

Beth El Congregation

Harrisonburg, Virginia

Keeping the Jewish Community Connected



The Beth El Bridge



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).

DECEMBER 2021

OUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello everyone. I hope you're all having a pleasant fall.

We welcomed a new member this month! Ben Nissley. We are very happy to have him officially join our community. I hope that you will all have a chance to meet Ben sometime soon.

More good news... Our solar panels are up and running! Thank you so much to our solar task force (Andy Kohen, Stu Liss, Mary Handley and Josh Shulruff) for ushering the project forward. And many thanks also to all who donated money for the project. It would not have happened without you.

Which leads me to the roof, which is still leaking and still needs replacing. Please consider donating to make that happen too.

We do not belong to Beth El. Beth El belongs to us. It's up to us to provide for its future. :-)

Amanda

RABBI'S REFLECTIONS

The Joy of Hanukkah

In our tradition Hanukkah is not considered to be a major holiday. Holidays are categorized into three different statuses: High Holidays, which are Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur; the major festivals – Sukkoth (including Simhat Torah), Passover and Sukkoth; and minor holidays – Hanukkah and Purim. Hanukkah and Purim are considered to be “minor” holidays because they are not mentioned in the Torah.

Many people are often surprised to hear that Hanukkah is not a major holiday. Its proximity to Christmas has given Hanukkah, in modern times, a status not previously accorded by our tradition. Hanukkah in our general society is often recognized in an effort to be increasingly inclusive.

Whereas Hanukkah, historically, may not have had the same status as the High Holidays, “minor” does not mean “unimportant.” Its presence in the Jewish calendar gives it a unique role in the Jewish cycle of life. A holiday of fun and celebration, remembering that Hanukkah is minor in comparison to Yom Kippur does not mean that we need to denigrate the importance Hanukkah has in the lives of Jews.

The fact that Jews have become so incorporated into American culture that non-Jews want Jews to feel included and therefore connect Hanukkah with Christmas helps to give it a new emphasis for American Jews.

And let's not forget the impact on our children. Christmas is an all-pervasive institution that dominates American life from the day after Thanksgiving until January 1. (Or perhaps from the day after Halloween...) Our children, as full participants in American culture, may feel left out of that significant aspect of American life by not celebrating Christmas. Hanukkah helps our children feel part of American life by having a fun, children- and gift-oriented holiday at a time when their Christian friends are observing a similar, all-encompassing family observance.

We can embrace the enhanced status Hanukkah has attained in current American culture, recognizing that in many ways it is a symbol of our being fully American, that our children are fully American, and that our friends and neighbors see us as fully American. If that means that we enjoy Hanukkah in a more intense and non-traditional fashion than did our ancestors, well, that's just part of the changing status of American Jewish life. Let us celebrate Hanukkah not only for the traditional aspect of what Jewish history has meant to us, but as a symbol of what it has come to mean for 21st Century American Jews.

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

Trustee: Les Mintzer

Trustee: Ron Ornstein

Trustee: Eric Rynar

Men's Club: Les Mintzer

Sisterhood : Sherri Alt

Past President Michelle Ornstein

BRIDGE EDITOR

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540-289-5336

DONATIONS

Ron & Michelle Ornstein – In honor of Millie

Eric & Jayne Rynar – Yahrzeit – Kate Schneider

Bill & Leslie Ney – Yahrzeit – Annie Ney

Bo & Sandi Rose – Yahrzeit – Sybil Rose

Michael & Nancy Clayman – Yahrzeit – Ruth Clayman

Arnold Kahn & Ellen Swecker – In Memory of Phil Ungar

Edward Ney & Margee Greenfield-Ney – Yahrzeit - Frances Stewart

Bruce & Sherri Alt – Yahrzeit - Evonne Schecter

Mona Wolf – Yahrzeit – Sophie P. Miller (Mona's mother)

Joe & Anna Zapotoczny – Donation in Memory of Phillip Ungar.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Religious School is continuing a successful year. In October, when it was warmer outside, we learned Israeli dancing during our middle hour after snack. In November, we participated in Global Day of Jewish Learning, and discussed our shared history, community, and sacred connections - before making a paper chain onto which the students wrote and drew the values, holidays, and customs that connect us oneach loop, forming a living sculpture.

Also in November, Religious School made hex nut and tile menorahs. When learning about traditional Hanukkah foods, our students not only named the classics (latkes and sufganiyot) but suggested a novel idea: fried matzoh balls. Stay tuned for more creative Jewish interpretations from our youth!

As the temperature dips, Religious School is continuing outdoor snacktime, but reducing outside time on the chilliest days. We will reevaluate periodically with input from parents and guidance from the Beth El board. Safety is our first priority. Religious School is also developing plans to allow fully vaccinated, masked parent/guardian volunteers to participate in Religious School activities in the near future. elebrating with families is an important aspect of our learning, and in sharing the joy of our community.

As always, we are grateful for the hard work of our teachers and teaching assistants, the commitment of our families and students, and the involvement of Rabbi Kurtz-Lendner. We also want to thank the members of the tech committee who continue their support so that we can successfully engage with the rabbi.

Liz & Dara

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Beth El fundraiser: Please consider how you can participate.

Rolling* Raffle

*Your ticket rolls over into the next event though June 2022.

Our first raffle starts January 1, 2022

How you can help:

- 1) Sell raffle tickets. (You will receive a raffle ticket kit with more information.)
- 2) Buy raffle tickets (\$5.00 for each individual ticket / \$20.00 for 5 tickets.)
- 3) Provide items for the monthly theme.
- 4) Join the fundraising committee.
 - Each month has a theme*: January is a box of Puzzles & Games
 - February is Music month
 - March is Food Focus
 - April is White Elephant month
 - May is Gardening month
 - June is Summer Reading month
 - *Themes are subject to change

Proceeds from this fundraiser will go to the “Raise the Roof” fund.

Michelle Ornstein, Fundraising Committee

Interested in an Interfaith Tour of Israel and the Holy Land?

Two Weeks in Autumn 2022

With Suzy and Rabbi Grumbacher and Gigi and Pastor David Mueller

A lot depends on the status of Covid-19 here and there

**But if you are at all interested and wish information, let us know via
peterabbi@aol.com**

There is NO commitment at this point whatsoever.

Rabbi Kurtz-Lendner is available to our members.

Please feel free to contact him directly at:

rabbijkl@bethel-harrisonburg.org or 540-908-4488

This is his direct number and if he does not answer please feel free to leave him a detailed message.

Rabbi Kurtz-Lendner will also be readily available to have a conversation with you over Zoom.

"Frances Flannery and sons Sam and Harry wish to thank our wonderful friends in the Beth El Congregation for all the support and for sitting shiva with us after the passing of Susan Flannery, mother and grandmother. Your warmth and kindness have made a difficult thing less difficult and we love and appreciate each of you."

YAHRZEITS

01 Sadye Spiro 1953 Member

03 Alfred Ney 1954 Member

(Bill Ney's & Leo Zindler's Grandfather)

04 Mona Weiss 2014 Ron Rubin's Sister

05 Anna Bloom 1932

Elizabeth Levey

06 Sebastian Goldsmith 1929 Member

Albert Klingstein 1957

08 Mollie Katzen 1986 Member

09 Max Frankel 1980 Member

Elaine Trubitz 1983 Mark Trubitz' Mother

12 Rabbi Jacob Schvanenfeld

Barnett Nelson

Molly Feig Betty Nemoytin's Mother

13 Bertha Schvanenfeld 1948 Rabbi's Wife

Roselea Kohen 1998 Andy Kohen's Mother

Shirley Merlin 2014 Member

14 Simon Wender 1976 Member

16 Agnes Moore Cleda Frankel's Mother

William A Loewner 1980 Member (Austin)

Simon Oestreicher 1918 Member

17 Carl Ney 1967 Member

18 Louis Hamburg

Rhoda Mintzer

21 Esther Derechinsky Max's Mother

22 Sarah Rabinowitz Josh Robinson's Grandmother

Gladys Ney 1984 Member

Rabbi Burton Padoll 2004 Life Member Sheila Padoll's Husband

23 Albert H Ash 1946 Eddie Ney's Grandfather

24 Nace Cohen

Irma Nemoytin 2018

25 Thresa Hirsch 1952 Member

26 Amelia L Figgatt 1980 Member (Mimi)

Mal Mintzer

Joshua Rader Stein Roberta Stein's Son

27 Annie Robinson 1949 Member Josh Robinson's Aunt

28 Josephine Metzger 1928 Member

29 Pearl Rachel Katzen

Joseph Howard Rubin 1988 Ron Rubin's Father

30 Eddie Ney 1940 Member Eddie Ney's Grandfather

Doris Kalman Brian Kalman's Mother

Sarah Miller

Bertha Hammer 1957 Member

31 Lenora Myerberg 1997 Member

Sarah Miller 1989 Member

SUN 28	MON 29	TUE 30	WED 1	THUR 2	FRI 3	SAT 4
	HANUKKAH (DAY 1)	HANUKKAH (DAY 2)	HANUKKAH (DAY 3)	HANUKKAH (DAY 4)	HANUKKAH (DAY 5)	HANUKKAH (DAY 6) / ROSH CHODESH TEVET
			12PMADULT EDUCATION - ETHICS		7:30PM SHABB AT SERVICE	10:30AM TORA H STUDY
			7PMADULT EDUCATION - ETHICS			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:30AM RELI GIOUS SCHOOL			7PMADULT EDUCATION - ETHICS		7:30PM SHABB AT SERVICE	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:30AM RELI GIOUS SCHOOL			12PMADULT EDUCATION - ETHICS	6:30 BOARD MEETING	7:30PM SHABB AT SERVICE	10:30AM TORA H STUDY
			7PMADULT EDUCATION - ETHICS			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:30AM RELI GIOUS SCHOOL			12PMADULT EDUCATION - ETHICS		CHRISTMAS EVE	CHRISTMAS DAY
			7PMADULT EDUCATION - ETHICS		DAY OFF FOR CHRISTMAS DAY	10:30AM TORA H STUDY
					7:30PM SHABB AT SERVICE	
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
			12PMADULT EDUCATION - ETHICS		DAY OFF FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY	NEW YEAR'S DAY
			7PMADULT EDUCATION - ETHICS		NEW YEAR'S EVE	10:30AM TORA H STUDY
					7:30PM SHABB AT SERVICE	

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