

# Sim Shalom

Sh'vat-Adar 1 5775  
January-February 2015

THE NEWSLETTER OF TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL, HARLINGEN TEXAS

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## BLOOD DRIVE

There will be  
a kosher  
barbecue  
lunch for all  
participants  
and free  
t-shirts  
and gift  
cards.

**January 25  
11 am-3 pm  
at the Temple**

**More information,  
Page 2**

Giving blood is  
easy and fast. It  
is a wonderful  
way to help  
other people.

You need to be at  
least 16 years old  
and 110 pounds.  
Please be  
prepared to  
have parental  
permission if you  
are 16 or 17.

Please call or email Alma R  
(970-7722 or [almafrussek3@aol.com](mailto:almafrussek3@aol.com))  
or Abby W ([gonsky@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gonsky@sbcglobal.net)  
or 536-0705) if you are planning to  
come or if you have any questions.

Here's a fine way  
to start the New  
(secular) Year!!!



## Pot-Luck Shabbat Dinner

Services will be  
at 6:30 p.m.  
on Friday, Jan. 16,  
with a pot-luck  
supper to follow.

# Calendar

## JANUARY

16-18 *Rabbi in town*

16 **6:30 p.m.** Early services/  
Potluck Dinner

17 **9 a.m.** Shabbat service, with  
Torah discussion and  
breakfast to follow

**6:30 p.m.** Havdallah and  
discussion on the Jews of  
France: Should They Stay or  
Should They Go?

18 **10 a.m.** Religion School

24 First Annual Temple Beth  
Israel Game Night

25 **10 a.m.** Religion School

**11 a.m.-3 p.m.** Blood Drive

## FEBRUARY

4 Tu B'Shvat

5 **7:30 p.m.** Shabbat service

8 **10 a.m.** Religion School/Tu  
B'Sh'vat outing

15 **10 a.m.** Religion School

20-22 *Rabbi in town*

20 **7:30 p.m.** Shabbat services

21 **9 a.m.** Shabbat service, with  
Torah discussion and  
breakfast to follow

21 Berg-Steinberg Tribute Dinner

# Oneg Shabbat

Each member household is asked to host one Shabbat oneg during the year. Remember hosting now involves setting up, cleaning up, and providing challah, Kosher wine, grape juice, paper/plastic goods, coffee and drinks. You can bring other treats you like, but the congregation will share the responsibility of bringing snacks and desserts. If you cannot be a host on the date assigned, please call Laurel Steinberg at 550-9530.

## ONEG HOSTS

**Jan 17: Early services and potluck Shabbat dinner coordinated by Laurel Steinberg and Bill Berg**

## SPECIAL PROGRAM

To the Harlingen Congregation,  
Rabbi Kogan from McAllen called today that he and a group from McAllen will be attending the program featuring Dr. Joel Hoffman at 2:00 PM Sunday at the Temple in Brownsville. (SEE PAGE 4 FOR MORE INFORMATION)

Dr. Hoffman was one of Rabbi Kogan's instructors. The Rabbi says that Dr. Hoffman is terrific, and he is glad that Brownsville is bringing him to the Valley.

I want to make a good showing of Brownsville and Harlingen members of the congregation.

*Larry Holtzman*

## BLOOD DRIVE SCHEDULED

Temple Beth Israel

January 25, 2015 Sunday

11:00 am-3:00 pm

Join the Temple to help those in need in the community! Donating blood is safe, it's simple, and it saves lives. Most donors find it a painless and heart-warming experience.

**WHAT TO EXPECT:** Donors must be at least 16 years old and weigh at least 110 pounds. All 16-year-olds and some 17-year-olds must have parent or guardian permission to donate. Every blood donation begins with an interview and a brief medical exam. The interviewer will take down the your personal information, including medical history, current health status, medications and travel history. Next, your temperature, blood pressure, pulse and blood hemoglobin level will be checked. Many donors consider this mini-physical an added bonus! If everything checks out after your interview and physical, you are ready to donate. The technician will gather your special kit with your donation materials in it. All materials used during the donation process are sterile and are used only once and then properly disposed. You cannot contract any infectious disease by donating blood.

You will relax in a comfortable chair while the technician collects your blood donation into a special container. The procedures are all different and take varying amounts of time (whole blood donations take about 10 minutes; some pheresis donations last almost 2 hours).

After your donation is complete and we outfit you with your hero's badge of honor (gauze and a colorful bandage), you will rest and enjoy refreshments. We recommend that you spend at least 15 minutes in our refreshment area to have a snack and drink plenty of fluids. Then you can resume your normal routine.

*Incorporating the blood drives in your religious education classes is a great way to instill positive values and the power of community service. In the RGV we need to collect 175 units of blood daily to provide an adequate supply for the patients in the hospitals we serve. Donating blood is a voluntary service that is made possible only through organizations, religious and educational institutions partnering with United Blood Services with blood drive sponsorship programs. — Candy Sorayah Iannelli, Donor Recruitment Representative*

# Thank You

## DONATIONS

SUNDAY SCHOOL  
Abby Warshowsky

GENERAL FUND  
Robert & Anne Weiss

## SCRIP CARDS AVAILABLE:

Please support our scrip card program! If you are Starbucks consumer, please consider buying scrip cards for \$10 or \$25.

Starbucks pays us 7% of the value of the card. Also, Cinemark offers 4%.

**\$100 HEB,**

**\$100 WALMART,**

**\$25 CINEMARK**

These cash cards are like money at the store — but a portion of your purchase will go to our temple. See Alma Russek or call her at 970-7722.

### ■ RATES FOR MEMORIAL

**PLAQUES:** Our rate for a memorial plaque on our memorial wall is \$350. Or you can buy two for \$600. Please contact any board member to purchase a memorial plaque.

■ **HONOR A LOVED ONE OR A SPECIAL OCCASION** with an engraved plaque on a Pew. The cost is \$1250. See any board member to make arrangements.

■ **THE LADIES OF HADASSAH** are busy baking cheesecakes and getting ready for the annual Deli Luncheon which will be at Temple Bethel in Brownsville on January 30th. Tickets can be purchased from any Hadassah member. We look forward to seeing you there! *Emily J. Alpert*



## Celebrations

### BIRTHDAYS

1/9 Rosalie Berg  
1/13 Gabriel Hernandez  
1/18 Nivia Fisch  
1/18 Zendaya Newman  
1/23 Zachary Wolf  
2/4 Fernando A. Russek  
2/7 William C. Stewart  
2/10 Laurie Joseph  
2/15 Joshua Jacobson  
2/18 Brett Wolf  
2/20 Bill Berg  
3/14 Gerald Sondock  
3/16 Meredith Linsky  
3/19 Bert Wolf  
3/22 Dan Simha  
3/31 Gilbert Weisberg  
4/5 Alma Russek  
4/5 Jamie Wolf  
4/6 Dagan Wise-Herring  
4/11 Andre Suissa  
4/15 Jonathan Berg  
4/16 Brittini Elise Greenfeld  
4/17 Sophia Simha  
4/20 Harry Holzman

5/2 Susan Ander  
5/4 Patty Gaytan  
5/14 Marisa L. Kahn  
5/15 Benjamin Gonzalez  
5/30 Andrew Newman  
6/3 Benjamin Newman  
6/18 Yosef Paul Jacobson  
6/24 Tomer Simha

### ANNIVERSARIES

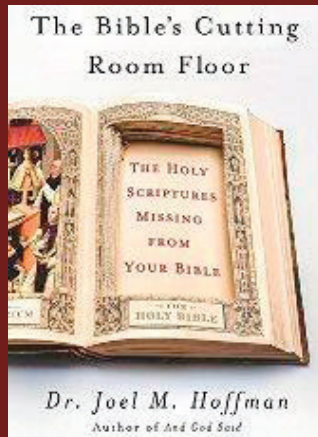
1/1 Ronald & Dyan Banks  
2/6 Christine & Richard Newman  
2/7 Jose & Liliana Cohen  
3/7 Dr. Stan & Nivia Fisch  
3/20 Paul & Sofia Shirazi  
5/29 Bill & Monica Stewart  
5/30 Bill Berg & Laurel Steinberg  
6/20 Lewis & Dena Levine  
6/29 Harry & Elizabeth Holzman  
6/30 David & Laurie Jacobson  
8/14 Gilbert & Susy Weisberg

*Did we miss you?*

*Please send birthdays & anniversaries to [laurie.b.joseph@gmail.com](mailto:laurie.b.joseph@gmail.com).*

**Sunday January 18th**  
**Fantastic Lecture @2:00pm**

Reception & Book signing to follow



**Jewish Bible Scholar to speak at**

**Temple Beth-El**

**24 Coveway Dr. Brownsville, TX 78521**

***“On the Bible’s Cutting Room Floor”***

**FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**Dr. Joel Hoffman**



The Bible you usually read is not the complete story. Some holy writings were left out for political or theological reasons, others simply because of the physical restrictions of ancient bookmaking technology. At times, the compilers of the Bible skipped information that they assumed everyone knew. Some passages were even omitted by accident.

During his lecture, “On the Bible’s Cutting Room Floor”, Dr. Joel M. Hoffman will give us many examples of the stories and other texts that didn’t make it into the Bible even though they offer penetrating insight into the Bible and its teachings. His lectures are always filled with “AHA” moments!

**After his lecture,  
 learn more from Dr. Joel Hoffman  
 with a signed copy of his book**

**Meet Joel Hoffman!**

**And take home his book for only \$26.**

**Cash, Check, Credit or Debit Card.**

Dr. Joel M. Hoffman focuses on translation, Hebrew, and the Bible, and is known for his “fresh insights and interpretations about religious life in the 21st century.” A popular speaker, Dr. Hoffman presents to churches, synagogues, community groups, and university audiences across the world. He holds a Ph.D. in linguistics and has served on the faculties of Brandeis University and Hebrew Union College.



Another Proud Presentation of the  
 Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life  
 For more Information: [www.isjl.org](http://www.isjl.org)

**This Event is made possible by:  
 The Temple Beth-El Education Fund  
 RSVP [temple.bethel@yahoo.com](mailto:temple.bethel@yahoo.com) or  
 Call - 956-266-7125**