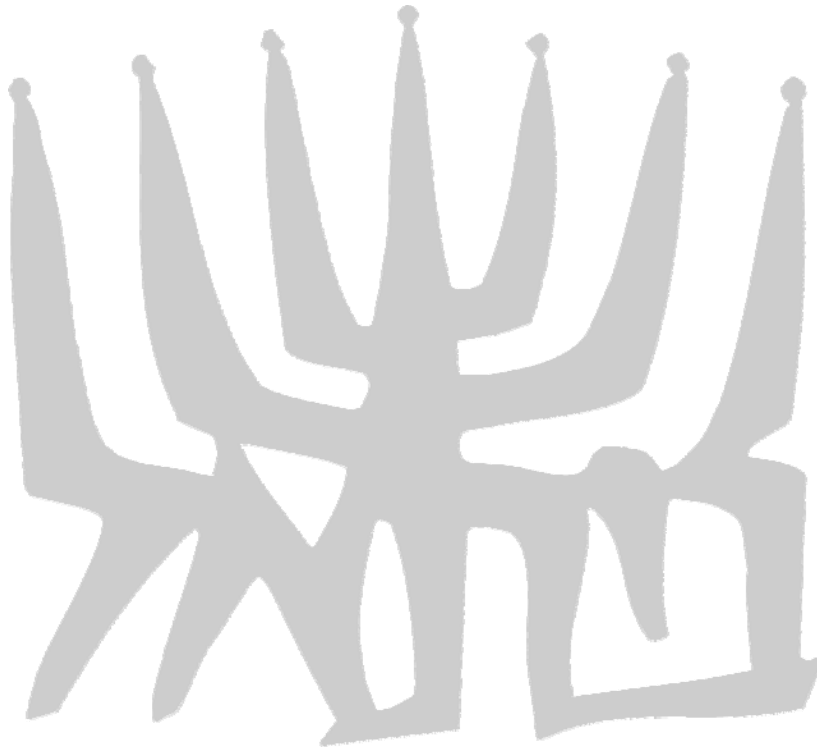


5769/May 2009

Beth El Bulletin



Rich Daniels,
President

Nina Mandel,
Rabbi

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

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

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pewternut9@aol.com
570 275-7612

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570 524-0685

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

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fanddsilverman@msn.com
561-498-3546

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In Memory of
Kara Glazer's mother
and
Roberta Putterman's mother

Connie Heyman

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

One of the most extraordinary things about Jewish civilization, and arguably one of the most important factors in its survival, is the ability to adapt to new environments and new ways of thinking. Early rabbinic sages interpreted Greek philosophy through the lens of Torah, Maimonides used the medical advances of his time to postulate on the human soul, and the printing press revolutionized a textual tradition that previously relied on painstaking hand-copying to disseminate its most important religious and philosophical works.

Continuing in the spirit of innovation, Jewish communities today are embracing internet resources to keep their members connected and to reach out across the globe. A recent search on Google of “Jewish Websites” came up with 310,000 entries. These ranged from information on Jewish home-schooling, to Torah study, to ordering Kosher food, to dating services. My current favorite sites, jewishfreeware.org, and myjewishlearning.com offer curricular resources and a range of educational articles, respectively.

In the last several years Congregation Beth El has leapt into the technology age with full force thanks to a number of computer-savvy congregants. Our listserve disseminates program announcements to members and friends and our website helps the rest of the world find out more about us—both are currently managed by Tom Solomon. More and more folks are receiving the bulletin on-line, helping us to save money on postage and paper. Our new Bulletin Editor Michael Drexler can make sure you’re on this list. You can even talk to Dave Jacobson about making donations and paying your dues through on-line sources. Our latest foray into the world of cyberspace is the Congregation Beth El Facebook Page. If you are a Facebook user (it’s free and easy to join) you can share resources, communicate with the rabbi and the congregation, and keep updated on Beth El events.

Of course if you crave more traditional technology, the bulletin is still available in print form. For a taste of the really traditional, stop by the synagogue in the afternoon of May 4th. Our visiting sofer, Rabbi Kevin Hale, will be in town assessing our Torah scrolls and discussing the art of *sofrut*—Jewish scribal techniques—with anyone who comes by.

Visit with the Sofer

On May 4th, our visiting sofer—a person trained in Jewish scribal arts—will be at the synagogue assessing our Torah scrolls. Though he is unable to do a formal teaching session this time around, Rabbi Kevin Hale will be arriving in the late morning and is happy to speak informally and have people look over his shoulder as he works. Please stop by the synagogue after 12pm to say hello and hear what he has to say about our scrolls.

Gastronomic Judaism: A Shavuot Celebration

The festival of Shavuot begins Thursday evening, May 28th. Sometimes referred to as the “cheesecake holiday” because of the tradition of eating dairy foods on Shavuot, it is actually one of the three central holy days on the Jewish calendar. In addition to being an early harvest festival, Shavuot marks the arrival of the newly-freed Israelites at Mt. Sinai, where they receive the commandments.

We’ll kick off our own Shavuot festivities on the 28th at 7pm with “*Bagels, Blintzes, and Beyond.*” Shari Jacobson and Laurence Roth, who teach a class on Jewish Food at Susquehanna University, will lead us in an interactive look at the wide array of Jewish food traditions and their centrality to our experience of Jewish community. Please bring your favorite dairy treat to share, along with a printed copy of the recipe, so that we can begin to compile our own cookbook.

Mother’s Day Mitzvah

Once again we are partnering with Jewish Women International for their Mother’s Day Flower Project. For a donation of \$25, JWI will send a card to the woman who has inspired you, and will also deliver flowers to a woman living in a safe house for battered women. In addition, Congregation Beth El will receive \$5 for every donation made from our community. You can donate on-line at www.jwi.org/fp or by calling 800-343-2823. Be sure to tell them that Congregation Beth El-Sunbury is your community partner!

SPRING DANCE TIME

The dance committee cordially invites all our members and friends to join us for a wonderful evening to celebrate Temple Beth El's 100th anniversary Spring Dance.

Date: **May 16, 2009**

Place: **Lewisburg Hotel, 136 Market Street, Lewisburg, PA**

Time: **6:30 Cocktails and appetizers (cash bar)**
7:30 Dinner

Choice of

baked salmon, rice and sautéed vegetables

*a hearty dish of cavatappi pasta with
vegetables in a light cream sauce*

Baked Ziti with Marinara Sauce

Music: **After Hours**, an 16-piece swing band (dance floor open until 11 pm)

Cost: **\$40.00 per person**

Silent Auction: Always a crowd pleaser

Location: **The beautiful Victorian ballroom, Lewisburg Hotel.**
Let's fill the room!

Formal invitations will follow, but make your plans now as we will need a final count by **May 1**.

The Congregation Teen Group is creating a video about the first 100 years of the Temple, which will debut at the dance. Additionally several one-of-a-kind items, including a first edition signed John Grisham book, and Connie's rugelach, have already been donated for the silent auction.

We would like every congregation member present for this special evening. If you have a financial concern, please contact Renee at (570) 524-2729 or dentist3@ptd.net to make arrangements.

See you at the dance.

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

One hundred years. When I contemplate this number, I am in awe. As Congregation Beth El approaches May 16th and our milestone centennial Spring Dance, these one hundred years stand as testimony to our most incredible, small, yet resilient Jewish Community.

Our Congregational life began before any of us here today was born. The United States has been led by nineteen of our forty-four presidents during that span of time. The world has sadly fought, but survived, two World Wars and far too many smaller violent skirmishes in the interim. The human race has seen the quality of life transform for the better for many of us in ways hardly imaginable to most people living one hundred years ago. Fatal diseases of that era have become easily curable today. Transportation has progressed from horse and buggy to interstate highway travel with all of the comforts of entertainment, climate control, and safety, and it is available to the masses in much of our world today. The computer age has expanded our reach and understanding the world over.

In our rural setting, we have seen our relative isolation replaced as our ability to communicate with the rest of the world has increased exponentially over the past one hundred years. Locally, other Jewish Congregations have grown and diminished, and some have ceased to exist, but here we are, still strong and vibrant and continuing to serve the Jewish population of the surrounding counties in a meaningful way. Each of us, through our membership in Congregation Beth El, by our participation in ongoing events and religious rituals, and through individual philanthropy, is helping to insure the perpetuation of our lengthy congregational lifeline.

I take great pride in our upcoming milestone, and I believe that all of our members are justified in sharing in that pride. Ilene and I look forward to celebrating together with each of you on May 16th as we honor our landmark occasion.

Rich Daniels
President

May 2009/5769

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1/7 Iyar Candle Lighting 7:46 Shabbat Service, 8pm	2/8 Iyar Shabbat Service, 10am
3/9 Iyar Hebrew School Final Day	4/10 Iyar Rabbi Kevin Hale, Sofer, See page 5 for details	5/11 Iyar	6/12 Iyar Talmud Torah—Biblical Hebrew, 7pm	7/13 Iyar	8/14 Iyar Candle Lighting 7:53 Shabbat Service, 8pm	9/15 Iyar Shabbat Yeledim, 10am
10/16 Iyar Dor Chadash Teen Group Mother's Day	11/17 Iyar	12/18 Iyar Lag B'Omer	13/19 Iyar Talmud Torah—Biblical Hebrew, 7pm	14/20 Iyar	15/21 Iyar Candle Lighting 8:00 Shabbat Service and Potluck, 6:30	16/22 Iyar 100th Annual Dinner Dance
17/23 Iyar	18/24 Iyar	19/25 Iyar	20/26 Iyar Talmud Torah—Biblical Hebrew, 7pm Last Class	21/27 Iyar	22/28 Iyar Candle Lighting 8:06 Shabbat Service, 8pm	23/29 Iyar
24/1 Sivan	25/ 2 Sivan	26/3 Sivan	27/4 Sivan	28/5 Sivan Erev Shavuot Program at 7pm	29/6 Sivan Shavuot Candle Lighting 8:12 Shabbat/Shavuot Service, 8pm	30/7 Sivan Shavuot Shabbat/Shavuot Ser- vice with Yizkor, 10am
31/8 Sivan Board Meeting, 1:30pm						

N e w s f r o m S i s t e r h o o d

Sisterhood is quiet in May. All efforts are focused on the May 16th 100th Dinner Dance. We are soliciting silent auction items to assist the group... donations can be dropped off to Debra Kaunitz or Renee Sosland.

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

Some words of wisdom

Build your home in such a way that a stranger may feel happy in your midst!
Theodor Hertz

Let your home be wide open and the needy be members of your household.
Avot, 1:5

Do not offer your food to one who has no appetite for it!
Mivchar Hapeninim

Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler.
Albert Einstein

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.



Planning for the **100th Annual
Congregation Beth El Spring
Dance** is underway.

Save the date: May 16, Lewisburg Hotel

Watch for details in this space and support your congregation by planning to attend this year's landmark gala occasion!



Adult Education

Our meditation program was a big success. Several people have mentioned that they would like to explore the possibility of getting together on some kind of regular basis to continue learning and practicing Jewish Meditation. Look to the Shamash list for more information. In the meantime, if you missed the program but are interested in some kind of follow-up please contact Anna Beth Payne to let her know. You can e-mail her at paynea@susqu.edu, or call at 524-1207.

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 Gutfinger
Connie Heyman
Dean Klick
Lisa Chaskin Perlmutter
Norma Yohai

Yahrzeit

May/Iyar

1/7 Ignaz Machauf

3/9 Gerald Abowitz

4/10 Lewis Banks
Maurice Green

5/11 Bev Fiedler

8/14 Walter Cohen
Larry Gedrich

9/15 Jack Bernstein

11/17 Sigmund Millner
Eva Wolitsky

13/19 Phillip Cohen
Lina Friedman

14/20 Benjamin M. Katz

15/21 Beatrice Davis Spritzler
Walter Weisberg

19/25 Abe Rosenblum

20/26 Ryan Daniels
Helen Abrams Stoler

21/27 Emanuel Goldman
Esther Rubenstein

23/29 Charles Frank
Sally Deborah Schwartz

May/Sivan

25/2 Harold Stoler

26/3 Maurice Banks
Albert Gernstein

30/7 Israel Noah Arnow

31/8 Estelle Lyons
Rebecca Miller

Those in the first year of passing

Lina Freidman
Sue Cohen

May their memories be
bound up in the Book of
the Righteous.

Remember to kindle the
memorial candle on the
evening before the
yahrzeit date.

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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 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> The Ryan Daniel's 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).