



<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.

NOVEMBER 2010

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Congregants,
 Hope everyone is still enjoying the weather, getting flu shots and thinking about joining a committee that still needs members. Please think about helping with any of the following:
 Fundraising with Judy Liss as coordinator,
 Adult Ed with Arnie Kahn coordinating and
 Social Action with members already in place,
 Chuck Slott, Andy Kohen and Linda Kohn. We really need some input from more members. Please contact me if you are interested in any of these committees or you have ideas or interest in any other committees.

We had a wonderful Simchat Torah and Consecration service October 1. It was wonderful to see all of our new Religious School students, and there were a lot of them!! I want to personally thank all of the teachers involved with working with our children. It was so apparent at the service how much time and dedication you put into developing such heartfelt relationships with the students and how much you care about them connecting with Judaism. Thank you parents, JMU students,

young adults SHORTY members and everyone else! Thank you Dara Hall for your great leadership.

Please remember our Community Awareness Shabbat on November 5 and join us with your friends, teachers, neighbors or anyone interested in learning about Judaism by spending Shabbat with us. Also please think about joining us on November 14th as we host a dinner and dialogue with other faith groups, information is out and it is imperative you RSVP to Bill Ney-- we do not want to be outnumbered by our guests. Looking forward to seeing everyone during the next month. Sherri Alt

FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

My dear fellow Valley Jews and Friends, Shalom. The nights have become colder, and there have been some beautiful crisp Fall days. We are only a month shy of Chanukah. The year is moving along!

THE CALENDAR

CHESHVAN → KISLEV (NOVEMBER)
Cheshvan (a thirty day month), began October 9th, and will run until November 7th. Rosh Chodesh for Kislev is November 7th and 8th.

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HOLIDAYS & SPECIAL SERVICES

Aside from Shabbat and Rosh Chodesh, there are no Jewish holidays in the month of November, but there are two secular dates of note.

- On November 2nd it is election day. Not only are we encouraged to vote; there are at least two Jewish reasons to vote. First, we are obliged by the principal of *dina de-malchuta dina* (the law of the land is the law) to live and act as good citizens of the place where we live, and it is a matter of good citizenship for Americans to vote. Second, under the rubric of *Tikkun Olam* (repair of the world) we are obliged to act to improve the world. We cannot bring about policies and actions that will make this world better if we do not participate and become engaged. Strong support to fulfill our civic obligations is found in Jeremiah 29. I hope that all who are eligible will take the opportunity to express their views and vote on this day.

- On November 25th, the fourth Thursday in November, it is the civil holiday of Thanksgiving in the United States. Most of us don't think of the religious origins of this holiday, but it is tied to the festival of Sukkot. The Pilgrims were certainly aware of the contents of the Bible, and looked to it for a model of how to express their gratitude at their survival and the harvest they reaped. They chose the theme of the harvest festival of Sukkot as

the basis for the event; and that is the source of the holiday of Thanksgiving.

- Looking ahead, on Kislev 25 we begin the minor holiday of Chanukah, with the first candle being lit on the evening of December 1st. Fair warning to those who want to shop! - Chanukah will be observed at THOI on Friday December 3rd, and at Beth El on Sunday December 5th.

TORAH PARASHIOT

The Torah parashiot (Torah portions) read for the month of November include the following: Toledot, Vayetze, Vayishlach, and Vayeshev, drawn from Bereshit (Gen.) 25:19-40:23. Haftarat to be read include selections from 1 Samuel 20; Hosea 12-14; Obadiah 1-2; and Amos 2-3.

RABBI'S EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES & ACTIVITIES THIS MONTH

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

OPEN TO THE GENERAL COMMUNITY

- The second of the two courses offered through the **JMU LifeLong Learning Institute (LLI)**, held at Beth El, began on October 21st, and will meet five times on Thursdays at 1-3 pm. Congregants from either congregation are welcome to take these courses at no charge; others must register and pay the fee with the JMU LLI. The title of the second course is *Close Encounters of the Jewish Kind*. We will read a very limited selection from the Torah, and look at the response to that reading by various Jewish commentators. There is a textbook which can be acquired through any bookstore; contact me for information.

-I am delighted to say that the seminar course titled **Spiritual Autobiography: Write your own** is filled to capacity, but sorry that we cannot include any additional students. If there is enough interest, I will offer it again in future.

- Beginning Monday November 1st at THOI, and Thursday November 4th at Beth El, I will be

offering the five session courses to teach Hebrew to those interested. The **Introduction to Hebrew** course is part of the Read Hebrew America initiative. Classes will run from 6 to 9 pm. The goal is for students to learn the alef-bet (Hebrew alphabet) and vowels, along with a few grammar rules, so that by the end of the course students will be able to decode (sound out) any Hebrew they encounter, and begin to build some Hebrew vocabulary. The class is free, the textbook is provided at no charge, and the course is open to anyone in the general community who wishes to study Hebrew at the introductory beginning level. *Please feel free to pass this information along to anyone you know who might be interested.*

FOR CONGREGANTS (AND SOME OTHERS)

- Following the meetings to assess interest, and to plan and provide information about the proposed **Congregational Israel Trip**, it has become clear that the dates selected in the spring are not possible for many who might otherwise participate, and there are an insufficient number who could participate. Consequently, we will be re-scheduling the trip for sometime in the summer, probably in August, perhaps during the time span of **July 24 to August 21**.

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.

FOR CONGREGANTS (BOTH CONGREGATIONS)

Book Discussion

- The second meeting of the Book Discussion group took place on October 24th at 6 pm at THOI. We will next meet November 14th at the same time and place. I anticipate that we will conclude our discussion of *Have A Little Faith* by Mitch Albom on the 14th, and will select the next book to read. Please be in touch with Rabbi Joe if you have any questions.

Tanakh & Talmud Discussions

- The first meeting in this monthly series of conversations will be held on November 21st at 2 pm at Beth El. We will continue with the topic of Women in the Tanakh as our opening.

Adult Education

- The next showing of the video lectures by Professor AJ Levine will take place at Beth El on November 21st at 3:30 pm.

SHORTY

- Shorty had their first meeting of the year on September 14th, then met again on October 10th. They will next meet on October 31st at 2:30 pm at Beth El. They have planned a very full year! This will include several fundraising events to help offset the costs of attending the NFTY Convention and Kallot. SO: be on the lookout for information from Shorty about a Parents' Night Out on December 11th.

KINDERLACHEN

The next **Kinderlachen** meeting of this year will be on November 20th 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.

SHAMELESS SELF-PROMOTION

I have been working with a group of some sixty other rabbis to respond to questions on Jewish ethics, morals, values, and proper behavior. The web site at which these questions and answers are to be found is

<http://www.jewishvaluesonline.org>. I offer this information to you with the hope that you might wish to see what I and the other rabbis have written, or submit your own questions.

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 in taking a role in a service, please be in touch with (at THOI) Leah Farmer, Ellen Werther, Beth Young, or the rabbi, and (at Beth El) Margee Greenfield, Sherri Alt, Chuck Slott, or the rabbi. If you are interested in singing to beautify our services, please be in touch with Sarah Grove-Humphries at THOI or Ron Ornstein at Beth El.

CLOSING MESSAGE

Many of the members of our small Jewish community have been buffeted by losses and blows of late. This has been a difficult time for many of us. Our community has responded through the caring committee and the actions of many individuals.

To enhance that response, when we are in conversations with each other, I would ask that each of us take an extra effort to think before we speak, and to consider how what we are saying might be perceived. Perhaps consider softening what we might say – and especially how we might say it, so that we will continue to bolster and build the sense of community, mutual support, and caring that we have all worked so hard to achieve.

My hope and prayer is that those among us who are in pain or suffering will find comfort, and their hurts be alleviated; that we all feel the support of our community, and know the concern and caring that is extended to each of us; that we see the spark of the divine in each other; and be seen and remembered for a blessing.

As we approach the civil holiday of Thanksgiving, may it be that we all have much for which to be grateful, recognize it, and be

able to feel and express the appropriate gratitude.

Ken Yehi Ratzon – may it be so.

Rabbi Joe Blair November 2010

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.

- 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 phone (Please be sure to call this # for emergencies)

434-981-3959

YAHRZEITS

Correction: The October 8th Yahrzeit shown on page 6 of the October Bridge should read as follows:

	Leonard Raff		Irma Nemoytin's Brother
01	Selma Miller		Member
	Sadie Spiro		
	Fredrick Nessen		
	Samuel Freed	1954	
02	Selina Ney	1945	Member
	Bruno Freudenthal		Judy Freudenthal's Father
	Lawrence Loewner	1955	Member Mayor of Harrisonburg
	Jack Stein	2004	Gary Stein's Father
03	Louis Perlman		Milton Perlman's Brother
04	Albert Lubman	1968	Member
05	Gussie Myers		Joyce Helbraun's Mother
	Sam Hirsch		
	Louis Wides	1962	
07	Eva Brooslin	1956	Ruth Clayman's Mother
09	Annie Ney	1979	Member Bill Ney's & Leo Zindler's Grandmother
10	Nathan Ratner	1989	Laurie Schwalb's Father
	Barbara Rotondo	1994	
12	Irene Nusbaum		Member

15	Minna Mintzer		Member
	Ada Krim		
	Dr. Henry Helbraun		Erwin Helbraun's Brother
17	Rose Hirsch	1913	Member
	Charles Schweitzer		Thea Golub's Father
19	Baby Ney	1920	
	Sybil Rose	2002	Member Bo Rose's Mother
20	Caroline Ash	1965	
	Sophia Wuzburger	1943	
21	Ida Miller	1939	Member
	Monroe Nussbaum	1986	
22	Kattie Ney	1980	
23	Albert Wise	1904	Member
	David Myerberg	1986	Member
	Dave Levy	1931	Member
	Doris Freed	1969	
25	Isaac Ney	1941	Member
26	Sam Fishman		
28	Sam Blatt	1965	Franklin Blatt's Grandfather
	Zvi Hirsch Derechinsky		Max's Father
29	Edward Poster	1955	Alan Poster's Father

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Rejoice with music! That has been our motto so far this year. Despite the sad fact that our former musical director, Roberta Stein, has moved out of the area, the music still continues at religious school! Thank you so much to the many teachers and congregants who have stepped up to help with music at religious school this year – Ron Ornstein, Rachel Reiter, and Mickey Glago! The students love to sing and dance, and this has been made possible due to your help!

At Sunday school, the Sukkot celebration was a lot of fun with many crafts and delicious foods enjoyed in and around the sukkah. We also practiced our songs for Simchat Torah the following week, during which the students paraded with both flags and candied apples. Thank you so much to the families who volunteered for these holidays and helped make them so special – the Pereles, Kramer, and the Lucas family.

At services, we rejoiced with song and dance during Simchat Torah on October 1st at Beth El. We consecrated 8 new students – Mazel Tov to you all!

Please be sure to join us on Sunday, November 21st for a Family Education program on G'milut Chasadim from 10am-12:30pm. We hope to see you there!

I would like to say a very special thank you to several more generous donors of the religious school which were received in memory of John Stewart. Thank you to Anthony & Vilma Rackie, Paula Mitchell, and Lois Rhodes.

L'shalom,
Dara

MEN'S CLUB

Upcoming Men's Club Events - Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday November 16 - First Lion's Club Spaghetti Dinner (with our meeting to follow our eating...)

Help usually needed in late afternoon and early evening. Please let Eddie Ney know if you can help 433-0208
neye@verizon.net

Wednesday December 1, Dave's Taverna 6 PM for dinner and meeting.

SISTERHOOD

Sisterhood's next meeting is Sunday, Nov. 7th, at 10a.m. We are excited to have our get together during R are looking forward to the participation of both current and new members. Hope to see you there!

Dale Brothers Co-President

Gale Clemons Co-President

Board Members

Joe Blair	Rabbi
Sherri Alt	President
Chuck Slott	Vice President
Mona Wolf	Secretary
Michelle Ornstein	Treasurer
Judy Freudenthal	Trustee
Andy Kohen	Trustee
Bill Ney	Trustee
Dale Brothers	Sisterhood Copresident
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
181 Turkey Drive
McGaheysville, VA, 22840

540-289-5336

DONATIONS

Beth El Congregation is grateful for the following generous donations:

High Holiday Visitors

Eliot Robinson

Pam & Phil Unger

Joshua & Marybeth Neckowitz

Beth El Religious School

In memory of John Stewart

Paula Mitchell

Anthony & Vilma Rackie

Lois M. Rhodes

Religious School Air Conditioners

Phil & Ashley Renick

Bary & Ruth Berger

Yarhzeit Fund

Mitchel & Valerie Lovinger in memory of Sarah Lovinger

Keith Nash in memory of his mother, Paige F. Nash

Shirley Merlin in memory of Sarah Lebin, mother-in-law

Bill & Leslie Ney, in honor of Bill's grandmother, Anne Ney

Gifts & Memorials

Anne Mintzer (Bequest)

Dara & Michael Hall in honor of the Beth El Religious School teachers

In memory of John Stewart

Andy Kohen

Mary Sonafelt

In memory of Carl Goldstein, Lisa's father

Eddie Ney & Frances Stewart

Bill & Leslie Ney

Jerry & Esther Minskoff

Arnie Kahn

Ron & Michelle Ornstein

Andy Kohen

In memory of Bary Berger's father

Ron & Michelle Ornstein

Arnie Kahn

Andy Kohen

Bill & Leslie Ney

In support of the 2011 Kulanu – Kaifeng tour speaker, Shi Lei

Bill & Leslie Ney

In memory of Bernard Berger, Father of Bary Berger

Jerry & Esther Minskoff

In memory of Lisa's father

Elliott & Thea Golub

Building Fund

In memory of Bary Berger's father

Eddie Ney & Frances Stewart

In memory of Lisa's father

Joan Funston

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Updated Congregation List

I will be getting the new congregation list assembled in the near future. Is your address and zip code on last year's list current and accurate? If not, let me know. Let me know if you have a new email address. With postage so expensive, if we can send notices and newsletters to you via email, we can help keep our budget balanced and expenses lower. We also list cell phone numbers. For many people, this is a better way to receive calls. If you wish to receive cell phone calls, please send me your number. All this information is only used for temple communication. If you have college age student, I can send the temple newsletter via email or snail mail. Please let **Judy Freudenthal, 867-5648** or jfreudy@aol.com, know of any changes you wish to make. Thank you.

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.

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.

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

Temple Fundraiser

Its time to start thinking about the Annual Temple Fundraiser. This year the Dave's Dinner will be on **Saturday, February 26**. SAVE THE DATE!!!!

Gift Shop

For the Congregation's pleasure: Your wonderful gift shop is opened for your buying needs all year round. Please get in touch with Marlene Brumbaugh if you need a gift any time of the year.

THIS WON'T COST YOU ANYTHING

After every trip and hotel stay, we usually come home with small toiletries - that we don't use, don't need, and are un-opened. Just bring these toiletries to the Temple and put them in the basket in the lobby. Sisterhood will collect and donate them to First Step, a haven for abused women.

MONA'S RX:

For all those Book Club buffs... I had wanted to Rx this book for summer reading, but missed the posting in the Bridge! **"The year of Living Biblically: One Man's Humble Quest to Follow the Bible as Literally as Possible"** by A.J. Jacobs. This book, by the editor of *Esquire* magazine, is unlike any book about the Bible you've probably ever read. Jacobs describes himself "as Jewish as the Olive Garden is Italian." Like Julie following Julia Child's recipes for a year, Jacobs literally tried to follow the rules in the Old and New Testaments on a month-to-month basis. The book is funny and irreverent, but he brings light to the fact that many folks in this country DO believe the Bible to be literally true. **THIS IS A GOOD READ!**

THOI Silent Auction and Chanukah Potluck Dinner and Candlelighting

Come join us for an evening of good food and fun and take care of some of your Chanukah gifts at the same time.

Harrisonburg congregants would be more than welcome to come for our dinner (RSVP to Beth at 885-1481 or president@thoi.org), silent auction and mass candle lighting.

1. SILENT AUCTION

Through the generosity of our members (you will see elsewhere in this bulletin our request for your generosity!) we will have a silent auction of original artwork, antiques, jewelry and professional services, to name just a few donations. Come early to browse these special items and write in your bid on the silent auction forms next to each item for sale. Some items will have a minimum bid; others will be "what the market will bear". We will announce a cut-off time and at the end of the evening will announce the winning bid on each item or service.

*2. Our traditional **CHANUKAH POTLUCK DINNER** on Friday evening, Dec 3rd*

If you last name begins with A-F please bring latkes

G-S please bring a main dish

T- Z please bring a side dish or salad

Since many of us will want sour cream on our latkes, this will be a dairy/ vegetarian meal. No meat dishes, please.

Dessert will be provided by our oneg hosts: Shirley, Asher and Laura Jean Brand.

*3. Bring your chanukah and candles so that we can all **LIGHT THE MENORAHS** marking the third night of Chanukah.*

Sunday November 14

6:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M.

Beth El is hosting the next meeting of **THE INTERFAITH INITIATIVE FOR PEACE & JUSTICE FOR ISRAELIS & PALESTINIANS.**

Come and join our neighbors "Face to Face and Faith to Faith." It will be an informal dinner with the opportunity to get to know each other through each other's stories.

Please R.S.V.P. to Bill Ney by November 7, 2010

Ney331@aol.com

434-5163

Adult Education

Sunday November 21, 2010

3PM-5PM

We will be continuing the Lecture Series of "The Old Testament" by Professor Amy-Jill Levine.

INVITATION TO SCRIPTURAL REASONING

Scriptural reasoning is an interfaith approach to reading and discussing selected items in the sacred texts of each of the three Abrahamic Faiths. It is a process of viewing each text selection on its own, and sharing ideas and reactions in response to it. The JMU - EMU Scriptural Reasoning group (JESR) meets monthly through the school year to engage in this process (usually at the JMU Festival Center, time and day to be announced).

Members of Beth El Congregation are invited to attend a meeting on Tuesday, November 30th at 7 to 9 pm at Beth El to hear about and experience the process, with the goal of encouraging them to continue to attend the meetings and to participate in future.

All are welcome; please let Rabbi Joe know you plan to attend.

November 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>Intro Hebrew, Class 1, 6 pm @THOI</i>	2	3	4 LLI Class 3, 1 pm Intro Hebrew, Class 1, 6 pm	5 Rabbi-Led Shabbat, Community Awareness Shabbat @ BE 6	6
7 Religious School, 10 & Bagel Bar Sisterhood Meeting 10 am	8	9	10	11	12 <i>Torah Bites, Noon, @THOI</i> Lay-led Service	13
14 Religious School & Bagel Bar, 11 Shorty Meeting, 2:30 Book Discussion, 6 pm @THOI Interfaith Init.	15 <i>Intro Hebrew, Class 2, 6 pm, @THOI</i>	16 Lions Club Dinner & Mens Club Seminar Class 3, 7pm @ THOI	17	18 LLI Class 4, 1 pm Intro Hebrew, Class 2, 6 pm	19 <i>Torah Bites, Noon, @ THOI</i> Rabbi-Led Shabbat 7	20 <i>Kinderlachen THOI, 10 AM</i>
21 Religious School 12: Family Education:Gemilut Chasidim & Bagel Bar (No JMU) Adult Ed 3-5	22 <i>Intro Hebrew, Class 3, 6 pm, @THOI</i>	23	24	25 Thanksgiving	26 Lay-led Service	27
28 No Religious School	29 <i>Intro Hebrew, Class 4, 6 pm, @THOI</i>	30 JESR 7-9				