



# Temple House of Israel Bulletin

A Member Congregation of the Union for Reform Judaism  
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*Our mission is to perpetuate Jewish life and identity through a welcoming community of spirituality, learning, service, joy and worship.*

**June 2007, Sivan/Tammuz 5767**

## From the Rabbi's Desk

My dear fellow Valley Jews and Friends,  
Shalom!

June already! It seems we should be winding down for the summer, but instead, I have been looking ahead, thinking about what to do in the coming year, and how to make the most of the forward and positive momentum we have developed. I would value hearing your ideas and thoughts on that.

### **The Calendar & Holidays**

Rosh Chodesh (New Month) for Sivan was on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May. Sivan continues until June 16<sup>th</sup>. June 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> are Rosh Chodesh for Tamuz. Tamuz continues until July 15<sup>th</sup>, and July 16<sup>th</sup> is Rosh Chodesh for Av. Av ends on August 14<sup>th</sup>, and the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of August are Rosh Chodesh for Elul. Elul ends on September 12<sup>th</sup>, and we begin our new year that evening with the arrival of the first of Tishrei, and Rosh Hashanah.

There are only a few summer holidays or commemorations. As I write this, the one next to arrive will occur on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of Sivan (the evening of May 22<sup>nd</sup> through sundown on May 24<sup>th</sup> this year). That is Shavuot (the Holiday or Feast of Weeks, sometimes called the Feast of Tabernacles), a celebration of the giving of the Torah (Law) at Sinai. We will have our Shavuot service this year on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May at THOI.

One solar event of note is that the summer solstice occurs on June 21<sup>st</sup>, Tamuz 5 this year.

July 3<sup>rd</sup> will be Tamuz 17, the Tzom Yud-Zayin (17<sup>th</sup>) Be'Tamuz (the fast of the 17<sup>th</sup> day of Tamuz). This is a fast day commemorating the breach of the defenses of Jerusalem, and beginning the three weeks of mourning leading up to Tisha Be'av (the 9<sup>th</sup> day of Av), which recalls the destruction of the Temple - twice. During this three week period, the tradition is to act as mourners, which is done by not holding public celebrations [events that can be scheduled, so no weddings], and not getting haircuts.

This year Tisha Be'Av falls on July 24<sup>th</sup>. It is customary to gather at midnight on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and to sit on the floor or low stools, as is the custom for mourners, and read the scroll of Eicha (Lamentations). This text is a dire lament, five chapters of regret, sadness, loss, destruction, and visions of pain and oppression, a cry from the depths of the broken heart. The melody used for the trope is a mournful, and very moving one. This is an embodiment of the words of Psalm 137, 'by the waters of Babylon, we sat down and wept when we

	<p>remembered Zion.’ And yet, even this terrible vision is mitigated by hope, as we read at the end, in Eicha 5:21-22, the conclusion: “(Re) Turn us to You, O Lord, and we shall truly be (re)turned (to you), renew our days as of before (of old or as in past). You cannot have utterly rejected us and remain exceedingly wroth against us.” The verse, Eicha 5:21, is what we use in closing the Torah service, as we prepare to close the Ark. ‘Hashivenu Adonay eylecha, venashuvah; chadesh yameinu kekedem.’</p> <p><b>The Congregational Calendar</b></p> <p>Allow me to point out a few of the many things that are upcoming:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May 24<sup>th</sup> will be the fifth of five <u>Adult Education</u> sessions on <u>Basic Judaism</u> at 7 pm at THOI. You are welcome to attend as all 5 were not planned as a single unit. The topic is Jewish views on Sexuality. No homework assignments, no required reading, and no pop quizzes!</li> <li>▪ May 25<sup>th</sup> will be the Shavuot service for this year at 7:30 pm at THOI.</li> <li>▪ June 3<sup>rd</sup> and June 24<sup>th</sup>: The remaining sessions of the <u>Adult Education Interfaith Dialogue program</u> will be June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 2 to 5 pm at Otterbein United Methodist Church, and June 24<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 5 pm at Beth El.</li> <li>▪ June 7<sup>th</sup> will be an adult education program on Pirke Avot at 7 pm at THOI. Open to members of both congregations.</li> <li>▪ June 15<sup>th</sup> at Beth El will be a service geared to disability awareness. Our special guest that evening, addressing us for the Devar Torah, will be Rabbi Lynne Landsberg.</li> <li>▪ Summer services will begin June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Come support our lay service leaders. We are trying something new and a bit daring – weekly services in the summer with lay members as leaders, Torah readers, Haftarah readers, and delivering divrei Torahs.</li> </ul>								
<p><b>Reaching the Rabbi</b></p>	<p>The Rabbi is available this year through June 15<sup>th</sup> on Sundays and Mondays in Harrisonburg, and Thursdays and Fridays in Staunton. If you wish to meet or speak with the rabbi, please email or call for an appointment to be sure that Rabbi Joe will be able to give you his full undivided attention, as you deserve. Messages are regularly checked at both congregations, and email is frequently read.</p> <p>The office is closed in July and August, and Rabbi Joe is on vacation for most of the summer. In the event of an emergency he may be contacted by email or phone.</p> <p>Please remember that Rabbi Joe will be out of the country on the Congregational trip to Israel from August 5<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>. During these dates, Rabbi Joe has arranged for emergency (Emergencies only, please) coverage by rabbinic colleagues. Several officers and board members, specifically including the president of the congregation and a member-at-large, will have information on how to contact these rabbis. Please call one of the board members in the case of an urgent need for pastoral services during this period.</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Email:</td> <td style="text-align: right;"><a href="mailto:RabbiJoe@thoi.org">RabbiJoe@thoi.org</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Beth El Congregation</td> <td style="text-align: right;">540-434-2744</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Temple House of Israel</td> <td style="text-align: right;">540-886-4091</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Home [Emergencies only, please]</td> <td style="text-align: right;">434-971-4741</td> </tr> </table>	Email:	<a href="mailto:RabbiJoe@thoi.org">RabbiJoe@thoi.org</a>	Beth El Congregation	540-434-2744	Temple House of Israel	540-886-4091	Home [Emergencies only, please]	434-971-4741
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<p><b>Recap of May Board Meeting</b></p>	<p>Input was requested for future adult education program topics. • Application for membership from Ron and Sue Rosenthal was approved by the board. Membership categories adopted in 2004 were reviewed. • The Film Festival committee requested a special account be opened dedicated to the festival. • The bid from Crutchfield was accepted, rewiring and adding speakers for the sanctuary and the social hall and upgrading the audio system. The work will be done this summer. • Bids are being sought for widening the doors into the men’s and women’s bathrooms and into the back hall from the sanctuary. Hopefully that work and the floor refinishing will also be done this summer. Thanks to David Waterman and Beth Young for moving, cutting and renovating the pews to fit the bimah space and altering the pew cushions. • A joint meeting is being requested with Harrisonburg and a calendar meeting is also in the works. • The board voted to purchase a copier/printer/fax machine for the Rabbi’s office.</p>
<p><b>Noteworthy Congregational News</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Our Shabbat dinner in April was delicious as usual! Thanks to Natasha Benenson, Ruth and Don Chodrow, Rosalie Waterman and Beth Young for their culinary talents and also to Gail Brusoe for pitching in to help serve dinner.</li> <li>▪ Tot Shabbot is over for this school year. The parents (and tots) that participated throughout the year want to offer a heartfelt joyful thanks to Shelby Apple and the Apple family for making the program terrific!</li> <li>▪ We need sponsorship to make our <b>fall film festival</b> a reality. Please contact Laurie Berman by email or phone. <a href="mailto:laurieberman@mac.com">laurieberman@mac.com</a> or 885-2925 with your suggestions or to volunteer to locate and enlist sponsors.</li> <li>▪ Thanks to Marsha Pillet and Beth Young who worked in the biblical garden on our Mitzvah Day in May.</li> <li>▪ The <b>next board meeting</b> will be <b>June 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>News of our Community</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Congratulations to Ellen Werther’s son Jonathan on his graduation with honors from Humboldt State University in Arcata, California on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Jonathan majored in environmental sciences with a minor in chemistry.</li> <li>▪ Mazel tov to Jenni (Bowen) and Jeff Wieland who are the proud parents of Maggie Rose, born December 9, 2006. Maggie joins big brother Ben, who is now 4 years old, in the happy, healthy busy life in Kansas City, Kansas.</li> <li>▪ Camp Congregation Beth Israel in Charlottesville is looking for full time counselors for this summer’s 6-week program, June 11 – July 20. Applicants should have experience and love working with children, be positive, upbeat and outgoing. Great pay and great fun! To apply or to find out more about Camp CBI, please contact Shelby apple, Camp Director at <a href="mailto:camp@cbievil.org">camp@cbievil.org</a>.</li> <li>▪ Martha Bruin Degen is one of eight Virginia artists that make up the group Fiber Transformed. Their exhibit runs through June 5<sup>th</sup> at the Shenandoah Valley Art Center, 126 South Wayne Avenue in downtown Waynesboro. Martha also has work showing at the Staunton Augusta Art Center in the RR Smith Center on New Street, in downtown Staunton. And beginning June 22 you can see Martha’s newest artwork at the Beverley Street Studio School</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lyrisa, the all women’s vocal ensemble directed by Sarah Grove-Humphries, will present a concert Monday, June 4 at 7:00 at Baldwin Park Retirement Center on Woodlee Road. The program features a variety of songs including classical, folk, patriotic and Jewish music. The concert is free and open to the public.</li> <li>▪ The Valley Music Academy is offering summer Musikgarten classes July 10-31 in Staunton and Waynesboro for children from 4 months to 5 years. Musikgarten’s programs awaken and develop a young child’s natural joy and talent for making music. Registration is also available for fall classes beginning September 5, 2007 for ages 4 months to 7 years. A piano preparation class for 5-7 year olds is now available. To register or for more information please contact the Valley Music Academy at 540-942-8648 (<a href="http://www.ValleyMusicAcademy.org">www.ValleyMusicAcademy.org</a>) or Sarah Grove-Humphries at 540-885-4223 (<a href="mailto:Humphries@rica.net">Humphries@rica.net</a>).</li> <li>▪ Congratulations to Crys Sragovitz on the arrival of her grandson Scott, born April 24<sup>th</sup>. Mom, Shana is doing fine.</li> <li>▪ Mazel tov to Annie Saval who graduated from nursing school on May 12<sup>th</sup> and will be a nurse at AMC beginning the last week of May.</li> <li>▪ Michael and Lisa (Solod) Warren are moving/ have moved to Staunton. The commute will be much, much shorter and we’ll be able to see them more often!</li> </ul>
<b>New in the Library</b>	<p>Check out the following suggestions from Leah, not mentioned before and all available in our library:</p> <p><u>Great Tales of Jewish Occult and Fantasy</u> by Joachin Neugroschel</p> <p><u>Hitler’s Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust</u> by Daniel J. Goldhagen</p> <p><u>Ragtime</u> by E.L. Doctorow</p> <p><u>The Book of J</u> by Harold Bloom and David Rosenberg</p>
<b>Israel Trip</b>	<p>The trip is on! The Rabbi and ten congregants will be traveling in Israel August 5<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>, departing from Richmond via Atlanta to Tel Aviv. ! We still have plenty of room to add people to our group, so please sign up yourself, and encourage friends and family to join you!</p>
<b>Book Group</b>	<p>Our next book group discussion will be on <b>Wednesday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:30</b> at Dianne Mason’s home. We’ll be discussing <u>The Other Boleyn Girl</u> by Felipe Gregory. Call Dianne for directions at 885-6254. Please come join us!</p> <p>On <b>June 27<sup>th</sup></b> we’ll talk about <u>The Concubine’s Children</u> by Denise Chong at 7:30 at Kim Gutterman’s home in Waynesboro.</p> <p>And just in case you’d like to get started, our July book will be <u>Pitching My Tent</u> by Anita Diamont. We’d love to have you join our discussion.</p>

<p><b>News from the Women's Group</b></p>	<p>Birthdays to be celebrated happily in June:          Koren Blair celebrating on June 1<sup>st</sup>          Sam Brown on June 2<sup>nd</sup>          Nancy Witt on the 13<sup>th</sup>          Ray Rubin on the 14<sup>th</sup>          Ruth Blair on the 18<sup>th</sup>          Bill Blair on the 18<sup>th</sup>          Debby Bishop on the 23<sup>rd</sup>          Mike Brown on the 25<sup>th</sup>          Shirley Brand on the 28<sup>th</sup>          Ellen Schorsch on the 30<sup>th</sup></p> <p>Happy Anniversary to:          Alan and Vicki Goldenberg celebrating on June 6<sup>th</sup>          Ellen and Dan Schorsch celebrating on the 14<sup>th</sup>          Shirley and Rafael Brand celebrating 56 years together on June 17<sup>th</sup></p>
<p><b>B'nai Mitzvah</b></p>	<p>If you are interested in studying for and having your own B'nai Mitzvah, or in learning to leyn (read/chant) Torah and/or Haftarah, or to lead services, or you wish to discuss conversion, please be in touch with Rabbi Joe. Similarly, if you feel a conversation with the Rabbi would be of benefit to you, please be in touch with the Rabbi to make an appointment.</p>
<p><b>Adult Education</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The final two sessions for the <b>Adult Education Interfaith Dialogue</b> program will be June 3rd from 2 to 5 pm at Otterbein United Methodist Church, and June 24th from 2 to 5 pm at Beth El.</li> <li>▪ On June 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm at THOI will be an offering on Pirke Avot, the Tractate of Talmud often called the Ethics of the Fathers. Open to members of both congregations.</li> </ul> <p><b>Torah Parashiot</b></p> <p>Torah parashiot (weekly portions) for the period covered by this newsletter include: Beha'alotecha, Shelach, Korach, Chukkat, and Balak. This includes Bamidbar (Numbers) 8:1-25:9. Haftarot include readings from Zechariah 2-4, Joshua 2, Isaiah 66, 1 Samuel 20, Judges 11, and Micah 5-6.</p> <p>Included among these readings are the topics of: the lighting the menorah, purifying the Levites, the service of the Levites, Passover, Passover Sheni (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Passover), the opening of the Mishkan (Tabernacle), the use of the silver trumpets, the order of travel, the murmuring of the people, plague and fire, Moses' complaint, the quail and plague, the sin of Miriam and Aaron, the spies in Canaan, the prayer of Moses, the rules of offerings in Canaan, the uprising of Korach, the test of the rods, the selection of the high priests, the red heifer, the death of Miriam, the death of Aaron, wanderings and conquests, the story of Balak and Balaam, and the story of Pinchas who was zealous for G-d (to briefly list some of the highlights!).</p>
<p><b>Judaica Shop</b></p>	<p>There are lots of goodies to choose from at the Judaica shop. If you have any specific needs, please let Dianne Mason know at 885-6254.</p>

<b>Youth Group and Confirmation Class</b>	Shorty kept busy this year with regional Kallot and the national convention, meetings, social action projects, fundraisers, shul-ins, bowling, an overnight trip, and leading services. We are hoping to have some new members join the fun as they become eligible.		
<b>Religious School</b>	If you are interested in teaching or being a substitute next year, please be in touch with the principals, Dara, Linda, and Ruth. You can also email <a href="mailto:religious-school@thoi.org">religious-school@thoi.org</a> .		
<b>Notes from the Editor</b>	The summer issue will combine July and August news. If you'd like to include anything, please have your information, comments and suggestions to me by June 30 <sup>th</sup> <b>I'm open to your suggestions for continuing a column, deleting a column or adding a new one. Just let me know at <a href="mailto:bulletin@thoi.org">bulletin@thoi.org</a>.</b>		
<b>Donations</b>	<p>Thank you to these generous people who have made contributions to the Temple during the previous month. We greatly appreciate your donations!</p> <p>In memory of Sim Brand and Bertha Brand   Rafael and Shirley Brand  In memory of David Brody.....Beth and Richard Young  In memory of Heidi Kaplan.....Lynne Landsberg  In memory of Paul Lowe (Bonnie Brown's father)...Rafael and Shirley Brand  Rich and Beth Young  In memory of Phil Schwartz .....Beth and Richard Young  For the Rabbi's Discretionary fund.....Margie Schwartz  For the general fund .....Ralph Degen  For the restoration of THOI's historical building.....Lynne Landsberg  In honor of Betty Menaker receiving <i>Woman of the Year</i> award  .....Shirley and Rafael Brand</p>		
<b>From the Web Maven</b>	It's spring cleaning time for the THOI website ( <a href="http://www.thoi.org">www.thoi.org</a> ). We want to add more useful links about Judaism to the Links page and also update basic information about the temple. If you have any suggestions, please send them along to Marcia at <a href="mailto:website@thoi.org">website@thoi.org</a>		
<b>Yahrzeits for June</b>	Gertrude Barber	Charles Becher	Bertha Brand
	Elan Joshua Brand	Bernard S. Bresky	Frederick Simon Cohn
	Howard Michael Goldenberg	Fannie Rosenthal Goldstein	Henry Heilbroner
	Aaron Hewitt	Samuel Gordon Jacobsen	Mollie Kamerman
	Samuel Kamerman	Bernard Kaplan	Herbert Kaslow
	Dora Klotz	Bessie Landsberg	Philip Alan Levin
	Infant Sam Levy	Bertha Mindell	Freida Mordetsky
	Archie W. Prince	Bess Rosen	Ida Helen Rosen
	Jerry Schwartz	Dr. Sol T. Simon	Betty Jo Snyder
	Erwin Seymour Solomon	Abraham Switzer	David Lee Switzer
	Harry Witt		

<b>JUNE</b>					1 Torah study at noon	2
3 Interfaith Dialogue at Otterbein UMC	4	5	6	7 Adult Ed at 7:00 Pirke Avot	8 Torah study at noon Services at 7:30	9
10	11	12	13	14 Temple Board meet at 7:00	15 Torah study at noon Shabbat services at BE at 7:30 w/ Lynne Landsberg Guest speaker	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 Torah study at noon Lay led Shabbat Services at 7:30	23
24 Interfaith Dialogue at BE	25	26	27 Book group 7:30 at Kim Gutterman's	28	29	30

May 30	Book Group at 7:30 at Dianne Mason's home
June 1	Torah study at noon - everyone is welcome!
June 3	Interfaith Dialogue at Otterbein UMC 2-5 pm session #2
June 7	Adult Education at 7:00 studying the Pirke Avot
June 8	Torah study at noon – everyone is welcome! Shabbat Services at 7:30 – Paul Klein and Sheryl Miller oneg hosts
June 14	Temple Board Meeting at 7:00
June 15	Torah study at noon – everyone is welcome! Shabbat services in Harrisonburg with Lynne Landsberg speaking on disability awareness
June 22	Lay led Shabbat services at 7:30
June 24	Interfaith Dialogue at Beth El 2-5 pm session #3
June 27	Book group discussing The Concubine's Children at 7:30 at Kim Gutterman's

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