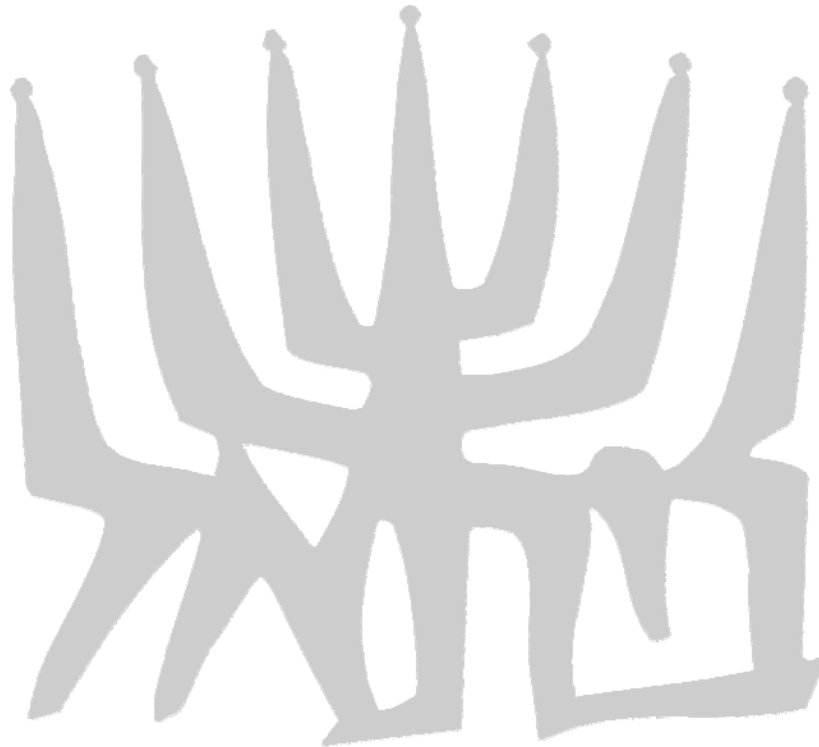


5769/June-July 2009

Beth El Bulletin



Rich Daniels,
President

Nina Mandel,
Rabbi

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

Beth El Leadership

Executive Committee

President

Rich Daniels
president@beth-el-sunbury.org
570 568-2096

Vice-President

Jan Byron
pewternut9@aol.com
570 275-7612

Treasurer

Dave Jacobson
treasurer@beth-el-sunbury.org
PO Box 506
Sunbury, PA 17801
570 524-0685

Secretary

Roger Hoffman
Roger@FoodSwing.com

Board Members

Joan Brabander	Michael Drexler
Randy Grindlinger	Debra Kaunitz
Betsy Marateck	Becky Marks
Anna Beth Payne	Phyllis Rich
Laurence Roth	Tom Solomon
Patricia Weis	Mike Wolfberg
Karen Teichman	Fred Teichman

Past Presidents

Benita Kolmen-Solomon
Norman Rich
David Marateck
Morton Hershman
Lawrence Greenfield

Rabbi

Nina H. Mandel
rabbi@beth-el-sunbury.org
570-286-8389

Rabbi Emeritus

David L. Silverman
fandsilverman@msn.com
561-498-3546

Standing Committees

Membership

Ilene Daniels, Chair
Vickie Speck Shari Jacobson
Phyllis Rich Benita Solomon
Evelyn Hershman Debra Kaunitz

Fundraising

Chair Open
Randy Grindlinger Renee Sosland

Adult Education

Anna Beth Payne, Chair
Betsy Marateck Howard Schwartz
Tom Solomon Patricia Weis

Children's Education

Debra Kaunitz, Chair
Stephen Marks Donna Rosenberg

Ritual

Tom Solomon, Chair
Fred Teichman, MD Joan Brabander
Certified Mohel David Marateck
Anna Beth Payne Patsy Weis

Bulletin and Public Relations

Michael Drexler
Bulletin Editor
Ian Speck Michael Wolfberg

Building & House

Michael Wolfberg, Chair
Justin Charles Randy Grindlinger
Morty Hershman Bob Schaffer-Neitz

Social & Entertainment

Randy Grindlinger Renee Sosland

Cemetery & Memorial

David Marateck, Chair

Sisterhood

Karen Teichman, 523-7801

Men's Club

Fred Teichman, 523-7801

T z e d a k a h

Thank you for your donations to Congregation Beth El

Dinner/Dance

*Loretta Caltrane
Mike & Cara Glazer
William & Jean Kear
Andrew & Ann Portocarrero
Debra Ann Poskanzer
Ronald & Harriet Shane
Rob & Diana Winett*

In Honor of the Birth of Caleb Joshua Truth Drexler

Richard & Ilene Daniels

General Donations

*Michael & Kimberley Drexler
Fred & Karen Teichman*

In Honor of Hannah Hoffman's Graduation

Rich & Ilene Daniels

In Honor of the birth of

*Dayssi Weis
Rich & Ilene Daniels
Morton & Evelyn Hershman*

In Honor of Jana Stein's 50th Birthday

Rich & Ilene Daniels

Bulletin Fund

Ian & Vickie Speck

In Honor of Ian & Vickie Speck Silberstein Associates

In Memory of Richard Spielman Norman & Phyllis Rich

In Memory of Bea Spielman's Son Connie Heyman

In Honor of Jonathan and Analisa's baby Connie Heyman

In Honor of Mildred Daniels' Birthday Norman & Phyllis Rich

In Honor of Rabbi David Silverman Norman & Phyllis Rich

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

If you are like me, when summertime gets close, you start eyeing that pile of books you have been meaning to read all year and start thinking “this is the summer I’m going to get through them all!” And if you are like me, you are lucky if one gets read in full! Well, this year I am upping the ante for myself by announcing a “Rabbi’s Summer Reading Challenge.” I will not only share my summer reading list, but will also update you all on how I am doing. In return, you can join me by sharing your list (via e-mail, Facebook, or an old-fashioned phone call) and we can work through our lists together. If you choose something from my list, no doubt you will hear more about it during the High Holy Days this year, and in the fall we will schedule a discussion group. The following is my list. I am sure that any of our fine local bookstores will be able to order them for you if they aren’t in stock.

Once Upon a Country: A Palestinian Life, by Sari Nusseibeh. (2007). Nusseibeh is a renowned scholar and philosopher whose family roots in Jerusalem date back to the 7th-century. He was inspired to write his memoir after reading Amos Oz’s (see below) when he realized how very different their experiences were, even though they both grew up in the same city at the same time. This powerful book, which I’ve already started, challenges the notion that there has not been a history of Palestinian identity in Israel.

A Tale of Love and Darkness, by Amos Oz (2005). The noted Israeli journalist and novelist writes this memoir about growing up in Jerusalem and Israel at large, and how this shaped his politics and social consciousness.

The Rabbi’s Wife Plays at Murder, by Naomi Graetz (2004). Graetz is one of the pioneers of feminist Biblical and Midrashic analysis. In this book she tries her hand at fiction. I knew Dr. Graetz when I lived in Israel and ran into her at a conference several years ago. At the time she gave me a copy of her book and it has sat on my “to read” pile since then!

Whose Torah? A Concise Guide to Progressive Judaism, by Rebecca Alpert (2008). Alpert is one of my favorite professors from rabbinical school. Her cutting edge research has spanned everything from feminism to baseball in Judaism. She is now the chair of the religion department at Temple University. I have not started this one yet, but my experience is that anything she writes is worth reading.

*Summer Program at the Spiritual Care House
Geisinger Medical Center*

For three Tuesday evenings, July 21, 28, and August 4, at 7 pm, Rabbi Nina will be co-facilitating a workshop series on the boundaries of forgiveness with Chaplain Karl Polm-Faudre. Using Simon Weisenthal's The Sunflower as a text, we will be exploring different spiritual responses to victimhood and forgiveness. For more information call the Spiritual Care House at 570-271-3700.

Achievement of Note

Mollie Schwartz, granddaughter of Howard and Harriet Schwartz, was graduated this year's salutatorian by Columbia College. After she graduates in May, Schwartz will move to Washington, D.C. to work at the Science and Technology Policy Institute, a non-partisan, scientific consulting firm that works for the Executive Branch to inform policy makers on the science behind their decisions. The institute also does research and data analysis with the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.

Weis Cards for Beth El

Please purchase Weis cards from Congregation Beth El. The congregation profits 10% from all purchases. To date, we have sold over \$100,000 in cards. That means we have profited around \$10,000. This has had a huge impact on our budget. Buy cards for yourself and buy cards to sell to your friends!

	Qty		Price		Total
\$100 cards		x	\$100	=	
\$50 cards		x	\$50	=	
\$25 cards		x	\$25	=	
\$10 cards		x	\$10	=	
Total:					

Send this form and your check to:

Dave Jacobson
PO Box 506
Sunbury, PA 17801

The Weis cards will be mailed to you. Alternatively, Connie Heyman & Evelyn Hershman are selling Weis Bucks again, too.

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.

Betsy
(570) 286-2775

This is a reminder in advance regarding the very important upcoming Beth El Congregational Meeting which is scheduled for:

SUNDAY, JUNE 28TH, 2009 at 7PM

Below, please find two important documents. First is the slate of candidates nominated to serve as officers and board members. Second, is a record of discussion concerning the rabbinate on Race Street. Following considerable deliberations over the past 5 months, the House Committee and the Board have recommended placing the Congregation-owned residence on Race Street on the market for sale. Please review the accompanying information summarizing the issues involved prior to the upcoming Congregational Meeting on June 28th. Per Beth El by-laws, open discussion and a vote by the membership will occur at that meeting to determine whether we will proceed with a sale of the house. Please plan to attend this important meeting!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS

PRERSIDENT: Michael Wolfberg

VICE PRESIDENT: Dave Jacobson

TREASURER: Matt Hoffman

SECRETARY: Roger Hoffman

BOARD MEMBERS: Tom Solomon
AnnaBeth Payne
Jan Byron
Ilene Daniels

HOUSE: PROS AND CONS OF CONTINUED OWNERSHIP

Continued Ownership

1. Ritual: allows traditionally observant Rabbi to walk
2. Large house; can accommodate Rabbi with large family and accommodate out of town visitors
3. Real asset with monetary ownership value for the congregation
4. Per Home Inspection (2/09) basic integrity of structure is good; but older home will always have uncertainty of future (non maintenance) costs over time
5. Lower current Real Estate market/not a great time to sell
6. Attractive to future Rabbi (less worries/responsibilities)
7. Provides a backup base of operation in emergency
8. Could provide residence if we ever need to engage a Student Rabbi
9. Older Rabbi or disability; accessibility poor
10. Neighborhood in transition; future deterioration possible
11. Provided housing could be asset in attracting future Rabbi
12. Current trends away from offering Housing; could be a negative in attracting a future Rabbi
13. Little tax benefit to Rabbi; could be a negative attracting a future Rabbi
14. Future Rabbi with young children; neighborhood and school system might not be attractive
15. Congregation continues in role of landlord with all associated time-consuming duties and responsibilities

Selling House

1. May vary depending where future Rabbi locates residence; few close residences available
2. Large size for one individual/small family uses resources inefficiently/larger carbon footprint (ethical issues/wasteful)
3. Proceeds of sale could generate income long term if deposited in Beth El Endowment
4. Older home will have upkeep issues beyond basic maintenance costs over time; Stipend would replace uncertainty with predictable costs from year to year; easier budgeting
5. Local market less volatile, market beginning to improve, Spring/Summer generally best time to put on market
6. Get congregation out of Landlord duties (less worries/responsibility)
7. No congregation owned backup base of operation (alternative like during construction needed)
8. Would have to provide rental or stipend for Student Rabbi
9. Rabbi could identify appropriate structure for this type of need
10. Rabbi could identify suitable neighborhood; current concerns about personal safety issues exist in current location
11. Stipend could be asset in attracting future Rabbi
12. Current trends moving toward housing stipend; could be a positive in attracting a future Rabbi
13. Tax benefits of home ownership; could be a positive in attracting a future Rabbi
14. Future Rabbi with young children; could have options in choosing a neighborhood and school system to raise and educate kids
15. Detaches congregation from landlord role; frees up substantial volunteer time which can be devoted to other efforts

Additionally, our current Rabbi has informed us that she is comfortable with the concept of a housing stipend, if that is the decision that the Congregation makes. Additionally, she has expressed a willingness to purchase a home locally, thus “putting down roots” in the area. Although no Rabbi will serve any congregation indefinitely, this does appear to provide Congregation Beth El with stability into the near future.

JUNE 2009 / 5769

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1/9 Sivan	2/10 Sivan	3/11 Sivan	4/12 Sivan	5/13 Sivan Candles 8:18pm	6/14 Sivan
7/15 Sivan	8/16 Sivan	9/17 Sivan	10/18 Sivan	11/19 Sivan	8pm Shabbat Service 10am Shabbat Service	13/21 Sivan
14/22 Sivan	15/23 Sivan	16/24 Sivan	17/25 Sivan	18/26 Sivan	8pm Shabbat Service 19/27 Sivan Candles 8:24pm 6:30pm Shabbat Service with Potluck	20/28 Sivan
21/29 Sivan	22/30 Sivan	23/1 Tammuz	24/2 Tammuz	25/3 Tammuz	26/4 Tammuz Candles 8:26pm	27/5 Tammuz
28/6 Tammuz 7pm Congregation Meeting	29/7 Tammuz	30/8 Tammuz			8pm Shabbat Service	

JULY 2009 / 5769

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1/9 Tammuz	2/10 Tammuz	3/11 Tammuz Candles 8:25pm 8pm Shabbat Service	4/12 Tammuz
5/13 Tammuz	6/14 Tammuz	7/15 Tammuz	8/16 Tammuz	9/17 Tammuz	10/18 Tammuz Candles 8:23pm 8pm Shabbat Service	11/19 Tammuz
12/20 Tammuz	13/21 Tammuz	14/22 Tammuz	15/23 Tammuz	16/24 Tammuz	17/25 Tammuz Candles 8:20pm 6:30pm Shabbat Service	18/26 Tammuz
19/27 Tammuz	20/28 Tammuz	21/29 Tammuz 7pm Sunflower Program@Geisinger	22/1 Av	23/2 Av	24/3 Av Candles 8:14pm 8pm Shabbat Service	25/4 Av
26/5 Av	27/6 Av	28/7 Av 7pm Sunflower Program@Geisinger	29/8 Av	30/9 Av Tish'a B'Av	31/10 Av Candles 8:08pm 8pm Shabbat Service	

P r e s i d e n t i a l A d d r e s s

As the term of the current officers nears completion, I would like to take the opportunity to “take stock” of the last eighteen months. First and foremost, while I point out herein areas of progress and achievements that have occurred over that span, please be completely aware that accomplishments have been the result of group efforts involving the Executive Board Officers, Board Members, past Presidents, as well as the members of Congregation Beth El.

I believe that as a congregation we are privileged to have a rabbinic leader who is dedicated to our membership, who is inclusive to all within our diverse community, and who engages our next generation of young Jewish citizens in such a positive and effective way. Last year, Rabbi Nina recommitted contractually to our congregation, providing us with stability into the next few years. Although no Rabbi will serve a congregation indefinitely, the solid equilibrium that Rabbi Nina brings to our congregation is a great asset to us all.

During the past eighteen months, we successfully rejoiced at the official Dedication of our new Building. In that time, we also observed the entirety of the High Holidays in the new Synagogue for the first time, and more recently, we celebrated our milestone 100th Spring Dance this May.

Educational opportunities at Beth El flourish. Our Hebrew School is well attended and in capable hands. Anyone who sits in on Sunday mornings cannot help but be impressed when observing our youngest members’ experiences. With the upgrading of curricula that is currently ongoing, our children are receiving a first rate Jewish education. We have also seen the Young Adults group flourish in the past year and a half, with programs, fund raisers, and educational trips. Adult Education has expanded with Rabbi Nina’s Wednesday lecture series as well as a number of diverse lecture opportunities of interest to members from traditional and non traditional backgrounds.

During the past eighteen months, the means by which your Officers and Board attend to the nuts and bolts business of the Congregation has been modernized, streamlined, and safeguarded in many ways. Special thanks go out to the Congregation’s Secretary, Roger Hoffman, and to Treasurer Dave Jacobson for their tireless work and expertise in bringing these changes to fruition. Their efforts have put into place a system of checks and balances that serve to make the assets of Congregation Beth El safer and more transparent than ever before. Additionally, this system will insure an easier transition to succeeding Officers and Boards in years to come. Not surprisingly, I believe that the nomination process for the next slate of Executive Board Officers has been made exceptionally smoother due in large part to these changes. Additionally, for the first time in quite a while, the slate of officers that will be presented at the June Congregational Meeting will also provide a chain of succession that will yield stability in the leadership of our Temple Board well into the future.

Finally, a paradigm shift occurred last year in the way we might choose to fund our operations in the future. Our Congregation initiated an Endowment

for the first time in our history. Although this Endowment Fund is at present only in its infancy, it has already begun to provide income for our Temple, and this despite a bad economy. I believe that the Endowment represents a natural extension of the La Dor Va Dor Campaign. There will be more to come on that next month.

On balance, the past eighteen months have been very busy and productive. Certainly, there have been many challenges along the way, but as the term of your current Officers nears its completion, I am confident that our Congregational future is bright and is headed in a healthy direction.

In closing, I would like to emphasize how important it will be for all members to attend the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting scheduled at the Synagogue on Sunday evening, June 28th at 7 PM. At this very important meeting, you will be asked to review and vote on the slate of Officers and Board Members presented by the Nominating Committee. Additionally, there will be an important report to the membership from the House Committee regarding the Rabbi's house. Please plan to attend!

Rich Daniels, President

SPRING DANCE SUCCESS

The final figure is in! This year's 100th annual Spring Dance made a whopping \$36,532.27 thanks to the wonderful work by many people. A big thank you to the Teichman's who brought in the band AFTER HOURS and to Karen who helped with every facet of the dance. Evelyn Hershman and Donna Rosenberg also served on the dance committee. Vickie Speck printed our beautiful invitations. Debra Kaunitz and Shari Jacobson created and displayed a very tempting silent auction. Jonathan and Randy Grindlinger once again produced a lovely ad journal. Weis Markets provided the two beautifully decorated and very tasty cakes that we enjoyed for dessert. It was a real team effort, and to one and all I say thank you.

There are remaining ad journals which will be at the Temple. Please take one and patronize the businesses that advertised with us and tell them that you saw their ad in our journal. My thanks also to our members and friends who put in personal ads.

Finally on a special note, I would like to recommend one business in particular--**Catherman's Home Made Candy of Lewisburg**. I approached a couple of candy makers about having Jewish Star lollipops made and only the folks at Catherman's responded that they would like to help but did not have the molds. I bought the molds, along with small Jewish star molds and small Chai molds, all of which Catherman's bought from me because they would like to have them on hand in case we or anyone would like to have them made up. So please remember them for your special occasion.

Again, my thanks to everyone who made this year's dance such a huge success.

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:

Deborah Abowitz
Nettie Amdurer
Shelly Bernstein
Anita Buckler
Mildred Daniels
Claire Goodman
Shari Gutfiner
Dean Klick
Lisa Chaskin Perlmutter
Harriet Schwartz
Ron Shane
Norma Yohai

Yahrzeit

June/Sivan

1/9 Dr. Hyman I. Henry
3/11 Calvin J. Wolfberg
4/12 Jack Belgard
Charles Gardner
Harold Steifel
5/13 Lillian Fremont
Samuel Kahn
Sigfried Weis
6/14 Rebecca Berman
7/15 Albert Teichman
9/17 Louis Cohen
11/19 Dr. Harold Arnow
13/21 Jean Pearl Hirsch
Minnette Katz
14/22 Jean Shumka
15/23 Josephine Hutterer
Abe Lyons
17/25 Hyman Lev
Molly Steifel
18/26 Yetta Putterman
22/30 Morris Katuna
Silas Kaufman

June/Tammuz

23/1 Katie Rauch
24/2 Victor Gubin
25/3 Bernice Gubin
26/4 Jean Banks
28/6 Hilda Karniol
29/7 Nathan Banks
Max Michelson
30/8 Sue Cohen

July/Tammuz

6/14 Hyman Rosenblum
8/16 Sigmund Boraks
Jeffrey Levitan
Julius Levitan
Martin Rubenstein
9/17 Dr. Nathan Hirsch
Joseph Salesky
10/18 Dr. Lou H. Jacobson
12/20 Simon Wolitzky
13/21 Irving Wolitzky
15/23 Benjamin Banks
Michael Miller
18/26 Louis Lipman
19/27 Jeanette Cherry
Helen Hyman
20/28 Charles Goodman

July/Av

21/1 Moritz Jacobson
Lester H. Solomon
Dr. Juel Lewis Solomon
26/5 Samuel Berman
27/6 Sarah Gubin
Hyman J. Ross
29/8 Edith Belgard
30/9 Rose Frank
31/10 Abraham Feldman
Louis Jacobson
Those in the first year of passing
Sarah Klapper
Pearl Baum Golden

Beth El Bulletin Sponsors

Deborah Abowitz	Barbara & Loren Rosenbach
Stanley & Ellen Adler	Donna & Richard Rosenberg
Esther Berger	Edward Rosenblum
David & Susan Bernstein	David Silverman
Sheldon & Frances Bernstein	Philip & Renee Sosland
Gary & Maxine Bloom	Tom Solomon &
Nicholas & Joan Brabander	Benita Kolmen-Solomon
David & Eileen Buckwalter	Ian & Vickie Speck
Rich & Ilene Daniels	Elizabeth Stoler
Arna Mae Dershem	Ilse & Fred Voss
Michael & Shayna Green	Norma Yohai &
Lawrence & Renate Greenfield	Thomas Komar
Edward & Myra Hamilton	
Morty and Evelyn Hershman	
Connie Heyman	
Stephen & Paula Irwin	
Naomi Jacobson	
Irvin & Lillian Liachowitz	
Robert & Joanne Lyons	
Norma & Myron Mandel	
Betsy & David Marateck	
Sanford & Mildred Marateck	
Steve & Becky Marks	
Henry & Nicki Markley	
Myron & Joan Moskowitz	
Beverly Newman	
Saul & Florence Putterman	
Norm & Phyllis Rich	



Please send bulletin donations directly to Dave Jacobson.

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).