



December 2008

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Well, we are rolling into December. The last month has been an active one. On November 14 we had a wonderful lay service led by two Hillel students from JMU. I'm looking forward to more interaction between the Congregation and Hillel. On November 21 we had a very well-attended Community Awareness Shabbat, and from the questions the Rabbi was asked after the service, I can tell that we have definitely made a good impression on the non-Jewish community. The Congregation's Board of Directors has been meeting regularly, and I'm glad to report that nothing of major concern needs to be reported – oh, we've had to replace a refrigerator in the kitchen, and a couple of locks on some doors in the building, but these are minor nuisances. Now Chanukah is on the horizon. The Beth El Chanukah Gift

Shop will open on Sunday, December 7 and will continue on December 14 and 21. Our first Tot Shabbat will take place on Friday, December 12 at 6:30 with a Shabbat dinner for the children (and anyone else who wants to attend – bring your favorite dish to share). And we will have a special musical Shabbat lay service on December 19, so I'm hoping that we have a good turn-out for that. Please plan to attend our Chanukah dinner on December 21, the first night of Chanukah. My only disappointment at this point is the meager response I've had regarding volunteers to head-up and/or serve on our committees. I am hoping that after the winter holidays are done we can get down to work on that.

Gary

FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

My dear fellow Valley Jews and Friends,
Shalom. It is now December, the end of the secular year. This is often seen as a very busy time, with the Thanksgiving holiday, the winter break, travel, family gatherings, gift giving, card sending, holiday celebrations and parties, bad weather.... It is often hectic and disorienting, and

occasionally it is depressing and draining, although it can be exciting and fun as well.

On the Jewish calendar, on the other hand, at this moment we are in the midst of our holiday 'downtime'; the time with nothing unusual on the calendar, the period which falls between the end of the High Holy day period - concluding with Simchat Torah - and the start of the celebration of Chanukah. It is a gift to us – a time when we can re-

group, re-consolidate, and re-focus – especially in contrast to all the excitement and energy of the secular events. This quieter time is something we can all do with now, it seems to me.

There is a custom, at least in parts of the secular world, to ‘take stock’ and review the year in view of the ‘new year’, and even to develop some ‘resolutions’ for the coming year. For Jews, that process has often already happened with the preparations for the High Holy days just a few months back, culminating with the arrival of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur (the days of Judgement and Atonement). Nonetheless, a mid-course check and minor corrections a few months into the year can be beneficial, so this reprise of the theme of review is a welcome time to re-think whether we are following through on our hopes and aspirations to make ourselves better, to strive to be more the person we each wish to become in the current year.

I hope that each of you finds in your self-examination that you are doing exactly what you feel you need to do to fulfill your potential for this year, and that you find renewed energy and purpose in successfully doing it.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Looking back at this calendar year, we have experienced a very full and active time in our local community. Our small community has had its share of joys and sorrows of all sorts. We have faced them, pulled together, and dealt with each as it has arrived, and I would like to think that our joint efforts in facing adversities and sharing joys have helped us to be a stronger, closer, and more vibrant community, as well as better people.

At ‘home’ in our congregations, we have rallied around our own, offering food, comfort, support, solace, listening and our caring presence. Some among us have helped to make items for others, cooked, driven, called, visited, and acted as ‘family members’.

I am proud to say that our congregations have also reached out to others in need in our larger community. We have helped to feed those who are hungry through donations and our labor. We have helped to house those who have no shelter. We have helped those who need physical assistance. Some of us have been very active in groups that are seeking to address needs in various ways.

In short, as a group we have sought to embody the mitzvot (commandments) by taking on acts of tzedakah (righteous actions), gemilut Chasidim (deeds of loving kindness), and tikkun olam (repair of the world). These are identified in Pirke Avot (Ethics of the Fathers) as one of the sets of three pillars upon which the whole world rest, and on which the stability of our world depends. These are the deep rooted Jewish values that inform so much of what each of us does, even when we are not conscious of it.

It is my hope and prayer that as a kehillah kedoshah (a holy community) we can continue to act in this way, and to grow in our actions to embody these mitzvot and the underlying values they represent. I am grateful and awed by your generosity of spirit as shown over and over again. It is awesome and holy work that we have been involved with, and I want to acknowledge you all for your part in it. Kol Hakavod Lekulam (all honor to each of you).

IN THE CONGREGATION

The congregation has been a very busy place. We have had a full calendar, including multiple rabbinic education initiatives, our regular Shabbat services, the High Holy days, social action projects, maintenance work, and Tzedakah efforts. These are the obvious, and visible activities that you probably know about. We should all remember, however, that these are not all that is going on!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Let me take a moment to point out a few of the happenings behind the scenes that

you may not think about, but that enhance our congregational life.

- The board has continued to work for the betterment of the congregation. They have accomplished a great deal.
- Our committees all continue to go about their tasks without fanfare or notice. Even though we don't often see them doing all the things that they take on, we are very appreciative that they are there, doing the work they do. There are too many to name each of you here, but please do know that your efforts are noted and appreciated very much.
- The Sisterhood has continued their wonderful work behind the scenes, arranging the always wonderful pleasures of our Oneg Shabbat each week we have services, planning and preparing the dinners and other events they sponsor, taking on Tzedakah projects, and so much more.
- The Men's Club has been doing a variety of things, including building the dividers for the pre-school use, setting up the Sukkah, participating in Tzedakah projects, and much else.
- The Chevrah Kadishah members hold themselves ready to be called upon for their difficult but holy work. A reporter has asked to meet with them to interview them about the work they do. We will arrange this soon. We will also tackle the instruction manual for the Chevrah Kadishah.
- The Caring Committee springs into action to meet the needs of our community members.
- The Religious school and Pre-School continue to serve our community. The three co-principals (Ruth, Dara and Linda) work hard to make it all happen. Roberta does double duty on the music program in religious school and also running the pre-school. The recent combined Havdalah Family Education program was a pleasure and a wonderful experience for all involved. It was so much fun that some folks were asking if we could do it again. ☺ [The answer is YES, OF COURSE – WHY NOT?]
- The religious school teachers show commitment and dedication out of their love for Judaism and concern for the students – it certainly can't be for the big bucks! Thanks to Hilary Gerson-Krohn, Dara Hall, Joel Ornstein, Rachael Beloff, Dawn Savage, and Anne Dreyfuss. I may have missed someone, but if so please know that it was definitely not intentional.
- The Shenandoah Valley Holocaust Education Program committee members have been working to create an even more spectacular event this year than last. The series of events will span a longer time – from February 25th to March 22nd – and will be of a greater variety, in more locations, involving more groups and members of our larger community. Help is also welcome here. Speak with Rabbi Joe or Ron Ornstein about it.
- We have had at least one volunteer Torah and Haftarah leynner (chanter/reader), who has enhanced our services by their efforts. We would love to see even more of our congregants involved in this effort.
- Similarly, our volunteer Gabba'im (MC for the Torah service) have done a wonderful job, but I am fairly sure they would actually like a chance to sit down once in a while! If you would like to take on this role, let's talk.
- It is beyond me to express how much I appreciate having musical support to enhance and beautify our services (and so should most of you, rather than listening to me sing!). Our small choir is doing yeoman work, working closely with Don Smith, and adding a lot to our enjoyment of services.
- The Shorty youth group is moving along, thanks in large part to Sherri Alt and Joel Ornstein, the advisors.
- The Beth El Judaica Boutique is preparing for Chanukah – be on the lookout for all the things they will be displaying, especially as they will be open

from 9 to 1 on the 7th, 14th and 21st of December.

- Our bulletin editor has kept us informed and in the know – I know I look forward to getting my copy of the Bridge each month, and I suspect most others do as well.
- A Tzedakah opportunity exists in Stanton. If you can offer a block of several hours to a day, please contact David Waterman. He is working now on planning some projects in the community by working in conjunction with Rebuilding Augusta (a group with which he is quite involved). According to David, he needs a group of four to ten people who are willing to work for anything from 4 to 12 hours in the course of a day or two to accomplish each of several projects in the community, ranging from removing a temporary wheelchair ramp, building a new wheelchair ramp, repairing some walls, to clearing out massive amounts of trash from a house. Many of the things he wants to accomplish are outdoors at least in part, so they need to happen soon, before the weather turns totally terrible. If you can volunteer a block of time (several hours to a day), please contact David and tell him when and how much time you have, and what kinds of skills you might bring (if any – from hammering, sawing, measuring, or just offering to be a simple laborer for a time). David's email is drwaterman@comcast.net. His phone number is 540-886-1713. He would like to do some of these projects in the next couple of weeks.
- There is even more, but I am completely out of room), so I will ask your indulgence and stop here.

As you can see, many of us are involved in a variety of ways, each doing something, often many things, to make the life of our congregation richer, warmer, and more vibrant.

UPCOMING EVENTS (Next few weeks)

December 6th Shorty is planning to offer a Parent's Night Out babysitting at Beth El. They will take care of children starting at potty trained age, up to age 12 from 5:30 to 11 pm on Saturday night. The children will be fed, entertained, and watched by members of Shorty. Parents can bring their children to Beth El and have a little 'adult time' – or maybe a chance to do some Chanukah shopping! ☺ Watch for more information to be sent out on this soon.

The Beth El boutique will be open for your shopping pleasure from 9 to 1 on the 7th, 14th and 21st.

A new initiative is being tried at Beth El starting on December 12th. It is a Tot Shabbat service at 6:30 pm, followed by a regular service at 7:30. Families of young (and not so young) children are invited to join in. It will be a pot luck dinner and the theme for this time will be Shabbat! We expect to have music, singing, crafts, food, and even a story, so it will be a fun time for the whole family. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Roberta at (540) 383-3691 or Robertastein52@AOL.COM. We hope to have this as a monthly offering.

The next Beth El board meeting is on December 18th at 7:30 pm.

There will be a Torah Lishmah and Shabbat service on the evening of December 19th at THOI. The Torah study will begin at 6:30, and the service will start at 7:30.

Of course, Chanukah starts Sunday December 21st in the evening, and runs until the 29th, with the last candles being lit on the evening of the 28th. There will be a Chanukah dinner and a performance by many of the children at Beth El starting at 5 pm on the 21st. If you bring your Chanukiah and two candles (a shamash and the first one) you can light it there.

Looking slightly ahead, on January 16th at Beth El the Shorty Youth Group will host their annual ski weekend. The Men's club will provide dinner to all the youth at 6 pm on Friday; then Shorty members will lead

the Shabbat service at 7:30 pm. There will be an Oneg, and then the youth will be dispersed to various homes for the night. Saturday morning they will go to Massanutten. Saturday evening there is dinner, hosted by the Sisterhood, then Havdalah and a program, and a shul-in for all of the youth. They will stay until the morning on Sunday, then leave. This is a major event for our youth group, and for the congregation; so please try to say yes when you are asked to help out.

Later this year Shorty will host a fund-raising dinner at Beth El. The funds raised at the dinner (and by babysitting) help to offset the cost to the members of Shorty attending the NFTY Convention and various Kallot – which are each fairly expensive. I hope you will again turn out to support our youth group members.

TRAVEL, MEETINGS & CONFERENCES

I attended the MAC Biennial conference over the weekend of October 24-26th. Beth and Ruth also attended (as well as Andy Kohen from Beth El). We all agreed that it was a good experience, and worth attending. I hope others will choose to do so in coming years.

At the MAC Biennial, I presented a 'learnshop' session on the topic of EcoKashrut. If there is interest, I would like to offer this same program sometime in the spring.

Also at the MAC Biennial, I was elected to the MAC Council, representing our community at the regional level. I felt it was important to accept the position because Ruth concluded her term on the council, as did Andy Kohen, and I wanted to be sure that at least one voice for very small congregations be included in that body.

I attended the STAR PEER conference from November 1st to 5th. It was an amazing and wonderful experience, and I gained a tremendous amount from it. I am hoping to be able to put some of the lessons I learned into practice here in our community and in my own daily routine. I will continue

to benefit from the program, through online courses, emails, conference calls, and another conference in August.

November 9th, I went with the Daled class of the religious school to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum. The evening of the 9th was the 70th anniversary of Krystallnacht, the "night of broken glass." It seemed to me that the students took in a great deal that day, and it will need to be integrated and absorbed, but it was a valuable lesson and a good trip.

CONCLUSION

This is just a small taste of what has been happening, is in progress, or is on the horizon in our small world. I am sure you will agree that this is already a full and very active year, with many good things ahead.

I hope that you will take advantage of all that our community offers, as well as make your own contribution to our community. There is always room for another pair of hands and a willing heart.

THE CALENDAR & HOLIDAYS

KISLEV → TEVET (DECEMBER)

Kislev began November 28th and runs until December 27th. The 28th of November was Rosh Chodesh (new month/moon) for Kislev. The 27th and 28th of December are Rosh Chodesh for Tevet.

The holiday in Kislev is Chanukah, which is the 25th of Kislev through the 2nd of Tevet. This year the first night of Chanukah is December 21st, and the last night is December 28th. The eight days of Chanukah fall on the 22nd to the 29th of December.

Chanukah is a very minor holiday on the Jewish calendar (Not according to children, though!). It commemorates two things. First, that the Macabees, a very tiny group, could 'overcome' the massive armies of the Hellenized Assyrians and the Romans (only through the help of G-d, of course). Second, that when the Temple was recaptured, prepared, and re-dedicated for ritual use, the single cruse (vial) of sanctified oil that should normally have burned in the Menorah in the Temple for only one day,

lasted the eight days it took to manufacture and bring more sanctified oil to the Temple.

Through the ages, the rabbis have downplayed the first explanation; after all, there are other examples of small forces overcoming large armies in history, and military victory, though important, is not at the heart of Judaism. Instead, the focus has been on a small miracle, something in which only G-d could have a hand.

In part, this is why the game of dreidel was supported. It is not that Jews are such avid gamblers in most cases; rather, it is to teach about this miracle. The letters on the dreidel are Nun, Gimel, Hey, and Shin, and they are the first letters of the words of the phrase, 'Nes Gadol Haya Sham' – a Great Miracle Happened There. We remind ourselves and teach our children that G-d caused a miracle for our people at that time, and we thank and bless G-d for it even as we play the game of Dreidel!

TORAH PARASHIOT

Torah parashiot (Torah portions) read for the period covered by this newsletter include the following in December: Vayetze, Vayishlach, Vayeshev, and Miketz, drawn from Bereshit (Genesis) 28:10-44:17, and Bamidbar (Numbers) 28:9-15. The reading from Bamidbar is the additional section for the Shabbat in Chanukah.

Haftarot (selections from the Prophets) read on Shabbatot (Sabbaths) in December include selections from Hosea 11-14, Amos 2-3, Zechariah 2-4, and Isaiah 66.

OTHER NOTES

If you feel a conversation with the rabbi on any topic would be of benefit to you, please be in touch to make an appointment. You can call or email Rabbi Joe.

Please know that we always seek congregant and guest participation in services throughout the year. If you are interested in taking a role in a service, please be in touch with Rabbi Joe, Margee Greenfield, Gary Stein, or Judy Freudenthal. Roles can include: reading Torah, reading Haftarah, delivering a Devar Torah, serving as Gabbai (the "MC" for the

Torah service), reading an English reading, or having an honor. The Honors we usually confer in our regular Shabbat services include being called up for an Aliyah (saying the blessings for the Torah or the Haftarah reading), serving as Hagbah (lift, hold, and carry the Torah), Gelilah (undressing and dressing the Torah), or Petichah Usegurah (opening and closing the Ark).

RABBINIC EDUCATION INITIATIVES

The Tanakh: Women of the Bible series of classes continues. The November meeting was on the 23rd. In December, we will meet at 2 pm at Beth El on the 7th. Each class stands alone, so you don't have to attend every one of them to take part. We look at the Tanakh text in some detail, and especially at the doings of the women included in various sections, and try to tease out a bit of their stories, as well as look at the historical and contextual world in which those stories are unfolding. The setting for this class would be akin to a seminar in which we would look at the story of one woman/group of women in each class, and read the text (in English), talk about the background, and discuss the story. We have now gotten (limited) access to the newly published Torah: A Women's Commentary, and we will try to incorporate some of the material in that volume into our discussion, as appropriate.

The Introduction to Judaism course is continuing for those who are already registered.

The Introduction to Hebrew class has been cancelled due to lack of interest in a class at this level at the present time. I will consider offering it again in the spring on a different day and at a different time to see if there is enough interest to justify holding it this year. Otherwise, I will wait a year and re-assess the situation.

If you are interested in studying for and celebrating a B'nai Mitzvah, or in learning to leyn (read/chant) Torah and/or Haftarah, or to lead services, or serve as a gabbai (MC for the Torah service), please be

in touch with the rabbi. Classes are planned for later this year. More information will be forthcoming soon.

Torah Limud – a monthly Torah study session at Beth El that looks at that week’s Torah Parashah and tries to fit it into the context of the larger story. Open for discussion and developing your own midrashim! This will usually take place on Friday evening from 6:30 to 7:30, and you are welcome to bring a meal to eat while we talk. On some occasions, it will be moved to Saturday morning, when we have a Shabbat morning service, and in that case, will follow the service, and any Kiddush that is offered. The next session will be January 2nd at 6:30, followed at 7:30 by the Shabbat evening service at Beth El. The session after that will be a Saturday morning Shabbat service on January 31st at Beth El, followed by Torah Limud.

Torah Lishmah – a monthly text study session at THOI that looks at something in the way of a Jewish text, drawn variously (seemingly randomly!) from Torah, Nevi’im (Prophets), Ketuvim (Writings), Talmud, the Zohar, and other Jewish texts. Open for discussion and speculation! This will usually take place on Friday evening from 6:30 to 7:30, and you are welcome to bring a meal to eat while we talk. On some occasions, it will be moved to Saturday morning, when we have a Shabbat morning service scheduled, and in that case, will follow the service and any Kiddush that is offered. The next session scheduled will be Friday, December 19th at 6:30 pm, prior to our Shabbat evening service at THOI. The next session after that will be January 23rd at the same time, also preceding our Shabbat service.

Social Action

There are many opportunities that are open to us to perform Tikkun Olam (repair of the world) and Gemilut Chasidim (acts of lovingkindness), from supporting First Step and the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank to working at the Volunteer Farm, partnering with Rebuilding Augusta, and much more. The possibilities are limited only by our

imagination and energy. There are many other possibilities to volunteer and help our community continue to grow and be vibrant – please consider signing up and taking on one or more of these roles.

Speaking of these mitzvot: I am very happy to report that the food collection we made over the High Holy Days netted 299 pounds of food which was delivered to the food bank, and over thirty grocery bags were delivered to First Step Shelter. They were each very happy to have it, as they are running out of food to distribute, and even more people are in need of this help than ever before.

Of course, it is still not too late to fulfill the mitzvot (commandments) of Tzedakah (righteous action), Gemilut Chasidim (deeds of loving kindness) and Tikkun Olam (repair of the world) by sending a donation to Mazon, and/or by returning the grocery bag with non-perishable foods to the synagogue. We will find a way to deliver the food to the Food bank or First Step so that the increasing number of those in our community who are in desperate need will have food to eat. We received many sincere thanks for sending the food that was in the lobby – it was desperately needed, and the need continues.

The November 15th trip to the Volunteer Farm to work there to support raising food for the food bank was spearheaded by the Beth El Sisterhood, and more than fifteen people signed up to go and work there. Due to the heavy rain, the volunteer coordinator at the Farm suggested we not all come that day, and only five of our group went (because the office is too small for a larger group), but these five accomplished a great deal in the time they were there, helping get out a major mailing. Beth El Sisterhood has already said that they plan to go again, and will try to make this a monthly event, coordinating with the Men’s Club, Youth Group, and other congregants. Congregants from THOI would be very welcome to come along.

SHORTY

The next Shorty meeting will be on Saturday December 6th at 5 pm at Beth El in Harrisonburg. We will hold a Parent's night out (babysitting) event from 5:30 to 11 pm. The members of Shorty will then meet to go over the Ski weekend service and program, and stay overnight for a Shul-in. Please plan to attend. Look for more information to be sent to the member list.

Refuah Shelemah:

We extend continuing wishes for healing and shalem (wholeness) to: Claire Aycock; Tom Aycock; Blaine Brumbaugh; Miriam Banker; Franklin Blatt; Candy Blatt; Maureen Callaghan; Ruth Clayman; Max Derechinsky; Joyce Helbraun; Erwin Helbraun; Linda Kohn for her mother, Sadie Bialock; Lynne Landsberg; Herb Rodbell; Joe Landson; Shirley Merlin; Gene Nemoytin; Gerry Price; Roberta Stein; John Stewart; and everyone else who should be included in our thoughts and prayers at this time.

CLOSING MESSAGE

Looking back, I cannot imagine that we have already arrived at the start of December. It seems only days ago that it was August.... But as I think back over the past months, I recall many wonderful conversations, phone calls, and visits, some lovely moments at our services and celebrations, and multiple moments when I felt gratified and proud of our community. I am so often pleased and delighted to be here, serving as your rabbi, doing all I am able to meet your needs and expectations, to support vital Jewish life here in the Shenandoah Valley, and to work with the larger community on your behalf in the interest of our shared objectives of tikkun olam (repairing the world) and partnering with G-d.

Rabbi Joe Blair
December 2008

REACHING THE RABBI & THE RABBI'S AVAILABILITY

The rabbi is available to meet by appointment. If you wish to meet or speak with the rabbi, please email or call to set an appointment.

The office is not staffed and the building is generally closed when the rabbi is not in. Messages are checked by the rabbi at both congregations, and email is frequently read during the week. Please understand that the rabbi will not be available or reply on Shabbat or on Jewish holidays unless it is an emergency that cannot wait.

In the event of an urgent need the rabbi may be contacted by telephone. In that case, please call the cell phone number listed, leaving a detailed message, and be sure to express the need for an immediate response.

If you wish to make an appointment to see the rabbi please feel free to call (886-4091) or email (rabbijoe@thoi.org). To minimize driving, he is grouping appointments in Staunton on Mondays and Fridays, and in Harrisonburg on Sundays and Thursdays. Other days may be possible – contact him to ask about that possibility.

Rabbi Joe's Email:

RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com

Beth El Congregation

540-434-2744

Temple House of Israel

540-886-4091

Cell phone (Please use this # for emergencies)

434-981-3959

DONATIONS

Beth El Congregation is grateful for the following generous donations

Yahrzeit Memorials

**Milton Perlman in memory of Louis Perlman, brother
Joyce Helbraun in memory of Gussie Myers, mother
Bill & Leslie Ney in memory of Annie Ney
Max Derechinsky in memory of Zvi Hirsh Derechinsky, father**

High Holidays Yizkor Donations:

**Stewart & Judy Liss
Daniel Bly
The Greenfield and Robles Families**

Other High Holidays Donations

**Josh & Marybeth Neckowitz
Howard & Mayda Davis
Sheila Padoll**

Additional Pledges

**Dale Brothers
Gary & Roberta Stein and Miriam
Banker
Max Derechinsky
Lynn, Marshall, Jacob, & Rachel Kohen
Cindy Baron
Joan Funston and family
Linda & Peter Kohn
Arnold Kahn
Andy Kohen
Sherri Alt & Marlene Brumbaugh
Erwin & Joyce Helbraun
Jerry & Esther Minskoff
Beverly & Leo Zindler**

Other Donations

Jay La Pierre for a generous donation of time and expertise in fixing the Rabbi's computer

Come One, Come All

The Chanukah Shop

will be opened on

the Following Sundays:

12/7 and 12/14 from 9-1

and

12/21 from 11:30-5

Come and bring your friends to do all your Chanukah Shopping.

Buy a lot and buy often.

The profits benefit your own Beth El Sisterhood.

Thank you for your patronage.

2008 BETH EL SISTERSHOOD ANNUAL CHANUKAH DINNER

Please join us Sunday, December 21st at 5 PM for food, fun, and special entertainment by our Religious School. Don't forget to bring your menorah and candles and share in lighting them with us. The menu includes:



- Vegetable Soup
- Brisket
- Green Beans with Almonds
- Rolls
- Latkes (of course!)
- Apple Sauce/Sour Cream
- Donuts for Dessert



Reservations are required in advance. Please return the bottom portion of this page **WITH YOUR PAYMENT** by December 15th to Maureen Goldberger, 441 Queen Anne Court, Harrisonburg, VA 22801.

Cost for Members: Adults - \$17.00, Ages 6-13 - \$8.00, Under 6 - free
 After Dec. 15th : Adults - \$20.00, Ages 6-13 - \$12.00 Under 6 - free
 Non-members: Adults - \$20.00, Ages 6-13 - \$12.00 Under 6 - free



As a tzedakah project, the Religious School will be collecting non-perishable food items to donate to the Food Pantry. Please consider bringing an item to the Chanukah Dinner.



Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Number of Tickets:

Member Child (\$8) _____ Member Adult (\$17) _____ Under 6 (Free) _____
 Non-Member Child (\$12) _____ Non-Member Adult (\$20) _____ Under 6 (Free) _____

_____ Yes, I want to join the fun with the Sisterhood on December 21st. Enclosed is my payment of \$ _____.

_____ No, I cannot attend, however, I have enclosed a monetary contribution to the Sisterhood.

MENS CLUB NEWS

We had a very successful first Lions Club spaghetti dinner. Thanks to all who participated, especially to Eddie, Les and Bill for all their early preparations. Our next meeting will be on December 11 at 6:30 , meeting for dinner at the new Indian restaurant across from Costco. At that time

we will also begin planning for a busy January/February. Mark your calendars: January 16 - providing dinner for the SHORTY ski weekend, January 20 - another Lions Club dinner and February 6 - our annual Men's Club Shabbat. Hope to see many of you on December 11 - Thanks.

**Karen & Steve Sodikoff
happily announce the
wedding of their oldest son,
Ryan, to Lindsey Knight. The
wedding took place October
5, 2008 in New York City.**

Mazel Tov !

Board Members

Gary Stein	President
Jerry Minskoff	Vice President
Becky Mintzer	Secretary
Michelle Ornstein	Treasurer
Judy Freudenthal	Trustee
Andy Kohen	Trustee
Bill Ney	Trustee
Sherri Alt	Sisterhood President
Ron Ornstein	Men's Club President
Marlene Brumbaugh	At large member
Phil Renick	At large member
Margee Greenfield	Immediate Past President

Bridge Editor

Elliott Golub
Elgolubret@comcast.net
181 Turkey Drive
McGaheysville, VA, 22840

540-289-5336

SCHOOL NEWS

Preschool

Tot Shabbat

There will be Tot Shabbat on Friday Dec. 12 at 6:30. All families with young children are invited. This is our first Tot Shabbat, so it will be a table service. Please bring your favorite dish to share. Set-up is at 6:00 and the meal will start promptly at 6:30 so we will be done by the time the regular service starts. Please come.

Chanukah Dinner Entertainment

The Religious School students are preparing a Chanukah Musical to present at the Sisterhood Chanukah Dinner on Dec. 21. The musical is entitled Alice's Restaurant and Kosher deli at Chanukah. As a mitzvah project connected to this program, the students are asking everyone who comes to see them, and who come to the dinner to please bring a non-perishable food item that the students will then donate to the food bank. Please support their project!

Preschool News

The preschool class is going like gangbusters. We have celebrated all of the fall holidays and are getting ready for Shabbat and Chanukah. Our "wall Torah" has two stories on it and will soon have a third as we add Noah to it next week. We have made puppets and written books and we are learning Hebrew words and lots and lots of songs. If you have a youngster ages 3 to 5 join us for all of the fun. **Shalom, Miss Roberta**

Shir Halelu

The folk rock singing group Shir Halelu, made up of temple members, are planning to lead the lay service on Dec. 19. This will be a "Friday Night Live" type of all musical service. Families are encouraged to come and bring the kids, as this will be a service

really suited to the children and the child in all of us. Hope to see you there.

Religious School

Trip to the Holocaust Museum

The cooler November temperatures have not slowed us down at religious school! On Sunday, November 9th, the dalet class went on a field trip to the Holocaust Museum. This experiential learning experience was extremely moving and insightful for our students. Rabbi will follow up on the visit during the next few weeks at religious school. Students in bet and gimmel were also introduced to Kristallnacht at school.

On Saturday evening, November 15th, we had a religious school family education Havdalah celebration and Jewish food experience. The preschool families were also invited. We made a variety of crafts to create a Havdalah set for each family, including a Havdalah candle, a spice box with spices, and a booklet of the Havdalah service. We all shared in a Havdalah service together. Each family brought a traditional "Jewish" dish or a dish that is a part of their Jewish experience to share during our pot luck dinner. Everything was delicious! We followed dinner with the Birkat Hamazon. Thank you to all of the families who participated and helped with the food and crafts!

We will be celebrating Chanukah during religious school on December 14th (with winter break for religious school on December 21st and 28th.) Wishing you all a joyful and bright Chanukah!**L'Shalom, Dara, Linda, and Ruth**

DECEMBER YAHRZEITS

01	Sadye Spiro	1953	Member
03	Alfred Ney	1954	Member Bill Ney's & Leo Zindler's Grandfather
05	Anna Bloom	1932	
	Elizabeth Levey		
06	Sebastion Goldsmith	1929	Member
	Albert Klingstein	1957	
08	Mollie Katzen	1986	Member
09	Max Frankel	1980	Member
	Elaine Trubitz	1983	Mark Trubitz' Mother
12	Rabbi Jacob Schvanefeld		
	Barnett Nelson		
	Molly Feig		Betty Nemoytin's Mother
13	Bertha Schvanefeld	1948	Rabbi's Wife
14	Simon Wender	1976	Member
16	Agnes Moore		Cleda Frankel's Mother
	William A. Loewner	1980	Member (Austin)
	Simon Oestreicher	1918	Member
17	Carl Ney	1967	Member
18	Louis Hamburg		
	Rhoda Mintzer		
21	Esther Derechinsky		Max's Wife
22	Sarah Rabinowitz		
	Gladys Ney	1984	Member
	Rabbi Burton Padol	2004	Life Member Shelia Padol's Husband
23	Albert H. Ash	1946	Eddie Ney's Grandfather
24	Nace Cohen		
25	Theresa Hirsch	1952	Member
26	Amelia L. Figgatt	1980	Member (Mimi)
	Mai Mintzer		
	Joshua Rader Stein		Roberta Stein's Son
27	Anna Robinson	1949	Member Josh Robinson's Aunt
28	Josephine Merzger	1928	Member
29	Pearl Rachel Katzen		
30	Eddie Ney	1940	Member Eddie Ney's Grandfather
	Doris Kalman		Brian Kalman's Mother
	Bertha Hammer	1957	Member
31	Lenora Myerberg	1997	Member
	Sarah Miller	1989	Member

CALENDAR

December 2008						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 Lay Service NFTY MAJYK	6 Parashat Vayetzei Kallah-
7 Religious School Bagel Bar Chanukah Gift Shop open NFTY MAJYK	8	9	10	11 Men's Club 6:30	12 Tot Shabbat 6:30 Rabbi Service 7:30	13 Parashat Vayishlach
14 Religious School Chanukah Bagel Bar Chanukah Gift Shop open	15	16	17	18 Board Meeting 7:30	19 Musical Lay Service	20 Parashat Vayeshev
21 No Religious School Chanukah: 1 Candle Beth El Chanukah Dinner Chanukah Gift Shop open	22	23	24	25	26 Rabbi Service (9)	27 Parashat Miketz Rosh Chodesh Tevet
28 No Religious School Rosh Chodesh Tevet Chanukah: 8 Candles	29	30	31			