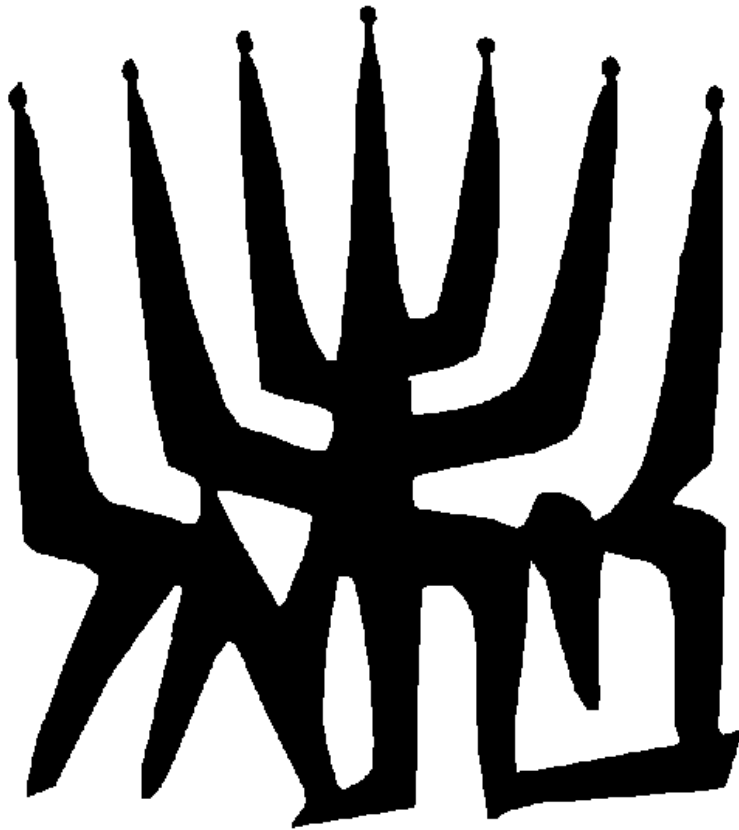


BETH EL BULLETIN



BENITA KOLMEN-SOLOMON, PRESIDENT
NINA MANDEL, RABBI

May 2006
5766

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From the Desk of Rabbi Mandel

Roni v'simkhi bat Tzion!
Rejoice and be glad, daughters of Zion!

On May 12th, we will have the special treat of a revival of a past tradition: Sisterhood Shabbat. That Friday evening, services will be led by members of the Beth El Sisterhood who will also host the Oneg afterwards. I hope many of you will be able to join me and these talented women that evening.

Sisterhood has a long history in American Jewish life and in Congregation Beth El. It has traditionally been a way for women to be involved in synagogue life, children's education, fundraising, and social activities. As I look back over the minutes of our own Sisterhood (dating back to the early 1940's) I can almost see the women organizing dances and dinners, kitchen renovations, rummage sales, and occasionally a shiva minyan. But Sisterhood back then was also, for many of these women, the center of their social life. It was not unusual for them to throw an engagement or anniversary party for a member of the congregation, organize ordering groceries for Passover, or getting together a lively game of mah jongg.

Just as the role of women in American society, and in liberal Jewish communities, has changed, the role of Sisterhood has also changed. The official name for the Reform movement Sisterhood has been changed to Women of Reform Judaism. Jewish Women International, which comes from B'nai Brith, has focused its mission on issues of domestic violence. Here at Congregation Beth El, Sisterhood seems to also be carving out a new identity and purpose. Many of you have enjoyed the ongoing book group, and many have expressed the need for Sisterhood to engage in more fundraising activities. There is room for all of this in Sisterhood – the real challenge is time.

We all have multiple groups and responsibilities vying for our attention: children, work, grandchildren, travel, hobbies, volunteer commitment, family commitments... I'm glad that Congregation Beth El and Sisterhood have a role in your life, and I applaud all the women of Sisterhood for making time not just for the upcoming service, but for building a strong Jewish community.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope that everyone had a good Passover! We have been wandering through the Central Susquehanna Valley this past year and a half. Everyone has been very patient with all of the changes we have had to make in order to keep Congregation Beth El a vibrant Jewish community. I know that this can be difficult to do, especially when updates about our L'dor V'dor building project and campaign seem sporadic. Last month Jan, on behalf of the L'dor V'dor Committee was able to provide us all with the most up to date information regarding the financial aspect of our building project.

This month I am pleased to report to all of you that the deconstruction phase of building has begun. Since it is not safe to take you into our building, I will try my best to describe what has been happening during the winter months. The building is now a shell; there is nothing inside the building anymore. The stained glass was carefully and successfully removed. Our belongings are safely tucked away waiting to be brought into their new home. The next part of the process will be to begin taking down the structure and then filling in the hole to create a strong foundation. This will be taking place within the next two months. During the coming months, you will be able to keep up with our progress in the bulletin and on Shamash.

As everyone realizes, our old synagogue building was built with brick. This brick will be coming down, and as much as possible will be recycled into our new building, most likely in pathways. We would like to offer those of you who might be planning garden projects, new walkways or other creative summer projects an opportunity to incorporate a piece of our history into your house. Once the brick is down, we will have a period of time where you will be able to come to the site and have brick loaded into your vehicle of choice. We will be selling the brick for \$1.00 each. What an awesome way to have a piece of history!

Watch this space and Shamash for more information regarding the building and the opportunity to own of piece of Beth-El history.

We have been on a long journey together and with patience, perseverance and lots of hope towards the future we are making our way home!

THE BULLETIN BOARD

GET WELL

Mildred Daniels
Francie Silverstein
Bev Fiedler
Norma Yohai

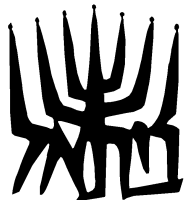
YOM HASHOAH SERVICE

Editors Note: The following information was not included in the April Bulletin. Hopefully, you will receive it in time to attend.

Please join us on Friday evening, April 28th, for our annual commemorative Shabbat in memory of the victims of the Holocaust. We will meet at 8PM in the Priestly Chapel followed by oneg at the UU Commons. Members of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, our hosts, will join us in solidarity and fellowship around this terrible human tragedy.

BOARD MEETING

To be announced



HEBREW SCHOOL

The congregation is invited to attend the
End of the Year School Picnic
at the
Shikellamy Marina
May 7th

Passover Candy Sale
Was a great success!!
Over \$300.00 was raised with this sale!!
Thank you all for participating

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Class.

May 10th

Regular Hebrew School for Bar/Bat Mitzvah Class followed by a dinner meeting with parents (pizza will be provided, bring a dessert to share).

Please note: this is a required meeting for kids and parents in the 2006/2007 Bar and Bat Mitzvah class – even if you have already gone through the process with another child. We will be reviewing requirements, setting up calendars, and making plans for the year ahead.

All are welcome to celebrate
with the Hebrew School

The Annual End of Year Picnic

**Shikellamy State Park Marina,
Pavilion 1,
with a pot-luck Bar-b-Que.**

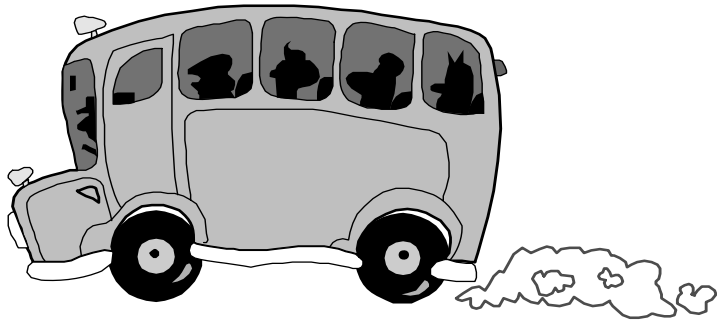
May 7, 2005
10:30AM

Please remember to bring your own place settings and a parve dish to share.

A-K Non-dairy desserts
K-R Vegetables or green
salads
S-Z Side dishes (potato
salad, egg, etc)

School will provide the hot dogs, chips and drinks.

Join us on May 21, 2006



The congregation will be going on a group field trip, by bus, to New York City's Lower East Side. We will be touring the Lower East Side Tenement Museum, the Eldridge Street Project which includes a tour of an historic synagogue, and enjoying lunch and sight-seeing in the area.

The cost of the trip includes the bus and admission to the venues. Food and incidentals are extra: \$42/adult, \$39/child.

In order to ensure our bus and museum commitments, reservations must be made for the trip by Sunday, April 23rd. You can reserve your spot by e-mailing or calling Rabbi Nina at: 286-8389/rabbinhm@ptd.net

Yahrzeits

Iyar		MAY
3	Pearl Bornstein	1
5	Joseph Spritzer Robert Sam Klein	3
7	Ignaz Machauf	5
10	Lewis Banks	8
11	Mary Ruth Bell	9
14	Walter Cohen Larry Gedrich	12
15	Jack Bernstein	13
16	Eva Wolitsky Jack Bornstein	14
17	Sigmund Millner	15
19	Philip Cohen S Sylvan Weissman	17
20	Benjamin Katz	18
21	Beatrice Spritzler Wlter Weisberg	19
25	Abe Rosenblum	23
27	Helen A Stoler Emanuel Goldman Esther Rubenstein	25
29	Charles Frank Sally Deborah Schwartz	27
Sivan		
3	Maurice Banks Albert Gerstein	30
		JUNE
7	Israel Noah Arnow	3
8	Rebecca Miller	4
9	Dr Hyman Henry	5
11	Calvin Wolfberg	7
12	Jack Belgard Harold Stieffel Charles Gardner	8
13	Lillian Fremont Sam Kahn Sigfried Weis	9

“Those in the first year of Passing”

Larry Gedrich
Gerald Abowitz
Jack Kolbert
Karl Sosland

May their memories be bound up in the Book of Righteous. Remember to kindle the memorial candle on the evening before the yahrzeit date



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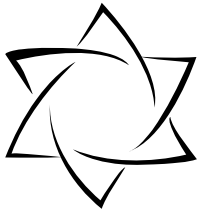
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Betty Stoler
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