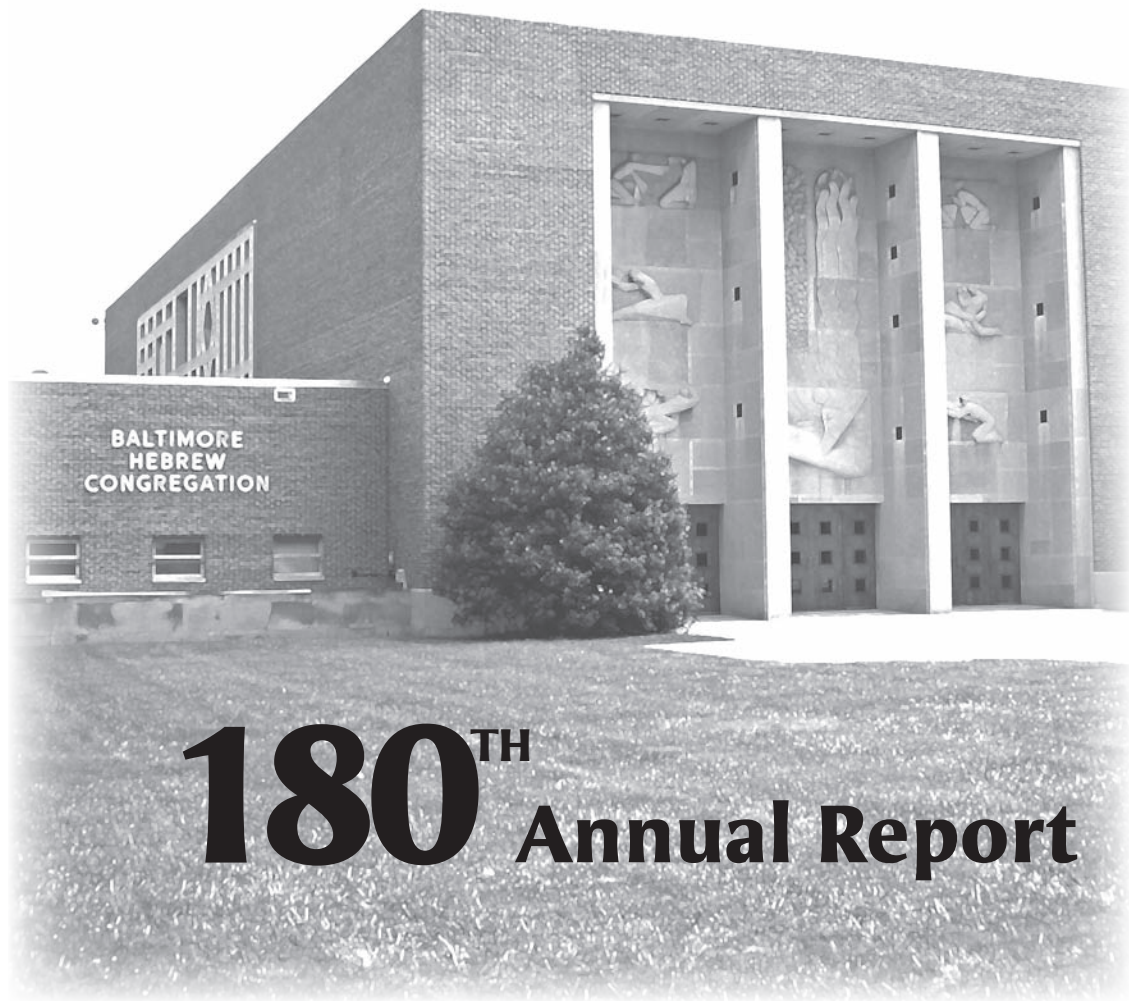




BALTIMORE HEBREW CONGREGATION

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# 180<sup>TH</sup> Annual Report

Friday, May 7, 2010

23 Iyar 5770

Rabbi Andrew Busch • Cantor Robbie Solomon  
Rabbi Elissa Sachs-Kohen • Cantor Ann G. Sacks

## Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2009-2010

### Annual Giving

#### Gifts of \$5,000 or more

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Rosanna Blum  
Roslyn & Stephen Blum  
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Sonia Blumberg

**Book of Remembrance (\$100+)**

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Ruth & Robert Taubman  
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Sandra Abramoff  
Aimée & Dr. Steven Adashek  
Dr. Nancy & Gary P. Aiken  
Linda & Neil Alpern  
Anonymous  
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Sandra & Eric Benzer  
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Laura & Jeffery Buckner  
Rabbis Debbie Pine & Andrew Busch  
Jeureatha & Robert Campbell  
Patricia Campbell-Smith  
Ruth Comens  
Marcus Corwin  
Allene Gutin & Mark Creech

Stacy & Alen Dalton  
Sandra Darrow  
Randy & George Day  
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Norman Dubin  
Judith Dye  
Teresita & David Eakin  
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Karan Engerman  
Karie & Dr. Jon Falck  
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Vicki & Michael Firestein  
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Lester Komaroff  
Jessica Kresky  
Nina & Michael Kurman  
Natalie & John Langrock  
Fran Ludman & Sheldon Laskin  
Jodi & Eric Layman  
Polina & Mark Lebed  
Ayme & Andrew Lederman  
Sharon Lerner  
Lauren & Jordan Loran  
Susan & Norman J. Lorch  
Norman J. Lorch, Chartered  
Sandra & George Marcin  
Lori & Steven Mandell  
Tatyana & Dmitry Makarevich

Joel Matz  
Irina Minevich  
Anne & Kenneth Moss  
Rebecca & Lawrence Mousing  
Jessica & Scott Normington  
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Susan & Dr. Edward L. Perl  
Rabbis Rachel Hertzman & Rex D. Perlmeter  
Iris & Roger Powell  
Linda Rabinovich  
Judith & Meir Raphaely  
Abby & Alan Richmond  
Lois & Mark Rosenfield  
Michele & Jeffrey Ross  
Cantor Judith & Michael Rowland  
Jennifer Ruchti  
Stanley Rudick  
Lee N. Sachs  
Joy & Steven Sakamoto-Wengel  
Helaine & Brett Schaeffer  
Tamara & Jerome Schnydmann  
Harriet Shiffman  
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Melanie & Steven Smith  
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Debra Wasserman & Charles Stahler  
Dana & Edward Steiner  
Janice & Marc Strauss  
Annette Tobin  
Alla Bayman & Arkadiy Trofman  
Jacqueline & Trevor Villet  
Mindy Wassel

### **Day School Scholarships**

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Lisa S. & Allan T. Hirsh, III  
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 Shirley Kaufman  
 Charlotte Kessler  
 Judith Lippman  
 Susan & Dr. Edward L. Perl  
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 Melanie & Steven Smith  
 Janice & Marc Strauss  
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 Kathleen Keene & Marcelle Hyatt  
 Janet Jeffein  
 Parents' Association  
 Prime Timers  
 Lee N. Sachs  
 Dr. & Mrs. Arthur Serpick  
 Sisterhood  
 Judith & Dr. Merrill Skolnik  
 Anne L. Veditz

**The Cantor Joseph & Sylvia Rosenfeld Multi-Media Fund**

Patti & Thomas Minkin  
 Drs. Adina & Zorel Paritsky

**Rosh Hashanah Under the Stars**

Herbert Bearman Foundation  
 Lois & Fred Chalawsky  
 Barbara & Michael Hettleman  
 The John J. Leidy Foundation  
 Ferne & Nathan Rogow  
 Carol & Ronald Sher

**Esther & Rabbi Murray Saltzman Day School Scholarship Fund**

Margie Chapin  
 Pauline Z. Chapin  
 Beverly & Sanford Cohen  
 Lisa S. & Allan T. Hirsh, III  
 Edith & Martin Horowitz  
 Robin & Robert Just  
 Marcy & Buzz Kolodny  
 Marlyn & Dr. Boris L. O'Mansky  
 Harriet Raskin  
 Betty Strauss

**Simcha Tree of Life Purchases**

Anonymous  
 Benjamin Dubin  
 The Confirmation Class of 2010  
 Ellen & Dr. David Cooper  
 Mimi Cooper  
 Elaine Finkelstein  
 Margery Gluck  
 Ann & Eugene Goodman  
 Natalie & Yuri Hankin  
 Barbi & Louis Hyman  
 Harriet & Jay M. Kramer  
 PEP  
 Sisterhood  
 Barbara & Richard Steinke  
 Christina Erd & Judith Zuckerman

**Unrestricted Reserve Fund**

Betty W. Cohen  
 The Estate of Doris Patz

**The Anne & Harry Veditz Preschool Camp Fund**

Edith & Martin Horowitz  
 Patti & Thomas Minkin

**Selma T. & Joseph Wagner Fund for Worship Enhancement for the Disabled**

Betty W. Cohen

**The Norma & Boris Yaffe Graduating Seniors Fund**

Leslie & Dr. Ira Hantman

**Youth Scholarship Fund**

Shawn & Bradley Hyatt  
 Susan & Eric Shapiro

## Committee Reports

### BLOOD DONOR COMMITTEE

Betty Fink and Carlyn Lipman, Co-Chairs

BHC sponsored blood drives in October and March, sending many valuable pints of blood to the American Red Cross. The placing of a lawn sign at Park Heights and Slade Avenues brought unexpected donors, for whom we are most grateful.

### CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Phil Abraham, Chair

The Cemetery Committee continues to supervise the operation and maintenance of the Congregation's two cemeteries at Berrymans Lane and Belair Road. In FY 2009–2010, services were provided to 117 families at the Berrymans Lane Cemetery and to 11 families at the Belair Road Cemetery. For that same period of time, burial rights for 110 new plots were sold at Berrymans Lane and 3 new plots were sold at Belair Road. The Committee is nearing completion of Division 8 at Berrymans Lane in order to meet the Congregation's needs for the next 20 years.

We feel an obligation to see that the cemeteries are maintained in a way befitting the members of the Congregation and the community, while at the same time seeing that we operate within our budget. Not only has the Committee been able to accomplish this, but it has been able to provide positive financial returns to the Congregation.

It has been my great pleasure and honor to chair this committee. Indeed it has been a dream committee. The members have been dedicated to the service and well-being of the Congregation and its cemeteries. I could not have done this job without the incredible support of Jo Ann Windman, Sally Palmbaum and David Weis.

The new chair of this committee will be Richard Fishkin. I wish him the best of luck and I know he will do a fabulous job.

### THE DAY SCHOOL AT BALTIMORE HEBREW

Pat Whitlock, President, Board of Trustees

*Recent research by Brandeis University shows that graduation from day schools strengthens an individual personal connection to the Jewish religion, culture, and community. The study reports that non-Orthodox day school graduates are:*

- *Fifty-percent more likely to find being Jewish important while in college;*
- *Fifty-percent more likely to be involved in Jewish social events;*
- *Fifty-percent more likely to date Jews only;*
- *Twice as likely to pursue Jewish learning in college;*
- *Three times more likely to be involved in Israel-related programs; and*
- *Four times more likely to consider Jewish professional careers.*

*In addition, [they] have proven to be effective training grounds for future Jewish leaders.*

***Paraphrased from URJ and PARDeS Joint Task Force on Reform Day School Education***

### **18 Years and Counting**

As The Day School celebrates its 18<sup>th</sup> year of operations, our first college graduates are striking out on their own. These amazing young adults prove the accuracy of the Brandeis study noted above. Our alumni are graduating from top universities and colleges and are pursuing diverse careers, including Jewish studies. Most have maintained connections with their Jewish community. Their lives are based in the Reform Jewish values so integral to our school, and each of these students is helping to repair the world and taking their place as leaders of the Jewish community.

In addition to enjoying a little *nachas* in the success of our alumni, this year also brought the Day School both challenges and opportunities. Many of our families felt the impact of the economic downturn, but the Day School has proven its ability to continue quality programming on a tightly managed budget. We conducted special campaigns, securing funding to provide additional support

to our deserving families. Thanks to the support of our school community, dedicated faculty and staff, and our many supporters, we are pleased to forecast another balanced budget for the end of this school year.

Gerri Chizeck, our talented and dedicated Head of School, led a transformation in our curriculum, strengthening our commitment to provide each student a personalized 21st century educational experience. We not only sustained our focus on global learning and awareness by continuing a partnership with our Ashkelon sister school, but we expanded our students global experiences by joining BHC in their Odessa Twinning Project. We partnered with The Associated to host a presentation from a volunteer who had visited Haiti after the devastating earthquake, and welcomed a series of Holocaust speakers.

While our classes are small and personalized, Gerri has followed innovative educational practices and introduced combined classes to provide highly interactive team experiences and flexible leveled grouping. Our devoted faculty created and delivered high interest projects in several curricular areas and expanded educational access with state-of-the-art technological experiences. Our approach to education integrates use of Smartboards, our enhanced computer lab, and Skype technology in the delivery of our curriculum. In addition, The Day School continued to provide high quality enrichment programming such as our NASA Club, a trip to Echo Hill Outdoor School, science assemblies and trips, authors' visits, and our interactive family Math Night experience.

As we close another successful school year, we invite you to help us celebrate our *Chai* Anniversary. The celebration will begin with a Fine Arts Festival on May 16, and will conclude on June 14 with a very special Annual Meeting and Dinner, honoring our founders and featuring Shoshanna S. Cardin as our guest speaker. Make your reservations today by contacting the school, 410 764-1867.

The Day School at Baltimore Hebrew prepares children to thrive in a complex world. By cultivating academic excellence, values of progressive Judaism, physical well-being and spiritual growth, our school provides children age 18-months through 8th grade with a multifaceted foundation on which to build their lives. You can help us fulfill this mission. Understand the value of our school through the eyes of our high school alum who won a trip to Israel with her You Tube video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YNzNcPy2htE>. Visit our web site [www.thedayschoolbh.org](http://www.thedayschoolbh.org). Tour the school and pick up copies of our view book or our new E.B. Hirsh Early Childhood Center brochure. Introduce a deserving student to our school. Discover for yourself the gift of a day school education.

#### FAMILY CONCERNS COMMITTEE

Carol J. Caplan, Chair

Our purpose is to create a warm, caring atmosphere in the Congregation and to reach out to members in a supportive and helpful manner. It is through this philosophy of congregational in-reach that a powerful and positive message can be sent to the entire Congregational family. The synagogue is your spiritual home and the Congregation is your support community.

We continue visits to assisted living facilities for Sharing *Shabbat* services on the first Saturday of each month. Coffee with the Clergy visits have been sponsored at North Oaks, Roland Park Place, and Atrium Village. These are rewarding experiences for all who participate.

Informative educational programs were held on Thursday afternoons on diverse topics such as Social Security and health care. Through *Bema* Home Connection, those who are homebound, hospitalized or otherwise unable to attend worship services may listen to worship services from each of our worship venues.

Congregants Helping Congregants offers transportation to worship services and programs. Letters are sent to congregants during times of illness and bereavement, offering our help. Bereavement support groups, led by a licenced psychologist and a certified bereavement guide, provide comfort

to those in mourning.

We continue to insure that BHC is inclusive, accessible and accommodating to those with disabilities and/or special needs. The powerful film focusing on inclusion, *Praying With Lior*, was shown following *Shabbat* worship.

Meal Makers is a new program initiated by a volunteer to provide meals to members of BHC in times of need, such as the birth of a baby, illness or death in the family. We appreciated those who have offered to help get this project under way.

This year we began offering The Recovery Coach Program, a peer-to-peer program offering support to patients facing certain cancers. This is sponsored by The American Cancer Society and Within Reach. Jewish Life pamphlets are available for those with health, family and personal issues.

None of these programs would be possible without the caring and support of our special volunteers, without whose participation we would not be able to become a *Kehillat Chesed*. Also, thanks to BHC's Senior Staff and especially our clergy liaison Rabbi Sachs-Kohen.

#### HOFFBERGER GALLERY

Marcia Bornfriend and Lauren Loran, Co-Chairs

The Hoffberger Gallery attracts artists from the Baltimore/Washington area and beyond. Our gallery is very desirable because of the excellent lighting, wall space, and the number of visitors to BHC each month. We jury artists at least one year in advance, planning for either one-person shows or group shows for the months of September through June. BHC hosted services during July and August last summer; because of this, the Gallery Committee invited artists from all four Reform congregations to submit their art work for exhibit in the Fourth Quad Temple Art Show.

Usually on the first Sunday of every month we host a Wine and Cheese reception to meet the artist. For the first time this year, we had a reception on a Saturday evening which was a great success. The attendance at these functions has been between 25 and one hundred people. Artists send invitations by mail and/or email to friends and people in the art world. The Gallery retains 30% commission on artwork sold.

Besides placing information in the Temple *Bulletin* and local newspapers, we have also had articles in the *Baltimore Jewish Times* and the *City Paper*. The Gallery Committee maintains a Webpage on the BHC Website. The goal of this Webpage is to attract more artists to show in the gallery and increase community awareness of the quality of shows we have on display each month. We are still in the process of investigating the possibility of adding e-commerce to our Webpage and hope to have this up and running in the near future.

At this time, we have juried an excellent number of artists for 2010–2011. We welcome anyone in the BHC family who is interested in promoting art to join our committee in the coming year.

#### INSURANCE COMMITTEE

Mose Ottenheimer, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Chair

The Insurance Committee is charged with the responsibility of providing for the Congregation the best possible insurance coverage at the lowest possible cost.

We have been able to negotiate a considerable reduction in premiums over the last two years on all lines of insurance including fire, liability and disability. This year the premiums will remain the same as last year. The Committee will continue to monitor the costs and to negotiate the best possible terms for the Congregation's insurance program.

We want to thank our Executive Director, Jo Ann Windman, Controller, David K. Weis and the staff of BHC for their continuing support and cooperation.

## MUSIC COMMITTEE

Hilda Perl Goodwin, Chair

With Cantors Robbie Solomon and Ann Sacks, piano accompanist, organist and choir director Jimmy Galdieri, professional, *Kol Rinnah*, our Congregational choir, and *Kol Ruach*, our youth choir, services at BHC are alive with the sound of music.

*Kol Rinnah*, which now has about 25 members, sang at a minimum of one or two Friday night services a month. It also participated in the late-night *Selichot* service, performing the haunting Charles Davison's Hush of Midnight, services honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with First Mt. Olive Freewill Baptist Church, where both choirs sang gospel music and Hebrew songs, and a concert at the Jewish Museum of Maryland where a nearly full page article with a rave review plus a picture of the event appeared in the Baltimore *Sun*.

Special Events included Cantor Solomon's Safam Concert, a group performing original Jewish Rock music, which sang to an enthusiastic full house in the Dalsheimer Auditorium. It was a successful fundraiser as well. The musical highlight of the season was Cantor Solomon's *Purim* smash musical hit, Orphan Queen, presented with BHC's and Beth El Synagogue's cantors, Robbie Solomon and Thom King, members of both Congregations and selected soloists.

Funded by The Peggy and Yale Gordon Trust, the New Year's musical event, "Opera Favorites," was presented to a full house with James Harp as the musical director/accompanist and Hilda Perl Goodwin, producer.

Special Thanks to Cantor Solomon for enhancing our services with his compositions, Cantor Sacks for developing trope- literate congregants through her adult *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* program, Peabody Conservatory faculty and BHC members Maria Lambros, violist, and Michael Kannen, cellist, for their many performances at BHC services; and to Rebecca Sacks for her singing and Ralene Jacobson for her excellent piano accompaniment whenever needed as well as her singing. Also, congratulations to Ralene for the recent publication of her liturgical compositions by Transcontinental Publications.

## PRIME TIMERS

Sylvia Beser, Chair

During the last year Baltimore Hebrew Congregation's senior group, Prime Timers, celebrated our 30th year and the 100th birthday of Anne Veditz. Our group had a good year going out to dinner theaters and taking trips. In 2010 we are hoping to continue what we have done in the past: having good times, getting together with friends, and enjoying our senior years.

## SISTERHOOD

Karan Engerman, President

Sisterhood had another busy year. Several members attended the Assembly in Toronto in December, then came home to participate in our annual Holiday Boutique. Sisterhood *seder* was enjoyed by all attendees as was the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Interfaith Institute with keynote speaker Rabbi Saperstein. As we look to the future, we look forward to working with Beit Daniel Congregation in Tel Aviv, Israel as they are starting their journey into Sisterhood.