



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 2020

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, From the Board 3/16/2020

- Please note the following edit from last month: Faith in Action is principally asking both the city and the county, for funding to establish an initial fund that to lead towards affordable housing, at a requested annual sum of \$750,000 from each.
- Reports were somewhat abbreviated as we are in a stay the course mindset. We acknowledged that the evolving health crisis puts us in uncharted territory.
- Adult Education: Rabbi Grumbacher has sent out via the Bridge his upcoming topics.
- Building & Grounds Committee: Ron Ornstein reports that Stu Liss gave a reminder that we have done a structural analysis on the roof in the past few years, which is currently not strong enough to support the weight of solar panels, unless we were to consider moving the air conditioner off the roof. This is an option that will need more explanation.
- Nominating Committee: They (Cindy Baron, Roni Goldberg, & Andy Kohen) have currently filled about half of the slate, and are making progress on the remainder.
- Rabbi Search Committee: We have made arrangements for a visit from Rabbi Michael Cohen, but have not scheduled travel dates for a site visit due to the current pandemic. *Update: We are still looking since Rabbi Cohen is negotiating a position in NY.*
- Social Action: We voted to make a donation to the Center for Interfaith Engagement at EMU, as they are celebrating their 10th Anniversary.
- Music: Mickey Glago has installed a new audio system after the older one broke sometime after the recent Bar Mitzvah. We will need instruction on how to use it.
- Men's Club: Les Mintzer reports that we hosted the Men's Club last week. Les has postponed the interfaith dinner, and is planning to cancel the upcoming corned beef sales.
- Sisterhood: Sherri Alt supports cancelling the community seder.
- Religious School: Michelle Ornstein reports that the Purim event went over very well.
- Old Business: The Social Action event day is being postponed.
- New Business: Protocols were discussed for Beth El as the health crisis evolves with input from Rabbi Grumbacher and members of the board, notably Phil Renick.
- Michelle will alert the congregation of our current policies in a separate email.

Please note that the website calendar has been updated and reflects accurate information through the end of April.

peace and health-
Michelle

MY (MONTHLY) WORD!

“Be Strong! Be Strong! and We Shall Be Strengthened”

I’m writing this the week we complete *Sh’mot*, the Book of Exodus. When each book of the Torah is completed, before we move on to the next, the congregation recites a formula: *chazak, chazak, v’nitchazek*, “Be strong, be strong, and we shall be strengthened.”

Why repeat *chazak*?

The first represents the strength of the material in the Book. For example, when Abraham forged his own relationship with God he stood as a son independent from his parents’ theology. That gives us the strength to think for ourselves and not necessarily following in the footsteps of those before us. In Exodus, our ancestors proclaimed *na’aseh v’nishmah* when presented with the commandments, “We shall do and *only then* shall we hear,” as one translation explains it. The “doing” is vital; how we perceive the instruction is up for grabs. Of course as liberal Jews we don’t have to stick to the *halacha*, the law followed by more observant members-of-the-tribe, but we shouldn’t dismiss the instruction without careful consideration of what it might mean in our lives...and that “careful consideration” is, after all, what our tradition is all about.

So the first “*chazak*/Be strong” represents content.

The second *chazak* represents the need of the Jewish community to be strong. Torah gives us a common thread, but without the People Israel, the third component in our belief system (the first, of course, is God), what are we?

With the scourge of Covit-19, the coronavirus, community is as vital as ever. In numbers there is strength, and while Beth El is not a large congregation number-wise, it is large of heart and soul and spirit. That combination can create strength in our war against disease, a strength we desperately need, a war we must win.

As is the case with all Americans, indeed all the world, Beth El has to adjust to the new normal. Cancelling the community seder is certainly a painful but necessary decision. But we have to look ahead, to a rosy future with the return of the annual seder, a new “new normal” that will allow us to use the strength of community to strengthen ourselves as people and as Jews.

STAY HEALTHY!

Leadership

Rabbi: Peter H. Grumbacher

President: Michelle Ornstein

Vice President: Joshua Linder

Treasurer: Bill Ney

Secretary: Phil Renick

Corresponding Secretary: Gale Clemons

Trustee: Lester Mintzer

Trustee: Eric Rynar

Trustee: Ron Ornstein

Past President: Andy Kohen

At large member: Amanda Friss

At large member: Ron Rubin

Sisterhood Presidents: Sherri Alt + Rebekah Greenfield

Men's Club President: Lester Mintzer

Religious School Principals: Dara Hall + Liz Webb

Bridge Editor

Elliott Golub

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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

Judy Freudenthal In Memory of Estelle Robinson

To the Yahrzeit Memorial Fund

Allan Poster In Memory of his son (Evan Poster)

Gale Clemons In Memory of her mother (Shirley Dobin)

To the Pizza Bingo Fundraiser

Ellen & Les Cohen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PIZZA BINGO

Due to the current health crisis, Beth El's PIZZA BINGO event will be postponed. I will let you know when a new date has been set. If you have already purchased tickets, they will be still be valid, so there's no need to do anything. But if, for some reason, you would like a refund, that can also be arranged. Please contact me directly.

Thanks.

Take care of yourselves. And each other.

Amanda

FIRST STEP: A RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

First Step Top Needs

SURVIVORS NEED... YOU.

Survivors need to know that the community cares for them. Survivors need support. Survivors need YOU. Their time at First Step is temporary, but they still need the basic necessities to make their stay as comfortable and safe as possible. Survivors are able to access basic necessities at First Step because of community support. Could you imagine not having something as simple as a pillow or toilet paper? You make an impact on survivors when you donate the most requested items!

SURVIVORS' TOP NEEDS ARE:

New underwear, socks, & bras

New pillows

Paper towels & toilet paper

Clorox or Lysol brand disinfecting wipes

Coffee, tea, sugar, & creamer

Cleaning supplies (Bona solution, shower cleaner, etc.)

Laundry detergent pods (Tide Pods)

Sensitive skin detergent pods (All Free Clear Pods)

Snacks for children's groups (crackers, chips, fruit cups, etc.)

APRIL 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
9:30amCANCELLED - Religious school					7:30pmLay service	Aliyah Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
No religious school			Passover Eve	Passover (Day 1)	Passover (Day 2)	Passover (Day 3)
SHORTY Meeting				6pmCANCELLED - Passover seder at Beth El	7:30pmLay service	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Easter Sunday	Easter Monday	Passover (Day 6)	Passover (Day 7)		7:30pmRabbi Grumbacher	5pmPOSTPONED - Pizza Bingo!
No religious school	Passover (Day 5)		Tax Day			7pmHavdalah and Adult Ed with Rabbi Grumbacher
Passover (Day 4)						
12:30pmCANCELLED - Matzah brei social						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:30amCANCELLED - Religious school	6:30pmBoard Meeting	Yom HaShoah			7:30pmLay service	
		7:30pmYom Ha Shoah service				
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
9:30amCANCELLED - Religious school		Yom HaZikaron	Yom HaAtzmaut		7:30pmRabbi Grumbacher	7pmHavdalah and Adult Ed with Rabbi Grumbacher