



Temple House of Israel Bulletin

A Reform Congregation Affiliated with the UAHC
15 North Market Street, Staunton, VA 24401 (540) 886-4091
<http://uahc.org/congs/va/va008/>

January 2004, Tevet/Shevat 5764

From the Rabbi's Disk

My dear fellow Valley Jews and Friends:
Shalom!

A very happy secular new year to you! As they say in Israel, *Chag Sylvester Same'ach!* [Happy Holiday of Sylvester]

I hope that you had a wonderful Chanukah, that the holiday was a time of increased light and joy for you and your loved ones, and that this year's celebration of re-dedication was meaningful for you.

NEWS

I have noted with pleasure that the variety and number of activities in the congregation have continued to expand, and the feeling of a vital and vibrant Jewish community is tangible every time I walk through the door. Kol Hakavod [all honor] to all of you who are making this happen!

Take a look at this summary of the items planned for the coming months! Youth Group Shabbatot & dinners; Youth Group ski Weekend; Nourish Your Soul Shabbat morning service; Jammie Jam Havdalah; Tu Bi'Shevat Seder February 6th; B'nai Mitzvah Families meeting Feb 8th; Passover Haggadah Workshop with Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell Feb 15th; Purim Gala March 6th; Purim Carnival March 7th; Religious School Shabbat March 19th; Passover Seders April 6th & 7th; the Yeast Feast April 14th; Yom HaShoah service April 18th; Yom Ha'Atzma'ut April 23rd; Family Service May 7th; Religious School picnic May 30th; Shavuot Confirmation service May 28th; Beth El Yard sale June 6th; Youth Group trip to Jewish New York; and FIVE (5!) B'nai Mitzvot (Ben Goldsmith, Philip Chodrow, Anna Meyer, Ian Jordan, & Jordan Kristoff)! Add in the Sisterhood events, Adult education, film series, and Board activities, and we have a full calendar.

ADULT EDUCATION

The weekly Torah study sessions have become an established fixture and something to which I look forward. We have lively and interesting conversations about the weekly Torah portion – though we rarely are able to cover more than a few verses of each Parashah! If you have time, whether for one week, once in a while, or on a more regular basis, please join us at noon on Thursday in Staunton or Friday in Harrisonburg. Feel free to bring lunch. No preparation needed.

The Read Hebrew America Hebrew literacy course is coming to an end as I write this. Those taking the class have made amazing progress! Kol Hakavod Lahem! [All honor to them!] After this session is completed, we plan to offer the second course in the series, which also focuses on reading, but includes more of the prayers we recite in services. Please keep your eyes open for further information on that course, starting in late January or early February. Additionally, if there is enough demand for it, it would be possible to offer the introductory course again. Let me know if you would be interested so I can make plans.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL & YOUTH GROUP

**The
Rabbi's Disk
(Continued)**

The entire student body of the religious school is working hard and learning a great deal! I am very pleased with their progress. Kitah Aleph is over half-way through the Alef Bet, Kitah Bet is working on reading many words and constructing sentences, Kitah Gimel has been learning to read and chant many prayers, and Kitah Daled is working on mastery of the Friday evening and Saturday morning services. Tov Me'od, kulam! [Very Good, All!]

KITAH DALED: Class Trips: In support of the stated curricular goals, there will be four class trips this year. The first three trips will be Saturday mornings to services (Orthodox, Conservative, Renewal) in Charlottesville. These trips have been rescheduled to January and February (Kitah Daled parents, please look for emails from me to confirm details). The final trip will be to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. on March 21st Jon and Amy Meyer have agreed to head up the planning for that trip – Todah rabbah [many thanks] to them! **Jewish Cooking Experience:** The class has decided to have a special day on which they will bring various 'Jewish' foods to share and broaden their culinary horizons! January 4th, Sunday, at Religious School. Parents of Kitah Daled, be on alert for this!

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL SERVICE: Mark Your Calendars and hold the date! The Religious School Shabbat is scheduled for March 19 at Beth El. All grades will participate – be sure to be there!

B'NAI MITZVAH FAMILIES: The planned meeting of the B'nai Mitzvah families is rescheduled for Sunday, February 8th at Beth El following Religious School (from 12:45 to 2:15). We can order pizza if you'd like. At that meeting I will go over scheduled ceremony dates, policies, planning, services and participation, mitzvah projects, and answer any questions that parents or B'nai Mitzvah students may have. Please mark your calendar and make every effort to attend.

YOUTH GROUP: Two weekends are identified as the Youth Group services: January 23rd at Beth El, and January 30th at THOI. The Youth group will be serving a dinner before services, so come early, eat to support the Youth Group!

Plans are being made for the big ski weekend. I am sure Sherri Alt will be in touch about housing and other logistics – it looks as if we will have a real crowd this year from all over VA! Be sure to turn out in force and support our Youth Group.

The last big activity for the year for the Youth Group will be a trip to Jewish New York. Details will be forthcoming – keep your eyes open!

MUSIC

As you may recall, at the start of this year, we asked Sarah Grove-Humphries to serve as Cantor/Soloist, and set a trial period to see how congregants felt about having someone serve in this role. The trial period is drawing to a close, and it is time to gather your feedback. Please express your opinion to me or to Doug Degen. It is my personal feeling that having Sarah serve in this way has enhanced our worship services immensely, but this is a Jewish group, so I am certainly not the only one who has an opinion!

COME ON BY!

Please feel free to call, email, make an appointment, or drop in to see me to discuss anything that is on your mind, to ask about something you want to know, for pastoral counseling, or just to chat. One of my great pleasures is to get to know each of you better.

I am looking forward to celebrating Tu B'Shevat with you soon!

B'virvat shalom (with Blessings of Peace),

Rabbi Joe Blair

**Rabbi's Office
Hours, Hospital
Visits and
Chaplaincy
Calls**

Rabbi Blair's office days are Mondays and Thursdays in Staunton and Wednesdays and Fridays in Harrisonburg (540) 434-2744. **Drop In times**, when the Rabbi is available without an appointment, **are those days 2-4 pm at each synagogue**. Other times are available by appointment. Call the temple at 886 - 4091 or email: RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com

Monday, Jan 5	Thursday, Jan 8	Monday, Jan 12	Thursday, Jan 15
Monday, Jan 19	Thursday, Jan 22	Monday, Jan. 26	Thursday, Jan 29

If you should hear or know of anyone who is ill or hospitalized or who might otherwise wish a visit or call, please be sure to let Rabbi Joe know as soon as you can. You can leave a message on the telephone answering machine at the temple - it is checked daily, except Shabbat.

**President's
Column**

The scene: Mid-September, 2019, 9:00 AM. An elderly Doug Degen gets into his now 20-year-old car and heads up a now currently being widened to 6 lanes with 3 tollbooths I-81 to Harrisonburg for morning Rosh Hashonah services. Next scene: I wake up from my nightmare.
Possible, yes. Likely, no (hopefully). As I complete my presidency, I am somewhat fearful about the future of Temple House of Israel. On the other hand, I am optimistic that the new board with Rafael Brand as president will do an excellent job. But more than good leadership is necessary to ensure the perpetuation of the Temple. Participation by the members is a prerequisite. If you don't volunteer, then please willingly agree to help if approached. Apathy will lead to I-81. It has been my pleasure to serve and I would like to thank everyone for their help and support over the past two years. I look forward to helping in the future.
Shalom,
Doug Degen

**From our Newly
Elected President**

I am starting this new phase in my life as President of Temple House of Israel with hope and optimism. Optimism – because I know that our temple is a steadfast, firm Jewish voice and presence in our community at large. Hope – that I may live up to the trust and responsibility you vested in me. Embarking on this new experience for all of us, it is appropriate to Bless Hashem, and give thanks for having sustained us to reach this time in our lives.
Rafael Brand

**Religious School
and Pre-School
Activities**

Religious School Dates: January 4, 11, 18, 25
On January 11th, the religious school TuB' Shevat Seder will begin at 10:30. All children (pre-schoolers, too) are invited to come, but please let Rachel Jordan know before-hand at (434) 823-7828 so we can have enough food available.

Scholarship Fund

The Samuel and Evelyn Linden Scholarship Fund is a new program for Jewish youth from the Charlottesville area. Its purpose is to promote peace and social justice among Jews, Arabs and Palestinians. It does this by providing financial support to young Jewish adults ages 15-24 who want to go to Israel and learn about the needs and aspirations of Israelis and their neighbors. Application forms are available at Congregation Beth Israel (434) 295-6382 for any who are interested.

Special Events

- Please come to our Youth Group sponsored spaghetti dinner prior to services on January 30th. Dinner will be served at 6:00 for a cost of \$10. Please call Beth Young (885-1481) for reservations. This is always a delicious evening and great fun to have the youth group kids serve us!
- A children's Havdalah and TuB'Shevat party will take place at 5:00 pm on January 31st at the Temple. We will start with a pizza and then have a havdalah service. After dinner we will plant some seeds in hopes of parsley in time for Pesach, sing songs and have cookies and milk for dessert. Please bring one empty yogurt container to germinate the seeds (the kind with the lid that can be snapped back on) and \$4 per person to cover the pizza. Call Bonnie Brown at 885-3809 if you have any questions or would like to volunteer to bring soil, seeds, cookies or any other supplies.
- The Bux-Mont Jewish Spirituality Institute for Women invites women of all ages to participate in a day-long journey to refresh their souls. Workshops will be led by teachers, massage therapists, healers, rabbis, musicians and artists. This event will be held on February 8th at the Madlyn and Leonard Abramson Center in North Wales, PA. The registration fee is \$95 with a special mother/daughter package of \$125. The deadline for registration is January 25, 2004. For more information about the day's activities, please contact either Beth Young or Rabbi Joe. For complete information call (215) 646-6010.
- Glass artist Jon Kuhn recently opened a major solo exhibition at the Mint Museum of Craft + Design in Charlotte, NC. which will run through March 21. The glass sculpture in our social hall was created by Jon while he lived in Staunton, one of a pair that he created – the other one, similar in style, was a gift to Rabbi Lynn Landsberg. Jon earned a bachelor's degree in fine arts from Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas and later obtained a master's degree from Virginia Commonwealth University. He now lives in Winston-Salem, producing his work in a 25,000 square foot studio with the help of 27 assistants.

Noteworthy Congregational News

- The snow-delayed Annual Congregational Meeting was held on December 21st. Thank you and mazel tov to our new Temple Board Members! Serving the congregation for the next 2 years are:

President:	Rafael Brand
Vice-President / Membership:	Paul Klein
Vice-President / Bldg. & Grds:	Mike Brown
Secretary:	Ruth Chodrow
Treasurer:	Laura Jean Brand
At Large Member:	Lisa Solod
Past President:	Doug Degen

In other business, a suggestion was made to build a wall to enclose the storage area and eliminate the eyesore adjacent to the seating area in our social hall. If you have any questions or concerns or are able to contribute toward this effort, please contact Beth Young. ** The new yearzeit tablet will be installed in the foyer of the sanctuary in the very near future. ** Paul Klein will be exploring grants and other fundraising avenues to build our endowment to ensure the temple's survival. ** The Woodrow Wilson Birthplace presented their plans for the new Presidential Library to be built on their current site and explained the projected impact of increased visitor traffic on the surrounding area (us).

<p>Noteworthy Congregational News (continued)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Not-Yet-Chanukah Cookie Decorating Party and Potluck Dinner held in December was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. Thanks to Don Chodrow for making a zillion latkes and to Philip for the dreidl game supervision, to Laura Jean Brand for supervising the cookie- and mess-making, and to Bonnie Brown and Sarah Grove-Humphries for the music. Thanks also to Ruth Chodrow, the coordinating force behind the evening. • The next board meeting will be Thursday, January 22 at 7:00 PM . Everyone is welcome to attend our monthly meetings.
<p>News of our Community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you from Beth and the rest of the Young family for all the comforting words, thoughts and prayers following the sudden and unexpected death of Beryl Gutnick, Beth’s mom. “In my objective moments, I can hope that Beryl’s zest for life, her interest in the world around her and her eagerness to embrace the next new person, place or thing – whatever that was – will be a constant inspiration for all of us. The intense sense of community all of you provide continues to be very much appreciated.” • Sarah and Byron Grove Humphries sent a note to the entire congregation thanking us for the beautiful mezuzah given to them at the Chanukah party. Rabbi Joe installed the mezuzah and it looks lovely.
<p>Of Special Note</p>	<p>Rabbi Israel Koller from Richmond recently visited our temple and was given a tour by Ruth Chodrow. His comments remind us that we have a beautiful historic building, a congregation that has been going for 127 years and that we accomplish a huge amount with limited resources and people. Fresh eyes see us and marvel at what we have (“an impressive facility”, “Such a beautiful sanctuary – they don’t make them like this any more”) and what we have done (“maintained with devotion and care”, “How many in your congregation? And you get a minyan most services? Amazing!”). Rabbi Koller is now retired, but in his long professional life he has worked in, visited and seen many temples and he was clearly very impressed according to Ruth.</p>
<p>News from the Women of the Temple</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLEASE COME TO OUR NEXT MEETING ON SUNDAY JANUARY 18TH AT 2:00 PM. We need your ideas and help with plans for the winter and spring months. We are still in need of chairpeople for the Passover Community Seder on April 6th as well as the Bake Sale that we intend to hold in May. Notes from previous events are on file to help you organize in each case • Ruth Chodrow still needs your recipes for the proposed temple cookbook. Send in anything you’d like: family favorites, something you’ve concocted, the recipe in your card file with the most stains on it. Ruth has checked copyright laws and says that single recipes can be re-printed as is. Just don’t send an entire cookbook! Send your treasurer to Ruth at rchodrow@cfw.com or 811 Selma Blvd., Staunton 24401. • We’d like to say HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the known January birthdays: Michael Degen celebrating on the 6th Marty Schwartz on the 13th Richard Young on the 16th Riff Blair on the 27^h Doug Degen on the 31th
<p>Judaica Shop</p>	<p>We have the Gates of Song songbooks available, many cards, mezuzahs and other</p>

Temple Contacts

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Please welcome the newly elected Temple House of Israel Board of Directors!

Call them, nudge them, introduce yourself, get involved...

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January 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7 Tevet	2 L 4:50p 7:30p Shabbat Services 8 Tevet	3 9 Tevet
4 Fast 10 Tevet	5 rabbi's office day 11 Tevet	6 12 Tevet	7  13 Tevet	8 rabbi's office day 14 Tevet	9 L 4:56p 15 Tevet	10 16 Tevet
11 17 Tevet	12 rabbi's office day 18 Tevet	13 19 Tevet	14  20 Tevet	15 rabbi's office day 21 Tevet	16 L 5:03p 7:30p Shabbat Services 22 Tevet	17 23 Tevet
18 2:00p Women of the Temple Meet 24 Tevet	19 rabbi's office day 25 Tevet	20 26 Tevet	21  27 Tevet	22 7:00p Temple Board Meet rabbi's office day 28 Tevet	23 L 5:10p 29 Tevet	24 Rosh Chodesh 1 Shevat
25 2 Shevat	26 rabbi's office day 3 Shevat	27 4 Shevat	28 5 Shevat	29  rabbi's office day 6 Shevat	30 L 5:18p 7:30p Shabbat Services 7 Shevat	31 5:00p Children's Havdalah 8 Shevat

Jan. 2	Shabbat Services at 7:30 PM – Ellen & Dan Schorsch 942-3149 and Sam Witt 943-5581, hosts
Jan. 16	Shabbat Services at 7:30 PM – Kevin & Danielle Little 943-1704 and Marsha Pillet 249-2926
Jan. 18	Women of the Temple Meeting at 2:00 PM
Jan. 22	Temple Board Meeting at 7:00 PM
Jan. 30	Youth Group Spaghetti Dinner at 6:00; Shabbat Services at 7:30 PM – Brands and Youngs, hosts
Jan. 31	Children's Havdalah Service at 5:00 PM – contact Bonnie Brown 885-3809 for more information