



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).

NOVEMBER 2019

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, From the Board 10/21/19

- The year is underway. Many commented that the holidays went well with good attendance. Josh Linder shared that those attending the Family service at Rosh Hashanah enjoyed the event immensely. Thanks to Rabbi Grumbacher for making this happen. Many congregants voiced appreciation that the HPD were visual and supplemented by increased patrols as needed. We continue to have a number of activities in the future and will request additional patrols when indicated.
- Josh Linder (also JMU Hillel advisor) reported about the upcoming Beth El Kulanu event co-sponsored by Hillel. Eric Kramer is the primary liaison for this event during the weekend of November 15.
- Hannah Kaufman, a Hillel member and vice president of Sigma Alpha Epsilon Pi attended to continue our dialogue about how to encourage involvement with Jewish students from JMU at Beth El. Other ways that we could incorporate the student Jewish community with Beth El include participating in our Purim celebration, hosting a pizza Shabbat evening, assisting with leading a lay service, working in our gardens, and helping with Pizza Bingo and corned beef sales. In addition, we suggested that Sorority events could be held at Beth El as long as building use requirements were met.
- Building and Grounds: Ron Ornstein reported that a lot of work has been done on the outside grounds by Mary Handley and Clarence Ashburn. Ron proposed that we consider giving Clarence and Barbara Ashburn a raise since they have been consistently working to help us, above our expectations. He proposed that we give them a \$50 per month raise to start November 1, 2019. The board voted in favor of the proposal.
- Rabbi Search committee: Andy Kohen stated that the committee elected to continue to search for a full-time rabbi, without partnerships with other synagogues, although this avenue of partnership was explored. As a growing community we hope a full time rabbi is a viable option.
- Social Action: The focus of Faith in Action will be on affordable housing which was in line with the input given by Beth El congregants. A number of our congregants attended the Valley Pride Day. Becky Mintzer and Michelle participated in the Greater Shenandoah Valley Out of Darkness Walk.
- As a point of information, Andy has been in contact with Lindsey Noble who will continue to manage the Beth El Website (although she lives in Israel☺.) Thank you Lindsey!
- Men's Club: Les reports that they are hosting the Lions Club on November 12. They had good attendance at their last meeting.
- Sisterhood: Sherri reports that they met on 10/22 and are planning the chili cook-off on 11/03/19. Their recent fundraiser went well. Margee will be sending out an email to encourage others to host an Oneg. Several members will be traveling to Wilmington, Delaware for a regional meeting. The Sisterhood will be making a donation to the Blue Ridge Food Bank in honor of the religious school.
- Religious school: Alef is learning about mitzvot; Bet about holidays; Gimel about haftorah parshas, and Dalet about life cycles, in addition to studying Hebrew and prayers at their appropriate level. We have been making use of the kitchenware for our weekly snack. The students have gotten familiar with bringing dishes over to the sink, and it appears to have cut down greatly on waste.
- SHORTY: Will go to the pumpkin patch on 10/26, and they are going to the Alzheimer's Walk 11/02.
- Security update: Finalization of recommendations are in place, including an estimate from B.C. Lox & Keys. Eric Rynar detailed the security proposal, including door-locking options. We are comparing our options for the required work.
- We are revisiting building use by-laws to address a request to use the social hall. The board supports low maintenance usage, but additional information is needed.
- We discussed current Bar/Bat Mitzvah dynamics, including the Beth El guidelines and expectations.

- Religious School reports that Jackson Moyer celebrates his Bar Mitzvah next month in Aruba.
- We need to think about transitions in responsibility and leadership. Michelle is collecting information that may be helpful. (No, the etrog & lulav do not magically appear☺.)

-peace,
Michelle Ornstein, board president

MY (MONTHLY) WORD!

“Gratitude is an Attitude!”

Rosh Hashanah is called “The Birthday of the World” which was the theme of my holy day Family service. I suggested the kids give gifts to the world for the occasion. We had a six-foot box all wrapped up in birthday paper into which their gifts could be placed...symbolically, of course...and we spoke about why each gift was so important (and let me say *“Thank You!”* to all in the religious school who worked together to create this birthday present).

As part of my lesson I mentioned that if it was at all possible the world would say *“Thank You”* to each of the boys and girls. I also said that the appropriate response is *“You’re Welcome!”* It is **not** *“No Worries”* or *“No Problem.”*

Truth be told, it drives me nuts when I hear anyone say anything other than *“You’re Welcome!”* It is so rare for guests on radio or television programs to respond appropriately when they are thanked for appearing. *“You’re Welcome!”* implies that it was the person’s pleasure and shows a bit of humility; as I see it, those other responses imply, *“You kept me from something more important, but in my overwhelming goodness I chose you.”* What’s worse is that they probably don’t even mean that; they are merely phrases with little behind them. Of course that’s my humble opinion.

Gratitude is an attitude.

Nowadays many don’t say *“Thank You!”* because too many feel entitled; even our children or grandchildren don’t say *“Thank You!”* as they should, and if they deign to do so it’s via email or text. Yes, I know, that’s the way of the world, but a phone call or handwritten note has a bit more appreciation behind the gesture.

We celebrate Thanksgiving this month. Many don’t realize that our festival of Succot was the basis for this American holiday. The early settlers were versed in

****“Old Testament”**** values based on Israelite holidays. The point is that our ancestors were very grateful for the Divine protection they were afforded in their long trek through the wilderness before arriving in the Promised Land, and they were thankful for the richness of the harvest.

How many gifts we take for granted, those from God or those from others! As I once mentioned (maybe more than once, in fact), when we welcome the Messianic Age, all worship ends, but we must still recite the prayer of thanksgiving to show our appreciation for the bounty we have received.

May your Thanksgiving be a rich one. May the Divine blessings we have received be appreciated. May that appreciation be recognized by a hearty *“Thank You!”* as we dig into our turkey.

****Jews say “Torah” if it’s only the Five Books of Moses. It’s *Tanakh*, if it’s Torah as well as the Prophets and Writings...”T” = *Torah*; “N”= *Nevi’im* or Prophets; “Kh” = *Ketuvim* or Writings such as, for example, Psalms and Proverbs. We tend not to use Old Testament, because it implies there is a “New” one that has replaced Hebrew Scriptures.****

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
Elgolubret@comcast.net
540-289-5336

YAHREZEITS

01 Selma Miller		Member	
Sadie Spiro			
Fredrick Nessen			
Samuel Freed	1954		
Linda Renick	2011		Phil Renick's Mother
02 Selina Ney	1945	Member	
Bruno Freudenthal			Judy Freudenthal's Father
Lawrence Loewner	1955	Member	Mayor of Harrisonburg
Jack Stein	2004		Gary Stein's Father
Sylvia Lankin	2012		Phil Renick's Grandmother
Ruth Clayman	2014	Member	
03 Louis Perlman			Milton Perlman's Brother
04 Albert Lubman	1968	Member	
05 Gussie Myers			Joyce Helbraun's Mother
Sam Hirsch			
Louis Wides	1962		
07 Eva Brooslin	1956		Ruth Clayman's Mother
09 Annie Ney	1979	Member	Bill Ney's & Leo Zindler's Grandmother
10 Nathan Ratner	1989		Laurie Schwalb's Father
Barbara Rotondo	1994		
12 Irene Nusbaum		Member	
Frances M. Stewart	2014		Companion of Eddie Ney
15 Minna Mintzer		Member	
Ada Krim			
Dr. Henry Helbraun			Erwin Helbraun's Brother
17 Rose Hirsch	1913	Member	
Charles Schweitzer			Thea Golub's Father
19 Baby Ney	1920		
Sybil Rose	2002	Member	Bo Rose's Mother
20 Caroline Ash	1965		
Sophia Wuzburger	1943		
21 Ida Miller	1939	Member	
Monroe Nussbaum	1986		
Rhoda Paroly	2015		Mother of Elaine Schreiber
Alan Gould	2017	Member	
22 Kattie Ney	1980		
Saul Robinson	2011	Member	
23 Albert Wise	1904	Member	
David Myerberg	1986	Member	
Dave Levy	1931	Member	
Doris Freed	1969		
25 Isaac Ney	1941	Member	
26 Sam Fishman			
Sophie Miller	2015 (12/12/2019)		Mother of Mona Wolf
28 Sam Blatt	1965		Frank Blatt's Grandfather

Zvi Hirsch Derechinsky			Max's Father
29 Edward Poster	1955		Alan Poster's Father
Kate Schneider			Jayne Rynar's Mother
30 Sylvan Ney	1977	Member	
Miriam Banker	2014		

DONATIONS

The following made Yiskor pledges or donations:

Andy Kohen
 Judy Freudenthal
 Gary Misch & Rose Jacob
 Kate & Alan Neckowitz
 Leo Zindler
 Cindy Baron
 Sandi & Bo Rose
 Gale & Charlie Clemons
 Valerie Stephens
 Leslie & Bill Ney
 Michelle & Ron Ornstein
 Nancy & Michael Clayman
 Margee Greenfield & Eddie Ney
 Dara & Michael Hall
 Catherine Rogers
 Frances Flannery
 Jayne & Eric Rynar
 Lenore Stoddard
 Eric Kramer
 Rachelle Dorne
 Becky & Les Mintzer
 Judy & Stu Liss
 Dan Bly
 Mary Handley
 Arnie Kahn
 Esther Minskoff
 Ron Rubin
 Thea & Elliott Golub

Estelle Robinson
Sherri & Bruce Alt
Linda & Peter Kohn
Dale Brothers
Joan Funston
Ruth & Bary Berger

Donations to the Shana Tova that were late and not included in the booklet
Sue Elwell
Janet Daniel

High Holy Day Visitors
Pam & Phil Unger
Frieda Tompakov
Gary Misch & Rose Jacob
George Harris
Sarah Blackstone

Donations to the Yahrzeit Memorial Fund
Mitch & Valerie Lovinger in memory of Sarah Lovinger (Their Daughter).
Keith Nash in memory of Paige Nash (His Mother).

To the General Fund
Penny Williams

In hoping for a speedy recovery for Elliott Golub
Esther Minskoff

In memory of Uncle Bruce Sager
Thea & Elliott Golub

In honor of their grandchildren (Miles & Quincy Friss)
Ellen & Les Cohen

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL/SHORTY

October was a busy month of holiday celebrations and observances during Religious School! Over three weeks of the holidays we learned about Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur and we celebrated Sukkot and Simchat Torah. Thank you so much to David Berger who came and blew the Shofar for our students. Thank you so much to our wonderful parent volunteers who helped to make these events very special including Roni Goldberg, Adam Gutterman, Amanda Friss and Josh Linder. The creative craft activities and special snacks were enjoyed by all. Thank you as well to Rabbi Grumbacher and Ron Ornstein and the congregants that joined with us for a fun Simchat Torah celebration!

November will be another busy month of special events! Please join us on Sunday November 17th for a Global Day of Jewish Learning at 11:00am. Also, please join us on Saturday November 23rd at 10:00am for our Religious School Service. We look forward to seeing you then! L'shalom,

Dara & Liz

SHORTY has BIG plans in the coming weeks – hope you will consider joining us! October 27th we will be visiting the pumpkin patch and then carving pumpkins right after religious school! Saturday, November 2nd we will be participating in the Walk to End Alzheimer's. Please consider making a donation to a SHORTY member!



SUKKOT2019

ANNOUNCEMENTS/PHOTOS

Thank you to Clarence & Barbara Ashburn for their continued work in making sure Beth El is so well taken care of, both inside and out. Your dedication is much appreciated!

Thanks....Michelle



met

Thank you
**...for your part in discerning
the next issue of focus for
Faith in Action.**

Faith in Action's Covenant Congregations spent several months reflecting on the needs in our community. Representatives from those congregations gathered on Monday, October 7th and selected **Affordable Housing** as the area on which we will work together for the next 12-18 months.

What happens next?

The first step in ALL campaigns is to **learn what's already happening** in our community through our civic leaders and other organizations AND look beyond our area to see how other communities are responding to this important need.

How can you take part?

The Campaign Committee met first on Monday, October 14 at Community Mennonite Church at 7:00 and will continue to do research for several weeks. Members of Faith in Action

Covenant Congregations are welcome to attend these meetings and/or take part in the learning and research process. Check with your Congregational Representative for information or contact Art Stolfus, Community Organizer at: faithinactionva@gmail.com.

Faith in Action is a coalition of 24 congregations that work together on local justice issues in the Harrisonburg-Rockingham community. Faith in Action values reflecting and respecting the community's diversity, strengthening congregational and community networks, and connecting our faith traditions with local justice concerns. www.harrisonburgfaithinaction.org

Beth El Congregation and JMU Hillel present

HIDDEN, BUT NEVER LOST

A multi-media presentation by **JonatasChimen**



**Saturday, November 16, 2019 | 6:00 pm | Beth El Congregation
830 Old Furnace Rd., Harrisonburg**



Jonatas Chimen, a Brazilian-American Symbolist painter, sculptor, performance artist, and author, is a crypto-Jew, and can trace his family history back to the Spanish and Portuguese Inquisition. Join us as Jonatas speaks on broader experiences of Jewish identity, immigration, and exile. Awarded the title of Artist of the Year by the AntiDefamation League, Jonatas intertwines his talk with his famous tent creation, named "In Thy Tent I Dwell" - a huge collage of letters, photographs, and documents from his family history. The event is free and open to the public. Drinks and light food will be provided prior to presentation. For more information contact Eric Kramer at tiberiusmolly@gmail.com



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.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!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
9:30am Religious school				Halloween	7:30pm Lay service	Alzheimer's Walk
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Daylight Saving Time ends		Aliyah Day School Observance			7:30pm Lay service	
SHORTY Meeting						
9:30am Religious school						
12pm Chili Cook-off and watching Washington football						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:30am Religious school	Veterans Day	Lion's Club			7:30pm Rabbi Grumbacher	Kulanu speaker event
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9am Religious school - Global Day Family Education	6:30pm Board Meeting				7:30pm Rabbi Grumbacher	10am Religious school Shabbat Service; lunch to follow
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
				Thanksgiving Day	Black Friday	
					7:30pm Lay service	