



# Temple House of Israel Bulletin

A Member Congregation of the Union for Reform Judaism

15 North Market Street, Staunton, VA 24401 (540) 886-4091

Web Address: [thoi.org](http://thoi.org)

## January 2006, Tevet/Shevat 5766

From the  
Rabbi's  
Desk

Be sure to check the congregational calendar for the list of upcoming events each month and come join in! Take advantage of all that your congregation and Jewish community offer. There are Holiday celebrations, adult education classes, youth activities, religious school, and social events on the calendar. Social action projects, Tikkun Olam (repair of the world) and Tzedakah projects (righteous action) continue. Be a part of it all!

**My dear fellow Valley Jews and Friends,  
SHALOM!**

I hope that you have are having a wonderful, bountiful, and happy Chanukah, full of light, love, and joy, with all the miracles and blessings that are possible.

The secular new year is upon us. As they say in Israel, Simchat Yom Sylvester! L'chaim! (Happy secular new year! To Life!) Any excuse is good enough for a party!

### **THE CALENDAR & HOLIDAYS**

Rosh Chodesh for Tevet is December 31<sup>st</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup> this year. Tevet will run from January 1<sup>st</sup> to January 29<sup>th</sup>, then Rosh Chodesh for Shevat is January 30<sup>th</sup>. The only holidays in this period are the concluding days of Chanukah, which runs until sundown on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of January, and the only other commemoration in Tevet is the Fast of the 10<sup>th</sup> of Tevet, an optional fast (depending on the state of peace or persecution) for the beginning of the siege of Jerusalem by the Babylonians, leading to the destruction of the first Temple.

### **JEWISH LIFECYCLE: THE B'NAI MITZVAH**

Our very abbreviated discussion of Jewish Lifecycle continues this month with a widely known celebration, the B'nai Mitzvah (masculine plural meaning Children of the Commandments: singular male is Bar Mitzvah, singular female is Bat Mitzvah, and plural female is B'not Mitzvah).

First I should say that there is nothing anyone does that makes them a B'nai Mitzvah. It is a status – no different than the age of majority (eighteen) in American law. One achieves it simply by surviving to their thirteenth birthday. Everything else is merely the celebration of that milestone in the life of the individual.

So there is no Jew past the age of thirteen years that is not a B'nai Mitzvah! No need to feel left out or lament that you did not have one. Many people did not have a celebration, but that has no effect on their status. And anyone can choose to celebrate a B'nai Mitzvah at any time after their thirteenth birthday, so if you are interested in having a B'nai Mitzvah, there is no reason not to do so. Let's start planning for it now! It is NEVER too late!

The B'nai Mitzvah ceremony is not biblical in origin! No mention of it appears in the Tanakh (Bible). Clearly, it is a coming of age ritual, marking the acceptance by the community of the individual as eligible to participate in all the rituals and to accept honors such as Aliyah (being called up to the Torah and reciting the blessings over it), serving as Ba'al Koreh (Torah reader), or as Shaliach Tzibur (Prayer leader for the

congregation). Traditionally, it marks the moment in time when an individual is subject to the Mitzvot (Commandments), can serve as a valid witness, and can make an oath and enter into an enforceable contract.

Originally, and still, technically, this would have been primarily a change in status, not very different from becoming eighteen years old today. One would automatically gain certain legal rights and become subject to legal obligations, but there was little formal celebration or occasion to mark the moment. Most Jews were educated sufficiently to lead prayers and even to read from the Torah, so there was not a specific accomplishment to mark with a celebration.

The special and celebratory nature of the ceremony that we know today came into existence somewhere between the fourteenth and sixteenth centuries in Germany and Poland, and spread from there. In part, the B'nai Mitzvah came to be seen as marking a level of education – an accomplishment: more than leading prayers or reading from the Torah, it was a time when the person achieving this status would demonstrate their learning to the community and show that they were ready to take their place in the community. Today, this is still true among some groups, particularly the Hasidic Orthodox community, in which a young man will give an extended Devar Torah (a talk or teaching based on the Torah or Talmud) to show their accomplishments in these areas. This is also true of the Chatan (bridegroom) in these communities – he is expected to give a Devar Torah in advance of the wedding.

In the less traditional Jewish communities, such as ours, the B'nai Mitzvah celebration is a chance for the young person (or adult, as the case may be) to demonstrate that they are sufficiently educated Jewishly to participate in the life of the community and to be a part of the communal ritual of worship.

The minimal level of demonstration is simply to be called up for an adult honor, usually an Aliyah (to come up to the reading stand and to recite the blessings for the reading of the Torah).

Since leading prayers was something most Jews could do, it also became common for the B'nai Mitzvah to take that role on for the day of celebration for at least some portion of the service. If capable, the B'nai Mitzvah might also read from the Torah and/or the Haftarah (selection from the Prophets).

The custom of a Devar Torah continues, so we see the B'nai Mitzvah at most celebrations delivering a speech in the form of a Devar Torah address to the congregation.

Often the parents of the B'nai Mitzvah would offer a blessing. One of the traditional blessings that has an odd sound to our ear is She-petarani meyancho shel zeh/zot (that has made me free – meaning free of responsibility for the conduct/sins – of this child; now that the child is responsible for him/her self with regard to religion and the Jewish community).

In more traditional settings, the B'nai Mitzvah boy (in these settings it would always be a boy) might also wear a Tallit (Prayer Shawl) and Tefillin (Phylacteries) for the first time at or just after his Bar Mitzvah, though this varies by community quite a bit.

As with any Jewish celebration, a B'nai Mitzvah ends with a Seudat Mitzvah (a festive meal celebrating fulfillment of a commandment). The type, style, and elaborateness are all up to the parents, depending on their means, their desires, and their taste. However, one thing that has not changed much: there are still members of the Jewish community that have more money than taste. In the Middle Ages, the rabbis enacted decrees called sumptuary laws. These laws restricted excessive conspicuous spending and wasteful consumption, and attempted to curb the elaborate and ostentatious feasts that had come about in some communities. The laws restricted the size and costliness of the feasts at

celebrations, the dress and jewelry that could be worn, and who and how many could take part in the feasts, including requiring that anyone at the feast MUST have attended the religious service! The Lithuanian decree of September 4, 1637 opened with these words:

“Inasmuch as people are spending too much money unnecessarily on festive meals, every Jewish community and settlement that has a rabbi is expected to assemble its officers and rabbi to consider the number of guests which it is suitable for every individual in view of his wealth and the occasion, to invite to a festive meal....”

In light of the recent New York Times story on a Bat Mitzvah at which the young lady wore a designer dress that cost \$32,000.00, exclusive of her jewelry, and it was reported that the party and the cost of entertainment totaled close to or over \$500,000.00, this is still an area that is problematic for some. (We should all be so lucky as to need to worry about spending like this! ☺) Fortunately, I have not seen this tendency in our community, and I hope I will never. This sort of blow-out is not in keeping with a religious rite of passage that marks the BEGINNING of commitment to the community and to the commandments. As they say, keep the emphasis on the Mitzvah, and less on the Bar!

I would be remiss if I did not comment on the topic of B'not Mitzvah. The Bar Mitzvah ceremony was traditionally for males – women did not take leadership roles in congregational worship in most communities over most of Jewish history. It was only 76 years ago now that the first Bat Mitzvah took place. Judith Kaplan Eisenstein (daughter of Mordecai Kaplan) had her Bat Mitzvah ceremony at the Society for the Advancement of Judaism in New York City, where Mordecai Kaplan served as rabbi. Slowly, other young women also had a Bat Mitzvah there, and then at some other congregations. Sometime in the 1960's some Reform congregations began to offer this ceremony for women, and in the mid to late 1970's it began to appear in Conservative congregations. More recently, many Orthodox congregations have incorporated a form of Bat Mitzvah, though young women are not allowed to read from the Torah in most of these settings. I am delighted to say that we are fully egalitarian and encourage all, male or female, to take part to the fullest extent possible in a B'nai Mitzvah, and to celebrate their connection to Judaism and the Jewish community.

Next month, we will continue with the topic of Confirmation.

#### **TZEDAKAH (RIGHTEOUS ACTION)**

After all the natural disasters and wars, basic needs around the world, in our nation, and locally continue to be much greater than anyone could ever have imagined. Please donate funds to those in need by going to [www.jdc.org](http://www.jdc.org), [www.ujc.org](http://www.ujc.org), [www.mazon.org](http://www.mazon.org), or at [www.urj.org](http://www.urj.org), or send your donations by mail. Please don't forget to support First Step, Mazon, the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, the Free clinic, and the many other worthwhile organizations that help those in need in our own area.

The SHORTY youth group is undertaking two Tikkun Olam & Tzedakah efforts. The shorter term project is to collect funds and items, and to send cleaning supplies to those affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. With flooding, in salvageable buildings, the aftermath is massive mold, mildew, and 'schmutz'! Some materials have already been dropped off at the synagogue. If you can make a donation to this collection effort, please bring it to the synagogue and place it in the bags/boxes in the lobby. We will continue collecting until *January 5<sup>th</sup>*.

For their second project, Shorty is collecting new pre-school children's books to be given to children in pediatrician's offices to take home. If you have any such books, please

bring them to the synagogue anytime between now and June 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you!

### **VOTE IN THE WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION ELECTIONS**

Don't miss your opportunity to make a difference to world Judaism and to assure that the voices of viewpoints other than Orthodoxy are heard in Israel. Register now and vote in the elections for the World Zionist Organization before February 28<sup>th</sup>. There are forms in the synagogue, or you can do so online at [www.urj.org](http://www.urj.org). It only takes two minutes of your time and \$7.00 (\$5.00/students). When you receive your ballot, VOTE! If you have any questions, please ask me. Help to set the internal agenda for Israel at this crucial time in its history. The URJ supports the ARZA slate.

### **JEWS ONLINE**

If you are looking for Israeli music, or Hebrew lyrics, look at this wonderful site. <http://shironet.gpg.nrg.co.il/homepage.aspx?homep=1>. Your Hebrew has to be decent enough to enter the title or search terms in Hebrew, but you can find most things.

I also immodestly recommend that you visit <http://www.jewish.net/askarabbi/>. This is the website operated by Jewish.Com, the publishers of several papers, Jewish press web sites, and the Ask A Rabbi feature. As a matter of full disclosure, I have to admit that I am moderator for this forum, but I am blessed to have the assistance and cooperation of about forty other rabbis from the different denominations within Judaism. For technical reasons, the site had to be rebuilt, so the current forum shows only limited postings; however the archive is still available online, and older postings from the last five or so years can be browsed there. As time goes on and the number of postings increases, I believe that this will prove to be a very helpful resource.

### **JEWISH HUMOR**

#### Mighty Men of Sport

Yeshiva University decided to establish a crew team. Unfortunately, despite trying valiantly, the team lost race after race. They practiced every day for hours, but they always came in dead last.

Finally the coach sent Yankel to spy on the Harvard team. He schlepped off to Cambridge, and hid in the bushes alongside the Charles River, and secretly watched the Harvard team practice. After only two days, he came back, very excited.

Yankel said, "I've figured out how they do it!" His teammates huddled around him eagerly, waiting for the revelation.

"They have eight men rowing and only one screaming" he told them.

#### Mama knows best

Sheldon excitedly told his mother he had met a girl, fallen in love and was going to get married. In great good humor, he teased his mother, "Just for fun, I'm going to bring over three women and you guess which one I am going to marry." His mother agreed.

The next day he arrived with three beauties who sat on the sofa and chatted with Mama over cake and tea. After they left, Sheldon said, "Okay, mama. Which one do you think I am going to marry?"

Without a pause, his mother said, "The one in the middle with the red hair."

Sheldon was shocked. "You're right, mama, but how did you know?"

"Her, I don't like."

### **JEWISH WIT AND WISDOM**

'A wise word is not a substitute for a piece of herring.'

~Sholom Aleichem

### **JEWISH HISTORY**

We Jews have been in America a long time! The first synagogue in America was erected in 1730 by Congregation Shearith Israel in what is now downtown Manhattan (Mill

Street), and was rebuilt several times.

The oldest existing synagogue, Touro, in Newport, Rhode Island, owes a debt to Roger Williams, the Puritan minister who established the colony of Rhode Island, for the charter of the colony which separated church and state, creating a haven for religious minorities. The congregation, Jeshuath Israel, was founded in 1658. Ground for the Touro synagogue was broken in August 1759. The cornerstone was laid by well-connected member Aaron Lopez, the "Merchant Prince of New England" who loaned his 100 ships to the service of America in the Revolutionary war. The synagogue is now a historic national shrine.

A famous Jew and officer during the American revolution, David S. Franks (1740-1793), was an aide-de-camp to Benedict Arnold at the time of his treason in September 1780, and was arrested, but then honorably acquitted. Unsatisfied, Franks demanded a court of inquiry, by which he was completely exonerated. In 1781 he was sent to Europe as bearer of dispatches to John Jay and Benjamin Franklin. He rose to the rank of Army Major. He was granted 400 acres of land in 1789 for his service in the Revolutionary War.

Of the 2000 Jews in America during the Revolutionary War, the majority participated in the war. Noted among them: Colonel Isaac Franks, known as George Washington's right-hand man: he provided his home in Germantown to Washington in November 1793 as Washington was on his way to the Third Continental Congress in Philadelphia. Franks and Washington remained friends, and Franks later was the first Jew to have his portrait painted by Gilbert Stuart. Another notable was Dr. Philip Moses Russel, who was commended by Washington for serving as surgeon during the harsh winter of 1777-78.

B'virvat shalom (with Blessings of Peace),  
~Rabbi Joe

**Office Hours  
and  
Contact  
Information**

**RABBI'S AVAILABILITY & OFFICE DAYS**

Rabbi Joe is available by appointment. Simply leave a message at the congregation, or email him to arrange a time to meet. In the event of an emergency, if you can't reach him through the synagogues, please contact the rabbi at home by phone.

Email: [RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com](mailto:RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com)

Beth El Congregation 540-434-2744

Temple House of Israel 540-886-4091

Home [Emergencies only, please] 434-971-4741

**Noteworthy  
Congregational  
News**

- **CONGRATULATIONS to the new temple board!** At the annual congregational meeting held December 4<sup>th</sup>, our membership elected **Lisa Solod as president and Laurie Berman as vice president/ membership. Mike Brown, vice president/buildings and grounds, Ruth Chodrow, secretary and Laura Jean Brand, treasurer** were all re-elected to their positions. In addition, we have a newly elected **Trustee: Doug Degen. Alan Goldenberg and Richard Young** were re-elected to their positions. Thank you to these people for agreeing to work diligently on behalf of our congregation. Their time commitment is proof of their dedication.
- **THANK YOU** to out-going president **Rafael Brand** and to out-going v.p./membership and then acting-president **Paul Klein** who have both guided us smoothly for the past two years. A special thank you to **Ralph Degen** who has served our congregation on the Board as treasurer and trustee for many, many years. We all appreciate his guidance over the decades.
- The Board reiterated to all members who use the building that someone must be responsible for checking that the doors are locked before leaving.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The next Temple Board meeting will be held on <b>Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Board Meeting Summary</b></p>	<p>At the board meeting of December 1, board members discussed how to improve access to the building for people with limited mobility. A handrail near the side door and a buzzer for the back door were among the suggestions brought forth. • Mike Brown as been in contact with the Connick Foundation for advice about restoring and protecting our windows. • Ruth was asked to send announcements of our Friday evening services to local newspapers, starting in January. • There was discussion about our trees in front, which are shading parts of the lawn and whose roots may have contributed to our burst water pipes several years ago. • A letter was read that acknowledged our donation to Rebuilding Together in honor of David Waterman. This organization rehabilitates homes of low-income residents and is one of David’s other main volunteer efforts. • The nominating committee presented its slate of officers for the forthcoming term.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Submitted by Ruth Chodrow, secretary</p>
<p><b>News of our Community</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are all deeply saddened by the death of Dani Thompson who was killed in Guyana on December 3<sup>rd</sup> while working there with the Ministry of Health. Dani will always be remembered because of the transliterated Kiddush mural he painted in 1974 and which hangs in our social hall today.</li> <li>• Congratulations to the Bowen family on the engagement of their daughter Lisa to Dr. Rob Heymann. A July 2<sup>nd</sup> wedding is planned in Long Beach, CA and they will live in Rancho Cucamonga, following their wedding. Mazel tov!</li> <li>• As the marketing director for the Shenandoah Valley Governor’s School Theatre Department, senior high-schooler Margo Moskowitz is happy to announce – ta da! <b><i>The Fantasticks</i></b>. Lucid Productions, SVGS and the Wayne Theatre Alliance present the world’s longest-running musical with book and lyrics by Tom Jones and music by Harvey Schmidt. Come for a fantastic evening of dinner and theatre <b>Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup></b>. Dinner begins at 7 pm with a cabaret show and the curtain goes up at 8 pm. On Sunday, luncheon begins at 1 pm with a 2 pm curtain. Tickets are \$20 for adults; \$15 for students and groups of ten or more. For tickets or more information, call Keri Wormald at 245-5088.</li> </ul>
<p><b>News from the Women’s Group</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>Happy Birthdays to be celebrated in January :</i></b>        Lisa Solod celebrating on January 3<sup>rd</sup>        Michael Degen, celebrating on January 6<sup>th</sup>        Marty Schwartz on January 13<sup>th</sup>        Rich Young on the 16<sup>th</sup>        Riff Blair on the 27<sup>th</sup>        Rachel Jordan also on the 27<sup>th</sup>        Doug Degen on the 31<sup>st</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>Religious School</b></p>	<p>The energy level at religious school is off the charts. We had an early Chanukah party on Dec. 11. The students were led in Chanukah songs (an event that doubled as a rehearsal for the Chanukah dinner performance at BE and THOI). Latkes and other goodies and crafts filled the tables. Rabbi Joe regaled everyone with a Chanukah story. What a great event! In lieu of a gift exchange, students brought books to donate to the “Reach Out and Read” program.</p> <p>We are still very happy with the Chai and Mitkadem curricula. The students are working their way through the levels and the oldest students are really excelling in Hebrew.</p>

	<p>We're so proud of them. Greenfield</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Submitted by Margee</p>
<p><b>Tot Shabbat</b></p> <p><b>and related information</b></p>	<p>The next <b>Tot Shabbat</b> will be on <b>Saturday January 28<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM</b> at the synagogue. Families with their children ages 6 and under are welcome to attend for stories, singing and a crafts project. New families are always welcome! Contact Shelby at 943-6934 or <a href="mailto:shelbyapple@yahoo.com">shelbyapple@yahoo.com</a> for further information.</p> <p>Are you looking for a fun, exciting place for your child to spend his or her summer? Would you like to send your child to a Jewish summer camp? Does your child enjoy activities such as karate, gymnastics, hip hop dancing, martial arts, cheerleading, line dancing and many more? These activities in addition to swimming, crafts, Shabbat celebrations and wonderful field trips are all part of the year's Camp Congregation Beth Israel in Charlottesville.</p> <p>The 6-week camp period runs from June 12<sup>th</sup> until July 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:00-3:15 for grades K-9. Before and after camp care will be available. If you would like to receive the brochure and registration materials, please call the CBI office at 434-295-6382. If you have questions about Camp CBI, please contact Shelby Apple, Camp Director.</p>
<p><b>Film Series</b></p>	<p>Our film series continues on <b>January 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm</b>. After experiencing a trauma in his life, a Mossad agent ignores his superiors' advice to take time off, and accepts a new assignment to investigate the whereabouts of an elderly ex-Nazi whose unwitting grandson will soon arrive in Israel to visit his sister. She is exercising her liberal tendencies on a Kibbutz.... Intrigue leads to Germany.... There is a happy ending. Screenwriter Gal Uchovsky makes a fine effort of exploring the conflict in modern Israel between tradition and modernity, the past and the present.</p>
<p><b>Adult Education</b></p>	<p><u>B'NAI MITZVAH</u> If you haven't already done so, wish Sherri Alt a big mazel tov on becoming a Bat Mitzvah! We are looking ahead to two more adult B'not Mitzvah this year (Laura Jean Brand, and Riff Blair). If you would be interested in having a B'nai Mitzvah, or in reading Torah, chanting Haftorah, learning to lead services or to serve as Gabbai, please be in touch with the Rabbi.</p> <p><u>ADULT INTRODUCTION TO HEBREW CLASS</u> The five session Introduction to Hebrew course concluded in December. Intermediate Hebrew is beginning in January. This is a chance to practice reading Hebrew, to improve your prayer service skills, and to build your Hebrew vocabulary to better understand the liturgy. <b>We will meet at THOI on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January at 6 to 7 pm</b>, and at BE on the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:30 to 3:30 pm. The schedule for February and beyond will be determined during the first class at each location. There is no cost to members for this course. Please call the synagogue to pre-register or for more information.</p> <p><u>(RE-)INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM I COURSE</u> This course will begin <b>Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, at 7 pm</b> at THOI in Staunton. The full schedule of fifteen sessions will be provided at the first class. It is intended to offer an overview of Judaism, and to serve as a reminder for those who have had (some or even quite a bit of) exposure in past, and as a first introduction for those who have not studied the topic before. This course is also a prerequisite for anyone who may wish to convert to Judaism. There is a \$25 fee for this course to cover photocopying charges, payable at the first session. The course is open to all congregational members, and to members of the public with permission of the instructor (Rabbi Joe). There will be textbooks to be</p>

**Adult Education**

purchased during the course, and several ‘field trips’ will be assigned. Please call for further information or to pre-register at 540-886-4091.

JEWISH LECTURE & DISCUSSION SERIES

There is no January session of this series scheduled in January. Please be on the watch for upcoming topics.

PARASHAT HASHAVUAH & LIMUD TORAH

The weekly **Parashat Hashavuah (weekly Torah portion) discussion takes place at noon on Fridays at THOI.** All members of both congregations are invited to bring your lunch and join in the discussion. No prior knowledge or experience required!

Approximately monthly at Beth El there is a Torah Limud (Torah learning) session at 6 pm prior to services. The next one is scheduled for February 17<sup>th</sup>. Again, all members are invited to join us to share opinions and talk about matters of Torah. You can bring your dinner and eat while we talk.

THE HARRISONBURG INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION

The Harrisonburg Interfaith Association meets on the first Thursday of each month at noon. The group is open to individuals and religious institutions, and all are welcome to attend. Rabbi Joe is the Vice President of this group this year, and responsible for planning programming. The January program, to be held on the 5<sup>th</sup> at the Sunrise Church of the Brethren at 1496 S. Main Street in Harrisonburg, will be a presentation by the Virginia Interfaith Council on Public Policy on Virginia legislation of concern to persons of faith (all faiths). Lunch will be available, provided by A Taste of Thai, at \$5/person.

Future programs for the rest of this year will all be at the Eastern Mennonite University West Dining Room (our usual location), and include topics such as Hunger in our area presented by the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank (February 2<sup>nd</sup>); raising food to fight hunger presented by the Volunteer Farm (March 2<sup>nd</sup>); a Chocolate Seder (April 6<sup>th</sup>); a presentation on Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Training (May 4<sup>th</sup>); and a presentation helping to inform us about Immigrants in our growing and changing area (June 1<sup>st</sup>). If you would like to attend any of the meetings, please be in touch with Rabbi Joe for details.

AN ISRAEL TRIP OPTION

Rabbi Joe has begun exploring the idea of planning a congregational trip to Israel. He has found that it is possible to arrange a ten day to two week tour, at a price at approximately \$2500-2700 per person, for twenty or more participants. No schedule or itinerary is yet planned, as this is a very preliminary exploration of the idea. If you might be interested in such a trip, and would like to talk about it, please be in touch with Rabbi Joe so he can gauge the level of interest.

**Book Group**

For January, as previously stated, I get my ten cents worth in Bel Canto by Ann Patchett and The Industry of Souls by Martin Booth. We’ll meet at **Dianne Mason’s house on Thursday, Jan 19<sup>th</sup>** – with a snow date of Wednesday, Jan 25<sup>th</sup> at **7:30 pm**.

Dianne can be reached at 885-6254. Jerry Warner wants to join us for our February meeting that will be at his and Pat’s home on **Wednesday 22 February at 7:30 pm**. because he would like to share with us the New York Times bestseller The End of Faith by Sam Harris. According to him religion, terror and the future of reason. Won’t we enjoy reading this in front of the fire? The Warners can be reached at 337-8680.

Submitted by A.J. Hartung

**Judaica Shop**

Check out our stock in the Judaica Shop! If we don’t have what you’d like, please contact Dianne Mason at 885-6254 so she can get it (whatever that may be...) for you.

**Youth  
Group  
and  
Confirmation  
Class**

The Youth Group, Shorty, had a big month in December. On Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> and Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> some of them attended a shul-in in Richmond. A few then traveled and stayed on for a shul-in on the 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> in Charlottesville. Then on Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup>, they held their regular meeting at THOI in Staunton. There they concluded the Confirmation class discussion on the topic of Judaism and Christianity – Differences, Approaches, and Responses. This was in preparation for discussion with a youth group from a church, which we are planning to have later this year. They shared a meal and then engaged in the business of the meeting, which included making plans for the Ski Weekend Shabbat and Youth Group Shabbat Services that are quickly approaching in January.

Shorty’s absolutely biggest month each year is January. We have something brewing almost EVERY WEEKEND this month! **The next Shorty meeting will take place on January 8<sup>th</sup> at Beth El at 4:00 pm.** Once more, bring some cash and we will order food! The following weekend, Shorty will leave on the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> for a shul-in in Roanoke and for the Dan Nichols concert there.

**We may need to meet on the 15<sup>th</sup> at THOI at 5 pm** to finalize preparations for Ski Weekend as well. Members should hold the date open in case.

**On January 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, we have Ski Weekend at Beth El!** WHOO-HOO! Sherri will be in contact with families to host on Friday night.

Then, on **January 27<sup>th</sup>, we will be having a fundraising Spaghetti dinner for the Youth Group at 6 pm, followed by a Youth Group led Shabbat service at THOI.** Don’t forget to bring cleaning supplies and children’s books as donations to help Shorty with their Tzedakah efforts. You can leave these donations in the office or the social hall.

**Donations**

**Thank you** to these generous people who have made contributions to the Temple during the previous month. We appreciate your donations!

In memory of Shirley and Samuel Zweig ..... Samantha Adato  
 General donations .....Ken Schwartz  
 .....Tzedakah Box  
 For the High Holidays .....Don and Ruth Chodrow

**Notes from  
the  
Editor**

- **Thank you to Don Chodrow** who edited the December bulletin while I was out of town. Your comments and suggestions are welcome and need to be received by me before January 20<sup>th</sup> for the February newsletter.
- **Thanks to those who have said “yes” to email. Anyone else interested in receiving your bulletin via email,** let me know at [templenews@ntelos.net](mailto:templenews@ntelos.net) .

**Yahrzeits  
for  
January**

A. David Biatch	Sarah Lee Margolis	Solomon Switzer
Sophie Cohen	Pauline Krauss Prince	Roberta Cohn Weber
Robert Davis	Emily Elias Schorsch	Abraham Weinberg (1925)
Morris Degen	Morton L. Sloane	Abraham Weinberg (1943)
Marjorie Edelman	Lamartine Gary Strauss	Ethel Strauss Weinberg
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<b>JANUARY</b>	2	3	4	5	6 Torah study at noon	7
8 SHORTY and Confirmation meet 4:00pm at BE	9	10	11	12 Temple Board Meeting at 7:00	13 Torah study at noon Shabbat Services 7:30	14
15 Film Series at 7 pm @ THOI	16	17	18	19 Book Group at Dianne Mason' <i>The Fantasticks</i>	20 Torah study at noon <i>The Fantasticks</i>	21 Youth Group Ski Weekend <i>The Fantasticks</i>
22 <i>The Fantasticks</i>	23 Adult Hebrew 6-7 pm @ THOI	24	25 Snow date for Book Group	26	27 Torah study 12 Youth Group spaghetti dinner @ 6; Shabbat services at 7:30	28 Tot Shabbat at 10:00
29	30 Intro to Judaism 7-9 pm	31				29

Jan 6	Weekly Torah Study at noon. Everyone is welcome!
Jan 8	Youth Group and Confirmation Meetings at Beth El 4:00pm
Jan 12	Temple Board Meeting at 7:00 pm in the social hall
Jan 13	Weekly Torah Study at noon. Everyone is welcome! Shabbat Services at 7:30 pm
Jan 15	In Staunton: Our Film Series at 7:00 pm
Jan 19	Book Group at Dianne Mason's; <i>The Fantasticks</i> dinner theatre @ Fairfax Hall, 7:00 pm
Jan 20	Weekly Torah Study at noon. Everyone is welcome! <i>The Fantasticks</i> dinner theatre, 7:00 pm
Jan 21	Youth Group Ski-Weekend; <i>The Fantasticks</i> dinner theatre, 7:00 pm
Jan 23	Adult Hebrew 6:00 pm
Jan 27	Weekly Torah Study at noon. Everyone is welcome! Youth Group Spaghetti Dinner at 6:00; Shabbat Services at 7:30 – oneg hosts: Ellen and Dan Schorsch 942-3149 and Joan Robins 463-2017
Jan 28	Tot Shabbat at 10:00
Jan 30	Introduction to Judaism class at 7:00 pm @ THOI