



SCROLL

Congregation Beth El

July–August 2010 • Tammuz–Av–Elul 5770

Vol. 59 No. 11

BETH EL USY *Wins Again*

BY ADAM ZEREN

It was another rewarding year for Beth El USY, with our chapter returning from the Seaboard Spring Convention with five awards, including recognition, for the fourth year in a row, as a Chapter of Excellence.

Twenty-two of our USYers attended the convention held Memorial Day weekend. We also won for the Best Social Action Project, which was making stuffed bears for Hazzan Abe Lubin's son-in-law to take to children awaiting surgery in Africa.

Our chapter was also one of only four synagogues in the region to surpass the membership goal we set in September.



BETH EL USY AND YOUTH DIRECTOR ADAM ZEREN (FRONT ROW, 2ND FROM LEFT)

We finished the year with 71 members, Seaboard's largest.

We were also recognized for raising \$2,000—one of the highest totals of any synagogue—for the USY Tzedakah Fund.

The kudos for these awards should

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

PRESIDENT'S REPORT • 2

TUNING IN WITH HAZZAN LUBIN • 5

JEWISH FAMILY LIVING • 6

ASK THE CLERGY • 6

THE SABBATH LIGHT • 7

SUMMER LEARNING • 9

CONFIRMATION 5770 • 10-13

LIBRARY CORNER • 16

Departments

SISTERHOOD • 3

MEN'S CLUB • 4

CONTRIBUTIONS • 17

BULLETIN BOARD • 20

THE SCROLL IS A RECIPIENT OF TWO SOLOMON SCHECHTER GOLD AWARDS FROM THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM.

MEET THE NEW *Machzor*

BY RABBI BILL RUDOLPH

We are excited to be obtaining several thousand new High Holiday prayerbooks, *Machzor Lev Shalem*, which we will inaugurate on Rosh Hashanah. The *Harlow Machzor* has served our congregation well for more than three decades, but it is clearly time for an upgrade. The new *machzor* (only the daily and Shabbat/Festival prayerbook is called a *siddur*) includes terrific commentaries along the sides of



the pages, transliterations of all congregational responses, more instructions, and many thought-provoking inserts.

There will be a clergy-led workshop to introduce the *machzor* to the congregation, discuss its underlying principles, and describe how best to take advantage of all it offers on Wednesday, September 1, at 7:30 pm, exactly one week before Rosh Hashanah begins.

Refreshments will be provided. Please join us. ■

SCROLL

8215 OLD GEORGETOWN ROAD
BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20814-1451
PHONE 301-652-2606 FAX 301-907-8559
WEB WWW.BETHELMC.ORG

AFFILIATED WITH UNITED SYNAGOGUE
OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

RABBI

William D. Rudolph wrudolph@bethelmc.org

ASSOCIATE RABBI

Gregory Harris gharris@bethelmc.org

RABBI EMERITUS

Samuel Scolnic

HAZZAN

Abraham Lubin alubin@bethelmc.org

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Sheila H. Bellack sbellack@bethelmc.org

EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Louis A. Nagel lnagel@bethelmc.org

FAMILY EDUCATION DIRECTOR/ ASSISTANT EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Elisha Frumkin efrumkin@bethelmc.org

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

Elaine Auerbach eauerbach@bethelmc.org

YOUTH DIRECTOR

Adam Zeren azeren@bethelmc.org

PRESIDENT

Patricia Danoff

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Dale Rosenthal

COMMUNICATIONS AND TIKKUN OLAM VICE PRESIDENT

Jerry Herman

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING VICE PRESIDENT

Evan Krame

WORSHIP AND SPIRITUALITY VICE PRESIDENT

Mitchell Solkowitz

ADMINISTRATIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Leslie Shedlin

COMMUNITY VICE PRESIDENT

Sharon Zissman

DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCE VICE PRESIDENT

Bucky Jacobson

TREASURER

Robert Rubin

SECRETARY

Ivy Fields

SCROLL COMMITTEE

Marsha Rehns, *Chairman*, Sharon Apfel, Judy Futterman, Diana Huffman, Davida Kales, Judy Liberson, Janet Meyers, Linda Orenstein, Helen Popper, Kim Redlich, and Rosalie Sporn.

4U editors: Jennifer Katz and Jan Maxwell

SCROLL DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Adina Moses adinagraphica@verizon.net

Scroll, USPS Number 009813, is published monthly by Congregation Beth El of Montgomery County, 8215 Old Georgetown Rd., Bethesda, MD 20814. Periodical postage rate paid at Bethesda, Maryland and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Scroll, 8215 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD 20814.

President's Report: Year in Review

BY PAT DANOFF

At the Annual Congregation Meeting on May 13, I presented demographic information and recounted some of the things that happened in the synagogue during the past year. This article summarizes the presentation.

Membership Demographic Information

The number of membership units can be seen in Graph 1 (below). In FY 2009-2010, 65 new member units joined, while 55 resigned for a variety of reasons, usually not because they were unhappy. The final bar on the right indicates a net increase this year of 10 units, which brings the membership total to 1070, a 17 percent growth over five years, and the highest number of members in congregation history. Since most units contain more than one person, the total number of adults and children is over 3,000. We are very pleased about this growth because many Conservative congregations are losing members. Our increases are modest but steady, and we expect this trend to continue.



The age of adult members by decade is shown in Graph 2 (page 14). People in their 50s make up the largest group at 25 percent of the congregation, with those in their 40s not far behind at 23 percent. Seniors are well represented, with 42 percent of our members falling into the age 60 and over category. When I look at these data, I see the expected skew toward families with school-age children but also representation across all age groups, which is very healthy and bodes well for the future of the synagogue.

The length of time members have belonged to Beth El can be seen in Graph 3 (page 15). Almost half of our members have joined within the past 10 years, and 32 percent have been members for less than five years. One quarter of us have been members for more than 20 years. While new members are vital to ensuring growth and new ideas, long-time members provide stability and institutional memory. I am encouraged that we have a good blending of both.

Center for Community Building— Sharon Zissman, Vice President

Developing connections between members is very important at

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

Sisterhood

Sisterhood General Meeting

BY MARSHA REHNS

“Think of a time when you didn’t worry about what you ate or what you wore, how much you weighed, or how you looked,” psychologist and Beth El congregant Stefanie Gilbert asked Sisterhood members at the general meeting in June. “Do you exercise for fun or to lose weight?” she continued. “Is your weight okay, or do you want to lose weight?”

The way parents view their bodies sends messages to their children, Stefanie said. And the message is grim. Among 10 year olds, 81 percent say they’re afraid of being fat. Half of all nine year olds have already dieted to lose weight. “To help your children deal with their weight, look at yourself first,” she counseled, because social learning theory says that we tend to model the behavior of our parents and our peers.

It’s not news that American society values thinness. Advertising promotes fast food and snacks while using models

Sisterhood Makes Major Gift

At the annual congregational meeting in May, Sisterhood President Rhonda Zahler presented Beth El with a check for \$60,000. The money represents a \$30,000 gift on top of Sisterhood’s annual pledge of \$30,000 and comes primarily from catering the kiddushim for b’nai mitzvah. Catering is under the guidance of Barbara Friedman, catering chairman, and Judy Blank, catering treasurer. In-kind donations of coffee and table linens amounted to an additional \$15,000 contribution this year, for a total donation of \$75,000.

who are impossibly thin. “The only fat people on TV,” Stefanie noted, “are comics.”

Giving Girls the Right Message

The messages that girls receive during puberty are particularly important, the speaker noted. That is when girls gain weight and develop curves, and they should know what to expect. The best lesson to give children about eating, she counseled, is to “listen to your body—eat when you’re hungry, and stop when you’re full.” That also means that all foods are healthful and enjoyable as long as they’re eaten in moderation and within an array of other foods, she said.

Listening to your body, Stefanie added, is a good lesson for listening to other feelings and learning to express them instead of using food to suppress feelings or counter stress.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

In acknowledging the gift on behalf of the congregation, Beth El President Pat Danoff wrote, “I know very well how hard Sisterhood members, especially those on the Catering Committee, work to earn that money.... In addition to financial support, Sisterhood provides stimulating programming and the opportunity for Jewish women to connect with each other... Beth El would not be the vibrant community it is today without the continued support of Sisterhood.” ■

SEND 5771 ROSH HASHANAH GREETINGS TO YOUR BETH EL FRIENDS

Add your name to Sisterhood’s New Year’s card and wish everyone at Beth El a *Shanah Tovah*.

Please return this form by July 28, along with your separate check for Chai (life) \$18.00 made payable to Beth El Sisterhood. The card that includes your name will be mailed at the end of August.

Mail to: Beth El Sisterhood, 8215 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD 20814

I wish to be included on the 5771 New Year’s greeting card that will be mailed to the entire congregation at the end of August.

Name(s) as you wish it/them to appear on the card

(e.g. Moshe & Simcha Cohen, Moshe Cohen, Simcha Levi, the Cohen Family, the Cohen/Levi Family. Adults only, and no titles, please):

Phone: _____ Email _____

Contact Sandra Cohen, 301-652-2606; email: info@bethelmc.org or

Karen Handford, 301-652-2606; email: info@bethelmc.org

PLEASE REMEMBER TO INCLUDE A CHECK FOR \$18 PAYABLE TO SISTERHOOD



Men's Club

And the Kavod Awards Go To...

BY HARVEY GERSHMAN



KAVOD AWARD HONOREES AND PRESENTERS: (FROM L. TO R.) LISA EISEN, JONATHAN KESSLER, JACK VENTURA, SUZANNE STONE, HOWIE STEIN, CARY FELDMAN, AND KAVOD AWARDS CHAIRMAN, LARRY SIDMAN. PHOTO BY MITCHELL SOLKOWITZ.

At its 37th annual Kavod Awards breakfast on May 16, Men's Club honored three worthy congregants: Howard Stein for service to the community-at-large, Jonathan Kessler for service to the Jewish community, and Jack Ventura for service to Congregation Beth El.

Howie Stein

In presenting the award to Howard Stein, Cary Feldman described Howie's impressive body of contributions to the community at large, including many years as a guidance counselor in the Prince George's County School system. Cary, who has known Howie for 30 years, noted that Howie has been particularly active with Shepherd's Table, not only serving meals monthly but also serving as a Board member for nine years and as its chairman for the past three years. Howie has been a blood and platelet donor at NIH for more than 10 years; participated in Beth El's mission to New Orleans in 2009; and is a current member of the Beth El Board of Directors, the Saul Bendit Committee, the Human Resources Committee, and the Social Action/Tikkun Olam Committee. "Howie is a service machine and does what he does because of who he is...he, and always with his wife Holly's support, truly makes the world a better world," said Cary.

Jonathan Kessler

Lisa Eisen paid tribute to her long-time friend and colleague, Jonathan Kessler, highlighting his career of more than three decades dedicated to strengthening the US-Israel relationship and working for peace between Israel and its neighbors. As AIPAC's leadership development director, Jonathan leads their highly acclaimed and successful programs for high school, college, and graduate students. Lisa noted that she herself is one of thousands of young college students who

were mentored and guided by Jonathan and the programs he designed. These students have gone on to leadership positions in federal, state, and local governments, in the Knesset, and in organizations such as AIPAC and Hillel. Lisa concluded, "Jonathan is not a bystander but an upstander...a strategic thinker, an effective debater, a compelling speaker, a masterful community organizer, a thoughtful mentor and coach. And he uses all his gifts in service to the Jewish people and Israel."

Jack Ventura

Suzanne Stone, who introduced Jack Ventura, first came to know him at the Saul Bendit Adult Education Institute where Jack has been both in front and behind all the scenes of the Bendit program, showing his willingness to come an hour early, week after week, semester after semester, to ensure that the equipment is installed where it needs to be for each session. This work comes after months of developing the program, designing and planning classes, working with individual instructors, and serving as a liaison to the synagogue staff, Suzanne said. Jack and his wife Stephanie came to Beth El because of the Bendit Institute, Suzanne continued, and because they found in Beth El a synagogue committed to lifelong education. Jack has helped make a community among the Bendit regulars—both teachers and students. He is also a member of the Chevra Kadisha and a key organizer of B'nai B'rith programs, distributing Passover food to the area's Jewish

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

UPCOMING MEN'S CLUB EVENTS

Even during the summer, the Men's Club will provide a lox and bagel breakfast on Sundays after the 9:00 am minyan. Members and non-members, including women and children, are invited. We will not routinely have speakers after breakfast, but we may have some last-minute visiting speakers.

THURSDAY, JULY 1, 7:00 PM Montgomery County Executive Isiah (Ike) Leggett will speak on "Budget Outlook and Priorities for the Coming Year in Montgomery County."

THURSDAY, JULY 8, 8:30 PM Hearing Men's Voices: David and Michael Richman will facilitate a discussion of "What Do We Owe to Our Immigrant Ancestors?"

SATURDAY, JULY 24, 7:45 PM Mincha/Havdalah including the third Shabbat meal (Seudah Shlishit), and Ma'ariv

The Hebrew month of Elul, which always falls in August or September, is full of lessons for all of us, even though it has no significant importance in Biblical literature. This year, Elul begins on August 10. Traditionally, it is the month of preparation and readiness as we look ahead to the High Holy Days. This readiness is expressed in several ways. The very Hebrew name *Elul* can be interpreted, according to the Talmud, as an acronym for “*Ani l’dodi v’dodi li*,” meaning, “I am my beloved’s and my beloved is mine” (Song of Songs 6:3). Traditionally, the “beloved” refers to God, and the sages see the passage as a reference to the relationship between God and Israel. Thus, Elul is a time to rekindle our love for God as we approach the *Yamim Noraim*, the “Days of Awe,” and seek God’s compassionate judgment.

If you like numbers, you will like the Kabbalistic interpretation of the two Hebrew words *ahavah* (love) and *echad* (one). The numerical value of the letters in each of these words adds up to 13, which corresponds to the 13 attributes of God that we seek to evoke during the High Holy Days.

Additions to the Worship Service

In the liturgy, during the month of Elul, we add the recitation of Psalm 27 to the daily service. The Psalm concludes with the hopeful words: “Hope in God, be strong, take courage, and hope in God.” For further preparation during this month, every morning service ends with a brief blowing of the shofar. There is no mistake about the purpose of this dramatic alert and clarion call to remind us of the upcoming days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

The month of Elul is also designated as the time for asking forgiveness for wrongs done to others. According to

Jewish tradition, God does not forgive us for sins committed against another person until we have first obtained forgiveness from the person we have wronged. If you have ever tried it, you know that

Tuning In with Hazzan Lubin

asking forgiveness is not easy. Yet it is a powerful way of cleansing ourselves and feeling spiritually healthy and uplifted.

Long-lost friendships are often restored through this selfless act.

Asking Forgiveness

In this spirit, let me publicly ask for your forgiveness if I have wronged you in any way during the course of the year. Similarly, rest assured that if you have inadvertently wronged me (and I am definitely unaware of such an occurrence), you are totally forgiven on my part.

Enjoy the summer. As we look ahead to the New Year, let us all make an inventory of all our blessings. ■



**S'lichot Service and Program
at Congregation Beth El
joined by Ohr Kodesh Congregation**

★ Saturday, September 4 ★

Join Us for the Screening of the Film :
“GREAT CANTORS OF THE GOLDEN AGE”

Recently discovered rare film footage of the most famous
Hazzanim of the early part of the last century (1927-1931)
chanting several High Holy Days prayers.

9:30 p.m. ★ “Great Cantors of the Golden Age”
10:30 p.m. ★ Reception
11:00 p.m. ★ S'lichot Service



Hazzan Murray Simon, producer of this historic film, will introduce the program.

PROGRAM LOCATION:
Congregation Beth El • 8215 Old Georgetown Road
Bethesda, MD 20814

Questions? Beth El: 301-652-2606 or email: info@bethelmc.org or
Ohr Kodesh: 301-589-3880 or email: TLautman@OhrKodesh.org



Observing Tisha B'Av and Tu B'Av

BY ELISHA ROTHSCHILD FRUMKIN

This month we will learn about two holidays that occur during the month of Av. Most of the more well-known holidays fall throughout the school year, and since many children learn about our calendar through Religious School, the content of summer holidays is often left undiscovered. So, take a moment to learn a bit about Tisha B'Av (this year on Tuesday, July 20) and Tu B'Av (Monday, July 26) and find a way to commemorate these days with your family.

Tisha B'Av 101

Background

Tisha B'Av, the ninth day of the month of Av (which usually falls during July and August), is the major day of communal mourning in the Jewish calendar. It is on this day throughout history that several disasters have purportedly befallen the Jewish people, the prime ones being the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem in 586 BCE and 70 CE, respectively.

Observance

On the day of Tisha B'Av itself, it is traditional to mourn and fast, including abstinence from eating, drinking, bathing, or participating in any festive occasion. Shoes made of leather are not to be worn. In many ways, we emulate the actions and emotions of a mourner sitting shiva.

The solemnity of Tisha B'Av is not limited to one day. The three weeks prior to and ending with Tisha B'Av are known as *Bayn HaM'tzarim*, which means “in the Straits.” The last nine days of this period before Tisha B'Av consist of even more intense mourning. No weddings or

other joyous festivities are held during the entire 21-day period. During the last nine days, no meat is eaten, there are no haircuts, and no clothes are washed.

Activities

- ✧ Talk to your children, and explain that things happen to us that make us sad. While we should not always think about sad things, it can be helpful to remember them from time to time. Remembering sad things can often lead us to recall our happy memories. Ask your child to complete the sentence: “One sad thing I remember is _____.”
- ✧ Create a banner or mural to illustrate the saying, “If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right hand wither.”
- ✧ Create a collage with images found online or in magazines of Jerusalem, emphasizing that although the Temples were destroyed, Jerusalem is a vibrant city today.

Tu B'Av 101

Background

Falling six days after the solemn day of Tisha B'Av, Tu B'Av, the 15th day of Av, is both an ancient and modern holiday. Originally a postbiblical day of joy, it served as a day of matchmaking for unmarried women in the Second Temple period. It was largely uncelebrated for many years but has been restored in recent decades, especially in Israel, where it has become a Hebrew day of love, similar to Valentine's Day.

Observances

As a minor celebration, Tu B'Av has no formal legal status as

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Ask the Clergy

The holiday of Tisha B'Av commemorates the destruction of the First and Second Temples (586 BCE and 70 CE, respectively) and the creation of the Diaspora. Now that we have renewed Jewish sovereignty in Israel and Jerusalem is unified, do we need this holiday anymore?

RABBI GREG HARRIS

Tisha B'Av is a reminder of how fragile the Jewish State continues to be, and this holiday has never been more relevant for me than this year. By the time of the Mishna (60–200 CE), Tisha B'Av recalled the destruction of the two Temples, the negative reports from the scouts sent by Moses to preview the Land of Israel (Numbers: 13–14), the failure of the Bar Kochba revolt (135 CE), and the Roman looting of Jerusalem a year later.

Today, despite Israel's being 62 years old, her right to exist continues to be challenged and threatened. By direct assault and subtle persuasion of public opinion, Israel is more vulnerable than we might imagine. Our rabbis have debated for generations about the causes of the calamities of Tisha B'Av. The possibilities range from outside aggression to internal Jewish discord. If we understand this holiday better, I believe we will be able to deter any new national tragedies and better secure Jerusalem and Israel. This will require us to listen to diverse voices within our community and be passionate in our unifying love for Israel.

Kindling the Sabbath Light

BY ELLIOT WILNER

The other night, when Tami and Abby (two of our three daughters) joined Esther and me for Shabbat dinner, they asked me some questions about the custom of lighting candles just before the start of Shabbat. I thought about their questions, and here are some answers about the origins and the significance of the custom. Please don't consider this an authoritative treatise; I am relying only on my own recollections and impressions.

"Sabbath candles" is a translation of *ner Shabbat*. A better translation might

be "Sabbath lights" or, better yet, "Sabbath light." What is important is not the candle but the light. When the custom originated 2,000 years or so ago, candles were not widely available, and oil lamps were typically used as a source of light. The blessing recited before sundown on Friday evening is "Blessed are you, Adonai... who has commanded us to kindle the light [singular] of the Sabbath."

Light for the Sabbath Meal

What, exactly, is the connection between "light" and "Sabbath"? For the Jewish

people in the land of Israel or in Babylonia, 2,000 years ago, a candle or oil for a lamp was a luxury. On most days of the year, families would eat their evening meal (the principal meal of the day) before sundown. During the shorter days of the year, they would eat in darkness. The Sabbath day, however, was a day of celebration, and even poor people would splurge by purchasing oil for their lamp so they could eat their meal in comfort and dignity. That is the origin of the custom. But of course, there are *aggadot*, or traditions, that have become associated with the Sabbath light.

The ritual of kindling the Sabbath light is customarily assigned to the woman of the house (the *akeret ha'bayet*) since the ritual is intimately associated with family life. Among the many b'rachot that are associated with the performance of mitzvot, the b'rachah that is recited in association with the Sabbath light is anomalous in that the performance--the kindling of the lamp or candle--precedes the b'rachah. Once the woman has pronounced the b'rachah she has accepted the arrival of the Sabbath, and she is not permitted to kindle any light; so, in this case, the b'rachah follows the act. That is the halachic reason why the woman will cover her face as she recites the b'rachah -- to maintain the fiction that the light was kindled only after her b'rachah (as if she is seeing the light for the first time.)

Light from the World to Come

Another explanation for the woman covering her face relies on an *aggadah*. To me, the explanation is philosophically very powerful. In the account of Creation in Genesis 1:3, God's first act was the creation of light, but he didn't create the sun and the moon until the fourth day. What became of the first light? The midrash informs us that God

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

BETH EL SHABBATON OCTOBER 22-23, 2010 (ENDS AFTER HAVDALAH)

SPIRITUAL ROAD MAPS: SACRED PRAYERS AND HOLY TEXTS

LOCATION: CAPITAL CAMPS & RETREAT CENTER
GUEST SCHOLAR: RABBI SHAWN ZEVI
COST: \$175 PER PERSON

ADULTS ONLY. SPACE IS LIMITED! FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT ROBERT E. LITMAN AT RELITMAN@CBHHEALTH.COM ; EVAN J. KRAMER AT EVAN@KRAMELAW.COM OR SEE THE WEBSITE WWW.BETHELMC.ORG

Rabbi Shawn Israel Zevit, has over 25 years experience in spiritual leadership, organizational consulting and training, educational arts, writing, recording, teaching and performing. He has consulted with over 500 institutions and faith communities across North America, and has taught Interpersonal and Organizational Communications at the University of Toronto and Temple University.

Sponsored by the Worship and Study Minyan



Attention Parents of College Students!

Are you looking for a way to keep your college student **CONNECTED** with Beth El?

Send your student's current e-mail and mailing addresses and name of school with expected graduation date to rmunster@bethelmc.org by September 3, and your college student will receive regular e-mail messages from the rabbi and special holiday packages filled with greetings and goodies.

Or complete the form and return it to the synagogue office, **Attention: College Outreach**

Student: _____

School: _____

Mailing address: _____

Is this mailing address on campus? Yes No

E-mail address: _____

Year of graduation: _____

***IMPORTANT NOTE: To keep our database current, this information needs to be updated each year.**

JEWISH FAMILY LIVING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

a holiday, so it is a regular workday for people (as opposed to days like Shavuot and Rosh Hashanah, where we do no work). Nor are there any formally instituted liturgical additions by the rabbinate. Instead, Israelis gather in the evening hours of Tu B'Av for celebrations filled with music and dancing.

Activities

There is much room for creating fun celebrations of love around Tu B'Av.

- ✧ Make "Happy Tu B'Av" cards to send to friends and family, including short messages of love and appreciation.
- ✧ Make a point of scheduling activities your family loves to do together.
- ✧ Make posters or collages depicting people, activities, and things that your children love and display the posters as reminders of all that is good and loved in our lives. ■

KAVOD AWARDS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

families in need and ensuring that names of Holocaust victims are read aloud during Yom HaShoah. Like Howie Stein, Jack volunteers regularly at Shepherd's Table and has served on its Board of Directors. Suzanne ended by pointing out that "the name Ventura comes from a medieval name in Italy, Spain, and Portugal that is the shortened form of Bonaventura or Buenaventura, meaning 'good fortune' and it is certainly Beth El's good fortune...that Jack made his way to serve our community."

Yasher koach to these three wonderful congregants! ■

BETH EL HIGH HOLIDAY VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP

All members of Congregation Beth El are encouraged to sign up for one or more volunteer spots during the High Holidays. It's a great way to get involved, to meet wonderful people, and to feel part of the Beth El family.

Just check the areas that interest you, and send the form to Beth El (attn: Mitchell Solkowitz) or to info@bethelmc.org.

SHIFTS ARE APPROXIMATELY 1 TO 1-1/2 HOURS

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

USHERING *Ushers will be trained, as needed.*

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> FRONT DOORS | <input type="checkbox"/> SMALL CHAPEL DOORS - Avodat HaLev |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SANCTUARY | Service (Rosh Hashanah Day 2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SMALL CHAPEL DOORS | <input type="checkbox"/> NO PREFERENCE |
| - Kol Haneshama service | |

Choose the days you wish to volunteer for the areas checked above:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Erev Rosh Hashanah | <input type="checkbox"/> Kol Nidre |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rosh Hashanah Day 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Yom Kippur |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Night Rosh Hashanah | <input type="checkbox"/> No preference |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rosh Hashanah Day 2 | |

Finally, check the location at which you'd like to usher:

- Beth El Whitman

Questions or further information, contact Mitchell Solkowitz at info@bethelmc.org.

Thank you for your help and support.

Summer Learning and CE21

BY AVI WEST

As summer approaches, Beth El will assess this past year's academic programs. In addition, congregants have been involved in CE21 (Congregational Education in the 21st Century), a program to facilitate learning about learning, which draws upon Jewish texts, group discussions, and the latest research on educational design.

There are four features vital to Jewish learning today:

- It must be offered to all ages and stages.
- It must offer choices of time, place, and topic.
- It should be adjusted to the various levels of the potential learners.

It should address the compelling issues that bring personal meaning to our lives as American Jews.

Innovative congregations “think outside the classroom” and beyond the academic year, recognizing that personal growth and mental health are tied to consistent learning opportunities.

If you have more discretionary time over the summer, consider learning Hebrew, Torah chanting, or Jewish cooking. Acquiring these skills will give you a sense of pride and accomplishment.

Learning Can Happen Anywhere

Think more expansively about where learning can take place. Surf at Ocean City or surf the Web for a look at the diversity of our Jewish community. Rekindle your sense of wonder at a National Park while nourishing your soul by downloading the Book of Psalms on your Kindle. Interact with history at the Smithsonian and then make history by volunteering with your family in a charitable organization. Take your visiting relatives to sit on Albert Einstein's lap at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington and discuss the theory of relativity. (Einstein was asked to be Israel's first president, and he helped found Hebrew University.)

Summer also can be a good time to help children prepare for the next transition in their lives. Extend your youngster's play-away-from-home time in preparation for a longer school day. For an adolescent who needs to be more self-reliant, schedule time on a trail, a ropes course, or white water

rapids. Shop for a microwave, cookbooks, a mezuzah, and a hanukkiah for your college student.

Interpretation and Meaning

The difference between an experience and a *learning* experience is the discussion that surrounds the activity, interpreting it and giving it meaning. A trip to the grocery store can become a math lesson on fractions and percents. (A “share the profit from sales” or “keep the change” policy will keep the children engaged.) It also can be the start of a discussion about nutrition, money management, and kashrut. Using public transportation may spark conversations about ecological issues, and the time spent together will make your friends “green” with envy. Mastering public transportation will add self-confidence and resourcefulness to the skills your family gains over the summer.

If you are an “empty nester” and have the time and resources to travel, make a Jewish “bucket list” of historical sites you want to see while you can. (The largest public seder is celebrated in Katmandu!) Become an eyewitness to Jewish history, and absorb the stories of creative survival to pass along to others. If you are still looking at a few b'nai mitzvah in your future, plan a “staycation,” sticking close to home and saving for a family trip to Israel to celebrate your child's coming-of-age transition.

The sage Hillel said “When there is no one, step up and be the one!” Use the summer to organize a book club, recruit for a class, or plan a couples'/family retreat. You can connect your Jewish journey to your personal growth to make both more meaningful.

We are blessed to live at a time and in a place of unlimited opportunity and access to knowledge. Stop and smell the roses/coffee/falafel, and keep enriching your life this summer as the CE21 process continues to bring new learning opportunities for the Beth El community.

Avi West is director of the Shulamith Reich Elster Resource Center and a master teacher at the Partnership for Jewish Life and Learning and is working with Beth El's CE21 Task Force. ■



**YOM
YERUSHALAYIM
5770**

Charge to Confirmands 5770

Confirming Destiny and Faith

BY RABBI BILL RUDOLPH

You and your families are very much a part of the fabric of this congregation and community. You add this simcha today to others you have celebrated individually or with others in this class, from BENS on up, through your b'nai mitzvah celebrated on this bimah, and so on, creating a web of memories that last a lifetime. For me, my best memory will be of the whole class, soaked totally through and through from a monsoon that hit New York on the Monday of our Confirmation trip, gathered in one little hotel room to have lunch and change into drier clothes before returning home, no complaining, no murmuring. At that moment, I knew we had created something here.

It's a small world when you are Jewish. There aren't many of us, so our paths and our destinies and our memories often overlap. When it stops being that, we are in trouble. Confirmation is in part the building of a common destiny. Friendships made this year, or strengthened this year, may last a lifetime.

First, about your character, as individuals and as a class. We read today the story of that moment at the base of Mt. Sinai, the moment when God persuaded Israel to enter into an everlasting covenant and to accept the Torah. How does the story begin? How does God persuade Israel to enter into this covenant with all its risks and all its responsibilities and all its obligations? What is the first thing that God tells Moses to say to the people so they might agree to this?

"[This is what you should tell them] [says God to Moses] ... All the earth is mine - *ki li kol ha'aretz*. And yet, nevertheless, *v'atem tihyu li mamlechet kohamin vigoy kadosh* - if you accept this covenant, then you will be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy people." You have the capacity to become that, God says. You have the ability to become a holy nation and you have the potential to be my treasure. I believe in you, and I want you to believe in yourselves. These are the words

that Moses spoke to the people of Israel.

And in response? Israel says: "We're in. We'll join. Whatever the Lord says, we will cherish and we will obey." Why did they say this? Why did they agree with one voice, and with one heart, to enter the covenant with God before they even read the fine print on the contract? They did it not only because they believed in God, but also because they felt that God believed in them. They felt that God felt that they could do it, and if God felt that they could do it, then maybe they really could do it.

So, I want you to know one good life lesson—that a compliment goes a long way and that having faith in others is a good thing and make sure to choose friends and associates that you can have faith in. And let



RABBI BILL RUDOLPH LEADS A TEACHING SESSION AT TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT ON THE EVENING BEFORE CONFIRMATION. PHOTOS BY MITCHELL SOLKOWITZ.

me say, in this regard, that I, and my fellow clergy, and the teachers and administrators [Dr. Louis Nagel and Elisha Frumkin] of our Religious School with whom you have studied these many years, we all believe in you, just as God did in His people at Sinai. We are proud of you, and we believe you can

do and be just about anything you want to be.

Lifelong Jewish Learning

And of course, part of that "what you can do and be" is Jewish. The main purpose of Confirmation is to mark your graduation from formal religious studies. I think it works as that, except it would be a serious mistake to think "graduation" means "completion." You aren't done. When you graduate high school, you will have finished those classes, but you won't know everything. When you graduate college, you won't know everything.

So, too, when it comes to Judaism. Though you are celebrating the conclusion of your formal religious school studies, you don't know everything. Judaism is a lifelong learning project. That so many of you kept going after your bar and bat mitzvah is an indication that you and your families understand this. Now you have new options: Shoresh,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

CONFIRMATION

5770

The Confirmation Year: Learning about Maturity

BY SETH GOTTLIEB

This past January, our Confirmation class went to New York City. Among the many sights and sounds we experienced in the Big Apple, one that I will always remember, is the subway ride we took to St. Patrick's Cathedral on the last day of the trip.

One stop into our commute, a homeless man entered our train car and addressed our entire group as well as everyone else in the car. He gave us some background information on his life and hardships while assuring us of his sanity. Then he said something that really struck me.

"I am so thankful," he said to us, "that I can come before you all today and speak to you. Although I was cold last night and it's raining today, I thank God that I am still alive and was able to see the sunrise."

What I most admired about this man was his incredibly positive outlook on life. Here he was, suffering through a New York winter without a roof over his head, and yet all he could do was praise God for the sunrise.

Mature Outlook on Life

Somehow, through the hardships he faced, something about this man kept him going. He had a strong enough understanding to appreciate the mundane things in life rather than complain about the things he didn't have. This homeless man held a view that can come only with a mature outlook on life. With the time I've had to reflect since then, I have realized that this past year's Confirmation class had a lot to do with maturity.

After all, the subject matter of this year's core course required a lot of maturity from our class. The course was called, "Sex with Sheldon." In it, under the instruction of Sheldon Novek, we learned about Judaism's take on sexuality, dating, and marriage.

The class was about more than just reading texts and passages that said, "Thou shalt do this," and, "That shalt do that."

From a memorable Shavuot service on May 19 at which 25 Beth El 10th graders were confirmed, the Scroll is pleased to publish a selection of the morning's speeches: Rabbi Rudolph's charge to the group and reflections by three of the confirmands on the past year, on Religious School, and on the world.

We had fun learning about Judaism and the maturation process at the same time.

Throughout the year, we had speakers come in to talk to us about the impact Judaism had on their day-to-day lives. I

really enjoyed the evening when two Orthodox Jewish women came in to speak to us. Both had grown up as Conservative Jews, but as they entered adulthood, they both began to want to connect more with their Jewish heritage. For them, maturity meant choosing a more religious, fulfilling lifestyle and a stronger connection with God.

All the experiences

we had throughout Confirmation year helped us all to mature. What the man on that subway demonstrated, if anything, is that maturity defies social boundaries. I admire that man because he earned his maturity through hardship and came out a better person. That quality is something we all must strive for. So, as we end our formal learning at Beth El, we must remember that the process of maturing is still not complete. There are still people and events to learn from, and we still have room to grow. ■



FAMILIES AT THE DAIRY DINNER ON EREV SHAVUOT

The Religious School Years: Many Hours, Many Topics

BY TODD POLLAK

When I first reflected on my years at Religious School, I decided to calculate how many hours, from kindergarten through 10th grade, we spent in classrooms at Beth El. One thousand two hundred hours. Of course, that excludes the field trips and special assemblies. Though at the time I might have protested a little about going to Hebrew School, looking back, I think it was a valuable experience. The early years were spent identifying, copying, and pronouncing Hebrew letters until we could finally string them together and read full sentences. We spent countless Sundays celebrating holidays—blowing shofars, building sukkahs at each other's houses, chanting the Four Questions.

In third grade, things became more serious. We started attending during the week, plus Sunday, and learned prayers in Hebrew. One of my favorite parts of Hebrew School at this time was reading Jewish-themed books. One of my favorites was called *Twenty and Ten*, which was based on a true story about a group of 20 Catholic French children who hid 10 Jewish children during World War II and successfully evaded Nazi detection.

We also spent many years learning about how Israel came into existence. We learned everything from when Moses sent spies into the land of Canaan to the Declaration of Independence by David Ben Gurion. Israel came to feel like a home away from home.

Mastering Prayers

By sixth grade we were ready to learn the entire Shab-

bat morning service. Diligently, we mastered each prayer before moving on to the next part of the service. So by March of that year, when we went on the Brooklyn trip to stay with Orthodox families, I was ready to flex my new-found knowledge at Shabbat services. Enthusiastically, I joined in the singing of the Hatzit Kaddish, but I had only finished the first line when I realized the Orthodox congregation was already on the next prayer.

Then we spent a year studying the different denominations of Judaism, from Sephardic Orthodox to Reconstructionist. And Religious School taught us not only about Judaism but also about other religions. We visited churches and a mosque and learned about others' beliefs and religious practices and their similarities and differences to us. These visits had a large impact on me, helping me figure out how Judaism fit into the myriad of other world religions.

Over the course of Religious School, we often studied how others perceive us and how Jews have suffered persecution over the years. I vividly remember watching a movie about the Israeli Olympic team Munich massacre, an incident I had never heard about before. We also learned about the Holocaust almost every year in different ways – through books, movies, and outside speakers.

Religious School was not solely about educating us; there was also an important social factor. I know we will all continue to be friends in the years ahead. ■

RABBI'S SPEECH CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

HSI, USY and Young Judea Israel trips, college Jewish Studies courses, adult education. I know that some of you will discover that the world of Jewish study is a wonderful one. I guarantee you that you will find it so if you invest a bit in the discovery process. I always wanted to be a rabbi, but only when I really opened the books on real Jewish study did I see why that was such a good choice. You don't have to want to be a rabbi to find this out. And that is my hope for you and my charge at the same time: that you see today as one step along the road of Jewish learning and that you take many more steps along that path before old age makes taking the stairs hard for you.

I know I speak for many in wishing for all of you a good life, in a more peaceful world, making sure that your people, the Jewish people, don't ever have to go looking for you, as you remain true to the faith that you confirm today. ■



YOUTH ACTIVITIES IN THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL ON TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT.

Reflections on the World: Working to Save the Planet

BY DANNY SACK

Within this calendar year, we have had a snowmageddon and earthquakes in Haiti, Chile, China, and Mexico. A volcano erupted in Iceland, and it's only May. Maybe the Earth is trying to tell us something, as these multiple natural disasters cannot be a coincidence. On the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, there was an accident on an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico. The rig sank and is still gushing oil, devastating aquatic life and destroying the livelihoods of many fishermen. Meanwhile, a scientific study of the state of the world's oceans suggests that by 2048 there will be no more commercial fisheries. Add in the destruction of tropical forests then the impacts of climate change, and reflecting on the current state of the world and on what our generation will inherit can really be quite depressing.

Now all of you may think that the above problems are too complicated to solve. However, throughout human history, we have solved seemingly insurmountable problems. When we needed heat, we made fire; when we needed freedom, we fought for it; and now, when we need to save the Earth, I am confident that we can do that, too.

New Energy Forms

It is also practical to save the planet. By switching your light bulbs, you can save energy and lower your energy bill. If you stop eating processed foods, you will become healthier while reducing your carbon footprint. Walking and bike riding will not only improve your health, give you energy, and trim your waistline, but they will also dramatically decrease our dependence on fossil fuels. As we can see with the current

SHABBAT CANDLES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

“concealed” the primordial light, placing it in a heavenly place where it would be reserved for the righteous of this world when they arrived in the “world to come.” Rabbis have always considered the Sabbath “a taste of the world to come,” and the light of the Sabbath is, by that same reckoning, a sample of the primordial light awaiting the righteous. The woman of the house covers her eyes because it is not yet her time to bask in that light. A beautiful *aggadah*, and powerful, no?

Prayers for the Family

Beyond *halachah* and beyond *aggadah*, the recitation of the b'rachah over the Sabbath light has always been a time when the woman of the house can express her wishes and prayers for herself and the members of her household. There is a formal prayer for the occasion, which may be found in the *Art Scroll* siddur and in other siddurim, but many women prefer to pray from their own hearts. I have vivid childhood



RABBI GREG HARRIS AT A TEACHING SESSION ON THE EVENING BEFORE CONFIRMATION.

oil spill, when your back-up plans fail, you should look for a new form of energy. May I suggest wind power? I think the worst thing that will happen is that a wind turbine might fall over, or as Stephen Colbert put it, a “wind spill.”

Each of us needs to act individually and as a community to change how we live, how we consume, and how we work. Here at Beth El, we could do even more than we have already done. How about removing some parking spaces and installing some bike racks for a start? I think bike racks with some trees and a few benches would look better than the lined tarmac.

You may ask—how is this a Jewish issue? God created this planet and created us humans in his image. Don't you think God would want those he created in his image to save the planet he created? I think so. ■

memories of my grandmother and mother reciting their own prayers as they said the b'rachah. On many occasions, as my grandmother or mother removed her hands from her face, I saw that her eyes and hands were moist. Little did I know, as a small boy, what thoughts moved them to tears. As an adult, however, I know that their thoughts surely were with their parents and grandparents, brothers and sisters, uncles and aunts who had suddenly vanished from the Earth.

What is the correct number of candles to be lit for the Sabbath? One is actually sufficient. The traditional number is two (because of the Torah's two versions of the Fourth Commandment to remember the Sabbath, one in Exodus and one in Deuteronomy) or more (counting each member of the household). Shabbat is God's creation, and it will occur every week, with or without a candle, but by lighting a candle we become partners with God in creating the Shabbat. ■

Beth El. This past year, six different synagogue groups coordinated Shabbat dinners that provided a wonderful chance for members to attend services and welcome Shabbat with friends and family. The College Outreach Committee mailed packages to students on Hanukkah and Pesach and compiled a directory of the colleges Beth El students attend so our high school seniors could find a friendly face when visiting campuses. The rabbis stayed in touch with our young people through email and Facebook.

The number of auxiliaries, havurot, and interest groups that are active at Beth El is very impressive. They range from Ahavat Shir to Zhava and there are at least 25 others in between. Their names, upcoming activities, and contact information can be found on the Beth El Web site.

Several months ago, we launched the Beth El Community Network (BECoN). The network contains information about congregants' professions and the goods and services they provide. We hope members will go to this source when looking for a particular type of business or to find mentors in a given field. For the network to be successful, we need your participation, so please go to www.bethelmc.org and click on BECoN. Post a new listing, or browse the ones that are there.

Center for Communications and Tikkun Olam— Jerry Herman, Vice President

Work is underway to develop a comprehensive marketing plan to promote Beth El activities to our own members and to raise the profile of the synagogue and attract new members from the Jewish community. Among other things, the marketing plan will look at how best to use our award-winning *Scroll*, listserv, and Web site to promote the shul. The Web site was upgraded in several ways this year. There are more links, and you can now make donations and register for events on-line.

The second part of this Center is tikkun olam, which was our synagogue theme again this past year. One of the goals was to establish tikkun olam as a core value here at Beth El, and based upon the increased profile and number of activities, I think we were successful. Added emphasis was placed on congregants doing mitzvot. Listings of mitzvah opportunities could be found on the Web site, in the Shabbat announcements, and on the listserv. Beth El joined with several community partners in order to provide even more ways for members of all ages to make a difference to others. In addition, many programs were held throughout the year, includ-

ing Mitzvah Day and others organized through our schools and auxiliaries. The refuah shleimah list of those who are ill or in recovery was started last fall, and the response has been very positive. I hope you will continue to reach out to those on the list, because it only takes a small amount of your time to brighten someone's day. The Green Tikkun Committee continues to find ways to make the synagogue operate in a more environmentally responsible way. Beth El is one of the "greenest" houses of worship in the Washington area.

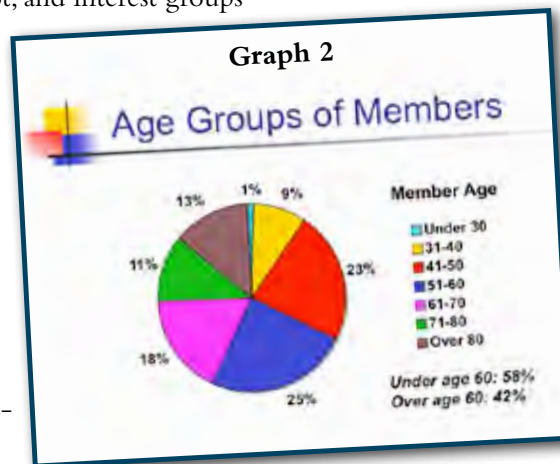
Center for Education and Lifelong Learning— Evan Krame, Vice President

This year we began the Congregational Education for the 21st Century initiative (CE21). The multiyear process surveyed the educational programs for all the age groups we have at Beth El and is working to develop a vision of a path to lifelong Jewish learning. Over the past few months, a series of parlor meetings was conducted in order to ob-

tain congregant input, and in the fall we hope to begin one or more nontraditional pilot programs. After the holidays, we will also begin a Prayer Leader Training Class designed to teach people to lead davening.

The Beth El Religious School has 472 students in grades K-10. Due to space limitations in the building on Sunday mornings, the seventh grade met at Bethesda Elementary School this past year. Next year, the third grade will meet there as well. Starting and ending times at both locations will be staggered by grade in order to alleviate some of the traffic problems at drop-off and pick-up times. The Beth El Preschool is fully enrolled at 141 children, and there is a waiting list for next year. Congregants have priority for those coveted slots. There are so many innovative and exciting things going on in the schools. I encourage you to stop by and see for yourself.

The Family Education Department conducted several programs this year and made available study guides for the weekly parashiot and ideas for celebrating Shabbat and holidays. Facebook and Web blogs were used to reach a wider audience than ever before. The Beth El Youth programs are very popular with youth of all ages. Our USY was recognized for the second time as the Seaboard chapter of the year. Participation at all age levels is good, but the organizers face the continuing challenge of competing with other events on children's busy calendars. A major effort is being made to increase communication with parents.



Center for Administration— Leslie Shedlin, Vice President

This Center deals with house and properties, human resources, and synagogue governance. The HR committee completed a 360-degree evaluation of job performance for the seven professional staff members, which they appreciate and find very helpful. Several issues relating to interior decorations or furnishings were resolved, and bollards, purchased under the homeland security grant, were installed for protection at the front door to the building. In response to numerous requests, a bike rack will soon be placed near the parking lot. If you drove by the synagogue in mid-April, I hope you noticed the wonderful array of colors when hundreds of bulbs were in bloom on the Old Georgetown Road side of the property.

Center for Finance and Development— Bucky Jacobson, Vice President

For the past several years, we have held a special event to benefit Beth El. This year, the Denim and Diamonds Gala netted \$90,000 for the synagogue operating budget. The next Gala will be on Saturday, November 20. Proceeds from fundraising efforts increased modestly but exceeded the amount budgeted, due to the support of members for the Gala, Pillars, Ner Tamid, and other giving opportunities. We are so grateful for your generosity. After careful consideration of all options available, the synagogue recently renegotiated our mortgage with United Bank. The terms are very favorable and will provide savings over what was budgeted for the next several years. A Development Committee has been formed with a goal of creating a long-range fundraising plan. This plan will include a variety of giving programs designed to involve greater participation by all our members. Throughout the history of the congregation, and still today, we are too dependent on dues to cover operating expenses. There will be no dues increase for the coming year, but new sources of revenue must be identified in order to keep dues increases to a minimum and ensure the financial security of the synagogue in the future.

Center for Worship and Spirituality— Mitchell Solkowitz, Vice President

The Clergy Planning Committee spent several months examining the needs of the congregation regarding the composition of our clergy and the multifaceted jobs they perform. A study was made of how the members of our clergy spend

their time today as well as a look ahead to anticipate what they will be called upon to do in the future. As membership increases and the world around us changes, the focus, duties, and skill sets of our rabbis and hazzan must change as well.

Minyan Chaverim and the Worship and Study Minyan held Shabbatons during the past year. These special services were very well received by minyan regulars as well as new attendees. Purim was celebrated in February with the Men's Club Carnival and three different readings of the Megillah. More than 1,500 adults and children enjoyed Bit O'Megillah on Sesame Street, Megillah Madness, or the traditional full reading of the Book of Esther.

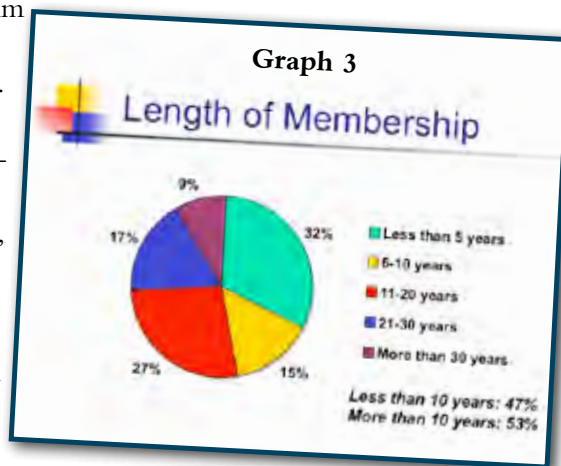
The High Holidays are very early this year, with Rosh Hashanah beginning on the evening of September 8. There are two new things to report as we anticipate the holidays. A family service will be held on the first day of Rosh Hashanah in the afternoon at Beth El. For the first time in the main services at all locations, we will be using the new Conserva-

tive movement High Holiday *Machzor Lev Shalom*. The prayerbook is inclusive and contains transliterations, commentaries, and additional readings designed to promote full participation and engagement.

Summary

Beth El is growing and doing well on almost all benchmarks. New and longtime members are involved and enthusiastic about being part of our community. We are in the process of examining our educational offerings and our

fundraising practices. Challenges we face include continuing to work hard to grow our membership and connect members to the shul and to one another. We must also use our limited resources wisely, and find new sources of revenue to ensure a secure future for the synagogue. During the coming year, we will celebrate the 21-year tenure of Hazzan Lubin as he approaches retirement in June 2011, and the congregation will enter into a search process for his successor. I thank each and every one of you for giving me your support and for your hard work on behalf of Beth El during the past year. ■



USY AWARDS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

absolutely go to our USY Board, which includes Gina Am-sellem, Aaron Slater, Felice Am-sellem, Livi Byer, Ari Kapner, Maggy Kay, Ethan Teicher, David Kanter, and Eddie Simon. These teens take time out of their busy schedules to dedicate themselves to Beth El USY, and their work obviously pays off. We look forward to seeing you all in September. ■

Washington, Jefferson, and...Moses

BY ROBIN JACOBSON

On the Fourth of July, as fireworks emblazon the sky and the national anthem swells, bewigged actors in knee breeches will present patriotic tributes to Washington, Jefferson, and other Founding Fathers. If author Bruce Feiler had his way, they would also tip their tricorn hats to Moses. In *America's Prophet* (available in the Beth El Library), Feiler describes the enduring inspiration Americans have drawn from the Book of Exodus at times of historic challenge, including America's struggle to break free from British rule to become an independent nation.

Liberation

Today, the success of the Revolutionary War seems inevitable, but in 1776, America's bid for independence was a risky, brazen gamble. The British Empire commanded the most powerful military force in the world; moreover, says historian Joseph Ellis, "no republican government prior to the American Revolution, apart from a few Swiss cantons and Greek city-states, had ever survived for long, and none had ever been tried over a land mass as large as the 13 colonies."

As the colonists pledged their "lives, fortunes, and sacred honor" to this most unlikely of causes, they took heart from the biblical example of Moses, who dared to confront the mighty Egyptian pharaoh. Colonial Americans, even if not personally religious, were steeped in the stories of the Hebrew Bible. The themes in Exodus of the dignity of human beings and the moral limits on the power of kings coincided with the Enlightenment ideals that infused the Founders.

Revolutionary rhetoric was replete with references to Exodus. In his wildly popular pamphlet *Common Sense*, Thomas Paine called King George III the "Pharaoh of England." Prominent clergymen preached that freedom is a God-given right that the colonists must claim, as the Israelites did. In the Continental Congress, a committee consisting of Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson recommended that the seal for the new United

States depict Moses triumphing over Pharaoh at the Red Sea. Franklin proposed an accompanying motto: "Rebellion to Tyrants Is Obedience to God."

George Washington earned frequent comparisons to Moses, especially after he courageously led the Continental Army across the icy Delaware River to a first victory in December 1776. When Washington died, one orator noted sadly that America's indispensable leader would never reside in the new capital city that would bear his name, just as Moses had died before crossing over into Canaan.

Nationhood

By 1787, Americans discovered that winning liberty from Great Britain was not enough. The Articles of Confederation created an alliance of 13 sovereign states rather than a single, unified nation. Like the Israelites in the wilderness, the

quarrelsome states coped poorly with the challenges of independence.

The Constitutional Convention, famously called "The Miracle at Philadelphia," saved the American union by replacing the Articles of Confederation with a stronger federal compact. Just as the Israelites accepted the law handed down to Moses on Mt.

Sinai, the states ratified the

Constitution, agreeing to restrictions on their freedom. And so, the two pillars of Exodus – freedom and nationhood – also underlie the story of the United States.

Few American Jews today can claim genetic ancestors who participated in the American Revolution. Yet many of us feel as proud of the towering accomplishments of the Revolutionary War generation as if our forebears had fought alongside George Washington or advised Thomas Jefferson on the wording of the Declaration of Independence. Maybe this sense of kinship with the Founders simply shows the triumph of American education. But a more intriguing possibility is that, at some subliminal level, Jews see the faces of Moses and the Israelites beneath the Founders' powdered wigs. ■



WASHINGTON CROSSING THE DELAWARE BY EMANUEL LEUTZE, 1851

Contributions

Please remember that contributions can be made easily, quickly, and securely via our Web page – www.bethelmc.org

Bendit Adult Institute Fund

IN HONOR OF:

Howie Stein receiving the Kavod Award for Service to the Community by Ilse Stein and Ilene and David Jacobowitz Marilyn and Murray Hammerman's special anniversary by Ilene and David Jacobowitz

Jack Ventura receiving the Kavod Award for Service to Beth El by Ilene and David Jacobowitz and the Opera Havurah

Beth El Forest

IN MEMORY OF:

Jean Barrack by Meyer and Rene Zitter

Beth El Israel Fund

IN HONOR OF:

Jonathan Kessler receiving the Kavod Award for Service to the Jewish Community by Hilary and Bill Kapner

IN MEMORY OF:

Martin Mintzer, father of Jodi Krame, by Hilary and Bill Kapner Robert Band by Bernard A. Band

Henry Cutler, father of Michael Cutler, by Marcy, Ed, Andrew, and Sasha Berger

Building Fund/Capital Campaign

IN MEMORY OF:

Robert Futterman, brother of Craig Futterman, by Phyllis and Steve Solomon

Ida Cohn by Dora Weinstein

My beloved mother, Ernestine W. Krueger, by Annette K. Goldberg

Irene Berman by Kenneth and Beth Berman

Samuel Rubinow, loving father of Ruth Kay, by Ruth Kay

Ida Kay by Ruth Kay

Martin Mintzer, father of Jodi Krame, by Phyllis and Steve Solomon

Cantor's Fund

IN HONOR OF:

Bar mitzvah of Micah Nathan Feldman, grandson of Abe and Sandy Lubin, by Ina and Joe Young

Hazzan Lubin's bringing beautiful music to Beth El for Yom Yerushalayim by David and Sonja Schultz

90th birthday of Mrs. Stein, mother of Howard Stein, by Jack and Jo Minker

Hazzan Lubin by Helen B. Friedkin

IN MEMORY OF:

Bette Tomar by Richard Tomar

Chevra Kadisha Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Louis Tishkoff by Iris and Julian Tishkoff

Martin Samuel Dembo by his niece, Helen B. Friedkin

Benjamin Copperman, my father-in-law, by Julia P. Copperman

College Outreach Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Professor Alfred Gessow on his yahrzeit by Mrs. Alfred Gessow

Community Torah Institute Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Grandfather, Leo Lieber, by Marsha Rehns

Disabled Access Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Beloved father, Joseph Glaser, by Suzanne Glaser

Dr. Elaine L. Shalowitz Education Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Shirley Langerman, my mother-in-law and mother of Dr. Elaine Shalowitz, by Erwin Shalowitz

Elaine Tanenbaum Religious School Enrichment Fund

IN HONOR OF:

Mazal Tov on the birth of adorable Ivy Rochkind by Beth El Religious School Committee

Mazal Tov on the bat mitzvah of Hannah Broder by Beth El Religious School Committee

Rachel Hillman, in appreciation for her excellence in teaching, by Hilary and Bill Kapner

Sheldon Novek, in appreciation for his enthusiasm and excellence in teaching, by Hilary and Bill Kapner

IN MEMORY OF:

In memory of Yossi Gershon, father of Liat Novek, by Beth El Religious School Committee

Harryette S. Deckelbaum by Dr. Robert Deckelbaum

Anna Deckelbaum by Dr. Robert Deckelbaum

Philip Frank Snyder, father of Cheryl Kreiser, by Beth El Religious School Committee

Anna S. Leventhal by Carl M. Leventhal

Fine Arts Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

In loving memory of my brother, H. Harvey Koenig, by Bob Koenig

General Fund

IN HONOR OF:

Debbie Leibowitz, for a refuah shleimah, by Holly and Howie Stein

Diane Epstein's birthday by Evelyn Bitterbaum

Maayan Albert's bat mitzvah by L'Chaim Havurah

Rabbi Harris, my mentor when I became a bat mitzvah, by Rita and Irwin Kopin

Jack Ventura, for receiving the Men's Club Kavod Award, by Beth El Opera Havurah

Noah Katz's bar mitzvah by Debbie Feinstein and Steve Kuperberg

Ellen and Norman Eule's granddaughter, Madeline Eule, by Ben and Suzanne Bronheim

IN MEMORY OF:

Martin Mintzer, father of Jodi Krame, by Bea and Bernie Berger, Lori and Todd Gardner, and Jocelyn and Danny Krifcher and Family

My very good friend, Martin Dembo, by Etta Kline

Robert Futterman by Margy and Irv Nurik, Esther and Elliot Wilner, Debbie and Scott Glick, Eva Kalman

Bella Kaplovsky by Lillian Miller

Barney Susser, father of Barbara Shapiro, by Barbara and Hy Shapiro

Marilyn Kershner by Phyllis Solomon

Sidney B. Goldin by Lynn Goldin and Henry Birnkrant

Sonja Milner, mother of Mark Milner, by Bea and Bernie Berger

Contributions Continued

Merwin Lavine by Phyllis and Jeffrey Lavine
Martin Dembo by Robert Dembo, the Hainer Family, Kathy Hooley, and Carolyn S. Alper
A. Daniel Tepper by Cindy, Jonathan, and Adam Tepper
Jean Smith by Henry Smith
My mother, Harriet Meyer Douglas, by Susan D. Feibus
Edward J. Fendrick, great-uncle of Howard Feibus, by Howard Feibus
Ida Cohn, mother of Dale Gold, by Esther and Elliot Wilner
In loving memory of Mark Klein, father and grandfather, by Evan, Hallie, Jordan, and Bennett Werbel
Mary Press and Thelma Van Velzen by Theodore Press
David Band by Jonathan Band and Leesa Fields
My father, Dr. Ernst Schimmerling, by Walter Schimmerling
Edwin Strauss by Martha Strauss
Louis Gernstat and Pearl Baker by Helen Kanovsky
Henry Cutler, father of Michael Cutler, by Barry Kabalkin and Rochelle Gunner and Sandy and Scott Katzman
Maurice Derkay, father of Lee Derkay, by Lee and Gloria Derkay
Daniel Goott, father of Gene Goott, by Ace and Linda Lipson
Helene Tygier by Mimi Tygier and Robert Rubin
Martin Meyer Friedman, father of Debbie Friedman, by Margie and Bob Litman
Belle Diamond by Sharon and Dov Apfel
Rae Rosenberg, beloved mother and grandmother, by Ruth Zaentz
Benjamin Smolen by Jason Smolen

Green Tikkun Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Robert Futterman by Evelyn Karson
Bert Karson by Evelyn Karson

Groner Ramah Scholarship Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Lorraine Ochman, mother of Joanne Weinberg, by Erwin and Leena Groner
Ida Cohn, mother of Dale Gold, by Erwin and Leena Groner
Selma Poyry, mother of Leena Groner, by Erwin and Leena Groner
Lois B. Jassie by Newton Jassie

Israel Experience Teen Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Joseph Levine by Howard and Janet Levine and Family

Kimball Nursery School Fund

IN HONOR OF:

Arielle and Jeff Grill, in honor of their leadership award, by Hilary and Bill Kapner

IN MEMORY OF:

Sherman Kimball by Laurie and Louis Kimball
Faye Doberman by Marian Willinger
Rose Asner by Marti Asner

Library Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Kalman Seigel by Carolyn Shanoff

Mazon

IN HONOR OF:

Bat mitzvah of Maayan Albert, granddaughter of Ruth and Tsvi Assal, by Rivka and David Berner
Thank you to Rabbi Bill Rudolph and Gail Fribush by Susan Levine and Bob Janney

Mindy Goldenberg, in honor of her daughter's bat mitzvah, by Beth and Ken Berman

IN MEMORY OF:

Martin Mintzer, father of Jodi Krame, by Beth and Ken Berman
Rob Futterman, brother of Craig Futterman, by Beth and Ken Berman

Lillian B. Gross and Ruth Kaman by Alan and Barri Gross

Mintz Landscaping Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Isaac Holiber by Jerome A. Holiber

Morning Minyan Fund

IN HONOR OF:

Peter Novick by Helen B. Friedkin

IN MEMORY OF:

Sylvia Strauss by Bruce Strauss
George Levin, beloved father of Julian Levin and Sondra Brody, by Julian Levin and Sondra Brody
Lorraine Ochman, mother of Joanne Weinberg, by Bert and Susan King
Hyman Cohen by Henrietta Asen

Music Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Robbie Futterman, brother of Craig Futterman, by Marcy, Ed, Andrew, and Sasha Berger

Nitzanim Fund

IN HONOR OF:

Birth of Koby Ilan Goldstein, son of Alan and Candice Goldstein, by Debbie Feinstein and Steve Kuperberg
Birth of Leslie Talia Kieval, daughter of Michael and Carla Kieval, by Debbie Feinstein and Steve Kuperberg

IN MEMORY OF:

Patty Odintz, mother of Josh Odintz, by Debbie Feinstein and Steve Kuperberg

Prayerbook Fund

IN HONOR OF:

To a special lady, Deborah Leibowitz .Please be well, by Sue R. Bildner

IN MEMORY OF:

Shirley Langerman by Sam and Elaine Langerman
Albert Langerman by Sam and Elaine Langerman.

Rabbi's Fund

BY: Sarah Friedman

IN HONOR OF:

Tovia Rosner's bat mitzvah, with great appreciation for the guidance and assistance of the Beth El team to help Tovia prepare for the special day, by Jordan and Rahel Rosner
Maayan Albert's bat mitzvah by Marsha, Joel, and Sam Liss
Refuah shleimah to Sig Shapiro by Rita and Irwin Kopin
Rabbi Rudolph by Rita and Irwin Kopin
In appreciation of Rabbi Rudolph for all his support during the sickness and passing of my mother, Barbara Hoffman, by Joseph Hoffman
Rabbi Harris by Zissman Shiur Group
In appreciation of Rabbi Harris for officiating at the funeral of my father, Abe Wasserman, by Alan Wasserman and Penny Dash
Rabbi Rudolph's and Rabbi Harris's kindness during Pesach by Russell Fox

Contributions Continued

Our new granddaughter, Jocelyn Grace Fisher, by Phyllis and Philip Margolius

Birth of Madeline Cayla, granddaughter of Ellen and Norman Eule, by Tricia and Howard Sachs

In appreciation of Rabbi Rudolph and Rabbi Harris for their kind, professional, and caring attention to all of us at the time of the passing of my mother, Annabel Chasen, by Ron Chasen and family
Adam Kuhn's bar mitzvah by Marsha, Joel, and Sam Liss
Rabbi William Rudolph by Helen B. Friedkin
Rachel Ordan's bat mitzvah by Marcie and Billy Garfinkel

IN MEMORY OF:

Robert Platt by Joan and Joel Simon
Selma Apfel and Martin Popper by Helen and Arthur Popper
Evelyn Massie Kohn by Parker G. O'Shea
Dr. Albert Woronow by Daniel Woronow
John Trauberman, loving father and grandfather, by Jeffrey Trauberman
Abe Fox by Russell Fox
Minnie Nepo by Hellaine and Irwin Nepo
My dear mother, Lia Imas, by Marta Wassertzug
Henry Cutler, father of Michael Cutler, by Ellen Chubin Epstein and David Epstein
Mindy Lieberman by Mark and Kim Schifrin
Ida Cohn, mother of Dale Gold, by Colleen Sandler
Frieda Schwartz by Laura Bouvier
Norman Weintraub by Blanche and Mark Wine
Alexis Pernick by Irwin Pernick
Robert Futterman, brother of Craig Futterman, by Cary and Nancy Feldman and Marsha, Joel, and Sam Liss
Charlotte Millenson and Sonia Katz by Roy H. Millenson
Belle Schild Adelstein by Dr. Robert Adelstein
Lillian Weinbaum by Lenore Richter

Religious School Tzedekah Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Robert Nathans, father of Mark Nathans, by the Religious School Committee

Simos Music Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Martin Mintzer, beloved father of Jodi Krame, by Debbie and Scott Glick

Sisterhood Kiddush Fund

IN HONOR OF:

The aliyah on our 60th anniversary by Margy and Irv Nurik

IN MEMORY OF:

Beloved mother of Dale Gold, Ida Cohn, by Saradona and Leonard Lefkowitz and David and Anne Hamburger
Fay Kossow, beloved grandmother, by Leslie and Joe Kessler
Vera Fassberg by Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin C. Fassberg

Sisterhood Shiva Meal Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Ida Cohn, mother of Dale Gold, by Suzanne Stone
Yetta M. Staffin, beloved mother of Debbie Glick, by Debbie Glick
Martin Samuel Dembo by his niece, Helen Beryl Friedkin

Sisterhood Torah Fund

BY: Esther Wilner

IN MEMORY OF:

Ida Cohn, mother of Dale Gold, by Julia P. Copperman

Social Action Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Martin Mintzer, father of Jodi Krame, by the Goott Family
Leopold Zweig, father of Michele Greenberg, by Marcy, Ed,

Andrew, and Sasha Berger

Randi Gould, my beloved sister, by Susan King

Suls Youth Activities Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Robert Futterman, brother of Craig Futterman, by Alan Golden and Nancy Grunley
Lorraine Ochman, mother of Joanne Weinberg, by Alan Golden and Nancy Grunley
Martin Mintzer, father of Jodi Krame, by Alan Golden and Nancy Grunley

Vatikkim

IN HONOR OF:

75th anniversary of the bar mitzvah of my husband, Herb Harvey, by Lee Harvey

IN MEMORY OF:

Beloved mother, Anna Gelman, by Helen and Lenny Rib
Joseph Weisz by Janyse and Bernie Weisz

Vince Prada Technology Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Robert Futterman, brother of Craig Futterman, by Tricia and Howard Sachs

World Jewry Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Beloved brother, Robert Chinn, by Sarah Kalser
Beloved brother, Herman Chinn, by Sarah Kalser
Lois B. Jassie by Newton Jassie

Young Equality Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Sarah Weinstein by Ina and Joe Young ■

SISTERHOOD CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

New Sisterhood Board

The speaker followed Sisterhood's annual election of officers. Marsha Rehns succeeded Rhonda Zahler as Sisterhood president, and Michele Herman became executive vice president. Other Sisterhood officers are Robin Jacobson and Margery London, education vice presidents; Susan Levine and Gail Ross, ritual vice presidents; Sandra Cohen and Karen Handford, ways and means vice presidents; Michelle Gips, samplers and socials vice president; Diana Huffman, world affairs and social action vice president; Susan King, membership vice president; Barbara Friedman, catering vice president; Judy Blank, catering treasurer, Linda Fassberg, Sisterhood treasurer; Janet Myers, recording secretary; and Lori Amsellem, corresponding/Web secretary.

Two-year directors are Annette Abrams, Tracy Bone, Suzanne Bronheim, Faye Ehrenstamm, Holly Stein, Suzanne Strauss, and Holly Stein. One-year directors include Gale Dutcher, Marilyn Glick, Barbara Gold, Naomi Greenwood, Debbie Leibowitz, and Phyllis Michaels. Gabriela Bechick is Torah Fund chairman; Nancy Kay is mah jongg chairman. Marilyn Hammerman continues to head invitations, stationery, and Torah Fund cards. Leslie Dellon becomes the Seaboard Branch representative to WLCJ. Lisa Davison and Davida Kales are the new Zhava co-chairmen. ■

While we know you'll want to read every word in this issue of the *Scroll*, when you're finished, please recycle it.

Bulletin Board

Send submissions to the *Scroll* to scroll@bethelmc.org

Condolences to

Carol Alter on the death of her father, **Gary Alter**
Ron Chasen on the death of his mother and Beth El congregant, **Annabel Chasen**
Dale Gold on the death of her mother, **Ida Cohn**
Sherry Goldstein-Askwith on the death of her mother, **Doris Goldstein**
Rabbi Greg Harris on the death of his father, **Robert Harris**
Mark Nathans on the death of his father, **Robert Nathans**
Liat Novek on the death of her father, **Yossi Gershon**
Alan Wasserman on the death of his father, **Abe Wasserman**

Mazal Tov to

Ken and Carolyn Feigenbaum on the birth of their grandson, **Byron Louis Feigenbaum** (Chaim Zvi), born on May 10, in New York City. Proud parents are **Aaron Feigenbaum and Natalia Nedel**.
Esther Sherman on the birth of her fourth great-grandchild, **Jonah Karsh**. Proud parents are **Audrey and Corey Karsh**.
Vivian Bass on being named to the list of Maryland's Top 100 Women in 2010.

High Holiday packets were mailed in mid-June. If you have not received yours, please contact the office. Be sure to return your completed High Holiday Registration form as soon as possible. Rosh Hashanah begins Wednesday evening, September 8.



Noteworthy

Vatikkim: Thursdays, July 1, 8, 22, and 29, and August 5, 12, and 26, at noon. Brown Bag Lunch in the Zahler Social Hall. Socialize with your friends and enjoy some light refreshments and dessert. One of our clergy members will join the group and lead a discussion on July 8 and 22 and August 12 and 26.

Roundtable with the Rabbi: Wednesdays, July 7 and August 4, at 2:00 pm. Join us to celebrate July and August birthdays (yours and those of others) with dessert, coffee, and a lively and challenging discussion led by Rabbi Harris in July and Rabbi Rudolph in August. Birthday celebrants receive a special invitation, but all are welcome each month.

Senior Caucus – Vatikkim – Luncheon/Program. This wonderful program will meet on **Thursdays, July 15 and August 19**. Following lunch, stay for a film presentation, to be announced. Lunch begins at noon and costs \$7. To RSVP for lunch, call Ricardo Munster at 301-652-2606, ext.316, or rmunster@bethelmc.org, by Tuesday, July 13, for the July program and Tuesday, August 17, for the August one. The film is free and begins after lunch at around 1:00 pm.

Bridge—the greatest game ever! Join us every Monday. Drop in and join a game; no partner is necessary. Contact Shirley Levine at info@bethelmc.org or 301-652-2606. If you want to play but don't have transportation, please call Roz Sporn at 301-652-2606, Richard Belferman at 301-652-2606, or Claire Marwick at 301-652-2606. They will try to arrange transportation for you.

Erev Tisha B'Av

9 Av 5770/Monday, July 19

8:00 PM Mincha and Ma'ariv followed by the Reading of Eicha, the Book of Lamentations

Weekly Parashiot

SOURCE: SIDUR SIM SHALOM

Beth El Calendar & Weekly Parashiot



Pinchas

July 3, 21 Tammuz

God rewards Pinchas, Aaron's grandson, for zealously halting Israel's transgressions. A new census is taken in order to divide Canaan proportionately. The daughters of Zelophehad, who died without sons, successfully claim their father's portion. God orders Moses into the mountains to look out over the Promised Land before he dies. Moses asks God to appoint a successor first, and Joshua receives the charge. God then instructs Moses regarding the daily and Festival offerings.

Matot-Masei

July 10, 28 Tammuz

Moses counsels Israel about vows. God bids him wage war against Midian to avenge the Israelites who were led astray. Midian is defeated, and the spoils of war are divided. The tribes of Reuben and Gad and half of Menasheh ask to settle east of the Jordan where their cattle can thrive. Moses agrees, provided they first help conquer Canaan.

Moses has recorded, stage by stage, the journeys of the children of Israel: from Egypt to Sinai, from Kadesh to Edom. Now, "in the plains of Moab by the Jordan near Jericho," God describes the extent of Israel's inheritance. God provides for the division of Canaan and for the establishment of Levitical cities and cities of refuge.

D'varim

July 17, 6 Av

Moses informs the people that God will not allow him to enter the Promised Land; Joshua will lead them. Recalling the events and battles that have led to this day, Moses assures the people of God's protection as they embark upon their conquest of Canaan: "You shall not fear them, for Adonai your God does battle for you."

Va'et'chanan

July 24, 13 Av

Moses tells of his failure to persuade God to let him enter Canaan. He exhorts the Israelites to follow God's statutes and to teach them to their children and their children's children. In a second address, Moses recalls the revelation at Sinai and restates the Ten Commandments. He then proclaims, "Sh'ma Yisrael, Hear, O Israel: Adonai is our God, Adonai alone."

Ekev

July 31, 20 Av

Moses promises the people that if they follow God's path, divine blessing and abundance will be theirs. Moses tells them not to fear the nations they will battle, yet warns against arrogance. They should never forget that it is God who will give them the land. Moses reminds Israel of the sin of the Golden Calf, God's forbearance, and God's miracles in Egypt, at the Sea of Reeds, and in the desert.

Descriptions of Services

MINYAN CHAVERIM offers the ruach of the Shabbat services in USY, BBYO, and Hillel. We have a lay-led, traditional, participatory, spirit-filled service, including full repetition of the Shacharit and Musaf amidah, as well as the full Torah reading with an interactive Torah discussion. A pot-luck lunch follows the service at a nearby home. For information, contact **Debbie Feinstein** or **Sheryl Rosensky Miller** at info@bethelmc.org.

The **WORSHIP AND STUDY MINYAN** is conducted by members of the congregation and combines evocative Torah study with ample singing and ruach. Children are welcome, although the service is oriented toward adults. For information, contact **Dan Hirsch**, **Sid Getz**, or **Mark Levitt** at 301-652-2606, info@bethelmc.org.

TEEN SERVICE is a cool service without parents, conducted by and for post-b'nai mitzvah teens, with a great kiddush. To volunteer to read Torah, conduct part of the service, or help with a discussion, contact **Carl Slater** at 301-652-2606, info@bethelmc.org.

OTHER YOUTH /FAMILY SERVICES, for information, contact **Elisha Frumkin**, 301-652-8573, ext. 319, efrumkin@bethelmc.org.

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------|---------|
| Daily Services | M-F | 7:30 AM |
| | SUN-TH | 8:00 PM |
| | FRI | 6:30 PM |
| | SUN | 9:00 AM |

Shabbat Services (all services are weekly, except as noted)

| | |
|--|----------|
| EARLY MORNING SERVICE | 7:30 AM |
| MAIN SERVICE | 9:30 AM |
| BABYSITTING (2-6 YEARS OLD) | 9:15 AM |
| MINYAN CHAVERIM (3RD SHABBAT) | 9:30 AM |
| WORSHIP AND STUDY MINYAN (1ST SHABBAT) | 9:45 AM |
| SHABBAT STUDY GROUP | 12:40 PM |
| MINCHA, SEUDAH SHLISHIT, MA'ARIV AND HAVDALAH SERVICE (MONTHLY) | 7:45 PM |

Youth Shabbat Services

| | |
|---|----------------|
| TEEN SERVICE (1ST SHABBAT) | 10:00 AM |
| JUNIOR CONGREGATION (5TH GRADE +; LIBRARY) | 10:00 AM |
| SHITUFIM (3RD AND 4TH GRADES; 2ND & 4TH SHABBAT; ZAHLER SOCIAL HALL) | 10:30-11:30 AM |
| GAN SHABBAT (KINDERGARTEN-2ND GRADE; 1ST & 3RD SHABBAT; MP 1&2) | 10:30-11:30 AM |
| NITZANIM (BIRTH - KINDERGARTEN; 2ND, 4TH, 5TH SHABBAT; MP 1&2) | 10:30-11:30 AM |

**TEEN SERVICE, NITZANIM, AND GAN SHABBAT
ARE THE ONLY YOUTH SERVICES IN JULY AND AUGUST**



Congregation Beth El

Monthly Calendar

July 2010

Tammuz-Av 5770

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | 1 NOON Vatikkim | 2 CANDLES 8:20 PM 6:30 PM Friday Evening Service | 3 7:30 AM Early Shabbat Service 9:30 AM Main Shabbat Service 9:45 AM Worship & Study Minyan 10:30 AM Gan Shabbat 12:40 PM Shabbat Study Group |
| 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY 9:00 AM Minyan 9:30 AM Men's Club Breakfast | 5 INDEPENDENCE DAY (OBSERVED) OFFICES CLOSED 9:00 AM Morning Minyan | 6 8:30 AM A Taste of Talmud 7:00 PM Mah Jongg | 7 2:00 PM Roundtable with the Rabbi | 8 NOON Vatikkim 8:30 PM Hearing Men's Voices | 9 CANDLES 8:18 PM 6:30 PM Friday Evening Service | 10 7:30 AM Early Shabbat Service 9:30 AM Main Shabbat Service 10:30 AM Nitzanim 12:40 PM Shabbat Study Group |
| 11 9:00 AM Minyan 9:30 AM Men's Club Breakfast 7:00 PM Study Session | 12 ROSH HODESH AV | 13 8:30 AM A Taste of Talmud 7:00 PM Mah Jongg | 14 | 15 NOON Vatikkim Luncheon | 16 CANDLES 8:15 PM 6:30 PM Friday Evening Service | 17 7:30 AM Early Shabbat Service 9:30 AM Main Shabbat Service 9:30 AM Minyan Chaverim 10:30 AM Gan Shabbat 12:40 PM Shabbat Study Group |
| 18 9:00 AM Minyan 9:30 AM Men's Club Breakfast 7:00 PM Study Session | 19 EREV TISHA B'AV 8:00 PM Mincha, Ma'ariv, Eicha | 20 FAST OF TISHA B'AV 8:30 AM A Taste of Talmud 7:00 PM Mah Jongg | 21 | 22 NOON Vatikkim 7:30 PM Board Meeting | 23 CANDLES 8:11 PM 6:30 PM Friday Evening Service | 24 7:30 AM Early Shabbat Service 9:30 AM Main Shabbat Service 10:30 AM Nitzanim 12:40 PM Shabbat Study Group 7:45 PM Mincha, Seudah Shlishit, Ma'ariv, Havdalah |
| 25 9:00 AM Minyan 9:30 AM Men's Club Breakfast 7:00 PM Study Session | 26 | 27 8:30 AM A Taste of Talmud 7:00 PM Mah Jongg | 29 | 29 NOON Vatikkim | 30 CANDLES 8:05 PM 6:30 PM Friday Evening Service | 31 7:30 AM Early Shabbat Service 9:30 AM Main Shabbat Service 10:30 AM Nitzanim 12:40 PM Shabbat Study Group |

Weekly Parashiot

SOURCE: SIDUR SIM SHALOM

Beth El Calendar & Weekly Parashiot



Re'eh

August 7, 27 Av

"I set before you this day a blessing and a curse," Moses says, contingent on whether Israel observes God's laws. Once Israel enters the land and dwells in safety, God will choose a place where the Divine Presence shall abide. There, Israel will rejoice and bring offerings. Moses cautions against idolatry and false prophecy and reminds Israel to observe the three pilgrimage Festivals.

Shof'tim

August 14, 4 Elul

Moses addresses the need for judges in the new land. The people, if they wish, may have a king chosen by God. Priests and Levites will serve at a place of God's choosing. God will also raise up a prophet like Moses to instruct the people; diviners and magicians are not to be consulted. Moses reiterates the laws establishing cities of refuge and presents laws of warfare.

Ki Tetzei

August 21, 11 Elul

Moses instructs Israel regarding inheritance, the return of lost objects, usury, and divorce, among other issues. Oppression of hired workers is forbidden; kindness to the stranger, orphan, and widow is mandated. Weights and measures must be accurate. To God, "whoever deals dishonestly" is abhorrent. Abhorrent also were Amalek's actions in attacking Israel's stragglers; Israel must never forget.

Ki Tavo

August 28, 18 Elul

The people are to take the new land's first fruits to God's holy place. There they shall recount to the priest their history—from Abraham to Egypt to that very day. "You have affirmed his day that Adonai is your God," concludes Moses. In turn, Adonai will take Israel as a treasure, a holy people. After crossing the Jordan, Israel is to inscribe the Torah on stone pillars and conduct rites to affirm the Covenant.

Descriptions of Services

MINYAN CHAVERIM offers the ruach of the Shabbat services in USY, BBYO, and Hillel. We have a lay-led, traditional, participatory, spirit-filled service, including full repetition of the Shacharit and Musaf amidah, as well as the full Torah reading with an interactive Torah discussion. A pot-luck lunch follows the service at a nearby home. For information, contact **Debbie Feinstein** or **Sheryl Rosensky Miller** at info@bethelmc.org.

The **WORSHIP AND STUDY MINYAN** is conducted by members of the congregation and combines evocative Torah study with ample singing and ruach. Children are welcome, although the service is oriented toward adults. For information, contact **Dan Hirsch**, **Sid Getz**, or **Mark Levitt** at 301-652-2606, info@bethelmc.org.

TEEN SERVICE is a cool service without parents, conducted by and for post-b'nai mitzvah teens, with a great kiddush. To volunteer to read Torah, conduct part of the service, or help with a discussion, contact **Carl Slater** at 301-652-2606, info@bethelmc.org.

OTHER YOUTH /FAMILY SERVICES, for information, contact **Elisha Frumkin**, 301-652-8573, ext. 319, efrumkin@bethelmc.org.

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------|---------|
| Daily Services | M-F | 7:30 AM |
| | SUN-TH | 8:00 PM |
| | FRI | 6:30 PM |
| | SUN | 9:00 AM |

Shabbat Services (all services are weekly, except as noted)

| | |
|--|----------|
| EARLY MORNING SERVICE | 7:30 AM |
| MAIN SERVICE | 9:30 AM |
| BABYSITTING (2-6 YEARS OLD) | 9:15 AM |
| MINYAN CHAVERIM (3RD SHABBAT) | 9:30 AM |
| WORSHIP AND STUDY MINYAN (1ST SHABBAT) | 9:45 AM |
| SHABBAT STUDY GROUP | 12:40 PM |
| MINCHA, SEUDAH SHLISHIT, MA'ARIV AND HAVDALAH SERVICE (MONTHLY) | 7:45 PM |

Youth Shabbat Services

| | |
|---|----------------|
| TEEN SERVICE (1ST SHABBAT) | 10:00 AM |
| JUNIOR CONGREGATION (5TH GRADE +; LIBRARY) | 10:00 AM |
| SHITUFIM (3RD AND 4TH GRADES; 2ND & 4TH SHABBAT; ZAHLER SOCIAL HALL) | 10:30-11:30 AM |
| GAN SHABBAT (KINDERGARTEN-2ND GRADE; 1ST & 3RD SHABBAT; MP 1&2) | 10:30-11:30 AM |
| NITZANIM (BIRTH - KINDERGARTEN; 2ND, 4TH, 5TH SHABBAT; MP 1&2) | 10:30-11:30 AM |

TEEN SERVICE, NITZANIM, AND GAN SHABBAT
ARE THE ONLY YOUTH SERVICES IN JULY AND AUGUST



Congregation Beth El

Monthly Calendar

August 2010

Av-Elul 5770

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 9:00 AM Minyan 9:30 AM Men's Club Breakfast 7:00 PM Study Session | 2 | 3 8:30 AM A Taste of Talmud 7:00 PM Mah Jongg | 4 2:00 PM Roundtable with the Rabbi | 5 NOON Vatikkim 7:30 PM Hearing Men's Voices | 6 CANDLES 7:57 PM 5:00 PM Senior Shabbat Dinner 6:30 PM Friday Evening Service | 7 7:30 AM Early Shabbat Service 9:30 AM Main Shabbat Service 9:45 AM Worship & Study Minyan 10:30 AM Gan Shabbat 12:40 PM Shabbat Study Group |
| 8 9:00 AM Minyan 9:30 AM Men's Club Breakfast 7:00 PM Study Session | 9 | 10 ROSH HODESH ELUL 8:30 AM A Taste of Talmud 7:00 PM Mah Jongg | 11 ROSH HODESH ELUL | 12 NOON Vatikkim 7:00 PM Executive Committee Meeting | 13 CANDLES 7:49 PM 6:30 PM Friday Evening Service | 14 7:30 AM Early Shabbat Service 9:30 AM Main Shabbat Service 10:30 AM Nitzanim 12:40 PM Shabbat Study Group |
| 15 9:00 AM Minyan 9:30 AM Men's Club Breakfast 7:00 PM Study Session | 16 | 17 8:30 AM A Taste of Talmud 7:00 PM Mah Jongg | 18 | 19 NOON Vatikkim Luncheon | 20 CANDLES 7:40 PM 6:30 PM Friday Evening Service | 21 7:30 AM Early Shabbat Service 9:30 AM Main Shabbat Service 9:30 AM Marek Haar Bar Mitzvah 9:30 AM Minyan Chaverim 10:30 AM Gan Shabbat 12:40 PM Shabbat Study Group |
| 22 9:00 AM Minyan 9:30 AM Men's Club Breakfast 7:00 PM Study Session | 23 | 24 8:30 AM A Taste of Talmud 7:00 PM Mah Jongg | 25 | 26 NOON Vatikkim 7:30 PM Board Meeting | 27 CANDLES 7:30 PM 6:30 PM Friday Evening Service | 28 7:30 AM Early Shabbat Service 9:30 AM Main Shabbat Service 9:30 AM Amanda Spiwak Bat Mitzvah 9:30 AM Isabella Zissman Bat Mitzvah 10:30 AM Nitzanim 12:40 PM Shabbat Study Group |
| 29 9:00 AM Minyan 9:30 AM Men's Club Breakfast 7:00 PM Study Session | 30 | 31 BEPS STAFF PROFESSIONAL DAY 8:30 AM A Taste of Talmud 7:00 PM Mah Jongg | 1 BEPS STAFF PROFESSIONAL DAY 2:00 PM Roundtable with the Rabbi 7:30 PM Introduction to New Mahzor | 2 NOON Vatikkim 7:00 PM Executive Committee Meeting 8:30 PM Hearing Men's Voices | 3 CANDLES 7:19 PM BEPS STAFF PROFESSIONAL DAY 6:30 PM Friday Evening Service | 4 7:30 AM Early Shabbat Service 9:30 AM Main Shabbat Service 9:30 AM Miranda Escobar Bat Mitzvah 9:30 AM Yael Schoenbaum Bat Mitzvah 9:45 AM Worship & Study Minyan 10:30 AM Gan Shabbat 12:40 PM Shabbat Study Group 9:30 PM Selichot |