



<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.

APRIL 2011

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Shalom!

We have really been busy with lots of activity February- March. Many thanks to Andy Kohen for preparations and organization of the Kulano speaker presentation February 20th. This was a wonderful and very successful event. We also had our annual fundraising dinner with Dave's Taverna, many thanks to Judy Liss and Bill Ney for all of their work to make this a very successful event as well. Our Religious School led Shabbat services at THOI in Staunton March 12. We should all be very proud of our students! I thank Dara Hall, Principle of Religious School and all of our teachers and parents who stay so involved with our kids. One would hardly believe that we are a ""small congregation"", we sure do many BIG things. We also celebrated Purim this month, Friday night service was an abbreviated Shabbat as we read the Megillah and celebrated Purim. There was an all star baseball player, Bert and Ernie joined us, the most beautiful woman from China came to visit, we had many little princess's, a high school graduate valedictorian gave her graduation speech and our Rabbi was a construction worker. Oh and we had a whole family in their pajamas! It was a very fun holiday, I hope next year more of you will join us. The Religious School celebrated Purim as well with SHORTY hosting the annual carnival and lunch. I hear fun was had by all.

When I look at all of the above activities and all of the involvement of our congregants and Rabbi, I am overwhelmed at what we all accomplish together to keep our Jewish Community alive and growing in the valley. I love to know what great things our once little ones are doing now . I will share with you what I know. We have a former youth grouper at William and Mary and one at American University. We have one at Virginia Tech and one at Shenandoah University. These are our kids that once were attending the Purim carnival, then running the Purim carnival! Keep it up BethEl, TOGETHER WE DO GREAT THINGS!.

Looking ahead, Passover is approaching, information will be coming very soon regarding our Congregational Seder.

Please contact me if there is anything you wish me to address or just talk.

I will be a little busy from April 14th-April 17th as my son, Jay, will be getting married. Many of you may remember him dressing up for Purim as well as running the carnival in his youth days.

Happy spring everyone!!

Sherri Alt

FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

My dear fellow Valley Jews and Friends,

Shalom. Finally, it is Spring here in the Valley. They say 'April showers; May flowers,' but locally that old adage is off – we are already enjoying the beauty of the spring flowers and greenery in our area. I have seen crocus, daffodil, and other early bloomers. Dogwood flowering is here, or soon will be. There are verdant greens in many hues; leaves, shoots, grasses, all showing new growth. What a glorious, beautiful season, a time of year when we are surrounded by fresh-washed renewal. One can almost feel the breeze of the breath of G-d bringing forth all this beauty.

THE CALENDAR

ADAR 2 → NISAN (APRIL 2011)

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

HOLIDAYS & SPECIAL SERVICES

T.S. Elliot tells us in his poem *The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock* that April is the cruelest month, breeding violets out of the dead ground. Too bad for him, he was an anti-Semitic bigot, or he would have learned about Passover, the celebration of redemption, liberation, and renewal – but then he would not have been such a depressing personality, and could not have written that poem. ☺

Falling on the 14th of Nisan (the 18th of April) is Erev Pesach (the eve of Passover). On the evening of Monday, April 18th at sunset, the day

of the 15th of Nisan (the eve of the Full Moon) begins, and with it comes the first seder (ordered ritual festival meal) in celebration of Passover.

Passover lasts for seven days in Israel (and among some Jews outside of Israel), and eight days for others. That means it runs from sundown on the 18th until sundown on the 25th in Israel, and sundown on the 26th for others. The first two and last two days of this period are traditionally observed as full holidays, while the days in between are half-holidays, what we call Chol Ha'mo'ed.

This year, there will be a community seder on the first day at Temple House of Israel (the evening of April 18th), and on the second day at Beth El Congregation (the evening of April 19th). See elsewhere in this bulletin for information and a reservation form.

Starting on the second day of Passover, April 20th, Nisan 16, we begin to count the Omer, a measure of the barley harvested, as a way of observing the connection and separation of Passover and Shavuot, representing Redemption and Revelation, which falls on the 50th day after Passover begins. Thus, we count the Omer for seven weeks of seven days (49 days). There are often calendars to help remember the count – my favorite to date is one I find amusing - a H'Omer Simpson version, available online through jvibe.com.

Falling five days after Passover ends, on Nisan 27, is Yom HaSho'ah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. We will observe this on May 1st. Watch for more information on our commemoration of Yom HaSho'ah, and for events in the

Shenandoah Valley Holocaust Education Project
(this year scheduled between May 1st and 15th).

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

- Friday April 1st, 7:30 pm Beth El
{Tentatively, with JMU Hillel}
- Saturday, April 2nd, 10 am THOI
- Friday, April 15th, 7:30 pm, at Beth El
- Saturday, April 16th, 10 am, THOI
Kinderlachen
- Friday, April 29th, 7:30 pm, THOI
- Friday, May 6th, 7:30 pm, Beth El
- Saturday, May 7th, 10 am, THOI
Kinderlachen
- Friday, May 13th, 7:30 pm, THOI

TORAH PARASHIOT

The Torah parashiot (Torah portions) read for the month include the following: Tazria, Metzora, Acharei Mot, Shabbat Chol Hamo'ed Pesach, and Kedoshim, drawn from Vayikra (Lev.) 12:1-20:27; Shemot (Ex.) 12:1-20 (for Shabbat HaChodesh), and 33:12-34:26 (for Shabbat Chol Hamo'ed Pesach); and Bamidbar (Num.) 28:19-25 (for Shabbat Hagadol). Haftarot (Haftarah readings selected from the prophets) to be read include segments from Ezekiel 45-46; 2 Kings 7; Malachi 3; Amos 9; and Ezekiel 36-37.

EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES & ACTIVITIES THIS MONTH

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

ISRAEL TRIP – DELAYED A YEAR

Based on the responses received through March 15th, there are an insufficient number of persons willing to commit to make a Congregational Trip to Israel work this year. We will try again for summer 2012, likely late June, possibly early July.

EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

Torah Bites

- The next Torah Bites is scheduled to take place on Friday, April 15th from noon to 1:30 pm at THOI. Join us for an impromptu discussion of Text.

Tanakh & Talmud Discussions

- The next meeting in this monthly series of conversations is scheduled to be held on April 24th at 2 to 3:30 pm at Beth El. We will continue with our look at the Torah, with additional focus on the topic of Women in the Tanakh. PLEASE CHECK to be sure this has not been rescheduled!

Adult Education

- The next and final showing of the video lectures by Professor AJ Levine is scheduled to take place at Beth El on April 24th at 3:30 to 5 pm. PLEASE CHECK to be sure this has not been rescheduled!

Kinderlachen

The next **Kinderlachen** meeting of this year will be on April 16th 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).

Singing in the “Choir” (Service Music)

Sarah Grove-Humphries has agreed to offer once again three sessions to teach anyone interested songs sung in our worship services. If you would like to learn melodies and words, this is your chance! Sarah would like you to let her know in advance what you want to work on – give her at least a week to find the music for anything she doesn't already have. The first session was March 20th. The next two have been rescheduled: PLEASE NOTE that the dates are now **April 17th** at 3-4 pm, and **May 22nd** at 3-4 pm, at THOI. This is fun and a way to learn

parts of the service! You don't need to read Hebrew, you don't need any special background...just join in!

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. At the same time, we note that this has been a hard winter for many in our community. Several of our families have suffered losses, and we pray for comfort for them. Many among us and in our extended family continue to need our prayers for refuah shelemah bimheyrah (complete and speedy recovery, and wholeness, in whatever form that may take). We pray for parnassah and hatzlachah for those in need of it. And above all, we pray for peace; 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 things will be better soon.

CLOSING MESSAGE

As we enter the season of the festival of Matzah, the festival of freedom, our Spring festival, may the physical renewal and rebirth in the world around us envelope and support and sustain us, and cause us to be supported in faith, hope, joy, and in liberation, and renewed in body, spirit, and mind. May it be so, soon in our days., and let us say, Amen.

Rabbi Joe Blair
April 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 messages at home; please do not call his home number if you want a response.**
- **Please note: the rabbi does not read or respond to email on Shabbat or holidays, and asks to receive only emergency phone calls on those days.**

Rabbi Joe's Email:

RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com

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
Mona Wolf	Secretary
Michelle Ornstein	Treasurer
Judy Freudenthal	Trustee
Andy Kohen	Trustee
Bill Ney	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

YAHREITS

01	Fred Rudd		Member
	Ada Wise	1882	Child
02	Jacob Katzen		Harry Katzen's Father
04	Fanny Sissman		
05	Lorraine Sonn	1972	Member Eddie Ney's Aunt
	Mitchel Zindler		Leo Zindler's Uncle
06	Joseph Hirsch	1964	Member
	Joseph Ney	1916	Member Bill Ney's, Eddie Ney's, & Leo Zindler's great Grandfather
07	Eva Friddle	1967	Member
	Allan Rose		Bo Rose's Father
	Judith Levine Schweitzer		Thea Golub's Mother
09	Joseph Fineberg		
	Ida Clayman		Harry Clayman's Aunt
11	David Miller	1954	
	Grover Cleveland Ney		
	Roslyn Freudenthal	1995	Judy Freudenthal's Mother
14	Charles Loewner	1938	Member
16	Rosie Mayer		
17	Martin Borodkin		
19	Henia Schikman		Mike Schikman's Mother
	Arthur Printz		
	Leah Perlman	2007	Milton Perlman's Sister-in-law
21	Hana Shaw		Elizabeth Shaw's Mother
22	Philip Miller	1936	Member
23	Dorothy Funston		Jay Funston's Mother
24	Herman Wise	1924	Member
25	Benjamin Kohen	1989	Andy Kohen's Father

26	Sara Slain		
	Harry Robinson	1905	Member
	Candace F. Blatt	2009	Franklin Blatt's Wife
29	Herman Miller	1905	Member
	Minnie Wise	1921	Member
30	Vera Nemoytin	1977	Gene Nemoytin's Mother
	Theodore Blatt	2001	Franklin Blatt's Cousin

DONATIONS

Beth El Congregation is grateful for the following generous donations:

Gifts & Memorials

Ralph & Judy Cohen

Ronn Daniel

Mary Hildebrand Mitchel & Valerie Lovinger

Karen Sodikoff

Wishing improved health for Elliott Golub, Sophie Miller (mom), and Karen (Rabbi Joe's wife)

Mona Wolf

In memory of Gloria Simon, Dale's mother

Lisa & Kevin Giovanetti

Jerry & Esther Minskoff

Ron & Michelle Ornstein

Judy Freudenthal

Elliott & Thea Golub

Mona Wolf

In memory of Phyllis Bernice Landsman May, Lenore's

Price's sister

Ron & Michelle Ornstein

Mona Wolf

For the Kulanu speaker, Shi Lei

Jerry & Esther Minskoff

Ron & Michelle Ornstein

Alan & Kate Neckowitz

Building Fund

In memory of Gloria Simon, Dale's mother

Joan Funston

Bill & Leslie Ney

Yahrzeit Memorial Fund

Milton Perlman in memory of Louise Perlman

Judy Freudenthal in memory of Jonathan Freudenthal

Michael White in memory of Lenore White, mother

Alan Poster in memory of Evan Poster

Steve & Laurie Schwalb in memory of Charles & Beatrice Schwalb

JMU Hillel parents

Dr. Elliott & Antoinette Band: 3 Lake Drive ,
Pleasantville , NY 10570

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Outstanding! That is the best way to describe all of the effort and engagement in the Religious School Shabbat on Saturday, March 12th! Our teachers and Rabbi Joe did an outstanding job of preparing our students with their liturgy. Ron Ornstein did an outstanding job of leading our students in song as they practiced for several weeks and then ultimately led the service. Our students did an outstanding job with their behavior, positive attitude, and professionalism in reading the liturgy. Several of our dalet students actually read torah and haftorah portions in Hebrew (way to go Hannah and Jake)! The parents did an outstanding job of supporting their students, practicing with them, and getting them to services! J And THOI sisterhood did an outstanding job preparing a delicious Kiddush luncheon afterwards. Thanks to all of these participants for such a wonderful day! What a great experience for me – I am so proud of our students!!

Then, just one week later on Sunday, March 20th, we had another spectacular event. Several parents told me that it was the “most organized” and “best” religious school Purim carnival we have ever had. I can personally take no credit other than getting the right people for the job. Many thanks to Rachel Simon who organized the activities of the day as she and all of our JMU teachers organized the James Madison University Jewish sorority and fraternity (ΣΑΕΠ & ΣΑΕ) while working with the youth group SHORTY and brought us a fantastic carnival. We had so much fun with games and crafts and activities and food! Our costumed students enjoyed Rabbi’s Megillah reading, voted on donating their tzedakah to Red Cross to help with the disaster relief drive for Japan, and then spent 2 1/2 hours visiting the many carnival stations where they got prizes at games, made real and craft hamantaschen, had their faces painted, made masks and graggers, ate delicious food and had a ball! Thank you so much to everyone involved in making this such a great event!

Join us on Sunday, April 10th for the movie “The Prince of Egypt” beginning around 9:45am and then again on April 17th for a model Passover seder. We look forward to seeing you there!

L’shalom,

Dara



PURIM 2011



visit by Shi Lei

ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Fridays Art Walk
Harrisonburg League of Therapists, 312 S. Main
Franklin and Main Street

Presenting

TAPESTRIES

by Sharon Ratner

Opening Reception: April 1st, 5-7pm

Waves

wool, satin bamboo, silk, acrylic, rayon and cotton fibers
48"W x 20" H

For more information

contact the Artist:

Sharon Ratner: 289-5337

E-mail: ratnerpj@comcast.net



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

HARTS Fundraiser

Fundraiser for HARTS (the Harrisonburg And Rockingham Thermal Shelter) --- happening on the last night of shelter for the season -- hosted by Park View Mennonite. Sunday, April 17 at 7pm. at Park View Mennonite Church, the EMU Chamber Singers will present their annual spring concert with funds donated to HARTS.

April 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Rabbi-Led Shabbat 16	2 <i>Rabbi-Led Shabbat, 10am @ THOI</i>
3 No Religious School(Spring Break/ Passover [Make up day] <i>Book Discussion 6 pm THOI</i>	4	5	6	7	8 Lay-Led Service	9
10 Religious School 27 & Bagel Bar Movie - The Prince of Egypt 9:45 am	11	12	13	14	15 TorahBites, Noon, THOI Rabbi-Led Shabbat 17	16 <i>Kinderlachen, 10am THOI</i>
17 Religious School 28 Model Passover Seder & Bagel Bar HARTS Fundraiser	18 <i>Seder 1, THOI 6 pm</i>	19 Seder 2, Beth El, 6 pm	20	21	22	23
24 NO Religious School Shorty Meeting 1 pm Book Discussion, 6pm, THOI	25	26	27	28	29 Lay-Led Service	30