



Temple House of Israel Bulletin

A Member Congregation of the Union for Reform Judaism
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Our mission is to perpetuate Jewish life and identity through a welcoming community of spirituality, learning, service, joy and worship.

October 2007, Tishrei/Cheshvan 5767

From the Rabbi's Desk

My dear fellow Valley Jews and Friends,

Shalom! I sincerely hope that you had a meaningful and rewarding high holy day season, starting in Elul, and especially from Selichot, through Rosh Hashanah, during the Yamim Nora'im, and all the way to Yom Kippur. May this be a blessed year, and a year full of joy, prosperity, health, blessings, and success for you and your loved ones.

Now the High Holy Days have already come and gone. Sukkot is upon us, Simchat Torah and Consecration are just ahead, and we are coming into Harvest season – Thanksgiving is not far ahead. Religious school has begun, our schedule of services is underway, and activities are in full swing. Welcome to 5768!

The Jewish Calendar & Holidays

Tishrei ends on the 12th of October, and the 12th and 14th of October are Rosh Chodesh for Cheshvan. Cheshvan continues until the 10th of November, and Rosh Chodesh for Kislev is on the 11th of November.

On the fifteenth day of the seventh month (Tishrei) we are to observe a festival of seven days. This is Sukkot, the Harvest festival, also known as the Feast of Booths, after the Sukkah (hut) in which we are to dwell. This holiday began on the evening of the 26th of September, and will run to October 4th, followed immediately by Simchat Torah on October 5th. Simchat Torah is the holiday of rejoicing in the Torah, and the day on which we conclude and begin once again the regular cycle of reading the Torah.

This year our celebration of Simchat Torah is a particularly significant one for our congregation because we have been reading the Torah on a triennial cycle (1/3 of each weekly portion in each year), and this will mark the completion of the full three year cycle. This means that our congregation will have fully completed reading all of the Torah in the three years leading up to this celebration. How exciting, and what a great reason to celebrate! To add even more to the festivities, we are celebrating Consecration of the new Religious school students at that service! And immediately after services, we will have a brief ceremony to re-dedicate the Ben Raybin library. Join us on October 5th as we joyously conclude and immediately start the Torah again!

After almost a MONTH of holidays, we are done for the time being!

The Congregational Calendar – Services

We always seek congregant participation in the services through the year. If you are interested in taking a role in a service, please be in touch with Rabbi

Joe. Roles include reading Torah, reading Haftarah, delivering a Devar Torah, serving as Gabbai – the “MC” for the Torah service, or having an honor. Honors include being called up for an Aliyah -saying the blessings for the Torah or the Haftarah, Hagbah – lift, hold, and carry the Torah, Gelilah - undress and dress the Torah, and Petichah usegurah - open and close the Ark.

This year with the arrival of Simchat Torah, we will be moving from the third into the first year of the triennial cycle, so we will read from the first third of each week’s Parashah (Torah portion). That means we can ask some of those congregants who had their B’nai Mitzvah three years ago to join us and reprise their performance in reading Torah and/or Haftarah!

The Congregational Calendar – Events

Much is planned, and there is room for even more. Here are a few highlights that you may want to be on the lookout for in the coming weeks.

- We are inviting all to come for a BYO meal to celebrate Sukkot in our Sukkah on Monday the 1st of October at 6 pm. For those of us who are cooking challenged, perhaps we can get together and order in ‘Chinese in the hut’. Please come and join us to decorate our sukkah, socialize, and have the opportunity to fulfill the mitzvah of sitting in the sukkah and waving the Lulav and Etrog.
- Friday October 5th will be a big evening. We will have our Shabbat service at 7:30 pm. In that service, we will be including Consecration, acknowledging our new religious school students. That will also be our Simchat Torah celebration service, so come to march and sing and dance with the Torahs! And after the service, we will hold a brief ceremony before the Oneg to re-dedicate the Ben Raybin library. .
- October 11th will be the first session of the Introduction to Judaism course. Please come to Beth El at 7 pm for this 18 session class. There will be a fee for the course and textbooks. See more details under Rabbinic Educational Programs, below.
- October 15th will be the next THOI Board meeting. Meetings are open for attendance by congregants, and congregants are welcome to ask to have items placed on the meeting agenda by contacting the president, Lisa Warren, in advance of the meeting.
- October 19th and 20th is scheduled as the celebration of Sean Miller’s Bar Mitzvah at THOI. 7:30 pm on Friday, and 10 am on Saturday.
- A Shenandoah Valley Holocaust Education event on October 20th at 7 pm. We will have a live theater performance of the one-woman show, Presenting Corrie Ten Boom at THOI. Ms. ten Boom was recognized as a righteous gentile among the nations for hiding Jews in her family’s home in Holland. It was discovered, and the whole family was sent to the camps, where all died except Corrie. She spent many years speaking about her experience and why she and her family did what they chose to do. Her story is inspiring and moving. Told in a way that is suitable for children, but meaningful for adults, we invite all our congregants to come and to bring friends, co-workers, neighbors, and others who would be interested and will benefit from this amazing award-winning performance.
- November 2nd at 6:30 pm we will have a Torah Lishmah study and discussion prior to services. All are welcome. Bring your dinner and join in, then attend our Shabbat service.

- November 5th at 6 pm will be the first session of the Introduction to Hebrew class. This is a 5 or 6 session class that will introduce you to the alef bet and vowels, and help students prepare to decode Hebrew so they can participate in the services more fully.
- Community Awareness Shabbat and a Women’s Group Fall dinner will be November 16th at 6 pm.
- Religious school, the Bagel Bar, young children’s music - Al Galgalim - program, and other events are also underway! Please feel invited to come and feel the excitement.
- Some changes and additions:
 - A. Be sure to look at the calendar for a few Shabbat morning services in place of selected Friday evenings, spaced out throughout the year.
 - B. I would like to hold a Healing service a few times during the year – we seem to have a need for it. Please let me know if you would be interested in such a service.
 - C. I would like to add a few Havdalah services through the year.

Torah Parashiot

Torah parashiot (portions) read for the period covered by this newsletter include: Vezot Habrachah, Bereshit, Noach, Lech Lecha, Vayera, and Chayei Sarah. These are drawn from Devarim (Deuteronomy) 33-34, and Bereshit (Genesis) 1-22. Haftarot include readings from Isaiah chapters 40-43 and 66, 2 Kings 4, and 1 Kings 1.

WISHES FOR A GOOD YEAR

I want to close this article by repeating my hope and wish from last month that each of you will have a year of peace, prosperity, health, joy, love, blessings, and all good things, and that our community will continue to grow and prosper and thrive as it has in the last several years.

B’virkat shalom (with blessings for peace),
Rabbi Joe Blair

Reaching the Rabbi

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

The office is not staffed and the building is generally closed when the rabbi is not there. In the event of an urgent need the rabbi may be contacted by email or telephone. Messages are regularly checked at both congregations, and email is frequently read. Please understand that the rabbi will not be available or reply on Shabbat or on Jewish holidays unless it is an emergency that cannot wait. In that case, please be sure to express the need for an urgent response.

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Beth El Congregation	540-434-2744
Temple House of Israel	540-886-4091
Cell phone (for emergencies)	434-981-3959

Message from the President

(The President asked to have her New Year's talk reprinted here.)

Dear Congregants,

You are all well aware that this begins the time of year when you will start receiving more email than usual. Along with the catalogues full of holiday items will come envelopes from charities begging for your contributions. There will also be telephone calls for those who haven't put their names on the no-call list. And soon Santa Clauses ringing bells for the Salvation Army will be in front of all the stores. And many of you will give to the groups who ask for money: out of guilt, real charity, or just for a good tax break. Motive is not what I am interested in. What I am interested in is letting you know a perhaps more deserving place for your charity: a place where you can get the most bang for your buck.

Right here. Temple House of Israel.

Not that there aren't other worthy causes out there. There are. But many of the most famous charities are also the richest, and the most bloated. The American Red Cross currently has over 3 million dollars in expenses; AmericaCares, over one million; the American Cancer Society, nearly 900,000, Feed the Children, over 800,000. What do those expenses constitute? It's hard to know. But we do know for sure that those monies that are not going out in direct aid. In addition, many charities use an inordinate amount of their donations toward administrative costs: from over 50 percent to over 70 percent for some, including the Jewish Campus Life Fund and the Virginia Performing Arts Foundation. That means that much less for the true recipients.

And in a terrible tragedy, the American Veterans Coalition, and two other charities founded by an anonymous source, collected over one million dollars. But 85 percent of that was pocketed by the fundraisers. Not one penny was spent on food, clothing or shelter for the veterans the charity said it was collecting money for.

Choosing a charity these days is a risky business: you really need to do your research and find out how much of what you donate actually gets used for the things you think it should.

Unless, of course, you choose to donate closer to home.

At Temple House of Israel, every dollar you give goes directly to everything you see before you: the building itself, keeping the lights and heat and air on, paying the rabbi's salary, programs, upkeep, maintenance – all of it to help perpetuate a Jewish life in the Shenandoah Valley.

While dues make up a large portion of the money we have to work with, our dues are quite low compared to many other temples and we don't charge members extra for high holiday tickets, bar or bat mitzvah training, lectures, classes. And we know you all realize that those dues don't nearly cover what we need just to keep the doors open, never mind to plan for emergencies or do special things like the handicapped accessibility projects we have been working on this past year.

So any extra money in donations, whether it is earmarked specifically or whether it is meant for the general fund, is absolutely crucial for our survival.

And because we are your temple, because you can come in here and see, each week, exactly what we are doing, because our finances are open to scrutiny, because we have no administrative or other costs to use up monies on, every single cent you donate you can be sure is meaningfully used.

The good news is that we have all the money we need to do everything we

	<p>want to do at Temple House of Israel. The bad news is, it's still in your pockets and pocketbooks.</p> <p>We all have choices to make as to how we spend our money and to whom we give. This year, as you rifle through the pleas for money, think hard about Temple House of Israel. Whether you are a long time member, a new member, visitor or high holiday worshipper, our synagogue is open to you and for you.</p> <p>Please help us keep it open now and forever. Donate close to home this year. Donate to Temple House of Israel.<i>Lisa Solod Warren</i></p>
A Special Note	<p>Please remember that if you are using the small children's table in the social hall, you need to clear it off before you leave. Our church tenants use it for their children's activities on Wednesdays and Sundays and the table needs to be kept clear for them. Thanks for everyone's cooperation.</p>
Noteworthy Congregational News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thanks to Sarah Grove-Humphries and Marsha Pillet for coordinating the wonderful desserts we enjoyed for Rosh Hashonah oneg. ▪ Thanks also to Marsha Pillet and Leah Farmer who provided goodies for our Selichot service and conversation. ▪ Continuing the high holy days with food, additional thanks to Gail Brusoe and Martha Degen who coordinated the congregational break-the-fast following Yom Kippur services. They, along with Ruth Chodrow and Jan Kaufman, led the brigade of setting out the food only to watch it be consumed in a storm. Thanks to all who brought their favorite foods to share. Our community is truly a special one and we sure know how to bring on the food! ▪ Come join us in the Sukkah! October 1st at 6:00 pm we'll decorate the sukkah so bring canned goods, high holiday cards, greens, herbs, and whatever creative ideas you have. Then at 6:30 you can dine on BYO or we'll order Chinese food. Thanks to Marsha and Ruth for setting up the sukkah this year. ▪ Mark your calendars for Friday evening, October 5th. We will mark the Consecration of and acknowledge our new religious school students. We will celebrate Simchat Torah as well, so come to march with the Torahs! And after the service, we will hold a brief ceremony before the oneg, hosting former member Inge Raybin who now lives in Nashville and her grown children and even some of their children in a re-dedication of the Ben Raybin Library. ▪ Thanks to Ruth Chodrow for spearheading the group who so ably prepared our sanctuary for the high holidays. Philip Chodrow, Stephanie Brand, Laura Jean Brand, Natasha Benenson and Rabbi Joe changed our torah covers to white and replaced blue prayer books with red ones. And then, with additional help from Grace Lambeth and Beth Young, they were all switched back. Thank you all! ▪ Join us for a Members' Brunch on Saturday, October 27th at 11:00 AM. We'd like to have a relaxed, social time. No agenda. No business. Just drop in at the social hall and have a nosh, a delicious egg casserole and some coffee. We'd love to chat! ▪ The next board meeting will be October 15th at 7:00 pm.
Film Festival	<p>The Staunton Jewish Film Festival will now begin on April 11, 2008 due to a request by the Visulite Cinemas to move the week to spring. It will work out much better for all, because in subsequent years we plan to hold the film festival in mid March. As we get closer to that date, members will be called upon to help with this very important event. Make your calendars with the change, and plan to attend and bring your neighbors, too! If you want to join a committee, please contact Laurie Berman at 885-2925.</p>

<p>Worth a read in the Library</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Who Wrote the Dead Sea Scrolls</u> by Norman Gelb ▪ <u>My People: The Story of the Jews</u> by Abba Eban ▪ <u>Power and Powerlessness in Jewish History</u> by David Biale ▪ <u>Pitching My Tent</u> by Anita Diamant
<p>The Israel Trip</p>	<p>From the Rabbi: I can't tell you how much all of us enjoyed it and gained from it. It was a moving, inspirational, fun, funny, informative, exciting, exhilarating, exhausting, overwhelming, emotional time for all eleven of us. It is impossible to write an article that will do it justice. The experience beggars description. I pray that we will repeat this in future, and that more and other people can go at that time. Please think about going if the opportunity should present itself. It is truly a life-changing experience, and a trip you will NEVER forget in your life.</p> <p><i>Notes from Israel:</i> <i>Whatever else I anticipated about Israel, I never much thought about the food. But it was fabulous. The first time I went to an Israeli breakfast at our hotel, I was staggered. Yes, of course, fruit and pastries and bread and waffles. And goat cheese and hard cheese and herb cheeses. And tabouli salad and humus and fresh dates and dried dates and fig jam and pickled vegetables and green salads, and six different kinds of fish. And that was just breakfast! Lunch was often falafel or humus of various kinds, with pita bread – but not the pita you get here. This pita was soft and fluffy and luscious. One day we stopped in a small lunch place and watched the owner grab a handful of dough, send it through a press that squeezed it flat, sent it through again to make it flatter and then baked it for no more than three minutes. There's nothing like Israeli pita right out of the oven with home-made humus and fresh cucumber/tomato salad.</i></p> <p><i>Our first night gave us a taste of what it's like to be surrounded by ancient history. Here, we wax enthusiastic over antiques that are 100 years old. In Israel, something isn't really old unless it's at least a millennia gone, preferably two. Our first night in Jaffa, we passed by an excavation of an Egyptian wall dated to 3300 B.C.E. That's old. But Napoleon's [siege at Akko? Happened practically yesterday. We read history over here. They live it over there. Ruth Chodrow</i></p>
<p>Adult Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remember last November when we had the amazing presentation to a full house by Holocaust Survivor Joe Dziubak? In a follow-up to that event, we have a completely different kind of program coming! As an opening for the Shenandoah Valley Holocaust Education project (SVHE), we will proudly be presenting a Holocaust Education program on October 20th at 7 pm at THOI. This will be a one-woman performance: Evelyn Hinds presents 'Corrie ten Boom, A Righteous Gentile Among the Nations'. Award-winning actress Evelyn Hinds will educate, entertain, and move us as we 'meet' this amazing righteous gentile, and learn her story. (For those who cannot make it at this time: the program is to be repeated at Beth El at 1 pm on the 21st). The ten Boom family hid Jews in their home in Holland out of religious conviction, and were caught. All of the family were sent to the camps by the Nazis, and only Corrie survived. She spoke publicly for many years about her experiences, and wrote extensively. This show is based on her words and writings. You will not want to miss it! You are invited, and also asked to invite your friends, coworkers and neighbors who might be interested in attending this incredible performance. The show is suitable for children, and worthwhile for adults. Ms. Hinds will speak to us as Corrie ten Boom, and answer questions in character, and finally speak to us herself. Bring your

	<p>questions. The performance is free.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rabbinic educational programs and Adult Education programs are possible and limited only by our resources and imagination. Please be in touch and let me know what you would like to have offered. This is certainly NOT limited to having Rabbi Joe as the only instructor or leader – think outside the box! ☺ We already have several folks who have offered to conduct classes for our congregants on a wide variety of topics. I would like to take them up on those offers and schedule them soon. ▪ The Crash Course in Reading Hebrew (Introduction to Hebrew) class, based on the Read Hebrew America/Canada Program of the National Jewish Outreach Project, will again be offered in November and December, starting on November the 5th at 6 pm. This is a five or six session class which will teach you to know the Alefbet, and start you on the path to sounding out Hebrew, so you can participate more actively in our services. ▪ We will begin an Introduction to Judaism course on October 11th at 7 pm at Beth El in Harrisonburg. This course is for you if you want to know more about Judaism and Jewish practices, or if you are curious or thinking about conversion someday. There will be a nominal fee to cover the costs of the class and for the one textbook I am ordering. Other texts are available from multiple sources, and those taking the class are welcome to acquire the books in whatever way they find most convenient. The course will meet 18 times over the course of the year, generally twice each month for an hour and a half to two hours, and there will also be several ‘field trips’ assigned. The syllabus and the full schedule will be available at the first meeting. This is open to congregants, and also to non-members who are considering Judaism. If you are interested please simply show up, or contact Rabbi Joe. ▪ 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 to lead services, or serve as a gabbai, or you wish to discuss conversion, please be in touch with Rabbi Joe. If you feel a conversation with the Rabbi would be of benefit to you, please be in touch with the Rabbi to make an appointment. We had a very nice core group of about a dozen people participate in a Chevrah Kadishah training session. I am very pleased with this level of interest, but there is always room and need for additional members of the Chevrah Kadishah, so please think about joining us. Some of our members have already participated in one Taharah. We have pamphlets and instruction books from other Chevrei Kadishah, and the next step is to produce our own local instruction book, acquire a few more supplies, work with the funeral homes on refining logistical details, and prepare to fulfill the mitzvah when it is requested.
<p>Book Group</p>	<p>From AJ: Thus Book leads to Book leads to Book, or is it merely in our imaginations, Or more particularly, mine? Somehow our past two readings were coagulated for me in a book I picked up by chance called <u>Why We Lie</u> as both the Mark Twain, obviously, and Rachel Carson, more covertly, concerns our ability to cover the truth in a manner that seems on a personal or governmental level in our best interest. “Seems” being the operative word. Both books provoked wonderful discussion if not wonderful insight into our species.</p> <p>The Book Group has always tried to be an open honest forum but we are, of course (Dianne notwithstanding) held by our species relevant survival techniques. Hence my suggestion that over the winter you delve lightly into <u>Why</u></p>

	<p><u>We Lie</u> (available from the library).</p> <p>As a group we wish Dianne a safe trip to Wales, thank her for her stomach-rewarding hospitality (Warner, likewise from August) and trust for a hassle-free return. Please come to Five Thorns Wednesday, 31st October at 7:30 pm not only having read Marcia Conner's choice of <u>Without Reservations</u> by Alice Steinbach. But also in Halloween spirit (my ghost story given to me by our then absent Dianne. The plan for the 30th of January, 2008 is to meet at Janet Brody's and read <u>The World is Flat. Is This A Lie?!?</u>AJ Hartung</p>
<p>News from the Women's Group</p>	<p>Our September meeting was very productive. With thanks to Natasha Benenson, Ruth Chodrow, Vera Flint, Marsha Pillet, Nancy Witt and Beth Young for getting the year off to a great start.</p> <p>We will have our next Women's Group meeting on Sun, Oct. 28th at 2:00 pm. No dues but lots of camaraderie! We'll plan the November Community Awareness and Shabbat dinner at that time.</p> <p><i>Birthdays to be happily celebrated October:</i></p> <p>Charles Fox celebrating 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> <p><i>Happy Anniversary to:</i> Paul and Diane Klein celebrating 45 years on October 12th</p>
<p>Judaica Shop</p>	<p>Thanks to Natasha Benenson for agreeing to take over the Judaica Shop in Dianne Mason's absence. If you have any specific needs or just wish for something else to be displayed, please contact Natasha at 886-1157.</p>
<p>Religious School</p>	<p>We are glad to be back in full swing in our Religious School instruction. The students have all displayed positive energy and we are looking forward to an excellent year.</p> <p>We hope everyone will join us for the Consecration Service when we welcome our new students during the Simchat Torah service at Temple House of Israel on Friday, October 5th at 7:30.</p> <p>We plan to have a family education event celebrating our heritage with an "Ellis Island Day" on Sunday, November 18th. We will also enjoy a Jewish food experience during this event. Please let Ruth Berger ruthberger@comcast.net or Linda Kohn lin5ko@aol.com know if there are any ideas, stories, artifacts or memorabilia you would like to share. Please plan to join us during this event and share a special family recipe for a potluck tasting of Jewish food.</p> <p>Wishing you peace in 5768 Dara, Linda and Ruth</p>
<p>Notes from the Editor</p>	<p>I'd love to hear what you'd like to include or discontinue in the bulletin – contact me at bulletin@thoi.org.</p>

<p>Donations</p>	<p>Thank you to these generous people who have made contributions to the Temple during the previous month. We greatly appreciate your donations!</p> <p>For the High Holidays anonymous Gail Brusoe Hannah Rose Dubit Steven Goldfarb Steven and Lisa Lichtman Alan McRae and Sascha Goluboff Betty Menaker Joyce Moore Helen Prince Art and Phyllis Robinson Abe Ruday Ken Schwartz Margie Schwartz David and Rosalie Waterman Raphael and Diane Witorsch In memory of Sim and Elan Brand Laura Jean and Asher Brand In memory of Jane ColeRalph Degen</p>		
<p>Yahrzeits for October</p>	<p>Annette Biatch</p>	<p>Mary Tornow Kravitz</p>	<p>Daughter of M&R Walters</p>
	<p>Nina Rattner Finkel</p>	<p>Leonard Legum</p>	<p>Moses Walters</p>
	<p>Samuel Goldenberg</p>	<p>Irving Schwartz</p>	<p>Leon Weinberg</p>
	<p>Shirley Scherer Goldenberg</p>	<p>Henrietta Loewner Siegel</p>	<p>Joseph Kaplan</p>
	<p>Nathan Harrison</p>	<p>Benjamin Sragovitz</p>	<p>Kenneth Lussen</p>
	<p>Annie Rosenthal Klotz</p>	<p>Babette Switzer</p>	<p>Morris Geller</p>
	<p></p>	<p></p>	<p></p>

OCTOBER	1 Chinese food in the Sukkah at 6:00	2	3	4	5 Simchat Torah, Consecration Re-dedication of Ben Raybin Library	6
7	8	9	10	11 Intro to Judaism at Beth El at 7	12	13
14	15 Board Meet at 7:00	16	17	18	19 Shabbat Services at 7:30 Sean Miller's bar mitzvah	20 Bar Mitzvah of Sean Miller at 10:00 *Corrie Ten Boom One woman show Holocaust Educ. Proj. at 7:00
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Member's Brunch at 11:00

Oct. 1	Share a meal in the Sukkah - Decorate at 6 pm and we'll order Chinese or BYO meal
Oct. 5	Shabbat Services at 7:30 – oneg hosts: Nancy Witt and Linda and Gordon Bowen Simchat Torah, Consecration and Ben Raybin Library re-dedication
Oct. 15	Temple board meeting at 7:00
Oct. 19	Shabbat Services at 7:30 – oneg hosts: Paul Klein and Richard and Walapa Marks
Oct. 20	One woman show “Corrie ten Boom” for Holocaust Education at 7:00 pm
Oct. 27	Member's Brunch at 11:00 in the social hall.

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