



SCROLL

Congregation Beth El

June 2009 • Sivan–Tammuz 5769

Vol. 58 No. 10

From the Clergy

5769: *A Year of Changes*

BY RABBI BILL RUDOLPH

Theme

YEAR IN PICTURES • 8-10

Features

FROM THE CLERGY • 1

BETH EL ON THE WEB • 2

ASK THE CLERGY • 5

5769 THEME:
TIKKUN OLAM • 6-7

LIBRARY CORNER • 12

Departments

SISTERHOOD /ZHAVA • 3

MEN'S CLUB • 4

YOUTH ACTIVITIES • 5

CONTRIBUTIONS • 13

BULLETIN BOARD • 16

As I think back over the months since Rosh Hashanah, I am struck by how much has happened that changed the landscape around us. I get to write about it each Wednesday, so you know I noticed that we have a new president with a large mandate and agenda for change and that we continue to function in very much of a struggling economy.

For Jews, this was the year of Bernie Madoff. We also saw Israel fight a war in Gaza that was as exacting a war as has ever been fought but nowhere near good enough to meet the world's very exacting standard for how a Jewish state must act. And we (alone?) began to be very concerned about Iran's nuclear intentions.

As members of Beth El, we got to worry publicly and privately about all the concerns noted above, but we also had the strength of our growing community to support us. Our schools continued to

reach record enrollments, while our commitment to Congregational Education for the 21st Century Initiative shows that we are not sitting on our laurels. Our special brand of creative fun thrived as well—witness our first Latke-Hamantaschen Debate, the return of Megillah Madness, the Gala and the Capitol Steps.

We devoted ourselves to making tikkun olam an integral part of what we are as a congregation. Repairing the world starts at home. Between congregants affected by the recession and the many families who lost loved ones, we had too many chances to practice our caring and concern. We can do even better, but if you were to follow just the parade of dinners being delivered without fanfare to member homes struck by death or illness, you would have a good feeling.

I join you in praying for a peaceful summer and better news going forward. ■



BETH EL MEMBERS WATCH A PRIMORDIAL SUNRISE OVER NIH ON APRIL 8 FOR *BIRKAT HAHAMMAH*, THE ONCE-IN-28-YEARS OCCURRENCE WHEN THE SUN IS SAID TO BE IN THE SAME PLACE IN THE SKY AS IT WAS AT THE MOMENT OF CREATION. MORE PHOTOS OF THE YEAR BEGIN ON PAGE 8. PHOTO BY DAVID FRIEDLANDER.

THE SCROLL IS A RECIPIENT OF A SOLOMON SCHECHTER GOLD WITH DISTINCTION AWARD FROM THE UNITED SYNAGOGUE OF CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM.

SCROLL

Congregation Beth El

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 rabsam8709@aol.com

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 eaueerbach@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

PRAYER 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, Judy Liberson, Janet Meyers, Helen Popper, 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.

Beth El on the Web

BY ARTHUR POPPER AND LORI AMSELLEM

Over the past year, the presence of Beth El on the Web has grown substantially. Our Web site, www.bethelmc.org, has been populated with a wealth of information about the congregation, its activities, and its members. Some of the most exciting features of the Web site include the latest issue of the *Scroll* well before it arrives in your mailboxes; back copies of Rabbi Rudolph's "It's Wednesday" email pieces; music from and by Hazzan Lubin; and a perpetual calendar of candle lighting and Jewish holidays. Your first place for information about Beth El and its activities should be our Web site.

You can also make donations and sign up and pay for events using a highly secure page.

We add new features to the Web site frequently. We are currently working on an archive of photos from Beth El events, and we welcome additional ideas for Web-based features. We especially want to be sure that every Beth El group can be part of www.bethelmc.org. If your group has material for the Web that is informative and useful to members or to potential members who visit our site, contact Lori Amsellem at contentmanager@bethelmc.org. She will help your group put its information onto the site.

Our Web site not only provides information for Beth El members but also serves the greater Jewish community all over the world, and it is an excellent way for each of us to inform prospective members about Beth El. ■

Effective June 1, 2009,

Beth El will no longer accept credit cards, except for grocery scrip payments of \$400 or more, as well online contributions.

While we have a very favorable rate for the bank fees associated with accepting credit cards, this amount has increased with credit card usage over the years to almost \$20,000 annually. With the economic downturn, Beth El had to look long and hard at where savings might be achieved for the coming fiscal year (starting June 1), and this was the largest single item identified that would not impact congregational life. We realize that by paying with a credit card, you earn points or miles that can be redeemed for travel or other purchases. This is a wonderful bonus, but those points and miles have come at a price to Beth El, one that, like many other congregations, we can not afford in this economy. Thank you for your understanding. If you have any questions, please contact executive director, Sheila Bellack, at 301-652-2606, ext. 306, or sbellack@bethelmc.org.

Sisterhood

Zhava: Young Sisterhood

BY DANA SCHAER NESTEL AND LARISA AVNER TRAINOR

Zhava, Beth El's Young Sisterhood, was started in 2006 by a group of women in their 30s and 40s. They wanted to give younger women a connection to Beth El once their children had graduated from preschool and a comfortable way to become active in synagogue life and build relationships with women in a similar stage of life. Zhava develops future Beth El leaders by attracting women under the age of 50 (or so) through educational programming, tik-kun olam projects, and social activities.

Zhava has become a significant presence at Beth El. It currently has more than 100 members and continues to grow and thrive. Zhava works closely with Sisterhood and jointly sponsors various events throughout the year. There is a natural progression from Zhava into Sisterhood, and we hope our continued growth will benefit Sisterhood and the entire congregation. Zhava was given a seat on the Beth El congregational board recently, and we are looking forward to being a part of Beth El for many years to come. This board position will help us stay connected and give a voice to an energetic, enthusiastic, and growing segment of the congregation.

Variety of Programming

We strive to have one or two programs each month, and we vary the topic and time in order to appeal to different segments of our membership. Our spiritual and educational programming this past year included a wonderful discussion with Gail Fribush about *A Spiritual Guide to the Holidays*, participation in the annual Sisterhood Shabbat service and the Sisterhood seder, a discussion and workshop on evaluating



MEREDITH JACOBS

your "work" situation, and Meredith Jacobs talking about her book *The Modern Jewish Mom's Guide to Shabbat* (see sidebar). We are committed to tik-kun olam and are very proud of our creative volunteer projects, including our Mitzvah Day Project "Happy Hats" and our participation in the Beth El Mitzvah Fair. Our social programming is diverse and includes our annual Jewish Film Festival "Dinner and a Movie," a wine tasting, and our year-end couples' night out.

Guide to Shabbat

Meredith Jacobs, author of *Modern Jewish Mom's Guide to Shabbat*, suggested many fun and interesting ways to make Shabbat at home special each week. She also pointed out how important it was to be together and share a Shabbat dinner, even if the dinner was not fancy. The most important aspects are the ritual of the Shabbat prayers and the gathering of the family to share the evening and let all other weekly craziness fall away. Meredith even suggested theme Shabbat dinners so that our young kids could participate in the preparation of the meal. Themes included "Pajama Night" when her husband had to work late and the children were already in their pajamas when he arrived home for dinner; "Shabbat under the Stars" on a beautiful summer evening; even "Sushi Shabbat" when necessary. Meredith's point was adapting to the needs of family while making the Shabbat dinner special at the same time. My favorite part of her talk was the suggestion that we add special traditions that we could repeat each week, among them special blessings or special songs. This is a great way to make our Shabbat dinners more meaningful for our families. —Dana Schaer Nestel

UPCOMING EVENTS

SISTERHOOD ELECTIONS AND
GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 10:30 AM

Dr. Rebecca Kaltman

Beth El Congregant
and Medical Oncologist

"What Is Breast Cancer All About?"

Influences on the risk of
developing breast cancer.

Open to all

If you have any questions about Zhava or would like to join or be added to our listserv to learn about upcoming events, please contact Larisa Avner Trainor at 301-652-2606 or Dana Schaer Nestel at 301-652-2606. The success of Zhava depends on our ability to continue to create great events with good participation. Please join us at one of our events; you may make new friends or reacquire yourself with old ones. ■

Men's Club

Obama and Israel

By MITCHELL SOLKOWITZ

After their election, both Barack Obama and Benjamin Netanyahu promised change, but what kind of change can we anticipate, and what does it mean for Israel? Jonathan S. Kessler, AIPAC's leadership development director and Beth El congregant, said that Israel is anxious about the changes in Washington and the kinds of tension or conflict that may develop.

Israel and the United States are on track to continue a strong and positive relationship, Jonathan told the Men's Club on April 26, but President Obama does not have a long-established record in Israel, and change always affects relationships. There are always ups and downs, Jonathan acknowledged, but during their campaigns, both President Obama and Prime Minister Netanyahu made clear that the United States and Israel have a unique, durable relationship. Although President Obama campaigned on change, "there is clear evidence of the continuity of existing principles regarding Iran, Iraq, and Hamas."

New Approach to the Middle East

President Obama's approach to Middle East affairs is different than that of the previous administration, Jonathan pointed out. "The President and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton are working on activist diplomacy." The Middle East envoy has already visited the region three times in the first 100 days of the administration, and policy advisors have



JONATHAN KESSLER (SECOND FROM RIGHT) CONTINUES THE DIALOGUE ON THE PRESIDENT AND ISRAEL PHOTO BY MITCHELL SOLKOWITZ

been to Damascus. Secretary Clinton has stated that the United States would be open to working with Hamas leaders if and only if they meet three conditions: recognizing Israel, renouncing terror, and continuing to follow the path begun by the Palestinian Authority. Because Hamas is not willing to do this, Jonathan said, working with Hamas will not happen. So while President Obama's approach is different, the results may be the same as in the past.

Jonathan also pointed out that Israel faces challenges, and the stakes are higher now. "Netanyahu believes the 'road to Palestine' is through Tehran; while Obama sees the 'road to Tehran' through Palestine," he said. Jonathan urged his listeners to ask their political leaders to support the Israel-Palestine relationship. "Everyone is focused on the economy, but we must make sure that Israel is always an important issue for Congress." ■



TO ACKNOWLEDGE MEN'S CLUB SUPPORT FOR THE EFFORTS OF THE GREEN TIKKUN COMMITTEE, HARVEY GERSHMAN PRESENTS ONE OF THE NEW GREEN TIKKUN POLO SHIRTS TO DAVID LEVINE, MEN'S CLUB TREASURER. THE SHIRT SAYS : REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE...BAL TASCHIT (DO NOT WASTE). PHOTO BY MITCHELL SOLKOWITZ

UPCOMING MEN'S CLUB EVENTS

The Men's Club will continue to provide a lox and bagel breakfast on Sundays after the 9:00 am minyan (members and non-members, including women and children are invited). June commences our relaxed summer scheduling.

THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 8:30 PM Hearing Men's Voices: David Margulies, who will lead a discussion on "Resurrecting the Dead – How Does God Do It?"

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 9:30 AM Speaker from Jewish National Fund on the exciting work at the Arava Institute in Israel to improve the environment.

SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 21, 28, 9:30 AM Speakers TBA

SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 7:45 PM Mincha/Havdalah, including third Shabbat meal (Seudah Shlishit) and Ma'ariv

Youth Activities

Highlights of the Year

BY ADAM ZEREN

It has been a busy year, and although school is nearly over for the year, the Youth Department has a few events to highlight for this summer. From Tuesday, June 30, to Thursday, July 2, we will have the honor of hosting 45 USYers. These teens are spending the summer traveling by bus across the United States on a USY on Wheels trip.

We will need host homes for the teens for those two nights. If you are able to house two or three USYers, please contact me at azeren@bethelmc.org. All they really need is a bed and transportation to and from Beth El in the morning and evening.

USY Encampment/Kamp Kadima will be held at Capital Camps Monday, August 17, to Monday, August 24, for all rising sixth to 12th graders. This week is a great end-of-the-summer activity for our youth. Please email me for an application.

Year's Top Two

This summer we will be thinking about new, creative ways to capture your students' attention when they return in September. It will be hard to top some of the events from this past year. One of my favorites was hosting the Israeli rock and rap band Hadag Nachash. I will never forget

watching 800 people rocking the Beth El sanctuary. The other highlight of the year was having the privilege of hosting 40 USYers from the Midwest and Southwest for USY International Convention in December.

Our USY and Kadima chapters remained the biggest in the Seaboard Region. That translated into more young people becoming involved in our programs and finding out that there is so much more to being Jewish than they imagined.

Not Just USY

Our younger youth groups also had some wonderful programming, such as Lego Yom Ha'Atzmaut, T-shirt tie dyeing, and Rosh Hashanah apple picking. We want to thank Bonim advisor Sarah Sicherman and Machar advisor Mira Kahn and wish them both well with their future plans. Sara Greenbaum, Beth El congregant and Beth El Preschool teacher, will become Bonim advisor in the fall, planning activities for kindergarten through second-grade students. We are still searching for a Machar advisor. We are pleased that Jordan Schneider will return as our Kadima advisor.

Have a wonderful summer. ■

Israeli Rose Company Closes

We are sad to report that M & M Roses, our supplier of beautiful roses from Israel for the past several years, ceased operation at the end of April. The closure was caused by a chronic shortage of orders, exacerbated by the worldwide economic situation. We are looking for a new supplier of Israeli flowers and welcome suggestions. Contact Esther Wilner at info@bethelmc.org.



Join the Religious School Committee

If you want to be involved in the Beth El Religious School next year, consider joining the Religious School Committee. Meetings are generally once a month.

For more information, please contact Rachel Gafni, 301-652-2606, info@bethelmc.org, or Abby Nathans, info@bethelmc.org.

Ask the Clergy

BY RABBI GREG HARRIS

Why do we place stones on a grave when we visit?

This custom has been attributed to a few sources but fundamentally was established in a time when the actual grave was topped with stones. By visiting the grave and placing stones on it, one was really preserving the grave. The stones acted as protection from animals and the elements. Today, placing a stone on a marker is a way to indicate that someone has visited the grave. The next person who comes to the grave will see that the deceased has not been forgotten. It is not a Jewish custom to bring flowers because they quickly wilt. A stone is more permanent. Finally, it has been suggested that a stone can indicate the passing from one generation to the next. The Hebrew word for stone (אבן) can be broken into two words – אב (father) and בן (son). Thus, placing a stone can connect generations. ■

Green Tikkun News

1. It's not too late to join us for our last Dumpster Dive of the year on Thursday, June 4, at 7:00 pm by the Beth El loading dock. Protective gear will be provided. Come see for yourself what and how much we throw out, recycle, and compost. Children 10 and older are welcome.
2. Help us design a "Do Not Idle" sign to remind congregants and guests that state and county laws prohibit letting our engines idle unnecessarily. A sustainable prize will be awarded for the best design.
3. Want to sink your hands into Creation? Want to help

weed and plant in soil untainted by unsustainable pesticides or fertilizers? Want to learn about biodynamic farming? Come to our CSA (community-supported agriculture) farm in West Virginia for fresh air and camaraderie and to work on the land. Help start a carpool (weekdays or Sundays).

4. Are you a co-op parent of a preschooler at BEPS, interested in the environment but can't attend our meetings? We'd like to talk to you.

For more about Green Tikkun initiatives at Beth El, please contact Michele Lieban Levine at info@bethelmc.org. ■

Mixing Summer Fun with Tikkun Olam

BY DIANA HUFFMAN

When she was three years old, Jen Fink was hospitalized with viral pneumonia at Schneider's Medical Center in Israel. Ten years later, for her bat mitzvah project, she created 40 bilingual scrapbooks for patients at that same hospital. On each colorfully decorated page was space for children to note their favorite games or books, and there were also pages to chronicle things that scared them or worried them. In the year of her bat mitzvah, Jen, a Churchill High School junior, and her family hand delivered the scrapbooks to the hospital.

Jen's mother, Debbie, said "that experience really lit the fire" in Jen to practice tikkun olam. "It was quite powerful." Last summer, after her sophomore year at Churchill High School, Jen participated in the USY on Wheels: Mission Mitzvah. "I was eager to spend my summer having fun while doing good," Jen said. "Many of my older friends told me that USY on Wheels was unbelievably fun, but I didn't want to do it because I really wanted to do community service during the summer." The Mitzvah Mission turned out to be the perfect solution. "I would travel the country building my Jewish identity while doing community service projects."

The 6½-week mission started in Chicago. "We started in Chicago and traveled the Midwest and West by bus, stopping in each city to tour and do mitzvah projects." The most fulfilling memory, Jen said, was the afternoon and evening spent serving dinner at the Glide Soup Kitchen in San Francisco. "I served dinner for about 10 minutes, and then I worked the 'floor,' which meant having simple conversations with the clients and getting them anything they needed. I remember that there was nothing simple about the conversations. I had two of my most inspiring conversations with two men there." One of Jen's most moving experiences was visiting the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum, and she was determined to bring her mother to see it too.

Debbie said Jen's significant medical struggles are part of the reason she has such a "deep-seated commitment to help others, to help heal what might be healed. They heighten her awareness of the profound impact one person can have on another person."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

The Musical "Memorial Girls"

Jen Fink was one of three students from Churchill High School selected to participate in the 2009 National Senior High School Honor Choir in March in Oklahoma City. The 300-person choir rehearsed for 28 hours over four days, culminating with a performance for more than 2,000 choral directors from across the United States.

During a break in rehearsals, Jen and Churchill student, Natasha Lazarev visited the memorial to the April 1995 Oklahoma City bombing victims and decided to organize an outdoor musical tribute. The girls recruited more than 100 of the choir members and their director, Christine Bass. The evening before their concert, the singers gathered on the tiered grass of the memorial, overlooking the reflecting pool and the 168 memorial chairs, each etched with the name of a victim. They sang "To Music" by David Stanley York and "Precious Lord" by Thomas Dorsey. In the profound silence that followed the singing, Mrs. Bass said, "Hold on to this feeling when you perform tomorrow. Your music now has found its meaning."

Later Mrs. Bass remarked, "It's kids like these who will help change the world." Jen and Natasha were dubbed "The Memorial Girls."

Tikkun Olam in Review

BY BARBARA COHEN

Tikkun Olam at Beth El is like a sprouting tree. In the top branches, we are gaining brainpower, creativity, workers, and leaders, resulting in important initiatives. The roots are also establishing themselves within our synagogue culture. One year ago, Jerry Herman, Barbara Cohen, and Rabbi Greg Harris set a goal of developing and bringing to life one of Beth El's Guiding Values in the Beth El Mission Statement.

It states that our community "accepts responsibility for repairing the world—tikkun olam—we provide

opportunities for participation in social action and encourage involvement and assumption of leadership in Jewish and secular communities and support for Israel." To support our initiatives, we established four objectives:

- a. Enhance communication of tikkun olam as a core value of our community and highlight it within our congregational culture
- b. Encourage more tikkun olam programming by Beth El auxiliaries
- c. Stimulate greater involvement in tikkun olam events
- d. Raise Beth El's tikkun olam profile within Montgomery County

We have been moving forward on each objective.

The steering committee includes people from various

FOLO: For Our Loved Ones

BY ANDREA RIFKIND

I have a new family. It is made up of 15 incredible women. We are mothers, daughters, sisters, and wives. Our ages range from mid-30s to late 50s. Several of us are members of Congregation Beth El. Before this year, many of us had never met one another.

We are Team FOLO (For Our Loved Ones), and over 16 weeks, we walked countless miles together to train for and complete the two-day, 39.3-mile Avon Walk for Breast Cancer, held May 2-3. In three months, we raised more than \$56,000 to fund breast cancer research and treatment in the Washington area. Through the generosity of our friends and families, FOLO ranked fifth for overall fundraising for the 2009 Washington Avon Walk, earning us a "port-o-potty" bearing our team name!

No doubt, the 15 of us had a shared mission. But each of us was compelled for personal reasons to decide that *this*



GREEN TIKKUN DISPLAY AT THE TIKKUN OLAM FAIR IN MARCH. PHOTO BY MITCHELL SOLKOWITZ

constituencies at Beth El that are involved in tikkun olam.

Through the committee, there have been increased efforts to coordinate our efforts and to support each other. This includes longstanding activities such as Mitzvah Day, High Holiday Food Drive, preparation and serving of meals for the Community Based Shelter, Sukkot in Spring, and the many projects sponsored by the Sisterhood, the Preschool, and the Religious School. It also includes the establishment of new activities such as Green Tikkun initiatives, tikkun olam missions to New Orleans, an ongoing dialogue with members of a local mosque, a Beth El volunteer fair, and various educational programs on tikkun olam topics.

As we assess our progress, we are pleased to see the growth of established programs in the numbers and enthusiasm of participants.

New initiatives have also raised Beth El's consciousness about energy usage, the environment, interfaith relations, preventing genocide, and taking an active role in repairing the world. While these are not new issues to the Beth El community, our new efforts brought our engagement to a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Kesher Nashim: A Circle of Women

A group of Beth El women, members of Kesher Nashim, are either currently undergoing cancer treatment or are cancer survivors. They meet at Beth El bi-monthly to offer support and friendship and to exchange resources and information. Kesher Nashim's mission includes community outreach; it supports the Beth El Blood Drive and the Komen Race for the Cure. Future projects may include work with the DC Capital Breast Care Center.

This circle of women is always available to listen and to help. To learn more, please contact either Margaret Rifkind or Marge London at info@bethelmc.org.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11





Chidon Tanach
World Wide Wrap



Art Market



2009 Gala



Mitzvah Day



BERS Kindergarten



Mitzvah Day



Mitzvah Day



Building the

Youth Activities Kickoff



Completing the New Torah



Cooking for the Sisterhood Seder



5769 **Year in** *Pictures*

ALL PHOTOS BY MITCHELL SOLKOWITZ



Beth El Sukkah



Scholar-in-Residence, Rabbi Nina Beth Cardin, with New Recycling Bin



Latkes v. Hamantaschen

PURIM 5769



FOLO CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

was the year to walk. In January, we explained to our husbands and children that our lives would be disrupted for awhile and asked them to bear with us. Creeping out of our houses while our families slept, we trained nearly every Saturday and Sunday morning for months. Enduring bad weather, blisters and bruises, we cancelled social plans and protected ourselves against exhaustion and dehydration.

Our commitment to training paid off. We all reached the finish line on May 3, walking the last 13 miles in pouring rain. Along with 3,000 other determined women and men, we helped raise \$6.8 million for a worthwhile cause. By weaving our way through the streets of Washington, Maryland, and Virginia, we helped raise awareness and illustrate a public commitment to finding a cure for breast cancer.

Grateful at the Finish Line

Crossing that finish line was a feeling like no other. We were exhilarated, but, moreover, we were *grateful*. Grateful for the opportunity to honor the memory of those lost and for the chance to honor the brave women and men (yes, men) currently battling the disease. We were grateful that our bodies allowed us to reach our goal. And we were so very grateful for our teammates, supporters, friends, and families, and for every adult and child who lined our route, cheering us on and giving us candy, high fives, and fist bumps. We all felt more *whole* at the finish line than we had when we began our journey months earlier. We discovered that perhaps tikkun olam is not merely about healing the world but about healing ourselves, as well. We built a community in order to help others and, in so doing, we reconnected with our own humanity. The months we spent walking allowed us to take in the beautiful world around us, whether it was a winter snowfall or the emergence of spring.

I believe Beth El congregant and FOLO member Kim Schifrin said it best about our team: “When we first met, we knew we had just one thing in common—that someone we loved was touched directly by breast cancer. As the weeks unfolded and our life stories were told, we found a world of common (and uncommon) experiences. Best of all is that

TIKKUN OLAM REVIEW CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

higher level. Tikkun olam will be the theme of Beth El for a second year because we have just laid the foundations for future successes and for rooting tikkun olam within our culture. In the coming year, we hope to strengthen the bonds among all the different constituencies participating in tikkun olam at Beth El. We also hope to encourage greater participation in ongoing programs and additional leadership in the establishment of new initiatives. ■



TEAM FOLO TOP ROW, FROM LEFT: MARSHA SHAPIRO, ROBIN THOMASHAUER*, KIM SCHIFRIN*, MAUREEN OSE, JOAN LEVY, GINA STEINWAY, SALLY VOGEL, LISA DAVISON*, DIANNE BRICKMAN*, ELISE MCEACHERN, EILEEN KAY*. BOTTOM ROW, FROM LEFT: BARBARA DAVIDSON, HALLIE WERBEL*, FRAN KATZ WATSON*, ANDREA RIFKIND* (*MEMBERS OF BETH EL)

we know we’ve raised enough money to make a difference in the lives of others.”

Individually, and as a team, we discovered: clarity, purpose, community, determination. These ideals are not to be taken lightly. Nor is it trite to acknowledge that the more we are willing to give to others, the more we will receive in return. ■

Please note that other Beth El congregants took part in this year’s walk. In addition, we were inspired by those Beth El members who walked before us.

SUMMER TIKKUN OLAM CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Jen also credited her loving and nurturing family and community. “I need to give back for all the love and support I have been given. I was, and still am, a very fortunate child, but I have been raised not to take anything for granted. Whether donating clothing and toys, organizing a carnival for handicapped children, or making a total fool



NATASHA LAZAREV (LEFT) AND JEN FINK

of myself in order to bring smiles to the faces of residents of a retirement home, fulfillment for me comes when I can make a subtle difference in someone’s life.” ■

Art in the Third Reich

BY ROBIN JACOBSON

Later this year, we will reach the 70th anniversary of the start of World War II, a solemn milestone to be marked by memorial ceremonies and exhibitions around the world. The Beth El Library is ready. Defiantly anti-Nazi artwork hangs on the wall. Our new painting, “Shofars and Candles,” by artist Loren Rosenstein, is vivid and stimulating (see illustration), yet its abstract style (even apart from its Judaic imagery) might have doomed it to destruction as “degenerate art” in Hitler’s Third Reich.

Several books in the library’s collection argue that understanding Nazi Germany requires understanding Adolf Hitler’s obsession with art. Hitler’s artistic passions, according to these books, informed his homicidal racial policies and influenced his battle plans. In Hitler’s twisted mind, the war against the Jews was part of a seismic culture war to purify Germany of degenerate people and art so that the nation could take its rightful place as the Aryan culture capital of the world. We recommend *Rape of Europa* by Lynn Nicholas and *Hitler and the Power of Aesthetics* by Frederic Spotts as well as two new novels, *Pictures at an Exhibition* by Sara Houghteling and, for young adults, *The Mysterious Edge of the Heroic World* by E.L. Konigsburg. The following discussion is drawn from these books.

Purging “Degenerate” Art

Adolf Hitler’s devotion to art was as intense as his racism, and these twin passions fueled each other. A failed artist, refused admission to study at the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts, Hitler was determined to purge Germany of the modernist art that he felt had corrupted the nation’s true cultural identity. In 1937, he ordered “degenerate art” removed from German museums, tearing from the walls an estimated 16,000 works deemed too modern, abstract, primitive, ugly, unfinished, “Jewish,” or non-German by artists including Picasso, Matisse, and Van Gogh. Hitler

declared that Impressionism and Expressionism were the creation of criminals and lunatics who deserved either the “prison or the madhouse.” Seething with rage, he promised, “We will . . . lead an unrelenting war of purification, an unrelenting war of extermination, against the . . . elements which have displaced our Art.” Three days later, an exhibition of “Degenerate Art” mocked the works of abstract painters. One room was devoted to a “representative selection from an endless supply of Jewish trash.”

As war approached, the Nazis realized that the sale of banned art was a convenient means to raise foreign currency.

In June 1939, the Nazis arranged an auction in Lucerne, Switzerland, of prized works from German museums. Many dealers boycotted the sale, but others came, hoping to save masterpieces that

might otherwise be destroyed. Just a few weeks before the auction, the Berlin Fire Department burned nearly 5,000 condemned artworks in a fire drill.

Plundering Old Masters

As much as Hitler hated modernist art, he coveted Old Masters and other famous European art. German armies swept through Europe armed with lists of artwork Hitler wanted to confiscate. Nazis also stripped art treasures from the private collections of Jews sent to concentration camps. An estimated one-fifth of all known European art was seized by the Nazi regime. Many of these works were earmarked for Linz, Austria, Hitler’s birthplace, where he planned to build a magnificent European Culture Center—an art acropolis that would outshine the Louvre and all other grand museums.

How Adolf Hitler could slaughter millions yet yearn to foster great culture remains a historic paradox. In a small way, our library’s proud display of Rosenstein’s “Shofars and Candles” trumpets his defeat. ■



Contributions

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

Barbara Wolf “Israel Quest” Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Dr. Isadore Rod by Douglas and Annette Wolf

Lola Sherman by Gerald Sherman

Cecile Kopit by Leo Kopit

Bendit Adult Institute Fund

IN HONOR OF:

Stephanie Ventura and Howie Stein, with much appreciation, by Mollie Berch

Mollie Berch, superb teacher, role model, and friend, by Rita Kopin

Irv Kopin’s special birthday by Richard and Sandy Pollen

IN MEMORY OF:

David Sachs by Bob and Sheryl Isaacs

Jean Blank, mother of Murray Blank, by Suzanne Stone

My father, Elias Bezner, by Steven Bezner

Bernardo Kotelanski, M.D. Marriage Education Fund

IN HONOR OF:

Irv Kopin’s 80th birthday by Phil and Vivian Gorden

IN MEMORY OF:

Sadie Gorden by Phil and Vivian Gorden

William Ginsberg by Phil and Vivian Gorden

Beth El Forest

IN MEMORY OF:

Marvin and Pearle Friedkin and Lisa Friedkin, parents and sister of Helen Beryl Friedkin, by Helen Beryl Friedkin

Norma Rothkop by Julia P. Copperman

Burris Hanley, beloved father of Dr. Bruce Hanley, by Joan and Gregg Levy

Ludwig Meyerhoff, father of Gabriela Bebchick, by Gabriela Bebchick

Building Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Frances Bebchick, in appreciation of the support of the clergy and members who led and assisted with shiva services, by Leonard and Gabriela Bebchick

Cantor’s Fund

IN HONOR OF:

Cheryl Kreiser, for tutoring Molly Stone for her bat mitzvah, by Jon and Joyce Stone

IN MEMORY OF:

Louis Berman by Ken and Beth Berman

Isadore Rod, MD, by Jack and Johanna Minker

Pauline Heckman and Morris Heckman by Bernard and Ruth Ann Heckman

Ruth Cernea by Michael Cernea

Capital Campaign

IN HONOR OF:

Dr. Irwin Kopin’s birthday by Charlotte Simos

Get well soon for Natalie Adams by Charlotte Simos

IN MEMORY OF:

Sarah Lewis and William Aisenberg by Irv Aisenberg

Sol Chanin, father of Marla Chanin Neustadt and grandfather of Seth Tobar, by Marla Chanin Neustadt

Joseph G. Resnick by Mr. and Mrs. Bernard T. Resnick

Chevra Kadisha Fund

IN HONOR OF:

Darryl Sherman, Sara Greenbaum, Iris Tishkoff, and Rachelle Solkowitz, thank you for being there for us, by Ellen Darr

IN MEMORY OF:

Dr. Isadore Rod, father of Bernie Rod, by Jack and Stephanie Ventura

Frances Bebchick, with sympathy, by Ellen and David Darr
Mindy Lieberman by Bob Levine and Michele, Ruthie, and Simone Lieban Levine

Albert Berger, devoted husband, father, and grandfather, by Audrey Berger

Louis M. Ellenbogen, beloved father of Audrey Berger, by Audrey Berger

Simon H. Spivak by Anita Lieb

College Outreach Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Harry Golubcow, father, by Saul Golubcow

Dorothy Beverly Kitchen Fund

IN HONOR OF:

The engagement of Matthew Blank, son of Murray and Judy Blank, to Mary Schram by Barbara and Barry Friedman

The engagement of Rebecca Dreilinger, daughter of Amanda Ford and Craig Dreilinger to Andy Einhorn, by Barbara and Barry Friedman

IN MEMORY OF:

Beloved mother, Sarah Adella Ozarin, by Lucy Ozarin

Dr. Elaine L. Shalowitz Education Fund

IN HONOR OF:

In appreciation of the rabbi and staff at Beth El at the time of the funeral of Dr. Elaine L. Shalowitz by Ann, Carl, Sara and Becca Dieffenbach

IN MEMORY OF:

Dr. Elaine Shalowitz, beloved teacher, by Lenore Richter, Rita and Irv Kopin, Sally and Robert Lee, Frances Hoffman, Laura S. Mayer, Debby Wolf Shoham, Dan and Charlotte Fishman, Paul and Susan Moskowitz, Leonard and Thelma Lourie, Daniel and Elaine Mann, George and Carolyn Slate, Frances Min Chang, Dr. Dorothy Foster Friedman, Gladyce Hantman, Vera and Ralph Deckelbaum, Milly Spector, Warren and Judith Greenberg, Fae Brodie, Hilary and Robert Rubin, Milton and Judy Moskowitz, Cathy and William Meyer, Rosie and Howard Chernoff, Helene Weisz and Richard Lieberman, Henrietta Asen, Daniel and Carol Moskowitz, Rose A. George, Sally Lesner, Laura Margolis Warshawsky, Jonathan Kagan, Pickett D. Randolph, Dora D. Weinstein, Charlotte Pearlman, Frances S. Cressman, Rosalie and Gilbert Fleisher, Barbara Scott, and Barbara Brooks Atkinson
Albert Langerman, father of my beloved wife, by Erwin Shalowitz

Elaine Tanenbaum Religious School Enrichment Fund

IN HONOR OF:

Dan Margulies, on receiving the Eagle Scout Award, by Dr. Herbert Tanenbaum

Anniversary of Dr. Mark and Claire Tanenbaum by Dr. Herbert Tanenbaum

Louis Nagel, on receiving his doctorate degree, by Tricia and Howard Sachs and family and Barbara, Alan, and Laura Gold
Birthday of Dr. Bruce Tanenbaum by Dr. Herbert Tanenbaum

Contributions Continued

IN MEMORY OF:

Louise C. Schrier by Helene and Ken Nankin
Elaine Tanenbaum by Dr. Herbert Tanenbaum
Dr. Isadore Rod by Dr. Herbert Tanenbaum
Elaine Shalowitz by Dr. Herbert Tanenbaum and sons

General Fund

IN HONOR OF:

80th birthday of Irwin Kopin by Richard and Elizabeth Drachman
Brent Berger's special birthday by Ellen Tillman and Mark N. Dorf
Rabbi Rudolph, Rabbi Harris, and Cantor Lubin, thank you for
your support and comfort, by Ellen Darr

In appreciation of Rabbi William Rudolph, Rabbi Gregory
Harris, and Hazzan Abraham Lubin, for their sincere concern and
continual support, by Dr. Sanford and Diane Kay

The marriage of Michael and Suzanne Feinstein, by Steven, Jill,
Miles, and Genna Feinstein

Barak Reuven Fishman, newest grandchild of Rabbi Sam and
Tamar Fishman, by Suzanne Stone

IN MEMORY OF:

Ruth Horwitz, mother of Ellen Darr and grandmother of Melanie
Bachrach, by Judy Sherman, Esther and Elliot Wilner, Debbie
Feinstein and Steve Kuperberg

Dr. Isadore Rod by Esther and Elliot Wilner, Walter Arnheim and
Marsha Rehns, Martha Strauss, and Deborah Leibowitz

Frances Bebchick by Walter Arnheim and Marsha Rehns, Julia
Copperman, Esther and Elliot Wilner, and Rita and Irv Kopin
Jean Blank, mother of Murray Blank, by Ace and Linda Lipson,
Gail Ross and Roy Niedermayer, and Susan and Bert King

Tatyana Glickman by Etia Dvorkina

Eve Scharf, mother of Marilyn Scharf and sister of George
Perlman, by Elaine and George Perlman

David Band, beloved brother of Jonathan Band, by the Schroyer-
Schwaber Family, Gail Ross and Roy Niedermayer, Helene Weisz
and Richard Lieberman, Steve and Phyllis Solomon, the Farbers,
and Phillip and Susan Neuberg

Samuel Kalman by Dora D. Weinstein

Frances Bebchick, in appreciation of the congregation's support
and the condolences of so many congregants, by Leonard and
Gabriela Bebchick

Mindy Lieberman by Marilyn, Frans, and Michelle Shevin-
Coetzee

Joseph Sherman by Ruth Stein

Julius Foss by Murray Foss

Semoyn Zusin by Ruvan Zusin

Kurt Weisz by Helene Weisz, Bernie Weisz, and families

Sadye Moshman by Annette and Jack Moshman

Robert Weisz by Helene Weisz, Bernie Weisz, and families

Ruben Kaplovsky by Lillian Miller

Solomon Berde by Irene Hauser

Dorothy Shandell, grandmother of Andrea Shandell, by Andrea
Shandell

Jack Silverman by Elaine Gessow

Mary Press by Theodore Press

Sylvia Axelrod, my sister-in-law, by Julia P. Copperman

Ruth Korb, by Gail J. Korb

Ben Papirmeister, father of James Papirmeister, by Martha Strauss

Pearl Baker by Helen Kanovsky

Flora Singer by Ruth Kay

Green Tikkun Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Vera Lieban-Kalmer, beloved mom and Omi, by Michele Lieban
Levine and family

Groner Ramah Scholarship Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Dr. Isadore Rod by Erwin and Leena Groner
Frances Bebchick by Erwin and Leena Groner
Ruth Horwitz by Erwin and Leena Groner

Israel Experience Teen Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Mary Kivitz by Murray A. Kivitz

Harvey Shapiro by Melvyn F. Shapiro

Dr. Isadore Rod by Pamela Friedman

Yahrzeits of Margit Sonne and Samuel Scherr by Daniel and
Elaine Mann

Kimball Nursery School Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Ruth Horwitz, mother of Ellen Darr, by Rita and Irv Kopin
Mindy Lieberman, with sympathy, by Ellen Darr

Library Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Dora Passett by Margery London

Florence Lieb by Theodore Lieb

Mindy Lieberman by Cheryl Kreiser

Kalman Seigel, beloved father of Carolyn Shanoff and Ann
Goodman, by Carolyn Shanoff

Ann Simowitz by Lee and Amy Simowitz

My beloved and dear brother, Jerome Horowitz, by Rita Liebowitz

Frieda Troffkin, mother of Howard Troffkin, by Howard Troffkin

Irene Shapiro by Joan and Seth Goldberg

Litman Holocaust Education Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Clara Cohen by Ken and Beth Berman

Max Kahn by Fred Kahn

Mazon

IN HONOR OF:

R'juah sh'lemah, a speedy recovery for Andrew Schoenholtz, by
Cheryl Kreiser

IN MEMORY OF:

Sydney I. Sank and Dora Bloomfield by Dr. Lawrence Sank

Morning Minyan Fund

IN HONOR OF:

My aliyah by Marilda Averbug

IN MEMORY OF:

Louis Lerman by Allen Lerman

Harry Brody by Gerald Brody

My beloved husband, Melvin Richter, by Lenore Richter

Isadore Rod, father of Bernie Rod, by Suzanne Stone

A. Abba Koblenz, father of Andrew Koblenz, by Katey and Andy
Koblenz

Michael Abrams, father of Katherine Koblenz, by Katey and Andy
Koblenz

Fannye Levin, mother, and Label Forman, uncle, by Julian Levin
and Sondra Brody

Contributions Continued

Perspectives Fund

IN HONOR OF:

Cary Feldman's birthday by Susan Garland and James Feldesman

Rabbi's Fund

IN HONOR OF:

In appreciation of Rabbi Harris, for his warmth and compassion following the death of my husband, by Jeanne Levin and Family
In appreciation for the honor we received on the last day of Pesach by Jack and Esther Kranton

In appreciation of Rabbi Rudolph by Leesa Fields and Jonathan Band

In appreciation of Rabbi Harris for officiating at the simchat bat of our daughter, Lucy Isabella, by Steven and Jennifer Hirsch

In appreciation of Rabbi Rudolph's fine support during my recent bereavement for my wife, Elaine, by Erwin Shalowitz

Health of Sue B. Alterman by Estie Bomzer

Rabbi Harris's and Sheldon Novek's support of the Confirmation Class trip by Laura and Ray Bouvier

In appreciation of Rabbi Rudolph officiating at our wedding by Joshua and Rebecca Friedlander

98th birthday of Martin Samuel Dembo by Helen Beryl Friedkin

IN MEMORY OF:

Lewis D. Prag, Dora D. Prag, and Morris D. Lerner by Herb and Dianne Lerner

Abraham Becker by Scott J. Becker

Martin Feinstein by Michael Feinstein

Esther Weisberg by Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Weisberg

My beloved father, David Kaufman, by Amy Kaufman Goott

John Trauberman, loving father and grandfather, by Jeffrey Trauberman

Frances Bebchick, mother of Leonard Bebchick, by Deborah Leibowitz

Leon Polis by Fishman Family

Leah Auerbach by Fran Rubin

David Band by Debbie and Alan Pollack

Beulah Hendel by Linda Posilkin

Ethel Levey by Joel and Joan Simon

Lester Pink, father of SuzAnne Gladstone, by SuzAnne Gladstone

Faye Amster by Jayson and Tassie Amster

Flora Singer by Dr. and Mrs. Bernard Laps

My parents by Mitchell Cooper

Pauline Heckman and Morris Heckman by Bernard and Ruth Ann Heckman

Ray and David Pollack by Linda Orenstein

Steven's father, Milton S. Kaufman, by Steven and Wendy Kaufman

Abraham Dosik by Howard M. and Sondra D. Bender

Libby Gordon by Dr. and Mrs. Bernard Laps

Libby Klavan by Dr. and Mrs. Bernard Laps

Betty and Isadore Kimmel by Dr. and Mrs. Robert Kramer

Anna and Morris Kramer by Dr. and Mrs. Robert Kramer

Herbert W. Bomzer by Estie Bomzer

Simos Music Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Albert Glick by Scott and Debbie Glick

Sisterhood Flower Fund

IN HONOR OF:

Sue Kanter, to thank you for all your help at the Tallit Workshop, by Rhoda Nichaman

IN MEMORY OF:

My dear mother, Lia Imas, by Marta Wassertzug

Sisterhood Shiva Meal Fund

IN HONOR OF:

Sharon Markus and Beth El Sisterhood, thank you for your sustenance and comfort, by Ellen Darr

IN MEMORY OF:

Frances Bebchick, in appreciation for Sisterhood's support, by Leonard and Gabriela Bebchick

Sisterhood Silver Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Nettie Rauch by Ruth Ann Heckman

Social Action Fund

IN HONOR OF:

My aliyah by Marilda Averbug

Sid Getz leading the Darfur service by Laura and Michael Cutler

IN MEMORY OF:

Our beloved father and grandfather, Lewis Goldsticker, on his first yahrzeit, by Marcy, Ed, Andrew, and Sasha Berger

Vatikkim

IN MEMORY OF:

Scholarly and beloved brother, Rudolph Hindin, by Frances (Fran) H. Leibowitz

Evelyn Shevin by Marilyn, Frans, and Michelle Shevin-Coetze

Dr. Isadore Rod by Mrs. Esther Isralow, Lucy Ozarin, and Marilyn and Steve Silverman

Vince Prada Technology Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Kalman Seigel by Ann Goodman

Werner Liturgical Music Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Cyma Heffter, wife of Jerome Heffter, by Jerome Heffter

World Jewry Fund

IN MEMORY OF:

Dr. Isadore Rod by Claire Marwick

When Making a Contribution

Many of our restricted funds have a substantial balance, but two need your support. For now, when you make a contribution to Beth El in someone's honor or memory, please consider designating the donation to the Chevra Kadisha Fund, which provides meals of condolence to congregants sitting shiva, or to the General Fund, which is used for our day-to-day operating expenses. Also note that the Prayer Book Fund is not accepting contributions at this time for the dedication of siddurim, as they are all dedicated. Thank you for your support and generosity.

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

Dolly Band on the death of her mother, **Selma Goodman Dorfman**

Leonard Bebchick on the death of his mother, **Frances Bebchick**

Michael Cernea and **Andrei** and **Lauren Cernea** on the death of **Ruth Cernea**

Ben Cohen and **Barbara Cohen** on the death of their sister and aunt, respectively, **Edith Silverman**

Bruce Hanley on the death of his father, **Burriss Hanley**

Joshua Odintz on the death of his mother, congregant **Patricia Odintz**

Jim Papirmeister, on the death of his father, **Ben Papirmeister**

Paul Robin on the death of his father, **Herman David Robin**

Bernie Rod on the death of his father, **Isadore Rod**
Erwin Shalowitz on the death of his wife, **Elaine Shalowitz**

Mazal Tov to

Murray and **Judy Blank** on the engagement of their son, **Matthew**, to **Mary Schram**

Amanda Ford and **Craig Dreiling** on the engagement of their daughter, **Rebecca Dreiling**, to **Andy Einhorn**

Mara Greengrass and **Avinoam Fishman** on the birth of their son, **Barak Reuven Fishman**, on March 7, and to grandparents **Tamar** and **Rabbi Samuel Fishman**

Noteworthy

Bridge – the greatest game ever! Join us every Monday. Drop in and join a game; no partner necessary. Contact Shirley Levine at info@bethelmc.org or 301-652-2606. If you are interested in playing but don't have transportation, please call Roz Sporn at 301-652-2606, Richard Belferman

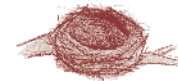
at 301-652-2606, or Claire Marwick 301-652-2606. They will try to arrange transportation for you.

Vatikim: Brown Bag Lunch every first, second, and fourth Thursday of the month at noon in the Zahler Social Hall. Come and socialize with your friends, and enjoy some light refreshments and dessert. On the second and fourth Thursdays, one of our clergy members will join the group and lead a discussion.

Senior Caucus Meeting, Wednesday, June 3, at 1:00 pm These vibrant, active retirees join to hear about the ongoing programs and plan new activities. Be one of them. This program is followed by

Roundtable with the Rabbi, Wednesday, June 3, at 2:00 pm Join us to celebrate June birthdays (yours and those of others) with dessert, coffee, and a lively and challenging discussion led by Rabbi Rudolph. Birthday people receive a special invitation, but all are welcome each month. ■

The BEENs COLUMN (Beth El Empty Nesters)



Beth El Empty Nesters are people in their late 40s to early 60s who no longer have (or never had) children at home and wish to connect with others in our community at the same stage of life. For general information, call Paola Bolasny at 301-652-2606. To be added to our email list, contact Gale Dutcher at info@bethelmc.org. Our activities are planned by an informal steering committee and by individuals who have the interest and willingness to organize an event.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

JUNE 14, 6:30 PM—BEENs Dinner Out at Pomegranate Bistro, a new and thriving kosher restaurant at Cabin John Shopping Center. For further information, contact Carol Reynolds at bethelmc.org or 301-652-2606 no later than June 7.

Weekly Parshiot

SOURCE: SIDDUR SIM SHALOM

Beth El Calendar & Weekly Parshiot



Naso

June 6, 14 Sivan

The Levites are to dismantle the Tabernacle when Israel sets forth and to remake it when Israel encamps. God forbids unclean persons to dwell in the camp. Priestly intervention is required in cases of marital infidelity or the breaking of a Nazirite vow of consecration to God. God trains Aaron to deliver Birkat Kohanim, the three-fold priestly blessing. The Mishkan is dedicated.

B'ha'alot'kha

June 13, 21 Sivan

God charges Aaron to light the seven-branched menorah. The Levites are purified; a second pesach offering is ordained for those unable to participate in the first. Israel sets forth from Sinai. As the Ark is carried forward, Moses cries, "Arise, Adonai! May Your enemies be scattered; may Your foes be put to flight." When the Ark rests, Moses declares, "Adonai, may You dwell among the myriad families of Israel." In the wilderness, Moses' leadership is challenged several times.

Sh'lach L'kha

June 20, 28 Sivan

Moses dispatches 12 spies to Canaan. Ten report that the land is unconquerable. The people panic, wanting to return to Egypt. Caleb and Joshua exhort Israel to fulfill God's plan. The uprising persists, and God condemns the people to wander in the desert for 40 years. God also commands the wearing of tzitzit, in order to prompt Israel to remember and to observe all of God's mitzvot and to be holy before God, who has brought them out of Egypt to be their God.

Korach

June 27, 5 Tammuz

Korach leads a rebellion against Moses and Aaron. God causes the earth to open, swallowing Korach and his followers. These deaths lead to grumbling among the people, further provoking God's wrath. A plague befalls the people, killing many. God arranges for a divine sign—the flowering of Aaron's rod—to affirm Aaron's priesthood and quiet the people. God reiterates the duties of priests and Levites.

Hukat-Balak

Fourth of July, 12 Tammuz

God ordains the sacrifice of a red heifer to purify those having contact with the dead. Miriam dies. When the people complain about a lack of water, Moses strikes a rock instead of speaking to it as God instructs. Consequently, God informs Moses, he may not enter the Promised Land. The Israelites skirt Edom when it refuses them safe passage. Aaron dies. After conquering the Canaanites and Amorites, Israel encamps on Moab across the Jordan from Jericho.

Balak, king of Moab, sends for a diviner, Balaam, to curse the Israelites so that Moab might drive them off. Balaam refuses, as God orders. Balak offers more gold; Balaam sets out. Yet his ass sees what Balaam cannot: God's angel barring the way. Balaam perceives his folly, atones, and proceeds as God's messenger. "Mah tovu," says Balaam, overlooking the Israelite camp. "How lovely are your dwellings, people of Jacob." Balak angrily dismisses Balaam, who divines Moab's fall. Yet Israel, seduced by Midianites, indulges in harlotry and idolatry.

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** 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 (3RD SHABBAT)	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

NITZANIM AND GAN SHABBAT ARE THE ONLY YOUTH SERVICES DURING JUNE, JULY, AND AUGUST.



Congregation Beth El

Monthly Calendar

June 2009
Sivan-Tammuz 5769

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 1:30 PM Bridge 7:00 PM Boy Scouts	2 7:00 PM Mah Jongg	3 BEPS LAST DAY FOR 3- & 5-DAY CLASSES 9:30 AM M. Fine Torah Class 2:00 PM Roundtable with the Rabbi 7:30 PM CE21 Leadership Group	4 BEPS LAST DAY FOR 2-DAY CLASSES NOON Vatikim 7:00 PM Executive Committee Meeting 8:30 PM Hearing Men's Voices	5 CANDLES 8:12 PM 6:30 PM Friday Evening Service	6 7:30 AM Shabbat Service 9:30 AM Main Shabbat Service 9:30 AM Rebecca Sherman Bat Mitzvah 9:45 AM Worship & Study Minyan 10:30 AM Gan Shabbat 12:40 PM Shabbat Study Group
7 9:00 AM Minyan 9:00 AM Sisterhood Board Meeting 9:30 AM Men's Club Breakfast 10:00 AM RS End-of-Year Program-OFFSITE 10:00 AM Men's Club Annual Meeting 10:00 AM Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class 10:00 AM Sisterhood General Meeting 3:00 PM BEPS Picnic/petting zoo - parking lot 6:30 PM Yoga	8 1:30 PM Bridge 7:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:30 PM Religious School Committee	9 7:00 PM BEPS Parent Board Meeting 7:30 PM BEPS New Parent Meeting	10 9:30 AM M. Fine Torah Class	11 NOON Vatikim	12 CANDLES 8:16 PM 6:30 PM Traditional Friday Service 6:30 PM Kol Haneshama Service	13 7:30 AM Shabbat Service 9:30 AM Main Shabbat Service 9:30 AM Matthew Litman Bar Mitzvah 10:30 AM Nitzanim 12:40 PM Shabbat Study Group
14 Sisterhood In/Out Board Brunch - OFFSITE 9:00 AM Minyan 9:30 AM Men's Club Breakfast 10:00 AM Men's Club Program 10:30 Sisterhood Prospective Member Open House 6:30 PM Yoga	15 1:30 PM Bridge	16 7:00 PM Mah Jongg 7:30 PM CE21 Task Force Meeting	17 9:30 AM M. Fine Torah Class	18 NOON Vatikim Luncheon	19 CANDLES 8:19 PM 6:30 PM Friday Evening Service 6:30 PM Singing Service	20 7:30 AM Shabbat Service 9:30 AM Main Shabbat Service 9:30 AM Rebecca Lerner Bat Mitzvah 9:30 AM Samuel Hainbach Bar Mitzvah 9:30 AM Minyan Chaverim 10:30 AM Gan Shabbat 12:40 PM Shabbat Study Group 7:45 PM Mincha, Seudah Shlishit, Ma'ariv, Havdalah
21 FATHER'S DAY 9:00 AM Minyan 9:30 AM Men's Club Breakfast 10:00 AM Men's Club Program 10:00 AM Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class 6:30 PM Yoga	22 1:30 PM Bridge	23 BEPS CAMP BEGINS	24 9:30 AM M. Fine Torah Class	25 NOON Vatikim 7:30 PM Board Meeting	26 CANDLES 8:20 PM 6:30 PM Friday Evening Service	27 7:30 AM Shabbat Service 9:30 AM Main Shabbat Service 9:30 AM Sarah Hoffman Bat Mitzvah 10:30 am Nitzanim 12:40 PM Shabbat Study Group
28 9:00 am Minyan 9:30 am Men's Club Breakfast 10:00 am Men's Club Program 6:30 PM Yoga	29	30	1 2:00 PM Roundtable with the Rabbi	2 NOON Vatikim	3 CANDLES 8:20 PM INDEPENDENCE DAY (OBSERVED) OFFICES AND BEPS CAMP CLOSED 6:30 PM Friday Evening Service	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY 7:30 AM Shabbat Service 9:30 AM Main Shabbat Service 9:30 AM Gabriele Tender Bat Mitzvah 9:45 AM Worship & Study Minyan 10:30 AM Gan Shabbat 12:40 PM Shabbat Study Group