



September 2008

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Fellow Beth El Congregants:

Well, it has truly been an all-too-short summer, and the High Holidays are looming. Erev Rosh Hashanah is September 29. As in the past, we are fortunate that Rabbi Sue Elwell will be alternating with Rabbi Joe for High Holiday services this year.

I know that we all have a lot to do personally this coming year. I think we also have a lot to do as a congregation. As I said in the last issue of the *Bridge*, I hope to grow the congregation in this coming new year. I'll get back to you more on that later. I also want to grow member participation in the congregation, particularly in having members step up and participate in our committees. For a small congregation, we sure have a lot of them.

You may not know this, but we have thirteen committees:

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| Social Action | Adult Education | |
| Fun draising | Membership | Legal |
| Ritual | Housekeeping | Building & |
| Ground | Library | |
| Archives | Finance | |
| Nominations | Social Activities (our newest) | |

I will have committee sign-up sheets with me whenever I'm at Beth-El, and I will certainly have them with me at High Holiday Services. As someone said to me once, "*committees don't just meet; committees do things.*" All of our committees have important jobs to do, and I know we have people in our congregation who can do them. I would like to see all of our committees doing things during the next year. In order for that to happen, we need people to show an interest in our committees' work. Please call me (432-1381 or cell at 383-3710) and let me know what you can and will do for our congregation. If you don't you'll get a call from me asking you to participate in our congregational committee work. And, if you see anything lacking in the committee listings – if there's a committee you think we should have but don't – let me know that as well; but you'll probably be asked to chair it.

My hope for you – and for the congregation – is a sweet, happy, healthy, and peaceful New Year and I look forward to seeing you and working with you.

Gary

FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

My dear fellow Valley Jews and Friends,

Shalom. I hope that your summer was wonderful and warm, and that you are refreshed and relaxed.

I had a relatively quiet summer, doing a few projects around our house, catching up on some sleep and reading, and thinking ahead to the coming year. I am excited about all the plans and activities that we have coming up. Now it is time for us all to jump back into our congregational year.

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Not everyone had a quiet summer. There were a number of events in our community that were of a much more turbulent nature. (Here is what I know about.)

Most recently, Sherri Alt and Marlene Brumbaugh and their families were called to several unexpected funerals and other traumatic events when friends had losses and illnesses.

Ruth Clayman fell, injuring her arm and shoulder. She will need to wear a sling for a month.

Shirley Merlin moved back to Harrisonburg. She is doing quite well, and appreciates calls and visitors.

Joyce Helbraun fell and broke her wrist. She is recovering at home.

Estelle Robinson had an infection, and paid a visit to the emergency room at RMH. She is doing fine now.

Roberta Stein had an infection and spent several days in the hospital at RMH. She is now at home and doing well.

The unveiling for Dave Merlin took place at the end of June.

Candy Blatt is undergoing a rough course of treatment.

Mo Callahan (Goldberger) is showing improvement under the regimen she is following, but still has a long way to go.

Hillary Gerson-Krohn is doing much better following her surgery.

Rabbi Lynne Landsberg doing better after her eye surgery, following the earlier back surgery.

Joe Landson is again having issues with fatigue and other symptoms. He and his medical team are seeking a diagnosis and course of treatment.

Gerry Price has had a setback with his arm, but is moving forward the best he can.

Saul Robinson is unchanged, but seems happy.

Julia Sochaki is recovered from the injuries she received in an assault some months ago.

Max Derechinsky seems to have recovered from the effects of a fall.

On a more positive note, Danny Brothers visited for a time from Israel, and the entire family and many congregants enjoyed the chance to see and visit with him.

Many of our members had holidays and vacations over the summer; some of them went to exotic and exciting locales. I am sure there are at least a few photos – ask them about their trips!

THE CALENDAR & HOLIDAYS

ELUL → TISHREI (AUGUST-SEPTEMBER)
Av runs until the 31st of August. The 31st of August and September 1st are Rosh Chodesh (new month/moon) for Elul. Elul runs from September 1st to 29th, and the 30th of September is Rosh Chodesh Tishrei (and ROSH HASHANAH).

The evening of Monday, September 29th is Erev Rosh HaShanah (evening of Rosh HaShanah). On Tuesday, Rosh HaShanah is on September 30th, and for those who celebrate two days, Wednesday, October 1st. [The second day of Rosh HaShanah is a result of our history, with many of the Jewish people being in *galut* (exile) from the land of Israel. Because it was too far from Jerusalem and the Sanhedrin (the body of rabbinic authority) or other authority for news of when the new moon, and thus the new month and new year, were announced for those living far away to hear it timely, to assure that the local celebration of holidays was on the proper day, two days were to be celebrated for this holiday. This also was true for Pesach (Passover), extending this 7 day holiday to 8

days, and for Shavuot (Festival of Weeks), making it a two day holiday. Other holidays, such as Sukkot (Festival of Booths) and Chanukah (Festival of Lights) were not extended because they were already lengthened holidays. In Israel, the holidays are not lengthened, and some congregations in the United States and elsewhere have chosen to adopt the Israeli calendar fully. More traditionally minded communities have remained with the lengthened holidays outside of Israel.]

Rosh HaShanah (the head of the year, or new year) is the start of the Jewish calendar year for most purposes. It kicks off the Yamim Nora'im (days of awe), the ten days starting with Rosh HaShanah, running through the end of Yom Kippur (the day or atonement). This period is one of tight focus on teshuvah (return and repentance). It follows the 30 days of the month of Elul during which we are directed to conduct a cheshbon hanefesh (accounting of the soul), a deep self-examination and introspection that leads us to identify our faults and transgressions, and to work to repair them, to seek forgiveness, and to repent and strive not to repeat them.

Because Rosh HaShanah is considered the anniversary of Creation, we see G-d as the supreme Creator, the sovereign over all, and therefore also the supreme judge. We are encouraged to think of this period as the time when G-d judges us (leading to the image of the book of life). That is the reason it is so often felt as a time of seriousness, of sober reflection, and sincere repentance – leading to the term, Yamim Nora'im. At the same time, it is also a time of joy, because we are rejoicing in and celebrating G-d's creation, though this is often felt to be muted by the more somber thoughts dealing with judgment. The Yamim Nora'im are seen as a time we can 'plead our case' and support our plea by teshuvah (repentance), giving tzedakah (righteous action – often gifts to those in need), and doing gemilut Chasidim (deeds of lovingkindness/piety).

I will write more about the Yamim Nora'im and Yom Kippur in the October newsletter. Erev Yom Kippur (with Kol Nidre) will occur on the 8th of October, with Yom Kippur day being the 9th.

TORAH PARASHIOT

Torah parashiot (Torah portions) read for the period covered by this newsletter include the following in September: Shofetim, Ki Tetze, Ki Tavo, and Nitzavim, drawn from Devarim (Deuteronomy) 16:18-30:20, are all read before we arrive at Rosh HaShanah.

Haftarot read on Shabbatot (Sabbaths) in September include selections from Isaiah 51-52, 54, 60, and 61-63.

The Torah parashah (portion) for Rosh HaShanah morning is from Bereshit (Genesis) 22, concerning the binding of Isaac. In congregations that celebrate two days of Rosh HaShanah, this parashah is read on the second day, and Bereshit (Genesis) 1-2 (concerning creation) is read on the first day.

The Haftarah (reading from the prophets) for Rosh HaShanah is 1 Samuel 1 (concerning Channah, and the institution of prayer from the heart). Some congregations instead choose to read from Nehemiah 8 (concerning the celebration of the day). In congregations that celebrate two days of Rosh HaShanah, this Haftarah is read the second day, and Isaiah 55 (concerning calling on G-d in joy) or Jeremiah 31 (concerning praising G-d for saving the people) is read on the first day.

SOME ITEMS OF NOTE

I want to highlight a few things that are recent or will be coming up in the months ahead.

I am back on my regular schedule. We began our regular schedule of rabbi-led services on August 22nd at Beth El (and August 29th at THOI).

If you wish to make an appointment to see me, please feel free to call (434-2744) or email (rabbijob@hotmail.com). To minimize driving, I am grouping most of my appointments in Harrisonburg on Sundays and Thursdays, and in Staunton on Mondays and Fridays.

The joint calendar committee met in June and set the schedule of services and other calendar events, which determines many of the activities and events for coming year. That calendar should be sent out soon, if it has not already been distributed.

You should find a Jewish calendar available to you at High Holiday services, courtesy of Reynolds Hamrick Funeral Home.

The Religious School will begin classes on Sunday, September 7th at 9:30. The daily religious school schedule order has changed

somewhat, but remains essentially the same, ending at 12:30. The bagel bar will be offered starting at 9 am. Information was sent out in August.

This year there will be a preschool program from 9:30-10:30, including music and other activities. For more information please contact Roberta Stein.

Please note: if you have a student who will be entering the religious school (K-7) this year, please be in touch with the principals as soon as you can. Also, if you are interested in being a teacher in the religious school, please be in touch with the co-principals. They are, again: Dara (mddmhall@verizon.net, 433-5596), Ruth (ruthberger@comcast.net, 574-0440), and Linda (lin5ko@aol.com, 269-2213).

There is a Shabbat service weekly at Beth El. When the rabbi is not present, these services are lay-led. Consult the congregational calendar for details, and see the website, Bridge, and announcements for any changes.

A joint Selichot service will be held at Beth El on Saturday evening, September 27th at 8 pm. We will begin with Havdalah, and then hold a Selichot service.

[Selichot is the penitential prayer service. It is customary to begin to pray prayers of selichot (penitence, sorrow, remorse, regret, apology, contrition, atonement, or repentance) for the forty days from the start of Elul until Yom Kippur day. These prayers are often recited in the deep of night, at midnight, throughout the entire period. A particular minhag (custom) has arisen in recent times that the most efficacious time to offer these prayers is on the motzei Shabbat (ending or going out of the Sabbath) either just prior to Rosh HaShanah or between Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur. The hallmarks of this service are the piyutim (liturgical poems) that are included, and the adoption of the posture of a supplicant for these prayers. There is no single format or liturgy that serves for this service. Last year I adapted a version for our use, based on the format produced by a colleague and friend of mine. I also held a discussion afterwards at Beth El, and asked for feedback on that version. Based on that feedback, I have further adapted the service, and it will debut this year.]

Rosh HaShanah will begin at 8 pm on Monday, September 29th. Rabbi Joe will be in Staunton that evening, and Rabbi Sue will be

in Harrisonburg. As is the local minhag (custom), the rabbis will switch locations and Rabbi Joe will be at Harrisonburg on the 30th, and Rabbi Sue in Staunton, with services beginning in both locations at 10 am. Please watch for information on tickets (no cost to members) to be sent out soon.

We will have the Tashlikh (casting away) ceremony at 1 pm following the Rosh HaShanah morning services, in Harrisonburg at Purcell Park, and in Staunton at Gypsy Hill Park.

[Tashlikh is a minhag (custom) that has arisen as a symbolic action. It indicates our desire to ‘cast away’ our transgressions and those acts we performed in past that we do not wish to repeat. The visiting of a body of mayim chayim (living water – a body of water that has fish and other forms of life, and ideally flows out to the sea), symbolizes our hope that we can cast off these behaviours, and that they will disappear (be consumed by the fish) or be carried away to be buried and lost forever (at the bottom of the ocean). It is a symbolic ritual of cleansing and healing; it denotes the hope and faith that we can rid ourselves of those things about ourselves we dislike, don’t want, or find harmful to ourselves or others.

A colleague of mine, Rabbi Dick Israel, z”l, came up with a humorous approach to this ritual which holds that we can also denote the types of transgressions we seek to eliminate by the type of bread crumbs we use. Thus, he composed a list: for common simple transgressions we use white bread; for errors in misuse of humor we would use rye bread; for deviances we could use twisted rolls or swirl rye/pumpernickel; for evil deeds we could use dark bread; and so on. The full list is quite lengthy, and very amusing.]

OTHER PROGRAMS & SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

If you feel a conversation 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.

Please know that we always seek congregant and guest participation in services throughout the year. If you are interested in taking a role in a service, please be in touch with Rabbi Joe or Gary Stein or Judy Freudenthal. Roles include: reading Torah, reading Haftarah, delivering a Devar Torah,

serving as Gabbai (the “MC” for the Torah service), reading an English reading, or having an honor. The Honors we usually confer in our services include being called up for an Aliyah (saying the blessings for the Torah or the Haftarah reading), serving as Hagbah (lift, hold, and carry the Torah), Gelilah (undressing and dressing the Torah), or Petichah Usegurah (opening and closing the Ark).

RABBINIC EDUCATION

I have taken into account the requests and comments that I received concerning classes and interest from congregants in the course of the last year. As a result, I have scheduled a fairly extensive set of classes/courses that I will teach in the coming year (as long as there is sufficient interest). Please consider joining me and studying in one or more of them.

1. If you have been meaning to learn how to read Hebrew (or improve your reading) in order to better follow services, speak with the rabbi: a beginner’s class has been scheduled for the fall, to begin in November, on Thursday the 6th at 6 pm. This is envisioned to be a six session course, including mastery of the alefbet and vowels, an initial introduction to some vocabulary of the liturgy, and some writing practice (new this year) to reinforce what we have covered. This course is similar to what has been offered in past under the titles Introduction to Hebrew, Crash Course in Reading Hebrew, and Read Hebrew America.

2. If you are interested in studying for and celebrating a B’nai Mitzvah, or in learning to leyn (read/chant) Torah and/or Haftarah, or to lead services, or serve as a gabbai, please be in touch with the rabbi. Classes are planned for later this year. More information will be forthcoming soon.

3. If you are interested in or wish to consider conversion, or you just want to learn more about Judaism (whether you are Jewish or not), you are invited to take the Introduction to Judaism (ITJ) course, offered beginning September 14th. This is useful if you simply want to know more about Judaism, and is a prerequisite to those who may be thinking about conversion. This will be a twenty class session course covering holidays, life cycle events, some history, practices, beliefs, customs, literature, and a smattering

of other matters. Students will also be asked to attend some services and events, undertake some Jewish practices, and go on a limited number of field trips during the course of the year. The classes will meet regularly on Sunday afternoons at 4-6 pm. The location will be determined by the preference of the majority of those who sign up (either Staunton or Harrisonburg or some combination). The first class meeting will be at Beth El in Harrisonburg. If you know of anyone else who might want to take such a course, please encourage them to contact Rabbi Joe.

4. In a series of classes that follow a theme, but each one is stand alone, I intend to look at the Tanakh in some detail, and especially at the doings of the women included in various sections, and try to tease out a bit of their stories, as well as look at the historical and contextual world in which those stories are unfolding. Thus, the class is titled, Tanakh: The Women of the Bible. The setting for this class would be akin to a seminar in which we would look at the story of one woman in each class, and read the text (in English), talk about the background, and discuss the story. I am scheduling this as a Sunday afternoon class, from 2-4 pm. It will be held monthly. Some months we will be at THOI, but the bulk of the classes will meet at Beth El in Harrisonburg. The first class will be on September 14th at Beth El at 2 pm. We will be looking at Chava (Eve) and the ‘other’ woman, focusing on chapters 1 and 2 of Bereshit (Genesis).

5. Another series of monthly stand alone classes will be titled “Everything you wanted to know about ‘X’ in Judaism (but were afraid to ask)” (EYWTKA). We will look at food, sex & relationships, business ethics, speech, community, prayer, kashrut and eco-kashrut, and many other topics. Because each class stands alone, no one would be compelled to commit to all the topics; you could attend when it is convenient and still fully participate. We will start this class in January, to be held at 7 pm, and it will alternate months between Thursdays at Beth El and Mondays at THOI.

6. A shorter series of two to three classes will be an examination of the Prayer service, in which we would examine the source, structure, development, and practices of the three daily services, and the variations for holidays. This will begin late in January.

7. Two other classes will be a ‘How to be a Gabbai’ (HTBA) (master of ceremonies for the Torah service) class, and HTBA Shaliach Tzibur’ (service leader) two-part series. These will also begin in January.

8. A multi-session class that will meet about twice a month at THOI starting in January will be Torah with Commentary (TWC). In it, we will look at a Torah parashah, and read along with it several of the commentators writings on that section. We will discuss what their questions may have been, as well as what our questions would be. This is another set of standalone classes – one need not attend all of the sessions. We will begin using the book by Rabbi Lawrence Kushner, “God was in this place and I, i did not know it.”

9. Torah Limud – a monthly Torah study session at Beth El that looks at that week’s Torah Parashah and tries to fit it into the context of the larger story. Open for discussion. This will usually take place on Friday evening from 6:30 to 7:30, and you are welcome to bring a meal to eat while we talk. On some occasions, it will be moved to Saturday morning, when we have a Shabbat morning service, and in that case, will follow the service, and any Kiddush that is offered. The first session will be Saturday morning, September 20th following the Shabbat morning service at Beth El.

10. Torah Lishmah – a monthly text study session at THOI that looks at something in the way of a Jewish text, drawn variously from Torah, Nevi’im (Prophets), Ketuvim (Writings), Talmud, the Zohar, and other Jewish texts. Open for discussion. This will usually take place on Friday evening from 6:30 to 7:30, and you are welcome to bring a meal to eat while we talk. On some occasions, it will be moved to Saturday morning, when we have a Shabbat morning service, and in that case, will follow the service, and any Kiddush that is offered. The first session will be Friday, September 12th, at 6:30 pm, prior to our Shabbat evening service at THOI.

Please let Rabbi Joe know if these possibilities would be of interest to you. If you have an idea or a desire for another class, please also let Rabbi Joe know – then it can be taken into account for a future offering.

ADULT EDUCATION INITIATIVES

In an entirely different direction, there is some desire to have adult education

programs, other than those that I put on. We have some congregants who have expressed interest in bringing in local experts who can present a variety of programs to our community, along the lines of the program on global warming last year. I am all in favor of this kind of program, and would be happy to support those involved in bringing this kind of program to our community.

As one suggestion, perhaps these members can encourage an appropriate local expert to lead a series on Islam, or possibly Islam and Judaism. This is an area and a topic that the URJ has suggested would be valuable for Reform congregations to study as a group.

I am hopeful that we can arrange these adult education programs throughout the year, in addition to the rabbinic offerings, and present an ongoing ‘lernhaus’ on a variety of different topics.

We can also try to arrange for a group visit to the Blackfriars theater again, as that seemed to be very well received. We can request that Ralph Cohen (if available) or another person involved with the performances, speak to us about the play, as he did recently for The Jew of Malta.

The Shenandoah Valley Holocaust Education Week is a major initiative. It needs more hands and energy than any one person can provide. If you would like to be part of making this happen, please speak to Rabbi Joe. Planning is going to get under way very soon. Ron Ornstein has offered to help out, so you would not be doing it alone.

There are many other possibilities to volunteer and help our community continue to grow and be vibrant – please consider signing up and taking on one or more of these roles.

CLOSING MESSAGE

As we approach the High Holy Days, the Yamim Nora’im (days of awe), I ask forgiveness for any injuries I may have done to anyone, and I freely offer forgiveness to those who have caused me injuries. May this year be for all of us a year of blessing, a year of love, a year of health, a year of prosperity, a year of healing, and a year of success. Ken Yehi Ratzon (so may it be G-d’s will).

I look forward to seeing you all again soon, and hearing about all the exciting things you did over the summer.

Rabbi Joe Blair
September 2008

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

The rabbi is available to meet by appointment. If you wish to meet or speak with the rabbi, please email or call to set an appointment.

The office is not staffed and the building is generally closed when the rabbi is not in. Messages are checked by the rabbi at both congregations, and email is frequently read during the week. Please understand that the rabbi will not be available or reply on

Shabbat or on Jewish holidays unless it is an emergency that cannot wait.

In the event of an urgent need the rabbi may be contacted by telephone. In that case, please call the cell phone number listed, leaving a detailed message, and be sure to express the need for an immediate response.

Rabbi Joe's Email:

RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com

Beth El Congregation

540-434-2744

Temple House of Israel

540-886-4091

Cell phone (Please use this # for emergencies)

434-981-3959

DONATIONS

Beth El Congregation is grateful for the following generous donations

To the Janet Kohen Memorial Music Fund

Marshall, Lynn, Jacob, and Rachel Kohen
in loving memory of Bubbie.

In gratitude for the support and assistance
during the funeral, shiva, and afterwards
Dan & Harriet Kohen (Andy's
brother & sister-in law)
Naomi Handelman (Andy's sister)
Mark & Pam Levine (Andy's
brother-in-law & sister-in-law)

Anne Mintzer

Arnie Kahn

Robert and Joan Block

Reiser Family

John and Nancy Stewart

JMU Faculty Senate

Bob and Cathy Brookshire

Roberta Mondres

Terry & Judith Lepera

Friends of Marshall Kohen at the

U.S Nuclear Regulatory Comission

Emily B. Frye & Shawn D. Westin

SeniorNavigator

S.R. Milliman & E.E. Lucius

Donna & Roddy Amenta

Nancy Harold

Temple Beth-Or Sisterhood

Kay A. Harter

Michael White

American Assoc Of University

Women

Ruth and Bary Berger

Pamela & Jerrold Siskin

Betty Davison

Jane Lillian

Jack & Linda Vartoogian

Sallye S. & G. Edgar Parker

Monte & Dale Brothers

Mark Lafontaine and Lisa Tanen-Lafontaine

General Fund

Anne Mintzer - Get well wishes to Maureen
Goldberger and Candy Blatt

Jessica A. MacWilliams

In honor of Josh Robinson's 85th birthday

Harriet Robinson and family

Adele Greil

Anne Mintzer

Anne Mintzer and Milton Perlman - In honor
of John Stewart's 90th birthday

In memory of Lisa Giovanetti's mother
Bob and Cathy Brookshire

In memory of Margene Ward (Michelle
Ornstein's mother)

Bill & Leslie Ney

Jerry and Esther Minskoff

Judy Freudenthal

Chuck Slott

Lisa & Kevin Giovanetti

Arnie Kahn

Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Ornstein

Yahrzeit Memorials

Shirley Merlin and family in memory of Dave
Merlin

Alan and Kate Neckowitz in memory of Jack
Neckowitz

Bill & Leslie Ney in memory of Carol Ney

Anne Mintzer in memory of Elisa Tomaszeski

Chuck Slott in memory of his father, Louis
Slott

Maureen O'Callaghan & Mike Goldberger in
memory of Bette O'Callaghan

Arnie Kahn

Josh and Estelle Robinson in memory of
Herbet Robinson

Eddie Ney in memory of Albert Nash and
Irving Ney

Poster Family Foundation in memory of
Marvin Poster and in memory of Rose Poster
Carr

John Stewart in memory of Susanne Glaser,
sister

Eddie Ney in memory of

Beth Ney

Lois poster in memory of Marvin Poster

Leonard & Marilena Berman in memory of
Julius Berman

Shirley Merlin in memory of Samuel R.
Nebelkopf, father.

Building Fund

Joan Funston in memory of Margene Ward
Milton Perlman in honor of John Stewart's
90th birthday

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Gerry and Lemore Price in memory of Janet
Kohen

Additional Donations

John and Nancy Stewart: Five extra folding
tables for use in the Social Hall

MENS CLUB NEWS

The Beth El Men's Club, aka Brotherhood, will be having our opening meeting/picnic on Sunday Sept. 7, 1 PM at Hillandale Park Shelter #10. At that time we'll make some plans for the year, volunteer for misc. responsibilities (fyi, do we have a secretary?), and generally catch up from our summer hiatus. Please plan to attend whether you've been coming for years, been putting it off for years, or simply are relatively new (1-5 years) to the Congregation. We are really just a bunch of nice guys who enjoy doing Jewish stuff (and other stuff too) together. Please RSVP Ron Ornstein at ornfam@comcast.net or Kevin Giovanetti at giovankl@jmu.edu if you can make it.

Some other activities/events (w/tent. names of coordinators) to put on your calendars include:

- helping with Yom Kippur Break the Fast - Oct. 9, (Dan B.)
- helping with ushering during high holidays - sign up at picnic or by e-mail (need someone to organize)
- delivering high holiday food drive donations (any volunteers ?)
- Sukkah construction on Oct. 12 (Kevin G.)
- Lion's Club Spaghetti dinners on Nov. 18, Jan. 20 and March 17 (all Tues, Eddie N.)

- SHORTY ski weekend dinner Jan. 16 (?)
- Men's Club Shabbat - February 6 (Andy K. et al)
- Brotherhood Sisterhood interfaith dinner - March 29 (Jerry M.)

Beth El Caring Committee

Please contact Esther Minskoff (minscoeh@jmu.edu or 434-6973) if you would like to be part of the Beth El Caring Committee "list". When the committee (chaired by Esther) hears of a congregant in need of meals, rides, visits or other such things, she puts out the word to solicit sharing and help from those of us in the community on her caring committee list. So far, this has been a Sisterhood group, but we'd like to expand that to include the men, so please contact her and get on the list.

Hope to see many of you at the picnic on September 7th.

Looking forward to another fruitful year of Men's Club activities.

Ron, Beth El Mens Club President

SISTERHOOD NEWS

The first meeting will be on Wed, September 10 at 6 pm at the Temple. A special dinner will be served to welcome all back. Please RSVP to Sherri Alt 249-5463 or email Sherishops @aol if you are planning to attend! Hope to see everyone.

Sherri, Sisterhood President

SCHOOL NEWS

EXCITING NEWS FOR PRESCHOOLERS

After great deliberation and much study, the Board of Directors of Beth El have determined that it is time to begin a real Jewish preschool program for our children, as a lead in to regular religious school. To that end Roberta Stein and Mona Wolf will begin the first preschool class Sunday September 7, 2008 from 9:30 am to 10:30 am. We are beginning with only one hour a week but plan to expand the program as we grow. The fee is nominal: \$50 for member's children, \$125 for children from THOI, and \$175 for unaffiliated families for the entire year.

We will be exploring the concepts of God, covenant, and mitzvah; we will assist the children in identifying with the historic experience of our people and beginning Torah study; and we will lead the children toward active participation in the local and global Jewish community, all within an age appropriate experience for preschoolers age 3-5 (not yet in Kindergarten).

The class will run this way; first 20 min. we study our theme and do art activities to reinforce it, next we have music and games, to reinforce our theme and expand our Jewish music repertoire. The final 20 min. is spent in activities related to the Torah study for the day, or in an appropriate holiday activity. As you can see, we are packing a lot of Jewish activity in a small space. Perhaps the day will come when we can expand the program? Think about it, a Jewish preschool in Harrisonburg? Let see what we can do to get this class going.

Following this article is a list of things we need for the class. Any contributions will be greatly appreciated. Also following is a list of items your preschool child will need to bring to class the first day.

I am the administrator, teacher and chief cook and bottle washer for this project. Any questions or concerns need to be directed to me. My cell phone # is (540) 383-3691. Email address is robertastein52@aol.com. Home phone is (540) 432-1381. I hope to see you all at the first day of religious school on Sunday September 7, 2008. Come at 9:00 and

have breakfast at the Bagel Bar with the rest of the children and register for class.

Materials for the first day

Use this page to record your information and bring it to the first day of class.

Current picture of child

Family pictures, Mom, Dad, Grandparents, sister, brothers, pets, etc.

Picture of house where child lives

Basic measurements- height, weight, shoe size

What is your child's favorite phrase?

Other favorites- friend, number, color, book, toy

Ask what your child wants to be when she grows up, where he wants to live, and what they dream their lives will be like. Don't question it, just record it

Wish List

Room Dividers- (the Men's Club has offered to make them)
Portable Bulletin Board
Low/adjustable height table
Carpet Squares
Storage cabinets- prefer one with lock
Assorted Jewish themed toys
Dress ups
Costumes or fabric to make biblical costumes
Art supplies
Jewish themed children's books
Large Appliance box or other cardboard box
Markers
Children's scissors
Butcher Paper/Bulletin Board paper
Card stock
Glue sticks
Tissue paper
Poster Paint
Super-Large plastic storage containers for the Orff Instruments and for storage of other items

CALENDAR

September 2008						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Rosh Chodesh Elul	2	3	4	5 Rabbi Service (2)	6 Parashat Shoftim
7 Religious School Bagel Bar Men's Club Picnic	8	9	10 Sisterhood Meeting	11	12 Lay Service	13 Parashat Ki Teitzei
14 Religious School Bagel Bar	15	16	17	18	19 Lay Service	20 Rabbi Service (3) Torah Study Parashat Ki Tavo
21 Religious School Bagel Bar	22	23	24	25	26 Lay Service	27 Parashat Nitzavim
28 Religious School Rosh Hashanah Bagel Bar	29 Erev Rosh Hashana Rabbi Elwell at Beth El 8:00 PM	30 Rosh Hashana 5769 Day 1 Rabbi Joe at Beth El 10:00 AM Tashlich at 1 at Purcell Park				

SEPTEMBER YAHRZEITS

2	Lena Paul Miller		Member
5	Rose Minskoff	1942	Jerry Minskoff's Mother
	Edythe Sanders	1959	Bill Ney's & Leo Zindler's Great Aunt
6	Arthur H. Hirsch	1940	Member
	Thomas Blatt	1956	Member Franklin Blatt's Uncle
	Dr. Alfred Agrin	2004	Cathy Brookshire's Father
8	Rabbi Stephen Levinsohn	Student	Rabbi at Beth El
	Norman Kaiser		Paula Kaiser's Father
10	Lee G. Loewner	1936	Member
11	Alfred Raff	1981	Irma Nemoytin's Father
	Gilbert Litvin	1969	Herb Rodbell's Cousin
12	Sidra Nemoytin Dubel	1993	Member
16	Fannie Meyerberg		
	Harry Blatt	1959	Member Frank Blatt's Father
	Bertha Brooslin Kaye		Ruth Clayman's Sister
	Barbara Clayman Callihan	1990	Harry & Ruth Clayman's Daughter
	Beth Ash Ney	2000	Member Eddie Ney's Mother
18	Rosalyn Loewner	1940	Member
	Solomon Loewner	1927	Member
	Gladys Wise	1919	Member
	Joseph Ney	1988	Bill Ney's Father
20	Simon Marrick	1972	
	Samuel Rubin Nebelkopf	1961	Shirley Merlin's Father
21	Katie Ney	1877	Member
23	Kalman Meyer	1964	Joyce Helbraun's Father
25	Berdie Frank Ney	1942	Member
	Kattie Iseman	1909	
	Nettie Berney		
	Theodore Weiss	1952	Member
	Ben Handler	1973	Lenny Handler's Father
	Sara (Sissy) Loewner	1982	Member
27	Samuel Fisher	1968	
	Alexander Nemoytin	1967	Gene Nemoytin's Father
29	Belle Neckowitz		Alan Neckowitz' Mother
	Julius Berman		Lenny Berman's Father
	Charles Rodbell	1968	Herb Rodbell's Father

Board Members

Joe Blair	Rabbi
Gary Stein	President
Jerry Minskoff	Vice President
Becky Mintzer	Secretary
Michelle Ornstein	Treasurer
Judy Freudenthal	Trustee
Andy Kohen	Trustee
Bill Ney	Trustee
Sherri Alt	Sisterhood President
Ron Ornstein	Men's Club President
Marlene Brumbaugh	At large member
Phil Renick	At large member

Bridge Editor

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