



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).

SEPTEMBER 2016

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I truly wish everybody summer went well--or at least better than mine has. As your president I should let you know that I have been working through some family difficulties and have not been as available as I would like to be. Once I have closure on a few issues I plan on jumping feet-first back into the center of congregational life. I am very fortunate in that I have some wonderful leadership around me to pick up the slack, and for that I am grateful.

Please try to read my weekly or almost weekly emails about the Congregation, as that is where you will find the most up-to-date information.

Best regards, Eric

Av – Elul 5776

Dear Beth El Congregants and Friends,

The year has kicked off explosively, exiting the starting gate at a full gallop! The congregational picnic took place, Religious school is underway, scheduled services are taking place, and many activities and events are in preparation. We are now entering the most intensive time in the year in the run up to the High Holy Days. I hope that you will be taking advantage of much that the congregation offers, and even more, that you will be an active participant, making it happen! The community is made up of individuals; we are each the person who needs to be the 'someone' who steps up to keep the congregation and community vibrant and active.

THINGS OF NOTE AND TO COME

The cycle of services for this year started on August 19th. Events through the year are noted on the congregational calendar; please take a look and mark your own planner with the events and activities of interest to you. I hope that you will find many things that you will want to include in your plans; there is much being offered.

For my part, I would point out a few things that I hope will be of interest to many.

The **Death Café** series last year was quite successful, and those who attended requested that it be continued. I have planned it at a slightly scaled back pace for this year. There will be four sessions, two in Harrisonburg and two in Staunton. The locations will alternate. All events will take place at 7-9 pm on a Wednesday evening. The dates and locations will be: September 7th @ Beth El in Harrisonburg, November 2nd @ Temple House of Israel in Staunton, January 4th @ Beth El, and March 1st @ Temple House of Israel.

The **Elementary Biblical Hebrew** course will begin for Fall/Winter 2016 on Sunday September 11th at Temple House of Israel, and will meet eight times. The dates will be: September 11th, September 18th, September 25th, October 30th, November 13th, November 20th, December 4th, and December 11th. The times in September are 4-5:30 PM, and for all other class sessions at 2:30-4 PM. The text for this course will primarily be from the book of Samuel, and we will also look at the roots of Semitic languages and work towards 'original pronunciation' as an exercise in one of the class sessions (possibly more, if there is interest). Contact Rabbi Joe to register: email rabbijoe@hotmail.com. Looking ahead to the Spring/Summer for **Elementary Hebrew**, we are planning a close study and translation of selected prayers in the siddur, including the meanings, along with some history and context, 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.

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, 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.

Scheduled **Rabbi-led Religious services** for the current congregation year began on Friday, August 12th, at 7:30 pm. Scheduled Rabbi-led Services from now through December include: August 26th, and September 9th and 23rd. High Holiday services will begin the evening of October 2nd. See the official calendar for the full list of services, including lay-led services and other events.

The first **Tot Shabbat** for this year will be on Friday, September 16th. Families with pre-school children should contact Dara Hall, Rebekah Greenfield, or Allison Kaye for more information.

The **Shorty youth group** will meet on Sunday, August 28th after Religious school. For information, contact Becky Mintzer.

Religious school will begin on Sunday, August 28th at 9:30 am. To register your child please contact Dara Hall or Rebekah Greenfield, co-principals.

TORAH

The Torah Parashiot for the coming weeks (through September 30th) are Va'etchanan (Shabbat Nachamu), Ekev, Re'eh (Rosh Chodesh Elul), Shoftim, Ki Teitzei, Ki Tavo, and Nitzavim. We are still in year 3 of the triennial cycle (the third of the three divisions of the cycle of Torah readings).

CALENDAR

Rosh Chodesh for Av was August 5th. Rosh Chodesh for Elul will be September 3rd and 4th. Rosh Chodesh for Tishrei, (which is also Rosh HaShanah) will be on October 3rd.

The traditional date for Selichot (penitential prayers in advance of the High Holy Days) is Saturday evening September 24th and Sunday September 25th.

Rabbi-led services are scheduled: Friday and Saturday, August 19th and 20th (Bar Mitzvah of David Berger), Friday, September 2nd, and Friday September 16th.

Friday evening services are scheduled to begin at 7:30 pm, Saturday morning at 10 am, unless otherwise noted.

IN THE CONGREGATION

Refuah Shelema - to Elaine Schreiber, Valerie Stephens, Chuck Slott, Alan Gould, and Blaine Brumbaugh.

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

RABBI'S MESSAGE

As the year 5776 draws to a close, and we look forward to 5777, we are coming into the period of the Jewish year when we are encouraged to engage in introspection and self-examination. In that spirit, I want to acknowledge all that has taken place in this year that is ending, and express gratitude for and to all those who have made this year so special.

This has been a difficult year, with many ups and downs, and more than our fair share of difficulties, challenges, and sad moments in the congregation. The picture in the larger community, and frankly, the world in general, has been much the same. I have had the sense that there is much distress and tension, many people who are feeling pressured, and a general feeling of being unsettled and off-balance among many of our number, as well as in the wider world.

Yet despite the difficulties, the losses, and the sad times, I have felt heartened this year, because it has seemed to me that the congregation has been a source of strength, uplift, and support for all who sought them in the congregation. That is what makes the congregation not just another community, but a Kehilah Kedoshah – a holy community. I am proud that this has been the case – not proud for myself, but for the congregation. This is the essence of what we should be to each other. This is what we are enjoined to do and be, as directed by the Mitzvot given us.

May this be true now, throughout the year 5777, and for many more years to come.

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	Rabbi
Eric Kramer	President
Kim Gutterman	Vice President
Phil Renick	Secretary
Bill Ney	Treasurer
Les Mintzer	Trustee
Andy Kohen	Trustee
Ron Ornstein	Trustee
Amanda Friss	Member at Large
Gail Clemons	Member at Large
Sherri Alt	Sisterhood Co-President
Rebekah Greenfield	Sisterhood Co-President
Les Mintzer	Men's Club President
Ron Ornstein	Immediate Past President
Dara Hall	Religious School Principal

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

YAHREZEITS

02	Lena Paul Miller		Member
03	Beverly Zindler	2011	Member
05	Rose Minskoff	1942	Jerry Minskoff's Mother
	Edythe Sanders	1959	Bill Ney's & Leo Zindler's Great Aunt
	James Handley	2015	Mary Handley's father
06	Arthur H. Hirsch		Member
	Thomas Blatt	1956	Member (Franklin Blatt's Uncle)
	Dr. Alfred Agrin	2004	Cathy Brookshire's Father
08	Rabbi Stephen Levinsohn		Student Rabbi at Beth El
	Norman Kaiser		Paula Kaiser's Father
10	Lee G Loewner	1936	Member
11	Alfred Raff	1981	Irma Nemoytin's Father
	Gilbert Litvin	1969	Herb Rodbell's Cousin
12	Sidra Nemoytin Dubell	1993	Member
16	Fannie Myerberg		
	Harry Blatt	1959	Member Frank Blatt's Father
	Bertha B. Kaye		Ruth Clayman's Sister
	Barbara Clayman Callihan	1990	Harry & Ruth Clayman's Daughter
	Beth A. Ney	2000	Member Eddie Ney's Mother
18	Roslyn Loewner	1940	Member
	Solomon Loewner	1927	Member
	Gladys Wise	1919	Member
	Joseph Ney	1988	Bill Ney's Father
19	John "Bud" Shapiro	2008	Becky Mintzer's Father
20	Simon Marrick	1972	
	Samuel R. Nebelkopf	1961	Shirley Merlin's Father
21	Kattie Ney	1877	Member
23	Kalman Meyer	1964	Joyce Helbraun's Father

25	Berdie F. Ney	1942	Member
	Kattie Iseman	1909	
	Nettie Berney		
	Theodore Weiss	1952	Member
	Ben Handler	1973	Lenny Handler's Father
	Sara Loewner	1982	Member (Sissy)
27	Samuel Fisher	1968	
	Alexander Nemoytin	1967	Gene Nemoytin's Father
29	Belle Neckowitz		Alan Neckowitz' Mother
	Julius Berman		Lenny Berman's Father
	Charles Rodbell	1968	Herb Rodbell's Father

DONATIONS

Beth El congregation is grateful for the following generous donations:

To the Yahrzeit Memorial Fund

Eddie & Margee Greenfield-Ney In memory of Albert Ash (Eddie's Grandfather) and Irving Ney (Eddie's Father).

Joshua & Estelle Robinson In memory of David Robinson (Josh's Brother) and Ali David Good (Estelle's Father).

Chuk Slott In memory of Louis Slott (Chuck's Father).

Allan Poster In memory of Rose Poster Carr (Allan's mother)

Lois Poster In memory of Jord Poster (Lois' Son), Marvin Poster (Lois Husband), and Rose Poster Carr (Lois' (Mother-in-law)).

Gene & Irma Nemoytin In memory of Lena Raff (Irma's Mother).

Nancy Stewart In memory of John Stewart (Nancy's Husband).

Alan & Kate Neckowitz In memory of Belle Neckowitz (Alan's Mother).

In Memory of Blanche Slott
Eddie & Margee Greefield-Ney
Valerie Stephens

In Memory of Robbie Minskoff
Valerie Stephens

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Religious School is coming soon! First day of religious school will be on Sunday, August 28th. We hope to see you then! If you have any questions or need information about Religious School, please contact Dara Hall at mddmhall@verizon.net. Looking forward to another wonderful year!

SHORTY

We are trying to confirm a new date for our exciting event of Dessert and Dancing. It looks like there will be some scheduling conflicts for September 10th... so keep your eyes and ears open for **MORE INFORMATION** coming soon! We are going to have a blast!

SISTERHOOD

Please join us for a cookout on Monday, August 29 at 6pm at Sherri Alt's home 1303 Holly Avenue, Grottoes. Hamburgers and hotdogs provided, please bring a side dish or dessert and **PLEASE RSVP** to Sherri so I know how much food to prepare, also let me know what you are bringing!!

We want to get together to visit as well as talk about upcoming chili cook-off, holidays etc.

Hope everyone can come, will be looking forward to hearing from you.

Please call me for directions or questions !

820-3962

Another year starting already, where does the time go!

Sherri Alt, Bekah Greenfield, Co-Presidents

NOTES FROM THE BOARD MEETING OF AUGUST 15, 2016

- *Our goal for the PJ Library is 14 young ones. I thank Linda Kohn for all her hard work.*
- *We seem to have a dip in our younger religious school student population as our SHORTY population grows.*
- *We are having some problems with false alarms at the building which is costing us money as we are being billed for them.*
- *Please consider participating in one of the many fundraisers--we want to keep our congregation in good financial standing.*
- *This will be Judy's last year as ritual assignment person for the high holidays. We are beginning our search for a new point person on this very important position. As an aside, I found it very gratifying last year to sound the shofar, and in previous years to participate in the high holidays ceremonies in other ways.*

If you have any other questions about the last board meeting I am always open to questions.

Regards, Eric

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Open Doors

We will be hosting Open Doors with the Islamic Center December 19-26. Help is needed with scheduling, cooking, serving, set up and breakdown of the shelter. Please contact Gale Clemons at clemonsga@comcast.net if you can help in any capacity.

First Step 2016 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

- 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

First Step
129 Franklin Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801
(540) 434-0295

- 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



Congregation Beth El Calendar

2016-17 Condensed Version

(see web site for full details)

Fri. Aug. 26 – Lay Shabbat Service (7:30 PM)

*Lay services Every Friday at 7:30 unless marked on the calendar as a Rabbi Service

Sun. Aug. 28 – Religious School – Every Sunday
9:30 – 12:30 unless marked NO rel. sch.

Fri. Sept. 2 – Rabbi service

Sun. Sept. 4 – NO rel. sch.

Sat. Sept. 10 – SHORTY Music event (7 PM)

Fri. Sept. 16 – Tot Shab. 6 PM, Rabbi Service 7:30

Mon. Sept. 19 – Board meeting 7 PM (3rd Monday)

Sat. Sept. 24, Selichot services (* details tba)

Sun. Sept. 25 – Sisterhood Chili + Football 1 -5 PM

Sun. Oct. 2 – NO rel. sch.

***Erev Rosh Hashanah 8:00 PM (Rabbi Joe)

Mon. Oct. 3 – Rosh Hashanah 10:00 AM, followed by Tashlich - Led by Rabbi Schwartzman

Sun. Oct. 9 – Yizkor Service 1 PM at Beth El Cemetery

Tues. Oct. 11 – *Erev Yom Kippur (Kol Neidrei) 8 PM
w/Rabbi Schwartzman

Wed. Oct. 12 – Yom Kippur 10 – 1, 3-6:30, Rabbi Joe,
Break-the-Fast to follow

Mon. Oct. 17 – Board meeting 7 PM

Fri. Oct. 21 – Pizza in the Hut 6 PM, Shabbat/Sukkot
Rabbi service 7:30

Sun. Oct. 23 – Simchat Torah w/ Rel. Sch. (time tba)

Sun. Nov. 6 – Kulanu speaker 4- 6 PM

(Election Day Nov. 8 – VOTE!)

Fri. Nov. 11 – Rabbi service – Community Awareness
Shabbat

Fri. Nov. 18 – Corned Beef Sale distribution,
6 PM - Tot Shabbat

Sat. Nov. 19 – Party for Rabbi Joe's 13th year at Beth
El (details tba...but save the date!) 6 PM

Mon. Nov. 21 – Board meeting 7 PM

Sun. Nov. 27 – NO rel. sch. (Thanksgiving)

Fri Dec. 2 – Tot Shabbat 6PM

Fri. Dec. 9 – Hannah Lovinger Bat Mitzvah, 7:30

Sat. Dec. 10 - " " " " 10 AM

Fri. Dec. 16 – Religious School Shabbat and
Consecration, 7:30 PM (dinner for R.S. families)

Sun. Dec. 18 – Congregation Hanukah Dinner

(Sisterhood fundraiser) and gift shop (time tba)

Sun. Dec. 18 and 25 and Jan. 1 – NO Rel. Sch.

Mon. Dec. 19 – Board meeting 7 PM

Open Doors week Dec. 19 – 26 – details tba

Fri. Jan. 6 – Tot Shabbat 6 PM, Rabbi Service 7:30

Mon. Jan. 16 – Board meeting 7 PM

Fri. Jan. 20 – Rabbi Service

Sun. Jan. 22 – Interfaith Dinner 6 PM

Thurs. Jan 26 – Men's Club Fundraising dinner

Fri. Feb. 3, - Religious School Staff Appreciation
dinner 6 PM (for whole cong.) Rabbi service 7:30

Sat. Feb. 4 – Tot Havdalah 6 PM

Fri. Feb. 10 – SHORTY Service and Ski weekend

Sun. Feb. 12 – Tu B'Shevat seder – location/time tba

Mon. Feb. 20 – Board meeting 7 PM

Fri. Feb. 24 – Men's Club Shabbat 7:30

Fri. March 3 – Rabbi Service

Sat. March 11 – Purim Costume Party (adults) 7 PM -

Sun. March 12 – Purim cel. w/ Rel. Sch. + carnival

Fri. March 17 – Rabbi O'Blair Service (green challah ?)

Fri. March 24 – Tot Shabbat 6 PM

Mon. March 20 – Board meeting 7 PM

Fri. March 31 – Rabbi Service

Sun. April 9 – NO Rel. Sch.

Mon. April 10 – 1st Seder @ Beth El - 6 PM

Sat. April 15 – Shab. Morning service (Rabbi Joe)

with Matza Brel lunch to follow – 10 AM

Fri. April 21 – Tot Shabbat 6 PM

Mon. April 24 – Board meeting 7 PM (* 4th Mon.)

Fri. April 28 – Toby Rafferty Bar Mitzvah 7:30

Sat. April 29 – Toby Rafferty Bar Mitzvah 10 AM

Sun. April 30 – Beth El Annual Bazaar

Fri. May 12 – Keenan Glago Bar Mitzvah 7:30 PM

Sat. May 13 - " " " " 10:00 AM

Sun. May 14 – NO Rel. Sch. (Yom Eema)

Mon. May 15 – Board meeting 7 PM

Fri. May 19 – Sisterhood Shabbat 7:30

Sat. May 20, Congregational Annual Meeting 6 PM

Sun. May 21 – LAST Rel. School/Maccabee games

Fri. June 2 – SHORTY Shabbat and Confirmation
(Shavuot)

Sun. June 4 – Sisterhood Annual Yard Sale

Sun. June 11 – Beth El Cong. Picnic 12 – 2

Mon. June 19 – Board meeting 7 PM

Wed. June 21 – Camp Noar – SHORTY Shul-in

Fri. June 30 – Danielle Hall Bat Mitzvah – 7:30

Sat. July 1 - " " " " - 10 AM

***Please note- this calendar subject to change.

Follow the weekly President's reminder emails, or

consult the Beth El Bridge (newsletter) or Beth El

Web site for any changes.

Men's Club, Sisterhood, SHORTY meetings not

included...check with their mailing lists.

Death Café Sept. 7, Nov. 2, Jan. 4 and March 1

Please report any corrections to the Vice President,
or to any board member. Thanks

SEPTEMBER 2016

Sun 28	Mon 29	Tue 30	Wed 31	Thu 1	Fri 2	Sat 3
9:30am1st day Religious School						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:30amNO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	Labor Day		7pmDeath Cafe			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:30amReligious School					6pmTot Shabbat	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:30amReligious School	7pmBoard Meeting				7:30pmLay Service	
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
9:30amReligious School					7:30pmLay Service	
1pmSISTERHOOD FOOTBALL & CHILI - Washington vs. NY. GIANTS						