



# Temple House of Israel Bulletin

A Member Congregation of the Union for Reform Judaism  
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*Our mission is to perpetuate Jewish life and identity through a welcoming community of spirituality, learning, service, joy and worship.*

**February 2008, Shevat/Adar I 5768**

## **From the Rabbi's Desk**

### **My dear fellow Valley Jews and Friends,**

Shalom! Tu Bi'Shevat (the new year for the trees) passed just recently, marking the rising of sap in the trees, leading to buds and then flowers, which means we are moving towards Spring! That is welcome news after the sudden snow and ice we suffered through recently.

### **The Jewish Calendar & Holidays**

**SHEVAT → ADAR 1**

Rosh Chodesh (the New Month) for Shevat took place on the 8<sup>th</sup> of January. Shevat ends on February 6<sup>th</sup>, and Rosh Chodesh for Adar 1 will be on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of February. Adar 1 will run until the 7<sup>th</sup> of March, and Rosh Chodesh for Adar 2 will fall on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of March.

You may have noted that this month is identified as Adar 1 – that means this is one of the leap years in the Jewish calendar cycle. In the seven leap years during the course of the nineteen year cycle we add a full month after Adar, and it's also called Adar. We differentiate the two months by calling them Adar 1 and Adar 2. When there is only one month of Adar, we simply call it Adar. This insertion of a leap-month is why the Jewish holidays (and dates on the Jewish calendar) seem to jump around on the secular calendar. In a leap year, the holidays following Adar seem to come 'late', and in subsequent years to move 'earlier' each year, until the next leap year.

One of the trivia facts that I shared with the children in religious school is that it would not happen that we would have a silly result as in the story of The Pirates of Penzance (Gilbert & Sullivan), where a man born on February 29<sup>th</sup> on the secular calendar would only have had 5 birthdays after he had lived 21 years (a most amusing paradox, as the song goes). If a birthday occurs in Adar 2, in years without Adar 2, it falls on the same number day of the month in Adar. So a person whose birthday is the 5<sup>th</sup> of Adar 2 would celebrate their birthday on the 5<sup>th</sup> of Adar in years with no month of Adar 2. We see this in practice each year, because Purim falls on the 14<sup>th</sup> of Adar 2 – in non-leap years, it is celebrated on the 14<sup>th</sup> of Adar.

### **The Congregational Calendar/Events**

Our upcoming services are scheduled for February 8th, 16th (Shabbat morning) and 22nd.

Recently, we had Tu Bi'Shevat (the 15th of Shevat, also known as the New Year for the Trees). It fell this year on the 22nd of January. We held a seder (an

ordered liturgy and meal) to talk about it and to use the produce of trees as the food at the seder on the 25th of January. This is very similar to Passover, in that there too, we have food as symbols, and we consume the symbols (we are what we eat!). ☺

January 13th was the Interfaith Peace Celebration, and the two congregations were co-sponsors of the event. It was quite nice. People from several churches, both of our congregations, and the mosque all attended and had a nice time and an opportunity to talk about peace, and what we can each do to help bring it about, support, and sustain it locally, nationally, and globally. Over two hundred people attended! I am sure this will be done again next year. I hope many of you will choose to participate.

On February 3rd at 3 pm we will have a Song Session. Come, learn old and new melodies and songs for our services. • Don't forget to mark your calendar for the **Religious School Shabbat on February 15th at Beth El**. • On the 24th at 3 pm, there will be a concert by Lyrissa. Invite friends, neighbors, and whoever would enjoy great music in a lovely setting. No tickets required, though we request a donation, and suggest \$10/person, \$5 for students.

Looking ahead, the **Shenandoah Valley Holocaust Education** project continues March 6th to 12th. On March 9th, Norman Weinberg will be speaking to us at the Blackfriars Theatre at 7 pm. Mr. Weinberg is a director of the Poland Jewish Cemetery Restoration Project. He will tell us about the work he and others are doing with Polish people, many of them youth and children, who are lovingly restoring Jewish cemeteries that were systematically destroyed by the Nazis, who used the headstones and walls to build roads and buildings. This is an incredible story of hope and reconciliation. If you cannot be there at 7, you have another opportunity that afternoon, when Mr. Weinberg will speak at Beth El at 1. Also, be on the lookout for further information about other events in this project. It is taking place over a week and there are many different programs scattered between Waynesboro, Fishersville, Staunton, and Harrisonburg. Included are plays, readings, survivor speakers, and discussions. A brochure should be coming your way soon. Hold room in your busy calendar for this - it will be worth your time!

Please know that we always seek congregant and guest participation in services throughout the year. If you are interested in taking a role in a service, please be in touch. Roles include: reading Torah, reading Haftarah, delivering a Devar Torah, serving as Gabbai (the "MC" for the Torah service), an English reading, or having an honor. The Honors we usually confer include being called up for an Aliyah (saying the blessings for the Torah or the Haftarah), serving as Hagbah (lift, hold, and carry the Torah), Gelilah (undressing and dressing the Torah), or Petichah Usegurah (opening and closing the Ark).

In March in addition to the Shenandoah Valley Holocaust Education Week, the Bat Mitzvah of Amber Pearson; and a Lecture and matinee Performance of The Jew Of Malta.

You can stay warm by participating in all the activities, programs and events we are holding. ☺

B'virkat shalom (with blessings for peace),

Rabbi Joe Blair

<p><b>Reaching the Rabbi</b></p>	<p>The office is not staffed and the building is generally closed when the rabbi is not there. In the event of an urgent need the rabbi may be contacted by email or telephone. Messages are regularly checked at both congregations, and email is frequently read. Please understand that the rabbi will not be available or reply on Shabbat or on Jewish holidays unless it is an emergency that cannot wait. In that case, please be sure to express the need for an urgent response.</p> <p>The Rabbi is available this year by prior arrangement. If you wish to meet or speak with the rabbi, please email or call for an appointment.</p> <p>Rabbi Joe’s Email: <a href="mailto:RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com">RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com</a>  Beth El Congregation 540-434-2744  Temple House of Israel 540-886-4091  Cell phone (for emergencies)  [Does not have full coverage – leave a message] 434-981-3959</p>
<p><b>Message from the President</b></p>	<p>Dear Congregants:</p> <p>You will find that our dues have been raised for the coming year. This is in order to keep our temple thriving and viable and to ensure our having a rabbi now and in the future. The raise may seem high but our dues have long been much lower than other temples our size and we have been gently raising them in the past years in order to meet our needs. We think Temple House of Israel offers good value for money, as the Brits would say, and hope you realize that our dues pay for not only the rabbi, but the upkeep of the building, the utilities, the physical plant in general, and for all the programs that we enjoy.</p> <p>Please take advantage of all our temple has to offer. Check the announcements weekly, read the bulletin for concerts, lectures, and special programs and come join us in all the wonderful things we do.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">.....Lisa Solod Warren</p>
<p><b>Noteworthy Congregational News</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>On Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00, Sarah Grove-Humphries will lead a song session at Temple House of Israel.</b> We will work on any service music folks request help with, learn old and new melodies and songs and have a great time.</li> <li>▪ <b>February 8<sup>th</sup> there will be a Talmud Torah Lishmah (Torah Study) at 6:30,</b> followed by Shabbat service at 7:30. Bring a meal and join us as we talk about Torah. No prior experience required!</li> <li>▪ <b>February 16<sup>th</sup> we will have a Shabbat morning service at 10 am</b> at THOI. It will be followed by a Talmud Torah Lishmah (Torah study). All are welcome to come and join in.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"> <b>Come to Temple House of Israel’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual  L’Italia Night Fundraiser  Friday, February 22  5:00-7:30, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  <u>Call for Reservations now at 885-0102</u></b> </p> <p>and identify yourselves as being part of the ‘Temple Group’ at the time of your call and to your wait staff when you arrive. Bring friends, invite your neighbors, hold a party! L’Italia gives us 20% of their gross proceeds, so it is a great way to have fun, enjoy a delicious dinner and earn money for our Temple at the same time</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ On <b>Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup></b> there will be a mitzvah day specifically to help <b>restore the Temple scrapbooks</b>. Pages need to be removed, replaced on acid-free paper (which will be supplied) and re-organized. If you'd like to help, please come to the social hall at <b>1:00 pm</b>. And if you'd like to add to our collective memory, please feel free to submit an article or photograph and join us February 17<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>▪ On <b>February 24<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm</b>, join us for a concert by <b>Lyrissa</b>. Invite friends, neighbors, and whoever would enjoy great music in a lovely setting. No tickets required, though we request a donation, and suggest \$10/person, \$5 for students.</li> <li>▪ Nancy Witt said to the board "Talking about dying won't kill you" and introduced a topic all of us should deal with, sooner rather than later. If you would like to prepare in advance and answer some of the questions about what kind of funeral you want, there is a document available. Rabbi Joe has prepared a basic questionnaire entitled "Elements of My Jewish Funeral: My Wishes". Please contact the Rabbi if you'd like this information.</li> <li>▪ If you know a group that would like to rent our sanctuary or social hall, please ask them to get in touch with Ruth Chodrow. The churches who have rented from us during the past year have found other space.</li> <li>▪ As Lisa said in her president's message, the Board voted to increase dues in order to meet the needs of our temple community. You will be getting notices from our treasurer, Ellen Boden, reflecting the new rates: \$925 for a family unit and \$800 for a single.</li> <li>▪ The next <b>board meeting will be February 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm</b>. Meetings are open to all congregants. If you have any issues for board discussion, please convey them to Lisa Warren ahead of time so they can be considered for inclusion on the agenda.</li> </ul>
<p><b>News of our Community</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wishes for a continued recovery to Margie Schwartz who broke her ankle in December and says she "collecting titanium plates". The newest one was put into her ankle during surgery December 13<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>▪ Steve Guberman is representing the Augusta County area, coordinating a self help group for those with Multiple Sclerosis. If you know anyone who has MS or would like additional information, the group meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 at the Mary Switzer Building at the Woodrow Wilson Rehab Center. Please call Steve at 943-3735 for more information.</li> <li>▪ Our thoughts and prayers go to Amber Pearson, Helen Prince, Nancy Witt, Rafael Brand, Marsha Pillet and her mother Claire Lerner, Helene Berman-Seidenfeld (Laurie Berman's mother) and Fredi Solod (Lisa Solod Warren's mother), Sue Rosenthal, Ken Schwartz, Lynn Landsberg, Dan Schorsch, AJ Hartung, Janet Phillips, Paul Klein for Caterina Janicker and Betty Menaker all of whom are in need of healing.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Film Festival</b></p>	<p><b>The Film Festival will run from April 11 – 17</b> and will include food, tours of the temple, discussion groups as well as films. <b>We need your help to make this fundraiser a success!</b> Please contact Laurie Berman at 885-2925 to offer your assistance.</p>
<p><b>Adult Education</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Please come to the Talmud Torah Lishmah Friday, February 8th at 6:30, just before services. Bring your meal and join us to talk about Torah, and then stay for services at 7:30.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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 serve as a gabbai, or you wish to discuss conversion, please be in touch with Rabbi Joe. Similarly, if you feel a conversation with the Rabbi would be of benefit to you, please be in touch with the Rabbi to make an appointment. You can call or email</li> </ul> <p><b>Torah Parashiot</b></p> <p>Torah parashiot (Torah portions) read for the period covered by this newsletter include: Mishpatim, Terumah, Tetzaveh, and Ki Tisa. These are drawn from Shemot (Exodus) 21:1-34:35.</p> <p>Haftarot read this month include readings from Jeremiah 33-34, 1 Kings 5, Ezekiel 43, and 1 Kings 18.</p>
<b>Youth Group</b>	Shorty led services at THOI and Beth El as part of their Ski Weekend events. This was a huge success once again. If you weren't there, you missed great services.
<b>Book Group</b>	Our next meeting will be on <b>Jan. 30, 2008 at 7:30 pm at Janet Brody's</b> home to discuss <u>The World is Flat</u> by Thomas Friedman, the columnist from the New York Times. Leah Farmer will be leading the discussion.
<b>News from the Women's Group</b>	<p>Start gathering your stuff for our <b>Indoor Yard Sale, scheduled for March 16<sup>th</sup></b>. Shirley Brand has agreed to chair the event, but needs your help. Please call her at 949-0529 if you can help set up on Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> beginning at 10 and/or help sell on Sunday beginning at noon. Please bring your items to the temple Thursday through Saturday, March 13-15.</p> <p><i>Birthdays to be happily celebrated in February:</i></p> <p>Jesse Brand on February 2nd          Freddy Goldenberg on the 8th          Miriam Freedman on the 9<sup>th</sup>          Sara Brody celebrating 17 years on the 13<sup>th</sup>          Iris Rubin on the 14<sup>th</sup>          Matt Singer on the 16<sup>th</sup>, in his new home on the eastern shore          Vera Flint on the 17<sup>th</sup>          Kasey Goldenberg on the 24<sup>th</sup></p>
<b>Judaica Shop</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Our February Special will be jewelry in honor of Valentine's Day.</b></li> <li><b>Special children's gift bags for Passover are available for \$15.</b> They include Passover coloring and activity sheets, crayons, stickers, make-your-own Afikomen bag kit and a Passover themed toy.</li> <li>Also available is a <b>Passover Starter Kit for \$30</b> which includes a hostess set, tin seder plate and matzo sweeper.</li> </ul> <p>Please place your order by April 1<sup>st</sup> so we can have time to prepare the gift bags and kits in plenty of time for you to pick them up. Contact Natasha at 886-1157 or <a href="mailto:nhbenenson@hotmail.com">nhbenenson@hotmail.com</a>.</p>
<b>Notes from the Editor</b>	If you have comments and suggestions, I'd love to hear from you – contact me at <a href="mailto:bulletin@thoi.org">bulletin@thoi.org</a> . Also, if you are interested in helping put together the bulletin each month beginning over the summer, we would love to hear from you too.

<b>Yahrzeits for February</b>	Melvin James Berman	Oscar Mindell	Dorothy Sragovitz
	Moshe Cohen	Hiah Neuger	Regina Barth Strauss
	B. Edelman	Harry Patterson	Mae Hare Suskins
	Irving Goldberg	Betty Robins	Minnie C. Strauss
	David Goldstein	Leah Schneider	Albert C. Switzer
	Henrietta Goldstein	Jerome Seligmann	Rose Zultowski
	Fannie Greenstone	Beckie Shapiro	
	Hyman Greenstone		

<b>FEBRUARY</b>					1	2
3 3:00 Song Session	4	5	6	7	8 Torah study at 6:30; Shabbat services at 7:30	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Religious School Shabbat at Beth El, 7:30	16 Shabbat services at 10:00
17 Temple Scrapbook repair workshop 1:00 pm	18 Board Meeting at 7:00	19	20	21	22 Shabbat services at 7:30	23
24 3:00 Lyrissa Concert at the temple	25	26	27	28	29	

Much more coming in March! Watch for the weekly announcements and the next bulletin which will list all the activities for the Shenandoah Valley Holocaust Education Week.

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