



# The Chaverim Bulletin

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## FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

### Chanukah

This year, we celebrate the first night of Chanukah on the 1st of December. Chanukah is a holiday that teaches us about the power of the people in a profound way.

Chanukah is a festival born late in history – the Maccabees' victory occurred in the latter part of the second century BCE. The books chronicling these events did not even make it into the Bible, and the events are found in the Apocrypha. The rabbis of the Talmud ask the question of this minor celebration "Mei Chanukah?" -- what is Chanukah?

It seems that in early rabbinic time (5th century CE), Chanukah was not well known. It is there, in the Talmud, that we hear for the first time the well-known story of the lack of sacred oil for lighting the seven-branched candelabrum in the destroyed Temple. We learn how the Jews took a leap of faith, using the little oil they had to light, and miracle of miracles – the oil lasted eight days, enough time to manufacture new oil. Hence, the Chanukah tradition to light the lights and eat oily food (latkes, donuts, fried cheese, fried dough... depending on the origins of your family!) formed.

This story was a "new idea". Jews had gravitated towards the festival of lights already popular in the pagan world. Rather than fight the tide of the popularity of lighting lights at this time of year, the rabbis found a Judaic spin legitimizing the practice already common among the people. They turned

the lights into a celebration that commemorated the Maccabees' victory for religious freedom.

Another "new idea" was the dreidel. Gambling games were popular in medieval times as a way of passing time in the winter months. Many rabbis protested such practices as not part of Judaism. Ultimately, the popularity of the activity by the people outweighed their objections. We play games of chance to remind us of the miraculous victory – Nes Gadol Hayah Sham/ A Great Miracle Happened There – the first letter of each word of this statement appearing on our dreidel. We literally gave the activity a Jewish spin!

Likewise, our gift giving at Chanukah time is also a "new idea". Ask Jews of even two generations ago how they celebrated Chanukah, and it did not include the giving of gifts. Gelt (coins) to play dreidel was the common gift. Yet, like the Jews of the past, we live in a world that is not predominantly Jewish. The commercialization and gift giving of Christmas has had profound effects on how we celebrate our own festival. Rather than a gaggle of gifts under the Christmas tree, we have turned the festival into eight nights of presents for family and friends.

*(Continued on page 13)*

▪ *Rabbi Linda Joseph*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Something for Everyone

Jewish tradition teaches that the study of Torah (that is, the whole body of the Jewish sacred writings and tradition including the oral tradition) is a mitzvah of unparalleled importance. Indeed, most parents do everything within their power to provide the best possible education for their children. At Beth Chaverim, it is considered an integral part of our congregation to provide opportunities for religious education across all age groups.

Long proud of its educational programs for children, Beth Chaverim has also renewed its focus on teen and adult learning. Regardless of one's age or prior knowledge of Jewish tradition, our congrega-

tion strives to create a relevant learning community for all of our members. Jewish learning often encourages lively discussions and debates that arrive at more answers (and sometimes questions) than participants. It's about using our many senses to see, touch, hear, taste, and name different understandings of the worlds in which we live.

Beth Chaverim is extremely proud that we have Rabbi Joseph, who expertly educates us on so many levels. Some adult classes take place at the synagogue while other study sessions occur in a congregant's home. We strive to offer adult education on

*(Continued on page 3)*

▪ *Tracy Cirone, President*





## CAMPAIGN FOR OUR FUTURE

Looking back, it seems hard to realize that in early 2009 we formed our Campaign For Our Future (CFOF) Committee to address our anticipated financial needs. What a journey: beginning with identifying goals, then sending letters to congregants and, ultimately, holding parlor meetings to educate our congregation regarding where monies would be used. This past May, Beth Chaverim celebrated its thirteenth birthday and culminated our campaign with a bat mitzvah for Beth Chaverim. We received pledges totaling over \$85,000 that significantly impacted a difference in our financial health.

Our congregation has done remarkably well fulfilling their pledge amounts. Our thanks go out to all those who have either fulfilled pledges by paying the full amount or who continue to pay off pledges on a selected payment schedule.

Monies donated to fulfill pledges toward the campaign by December 2010 may be used as a tax deduction for 2010 (be sure to check with your tax advisor). It may benefit you financially to choose to complete your payments by the end of this year. Please direct any questions regarding your pledge payments to Katherine Fuller, Beth Chaverim's treasurer, as of November 1st. Many thanks to Char Truax, outgoing treasurer, for all her help.

I would be remiss if I didn't once again express my thanks to the CFOF Committee for their support and hard work throughout the campaign – my appreciation to Marc Benezra, Mark Raffman, Marshall Medoff, David Mendelsohn, Carol Currier, Larry Deigh, and all the moderators and host families who volunteered to make the campaign for our future such a successful endeavor. Last but not least, my gratitude to Tracy Cirone for all her support.

*Muriel Gardner, Campaign Chair*

### **Havdallah in The Hood on Saturday December 18, 2010 at 6:30pm (note time change)**

Ashburn Village Area residents, please bring a dish to share, since this event will be a Potluck Dinner. Please RSVP and coordinate with your host Larry & Nadine Schneider at Nadine@nadinesfolly.com by Dec 15th. Nadine will supply directions to her home when you RSVP. You are welcome to attend even if you do not live in Ashburn Village, and are unable to attend the Havdallah in the Hood in your neighborhood.

### **Invite The Rabbi to Dine**

Would you like to get to know our new Rabbi, Linda Joseph, away from the temple? Please consider inviting her to your home or out for dinner or a lunch date. Please feel free to contact her directly to coordinate a dining date! rabbi@bcrcva.org.

### **January 29 Havdallah in the Hood The Temple Is Open to Everyone**

All are welcome to come to attend a community celebration of Havdallah.

6:30 - Children's Havdallah Crafts - Social Hall

7:00 - Havdallah Service - Sanctuary

7:30 - Ice Cream Social - Social Hall

7:30 - Wine & Cheese Reception - Lobby

RSVP worshipvp@bcrcva.org

### **Tree of Life**



Chuck and Leni Pritt donated in honor of their grandson Aaron Josef Bruneau

Caren and Arnold Thorner donated in honor of their grandson Ari Jacob Goldwasser

### **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.

### **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.



## Adult Education 2011 Winter Classes

### Using Jewish Teaching to Raise Self-Reliant Children

**Instructor:** Betsy Goodwin, LCSW

Sundays 9:00am-11:00am

1/23, 1/30, 2/6, 2/13

Location- Rabbi's Study or off-site location to be determined

Class fee: members – no charge, non-members - \$18

Book cost: \$15

Dr. Wendy Mogel's book *The Blessing of a Skinned Knee* explores how parents can use a Jewish perspective to better understand parenting issues. Come discuss and develop insights regarding your individual child and how your own psychological needs may be hampering your child's growth. Goals of this parenting course will also include developing a deeper understanding of Jewish thought, understanding how our culture handicaps and confuses parents who are trying to raise self-reliant children, and identifying guidelines about defining appropriate expectations for children. This course will require reading the text and coming to sessions prepared to discuss and reflect on current parenting concerns.

### The Denominations of Judaism

**Instructor:** Marshall Medoff

Tuesdays 7:30pm-9:00pm

2/15, 2/22, 3/8, 3/15

Location- Ulrich Family Library

Class fee: members-no charge, non-members- \$18

Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, Reconstructionist, Renewal. When we join a congregation, we subscribe to a particular set of rituals and beliefs. How did Judaism branch out into these differences in religious observance? What are their differences and similarities? During this adult education course, we will discuss their genesis, evolution, current practices, and future trends using historic and modern sources and techniques.

### Introduction to Hebrew: Aleph Isn't Tough

**Instructor:** Tracy Cirone

Sundays 9:15am-10:45am

2/27, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27, 4/3, 4/10, 5/1, 5/8, 5/15

Location: Ulrich Family Library

Book fee: \$17.00

Class fee: Members- No charge, Non-Members- \$36

Minimum: 5 students for the class to run, enrollment required by 2/13

This is a beginners prayer book based class for those with no/little prior knowledge of Hebrew. You'll be amazed at how easy it is to learn to read Hebrew!

Look for further details in the next Bulletin and on the Beth Chaverim website regarding these additional classes which to be offered in the spring:

Vegetarian Recipes for a Greek Passover

Yom HaShoah Musical Program

Jews and the Zodiac

For more information or to register for any of these classes, contact Adult Coordinator Shelley Sheinwald at [ssheinwald@comcast.net](mailto:ssheinwald@comcast.net)

— Shelley Sheinwald, Coordinator

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

*(Continued from page 1)*

a variety of levels from elementary Hebrew reading to Torah study. In centuries past, rulers desiring to eliminate Jews and Judaism forbade our ancestors to learn from texts, stories, and language. In present day, by coming together to study, we mark our own tenacity and pleasure in learning.

At Beth Chaverim, we endeavor to provide compelling learning experiences that will deepen your understanding of and commitment to Reform Judaism, explore your relationship with God, and enable you to integrate the wisdom of our sacred texts into your life. While our teaching materials are taken from the many voices of Jewish tradition, our goal is to create a passionate, caring, community of learners. Not every class is for everybody, but there is something for everyone.

### BROTHERHOOD UPDATE

Brotherhood continues to be very active in temple-related and other activities. Brotherhood is proud to have sponsored the appetizers for Rabbi Joseph's Installation, as well as the Meet and Greet Shabbat service/dinner event over the summer. We are also extremely proud of the two stone walkways we installed to beautify the exterior of our temple. Members of Brotherhood continue to serve as ushers for High Holiday services and b'nai mitzvot services. We cleared the playground area and erected the beautiful sukkah. As a fundraiser, Brotherhood is currently selling discounted car wash coupons for Embassy Carwash in Sterling and other locations. We hold monthly meetings, usually on the second Sunday of the month during Hebrew School, 9:15AM at the temple. We meet every 2nd Tuesday of the month for dinner at a local area restaurant, with recent dinners at Travinia's, KingPinz, Not Your Average Joe's, and Cheng's. We have also been gathering at members' homes to watch football games, and we are planning on attending live sporting events as well. The men of Beth Chaverim are all invited to participate in Brotherhood activities. Please join us for fun, service, and camaraderie.

— Jason Cooper, Brotherhood President



## Shabbat Service Schedule

DATE	SERVICE	COORDINATING	HELPING
Decr 3	Chanukah Family Service 7:00 pm	Slebrch	Steil, Stein, Suito, Thorner, Tilles
Dec 10	7th Grade Class Service 7:30pm	Chiat	Tomasello, Topper, Trost, Tucker, Ungerleider
Dec 17	K Class & Children's Service followed by Adult Alternative Service 6:30 pm	Medoff	Villagomez, Vought, Waters, Weiner, Welch
Dec 24	Service 6:30 followed by Pot-Luck Oneg and game night. Bring a game to share.	Gardner	
Dec 31	NO SERVICE		
Jan 7	Family Service 7:00 pm	Slebrch	Welz, Zabin, Zimmet, Kane
Jan 14	Lay led service - Marshall Medoff 7:30 pm	Lasky	E & J Zelman, J & S Zelman, Zuckerman/Grady, Hauer, Louis
Jan 21	Tu bish'vat Celebration and Seder 6:30 pm	Gupp	Shapero, Silverman, Brendlinger, Burger/Spear, Goldberger
Jan 28	Erev Shabbat Service 7:30 pm	Slebrch	Stern, Ackerman, Angioli, Arbetter, Matson

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

About twice a year, each Beth Chaverim member (family or individual) is asked to volunteer 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.

## Beth Chaverim Bulletin On-line

Would you prefer to receive your Bulletin on-line as opposed to a paper copy in the mail? If so, please send an email to [Bulletinvp@bcrva.org](mailto:Bulletinvp@bcrva.org) with "Email version of the BBulletin" in the subject line. When the latest Bulletin is posted on the Beth Chaverim website, you will receive an email with a link to the online version of the BBulletin. For those who prefer to have the paper copy, you don't need to do anything.

## Religious Service Descriptions

*All Beth Chaverim Reform Congregation worship services are open to all congregants and non-congregants from the community who would like to participate in a Reform Jewish Shabbat service.*

**Traditional Erev Shabbat Service, 7:30 pm** – Friday night Kabbalat Shabbat service appropriate for congregants of all ages. At times, one of the Sunday school upper grades (4th through 7th grade) participates in these services.

**Morning Shabbat Service** – Saturday morning service that usually includes a Torah service or Torah study session with a sermon. This service is usually led by our Rabbi and often includes B'nai Mitzvahs or other life-cycle events. Occasionally, one of the Sunday school upper grades participate in this service. Those interested in having an aliyot at upcoming services are encouraged to contact Sue Benezra at [worshipvp@bcrva.org](mailto:worshipvp@bcrva.org).

**Jammin' Shabbat Service** – Friday night service for congregants of all ages who enjoy services filled with singing and music. All who play musical instruments or sing are encouraged to participate. Those interested in participating musically are asked to contact Phil Kane at [philk1@aol.com](mailto:philk1@aol.com).

**Family Youth Service, 6:30 pm** – Friday night, Saturday or Sunday morning short services (about 30 minutes) geared to introduce young people, ages 3-8, to the prayers, songs, and traditions of Shabbat. Led by our Rabbi or lay leader, this service includes occasional participation by a Sunday school class (pre-K through 3rd grade).



Rabbi Eric H. Yoffie  
President

October 26, 2010  
18 Cheshvan 5771

Rabbi Linda Joseph  
Beth Chaverim Reform Congregation  
21740 Beaumeade Circle, Suite 100  
Ashburn, VA 20147-6239

Dear Linda,

I am pleased to know that the Beth Chaverim family is honoring you in several weeks on the occasion of your formal installation as the rabbi of the synagogue. Although a previous commitment will prevent me from being together with you to celebrate this joyous occasion, I extend a hearty *mazel tov* and warm best wishes to you, both personally and on behalf of the Union for Reform Judaism, on this *simcha* for you and the congregation.

Having worked with you for a number of years within the Union's regional structure, I know firsthand that you bring many wonderful qualities to your work, and I am certain they will serve you and the congregation well as you move forward together. Of particular note are your deep spiritual approach to Jewish living, learning and celebration, as well as your warm and caring ways. Under your leadership, Beth Chaverim Reform Congregation surely will continue to grow and thrive in all facets of synagogue life, serving as a vital link within the Union's network of congregations throughout North America and as an inviting Reform Jewish presence in Ashburn and the surrounding communities.

As you celebrate this new beginning with Beth Chaverim, may God's countenance continue to shine upon you, and may you—together with your entire congregational family—go and grow from strength to strength. *Yasher koach.*

Sincerely,

Eric H. Yoffie



## BOARD NEWS

### Summary of Board Meeting Held Thursday, October 14, 2010

1. The September financial statements and membership updates were presented.
2. A motion was made that dues credits for teachers, cantorial soloists, etc. cannot be applied to Bar/Bat Mitzvah fees. The motion carried.
3. A motion was made to adopt a policy to enforce collection of any outstanding balances of members who leave and then rejoin temple. The motion carried.
4. A motion was made that Membership amend membership forms to ask for prior temple affiliations (including BCRC) and the year(s) affiliated. Additionally, the Membership Committee will contact prior temple affiliations to ensure that new members have no outstanding balances at previous temples. The motion carried.

*Shelly Slebrch, Secretary*

### Summary of Board Meeting Held Thursday November 11, 2010

1. The October financial statements and membership updates were presented.
2. There was a discussion of approval of tutor/cantorial soloists contracts .
3. A motion was made that the membership committee review the motion that was made at the October board meeting regarding past temple affiliation, discuss ramifications, implementation and person responsible and bring that information back to the board at the January board meeting. The motion carried.



## EDUCATION NEWS

Beth Chaverim religious school is off and running with great excitement! The school has been fortunate enough to once again receive an Initiative in Congregation Education Grant from the Jewish Federation of Greater Washington. Among other things, this money will be used to fund family programs. In fact, the 6th & 7th grade classes joined their parents to "Unlock the Siddur". They created a mural showing what is important to them in the universe! We will be hanging this mural in one of the hallways, so come by and check it out. Parents save the date now for your child's family program:

- Sunday, December 12 – 4th & 5th grade family program
- Sunday, January 9 – 2nd & 3rd grade family program
- Sunday, April 3 – Kindergarten & 1st grade family program

More information will be sent closer to specific dates for programs.

At religious school, we really try to foster a sense of community among the students with their Jewish peers. To continue connections outside of the classroom, room parents have volunteered this year to hold activities outside of religious school.

Class services also serve as a means to bring students together outside of the classroom while showing their families what they have been learning. The 6th grade recently participated in Erev Shabbat services and really did a fabulous job helping to lead. Afterwards, they enjoyed an ice cream oneg. Shabbat services also provide a unique and warm environment for Jewish learning and living. Formal and informal learning occur and a sense of camaraderie develops among students, families, and teachers. Pre-K – 3rd grade class services will take place as part of the Youth Service starting at 6:30 pm. 4th – 10th grade class services will take part of the traditional Shabbat Services starting at 7:30 pm. Mark your calendars and attend services with your children:

- Friday, December 10, 7:30 pm – 7th grade class service
- Friday, December 17, 6:30 pm – Kindergarten class service
- Friday, February 4, 7:30 pm – 4th grade class service
- Friday, February 11, 7:30 pm – 8th & 9th grade class service
- Friday, March 11, 7:30 pm – 5th grade class service
- Friday, March 18, 6:30 pm – 1st grade class service
- Friday, April 1, 6:30 pm – 3rd grade class service
- Friday, May 20, 6:30 pm – 2nd grade class service
- Friday, June 3, 7:30 pm – 10th grade Confirmation service

In December, classes will learn about Chanukah and share their families' traditions. Individual classes may choose to celebrate Chanukah through a class party. Furthermore, congregants are invited to join our synagogue-wide social event on the evening of December 5th.

As winter weather approaches, please note that if we need to cancel religious school, Beth Chaverim has an inclement weather policy in place. The decision will be made by 7:30 am and you can check three ways for cancellations and delays:

- Beth Chaverim will send out a special email announcement to members.
- Check the WTOP website ([www.WTOP.com](http://www.WTOP.com)) or listen to WTOP on the radio (103.5 FM or 107.7 FM).
- Beth Chaverim will update the outgoing message on the Beth Chaverim phone line (703-729-1659).

The Education Committee is always looking for help. If you are interested, please contact me at [educationvp@bcrcva.org](mailto:educationvp@bcrcva.org).

I look forward to continuing the momentum and enthusiasm we have started this year!

*Sharon Chiat, Education VP*



## TREASURER NEWS

It seems like yesterday that I was Beth Chaverim's treasurer, although it was nearly six years ago. The congregation was then frustrated that our land deal was falling through, that our religious school's lease with the Boyd School was coming to an end, and that we had no spiritual home. I vividly remember the congregational meeting in the shell of our current building, no walls, concrete floor, sitting in folding chairs, the room lit with bare bulbs. The projections were presented, along with the terms of our seemingly insurmountable loan, and we, as a community, made a leap of faith and agreed that it was time to stop wandering and establish roots. The joy was palpable. A few of the founding members had tears in their eyes; this agreement was the realization of their dream. In the empty surrounding us, we all began to consider what finally having a home would mean to our future.

Time after time, in the intervening years, we have reaffirmed our commitment to the congregation and to its physical home. At times, it has felt as though the sky were falling. We've felt like we are asked to do more than we are financially capable of doing. Yet, we remain committed to this community we have created.

Now, as I step in to fulfill the remaining months of Char's term as treasurer, we will again be looking at the numbers and planning for the future. This time, although many of the faces have changed, it is with the same sense of purpose and hope.

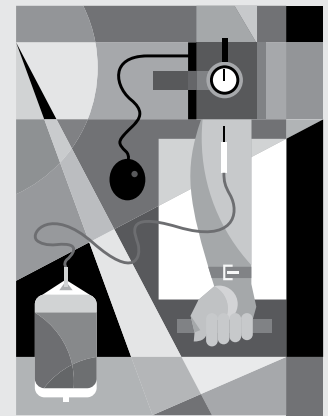
— Katherine Fuller, Treasurer

## Beth Chaverim Reform Congregation and ADAMS-Ashburn Blood Drive

Sunday, January 30th, 2011 at 9:30 AM -2:00 PM

BCRC Social Hall

Please contact Jackie and Seth Leventhal  
(sleventh@cox.net) to schedule your life-saving donation



## Women in the Bible

**Dates:** Every Thursday, Dec. 02 - Dec. 23, 2010

**Time:** 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

**Speaker:** Michael Goldman

The Foundation for Jewish Studies is re-opening its Lunch and Learn program in DC in December at a new site. The law offices of Dickstein Shapiro are one short block from the Farragut West Metro station.

In this series, Michael Goldman will address the Women in the Bible: Independent or Dependent; Controlling or Controlled; Guilty or Not. Eve, Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah will be put on trial, and their motivations and their impact and influence over their husbands and children will be examined and dissected to understand their role.

### Dickstein Shapiro LLP

1825 Eye Street NW  
Washington, DC 20006-5403

**202-420-2200**

The cost is \$35 for FJS members & \$45 for non-members. More information can be found here: <http://www.foundjs.org/calendar.php?evntId=562>.

## The Method of Midrash: or How to Read the Bible Like a Rabbi

**Dates:** Every Wednesday, Dec. 01, 2010 - Dec. 22, 2010

**Time:** 12:15 pm - 1:30 pm

**Speaker:** Rabbi Joshua Maroof

The Midrash is more than a collection of fanciful stories, homiletics and 'traditional' Biblical interpretations. It is a method of reading and thinking about the Biblical text that highlights the nuance, sophistication and depth of its literary and religious content. Through examining the Midrashic interpretation of some of the most famous Biblical stories, we will gain a whole new level of respect and appreciation for our tradition and see that the Sages' insights were millennia ahead of their time.

### Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington

6125 Montrose Road, Rockville, MD 20852

**301-881-0100**

The cost is \$35 for FJS members & \$45 for non-members. More information can be found here: <http://www.foundjs.org/calendar.php?evntId=6>.



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed for members of all talents. Please think about investing some time in your synagogue. You will be rewarded several times over!

### **Volunteers needed for Beth Chaverim's Caring Committee**

Beth Chaverim's Caring Committee is a corps of volunteers ready to help our members. Time commitment depends on the needs of congregants and your availability. What can you do?

- Provide transportation to temple events;
- Phone or visit members of the congregation;
- Pick up medications at the pharmacy;
- Help during periods of hardship and joy;
- And much more!

Interested in being part of this group? E-mail Tracy Cirone at [president@bcrcva.org](mailto:president@bcrcva.org).

### **Seeking Beth Chaverim Webmaster**

Immediate help is needed to help maintain and update Beth Chaverim's website. To find out more about this great volunteer opportunity, e-mail Tracy Cirone at [president@bcrcva.org](mailto:president@bcrcva.org).

### **CHAVTY Volunteer Needed**

Beth Chaverim's Youth Group needs a Youth Group Advisor for Junior CHAVTY. Responsibilities include programming three local events for the youth in grades 6-8. The current CHAVTY Youth Group Advisor (grades 9-12) and last year's Junior CHAVTY Advisor will be happy to assist you in all aspects of this commitment. An active youth group helps to instill Jewish identity, foster a commitment to Reform Judaism ideals and values, and increases synagogue participation among our youth. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Bari Barton Cooper at [youthgroupvp@bcrcva.org](mailto:youthgroupvp@bcrcva.org).

### **Musicians Needed for Shabbat Services**

We are looking for musicians to participate in Friday night Shabbat services as accompanists for our cantorial soloists. Our plan is to have a group of three or four musicians participate in one or two services per month. With enough participants, you may only be asked to play once each month. The liturgy is easy to learn though occasional rehearsals are also part of the commitment. Guitar, bass, keyboard, drum set, flute, clarinet,

violin, are all welcome, as are any other instruments appropriate for a religious service. Please contact Marc Benezra at [marcbenezra@gmail.com](mailto:marcbenezra@gmail.com) if interested.

### **HELP WANTED!! Beth Chaverim wants you!**

Beth Chaverim is in search of a reliable and enthusiastic Volunteer Corps to assist Rabbi Linda Joseph with administrative tasks in the temple office. Male and female members, young and old, and all points in between. Monday through Friday for 3 hour shifts. Please email Muriel Gardner at [executivevp@bcrcva.org](mailto:executivevp@bcrcva.org) or (703) 858-7080 for further information.

### **B'Nai Mitzvah Coordinator Needed**

The Worship Committee is looking for a 3rd volunteer on the b'nai mitzvah Committee. This is a great opportunity for someone looking for a fulfilling way to get involved at Beth Chaverim, especially someone with a bar or bat mitzvah on the horizon. There will be about 30 b'nai mitzvot over the next 2 years, and about 20 each year after that. In addition, the committee is planning to make the program more meaningful for the b'nai mitzvah students and needs additional hands to do so. Please contact Liz Matson at [bnaimitzvah@bcrcva.org](mailto:bnaimitzvah@bcrcva.org) for additional information.

### **Are You Interested in Joining a Committee?**

Our busy Temple is in need of creative people who might want to become involved in a Temple committee. "I'm too busy for a committee," you reply. "Do not fear." Committees can take up lots of time or take up little time. Try one out and see how it feels. No commitments required. You could consider the Ways & Means (fundraising) Committee or the House Affairs Committee. Think about Social, Membership, Worship (ritual), Caring Committee (helping hands), the Education Committee or help with Budget & Finance (Treasurer) or Youth Group. Please contact the committee VP/chair ([www.bcrcva.org/about-lead.htm](http://www.bcrcva.org/about-lead.htm)) if you are interested or have questions.

## HELP SHAPE OUR FUTURE ...

# Join the Nominating Committee!

Join the Nominating Committee to assist in securing the future of Beth Chaverim! Your participation in this vital, short-term project simply involves reaching out, via telephone, to congregants to fill various Board and committee positions. This year is especially challenging, since we have many important positions to fill. Please contact me at 703-771-3393 or [rosas4ucla@verizon.net](mailto:rosas4ucla@verizon.net) by January 7th, which is when I will confirm the committee. As a note to congregants, please welcome these phone calls from your Nominating Committee members and truly consider taking a role in the future of Beth Chaverim. I hope to hear from you!

*Jody Rosas, Nominating Committee Chair*



WORDS FROM WORSHIP

Flexibility and diversity has always been a cornerstone for our congregation. This year we are experimenting with various service models.

The first Friday is family service at 7:00PM. Congregants with birthdays and anniversaries during the up coming month will be notified by email to join us for special recognition. Celebrants of all ages are invited to the bimah for a special blessing and to partake in the blessings for the challah and wine.

The third Friday is children's service at 6:30PM followed by adult service at 7:15PM (note new time). That posed an interesting dilemma, "How do we do two onegs on one night with one set of helper families?" Innovation being our middle name, we have invented the "PRENEG". Starting with the January 21, 2011 services the children's service will end at 7:15PM with the candle lighting. Those congregants coming to the adult service will also be present for the candle lighting. Everyone will be invited to

participate in the PRENEG. The adult prayer service will begin at 7:30PM after the oneg. There will be no additional oneg following adult services. The helper families will only have to bring food and set up/clean up for one oneg.

This year's December Shabbat services fall on two interesting dates, December 24th and 31st. What should we do when so many congregants will have vacation and social plans? Let's mix things up a little.

December 24th Shabbat services will start at 6:30PM followed by a potluck dessert oneg and game night for those who would like to stay. Please bring your games to play with others. (Scrabble, Mah Jong, Mexican Train, Candyland, Chutes and Ladders, etc) All congregants, young and not so young, singles, families and friends are encouraged to attend. Please RSVP to Muriel Gardner at executivevp@bcrcva.org.

There will be no Shabbat service on New Year's Eve, December 31st.

The board wishes everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

The transition committee has sponsored several "Havdallahs in the Hood". Havdallah is a short but meaningful service separating Shabbat from the rest of the week. The January 29, 2011 Havdallah in Hood will be an event for everyone, young and not so young, single, couples, families and friends. Please attend our community celebration of Havdallah. The schedule is:

- 6:30** Children's Havdallah Crafts **Social Hall**
- 7:00** Havdallah Service for Everyone - **Sanctuary**
- 7:30** Ice Cream Social **Social Hall**
- 7:30** Wine & Cheese Reception **Lobby**

I welcome congregants' suggestions and comments on these and other service models.

Sue Benzra, Worship VP

### News from the Library

A big thank you goes to the Sisterhood for donating so many wonderful books to the Ulrich Library. Also, Rabbi Lev Baesh donated several boxes of excellent Judaica books. Shelley Sheinwald and I worked to sort, stamp, and label them all to arrange them on the shelves just in time for you to check them out!

We especially have a terrific assortment of Hanukkah books for children. They are on display just waiting for you and your family. Just sign them out on the sheet labeled "sign out sheet" and bring them back and check out some more.

The Ulrich Library has a selection of fiction and nonfiction books, so come on down!

B'Shalom, Sharon Solomon

*Mazel  
Tov*

Congratulations to David and Barbara Mendelsohn on the birth of their great granddaughter Shaelyn Nasya Lloyd born on September 6, 2010.

Congratulations to Larry and Nadine Schneider on the birth of their grandson Jackson Elias DeJarnette born on October 8, 2010.

Congratulations to Caren and Arnold Thorner on the birth of their second grandson, Ari Jacob Goldwasser, born October 29, 2010.



## CHAVTY

CHAVTY, our youth group for 9th-12th graders, has had a wonderful first quarter. We have traveled for two NFTY weekends, one in September and one in November. We had a record 13 students go to Havre de Grace, Maryland to participate in Fall Kallah. We are selling bagels and donuts on Sundays to raise money to offset the costs of our programs. CHAVTY also led Friday night services on November 19th, and we are planning a scavenger hunt/sleepover party on December 4th.

Junior CHAVTY is our program for 6th through 8th grade. In October, the 6th graders had their very first lock-in, a sleepover at the synagogue. It was very successful, and we had a wonderful time. I am planning a weekend away with the 7th and 8th graders on January 28-30 to Temple Rodef Shalom in Falls Church.

### Other news...

Room parents have been very busy planning activities for each of the grades. I hope you have all had a chance to mix and mingle with your children and their religious school friends.

Also, we are starting the first ever Youth Choir. We will be practicing once per month on Mondays from 6:30-7:30PM. At this time we have seven children enrolled, and we would love to have more. All 4th through 12th graders are welcome. Please contact Bari Cooper at [baribartoncooper@gmail.com](mailto:baribartoncooper@gmail.com) if your child is interested in participating.

Thinking about what to do with your 4th to 12th grader this summer? Consider sending your children to a Jewish overnight summer camp. Jewish overnight camping has long been regard-

ed as one of the most powerful Jewish identity-building tools. Visit [www.urjcamps.org](http://www.urjcamps.org) for further information. Especially consider Camp Harlam in Pennsylvania and 6 Points (a sports camp) in North Carolina. Megan Sammon and Seth Cooper of our congregation attended Camp Harlam last summer, and they both loved it.

Additionally, if it would be your child's first time going to a URJ overnight camp, there is a grant for up to \$1,000 to offset the cost. The Jewish Federation awards \$1,000 incentive grants to first-time campers attending an approved Jewish overnight camp for at least 19 consecutive days. Eligible campers must also be entering grades 1-12 (after camp), live in the Greater Washington DC area, and attend a public or secular private school. Please note the following: families can access the online grant application hyperlink at [www.shalomdc.org/onehappycamper](http://www.shalomdc.org/onehappycamper). However, don't wait too long because applications are accepted on a rolling basis and limited funding is available. Please contact Rachel Anolik at (301) 348-7330 or [onehappycamper@shalomdc.org](mailto:onehappycamper@shalomdc.org) with questions regarding the grant.

Of course, the URJ camps are by no means the only Jewish overnight camps in the area. Several of our congregants have attended and loved Capitol camps, Camps Ari & Louise or Emma Kaufman. The program doesn't matter as much as the experience. So, if you can afford the cost of these camps (which is significant), your child will retain the benefits for the rest of their lives. Please consider a Jewish Summer Camp as an option for this summer.

*Bari Barton Cooper, CHAVTY Advisor*

## INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM CLASSES

Covering an outline of Jewish history, thought and theology, and an introduction to Jewish holidays and life cycle ceremonies.

### **DC/Maryland**

**Beginning February 23, 2011**

Washington Hebrew Congregation  
Washington, DC  
Wednesday evenings  
7:00-9:00

**Instructor: Rabbi Stephanie Bernstein**

### **Northern VA**

**Beginning February 10, 2011**

Temple Rodef Shalom  
Falls Church, Va.  
Thursday evenings  
7:30 – 9:30

**Instructor: Rabbi Stephanie Bernstein**

For further information, please contact  
**Rabbi Stephanie Bernstein**, Coordinator and Teacher  
**Introduction to Judaism**

Union for Reform Judaism, Washington, DC metropolitan area  
**301-229-6008**





BOARD SPOTLIGHT



### Carol Rhodes

I moved to the Northern Virginia area from Los Angeles almost 20 years ago with my husband Mitch, and two children, Bryan and Alison. No, I am not a native Californian, and neither is my husband. We were both transplanted Easterners. I am from Queens, and Mitch is from Allentown, PA. We both went to California for jobs after college, and met there. After many years in California working as engineers for what used to be known as TRW, we had an opportunity to move east. With our family on this coast, we jumped at the chance.

After working for several years as an engineer in Virginia, I fulfilled a dream of becoming a teacher. I quit my job, went back to school, and got certified to teach math in high school.

In the meantime, my children grew up, and I don't know where the time went. That was 15 years ago, and I have since retired.

After becoming an "empty nester," I went searching for a Jewish community. I visited several different congregations, but nothing compared to the welcome I received at Beth Chaverim at one of the "infamous" Jammin' Shabbat Services. There is no question why our congregation is called the "House of Friends". After joining, I jumped right in, offering my teaching experience to serve as a Judaics Sunday school teacher. Shortly after, I joined the board as the Bulletin VP. Joining Beth Chaverim has enriched my life, through the friends I made, the Adult Education classes I have taken, the children and parents on Sundays, and the experience of being part of a caring Jewish community.

I love retirement! I spend a lot of my time tutoring math; however, my real passion is the sport of dog agility. I am enrolled in training classes with my dog Queenie. We enter trials, win a few ribbons now and then, and have a good time. We'll never make to the Nationals, but we can keep trying!

## Winter Wonderland Dance TEEN DANCE

Sunday, January 16, 2011 at 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Disc Jockey, Food\*, Door Prizes, and more....

FOR GRADE 9 – 12 ONLY

ADMISSION IS \$8.00 WITH THIS AD \$10.00 WITHOUT AD

\*reflects extra fees apply

### LOCATION

Beth Chaverim Reform Congregation

21740 Beaumeade Circle, Suite 100, Ashburn, VA 20147



## Winter Wonderland Festival

Sunday, January 16, 2011 at 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Disc Jockey, Moon Bounce, Food\*, Games\*, Prizes, and more

FOR GRADES 1- 8 ONLY

ADMISSION IS \$8.00 WITH THIS AD — \$10.00 WITHOUT AD

\*reflects extra fees apply

### LOCATION

Beth Chaverim Reform Congregation

21740 Beaumeade Circle, Suite 100





## From the URJ Conference in Atlanta, Georgia

I have the distinct pleasure of writing my article for this months bulletin from the URJ Conference in Atlanta, GA. I have been attending various seminars aimed at small to mid-sized congregations on Fundraising, budgeting, technology and leadership development. The convention has so far provided me with a vast amount of information and some great ideas that I look forward to bringing back to the congregation to share with everyone. However, for now, I will focus on the aspects of the upcoming events and happenings of our Ways and Means Committee.

The most important topic that I really feel needs attention, and was brought out in the URJ conference, was the need for our congregants to get involved and help. We need people to step up and take a role in the activities and functions that we have planned during the year, so that these events can be successful and generate the funds not only from our own congressional members, but also from the community as a whole. So, what I am asking, is as you read through the list of activities that are already planned for the remainder of the budget year (July 1- June 30), that you please find in yourself a few hours that you can dedicate to help and volunteer with our committee to protect the financial future of Beth Chaverim Reform Congregation. Our committee meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 7pm, or you can simply send me an e-mail at [waysandmeansvp@bcrcva.org](mailto:waysandmeansvp@bcrcva.org) and I will be more than happy to either find a time to meet with you individually and tell you what you can do to help, or just simply reply via e-mail what we need. We all have outside talents that can be utilized to help our Temple in one way or another and make a difference in our daily lives.

Now that my pledge for help and support, let me share with you the activities we have planned that we need your help with making a success for Beth Chaverim. I reiterate that I do not ask you to step up and volunteer to work or assist with all these events, although I would not turn that down, but just pick one event and dedicate 2-3 hours of your time to help us in planning and preparing for the event, and I hope this goes without saying, but please try and attend as many as possible.

### **Sunday, January 16**

#### **Winter Wonderland Festival – 2pm – 5pm Grades 1 – 8**

This event will be open and publicized to all of Loudoun and Fairfax County area as well as others who wish to attend. It is for all denominations and with focus on the “coexist” logo/slogan. At this event, will be a DJ, games, contests, as well as food and beverages. The charge for the event is \$10.00, although we will be handing out \$2.00 off coupons in Sunday school as well as have them downloadable on the website. The coupon that your child receives will be valid for as many people as they bring to the event. Additionally, the games will be \$.25 per game and tickets for prizes will be awarded. The snack bar will have food and drinks available for a fee. The final item will be the “coexist” shirts and BCRC Spirit Wear will be available for purchase.

#### **Winter Wonderland Dance – 7pm – 10pm Grades 9 – 12**

As with the above event, this event will be open and publicized to all of Loudoun and Fairfax County area as well as others who wish to attend. It is for all denominations and with focus on the “coexist” logo/slogan. The biggest difference is that the event will have activities focused more to the age appropriate group it is serving. There will be a DJ and some typical games you would see take place at any High School aged dance. The charge for the event is \$10.00, although we will be handing out \$2.00 off coupons in Sunday school as well as have them downloadable on the website. The coupon that your child receives will be valid for as many people as they bring to the event. . The snack bar will have food and drinks available for a fee. The final item will be the “coexist” shirts and BCRC Spirit Wear will be available for purchase.

### **Saturday, February 12**

#### **Doors open at 6pm Auction at 7:30pm**

The first bi-annual Beth Chaverim Reform Congregation Live and Silent Art and Sports Memorabilia Auction. The event will be publicized to the community as a whole. We are working with the Washington Redskins in getting at least one player in attendance for an autograph and meet and greet session. Marlin Art Auctions will be brings some great pieces of artwork and conducting the live portion of our auction. The artwork will have starting prices below \$50.00 and the event should be a great social and fun evening for all that attends. Beth Chaverim will be receiving a percentage of the art sales from Marin Art Auctions, we receive all the money from the ticket sales, all the funds from the advertising sales in the Auction program, and all money raised in the silent auction portion. I am sure you can see that this event has a great potential to be a tremendous fundraising source for Beth Chaverim, but you can also see the tremendous amount of work this is going to take to make it a success. Ticket prices for this event are: Individuals \$20.00; Couples \$30.000; Families \$40.00, and includes cheese, wine, and non-alcoholic beverages. Please visit the website [www.bcrcva.org](http://www.bcrcva.org) for more information and additional updates about this exciting event.

### **Saturday, March 5 8:00pm – 9:30pm**

Jewish Comedian Keith Barany “Comedy that’s real, just not vulgar”. - The NY Post as states Keith Barany as “The wittiest comedian working today.” He has helped write such shows as: Seinfeld, Politically Incorrect, The Jimmy Kimmel Show, The 2004 Emmy Awards. Additionally, Mr. Barany has traveled 5 times in the last 4 years to our troops oversees as part of their entertainment program. He has performed at such venues as: The Stardust, Trumps Casinos, The Claridge, The Excalidur, Caesar’s Palace, The Tropicana and Resorts International. Finally, Mr. Barany has worked alongside such stars as: Bob Hope, Jerry Seinfeld, Joan Rivers, Ray Romano, Jon

*(Continued on page 13)*



## Leesburg Area Active Retirees Study Different Religion's Approaches to the Coming of the Messiah

Join us on Monday, December 20th at 10:30am in the Leisure World Clubhouse when Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) Instructor, Steven Goldman will discuss the Messianic Prophecies of the Hebrew Scriptures. Mr. Goldman will offer Jewish and Christian interpretations of the Messiah using Biblical text. Mr. Goldman is co-chair of the Philosophy, Ethics and Religion Resource Group at OLLI where his goal is to develop an interesting and varied religious studies program. Mr. Goldman teaches several classes while pursuing his lifelong interest in theology. Please RSVP by December 16.

On Monday, January 16th, we will celebrate our group's 5th Anniversary with a unique musical program featuring Jamey Turner, well-known glass harpist. Join us for a mix of music on his glass

harp! See how he lines up brandy glasses filled with distilled water and plays Broadway show tunes, Hebrew and Yiddish music and, classical and patriotic songs with his glass harp. This program is a delightful combination of nostalgic music and the science of sound that you will not want to miss! Jamey has performed all over the country including Lincoln Center, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the New Orleans Jazz Festival, the Kennedy Center, the National Symphony Orchestra, the Tonight Show, the Today Show, Disney World, and in so many venues including Jewish weddings and bar mitzvahs. Please RSVP by January 10th. The snow date is Monday, January 24. This program is also at Leisure World in the Clubhouse.

The Active Retirees are a warm and friendly group of men and women 55+.

We are an outreach group. Newcomers are always welcome! Our meetings are usually scheduled for the 3rd Monday of the month at Congregation Sha'are Shalom or Leisure World at 10:30am. Join us for guest speakers, trips, holiday celebrations, and "schmoozing." The Active Retirees group is funded by the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia and graciously supported by Congregation Sha'are Shalom and Leisure World in Lansdowne. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Hope Aponte at 703- 368-4807 or e-mail [leesburgseniors@comcast.net](mailto:leesburgseniors@comcast.net).

\*\*Snow policy- If Loudoun County schools are closed, our meeting is canceled. If Loudoun County schools have a delayed opening, we will have our meeting at the regular time.

— Hope Aponte, Coordinator

### WAYS AND MEANS

*(Continued from page 12)*

Stewart, Joy Behar, Lewis Black, and Ray Charles. While at the time of the publishing of this newsletter the ticket pricing has not yet been established, there will be two different ticket levels: Regular and Gold Circle. The difference will be that the Gold Circle ticket will include a post show meet and greet with Dessert. Please watch the BCRC website at [www.bcrcva.org](http://www.bcrcva.org) for additional information as ticket pricing and availability should be posted by mid-December and we expect this event to sell out. It is a great opportunity for a comical entertaining night with not only your Jewish friends and family, but your non-Jewish ones as well.

These are the next 3 events that are already scheduled and confirmed. We have 2 additional events that we are working on to conclude our year, but again, we need more help. Please look inside yourself and into your heart and help us make Beth Chaverim a stronger family and partake in volunteering for one of the many committees that we have. Shabbat Shalom.

### FROM THE RABBIS STUDY

*(Continued from page 1)*

Rabbis have long stopped protesting this practice which was so foreign to our tradition at its beginning.

Often we think that how we practice Judaism is crafted by the rabbis who are the teachers of our religion -- that the rabbi is the "real" Jew for us and knows the "real" Jewish way of doing things. But Chanukah, a minor festival, teaches us that there is an enormous power of the people in shaping and forming Jewish practice. What you do and how you frame it creates a meaningful Jewish life for you and your children. So as you fashion your Jewish practice in your family and alongside this community, learn and yearn to do it with "Jewish eyes." Ask the question, "What makes the things you do Jewish?"

At my installation in the congregation last month, I spoke about the partnership that we are building together to create a meaningful Judaism for each one of us here in Loudoun County. Truly, it is a partnership between the rabbis and the people who create a vibrant and meaningful Jewish tradition. Let's be creative and Jewish together!

## Inclement Weather Policy

If religious school is canceled due to inclement weather, the decision will be made by 7:30am. There are three ways to check for BCRC weather cancellations and delays:

1. BCRC will send out a special e-mail announcement to members.
  2. Check the WTOP website or listen to WTOP on the radio (103.5 FM or 107.7 FM).
  3. BCRC will update the outgoing message on our phone line 703-729-1659.
- If services are canceled due to inclement weather, BCRC will send out a special e-mail announcement to members and update the outgoing message on our phone line 703-729-1659.



## Sisterhood Dilemma

Sisterhood survives on the membership of our female member's dues of \$36 per member, the gift shop sales and the few fundraisers we do each year to continue supporting the congregation and community in multiple ways. Each year we supply a mezuzah to each of our b'nai mitzvah students as gifts. Purchasing mezuzot and the gift cards we present to our teachers each year at the appreciation breakfast are Sisterhood's largest yearly expense, not including our annual donations to different temple fundraisers or projects.

This year, we are at our lowest number of Sisterhood members. Our dilemma is do we continue the tradition of supplying handcrafted mezuzot to all our students even though so few support Sisterhood? Do we only gift the mezuzot to children of our Sisterhood members or do we discontinue doing it all together? Do we discontinue giving each teacher and classroom aide a gift card for their service to our community? None of these solutions are perfect, but how do we continue to supply these gifts if we don't have the funds coming in and the support? I have asked a few women why they have chosen not to join and support Sisterhood. I have been told they don't like what we do, or they would

prefer to directly support the synagogue. I also have heard that some feel they do not have time to attend monthly Sisterhood events and add more to their already-busy schedules. No one has to attend every event to be a member, you can always present new ideas, and we do directly support Beth Chaverim Reform Congregation and all our members. We hope what we choose to do benefits everyone and the community at large.

What we do know is that without your support we will not be able to make the multiple contributions to the temple and greater community and accomplish the many wonderful things we try to do for the temple. We are only able to continue our good deeds with your support through dues, gift shop sales and fundraisers such as the used book sale. All we need is your participation to meet the goals of Sisterhood, which are to provide funds and service to the congregation, to nourish our souls, to celebrate our Jewish connections and to form lasting bonds of Sisterhood and friendship.

*If you would like information on how to join and support Sisterhood, please contact [sisterhood@bcrcva.org](mailto:sisterhood@bcrcva.org)*

Renee Gupp, Sisterhood President



## Sisterhood Upcoming Dates

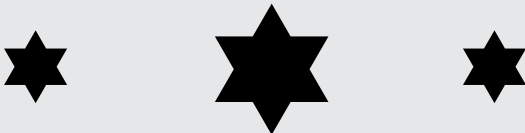
Dec 5	Cookie Exchange	Mar 17	Hamantashen Baking
Dec 12	Rosh Chodesh at 12-1 in Library	Apr 3	Rosh Chodesh at Noon
Dec 18	Havdallah in the Hood	Apr 10	Miriam's Seder
Jan 9	Yenta swap	May 15	Sisterhood Teacher Appreciation Breakfast
Feb 5	Mother & Daughter Havdallah Dinner	Jun 5	Rosh Chodesh at Noon
Feb 6	Rosh Chodesh at Noon	Jun 12	Closing Program – Rosenthal craft
Mar 13	Film Festival		

## Rabbi Joseph's Office Hours

Rabbi Linda Joseph will have office hours on  
Mondays from 10am - 1pm and  
Thursdays from 3pm - 6pm.

Other times can be made by appointment.

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



## What Crafting Fun!

Approximately a dozen women enjoyed an evening of card making, candle rolling, and decoupage at the Sisterhood Chanukah Craft Night. By far, the highlight of the night was when congregant Dianne Andruzzi of Stampin' Up (<http://www.stampwithdianne.stampinup.net>) led us in creating beautiful Chanukah cards to make and send to soldiers. We all walked away with a handmade card we made for a loved one as well. We look forward to seeing more of you at our next Sisterhood event (please refer to calendar above!). We thank Dianne for not only sharing her talents and time with us, but also donating her supplies.



## Casting Call

Sometimes when my family gets together, we play a little game where we cast key roles in the movies of our lives. So, it goes like this. One person asks, “Who would play you in the movie?” and then all of the others chime in with their best guesses. Sometimes the casting is based on outward physical appearance, sometimes on personality, and sometimes on some factor that no one can explain. I’m torn between Sandra Bullock and Minnie Driver to play me, the cute brother from *Wings* who is now on *Private Practice* to play my husband, some undiscovered but wonderfully adorable and talented kids to play my children...Sally Field to play my mom....and the list goes on and on. Or does it? Once I get beyond my family, I start to get fuzzy. You know how in books that are made into

movies the screenwriters usually eliminate some characters, exaggerate others, and combine some of the rest into new, more interesting pivotal roles? Which of my friendships would be represented in the film adaptation of the book that is my life? Why isn’t this more clear? My immediate answer is an echo of what I hear from everyone else, “My life is just so busy with baseball, scouts, PTA, and carpool that it is hard to find time for anything outside of my family.” But if I look deeper, there **is** another answer. Simply put, reaching out to other people in a meaningful way takes a lot of effort. I could **carve** out the time if I could muster up the effort. If I look carefully, I find that the relationships that are the least important to me are the ones that are receiving the bulk of my time...the

random mother sitting next to me during the baseball games, the parents I meet through school activities and speak to in 20 minute chunks once a month, the neighbor who corners me at the bus stop to tell me all kinds of things about her marriage that I should never know. All the while, I watch the women whose company I most enjoy, passing by me in the revolving door of life.... hastily returned phone calls, hurried waves in the carpool lane, and sincerely delivered invitations to get together and catch up, which never seem to turn into the coffee date we would both enjoy. As we pass through this season of miracles, I plan to pencil in a few of those Starbucks rendezvous as a special gift to myself. I encourage you to do the same, and I’d love to hear how it goes.

— Dianne Andruzzi, Membership VP

## The Beth Chaverim Reform Congregation Board Members and Primary Contacts

NAME	POSITION	EMAIL
Tracy Cirone	President	president@bcrcva.org
Muriel Gardner	Executive VP	executivevp@bcrcva.org
Sue Benezra	Worship VP	worshipvp@bcrcva.org
Sharon Chiat	Education VP	educationvp@bcrcva.org
Dianne Andruzzi	Membership VP	membershipvp@bcrcva.org
Lyle Lasky	Ways & Means VP	waysandmeansvp@bcrcva.org
Lynn Blumen	Social VP	socialvp@bcrcva.org
Shelly Slebrch	Recording Secretary/Weekly Blast	secretary@bcrcva.org
Katherine Fuller	Treasurer	treasurer@bcrcva.org
Jamy Cole-Judd	Financial Secretary	financialsec@bcrcva.org
Jody Rosas	Public Relations VP	publicrelationsvp@bcrcva.org
Carol Rhodes	Bulletin VP	bulletinvp@bcrcva.org
Bari Cooper	Youth Group VP	youthgroupvp@bcrcva.org
Leslie Skaer	House Affairs VP	houseaffairsvp@bcrcva.org
David Mendelsohn/Jason Cooper	Brotherhood President	brotherhood@bcrcva.org
Marshall Medoff	Immediate Past President	colbyseider@gmail.com
Renee Gupp	Sisterhood President/Past Temple President	sisterhood@bcrcva.org
Muriel Gardner	Acting Woodstock Gang Coordinator	woodstockgang@bcrcva.org
Ray Daffner	Tikva Committee Chair	tikva@bcrcva.org
Liz Matson	B’nai Mitzvah Coordinator	feistynnyfan@hotmail.com
Rabbi Linda Joseph		rabbi@bcrcva.org



THANK YOU

**Torah Fund**

Claire and Charles Brunner donated in honor of Chris Brodner on his birthday  
The Lourenco family donated in memory of Martin Horner, father of Sue Benezra, and wishes for a speedy recovery for Marc Benezra

**Building Fund**

Marty and Faith Shoup donated in memory of Martin Horner, father of Sue Benezra  
Caren and Aronld Thorner donated to congratulate Jill and Jan Weiner on the marriage of their son  
Caren and Aronld Thorner donated in memory of Danielle Edgell's Aunt  
Caren and Aronld Thorner donated in honor of the installation of Rabbi Joseph  
Caren and Aronld Thorner donated in honor of David Mendelsohn 75th birthday

**General Fund**

Marc and Sue Benezra donated in memory of Hilda Forrest, aunt of Danielle Edgell  
Marc and Sue Benezra donated in memory of Frances Tanarkin, friend of Ellen Kane  
Marc and Sue Benezra donated in memory of Risa Nicholas, Aunt of Ellen Kane  
Donald and Danielle Edgell donated in honor of Sue Birenbaum, mother of Anne Wasserman  
Danielle and Don Edgell donated in memory of Martin Horner  
Jeff and Raleigh Karatz donated in honor of Martin Horner  
Ellen Luyahov  
Sharon McDaniel donated in memory of Wendy Held  
Irene A. McGuinness donated in memory of Wendy Herst Held  
David and Barbara Mendelsohn donated in memory of Harry Mendelsohn (David's father)  
David and Barbara Mendelsohn donated in memory of Ralph Nader (Barbara's Father)  
David and Barbara Mendelsohn donated in honor of Andrew Matson's bar mitzvah  
David and Barbara Mendelsohn donated to celebrate the birth of Ari Jacob, grandson of Caren and Arnold Thorner

Diane and Phil Rosenblum donated in memory of Martin Horner, father of Sue Benezra  
Joyce and Oliver Schueftan donated in memory of Martin Horner  
Josephine Taylor and family donated in honor of Martin Horner

**Kol Nidre**

Abigail Champagne and Paul Mermelstein  
Sharon and Jonathan Chiat donated in honor of their children, Sydney and Carly  
Bari and Jason Cooper and family made a Stone Purchase  
Darrin and Stacy Kafka  
D.S. Martin and F.E. Martin donated in honor of Susan Mandel Giblin

**Prayer Book Fund**

Betty and Irwin Sacks donated in memory of Wendy Herst Held

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

Artie and Lori Baran donated in honor of Baby Naming Kylie Beth Baran  
Sue Levi Elwell donated in honor of the installation of Rabbi Linda Joseph  
Lawrence Held donated in honor of Wendy Held  
John and Marcy Manning donated in memory of Wendy Held  
Lois and Ken Rubin donated in honor of the Installation of Rabbi Linda Joseph  
Soop and Janis Saferstein donated in honor of the Installation of Rabbi Linda Joseph  
Soop and Janis Saferstein donated in honor of Minnie Saferstein  
Soop and Janis Saferstein donated in memory of Jan's brother and sister-in-law, Ben and Phyllis  
Char Truax and Allen Sparer donated in honor of the Installation of Rabbi Linda Joseph

**Thank you to:**

Bari and Jason Cooper for donating the book cart used for the Sanctuary in memory of Martin Horner, father of Sue Benezra.  
Sheldon and Muriel Gardner for donating Yahrzeit notices



**Adrian Blakeney Welch**

REALTOR  
RE/MAX Premier  
44675 Cape Court #110  
Ashburn, VA 20147  
Direct 703-673-8400  
adrianblakeneywelch@remax.net

Refer a client and I will make a Tzedakah contribution in your name to BCRC.

**Your ad could go here**

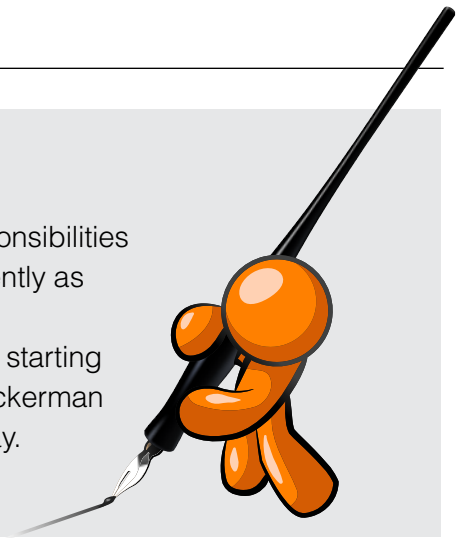
**contact  
cjrbulletin@yahoo.com**

**if interested**



## Corresponding Secretary

We welcome Claire Brunner who has graciously agreed to take on the responsibilities of corresponding secretary. We hope you all will be hearing from her frequently as she responds to your generous donations to Beth Chaverim by sending out Thank You notes and notifying those who have been honored. Claire will be starting this new position on December 1st. At this time, we bid farewell to Lenka Ackerman who has performed this function for several years in a most professional way. Many thanks to you Lenka. You have set a very high standard to follow.



### ANNIVERSARIES

#### December

Sheldon & Muriel Gardner	December 21
Charles & Stacey Randolph	December 28
Larry & Carol Stein	December 28

#### January

Andrew & Jennifer Kasmer	January 1
Tony & Karen Cangolosi	January 4
Rick & Fallon Shuman	January 11
Joseph & Tracy Cirone	January 12
Alvin & Sandra Frager	January 12
Seth & Stephanie Siegel	January 13
David & Barbara Mendelsohn	January 31

## Beth Chaverim Reform Congregation Directions

21740 Beaumeade Circle, Suite 100  
Ashburn, VA 20147 703-729-1659

**From the West, Route 7:** Go East on Rt 7 from Leesburg. Right turn at the light onto Loudoun County Parkway. Proceed past Redskins Park, under the W&OD trail. Turn Right at the 3rd Right onto Beaumeade Circle. Continue around and the light red brick building will be on the left (opposite a large white building housing the Christian Fellowship church)

**From the East or South:** Take Rt 28 North (Sully Road) from the Dulles Toll road. Proceed for about 2 miles, take Left exit onto Waxpool Road. Proceed through 2 lights. Right at the 3rd light, Loudoun County Parkway, (Rt 607). Left at first intersection onto Beaumeade Circle. The light red brick building on the right, with parking along the front is our new home.



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### BIRTHDAYS

#### December

Brenda Goodman	December 1	Jan Weiner	December 23	Jared Blumberg	January 7
Amy Lourenco	December 1	Cary Judd	December 24	Daryl Braiman-Bloom	January 8
Billie Medoff	December 2	Megan Fogelson	December 26	Jonathan Peiken	January 8
Daniel Sexton	December 4	Jacob Daffner	December 27	Rose-Joan Barron	January 9
Emily Helmes	December 6	Henry Helmes	December 28	Carly Chiat	January 9
Andrea Kammann	December 7	Michael Pritchard	December 28	Edward Hild	January 9
Joseph Soifer	December 8	Joshua Tucker	December 28	Jeffrey Meech	January 9
Matthew Blumen	December 10	Sara Bass	December 29	Douglas Steil	January 10
David Brazer	December 10	Jamie Blumberg	December 29	Brian Vought	January 11
Rick Shuman	December 10	Brenda Shelonko	December 29	Marty Shoup	January 13
Betsy Siegel	December 10	Elizabeth Cooper	December 30	Jonah Giblin	January 15
Emily Vought	December 11	Benjamin Leventhal	December 30	Joshua Mayer	January 15
Jan Saferstein	December 12	Teresa Tilles	December 30	Chris Smith	January 17
Keith Cooperman	December 13	Joseph Pritt	December 31	Ilana Deigh	January 19
Curtis Waters	December 13			Russ Blumen	January 20
Valerie Rubenstein	December 15	<b>January</b>		Carolyn Mars Angioli	January 20
William Gupp	December 18	Kevin Judd	January 1	Sarah Welz	January 20
Jacob Eckhaus	December 19	Camryn Randolph	January 1	David Holberton	January 22
Molly Fuller	December 19	Ethan Welch	January 1	Tracy Cirone	January 24
Adam Fischel	December 20	Francie Bernier	January 4	William Berry	January 27
Carla Fishman	December 20	Celia Lechtman	January 4	Stacia Villagomez	January 27
Kathy Klass	December 20	Eden Cooperman	January 5	Nadine Schneider	January 29
Dani Waters	December 21	Celeste Pack	January 5	Phil Kane	January 30
Stacy Blumberg	December 23	Earl Suitor	January 6	Howard Solomon	January 30

### YAHREZEITS

#### December

Mary Adler	Aunt of David Mendelsohn	Maurice Berman	Grandfather of Renee Gupp
Robert Bolande	Father of Ame Persaud	Marjorie Cahn Brazer	Mother of David Brazer
Sophie Boumel	Grandmother of Dani Waters	Jill Chiat	Mother of Jonathan Chiat
Ruth Bucholtz	Cousin of Susan Benezra	Goldie Christiano	Mother of Sheila Roberts
Thelma Bucholtz	Cousin of Susan Benezra	Morris Daffner	Uncle of Ray Daffner
Matthew Champagne	Husband of Abigail Champagne, Father of Emily	Phyllis Denmark	Aunt of Marcy Manning
Ann Cirone	Mother of Joseph Cirone	Murry Deutsch	Father of Jill Weiner
Allan Cochlin	Father of Stacy Blumberg	Max Frager	Father of Alvin Frager
Donald Cooperman	Grandfather of Keith Cooperman	Bella Friedman	Great-Grandmother of Michelle Chance
Joseph Denmark	Grandfather of Marcy Manning	Nathan Holoboff	Grandfather of Faith Shoup
Jacob Friedman	Great-Grandfather of Michelle Chance	Stephen Jacobs	Father of Sara Bass
Leonard Gaynor	Father of Vicki Goodman	Joseph Klein	Father of Sharon Solomon
Judith Giblin	Sister of Brian Giblin	Hannah Kline	Grandmother of Elizabeth Cooper
Raymond Grover	Uncle of Muriel Gardner	Ira Livingston	Father of Amy Lourenco
Arthur Kessel	Brother of Jan Saferstein	Laura Meister	Grandmother of Eric Meister
Samuel Kluger	Grandfather of Elizabeth Cooper	Martin Mermelstein	Father of Abby Champagne
Rachel Leibowitz	Mother of Carol Stein	Gladys Novick	Mother of Robin Pergament
Arlene Leventhal	Mother of Seth Leventhal	Rose Portnoy	Grandmother of Lynn Blumen
Rita Meyer	Grandmother of Amy Lourenco	Janice Ralicki	Mother of Carolyn Eckhaus
Marilyn Mintz	Sister of Barabara Mendelsohn	Abe Saferstein	Father of Soop Saferstein
Harriette Schapiro	Cousin of Amy Lourenco	Miriam Shaw	Aunt of Soop Saferstein
Fanny Simon	Grandmother of Lynn Blumen	Sumner Slobodkin	Father of Caren Thorner
Ignatz Stein	Grandfather of Betsy Smith	Frank Steier	Grandfather of Eric Meister
		Henry Steinhardt	Grandfather of Jonathan Chiat
		Eli Sussman	Grandfather of Jody Rosas
		Donald Wildman	Father of Katherine Fuller
		Gerber Wolfe	Grandfather of Carol Fletcher
		Lillian Zelman	Grandmother of Sharon Chiat, Jeff Zelman
<b>January</b>		Lillian Zelman	Grandmother of Eric Zelman
Shirly Arbetter	Mother of Bob Arbetter		
Freida Baran	Grandmother of Faith Shoup		
Ruth Benezra	Mother of Marc Benezra		

# DECEMBER 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Hanukkah	2 Hanukkah 7:00pm Ways and Means Committee Meeting 7:30pm Education Committee Meeting	3 Hanukkah 7:00pm Erev Shabbat Family Service	4 Hanukkah 6:00pm 2nd Grade Hanukkah Themed Havdallah Service
5 Hanukkah 5:00pm Annual Hanukkah Party	6 Hanukkah 1:00pm Lunchin' with the Language of Truth w/Rabbi Joseph	7 Hanukkah 7:30pm What is Chanukkah w/Earl Sutor	8 Hanukkah	9 Hanukkah 7:00pm Board Meeting	10 7:30pm 7th Grade Class Service, Traditional Service	11
12 9:00am 4th & 5th Grade Family Program 9:00am Little Latkes 9:15am Brotherhood Meeting 12:00pm Rosh Chodesh	13 1:00pm Lunchin' with the Language of Truth w/Rabbi Joseph	14	15	16 7:30pm House Affairs Committee Meeting	17 6:30pm Kinder Class Service, Children's Service 7:30pm Erev Shabbat Adult Alternative Service	18 8:00pm Havdallah Service Ashburn - Schneider's host
19 Sisterhood Sunday TBD 10:00am Social Committee Meeting 2:00pm Chavty Meeting	20 1:00pm Lunchin' with the Language of Truth w/Rabbi Joseph	21 7:00pm Executive Committee Meeting 7:30pm Membership Committee Meeting	22	23 Winter Break Loudoun County Public Schools	24 Winter Break Loudoun County Public Schools 6:30pm Service Pot luck Oneg and game night	25
26 CHAVTY Winter Kallah No Religious School	27 CHAVTY Winter Kallah Winter Break Loudoun County Public Schools Winter Break Loudoun County Public Schools 1:00pm Lunchin' with the Language of Truth w/Rabbi Joseph	28 CHAVTY Winter Kallah Winter Break Loudoun County Public Schools	29 CHAVTY Winter Kallah Winter Break Loudoun County Public Schools	30 Winter Break Loudoun County Public Schools	31 Winter Break Loudoun County Public Schools  No Service	

# JANUARY 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 No Religious School	3 1:00pm Lunchin' with the Language of Truth w/Rabbi Joseph	4	5	6 7:00pm Ways and Means Committee Meeting 7:30pm Education Committee Meeting	7 7:00pm Erev Shabbat Family Service	8
9 Sisterhood Sunday TBD 9:00am 2nd & 3rd Grade Family Program 9:00am Little Latkes 9:15am Brotherhood Meeting	10 1:00pm Lunchin' with the Language of Truth w/Rabbi Joseph 7:30pm Worship Committee Meeting	11	12	13 7:00pm Board Meeting	14 7:30pm Erev Shabbat Service	15
16 No Religious School 10:00am Social Committee Meeting 2:00pm Winter Wonderland Festival - Grades 2:00pm Chavty Meeting 7:00pm Winter Wonderland - Grades	17	18 7:30pm Membership Committee Meeting	19 Erev Tu bish'vat	20 Tu bish'vat	21 6:30pm Tu Bish'vat Celebration & Seder & Erev Shabbat	22
23 9:15am Adult Ed Class - "Blessing of a Skinned Knee"	24 1:00pm Lunchin' with the Language of Truth w/Rabbi Joseph	25	26	27 7:00pm Executive Committee Meeting 7:30pm House Affairs Committee Meeting	28 Jr CHAVTY MAJYK 7:30pm Erev Shabbat Service	29 Jr CHAVTY MAJYK 8:00pm Havdallah in the Hood Synagogue
30 Jr CHAVTY MAJYK 9:15am Adult Ed Class - "Blessing of a Skinned Knee" 9:45am Blood Drive	31 1:00pm Lunchin' with the Language of Truth w/Rabbi Joseph					

**Beth Chaverim Reform Congregation**

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**Share news and views with Beth Chaverim at 703-729-1659 or [info@bcrcva.org](mailto:info@bcrcva.org)**