



[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 2018**

## **A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

### My View on What's happening at Beth El

Dear Members of Beth El,

By the time that you receive this, I am hopeful that Spring will be upon us though I am realistic enough to know that hope “springs eternal.” Very soon we will be celebrating Pesach and some of us will join together to do so at the First Seder on March 30<sup>th</sup>. As we celebrate that ancient redemption from slavery to freedom, we must still be mindful of things about modernity that would enslave us if we are not vigilant. Fill in the blank \_\_\_\_\_ with whatever in your life you wish to be freed from and think about what steps you can take alone and cooperatively with others to accomplish that redemption. I am truly confident that we have the capacities to do this.

Your Board of Directors continues to be busy on your behalf. At tonight's meeting we approved a slate of candidates for our annual election that will take place on May 5 during our congregational meeting. Details on this will be forthcoming soon and may even arrive before you read this. We also approved getting additional lighting for our parking lot to make exiting the building at night a bit easier and safer. Another topic of conversation resulted in our encouragement of everyone and every Beth El group to use the dishes, cups, glassware, and flatware available in our kitchen in lieu of disposable versions of those things. We are not banning plastic and paper goods and certainly will not discard those already in the building, but in the spirit of Tikkun Olam and being gentler with the planet we hope to make more use of the china, glasses, and flatware. We have arrangements (and a dishwasher) for cleaning whatever is used and that need not fall to whoever “sponsors” the eating. Surely, exceptions will be made for things like Religious School snacks.

I'm asked to remind you that there are several Funds that Beth El maintains to receive your donations when you feel moved to make them. I list them as follows:

Building Improvement Fund (includes the parking lot lighting)  
Janet Kohen Memorial Music Fund (usage is not restricted to music matters)  
Torah Repair Fund (monies in this one are far short of what will be needed)  
Yahrtzeit Fund  
General Operating Fund

I would also remind you that we benefit from your listing Beth El when you purchase things using your Amazon Smile account.

Because I don't wish to end on things as mundane as money, I wish you a Zissen Pesach and a joyous Spring (whenever it arrives).

*L' Shalom*

Andy

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

**Nisan - Iyar 5778**

Dear Beth El Congregants and Friends,

Passover came at the end of March, and we are now in the period of the counting of the Omer, the bridge between Redemption (celebrated at Passover), and Revelation (celebrated at Shavuot). We are, so to speak, wandering in the wilderness, moving between these two pillars that (together with creation, celebrated at Sukkot) form the tripod that supports and sustains our Jewish world.

Falling in the interim between these two major festivals are some non-Biblical commemorations, including Yom Ha'Shoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day), Yom HaZikaron (Memorial Day), Yom Ha'atza'ut (Israeli Independence Day), and Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Reunification Day).

May the crossing of this wilderness lead us to blessings and deepening relationships with family, friends, community, and G-d.

### **THINGS OF NOTE AND TO COME**

A milestone event was marked with the unveiling of the monument for Judge Josh Robinson on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Although this not what I usually think of as a highlight, it was meaningful for the family, and for those present, and it allowed of us there to remember the Judge, and to share our stories and thoughts of him, it was wonderfully positive, despite our sadness.

The first night Passover seder will be held at Bet El on Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. This is always warm and haimische (close and inviting), and very enjoyable. If you don't come you'll miss a great time and a great meal.

Coming up really soon is the Bat Mitzvah of Leah Feldman. It is the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of April. I hope you can come and help her family to celebrate. I know she will do a wonderful job and make us all kvell.

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, there will be a re-dedication of a street sign in Elkton. Not just any street sign, this is the street sign for Ben Yehudah Street. First placed by Hobbie Robinson years ago, it wore out, and is being replaced by the Roses. It is probably unique in that it is the same style as Jerusalem street signs with Hebrew, Arabic, and English writing. This is being viewed as a significant event – the mayor of Elkton will be there, along with other dignitaries. I will be offering a blessing, and other speakers are planned. It should be around 2:30 pm on April 15<sup>th</sup> – come and enjoy the festivities. Bo and Sandi Rose have all the details, if you want them.

Looking ahead to May, we have the Bat Mitzvah of Leah Jenkins – the Greenfield/Jenkins/Robles clan would be happy to have you join them to celebrate this event on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of May.

## **CALENDAR**

Scheduled Rabbi-led Religious services for the upcoming period are:

Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, the Passover Seder, first night; Friday April 13<sup>th</sup>, Shabbat and Bat Mitzvah of Leah Feldman; Saturday April 14<sup>th</sup>, Shabbat and Bat Mitzvah of Leah Feldman; Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, Shabbat service; Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, Shabbat service and Bat Mitzvah of Leah Jenkins; Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, Bat Mitzvah of Leah Jenkins; and Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, Shabbat and Confirmation for graduating Shorty members (Madeline Hall and Matt Lovinger).

## **IN THE CONGREGATION**

[Based on what I have been told and permitted to share. If you wish me to include a notice about someone here, please let me know; if they agree I will be glad to do so. Similarly, if you wish a name removed, please let me know.]

Baruch Dayan Haemet:

Dennis Ward and Jesse Ward on their loss of Lynne Landsberg.

Refuah Shelemah/Mi Sheberach:

Chuck Slott, Marlene and Blaine Brumbaugh, Lenore Price, Dale Brothers, Estelle Robinson, Carol Schepp and family, and Louis Robinson and family, Nicole Rotondi (Sherri Alt's daughter), Joyce Helbraun, Irma Nemoytin, Sam Dailey, and Elliot Golub.

*An Announcement*

Shalom, Dear Friends and Congregants of Beth El Congregation,

I am writing to make an announcement. It is not easy for me to write this, but I am not comfortable delaying, and it is unthinkable to me that I would not tell you – I believe that my relationship with you is far more than simply 'business', and you deserve to hear this from me directly. I have spoken with the Board, and we have agreed that this is the right way to proceed.

By informing everyone in this fashion using this venue, I hope to forestall any miscommunications, misunderstandings, or sense of a desire to engage in lashon hara (gossip). I hope also neither to leave anyone out, nor to fail to inform all at once.

Essentially, what I am telling you is that as of June 30, 2018, when my current contract to serve Beth El Congregation will be concluded, and all services and tasks that I am to provide under it will be done, I will not be continuing to serve as Rabbi to this community. I will not be entering into another contract with the congregation.

I was looking forward to doing so, but circumstances have changed, and now are such that I have had to make the choice to take this step.

Let me hasten to say that it was nothing that came about and no one at Beth El that brought this about; until very recently, my expectation was that I would be staying on for an additional period of years, as the Board and I were discussing. External factors entered the picture and necessitated this change of plans. The board agreed with me that this was the best choice given the circumstances.

The upshot is that I will be leaving, and going elsewhere.

As you can imagine, this is, for me, a mixed emotional event. On the one hand, I am excited to be engaging in new challenges and opportunities, while on the other I am saddened by the prospect of not seeing and working with so many of you. Over these years I have come to know and care deeply about and for those in this community. Beth El is a very special Jewish home, and Harrisonburg is a very special place to live and work.

At the same time, I know that all things end; change is inevitable. It is said that the only verities are death, taxes, and change.

After fifteen years of serving and leading this congregation, and working widely in the community, I know that Beth El is healthy, vibrant, and in the hands of strong and caring lay leadership. I am confident that the congregation, and the community, will continue to thrive. The rabbi who will come to replace me is fortunate, indeed, and will be coming into a strong, well-grounded Jewish community, full of truly good people. I hope you will support that rabbi and make him or her feel as welcomed and cared for as you did me.

As I leave, I wish the congregation and the community well, and hope for a rich, positive, and stable future for you, collectively and individually.

I will be continuing to lead services and do other tasks as I have in past, right up until the end of June. If you wish to meet or speak to me, it would be my pleasure, so please feel free to be in touch. And beyond that date, the miracle of technology allows continued communication. ☺

I will save any farewells for closer to June. For now, I close by offering you many blessings.

B'virkat shalom,

## **Rabbi Joe Blair**

### **CONTACTING THE RABBI**

Rabbi Joe may be reached by email at [RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com](mailto:RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com). He reads email regularly, **except** on Jewish Holidays or Shabbat, when he does not use the computer at all.

His cell phone number is 925-272-8563 (925-2-RAVJOE). Please note this number. **PLEASE CALL** if you have any urgent messages or **in case of an emergency**.

Please let Rabbi Joe know if you or anyone you know is ill or would want a call or visit for any reason. You are also invited to contact Rabbi Joe to arrange an appointment to meet or speak. The rabbi will be happy to set a time to speak with you, so that he can offer you his full, undivided attention.

Telephone messages left at the Congregation number are not checked regularly. Please use the cell phone number noted – 925-272-8563.

**Leadership**

Rabbi: Joe Blair

President: Andy Kohen

Vice President: Ruth Berger

Treasurer: Peter Kohn

Secretary: Phil Renick

Corresponding Secretary: Cindy Baron

Trustee: Lester Mintzer

Trustee: Andy Kohen

Trustee: Ron Ornstein

Past President: Kim Gutterman

At large member: Amanda Friss

At large member: Gale Clemons

Sisterhood President: Sherri Alt + Rebekah Greenfield

Men's Club President: Lester Mintzer

Religious School Principals: Dara Hall + Liz Webb

*Bridge Editor*

**Elliott Golub**

[Elgolubret@comcast.net](mailto:Elgolubret@comcast.net)

## 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
14	Charles Loewner	1938	Member	
16	Rosie Mayer			
17	Martin Borodkin			
19	Henia Schikman			Mike Schikman's Mother
	Arthur Printz			



	Leah Perlman	2007		Milton Perlman's Sister-in-law
	Sam Schneider			Jayne Rynar'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

### [To the Yahrzeit Memorial Fund](#)

Allan Poster

In memory of Evan Poster(His son).

Charles & Gale Clemons

In memory of Shirley Dobin (Gale's mother).

Mike White

In memory of Lenore White (His mother).

Judy Freudenthal

In memory of Jonathan Freudenthal (Her brother).

Bill & Leslie Ney

Esther Minskoff

Eddie Ney & Margee Greenfield-Ney

Judy Freudenthal

In Memory of Lynn Landsberg

[To the General Fund](#)

Bary & Ruth Berger

Penny Williams

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL / SHORTY

We hope everyone has a wonderful spring break and a very happy Passover!!

Last month, religious school and preschool students had the opportunity to celebrate Purim over two Sundays because it landed midweek! Rabbi Joe read from the Megillah and the following week we sported our costumes and enjoyed a carnival sponsored by SHORTY. Thanks so much to our parent helpers - Valerie Kramer, Tamara Johnstone-Yellin, Rachael Neckowitz, and Sara Trantum who made delicious treats and activities, and special thanks to Josh Shulruff for leading us in wonderful Purim music!

SHORTY:

SHORTY did a fabulous job leading the Purim carnival and a lay service last month! If you haven't seen our new t-shirts - they share some important messages - we are small but mighty and we believe a few can change the world! We have an active group and we are looking forward to all the upcoming b'nai mitzvahs and lots of new members!!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### *Sisterhood Cookbook*

Mona Wolf and Zissel Duda are putting together a Sisterhood Cook Book for Temple Beth El. It will be a collection of recipes containing those already handed down to them and YOUR favorites too. Please send your recipes to them via email:

magicmona1@yahoo.com or zissel\_duda1965@yahoo.com

This is expected to be a GREAT book, a tribute to YOUR Temple that contains YOUR favorite recipes to share! Therefore, we are having a contest for a GREAT NAME and YOU could be the winner!!! Names like..."Incredible Edibles", "What's Cooking?", "Jewish Cooking Made for Fun!" "Specialties of the House!" (Temple Judia)... we know you can come up with something cooler!!!

### **Ben-Yehuda Road Sign Installation**

On Sunday, April 15th at 3:50 in the afternoon, the newly refurbished Ben-Yehuda Road sign on Hobby Robinson's old store in Elkton is going to be installed. The sign was placed on the wall of the store in the 1960's and was officially recognized by the Elkton town council in 1972.

Rabbi Joe will open the proceedings with a prayer. Elkton mayor, Wayne Prince will talk, as well as Hobby's daughter, Sara Robinson, and Dan Bly will present a history of the Robinson family.

All are invited to attend.

Sandi and Bo Rose

### NATS GAME

The Beth El Mens' Club annual Baseball Trip to a Nats Game will be August 19, 2018. Nationals vs. Miami. The costs will be about \$30.00. Please contact Bill Ney by April 30 if you want to join in the fun.

### *Bazaar and Open House*

Mark your calendars! This year's annual Bazaar and Open House will be Sunday, April 22nd from 11:30 to 3:00.

Right now we're still in need of a little bit of help. Here's what we need...

1. Someone to help Mary Handley set up the Mediterranean Cafe between 11 and 11:30.
2. One or two people to serve at the Mediterranean Cafe between 11:30 and 3:00. This can be done in shifts, so if you can only help for part of the time, please still consider helping.
3. We would love to have a Kids' Cafe, with some kid-friendly food options, but need someone to organize it.

Please contact me if you'd like to help, know someone who might be able to or if you have any questions about specifics.

Thank you! And hope to see everyone there.

amanda

acfriss@gmail.com



With Love and Joy, we invite you to join us  
as our daughter

LEAH NANCY

*Leah Nancy*

is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah  
Saturday, the Fourteenth of April  
At Ten o'clock in the Morning

Congregation Beth El  
830 Old Furnace Road  
Harrisonburg, VA 22802

Celebration Luncheon to Follow

Tomer and Shelley Feldman

#### Bat Mitzvah Project

Leah Feldman has been volunteering at Anicera for her Bat Mitzvah Project. Anicera is a no kill animal rescue. We have noticed that they are in need of old towels and even paper towels. If you have any of those to spare the animals would greatly appreciate it. Please bring them to the Temple when you come for services or Religious School. She will have a basket to put them in. Thank you.

Shelley Feldman

### Personal and hygiene items for Residents (adult women and children of all ages)

- shampoo/conditioner (full size)
- body wash/lotion (full size)
- diapers/pull ups (size 3,4,5,6)
- diaper rash cream/baby wipes
- shaving cream
- baby shampoo/oil/lotion/bath soap
- night clothes (all sizes)
- first aid supplies kits
- tweezers
- brushes/combs
- rubber mattress covers
- children's coloring books
- winter or rain boots (all sizes)
- handmade blankets/quilts
- winter hats/gloves (adults)
- eye masks
- deodorant
- bras (all sizes)
- manicure sets
- antibiotic ointment, alcohol, peroxide)
- flip flop/slippers (all sizes)
- maxi pads/tampons
- underwear (all sizes)
- sunglasses (children and adults)
- sunscreen
- adult coloring books
- journals
- 2016 calendars
- alarm clocks
- umbrellas

## First Step

2016

## Wish List



### Shelter Supplies

- 13 Gallon and 30 gallon trash Bags
- bleach/no chlorine bleach
- dish detergent
- liquid hand soap
- towels/bath rugs
- shower curtains/liners
- twin size quilts, comforters and sheet sets
- sponges/Mr. Clean Erasers
- fabric softener
- wheeled storage bins with drawers
- bathroom/toilet cleaners
- disposable gloves
- coffee makers
- Clorox or Lysol wipes
- hand sanitizer
- laundry stain remover
- under bed plastic storage containers
- laundry detergent (HE) sensitive skin
- toilet paper/paper towels
- new bed pillows
- wet and dry swiffers
- laundry baskets/bags

Continued on back

### Food

- shelf stable milk
- cereal
- crackers
- mayonnaise
- jelly
- canned fruit
- sugar/artificial sweetener
- canned chicken/tuna/other meats
- cookies/graham crackers/granola bars
- spaghetti sauce
- juice (bottles, packets, and boxes)
- raisins/dried fruits
- cool aide/crystal light drink packets
- boxed meals (i.e. hamburger helper)
- coffee (ground)
- bottles of water/Gatorade
- flour and spices
- baking powder/baking soda
- powdered creamer
- coffee filters (cylinder)
- hot chocolate mix
- Fresh fruit (oranges/apples)
- cooking oil
- canned soup/canned pasta
- tea bags
- cake/brownie mixes, icing
- pudding and Jello-cups
- packaged snack crackers

### Gift Cards

At times First Step residents need things that First Step does not have (examples: perishable food, specific clothing and shoes for a job, gas to get to work or appointments, etc.) . Gift cards are used when there are no other community resources to provide the items.

- Dollar General
- Food Lion
- Roses
- Wal-Mart
- Ross
- Gas Stations
- Hair Salons
- Shoe Stores

### House Warming Items

Small household items for residents moving into new apartments/homes.

- Electric pump air mattresses
- sheets and towels
- measuring cups/spoons
- dishes/cups/mugs/utensils
- can openers/spatulas
- pots/pans/bowls
- small appliances
- shower curtains/rings
- strollers/pack-in-plays

### Office Supplies

- batteries (AAA, AA, C and D)
- lined pads of paper/journals/ notepads/notebooks
- business envelopes/stamps
- permanent markers



First Step

129 Franklin Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

(540) 434-0295

## **semi-annual corned beef sandwich fundraiser.**

The Annual Beth El Bazaar is coming soon (April 22) along with our semi-annual corned beef sandwich fundraiser. The profits from this sale benefit the Beth El general fund. Please use the order forms below to order for yourselves and get orders from friends, neighbors, co-workers and others. This time we will not be delivering the sandwiches, as we hope to get more people to come to the bazaar and pick them up in person. Therefore, if you sell them to people who can't come, please be sure to arrange to deliver them yourselves on Sunday or Monday. ( example: If I ( Ron O.) sell to my coworkers at SKMS, I will plan to bring them to school on Monday, April 23...)

The advantages of pre-ordering are the \$2.00 saving ( \$10. vs. 12 ) , and having your sandwich reserved for you. We plan to make as many sandwiches as we can (usually around 250), so any that are not reserved will be available the day of the bazaar for \$12.00.

Please turn in your pre-order forms and money to Bill Ney (at Beth El) by April 20 the latest... (or at least communicate with him by then ( ney331@aol.com ) )

If you have any questions, let us know -

Thanks

Ron O. for Beth El Men's Club

### **Beth El Congregation Bazaar Fundraiser Jewish Deli Style**

#### **Corned Beef on Rye Sandwich Meal**

---

**Pre-order \$10.00**

**Includes pickle, condiments, and chips**

**Pre-order/Pre-pay by April 10**

**Will also be available day of Bazaar for \$12.00**

**(Corned Beef prepared from scratch by the Beth El Men's Club)**

**Available for pick-up at Beth El Congregation,**

**830 Old Furnace Road on Sunday, April 22, 11:30am–3:00pm**

**(or for delivery on Monday, April 23, if pre-arranged with seller.)**

**Purchaser**

**Email (opt.)**

**Seller**

**Number of Meals Ordered**

**Amount paid**

**Come Join us at the Beth El Bazaar to learn more about the Harrisonburg Jewish Community.**

**Keep for Beth El use – return to Bill Ney w/payment**

**Beth El, PO Box 845, Harrisonburg, VA 22803**

Purchaser \_\_\_\_\_ Email (opt.) \_\_\_\_\_

Seller \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Meals Ordered \_\_\_\_\_ Amount paid \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Beth El Congregation Bazaar Fundraiser  
Jewish Deli Style

Corned Beef on Rye Sandwich Meal

Pre-order \$10.00

Includes pickle, condiments, and chips

Pre-order/Pre-pay by April 10

Will also be available day of Bazaar for \$12.00

(Corned Beef prepared from scratch by the Beth El Men's Club)

Available for pick-up at Beth El Congregation,

830 Old Furnace Road on Sunday, April 22, 11:30am–3:00pm

(or for delivery on Monday, April 23, if pre-arranged with seller.)

Purchaser \_\_\_\_\_ Email (opt.) \_\_\_\_\_

Seller \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Meals Ordered \_\_\_\_\_ Amount paid \_\_\_\_\_

Come Join us at the Beth El Bazaar to learn more about the Harrisonburg Jewish Community.

Keep for Beth El use – return to Bill Ney w/payment

Beth El, PO Box 845, Harrisonburg, VA 22803

Purchaser \_\_\_\_\_ Email (opt.) \_\_\_\_\_

Seller \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Meals Ordered \_\_\_\_\_ Amount paid \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation Telephone \_\_\_\_\_



# APRIL 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Easter Sunday	Pesach III (Passover)	Pesach IV (Passover)	Pesach V (Passover)	Pesach VI (Passover)	Pesach VII (Last day of Passover)	
NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL					7:30pmLAY SERVICE	
Pesach II (Passover)						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:30amRELIGIOUS SCHOOL (26) :				Yom HaShoah/Holocaust Memorial Day	Thomas Jefferson's Birthday	10amLeah Feldman Bat Mitzvah
					7:30pmLeah Feldman Bat Mitzvah	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:30amRELIGIOUS SCHOOL (27)	7pmBoard Meeting		Yom HaZikaron (Memorial Day)	Yom HaAtzmaut (Independence Day)	7:30pmLAY SERVICE	
12:30pmSHORTY MEETING						
3:50pm BenYahuda road sign installation						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:30amRELIGIOUS SCHOOL (28)		Lions Club Dinner			7:30pmRABBI SERVICE	
11:30amBETH EL BAZAAR						
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
9:30amRELIGIOUS SCHOOL (29)					7:30pmSISTERHOOD SHABBAT	