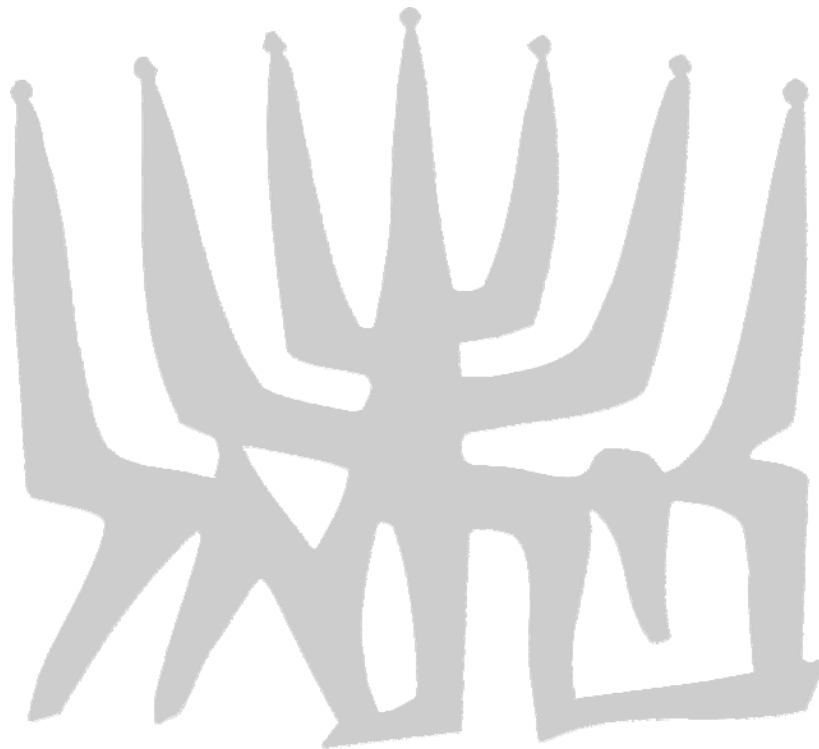


5770/February 2010

Beth El Bulletin



M i c h a e l W o l f b e r g ,
P r e s i d e n t

N i n a M a n d e l ,
R a b b i

<http://www.beth-el-sunbury.org>

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president@beth-el-sunbury.org

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570-286-8389

Rabbi Emeritus

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561-498-3546

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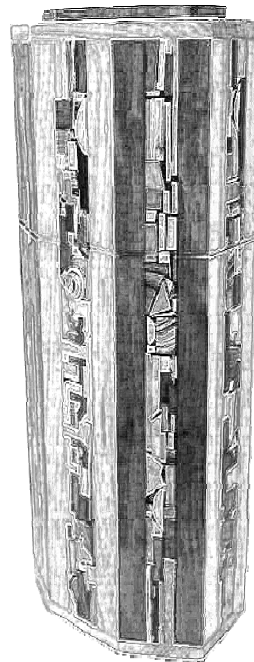
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R e f l e c t i o n s f r o m t h e R a b b i

I think by now everyone knows that my favorite holiday (Jewish or otherwise) is Purim. It earns that high honor for being a celebration of transgression—people get to do things they normally wouldn't do (like scream and yell in the synagogue) while celebrating people who were able to become heroes by doing things they weren't expected to do. Not only do we have Esther who hides her Jewish identity so she can get into the palace and then has the chutzpah to approach the king without being summoned, there is Mordechai who refuses to bow down to Haman, the Jews who are allowed to fight back in the end, and Vashti who refuses to dance for her husband the king and his drunk friends.

There's another unsung hero in the story: Hegai, the eunuch in charge of King Ahasuerus's harem. It is Hegai who takes Esther under his wing and ensures that she becomes the one the king chooses for a wife. He counsels her on appropriate behavior, picks out her wardrobe, and does her make-up, making her the perfect candidate to replace Queen Vashti.

Local performance artist Peterson Toscano in his show *Transfigurations*, features the character of Hegai telling the story of Esther from his point of view. Please watch your calendar and e-mails—I'm working on getting Mr. Toscano to perform his live contemporary midrash in our community soon. In the meantime, I hope to see many of you at the Megillah reading and ALL of you in costume!

Rabbi Nina Mandel

Bar Mitzvah News

An invitation

On Saturday February 27, one of our newer members, Joel Poritsky, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah. Please join Joel's parents – Debra Morris and John Poritsky— and his brother Robbie, in honoring him at the service, beginning at 9:30am, and a celebratory Kiddush luncheon following. RSVP to Debra or John at 570-321-9747.

Mitzvah Project

Randy Marks, son of Becky and Steve Marks, is preparing for his upcoming bar mitzvah celebration by organizing a mitzvah project and he would like to invite you all to support him. He writes: "My dad and I plan to go to Nepal in April. We will be doing a hike in a region called Pokhara. The reason for our hike is to raise money for people in Haiti who have been devastated and/or have family members that have been killed by the earthquake and aftershocks. My goal is to climb 16,000 feet. My dad thinks we should only go to 12,000 feet but I think we can do better than that.

We are asking you to sponsor us for every 1000 feet that we climb. The money will be donated to two organizations that have low expenses, where over 90% of the funds will go directly to people in need: American Friends Service Committee and Stand with Haiti.

If you would like to sponsor Randy for every 1000 feet climbed, or a set amount, please contact him at: (570) 356-2268.

It's Purim Time Again!

As always, we will celebrate Purim with a Megillah reading and our annual Purim Carnival. The Megillah reading will be on **Saturday, February 27, beginning at 7pm.**

Bring your favorite hamentaschen!

The Purim Carnival begins with a children's service at **9:30 am on Sunday February 28.**

Costumes are mandatory for both events—especially if you're hoping to win a prize!!

Contact information for Rabbi Nina

Office phone: 570-286-1490. if I am not in, please leave a message. I will check the voicemail daily and return your call.

Office e-mail: rabbinhm@ptd.net

I check e-mail at all hours of the night and day and this is often the fastest way to get the answer to a question or set up an appointment.

In-office hours:

Sunday: 9-1:30 (during Hebrew School)

Monday: Rabbi's Day Off

Tuesday: 9-12

Wednesday: 3pm-8:30pm (Talmud Torah from 7-8:30)

Thursday: 9-12

Friday: 9-1; 7-10 pm (depending on service schedule)

Saturday: depending on service and program schedule

Please note:

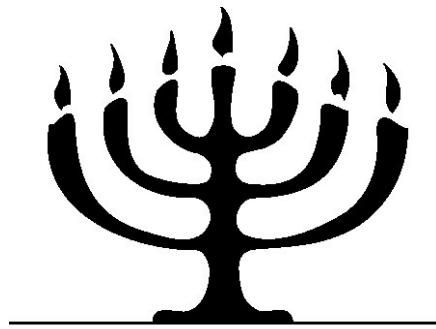
If you have an immediate emergency (crisis, death or illness,) please call Mike Wolfberg (374-5929) or any member of the executive committee (Roger Hoffman, Matt Hoffman) all of whom will be able to contact me quickly, even if I'm out of town.

- If you need me to respond as soon as possible, please indicate that in your message and/or e-mail.
- I am always able to schedule an appointment, even outside of the in-office hours
- I will not pick up messages or return calls on Mondays or on Shabbat

Beth El Gift Shop

Shabbat & Holiday Candles, Mezuzot,
Greeting Cards & Gifts

All Kinds of Special Order Judaica



Just Give Us A Call And Let Us Know
What You Need And How We Can Help!

See the new display at the Synagogue
or call anytime.



Talmud Torah Returns!

The adult education Talmud Torah series is getting a late start this year, but hopefully many of you will be able to join us on Wednesday evenings at 7p. As in years past we will be studying various topics of interest to Jewish life in consecutive 3 and 4 week sessions. Our first topic of study is Jewish Identity. We will be exploring ancient and contemporary texts to understand how the question of “who and what is a Jew?” has been answered throughout history, and how both the question and answer has changed over time.

For more information, contact Rabbi Nina directly.

Jan

20 Jewish Identity
27 Jewish Identity

Feb

3 Jewish Identity
10 Jewish Identity
17 Jewish cuisine
24 Jewish cuisine

Mar

3 Jewish cuisine
10 Jewish Cuisine
24 Passover intensive

Apr

7 tbd
14 tbd
21 tbd
28 tbd

May

5 tbd
12 tbd

Sisterhood

Regardless of what Puxatawny Phil says, we're "springing" ahead. Please reserve the date of **Sunday, February 21** at 11:00am for Sisterhood. A "**Hats Off To Us Women**" brunch will anchor our meeting. All dishes (us women): find a suitably festive chapeau (hat) and wear it! Bring a dish to our dairy or parve potluck meal. There will be a CONTEST for the following: biggest, most creative, best coordinating with outfit, oldest, most 'Jewish' (have fun with that one all you creative minds out there!) and of course, "Best In Show" for the one that knocks all our sox off! All participants will get to cast their votes. Dunce caps can be provided for anyone not bringing *some* sort of hat so yes, everyone gets to vote.

Along with all the frivolity, we will have a brief business meeting to plan the next 6 months of our organization's activities and expenditures.

'Sista'-hood. Be a part of it!!!

ONEG

Thank you to recent hosts of Congregation Beth El Onegs
the Brabander, Charles, and Solomon families!

Of special note is teen group member, **Josh Winett**, who hosted an Oneg *and* baked homemade Challah for the night. Looks like the challenge has been issued. Thank you to all these people for making Shabbat just that much brighter.

Your congregation is looking for hosts for March dates

Please contact Diana to sign up for a March 2010 Shabbat to provide the oneg. (diana@winetts.com). Bring treats and/or snacks of *your choice!* Synagogue provides the Kedem & Challah (unless you specify otherwise).

Thoughts of Strength

Our voices and minds are joined as a community to ask for the strength to see our friends and family through times of sickness and strife. May our thoughts help bring healing to those in need:

Nettie Amdurer
David Bernstein
Shelly Bernstein
Anita Buckler
Claire Goodman
Shari Gutfinger
Dean Klick
Karen Kutno
Lisa Chaskin Perlmutter
Ron Shane
Norma Yohai

M i S h e b e r a k h :

The traditional Jewish prayer for the sick

May the One who blessed our ancestors — Patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Matriarchs Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah — bless and heal those who are ill.

May the Holy Blessed One overflow with compassion upon them, to restore them, to heal them, to strengthen them, to enliven them.

The One will send them, speedily, a complete healing — healing of the soul and healing of the body — along with all the ill, among the people of Israel and all humankind, soon, speedily, without delay, and let us all say: Amen!

Yahrzeit

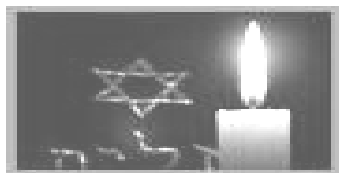
Feb/Sh'vat

Feb/Adar

| | | | |
|-------|---|-------|--|
| 1/17 | Celia Apfelbaum | 18/4 | Naomi Buckler Dan Silverman |
| 2/18 | Lillian Buntman | 20/6 | Annie Chanah Silverman Dr. Daniel Solomon |
| 3/19 | William Fehr Morris Gubin Ida Weinberg | 21/7 | Philip Newman Maxwell William Shane |
| 4/20 | Selma Hartman Milton Zabitz | 22/8 | Kathryne Friedman Rebecca Silverberg |
| 5/21 | Lillian Shane | 22/9 | William M. Friedman |
| 8/24 | Diane Buckler Morris Rosenblatt | 23/10 | Leonard Apfelbaum Helen Liachowitz |
| 10/26 | Lily Cohen Abraham Lipkin Jacquie Stiefel | 24/11 | Stacey Brager |
| | | 25/12 | Frances Frazier Sarah Sperber |
| 12/28 | Rose Lev Hedy Rich | 26/13 | Julius Schwartz |
| 14/30 | Joseph Daniels | | |

Feb/Adar

| | | | |
|------|---|---|--|
| 15/1 | Esther Markley | <i>Those in the first year of passing</i> | |
| 16/2 | Kenneth R. Buckler Leo Friedman Paul Levitan Kenneth Nadel | Irene Barreto Sarah Klapper Pearl Baum Golden Mildred Daniels Edith Gardner | Harriet Schwartz Myron Mandel Muriel Hess Mort Goldman Mel Cohen |



B e t h E I B u l l e t i n S p o n s o r s

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Stanley & Ellen Adler
Esther Berger
David & Susan Bernstein
Sheldon & Frances Bernstein
Gary & Maxine Bloom
Nicholas & Joan Brabander
David & Eileen Buckwalter
Rich & Ilene Daniels
Arna Mae Dershem
Michael & Shayna Green
Lawrence & Renate Greenfield
Edward & Myra Hamilton
Morty and Evelyn Hershman
Connie Heyman
Stephen & Paula Irwin
Naomi Jacobson
Irvin & Lillian Liachowitz
Robert & Joanne Lyons
Norma Mandel
Betsy & David Marateck
Sanford & Mildred Marateck
Steve & Becky Marks
Henry & Nicki Markley
Myron & Joan Moskowitz
Beverly Newman
Saul & Florence Putterman
Norm & Phyllis Rich

Barbara & Loren Rosenbach
Donna & Richard Rosenberg
Edward Rosenblum
David Silverman
Philip & Renee Sosland
Tom Solomon &
Benita Kolmen-Solomon
Ian & Vickie Speck
Elizabeth Stoler
Ilse & Fred Voss
Norma Yohai &
Thomas Komar



Please send bulletin donations directly to Matt Hoffman

Support

Congregation Beth El appreciates your generous support. We look forward to your continued involvement and interest in our community. Any and all donations are tax deductible, a receipt will be furnished for your records.

Should you feel the desire to contribute, please fill out the form below and mail it to:

Congregation Beth El
P.O. Box 506
Sunbury, PA 17801

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Donation in honor/memory of

I would like my contribution to go to the following account:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Operating Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Endowment Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Visiting Scholars |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrew School | <input type="checkbox"/> Bulletin/Printing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Torah Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Teen Group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> The Library |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Rabbi's Discretionary Fund | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Ryan Daniels Memorial Fund | |

There are several ways you can donate:

- Send a check or money order.
- Donate online using a credit card by going to: <http://www.beth-el-sunbury.org>, and clicking on the "Donate Here" link on the left hand side.
- Donate Securities such as stocks or mutual funds
- Transfer funds directly from your IRA (There may be tax advantages for this, check with a financial advisor).

February 2010/5770

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-------------|-------------|---|--------------|--|---|
| | 1/17 Sh'vat | 2/18 Sh'vat | 3/19 Sh'vat Talmud Torah 7:30p Jewish Identity | 4/20 Sh'vat | 5/21 Sh'vat Candle lighting 5:11p Shabbat Service 6:30p | 6/22 Sh'vat Shabbat Service 10p |
| 7/23 Sh'vat Hebrew School 930a | 8/24 Sh'vat | 9/25 Sh'vat | 10/26 Sh'vat Talmud Torah 7:30p Jewish Identity | 11/27 Sh'vat | 12/28 Sh'vat Candle lighting 5:20p Shabbat Service 8p | 13/29 Sh'vat |
| 14/30 Sh'vat Hebrew School 930a | 15/1 Adar | 16/2 Adar | 17/3 Adar Talmud Torah 7:30p Jewish Cuisine | 18/4 Adar | 19/5 Adar Candle lighting 5:28p Shabbat Service 6:30p Followed by Potluck | 20/6 Adar |
| 21/7 Adar Hebrew School 930a Sisterhood Brunch 11a | 22/8 Adar | 23/9 Adar | 24/10 Adar Talmud Torah 7:30p Jewish Cuisine | 25/11 Adar | 26/12 Adar Candle lighting 5:37p Shabbat Service 8p | 27/13 Adar Joel Poritsky Bar Mitzvah Shabbat Service 9:30 a Purim Megillah Reading 7p |
| 28/14 Adar Hebrew School and Purim Carnival 930a | | | | | | |