



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 2019

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, From the Board 11/18/2019

- Michelle continues to assist in coordinating events at Beth El. In addition, Rabbi Grumbacher has suggested that she, and others, identify potential Beth El leaders for the coming years.
- Ron Ornstein and Michelle met with JMU students (Psych 420 class) at Beth El to answer questions about Judaism.
- Michelle will be meeting with a group of East Rockingham students on December 5 to discuss symbolism in Judaism. As a note of interest, Mary Handley is contributing to a URJ blog sharing insights about leading lay services and the wonder of our unexpected visitors.
- Josh Linder's wife, Martha Bomar, has accepted a new position in Durham, NC, and they will be leaving by this summer, for at least two years.
- There was nothing usual to report from either the Treasurer or the Trustees.
- Adult Education: It was noted that Kulanu was extremely successful. Thank you to Eric Kramer for all of your work in assuring that this event happened!
- Building & Grounds: The bulletin board strips (for posting religious school art work) have arrived for the wall in the social hall. Also, to continue to manage our grounds, the building committee will post a sign that states "please clean up after your dog", and we will reassess the dog situation (neighbors walking their dogs on the Beth El property) in the spring.
- The Rabbi Search committee continues to work on our desire for a full time rabbi. An ad for a full time position was submitted this week. An ad for a part time position will be placed separately.
- Men's Club: Les Mintzer reports that they hosted the Lions Club on November 12. They plan to participate twice a year with the Friendship House, at Blessed Sacrament.
- Sisterhood: The oneg schedule is in progress. Please note that any member can host an oneg. Please contact Sisterhood if you have not signed up for an oneg, and you are able to do so.
- Religious School: Religious School Shabbat with a luncheon to follow is 11/23. The children have been practicing for several weeks. We hope for a good attendance.
- SHORTY had a successful walk to fundraise for Alzheimer's research, exceeding their financial goals.

Old Business:

- Security Update: Les Mintzer and Eric Rynar are coordinating the improvements in the doors to improve the security, as they must meet code.
- Temple use: A congregant is interested in using the facility for a regular art activity. In the past, the purpose of a fee for building use was only to cover the costs of clean-up and not intended to raise money. The board voted to allow the art group to come in free of charge unless unseen damages were to occur. Any additional use will be addressed by the board on a case by case request.
- Transitions in responsibility and leadership: This is an ongoing area of discussion. Andy Kohen volunteered to be on the nominating committee, as he will be cycling off the board.
- Other: Andy has been in contact with Lyndsey Noble regarding updating the website, and noted how Lyndsey's expertise has improved the website in general.

New business:

- The board confirmed that we are not participating in external requests to survey the Beth El congregation.
- Torah Repair Cycle: The small one was repaired about 3 years ago. The middle one is the one that is most in need of attention, and the large one has some stitching issues (particularly near the Yom Kippur section).
- The board discussed options to explore solar energy, and we requested that the Building and Grounds committee find out more information and obtain some price quotes to see if this is a feasible option for the near future.
- Open Doors (an aspect of social action) is upcoming and there is a new person that is responsible at the Islamic Center. Gale Clemons has been in contact with them. We will respond by email after Gale finds out more details. Thank you, Gale, for coordinating this annual opportunity to help those in need.
- Also on our agenda was updating the list of committee members. As we know, ensuring that Beth El is a vibrant community takes all of us. If you see a committee that sparks your interest or you are no longer to serve, please call Michelle and let her know.

Standing committees:

1) Membership Committee: Gale Clemons, Thea Golub, & Dale Brothers

Liaisons: Michelle Ornstein & Bill Ney

2) Budget & Finance Committee: Eric Rynar, Ron Ornstein, Les Mintzer, Bill Ney, & Ron Rubin

3) Religious School Committee: Dara Hall, Liz Webb & Amanda Friss

4) Religious Services Committee/ Ritual Committee: Leslie Harris & Margee Greenfield-Ney

5) Building & Grounds: Mary Handley, Stu Liss, Leslie Ney, & Ron Ornstein

6) Youth Activities: Josh Linder & Becky Mintzer

7) Legal Committee: _____

Additional committees:

Rabbi Search Committee: Ruth Berger, Amanda Friss, Andy Kohen, & Bill Ney

Housekeeping: Judy Freudenthal, Les Mintzer, & Sherri Alt

Social Action Committee: Linda Kohn, Sandi Rose, Andy Kohen, & Arnie Kahn

Library Committee: Andy Kohen, Dan Bly, & Bill Ney

Archives: Andy Kohen, Dan Bly, & Bill Ney

Caring Committee: Eric Kramer, Sisterhood & Men's club

Fund raising committee: Amanda Friss, chair

Adult Education Committee: Esther Minskoff, Michelle Ornstein, & Linda Kohn

Music liaison: Ron Ornstein

Each committee has a board representative when possible who serves as the chair of the committee unless the committee decides otherwise. If two (or three) board members serve on a committee, a coin toss may determine the chair.

-peace

Michelle Ornstein

Beth El board president

MY (MONTHLY) WORD!

"The Perfect Rabbi"

Hopefully you'll have a permanent spiritual leader come this summer. I remembered the following description of "The Perfect Rabbi" and thought it would be relevant in terms of where you are right now.

Please consider this as my Chanukah gift to you.

The results of a computerized survey indicate the perfect Rabbi preaches exactly fifteen minutes. He condemns sins but never upsets anyone. He wears good clothes, buys good books, drives a good car, and gives about \$50 weekly to the poor. He is 28 years old and has preached 30 years.

She has a burning desire to work with teenagers and spends all of her time with senior citizens. The perfect Rabbi smiles all the time with a straight face because she has a sense of humor that keeps her seriously dedicated to her work.

He makes 15 calls daily on congregation families, shut-ins and the hospitalized, and is always in his office when needed.

If your Rabbi does not measure up, simply send this letter to six other synagogues that are tired of their Rabbi, too. Then bundle up your Rabbi and send him/her to the synagogue on the top of the list. In one week, you will receive 1,643 Rabbis and one of them will be perfect.

Have faith in this procedure. One congregation broke the chain and got its old Rabbi back in less than three weeks.

**HAVE A LIGHT-FILLED CHANUKAH
AND A HEALTH-FILLED NEW YEAR**

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 Sadye Spiro 1953 Member

03 Alfred Ney 1954 Member

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

12 Rabbi Jacob Schvanenfeld

Barnett Nelson

Molly Feig

13 Bertha Schvanenfeld 1948

Roselea Kohen 1998

Shirley Merlin 2014 Member

14 Simon Wender 1976 Member

Bill Ney's & Leo Zindler's Grandfather

Mark Trubitz' Mother

Betty Nemoytin's Mother

Rabbi's Wife

Andy Kohen's Mother

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 Theresa Hirsch	1952	Member	
26 Amelia L Figgatt	1980	Member (Mimi)	
Mal Mintzer			
Joshua Rade Stein			Roberta Stein's Son
27 Anna Robinson	1949	Member	Josh Robinson's Aunt
28 Josephine Merzger	1928	Member	
29 Pearl Rachel Katzen			
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	

DONATIONS

High Holy Day Visitors Donations

Allen Kirschenbaum

Fran Etner

To the Yahrzeit Memorial Fund

Michael & Nancy Clayman in memory of Mike's mother (Ruth Clayman).

Eric & Jayne Rynar in memory of Jayne' mother (Kate Schneider).

Eddie & Margee Ney in memory of Frances Stewart.

Mona Wolf in memory of her mother (Sophie Miller).

Steve & Laurie Schwalb in memory of Laurie;s father (Nathan Ratner).

To the General Fund

Penny Williams

Kent Palmer

Thea & Elliott Golub for the condolence of Yale Schwartz.

Ron & Michelle Ornstein in honor of the birth of Reil William Taylor (Bill & Leslie Ney's grandson).

SISTERHOOD

It's not too soon to mark your calendars for our annual Hanukkah fundraiser awesome dinner!! Dinner and Hanukkah celebration on Sunday , December 22 at 5 pm at temple. We will once again be serving our award winning brisket, vegetable soup, latkes , green beans and more! More information to follow.

Please join us on Monday, December 2 at 6 pm for a meeting to plan Hanukkah and other events over the holidays. We will meet at Vinnies for dinner and meeting. Looking forward to seeing you, we will definitely need help for our events! Call me for any questions.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Sherri Alt, Sisterhood Co-President

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL/SHORTY

Happy Thanksgiving! At religious school, we are so thankful for all of our students, teachers, and parents!

November has been an amazing month! On November 17th, we celebrated family education with a Global Day of Jewish Learning on the topic of "Speaking Volumes." We were so lucky to have our visitor from Kulanu share his amazing exhibit and teach us about his journey to find his Jewish identity in his adult years. We shared in a wonderful snack and some special activities that showed us that spoken and unspoken words are important.

On Saturday, November 23rd, those in attendance kvelled at the amazing job our students did in leading the Religious School service. They shared their thoughts on what it means to live a good life. We all shared a delicious Kiddush luncheon - thank you for all of the families and sisterhood members that brought food and helped with set up and clean up.

Mazel tov to our newly consecrated students: Ana, Quincy, Jude, Porter, & Eli!

There is no religious school on December 1st, so we look forward to seeing everyone on December 8th.

L'shalom,

Dara & Liz

SHORTY:

On October 27, SHORTY members and their co-advisors braved a shopping spree for pumpkins and snacks at Walmart and then we all carved pumpkins and roasted pumpkin seeds together. We started the month of November with a walk to end Alzheimer's and we thank all of those who donated money on behalf of Team SHORTY! Our next meeting is on December 8th at Beth El at 12:45. We hope you will join us.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PHOTOS

KULANU WEEKEND 2019



Medical Equipment

Delores Reid at 383 -6112 is one of the leads to Mission Central which will loan out medical equipment to those who need it as well as RECEIVE it from people who have it and want to donate it when they are finished with it. Anything from canes to hospital beds. They deliver but do not pick up.

(Several people have expressed interest in this service and I will pass it on to the Caring committee as well.)

Mission Central is a faith-based ministry sponsored by the Harrisonburg District United Methodist Church (UMC). The **Children's Clothes Closet** provides children's clothing and baby supplies, free of charge, to needy families from all walks of life in our community. **"Equipment for Caring"** loans medical equipment to anyone in our community who has a need. Both programs are volunteer-run and rely on the generous support of churches, individuals, and businesses to sustain their mission.



First Step Wish List

SHELTER SUPPLIES

eraser sponges (Mr. Clean Magic Erasers)
clorox or lysol wipes
wet & dry swiffer refills
bleach & no chlorine bleach
bathroom/toilet cleaners
borax
hand sanitizer
dish detergent
liquid hand soap
disposable gloves
trash bags (13 & 30 gallon)
toilet paper
paper towels
laundry detergent (HE & sensitive skin)
fabric softener
laundry stain remover
laundry baskets
wheeled storage bins with drawers
under bed plastic storage containers
towels
bath rugs
hotel grade shower curtains
heavy duty shower liners
new bed pillows
twin size bedding & linen sets
rubber mattress covers
coffee makers

PERSONAL ITEMS

shampoo, conditioner, & body wash (full size)
African American hair products
sunscreen & body lotion (full size)
vaseline
shaving cream & razors
deodorant
maxi pads & tampons
baby shampoo, oil, lotion, & bath soap
diaper rash cream
baby wipes
diapers & pull ups (size 3, 4, 5, 6)
first aid supplies
antibiotic ointment, alcohol, & peroxide
tweezers & baby nail clippers
manicure sets & eye masks
hair brushes & combs
pajamas, bras, & underwear
sneakers, rain boots, & croc style shoes
flip flops & slippers
sunglasses
purple draw string bags
alarm clocks
umbrellas
purse sized flashlights
journals
adult coloring books
infant & toddler toys

Don't have time to go out to the store? Shop and order through [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) and choose "First Step: A Response to Domestic Violence" as the designated charity! A portion of your purchase will be donated to First Step at NO EXTRA CHARGE TO YOU! Have items delivered to:

First Step: A Response to Domestic Violence at 129 Franklin St. Harrisonburg, VA 22801

FOOD

crackers & packaged snacks
saltine crackers
cereal & oatmeal
cookies & graham crackers
granola bars
flour, baking powder, & baking soda
instant noodles, pasta, & soup
spaghetti sauce

cooking oil
pudding & jell-o cups
cake & brownie mixes, icing
raisins & dried fruit
fresh fruit (oranges/apples)
water bottles
sports drinks
juice (bottles, packets, & boxes)
drink mixes (kool-aid, crystal light, etc.)
shelf stable milk (liquid & powdered)

ground coffee
tea bags
powdered & individual creamers
coffee filters (cylinders)
sugar & artificial sweeteners
condiments & spices
peanut butter & jelly
canned chicken, tuna, & other meat

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

small household items for residents moving into new apartments or homes! #housewarming
electric pump air mattresses
sheets & towels
measuring cups & spoons
dish sets, cups, mugs, & utensils
can openers & spatulas
pots/pans/bowls
small appliances
shower curtains & rings
strollers
pack-n-plays

Specific items can be found on our wish lists at Wal-Mart and Target. Just add those items to our cart, check out, & ship to First Step or drop them off! If you have any questions, give us a call at (540) 434-0295.

GIFT CARDS

At times, First Step residents need items that First Step does not have (i.e. perishable food, job specific clothing & shoes, gas for vehicle, 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
Barber shops
Clothing & shoe stores

TARGET WISH LIST

[tgt.gifts/FirstStep-129](https://www.target.com/gifts/FirstStep-129)

OFFICE SUPPLIES

batteries (AAA, AA, C, & D)
accordion folders
lined notepads & journals
notebooks
business envelopes
stamps
permanent markers
highlighters
binders
dividers
loose leaf paper
scissors
pencil pouches & boxes
pencil sharpeners

WAL-MART REGISTRY

go to:
<https://www.walmart.com/cp/3774807>
and search:
"First Step"
we're the first & only ones!

December 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
No religious school	6 PM Sisterhood Meeting Vinnies				7:30pm Lay service	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:30am Religious school 12:45 PM SHORTY Meeting					7:30pm Rabbi Grumbacher	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	6:30pm Board Meeting				7:30pm Lay service	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
No religious school 6pm Hanukkah dinner	Hanukkah (Day 1) Open Doors	Christmas Eve Hanukkah (Day 2)	Christmas Day Hanukkah (Day 3)	Hanukkah (Day 4)	Hanukkah (Day 5) 7:30pm Lay service	Hanukkah (Day 6) / Rosh Chodesh Tevet
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
Hanukkah (Day 7) No religious school	Hanukkah (Day 8)	New Year's Eve	New Year's Day		7:30pm Lay service	