

<http://va014.urj.net/bethel.html>

The purpose of this congregation shall be to worship God in accordance with the faith of Judaism; to cultivate a love and understanding of the Jewish heritage; to strengthen the ties within the Jewish community; to strengthen the bonds of loyalty with the Jewish people everywhere; to bring nearer the Dominion of God on earth through an emphasis of the principles of righteousness and harmony in society at large.

DECEMBER 2011

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Shalom!

November proved to be a fairly quiet month of activities for us, don't be fooled as we are approaching a very busy month ahead. Thank you to all who attended Community Awareness Shabbat. We had a wonderful turn out of guests and a lovely service, thanks to all who helped make this successful. We now look forward into December as we start preparing for Chanukah. Due to impossible scheduling for the week of Chanukah, Sisterhood has elected to have our traditional Chanukah dinner early. We did not want to miss our briskets, latkes and everything else just because of the schedule! We will be having a pot luck Chanukah dinner on Wednesday December 21 for congregants that are in town so we can share one night of lighting the candles together. More info to come but mark your calendars.

I want to thank everyone for jumping in and helping this past month, I had many family health issues and was out of town a good bit. What a wonderful caring community we are. Our community has also suffered several losses with family members, we keep them in our thoughts and prayers as well. Hope everyone enjoys turkey and has a very thankful Thanksgiving. Think latkes!!!
Sherri Alt

My dear fellow Valley Jews and Friends,

Shalom! The Thanksgiving holiday is later this week, as I write this. This is a time that I sometimes use to stop a moment and review the year so far. Let me share with you a bit of my thinking for that review.

The High Holy Day services went well, and (to me) felt meaningful and uplifting. Sukkot was good, and our Simchat Torah celebration was enhanced by including the Consecration of the new Religious school students and by welcoming all our Religious school students to take part. The Krystallnacht program that took place at THOI was very well received. Our Community Awareness Shabbat service has just been held and we welcomed a good number of community members from a wide variety of groups who were interested and excited to join us for the evening. The Religious school is going gangbusters and buzzing along. Shorty (the youth group) members have been meeting, and are planning a full year. The board has been active and busy. All sorts of projects and improvements have been taking place in the building and amidst the congregation members. Adult education classes I am offering are in progress and running smoothly. Chanukah lies just on the horizon. We have a number of traditional and adult B'nai Mitzvah coming up in the months ahead. Plans are in progress for an Israel trip in June. Much that is good and positive is happening and planned, and there is a lot of which we can be proud – very timely, because it is good cause to rejoice and give thanks.

“COFFEE TALKS”

I am trying to find a way to fit into the busy and full schedule that is planned for our congregation the meetings I want to hold to speak with as many congregants as possible in small groups. I have termed these conversations ‘coffee talks’ – and the goal of them is to sit with you, to ask you for your opinions on how things are going in the congregation, and how you think they can be improved. The purpose is to ask for your thoughts and opinions – so I am

mostly a listener (and someone will probably be there as a note-taker because my memory is not what it used to be, and I can't listen and write at the same time! ☺). If you have compliments, fine (I can take it ☺), but if you have complaints, that is perhaps better, and if you have suggestions, that is best of all. I will email or call and ask you to agree to meet with me – please try to find time in your busy schedule to help with this effort to learn about how best to move forward as a congregation.

THE CALENDAR

KISLEV → TEVET (DECEMBER 2011)

Rosh Chodesh for Kislev (a thirty day month) was on November 27th. Kislev runs from November 27th through December 26th, with Rosh Chodesh for Tevet (a twenty-nine day month) on December 26th and 27th. Tevet will run from December 27th until January 24th, with Rosh Chodesh for Shevat (a thirty day month) on January 25th.

HOLIDAYS & SERVICES

December encompasses only one Jewish holiday, other than Rosh Chodesh and Shabbat, which as any child will tell you, is Chanukah. Chanukah runs from the 25th of Kislev until the 2nd of Tevet, which means this year it occurs on the secular calendar starting at sundown on Tuesday, December 20th (first candle), and ending at sundown on Wednesday, December 28th (eight candles lit at sundown on December 27th). A reminder: in following both the teachings of the House of Hillel and the House of Shammai (two Talmudic schools of thought), we add candles starting at the RIGHT of the Chanukiah (the Chanukah menorah or candelabra) and adding to the LEFT each night, but we light candles starting on the LEFT and moving towards the RIGHT of the Chanukiah. On Erev Shabbat, we light the Chanukiah before we kindle the Shabbat candles so we are not creating new lights after we usher in the Sabbath. Of course, to commemorate the story of the oil that burned for eight days, we enjoy foods that are cooked in oil (on the theory that we are what we eat, I think) – so Potato Latkes (pancakes), Sufganiyot (jelly doughnuts), and

other fried foods are common. Don't forget about the game of Dreidel and the chocolate Gelt (coins) that are often used to play.

As you can see from the dates, this year Chanukah overlaps with the Christian holiday of Christmas. Be careful - I am not too sure how well Latkes go with Eggnog. ☺ And hard on the heels of these days, we come to the changing of the secular year. Because Israeli's love a party, they celebrate Sylvester on December 31st-January 1st – so Happy Sylvester to all!

SPECIAL EVENTS

RABBI-LED SERVICES

As determined by the Calendar Committee and the two Boards, after changes and updates, the scheduled Rabbi-led Shabbat Services for this period are:

- Friday, December 2nd, 7:30 pm, THOI
- Saturday, December 3rd, 10 am, Beth El
- Friday, December 23rd, 7:30 pm, THOI
- Friday, December 30th, 7:30 pm, Beth El
- Friday, January 6th, 7:30 pm, Beth El
- Friday, January 13th, 7:30 pm, THOI [Shorty Fundraising Dinner at 6 pm]
- Friday, January 20th, 7:30 pm, Beth El [Ski Weekend]
- Saturday, January 28th, 10 am, THOI

TORAH PARASHIOT

In December, the Torah Parashiot read will be Vayetze, Vayishlach, Vayeshev, Miketz, and Vayigash, from Bereshit (Gen.) 28-10-47:27, and Bamidbar (Num.) 7:30-35. We are in the second year of our Triennial cycle.

Haftarot (Haftarah readings selected from the prophets) to be read include segments from Hosea 12-14, Obadiah 1, Amos 2-3, Zechariah 2, and Ezekiel 37.

CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES

In December, times to light Shabbat candles are:

- 2nd 4:3957 pm
- 9th 4:38 pm
- 16th 4:40 pm (begin to add to the length of daylight)
- 23rd 4:42 pm

- 30th 4:47 pm
- Havdalah times are:
- 3rd 5:38 pm
 - 10th 5:38 pm
 - 17th 5:40 pm
 - 24th 5:43 pm
 - 31st 5:48 pm

PASTORAL CARE

If you feel a conversation or meeting 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 as listed elsewhere in this newsletter. Also, if you are ill, or know someone who may be, and might like a visit or call, please let Rabbi Joe know so he can be in touch, or see you when he is in town and has a chance.

SERVICE PARTICIPATION

Please know that we seek congregant and guest participation in services throughout the year. If you are interested in leading a lay service, or a part of a service, or in taking another role in a service, please be in touch with Margee Greenfield, Chuck Slott, Ron Ornstein, or speak to the rabbi.

CLOSING MESSAGE

I hope that everyone will have an opportunity to spend time over this Thanksgiving holiday realizing and appreciating all the blessings that grace each of us and those that we share. May each of you have a thanksgiving full of joy and love and blessings, and may that continue through the month and year ahead.

May Chanukah, our festival of lights, bring increasing light to us and to all the world, and may that light lead to enlightenment and blessings of peace, prosperity, health, joy and love to all. And let us each say, Amen.

Rabbi Joe Blair
December 2011

REACHING THE RABBI & THE

- The rabbi is available by appointment throughout the year. If you wish to meet or speak with the rabbi, please email or call to set an appointment time. In that way, the rabbi will be able to respond and give you his full attention, as you deserve.

- Please note: the rabbi does not read or respond to email on Shabbat or holidays, and asks to receive only emergency phone calls on those days. He will reply to your email or non-emergency call after the Sabbath or Holiday has ended.

- The rabbi may be contacted by telephone. To do so, please call the cell phone number listed below.

- If you reach voicemail, please leave a message, speaking clearly, with your name, telephone numbers, the topic, and if an emergency, please be sure to express the need for an urgent response. The rabbi checks

RABBI'S AVAILABILITY

voicemail regularly, and will respond as soon as possible.

- The rabbi does not check for phone messages at his home number and no one is likely to answer the phone or receive the message in a timely fashion; please call his cell phone (not his home number) if you want to be sure of getting a response.

Rabbi Joe's Email:

RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com

Beth El Congregation

540-434-2744

Temple House of Israel

540-886-4091

Cell Phone

925-272-8563 [925-2-RAV-JOE]

(Please be

sure to call this cell # for emergencies)

Y A H R Z E I T S

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 Schvanenfeld			
	Barnett Nelson			
	Molly Feig			Betty Nemoytin's Mother
13	Bertha Schvanenfeld	1948		Rabbi's Wife
	Roselea Kohen	1998		Andy Kohen's Mother
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)	
	Mal 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
	Sarah Miller			
	Bertha Hammer	1957	Member	
31	Lenora Myerberg	1997	Member	
	Sarah Miller	1989	Member	

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Congratulations on a great Global Day of Jewish Learning! On November 13th, we had the honor of being involved in this special day. Harrisonburg was one of 300 communities in 40 countries around the globe that participated in this awesome event. Our religious school families came together to think about the Shema in a special way. We focused on the Bedtime Shema, which we encourage all of our students to say before they go to sleep. We watched videos, did a "Shema" scavenger hunt, ate a bedtime snack, and made several Shema crafts including a Shema pillowcase, a beautiful copper mezzuzah, and a foam Shema bed. Many thanks to the participants, and the volunteer parents - Ruth Berger, Lara Sokoloff, and Heidi Rafferty. For more information about this special event, please see:
<http://www.theglobalday.com/>

During this season of Thanksgiving, I would like to take a moment to say "Thank You" so much to some very special people involved in Religious School. Thank you to our wonderful teachers who are committed and caring. You are truly appreciated! Thank you to our amazing students - I am so proud of all of you! Thank you to our parents - without you and your support we could not continue to be so successful! And special thanks to Rabbi Joe, a great mentor and teacher, for sharing so much of yourself with us and for your constant encouragement.

Some other thank yous - to the Renick family your many donations of school supplies, to Moreh Ron Ornstein for his superior skills with music and Jewish education, and to Ruth Berger for always willing to help me out and support our Religious School. There is so much to be thankful for!

L'shalom,

Dara Hall, Principal

SISTERHOOD

There's lots of excitement in our future so please take note of the following celebrations/activities/ways for volunteers to participate and place the dates on your calendars:

1) **Sunday, Dec. 4 at Beth El there will be a Pre-Hanukah Hanukah dinner starting at 5:00 PM.** You should have already gotten your invitation by mail and returned your RSVP with the appropriate money to Sherri Alt. Here are some more important details about this event.

a) Please plan to **volunteer on Sun., 12/4 at Beth El in the AM to count dishes and generally prepare for the evening's meal.**

b) **At 12:30 PM at Beth El on Sunday, Dec. 4 the latke-making, general cooking, and table setting will begin so more volunteers are needed.**

This event cannot happen without you so please join us in this joyous occasion. Please RSVP to Gale Clemons a clemonsga@comcast.net if you plan on volunteering.

2) Beth El will once again help with the HARTS program by feeding the homeless at the Mosque. Beth

El's assistance in those tasks will be on 12/20 and 12/22 for dinner and 12/21 and 12/23 for breakfast. You have already gotten information on assisting with the serving from Chuck Slott and Gale Clemons. WELLLLL - there is additional assistance in which you can participate and that is in the food preparation for those dinners.

a) SOOOO - please plan to **volunteer to assist with the food preparation at Beth El on Mon., 12/19 starting at 6:00 PM.** We will be cooking a meat and a chicken meal. The more the merrier and the faster the evening will fly. Please RSVP to Gale Clemons at clemonsga@comcast.net if you would like to help with this mitzvah.

3) So you thought you were finished with Chanukah but you would have been wrong. There will actually be a Chanukah Pot Luck dinner for the real Chanukah at Beth El on Weds., 12/21. Further details about this dinner will be coming.

4) The following dates are scheduled for 2011-2012 Sisterhood meetings:

1/25/12 (Weds.); 2/22/12 (Weds.); 3/18/12 (Sun.); 4/25/12 (Weds.); 5/23/12 (Weds.)

A variety of programs will be scheduled for those dates and the Wednesday meetings (1/25, 2/22, and 4/25) will begin at 7:00 PM, with people who would like to meet for dinner to do so before the meeting.

The Sunday meeting (3/18) time is yet to be determined.

The 5/23/12 meeting is our end-of-year dinner and the place and time is yet to be determined.

5) On May 5, 2012 there may be a whole congregation volunteer day at the Blue Ridge volunteer farm.

Whew!!! That's it for now and further information will be forthcoming on future events. But please place these important dates on your calendars and plan to volunteer. It's so much fun to be together and be investing in our future as a Temple.

Thanks. Thea

MEN'S CLUB

Men's Club Dinner Meeting - 6 Pm, Wed. December 14, 2011 at Vito's Italian Restaurant

(the old Port Road L'Italia) Food Lion Shopping Center on Port Republic Road across from new JMU ball field project.

DONATIONS

Beth El Congregation is grateful for the following generous donations:

High Holiday Visitors

Ilene Friedman & Keegan Bailey

Gary Curwin & Jane Besdin-Curwin

Shari & Steve Brecher

Yahrzeit Memorial Fund

Milton Perlman in memory of Louise Perlman

Allen Poster in memory of his father, Edward Poster

Judy Freudenthal in memory of her father, Bruno Freudenthal

Max Derechinsky in memory of Zvi Hirsch

Bill Ney in memory of Annie Ney, Grandmother

Gifts & Memorials

Sheila Padoll

In honor of the birth of Thea & Elliott Golub's grandson, Matthew Evan Sager

Jerry & Esther Minskoff

Chuck Slott

Mike & Mo Goldberger

In memory of Cindy's Baron's father, David Baron

Elliott & Thea Golub

Bo & Sandy Rose

Andy Kohen

Mark Mitchell

In memory of Agnes Steadman, Leslie Ney's mother

Ron & Michelle Ornstein

Andy Kohen

Thea & Elliott Golub

Judy Freudenthal

Chuck Slott

In memory of Linda Renick

Andy Kohen

Ron & Michelle Ornstein

Thea & Elliott Golub

Judy Freudenthal

Chuck Slott

Building Fund

Joan Funston in memory of Cindy's father & uncle

Stuart & Judy Liss in memory of Linda Renick, Phil's Mother

Stuart and Judy Liss In memory of David Baron, Cindy's father

Bill & Leslie Ney in memory of Cindy's father

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Cindy Baron with appreciation of Rabbi Joe's guidance and support after the passing of my father, David Baron

Yahrzeit Memorial Fund

Max Derechinsky in memory of his mother, Esther

Eddie Ney in memory of Albert Ash & Eddie Ney, grandfathers

Board Members

Joe Blair
Sherri Alt
Chuck Slott
Mary Handley
Michelle Ornstein
Judy Freudenthal
Andy Kohen
Bill Ney
Dale Brothers
Gale Clemons
Ron Ornstein
Ronn Daniel
Mary Hildebrand
Margee Greenfield

Rabbi
President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Trustee
Trustee
Trustee
Sisterhood Copresident
Sisterhood Copresident
Men's Club President
Member at Large
Member at Large
Immediate Past President

Bridge Editor

Elliott Golub
Elgolubret@comcast.net
181 Turkey Drive
McGaheysville, VA, 22840
540-289-5336

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteer for HARTS

Beth El is partnering with the Islamic Center of the Shenandoah Valley as part of the HARTS (Harrisonburg and Rockingham Thermal Shelter, Inc) program to provide meals and a warm place to sleep during the cold weather for our fellow citizens in need. Guests arrive at 6:00 pm and are out of the shelter the next morning by 7:00 am. We will be serving dinner Tuesday, December 20 and Thursday, December 22 and breakfast each following morning. The Sisterhood will be cooking at the Temple on Monday the 19th beginning at 6:00 pm. If you'd like to join in or contribute food, please contact Gale Clemons at 421-2187 to discuss what is needed and make arrangements for delivering it. She and Ashley Renick are planning food. Volunteers are also needed to serve dinner, breakfast the following morning and clean up after the meals, deliver food from the Temple to the Mosque and provide transportation to Westover park for the guests to shower (HARTS insurance covers liability). Several people have offered to spend the night to assist the HARTS staff member who will be there and anyone else is welcome. Please contact Chuck Slott at 433-8436 if you'd like to volunteer for any of these. if you are not able to participate in any of the above, below is the HARTS Needs List from their website and anything you can provide will be helpful. Everyone in the past has found this service rewarding and there is room for everyone.

L'Shalom,
Chuck

HARTS Needs List

- **BUS TICKETS**
 - Churches can purchase a book of 25 tickets for \$10
 - Take a church check to the Harrisonburg Department of Transportation and tell them you are purchasing for HARTS.
 - Department of Transportation: 473 E. Washington Street; open 8am-5pm, Monday-Friday
- **COLD WEATHER CLOTHING**
 - Hats, scarves, gloves and mittens
 - Primary need is for men's accessories
- **TRAVEL SIZED TOILETRIES**
 - Shampoo & Conditioner
 - Soap
 - Razors & Shaving Cream
 - Deodorant
 - Combs
 - Lotion
- **BACKPACKS, ETC.**
 - Backpacks or totebags
 - Anything with a handle- easy to carry
 - New or gently used
- **UNDERGARMENTS**
 - Men's underwear
 - All sizes, especially medium

- Boxers or briefs
- Men's socks
 - White tube socks especially
 - No dress socks
 - Thermal socks also appreciated
- Men's undershirts
 - Short sleeved or tank tops
 - Sizes medium and large especially
- Women's undergarments
 - Not needed as much as men's undergarments
 - Socks and underwear
- **WALMART GIFT CARDS**
 - Any amount accepted
 - To be used by staff and volunteers to purchase prescription medication for guests.
- **MEDICATIONS**
 - Cough Syrup
 - Daytime & Nighttime Cold Medicine (Pills)
 - Ibuprophen
 - Tylenol
 - Tums
 - Pepto Bismol

Please bring or send your donation to the HARTS Office:

Otterbein United Methodist Church
176 West Market Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

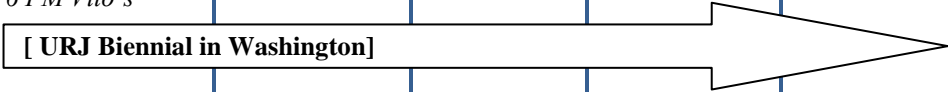
Items can be dropped off during church office hours:

Monday - Thursday: 9am-3pm

Friday: 9am - 12pm

Thank you for your support!

December 2011

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2	3 Shabbat BETH EL	4 [REL SCH] PreChanukah Chanukah Dinner 5 PM Latke Making 12:30 PM
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 [REL SCH]
12	13	14 <i>Men's Club Dinner Meeting 6 PM Vito's</i>	15	16	17	18 [NO REL SCH]
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">[URJ Biennial in Washington]</div> 						
19 HARTS Food Preparation 6:00 PM	20 <i>HARTS Dinner</i>	21 Holiday BETH EL Chanukah Potluck HARTS Breakfast	22 <i>HARTS Dinner</i>	23 <i>HARTS Breakfast</i>	24	25 [NO REL SCH]
26	27	28	29	30 Shabbat BETH EL	31	