



## Temple House of Israel Bulletin

A Member Congregation of the Union for Reform Judaism  
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*Our mission is to perpetuate Jewish life and identity through a welcoming community of spirituality, learning, service, joy and worship.*

**November 2009, Cheshvan → Kislev 5770**

### From The Rabbi's Desk

My dear fellow Valley Jews and Friends,

Shalom. Our autumn season is well under way – we have even had some frosty nights! And the reports of flu are all around us. I hope you are staying warm and well.

#### **Holidays**

This is the period in our calendar with a scarcity of holidays. Following the surfeit of Tishrei, Cheshvan is devoid of any special days, other than Shabbat and Rosh Chodesh. For this reason it is sometimes (affectionately, I think) called Mar Cheshvan (bitter Cheshvan)

Once we enter Kislev, we have the secular holiday of Thanksgiving, modeled by the pilgrims on the biblical Sukkot harvest festival. On the 25th of Kislev, we begin the celebration of Chanukah. This runs from the evening of December 11th until the evening of December 19th. We will celebrate Chanukah on the 11th at Beth El, and on the 18th at THOI.

Chanukah is a minor holiday on the Jewish calendar, but it looms large in the minds of many children, because of the food and presents that often are exchanged, and the game of Dreidel that is played.

#### **Tzedakah**

In the spirit of Tzedakah and Gemilut Chasidim we ask that you donate money and/or items to help those in need. We continue to have grocery bags at the synagogue that you can take and fill at home, then return, as well as envelopes from Mazon, the Jewish response to Hunger.

Items left at the synagogue are delivered to appropriate locations & organizations, including Mazon, the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, First Step, the Valley Mission, the Volunteer Farm, and others.

#### **Adult Education**

First, on November 22nd, Sunday at 2 to 3 pm, is the next in the series on **Women in the Tanakh** (Bible). This will be held at Beth El. All are welcome to join in our conversation.

Second, we continue the five session **Introduction to Hebrew** classes on November 5th (at Beth El), or November 16th (at THOI) at 6-9 pm.

Third, continuing on November 12th, from 1-3 pm at Beth El, is the third in the five session course offered through the **JMU Lifelong Learning Institute**. Any member of Beth El or THOI is welcome to attend for no cost. We will continue with the topics of What is Kabbalah; A Brief History of Israel, and Why is there Anti-Semitism. Come to any or all of these sessions and join our discussion.

#### **Events**

- **November 5th** at 12:15-1:30 is the next meeting of the *Interfaith Association*. At this meeting, the program presented will be “Members of Three Faiths Look at Gratitude: Personal Reflections from an Islamic, Jewish, and Christian Perspective”. The meeting is in the

West Dining room at Eastern Mennonite University. Lunch is available for purchase in the cafeteria, starting at 11:45 am. Please feel free to join this group.

- **November 7<sup>th</sup>** at 5:30 pm – 11 pm, *Shorty* will offer a *Parent's Night Out*. They will provide babysitting at Beth El for toddlers up to age 12, with Havdalah, entertainment, dinner, and activities. To make a reservation, contact Sherri Alt or Grace Lambeth.
- **November 8<sup>th</sup>** at 7 pm at THOI will be the Jewish Community of Shenandoah Valley's commemoration of the *71st anniversary of Krystallnacht*, the night of broken glass. We are planning a dramatic presentation, a short film, and a very brief service, and will be inviting members of several local churches to join us. Please plan to attend. Recognizing that this is a school/work night, we are holding this to approximately one hour.
- **November 14<sup>th</sup>**, there will be rabbi-led Shabbat service at THOI, which is a Shabbat Shacharit service at 10 am. This Shabbat morning service also serves as the *Religious School Consecration service*.
- **November 15<sup>th</sup>** There is **No Religious School** the service on the 14th IS Religious school for all students.
- **November 21<sup>st</sup>** The *Kinderlachen* program will next be held 10-11 am at THOI. This is open to anyone in the community (members or not, Jewish or not) who wishes to bring their child to a Jewish-themed "play group" including some activities, music, arts, stories, snacks, a few blessings and a chance to socialize.
- **December 4<sup>th</sup>** is the next Rabbi-led service at THOI which will be the *Community Awareness Shabbat* for THOI. Please invite anyone who may be interested in joining us to experience the service and the Kiddush that follows.
- **December 6<sup>th</sup>** at 3-5:30 pm at THOI, there will be a literary reading of her work by **Sharon Leiter**, published poet. This will be free and open to the public.

**Closing**

At this season when our nation as a whole takes time to think of all the blessings we have and share, and to give thanks, may you find that your own life is full of too many blessings to count. May you know G-d's bounty, see the beauty of G-d's creation, and experience G-d's love through those around you.

*Rabbi Joe Blair*

**President's Message**

Dear Members and Friends,

November is a quiet month for services with our only one being Saturday morning the 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00. Come join us for our first Shabbat Morning service and then stay for lunch provided by the *Women's Group*.

I invite you to our other happenings in November: The community observance of Kristalnacht on Sunday, the 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00; Kinderlachen for pre-school children on the 21<sup>st</sup> and the adult education sessions in Harrisonburg on Thursdays the 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:00 pm.

If you have any items that need discussion at our monthly board meetings, please contact me so that I can include your concerns on our agenda.

Give thanks at Thanksgiving and don't eat too much turkey,

*Beth*

**Religious School**

*As you teach, you learn. --Jewish Proverb*

This has been a wonderful month of teaching and learning as the Religious School celebrated Sukkot and Simchat Torah. We joined with students and teachers, parents and siblings, and fellow congregants in honor of the fall season, commemoration of our history and pilgrimage, and celebration of our Torah. Many thanks to our very helpful parent volunteers – Ruth Berger and Heidi Rafferty for our Sukkot celebration and Becky Mintzer and Valerie Kramer for our Simchat Torah celebration.

Much appreciation for a new Religious School volunteer, Max LaGoda, who is helping to organize the many books and supplies in the religious school classrooms. He has also taken

	<p>time to talk to one of our classes about his experience living in Israel.</p> <p>To all congregants -- please join us on Saturday, November 14, 2009 in honor of the Consecration Service for our new Religious School students to take place at Temple House of Israel at 10:00 a.m.</p>			
<b>Women's Group</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The fall WG dinner was planned at the Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Thanks to all who attended and made the dinner possible.</li> <li>• The next meeting at THOI is November 2<sup>nd</sup> is at <i>new time</i> --7:00 p.m. We will plan the Kiddush Luncheon ( Nov. 14 ).</li> <li>• The Challah baking class is January 17<sup>th</sup> .</li> <li>• Please contact Marsha Pillet for information 540-249 -4946 or macmeda@ntelos.net</li> </ul>			
<b>Donation</b>	Degen Family	Yizkor	Ralph & Mildred Degen, Joe, Francis & Jim Bruin, Abe Ruday, Macey Rosenthal, Dora Klotz	
	Jan Kaufman/Art Goldsmith	Yizkor	Ada Kaufman, Arthur Kaufman, Bernard Goldsmith, Gloria Goldsmith	
	Beth & Rich Young	Yizkor	Emanuel Gutnick, Beryl Gutnick, Betty Young, Ester & Julius Goldberg, Betty & Joe Gutnick, Art Gutnick, Jean Young, Edna Wilson Young, RW Moore, Mildred W. Moore	
	Vicki & Alan Goldenberg	Yizkor	Sam Goldenberg, Shirley Goldenberg, Howard Michael Goldenberg, Harold Eli Shapiro, Stephen Shapiro, Bernie Bresky, Gussie Scherer, Israel Scherer, Helen Scherer, Al Scherer, Gert Scherer, Ellen Goldenberg, Anna Chaiken	
	Margie Schwartz	Yizkor	Joseph Schwartz, Freida Bernstein Schwartz, Philip David Schwartz, Irving Schwartz, Larry Schwartz, Rose Greenfield, Rae Rothenberg, Lily Oran, Shirley Mafatone, Jerry Lee Schwartz,	
	Natasha Benenson	Yizkor	Jacob Benenson, Gertrude Benenson, Philip Benenson, Sylvia Benenson, Martha Benenson	
	Mark & Laura Mandeles	Yizkor	Melvin & Marian Lewis, Dr. Stanley & Francine Mandeles	
	Charlotte Hirsch	Yizkor	Sidney Harris, Mollie Harris	
	Dr Lee Hersch		HH Donation	
	Mark & Laura Mandeles		Donation In Honor Of Chodrow & Young Families	
	Dahlia Neiss & Adam Caldwell		HH Donation	
	Marsha Pillet		HH Donation	
	Scott Dubit & Patricia Schirmer		HH Donation	
<b>Yarzheit</b>	Abraham Peretz	Ethel Shapiro	Jacob Wilhelm	Louis Rosenthal
	Ada Kaufman	Fannie Cohen	Joseph Rosen	Marilyn Lussen
	Bernice Raskin	Fannie Strauss	Julius Goldberg	Max Freeman
	Beryl Gutnick	Fannie Switzer	Julius Switzer	Paul Lewis
	Betty Donenfeld	George Degen	Leah Kirmko	Ralph Lurie
	Burton Blair	Harry Harris	Leopold Schorsch	Ralph Rosen
	Esther Goldberg	Jack Brodsky	Louis Shapiro	Viola Blazer
<b>Bulletin Editor</b>	<p>Submissions for the newsletter, The Bulletin, are due the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please send your submission, corrections and suggestions to the editor, Martha Degen, <a href="mailto:bulletin@thoi.org">bulletin@thoi.org</a> .</p>			
<b>Oneg</b>	<p style="text-align: center;">Oneg Reminder</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nov. 14 Morning Shabbat services Women's Group Kiddush</li> <li>• Dec. 4 Community Shabbat Service Natasha Benenson Dan &amp; Ellen Schorsch 540 - 942-3149</li> </ul>			

<b>Caring Committee</b>	Please let the Temple know of any illnesses, deaths or joyous occasions so that Rabbi Joe and the congregation can respond appropriately. It is a mitzvah to visit those who are ill. We ask that if you are aware that one of our members or friends are in the hospital please call the Temple, Rabbi Joe or a Caring Committee member : Lou at <a href="mailto:caring-committee2@thoi.org">caring-committee2@thoi.org</a> , Janet at 851-0877 or Rosalie at <a href="mailto:caring-committee2@thoi.org">caring-committee2@thoi.org</a> so that we may visit them.
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<b>Reaching the Rabbi</b>	<p>The rabbi is available by appointment. If you wish to meet or speak with the rabbi, please email or call him. In that way, the rabbi will be able to respond and give you his full attention, as you deserve. The rabbi does not read or respond to email or phone messages on Shabbat or holidays.</p> <p>In the event of an emergency, the rabbi may be contacted by telephone. In that case, please call the cell phone number listed: if you reach voicemail, please leave a message speaking clearly with your name, telephone numbers, the specific topic, and be sure to express the need for an urgent response. The rabbi will respond as soon as possible.</p> <p>Rabbi Joe's Email: <a href="mailto:RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com">RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com</a>  Beth El Congregation 540-434-2744  Temple House of Israel 540-886-4091  Cell phone (Please use this # for emergencies) 434-981-3959</p>
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<b>THOI November 2009</b>	2	3	4	5 Interfatih Awareness Mtg. 12:15 PM  Intro to Hebrew Class THOI 6 – 9 PM	6	7 <b>SHORTY</b> Parents Night Out 5:30 – 11 PM @ Beth El
8 Krystallnacht Remembrance Presentation THOI 7:00 PM	9	10	11	12  JMU Lifelong Learning 1:00 PM @ Beth El	<b>13</b>	14 Rabbi-led Shabbat Services 10:00 AM
15 No Religious School	16	17	18	19	20	21 Kinderlachen 10:00 AM
22  Women in the Bible @ Beth El 2 :00 pm	23	24	25	26  Thanksgiving	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4 Community Awareness Shabbat Rabbi-led 7:30 PM	5