



Temple House of Israel Bulletin

A Member Congregation of the Union for Reform Judaism
15 North Market Street, Staunton, VA 24401 (540) 886-4091

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1412, Staunton VA 24402

Web Address: <http://www.thoi.org>

January 2007, Tevet/Shevat 5767

From The Rabbi's Desk

My dear fellow Valley Jews and Friends,
Shalom!

I am writing this article in mid-December, as we light the candles of Chanukah. I hope that all of you are experiencing that light of dedication and feeling the presence of G-d in your lives, finding joy, peace, and love with those you care about most.

The Calendar & Holidays

As I write this, we are in the midst of the month of Kislev, which runs until December 21st. December 21st and 22nd are Rosh Chodesh for the month of Tevet, which continues until January 19th. January 20th will be Rosh Chodesh for the month of Shevat.

During the month of Tevet, we have a fast day on December 31st. It is Tzom Asarah BeTevet (the fast of the 10th of Tevet).

Looking ahead, in the month of Shevat we will celebrate Tu Bi'Shevat (the 15th of Shevat). This year Tu Bi'Shevat falls on February 2nd-3rd. This is the new year for the Trees, sort of a Jewish Arbor day, and we have a seder to celebrate the fruits of trees. This celebration has come to have ties to the environment and ecology over the years, as well as gaining an understanding in terms of mysticism and Kabbalah. We will certainly talk more about it closer to that date.

The Congregational Calendar

Allow me to point out some of the many things upcoming on our calendar:

- January 5th at THOI at 6 pm SHORTY will be serving a dinner as a fundraiser, then leading services.
- DATE CHANGE: Services scheduled for January 12th at THOI have been postponed. No Service January 12th at THOI.
- Torah Lishmah is held noon each Friday at THOI. Join our discussion!
- Monday, January 15th at 7 pm, we have Talmud Torah Limud (Torah Learning), at Beth El at 7 pm. Bring a meal, and eat while we learn together!
- January 19th-21st is Ski Weekend when Shorty hosts a large group of youth from around our region. Come enjoy a NFTY-style service Friday evening.
- January 20th is Tot Shabbat at THOI at 10 am. Contact Shelby for information or to RSVP: tot-shabbat@thoi.org.
- January 20th at THOI, and January 21st at Beth El we will show wonderful films. Look for information about the films and the Visulite's First annual Jewish film festival later in this bulletin.
- January 26th and 27th we have a Bat Mitzvah. Rachel Berger and her family will be celebrating this simcha at Beth El.
- February 2nd we will have a Tu Bi'Shevat seder at 6pm, as the meal preceding Shabbat services at THOI. More information in the next bulletin.

	<p>A Personal Note: Todah Rabbvah</p> <p>I want to express many thanks to all who were so supportive and helpful, both with Riff's Bat Mitzvah, and in regard to the recent loss in our family. The community rallied to support us, which was wonderful for us personally, and made me proud and pleased to be part of such a warm, supportive, and caring community. Yishar Koachem Lekulam (may you all move directly from strength to strength). We have all been touched by your actions and words.</p> <p>Rabbi Joe Blair</p>
<p>Reaching the Rabbi</p>	<p>This year, the Rabbi is available on Sundays and Mondays in Harrisonburg, and Thursdays and Fridays in Staunton. If you wish to meet or speak with Rabbi Joe, please email or call him for an appointment. That will ensure the rabbi will be able to give you the undivided attention you deserve.</p> <p>Email: RabbiJoe@thoi.org Beth El Congregation 540-434-2744 Temple House of Israel 540-886-4091 Home [Emergencies only, please] 434-971-4741</p>
<p>Message from the President</p>	<p>Dear Congregants,</p> <p>I was saddened to see so few of you at our congregational meeting on December 3, but happy to see those of you who came. It was an important meeting and I am glad to report that the general state of the Temple is better than it has been in many years. But we still must be diligent and careful and we must all give of ourselves as much as we can.</p> <p>There was also a bylaws change we were not able to vote on as we did not have a quorum. Included in this bulletin is a ballot. Please mark it and return it to the Rabbi at P.O. Box 1412, Staunton 24402 as soon as possible. Thanks. ----- Lisa</p>
<p>Special Event</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Beth El Congregation invites you to the dedication of our beautiful stained glass windows Friday evening, January 12th at 7:30pm. We will be honoring Mrs. Anne Mintzer in whose name the window fund was established and celebrating Anne's 94th birthday. Please join us to see our beautiful windows!</p>
<p>Highlights of Congregational Meeting</p>	<p>We now have 58 member units (a 20% increase!) and Laura Berman was thanked for her efforts in reaching out to potential members. President Lisa Solod spoke of the concept of our temple as a sacred space and emphasized how everyone can help the temple with their time, money and/or energy. Unlike many other congregations our size, we are blessed with a Rabbi, a building, a full program of activities and a growing congregation. Treasurer Laura Jean reviewed our finances which have improved because to the influx of new members, and high holiday contributions which increased over last year. However dues cover only 40% of our operating budget and we need to continue to raise money for continuing physical plant projects and rising utility costs.</p>

<p>Noteworthy Congregational News</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The next board meeting will be January 4th at 7:00 pm. ▪ There is a board retreat planned for February 10th. Details to follow. ▪ Our Chanukah Party was a real hit. Thanks to Bonnie Brown and Ruth Chodrow for coordinating, decorating and making a whole lot of latkes. ▪ The holiday party held by New Directions at the temple in December was a great success for them and a wonderful mitzvah for us. ▪ The Caring Committee is a group of congregants that help mobilize our community to support those members experiencing difficulties. If you know of anyone who is ill or who may need assistance, or if you are in that situation, please call and let the committee members know. They will let other members of our community know and help facilitate having those needs met. Please call one of the committee members. AJ Hartung 337-6836 Rosalie Waterman 886-1713 or caring-committee1@thoi.org Lou Boden 886-6059 or caring-committee2@thoi.org Rabbi Joe Blair 886-4091 or rabbi@thoi.org ▪ Mark your calendars for February 16th 5-7:30 for dinner at L'Italia. This is a fundraiser for the temple – L'Italia gives us 20% - so eat and enjoy and contribute to the temple at the same time. Then come to services at 7:30 pm ▪ The Union for Reform Judaism recently issued the publication “So That You Shall Remember: Preserving your Congregation’s Heritage”. There is a section specifically for small congregations and on page 9 the following paragraph appears: “Temple House of Israel in Staunton VA (46 households) produced a very inexpensive but effective exhibit to celebrate its 125th anniversary. In a donated display case, congregants generated a time line of the synagogue’s history by using photographs, artifacts and dated captions to highlight significant moments. Particularly striking was the three-dimensional model of the original building that was created by using copies of the original architectural plans.” Kudos to Marsha Pillet for creating the model and polishing the silver, to Ruth Chodrow for collecting the pieces and to Rich Young who donated the display case.
<p>News of our Community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Our sympathies and condolences go to the Karen, Rabbi and Riff Blair and the entire Lussen family on the sudden passing of Karen’s mother, Marilyn Lussen, in Roanoke on November 27th. ▪ Mazel tov to Natasha Benenson! Beginning January 10th she will be working as an admissions counselor at Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center. Needless to say, Natasha is very excited and we wish her all the best. ▪ A note of thanks from Sarah Grove-Humphries: “I would like to thank everyone for the birthday cards, the delicious birthday cake and the lovely matzoball soap. What a great way to start Hanukkah. Thank you!” ▪ We join as a congregation in saying the Misha Berach for: Bonnie Brown and her family for her father, Paul Lowe. Rachel Peretz-Combs for her mother Dee Fizdale, Lisa Solod for her mother, Fredi Solod. Marsha Pillet for her stepfather and mother, Herb and Claire Lerner Laurie Berman for her mother, Helene Berman-Seidenfeld Betty Menaker Nancy Witt

	<p>David Brody Ken Schwartz Rafael Brand Laura Jean Brand for her father, Douglas Van Putte Vera Flint Betty Pendleton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Elana Brody is having a much anticipated CD release concert at the Blackfriar Playhouse on Sunday, January 14 at 7:30. If you haven't heard Elana, you're missing a real treat. Be sure to catch one last concert before she heads to Berklee School of Music. Tickets can be purchased at the box office or by calling 851-1733 or online at http://www.americanshakespearecenter.com/blackfriars/concerts.html. Reserved seating is \$10 which includes a dessert reception after the concert and time to meet Elana. Proceeds from the concert will benefit the American Shakespeare Center's Blackfriar Playhouse Educational Programs.
<p>News from the Women's Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There's a yard sale in the works! Start collecting your gently-used-but-no longer-needed goodies to donate to the temple. Then mark your calendars for Sunday, February 11th. Shirley Brand has graciously agreed to chair this event, but helpers are needed Saturday, Feb 10th at 9:30 for set up and again on Sunday at 10:00 to finish setting up. Yard sale doors open at noon with help needed for selling, organizing and managing the cash box. Please contact Shirley (949-0529 or films@thoi.org) to offer your help. ▪ We are in need of a scrapbook editor to compile the various articles and photos we continue to collect. Not much artistic ability is required and Ruth will continue to cut out the articles as they appear. This is a job that can be done by anyone who would like to contribute to the temple archives! <p>Happy Birthdays to be celebrated in January:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lisa Solod on January 3rd ▪ Michael Degen on the 6th ▪ Marty Schwartz on the 13th ▪ Rich Young on the 16th ▪ Riff Blair on the 27th ▪ Rachel Jordan also on the 27th ▪ Dennis Ward on the 29th ▪ Doug Degen on the 31st
<p>B'nai Mitzvah</p>	<p>If you are interested in studying for and having your own B'nai Mitzvah, or in learning to leyn (read/chant) Torah and/or Haftarah, or to lead services, or you wish to discuss conversion, please be in touch with Rabbi Joe.</p>
<p>Religious School</p>	<p>Religious school held a Family Education program with a focus on Shabbat. It was a huge success! Yishar Kokhachen (continue in strength) to the principals! Students also enjoyed celebrating Chanukah together with fun crafts, spinning dreidels and treats to eat.</p> <p>Classes resume on Sunday January 7th. You are welcome to come to a Tu B'Shevat seder on January 28th. Please let one of the principals know if you would like to attend so that they can prepare enough food for additional people.</p> <p>If you want to see what Religious school is like these days, come to visit and</p>

	<p>observe our religious school in action. While there, you can have something from the Bagel Bar, or order breakfast your way at Herb's grill! And it's a bargain!</p> <p>The trio of religious school principals are Linda at LIN5KO@aol.com, Dara at mddmhall@verizon.net or 540-433-5596, or Ruth at rbberger@adelphia.net or (540) 574-0440. Please feel free to be in touch with them.</p>
<p>Adult Education</p>	<p>Torah Parashiot</p> <p>For the month of January, the parashiot are Vayechi, Shemot, Va'era, and Bo, Bereshit (Genesis) 47 to 50 and Shemot (Exodus) 1 to 13. These chapters include the blessing of the sons of Joseph, the blessings of the sons of Jacob, death of Jacob, the burial of Jacob, death of Joseph, rise of a new Pharaoh, imposition of slavery, birth of Moses, Moses fleeing, becoming a shepherd, the encounter with the burning bush, return to Egypt, demand to let the people go, the ten plagues, departure from Egypt, and the description of Passover.</p> <p>Torah Lishmah will try to touch on each of these parashiot as we move through the Torah. Come to THOI at noon on Fridays, bring your lunch, and add your voice to our conversation.</p> <p>For Talmud Torah Limud, on January 15th at Beth El, we will focus on the story of the burning bush. These stories are rich and wonderful. Come talk about them! Bring a meal and join us for the ongoing conversation and rich learning that Torah affords all of us.</p> <p>General Adult Education</p> <p>The Intermediate Hebrew class will begin in January. Any member of the congregation who can decode (sound out) Hebrew and wants to improve their skills and learn a little more vocabulary and a bit about the content of the prayers is welcome.</p> <p>January 18th will be an Adult Education program at THOI at 7 pm. We will Meet The Talmud: the first of two sessions. We will explore the Talmud through a look at both Halachic (Jewish law) and Aggadic (Jewish lore) lenses, using particular sections of Tractates, and the stories within them, as focal points.</p> <p>Conversion Classes</p> <p>Although I will not be offering the formal Introduction to Judaism class this year, I am teaching some classes that will cover some of the same information and material as part of the Adult Education offerings. Among those classes that may be useful for this purpose are: the five session Crash Course in Basic Judaism to begin in April, the four Crash</p> <p>Courses in Jewish Holidays (we have already had two of them), the two Meet the Talmud sessions, the single session classes on the Five Megillot and Pirke Avot, Talmud Torah Limud, Torah Lishmah, and the Film and Discussion sessions. I believe that these are all appropriate for those considering conversion, as well as those simply interested in learning more about Judaism, whatever their level of knowledge. If you are interested in the conversion process and what it entails, please contact Rabbi Joe.</p>
<p>Judaica Shop</p>	<p>AJ thanks everyone for their support of the Judaica Shop. If you have any input on the new stuff, please let her know at 337-3863. There are lots of new items to see! Mazel tov and thank you to AJ! Catalogs are available and Pesach requests are being taken now with orders to be placed shortly.</p>

Book Group	From AJ: "I start the secular New Year with apologies! Our book to be read this month is the reissued edition of <u>The Sunflower</u> by Simon Wiesenthal . With Tasha gallivanting in Australia, I forgot we had agreed to read this book on Thursday, 25 January at Tasha's home. February will be at Janet Brody's to discuss <u>How to get More out of being Jewish</u> on Thursday the 22 nd at 7:30, as we continue this interaction of ideas on our understanding of our world and try to widen our perspective of life. We will be in our third year and look forward to welcoming new faces as we read each other's choice of book."
Youth Group and Confirmation Class	Shorty (our Youth Group) is keeping busy. They had a very successful Parent's Night Out event and Shul-in in December, will have their January fund-raising dinner at THOI with a service, and the ski-weekend at Beth El later in the month, and then they are looking at some Social Action programs. The big news is that they are looking ahead to the regional and national events, including TheVent,, the NFTY Convention, and the Spring Kallah, all yet to come, in addition to our Shul-ins, projects, meetings, and programs. No wonder they already look a little tired! ☺
Film Series	Saturday evening, January 20st at 6:00 pm , come to THOI to watch <i>Ushpizin</i> , a story of an orthodox Jewish couple whose surprise visitors cause havoc in their lives. In the end, all turns out well. Bring a brown bag supper and Shirley Brand will supply the dessert. Sunday evening, January 21st at 6:00 pm , come to Beth El for an Israeli film in Hebrew, Arabic, German, and English, with subtitles called Lalekhet Al Mayim (Walk on Water). It is a story about a mossad (secret service) agent, a nazi still at large, and a tangle of relationships. We believe it to be unrated, and there is some use of mildly offensive language, and some nudity is shown, so probably unsuitable for younger children. The first ever Jewish Film Festival will be held at the Visulite Theater the weekend of April 20th . It promises to be a wonderful experience. Details will be announced in the next bulletin.
Notes from the Editor	If you'd like to include anything in the February bulletin, please have your information, comments and suggestions to bulletin@thoi.org by January 20th.
Donations	Thank you to these generous people who have made contributions to the Temple during the previous month. We greatly appreciate your donations! In honor of Riff Blair's Bat Mitzvah.....Betty Menaker In thanks to Rabbi JoeRosalie and David Waterman For the general fundCarl and Barbara BellLaurie Berman For the accessibility fundTony and Rachel JordanRafael and Shirley Brand For Rabbi's discretionary fundTony and Rachel Jordan For SHORTYTony and Rachel Jordan
From the Web Maven	If you haven't visited the Rabbi's web-log (blog), find it online at http://thoi.org/blog/ . Rabbi Joe writes of the issues on his mind and information he believes congregants and people around the world might enjoy. We have also created the blog so temple members can log their thoughts on themes related to Judaism in a small community. If you're interested in contributing, please contact the Rabbi who can help you get started. Basic comfort with the Internet required.

Yahrzeits for January	A. David Biatch	Sophie Cohen	Robert Davis
	Morris Degen	Marjorie Edelman	Milton Jerome Finkel
	Sarah Lee Margolis	Pauline Krauss Prince	Emily Elias Schorsch
	Morton L. Sloane	Lamartine Gary Strauss	Augusta (Gussie) Switzer
	Solomon Switzer	Roberta Cohn Weber	Abraham Weinberg (1925)
	Abraham Weinberg (1943)	Ethel Strauss Weinberg	Johanna Barth Weinberg
	Arthur Kaufman	Daniel Seligmann	Leah Frank

January	1	2	3	4 Temple Board meet at 7:00	5 Torah study at noon SHORTY dinner at 6:00 Shabbat services at 7:30	6
7 Religious School	8	9	10	11	12 Torah study at noon	13
14 Religious School	15	16	17	18 Meet the Talmud – Adult Ed at 7:00 at THOI	19 Torah study at noon	20 Tot Shabbat 10:00 am <i>Ushpizin</i> film at 6:00 at THOI
21 Religious School Israeli film at 6:00 at BE	22	23	24	25	26 Torah study at noon	27
28 Tu B'Shevat seder at Religious School	29	30	31	1	2 Tu B'Shevat Seder at 6:00 Shabbat services at 7:30	3

Jan 4	Board Meeting at 7:00
Jan 5	Torah study at noon; SHORTY dinner at 6:00; Shabbat services at 7:30 – oneg hosts Richard and Walapa Marks 463-9574 and Susan and Tom Pereles 943-9040
Jan 12	Torah study at noon
Jan 18	Adult Education: Meet the Talmud (Part I) at 7:00 in the social hall
Jan 19	Torah study at noon
Jan 20	Tot Shabbat at 10:00am, Ushpizin film at 6:00 pm at THOI
Jan 21	Israeli film Lalechet al Mayim (Walk on Water) at 6:00 at Beth El
Jan 26	Torah study at noon
Jan 28	Tu B'Shevat seder at Religious School
Feb 2	Tu B'Shevat Seder at 6:00 – hosts AJ Hartung 337-6836 and Shirley Brand 949-0529 Shabbat Services at 7:30

Temple Contacts	Rabbi	Joe Blair	886-4091 or rabbi@thoi.org
	President	Lisa Solod	463-7637 or president@thoi.org
	Past President	Paul Klein	Pastpresident@thoi.org
	V. P. of Membership	Laurie Berman	885-2925 or membership@thoi.org
	V. P. of Building/Grounds	Michael Brown	885-3809 or building@thoi.org
	Secretary	Ruth Chodrow	886-2252 or secretary@thoi.org
	Treasurer	Laura Jean Brand	942-3656 or treasurer@thoi.org
	Director at large	Rachel Jordan	804-440-5839 or director-at-large@thoi.org
	Trustees	Doug Degen	886-8651 or trustees2@thoi.org
		Alan Goldenberg	trustees3@thoi.org
		Richard Young	885-1481 or trustees@thoi.org
	Cantorial Soloist	Sarah Grove-Humphries	885-4223 or cantor@thoi.org
	Temple Webmaven	Marcia C	website@thoi.org
	Bulletin Editor	Beth Young	885-1481 or bulletin@thoi.org
	Bulletin Circulation	A.J. Hartung	337-6836
	Shorty (youth group)	Sheri Alt	youth-group@thoi.org
	Religious School	Linda Kohn	religious-school@thoi.org
	Young Adults Group	Natasha Benenson.	young-adults@thoi.org
	Caring Committee	AJ Hartung	337-6836
		Rosalie	caring-committee1@thoi.org or
	Waterman	886-1713	
	Lou Boden	caring-committee2@thoi.org or	
		886-6059	
Film Series	Shirley Brand	949-0529 or films@thoi.org	

FOR TEMPLE HOUSE OF ISRAEL MEMBERS ONLY

PLEASE USE THE TEAR OFF SHEET BELOW TO CAST YOUR VOTE ON THE CHANGES IN THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS.

THESE CHANGES WERE SENT OUT IN ADVANCE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING. IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE EXACT WORDING, YOU CAN ASK FOR AN EMAIL OF THE FILE OR COME TO THE OFFICE TO LOOK IT OVER WHEN THE RABBI IS IN. IN GENERAL TERMS THEY ARE:

1. To add another director-at-large - the purpose of which is to have an odd number of board members.
2. The trustees requested they be non-voting members of the Board to avoid possible conflicts of interest.

ONE VOTE PER MEMBER (A HOUSEHOLD WITH TWO ELIGIBLE MEMBERS GETS TWO VOTES).

Votes can be sent to the Rabbi at P.O. Box 1412, Staunton VA 24402 or emailed at rabbi@thoi.org. Your vote must be received no later than January 15th at 8 pm. The first vote received from any individual will be the only one counted – so if you send in an email and a paper vote, only the first vote will be counted. Votes will be tallied by the Rabbi and reported to the board.

Your signature

FOR THE CHANGES

AGAINST THE CHANGES