



<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.*

**FEBRUARY 2011**

***A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT***

Shalom! Our congregation has continued to be busy the month of January, despite the cold temperature and intermittent snow showers. Chuck Slott, Gale Clemons and Ron Ornstein worked very hard coordinating efforts on our behalf of providing meals to HARTS. We provided meals, overnight "chaperones", transportation and companionship a total of 5 nights working with the Mosque and Asbury Presbyterian Church. We had so much participation from our congregation, thank you to everyone. This was truly a group effort and a much appreciated mitzvah to our homeless neighbors. This was also a busy time for SHORTY, our youth group. They had their fundraising dinner in Staunton and led services on January 7. There was a nice crowd from BethEl that traveled to support them, we had a lovely dinner and they did wonderful job with services. SHORTY also just had their annual ski weekend in Harrisonburg. Thank you again to our members who gave their support to make the weekend a success, Men's Club and Sisterhood, and all families who hosted teens in

their homes on Friday night. Congratulations to Joel Ornstein and Becky Mintzer for doing a great job with our youth!

We had Shabbat service on Saturday morning Jan.8, despite the dusting of snow and cold, we had a very nice turnout and a wonderful one following. It is always wonderful to see many, many congregants at services, please join us on Rabbi services and everyone is invited to help lead lay services.

February promises to be just as busy, mark your calendars for Feb.11 and join the Men's Club as they lead services. They always do such a great job, I encourage everyone to come and show your support, our Men's Club does many wonderful things.

We are also hosting a Kulano speaker on Sunday, Feb.20 at 4pm. More information will be forthcoming, but please mark your calendars, Andy Kohen has been doing a fantastic job coordinating putting this program together, it promises to be wonderful.

And to finish the month of Feb. on the 26 is our annual fundraising dinner with Dave's Taverna,

please try to sell tickets, if any questions call Judy Liss or Bill Ney, thank you both for working on this annual event. Our next board meeting will be Tuesday, Feb.15th at 7:30pm. The board is always open, please contact any member with any concerns or thank you's.  
Sherri Alt

## **FROM THE RABBI'S DESK**

My dear fellow Valley Jews and Friends,  
Shalom. I hope that you are staying warm and healthy in this very cold season.

### **THE CALENDAR**

SHEVAT → ADAR 1 (FEBRUARY 2011)  
Shevat (a thirty day month), began January 6<sup>th</sup>, and will run until February 4<sup>th</sup>. Rosh Chodesh for Adar 1 will be on February 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Adar 1 (a thirty day month) will run until March 6<sup>th</sup>, with Rosh Chodesh for Adar 2 on February 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Because this is a leap year in the Jewish calendar, we have both Adar 1 and Adar 2 – more about that next month.

### **HOLIDAYS & SPECIAL SERVICES**

In the month of February this year, because it is the leap month added to the calendar, there are no special holidays.

The service February 25<sup>th</sup> at Beth El will follow the Shorty youth group's fund-raising dinner at 6 pm. Please join us for the meal, and support Shorty.

As determined by the Calendar Committee, Rabbi-led Shabbat Services this month are:

- Friday February 4, 7:30 pm Beth El
- Friday, February 11, 7:30 pm, at THOI
- Friday, February 18, 7:30 pm, Beth El
- Saturday, February 19, 10 am, THOI
- Friday February 25, 7:30 pm, Beth El [preceded by Shorty Fundraising dinner @ 6]
- Saturday, February 26, 10 am, THOI Kinderlachen
- Friday, March 4, 7:30 pm, THOI

- Saturday, March 5, 10 am, Beth El

### **TORAH PARASHIOT**

The Torah parashiot (Torah portions) read for the month include the following: Terumah, Tetzaveh, Ki Tisa, and Vayakhel, drawn from Shemot (Ex.) 25:1-38:20.

Haftarot (Haftarah readings selected from the prophets) to be read include segments from Isaiah 66; and 1 Kings 7 and 18.

### **EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES & ACTIVITIES THIS MONTH**

This month again includes a number of educational offerings. Please consider which are of interest and fit your schedule, and join me.

#### **ISRAEL TRIP**

A number of people have expressed interest in the proposed **Congregational Israel Trip** based on the re-scheduled dates falling between **July 24 to August 21**. We are still short several of the number needed for a group: if you would be interested in going on a Congregational trip to Israel in the summer, **please be in touch with me as soon as possible** so I can ascertain the number of persons who would want to join the group. If we don't reach a group of 15 or more by March 15<sup>th</sup>, the trip will not take place this year.

#### **EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES**

Torah Bites

- The next Torah Bites will take place on Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup> from noon to 1:30 pm at THOI. Join us for an impromptu discussion of Text.

#### Tanakh & Talmud Discussions

- The next meeting in this monthly series of conversations will be held on February 27<sup>th</sup> at 2 to 3:30 pm at Beth El. We will continue with our look at the Torah, with additional focus on the topic of Women in the Tanakh.

#### Adult Education

- The next showing of the video lectures by Professor AJ Levine is scheduled to take place at Beth El on February 27<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 to 5 pm.

#### OTHER EVENTS

##### Kinderlachen

The next **Kinderlachen** meeting of this year will be on February 26<sup>th</sup> at 10 am at THOI (as long as we have three or more attending). This is the Jewish-themed pre-school play group, open to anyone in the community who wishes to participate. Come to meet and play with others, get a little messy, do some arts and crafts projects, enjoy a story, have a great snack, and have fun (and maybe even learn a little!). Please RSVP to Rabbi Joe if you plan to attend, so we know how many to expect (for snacks and supplies purposes).

##### Music in the Service

Sarah Grove-Humphries has agreed to offer once again three sessions to teach anyone interested the songs sung in the services. If you would like to learn melodies and words, this is your chance! Sarah would like you to let her know in advance what you want to work on – give her at least a week to find the music for anything she doesn't already have. The three sessions are to be March 20<sup>th</sup> at 3-4 pm, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 3-4 pm, and May 15<sup>th</sup> at 3-4 pm, all at THOI. This is fun and a way to learn parts of the service! You don't need to read Hebrew, you don't need any special background.... Just join in! Open to members of both congregations.

#### 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.

#### 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 a role in a service, please be in touch with (at THOI) Leah Farmer, Ruth Chodrow, Beth Young, or the rabbi, and (at Beth El) Margee Greenfield, Sherri Alt, Chuck Slott, or the rabbi.

#### CLOSING MESSAGE

I was reminded of my earlier observation that we are a rather small Jewish community, but despite that, we accomplish a great deal of good. What brought this to mind was the collective efforts put forth to support those in need in our area.

Of course, the caring committee at each congregation continues to provide helpful and needed support to our members when required, and the members of the Chevrah Kadishah have stepped up when the need arose. Internally, we do our best to take care of our own.

Beyond that, though, I was very happy to see, and proud of all of the accomplishments through Harts, the Valley Mission, First Step, New Directions, the Volunteer Farm, the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, the Food Pantry, Mazon, and other initiatives. I simply wanted to take this opportunity to express appreciation for all that the members of our Jewish community have done and are doing in these important mitzvot. Please continue to act in accordance with the precepts of Gemilut Chasidim (acts of loving kindness), Tzedakah (righteousness), and Tikkun Olam (repair of the world). May all your good deeds bring you joy and pleasure, and may each of us have many opportunities to fulfill these mitzvot.

**Rabbi Joe Blair**  
**February 2011**

**REACHING THE RABBI & THE RABBI'S AVAILABILITY**

- The rabbi is available by appointment. 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.  
- The rabbi may be contacted by telephone. To do so, **please call the cell phone number listed here:** 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 will respond

as soon as possible. **The rabbi does not often check messages at home; please do not call his home number if you want a response.**  
**- 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.**

Rabbi Joe's Email:

[RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com](mailto:RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com)

Beth El Congregation

540-434-2744

Temple House of Israel

540-886-4091

Cell

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

(Please be sure to call this # for emergencies)

***Board Members***

<b>Joe Blair</b>	<b>Rabbi</b>
<b>Sherri Alt</b>	<b>President</b>
<b>Chuck Slott</b>	<b>Vice President</b>
<b>Mona Wolf</b>	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>Michelle Ornstein</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Judy Freudenthal</b>	<b>Trustee</b>
<b>Andy Kohen</b>	<b>Trustee</b>
<b>Bill Ney</b>	<b>Trustee</b>
<b>Dale Brothers</b>	<b>Sisterhood Copresident</b>
<b>Gale Clemons</b>	<b>Sisterhood Copresident</b>
<b>Ron Ornstein</b>	<b>Men's Club President</b>
<b>Judy Liss</b>	<b>Member at Large</b>
<b>Phil Renick</b>	<b>Member at Large</b>
<b>Margee Greenfield</b>	<b>Immediate Past President</b>

**Bridge Editor**

**Elliott Golub**

[Elgolubret@comcast.net](mailto:Elgolubret@comcast.net)

**181 Turkey Drive  
McGaheysville, VA, 22840**

**540-289-**

## YAHREZEITS

02	Emmanuel Loewner Harry Weiss Morris Myers	1894	Member
04	Helen Margulis Simon Saul Perlman	2010	Fred Simon's Mother Milton's Brother
05	Fannie Wise Pauline Peck	1877	Member Beverly Zindler's Mother
06	Rae Trubitz		Mark Trubitz' Mother
09	Fannie Goldsmith Hortense Wise Harry Moodnick	1933	Member
		1982	Ann Mintzer's Brother
10	Jennie Auerbach  Ada Robinson	1987	Suzi Trubitz' Grandmother
		1975	Member (Josh Robinson's Mother)
12	Abel Miller Hannah Nusbaum	1945	Member
		1937	
13	James Moneyhum	2003	Hillary Krohn's Son
14	A J Goldenthal		Member
	Rosella Wender	2003	Member
15	Fannie Loewner Ney	1946	Member (Eddie Ney's Grandmother)
19	Ruth Frankel	1975	Dave Frankel's Mother
20	Lillie Hirsch Anna Rodbell A J Goldenthal	1956	Member Herb Rodbell's Mother Marilyn Goldenthal's Husband
21	Adolph Wise	1928	Member

22	Emanuel Klingstein	1971	Member (Cap)
24	Charles Moore Milton Mitchell		Cleda Frankel's Father Jerry Minskoff's Brother
25	Julia Hirsch Canning Samuel Loewner	1945 1894	Founding Member Made the Ten Commandment Tablets above the Torahs.
	Herman Heller Sydney Nathanson Joseph Strauss	1983	Mark Strauss' Father
26	Ida Fielder	2002	Arnie Kahn's Mother-In-Law
28	Sam Lane	2007	Stuart Liss' Uncle

## ***DONATIONS***

*Beth El Congregation is grateful for the following generous donations:*

**Yahrzeit Memorial Fund:**

Ms Sharon Isralow in memory of Beryl Pincus Katz Isralow, father  
 Bill Ney in memory of his grandfather, Alfred Ney  
 Margee Greenfield in memory of Gerald Greenfield, Dad  
 Judy Liss in memory of Helen Rotkin Levinson  
 Jerry & Esther Minskoff, in memory of Jerry's brother, Milton Mitchell  
 Arnie Kahn, in memory of Ida Fielder

**Gifts and Memorials:**

Lisa & Kevin Giovanetti  
 Rabbi Sue Elwell  
 In memory of Anne Mintzer  
 Sandy & Price Lineweaver  
 In memory of Bernard Berger  
 Marcus & Jodi Morra  
 Beatrice Berger  
 In memory of Lisa Giovanetti's father

Robert & Cathy Brookshire

In honor of the engagements of Bethany Brookshire to Vincent Piatetti and of David Brookshire to Hilary Beck

Robert & Cathy Brookshire

In honor of Joan Funston's Birthday

Elliott & Thea Golub

**JMU Hillel parent donations:**

David & Fran Gewirtz

Stephan & Ellen Greene

Gary & Susan Goodman

Julian & Jodi Levy

Murray & Lisa Rosenbach

Felicia & Albert Schwenk

Todd Mayman

Irina Zemel & Alexander Markoff

M. & S. Shipon

***SISTERHOOD***

The Sisterhood would like to thank Mary Hildebrand for hosting a wonderful Chanukkah Party and Gift Exchange at her home in December, 2010. Good companionship, food and fun was had by all.

The Sisterhood would also like to thank all those women who helped in any way with HARTS during meal preparation, purchasing food and serving the needy during December and January.

All of the women of Beth El are also praying for the Brothers' family in the time of healing for Dale's mother.

Please place on your calendars the **next Sisterhood meeting to be held at Beth El on Sunday, February 6th at 11:30 AM**. It will be a breakfast meeting and the upcoming budget will be discussed.

***MEN'S CLUB***

Men's Club Shabbat will be Friday February 11. Please let Bill Ney < [Ney331@aol.com](mailto:Ney331@aol.com) > (or me) know if you can participate. We'd LOVE to have as many men there as possible, so even if you are not a "regular" Men's Club guy, please join us as we lead services that evening.

Our next Lion's Club spaghetti dinner (and meeting) will be Tuesday March 1. Eddie Ney, 433-0208 is again leading the way, so as the time gets closer, let him know if you can help.

Peter ( our treasurer) recently sent out Men's Club dues notices ( \$25. for dues...and \$25 for "Lucky Chai" if you're feeling lucky...) You can send dues to him at home (Peter Kohn, 3454 Lairds Knob Dr., Keezletown, VA. 22832), or at Temple, or bring a check to one of the upcoming events.

We are underway donating about \$100. worth of Judaic themed books to the new East Rockingham

High School.

Our HARTS efforts went well and were well received. Thank you to all who were involved in contributing to this community service.

Hope to see everyone soon.

## ***RELIGIOUS SCHOOL***

Please join us!

Mark you calendar for the following religious school events:

Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup> – Religious School Shabbat service at 10am at THOI

Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> – Purim celebration with carnival at 10am at Beth El

## ***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

### **Make Someone's Day**

Milton Perlman is living at Avante (South Avenue, in H'burg) and would LOVE company. There are others who don't get out in the winter and who would love phone calls and visits. If there are congregants that you haven't seen in a while (especially those who are older and/or who have issues with moving around), a call just might make someone's day.

### **From the Treasurer**

Members, and others who fall under the IRS ruling for documentation, should receive the 2010 Receipt for Contribution in the next few days. As a reminder, the sum includes only contributions made to the Beth El General Fund and the Beth El Building Fund.

It does not include money given to the Men's Club, the Sisterhood or the Religious School, since each of these affiliates keeps separate financial records.

Thank you to everyone who has fulfilled their Fair Share dues commitment through prompt payments.

**(the receipts should be received by the Bridge publication---they're in the mail)**

If you have questions regarding receipts or remaining balances for the fiscal year (through May 30), please call Michelle Ornstein, 434-8695.

### **Bema Basket Reminder**

At many times throughout the year, congregation members choose to purchase flower arrangements to adorn the bema, in honor or memory of a loved one or an event. Instead of purchasing flowers, in the future, we encourage congregants to honor/remember a family member or friend, (or just support the food bank) by making a donation to the Sisterhood, in any amount, designated for feeding the hungry. Sisterhood will then donate the money, in your name, to The Blue Ridge Area Food Bank. The contribution will be recognized from the bema and in the Bridge. Donations can be sent/given to Kate Neckowitz, Sisterhood Treasurer, c/o Beth El. You will see a beautifully decorated food basket in the place where you often see flowers on the bema, indicating that a donation has been received. Remember that you can make sure that the basket is in place for ANY service.

**I hope that you have circled February 26th on your calendar**

**and will join us at the Temple for a delicious dinner. Bring your family, friends, neighbors, etc. For information call Judy Liss 540-289-9409 or judyandstu@verizon.net**

### **Fundraising**

Volunteers Needed. People needed with fresh ideas, willing to put in a few hours of work, a few days of the year. This is YOUR Temple,

if you won't volunteer, who will??

**Judy Liss 540-289-9409**

judyandstu@verizon.net

### **ARTWORK OF THE MONTH**

Sisterhood is sponsoring a Silent Auction all year long entitled "Artwork of the Month". A piece is now on display in the tall wood with glass cabinet in the social hall. There is a notepad with a pen on the cabinet ledge. Please take a look and place your bid in the pad.. A new winner will be announced each month.

# February 2011

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1 <i>Seminar Class 6, 7 pm THOI</i>	2	3	4 <b>Rabbi-Led Shabbat 12</b>	5 <i>SJFF</i>	6 IsraelTrip (6-18) (Tentative) Religious School 20 & Bagel Bar. SJFF Sisterhood Meeting
7	8	9	10	11 <b>Men's Club Shabbat Service</b>	12 <i>Rabbi-Led Shabbat 10 am @THOI; Religious School Shabbat</i>	13 Religious School 21 & Bagel Bar <i>Shorty Meeting, 3:30 THOI</i> <b>Book Discussion 6 pm @THOI</b>
14	15 <b>Board Meeting</b>	16	17	18 <i>Torah Bites, Noon, THOI</i> <b>Rabbi-led Shabbat 13</b>	19 <i>Rabbi-led Shabbat, 10 am @THOI</i>	20 Religious School 22 & Bagel Bar <b>Adult Educ.: Kulanu 4 pm</b>
21	22 <i>Seminar Class 7, 7pm THOI</i>	23	24	25 <b>Rabbi-Led Shabbat 14</b>	26 <i>Kinderlachen, 10 am THOI</i> <b>Fundraising Dinner</b>	27 Religious School 23 Shabbat Practice [No JMU] & Bagel Bar <i>Book Discussion, 6 pm THOI</i>
28						