

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
www.thoi.org

Our mission is to perpetuate Jewish life and identity through a welcoming community of spirituality, learning, service, joy and worship.

Shevat > Adar (February) 2010



Haiti Relief Fund

The Reform Jewish community has a long history of generosity when natural disasters devastate communities around the world. Your generosity at this critical time enables us to play a role in recovery efforts and bring healing and hope to those whose lives have been affected. Donations to the Union for Reform Judaism Haiti Relief Fund can be made on-line or by check (note: Haiti Relief in the memo section) to:

Union for Reform Judaism
Attention: Development
633 Third Avenue, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10017

As you probably know, the Union has been engaged in disaster relief efforts for many years and has developed considerable expertise in this arena. The Union has significant contacts in place both in the community-at-large and within the Jewish community, and works with other organizations such as the JDC and AJWS to identify appropriate partners and ensure our resources are used where we can make an impact. Unlike other organizations, which often retain up to 15% of donations for overhead, the Union takes no administrative costs from relief donations, with the exception of direct expenses such as credit card fees.

Our President

Dear Members and Friends,

February brings more rain and cold – yuck! But there are plans afoot to bring sunshine into your lives. The second installment of our book discussion *Witnesses to the One* will be held on February 7th – come join us. To add to our regularly scheduled services on Feb 12th and 26th, the service on the 12th is an opportunity to invite friends to a *Community Awareness Shabbat* which coincides this year with *Evolution Weekend*. Rabbi Joe will speak of the compatibility of religion and science.

Planning ahead, please mark your calendars for two special events featuring cookbook author Tina Wasserman on March 2nd for a cooking class during the morning (limited to 18 participants) and her evening presentation, an *Edible Lecture* that includes tasting recipes from her book, **Entrée to Jewish Cooking**. Her book explores the history of Jewish food throughout the globe. Spread the word to all the foodies you know. Seating is limited and reservations are necessary. See the attached flyer for full details.

Also coming in March, join us for the **3rd Annual Staunton Jewish Film Festival** to be held this year at Mary Baldwin's Francis Auditorium on the 19th - 21st. Your participation is encouraged, wanted, needed, anticipated and just plain good for all of us.

Share your knowledge!

Beth

From The Rabbi's Desk

My dear fellow Valley Jews and Friends,

Shalom. With this article, I am trying out a new philosophy in regard to writing, along the lines of 'less is more'. ☺

Holidays

In the month of February on our secular calendar this year the only periodic holiday we will encounter is Purim (the feast of lots – so called because the villain drew lots to pick the day for the destruction of the Jews, but the day was saved and the situation turned around, leading to a joyous, festive, and mischievous observance!).

Part of, but prior to the celebration of Purim, there is on the calendar a sunup to sundown fast associated with it, Ta'anit Ester, the fast of Esther. This fast is to commemorate the three day fast described that Esther undertook and enjoined on all the Jews of Shushan prior to her going to see the king without being summoned, thereby immediately endangering her life in her quest to save her people. Because we are not permitted to fast on Shabbat, the observance of this fast is pushed back this year to Thursday, 11 Adar/25 February.

Purim itself is on the 14th of Adar, which falls on Saturday evening February 27th and Sunday, February 28th (days on the Jewish calendar run from sundown to sundown). On Purim we read Megillat Ester, the scroll on which the story of Esther and Mordechai is told. Sunday, February 28th Purim Celebration starting at 10:30 am at Beth El: Rabbi Joe's speedy Megillah reading, the Religious school Purim Performance, and the Purim Carnival.

This is a favorite holiday, especially with children; a time to dress up, get treats, make noise, and have a party. A favorite food is Hamantaschen, called Ozney Haman in Hebrew; these are three sided pocket cookies with sweet fillings.

It is customary to send gifts to friends and family, which are called Mishloach Manot (sent portions). These are usually small portions of sweet treats, usually including Hamantaschen and two or three other tasty delicacies.

At the same time, not forgetting our obligation to those in need, it is also customary to send Mishloach Manot to them; but these are often more substantive, frequently including or in the form of money. In modern times, this has become a time to remember particularly those in need of food and shelter, and to make larger than usual donations to support the needs in these areas at this time of year. I take this opportunity to remind you of a few of the worthy organizations that support these needs locally, including the Harts shelter program, the Food Bank, Food Pantry, First Step, Valley Mission, the Volunteer Farm, and New Directions. On a broader scope, taking in the desperate needs in Haiti and elsewhere in the world, AJWS, JWI, UJC, and Modest Needs. (The URJ collects funds to support causes, but in regard to disaster relief, URJ generally is not a direct provider, instead serving as a pass-through channel, and often giving through the organizations I have listed.). Please feel free to speak to me about any of these organizations, or others, that would be worthy of your support.

Torah Parashiot

The Torah parashiot (Torah portions) read for the period covered by this newsletter include the following: In February the Torah Parashiot will be Yitro, Mishpatim, Terumah, and Tetzaveh, drawn from Shemot (Ex.) 18:1-30:10, and Devarim (Deut.) 25:17-19. Haftarot read on Shabbatot (Sabbaths) in February include selections from Isaiah 6-7, 2 Kings 11-12 (Shabbat Shekalim), 1 Kings 5-6, and 1 Samuel 15 (Shabbat Zachor).

The Calendar

Shevat (a 30 day month) began January 16th, and runs until February 14th. Adar begins on February 15th, and runs until March 15th. Rosh Chodesh for Adar (a 29 day month) is two days, February 14th and 15th. Rosh Chodesh for Nisan (a 30 day month) will be March 16th.

Events

Thursday evening, February 4th is the next scheduled **Adult Education** session at Beth El. We will view two half hour lectures by Professor A.J. Levine, and then open a discussion on the topic of the book of Judges. This is a meaty text, with lots of tragedy and sexual tension. I will lead the discussion following the lectures, and hope to see you there.

Saturday, February 6th is the next scheduled *Kinderlachen* session at THOI. It will be at 10 am. Kinderlachen is a preschool play group with a little Jewish content, open to anyone in our area who wishes to attend. Please RSVP to Rabbi Joe – there is a minimum of three children attending for the session to take place. The focus for this month will be Purim.

Friday, February 12th at 7:30 pm will be part of our participation in **Evolution Weekend**, there will be Shabbat services at THOI. The sermon at each service will touch on the compatibility of religion and science. In addition, the service at THOI is the second *Community Awareness Shabbat* of this congregational year, and anyone interested in observing or experiencing a Jewish service is invited to come.

Sunday afternoon, February 14th, at 2-3 pm, at Beth El is the next *Women in the Tanakh* (Jewish Bible) discussion. All are welcome to join in our conversation. We have been following along in the book of Shemot/Exodus, but this session we will turn our attention to the Megillat Ester and the concept of Esther as a CEO. Next session, March 28th, we will return to the midwives Shifrah and Puah, Tziporah (wife of Moses), then return to Miriam (as time permits).

Sunday evening February 7th we will continue a **discussion group** at THOI at 6 pm. We will announce the next meeting at that session, or call Rabbi Joe for information on the following dates. Starting January 24th we began a discussion group around a book entitled “Witnesses to the One: The Spiritual History of the Shema” by Rabbi Joseph B. Meszler. The publisher is Jewish Lights Publishing (www.Jewishlights.com) This book looks at the Shema through the eyes of Jewish thinkers through the ages (something like the book “G-d was in this place, and I, i did not know” by Lawrence Kushner). All who are interested in this discussion are welcome to join in; you do not need to have attended the prior discussion. I think you will find this book worth reading. I expect to meet more or less every other week for an hour and a half or two hours at most, to discuss one of the ten thinkers and/or chapters. We will see how far we get. ☺ This is open to congregants from both THOI and Beth El, and anyone else who wishes to participate.

Congregational Trip to Israel

At this point, we are looking at just over a year to the planned congregational trip to Israel, open to members of both Beth El and THOI, as well as family and friends who would want to join us. This trip is planned to take place in late February or March of 2011. We now have nine people in the two congregations who have expressed interest. The group rate will be lower if we have more people traveling with us. Interested? Please speak to me.

Interfaith Opportunities

Thursday, February 4th at 12-1:30 pm, Interfaith Assoc. meets at EMU West Dining Room.

Pastoral Care

If you feel a conversation with the rabbi on any topic would be of benefit to you, please be in touch to make an appointment. You can call or email Rabbi Joe as listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Service Participation

Please know that we seek congregant and guest participation in services throughout the year. If you are interested in leading a lay service, or in taking a role in a service, please be in touch with (at THOI) Lisa Solod, Beth Young, Don Chodrow, or Ellen Werther, and (at Beth El) Margee Greenfield, Sherri Alt, or Gary Stein. You are also welcome to talk with Rabbi Joe about participation. If you are interested in singing at our services, please be in touch with Sarah Grove-Humphries at THOI or Ron Ornstein at Beth El, our able coordinators for music at worship services.

Celebrations: If you are interested in studying for and celebrating an adult B'nai Mitzvah, or in learning to leyn (read/chant) Torah and/or Haftarah, or to lead services, or serve as a gabbai, please be in touch with the rabbi.

Jewish Study: If you are interested in or wish to consider conversion, or you just want to learn more about Judaism (whether you are Jewish or not), please be in touch with the rabbi.

Caring Committee: This group has been doing wonderful things in helping and supporting those in our community who may have some needs for assistance or support. If you can volunteer, please speak with Rosalie Waterman, Lou Boden, or Beth Young.

Chevrah Kadishah: This group functions to prepare and dress a body for burial in accordance with the Halachic (Jewish legal) requirements, showing care and concern for the deceased. Members are not publicly acknowledged nor is it made public who has been involved in this mitzvah. Thank G-d, we have not had too many opportunities to respond, but we do need to be ready when the need arises. If you have any interest in participating in performing this mitzvah, please speak with Rabbi Joe.

Closing

This has been a very hard winter in our community. We can look forward to the imminent arrival of Purim as a sign that change is possible, and in fact, will be coming, with better days ahead for all of us. May you be healthy, warm, and secure in the embrace of those who care for you.

Rabbi Joe Blair

Reaching the Rabbi

The rabbi is available by appointment. If you wish to meet or speak with the rabbi, please email or call to set an appointment time. In that way, the rabbi will be able to respond and give you his full attention, as you deserve. Please note: the rabbi does not read or respond to email on Shabbat or holidays.

In the event of an emergency, the rabbi may be contacted by telephone. In that case, please call the cell phone number listed: if you reach voicemail, please leave a message, speaking clearly, with your name, telephone numbers, the topic, and if an emergency, please be sure to express the need for an urgent response. The rabbi will respond as soon as possible.

Rabbi Joe's Email:	RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com
Beth El Congregation	540-434-2744
Temple House of Israel	540-886-4091
Cell phone (Please use this # for emergencies)	434-981-3959

THOI 3RD ANNUAL
STAUNTON JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL, MARCH 19-21 @ MBC

Service Honors	This is the lineup for honors in our services in the coming month. If you see your name on the list and cannot be available for that honor on that day, please email or call Lisa Solod at lisasolod@gmail.com, or 540-886-1603. If you wish to be called on for an honor at some future date, please let Lisa, Ellen Werther, or Rabbi Joe know. Thank you.			
	Date of Service	January 28	February 12	February 26
	Special Events	Shabbat Shira	Community Awareness & Evolution Weekend	Shabbat Zachor
	Honors	Person	Person	Person
	Shaliach Tzibbur	Rabbi Joe	Rabbi Joe	Rabbi Joe
	Cantorial / Music Support	Sarah	Sarah	Sarah
	Petichah / Segurah (Open the Ark)	Gail Brusoe	Marsha Pillet	Jim Osborne
	Hagbahah (Lift / Carry / Hold Torah)	Greg Ciszek		Linda Blazer
	Gelilah (Undress / Dress Torah)	Vera Flint	Linda Blazer	Shirley Brand
	Aliyah (Torah Blessing) 1	Sarah	Sarah	Cliff Savell
	Aliyah (Torah Blessing) 2	Beth Young	Rachel Peretz Comes	Susan Lazerson
	Aliyah (Torah Blessing) 3	Don Chodrow		
	Leyning (Read Torah in Hebrew)	Ruth	Sarah	Ruth
	Koreh (Read Torah in English)	Beth Young	Rachel Peretz Comes	Susan Lazerson
	Maftir(ah) (Haftarah Blessing)	Blaire	Marsha Pillet ?	Ellen Werther
	Leyning (Read Haftarah in Hebrew or English)	Blaire	Ruth	Ellen Werther
	Lehadik Ner (Candles & Blessing)			
	Gabbai	Don Chodrow	Don Chodrow	Don Chodrow
Devar Torah	Rabbi Joe	Rabbi Joe	Rabbi Joe	
Religious School	Mark your calendars for the following upcoming religious school events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sunday, January 31st – Tu Bi'Shevat seder • Sunday, February 28 – Purim celebration – musical and carnival We hope you will join us! L'shalom, <i>DARA</i>			
Oneg Reminder	Feb. 12 Shabbat Services (Community / Evolution Shabbat) Feb. 26 Shabbat Services	Ellen & Lou Boden 540- 255-5555 Cliff Savell, & Susan Lazerson -886-1713 Paul Klein 396-6169 Laurie Berman 885-2925		
Yarzheits	Albert Williams B. Edelman Dorothy Sragovitz Becky Shapiro Bernard Boden Betty Robins David Brody David Goldstein	Henrietta Goldstein Hiah Neuger Hyman Greenstone Irving Goldberg Jerome Seligmann Leah Schneider Mae Suskins Melvin Berman	Minnie Switzer Minnie Klein Moshe Cohen Oscar Mindell Regina Strauss Rose Zultowski Harry Patterson Fannie Greenstone	
Learn More About Tina Wasserman @ www.cookingandmore.com				

Women's Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks to all those that made the Saturday morning kiddush luncheon a success. • Thanks also go to SHORTY for our musically enriched Shabbat service. • Please forward to Marsha Pillet macmeda@ntelos.net available dates for a <i>Women's Group Meeting</i> towards the end of February. We'll have caught up with ourselves and need to plan spring (yes, spring!) activities.
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Contacts	Rabbi Joe Blair	886-4091	RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com
	President Beth Young	885-1481	president@thoi.org
	Past President Lisa Solod Warren	886-1603	pastpresident@thoi.org
	V. P. of Membership Rachel Pertz Comes	363-4881	membership@thoi.org
	V. P. of Building/Grounds Steve Rosenberg	943-0507	building@thoi.org
	Secretary Ruth Chodrow	886-2252	secretary@thoi.org
	Treasurer Ellen Boden		championsresource@hotmail.com
	Doug Degen <i>Trustee</i>	886-8651	trustees2@thoi.org
	Alan Goldenberg <i>Trustee</i>		trustees3@thoi.org
	Richard Young <i>Trustee</i>	885-1481	trustees@thoi.org
	Cantorial Soloist Sarah Grove-Humphries	885-4223	sarahgh@verizon.com
	Temple Webmaven Marcia Conner		website@thoi.org
	SHORTY (youth group) Sheri Alt		youth-group@thoi.org
	Religious School Dara Hall		halldm@jmu.edu.
	Young Adults Group Natasha Benenson		young-adults@thoi.org
	Caring Committee Lou Boden	255-5555	caring-committee2@thoi.org

<i>February 2010</i>	1	2	3	4 Adult Education & Interfaith Meeting @ EMU 12:00 PM	5	6 Kinderlachen 10:00 AM
6 6:00 PM Book Discussion	8	9	10	11	12 Evolution Weekend & Community Awareness Shabbat Service 7:30	13
14 Women in Tanakh @ Beth El 2:00 PM	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26 Shabbat Service 7:30	27
28 Religious School Purim Celebration @ Beth El 10:30	1 <i>March</i>	2 Entrée to Judaism Cooking Class 10 – 1 PM Lecture 7:00 PM	3	4	5	6

Temple House of Israel Invites You to Come March 2nd

Jewish Cooking Class & Edible Lecture

Tina Wasserman

Jewish Cooking Class

Tuesday, March 2nd - 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Learn – Cook – Taste recipes from

Entrée to Judaism by Tina Wasserman

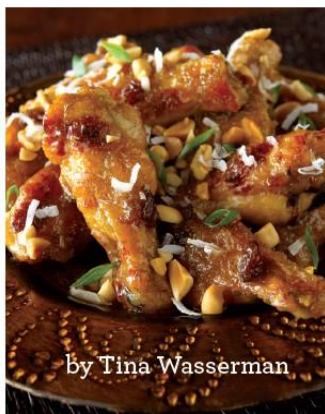
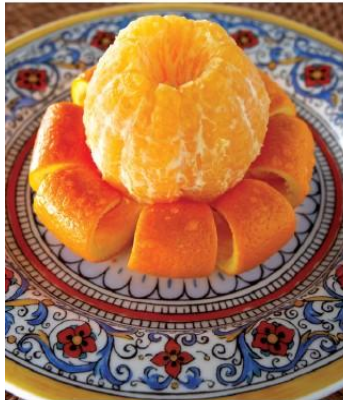
Class size is limited

Cost: \$35 for members -\$45 for non-members



ENTRÉE TO JUDAISM

A Culinary Exploration of the Jewish Diaspora



Edible Lecture

Tuesday, March 2nd, 7:00 PM

Learn about the history of Jewish recipes across the globe in lecture and tastings of savory and sweet recipes. Seating is limited.

Cost:\$15

Reservations are required for both the cooking class and the lecture. Contact Beth Young, 540 - 885-1481 or bydesign@ntelos.net

Cookbooks will be on sale at the events