



The Bulletin

of Beth El Hebrew Congregation

June 2014

Alexandria, Virginia

Sivan/Tamuz 5774

Worship Services

Wednesday, June 4

Shavuot Yizkor Service 10:30 AM

Friday, June 6

Erev Shabbat Service 7:30 PM

Saturday, June 7

Shabbat Service 10:30 AM

Bar Mitzvah: Grant Honker

Son of Darcy Levit

Tot Shabbat 11:00 AM

Friday, June 13

Erev Shabbat Service 7:30 PM

Saturday, June 14

Shabbat Service 10:30 AM

Bat Mitzvah: Julia Blethen

Daughter of Nancy and Chris Blethen

Friday, June 20

Soul Shabbat Service 7:30 PM

Installation of new members of
the Board of Directors

Saturday, June 21

Shabbat Service 10:30 AM

Bar Mitzvah: Gus Nathanson

Son of Kirsten and Scott Nathanson

Tot Shabbat 11:00 AM

Friday, June 27

Erev Shabbat Service 7:30 PM

Service honoring Alvin "Ted" Gustin

Saturday, June 28

Shabbat Service 10:30 AM

Beth El Hebrew Congregation

Cordially invites you to attend the

Confirmation Service

Sunday, June 8, 2014

Ten Sivan, 5774

At quarter past seven in the evening

Confirmation Class

Shiri Abramovitch

Isaac Joseph Aftergut

Zoe Elizabeth Campbell

Leor Carine Clark

Sheir Erin Clark

Lindsay Fedder

Jacob Stuart Landa

Jacob Ryan Levine

Noah Martin Mutterperl

Camille Sommerfield

Alexandra Lauren Zernik

Light refreshments following ceremony

Shavuot Service and Potluck Dairy Lunch

Shavuot is the Hebrew word meaning "weeks" and refers to the seven weeks following Passover when we count the *omer*. On the holiday of Shavuot, we celebrate the giving of the Torah to the Israelites at Mount Sinai.

Please join us at Shavuot and Yizkor services on Wednesday, June 4, at 10:30AM, followed by a potluck luncheon featuring a traditional dairy meal complete with cheese blintzes, cheesecake, and ice cream.

Call me at 703-451-7007 or email jlastrov@verizon.net to RSVP and to coordinate food items. All are welcome to attend.

- Jeanette Astrow

~ in this issue ~

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2014 Graduates:

Information due by June 5.

See Page 3; don't delay!

Message from Rabbi Isserow



Volunteers Make it Happen

This time of the year always brings home to me how extremely fortunate we at Beth El are to have so many dedicated and involved members. They are all volunteers, although one would not necessarily assume that, given the amount of time and effort that each of these folks puts into making sure that Beth El runs well.

It is readily apparent from our *Bulletin* (which for years has been put together each month by Ellen Feldstein, a volunteer!) just how busy the place is and how many programs we have targeting the varied strata of membership that makes up Beth El. While there are certain groups to whom we would like to offer more, this is not often possible with our current staff and volunteer configuration but I can assure you that it is on our radar and we hope to do something about these gaps soon.

It is also important to note that many of our committees and thus programs are lay-volunteer led and the level of commitment of these individuals is already onerous and so to ask them to do even more would be *chutzpadik* to say the least! However, we hope to continue to expand the circle of those involved and so over a period of time be in a position to offer even more. It always depends on the willingness of people who already live very busy lives and who are willing to do one thing more simply because they feel it is the right thing to do.

I, for one, am deeply grateful for all that our myriad volunteers do! All too many go unrecognized and frequently their efforts are taken for granted. They work quietly and effectively behind the scenes, putting hours of work into our community, much of which is not glamorous nor particularly rewarding, but is necessary and essential to the proper functioning of our congregation. Many of these tasks present ongoing difficulties and complications that take hours to sort out and to deal with. All the while most of these individuals have families and jobs that demand their attention and time.

We are blessed to have lay leaders who are deeply invested in our congregation. Our current president; executive committee; board; past presidents who continue to give unstintingly of their time, experience and wisdom; leaders of our affiliates and associates and any number of committee chairs spend precious time making things happen here and ensuring that the congregation is properly administered. We have long tried to be innovative and creative, but this does not happen in a vacuum nor do these minor miracles just occur. It takes heads, hearts and hands and these are the folks that make it all work. →

Torah Talk

The weekly Torah portion is discussed in the Seminar Room on Saturdays at 9 AM. All are welcome.



Beth El's Annual

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERSHIP BRUNCH

will be held on
Sunday, August 24, at 10:30 AM

Tell your unaffiliated friends, neighbors
and co-workers to save the date.

How do we even begin to thank them?

The best way is to make sure that we are fully aware of all that they do, then to take every opportunity to recognize their effort and appreciate all that they are doing (this also means ceasing to complain about what some think that these volunteers are apparently not doing). Finally the best way to honor these lay leaders is to emulate them— in other words, to find a way that each and every one of us can make our own contribution to the effort to make Beth El the kind of community we wish it to be.

There is an old joke that was told about Itz and Rochel, a South African couple that emigrate to Israel. Six months later, Itz is asked, "So nu, how is it in Israel?"

"Wonderful," he replies, "In South Africa I was a schlepper, but here I am a 'somebody'!"

"A somebody?" "Yes," says Itz, "My wife keeps saying, 'Somebody take out the garbage, somebody do the laundry, somebody wash the dishes!'"

Now I am inviting you too to become a somebody. Please contact us and let us know how you would like to help. Or if you are unsure, please ask one of us what opportunities exist to serve our community so that you can choose where you feel you will be most effective.

Just as every Israelite contributed to the construction of the ancient tabernacle, we ask you to give of your time and talent as together we build Beth El Hebrew Congregation of the future.

- Brett

Our Family

Mazel Tov to:

Rabbi Jonathan Kraus who was awarded a Doctor of Divinity degree from Hebrew Union College/Jewish Institute of Religion on May 3, honoring 25 years of service in the Reform rabbinate. Rabbi Kraus served as assistant/associate rabbi at Beth El, 1989 - 1994.

Marc and Maxine Winerman on the births of three grandsons: Samuel Rene Perez-Lopez and Benjamin Louis Perez-Lopez, sons of Lea and Dan Perez-Lopez; and Alexander Nejikovsky Winerman, son of Olga Nejikovsky and Andrew Winerman.

Norton Paley on the publication of his latest book, *Clausewitz Talks Business: An Executive's Guide to Thinking Like a Strategist*.

Kayla and Ross Kaplan on the birth of a son, Judah Lawrence Kaplan.

Ellen Itkin on winning first place in the JEB Stuart Raider Run 5K in the *Women age 50-59* category.

Condolences to:

Linda Waller on the death of her mother, Sylvia Waller.

Susan Schonfeld on the death of her mother, Cynthia Mayer.

Elinor Coleman on the death of her father, Bud Coleman.

B'nei Mitzvah

Grant Bedell Honker is in the 7th grade at Mark Twain Middle School. He feels fortunate to have many friends who will celebrate his June 7 bar mitzvah. Tackling the challenges of a busy schedule while learning his Torah and Haftorah portions has been a rewarding experience for Grant, who plays piano, soccer and trumpet. Grant also enjoys graphic novels, chess, playing cards, biking, swimming, hanging out with his sister Carmen and playing with his dog Cody. He performs *mitzvot* daily, but dedicated his volunteer hours to community hunger solutions by helping at the Arlington Food Assistance Center. Grant thanks his family, friends, teachers, Rabbi Isserow, Cantor Kaufman, and tutor Laura Mandeles for believing in him and supporting his success.

Julia Blethen is a 7th grade student at Key Middle School in Springfield, Virginia. She is a blue belt in karate, earned through hard work, sparring and board kicking. Her favorite food is sushi and she is a great storyteller. Julia will be using her God-given talents of compassion and conversation for her mitzvah project by visiting with seniors and helping to develop a memory book as a gift. She looks forward to her June 14 bat mitzvah.

Gus Nathanson is an honor student at Swanson Middle School, a trumpeter in the top school band, a travel baseball player with serious pop, and an avid automobile enthusiast. But what truly defines Gus is his passion. Whether he's playing the Rocky theme from memory after seeing the →



Attention 2014 Graduates (or their parents)

Beth El is proud of the accomplishments of all of its members graduating from **high school or any institution of higher learning** in 2014, and would like to recognize them in a future issue of *The Bulletin*.

We ask that all graduates, or one of their parents, send the following information to Ellen Feldstein at efeditor@cox.net **no later than June 8**.

- ❶ Name of Graduate
- ❷ School conferring degree or diploma
- ❸ Degree earned, honors if appropriate
- ❹ Plans for fall (school, job, military, etc.)

We don't want to leave anyone out; please respond ASAP to the above e-mail address or 703-941-1723.

WELCOME

Beth El is pleased to welcome the following new members and wishes them a long and joyful affiliation with us.

Todd Cohn and Janice Kupiec, and Addison Elizabeth

815 S. Columbus St.
Alexandria, VA 22314

703-627-9056

Scott Beliveau and Rachel Anderson

5710 Medallion Ct.
Alexandria, VA 22303

703-960-5240

movie, uncovering the hidden Holocaust of the 2nd Reich in Namibia and its connections to our own history, or giving his time to the Arlington Food Assistance Center, Gus wears his heart on his sleeve. With the assistance of Lisa Sheldone, Rabbi Isserow and Cantor Kaufman, Gus is inspired to share the fascinating story of Korach as he strengthens his link to our family, our community and our people on June 21.

CANTOR'S O R N E R



Thank you, Ted

It was with sadness that I received the news of Ted Gustin's intent to retire. Ted has been with Beth El for 45 years. In those 45 years, Ted has accompanied the community with the grace and grandeur of his organ playing. He not only accompanied the community through 45 years of services, but through 45 years of growth and change at Beth El. He was a constant in an ever-changing liturgical, cultural, landscape.

Ted Gustin has served Beth El Hebrew Congregation with selflessness, class, and dignity. On behalf of the Beth El community, I offer him our heartfelt appreciation.

My 11 months at Beth El, working with Ted, pale in comparison to a lifetime of experiences that many of you have shared with Ted throughout the years. I have worked with Ted long enough to know that he brings a sense pride and dignity to his musicianship. I know of his love of Beth El, his love of its congregants, and his love and respect for the history of Beth El. Early on this year I received a phone call from Ted, wanting me to know that he wanted to offer his support to me and that I could consider him a colleague and friend as we began the enormous work of preparing for High Holidays together. That phone call meant the world to me and I will always cherish the time that we have shared together professionally.

On June 27 we will have a special Shabbat Service to honor our friend. I recently shared with Ted that I don't truly know how to say thank you to him. To simply say, "Thank You," just doesn't seem adequate. I need your help!

For those of you who have had the privilege of working with and getting to know Ted these many years, please come to the June 27 service so you can let Ted know how much gratitude and admiration you carry in your hearts for him. For those of you who are newer to the Beth El community and have not had the opportunity to meet Ted - the Beth El community that you love is a community that Ted played an integral part in creating. Please share your gratitude with Ted as well.

We wish Ted well in his well-deserved retirement. We know, though, that Ted will never be far from our hearts. He is a part of who we are. He is family. He will always be welcome at Beth El. His music now fills our hearts, as it did in our sanctuary for these 45 years.

- Jason

Good Wine, Good Fun, Good Cause!

Imagine: new friends and sipping a variety of fine wines, expertly poured. Was it a swank cocktail party on DC's Embassy Row perhaps?

No! It was Beth El's Wine Tasting event which succeeded, on Saturday May 3, in not only giving the 60 participants a way to dial-up their wine-wisdom via sips of this season's finest Sauv Blancs and Pinots, but also supported a worthy cause: the journey that a group of Beth El's teen-members (and some brave parents) will take this summer to the Holy Land.

Several of those teens showed up at the event not only to devote their time to baby-sitting the youngest members of Beth El, but also to hold the microphone at the front of the room and highlight reasons they were looking forward to taking the trip to Israel. Thank you to Seth Lewis, David Zahniser, Abbie Levine, Caroline Schneider and Zeke Paley Farkas for eloquently describing your excitement about seeing in person the country and culture you've been studying for years at Beth El Religious School.

The local community of vendors, including Trader Joe's, MOM's, Giant Food and Total Wine showed up in force, contributing delicious cheese and other yummys to accompany the wine. Lucky attendees went home with raffle items that included abundant baskets of treats from these stores.

Kara Dubinsky, an independent wine consultant for *Wine Shop at Home*, and her husband Igor, contributed the main star of the night — the wine. Donating a variety of vintages and playing hostess to our group, Kara also donated proceeds from any wine sales of that evening. As the Beth El group steps foot into Ben Gurion airport this July, they'll have Kara and *Wine Shop at Home* to thank for much of the financial boost.

Much gratitude to Nava Ezra and Sally Schneider for their tireless efforts in organizing this great gathering. Thank you to WRJ, Beth El, the parents of teens traveling, Meryl Goldhammer for the centerpieces, and everyone who attended. If you're sorry to have missed it, no worries...you'll have a chance next October when Beth El will once again host a chance for you to raise your glass. *L'chaim!*

- Susan Paley

Missing Box

A box containing printed materials and special washing implements has disappeared. If you have it or know of its whereabouts, please let Pat Collins know as soon as possible at collinspmaria@gmail.com. These materials belong to the Torah Study Group and are of importance to them. Thank you.

President's Message



The Quotidian... and the Not

You get used to sitting on one side of life's table and then the universe gets the bright idea to switch the seating. That's when I went from being a Beth El Caring Community member to a recipient of the Caring Community gifts. Gifts is the right word — by the time Chris and I returned from burying my mother in New Jersey, the Caring Community had arranged a *shiva minyan*, solved the parking problem at our house (no small feat!), pulled together food and handled all the other details.

Having your chair moved, even when you saw it coming, is profoundly disorienting and I am so grateful for the support of the Beth El community and clergy. Whether the funeral service, an email, card, *shiva* visit, fund contribution, or passing comment on a Friday night, all add threads to that complex tapestry that forms our *kehilla* and our own place in it. And every kindness strengthens our community and collectively gives us the strength to continue to support each other.

Returning now to my regularly scheduled president's column...Beth El's annual meeting is almost here. Tuesday, June 17 is the date. As we've done for the past several years, the meeting will begin with a congregational dinner and we'll keep the dinner seating for the meeting. No lining up in rows like tired sardines. (No-you can't come for dinner and skip the meeting-it's a package deal.)

As always, we'll have an update on the activities of the year, vote on the budget for the next fiscal year, and meet the new board members. Of course there will also be plenty of time for congregant comments and questions. If you can't attend the meeting, you can still vote by absentee ballot. I hope I'll see you there.

- Linda Waller

Summer Service Schedule

On Friday evenings during July and August
Erev Shabbat Services
Will begin at 6:30 PM

Social Action/Social Justice

As a follow-on to Good Deeds Day, Faren Sachs and Rachel Suchman, religious school students, made and contributed rainbow bracelets. These bracelets are very popular right now and will be distributed to homeless children at a local shelter.

On Sunday, May 4, BEHC members participated in the walk for the ALIVE! Child Development Center. On this beautiful day, walkers enjoyed 5 miles of picturesque streets, camaraderie and exercise!



Yonie Dow, Bobbie Gershman, Simon Gershman, Jenny Genser, Deborah Schaffer and Barbara Rosenfeld walk for ALIVE!

As June is the end of our program year at BEHC, this would be a good time to think about next year's events. We need volunteers to assist with the High Holiday Food Drive and distribution, fighting malaria with Mosquito Net Sales, participation in Oral Rehydration Therapy, Rebuilding Alexandria, Good Deeds Day, and the Israel Street Festival.

There will also be social justice events and another opportunity to participate in Jewish Advocacy Day in the Virginia Legislature. This event is well organized with well-researched talking points. Rising b'nei mitzvah students are welcome to participate in these events and we are happy to assist you.

Happy Summer!

- Miriam (Pat) Collins

*Thank
You*

To: Nancy Davis; Charlie, Judy and Carrie Kramer; Linda Shapiro and Charlotte Strauss who prepared and served lunch at the Bailey's Community Shelter on Sunday, May 4.



Time flies when you are having fun...

..... and boy did the last year fly by! The last year has brought me many opportunities to work with many wonderful women and I believe that it is through their help and support that we have been very successful. I am thrilled to be a part of such a generous and loving group of women.

Two of my highlights this year have been:

Going to the WRJ National Convention in December where WRJ concluded its celebration of our 100 year anniversary. I met many women from across the country and learned several interesting facts about WRJ.

Going to the Carpenter Shelter in Alexandria, where WRJ provides and serves dinner once a month. The people whose lives we touch are so grateful and it was a very touching and gratifying experience for me.

I would like to thank the many volunteers that helped to make this year so successful:

Carolyn Cass for always being available for guidance and insight into the workings of WRJ that were new to me, and coordinating our Chanukah luncheon and dinner,

Shelli Ross for being my ever-faithful counselor and advisor and bringing reason and order to areas that at times were challenging to me,

Sandra Seitz for taking on the job of treasurer and handling it with precision and professionalism,

Risa Gordon for purchasing bagel bar supplies, Carpenter Shelter supplies, coordinating with the florist and any other special purchasing needs,

Janet Garber for coordinating our social action activities which included providing toys and gifts to the needy at the holidays, collecting gently used business clothes for women rejoining the workplace, and coordinating with the Temple's Social Action Committee,

Karen Aftergut for coordinating the Carpenter Shelter volunteers and being present at almost every Hamantaschen baking session this past winter,

Rhoda Baker for coordinating our Paid Up Membership Tea last fall and bringing us the program, *An Ordinary Hero*,

Michelle Milden for chairing the committee that put on the March program, *An Ordinary Hero*,

Linda Shapiro for coordinating the decorating of the *Sukkah* on the *Bimah*, →

WRJ Social Action

Thanks to all who donated so generously to the *Dress For Success* campaign! The program managers were very happy with the quantity and quality of our collection!

Because of your donations, many women in our community will be able to dress professionally as they seek and start new jobs! This is a big step in their efforts to become financially stable. Thank you!

- Janet Garber

Evy Englander, our Corresponding Secretary, who sends cards and notes to our members in times of sorrow and joy so that they know we are thinking of them,

Jo Ann Allen for coordinating the extravagant oneg for the Cantor's Installation as well as regular Friday night onegs,

Susan Zernick for coordinating the bagel bar,

Annette Kilian for being an always-present figure at the WRJ board meetings and events and for handling the mass mailings for our membership and annual raffle,

Jeanette Astrow our secretary and coordinator of the Bnai Mitzvah Kiddush presentations as well as working with the clergy on Sisterhood Shabbat Service,

Carolyn Miller for coordinating the Annual Sisterhood Shabbat Dinner,

Hamantaschen volunteers, including one of the religious school 8th grade classes, the confirmation class, the students going to Israel this summer, several moms who brought their young children in to join us and help pass on this tradition and many others who donated dough,

Brotherhood and our maintenance staff for doing our heavy lifting.

Additionally I would like to thank all our members. With our increase in membership this year and the success of our fundraising activities, we have been able to provide a lot to the temple and our community that are financial in nature.

The list is long but a few items to note: we are able to meet our annual pledge to the temple in the amount of \$8,000, \$1,000 to the religious school's *madrachim* program, embossed *Tanaks* for the Confirmation class, \$1,000 to the teens going to Israel this summer and contributions to the GMU Hillel, ARZA, Mazon/Alive and the World Union.

- Suzie Shalewitz, Beth El WRJ President



Brotherhood members will be called upon to approve a new budget at our Annual Meeting and Dinner on Friday, June 20, at 6:30 PM in Bendheim/Billowitz Hall. E-mail reservations to jdkaye@verizon.net and leave your check for \$12 per person at Beth El.

Also, Brotherhood's Man of the Year Award for 2014 will be given to Henry Brooks in a well-earned recognition of his dedicated volunteer service to Beth El over the past year, and Brotherhood Jewish Chautauqua Society's Golden Torch Bearer Award for 2014 will be awarded to Glenn Siegal for his long term outstanding service to the Brotherhood and the congregation.

Our annual End of Religious School Picnic Gala is planned for Sunday, June 8. This free feast of hot dogs and hamburgers topped off with the usual side stuff and washed down with soda starts right after religious school. No RSVP necessary. In case of rain we will eat in Bendheim Hall.

Mother's Day Brunch was a feast of food and entertainment. The Political Brunch for the 8th Congressional District Democratic primary, jointly sponsored by JCRC, was a learning experience for all who attended. A number of dedicated volunteers pitched in to provide the necessary hands-on help for the enjoyment and education of others.

Softball is in full swing - our team is swingin' away in the Fairfax County Church Softball League under the co-leadership of Jim Goldwater and Fred Silverberg. Eight games completed with ten games remaining to be played through July. Please plan to come-on down and cheer our team to victory.



Todd Levine, Beth El treasurer, and Julienne Bramesco, executive vice president, accept check for Beth El Fund Raiser from Roger Smith, Brotherhood president at the April Beth El board of director's meeting.

- Roger Smith, Brotherhood President

Marc Ross Scholarship Goes to Maddy Naide



Madeline Naide, a senior at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, is to be awarded the 20th annual Marc S. Ross Scholarship at Shabbat services on May 23. The scholarship was established to honor the memory of this Beth El past president.

Maddy is an outstanding young woman who has demonstrated a unique, ongoing commitment to Judaism and our Beth El community. She has been a student at Beth El starting with preschool and continuing through Post Confirmation. She was a *madricha* and then became a religious school teacher. She is described as an exceptional and dedicated Hebrew teacher. In addition, she is a Hebrew tutor. Over the years she has volunteered in many ways at the temple, willing to step in when needed. Maddy has been selected to go on a birthright trip to Israel this summer.

Maddy's dedication to Jewish values extends into the community with her participation in the Jewish Youth Philanthropic Initiative where she prepared and presented grant proposals for local charities. She was recently a participant in the *L'Taken Program* through the Religious Action Center, a conference about important issues of social justice. *Tikkun Olam*, which she approaches through study and action, is very important to Maddy.

Maddy is outstanding in her secular education. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Latin Honor Society, and has received several academic awards. She has been in the marching band and symphonic wind ensemble throughout high school, and in the district band in 12th grade. Maddy demonstrated her leadership skills as freshman rep, vice president and president of the band council, and through her extensive work with new band students. She is on the school's basketball team and has played AAU basketball as well. Maddy will attend The College of William and Mary in the fall. She plans to study Public Policy.

Maddy is an extraordinary young woman who is a credit to the temple, the community and her family. Mazel Tov to Maddy and her family!

Your Ad

Business or Professional

Could be seen each month in the print *Bulletin* and on our open website in the *eBulletin*

Contact Ellen Feldstein, Bulletin Editor, at 703-941-1723 or efeditor@cox.net for details

JCCNV/Beth El 55+

Memory Matters

Wednesday, June 11, 10:30AM-noon

Presented by Jane Priest, Alzheimer's Association

Are you forgetting where you put your keys, why you walked into a room, or peoples' names? Well, you are not alone. These "senior moments" are generally a sign of normal aging. But when it gets to the point when a person's ability to perform everyday activities is affected, there may be other reasons for this decline in memory. Jane will help you understand what is "normal" and what signs indicate something more serious. It is important to learn about dementia and the many other conditions related to this disease. This program is a must for anyone who is experiencing memory loss or knows of someone else who is. Don't forget to put this on your calendar now!

Gardening in the Great Indoors

Tuesday, June 17, noon-2 PM, at Agudas Achim (note date, time and location change)

Presented by Regina Lanctot, Plant Specialist at Merrifield Garden Center

If you love to bring the outdoors in, this is the program for you. Regina will teach us how to care for container and greenhouse plants, along with terrariums. She will also answer questions you may have about other problem indoor plants. A free kosher lunch will be served prior to the program.

RSVP is a must to shelly.rosenstein@jccnv.org or call 703-537-3062 by June 10.

Film: *Calendar Girls*

Wednesday, June 25, 10:30AM-noon

Based on a true story, eleven middle-aged Englishwomen pose nude for their annual Women's Institute calendar as a fund-raiser for the local hospital. Chris (Helen Mirren) gets the idea to raise money for the hospital after Annie's (Julie Walters) husband dies of leukemia. The calendar is a little different in that each woman is posing behind a different task that the Women's Institute teaches their members, such as making bread rolls, knitting, planting flowers, and playing the piano. Before they know it, the calendar is a big hit in England with tremendous sales. Eventually, they are flown to America to be interviewed by Jay Leno. The calendar has made almost \$1,000,000 for the local hospital. Come join us as we enjoy this wonderful 2003 British comedy.

Save the Date!

Attman's Deli in Potomac for lunch, Ratner Museum to follow

Wednesday, July 9; depart Beth El at 11 AM, return approximately 3PM

See July *Bulletin* for full details.

The Permanent Endowment Fund: Celebrating New Members

We have been quietly attracting new members to the Permanent Endowment Fund over the past 18 months. From the current membership of Beth El, we now have 84 members of the PEF which is an all-time high in membership. We have Beth El families joining after 30+ years and some families that are relatively new to Beth El. We also have many PEF members who are active committee members and senior leaders of our congregation. They have all made a commitment "To support the mission of Beth El Hebrew Congregation and to perpetuate the Jewish life of its congregants now and into the future, through a vibrant Endowment Fund." Here is a list of our new voting members:

Jo Ann and Evan Allen
Myrna and Paul Beck
Shirley Cohen
Pat Collins
Wendy & Manoj Dalaya
Laura Dove and Dan Solomon
Mike Jarvis
Lynn Miller and Philip La Kier
Joyce and Bert Snyder
Sandra and Robert Seitz
Marilyn and Barry Smith
Ellen and David Soroka
Linda Waller and Chris Kocsis

Please join me in recognizing and celebrating these families who have all become voting members of the Permanent Endowment Fund and made its mission a priority in their lives. We appreciate their faith in our collective mission and their support is highly valued.

I hope it encourages you to consider joining the. Please contact me at mbluestein@comcast.net for more information about the Fund.

- Michael Bluestein, Chairman

Annual Meeting of the Beth El Permanent Endowment Fund

Sunday, June 15, from 10 AM to Noon
in the Seminar Room

The five current Trustees — Evan Allen, Michael Bluestein, John Jankowski, Sandra Seitz and Dan Solomon welcome you to the PEF Annual Meeting. Light refreshments will be served.

Culture Club Ends Year with Annual Potluck Luncheon

How many years has this tradition been in place? Too many to count! Come join the fun at 12 Noon on Thursday, June 12, at my home as we gather for great food and lively conversation. Bring a dish to share — after coordinating with Meryl!

There is no roster for Culture Club. The annual potluck, like all our monthly adventures, is open to all adult Beth El members (if you wish, you may bring a guest). So come whether you have participated every month, once in a while, or just wish you had. RSVP with potluck food contribution by June 6 to stafm@aol.com.

- Meryl Goldhammer

Beth El - JCCNV Early Childhood Learning Center

As in most schools, June is a huge transition time for us. School is winding down and we have a chance to reflect on the great year we have had. There has been so much amazing learning that it is hard to capture it all.. yet we try!

Beginning June 1, our annual Reggio Emilia Exhibit will be mounted in the main hallway of the synagogue. Each of our seven classes will show one of their major explorations from this year. We hope you will take a few minutes to look at the exhibit when you are here next.

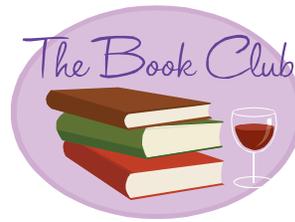
We are also getting ready to transition our students. We will be saying goodbye to 20+ kids as they head off to kindergarten in September. Many of them have been here for 4 years as they started in the young 2s class! Watching them grow is so fun... and it is bittersweet to know we have done our job well and they are ready for elementary school and higher learning.

There is not too much time for us to sit around and mope though, as June is also when we gear up for our summer program. Away go the bikes and out comes the water play gear. Let the summer fun begin!

This transition time, more so than any other time of the year, is a time to count our blessings. Our thanks go out to all of the Beth El staff and congregants and to the staff of the JCCNV for standing behind us and with us to help us create a wonderful learning experience for our youngest friends.

Have a wonderful summer.

- Dina Backer



Reading Night and Day

The Readers of Beth El will meet for our grande finale book group of the reading season on Monday, June 2, at 6:30 PM at the home of Ilene Reiter. We will have a pizza dinner and watch the movie *The Book Thief*.

For those who would also like to read the book, that's good, too! Please bring your ideas for books to read next year so we can create our summer reading lists and fall book line up.

- Lynne Orens

The WRJ Book Group will conclude its season with a review of *This is Where I Leave You*, by Jonathan Tropper, on Tuesday, June 3, at 11 AM at Beth El.

Following the discussion, participants will enjoy a light lunch before evaluating books suggested for next year.

To gain more information or ask questions about this group, contact Rita DiTrani at ditrani.rita@gmail.com.



Beth El is a *Kehilat Chesed* (loving community) — a congregation of people who care about each other and who stand ready to help one another through the physical and emotional difficulties that almost every family faces at one time or other. Through the Caring Community Committee, Beth El members deliver meals, offer transportation, provide information, suggest resources, run errands or just lend an ear.

If you know of a Beth El member who is in need of assistance or information, please call the Beth El office at 703-370-9400 and leave a voicemail message for Rabbi Isserow, or call Ruth Perlstein, CCC chair, at 703-978-9341. Your call and any subsequent services will be strictly confidential and your privacy will be respected.

In the past the CCC has arranged groups to support members who are involved in long term caregiving, as well as those who have experienced loss. We plan to offer these groups again in the fall. In addition, we plan to offer a support group for cancer patients. If you would like information about these groups, you are encouraged to call me at 703-978-9341.

- Ruth Perlstein

A Look at our Music at Beth El, 1969-2014

By Ted Gustin, Organist

What is a dash (-), and what does it mean? Well, it usually separates two numbers or two or more thoughts or ideas or other things. In this case, it separates when I began my work at Beth El and when I am ending it. The dash tells it all.

In January 1969 I began here as a substitute organist for then organist Patricia Northrop. Her husband Bob was the tenor soloist in the choir. He was also the tenor soloist at Christ Church in Old Town, where I also played. Mrs. Northrop asked me to play for her for a month while she took a brief trip to Florida for health reasons. When her time off ended, she decided to resign and not return to Beth El.

She wrote a letter to the then Rabbi Emmet Frank, telling him of her intentions and recommending me for the organist position. With the board's approval, Rabbi Frank wrote me a letter of invitation to be the new organist and said he thought I was a real prima donna, which is what Beth El wanted! I immediately wrote him back accepting his invitation but emphatically informing him that I was NOT a prima donna!

Back then we had a large children's choir directed by Dorothy Rodman. The choir sang from the former cry room balcony on the second floor where the old Baldwin Organ was located. We also had a professional quartet and about five or six volunteer singers who sang every week and for the High Holy Days. They were miked down to the sanctuary through the PA system even though the window opening had no glass in it so the sound of the singers could get out. We wore gray choir robes and looked and sounded like a real choir. Our professional singers were from one of the service choruses, usually Army or Air Force. They were easy to obtain.

Rabbi Frank left soon after I arrived, and in August 1969 Rabbi Arnold Fink came aboard from Temple Keneseth Israel in Philadelphia. From the first, I played every Friday night and for Saturday morning bar and bat mitzvahs, and this continued smoothly for many years.

We were given a "church model" Hammond Organ by Dr. Maxwell Sitzer in memory of his wife, Ethel. It was certainly a step up from the original Baldwin which had been brought over from the old building on Washington Street in 1959 when the congregation built the present building. Marian St. John Aldridge was the first organist at the Seminary Road building, to be followed upon her death by Marshall Stone, Patricia Northrop and me.

We had five Jewish cantors over the years: Adele Nicholson, Julian Lohre, Sunny Schnitzer, Sharon Steinberg and Jason Kaufman. Our much-loved Cantorial Soloist, Michael Peerless, served us well for about 20 years. He also sang bass in the adult choir. Some of our professional singers went on to the Metropolitan Opera and are still singing in New York. We were fortunate to have them.

We have had three or four new prayer books over the years and adjusted to them with excitement and open minds, although some of the older members were a bit slow accepting the newness of them.

Two large Capital Fund drives took place during my time because of rising enrollment of the religious school and a growing congregation. We have always enjoyed the new additions and all the new space. Also, an Organ Fund was begun by the late Jean Pfeiffer, an organist and long-time member of our congregation. The "new" Rodgers Organ was purchased in 1977, and is now 37 years old.

When we began to have Jewish cantors, the music program began to change considerably. The choir didn't sing weekly any more and were moved to the sanctuary level when they performed for the High Holy Days. The organ remained in the "choir room" upstairs. The speakers were always behind the Ark area, a long way from the organ console. Guitars were beginning to be used to a great extent, or the cantor would sing without accompaniment. The organ seemed to be used less and less and was no longer used on Saturday. Recently the organ has been used only once or twice a month on Friday evenings.

Speaking of the *dash* between 1969 and 2014, it represents how the music has changed with the times. With our wonderful new Cantor, Jason Kaufman, much innovative, new and interesting music will be in store for us. World class musicians and instrumentalists will be performing the music with the choir. It's all very exciting and a whole new sound for many. We're moving on!

We hope the congregation will feel very much involved and participatory with this new leadership.

Well, folks, this is how I have spent my *dash* time during my 45 years at Beth El. How have you spent your *dash* time from your birth until now?

What really matters is how we live and love one another during the length of our dashes. Think about this long and hard. Are there things you would like to change? We never know how much time we have left to change or rearrange what we do or how we do it.

Would you be proud of the things they say about how you spent your *dash* time?

I want to thank Rabbi Isserow, Cantor Kaufman, the temple staff and this wonderful congregation for the love and support you have given me all these years. I have truly enjoyed my time with you.

The Congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

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The Bulletin

Beth El Hebrew
Congregation

3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304



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(Send news to bulletin@bethelhebrew.org)

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Erev Shabbat Service

honoring

Alvin (Ted) Gustin

on his retirement after 45 years
as the organist at Beth El

Friday, June 27
7:30 PM

Pre-service Oneg sponsored by Brotherhood
Special Oneg sponsored by WRJ

Please sign the card, to be presented to Ted,
on the easel in Hayman Foyer

155th Annual Congregational Meeting

Tuesday, June 17

Dinner at 6:30 PM - Meeting at 7:30 PM
(RSVPs required to the office, 703-370-9400 or
office@bethelhebrew.org, for dinner)

Members will be asked to approve a budget and
elect a slate of board members, 2014-16.

Reports will be given to inform members of the
State of the Congregation.

Congregants will have an opportunity to ask
questions and offer relevant comments.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>June 2014</h1>						
1 Educator Appreciation Breakfast - 8:30 a Rel. School - 10 a Adult Hebrew - 10 Parent Forum-10 Confirmation Rehearsal - 10 a	2 Readers of Beth El - 6:30 p	3 WRJ Book Club - 11 a Exec. Comm. - 7 p Mussar - 7 p	4 Shavuot & Yizkor Service - 10:30 a with pot luck lunch to follow WRJ Board - 6 p Mid-week school - 6:15 p	5	6 Confirmation Class Shabbat Dinner - 6:30 p Erev Shabbat Service - 7:30 p	7 Torah Study - 9 a Shabbat Service & Grant Honker Bar Mitzvah - 10:30 a Tot Shabbat - 11 a
8 Religious School - 10:30 End of Year Picnic - Noon WRJ Knitting - 2 p Confirmation Service & Reception - 7:15 p	9	10 ^{Bulletin} Deadline Religious School Committee - 7 p	11 JCCNV 55+ - 10:30 a	12 Culture Club - Noon Membership Committee - 6:30 p	13 Erev Shabbat Service - 7:30 p	14 Torah Study - 9 a Shabbat Service, Julia Blethen Bat Mitzvah - 10:30 a
15 Brotherhood Board Meeting - 9 a Permanent Endowment Fund Annual Meeting - 10 a	16	17 Annual Congregational Dinner - 6:30 p Meeting - 7:30 p	18	19 Interfaith Bible Study - 7:30 p	20 Brotherhood Annual Meeting & Dinner - 6:30 p Soul Shabbat Service & Installation of new Board Members - 7:30 p	21 Torah Study - 9 a Shabbat Service & Gus Nathanson Bar Mitzvah - 10:30 a Tot Shabbat - 11 a
22 WRJ Knitting - 2 p	23	24	25 JCCNV 55+ - 10:30 a	26	27 Erev Shabbat Service with special service to honor Alvin (Ted) Gustin on his retirement - 7:30 p	28 Torah Study - 9 a Shabbat Service - 10:30 a
29	30					

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