



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).

MAY 2021

- Ron Rubin presented the 2021-2022 budget. Full information will be available at the annual meeting on May 16. (The meeting starts @ 1:00PM.)
- Fundraising Committee: Amanda Friss reported on donations from the Friends of Beth El letter. Amanda is planning to send out a letter to the congregation to detail the timeline and need for additional funds for the roof replacement and the solar project. The committee continues to solicit ways to raise funds.
- Library & Archives: The library received a donation that will soon be catalogued and shelved. Several items (including minutes of board meetings from 2020) are on the shelf and await addition to the collection in protective archival sleeves.
- Nominating Committee: Michelle Ornstein reported that the ballot had been sent.
- Social Action Committee: Andy Kohen has continued the relational one-on-one meetings under the umbrella of Faith in Action. The organization continues on a path to increasing its membership... in pursuit of more “power” in the community. There are numerous free webinars provided by social action organizations, including ADL and HIAS. Linda Kohn attended one of March RAC town halls on what Reform Movement’s racial justice issue campaign in 2021 should be. She participated in the WRJ Conference, and attended a livestream with EMU’s Center for Interfaith Engagement. The board voted in favor of paying our dues for the interfaith Association and for a donation to Open Doors from budgeted money set aside for such donations.
- Technology Committee: Rachelle Dorne proposed additional funds for equipment/production as needed. The committee will assess existing dynamics. Leanne Shepard has joined the tech crew.
- Men’s Club: Les Mintzer is trying to ascertain how comfortable the members are as to possibly have an in-person meeting.
- Sisterhood: Sherri Alt reported that they provided the Seder kits for the Zoom seder. Appreciation was expressed regarding the kits and the successful Seder streaming.
- Religious School: Religious School has three weeks of additional classroom teaching. They will be celebrating Lag B’Omer on 5/02/21. On May 8th, Saturday, they will have a Religious School Shabbat. This will not be streamed, as it involves the Religious School children. The RS principals have requested that the attendance be limited to only the families of the students, to help with social distancing.
- Youth Group: (SHORTY) has resumed meetings, twice a month when possible.
- Old Business:
 - a) Current protocols: Our present protocol still maintains that we require all on-site attendees wear a mask, and maintain social-distancing. We ask that those in attendance be fully vaccinated as well.
 - b) Format of the annual congregational meeting: May 16th at 1pm.
We will maintain our format as such, thru Zoom. Reports will be available prior to the meeting.
- New Business:
 - a) The board voted in favor of the parsonage resolution for Rabbi Jeffrey Kurtz-Lendner for the period of July 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021.
 - b) Concern was raised regarding space between paved parking lot and the Ashburn’s lawn. There is a dip or a gully created after the last paving that is not easy to see at night, after services. Ron Ornstein, (Building & Grounds) will work with Clarence to minimize the problem. We ask that everyone be aware and avoid those parking spaces when possible. Flatter spaces with better lighting are usually available.
 - c) Andy Kohen has been in contact with Lindsey Noble for options to Squarespace. A change may cost less and will make it easier for individuals to make use of the website for donations. As a reminder, Andy Kohen is the contact person regarding the website. Auxiliaries should send any updates that you want to highlight/ share to Andy.
- **Thank you to the board, committees, & auxiliaries for their work on behalf of Beth El. -Michelle**

“Yes, I Stood at Sinai...As Did You”

As we approach the festival of Shavuot we ask the question for which an answer has already been given: “Did I stand at Sinai?” We’re told that all Jews, all generations of our People, stood at Sinai. Moses received Torah (symbolically by the Ten Commandments), and in addition to those Israelites who journeyed from Egypt to that point in our travels, you and I received Torah “given” to him by God, “given” to us by Moses. Yes, I stood at Sinai!. I phrased this carefully. Note that I did not say, “Moses received THE Torah,” rather, “Moses received Torah.” As one who believes in Divine inspiration, not Divine revelation, i.e. God didn’t hand Moses two tablets or a scroll or anything tangible, I believe Moses was inspired, as were our ancestors and as are we, to both receive and transmit that learning.

Now you know I am not a fundamentalist; whether Moshe Rabbenu, Moses our Rabbi/Teacher, even existed is debatable, but in my almost fifty-year rabbinate I firmly believe (as if you’ve never heard this before), “Never let the facts interfere with the truth.” Whether or not he existed, WE HAVE TORAH, and it’s our responsibility to pass it l’dor vador, “from one generation to the next.” That’s how I interpret “standing at Sinai.”

Though hundreds upon hundreds of generations preceded us, I extend that super-significant point made by our sages, namely that I was an integral part of events we hold dear: I also crossed the sea from slavery to freedom; and for that matter, I rejoiced with David Ben Gurion when he proclaimed the State of Israel in 1948. I might have been one year old, but my Jewish n’shamah, essence, was there with him and with my People. I suffered when my People suffered; I rejoiced when my People rejoiced.

We have to deeply inhale the moments of spiritual significance of our People. To be a Jew is to reject that “desert island” upon which we would live in isolation. We must embrace our history – the good and the bad – and our place in it, and our place with those who have shared that history with us.

Shavuot is the “orphan” festival compared to Pesach and Succot. Those two festivals have far more ritual and culinary delights connected to them (they also occur at “reasonable” times of the year), but somehow we should reinvigorate Shavuot to give its due credit. Such an important moment as revelation – however defined – is worthy of special celebration and commemoration.

Speaking of celebration and commemoration, a singular gift given by Reform Judaism and adopted by the other branches of Judaism (yes, many Orthodox

congregations have Confirmation ceremonies) is the ceremony of Confirmation on Shavuot – or near Shavuot. This year Hannah Lovinger is our sole Confirmand, but its quality over quantity and Hannah was a true pleasure to work with.

Join Hannah at 10:30 am on May 22 at our Shabbat MORNING service.

Leadership

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

BRIDGE EDITOR

Elliott Golub

Elgolubret@comcast.net

Yahrzeits

02 Grace Gorlitz 2020 Sara Trantum's grandma

03 Max M Joseph 1924 Member

04 Bruno Hirsch 1888

05 Ella P Blatt 1979

06 Rose Gelman

07 Julia S Ney 1944

Maurice Scheuer 1935

08 Theresa Hirsch 1903 Member

Gerald Ornstein 2020 Ron Ornstein's father

09 Henry Myerberg Dave Myerberg's Father

Lillian Tassle

Greg H. Kahn 2013 Arnie Kahn's Son

10 Bob Nemoytin 1984 Member

Joyce Helbraun 2018 Member

11 Janet Kohen 2008 Member

12 Lillian Coxe

13 Paula Kaiser 1997 Member

14 Edna Ash 1979 Member Eddie Ney's Grandmother

Violet Handley Mary Handley's Mother

16 Sophie Blatt 1969 Member Frank Blatt's Grandmother

Lynn Miller 2001 Member

Louis Scheuer 1927

Sylvia Minskoff 2006 Jerry Minskoff's Sister-in-law

19 Minnie Wender 1962 Simon Wender's Mother

20 David Frankel 1988 Member

Augusta Loewner 1893

21 Arnold Abriss 1984 Gale Clemons' Father

23 Rabbi Sheldon ben Zvi Fleming

(Grandfather of former JMU Hillel's President Frank Fleming)

26 Heinz Wallach 1937 Member

Mildred Greenfield Margee Greenfield's Mother

27 Barbara (Bobbie) Bloom 2018 Alan Neckowitz' sister

Charles A Hammer 1938 Member

Abe M Loewner 1932 Member

28 Ludwig Hirsch 1929 Member

David Kohen Florine Ney's Father

Richard Kohn Peter Kohn's Brother

29 Robert Minskoff 2016 Jerry & Esther Minskoff's Son

30 Jay Nusbaum

Molly Huffman

31 Erwin Helbraun 2010 Member

DONATIONS

Bill & Leslie Ney – Yahrzeit – Joseph Ney

Michael White – In memory of Lenore Arkin White

Harriet Ansul – In honor of Rabbi Grumbacher, Virtual Sedar & Haggadah and Virtual Services.

Alice Cline Parker – Purchased Dan Bly's Book

Louis & Carol Schepp – Yahrzeit Memorial Plaque – EG Robinson

Eric & Jayne Rynar – Yahrzeit – Sam Schneider

Louis & Carol Schepp – Yahrzeit – Father Judge Joshua Robinson

Bo & Sandi Rose – Yahrzeit – Alan Rose

Deborah Wender – Cemetery Donation – I honor of Simon & Rosella Wender & Leonora and David Myerberg.

Esther Minskoff – In memory of Son – Robert Minskoff

Esther Minskoff – In honor of Grand-Daughter Natalie's 16th birthday

SOCIAL ACTION

 <p>FirstStep Peaceful Families • Safe Communities</p> <p>**New items only</p> <p>please *** SAULT RESPONSE & SAFETY ITEMS:</p> <p>New Prepaid 30 Minute Phones Cell Phones</p> <p>(Wiped/Deleted/With Chargers) Jogging/Sweatpants</p> <p>(M,L,XL, 2X,3X)</p> <p>Sweatshirts (M,L,XL,2X,3X)</p> <p>T-Shirts (M,L,XL,2X,3X)</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>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>
---	---	---

Women's Underwear (6,7,8,9)	<u>PAPER PRODUCTS:</u>	Food Storage Containers with Lids
<u>BABY ITEMS:</u>	Kleenex	Aluminum Foil
Diapers (Sizes 4,5,6)	Toilet Paper	Plastic Wrap
Baby Wipes	Paper Towel	Dish Towels
Double/Triple Strollers	Plastic Cups	Dish Sponges/Scrub Brushes
Diaper Rash Ointment	Zip Lock Bags	Coffee Filters
Swim Diapers	<u>MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:</u>	<u>PERSONAL CARE ITEMS:</u>
Baby Bottles	Laundry Soap	Shampoo & Conditioner
Sippy Cups	Laundry Baskets	Body Wash
Pack & Plays	Beach Towels	Hand & Body Lotion
Baby Bath Tubs	Sunscreen	Deodorant
Baby Toys	Planners	Feminine Hygiene Products
Breast Pumps	Headphones	Hand Sanitizer
<u>BEDROOM ITEMS:</u>	Prayer Mats	Wide Tooth Combs
Twin Sheet Sets	USB Flash Drives	Hair Brushes
Pillows	Shoes (New)	Dental Floss
Twin Comforters	Clothing (New All Sizes & Genders)	Shaving Cream
Blankets	<u>FOOD & DRINK:</u>	Razors
<u>CLEANING SUPPLIES:</u>	Cold Cereals	<u>HAIR CARE PRODUCTS FOR PEOPLE OF COLOR:</u>
Brooms and Dustpans	Canned Goods (Soup, Vegetables, etc.)	Hair Grease (Olive Oil, Coconut Butter, Etc.)
Buckets and Mops	Juice	Hair Lotion
Toilet Bowl Cleaner	Coffee	Satin Scarves/Bonnets
Disinfectant Wipes	Tea	Hair Moisteners
Glass Cleaner Bleach	Dry Coffee Creamer	Curl Restorer/Definer
Lysol Spray Dish Soap Pine-Sol	Sugar	Detangling Spray
	Individual Packaged Children's	Detangling Conditioners

	Snacks Hot Chocolate	Rubber Bands
--	-------------------------	--------------



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 rainstorm 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.

The bill was renamed the John Lewis VRAA after the death of voting and civil rights champion John Lewis. In his [final message](#) to Americans, Lewis charges "ordinary people" with continuing the work for justice observing that "Voting and participating in the democratic process are key."

Jewish Values:

Jewish tradition teaches us that the selection of leaders is not a privilege but a collective responsibility. Rabbi Yitzchak taught that "a ruler is not to be appointed unless the community is first consulted" (Babylonian Talmud, B'rachot 55a). In keeping with the insight of this teaching, it is the duty of all who cherish democracy to ensure that all eligible citizens are afforded the opportunity to vote and have their votes counted. The Reform Jewish Movement, long believing that the right to vote is fundamental to American democracy, strongly supports legislation that protects the rights of all citizens to exercise the right to vote.

For More Information:

You can email your Members of Congress through our form below,* or you can call the Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121 and ask to speak directly with their offices.

For more information on this issue, visit the RAC's [Civil Rights and Voting Rights](#) page or contact [Eisendrath Legislative Assistant Josh Burg](#).

*go to <https://rac.org/take-action/legislative-action-center>

Scroll down

Click on 'Take Action'

[Require Universal Background Checks on all Gun Sales](#)

The vast majority of Americans, including gun owners, support common-sense policies like background checks for every gun sale to prevent senseless violence. As Reform Jews, it is our duty to demand that Congress take action to pass gun legislation and save countless innocent lives.

MAY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
10amReligious School				7:30pmShabbat Service w/ Rabbi Grumbacher		10amBet Din
						7pmConfirmation Rehearsal
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10amReligious School - Lag Be'Omer		Cinco de Mayo		7:30pmShabbat Service w/ Rabbi Grumbacher		10amReligious School Shabbat Service and Picnic
12pmSHORTY Meeting						6:15pmConfirmation Rehearsal
						8pmBet Din
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Mother's Day	Jerusalem Day			7:30pmShabbat Service w/ Rabbi Grumbacher		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Shavuot Eve	Shavuot			7:30pmShabbat Service w/ Rabbi Grumbacher		10:30amShabbat Morning/Confirmation Service
12pmShorty Meeting	Tax Day					
1pm Annual Congregation Meeting	6:30pmBoard Meeting					
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
					7:30pmShabbat Lay Service	
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
	Memorial Day				7:30pmShabbat Lay Service	