



Temple House of Israel Bulletin

A Member Congregation of the Union for Reform Judaism
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September 2006, Elul 5766/Tishrei 5767

Office Hours and Contact Information

RABBI'S AVAILABILITY THIS YEAR

Starting August 25th, the Rabbi's available days for this year will generally be Sundays and Mondays in Harrisonburg, and **Thursdays, Friday days, and some Wednesday evenings in Staunton.** The rabbi is out of the office and the office is closed for all Jewish holidays, Shabbat, and some secular holidays. The office is also closed during those times the rabbi is out of town or otherwise unavailable. You may leave a phone message at the congregation. Messages are checked periodically by the Rabbi. There is no other staff person to take phone calls.

REACHING THE RABBI

If you wish to meet or speak with the rabbi, please email or call for an appointment, preferably on one of the available days in Staunton, to be sure that Rabbi Joe will be able to give you his full undivided attention, as you deserve.

Email: RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com

Beth El Congregation	540-434-2744
Temple House of Israel	540-886-4091
Home [Emergencies only, please]	434-971-4741

The Rabbi's Desk

My dear fellow Valley Jews and Friends,
SHALOM!

I want to open with a sincere 'thank you' to those who participated in the pilot project to have year-round services by leading the Lay-led Summer services in Staunton: (in alphabetic last name order) Laura Jean Brand, Ruth Chodrow, Sarah Grove-Humphries, and Dev Singer. Yasher kochachen lachen (A wish and hope that each of you may find even more strength to do righteous deeds) and mazal tov! These summer lay-led services were a wonderful success - well attended and fun, and I am delighted that they could be offered. I would like them to continue in future.

As you know, congregational year 5765-5766 (August 2005-July 2006) came to its end. Now we start the new congregational year, as well as looking forward to the High Holidays in a short few weeks. In anticipation of the upcoming holidays, allow me to wish each and all of you a sincere LeShanah Tovah veMetukah Tikateivu (May you be inscribed for a good and sweet year). May this be a year of many blessings for all of us, a year of peace for Israel, and for all the world. Ken Yehi Ratzon (May it be so!)

I am writing this article in late July and early August. I have been enjoying the change of pace that the summer brings, but at the same time, I am missing our regular events and the excitement of congregational life, and I will be happy to return and begin the cycle of activities anew. The year officially starts on August 17th with a Board meeting, then on the 20th we have the potluck picnic at the Youngs, and our first regular Shabbat services will be on the 25th. I look forward to seeing each of you again!

THE CALENDAR & HOLIDAYS

As I wrote this, we were in the midst of the month of Tammuz. July 26th is Rosh Chodesh for Av. August 3rd will be Ta'anit Tisha Be'Av, the fast of the 9th day of Av. As I have mentioned in prior articles, that is the day on which we solemnly commemorate terrible events in Jewish history, such as the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem (twice). Specifically because of this tragic event in our history, Jews would visit the retaining wall at the base of the Temple mount and weep – which is how it became known as the 'wailing wall' or 'kotel'. No part of the Temple remains intact. The kotel is the closest we can come to the Temple today.

August 9th is another day of note during the summer period, but a much happier one. In the Talmud, Tu Be'Av (the 15th of Av) is identified as one of the two happiest days in the Jewish calendar, falling one week after the conclusion of the 'three weeks' of mourning that end with Tisha Be'Av, and right in the midst of the period when we read 'comforting' Haftarat. Tu Be'Av is called the holiday of Love (think Valentine's day!): it is the full moon of this month. This was said to be the time when the eligible young women would go out into the fields and engage in play and sports, all dressed alike, in white, to be seen by the young men. It is said that many marriages were arranged as a result. Whether this is fact or fancy, it does tie the period of comfort (and our summer) to the High Holidays, and serves as an early reminder of the coming Yamim Nora'im (days of awe), telling us that in forty-four days it will be Rosh Hashanah. This would be a wonderful day on which to have a congregational picnic or other happy event!

August 24th and 25th are Rosh Chodesh for the month of Elul. This ushers in the formal period of Cheshbon Hanefesh (accounting of the soul) we are encouraged to engage in during this time leading up to the Day of Atonement.

Rosh Chodesh Tishrei is Rosh Hashanah (the head of the year, the Jewish New Year for the sovereign, and the celebration of the anniversary of Creation), and this year it falls on the evening of September 22nd and September 23rd and 24th. Yom Kippur is the evening of October 1st and October 2nd, with Sukkot hard on the heels of this holiday. This is the time of observance of many holidays very close together on the Jewish calendar.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CALENDAR

Speaking of calendars, you should have the up-to-date version of the annual congregational calendar in hand, either now or very soon. The calendar pulls together in one place all the wide variety of events and dates to plan out the year. You can see the full range of Adult Education programs, services, holidays, special events, social happenings, and so on by looking over the calendar, which makes it easier than ever to plan ahead and take advantage of all we have to offer!

A few notes on upcoming calendar events and items:

- Regular rabbi-led Shabbat services begin August 25th at THOI, September 1st at BE
- Generally, the THOI board meets the first Thursday of the month at 7. These meetings are open to all congregants.
- Religious School will begin on September 10th
- Torah Lishmah (Torah study for its own sake), will again take place, beginning September 15th, at noon at THOI. The focus for this is Parashat Hashavuah (the weekly Torah reading). This year we are in the third year of the triennial cycle.
- Talmud Torah Limud (Torah Studies), will occur on a monthly schedule at Beth El

at

6 pm Monday evenings, beginning September 18th. The focus is a more in depth look at one topic or part of the text from the Torah readings for the month. In September, we will look closely at Bereshit/Genesis 22, the binding of Isaac – the Torah reading for the morning of Rosh Hashanah.

<p>Desk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The first Tot Shabbat program will be at 10 am at THOI on September 16th. Generally, Tot Shabbat will be on the third Shabbat of each month, except in October (when it will be conducted on October 7th to celebrate Sukkot – contact Shelby for more information on the location). All families with children in the pre-school age group are invited to attend. Please RSVP to Shelby Apple, or leave a message at THOI during the week. ● There will be a thematically appropriate film & a discussion followed by a Selichot service on September 16th, starting at 6 pm at THOI. The film is tentatively identified as either Crimes and Misdemeanors or Million Dollar Baby (depending on availability). ● The first adult education program for this year will be a class on the High Holidays on September 21st at 7 pm at THOI. There will be three more similar holiday related classes through the year: one October 5th for Sukkot, and the others in the weeks prior to Passover and Shavuot. ● Israel Trip planning and preparation meetings will take place, with five sessions planned, starting in January for those who will be going on this trip. I will be asking for commitments in order to plan soon. <p>B'virkat shalom (with Blessings of Peace) and best wishes for the new year, Rabbi Joe</p>
<p>Message from the President</p>	<p>Dear Congregants, It is hard to believe but the new year is upon us! This has been a wonderful and busy year for THOI; especially encouraging is the number of new congregants who have chosen to join us. We have had our share of joy and tragedy, as usual, but we remain the close-knit, kind and loving congregation that I believe is the envy of many larger synagogues. You will be happy to notice the new handicapped accessibility at the side door to the social hall and in the restrooms; that has been a goal of the board and we are pleased t have met it. We are also planning a varied and interesting calendar of events for the upcoming year and we hope that as many of you as possible will take part. Toward that end, THOI continues to operate on a shoestring and any contribution you can make beyond your dues is very welcome and appreciated. At High Holidays services I will be speaking to our various needs for funds, not only for basic operating costs but for future building and maintenance, but any donations you can manage before then would be wonderful. The board and I wish you all a healthy and happy new year!</p> <p style="text-align: right;">----- Lisa Solod</p>
<p>A Special Note from Robert Pendleton</p>	<p>I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following people for monetary gifts given to me and my son Robert for our basketball trip to Fort Wayne, Indiana. Special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Michael Brown, Drs. Ruth and Don Chodrow, Dr. and Mrs. Doug Degen, Mr. and Mrs. Alan Goldenberg, Mr. and Mrs. Byron Grove-Humphries and Ms. Helen Prince. The team won three games of the six games played. One game went into 4 overtimes! They came in 5th in the nation, ages 15 and under!! My son Robert and Michael Glover were picked for the All-Tournament team. This would not have been possible without your help. Thanks again. -----Robert Pendleton</p>
<p>Noteworthy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Welcome to Betty Menaker who has joined the synagogue. Betty lives at Summit

<p>Congregational News Noteworthy Congregational News</p>	<p>Square in Waynesboro and is known by many in the congregation. We're happy to have her become a member of the temple community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mid-Atlantic Council biennial will be held in Gaithersburg, MD on Oct. 20-22nd. The theme is "Staying Connected: How We Make Community Matter". There is a fund to help subsidize costs for members of small congregations like ours. Link directly to the MAC Biennial Registration Website at the MAC homepage and click on Register Here, or download the registration form http://urj.org/mac/macbiennial. • Our potluck picnic on August 20th was really fun! The rain came early and cleared and more than 40 people enjoyed delicious (of course!) food and socializing. • Thanks to David Waterman who put up grab bars in the bathrooms for us. It's the first step in making our temple more user-friendly to the less able-bodied among us. More accommodations are coming.... • We're looking for volunteers to be the chair or a part of our newly formed Caring Committee. Please contact the Rabbi directly. • The next Board Meeting will be held September 14th at 7:00 pm in the social hall. Everyone is welcome to attend! If you would like to add to the agenda, please contact Lisa Solod prior to the meeting.
<p>A note from Sarah Grove-Humphries</p>	<p>I would like to thank you for sending me to Mifgash Musicale at HUC-JIR in Cincinnati at the beginning of August. This year the focus of the conference was twofold: music for Shabbat and also the new Reform prayer book, Mishkan T'fillah, that is being published by the URJ this October. There were 52 participants making this the largest Mifgash ever. I had the opportunity to meet and work with temple musicians from all over the US, a few Canadians and a Dutch man. Our days began with T'fillah at 8:30 and ended at 10:00 each night after full days of workshops, repertoire readings, and rehearsals. Mifgash is one of the most intense, stimulating, humbling, joyful and inspiring events, both spiritually and musically, that I have attended.</p> <p>For me, the most interesting and intense part of the conference was T'fillah, the prayer services. We used the Mishkan T'fillah prayer book for all of the services and we had 4 weekday services and 4 shabbat services. Each cantor led a weekday service in a different style with different music. The participants were then divided into 4 groups according to the size of the congregation they served and each group prepared a Shabbat service according to the resources that would probably be available in each situation. I can't describe the intensity, joy and beauty of singing and praying with a roomful of temple musicians that more than once left me speechless.</p> <p>I learned and experienced so much and look forward to sharing some new music with you. I am profoundly grateful for the opportunity to attend Mifgash and I thank you very much for making it possible.</p> <p>B'Shalom, Sarah</p>
<p>News of our Community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ellen Schorsch had an article published in the May-June issue of <u>Clavier</u> and has been invited to lecture at The Shubert Club of Fairfield, Connecticut. She's busy playing and writing music. • We join Bonnie Brown and her family in saying the Misha Berach for her father, Paul Lowe. • We also send our prayers of comfort and healing to Bennie Sragovitz and his family. • Rachel, Tony and Ian Jordan are connected (casajordan@cavtel.net) and settling into their new home in Richmond - with their exchange student from Hamburg. They send their wishes for peace and good health and warm hugs to all.

<p>News of our Community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Young is beginning his freshman year at the University of Mary Washington. • Allyson Goldsmith is beginning her freshman year at Brandeis University. Best of luck to both our college freshman! • Michael Degen is heading to San Francisco September 1st for his studies at the California Culinary Academy.
<p>News from the Women's Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We'll have our first meeting of the year on Sunday, September 17th at 2:00 pm to get together and put things in place for our upcoming year. No dues, no assignments, just taking care of the details of congregational life. We hope to see you there! • <u>Could the person who has graciously taken our round blue tablecloth home to wash, kindly return it at your earliest convenience.</u> Thank you! • THANK YOU to those who signed up on our volunteer "opportunities" sheet at the picnic. We still need someone to coordinate our traditional Break the Fast on Oct 22 and coordinate Sukkot activities. Please contact Beth Young at 885-1481 if you're interested. • <i>Happy Birthdays to be celebrated in September:</i> Ralph Degen celebrating on September 9th Lynn Hewitt also celebrating on the 9th Tony Jordan celebrating on the 11th Scott Goldenberg on the 17th Zach Pereles on the 18th Caterina Janicker celebrating on the 28th <i>Happy Anniversary to :</i> Beth and Rich Young celebrating 25 years together on 20th Iris and Ray Rubin celebrating on the 28th
<p>Religious School</p>	<p>The board of Beth El has decided that they wish the Rabbi to monitor and account for compliance with the service attendance standards, such as those stated in the B'nai Mitzvah guidelines. Rabbi Joe is looking into various systems of keeping track and providing positive reinforcement for those students who comply. All those parents with students in the religious school should watch for more information to be forthcoming very shortly on how this will be implemented. It is our hope that your children will want to attend services and that you will help them to achieve this goal. Look for them to talk about rewards for levels of achievement in this area. Ongoing Service attendance is the single best and the least painful way for them to learn the liturgy they will need to master in the years before their B'nai Mitzvah. If they want to attend for other reasons, who should question the efficacy of that as motivation? ☺</p> <p>The new trio of principals of the religious school Linda at LIN5KO@aol.com, Dara at mddmhall@verizon.net or 540-433-5596, or Ruth at rbberger@adelphia.net or (540) 574-0440.</p>
<p>B'nai Mitzvah</p>	<p>Looking ahead, this congregational year we plan to celebrate three B'not Mitzvah. December 1st and 2nd are the scheduled dates for Riff Blair at THOI. January 26th and 27th are the dates scheduled for Rachel Berger at Beth El, and March 23rd/ 24th are the dates scheduled for Roberta Stein at Beth El.</p> <p>Two more Religious School students are also working towards their B'nai Mitzvah at this time: Sean Miller at THOI and Jacob Stein at Beth El share an August birthday. These two are scheduled to celebrate their B'nai Mitzvah in October, 2007.</p>

	<p>The Rabbi will be meeting with each of these individuals during the course of the year to ‘coach’ them, monitor progress, and encourage them to ‘be all they can be’!</p>
Adult Education	<p>TORAH PARASHIOT</p> <p>Torah parashiot (weekly portions) for this month include Ki Tetzei, Ki Tavo, Nitzavim/Vayelich, and Haazinu from Devarim (Deuteronomy) chapters 21 to 32. On the 23rd, Shabbat Rosh Hashanah, as the holiday Torah portion we will read one of the most well-known sections of the Torah, the Akedat Yitzchak (binding of Isaac), Chapter 22 of Bereshit (Genesis). Talmud Torah Limud on September 18th will focus on this Torah parashah and the various commentaries on it. These 23 verses have generated LOTS of commentary!</p> <p>GENERAL ADULT EDUCATION</p> <p>I have attempted to plan a full series of classes and lectures that respond to the requests of congregants, and take into account what was popular and sparked interest in the past. Consequently, the plan for this year is quite extensive.</p> <p>Events planned include weekly Torah Lishmah (THOI) and monthly Talmud Torah Limud (BE), similar to last year. Also scheduled is a Crash course in Reading Hebrew (CCRH) [what we have termed in past the Introduction to Hebrew]. This is a five week course offered at each congregation starting in November. Intermediate Hebrew will start in January at each congregation.</p> <p>In addition, there will be an adult education program most months at each congregation. At BE by request it will be a Jewish Film and Discussion program on Sunday evenings. I anticipate selecting films of Jewish interest that will raise some interesting questions, and cover a range of genre and topics.</p> <p>At THOI the adult education programs will be classes, covering such topics as a focus on upcoming Jewish holidays, a look at the Chevrah Kadishah (holy society that helps prepare the deceased for burial), a short introduction to some of the aggadic aspects of the Talmud, and a look at the Five Megillot. As a longer series, I will offer a Crash Course in Basic Judaism, for five sessions starting in April.</p> <p>I will be presenting a five-session series helping to prepare those who plan to travel to Israel next June. I will offer four sessions at each congregation, and one combined session at the end for all travelers.</p> <p>CONVERSION CLASSES</p> <p>Although I will not be offering the formal Introduction to Judaism class this year, I am teaching some classes that will cover some of the same information and material as part of the Adult Education offerings. Among those classes that may be useful for this purpose are: the five session Crash Course in Basic Judaism, the four Crash Courses in Jewish Holidays, the two Meet the Talmud sessions, the single session classes on the Five Megillot and Pirke Avot, Talmud Torah Limud, Torah Lishmah, and the Film and Discussion sessions. I believe that these are all appropriate for those considering conversion, as well as those simply interested in learning more about Judaism, whatever their level of knowledge. If you are interested in the conversion process and what it entails, please contact me.</p>
Young Adults	<p>The Young Adults will be meeting at Bravo’s in Harrisonburg at 6:00 pm on Friday, September 1st for dinner. After dinner they’ll attend services at Beth El. Please contact Natasha at nhbenenson@hotmail.com or 886-1157 by August 24th so she can make the reservations for dinner. Hope to see you then!</p>
Judaica Shop	<p>Dianne Mason will continue with the Judaica Shop while she remains in the area. If you have any wants or needs, please contact Dianne at 885-6254</p>

<p>Book Group</p>	<p>From AJ: “Last year we read <u>The Book Group</u> and it came back to me strongly after our last discussion at Beth’s on <u>The Kite Runner</u>. We pick up a book with pre-conceived expectations and are often disappointed, enchanted or enthralled by its reality or rather the reality as we individually perceive it. This we attempt to infuse to each other as our gift of interpretation BUT – oh my!!! We each bring ourselves and, gradually, as in <u>The Book Group</u> (a choice of Janet’s), learn more of each other and maybe even I gain insight. Please join us as we discuss <u>The Happy Heretic</u> by Judith Hayes at 7:30 Thursday, August 31st at AJ’s home (337-6836). Then on Sept 27th we are reading <u>Suite Francaise</u> by Irene Nemirovsky and will meet at Dianne’s (885-6254), as she will leave for 6 months in Wales in October getting away from us by caring for her mother. You may not know the true reason is that she’s leaving to avoid doing my hair.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">-----AJ Hartung</p>		
<p>Youth Group and Confirmation Class</p>	<p>A Shorty kick-off activity and/or trip is tentatively planned for early September, and a meeting will be called sometime later in the month for installation of officers, planning for the year, a program, and confirmation activities. Members of Shorty and their parents will hear more about this on their own email lists once the dates and times have been finalized. If you, or someone in your family, is eligible for membership in Shorty (post-B’nai Mitzvah age through Senior year in High School), please be in touch with Rabbi Joe or Sherri Alt.</p> <p>The youth group did an excellent job leading services on June 3rd at Beth El, including the members of Shorty for last year and some of those eligible to join Shorty this year. It was a lovely service celebrating Shabbat, Shavuot, and Confirmation, and they led it so well they made us all proud. We can look forward to having them lead services several times during the course of this year.</p>		
<p>Donations</p>	<p>Thank you to these generous people who have made contributions to the Temple during the previous month. We appreciate your donations!</p> <p>To the general fundFinal Draft Booksellers – Linda Singer For the print bulletinHelen Prince</p>		
<p>Notes from the Editor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I’d love to hear from you! Please have your information, comments and suggestions to me by September 20th for the October newsletter. 		
<p>Yahrzeits For September</p>	<p>Flossie Wise Cohen Rueben Harris Harry Harrison Henrietta Summerfield Harrison Herman Levy Miriam Schultz Loewner</p>	<p>Julius Margolis Minnie Fred Patterson Hermine Printz Samuel Printz Joseph Ruttenberg Nathan Schilling</p>	<p>Anna Seff Seltzer Michael Seltzer Stephen P. Shapiro Samuel Shultz Sadie Kravis Witt</p>

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3	4	5	6	7	8 Shabbat services at 7:30	9
10 Religious School Begins	11	12	13	14 Temple Board Meeting at 7:00	15 Torah study at noon	16 Tot Shabbat at 10:00; Selichot at 6:00 w/ film
17	18	19	20	21 Adult Ed: Jewish Holidays at 7:00	22 Erev Rosh Hashona at 8:00	23 Rosh Hashonah at 10:00 Tashlich at 1:00
24 No rel school	25	26	27	28	29 Torah study at noon	30

Aug 25	Shabbat Services at 7:30 – Youngs and Hartungs oneg hosts
Sept 8	Shabbat Services at 7:30 – Dianne Mason and Lisa Solod oneg hosts
Sept 10	Religious School begins
Sept 14	Temple Board Meeting at 7:00 in the social hall
Sept 15	Torah study at noon – everyone is welcome!
Sept 16	Tot Shabbat at 10:00 Selichot services beginning with film at 6:00
Sept 21	Adult Ed: Crash Course in Jewish Holidays at 7:00
Sept 22	Erev Rosh Hashonah Services at 8:00 w/ Rabbi Joe – Pillet and Grove-Humphries oneg coordinators
Sept 23	Rosh Hashonah Services w/ Rabbi Sue at 10:00; Tashlich at 1:00
Sept 24	No religious school
Sept 29	Torah study at noon – everyone is welcome!