



The Chaverim Bulletin

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Out of the Rabbi's Mind!

Growing up my rabbi, Brian Fox, always used to delight in connecting the number of the Jewish Year to some sort of significant intention. He would do this by using *gematria*. What is *gematria*?

Each letter of the Hebrew alphabet is attached to a number. For example aleph א is 1, vet ב is 2, *gimmel* ג is 3.. then when you get into the whole double digits yod י is 10, chaf כ is 20, lamed ל is 30... and into the triple digits kof ק is 100, resh ר is 200, *shin* ש is 300.

Each Hebrew word therefore has a corresponding number attached to it. For example *Chai* חַי, the Hebrew word meaning “**life**” has a numerical equivalency of 18. Or *Emet* אֱמֶת, the Hebrew word meaning “**truth**” adds up to 441. We could play with the numbers even further if we so wished, taking *Chai* חַי 18 (1 + 8 = 9) and *Emet* אֱמֶת (4 + 4 + 1 = 9) and note that at their numerical essence “**life**” and “**truth**” are

the same thing. From this we might further derive a lesson: Our **life** from aleph א to tav ת, (from the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet to the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet) should be conducted on a path of **truth**.

Our Jewish years are written using Hebrew letters. The year **5772** which begins this Rosh HaShanah is written with the Hebrew letters tav ת, *shin* ש, ayin ע and vet ב. In Hebrew the transcription of the Jewish year would look like this: תשע"ב. Just as we can take words and add them up into numbers, we can reverse the process and take numbers and find a relationship to words!

When doing so with the Hebrew Year, the accepted formality is to drop the representational thousand figure (tav ת) and the hundred figure (*shin* ש) which

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▪ *Rabbi Linda Joseph*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The month of Elul, just before the High Holy Days, is a time to reflect and calibrate.

Before we can make sincere atonement, we pause and take a look in the mirror to figure out what it is we are atoning for. Where did we fall short? Whom have we wronged? What did we do or say that, on reflection, would have been better left undone or unsaid? And what opportunities did we miss to do something good, for ours or for others?

The message of the season is not that we should feel guilty, or punish ourselves for past sins. Rather it is a message of hope. We can change and do better, with hard work and a true heart. The slate is clean and it is a new day for those who truly desire to turn away from what is wrong and toward what is good and right.

Every day, we are challenged by the temptation to do wrong, or at least to forget what is right. To gossip and speak disrespectfully of others. To focus only on our own needs and wants, forgetting those of others. To assume that our viewpoint is the only one that counts. To speak or to act in anger. To ignore a plea for help. How can we avoid doing what is wrong in the year ahead?

Every day, we have opportunities to do good for ourselves and for others. A chance to visit to a friend in the hospital. A chance to call to someone we

haven't seen in awhile, just to see how they're doing. A chance to join with others in worship, to forge a spiritual connection or to remember those who have passed or just to take a few moments away from our busy lives. A chance to set a good example for our children, whether through patience or good works or a loving word. A chance to speak kindly of someone, or to someone. How many opportunities have we missed? How might we make more of those opportunities in the year ahead?

We face these challenges and opportunities not only as individuals, but also together as a congregation – members and leaders alike. If our congregation takes seriously the mission of *t'shuvah* – of turning toward what is right – then we must face the future with a spirit of forthrightness, resolve, and respect for each other. These qualities are summed up in the Hebrew word *Kavod* (honor). Our leaders need to set a good example, starting at the top. It is my pledge, as president, to take seriously the holiness of the season and all that it implies. It is my hope that our congregation – its leaders and its members – will seize on the opportunities of this season of hope, coming together and moving forward with a renewed sense of purpose, moving toward what is good and away from what is not.

▪ *Mark Raffman, President*

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October /November 2011

Volume X Issue I

Tishrei/Cheshvan 5772



Book Club; The Golem in New York

Instructor: Rabbi Linda Joseph

Location: Classroom across from the Ulrich Memorial Library

Date: Wednesday October 26th 7:30pm-9:00pm

Book: "Snow in August"

Join the Rabbi to discuss the first of three books. Each book is very different, but united in their inclusion of the Golem myth, reset into NYC! Participants purchase their own books.

RABBI LEV BAESH SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE WEEKEND

Rabbi Lev Baesh is a consultant to the Jewish Community of Boston and the Director of the Resource Center for Jewish Clergy at www.Interfaithfamily.com. Lev travels the world officiating life cycle events for Jewish and interfaith couples and families, and can also be found teaching courses on Jewish living and life cycles, and facilitating workshops on 'Inclusion and welcoming' of unaffiliated Jews and interfaith families in Jewish life and community. Lev was ordained in the Reform Movement of Judaism in 1994, holds a law degree from Yeshiva University and a BA in Psychology from Clark University, and is currently adding Nursing to his spiritual and practical work in the world. He lives in Malden, MA with his partner Andrew.

Saturday 3rd December, 4:00pm-6:00pm

Havdalah and Discussion: Best Practices in Interfaith Grandparenting followed by Havdalah.

Sunday 4th December, 9:00am-10.30am

Shelley Sheinwald

WAYS AND MEANS NEWS

New LinkedIn Group Formed for Member Networking

Beth Chaverim has launched a new LinkedIn networking group for its members. LinkedIn.com is a popular business-related social networking website that allows registered users to create a network of people with whom they have some level of relationship, called "connections." Individuals also create relationships and contacts through interest-oriented groups. Contact networks can be used to gain an introduction to someone a person wishes to know through a mutual contact, find a job or business opportunities, and share industry information.

The purpose of Beth Chaverim's LinkedIn group is to allow its members to share business and career opportunities and assist those who are seeking new positions. In the month that the group has existed, members already have posted "open mike" comments about their expertise, opportunities for business relationships and job openings in their organizations.

The group can be found by entering "Beth Chaverim" in the "groups" search bar in the top right corner of the LinkedIn homepage. Because the group is open only to Beth Chaverim members, a moderator will approve requests to join. New group members should post information about your company or business; connections you are hoping to make; opportunities you can offer; or positions you are seeking. Questions or suggestions about the LinkedIn group, or other ways that members can network, should be directed to Jennifer Elgin, Ways and Means Vice President (202-719-7453 or waysandmeansvp@bcrcva.org).

Jennifer Elgin, Ways and Means VP

Washington's North American Biennial Needs Volunteers

Every two years, the Union for Reform Judaism brings together temple members from around the country for a weekend of workshops, worship and fellowship that's best described as Jewish camp for adults. This year that event – the North American Biennial – will take place in our very own Washington community: at the Gaylord National Hotel and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland.

The URJ is expecting 5,000 Reform Jews to come together December 14-18 for sessions on synagogue management, Jewish education and Torah study, a giant Judaica expo, musical entertainment, and the most moving Shabbat you'll ever experience. The last time the National Biennial was held in Washington was in 1961, so this is an experience not to be missed.

Beth Chaverim is honored to be a host congregation for this year's Biennial, and that means you can participate in this rewarding event in one of two ways: by registering to attend the entire weekend, or by volunteering to help out for a three-hour shift and then staying for the day at no cost.

Lay leaders in the congregation can take advantage of sessions on recruiting volunteers, Jewish education, dues structures and best practices. Everyone can attend study sessions with leading Reform clergy, attend plenary sessions, hear keynote speakers and enjoy performances by the top names in Jewish music.

The Biennial allows local congregations to showcase Washington's vibrant Jewish community, and affords their members a chance to meet other Reform Jews from around the country – without having to travel.

For more information, please visit the Biennial website at www.urj.org/biennial, and if you're interested in more information about volunteering, please contact Arnold or Caren Thorne at 703-327-7789 or carenthnr@aol.com. Arnold may also be reached at arnold.thorner@yahoo.com.



FROM THE BOARD

Summary of Board Meeting held Thursday, August 18, 2011

- 1. An update of budget and financials was presented.
2. Discussion about new facebook page that is up and running and LinkedIn.
3. Discussion about needs for Education Committee (teaching vacancies).
4. Great response to a call for help to plan for the High Holy Days (HHD), a committee was formed and all aspects are being covered by the HHD committee.

- 5. Discussion about not over scheduling events (e.g., planning events the same weekend) which has led to cancelling events due to anticipated low attendance.

Summary of Board Meeting Held Thursday, September 8, 2011

- 1. An update of budget and financials was presented.
2. School opening status—all teaching positions have been filled.
3. Picnic count needs to be revamped now that there is a new date. A new Evite will be sent out.

Shelly Slebrch, Secretary

FROM THE RABBIS STUDY

(Continued from page 1)

is understood to stand for the phrase: Tih Shnat תיה שנת meaning: "the year will be..." leaving us with the ayin ע and the vet ב. These two letters add up to 72. In the Kabbalistic manifestations of God known as the Sefirot, Chesed חסד is one of the attributes of God meaning kindness/mercy/grace and also adds up to 72! We might glean from this that 5772 is destined to be a benevolent year!

Another fun way of playing with the letters of the New Year is to understand the letters as an acronym. Tih Shnat תיה שנת meaning: "the year will be..." and then we can create words using the ayin ע and vet ב. Lots of suggestions for meaning are being made in the Jewish world right now... here are some of them:

Table with 3 columns: Hebrew phrase, Pronounced, and Meaning. Rows include: תיה שנת עבודת בוראנו, תיה שנת עמלות בתורה, תיה שנת ערקה בעזרה.

My favorite interpretation so far though, has to be this one:

Table with 3 columns: Hebrew phrase, Pronounced, and Meaning. Row: תיה שנת עגבניות בסלת.

(It did make me chuckle!)

However you choose to interpret the year 5772, whatever intention you bestow upon it, I hope for you and yours that this may this be a year of health, happiness, sweetness and good things for you and those whom you love! Shanah Tovah!

Tree of Life



The following people have donated in memory of Milton G. Leavitt, father of Michael Leavitt:

- Joann Auerbach
Rose-Joan Barron
Harvey & Marsha Barsky
Raymond & Harriet Dunie
Sandra Frager
Stanley & Kay Kreisberg
Michael & Emily Lipson
Susan Luster
Adrienne Resnick
Renee Resnick
John & Mary Riley
Paulette Schleimer
Howard & Sharon Solomon
Allen Sparer
Lawrence & Carol Stein
Michele Trotter
Mike Yoshiura

The following people have donated in memory of Al Frager:

- Rose-Joan Barron
Ilse Diamond
Raymond and Harriet Dunie
Mr. and Mrs. Leavitt
Eli and Thelma Linden
Michael and Emily Lipson
Adrienne Resnick
Mary and John Riley
Howard and Sharon Solomon
Allen Sparer
Lawrence and Carol Stein

BETH CHAVERIM REFORM CONGREGATION MISSION STATEMENT

The members of Beth Chaverim Reform Congregation will provide the Jewish community with a forum for experiencing the religious, cultural, and celebratory aspects of Jewish life, offering this experience in an organized, open, egalitarian environment where all members are comfortable with their diverse beliefs and Jewish heritage. Beth Chaverim Reform Congregation will foster the viability of the Jewish people by providing Jewish religious education to our children and providing our members with an active Jewish community in Loudoun County, Virginia.



“What’s Happening”

The fall is a busy time for Jewish worship. We welcome the New Year at Rosh Hashanah, make atonement at Yom Kippur, and then celebrate the fall harvest at Sukkot and the joy of Torah at Simchat Torah, all in short order.

At Beth Chaverim Reform Congregation, our holiday observances give us the opportunity to connect with our Jewish heritage and traditions, and with each other.

The following observances are on the agenda:

Rosh Hashanah (Sept. 28-29): We gather to welcome the New Year with worship, apples and honey, and a special tashlich ceremony to cast our sins on the water at Windmill Pond. A special shout-out to our CHAVTY youth group shofar choir, who will assist in our observance!

Yom Kippur (Oct. 7-8): We begin with a beautiful Kol Nidre service featuring our own Sue Mandel-Giblin and continue with a day of fasting, Torah and repentance, ending with a communal break-the-fast at our synagogue.

Sukkot (Oct. 12-19): Join us in our Sukkah for services and dining under the stars as we celebrate this harvest festival (weather permitting). Activities under consideration are “Pizza in the Hut,” pot-luck and/or BYO dining opportunities featuring different branches of our synagogue family.

Simchat Torah (Oct. 21): This year promises to be our most joyous Simchat Torah ever, as we welcome a new Torah donated by the Kafka family (to whom we say “Thanks” and “Kol HaKavod”)! Our Simchat Torah service will also feature a consecration ceremony for our newest religious school students, complete with Torah flags and mini-scrolls.

Also mark your calendars for a special “Blessing of the Pets” Shabbat service on Friday, October 28, in conjunction with the Torah portion relating the story of Noah. We will hold this service outside in our Sukkah (weather permitting) and all pets are welcome (provided, of course, that they can abide the company of other pets)!

Erev Yom Kippur (Kol Nidre) – Friday, October 7, 2011, 7:30 pm

Yom Kippur – Saturday, October 8, 2011

Morning Services -

9:30am Children’s Service in main sanctuary

10:15am Children 6 months - 3rd Grade dismissed to age level classrooms for babysitting or appropriate activities.

10:45am – 1:15pm Adult service

Afternoon Services -

2:15pm Yizkor Service

3:00pm Healing/Meditation Service

3:45pm Afternoon Torah Service - With Rabbi and CHAVTY

5:30pm Neilah Service

6:15pm Congregation Break The Fast

Sue Benezra, Worship VP

Mutual Review Committee (MRC) - What’s On Your Mind?

Your voice matters greatly! The Mutual Review Committee (MRC) was established so any congregant can go to a committee member with their thoughts regarding any aspect of the temple. Please tell us what the temple is doing right, what we should continue to do and, more importantly, where there is room for improvement (comments can be made anonymously). Please tell the MRC what you think as often as you like.

The MRC meets quarterly with the Rabbi. Feedback, questions, comments, etc., can be sent via email to mrc@bcrcva.org and/or contact Tracy Cirone, Jason Cooper, Shelley Sheinwald, or Rachel Pritchard directly.



Chavty (CHAVerim Temple Youth)

Greetings to all. My name is Bari Barton Cooper and this is my second year as Beth Chaverim's Youth Group VP. I have an exciting new agenda for the upcoming year that I'd like to share with you.

As this is the first article of the new year, I'd like to fill you in on what Youth Group VP actually does. First and foremost I make sure that we have an active youth group. Right now we have two youth groups, both of which use the term Chavty (CHAVerim Temple Youth). Chavty is the youth group for the 9th through 12th grade and Junior Chavty is the youth group for the 6th through 8th grade.

I am currently serving in my fourth year as the advisor for Chavty. Andrea Gallant has volunteered to help coordinate the 7th grade class activities with me, but I would also like to have volunteers for the 6th and 8th grade classes. If you are interested my contact information is below.

As advisor for Chavty, I will accompany our temple youth to three weekend-long events: Fall Kallah, The Vent and Spring Kallah in Waynesboro, PA.

Chavty will also have at least six local events including a

scavenger hunt at Dulles Town Center (jointly run with NVHC's youth group), a Superbowl party, a Purim fundraiser/festival, a Havdallah service with sleepover, and a social action event in the spring.

The goal is to have two local Junior Chavty events, one a Havdallah with a sleepover and maybe a movie night. Additionally the 7th and 8th graders will go away for the weekend to Majik, a weekend long NFTY regional event in North Carolina.

Additionally, I'd like to have all of the lower grades, pre-kindergarten through 5th grade, plan two events outside of religious school so that the parents and children of our Synagogue can get to know each other better. If you are able to volunteer as a room parent with this goal in mind please contact me.

Overall, I'd like to ensure a fun-filled year for our temple youth that also strives to emphasize the values of Jewish life. It should be a fun ride. Hope you can join us!

If you want to volunteer with the Temple Youth Group, or you have any questions whatsoever, please contact Bari Barton Cooper at baribartoncooper@gmail.com or call at 703-542-6250.

Bari Barton Cooper, CHAVTY Advisor

Religious Service Descriptions

Friday Night, Traditional Erev Shabbat Service The Kabbalat Shabbat service, followed by an oneg, is appropriate for congregants of all ages.

First Friday - 7:00PM Service

Birthdays and anniversaries of congregants occurring during the month are celebrated.

Second Friday - 7:00PM Service Upper grade Sunday school classes may participate.

Third Friday - 2 Services - Tot Shabbat at 6:30pm, a "preneg" at 7:00pm and Adult Service at 7:30pm.

Tot Shabbat 6:30PM

30 minute service that introduces children from newborn to 3rd grade to the prayers, songs, and traditions of Shabbat. Lower grade Sunday school classes often participate in Tot Shabbat services. Service followed by a "Preneg," a joint oneg between the Tot Shabbat and adult service.

Adult Service - 7:00 "Preneg" and 7:30pm service.

Regular Kabbalat Shabbat service

Fourth and Fifth Fridays - 7:00PM Service Regular Kabbalat Shabbat service

Jammin' Shabbat:

Quarterly Friday night service features live music and singing appropriate for all age groups. Congregants interested in participating should contact worshipvp@bcreva.org.

SATURDAY MORNING, SHABBAT SERVICE, 10:00AM

Saturday morning Shabbat services usually include a Bar or Bat Mitzvah and Torah service followed by an oneg. This service is open to all congregants.



Shabbat Service Schedule

DATE	SERVICE	COORDINATING	HELPING
October 7	Erev Yom Kippur 7:30 pm		
October 8	Yom Kipper 10:45 am		
October 14	New Member Shabbat/Sukkot Service 7:00 pm		Goodwin, Kammann, Klass, Lapidus, Lasky
October 21	Consecration/Simchat Torah Service 7:00 pm		Leventhal, Louis, Lourenco, Manning, Matson
October 22	Shabbat Morning Service and Ben Lechtman's Bar Mitzvah 10:00 am	Cooper	
October 28	Erev Shabbat Children's Service 6:30pm Erev Shabbat Service 7:00 pm		Parsons, Peiken, Pelletz
October 29	Shabbat Morning Service and Kayla Pelletz's Bat Mitzvah 10:00 am	Elgin	
November 4	Birthday/Anniversary Service Jammin' Shabbat 7:00 pm	Slebrch	Kane, Pergament, Perkins, Persaud
November 11	Erev Shabbat Service 7:00 pm		Pritt, Privman, Randolph, Rhodes, Romps
November 12	Shabbat Morning Service and Evan Slebrch's Bar Mitzvah 10:00 am		Skaer
November 18	Erev Shabbat Children's Service 6:30pm Erev Shabbat Service 7:00 pm	Cirone	Pritt, Privman, Randolph, Rhodes, Romps
November 19	Shabbat Morning Service		Halpern, Harper, Hauer, Helmes, Hild

CALLING ALL HELPER FAMILIES - WE NEED AND WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR HELP!

About twice a year, each Beth Chaverim member (family or individual) is called upon to serve as a Helper Family at either our Shabbat services or a holiday event. Dates are announced in advance in an email, weekly email newsblast, and the *Chaverim Bulletin*. In addition to bringing food or drinks for the Oneg, we ask that you arrive at services early to help set up and then stay afterwards to help clean up.

The Worship Committee has assigned each member a date. If a date is not convenient for you, we ask that you let the Worship Vice president know a date that would work. Then plan on being at the service on your date to help. Fulfilling your obligation to the temple is truly a mitzvah.

FABULOUS TRIP TO ISRAEL

A group from Beth Chaverim led by Rabbi Joseph, will be going to ISRAEL. Trip highlights include tours and dinners in Jerusalem, Western Walls and new tunnels, Jeep to Masada and floating in the dead sea, plus meals, Yad Vashem, Children's Memorial, Shabbat service and dinner in home of congregants, Golan Heights, Caesarea, Tel Aviv, did we mention more buffet breakfasts and dinners?, and much more. The cost is estimated at \$3199 but may go down or up as our group considers changes in the itinerary. Air fare is not included as many have their own frequent-flyer or wish to make their own flight plans. Contact DAVID at Dvm1@Verizon.net, or 703-729-4629, for detailed information, and to be included on emails for our next group planning meeting.

Rabbi Joseph's Office Hours

Rabbi Linda Joseph will have office hours on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2 pm – 5 pm.

Other times can be made by appointment.

Rabbi Joseph can be contacted at rabbi@bcrcva.org or (703) 729-1659.



SOCIAL NEWS

What's Happening at Beth Chaverim Reform Congregation! Social Committee Updates

As Fall rolls around and school is back in session, it's time to gear-up for some extraordinary and memorable social gatherings, meet new friends and mingle with old ones!

There's a lot planned for the next few months, so mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

- Break the Fast, Light Nosh - Bagels and a Smear – October 8, 2011, immediately following Yom Kippur Neilah Services, around 6:15pm
- Family Game Night - November 2011 (date TBD)
- Chanukah Party – December 18, 2011
- Snow Tubing at Liberty Ski Resort – January 2012

- Valentine Skate – February 12, 2012 (1:00pm – 4:00pm)
- Shabbat Across America – March 2, 2012
- Family Road Rally – March 31, 2012
- Passover 2nd Night Seder – April 7, 2012
- JEWbilee – June 2012

Stay tuned to the Beth Chaverim Reform Congregation website and the blast for more details.

The Social Committee is looking for HELP to plan these exciting events! If you enjoy planning events and socializing and want to be part of the group that makes these fun events happen, contact Lynn Blumen at socialvp@bcrcva.org. We look forward to seeing you at Beth Chaverim!

Lynn Blumen, Social VP

B'NAI MITZVAH



Ben Lechtman

Ben Lechtman will become a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, October 22, 2011. Ben is a 7th grade honor student at Eagle Ridge Middle School. Always yearning to take to the stage, Ben enjoys singing, acting and generally anything else that gives him an outlet for his creativity. Other interests include fencing, creative writing, gaming and furry animals—especially his pet bunny, Patches. His Bar Mitzvah date, which arrives on the heels of Simchat Torah, will have him reading Bereshit, the very first chapter in Genesis. Ben is especially excited and honored to have the opportunity to bring our newly donated Holocaust Torah back to life by reading his Bar Mitzvah portion from it.

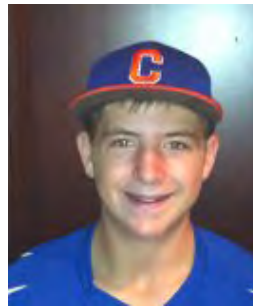


Kayla Pelletz

Kayla Pelletz will become a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday October 29, 2011. Kayla is an honor roll student at Belmont Ridge Middle School. Kayla loves playing soccer, playing with her dog, and spending time with her friends and family. Kayla is also an art lover and has tied her love

of arts and crafts into her tzedakah project. Kayla is collecting arts and crafts supplies for the Washington DC Children's Hospital in order for kids to be able to express their feelings and thoughts into art work.

Kayla is the daughter of Debbie and Andrew, and is the middle of three girls. Older Sister Rebecca made her Bat Mitzvah in 2008 and younger sister Macy is entering 2nd grade.



Evan Slebrch

Evan Slebrch will become a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, November 12, 2011. Evan is a 7th grade honor student at Seneca Ridge Middle School. For those who know Evan and think all he does is baseball, Evan also enjoys listening to music, cruising yearly, going to the beach every year, and rooting for the Dallas Cowboys (he is still a good kid).

The majority of Evan's life is focused on baseball. While Evan will just turn 13 in November, at age 12 he plays on the 14U Mid-Atlantic Crush travel baseball team. He plays catcher, third base and left field.

Evan's parents, Shelly & Gary Slebrch and his younger brother Ian (8) are so proud of Evan being able to juggle a hard school schedule, travel baseball, and practice for his Bar Mitzvah. We look forward to sharing this special day with our family, friends and the BCRC community.

Mi Shebeirach List

At every Beth Chaverim Reform Congregation Shabbat service, we pray for the healing of all those who struggle with the challenges of body, mind and spirit. We review and update this list prior to each service and request that you please notify Cindy Hack, (703) 858-9807, kivapines@aol.com, if you would like the name of a loved one read at an upcoming worship service.



BROTHERHOOD NEWS

New!



On display & available to order in Our Sisterhood Gift Shop!

The Scentsy Menorah Warmer*

\$35*

Warmers use low-watt bulb to slowly melt wax in a variety of scents

Order in time for Chanukah by December 4th

*15% of purchase will be donated to Sisterhood
= other styles available for purchase

Interested in joining a vibrant, active group which has monthly social outings, frequent fun adventures, and provides service to BCRC? Brotherhood is right up your alley, then. Join us as we kickoff another exciting New Year. After sponsoring the BCRC picnic and ushering at High Holiday services, we will set our sights on planning the year's social events. In addition to the requisite football watching, we will continue our monthly dinners at local restaurants. Stay tuned to the Blast for more information about our dinners on the second Tuesday of the month. We are planning a joint social event with Sisterhood for sometime around Valentine's Day. We welcome your input when we meet on the second Sunday of the month during religious school at the Temple. Of course, Brotherhood continues to provide ushering services for B'nai Mitzvot and assist with schlepping when needed. We look forward to new and familiar faces joining us for a new year of fun, camaraderie, and service. For more information, email us at brotherhood@brcva.org.

— Jason Cooper, Brotherhood President —



UNION FOR REFORM JUDAISM

BIENNIAL

DECEMBER 14-18, 2011 • 71ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Save the Date!
Save the Date!
Save the Date!
Save the Date!
Save the Date!
Save the Date!

www.urj.org/biennial



SISTERHOOD UPDATE

In the last installment of “Every Journey Brings Blessings”, I’d shared that when emptying my parents’ house, of all of the things we found, my favorite find by far was a three-ring binder containing the records of Sisterhood events and activities from my mom’s Sisterhood Presidency in 1976-1977 for the Jewish Community Center in Morristown, NJ.

In the binder is a draft of mom’s inaugural speech in which she lays out her vision for the year via a proposed motto – Hinenu. Hineni is the Hebrew word meaning “here I am;” hinenu is the plural version of the word, “here we are.” In the book of Genesis, we read that Abraham says this to God when God calls him. There is considerable emphasis on Abraham’s response; it’s not that Abraham was answering in a “yeah, I’m here. Whadaya want?” fashion; rather it’s that Abraham makes it clear that he was there, in the moment, listening with all of his might; giving his full attention to the matter at hand.

Mom’s vision – Hinenu – was intended to set the tone for a year of truly being there for the members of Sisterhood, of the Congregation and of the greater community. To provide support and warm friendship; an overarching mantra of help and love and laughter among all of the Sisters in her congregation.

Although I had no idea that mom had this vision all of those years ago, I’ve found myself believing with all of my heart that she was absolutely on target – so I’m adopting that mantra. Hinenu, women and men and children of Beth Chaverim! Your Sisters are here for you!

Sisterhood is hoping to be financially able to continue the tradition of presenting each Beth Chaverim B’nai Mitzvah with a gift and is eager to earn enough between dues and gift shop proceeds to donate additional appliances and fixtures to BCRC’s kitchen. While doing good, we’ll also be living well and having fun! We’ll continue our traditional Yenta Swap (with a twist this year - daughters 13+ will be invited to participate); and we will, of course, honor our teachers with sweet gifts during our annual Cookie Swap in December. We’re planning a Havdallah Dinner / Rosh Chodesh Service in January and, perhaps, a fun February “Hug Your Honey” Soiree to be co-hosted with Brotherhood. Many more events and activities are in the planning stages, so please join us. All ideas regarding Sisterhood events, activities and plans to serve Beth Chaverim are warmly welcomed. I look forward to hearing from you!

— Lisa Kimball, Sisterhood President

The Beth Chaverim Reform Congregation Board Members and Primary Contacts

NAME	POSITION	EMAIL
Mark Raffman	President	president@bcrcva.org
Larry Deigh	Executive VP	executivevp@bcrcva.org
Sue Benezra	Worship VP	worshipvp@bcrcva.org
Arlene Lechner	Education VP	educationvp@bcrcva.org
Brian Giblin	Membership VP	membershipvp@bcrcva.org
Jennifer Elgin	Ways & Means VP	waysandmeansvp@bcrcva.org
Lynn Blumen	Social VP	socialvp@bcrcva.org
Shelly Slebrch	Recording Secretary	secretary@bcrcva.org
Abby Champagne	Weekly Blast	blast@bcrcva.org
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Leslie Skaer	House Affairs VP	houseaffairsvp@bcrcva.org
David Mendelsohn/Jason Cooper	Brotherhood Co-Presidents	brotherhood@bcrcva.org
Lisa Kimball	Sisterhood President	sisterhood@bcrcva.org
Tracy Cirone	Immediate Past President	nmcrcj@verizon.net
Marshall Medoff	Past President	colbyseider@gmail.com
Ray Daffner	Tikva Committee Chair	tikva@bcrcva.org
Janice Shinberg	B’nai Mitzvah Coordinator	bnaimitzvah@bcrcva.org
Rabbi Linda Joseph		rabbi@bcrcva.org

**BIRTHDAYS****October**

Stacey Privman	October 2
Alison Raffman	October 2
Danielle Edgell	October 4
Robert Lapidus	October 4
Amanda Rosas	October 4
Joel Halpern	October 5
Ben Lechtman	October 5
Evelyn Ikner	October 6
Samuel Matson	October 8
Emelia Boehm	October 10
Ame Persaud	October 10
Stacey Randolph	October 10
Robert Rubenstein	October 12
Lauren Deigh	October 16
Cindy Blistein-Mayer	October 20
Neal Cirone	October 21
Sasha Grady Zuckerman	October 21
Michael Halpern	October 22
Cindy Perkins	October 22
Suzanne Slatkin	October 23
Rachel Andruzzi	October 24
Brendan McGrath	October 25
Daniel Pergament	October 25
Tony Welz	October 27
Michelle Harper	October 28
Kayla Pelletz	October 28
Leann Arbetter	October 29
Jordyn Bauman	October 29
Sophie Cooperman	October 29
Jeffrey Elbaum	October 30
David Mendelsohn	October 30

November

Allen Sparer	November 3
Alexander Hild	November 4
Karl Kammann	November 4
Rebecca Pelletz	November 6
Scott Shinberg	November 6
Hernan Villagomez	November 6
Danny McGrath	November 8
Charles Brunner	November 9
Ellen Kane	November 9
Janice Siegel	November 9
Max Gallant	November 12
Evan Slebrch	November 12
Amy Tucker	November 12
Michael Goodman	November 13
Stephanie Meister	November 13
Leslie Skaer	November 13
Ella Freed	November 14
Burt Roberts	November 14
Holly Sammons	November 20
Joseph Cirone	November 22
Jordan Gupp	November 25
Kelsey Medoff	November 26
Steve Perkins	November 26
Lily Horowitz	November 29

THANK YOU**Building Fund**

Shelley Sheinwald in memory of Frances Namanowich, mother of Shelley Sheinwald

Torah Fund

Sona and Stuart Glickman in honor of their granddaughter, Alyssa Villagomez, becoming a Bat Mitzvah

Yizkor Fund

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Barsky donated in memory of Ester Gitlin, William Gitlin, Edna Barsky and William Barsky
 Cindy Hack donated in memory of Cindy's dad, Myron Bloom
 Cindy Hack donated in memory of grandparents Katie and Rob Bloom
 Cindy Hack donated in memory of Vina Trebach
 Cindy Hack donated in memory of Morris Trebach
 Arnold and Caren Thorner donated in memory of Marcella Slodkin and Sumner G. Slodkin (Caren's parents)
 Arnold and Caren Thorner donated in memory of Bertha Thorner and Irving Thorner (Arnold's parents)
 Arnold and Caren Thorner donated in memory of Melvin Thorner (Arnold's uncle)
 Arnold and Caren Thorner donated in memory of Jean Jaffe (Caren's aunt)
 Arnold and Caren Thorner donated in memory of Fred Ruptchinsky (friend)

General Fund

Myles and Lorraine Ambrose donated in memory of Al Frager
 William Berry donated in appreciation of the congregation's prayers and support of the Berry children.
 Lauren and Larry Deigh in honor of renewal of vows of Al and Francie Bernier
 Lauren and Larry Deigh in memory of Joseph Deigh (father of Larry)
 Lauren and Larry Deigh in memory of Irving Thorn (father of Lauren)
 Sheldon and Muriel Gardner donated in honor of Tracy Cirone for her hard work as President of Beth Chaverim
 Audrey Gassman donated in memory of her father
 Cindy Hack donated in memory of Cindy's grandfather, Reuben Bloom
 Cindy Hack donated in memory of Katie Bloom
 Cindy Hack donated in memory of Al Frager
 Tucker and Emily Helmes donated in loving memory of brother-in-law Robert Kammer and parents, Charles Helmes, Betty Helmes, Max Bulian and Adele Bulian Davis
 Michael and Eva Leavitt donated in memory of Milton Leavitt
 Members of the Beth Chaverim Board of Directors donated in honor of Tracy Cirone for her hard work as President of Beth Chaverim
 Art and Reba Oberman donated in memory of Alvin Frager
 Edythe Pallin donated in honor of Bernier wedding
 Carol Printz donated in honor of Jammin' Shabbat
 Herman Rossi donated in memory of Al Frager
 Cheryl Suitor donated in honor of Wendy Held and Bernice Hastings
 Arnold and Caren Thorner donated in honor of High Holy Day Honors
 Arnold and Caren Thorner donated in honor of Marc Benezra wishing him a speedy recovery
 Arnold and Caren Thorner donated in honor of Beth Chaverim friends who gave love and companionship to Caren during her recovery



RAFFLE DONORS:

We want to offer our THANKS to the many businesses that donated to our PICNIC RAFFLE. Whether you attended the Picnic, or not, please show your appreciation by utilizing the following:

Federal Express, Embassy Autowash, Not Your Average Joe's, Nick's Corner Grill, Ashburn I HOP, Tortilla Factory, Wegman's, Trader Joe's, Mort Dubin's Glass Creations, Ruby Tuesday

NEW MEMBERS

Beth Chaverim would like to extend a warm welcome to our new members who have joined our family!

Rob and Jennifer Kousel and their sons Ben and Max

Neil and Nancy Frank and children Malina and Ethan.

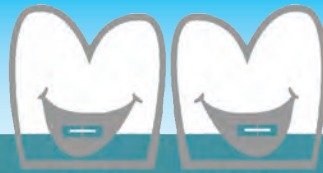
David and Ellen Waldman and their sons Jack and Luke

Michael Schultz and Catherine Farolan-Schultz and sons Marc and Max

2011 Calendar

For the latest calendar please click here
<http://www.bethchaverim.org/calendar.htm>

01 January S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	02 February S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28
03 March S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	04 April S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
05 May S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	06 June S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
07 July S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	08 August S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
09 September S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	10 October S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
11 November S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	12 December S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31



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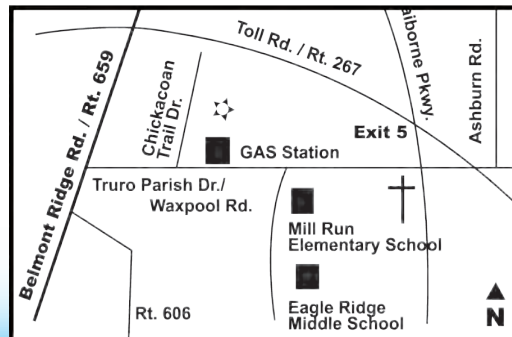
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ACTIVE RETIREE

Leesburg Area Active Retirees

The Active Retirees are a warm and friendly outreach group of men and women age 55+. Newcomers are always welcome! Our meetings are usually on the third Monday of the month in the Clubhouse at Leisure World at 10:30 AM. Please join us for guest speakers, trips, holiday celebrations and “schmoozing.” The cost is \$2 for members of the JCCNV or any synagogue or residents of Leisure World. For non-members, the cost is \$4. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Sheila Budoff at 703.537.3068 or e-mail leesburgseniors@gmail.com.

— Sheila Budoff, Coordinator —

ANNIVERSARIES

October

Chris Smith & Jill Eskin-Smith	October 2
Joe & Diane Andruzzi	October 4
Scott & Valerie Horowitz	October 7
Andrew & Debbie Pelletz	October 10
Bill & Cindy Hack	October 13
Anthony & Amy Lourenco	October 13
Marty & Faith Shoup	October 14
Greg & Lisa Kimball	October 20
Brian & Bethany Freed	October 21
John Bloom & Daryl Braiman-Bloom	October 23
Steve & Cindy Perkins	October 23
Phil & Ellen Kane	October 26
Steven & Robin Pergament	October 28

November

Bob & Leann Arbetter	November 7
John & Marcy Manning	November 8
Jeffrey & Carol Eckhaus	November 15
Ken & Amy Tucker	November 20
Jeffrey & Andrea Elbaum	November 21
Edward & Anna Hild	November 22
Scott & Janice Shinberg	November 22
Albert & Francie Bernier	November 24

Thanks to:

The Elgin family donated toward the installation of the oven for the kitchen

YAHRZEITS

October

Samuel Benezra	Father of Marc Benezra
Bessie Berman	Grandmother of Renee Gupp
Stacey Berry	Daughter of William Berry
Max Cohnreich	Grandfather of Claire Brunner
Henry Ellen	Grandfather of Betsy Smith
Elli Wurtzberger Gupp	Mother of William Gupp
Benjamin Kessel	Brother of Jan Saferstein
Phyllis Kessel	Sister-in-law of Jan Saferstein
Herman Kestenblatt	Grandfather of Stephanie Meister
Paul Lovejoy, Jr.	Brother of Billie Medoff
Martin Slobodkin	Cousin of Caren Thorner
Anne Steir	Grandmother of Eric Meister
Frances Tamarkin	Aunt of Ellen Kane
Veryle Whitney	Mother of Leann Arbetter
Calvin Wright	Father of LuAnn Rubenstein

November

Katharine Currier	Mother of Carol Currier
Renee F. Denmark	Mother of Marcy Manning
Charles Gardner	Grandfather of Elizabeth Matson, Father of Sheldon Gardner
Harry Grover	Great-grandfather of Elizabeth Matson, Grandfather of Muriel Gardner
Beatrice Holoboff	Grandmother of Faith Shoup
Jacob Horner	Grandfather of Susan Benezra
Rachel Jacobs	Grandmother of Diane Andruzzi
Harry Mendelsohn	Father of David Mendelsohn
Carol Mermelstein	Mother of Abby Champagne
Blumber Molleye	Grandmother of Andrew Kasmer
Ralph Nadler	Father of Barbara Mendelsohn
Mollie Roberts	Mother of Burt Roberts
Stephen Rudnick	Father of AJ Ikner
Minnie Saferstein	Mother of Soop Saferstein
Dorothy Simon	Grandmother of Jennifer Trost
Sylvia Strasburger Ingram	Grandmother of Elizabeth Matson, Mother of Muriel Gardner
Herbert Weiner	Father of Jan Weiner
Irene Weiss	Grandmother of Carol Fletcher
Jacob Zubin	Grandfather of Jennifer Trost

Beth Chaverim thanks the following honored guests at our High Holiday Services:

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Barsky	Ilse Diamond	Judith and Herbert Spivak
Barbara and Leonard Blistein	Audrey Gassman	Roger and Marcia Swartz
Frankie Bloom	Brad Levin	Gail Vanovitch
James and Nancy Branch	Charles Moskovitz	Gary and Janice Walker
Joy Brown	David and Alisa Rudolph	