



# SHALOM from BETH SHOLOM NOVEMBER 2022

7 Cheshvan --- 6 Kislev 5783

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## *Rabbi Peggy Berman de Prophetis*

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### **HELP NEEDED:**

We are only a month away from organizing our Christmas Day dinner for the Interfaith Shelter. Please help us by collecting personal grooming items, both for men and women especially feminine hygiene supplies, new or gently used winter clothes, shoes/boots, gloves, hats, coats, etc. that we can deliver to the shelter and Code Purple facilities. Please do not bring these items to the synagogue. We also will plan to conduct a food drive in early December, as well as arrange for the cooked hot meal for the men that we have done for so many years on Christmas Day. If you would prefer to make a monetary donation, please feel free but indicate your intent on your check. We will need volunteers to pick up and deliver these items on a date chosen in December. Needed immediately is someone to coordinate this effort. Please call the office to volunteer. Several of us will help but we can't do it by ourselves.

# RABBI'S COLUMN:

*Rabbi Peggy Berman deProphetis*



In ancient Israel, every seventh year was a *Shemita* ("sabbatical") year. For an entire year, farmers gave their fields a rest. It was forbidden to sell food grown in this year so people had to plan ahead to have enough food and money to survive the year. The *Shemita* year was a biblical mandate.

As the eighth year began, so did a new seven-year cycle. It started on the second day of the holiday of Sukkot, sixteen days into the new Jewish year. Men and women, infants and grandmothers, scholars, farmers, and carpenters, everyone assembled in Jerusalem on the Temple Mount.

Once the entire nation had gathered, the King of Israel, dressed in royal robes ascended to a platform, situated on a specially constructed platform for this occasion in the Temple's courtyard. He recited a blessing and then read aloud several portions from the Book of Deuteronomy, and then concluded with several more blessings.

This event which happened every seven years was known as *Hakhel*, "assemble." It was the only event that required every Jew to be present, reminding us of the historic moment when every member of our nation stood at Mount Sinai to receive the Torah.

Last year was a *shemita* (sabbatical) year, so this year is a *hakhal* year for us. It began on Simchat Torah, a time we usually gather together to finish the annual cycle of Torah readings with Deuteronomy and start again with Genesis.

Although the mandate of *hakhal*, the gatherings of the entire Jewish people throughout the year to hear the Torah, is only in effect when all Jews reside in the Holy Land, nevertheless, in my opinion we should take advantage of it. In biblical times it was the king's not the High Priest's responsibility to arrange *hakhal* gatherings for an entire nation. In our time it is the responsibility of each community's leaders to gather its people. Every one of us can be a Jewish leader. We should be mindful of any opportunity that presents itself to gather some Jews and do Torah—whether that means actual Torah study sessions, or lay Jewish book clubs, building a sukkah, enjoying Shabbat dinner with friends and family, arranging a group trip to a Jewish cultural event, and even Thanksgiving dinner this month. You can discuss how Thanksgiving is a Jewish holiday. (See a previous Rabbi's Column below for discussion points.) And don't only approach equally committed Jews. Let's share. There are plenty of "just Jews" around us.

More Torah, more life, and hopefully more engaged Jews.

*Rabbi Peggy Berman deProphetis*

## Thanksgiving, a Jewish Holiday

In July 1623, in New Salem, Massachusetts, pilgrims and native Americans sat down together to express gratitude for surviving the previous harsh winter, for the food that was sufficiently plenty, and for peace. This was the first Thanksgiving in America. There were no Jews at the table, although Thanksgiving was, at its origins, a Jewish holiday. It is not surprising that American Thanksgiving had a biblical model. The pilgrims of New Salem knew their Bible. And they thought of America as their Zion and New Salem as Jerusalem.

Jewish Thanksgiving was first celebrated by the Israelites after they had completed their 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. After they settled in Canaan they were to make a pilgrimage to the Temple in Jerusalem, bringing with them the first fruits of their wheat and barley as a sacrifice of thanksgiving. Only after they had offered up these sacrifices in gratitude could they eat of the food they had grown.

Deuteronomy 26:1–11 describes the detailed procedures for offering of the first fruits, including the formula beginning, “My father was a fugitive Aramean...” which was to be recited.

This biblical holiday had two aspects--celebration of the agricultural harvest and the ingathering of the Israelites who made their way to Jerusalem in order to offer their sacrifices. It was a family affair.

On American Thanksgiving we too gather with our families and friends to eat a bountiful meal together and express our gratitude. Did you know that the original Congressional resolution to make Thanksgiving a national holiday occurred in 1789. That same year the first known Jewish sermon--40 pages long--on the national Thanksgiving was delivered by Gershom Mendes Seixas, the chazzan of the Spanish and Portuguese synagogue in New York City. There were no rabbis then in our country. The Congressional resolution recommended “a day of public Thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of the Almighty God...” Prayer is a form of thanksgiving and perhaps it would be good to add a little to our own celebrations.

Here’s a suggestion based on Sim Shalom (gray cover):

Psalm 100, p. 60 “Prayer for Thanksgiving” (based on Psalms, Isaiah, and Ben Sira, p. 819)

“America: Founded on Biblical Precepts,” pp. 821-823 Add to this a sharing time when each person states the things for which he/she is thankful.

The festive meal Birkat ha-mazon, (grace after meals)

And there you have it--A Jewish American Thanksgiving, one tied to its origins and reflecting its original intention. Enjoy your (הודו) hodoo--turkey).

Happy Thanksgiving, שמח הודיה חג , chag hodaya sameach!

*Rabbi Peggy*

## **Treasurers Report**

Please remember to return your 2022-2023 Membership commitment forms which were sent with return envelope for your convenience. Also, your Kol Nidre Pledge card may be included in the same envelope if you wish. Most people have already done this and I thank you. We really count on your responsiveness each new year and hope it is a good and healthy one for you and your family.

Continue to bring your Redner's receipts into the synagogue. There is a basket at the window in the office. We receive a percentage of the total amount of purchases. Remember we need the entire receipt, don't tear any section off. *Only by using your Redner's membership card* will it register the save-a-tape amount. If not, then your receipt and all your efforts are invalid for this program. This has been a terrific fundraiser for the Congregation. Noble's Pond residents have contributed many dollars to Beth Sholom through the Redner's program. Thank you to those of you who are leading this collection at your clubhouse. If you also can conduct a community drive, all your efforts are very thankfully received. These dollars make a wonderful addition to our income.

If there are any concerns or questions, please contact me.

*by Stu Handler*

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*by Caroline B. Schwartz*

Just when I thought it was OK to breathe a sigh of relief from being 'on call' at the synagogue during the High Holy Day schedules, October came to an end and it was time to begin November in the shul with all the activities being planned and needing to be shared!

October 16<sup>th</sup> Ice Cream Social was extremely well attended. The weather was delightful and our Sukkah looked grand. Thanks to many who helped. Lucy Mehl and I finished decorating the sukkah in time for the social. Our professional scoopers did an amazing job; thanks to Blanca, Anne, Gwen, and others who helped dish up the refreshments. Thanks too to Stu, Barry, and Tom for putting up and taking down the Sukkah. Tom also has mended the canvas for which we are also grateful.

Hopefully, you too will encourage your Jewish friends to come for socially focused activities. I would like to add, that I believe those people who are new to Dover, and perhaps in a mixed religious marital relationship would benefit from being in our Jewish group with others of similar backgrounds. The more times we celebrate being Jewish together socially, the more opportunity for people to decide they like what we have and do to foster and encourage their belonging to our Jewish community. We need each other.

Right from the beginning of Sukkot, we were looking ahead during choir practice to resume scheduling a joint program with Erin Grier's other choir at Centreville United Methodist Church in Centreville Maryland. She has worked with both choirs teaching us two beautiful pieces that pertain to everyone. And so after deciding we would go ahead and get together we set Friday November 4 at Shabbat Services to deliver our combined choirs with the Centreville folks being our guests. And also in November we will travel to their church on November 13 to perform as their guests at their service with the same music. Please join us for those performances. We have been apart for a long time.

Rabbi Peggy will be here conducting services on Friday, November 11, and Saturday, November 12. During the Torah service on Saturday she will be performing and celebrating the Baby Naming of little Miss Danica Eve Retzlaff. The Bragg and Retzlaff families invite you to attend and bear witness to Danica receiving her Hebrew name and being entered into the Covenant of Abraham. Her mom Paula and her maternal grandparents have been part of Beth Sholom for a *loooooong* time! We will have three generations of girls together in our sanctuary. Such a simcha! Cheri Bragg, Paula and now Danica! It doesn't happen very often at Beth Sholom! Welcome to the Retzlaff family, especially daddy Eric. We are so thrilled to share your simcha.

This month I am launching a new initiative to offer more input into the planning and featuring diverse and meaningful events at Beth Sholom. I have created a **Calendar Committee**. This committee will meet regularly once a month to discuss programming, events, Jewish holiday

observances, social events, and other important activities we have been returning to include as Covid lets us out from under the cloud.

I have initiated the search for interesting and interested people to meet, and have heard from some. The designated meeting time needs to be on a regular day, each month, with a majority attending either in person or by Zoom. So far not everyone has returned my request, and I am now asking you all if this is something you can commit to. The group will plan and produce the calendar for the upcoming month ready for the bulletin. Each item placed on the calendar will have a person behind it for contact. As we progress with this idea, I expect it to be refined and developed into a working cause with many people involved with just a small part of the planning and development process. Won't you please let me know you will be available.

**The inaugural meeting of the CALENDAR COMMITTEE will be held on Wednesday November 16 at 10:00 am.** If this date does not suit, then another date will be proposed. I would like to suggest going forward, that the second Wednesday, or the second Tuesday either morning or afternoon should be selected. So if you are reading this, please spread the word.

November to me means remembering **Krystallnacht**. It was the beginning of the end to so many European Jews and other groups of special people. We just can't let those memories go and fade into the lost book of history that affected Jews all over the world. George and Carole Mason will be here on Friday, November 18 to conduct services and honor the victims of that fateful event. Please come for an inspiring and memorable evening.

Ernesto Rivera and I attended the "Stop the Bleed" and Safety and Security training in Wilmington conducted by DEMA at the JCC. We were also guided through an active scenario to ready and reduce response time should an event occur. We discussed the ideas of fear versus action when a critical action is needed. What would you do in an active crisis? This is not something we all regularly think about, I am sure. But in our crazy world, crises can occur anytime, anywhere. We need to be ready at all times and be sure of how we will respond. It is well known that people freeze when faced with fear. That is not the best reaction to save lives. The best advice I think we should imbed in our brains is "See something, say something", don't worry if it is not anything harmful, just report it and let the authorities decide. Time is not on one's side in a crisis. Know your exits, know your options, know to listen to people on scene who seem to have experience and rise to the occasion to take charge. Time is of the essence in an emergency. Most of all, try to stay calm.

Aside from the hands-on training that would turn most people green, I thought it was very creative to use red Jello as simulated blood for the practice of stopping the bleeding! At one point I thought I might pass out, but then I realized it wasn't the sight of blood (Jello), I had not had breakfast or lunch and I was hungry! Go figure! Shortly after we finished with the blood stuff, we had lunch. Seeing how much food was consumed I don't think anyone was phased by

the experience. Of course, it was only a practice, but who knows what one would experience in a real situation.

Beth Sholom Board has spent many hours discussing best practices and will shortly be coming out with a written policy for congregants. We are looking for someone with computer design ability to make room maps for each room in the building and a general building map with pertinent safety information. If you can do this with me, please give a shout out.

November of course brings Thanksgiving. Because of Covid restrictions most religious organizations are not having universal Thanksgiving services. We have not considered one either. In the past the Dover ecumenical leadership would host large gatherings to give thanks prior to Thanksgiving.

Many organizations in the area collect different items, and always are in great need. Check out Code Purple Kent County, The Ecumenical Council for Kent County, many Church organizations, and local supermarket sites for collections.

People's Church on South Bradford hosts overnight homeless men, and women and children are housed at House of Hope on West Division Street, and provides food and shelter. These organizations are always open for donations. If you would like to get involved with Code Purple, check out their website. And of course the Interfaith Mission for Housing is always happy with whatever we can collect and deliver. Remember Cindy will be organizing the Christmas Day Brunch in December for the shelter.

Just contact whomever you would like to support. We will not be doing a Beth Sholom drive as there are so many other options in the area who will take your donations. And of course, money is always appreciated. You can make a monetary donation to Beth Sholom, designate "community outreach" on the memo line. This will be incorporated into the annual gifts we give to Code Purple and the Interfaith Mission. We use a percentage of the Redner's receipts to fund this account and your grocery tapes help with this too.

On behalf of the Board, I wish you and yours a very safe, satisfying, and savory Thanksgiving. Please remember there are many who do not have the luxuries each of us have, food, clothing, and a safe place to live. So please answer the call for supplies and items for those less fortunate.

Be Well and Be Thankful

*Caroline Schwartz, President*

*MAKE A SPECIAL NOTE TO ATTEND SERVICES:*

*PLEASE JOIN THE BETH SHOLOM CHOIR AND HELP WELCOME THE CHOIR FROM CENTREVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FRIDAY NOVEMBER 4 AT 7:00 PM. WE WILL PERFORM SEVERAL PIECES OF MUSIC TOGETHER DURING OUR FRIDAY NIGHT SHABBAT SERVICE. ERIN GRIER IS THE LEADER OF BOTH CHOIRS.*

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## *November Simchas:*

*We are sending wishes for a Happy Birthday and a Good Year to*

November 2 Ilana Levine;

November 9 Clyde Bragg;

November 13 Cheri Bragg and Bryan Kobza;

November 19 Steven Schwartz;

November 24 Erik Retzlaff;

November 25 Darah Rivera and Michael Mensch;

November 27 Carole Mason;

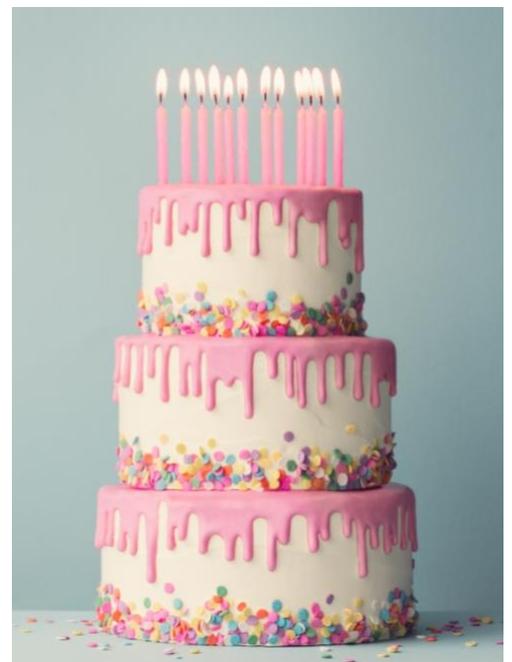
November 30 Allen Weinstein.

WOW that's a LOT of CAKE!!! Enjoy.

**And celebrating their Anniversary** November 24 are Myna German and Erv Schleifer! Happy Anniversary and many more.

*Mazel Tov and Siman Tov for another year in Good Health.*

If you know of anyone needing a call or a card, please let Anne Parks know at [luckyladyane@gmail.com](mailto:luckyladyane@gmail.com)



*Celebration and Simcha*  
*November 12, 10:30 am*



*The Bragg/Retzlaff families invite you to attend the Baby Naming of little Miss Danica on Saturday, November 12, at 10:30 am, with her family as they celebrate this simcha at Beth Sholom in Dover. Kiddush will follow the Torah service. Please join this wonderful simcha milestone.*



**NOVEMBER 2022**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1  6:00 pm Choir	2	3	4  7:00 pm Choir accompanied Service with Guests Centerville Church choir	5
		7 Cheshvan	8 Cheshvan	9 Cheshvan	10 Cheshvan	11 Cheshvan
6 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS	7 Board Mtg 6:30 pm	8  6:00 pm Choir  Election Day	9  Kristallnacht Remembrance Day	10	11 RABBI Shabbat Svc 7:00 pm HYBRID  VETERANS DAY	12 RABBI  Services 9:45 am Torah Svc 10:30 Bragg/Retzlaff BABY NAMING
12 Cheshvan	13 Cheshvan	14 Cheshvan	15 Cheshvan	16 Cheshvan	17 Cheshvan	18 Cheshvan
13 RABBI 9:30 am Morning Minyan 10:30 Class  *Joint Choir Performance w/ Centerville Methodist Church*	14	15  Choir 6:00 pm	16  10:00 am CALENDAR COMMITTEE MTG	17	18  Shabbat Svc 7:00 pm HYBRID Leader: Geo & Carole Mason Krystallnacht Remembrance	19
19 Cheshvan	20 Cheshvan	21 Cheshvan	22 Cheshvan	23 Cheshvan	24 Cheshvan	25 Cheshvan
20	21	22  Choir 6:00 pm	23	24  THANKSGIVING	25  Shabbat Svc Leader: Barry Brill 7:00 pm ZOOM ONLY	26  HYBRID Services 9:45 am Torah Svc 10:30 Leader: Steve Schwartz
26 Cheshvan	27 Cheshvan	28 Cheshvan	29 Cheshvan	Rosh Chodesh Day 1 30 Cheshvan	Rosh Chodesh Day 2 1 Kislev	2 Kislev
27	28	29  Choir 6:00 pm	30			
3 Kislev	4 Kislev	5 Kislev	6 Kislev			

## YAHREZEITS for NOVEMBER

November 1 - 4

7 Cheshvan	Max Borish	No Pl	?
7 Cheshvan	Mary Bryant	No Pl	Janet Rennie
8 Cheshvan	Herman Faber	No Pl	Cheri Bragg
8 Cheshvan	Stanley Wolin	Bd 3 R5	Betty Wolin
9 Cheshvan	Rose Barros	Bd 1 R1	Andy Barros--

11/5 – 11/11

12 Cheshvan	Martin Golden	Bd 3 R5	Rita Golden
12 Cheshvan	Bessie Nurock	Bd 1 R1	?
12 Cheshvan	Abraham Schuman	Bd 1 R1	?
12 Cheshvan	Laura Morosi	No Pl	Diana Bock
13 Cheshvan	Sigmund Samuel	Bd 2 R4	Bob and Marlene Samuel
13 Cheshvan	Arthur Tollin	Bd 3 R4	Fred Tollin
13 Cheshvan	David Martin	Bd 2 R1	?
16 Cheshvan	Janice Winter	No Pl	?
17 Cheshvan	Irwin Meyer Zuckerman	No Pl	?

7/12 – 11/18

18 Cheshvan	Isadore Barmash	No Pl	?
18 Cheshvan	George Rosenhaus	No Pl	?
19 Cheshvan	Lester B. Lustfield	No Pl	?
21 Cheshvan	Raphael Katz	Bd 1 R2	?
22 Cheshvan	Michael Leschetsko	No Pl	?
23 Cheshvan	Robert Albert Gorkin, Sr.	New Plaque	Bob Gorkin
24 Cheshvan	Margaret Hirschbein	Bd 2 R5	Debbie Hirschbein
24 Cheshvan	Jacob Ettenger	Bd 2 R2	?

11/19 – 11/25

26 Cheshvan	Fannie Silverman	No Pl	Jeffrey Silverman
27 Cheshvan	Julius Meyer Rubin	No Pl	?
27 Cheshvan	Reva Saltzberg	No Pl	?
30 Cheshvan	Paula Freedman	No Pl	?

KISLEV

1 Kislev	Sanford Albert Solomon	Bd 3	Jeannie Solomon
1 Kislev	Paul Kramer	Bd 3 R1	Irving Kramer

11/26 – 12/2

2 Kislev	Phyllis Levitt	new plaque	Laura Levitt
3 Kislev	Ralph I. Estreich	Bd 3 R2	Woody Auerbach
4 Kislev	Edward Levin	No Pl	?
4 Kislev	Samuel Spector	No Pl	?
5 Kislev	Gerald Dougherty	No Pl	?
5 Kislev	Esther Kramer	No Pl	Irving Kramer
5 Kislev	David Scott King	No Pl	?
6 Kislev	Lester Little	No Pl	?

(December 1-2)

7 Kislev	Irving Breindel	Bd 3 R3	Jeffrey Silverman?
7 Kislev	Henrietta Brenman	Library plaque	Burt Brenman
8 Kislev	Jennie Cohen Chasanov	No Pl	?
8 Kislev	Olive Allen	NO PL	?
8 Kislev	Etta Kurlander	No Pl	?
8 Kislev	Ruth Leskiwec	No Pl	?
8 Kislev	Frank Newman	No Pl	Sharon Newman

Yahrzeit Reminders:

We are rebuilding our files of close family members related to those of yahrzeits. Unfortunately, our records have been lost over many years and we are trying to locate survivors, many with different last names. It is customary in many synagogues to send out reminders of upcoming yahrzeits to members. Any information you can provide will help to accomplish this task over the next year, month by month. Whether you are new or a long-time member we hope to include all your family members in our monthly list. Please give us your information or correct any misinformation or let us know if you have connections to others who used to be members and who we should remember. Help identify those with no name. You can let the office know and that information will be forwarded to me or to the people who are volunteering to work on this task with me. Thanks for your patience. Caroline S.

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## **BURIAL LOTS FOR SALE AT SHARON HILLS: A MESSAGE FROM SHARON AND BRUCE BOLASNY**

Sharon Hills Cemetery in West Dover has a reserved portion of the gravesites strictly dedicated for members of Beth Sholom Jewish community. One of our congregant families is offering to sell two adjacent plots. The price each is \$1000, plus \$850 for the vault. The transfer is made through the company that owns the cemetery and arrangements can be made with the Bolasny's to purchase their lots. There may be other fees involved such as transfer fees. Please contact the Beth Sholom office to be put in contact with Sharon Bolasny.

*Shalom from Beth Sholom*

Congregation Beth Sholom  
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We're on the Web!  
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