

"Honoring Tradition, Celebrating Diversity, and Building a Jewish Future"

# THE BUILDER



## HIGHLIGHTS

### OCTOBER

#### Sukkot

**September 30 to October 8**

Please join us as we celebrate the harvest festival in the Beth El Sukkah. See page 14 for details.

#### Simchat Torah

**Monday, October 8, 5:30 pm**

Celebrate the completion—and beginning again—of reading the Torah. Food, dancing with the Torah scroll and more! For more information, see page 14.

#### Beth Elders (55 and Better)

**Sunday, October 28, 10:00 am**

Brunch at Beth El with speaker Ada Burko on "Aging in Place." Questions about living independently as long as possible will be addressed. See page 17.

### NOVEMBER

#### Women of Beth El

**Sunday, November 4, 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm**

Meet for potluck snacks with schmoozing and detailed plans about the group's future.

#### Band Shabbat

**Friday, November 9, 8:00 pm**

Our teen and adult bands will accompany Shabbat service for their first performance together. See page 12 for more information.

#### Stigma, Families and Mental Illness: Is Change Possible?

**Wednesday, November 14, 7:00 pm** at Beth El with Professor Stephen Hinshaw of the University of California, Berkeley. Details on page 2.

### DEC.

#### Supper and Cinema

**Saturday, December 1, 6:30 pm in the Beit Midrash**

Take an early peak at the Gift Shop's Chanukah Bazaar decorations and gifts for sale in the Social Hall while you watch a hilarious Israeli TV comedy show. \$10 donation.

#### Chanukah Bazaar

**Sunday, December 2 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm in the Social Hall**

Everything you need for Chanukah, plus a latke lunch and gourmet coffee bar!

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FROM THE RABBI

# MENTAL HEALTH AND OUR COMMUNITY: AN UPDATE

JUST OVER A YEAR AGO, AT ROSH HASHANAH 2011/5772, I spoke about the impact of mental illness on our community and invited you to imagine with me what would be different if we were more open and more welcoming to the presence of mental illness in our midst. As I did not publicly return to this topic at this year's High Holy days, I want to give you an update on what we have done and what we are planning. For many people living with mental illness – whether themselves or within their family – a great burden is the secrecy and shame they carry. We have invited Professor Stephen Hinshaw, author of *The Mark of Shame: Stigma of Mental Illness and an Agenda for Change*, to speak at Beth El on **Wednesday, November 14 at 7:00 pm**. Professor Hinshaw, of the University of California, Berkeley, will discuss the reasons for stigma, its effects and how to overcome it. He will also share some of his own experiences growing up in a family with mental illness and about the wider challenges of overcoming the stigma associated with mental illness in our culture. I hope that you will join us for this important and informative evening.

This talk has been organized by our Mental Health Task Force, a group of synagogue members who have been meeting periodically over the last year to discuss and implement how we can be more welcoming and respond to the mental health needs of our congregation. We offered a six-month, drop-in support group, *Sharing, Caring and Healing*; what we learned is that while Beth El's members were very pleased that we were indeed making this group available, few personally chose to attend. Some were ashamed to go there; some were looking for a more specific kind of support; some were too busy coping. We will continue to partner with Jewish Family and Children's Service and other community agencies to provide forums and support that address the needs of our members.

Our Task Force has compiled a list of mental health resources and referrals available in the community which will help us connect our members and family members to other resources; has discussed how to provide on-going crisis intervention for our members in times of need; and will be meeting with the leadership of all of our Youth and Family Education (YAFE) programs in the coming months to assess how we can best provide support to our families, teachers, counselors and staff in supporting the mental health and development of our children and their families. The task force has also created a questionnaire to find out how we can best support our Beth El community and the mental health needs that exist within it. If you have not already completed it, please do so; we would like to hear from all of our members. All answers are anonymous. We also have asked how we can best support the many Beth El members who are themselves providers of mental health services in the community.

I want to thank Susan Sugarman, Karen Harber and the many other volunteers who have stepped forward in order to help us realize our vision of a synagogue and a community that is welcoming, inclusive and supportive of all who are ill. If you would like to participate in the work of our task force, please contact Karen Harber (kharber@aol.com).

Each week, at our Shabbat services, we sing the *Mi sheberekh* prayer for those who are ill, adding silently or outloud the names of those who are in our hearts. We pray: Reveal Your compassion and Your blessing upon all who are ill and comfort them. May we see together a day of complete healing, a healing of body, a healing of mind, and a healing of the spirit, speedily and soon, and let us say: Amen.

L'Shalom,  
  
Rabbi Yoel Kahn

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### Midrasha Office

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# SHAPING BAY AREA JEWISH LIFE THROUGH THE JEWISH FEDERATION

by Elisabeth Wechsler

JEWISH FAMILIES THAT CAN'T AFFORD SUMMER CAMP, or Jewish day schools or that need help involving special-needs kids in Jewish life can look to the Jewish Federation of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin and Sonoma Counties for solutions. The Federation also provides for innovative projects such as studying Torah in nature (Wilderness Torah) and Jewish young adult group living (Moishe House).

Congregation Beth El member Jennifer Gorovitz has brought both compassion and a lawyer's capability to her role as the Federation's CEO since 2009, having served in several senior positions before that. She also brings a hard-headed understanding of how to stretch the \$16 million of grant-making her organization dispenses locally every year for core agencies; Israel and global Jews; big local challenges and innovation; and how best to

administer the more than \$170 million of donor-involved grants each year. With annual fund-raising currently at \$19.1 million, and endowment grants exceeding \$4 million, Jennifer oversees the more than \$1.5 billion under management. She is looking forward to launching the Federation's Centennial Campaign to ensure the community's vibrant future.



Jennifer's family history of involvement with the Federation spans four generations beginning with her maternal great-grandfather, Isaac Isaacson, who was part of the founding generation of the Hebrew Free Loan Association, one of a handful of organizations that preceded and created the Jewish Federation of San Francisco in 1910.

Tragically, Jennifer's maternal great-great-grandfather was dragged through the streets of his small town near Minsk, Ukraine during a pogrom, a scene witnessed by Jennifer's grandmother, then a small girl. That story continues to shape Jennifer's outlook and quiet sense of commitment to the mission of the Federation to ensure both vibrant and secure Jewish life.

Her paternal great-grandfather settled in New York as a pushcart butcher, but asthma forced him and his wife to move

to a warmer, drier climate and they settled in Salt Lake City in the early 1900's. Jennifer's father, Jack Spitzer, was born and raised there. Jennifer's mother moved there to marry him, becoming a Jewish community leader from the outset.



After growing up in Salt Lake City, Jennifer obtained degrees from Stanford University and Georgetown University Law School. While at Stanford, she chaired the Federation's student campaign and led a special campus-wide appeal to rescue Ethiopian Jews (called "Operation Moses") in the 1980's. After more than a decade of law practice, most recently representing nonprofit organizations, Jennifer wanted to express her passion for enhancing Jewish life by being more directly involved.

Presently, she and the Federation have taken on the challenge of "reducing barriers to Jewish life" by helping out financially. Jennifer also wants to bring new generations into community service on a large scale "through a Jewish lens."

Obtaining a Federation grant depends on the organization's effectiveness at addressing issues and areas of concern. "We keep the process as simple as possible but with the highest integrity. A stable organization and an adequate staff with a plan to carry out the grant effectively are required," she said.

Jennifer and her husband, Eric, an attorney representing nonprofit organizations, have two children—Jessica, 15, and Noah, 12, described as Beth El "lifers." They've been involved in everything from Beth El's preschool and religious school to Camp Kee Tov (where Jessica was a counselor-in-training last summer) in the 12 years that they have belonged. Jessica became a Bat Mitzvah at Beth El and Noah's Bar Mitzvah is scheduled for October 20. Jennifer wants her kids to feel that Beth El is their second home, believing its programming and community will enrich their lives, as well as Jennifer and Eric's, for a lifetime.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

# WHY ARE YOU SO SPECIAL?

A FEW YEARS AGO, THE ANIMATED PIXAR FILM, *THE INCREDIBLES* CAME OUT and was a smash hit. The movie told the story of a family of Superheroes that had to go into hiding because regular people disliked their “superness.” The family was forced to live like everyone else. The theme of the movie is summed up when the superhero mom is explaining to her superhero son, Dash, that everyone is special and he is no different. He responds in disappointment and disgust saying “and when everyone is special, no one is.”

Earlier this year, a teacher at Wellesley High School in Massachusetts named David McCullough became an overnight celebrity when he gave a commencement speech in which he told the Wellesley High School graduates that “they were not special.” His point was that there are 6.8 billion “special” people in the world. And, echoing the young superhero Dash from the movie, he said, “When everyone is special, no one is.” Mr. McCullough struck a chord with all those people who believe that we have engendered an overarching sense of entitlement in our young people by telling them they are special, regardless of their achievements. Yet, studies have shown that children who have a strong sense of identity (specialness), do better in school and achieve more. We all felt Dash’s pain and his demotivation when his mom told him he was not special. But how do you strike a balance between the desire to give young people a strong sense of self without compromising their drive to achieve something in their lives?

Our tradition has an answer. It lies in the often-discussed and generally misunderstood concept of “chosenness.” The Torah

teaches in Devarim (Deuteronomy) 7:6 that “You are a holy people to HaShem your G-d. HaShem, your G-d has chosen you to be His own treasure out of all the peoples that are on the face of the earth.” Clearly, we are being told we are special and that we are chosen. But what are we chosen for? A few lines later, in Devarim 7:9, we are given the answer: “Know therefore that HaShem your G-d, He is G-d, the faithful G-d who keeps the covenant with them that love G-d and keep G-d’s commandments to a thousand generations...You shall therefore keep the commandment, the statutes and the ordinances which I command you this day to do them.” We are not chosen to receive a bounty of entitlements, rather we are chosen to fulfill a list of responsibilities. More than 30 times in the book of Devarim we are reminded that we will only receive the benefits of the covenant with G-d if we keep the commandments. When I was a teenager, I had a sign on my wall that said: “There is no greater burden than great potential.” It’s a quote from Linus of Charles Schultz’s *Charlie Brown* comics. My parents always told me that G-d had given me an array of blessings that would allow me to do anything and it was my responsibility to make use of those gifts. It is a message that continues to drive me (and many other people I know). G-d is giving the same message to the Israelites. G-d is telling them, “You have been chosen for this great gift. It is your responsibility to live by it in order to improve the world.”

Anticipating that being “chosen” might lead people to become complacent and arrogant, the Torah takes the lesson a step further. In Devarim 9:4 it says to us: “Do not say in your heart...‘for my righteousness has G-d brought me in to possess this land’... Understand therefore that HaShem your G-d gives you not this good land to possess for your righteousness; for you are a stiff-necked people” The Torah goes on to recount all the ways the Children of Israel have fallen short. It ends with a reminder of the sin of the golden calf when G-d says to Moses “Let me alone that I may destroy them (the Children of Israel) and blot out their name from under heaven...” Chosenness does not give us license to be arrogant.

Being chosen engenders a sense of obligation to meet the expectations of the chooser. It can drive us to great achievements. If I were Mr. McCullough, I would have borrowed from the Torah and told the students that they were very special. I would have told them that they have been given a number of gifts in which to start life and they need to make use of those gifts to serve their fellows. By the end of *The Incredibles*, Dash has learned to carry his specialness humbly and to use his powers to serve his community – he makes a difference. Similarly, I would have told the Wellesley graduates that they have been chosen to make a difference in the world.

Dan Magid  
President, Board of Directors

## PRO OR CON? YES OR NO?

*The Builder* would like to begin a debate in each issue with a topic that is controversial but not divisive. Our first topic is, “Chanukah: a Major or Minor Holiday?” Biblical scholars usually classify Chanukah as a minor religious holiday, but in the U.S. it is a major holiday.

We need a volunteer to write each side of the question. If you’re up for this challenge, please email the Editor, Elisabeth Wechsler (emwechsler@earthlink.net) with your intentions as soon as possible.

The deadline for submitting the piece is November 1st and the maximum word count is 400 (about one column in *The Builder*).

We look forward to hearing your opinion!





## YAFE: WHAT ARE WE ALL ABOUT?

by Debra Sagan Massey, RJE, Director of Education

### THE YOUTH AND FAMILY EDUCATION (YAFE)

PROGRAMS have started the with the Shabbaton that gathered together Beth El members of all ages for a weekend of rejuvenation and community building. Our school year is now in full swing with over 200 students enrolled in our *Kadima* and *Chug Mishpacha* programs. Our youth programs are bustling with activities, including our new teen band, the *Madrachim* program and *Scribes of Beth El*. The YAFE committee has started a six-month process to help us focus on how to collaborate with programs throughout the synagogue, as well as to strengthen the many programs we offer.

One area where we are committing our time is the inclusion of families with children that have special needs. We are collaborating with the Jewish Federation of the Greater East Bay to help us address areas where we can better integrate and accommodate these children. We started this process last year with our *Sh'arim* program that offered a class that served as a first step for students of *Midrasha* age. This year, we are creating a *Chavurah* for families with children with special needs. Through this *Chavurah*, we hope to connect families to each other, as well as to identify areas where Beth El can make it easier for families to feel welcome and part of the Beth El community.

Our first meeting for the *Chavurah* for Families with Children with Special Needs will be on **Monday, October 29 at 7:00 pm**. Childcare is available, if requested in advance to ensure that we can adequately meet your child's needs. We encourage you to invite friends who may be interested in being a part of a Jewish community, whether or not they are currently members of Beth El. Our goal is to widen the current "tent," and encourage those who would otherwise think it too difficult to be a part of the organized Jewish community to join this *Chavurah*.

We look forward to a wonderful year ahead and to welcoming everyone into the Beth El community!

### MOREI DERECH

We are looking for *morei derech* (mentors) who are interested in becoming involved in the life of a Beth El teen. One does not need to know trope or Hebrew to participate as a mentor; rather, the important part is that you are open to sharing who you are and your journey as a Jew. *Morei derech* volunteers will meet at least three Shabbat mornings with their teen. To sign up to be a *morei derech*, please contact Debra Massey.

## YOUTH GROUPS

### SABABA NEWS

Sababa wants to thank its wonderful board members that put together an extra special Shabbaton. The group especially wants to thank the Shabbaton chairs, Liora Ami and Nathan Magid, for putting it all together. *Yasher Koach!* Sababa also wants to thank the terrific counselors, Camp Newman and their parents for making it possible for us to attend.

#### Sababa BBQ

6th-8th graders only!

**Sunday, October 28, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

Drop Off and Pick-Up at Live Oak Park

\$10 for members, \$15 for non-members

Join us for a fun afternoon of games, schmoozing and delicious food.

RSVP to Rebecca DePalma,  
rebecca@bethelberkeley.org  
by Thursday October 25.

#### Save the Date!

Sababa Overnight

**December 14-15** at Congregation Beth El

### RUACH NEWS

Ruach wants to thank its wonderful staff Sonya, Ari, Lauren, Bowen and Emily for an incredible weekend at the Shabbaton!

#### Ruach Adventure in the Flood

Saturday, October 20, 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Congregation Beth El

\$5 for members, \$10 for non-members

Join us for an unbelievable adventure, exploring one of the oldest stories known to humanity!

RSVP to Rebecca DePalma,  
rebecca@bethelberkeley.org  
by Thursday, October 18.

# MA TOVU CAMPAIGN BUILDING MOMENTUM

AS I CONFRONTED A FULL PARKING LOT the other night, with the sight of children playing in the Gaga Pit, teenagers milling around the amphitheater, and a group of adults outside the doors of the Beit Midrash, I marveled once more at the renaissance Nancy and I have observed at Congregation Beth El since joining in 2003. As Beth El president Dan Magid pointed out in the Spring issue of *The Builder*, YAFE, Camp Kee Tov, Torah Study, Chavurot and a myriad of other programs at Beth El have seen significant growth in recent years, reflecting the degree to which Congregation Beth El continues to represent an ever more significant community resource to our members.

As I write this, the days are growing shorter, school is back in session, and the High Holy Days still lie ahead. During this season of reflection, I hope you will join me in considering the role that Beth El plays in our community and in your life. For many of us, it is a place we visit regularly – to observe Shabbat, engage in educational programs for our children and ourselves, or volunteer at the Homeless Meal. For others, while we may visit less frequently, it is important to know that a thriving Reform congregation exists in Berkeley and that this resource is available when we need or desire a stronger connection.

We are at a moment in the history of Beth El that offers a unique opportunity. While on the one hand our community is thriving, on the other hand our commitment to making Jewish congregational life accessible to all who seek it translates into resource constraints that we must, as a community, work to overcome.

The Ma Tovvu campaign is about sustaining and continuing to build on the incredible foundation – both physical and communal – that Beth El now enjoys, thanks to the hard work and generosity of those who came before us. As of the end of August, we have secured almost \$1,100,000 in pledges to the campaign. This early support, from less than 30 member families, represents a powerful validation of the understanding our members have for the importance of this campaign and the need to strengthen our synagogue. But there is still much work to be done. Our goal is to reach \$2,000,000 in pledges by December 31. We are confident that it can be done. But it will take all of us – the whole community – to make it happen.

Thank you!

Jim Offel  
Co-Chair, Ma Tovvu Campaign

# SCRIBES OF BETH EL

NOW MEETING AT SAUL'S DELI on Wednesdays, 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm. All 8th to 12th graders are welcome to drop in and work on their writing.

At the end of summer we did some writing based on reflections on the month of Elul. Here's a piece focused on the ideas of health, wonder, inspiration and love.

## A REASON TO LIVE

By Esther Simon

Someone asked me why I keep on living,  
this is what I said:  
I will not live to prove a point,  
just because I can,  
I won't keep going because you told me not to,  
for the sake of spiting you.  
I will not live because it's right,  
because I've been told that life is good and death is bad.  
I will not live for any creed or cause,  
I've never found one good enough to be my only one.

I will live,  
for hot days in late spring,  
when the fog clears and you can see way out to sea.  
For Indian summers,  
defying winter with all their might.  
For the first days of school,  
for brand new notebooks and nice sharp pencils,  
for hot chocolate and potato latkes,  
for good books that swallow me whole,  
for friends and sleepovers and giggling girliness.

I will live for the day I won't be able to remember you at all.  
All you'll be is a shadow I can't see.  
I will live,  
I WILL LIVE,  
because I LOVE it.

# MANY EXPERIENCES HELPED SHAPE EDUCATION DIRECTOR'S CAREER

By Elisabeth Wechsler

DEBRA SAGAN MASSEY IS REALLY A KID AT HEART. She loved camp growing up, was head counselor at other camps and now oversees all children's programs at Congregation Beth El. Debra says she loves "watching kids grow up and getting to know their families."

As Director of Youth and Family Education (YAFE) for Beth El, Debra manages the early childhood department, the family shabbat program (Chug Mishpacha), the after-school program (Kadima), youth group activities and Camp Kee Tov. Debra was raised in Los Altos, California and was active in NFTY (North American Federation of Temple Youth), the Reform Jewish youth movement. She loved going to Camp Swig ("being Jewish in the redwoods"), where she became a counselor and unit head after college.

She went to UC San Diego and majored in history and education. During that time, she volunteered in Israel for *Otzma*, Hebrew for "strength." There, her work was on a kibbutz in the desert for three months while learning Hebrew. After that, she spent time at a youth village, which is essentially for foster kids. She also volunteered in the Israeli army for three weeks and spent three months in Kiryat Shemona, San Francisco's sister city. "I connected with Israeli people in a very positive way," she said, and was determined to return.

Back in California, Debra became a youth adviser for junior and senior high school students at Congregation Beth Am in Los Altos Hills. She also worked with emigres from the former Soviet Union, and taught high school kids introduction to Judaism for two summers.

Ready for graduate school, Debra initially thought she would study elementary education, but instead enrolled at Hebrew Union College for joint Masters degrees in Jewish education and Jewish Communal Service (since renamed Jewish Nonprofit Service). It was a three-year program, with the first part in Jerusalem, fulfilling Debra's dream of going back. The other two years of the program were based in Los Angeles.

In 1999, she moved back to the Bay Area and worked for Camp Newman, which embraced her goal of "camping, learning and community." But, at 32, Debra felt it was time to focus on her personal life and a major change was needed.

In September 2001 she accepted a job in Cleveland to create a family school. Within one week, she also met her future husband, Oren Massey, who worked across the parking lot at

the local Jewish Community Center. Having grown up in Israel, Oren asked Debra if she'd ever consider moving to Israel on a more permanent basis. "Yes!" was her answer, and in July 2005, Oren, Debra and their son Zev all moved to a *yishuv*, a community with other Reform Jews. It was an ideal place to raise kids surrounded by nature.

However, once they lived "on the other side of the world," Debra felt acute homesickness so far away from her family. Their second son, Ari, was born in Israel and that especially cold winter Ari came down with pneumonia. That was the impetus for the Masseys to move back to California.

A few months later, Debra joined Beth El as director of education, "a really good fit" for her. "I love working with the staff," Debra said, adding that she feels "blessed to work with such incredible people."

Most importantly, it is a pleasure for her to be able to work with the families at Beth El from preschool to Midrasha. "The kids can start in the Beth El play group and I can watch them grow up," she said. "It's very rewarding to shape their Jewish educational experience." She described the learning approach as more informal, like Camp Kee Tov, in that she hopes that the kids *want* to be at Beth El. "We're working to make Beth El feel like home," she said.

## A Multigenerational House

In her spare time, with husband Oren Massey overseeing the project, Debra Sagan Massey, Congregation Beth El's director of education, has helped design a multigenerational home to be built on a lot in El Cerrito. "It's a very state-of-the-art environmental design," she said. The Masseys are working with a specialized architect.

The exterior is based on structural insulated panels (SIPs) that are pre-fabricated to be assembled very quickly. Of course, then the inside needs to be finished. Their goal is to occupy the house by 2013.

"It's an intentional choice to live together with the grandparents living on site, especially after living without our family close by" when they were in Israel, Debra said.

# ECONOMIST IN KENNEDY'S COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISORS REMINISCES

By Elisabeth Wechsler

THE FIRST TIME A PREPONDERANCE OF ACADEMICS (rather than civil servants) was chosen to join the staff of the Council of Economic Advisers under President John F. Kennedy in 1961-62, Lloyd Ulman was among them. As a senior labor economist, he was recruited by Walter Heller, who had been a colleague of Lloyd's at the University of Minnesota.

Lloyd and Lassie Ulman had moved from Minneapolis to Berkeley in 1958 and joined Congregation Beth El, then at Vine and Arch Streets. "The old synagogue was too small but friendly and HOT during the High Holy Days," Lloyd said. "The new building is like a garage, but you need a big building for the community who now belong," he conceded, adding that they themselves are "not terribly active anymore" as they get older but follow synagogue news through *The Builder*.

Lloyd mentioned that a number of academics were members of Beth El at the time, including Sidney Hoos, a UC past president; Sandy Elberg, dean of UC's graduate school; and Mike Heyman, UC chancellor.

The Ulmans remembered their year in Washington, D.C. quite vividly. "We worked very hard," said Lloyd, adding, "but it was a very good experience and a lot of fun."

## A MARRIAGE MADE AT BETH EL

Rob Roller and Shayna Fleischman will be tying the knot on Saturday, October 13 at Congregation Beth El. They both were B'Nei Mitzvah at Beth El and then reconnected many years later at a party held in honor of Cantor Brian Reich's retirement from Beth El. The families are very happy. Shayna taught Kadima at Beth El and at the Jewish Community Center of the East Bay Nursery School. Rob works as a program/facilities coordinator at Harvey Milk Recreation Center for San Francisco Parks and Recreation. He and Shayna will continue to live in Richmond with their eight animals—two dogs, two cats, two hamsters and two snakes. Rabbi Yoel Kahn will be officiating at the wedding and Cantor Brian Reich will be singing in their honor.

Lassie enjoyed living in D.C. where they socialized with union and corporate management people, as well as with other economists and civil servants working in the Kennedy Administration. She became a locally renowned chef of French cuisine, which friends remember to this day. During World War II she worked for the Office of War Information. Lassie graduated from Smith College in 1944, where she studied history.

The Ulmans had almost as scintillating a time at UC Berkeley where Lloyd taught labor economics during President Clark Kerr's administration. Lassie studied Greek and grew active in the League of Women Voters and, later, the Friends of the Berkeley Public Library.

Lloyd had been recruited to the University of California from the University of Minnesota, where he taught from 1950 to 1958. Lloyd had graduated from Columbia University with a B.S. degree in economics and studied unionism in the U.S. for his Master's degree. He received his doctorate in economics from Harvard after serving from 1942 to 1946 in the U.S. Navy in the Mediterranean, North Africa and Pacific theaters during World War II.

Mario Savio was beginning his Free Speech Movement on the UC campus and Lloyd remembers that most of the senior sociology faculty left during the years of demonstrations in the '60s. "This period had a tragic effect on the president of the University's career. Clark Kerr was one of the best college administrators in the country at the time," Lloyd recalled.

During this otherwise "rich period at the university," Lloyd was also director of the Institute of Industrial Relations, an interdepartmental institute at UC concentrating on union-management problems. (The institute was recently renamed the Institute for Research in Labor and Employment, a reflection of the decline in the labor union movement's influence, as well as the continued interest in labor economics.)

Both Lassie and Lloyd were raised Reform, although their parents kept kosher. Lassie grew up in Boston, while Lloyd was brought up in New York City. Both described their upbringings as being similar. However, Lloyd had an Orthodox Bar Mitzvah because his father remained firm on that point. Lassie's family observed Shabbat and the High Holy Days. She has a sister and two brothers, while Lloyd was an only child. The Ulmans, who live near Tilden Park in Berkeley, have no children.



# COLLECTOR OF ANTIQUE SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS TAKES IT EASY NOW

by Elisabeth Wechsler

BILL DONIGER AND HIS WIFE MARY-ELLEN have finally winnowed down their collection of scales (originally 2,000), weights, telescopes, magnifying glasses and thermometers to fit snugly into a few rooms of their Berkeley hills home. They have been members of Congregation Beth El since 1958.

After retiring as a salesman for Xacto Hobby Tools, based in New York City, Bill gathered together his hobby collection of instruments and opened a shop on Piedmont Avenue in Oakland in 1992. During his sales trips of the previous 35 years, Bill had visited antique shops and flea markets in Europe and the U.S. to select interesting objects for his future shop and personal collection. Then, after opening his store, he traveled locally. Bill said they had up to 1,000 regular customers at Lost and Found Antiques. They also collected 19th and 20th century California paintings, which now decorate their mid-century home in the Claremont Hills.



Ellen Misrach, who was originally from West Virginia. They had met at a dance in San Francisco (introduced by a mutual friend) the night after her graduation from UC Berkeley, where she had studied social welfare.

Mary-Ellen then worked in New York City, joining Bill there. In 1955, the Donigers moved to the Richmond district of San Francisco. They've been in Berkeley since 1958 when they bought a lot on Alvarado Road and built their two-level home. The Donigers raised three children (who are now adults) there. Bill and Mary-Ellen fondly remember Beth El's former building at Arch and Vine Streets as being "more haimish" than the new one. "The sanctuary was more traditional," Bill recalled wistfully. They talked about the organ in the old synagogue that was used on special occasions, such as for the Kol Nidre service beginning Yom Kippur, and they remembered the pews rather than chairs, and the fact that the liturgy leaned more toward the Conservative movement's. Mary Ellen recalled that the Arch and Vine Streets membership exceeded 100 families. She served as secretary to Odette Blachman, who was, as always, very active at Beth El.

Bill closed the store five years ago after 18 years in the antique business and has since been writing his memoirs. He works out at the gym and talks frequently with their son, Michael, who lives in Israel and has four children. The Donigers see son Ken and his two children more often, as they live in Menlo Park and because Ken works in Alameda. Susan, their daughter, works for the State Parks Department and is based in Eureka, CA. Although they are not as active as they used to be, the Donigers still stay connected to Beth El through *The Builder*.



Bill is a charter member of the International Society of Scale Collectors and has been active in the organization for more than 30 years. "I've always been interested in history," he said. The Donigers even have a collection of unusual oil chanukiyot from Germany and Poland, as well as from the U.S.

Born in Cedarhurst, Long Island, and raised Orthodox, Bill was drafted into World War II out of Lehigh University to join a six-man combat team of engineers in an Army infantry division, eventually doing reconnaissance. He was shipped out to France the day after D-Day and was involved in the Battle of the Bulge, winning a Bronze Star. Bill was scheduled to be redeployed to the Pacific theater when the war ended in 1945.

Post-war Bill decided to settle in the Bay Area after working in New York City for awhile where he dated and married Mary-

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

### Marc Breindel

Marc Breindel has celebrated Jewish culture since tasting his first poppy seed hamantashen as a child, and the smoked salmon spread at his bar mitzvah sealed the deal. Marc graduated from Berkeley High and the University of California, Berkeley, before studying journalism the University of Texas, Austin. Since then, he's worked as a reporter/editor of The Berkeley Voice, an NPR producer, a web designer and a Berkeley school teacher. Marc enjoys spending Shabbat with his mother and fellow Beth El newcomer **Syd Sarah Strong**, who "makes the best kishka in Northern California," Marc said.



### Karen Century & Aidan Dunne

Karen Century moved to the Bay Area from Connecticut in 1991 to attend graduate school at the University of California, Berkeley. Aidan Dunne moved here from County Galway, Ireland, in 1999, for a three-month internal work transfer, but they met and Aidan stayed in the U.S. They married in 2003 and live in Albany. "We were looking for a congregation that was accepting of interfaith families but also kept a lot of the traditions of the Jewish community," Karen said, adding that they went to family services for the High Holy Days last year with friends who are Beth El members and felt the atmosphere was "warm and welcoming." The family likes outdoor activities, such as skiing/snowboarding and camping, and also enjoy travel and playing board games. In addition, daughter Rebecca (6) loves books and anything electronic; son Liam, also 6, is "mad" about dinosaurs and loves jokes. Karen is director of research collaborations at Mendel Biotechnology in Hayward. Aidan is a software engineer at Dynamic Graphics in Alameda. Karen said they would like to be involved "in helping with social action and other community volunteering."

### Alyson & Jason Kaldis

Alyson was born in Cincinnati and grew up in San Diego, CA. She moved to Berkeley in 1998. She has a B.A. in architecture from UC Berkeley and a Master's degree in architecture from the University of Southern California. Jason was born in Boston and grew up in Ossining, NY. He moved to Berkeley in 1985. Jason has a B.S. in Art & Design with a major in architecture from MIT and a Master's degree in architecture from UC Berkeley.

Alyson is currently on maternity leave from Jason Kaldis Architect, Inc., a Berkeley-based residential architectural design firm founded in 2002. Jason enjoys working with families to



remodel and add to homes throughout the Bay Area. Alyson and Jason have a 15-month-old son named Elijah. They love to travel and cook; visit zoos, parks and museums; as well as attend Cal sporting events together. The Kaldises are looking forward to meeting other families at the congregation, taking part in holiday celebrations and becoming part of the Beth El community.

### Sandra Luft

Sandra Luft originally came to Berkeley in 1952 as an undergraduate at Cal and received a BA in both English literature and philosophy. While earning a Masters and Ph.D in the History of Ideas program at Brandeis, she lived in Cambridge, MA. She returned to Berkeley in 1962 when she was hired at San Francisco State University. Sandra's children, Rachel and Joshua, attended Beth El's Midrasha and Camp Kee Tov. The family were members until the children became B'nei Mitzvah. This year, Sandra began to attend Torah study and has also become active in the Israel Committee and in the new Beth Elders Committee. She is particularly interested in the Israeli/Palestinian peace process. Professionally, she is interested in interdisciplinary studies, theories of knowledge, post-modern theory, and the history of ideas in the early modern and modern periods. Sandra's courses are often cross-listed in the philosophy department and in the Jewish Studies program (for example, she teaches courses on Hannah Arendt, Walter Benjamin, the Frankfurt school and Derrida as a Jewish philosopher).

### Robin Mencher & Matthew Diamond

Robin Mencher moved to the Bay Area 15 years ago to start graduate school. Her husband, Matthew Diamond, has lived in the Bay Area since 1988 when he came to college. They both grew up in Southern California, belonging to Reform congregations.

They were drawn to Beth El because "it's a great community" and for their daughter Marnina's future enrollment at Beth El Nursery School in 2013. Commenting on their interests and activities, Robin said, "We used to have interests; now we have a little kid! When not at a local playground, we like to hear music, garden, hike, pay attention to our dog, and meet up with friends for Shabbat dinner." Robin directs the education department at station KQED, helping teachers use public media and new media tools to engage students and enhance learning. Matthew is an online marketing manager and works for a 2- and 3D design and fabrication start-up. He's also a certified dog trainer. "We are looking forward to being actively involved in the nursery school community," Robin said.



### Marv Sternberg & Shary Levy

Marv Sternberg is a retired economics professor at University of California, Berkeley, and Shary is a retired ESL and English teacher. Marv spent his childhood in Minnesota and Iowa, and his teenage years in Santa Monica. He has lived in Berkeley for most of his adult life, except after graduation, when he lived in Washington D.C.; Santiago, Chile; Geneva;



and Albany, NY. Shary grew up in Seattle, graduated from the University of Washington and raised her family in San Rafael. She currently does some substituting and volunteering in the schools. Marv and Shary enjoy participating in The San Francisco Folk Music Club and its offshoot, East Bay Fiddlin' and Pickin.' Marv was a member of Beth El when his two children were B'Nei Mitzvah at Beth El. Shary enjoys Beth El's music-filled Friday night services and encouraged Marv to rejoin. They look forward to participating in the variety of social action activities at Beth El.

### Syd Sarah Strong

Syd Sarah Strong has been a psychologist in the Berkeley area for more than 30 years working with mind/body/medicine and relationships. She's written a book, *One Breasted Warrior*, which is autobiographical. Her adult son, Marc Breindel, also a new member, and she both really appreciate Rabbi Kahn, which is what drew them to Beth El: "We have been coming here on and off for years and decided to commit, as it is about time!" They are both members of the LGBT community. Sarah is very involved with Stagebridge as a senior who loves theater and performing. She has been recently working on a one-woman show about herself, possibly to be shown at the Marsch Theater in Berkeley. "I would be interested in facilitating groups of any kind as a teacher of Non Violent Communication, and I hope to be of service and make new friends at Beth El," Sarah said.

### Barrett Tucker & Mara Stonefield

Barrett Tucker and Mara Stonefield have lived in the Bay Area for about 20 years. They were drawn to Congregation Beth El as their daughter Eliana, 11, has attended Camp Kee Tov for the last five years. The family enjoys a lot of outdoor activities but tend towards rock climbing, biking and skiing. Mara works as a hair stylist in Berkeley and Barrett is an independent software developer. They're interested in engaging more with the Beth El community and look forward to meeting fellow congregants.



Also joining Congregation Beth El are **Billy and Jenny Blattner**, who live in Albany with their children, **Sam Blattner** (8) and **Suzannah Blattner** (6); **Jocelyn Bale Glickman and Michael Dillon** of Berkeley with their children, **Gwendolyn Dillon** (7) and **Annaliese Dillon** (4); **Naomi Igra and Matthew Clausen**, of Berkeley with their child, **Avi Igra-Clausen** (1.5); **Jonathan Packman and Elizabeth Kaplan**, of Berkeley with their children, **Samuel Packman** (8) and **Noah Packman** (6); **Zena Ratner**, of Berkeley; **Rachel Siegel and Josh LeBeau**, of Albany with their child, **Joel Siegel** (5.5); **Assi and Kim Zvik**, of Kensington with their children, **Illana Zimmerman** (19), **Genevieve Zimmerman** (17), **Tal Zvik** (10) and **Lior Zvik** (9).

**Welcome to you all!**

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Your thoughts and opinions are important to us. If you have a subject of interest to the Congregation, write a letter or essay of a **maximum of 400 words** and submit it to:

Editor, *The Builder*, [emwechsler@earthlink.net](mailto:emwechsler@earthlink.net) by **November 1, 2012** for the December issue.

Letters and essays may be edited for length and at the discretion of the Editorial Advisory Board.

**No anonymous submissions will be accepted.**

### EDITORIAL STAFF OF THE BUILDER

Elisabeth Wechsler, **Editor**  
Jenny Robinson, **Layout Design and Production**  
Molly Daniels, **Coordinator**

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## BRAND-NEW BETH EL BANDS TO DEBUT NOVEMBER 9TH

We are thrilled to announce the newest additions to Beth El's rich and growing music program. Two community bands will bring jazz, klezmer, rock and folk music, as well as playing along with our favorite congregational tunes, at selected Friday night services during the year.

Our community is full of superb musicians who play every instrument in every genre. Three years ago we initiated Beth El's adult Chorus, which has brought volunteer singers together into a large, joyful and successful ensemble. We thought it was high time to organize our many instrumentalists to bring their talents and creativity to Beth El! Folk, orchestral and band instruments are all welcome. Whether you're an amateur or a pro, come jam with us! The bands will be led by Isaac Zones, our fantastic new songleader. Isaac is a beloved, inspiring and skilled leader and teacher of Jewish music; he has been a longtime musician at Camp Tawonga, the JCC and area synagogues. In addition to leading music weekly for our Youth and Family Education programs, holidays and other events, Isaac will work with our bands as we get off the ground and rockin'.

This innovative music program has been made possible by a generous three-year pledge by Fred and Ila Rothenberg, parents of Beth El member David Rothenberg, in memory of their son, David's brother, Steven Rothenberg. We are sincerely appreciative that Beth El can help honor Steven's memory, and ensure that the values that were most important in his life are shared with the community. The bands will play Shabbat services together six times in the coming year: November 9, December 14, January 11th, February 8, March 8, and May 10, all at 8:00 pm.

The adult band will rehearse at 7:00 pm. on each of these six evenings. We will also have two kickoff rehearsals: Thursdays October 11 and November 1, 6:30 – 8:30 pm. For more information, contact Rabbi Zellman: RabbiRZ@bethelberkeley.org, or 848 3988 ext. 228.

The teen band is open to musicians in 8th grade and above. Rehearsals are on the fourth Thursday of every month with a few exceptions, from 6:00-8:00 pm. You must register to participate; visit <http://www.bethelberkeley.org/learning/teen-band>. Dinner will be provided at all rehearsals and performances! The cost to join the teen band is \$90 for the school year.



### CHORUS REHEARSALS RESUME ON WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 3, 7:00 PM ALL ARE WELCOME!

How to Chant Torah: this fun class will begin in January 2013. Slots for chanting are available all year round. Contact Rabbi Zellman for details.

### TEEN BAND SCHEDULE

To join the band,  
go to [www.bethelberkeley.org/learning/teen-band](http://www.bethelberkeley.org/learning/teen-band)

October 25	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	2nd Rehearsal
November 9	6:30 pm to 10:00 pm	Band Shabbat
November 29	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	3rd Rehearsal
December 14	6:30 pm to 10:00 pm	Band Shabbat
January 10, 2013	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	4th Rehearsal
January 11	6:30 pm to 10:00 pm	Band Shabbat
January 24	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	5th Rehearsal
February 8	6:30 pm to 10:00 pm	Band Shabbat
February 28	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	6th Rehearsal
March 8	6:30 pm to 10:00 pm	Band Shabbat
March 21	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	7th Rehearsal
April 16	6:00 pm to 7:00 pm	Yom Ha'Atzma-ut celebration
April 25	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	8th Rehearsal
May 10	6:30 pm to 10:00 pm	Band Shabbat

For more information about the Teen Band, contact Rebecca DePalma at 510-848-2122 ext. 214 or email her at [rebecca@bethelberkeley.org](mailto:rebecca@bethelberkeley.org).



# B'NEI MITZVAH



The congregation is cordially invited to attend as our son, **Daniel Kivel-Goldstein**, is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, October 6, 2012 at 10:15 am. Kiddush will follow.  
Andy Kivel & Susan Goldstein



The congregation is cordially invited to attend as our son, **Zachary Loran**, is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, October 13, 2012 at 10:15 am. Kiddush will follow.  
Jena Resner & Jon Loran



The congregation is cordially invited to attend as our son, **Noah Gorovitz**, is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, October, 20 2012 at 10:15 am. Kiddush will follow.  
Eric & Jennifer Gorovitz



The congregation is cordially invited to attend as our son, **Aaron Morrill**, is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, October 27 2012 at 10:15 am. Kiddush will follow.  
Calvin & Alisa Morrill



The congregation is cordially invited to attend as our son, **Jacob Sarasohn**, is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, November, 3 2012 at 10:15 am. Kiddush will follow.  
Sara Sarasohn & Ellen Evangeliste



The congregation is cordially invited to attend as our children, **Hannah & Isaac Fendell-Hummel**, are called to the Torah as B'Nei Mitzvah on Saturday, November, 17 2012 at 10:15 am. Kiddush will follow.  
Judy Fendell & Deb Hummel

## NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

by Scott Spear, Library Chair

**Donations to the Plishner and Vida Funds make it possible to buy new children's and adult's books. Here are our latest adult books:**

*Chapter and Verse: Poems of Jewish Identity*, is a collection of 64 poems by 10 Bay Area Jewish Poets, including Beth El member Dan Bellm.

In *The Eleventh Commandment: A Jewish Childhood in Nazi-Occupied France*, Rabbi Leo Abrami, once rabbi of Beth El, provides a memoir of his childhood in Nazi-occupied France and of his courageous mother, the hero of the story.



*The Jewish Dark Continent*, by Nathaniel Deutsch, is subtitled *Life and Death in the Pale of Settlement*. A hundred years ago, Jews of the Pale, more than 40% of the world's Jews, had created a distinctive way of life so little known outside its borders that it was dubbed the Jewish Dark Continent. From 1912 to 1914, an ethnographer named An-sky did a massive study of what he called the Oral Torah of the common people. Professor Deutsch reveals through that survey shtetl life in all its wonder and complexity.

In *City of Rogues and Schnorrers: Russia's Jews and the Myth of Odessa*, Jarrod Tanny examines the Judeo-Russian culture which emerged in Odessa in the 19th century and persisted through the Soviet era, a culture famed for its brand of Jewish humor and legendary as a Jewish frontier boomtown.

*The Virtues of Our Vices: A Modest Defense of Gossip, Rudeness, and Other Bad Habits*, by Emrys Westacott, who argues that rudeness, gossip, snobbery, tasteless humor and disrespect for others' beliefs have hidden virtues or serve valuable purposes. The author, a professor of philosophy, shows that what is small is not trivial and that precision can accept the messiness of real life.



*On Sacrifice*, by Moshe Halbertal, analyzes sacrifice as self-transcendence, as giving-to and giving-for, tracing this in Torah, prophets, classical rabbinic thought, medieval philosophy and modern political philosophy, showing how self-sacrifice has great potential moral value but can also be used to justify the most brutal acts: "An absolute commitment to an unworthy cause is the modern form of the old problem of idolatry."



*Stories of the Babylonian Talmud*, by Jeffrey Rubenstein, is a deep and complex analysis of eight stories from the Talmud, the third book in the professor's trilogy. Through this book one can learn the culture of the Talmud and its rabbis and sages, and read its extraordinary tales.

## 8 DAYS OF SUKKOT AT BETH EL!

Sundown, September 30 to sundown, October 7  
 Shake a *lulav*, sit, eat, welcome guests (*ushpizin*)!  
 Please dress warmly. All events are vegetarian.

### Sunday, September 30

- 4:30 pm New Member's Gathering in the Sukkah.  
*Let's get to know each other! If you have been a member for a while, come and welcome the new folks in our community.*
- 5:30 pm Festive Service in the Beth El Sukkah
- 6:00 pm Dinner (provided) in the Beth El Sukkah

### Monday, October 1

- 10:15 am Morning service followed by brunch (provided) in the Sukkah

### Tuesday, October 2

- 6:00-7:00 pm B'Nei Mitzvah Family Dinner Potluck in the Sukkah

### Thursday, October 4

- 5:30-7:00 pm YAFE Back to School Night  
 Bring your own picnic and meet the teachers in the Sukkah

### Friday, October 5

- 12:30 pm Nursery School All School Shabbat in Beth El's Sukkah
- 5:00 pm Nursery School "Bring your own dinner"
- 5:30 pm Sangria Sukkah Shabbat  
 TGIS in the sukkah! Everyone is welcome.
- 6:15 pm Evening Service in Beth El's Sukkah

### Saturday, October 6

- 8:30 am Early Morning Minyan in the Sukkah
- 10:15 am Morning Service and Oneg in the Sukkah

### Sunday, October 7

- 7:00 pm Sukkot Yizkor Service in the sanctuary

### BACK TO SCHOOL IN THE SUKKAH

Come celebrate Sukkot on Thursday, October 4, from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm with Beth El families! Bring your own picnic dinner to eat in our Sukkah. We will begin immediately after Kadima with dinner and schmoozing, followed by an ice cream social. At 7:00 pm, parents and children are invited to meet this year's teachers in their classrooms so that everyone can start off the year with meeting each other and learning about our plans for the coming year.

### MEMBERS' OPEN SUKKAHS

Sukkot, the festival of Booths, has both historical and agricultural significance. It commemorates the 40 years that our ancestors wandered in the desert living in temporary shelters. Sukkot is also a harvest festival, the time when our people reaped crops from the fields. They lived beside the fields in temporary dwellings, working by day and gathering in community at night. It was and is a time of joy and celebration. Many of us raise Sukkahs each year and invite members of the congregation to visit our hand-crafted dwellings. Sit outside in the sunshine or under the stars in the evening, admire the decorations, meet old friends and make new ones. So many people would like you to come and enjoy their Sukkah! Everyone is welcome. It is traditional to bring a home-cooked dish to share.

### SANGRIA BEFORE SHABBAT SERVICE IN THE SUKKAH

Please join us Friday, October 5 at 5:30 pm for sangria in the Sukkah, The Happy Hour (with nonalcoholic offerings and snacks, too) will be followed by a festive service in the Sukkah beginning at 6:15 pm. It smells sweet in the Sukkah under the bay tree.

### SIMCHAT TORAH

Monday, October 8

- 5:30 pm BBQ dinner begins
- 6:00 pm Adult study and homemade schnapps tasting
- 6:30 pm Consecration service:  
 Welcoming new students to the Torah
- 7:00 pm Simchat Torah celebration including Klezmer music, *hakafot* (processions and dancing with the Torah)

Each year we complete the reading of the Torah and start again anew. The holiday of Simchat Torah celebrates this cycle of continual learning and renewal. Adults will have their own study session along with a schnapps tasting. While the adults are studying, parents and their children will gather for the consecration ceremony. For any children who are new to the Beth El community, we welcome them with a brief ceremony called Consecration. It is through this ritual that we infuse our children with life-long Jewish learning. As in past years, the entire Torah scroll will be unrolled around the room, but this year there will be Torah docents to point out special parts of the scroll.

### POETRY READING NIGHT

**Thursday October 18 at 7:30 pm**

(sponsored by the Israel Committee and the Adult Education Committee)

Please join us at Beth El as Dan Bellm reads excerpts from his new poetry, as well as some poems from his recently published book, *Practice* (2008). Chana Bloch will also read new work from *Cleopatra's Nose*, a current manuscript, along with poems from her most recent collection, *Blood Honey* (2009). A discussion will follow.

**ELECTION FORECAST WITH DAVID TABB****Monday, October 22 at 7:00 pm**

Join Beth El member and Emeritus Professor David Tabb for a discussion of the upcoming Presidential Election on Monday, October 22 at 7:00 pm at Congregation Beth El. Sponsored by the Men's Club and the Adult Education Committee, this event will include refreshments. David Tabb's field was political science at San Francisco State University. He will analyze the latest polling information and, as in the past, will present an articulate analysis to help us understand the political reality that we all face. This election will be close and an important milestone in the evolving economic and political future for the next several years. If you have not paid your dues, send a check for \$25 to Bob Goldstein, 2921 Forest Avenue, Berkeley 94705.

**NAMING AND OVERCOMING THE STIGMA OF MENTAL ILLNESS****Wednesday, November 14 at 7:00 pm**

For many people living with mental illness—whether themselves or within their family—a great burden is the secrecy and shame they carry. Professor Stephen Hinshaw, a professor at Cal and author of *The Mark of Shame: Stigma of Mental Illness and an Agenda for Change*, will discuss the reasons for stigma, its effects and how to overcome it. He will also share some of his own experiences growing up in a family with mental illness and about the wider challenges of overcoming the stigma associated with mental illness in our culture. This program is free and open to everyone.

**SUPPER AND CINEMA AT CONGREGATION BETH EL****Saturday December 1 at 6:30 pm**

Come prepared to eat, drink and be merry at this year's pre-Chanukah Israel Committee film showing. We will be providing pizza (from Berkeley's Cheese Board Collective), snacks and a special preview of Congregation Beth El's Chanukah Bazaar. The film shown will be the hilarious Israeli hit TV comedy show "Israeli Labor" (Season I) accompanied by the Academy Award-winning short documentary, "West Bank Story." A \$10 donation is suggested. No one will be turned away for lack of funds

**LATKE FEST****Friday, December 14 at 5:30 pm**

Join us for our Shabbat Chanukah—our annual multigenerational Chanukah celebration. At 5:30 pm we begin with a Shabbat song session led by Isaac Zones, followed by a catered dinner at 6:00 pm. Dinner will, of course, include delicious latkes cooked by the Beth El Men's Club. We will light our *chanukiyot* together after dinner, and then enjoy the music of Band Shabbat at 8:00 pm.

**BJE'S ONE BAY ONE BOOK**

San Francisco Bureau of Jewish Education's One Bay One Book connects a diverse cross-section of Bay Area adults with meaningful, lively Jewish learning by bringing participants together in shared discussions and events, stimulated by the selected book and its themes.

The book for this inaugural year is Nathan Englander's award-winning *What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank*. There is something for everyone in Englander's short stories, which touch on themes that particularly resonate for modern Jews while simultaneously addressing universal concerns.

Beth El will be offering a facilitated discussion by Barry Silverblatt on **December 20, 2012** at Congregation Beth El.

**Save the date****CONGREGATION BETH EL GALA!****Saturday February 2, 2013**

Make sure to mark your calendar now for Beth El's event of the year! This is the main fundraiser for all our education programs, and it's always a fantastic event! We are looking for more people to help with the planning; if you would like to help volunteer, please contact Dana Zell at danazell@me.com.

**ONGOING EVENTS****ROOTS AND BRANCHES: THE "MAJOR" PROPHETS**

with Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Roots and Branches, our open-ended, on-going exploration of the texts and ideas of the Jewish tradition, continues its exploration of the Biblical prophets. This fall, we will be looking at the teachings of the three "major" prophets: Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekial, in their own historical contexts and in the later Jewish tradition. We will also devote a portion of each class to a discussion of the weekly Haftarah portion. No prerequisites, no homework; everyone is welcome.

Sunday mornings 10:00 – 11:30 am

October 7, 14, 21; November 4, 18; December 2, 9, 16.

Winter series starts Sunday, January 13.

**PEOPLE OF THE BOOK**

3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm

**September 20:** Linda Gerson, Kafka short stories: "The Metamorphosis," "Before The Law," "In The Penal Colony."**October 18:** Dan Bellm and Chana Bloch: Poetry reading.**November 15:** Marilyn Margulius: Dara Horn, *The World to Come*.**December 20:** The One Bay One Book program, see above.



# BETH EL SHABBATON





## AJWS HUNGER SHABBAT

On November 2 and 3, activities and learning around this Shabbat will focus on world hunger—what is the current situation and, most importantly, what we can do to help alleviate hunger worldwide.

## BETH ELDERS PLAN BRUNCH FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28

Beth Elders 55 and Better is a new committee, which came about to address some of the requests from the Listening Committee's house parties and one-to-one interviews. Save the date for our first event, a brunch with a speaker on Sunday, October 28 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. The topic is "Aging in Place." The suggested donation is \$5.00.

What does it mean to age in place? What do people need to know if they want to stay in their own homes as they age? When should one move and what are the housing options when it's time to move into senior or assisted-living housing? There will be time for questions.

Our speaker, Ada Burko, has worked with older adults and their families since 1982. She is a licensed clinical social worker with an emphasis on Aging from UC Berkeley and also has a Master's degree in theater arts. For the past 10 years, Ada has worked at the Jewish Family and Children's Services of the East Bay as the director of Suse Moyal Center for Older Adults Services.

We are also working on an oral and written history program to begin in January, an advance directives program and the formation of groups for walking and hiking. Contact Marilyn Margulius (mmargulius@comcast.net) if you would like to join the committee or if you have any questions.

## DONATING OUR SIDDURIM

In August, Ritual Chair Ruth Ehrenkrantz and a team of volunteers mailed off several boxes of lovingly-used gray Gates of Prayer prayer books for use by members of the U.S. military. Chaplain (Captain) Heather Borshof wrote us: "The prayerbooks..are perfect because they are more of a travel size, and have accessible English and transliteration. Thank you again for your help and your donation!"

These weekday and Shabbat prayer books are small and light. We found 125 books, and inserted a bookplate inviting them to visit Congregation Beth El when they return to the U.S. Thank you to Abi Rudnick, Phyllis Zisman and Micah Klein for help in packing up and mailing the books.

## HEBREW FREE LOAN ASSOCIATION OFFERS ASSISTANCE TO MANY

Particularly in these economic times, the Hebrew Free Loan Association is a vital resource for those who need a loan for emergencies, debt consolidation, recent unemployment or health care. But the association also makes interest-free loans available for students, first-time home buyers, adoption, life cycle and business reasons.

Since 1897, the Hebrew Free Loan Association has helped more than 100,000 people. About 400 people are helped each year. The goal is to assist people to help themselves out of their financial distress, or to help them realize a life-long dream. Recipients "maintain dignity and self-sufficiency" as they repay their loans.

To find out more about the Hebrew Free Loan Association and its lending policies, phone (415-546-9902) or email [info@hflasf.org](mailto:info@hflasf.org). Check out their website ([www.hflasf.org](http://www.hflasf.org)).

## BETH EL ROSH CHODESH GROUP

Congregation Beth El and Kevah, a group that helps facilitate Jewish study groups, is starting a new year of study at Beth El. This particular group is a women's monthly Torah study group, led by Rabbi Dorothy Richman, and largely focuses on how Judaism and Jewish holidays can rejuvenate us as women and mothers, and can inform our parenting. The group's next meetings are Sunday, October 14 and Sunday, November 11 from 7:15 pm to 9:00 pm. For more information, please contact Elizabeth Branoff at [efbranoff@gmail.com](mailto:efbranoff@gmail.com).

## CATHY STEVENS TO HEAD WOMEN OF BETH EL GROUP

Cathy Stevens, who facilitated our June get-together, has agreed to spearhead the Women of Beth El group. Cathy is pulling together a small group to help her through the initial organizing stage. Look for her e-mails to let you know what's in the works.

Cathy is also searching among the 60 women who volunteered to help our group for those who might take charge of specific activities. Several are in place (Crafts Group, Game Nights and Jewish/ethnic cooking), and others will be announced soon.

### Events scheduled:

Crafts Group: Sunday, October 14, 12:30 to 2:30 pm. Many of us wanted a place to gather and create. Barbara Schmidt will lead our group. All crafts will be welcomed. For our first meeting, bring your favorite craft project, or just come and join in as we decide what group project we might also like to undertake (such as hats for chemo patients or blankets for children, etc.).

Gatherings at the synagogue: Please mark these dates on your calendar for get-togethers much like the first one, possibly with themes, activities, and/or potluck meals. Please hold 1-6 pm available until specific times are confirmed.

- Sunday, November 4 at 3:00 to 5:00 pm – potluck snacks at Beth El with time for fun and schmoozing. See more details in the e-Updates to come.
- Sunday, February 3
- Sunday, April 28
- Sunday, July 14

Hiking: Nancy Turak will organize hikes over the next few weeks with some suggested routes. We'll let you know by e-mail and in the e-Updates when we have details.

## HOMELESS MEAL NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

by Ruth Spear

Through the generosity of donors and volunteers, and the partnership with Congregation Beth El, the Beth El Homeless Meal serves a warm dinner to 125 to 200 people in need each month. Our meal has been singled out for awards from the *J* Readers' Choice Awards and surveys of those in need as the best free meal in the East Bay.

For at least 25 years, we have served a delicious, nutritious meal on the 3rd Sunday of every month, including chicken, beans and rice and a coleslaw that is so good that many of our volunteers serve to guests at home. The Suitcase Clinic, which joined us several years ago, has a medical clinic with the supervision of volunteer doctors from our congregation each month, and responds to our guests' concerns about health. We also give away gently used clothing and other donated supplies.

### HOMELESS GUESTS NEED WARM CLOTHES

Another way that you can help the homeless guests we serve is by giving clean, warm clothing in good condition for adults, especially men: jackets, blankets, rain gear, socks, underwear (clean, used underwear and socks are very much appreciated) and those hotel toiletries we all amass.

Please drop them off in the red and green barrels in the classroom wing anytime and on the day of the Homeless Meals: Sunday, October 21; and Sunday, November 18.

All costs for the meal come from donations from you, Beth El members and friends. The meal is a Mitzvah activity for Kadima. Toots Sweet Bakery, Hopkins Street Bakery and Acme Bakery donate sweets and breads to the meal. Thanks to all of you who continue to make the Homeless Meal a monthly success.

If you would like to get involved, here's how you can help:

1. Volunteer to help cook or serve the meal by signing up at <http://dinner.pagepoint.com> or sign up through the *BE Involved* link on the Beth El web page.
2. Physicians: help our guests and mentor a medical student. Volunteer for the monthly Suitcase Clinic from 2:00 to 5:00 pm. Malpractice coverage is provided by Lifelong Medical Care, after a short credentialing process. Medical students are from UCB/UCSF Joint Medical Sciences Program and University of California, Berkeley, undergrad public health students as clerks. Contact Adele Amodeo at the above website for more information.
3. Donate money for the meal by making donations at the Beth El office or on the Beth El website, designated for the Homeless Meal.
4. If you know of any foundations or companies that would give us a grant, let us know.
5. Drop off your gently used clothing in the two barrels in the upstairs education wing to be given away at the meal. We need mostly men's clothing, blankets, sleeping bags, underwear, socks and unused hotel toiletries.

If you have any questions, contact Ruth Spear or Adele Amodeo through the website.

### THANK YOU FOR SAYING 'YES' WHEN ASKED!

It takes a tremendous effort to program all the services and events we offer our community during this season of awe and joy. We thank all of you for your help: ushers for making people feel welcome, and Jerry Weintraub and Sharon King for finding ushers; gabbaim (coordinators of service volunteers) for helping services run smoothly; all those who read a prayer, chanted Torah and Haftorah; and Peggy Lipson and Emily Marthinsen for coordinating all service volunteers; the chorus for their individual voices and the harmonies they make together; staff who have worked tirelessly for the good of our community and our clergy who teach, share and give with open hearts; Yom Kippur afternoon workshop leaders and Cathy Stevens who coordinated the workshops; families who open their Sukkahs to the community and Ruth Ehrenkrantz who organized the Open Sukkahs; the pantry chug who cooked so that we could break our fast with something homemade, and Debbie Leon who organized the cooks; meal and drink coordinators for our many

gatherings; etrog schnapps makers who shared at Simchat Torah; all those who held the unscrolled Torah and made the Simchat Torah celebration special; and the Homeless Meal volunteers who served the monthly meal on Erev Rosh Hashanah. This is what it takes to make a community!

### AMBASSADORS NEEDED!

It is extremely important to help new members at Congregation Beth El feel welcomed by our community. You can help make this happen by becoming one of Beth El's Ambassadors, a program where we connect current members with new members. The main responsibility is to call or email them with an invitation to coffee or a meal to get to know them and perhaps to introduce them to others. Another way is to offer to accompany them to services or a Beth El event. If you are interested in becoming an Ambassador for a new family or two, please email Barbara Segal. Thank you in advance for helping our new members begin a strong connection to our wonderful Beth El community.

**AARON PLISHNER CHILDREN'S LIBRARY**

Phyllis Zisman for the return to good health of Matthew Zisman  
Phyllis Zisman in memory of Saul Wollins

**ALLAN AND TYBIL SMITH KAHN MEMORIAL FUND**

Stacey Shulman

**ARJMAND ADULT EDUCATION FUND**

Homayoun Arjmand  
Phyllis Zisman in memory of Naomi Wollins Goldberg  
Phyllis Zisman in honor of the birth of Caleb Richard Eigner

**ANNUAL APPEAL**

Adele Amodeo  
Janet Byron  
Mona Cain  
Max & Bonnie Cooperstein  
Marc Derewetzky & Jennifer Kawar  
Arthur & Carol Goldman  
Rabbi Yoel Kahn & Dan Bellm  
Julie Matlof Kennedy & Patrick Kennedy  
Lloyd Morgan  
Alisa & Calvin Morrill  
Marv Pearlstein  
Peter & Abigail Pletcher  
Susan Prausnitz  
Alan Sanstad & Katherine Haynes Sanstad  
Lloyd & Lassie Ulman  
Phyllis Zisman

**BUILDING FUND**

Adam Eigner & Evelyn Herrera

**CAMP KEE TOV SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Stephanie Wallach-Schlossman in honor of the marriage of  
Rabbi Reuben Zellman and Erika Katske

**DAVID COTTON MEMORIAL SWIG FUND**

Alfred & Anita Cotton in memory of David Sol Cotton

**GARDEN FUND**

Hazon

**GENERAL FUND**

Calla Belkin  
Joel & Rochelle Blumenfeld  
Janet Byron in memory of Blanche Reiman  
Max & Bonnie Cooperstein for the donation of computer  
equipment  
Mildred Emery  
Tony Hecht & Michelle Wolfson in memory of Sidney Hecht  
Edward Holly  
Esther & Mark Hudes in memory of Leah Glick and Robert  
Goldstein's mother, Bernice Feinstein Goldstein  
Batya Kalis in honor of Mike Klayman's retirement

Desmid Lyon in memory of Norm Frankel's brother Larry Frankel  
Dorothy Rosenberg  
Molly Sharlach  
Jonathan Simon & Christina Spaulding in memory of  
William Simon  
Jeff Sloan  
Vadjiheh Yadegar in memory of Yadegar Yadegar

**HOMELESS MEAL**

Mona Cain  
Anna Mantell & Robert Goldstein in memory of Shana Berman  
Richard & Susan Seeley  
Elaine & Allan Sobel in memory of Annette Biatch  
Jeffrey Seideman & Elisabeth Wechsler in honor of Ruth Spear  
Rabbi Reuben Zellman & Erika Katske

**LEGACY CAMPAIGN**

Iren Suhami

**MARIAN MAGID MEMORIAL FUND**

Helga Tannenbaum in memory of Hugo Tannenbaum

**MITZVAH COMMITTEE**

Vivian & Sandy Golden in memory of Bernice Feinstein Goldstein

**MUSIC FUND**

Fred & Ila Rothenberg  
In honor of the marriage of Rabbi Reuben Zellman and Erika Katske  
Adele Amodeo  
Angela Botelho & Barry Silverblatt  
Mona Cain  
Bruce & Susan Carter  
Judy Chess  
Vivian Clayton  
Clarke Daniels  
Arthur & Carol Goldman  
Esther & Mark Hudes  
Amy Block Joy  
Batya Kalis  
Sharon Lewin  
Desmid Lyon  
Marilyn & Harry Margulius  
Lorraine Midanik & Family  
Joan Sarnat & David A. Hoffman  
Miriam & Stanley Schiffman  
Allan & Elaine Sobel  
Claire Ungar & Seth Lavender

**ONEG FUND**

Eileen Klein

**RABBI KAHN'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

Blum & Midanik Family in memory of Nathan Kirsch  
Andy Ganes  
John Hartog & Margaret Hand in memory of Ada Hartog  
Batya Kalis  
Stephen & Doreen Rothman in memory of Bertha Rothman  
Stephen & Doreen Rothman in memory of Abraham Rothman  
Stacey Shulman

## OCTOBER

October 6, 2012  
Sukkot  
Ecclesiastes  
Led by Cathy Stevens

October 13, 2012  
Parashat Bereshit  
Genesis 1:1 – 6:8  
Led by Rose Falanga

October 20, 2012  
Parashat Noach  
Genesis 6:9 – 11:32  
Led by Bruce Carter

October 27, 2012  
Parashat Lech-Lecha  
Genesis 12:1 – 17:27  
Led by Neil Gozan

## NOVEMBER

November 3, 2012  
Parashat Vayera  
Genesis 18:1 – 22:24  
Led by Max Cooperstein

November 10, 2012  
Parashat Chayei Sara  
Genesis 23:1 – 25:18  
Led by Robert Brandford

November 17, 2012  
Parashat Toldot  
Genesis 25:19 – 28:9  
Led by Debra Sagan Massey

November 24, 2012  
Parashat Vayetzal  
Genesis 28:10 – 32:3  
Led by Laurie Juengert

## PHOTOGRAPHING BETH EL MEMBERS AND EVENTS

We are photographing the community life of our congregation over the coming year. New member Bill Zarchy is a professional photographer and cinematographer. He has shot Bono, Wynton Marsalis, Alanis Morissette, Elijah Wood, Sheryl Crow, Annie Leibovitz, Francis Ford Coppola, Smashmouth and Bare Naked Ladies. Now it's Beth El's turn to be the rock star! You may see him at programs and the photographs on our website, in *The Builder* and other publicity.

## DONATE TO BETH EL!

Please make checks payable to **Congregation Beth El** and mail to **1301 Oxford Street, Berkeley, CA 94709**

### CONGREGATION BETH EL Fund Contributions

This contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is  in Memory of\*  in Honor of\*

\* \_\_\_\_\_

Please credit the fund checked at the right:

Contribution \_\_\_\_\_

Acknowledge \_\_\_\_\_

From \_\_\_\_\_

To \_\_\_\_\_

Address 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Address 2 \_\_\_\_\_

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 recovery from an 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.**

- General Fund - Use Where Most Needed**
- Aaron Plishner Children's Library**
- Allan and Tybil Smith Kahn Memorial Fund**
- Arjmand Adult Education Fund**
- Blachman Emergency Fund**
- Building Fund**
- Camp Kee Tov Scholarship Fund**
- Chevra Kadisha Fund**
- David Cotton Memorial Swig Fund**
- Ellen Meyer Childcare Fund**
- Endowment Fund**
- Freed Flower Fund**
- Homeless Meal Program**
- Israel Scholarship Fund**
- Bar Lev Landscape Fund**
- Marian Magid Memorial Fund**
- Men's Club**
- Mitzvah Committee**
- Music Fund**
- Nursery School Fund**
- Oneg/Kiddush Fund**
- Prayerbook Fund**
- Rabbis Kahn's Discretionary Fund**
- Rabbi Emeritus Raj's Discretionary Fund**
- Rabbi Vida Library Fund**
- Social Action Fund**
- Youth and Family Education Fund**
- Youth Groups Fund**





## MIDRASHA ANNOUNCES NEW TEACHERS

by Diane Bernbaum

THIS TIME EVERY YEAR I THINK ABOUT THE AMAZING CLASSES our Midrasha teachers have created. It seems that every year our teachers get more and more innovative and always seem to anticipate our teens.

I am delighted with the quality and charisma of the new teachers who will be joining our staff. Rabbi Akiva Naiman is the director of NCSY, the Orthodox youth group. Chani Naiman is studying family therapy at California State University of the East Bay. Both Akiva and Chani grew up in Baltimore and made aliyah. Ya'ara Litwin is a sabra who has also worked as an art curator and museum educator. Danny Farkas has a degree from American Jewish University and has worked in many Jewish camps. Shlayma Shamberg has taught at Contra Costa Midrasha and is studying counseling psychology at California Institute of Integral Studies.

They will be joined by returning faculty Erica Crowell Altobelli, Erica Fink, David Henkin, Noemi Hollander, Rabbi Yoel Kahn, Sacha Kopin, Muni Schweig and Day Schildkret. In addition, we have a guest faculty member, Janice Sellers, a professional Jewish

genealogist, joining us for a semester thanks to the generosity of the office of Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson.

This is an incredibly exciting year for Midrasha. We are grateful to the Jewish Federation and the Center for Jewish Living and Learning for having provided retreats to the Midrasha community for 25 years. But the time has come to take on this responsibility for ourselves.

We are delighted to have hired as our very first Director of Experiential Education, Jenni Mangel. She started working on May 1 and hit the ground running. Jenni has the perfect background for the job with a Masters from Mills College in Educational Leadership and experience as camp head in the Habonim movement. She directed the Shofar Fellowship, providing professional development to teachers of teens and ran the Avodah program for teens at Jewish Vocational Service. She ran the Jewish service learning certificate program at San Francisco State University and was Hillel program director.

## CAMP KEE TOV ENDS A BUMPER SUMMER

What an amazing summer! We recently wrapped up Camp Kee Tov 2012 and it was another great two months filled with tons of *ruach*, amazing song sessions and a great sense of community!

We had a packed house this summer, with more than 440 campers in each of the two sessions coming from more than 650 Kee Tov families! We had our amazing staff—most of whom were Kee Tov campers in their day!—to bring camp to life. They helped turn red balls, pipe cleaners and construction paper into the magic of Kee Tov for 39 days starting in late June.

We culminated the summer with a wonderful Family Night Shabbat picnic which brought the entire Kee Tov community together one last time. We sang, we laughed, some cried...it was a fitting ending to a memorable summer!



## October 2012 / Tishrei - Cheshvan 5773

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 10:15 am Sukkot: Festival Morning Service & Lunch	<b>2</b> 6:00 pm B'nei Mitzvah Family Dinner in the Sukkah  7:30 pm Membership Committee Meeting	<b>3</b> 7:30 pm Midrasha Board Meeting in the Sukkah	<b>4</b> 6:00 pm YAFE Open House in the Sukkah  5:30 Editorial Advisory Board Meeting  6:00 pm Midrasha: Retreat Staff Planning Meeting  7:00 pm Israel Committee Meeting	<b>5</b> 5:00 pm BENS Shabbat in the Sukkah  5:30 pm Shabbat: Sangria in the Sukkah	<b>6</b> 8:30 am Early Morning Minyan in the Sukkah  9:15 am Torah Study  10:15 am Bar Mitzvah Daniel Kivel-Goldstein with Oneg in the Sukkah  5:30 pm Rabbis' Open Sukkah and Havdallah
<b>7</b> 10:00 am Roots & Branches Class	<b>8</b> OFFICE CLOSED FOR SHEMINI ATZERET  10:00 am Early Morning Minyan in the Sukkah  12:30 pm Informational Meeting: East Bay Community Trip to Israel  5:30 pm Simchat Torah  7:00 pm Yizkor Service	<b>9</b> 6:30 pm Pray-ers that Move Us Rehearsal  7:30 pm Executive Committee Meeting	<b>10</b> 4:30 pm Scribes of Beth El  7:00 pm Chorus Rehearsal  7:00 pm J Street presents Michael Cooper: Foxes in the Vineyard	<b>11</b> 12:00 pm Lunch & Learn: Arella Barlev  6:15 pm Youth Committee Meeting  7:30 pm Ritual Committee Meeting	<b>12</b> 6:15 pm Shabbat Evening Service	<b>13</b> 8:30 am Early Morning Minyan  9:15 am Torah Study  10:15 am Bar Mitzvah Zachary Loran  1:30 pm Etrog Schnapps Workshop
<b>14</b> 10:00 am Roots & Branches Class  1:00 pm Women of Beth El's Craft Workshop  7:00 pm Election Discussion with Prof. David Tabb  7:15 pm Kevah Mother's Group	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 7:00 pm Program Council	<b>17</b> 4:30 pm Scribes of Beth El  7:00 pm Chorus Rehearsal	<b>18</b> 6:15 pm Sababa Meeting  7:00 pm BENS Curriculum Night  7:30 pm People of the Book Poetry Reading: Dan Bellm & Chana Bloch	<b>19</b> 6:15 pm Yismechu: Shabbat Evening Chanting Service	<b>20</b> 8:30 am Early Morning Minyan  9:15 am Torah Study  10:15 am Bar Mitzvah Noah Gorovitz  1:30 pm Ruach Adventure in the Flood
<b>21</b> 10:00 am Roots & Branches Class  2:00 pm Homeless Meal's Medical Clinic  5:00 pm Homeless Meal	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 4:30 pm Scribes of Beth El  7:00 pm Chorus Rehearsal  B'nai Mitzvah Meeting  7:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting	<b>24</b> 4:30 pm Scribes of Beth El  7:00 pm Chorus Rehearsal  7:30 pm Beth El Elders Committee on Aging  7:30 pm Ritual Committee	<b>25</b> 6:00 pm Teen Band Rehearsal  7:00 pm BethElders	<b>26</b> 6:15 pm Shabbat Evening Service	<b>27</b> 8:30 am Early Morning Minyan  9:15 am Torah Study  10:15 am Bar Mitzvah Aaron Morrill
<b>28</b> 10:00 am Beth Elders: Speaker on "Aging in Place"	<b>29</b> 7:00 pm Chavurah: Families with Children with Special Needs	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 4:30 pm Scribes of Beth El  7:00 pm Chorus Rehearsal			

# November 2012 / Cheshvan - Kislev 5773

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> 7:30 pm Ritual Committee Meeting	<b>2</b> 6:15 pm Shabbat Evening Service	<b>3</b> 8:30 am Early Morning Minyan  9:15 am Torah Study  10:15 am Bar Mitzvah Jacob Sarasohn
<b>4</b> 10:00 am Roots & Branches Class  3:00 pm Women of Beth El Snacks Potluck	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 7:30 pm Membership Committee Meeting	<b>7</b> 4:30 pm Scribes of Beth El  7:00 pm Chorus Rehearsal	<b>8</b> 12:00 pm Lunch & Learn: Cathy Stevens  6:15 pm Women in Interfaith Relationships	<b>9</b> BENS Closed: Teacher In-Service  B'nei Mitzvah Retreat  8:00 pm Band Shabbat	<b>10</b> 8:30 am Early Morning Minyan  9:15 am Torah Study  NO CHUG MISHPACHA  10:15 am Shabbat Morning Service
<b>11</b> 7:15 pm Kevah Mother's Group	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> NO 7TH GRADE KADIMA  6:00 pm Madrichim Training  7:00 pm Program Council  7:30 pm Executive Committee	<b>14</b> 4:30 pm Scribes of Beth El  7:00 pm Chorus Rehearsal  7:00 pm Stigma, Families and Mental Illness with Prof. Stephen Hinshaw	<b>15</b> 6:15 pm Sababa Meeting  7:00 pm People of the Book	<b>16</b> 6:15 pm Yismechu: Shabbat Evening Chanting Service	<b>17</b> 8:30 am Early Morning Minyan  9:15 am Torah Study  10:15 am B'Nei Mitzva Isaac & Hannah Fendell-Hummel
<b>18</b> 10:00 am Roots & Branches Class  2:00 pm Homeless Meal's Medical Clinic  5:00 pm Homeless Meal	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> NO KADIMA  7:00 pm Multi-Faith Thanksgiving Celebration	<b>21</b> 11:30 am BENS Thanksgiving Potluck Lunch  4:30 pm Scribes of Beth El  7:30 pm Ma Tovv Campaign Steering Committee	<b>22</b> OFFICE CLOSED – HAPPY THANKSGIVING!	<b>23</b> OFFICE CLOSED – HAPPY THANKSGIVING!  6:15 pm Shabbat Evening Service	<b>24</b> 8:30 am Early Morning Minyan  9:15 am Torah Study  NO CHUG MISHPACHA  10:15 am Shabbat Morning Service
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting	<b>28</b> 4:30 pm Scribes of Beth El	<b>29</b> 6:00 pm Teen Band Rehearsal	<b>30</b> 6:15 pm Shabbat Evening Service	





## CONGREGATION BETH EL

1301 Oxford Street

Berkeley, CA 94709-1424

by Odette Blachman and Robinn Magid

## FROM THE GIFT SHOP

WE ARE PRESENTLY IN HIGH GEAR planning for the 52nd annual **Chanukah Bazaar** taking place at Beth El on **Sunday, December 2**. If you have never attended this event, be prepared to find everything you need for Chanukah: in addition to menorahs, candles, gelt and dreidels, we have assembled great games—some for tots, others for teens—plus brand-new family games from Melissa and Doug, Think Fun, Jewish Educational Toys, and others. Books, music, party supplies, tasteful Judaica and other gift items will be on display in the Social Hall.

Bring your family, friends and neighbors and enjoy shopping and schmoozing over the latke lunch and gourmet coffee bar. Festivities start at 11:00 am and end at 3:00 pm. In addition, Israeli movie goes on Saturday evening, **December 1**, are welcome to a preview and shopping during the movie intermission.

In order to make room for our new purchases, we now have a large collection of **beautiful jewelry on sale at 50% off!** This is a great opportunity to treat yourself or to buy an elegant gift for a special someone. Pieces in current styles are crafted by some of the best-known Israeli designers.

All proceeds benefit Beth El. So mark your calendar, and let's make this year's Chanukah bazaar a terrific success!

Odette and Robinn  
oblachman@sbcglobal.net

Gift shop hours correspond with Beth El's office hours. When no volunteer is available, our office staff graciously fills in. For additional information or to make an appointment at a special time, please call Odette at 510-526-4917.