

<http://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).

JULY 2016

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear fellow congregants,

I hope your summer has started out enjoyable and relaxing. We seem to have a little bit of downtime for a few weeks until the sisterhood yard sale on the 26th. Let us not forget that we have services every Friday whether they be lay services or Rabbi led. Of course, it's never too early to start planning for the High Holidays. Consider it an honor and a privilege to perform and Aliyah during a service when Judy Freudenthal comes around and asks. I will also be working on the website the summer to updated to reflect our most recent activities.

I look forward to seeing you this summer and beyond.

Sincerely, Eric

ivan – Tamuz 5776

Dear Beth El Congregants and Friends,

Welcome to Summer. ☺

This is a quieter time on the active congregational calendar, but a busy time for planning and preparing for the coming year.

THINGS OF NOTE

May/June was very full, and included a number of noteworthy events following the last bulletin.

Among these events was the Shorty Confirmation service, at which Jake Lovinger spoke, and Shorty led the service. We wish Jake well as he prepares to begin his college career in the Fall. The Religious school staff met for an end of year evaluation and planning session. Fortunately, most of our amazing teachers will be returning, and we are already looking forward to the coming year. If you have a student who will be entering Religious school this year, please be in touch with Dara or Bekah, the co-principals!

June started with the last of the Death Café sessions, scheduled for the 1st. This series was a very interesting experience, and seemed to divide people into one of a few groups. The first group, consisting of perhaps half the community, was made up of people who thought that talking about death was macabre and even distasteful, and they did not attend. The second group was people who came to a session and did not feel that it was something they wanted to continue to participate in, consisting of about 10% of the community, serving as a set of new faces that appeared in one or another session and did not re-appear. The final group, roughly 40% of the community, found that the program offered them something they wanted, needed, or found of value. I can't say specifically what they got from it, but I speculate that for some it was a safe and non-judgmental space in which to talk about something that others outside that environment were not willing to hear, or that they found others who had somewhat similar experiences to share. In any case, attendance at the six events ranged from nine to twenty-seven (with most sessions attendance at over twenty), with a small core group that participated in the bulk of the events, and those who took part requested that we continue the events in the coming year.

The Elementary Biblical Hebrew course continues through July. We have scheduled this course to take place at 4-5:30 pm on Sunday afternoons at Temple House of Israel. The remaining dates are 6/26, 7/10, 7/17, and 7/24. Again, there is no cost, and the texts are provided [but you will probably want to have a Tanakh (Hebrew bible) available for reference. Although you can use a standard non-Jewish Bible, it may differ a bit (as we found on June 19th), but it is serviceable for this purpose].

We are already thinking ahead to the follow-on course. That will be in the Fall of 2016. Watch for information about it to be forthcoming, as well as about the Introduction to Hebrew course to learn the Alefbet and Vowels in the October – December period.

All scheduled Rabbi-led Religious services have been held for this congregational year. Services beyond July 1st will be scheduled at the annual calendar meeting to be held late in June, and announced subsequent to that. The likely start of services will be mid-August, most likely starting off with a bang as we celebrate a Bar Mitzvah in mid-August.

THINGS TO COME

A visit by Camp Noar (the Charlottesville Congregation traveling camp) for a shul-in June 23rd-24th.

The annual calendar planning meeting will be June 29th. If there is anything you would like to see including on the calendar, please be in touch with Sheri Alt, Ron Ornstein, Eric Kramer, Kim Gutterman (or anyone else who will attend that meeting, including Rabbi Joe). If you have ideas for activities, programs, events, or other things you would like to see the congregation undertake, this is the time to offer those suggestions so the planners can take them into account.

The continuation of the Elementary Biblical Hebrew course in July.

TORAH

The Torah Parashiot for the coming weeks (through July 30th) are Bechukotai, Bamidbar, Shavuot, Naso, Beha'alotecha, Shelach Lecha, Korach, Chukat, Balak, and Pinchas. We are in year 3 of the triennial cycle (the third of the three divisions of the cycle of Torah readings).

CALENDAR

Rosh Chodesh for Sivan was June 7th. Rosh Chodesh for Tammuz will be July 6th and 7th. Rosh Chodesh for Av is August 5th. Rosh Chodesh for Elul will be September 3rd and 4th. July 24th is Tzom Tamuz 17 (fast of the 17th of Tamuz, the start of the three weeks leading up to Tisha Be'Av, delayed a day to avoid Shabbat).

RABBI'S MESSAGE

As we enter the summer months, the focus moves away from the activities of the 'regular' year, and our attention is often drawn to the end of school, vacations, the changed schedule, warm weather activities, and travel. Fewer items appear on the calendar of congregational events, it appears that communal activities diminish, and our attentions is focused elsewhere.

In reality, despite appearances of it being a 'quiet' time, this is the time of year when so very much is happening behind the scenes. It is the season of evaluation, planning, preparing, and readying so much that will manifest during the rest of the year. This is when the calendar is set, programs designed, holidays prepared, and a great deal that is out of sight is done in advance of the return to the 'regular' calendar and schedule, come late August.

We know that nothing 'just happens'. It takes people, planning, preparation, and action.

This is your community. I hope that you will take the opportunity to be involved and shape it to serve your needs, and the needs of your friends, neighbors, and fellow congregants. Please – take

part in the life of the congregation, both by attending and participating, and by helping to plan and bring about what is offered. The participation and efforts of each of us is what makes it a community.

May we all be blessed by a supportive community that meets the bulk of our needs.

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: **any other number you may have is no longer active.**

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.

NOTES FROM THE BOARD MEETING OF JUNE 20TH

- We have secured Rabbi Joel Schwartzman as our traveling Rabbi to replace our good friend Sue Elwell.
- our calendar meeting is June 29 where we will plan out the entire year.
- our Congregational meeting was a success, almost doubling the number of attendants from the previous year.
- The building committee is always planning and strategizing as to what is most needed in our building. Sanctuary makeover is being considered.

Eric

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

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Y A H R Z E I T S

03	Joseph Brooslin Ralph Miller Shirley Borodkin	1966	Ruth Clayman's Father Member
05	Jessie Masniloff		
06	Theresa Loewner	1937	
	Edgar Wise	1882	
09	Louis Robinson	1949	Josh Robinson's Uncle
	Carol S Ney	2004	Bill Ney's Mother
10	Nellie E Robinson	2009	Saul Robinson's Wife
11	Regina Ney	1930	Bill Ney's, Eddie Ney's & Leo Zindler's Great Grandmother
12	Florine Ney	1995	Member
13	Max Helbraun		Erwin Helbraun's Father
14	Vincent Elkind	1995	Member
15	Miriam I Hirsch	1942	
16	Siegfried Meyers	1975	Member
	Bernard Rubin		Dave Rubin's Father
	Adrian Sonn	1995	Member Responsible for the building of the new Temple
17	Molly Hirsch	1904	Member
	Mary N Loewner		
19	Jack Neckowitz		Alan Neckowitz' Father
21	Dorothy Fox		Marian Frankel's Mother
22	William Wender	1932	
24	Harry Lewin	1993	
25	George Becker	1986	
26	Samuel Klingstein	1912	Member
	Ronnetta Kahn	2001	Member Arnie Kahn's Wife (Ronnie)
27	Henry Ney	1946	Member
	Emanuel Loewner	1980	Member
28	Theresa Sissman		
29	Alvin Ney	1945	Member
31	Leon Wise		
	Louis Issacs	1909	Member
	Maude Snyder		Gladys Ney's Sister

DONATIONS

Beth El Congregation is grateful for the following generous donations:

In honor of the 50th Anniversary of Valerie & Jerry Stephens

Martin & Charlotte Hirsch
Mona Wolf
Ron & Michelle Ornstein
Chuck Slott
Bill & Leslie Ney

In Memory of Robbie Minskoff

Bill & Leslie Ney
Andy Kohen
Mona Wolf
Judy Freudenthal
Arnie Kahn & Elly Swecker

Wishing for a speedy recovery for Joan Funston

Mona Wolf
Arnie Kahn & Elly Swecker

To the Yahrzeit Memorial Fund

Mona Wolf in memory of her father (Albert Miller).
Gale Clemons in memory of her mother (Shirley Dobin) & father (Arnold Abriss).
Bill & Leslie Ney in memory of Bill's mother (Carol Ney).
Gene & Irma Nemoytin in memory of their son (Steven Nemoytin).

To the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Gerald Kassalow

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & SHORTY

Happy Summer from SHORTY!

SHORTY enjoyed participating in the Beth El Bazaar. They led children's activities- watercolors, friendship bracelet weaving, and other crafts throughout the entire event for all in attendance.

We spent a wonderful couple of days June 22-23 with Camp Noar from Charlottesville. We had 14 kids (rising 7th to 9th grade) enjoy a great shul-in with 7 of our SHORTY-ites! Kudos to Madeline for planning celebrity themed games to keep everyone energized and enthusiastic!

We have plans for more fun in our future. Contact Becky at rem82398@gmail.com for more information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



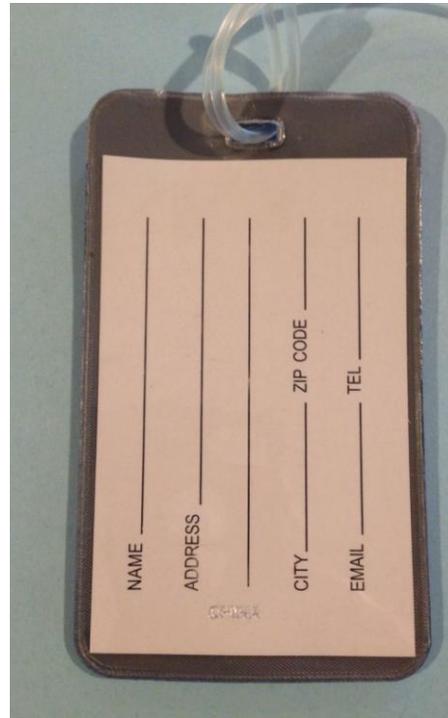
GO NATS! - May 29, 2016

David Berger's Bar Mitzvah Project

August 20, 2016

For my bar mitzvah project, I created a luggage tag to support the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank's Family Backpack Program. This program allows a needy student to take a backpack home containing food to supplement their family's meals each weekend. Many of these students rely on the breakfast and lunch served at school for the majority of their food intake for the day. The backpack program tries to ensure that the children will not go hungry when school is not in session. I am selling my luggage tags (pictured below) for \$5.00 each. I used the word HOPE because I wanted to bring hope to those in need. One tag will pay for 20 individual meals for these students and their families. All of the money raised will be going directly to this program to help students and families within the Shenandoah Valley. You can use these tags for instrument cases, gym bags, luggage, backpacks, etc. Please help me support this worthy cause. You can reach me by email: tags4food@gmail.com or you can call our home: (540)574-0440. Thank you!

Sincerely,
David Berger





*As the seasons change,
I wait for the inevitable.
Like an unwelcome visitor at the door
the wait allows me time to reflect on my life.
I have no regrets.
I've lived my life the way I wanted to.
As the days get shorter,
my thoughts take me back
to memories of music,
friends, and happier times.*

**Robert Minskoff
1970-2016**

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



JULY 2016

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
Sisterhood Yard Sale						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Independence Day					
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	7pm Board Meeting					
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6