



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).

FEBRUARY 2020

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, From the Board 1/20/2020

- We received thank you notes for the holiday gift/bonus from Don Smith and from the Ashburns.
- Michelle has been in contact with Lisa Porter who is making arrangements to deliver the UnityTree, to Beth El on Tuesday, January 21 in time for Tu B'Shevat. The display will be picked up during the third week of February. Michelle will be speaking at the Interfaith meeting on Thursday, February 6th at EMU.
- She has also contacted the HPD about providing additional patrols on the evening of January 31, and for off-duty security for the Johnstone-Yellin bar mitzvah.

Treasurer's Report:

- Bill reports that he has collected several donations that he can combine with several other individual funds (Chuck Slott and Janey Kohen funds) which we could allocate 10% to a combined Social Action Fund. The board voted in favor of this motion. We will retain the individual names of the funds under the umbrella of social action.

Adult Education:

- Rabbi Grumbacher proposed several programs. We have had membership interest, and Michelle is discussing options with Rabbi Grumbacher.

Building & Grounds Committee:

- Ron reports that the boards for the student displays, has been hung in the Social Hall. We look forward to art work from the Religious School.

Rabbi Search Committee:

- Andy stated that we have two candidates at this point, and he is arranging for upcoming video conferencing interviews. We would entertain the possibility of on-site visits, if needed.

Social Action:

- Andy reported that Faith in Action is closing in on the plan for a goal of Affordable Housing. The Jewish Advocacy Day will be February 5th, and they will be charging \$36 per person, for the trip to Richmond.

Hillel:

- Francis Flannery has agreed to take over as faculty advisor, but she will be on leave for the fall semester. Josh Shulruff will fill in for the interim. Additionally, the Jewish Sorority is disintegrating and Josh is actively encouraging these sorority students to run for Hillel officers, in an effort to strengthen Hillel.

Men's Club:

- Les reports that his aspect of Open Doors went well. They hosted the Lions Club for dinner. They are planning the Interfaith (previously known as the Brotherhood) Dinner. They are also planning a meal for the SHORTY ski weekend.

Sisterhood:

- Gale reports that Open Doors was fully staffed for both nights, and that there were no issues. The Sisterhood is working on new curtains for our kitchen.

Religious School

- :Liz Webb reported that they had the parent appreciation lunch this past Sunday, and Josh Linder added that it was a great success.

SHORTY

- The ski trip will be the weekend of Jan 31 to Feb 1st
- The rabbi is now working to coordinate his service with the youth group.

Old Business:

- Security Update: Les reported that Precision pulled their offer, and so we only have the quote from Lox & Keys. We do not have any other local options for this work to be done. Les proposed that we spend \$2355 on the Lox & Keys proposal for the security upgrade.

New Business:

- None at this time.

Calendar update:

- Rabbi Grumbacher plans to be here the weekend of February 14.

Michelle Ornstein, president of the board

MY (MONTHLY) WORD!

“On My 60th Bar Mitzvah Anniversary: A Random Reminiscence and a Far-From-Random Observation”

February begins with the Torah reading of *Bo*, the portion I read on February 6, 1960 when I was called to the bimah as a Bar Mitzvah at the Hebrew Tabernacle of Washington Heights (FYI, these anniversaries are commemorated on the day the *same Torah portion* is read, not the date).

I’ll never forget that day. I knew my stuff but I was still nervous. A few days before the ceremony, my Aunt Tessy said to me, *“Peter, whatever you do, don’t look at me.”* What do you do when someone says that? Of course...you look! I was going through the ritual of putting on the *talit* for the first time, a very solemn moment in my congregation. My knees were shaking. As I was reciting the blessing I looked up at my aunt. As only she could, she stuck out her tongue, opened her eyes so that they appeared like saucers. It took everything in my power not to laugh out loud, but my nervousness was over.

She was like that...and no one can figure out how her son became a rabbi because on top of her humor she was virulently anti-synagogue. When her funeral was held in our congregation, someone said in a stage whisper, *“Well, that’s one way to get Tessy into schul”*

But I digress.

In speaking about “covenant” to our two B’nai Mitzvah, I said, *“At birth you have little choice as to whether you’ll accept the covenant, but that’s not the case at Bar Mitzvah.”* I went on, *“Well, that’s not really true. You do have a choice but your parents will have veto power!”*

I wanted to know what they were looking forward to regarding this major rite-of-passage they will soon celebrate. I expected them to respond, “the party,” or “the gifts.” I had to pinch myself when they answered with great enthusiasm, *“Oh, after Bar Mitzvah we can teach in our religious school.”* WHERE AM I???? I’ve NEVER heard that across almost 48 years as a rabbi, and I offer kudos to Dara and Liz and the entire religious school for instilling this most positive perspective in our children. Wow!

Bar/Bat Mitzvah offers the opportunity for Jewish children to begin to think about the true meaning of covenant. Cai and Troy are on the right path!

(Oh, one more thing I recall....when my rabbi was about to bless me, he whispered, *“Hey, bend down a little, Peter, I can’t reach your head!”*)

Rabbi Grumbacher's January/February Sermon Themes:

January 31: "American Jew or Jewish American?"

(A year in Israel and a month through Europe

brought about a crisis in identity)

February 7: "Are We 'Investing' in the Synagogue?"

(Based in part on a New York Times article by Yuval Levin,

"How Did Americans Lose Faith in Everything?")

February 14: "How One Rabbi Translates 'Mitzvah'"

(Liberal Jews usually do not relate to the traditional concept of "Commandment."

Is it possible to redefine Mitzvah?)

February 28: "I've Been Asked to Speak About God"

(When it comes to God we're truly different)

(Please note: sermon themes are always subject to change)

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

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YAHREZEITS

02	Emmanuel Loewner	1894 Member	
	Harry Weiss		
	Morris Myers		
04	Helen Margulis Simon		Fred Simon's Mother
	Saul Perlman	2010	Milton's Brother
05	Fannie Wise	1877 Member	
	Pauline Peck		Beverly Zindler's Mother
06	Rae Trubitz		Mark Trubitz' Mother
09	Fannie Goldsmith	1933 Member	

	Hortense Wise		
	Harry Moodnick	1982	Ann Mintzer's Brother
10	Jennie Auerbach	1987	Suzi Trubitz' Grandmother
	Ada Robinson	1975 Member	Josh Robinson's Mother
12	Abel Miller	1945 Member	
	Hannah Nusbaum	1937	
13	James Moneyhun	2003	Hillary Krohn's Son
14	A J Goldenthal	Member	
	Rosella Wender	2003 Member	
15	Fannie Loewner Ney	1946 Member	Eddie Ney's Grandmother
17	Gloria Simon	2011	Dale Brothers' Mother
19	Ruth Frankel	1975	Dave Frankel's Mother
20	Lillie Hirsch	1956 Member	
	Anna Rodbell		Herb Rodbell's Mother
	A J Goldenthal		Marilyn Goldenthal's Husband
21	Adolph Wise	1928 Member	
22	Emanuel Klingstein	1971 Member (Cap)	
24	Charles Moore		Cleda Frankel's Father
	Milton Mitchell		Jerry Minskoff's Brother
25	Julia Hirsch Canning	1945	
	Samuel Loewner1894		Founding Member-made the Ten Commandment Tablets above the Torahs.
	Herman Heller		
	Sydney Nathanson		
	Joseph Strauss	1983	Mark Strauss' Father

26	Ida Fielder	2002	Arnie Kahn's Mother-In –Law
	Rabbi Lynne Landsberg	2018	
28	Sam Lane	2007	Stuart Liss' Uncle

DONATIONS

To the General Fund

Ruth A Strauss in memory of her father Mark Straus

Eddie & Margee Greenfield-Ney in memory of Anthony Brannon (Rebecca Brannon's father)

Phil Renick

To the Yahrzeit Memorial Fund

Mike & Mo Goldberger in memory of Sadye Goldberger (Mike's mother)

Stu & Judy Liss in memory of Helen Levinson (Judy's mother)

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL/SHORTY

A hearty WE APPRECIATE YOU goes out to our parents. The students celebrated this appreciation on Sunday, January 19th by preparing a lovely luncheon for their parents. They had fun setting and decorating the tables, chopping and plating the salad bar, and enjoying food and fun as families. כָּבֵד אֶת אָבִיךָ וְאֶת אִמְךָ לְמַעַן יֵאָרְכוּ יָמֶיךָ - Honoring our parents is a mitzvah!

Please mark your calendars for our Tu B'Shevat celebration on 2/9/20.

L'shalom,

Dara & Liz, co-Principals

SHORTY:

Ski weekend is almost here! We hope you will join us for services on Friday, 1/31/20!
We are looking forward to it!

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PHOTOS

Open Doors

THANK YOU to everyone who assisted with hosting Open Doors during the week of Christmas by volunteering their time, donating items and/or providing monetary donations. Our congregation was able to fully host two nights by providing dinner, overnight supervision and breakfast. We had volunteers help set up the shelter, shop, cook, serve, transport food, supervise smoke breaks and spend the night for overnight supervision.



Hanukkah Dinner 12/22/2019



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!

FEBRUARY 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
9:30am Religious school					Ski weekend	
					7:30pm Rabbi Grumbacher	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Ski weekend					7:30pm Rabbi Grumbacher	
SHORTY Meeting			Jewish Advocacy Day Richmond	Interfaith meeting EMU		
9:30am Religious school						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:30am Religious school					Valentine's Day	
					7:30pm Rabbi Grumbacher	
11am Tu Be'Shevat Celebration with congregation						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:30am Religious school	Presidents' Day (regional holiday)				7:30pm Mens club Shabbat	
12pm Parents appreciation luncheon	6:30pm Board Meeting					
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:30am Religious school					7:30pm Rabbi Grumbacher	Bar Mitzvah - Kai Johnstone-Yellin