



February 2008

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

We freeze one week. We sweat the next. We experience life cycle events that cause celebration one week. We shed tears the next. We're sure of the future one week. Things change the next. If not for the love and support of our congregational family, so much of life would be even more challenging. Have I told you, recently, how much I cherish you? Have we told each other?

I hope you're still reading, because the other message I hope to deliver this month is to **KEEP READING!** It has been determined (through reliable - though non-scientific - research) that the majority of the congregation does not read beyond page 3 of The Bridge. Board members, the rabbi and committee chairs put a good bit of effort into composing their information. Mo and Mike spend a great deal of time reminding those of us who are (ALWAYS) delinquent, and then laying it all out to make it look professional. There are news bits and announcements all the way through. There is so much going on and so much happening, that it just can't be made any shorter! My not-very-green suggestion: If you receive The Bridge by email, print it out and put it on the refrigerator, by the coffeepot, by your bed, on the coffee table, in the bathroom...or anywhere that you can pick it up occasionally and begin to read where you left off. Don't miss out because you quit reading at page 3 (or 2 or 1)!

Margee

THE CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

- February 1 - **Rabbi Service**
- February 7 - **Board Meeting**
- February 8 - **Men's Club Shabbat**
- February 15 - **Religious School Shabbat**
- February 20 - **Sisterhood Meeting**
- February 23 - **Hank's Dinner**
- February 29 - **Rabbi Service**

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

We have changed the submission date for the next Bridge to allow folks a little more time to get their information to us. This later date leaves us very little leeway before it needs to go to the printer, so any late materials will not make it into the newsletter. Please send articles/photographs for the March Bridge by **February 22** to Mike via email (goldbems@jmu.edu). Articles may need to be edited to fit in available space.

Beth El
FUNDRAISING
DINNER
 February 23, 5-8
 See page 7 for details!

THE CALENDAR AND HOLIDAYS

SHEVAT → ADAR 1

Rosh Chodesh (the New Month) for Shevat took place on the 8th of January. Shevat ends on February 6th, and Rosh Chodesh for Adar 1 will be on the 5th and 7th of February. Adar 1 will run until the 7th of March, and Rosh Chodesh for Adar 2 will fall on the 7th and 8th of March.

You may have noted that this month is identified as Adar 1 – that means this is one of the leap years in the Jewish calendar cycle. In the seven leap years during the course of the nineteen year cycle we add a full month. The month that is added is inserted after Adar, and is also called Adar. We differentiate the two months by calling them Adar 1 and Adar 2. When there is only one month of Adar, we simply call it Adar.

This insertion of a leap-month is why the Jewish holidays (and dates on the Jewish calendar) seem to jump around on the secular calendar. In a leap year, the holidays following Adar seem to come ‘late’, and in subsequent year to move ‘earlier’ each year, until the next leap year.

One of the trivia facts that I shared with the children in religious school is that it would not happen that we would have a silly result as in the story of *The Pirates of Penzance* (Gilbert & Sullivan), where a man born on February 29th on the secular calendar would only have had 5 birthdays after he had lived 21 years (a most amusing paradox, as the song goes). If a birthday occurs in Adar 2, in years without an Adar 2, it falls on the same number day of the month in Adar. So a person whose birthday was the 5th of Adar 2 would celebrate their birthday on the 5th of Adar in years with no month of Adar 2. We see this in practice each year, because Purim falls on the 14th of Adar 2 – in non-leap years, it is celebrated on the 14th of Adar.

FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

My dear fellow Valley Jews and Friends,

Shalom! Tu Bi'Shevat (the new year for the trees) passed just recently, marking the rising of sap in the trees, leading to buds and then flowers, which means that we are moving towards Spring! That is welcome news, after the sudden snow and ice we suffered through recently.

Rabbi Joe

GATES OF GREY PRAYER BOOKS

On January 5th at the Shabbat morning service, we used the new prayer books (Gates of Prayer, in the Grey covers, so affectionately called Gates of Grey) for the first time. I have heard many comments praising them, some for the size and weight, some for the gender inclusivity, and some for the inclusion on the page of transliterations.

Gates of Grey is a streamlined version of the Gates of Blue format. It contains fewer versions of services (three for Erev Shabbat rather than ten, for example), but the services included are the same as those in the Gates of Blue (other than the use of inclusive language). The services we most often used in Gates of Blue are included in Gates of Grey, so we will see few changes in what we are used to doing.

Does this mean that the older Gates of Blue books will go away? NO! Certainly not. Both will remain in the book holders in the pews. Gates of Grey does not include all the materials for holidays and special occasions that Gates of Blue does, so we will continue to use Gates of Blue periodically for rabbi-led services, and lay leaders are completely free to choose which book they prefer to use. This also preserves the dedications placed in the copies of Gates of Blue in years past in honor or in memory of congregants' loved ones, and opens the possibility of new dedications being placed in the Gates of Grey books.

I was hopeful that I could bring this about as my gift to the congregation, and I am very pleased to have been able to arrange it. I believe it will be a long-term enhancement to our worship services.

Rabbi Joe

TORAH PARASHIOT

Torah parashiot (Torah portions) read for the period covered by this newsletter include: Mishpatim, Terumah, Tetzaveh, and Ki Tisa. These are drawn from Shemot (Exodus) 21:1-34:35.

Haftarot read this month include readings from Jeremiah 33-34, 1 Kings 5, Ezekiel 43, and 1 Kings 18.

Recently, we had Tu Bi'Shevat (the 15th of Shevat, also known as the New Year for the Trees). It fell this year on the 22nd of January. We held a seder (an ordered liturgy and meal) to talk about it and to use the produce of trees as the food at the seder. This is very similar to Passover, in that there too, we have food as symbols, and we consume the symbols (we are what we eat!). ☺

Also recently, Shorty, the youth group, led services at THOI and at Beth El as part of their Ski Weekend events. This was a huge success once again. I hope you were able to attend one of the services.

We had a very well attended Shabbat morning service on January 5th. It was wonderful! We commemorated Annie Mintzer's birthday as part of the service, and had a lovely Kiddush luncheon afterwards. We continued the celebration with a service at which Anne was honored on the 12th.

January 13th was the Interfaith Peace Celebration, and the congregations were co-sponsors of the event. It was really quite nice. People from several churches, both of our congregations, and the mosque all attended and had a nice time and an opportunity to talk about peace, and what we can each do to help bring it about, support, and sustain it locally, nationally, and globally. Over two hundred people attended! I am sure this will be done again next year. I hope many of you will choose to participate.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the Religious School Shabbat on February 15th at Beth El.

Look for more information in the Bridge from the Adult Education committee about a program they are planning on Global Warming.

February 23rd is the annual Hank's dinner. You will see more about that soon.

Looking ahead, we have another event in the Shenandoah Valley Holocaust Education project coming. On March 9th, Norman Weinberg will be speaking at Beth El at 1 pm. Mr. Weinberg is a director of the Poland Jewish Cemetery Restoration Project. He will tell us about the work he and others are doing with Polish people, many of them youth and children, who are lovingly restoring cemeteries that were systematically destroyed by the Nazis, who used the headstones and walls to build roads and buildings. This is an incredible story of hope and reconciliation. If you cannot be there at 1, you have another opportunity that evening, when Mr. Weinberg will speak at THOI. Also, be on the lookout for further information about other events in this project. It is taking place over a week (March 6th to 12th), and there are many different programs scattered between Waynesboro, Fishersville, Staunton, and Harrisonburg. Included are plays, readings, survivor speakers, and discussions. A brochure should be coming your way soon. Hold room in your busy calendar for this - it will certainly be worth your time!

Please note a change in the schedule of services at Beth El: there will be a Friday Shabbat service on February 29th, but the Shabbat morning service listed for March 1st has been moved to March 15th. The service theme will be a healing service, and all who need or want healing are encouraged to come and join us. Following the service will be a Talmud Torah Limud (Torah study), which will take place (I hope) over a Kiddush luncheon.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Greetings from the Religious School!

This month the entire school learned about and celebrated Rosh Chodesh. Rabbi Joe taught us all about how the Jewish calendar works as we welcomed Shevat.

Our celebration of Tu B'Shevat on January 20th was celebrated by planting parsley seeds and with a delicious seder during religious school. Many thanks to Marie Landes and Ronn Daniel for helping to make this such a special event!

We've missed Roberta Stein and her music during January as she recovered from surgery. Our best wishes and prayers have been with her and we look forward to seeing her again in February.

The religious school will be hosting Shabbat services at Beth El on February 15th. We hope to see everyone there as we honor our religious school students who will be leading the service.

L'shalom,
Dara, Linda & Ruth

S M T W T F S

		1	2	3	1 Rabbi Service 7:30	2
3 RS & Bagel Bar	4	5	6	7 Board Meeting 7:30	8 Men's Club Shabbat 7:30	9
10 RS & Bagel Bar	11	12	13	14 Intro to Judaism 7-9	15 Religious School Shabbat 7:30	16
17 RS & Bagel Bar	18	19	20 Sisterhood 6:00	21 Intro to Judaism 7-9	22 Lay Service 7:30	23 Hank's Dinner 5-8
24 RS & Bagel Bar	25	26	27	28 Intro to Judaism 7-9	29 Rabbi Service 7:30	
February 2008						

02	Emmanuel Loewner Harry Weiss Morris Myers	12	Abel Miller Hannah Nusbaum	24	Charles Moore Milton Mitchell
04	Helen Margulis Simon	14	A J Goldenthal Rosella Wender	25	Julia Hirsch Canning Samuel Loewner Herman Heller Sydney Nathanson Joseph Strauss
05	Fannie Wise Pauline Peck	15	Fannie Loewner Ney		
06	Rae Trubitz	19	Ruth Frankel	26	Ida Fielder
09	Fannie Goldsmith Hortense Wise Harry Moodnick	20	Lillie Hirsch Anna Rodbell A J Goldenthal	28	Sam Lane
10	Jennie Auerbach Ada Robinson	21	Adolph Wise		
		22	Emanuel Klingstein		

Beth El Congregation is grateful for the following generous donations:

The Yahrzeit Memorial Fund

- Arnie Kahn - In memory of Lester Kahn (Arnie's father)
- Mike & Maureen Goldberger - In memory of Sadye Goldberger (Mike's mother)
- Janet & Andy Kohen - In memory of Rose Levine (Janet's Mother)
- John Stewart - In memory of Margaret Stein
- Anne Mintzer
- Eddie Ney - In memory of Fannie Loewner Ney (Eddie's Grandmother)
- Arnie Kahn - In memory of Ida Fielder (Arnie's Mother-in-law)

General Fund from JMU parents

- Dr Yael Buchsbaum
- Susan Barbash & Brian Allen
- Neil & Regina Rose
- Miriam & Stanley Karlin
- Robert & Mary Winer
- Steven & Ellen Weis
- Deborah & Neil Rosenbaum
- Franklin Wolf

Religious School

- Laura Jean Brand
- Tom Perles

The Window Fund

- Ruth & Bary Berger - In honor of Phil Renick's engagement

- Janet & Andy Kohen - In memory of Dee Goldstein (Lisa Giovanetti's Mother)
- Thea & Elliott Golub - In memory of Dee Goldstein (Mother and grandmother of the Giovanetti family)
- Joan Funston - In memory of Dee Goldstein (Lisa Giovanetti's Mother)
- Janet & Andy Kohen - In honor of the birth of Ivan Bly (Grandson of Dan Bly & Judy Freudenthal)

The Window Fund in honor of Anne's 95th B'day

- Cindy Baron
- Sandi & Bo Rose
- Sherri & Bruce Alt
- Julia Sweeney
- Eddie Ney & Frances Stewart
- Janet & Andy Kohen
- Judy & Stuart Liss
- Marlene & Blaine Brumbaugh
- Ruth & Bary Berger
- Ruth & Bary Berger - In honor of their children
- Dara & Michael Hall
- Linda & Peter Kohn
- Joan Funston
- Joseph & Amy Frankel-Whit
- Laurie & Steve Schwalb
- Susy & Rabbi Peter Grumbacher
- Amy Abramovitz
- Susan Mintzer Davidow
- Joan Forman & Mike McCarton
- Lisa Forman & Richard & Michael Brownstein

BROTHERHOOD

Everyone is invited to the Brotherhood Shabbat Service at Beth El on Friday, February 8th. Mark your calendars with future Men's Club events:

- Tuesday, March 18 - Lion's Club spaghetti dinner
- Sunday, April 13 - Brotherhood-Sisterhood Interfaith Dinner at 6:30

Additional details and meeting dates will be determined at future meetings. We'll keep you posted.

Thanks to all who helped out with the SHORTY Ski Weekend!

Ron

SISTERHOOD

Our next meeting is Wednesday, February 20th at 6 pm at the temple. We are having soup and sandwiches - we still have a pot of vegetable soup from the youth weekend so we do not need a lot more! Hope to see everyone there!

Don't forget the Men's Club Shabbat service on February 8th. I hope to also see everyone there!

Sherri Alt

YOUTH GROUP

Thank you so much to all of the congregants who housed youth group kids for the annual ski weekend. The teens all send a huge thank you as well. We had a great weekend—there was even snow!! Thank you also to the Men’s Club and Sisterhood for feeding us. As always I get the best feedback from the adult advisors about how wonderful and warm our congregation is. I always feel lucky to be a part of our community - thank you again!

I would also like to thank SHORTY for the wonderful job you did all weekend!

The Vent is in Washington on Feb 22-24, if you have not sent in application do it quick to make the deadline! We will send email for the next meeting. Any questions, call Sherri Alt.

BOARD MEMBERS

- Joe Blair Rabbi
- Margee Greenfield President
- Gary Stein Vice President
- Becky Mintzer Secretary
- Bill Ney Treasurer
- Judy Freudenthal Trustee
- Andy Kohen Trustee
- Jerry Minskoff Trustee
- Sherri Alt Sisterhood President
- Ron Ornstein Brotherhood President
- Janet Kohen Past President
- Marlene Brumbaugh At large member
- Thea Golub At large member

BETH EL MATRIARCHS



Ruth helping Anne celebrate!

THE RABBI’S AVAILABILITY

The Rabbi is available this year by prior arrangement on Sundays and Thursdays in Harrisonburg, and Mondays and Fridays in Staunton. If you wish to meet or speak with the rabbi, please email or call for an appointment to be sure that Rabbi Joe will be able to give you his full undivided attention, as you deserve.

The office is not staffed and the building is generally closed when the rabbi is not there. In the event of an urgent need the rabbi may be contacted by email or telephone. Messages are regularly checked at both congregations, and email is frequently read. 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 that case, please be sure to express the need for an urgent response.

FYI FROM JUDY

I have a couple of corrections that need to be made to the recent Congregation List:

- Ronnie Saltsberg’s correct telephone number is 434-0137.
- Julie & David Miller have a new snail mail and email address:
957 Summit Avenue
Harrisonburg, VA 22802
djtaverna@highspeedlink.net
- Please join me in welcoming a new member:
Miriam Banker
1760 Coblestone Dr.
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Email | RabbiJoe@hotmail.com |
| Beth El | 540-434-2744 |
| Temple House of Israel | 540-886-4091 |
| Cell (Leave a message) | 434-981-3959 |

Everyone in the congregation should receive the following letter in the mail.

Beth El Congregation

P.O. Box 845
HARRISONBURG, VA 22801-0845
(540) 434-2744

Dear Beth El Congregants,

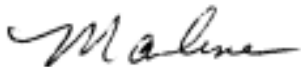
It is time to prepare for our major annual Beth El Community Fundraising Event. Once again, Hanks has graciously offered to cater this delicious dinner for our congregation. The dinner is scheduled for Saturday, February 23, 2008. We will be serving meals between 5-7:30 PM. Carry out orders will also be available.

We are mailing each family 5 tickets. The cost of each dinner is \$10.00. Feel free to purchase them for yourselves or sell/give them to friends outside Beth El. More tickets are available to you if you need them.

Please mail you monies to Janet Kohen, 31 Laurel Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801 by February 13, since I need to notify Hanks with the total ordered number of meals one week prior to the event. A small number of additional tickets and/or carry out orders will be available at the door.

I am looking forward to chairing this tasty and exciting fundraising event. Please call Marlene Brumbaugh at (540) 249-1764 with any questions. Thank you and I'd like to thank my committee members (Thea, Janet, and Mo) for their help.

Sincerely,



Marlene