

# September Bridge Should say November Bridge

*Beth El Congregation*

## A Message from our Rabbi

*Thanksgiving*

*Rabbi Jeffrey Kurtz-Lendner*

During the month of November we celebrate one of the most universally American observed holidays – Thanksgiving. We take it as a time to give thanks for family and friends and all that we have in our lives.

Unfortunately, the events that have happened in Israel have been incredibly distressing to us. For Jews in America, the feelings we have had since the events of October 7 resemble the feelings we had over the 9-11 attacks—fear, concern, worry, sadness. For American Jews, we are taking the events overseas far more personally than most of our fellow Americans. Those events may make it seem difficult to be able to feel thankful at this time. So many of us have friends and family in Israel. We are only a degree or two away from someone who has been directly affected by this tragedy.

Nevertheless I want to offer encouragement to find opportunities for gratitude. If we allow the tragic events that have happened to overshadow every aspect of our lives, and if we allow that to cause us to live our lives in despair, then that only gives another victory to the terrorists. Their joy comes not only from inflicting pain on the victims, but of creating uncertainty and crisis in Israel. And if that sense of crisis pervades the world wide Jewish community, then that only enhances their own satisfaction.

We should not forget or abandon the ongoing struggles of those directly affected by the crisis, and we should offer our support to the organizations providing life saving care to the victims and their families. But we can also take time to feel gratitude in our lives. We can feel grateful for the very small relief that comes from the few hostages who have been released. We can find gratitude in our local Jewish community. Coming together, we comfort each other. We are also comforted by the expressions of concern and solidarity that we have heard from other members of the Harrisonburg community.

But most importantly, we should find the gratitude of being surrounded by our closest friends and the families with whom we share love. Even in dark hours we can find sparks of gratitude.

Let our Thanksgiving this year help us to find those sparks of gratitude.

# A Message from our President

I hope everyone had a great month.

October was certainly a very bittersweet month. Of course, the bitter was the surprise invasion by Hamas that resulted in the massacre of over 1,200 innocent men, women, and children and the taking of over 200 hostages including babies. What kind of monsters decapitate children in front of their parents and murders parents in front of the children? There is no rationale for these actions. You do not have to agree with the policies of the Netanyahu administration. I certainly don't. Quite frankly, fair or not, I think a two-state solution is the only policy that can lead to a lasting peace. That being said, I believe Israel has the right to take any action to try and destroy Hamas once and for all. Please note, I said Hamas and not the Palestinians as they are also victims of the invasion. My heart bleeds for all the innocent Palestinians caught up in this horrible war. I pray that the loss of any innocent lives can be kept as low as possible. Please remember that the Palestinians are not our enemy, Hamas is our enemy. We actually have a good relationship with our Muslim friends at the Mosque here in Harrisonburg. We hope this relationship remains good and we can continue to partner with the Mosque through Open Doors. As President, I will not be silent

as to my feelings on Hamas. But, I will not take my anger out on members of our local Muslim community, and I will do everything I can to maintain our good relationship with the Mosque. I hope you will do the same.

October was also a sweet month as we had our first interfaith dinner in 4 years. The dinner was a smashing success with over 66 congregants in attendance. That would make this dinner the most well attended dinner that we've had. The Immanuel Mennonite Church brought 35 congregants and we had 31 congregants attending. Members of the congregations conversed, and I believe everyone had a good time. I hope this dinner will continue in the future.

We have gotten a good response to our volunteer forms. Thank you. I continually say that it takes a village to make the Temple run as smoothly as it does. Please keep volunteering. I know there is always a need for people to help on many projects or just pick one thing you would like to help with during the year. Please think about volunteering and ask not just what the Temple can do for you, but what you can do for the Temple, our communal home.

I hope everyone has a great November!!!

*Les Mintzer, President*

# November Jahrzeits

Selma Miller - November 01  
Sadie Spiro - November 01  
Fredrick Nessen - November 01  
Samuel Freed - November 01, 1954  
Linda Renick - November 01, 2011  
Dan Kohn - November 01, 2020  
Selina Ney - November 02, 1945  
Bruno Freudenthal - November 02  
Lawrence Loewner - November 02, 1955  
Jack Stein - November 02, 2004  
Sylvia Lankin - November 02, 2012  
Ruth Clayman - November 02, 2014  
Louise Perlman - November 03  
Albert Lubman - November 04, 1968  
Mildred Lucus - November 04, 1998  
Gussie Myers - November 05  
Sam Hirsch - November 05  
Louis Wides - November 05, 1962  
Mathieu Poster - November 06, 2013  
Eva Brooslin - November 07, 1956  
Annie Ney - November 09, 1979  
Nathan Ratner - November 10, 1989  
Barbara Rotondo - November 10, 1994  
Irene Nusbaum - November 12  
Levy Rogers - November 12, 1998  
Frances M. Stewart - November 12, 2014  
Minna Mintzer - November 15  
Ada Krim - November 15  
Dr. Henry Helbraun - November 15

Rivas Tatum Hirsch - November 17, 1913  
Charles Schweitzer - November 17  
Linda Gurowitz - November 17, 2020  
Baby Ney - November 19, 1920  
Sybil Rose - November 19, 2002  
Caroline Ash - November 20, 1965  
Ida Miller - November 21, 1939  
Monroe Nussbaum - November 21, 1986  
Rhoda Paroly - November 21, 2015  
Alan Gould - November 21, 2017  
Kathie Ney - November 22, 1980  
Saul Robinson - November 22, 2011  
Albert Wise - November 23, 1904  
David Myerberg - November 23, 1986  
Dave Levy - November 23, 1931  
Doris Freed - November 23, 1969  
Isaac Ney - November 25, 1941  
Sam Fishman - November 26  
Sophie Miller - November 26, 2015  
Sam Blatt - November 28, 1965  
Zvi Hirsch Derechinsky - November 28  
Edward Poster - November 29, 1955  
Kate Schneider - November 29  
Sylvan Ney - November 30, 1977  
Miriam Banker - November 30, 2014

# Recent Donations

*Leo Zindler – Donation – Shanah Tova*  
*Pamela Ungar – Donation – Shanah Tova – For her sister and nieces.*  
*Edward Ney & Margee Greenfield-Ney – Yahrzeit – Beth Ney*  
*Valerie & Mitch Lovinger – Yahrzeit – Sarah Lovinger*  
*Jeffrey Kurtz-Lendner – Donation for the Roof*  
*Eric & Jayne Rynar – Yahrzeit – Kate Schneider*  
*Edward Ney & Margee Greenfield-Ney – Yahrzeit – Frances M. Stewart*  
*Bo & Sandi Rose – Yahrzeit – Sybil Rose*

# Beth El Board

*Rabbi: Jeffrey Kurtz-Lendner*  
*President: Lester Mintzer*  
*Vice President: Carol Schepp*  
*Treasurer: Ron Rubin*  
*Recording Secretary: Phil Renick*  
*Corresponding Secretary: Ben Nissely*  
*Trustee: Lester Mintzer*  
*Trustee: Eric Rynar*  
*Trustee: Ron Ornstein*  
*Past President: Amanda Friss*  
*At large member: Leeanne Shepherd*  
*At large member: Gail Clemons*  
*Sisterhood President: Sherri Alt*  
*Men's Club President: Lester Mintzer*  
*Religious School Principal: Liz Webb*

# BETH EL CONGREGATION

**NOV 23**

**ALL SERVICES LED BY RABBI AND LIVESTREAMED  
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED**

| SUN  | MON   | TUE                  | WED   | THU                             | FRI   | SAT   |
|--|---|----------------------|---|---------------------------------|---|---|
|  |   |                      | 01  | 02                              | 03  | 04  |
|  |   |                      | Ethics Class<br>12:00 pm<br>Zoom  | Men's Club<br>Dinner<br>6:00 pm | Stephen Wright<br>Bar Mitzvah<br>Service<br>7:30 pm<br>Family Sponsored<br>Oneg     | Stephen Wright<br>Bar Mitzvah<br>Service<br>10:00 am<br>Kiddush<br>Luncheon |
| 05   | 06  | 07                   | 08  | 09                              | 10  | 11  |
| Religious<br>School<br>9:30 am<br><br>Torah Tots<br>9:30 am<br><br>Sisterhood<br>LuLaRoe<br>Fundraiser<br>1:00-4:00 pm | Rabbi out of<br>town  | Rabbi out of<br>town | Sisterhood<br>Meeting<br>6:00 pm<br><br>Rabbi out of<br>town              | Rabbi out of<br>town            | Lay-led<br>Shabbat Services<br>7:30 pm<br>No Livestream<br><br>Rabbi out of<br>town | Rabbi out of<br>town  |
| 12   | 13  | 14                   | 15  | 16                              | 17  | 18  |
| Religious<br>School<br>9:30 am<br><br>Rabbi out of<br>town   | Rabbi out of<br>town  |                      | Ethics Class<br>12:00 pm<br>Zoom<br>Board Meeting<br>6:30 pm<br>Zoom also |                                 | Leo Goldberg<br>Bar Mitzvah<br>Service<br>7:30 pm<br>Family Sponsored<br>Oneg       | Leo Goldberg<br>Bar Mitzvah<br>Service<br>10:00 am<br>Kiddush<br>Luncheon   |
| 19   | 20  | 21                   | 22  | 23                              | 24  | 25  |
| Religious<br>School<br>9:30 am<br>Kabbalah<br>Class<br>7:00 pm<br>Zoom   | Interfaith<br>Community<br>Thankfulness<br>Event<br>Asbury United<br>Methodist<br>Church<br>7:00 pm |                      | Ethics Class<br>12:00 pm<br>Zoom  | Thanksgiving                    | Shabbat Services<br>7:30 pm   | Torah Study<br>10:30 am<br>Zoom   |
| 26   | 27  | 28                   | 29  | 30                              |   |   |
| NO<br>Religious<br>School  |   |                      | Ethics Class<br>12:00 pm<br>Zoom  |                                 |   |   |