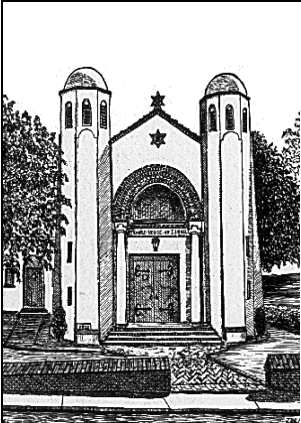


# Temple House of Israel Bulletin

*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](http://www.thoi.org)

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

**June 2009, Sivan / Tammur 5769**



## From the President

Dear Members and Friends,

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm.** Please join us to vote on the new slate of officers. All members in good standing will be asked to vote. A slate of nominees were sent to the congregation via e-mail (sent 5-20) or snail mail (sent 5-21).

We are a small congregation and we need each of us to create our Jewish community, to be a visible member of the religious community in the Staunton area and to maintain a positive presence in our surrounding community. Come learn where we see ourselves on May 11, 2014 – a date now less than 5 years away.

And while you're with us on Sunday, stay for a matzo-brei dinner. If you have a certain topping that's traditional in your family, bring some to share with others. We've heard about jam, syrup and some savory flavors so far and it will be interesting to see how many different ways matzo-brei can be enjoyed.

I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting.

B'shalom, Beth

## Slate of Officers

President:	Beth Young (continuing)
Vice President-Membership:	Rachel Peretz Comes
Vice President-Bldgs & Grds:	Steve Rosenberg (continuing)
Secretary:	Ruth Chodrow
Treasurer:	Ellen Boden (continuing)
At Large:	Janet Brody
Trustees:	Alan Goldenberg (continuing)
	Doug Degen (continuing)
	Richard Young

## From The Rabbi

My dear Shenandoah Valley Jews and Friends,

Shalom! We are rapidly moving into summer! The annual Congregational meeting with a 'state of the congregation' report and elections are coming up soon, the school year is at its end, and we change pace for a season.

Not that this means we slow down - Oh, no! We keep right on doing things.

THOI will have scheduled Shabbat services through the summer, and specifically for the five weeks of July 24<sup>th</sup> to August 27<sup>th</sup>, while Rabbi Joe is away, we will have lay-led services WEEKLY. A wonderful opportunity for our amazing congregation members to show off some of their less well-known talents. If you are interested in taking a role in one or more of those services, please be in touch to schedule it. We have many opportunities, including: Shaliach Tzibur (service leader), music/song leader (may be same as Shaliach

Tzibur), deliverer of a Devar Torah or Drash, Oneg Host, Torah Lifter/Carrier, Ark Opener/Closer, Torah undresser/dresser, Gabbai (MC for Torah service), Aliyah (called to recite blessings for Torah or Haftarah reading), Torah reader (English or Hebrew), or Haftarah reader (English or Hebrew). Be in touch with Rabbi Joe if you want to take on any of these for the summer (or anytime, really!).

### **Self – Assessment Project**

To keep you up to date: the questions and details are being finalized as I write, and once more, absent something that comes up to hold us up, the calls for the focus groups should begin shortly. Progress has been slow with all the activities of the past two months, but we are moving ahead. Please be patient, and 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.

In the meantime, I am delighted to say that the board has had a very productive series of retreat meetings to discuss our status, to revisit our mission statement, and to formulate our vision statement and core values list. They are now working towards a conceptual map of how to move towards the goals set. They are moving forward and really helping to sharpen the focus of what we do and how we do it to successfully serve our members and community, now and in the future. This is a very exciting and wonderful time for our congregation. You will definitely want to hear what is said at the annual meeting this year.

### **Events**

May was a full month (but it seems that I can say that about EVERY month).

- The Shenandoah Valley Holocaust Education Project (SVHEP) continued.
- Kinderlachen at THOI went on and has turned into a lovely monthly chance for the seven or so children to have fun and interact in a Jewish setting.
- The SVHEP trip to the Richmond Holocaust Museum on May 24<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) was cancelled – we had too few signups to make a group
- The URJ MAC Region Small Congregations Kallah took place in Richmond. It was quite good, and the 30+ in attendance learned, ate, and had a good time.
- The THOI Women's group put on a lovely dinner prior to Shabbat services.
- Shorty met on May 26<sup>th</sup> to prepare for the fund-raising dinner, and to lead the joint congregational Shavuot service on May 29<sup>th</sup>, leading into cosmic bowling and a shul-in. We then took the members of Shorty who were able to go on the annual end-of-year overnight trip to Williamsburg.
- While Shorty was away, the Religious School had their potluck Picnic and Maccabi Games day at Beth El on May 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Through April and May I fulfilled my civic duty, and reported for Jury Duty as directed. I spent a lot of time waiting in the Jury room at the Albemarle County Circuit Court – it felt nothing like those TV dramas – more boredom than on TV!

### **Upcoming Events**

- June 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> will be rabbi-led Shabbat services at 7:30 pm at THOI.
- June 7<sup>th</sup> is the annual congregational meeting at 4 pm at THOI.
- June 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm, THOI Board meeting.
- June 13-19<sup>th</sup> Rabbi Joe will be attending a rabbinic conference.
- June 20<sup>th</sup> will be the next Kinderlachen at 10 am at THOI. This will be the last session before the summer break. We expect to resume in September.
- June 22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> is the Peace Camp. For more information please contact Roberta at

**robertastein52@aol.com.**

- June 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> is a Jewish day camp, at Beth El. For more information please contact Roberta at **robertastein52@aol.com.**
- June 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, Bat Mitzvah of Makena Rafferty-Lewis at Beth El.

### **Participating in Services**

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.

### **Closing Message**

May the lovely weather be reflected in all aspects of our lives and relationships.

*Rabbi Joe Blair*

## **Religious School**

Greetings from the Religious School! Sorry it’s been a while since you’ve heard from us. March, April and May were very busy months for our religious school students – full of great learning experiences, good fun, lots of delicious foods, and wonderful friends.

On March 8<sup>th</sup> we had a fun Purim celebration. Rabbi Joe did his amazing “hat routine” as he read the Megillah (if you haven’t seen it before, be sure to come next year). All of the students dressed up in wonderful costumes and were presented with prizes by our Dalet class. Thank you so much to our wonderful parents for making delicious hamantaschen.

Then, we blinked our eyes and it was time for the model Passover seder on March 29<sup>th</sup>. We all practiced the four questions in preparation for our own seders in class and worked on different projects such as making cups of Elijah and Miriam or seder plates. The religious school and preschool came together with families to share in a seder and enjoy many of the traditional foods of Pesach. We truly appreciate our parent helpers – Ronn Daniel and Julie Miller for organizing this wonderful event – and our deepest gratitude to all of the families for donating the supplies. We couldn’t do it without everyone’s help.

Our school proudly congratulates two of its Dalet students – Max Kohn and Sarah Berger – for the excellent job they each did during their b’nai mitzvahs on April 4<sup>th</sup> and April 18<sup>th</sup> respectively. Mazel Tov!! Both students conducted the entire services on Friday and Saturday and each did a marvelous job. We enjoyed Max’s quiet wit and Sarah’s ease and exuberant pace as we rejoiced in their special events. We also congratulate both families! We will miss these two fine students in religious school next year!

The end of April was a time of remembering as we commemorated Yom Hashoah on April 26<sup>th</sup> and celebrated Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha’atzma’ut on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

It is hard to believe that the religious school year is just about over. We ended with a “bang” as the students perform the musical, You Can Heal the World during religious school on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Roberta Stein worked hard with the students on this insightful and

	<p>timely musical.</p> <p>We will close out the school year with our end of the year picnic to be held on Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at Beth El. Many thanks to all of the parents, students, teachers, and families of our religious school for making the 2008-09 school year so wonderful!</p> <p>If know of any students who are interested in religious school for the 2009-10 school year, please have them contact Dara Hall at <a href="mailto:halldm@jmu.edu">halldm@jmu.edu</a> or 540-433-5596.</p> <p>L'Shalom,Dara, Ruth &amp; Linda</p>								
<b>Bulletin Editor</b>	<p>There will be one <b>summer</b> issue of the THOI <i>Bulletin</i> for July/August arriving at the beginning of July. The submission deadline for this issue is June 20, 2009. Send your news to the editor at <a href="mailto:bulletin@thoi.org">bulletin@thoi.org</a>. The Board's policy for the <i>Bulletin</i> is that there will be no advertising in the newsletter ( paid or free ) except for THOI business.</p>								
<b>Celebrating Birthdays</b>	<table> <tr> <td>Karen Blair on June 1<sup>st</sup></td> <td>Ruth Blair on the 18th</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sam Brown on June 2<sup>nd</sup></td> <td>Bill Blair on the 18th</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nancy Witt on the 13<sup>th</sup></td> <td>Debby Bishop on the 23rd</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ray Rubin on the 14<sup>th</sup></td> <td>Mike Brown on the 25th</td> </tr> </table>	Karen Blair on June 1 <sup>st</sup>	Ruth Blair on the 18th	Sam Brown on June 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bill Blair on the 18th	Nancy Witt on the 13 <sup>th</sup>	Debby Bishop on the 23rd	Ray Rubin on the 14 <sup>th</sup>	Mike Brown on the 25th
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<b>Refuah Shelemah</b>	<p>We extend continuing wishes for healing and shalem (wholeness) to: Natasha Benenson; Rafael Brand; Shirley Brand; Pauline Drucker; Steve Guberman; 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>								
<b>Torah Parashiot</b>	<p>Torah parashiot (Torah portions) read for the period covered by this newsletter include the following: June 2009 - Naso, Beha;alotech; Shelach; and Korach. These readings are drawn from Bamidbar (Numbers) 4:21-18:32. Haftarot (selections from the Prophets) read on Shabbatot (Sabbaths) in this month include selections from Judges 13; Zachariah 2-4; Joshua 2; and 1 Samuel 1-12.</p>								
<b>Mazal tov</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Congratulations to Nancy Witt on her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, with wishes for many more happy returns of the day, as is said, Ad Me'ah ve'esrim (until 120).</li> <li>• Linda Bowen was named <i>Teacher of the Year</i> for R.E. Lee High School and the Staunton City School District.</li> <li>• Sara Brody will be attending the University of Colorado at Boulder.</li> <li>• Lou Boden was elected President of the Valley Mission.</li> <li>• Beth Young was elected Professional Development Chair of the Virginia Chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers</li> </ul>								
<b>Judaica Shop</b>	<p>Please contact Natasha Benenson about Debbie Freidman CD orders at 540-886-1157 or <a href="mailto:judaica@thoi.org">judaica@thoi.org</a> to schedule an appointment or a special request.</p>								
<b>Women's Group</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thank you to Bonnie Brown as organizer of our very successful spring Shabbat Dinner. Kudos to those that helped and to all those that attended.</li> <li>• We will be celebrating a milestone birthday with Nancy Witt at the June 19th Shabbat Oneg. Please come raise a glass or enjoy some cake or both.</li> <li>• Plan to attend a women's group planning meeting to be schedule sometime in August before we all get too busy with the Jewish Holiday season.</li> </ul>								

<p><b>Oneg Reminder</b></p>	<p>According to the master schedule, the following people have oneg responsibilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• June 5 Ruth Chodrow 540 886-2252 &amp; Vera Flint 540 886-1899</li> <li>• June 19 Steve &amp; Catherine Rosenburg 540-943-0507 &amp; Doug Degen 540-886-8651</li> </ul>																																	
<p><b>Yahrzeits</b></p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Gertrude Barber</td> <td>Harry Witt</td> <td>Bertha Mindell</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Charles Becher</td> <td>Mollie Kamerman</td> <td>Freida Mordetsky</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bertha Bracha Brand</td> <td>Samuel Kamerman</td> <td>Archie Prince</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Elan Brand</td> <td>Bernard Kaplan</td> <td>Archie Printz</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bernard Bresky</td> <td>Herbert Kaslow</td> <td>Bess Rosen</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Frederick Cohn</td> <td>Dora Klotz</td> <td>Ida Rosen</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Howard Goldenberg</td> <td>Bessie Landsberg</td> <td>Jerry Schwartz</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fannie Goldstein</td> <td>Philip Levin</td> <td>Dr. Sol Simon</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Henry Heilbronner</td> <td>Infant Sam Levy</td> <td>Betty Jo Snyder</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aaron Hewitt</td> <td>Bertha Mindell</td> <td>Erwin Solomon</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>David Switzer</td> <td>Abraham Switzer</td> </tr> </table>	Gertrude Barber	Harry Witt	Bertha Mindell	Charles Becher	Mollie Kamerman	Freida Mordetsky	Bertha Bracha Brand	Samuel Kamerman	Archie Prince	Elan Brand	Bernard Kaplan	Archie Printz	Bernard Bresky	Herbert Kaslow	Bess Rosen	Frederick Cohn	Dora Klotz	Ida Rosen	Howard Goldenberg	Bessie Landsberg	Jerry Schwartz	Fannie Goldstein	Philip Levin	Dr. Sol Simon	Henry Heilbronner	Infant Sam Levy	Betty Jo Snyder	Aaron Hewitt	Bertha Mindell	Erwin Solomon		David Switzer	Abraham Switzer
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<p><b>The Calendar &amp; Holidays</b></p>	<p>April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> were Rosh Chodesh for Iyar which ran until May 23rd. May 24<sup>th</sup> was Rosh Chodesh for Sivan. Sivan runs until the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June, with Rosh Chodesh for Tammus on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of June. Tammus will run from the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June until the 21<sup>st</sup> of July, and Rosh Chodesh for Av will be July 22<sup>nd</sup>. In the month of June this year there are no holidays, other than Shabbat each week, and the Rosh Chodesh noted.</p>																																	
<p><b>Reaching the Rabbi</b></p>	<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 during the week. 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 Mondays and Fridays and in Harrisonburg on Sundays and Thursdays.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Rabbi Joe's Email:</td> <td><a href="mailto:RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com">RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com</a></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:	<a href="mailto:RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com">RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com</a>	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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<p><b>Congregational Calendar</b></p>	<p>If you visit our web site <a href="http://www.thoi.org">www.thoi.org</a> click on the <b>Calendar 5769</b> link, you will see an up-to-date schedule. If you click on the <b>Rabbi</b> link, you will see a blurb about Rabbi Joe and then his schedule outside those on the congregational schedule.</p>																																	

## Temple Contacts

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	Rosalie Waterman	caring-committee1@thoi.org or 886-1713
Film Series	Shirley Brand	949-0529 or films@thoi.org
Beth El Congregation		540-434-2744

<b>THOI Calendar June 2009</b>	1	2	3	4	5 Shabbat 7:30 PM	6
7 THOI Annual Meeting 4 PM	8  Board Meeting 7:00 PM	9	10	11	12	13  Rabbi Joe at Conference 13 <sup>th</sup> – 19th
14	15  Jewish Day Camp 15 <sup>th</sup> – 19th	16	17	18	<b>19</b>  Shabbat 7:30 PM	20 Kinderlachen 10 AM  Bulletin Deadline
21	22  Peace Camp 22 <sup>nd</sup> – 26th	23	24	25	<b>26</b>	27
28	29	30				