



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.

May 2009, Iyar/Sivan 5769

President's Message

Dear Members and Friends,

We won't plan Purim, Holocaust education project speakers, a board retreat, the Film Festival, and our community Passover seder within 5 weeks again anytime soon! Each event was wonderful, but I'd prefer a bit more breathing room!

Join us for the Women's Group Shabbat dinner followed by services on May 8th. Services on May 22nd will be preceded with a performance by the religious school students. And on Sunday, May 24th we're planning a field trip to the Richmond Holocaust Museum so mark your calendars.

Did you miss having a congregational meeting in December? Since our congregational year has changed to July 1- June 30, we will be having our **Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 7th at 4:00** followed by a Matzo-brei dinner (churches have pancake dinners, so we'll have a matzo-brei dinner!). The nominating committee is putting together a slate for those board members who will be retiring and we need your presence and your vote at the annual meeting. Join us!

B'Shalom, *Beth*

From The Rabbi

My dear Shenandoah Valley Jews and Friends,

Shalom! I hope your Passover was full of blessings, and you experienced liberation and redemption. May your Springtime be lovely, and lead to a beautiful summer.

Self-assessment Project

To keep you up to date: the questions and details are being planned as I write, and the calls for the focus groups should begin shortly. Progress has been slightly slowed by the activities of the past two months, but we are moving ahead. Please be patient. When you are asked, please agree to take part in one of the discussions, and give us your honest opinions, feedback, and replies to the questions we ask. It is for the good of our community and congregation; we truly need your help to do the best we can.

Events and Activities

April was a very full month. Between Passover, The Shenandoah Valley Holocaust Education Project (SVHEP), the Staunton Jewish Film Festival (SJFF), The Bar Mitzvah of Max Kohn, the Bat Mitzvah of Sarah Berger, the visit of a Sofer (scribe) to evaluate and perform minor repairs on the Torah scrolls, Kinderlachen at THOI, adult education programs, and so many other things, we were kept hopping!

I hope that you were able to attend at least some of the films, because this was a wonderful festival. We had more people come than last year, and from farther away. The festival was a success! We will repeat it, but we are in the midst of evaluating how to make it even better in the future.

The THOI Kinderlachen program for preschool age children and their families will be held on May 16th, Saturday morning, at 10 am at THOI. We invite all pre-schoolers (and slightly older siblings) and families to join us for an hour of Jewish culture and fun. We will use Shabbat as the theme for this session, focusing our activities, story, and other events on that theme. If you have any questions, please contact Rabbi Joe.

Rabbi-led Shabbat services will be May 8th, and May 22nd at 7:30 pm.

- The THOI Women's Group Spring Dinner will be on May 8th at 6pm at THOI.
- May 2nd will be the MAC Region small congregations Kallah for the day in Richmond at Congregation Or Ami. Speak to Rabbi Joe about details on how to sign up. The cost for registration, including lunch and dinner, is \$40.00.
- Sun., May 10th is the next session of Women in the Bible at 2 pm at Beth El.
- May 16th at 10 am is a session of Kinderlachen at THOI.
- May 16th at 7 am is the next scheduled Volunteer Farm visit.
- A religious school performance will take place on May 22nd at 7 pm at THOI, followed by the Shabbat service.
- **Shorty** will lead services at Beth El for Shavuot on May 29th, after a fundraising dinner offered by **Shorty** members to all interested in supporting them. **Shorty** will have a shul-in that night, and leave for their overnight Williamsburg trip on the 30th.

Of course, our regular and usual events, such as Religious school, will continue throughout this period.

When making plans, be sure to look at the updated calendar in the bulletin or online at the website. The web calendar generally has the most up-to-date official information.

Service Participation

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, Beth Young, Don Chodrow, Leah Farmer, or Lisa Warren. Roles include: reading Torah (Hebrew or English), reading Haftarah (Hebrew or English), delivering a Devar Torah, serving as Gabbai (the "MC" for the Torah service), or being offered an honor in the service. The Honors we usually confer in our services include being called up for an Aliyah (saying the blessings for the Torah or the Haftarah reading in Hebrew or English), serving as Hagbah (lift, hold, and/or carry the Torah), Gelilah (undressing and dressing the Torah), or Petichah Usegurah (opening and closing the Ark).

Of course, if you are interested in studying for and celebrating a B'nai Mitzvah, or in learning to leyn (read/chant) Torah and/or Haftarah, or to lead services, or to be a Gabbai, please be in touch with the rabbi. Both youngsters and adults can celebrate a B'nai Mitzvah.

In Closing

May the lovely weather be reflected in our lives in all areas

Rabbi Joe Blair

Bulletin News

Deadline for the THOI Bulletin is the 20th of each month prior to publication. There will be a June 2009 issue and then one combined summer issue for July/August 2009. Keep this in mind when sending your submission to the editor. Please contact Martha Degen with corrections, submissions or questions at bulletin@thoi.org.

Shenandoah Valley Holocaust Education Project	<p>May 24th we have scheduled a trip to the Richmond Holocaust Museum as another event in the <i>Shenandoah Valley Holocaust Education Project</i>. We will tour the museum with a docent, and also arrange a meeting with one of the founders of that museum who is a Holocaust Survivor, and who will share his story with us. This would be a day trip, probably caravanning. Let Rabbi Joe know if you would be interested by May 15th</p>		
Celebrating Birthdays	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 50%;"> <p>Sim Brand on May 1st Susan Pereles on the 4th Rachael Brody on the 7th Don Chodrow on May 15th Dianne Mason 19th Ruth Chodrow on the 30th Sammy Pereles on the 14th</p> </td> <td style="vertical-align: top; width: 50%;"> <p>Anniversary Lynne Landsberg and Dennis Ward on the 27th Karen and Joe Blair on the 29th</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Sim Brand on May 1st Susan Pereles on the 4th Rachael Brody on the 7th Don Chodrow on May 15th Dianne Mason 19th Ruth Chodrow on the 30th Sammy Pereles on the 14th</p>	<p>Anniversary Lynne Landsberg and Dennis Ward on the 27th Karen and Joe Blair on the 29th</p>
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Refuah Shelemah	<p>REFUAH SHELEMAH BIMHEYRAH (Speedy & Complete Healing and Wholeness) We extend continuing wishes for healing and shalem (wholeness) to: Natasha Benenson; Rafael Brand; Shirley Brand; Pauline Drucker; Steve Guberman; Barry Kolman; Lynne Landsberg; Claire Lerner; Betty Menaker; Dan Schorsch; Margie Schwartz; Crys Sragovitz; Fredi Solod; Jay Solod; Rosalie Waterman's aunt; Nancy Witt; and everyone else who should be included in our thoughts and prayers at this time.</p>		
Torah Parashiot	<p>Torah parashiot (Torah portions) read for the period covered by this newsletter include the following: May 2009 Achare Mot-Kedoshim, Emor, Behar-Bechukotai, Bamidbar, and a special reading for Shavuot. These readings are drawn from Vayikra (Leviticus) 16:1-27:34; Bamidbar (Numbers) 1:1-4:20, and 28:26-28:31; plus Shemot (Exodus) 19:1-20:23. This year, in order to fit all fifty-four of the weekly parashiot (sections of the Torah) into the calendar, we combine the two readings of Achare Mot and Kedoshim, Behar and Bechukotai, and Tazria and Metzora into a single week for each pair.</p> <p>Haftarot (selections from the Prophets) read on Shabbatot (Sabbaths) in this month include selections from Amos 9; Ezekiel 1, 3, 44; Jeremiah 16-17; and 1 Samuel 20.</p>		
Mazal Tov!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAZAL TOV to Alan & Kate Neckowitz, new grandparents, and to Aaron & Rachael Neckowitz, new parents, on the arrival of Belle Carson Neckowitz. • MAZAL TOV to the Kohns on Max's recent Bar Mitzvah! • MAZAL TOV to the Bergers on Sarah's recent Bat Mitzvah! 		
Judaica Shop	<p>Please contact Natasha Benenson at 540-886-1157 or judaica@thoi.org to schedule an appointment or a special request.</p>		
Women's Group	<p>The THOI Women's Group Spring Dinner will be on May 8th at 6pm at THOI, followed by a rabbi-led Shabbat services at 7:30 pm. The cost is \$9.00/ person, and \$6 for children over 4. The menu includes roast chicken, vegetarian quiche, orzo vegetable salad, Nappa cabbage salad, fruit salad, pasta w/cheese and challah. RSVP to Bonnie Brown at bl_brown@verizon.net or 885-3809.</p> <p>At our meeting Sunday we discussed some new activity ideas to consider for next year. We would really like to have your comments and responses especially if you would like to contribute time and involvement. Send your thoughts to Marsha macmeda@ntelos.net.</p> <p>1) a wine tasting including kosher wines by a local vendor (wines offered for sale might include a percentage donation to our temple)</p>		

	<p>2) Jewish style cooking/baking lessons offered to the community</p> <p>3) A themed dinner paired with movie</p>																											
Oneg Reminder	<p>According to the master schedule, the following people have oneg responsibilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 8 Shabbat Service Ellen Werther 540 430-4343 & Dianne Mason 540- 885-6254 (Women's Group Spring Dinner @6:00 PM) • May 22 Shabbat Services Marsha Pillet 540-249- 4946 and Adam/Kim Gutterman 540-941-8640 																											
Yahrzeits	<table> <tr> <td>Gertrude Barber</td> <td>Ethel Kelly</td> <td>Clara Sebell</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Leah Barber</td> <td>Morris Klotz</td> <td>Mildred Shor</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ellna Byrne</td> <td>Abraham Kravitz</td> <td>Flora Switzer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Velma Byrne</td> <td>Joseph Oppenheim</td> <td>Moses Walters</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Blanche Cohn</td> <td>Edward Patterson</td> <td>Nettie Williams</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Joseph Cohn</td> <td>Rose Pickus</td> <td>Frank Rubin</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gloria Goldsmith</td> <td>Jack Printz</td> <td>Heidi Kaplan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ida Harris</td> <td>Max Raybin</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rosaline Kamerman</td> <td>William Robins</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Gertrude Barber	Ethel Kelly	Clara Sebell	Leah Barber	Morris Klotz	Mildred Shor	Ellna Byrne	Abraham Kravitz	Flora Switzer	Velma Byrne	Joseph Oppenheim	Moses Walters	Blanche Cohn	Edward Patterson	Nettie Williams	Joseph Cohn	Rose Pickus	Frank Rubin	Gloria Goldsmith	Jack Printz	Heidi Kaplan	Ida Harris	Max Raybin		Rosaline Kamerman	William Robins	
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The Calendar & Holidays	<p>IYAR → SIVAN (MAY)</p> <p>The 26th of March was Rosh Chodesh for Nisan, which ran from March 26th until the 24th of April, with the 26th of March being Rosh Chodesh (head of the month) for Nisan, and April 24th and 25th being Rosh Chodesh for Iyar which ran until May 23rd. May 24th was Rosh Chodesh for Sivan.</p> <p>May 12th this year corresponds to Lag Be'Omer, the 33rd day of the counting of the Omer (sheafs, relating to the Barley crop) on Iyar 18. This is seen as a good day for many things. It is more than mid-way through the period between Passover and Shavuot, which ties the moment of redemption to the moment of revelation</p> <p>May 22nd corresponds to Iyar 28, which is Yom Yerushalayim, the day commemorating the reunification of Jerusalem.</p> <p>Erev Shavuot (eve of the festival of weeks) is May 28th (Sivan 5), with the two day holiday falling on May 29th and 30th.</p>																											
Reaching the Rabbi	<p>The rabbi is available to meet by appointment. If you wish to meet or speak with the rabbi, please email or call to set an appointment.</p> <p>The office is not staffed and the building is generally closed when the rabbi is not in. Messages are regularly checked by the Rabbi 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. In the event of an urgent need the rabbi may be contacted by telephone. In that case, please call the cell phone number listed, leaving a detailed message, and be sure to express the need for an urgent response. To minimize driving, he is grouping most appointments in Staunton on Mon. and Fri. and in Harrisonburg on Sun. and Thurs</p> <table> <tr> <td>Rabbi Joe's Email:</td> <td>RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Beth El Congregation</td> <td>540-434-2744</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Temple House of Israel</td> <td>540-886-4091</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cell phone (Please use this # for emergencies)</td> <td>434-981-3959</td> </tr> </table>	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																			
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Donations	<p>David & Rosalie Waterman IHO their mother & aunt</p> <p>Financial Partners Capitol Management IHO Alan & Vicki Goldenberg</p>																											

Congregational Calendar	If you visit our website www.thoi.org click on the Calendar 5769 link, you will see an up to date schedule. Click on the Rabbi link, you will see a blurb about Rabbi Joe and then his schedule outside those on the congregational schedule.		
Temple Contacts	Rabbi President Past President Of Membership V. P. of Building/Grounds Secretary Treasurer Director at large Trustees Cantorial Soloist Temple Webmaven Bulletin Editor Bulletin Circulation SHORTY (youth group) Religious School Young Adults Group Caring Committee Film Series Beth El Congregation	Joe Blair Beth Young Lisa Solod Warren Laurie Berman Steve Rosenberg Ruth Chodrow Ellen Boden Janet Brody Doug Degen Alan Goldenberg Richard Young Sarah Grove-Humphries Marcia Conner Martha Degen Janet Brody Sheri Alt Linda Kohn Natasha Benenson Lou Boden Rosalie Waterman Shirley Brand	886-4091 or rabbi@thoi.org 885-1481 or president@thoi.org 886-1603 or pastpresident@thoi.org 885-2925 or membership@thoi.org 943-0507 or building@thoi.org 886-2252 or secretary@thoi.org treasurer@thoi.org 851-0877 or director-at-large@thoi.org 886-8651 or trustees2@thoi.org trustees3@thoi.org 885-1481 or trustees@thoi.org 885-4223 or cantor@thoi.org website@thoi.org 886-8651 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 540-434-2744

THOI Calendar May 2009					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 Women's Group Dinner 6 PM Shabbat Services 7:30 PM	9
10 Women of the Bible @ Beth El 2 PM	11	12	13	14	15 Deadline for Richmond Trip Reservation	16 Volunteer Farm 7 AM Kinderlachen 10 AM
17	18	19	20	21	22 Religious School Perform 7:00 PM Shabbat Service 8:00 PM	23
24 SVHEP Trip to Richmond	25	26	27	28	29 Joint Shavuot SHORTY dinner 6:00 PM SHORTY ledService @ Beth El 7:30 PM SHORTY Shul-In	30 SHORTY to Williamsburg

