



Temple House of Israel Bulletin

A Member Congregation of the Union for Reform Judaism
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May 2006, Iyar/Sivan 5766

From the Rabbi's Desk

Please be sure to read the monthly newsletter regularly to keep up with all that is going on and any changes that may be announced. Check the congregational calendar for the list of upcoming events each month and come join in! Take advantage of all that your congregation and Jewish community offer. There are Holiday celebrations, adult education classes, youth activities, religious school, and social events on the calendar throughout the year. Social action, Tikkun Olam (repair of the world), Gemilut Chasidim (Acts of loving kindness), and Tzedakah (righteous action) project ideas and suggestions are offered continuously. Be a part of it all!

My dear fellow Valley Jews and Friends,
SHALOM!

Looking Back

Good grief! Passover is done already? What a month we have had! April was a very busy and full month for our community. Our first events were Torah Limud – one March 31st and one April 6th. We had sixty persons attend the Chocolate Seder at Beth El on April 6th. Devin Oberdorff had his Bar Mitzvah the 7th and 8th at Beth El. The congregational boards met at THOI on the 6th and at Beth El on the 10th. Passover and the seders fit in there somehow. ☺ The second session of the Jewish Lecture and Discussion Series on Kabbalah met on the 16th. The WRJ women's board came for the weekend of the 21st to 23rd. Men's Club held a dinner meeting at L'Italia on the 26th. The Beth El Brotherhood-Sisterhood dinner took place at the end of April. Regular classes and tutoring continued throughout. Whew!

Looking Forward

Continuing our theme of keeping busy, the May period will be another full month. Just for starters, we have the Women of the Temple dinner and services at THOI on April the 28th with a presentation on Rebuilding Together by David Waterman. Shorty is working at the Volunteer Farm in Woodstock on May 6th. Laura Jean Brand is having her Bat Mitzvah on the 12th and 13th. May 19th weekend is a Shorty Shul-in. The Religious School picnic is May 21st. May 26th is a regular service. Shorty will meet at THOI on May 28th. June 2nd at Beth El services will be led by Shorty which will combine Shavuot and Confirmation, and Shorty will have a cosmic bowling and shul-in after the service that evening. June 16th and 17th is the Bat Mitzvah of Grace Lambeth. June 18th is the last Shorty meeting of the year. As you can see, we have lots going on, even though the year is 'winding down'!

ISRAEL TRIP UPDATE

There is definitely interest in an Israel trip! I am planning for a mid-June 2007 timeframe. So if you are interested in going to Israel on a group trip in June of 2007, and you have not told me so specifically, please contact me and let me know of your interest. I am already working on plans! Thanks.

THE CALENDAR & HOLIDAYS

Iyar is the next month on our calendar. Rosh Chodesh for Iyar is April 28th and 29th, and the month continues until May 28th, which is Rosh Chodesh for Sivan.

There are several holidays that fall at this time of year. April 25th is Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Memorial day (light your yellow Yizkor candles the evening of the 24th). May 2nd is Yom Hazikaron, similar to Memorial day in the US. May 3rd is Yom Ha'atzma'ut, Israel's Independence Day, similar to our July 4th.

May 12th is a little-known event, Pesach Sheni (Second Passover). Based on the biblical text, all those who were unable to celebrate Passover when it occurred (April 12th this year), are given a second chance to do so! If you didn't have your fill of Matzah and Maror, this is for you! ☺

May 16th is Lag Be'Omer, the 33rd day in the count of the Omer or Barley harvest, during the 49-day period from Passover to Shavuot (marking the movement from Redemption/Liberation/Exodus from Egypt to Revelation/Torah at Mount Sinai).

May 26th is Yom Yerushalyim, a commemoration of the reunification of Jerusalem in 1967. June 1st is Erev Shavuot, and June 2nd and 3rd are the holiday of Shavuot (Festival of Weeks). We will celebrate Shavuot on June 2nd at Beth El this year, led by Shorty, and including Confirmation of Joel Ornstein.

JEWISH LIFECYCLE: Taharat HaMishpachah (Family Purity)

Our abbreviated discussion of Jewish Lifecycle continues this month with one of the least known practices among non-Orthodox Jews. This is based on the concepts of Tumah and Taharah (ritual impurity and ritual purity).

Recall that we are to be a 'nation of priests and a holy people.' Cohanim or priests were enjoined to be ritually pure when they came to serve God. The two states, Tamei – impure, and Tahor – pure, are established by actions and contact with things that are ritually impure.

We all move in and out of these two states. Our condition with regard to them is changeable. We become impure, usually by contact with a ritually impure person or item, and we become pure through rituals of separation, often followed by actions such as washing and visiting a mikvah (a ritual bath) which allows us to 'wash away' the impurity. An example of this is that we wash our hands when we leave a cemetery.

Purity and impurity are related to the concept of boundaries. Things naturally are within a category, and pure. They become impure when the boundaries are breached, and they cross over into another category. For example, if a person starts the day in the category of pure, but bleeds due to a cut, the blood that is supposed to be inside, but now is outside, causes that person to become ritually impure. The blood has crossed the boundary and changed categories, rendering that person impure for ritual purposes.

One of the largest boundaries we have is that between life and death. When someone crosses the boundary and dies, their physical body becomes ritually impure, and anyone coming in contact with that impurity is also affected by it. This does not imply that we can't approach or come in contact with the bodies of the dead – we are obligated to do so in many circumstances, and it is a mitzvah to do so in some cases, no matter that we become ritually impure for a time.

In Judaism, everyone is subject to this process, but many people think of it as a particular problem for women. It has acquired that reputation because of the normal menstrual cycle of women (where blood crosses the boundary), which is fairly regular and frequent, so that is the context which most people associate with this idea. In fact, however, men become ritually impure as often as women, though often not precisely in the same way. The other common recollection of the use of the mikvah is in preparation for marriage and other religiously significant events, and for purposes of conversion, all

of which can be seen as a crossing of boundaries/changing of status.

The term Taharat Hamishpachah (family purity) has to do with the family unit and ritual purity. A person who comes in contact with a dead body is ritually impure. If that person then comes in contact with another person, the ritual impurity is shared and transferred. If an undertaker or gravedigger, for example, on leaving the cemetery does not perform the ritual of washing his hands, he carries the ritual impurity of his work with him. On returning home, he renders his wife and children and home ritually impure by contact with him. The family unit and its possessions becomes ritually impure. Only people and manufactured articles can take on ritual impurity, so the pond, dog, cow, flowers, grass, etc. are not affected.

This is why the issue of women using the mikvah came to be seen as so important. Because the woman would also cause her family to become ritually impure by her normal activities in the home if she did not take special precautions, and her family might not even know it, it was seen as a hidden source of spreading impurity without awareness. Adding the 'taboo' aspect of sexuality on top of this simply made it more overwhelming. That is why the issue of 'family purity' took on such a sense of importance for many, and why it is seen by some today as a negative for women, though that was never the idea or intent.

Ritual impurity also diminishes with distance from the source. The family of the gravedigger is impure for a lesser amount of time than the gravedigger; you can think of it as being diminished with distance from the source and with intentionality of contact. The gravedigger has knowingly come in contact with the dead to earn his living. His family knows what he does, but they don't actually see or touch the dead.

The lowest level of ritual impurity lasts from the contact until one washes. This would be visiting a cemetery where one has relatives buried, for example. The next level of impurity lasts from the contact until sundown, with a change of clothing and an immersion to wash the impurity away all that is needed. At 'higher' levels of impurity it can take longer. For example, Moses' sister Miriam had to remain outside the camp for a week to become ritually pure again when she was struck with 'leprosy' after committing lashon hara (evil speech). A person who lies in wait in hiding and commits murder by stealth is rendered ritually impure and cannot become ritually pure again until they at least confess the crime and attempt to make amends (if even then). Ritual impurity has nothing to do with guilt or with committing crimes – it is related to fitness to approach G-d.

The most common 'cure' for any form of ritual impurity of a person was to wash, change clothes, and after an appropriate time passed, near the boundary of day and night (evening), visit the mikvah (ritual bath).

The procedure in a mikvah is simply to immerse oneself completely, with no barrier between the water and your body. There is a blessing for immersing (Rabbi, is there a blessing for everything? – Of course, my son!), which concludes, 'al tevilah' (on immersing). Virtually the same process is used, by the way, for assuring the kosher status of new cooking and serving utensils!

The mikvah is an interesting artifact. It can be of many designs, from the most primitive to the most sophisticated, but the core requirements are that it be a body of water of sufficient size to completely immerse a person, and that the source be of natural 'living waters'. This means most of you have gone to perfectly good mikvaot (plural of mikvah) if you have ever swum in the ocean or a natural lake or river! Manufactured mikvaot usually include a pool area in which one can immerse, with steps or other means to get in and out more easily. That pool is connected to a secondary pool (which can have a much smaller physical size so long as the total volume of water meets the requirements),

usually by a small opening between the two so that the water can mix, but with a means to close that opening available. The secondary pool is usually filled from a natural source such as a spring or rainwater. That is actually the mikvah water. The immersion pool may be filled from any water supply. After both are filled, the connection is opened, and the waters mix, making all of the water 'living water' and pure. The connection is closed, and then people can use the immersion pool part of the mikvah. When it comes time to drain the water to clean and refill the immersion pool, the same process is used. The term 'mikvah' is from the same root as 'tikvah' or hope, as in the Israeli anthem, HaTikvah. In a lovely play on words, the rabbis have maintained that G-d is the 'mikvah' of Israel – God is Israel's hope.

If you are interested, there is a great deal written on the mikvah; design, operation, costs, spirituality, and so on. Let me know and I can recommend a good book. This concludes our traversal of the most common and major of the Lifecycle events. Next month, in the last regular bulletin for this year, I will wrap up this two year series on Lifecycle and Calendar, and offer a few stray thoughts.

TZEDAKAH (Righteous Action)

Passover is a time of great need in the Jewish world, and many answer that call. But after the holiday is over, the need continues. Please give as generously as you can to those in need by going to www.jdc.org, www.ujc.org, www.mazon.org, or www.urj.org, or send your donations by mail. Please don't forget to support First Step, the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, the Free Clinic, and the many other worthwhile organizations that help those in need in our own area. Needs are very great, and resources are scarce. If you wish to donate to other Jewish organizations, please be in touch and I can provide you with contact information and often some suggestions as to worthwhile organizations.

JEWS ONLINE

A circle of websites that I recommend you look at can be accessed at <http://www.thebreastcancersite.com/cgi-bin/WebObjects/CTDSites>.

This is part of a set of connected web sites that each sell advertising, and ask visitors to view the ads. The advertisers pay based on the number of visitors to the web site. Each site has several links. Each link takes you to a 'Click to Donate' screen for a given cause. Each site points to the others, so it makes no difference where you start – that is why it is a circle of sites.

You are simply asked to view the page, which includes the advertising, and click on a button (in the middle of the page) to register/count your visit. You can visit daily. The number of clicks on a button/views of the site determines the amount that the advertisers pay to the organization to support their cause.

The six web sites included in this group of pages are set up to benefit Breast Cancer research, to fight hunger, to support children's health, literacy, and animal rescue, and to protect and preserve the rainforest. When you visit and click regularly, your small amount of time and effort, combined with that of many others, can yield significant donations to these causes, all at no financial cost to you.

JEWISH HUMOR

"I knew you were ill, Ed. You are in my prayers, and I came to see how you are doing."

"Thank you, Mother. You do so much for us. Is there anything I can do for you?"

"Yes, Ed. I need two parking permits."

"I was able to arrange for the two parking permits she needed, in front of the Aids hospice where she works with fourteen terminal patients. Even a saint has to park!" - Mayor Ed Koch, reflecting on a visit to him by Mother Teresa after his stroke in August 1987.

Lost at Sea?

A cruise ship sank, and three men, Johnson (a Christian), Ahmad (a Muslim), and Kornfeld (a Jew) made it to an uninhabited island. Johnson promptly tore two branches from a palm tree and created a cross, then prayed to be rescued. Ahmad pulled several fronds from the palm tree and wove a mat, then knelt on it facing Mecca and prayed to Allah to save him. Kornfeld fell asleep under the palm tree. The other two could not understand it and asked each other, "How could he be so calm in such a disaster?" Kornfeld opened one eye towards the other two men and said, "Last year I gave \$2 million to the Federation. This year I pledged \$3 million. Don't worry, they'll find me."

The Beggar

Yankel the beggar was not at his usual corner one Sunday. Mrs. Resnick worried to her husband, "I hope he's not sick." Mr. Resnick replied, "He's got the constitution of a bull!" She asked, "So, where is he?" to which her husband replied, "It's his light season. He's on vacation."

Every Shabbat for years, Yankel appeared at the home of Kruller the rich man for sumptuous meat and fish meals. One particular Shabbat, he brought with him a young stranger. The rich man, put out by this chutzpah, asked "Who is this?" Yankel replied happily, "Meet Mendel, my new son-in-law. I promised to give him room and board the first year of his marriage."

The Flood

A new flood was predicted and nothing anyone could do would prevent it. In three days, it was understood, the waters would wipe out the world.

The Dalai Lama appeared on worldwide media and pleaded with humanity to find nirvana by following Buddhist teachings in the wake of the disaster.

The Pope issued a similar message, saying that "it is still not too late to accept Jesus as your savior."

The chief rabbi of Jerusalem, however, took a different approach. He announced, "My people, we have three days to learn how to live under water."

JEWISH WIT AND WISDOM

When in doubt, shut up.

The good is remembered, the bad is felt.

Gray hair is a sign of age, not wisdom.

You catch more flies with honey than with vinegar

JEWISH HISTORY

The 'Jewish' Pope

Anacletus II, elected Pope in 1130, was the great-grandson of Baruch, a Jewish businessman in Rome. Pope Benedict IX told Baruch, his adviser, that he would have to convert to maintain ties and do business, so Baruch agreed and officially converted, but still practiced Judaism fairly openly. The situation continued for the life of Baruch, his son, and his grandson, Pierleone. Finally, Baruch's great-grandson, Pietro, who believed as a Catholic, became a cleric and worked his way up to the rank of Cardinal. In 1130, cleric Pietro Pierleone was elected Pope, taking the name Anacletus II. Of course it could not go smoothly – there was great controversy and rivalry, with another Pope also elected, but by a smaller number of Cardinals – Innocent II. They excommunicated each other, and argued, never reaching any agreement. Anacletus remained Pope until his death in 1138, though he was later declared an 'anti-pope' in papal history.

JEWISH FIRSTS

- Guilielmo Marconi invented the radio but it was Heinrich Rudolph Hertz (in 1887-

- 1889) who discovered how to generate, transmit and detect radio waves.
- The phonograph was the brainchild NOT of Thomas A. Edison, but of Emile Berliner, who invented the gramophone. He made a fortune selling records and players, and by opening the first recording studio, in 1897. The forerunner of Radio Corporation of America (RCA – another story of a Jew, David Sarnoff) bought out and absorbed his company, and even adopted his logo as its’ own – the famous dog listening to ‘his master’s voice’.
 - On June 18, 1861, fifteen years before Alexander Graham Bell patented his device, Johann Philipp Reis, a German Jew, exhibited his telephone to scientists in Europe, where he transmitted a song over a 300 foot line to a hospital.

FOOD FACTS

A revolutionary product for the Jewish housewife was the creation of the all-vegetable shortening, Crisco, in 1911. Three years after Proctor & Gamble put it on the market, they advertised it in the Yiddish press as a product for which the Jews “...had been waiting for 4,000 years.” Ads showed New York housewives making strudel and potato pancakes with the product. In 1933, they published a Yiddish/English booklet, Crisco Recipes for the Jewish Housewife, with sixty strictly Kosher recipes using Crisco. One of the most recognizable kosher meat companies in America started when Isadore Pinckowitz, a Rumanian butcher, peddled sausages on the Lower East Side in 1928. In the 1940’s, his son Leonard Pines (with the Amercanized name!) was selling Kosher hot dogs to a Jewish national food chain, as well as to kosher restaurants and delicatessens, making it into a \$15 million operation. In 1965, the legendary slogan was introduced, making this one of the most successful product campaigns of all time – ‘we answer to a higher authority’. Today, Hebrew National claims that about 80 percent of its’ customers are non-Jews.

B’virkat shalom (with Blessings of Peace),
 Rabbi Joe

**Office Hours
 and
 Contact
 Information**

RABBI’S AVAILABILITY & OFFICE DAYS
 Rabbi Joe is available *by appointment*. Simply leave a message at the congregation, or email him to arrange a time to meet. In the event of an emergency, if you can’t reach him through the synagogues, please contact the rabbi at home by phone.
 Email: RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com
 Beth El Congregation 540-434-2744
 Temple House of Israel 540-886-4091
 Home [Emergencies only, please] 434-981-3959

**Noteworthy
 Congregational
 News**

Please share with the Brand Family in a special day as Laura Jean Brand is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah.
 Saturday, May 13, 2006 at 10 o’clock in the morning
 PLEASE RSVP to asherb@mac.com or 540-942-3656.
 Your presence is your only gift.

**Noteworthy
 Congregational
 News**

- Welcome to new members Shelby and Kevin Apple and their children Rachel and Benjamin, to Lou and Ellen Boden, and to Matthew and Linda Singer with their children Debra and Joseph.
- Many thanks to Laurie Berman and Rachel Jordan who co-chaired our Passover Seder even though they weren’t able to attend. Now that’s commitment! Beth Young was deputized and with wonderful help from Natasha Benenson, Janet

	<p>Brody, Marsha Pillet, Riff Blair and AJ Hartung, we all enjoyed a beautiful setting and delicious seder meal catered by Eric Stamer. Thanks for another year of produce for our individual seder plates from Martin Moskowitz at Staunton Fruit and Produce.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our potluck dinner with Staunton Grace Covenant Church will be held on Sunday, June 4th at 6:00 pm at the temple. Please join us and bring any dish to share as we enjoy a reunion with old friends.
<p>Message from the President</p>	<p>Dear Congregants,</p> <p>Know that under any new president and board, things may change that may make certain congregants uncomfortable. That is understandable, but also unavoidable. I continue to urge all of you to come to the board, or to me, with any concerns you have re the direction the board is taking. What we are trying to do, more than anything, is point the Temple in the right direction, and ensure its financial and spiritual future for generations to come. Being a board member is hard work! But we do it because we feel committed to Temple House of Israel and want to give back some of what the synagogue and its members have given to us. Again, I urge any of you to approach board members or me directly with concerns you may have. If you wish to attend a board meeting you are more than welcome, but I would like to ask that you contact me prior to the meeting so that you can be put on the agenda, and I would encourage you to keep your comments specific to your issue and as brief as possible. We welcome constructive, thoughtful input from any and all of you! And we hope all of our congregants will step up to the plate when asked to volunteer or help. The only way a small congregation such as ours can survive is if everyone contributes to the best of his or her ability and means.</p> <p>All best, Lisa Solod</p>
<p>Board Meeting Summary</p>	<p>The Board approved and welcomed three new families to membership in Temple House of Israel. They are Lou and Ellen Boden from Staunton, Shelby and Kevin Apple from Fishersville with Rachel age 3 and Benjamin age 2, and Matthew and Linda Singer with Debra age 17 and Joseph age 15. • We raised \$200 from the L'Italia fundraiser. • We also received a donation from Final Draft Booksellers for books contributed by temple members. Final Draft will continue to accept books that members bring to temple. • We also received a donation from Joel and Ann Siegal. Joel was a long-ago member – he remembers riding in Miss Fannie's buggy! • The Board clarified its position on distribution of the bulletin. The bulletin will be sent electronically to all temple members who have e-mail. If someone who has e-mail prefers to receive hard copy, that person needs to contact AJ Hartung (337-6836) to request a mailing.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Submitted by Ruth Chodrow, secretary</p>
<p>News of our Community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our condolences to Sarah and Byron Grove-Humphries' on the loss of Byron's mother who passed away April 17th in Florida. Byron has been with his parents for the past 3 weeks and will stay there until he is able to situate his father in a facility able to care for him. It has been a difficult time for Byron and his family and we wish them all strength and peace. • Our best wishes to newlyweds Raymond and Lynn (Hewitt) Tuckwiller who were married in April. Lynn is now a very happy farm wife in West Virginia!;
<p>News from the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our annual Women's Group bake sale will be held at the Staunton Farmer's Market on Saturday, May 27th from 7:00 am until noon. Please bring your marked/priced goodies to Ruth Chodrow's house in Staunton or Ellen Schorsch's

<p>Women's Group</p>	<p>house in Waynesboro prior to the 27th. We still need help the day of the sale. Please call Ruth (886-2252) to volunteer your sales assistance either 7-9:00, 9:00-11, or 11-clean-up. Any hour you can spare will be appreciated. Thanks in advance to Ruth and Ellen and also to Marsha Pillet for getting up VERY early and setting up our canopy that morning to protect us from the elements. If you are in need of some recipes, consider purchasing a copy of our Temple Cookbook for only \$8.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THANK YOU to everyone who made our April 28th Women's Group Shabbat dinner a success. Nancy Witt's sweet potato casserole was a hit again and thanks to Shirley Brand and Elise Pullen for their vegetarian entrees, to Marsha Pillet for the salad, to Rosalie Waterman and Leah Farmer for our vegetable and to Beth Young for the challah, Kroger chicken and wine with dinner. • <i>Happy Birthdays to be celebrated in May :</i> Sim Brand celebrating on May 1st Susan Pereles, celebrating on January 4th Rachael Brody will be 21 years old and legal on May 7th Sammy Pereles on the 14th Don Chodrow on the 15th Dianne Mason on the 19th Ruth Chodrow on the 30th <p><i>Happy Anniversaries to :</i> AJ and Nick Hartung celebrating 40 years together on May 21st Rabbi Joe and Karen Blair celebrating 30 years together May 29th</p>
<p>Religious School</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We celebrated the Religious School model Seder on April 9th. Many thanks to Dara and Michael Hall for the preparations and food. You should try Dara's homemade chocolate covered Matzah! • The last Day of RELIGIOUS SCHOOL is May 7th. The Religious School picnic is scheduled for May 21st.
<p>Tot Shabbat</p>	<p>The next Tot Shabbat will be on Saturday May 20th at 10:30 AM at the synagogue. Families with their children ages 6 and under are welcome to attend for stories, singing and a crafts project. New families are always welcome! Contact Shelby at 943-6934 or shelbyapple@yahoo.com for further information.</p>
<p>Adult Education</p>	<p>JEWISH LECTURE & DISCUSSION SERIES</p> <p>In April we continued our discussion of Kabbalah. We had a lively conversation about spirituality, mysticism, meaning and Judaism. As is so often the case, we did not finish all that was planned to be covered. ☺</p> <p>Given the number of events on the calendar planned for May and June, there is not enough time to fit in another session of this series this year. I am thinking ahead to what to offer next year, and would be happy to hear your suggestions. Right now I have in mind the possibility of a more ambitious program, using the Bill Moyers Genesis program as the catalyst for a discussion, or perhaps a several session program on How to Get More out of Being Jewish, but I am open to hearing other ideas.</p>
<p>Adult Education</p>	<p>PARASHAT HASHAVUAH</p> <p>The weekly Parashat Hashavuah (weekly Torah portion) discussion continues at noon on Fridays at THOI on days when the office is open. All members of both congregations are</p>

invited to bring your lunch and join in the discussion. No prior knowledge or experience is required, no need to read anything in advance, and all you need is a willingness to jump in, talk, and have fun!

THE HARRISONBURG-ROCKINGHAM INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION (IFA)

The IFA meets on the first Thursday of each month at noon. The group is open to individuals and religious institutions, and all are welcome to attend. Programs for the rest of this year include a presentation on Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) training by Kenton Derstine (May 4th) and a presentation on Immigrants in our growing and changing area (June 1st) by Laura Zarrugh. If you would like to attend these meetings, please be in touch with Rabbi Joe for details.

Book Group

From AJ: “Somehow I lost track of time more than usual last month and my co-conspirator needed to fill in for me BUT this month am AHEAD of Beth’s frantic call! Such is serendipity that “Siddhartha” was the perfect follow-up to “The End of Faith” and both evenings were full of ideas, insights, enthusiastic interchange and the conflicting emotion left by large concepts. The piece de la resistance of “Siddhartha” was Dianne, up and pacing with an overflow of body emphasis and euphoric exasperation. Our next book is Leah’s choice of Anzia Yezierska’s The Bread Givers. This will be on Wednesday 26 April at AJ’s at 7:30 pm. For directions to Five Thorns, call her at 337-6836 and enjoy conversation, friendship, food and cheer, even maybe weather permitting we can sit outside and have the added joy of the countryside! May is the choice of Natasha Benenson. My Sister’s Keeper by Jodi Picoult. We’ll discuss this **on May 24th at 7:30**, helped no doubt by Leah’s offerings of superb snacks and wine.”

Judaica Shop

While Dianne Mason is caring for her mother in England, AJ Hartung will be handling the Judaica Shop! She’ll be ordering new items shortly, so give her a call (337-6836) if you have any special desires or ideas. We are currently thinking of music, as in tapes or CDs for example. Thanks to AJ for helping and we hope to see Dianne back mid-June.

Youth Group and Confirmation Class

The Youth Group, Shorty, had an active month. April 6th to 9th was the Spring Kallah in Baltimore. Five members of Shorty went, and the report from them was that it was “totally awesome,” “the best Spring Kallah ever!” We met on April 23rd at Beth El, and had a program on relationships, finalized the calendar of events, and ate! Here is what we have on the schedule now looking ahead.

- Shorty is scheduled to work at the Volunteer Farm in Woodstock on May 6th from 8 -noon. We will meet at THOI at 6:45, and Beth El at 7:15. We expect to return about 1:30 to Beth El, and 2 to THOI. Bring drinks, work clothes, and money for food!
- May 19th-21st is a possible shul-in, perhaps at the beach (details TBA)
- The **next meeting scheduled for SHORTY will be at THOI at noon on May 28th**. Bring some cash – we WILL go out to eat!
- June 2nd is the Spaghetti dinner at Beth El, followed by the Shavuot and Confirmation service, and followed by a shul-in at Beth El.
- The **last meeting for Shorty this year will be June 18th at 5 pm at Beth El**.
- We will have a Fall Shorty Hershey Park (or Busch Gardens or another amusement park) trip the weekend of September 2nd-3rd to welcome back our members and start the year off with a bang.
- Don’t forget to bring cleaning supplies and children’s books as donations to help Shorty with their Tzedakah efforts. You can leave these donations in the office or the social hall.

Donations	<p>Thank you to these generous people who have made contributions to the Temple during the previous month. We appreciate your donations!</p> <p>In honor of Alan and Vicki Goldenberg..... Scott Dubit In honor of Mike and Bonnie BrownDon and Ruth Chodrow For the sale of ChametzShelby and Kevin Apple General donationsFinal Draft Booksellers Financial Partners Capital L'Italia Ken Schwartz</p>																																						
Notes from the Editor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I'd love to hear from you! Please have your information, comments and suggestions to me by May 22nd for the June newsletter. 																																						
Yahrzeits for May	Leah Barber Ellna Byrne Velma Byrne Blanche Spritzer Cohn Joseph Cohn Heidi Kaplan	Ethel Kelly Morris G. Klotz Abraham Kravitz Edward Patterson Rose Jaffey Pickus Jack Printz	Max Raybin William C. Robins Flora Switzer Nettie Williams																																				
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MAY	1	2	3 Yom Ha'Atzma'ut	4 Temple Board Meeting at 7:00	5 Torah study at noon	6
7 Last day of Religious Sch'l	8	9	10	11	12 Torah study at noon Shabbat Services 7:30	13 Bat Mitzvah of Laura Jean Brand 10:00
14	15	16	17	18	19 Torah study at noon	20 Tot Shabbat at 10:30
21 Religious School Picnic	22	23	24 Book Group <u>My Sister's Keeper</u> at Leah's 7:30 pm	25	26 Torah study 12 Shabbat services at 7:30	27 Bake Sale at Staunton Farmer's Market 7-noon
28 SHORTY meet at noon at THOI	29	30	31			

May 4	Temple Board Meeting at 7:00 pm in the social hall
May 5	Weekly Torah Study at noon. Everyone is welcome!
May 7	Last day of religious school
May 12	Weekly Torah Study at noon. Everyone is welcome! Shabbat Services at 7:30 pm - oneg hosts: Leah Farmer 885-0206 and the Chodrows 886-2252
May 13	Bat Mitzvah of Laura Jean Brand at 10:00
May 19	Weekly Torah Study at noon. Everyone is welcome!
May 20	Tot Shabbat at 10:30 am
May 21	Religious School Picnic
May 24	Book Group "My Sister's Keeper at Leah's at 7:30
May 26	Weekly Torah Study at noon. Everyone is welcome! Shabbat Services at 7:30 w/ oneg hosts: Paula & David Chernoff 886-6212 and Bonnie & Mike Brown 885-3809
May 27	Women's Group Bake Sale at the Staunton Farmer's Market 7-noon
May 28	Shorty meeting at noon in the social hall
June 4	Potluck Picnic with Staunton Grace Covenant Church in our social hall at 6:00