



<http://va014.uri.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.*

**OCTOBER 2011**

**A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

Shalom everyone!

We are certainly moving quickly getting ready for the holidays. It is hard to believe Rosh Hashanah is next week. We have started a busy year already, religious school is underway and crowded, I hear. That is so wonderful, thank you Dara Hall and all of the parents and teachers for working with our children. Shorty, our youth group is also underway, thank you Becky Mintzer, Joel Ornstein and Ruth Berger for working with our teens.

Rabbi Joe has also started off the year busy, working with both the religious school and youth, working on the holidays, starting teaching new classes and of course getting ready for the holidays. Thank you as well for preparing us for the new year. We have had 2 wonderful Rabbi services so far, if you weren't there last week, you missed a very spiritual and cozy Shabbat in the dark with the light from Shabbat candles.

As I sit and reflect on the past year as serving as your president, I think of what went well and what can we do better. I thank all of you that said ""yes"" when I called. Last year was a

learning process and I would love more participation in our congregational functions, bring ideas, help with projects, come to services, be involved. We have new ideas for the coming year, the board is working hard and we would like to see more of YOU!

As you begin thinking about the new year, please take time to reflect on what makes your connection to our congregation special, try to make time in your busy calendar in the upcoming year to join in and make an effort to participate in life at BethEl!! This year feels like a new year with more young voices in our building and new members we are pleased to have join us. This is exciting!

May each and everyone of you have a happy and healthy new year.

I am honored and thrilled to serve as your president for another year, thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Shana Tovah and I am looking forward to seeing everyone soon.

Sherri Alt

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

My dear fellow Valley Jews and Friends,  
Shalom!

I hope that your High Holy Days have started well, and that your Yamim Nora'im (days of awe) are proving meaningful and spiritually productive for you. Warm wishes for this holiday period.

### **THE CALENDAR**

TISHREI → CHESHVAN (OCTOBER 2011)

Rosh Chodesh for Tishrei (a thirty day month) was on September 29<sup>th</sup>. Of course, Rosh Hashanah began September 28<sup>th</sup> evening (starting at sundown) which was also the start of the Yamim Nora'im (the days of awe). Tishrei will run until October 8<sup>th</sup>, with Rosh Chodesh for Cheshvan (a twenty-nine day month) on October 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Cheshvan runs from October 29<sup>th</sup> to November 26<sup>th</sup>, with Rosh Chodesh for Kislev (a thirty day month) on November 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **HOLIDAYS & SERVICES**

This year October begins with Shabbat Shuvah, the Sabbath between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. There will be services on Saturday morning at 10 am at Beth El.

Religious School will observe Rosh Hashanah on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, in the assembly. October 2<sup>nd</sup> will also be the annual observance of Yizkor, the memorial service. This service will be at the cemetery, weather permitting – in the event of inclement weather, we will move to the sanctuary. It will take place at 1 pm at Beth El.

Services for Yom Kippur will be on Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 8 pm at both congregations – this is the Kol Nidrei service. Yom Kippur services continue at 10 am at each congregation for the morning service. Afternoon services will begin at 3 pm at Beth El. The afternoon services will include Minchah (with the second Torah reading and the Jonah Haftarah), the Memorial service at which names are read, and the Ne'ilah (or concluding) services. Following Ne'ilah there will be a break-the-fast – this will be the traditional men's club run event. Look for additional information elsewhere in this bulletin, if you have not already gotten it.

To squelch a rumor that I overheard, there WILL be religious school on October 9<sup>th</sup> – even though the 10<sup>th</sup> is listed as Columbus day on some calendars – and the Religious school will observe Yom Kippur on October 9<sup>th</sup> in the classroom.

Starting on Wednesday evening the 12<sup>th</sup> at Sundown, we enter the Holiday of Sukkot. We will have a Sukkot service at Beth El on Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. There will also be a service at THOI at 10 am on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. The Religious School Sukkot event will be Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup> starting at 11 am, and parents are requested to join the students there.

Sukkot runs through Thursday evening October 21<sup>st</sup> at sundown, leading immediately into Simchat Torah, which begins at sundown and runs until sundown October 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will be holding our Shabbat & Simchat Torah celebration service on Friday evening, the 22<sup>nd</sup>, at THOI, beginning at 7 pm (NOT THE USUAL TIME). This is also the Religious School Consecration service, and **all Religious school students** are expected to attend. This service is in lieu of Religious school on Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> – so there is no religious school or bagel bar on October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

There is a regular rabbi-led Shabbat service on October 28<sup>th</sup> at Beth El (and we return to our normal schedule!).

## SPECIAL EVENTS

On October 15<sup>th</sup>, Shorty (the youth group) will be reprising a version of their popular Babysitting/Parents' Night Out at Beth El. Look for more information to be forthcoming soon.

For the group that could not attend the first session of the Seminar: Spiritual Legacy, Ethical Wills on September 20<sup>th</sup>, I will **repeat the first session only at Beth El at 7 pm on Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>**. If you wish to be in the class, please let me know, and plan to attend this repeated session. It is still possible to join the class at this session, but **the course will close to new participants after this meeting takes place**.

Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm, at Beth El, will be the second session of the monthly Spiritual Legacy, Rthical Wills seminar for all those who are signed up.

The Introduction to Hebrew classes (5 sessions, 6-9:30 pm) begin on Monday, 10/31 at THOI, and on Thursday, 11/3 at Beth El. These classes are free and open to anyone who wishes to learn or improve their skills in the Hebrew alphabet and vowels, pick up a little vocabulary, and work on decoding (sounding out) any Hebrew.

The Yamim Nora'im (days of awe) continue through Yom Kippur, so until October 8<sup>th</sup> at Sundown. (In fact, there is a tradition that says they extend even beyond that, until the end of Shemini Atzeret (the eighth day of tarrying, the last official day of Sukkot. This is to give us an even larger window of time to seek forgiveness and make amends in our lives and the lives of others – so it is understood that the final seal is not placed on the book of life until then.).

## 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 this period are:

- Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 10 am, Beth El
- Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1 pm at Beth El Cemetery [Yizkor]
- Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3 pm at THOI Cemetery [Yizkor]
- Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 8 pm, Beth El & THOI [Yom Kippur]
- Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 10 am, Beth El & THOI [Yom Kippur]
- Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 3 pm, Beth El [Yom Kippur]
- Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 3:30 pm, THOI [Yom Kippur]
- Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm, Beth El
- Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 10 am, THOI
- Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 7 pm, THOI [Simchat Torah, Rel. School Consecration]
- Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm, Beth El

## TORAH PARASHIOT

In October, the Torah Parashiot read will be Nitzavim, Haazinu, Vezot Habracha, Bereshit, Noach, Kedoshim, and Ki Tisa, from Devarim (Deut.) 29-30, 32, Vayikra (Lev.) 19, Shemot (Ex.) 33, and Bamidbar (Num.). 29.

Haftarot (Haftarah readings selected from the prophets) to be read include segments from Isaiah 42-43, 57-58, 66; Hosea 14, Joel 2, Micah 7; Ezekiel 38; and Jonah 1-4.

## EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES & ACTIVITIES THIS MONTH

This month we have the following educational offerings upcoming.

- Seminar: Spiritual Legacy, Ethical Wills. The first class session will be repeated on October 11<sup>th</sup> at Beth El at 7 pm. This will be the only repeated class session. Please speak to Rabbi Joe if you are interested in this course.
- Seminar: Spiritual Legacy, Ethical Wills. In this course meeting monthly a total of nine times (into May – the full schedule will be provided in class), a maximum of twenty persons will

learn about expressing and passing on their values and hopes to others through a combination of reading and critiquing the writing of others, and writing their own document. The group will share what they have written and discuss each others' work. There are several required texts for this course; some of them may be provided by photocopies, which may require a fee to cover the costs, others may be books which can be ordered and purchased online. There is no fee for the course. The course will first meet at THOI on 9/20, but will move to Beth El for the meeting October 25<sup>th</sup>, and for other meetings after that it will be decided where they are to take place. Course: Introduction to Hebrew. This five session course will take participants from absolutely no knowledge of Hebrew to the ability to decode any text, including prayer book materials. Excellent for complete non-Hebrew readers, and a very good refresher course for those who wish to improve their reading ability. This class is Free, and open to anyone who wishes to study Hebrew. It will be taught in two sections: one will be on Monday evenings at THOI, from 6-9:30 pm, starting October 31<sup>st</sup>, and the other will be on Thursday evenings at Beth El, from 6-9:30 pm, starting November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Both sections will continue into December, and will not meet every week.

- Course: An Eclectic Mix: Five Topics in Judaism II. This five session course is being offered through the JMU Lifelong Learning Institute (LLI), and is open to all congregants at no charge; others are required to register with the LLI program and pay the fees there. It will be from 1 to 3 pm on Wednesdays, beginning October 19<sup>th</sup> and running until November 16<sup>th</sup>. There is no text book for this course. The first session will be on the Jewish Way in Death and Dying. Subsequent session topics will be determined by the interests of those participating.
- Course: Introduction to Judaism. This is a twenty session course which will span the year, running on various Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9 pm, (once again, the location will be determined by where the majority of students are from - if Harrisonburg, it will be at Beth El; if Staunton, it will be at THOI, or it may be a mix, alternating). The first session will be on November 1<sup>st</sup> at THOI (the location will be determined for subsequent classes then, and the full schedule will be provided in class). This course is excellent for anyone who wishes to learn (more) about Judaism, and is a required prerequisite for anyone considering conversion to Judaism. It will include sessions and information on the Jewish calendar and holidays, lifecycle events, liturgy, prayer, history, customs, theology, language, literature, and culture, among other things, and offer opportunities for discussion of any questions and concerns participants may have. The URJ suggests that there be a fee for this course; our community has chosen to subvent the cost, so that those taking this class will only be required to purchase the necessary textbooks and materials, and pay for their own attendance at any events which have a fee associated with them (this is a real bargain!). There will be several 'field trips' offered or suggested outside of class. **The course will only be offered if there is sufficient interest by at least eight persons who can commit to attendance at a majority of the sessions.**

I hope to see many of you at some or all of these courses. ☺

## 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 a role in a service, please be in touch (at THOI) with Ruth Chodrow or Beth Young, or (at Beth El) with Chuck Slott or Margee Greenfield, or (for either congregation) speak to the rabbi.

## **PRAYERS & BLESSINGS**

We rejoice in the simchaot (joys) and blessings that have taken or soon will take place. At the same time, we are aware that several of our families have suffered losses or illness, and we pray for comfort for them. Many among us continue to need our prayers for refuah shelemah bimheyrah (complete and speedy recovery, or 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 work for it; for our community, for our nation, for Israel, and for all the world.

## **CLOSING MESSAGE**

With the new year here, as we are in the midst of the Yamim Nora'im and the season of holidays, may it be that each of us be granted health, joy, prosperity, success, love, and peace, and be sealed for a good, sweet year. Leshanah tovah umetukah tichatemu!

**Rabbi Joe Blair**  
**October 2011**

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

- 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 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 do not call his home number if you want to be sure of getting a response.

Rabbi Joe's Email:  
Beth El Congregation  
Temple House of Israel  
Cell Phone

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

540-434-2744

540-886-4091

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

(Please be sure to call this cell # for emergencies)

## **Yahrzeits**

<b>01</b>	<b>Carrye Kohen</b>		<b>Florine Ney's Mother</b>
	<b>Annette Biatch</b>		<b>Rabbi Jonathan Biatch's Mother</b>
	<b>Carl Goldstein</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>Lisa Giovanetti's Father</b>
<b>02</b>	<b>David Rubin</b>	<b>1972</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>04</b>	<b>Bernard N. Berger</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>Bary Berger's Father</b>
<b>05</b>	<b>Jack Lichtenstein</b>		<b>Joan Funston's Father</b>
<b>06</b>	<b>Paige Nash</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>Keith Nash's Mother</b>
<b>08</b>	<b>Leonard Raff</b>		<b>Irma Nemoytin's Brother</b>
<b>09</b>	<b>Samuel Metzger</b>	<b>1911</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Betty Nemoytin</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Israel Smith</b>		<b>Member</b>
	<b>Harry Katzen</b>	<b>1981</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Hattie Hirsch</b>	<b>1927</b>	<b>Member</b>
	<b>Milton Trubitz</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>Mark Trubitz' Father</b>
	<b>Sarah Lovinger</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>Mitch &amp; Valerie Lovinger's Daughter</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Miriam Brooslin Cohen</b>		
<b>17</b>	<b>Rosa Wise</b>	<b>1931</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Harriet Gould</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>Alan Gould's Mother</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Rabbi Edward L. Israel</b>		
	<b>Mabel Rodbell</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>Herb Rodbell's Wife</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>Barbara M Levin</b>		
	<b>Ruth Shwayder</b>	<b>1967</b>	
<b>22</b>	<b>Ida Zindler</b>		<b>Leo Zindler's Grandmother</b>
	<b>Dorothy D Kaiser</b>		<b>Paula Kaiser's Mother</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>Leon Hirsch</b>		
	<b>Helen Wise</b>	<b>1962</b>	<b>Member</b>
	<b>Sarah Lebin</b>		<b>Dave Merlin's Mother</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>Rosalie Amberg</b>	<b>1915</b>	

<b>27</b>	<b>Oscar Rodbell</b>		
	<b>Marilyn Goldenthal</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>Edith Bersson</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>Bob Bersson's Mother</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>Amalie G Wise</b>	<b>1939</b>	<b>Member</b>

## **RELIGIOUS SCHOOL**

L'shanah Tovah!

Religious School is off to a wonderful start! We have welcomed two new families – the Harris family and the Gutterman family. Please join us in giving them a warm welcome into the religious school community. We are a full house with 39 students registered for RS!! It's w

If you know of any other families interested in joining religious school, please contact Dara Hall, Principal at [mddmhall@verizon.net](mailto:mddmhall@verizon.net) or 540-433-5596.

We will celebrate Sukkot with fun crafts and a sukkah snack – families are welcome to join us on October 16<sup>th</sup> at Beth El at 11:00am.

\*\*Please join us on Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup> for a Consecration Service for our new Religious School students during our Simchat Torah Services at Temple House of Israel. The service will begin at 7:00pm. All religious school students have been asked to attend! We hope the other members of our Jewish community can be there too!\*\*

L'shalom,

Dara

## **MEN'S CLUB**

May each and every one have a sweet, healthy, Happy New Year!

Thank You men of Beth El for all your help getting the Temple ready for the High Holidays.

We look forward to hosting the annual Yom Kippur Break-The-Fast. Help will be needed towards the end of the service, so migrate (as usual) towards the kitchen when it's egg cooking/coffee making time. Thanks Dan Bly for organizing this event.

Thanks also Kevin (ahead of time) for putting up and taking down the Sukkah.

And now, a message for the under 50 crowd...

Dear Younger Men of Beth El,

This is an invitation for you to join in some of our Beth El Men's club activities. Help out with Break-The-Fast or hang out with us in the kitchen at one of our spaghetti dinners, usher and hand out cards for the holidays, come join us for a meal at a local restaurant at some time during the year. As you can tell by our calendar, we tend to do what we've done, simply because it's worked and we know what it is. BUT,

please rsvp to me ([ornfam@comcast.net](mailto:ornfam@comcast.net)) if you can picture yourself at an activity you'd prefer to take part in...movie, outdoor something or other,Sunday morning discussion group, social action project...we're open to trying new ideas. I/we certainly understand the demands of younger families and job responsibilities, and we are not seeking a big new commitment from anyone. We're not trying to turn Men's Club into a super active world changing movement, but simply trying to be inviting and inclusive, and let you know we're not just a bunch of old Jewish guys... actually, I guess we are a bunch of Jewish guys...who enjoy each others fellowship and do some mitzvot along the way. Check us out.

**\*\*We will be having our October dinner meeting at Taste of India ( across from Costco) at 6 PM on Wednesday, October 19.**

L'Shanah Tovah,

Ron

## ***DONATIONS***

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

### Gifts & Memorials

Eddie Ney & Frances Stewart in memory of Beverly Zindler

Lois Poster in memory of her childhood friend, Beverly Zindler

Nancy Stewart

Steve & Kathi Stein

### Yahzeit Memorial Fund

Alan & Kate Neckowitz in memory of Belle Neckowitz, Alan's mother

Lenny & Marilena Berman in memory of Julius Berman, Lenny's father

Gene & Irma Nemoytin in memory of Alfred Raff, Irma's father and Alexander Nemoytin, Gene's father

Eddie Ney in memory of Beth Ney, mother

Jerry & Esther Minskoff in memory of Rose Minskoff, Jerry's mother

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

Cathy & Bob Brookshire in honor of Dr. Alfred Agrin's memory

Shirley Merlin in memory of Samuel Nebelkopk, father

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Nancy Stewart

### High Holidays (Memorial Service)

The Golubs

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **New Members**

Beth El Congregation would like to wish a warm welcome to Leslie and Bill Harris and their children, Owen and Benjamin. Also please welcome Rebecca Brannon.

All of the congregation looks forward to getting to know you and introducing ourselves to you.

Hope to see you soon., membership committee

### **Babysitting**

There will be babysitting available for the holiday services. The babysitting is paid for, but parents are encouraged to help extra as well.

### **CONCERT**

On Friday November 4th, the Valley Collegium Musicum will perform a concert of the music of Salamone Rossi, an eminent Italian Jewish Baroque composer. The concert will be at 8 P.M. at Muhlenberg Lutheran Church in Harrisonburg. Ruth Chodrow, Linda Blazer, and Sarah Grove-Humphries from THOI will be performing with the Collegium. The concert is free and open to the public.

### **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**  
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**181 Turkey Drive**  
**McGaheysville, VA, 22840**  
  
**540-289-5336**

# October 2011

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1 <b>Shabbat BETH EL Shabbat Shuvah</b>	2 <b>[REL SCH]</b> <b>Holiday Yizkor 1 pm @ BE Cemetery (Sanctuary if rain)</b>
3	4	5	6	7 <b>Holiday Erev YK/Kol Nidrei 8 pm Rabbi Sue at BETH EL (Candles 6:33)</b>	8 <b>Yom Kippur 10 &amp; 3 Rabb i Joe at BETH EL (Havdalah 7:32)</b>	9 <b>[REL SCH]</b>
10	11	12	13	14 <b>Shabbat BETH EL Shabbat &amp; Sukkot</b>	15	16 <b>[REL SCH]</b>
17	18	19 <b>Men's Club Meeting, 6 PM Taste of India</b>	20	21 <b><i>Holiday Joint Simchat Torah @ THOI 7 pm [REL SCH Consecration service @ THOI]</i></b>	22	23 <b>[NO RS]</b>
24	25 <b>Sisterhood Meeting/Dinner 6PM</b>	26	27	28 <b>Shabbat BETH EL</b>	29	30 <b>[REL SCH]</b>
31						