

B'nai Israel Matters

A publication for members and friends of the historic congregation

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www.bnaiisraelcongregation.org

Selichot at BI to Include Award Winning Video

Highlighting our pre-Selichot service on Saturday evening, Sept. 12th, at 8:15 p.m., will be the presentation of the award-winning film, *Noodle*, shown at many Jewish Film Festivals throughout the country over the past two years and filled with warmth and compassion.

What would you do if you were to find a child under your custody through no choice of your own, but having it dropped onto your lap? And to make things worse, you cannot communicate with the child because of the lack of language skills both ways?

Israeli Film Director Ayelet Menahemi weaves a poignant and heartwarming tale about the bridging of differences and culture, and at its core, a very human story about doing what's right, and the innate goodness everyone possesses in a world without strangers.



It's no wonder that the film had secured that many award nominations in the 2007 Israeli Film Academy, or that it won the Special Grand Prize of the Jury at the 2007 Montreal World Film Festival. Nothing beats having to witness characters grow with one another, in a touching drama where little moments speak volumes from the heart.

So join us for our very special Selichot program featuring the Israeli prize-winning film, *Noodle*.

Our Selichot service will be led by Rabbi Alan Yuter and Cantor Eli Kepecs. Light refreshments will be served prior to the showing of the film.

As the month of Elul draws to a close, the mood of repentance becomes more urgent. Prayers for forgiveness called Selichot are added to the cycle of religious services. Join us for this memorable and uplifting evening. There is no charge and light refreshments will be served.

Mazel Tov

Leia Rosenberg and Joel Neft on their marriage.

Leia McKenna and Michael Zeitlin on their engagement.

Joanna and Jonathan Flombaum on the birth of a son.

Many thanks to Marcia and Robert Kargon for the beautiful holiday flowers on the Bimah

BI Wishes a Happy, Healthy New Year to All

Rosh Hashanah begins on Friday evening, Sept. 18th, and continues on Saturday and Sunday. Yom Kippur will be ushered in with Kol Nidre on Sunday evening, Sept. 27th and continue through Monday evening. Why not join us for an inspiring and meaningful Holiday experience! A High Holiday ticket application appears on page 2.

Many of you should be aware that within the past year, under the leadership of Rabbi Dr. Alan Yuter, Historic B'nai Israel Congregation of Baltimore has continued to serve as the center of Jewish downtown. Innovative programming and outstanding educational offerings have led to people of all ages, especially young adults, joining in the joys of Jewish worship and cultural, social programming, and educational activities.

We are delighted to announce that the celebrated Cantor Eli Kepecs, one of this country's premiere cantors and widely recognized for his artistry in Jewish music, will chant the liturgy for the High Holidays, including Selichot. He possesses a rich tenor voice and a repertoire that includes Cantorial, Israeli, Yiddish, and Neapolitan Folk Songs, as well as Italian, French, and German Opera. Eli Kepecs is currently the Vice President of the not-for-profit international Cantorial organization, The Jewish Ministers Cantors Association of America, founded in 1897.

Rabbi Shmuel Krawatsky, a member of the Beth Tfiloh Haron Dahan High School faculty, will chant the Shacharit services and also serve as the Torah reader.

Given the inspiring High Holiday services and dynamic year-round programming that B'nai Israel provides, you need look no further. Also, we believe our pricing is fair, sensible, and still one of the best deals in town. Special rates are available for students and young adults. Please fill out the form on the back and return it to our office.

High Holiday Reminders

- Please follow the directions of our ushers during the course of the services; remember they are volunteers and trying to do the best job they can,
- Please help us maintain the proper decorum during services by limiting conversations.
- If you wish an aliyah or an honor to open the ark, please call our office (410-732-5454) to make the arrangements. It is customary to make a contribution for such honors.
- The annual Tashlich service will take place on the second day of Rosh Hashanah, Sunday, Sept. 20, at 6 p.m. at the Jones Falls at President and Lombard streets. Bring your bread or rolls along with you.
- Each year B'nai Israel Congregation publishes a Book of Remembrance which is used at Yizkor services for remembering all of our departed loved ones. The cost for the 5770 Book of Remembrance is as follows: \$36 for up to four names and \$7 for each additional name. A full page, regardless of the number of names, is available for \$95. Call or email (shul@jewishdowntown.org) our office for a Book of Remembrance form. What a wonderful way to remember and memorialize your departed loved ones!
- Rabbi Alan Yuter will conduct a Memorial Service at the B'nai Israel Cemetery on Sunday, Sept. 27, at 12 noon. Relatives and friends of those interred there as well as the general community are invited to attend. Following the service, Rabbi Yuter will be available to offer individual memorial prayers at gravesites.
- Please make sure that any electronic devices you may have with you, such as cell phones, are completely turned off when you enter the synagogue.
- Please consider making a donation to B'nai Israel Congregation. It is quick and easy when using our Donation Form and online payment via Google Checkout to use your credit card of choice. Plus once you have established your Google Checkout Account, it's as easy as one, two, three whenever you want to pay for a donation, an Aliyah, Hagbah, Gelilah, P'tikhah, Kiddush, membership, High Holiday seats or any other function concerning B'nai Israel Congregation. Plus many online stores use Google Checkout, and all of your charitable donations records are available on your Google Account.
- Check our website for the schedule and times for our High Holiday services as well as for a listing of Acknowledgements.

New Sefer Torah Project

During the Year 5770, one extraordinary mitzvah will be achieved at B'nai Israel Congregation. As far as we know, for the first time in our Congregation's history, we will be commissioning the writing of a complete Sefer Torah – all 304,805 letters and all five books. For most of us, this will be the first and only opportunity we have to fulfill a very important commandment.

The 613th mitzvah of the Torah--the final and last commandment-- instructs each of us to write a new Torah; in fact, Maimonides said that "if one writes or fills in just one letter in a Torah scroll, it is as if they have written it in its entirety." We will engage an esteemed Torah scribe and educator to help us fulfill the mitzvah of writing a Torah.

Everyone in our community--from pre-schoolers to grandparents --will be able to participate in this effort. This exciting project will provide us with a state-of-the-art, brand new, error-free, lightweight Torah that can be used at Shabbat and Holiday services.

More information about this project will be forthcoming later this year.