



Temple House of Israel Bulletin

A Member Congregation of the Union for Reform Judaism
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www.thoi.org

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

July TAMMUZ → AV & August AV → ELUL 5769

From The Rabbi

My dear Shenandoah Valley Jews and Friends,

Shalom! As I write this, we are moving into summer. The weather is hot, the annual congregational meeting with a 'state of the congregation' report and elections took place just a short time ago, the school year is at its end, and we are in the process of changing pace.

Not that this means we slow down - Oh, no! We keep right on doing things. Regular rabbi-led and lay-led services will continue through the summer. I will be away for approximately four or five weeks, but that will not impact the events in the congregation.

This is a good opportunity to look back at the past year. The year contained all the usual events. We saw a full range from Board meetings to Burials to Britot Milah (Bris) to B'nai Mitzvah (Bar & Bat Mitzvah) to Kiddushin (weddings), with a full panoply of Shabbat and Holiday Services, and our share of sorrows and celebrations.

The Tu Bi'Shevat and Passover seders were both wonderful, warm and fun. Selichot was meaningful and moving. Our services have seemed quite lovely; visitors have commented on how warm and welcoming they find them, and the congregation. The various Oneg Hosts/Hostesses have done yeoman work and really made our time following services what it is meant to be – a pleasure and a joy in celebration of Shabbat.

The caring committee has been filling in where possible to support our community members when needed, and they have truly performed a mitzvah through the year.

Our Chevrah Kaddishah (Holy Burial Society) has, Baruch Hashem (thanks to G-d), not been called on, but they stand ready to serve as needed.

In the area of governance, I have been very happy to see that the Board has been actively managing the congregation's business. The building and the cemetery are in excellent shape. The financial picture for THOI is stable, unlike so many other congregations in the URJ, and in other denominations. The Board has developed a refined vision and a strategic plan in accordance with the mission statement we have adopted for moving the congregation forward. Personally, I am glad that the Board of THOI and Beth El could reach an agreement and find the resources that permitted me to remain here as the rabbi for five years, through July of 2013 – and I hope they can do so again at that point.

The only less than bright spot in this picture is that THOI is still a very small congregation, with only about 46 households. That puts a lot on the plate of a small number of people – so we all have to pitch in, especially as we add more activities.

So all in all, things are actually quite good. Our community is stronger, more vibrant, and healthier than it was a year ago, and all the more so, than five years ago. Jewish life in the Valley is strong, and growing in depth. We have made strides in many of the areas which were identified as important to our members, from outreach to non-Jewish persons and groups, to in-reach to our own members in matters in which we could not serve them in past. So much is going on, and there is a sense of joy and pride in being part of the Jewish community here. This is all due to the efforts of many people, ALL of them members who have invested in themselves

and their community. We thank them, each and every one, and we hope to have even more of our community members involved at a deeper level. In that way, we strengthen even more our community, our congregation, our religion, and our congregational ‘family’.

Recent Events

We kicked it off June with the Religious school picnic and Maccabi games on May 31st, - lots of fun was had by all!

We followed that up a week later with the annual congregational meeting. At this meeting, elections for officers took place. The slate proposed was elected unanimously.

This was the first annual meeting which took place in June. Prior to this, the Congregation’s year was January to December, and the annual meetings were scheduled in December. The board decided to align the congregational year to the membership year: in order to do so, last year was extended for the purpose of scheduling to 18 months to allow the shift to June. That meant the last December congregational meeting was in December of 2007.

Upcoming Events

- If it is not yet past, remember that on June 26th and 27th, we will celebrate the Bat Mitzvah of Makena Rafferty-Lewis at Beth El.
- There is a Rabbi-led Shabbat service at THOI at 7:30 pm on July 10th, preceded by a potluck dinner. Contact Rosalie or Marsha for more details. This is the last rabbi-led service before the summer break, during which there are lay-led services.
- Don’t forget – Lay-led Summer Shabbat services are Weekly from July 24th until August 21st. Services will be at 7:30 pm on Friday evenings.
- Annual THOI Picnic, Sunday, August 23rd at 5:00 PM at the Bodens’ home
- Rabbi-led services will resume on August 28th.

In Closing

May the bright light and warmth of summer infuse our spirits! Have a fun, relaxing, and restful summer, and come back recharged, refreshed, and renewed for the year ahead!

Rabbi Joe Blair

President’s Notes

Dear Members and Friends,

During my first year as president of this wonderful congregation we have accomplished many things. By the end of the summer we will have achieved most of our 5 year plan – in only 3 years!

- We are handicapped-accessible from our entry into the social hall to the restrooms (women’s room now and men’s room complete in August), and onto the bima with pews.
- Our social hall has been repainted and ceiling tile replaced and the library has grown.
- Our stained glass windows have been repaired. The grounds of the temple and our cemetery have been kept beautifully.
- Work on the stucco repair and exterior painting is scheduled for this summer.

At the risk of missing someone, a huge debt of gratitude is owed to Ellen Boden, Mike Brown, Leah Farmer, Byron Grove-Humphries, Marsha Pillet, Lisa Solod Warren and David Waterman for all their time and effort to accomplish this work. Thanks are also due to Laurie Berman who has spearheaded our Staunton Jewish Film Festival for the past 2 years and served as Board vice-president. She will now work on the Board’s finance committee. Rabbi Joe who, among many other things, has worked tirelessly with Katharine Gorsuch to make the

Shenandoah Valley Holocaust Education Project into a successful month-long event. Both of these events have proven to be sources of outreach and education making us an integral part of our community. Our Women's Group has continued to provide the oneg for each Shabbat service, sponsored the break-the-fast for Yom Kippur, built the sukkah, served Shabbat dinner on 2 occasions, planned our Chanukah party and Tu B'Shevat seder, celebrated milestone birthdays at special onegs, and made our Community Passover Seder a reality. Thanks to Gail Brusoe, Marsha Pillet and Rosalie Waterman for their dedication and hard work. The monthly bulletin is the glue that keeps us all informed and Martha Degen has been doing a great job in keeping us connected. Marcia Conner is maintaining our website which is another communication tool as well as a presence in the larger community. Thanks to both these ladies. The Board looks forward to working with Rachel Peretz Combs our new vice-president. Rabbi Joe has been with us all the way, leading, urging, prodding and encouraging us to do and be all this and more.

At the recent Board retreat, we identified where we see ourselves in 5 years. That vision is listed below separately. I encourage you to read it, see where you fit in that picture, make suggestions to us, but most importantly, to get involved in our tiny Jewish community – to be a part of our caring family. If you see something that is of interest, call and become a part of it. If you don't see something of interest, suggest another activity. Call me and tell me what you'd like to see us do.

B'shalom, *Beth*

Goals for Temple House of Israel Board by May 11, 2014

- We have exceeded 70 family units
 - We operate a thriving religious school
 - We enjoy strong congregational involvement and support
 - Our membership is a representative demographic
 - Our dues structure and donations from income and trust support the continuing operation of the congregation and cemetery
 - We offer a variety of options in religious services, educational opportunities, social action and social events which attract participation
 - Our services include a variety of music which provides for an uplifting service
 - People look forward to spending time in community at the synagogue
 - We serve as the center for Jewish life and culture for members and the larger community
 - People living in this area come to us for Jewish learning
 - Our members speak of their spiritual fulfillment
 - We offer a variety of services, rituals and Jewish worship styles to fulfill our member's desires and needs
 - Through our participation in interfaith programs, community service projects and our community awareness Shabbat services, we are recognized as an integral part of our community
 - We engage in social justice (aka tzedakah)
 - While adapting to the interest of our members and changing demographics, we honor this congregation's history, heritage and traditions
 - Members of the Board of Directors, along with the Rabbi, plan for and work toward the long term success of the congregation
 - We continue to maintain and enhance the beauty and history of our building
 - We provide a caring sense of community and family to our members
- We are all these things.*

Annual Picnic

Everyone is invited to the ***THOI Annual Picnic*** held Sunday, August 23rd, before rabbi-led services resume. Join us at 5:00 PM in the home of Lou and Ellen Boden, 232 East Beverley Street . Their home is across the street from the temple's side entrance and north approximately 4 houses. Street parking will be limited, you may want to park at the city parking lot used for temple services. The Bodens will provide paper goods & drinks. Please RSVP to the Bodens at

	<p>championsresource@hotmail.com . Bring a lawn chair and dish to share.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Last Names</i></p> <p>A – G Desserts H – Q Vegetables / side dish R- Z Entrée / main dish</p>		
Celebrating Birthdays	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Marcia Conner on July 2nd Kate Goldenberg on 3rd Twins Benjamin and Sydney Fox on 6th Betty Menaker on July 7th Sarah Young on July 10th Byron Grove-Humphries on 14th Lynne Landsberg on 21st Elana Brody on July 24th</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <p>Ellen Boden on August 6th Lillian Blair on August 9th Jonathan Freedman on August 10th Stephanie Brand on August 11th AJ Hartung on August 13th Joe Kristoff on the 13th</p> <p>Anniversaries Doug and Martha Degen on July 30 Ruth and Don Chodrow on August 13th</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Marcia Conner on July 2nd Kate Goldenberg on 3rd Twins Benjamin and Sydney Fox on 6th Betty Menaker on July 7th Sarah Young on July 10th Byron Grove-Humphries on 14th Lynne Landsberg on 21st Elana Brody on July 24th</p>	<p>Ellen Boden on August 6th Lillian Blair on August 9th Jonathan Freedman on August 10th Stephanie Brand on August 11th AJ Hartung on August 13th Joe Kristoff on the 13th</p> <p>Anniversaries Doug and Martha Degen on July 30 Ruth and Don Chodrow on August 13th</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: Rafael Brand, Shirley Brand, Janet Brody; Don Chodrow; Philip Chodrow; Pauline Drucker; Vera Flint; Steve Guberman; Lynne Landsberg; Betty Menaker; Dan Schorsch; Fredi Solod; Jay Solod; Lisa Solod Warren; Nancy Witt; and anyone 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 2009 – Chukkat and Balak (a double portion); Pinchas; Mattot and Masei (a double portion); and Devarim. These are drawn from Bamidbar (Numbers) 19-36, and Devarim (Deuteronomy) 1-3. • August 2009 – Va’etchanan, Ekev, Re’eh, Shofetim, and Ki Tetze, drawn from Devarim (Deuteronomy) 3-25. • Haftarot (selections from the Prophets) read on Shabbatot (Sabbaths) in the month of July, include selections from Micah 5-6; Jeremiah 1-4; and Isaiah 1. • In August, the Haftarot read are from Isaiah 40, 49-52, and 54-55. 		
Sunday School	<p>If you are interested in registering for or finding more information about religious school for your children for the fall, please contact Dara Hall at mddmhall@verizon.net or 540-433-5596.</p>		
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>Women's Group meeting Sun., Aug. 23.-3:30 PM at THOI, before picnic at 5:00 PM.</p>		
Oneg Reminder	<p>According to the master list the following members are hosting an oneg on these dates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 10 Shabbat Service Art& Jan Goldsmith 540 464-5196 , Lou & Ellen Boden 540 255-5555 		

Yahrzeits	July Leah Barber Edith Belfor Ruby Bornstein Abe Bressman Maurice Cohen Jerome Degen Vera Duken Bernice Fox Eva Geller Mollie Hoffman Jacob Kaplan Delores Levy Joseph Loener Ben Raybin Betty Rosenthal Richard Roth Simon Sachs	July Sara Seltzer Morton Shor Abraham Suskins Samuel Weinberg August Charles Brand Louise Cohen Mildred Fay Degen Bernard Goldsmith Albert Gomberg David Greenstein Cynthia Grossman Anna Harris Louis Kamerman Julius Kane Mabel Kaplan	August Dr. Samuel Loewne Donald Mindell Lucy Nicely Doris Patterson Shirley Peretz Eva Roberts Eva Robins Esther Rosenthal Rachel Rothenberg Sandra Schoenberg Vivian Schorsch Samuel Sebell Madeline Shultz Charles Switzer Miriam Wasserman
The Calendar & Holidays	<p>TAMMUZ → AV (JULY)</p> <p>May 24th was Rosh Chodesh for Sivan. Sivan runs until the 22nd of June, with Rosh Chodesh for Tammuz on the 22nd and 23rd of June. Tammuz will run from the 23rd of June until the 21st of July, and Rosh Chodesh for Av will be July 22nd. Av will run from July 22nd until August 20th, with Rosh Chodesh Elul on August 20th and 21st.</p> <p>July 9 is a fast day, the Ta'anit Shiva Asar Be'Tammuz. This is known as the start of the three weeks of deep mourning leading up to Tisha Be'Av. During this period it is the custom to act as a mourner – no shaving or haircuts, eat no meat, no celebrations.</p> <p>The Ta'anit Tisha Be'Av falls on July 30th this year, the 9th of Av. It is the saddest day of the Jewish year, commemorating the destruction of both the first and second Temples. For Tisha Be'Av, the custom is a full fast, and reading the Book of Eicha (Lamentations), from which we get such beautiful imagery as that of the city of Jerusalem sitting alone and deserted, saddened and bereft of its inhabitants.</p> <p>AV → ELUL (AUGUST)</p> <p>Rosh Chodesh for Av will be July 22nd. Av will run from July 22nd until August 20th, with Rosh Chodesh Elul on August 20th and 21st. Elul will run from August 21st to September 18th, with Rosh Chodesh Tishrei on the 19th of September.</p> <p>Rosh Chodesh Tishrei is also known as Rosh HaShanah. Rosh HaShanah begins the evening of Friday, September 18th 2009.</p>		
Reaching the Rabbi	<p>Rabbi Joe is on "vacation" between July 18th and August 27th. During that period, Rabbi Joe will not be coming in to the shul on any regular basis. In case of an emergency, he can be contacted by email or by leaving a message on his cell phone (434-981-3959).</p>		
Congregational Calendar	<p>If you visit our web site www.thoi.org click on the Calendar 5769 link, you will see an up-to-date schedule. If you click on the Rabbi link, you will see a blurb about Rabbi Joe and then his schedule outside those on the congregational schedule.</p>		

Temple Contacts

Rabbi	Joe Blair	886-4091 or rabbi@thoi.org
President	Beth Young	885-1481 or president@thoi.org
Past President	Lisa Solod Warren	886-1603 or pastpresident@thoi.org
V. P. of Membership	Rachel Peretz Combs	540-363-4881 or membership@thoi.org
V. P. of Building/Grounds	Steve Rosenberg	943-0507 or building@thoi.org
Secretary	Ruth Chodrow	886-2252 or secretary@thoi.org
Treasurer	Ellen Boden	treasurer@thoi.org
Director at large	Janet Brody	851-0877 or director-at-large@thoi.org
Trustees	Doug Degen	886-8651 or trustees2@thoi.org
	Alan Goldenberg	trustees3@thoi.org
	Richard Young	885-1481 or trustees@thoi.org
Cantorial Soloist	Sarah Grove-Humphries	885-4223 or cantor@thoi.org
Temple Webmaven	Marcia Conner	website@thoi.org
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Bulletin Circulation	Janet Brody	851-0877
SHORTY (youth group)	Sheri Alt	youth-group@thoi.org
Religious School	Linda Kohn	religious-school@thoi.org
Young Adults Group	Natasha Benenson	young-adults@thoi.org
Caring Committee	Lou Boden	caring-committee2@thoi.org or 540-255-5555
	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

THOI Calendar July 2009			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 Potluck Supper Rabbi-led services 7:30 PM	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 Lay-led Services 7:30 PM	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 Lay-led Services 7:30 PM	
THOI August 2009						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 Lay-led Services 7:30 PM	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Lay-led Services 7:30 PM	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 Lay-led Services 7:30 PM	22
23 Women Group Mtg 3:30 PM Congregational Picnic @ Bodens 5:00 PM	24	25	26	27	28 Rabbi-led Services 7:30 PM	29

