



[Bethel-Harrisonburg.org](http://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 2020

## ***MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, From the Board Meeting 10/19/2020***

- Rabbi Grumbacher opened with a D'vah Torah.
- Rabbi Grumbacher reported on his recent and upcoming adult education sessions, the start of confirmation class, his Religious School involvement, and his My Word series. He continues to be very active in assuring Beth El's presence in Harrisonburg and beyond.
- President's report: Michelle Ornstein will represent Beth El at the Faith in Action Leadership Caucus. As a follow up to a previous discussion regarding Faith in Action, Arnie Kahn (Temple member and Secretary to Faith in Action) shared his perspective of the new direction FIA is taking in order to broker more power when addressing community concerns such as affordable housing. While we continue to support FIA, we also acknowledged our limitations in resources, particularly in light of our hope to secure a full time rabbi and our need to eventually fix our roof. For more information on FIA, see our website for a link to their newsletter.
- Treasurer's report: Our Shana Tovah Booklet donations were on par with previous years. We have also received generous donations from individuals who accessed virtual services including those from Wilmington, Delaware, and several others who have attended Beth El HH services in the past. The treasurer will be following up with contacts to members he has not yet heard from. Board members noted not hearing from all members is an annual situation which precipitated a brief discussion how to best maintain current membership relationships.
- Building and Grounds: Ron Ornstein reported that we are awaiting a written report from Johann Zimmerman regarding the condition of our roof to potentially support solar panels. At the time of his visit he recommended we'd need some significant improvements first. Also, if anyone has any extra old trashcans, we could use a few more in the cemetery to replace some that have "disappeared".
- Pulpit Search: Andy Kohen reported that our attempt to file the vacancy notice got returned to us because the CCAR changed the rules on the form. The committee (Andy, Amanda Friss and Kate Neckowitz) are in the process of revising the application and plan to re-submit it by the end of October.
- Social Action: The chair, Linda Kohn, reports that we acknowledge and thank Sandi and Bo Rose for attending and representing Beth El at the October Interfaith Association meeting. The program was about Restorative Justice, specifically here in Harrisonburg. Also, thanks to Frances Flannery for writing something for the October Bridge about EMU'S Program featuring Pádraig Ó Tuama. Arnie Kahn and Andy Kohen continue to be engaged with Faith in Action's campaign on affordable housing. Andy has been working with a small subcommittee that identifies potential evictees from their residences to provide information to them about legal and financial assistance. FIA is also involved in a major fundraising campaign to enable hiring of a full-time organizer.
- Technology committee report from Rachelle Dorne, chair: I watched streaming services, which were beautifully done. The sound was excellent. The integration of the recording by Mike Jarvis really added to the meaningfulness of the service. Thanks again to Rabbi, Leslie, Mickey, Ron, Michelle, and everyone who assisted. We received a letter from a member highlighting the service, stating: "...I was very pleased to find that Live Streaming allows me to feel like I am really in the Sanctuary and part of the service" .. From data in Streamspot, we had the following High Holy Day participation (unique email addresses) online:

### 9/19 Rosh Hashana Day Services

- 84 for evening services
- 67 live viewers and 96 watched on demand

### 9/28 Yom Kippur Day Services

- 89 watched evening services
- 67 live viewers for morning services and 118 viewers watched on demand
- 91 watched the family and Yizkor/Neilah services

Leeanne Shepherd has volunteered to join the technology committee. The committee is planning for training with Leslie prior to the next live service with the Rabbi.

- Men's Club: Les is soliciting interest from Men's Club members in providing lunch for Friendship House in December.
- Sisterhood: Sherri Alt reports that Sisterhood sent out New Years cards to the congregation.
- Religious School: Roni Goldberg reports that Religious School is successfully underway. Virtual connections led by Liz Webb and Rabbi Grumbacher have enhanced and supplemented on-site instruction including a mid-week family zoom gathering. In particular, Danielle Hall's individualized instruction was noted. Appreciation for her dedication and the work of all the teachers was expressed.
- Old Business: We continued our discussion on outreach. Rabbi Grumbacher suggested that we consider designated contact people to periodically check in with those who have expressed an interest in Beth El.
- New Business: We revisited the status of lay services, and determined having services every Friday is important. While we have a core of individuals who lead services, we considered how our auxiliary groups might participate as they have done so in the past. In addition, recognizing that we will continue with virtual services for the foreseeable future, Rabbi Grumbacher and Ron Ornstein will deliver prayer books for use at home to congregants. Les Mintzer moved that the board formally thank Leslie Harris for her contribution to the success of the High Holydays.
- Please continue to check our website and read the weekly Wednesday announcements.

Notes by Michelle and Ron Ornstein

## ***MY (MONTHLY) WORD!***

### **“The Task of Sane and Compassionate People”**

Around Kristallnacht (the Night of Shattered Glass, November 9 and 10, 1938) in 2015 I predicted that once Elie Wiesel was no longer with us there would be a change in Holocaust commemorations and education. In July of 2016 the great Peace Nobel Laureate and spokesperson for those who could not speak, died. My prediction was correct, and for that I say, alas! If Wiesel is looking from on high, there's no doubt he would be besides himself as he witnesses what's going on in this country, indeed the world. While Delaware has joined other states in passing legislation making Holocaust education mandatory, we know that there will always be those who deny it ever happened in the first place. As I tell groups to which I speak, these people know full well they are lying; they have their own nefarious reasons to spread this lie. And forget about the deniers! There's been enough hatred in this country, enough divisiveness, enough encouragement of White Supremacists, even left-wing Jew-haters, to make “Never Again!” a slogan regarding the Holocaust a pipe dream. The “change in Holocaust commemorations and education” will focus not only on the past but the present as well. It's not that I'm predicting the worst; I'm really not. I am, however, saying that with the Holocaust being truly “ancient history” to the young (and the “young” must be defined not just children but those perhaps even fifty years of age), the efforts of educators must be to explain to whatever audience is before them that the Holocaust didn't occur spontaneously...on Monday there was no hatred, on Thursday there was. Indeed I suggest strongly that you read the novel *In The Garden of Beasts* by Eric Larson showing very clearly how our people were slowly turned into cockroaches, abominations that should be stepped upon. There's so much work that has to be done to undo racism, anti-Semitism, injustice...hatred in all its manifestations. You and I must join with sane and compassionate people of all faiths and races, with the rich and poor, with the Ph.D physicists and the workers who perhaps never graduated high school, in stepping up to the task regardless who our next president will be.

### **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**

**Bridge Editor**  
**Elliott Golub**  
[Elgolubret@comcast.net](mailto:Elgolubret@comcast.net)  
**540-289-5336**

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

## ***Yahrzeits***

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	Harrisonburg Mayor
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

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***

Valerie Lovinger – Yahrzeit Sarah Lovinger

Keith Nash – L'Shannah Tova

Valerie Stephens – Yizkor & general donation

Pamela & Phillip Ungar – General donation

Frances Flannery – In gratitude to Ron & Michelle Ornstein, Rabbi Grumbacher and Wayne

Stu & Judy Liss – General Donation

Barbara & Harold Simonetti – Yizkor Memorial

Les & Becky Mintzer – Yizkor and General Donation

Dara & Michael Hall – Yizkor

FYI These are friends of Rabbi Grumbacher who have generously donated to Beth El:

Richard & Judith Insinga

Suzanne Paul

Linda Kamins

Joan Wachstein

Robert & Amira Silber

Paul & Esther Timmeney

Harriet Ansul – Rabbi Grumbacher Friend

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**New congregation list**

A new congregation list is being readied. Is your address on last year's list accurate? Let me know if you have a new email address. We also list cell phone numbers. Is your name listed the way you would like it to appear? All this information is only used for temple communication. If you have a college age student, I can send them the temple newsletter via email or snail mail. We can also list the email address of young people. To keep expenses down, if you have been receiving the newsletter by mail but can now receive it via email, please let me know. Judy Freudenthal, 867-5648 or [jfreudy@aol.com](mailto:jfreudy@aol.com). Thank you.

**PLEASE VOTE !**  
**November 3**



## **Restorative Justice**

Restorative Justice and the Harrisonburg Police Department was the program topic for the October meeting of the Harrisonburg Rockingham Interfaith Association. Wonshe, a Restorative Justice Practitioner, and Captain Rod Pollard, HPD Restorative Justice Coordinator, were the presenters.

Restorative Justice is a powerful option for repairing the harm done when a crime or wrongdoing has occurred. The Fairfield Center provides certified Restorative Justice Practitioners as a legal alternative to handling eligible cases through the court system. They also coordinate juvenile offender and incarceration exit programs that help offenders understand the web of impact their crime may have had on victims as well as their own friends and family. "Since 2015, the Harrisonburg Police Department has referred offenders to restorative justice in cases ranging from shoplifting and property damage to more serious crimes like assaulting a police officer, felony larceny, burglary and sexual assault." "Police Chief Eric English, who was part of a team at the Richmond Police Department that used restorative justice to address student discipline issues in schools, described the practice as a different approach to law enforcement and, English said, when successful, it can keep people from falling into a cycle of crime, jail time and recidivism, and avoid the long-term effects that a criminal record can have on employment or getting into college." (The Citizen May23,2019)

"With an emphasis on collaboration, legitimacy and transparency, the Harrisonburg Police Department incorporates Restorative Justice (RJ) into policing. Acknowledging that crime causes harm, police officers and other members of our community collaborate in a Restorative Justice Circle to focus on repairing that harm. This calls for restoring trust, and healing the relationships of the individual harmed and those affected by the harm. Restorative Justice is part of the culture and practice of policing that reflects the values of protection and promotion of the dignity of all." (Taken from a Harrisonburg Police Department PowerPoint Presentation) <https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/hpd-restorative-justice>

The Harrisonburg Rockingham Interfaith Association meets monthly on the first Thursday at Noon. Due to COVID guidelines, the group has been meeting at the First Church of the Brethren Outdoor Pavilion. Future locations are available upon request. Thank you to Sandi and Bo Rose for attending and representing Beth El at the October meeting. If you would be interested in doing so, please contact Linda Kohn, [kohnlx@gmail.com](mailto:kohnlx@gmail.com). The topic for the November 5 meeting is Interfaith Peace Camp:

Vesna Hart and Trina Nussbaum

# NOVEMBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Daylight Saving Time ends		Election Day (General Elections)				
SHORTY Meeting						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
			Veterans Day			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	6:30pm Board Meeting					
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
				Thanksgiving Day	Black Friday	
					Native American Heritage Day	
29	30	1	2	3	4	5