

# The Bridge

January 2023  
Beth El Congregation

## A Message from our Rabbi

*Religious People Helping Each Other Observe Religion*

By Rabbi Jeffrey Kurtz-Lendner

Some years back I was regularly patronizing a local restaurant. The restaurant was a franchise and its product selection is governed by the rules of the franchise.

Over the years I became acquainted with the restaurant's owners and family and they knew that I was the rabbi at the Temple down the street. Sometimes we shared stories about our communities. I learned that the restaurant's owners were Muslim.

One day I went in and the owner's daughter, who also worked in the restaurant, discovered that some of the products have minor ingredients which are derivatives of pork. One would not be able to determine this simply by reading the ingredient list. This employee/daughter was so excited to share this information with people who are concerned.

She knew that Judaism and Islam are different; yet here is a basic commonality we share, one where the dictates of both of our religions are the same. This member of the Muslim community was obviously concerned that Muslims might be inadvertently violating their own religion and she shared this information with other Muslims to help them observe their faith properly. And she decided that she should share it with a Jew for whom she knew observing those traditions was important. She decided to help both Muslims and Jews to observe their faiths properly.

It reminded me of a story from the old south. There is a legend (true or not I don't know) that's told about when European Jews first began settling in the United States. Sometimes there might have been only one or two Jewish families in some of these small southern towns. Often Jews in early American history settled these towns in search of a livelihood and often set up general stores to supply the farmers, manufacturers and explorers as our nation was developed.

So the story is told of a shop-owner being the only Jewish family in town. One year the most important Jewish holy day, Yom Kippur, fell on a Saturday. The store's owner decided to keep the store open that day because Saturdays were the most important day of business for the residents of the town. He felt that closing the store would have been a hardship for the town's residents. Well, about a week before Yom Kippur the town council sent over its leaders to visit the store's owner, and said to him, "Listen. We are a very religious community here. We all go to church and we worship piously. You are Jewish. Your religion demands that you close your store on Saturday. As a religious town we are telling you that you have to observe your religion and close your store for your holy day."

What a profound story – people so dedicated to their own religious observance that it becomes important to them that someone else observes HIS religion in accordance with HIS faith even though those rituals have nothing to do with their own religion.

I don't know if this story is true but it certainly teaches us all an important value. This is what religious cooperation is all about. We may have different traditions, different customs and different theological views, but a basic respect for religion understands that we respect people of different faiths and help THEM worship God, observe their faith and be true to their heritage as a value of our own religion. If religious people

from all over the world were to help each other be true to their faiths and respect those different customs and traditions then we could truly remove so much of the conflict that divides people.

And thank you, to the Muslim shop owner, who helped a rabbi observe his Jewish traditions.

## A Message from our President

*Les Mintzer, Temple President*

I hope everyone had a great month and a very Happy New Year.

I'm happy to say that everything besides the weather is going well at this time. We did have a lot of downed limbs at the cemetery from both ice storms. There was a lot of clean up and limb piling so that Grass Roots could pick up the debris and take it to the dump. After the 1st storm, we had several volunteers (Les, Ron O, Mary, Kent, Heather) help with all the downed limbs. Thank you. It takes a village.

For the 1st time in three years, we had a (not) Chanukah dinner at the Temple. We had about 50 people who attended the dinner. Thank you Sisterhood for this and all you do.

The new High Holiday Prayer books have arrived. I look forward to using the first new prayer books in at least 50-60 years. I want to thank Andy Kohen for his generous contribution in memory of Janet Kohen. Thank you Andy.

I will always be open to any suggestions on what we can do to make our "communal home" a good experience for everyone. Please contact me with any suggestions.

The Ashburn's were VERY grateful for their raise and Christmas bonus. I personally want to thank Barbara and Clarence for ALL they do to keep the Temple **always** looking great. When you see them, let them know how much they are appreciated.

As we move forward into the coming year, I'm thankful for having Rabbi K-L living in our community and for all of my fellow Board Members who make my job much easier. Thank you! It does "take a village" to keep the Temple running smoothly.

I'm looking forward to a wonderful 2023 and once again seeing our Temple open up to having many events in our communal home. We plan on having an Interfaith dinner, a Shabbat service led by the men's club, a Shabbat service led by the sisterhood, a corn beef fundraiser, and perhaps another Pizza Bingo afternoon which was very successful 3 years ago among events that will be planned for 2023.

I want to wish all our congregants a wonderful year ahead. May 2023 be a year of great health and much happiness for one and all.

## Temple News

*Les Mintzer, Temple President*

The men's club sponsored a spaghetti luncheon at the Catholic Church for those less fortunate than we are. This is part of our commitment to the Friendship House Ministries. We cook twice a year. It's a mitzvah for all those who participate.

*Linda Kohn, chair of the Social Action Committee*

Though many of you may have already made year end monetary contributions, here is a list of worthy organizations for future consideration. You may also be interested in becoming involved somehow other than through financial support. The Social Action Committee met recently to discuss recommendations to the board for Beth El Annual Donations. Giving locally was a priority. Our list of five is: Church World Service-Harrisonburg,

Blue Ridge Free Clinic, Valley Open Doors, Backpack Coalition - Harrisonburg Education Foundation, and the Anti-Defamation League. Many of the listed organizations have reached out to Beth El for support.

- American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
- American Jewish World Service
- American Red Cross
- Anti-Defamation league
- Backpack Coalition - Harrisonburg Education Foundation
- Blue Ridge Area Food Bank
- Blue Ridge Free Clinic
- Blue Ridge Legal Services
- Central Valley Habitat for Humanity
- Church World Service
- Church World Service-Harrisonburg
- Crohn's & Colitis Foundation
- Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life
- HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society)
- Historic Dallard Newman House and Museum-Northeast Neighborhood Association
- Human Rights Watch
- International Rescue Committee
- Kulanu
- Mogan David Adom
- Mazon
- New Bridges Immigrant Resource Center
- Our Community Place (OCP)
- Second Home Learning Center
- United Farm Workers
- Valley Open Doors

## January Yahrzeits

Bertha Hammer, Member - *Jan 1*  
 Margaret Stein, John Stewart's Mother - *Jan 1*  
 Isadore Pfeffer - *Jan 1*  
 Dora Brill - *Jan 1, 1966*  
 Sadye Goldberger, Mike Goldberger's Mother - *Jan 1, 2007*  
 Bertha Wise, Original Member - *Jan 1, 1887*  
 Samuel Clayman, Harry Clayman's Father - *Jan 1, 1980*  
 Eleanor Stoloff, Marjorie Huisinga's Mother - *Jan 1*  
 Samuel Ney, Infant Child - *Jan 3, 1902*  
 Lester Kahn, Arnie Kahn's Father - *Jan 3*  
 Karen Vanderhoof, Dale Brothers' Sister - *Jan 3, 2009*  
 Mary Helbraun, Erwin Helbraun's Mother - *Jan 4*  
 Emma Hirsch Isaacs, Member - *Jan 5, 1962*  
 Leopold Wise, Founding Member - *Jan 6, 1885*  
 Max Hirsch, Made donation for new temple - *Jan 6, 1955*  
 Elsie K Cohn - *Jan 6*  
 Richard Banker, Roberta Stein's Father - *Jan 6*  
 Leonard Hirsch - *Jan 8, 1909*  
 Rosa Isaacs - *Jan 8*  
 Lillian Hamburg - *Jan 8*  
 Baby Spiro, *Jan 9, 1917*  
 Helen Rotkin Levinson, Judy Liss' Mother - *Jan 9, 1965*  
 Shirley Baron, Cindy Baron's Mother - *Jan 9*  
 Paul Miller, Member - *Jan 10, 1944*  
 Anna Weiss - *Jan 10*  
 Dee Goldstein, Lisa Giovanetti's Mother - *Jan 10, 2007*  
 Pearl Loewner, Gravely Member - *Jan 11*  
 Isadore Iseman - *Jan 11, 1948*  
 Verne Slater, Member - *Jan 11, 1934*  
 Baby Klingstein - *Jan 12, 1887*  
 Elaine Schreiber - *Jan 12, 2018*  
 Bruno Stein - *Jan 13*

Gerald Greenfield, Margee Greenfield's Father - *Jan 13*  
 Rose Levine, Janet Kohen's Mother - *Jan 14, 1992*  
 Hulda Ney Iseman, Member - *Jan 15, 1960*  
 Sam Weiss, *Jan 15*  
 Sadye Robinson, Member - *Jan 16, 1941*  
 Beatrice Winoker - *Jan 17*  
 Marjorie Lichtenstein, Joan Funston's Mother - *Jan 17*  
 Harry Weiss - *Jan 19*  
 Sophia Wurzberger, Member - *Jan 20, 1943*  
 Beulah (Bootie) Klingstein, Member - *Jan 23*  
 Fannie Wise, Member - *Jan 24, 1877*  
 Nathan Gelman - *Jan 24*  
 Harry Clayman, Member - *Jan 25, 2007*  
 Leroy Loewner, Member - *Jan 26, 1953*  
 Henry Robinson, Josh Robinson's Father - *Jan 27, 1978*  
 Abe B Zindler, Sr Leo Zindler's Grandfather - *Jan 28*  
 Jay Funston, Husband of Joan Funston - *Jan 28, 1997*  
 William Stein, John Stewart's Father - *Jan 29*  
 Minnie Zindler Finger, Leo Zindler's Aunt - *Jan 29*  
 Ruth Rogers, Catherine Rogers' Mother - *Jan 29, 2001*  
 Vera Levine, Joyce Helbraun's Sister - *Jan 30, 1998*  
 Lessie Hirsch Baum - *Jan 31, 1942*  
 Shirley Goodman Saletan, Suzi Trubitz's Mother - *Jan 31*  
 Estelle Robinson, Member - *Jan 31, 2020*

## Recent Donations

Edward Ney & Margee Greenfield-Ney – Yahrzeit – Gerald Greenfield  
 Arnold Kahn & Ellen Swecker – Yahrzeit – Lester Kahn  
 Michael & Maureen Goldberger – Yahrzeit – Sandy Goldberger  
 Mona Wolf – Yahrzeit – Sophie Miller – Mona's Mom  
 Paul Frankel – General Donation  
 Rachelle Dorne – New Prayer Book  
 Gale & Charles Clemons – New Prayer Book  
 Ruth & Joan Strauss – Donation in Memory of Mark A. Strauss  
 Sisterhood of Beth Ek – New Mahzors  
 Men's Club of Beth El – New Mahzors  
 Deanna Cebulash & Philip Sheridan – New Mahzor  
 Harold & Sondra Goad – New Mahzor  
 Abe & Roni Goldberg – New Mahzors  
 Joan Anderson & Rebecca Brannon – New Mahzors  
 Kent Palmer – New Mahzor  
 Ron & Michelle Ornstein – New Mahzor  
 Valerie & Guy Stephens – 2 New Mahzors  
 Louis & Carol Schepp – 2 New Mahzors  
 Bill & Leslie Ney – Yahrzeit – Alfred Ney  
 Louis & Carol Schepp – Yahrzeits – Sarah Rabinowitz – Carol's Great Grandmother & Anne Robinson – Carol's Great Aunt

# BETH EL CONGREGATION

## JAN 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
Rabbi out of town	Rabbi out of town	Rabbi out of town		Men's Club Taj of India 6:00 pm	Rabbi-led Shabbat Services 7:30 pm Sponsored Oneg Livestream also	Torah Study 10:30 am Zoom
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
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
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	MLK Day		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
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Religious School 9:30 am			Ethics Class 12:00 pm Zoom		Rabbi-led Shabbat Services 7:30 pm Livestream also	Torah Study 10:30 am Zoom
29	30	31				
Religious School 9:30 am						