



Temple House of Israel Bulletin

A Member Congregation of the Union for Reform Judaism
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October 2006, Tishrei/Cheshvan 5767

Office Hours and Contact Information

RABBI'S AVAILABILITY THIS YEAR

The Rabbi is available this year on Sundays and Mondays in Harrisonburg, and Thursdays and Fridays in Staunton.

REACHING THE RABBI

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

Email: RabbiJoe@thoi.org (NOTE: NEW ADDRESS)

Beth El Congregation 540-434-2744

Temple House of Israel 540-886-4091

The Rabbi's Desk

My dear fellow Valley Jews and Friends,
SHALOM!

THIS ARTICLE

I am writing this article in mid-September, contemplating the High Holy Days that will arrive very shortly. The congregational year has gotten off to a rousing start! Services are running, the religious school is in session, the youth group is active, adult education has started, and our community is active, vibrant, and wonderfully alive!

OUR WEBSITE

I have been working with Marcia to update and improve our website. She has done wonders, and it is looking wonderful, and has LOTS of excellent information, including past bulletins and a blog (where I am adding commentary as often as I can, and many of you can do so as well)! We will be keeping it updated regularly, so check back frequently. It is easy to remember: www.thoi.org!

THE CALENDAR & HOLIDAYS

As I write this, we are still in the month of Elul, which runs until September 22nd. Elul is the period of self-examination and repentance in preparation for Yom Kippur. I hope that you will forgive me any trespasses I have committed in the past year, as I do for each of you.

This is the time of observance of many holidays very close together on the Jewish calendar. Rosh Chodesh Tishrei is also known as Rosh Hashanah (the head of the year, the Jewish New Year for the sovereign, and the celebration of the anniversary of Creation), which this year falls on the evening of September 22nd, and on September 23rd and 24th. Yom Kippur, Tishrei 10, is the evening of October 1st and the day of October 2nd. Sukkot comes hard on the heels of these holidays, starting the evening of October 6th (Tishrei 15), and running until October 14th, leading seamlessly to our celebration on October 15th (Tishrei 23) of Simchat Torah. October 22nd and 23rd are Rosh Chodesh for the month of Cheshvan. Phew!

The Rabbi's

Rosh Hashanah is a day of celebration, rejoicing in Creation and honoring G-d, the Sovereign. Yom Kippur is observed as a day of fasting, repentance, and atonement.

<p>Desk</p>	<p>Sukkot celebrates the harvest and G-d's creation by having us dwell in booths and attend to the 'four species'. Simchat Torah celebrates the giving of Torah, our law and instruction on how to live a godly life. On Simchat Torah we celebrate this special 'letter/message from G-d' and dance with the scrolls. We also recognize that we are always engaged with this text, and symbolize it by reading from the last section of the Torah and immediately going on to start reading from the beginning again. In this way, we maintain our continual cycle of engagement with the Torah, G-d's instructions to us. As you can see, this is a season of many observances!</p> <p>THE CONGREGATIONAL CALENDAR</p> <p>Allow me to point out a few items that are coming up soon.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 1st at 2 pm there will be a memorial service at the cemetery. • October 5th at noon, the Interfaith Association will meet at EMU. • October 5th at 7 pm is the second in our four part series on the Holidays • Friday, Oct 6th at 6 pm, share Pizza in the Hut for Sukkot, followed by services. • Tot Shabbat will be October 7th. Details later in this bulletin. • Plan to come to the Religious School Sukkot celebration on the 8th. • Board meeting on the 12th at 7 pm. • Simchat Torah and the Consecration service will be Oct 13th at Beth El at 7:30 pm • Religious School Simchat Torah on the 15th. • Talmud Torah Limud on the 16th at 7 pm at Beth El: The story of Noah. • The MAC Biennial is from October 20-22 in Gaithersburg MD. • Adult Education on the Chevrah Kadishah at 7 pm on the 26th. This is the highly honored society that helps prepare for funerals. We are thinking about forming such a group in our community, and this is a way to talk about what it covers and why. Please come. • There will be a Torah Lishmah ONLY on October 27th this month because of holidays and Rabbi Joe being out of town at the Mac Convention. • Introduction to Hebrew class will begin November 2nd at 7 pm. • Watch for information on Israel Trip planning and preparation meetings starting in January. Also, be on the watch for an email or call if you have expressed any interest in participating in this trip. There is still time and room! <p>B'virvat shalom (with Blessings of Peace) and best wishes for the new year, Rabbi Joe</p>
<p>Message from the President</p>	<p>Dear Congregants, The board regrets that we were unable to get information about our new ticket policy in the last bulletin before you received your tickets in the mail from us. We thought that the explication letter included with the tickets would answer any questions, but apparently we were mistaken. Rest assured that all members are invited to attend services at no cost, and that donations are for non-members, guests and visitors only. In addition, should any of you have a question or problem with a board policy or procedure, please contact one of us at an appropriate time and in a manner that will help us help you. We are YOUR board, here to listen and try and make things work for Temple House of Israel. But we are also volunteering our time and effort to make this synagogue a viable, thriving, growing community. It isn't always easy! Happy New Year. ----- Lisa Solod</p>
<p>Board Meeting Summary</p>	<p>New members William and Marie Landes and their son Jacob, Betty Menaker, and Ellen Werther were all approved by the board. • The fundraising committee would like</p>

	<p>to explore showing Jewish films at the Visulite. • The handrails and ramps are in with thanks to Byron Humphries and David Waterman. • Estimates are being requested for the gutter cleaning and roof drains. • The Staunton Police have been requested to reserve parking for the high holidays and for extra drive-by presence during services. • New leases are being written for our tenants. • A mitzvah day is planned for Oct 29. • A new version of the bar/bat mitzvah letter is being written. • Our webmaven discussed the website in its updated form, noting that it has received hundreds of hits over the summer. • Babysitting is being pursued for high holidays. • Rabbi suggested that we might support Blue Ridge Area Food Bank and/or Mazon. Envelopes will be provided during services. • Rachel Jordan has moved and a replacement is needed for her member-at-large position. Lisa Solod will be leaving the area next July. • The trustees wish to change the by-laws so that they are non-voting members of the board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response concerning the high holiday tickets was discussed. <p style="text-align: right;">----- from the minutes of the board meeting</p>
<p>Noteworthy Congregational News</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>A Members Brunch to be held on Saturday, October 14th 10 am until noon</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>An invitation to all of us but especially to new members to drop in at the temple social hall</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Take a welcome pause in our Saturday morning to get together with each other over brunch</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Bagels, cream cheese and lox</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Fruit</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Yummy chili-egg casserole</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Coffee, tea and juice</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(although none of this should sway your decision to attend!)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We now have fifty-one (count ‘em, 51) paid members! We welcome William and Marie Landes and their son, Jacob, as well as Betty Menaker and Ellen Werther. • 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. • From AJ: “Rabbi Joe’s choice of film for Selichot was superb. It you have never seen Crimes and Misdemeanors please, please rent it or borrow it. Interchanging themes left us with questions as we face our own demons with the approach of the high holidays, whilst providing riveting performances and superb directing/filming, always enhanced by Mrs. Young’s culinary goodies as we sat, ate, watched, listened and then gathered for a very intimate and binding service as we dressed our Torah in her white clothing. Next year, put this on your calendar – it was truly a joy.” • The board has planned a Mitzvah Day for Sunday, October 29th at 1:30 pm. Please come help and if you can’t come, your donation for ceiling tile costs, mulch for the garden and tree work would be much appreciated. • The next Board Meeting will be held October 12th at 7:00 pm in the social hall. Everyone is welcome to attend!
<p>News of our Community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don Chodrow has been ill and there are on-going consultations with doctors at this time. We wish him a speedy return to good health.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dianne Mason will be leaving us on October 19th to care for her mother in Aberduffy, Wales. She intends to come home in April, 2007. • Natasha Beneson and her mother are leaving for 3 weeks in Australia immediately following Rosh Hashonah. We wish them a wonderful trip! • The entire Brand family is traveling to Israel in mid-October. They hope to visit with Rafael’s relatives and will no doubtedly have a momentous time. We wish them a safe visit and return!
<p>Of Interest</p>	<p>On Friday, October 6th there will be a multimedia production about the hidden children of the Holocaust “And Then They Came for Me: Remembering the World of Anne Frank”. Eva Schloss and her mother were the only members of their family to survive the Holocaust. In 1953 her mother married Otto Frank, the widowed father of the diarist Anne Frank. Since 1985 Ms. Schloss has become increasingly active in Holocaust education and in 1995 she worked with playwright James Still in the creative of this educational play. “And Then They Came for Me” will be performed by the Mill Mountain Players at the Plecker Workforce Center at Blue Ridge Community College. The show will be held at 9:30 AM and is free and open to the public. Contact Jerry Pangburn at 453-2337 for more details.</p>
<p>News from the Women’s Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A HUGE THANK YOU to Sarah Grove-Humphries and Marsha Pillet for coordinating our Rosh Hashonah oneg. And thanks to everyone who brought their delicious desserts for us to share. • Please join us for A Member Brunch honoring our new members on October 14th from 10-noon. Please <u>RSVP to Beth Young, 885-1481 – regrets only</u> The menu is listed under congregational news, if you need a lure. • Mark your calendars now for our congregational Shabbat dinner on November 3rd. The Women’s Group will repeat their Shabbat dinner with chicken and a roasted vegetable couscous with all the extras. Please let Beth Young know if you plan to come by Oct 27th. • We’ll have our next meeting on Sunday, October 29th at 1:00 pm to finalize plans for our Shabbat dinner in November among other things. 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! • <i>Happy Birthdays to be celebrated in October:</i> Charles Fox on October 5th Bonnie Legum on the 6th Marsha Pillet on the 21st Paul Klein on the 22nd Benn Legum on the 23rd Bonnie Brown on the 28th
<p>Religious School</p> <p>Religious School</p>	<p>Rabbi Joe is teaching the Daled Judaica class this year, as well as conducting assemblies and special events. We have also planned 5 field trips and two Family Education days, as well as our usual holiday celebrations. Ask your child about the ‘miles to Israel’ program that the new principals have implemented to encourage the students to learn both by traditional methods of study, and by experiential means.</p> <p>From Dara, Ruth and Linda:</p>

	<p>On the first day of class, Sarah Lewis, one of our Alef teachers, shared a photographic power point presentation with the whole school and parents about her summer as a camp counselor in Israel. She answered lots of great questions from our students about the culture and daily life experience of Israelis. The students also enjoyed dancing to the Israeli folk song “Mayim Mayim” thanks to our music director, Roberta Stein. Music is as important a part of our curriculum as it is in our culture. All students have a half hour music class every Sunday, and Roberta also offers a Children’s Choir after Religious School for enthusiastic singers.</p> <p>As a rewarding and fun mitzvah, many members of our Religious School and Jewish community attended a children’s event in support of the Kurdish community. At this “Autumn Party” the children enjoyed participating in a variety of games and activities. We will keep you apprised of any other events in support of the Kurdish community.</p> <p>Meanwhile, please save the following dates and join us for fun activities: Sukkot celebration on October 8th, Simchat Torah and Consecration Service for new Alef students on October 13th and Simchat Torah celebration on October 15th.</p> <p>L’Shanah Tovah! May you be inscribed and sealed for a good year!</p>
<p>Tot Shabbat</p>	<p>The next Tot Shabbat program will be a special Sukkot program at the home of Kevin and Shelby Apple in Fishersville. The program will take place in the Apple’s own sukkah at 10:00 am on Saturday, Oct 7th. There will be sukkah decorating, singing, stories and crafts. Families will also get to learn how to hold and shake a lulav and etrog! If you are interested, please contact Shelby at totshabbot@thoi.org for directions.</p>
<p>B’nai Mitzvah</p>	<p>The rabbi is meeting with the B’nai Mitzvah students.</p> <p>If you are interested in studying for and having your own B’nai Mitzvah, or in learning to leyn (read/chant) Torah and/or Haftarah, or lead services, please be in touch with Rabbi Joe.</p>
<p>Adult Education</p>	<p>TORAH PARASHIOT</p> <p>Torah parashiot (weekly portions) for this month include Bereshit and Noah, from Bereshit (Genesis) chapter 1-11. In addition, we read for the Sukkot and Simchat Torah celebrations from Vayikra (Leviticus) Emor 22:26-23:44, from Bemidbar (Numbers) Pinchas 29:12-16, and from Devarim (Deuteronomy) Vezot Habracha 33:1-34:12.</p> <p>Included among the topics in these readings is the portion of Noah, Bereshit 6:9-11:32. Talmud Torah Limud on October 16th at Beth El will focus on this Torah parashah and the various commentaries on it. This story is rich and wonderful. Come two by two to talk about it!</p> <p>GENERAL ADULT EDUCATION</p> <p>There are two adult education classes this month to remember.</p> <p>On the 5th at 7 pm is a class on the Holidays of Sukkot and Simchat Torah. This will focus on customs, the background of the holidays, text study, and a look at some of the halachot (laws) related to it.</p> <p>There is a Talmud Torah Limud scheduled for the 16th at Beth El at 7 pm, which will focus on the story of Noah.</p> <p>On the 26th at 7 pm the Rabbi will lead an initial class on the topic of the Chevrah Kadishah – the holy society that helps to prepare the dead for burial. I am teaching this class with the hope that there will be enough interest in our community to create such a group for our community.</p> <p>The only Torah Lishmah this month will be on the 27th (all other times this month are holidays or the Rabbi is out of town).</p>

	<p>CONVERSION CLASSES</p> <p>If you are interested in conversion, or simply learning something about Judaism, please be in touch with Rabbi Joe.</p>															
Judaica Shop	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															
Book Group	<p><u>The Happy Heretic</u> afforded us a wonderful evening as even if you don't love the messenger, the message can allow this group to run tangents on a theme forever. Overall we felt it a shame that fundamentalists approaches overly underlined the themes of this reading. We are now looking forward to Beth's choice of <u>Suite Francaise</u> by Irene Nemirovsky on Wednesday, September 27th at Dianne Mason's (885-6254), and in October at Pat Warner's (337-8680), we are reading her choice of <u>The Jungle</u> by Sinclair Lewis on the 25th at 7:30. Please join us.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">-----AJ Hartung</p>															
Youth Group and Confirmation Class	<p>Shorty (Youth Group) met September 17th, at which time the Board made dinner for the group, then was formally installed, and plans were formulated for the year. They have an exciting year ahead with a vast array of activities and opportunities, not the least of which are the Fall Kallah, Ski Weekend, TheVent, and Spring Kallah. 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, and get involved! Also, those in 7th and 8th grades this year should be planning to attend the MAJYK event in Roanoke November 10-12th. Watch for more information in the next newsletter or by email.</p>															
Donations	<p>Thank you to these generous people who have made contributions to the Temple during the previous month. We appreciate your donations!</p> <p>In memory of Sarah Lee and Julius Margolis.....Diane Witorsch In memory of Dani Thompson Diane Witorsch For the accessibility fund.....Lisa Solod In honor of her mother, Anne JanisEleanor Eisenman</p>															
Notes from the Editor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I'd love to hear from you! Please have your information, comments and suggestions to me by October 20th for the November newsletter. 															
Yahrzeits For October	<p>My apologies for missing names in our yahrzeit list. I'll work to complete an updated list in the next few weeks so that beginning with the November bulletin we'll stay current. (Ed.)</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td>Annette Biatch</td> <td>Annie Rosenthal Klotz</td> <td>Benjamin Sragovitz</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nina Rattner Finkel</td> <td>Mary Tornow Kravitz</td> <td>Babette Switzer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Samuel Goldenberg</td> <td>Leonard Legum</td> <td>Daughter of M. & R. Walters</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shirley Scherer Goldenberg</td> <td>Irving Schwartz</td> <td>Moses Walters</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nathan Harrison</td> <td>Henrietta Loewner Siegel</td> <td>Leon Weinberg</td> </tr> </table>	Annette Biatch	Annie Rosenthal Klotz	Benjamin Sragovitz	Nina Rattner Finkel	Mary Tornow Kravitz	Babette Switzer	Samuel Goldenberg	Leonard Legum	Daughter of M. & R. Walters	Shirley Scherer Goldenberg	Irving Schwartz	Moses Walters	Nathan Harrison	Henrietta Loewner Siegel	Leon Weinberg
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I T' S A BUSY MONTH

OCT.						
1 Memorial Service at the cemetery- 2:00 p Kol Nidre Services- 8:00p	2 Yom Kippur - 10:00 and 3:00 Break the fast following services	3	4	5 Adult Ed: Sukkot and Simchat Torah – 7:00 pm	6 Pizza in the Hut at 6:00 (Sukkot) Shabbat services at 7:30	7 Tot Shabbat at the Apple's at 10:00
8 Religious School Sukkot celebration	9	10	11	12 Temple Board Meeting at 7:00	13 Simchat Torah & Consecration at Beth El 7:30	14 Members Brunch 10-noon
15 Religious School Simchat Torah	16	17	18	19	20 MAC biennial in Gaithersburg	21 MAC biennial
22	23	24	25	26 Adult Ed: Chevrah Kadishah at 7:00	27 Torah study at noon	28
29 Women's Group meet at 1:00 Mitzvah Day at 1:30	30	31		Nov 2 Intro to Hebrew class at 7:00	Nov 3 Women's Group Shabbat Dinner at 6:00	

Oct 1	Memorial Services at the cemetery at 2:00 Kol Nidre Services at 8:00 pm with Rabbi Sue Elwell
Oct 2	Yom Kippur Services at 10:00 and 3:00 Break the fast immediately following service (approx. 6:00 pm) BethYoung, host
Oct 5	Adult Education: Sukkot and Simchat Torah at 7:00 pm
Oct 6	Pizza in the Hut at 6:00 for Sukkot Shabbat Services at 7:30 pm – Lou & Ellen Boden 886-6960 w/ Doug Degen 886-8651 oneg coordinators
Oct 7	Tot Shabbat at the Apple's house at 10:00
Oct 8	Religious School Sukkot celebration
Oct 12	Temple Board Meeting at 7:00 in the social hall
Oct 13	Simchat Torah and Consecration at Beth El at 7:30 pm
Oct 14	Members Brunch in the social hall 10:00 – 12:00
Oct 15	Religious School Simchat Torah celebration
Oct 20-22	MAC Biennial in Gaithersburg, MD
Oct 26	Adult Education: Chevrah Kadishah at 7:00 pm
Oct 27	Torah study at noon – everyone is welcome!
Oct 29	Women's Group meeting at 1:00 pm MITZVAH DAY at 1:30 pm
Nov 2	Introduction to Hebrew class at 7:00
Nov 3	Women's Group Shabbat Dinner at 6:00 Shabbat Services at 7:30 – Shirley and Rafael Brand w/ Marcia Conner

