



# 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.

Elul 5770 – Tishrei 5771 / September 2010

## President’s Message

Dear Members and Friends,

Rabbi Joe, Rabbi Sue and our cantorial soloist Laura Mandeles are preparing for the High Holy Days and we look forward to celebrating with them. In addition, the ritual committee made up of Leah Farmer, Lisa Solod, and Ellen Werther, will be contacting you soon to encourage your participation as well. Please accept the honor of reading in English or Hebrew (your choice) when you are called upon.

Tickets were mailed to all members earlier in August. We welcome you to purchase tickets for guests or non-members with a suggested minimum donation of \$100 for both holidays or \$60 for one holiday. Contact any board member for more information.

Please fill in the names of your loved ones on the *yizkor* envelopes (available at the temple) prior to Sept 17<sup>th</sup> so that all names can be read during the Memorial Service on Yom Kippur.

As we prepare for the holidays, look around you and count your blessings. Look at your parents or your children or your grandchildren and smile. Look within you and see the person you are; make the changes you need to make so that you can smile at yourself. I wish you a positive, healthy and rewarding year to come and hope to see you all at our End-of-Summer Potluck Picnic on Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm.

L’Shana Tova,  
Beth

## High Holidays

OPEN TO CONGREGANTS AND GUESTS

On September 4<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 pm at Beth El the joint **Selichot Service** will be held. This is a liturgy in the tradition of Teshuvah (repentance), often held during the month of Elul, as preparation, prior to the start of or during the Yamim Nora'im (ten days of awe) which comprise the High Holidays. This liturgy consists of a number of readings, some songs, and several prayers. It lasts about an hour. I invite you to join me for this service in preparation for the days of awe.

### **Rosh HaShanah**

Wednesday, September 8: **Rosh HaShanah evening** services at 8:00 pm. Pot Luck



there are sixteen days that are 'holidays' this month - more than not, even when we don't count Shabbatot (Sabbaths)!

Clearly, Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur are THE notable holidays this month; probably the two most observed days in the calendar (other than Passover). The major theme of Rosh HaShanah is God's Sovereignty, as demonstrated through the trio of rulership, remembrance, and revelation, as highlighted in the Shofar section of the service. We connect the themes of Rosh Hashanah with the themes of Yom Kippur in the symbolic ceremony of Tashlikh, the casting away of our failings/sins. The major themes for Yom Kippur are the focus on our spiritual selves, performing Teshuvah (turning and returning), afflicting our physical beings (particularly by fasting) in repentance for our failability, and a recognition and celebration of God's attributes of love, compassion, mercy, grace, and abounding forgiveness.

Because it falls so close after these major events, Sukkot tends to get short shrift. In fact, it is also a major biblically ordained holiday, one of the three pilgrimage festivals, when Jews would bring their offerings to God to the Temple in Jerusalem. The major theme of Sukkot is a celebration of Creation; it commemorates God's handiwork in nature, and acknowledges the bounty of the harvest. The symbols associated with it are the Sukkah (hut, reminiscent both of the temporary shelters set up in the fields so harvesting could take place without interruption, and also of the temporary shelters in the wilderness during the forty years of wandering, led by God, and of the Chuppah - wedding canopy - as a sign of the 'marriage' of God and the people Israel through the eternal covenant); the Lulav (palm, willow and myrtle branches held in a woven basket handle) and Etrog (the citron), representing the four species, which symbolize many things that come in fours (the matriarchs, the four levels of existence, the four ways to read and interpret a text, the four types of people, and more). A further aspect of Sukkot is that it is seen as a universal holiday; not only Jews would make offerings and offer thanks. This is understood to be a universal holiday, appropriate to all peoples and nations it is the model for the secular celebration of Thanksgiving.

Then, immediately, there is Simchat Torah, the rejoicing in the Law/Instruction, a celebration of the giving of the Torah by God to the people Israel, a gift we are to share with the world. This, too, is a significant holiday, but has tended to be seen by some as a "children's celebration" because it includes marching and dancing with the Torah scrolls in processions around the synagogue. In fact, it is intended as a holiday for all, with aspects that would appeal to children, but with meaning and significance that apply to all Jews. On this day we both conclude and begin again our cycle of reading from the Torah by reading the concluding section and immediately turning again to the beginning; with the message that we are always and continually engaged with God's instruction (the Torah), and striving to understand and live in accordance with the values, precepts, ethics, and morals that are to be found within it.

#### Torah Parashiot

The Torah parashiot (Torah portions) read for the month of September include the following:

Nitzavim-Vayelech, and Ha'azinu, drawn from Devarim (Deut.) 29:9-32:52, and the special readings for Rosh HaShanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot, and Simchat Torah, including at least: Bereshit (Gen.) 22:1-19, 1-2, and Bamidbar (Num.) 29:1-6; Devarim 29:9-14, 30:1-20, 33:1-17, and Bamidbar 29:7-11, 29:35-30:1; Vayikra (Lev.) 19; Shemot (Ex.) 33:12-34:26 and Bamidbar 29:23-28.

Haftarot we will read in September include selections from Isaiah 57-58, 61-63; 1 Samuel 1-2; 2 Samuel 22; Ezekiel 38-39; Jonah and Micah 7:18-20; and Joshua 1.

### **Rabbinic & Educational Initiatives**

There are many opportunities for learning and study coming up (though fewer in September due to the holidays). I hope you will avail yourself of at least some of them. Offerings at either congregation are open to members of both; please feel free to participate in any of them, no matter where they may be located. Look for many more to appear in the October (and following) newsletter and calendar.

#### **OPEN TO THE GENERAL COMMUNITY**

I will be offering two courses through the JMU LifeLong Learning Institute (LLI), both to be held at Beth El. Congregants from either congregation are welcome to take these courses at no charge; others must register with the JMU LLI.

The first is a course on selected stories in the Talmud, the second is a close reading of a biblical text through the lens of seven different Jewish commentators spanning a wide diversity of time and place. Each course is five sessions.

The first course begins September 14th at 1 pm.

The second course begins October 22nd at 1 pm.

There is a textbook which can be acquired through any bookstore; contact me for information.

#### **FOR CONGREGANTS**

Starting October 5th at 7 pm at THOI, I will offer an eight session seminar course on **Your Spiritual Autobiography**. We will talk about what this is, and read some examples in the first two sessions, held monthly. Following that, we will be reading each others' writings and discussing them. This course is limited to no more than twelve persons, taken in order of signup. Please email Rabbi Joe for information or to register.

#### **MAZAL TOV!**

On August 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> the celebration of the Bar Mitzvah of Zach Pereles took place at THOI, and Zach did a wonderful job leading the services. A hearty mazal tov to Zach and his family, and we look forward to sharing more simchas with them.

#### **Pastoral Care**

If you feel a conversation or meeting with the rabbi on any topic would be of benefit to you, please be in touch to make an appointment. You can call or email Rabbi Joe as listed elsewhere in this newsletter. Also, if you are ill, or know someone who may be, and might like a visit or call, please let Rabbi Joe know so he can be in touch, or see you when he is in town.

#### **Service Participation**

Please know that we seek congregant and guest participation in services throughout the year. If you are interested in leading a lay service, or in taking a role in a service, please be in touch with Lisa Solod, Beth Young, Don Chodrow, or Ellen Werther. You are also welcome to talk with Rabbi Joe about participation. If you are interested in singing at our services, please be in touch with Sarah Grove-Humphries our coordinator for music at worship services.

#### **Ritual Matters**

*Celebrations:* If you are interested in studying for and celebrating an adult B'nai Mitzvah, or in learning to leyn (read/chant) Torah and/or Haftarah, or to lead services, or serve as a gabbai, please be in touch with the rabbi.

*Jewish Study:* If you are interested in or wish to consider conversion, or you just want to learn more about Judaism (whether you are Jewish or not), please be in touch with the rabbi.

*Caring Committee:* This group has been doing wonderful things in helping and supporting those in our community who may have some needs for assistance or support. If you can volunteer at THOI, please speak with Rosalie Waterman, Lou Boden, or Beth Young. As always, if you know of someone who is ill, or who might wish to be contacted, please tell Rabbi Joe.

*Chevrah Kadishah:* This group functions to prepare and dress a body for burial in accordance with the Halachic (Jewish legal) requirements, showing respect, care, and concern for the deceased. Members are not publicly acknowledged nor is it made public who has been involved in this mitzvah. Thank G-d, we have not had too many opportunities to respond, but we do need to be ready when the call comes. If you have any interest in participating in performing this mitzvah, please speak with Rabbi Joe.

**Closing**

At this season of introspection and review, I want to acknowledge that though I have tried in the past year to do my best, I have on occasion fallen short. For those whom I have disappointed, hurt or injured, whether knowingly or not, I offer my apologies, and my sincere wish not to cause those injuries again. I ask your forgiveness, and seek your help and support in avoiding a repetition. I pray to grow and improve, and to be a better person, more like the person I aspire to become. At the same time, to anyone who has caused me any hurt or injury, I forgive you, and release you from any obligations to me.

May each of us find the strength and wisdom to learn and grow towards the person we can become. May we be granted the benefit of God's grace and compassion, and feel the love and respect of those around us. May we come to live in such a way that our lives will be examples to others and, when the time comes, our memories be for blessings.

Le'Shanah Tovah Umetukah Tikateyvu.(wishing you to be inscribed for a good and sweet year).

**Rabbi Joe Blair**  
September 2010

**Yarzheit**

Flossie Wise Cohen	Julius Margolis	Nathan F. Schilling
Reuben Harris	Minnie Fred Patterson	Anna Seff Seltzer
Harry Harrison	Hermina Printz	Michael Seltzer
Henrietta Summerfield		
Harrison	Samuel Printz	Stephen P. Shapiro
Herman Levy	Concetta (Connie) Rubin	Samuel Shultz
Miriam Schultz Loewner	Abraham Ruday	Bennie Sragovitz
Milton Mann	Joseph Rутtenberg	Sadie Kravis Witt

**Schedules  
2010 - 2011**

End-of-Summer Potluck Picnic on Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm at the Young's  
Friday, September 3 Shabbat services 7:30 PM  
Saturday, September 4, Selichot services at Beth El Congregation, 8:30 PM

	<p>Wednesday, September 8, Rosh HaShanah evening services, 8:00 PM  Thursday, September 9, Rosh HaShanah services 10:00 AM  Sunday, September 12, Yizkor service at the THOI cemetery 2:30 PM  Friday, September 17, Kol Nidre service at 7:30 PM  Saturday, September 18, Yom Kippur services 10:00 AM  Saturday, September 25, Shabbat and Sukkot services 10:00 AM</p>
<p>Religious School</p>	<p>Greetings from the Religious School!  I hope you have been enjoying a wonderful summer! As the summer break winds down and the new school year is about to begin, I would like to welcome you to the 2010-11 Religious School year. I am looking forward to seeing you all very soon and I'm excited about greeting several new students as well. I can provide you with details about the curriculum, schedule and policies.</p> <p>Our first day of religious school will begin on <b>Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am.</b></p> <p>I will work hard to provide an enriching and positive educational experience for all of our students and families. If you have any questions prior to our first meeting date or at any time during the school year, please do not hesitate to contact me at: Dara Hall H: 540-433-5596, C: 908-0516, email: <a href="mailto:halldm@jmu.edu">halldm@jmu.edu</a>.</p> <p>I look forward to seeing you for another great year!</p> <p>L'Shalom ,  Dara Hall, Principal</p>
<p>Thanks</p>	<p>Dear Friends,</p> <p>I want to thank you for your help in sending me to the Western Wind Ensemble Singing Workshops at Smith College in Northampton, MA. I attended both sessions (June and August) along with participants from the US, Japan, and Australia. Western Wind is led by William Zukof, and includes Laura Christian, Michele Kennedy, Todd Frizzell, Richard Slade, and Elliot Z. Levine. This group sings a wide variety of music, including classical music from medieval times to the present, as well as hymns, folksongs, jazz, and pop. They also specialize in early American music and Jewish music. Other faculty members included Yumiko Matsuoka from Berklee College of Music; Robert Eisenstein from Smith College; Grant Herreid, lute; and Gwen Toth, harpsichord.</p> <p>Each day began with vocal and body warm-ups and the rehearsal of the large group piece. Then we broke into small groups of 10-15 singers based on skill level led by a Western Wind member facilitator. This year I made it into the highest group, which was both challenging and exhilarating. We rehearsed several pieces in our small group, and then the group was further divided into small ensembles with one singer on a part. Each evening there was a seminar where each group shared the pieces they learned that day and the faculty would offer suggestions on how to improve the pieces.</p> <p>This year I took a few of my own choral arrangements to share. I was able to hear one of them performed and experience the enjoyment of others for something I created. I even became a published arranger, having sold 5 copies of my music.</p> <p>Thank you again for your support in sending me to the Western Wind Workshops. I</p>

	<p>learned a great deal and I hope to continue to share what I learned with our congregation.</p> <p>B'shalom, Sarah Grove-Humphries</p>								
Women's Group	<p>This is another reminder that the holidays are very early this year and the time to plan for them is now. Without someone to do these mitzvot they will not happen. The few need help from the many.</p> <p>We need someone to arrange the details for our Tashlich service, Sept 9 at the duck pond in Gypsy Hill Park after Rosh Hashanah morning service. It's a simple holiday to organize; arrange for bread crumbs and prayer books to be at the pond and help arrange car pool rides to the park for those who may need it. Contact Marsha for details, 540 249 4946</p> <p>Though we all pitch in to help before the break fast we need organizers to plan the meal. Ellen Werther has generously offered to co-coordinate but she would very much like a co chair. Please contact Ellen, 540 430-4343, to help her with this considerable undertaking.</p> <p>Someone is also needed to be the lead for Sukkot, Sept. 25. Marsha will help whoever set-up our sukkah but there's the community sukkah decorating to plan for and the "meal" as little as breaking bread or if time and date allow even pizza in the Hut or your menu choice as organizer.</p>								
Trip to Israel	<p>On October 3rd at 7 pm at THOI, and again on October 7th at 7 pm at Beth El, Rabbi Joe will hold an <b>infomational meeting</b> for those who wish to go on a <b>congregational Israel trip</b>. Matters to be discussed will be level of interest, some idea of cost, possible itineraries, and the dates (those tentatively selected, and perhaps others).</p>								
Contact the Rabbi	<p>The rabbi is available by appointment. If you wish to meet or speak with the rabbi, please email or call him. In that way, the rabbi will be able to respond and give you his full attention, as you deserve. The rabbi does not read or respond to email or phone messages on Shabbat or holidays.</p> <p>In the event of an emergency, the rabbi may be contacted by telephone. In that case, please call the cell phone number listed: if you reach voicemail, please leave a message speaking clearly with your name, telephone numbers, the specific topic, and be sure to express the need for an urgent response. The rabbi will respond as soon as possible.</p> <table> <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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Oneg Reminder	<p>The Oneg List for the coming year is attached to the bulletin. The next services are:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Shabbat services Sept. 3</td> <td>Lisa Solod 540 886-1603</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Rachel Peretz-Comes 540 414-7078</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shabbat services Sat. Sept. 25</td> <td>Marcia Conner 540 885-5111</td> </tr> <tr> <td>* Sat. 10:00 a.m.</td> <td>Beth &amp; Rich Young 540 885 1481</td> </tr> </table>	Shabbat services Sept. 3	Lisa Solod 540 886-1603		Rachel Peretz-Comes 540 414-7078	Shabbat services Sat. Sept. 25	Marcia Conner 540 885-5111	* Sat. 10:00 a.m.	Beth & Rich Young 540 885 1481
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 22 Elul	2 23 Elul	3 7:30p Shabbat Services 24 Elul 10 7:14p	4 8:30p Selichot Services Beth El Cong. 25 Elul
5	6	7	8 8:00p Rosh Hashanah Services 29 Elul	9 10:00a Rosh Hashanah Services Rosh Hashanah 1 Tishrei	Rosh Hashanah 2 Tishrei 17 7:03p	11 3 Tishrei
12 26 Elul	13 27 Elul	14 28 Elul	15 29 Elul	16 1 Tishrei	17 7:03p	18 3 Tishrei
19 4 Tishrei	20 5 Tishrei	21 6 Tishrei	22 7 Tishrei	23 8 Tishrei	24 7:30p Kol Nidre 9 Tishrei	25 10:00a Yom Kippur Services Yom Kippur 10 Tishrei
26 11 Tishrei	27 12 Tishrei	28 13 Tishrei	29 14 Tishrei	30 15 Tishrei	24 6:52p Sukkot 16 Tishrei	10:00a Shabbat and Sukkot Services Sukkot 17 Tishrei
Sukkot 18 Tishrei	Sukkot 19 Tishrei	Sukkot 20 Tishrei	Sukkot 21 Tishrei	Shmini Atzeret 22 Tishrei		