



Temple House of Israel Bulletin

A Member Congregation of the Union for Reform Judaism
15 North Market Street, Staunton, VA 24401 (540) 886-4091
Web Address: thoi.org

June 2005, Iyar/Sivan 5765

From the Rabbi's Desk

My dear fellow Valley Jews and Friends,
SHALOM!

The congregational year is coming to a rapid close – far too soon! Where did the time go?

I am writing this in Mid-May, looking ahead with a slightly panicked feeling at the coming six weeks. We have packed our calendar for this time period absolutely full to the brim! There are two Batei Mitzvot, the Confirmation and Shavuot celebration, Youth Services, another Tot Shabbat, the THOI Grace Covenant pot-luck dinner and concert by Lyrissa, the Religious school picnic, the two Congregational picnics, a proposed Mitzvah day for THOI, the THOI Women of the Temple, the joint Calendar meeting, and regular Board meetings for both congregations. We also have on the calendar ongoing Hebrew classes, weekly Torah Study, and B'nai Mitzvah tutoring and Adult B'nai Mitzvah classes. I am delighted by the vibrancy of our activities and the sense of vitality of our Jewish community. Kol hakavod le'kulanu (much honor for all of us)!

THE CALENDAR & HOLIDAYS

We are now more than halfway through the month of Iyar. On June 8th we will observe Rosh Chodesh (the new Month beginning) for the start of the month of Sivan.

After the major excitement and activity of the Passover period, we have a relatively quiet time this month leading into the much quieter summer. We continue with the Sefirat Ha'Omer (counting of the Omer - the measures of the barley crop harvest collected and brought to the Temple as first fruits produce offerings). We will count off a total of forty-nine days between Pesach (Passover) and Shavuot (the Feast of Weeks). [If you are still looking for the 'Homer' calendar, you can find it at: <http://www.jvibe.com/homer/Welcome.html>.] This month we count the remaining days from number 38 to 49, and then we celebrate Shavuot!

Shavuot is the Feast of Weeks, appropriate as we count the days from Passover to Shavuot, week by week. It is the celebration of Revelation – the giving of Torah at Mount Sinai. From Pesach (Passover) and the celebration of Redemption (and freedom) we move to the gift of Torah and Revelation. These two holidays are linked to Sukkot, the Feast of Booths, the harvest festival which celebrates Creation. This trio makes up the Shalosh Regalim (three festival holidays) representing Creation, Redemption and Revelation. This triangle is joined by the trio of G-d, Torah, and Humankind. All together, these are identified as the two triangles, making up the six points of the Magen David (star of David), and called the Star of Redemption by Franz Rosenzweig in his important book in Jewish thought of the same name.

Along with the trio of the Shalosh Regalim we have the High Holy Days, and

**From the
Rabbi's Desk**

these are the major observances that anchor the Jewish calendar. Interspersed among these 'major landmarks' are a variety of other, somewhat lesser, holidays such as Purim, Chanukah, Tisha Be'Av, Yom Ha'atzmaut, Yom Hashoah, Tu Bi'Shevat, all of which are important, but not to the same degree as the 'big four'. Shavuot falls on the fiftieth day after Pesach, which this year is June 13th and 14th, Sivan 6 and 7. Part of our celebration of Shavuot will be a Tikkun Leil Shavuot (Repair of the Night of Shavuot/Weeks), a Torah study session at 7 to 9 pm on Sunday, June 12th at THOI (recall that in the Jewish calendar the day begins at sunset and runs to sunset – as described in the creation sequence in Bereshit/Genesis 1 - so our days and holidays begin the evening of the day before they are shown on most secular calendars). There will be some light refreshments provided, mostly desserts, so definitely come and join in! It is customary to eat sweet dairy items for Shavuot, as Torah is often likened to milk and honey, so what could be more appropriate than to have delicious dessert fruit blintzes with sour cream and cheese cakes? YUM!

One of the elements associated with Shavuot, because of the theme of Revelation and the giving of the Torah, is the very frequent connection of Confirmation with this holiday. This year we will celebrate the Confirmation of two of the Shorty Youth group members, Gabie Kalman and Eli Giovanetti. These young people will be completing their time as members of the Youth group, affirming their Jewish identities, recalling their Jewish roots, and preparing to go off to college in the fall. We will certainly miss them, but we plan to mark their send-off with a memorable celebration. You are invited to join us as we help them celebrate this rite of passage and transitional moment in their lives. To that end, June 10th at Beth El, members of the Youth group will conduct services for Shavuot and include an acknowledgment and celebration of the Confirmation of these two young adults.

And while I am thinking of the Youth group, let me also remind you not to forget to attend services on June 3rd at THOI, when our Youth will lead the service! This includes the members of Shorty, and those who will be eligible to join Shorty in the next year.

Whew! That all sounds like a lot to me! I look forward to seeing you soon. Enjoy the weather.

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

Through June, the Rabbi is generally available in Harrisonburg on Mondays and Fridays, and in Staunton on Tuesdays and Thursdays. You may email or call for an appointment. The rabbi is out of the office for July and August, and the office will be closed. In the event of an emergency, please contact the rabbi at home.

Email: RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com
Beth El Congregation 540-434-2744
Temple House of Israel 540-886-4091
Home (for emergencies only, please) 434-971-4741

If you should hear or know of anyone who is ill or hospitalized or who might otherwise wish a visit or call, please leave a message on the telephone answering machine at the temple. Messages are checked frequently.

**Office Hours
and
Contact
Information**

Religious

Schedule of Religious services in June

<p>Services</p>	<p>3rd THOI Parashat Bamidbar 10th Beth El Parashat Naso 17th THOI Parashat Beha'alotecha 24th Beth El Parashat Shelach</p> <p><u>Special Service Events</u> May 27th-28th Bat Mitzvah of Ariya Marks (THOI) June 3rd Youth Service at THOI June 10th Shavuot & Confirmation at Beth El June 12th Tikkun Leil Shavuot at THOI @ 7 pm June 17th Bat Mitzvah of Jenna Cunningham (THOI) June 18th Bat Mitzvah of Jenna Cunningham (Lexington)</p> <p>No services are scheduled at THOI for the summer months of July and August. There will be lay-led services at Beth El during this time. Be on the lookout for a congregational calendar to be distributed sometime this summer, which will list services for the upcoming year 5766.</p>
<p>Noteworthy Congregational News</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The temple annual Potluck Dinner with Grace Covenant Church will be held on Sunday, June 5th at 6:00 pm at the Temple. Lyrisa, led by Sarah Grove-Humphries, will present a short before-dinner music program. Please come, bring any dish to share and join a reunion with old friends who have previously rented our space for their own congregation in its smaller days. • Sarah Grove-Humphries would like to attend a Jewish music conference this summer July 31 through August 4th. Since Sarah's cantorial services are a donation to our congregation and we all benefit from her wonderful addition to our Shabbat services, your contributions toward the tuition and hotel are very much appreciated. • Ruth Chodrow talked to the third-grade class at Ridgeview Christian School about Passover. The class then came, along with the kindergarten class, to the temple for a tour and talk about Judaism. • The Union for Reform Judaism, Mid-Atlantic Council is sponsoring a Small Congregation Leaders and Educators Shabbaton June 3-5th. This 2-day conference is designed to enhance leadership skills and improve religious schools particularly in small congregations. Agudath Sholom Congregation in Lynchburg is hosting the event. Registration fee is \$50 and the deadline is June 1st, but you may call for availability after that date: (888) 842-8242.
<p>News of our Community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Betty Pendleton's knee-replacement surgery was completed successfully at the beginning of May. She is now doing well at home, having physical therapy regularly. The "his" and "hers" matching walkers are really wonderful and this editor can just imagine races in the near future! If anyone is interested in helping with meals for Robert and Betty during Betty's recovery, please contact Beth Young at 885-1481. • Mazel Tov to Asher and Laura Jean Brand who have moved and are settling into their new home. Note their new contact information in that section of the bulletin. • Philip Chodrow has earned his Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do at the Community School of Tae Kwon Do on April 30th.
<p>News from the Women's Group</p>	<p>Our Bake Sale at the Staunton Farmer's Market in May was a great success. Thanks again to Nancy Witt and Marsha Pillet for the portable canopy which</p>

protected us and to all who donated their delicious goodies: Linda Bowen, Shirley Brand, Bonnie Brown, Ruth Chodrow, Vera Flint, Byron and Sarah Grove-Humphries, Jordan Kristoff, Marsha Pillet, Ellen Schorsch, Rosalie Waterman and Beth Young. Our profit of \$343.50 included \$40 profit from additional sales of our cookbook.

Happy Birthdays to be celebrated in June:

Karen Blair, celebrating on June 1st
 Sam Brown on the 2nd
 Nancy Witt on the 13th
 Ruth Blair and Bill Blair on the 18th
 Debby Bishop on the 23rd
 Mike Brown on the 25th
 Shirley Brand on the 28th
 Ellen Schorsch on the 30th

Happy Anniversaries in June:

Alan and Vicki Goldenberg
 Dan and Ellen Schorsch
 Shirley and Rafael Brand

<p>Adult Education</p>	<p>From Rabbi Joe: “I have attempted to present classes and lectures that responded to the requests of congregants this year, and have been able to provide at least something in response to each request I received in the last year. If you have any particular requests for lectures, classes, or discussions, please let me know now as I begin to plan for the coming year.”</p>
<p>Tot Shabbat</p>	<p>All pre-school children and their families are invited to our next Tot Shabbat on Saturday June 25th at 10:00 at the Temple. Songs, stories and crafts are designed for our pre-school aged children. Please contact Shelby at 943-6934 or shelbyapple@yahoo.com if you’re interested or know of someone who might be.</p>
<p>Staunton Book Group</p>	<p>From AJ: “We had a far-reaching discussion of <u>Shades of Gray</u> in April as Pat Warner motivated us with internal energy (snack, wine, etc). Actually laughter was the primary ingredient as AJ and Ann led Beth back and forth in an effort to find the correct entrance as rain torrented down! We still, fortunately, are able to enjoy the gift of foolishness.” In May, our discussion about <u>My Forbidden Face</u>, held at Leah Farmer’s house, centered around an individual’s attempt at survival under duress in another culture – this time in Afghanistan under the Taliban. Come join us on Tuesday June 28th at 7:30 at Ann Allen’s home, 326 Vine St. We’ll be discussing and listening to The Elephant’s Child, the wonderful classic by Rudyard Kipling, this time narrated by Jack Nicholson with music conceived and performed by Bobby McFerrin. This is Dianne Mason’s pick. Janet Brody has offered to host us at her home at 101 Waverley Drive Wednesday, July 29th: The Jane Austen Book Group by Karen Joy Fowler, is Janet’s choice for summer reading. Which of the characters fit members of our group!?! Our August read will be Joseph Conrad’s <u>The Secret Agent</u>. REMEMBER this is an open door group: books, hospitality, interchange. Please join us.”</p>
<p>Youth Group SHORTY</p>	<p>Not Such a ‘SHORTY’ Year By Gabie Kalman, co-President of Shorty, 5765 We might be making spaghetti, riding go-carts, bowling, playing music, or praying</p>

in the synagogue, but we are all definitely SHORTY. We come from Crozet, Staunton, Lexington, and Harrisonburg, but together we are a unified group of Jewish teenagers dedicated to furthering our Jewish roots and religion we all love. So, here is our not-so-SHORTY year in review...

Starting back in **September**, we began meeting monthly. Our group grew from a small core of seven to over a dozen! Meetings were divided into a Youth Group and a Confirmation Class segment alternating meetings between THOI and BE.

In **November** we had a cosmic bowling and shul-in after services one Friday night. After the Oneg, we all headed over to the bowling alley. If you didn't already know it, Shorty doesn't mess around when it comes to bowling; it's a wonder no body was hurt! Well, actually Sherri was. Sad but true she had to sit and cheer on the sidelines because of a bummed knee from our last bowling adventure. We re-turned to the building, and spent the night at our shul-in for laughter and jokes!

In November two of our members, Jennie Greenfield and Riff Blair, attended the Fall Kallah, the first NFTY regional event this year. Reports were it was amazing! Also in the fall, we took on the task of cleaning up the cemetery at Beth El. A number of us spent a day picking up trash and cleaning up there.

Our first major youth activity for the year was in **January**. We led services and served a spaghetti dinner at THOI. It was fun, and so many people turned out that we ran out of food! Also in January we hosted our HUMONGOUS annual Ski-Weekend in Harrison-burg, which was another fantastic success. This is our BIG event of the year, and we went all out to be sure it would be a huge success. This year we expanded our horizons to include planning and presenting our own program motzei Shabbat (Saturday evening), and providing t-shirts for all participants. We had over 60 youth group members from around the state attend, and more that planned to come (but were prevented by weather).

In **February**, Eli Giovanetti, Michael Kalman, and Gabie Kalman went with our fearless leader, Sherri Alt, to Los Angeles for the NFTY Convention. California provided us all a new environment to learn about Judaism and enjoy the presence of over twelve-hundred Jewish teenagers; it was an incredible experience.

In **March**, we had five members of Shorty attend THEVENT, a NFTY Kallah with almost 300 Jewish students from the mid-Atlantic region. It was fantastic! Later in March, Shorty ran the Purim Carnival for the Religious School at BE. We had a great time, and even got to eat some cotton candy!

In **April**, Shorty worked with the Ornstein family, helping with decorations and running the party for Naomi's Bat Mitzvah celebration. Everyone had a blast. Later that month, BITY, the Charlottesville youth group, invited us to a shul-in at their synagogue for a Reform Friday night service and a Conservative Saturday morning service.

SHORTY returned to Charlottesville in **May** to attend services with the Renewal Havurah that meets at the Hillel house at UVA. It is true – services differ a lot!

Our **June** activities will include our annual Youth service on the 3rd, in which the current members of Shorty are joined by those having B'nai Mitzvah this year to lead the service at THOI. Then, on June 10th at BE we will have our final service for this year, celebrating Shavuot. [See more below]

Confirmation Class

Throughout the course of this year we have worked with the Rabbi on confirmation classes. Together we have discussed issues that hit close to our hearts and lives. Topics have included Life after Death; End of Life Decisions;

	<p>Interfaith dating and marriage; Kabbalah; Jewish Ethics; and the Variety of Jewish practices. We attended Shabbat services with Reform, Conservative, and Renewal groups. We hope to attend an Orthodox service as well next year.</p> <p>On June 3rd, Shorty will lead services at THOI once again, together with the current year B'nai Mitzvah students.</p> <p>Our last big event for the year will be the Confirmation Service, June 10th. Both Gabie and Eli will be confirmed, and each will be giving their final Devar Torah before they both head over the mountain to the University of Virginia in the fall. Be sure to join us for this celebration!</p> <p>Go, Shorty!</p>																														
Judaica Shop	<p>We have lots of new items in the Judaica Shop: Israeli key rings, card for all occasions, and lots more. If you have any suggestions for inventory at our Judaica Shop, please call Dianne Mason at 885-6254.</p>																														
Notes from the Editor	<p>The deadline for each issue is the 20th of the preceding month. (There will be a combined July/August issue to be printed around the first of August.) Your suggestions are welcome!</p>																														
Corrections and Additions to Member/Friend List	<p>Asher and Laura Jean Brand have moved: Their new address is 511 Rockfish Road, Waynesboro 22980 with the same phone. New email: asherb@mac.com</p> <p>➤ If your information is not correct or is incomplete, please let me know at bydesign@ntelos.net.</p>																														
Donations	<p>We gratefully acknowledge and thank these generous members and friends who have given to the Temple during the past month:</p> <p>For Sarah Grove-Humphries' cantorial workshop Ralph Degen For Ellen Schorsch' concert..... Ralph Degen For the social hall building fund – from her Bat Mitzvah gifts....Jordan Pillet In memory of Joe MasnikoffLynne Landsberg</p>																														
Yahrzeits for June	<table> <tr> <td>Gertrude Barber</td> <td>Mollie Kamerman</td> <td>Bess Rosen</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Charles Becher</td> <td>Samuel Kamerman</td> <td>Ida Helen Rosen</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bertha (Bracha) Brand</td> <td>Herbert Kaslow</td> <td>Jerry Schwartz</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Elan Joshua Brand</td> <td>Dora Klotz</td> <td>Dr. Sol T. Simon</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bernard S. Bresky</td> <td>Bessie Lansberg</td> <td>Betty Jo Snyder</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Frederick Simon Cohn</td> <td>Philip Alan Levin</td> <td>Erwin Seymour Solomon</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Howard Michael Goldenberg</td> <td>Infant Sam Levy</td> <td>Abraham Switzer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fannie Rosenthal Goldstein</td> <td>Bertha Mindell</td> <td>David Lee Switzer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Henry Heilbronner</td> <td>Freida Mordetsky</td> <td>Harry Witt</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Samuel Gordon Jacobsen</td> <td>Archie W. Prince</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Gertrude Barber	Mollie Kamerman	Bess Rosen	Charles Becher	Samuel Kamerman	Ida Helen Rosen	Bertha (Bracha) Brand	Herbert Kaslow	Jerry Schwartz	Elan Joshua Brand	Dora Klotz	Dr. Sol T. Simon	Bernard S. Bresky	Bessie Lansberg	Betty Jo Snyder	Frederick Simon Cohn	Philip Alan Levin	Erwin Seymour Solomon	Howard Michael Goldenberg	Infant Sam Levy	Abraham Switzer	Fannie Rosenthal Goldstein	Bertha Mindell	David Lee Switzer	Henry Heilbronner	Freida Mordetsky	Harry Witt	Samuel Gordon Jacobsen	Archie W. Prince	
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MITZVAH DAY JUNE 26TH 1-5 PM **MEET AT THE TEMPLE**

MAKE OUR UGLY CEILING BEAUTIFUL BY CLEANING THE EXISTING GRID OR REPLACING ACOUSTIC TILES. Please bring ladders or step stools to reach the ceiling.

IF YOU'RE NOT IN THE MOOD FOR SCRUBBING, THERE'S OUTSIDE WORK TO BE DONE CLEANING UP AROUND OUR BUILDING AND MAYBE GARDENING

If you don't want to do either of those, the worker bees would love snacks or drinks.

**COME TO an end-of-year TEMPLE PICNIC
AT THE YOUNG'S HOUSE
226 TAYLOR STREET
JUNE 26TH 5-7 PM**

Drinks, plates, cups and utensils will be provided.

Please bring something to sit upon and a dish to share. If we have too many desserts and not enough entrees, so what?

JUNE			1	2 Rabbi's office day; Hebrew 7-8:30 pm	3 Shabbat services at 7:30	4
5 Potluck Dinner w/ Grace Covenant Church 6:00 pm Lyrisa perform.	6	7 Rabbi's office day	8	9 Rabbi's office day; Torah study noon; Hebrew 7- 8:30 pm	10	11
12 Tikkun Leil Shavuot at THOI ~ 7:00 pm	13	14 Rabbi's office day	15	16 Rabbi's office day; Torah study noon; Hebrew 7-8:30 pm	17 Shabbat Services at 7:30 Bat Mitzvah of Jenna Cunningham	18 Bat Mitzvah of Jenna Cunningham in Lexington
19	20	21 Rabbi's office day	22	23 Rabbi's office day: Torah study noon	24	25 Tot Shabbat at 10:00 Mitzvah Day 1-5 * Picnic 5-7
26	27	28 Rabbi's office day Book Group at Ann Allen's home at 7:30 pm	29	30		

June 2	Rabbi's office day 11 am – 7 pm; Hebrew 7-8:30 pm
June 3	Shabbat Services at 7:30 Parashat Bamidbar –Paul Klein 396-6169 w/ Watermans 886-1713 hosts
June 5	Potluck dinner with Grace Covenant Church at 6:00. Lyrissa will perform before dinner
June 7	Rabbi's office day 10 am – 5 pm
June 9	Rabbi's office day 11 am – 7 pm; Torah study at noon; everyone is welcome! Hebrew 7-8:30 pm
June 12	Torah Study Session: Tikkun Leil Shavuot at THOI 7-9 pm
June 14	Rabbi's office day 10 am – 5 pm
June 16	Rabbi's office day 11 am – 7 pm; Torah study at noon; everyone is welcome! Hebrew 7-8:30 pm
June 17	Shabbat Services at 7:30 Bat Mitzvah of Jenna Cunningham – Shirley Brand 949-0529 with Anna Moss
June 21	Rabbi's office day 10 am – 5 pm
June 23	Rabbi's office day 11 am – 7 pm; Torah study at noon; everyone is welcome!
June 25	Tot Shabbat at 10:00; Mitzvah Day at the Temple 1-5 pm Potluck End-of-Year Picnic 5-7 pm
June 28	Rabbi's office day 10 am – 5 pm; Book Club at Ann Allen's house at 7:30 pm.: The Elephant's Child
July 29	Book Club at Janet Brody's home – The Jane Austen Book Group by Karen Joy Fowler