



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).

JANUARY 2021

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Rather than having a board meeting in December, we are focusing on committees.

As president, I want to thank members of committees for the countless hours they give to Beth El Congregation to insure that so much that needs to be done, actually gets done. It was my goal (though not yet met) when I first became president to have at least three members on each committee. Their work prior to board meetings helps so much in making final decisions. Often the board endorses the findings of committee members.

For those of you who don't know, our Beth El constitution outlines seven standing committees:

1) Membership Committee, 2) Budget & Finance Committee, 3) Religious School Committee, 4) Religious Services Committee, 5) Building & Grounds, 6) Youth Activities, and 7) Legal

Committee. Additional committees include Archives Committee, Adult Education Committee, Caring Committee, Fundraising Committee, Housekeeping, Library Committee, Nominating Committee, Rabbi Search Committee, Social Action Committee, and Technology Committee.

Some of the committees are quite active such as the Social Action Committee while others fall dormant from perhaps a simple limit of energy or interest. For a small congregation we do have many committees, yet each has been essential over the years. We currently are working hard to maintain Beth El's vital role in both our membership community and in the larger community.

If you see a way you can step forward to join a committee, please do so. You may contact me or any board member directly.

-peace in the coming year,

Michelle Ornstein

Board president

FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

“Another Word, This One Especially For the Parents and Grandparents of Our Middle School and High School Students ...(But You Can Read it Too!)”

There's one very fine, bright and Jewishly-dedicated young woman who is in my Confirmation “class” in Virginia. Her name is Hannah Lovinger. She lives in Bridgewater. There are two Jewish students in her High School. While she had felt uncomfortable on occasion, her strength of character and strength of faith never let the questions, looks and attitudes cause her to hide her identity. I asked to see her college essay (the kids in Harrisonburg's congregation are in grade 12 when they are confirmed) in which she wrote about how one of the newest camps of the Union for Reform Judaism, Six Points in North Carolina, helped her strengthen her identity even more.

In the meantime I received the catalogue of the Jewish Studies Program of Indiana University in Bloomington. Why I'm on their list I do not know but I was so glad to read their offerings...so glad and so surprised. When I went through the extensive catalogue it was enough to make me want to go back to college (noooo, not really); in any case, it was enough to make me want to take some of their classes and listen-in to the lectures, etc.

“The Jew Who Would Be King: One Man's Quest for a Crown in Africa”

“We Renounce Hymns: Form and Voice in American Yiddish Holocaust Poetry”

“Sex, Segregation and Women's Exclusion: Israel's New Civil Rights Frontier”

“Jews and the American South: Race, Religion, Region”

I'm sharing this with you, **especially parents of middle- and high school students who are beginning to think about where to attend college. It's good for our kids to find a college that has something that attracts Jewish students** similar to the offerings at Indiana University.

There's a combination of factors here:

Where our offspring attend camp (under non-Covid circumstances) and where they attend college. As an alumnus of our URJ camp in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, I cannot begin to tell you how life-changing the experience was for me, a Jewish teen from Manhattan where even in my Washington Heights neighborhood the non-Jews often think they were Jewish. How much the more so someone like Hannah – and your child and grandchild – who live in the Shenandoah Valley, beautiful but not exactly a Jewish haven!

Where our offspring attend college. Those are the years that our sociologists say are “lost” to religion unless they find themselves in a welcoming environment, one that has a large-ish Jewish population and inspirational and enticing programming.

The energy of rabbis, cantors and educators has been directed – for decades now – to strengthening the Jewish identity of our young people. They need a place where they can feel comfortable, learn more about their faith and culture, and, yes, perhaps meet a future mate.

Check out the URJ camps, research the colleges and universities that have Jewish Studies programs. Oh, yes, don't forget to also investigate the BIRTHRIGHT program that pays for young adults to visit Israel. That's a topic for another time.

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

Religious School Principals: Dara Hall + Liz Webb

Bridge Editor
Elliott Golub
Elgolubret@comcast.net
540-289-5336

YAHREZEITS

01 Bertha Hammer

Member

Margaret Stein

John Stewart's Mother

Isadore Pfeffer

Dora Brill 1966

Sadye Goldberger 2007

Mike Goldberger's Mother

02 Bertha Wise 1887

Original Member

Samuel Clayman 1980

Harry Clayman's Father

Eleanor Stoloff

Marjorie Huisinga's Mother

03 Samuel Ney	1902	Infant Child
Lester Kahn		Arnie Kahn's Father
Karen Vanderhoof	2009	Dale Brothers' Sister
04 Mary Helbraun		Erwin Helbraun's Mother
05 Emma Hirsch Isaacs	1962	Member
06 Leopold Wise	1885	Founding Member
Max Hirsch	1955	Made donation for new temple
Elsie K Cohn		
Richard Banker		Roberta Stein's Father
08 Leonard Hirsch	1909	
Rosa Isaacs		
Lillian Hamburg		
09 Baby Spiro	1917	
Helen Rotkin Levenson	1965	Judy Liss' Mother
Shirley Baron		Cindy Baron's Mother
10 Paul Miller	1944	Member
Anna Weiss		
Dee Goldstein	2007	Lisa Giovanetti's Mother
11 Pearl Loewner Gravely		Member
Isadore Iseman	1948	
Verne Slater	1934	Member
12 Baby Klingstein	1887	
Elaine Schreiber	2018	Eugene Schreiber's Wife, Gina Jarmin's Mother
13 Bruno Stein		
Gerald Greenfield		Margee Greenfield's Father
14 Rose Levine	1992	Janet Kohen's Mother
15 Hulda Ney Iseman	1960	Member

Sam Weiss		
16 Sadye Robinson	1941	Member
17 Beatrice Winoker		
Marjorie Lichtenstein		Joan Funston's Mother
19 Harry Weiss		
20 Sophia Wurtzberger	1943	Member
23 Beulah (Bootie) Klingstein		Member
24 Fannie Wise	1877	Member
Nathan Gelman		
25 Harry Clayman	2007	Member
26 Leroy Loewner	1953	Member
27 Henry Robinson	1978	Member, Josh Robinson's Father
28 Abe B Zindler Sr		Leo Zindler's Grandfather
Jay Funston	1997	Member, Husband of Joan Funston
29 William Stein		John Stewart's Father
Minnie Zindler Finger		Leo Zindler's Aunt
30 Vera Levine	1998	Joyce Helbraun's Sister
31 Lessie Hirsch Baum	1942	
Shirley Goodman Saletan		Suzi Trubitz' Mother
Estelle Robinson	2020	

DONATIONS

Ron Rubin – Yahrzeit Howard Rubin – Father

Dan Bly – Sale of two history books, Proceeds to the Temple

Webb & Carol Burgess – Donation thanking us for remote & Zoom services (Friends of Rabbi Grumbacher)

Allan & Nancy Poster – Yahrzeit – Edward Poster

Bill & Leslie Ney – Yahrzeit Alfred Ney

Mona Wolf – Yahrzeit Sophie Miller – Mother

SISTERHOOD

SISTERHOOD ZOOM SHMOOZE

Fourteen Beth El women connected on a Sisterhood Zoom Shmooze on Wednesday evening, December 16. Wine and chocolate were provided in goodie bags (picked up or delivered, in advance) and each participant had a few minutes to describe the good, the bad and the ugly since we last met. It was such a warm and wonderful experience, that we decided to do it again, in late January. Details will be emailed at the first of the year.



2020 Wish List



**** New items only please *****

All donations are greatly appreciated but monetary donations are needed most! Please consider donating the cash value or gift cards instead of the actual item. First Step leverages suppliers to get discounts on food and supplies. Your monetary gift may also help First Step cover essential operational expenses such as phone, electricity, heat, counseling, etc. All donations, monetary or goods, help First Step in our mission to create peaceful families and safe communities. **Gift Cards allow us to support our clients and assist our operating expenses throughout the year. Gift Cards from Walmart-Kroger-Meijer are the most helpful.**

<p><u>ASSAULT RESPONSE & SAFETY ITEMS:</u> New Prepaid 30 Minute Phones Cell Phones (Wiped/Deleted/With Chargers) Jogging/Sweatpants (M,L,XL, 2X,3X) Sweatshirts (M,L,XL,2X,3X) T-Shirts (M,L,XL,2X,3X) Women's Underwear (6,7,8,9)</p> <p><u>BABY ITEMS:</u> Diapers (Sizes 4,5,6) Baby Wipes Double/Triple Strollers Diaper Rash Ointment Swim Diapers Baby Bottles Sippy Cups Pack & Plays Baby Bath Tubs Baby Toys Breast Pumps</p> <p><u>BEDROOM ITEMS:</u> Twin Sheet Sets Pillows Twin Comforters Blankets</p> <p><u>CLEANING SUPPLIES:</u> Brooms and Dustpans Buckets and Mops Toilet Bowl Cleaner Disinfectant Wipes Glass Cleaner Bleach Lysol Spray Dish Soap Pine-Sol</p>	<p><u>BATHROOM SUPPLIES:</u> Bath Mats Shower Curtains Shower Liners and Hooks Bath Towels Hand Towels Liquid Hand Soap Wash Cloths</p> <p><u>PAPER PRODUCTS:</u> Kleenex Toilet Paper Paper Towel Plastic Cups Zip Lock Bags</p> <p><u>MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:</u> Laundry Soap Laundry Baskets Beach Towels Sunscreen Planners Headphones Prayer Mats USB Flash Drives Shoes (New) Clothing (New All Sizes & Genders)</p> <p><u>FOOD & DRINK:</u> Cold Cereals Canned Goods (Soup, Vegetables, etc.) Juice Coffee Tea Dry Coffee Creamer Sugar Individual Packaged Children's Snacks Hot Chocolate</p>	<p><u>KITCHEN SUPPLIES:</u> Plastic Forks Plastic Spoons Paper Cups/Bowls Cups for Hot Beverages Plastic Dishes/Cups/Bowls Pots, Pans, Skillets Baking Pan/Cookie Sheet Garbage Bags Food Storage Containers with Lids Aluminum Foil Plastic Wrap Dish Towels Dish Sponges/Scrub Brushes Coffee Filters</p> <p><u>PERSONAL CARE ITEMS:</u> Shampoo & Conditioner Body Wash Hand & Body Lotion Deodorant Feminine Hygiene Products Hand Sanitizer Wide Tooth Combs Hair Brushes Dental Floss Shaving Cream Razors</p> <p><u>HAIR CARE PRODUCTS FOR PEOPLE OF COLOR:</u> Hair Grease (Olive Oil, Coconut Butter, Etc.) Hair Lotion Satin Scarves/Bonnets Hair Moisteners Curl Restorer/Definer Detangling Spray Detangling Conditioners Rubber Bands</p>
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January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1	
				New Year's Eve	New Year's Day 7:30pm Shabbat Lay Service	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
NO Religious School - Winter Break SHORTY Meeting					7:30pm Shabbat Service w/ Rabbi Grumbacher	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10am Religious School					7:30pm Shabbat Lay Service	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10am Religious School	Martin Luther King Jr. Day 6:30pm Board Meeting				7:30pm Shabbat Lay Service	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10am Religious School - Tu B'Shevat					7:30pm Shabbat Service w/ Rabbi Grumbacher	
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
10am Religious School	First Day of Black History Month					