



Temple House of Israel Bulletin

A Member Congregation of the Union for Reform Judaism
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From The Rabbi's Desk

My dear fellow Valley Jews and Friends,

Shalom!

I am writing this article in early January, in the midst of the very mild winter weather. The weather is unseasonably warm, and we are hoping for a cold snap to allow Massanutten to make snow for the Youth group ski weekend!

I am not sitting still and enjoying the weather! I have already been thinking ahead several months, talking to others, and making plans. I have been involved in discussions with several possible speakers, and an exciting series of programs is shaping up, including discussion on Israel and Security, Israeli Defense issues, another Holocaust survivor as a speaker, a presentation on the International Cemetery Restoration Project, and more!

The Calendar & Holidays

We are approaching the end of Tevet on January 19th, and the 20th is Rosh Chodesh (New Moon) for the month of Shevat. The next holiday we will celebrate is Tu Bi'Shevat (the 15th of Shevat) on February 3rd. This is the new year for the Trees, sort of a Jewish Arbor day, and we will have a seder and meal to celebrate the fruits of trees. This will take place this year at THOI, and will begin at 6:30 pm on Friday the 2nd. Make your reservations by contacting AJ Hartung.

This holiday has taken on aspects of Earth day and Thanksgiving, with ties to ecology, the environment, the harvest, sustainability, and Tikun Olam (repair of the world), and a touch of Halloween with the mystical aspects of Kabbalah. It is a fun, interesting, and thought provoking time to reflect on nature and our place in the world of creation. This is the basis for our Tu Bi'Shevat seder. Fun, good food and lots of symbols (not to mention four cups of wine – it helps get us prepared for Passover in April!). ☺ The seder on the 2nd will be geared more towards adults. We will also celebrate Tu Bi'Shevat in the Religious school with a seder – look for information elsewhere in this bulletin.

We have one of the special named Shabbatot (Sabbaths) on February 17th, the 29th of Shevat, called Shabbat Shekalim (the Sabbath of Shekels), when we read about the collection of the half-shekel from each eligible person for the upkeep of the Tabernacle. This is the text source in Torah for justifying the imposition of taxes, and for the obligation of each person to support the community's institutions.

Rosh Chodesh (New moon) for the month of Adar is on February 18th and 19th this year, and it is seen as a particularly happy month. Adar is the month of the year in which we celebrate Purim (March 4th), and the last month of the year before the month of Nisan, when we celebrate Passover! That is why it is said in rabbinic writings that 'the one who rejoices in the arrival of Adar increases joy in the world!'

The Congregational Calendar

- Allow me to point out some of the many things that are upcoming on our calendar:
- January 26th and 27th is a Bat Mitzvah at Beth El. Rachel Berger will be called to the Torah, and she and her family invite you to celebrate this simchah with them. Please RSVP so Ruth will know how many to expect for the Kiddush luncheon.
- January 28th is the Religious School celebration of Tu Bi'Shevat.
- February 1st at noon is the Interfaith Association meeting at EMU in the West dining room. Watch for more information to be coming soon.
- February 4th is an Adult Education Film series showing at Beth El. The movie will be a really lovely American film from a few years back called Driving Miss Daisy. The basic plot is the development of a strong friendship between an elderly southern Jewish woman and a Black handy-man her son hires as her driver in the 1950s and on. This was an award winning film, with Morgan Fairchild and Jessica Tandy, and showing powerful Jewish themes, and is truly worth seeing more than once. Don't miss it!
- February 8th is the next regular board meeting.
- February 10th will be a planning board retreat.
- February 10th will also be set up for the THOI Yard Sale.
- February 11th is the Yard Sale. If you can help, please do!
- February 16th invite all your friends and eat at L'Italia between 5 and 7 pm, and then come to Shabbat Services at THOI. If you call and make a reservation in advance (telling them you are with the group from the Temple, to be seated in the upstairs area) they will donate a portion of your bill to THOI! It's an easy way to get a good meal AND have someone else make a donation!
- February 17th is Tot Shabbat at THOI at 10 am. Contact Shelby at tot-shabbat@thoi.org.
- February 18th at 2 pm at Beth El is the first of three sessions in our Adult Education Interfaith Dialogue program. The sessions are planned as three hours each, including time to eat a meal together. We are looking for up to ten members of our congregation who would like to engage in a meaningful dialogue with a similar number of Christians from the Otterbein United Methodist Church. The other two sessions are scheduled for March 18th at 2 pm at Otterbein, and on April 29th at 2 pm at Beth El. We are using the Open Doors, Open Minds curriculum, which helps us to explore similarities and differences, and how each faith community uses their sacred text. We will use the Aseret Hadibrot (the 10 sayings, often called the Ten Commandments in the Christian language) as the major text, particularly for the third session. Since a large part of the program is building rapport, understanding, and trust between the participants, we must insist that only if you can commit to attend all three sessions should you sign up – changing players in the middle of the game doesn't work! If you are interested, or for more information, please be in touch with Rabbi Joe. Our numbers are strictly limited: once we fill the open slots, we cannot add any more participants to this program.
- Monday, February 19th, at 7 pm we have Talmud Torah Limud (Torah Learning), at Beth El. Bring a meal, and eat while you learn and talk! The focus of our study will be a little different than usual. Instead of focusing on the story of the Parashiot (Torah portions) for the month, we will turn to look at a

combination of Biblical and Rabbinic texts focusing on the topic of Tochechah (Reproof and/or Criticism) to try to arrive at some sense of when one should offer correction and when one should refrain. This should be a really interesting topic and a very relevant discussion topic for many or most of us in our day to day lives.

- February 22nd is another Adult Education offering: a one-session class on the Five Megillot. It will be at 7 pm at THOI. Plan to attend if you are curious about the five scrolls (the five scrolls/stories of Ester/Esther, Rut/Ruth, Eichah/Lamentations, Shir Hashirim/The Song of Solomon, and Kohelet/Ecclesiastes). We will look at their place in the Tanakh (Bible), when they are read, their major themes, and perhaps some of the imagery and poetry of each. Come and find out more!
- February 24th is the first of the three Religious School Field trips to services. We will be attending a Shabbat morning service in Charlottesville at one of three congregations. If you would like to go along to experience a different type of service, please speak to Rabbi Joe. The fourth field trip planned will be on April 15th to the Holocaust Museum. The tickets have already been purchased for the Religious school students, but they are readily available online or by phone, and you can order them if you would like to go to the museum along with the Religious School. If you would like to go along, please speak to Rabbi Joe so he can include you in plans for transportation.
- Sunday, February 25th, at 2 to 5 pm at THOI, we will hold a formal training session for those interested in the Chevrah Kadishah (the 'holy society' that deals with preparation of the dead) for all those interested. The Chevrah Kadishah training session will be led by two of the persons from Charlottesville who were instrumental in starting and training the Chevrah there, and they have agreed to help us as we initiate our Chevrah. Janet and Elayne (Dan is out of town) will be coming to teach us about what to do, and how to do it, in a real hands-on learning process. All who are interested or curious are welcome: if you have any possible interest in learning about the Chevrah, or might be interested in participating, or are just curious about what a Chevrah does, please put this session on your calendar and make every effort to attend. If you cannot attend but are interested, please let Rabbi Joe know. If you will be attending, also please let Rabbi Joe know. That way he can arrange for enough copies of materials for all interested persons.
- Intermediate Hebrew is scheduled to meet at THOI on Fridays at 5-6 pm. This class is intended for those who can readily decode Hebrew and want to improve their liturgy skills and general Hebrew reading abilities, and add a smattering of vocabulary. Contact Rabbi Joe for specific dates.
- The Congregational Trip to Israel is now set for August 5th to 15th. We still have room, so anyone you know who would be interested, and who would be fun to travel with should be encouraged to join us! We have flights from Richmond to Tel Aviv, upgraded hotels, and a fantastic itinerary, all for very reasonable price! Contact Rabbi Joe for more information.
- Don't forget to call or email the Caring Committee if you need anything, or know of someone who does.
- We continue to ask for your used books for The Final Draft. You can leave them in the office to be picked up. Remember, The Final Draft has moved further down Beverly and to the opposite side of the street, in larger quarters. Visit the new store!

<p>Reaching the Rabbi</p>	<p>The Rabbi is available this year on Sundays and Mondays in Harrisonburg, and Thursdays and Fridays in Staunton. If you wish to meet or speak with the rabbi, please email or call for an appointment to be sure that Rabbi Joe will be able to give you his full undivided attention, as 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>Lest we let winter doldrums make us lazy, please remember that no matter the season, Temple House of Israel needs you! I am pleased to report that several new members are getting involved in committees, but that still leaves lots of spaces for good workers still available. So, think about where you can volunteer, and when asked, please say “yes”.</p> <p>The upcoming February board meeting and planned board retreat are going to provide us (and you) with goals and missions for the future. We are working hard to make sure that THOI is with us for many years to come. But, and this bears repeating, we need each and every one of you to get on board in some way and make sure that happens!</p> <p>Remember, the Temple is a sacred space and it is our sacred duty to make sure it is a vital part of our lives and the larger community.</p> <p>Have a great February and as we head toward spring, please think about ways in which you can say Yes to THOI. ----- Lisa</p>
<p>Recap of January Board Meeting</p>	<p>Two programs are in the works: Polish cemetery project and security in Israel. ● A training session will be offered for the new Chevra Kadisha group. ● The board voted on a dues increase making family memberships \$800, individual memberships \$675 and students \$54. An optional donation of \$50 for the building fund is suggested. ● Lou Boden has joined the finance committee. ● Dinner at L’Italia is a fundraiser for the temple on February 16th. Make your reservations for 5:30-7:30 and mention that you’re part of the THOI group. ● Jewish film festival is planned for April 20-21 at the Visulite. ● Voted to remove one pew from each side of the sanctuary to increase spacing between remaining pews. The 2 pews removed would be cut and re-installed in the alcove off the bimah by David Waterman. Carpet would be trimmed to the aisle. ● Steven Guberman and his daughter Katerina have been approved as new members.</p>
<p>Noteworthy Congregational News</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Women’s Group is holding an INDOOR YARD SALE on Sunday, February 11 beginning at noon. Please bring your donations to the temple and leave them in the back hall, marked so we know what we can sell! ▪ The next board meeting will be February 8th at 7:00 pm. ▪ There is a board retreat on February 10th from 2-5 at Laurie Berman’s home. ▪ Make your dinner reservations at L’Italia for February 16th 5-7:30. 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. ▪ The URJ-MAC Small Congregations Kallah will be held on March 16-18 at Agudath Shalom Congregation in Lynchburg, VA. Friday night’s service will

	<p>include the joyous installation of the congregation's new rabbi. Workshops on Saturday and Sunday include sessions with the non-Jewish community. Ruth Chodrow will be presenting a workshop on learning Hebrew calligraphy. There will also be a Saturday morning Torah study and entertainment on Saturday evening. Saturday lunch and dinner and Sunday breakfast will be provided by Agudath Shalom. The cost of the Kallah is \$60 for the weekend with reasonable rooms reserved in the area. This is a great opportunity to meet other people in small congregations and take advantage of the URJ workshops. For more information and to register, email to mac@urj.org or call Lisa Helfman at 888-842-8242.</p>
<p>News of our Community</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Please Join Us Friday February 2nd 6:30 pm to celebrate with a TU B'SHEVAT SEDER \$12 per person* includes meal, wines and fruits RSVP to AJ Hartung 337-6836 *\$15 at the door</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We send our condolences to Marsha Pillet and her family on the death of her step-father Herb Lerner who passed away in Florida on January 8th. We wish Marsha strength and peace. ▪ Our sympathies also go to David and Rosalie Waterman on the passing of David's mother on December 28th. ▪ Mazel tov to Elana Brody for her outstanding CD release concert at the Blackfriars. It was fabulous! We wish her well at Berklee School of Music. ▪ Shelby Apple, who leads our Tot-Shabbat, is Camp Director for the Jewish Day Camp at CBI in Charlottesville. She's looking for senior and junior counselors for this summer's 6-week program, June 11th -July 20th. Applicants should have experience and love of working with children, be positive, upbeat and outgoing. Specialist's positions include sports, music, karate/martial arts, drama, crafts and nature. Please contact Shelby at tot-shabbat@thoi.org .
<p>Book Group</p>	<p>From AJ: "This is an extremely thought provoking book Tasha chose for us (<u>The Sunflower</u> by Simon Wiesenthal), as it not only covers numerous individual responses to guilt and forgiveness BUT also allows us to better understand where other religious and ethnic boundaries suffer the indescribable difficulties of a greater empathy between us all. We ourselves ponder enormously on the subject under the heading "Justice" through our Torah, others ponder differently, some very narrowly not, to my eye, only my opinion, giving us the unquestionable privilege afforded us to question.</p> <p>Come question with us on <u>How to get More out of being Jewish</u> on Wednesday the February 21st at 7:30 at Janet's. We are still contemplating our choice for March, so.... You may have one."</p>
<p>News from the Women's Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Our yard sale will be held Sunday, February 11th beginning at noon. Bring your gently-used-but-no longer-needed goodies to donate to the temple between February 2-12. 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. Help is also needed for selling, organizing and

	<p>managing the cash box beginning at noon. Please contact Shirley (949-0529 or shirley.brand@gmail.com) to offer your help.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We are in need of a scrapbook editor to compile the various articles and photos we continue to collect. 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 February: Jesse Brand on February 2nd Freddy Goldenberg on the 8th Miriam Freedman on the 9th Sara Brody will be 16 years old on the 13th Iris Rubin on the 14th Vera Flint on the 17th Kasey Goldenberg on the 24th</p>
B'nai Mitzvah	<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>
Religious School	<p>Roberta Stein, the religious school music director, has begun a preschool music class that takes place during the beginning of the Sunday School morning each week. If your child is not yet old enough to attend Religious School, bring him or her to a fun, interactive parent-child music class to sing and dance (at no charge!). Thanks to Roberta for providing this wonderful opportunity to the preschool children of our congregations. Contact her at robertastein52@aol.com for more information.</p> <p><u>Join us for the Religious School Tu B'Shevat seder on January 28th.</u></p> <p>Other upcoming Religious School events include the Gimel and Daled students' field trip together to attend and then discuss Conservative Shabbat Services in Charlottesville on February 10th, the Daled class going to three additional field trips this year: Orthodox/Chabad services tentatively in March, and Renewal services in April. There will be a field trip on Yom Hasho'ah to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, April 15th and our Purim celebration on Sunday, March 4th.</p> <p>Our co-principal, Dara Hall, would like to thank everyone for their prayers and well wishes when she broke her right arm and sprained her left wrist on Nov. 30th. She is back with us post-surgery, out of her cast and doing well!</p> <p>Additional thanks to the Stein family for their donation of an overhead projector. And, as always, thank you to the teachers and parents who help make our Religious School run so successfully each week.</p> <p>Best regards, ----- Dara, Linda and Ruth</p>
Adult Education	<p>Torah Parashiot</p> <p>Torah parashiot (weekly portions) for this month include Beshallah, Yitro, Mishpatim, and Terumah, in Shemot (Exodus) 13:17 to 27:19.</p> <p>Included among the topics in these readings are the stories of the roundabout wandering in the wilderness, the pursuit by the Egyptian army and the destruction of the army at the sea, the parting of the sea, the song of Moses, the murmurings of the people against Moses and Aaron, the attack of Amalek, the story of Yitro and the establishment of a system of judges, the covenant with the people at Sinai, the Ten</p>

	<p>sayings, the laws concerning servants/slaves, the laws of torts, damages, agency, and restitution, laws against false oaths, and other miscellaneous matters, consecration of the people, the directions for the mishkan (tabernacle) and the offering of the people to G-d to build the mishkan.</p> <p>General Adult Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Intermediate Hebrew is open to 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. We have been meeting from 5 to 6 pm on Fridays. Contact Rabbi Joe for details. ▪ Introductory Hebrew is continuing, generally at 6 to 7 pm on Thursdays. Contact Rabbi Joe for the dates. ▪ February 19th at 7 pm will be Torah study at BE. We will look at the concept of Tochechah (reproof and criticism) in Torah and Rabbinic texts. Bring a meal and eat while we study. ▪ Torah Lishmah takes place every Friday at noon at THOI. Come to talk Torah. Bring your lunch! ▪ February 2nd is our Tu Bi'Shevat seder. Details in News of our Community. ▪ February 22nd at 7 pm is an Adult Education program at THOI on the Five Megillot. ▪ February 25th will be our Chevrah Kadishah training session at 2 pm. ▪ Ever wonder what other congregations close to our size are like, or how they do things? Here is your chance to find out! Come to the Small Congregations Kallah, March 16th to 18th in Lynchburg. Speak to Rabbi Joe or Lisa Solod for more information.
Judaica Shop	<p>If you have any specific needs, please let AJ know at 337-3863. There are lots of new items to see and catalogs are available. Pesach requests are being taken now and orders will be placed shortly.</p>
Youth Group and Confirmation Class	<p>Shorty had a successful fund-raising (chicken instead of spaghetti!) dinner at THOI with a Shabbat service on January 5th, and the ski-weekend (actually, they did the water park) at Beth El on the 19th to 21st.</p> <p>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! ☺</p>
Young Adults	<p>“OK guys and gals – let’s get the Beth El and THOI young adult group going again. I have a few ideas and would love to hear some of yours! On <u>February 16th, THOI is having a fundraising dinner at L’Italia</u>, a really great Italian restaurant in Staunton from 5-7:30. What do you all think about dinner there and then services afterwards at THOI? <u>Let me know by February 1st</u> and I’ll make the reservations.</p> <p>April 20-21 there will be a Jewish Film festival at the Visulite. Let me know if you are interested and I will send more information as it becomes available.</p> <p>Any other ideas? We would love to hear them!!” --- Natasha Benenson</p>
Tot Shabbat	<p>For the past year and a half, Jewish programming for preschool aged children and their families has been flourishing. One the third Saturday of the month, families gather together to spend a wonderful Shabbat morning at THOI. Each Tot Shabbat</p>

	<p>program has a different theme. Some months coordinate with timely Jewish holidays while others focus on the beauty of Shabbat. A core group of 6 or 7 families (from THOI and Beth El) come regularly and new families are <u>always</u> welcome.</p> <p>Programming consists of music, stories – by using books and a felt board, interactive crafts and homemade challah! Projects we have done in the past include making our own challah and challah trays, making tzadekah boxes, making handprint menorahs, challah covers, seder plates and so much more!</p> <p>The goal of the program is to get young children interested in their Judaism in a fun, interactive environment. We also want to create a love of learning about their religion as well as a venue for parents with preschool aged children to get together and meet each other. We strive to create positive Jewish memories that can be carried with them as they grow.</p> <p>For more information about Tot Shabbat, or to come to our next program on February 17th at 10AM at THOI, please contact Shelby Apple at tot-shabbat@thoi.org.</p>		
Film Series	<p>Join us Saturday, February 17th at 6:00 for the classic film Fiddler on the Roof. Bring your own brown bag supper, and Shirley Brand will supply the dessert.</p> <p>Mark Your Calendars now for the THOI Jewish Film Festival at the Visulite Theater April 20th and 21st! There will be a variety of films, great food, and lots to see and enjoy! Watch for more information soon. Be there or be square!</p>		
Notes from the Editor	<p>If you'd like to include anything, please have your information, comments and suggestions to me by February 20th for the March newsletter.</p>		
Donations	<p>Thank you to these generous people who have made contributions to the Temple during the previous month. We greatly appreciate your donations!</p> <p>In memory of Karen Blair's mother..... Rafael and Shirley Brand For the building fundPaul Klein</p>		
From the Web Maven	<p>If you haven't yet visited the Rabbi's web-log (blog), you should! Find it online at http://thoi.org/blog/</p> <p>Rabbi Joe writes of the issues on his mind and information that he believes congregants and people around the world might enjoy. We have also created the blog so that temple members can log their thoughts on themes related to Judaism in a small community. If you are interested in contributing to the blog, please contact the Rabbi who can help you get started.</p>		
Yahrzeits for February	Melvin James Berman	Bernard Boden	Moshe Cohen
	B. Edelman	Irving Goldberg	David Goldstein
	Henrietta Frankfurt Goldstein	Fannie Greenstone	Hyman Greenstone
	Minnie Munich Klein	Oscar Mindell	Hiah Neuger
	Harry Patterson	Betty Robins	Leah Schneider
	Jerome Seligmann	Becky Greenberg Shapiro	Dorothy Sragovitz
	Regina Barth Strauss	Minnie C. Switzer	Minnie C. Switzer
	Albert Williams	Rose Zultowski	

February				1	2 Torah study at noon Tu B'Shevat seder at 6:30 Shabbat services at 8:00	3
4 Religious School	5	6	7	8 Temple Board meet at 7:00	9 Torah study at noon	10 Set up for yard sale 9:30 Board retreat 2-5
11 Yard Sale Final set up 10:00 Doors open at noon	12	13	14	15	16 Torah study at noon Dinner at L'Italia 5-7 Services at 7:30	17 Tot Shabbat at 10:00 "Fiddler on the Roof" film at 6:00
18 Religious School	19	20	21 Book group 7:30 at Janet Brody's	22 Adult Ed at 7:00 The Five Megillot	23 Torah study at noon	24
25 Religious School Chevrah Kadishah training session 2-5 pm	26	27	28			

Feb 2	Torah study at noon; Tu B'Shevat Seder and dinner at 6:30; Shabbat services at 8:00
Feb 8	Temple Board meeting at 7:00
Feb 9	Torah study at noon
Feb 10	Set up for the yard sale beginning at 9:30 Board retreat 2-5
Feb 11	YARD SALE beginning at noon
Feb 16	Torah study at noon Fundraising dinner at L'Italia – Make your reservations 5-7 Shabbat Services at 7:30 – Natasha Benenson 886-1157 and Linda Singer 886-4828 hosts
Feb 17	Tot Shabbat at 10:00 Fiddler on the Roof film at 6:00. Bring your own dinner and Shirley will provide dessert.
Feb 21	Book group How to Get More out of being Jewish at 7:00 at Janet Brody's home
Feb 22	Adult Education at 7:00: The Five Megillot
Feb 23	Torah study at noon

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