



## Benita Felmus

*Invitation to the Kallat Ha-Torah*

Benita calls Brookline, MA her hometown. Her Mom and Dad were founding members of their Congregation in Milton, MA. As a child she always looked forward to attending synagogue services with her Father and Grandmother because it made her feel safe and protected. The

Rabbi ended each service with "May the countenance shine down upon you and give you peace". This blessing has always stayed with Benita.

Working for General Electric provided opportunities to live and meet people in many locations: Oak Brook, IL, Exeter, NH, Rome, GA, Hickory, NC and Westport, CT before making Richmond home. Benita worked twenty years as a Product Development Engineer in Home and Office Equipment.

When she and her husband, Ronald, relocated here and made Beth-El their religious home, they immediately settled into the community, making several lifelong friends along the way.

Benita and Ron were blessed to see their girls Sam and Nicki become B'nai Mitzvah and Confirmed in our beautiful sanctuary. Those Naches reinforce her early feelings of Beth-El being part of a family within the Jewish community. Benita most appreciates the enduring friendships and family feelings shared among Beth-El's "Sisters of the Hood".

Benita dedicated the past 20 years supporting Temple Beth-El through her service to Sisterhood as Secretary and Treasurer, as an active member of the School and Ritual Committees, as Chair of the Endowment Committee and VP of Finance as well as just completing three years as President of the Congregation.

## Debbie Minden (OBM)



*Invitation to the Kallat Maftir*

Deborah Sue Minden, known to everyone as 'Debbie,' was born in Hamilton, Ontario. Debbie loved being with people and people loved being with her. She put her Masters in Developmental Psychology to work as a school psychologist for over 30 years in Toronto, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. She recently commented, "Each child was a new

little gift to be opened, looked at, and cared for. My task was to find a workable solution to their academic and social problems." Children would flock to her to gather in the presence of her radiance. She had a deep sensitivity to the needs and spirit of each child she encountered and accepted them for exactly who they were. This is how she raised her four daughters who were her personal contribution to Tikkun Olam.

She had a discerning, sharp sense of humor, and an infectious smile and laugh. Debbie was blessed with a wealth of practical wisdom, common sense, and intuitive understanding.

She had impeccable judgment, abundant kindness and an abiding love of hospitality. Nothing made her so happy as having a home full of friends, family and new acquaintances for a Shabbat dinner. She was an avid reader, and loved to knit things for others, often on a whim for the newborn child of a friend. She engaged in a variety of crafts and cherished the pleasure of fashioning something stunning with her own hands. She had an extraordinary aesthetic sense for recognizing both beautiful things and the beauty in people. Most importantly, she understood the intricacies of relationship and, as her brother, Jonathan, observed, she was the 'glue' holding together networks of family and friends.

Debbie was deeply involved at Temple Beth-El in different ways. She served on the Executive Board, Visioning Committee, and spearheaded a major constitutional revision. She was a Shabbat service regular and an active participant in Sisterhood. Her latkes on Hanukkah were eagerly gobbled up. She participated in multiple knitting groups, and in the local chapter of the Sisters of Salaam Shalom.

Debbie died peacefully on August 2 surrounded by her daughters and husband. She is survived by her husband of 42 years, Gary Goldberg, and their four daughters, Miriam (Jeffrey), Margot (Dani), Jess (Aleta) and Gillian. Her three grandsons, Eugene ('Geno'), Moses ('Moshie') and Philip ('Phillie') were her greatest admirers and her greatest sources of joy and delight.



## Susan Beller

*Invitation to the Kallat B'reshit*

Susan Beller is a Virginia native who moved to Richmond after graduating from the College of William & Mary. She had a career spanning more than 25 years as a CPA in both public and corporate accounting before retiring to focus on family and

community service. She is married to Scott, a life-long second-generation member, and they proudly raised their children Jared and Sarah here at Temple Beth-El.

Susan's commitment to Temple Beth-El began more than 20 years ago after converting to Judaism under the guidance of Rabbi Creditor. She continued her Jewish studies and was honored to present a D'var Torah as a member of Beth-El's Adult B'nai Mitzvah class of 2001. Working behind the scenes to help ensure activities run successfully is her favorite way to serve our community.

At Temple Beth-El, Susan is the Sisterhood Treasurer, College Outreach chair, and serves on the Budget and Finance and Endowment Committees. She was also an active member for many years on the Religious School Committee.

Susan continues her service to the community as a Girl Scout leader, PTSO board member, and former General Federation of Women's Clubs local club president and district chair. She has also held various leadership positions for other non-profit organizations in Richmond, utilizing her professional background and desire to serve. Susan feels blessed to raise her family and be an ongoing contributor in the Temple Beth-El community.