



THE BUILDER

C O N G R E G A T I O N B E T H E L



FROM THE RABBI SHEMA BETH EL!

Last Yom Kippur, I spoke to our congregation about the power and importance of listening. Our most important prayer, the Shema, begins, "Listen!" At that time, I said: "What if we were to turn to one another, asking:

'What are your interests? What are your concerns? What keeps you up at night? What are the most pressing issues in your own life, in our community and in our world?' And what would it mean for our community if these stories and experiences led us to organize and act?"

With the support of the Union for Reform Judaism and of our local community-organizing partners with which we are affiliated (BOCA), a group of Beth El members has spent the last months learning about how to be better listeners and engaging in deep conversations with one another and with members of the synagogue. Those of us who have participated in these conversations have been moved by what we have learned and the conversations and relationships that have followed; after careful reflection, we are now prepared to extend our listening campaign to the entire congregation. I hope that your voice will be part of *Shema Beth El*—our community listening campaign.

The process is simple: one-on-one or at a house meeting or other small group setting, we sit down together for an open-hearted conversation with the goal of learning about what is most important and most urgent in one another's lives. Each of us has a story to tell—in fact, multiple stories—which shape how we see the world and how we understand what our lives are about. This campaign is about deepening our mutual connections through hearing each others' stories.

In addition to listening to one another's individual stories and life issues, we will also be listening for common themes across the Beth El community. In other synagogues and faith communities, listening campaigns like this one have surfaced issues—from health care to housing to parenting—which in turn led to the formation of cohort groups within the synagogue, to organizing and community action, in fulfillment of the Torah's instruction "Tzedek tzedek tirdof, justice, justice shall you seek." We are open to learning and exploring any topics or issues that emerge from this listening campaign; and we consider all the conversations and new connections which are generated to be worthy ends in themselves.

This spring, we will be continuing our training and planning for how to bring *Shema Beth El* to the wider congregation. In the months ahead, our Organizing Committee will be inviting all members of the Congregation to participate in *Shema Beth El*, our community listening campaign. There will be a variety of forums, times and locations, with the goal of providing every member who desires an opportunity speak and be heard. I look forward to listening, to speaking, and together, creating community and transformative change within our congregation and our communities.

For more information about the *Shema Beth El* Listening Campaign or to volunteer, please contact Maxim Schrogin at maximds@aol.com or 510-528-4367.

L'shalom

Rabbi Yoel Kahn



REGISTER TODAY FOR SUMMER 2011!

SESSION 1: JUNE 27 - JULY 22

SESSION 2: AUGUST 1 - AUGUST 26

Programs for K-12th graders

Music, Sports, Dance, Theater, Overnights, Camping

Ask us about Olam - our new teen adventure program!

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SUSTAIN AND STRENGTHEN: FROM HAMANTASHEN TO MATZAH

The Purim to Pesach season, everybody's favorite, reminds us of food. Wait, doesn't EVERY Jewish holiday remind us of food? Anyway, food sustains us... and so does our excellent Board of Directors, whose work – often behind the scenes – really lays the groundwork for what goes on at Beth El. Really! Here are the highlights of some of our Board's accomplishments so far this year:

Membership: Our membership numbers are up significantly over last year, 15 to date, despite nationwide declines in synagogue affiliation, and thanks to the tireless efforts of our Membership Committee. This year we have increased our efforts, through focused events and activities, to reach out to new members and engage our current membership.

Strategic Planning: Our Strategic Plan was created, thanks to much involvement over many months by a dedicated team of volunteers and the pro-bono expertise of professionals in our congregation, who met, coordinated, met, imagined, met, wrote, met, interviewed, wrote, rewrote, gained consensus, employed technology, charted/graphed/designed, imagined, and finally produced an excellent plan. The Board and Program Council met to determine the priorities of implementation of the plan. The Board will monitor progress against plan and update the congregation on a regular basis. To be continued...!

Finance: Under the careful guidance of our Finance Committee, Beth El has survived the deep recession and made it through with flying colors. Our debt refinance has allowed us to re-examine how we spend our annual budget dollars to enable varied and lively programming, in a cost-efficient manner, while taking care of our beautiful new building.

Fundraising: We have been able to raise significant funds this year through the efforts of all of our Board members and other leadership who have participated in campaign activities, written letters, made phone calls, attended meetings and workshops, and supported the campaign in many ways. We still have a lot of work ahead!

House Committee: An active House Committee manages our building needs. With recommendations from this committee, we have established an annual budget that addresses ongoing maintenance issues, implemented various building improvements, improved our sanctuary sound system, added upholstered seating in the sanctuary, installed donor plaques, improved our landscape and grounds, and much more.

New Initiatives/Looking Forward: This year we launched a Technology/Communications committee, recognizing the critical importance of continual review of our methods of communicating with our members and publicizing our activities. With sage and

tech-savvy leadership, this committee will seek to improve our in-house technology so that information can be shared, stored and organized reasonably and efficiently, and so we can all know what's going on at the touch of a computer screen or keyboard. A Leadership Development committee has been created for the purpose of training and developing our leadership as well as encouraging future leaders to become involved in synagogue governance. We have identified and appointed individuals to head several committees including the Israel and Jewish Community Relations committee, Adult Education, and Volunteer Coordinating committee.

Community Involvement: Connecting with our Jewish community partners locally as well as around the world has always been a priority for Beth El. This year we have appointed liaisons from our congregation to work with ARZA (Association of Reform Zionists of America, whose mission is to strengthen ties between American Reform Jews and Israel), WUPJ (World Union of Progressive Judaism) and our local JCRC (Jewish Community Relations Council).

We have strengthened connections with our counterparts in many East Bay Jewish organizations and synagogues. Some of us participated in the "Create a Jewish Legacy" program, a series of classes and workshops sponsored by the East Bay Federation which supports congregations and agencies in the East Bay to develop planned giving programs in their own organizations. We have established the Berkeley Synagogue Partnership and are actively engaged with other community partners in fostering Jewish community involvement with such efforts as our Shul Passport program. Our ideas for discussion this year include innovative economic models for encouraging Jewish engagement among our East Bay religious and educational organizations. Work with BOCA (Berkeley Organizing Congregations for Action) continues. This year BOCA will assist us with "Shema at Beth El", a listening campaign designed to encourage conversations among our members to help us better understand the needs and concerns of our fellow congregants.

These are simply the highlights of our Board work this year. Our collective involvement as a congregation is what sustains and strengthens us. And speaking of sustenance, we are all looking forward to the Gala, our annual event to raise funds in support of our youth programs. This year's Gala will be held on March 19th and will be combined with our Purim Schpiel – two fabulous events in one! Please don't miss our Superheroes Ball, the chance to dine, drink, dance, eat Hamantashen, celebrate the silly side of Purim, come in costume, watch your friends make fools of themselves as "schpielers", buy great auction items, and just have fun. See you there!

Joanne Backman
President



YOUR TZEDAKAH IN ACTION

Congregation Beth El is committed to making all of our youth programs accessible to the children of all of our members. This is a core value and an integral part of our mission and identity. No child is turned away from participating in our programs because of a family's inability to pay. Scholarships are awarded to participants in our Nursery School, our Youth and Family education programs – Chug Mishpacha & Kadima, Midrasha, Israel Summer Programs, and our Camp Kee Tov.

This year, for example we have awarded over \$100,000 in scholarships. Over 100 families received some financial assistance so that their children could go to summer camp, or attend our Jewish pre-school, or our innovative Youth and Family Education Programs. Some of this is made possible by the generous support of our partners in the Jewish community- the Jewish Community

Federation of the East Bay and the Jim Joseph foundation in particular. Much of this is made possible by the dedication and generosity of our members. This month you will again have the opportunity to support our youth programs and have a great time at an amazing party. Yes it is Gala time again, and this year we get to celebrate Purim together as well. It will be a Superheros Purim Gala, with music dancing purim Shpiel, and numerous ways to support our Youth programs and be a Superhero for our kids. Remember, your support will make it possible for another child to experience the best Jewish Day Camp in North America, or enable another child to participate in Chug Mishpacha. See page 20 for more details on the GALA and the many ways you can help, or just go to www.bethelgala.com to RSVP and come and party with us.

Norm Frankel
Executive Director

Congregation Beth El Adult Education presents...

Lunch & Learn Series

"Chai" ...in pursuit of Life Long Learning

Second Thursday of each month - 12:00 to 1:30 pm
Check out our exciting winter line up!

March 10, 2011 • 12:00 pm
Revels With a Cause

Different Jewish traditions of costumes, dancing, music, drinking, and assorted humorous antics. We'll discuss the role of revelry in the spiritual lives of Jews today.

(Could Purim be very far away?)

Led by Rabbi Rueben Zellman,
Beth El's musicologist extraordinaire

April 14, 2011 • 12:00 pm
Who We Are/Who We Are Not:
Censorship and Identity in Jewish Prayer

Beth El's Rabbi Yoel Kahn will show slides of medieval and renaissance manuscripts as he discusses his book:

***The Three Blessings: Boundaries, Censorship
and Identity in Jewish Worship.***

Please bring a bag lunch. Dessert and drinks will be provided. For more information, please contact Miriam Schiffman at chai@bethelberkeley.org or call 510-749-9687

Lunch and Learn events are open to the entire congregation and community.

Donations can be made to Beth El Adult Education.

Roots and Branches: Texts and Ideas of the Jewish Tradition

Sunday mornings • 10:00 - 11:30 am at Beth El

Join Rabbi Yoel Kahn for an open-ended, on-going, ever-changing exploration of the core ideas and texts of the Jewish tradition. This on-going class is open to everyone.

Class is free; drop-ins welcome!

No prerequisites, no prior knowledge required.

March 6 & 13
The Covenant and the Prophets

March 20
In honor of Purim,
"Making Meaning out of Meshugas!"

March 27 & April 3
No Class

April 10
The Passover Haggadah:
Prayer & Performance (Passover University)

April 17
The Passover Haggadah:
Prayer & Performance

April 24
Rabbinic and Hasidic Teaching
on the Spirituality of Passover



THIS IS NOT THE HEBREW SCHOOL OF THE PAST!

Have you been to Beth El on a Tuesday afternoon lately? If so, you may have heard our new student band practicing, or seen a group of students studying *mishna* with Rabbi Kahn in his study. Or if you walk by on a Thursday afternoon, you might see our Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd graders singing and praying under the oaks. Maybe you have seen our 5th graders dancing the Turkish Kiss with Allen King, or heard our 4th graders practicing the prayer that they wrote and put to song! On Saturdays, you will see 30 families gathering together for Shabbat *t'fillah* (prayer), followed by different learning activities. Parents have an hour to learn with Rabbi Bridget Wynne, and then they reunite with their family for family activities. Cool, huh?

Beth El's Youth and Family Education Program is leading the way in new and innovative educational models. Our classes focus on building a strong sense of community among our students and parents, while teaching Jewish customs and traditions in a hands-on approach. We want learning to be active, fun and engaging. In our Hebrew classes, we are integrating modern Hebrew as well as prayerbook Hebrew so that our students can connect to Hebrew as a living language. We offer a parent/child Hebrew class, which encourages parents to learn alongside their child. Jewish education is on-going, and Beth El wants to provide opportunities for adults to have meaningful Jewish educational experiences.

We are already busy planning new programs and projects for next year. If you have ideas and suggestions, please do share them with us...we are eager to hear your thoughts! We will be having two Open Houses this spring for people to come and check out the school:

- Kadima Open House
Thursday, May 5th, from 4:00 - 6:00 pm
- and
- Chug Mishpacha Open House
Saturday, May 7th, from 9:30 - 11:45 am

Our doors are always open, so please let me know if you would like to come join us any day. We look forward to learning and growing with you!

L'shalom,
Debra Massey
Director of Education

YA FE Calendar

march 2011

- 3/4 Tot Shabbat, 5:30 pm service, 6:00 potluck
- 3/8 B'nei Mitzvah 2011 Speech Class (half the class)
- 3/10 Shalom Bayit 6th Grade Program
- 3/12 Shabbat Morning Unplugged, 10:15 am
- 3/13 B'nei Mitzvah Service Learning #5
- 3/15 Education Coffee Talk, 5:30-6:15 pm
- 3/19 Beth El Purim Family Celebration and GALA!
- 3/24 6th and 7th Grade Field Trip to the CJM
- 3/24 All School Service, parents encouraged 5:40 pm
- 3/31 Shalom Bayit 6th Grade Program

april 2011

- 4/1 Tot Shabbat, 5:30 pm service, 6:00 pm potluck
- 4/5 - 4/9 **SPRING BREAK - NO SCHOOL**
- 4/10 Passover University, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
- 4/12 Education Coffee Talk, 5:30 - 6:15 pm
- 4/15 Shabbat Unplugged! 6:15 pm dinner, 7:00 pm
- 4/17 B'nei Mitzvah Service Learning #6
- 4/19 **1st Day of Pesach Holiday - NO SCHOOL**
- 4/26 **Last Day of Pesach - NO SCHOOL**
- 4/28 All School Service, parents encouraged 5:40 pm
- 4/29 Zipcode Shabbat Dinners- staggered times

Men's Club Shabbat

Friday, March 4 • 8:00 pm

Each year the Men's Club honors members who have made significant contributions to Beth El. This year we are honoring Adele Amodeo, Ellie Goldstein-Erickson, and Ruth Spear who have maintained the Beth El Homeless Meal Program. The Men's Club is sponsoring the Oneg after the service. Donations in honor of Adele, Ellie, and Ruth should be made to the Beth El Homeless Meal Program. For more information on this event, please contact Bob Goldstein at annambob@pacbell.net.



NURSERY SCHOOL

February was a busy month at Beth El Nursery School. During the month prospective Nursery School families visited. Parents had the opportunity to observe our program, meet teachers and ask questions. We completed enrolling returning children and began enrolling new children for the 2011-2012 school year. We have many

applications, and I hope to complete enrollment during March for our next school year. Almost all of our Nursery School families for the coming school year are current congregation members.

In early February our teachers attended the East Bay Jewish Early Childhood Conference. The Jewish Early Childhood Educator Council of the East Bay (the directors of the East Bay Jewish preschools) plans this annual conference. Over one hundred early childhood educators from the East Bay Jewish preschools gathered for a day of learning. Our focus this year was Spiritual Development and the Early Childhood Environment. We concentrated on integrating nature and natural materials into the classroom and the importance of considering the development of the whole child. This day of learning for teachers contributes to and stimulates our professionalism. Our faculty's commitment to our own professional growth contributes to our high quality program.

Our spring holiday season is in full swing. We will celebrate Purim in mid March with the exciting characters and story, the special symbols and traditions, yummy hamantaschen and spirited songs. Soon after Purim we will begin to prepare for Pesach—another captivating story, special food and lots of songs. We will have our Nursery School Passover celebration on Friday, April 15. Our spring break begins after our celebration, and we will return to school after Pesach to end the year with another holiday celebration.

Barbara Kanter
Director



CAMP KEE TOV IN THE GREATER COMMUNITY

Camp Kee Tov has been a staple in the Beth El, Jewish and Berkeley community for nearly 50 years. Yet, believe it or not, Camp Kee Tov isn't a recognizable brand in the entire Bay Area. Don't worry, we're working on it!

As part of our ongoing process to expand our reach in the community, Camp Kee Tov attends (and sometimes creates) many outreach events to help spread the word about the joy of Jewish summer camp. Ranging from camp fairs to school presentations to living room talks with soon-to-be parents of Kindergarteners, Kee Tov is actively reaching out to the wider community.

These events, while helpful introducing camp to prospective campers and parents, are also great for meeting the other amazing camps in the Bay Area. Through these events, I have met many other camp directors and administrators who always have sage advice. Without ever giving away our trade secrets (telling other camps about Messy Day would be like KFC publicizing their Original Recipe!), we camp gurus are able to have very interesting discussions about marketing strategies, new amazing games and activities and hiring processes.

But most importantly, these events give us the chance to meet new kids! Most of the year Camp Kee Tov is in preparation mode; these outreach events give us a chance to interact with kids, see their smiling faces and get them fitted in some new CKT sunglasses!

We are always looking for more events and ways to get out there in the community. If your child's school would like us to come and present, we'll be there! If you are on the PTA, we'll come discuss camp. If you would like to arrange an evening in your home where parents are gathered to learn about summer camp options, we'll happily be there to tell you what makes Camp Kee Tov so great!

It's always nice running into Kee Tov families around town or seeing a CKT brochure at the local JCC. But Kee Tov can go broader. Next up is spreading that ruach further than arm's reach.

Zach Landres-Schnur
Director

Save the Date:
9th Annual

Lichvod Hatzibur DINNERS

Community Dinners hosted by Beth El Members

Saturday, May 7, 2011 • 6:00 pm

More details coming soon!

If you are interested in hosting, please contact Robinn Magid at 510-524-2297 or RobinnM@aol.com

THE FUN IS JUST BEGINNING



Sababa & Ruach are having an excellent winter so far! Ruach (fourth & fifth graders) celebrated Tu B'shevat together finding lots of fantastic trees in our neighborhood. Even some made by us on a gorgeous Saturday in January! A whole chai (18) of Sababaites (sixth to eighth graders) went skiing/snowboarding up at Boreal. All of our brand-new boarders received

awesome reviews from their instructors. And many participants found that excellent sense of accomplishment from learning a new skill, or improving their skills on the mountain. Pictures are posted on the youth group website, www.bethelberkeley.org/youthgroups. Thank you so much to our parent volunteers and staff for making these events possible.

The fun is just beginning. Upcoming events include a Mishloach Manot Making Purim Party for Ruach on March 13th, and Sababa Shabbat Dinner Movie Night on March 25th. You can RSVP to either of these events by e-mailing our youth group adviser, Rebecca DePalma, rebecca@bethelberkeley.org (mailto:rebecca@bethelberkeley.org). Sababa is also looking forward to a Shabbaton Camping Trip to Sunset State Beach May 6th-8th. Please keep an eye out for registrations for this event which are coming soon.

Also coming up is our Annual Gala for Youth Programs on March 19th. Youth sixth grade and up are welcome to volunteer to help, as well as parents to make this fundraiser possible. It is the primary source of revenue to provide subsidies for our youth groups so please be a superhero and join us. Adults can register to attend the event at www.bethelgala.com or sign up to volunteer by going to www.bethelberkeley.org and clicking on the "volunteer" link. (Password: SuperHero)

Feel free to contact me at rebecca@bethelberkeley.org or 510-848-2122 x214 if you have any questions or concerns about the youth groups.

L'shalom,
Rebecca DePalma
Youth Group Advisor



Annual Sababa Ski and Snowboard Trip

YOUTH GROUP CALENDAR

All of Beth El's youth are encouraged to join us for the following events:

March 11 - 13

NFTY - CWR - Mitzvah Torah Corps for 9th-12th graders, sign-up at www.nfty.org/cwr

March 13

Ruach Mishloach Manot Making Purim Party, 1:00 - 4:00 pm

March 18 - 20

Midrasha retreat for 8th - 12th graders

March 19

Beth El Gala - *Teens over the age of 13 are encouraged to volunteer!*

March 25

Sababa Shabbat Dinner & Movie Night, 6:00 - 10:00 pm

May 6 - 8

Sababa Shabbaton Camping Trip to Sunset State Beach, 4:00 pm - 11:00 am

May 13

Sababa Elections for 5772

May 13 - 15

NFTY-CWR - Spring Kallah at Camp Newman

May 19

Ruach end of year celebration at Pump it Up!

ZIPCODE SHABBAT DINNERS OPEN TO ALL!

Friday, April 29 • times TBA

Sign up to host or be hosted for a Shabbat evening together. By sharing Shabbat in each other's homes, we build community and create lasting memories.

Please sign up by emailing Debra Massey at debra@bethelberkeley.org by April 25.



PURIM 2011

Join us on Purim day, Sunday, March 20, for a full-day of Purim celebration and fun. Activities include the reading of the gantze Megillah (the whole Megillah—or almost), a family telling of the Purim story followed by a parade to the carnival at the JCC! Oh, don't forget the hamantaschen!

10:00 am - "Making Meaning out of Meshugas" – class with Rabbi Yoel Kahn on the hidden spiritual secrets of the Purim holiday

11:30 am - Da Gantze Megillah ("The Whole Megillah") - Fulfill the Mitzvah of hearing the chanting/reading of the entire Story of Esther, in Hebrew! and "follow the bouncing ball" on the projected English translation with much merriment and noise in the Beit Midrash.

12:30 pm - Purim Potluck. Bring something to share for a Purim lunch; we will provide mac & cheese and low-carb (NOT!) hamantaschen!

1:15 pm - Family Megillah Reading - Kids of all ages gather in the Sanctuary for a vivid and silly retelling of the Purim story by Rabbi Yoel Kahn... set of course in the town of Shoe-shun! Wear a costume!

2:00 pm - Purim parade! We will parade in our Purim costumes to the JCC (Walnut and Rose) for the community Purim carnival.

2:00 - 5:00 pm - Community Purim Carnival at the JCC. Fun, games, food!

Parents, older kids and everyone else are encouraged to volunteer to help run the booths!

Please sign up on the Purim Writeboard: <http://123.writeboard.com/4h8192xatd76ulzr> (password: Purim)

YAFE PURIM FESTIVITIES:

Pre-Purim Party; K-6th grade

Thursday, March 17 • 5:00 - 6:30 pm

Parents are welcome to join the students as we prepare for Purim! We will be making shalach manot (gift baskets) and preparing for Purim through hands-on activities. Snacks will be provided for all!

HEAR THE YOUTH BAND ROCK AT THE SUPERHEROES GALA

March 19 • 7:00 pm

Our excellent and high-spirited Youth Band, one of the winter electives in Beth El's weekday Youth and Family Education program, will be playing a few tunes at 7:00 pm as our annual Gala begins. This will be a great start to the evening that is so much fun for all and benefits our children's and youth programs. Don't miss it!

SEEKING MEGILLAH READERS!

Purim Morning, March 20 • 11:30 am – Full Megillah Reading • 12:30 pm – Potluck • 1:30 pm – Family Megillah Reading

On Purim morning, March 20th, we'll read the whole megillah--the Book of Esther from beginning to end. Join in this fun community mitzvah by signing up for a part. You can read just a few verses or you can read many; you can chant or you can choose to just read aloud; funny voices and costumes are encouraged but definitely not required! Rabbi Zellman will provide texts, recordings, and any help you might need. You don't need to have great Hebrew--just the commitment to prepare a few lines. Questions? Contact Rabbi Zellman at RabbiRZ@bethelberkeley.org or call 510-848-3988 x228.



JOIN US FOR PESACH!

PASSOVER UNIVERSITY

Sunday, April 10 • 10:00-1:00 pm at Beth El

How do I assemble all that I need for the seder plate? What can I do to keep the kids engaged at the seder? What is this holiday all about? All these questions and more will be answered at the 2nd annual Passover University! Netivot Shalom, Jewish Gateways, Lehrhaus Judaica, Jewish Federation of the Greater East Bay and Building Jewish Bridges are joining with Beth El to create a fun, hands-on learning event for everyone. Join us for a wonderful morning of learning, eating and schmoozing as we prepare for Passover as a community! For more information, please contact Debra Massey at debra@bethelberkeley.org.

PESACH MORNING SERVICE & POTLUCK

Tuesday, April 19 • Service 10:15 am • Potluck 12:15 pm

Join the rabbis and community for a festival celebration on the morning of the first day of Passover. The morning service will include the special insertions and melodies for Passover, Hallel and a Torah reading. Then, join us at our second annual Passover Left-overs Potluck lunch, beginning at about 12:15 pm. Discuss the haggadah, rehash your seder, or swap Passover recipes while we munch on whatever didn't get finished at your Seder the night before. Please bring a Kosher-for-Passover something to share.

SECOND NIGHT COMMUNITY SEDER: A BETH EL TRADITION REVIVED!

Tuesday evening, April 19, 6:00 – 9:00 pm

Join Rabbis Yoel Kahn and Reuben Zellman along with Beth El friends, old and new, for a festive celebration and delicious catered kosher-for-Passover meal. We are never too old nor too young to learn and retell the story of our own and other's stories of liberation. With song, ritual and discussion, we will reenact this ancient tale, making connections to our own lives and our world.

Members: Adults \$54 - Young Adult (30 and under) \$36 - Children \$18

Guests: Adults \$72 - Young Adult (30 and under) \$36 - Children \$25 - College students w/ID \$18

Through the generosity of anonymous Beth El members, no one will be turned away because of inability to pay.

Childcare provided for children 5 and under. Please register by Thursday April 7 at www.bethelberkeley.org/passover.

FAMILY SEDER CELEBRATION

Saturday, April 23 • 5:30 pm

Join other Beth El families for an informal seder experience. Share your family's Passover traditions and gather together as we remember the exodus from Egypt. Participating families will all be asked to bring something for the seder. RSVP by April 15th to Catherine Cherin at: 510-647-8741.

YIZKOR CIRCLE AND SERVICE

Tuesday evening, April 26 • Yizkor Circle 6:15 pm • Yizkor Service 7:00 pm, followed by Havdalah

At each of our major festivals, we remember our loved ones who have died through the ritual of the Yizkor memorial service.

Whether your loss is recent or more distant, you are invited to join with others in our community to commemorate your loss and honor the memories that are alive in our community. The Yizkor service is preceded by a Yizkor circle, a facilitated discussion about loss, grief, love and memory. All are welcome. The brief Yizkor service will close with Havdalah to end the eighth day of Passover.

JOIN THE BETH EL CHORUS FOR OUR PASSOVER SEASON: SING THE MUSIC OF FREEDOM!

Five Rehearsal Sessions: Wednesdays, March 23 - April 20 • 7:00 pm - 8:45 pm in the Sanctuary

Performing in "Songs of Liberation" • Thursday, April 14 • 7:30 pm at the JCC (see page 15 for more information)

This Passover season we're taking the show on the road to bring the music of freedom out into the wider community. Our chorus of 20 + singers welcomes you into a warm environment that combines fun, learning and music of the spirit. No musical background is necessary! (Rehearsal CDs are available as well as sheet music.) The commitment is one "season" at a time--you can sing with the chorus for one or more sets, without committing to any other time of year. Please email Rabbi Reuben Zellman at RabbiRZ@bethelberkeley.org, or call 510-848-3988 x228, to let him know that you'll be singing with us!



B'NAI MITZVAH



The congregation is cordially invited to attend as our son, **Leo Pollack** is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, March 5, 2011, at 10:15am. Kiddush will follow. Andy Pollack & Debbie Jordan



The congregation is cordially invited to attend as our son, **Eli Barnes** is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, April 30, 2011, at 10:15am. Kiddush will follow. Leyna Bernstein & Brian Parker, Peter Barnes

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:

Cara Eisenberg & Rich Entenman
 Sharon Goldfarb & Brad Glasser
 Robert Graup & Emily Nozick
 Naomi Janowitz & Andrew Lazarus
 Deborah Lane & Gary Goldstein
 Laura Lowe
 Ron & Trang Robinson
 Lani Schlafman & Erin Weltzien
 Michael Schwarz
 Hannah Sims
 Phyllis Steiber & Jim Ferlin

COME OUT TO SUPPORT OUR NEWEST TORAH CHANTERS!

"Shabbat Sof-Pasuk" (end-of-verse)

Shabbat services, March 26 • 10:15 am

Twenty Beth El members and friends have been studying hard for two months in Rabbi Zellman's How to Chant Torah class. On Shabbat morning, March 26th, eleven members of the class will be doing this challenging, wonderful mitzvah for the first time. Come out to support their efforts, learn a bit about the ins and outs of chanting, enjoy Shabbat with the community, and celebrate with cookies in the shapes of the twenty-eight Torah cantillation symbols.

CALLING ALL POST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS!

We would like to send a Purim Package (*sh'lach manot*) to all of our Beth El young adults! Please send us your child's address and we will make sure to include them in this annual tradition. We are also asking for parent volunteers to help assemble the baskets. Purim is March 19th, so we will be sending out the packages the week of March 14th. Please contact Mandy Katz in the main office at mandy@bethelberkeley.org if you are interested.

BETH EL WELCOMES OUR NEW PIANO!

At the end of January, our sanctuary became home to Beth El's newest member: a beautiful baby grand piano. We are most grateful to Barbara Hendrickson, friend of our community, for her generous donation of this splendid instrument that had belonged to her family. The piano is a Steinway S model that is a great fit for our space; its music and possibilities are already bringing joy to our members and guests, and will be appreciated in our community for many years to come. The community joins our Music Director, Rabbi Zellman, in thanking Barbara for entrusting the piano to us, as well as thanking Past President Arthur Goldman for connecting us to this wonderful opportunity. The 18th-century Pele Yoetz reminds us:

"Everyone should make music...this is a great and important service of God."



NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

Your donations to the Plishner and Vida Funds make new books possible. A number of new children's books have arrived, and here are some new books for adults:

Historians interpret the past. Their interpretations vary considerably, and this variation can make a difference in how the identity of a people is construed. In *Prophets of the Past: Interpretations of Jewish History*, Michael Brenner, whose *A Short History of the Jews* is in the library, examines modern interpretations of Jewish history, used for so many different ideological and political purposes. He concludes with a consideration of how a multi-vocal history might look, using *Cultures of the Jews*, ed. by David Biale, as an example. (It too is in the library.)

In *The Invention of Jewish Identity: Bible, Philosophy, and the Art of Translation*, Aaron Hughes presents an analysis of Bible translation and its impact on Jewish philosophy from the Middle Ages to the 20th century, through the works of Saadya Gaon, Moses ibn Ezra, Maimonides, Judah Messer Leon, Moses Mendelssohn, Martin Buber, and Franz Rosenzweig, and, for example, how in their work linguistic idioms develop into ideas about the self.

David Grossman's novel, *To the End of the Land*, now translated from Hebrew, has been read in Israel with a ferocious emotional intensity. Hard to describe in a short space, it is a story of a Jewish family set against the background of military call-ups, in 1967, 1973, and in subsequent wars. Alan Mintz, calling this a "breakthrough" for a great novelist, writes, "For American Jews who care about Israel, this novel performs the signal service of allowing us to see the everyday struggle to create love and meaning under conditions of threat and uncertainty."

Two years ago at Beth El, David Biale presented the initiation of what is now his new book, *Not in the Heavens: the Tradition of Jewish Secular Thought*, through an explication of the Talmudic story whence comes the title. He weaves together historical narrative, textual interpretation, political theory and cultural criticism, in an exhaustive and sustained study of Jewish secularism throughout our history.

When They Come for Us, We'll be Gone: The Epic Struggle to Save Soviet Jewry, by Gal Beckerman, tells the history of the struggle, inside and out of the Soviet Union. In Israel, for example, but especially in the United States, since this struggle was a major effort of American Jewry, as acknowledged by Natan Sharansky, who, freed from the gulag, thanked us. Inside the USSR, as told here, it was a story of unimaginable physical and moral courage. In the USA, American Jewry displayed a remarkable unity and purpose.

In *Hillel: If Not Now, When?* Joseph Telushkin tells the stories of the great teacher of the 1st century CE who emphasized ethics, invoking the concept of "tikkun olam," with Rabbi Telushkin's commentary on how these stories relate to us today. Anita Diamant, says "Rabbi Hillel has a lot to teach us twenty-first-century Jews."

Hebron Jews: Memory and Conflict in the Land of Israel, by Jerold Auerbach, gives an account of Jews in Hebron from the time of Abraham to the contentious present. Jonathan Sarna calls the book "lyrical, passionate and engaged...absorbing, sometimes infuriating." Ruth Wisse: "a riveting story."

Reading Genesis: Ten Methods, ed. By Ronald Hendel, gives a panoramic view of how Genesis is approached in modern scholarship, as literature, cultural memory, in terms of gender and sexuality, rabbinic interpretation, translation, source and redaction history, modern literature and theology. Berkeley scholars predominate. This book is in the Torah Study section.

Scott Spear
Library Chair

ADULT EDUCATION

Who Knew?

Who would have guessed that running a program without a budget would become so vibrant, so popular, so stimulating. I volunteered to chair the Adult Education program because everyone who had been asked declined the challenge. I knew running the program would be without funds but not without friends. And yet, because of the lack of funds congregants have enthusiastically stepped forward to participate in the outstanding program we now have.

Yes I am writing about Torah Study (lay-led), Lunch and Learn (lay-led), Clergy Classes (Kahn & Zellman), Jewish Book Group (donations), and Visiting Scholars (sponsors).....with more to come in the fall.

We are in the early planning stage of an evening on the subject of Islam as well as a dinner/lecture on Iran. Those of you reading this article may also have ideas for future programs, please do send them to us. I look forward to seeing you in attendance and receiving your suggestions.

Beverly Eigner
Adult Education Chair



from the gift shop

Spring is in the air, a time of renewal, a time to observe and marvel at Nature's changes. It is also time for two ancient Jewish festivals that each can use some "dressing up" from the Beth El Gift Shop. We're talking about Purim and Pesach, of course!

Celebrate Purim with our decorated graggers and colorful puppets that illustrate the story of Esther. The graggers even have a quizzical, cartoony Haman, dressed in black, riding on them as they spin! The Purim puppets were a big hit last year being both cute and reasonably-priced. Come see them before they disappear into the hands of kids - so you can work them too! You'll love them as much as they do!

Asked what our favorite holiday is, most of us would instantly exclaim: "Pesach"! Jazz up your Passover seder with some of these classic gift shop items. (These items also seem to make the most popular wedding gifts all year round!)

If you're not "making the seder" this year but will be a guest, we have the perfect gift for your host or hostess, and if you are "making seder" this year, and need that second table (so everyone, including Elijah will have a seat), decorate it traditionally by placing a second beautiful seder plate in the middle, just like at your "head table". Your guests will feel like they have "front row seats" and will be closer to the action! Of course, we have the perfect seder plate for you all! In addition to seder plates, be sure to visit the gift shop for:

- * Haggadahs
- * Afikomen Presents
- * Matzoh Baskets, Plates and Traditional Covers
- * Kiddush Cups, including cups for Elijah and Miriam
- * Wash cups ("Netilat Yadayim") and specialty Hand Towels for them
- * Trivets and Napkin Holders, Aprons and Oven Mitts
- * Props like our "Ten Plague Masks" or Frog Stickers for added spunk
- * Holiday Greeting Cards

The gift shop is open during regular business hours Monday through Friday. When a volunteer is not on duty, our capable office staff can help you. For questions or information, please call Odette at 510-526-4917.

Odette and Robinn
Odette Blachman - oblachman@sbcglobal.net



THE JEWISH PEOPLE TODAY: THE STATE OF THE UNION with Rabbi Hanan Alexander

Friday, March 25 • 7:30 pm

Erev Shabbat, March 25, following Shabbat services, Rabbi Hanan Alexander will be speaking on "The Jewish People Today: The State of the Union." The Jewish People is in the most precarious position it has experienced since the end of World War II and the establishment of the state of Israel. In Israel more and more Jews are less and less Jewish, and in the Diaspora fewer and fewer Jews are becoming more and more Jewish. This makes it increasingly difficult to explain the importance of Israel as a project of the Jewish people to the younger generation of Israelis and increasingly difficult to sustain the institutions required to maintain vibrant Jewish communities across the globe. In these troubled times Jews around the world require a renewed sense of sacred mission. We will discuss what that mission might be.

Rabbi Hanan Alexander is Professor of Philosophy of Education at the University of Haifa and Sr. Research Fellow at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute. A native of Berkeley who grew up at Congregation Beth El, he was educated at UCLA, Stanford, and the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. From 2008-2010, Rabbi Alexander served as the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Visiting Israeli Professor at the University of California Berkley. His new book, 'Reimagining Liberal Education: Faith and Reason in Democratic Schooling', will appear next year.



TZEDAKAH

ARJMAND ADULT EDUCATION FUND

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Alison Bernstein & Judith Appel *in honor of the 2011 B'nai Mitzvah Class*

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Ralph & Gail Bernstein *in honor of Albert Magid being called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah*
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Mary Jacobs *in memory of Rosemarie Turak*
Patty Kates & Henry Brady *in memory of Rosemarie Turak*
Nancy Turak & Marc Davis *in honor of Joanne Backman's special birthday*
Nancy Turak & Marc Davis *in honor of Lynne & Dan Fingerman on the birth of their first grandchild, Nico*
Nancy Turak & Marc Davis *in honor of Francisco Andrade on the occasion of his 25th anniversary at Beth El*
Nancy Turak & Marc Davis *in honor of Joan & Steve Ominsky on the birth of their granddaughter, Sheira Rose*
Edward Vine & Ellen Singer-Vine *in memory of Rosemarie Turak*
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Diane & Ed Bernbaum *in memory of Rosemarie Turak*
Odette Blachman *in memory of Rosemarie Turak*
Joyce & Arnie Brown *in memory of Rosemarie Turak*
Cliff Erickson & Ellie Goldstein-Erickson *in appreciation Rich Aptaker*
Lisa Feldman *in honor Katherine Haynes Sanstad's leadership of the Strategic Planning process*
Lisa Feldman *in honor of Albert Magid being called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah*
Arthur & Carol Goldman *in memory of Phyllis Robbins*
John Gordon & Janis Mitchell *in memory of Eda Gordon*
Louis Jacobson *in loving memory of Selma Jacobson*
Steven Joseph & Corey Hansen-Joseph *in honor of Albert Magid being called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah*
Steven Joseph & Corey Hansen-Joseph *in honor of the Raj Library dedication*
Patrick & Julie Kennedy *in memory of Rosemarie Turak*
Patrick & Julie Kennedy *in honor of Albert Magid being called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah*
Allen & Hannah King *in honor of Albert Magid being called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah*
Steven & Caroline Lehman *in honor of Albert Magid*
Debbie & Jeff Leon *in memory of Leah Statman*
Debbie & Jeff Leon *in memory of Rosemarie Turak*
Janet Lipkin *in memory of Barry Shapiro*
Peggy & Michael Lipson *in honor of Katherine Haynes-Sanstad and Mike Austin for Strategic Planning work*
Desmid Lyon *in memory of Maggie Sontag*
Desmid Lyon *in honor of the baby naming of Maggie Rose Zisman*
Ann Manheimer & Arthur Swislocki *in memory of Sophie Lasoff*
Steve & Joan Ominsky *in memory of Rosemarie Turak*
Marv Pearlstein *in honor of his son Jacob's trip to Israel*
Marv Pearlstein *in honor of Albert Magid being called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah*
Marv Pearlstein *in honor of his Aunt Fran's 90th birthday*
Marv Pearlstein *in memory of Alvin Levinson*
Marv Pearlstein *in memory of Rosemarie Turak*
Miriam Rabinovitz *in memory of Rose Rabinovitz*
Miriam Rabinovitz *in memory of Rosemarie Turak*
Rabbi Ferenc & Paula Raj *in memory of Rabbi Tamas Raj*
Rabbi Ferenc & Paula Raj *in memory of Erzsi Raj*
Doreen Rothman *in memory of Irving Zinn*
Debra Schoenberg & Karen Fierer *in honor of Katherine Haynes-Sanstad and Mike Austin for their efforts in leading the Strategic Planning Campaign*
Thom & Betty Seaton *in honor of Albert Magid being called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah*
Michael & Deborah Sosebee *in honor of Rudy Brandt being called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah*
Paul & Susan Sugarman *in honor of Albert Magid being called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah*
Paul & Susan Sugarman *in memory of Leah Statman*
Paul & Susan Sugarman *in memory of Rosemarie Turak*
Nina Wouk *in honor the baby naming of Maggie Rose Zissman*
Vadjihieh Yadegar *in memory of Jahangir Yadegar*
Vadjihieh Yadegar *in honor of Albert Magid being called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah*
Phyllis Zisman *in memory of Rosemarie Turak*

HOMELESS MEAL PROGRAM

Michael & Claudia Berger
Clarke & Maria Daniels
Laurie Juengert
Noah Klarreich
Steven & Caroline Lehman
Thom & Betty Seaton
Amy & David Tick
Lloyd & Lassie Ulman

Vivian Clayton *in honor of Albert Magid being called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah*
 Beverly & Richard Eigner *in honor of Ruth Spear, Adele Amodeo and Ellie Goldstein-Erickson for their effort in providing meals for the homeless*
 Cliff Erickson & Ellie Goldstein-Erickson *in honor of Ruth Spear, Adele Amodeo & Phyllis Zisman*
 Merle & Michael Fajans *in memory for Rosemarie Turak*
 Barbara Fierer & Bob Brandfon *in memory of Leon Fierer*
 Sondra & Herb Napell *in memory of their mothers, Pauline Matkowsky and Kate Napell*
 Nancy Turak & Marc Davis *in memory of Leah Statman*
 Claire Ungar & George Lavender *in memory of Maggie Sontag*
 Ellen Singer-Vine & Ed Vine *in honor of Alice Stern's 60th birthday*
 Linda & Bob Walker *in memory of her father, Archie Zacks & his mother, Anne Walker*
 Linda & Bob Walker *in memory of Ruth Rizel*
 Jerry Weintraub *in honor of Albert Magid being called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah*
 Vadjiheh Yadegar *in memory of Aziz Olah Benlevi*
 Vadjiheh Yadegar *in memory of Jahangir Yadegar*

MARIAN MAGID FUND

Douglas & Karen Abney *in honor of Albert Magid being called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah*
 Diane & Ed Bernbaum *in honor of Albert Magid being called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah*
 Odette Blachman *in honor of Albert Magid being called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah*
 Art & Sheila Braufman *in honor of Albert Magid being called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah*
 Alfred & Anita Cotton *in honor of Albert Magid being called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah*
 Jane Falk *in honor of Albert Magid being called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah*
 Robert Goldstein & Anna Mantell *in honor of Albert Magid being called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah*
 Susan Goldstein & Victor Herbert *in honor of Albert Magid being called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah*
 Edythe Heda *in honor of Albert Magid being called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah*
 Mark & Estie Hudes *in honor of Albert Magid being called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah*
 Marlene & Ilan Keret *in honor of Albert Magid being called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah*
 Seymour & Hilda Kessler *in honor of Albert Magid and his wonderful family*
 Roslyn & Norman Lefkovich *in honor of Albert Magid being called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah*
 Milton Mozen *in honor of Albert Magid being called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah*
 Steve & Joan Ominsky *in honor of Albert Magid being called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah*
 Nancy Turak & Marc Davis *in honor of Albert Magid being called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah*
 Phyllis Zissman *in honor of Albert Magid being called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah*

MITZVAH FUND

Edythe Heda *in loving memory of Rosemarie Turak*
 Nancy Turak & Marc Davis *with best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery to Jerry Iserson, Cliff Erickson, Ruth Ehrenkrantz, Robinn Magid, Katherine Haynes-Sanstad and Ed Vine*

MUSIC FUND

Steven & Joan Ominsky
 Rabbi Jim & Lauren Brandt *in appreciation of Rabbi Zellman for all his help with their daughter Rudy's Bat Mitzvah*
 Bruce & Susan Carter *in honor of the birth of Phyllis Zisman's grandson, Zachary N. Zissman*
 Nancy Gordon & Ken Kirsch *in memory of Doris Gordon*
 Valerie Gutwirth & Elio Gizzi *in memory of Albert Gutwirth*

NURSERY SCHOOL FUND

Jonathan Miller & Tamar Kurlaender

ONEG/KIDDISH FUND

Steven Joseph & Corey Hansen-Joseph *in memory of Belle Rosenstein Joseph*

Nancy Turak & Marc Davis *in honor of the Sontag-Murphy family on the birth of Maggie Rose*

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Judith Somorjai
 Helen Springer
 Joanne Backman & Harry Pollack *in honor of the Fingerman's becoming grandparents*
 Joanne Backman & Harry Pollack *in honor of Albert Magid being called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah*
 Bonnie Bishop *in memory of Homer Corky Bishop*
 Rabbi Jim & Lauren Brandt *in appreciation of Rabbi Kahn for all his help with their daughter Rudy's Bat Mitzvah*
 Martin & Jill Dodd *in honor of Albert Magid 70th Anniversary of his Bar Mitzvah*
 Martin & Jill Dodd *in memory of Rosemarie Turak*
 Ruth Ehrenkrantz & Spencer Klein *in honor of Albert Magid being called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah*
 Cliff Erickson & Ellie Goldstein-Erickson *in appreciation of Rabbi Kahn's generous and caring spirit*
 Dan & Lynne Fingerman *in honor of their new grandson, Nico Harman*
 Charles & Sharon Hardy *in honor of their new grandson, Nico Harmon*
 Edythe Heda *in memory of Burton A. Heda M.D.*
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 Harry Pollack & Joanne Backman *in memory of Bernard Pollack*
 Norman Postone & Lisa Fruchtman *in memory of Rabbi Abraham Postone*
 Hillary & Jonathan Reinis *in memory of Roz Joffe*
 Nancy Turak & Marc Davis *in appreciation of Rabbi Kahn for his support following the passing of Nancy's mother*
 Women's Therapy Center *in memory of Rosemarie Turak*

RABBI EMERITUS' DISCRETIONARY FUND

Leigh & Amy Marymor *in appreciation of Rabbi Raj for officiating their wedding*

RABBI GEORGE VIDA LIBRARY FUND

Odette Blachman *in honor of Rabbi Ferenc & Paula Raj*
 Merle & Michael Fajans *in honor of Albert Magid being called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah*
 Steven & Caroline Lehman *in memory of Carl Theodore Marx*
 Steve & Joan Ominsky *in honor of Rabbi Ferenc & Paula Raj*
 Scott & Ruth Spear *in memory of Rosemarie Turak*
 Scott & Ruth Spear *in honor of Albert Magid being called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah*

SYDIE FREED FLOWER FUND

Ellen Kaufman & David Weiner *in memory of Rosemarie Turak*

SCHIFFMAN FAMILY FUND

Stan & Miriam Schiffman

WOMEN OF BETH EL

Adele Amodeo *in memory of Rosemarie Turak*

COMMUNITY YOM HA-SHOAH OBSERVANCE

Beth El will host the Berkeley Jewish community's annual commemoration of Yom Ha-Shoah, Holocaust Memorial Day, on **Sunday, May 1 at 7:00 pm**. The somber program will include song, reflection, testimonials and prayer.

Our annual service is jointly organized Congregations Beth El, Netivot Shalom and Beth Israel and is co-sponsored by the Jewish Community Federation of the East Bay. Preceding the service, at 6:00 pm, we will screen "The Last Rabbi," a German TV production (in English) about Rabbi Leo Trepp. Rabbi Trepp, who died in September 2010, was for many years the last living rabbi who served in Germany during the Holocaust period; he was also Congregation Beth El's first full-time rabbi, from 1947-1950. Further details of the evening's program will be announced in the e-update.



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TORAH STUDY

Meets Shabbat Morning (Saturday)
in the Beit Midrash at 9:15am

March 5, 2011

Parashat Pekudei
Exodus 38:21-40:38
Led by Stu Berman

March 12, 2011

Parashat Vayikra
Leviticus 1:1-5:26
Led by Jenn Rader

March 19, 2011

Parashat Tzav
Leviticus 6:1-8:36
Led by Stacey Shulman & Alan Spector

March 26, 2011

Parashat Shmini
Leviticus 9:1-11:47
Led by Ann Gonski

April 2, 2011

Parashat Tazria
Leviticus 12:1-13:59
Led by Rose Falanga & Cy Silver

April 9, 2011

Parashat Metzora
Leviticus 14:1-15:33
Led by David Kesler

April 16, 2011

Parashat Achrei Mot
Leviticus 16:1-18:30
Led by Dan Magid

April 23, 2011

Passover
Song of Songs
Led by Laurie Swadon

April 30, 2011

Parashat Kedoshim
Leviticus 19:1-20:27
Led by Barry Levine



MIDRASHA

Midrasha Berkeley invites you to have a Really Good Time. This year we have decided to sponsor an evening that will be fun, not too expensive, social and have something for everyone. Welcome to our first ever Midra-Shabang. It will be held on Sunday, March 13 from 5-8 at Congregation Netivot Shalom, 1316 University Avenue in Berkeley. The evening will feature a dynamite Silent Auction, great music, a Buffet and an Open Wine Bar. We'll have remarks by special guests (and you'll have to show up to find out who they are). The auction prizes are beginning to pour in. They include several vacation homes, a ride in a two-seater plane over the Bay, meals cooked for you in your home, lots of exotic wine, great art, an extraordinary quilt of the Seven Species and too many other items to list here. We will also be having a raffle where prizes include a free 2011-2012 tuition.

To see a copy of the invitation, go to the Midrasha website. You can also download an RSVP card there. If you'd like to donate items to our Silent Auction, contact the Midrasha office. It's great advertising for your business. But the main thing is, come to our wonderful event. We've kept the price really, really low: \$36, so we want to fill the house. And bring your checkbooks. The auction items will be really tempting.

Diane Bernbaum
Director

The Three Blessings

with Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Thursday, March 17 • 7:00 pm
at the Bureau of Jewish Education Library
1835 Ellis Street (at Pierce) in San Francisco.

Thursday, April 14 • 12:00 pm at Beth El

Rabbi Yoel Kahn will present his slide show presentation about his new book, *The Three Blessings: Boundaries, Censorship, and Identity in Jewish Liturgy*

In the traditional Jewish liturgy, a man thanks God daily for not having been made a gentile, a woman, or a slave. This talk traces the history of these ideas, demonstrating how different generations and communities understood the significance of these words.

This slide-show presentation of manuscripts and texts, ancient and modern, explores how Jews used language and text to create the boundaries of who was in—and who was out—of the community.



It's time to...

...remember the struggles of our ancestors.

...discuss what freedom means to us.

...celebrate our traditions and make sure they live on.



Isn't it time to think about your legacy?

Planning a legacy gift, such as a bequest in your will or trust,

will help secure the future of Congregation Beth El.

Please contact Jill Dodd at jdodd@manatt.com,

John Hartog at jahartog@calteclaw.com or

Norm Frankel at norm@bethelberkeley.org or

510-848-3988 x212 for more information.

SONGS OF LIBERATION: MUSIC OF TWO TRADITIONS

Thursday, April 14 • 7:30pm at the JCC East Bay
1414 Walnut Street (corner Rose) Berkeley

Bill Schechner presents a performance/teaching of music from the Haggadah, as performed by Beth El's Rabbi Reuben Zellman and the Beth El Chorus, and songs of Freedom, Civil Rights, and Spiritual Liberation as performed by the Stars of Glory, a gospel trio from Richmond. The audience and both groups will join together in song as well.

Tickets: \$10, \$8 seniors, JCC and Beth El members.

Tickets will also be available online at:
www.brownpapertickets.com.

It is a Jewish tradition to give *Tzedakah* to commemorate life cycle events and other occasions. Are you celebrating a birthday, engagement, anniversary, baby naming, Bat/Bar Mitzvah or a recovery from illness? These are just a few ideas of appropriate times to commemorate with a donation to Beth El. These tax-deductible donations are greatly appreciated and are a vital financial supplement to support the wonderful variety of programs and activities that we offer at Congregation Beth El. Thank you for your support.

CONGREGATION BETH EL Fund Contributions

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Thank you for your generosity. Please make checks payable to Congregation Beth El and mail to 1301 Oxford Street, Berkeley, CA 94709

March 2011 / Adar I - Adar II 5771

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NS - Nursery School YAFE - Youth and Family Education		1 7:00p Board Meeting	2 7:00p Lehrhaus/Beg. Modern Hebrew 7:30p Lehrhaus/Intro to Jewish Exper. 8:25p Lehrhaus/Int. Modern Hebrew	3 7:30p Communication Committee Mtg.	4 5:30p Tot Shabbat 8:00p Men's Club Shabbat	5 8:30a Early Minyan 9:15a Torah Study 10:15a Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah - Leo Pollack
6 9:30a Project Reconnections 10:00a Roots & Branches Class	7 9:30a Baby Playgroup	8 4:00p Paula Statman Workshop 6:30 NS Committee 7:00p Adult Edu. Committee Mtg. 7:30p Ritual Committee Mtg.	9 5:45p Sababa Board Meeting 7:00p Adult Ed - Hist. of Jewish Dreams 7:00p Lehrhaus/Beg. Modern Hebrew 7:30p Lehrhaus/Intro to Jewish Exper. 8:25p Lehrhaus/Int. Modern Hebrew	10 12:00p Lunch & Learn Series 6:15p Madrachim Training 6:00p Blessing of the Skinned Knee: Parenting Workshop	11 6:15p Shabbat Evening Service	12 8:30a Early Minyan 9:15a Torah Study 10:15a Shabbat Morning Unplugged Service
13 10:00a Roots & Branches Class 1:00p Ruach Purim Party 5:00p MidraShabang 7:15p Kevah Women's Study Group	14 9:30a Baby Playgroup	15 5:30p Education "Coffee Talks" 7:15p Program Council	16 6:00p Finance Committee 7:00p Adult Ed - Jewish Book Group 7:00p Lehrhaus/Beg. Modern Hebrew 7:30p Lehrhaus/Intro to Jewish Exper. 8:25p Lehrhaus/Int. Modern Hebrew	17 6:15p Kadima Teaching Team Mtg. 7:00p The Three Blessing Class 7:00p Youth Committee Mtg. 6:00p Blessing of the Skinned Knee: Parenting Workshop	18 6:15p Yismechu: Shabbat Evening Chanting Service	19 8:30a Early Minyan 9:15a Torah Study 10:15a Shabbat Morning Service 6:30p GALA and Purim Shpiel
20 PURIM See page 7 for more details! 10:00a Roots & Branches Class 2:00p Homeless Meal - Medical Clinic 5:00p Homeless Meal	21 9:30a Baby Playgroup	22 7:30p Executive Committee	23 7:00p Chorus Rehearsals 7:00p Lehrhaus/Int. Modern Hebrew 7:30p Lehrhaus/Intro to Jewish Exper.	24 7:00p Lehrhaus/Adv. Modern Hebrew 7:00p Perspectives on Exile - Session I 6:00p Blessing of the Skinned Knee: Parenting Workshop	25 6:00p Sababa Shabbat Dinner & A Movie 6:15p Shabbat Evening Service 7:30p Rabbi Hanan Alexander Lecture	26 8:30a Early Minyan 9:15a Torah Study 10:15a Shabbat Morning Service "Shabbat Sof-Pasuk" Come out to Support Our Newest Torah Chanters!
27	28 9:30a Baby Playgroup	29	30 7:00p Chorus Rehearsals 7:00p Lehrhaus/Int. Modern Hebrew 7:30p Lehrhaus/Intro to Jewish Exper.	31 7:00p Listening Campaign 7:00p Lehrhaus/Adv. Modern Hebrew 7:00p Perspectives on Exile - Session II 6:00p Blessing of the Skinned Knee: Parenting Workshop		

Congregation Beth El

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THE BUILDER Issue No. 126

Congregation Beth El is a member of
The Union for Reform Judaism

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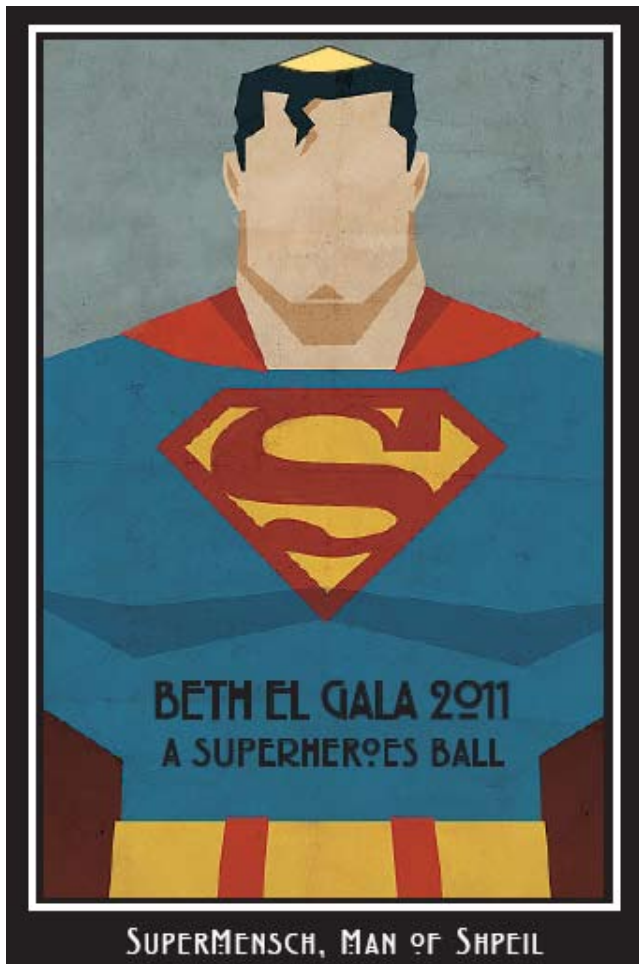
April 2011 / Adar II - Nisan 5771

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>NS - Nursery School</p> <p>YAFE - Youth and Family Education</p>					<p>1</p> <p>5:30p Tot Shabbat</p> <p>8:00p Shabbat Evening Service</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8:30a Early Minyan</p> <p>9:15a Torah Study</p> <p>10:15a Shabbat Morning Service</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:30a Baby Playgroup</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:00p Board Meeting</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:00p Chorus Rehearsals</p> <p>7:00p Lehrhaus/Int. Modern Hebrew</p> <p>7:30p Lehrhaus/Intro to Jewish Exper.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:00p Lehrhaus/Adv. Modern Hebrew</p> <p>7:00p Perspectives on Exile - Session III</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:15p Shabbat Evening Service</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8:30a Early Minyan</p> <p>9:15a Torah Study</p> <p>10:15a Shabbat Morning Service</p>
<p>10</p> <p>10:00a Passover University</p> <p>10:00a Roots & Branches Class</p> <p>7:15p Kevah Women's Study Group</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30a Baby Playgroup</p>	<p>12</p> <p>5:30p Education "Coffee Talks"</p> <p>6:30 NS Committee</p> <p>7:00p Adult Edu. Committee Mtg.</p> <p>7:30p Ritual Committee Mtg.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:00p Chorus Rehearsals</p> <p>7:00p Lehrhaus/Int. Modern Hebrew</p> <p>7:30p Lehrhaus/Intro to Jewish Exper.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>12:00p Lunch & Learn Series</p> <p>7:00p Lehrhaus/Adv. Modern Hebrew</p> <p>7:00p Youth Committee Mtg.</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:15p Yismechu: Shabbat Evening Chanting Service</p> <p>6:15p Shabbat Unplugged Dinner</p> <p>7:00p Shabbat Unplugged Service</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8:30a Early Minyan</p> <p>9:15a Torah Study</p> <p>10:15a Shabbat Morning Service</p>
<p>17</p> <p>10:00a Roots & Branches Class</p> <p>3:00p Lehrhaus/ Love & Passion Class</p> <p>4:30p Lehrhaus/Int. PrayerBook Hebrew</p> <p>2:00p Homeless Medl - Med. Clinic</p> <p>5:00p Homeless Medl</p> <p>6:00p Lehrhaus/Adv. Biblical Hebrew</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:30a Baby Playgroup</p>	<p>19</p> <p>1st DAY OF PESACH</p> <p>Offices & Schools Closed</p> <p>10:15p Pesach Morning Service & Potluck</p> <p>6:00p Congregation Seder</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:00p Finance Committee</p> <p>7:00p Chorus Rehearsals</p> <p>7:30p Lehrhaus/Intro to Jewish Exper.</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:15p Shabbat Evening Service</p>	<p>23</p> <p>8:30a Early Minyan</p> <p>9:15a Torah Study</p> <p>10:15a Shabbat Morning Service</p> <p>5:00p Family Seder</p>
<p>24</p> <p>10:00a Roots & Branches Class</p> <p>3:00p Lehrhaus/ Love & Passion Class</p> <p>4:30p Lehrhaus/Int. PrayerBook Hebrew</p> <p>6:00p Lehrhaus/Adv. Biblical Hebrew</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:30a Baby Playgroup</p>	<p>26</p> <p>LAST DAY OF PESACH</p> <p>Offices & Schools Closed</p> <p>6:15p Yizkor Circle</p> <p>7:00p Yizkor Service & Havdallah</p>	<p>27</p> <p>5:45p Sababa Board Meeting</p> <p>7:00p Adult Ed - Jewish Book Group</p> <p>7:00p Lehrhaus/Int. Modern Hebrew</p> <p>7:30p Lehrhaus/Intro to Jewish Exper.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>6:15p Kadima Teaching Team Mtg.</p> <p>7:00p Listening Campaign</p> <p>7:00p Lehrhaus/Adv. Modern Hebrew</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:15p Shabbat Evening Service</p>	<p>30</p> <p>8:30a Early Minyan</p> <p>9:15a Torah Study</p> <p>10:15a Shabbat Morning Service</p> <p>Bar Mitzvah - Eli Barnes</p> <p>4:00p New Member Welcome Event</p>

CONGREGATION BETH EL

1301 Oxford Street

Berkeley, CA 94709-1424



BETH EL GALA 2011 SUPERHEROES BALL

Saturday, March 19 • 6:30 - 10:00 pm

*A benefit to raise funds for Beth El Youth Scholarships:
Nursery School, Camp Kee Tov, Youth Groups, Kadima,
Chug Mishpacha and Family Programs*

Purim Shpiel, Dining, Drinks & Dancing
Live & Silent Auctions

Beth El Student Band will play during the cocktail hour!
Friends and family welcome - Adult only event

Come in Costume and be a Superhero!
Everyone who attends in costume will be helping to
raise more money for our youth programs!

Please purchase your tickets before Monday, March 7th
Order online at: www.bethelgala.com

No one will be turned away for lack of funds