

# B'nai Israel Matters

A publication for members and friends of the historic congregation

September 2006

www.jewishdowntown.org

## Selichot at BI to Feature Cantor and Choir, Reception and Storyteller Gail Rosen

As we approach the "Days of Awe," we take stock and prepare our minds, hearts and souls. Our lives are busy and complex and it is often difficult to trace the theme of our own spiritual journeys and to reflect on the events and people who have been a part of our lifelong learning.

Leading in to our Selichot service on Saturday evening, September 16, our guest will be storyteller Gail Rosen (below). Since 1998, Gail Rosen has been performing the story of Hilda Stern Cohen, a German-born Holocaust survivor and poet. Telling such a story, speaking the words and experience of another person, turns out to have unexpected power. Gail has discovered more about the story, the telling, and herself through her performances of this moving piece in the United States, Germany, and Israel.



Now she presents a new story, "Choose Hope," in which Gail shares her own compelling experience of a personal, powerful and surprising healing journey, recounting how telling Hilda's story has changed her life and the lives of others and inviting you to reflect on the often unexpected twists and turns of your life's journey.

Gail Rosen is a consultant, educator, storyteller, writer, bereavement facilitator and hospice volunteer. Gail is a Jewish storyteller who doesn't just tell Jewish stories. She is a grief facilitator, but she doesn't just tell sad stories. She is the founder of the Healing Story Alliance, a group to explore and promote the uses of storytelling in healing, and she does believe that good stories, the deep and meaningful ones and the silly, funny ones, are all, in their way, healing.

Our Selichot program begins at 8:15 p.m. with wine and cheese at the adjacent Jewish Museum of MD. Following Gail's talk, we will move to our beautiful Sanctuary for the traditional and stirring Selichot service led by Rabbi Dr. Alan Yuter and Cantor Abraham J. Denburg and his choir.

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.

## BI Wishes a Happy, Healthy New Year to All

Rosh Hashanah begins on Friday evening, Sept. 22nd, and continues on Saturday and Sunday. Yom Kippur will be ushered in with Kol Nidre on Sunday evening, Oct. 1st 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 joining in the joys of Jewish worship and cultural, social programming, and educational activities at B'nai Israel.

For example, as many of you know, B'nai Israel has become the first congregation in the Baltimore-Washington area to join the Synaplex™ group of synagogues. Synaplex™ is a flexible format of cultural, educational, spiritual and social events offering expanded opportunities to learn, gather, pray and enjoy together. Synaplex™ offers a variety of Shabbat experiences for our diverse congregation once a month. You may read below about our next exciting Synaplex™ Shabbat.

We are delighted to announce that again the celebrated Cantor Abraham J. Denburg and his choir, led by Marshall E. Feldman with Dr. Steve Glasser as soloist, will be with Rabbi Yuter and all of us for the Holidays. We will also welcome back Cantor Steve Linzer to assist with the services.

Despite rising costs this year, we have been able to hold the line on the cost of seats. Given the inspiring High Holiday services and dynamic year-round programming that B'nai Israel provides, we believe our pricing is fair, sensible, and still one of the best in town. You need look no further!

Members may purchase seats at \$150 each, while non-members may attend at \$190 per ticket. Membership at B'nai Israel stands at \$165, among the lowest in the Baltimore area.

## Synaplex™ Shabbat to Feature Dinner, Speed Oneg, And Presentation on Jewish Women in the Military

Our second Synaplex™ Shabbat, Friday evening, Sept. 8th, will feature our guest speaker--Philip Sherman--who will discuss: *American Jewish Women in the Military: A Proud Tradition*. Please join us for this remarkable evening.

Prior to Gen. Sherman's talk, we will have Kabbalat Shabbat services at 6 p.m., followed by our popular "Speed Oneg" icebreaker, and a festive Shabbat dinner. Cost is \$22 per person and \$10 for children.

A retired brigadier general of the MD Army National Guard with over 40 years of uniformed military service, Gen. Sherman has served in numerous command and staff positions within the 29th Infantry Division and the U.S. Army Reserve. Recently he retired after 11 years as the State Director of Selective Service for Maryland.

Gen. Sherman is a graduate of the Air War College, the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, the U.S. Command and General Staff College and he was a Seminar Director for the National Defense University.

Among his awards for meritorious service, General Sherman holds the Legion of Merit, the Department of Defense Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Selective Service Distinguished Service Medal and The Maryland Distinguished Service Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster.

Gen. Sherman continues to stay active as the Historian for the Bar Association of Baltimore City and he is the immediate past chair of The Senior Lawyers Section of the Maryland State Bar Association. He is also vice president emeritus of the Maryland Military Historical Society. He is a Commissioner on the Maryland Military Monuments Commission and co-founder of the Museum of Baltimore Legal History.

B'nai Israel's first Synaplex™ Shabbat on July 28th was a resounding success, as a capacity crowd joined us for services, great food, good cheer, and a wonderful presentation by our guest speaker, Elise Friedman, President of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Maryland. Following services, in line with the Synaplex™ format of giving folks a variety of offerings, we presented a light, fun activity entitled "Speed Oneg," in which we divided the crowd into four groups and asked each group to respond to some most interesting and revealing questions and answers.

In anticipation of the large crowd expected to attend this outstanding program, we will adjourn to the adjacent Jewish Museum of Maryland for dinner and Gen. Sherman's presentation. Please call our office at 410-732-5454 to make your reservations.

## Visit Our Web Site for the Latest Congregational Information

For the latest information about B'nai Israel, please check out our Web site at www.jewishdowntown.org where you'll find the High Holiday schedule complete with times that services begin, a listing of Rabbi Yuter's sermon topics, details about the Tashlich ceremony and other items of interest pertaining to the services, and some great links. Please contact the office immediately, 410-732-5454, if you wish to have an Aliyah or other honor during the High Holidays.

**2006 \* Application for Seat Tickets \* 5767**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Member: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Please print or type all information carefully and place a check mark as appropriate. Members must include dues with their checks for tickets when placing their orders. In order to be guaranteed the seats that you had in previous years, send in your completed application with payment by **September 13, 2006**. If you require special accommodations or have a specific request for seating, please call Charlotte Stein at 410-732-5454.

<b>Men's Seats:</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Non-Member</b>	<b>Student</b>
	(\$150)	(\$190)	(\$75)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Women's Seats (limited number on the main floor--please specify):**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Number Of Seats** \_\_\_\_\_

**Full Membership Dues:** \$165 \_\_\_\_\_

**Associate Membership Dues (does not include seats discount):** \$100 \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**--What Are You Looking For in a Synagogue at High Holiday Time?**

- A rabbi who exudes warmth, friendliness, openness, and scholarship
- A warm, open, and thoughtful Modern Orthodox Congregational community
- Meaningful, and member-friendly Holiday services
- A comfortable historic synagogue at an affordable and sensible price
- A world-class Cantor, Abraham J. Denburg, and choir with Dr. Steve Glasser as soloist chanting the traditional liturgy that few, if any other synagogues favor
- Timely, provocative, and memorable sermons to be delivered by Rabbi Alan Yuter

**--It's all here at B'nai Israel Congregation**

**B'nai Israel Congregation**  
**27 Lloyd Street**  
**Baltimore, MD 21202**  
**410-732-54**

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