

June Bridge

Beth El Congregation

A Message from our Rabbi

Communication – Listening AND Understanding

I believe that a large part of conflict exists in the world because of a failure to understand each other. Whether it is in our businesses, in our homes, in our Temples, in our communities, in government or in conflicts between nations I believe that often the true source of conflict is a failure to communicate with each other, to listen to each other but more importantly to really express empathy to what others are saying. When we speak we usually try to convince someone else why we're right. Even when we try to listen to another we still often listen to what they say but interpret it in terms of our own narrow context. We listen to what they say, dissect the thought and argue back to prove that we are right based on what they say. We often think that the solutions will be corrected if we communicate our own position better so

that they understand us better. And then WE decide what OTHERS “really” want and how that what *they* want is really what WE want, and then we try to convince them of this fact without truly understanding what they really want.

While solutions could be achieved through better communication, it needs to go beyond just listening and responding to what we hear. It needs to be based on listening and then making every effort to truly understand what they want. When you put yourself into the mind of the person or community with whom you have a conflict – and not merely interpret their position based on your own feelings but truly imagine what they are saying and why they are saying that – what are their life experiences that lead them to their opinions and feelings, then suddenly a light bulb goes on and you begin to feel what they feel from their point of view and not your own. And then you can begin to solve the conflict because instead of trying to convince them and others why you're right, instead you are understanding that their perspective is different, and that the solution comes not from convincing them that you're right but imagining what you would truly want if you were in their place.

The next time you get into an argument with someone – try it. Don't just listen, respond and argue, but stop and think very hard, for a while, about what they are saying. Imagine that you are feeling the circumstances leading them to their position. You might just find that your conflict is resolved sooner, with less hard feelings, and the relationship is enhanced by your sincere efforts to understand the other. That truly is empathy.

A Message from our President

I hope everyone had a great month.

I'm humbled and honored to serve as your President again for the upcoming year. I will do everything in my power to make you proud. My job would be impossible if not for the Rabbi and your Temple board. It really does take a village to get anything accomplished. I can't say thank you enough to them for all their guidance and input.

I can't tell you how wonderful it's been to have Rabbi Kurtz-Lendner as our Rabbi over the last two years. Remember, the first year he led us from Pittsburgh. He is an asset not only to our congregation, but to the community at large. Thank you for your

leadership and guidance and for being part of our community.

I want to thank Josh Shulruff for his year on the board serving as an At Large Member. He will continue to serve as a liaison between the Temple and Hillel. Thank you for all your input.

I want to thank Rebecca Brannon for stepping up to serve on your board as an At Large Member. I look forward to your being part of the Board.

I am very happy to say that except for Josh, all of your board has agreed to stay and have been re-elected with Rebecca taking Josh's place on the Board.

June will have two very special Friday night services. The first is THIS FRIDAY Night when SHORTY will be leading the service. The second is the weekend of the 16th/17th when Zevian (Zev) Johnstone-Yellin will be celebrating his Bar Mitzvah.

I hope everyone has a great June.

P.S. We've added a new feature to the Bridge called "The Spotlight". We will be spotlighting both congregants and special events. Last month we spotlighted "The Diary of Anne Frank" directed by Jenn Middleton.

This month we are spotlighting Michael Kalman who is a Realtor. If you want the Spotlight to shine on you or an event you have planned, please get in touch with me.

(see spotlight below)

JuneYahrzeits

Dora Brill - June 1
Setta Scheuer - June 2, 1894
Marie A Good - June 2, 1980
William Piper - June 2
Samuel Horn - June 2, 1924
Marvin D. Mondres - June 2, 2006
Lila Hyman - June 2, 2006
Bernard Ney - June 5, 1961
F Rita Kaslow - June 5, 2001
Pauline Zindler - June 6, 2002
Leopold Wise - June 6, 1885
Baby Samuel - June 7, 1912
Manuel Levine - June 8, 1987
Barbara Prudoff - June 9, 2016
Leo Zindler Sr. - June 10, 1968
Margene Ward - June 10, 2008
Anna Meyers - June 11
Estelle Handler - June 11
Joseph Funston - June 12
Gertrude Davidson - June 12
Fred Bersson - June 14, 2005
Dave Merlin - June 14, 2007
Miriam Hirsch - June 15
Elon Brand - June 17
Herbert Kaslow - June 19, 1986
Emma Ney - June 21, 1876
David Blatt - June 21, 1980
Hyman Golub - June 22
Anna Klingstein - June 23, 1922
Albert F Miller - June 24, 2000
Joseph Fox - June 25
Elisa Tomaszewski - June 25, 2004
Steven Nemoytin - June 26

Recent Donations

In Memory of Nancy Stewart:

Benjamin Glaser

Rivka Glaser

Rick Glaser

David Glaser

Anonymous

Barbara McCoy

Eddie Ney & Margee Greenfield-Ney

Ron & Michelle Ornstein

Judith LePera

Fred Davidson

John Clem

In Memory of Sadie Biakek:

Joan Funston

Eddie Ney & Margee Greenfield-Ney

Other Donations:

Louis & Carol Schepp – “In gratitude for Mary Handley and all she does for all of us”.

Bill & Leslie Ney - Donation for Roof

Robert & Juanita Wyson - In honor of John Stewart and Nancy Stewart.

Spotlight

Hello, everyone! I am Michael Kalman, a member of Beth El congregation and the Mens Club. After living in both northern Virginia (where I met my wife) and Las Vegas for several years, I re-joined the congregation in 2022 after moving back to the area. Since then, I have enjoyed getting to know many of you; however, for those of you I haven't met, I'm honored to have the spotlight shine on me this month. I am happily married to my wife, Rachel, and we have one daughter, Rees, who was born in June last year.

In addition to being a family man, I'm also a local Realtor with Valley Realty Associates, based in Harrisonburg. As a dedicated Realtor, with a keen eye for detail, I have built a reputation as a trusted professional in helping clients find their dream home or selling their current home. My passion for real estate is matched only by my commitment to providing unparalleled customer service, ensuring that every client's needs are met with utmost care and expertise. I have a strong understanding of the market

trends and a knack for negotiating, so I strive to secure the best deals for everyone I work with, making their buying or selling experience seamless and rewarding.

Whether a first-time homebuyer or a seasoned investor, I would love to help guide you or anyone you know through the complexities of the real estate journey. I look forward to continuing to serve our community and our congregation!

Michael Kalman, Realtor®

Cell: 540-908-9279

Email: Michael.Kalman26@gmail.com

Website: MichaelKalmanRealEstate.com

BETH EL CONGREGATION

JUNE 2023

NOTE: FOR JULY AND AUGUST, THE USUAL SCHEDULE WILL CONTINUE UNLESS THE RABBI IS ON VACATION. UPDATED NOTIFICATIONS OF SERVICES AND CLASSES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED BY E-MAIL.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				01	02	03
				Men's Club Election of Officers Vinny's Italian Grill 6:00 pm	SHORTY-led Shabbat Services 7:30 pm Sponsored Oneg Livestream also	Torah Study 10:30 am Zoom
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
			Ethics Class 12:00 pm Zoom	Men's Club Cooking Lunch at Catholic Church Contact Les for details	Rabbi-led Shabbat Services 7:30 pm Livestream also	Torah Study 10:30 am Zoom
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			Ethics Class 12:00 pm Zoom	Board Meeting 6:30 pm Zoom also	Zev Johnstone- Yellin Bar Mitzvah 7:30 pm Family - sponsored Oneg Livestream also	Zev Johnstone- Yellin Bar Mitzvah 10:00 am Livestream also
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
			Ethics Class 12:00 pm Zoom		Rabbi-led Shabbat Services 7:30 pm Livestream also	Torah Study 10:30 am Zoom
28	26	27	28	29	30	
			Ethics Class 12:00 pm Zoom		Lay-led Shabbat Services 7:30 pm	