

HAPPY PURIM 5768!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

HAMENTASHEN AND MISHLOACH MANOT



Congregation Yad Shalom
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(Ph) 703-579-6079
yadshalom [at] yadshalom.com
www.yadshalom.com

February 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 5:13p Candle lighting	2 6:44p Havdalah (72 min)
3	4	5	6 Rosh Chodesh Adar I	7 Rosh Chodesh Adar I	8 SERVICES, LRR #3, 8:00 PM 5:21p Candle lighting	9 6:52p Havdalah (72 min)
10	11	12	13	14	15 5:29p Candle lighting	16 7:00p Havdalah (72 min)
17	18	19	20 Purim Katan	21	22 5:36p Candle lighting	23 SJC, LRR #3, 9:00 AM SERVICES, LRR #3, 10:00 AM 7:07p Havdalah (72 min)
24	25	26	27	28	29 5:44p Candle lighting	

YAD SHALOM

KIBBITZER

Sh'vat – Adar 1
5768
February 2008

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



Schedule of Services

FEBRUARY, 2008

Friday, 8: Shabbat Service, LRR #3,
8:00 PM

Saturday, 23: SJC, LRR #3, 9:00 AM
Services, LRR #3, 10:00 AM

MARCH, 2008

Saturday, 15: SJC, LRR #3, 9:00 AM
Services, LRR #3, 10:00 AM

Friday, 28: Shabbat Service, LRR #3,
8:00 PM

APRIL, 2008

Saturday, 12: SJC, LRR #2, 9:00 AM
Services, LRR #3, 10:00 AM

Sunday, 20: Passover Seder, LRR #3,
5:30 PM



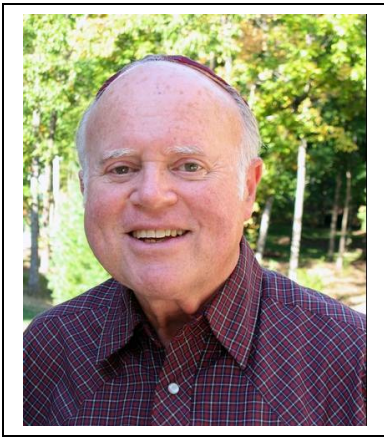
HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 – Gabriel Braunstein
- 4 – Abram Wiesman
- 7 – Tracey Whysong
- 7 – Denise Wilkinson
- 11 – Jim Wright
- 14 – Buzz Pioso



HAPPY FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARY TO

- 1 – Susan and Allen Bloom



Chanting Along With Cantor Zucker

Exodus, the second of the Five Books of Moses, starts off with 70 people who immigrated to Egypt with Father Jacob towards the end of Genesis and how they prospered there. But a new Pharaoh is now in charge that instilled in his people a fear of our Hebrew ancestors, also known as the Children of Israel. They are enslaved, and Egyptian midwives are charged to murder all male Hebrew infants. To escape this decree, one Hebrew mother placed her baby son in a basket and floated him in the river with his older sister keeping a watchful eye on him. A princess of Egypt down at the riverside discovers the infant in the basket and takes him to the palace as her own. The older sister then recommends their own mother as a nurse, and the infant is named Moses by the princess.

Moses is raised as a prince in Egypt, a nice start in life, but retains feelings for the Hebrew people as if he were part of them. Meanwhile, the Hebrews are enslaved by the new Pharaoh who has persuaded his people that the Hebrews pose a threat to Egypt not only in their growing numbers, but also to their security if the country is invaded. One day, Moses sees an Egyptian about to hurt a Hebrew and kills the Egyptian instead. When Moses learns that a lot of people may know of his act, he flees Egypt to nearby Midian, and changes careers and becomes a shepherd. He marries a local chieftain's (later known as Jethro) daughter and they begin a family. One day on the job as shepherd, Moses discovers the presence of God through a burning bush that would not be extinguished. (The burning bush is the symbol of Conservative Judaism.) God appears in the bush and tells Moses that He has heard the cries of the Hebrews who are suffering under Egyptian slavery. He charges Moses with the mission of going to Pharaoh to tell him to let the Hebrews leave Egypt.

Like so many of our prophets who came later in Jewish history, Moses does not want to get involved in this mission of God and comes up with all kinds of excuses not to be sent. God reasons with Moses and at one point becomes angry with him. They finally agree that Moses will be accompanied by his older brother, Aaron, who will act as the spokesman. Moses and Aaron appear in front of Pharaoh and try to make the case to let their people go. Pharaoh would have none of it and increases the burdens on the Hebrew slaves. Moses complains to God that not only was he unsuccessful in his mission, but that the Hebrews are much worse off now than before he intervened on their behalf.

God then tells Moses that He will harden the heart of Pharaoh again and again until the Egyptians not only let the Hebrews go but actually drive them out of Egypt. But first, they must go through rejection after rejection of their demands to Pharaoh until God decides the right moment has come. In the meantime, God will send down upon the Egyptians many plagues to soften them up. The plague pattern cycle generally looks like this:

- (1) Moses and Aaron appear in front of Pharaoh and threaten to unleash a new plague;
- (2) Pharaoh is not moved;
- (3) The plague takes effect;
- (4) Pharaoh relents and calls the pair in and asks them to have God call off the plague;
- (5) God stops the plague;
- (6) Pharaoh's heart is hardened by God and he refuses to let the Hebrews go; and
- (7) Go back to (1).

After plague No. 7, hail, which does tremendous damage to the crops in Egypt - a country that experienced a 7-year famine soon after a young prisoner by the name of Joseph made brilliant recommendations to a former Pharaoh on how to organize the nation to overcome his predicted famine - the Egyptians begin to mumble and grumble to Pharaoh about how much longer they will have to put up with keeping the Hebrews as slaves. They note that it is they, the Egyptians, who actually have to suffer through the plagues that Moses (as God's representative) brings down on them.

Paying attention to this feedback, Pharaoh now begins to bargain with Moses on the specifics of his demands on letting the Hebrews go out to celebrate a 3-day holiday to God. "Just who is going to go out?" Pharaoh asks, and Moses answers that everyone – men, women, and children, all their animals - the whole community will go out on a holiday to God. Pharaoh is first willing to let out just the males, and then he agrees to everyone but the animals, all the time trying to make sure the Hebrews have to come back to Egypt. The result is more plagues, more suffering by the Egyptians and more damage to their country. Finally, after the locusts (in plague No. 8) have completely stripped the country and darkness (plague No. 9) traps the Egyptians in their dwellings for three days, Pharaoh calls in Moses and Aaron one last time and even threatens them to never appear before him again or else. Moses responds with something like – "whatever you say, Pharaoh".

God then has Moses prepare the Hebrews for the final plague, the slaying of the first born of every family in Egypt. The month of *Nissan*, the first month of the Jewish calendar, is designated as the key time for their redemption from bondage. They are to prepare a roasted lamb for an offering. Matzos and bitter herbs are to accompany the feast with this special Paschal lamb. The blood of the lamb is smeared as a marker on the doorposts of all Hebrew homes in Egypt so that when the angel of death administers the final plague, the houses of the Hebrews are skipped over – in Hebrew, *passach* – from whence we get the name of our most important Jewish holiday, *Pessach*. The English translation, *Passover*, refers to when the angel of death 'passed over' the Hebrew dwellings during plague No. 10.

And just as God predicted to Moses, when Pharaoh finally agrees to let the Hebrews leave Egypt, the Egyptians drive them out in the middle of the night so great is their fear of their erstwhile slaves. Just before the great exodus gets under way, the Hebrews boldly asked the Egyptians for valuables like gold and silver and all kinds of vessels and travel items they will need on the journey back to Canaan. In turn, the Egyptians gladly gave these valuables to them, so desperate were they to be rid of the Hebrews after that awful last plague wherein each residence in Egypt had a firstborn die.

When we read the names of all the plagues at our *Seder* table each year, we diminish the joy of the (four) cups of wine by taking out drops for each plague as if to say, we are not joyous that the Egyptian firstborn lost their lives just so we could gain our freedom. In fact, we are joyous because *Passover* is the festival of our freedom from slavery that enabled us to become a people on our own and eventually settle in our own land as a free and independent nation with our *Torah*.

Exodus instructs us to tell the story of our exodus from Egypt (Exodus 13:8) which is always done at the *Passover Seder*. We have recently celebrated another type of *Seder* in which we tell the story of how we celebrate the beauty and bounty of God's earth through trees and other things that grow.

Yad Shalom's celebration of the New Year for Trees, *Tu B'shevat*, was ushered in with our annual *Seder* on January 26, 2008 at our *Shabbat* morning service.

Phyllis and I enjoyed the *Seder* with you as we sang and ate our way through this simply delicious annual festive event.



President's Message Lee Oppenheim

Shalom:

This year's February parshas provide us with many of our responsibilities. Here we are in the Sinai having just received the Ten Commandments. Hashem follows this up with the ordinances on how we should treat each other, punishment for various offenses, to treat strangers with kindness in remembrance that once we were strangers in a strange land, plus much more. After Moshe Rabbanu tells us all of these things we agree to follow them. Moshe goes up onto the mountain again to receive instructions on how to build the ark and the tabernacle. He again instructs us to observe the Sabbath day as His gift to us and sign that we know that the Lord sanctifies us.

We can see the love that Hashem gives us. All we are requested to do in exchange is to follow these mitzvot. February also brings us Valentine Day, a day to show our love for one significant other. As good Jews in Israel, the celebration takes a slightly different twist. St. Valentine is not an idea that appeals to the orthodox psyche. How could one day bring the love that Hashem brings to us and consequentially us to others? In Israel they celebrate the month of love. It provides a more ethical Jewish response to what began as another faith's celebration. If the essence of the Torah is "Treat others as you wish them to treat you, all else is explanation", then love becomes an integral part of our collective actions.

Some of us will bring our loved one(s) candy, flowers or another gift and have an intimate dinner with him or her. We give a mushy card extolling our love and commitment to them. Is this giving once in a single month sufficient to fulfill our obligations to Hashem, let alone another person? I think the Israeli Rabbinates decision to accept a month of love pushes us closer to our obligations. Love, with all the signs and wonders, is something we need to do every day. If we follow the month of love theme, showing that we care becomes a standard action performed as a matter of course. Now we are meeting Hashem's standards. If love for others becomes a standard in February we will carry that over to each subsequent month. Isn't that a wonderful result or as we said in the Seventies, Peace and Love.

As a community there are other ways that we show our love. I've participated with others in helping at another's shiva house. It is the Jewish thing to do so we were there. But most recently it was up front and personal. When Janet's father, Bernard Kupferman, of blessed memory, passed away last month we received your love. It was comforting to us to feel the love from each and every one of you. It was not only being there for services but all the food and household help we received during this period that made us move forward. You uplifted my mother-in-law in ways you did not realize. After each evening service all she could say was what wonderful friends we had. What a beautiful compliment for each of you.

The love you have shown exemplifies the Jewish community we are building. May you have a momentous month of love and may we as a congregation continue to shine in the love of Hashem. Todah Rabbah to each and every one.

Lee

FEBRUARY ANNOUNCEMENTS

PERSONAL NOTE TO ALL YAD SHALOM CONGREGANTS

The Kupferman, Oppenheim and Cohen Families extend their sincere appreciation to the entire Yad Shalom community for its assistance during their bereavement. The memory of Bernard Kupferman will be a blessing forever.

Adult Beginning Hebrew: Yad Shalom plans on holding an adult beginning Hebrew class in 2008. If you are interested in learning Hebrew basics we want to hear from you. Classes will be held once a week for 90 minutes. The day of the week depends on you, our intended students. Please let us know if you are interested and what day/time is most convenient for you. Send your note of interest to us at yadshalom@yadshalom.com.

Israel at 60: Keep **June 1st** as a day to participate in the area-wide celebration of Israel's birthday. The celebration will be on the Mall in D.C. and Yad Shalom plans to have an active presence on the Mall. Circle the date on your calendar now.

ARTSFest: Congregation Yad Shalom is assisting the JCC with this years ARTSFest program. Fran Lasken is our primary liaison to the committee. She will need assistance. After reading about the program ([see information elsewhere in this newsletter](#)), find an opportunity that goes with your strengths and volunteer. If you are a teen with talent, hidden or otherwise, read how to apply to the program. This year's program is **July 27 - Aug 1**. Think about opening your home to house a teen or two. Volunteer at the ARTSFest and be part of the excitement during the week. Let us know by email if you want to help with this great program.

Looking for Talented Teens

Fairfax, VA

July 27-August 1

www.artsfestfairfax.com

So, you think you've got talent? Join Jewish teens from all over the U.S., Israel and Moscow at JCC Maccabi ArtsFest[®] 2008! This weeklong arts-immersion program, held in first-class facilities at George Mason University, is a combination of master classes, performances, exhibitions and FUN!

Art Specialties Include:

ACTING/IMPROVE • Geoffrey Cantor

COMPUTER ANIMATION • Kay Christy

CREATIVE WRITING • Nadine Epstein

DANCE • Elizabeth Johnson with Ben Wegman & Shula Strassfeld

JAZZ/WORLD MUSIC ENSEMBLE • Mattan Klein

MUSICAL THEATER • Barbara Brandt & Fred Tessler with Geoffrey Cantor

PHOTOJOURNALISM • Lloyd Wolf

ROCK/POP BANDS • Josh Nelson with Rob Mitzner & Josh Oliver

VISUAL ART • Phillip Ratner with Fran & Eddie Garfinkle

VOCAL MUSIC • Beth Schafer

Teens must be entering 8th through 12th grades

For details about being a participant, contact the Delegation Heads:

Amanda Swartz • AmandaS@jccnv.org • (703) 537-3087

Sarah Berry • SarahB@jccnv.org • (703) 537-3040

To volunteer, contact: Carla Rosenfeld • CarlaR@jccnv.org • (703) 537-3060

To be a host family, contact:

Karen Stern • KarenS@jccnv.org • (703) 537-3029

For all other inquiries including being a sponsor, contact: Aliza Bear, ArtsFest Director •

AlizaB@jccnv.org • (703) 537-3033

Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia

8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax, VA 22031

www.jccnv.org • (703) 323-0880

Community Volunteers Needed!

This summer, more than 250 Jewish teens from all over the country, Israel and Moscow will descend on Fairfax to experience JCC Maccabi ArtsFest®, a week-long arts-immersion program to be held in first-class facilities at George Mason University. The program is a combination of master classes, performances, exhibitions and FUN!

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED NOW

The success of the program depends on hundreds of volunteers working together on this community-building event. We need YOU and your friends to commit your time and expertise to making the program a success!

Committees

- Volunteers
- Opening Event
- Food & Snacks
- Closing Event
- Hospitality
- Host Family Reception
- Housing
- VIP Reception
- Registration
- Closing Party
- Arrivals & Departures

Fairfax JCC Maccabi Artsfest® Contacts

For volunteer opportunities, contact: Carla Rosenfeld CarlaR@jccnv.org • (703) 537-3060

For being a host family, contact: Karen Stern • KarenS@jccnv.org • (703) 537-3029

For being an artist participant, contact: Amanda Swartz • AmandaS@jccnv.org • (703) 537-3087 or Sarah Berry • SarahB@jccnv.org • (703) 537-3040

General inquiries, contact: Aliza Bear, ArtsFest Director AlizaB@jccnv.org | (703) 537-3033

To view highlights of Summer 2007 JCC Maccabi ArtsFest®, visit www.JCCMaccabiArtsFest.org.

July 27-August 1
www.artsfestfairfax.com

Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia
8900 Little River Turnpike
Fairfax, VA 22031
www.jccnv.org
(703) 323-0880

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, Lee Oppenheim, at 703-579-6079. And if you would like to join us, GREAT!

Please fill out the following application and submit to: Congregation Yad Shalom,
PO Box 1557, Centreville, VA 20122

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)

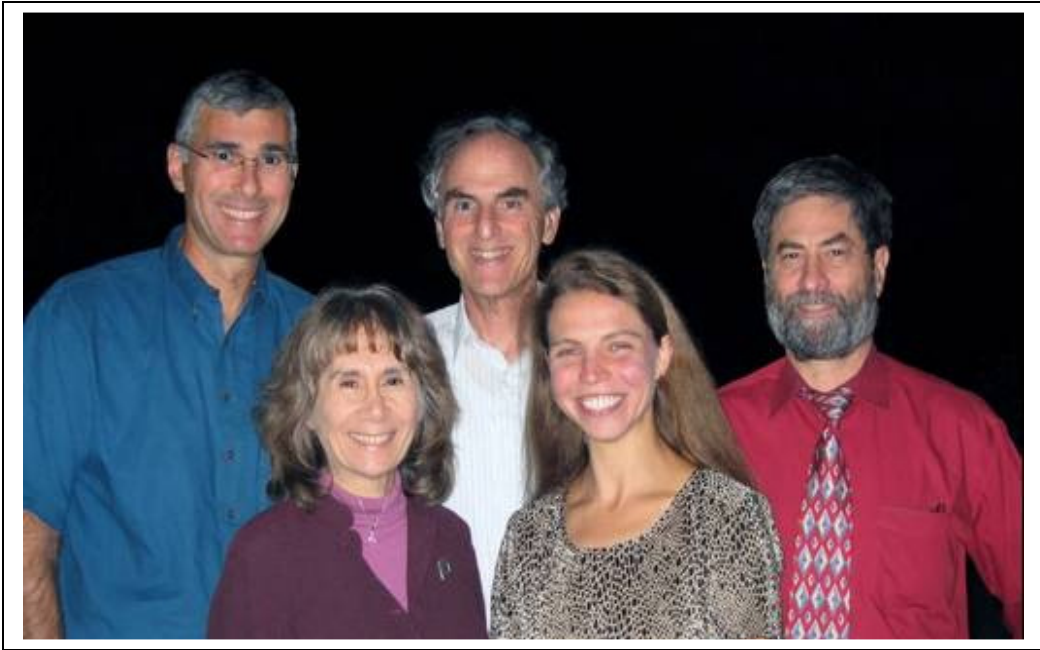
_____ Associate Membership: \$180 (You belong to another synagogue but want to join Yad Shalom as well)

_____ First Year Membership: \$180 (You are joining Yad Shalom for the first time)

_____ 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.

Board of Directors



YOUR 2007-08 YAD SHALOM BOARD OF DIRECTORS
*Front row (L-R): Fran Lasken, Vice President for Education
Gloria Pioso, Executive Vice President*
*Back row: (L-R): Jon Sunray, Immediate Past President
Robert Lasken, Treasurer
Lee Oppenheim: President*

**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!