



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
Web Address: <http://www.thoi.org>

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

May 2008, Nisan/Iyar 5768

Noteworthy Congregational News and Events

- The 1st Annual **Staunton Jewish Film Festival** was a rousing success! The good will, the exposure, the excellent films, the good food, the knowledgeable speakers to lead discussions, and the community participation were all outstanding. And, we made money in the process which makes all our many efforts even more fruitful. So many thanks are due to so many people it is impossible to list them all and not miss someone by accident. Rather than take that chance, please let anyone you know who had anything to do with the film festival that they are AMAZING! It was a huge amount of work, but it was *unquestionably worthwhile!* It wouldn't have happened had we not had the exhaustive attention of Rabbi Joe, Laurie Berman, Lou Boden, Marcia Conner (for our web presence), Marsha Pillet (for all the graphic design in print), Janet Brody (for the food), Beth Young and of course, the Visulite Cinemas and our many sponsors. Chazak, chazak venitchazek (go from strength to strength, we will be made stronger)!
- Our community Passover seder was a rapid recitation (kudos to the Rabbi) of the story of the exodus from Egypt; the food was delicious thanks to Eric Stamer Catering and a good time was had by all. Thanks to Laurie Berman, Sarah Grove-Humphries, Lisa Warren and Beth Young for their set up and organizing efforts.
- 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.
- Based on the votes taken at our last congregational meeting, we have updated our by-laws. If you want to receive a copy of those revisions, please contact Ruth Chodrow (secretary@thoi.org) with your email address so she can send you an electronic copy.
- The next THOI board meeting will be May 19th 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.
- Sarah Grove-Humphries would like to attend the *Mifgash Musicale* cantorial workshop in July. Given that Sarah contributes so much to our Shabbat services, any support you can give toward her tuition and housing costs for the week-long workshop would be greatly appreciated. This is one way we can show our appreciation for all that Sarah does to bring our services to life, teaching us to sing and completing the work of our b'nai mitzvah students.

**From the
Rabbi's Desk**

My dear fellow Valley Jews and Friends,

Shalom. I hope you are enjoying the beauty of our area as much as I do (though I could do with less pollen ☺).

Passover is done for this year, and we are in the midst of the counting of the Omer, rounding third on our way to Shavuot and the summer.

The new Congregational year begins July 1st. At that time, the new officers elected last December will take their offices and the annual cycle of our congregational year will begin. It is a time of both continuity and of change.

Sadly, despite the arrival of Spring, the liberation and freedom we celebrate with Passover, 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.

As you have done in past, I know all of our members will 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, and lend a helping hand when and where you are able. 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. Let us all say, Amen.

The Jewish Calendar & Holidays

NISAN → IYAR

Rosh Chodesh (the New Month) for Nisan was on the 6th of April. Nisan ends on May 5th, and May 5th and 6th are Rosh Chodesh for Iyar. Iyar will run from May 6th to June 3rd. and Rosh Chodesh for Sivan will be June 4th.

Pesach (Passover) falls from the 14th to the 22nd of Nisan each year. Starting on the 15th of Nisan, the second day of Pesach, we begin to count the Omer. This sounds very mysterious, but the origin is simple. It is a way of keeping track of the harvest of the barley crop in preparation for bringing a measure of the harvest to the Temple for an offering (the offering of the first fruits of the harvest). The crop is harvested over a period of time, as it ripens and not all at once, so the count is a method of keeping track of that progress and collecting a small amount (an Omer, sort of like a cup) each day, so that in the end there will be a full measure (something on the order of a bushel). At the end of the period of counting of the Omer (on the 50th day), the offering was brought to the Temple as part of the observance and celebration of Shavuot (the festival of weeks). This connects the festival of Matzoh, freedom and Redemption, to the festival of Torah, instruction/ law-giving and Revelation, following the model of the journey from Egypt to Mount Sinai.

According to Franz Rosensweig, we can see this in a larger fashion by looking at the full cycle of the holidays and the connections as a structure. In his view, these two holidays, Pesach and Shavuot, along with Sukkot (the holiday celebrating nature, the harvest and Creation), make up the triangle of Creation→Redemption→Revelation. This triangle represents G-d's effects in the world, as we know them. When we overlay this triangle of effects on the triangle of relationships that is formed by connecting the components of G-d→ Mankind→ Nature, we build a structure of relationships and effects that form a Magen David

(shield of David, sometimes called the star of David). The larger lesson is that all things and all people are connected, and we must balance our effects and relationships so as to live in harmony.

The Congregational Calendar and Coming Attractions

We hold Shabbat services regularly: see the website (www.thoi.org) or the calendar for the specific schedule. As I write this, our upcoming services in April, May and June at THOI are scheduled for April 26th (Shabbat morning at 10 am, including Yizkor/the Memorial service), May 9th, May 16th, May 23rd and May 24th (Bat Mitzvah of Natasha Benenson), June 13th and the last scheduled Rabbi-led service for this year will be June 20th.

May 2nd is Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day).

By JMU's graduation weekend, May 3rd and 4th, my year-long *Introduction to Judaism* course will have concluded, and several of the students in the course will be taking the next step, appearing before a Beit Din (Rabbinic Court) and visiting the Mikvah (ritual bath). If anyone chooses to share that with you, be sure to wish them a hearty mazal tov and welcome them warmly.

Religious school continues in May on the 4th and 18th.

May 4th will be the next song session. Come at 3 pm on Sunday afternoon 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 three sessions have been! We got so carried away, we even danced at the last session! ☺

May 7th is Yom Hazikaron (Memorial Day), for recalling those who have fallen in securing and defending Israel.

May 8th is Yom Ha'atzma'ut (Israeli Independence Day). This year is a big event – it is the 60th anniversary of the declaration of the state of Israel.

May 9th will be a Talmud Torah Limud at THOI at 6:30 pm, followed by Shabbat services at 7:30 pm. Bring something to eat, and join the discussion.

May 11th is Mothers day. (Just a reminder!)

May 16th is our Spring Community Awareness Shabbat at THOI. Invite friends, neighbors, acquaintances, co-workers, teachers, and anyone else who might be interested in finding out more about us and our services.

May 23rd we have Shabbat services Friday led by Natasha Benenson. On the 24th, we have Shabbat morning services at 10 am, also led by Natasha Benenson in celebration of her Bat Mitzvah. May 23rd is also Lag Be'Omer – the 33rd day in the counting of the Omer.

May 26th is Memorial Day.

June 1st is the Religious School picnic.

June 2nd is Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem day).

June 6th at 7:30pm at Beth El is the Shavuot and Confirmation service.

Come join us as the Shorty youth group leads our service, and our four oldest youth group members prepare to launch themselves into the wider world. At this service I always feel bittersweet, happy for the young adults who will go elsewhere and continue to make us proud, and sad because they will not be in our midst as they have been for so many years. I am asking each of them to share their thoughts at this service as their divrei Torah (words of instruction or Torah), and I hope many of you will come to hear and benefit from their wisdom. Mazal tov to Jennie Greenfield, Simone Giovanetti, Hannah Kulakow and Riff Blair. Come and shep nachas (swell with pride) for them.

Shorty will take their annual overnight trip to Williamsburg the weekend of the 7th of June.

The holiday of Shavuot falls in the evening , from sundown on June 8th through sundown June 10. Be sure to build your stock of blintzes and cheesecake!

Other Programs & Special Activities

- 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 on any topic would be of benefit to you, please be in touch with the Rabbi to make an appointment. You can call or email.
- 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).
- The next board meeting at THOI will be May 19th at 7 pm.

May the blessings of health and love be abundant in all our lives, and may G-d bless, heal, and protect us all.

B'virkat shalom (with blessings for peace),

Rabbi Joe Blair

Reaching the Rabbi

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.

The Rabbi is available by prior arrangement. If you wish to meet or speak with the rabbi, please email or call for an appointment.

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>Message from the President</p>	<p>Dear Congregants:</p> <p>It has once again been a very busy few weeks with Holocaust programs, the Film Festival and Passover. The events were fun and fairly well-attended, with the Holocaust programs and Film Festival by members of the greater community at large. However, it continues to sadden me that the same people do most of the volunteer work and show up for the programs and special events: the same core group of hard working THOI members who contribute so much of their time and energy, while other temple members reap the benefits of having a lively, thriving Jewish community and a temple that is fiscally sound. We are there for you whenever you need us: won't you try and be there for us????</p> <p>I would love to see more of you attend events, give your time, volunteer to do the things you do well, come and learn new things, and partake of all our temple has to offer. It would be wonderful if some of you whom we haven't seen lately would come to services and events and realize how much is going on at THOI.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">.....<i>Lisa Solod Warren</i></p>																				
<p>News of our Community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is with great sadness that we note the passing of Helen Berman-Seidenfeld, mother of Laurie Berman and grandmother to Rachael, Elana and Sara Brody. Helene is remembered as an accomplished artist and a philanthropist who sat on several boards in the Palm Springs area. The mother of 3 and grandmother of 12, she will be greatly missed. ▪ 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. 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, parent book and either an instrument or manipulative. The class is offered June 17th -July 10th Tuesdays and Thursdays 7:00-7:45 pm at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 300 W. Frederick Street for families with children from birth to 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/Sarahs-music. 																				
<p>Film Festival</p>	<p>We would like to thank those who were so supportive of our First Staunton Jewish Film Festival. Their generosity was invaluable.</p> <p>Our advertisers:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Comcast</td> <td>Hampton Inn of Staunton</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Scott and Stringfellow</td> <td>Bill and Sandra Sibert</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Benn and Bonnie Legum</td> <td>Visulite Cinemas</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reynolds Hamrick Funeral Homes</td> <td>Gail Brusoe</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rafael and Shirley Brand</td> <td>Michael Brown, Architect</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The Pampered Palate Café</td> <td>Stuart Davidson and Ann Cohen</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coffee on the Corner</td> <td>By Design / Beth Young</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Newtown Baking</td> <td>Jay and Donna Solod</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dr. Sidney Schwartz and Sandra Perlstein</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lou and Ellen Boden for Staunton Grocery</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Comcast	Hampton Inn of Staunton	Scott and Stringfellow	Bill and Sandra Sibert	Benn and Bonnie Legum	Visulite Cinemas	Reynolds Hamrick Funeral Homes	Gail Brusoe	Rafael and Shirley Brand	Michael Brown, Architect	The Pampered Palate Café	Stuart Davidson and Ann Cohen	Coffee on the Corner	By Design / Beth Young	Newtown Baking	Jay and Donna Solod	Dr. Sidney Schwartz and Sandra Perlstein		Lou and Ellen Boden for Staunton Grocery	
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	<p>Our behind-the-scenes yeoman’s work: Rabbi Joe Blair Marsha Pillet and Pieceworks Graphics BethYoung Gail Brusoe Rachel Peretz-Comes Ruth Chodrow Gordon Bowen Adam Greenbaum Laurie Berman Marcia Conner Lou and Ellen Boden Shirley Brand Paul Klein Linda Blazer Jim Osborne Ralph Degen</p> <p>In-kind donations: Blue Mountain Coffees Shenandoah Valley Water Company</p> <p>Food: Janet Brody Natasha Benenson Sarah and Byron Grove-Humphries Sara Brody Ruth Chodrow Lou and Ellen Boden Vera Flint BethYoung Rosalie and David Waterman Gary Harvey Bonnie Brown Shirley Brand Martha and Doug Degen</p> <p>For ticket sales: Garvey Harvey AJ Hartung Leah Farmer Doug and Martha Degen Lou Boden Lisa Solod-Warren</p> <p>Our speakers: Rabbi Joe Blair Dr. Nancy Witt Marlena Hobson Lou Boden Mike Schikman</p>
<p>Adult Education</p>	<p>Torah Parashiot Torah parashiot (Torah portions) read for the period covered by this newsletter include: Kedoshim, Emor, Behar, Bechukotai, and Bemidbar, drawn from from Vayikra (Leviticus) 19:1-27:34, Bemidbar (Numbers) 1:1-4:20, and special reading Shemot (Exodus) 13:17-15:26 for Passover. Haftarot read this month include readings from Hosea 2; Ezekiel 22, 44; Jeremiah 16-17. 32; and Joshua 3, 5-6.</p>
<p>Book Group</p>	<p>The April book is <i>In Her Shoes</i>, to be discussed at AJ’s home April 30th at 7:30. On May 28th, 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"> ▪ Todah robah, merci, gracias, danke and thank you to all who helped to make the food part of the film festival delicious. Janet Brody stepped in to chair this part of the festival when Beth Young finally realized she couldn’t actually be in two places at once. Janet did an excellent job of organizing and schlepping for 2 days of entertainment and many evenings of fretting. It was an amazing amount of work, but with all the help (see Film Festival) we did it! ▪ In addition to our woman-power, the Women’s Group donated more than \$250 toward food costs for the film festival.

	<p><i>Birthdays to be happily celebrated in May:</i></p> <p>Sim Brand on May 1st Susan Pereles on the 4th Rachael Brody will be 23 years old on the 7th Sammy Pereles on the 14th Don Chodrow on May 15th Dianne Mason celebrating on the 19th Ruth Chodrow on the 30th</p> <p><i>Anniversaries in May include:</i></p> <p>AJ and Nick Hartung celebrating 42 years of wedded bliss on May 21st Lynne Landsberg and Dennis Ward celebrating on the 27th Karen and Joe Blair celebrating 32 years on the 29th</p>
<p>Oneg Reminder</p>	<p>Acknowledging that this information may be outdated, according to the master schedule, the following people have oneg responsibilities.</p> <p>For April 26th Vera Flint (886-1899) and Steve and Catherine Rosenberg (943-0507)</p> <p>For May 9th Everyone who comes to services this evening is asked to bring fruit or dessert to share</p> <p>For May 16th Laurie and Dean Laterza (885-1157) with Art Goldsmith and Jan Kaufman (464-5196)</p> <p>For May 23rd Natasha Benenson (886-1157) and David and Paula Chernoff (886-6212)</p>
<p>Religious School</p>	<p>Greetings. Our model Seder was delicious! Many, many thanks to the Daniel and Lovinger families for all their hard work and preparations. And thanks to all the parents and family members who brought food and who participated to help make the seder great.</p> <p>The month of May will be another quick month for religious school. When we meet on May 4th, we will be talking about important days of Remembrance including Yom Hashoah, Yom Ha'atzma'ut, and Yom Hazikaron. Other remembrances during the month of May include Mother's Day and Memorial Day. We hope everyone has wonderful celebrations with their families on those days. Our last in-class session will be on May 18th. After that, we will be meeting up on June 1st for our annual Picnic and Lag Be'Omer Maccabi Games. Look for more information regarding our year-end celebration.</p> <p>Thank you to everyone who has participated in religious school this year – parents, students, teachers, and congregational members! This year's success is thanks to all of you for your continued commitment to our children's education. Please consider joining our school as a teacher, classroom assistant, or substitute for the 2008-09 school year. Contact any of us with your interest and/or questions. We look forward to hearing from you!</p> <p>L'Shalom, Dara, Linda & Ruth Ruth Berger: ruthberger@comcast.net phone: 540-574-0440 Dara Hall: mddmhall@verizon.net phone: 540-433-5596 Linda Kohn: lin5ko@aol.com phone: 540-269-2213</p>

Judaica Shop	Dianne Mason is back! Dianne has been caring for her mother in Wales but we welcome her home and immediately put her to work. Shoppers may contact either Natasha at 886-1157 or judaica@thoi.org or Dianne at 885-6254. The special for May is your choice from our wonderful collection of mezuzahs.																											
Notes from the Editor	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.																											
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 Shirley and Rafael Brand</p> <p>In memory of Bert PeretzRachel Peretz Comes</p> <p>In memory of Rosaline and Lou KamermanMarlene Ross</p> <p>For the Rabbi's discretionary fundLinda Blazer and Jim Osborne</p>																											
Yahrzeits for May	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Gertrude Barber</td> <td>Heidi Kaplan</td> <td>Max Raybin</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Leah Barber</td> <td>Ethel Kelly</td> <td>William C. Robins</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ellna Byrne</td> <td>Morris Klotz</td> <td>Frank Rubin</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Velma Byrne</td> <td>Abraham Kravitz</td> <td>Clara Sebell</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Blanche Spritzer Cohn</td> <td>Joseph Oppenheim</td> <td>Mildred Shor</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Joseph Cohn</td> <td>Edward Patterson</td> <td>Flora Switzer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gloria Goldsmith</td> <td>Rose Jaffey Pickus</td> <td>Moses Walters</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ida Godfried Harris</td> <td>Jack Printz</td> <td>Nettie Williams</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rosaline Kamerman</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Gertrude Barber	Heidi Kaplan	Max Raybin	Leah Barber	Ethel Kelly	William C. Robins	Ellna Byrne	Morris Klotz	Frank Rubin	Velma Byrne	Abraham Kravitz	Clara Sebell	Blanche Spritzer Cohn	Joseph Oppenheim	Mildred Shor	Joseph Cohn	Edward Patterson	Flora Switzer	Gloria Goldsmith	Rose Jaffey Pickus	Moses Walters	Ida Godfried Harris	Jack Printz	Nettie Williams	Rosaline Kamerman		
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	Rosalie Waterman	caring-committee1@thoi.org or 886-1713	
Film Series	Shirley Brand	949-0529 or films@thoi.org	

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18 Religious school @ Beth El	19 Board Meeting at 7:00	20	21	22	23 Shabbat services at 7:30	24 Shabbat services at 10:00 Bat Mitzvah of Natasha Benenson
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