

VOICE

The Voice of Beth El Congregation • January/February 2012 • Tevet/Shevat/Adar 5772 • Volume 59 • Number 1

WINNER OF THE 2009 USCJ INTERNATIONAL GOLD AWARD FOR BULLETINS & PUBLICATIONS

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Friday evening after services,
we will have a lovely winter *oneg*.
Come join us for chilled wines, an array
of delicious appetizers, and most
importantly time to foster relationships
within the Beth El community.



The Kolker family

On November 14, 2011 the Beth El Congregation and its leadership rededicated the Kolker Room through the generosity of the Kolker-Saxon-Hallock Family Foundation. Rabbi Schwartz welcomed everyone to the rededication and expressed the appreciation of the Beth El Congregation for the Foundation's gift. Mr. Kolker, on behalf of the entire family, provided in his remarks a meaningful, heartfelt and emotional tribute to his mother for whom the room was memorialized. A reception followed the dedication ceremonies. The Foundation is a support foundation of The Associated.

The rededicated and refurbished Kolker Room was accomplished through the interior design talents of Dale Kahn and Bernie Silverman. Thanks to Chris Parts from Hord Coplin Macht for the architectural design, Michael Ray for coordinating the project and the many hours of project management and Irv Schwartz from Highview Construction.



TU B'SHEVAT — NEW YEAR OF THE TREES

By Ilene Vogelstein,
Interim Pre-School Director

Tu B'Shevat is the New Year of the trees. Its date is its name. It falls on the 15th day of the month of *Shevat*. Not a very meaningful name for a holiday bursting with significance and opportunities. What is a new year of/for the trees? Historically, this day marked the beginning of the growing season and a way for the Israelites to know which fruits to bring to the Temple. Now it signifies the beginning of spring in Israel and is associated with environmental causes.

There are several customs associated with *Tu B'shevat*. One is planting trees, in Israel of course. Another custom is having a *Tu B'shevat seder* where we celebrate the seasons and different kinds of fruits. Eating new fruits and/or the fruits of Israel – the seven species described in the Torah -wheat, barley, grapes (vines), figs, pomegranates, olives and dates (honey) is another custom associated with this holiday. Engaging in an environmental

activity like cleaning up a stream or highway is very popular. Taking nature walks and talking about trees and their importance to our lives is another example of how to celebrate *Tu B'shevat*.

This holiday is great for families with young children. This is a sensual holiday- a holiday of the senses. We can smell, taste, touch, hear, and see this holiday. It is also a great "academic" holiday where kids can gain science and math skills. Here are a few things you can do for yourself and/or with your children (of all ages):

- **Science experiment-** The *Tu B'shevat seder* has four cups of wine. Arrange 4 cups of regular, full strength grape juice on a table. Then, using an eye dropper, straw, pipette or spoon, have your child add small amounts of water until there are 4 different shades of purple from dark purple to clear. Then have a discussion as to which glass represents which season and explain why. (i.e., the clear one is winter because clear resembles ice).

- **Pre-Math skills-** Another part of the *Tu*

B'shevat seder is eating different kinds of fruits. This is a great sorting and categorizing activity. The categories are: a) fruits with a hard pit on the inside (peach, nectarine, mango, avocado); b) fruits with a hard shell on the outside (pomegranates, almonds, walnuts, bananas, oranges, peanuts); c) fruits with neither so you can eat the whole thing (strawberries, grapes, tomatoes, figs, blueberries). Get a few in each category and put them all on the table and see if your child can figure out how to categorize them.

- **Problem Solving** – Put 3 fruits in a bag (orange, apple & pear). Blind fold your child or ask them to hide their eyes. Then ask them to put their hand in the bag and feel the fruit and see if they can identify it by feel. You can also cut up the fruit and ask your child to close their eyes and identify each fruit by its taste.

- **Olfactory activity** – Choose 2-3 different kinds of fruits and cut them in half. Blind fold your child or ask them to hide their eyes. Then ask

Continued on page 4

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

MONDAY, JANUARY 2

Office Closed (Federal Holiday, New Year's Day)
 MORNING SERVICE 9:15 a.m.
 EVENING SERVICE 5:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6

MORNING SERVICE 8:00 a.m.
 EVENING SERVICE 6:00 p.m.
 CANDLE LIGHTING 4:38 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

Parsha of the Week – VEYECHI
 MORNING SERVICE 10:00 a.m.
 EVENING SERVICE 5:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

MORNING SERVICE 8:00 a.m.
 EVENING SERVICE 6:00 p.m.
 CANDLE LIGHTING 4:45 p.m.
 ISLAND SHABBAT 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14

Parsha of the Week – SHEMOT
 MORNING SERVICE 10:00 a.m.
 EVENING SERVICE 5:15 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20

MORNING SERVICE 8:00 a.m.
 EVENING SERVICE 6:00 p.m.
 CANDLE LIGHTING 4:53 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

Parsha of the Week – VA'ERA
 MORNING SERVICE 10:00 a.m.
 EVENING SERVICE 5:15 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25 –

ROSH CHODESH SHEVAT
 MORNING SERVICE 7:45 a.m.
 EVENING SERVICE 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27

MORNING SERVICE 8:00 a.m.
 EVENING SERVICE 6:00 p.m.
 CANDLE LIGHTING 5:01 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

Parsha of the Week – BO
 MORNING SERVICE 10:00 a.m.
 EVENING SERVICE 5:15 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

MORNING SERVICE 8:00 a.m.
 EVENING SERVICE 6:00 p.m.
 CANDLE LIGHTING 5:09 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Parsha of the Week – BESHALLACH
 MORNING SERVICE 10:00 a.m.
 EVENING SERVICE 5:15 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10

MORNING SERVICE 8:00 a.m.
 EVENING SERVICE 6:00 p.m.
 CANDLE LIGHTING 5:17 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11

Parsha of the Week – YITRO
 MORNING SERVICE 10:00 a.m.
 EVENING SERVICE 5:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

MORNING SERVICE 8:00 a.m.
 EVENING SERVICE 6:00 p.m.
 CANDLE LIGHTING 5:25 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Parsha of the Week – MISHPATIM
 MORNING SERVICE 10:00 a.m.
 EVENING SERVICE 5:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23 –

ROSH CHODESH – ADAR – DAY 1
 MORNING SERVICE 7:45 a.m.
 EVENING SERVICE 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24 – ROSH CHODESH – ADAR – DAY 2

MORNING SERVICE 7:45 a.m.
 EVENING SERVICE 6:00 p.m.
 CANDLE LIGHTING 5:33 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Parsha of the Week – TERUMAH
 MORNING SERVICE 10:00 a.m.
 EVENING SERVICE 6:00 p.m.

BETH EL HOTLINE NUMBERS

Service Schedules:
410-580-2727

Congregation Closings & Program Changes:
410-580-5080

Early Childhood Education Closings &
Program Changes:
410-580-5081

Religious School Closings & Program Changes:
410-580-5082

Beth El Babies



Sean Issac Coughlin
 Born May 5, 2011
 Parents: **Alix and Mike Coughlin**
 Big brothers: Quinn and Tyler
 Grandparents:
Phyllis and Jeffrey Cramer
 Great Grandmother:
Miriam Jacobson



Phoebe Abigail Berenson
 Born May 5, 2011
 Parents: **Scott and Gillian Berenson**
 Grandparents:
Keith and Wendie Berenson
Lee and Mina Goodman
 Great Grandparents:
Joel and Tobye Frankle
Davis and Dixie Berenson



Ethan David Berenson
 Born May 29, 2011
 Parents:
Ryan and Michelle Berenson
 Grandparents:
Keith and Wendie Berenson
Robert and Lori Oleson
 Great Grandparents:
Joel and Tobye Frankle
David and Dixie Berenson

Please email jpeg images – along with the name of the infant and family members and the infant's birth date – to sandi@bethelbalto.com.

BETH EL'S ISRAEL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE PRESENTS:

"MUSIC TO CHERISH" A REPEAT BETH EL RECITAL BY ISRAELI PIANIST MICHAL TAL

ACCOMPANIED BY
CANTOR THOM KING AND DR. EYAL BOR

Light refreshments will be served following the concert

AT 3 PM **FEBRUARY 19**
2012 SUNDAY
OFFIT AUDITORIUM

Proceeds from this concert will help support future Israel trips for the Beth El confirmation students
**SELECTIONS WILL INCLUDE
CLASSICAL, KLEZMER, MUSIC FROM JERUSALEM**

Tickets: \$5 in advance / \$10 at the door

Name: _____
 Phone #: _____
 # of Tickets: _____
 Amount Enclosed: _____ Cash Check

Reservations with payment should be sent to Beth El Congregation, Attention: Hedy From


 Beth El Congregation
 1181 Park Heights Avenue - Baltimore, MD 21206
 410.464.6411 - www.bethelbalto.com



Winter weather is right around the corner! In case of severe weather please check these outlets for late openings and cancellations.

- 1.) Visit our Website – www.bethelbalto.com, at the top beneath the picture slideshow will be the announcement you are looking for!
- 2.) Call the weather hotline – **410-580-5080**
- 3.) Check Beth El Congregation's page on Facebook, www.facebook.com, type in the search bar "Beth El Congregation of Baltimore" and our page should come up. "Like" it while you're there too!
- 4.) Be sure to check your email!

SENIORS



Luncheon on **Sunday, January 15** at 1:00 p.m. in the Offit Auditorium. Our entertainment will be the Beatrice Gilbert Trio, with Catherine Eisenbiel, Shirah Layton and pianist, Lois Nielsen. **Reservations and payments are due by Wednesday, January 4.** Cost \$20/members and \$23/ guests. For further information call Ed Berkowitz at 410-296-8424.

Our next scheduled meeting will be a luncheon on **Sunday, February 12, 2012** at 1:00 p.m. in the Offit Auditorium. Our entertainment for the luncheon will be Soprano, Shaina Vatz and Baritone, Jason Buckwalter with Andrew Stewart at piano. The group will perform familiar Broadway show tunes. **Reservations and payments are due by Wednesday, February 1, 2012.** Cost is \$20 for members and \$23 for guests. Please list on a separate sheet those members with whom you would like to sit and your preference if any for a diet dessert. For further information call Ed Berkowitz at 410-296-8424.

The Beth El Seniors will return to our normal evening meeting on **March 11, 2012** at 6:30 p.m. in the Offit Auditorium, when Ted Zlatin's Traveling Heart and Art Show will entertain us with a medley of golden oldies. Members of the band include Tom Ghitz, drummer, Jamie Hopkins, bass guitarist, Otis Stroup, pianist and Bruce Thomas, vocalist. **Reservations and payments are due by Wednesday, February 29, 2012.** Cost is \$20 for members and \$23 for guests. Please list on a separate sheet those members with whom you would like to sit and your preference if any for a diet dessert. For further information call Ed Berkowitz at 410-296-8424.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

All persons over 50 are welcome to join our group. Dues are only \$15 per person. For more information, contact **Ed Berkowitz at 410-296-8424, Betty Zlotowitz at 410-484-9840, Jerry Fineblum at 410-653-2631, Shirley Lipman at 410-415-5588 or Pauline Auslander at 410-764-8011.**

TORAH MAINTENANCE FUND



A project of the Beth El Seniors is to support the maintenance and repair of our synagogue's Torahs and *Megillot*. Contributing to a process that pays for caring for these sacred scrolls and preserving them for future generations is a *mitzvah*.

Torah Maintenance Fund cards are available at the Beth El Office or call **Dorothy Fineblum at 410-653-2631**. Our all-purpose cards are still six for \$10 or \$2 each.

The card features a drawing by world famous artist Ira Moskowitz. Born in 1912 as the son and grandson of rabbis, he has infused his work with the customs and traditions of our religion.

UNIQUE BOUTIQUE ARRIVES IN THE SPRING!

Even though winter is just on its way, plans for Unique Boutique are in the works. We are planning for another Spring Unique Boutique to be held on **Sunday, May 6 and Monday, May 7**. Make sure to mark your calendars!

As usual you may enjoy lunch at the Boutique Cafe before or after shopping. There will be vendors who sell women's clothing and accessories, purses, belts, jewelry, gifts for the home, toys, crafts, children's clothing, food, and much more.

If you know of any new vendors or craftsmen who would like to participate in this event, please have them call Sonia Obstler at 410-653-2381 or email seobstler@gmail.com.

Tu B'Shevat – Continued from page 1

them to smell the fruit and see if they can identify it by its smell.

• **Hearing** – This is a little harder to do because fruits don't have sounds. So 2 activities come to mind:

First is to fill 3-5 glasses with different amounts of grape juice or water and have your child bang on the glass to hear the different sounds they make. Let your child adjust the water in the glasses thereby changing the sound.

Say a *bracha*- Did you know that there is a *bracha* to say when you smell fragrant woods or barks and a different one for when you smell fragrant fruit and still another one when you smell flowers and herbs?

Tu B'Shevat is one of my favorite holidays because it so rich with exciting things to do and learn. It is experiential and relevant to children. It also has great implication for adults. While your children are trying to decide what color grape juice goes with what season, you can discuss how the categories of fruits relate to different personalities. What kind of person would you associate with a fruit that has a shell on the outside? How about a pit on the inside? And what about the fruit that has neither and is totally edible? Grab a bunch of fruits and have fun! *Chag Samaech*.

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS LOOKING TO JOIN A SYNAGOGUE?



Whether he/she is new to town or a native Baltimorean, and whether they are a family, a couple or single, Beth El has something to offer each and every one. Please invite them to events they might find of interest, and please contact the Outreach Office at **410-484-0411** so we can invite them to Beth El.

SHABBAT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Religious Services Committee is looking for volunteers to work as ushers for Shabbat and holiday services. You would only have to commit to about once a month. We are also looking for people to be greeters on *Shabbat* mornings when there is a **B'nai Mitzvah**.

Training will be provided. If you are interested please contact either **Lee Snyder at 410-486-5591** or email lee.snyder@trgc.com or **Morris Saks at 410-484-8482** or email msaks@gsg-cpa.com.



America and Israel are Better Together and So Are We.

Join Rabbi Dana Saroken and Fellow Members
of Beth El Congregation in Washington, D.C., this March.

AIPAC POLICY CONFERENCE

March 4 – 6, 2012
Washington, D.C.

The AIPAC Policy Conference offers pro-Israel citizen activists the opportunity to lobby their members of Congress on Capitol Hill about issues affecting the United States and Israel. Participants hear from heads of state and choose from dozens of workshops about the most pressing issues of the day.

REGISTRATION IS \$499 PER PERSON.

Registration forms are available on the AIPAC website at www.aipac.org/pc or the Beth El website at www.bethelbalto.com or in the main Beth El office.

For more information about the Beth El delegation or the conference, contact AIPAC Area Director **Tara Brown** at (410) 223-4190 or tbrown@aipac.org.

IT IS RAELY TRUE

Therapeutic Cancer Vaccine?

In a breakthrough development the Israeli company Vaxil BioTherapeutics has formulated a therapeutic cancer vaccine, now in clinical trials at Hadassah University Medical Center in Jerusalem. If all goes well, the vaccine could be available about six years down the road to administer on a regular basis not only to help treat cancer but to keep the disease from recurring.



Following in the Footsteps of Israeli TV ...

NBC has launched *Who's Still Standing*, a new primetime trivia competition show. It features the best elements of a classic trivia match combined with physical comedy, providing an intense competition that can be enjoyed by all ages. The new series is based on the hit Israeli show entitled *Still Standing*, which offers contestants the opportunity to win up to \$1 million while competing in head-to-head trivia battles. Now airing in several countries, the series has been a smash hit overseas.

Water, Water, Water – Conservation!

If the experimental water recycling program succeeds at the *mikveh* of Pisgat Ze'ev in Jerusalem, 35 other *mikvehs* across Jerusalem will soon be recycling their water as well, which will save more than 26 million gallons as well as hundreds of thousands of dollars per year.

An Event Co-Sponsored by the Social Action Committee

SAVE THE DATE

The Jewish Museum of Maryland and
Sh'ma Magazine are pleased to present the annual

HERBERT H. & IRMA B. RISCH MEMORIAL PROGRAM ON IMMIGRATION

Thursday, March 22, 2012
7:00 p.m. / FREE

A Contemporary Jewish Lens on Immigration Reform

Panel discussion with Gideon Aronoff, Douglas Hauer and
Jonathan Herbst

Moderated by Susan Berrin, editor of *Sh'ma Magazine*,
An Independent Think Tank / www.shma.com

Dessert Reception / Dietary Laws Observed

Beth El Congregation
8101 Park Heights Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21208



Brandeis Collegiate Institute Accepting Applications for the Summer 2012

**Jewish young adults in Maryland
and the District of Columbia
invited to apply**

BALTIMORE, MD – The Marilyn and Sigi Ziering Brandeis Collegiate Institute (BCI) is currently accepting applications for its summer 2012 session. BCI is an intensive experience in Jewish learning, culture and community offered to young adults, ages 18 to 26 at their summer camp in Southern California. It is a 26-day exploration of self and Judaism within a safe, pluralistic environment, bringing together young Jews, from all over the world, with some of our people's most compelling, talented scholars and artists to experience the multi-faceted aspects of Jewish life, culture, nature and community.

Apply by the early bird deadline of March 14, 2012 and the cost is only \$250 for domestic participants (\$100 for international) and BCI will reimburse your airfare!

BCI 2012 will take place from June 19 to July 15. For more information and to apply, please see the BCI website, <http://bci.ajula.edu>.

BCI receives ongoing support through a grant from the Melinda Joy Siegel Memorial Fund, a donor-advised fund of THE ASSOCIATED: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore. The Fund was established in 1986 by Marlene and Hillard Siegel to honor the memory of their daughter, Melinda.

SAVE THE DATE

PARENT OPEN HOUSE II

Sunday, February 5

Our theme for the second parent open house is *TuB'Shvat* and *Tza'ar Ba'alei Hayim*, (literally means: "the suffering of living creatures") is the Jewish principle which bans inflicting unnecessary pain on animals. Parents please come and learn with your children. There will be interactive activities throughout the morning.

IPPE IS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!

- **M&M's PLUS** is a unique IPPE style *Shabbat* experience.
 - **M&M's PLUS** includes a joyous, song filled, *Kabbalat Shabbat* followed by *Shabbat* dinner, a fun filled kid activity, and time for the grown-ups to schmooze amongst themselves!
 - **M&M's PLUS** is geared for young families, preschool through 5th grade who want to pray together and celebrate *Shabbat* as part of the Beth El community!
- Look through the January and February Calendars on this page to find the next M&M's PLUS service!** For questions, please contact **Rabbi Faith Cantor**, faith@bethelbalto.com or **410-484-4543**.

M&M SHABBAT

M&M is a spirited Friday night service for kids from newborns to six year olds. Join Rabbi Saroken and Cantor King the first Friday night of the month for a short half hour service from 5:15 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. in the Gorn Chapel. We'll bring in *Shabbat* together through music, prayer and movement. Feel free to bring your own musical instruments. Siblings of all ages are welcome! Each M&M's *Shabbat* service is followed by an informal oneg with grape juice for kid-dush, *challah* for *motzei*, sweet treats and of course, a great community. Bring your children, grandchildren or special friends as everyone is welcome!

**M&M Shabbat
"Save the Dates!"**

**January 6
February 3
March 2
May 4
June 1**

ENROLL NOW!

PRESCHOOL, MOMMY & ME, & PRE-K

- ☛ Flexible Schedule Options for Children 2 - 5
- ☛ Part-time, full-time and extended day options available
- ☛ The children enjoy our music program and physical education "Active Kids" gym classes, Hebrew language classes, Torah Stories, pre-*Shabbat* celebrations, arts and crafts, science, cooking, beginning reading and number skills, outside play on our playground and field, Kosher snacks, children's active games, library, field trips, and much more.
- ☛ Fall and spring MOMMY AND ME classes for 18-24 month olds and their parent, grandparent, or caregiver.

Please call Preschool at **410-602-2245**.

January-February Berman-Lipavsky Religious School Calendar

January

Friday, January 6	M&M Shabbat, 5:15 p.m.
Saturday, January 7	Tot Shabbat, 11:15 a.m.
Monday, January 9	Confirmation and Rabbi's Schmooze, 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, January 11	School Committee Meeting, 6:15 p.m. Faculty Enrichment, 6:15 p.m.
Friday, January 13	Island Shabbat, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, January 14	Tot Shabbat, 11:15 a.m.
Sunday, January 15	Martin Luther King Weekend: Sunday School Closed, no Bnai Mitzvah Tutoring
Monday, January 16	Martin Luther King Day Hebrew School in Roland Park closed Chavurah Chadasha B Closed Youth Ski Trip, email jillian@bethelbalto.com for details
Friday, January 20	M&Ms Plus Shabbat Dinner and Services, 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 21	M&M's Plus with GAGA, 10:15 a.m. Pajama Havdalah, 6:15 p.m.
Sunday, January 22	Bet Family Program II, 9:30 a.m. Youth Group Program: Jewelry Making, email jillian@bethelbalto.com for details
Monday, January 23	Confirmation, 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, January 24	Faculty Enrichment, 6:15 p.m.
Friday, January 27	K-2nd Grade Shabbat Service and Dinner, 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 28	Tot Shabbat, 11:15 a.m.
Sunday, January 29	Parent Ed, 9:30 a.m.

February

Friday, February 3	M&M Shabbat, 5:15 p.m. Got Shabbat Revisited – in the Homes, 5:45 p.m. Got Shabbat in Federal Hill, email jill@bethelbalto.com for more details
Saturday, February 4	Chavurah Parent Ed, 9:45 a.m. Family Shabbat Service, 10:45 a.m.
Sunday, February 5	Parent Open House II
Monday, February 6	Confirmation and Rabbi's Schmooze, 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, February 11	M&M's Plus with GAGA, 10:15 a.m. Tot Shabbat, 11:15 a.m. Havdalah: Planetarium, 6:45 p.m.
Sunday, February 12	Youth Program: Winter Tie-Dye, email jillian@bethelbalto.com for details
Tuesday, February 14	Youth Program: Amazing Glaze, email jillian@bethelbalto.com for details
Saturday, February 18	Youth Program: Great Wolf Lodge Overnight, email jillian@bethelbalto.com
Sunday, February 19	Presidents' Weekend: Sunday School Closed, no Bnai Mitzvah Tutoring Michal Tal Concert with Guests, 3:00 p.m.
Monday, February 20	Presidents' Day Hebrew School in Roland Park closed Chavurah Chadasha B Closed
Saturday, February 25	Tot Shabbat, 11:15 a.m.
Sunday, February 26	Gimel Family Program, 9:30 a.m.
Monday, February 27	Confirmation, 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 28	Faculty Enrichment, 6:15 p.m.

Please note we provide babysitting for family programs and parent-ed if there is a need. Please RSVP one week before the program to **Fran Davis**: fran@bethelbalto.com or **410-484-4543**.

WHAT'S NEW IN INFANT & TODDLER CARE AT BETH EL ?

- ☛ Part Time Infant/Toddler care options now available with quarterly contracts
 - ☛ Full Time and Part Time spots available for children
 - ☛ Now enrolling for Two Year Old Classroom, opening in January.
- Contact **Dee Curtin**, Program Coordinator, for more information or to schedule a tour to see the Infant & Toddler wing at Beth El, **410-580-2723** or dee@bethelbalto.com.

SHABBAT MORNING M&M PLUS SERVICE DEBUTS

By Becky Gordon

Another first for the Berman-Lipavsky Religious School took place, the M&M PLUS Saturday morning service! Led by Rabbi Faith Cantor and Morah Becky Gordon, M&M PLUS is designed to meet the needs of children who have “graduated” from Tot Shabbat and are ready to take the next step in their spiritual journeys. Building on the Tot Shabbat repertoire of songs and t’filot, the service introduces additional prayers and more sophisticated melodies, utilizes a beautiful new prayer book, Siddur Mah Tov, and includes a Torah reading in Hebrew with aliyot.

Thirty adults and children gathered in the Schuster Library, including seven members of our phenomenal T’filah Team. Sitting in chairs (as opposed to on the floor in Tot Shabbat), the congregation proceeded through introductory prayers, including Modeh Ani, Ma Tovu, Halleyluyah and Birkot Hashachar. We praised G-d in the song, Hodu Lashem, engaging all participants with our fun and invigorating version of “prayer aerobics.” The T’filah Team lead Barchu and Yotzer Or and sang Craig Taubman’s gorgeous introduction to the Amidah, as well as several other traditional t’filot. Much of the standard prayer choreography was explained (when to stand, when to bow, which lines are read by the leader and which are chanted by the congregation). The Torah service was very participatory with students carrying and dressing the Torah. Stephanie Kaplan and her daughters, Jordan and Charlotte, and Mia Corvillia and her son, Jared, chanted the Torah blessings. The service wrapped up with the “orchestra” version of Adon Olam and then the children switched gears and participated in a GAGA (Israeli dodgeball) tournament. Finally, M&M PLUS’niks joined the main congregation for a delicious kiddush lunch.

The immediate response to this new service was overwhelmingly positive. Ilene Sheer found the service, “more interactive” than any she’d participated in previously. She liked the small, intimate venue and felt it was a perfect length. Several parents commented that their children found the illustrations in the new siddur very engaging and enjoyed the fact that we went from cover to cover without skipping around or leaving out large portions. Congregation President, Steve Silverman, stopped by and concluded it was a great, new addition to the Shabbat services offered by the religious school. Perhaps the highest praise came from T’filah Team member, Robert Rosenberg, who enthusiastically concluded, “That was SO much fun!”

Upcoming M&M PLUS Shabbat morning services will be held at 10:15 a.m. on January 21, February 11, March 10, April 21 and May 12. Join us and be part of this fun, participatory, spiritual experience. Bring your grandparents and friends...the more the merrier!



Rabbi Saroken and Rabbi Cantor will lead a family centered Kabbalat Shabbat on the third Friday night of each month followed by dinner!

After sharing Shabbat dinner with family and friends adults will schmooze, while the children participate in various Club M activities! (See schedule below.)

Once a month, M&M's PLUS will meet on Shabbat mornings with Rabbi Cantor and Morah Becky Gordon. This will be followed by our monthly "Club M" gaga tournament in the youth lounge!

M&M's PLUS prepares school aged children to participate in both the Friday night and Shabbat morning services.



M&M PLUS Schedule

Shabbat Mornings:	Friday Evenings:
November 12	November 18
December 10	December 16
January 21	January 20
February 11	February 17
March 10	March 16
April 21	April 20



Listed below are the Club M activities for each Friday following M&M's PLUS Kabbalat Shabbat.

- November 18: Human Football
- December 16: Twist Like A Droid: Twist!
- January 20: Paper Bag Dramatics
- February 17: Tag You Are It!
- March 16: Magic Comes Alive!
- April 20: Circle Games



M&M PLUS special

If you RSVP for 4 out of the 5 dinners before November 7, the cost for each dinner will be \$25 per family. If you plan to RSVP for dinners individually, the cost for each dinner is \$35 per family. We need all RSVP's one week in advance. Please address checks to M&M PLUS, ATTN: Fran Davis



Hebrew School Transformation

By Rabbi Faith Cantor

There is nothing more exciting than walking into a Religious School classroom and seeing smiles as our children are busy working! Thanks to our amazing Sisterhood, when we walk into Morah Heather’s Kitah Bet, we see even bigger smiles! Kids are sitting on the large pillows, bean bags, and rocking chairs. Their tables, shaped like kidneys, have been designed for small group work. Whether mastering prayers, practicing their Hebrew script, studying Torah, or engaging in friendly competition these students are more relaxed, and receptive in this new learning environment.

This summer, our Religious School began looking into alternative classroom structures and furniture. As part of our commitment to incorporate multi-sensory experiential learning in all of our classes, we wanted to experiment with classroom space. We know that it is hard for students to sit at desks for an additional two hours after a full day of school and with the help of the Sisterhood we have created an atmosphere where students can move around, lie down comfortably, and even be fidgety without disturbing their peers. Special donut chairs were purchased so that students are doing “active” sitting. They work their core muscles in order to balance; the energy it takes to keep their cores strong helps focus their abundance of physical energy.

The Sisterhood made this classroom possible, when outside of their normal budget request cycle, they donated \$3000 so that new furniture could be bought immediately and we did not need to wait another full year before making this important change. We are hoping that over the next two years, Kitot Aleph, Bet, and Gimmel will all have the opportunity to have their physical space transformed!

Under the direction of Heather Horowitz and with the help of her madricha Erin Penn, when you walk into this room the energy is tangible. Students sit on bean bags pulled up to the tables. They lie across large pillows as they read stories from Torah. As they study both Hebrew and Torah there is a smile on everyone’s face. Nobody is



bored. Through games and activities, Bet students have mastered the Hebrew calendar, specific prayers, and can almost completely read and write Hebrew script.

If you would like to help transform more classrooms in our Religious School, please be in touch with **Dr. Eyal Bor** at eyal@bethelbalto.com or call 410-484-0411.



CONTRIBUTIONS

ENDOWMENTS

Donations to December 1, 2011

THE ADLER-LEV SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN OBSERVANCE OF:

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The help and preparation for the Bat Mitzvah of Jennifer Jacobs given by Rabbi Steven Schwartz by Elizabeth and Charles Jacobs to The Rabbi Steven Schwartz Tribute Fund.

The help and preparation for the Bat Mitzvah of Jennifer Jacobs given by Mr. Art Wien by Elizabeth and Charles Jacobs to The Youth Education Fund.

The kindnesses given throughout the years, shown by Bobbie and Dr. Robert Kodeck to Mr. Al Windesheim, to The Mitzvah Fund.

The kindness displayed by Cantor Thom King to Mrs. Edith Austerlitz, to The Adult Choir Fund.

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BIBLIO

On **Wednesday, January 11** at noon in the Kolker Room Saralynn Glass will review *THREE CUPS OF DECEIT: HOW GREGG MORTENSEN, HUMANITARIAN HERO, LOST HIS WAY*, by Jon Kraukauer. Last year Saralynn expertly examined Gregg Mortensen's *THREE CUPS OF TEA*. You will not want to miss this expose.

On **Wednesday, February 15** Estelle Kabik will comment on Nonie Darwish's fascinating biography *NOW THEY CALL ME INFIDEL*. Estelle has always caught our attention with her well thought out comments on the books she selects.

Biblio welcomes all to our monthly reviews and discussions. Remember to bring a kosher brown bag lunch. Our dedicated hostesses, Dorothy Fineblum (January) and Joan Flaks (February) will provide hospitality as well as dessert. For additional information, please phone **Rita Silverman at 410-484-1731 or Barbara Berkowitz at 410-296-8424**.

SISTERHOOD MEMBERSHIP
LASTEST HAPPENINGS

On Monday, November 7 Sisterhood held a New Members Orientation Reception before our General Luncheon Meeting. The Membership Committee welcomed eleven new members to Sisterhood. It was such a treat to have Rabbi Saroken join us for a getting to know you session. Several new members were unable to join us at the Reception but were able to make the General Luncheon. We gave them welcome gift bags and directories. We hope our new Sisterhood members will take advantage of all Sisterhood has to offer. If you are a new member and did not receive a directory please let Susan Hackerman know (contact information below). Upcoming events include General/Luncheon Meetings, Biblio Group, cultural trips and more. Please do not forget to stop in to the Judaica Shop for gifts for all types of occasions.

The following women have decided to join us. We welcome our new members: **Molly Bereson, Carolyn Buckman, Barbara Cohen, Harriet Feibelman, Rosalyn Ghitler, Elaine Kraus, Marsha Levine, Joyce Sapperstein, Carole Schechter, Nanci Seff, and Pauline Settleman**.

For more information, please call **Susan Hackerman**, Past President and Membership liaison at **410-486-2523**.

JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY-
TORAH FUND

This year Torah Fund has gotten off to a great start. We are up to 24 benefactors. The benefactors that have received their beautiful pins are enjoying wearing them. Cards are in stock and ready for purchase for your special occasions. For \$18.00 you will receive 6 cards, individually they cost \$4.00. All donations are greatly appreciated as they help to support the education of our future clergy.



Please contact **Jane Krosin at 410-484-4218 or Hilda Dopkin at 410-486-4453** for cards and for more information on becoming a Torah Fund Benefactor.

MONDAY, February 6, 2012 SISTERHOOD MEETING
Offit Auditorium at 11:30 a.m.
General Meeting/Luncheon

Name _____

Phone number _____

Cell Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Send check for \$15.00 along with the coupon no later than Friday, January 27, 2012 to:
Beth El Sisterhood
c/o Linda Mondell or Judy Schwartz
8101 Park Heights Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21208

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH
SISTERHOOD MEETINGS/LUNCHEONS

MONDAY, JANUARY 9 AT 11:30 A.M.
IN THE OFFIT AUDITORIUM

On Monday, January 9 at 11:30 a.m. Sisterhood's program is entitled "**Art as Midrash**." A New York artist Fran Medoff, and our Torah reader and teacher, Sandy Winters, will combine their talents. Fran has created works of art that depict her unique interpretations of Biblical women. Sandy will share Midrashic insights on these women. Walk-ins are \$17.00.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6 AT 11:30 A.M.
IN THE OFFIT AUDITORIUM

On Monday, February 6, at 11:30 a.m. Joy Solomon, Esq. Director and Managing Attorney of the Harry and Janet Weinberg Center for Elder Abuse Prevention at Hebrew Home in Riverdale, New York will speak on "**Elder Abuse: The Secret Which Very Few Disclose**." Hebrew Home is the nation's first comprehensive shelter for victims of elderly abuse. **RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY FRIDAY, JANUARY 27.** Email or phone: **Linda at LHmondell@gmail.com or 410-486-1542 or Judy Schwartz at jmaysch@comcast.net or 410-653-9253.** Walk-ins are \$17.00.

MONDAY, MARCH 5 AT 11:30 A.M.
IN THE OFFIT AUDITORIUM

Monday, March 5 at 11:30 a.m. Sisterhood's presenter is Dr. Roseann Catalano from the Institute of Christian and Jewish Studies, a non-profit organization that concentrates its education expertise on the dual tasks of disarming religious bigotry and establishing models of interfaith understanding. **RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24.** Contact Linda Mondell at 410-486-1542 or email LHmondell@gmail.com or Judy Schwartz at 410-653-9353 or by email jmaysch@comcast.net. Walk-ins are \$17.00

BOOK REVIEW

A petite luncheon and book review will be held on **Wednesday, January 25, 2012** at 12:00 p.m. in the Myers Auditorium. Following lunch, Rabbi Dana Saroken will review the much discussed book *HUSH* by Eishes Chayil. The cost of the petite luncheon is \$10.00 for members and \$12.00 for non-members. Registration is required for lunch. Please fill out the reservation form below and return it with your check, made out to **Beth El Sisterhood**, to **Marlene Siegel or Alice Levin c/o of Sisterhood by Monday, January 16, 2012.**

A second petite luncheon and book review will be held on **Wednesday, March 21, 2012** at 12:00 p.m. in the Myers Auditorium. At that time, Rabbi Steven Schwartz will review the best seller *IN THE GARDEN OF BEASTS* by Erik Larson. Watch for the reservation coupon in the *March Voice*.

Luncheon/Book Review, Wednesday, January 25

Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail : _____

No. attending: (include guest's name) _____

Amount paid: _____

Return by Monday, January 16

MONDAY, March 5 Sisterhood Meeting
Offit Auditorium at 11:30 a.m.
General Meeting/Luncheon

Name _____

Phone number _____

Cell Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Please complete this coupon along with a check for \$15.00 by FRIDAY, February 24 and send to:
Beth El Sisterhood
c/o Linda Mondell or Judy Schwartz
8101 Park Heights Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21208

SPRING 2012 CULTURAL TRIPS

Philadelphia Museum – Magic Gardens, Philadelphia, PA

**Thursday, April 19
(8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.)**



This trip offers a day of unique and diversified experiences. Our first stop will be the Philadelphia Museum of Art to view the special exhibit *Van Gogh*

Up Close. Vincent Van Gogh was an artist of exceptional intensity not only in his use of color and exuberant application of paint but also in his personal life. Drawn powerfully to nature, his works, particularly those created in the years just before he took his own life, engage the viewer with the strength of his emotions. This exhibition focuses on the tumultuous feverish artistic experimentations that began when Van Gogh left Antwerp for Paris in 1886 and continued until his death in Auvers in 1890.

After lunch on your own at the Museum, our group will take a short ride to Philadelphia's Magic Gardens. We

will have a docent led tour of mosaicist Isaiah Zagar's remarkable Magic Gardens. The Gardens include a fully mosaic indoor gallery and a massive outdoor labyrinthine mosaic sculpture. Zagar began working on the Gardens in 1994 and for the last 17 years has dedicated his work to beautifying the South Street neighborhood of his city.

Cost \$77 per person

If you have any questions, contact Marlene Siegel at 410-484-1844 or Judy Frankle at 410-486-2672.



Just Added!

Washington, DC

Tuesday, April 24



Another trip has been added to the Spring Cultural Trips. On Tuesday, April 24, 2012, our

group will travel to Washington, DC to see the special exhibit "Something of Splendor; Decorative Arts from the White House".

This exhibit is in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Kennedy administration. It is being presented by the Renwick Gallery — a building rescued from the wrecking ball by Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy — to showcase some of the noteworthy furnishings from the White House's long history. There are 95 objects — furniture, ceramics, metals, glass and textiles—from the permanent collection of the White House in this exhibit. Many of these objects were made by the most celebrated craftsmen of their time, and some have never been seen outside of the White House. The exhibit pairs furniture, settings, and ornamental pieces with photos that show how they were used by the first families through the years. This is truly an exhibit not to be missed.

Leaving the Renwick Gallery, our group will board the bus and travel to the National Museum of Natural History where you will have lunch on your own. After lunch, you will be free to visit, at your pace, the permanent and special exhibits of the museum.

The cost of the trip is \$50 for members of Beth El or Sisterhood and \$55 for non-members. If you have any questions or need more information about this trip, contact Marlene Siegel at 410-484-1844 or Judy Frankle at 410-486-2672.

Belmont Estate & Kenmore House, Fredericksburg, VA

**Thursday, May 17
(7:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m.)**



On this lovely spring day, we will travel to historic Fredericksburg, VA. In the morning, our group will visit Belmont, the home

and studio of American impressionist artist Gari Milcher. The 18th century house contains an outstanding collection of European and American antiques; English, Chinese, French, and Bavarian china; Oriental and Savonnerie rugs; and paintings by Frans Snyder, Bertha Morisot and many others. The stone studio displays the works from Melcher's prolific career and the formal gardens contain large period rose collections and walking paths.

Leaving Belmont, we drive to the Kenmore Inn, constructed in 1793, for lunch in its charming dining room. Following lunch, we will tour the historic Kenmore House, the elegant plantation home of George Washington's sister Betty and her husband Colonel Fielding Lewis. This mansion is known for its ornate plasterwork ceilings and the Aesop's fable theme in the dining room. To conclude our visit, you will have free time to explore charming Old Town Fredericksburg and its shops.

Cost: \$88 per person

If you have any questions, contact **Marlene Siegel at 410-484-1844** or **Judy Frankle at 410-486-2672.**



THE FEDERATION OF JEWISH WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

MID-WINTER CONFERENCE, THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

The next meeting is the Mid-Winter Conference on **Thursday, January 12** (snow date Thursday, January 26) at Beth Tfiloh from 9:45 a.m. to 12 noon. Barbie Hyman, Coordinator for CHANA will be speaking on Teen Dating-Violence, Break the Silence.

A light breakfast will be served and dietary laws will be observed.

Social Action Project: Please bring Passover, Chanukah, and Jewish New Year's cards which are sent to homebound people and nursing home residents. Also, please bring winter hats and gloves for the homeless shelter. Please bring your donation to the meeting, drop off at Beth T'filoh or get them to Harriet Weiner before the meeting.

Reservation by Tuesday, January 3. Call **Harriet Weiner at 410-653-3171.**

GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY, MARCH 15

On **Thursday, March 15** there will be a dinner meeting at Moses Montefiore Anshe Emunah from 6:30 p.m. - 8:45 p.m. The speaker is Ruth Guggenheim, Director of Development and Public Relations of Jews for Judaism. The topic is "Its Not Your Bubbie's Missionary Anymore." The cost of the dinner has not been determined.

For more information call **Harriet Weiner 410-653-3171.**

SPECIAL FIRST TIME SISTERHOOD SERVICE

Join us to bring your *Shabbat* to a warm and beautiful close on **Saturday, March 10** at 6:00 p.m. Sisterhood will conduct the unique *Mincha-Maariv-Havdallah* Service in the Gorn Chapel. All are invited to a reception following the service.

SAVE THE DATE

JOINT SISTERHOOD DINNER

Monday, April 23, 2012 at Chizuk Amuno
Details will be in the *March Voice*.

BETH EL — A SPECIAL PLACE

By Arnold Fruman – Co-chair Beth El Annual Appeal

My history with Beth El dates back to 1975, when our family became members after a long association with Beth Jacob Congregation. In 1976 my late father, Leonard Fruman married Katherine Davis, who along with her late husband Harris Davis were original founding members of Beth El. Indirectly, my family's roots can be traced back to Beth El's beginnings.

I first became interested in the inner workings of synagogue life as a member of the House Committee in the early 1990's. That led to several Board Membership appointments and eventually positions as both Treasurer and Comptroller of the congregation. When I was discharged from these offices, the then Development Director, Alan Dorenfeld, appointed both Robert Slatkin and myself as co-chairs of the Beth El Annual Appeal, positions we have held since 2003. Alan's successor, Ailene Sher has done a truly remarkable job in moving the synagogue

financially in many positive directions.

As members of Beth El, we are so fortunate to have such a highly dedicated team of clergy and officers to guide us. Our President, Steve Silverman, presented a compelling case for the Annual Appeal so eloquently during his informative High Holiday address. As always, our members have responded in a very favorable fashion. However, there remains much work to be done in order to maintain our professionalism and standards of excellence with respect to the ongoing needs of the congregation.



Arnold Fruman

To provide school scholarships, reduce dues to needy families, and to continue to enrich educational programs, Beth El must remain financially strong. The Annual Appeal allows us to have a direct impact on these and

so many other vital congregational activities. Hence the core values of the Beth El Annual Appeal have become deeply ingrained in me and continues to heighten my interest in the financial well being of our synagogue.

Despite the difficult economic climate and the financial strain being experienced by so many of our congregants, our members thankfully continue to recognize the importance of the Beth El Annual Appeal. We are making excellent progress towards our \$500,000 goal through the support of our loyal caring membership.

Please join us and the many members who have already agreed to be recognized as part of Beth El's "CHEVRAT NODVIM: FELLOWSHIP OF DONORS." Your gift will enrich the lives of many fellow members not quite as fortunate and will allow Beth El to remain a strong and viable congregation – a special place where exceptional people continue to make a difference!



BETH EL
LEGACY SOCIETY

Contact **Ailene** at 410-580-5159 or ailene@bethelbalto.com to request a Letter of Intent. All we need to know is that you have made provision for Beth El in your Estate Planning. Not only will you be ensuring the future of our congregation, but you will be helping to ensure Judaism for generations to come.

Attention Snow Birds – Make Sure We Have Your Winter Address!



As the weather gets colder, many of our congregants head south for the winter. It is important that our office receives your winter address, as well as the projected dates you will be away, because the post office will NOT automatically forward *The Voice* and other Beth El mailings.

Please contact **Sandi Block** at 410-484-0411 or sandi@bethelbalto.com with this information before you leave

Baltimore and bring back some warmth and sunshine when you return!

ANNUAL APPEAL DONORS 2011-2012

Donations from November 10, 2011 to December 8, 2011

Bruce Abramson & Arlene Small
Dr. Maurice & Karen Aiken
Dr. Lee & Beth Albee
Raymond & Janice Altman
Anonymous
Irene Bacharach
David & Estelle Balachow
Cari Becker
Stephen & Julie Becker
Bernice Berger
Dr. Leonard & Sara Ann Berger
David & Wendy Berman
Ellen Blake
Charlotte Blum
Helen Bronstein
Dr. Steven & Dr. Maya Brooks
Dr. Jeffrey Brown & Jill Ratain
Dr. Elahu & Susan Bruck
Bette Buchdahl
Norma F. Caplan
Robert & Eileen Caplan
David & Susan Case
Gloria Cissell
Jerry & Arlyn Cohen
Estelle Cohen
Gerald & Anita Cohen
Mark S. Cohen
Alvin & Marcia Craven
Sheldon and Suzanne Dagurt
Paul & Alice Davis
Stuart & Riki Deckelbaum
Hilda Dopkin
Melissa Dorenfeld
Claudia Eagle
Gertrude Escann
Allen & Rita Feintuch
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Sheldon & Beverly Forchheimer
Keith & Stacy Forman
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Lawrence & Michele Greenberg
Dr. Ned & Deborah Greenberg
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Albert & Amy Sue Harris
David & Nadine Hazman
Jonathan & Cynthia Hazman
Betty Helfman
Stanley & Deborah Holzman
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Sheldon & Catherine Kalish
Sharon Kaufman
Marlene Koepfel
Gilbert & Sheila Kramer
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Richard & Ellen Krieger
Sharon Krieger
Ronald & Elaine Kronsberg
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Shirley Leaderman
Dr. Roger & Janet Levin
Barbara Lichtenberg
Barbara Lichter
Dr. Jeffrey & Diane Lieberman
Ruth Keyser Lipsetts
Sharon Martin
Werner & Rosa Marx
Arnold & Janet Mazor
Bernard & Sandra Meizlish
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Dr. Kenneth Morgen & Dr. Samuel Westrick
Randy & Michelle Moss
Stephen & Terry Needel
Phyllis Neuman
Theodore & Risa Offit
Sol & Evelyn Oldick
Yaron & Erica Orbach
Gerald & Arlene Perloff

Selma Pustin
Miriam Rosenbaum
Barbara Roth
Michael & Melissa Roth
Jack B. Rubin
Donald & Helen Saltzman
Stanford & Sylvia Schneider
Judith Schwartz
Michael & Diane Schwarz
Mirian Scurnick
Dr. Frank & Merle Setren
Mannes & Rae Shalowitz
Harvey & Phyllis Shankman
Alvin Y. Shapiro
Dr. Robert & Shelley Shemer
Gertrude Shobin
Zvi Shoubin
Joseph & Jan Silhavy
Dr. Bruce & Deena Sindler
Frances Snyder
Richard & Jill Snyder
Dennis & Paula Sober
Michael & Susan Stein
Harvey & Amy Steinberg
Jason & Dr. Tina Steinhardt
Bernard & Lillian Strumwater
Steven & Monica Susel
Herbert & Sheila Sweren
Joseph & Adrienne Trost
Louis & Jeanne Wachter
Betty Waghelstein
Dr. Phillip & Susan Weiner
Dennis & Amanda Weinman
Dr. Eric & Michele Weisbrot
Eric & Melissa West
Stuart & Ellen Wiesenberger
James & Juli Wolf
Richard & Ellen Yaffe
Robert & Ellen Yerman
Paul & Sherrie Norwitz Yutzy
Jerry Zuskin
Harvey & Amy Zwyer

BETH EL MEMBER ERIKA RIEF WINS EXEMPLAR OF EXCELLENCE AWARD FROM HILLEL

Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life announced that Emory University student leader and Beth El member, Erika Rief was among the winners of its 2011 Philip H. and Suzi Rudd



Erika Rief

Cohen Student Exemplar of Excellence Awards at the recent Jewish Federations of North America General Assembly in Denver. The Student Exemplar of Excellence Award is annually awarded to five students who have displayed exemplary leadership on their respective campuses by inspiring others to act and lead, by building meaningful relationships, by fostering innovation and creativity, and by modeling and inspiring Jewish growth. Each winner and their respective Hillel receive a prize of \$150 and a plaque in recognition of their outstanding leadership efforts.

"Erika has set an example of leadership that every student can follow," says Hillel President and CEO Wayne L. Firestone.

"Emory University and the entire Atlanta-area Jewish community can take pride in her accomplishments."

"We are tremendously proud of Erika Rief and grateful that she is being recognized for her leadership," said Michael Rabkin, Director of Hillel at Emory. "Her genuine passion, commitment to Jewish life, and outstanding accomplishments make Erika a role model to all emerging student leaders at Emory."

"Even before my arrival at Emory, it was the Hillel leadership who reached out to me and made me feel that Hillel would be a place I could call home for the four years I attended college," said Rief. "I wanted to be that person who the freshmen could look to for guidance while adjusting to Jewish life at Emory. I have enjoyed every minute of my time in Hillel leadership and am very fortunate and humbled to have received such a prestigious award."

Erika Rief is a junior in the Goizueta Business School at Emory University.

SPONSOR A SHABBAT KIDDUSH

Sponsoring a Beth El *Shabbat Kiddush* is the perfect way to celebrate a birthday, an upcoming wedding or any other *simcha*. Sponsors names are mentioned from the bimah when the rabbi does the weekly announcements. Contact **Diane Cole**, Event Coordinator, at 410-484-0411 or diane@bethelbalto.com and she will help you plan your special *Kiddush*.

ADULT EDUCATION & CONGREGATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Monday A.M.

Title: **Our Prayers - Where They Came From/ What They Mean**
9:30-10:30 a.m.
Instructor: Sandy Winters
Dates: January 9, 16, 23, 30; February 6, 13, 27; March 5, 12, 19, 26;
Room: Agus Library

Monday P.M.

Title: **Agus Academy "What Does It Mean To Be A Conservative Jew?"**
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Session II: 2012: January 9, 16, 23, 30
Instructor: Sandy Winters will be teaching.
Session III: February 13, 20, 27; March 12, 19, 26
Instructors: Rabbis will be teaching.
Room: Agus Library

Title: **Jewish Short Stories**
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Instructor: Gail Lipsitz
Dates: January 3 [Tuesday]; February 6; March 5
Room: Agus Library
Costs: Material fee: \$15 for Beth El members; \$20 for friends and guests.

Title: **Intermediate Siddur Hebrew**
6:00 p.m. - 6:50 p.m.
Instructor: Wendy Farley
Dates: January 9, 16, 23, 30; February 13, 20, 27; March 12, 19, 26
Room: Schuster Library

On Monday evening, January 9 at 7:00 p.m. the Jacob Agus Academy will feature a program entitled "Women at the Well." New York artist Fran Medoff will share her unique artistic interpretations of Biblical women and Sandy Winters will teach Midrashic insights on these women.

Saturday

Title: **Parashah Study**
9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.
Instructor: Rabbis, Sandy Winters
Dates: Saturday Mornings
Room: Agus Library

FINDING THE LOST TRIBE OF ISRAEL: THE BNEI MENASHE OF INDIA (TRIBE OF MANESSAH, JOSEPH'S SON)

By Melinda Hope

How many of the remaining 7,000 members of the Bnei Menashe Tribe of India will make aliyah to Israel in 2012?

Mr. Michael Freund of Shavei Israel, a group that brings home Jewish ancestors, believes that it will occur early this year! There were 1,800 people who made aliyah since March 2005. After 2007, aliyahs were not granted.

Through the generosity of Dr. Sheldon and Mrs. Saralynn Glass, Beth El was able to watch a fascinating 92nd Street Y Live program with an interview between Mr. Freund and a leader of the Bnei Menashe Tribe. In addition, we were able to hear from members of their community.

Michael Freund began by relating the story of how a letter from the Bnei Menashe addressed to the prime minister reached his desk. They claimed to be a Lost Tribe of Israel whose letters had thus far been unanswered.

Intrigued by the idea that this might indeed be a lost tribe, he traveled to Northeast India to meet with its leaders. There he learned about their history and geographic journey, with a time span of 27 centuries. Apparently, their extremely long journey over all of these years, took them through many hostile countries, as far east as China, perhaps even living in caves. They eventually settled in India.

After hearing their story, he learned of their Jewish rituals and practices including, observing Shabbat, keeping kosher, sitting Shiva for seven days by not working and having relatives and friends bringing them their meals. Males wearing kipot all day, every day as well as women wearing head coverings and circumcision for all males. They even had songs about the Red Sea opening up and men with chariots and shields being swallowed up.

When Mr. Freund went back to Israel, this information was shared with the community. In March 2005, Chief Rabbi Shlomo Amar formally recognized the Jewish ancestry of the Bnei Menashe.

There has been criticism of this program. Many do not believe that this is a Lost Tribe and it has been said that Israel is using these people as pawns. They are put in places to live that are dangerous and they are eager to join the Israeli Army.

In my opinion, the "Lost Tribe" may be wearing rose-colored glasses. Although there are those that have had success in Israel, there are those that will find the adjustment difficult. Their dream of living in Israel may not be what they expected.

Hopefully, Israel proves to be the place that they have held in their hearts and souls for 27 centuries. Hopefully, they will have the help of Shavei Israel and bask in the joy of being reunited with their friends, families and Zion.

I asked Rabbi Schwartz for his thoughts on the Bnei Menashe. He said that we need to open our minds to the fact that we may indeed have ancestors in other parts of the world and that we may not be as limited in our numbers as we think. Perhaps there are more Lost Tribes to be found!

How To Go Green In The Winter

- 1.) Save energy by making sure that your doors and windows have good seals on them. By getting better seals, you'll also save on your winter heating bills.
- 2.) Wear more layers inside to keep the heat down. Turning the heat down just a few degrees can make a big difference in your energy consumption.
- 3.) Use non-toxic de-icers on your driveway and other areas, like plain sand.
- 4.) Try green activities for the family like snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and sledding. You'll get a great workout and you won't have to use electricity or fuel to have fun.
- 5.) Replace your old light bulbs with fluorescent ones. Winter means fewer hours of sunlight and more time indoors, so use light bulbs that last longer and are more energy efficient.

Source: http://www.ehow.com/how_2383568_go-green-winter.html



AGUS LIBRARY HOURS

Monday	9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. 6:45 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (when classes are held)
Tuesday	9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.
Wednesday	9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.
Thursday	2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

If these times are not convenient for you, contact **Marlene Siegel** at **410-484-1844** to make an appointment.

If you wish to donate books to the Agus Library, please contact Marlene Siegel at 410-484-1844. **Because of the limited space, please do not bring books to Beth El until you have spoken to Marlene Siegel.**

SCHUSTER LIBRARY HOURS

Sundays:
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Tuesdays & Wednesdays:
4:15 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

Endowed by Robert and Florence Chertkof

Walter Isaacson on Steve Jobs

Rick Stengel, moderator
Tuesday, Jan 24, 8:00 p.m.

Walter Isaacson, author of a new biography of Steve Jobs, discusses the significance of Jobs's contributions to the business world and explains his drive as it revolutionized six industries: personal computers, animated movies, music, phones, tablet computing and digital publishing. Jobs stands as the ultimate icon of inventiveness and applied imagination, and he built a company where leaps of imagination were combined with remarkable feats of engineering. Isaacson looks at Jobs for important lessons about innovation, character, leadership and values. Walter Isaacson, CEO of the Aspen Institute, has been chairman of CNN and managing editor of *Time* magazine. He is the author of *Benjamin Franklin: An American Life* and *Kissinger: A Biography* and the coauthor of *The Wise Men: Six Friends and the World They Made*.

George Mitchell with Howard Gardner

Tuesday, Mar 13, 8:00 p.m.

George Mitchell was a key player in resolving the Northern Ireland conflict, was chairman of an international fact-finding committee on violence in the Middle East and served as US Special Envoy for Middle East Peace. As one of the most respected and influential leaders of our times, he discusses the many lessons of his extraordinary political and diplomatic career. Mitchell entered the US Senate in 1980 and served as Senate majority leader from 1989 to 1995. Howard Gardner, whose notable life and work have led to enormous influence in education, psychology, business and other sectors, asks: What can we learn from what you have achieved? Gardner is the John H. and Elisabeth A. Hobbs Professor of Cognition and Education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. In 2001, he received the Prince of Asturias Award in Social Sciences.

Madeleine Albright

Thursday, May 3, 8:00 p.m.

In her new and most personal book, *Prague Winter: A Personal Story of Remembrance and War, 1937-1948*, Madeleine Albright looks at her family's experiences during this tumultuous time in history before, during and after World War II. In this conversation, hear Albright's story along with her interviews with contemporaries and newly available documents about the enormously complex events that took place. Madeleine Albright served as the 64th Secretary of State from 1997 to 2001. Her distinguished career also includes positions on Capitol Hill, the National Security Council and as US Ambassador to the United Nations. She is the author of *Madam Secretary*, *Memo to the President Elect*, *The Mighty and the Almighty* and *Read My Pins*.



Sponsored by Eileen & Rick Yaffe and Butler Medical Transport

Lawrence Summers

With Thane Rosenbaum
Thursday, Feb 2, 8:00 p.m.

As economic concerns weigh heavily on Americans' minds, Lawrence Summers shares his thoughts on the debt and housing crisis, the collapse and bailout of Wall Street, the economic stimulus initiatives, free trade, globalization, anti-Semitism and perhaps even the upcoming presidential election. Summers was director of President Obama's National Economic Council, Secretary of the Treasury in the Clinton administration, and former president of Harvard University. Thane Rosenbaum is a novelist and law professor at Fordham University and the director of the Forum on Law, Culture and Society.



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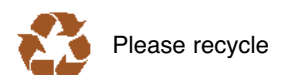
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Rabbi Jacob B. Agus (1911-1986) Founding Rabbi
Rabbi Mark G. Loeb (1944-2009) Emeritus
Cantor Saul Z. Hammerman (1926-2008) Emeritus

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



January 13, 7:30 p.m., Rubin Sanctuary

Featuring:
The Catonsville High School Steel Band, James Wharton, director
The Beth El Adult & Junior Choirs, Cantor Thom King, director
Adon Olam Limbo Contest!
Sumptuous Tropical Reception after!