



Temple House of Israel Bulletin

A Member Congregation of the Union for Reform Judaism
15 North Market Street, Staunton, VA 24401 (540) 886-4091

<http://urj.net/congs/va/va008>

November 2004, Cheshvan/Kislev 5765

From the
Rabbi's Desk

My dear fellow Valley Jews and Friends,

SHALOM!

The year is well underway: the holidays of Sukkot and Simchat Torah are now behind us, and things are moving along nicely. It is busy, just the way it should be. Chanukah is ahead in just a few short weeks.

I was very excited by the way the entire holiday season felt this year, and I hope you shared my sense of it. I just love to see Jews engaged in all the varieties of activities that make up Jewish life in the Valley! Hiney mah tov umah na'im shevet achim gam yachad (truly, see how good and pleasant it is for brothers to sit down together!).

THE CALENDAR & HOLIDAYS

We are in the midst of the month of Cheshvan which began on October 16th and will run until November 14th. Cheshvan is sometimes called Mar-Cheshvan (from the same root as 'maror' bitter herbs) because there are no religious holidays during this month to celebrate after all the holiday events of Tishrei. For some of us it is actually a relief, a sort of 'breather' in the calendar!

Of course, on November 14th we will celebrate Rosh Chodesh (the New month or moon) for Kislev, but this is not a specific holiday, so the next holiday event on our calendar will be Chanukah, on Kislev 25, which this year falls on the evening of December 7th and runs until sundown on December 15th.

Certainly, we all know that in late November we have the holiday of Thanksgiving on the calendar. It would seem on the face of it that it has no connection to Judaism, but in fact it does! The pilgrims modeled the concept of a time of giving thanks to G-d on the holiday of Sukkot in the Bible. Sukkot is the holiday during which we offer thanks for the harvest and the produce of the land, as well as the revelation at Mount Sinai and the Aseret HaDibrot (Ten Sayings or Commandments). Thanksgiving was conceived as an expression of this offering of thanks to G-d for the bounty of the land and for sustenance. If you think about the words of the Shehechyanu prayer, you will have a good sense of where this holiday is coming from. "Blessed are you, Lord, our G-d, Master of all creation, who has sustained us in life, granted us strength, and kept us alive to reach this time of joy."

May we all be blessed this year by the presence of loved ones, health, joy, and prosperity, and may our offering of thanks be sincere and heartfelt.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

As you are certainly aware, our calendar of services for this year is already in full swing. Just recently we had the baby namings of the Connors' and Browns' children, and the brides of the Connors' and Kramers' children. Just this week, as I write this, the upper grades of the Religious School conducted our Shabbat

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service.

LOOKING AHEAD

Community Awareness Shabbat is coming soon: November 12th at Beth El, and November 19th at Temple House of Israel.

[PLEASE NOTE THAT THE DATE FOR COMMUNITY SHABBAT IN THE LAST BULLETIN AND ON THE CALENDAR MAILED OUT AT THOI WERE INCORRECT. THE SHABBAT DINNER AND COMMUNITY AWARENESS SHABBAT AT THOI ARE THE 19th OF NOVEMBER AT 6 PM.]

The weekly Torah study continues at noon on Thursdays. Bring a lunch, and come discuss Torah with us.

The Hebrew Introduction/Review class is meeting this month at both congregations, as is the Adult B'nai Mitzvah class, and so too the Confirmation Class and Youth Group. There will be a class on Ethical Wills on November 21st at Beth El at 7 pm. The Intermediate/Advanced Hebrew class will start at Beth El on November 29th at 7 pm (December 16th at THOI). More info at 'Adult Education

OTHER SCHEDULING INFORMATION

Don't forget the Blackfriars Shenandoah Shakespeare program, with a discussion on Anti-Semitism in the Bard of Avon! Sunday, November 28th. Meet at 12:45 pm at THOI. Tickets are \$20/person. Be sure to sign up for them ASAP. THOI, BE and Congregation Beth Israel from Charlottesville will be joining for this event. It looks to be a blast!!!! Contact Bo Rose or Ruth Chodrow for your tickets!

B'virkat shalom (with Blessings of Peace),

Rabbi Joe Blair

November 2004

**Office Hours
And
Contact
Information**

The Rabbi will be in Harrisonburg on Mondays and Fridays

The Rabbi is in **Staunton on Tuesdays from 10 to 5 and Thursdays from 11 to 7.**

Other times and days are available by appointment. Please feel free to call or email to set up a time to meet when you can have undivided attention. Please note: The office will be closed from November 25th through the 28th for Thanksgiving.

Email: RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com

Beth El Congregation 540-434-2744

Temple House of Israel 540-886-4091

Home 434-971-4741 [For emergencies only, please]

PLEASE CONTACT THE RABBI

If you should hear or know of anyone who is ill or hospitalized or who might otherwise wish a visit or call, please leave a message on the telephone answering machine at the temple. Messages are checked frequently.

**Noteworthy
Congregational
News**

- Sarah Grove-Humphries will complete her Bat Mitzvah project by presenting a **Concert of Jewish Music** at the Temple **Sunday, November 7th at 4:30 pm.** Sarah will be joined by Lyrisa, a 12-voice women's vocal ensemble, and other instrumentalists. The program will include a variety of music from folksongs, rounds, and niggunim to torah cantillation, psalms and liturgical pieces. The concert is free and everyone is welcome to attend what will surely be a marvelous event. A reception will follow the concert.
- Along with Congregation Beth Israel of Charlottesville and Beth El of

Noteworthy
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News

Harrisonburg, we will jointly sponsor an afternoon with **Ralph Cohen** and **Shenandoah Shakespeare** on **Sunday, November 28th at 12:45**. Professor Cohen's lecture on Shakespeare and anti-semitism will begin the afternoon, along with drinks and cookies. Shortly before 2 pm, we'll walk 1 block to the **Blackfriar's** theater to see Shenandoah Shakespeare's production of "**The Merchant of Venice**". Reserved seating with seat backs and cushions is available for \$20. per person. After the show there will be a question and answer session at the theater. Since tickets must be purchased in advance, please contact Ruth Chodrow no later than Nov. 4th with your reservation.

- Our renovations continue.... And our thanks do, too. Tom Brody is the craftsman who donated his time to build the beautiful library shelving for us as part of his daughter Sara's bat mitzvah project. In the next few months, the shelves will be stained, Sara will catalog the library and it will be moved to its new, more accessible and certainly more attractive location. Thank you Tom! And thanks again to all who helped make this library project become a social hall renovation project!
- We still have the remaining walls to be painted, the floor to be refinished, the window coverings to be replaced and a few pieces of furniture to be purchased to make our seating area more comfortable and our social hall more attractive. If we're really going to be serious, we could even replace the discolored ceiling tiles. This additional work cannot be accomplished without your donations... they will gladly be accepted and greatly appreciated.
- Two baby-namings and two bat mitzvahs last month was a record for our tiny congregation! Mazel tov to our two newest, tiniest members - the Conner family's baby Clarke and the Brown family's baby Eliana. Mazel tov, also on the milestones reached by the Berman-Brody family at Sara's Bat Mitzvah and to Sarah Grove-Humphries on her Bat Mitzvah. Our sense of community is multiplying exponentially!
- Joining the congregation in another traditional way, we have 4 new families who have recently become members. Welcome to
 - Janet and David Brody who recently moved to Staunton from Palm Springs, California to be closer to their children and grandchildren.
 - Michael and Sara Cunningham with their children Lee, Michael and Jenna who live in Lexington
 - Sheryl and Steve Miller and their children Samantha and Sean who join us from Charlottesville
 - Samantha Adato who is currently a student at Mary Baldwin CollegeThank you to each and every one for your commitment to our community! We're delighted to have these new members and are looking forward to seeing them at the temple in the near future.
- The next **Temple board meeting** will be Thursday, **November 18th at 7:00** in the temple social hall. Please come if you're interested in temple goings-on.

<p>Film Series</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COME AND ENJOY OUR FILM DEBUT FOR THE FALL SEASON! Note the new date - which is a change from what was printed last month: On Sunday evening, November 14th at 7:00 we will show “Monsieur Ibrahim”. Set in a working class neighborhood in Paris in the early 60’s, an elderly, Sufi deli owner brings light and love into the life of a lonely young Jewish boy. (Sufism is the mystical expression of Islam). In French and Turkish with English subtitles.
<p>Religious School</p>	<p>Religious School: November 7, 14, 21</p>
<p>Adult Education</p>	<p>Whatever your interest might be, come join in any or all of the wide variety of adult education opportunities offered. (Subject to change).</p> <p><u>Hebrew Introduction/Refresher 7-9 pm</u> Mon. @ BE Nov. 1, 15, 22 Thurs. @ THOI, Nov. 4, 11, Dec. 2, 9</p> <p><u>Hebrew II Intermediate/Advanced 7-9 pm</u> Mon. @ BE Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 20 (After this, TBA) Thurs. @ THOI, Dec. 16 (After this, TBA)</p> <p><u>Adult B’nai Mitzvah</u> Sun. Nov 7, Dec. 12 @ BE @ 1-3 pm Sun. Nov. 14, Dec. 5 @ THOI @ 2-4 pm</p> <p><u>Jewish Lecture Series</u> Sun. Nov. 21 @ BE @ 7-8:30 pm on Ethical Wills Sun. Dec. 19 @ THOI @ 7-8:30 pm on The Zohar</p> <p><u>Parashat Hashavuah/Weekly Torah Study</u> We will meet at the same Thursday noon time-slot at THOI. Please come discuss the Torah portion for the week. Bring lunch and eat while we learn!</p>
<p>News of our Community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLEASE VOTE on Tuesday, November 2nd. This election is critical to our future and your vote counts! • Mike Brown had his check-up at the Mayo Clinic and his recovery is going smoothly. We wish him continued good health. • After working in Baltimore for the past year, Iris Rubin is finally being joined by her husband Ray and son, Joe. They are now living outside Baltimore and can be reached at 9050 Iron Horse Lane apt 138, Pikesville, MD 21208. Iris says the delis nearby are good! The traffic, however, is not. • A note from Sarah Grove-Humphries: “I would like to thank everyone in the Temple community who made my Bat Mitzvah such a wonderful occasion. Many thanks to Rabbi Joe, Beth Young, AJ Hartung, Dianne Mason and all who brought food, set up and cleaned up. Thanks to all who came to listen, sing, eat and dance. We sure had a good time.” We sure did!
<p>News from the Women’s Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanks to all who donated items for our yard sale held in October. And special thanks to Shirley and Rafael Brand for chairing this event and to Vera Flint, Dianne Mason and all who helped setting up and selling. (The yard sale was held after this went to press, so income cannot be reported) • We’ll have Shabbat dinner prior to services on Friday, Nov 19th at 6:00 pm. That’s our Community Awareness Shabbat and if you’d like to include your guests for dinner as well as services, they are more than welcome to come – just let Beth Young know so we can have enough food. Dinner will be \$8 per person. <u>Please make your reservations by November 15th at 885-1481</u>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PLEASE CHECK THE ONEG HOSTESSES FOR NOVEMBER IN THE NEWSLETTER CALENDAR (PG. 8). Because of the date changes reflected in the calendar, the oneg hostesses also changed. • Remember to keep selling our cookbook! It makes a great gift and is joyfully received by everyone. 										
<p>Confirmation Class</p>	<p>The Confirmation Class will meet on November 21st at 1:00 pm at the temple. We'll meet at the Temple and then go to Wrights' Dairy Rite on Greenville Avenue for lunch (they have just about any diner stuff you might want to eat) so bring about \$10 to safely cover the cost. It may be less, depending on what you order. Afterwards we will go back to Temple and have a confirmation class discussion of Ethical Dilemmas and how to approach them Jewishly.</p> <p>Rabbi's note: "I really enjoyed our discussion in October on the Jewish Brain! Thanks for taking part. I am looking forward to seeing you again."</p>										
<p>Youth Group SHORTY</p>	<p>SHORTY (Staunton Harrisonburg Organization of Reform Temple Youth) will meet immediately after the Confirmation class at approximately 3:00 pm, also on November 21st in Staunton. There will be a short meeting to decide on the plans for youth group activities in upcoming meetings and at services. You will hear more from Sherri about this. Please remember to bring your dues of \$21. to the meeting if you have not already handed them in.</p>										
<p>Judaica Shop</p>	<p>Our Judaica Shop has moved and is stocked and ready for Chanukah! We celebrate the first night of Chanukah on Tuesday, December 7th. Are you ready? There are many gift items from which to choose as well as menorahs, candles and Chanukah gelt in stock. If you have any special needs, please let Dianne Mason know. She can be reached at 885-6254.</p>										
<p>Staunton Book Group</p>	<p>One of the joys of book discussions is often conversations or thoughts that come up later. <u>Mans Search for Meaning</u>, the choice of Ann Allen, gave us much food for thought. One member of the group (not Jewish) stated that having just finished a story of the Spanish Civil War, she approached this book with trepidation as she had truly become aware for the FIRST time how one can be hunted down for one's ideas or heritage – a thought that left her feeling extremely vulnerable. Our next book is <u>The Pianist</u> by Wladyslaw Szpilman which we'll discuss on Thursday, October 28th at 7:30. Come to the temple's wonderful, updated social room. We'd love to have you join us even if you haven't read the book....</p> <p>Since we meet at the end of each month, we will miss November and December, meeting again the last week of January. Please join us with YOUR reading ideas.</p>										
<p>Donations</p>	<p>Thanks to all these generous people for their contributions to our temple community during the past month. Your financial commitment to Temple House of Israel is greatly appreciated.</p> <p>For our High Holiday Memorial Service</p> <table data-bbox="435 1774 1515 1959"> <tr> <td>Joe and Karen Blair</td> <td>Benn and Bonnie</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Legum</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Doug and Martha Degen</td> <td>Mark and Laura</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mandeles</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ralph Degen</td> <td>Ray and Iris Rubin</td> </tr> </table>	Joe and Karen Blair	Benn and Bonnie	Legum		Doug and Martha Degen	Mark and Laura	Mandeles		Ralph Degen	Ray and Iris Rubin
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Donations	Alan and Vicki Goldenberg	Ken and Elizabeth	
	Schwartz		
	Art Goldsmith and Jan Kaufman	Philip and Margie Schwartz	
	AJ Hartung	Sam Witt	
	Tony and Rachel Jordan		
	In Memory of David Bishop and Sara Helen and Ralph Seltzer.....	Debby Bishop	
	In Memory of Sarah Lee and Julius Margolis	Diane Witorsch	
	In Honor of the Youngs and the Chodrows	Mark and Laura Mandeles	
	For Sarah Grove-Humphries Cantor Workshop..	Sim & Elan Brand Memorial Fund	
	For the High Holidays		
	Adam and Kim Guterman	Rachel Peretz	
	Lee Hersch	Sheila Pour	
	Anna Moss	Ken and Elizabeth Schwartz	
	Dahlia Neiss	Washington and Lee University	
	Hillel		
For the Social Hall Renovation.....			
Laurie Berman			
Ralph Degen			
Art Goldsmith and Jan Kaufman			
Esther and Robert Printz – in memory of Rosaline Kamerman			
Lisa Solod			
For the Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund	Tony and Rachel Jordan		
Yahrzeits for November	Jack Brodsky	Leah Kirmko	Leopold Schorsch
	Fannie S. Cohen	Paul Lewis	Ethel S. Shapiro
	Betty Rattner Donenfeld	Ralph Lurie	Louis Shapiro
	Max Freeman	Bernice Raskin	Fannie Barth Strauss
	Esther Ruth Goldberg	Joseph Henry Rosen	Fannie Cohen Switzer
	Julius Goldberg	Ralph Rosen	Julius Switzer
	Harry Harris	Louis Rosenthal	Jacob Pecos Wilhelm
Notes from the Editor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you would like to introduce any changes and/or additions to the bulletin, I’d love to hear your ideas at templenews@ntelos.net. • If you would prefer to receive this bulletin via e-mail, please let me know. The deadline for each issue is the 20th of the preceding month. December’s bulletin will “go to press” on November 20th. 		
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NOTE: If you are not currently a member and would like to continue receiving this bulletin, the subscription rate is \$14 per year (September-July/August) made payable to Temple House of Israel. Please contact Laura Jean Brand, our treasurer, at 942-3656 or mail your check to THOI, P.O. Box 1412, Staunton, VA 24402.

NOV.	1	2	3	4	5	6
				Torah study noon; Hebrew Refresher at 7	Shabbat Services at 7:30pm	
7 Religious School – H’burg Staunton Women’s Group at 2:00	8	9	10	11 Torah study noon; Hebrew Refresher at 7	12	13 Harry Mandeles Bar Mitzvah!
14 Religious School –H’burg; Adult B’nai Mitzvah 2-4 pm; film series at 7	15	16	17	18 Torah study noon Hebrew Class 7-9 pm Board meeting at 7 pm	19 Dinner at 6:00; Community Awareness Shabbat Services at 7:30	20
21 Rel. School; Confirm. Class at 1:00; Youth Group at 3:00; Lecture Series/ Ethical Wills 7-8:30 @ BethEl	22	23	24	25 HAPPY TURKEY DAY!	26	27
28 Ralph Cohen at 12:45 and “The Merchant of Venice” at 2:00	29	30				

Nov 1	Sukkot/Shabbat Services at 7:30 pm in Harrisonburg
Nov 5	Rabbi’s office day 10 am – 5 pm
Nov 7	Rabbi’s office day 11 am – 7 pm; Torah study at noon; everyone is welcome!
Nov 2	Rabbi’s office day 10 am – 5 pm VOTE !
Nov 4	Rabbi’s office day 11 am – 7 pm; Torah study at noon; everyone is welcome! Hebrew Introduction/Refresher 7-9 pm
Nov 5	Shabbat Services at 7:30 – oneg by Rosalie & David Waterman 886-1713
Nov 7	Women’s Group at 2:00 in the social hall – we need to plan dinner for the 19 th
Nov 9	Rabbi’s office day 10 am – 5 pm
Nov 11	Rabbi’s office day 11 am – 7 pm; Torah study at noon; everyone is welcome! Hebrew Introduction/Refresher 7-9 pm
Nov 14	Adult B’nai Mitzvah class 2-4 pm in Staunton Film Series: “Monsieur Ibrahim” at 7:00 in our new social room with popcorn and drinks
Nov 16	Rabbi’s office day 10 am – 5 pm
Nov 18	Rabbi’s office day 11 am – 7 pm; Torah study at noon; everyone is welcome!

	7:00 pm Temple Board Meeting
Nov 19	Shabbat Dinner prepared by the Women's Group at 6:00; Community Awareness Shabbat Services at 7:30 pm – oneg by Rachel & Tony Jordan (434) 823-7828 and Asher & Laura Jean Brand 942-3656
Nov 21	Confirmation Class at 1:00 and Youth Group at 3:00 at the temple; Lecture series “Ethical Wills” at Beth El at 7 pm
Nov 23	Rabbi's office day 10 am – 5 pm
Nov 28	Ralph Cohen lecture at 12:45 at Temple and “The Merchant of Venice” at Blackfriars at 2:00