



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

July-August 2005, Sivan/Tammuz/Av 5765

***IMPORTANT
FROM THE
TEMPLE BOARD
PLEASE READ!***

Please remember that Freedom Bible Church has exclusive use of our building on Wednesday evenings, 6-10 pm and Sunday mornings 9-1. Do NOT schedule any activities, programs, cleaning or set-up at the temple during those times. It is a violation of our lease to have anything going on at the temple while our renters have use of the facility.

**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-June, feeling completely overwhelmed by how busy the last few weeks before the summer are! We have packed our calendar for this time period absolutely full to the brim! We have just had two Batei Mitzvot, the Confirmation and Shavuot celebration, the Tikkun Leil Shavuot, Youth Services, the Religious school picnic, the two Congregational picnics, and the THOI Women of the Temple, Shorty youth group and confirmation meeting, a Shorty trip to Kings Dominion, the joint Calendar meeting, and regular Board meetings for both congregations. We also have Hebrew classes, weekly Torah Study, B'nai Mitzvah tutoring, and Adult B'nai Mitzvah classes, the Temple Mitzvah day and Picnic. 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 Sivan. On June 8th we observed Rosh Chodesh (the new Month beginning) for Sivan.

The last big holiday before the summer was Shavuot, which falls on the fiftieth day after Pesach: this year June 13th and 14th, Sivan 6 and 7. Part of the celebration of Shavuot was a Tikkun Leil Shavuot (Repair of the Night of Shavuot/Weeks), a Torah study session (held 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). 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 cheesecake? YUM! At our Tikkun we had an interesting discussion about Torah, focusing on revelation through the lens of poetry by Marge Piercy and Merle Feld and the story of Ruth, which brought out issues of feminism in Judaism, questions of different types of community, whether there are differing revelations, what revelation means, and how we relate to revelation. I don't think anyone's opinions were changed, but we all learned and left with something new to think about, and most of us enjoyed

something sweet to eat!

One of the elements associated with Shavuot because of the theme of Revelation and the giving of the Torah, is the connection of Confirmation with this holiday because of its' theme of learning and Torah. On June 10th we celebrated Shavuot and the Confirmation of two of the Shorty Youth group members, Gabie Kalman and Eli Giovanetti, as they completed their time as members of the Youth group, affirmed their Jewish identities, and recalled their Jewish roots; they are now preparing to go off to college at UVa in the fall. We will certainly miss them in Shorty, but we were able to mark their send-off with a memorable celebration.

And while I am thinking of the Youth group, let me also mention the excellent job that they did leading services on June 3rd at THOI, including the members of Shorty for this year and those eligible to join Shorty for next year. It was a lovely service and they did it so well they made us all proud.

With the month of July, our congregational activities scale back. Rosh Chodesh for the month for Tammuz falls on July 7th and 8th, and for the month of Av on August 6th. On July 24th, we observe the fast of Shivah Asar Be'Tamuz (the 17th of Tammuz) from morning to evening. This day kicks off the 'three weeks' – a period of mourning-like behaviors during which we traditionally hold no celebrations or weddings and do not cut our hair. The three weeks ends with the arrival of Tisha Be'Av (the 9th day of Av). Shivah Asar Be'Tamuz commemorates the placement of the siege of Jerusalem, and Tisha Be'Av commemorates the fall of Jerusalem and the destruction of the Temple, both in 586 B.C.E., and in 70 C.E. Tisha Be'Av is the saddest day in the Jewish calendar. It is said that all evil events occur or have their origin on that day, and it is told that not only were the two Temples destroyed on that day, but that was the day on which Haman cast his lots, and the day on which the 'final solution' was approved, leading to the events of HaShoah (the Holocaust). The traditional practice for Tisha Be'Av is to gather in the evening, often at midnight, sitting on the floor or on low stools as in a house of mourning, and to read the book of Eicha (Lamentations). There is a special 'trope' or melody that is used for this book. It is a haunting and very sad one, fitting for the day and the contents of this scroll, which talks of the despair and the tragedy of the sacking of Jerusalem and the destruction and looting of the Temple. Although terribly sad, this is also the source of some of our most exquisite poetry. "The Lord has set at nought all my mighty men in the midst of me, He has called a solemn assembly against me to crush my young men." "I am the man that has seen affliction by the rod of His wrath. He has led me and caused me to walk in darkness and not in light. Surely against me He turns His hand again and again all the day." One of my favorite lines from this scroll is at the very end of the book, when we are offered some hope. We include it in each Torah service as the last line we sing in the Eitz Chaim song: Hashivenu Adonay aylecha venashuva chadesh yamenu kekedem - "Turn us unto you, O Lord, and we shall be turned. Renew our days as of old."

Looking ahead, over Labor Day weekend, we will arrive at Rosh Chodesh for Elul. Elul is the last month of the year before we arrive at Rosh Hashanah. Elul is the month we are encouraged to take time to do some introspection and self-examination in preparation for the Yamim Noraim (days of Awe).

Rosh Hashanah is Rosh Chodesh for the month of Tishrei, which this year falls on the 4th of October (meaning that Erev Rosh Hashanah is the evening of the 3rd). Tishrei is our most intense month of holidays with Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, and Simchat Torah all in the course of that single month. Wow – it

<p>Rabbi's Desk</p>	<p>almost seems that the summer is over already! Torah parashiot (weekly portions) for the summer include Korach, Chukkat, Balak, Pinchas, Matot, Masei, Devarim, Vaet'chanan, and Ekev. Several of these, particularly Korach, Balak, and Pinchas, are powerful stories that are worth reading. Korach is the Levite who rebels against being treated as less than Moses and Aaron. Balak is the amazing story of the king of the Moabites, Balak, who becomes fearful of the Hebrews, and engages Bilaam to curse them. Bilaam goes through a series of events, including a conversation with a talking donkey and an encounter with an angel of death, before his 'curse' is uttered. That curse is the song we often open with in services, "Mah tovu ohalechah Ya'akov mishkenotecha yisra'el" (How goodly are your tents, O Jacob, your dwellings, O Israel!). In Pinchas (Phinehas) we read of how Pinchas was roused to a righteous rage by his zealous regard and love for G-d, and how he slew a Hebrew man and a Midianite woman for profanation before G-d and was rewarded for it. Masei is the last parashah (portion) in the book of Bemidbar/Numbers, after which we begin Devarim/Deuteronomy. In this way, we continue to move forward in the calendar towards the High Holidays and Sukkot/Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah, when we will once again complete the reading of the Torah and begin again with Bereshit/Genesis. In this way, our cycle continues, as it has, and as it will.</p> <p>Allow me to offer to each of you and to all of you my wishes for a summer of joy, peace, relaxation, and refreshment. I will look forward to seeing you soon. Le'chayim! <i>Rabbi Joe Blair</i></p>
<p>Office Hours and Contact Information</p>	<p>July-August 2005 Availability 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. Watch for an announcement about changed office days starting in the fall. 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</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Our New Library</p>	<p>To check out a book from our newly housed Temple House of Israel Library:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make sure the computer is on. Click on the Readerware icon. On the top bar select "file" and open the database. 2. Select the book by title, author or ISBN number. 3. Click on the record for that book. Fill in your name where it says "borrower/lend to". Fill in the "date checked out" <p>* If for some reason the computer can't be started or there is another problem, fill in a check-out card and leave it by the computer for someone to enter later.</p>
<p>Noteworthy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Mitzvah Day was a great success! A huge round of thanks to Natasha

Congregational News

Benenson, Rabbi Joe Blair, Laura Jean Brand, Janet Brody, Ruth Don and Philip Chodrow, Leah Farmer, Vera Flint, Byron Humphries, Paul Klein, Marsha Pillet, Joe and Jordan Kristoff, Michelle Regine, Lisa Solod and Grace Lambeth, and Beth Young. We cleared out the storeroom and many out-dated files, started the work of replacing ceiling tiles, did yard work and thoroughly cleaned the kitchen. The piles of bags at the curb and the truckload delivered to the landfill testify to our accomplishments! Thanks also to those who couldn't come but brought cold drinks for those who did. And thanks to all those people and more who brought yummy food to the potluck dinner later.

- The potluck dinner with Grace Covenant Church held in early June was enjoyed by all who attended.
- Ruth Chodrow attended the Small Congregations Shabbaton in Lynchburg at the beginning of June. Twenty congregants representing 10 mid-Atlantic congregations participated. Ruth came home from an intense but productive weekend with piles of material on synagogue management, leadership and volunteerism which she shared with the temple board. A tip from Ruth – “the next time one of these comes around, do make an effort to attend.”
- Sara Brody's Bat Mitzvah project started out as putting our library collection on-line. The cataloging of the library became remodeling of the social hall to include a new location for the library, thanks in great part to the Berman and Brody families. The new shelves have been stained thanks to Sarah Grove-Humphries and Beth Young and the physical move of all the books is completed, thanks in large part to Sara Brody. Each book has been entered into the computer system so that everything is now cataloged on-line and the new computer is sitting on the center shelf waiting for you to check out a book. See “how-to” at the bottom of page 3 of this bulletin.
- Work continues on the Rabbi's study now that the library books have been moved. The existing shelving and counter have been made sturdy, a portion of the counter has been removed to allow for new air conditioning and the furniture will be moved to more easily accommodate visitors. Thanks to Byron Grove-Humphries for all his work.

News of our Community

- We extend our condolences to Ralph Cohen, whose mother passed away on June 20th in Montgomery Alabama.
- Lee Hersch is having a remarkable and speedy recovery from his hip replacement surgery done in early June.
- Bennie Sragovitz is home recovering from surgery for lung cancer, performed at the end of May. We wish him back to good health as quickly as possible.
- AJ Hartung underwent back surgery on August 13th. At press time, the doctors were pleased with how well the surgery went and are “cautiously optimistic.” AJ wrote “I want to thank all of you for your concern since I broke my wrist in a fall thus causing the damage to my back to catch up with me. I find it very difficult to accept the degree of prominence my injuries have caused; limelight for my animals, students – yes – they have always been my focus along with my friends. The upshot is that back surgery to several points in my lower spine is necessary, the prognosis is hopeful, the surgeons I have visited look at me as a person - and I know I can rely on your help and best wishes in the months ahead. My love and thanks to all.” AJ
- Rabbi Lynne Landsberg is joining the Religious Action Center staff as the

<p>News of our Community</p>	<p>organization's Senior Advisor on Disability Issues. Lynne will work within the RAC and with other Jewish organizations to increased the Jewish community's involvement in the ongoing struggle for civil rights protections for people with disabilities, to increase awareness of and access for people with disabilities and to combat discrimination against people with disabilities. For those of us who heard Lynn speak on this topic in Charlottesville in June, we know she'll do an outstanding job. Mazel Tov, Lynne!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Valley Music Academy is offering the early childhood music program Musikgarten in Staunton and Waynesboro for children from 4 months to age 9. All Staunton classes are taught by Sarah Grove-Humphries. Musikgarten's programs awaken and develop a young child's natural joy and talent for making music. Music's melodic and rhythmic patterns stimulate neural pathways in the brain and develop listening skills, the foremost necessity for learning. Musikgarten classes also provide the essential foundation for piano or other instrumental study. Classes begin the week of August 29th and are held in Staunton at the Staunton Academy of Ballet, 105 N. Augusta Street and at the Ballet Box, 1744 Englewood Drive. If you or someone you know is interested in Musikgarten classes, please register or for more information. For more information about Musikgarten, please call 1-800-216-6864 or visit them on the web at www.musikgarten.org.
<p>News from the Women's Group</p>	<p>Continued thanks to Marsha Pillet for maintaining our front yard flower garden at the entrance to the temple. She and Jordan have created a new legend/key, mounted on a stand and installed in the garden, to identify the Biblical plants they planted as part of Jordan's Bat Mitzvah family project last year.</p> <p><i>Happy Birthdays to be celebrated in July:</i> Marcia Conner, celebrating on July 2nd Kate Goldenberg on the 3rd Benjamin and Sydney Fox on the 6th Sarah Young on July 10th Byron Grove-Humphries on the 14th Lynn Landsberg on the 21st Elana Brody on the 24th Ellen Schorsch on the 30th</p> <p><i>Happy Birthdays to be celebrated in August:</i> Lillian Blair on August 9th Jonathan Freedman on the 10th Stephanie Brand on the 11th AJ Hartung on the 13th Joe Kristoff also on the 13th</p> <p><i>Happy Anniversary</i> Doug and Martha Degen on July 30th</p>
<p>Adult Education</p>	<p>The Rabbi has attempted to present classes and lectures that responded to the requests of congregants this year and has certainly provided at least something in response to each request received in the last year. If you have any particular requests for lectures, classes or discussions, please let the Rabbi know as he begins planning for the coming year.</p>
<p>Staunton</p>	<p>If you have not ever read <u>The Elephant's Child</u> or your memory of it is hazy, take</p>

Book Group	<p>another look. Our discussion was enhanced as we listened to a record by Jackson Nicholson and passed around an illustrated version of the story seeing that poor little thing pre-trunk. Imagine how hard it was to even eat, let alone pick up all those banana rinds he scattered on his journey. We follow Kipling with a summer read at the home of Janet Brody (101 Waverley Drive) on Wednesday August 3rd at 7:30 pm: <u>The Jane Austen Book Club</u> by Karen Joy Fowler. Our August read will be Joseph Conrad's <u>The Secret Agent</u> on Wednesday, August 31st at A.J.'s home. This has become a group that interacts well, but we would love a few more book addicts to join us with their insights and choices!</p>		
Youth Group SHORTY and Confirmation Class	<p>Our last meeting was a road trip to a service at the Renewal minyan in Charlottesville at the UVA Hillel house. After the service, our group went to have some lunch, during which we held a conversation about the difference in services among different Jewish groups. We also planned the Youth and Confirmation services. On short notice, we also squeezed in a trip to Kings Dominion with other youth groups from our region. Those who were able to go had a great time. The next Shorty event is expected to be a trip to Busch Gardens, perhaps September 11th. Please hold the date and plan to come with us!</p>		
Judaica Shop	<p>Dianne Mason has added many new items in the Judaica Shop: If you have any Judaica needs during the summer, please call Dianne at 885-6254.</p>		
Notes from the Editor	<p>The deadline for each issue is the 20th of the preceding month. Anything you'd like published in the September bulletin should be given to me by August 20th. Your suggestions are welcome!</p>		
Corrections and Additions to Member/Friend List	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dan Wachpress is now at 71 Peterson Place, Fishersville 22939 • Ken & Elizabeth Schwartz have moved to 122 Fallon Street, Staunton 24401 • Don Chodrow's new email address is dchodrow@verizon.net <p>➤ If your information is not correct or is incomplete, please let me know at bydesign@ntelos.net.</p>		
Yahrzeits for July	<p>Leah Bressman Barber Edith W. Belfor Ruby Schorsch Bornstein Abe Bressman Maurice Cohen Jerome Degen</p>	<p>Vera Duken Bernice Cohen Fox Delores Levy Ben Raybin Betty Rosenthal Joseph Loewner</p>	<p>Richard Roth Simon Jacob Sachs Frances Schwartz Sara Helen Seltzer Abraham L. Suskins Samuel Weinberg</p>
Yahrzeits for August	<p>Charles Brand Louise C. Cohen Albert R. Gomberg Cynthia Ann Grossman Anna Harris Louis Philip Kamerman</p>	<p>Julius Kane Ddr. Samuel Shultz Loewner Donald Mindell Lucy Hyde Nicely Doris Harris Patterson Eva Neretin Robins</p>	<p>Esther Rosenthal Rachel Schwartz Rothenberg Sandra Schoenberg Vivian Kleinrock Schorsch Madeline Barth Shultz Charles E. Switzer</p>

Temple Contacts

Rabbi	Joe Blair	886-4091 or rabbijob@hotmail.com
President	Rafael Brand	949-0529 or rafa@ntelos.com
V. P. - Membership	Paul Klein	396-6169 or mediamat@ntelos.net
V. P. – Bldgs. Grds.	Michael Brown	885-3809 or mcbrown@uaix.net
Secretary	Ruth Chodrow	886-2252 or rchodrow@verizon.net
Treasurer	Laura Jean Brand	942-3656 or ljvp@adelphia.net
Director at large	Lisa Solod	463-7637 or lisa@rockbridge.net
Past President	Doug Degen	886-8651 or dbdegen@ntelos.net
Trustees	Ralph Degen	886-5434
	Alan Goldenberg	adg1221@aol.com
	Richard Young	885-1481 or younghdwe@ntelos.net
Bulletin Editor	Beth Young	885-1481 or bydesign@ntelos.net
Bulletin Circulation	A.J. Hartung	337-6836

AUGUST			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Aug	
Aug	
Aug	
Aug	