



<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.

MAY 2011

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Shalom everyone!

Hope everyone had a wonderful seder shared with family and friends. The community seder at BethEl was wonderful, I love spending holidays with my Temple family. Thank you Rabbi Joe for being the leader, Ron and Andy, we appreciated your leading us in song. Thank you so much to Sisterhood for organizing the seder and for preparing such great matzoh ball soup (I hear it was fabulous and there wasn't a drop left!). I would also like to share with you that I was so grateful to see that Ruth Clayman--now our matriarch, was able to be in the kitchen mixing away making matzoh balls and soup for days. Keep up the good work!

So maybe we are heading into spring, maybe not! The flowers sure are blooming and the grass is green. We are going into May shortly, I want to remind everyone, please mark your calendars for Tuesday, May 10, come to the Temple at 6:30pm to schmooze with coffee and dessert, at 7pm will be our annual congregational meeting. I urge everyone to come, this is your chance to hear what everyone

has been doing all year, it is your chance to ask questions and to VOTE for officers of the Board to serve you next year. We have a slate of amazing congregants willing to serve. Please join us.

I want to share my feelings of joy and happiness with my Temple family as my son Jay, was married this past weekend. Most of you grew up with him at Temple. He will be living in Woodbridge, Va. with his wife (ok, strange to say wife!) . It has been a long time between life cycle events, his last being us celebrating his Bar Mitzvah. Going from Bar Mitzvah at 13 to wedding at 27 is something, a very young adult has turned into a man. What touching moments the weekend held. Thank you to Eddie Ney for being there with Jay and our family to assist Jay with Jewish traditions. Thank you all for your good wishes and love. I almost forgot how wonderful it feels to be able to celebrate life cycle events!

Don't forget Sisterhood Shabbat May 13th!!
With thoughts of spring and sunshine, Sherri Alt

FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

My dear fellow Valley Jews and Friends,
Shalom - Lovely weather, at last!
We have enjoyed our holiday of
Pesach/Passover (at least, I know I have, and I
hope that you did as well), and are now in the
midst of our counting of the Omer and the
movement towards Shavuot, the re-living of the
trek in the wilderness from redemption
(liberation and exodus from Egypt) to revelation
(the encounter with G-d at Mount Sinai and the
giving of Torah).

THE CALENDAR

NISAN → IYAR (MAY 2011)

Adar 2 (a twenty-nine day month), began March
7th, and ran until April 4th. Rosh Chodesh for
Nisan was on April 5th. Nisan (a thirty day
month) will run until May 4th, with Rosh
Chodesh for Iyar on May 4th and 5th. Iyar (a
twenty-nine day month) will run until June 2nd,
with Rosh Chodesh for Sivan on May 3rd.

HOLIDAYS & SPECIAL SERVICES

May is full of holidays and remembrances – but
not all are happy.

Throughout the month, we will continue to
count the Omer. We began on the second
night/day of Passover (April 19/20), and
continue for forty-nine days (seven weeks of
seven days), through Erev Shavuot (the eve of
the Feast of Weeks – called that for obvious
reasons!).

May 1st this year begins Nisan 28th, Yom
Hashoah (also called Yom HaZikaron LaShoah
- Holocaust Remembrance Day). This is the
established date for commemoration on the
Hebrew calendar. Some have begun to try to
regularize the date on the secular calendar,
assigning it to April 11th, which is all well and
good, bringing this tragic historic event to the
attention of many other peoples, and tying it to
other tragic events and attempted genocides in
the world; but it does not replace the marking of

the event on Yom HaShoah, whenever that may
fall on the secular calendar.

May 8th is Yom Hazikaron – Memorial Day for
Israel, Iyar 4, recalling those who fell or paid a
terrible price in the war of independence, and all
the subsequent wars in which Israel has been
engaged. Almost every family in Israel has been
touched by loss or by injury of one of their
members in the years since 1948.

May 9th is Yom Ha'Atzma'ut, Israel
Independence Day. In 1948 on Iyar 5, the
modern state of Israel was declared as a free
nation, separate from the British Mandate.
May 22nd is Lag Be'Omer – the 33rd in the Omer
count. This is seen as a particularly happy day,
reportedly when G-d's anger was placated and a
plague against the Israelites lifted.

May 30th on the secular calendar is Memorial
Day – a time when we are asked to remember
those who fell and those who paid a high, or
even terrible price in establishing and protecting
our nation (the USA).

RABBI-LED SERVICES

As determined by the Calendar Committee (and
after all calendar changes and updates to this
point), scheduled Rabbi-led Shabbat Services
for the remainder of this congregational
calendar year are:

- Friday May 6th, 7:30 pm Beth El
- Saturday, May 7th, 10 am, THOI
[Kinderlachen – last meeting before
Summer]
- Friday, May 13th, 7:30 pm, at THOI
[Also, Lay-Led Shabbat - Friday, May
13th, 7:30 pm, Beth El – Sisterhood
Shabbat]
- Friday, May 20th, 7:30 pm, at Beth El
[Jacob Lovinger Bar Mitzvah]
- Saturday, May 21st, 10 am, Beth El
[Jacob Lovinger Bar Mitzvah]
- Friday, June 3rd, 7:30 pm, THOI
[Confirmation Service; Grace Lambeth]
- Friday, June 17th, 7:30 pm, THOI

- Friday, June 24th, 7:30 pm, Beth El
- Friday, July 1st, 7:30 pm, THOI
- Friday, July 8th, 7:30 pm, Beth El
- Saturday, July 16th, 10 am, THOI

TORAH PARASHIOT

The Torah parashiot (Torah portions) read for the month include the following: Emor, Behar, Bechukotai, Bamidbar, drawn from Vayikra (Lev.) 21:1-27:34; and Bamidbar (Num.) 1:1-4:20. There are no special or named Shabbatot this month.

Haftarot (Haftarah readings selected from the prophets) to be read include segments from Ezekiel 44; Jeremiah 16-17, 32; and Hosea 2.

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.

EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

Torah Bites

- The next Torah Bites is scheduled to take place on Friday, May 20th from noon to 1:30 pm at THOI. Join us for an impromptu discussion of Text.

Kinderlachen

The last **Kinderlachen** meeting of this year will be on May 7th 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, and to assure we have a group!).

Song Session

The third of three sessions to practice the music and learn the words to those things we sing (and will be singing) in services will take place on May 22nd at 3 pm at THOI. Sarah Grove-

Humphries will be working with anyone who is interested to learn and practice in a fun setting. These are things that apply to both congregations. Please join us.

SHORTY

Shorty is meeting on May 22nd at 5:30 pm at THOI. This will be the meeting to plan for the Confirmation service (June 3rd at THOI) and the Shorty Weekend trip (June 4th-5th).

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.

PRAYERS & BLESSINGS

We rejoice in the simchaot and blessings that have or soon will take place. We note the upcoming (very soon!) Bar Mitzvah celebration of Jake Lovinger.

At the same time, we are aware that several of our families have suffered losses, and we pray for comfort for them. In this vein, we note the unveiling ceremony for Anne Mintzer's headstone, which is scheduled for May 22nd. Many among us – too many to name in our extended family - continue to need our prayers for refuah shelema bimheyrah (complete and speedy recovery and wholeness in whatever form that may take). We keep them in our thoughts and prayers.

We pray for parnassah (work and wages) and hatzlachah (success) for those in need of it. Above all, we pray for peace, even as we must work for it; for our community, for our nation, for Israel, and for all the world. In light of all that has been going on, we maintain a prayerful and watchful hope that there can be peace, and all can live in freedom, so that lives of many will be better soon, bimheyrah beyameynu (speedily, in our days).

CLOSING MESSAGE

The year is moving on, rushing to the end of this year, and the start of the next. We are more than mid-way through our circuit of the holidays. As time continues in this inexorable cycle, moving us forward, marked by the transition from one holiday to the next, circling our calendar, it is helping us to revisit and relive the events of our history and faith over and over again. In that ongoing cycle of returning, we have the opportunity to enter into those events in new ways, through new eyes.

Each turn of the wheel, we come to the same place on the circle, but we are no longer quite the same person. Just as it is impossible to step into exactly the same flowing river twice, it is impossible for us to be the same person again when we reach that place. We come to that moment and that encounter informed by new experiences, new feelings, new thoughts, and a self changed in the course of living.

Our choices are not whether we will change, nor whether we will encounter the same places in the cycle again; it is rather what we decide to do to direct the change in us, how we will behave and act and live. By making choices that raise our sights and help us to bring our best selves to each moment of encounter, we determine what that encounter will be, at least in part. That way of living is the living to the fullest, striving for the highest.

At this (more than) halfway point in our cycle, let us re-commit ourselves to the prayers and hopes that we held at the High Holy Days at the beginning of this year, and renew our efforts to

attain and achieve the aspirations and blessings that inspired us. May we each find within ourself the strength, courage, motivation, and will to strive to live in this way, and reach to be the highest and best self possible. Let us say, Amen.

Rabbi Joe Blair
May 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 check for messages at home and may not answer the phone; please do not call his home number if you want to be sure of getting 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

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

Joe Blair	Rabbi
Sherri Alt	President
Chuck Slott	Vice President
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Andy Kohen	Trustee
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Gale Clemons	Sisterhood Copresident
Ron Ornstein	Men's Club President
Judy Liss	Member at Large
Phil Renick	Member at Large
Margee Greenfield	Immediate Past President

Bridge Editor

Elliott Golub
Elgolubret@comcast.net
 540-289-5336

YAHREZEITS

03	Max M Joseph	1924	Member
04	Bruno Hirsch	1888	
05	Ella P. Blatt	1979	
06	Rose Gelman		
07	Julia S Ney	1944	
	Maurice Scheuer	1935	
08	Theresa Hirsch	1903	
09	Henry Myerberg		David Myerberg's Father
	Lillian Tassle		
10	Bob Nemoytin	1984	Member
11	Janet Kohen	2008	Member
12	Lillian Coxe		
13	Paula Kaiser	1997	Member
14	Edna Ash	1979	Member Eddie Ney's Grandmother
16	Sophie Blatt	1969	Member Frank Blatt's Grandmother
	Lynn Miller	2001	Member
	Louis Scheuer	1927	

	Sylvia Minskoff	2006	Jerry Minskoff's Sister-in-law
19	Minnie Wender	1962	Simon Wender's Mother
20	David Frankel	1988	Member
	Augusta Loewner	1893	
21	Arnold Abriss	1984	Gale Clemons' Father
23	Rabbi Sledon ben Zvi Fleming		Grandfather of JMU Hillel's President Frank Fleming
26	Heinz Wallach	1937	Member
	Mildred Greenfield		Margee Greenfield's Mother
27	Charles A Hammer	1938	Member
	Abe M Loewner	1932	Member
28	Ludwig Hirsch	1929	Member
	David Kohen		Florine Ney's Father
	Richard Kohn		Peter Kohn's Brother
30	Jay Nusbaum		
	Molly Huffman		
31	Erwin Helbraun	2010	Member

DONATIONS

Beth El Congregation is grateful for the following generous donations:

Gifts & Memorials

Suzy Trubitz

Chuck Slott in memory of Dale's mother

In honor of the birth of Talia Demi Robles

Elliott & Thea Golub

Jerry & Esther Minskoff

Yahrzeit Memorial Fund

Milton Perlman in memory of Leah Perlman

Judy Freudenthal in memory of Roslyn Freudenthal

Eugene & Irma Memoytin in memory of Vera Nemoytin

Eddie Ney in memory of Joseph Ney

Joyce Helbraun in memory of Erwin

JMU Hillel parents

A & P Isenstein

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

"April hath put a spirit of youth in everything." - William Shakespeare

Our youth are very spirited and I really enjoy being around them each week!

This was a short month for religious school because of all of the public school breaks, but we did manage to fully explore the Passover holiday through music, food during our model Seder, and stories. We watched

"The Prince of Egypt" together in early April and we have spent a lot of time this month as a school community learning together and enjoying one another. Thank you so much to Mickey Glago for working on our Passover music with our students. Many thanks to all of our families who helped provide all the delicious foods for our Seder, and particularly to the Little and Glago families for volunteering to help at this event. Special thanks to Ruth Berger and Gale Clemons for filling in as "substitute" principals when I was out sick! Sunday May 1st will be our final day with our wonderful JMU teachers. They have been wonderful classroom educators and I hope that many of them will join us again next year! We will also have a celebration of Israel on Sunday May 15th for Yom Hazikaron/Yom Ha'atzma'ut. We end our year on Sunday May 22nd with a Lag Be'Omer Celebration and Picnic. If you know of any students who will be ready to join us for religious school next year 2011-12, please have them contact Dara Hall, Principal at mddmhall@verizon.net.

MEN'S CLUB

Next Beth El Men's Club Event: Dinner and a meeting at Taste of Thai; Wednesday May 4, at 6 PM.

Hope to see you there !

SISTERHOOD

Sisterhood would like to thank everyone who helped with the Passover dinner. It was a wonderful evening of family, tradition and holiday.

Upcoming May, 2011 events: On May 4th at 6:00 PM at Beth El there will be the next Sisterhood meeting. We will be reviewing our revised Constitution and budget.

Please plan to participate in our first Zumba Party on May 15th at Beth El at 2:00 PM.

Hope to see you soon.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Join in the fun of bicycle commuting for
Harrisonburg's 2nd Annual
Bike to Work Day
Friday, May 20

Morning Refreshments: Court Square, 7-10 a.m.

Friendly Competition between Workplaces:
prizes for greatest participation, mileage, etc.

Bike Commuter Workshop: 7 p.m. Monday, April 18, at
Clementine Cafe (153 S Main St, Harrisonburg)

For more information or to sign up, visit H'burg's Bike to Work Day Website:

www.hburgbike2work.org

Please welcome a new member to our congregation:

Miriam Dickler

105 North Willow Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22802

ISRAEL / PALESTINE

a film series



5.15.11 Exodus, Part 1 (Starring Paul Newman, directed by Otto Preminger, 1960) (105 minutes) Inspired by Leon Uris' bestselling novel, this "extraordinarily moving" (The New Republic) chronicle of the Zionist experience begins with the diaspora immigration of European Jews, victims of the Nazi Holocaust, to Palestine. With an all-star cast including Newman, Eva Marie Saint, Ralph Richardson, and Sal Mineo.

4.10.11 Exodus, Part 2 (Starring Paul Newman, directed by Otto Preminger, 1960) (105 minutes) Part 2 follows the immigrants' arrival in Palestine and the Jewish struggle against the British and thereafter against the Arab Palestinians for a Jewish state in the Land of Israel. Nominated for three Academy Awards and winner for Best Score, Exodus is "exciting, dramatic, scenic, panoramic, and deeply moving" (New York Daily News).

5.08.11 The Inner Tour (Directed by Ra'anan Alexandrowicz, 2001) (57 minutes) Controversially divisive in the Israeli press for its sympathetic portrayal of Palestinians, The Inner Tour (Official selection, Sundance Film Festival, 2002) is a fascinating and humanistic portrait of a group of West Bank Palestinians on a three-day bus tour to Israel, where many of the passengers once lived.

6.12.11 Paradise Now (Directed by Hany Abu-Asad, 2005) (90 minutes) About two Palestinian men preparing for a suicide attack in Israel, the movie won a Golden Globe for best foreign language film and was nominated for an Academy Award in the same category. As critic Roger Ebert writes, "We watch this film with transfixed fascination" as two young friends proceed, step by step, toward an ultimate act of destruction.

7.10.11 Lemon Tree (Directed by Eran Riklis, 2008) (106 minutes) Based on a true story, this award-winning film centers on the relationship between a Palestinian widow who tends her family's West Bank lemon grove and the wife of the new Israeli Defense Minister who lives next door. With the uprooting of the lemon grove for governmental security reasons about to take place, the fate of the trees is literally in the hands of the two women.

8.14.11 Little Town of Bethlehem (Directed by Jim Henson, 2003) (77 minutes) Come face to face in this documentary with the struggle for a nonviolent solution to the crisis that has torn apart the people of Israel and Palestine. The gripping story of how three men from different sides of the conflict—a Jewish Israeli, Christian Palestinian, and Palestinian Muslim—choose to risk everything to bring peace to their homelands.

Every 2nd SUNDAY at Clementine's 6-8pm

153 S. Main Street, Harrisonburg
Details: Contact KD@erewon@aol.com or 846-417-1371 Sponsored by the Interfaith Initiative for Peace and Justice in Israel/Palestine

Literacy Project

Jake Lovinger has chosen to do a Literacy project for his Bar Mitzvah. He is asking for donations of books of any kind, from slightly used to new for any age. A box will be placed at the temple please feel free to donate. These books will be donated to local and foreign communities.

Thanks for your support.

Reminder to all that Jake Lovinger Bar Mitzvah is being held on May 21st at ten o'clock in the morning at Temple Beth El. Kiddush luncheon to follow.

CALENDAR

May 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Religious School 29, Yom HaShoah & Bagel Bar	2	3 Men's Club Meeting, Taste of Thai, 6 pm	4 Sisterhood Meeting, 6 pm	5 Interfaith Association, Noon	6 Shorty Fundraising Dinner, 6 pm Rabbi-Led Shabbat 18	7 <i>Kinderlachen at THOI, 10 am</i>
8 No Religious School (Mothers' Day) <i>Shorty Meeting, 3:30 pm THOI Book Discussion, 6pm THOI</i>	9	10 Beth El Congregational Meeting, 7 pm	11	12	13 Sisterhood Shabbat Service	14
15 Religious School 30 Israel Day & Bagel Bar [No JMU] Daled Class trip to US Holocaust Memorial Museum Zumba Party, 2 pm	16	17	18	19	20 <i>Torah Bites, Noon, THOI Rabbi-Led Shabbat 19 Lovinger B/M</i>	21 Rabbi-Led Shabbat 20, Lovinger B/M
22 Last Day Religious School 31 Lag Be'Omer, Maccabiah Games, Picnic & Bagel Bar [No JMU] <i>Book Discussion 6pm THOI</i>	23	24	25	26	27 Lay-Led Service	28
29	30	31				