



**PURIM – ONE OF THE
HAPPIEST OF OUR
HOLIDAYS. COME AND
JOIN YAD SHALOM AS WE
CELEBRATE THE SWEET
AND VERY LOUD
RETELLING OF THE STORY
OF ESTHER AND
MORDECHAI.**

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

February 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 BOARD MEETING	5 5:17p Candle lighting	6 6:48p Havdalah (72 min)
7 SUPER BOWL PARTY, SEE ELSEWHERE FOR DETAILS	8	9	10	11	12 5:25p Candle lighting SERVICE, 8:00 PM, LRR #3	13 Shabbat Shekalim שבת שקלים 6:56p Havdalah (72 min)
14 Rosh Chodesh Adar ראש חודש אדר	15 Rosh Chodesh Adar ראש חודש אדר	16	17	18	19 5:33p Candle lighting	20 7:04p Havdalah (72 min)
21	22	23	24	25 Ta'anit Esther תענית אסתר	26 5:41p Candle lighting	27 Shabbat Zachor שבת זכור 7:12p Havdalah (72 min) PURIM SERVICE, 10:00 AM, LRR #2
28 Purim פורים						

YAD SHALOM

KIBBITZER

Shevat - Adar
5770
February
2010

www.yadshalom.com
yadshalom[at]yadshalom.com



Schedule of Services

FEBRUARY

Thursday, 4: Board Meeting

Sunday, 7: Super Bowl Party

Friday, 12: Service, LRR #3, 8 PM

Saturday, 27: Purim

**Celebration/Service, LRR #2,
Springstone Road, 10AM (PLEASE
NOTE CHANGE IN LOCATION)**

MARCH

Thursday, 4: Board Meeting

Friday, 12: Service, LRR #3, 8 PM

Saturday, 20: Service, LRR #3, 10 AM

Tuesday, 30: Passover Seder

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 FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

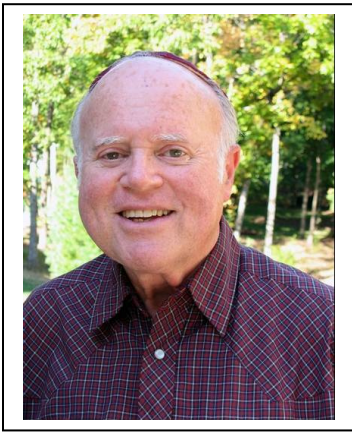
TO:

- 3 – Gabriel Braunstein
- 4 – Abram Wiesman
- 7 – Denise Wilkinson
- 7 – Tracey Whysong
- 11 – Jim Wright
- 14 – Buzz Pioso
- 16 – Suzanne Brooks
- 21 – Clare Campbell
- 23 – Michael Clayberg



HAPPY FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARY TO:

- 1 – SUSAN AND ALLEN BLOOM
- 19 – SUZANNE AND EVAN
BROOKS



Chanting Along With Cantor Zucker

We were snowed out on *Shabbat Miketz* so we missed the *Torah* reading which precedes my favorite portion in Genesis. The saga of Joseph and his brothers is about to come to a head and its poignancy never fails to bring tears to my eyes as the lead sons of Jacob go face-to-face in front of all their brothers.

Why are they doing this and how did it come about? Earlier we learned that Joseph was tossed into prison in Egypt because the mistress of the household he was working in charged that he was trying to seduce her when really, she was trying to seduce a good-looking young Hebrew man from Canaan. While in prison, Joseph established a reputation as a reliable interpreter of dreams. He interpreted the dreams of two of Pharaoh's key servants, one of whom was returned to his former job as chief butler to Pharaoh. Before returning to his former post, Joseph begged him to tell Pharaoh that he is innocent of any charges and should be released from prison.

Miketz begins two years later, while Joseph still languishes in prison. Pharaoh has two strange dreams that no one in his palace can interpret. Pharaoh's chief butler now recalls Joseph who correctly interpreted his dream while in prison. Prisoner Joseph is cleaned up and quickly brought before Pharaoh to interpret the dreams involving two groups of seven cows and seven sheaves of grain. Joseph starts off his reply by declaring that God is his guide in his dream interpretation skills. He then tells Pharaoh that both dreams are really one and they involve the very existence of Egypt. The ongoing years of plenty, seven of them, will be followed by the worst famine ever for another seven years and that Pharaoh should act promptly with this new intelligence.

So who else should Pharaoh pick to be in charge of food production and distribution for the mighty nation of Egypt but Joseph? Inevitably, the famine spreads throughout the entire region and impacts Jacob and his children back in Canaan. He sends ten of his eleven remaining sons down to Egypt to shop for food. However, Jacob keeps with him at home Joseph's younger brother, Benjamin, the sole remaining child Jacob had with Rachel; Joseph was their older child. The other ten brothers are six sons of Joseph's Aunt Leah and four sons from the nursemaids of Rachel and Leah with whom Jacob also had children, permissible in days of yore.

So with the myriad people now shopping for food for their very survival in a very well-stocked Egypt, Joseph still manages to meet up with his brothers. They don't recognize the Number 2 person in all of Egypt, but he sure recognizes them. Joseph gives them a hard time but then, they weren't exactly nice to him when they sold him as a young lad to slaver traders passing years ago through Canaan on their way to Egypt. He calls them spies who are checking out how Egypt is coping with a great famine. They vociferously deny being spies saying they're all brothers and sons of one man, and are just on a mission to buy food for their families back in Canaan. Joseph peppers them with all kinds of questions about (his and) their father and also about his kid brother not on their mission. He then throws them in jail temporarily and overhears them charge each other with recriminations

about their dastardly deed in selling Joseph, and how it has now come back on their heads. They have no clue that Joseph really understands all their conversations since he always walks around them with a translator.

After several days in jail, he releases them, but keeps his brother Simon as a hostage and warns them not to dare show up again in Egypt without Benjamin. He also surreptitiously returns the money they paid for their food. The brothers are totally confused and relay this to Jacob upon their return home. Jacob jumps all over them for revealing that Benjamin was at home. They respond to their father and say, “You had to have been there, Dad. This guy was calling us spies and asking us all kinds of questions about you and then Benjamin – how could we possibly know that he’d order us to not come back unless we brought Benjamin?!”

Some time goes by and they’re running low on food. Jacob tells them it’s time to go back to Egypt and get some more. Judah, who has now succeeded firstborn son Reuben as the leader of the brothers, pledges his own life for Benjamin’s and so very reluctantly, Jacob allows Benjamin to join his brothers on their second food-shopping expedition. They again meet Joseph and are asked to dine with him, an unusual event in Egypt for people from Canaan. Joseph is brought to tears when he sees his kid brother after all these years apart but manages to contain himself. But he has one more trick to play on them. He orders his chalice of authority to be placed in Benjamin’s sack before the brothers are to return home. He then has them chased down and the eleven – very sad – brothers are brought back to him. The brothers are totally dumbfounded that they would be accused of stealing Joseph’s property, especially after being his personal guests and getting Simon back out of Egyptian prison. Joseph tells them not to worry, he only wants the one who has his chalice and everyone else can return home in peace. The sacks are opened in chronological order and in the last sack, Benjamin’s, is found the chalice.

The portion right after *Miketz*, called *Vayigash*, commences with Judah approaching Joseph man-to-man saying: “Look, here’s the deal. We told you before that we are all brothers of the same father. There were ten of us when you saw us the first time. The youngest was kept home with our father. The other brother is gone. We then told our father that we couldn’t come back down to Egypt without the youngest and I myself am the security for the well-being of our youngest brother. If he doesn’t return home, our father will surely die. So – Sir, who is second only to Pharaoh – take me in his place, but let Benjamin return so that our father may live.”

This simple and gutsy statement by Judah has a great impact on Joseph, who sends his entire staff from the room leaving him alone with his eleven brothers. He reveals himself to them with two simple statements: (1) I am your brother, Joseph; and (2) Is our father still alive, which I like to translate to “so how’s Dad?” The brothers are, to put it mildly, absolutely flabbergasted. I wouldn’t be surprised if several of them soiled their garments right then and there, but there is no mention of this in Genesis. Joseph anticipated their stunned silence, and assured them that he is not interested in revenge for what they did to him. On the contrary, he explained, to fulfill God’s plan it was necessary for him to wind up in Egypt, enduring humiliation as a slave, being thrown in prison for no reason, and then rising to the top to save a huge nation from mass starvation. Selling him to slavers was just part of God’s plan and they shouldn’t fret about it and his feelings toward them. In fact, he will now see to all their needs and that of all their families. He wants them to go back home and immediately bring down their aging father so Jacob can see for himself that he is OK.

Jacob is overwhelmed to learn that his beloved son, Joseph, is indeed alive and doing very well. He naturally relocates to be close to Joseph, and then dies in Egypt at peace. A state funeral and mourning period is declared in Egypt when Joseph’s father dies and Jacob is subsequently buried in

the burial site back in Canaan bought earlier by his grandfather, Abraham, for his grandmother, Sarah, and used by succeeding family members. Even after many years in Egypt, the brothers still fear retribution by Joseph and, upon their father's death, concoct a story that Jacob told them that Joseph should be nice to them even after his demise. Joseph was upset to hear this tale but reassured them that he will always take good care of his brothers, despite their doubts.

Genesis concludes with the death of Joseph who exacts a promise from his family that when the time comes that they return to the land promised to Abraham, Isaac and their father Jacob that they take his bones out of Egypt and bring them back home. Moses and the Children of Israel remembered this solemn pledge made to Joseph and reburied him close to where his father lies in the above grave site purchased by Abraham for Sarah.

Our next holiday will be the Jewish New Year for Trees, known as *Tu B'shevat*, on January 30, 2010.

Like the Jewish holidays of *Purim*, *Simhat Torah* and *Chanukah*, *Tu B'shevat* is not specifically mentioned in the *Torah*. At Yad Shalom, we plan to again convene a *Tu B'shevat Seder* featuring fresh fruit, canned fruit, dried fruit, nuts and other edible goodies that the Land of Israel is noted for. We'll sing songs, read poetry and tell wonderful stories about our people and land. Do join us on the morning of January 30, 2010 so we can celebrate *Tu B'shevat* together with great fanfare and enjoyment for all.

In order to help those of our neighbors who are in need in these tough economic times, Yad Shalom has begun a new tradition at our services. We ask you to share your blessings with those less fortunate than you by bringing cans or boxes of non-perishable food items whenever you join your Yad Shalom family at services. We will see to it that one of our local food banks receives our donation. Your contribution need not be kosher - our goal is that fewer persons go to bed hungry because of our generosity. We thank you so much.



President's Message

Lee Oppenheim

Shalom:

We've had a hard winter so far but I hope that by the time this is read, the weather will have become milder and winter is well behind us. Of course on February 2nd that great prognosticator, Punxsutawny Phil, may provide a contrary forecast. For many of us it has brought some joy, especially those that like to play in the snow or be close to skiing. For others it is just an inconvenience. It makes us cold and increases our heating bills. For others it could be a way to shine. I remember reading recently about an old Chasidic Rabbi who was well known for his scholarship and character. Every Friday morning he would disappear and no one in the community knew where he went. Each Friday the community wondered where the Rebbi disappeared to. All they could think of was that he was communicating with God. Finally one villager decided to follow the Rebbi to find out the truth. Early Friday morning this villager arose early and staked out the Rebbi's house. Sure enough as the sun rose the Rebbi emerged from his dwelling. He was dressed as a peasant in old clothes and a rucksack. The Rebbi walked into the woods a good distance from the village. There he chopped wood and bundled it up. He walked a short distance to an old cottage. He knocked on the door and a woman in even shabbier clothes opened the door. The Rebbi took the wood in and built a fire in the hearth. Inside there was nothing but some stick furniture and almost no food. He opened up the rucksack and took out a meal and set it on the table. The woman cried and thanked the Rebbi as she told him how hard times had been. She thought she would freeze or starve and this would save her. The Rebbi wished her a Shabbat shalom and left the cottage. The Rebbi returned to the village just before Shabbat began. The villager returned also after following the Rebbi all day. They went to synagogue that evening. After services as everyone was leaving the man's friends ask him if it was true that the Rebbi was close to God when he disappeared. All the villager could say was "higher".

So I ask you to be close to God and maybe even higher. Make a donation to the Washington Area Fuel Fund to help those who can't afford heat. Make a donation to an area food bank to help the hungry. Volunteer at a shelter or a food bank. Give of yourselves and receive their blessings. Teach your children and your grandchildren by example.

We'll read the Ten Commandments for the first time this year in February in parsha Ithro (Jethro). Number 5 is "Honor your father and your mother that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God gives you". However nothing in this section states a parent can't learn from their children. So set an example they can be proud of also. Do this and your heart and soul will glow and provide you with all the warmth you need.

Lee

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY AND BEYOND

BOOK CLUB

This month the Yad Shalom book club has selected *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks. Follow the story of a hagaddah that passes through many hands. The book club will meet on Saturday February 20th at 6:00 PM for a dinner discussion of the book. Dinner will be at ANOTHAI in Gainesville (7535 Somerset Crossing Drive). You can see the menu at www.anothairestaurant.com We welcome spouses even if they have not read the book. We do ask that you let notify us by February 17 how many in your family will attend so that we can have the table set for us all.

SUPERBOWL PARTY

Come join the party and root for your favorite Super Bowl bound team. We'll start with a shared pot luck dinner before the game. Watch the game in a theater style TV room. The party will start at 6:00 PM at the Bystran's in Haymarket. We need to know what you will share so we don't all end up eating only chips and dips.

FRIDAY EVENING SHABBAT SERVICE

February 12th at Little Rocky Run Recreation Center No. 3, 13900 Stonefield Dr., Clifton, VA. Services start at 8:00 PM. Our d'var torah will be on parsha Mishpatim. Learn more laws and ordinances enumerated in the Torah. We invite you to share with others by bringing non-perishable food items that we will donate to a local food bank.

SATURDAY MORNING SHABBAT SERVICE AND PURIM CELEBRATION

February 27th at Little Rocky Run Recreation Center No. 2 on Springstone Rd. This will be a children's service with adults permitted and to show our children how to really celebrate. Come dressed up as your favorite Shushan personage. Services begin at 10:00 AM.



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

FROM: _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

ADDRESS: _____

MESSAGE: _____

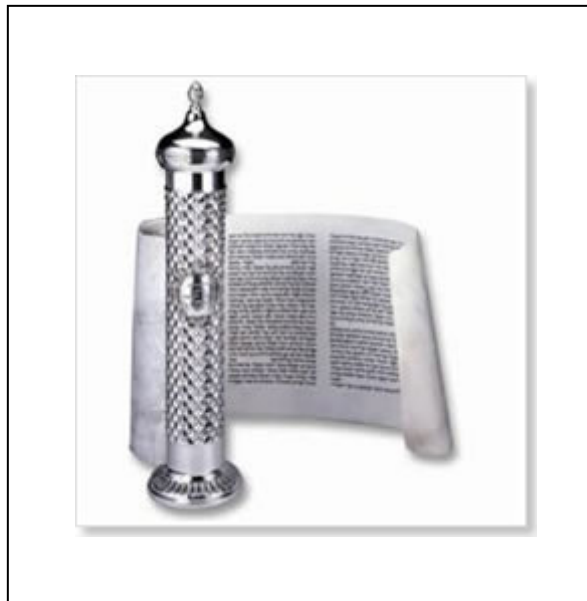
Would you like an acknowledgment in the newsletter? _____

Send acknowledgment to: Name _____

Address _____

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

תודה רבה!



HAPPY, HAPPY PURIM

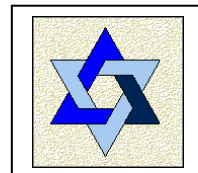
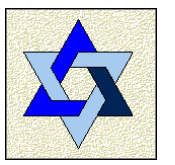
Board of Directors



YOUR 2009-10 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*



FEBRUARY YAHRZEITS – WE REMEMBER THEM

2/6 – Wendy and David Golden Family, Serena Zeger Warhaftig
2/7 – Nancy Gordon’s Grandfather, Nathan Leader
2/15 – Lee Oppenheim’s Grandfather, Abraham Shapiro
2/20 – Mark Braunstein’s Mother, Ann Braunstein
2/25 – Leona Bartell’s Father, Joshua Eisen
2/25 Janet Oppenheim’s Step-Grandmother, Sophie Rabinowitz
2/26 – Nancy Gordon’s Cousin – Bernice Selib

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 703-753-0928. And if you would like to join us, GREAT!

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

Adult _____ Birthdate (mo/day/yr) _____

Work Phone _____

Adult _____ Birthdate (mo/day/yr) _____

Work Phone _____

Anniversary (mo/day/yr) _____

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.