



**AS YOU SIT DOWN TO SHARE
THE THANKSGIVING AND
CHANUKAH FEASTS WITH YOUR
FAMILIES AND FRIENDS, WE
HOPE THAT YOU WILL
REMEMBER ALL OF THE
WONDERFUL THINGS IN YOUR
LIVES FOR WHICH YOU ARE
GRATEFUL. WE HOPE TO SHARE
THOSE WONDERFUL EVENTS
WITH YOU.**

Congregation Yad Shalom
P.O. Box 1557
Centreville, VA 20122
(Ph) 703-579-6079
yadshalom [at] yadshalom.com
www.yadshalom.com

December 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 8th of Kislev, 5769 ח' בכסלו תשס"ט 4:30p Candle lighting	6 9th of Kislev, 5769 ט' בכסלו תשס"ט 6:00p Havdalah (72 min)
7	8	9	10	11	12 SHABBAT DINNER AND SERVICES, LRR #3, 6:30 PM 15th of Kislev, 5769 ט"ו בכסלו תשס"ט 4:30p Candle lighting	13 16th of Kislev, 5769 ט"ז בכסלו תשס"ט 6:00p Havdalah (72 min)
14	15	16	17	18	19 22nd of Kislev, 5769 כ"ב בכסלו תשס"ט 4:33p Candle lighting	20 SERVICES, 10:00 AM, LRR #3 23rd of Kislev, 5769 כ"ג בכסלו תשס"ט 6:03p Havdalah (72 min)
21 24th of Kislev, 5769 כ"ד בכסלו תשס"ט Chanukah: 1 Candle חנוכה: איור	22 25th of Kislev, 5769 כ"ה בכסלו תשס"ט Chanukah: 2 Candles חנוכה: ב' נרות	23 26th of Kislev, 5769 כ"ו בכסלו תשס"ט Chanukah: 3 Candles חנוכה: ג' נרות	24 27th of Kislev, 5769 כ"ז בכסלו תשס"ט Chanukah: 4 Candles וכה: ד' נרות	25 DINNER WITH THE CONGREGATION: SINO INN, CENTREVILLE, 5:00 PM 28th of Kislev, 5769 כ"ח בכסלו תשס"ט Chanukah: 5 Candles חנוכה: ה' נרות	26 29th of Kislev, 5769 כסלו תשס"ט כ"ט ב' Chanukah: 6 Candles חנוכה: ו' נרות 4:36p Candle lighting	27 30th of Kislev, 5769 ל' בכסלו תשס"ט Rosh Chodesh Tevet ראש חודש טבת Chanukah: 7 Candles חנוכה: ז' נרות 6:07p Havdalah (72 min)
28 YS CHANUKAH PARTY – GOLDENZWEIG HOME, 6:00 PM 1st of Tevet, 5769 א' בטבת תשס"ט Rosh Chodesh Tevet ראש חודש טבת Chanukah: 8 Candles חנוכה: ח' נרות	29 2nd of Tevet, 5769 ב' בטבת תשס"ט Chanukah: 8th Day חנוכה: יום ח'	30	31			

YAD SHALOM

KIBBITZER



Kislev - Tevet
5769
December 2008

www.yadshalom.com
[yadshalom\[at\]yadshalom.com](mailto:yadshalom[at]yadshalom.com)

Schedule of Services

DECEMBER

Friday, 12: Shabbat Dinner and Services, 6:30 PM, LRR #3

Saturday, 20: Services, 10:00 AM, LRR #3

Thursday, 25: Dinner with the Congregation, Sino Inn, Centreville, 5:00 PM

Sunday, 28: Chanukah Party, Goldenzweig Home, 6:00 PM

JANUARY

Friday, 9: Services, 8:00 PM

Saturday, 24: Services, 10:00 AM

FEBRUARY

Saturday, 7: Tu B'Shevat Seder, 10:00 AM, LRR #3

Friday, 20: Shabbat Dinner & Service

Please remember that it is the tradition for members of the congregation to bring and snack and/or drink to share for our Oneg Shabbat after services. We thank you, as always, for your generosity.

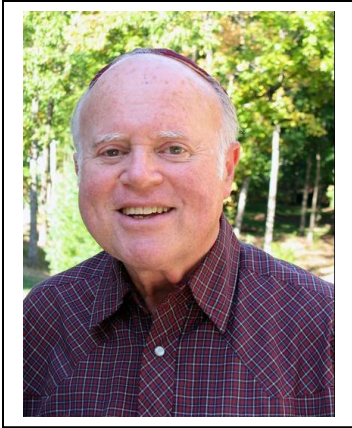


HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS TO:

4 – Edit Braunstein
12 – Sheila Fruman
16 – Dan Bystran
26 – Susan Goldenzweig



8 – Bunny and Jim Wright



Chanting Along With Cantor Zucker

Did you know that there are only 61 days between *Simchat Torah* and the first day of *Chanukah*? *Simchat Torah* is close to the end of the Jewish month of *Tishrei* which started with two days of *Rosh Hashanah*, then came *Yom Kippur* which was on the tenth of *Tishrei* followed shortly thereafter on the fifteenth with *Sukkot* which lasted nine days and ended on *Simchat Torah*. The month of *Tishrei* ends seven days later and the following Jewish month, *Heshvan*, is 29 days. We usually alternate with 29- and 30-day months in our Jewish calendar so that a Jewish year is 354 days long or 11-and-a-quarter days shy of a solar year, which is why we stuff a whole leap month into our calendar in 7 out of every 19 years. This explains why Passover sometimes seems early or Chanukah can feel late, and so on when compared with the regular solar calendar.

And now back to *Simchat Torah*. The first night of *Chanukah* is on the 25th of the Jewish month of *Kislev* so adding the last 7 days of *Tishrei* to 29 days of *Heshvan* plus 25 days until *Chanukah* gives us 61 days. So besides saving up to shop for *Chanukah* gifts, how can we make good use of all this time that is free of celebrated Jewish holidays, especially after all the holidays in the month of *Tishrei*?

We begin the weekly *Torah* reading cycle on *Simchat Torah* when we conclude Deuteronomy that ends with the death of our wonderful Rabbi-Teacher-Leader, Moses, affectionately known as *Moshe Rabbeinu*. Starting on the first *Shabbat* after *Simchat Torah*, we go right into the Story of Creation. Sorry, but Genesis has no dinosaurs or any other creatures that fill our museums of natural history or Steven Spielberg's prehistoric thrillers. For us, the Story of Creation has one lesson which we recite at the Friday night service at the *Kiddush* and that is: God worked six days to create heaven and earth and rested on the seventh day, and so we should also rest on the seventh day after working all week. That's it!

Genesis opens with the Story of Creation of the world in six days. A week later we read about Noah, the flood and the rainbow. Only after three weeks into Genesis do we begin to talk about Jewish families in *parashat Lech-Lecha* when Abraham and Sarah and their nephew (Sarah is childless at the time) make the long trek from Mesopotamia to the Promised Land. In the following week's *parashah*, Abraham and Sarah are stunned to learn they will indeed have a child, even in their old age. Their son, Isaac, will need the right spouse who will succeed Sarah as mistress of the household.

Sarah dies in the 5th *parashah* and Abraham charges his long-time manager, Eliezer, to seek the proper mate for Isaac. Like Sarah, Isaac's wife Rebecca is also childless but learns that she will bear twin boys. Isaac favors the older, Esau, and Rebecca favors the younger, Jacob. Rebecca disguises Jacob into getting the blessing rightfully belonging to the older child from a blind and about-to-expire Isaac. Jacob has to flee the Promised Land when Esau threatens Jacob for tricking him and their father by receiving Isaac's final blessing. Jacob goes all the way back to Rebecca's home and meets his mother's family, and then becomes a son-in-law by marrying his two cousins, Leah and Rachel. Jacob's choice as a wife was Rachel but Laban tricks him into marrying the older sister Leah, first.

After 20 years of working very hard for his uncle and father-in-law, Laban, Jacob undertakes a messy departure what with a huge family including two wives, two handmaidens of his wives (and mothers of several of his children), nearly a dozen sons and a daughter, and an awful lot of sheep and other mobile property. On his way home to his parents, Jacob reunites peacefully with Esau. His wife Rachel dies thereafter during the birth of their youngest son, Benjamin.

Benjamin's older brother, Joseph, is deeply resented by the sons of Leah and the two handmaidens because their father Jacob spoils him. They plot to get rid of him and sell him to slavers who are on their way to Egypt, later convincing Jacob that Joseph lost his life in an incident involving a wild animal. Joseph, who manages to always land on his feet, winds up in jail but gets an opportunity to display his unique talent in interpreting dreams to none other than Pharaoh. Pharaoh is very impressed and appoints Joseph to be in charge of all food production and distribution in a vast country that will undergo a 7-year famine.

The regional famine predicted by Joseph in interpreting Pharaoh's dream also affects Jacob and his remaining eleven sons in nearby Canaan. Ten sons make the trip to Egypt to buy food. Joseph spots them, but they don't recognize their long-lost brother whom they sold into slavery as a youth. He warns them not to show up again in Egypt without Benjamin. The older sons have to persuade a very reluctant Jacob - who thinks Benjamin is his sole remaining child from Rachel - to allow Benjamin to leave home for their next trip down to Egypt for food. In Egypt, Joseph plays "gotcha" games with his brothers and then threatens to keep Benjamin, but Judah courageously explains why he should not do so, since Jacob would surely die upon hearing that Benjamin is gone, too.

Joseph then reveals himself to his eleven brothers. They are absolutely dumfounded and - one would think - probably convinced that they are all now 'done for'. However, Joseph is very compassionate, excuses his brothers' dastardly deed, and says that it was really God's intention for Joseph to be in Egypt (even as a slave) in order to save all the people and other living things there from starvation.

Joseph sends for his father, Jacob, and introduces him to Pharaoh. Jacob later dies in Egypt but is buried back in the Promised Land near Hebron with first wife Leah, his parents Isaac and Rebecca, and his grandparents Abraham and Sarah. Rachel is buried not far away where she died in childbirth with Benjamin. Joseph sets up his brothers in Goshen, a very nice part of Egypt. Genesis ends with Joseph dying in Egypt and being buried there with his family's promise to return his bones to the Promised Land. As Moses, several generations later, leads the Children of Israel out of Egyptian bondage to begin a 40-year journey back to the Promised Land, he honors this sacred promise and carries Joseph's bones out of Egypt where he will eventually be buried in the Promised Land.

Above is a synopsis of the book of Genesis, the first of the Five Books of Moses or *Torah*. There are twelve weekly portions in this book and we will read nine of them during this 61-day period between *Simchat Torah* and *Chanukah*. There are no double-headers on Sabbaths that we read from Genesis; each *parashah* is read individually on twelve different Sabbaths. In this book we learn that our ancestors were not super beings, but mortals like us. However, there is much to learn from our heroes ranging from Abraham to Joseph and in many respects, one can be very proud of our forebears like some of those men and women we meet in Genesis. The fact that we have named so many of our children after them for thousands of years up to this day attests to this.

We have a busy religious service schedule during November. We met Noah and discussed his naval architecture abilities, then we'll learn about Abraham and Sarah and how graciously they treat strangers in their home and soon after, we'll see what can happen when new parents (like Isaac and Rebecca) play favorites with their children.

I hope to see you often in November.



President's Message

Lee Oppenheim

President George H. W. Bush talked about a 'thousand points of light' in the 1988 presidential campaign. This year Barack Obama used 'the change that works for you' as his message. Both catch phrases worked in winning the coveted prize, the presidency. Oh, if only Congregation Yad Shalom had as many suitors for its highest office. But I digress. The message that people can inspire is the theme from both men. Mr. Bush highlighted the individual bringing about change in the community. Mr. Obama built his change theme as a collective responsibility for everyone. Each empowered people to move forward for the common good. We are about to see a change in governing that may be radically different the past eight years and that from Mr. Bush's 1988 era and message.

Now our economy is in need of repair. Attacking this issue will be difficult when looking for a long-term solution. They say Washington DC is pretty much recession proof. For those viewing this issue from within the beltway, we may not be able to see the collective troubles our fellow Americans within our country and around the world are experiencing. There will be many following Mr. Bush's example helping those in need one person at a time. For them it will mean sacrifices for themselves as part of their moral commitment. Less government has been their watchword. We'll have on the other side those wanting large-scale changes to the way Government and corporations behave and act in the local, national and international economy. For them policy changes and the intervention by others will become important tools in this fight. Government will be requested to become more involved in helping individuals.

For the past seven years we have lived in a world that is becoming more, not less, dangerous. Religious and ethnic intolerance has led to several wars. Many evolved into long-term low-grade conflicts. Several have led to cries of genocide. This past month Iran has tested a missile that can reach not only Israel but also Southern Europe. Iran continues to lead the world in its virulent rhetoric against the "West" and specifically Israel and Jews. Hamas continues to fire rockets into Israel. Ethnic issues continue in many African and Asian countries. Europe and the Americas have their share of simmering battlegrounds. As Americans we have been assaulted as we travel. Will the change being made in Washington bring peace to the world? As Jews we think of our friends and family in our homeland. What will the future hold for them? Can the cradle of civilization and the three major religions ever find peace? Will our new Government in January be able to make a difference when so many others have not?

We may think that these things are new to us. Yet two thousand one hundred and seventy-six years ago our forefathers most likely were experiencing similar pangs - religiously, economically and security wise. It was tearing us as Jews apart. There is a view now that Chanukah was as much a civil war as it was a battle for our Jewish identity. We were being asked to become more Hellenistic and give up our Jewish identity. It was not an overnight change, but a slow transformation, which was occurring within the community. At one point, the compromises being asked became too difficult. Much more and our identity would have been lost. The miracle of the lights is a celebration that our Jewish identity was not compromised. We each are a point of light when we light our menorah and remember how we have survived and flourished. Individually we can help make this a better world. Judaism is principally a religion whose guiding light is 'Love thy neighbor as thy self' as expounded by Rabbi Akiva. May Mr. Obama and our next Government understand that points of light are what makes the country run at the local level and that change within the policies of Government make for the success of the country. Knowing how to use both to get the most out of all is the important point. Light the lights and remember the triumphs. Janet and I wish you a Chag Sameach.

Lee

MAZEL TOV MOMENTS

Wonderful things have been happening for our Yad Shalom's members – read on to see all the nachas we get to share

The Goldenzweig Family

Michael and Susan Goldenzweig proudly announce the engagement of their son, Stephen William Goldenzweig, to Stacey Herron, daughter of Terry and Jill Herron of New York. As of the printing of this newsletter, no official date has been selected for the wedding.

The Bartell Family

Leona Bartell has had so many wonderful things happen in her family, she can hardly contain herself.

First, on August 30th, Leona celebrated a momentous birthday. We won't tell you which one, but it's terrific!!!

Second, on October 18th, her oldest grandson, Aaron Bartell, became engaged to Talia Dubovi. Talia is from Ithaca, NY, and her dad is a professor at Cornell University. They plan to be married on October 11, 2009 in New York.

Third, three weeks after Leona celebrated Aaron's engagement, her second grandson, Kevin Bartell, became engaged to Megan. They will be married sometime after his older brother, but no definite date has been set as of this printing.

Fourth, a month and a half ago, Leona's son, Arthur, became a Two-Star General in the Army. He is now Cadet Commander of the US Army, in charge of all ROTC and OCS students.

Last, but certainly not least, Leona's youngest granddaughter, Brianne, was Bat Mitzvahed on October 25, 2008.

With all these wonderful things going on, is it any wonder that Yad Shalom's congregants walk around smiling all the time? Would you like to share your Mazel Tov Moments in the monthly newsletter? Send them to Yad Shalom's e-mail address, Attn. Newsletter Editor. Thanks.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DECEMBER

EVENTS AND DATES TO REMEMBER AND THINGS TO SHARE WITH YOUR YAD SHALOM FAMILY

SHABBAT DINNER AND FRIDAY NIGHT SERVICE, DECEMBER 12TH:

Celebrate Shabbat with friends, food, prayers, songs and the unique Yad Shalom warmth and spirit. Dinner begins at 6:30 PM. Cost is one pot luck/non-dairy dish to share plus \$7 per person or \$20 per family. Services follow dinner and start at 8:00 PM. We will have our celebration at Little Rocky Run Rec Center #3, 13900 Stonefield Drive, Clifton VA, 20124. RSVP to yadshalom@yadshalom.com or call us at 703-579-6079 by December 10th.

DINING OUT ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25TH:

Enjoy a leisurely dinner with your Congregation Yad Shalom friends or join us to make new friends. Come do what Jews do on December 25th. Go out for a Chinese dinner. Let's try a restaurant in Centreville, The Sino Inn. Additional information will be available in mid-December. Dinner will be served at 5:00 PM. RSVP to yadshalom@yadshalom.com or call us at 703-579-6079

CHANUKAH FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS CELEBRATION SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28TH:

Once again Congregation Yad Shalom will light up the night (and the Goldenzweig's Home) with eight Chanukah lights (plus a Shamash) in celebration of the miracle that occurred 2,100 years ago. We shall regale ourselves with stories and songs. Drinks and desserts will top off the evening. Plan to join the joyous occasion starting at 6:00 PM in the Haymarket VA area. Bring family and friends and make it an evening to remember. RSVP to yadshalom@yadshalom.com or call us at 703-579-6079 by December 25th.

GO TO THE THEATRE:

Several congregants have expressed interest in attending theater performances. We can get group (and senior) discounts at Theater J. If you are interested, please take a look at Theater J's website at <http://washingtondcicc.org/center-for-arts/theater-j/08-09-season/theater-js-2008-2009-season.html> and contact us at yadshalom@yadshalom.com to let us know what you would like to see. Right now, THEODORE BIKEL in SHOLOM ALEICHEM: LAUGHTER THROUGH TEARS (which is playing from December 17, 2008 – January 11, 2009) is winning.

JEWISH GENEALOGY SEMINAR
SUNDAY JANUARY 18TH AND MARCH 8TH:

Learn how to trace and prepare your family's history. Congregation Yad Shalom will be offering a free mini-course in Jewish Genealogy. Topics covered will include: Genealogy in Your Own Backyard (gathering information from people, places, and things); Genealogy in the Community (using Resources in Fairfax County, Washington, D.C., and beyond to dig into your family roots); Technology and Jewish Genealogy (family matching through genetic testing and facial recognition; popular web-based genealogy programs; and genealogy packages for recording your family history). All sessions will meet from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM and will begin with a brunch. The first session will be held on January 18, 2009; the second session will meet on March 8, 2009, and the third session will be arranged at a later date. Time is provided between sessions to allow participants to work with the information provided at each session. The course will be held at the Oppenheim's home in Gainesville, VA. Francine Lasken, who has worked on her own family's genealogy for over thirty years and has taught and lectured on varied issues in Jewish genealogy, will teach the course. Please RSVP to Yad Shalom at yadshalom@yadshalom.com or call us at 703-579-6079

ANNA SHULMAN: QUEEN OF H STREET SUNDAY FEBRUARY 15TH:

The event is a one-woman play. This play tells the entertaining and true-life story of Anna Shulman, her arrival in the U.S., residence in Washington and her impact on her H Street neighborhood, home to Jewish merchants in the 1920s and 30s. It also shows how Anna and other immigrants repaid their debt of welcome by helping subsequent new arrivals. A brunch would be part of the event. The cost for the show and brunch would be no more than \$15.00 a person. Please save the date for a wonderful brunch and show.

JOIN THE YAD SHALOM BOOK CLUB: Edit Braunstein and Shiela Sunray are organizing a book club. About once a month a new book will be selected to read. A discussion about the book will then take place. For their first book, they have selected *Rashi's Daughter, Book 1, Joheved* by Maggie Anton. You can purchase the book for yourself or borrow it from the county library. All those interested need to contact Yad Shalom so our organizers can properly plan the discussion phase and arrange a convenient date to hold the discussion. RSVP to yadshalom@yadshalom.com or call us at 703-579-6079

ENTERTAINMENT BOOK FUNDRAISER: Congregation Yad Shalom is in receipt of the 2008 - 2009 Entertainment Books. Please support our fundraiser by purchasing a book or two. The cost of each book is \$25.00. You receive two-for-one dining coupons, dollars off meals, reduced prices to movie theatres and more. There are travel discounts and local shopping coupons. Please call Lee Oppenheim for your personal Entertainment Book(s) at 703-753-0928 or email him at the congregations email address. You save money and eat well and Yad Shalom earns a few dollars.

**IF YOU CAN'T FIND ENOUGH TO DO,
YOU JUST AREN'T TRYING HARD ENOUGH!!!!**

**Donations are gratefully appreciated because
they help us serve the community and grow**

FROM: _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

ADDRESS: _____

MESSAGE: _____

Would you like an acknowledgment in the newsletter? _____

Send acknowledgment to: Name _____

Address _____

Send to: Congregation Yad Shalom
P.O. Box 1557
Centreville, Virginia 20122

THANK YOU!

**YAD SHALOM GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE
FOLLOWING GENEROUS DONATIONS MADE BY
OUR CONGREGATION DURING THIS PAST MONTH**

**IN HONOR OF THE FAMILY HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES
BY THE BERGERON FAMILY**

**IN HONOR OF THE ENGAGEMENT OF THEIR SON, STEPHEN W. GOLDENZWEIG,
TO STACEY HERRON
BY SUSAN AND MICHAEL GOLDENZWEIG**

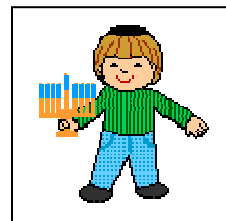
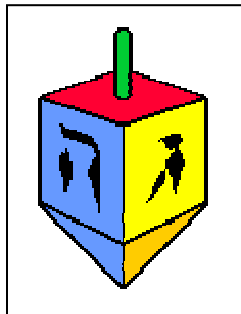
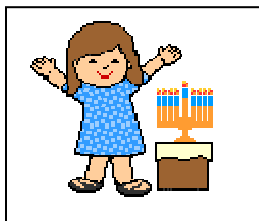
**IN HONOR OF THE ALL THE WONDERFUL EVENTS IN THE FAMILY AND LIFE OF
LEONA BARTELL AND IN HONOR OF THE ENGAGEMENT OF STEPHEN W.
GOLDENZWEIG TO STACEY HERRON
BY NANCY AND JERRY GORDON**



YOUR 2008-09 YAD SHALOM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

***Front row (L-R): Gloria Pioso, Executive Vice President
Fran Lasken, Vice President for Education
Lee Oppenheim: President***
***Back row: (L-R): Robert Lasken, Treasurer
Jon Sunray, Immediate Past President***

HAVE A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY



Membership Application

We love having visitors and love talking to new members so please feel free to spend some time with us in our religious services and/or social events. If you have any questions, please call our President, Jon Sunray, at 703-378-1463. And if you would like to join us, GREAT!

Please fill out the following application and submit to: Congregation Yad Shalom,
PO Box 223809, Chantilly, VA 20153

Adult _____ Birthdate (mo/yr) _____

Work Phone _____

Adult _____ Birthdate (mo/yr) _____

Work Phone _____

Anniversary _____

Children and Birth Date (s)

Address _____ City/State/Zip

Home Phone _____ Email _____

Please select one of the following:

_____ Family Membership: \$700 (Married Jewish couple with children under 18 years of age)

_____ Married Couple Membership: \$600 (Married Jewish couple without children under 18 years of age)

_____ Family Individual Membership: \$500 (Jewish man or woman with child(ren) under 18 years of age)

_____ Associate Membership: \$180 (You belong to another synagogue but want to join Yad Shalom as well)

_____ Individual Membership: \$400 (Single Jewish man or woman or one married to non-Jewish partner)

_____ I am interested but need more information. Please contact me.