



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

Web Address: <http://www.thoi.org>

Our mission is to perpetuate Jewish life and identity through a welcoming community of spirituality, learning, service, joy and worship.

November 2007, Cheshvan/ Kislev 5767

From the Rabbi's Desk

My dear fellow Valley Jews and Friends,

Shalom! The big holiday season ended early in October, and we are still enjoying the 'down time' of Mar-Cheshvan (bitter Cheshvan, so called because there are no holidays in it to sweeten it). I, for one, am glad for the slightly less hectic pace after the High Holy days!

We have engaged in a full schedule! Services and other events are listed on the sheets distributed, and you can also find them shown on the website (www.thoi.org). Our small Jewish community is vibrant and active – enjoy it! I hope you are taking advantage of what we have to offer, and inviting others to do so as well....

The Jewish Calendar & Holidays

CHESHVAN → KISLEV

Rosh Chodesh (the New Month) for Cheshvan took place on the 12th and 13th of October. Cheshvan will end on the 10th of November, and the 11th of November is Rosh Chodesh for Kislev. Kislev continues until the 9th of December, and Rosh Chodesh for Tevet is on the 10th of December.

The only holiday in Kislev will be Chanukah, coming on the 25th of Kislev, which, this year, falls on the evening of December 4th. Check out the gift shop, and don't forget to plan on coming to our Chanukah dinner and Shabbat service!

The Congregational 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.

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. Similarly, 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. You can call or email

The Congregational Calendar – Events

All November events are listed in the calendar at the end of the bulletin.

October 28th, Beth El is presenting a film and discussion on the issue of Torture. Recommended for mature audiences only. See the details under

	<p>Noteworthy Congregational News.</p> <p>Plan ahead for a fun event – the Chanukah dinner will be held at THOI on Friday, December 7th at 6 pm. BRING YOUR MENORAH!</p> <p>A very important event coming is on December 2nd. It is the Annual Congregational Meeting. <u>WE REALLY NEED YOU TO ATTEND and VOTE.</u> We have officer elections, Constitutional changes, and our budget to approve. Your attendance is essential!</p> <p>I want to close by telling you that I see our Jewish community keeping busy, thriving and growing, and moving from strength to strength! I am delighted and proud of all of us.</p> <p>B'virvat shalom (with blessings for peace), Rabbi Joe Blair</p>
Reaching the Rabbi	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Rabbi Joe's Email: RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com Beth El Congregation 540-434-2744 Temple House of Israel 540-886-4091 Cell phone (for emergencies) 434-981-3959</p>
Message from the President	<p>Dear Congregants:</p> <p>By the time you receive this you will have gotten by mail or email the revised bylaws and a request to read them and come prepared to vote at the Congregational Meeting December 2nd. While your involvement in day-to-day activities at the Temple, on committees, and at services is of vital importance, it is also important to come to the once a year Congregational Meeting and vote for any changes presented to you. The meeting is also a good time to find out exactly where the Temple is, how things are going, and in this case, who our slate of officers will be for the next board. PLEASE plan to attend. Read the materials sent to you and come listen, speak and vote. You will be hearing from a board member soon to remind you of this important meeting.</p> <p>.....Lisa Solod Warren</p>
Noteworthy Congregational News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Join us for a Members' Brunch on Saturday, October 27th at 10:00 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 or juice. We'd love to see you and get a chance to visit! • November 16th is our Community Awareness Shabbat. (There will also be one at Beth El on November 30th.) Be sure to invite your friends, colleagues,

teachers, neighbors, acquaintances, students, and anyone else you think might be interested in attending our Shabbat service to learn more about it, and us.

- Offer a warm welcome to the newest members to our congregation when you see them. These include Pat Schirmer and Scott Dubit and their three
- children; and Stuart Davidson and Anne Cohen, and their daughter.
- A big thanks to Ralph Degen and David Waterman who have been involved in the cemetery renovations. The grounds have been improved by removing and clearing old growth and a dilapidated fence as well as replanting grass seed.
- Another thanks to Marsha Pillet who has kept up our garden around the synagogue and has planted the mums which decorated our high holiday tables.
- Our Holocaust Education program in October was extremely well done and well received! Actress Evelyn Hinds presented 'Corrie ten Boom, A Righteous Gentile Among the Nations' to good crowd at THOI on Saturday night, and a very large group at Beth El on Sunday afternoon.
- Accessibility News: Several large accomplishments for the congregation in the area of accessibility have been achieved recently, One is the acquisition a sound system upgrade, including three headsets for the hearing impaired, which are usable in the sanctuary as needed. Ask Rabbi Joe where to find them, if you need one. In the same vein, we now have speakers in the social hall and kitchen so that whatever is being said in the sanctuary can be heard in those areas, so long as the speaker is using the microphone and amplifier system in the sanctuary. You will also note that the doors into the rest rooms and leading to the sanctuary along the hallway by the restrooms have all been widened to permit accessibility by larger wheelchairs. There is still some work to be done, but the projects implemented are a wonderful step forward.
- Thanks to Nancy Witt and Linda Bowen who chaired the special oneg for Simchat Torah and the re-dedication of the Ben Raybin Library. It was great to have Inge Raybin and 3 of her children with their spouses and 3 of her grandchildren with us to celebrate.
- The next board meeting will be November 19th at 7:00 pm.
- Remember the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 2nd. We have changes to the bylaws and election of officers and we need your vote.
- Rory Kennedy's Emmy Award-winning HBO documentary

GHOSTS OF ABU GHRAIB

will be shown at Beth El Congregation at
3 PM on Sunday, October 28, 2007

Followed by a discussion of the issues it addresses.

Join us as we participate in this nation-wide project organized by the
National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT).

Hundreds of congregations across the country will show the film during Oct 21-28. "**Ghosts of Abu Ghraib**," an 80-minute HBO film, features the familiar and disturbing photos of torture at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison. Acclaimed filmmaker Rory Kennedy digs beneath the headlines to investigate the psychological and political context in which torture occurred and to ask critical questions about how it happened and how it affects America's credibility as a defender of freedom and human rights. This film is for mature audiences only. The film includes photographs from Abu Ghraib prison. These images – many of them containing male nudity – and some of the interviews are extremely intense. We have agreed to

	<p>participate in the Spotlight on Torture project because we share NRCAT’s belief that “Ghosts of Abu Ghraib” will help people of faith deepen our understanding of the nature of U.S.-sponsored torture and also strengthen our resolve to end it. For more information about the national project: Visit the NRCAT website – www.TortureIsaMoralIssue.org</p>
<p>News of our Community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lyrisa, the women’s vocal ensemble directed by Sarah Grove-Humphries, will present a concert on Sunday, November 4th at 2:00 pm at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 300 W. Frederick Street in Staunton, featuring works by Felix Mendelssohn, Aaron Copeland, Pablo Casals, Paul McCartney and more. A free well offering will be accepted to benefit the church. • Ruth Chodrow (on recorder) and Linda Blazer (voice) invite you to come to a concert of the newly formed Valley Collegium, in which they both participate. This group, which specializes in early music, will be performing at Muhlenberg Lutheran Church in Harrisonburg at 8:00 pm on November 9th. The free concert will feature sacred and secular 16th-century English music. Open to the public. • Sarah Young is now employed as a media coordinator for the Sterling Rice Group, an advertising agency in Boulder, Colorado. Yeah!! • Come experience the job of learning to play the piano! Musikgarten Adults – Enjoying the Piano Together is a new 8-week group piano class for adult beginners offered by Sarah Grove-Humphries starting Tuesday, January 8, 2008 from 11:00 to noon at Emmanuel Episcopal church, 300 W. Frederick Street in Staunton. No prior musical experience is needed – just enthusiasm and a love of music. Cost is \$110 and includes piano book and accompanying CD. For more information or to register, contact Sarah at 885-4223 or Humphries@rica.net.
<p>Worth a read in the Library</p>	<p>Leah’s recommendations for November – READ! We have an incredible collection of books in our library, so check one or three out.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A Dictionary of Yiddish Slang and Idioms (Everything Grandpa Used to Say)</i> by Fred Kogos • <i>Fear No Evil</i> by Natan Sharansky • <i>Life With Groucho</i> by Arthur Marx • <i>Masada</i> by Yigael Yadin
<p>The Israel Trip</p>	<p>Notes from Israel:</p> <p><i>Israel was full of what I call “goose-bump moments”. One such occurred early in our trip, in our visit to Caesarea. Caesarea was an ancient port city, built up by Herod, and full of remarkable roman ruins. Our guide told us how, in the days of WWII, Hannah Senesh was walking along the short her, listening to the sound of the waves, when the words to the poem “Eli, Eli” come to her. Hannah Senesh joined the Resistance, parachuting behind enemy lines to save Hungarian Jews. She was captured, tortured and executed when she was 23 years old. Sarah Grove-Humphries got up on the stage of the 2,000 year-old restored Roman amphitheater and sang “Eli, Eli” in her beautiful clear voice, which filled the theater. Goose bumps indeed.</i></p> <p><i>Walking through the Old City of Jersusalem, our guide pointed to a part of the ancient road, paved with limestone, which was crushed in. This was just outside the wall of the Temple Mount. He told us that this damage was done when the Roman soldiers were destroying the Second Temple, pushing huge stones over</i></p>

the side of the walls to crash onto the street below. The stones had been taken away and used for other purposes, but the smashed-up road is still there – really, really there.

Another goose bump moment came after we had returned. I was starting to practice changing Jonah for the High Holidays. I was casually singing the first few lines and then came to the part where it said that Jonah had gone to Yaffa to catch a ship to Tarshish. I had been to Yaffa. I had looked out to the same sea, walking over the same short where Jonah had wandered, looking for a ship to escape the decree of God. I was there. And Yaffa is still a seaport, and there are still ships coming into its harbor. In Israel, some things just don't change.

.....Ruth Chodrow

Adult Education

- Rabbinic educational programs and Adult Education programs are possible and limited only by our resources and imagination. 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 start 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 began an Introduction to Judaism course on October 11th at 7 pm at Beth El. 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 is 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 and best. The course will meet 20 times over the course of the year, generally twice each month for two hours, and there will also be several ‘field trips’ assigned. This is open to congregants and also to non-members who are considering Judaism or just curious, with the permission of the instructor. If you are interested please contact Rabbi Joe. We will be meeting for the second time on October 25th, so it is not too late to join us!
- 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.

Torah Parashiot

Torah parashiot (Torah portions) read for the period covered by this newsletter include: Chayei Sarah,, Toledot, Vayetze, and Vayishlach. These are drawn from Bereshit (Genesis) 23-36.

Haftarot read this month include readings from 1 Kings 1; 1 Samuel 20;

	Hosea 12-14; and Obadiah 1.
Book Group	Please come to AJ Hartung's home on Wednesday, October 24 th at 7:30 pm for a discussion of <u>Without Reservations</u> by Alice Steinbach. The holiday recess will last through December and we'll meet again on January 30, 2008 at Janet Brody's and read <u>The World is Flat</u> .
News from the Women's Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We will have our next Women's Group meeting on Sun, Oct. 28th at 1:30. (Note the time change so that those who wish can travel to Beth El for the "Ghosts of Abu Ghraib" film.) No dues but lots of camaraderie! We'll plan the November Shabbat dinner at that time. With thanks to Natasha Benenson, Ruth Chodrow, Vera Flint, Marsha Pillet, Nancy Witt and Beth Young, our September meeting was very productive. ▪ Come to the Women's Group fall Shabbat dinner at 6:00 pm on Nov.16th, just prior to our Community Awareness Shabbat services. Enjoy a delicious dinner for only \$9 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Please make your reservations with Beth Young 885-1481 or bulletin@thoi.org by Nov. 13th. ▪ There's going to be a YARD SALE Sunday, Nov 18th beginning at noon. And we need your help! Please contact Shirley Brand 949-0529 if you can help set up on Saturday the 17th or help sell someone else's treasures on Sunday. Because we're having the Community Awareness Shabbat on Friday, please bring your donations to the temple on Saturday, Nov 17th. ▪ <i>Birthdays to be happily celebrated November.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tom Pereles celebrating on November 4th Karen Blair on the 5th Jordan Kristoff on the 10th Leah Farmer on the 12th Jacob Goldenberg who will be 2 years old on the 15th David Young who will be 20 on the 25th Janet Brody, Asher Brand <u>and</u> Ian Jordan all celebrating on the 26th - it was a very good day!! <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Happy Anniversary to:</i> Sarah and Byron Grove-Humphries celebrating on November 19th</p>
Judaica Shop	Thanks to Natasha Benenson for agreeing to take over the Judaica Shop while Dianne Mason is in Wales caring for her mother. Chanukah begins December 4 th and there are lots of candles and dreidels and a very nice selection of menorahs in stock. If you have any specific needs or wish for something else to be displayed, please contact Natasha at 886-1157.

<p>Religious School</p>	<p>The beginning of autumn (and the unseasonably warm weather) has seen us through October. During that time we enjoyed a wonderful Sukkot Celebration! Thanks so much to the Lovinger and Brown families for organizing great activities. The students created what must have been the longest paper chain ever to be created in Harrisonburg!! We also enjoyed making flags for Simchat Torah. The Simchat Torah and Consecration celebrations at THOI were wonderful. Many of the religious school families attended this special service. We are pleased that Grace Miller, Helen Kramer, and Lilly Levin have begun their religious studies – Mazel Tov!</p> <p>Our next big event will be our “Ellis Island and Jewish Food Experience” Family Education day on November 18th. Religious school parents are strongly encouraged to participate in this event which will run 9:30am – 12:30pm. This will be an opportunity for your children to learn about their family tree and to learn about the diversity of our religious school family. Also, we will be having a potluck luncheon of Jewish foods. We invite members of the Beth El/THOI community to contact Ruth Berger (ruthberger@comcast.net, 540-574-0440) or Linda Kohn (lin5ko@aol.com, 540-269-2213) as soon as possible, with any ideas they might have for joining in our celebration – special memorabilia for our “exhibit” table, stories to share, or perhaps craft ideas.</p> <p>A huge “thank you” to all of our teachers who put forth so much effort each week to create a positive Jewish learning experience for our children.</p> <p>Also, Religious School just has not been the same -- we wish Roberta Stein a very speedy recovery. She is in our prayers and we hope to see her back at school soon!</p> <p style="text-align: right;">.....Dara, Linda, and Ruth</p>
<p>Notes from the Editor</p>	<p>I’ve incorporated changes to this bulletin based on what I’ve heard. I’d love to hear your comments and suggestions – 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 HolidaysLaurie Berman Don and Ruth Chodrow Doug and Martha Degen Ira and Jane Dreyfuss Steven Goldfarb Sarah and Byron Grove-Humphries Mark Mandeles Dahlia Neiss and Adam Caldwell Alan McRae and Sascha Goluboff Marsha Pillet Manfred Reinhardt Art and Phyllis Robinson Larry and Patty Sutker Nancy Witt</p> <p>For Yizkor.....Joe and Karen Blair Mike and Bonnie Brown Rachel Peretz Comes</p>

Scott Dubit and Patrica Schirmer
 Leah Farmer
 Alan and Vicki Goldenberg
 Steven Goldfarb
 Art Goldsmith and Jan Kaufman
 Lee Hersch
 Tony and Rachel Jordan
 ...Pam Robbins and Ray Cabbage
 Art and Phyllis Robinson
 Margie Schwartz
 Crys Sragovitz
 Ellen Werther
 Rich and Beth Young

In honor of Rabbi JoeJan Chase
 In memory of Mildred Degen Doug and Martha Degen
 In honor of the Young and Chodrow familiesMark and Laura Mandeles
 In memory of David Brody on what would have been his 90th birthday on Nov. 3rd
 Janet Brody
 To the General Fund.....Jim Osborne
 Shirley Baldwin
 For cemetery renovations.....Ralph Degen

**Yahrzeits
 for November**

Max Freeman	Paul Lewis	Leopold Schorsch
Esther Ruth Goldberg	Ralph Lurie	Ethel S. Shapiro
Julius Goldberg	Abraham David Peretz	Louis Shapiro
Beryl Dorothy Gutnick	Bernice Raskin	Fannie Barth Strauss
Harry Harris	Joseph Henry Rosen	Fannie Cohen Switzer
Ada Kaufman	Ralph Rosen	Julius Switzer
Leah Kirmko	Louis Rosenthal	Jacob Pecos Wilhelm

Temple Contacts	Rabbi	Joe Blair	886-4091 or rabbi@thoi.org
	President	Lisa Warren	463-7637 or president@thoi.org
	Past President	Paul Klein	pastpresident@thoi.org
	V. P. of Membership	Laurie Berman	885-2925 or membership@thoi.org
	V. P. of Building/Grounds	Michael Brown	885-3809 or building@thoi.org
	Secretary	Ruth Chodrow	886-2252 or secretary@thoi.org
	Treasurer	Laura Jean Brand	942-3656 or treasurer@thoi.org
	Directors at large	Rachel Jordan	804-440-5839 or director-at-large@thoi.org
	Trustees	Beth Young	885-1481
		Doug Degen	886-8651 or trustees2@thoi.org
		Alan Goldenberg	trustees3@thoi.org
		Richard Young	885-1481 or trustees@thoi.org
	Cantorial Soloist	Sarah Grove-Humphries	885-4223 or cantor@thoi.org
	Temple Webmaven	Marcia Conner	website@thoi.org
	Bulletin Editor	Beth Young	885-1481 or bulletin@thoi.org
Bulletin Circulation	Janet Brody	851-0877	
SHORTY (youth group)	Sheri Alt	youth-group@thoi.org	
Religious School	Linda Kohn	religious-school@thoi.org	
Young Adults Group	Natasha Benenson	young-adults@thoi.org	
Caring Committee	Lou Boden	caring-committee2@thoi.org or 540-255-5555	
	Rosalie Waterman	caring-committee1@thoi.org or 886-1713	
Film Series	Shirley Brand	949-0529 or films@thoi.org	

NOVEMBER				1	2 Torah Lishmah (study) at 6:30 Shabbat Services at 7:30	3
4 Lyrisa concert @ 2:00 at Emmanuel Episcopal Church	5 Intro to Hebrew at 6	6	7	8	9 Valley Collegium concert @ 8:00 in H'burg	10
11 Wedding of Annie Saval	12 Intro to Hebrew at 6	13	14	15	16 Women's Group dinner at 6; Community Awareness Shabbat at 7:30	17 Bring your donations and help set up for yard sale
18 Rel. Sch. Family educ. Ellis Island & Jewish food 9:30-12:30 YARD SALE at noon	19 Board Meeting at 7:00	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Intro to Hebrew at 6	27	28	29	30	
Dec. 2 Annual Congregational Meeting at 2:00 pm						