

February Bridge

Beth El Congregation

A Message from our Rabbi

Tu Bishvat falls this year on Monday, February 6. The Mishnah states that the 15th day of the month of Shevat is the “Rosh Hashanah of the Trees” – the “New Year of the Trees.”

Here in our country we are taught that part of being a good citizen is taking care of the environment. We should recycle bottles, use grocery bags again before we throw them out, and put trash where it belongs. Recycling paper helps us save trees.

There is a story from the Talmud that says:

Honi the Circle Maker was walking on the road and saw a man planting a carob tree. Honi asked the man, “How long will it take for this tree to bear fruit?”

The man replied, “Seventy years.”

Honi then asked the man, “And do you think you will live another seventy years and eat the fruit of this tree?”

The man answered, “Perhaps not. However, when I was born into this world, I found many carob trees planted by my father and grandfather. Just as they planted trees for me, I am planting trees for my children and grandchildren so they will be able to eat the fruit of these trees.”

The idea from the Mishnah that the trees would have a Rosh Hashanah, a New Year – affirms that Jewish tradition has recognized for thousands of years that being a good citizen means to take care of our environment. The man from the Talmud also taught us the idea that when we use something we have to replace it. When we use nature we have to restore nature for those who come after us.

In Israel today, Israel is the only country in the entire world that has more trees now than it did 100 years ago. We

learn from our tradition that taking care of the environment is not a new idea. Recycling isn’t a new concept of the twenty-first century, but was taught to us by our sages and rabbis for thousands of years.

Being a good citizen means taking care of the environment.
Being a good Jew means taking care of the environment.

And we honor Tu Bishvat by planting trees so that, as Honi recognized in the time of the Talmud, a healthy environment will be there for the next generation just as it has been here for us.

A Message from our President

I’ve always considered the Temple as our communal home and our membership a communal family. I’ve tried to keep our family updated concerning the problems that the Holocaust Remembrance Day event sponsored by JMU created.

The JMU Holocaust committee continually disparaged and disrespected not only our Jewish Faculty members but also Jewish Faculty members not connected to the Temple. It got to the point that our 3 Jewish members felt they had no other choice but to resign from the committee.

To say that I’m proud of the way our Jewish Professors and your Temple Board handled the situation would be an understatement. We knew the difference between right and wrong and refused to sit by and not make our voices heard. I believe our voices were finally heard loud and clear by the administration whether they will ever admit or not.

Our thoughts now turn to next year and what can be done to work together with JMU to make this important event one that we can all be very proud of. I know the Rabbi is meeting with one of the “higher ups” to discuss the situation and see how we can move forward together. We will do everything possible to try to move forward in a respectful manner and make our relationship with JMU a productive one. When we act together for a righteous purpose, we are a strong voice to be reckoned with. I will continue to keep the congregation updated as events transpire.

I hope everyone has a great month.

February Yahrzeits

Emmanuel Loewner - *Feb 2, 1894*
Harry Weiss - *Feb 2*
Morris Myers - *Feb 2*
Helen Margulis - *Feb 4*
Saul Perlman - *Feb 4, 2010*
Fannie Wise - *Feb 5, 1877*
Pauline Peck - *Feb 5*
Rae Trubitz - *Feb 6*
Fannie Goldsmith - *Feb 9, 1933*
Hortense Wise - *Feb 9*
Jennie Auerbach - *Feb 10, 1987*
Ada Robinson - *Feb 10, 1975*
Abel Miller - *Feb 12, 1945*
Hannah Nusbaum - *Feb 12, 1937*
James Moneyhun - *Feb 13, 2003*
Marilyn Goldenthal - *Feb 14*
Rosella Wender - *Feb 14, 2003*
Fannie Loewner Ney - *Feb 15, 1946*
Harry Taubin - *Feb 15, 2018*
Esther Miller - *Feb 16, 2005*
Gloria Simon - *Feb 17, 2011*
Ruth Frankel - *Feb 19, 1975*
Lillie Hirsch - *Feb 20, 1956*
A.J. Goldenthal - *Feb 20*
Lisa Hyman Morrow - *Feb 20, 2017*
Adolph Wise - *Feb 21, 1928*
Emanuel Klingstein - *Feb 22, 1971*
Charles Moore - *Feb 24*
Milton Mitchell - *Feb 24*
Julia Hirsch Canning - *Feb 25, 1945*
Samuel Loewner - *Feb 25, 1945*
Herman Heller - *Feb 25*
Sydney Nathanson - *Feb 25*
Joseph Strauss - *Feb 25, 1983*
Ida Fielder - *Feb 26, 2002*
Rabbi Lynne Landsberg - *Feb 26, 2018*
Sam Lane - *Feb 28, 2007*
Paul Frankel - *Feb 28, 2017*

Recent Donations

Kenneth Siever

Louis & Carol Schepp - *in memory of Estelle Good Robinson*

Michael & Nancy Clayman - *Harry Clayman's Yahrzeit*

Frances Flannery - *New Machzor*

Eliot Robinson - *Estelle and Henry Robinson's Yahrzeits*

Dennis Ward - *Lynne Landsberg's Yahrzeit*

BETH EL CONGREGATION

FEB 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			01	02	03	04
			Ethics Class 12:00 pm Zoom	Men's Club Sakura 6:00 pm	Rabbi-led Shabbat Services 7:30 pm Sponsored Oneg Livestream also	Torah Study 10:30 am Zoom
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
Religious School 9:30 am Torah Tots 10:30 am			Ethics Class 12:00 pm Zoom		Rabbi-led Shabbat Services 7:30 pm Livestream also	Torah Study 10:30 am Zoom
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Religious School 9:30 am			Ethics Class 12:00 pm Zoom Board Meeting 6:30 pm Zoom also		Rabbi-led Shabbat Services 7:30 pm Sponsored Oneg Livestream also	Torah Study 10:30 am Zoom
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Religious School 9:30 am			Ethics Class 12:00 pm Zoom		Rabbi-led Shabbat Services 7:30 pm Livestream also	Religious School Shabbat Services 10:00 am
26	27	28				
Religious School 9:30 am						