

[Bethel-Harrisonburg.org](http://Bethel-Harrisonburg.org)

*The purpose of this congregation shall be to worship God in accordance with the faith of Judaism; to cultivate a love and understanding of the Jewish heritage; to strengthen the ties within the Jewish community; to strengthen the bonds of loyalty with the Jewish people everywhere; to bring nearer the Dominion of God on earth through an emphasis on the principles of righteousness and harmony in society at large, and to engage in social action projects in pursuit of social justice and Tikkun Olam (repair of both the human and nonhuman components of the world).*

**APRIL 2022**

## ***A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT***

Happy Spring everybody! I'm just starting to see that hint of purple on the redbud tree out the window by my desk. This is such a hopeful time of year. Everything gets so much more colorful and COVID cases are low!

Speaking of which, we have updated our mask policy. Masks are now required ONLY for folks who are unvaccinated. Everyone else has a choice.

Passover is coming up this month and we will be having, not one, but TWO zoom seders this year (Thank you, Rabbi!), so look for more information about that.

The board has just voted to go ahead with the installation of a (much needed) new roof this summer, which is, as I'm sure you all know, very expensive, so please consider donating to support the project. Come Rosh Hashanah, we should have no more leaks!

One last request... Please also consider serving on a committee. Buildings and Grounds needs people, but we are always looking for people to help out in any way they can. Believe me, I know we are all busy, but Zoom meetings make things a little easier and if we all do a little part, we can get a lot accomplished.

And if you can't, that's okay too. We are just happy that you are a part of our Beth El family. :-)

Enjoy the blooming flowers,  
Amanda

## ***FROM THE RABBI'S DESK***

“In every generation every individual should feel as though he or she had actually been redeemed from Egypt.” —*Passover Haggada*

The Passover Seder is one of the most amazing rituals developed. It is an interactive celebration of an ancient event in we experience vicariously the events of our ancestors. The Exodus from Egypt is the defining event in Jewish history that has shaped the development of all that is Jewish, from religion, to history, to philosophy, to identity. The core value of the Jewish people as declared through the ages has been “Do not oppress the stranger for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.” Even though most of us were never slaves anywhere, never oppressed and experienced only minor discrimination—if any—

nevertheless Egyptian slavery has been an all-compassing identity paradigm for our people that continues through today throughout our people.

That value that defines our identity is based on the memory of the Exodus from Egypt. It teaches us that God redeemed us from Egypt and therefore we owe a big debt to God. We repay that debt by observing God's Torah, becoming good people. We treasure our own freedom, act carefully not to oppress others and work to liberate those who are oppressed.

We absorb these philosophies into our souls through the reenactment of the Exodus at the Passover seder. The Passover seder is one of the most observed rituals throughout the Jewish world. When we recall reading through the Haggadah as children we remember the spilling of the wine representing the plagues, the four questions, the ongoing singing of *dayenu*, the declaration of the matzah being the "bread of affliction," the tasting of the bitter herbs—reminding us of how bitter our lives were in Egypt and that had we not been redeemed. Had we not been redeemed then we, our children and our children's children would still be slaves in Egypt. Reenacting this seder year after year instills throughout our beliefs that we come from a people that was enslaved and but for God's grace we are free. We imagine that we could have been slaves in Egypt, or oppressed by Greeks, attacked by Romans or in Hitler's concentration camps.

Knowing this, repeating these rituals each year reminds us that while we could have been enslaved we are free and we must cherish that freedom as well as that of others.

Because when each of us "feels as though we were actually redeemed from Egypt" then we know the value of that freedom, the precariousness of liberty, the temporality of equality and the blessing that every human being on earth deserves.

Passover teaches us that and imprints it upon our souls through its reenactment each year at our seder. The Torah instructs us to act in accordance with these values, and the seder helps each of us incorporate that attitude into our very essence from the time we are young children.

So that we can pass this onto our children and work for a world in which we remain free, and all people become free.

### *Leadership*

Rabbi: Jeff Kurtz-Lendner'

President: Amanda Friss

Vice President: Roni Goldberg

Treasurer: Ron Rubin

Recording Secretary: Phil Renick

Corresponding Secretary: Gale Clemons

At Large Member: Josh Shulruf

At Large Member Andy Kohen

### **Bridge Editor**

**Elliott Golub**

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**540-289-5336**

Trustee: Les Mintzer  
Trustee: Ron Ornstein  
Trustee: Eric Rynar  
Men's Club: Les Mintzer  
Sisterhood : Sherri Alt  
Past President Michelle Ornstein

## ***YAHREZEITS***

01 Fred Rudd      Member  
    Ada Wise      1882 Child  
02 Jacob Katzen      Harry Katzen's Father  
03 Joshua L. Robinson      2017  
04 Fanny Sissman  
05 Lorraine Sonn      1972 Member Eddie Ney's Aunt  
    Mitchel Zindler      Leo Zindler's Uncle  
06 Joseph Hirsch      1964 Member  
    Joseph Ney      1916 Member  
    (Bill Ney's, Eddie Ney's, & Leo Zindler's great grandfather)  
07 Eva Friddle      1967 Member  
    Allan Rose      Bo Rose's Father  
    Judith Levine Schweitzer      Thea Golub's Mother  
09 Joseph Fineberg  
    Ida Clayman      Harry Clayman's Aunt  
11 David Miller      1954  
    Grover Cleveland Ney  
    Roslyn Freudenthal      1995 Judy Freudenthal's Mother  
15 Henia Schikman      Mike Schikman's Mother  
14 Charles Loewner      1938 Member  
16 Rosie Mayer  
17 Martin Borodkin  
19 Arthur Printz

Leah Perlman      2007 Milton Perlman's Sister-in-law  
 Sam Schneider      Jayne Rynar's Father  
 Lloyd Flannery      2008 Frances Flannery's Father  
 20 Ralph Leon Rodbell      2011 Herb Rodbell's Brother  
 21 Hana Shaw      Elizabeth Shaw's Mother  
 22 Philip Miller      1936 Member  
 23 Dorothy Funston      Jay Funston's Mother  
 24 Herman Wise      1924 Member  
 25 Benjamin Kohen      1989 Andy Kohen's Father  
 26 Sara Slain  
     Harry Robinson      1905 Member  
     Candace F. Blatt      2009 Franklin Blatt's Wife  
 29 Herman Miller      1905 Member  
     Minnie Wise      1921 Member  
 30 Vera Nemoytin      1977 Gene Nemoytin's Mother  
     Theodore Blatt      2001 Franklin Blatt's Cousin

## ***DONATIONS***

Dennis Ward – Yahrzeit – Lynne Landsberg  
 Michael & Dara Hall – In honor of Pam Ungar's membership and in Memory of Phil Ungar  
 Ron Rubin – Yahrzeit – Bettye Rubin Neuwelt – Mother  
 Allan Poster – Yahrzeit – Evan Poster  
 Michael D. White – In Memory of Lenore Arkin White  
 Eric & Jayne Rynar – Yahrzeit Memorial – Sam Schneider

## ***SISTERHOOD***

Sisterhood: We had a cozy get together meeting last week with coffee and desserts. We did our usual catching up and sharing as we still aren't seeing everyone in person yet like the good old days!

Our big discussion was how we could support Ukraine, it was a unanimous decision to donate \$1,000.00 to The Jewish Federation which has been done. Thank you Leslie Ney for getting that done.

We hope this will be the last year with no in person Seder .

We would not have been able to make such a large donation without the help of Sisterhood dues. Thank you to all who have paid this year, please if you have not sent in dues yet, it will help us continue to support our Temple and community. Dues are \$36 to Sisterhood and can be sent to Temple . If you are not sure if you paid, please feel free to check with myself or Leslie Ney.

Have a Happy Passover, we will schedule to get together again after the holiday

Sincerely,

Sherri Alt , Sisterhood Co-President

## ***ANNOUNCEMENTS/PHOTOS***

### **People Love Dead Jews**

Rabbi Grumbacher and Rabbi Nagel (of Temple House of Israel in Staunton) have invited us to participate in a Zoom book discussion of the book *People Love Dead Jews* by Dara Horn.

The event will take place the evening of Wednesday, April 13 at 7:00 pm.

A flyer about the event is attached. Although the advertisement for this is a little early we wanted you to have the opportunity to obtain and read the book in advance of this discussion.

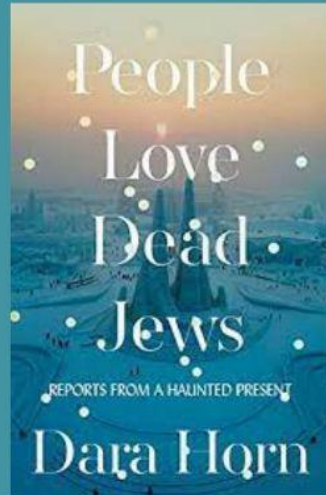
Zoom information will be provided closer to the event.

The book is available in hardcover, paperback, audio format and Kindle. Here is a link from Amazon if you would like to purchase it there:

[https://smile.amazon.com/People-Love-Dead-Jews-Reports-ebook/dp/B08X2Y6PP6/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?crid=PZGA1BOX9SFZ&keywords=people+love+dead+jews&qid=1645396632&srefix=people+love+dead+jew%2Caps%2C521&sr=8-1](https://smile.amazon.com/People-Love-Dead-Jews-Reports-ebook/dp/B08X2Y6PP6/ref=sr_1_1?crid=PZGA1BOX9SFZ&keywords=people+love+dead+jews&qid=1645396632&srefix=people+love+dead+jew%2Caps%2C521&sr=8-1)

And don't forget, if you purchase it (or ANYTHING) on Amazon, you can support our congregation as well! Make sure you register for Amazon Smile and choose Beth El Congregation in Harrisonburg as your designated charity!

**JOIN RABBIS GRUMBACHER,  
KURTZ-LENDNER AND NAGEL  
FOR A BOOK DISCUSSION**



**Wednesday, April 13, 2022 ~ 7pm**

**A startling and profound  
exploration of how Jewish history is  
exploited to comfort the living.**

*Raise the Roof Fundraiser*

*Our raffle is underway!*

*Join in the fun and support Beth El.*

*All ticket sales go directly to the Raise the Roof fundraiser.*

***The January winner was Harold Long. The winning ticket was sold by Les Mintzer.***

*Thank you to those who have purchased tickets!*

*(Tickets roll over into the next event through June 2022, so you still have a chance to win a prize.)*

*Our prize focus for February is music.*

*Food and more for March.*

*April is White Elephant month.*

*Gardening in May.*

*And summer reading in June.*

*One ticket is \$5.00 or five tickets for \$20.*

*Socializing? Consider selling tickets:)*

*Contact [ornfam@comcast.net](mailto:ornfam@comcast.net)*



# APRIL 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 FULL service – Federation Shabbat 7:30 pm	2 Torah Study 10:30 am
3 RS 9:30 am	4	5	6 Ethics Class 12:00pm 7:00pm	7 Nosh of Judaism Class 07:30 pm	8 <b>Family Service 6: 30pm Lay Service 7:30 pm</b>	9 Torah Study 10:30 am
10 RS 9:30 am	11	12	13 Ethics Class 12:00pm 7:00pm	14 Nosh of Judaism Class 07:30 pm	15 NO SERVICE – Erev Pesach Community Seder (ZOOM) TBD	16 Torah Study 10:30 am Community 2nd Seder (Zoom)
17 NO RS - Pesach	18	19	20 Ethics Class 12:00pm 7:00 pm	21 Board Meeting 6:00pm Nosh of Judaism Class 7:30	22 PROJECTED service 7:30 pm	23 Torah Study 10:30 am
24 RS- Yom Hashoah 9:30 am	25	26	27 Ethics class 12:00 pm 7:00 pm	28 Nosh of Judaism Class 07:30 pm	29 Phil Ungar Memorial Service 1:00 pm PROJECTED service 7:30 pm	30 Torah Study 10:30 am

Beth El Congregation  
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TO: