



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.

April 2008, Adar 2/Nisan 5768

Noteworthy Congregational News and Events

With so many big things happening in the congregation, we begin this newsletter with news and events. The Rabbi's letter follows.

- It's already time for Passover! Come join in our **Community Passover Seder** on **Sunday April 20th at 6:00 pm**. A traditional Passover Dinner will be catered by Eric Stamer and **reservations are required by April 10th**. Please volunteer to help set up on Saturday, the 19th at 10:00 – call Beth Young to let her know you'll be there. Adult members – \$27.50, adult non-members - \$32.50. Details are included in a separate flyer, attached (via email or by snail mail).
- Come to the 1st Annual **Staunton Jewish Film Festival** to be held **April 11-17 at the Visulite Cinemas**. Through the universal language of film, we hope to build bridges of understanding within our community by offering a culturally diverse and entertaining festival series. Friday, April 11th will be our opening night with the first of 7 films to be shown at 7:00 pm; Saturday and Sunday will include 3 films, food and lectures, all at the Visulite, and Monday-Thursday, the 14th-17th will include one showing each night. Check them out: *Walk on Water, The Rape of Europa, Praying with Lior, Wondrous Oblivion, Live and Become, Making Trouble* and *Only Human*. There are also tours of the temple offered at noon on both Saturday and Sunday with thanks to Ruth Chodrow and Paul Klein. These films span the genres and topics of drama, thriller, adventure, history, comedy, coming of age, and living with disabilities, and touch on love, hate, killing and revenge, identity, and dysfunctional family relationships, among other things. We can only seat 164 people at a showing: please get your pass as early as possible, and tell others about this amazing and really ground-breaking event for our area and for our congregation! **Passes are on sale NOW – Full Festival passes are only \$55 at the Visulite Cinemas**, 12 North Augusta Street. Call 540-885-9959 for information. You can also ask THOI Board members or the rabbi about passes.
- Sarah Grove-Humphries is willing to teach us Shabbat songs – and she's back by popular demand again! Join us for a **song session on Sunday, March 30th** (there's another one planned for May 4th.so mark your calendars). Come at 3:00 to sing and learn words and music for the service.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 that have rented from us during the past year have found other facilities and we'd love to have another group share our space. ▪ Thanks to Rabbi Joe for leading us so piously, with such decorum, in our Purim celebration. Thanks also to Philip Chodrow for his creative Political Rally Purim-spiel and those who so ably played their parts. And to those who read in Hebrew and in English to retell the Story of Esther, another thank you. ▪ The Shenandoah Valley Holocaust Education Week held in March was a memorable (if exhausting) week. Special thanks to Avi Mizrachi, Katharine Gorsuch, Alan and Vicki Goldenberg, Rabbi Joe and the participants for making this truly an educational event on many fronts. ▪ Ralph Cohen's lecture prior to <i>The Jew of Malta</i> was an enlightening explanation of the play, and the show itself was excellent. Our group thoroughly enjoyed themselves. ▪ The next THOI board meeting will be April 21st at 7 pm. Meetings are open to all congregants. If you have any issues for board discussion, contact Lisa Warren ahead of time so they can be considered for the agenda.
<p style="text-align: center;">From the Rabbi's Desk</p>	<p>My dear fellow Valley Jews and Friends,</p> <p>Shalom. The year is flying by! The weather is beautiful, flowers are blooming, Purim is past, and Passover - the holiday of Spring - is just ahead. Spring is truly here. The Valley is <i>lovely</i>. May we all feel the sense of renewal and freshness that comes with it, and draw strength from the beauty of nature and the wonderful area in which we live.</p> <p>In Our Community</p> <p>Sadly, despite the arrival of Spring and the lovely weather, not all is well in our midst. We have among us members and family who are facing difficulties and suffering pains – some quite severe. As a community, we need to rise to the occasion and be there to support them in those ways we are able.</p> <p>As you have done in past, I know our members will again reach out and be there for each other in time of need. Please keep those who are experiencing difficult times in mind and in your prayers. May it be G-d's will that they, and we, will be healed and made whole, in body, in mind, in spirit, and in every way.</p> <p>The Jewish Calendar & Holidays ADAR 2 → NISAN</p> <p>Rosh Chodesh (the New Month) for Adar 2 was on the 7th and 8th of March. Adar 2 ends on April 5th, and April 6th is Rosh Chodesh for Nisan. Nisan will run from April 6th to May 5th. Rosh Chodesh for Iyar will be May 5th and 6th.</p> <p>March 29th is Shabbat Parah – the week during which we read the portion of Torah having to do with the red heifer. April 5th is Shabbat HaChodesh (Shabbat of THE Month), an acknowledgement that Nisan is the first month of our year for freedom, liberation, redemption, and the ability to worship G-d according to our practices. This is an announcement that it is the month of Pesach (Passover), when we were liberated from slavery and taken out of Mitzrayim (usually translated as Egypt, but also, literally, the 'narrow place'). April 19th is Shabbat Hagadol (the GREAT SABBATH), the announcement that Passover is about to arrive.</p> <p><u>Passover begins at sundown on the 19th of April. There will be a seder at Beth El on the 19th, and on the 20th at THOI. - Details on the enclosed flyer.</u></p>

Because it is Shabbat leading up to the start of the holiday this year, according to Halachah (Jewish law) technically it would not be possible to cook for a holiday that falls on Saturday evening during that day, so we have a ritual called Eruv Tavshilin, where one begins the cooking process before the Sabbath (on Thursday, for example), and simply finishes what was started on the Sabbath (creating a 'pocket' of time that extends into the Sabbath, blocking out the restrictions on work on the Sabbath for that purpose only – the same concept as the Eruv 'fence' that is erected to allow the use of baby carriages and such on Shabbat among those Orthodox persons living together in neighborhoods.).

Passover continues for either seven or eight days, depending on custom. For those who observe eight days, it will end at 42 minutes after sundown on the 27th of April (this year that will be at 8:46 pm in Harrisonburg), with Havdalah. For those who observe seven days, it will end on the 26th at 8:45 pm with Havdalah. The difference in customs arose with the distance from Jerusalem, and difficulties in communication. Eight days became the practice to assure that the 'correct' days were included even if word of the correct starting time was delayed.

Of course, the mitzvot (commandments) for Passover are numerous and can be complicated. One of them is that a Jew cannot own or benefit from any item that contains chametz (leavening). To assure that one does not own any such item, a custom arose to sell all such items in one's home or business. The contract of sale, which is a fully legal and binding document, is an installment sale: the buyer pays a down payment, say one dollar, and agrees to pay the rest usually on the day following the end of Passover (the ninth day). The contract specifies where any leaven is known to be and also includes any that is found in the confines of the property. The price is usually rather astronomical, and the purchaser agrees that if he or she fails to appear with the full price in hand, the contract is automatically rendered null and void, and all property (which had become the buyer's) reverts to the seller. So your non-Jewish neighbor might be the buyer, and give you the dollar down payment, but when he or she did not show up to complete the deal, all of the items become yours again, and you can use them at that point.

Another part of this custom is that often the rabbi of a community is appointed as the agent to complete the contract on behalf of various community members. In that case, the 'agent' is paid a 'commission' for his efforts. When the contract fails to be honored, the agent 'returns' the commission fee, usually by donating it to Tzedakah. If anyone wishes to engage in this ritual, I have a contract form for you and will be happy to act as the agent for anyone in our community.

One other thought about chametz: there is a view in rabbinic thought that chametz can be seen as the physical analogy of all that accumulates in our spirit and soul in the course of the year that we would wish to remove and cleanse ourselves from. Passover in this way of thinking is an opportunity to do so – to have a mid-year check up of our self, as we move from one Yom Kippur to the next. The bread crumbs we symbolically throw into the ocean at Rosh Hashanah in the Tashlich service as symbols of our sins being cast away are in this way tied to the chametz we are cleaning out at Passover. In this way, we renew our commitments to try to be better people in the course of the year.

May you have a meaningful, liberating, and joyous celebration of Pesach with loved ones, and may you feel liberation of your soul from all the 'narrow places' in which you may find yourself. Chag Aviv Sameach (Happy holiday of Spring), Chag Matzot Sameach (happy holiday of matzah) and Chag Sameach!

The Congregational Calendar

We hold Shabbat services regularly: see the website (www.thoi.org) or the calendar for the specific schedule. Our upcoming services in April at THOI are scheduled for April 11th, and April 26th (Shabbat morning at 10 am, including Yizkor/the Memorial service).

March 30th will be the next song session at 3 to sing and learn words and music for the service. Sarah Grove-Humphries will be leading this again, and I am sure it will be as much fun as the first two sessions!

BIG DOINGS! April 11th to 17th is the first ever Staunton Jewish Film Festival. Passes are on sale NOW at the Visulite Cinemas, 12 North Augusta Street. Call 540-885-9959 for information. Details on page 1.

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 with Rabbi Joe. 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).

By now, I hope that most or all of you are aware and happy that (Im Irtzeh Hashem/with G-d’s help) it has been agreed that I will be remaining as rabbi with the two congregations over the next five years. I want to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to all of you, and to tell you that I very humbly accept this expression of confidence in the vision I have tried to share and implement, and will always continue to try to act in ways that are mindful of the trust that you have expressed in me by this choice.

I am grateful and happy that it has worked out this way. I see the future of our congregations as bright, and the Jewish community as increasingly vibrant and active. I hope that those who have been a part of creating that vibrancy will continue to take an active role in continuing and expanding it, and others will join us as we seek to improve and extend the cohesive sense of community and family, both within our congregations, and also reaching out to the larger community, allowing us to experience the connection to spirituality and sanctity we seek to achieve, and to feel the palpable sense of the presence of the divine among us in so many ways. Chazak, Chazak, venitchazek (From strength to strength, we will be made stronger).

B’virkat shalom (with blessings for peace),

Rabbi Joe Blair

Film Festival

The Film Festival will run from April 11 – 17 and will include food, tours of the temple, discussion groups as well as seven different films. **We need your help to make this fundraiser a success! You can choose your way to help: sell tickets, usher, help serve refreshments between screenings....** Please contact Laurie Berman at 885-2925 or the Rabbi to offer your assistance. See details of the festival on page 1.

<p>Reaching the Rabbi</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 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: RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com 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>Message from the President</p>	<p>Dear Congregants:</p> <p>If you check your bulletin and the rabbi updates that come by email you will see that April is nearly as busy as March. THOI continues to have a full roster of events that we hope you all will partake of. Please remember the Film Festival in particular, and do plan to come to our Passover Seder. The board is most happy to report that we will be signing a new contract with the rabbi any day now and that it will be for five more years (at the least). We hope that makes you as thrilled as we are. Rabbi Joe Blair is one of our biggest assets (the other is YOU, all of YOU)!</p> <p style="text-align: right;">.....Lisa Solod Warren</p>
<p>News of our Community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Summer Family Music Class: <i>Musikgarten’s All Together Now</i> recaptures the magic of nursery rhymes (a wonderful part of our cultural tradition featuring delightful language and playful rhythms) in a versatile, mixed-age curricula for children birth to four. There is lots of movement for toddlers, while three year-olds and older will learn language skills and use their imaginations in fun new ways. Parents will receive a family packet with DC, parent book and either an instrument of manipulative. The class is offered June 17th -July 10th Tuesdays and Thursdays 7:00-7:45 pm at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 300 W. Frederick St for families with children from birth – four with older siblings welcome. Tuition is \$60 per family plus \$25 for materials (eight classes for the price of six). To register contact Sarah Grove-Humphries 885-4223 or register online at www.musikgarten.org/Sarabs-music. ▪ Beth Young met a group of young ladies from People Places and spoke with them in the sanctuary about Judaism and being accepting of people who practice other faiths. She also brought Pat Hunt’s class from MBC to the sanctuary to continue their study of Religious Literacy. Both groups were very pleased to have the opportunity to ask questions and gain understanding. ▪ Covenant Presbyterian Church book group read <i>The Faith Club</i> and invited Beth Young, who in turn invited Heba Abdel Naby and Ibtihaj Al-Araimi (colleagues at MBC) to be part of a discussion. It was an excellent exchange of ideas and all those attending were happy with the participation. ▪ Mazel tov to Ellen Werther who has finished her student teaching and has her first job! Ellen will begin a long-term substitute at Pleasant Valley Elementary

	<p>School in Rockingham County. And besides gainful employment, she's also been elected president of the MBC honor organization. Way to go Ellen!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Philip Chodrow won the gold medal in the mathematics division of the Shenandoah Valley Regional Science Fair. His project, entitled "A Generalization of the Faulhaber Formula using Iterated Partial Sums" also won the Mu Alpha Theta National Mathematics Honor Society Award. In addition, Philip won the Henry Leap Grand Prize which qualifies him to attend the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair to be held in Atlanta in May. ▪ While he wasn't winning science fairs, Philip tied for first place in the high school division at the Virginia State Scholastic Chess Championship. He won 5 of his 6 rounds in a field of 90 competitors from all over the Commonwealth. Philip is currently ranked 44th in the country of all 17-year-old chess players by the United States Chess Federation.
<p>Adult Education</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 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</p> <p>Torah Parashiot</p> <p>Torah parashiot (Torah portions) read for the period covered by this newsletter include: Tazria, Metzoran, Achare Mot, and Passover. These readings are drawn from: Shemot (Exodus) 12:1-20, Vayikra (Leviticus) 12:1-18:30, and Devarim (Deuteronomy) 14:22-16:17.</p> <p>Haftarot read this month include readings from 2 Kings 7, Ezekiel 45-46, Malachi 3, and Joshua 3-6.</p>
<p>Book Group</p>	<p>The temple book group is meeting March 26th to discuss <i>The Reluctant Fundamentalist at Leah's</i>. The April book is <i>In Her Shoes</i>, to be discussed at AJ's home April 30th at 7:30 pm and in May, discussion will center on <i>Last Night at the Lobster</i> at Dianne Mason's home. We look forward to welcoming new participants.</p>
<p>News from the Women's Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Please come our next meeting on Sunday, April 6th at 2:00 to finalize plans for providing and serving the refreshments to be offered during the Film Festival. Please contact Janet Brody (851-0877) to offer your help. ▪ The Indoor Yard Sale was a huge success - we raised over \$700! A huge THANK YOU to chair Shirley Brand and to all those who helped: Natasha Benenson, Gail Brusoe, Ruth Chodrow, Leah Farmer, Vera Flint, Marsha Pillet, Rosalie Waterman and Beth Young. A special thank you to David Waterman who not only brought huge loads from the Brands but also boxed and loaded everything that didn't sell and brought it to Goodwill on Sunday afternoon. ▪ Thanks to Janet Brody and Marsha Pillet for a very festive oneg following our Purim celebration. Thanks to Marsha and also to Ruth, the hamentaschen were delicious! <p><i>Birthdays to be happily celebrated in April:</i> Eva Blair on April 4th</p>

	<p>Kelli Lynn Goldenberg on the 6th Martha Degen on the 7th Amy Goldenberg Fox also on the 7th Rabbi Joe Blair on April 13th Rafael Brand celebrating on the 14th Sara Blair on the 19th Vicki Goldenberg on the 21st</p>
Oneg Reminder	<p>Acknowledging that this information may be outdated, according to the master schedule, the following people have oneg responsibilities. For April 11th Steve Guberman and Leah Farmer 885-0206 For April 26th Vera Flint (886-1899) and Steve and Catherine Rosenberg (943-0507)</p>
Religious School	<p>Spring greetings. Our Purim celebration was fun and entertaining. A huge thank you to Marie Landes for organizing, to Marie and Carole Levin for wonderful baking and hamentaschen, to the parents who helped set up and do the craft activity, and to students and families who joined in the fun. We thank Roberta Stein for her hard work and festive tunes for The Sound of Purim puppet show and to Gary Stein for staging and stage set assistance. Rabbi Joe led us in an exhilarating reading of the Megillah. To actually witness the changing-of-the-many-hats of Purim was a treat not to be missed. Thank you SHORTY and Sherri Alt for the costume parade and contest, lunch and games.</p> <p>Our Passover model seder will be held on April 13th. Details will follow.</p> <p>We are once again invited to participate in a spring get-together with the community Muslim families, sponsored by Otterbein Methodist Church. Please inquire for details.</p> <p>We hope that all of our students enjoyed their Spring break.</p> <p>.....Linda, Ruth and Dara</p>
Judaica Shop	<p>Special children's gift bags for Passover are available for \$15. They include Passover coloring and activity sheets, crayons, stickers, make-your-own Afikomen bag kit and a Passover themed toy. Also available is a Passover Starter Kit for \$30 which includes a hostess set, tin seder plate and matzo sweeper.</p> <p>Please place your order by April 1st 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 judaica@thoi.org.</p>
Notes from the Editor	<p>If you have comments and suggestions, I'd love to hear from you at bulletin@thoi.org. Also, if you are interested in helping put together the bulletin each month beginning in July, we would love to hear from you, too.</p>
Donations	<p>Thank you to these generous people who have contributed to Temple House of Israel during the past month.</p> <p>In memory of Regina and Joseph Ruttenberg and Bertha and Charles Brand</p> <p>..... Shirley and Rafael Brand</p>

Yahrzeits for April	Herman L. Barber Ella Hirsch Barth David Wayne Bishop Sim Brand Alfred Brettner Evelyn Brettner Isadore Cohen Walter E. Cohen Samuel Duken	David Gelberg Nathan Greenspan Louis Harris Jacob H. Klotz Sylvia Kramer Joseph Masinkoff Joann Neuman Arthur H. Printz	Esna Lee Roth Harold Eli Shapiro Maurice Siegel Holly Singer Irving Singer Henry Switzer Sophie Switzer Jack Witt
Temple Contacts	Rabbi President Past President V. P. of Membership V. P. of Building/Grounds Secretary Treasurer Directors at large Trustees Cantorial Soloist Temple Webmaven Bulletin Editor Bulletin Circulation SHORTY (youth group) Religious School Young Adults Group Caring Committee Film Series	Joe Blair Lisa Warren Paul Klein Laurie Berman Michael Brown Ruth Chodrow Ellen Boden Rachel Jordan Beth Young Doug Degen Alan Goldenberg Richard Young Sarah Grove-Humphries Marcia Conner Beth Young Janet Brody Sheri Alt Linda Kohn Natasha Benenson Lou Boden Rosalie Waterman Shirley Brand	886-4091 or rabbi@thoi.org 886-1603 or president@thoi.org pastpresident@thoi.org 885-2925 or membership@thoi.org 885-3809 or building@thoi.org 886-2252 or secretary@thoi.org treasurer@thoi.org 804-440-5839 or director-at-large@thoi.org 885-1481 886-8651 or trustees2@thoi.org trustees3@thoi.org 885-1481 or trustees@thoi.org 885-4223 or cantor@thoi.org website@thoi.org 885-1481 or bulletin@thoi.org 851-0877 youth-group@thoi.org religious-school@thoi.org young-adults@thoi.org caring-committee2@thoi.org or 540-255-5555 caring-committee1@thoi.org or 886-1713 949-0529 or films@thoi.org

		April				
March 30 3:00 Song Session		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 Film Festival at Visulite <i>Walk on Water</i> @ 7pm Shabbat services at 7:30	12 Film Festival at Visulite <i>The Rape of Europa</i> @ 1 pm <i>Praying with Lior</i> @ 4 pm <i>Wondrous Oblivion</i> @ 7 pm
13 Film Festival at Visulite <i>Live and Become</i> @ 1, <i>Making Trouble</i> @ 4, <i>Only Human</i> @ 7	14 Film Festival at Visulite <i>Wondrous Oblivion</i> @ 7 pm	15 Film Festival at Visulite <i>Making Trouble</i> @ 7	16 Film Festival at Visulite <i>Only Human</i> @ 7	17 Film Festival at Visulite <i>Walk on Water</i> @ 7pm	18	19 Set up for Seder at 10:00
20 Community Passover Seder at 6:00	21 Board Meeting at 7:00	22	23	24	25	26 Shabbat services at 10:00
27	28	29	30			