



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).

JUNE 2018

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends of Beth El,

It is with mixed emotions that I prepare my last president's message for inclusion in the *Beth El Bridge*. On the one hand, it's pleasurable to write to you about all the good things that have happened at Beth El recently. Included among these are the election of a new Board of Directors (even though some are incumbents and re-electees that we are fortunate to have continuing in leadership), the signing of the contract to install new parking lot lighting, the planting of three new trees on the front lawn, the wonderful shared fellowship and meal with friends at Emmanuel Episcopal Church just yesterday, and the joy of so many that is connected to the recent B'nai Mitzvot. It's been a bumper crop of new "adult" members of our community and it bespeaks hope for the future of Judaism in the Valley and elsewhere. In addition, there are more b'nai mitzvot to celebrate on the immediate horizon, and some summer activities are not far off. We also look forward to welcoming in the early autumn the rabbinic student, Ben Dyme, who will be with us for the coming year.

On the other hand, there is melancholy associated with Rabbi Joe's departure to serve a Jewish community in Charleston, WV and my own retirement from both your presidency and my 30 years of service as a Trustee of Beth El. As the lyrics of the old ballad go, "for everything there is a season." As I turn away from several things I've done at and for Beth El for quite some time, I will say that there are other ways that I plan to continue to serve. I am very deeply committed to and proud of our Jewish community and have no intention of disappearing, despite having been told more than once in recent years that I have "flunked retirement."

Shalom and L'Hitraot.

Andy

FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

Sivan - Tamuz 5778

Dear Beth El Congregants and Friends,

As I write this, we are on the verge of entering Shavuot, our joyous holiday of Revelation and the encounter with the divine, immediately following which we receive the Torah. We are moving out of the period of the counting of the Omer, past the journey from Redemption to Revelation, and onwards on the calendar, towards the recollection of our moments of sadness and loss, as we prepare to enter the Three Weeks, from the day of Tzom Shiva Asar Be'Tamuz (the fast of the 17th of Tamuz) on July 1st to Tzom Tisha Be'Av (the fast of the 9th of Av) on July 22nd remembering the siege and capture of Jerusalem and the destruction of the first and second Temples in 586 B.C.E. and in 70 C.E. On Tisha Be'av it is the custom to read the book of Lamentations, the mournful story of destruction and exile, using special melodies for the trope. The readings are mournful and sad, but the music is hauntingly beautiful, and makes the hearing of the text somehow more bearable, at times reaching an emotional peak that is rare.

In our transition from joy to sadness, and back again, may we all find meaning, strength, and many blessings in our life, and may we experience life fully. May you find reason aplenty to rejoice, learning and growth in sorrow, and comfort and joy all around you.

THINGS OF NOTE AND TO COME

Another milestone event last month was the Bat Mitzvah of Leah Greenfield Jenkins. It was the 11th and 12th of May. She rocked it! Mazal tov to her and her family.

May 6th was the Congregational annual meeting, overlapping with Religious school. Congratulations to those elected to offices and positions on the board, many thanks to those who served and whose terms are now concluding, and similarly, many thanks to those who are continuing to serve.

May 18th was the Shorty-led Confirmation service. This year, Matt Lovinger and Madeline Hall are graduating, and will be leaving us to go off on their adventures! This was a super-fun service, very upbeat and joyous, and a chance to kvell, not only at the graduates, but at all of Shorty. It was fantastic to see these young people on the bimah, leading the service, and sharing this moment of transition with joy. I am so very proud of the youth group and all they have accomplished. I expect to hear great things about each of them in future. Mazal tov to all of them, and heartfelt wishes for success!

Sunday May 20th was the last day of Religious school for the year. We held the last class session, followed by a Shavuot pot luck luncheon (dairy or vegetarian/vegan– Shavuot is generally celebrated with dairy foods because the Torah is likened to ‘milk and honey’, so traditionally Cheesecake, blintzes, ice cream, and did I mention Cheesecake? are served.). ☺ Here too I can say that I am so very proud of the students and the teachers who made the school such a success! I know it will continue to be wonderful in the coming years.

Shortly after the Shavuot gathering, about twenty of us from Beth El attended an interfaith gathering at Emmanuel Episcopal Church for a dinner and short program, along the lines of the Brotherhood Interfaith dinner that is annually held at Beth El. Emmanuel Episcopal reciprocated by inviting us to their Church – they came to Beth El last year. This was lovely, and I am so happy it could take place. I had a blast working with Rev. Robayo, and there were some really good questions that were raised! It would be wonderful to do this again sometime soon....

I will be attending a conference during the first week of June, and will not be in town. In an emergency, please email or call me (as listed elsewhere in this bulletin).

June 9th I am anticipating a Havdalah and social evening at Beth El. I hope to see you there.

June 15th and 16th Kylie Palmer will be celebrating her Bat Mitzvah. Join her and her family in celebrating.

Shorty will meet on June 17th.

June 20th, Shorty is taking a day trip to Charlottesville, and I will have the pleasure of accompanying them. ☺

June 29th and 30th, Ben Harris will be celebrating his Bar Mitzvah. Join his family in celebrating.

CALENDAR

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

Saturday, June 9th evening, Havdalah and social event; Friday, June 15th, Shabbat service and Bat Mitzvah of Kylie Palmer; Saturday, June 16th, Bat Mitzvah of Kylie Palmer; Friday, June 29th, Shabbat service and Bar Mitzvah of Ben Harris; and Saturday, June 30th, Bar Mitzvah of Ben Harris. On the secular calendar we have Memorial day on May 28th, and Independence day on July 4th.

IN THE CONGREGATION

[Based on what I have been told and permitted to share.]

Baruch Dayan Haemet:

Christy and Jonathan Helbraun on their loss following the recent death of Joyce Helbraun.
[I am not sure if Michael and Brenda should also be included in this announcement, or if that will create more friction.]

Refuah Shelemah/Mi Sheberach:

To Chuck Slott, Marlene and Blaine Brumbaugh, Lenore Price, Estelle Robinson, Carol Schepp and family, Eliot Robinson and Family, Nicole Rotondi (Sherri Alt's daughter), Irma Nemoytin, Sam Dailey, Harry Dailey, Zissel Duda, and Elliot Golub.

Baruch Habah/Welcome:

Those new to the community.
Ben Dyme, HUC rabbinical student.

Mazal Tov:

Rebekah Greenfield and Dan Jenkins on Leah Jenkins Bat Mitzvah!
Valerie and Mitch Lovinger and Dara and Michael Hall on Matt and Madeline's graduation and confirmation.
Matthew Lovinger on his graduation and confirmation – wishing you much Hatzlachah (success) going forward.
Madeline Hall on her graduation and confirmation – wishing you much Hatzlachah (success) going forward.
Mike Jarvis on completing his year of studies in Israel. Welcome back to the 'burg for the summer!

RABBI'S MESSAGE

Liminal Moments - Mingled Joy and Sadness

Liminality is the quality of standing on the threshold, in the in-between space between two places or things. It refers to the split-second when you have not yet left something and entered

something else. Liminal moments are instances of transition and change. They are neither good nor bad, and we cannot hold them – they are fleeting at best. All the same, they offer an instant and an opportunity; a frozen second of time when we can look both backward and forward – and that is how they can be so freighted, so emotionally powerful and fraught.

Each time we come to a change, a significant decision, or a lifecycle event, we pass through a liminal moment, crossing a threshold that we have not come to before. These thresholds are often times of both joy and sadness – sadness for what we leave behind, happiness for the prospect of what we expect.

A young adult who graduates from high school is crossing a threshold of this sort, as they leave the comfortable life they have known for many years, and entering the unknown of what is to come; they are shedding the familiar, and stepping forward into the open possibility of what is to come. They are both happily anticipating, and feeling a bit of concern, because it is unknown, and shedding the past is not always comfortable.

When we come to the end of a life, that too, is a liminal moment – those who are left behind are saddened by the loss, and the dying person may have regrets. At the same time, death can serve as a release from burdens and pain, and offer hope, for those who believe it, that something new and more is ahead.

Significant changes, too, bring about a liminal moment. The transition from the current to something else requires that a threshold be crossed. So, my leave taking from this community is in this mold. I am now coming upon a liminal moment in my life and the life of the community.

Frankly, I have hesitated to write this article, feeling unsure of what I wanted to say. Now, it is not possible to delay, nor to deny it any longer; the deadline has arrived, and this is what I can share with you.

This will be my final message for the Bridge and my last to you as your rabbi. As you can easily guess, I say that with some sadness, because it means that I will not be seeing and serving you, the members of this kehilah kedoshah (holy congregation) and the community in which it is nestled. I have come to know, to care for, and to love many of you. I have felt that our lives were intertwined as I was permitted to share in your moments of joy and sorrow. I will miss that, and you, very much. I sincerely hope to stay in touch.

At the same time, standing on this threshold, I am anticipating good things in future. For me, there will be a new congregation and community to come to know and to serve. For you, I anticipate a time of consideration and consolidation, a chance to take stock and to build on the strengths of this community, in order to continue to grow stronger, more vibrant, and more cohesive.

For those who do not already know, I am taking the pulpit at Congregation Temple Israel in Charleston, West Virginia. If you happen to be passing by, please make a point of visiting. I will retain the cell phone number I have, so I can be reached that way. I am transitioning in another way, in that I will be moving to use of a gmail address for email, so rabbijoe@gmail.com is the best way to reach me if you wish to do so.

I want to thank you for the gift of electing me as your rabbi. It has been my privilege, honor, and pleasure to serve for the past fifteen years. Had circumstances been different, I would have remained and been happy to continue in that role for the remainder of my career, but we are not always masters of our fate, and must at times bend our wills before other, stronger winds.

I know you will do well, and that you will thrive as individuals and as a community. Please remember to treat your student rabbi, Ben Dyme, and whomever comes to follow him, with the care, love, and respect that they deserve – as so often you have done for me.

A closing wish: if you are so inclined, I want to urge you to consider a donation to the Torah maintenance and repair fund that has been established. Keeping the sifrei Torah (scrolls of the Torah) in good repair requires an ongoing and regular effort, something close to my heart, and important to this community.

This is not a final goodbye, but simply a godspeed and farewell for now. I wish you all many blessings, as here:

*May your eyes sparkle with the light of the Torah,
and your ears hear the music of its words.
May the space between each letter of the scrolls
bring warmth and comfort to your soul.
May the syllables draw holiness from your heart,
and may this holiness be gentle and soothing
to you and all God's creatures.
May your study be passionate,
and meanings bear more meanings
until Life itself arrays itself to you
as a dazzling wedding feast.
And may your conversation,
even of the commonplace,
be a blessing to all who listen to your words
and see the Torah glowing in your face.*

Danny Siegel
The Lord is a Whisper at Midnight
(Pittsboro, NC: Town House Press, 1985)

**Respectfully, and Affectionately,
Rabbi Joe Blair**

CONTACTING THE RABBI

Rabbi Joe may be reached by email at RabbiJoeB@gmail.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. He will be available for appointments through June 30th.

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

Leadership

Student Rabbi: Ben Dyme

President: Michelle Ornstein

Vice President: Josh Linder

Treasurer: Bill Ney

Secretary: Phil Renick

Corresponding Secretary: Gale Clemons

Trustee: Lester Mintzer

Trustee: Bill Ney

Trustee: Ron Ornstein

Past President: Andy Kohen

At large member: Ron Rubin

At large member: Linda Kohn

At large member Amanda Friss

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
540-289-5336

YAHREZEITS

01 Dora Brill		Molly Katzen's Mother
02 Setta Scheuer	1894	
Marie A Good	1980	Estelle Robinson's Mother
William Piper		Sandi Rose's Father
Samuel Horn	1924 Member	
Marvin V Mondres	2006 Member	
Lila Hyman	2006	Joyce Helbraun's Sister
05 Bernard Ney	1961 Member	
Rita Kaslow	2001 Member	
06 Pauline Zindler	2002 Member	Leo Zindler's Mother
Leopold Wise	1885 Member	
07 Baby Samuel	1912	
08 Manuel Levine	1987	Janet Kohen's Father
10 Leo Zindler Sr.	1968 Member	Leo Zindler's Father
Margene Ward	2008	Michelle Ornstein's Mother
11 Anna Meyers		
Estelle Handler		Lenny Handler's Mother
12 Joseph Funston		Jay Funston's Father
Gertrude Davidson		
14 Fred Bersson	2005	Bob Bersson's Brother
Dave Merlin	2007 Member	
15 Miriam Hirsch	Member	
17 Elon Brand		Rafael & Shirley Brand's Son (THOI)
19 Herbert Kaslow	1986 Member	
21 Emma Ney	1876	First Person Buried in Beth El Cemetery
David Blatt	1980	Franklin Blatt's Uncle
22 Hyman Golub		Elliott Golub's Father
23 Anna Klingstein	1922 Member	
24 Albert F Miller	2000	Mona Wolf's Father
25 Joseph Fox		
Elisa Tomaszkeski	2004	Anne Mintzer's Granddaughter
26 Steven Nemoytin		Gene & Irma Nemoytin's Son
27 Lawrence Meyers		
28 Herbert Gould		Alan Gould's Father
Stanley Figgatt	1943 Member	
Morris Spiro	1940 Member	
29 William Obersig	1913	

DONATIONS

In Memory of Joyce Helbraun

Bill & Leslie Ney

Judy Freudenthal

To the Yahrzeit Memorial Fund

Esther Minskoff in memory of her son (Robbie Minskoff).

Arnie Kahe & Elly Swecker in memory of Arnie's son (Greg Kahn).

Eddie & Margee Greenfield-Ney in memory of Eddie's grandmother (Edna Ash).

Eddie & Margee Greenfield-Ney in memory of Margee's mother (Mildred Greenfield).

Michelle & Ron Ornstein in memory of Michelle's mother (Margene Ward)

To the General Fund

Dennis & Jessie Ward for thanking Andy Kohen for leading the Shiva Service for Rabbi Lynne Landsberg.

Penny Williams

PRESCHOOL/RELIGIOUS SCHOOL/SHORTY

May was a busy month for preschool and religious school considering we only met twice... On May 6th, after a pizza lunch with the congregation, we celebrated Lag Be'Omer with all sorts of fun games for the preschool and religious school children. Thanks to all of our SHORTY members for leading the fun! Everyone had a blast! The following Sunday we celebrated our Mothers, and then the school year ended on May 20th with a delicious Shavuot potluck – there were kugels and cheesecakes and all sorts of yummy food to nosh. During the festivities, Rabbi Joe recognized all of our teachers with a certificate of appreciation. The religious school recognized Rabbi Joe with a signed "LOVE" plaque so that he can take our love for him wherever he goes! We will miss you, Rabbi Joe!

Also during May, we celebrated the bat mitzvah of Leah Jenkins. She did a beautiful job chanting her Torah portion and we are all very proud of her! We are so excited to have two b'nai mitzvah coming up in June – please come join us in celebration of Kylie Palmer's bat mitzvah on June 16th and Ben Harris' bar mitzvah on June 30th at Beth El. It has been quite a year of celebrations!

Similarly, SHORTY had a celebration on Friday, May 18th as we led the Beth El congregation's Shabbat service and celebrated the confirmation of Madeline Hall and Matt Lovinger. We are so proud of these two students as they graduate from Turner Ashby High School on June 9th and embark on the next stages of their lives! Religious school will really miss Morah Madeline after she completed her 5th year of teaching our students and preparing them for b'nai mitzvah.

The fun for SHORTY has just begun – we will welcome Charlottesville's Camp Noar for a shul-in June 19th. Then on June 20th we will embark on an adventure as SHORTY travels to Charlottesville with Rabbi Joe for a fun day trip!

On behalf of the preschool, religious school and the youth group, please contact Dara Hall at mddmhall@verizon.net if you know of any preschoolers, K-7th grade students, or 13+ year olds interested in joining either preschool, religious school or our youth group, SHORTY.

Have a wonderful summer!

Lag Be'Omer May 6,2018



SISTERHOOD

Sisterhood led Shabbat services May 4th, it was a very inspiring and emotional service as we made this Shabbat a Service for Healing. We had many congregants suggest we do this service more than once a year, we will work on that. It truly did give everyone a chance to reflect, pray and feel as if your voice was heard. Thank you to all of the women who participated and especially thank you to Margee Greenfield who put the service together for us. And the oneg was awesome, thank you everyone who contributed!

We met on May 7th at the Temple for dinner and a wonderful talk with our own Heidi Rafferty on breast health. Heidi gave us so much important information with the opportunity to ask questions and share thoughts. It was really a great opportunity to have yet another program on health issues. This is a very serious health related issue starting with the basics of "does your doctor do a complete and thorough breast exam?" Sisterhood thanks you so much Heidi for joining us, we would love to have another opportunity next year.

More information will be coming for our last get together, we are planning to go out to dinner and just enjoy the great company--information will be coming on date, time, place. Thank you to all of the women who have joined together this year, we accomplished a lot!! Looking forward to seeing you at dinner--be on the lookout!

Sincerely,

Sherri Alt, Rebekah Greenfield, Sisterhood Co-Presidents

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUMMER LAY SERVICES

Beth El summer potluck lay-services return! Starting June 1st, we will resume the soup-salad-and whatever you bring potluck starting at 6:30 PM on Friday lay-service evenings. Lay services will begin at 7:30 PM. On the last lay-service of the month, we will have a prelude to the service, focusing on children, starting at 7:15PM.

Please remember— our doors are always open for Shabbat services throughout the year! We hope to see you this summer.

Mary Handley, Amanda Friss, & Michelle Ornstein

Thank You Rabbi Joe !

The board is inviting the congregation to come say thank you to Rabbi Joe for all he has done for our congregation and our Jewish community. We would also like to wish him all of the best in his new community. The date is June 9th, 7:00 pm. We will celebrate Havdalah together followed by finger foods, light snacks and sharing good times with each other and Rabbi Joe. Please join us for this bittersweet get together! Questions ? Please contact Sherri Alt at 820-3962

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US
IN CELEBRATING THE BAT MITZVAH
OF OUR DAUGHTER

Kylie Shay ♥

THE SIXTEENTH
OF JUNE AT TEN O'CLOCK

TEMPLE BETH EL
830 OLD FURNACE ROAD
HARRISONBURG, VA 22802

KIDDUSH LUNCHEON TO FOLLOW

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
- boxed meals (i.e. hamburger helper)
- 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
- 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

June 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
	Memorial Day				7:30pm LAY SERVICE (Potluck meal at 6:30pm)	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
					7:30pm LAY SERVICE (Potluck)	7pm Havdalah and farewell for Rabbi Joe
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
					7:30pm Kylie Palmer Bat Mitzvah	10am Kylie Palmer Bat Mitzvah
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Father's Day	6:30pm Board Meeting	Camp Noar (SHORTY)			7:30pm LAY SERVICE (Prelude for children at 7:15pm)	
12:30pm SHORTY MEETING						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
					7:30pm Ben Harris Bar Mitzvah	10am Ben Harris Bar Mitzvah