



The Chaverim Bulletin

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

Out of the Rabbi's Mind

The story of Chanukah is the story of the Jewish struggle for freedom of religious practice. Our people's rebellion against the Syrian-Greeks, the victory of the small strategic guerilla warfare groups over the great mechanism of a trained army, the Hasmoneon's re-establishment of a Jewish way of life is so legendary that it created our eight night winter festival.

The days of Chanukah which we celebrate emerge from a juxtaposition of two different cultures. Before the Hasmoneon rebellion, Jews were torn between embracing the Syrian-Greek customs of their rulers and the Jewish customs of their ancestors. Some Jews embraced whole-heartedly one way or the other, some sought a compromise between the two. How to be authentically Jewish in another dominant culture was a huge contemporary challenge.

Not so different from today, right?

We too are trying to figure out how to be Jewish in our American context. We seek to balance being American and being Jews. We attempt to balance society's values with our Jewish values. We struggle between having our kids participate as members of the soccer or baseball team and having them participate as members of the Jewish tribe in their attendance at services. We weigh the pros-and-cons in having our children participate in events such as "Odyssey of the Mind" and attending Religious School to develop an Odyssey of the Soul. We debate the merits of driving car pool to various activities with "Five Guys" in our hands and stomachs and sitting down for Shabbat dinner as family on Friday night.

Even for families where both parents are Jewish balancing the varying demands of contemporary

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▪ *Rabbi Linda Joseph*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Below is the text of my Kol Nidre address to the congregation. In my address, I talk about some of the reasons why I love Beth Chaverim Reform Congregation. Now, we would like to hear from you. Send me an email (president@bcrcva.org) and tell me why you and your family love Beth Chaverim Reform Congregation. For every family that sends me an email, my family and I will donate an additional \$18 to the congregation's Kol Nidre Appeal fundraising campaign. I look forward to hearing from you!

Kol Nidre Address

I'm Mark Raffman, President of Beth Chaverim Reform Congregation. Welcome. We look forward to a moving Kol Nidre service with our Rabbi, Linda Joseph, and cantorial soloist, Susan Mandel Giblin, and our musicians.

It is traditional for the President of the Congregation to give a "State of the Congregation" speech on Erev Yom Kippur at the Kol Nidre Service.

As many of you know, I find inspiration from my deceased grandfather, Max Goodman. Max was a tough *and plain-spoken* businessman who brought himself up from nothing to retire to Florida in relative luxury. There he rediscovered his Jewish heritage and faith. I'm wearing his tallit tonight. I tried to think about what Max would want me to tell you. And I think he'd want me to remind everyone what is at stake.

He would say: "*Five thousand years and it comes down to you.*"

He would ask: *What kind of example will you set?*

Thousands of years of Jewish wisdom, tradition and culture.

The Lower East side where our grandparents scraped out a living with pushcarts and sewing machines. The modest *shtetl* where their grandparents welcomed Shabbat with their families. Dancing at the crossing of the Red Sea. Fighting in the Warsaw Ghetto. We've been through a lot together.

You know, it has never been easier to be a Jew than it is right here, right now, in America in the year 5772.

But - It has never been easier to forget what it means to be a Jew than it is right here, right now. Max would remind me of this.

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▪ *Mark Raffman, President*

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Dec 2011/Jan 2012

Volume X Issue II

Kislev/Tevet 5772



ADULT EDUCATION

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 Grand-parenting followed by Havdalah.

Sunday 4th December, 9:00am-10:30am

Join Rabbi Lev for a discussion on interfaith parenting. Are you raising children with a partner of another faith? Are you not Jewish but raising a Jewish child? Are you trying to figure how much--if any--religion to share with your children? How do you raise a Jewish child?

Book Club: The Golem in New York!

Join the rabbi to discuss the second of three books, each very different, but united in their inclusion of the Golem myth, reset into NYC! Participants purchase their own books.

Wednesday January 25, 2012, 7:30pm-9:00pm - *Puttermessaer Papers* by Cynthia Ozick

For further information or to register, please contact the Adult Education Coordinator, Shelley Sheinwald at ssheinwald@comcast.net

Shelley Sheinwald, Adult Education Coordinator

Washington’s North American Biennial Needs Volunteers

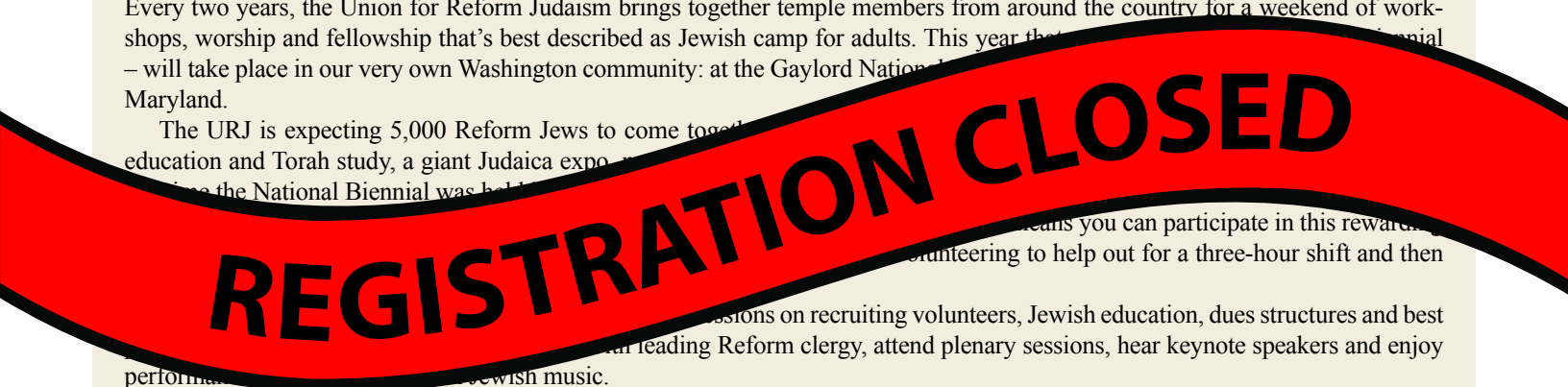
Every two years, the Union for Reform Judaism brings together temple members from around the country for a weekend of workshops, worship and fellowship that’s best described as Jewish camp for adults. This year that weekend – will take place in our very own Washington community: at the Gaylord National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

The URJ is expecting 5,000 Reform Jews to come together for a weekend of Jewish education and Torah study, a giant Judaica expo, and a celebration of the National Biennial was held in Washington, D.C. in 2008.

Volunteering to help out for a three-hour shift and then participating in sessions on recruiting volunteers, Jewish education, dues structures and best practices. You will meet leading Reform clergy, attend plenary sessions, hear keynote speakers and enjoy performances of 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 Thorner at 703-327-7789 or carenthornr@aol.com. Arnold may also be reached at arnold.thorner@yahoo.com.





FROM THE BOARD

Summary of Board Meeting held Monday, October 17, 2011

1. An update of budget and financials was presented.
2. Discussion about needs for Education Committee (6th grade teaching vacancy).
3. Discussion about need for new Worship VP. Calls will be made and it will be posted in the blast.
4. Motion was passed to keep the blast to Jewish community and faith based events and news.
5. Motion was passed to authorize the finance committee to undertake discussions with the Adams Center, Tikva and the bank about a potential lease to the Adams Center.



Shelly Slebrch, Secretary

Summary of Board Meeting Held Thursday, November 10, 2011

1. An update of budget and financials was presented.
2. Discussion about Kol Nidre Appeal which has reached approximately 40% of goal.
3. Discussion about Winter Market on November 20 and the need to ensure children's safety by implementing rules for dropoff/pickup, bathroom breaks and supervision on halls.
4. Discussion regarding reaction from Bridges for the Tikva comedy show in late spring or fall of 2012. Board demonstrated consensus to support the event.
5. A re-organization proposal was presented and discussion was held. A chart will be created of the current structure of the Board for comparison purposes. There is a possibility of Board positions being eliminated.

WAYS AND MEANS NEWS

Contribute to the Kol Nidre Appeal

Each year seems to pass more quickly than the last, especially this year, when our only child entered middle school – how time flies!! It's hard to believe that in just a couple of weeks we will be celebrating Chanukah, the festival of lights, when we will be reminded that miracles can result from hard work and the rewards that can be achieved from taking risks.

Just as I have concerns and hopes about my son's well-being in this year of transitions, so too do I reflect on the well-being of Beth Chaverim Reform Congregation – the temple and community that I love. We can all be very proud of what we accomplished in 2011. It was jam-packed with events, such as the Purim Carnival, Shabbat Across American, Chocolate Seder, the congregational picnic, and Jammin' Shabbat services. Behind the scenes, we dedicated a new Torah scroll, revamped our education curriculum, launched social networking tools, held many adult education classes, welcomed new leaders to our congregation, and have developed stronger connections to our interfaith community. Looking toward the future, we are planning a congregational trip to Israel. We will welcome a Scholar-In-Residence in December to talk about interfaith issues. And, we are devoting more energy to ensuring the long-term welfare of our synagogue and our membership.

Our Kol Nidre Appeal asks for your financial support in the short term. Membership dues alone are not enough to support our synagogue (or any other synagogue) these days. Most of what I described above couldn't happen without gifts of time and money from congregants like you. Your participation in our Kol Nidre Appeal is crucial to maintaining Beth Chaverim – which is more than a religious school, more than a bimah, more than a place for social gatherings.

It is our community's Jewish home.

Far more important than any achievement or event is the fact that we have a place where we can gather, grow and share the events in our lives, whether they are sad or joyous. As we come together with loved ones for Chanukah – and as you are thinking about end of year contributions for tax purposes – I urge you to join me in making a contribution to Beth Chaverim if you have not already done so. We have reached 60% of our monetary goal of \$50,000, but only one-third of the way to our goal of 75% family participation. Your gift in whatever amount you can afford will be greatly appreciated and is very important to Beth Chaverim – even modest gifts from the remaining 50% of our target congregants, when they are added together, could make a tremendous difference. Please remember that in order to take advantage of a tax deduction in 2011, your contribution must be postmarked by December 31, 2011.

In the tradition of the Chanukah miracle of the oil, join me in creating another miracle: the miracle of a strong Jewish community in Loudoun County for generations to come. May the lights of Chanukah bring warmth and strength to you and your loved ones in the coming days.

Jennifer Elgin, Ways and Means VP

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.



Come Worship With Us

When my teenage daughter announced she would henceforth be an atheist, my reaction was to tell her, “If that’s your choice, then you might as well be an educated atheist” – and to buy her a book entitled *Breaking the Spell* by Daniel Dennett, a philosophy professor at Tufts known for his skepticism in matters of religious belief. The book bears the subtitle, “Religion as a Natural Phenomenon” -- and, as a blurb on the back cover explains, is thrust is to “provoke readers to examine religion as a product of evolution rather than a transcendental force.”

Not that I wish for our congregants to turn into atheists, but the book got me thinking about the implications of its thesis that religion is a product of evolution. What if it were true that, through a process of natural selection, humans have found that religious faith confers benefits on its adherents that make it likely to be passed on through the generations?

In our modern society, it sometimes feels like evolution is taking a drift away from religious faith. In a society of relative wealth and comfort, we may find it less important to take comfort in the promise of a better life to come, or the presence of the Divine. In a world of science and technology, we need rely less on religion to explain what we otherwise could not understand. In a world of corporate work environments, youth soccer and the PTA, the need for religion as a form of social organization is not what it was in the past.

All the same, when push comes to shove, religion provides meaning where secular pursuits fail. Modern comforts do not dull the pain of the loss of a loved one. Science and technology provide tools but do not answer fundamental questions like what is right and good, and what is not. Secular organizations can keep us occupied but seldom offer the spiritual connections forged in a religious community.

This brings me to my point. For many of us, the cares and distractions of the modern world have taken us away from the world of worship. But if Professor Dennett’s thesis is to be credited, then this is a departure from where evolution has taken us this far. And so, to my fellow congregants, I say:

– Be what evolution has made you. Be yourself. Come worship with us.

Mark Raffman

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.

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.



Report from Youth Group VP Bari Barton Cooper

Chavty is off to a great year. We have a new board with a mix of 10th and 11th graders serving our youth group. Congratulations to the following teens:

President:	Ilana Deigh	Social Action:	Lindsey Tillis (pending her approval)
Programming VP:	Megan Sammons	Communication:	Matt Blumen
Social VP:	Tanner Zelman (plans lock-in)	Worship:	Brian Vought and/or Sam Brazer and/or Jordyn Bauman

We are looking forward to a Hanukkah Scavenger Hunt (with NVHC & Beth Torah): December 17 at Dullas Mall. 6-8pm. Winter Kallah from December 27-30, 2011 at Capital Camps in Waynesboro, PA.

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 VP

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.

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@bcerva.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.



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

(Continued from page 1)

living and Judaism are challenging. But how much the more so when you are in an interfaith household! For it is not just the values of a wider American community that tug, but the values of your own family which one must seek to balance while creating Jewish identity in our family unit and offspring. The debate on creating Jewish identity is all the more emotionally charged and challenging because the choices involve choosing one family's customs over another, or finding a compromise that still instills a Jewish patina.

So this year, as December begins, we as a congregation are going to begin a discussion on how to be Jewish, how to create Jewish identity, and simultaneously juggle all these contemporary realities.

To that end, I am thrilled that Rabbi Lev Baesh will be joining us as Scholar-in-Residence on the weekend of the 2nd – 4th December. Rabbi Lev has dedicated much of his rabbinic career to creating a positive Jewish identity, especially among interfaith families. He will be speaking to the congregation at Friday night Shabbat services; offering a discussion on grand-parenting within an interfaith context at Havdalah; joining us on Sunday morning for a discussion on parenting as an interfaith couple; and talking to our teenagers on dating someone of another faith.

Like the Jews of the Chanukah story, we need to figure out how to connect and dedicate our lives to Judaism, so that victoriously Judaism can live on to the next generation.

I am reminded of a story from Rabbi Nachman of Bratslav. He tells of two men lost in a forest. One says to the other: "Brother, I am lost! Show me the way out of this forest!" The other answers: "I too am lost. However I can tell you the paths I have traversed. You can tell me the paths you have walked. Together, let's hold hands and find a way out of this forest together!"

There is no need for us to feel alone as we wander the winding ways of creating and living Jewish. Let us wander the paths together and find a way to re-dedicate* our lives and that of our families to Jewish learning and being.

[Chanukah* means "dedicate"]

Shabbat Service Schedule

DATE	SERVICE	COORDINATING	HELPING
December 2	Birthday/Anniversary Service 7:00 pm	Rosas	Shapero, Sheinwald, Nagler-Levi, Shinberg, Shoup
December 9	7th Grade Class Service 7:00 pm	Blumen	Shuman, Sackett, Schultz, Slatkin, Chris Smith
December 10	Congregational Morning Shabbat Service 10:00 am	Katz	
December 23	Chanukah Service 7:00 pm	Raffman	Waldman, Andruzzi Sutor, Thorner, Tiles
January 6	Lay Led Birthday/Anniversary Service 7:00 pm	Cirone	Weiner, Welch, Welz, Eric Zelman, Jeff Zelman
January 13	Lay Led Service 7:00 pm	Blumen	Arbetter, Barron, Belt Zimmet, Zuckerman/Grady
January 20	Kindergarten Class Children's Service 6:30pm; Adult Shabbat Service is at 7:00pm;	Raffman	Benezra, Berman, Bernier, Berry, Bloom
January 21	8th - 10th Grade Congregational Morning Shabbat Service	Giblin	
January 27	6th Grade Class Service	Elgin	Boehm, Brazer, Brendlinger, Brunner, Burger, Butterman

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.



Chanukah Celebration

Sunday, December 18, 5 – 7 pm □ **Beth Chaverim's Social Hall**
Dinner, Dreidels and Chanukah songs led by Susan Mandel Giblin and the Chanukah Choir

Let the Fun begin...

Cookie decorating, greeting card-making, Chanukah music and Chanukah-related games for kids of all ages!

Bring: Dairy Pot Luck Dish, 1-2 dz. Latkes & bottled beverage to share

Participate in the Latke Challenge!

Mitzvah! Bring in gently used Winter Outerwear for the Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter (LAWS)

Cost: \$5 per per family

See Evite that recently went out





The Foundation for Jewish Studies offers programs that are non-denominational and open to everyone. Many of our programs are free, and we present programs in venues throughout the DC metro area. Listed below are some exciting learning opportunities for December 2011.

The Book of Ruth

JCC of Northern Virginia

Dates: Tuesdays, December 13 and 20

Time: 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Speaker: Rabbi David Kalendar

Rabbi David Kalendar is the Senior Rabbi of Olam Tikvah in Fairfax, Virginia.

The inspirational relationships of Ruth and Naomi on their journey from Moab to the land of Israel will be studied from a literary perspective, as well as through Jewish and Christian lenses.

Program is held at and co-sponsored by:
Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia
8900 Little River Turnpike
Fairfax, VA 22031
703-323-0880

Meet at 12:00 pm with a brown bag pareve/dairy lunch. Hot drinks are provided. Study will follow from 12:10 pm - 1:30 pm. The cost is \$35 for FJS members & \$45 for non-members. More information can be found here: <http://www.foundjs.org/Calendar.php?evntId=598>



Kabbalah, Science, and Universal Ethics

B'nai Israel Congregation

Dates: Sunday, December 11, 2011

Time: 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Speaker: Professor David Ruderman

Prof. David B. Ruderman is the Joseph Meyerhoff Professor of Modern Jewish History and the Ella Darivoff Director of the Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania.

“The Book of the Covenant” (Sefer ha-Brit), first published by a relatively unknown Eastern European Jew named Phinehas Elijah Hurwitz, in Brunn, Moravia in 1797, was one of the most popular Hebrew books read by Jews in the Modern Era. In this massive volume - purported to be a commentary of a popular 16th century mystical work - Hurwitz presented his understanding of the sciences of the day - cosmology, astronomy, geography, botany, zoology, and medicine. In a commentary on the injunction to “Love thy neighbor as thyself,” Hurwitz insisted that the commandment requires every Jew to love all human beings, not only their own co-religionists, and not merely as a political concession but as an inherent value of Judaism itself. The complex mixture of science, kabbalistic piety, and universal ethics mark the special quality of this work and underscore its uniqueness in an era of cultural debate and polarization. Hurwitz’s attempt to balance the secular and Jewish worlds in which he lived offers insight into our own struggle to live as committed Jews in the modern world.

This program is made possible by the generosity of K. Peter & Yvonne Wagner.

Program held at and co-sponsored by B'nai Israel as part of its LIFE Lecture Series:

B'nai Israel Congregation
6301 Montrose Road
Rockville, MD 20852
301-881-6550

This event is free and open to the public. More information can be found here: <http://www.foundjs.org/Calendar.php?evntId=611>



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

Beth Chaverim's 2011-2012 Social events are getting into gear! Join in on the upcoming festivities and enjoy Jewish celebrations and traditions with Beth Chaverim Friends! Special thanks to the Social Committee members, bursting with new and different Social events for all to enjoy!

To start, it wouldn't be December at Beth Chaverim without our annual Chanukah Party! The party starts with a Dairy Pot Luck dinner on Sunday, December 18, 2011 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm in Beth Chaverim's Social Hall. Members are asked to bring a dairy pot luck dish and a 2-liter bottled beverage to share, plus 1-2 dozen latkes; cost will be \$5 per family. We'll have cookie decorating, greeting card-making, Chanukah music and some Chanukah-related games to entertain kids of all ages. For all you chefs out there, reserve 2 latkes from your batch to enter into the Latke Challenge – we've got categories ranging from Best Tasting to Most Original and our judges can't wait to sample

your creations! Bring in gently used Winter Outerwear for the Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter (LAWS). Check your email for an Evite coming soon and RSVP to join in the fun!

Don't let the cold winter nights get to you! Join us for a Community Game Night, January 28, 2012 from 5:00- 8:00 pm. We'll provide a few games, but feel free to bring a favorite of your own to share. Stay tuned for more details in early January 2012.

Do you enjoy planning events, socializing and meeting new friends? If so, please contact Lynn Blumen at socialvp@bcrcva.org to join the Social Committee. Our meetings are scheduled monthly on Sunday mornings, in the Lobby of Beth Chaverim. We'd love to have you join us!

Stay tuned to the Beth Chaverim Reform Congregation web site and the blast for more details. We look forward to seeing you at Beth Chaverim!

Dianne Andruzzi, Social Committee Member and Lynn Blumen, Social Vice 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
	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
Heather Katz	Treasurer	treasurer@bcrcva.org
Jennifer Kasmer/Adrienne Skaputa-Butterman	Financial Secretary	financialsec@bcrcva.org
Jody Rosas	Public Relations VP	publicrelationsvp@bcrcva.org
Stephanie Meister	Bulletin Editor	bulletinvp@bcrcva.org
Bari Cooper	Youth Group VP	youthgroupvp@bcrcva.org
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	nmcrjc@verizon.net
Marshall Medoff	Past President	colbyseider@gmail.com
Ray Daffner	Tikva Committee Chair	tikva@bcrcva.org
Janice Shinberg/Adrian Welch	B'nai Mitzvah Coordinator	bnaimitzvah@bcrcva.org
Rabbi Linda Joseph		rabbi@bcrcva.org



This December 14-18, 2011, join us for the 10th Annual Reform Jews.
and meet new ones.
Best Shabbat gathering in North America.

REGISTRATION CLOSED

Register today at urj.org/biennial.



December 14-18, 2011 Washington, DC



FROM THE PRESIDENT

(Continued from page 1)

We're all busy. We don't have the time or the inclination to be "All Jewish, all the time."

But since we're here together, on the holiest night of the year, let's acknowledge: We inherited a legacy that is worth passing on.

The sages teach: You are not obligated to complete the task, but neither are you free to set it aside.

From this Yom Kippur to the next, let's each resolve that we will do **something** – something more than we did last year – to make Judaism a "living" part of our lives. To "live Jewish" as the sign says.

So let's talk about what that means for Beth Chaverim Reform Congregation.

What would Max want me to say about our synagogue?

I know what he'd tell me – he'd say, *Tell the Emmis – it's a Florida word for truth.*

And the truth is, we have much to be proud of.

And the truth is, we have much to be concerned about.

What are we proud of?

We have a building of our own and a full-time rabbi with a world of experience and learning.

We have an excellent religious school with a brand new curriculum.

Our Shabbat worship services have never had better attendance.

We keep building our musical talent – our last Jammin' Shabbat had about a dozen musicians.

We brought back the picnic.

We have new festival programs this year – I can't wait for Simchat Torah.

We have some really neat new member families – let's all get to know them.

Tikva, our interfaith organization, is a model for fostering understanding among the faith communities in Loudoun County.

Our congregation is the flagship for Reform Judaism in Loudoun County.

We provide a welcoming and accepting environment for the diverse expression of Jewish values and practice, including for families in which one spouse is from a different faith. I believe we are unique in that regard.

And what are we concerned about? What troubles us? What keeps the President awake at night?

For one thing, our overall membership is down this year. Sure, we're in a bad economy. But that is not all. And so we are renewing our efforts to be the kind of congregation where people feel a connection and want to stay.

Another big challenge is human resources. We don't have an administrative staff. Sometimes our volunteers get burned out. Sometimes we have nobody to answer the phone, or make copies. It is not easy to run a synagogue with an all-volunteer army.

A third big challenge is money. We continue to operate at a deficit. Our cash balances are lower than they were at this time last year. And that is a problem. The challenges are formidable. And we are meeting them. We may not complete the work, but

we will not set aside the task we have taken up.

We have improved the religious school curriculum and re-focused membership efforts. We are undertaking discussions with the bank about restructuring our mortgage. We are looking at other options to reduce expenses.

And we are undertaking a Kol Nidre appeal. Jen Elgin will discuss our appeal in a moment, but let me say a few words about it.

Does our appeal mean we are desperate for money?

Max would remind me that "everybody does a KN appeal". It's a normal part of synagogue life.

Having said that, if anyone wants to discuss the details of our synagogue's finances and how your contribution will make a difference, call me and we can go through the numbers together.

"A Kol Nidre appeal is normal."

But don't people get tired of these appeals, year after year?

Max might ask, *"Did you stop feeding your children today because you fed them yesterday? I'm tired of feeding you. Why are you hungry again?"*

Whoa why would anyone think of a synagogue like their own child?

Well, why not? Your child is a projection of yourself into the future. Your synagogue is the projection of our shared culture, our shared faith, our shared values -- into the future.

But Max would say that's not enough. *"People feed their children because they love them. People will support what they love."*

What is there to love about a synagogue? Here, I have to speak for myself, but I will speak from the heart.

What do I love about Beth Chaverim Reform Congregation?

I love the joy of worshipping here – with guitars and music and people I want to be with.

I love seeing our kids grow up with a connection to Jewish friends and culture. I love seeing the look of recognition on their faces when they hear a Hebrew phrase or a Jewish concept that they recognize.

I love that this community needs me, wants me, welcomes me, inspires me to participate. I'm more than a phone number and a name in the directory. And it's been that way from the moment I walked in the door ten years ago.

I love the moments of connection with other people – a hug for someone who has lost a loved one, a kind word of thanks, a high five and a beer when the brotherhood finishes building the sukkah (this weekend, boys).

I love that we can be a force of good in our community – delivering food to hungry people, serving as a model of interfaith tolerance.

I love that we can be a welcoming home for diverse Jewish families. People feel comfortable here.

I **want** to support this community.

I know I am not alone. I know that there are others who feel the same way and who will answer the call. And still more, worshipping with us tonight, who would come to feel the same love for this House of Friends, if you will draw closer. Come to services. Participate in a food drive. Come hang out with the Brotherhood or Sisterhood. Join us.

Because together I believe we can make all the difference.
L'Shanah Tovah.



BIRTHDAYS

December

Brenda Goodman	December 1
Amy Lourenco	December 1
Billie Medoff	December 8
Emily Helmes	December 6
Nancy Frank	December 7
Andrea Kammann	December 7
Joseph Soifer	December 8
Matthew Blumen	December 10
David Brazier	December 10
Rick Shuman	December 10
Emily Vought	December 11
Jan Saferstein	December 12
Keith Cooperman	December 13
Valerie Rubenstein	December 15
William Gupp	December 18
Jacob Eckhaus	December 19
Adam Fischel	December 20
Kathy Klass	December 20
Malina Frank	December 23
Jan Weiner	December 23
Megan Fogelson	December 26
Jacob Daffner	December 27
Henry Helmes	December 28
Michael Pritchard	December 28
Joshua Tucker	December 28
Sara Belt	December 29
Elizabeth Cooper	December 30
Benjamin Leventhal	December 30
Teresa Tilles	December 30
Joseph Pritt	December 31
Sheri Sackett	December 31

January

Camryn Randolph	January 1
Francie Bernier	January 4
Celia Lechtman	January 4
Eden Cooperman	January 5
Earl Suitor	January 6
Daryl Braiman-Bloom	January 8
Rose-Joan Barron	January 9
Edward Hild	January 9
Jeffrey Meech	January 9
Douglas Steil	January 10
Brian Vought	January 11
Marty Shoup	January 13
Jonah Giblin	January 15
Joshua Mayer	January 15
Chris Smith	January 17
Ilana Deigh	January 19
Russ Blumen	January 20
Matthew Levi	January 20
Carolyn Mars Angioli	January 20
Sarah Welz	January 20
David Holberton	January 22
Max Schultz	January 22
Tracy Cirone	January 24
William Berry	January 27
Stacia Villagomez	January 27
Nadine Schneider	January 29
Phil Kane	January 30
Howard Solomon	January 30



Loudoun County may be one of the wealthiest counties in the US, but there are still hundreds of hungry families among us. Did you know that among Dominion High School cluster schools over 550 children are dependent on the school system for their nutrition? Many of these students go without evening meals and food over the weekends. On Sunday, October 16th, BCRC's 8th - 10th graders helped pack 40,000 meals in 1 hour while volunteering for GenerosityFeeds. All of the meals were then given to Dominion HS to distribute to children who go hungry outside school hours. It was an honor – and a lot of fun - to help solve the challenge of child hunger right here at home. Our teens represented BCRC with grace and humor, and we're all looking forward to many more opportunities to help our community in the year ahead.

THANK YOU

Building Fund

Wendy and Jack Melnikoff in honor of a new year
Burt and Sheila Roberts
Burt and Sheila Roberts in memory of Helen Wasserman

Kol Nidre

Keith Cooperman donated in honor of Maurice Fass and Sydney Hirsch
Heather and Kenneth Kern
Mark and Claudia Raffiman donated in memory of Max Goodman
Jan and Soop Saferstein donated in memory of Ben and Phyllis Kessel, brother and sister-in-law of Jan
Mark and Nancy Sweberg

Prayer Book Fund

Jill and Jan Weiner donated in memory of Helen Wasserman

General Fund

Amy Lourenco donated in honor of Marc Benezra
Mark and Sue Benezra donated in memory of Helen Wasserman, mother of Dan Wasserman
Lisa Cohen donated in honor of High Holy Days
Carol Currier donated in honor of Katherine Fuller, Chai to Life
Muriel and Sheldon Gardner donated in memory of Al Frager
Muriel and Sheldon Gardner donated in memory of Sylvia Ingram
Muriel and Sheldon Gardner donated in memory of Jack Strasberger
Muriel and Sheldon Gardner donated in memory of Ann Spielfogel
Muriel and Sheldon Gardner donated in memory of Charles Gardner
Muriel and Sheldon Gardner donated in memory of Sadie Grover
Leslie Goldberg donated in memory of Helen Wasserman, mother of Dan Wasserman
Heather Katz donated in honor of High Holy Days
Beverly Smart donated in honor of High Holy Days
Allen Sparer donated in memory of Char Truax
Ann and Martin Meth donated in memory of Helen Wasserman
Jill and Jan Weiner



BROTHERHOOD NEWS

Brotherhood has had a very busy start to the New Year. We ushered for High Holidays and Bar/Bat Mitzvahs. We helped resurrect, with a little ingenuity, the sukkah. Despite some challenges from nature, we sponsored a very successful picnic at Claude Moore Park, which we hope to continue in years to come. Socially, we continue to gather at local restaurants monthly for dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Our next dinner will also be a bowling night at King Pinz. All men are welcome to join us (even if you can't bowl - sometimes the heckling is a more competitive sport). We are planning more football watching outings on Sundays, as well as other participatory activities such as mini-grand prix racing, which was a big hit last year. Please join us for service, camaraderie, and fun. Contact Jason or David at brotherhood@bcrcva.org.

Jason Cooper, Brotherhood President

2011 Calendar

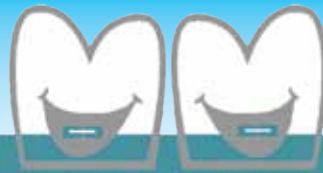
For the latest calendar please click here
http://www.bethchaverim.org/calendar.htm

Grid of 12 calendar cards for months 01-12, each showing a calendar grid.

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

Madelene and James Austin
Nina Cronk
David and Katherine Fuller
Philip Gordon
Rose Gordon
Alex, Borina and Laura Gorenshtein
Bryan Kotin
Lucille Mohr

Lorin Reidenbaugh
Deborah Sackadorf
Paul and Arlene Simon
Phyllis Sternberg
David Stone
Sylvia Voreas
Sarah Welz



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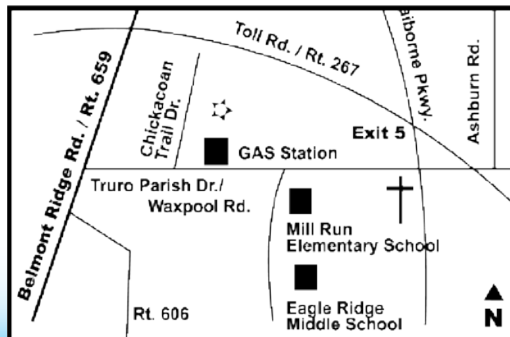
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ACTIVE RETIREE

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

December

Sheldon & Muriel Gardner	December 21
Charles & Stacey Randolph	December 28

January

Andrew & Jennifer Kasmer	January 1
Rick & Fallon Shuman	January 11
Joseph & Tracy Cirone	January 12
David & Barbara Mendelsohn	January 31

YAHRZEITS

December

Mary Adler
Robert Bolande
Ruth Bucholtz
Thelma Bucholtz
Matthew Champagne

Ann Cirone
Rose Cohen
Donald Cooperman
Joseph Denmark
Cora Farolan
Jacob Friedman

Leonard Gaynor
Judith Giblin
Raymond Grover
Arthur Kessel
Samuel Kluger
Arlene Leventhal
Rita Meyer
Marilyn Mintz
Harriette Schapiro
Fanny Simon
Ignatz Stein

Aunt of David Mendelsohn
Father of Ame Persaud
Cousin of Susan Benezra
Cousin of Susan Benezra
Husband of Abigail Champagne,
Father of Emily
Mother of Joseph Cirone
Grandmother of Shelly Slebrch
Grandfather of Keith Cooperman
Grandfather of Marcy Manning
Mother of Catherine Farolan-Schultz
Great-Grandfather
of Michelle Chance
Father of Vicki Goodman
Sister of Brian Giblin
Uncle of Muriel Gardner
Brother of Jan Saferstein
Grandfather of Elizabeth Cooper
Mother of Seth Leventhal
Grandmother of Amy Lourenco
Sister of Barbara Mendelsohn
Cousin of Amy Lourenco
Grandmother of Lynn Blumen
Grandfather of Betsy Smith

January

Shirly Arbetter
Freida Baran
Ruth Benezra
Maurice Berman
Marjorie Cahn Brazer
Goldie Christiano
David Cohen
Morris Daffner
Phyllis Denmark
Murry Deutsch
Bella Friedman

Nathan Holoboff
Stephen Jacobs
Joseph Klein
Ira Livingston
Laura Meister
Martin Mermelstein
Gladys Novick
Rose Portnoy
Janice Ralicki
Abe Saferstein
Miriam Shaw
Sumner Slobodkin
Frank Steier
Eli Sussman
Gerber Wolfe
Lillian Zelman

Mother of Bob Arbetter
Grandmother of Faith Shoup
Mother of Marc Benezra
Grandfather of Renee Gupp
Mother of David Brazer
Mother of Sheila Roberts
Grandfather of Shelly Slebrch
Uncle of Ray Daffner
Aunt of Marcy Manning
Father of Jill Weiner
Great-Grandmother
of Michelle Chance
Grandfather of Faith Shoup
Father of Sara Belt
Father of Sharon Solomon
Father of Amy Lourenco
Grandmother of Eric Meister
Father of Abby Champagne
Mother of Robin Pergament
Grandmother of Lynn Blumen
Mother of Carolyn Eckhaus
Father of Soop Saferstein
Aunt of Soop Saferstein
Father of Caren Thorner
Grandfather of Eric Meister
Grandfather of Jody Rosas
Grandfather of Carol Fletcher
Grandmother of Eric Zelman

New!



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

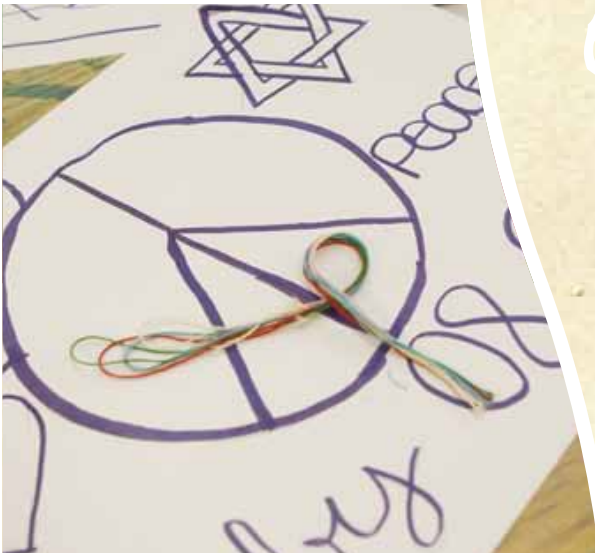
The Scentsy Menorah Warmer*

\$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



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summer camp at
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Cheer for Summer Camp

Incentive grants available for local children, entering grades 1-12 (after camp), to attend Jewish overnight camp for their first time! The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington's *One Happy Camper* program* provides \$1,000 incentive awards for first-time campers attending Jewish overnight camp for at least 19 consecutive days.

One Happy Camper is designed to engage children and families in Jewish life. Grants will be awarded to public or secular private school students.**

For qualifying details and an application, visit shalomdc.org/onehappycamper. For additional information, contact 301-348-7330 or onehappycamper@shalomdc.org.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Limited funding is available. Submit your application today!

- * Sponsored by The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and the Foundation for Jewish Camp.
- ** The Jewish Federation supports students in Jewish day schools with allocations directed to their school to offset tuition.

shalomdc.org/onehappycamper





Introduction to Judaism



What is the URJ's Introduction to Judaism class? / Is it for me?

Do any of these describe you?

- You are in an interfaith relationship and want to learn more about Judaism
- You are looking for a way to live a fuller and richer Jewish life
- You want to understand what your children already know about Judaism and Jewish culture
- You weren't offered a Jewish education as a child or weren't quite ready to absorb the education you were offered
- You are considering converting to Judaism

If you answered **yes** to any of these questions, The Union for Reform Judaism's Introduction to Judaism class is for you!

Introduction to Judaism is a 16 week class that offers a meaningful, educational experience for any person interested in knowing and understanding Judaism and Jewish life. The course provides an opportunity to broaden Jewish awareness, acquire a basic Jewish vocabulary and gain intellectual and experiential knowledge of Judaism in an open and relaxed atmosphere.

Topics covered in the course include:

- Jewish views of God
- Shabbat
- Death and Mourning
- Jewish Culture
- Jewish Ethics
- Jewish History
- Jewish Holidays
- The Holocaust and Jewish Views of Good and Evil
- Zionism, Israel, and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
- Marriage and Family
- Worship and Spirituality
- Conversion to Judaism

The program includes a Shabbat experience, in which students attend a Shabbat service as a group and enjoy a Shabbat meal together.

Class sessions are taught by Rabbi Stephanie Bernstein, coordinator and teacher for Introduction to Judaism for the DC area.

The cost for the class is \$400 per student and \$425 per couple, with a \$25 discount for members of URJ congregations. This includes all books necessary for the course.

Two new Introduction to Judaism classes will begin in mid-January, 2012. The Virginia class will be on Wednesday evenings at Beth El Hebrew Congregation in Alexandria, beginning on January 18. The DC class will be on Thursday evenings at Temple Sinai, beginning on January 19.

For additional information about Introduction to Judaism, including how to register for the course, please contact Rabbi Stephanie Bernstein at sbernstein@urj.org, or at 301-229-6008.