

Mahzor Lev Shalem for Beth El

As announced in the January Bulletin, the Beth El Board of Trustees adopted *Mahzor Lev Shalem* as our new mahzor (High Holiday prayerbook) for the Yamim Nora'im this fall. The January Bulletin article, re-printed on reverse, provides more information about *Lev Shalem*. The decision to adopt *Lev Shalem* has been received with much enthusiasm and many congregants are anticipating its first use.

To acquire sufficient copies of *Lev Shalem*, we need your support. Here is how your contributions can support Beth El's move to *Mahzor Lev Shalem*.

For each contribution of \$54, you can either **receive one mahzor for your personal or family use** or you can **contribute one mahzor to Beth El for our community**.

Each mahzor **contributed for our community** will be inscribed with your dedication -- "in honor of" or "in memory of".

For the first 75 contributions of \$54 toward acquiring **mahzorim for our community**, an anonymous donor will contribute funds for the purchase of additional mahzorim. If you would like to support the acquisition of additional mahzorim for our community in a similar manner, please contact Krisha Miller in the office or Sandy Kessler, Beth El President.

Complete and return to the Beth El office with your contribution by May 15, 2011:

My Name: _____

Please accept my contribution in the amount specified below. For each contribution of \$54, I would like to **receive a mahzor for my personal or family use**. A portion of your contribution is tax-deductible.

\$54	_____	I would like to receive 1 mahzor.
\$108	_____	I would like to receive 2 mahzorim .
\$162	_____	I would like to receive 3 mahzorim.
\$216	_____	I would like to receive 4 mahzorim.
\$270	_____	I would like to receive 5 mahzorim.

Please accept my tax-deductible contribution for **mahzorim for our community** in the amount specified below. Your contribution is fully tax-deductible. For the first 75 contributions of \$54 for mahzorim for our community, a donor will contribute funds for additional mahzorim for our community.

\$54	_____	I would like to contribute 1 mahzor for our community, inscribed _____.
\$54	_____	I would like to contribute a 2 nd mahzor for our community, inscribed _____.
\$54	_____	I would like to contribute a 3 rd mahzor for our community, inscribed _____.
\$54	_____	I would like to contribute a 4 th mahzor for our community, inscribed _____.
\$54	_____	I would like to contribute a 5 th mahzorim for our community, inscribed _____.

Sub-total for mahzorim contributed to our community (\$54 x number of mahzorim) = _____

Total for mahzorim for personal/family use & mahzorim for our community = _____.

Please mail payment for your total contribution to Beth El 1004 Watts St., Durham, NC 27701. Indicate "mahzor" in the memo line of your check. Questions? Contact Krisha at krisha@betheldurham.org

A new mahzor for the high holidays

Mahzor Lev Shalem

From January Beth El Bulletin

When our congregation welcomes the new year of 5772 next Rosh HaShanah, we will also welcome a brand new mahzor (high holiday prayerbook) -- *Mahzor Lev Shalem*. With the full support of Rabbi Frank Fischer, Rabbi Daniel Greyber, and Hazzan/Cantor Eric Meyers, the Ritual Committee enthusiastically recommended the adoption of *Mahzor Lev Shalem* to the Beth El Board of Trustees and the Board endorsed the decision. This new mahzor replaces the familiar *Silverman Mahzor*, which was introduced by the Conservative movement in 1939 and has been used at Beth El for many years.

Mahzor Lev Shalem was published in 2010 by the Rabbinical Assembly (the association of Conservative rabbis) and has already been adopted by many congregations. It is the fruit of over a dozen years of work by an editorial committee made up of rabbis and cantors.

Some highlights of *Mahzor Lev Shalem*:

- Composed with an awareness of the diverse backgrounds and expectations within Conservative congregations.
- Contains the complete traditional liturgy, while also expanding the liturgy in innovative ways.
- Includes transliterations of everything that might be sung aloud by the congregation.
- The English translation is contemporary, reflects the Hebrew as closely as possible, is designed to be "pray-able", and is as gender-neutral as possible.
- Running commentary offers a historical overview and insight into the meaning of prayers.
- Contains a rich assortment of quotes and readings – including pieces focusing on spiritual issues and *tikkun olam* – by a range of theologians, rabbis, and contemporary Israeli and American poets.

The Ritual Committee learned about *Mahzor Lev Shalem* from various sources. Some Ritual committee members used *Lev Shalem* during the Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur services this past fall. Rabbi Stuart Kelman, one of the members of the editorial group that developed the mahzor, spoke with the Ritual Committee at length about the principles guiding the creation of the new mahzor, leaving Ritual Committee members with much enthusiasm and appreciation for *Lev Shalem*. Reviews of the new mahzor -- including reviews in the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Forward, and The Jewish Week – provided more insight into *Lev Shalem* as well as comparisons with other mahzorim available. Some Ritual Committee members investigated other mahzorim. The unanimous consensus of the committee was that *Lev Shalem* offers the ideal combination of tradition and innovation and will be both inspiring and relevant for our diverse congregation for years to come.

-- from the Ritual Committee