and 1st team All American in 1966. In 1967, he was selected to the All Time Hopkins Lacrosse team. He has also been inducted into the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame; the Greater Baltimore Chapter Lacrosse Hall of Fame; the Johns Hopkins Athletic Hall of Fame; and Baltimore City College Hall of Fame.

The 2015 Baltimore Jewish Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be held Wednesday, May 20, 2015 (Reception 7:00pm; Induction Ceremony 7:45pm) at The Gordon Center for Performing Arts at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Baltimore (JCC) in Owings Mills. For more information please contact Esther H. Greenberg, Senior Vice President, at 410-559-3545 or email egreenberg@jcc.org.
When Am I?

Not a typo. Reading it, your mind may have made an automatic correction, more used to reading the more common phrases ‘what am I’ or ‘where am I?’ But the question ‘when am I?’ is one you commonly ask yourself in Israel. I type this post on the way to Tel Aviv after a long day of touring, traveling from the upper-Galilee. Thinking back on the day, I’ve been in the 16th century (Safed and the mystics who created kabbalah), the 3rd century (Beit Sh’arim where Rabbi Judah the Prince is buried), and of course in the 21st century (lunch in an oh-so familiar Israeli mall and its food court). And when I arrive in Tel Aviv, I’ll be a little bit in the future. Meanwhile, on our bus, the three native Israelis, all of whom will be voting in tomorrow’s elections, have been arguing politics non-stop. When am I indeed?

Of course one of the reasons to come to Israel is to answer precisely that question. Modern life tends to tell you the ‘when’ you are in is right now, the immediate present. What you are doing at any given moment is the most important thing. But Judaism considers time in a different way. There is a deep past, a history and narrative that goes back thousands of years. There is a future time, a goal, an idea that we are all engaged in some mysterious long term plan. And there is the present. But the present is a bridge between the past and the future as much as it exists for its own sake. And the past is lived every day. Last but not least, every action we take has an impact on the future.

So there you have it. When am I? The answer is yes. In the past, in the present, in the future. In Jewish life, the intersection of these space/times is the land of Israel. In the future, the results of this election. Tomorrow, the election. Yesterday? A path that leads precisely to now. And today? All of that and more. No disrespect meant to H.G. Wells, but no time machine needed.
Interview with Michael Rubenstein

How long have you been a member of Beth El and why did you decide to join?

Hedy and I have been members for almost 12 years. Rabbi Schwartz married us and we were both so impressed with him that we joined as soon as we returned from our honeymoon.

What advice has Jerry given you about your upcoming presidency?

It’s more about what I have observed with Jerry over the past two years rather than anything he has said to me. I have seen from his leadership that issues that come up at Beth El can best be worked out by listening and working together.

Jerry said that you have introduced the topic of Relational Judaism at Beth El. What have you been doing to reinforce that philosophy?

Last year I read a book called Relational Judaism by Ron Wolfson. It showed that even though synagogue membership is declining, there are definite things we can do to reverse the trend. The more we can make a synagogue a place that values relationships between its members, the more those members will find value in their synagogue. I began a group called the Engagement Task Force. I explained that I wanted to create small groups of members that want to come together for a specific purpose with Beth El being the common thread. The volunteers on the task force have been fantastic. It started in April of last year and so far we have created an Interfaith Chavarah that has met several times with Rabbi Schwartz and Rabbi Saroken and an Outreach Chavarah composed of young families that will get together several times a year to perform tikkan olam. For Purim, they decorated and filled Purim bags and delivered them to Sinai Hospital. We’re also looking into having synagogue wide Shabbat dinners in congregants’ homes. Members would sign up to be either guests or hosts. More to come on this later.

I’m hoping additional people will volunteer to join the Engagement Task Force as there are so many other groups we could start that cater to individual interests.

What are you looking forward to as you step into this new role?

I think what I am looking forward to the most is working with the Board, the officers, clergy, staff and our congregants in continuing to make Beth El a community where its members can embrace their Judaism in a warm, spiritual environment.

What three words would you use to describe yourself?

Tenacious, Caring, and Opentonewideas. You said three, right?

What steps have you taken to prepare for your new role?

I have been on the Beth El Board for nine years and have served as an officer for six of those years. I have sat on various committees including the Budget and Finance committee and have also chaired several committees including Adult Education, Memorial Park, The Voice Committee and the Engagement Task Force. For the last two years I have been with Jerry in weekly meetings with the clergy and other members of the senior staff.

Any other words?

I hope that more and more people will embrace their Judaism and realize that Beth El is their synagogue and that it can only continue to be vibrant if they are a part of it.
Adult Education

1st Wednesdays @ Beth El presents...

Wednesday, May 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the Offit Auditorium

Joshua Nelson, the Prince of Kosher Gospel, returns to Beth El with his group to “rock the house” as only he can do! Dance in the aisles to his gospel renditions of familiar prayers and music. Enjoy a pre-concert celebration at 6:00 p.m. to benefit the Beth El Schools.

92Y Live Webcast

Tuesday, May 12, at 8:00 p.m.
Tim Geithner in Conversation with Adam Davidson

Go behind the scenes of the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression with Tim Geithner, who served as president of the Federal Reserve Bank of NY and then as President Obama’s Treasury secretary. He explains the hard choices and politically unpalatable decisions he made to repair a broken financial system and save the Main Street economy from collapse. Learn how a small group of policy makers—in a thick fog of uncertainty, with unimaginably high stakes—helped avoid a second depression but lost the American people doing it.

Can I Get a Shalom?
The Prince of Kosher Gospel is Back!

By Jill Eisen

Joshua Nelson, the Prince of Kosher Gospel, was a huge hit when he sang for us in 2013. We are so excited to welcome him and his band back for The Rabbi Mark G. Loeb Center for Lifelong Learning’s 1st Wednesdays on May 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the Offit Auditorium. This is the first time that Beth El Schools has teamed with 1st Wednesdays @ Beth El, which is free and open to the public. It is also the year’s only major fundraiser for Beth El Schools. Funds raised will go toward school scholarships, upgrading audio and visual equipment and adding computers and iPads to the classrooms for educational and professional development.

This is your opportunity to bid on live auction items which include spending time with your favorite clergy or having your own special parking space for the High Holidays. Students will guest star in a song or two on stage with Joshua Nelson.

Doors open at 6:00 p.m. so you can come early to meet Joshua Nelson, peruse the raffle baskets and enjoy the concession stand and cash bar. Raffle tickets are $20 for 25 tickets or $1 per ticket. The 1st Wednesdays @ Beth El event follows at 7:00 p.m.

Contact the Berman-Lipavsky Religious School for more information and to buy your raffle tickets at 410-484-4543 or fran@bethelbalto.com.

Evenings with ICJS Scholar Dr. Rosann Catalano

Wednesdays, May 20, 27, June 3
7:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.

“Innocence Lost: Noah and the Inscrutable Mystery of God”

We will explore some of the most provocative issues that lie at the heart of this narrative, most notably, the destructive power of regret and the saving power of fidelity.

The fee for this course is $20/members; $25/non-members.

Kabbalat Shabbat Dinner

Friday, June 5
6:00 p.m. Service

Program and dinner to follow.

Join Beth El for a Kabbalat Shabbat service in the Gorn Chapel followed by a traditional Shabbat Dinner. Baltimore Historian Gilbert Sandler will share stories about Jewish Baltimore and musician Melanie Blatt will perform during the program. We will also honor our student and teacher award winners.

Cost: $25/adults; $10/children under 12.
Shredder Truck & E-Cycle Event

Sunday, May 3 at 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Back Parking Lot at Beth El Congregation

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW for the Shredder Truck:
$10 donation suggested. ALL proceeds benefit Beth El Social Action programs. There will be an on-site shredding of all paper. Now’s the time to get rid of all those canceled checks, bank statements, and everything you’re afraid to set out with the recycling. Watch your documents destroyed in seconds and feel good that it will still be recycled.

*Please remove bindings like old check covers, 3-ring binders, etc.

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW for the E-Cycle Event:
If you have any electronics that you would like to dispose of safely- this is your opportunity. We will be collecting items in the rear parking lot. A small cash donation of $10 will be appreciated. An additional $10 charge for TVs will be required.

We will be collecting anything with a cord or a battery including:

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<th>Computers</th>
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<th>Scanners</th>
<th>RAM</th>
<th>Headphones</th>
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<td>Monitors (CRT &amp; LCD)</td>
<td>DVD Drives</td>
<td>Small Appliances</td>
<td>Power Supplies</td>
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<td>Audio Systems</td>
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Sponsored by the Beth El Congregation Environmental Committee.

Healing Service

Saturday, May 9 at 9:00 a.m.
Kreitzer Memorial Room

Every month, Rabbi Saroken will lead a healing service for people who are looking for a safe and supportive place and a group of people with whom to pray, sing out to God and reflect on life.

Using Jewish wisdom, conversation and compassion, participants will find themselves strengthened through the encounter.

Beth El Memorial Park Open House

Monday, June 1, 2015
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Beth El Memorial Park is having an open house at the Memorial Park Mandel Chapel (9700 Liberty Rd., south of Marriottsville Rd.).

Take a tour of our beautiful cemetery.
Lots are available for purchase.

A “Makom Kodesh (“holy place”), the Beth El Memorial Park has served the needs of the Beth El Congregation and the entire Baltimore Jewish Community for more than two generations.

Please contact Andy Katz at andy@bethelbalto.com or 410-484-0411 for more information.

Empty Nesters & Baby Boomers Group

Saturday, June 13

Wine Tasting, Appetizers, & Dessert Party

Immediately after Havdallah Services at Beth El
Betsy and Lou Narrow’s home
(26 Woodholme Village Court, 21208)
BYOB, appetizer or dessert.

Contact Betsy Narrow with the subject line “Wine Tasting, Appetizers & Dessert Party” at narrow1@comcast.net for more information.

*Please note the change in the group’s name.
Shavuot, also known as the Festival of Weeks, commemorates the giving of the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai. This two-day holiday also deals with the reflection of the time when the first fruits were harvested and brought to the Temple. This year, we will celebrate Shavuot from May 24–May 25. Erev Shavuot will be observed on May 23.

Shavuot Services & Study Sessions
Each year, it is customary for us to celebrate the Giving of the Torah over the holiday of Shavuot. As the holiday falls over Memorial Day weekend, we will have two opportunities for our congregation to gather, celebrate the Giving of the Torah, and to study.

On Saturday, May 23, at 8:00 p.m., we will begin the holiday with a brief prayer service and then a dessert reception (with countless types of cheesecakes and other delicious treats!) Following our dessert reception, we will have a special learning session and conclude the evening with a beautiful Havdallah service.

On Sunday morning, May 24, at 10:00 a.m., the celebration will continue as our service will be followed by a lovely Shavuot luncheon with another opportunity to study together over lunch.

Make Beth El, and the Festival of Shavuot, a part of your Memorial Day weekend!

Did You Know?

- On the first night of Shavuot, it is customary to stay up all night and study Torah. This is called a Tikkun Leil Shavuot.

- It is also customary to eat dairy on Shavuot. There are many interpretations as for why this custom is practiced. Dairy reminds us of the land of Israel, flowing with milk and honey. The Hebrew word for milk, chalab, has the numerical equivalency of 40, which is the number of days Moses spent on Mt. Sinai.

- Reading the Book of Ruth is important to do on Shavuot. Tradition teaches us that King David was born and died on Shavuot. We read the book to recall his lineage. The events of the Book of Ruth take place during the barley harvest, which was around the time of Shavuot.

- In some communities, the Piyyut Akdamut is recited. This 90 verse medieval liturgical poem is a double alphabetical acrostic and seeks permission to read the Ten Commandments. Akdamut is broken into two and three sections. The first two sections deal with 1) the greatness of God as creator of the universe and 2) the virtuousness of the Jewish people in keeping their faith despite the hardships and oppression. The three subsequent parts deal with 1) a description of the angels in heaven praising God 2) the greatness of the Torah and 3) the reward of the righteous for keeping the Torah.

- Shavuot has several names:
  - Z’Man Matan Toratenu (The Time of the Giving of the Torah)
  - Yom Habikurim (The Day of the First Fruits)
  - Chag HaKatzir (The Harvest Festival)
Sisterhood Presidents’ Report

May has arrived and another busy and fulfilling year for Sisterhood is concluding. Since the opening brunch in September, our members have been involved in various activities and projects. Monthly general meetings have had over 100 women in attendance, and thanks to Ilene Merenbloom and the Program Committee, we were treated to a wide range of programs that informed, held our interest and entertained us. The Decorations Committee, under the leadership of Barbara Mendelsohn, enhanced our events by providing beautiful floral arrangements and decorations. Linda Mondell, Ellen Wiesenberger, Judy Pachino and the Trip Committee took us to sites in Washington, DC, Philadelphia, Bucks County, New York City and Arlington, VA, where we saw the play Diner. Each trip was unique and provided us with opportunities to socialize, initiate and strengthen friendships.

Through the efforts of the Membership Committee, chaired by Susan Hackerman, 48 new members and 48 courtesy members joined our organization. To accommodate women who cannot attend day meetings, one Sunday and two evening meetings were held. Sisterhood will continue to hold both day and evening activities next season.

Beverly Penn assumed the chairmanship of the Judaica Shop in August and she and her dedicated volunteers are responsible for another successful year. Rita Silverman, Barbara Berkowitz and the Biblio committee have provided us with outstanding book reviews. In January, Rabbi Schwartz reviewed the book The Officer and the Spy and in March, Rabbi Saroken reviewed the book Love and Treasure. This committee was chaired by Alice Levin and Sandy Silberman. Rae Shalowitz and Ilene Merenbloom continue to chair the Archive Committee. They and the committee are working hard to complete the video that will trace the history of Beth El Sisterhood. The Decorative Arts Committee, chaired by Rhona Sober and Sandy Bloom, provided a number of beautiful hand-made afghans to individuals who were ill or home bound. Alice Levin and Helen Bronstein did an outstanding job handling articles for The Voice and all of our publicity.

The Torah Fund, chaired by Jane Krosin, Hilda Dopkin and Gail Shugarman, is proud to have 45 benefactors this year. The money raised from the benefactors and contributions from Sisterhood members allowed us to contribute $7,000 to the Jewish Theological Seminary which will be used to support its various programs.

In November, Sisterhood hosted Seaboard Education Day allowing our members an opportunity to meet with members of Women's League Sisterhoods in our region. Sisterhood also hosted a breakfast meeting of the Federation of Jewish Women's Organizations of Maryland in January.

A new activity was added to our calendar in March – Game Day, chaired by Suzanne Horowitz and Ruth Hurwitz. The participants were served refreshments while playing their favorite games. The 11th Annual Unique Boutique was held the end of April. This is always a wonderful show involving many of our members. We are grateful to the event chairs, Sonia Obstler and Helen Bronstein, and the raffle chairs, Sandy Gordon and Anita Sherman, for a successful event.

It is now May and we are looking forward to Sisterhood Shabbat chaired by Frida Fraiman and Merle Intner. This is a highlight of our year as Sisterhood members conduct the entire service. Our year concludes with the closing luncheon and installation of officers on May 11 when Sisterhood presents its contributions to the congregation and Beth El schools.

At the present time we are busy planning for next year. We look forward to having you join us. You will find being active in Sisterhood is a rewarding and wonderful experience.

Have a wonderful summer.

Bobbie Selnick and Marlene Siegel
Co-Presidents
Sisterhood Luncheon

Monday, May 11, 11:30 a.m.
Closing Meeting and Installation of Officers

Sarah Baumgarten, a graduate student pursuing her Master's degree in Voice Performance and Pedagogy at the Peabody Conservatory of Music, will be our presenter at the closing general meeting and installation of officers on Monday, May 11. She will be performing music by Previn, Ricky Ian Gordon, Ravel, Aaron Copland, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Leonard Bernstein, George Gershwin, and Howard Arlen. Her selections will include Jewish songs and songs by Jewish composers.

Sisterhood continued from page 9

Ilene Merenbloom, Beth El Sisterhood’s honoree, has been a long-time member of Sisterhood and serves on the Sisterhood Board. Ilene has been Sisterhood’s liaison to The Voice, Beth El Congregation’s newsletter, which meant she was responsible for making sure everyone was aware of Sisterhood activities. Ilene was a Torah reader for several Sisterhood Shabbat services, and has been a participating member of the Joint Sisterhood Committee.

As the Program Chair for the past several years, Ilene and her committee are responsible for our informative and stimulating monthly programs. She uses her creative abilities to format eye-catching flyers for Sisterhood events. For the last three years, Ilene and her co-chair Rae Shalowitz have coordinated the Archives Committee which requires oral and written research and will culminate with a film describing 60+ years of growth, change and activity of the Beth El Sisterhood.

As Volunteer Coordinator for the annual Unique Boutique, Ilene is involved in assigning 100 volunteers to various positions over the three-day event. Her organizational skills and attention to details help make everything run smoothly. In addition, she serves on the Sisterhood Travel Committee where her input is invaluable.

Along with all of these responsibilities, Ilene is a member of Beth El’s Israel Affairs Committee, Program Chair and Board member of the Baltimore Chapter of Brandeis Baltimore and is a Board member of the Myerberg Center. No matter what activity in which she participates, Ilene exemplifies leadership, inspires, guides, and encourages others to work as a team to achieve goals.

The Voice of Beth El Congregation
Biblio

Join us on Wednesday, May 13, at noon in the Kolker Room when Ben Kreshtool, Beth El’s Ritual Director, will present the book *The Last Ember* by Daniel Levin. There are lessons to be learned from our past that can illuminate our future if we have the foresight and the courage to act. Sevelyn Wassel, our hostess, will provide dessert. Beth El supplies tea and coffee.

Biblio’s closing luncheon on Wednesday, June 10, will be held at David Chu’s Kosher Chinese Bistro. Paula Gallagher, our favorite Pikesville librarian, will inform us of the latest and best reads and upcoming fall publications. Space dictates no “walk ins” after lunch this year. To make a reservation for yourself and guests, please send your check to Beth El Congregation, 8101 Park Heights Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21208 c/o Carol Cummins or Frida Fraiman. The cost is $20.00 per person.

June Meeting

Beth El Seniors will be holding their June meeting on Sunday, June 14, at 6:30 pm in The Offit Auditorium. The cost for this dinner is $21.00 for members and $24.00 for guests. Entertainment for the evening will be Eric Richardson, a Dean Martin impersonator. Reservations and payments are due no later than Monday, June 2. Please advise us if you would like a sugar-free dessert, and with whom you’d like to be seated. The seating committee will do its best to accommodate your seating wishes. Mark envelope Ruthye. Join us and bring your friends for an entertaining, inexpensive evening: dinner, entertainment and friendly company. Who could ask for anything more?!! Remember, a stranger is only a friend you’ve yet to meet. For further information, call Ruthye Steinberg at 410-655-8242. June 14 is Flag Day: proudly show your colors!

Membership

Beth El Seniors is always welcoming new members 50 years of age or older to join our active organization. Dues are still only $15.00 per person per year, plus monthly dinner and enjoyable entertainment at the ridiculously low cost of only $21.00 per member. Where else can you go for such a great deal? Call Ruthye Steinberg at 410-655-8242 for a membership application.

Torah Maintenance Cards

A project of The Beth El Seniors is to support the maintenance 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 each 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 call Dorothy Fineblum at 410-653-2631. These all-purpose cards are six for $10.00 or $2.00 each.

Library Lovers

The Agus Library is a wonderful facility filled with books and resources of Jewish interest. Your help is needed to make it more readily available to Beth El’s members. If you can volunteer an hour or two each week, we need you to help staff the library. Please call Barbara Berkowitz at 410-296-8424 or email her at barbberk@verizon.net.

Agus Library Hours

Monday: 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.  2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday: 11:00 – noon  2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 9:15 – 10:30 a.m.  1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
Thursday: 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

The Agus Library will close as of May 31. It will reopen after the High Holidays.
Anti-Semites Get a Free Pass on Campus

By: Dr. Mitchell Bard

The most widespread manifestation of anti-Semitism on campus today is represented by the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign conducted primarily by Students for Justice in Palestine. Jews have been reluctant to call the movement anti-Semitic to avoid the specious accusation of trying to silence critics and squelch free speech.

The BDS campaign has nothing to do with legitimate criticism, which challenges Israeli policies and actions with the objective of improving Israel and promoting peace. The sole objective of BDS advocates is to delegitimize the one Jewish state. This Israel denial is no more acceptable than Holocaust denial. Questioning Israel’s legitimacy — its right to exist — is always anti-Semitic.

Some students believe that Israel must be coerced to make concessions to the Palestinians even though the President of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, has expressly stated, “We do not support the boycott of Israel.” Moreover, students genuinely interested in peace recognize that pressure cannot be directed solely at Israel while holding the Palestinians blameless for the conflict.

Under the false premise of being “apolitical,” BDS advocates claim they are not advocating any solution. Omar Barghouti, founder of the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel, however, is unambiguous about their objective. He says “the two-state solution for the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is finally dead” and calls for the creation of a single binational state, which he knows is a prescription for the destruction of Israel as the nation-state of the Jewish people.

And don’t be fooled by the involvement of Jews in the BDS movement. They represent an infinitesimal fringe group that speaks only for themselves. By contrast, 61 international organizations, representing Jews from the political left and right, the reform, conservative and orthodox movements, women, fraternities/sororities and a broad spectrum of opinion within the Jewish community agreed to a statement opposing BDS that said in part:

The BDS movement is antithetical to principles of academic freedom and discourages freedom of speech. The movement silences voices from across the Israeli political spectrum. By pursuing delegitimization campaigns on campus, proponents have provoked deep divisions among students and have created an atmosphere of intolerance and hatred.

It is time to stop the charade of pretending that the BDS movement is an expression of free speech aimed at improving the lives of Palestinians or promoting peace. It does neither. BDS advocates are engaged in puerile hate speech, and proponents should be subject to the same unambiguous condemnation and disciplinary actions that Oklahoma employed against the fraternity brothers. The BDS movement is anti-Semitic and should not be permitted on any campus that says it will not tolerate bigotry directed against any students because of their faith, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation.

Dr. Mitchell Bard is the author/editor of 24 books including The Arab Lobby and Death to the Infidels: Radical Islam’s War Against the Jews.

Crossing the Line 2: The New Face of Anti-Semitism on Campus

A new documentary that reveals the rise of anti-Israel activity and anti-Semitic rhetoric on campus.

Sponsored by The Mark. G Loeb Center for Lifelong Learning and the Israel Affairs Committee

Wednesday, June 10 at 7:30 p.m.
Beth El Congregation (8101 Park Heights Ave. Baltimore, MD 21208)

Following the film, Dr. Mitchell Bard, Executive Director of the American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise and Chair of the Task Force on Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions, will discuss, “No Free Pass for Anti-Semitism on Campus.” This event is free and open to the community.

RSVP to Jane Zweig by June 8 at jane.zweig2@gmail.com.
Achshav Leadership Now

Most of you have heard of ACHSHAV LEADERSHIP NOW, our joint 8th grade leadership program with Chizuk Amuno. This past December, our first Achshav cohort traveled to Israel on a leadership mission. 22 students spent 12 days together exploring, hiking, swimming, laughing, and learning.

Achshav is more than a trip to Israel. Achshav meets on Tuesday nights from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. and begins with dinner and time to spend with friends. We alternate meeting between Beth El and Chizuk Amuno. Our third cohort (the rising 8th graders) will be going to Israel in their 10th grade year during winter vacation. This change allows us to expand our pre-trip curriculum. The trip to Israel is supported and subsidized by both congregations and community grants.

Achshav is not traditional classroom learning. We don’t use a specific text book nor do we quiz or give homework. Learning in Achshav is accomplished by doing. We provide experiences so that our students can further their skills. We provide a framework for reflection, and we provide a Jewish context for organizational opportunities.

Achshav is providing real life skills to our participants. The information our students are learning can be used on their sports teams, in their classrooms, as student leaders, and eventually on college campuses.

Achshav is fun. We regularly have 95% attendance at Achshav sessions. Our students look forward to Achshav all week long, and if it is a week when we do not meet, they are disappointed.

“Achshav strengthened my Jewish identity by making me more proud of it,” said Achshav student Izzy Cohen

For more information about Achshav for rising 8th graders, please be in touch with Rabbi Cantor at faith@bethelbalto.com or Fran Davis in the Religious School Office.

We Fit

At the Berman-Lipavsky Religious School, we believe that children with all abilities deserve a quality Jewish education and should feel at home in their synagogue. Using multi-sensory classroom techniques and best practices from secular education, these students excel in Hebrew reading and enjoy learning Jewish customs, holidays, and history.

Next year, we are beginning an outreach campaign called “We Fit”— a series of sensory-friendly Shabbat mornings for children and young adults on the Autism Spectrum. We are extremely proud to be the first synagogue in Baltimore to offer Shabbat programs for children on the spectrum and their families. Several students on the Autism Spectrum are currently preparing for their Bar/Bat Mitzvah. All of our students who have different needs meet with Rabbi Cantor who works with them and their families to create an appropriate and meaningful learning experience.

If you know families who can benefit from these special programs, please invite them to contact Rabbi Cantor at faith@bethelbalto.com or Fran Davis in the Religious School office at 410-484-0411 for more details.
School Registration

It is exciting to share with you our new initiatives for the Fall as well as the numerous programs that make Beth El Religious School so exceptional.

- As you know, we introduced iPad technology this year. Next year we will increase our teacher training and the use of iPads in our younger grades. We are purchasing iPad Projectors so that videos, music, and group activities that will enhance our Jewish curriculum will be available in each classroom.

- If you have a child enrolled in Religious School and another child who is enrolled in our preschool, we are excited to announce a Sunday morning playdate for ages 2-4. We will have structured playtime for preschool siblings so that you can have a few hours devoted to errands or relaxing!

- We’re expanding our Israel curriculum with “Walking Israel: A Virtual Tour & Tanakh Experience.” Different grades will have the opportunity to explore Israel with a live tour guide and virtual visits to sacred locations connected with the larger curriculum.

- Watch your calendar for our new parent/grandparent series, “Talking To Your Child/Grandchild About...” in conjunction with the Rabbi Mark G. Loeb Center for Lifelong Learning. This series will be hosted by Rabbi Cantor and leading community experts on topics such as Death & Dying, God, Sex & Sexuality, Media & Violence, Bullying plus how to get through the college admission process. We will be hosting these workshops on Sunday mornings during Religious School.

- Torah Sparks, our family minyan, is continuing to grow! We will be meeting several times a month with Rabbi Cantor and Mr. Josh Bender for a Shabbat morning filled with songs, learning, and student led prayers. Torah Sparks is for the entire family. After this hour long service, which includes a Torah Service led by our students, Torah Spark families join the main congregation for Kiddush. We are asking every Religious School family to commit to joining us in Torah Sparks twice next year! You will be asked to sign up for your preferred dates, and your child’s teacher will remind you as the year proceeds. Of course, you are invited to be a part of our family minyan all of the time!

- This summer, we will once again be hosting Watermelon Wednesdays in local parks. Join us for an afternoon playdate with games, art activities and of course lots and lots of watermelon!

Please register your child(ren) for Religious School this Spring to help us to plan for next year’s classes, grades and special programming. Everyone who is early registered by the last day of Religious School will be entered into a raffle! Three prizes will be drawn: 1st Prize $300 VISA Gift Card 2nd Prize Bicycle 3rd Prize $100 Gift Certificate to Yankee Doodle Art Studio. You are entered into the raffle if you return your registration and deposit by mail or if you register at these upcoming events: May 6 Joshua Nelson Concert & Fundraiser, and the last day of school on May 17.

B’Shalom, Eyal Bor, Ph.D.
IN MEMORY OF:
Sarah Schweitzer by Natalie and John Spector
Carole Sibel by Natalie and John Spector
Sally Berger by Natalie and John Spector
Myra Askin by Beverly and Arnold Feldman
Dr. Stanley Kogan by Beverly and Arnold Feldman
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IN OBSERVANCE OF THE YAHRZEIT OF:
The birth Zoe Rose Silverman, granddaughter of Freddye and Steve
Silverman by Heddy From and Michael Rubenstein, Randy Jacobs, Dr. Richard and Phyllis Kline
The anniversary of Dr. Bert and Ronnie Glaser by Dr. Richard and Phyllis Kline
The special anniversary of Dr. Robert and Sharon Freedman by Dr. Joseph and Linda Napora
The birth of Lynn Meier’s grandson, Ethan, by Dr. Richard and Phyllis Kline

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Susan Hackerman by the Beth El Adult Choir

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THE VOICE OF BETH EL CONGREGATION

January 3 and February 2, 2015.

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IN MEMORY OF:
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IN HONOR OF:
This gift is tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

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Generations Campaign

We are proud to report that $8 million has been raised in the Generations Campaign toward our goal of $10 million!

To volunteer, all you need to do is call Ailene Sher and sign on. She can be reached at 410-580-5159 or ailene@bethelbalto.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

Judy Pachino

"I supported the Generations Campaign and my personal wish is for every one of our 1,700 member families to participate to the best of their ability. How can I not pay back for all that I have received?"

Twelve years ago, Judy Pachino found a synagogue home at Beth El after exploring several options. She started by attending Friday night services and morning minyanim regularly. “Then,” she said, “My good friend Marlene Siegel lassoed me into joining the Sisterhood and I was immediately asked to join the Sisterhood Board.” The rest is history. Judy was hooked and amassed an illustrious record of leadership in our Sisterhood, including a three-year term as co-president. She attributes her Sisterhood involvement to developing her capability.

According to Judy, Beth El is a perfect place. It strives to preserve the customs and values of Judaism within a diverse and participatory atmosphere and it adheres to the core values of the conservative movement. She cherishes the synagogue’s “warm, wonderful and beautiful environment,” and credits our clergy for successfully fostering the Beth El mission and their dedication to our members and their well-being. Judy fondly recalled how Rabbi Saroken helped her develop a sermon for Sisterhood Shabbat, turning a fearsome assignment into a labor of love.

During her tenure as co-president, Judy had the opportunity to attend synagogue budget meetings. As a successful speech pathologist for the Baltimore County Schools, she had no need to deal with the school system's budget. However, she quickly learned the Beth El budget and the reality that the congregation cannot meet its needs with member dues alone, even with the significant annual support of the Sisterhood.

She said, “We must maintain the synagogue and modernize the school building for they are crucial to Beth El’s long-term viability. The school is the essence of the synagogue community and its future.”

John Davison

“I supported the Generations Campaign to preserve the synagogue and synagogue life, to nurture it and to grow it. In addition, I have always believed in supporting Jewish education at every level.”

John Davison and his children came to Beth El from a Reform congregation about 13 years ago when his boys were ready to start Hebrew School. He says he heard good things about the school and was not disappointed. Both of his sons celebrated their Bar Mitzvahs here. John feels deeply grateful for the outstanding Beth El clergy and staff and for his relationship with them, first Rabbi Schwartz and Dr. Bor and then, upon her arrival, Rabbi Saroken.

He holds the synagogue in the highest esteem for its diverse and interactive nature, and also its dedication to providing a comprehensive adult learning component for members and the community.

He says having a connection to the clergy is important. The Beth El experience, both the facility and the people who run it, provide irreplaceable value. “For me, it’s about giving back. My children and I have had a positive experience here. When you believe in an institution and its people, you want to support it. I’m proud to be a member of Beth El and want Beth El to stay strong and to be a beacon for the community.”

John has long been involved in Jewish causes and the Jewish community. He has been an active supporter of The Associated: Jewish Community Federation and is the current president of the Baltimore chapter of the American Technion Society. In addition to his work at the Mt. Royal Management Company and his community involvement, he is passionate about thoroughbred horse racing and the breeding industry.
Past Event Photos

Purim Parade
March 13, 2015

Sisterhood Game Day
March 17, 2015

Grandparents Day at Preschool
March 18, 2015

The Voice of Beth El Congregation
Beth El at the Yard
Baltimore Orioles vs. Boston Red Sox
Tuesday, June 9 at 7:05 p.m.

Join Beth El for a day at the yard! Our very own Cantor Thom King will be opening the game with the National Anthem. This will be an extremely fun afternoon, you don't want to miss!

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE!
$10/ticket

To purchase tickets please contact Gil Kleiner at 410-484-0411 or email gil@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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