



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).

OCTOBER 2020

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT, From the Board 9/21/20

As the year begins, I am again heartened by the efforts of so many at Beth El.

I am always worried I will miss someone, and if I do, please pardon me.

Our Technology committee laid the groundwork for our virtual options over the Holydays.

Again thank you to Josh Linder, Rachelle Dorne, chair, and Leslie Harris. Thank you, too, to Mickey Glago for providing his expertise and additional equipment. This committee morphed into the High Holyday coordinating committee, adding Rabbi Grumbacher and Ron Ornstein. Providing ways to access both adult education and the services was successful, recognizing that we would never be able to recreate our High Holydays of past years.

We added opportunities to make connections through both the distribution of prayer books and gift bags. Thank you to Leslie Harris, Becky Mintzer, and Valerie Kramer for baking the mini-challahs, to Rachelle Dorne for flowers, to the Ornsteins for apples and honey, and to Stu and Judy Liss for putting the bags together. Thank you to everyone who donated food for our annual food drive. And thank you to Les Mintzer and Karen Sodikoff who deliver the bags to First Step every year. Thank you to David Berger for blowing the shofar, which was particularly meaningful this year. Thank you to Josh Shulruff for providing music for the Family service, and thank you as well to LEEANNE Shepard who learned to blow the shofar for the Family service. Sometimes we do not always know what we are capable of doing.

As the year continues, there will be ways to step forward to assure our strong presence in the Shenandoah Valley. Thank you, in advance, for your willingness to act when opportunities arise.

Michelle

From the board meeting:

- Treasurer's Report: Ron Rubin reported his initial quarterly statement. He discussed the need for some minor adjustments to his documentation.
- Trustees' Report: Ron Ornstein reports that the tree work was completed before the memorial service.
- Adult Education: Michelle thanked Rabbi Grumbacher for his sessions prior to the High Holy Days.
- Building & Grounds Committee: Ron O. reported that the evaluation of the roof condition is not satisfactory for the placement of solar panels. Additionally, Johann will submit his evaluation, but he verbally stated that the roof is not in good shape, and will need either repair or replacement, and the committee will move forward with this evaluation.
- Library/ Archives Committees: The rabbi has a photo from 45 years ago, from a newspaper article. We will add this to the file. Additionally, we received a donation of books from Carol Schepp.
- Membership Committee: Welcome to new members, Carol & Louis Schepp. Thea Golub called two contacts received in August. She had good conversations with both, and they are all interested in virtual services, and possibly any adult education in the future.
- Pulpit Search Committee: Andy Kohen reported that they are revising the application, as the CCAR will not take two separate applications. Therefore, they are completing a draft version in which the narrative describes both a full and part-time position and compensation package. They plan to file the application shortly after Yom Kippur.
- Technology Report: Rachelle Dorne gave a brief summary of attendance numbers from Streamspot, as we had substantial numbers in addition to those in live attendance, as well as those who attended through Zoom. She expressed her gratitude to Leslie Harris for her management of the in-house technology for the services. Additionally, Ron Ornstein expressed his gratitude to Mickey Glago, who provided his expertise, microphones, and sound equipment. All of which he has lent to Beth El, which made the service successful for the on-line congregation.
- Men's Club: no report at this time.
- Sisterhood: Sherri Alt reports that the Sisterhood board members will have an upcoming meeting (in person, with social distancing) to plan for the year.
- Religious School: In summary, we have 10 children attending, spread over 3 classes, and an additional 8 students who are participating through distance learning online. Rabbi Grumbacher is planning to host an online meeting with the families after Yom Kippur.
- Old Business: High Holy Day plans at this point: All seems to be going well. We will need to collect the books after the holiday finishes.
- New Business: a) Michelle reported that we need to develop some criteria for managing outreach, to contact potential new members. We have received three odd emails that were suspicious for either trolling or otherwise. We are currently only responding if there is a phone number, so that we can talk to the interested person. b) Reassessing our connection to Faith in Action. We discussed the recent response and email from Andy. The rabbi provided advice on how to address this issue.
- Next meeting: Monday, October 19, 2020 @6:30 PM. Sukkot is 10/02 and Kevin Giovanetti will be setting up the Sukkah. Simchat Torah 10/09 and this will be a rabbi led service.

“The Challenge: Welcoming the Promise of Tomorrow”

Well, we survived the live-streamed Holydays! What’s next?

Follow me please in this very mini-history of spiritual life as we approach Succot.

Succot is known in post-biblical literature as Heh-Chag, THE Festival, because the streets of Jerusalem were filled with the blood of sacrificed animals. Nice, eh?

Well, that’s how our festivals were commemorated back then, but fortunately sacrifices came to an end with the destruction of the Second Temple.

What substituted for the sacrifices? Worship. The Temple was gone forever but the synagogue replaced it. Across the centuries they’ve been filled with our sisters and brothers who looked to it as their “home.” Now since we’ve seen some consequences of the pandemic including virtual worship, are we at that point in our history when the synagogue will make way for something different just as the Temple made way for the synagogue? Will twenty-first century Jews look back and say, “What was, ain’t!”? Will the future be Zoom and Live-stream, cold and impersonal versions of in-house worship, study and celebration? Will the familiar warmth of the synagogue be a relic of the past? For the last half-century, probably longer, we’ve seen changes in the functions of synagogue life. As with everything in life, change is inevitable...

But to thrive as a congregation, we must acknowledge change and be proactive in molding it!

Stagnation will come if we freeze our minds in the wake of these new developments. While we at Beth El have experienced virtual worship for the past

few months, including High Holyday services, hoping of course to return to what was; and while the religious school is moving forward with its necessary changes, we have to keep our eye on tomorrow, on the possibilities of new vistas in synagogue life along with the challenges that always accompany change.

Creativity is vital. We cannot have wishful thinking believing that things will return to the way they were. They might but they might not. They've changed already. For the better? A lot of what we're seeing has the potential of strengthening the synagogue and our People and that's why we cannot sit on our laurels; rather we have to be creative with new ideas, new ways of doing what must be done, ready to be activated.

Do I know the best ways to meaningfully celebrate Chanukah under these circumstances? The seder? Life-cycle events? I honestly cannot say I do...but what I do know is that we've got to start a collaborative effort to face these opportunities – indeed, challenges - now that the Holydays are over.

I want to be part of this collaborative process in the time I'm still your rabbi, so that together we will do what we can to have my successor walk into a post-COVID-19, enthusiastic, forward-thinking, optimistic congregation whose members will welcome the promise of tomorrow with the stability of its past.

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

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Elliott Golub
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YAHREZEITS

01 Carrye Kohen			Florine Ney's Mother
Annette Biatch			Rabbi Jonathan Biatch's Mother
Carl Goldstein	2010		Lisa Giovanetti's Father
02 David Rubin	1972	Member	
04 Bernard N. Berger	2010		Bary Berger's Father
05 Jack Lichtenstein			Joan Funston's Father
06 Paige Nash	2003		Keith Nash's Mother
08 Leonard Raff			Irma Nemoytin's Brother
09 Samuel Metzger	1911	Member	
11 David Baron			Cindy Baron's father
12 Betty Nemoytin	1991	Member	
13 Israel Smith		Member	
Harry Katzen	1981	Member	
15 Hattie Hirsch	1927	Member	
Milton Trubitz	1991		Mark Trubitz' Father
Sarah Lovinger	1996		Mitch & Valerie Lovinger's Daughter
16 Miriam Brooslin Cohen			
17 Rosa Wise	1931	Member	
18 Harriet Gould	1991		Alan Gould's Mother
19 Rabbi Edward L Israel			
Mabel Rodbell	1994		Herb Rodbell's Wife
20 Barbara M Levin			
Ruth Shwayder	1967		
22 Ida Zindler			Leo Zindler's Grandmother
Dorothy D Kaiser			Paula Kaiser's Mother

25 Leon Hirsch

Helen Wise	1962	Member
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Sarah Lebin Dave Merlin's Mother

Marc Trubitz	2010	Member
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Bernice “Bunny” Gerson 2018

26 Rosalie Amberg 1915

27 Oscar Rodbell

Marilyn Goldenthal 2005	Member
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29 Edith Bersson	2006	Bob Bersson's Mother
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31 Amalie G Wise	1939	Member
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DONATIONS

Leo Zindler – Yahrzeit Memorial Fund

Leonard & Marilena Berman -n Yahrzeit Memorial Fund

Alan & Kate Neckowitz – Jahrzeit Belle Neckowitz

Bill & Leslie Ney – Yahrzeit Joseph Ney

Eddie Ney & Margee Greenfield-Ney – Yahrzeit Beth Ney

Donald & Ethel Parsons – General Donation

Julie Mullian – General Donation

George Harris – General High Holy Days donation

Ron & Michelle Ornstein – Donated Apples and Honey to members for High Holy Days

Esther Minskoff – Donation in Memory of Ruth Bader Ginsberg

Yizkor Donations

Esther & Sandra Minskoff

Judith Freudenthal

Ron & Michelle Ornstein

Ronald Rubin

Rebecca Brannon

Harris Family

Alan & Kate Neckowitz

Bo & Sandi Rose

Leo Zindler

Eddie Ney Margee Greenfield

Dorne, Rachelle

Andrew Kohen

Bill Ney

Peter & Linda Kohn

Joan Funston

Alt, Sherri & Bruce

Lenore Price (Stallard)

Arnold Kahn

The Mintzer Family

The Berman Family

Dara Hall / Roni Saltsberg

The Schepp Family

The Berger Family

The Clemons Family

The Clayman Family

Barbara & Hal Simonetti

The Brothers Family

Cindy Baron

Catherine Rogers

Valerie Stephens

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to new
members,
Carol & Louis Schepp.

Lenore Stallard would like to thank those
responsible for the gift bags.
The items in the bag made it possible for her
family to have a festive Rosh Hashanah this
year.

Beth El Linear Calendar

2020 - 2021

(as of 09.12.20)

AUGUST

Friday, August 7: Lay Service led by _____

Friday, August 14: Lay Service led by _____

Monday, August 17: Board Meeting

Friday, August 21: Lay Service led by _____

Friday, August 28: Lay Service led by _____

Sunday, August 30: Religious School parent meeting via WebEx

SEPTEMBER

Friday, September 4: Lay Service led by _____

Sunday, September 6: NO Religious School LABOR DAY

Friday, September 11: Rabbi Grumbacher

Saturday, September 12: Selichot Service 9:00 PM

Sunday, September 13: Religious School - Test Run day for IN PERSON

Tuesday, September 15: Adult Education 10:00 AM

Wednesday, September 16: Early Prayer Book Pick Up/Food Drive Drop Off 5:30 - 6:30

Friday, September 18: Prayer Book Pick Up/Food Drive Drop Off 3:00 - 5:00 PM & Erev Rosh Hashanah Service with Rabbi Grumbacher

Saturday, September 19: Rosh Hashanah Service 10:00 AM & Family Service 2:00 PM (outdoor)

Sunday, September 20: Religious School - Rosh Hashanah & Memorial Service @ cemetery 11:00 AM

Monday, September 21: Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 23: Sanctuary Open 1:00 PM

Thursday, September 24: Sanctuary Open 7:00 PM

Friday, September 25: Lay Service led by _____

Sunday, September 27: NO Religious School - Yom Kippur Kol Nedrei 7:30 PM

Monday, September 28: Yom Kippur Service 10:00 AM & Family Service 4:00 PM (outdoor) & Yizkor and Neilah 5:00 PM

OCTOBER

Friday, October 2: Lay Service led by _____

Sunday, October 4: Religious School - Sukkot

Friday, October 9: Rabbi Grumbacher

Sunday, October 11: Religious School - Simchat Torah

Friday, October 16: Lay Service led by _____

Sunday, October 18: Religious School

Monday, October 19: Board Meeting

Friday, October 23: Rabbi Grumbacher

Sunday, October 25: Religious School

Friday, October 30: Lay Service led by _____

NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 1: Religious School (Remember to change your clocks!)

Friday, November 6: Rabbi Grumbacher

Sunday, November 8: Religious School - Global Day of Jewish Learning

Friday, November 13: Lay Service led by _____

Sunday, November 15: Religious School

Monday, November 16: Board Meeting

Friday, November 20: Rabbi Grumbacher

Sunday, November 22: NO Religious School THANKSGIVING BREAK

Friday, November 27: Lay Service led by _____

Sunday, November 29: NO Religious School THANKSGIVING BREAK

DECEMBER

Friday, December 4: Rabbi Grumbacher

Sunday, December 6: Religious School

Friday, December 11: Rabbi Grumbacher

Sunday, December 13: Religious School - Hanukkah

Friday, December 18: Lay Service led by _____

Sunday, December 20: Religious School

Monday, December 21: Board Meeting

Friday, December 25: Lay Service led by _____

Sunday, December 27: NO Religious School WINTER BREAK

JANUARY

Friday, January 1: Lay Service led by _____

Sunday, January 3: NO Religious School WINTER BREAK

Friday, January 8: Rabbi Grumbacher

Sunday, January 10: Religious School

Friday, January 15: Lay Service led by _____

Sunday, January 17: Religious School

Monday, January 18: Board Meeting

Friday, January 22: Lay Service led by _____

Sunday, January 24: Religious School - Tu B'Shevat

Friday, January 29: Rabbi Grumbacher

Sunday, January 31: Religious School

FEBRUARY

Friday, February 5: Rabbi Grumbacher

Sunday, February 7: Religious School

Friday, February 12: Lay Service led by _____

Sunday, February 14: Religious School

Monday, February 15: Board Meeting

Friday, February 19: Lay Service led by _____

Sunday, February 21: Religious School

Friday, February 26: Rabbi Grumbacher

Sunday, February 28: Religious School – Purim

MARCH

Friday, March 5: Rabbi Grumbacher

Sunday, March 7: Religious School

Friday, March 12: Lay Service led by _____

Sunday, March 14: Religious School (Remember to change your clocks!)

Monday, March 15: Board Meeting

Friday, March 19: Rabbi Grumbacher

Sunday, March 21: Religious School

Friday, March 26: Lay Service led by _____

Saturday, March 27: First night of Passover

Sunday, March 28: NO Religious School PASSOVER - BETH EL SEDER

APRIL

Friday, April 2: Lay Service led by _____

Sunday, April 4: NO Religious School PASSOVER

Friday, April 9: Rabbi Grumbacher

Sunday, April 11: Religious School

Friday, April 16: Rabbi Grumbacher

Saturday, April 17: PIZZA BINGO?

Sunday, April 18: Religious School

Monday, April 19: Board Meeting

Friday, April 23: Lay Service led by _____

Sunday, April 25: Religious School

Friday, April 30: Rabbi Grumbacher

MAY

Sunday, May 2: Religious School - Lag Be'Omer

Friday, May 7: Rabbi Grumbacher

Saturday, May 8: Religious School Shabbat & Mother's Luncheon

Friday, May 14: Lay Service led by _____

Monday, May 17: Board Meeting

Friday, May 21: Rabbi Grumbacher

Friday, May 28: Rabbi Grumbacher

JUNE

Friday, June 4: Lay Service led by _____

Friday, June 11: Rabbi Grumbacher

Friday, June 18: Lay Service led by _____

Monday, June 21: Board Meeting

Friday, June 25: Lay Service led by _____

My Wish Is For Truth

Irish poet, theologian, and peace activist Pádraig Ó Tuama spent the week of September 14-18 with our friends down the road at Eastern Mennonite University, although because of covid-19 this occurred virtually instead of in person. From 2015-2019 he was the leader of Ireland's Corrymeela community, a fifty-five year old international peace and reconciliation community.

Throughout the week he read his poetry, participated in interviews, led their convocation, and shared his beautiful theological perspective and training. He frequently moves between English, Irish, and Hebrew, going back to the Tanakh for inspiration in the original Hebrew! I was fortunate to be able to join a few sessions with one of my favorite poets. The last session, co-hosted with James Madison University's Furious Flower Poetry Center, was on Friday Erev Rosh Hashanah. My question, which was typed in the chat, was chosen as the last! I said, "This has been the perfect introduction to the Days of Awe, the ten days of deep introspection between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. If you are willing, can you share your deepest wishes for the new year"? Without missing a beat, he replied, "Truth. My wish is for truth." He went on to say that truth may not always feel easy or peaceful, but that truth is ultimately necessary and healing. In all areas, he wishes for truth.

Ó Tuama tells his stories with a beautiful, soft spoken voice in an Irish lilt, adding to the pleasure of listening to his wisdom and insights. He was recently the featured theologian for On Being, and you may enjoy the episode here: <https://onbeing.org/programs/padraig-o-tuama-belonging-creates-and-undoes-us/>. He is also well worth looking up as a Tedx talk and as a peace activist, and his poetry is a welcome refuge.

Frances Flannery, Ph.D.

Professor of Religion

Department of Philosophy and Religion

James Madison University

OCTOBER 2020

Sun 27	Mon 28	Tue 29	Wed 30	Thu 1	Fri 2	Sat 3
Yom Kippur Eve	Yom Kippur				Sukkot Eve	Sukkot (Day 1)
7:30pmKol Nidrei (Zoom + Streamspot)	10amYom Kippur Morning (Zoom + Streamspot)					
	4pmYom Kippur Family Service including Torah and Jonah Haftarah (Outdoor)					
	5pmYizkor and Neilah (Zoom + Streamspot)					
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
SHORTY Meeting	Sukkot (Day 3)	Sukkot (Day 4)	Sukkot (Day 5)	Sukkot (Day 6)	Sukkot (Day 7) / Hoshanah Rabah	Shemini Atzeret / Simchat Torah
Sukkot (Day 2)						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Columbus Day (regional holiday)					
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	6:30pmBoard Meeting					
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Aliyah Day School Observance						Halloween