

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 2016

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear congregants,

As we head into the days of Awe I would like you to reflect on the past year, the present and the coming year. What can I do better? What can I improve upon? How can I better improve my fellow man? I'm sure the rabbi would do a better job at these philosophical questions, but as your president for the final high holidays.... I wanted to be a little bit more thought-provoking. So for those of you who have wronged or have done injustice to your fellow man... As the prayer book says, there is no forgiveness until man made peace with one another....

L'Shanah Tova,

Eric

FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

September 2016

Elul – Tishrei 5777

Dear Beth El Congregants and Friends,

It seems hardly possible, but we are already at the High Holy Days!

The calendar has been full, and there is lots ahead as we enter into the busiest time of our liturgical year. Take a look at the information on Rosh HaShanah, Yizkor, Yom Kippur, and even Sukkot preparations and events, and plan to come together to celebrate as a community. This year I will be ‘trading pulpits’ between the two congregations with Rabbi Joel Schwartzman. If you have not met him, make a point of introducing yourself when you see him.

THINGS OF NOTE AND TO COME

We have had a busy time already. Here are a few of the highlights, as I see them.

The first **Death Café** for this year took place on September 7th. The conversation was rich and full, and particularly in depth – made possible by the smaller attendance. The two hours simply vanished as we talked.

The upcoming **Death Café** events for this year will be: November 2nd at THOI from 7-9 pm, January 4th at Beth El from 7-9 pm, and March 1st at THOI from 7-9 pm. All are Wednesday evenings.

I am happy to say that the **Elementary Biblical Hebrew** course for Fall/Winter 2016 started out well on September 11th at Temple House of Israel. We had nine students signed up – we still have room for more, if you wish to join us. Contact Rabbi Joe to register: email rabbijoe@hotmail.com. The course will meet six more (for a total of eight) times as I write this. The upcoming dates will be: September 25th, October 30th, November 13th, November 20th, December 4th, and December 11th. The meeting times are: in September 4-5:30 PM, and for all other class sessions at 2:30-4 PM.

We began the course with an exploration of the origins in Hebrew and cognate languages of pronunciation and etymology, which proved really interesting and offered insight into both the sound of original pronunciation in Hebrew, and how words formed and came into use, through today. The text for the remainder of this course will primarily be from the book of Samuel, where we will focus on the Hebrew and content of the story of the “Witch or Ein Dor” – a really interesting and fun topic.

Looking ahead to the **Spring/Summer** for **Elementary Biblical Hebrew**, we are planning a close study and translation of selected prayers in the siddur, including the meanings, along with some history and context and connection to the Tanakh, as the text we will use for our studies for another eight session course. Watch for more information to be forthcoming closer to that time.

Meantime, the **Introduction to Hebrew** course to learn the Hebrew Alefbet (alphabet) and Vowels, along with a very basic and rudimentary vocabulary, will take place this Fall/Winter. It will again be a five class course. There will be a course session on Sunday afternoons at THOI from 4-7 PM, to occur on October 30th, November 13th and 20th, and December 4th and 11th. The same course will be offered in five sessions on Wednesday evenings at 6 – 9 PM at Beth El in Harrisonburg on November 16th and 30th, and December 7th, 14th and 21st. Again, this is free, and open to anyone who wishes to participate.

The first **Tot Shabbat** for this year was held on September 16th, with Morah Allison leading, and with Linda Kohn offering a PJ Library reading event as part of the service. It was a blast! Kudos to both of them, and to all who participated. As a note: it is really suitable for pre-school through about 3rd grade, but older children can come and enjoy it too – and sometimes they are invited to help out. There are five more Tot Shabbat events on the schedule; mark your calendar and plan to attend! Upcoming dates are: 10/21, 12/2, 2/4, 3/24, and 4/21. Contact Morah Allison for information at Allison.s.kaye@gmail.com.

I have worked with Shorty (the youth group) and the advisors (Becky and Dara) as they plan and hold their meetings and events. I am very pleased to be able to tell you that they are doing really well, and we have good reason to be proud of them as a group.

Religious school is under way – I am sure that co-principals Dara and Rebekah will have more to say about that. I can tell you that the Daled group is working on mastery of the service liturgy for Hebrew and making progress, and in Judaica is starting the study of modern Jewish History (from 1881 to the present). That will include the immigrant experience (Ellis Island for many) and the Sho'ah (Holocaust), along with a visit to the Holocaust museum – this time in Richmond – in May or June. If a student asks, please share your family history.

I have had fun visits with **community groups** who want to ask about Judaism. I went to the Grottoes United Methodist Church, hosted the middle and upper schools from Stuart Hall, spoke to a Mary Baldwin University class, and guest lectured to sociology classes at JMU. I always enjoy these interactions with others, and see them as an important time to teach and build connections with others, serving as an ambassador for the congregation.

Scheduled regular **Rabbi-led Religious services** for the upcoming period are:

Friday, October 21st (with Sukkot observance), and Friday, November 11th (Community Awareness Shabbat). Shabbat evening services are at 7:30 pm, and Shabbat morning services are at 10 am, unless otherwise noted.

High Holiday services will begin the evening of October 2nd, and continue October 3rd for Rosh HaShanah, Yizkor will be on Sunday October 9th at the cemetery (moved to the sanctuary in the event of inclement weather) at 1 pm. Yom Kippur will begin the evening of October 11th and continue on October 12th.

See the official calendar or elsewhere in the Bridge for the full list of services and times, including lay-led services and other events.

TORAH

The Torah Parashiot for the coming weeks (through November 20th) are: Ki Tavo, Nitzavim, Vayelech (Shabbat Shuvah), Ha'azinu, Sukkot Shabbat CH'M 4, Bereshit, Noach, Lekh Lecha, Vayera, and Chayei Sarah. In addition, we have the readings for the High Holidays.

We are still in year 3 of the triennial cycle (the third of the three divisions of the cycle of Torah readings): we begin our cycle anew after Simchat Torah, starting the first year readings of the triennial cycle at Bereshit/Genesis 1:1.

CALENDAR

Rosh Chodesh for Elul was September 3rd and 4th. Rosh Chodesh for Tishrei, (which is also Rosh HaShanah) will be on October 3rd. Rosh Chodesh for Cheshvan will be November 1st and 2nd. Rosh Chodesh for Kislev is December 1st.

The traditional date to hold a Selichot (penitential prayers in advance of the High Holy Days) service is Saturday evening September 24th (leading into Sunday September 25th).

Tzom Gedaliah, the fast in commemoration of the assassination of Gedaliah, last Jewish governor over Israel before the modern state, is observed October 5th, the day after Rosh HaShanah ends.

The Yamim Nora'im, the days of awe, run this year from October 2nd at sundown to October 12th at 42 minutes after sundown. Some conflate the month of Elul to the Yamim Nora'im, marking a forty day period.

Erev Sukkot is 10/16, and Sukkot runs from 10/17-24th. Simchat Torah begins immediately following Sukkot from the evening of October the 24th to the 25th. Sukkot will be celebrated in the Shabbat service on October 21st.

IN THE CONGREGATION

Refuah Shelemah:

Elaine Schreiber, Valerie Stephens, Chuck Slott, Alan Gould, Marlene and Blaine Brumbaugh, Joan Funston, and Dennis Ward. .

Mi Sheberach:

Prayers for healing and wholeness to: Eric Kramer's father, and to Lester and Becky Mintzer's brother-in-law Paul.

Mazal tov:

Happy thoughts for Sheri and Bruce Alt who celebrated Jay's wedding last month.

Congratulations and many thanks to Judy Freudenthal on her retirement not only from work, but from serving for so many years on the board, and as the ritual committee come October 13th!

Wishes for Hatzlachah – success – to Zissel Duda who has begun a program of studies through Gallaudet University.

RABBI'S MESSAGE

I have mentioned previously that we are now in Elul, the time of introspection and self-evaluation. I have been engaging in that exercise again this year, seeking at a deep level. .

One of the things that I have been reviewing is how I have been able to respond in the past year to the many times that people have come to me with things they wanted or needed support or help handling.

The fact is that there has been a lot that has happened among our congregants. I have tried to be available and to help those who wanted what I could offer. I know that in some cases that was not enough to meet their needs, or that what I could offer was not what was wanted. I also know that it was not that I did not try, or that I did the wrong thing (as far as I can determine), but that I was not able, for a variety of reasons, including my own limitations: for that I am sorry, because I would want anyone who comes to me to find what they need, though I know that is not realistic or humanly possible. So at this point, I ask forgiveness for my failings and foibles, from anyone to whom I caused or allowed injury or hurt, knowingly or not.

In turn, I hereby forgive any and all trespasses, slights, injuries, hurts, offences, insults, behaviors, actions, and words on the part of others, wiping the slate, so that they (and I) can begin the year 5777 in a clear and clean state.

May this be for each of us a year of health, prosperity, joy, and well-being, filled with love and laughter, and may we each experience the sense of belonging, and the support and uplift of our community in times of need. May we each feel and enjoy the many blessings of our life, and share those blessings with others. May this year bring peace and wholeness, with security, for all who seek it.

Le'Shanah Tovah Umetukah – to a sweet and good new year!

Rabbi Joe Blair

CONTACTING THE RABBI

Please Note: Rabbi Joe may be reached by email at RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com (Other email addresses may not reach him in a timely fashion, or at all.) He reads email regularly, except on Jewish Holidays or Shabbat, when he does not use the computer.

His cell phone number is 925-272-8563 (925-2-RAVJOE). Please note this number.

Telephone messages left at the Congregation number are only checked sporadically.

PLEASE CALL if you have any urgent messages or in case of an emergency, and please let Rabbi Joe know if you or anyone you know is ill or would want a call or visit for any reason.

You are also invited to contact Rabbi Joe to arrange an appointment to meet. Rabbi Joe will be happy to make an appointment to speak with you, so that he can offer you his full, undivided attention.

Leadership

Joe Blair
Eric Kramer
Kim Gutterman
Phil Renick
Bill Ney
Les Mintzer
Andy Kohen
Ron Ornstein
Amanda Friss
Gail Clemons
Sherri Alt
Rebekah Greenfield
Les Mintzer
Ron Ornstein
Dara Hall

Rabbi
President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Trustee
Trustee
Trustee
Member at Large
Member at Large
Sisterhood Co-President
Sisterhood Co-President
Men's Club President
Immediate Past President
Religious School Principal

Bridge Editor
Elliott Golub
Elgolubret@comcast.net
540-289-5336

Y A H R Z E I T S

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
	Sarah Lebin		Dave Merlin's Mother
	Marc Trubitz	2010	Member
26	Rosalie Amberg	1915	
27	Oscar Rodbell		
	Marilyn Goldenthal	2005	Member
29	Edith Bersson	2006	Bob Bersson's Mother
31	Amalie G Wise	1939	Member

DONATIONS

Beth El Beth El Congregation is grateful for the following generous donations:

To the Yahrzeit Memorial Fund

Leonard & Marilena Berman in memory of Lenny's father (Julius Berman).
 Gene & Irma Nemoytin in memory of Irma's father (Alfred Raff).
 Bob & Cathy Brookshire in memory of Cathy's father (Dr. Alfred Agrin).
 Bill & Leslie Ney in memory of Bill's father (Dr. Joseph Ney).
 Leo Zindler in memory of Leo's wife (Beverly Zindler).
 Eddie & Margee Greenfield-Ney in memory of Eddie's mother (Beth Ney)

In appreciation of our hospitality to JMU students
 Gerald Kassalow

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Religious school is off to a great start!

We have lots of great events on the calendar to look forward to.

High Holy Days will be coming soon and the Religious School would like to invite everyone to join us for a Sukkot and Simchat Torah celebration at 11:00am on October 23rd. We look forward to seeing you there!

We're already in full swing preparing for our RS Shabbat service – save the date – December 16th!

We wish everyone a sweet, happy, and peaceful year – L'Shanah Tovah!

Please contact Dara at mddmhall@verizon.net if you have any questions about Religious School.

SHORTY

SHORTY welcomes all Jewish Youth ages 13 + to join us for our meetings.

We combine education, social action, and fun for a meaningful youth group experience.

Our youth has recently developed a shared mission:

To continue developing our Jewish identity through further education and staying involved with our small (but mighty!) Jewish community.

Please contact Becky at rem82398@gmail.com if you have a teen interested in joining or finding out more information!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OCTOBER LAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

Friday Lay Services in October are:

October 7 @ 7:30 pm
Andy Kohen leads Shabbat Shuva Services

October 14 @ 7:30 pm
Leader TBA

October 28 @ 7:30 pm
Moreh Mike leads Shabbat Services

Thank you to Judy & Stu Liss for providing delicious Onegs for our last few Lay Services!

JONATHAN KOZOL

Jonathan Kozol is visiting JMU and will talk about acting for equity in education. Many of the events (all free) are open to the community – Sessions run from 9/26 – 9-28, check the following site for times and locations.

<http://www.actingleforeducationalequity.com/kozol-schedule/>

For those who may not be aware, he is an 80 year old, Jewish man from Boston who has spent the last 50+ years of his life as an author and activist for education reform, particularly in terms of social inequalities.

Cheers,

Dara

September 20, 2016

ROSENWALD

Greetings, Friends and Neighbors,

We are writing to invite you, your family, your friends, your organizations, and anyone you know who might be interested to a showing of “**Rosenwald**”. Please join us, and tell others about this free event.

TEMPLE HOUSE OF ISRAEL, EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH, AND
BALDWIN UNIVERSITY ARE CO-SPONSORING

MARY
“ROSENWALD”

Wednesday, Nov. 16 at 6:45 pm - Mary Baldwin’s Francis Auditorium
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The documentary, “**Rosenwald**”, is the remarkable story of Julius Rosenwald’s partnership with African American communities across the south during the Jim Crow era of the early 20th century. This modest man who never finished high school and was the son of an immigrant peddler, rose to become the rich President of Sears Roebuck, and used his wealth to become one of America’s most effective philanthropists.

“**Rosenwald**” sheds light on this silent partner of the Pre-Civil Rights Movement. His Jewish ideal of tzedakah (charity) and tikkun olam (repairing the world) and his deep concern over racial inequality in America led him to build over 5,300 schools, educating more than 600,000 rural southern African American students. He was inspired by Booker T. Washington and horrified that youth of southern African American Communities, forbidden to attend area public schools, had no means of formal education.

The list of prominent alumni and educators who attended the Rosenwald Schools include Tony Award winning playwright George Wolfe, poet Maya Angelou, U.S. Representative John Lewis, Pulitzer Prize winner Eugene Robin of the Washington Post, and the ancestors of Loretta Lynch (US Attorney General) and law professor Anita Hill. See postcard photo attached.

The Shenandoah Valley has our own Rosenwald School in Waynesboro at 413 Port Republic Road. There is still a group of alumni who meet for periodic reunions. When the schools integrated in 1965, the building became the Rosenwald Community Center and operates today as a gym, meeting space, and offices for the Waynesboro Parks and Recreation Department.

Rosenwald also awarded fellowship grants to a who’s who of African American intellectuals and artists of his day so that they could pursue their scholarship and art. Scholarship recipients included: Marian Anderson, James Baldwin, Julian Bond’s father and uncle, Ralph Bunche, W.E.B. DuBois, Katherine Dunham, Ralph Ellison, John Hope Franklin, Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, Gordon Parks, Jacob Lawrence and Augusta Savage, along with Woody Guthrie.

Julius Rosenwald’s story is not well known, but his impact on education, social justice and philanthropy in America is unparalleled. His innovative philanthropic approach transformed American education and positively affected tens of thousands of southern African Americans.

“**Rosenwald**” is directed by the award winning documentarian Aviva Kempner (*The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg*, and *Yoo-hoo, Mrs. Goldberg*, among others).

We warmly invite you and anyone you know to join us for this event. You are welcome to contact any of us for more information.

With blessings for peace,

Rev. Mike Turner

Ebenezer Baptist Church
maturner17@hotmail.com

Rabbi Lynne Landsberg
lynne.landsberg@gmail.com

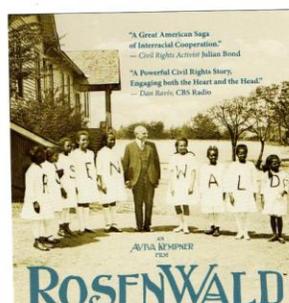
Rev. Katherine Low

Dr. Amy Tillerson-Brown
Mary Baldwin University
atillers@mbc.edu

Beth Young
bydesign1993@gmail.com

Rabbi Joe Blair
Congregation Beth El Harrisonburg, Temple House of Israel, Staunton
rabbijoeb@hotmail.com

Mary Baldwin University
klow@mbc.edu



Home Medical Supplies

Available for Beth El members who need them are the following home medical supplies:

- * wheelchair, small and adjustable
- * single hospital-style bed, adjustable, with remote control for head and foot
- * bed rail, fully adjustable: slides under mattress and detaches from bed
- * walker (new), with seat, brakes and wheels: fully adjustable
- * rolling grocery cart, folds flat
- * bedside floor mat, 3x6 ft.
- * sturdy shower seat
- * shower grab bar
- * full leg brace (for after ACL repair)
- * ankle boot, small (adjustable)
- * ankle boot, medium (adjustable)
- * crutches
- * adjustable cane
- * long-handle pincher/grabber (2 ft.)
- * long-handle shoe horn with hooked end (3 ft.)

Members who need any of these medical supplies for themselves or for family should contact Alan or Kate Neckowitz: (neckowax@jmu.edu) 421-2832; or (katneck@yahoo.com) 421, 6070.

Other Beth El members who have similar or additional home medical supplies that you are willing to lend out to those in need also should contact Alan or Kate so we can add them to our list.

FIRST STEP WISH LIST

Personal and hygiene items for Residents (adult women and children of all ages)

- shampoo/conditioner (full size)
- body wash/lotion (full size)
- diapers/pull ups (size 3,4,5,6)
- diaper rash cream/baby wipes
- shaving cream
- baby shampoo/oil/lotion/bath soap
- night clothes (all sizes)
- first aid supplies kits
- tweezers
- brushes/combs
- rubber mattress covers
- children's coloring books
- winter or rain boots (all sizes)
- handmade blankets/quilts
- winter hats/gloves (adults)
- eye masks
- deodorant
- bras (all sizes)
- manicure sets
- antibiotic ointment, alcohol, peroxide)
- flip flop/slippers (all sizes)
- maxi pads/tampons
- underwear (all sizes)
- sunglasses (children and adults)
- sunscreen
- adult coloring books
- journals
- 2016 calendars
- alarm clocks
- umbrellas

First Step 2016 Wish List



Shelter Supplies

- 13 Gallon and 30 gallon trash Bags
- bleach/no chlorine bleach
- dish detergent
- liquid hand soap
- towels/bath rugs
- shower curtains/liners
- twin size quilts, comforters and sheet sets
- sponges/Mr. Clean Erasers
- fabric softener
- wheeled storage bins with drawers
- bathroom/toilet cleaners
- disposable gloves
- coffee makers
- Clorox or Lysol wipes
- hand sanitizer
- laundry stain remover
- under bed plastic storage containers
- laundry detergent (HE) sensitive skin
- toilet paper/paper towels
- new bed pillows
- wet and dry swiffers
- laundry baskets/bags

Continued on back

Food

- shelf stable milk
- cereal
- crackers
- mayonnaise
- jelly
- canned fruit
- sugar/artificial sweetener
- canned chicken/tuna/other meats
- cookies/graham crackers/granola bars
- spaghetti sauce
- juice (bottles, packets, and boxes)
- raisins/dried fruits
- cool aide/crystal light drink packets
- boxed meals (i.e. hamburger helper)
- coffee (ground)
- bottles of water/Gatorade
- flour and spices
- baking powder/baking soda
- powdered creamer
- coffee filters (cylinder)
- hot chocolate mix
- Fresh fruit (oranges/apples)
- cooking oil
- canned soup/canned pasta
- tea bags
- cake/brownie mixes, icing
- pudding and Jello-cups
- packaged snack crackers

Gift Cards

At times First Step residents need things that First Step does not have (examples: perishable food, specific clothing and shoes for a job, gas to get to work or appointments, etc.). Gift cards are used when there are no other community resources to provide the items.

- Dollar General
- Food Lion
- Roses
- Wal-Mart
- Ross
- Gas Stations
- Hair Salons
- Shoe Stores

House Warming Items

Small household items for residents moving into new apartments/homes.

- Electric pump air mattresses
- sheets and towels
- measuring cups/spoons
- dishes/cups/mugs/utensils
- can openers/spatulas
- pots/pans/bowls
- small appliances
- shower curtains/rings
- strollers/pack-in-plays

Office Supplies

- batteries (AAA,AA,C and D)
- lined pads of paper/journals/ notepads/notebooks
- business envelopes/stamps
- permanent markers

First Step

129 Franklin Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

(540) 434-0295



OCTOBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
9:30am Religious School 1pm SISTERHOOD FOOTBALL & CHILI - WASH vs. GIANTS					7:30pm Lay Service	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:30am NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	Rosh Hashana (New Year)	Rosh Hashana II (New Year day 2)			7:30pm ANDY KOHEN SHABBAT SHUVA SERVICE	
8pm EREV ROSH HASHANAH- RABBI JOE	10am ROSH HASHANAH- RABBI SCHWARTZMAN					
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:30am Religious School	Columbus Day (regional holiday)	8pm KOL NIDRE- Rabbi Schwartzman	Yom Kippur		7:30pm Lay Service	
1pm YIZKOR @ Beth El. Walk to Cemetery			10am YOM KIPPUR- Rabbi Joe			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:30am Religious School	Sukkot I	Sukkot II	Sukkot III	Sukkot IV	Sukkot V	Sukkot VI
	7pm Board Meeting				5:30pm TOT SHABBAT W/ Rabbi Joe- Potluck Dinner	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Sukkot VII/Hoshanah Rabah	Shmini Atzeret/Simchat Torah				7:30pm MOREH MIKE SERVICE	
9:30am RELIGIOUS SCHOOL- Sukkot/Simchat Torah						
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
9:30am RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	Halloween				7:30pm ANDY KOHEN SERVICE	