

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 2021

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, Board Meeting 3/15/21

Rabbi Grumbacher reports that he expects to be back on the bimah by Friday, April 9th. He is working with potential Jews-by-Choice weekly. Two will be finishing up in the spring. He is working with our Confirmand, Hannah Lovinger, weekly. Confirmation on Saturday, May 22nd at 10:30 (tentatively). He spoke at JMU's Life-Long Learning program on the Ba'al Shem Tov, in the course entitled "Mystics Across the Ages," and it was well-received.

President's Report: Michelle signed and sent out letters (provided by Judy Freudenthal) to Harrisonburg and Rockingham area school administrators noting the Jewish holidays for the upcoming academic year. She has had ongoing correspondence with Rabbi Kurtz-Lendner regarding his contract and other points of information.

Treasurer's and Trustees' Report: Ron Rubin presented the quarterly report. We are exceeding our expected donations, and our expenses are less than expected. Ron expects that we are on target, financially.

Adult Education: The next one is April 10th . See Wednesday announcements for information.

Building and Grounds: Roof repairs were completed by Shen Corp on 3/03/21 with a cost of only \$1137, which was less than was estimated. We now have roof replacement quotes from Largent, Senger, and Shen Corp. We have an estimate from Greenhill Solar for a ground installation of solar panels placed behind the Temple.

Fundraising Committee: Amanda Friss, chair, is planning an upcoming meeting.

Membership Committee: Gale Clemons, Thea Golub, & Dale Brothers met recently to review dynamics. Michelle has joined, noting the committee will include outreach in the future. We received a new application for membership, from Leeanne Sheppard. The board voted in favor. Welcome, Leeanne!

Nominating Committee: Michelle Ornstein, chair; Leslie Harris and Aaron Neckowitz

Trustee: Ron Ornstein is up for a (5 year remaining) term

President: Amanda Friss

Vice President: Roni Goldberg

Treasurer: Ron Rubin

Recording Secretary: Phil Renick

Corresponding Secretary: Gale Clemmons

At Large members: Frances Flannery and Josh Shulruf

The board voted in favor of accepting the slate as proposed.

Michelle thanked the committee and those who committed to serving on the board.

Pulpit Search Committee: Thanks was expressed to those members who met with the various candidates and shared their impressions. We now have a signed letter of employment with Rabbi Jeffrey Kurtz-Lendner.

Social Action Committee: The work of Faith in Action on the issue of affordable housing continues. The organization is also engaged in major fund-raising, power-envisioning and enhanced relationship building among members of the assembly. Ron Ornstein and Andy Kohen have both been actively involved in enhanced relationship building, Linda Kohn summarized the H-R Interfaith Association Meeting. Additionally, the URJ RAC will be holding a Zoom webinar Townhall to discuss their 2021 Racial Justice Campaign. The committee has requested three separate donations. The Israel Religious Action Center; The Blue Ridge Legal Services; The Blue Ridge Food Bank. The request is for \$200 allocated to each of these which was approved.

Technology Committee: The committee is working to ensure more participants to stream services. Our ability to provide virtual options will continue to develop.

Other: Andy spoke with Lyndsey Noble, and has received a tutorial, regarding his efforts to become a co-manager for our website.

Sisterhood: Sherri Alt reported that they are working on the Seder kits for the upcoming zoom seder. More information to follow.

Religious School: Ron Goldberg reports that RS is trying to maintain the virtual participation,

and will be sending home seder kits, as they did with Purim.

Old Business:

a) Developing outreach was discussed, as detailed previously. Michelle continues to solicit for ideas. We are hopeful that Rabbi Kurtz-Lendner will be able to assist with this, as it is one of his stated interests.

b) Haiti Donation – We voted to donate the remaining \$50 to Eric Kramer for his upcoming Haiti trip to the orphanage this summer.

New Business:

a) Date for the annual meeting: Sunday, May 16, 2021 at 1pm.

b) Transitions were discussed. We will be shuffling committee responsibilities, and Michelle has requested that we give consideration to these responsibilities.

We discussed possibilities for updating protocols for returning to limited in-person events, with the increase of vaccinated individuals. We noted that children were still vulnerable. Additional considerations need to be resolved.

Michelle Ornstein, president of the board

“Chosen or Choosing? That is the Question:

The Traditional View and a Contemporary One”

We are called the “Chosen People.” Some are disturbed by the label. They believe it is chutzpah , nerve, hubris – pick whatever word you’d like – for Jews to say, “Among all the people in the world, God chose US.” Well, biblically speaking, God did choose US. Of course those who were around at that time aren’t around today...except for us. Now among those around today, can we say we are “chosen”? If we understand what that term means, really means, based on a three-thousand year tradition, it shouldn’t lead us to feel guilty. “Chosen” means chosen to fulfill the mitzvot , the Divine commandments. I don’t argue that the editors/writers of the Torah had a somewhat negative view of our neighbors, but it must be said that we Jews would have quickly lost our “favored” status if we didn’t follow what was ordained for us. I zoomed an interesting webinar in which one of the speakers distinguished between Jews in Israel and those in the diaspora, offering another idea of “chosen.” He said that our Israeli sisters and brothers are “chosen.” Furthermore, he posited, you and I are the “CHOOSING”; we in this country in particular but diaspora Jews in general, are “choosing” to be Jewish each and every morning when we wake up. Pointing to four reasons why Israelis are chosen, none of them imply superiority; rather they imply that they have no other choice. Israelis are chosen because:

- **There is a critical mass of Jews.** Others are in the minority.

As I said when Suzy and I lived in Israel, our first trip there, “Holy mackerel, even the trash collectors are Jewish; the letter carriers are Jewish; the bus drivers are Jewish!”

- **The language was Hebrew,** the biblical language of our ancestors.

Sure, there are Israelis whose English and Arabic are pretty close to perfect, but they speak, think and dream in the “Jewish” language.

- **The space is Jewish.**

Street signs are the names of biblical and contemporary Jews. There’s no “Second Avenue” but there is a street named, for example, after Rav Kook, the first Chief Rabbi of Israel. Museums emphasize Jewish history and culture, etc.

- **The time is Jewish.**

It is based on Shabbat and our holidays. Even if an Israeli wanted to, s/he cannot go to the office on our festivals, let alone the High Holydays.

We who live outside the land of Israel, that is, Diaspora Jews, have to decide whether we even want to remain Jewish; whether we want to affiliate with a synagogue; whether we’ll work on Rosh

Hashanah and Yom Kippur; whether our newborn will have a Brit Milah or Naming; whether we'll make donations to Jewish causes. We choose how we define, indeed, how we live our Jewishness.

Each and every day we prove we are a "Choosing" People.

What are YOU going to choose today

A Discussion: "New and Lingering Post-Pandemic Concerns"

A JOINT PROGRAM WITH STAUNTON'S TEMPLE HOUSE OF ISRAEL

April 10 at 10:00 am...Same day and time, different topic !

Please let me know if you'll Zoom with Rabbi Nagel and me

interimbethelrabbi@gmail.com

Leadership

BRIDGE EDITOR

Elliott Golub

Elgolubret@comcast.net

Rabbi: Peter H. Grumbacher

President: Michelle Ornstein

Vice President: Amanda Friss

Treasurer: Ron Rubin

Secretary: Phil Renick

Corresponding Secretary: Gale Clemons

Trustee: Lester Mintzer

Trustee: Eric Rynar

Trustee: Ron Ornstein

Past President: Andy Kohen

At large member: Rachelle Dorne

At large member: Roni Goldberg

Sisterhood Presidents: Sherri Alt + Rebekah Greenfield

Men's Club President: Lester Mintzer

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' 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


Judith Freudenthal – Yahrzeit – Jonathan Freudenthal

Gale & Charles Clemons – Yahrzeit – Shirley Dobin – Mother

Robert & Amira Silber - In gratitude for the rapid recovery of Peter and Suzy Grumbacher

Ron Rubin – Yahrzeit – Bettye Rubin-Neuwelt – Mother

SOCIAL ACTION

<div data-bbox="159 499 467 640">  </div> <p>FirstStep Peaceful Families • Safe Communities</p> <p>**New items only</p> <p><i>please</i> *** <u>SAULT RESPONSE & SAFETY ITEMS:</u></p> <p>New Prepaid 30 Minute Phones Cell Phones</p> <p>(Wiped/Deleted/With Chargers) Jogging/Sweatpants (M,L,XL, 2X,3X)</p> <p>Sweatshirts (M,L,XL,2X,3X)</p> <p>T-Shirts (M,L,XL,2X,3X)</p> <p>Women's Underwear (6,7,8,9)</p> <p><u>BABY ITEMS:</u></p> <p>Diapers (Sizes 4,5,6)</p> <p>Baby Wipes</p> <p>Double/Triple Strollers</p> <p>Diaper Rash Ointment</p> <p>Swim Diapers</p> <p>Baby Bottles</p> <p>Sippy Cups</p> <p>Pack & Plays</p> <p>Baby Bath Tubs</p> <p>Baby Toys</p> <p>Breast Pumps</p>	<p><u>BATHROOM SUPPLIES:</u></p> <p>Bath Mats</p> <p>Shower Curtains</p> <p>Shower Liners and Hooks</p> <p>Bath Towels</p> <p>Hand Towels</p> <p>Liquid Hand Soap</p> <p>Wash Cloths</p> <p><u>PAPER PRODUCTS:</u></p> <p>Kleenex</p> <p>Toilet Paper</p> <p>Paper Towel</p> <p>Plastic Cups</p> <p>Zip Lock Bags</p> <p><u>MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:</u></p> <p>Laundry Soap</p> <p>Laundry Baskets</p> <p>Beach Towels</p> <p>Sunscreen</p> <p>Planners</p> <p>Headphones</p> <p>Prayer Mats</p>	<p><u>KITCHEN SUPPLIES:</u></p> <p>Plastic Forks</p> <p>Plastic Spoons</p> <p>Paper Cups/Bowls</p> <p>Cups for Hot Beverages</p> <p>Plastic Dishes/Cups/Bowls</p> <p>Pots, Pans, Skillets</p> <p>Baking Pan/Cookie Sheet</p> <p>Garbage Bags</p> <p>Food Storage Containers with Lids</p> <p>Aluminum Foil</p> <p>Plastic Wrap</p> <p>Dish Towels</p> <p>Dish Sponges/Scrub Brushes</p> <p>Coffee Filters</p> <p><u>PERSONAL CARE ITEMS:</u></p> <p>Shampoo & Conditioner</p> <p>Body Wash</p> <p>Hand & Body Lotion</p> <p>Deodorant</p> <p>Feminine Hygiene Products</p>
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<p><u>BEDROOM ITEMS:</u></p> <p>Twin Sheet Sets</p> <p>Pillows</p> <p>Twin Comforters</p> <p>Blankets</p> <p><u>CLEANING SUPPLIES:</u></p> <p>Brooms and Dustpans</p> <p>Buckets and Mops</p> <p>Toilet Bowl Cleaner</p> <p>Disinfectant Wipes</p> <p>Glass Cleaner Bleach</p> <p>Lysol Spray Dish Soap Pine-Sol</p>	<p>USB Flash Drives</p> <p>Shoes (New)</p> <p>Clothing (New All Sizes & Genders)</p> <p><u>FOOD & DRINK:</u></p> <p>Cold Cereals</p> <p>Canned Goods (Soup, Vegetables, etc.)</p> <p>Juice</p> <p>Coffee</p> <p>Tea</p> <p>Dry Coffee Creamer</p> <p>Sugar</p> <p>Individual Packaged Children's</p> <p>Snacks</p> <p>Hot Chocolate</p>	<p>Hand Sanitizer</p> <p>Wide Tooth Combs</p> <p>Hair Brushes</p> <p>Dental Floss</p> <p>Shaving Cream</p> <p>Razors</p> <p><u>HAIR CARE PRODUCTS FOR PEOPLE OF COLOR:</u></p> <p>Hair Grease (Olive Oil, Coconut Butter, Etc.)</p> <p>Hair Lotion</p> <p>Satin Scarves/Bonnets</p> <p>Hair Moisteners</p> <p>Curl Restorer/Definer</p> <p>Detangling Spray</p> <p>Detangling Conditioners</p> <p>Rubber Bands</p>
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Hello there, parents and grandparents of young children. Many of you are signed up with PJ Library, and receive their wonderful books in the mail. Did you know that there is now a podcast website? In case you're not already participating in the PJ Library program check it out.
(<https://pjlibrary.org/home>)

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The PJ Library team has curated a [selection of resources](#) for parents, educators, and caregivers for handling conversations about race, racism, diversity, and inclusion.

Respecting Differences

A core Jewish value is honoring what makes individuals unique. Find books and activities about [respecting and celebrating differences](#).

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PJ Library is proud to offer families our beautifully illustrated Haggadah as a [free PDF download](#), available in English, Russian, Portuguese, Spanish, or French. This guide to the seder (Passover's ritual meal) will make your holiday experience more family-friendly whether you're a guest or a host.

Printed copies of the PJ Library Family Haggadah are also available for purchase from [Amazon.com](#) or [Amazon.ca](#).

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Urge Congress to restore voting rights

On June 25, 2013, the Supreme Court ruling in [Shelby County v. Holder](#) invalidated parts of the Voting Rights Act. In the aftermath of the Court's misguided decision, many states have tested the extent to which they can legally limit citizens' access to the ballot box by introducing--and in many cases passing--[restrictive voting laws](#).

The bipartisan John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act ([H.R. 4/S.4263](#) in the 116th Congress) would improve the voting process in the United States by modernizing the preclearance formula to cover states with a pattern of discrimination that puts voters at risk, protecting voters from the types of voting changes most likely to discriminate against People of Color and language minorities and requiring that jurisdictions make voting changes public and transparent, among other provisions.

Urge your members of Congress to support the bipartisan John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, which would help restore protections against these restrictive voting laws.

Background:

On June 25, 2013, the Supreme Court ruling in *Shelby County v. Holder* invalidated parts of the Voting Rights Act. The Court struck down Section 4(b), which contained a formula requiring certain areas with a history of disenfranchisement problems to seek preclearance from the Department of Justice when making changes to election procedures. Dissenting to the court's ruling, Ruth Bader Ginsberg noted, "throwing out preclearance when it has worked and is continuing to work to stop discriminatory changes is like throwing away your umbrella in a rain storm because you are not getting wet."

In the aftermath of the Court's misguided decision, many states previously covered by the invalidated "preclearance" formula have tested the extent to which they can legally limit citizens' access to the ballot box, by introducing, and in some cases passing, restrictive voting laws. These laws often have discriminatory effects on racial minorities, the poor, the elderly and students.

APRIL 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
NO Religious School	Passover (Day 2)	Passover (Day 3)	Passover (Day 4)	Passover (Day 5)	Passover (Day 6)	Passover (Day 7)
Passover (Day 1) Second Seder Via ZOOM					7:30pm Shabbat Lay Service	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Easter Sunday	Easter Monday			Yom HaShoah	7:30pm Shabbat Service w/ Rabbi Grumbacher	10am Adult Education
NO Religious School						
12pm SHORTY Meeting						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10am Religious School			Yom HaZikaron	Tax Day	7:30pm Shabbat Service w/ Rabbi Grumbacher	
				Yom HaAtzmaut		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10am Religious School	6:30pm Board Meeting				7:30pm Shabbat Lay Service	
12pm Shorty Meeting						
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
10am Religious School					7:30pm Shabbat Service w/ Rabbi Grumbacher	