



Temple House of Israel Bulletin

A Member Congregation of the Union for Reform Judaism
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Web Address: thoi.org

December 2005, Cheshvan/Kislev 5766

From the Rabbi's Desk

My dear fellow Valley Jews and Friends,

SHALOM!

I hope that you have had a wonderful, bountiful, and happy Thanksgiving holiday (the second, secular Sukkot), full of warmth, love, and good feelings, with all the blessings that are possible.

THE RABBI'S DESK

Our congregational year is approaching the midpoint. Much has been happening, and much more is planned.

B'nai Mitzvah

This month we have our next Adult Bat Mitzvah! Sherri Alt will lead services and be called to the Torah on December 2nd and 3rd for Parashah Toledot at Beth El. Wish her a big 'mazel tov'.

We are looking ahead to two more adult B'not Mitzvah (B'not is the plural for Bat - Laura Jean Brand and Riff Blair) in the course of this year. If you would like to begin planning and studying for your own adult B'nai Mitzvah – either a first or a repeat event – please talk to me! And if you would be interested in reading Torah or chanting Haftarah, please be in touch as well!

Later this year, we will also celebrate the Bar Mitzvah of Devin Oberdorff and the Bat Mitzvah of Grace Lambeth, two of the students in our Daled class. It is a full and busy year for celebrations!

Looking Ahead

Be sure to check the congregational calendar for the list of upcoming events each month and come join in! Please take advantage of all that your congregation and Jewish community offer. There are Holiday celebrations, adult education classes, youth activities, and social events on the calendar. Social action projects, Tikkun Olam (repair of the world) and Tzedakah projects (righteous action) continue. Be a part of it all!

THE CALENDAR & HOLIDAYS

Rosh Chodesh for Kislev falls on Kislev 1/December 2nd this year. That means the 25th of Kislev falls on the 26th of December, which gives us the somewhat unusual circumstance of Chanukah beginning the evening of December 25th and running through the second of January, coinciding with the usual winter holiday break. I hope you enjoy lighting the Chanukiah (the Chanukah menorah/lamp) during this break from school and work, and that your celebration of the festival of lights is joyous and brings much light to your life and your loved ones!

JEWISH LIFECYCLE: THE WIMPEL, UPSCHERENISH, AND SOME THOUGHTS ON

EDUCATION OF THE CHILD

Our very abbreviated discussion of Jewish Lifecycle continues this month with a minor side-trip into some less often observed customs and some musings on my part.

Wimpel

The use of the wimpel or wimple is a custom that comes from the Jews found in Germanic areas. The custom has been preserved more in literature than in fact, but there are still Jews of Ashkenazic (Germanic) descent who make and preserve these beautiful artifacts as a form of Hiddur Mitzvah (beautifying the commandment).

Pronounced 'vim-pel', it is a Torah binder, often traditionally made from the cloth that was used to swaddle the infant for the Brit ceremony. That cloth is cut into strips, usually about eight inches wide, and sewn together to make a long strip, often ranging from as much as nine to twelve feet, which is then enhanced by painting, embroidery, sewing, and other decorative arts. These decorations usually include the name of the child, the child's birthdate and date of brit, the names of the parents, sometimes the names of siblings or other family members, and an inscription in Hebrew (and sometimes also in English or another language) which reads: "The Little one named Boni (baby) of Foni (father) and Moni (mother) was born with mazal on birthdate (Hebrew, and often also secular). May G-d bless him/her to grow up to the study of Torah, to the chuppah (marriage canopy), and to gemilut chasidim (good deeds). Amen. Selah." In many cases, decorative pictures or art work are also incorporated, sometimes illustrating or representing scenes or quotes from the Torah or relating to the name of the child, and in some cases incorporating the child's zodiac sign. A wimple can be very colorful and decorated, or somewhat plain. It is entirely up to the person or persons making it.

The wimple is traditionally completed during the first year of the child's life. At the Shabbat nearest the first birthday of the child, the parents come to synagogue and are given an aliyah. When the time comes to re-dress the Torah, the wimple is used as the binder, and the child is encouraged to 'help' hold and dress the Torah. The parents often recite a special blessing thanking G-d for the gift of the child and asking that G-d be gracious to the child and draw the child near to Torah, to good deeds, and to G-d. The blessing includes the part of what we read on Rosh Hashanah that is drawn from what Hannah says when she brings her child Samuel to Eli in the Temple. The wimple remains on the Torah scroll until it is next read, and then the wimple may be donated to the synagogue, but some families have the custom of retaining the wimple to be used at the B'nai Mitzvah of the child, or even as part of the chuppah (wedding canopy) for that child. The wimpel is a lovely way to add a communal aspect to the celebration of having and raising a child for the first year.

Upscherenisch

This is a ceremony not too often practiced today in most Jewish communities. It is a combination of a weaning ceremony and a first hair cut! To my understanding, it is followed only in the Hasidic community today, though it could be incorporated anywhere.

We learn that Isaac grew and was weaned, and a public feast was held by Abraham, his father, on the day of his weaning, in Bereshit/Genesis 21:8. The rabbis have calculated that Isaac was three years old at this time. Based on this text, and on child-raising practices in many parts of the world over time, we understand that a child could be nursed until approximately the age of three – not the usual situation in our culture today. (The Talmud, in both BT Yevamot 43a and Ketubbot 60b, encourages breast-feeding for twenty-four months; even by the time of that discussion taking place, approximately 800 years after the redaction of the Torah to a written form, weaning apparently was not at the age of three.)

and girls would be treated much the same, dressed the same, and cared for in the same way. In part, this was a practical response – very young children don't know any differently, and it is easier for the parents to deal with them without having to worry about which gender an infant happens to be. Another reason underlying this is superstition. To avoid the child being affected by demons or by the evil eye, the parents would dress all the young children alike, which would confuse the demons or anyone who would seek to hurt the child, so that they could not pick one child out from among other children to be attacked.

For these reasons, by appearance, boys and girls would not be distinguishable from each other. This meant that young boys (as well as girls) did not receive haircuts and were all clothed the same way in what we today might call dresses. Where pants were the style for men, the young boys did not dress in pants of any kind, as older children and adults did, until after they were weaned, and sometimes not until much later. The thought was that once a child could speak, the child would be able to be taught to recite a prayer, and in that way protect themselves from the demon or the evil eye, at which point the ruse of mixing up the children by having them all look similar was no longer needed.

We have some vestiges of this kind of practice, even fairly recently, in the language of some of our sayings and in plays – 'that boy is still in short pants' is one such phrase, and we have the play *The Music Man* not that long ago, recalling knickers as something to be worn before a youngster could move up to full pants.

In the traditional community, or at least some parts of it, including the Hasidim, young boys are still treated the same as young girls until they reach the age of three. At that point, two things occur: first, they are weaned, if they have not already been (most children are weaned quite a bit before this); and second, they are dressed in 'male' clothes and given their first haircut, and the treatment accorded them is modified to be in line with that for males. This is called the *upscherenisch* (or *opsherenisch*), and it is a communal celebration – everyone is invited to join in and take a snip at the young boys hair. (This makes me cringe, thinking of the Marx brothers routine with them taking 'one snoopa too much!')

I don't necessarily advocate that anyone wait to wean their child until the age of three, nor do I suggest that they dress their children all the same. I do think that it might be a meaningful ritual for a family to recognize the weaning of a child in some way, whenever that may take place. Perhaps we should also think in terms of a family or communal ritual to acknowledge the first haircut for our children, or the first time they are wearing clothing that is not made for infants, as well as their first step. These are all developmental milestones that we have not marked in traditional ways in our community, but which may be appropriate to celebrate and acknowledge. If you are interested in such a ritual, please talk to me. Others have been working on such rituals, and I would be happy to assist you to search for something that you would find meaningful.

Education of the Child – From the Tradition

The Talmud encourages beginning to introduce children to rituals as soon as they can understand the significance (BT Sukkah 42a), and instructs us that a child's education should begin as soon as the child can speak clearly. They are to be taught the alef bet as soon as they are ready.

The first day of school is a time of celebration. Where slates were used, the Aleph (first letter of the alef bet) was often written on the slate in honey, so the child would learn the shape of the letter and associate the taste of honey with learning, making the connection to how sweet learning was. Candy or raisins were given along with school books. All of this was to encourage a child to look forward to and enjoy learning, which may lend support in explaining part of the Jewish community's emphasis on all forms of education as a very high value almost across the board.

talk, they should be learning the liturgy (by hearing it). By the age of five, a child should be reading and should begin to be taught Torah. By eight, the child should be learning Prophets. By age ten, the child should be taught the Writings (Proverbs, Psalms, the Five Megillot, Chronicles, Job, Song of Songs, Kohelet). At twelve, the child should begin the study of Talmud.

At some time before the child is thirteen the father should teach that child how to swim, and should begin to teach the child a trade, or apprentice the child to someone in a trade. After age thirteen, a child that is gifted should be encouraged to deepen their studies of Talmud and to become a scholar and teacher. All children, and for that matter, all Jews should be encouraged to view study as a lifelong pursuit, so that they continue to learn even as adults.

Following this pattern, a child would be fully prepared for the B'nai Mitzvah ceremony (and to participate in the community as a Jewish adult) long before the age of thirteen, and would be studying interesting and challenging material, rather than basic skills, thereby preparing themselves for an adult approach to Judaism.

Unfortunately, this was not the system that existed for most of us, and Jewish education was not well integrated into everyday life, at least in my experience. The sad fact is that a Religious school cannot accomplish this kind of education in the three hours a week available (or even in the six or eight hours per week required in some congregations, as it was where I went as a child). The result is that the level of Jewish education many of us received was very rudimentary, and did not prepare us for life as Jewish adults. Most of us feel under-educated, and have to play catch-up in order to function in the Jewish community – not the happiest situation.

If we value Jewish education for our children, we have to assure that they have access and are exposed to it at home, in the community, and in the synagogue, as well as at religious school. Education of our children must be a priority, provided by all members of the community in partnership. Only in that kind of supportive environment can our children thrive and grow as educated Jews.

Next month, we will look at the topic of the B'nai Mitzvah.

TZEDAKAH (Righteous Action)

Basic needs continue to be much greater than anyone could have imagined. Please continue to donate funds to those in need by going to www.jdc.org, www.ujc.org, www.mazon.org, or at www.urj.org, or send your donations by mail. Please don't forget to support First Step, Mazon, the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, the Free clinic, and the many other worthwhile organizations that help those in need in our own area.

The SHORTY youth group is undertaking two Tikkun Olam & Tzedakah efforts. The shorter term project is to collect funds and items, and to send cleaning supplies to those affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. With flooding, in salvageable buildings, the aftermath is massive mold, mildew, and 'schmutz'! Some materials have already been dropped off at the synagogue. If you can make a donation to this collection effort, please bring it to the synagogue and place it in the bags/boxes in the lobby. We will continue collecting until January 5th. For their second project, Shorty is collecting gently used or new children's books to be given to children in pediatrician's offices to take home. If you have any such books, please bring them to the synagogue anytime between now and June 1st. Thank you for your help!

World Zionist Organization

Don't miss the opportunity to make a difference to world Judaism and to assure that the voices of other viewpoints than only Orthodoxy are heard in Israel. Register and vote in the elections for the World Zionist Organization before February 28th. There are forms in the synagogue, or you can do

so online at www.urj.org. It only takes two minutes of your time and \$7.00 (\$5.00 for students). When you receive your ballot, VOTE! If you have any questions, please ask me, or your congregational officers.

JEWS ONLINE

A website that I recommend to you is <http://www.postcardsfromisrael.com/>. This may be considered a very early form of blogging. Amy Samin moved to Israel from the US, and began writing 'post cards' in February 1999. She continued and is still doing so – the last one shown is from November 2005. You can see her thoughts as she experiences aliyah (becoming an Israeli citizen), Israeli society, visits to the US, visitors from the US, Israeli culture, and many aspects of life in Israel from the perspective of someone who came from America. Sometimes funny, sometimes touching, sometimes disturbing, these post cards are worth reading. You may want to bookmark this site and visit it now and again to keep up.

I also immodestly recommend that you visit <http://thoi.org/blog/>. This is the website operated by the webmaster for THOI, Marcia Conner. Recently she added a web log – blog – capability to it. I have not really gotten the hang of it yet, but I have begun to post a few random thoughts to the blog. You are welcome to read them, and there is a function to let you enter your comments. I would be happy to know your thoughts in response to my postings, musings, and wild ramblings.

JEWISH HUMOR

Two Alter Kachers (Old Guys)

Two old men who hadn't seen each other in forty years happened to meet on the street on the lower east side. Astonished, they embraced, chuckling with joy. Then one man pulled away and stared at the other.

The first one said, "Oy! You want to know terrible? I can't remember your name!"

The second one replied, "What? You can't remember!"

"No" said the first man, "I just don't remember your name. Tell me your name!"

Looking sheepish, the second man said, "Uh, listen, how soon do you need to know?"

Education Well Learned

Mrs. Rifkin and Mrs. Horowitz were talking, and Mrs. Rifkin was bragging about her son.

Mrs. Rifkin beamed, "My boy, David, graduated first in his class with degrees in philosophy, history, psychology, and anthropology!"

"You must be so proud!" said Mrs. Horowitz.

Mrs Rifkin replied, "Oh, I am!" She continued, "He can't get a job, but he knows exactly why!"

JEWISH TRIVIA

Baseball

The world series concluded recently with another losing record broken for the second year in a row. One of the interesting trivia facts for this season just ended was that there was a real first – a game in which there were four Jewish players on the two teams - something that had never happened before!

Speaking of baseball, in light of what seem to be the just-concluded High Holidays, here is another baseball trivia fact. In 1966, on the day after Yom Kippur, a young Ken Holtzman, in his first full season in the majors, faced his hero, Sandy Koufax, who was in his last season, in a pitching duel at Wrigley field. It happened because Koufax refused to pitch on Yom Kippur, so he was moved in the rotation schedule to the next day. Ken Holtzman took a no-hitter into the seventh inning and allowed only two hits, defeating Koufax 2-1. Koufax retired after the season. Holtzman finished that season 11-16 with a 3.79 ERA.

JEWISH HISTORY

Jewish American Roots

We Jews have been in America a long time! The first Jewish military officers in the New World fought in the French and Indian wars, well before the American Revolution. These were Jacob Judah, Michael Isaacs, Isaac Moses, and Isaac Meyers. Meyers led a company across the Allegheny Mountains and served as a captain.

By 1775 there were about 2500 Jews populating the colonies. Several hundred were of military age, and there were at least twenty-seven Jewish officers in the Continental army. George Washington directly commanded forty Jewish soldiers. In South Carolina, about two dozen men recruited from a largely Jewish part of Charleston became known as the “Jew’s Company”.

The Harrisonburg Interfaith Association

The Harrisonburg Interfaith Association meets on the first Thursday of each month at noon. The group is open to individuals and religious institutions, and all are welcome to attend. Rabbi Joe is the Vice President of this group this year, and responsible for planning programming. In September, the program presented dealt with Grief and Issues of Grieving; October was a challenging presentation on Islam and its view of America by a Pakistani Muslim; November was a very informative presentation on HIV/Aids today in our area by the Valley Aids Network. The December presentation will be on the topic of Autism, a very timely issue and of growing concern, and the speaker will be Elly Tucker who has personal experiences she will share. Future programs include topics such as Virginia Legislation of concern to persons of faith (all faiths, presented by the Virginia Interfaith Council on Public Policy); Hunger in our area presented by the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank; raising food to fight hunger presented by the Volunteer Farm; a presentation on Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Training; and a presentation helping to inform us about Immigrants in our growing and changing area. If you would like to attend any of the meetings, please be in touch with Rabbi Joe for details.







An Israel Trip Option

Rabbi Joe has begun exploring the idea of planning a congregational trip to Israel. He has found that it is possible to arrange a ten day to two week tour, at a price at approximately \$2700 per person, for twenty or more participants. No schedule is yet planned. If you might be interested in considering such a trip, and would like to talk about it, please be in touch with Rabbi Joe so he can begin to gauge the level of interest.

B’virkat shalom (with Blessings of Peace),

Rabbi Joe
Rabbi Joe Blair
December 2005

Office Hours and Contact Information	<p>Rabbi Joe is available by appointment. Simply leave a message at the congregation, or email him to arrange a time to meet. In the event of an emergency, if you can't reach him through the synagogues, please contact the rabbi at home by phone.</p> <p>Email: RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com</p> <p>Beth El Congregation 540-434-2744</p> <p>Temple House of Israel 540-886-4091</p> <p>Home [Emergencies only, please] 434-971-4741</p>
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Noteworthy Congregational News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chanukah Party and Potluck Dinner This year, the Chanukah Party will be held on Friday, December 23 at 6:00 PM., Because the first night of Chanukah is December 25, we will not be lighting Chanukah menorah at the potluck dinner. Please bring a dish to share. <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin: 10px 0;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; width: 25%;"></td> <td style="text-align: center; width: 25%;">Last Name</td> <td style="text-align: center; width: 25%;">What to bring</td> <td style="text-align: center; width: 25%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">A – G</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Main Dish</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">H – N</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Side dish or salad</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">P – Z</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Dessert</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next Temple Board meeting will be held on Thursday, December 1st at 7:00 in the social hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. • MARK YOUR CALENDARS – the annual congregational meeting will be held at the temple on Sunday, Dec. 4th at 4 o'clock. It is important for all members to attend as we will be discussing changes to our constitution and by-laws. These changes will be mailed out later this month – please look them over before the meeting. • David Waterman has generously volunteered to do all our groundskeeping, which is much appreciated by us all. To thank David for his work on our behalf, Temple House of Israel sent a contribution to Rebuilding Together, an organization in which David is very much involved. Rebuilding Together rehabilitates homes for low-income families, in many cases making it possible for them to remain in their house. We receive a very appreciative letter from the Board, and public thanks from David. One mitzvah leads to another..... 		Last Name	What to bring			A – G	Main Dish			H – N	Side dish or salad			P – Z	Dessert	
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News of our Community	<p>From Alan and Vicki Goldenberg: We are overjoyed to share with you the news that JACOB SCOTT "LUCKY" GOLDENBERG arrived at approximately 3:00 PM on Tuesday, November 15.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Jacob weighed in at 8.2 lbs. Length at 19 3/4"</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mother, Dad, Sam and Kate doing fine.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"Lucky" is for grandchild #7.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The proud grandparents</p>
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News from the Women's Group	<p>The Women's Group served a fine and much-appreciated dinner to just over 50 people at our last Shabbat. We had a number of guests from the Jewish Educational Cooperative in Charlottesville, some of whom rode the train in to see us! Their leader, Elly Tucker, wrote:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Rabbi Joe, I would like to thank you so much for the warmth and caring you (and the other congregants of THOI) showed to our group, in extending the welcome, the wonderful meal, the meaningful service, the impromptu story for the children, the oneg...it was all great! We</p>
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<p>News from the Women's Group</p>	<p>also thank Sarah, Ruth, Marsha, Beth, Tony, and everyone there, for their hospitality and making us feel so welcomed. It was a very special evening and an even more wonderful shabbat. Todah Rabah to you and to your terrific congregation at THOI.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Happy Birthdays to be celebrated in December :</i> <i>Gregg Goldenberg, Dec. 6</i> <i>Robert Pendleton, Dec. 11</i> <i>Alan Goldenberg, Dec. 12</i> <i>Beth Young and Sam Goldenberg, Dec. 14</i> <i>Sarah Grove-Humphries, Dec. 15</i> <i>Anna Degen, Philip Chodrow, Dec. 28</i> <i>Ben Freedman, Dec. 31</i> • <i>Happy Anniversary to Tony and Rachel Jordan, Dec. 19</i>
<p>Religious School</p>	<p>The Religious school has been busy, and using the new curricula, Chai and Mitkadem, the students seem to be making excellent progress. I am particularly happy with what has been accomplished in the Gimel and Daled groups, and have high hopes that we can continue to enrich the education of our children and raise their level of knowledge and comfort with a variety of aspects of Judaism and Jewish practice.</p> <p>The assemblies have given us an opportunity to focus on parts of the liturgy and to practice them, and to engage in some discussions about Jewish issues and ideas. Stories, plays, and midrash have been used to raise ideas to discuss. Roberta Stein has been directing her class sessions more towards the music used during services, which is intended to help the students to feel at home and able to take part when they come to services. I strongly urge you to bring your children to our regular services as often as possible because that is the best way for them to learn the liturgy and to feel fully at home in the service.</p>
<p>Tot Shabbat</p>	<p>This month's Tot Shabbat will be held at the THOI on Saturday, December 17th at 10AM. The focus of this month's program will be on Hanukkah and we will have songs, stories and crafts for children ages 6 and under and their families. New families are always welcome! If you have any questions or to be put on our e-mail list, please contact Shelby Apple at shelbyapple@yahoo.com.</p>
<p>Film Series</p>	<p>The film series will resume in January. Watch for an announcement in the January Bulletin.</p>
<p>Adult Education</p>	<p>Adult Hebrew Classes</p> <p>The five session Introduction to Hebrew course will conclude in December. Classes are scheduled at Beth El on December 11th from 2:30-4:30 and 18th from 3 to 5 pm; and at THOI on December 12th and 19th from 7 to 9 pm.</p> <p>Intermediate Hebrew will begin in January. This is a chance to practice reading Hebrew, to improve your prayer service skills, and to build your Hebrew vocabulary to better understand the liturgy. We will meet at THOI on the 13th and 27th of January at 6 to 7 pm, and at BE on the 12th and 26th at 3 to 4 pm. The schedule for February and beyond will be determined during the first class at each location. There is no cost to members for this course. Please call the synagogue to pre-register or for more information.</p> <p>(Re-)Introduction to Judaism Course</p> <p>This course will begin Monday, January 30th, from 7-9 pm at THOI in Staunton. The full schedule of fifteen sessions will be provided at the first class. It is intended to offer an overview of Judaism, and</p>

**Adult
Education**

to serve as a reminder for those who have had some or much exposure in past, and as a first introduction for those who have not. This course is a prerequisite for anyone who may wish to convert to Judaism. There is a \$25 fee for this course to cover copying charges, payable at the first session. The course is open to all congregational members, and to members of the public with permission of the instructor. There will be textbooks to be purchased during the course, and several 'field trips' will be assigned. Please call for further information or to pre-register at 540-886-4091.

Jewish Lecture & Discussion Series

On December 11th at 7 pm at THOI, we will have the second in a three part series of workshops as part of the Jewish Lecture & Discussion Series. The topic is Planning Ahead: Jewish Thoughts on End of Life Preparations – Planning for One’s Own Death, Funeral, And Legacy. The second session will focus on end of life issues and include such things as durable powers of attorney for medical issues and living wills, with the intent that those attending will be able to make some choices and have the means to convey those choices to their loved ones.

The third session will be at 7 to 9 pm on January 15th, and will cover the concept of Ethical Wills. We will discuss the sorts of things that might be included, and try to provide a format for those attending to use in writing their own ethical will to express their legacy to their loved ones.

Parashat Hashavuah & Limud Torah

The weekly Parashat Hashavuah (weekly Torah portion) discussion takes place at noon on Fridays at THOI. All members of both congregations are invited to bring your lunch and join us.

Approximately monthly at Beth El there is a Torah Limud (Torah learning) session at 6 pm prior to services. The next one is scheduled for December 16th. Again, all members are invited to join us to share opinions and talk about matters of Torah. You can bring your dinner and eat while we talk.

**Staunton
Book Group**

From A.J. Hartung:

From a Sealed Room gave us much food for thought, and we ranged from content to format, concluding that the concepts were valid, interesting, and pertinent, but the story required editing. Let's see, or rather hear what we feel about our January reading(s), my choice, *Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett, BUT, I dug out the book I really wanted, *The Industry of Souls*, a short-listed effort for the Booker Prize by Martin Booth. If you can get both of them read, it would be wonderful because they interact. I have the only copy of *The Industry of Souls* in the Augusta County library, so call me for it (337-6836). The library has several copies of *Bel Canto*, including both CD and cassette recordings.

We will meet at Dianne Mason's on Thursday, January 19th (snow date is Wednesday, January 25th) at 7:30 P.M. Start the new year right – join us.

**Youth Group and
Confirmation Class**

CONFIRMATION CLASS & YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group, Shorty, held its' latest meeting November 6th at Beth El in Harrisonburg. They began with a Confirmation class discussion on the topic of Judaism and Christianity – Differences and Responses. This was a first conversation in preparation for discussion with youth groups from a church which we are planning. They shared a meal and conducted their meeting at which plans were concluded for activities this year. Activities they are planning include: visits/trips to a UVa Hillel service, visits to churches and church youth group(s), shul-ins and Cosmic bowling; shul-ins with other TYGs; Kallot (Winter, TheVENT, Spring Kallah, Summer Kallah, and Camp); spaghetti dinners (at both THOI and BE); Youth Service at THOI, Confirmation & Youth Shavuot Service at BE; Youth Group service at THOI; Ski Weekend at BE; volunteering to work with the Special

Youth Group and Confirmation Class	<p>Olympics, Hurricane Katrina/Rita relief, children's book collection, and other Social Action efforts; possibly a Hershey Park trip and/or a beach trip; and whatever else they add to the list as the year progresses!</p> <p>Confirmation programs will include discussions of Jewish thought on various topics, beliefs, and practices, including more on differences between Judaism and Christianity, the importance of ritual, the meaning of community, differences between Judaism and Islam, interacting with those of other faiths, dealing with missionaries, Eco-Kashrut, Jewish views on the death penalty, a taste of Torah, a taste of Talmud, the Torah of money, business ethics, and any other topics that interest members of Shorty.</p> <p>The next Shorty meeting will take place on December 11th at THOI at 5 pm. Once more, bring some cash and we will find food! In January plan ahead: Shorty will meet on the 8th to prepare for the Ski Weekend and Youth Group Service, and will also go to a shul-in in Roanoke for the Dan Nichols concert on the 13th - 14th! We may need to meet on the 15th to finalize preparations for Ski Weekend as well.</p>																
Judaica Shop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chanukah starts December 26. Check the Judaica Shop for candles and gift items. • Consider <u>Sharing our Best</u>, The Women's Group Cookbook, as a holiday gift! Only \$8. for all those wonderful recipes! And remember there are cards to suit all your holiday needs available in the Judaica Shop. 																
From the President	<p>How are we doing? What are we doing? Where are we going? Those are questions members of the congregation often ask. So I will tell you the answers. But not here. You will have to come to the annual congregational meeting, Sunday December 4, at 4 P.M. There you will be able to learn the answers, even ask other questions, and most of all, participate in the vital business of keeping our congregation alive and well. I know, another meeting, especially on a Sunday afternoon, is not the most exciting prospect for most of us, but let me tell you - - - no, I'll save that for the meeting, too! What I will say is this: Temple House of Israel is small enough to be a family, big enough to encompass a community, and strong enough to be a major part of your life as a Jew. So come to the meeting, participate in the process of keeping the congregation healthy, and enjoy being together for an afternoon with your mischpocha.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Paul Klein</p>																
Donations	<p>Thank you to these generous people who have made contributions to the Temple during the past few months. We appreciate your donations! (Please excuse us if we have already acknowledged these donations in a previous bulletin.)</p> <p>For the High Holidays and for Yizkor:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Rafael and Shirley Brand</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Robert Pisco</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ralph Degen</td> <td>Helen Prince</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jon and Jami Genson</td> <td>Manfred Reinhardt</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Scott Goldenberg</td> <td>Steven Rosenberg</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Steven Goldfarb</td> <td>Julie Rosenfeld</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hillel</td> <td>Iris Rubin</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gary Lichtenstein</td> <td>Raphael and Diane Witorsch</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Marsha Pillet</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Rafael and Shirley Brand	Robert Pisco	Ralph Degen	Helen Prince	Jon and Jami Genson	Manfred Reinhardt	Scott Goldenberg	Steven Rosenberg	Steven Goldfarb	Julie Rosenfeld	Hillel	Iris Rubin	Gary Lichtenstein	Raphael and Diane Witorsch	Marsha Pillet	
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Notes from the Editor	It's been a lot of fun returning to edit the bulletin this once. Beth Young will be returning to edit the bulletin starting with the January 2006 issue. Anything that you'd like published in the January bulletin should be sent to her at templenews@ntelos.net by December 20 th . Your suggestions are welcome. <p style="text-align: right;">Don Chodrow</p>																																										
Yahrzeits for December	Joseph Barth Flora Barth Louis Belfor David Brownold Hannah Degen Rose Greenfield Aaron Hyman Harris	Sadie Goldman Jacobson Max Klotz Milton Stuart Klotz Clara Litvin Earl Boyd Nicely Tina Rosenberg Abraham Rosenthal	Simon Rosenthal Alma Wise Samuels Phillip Seltzer Albert Shultz, Lydia Switzer Rhea Cohen Walters Irvin Weinberg																																								
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December 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:00p Board Meeting 29 Cheshvan	2 L 4:38p 12:00p Torah Study Rosh Chodesh 1 Kislev	3 2 Kislev
4 4:00p Congregational Meeting 3 Kislev	5 4 Kislev	6 5 Kislev	7 6 Kislev	8 7 Kislev	9 L 4:38p 12:00p Torah Study 7:30p Services 8 Kislev	10 9 Kislev
11 5:00p SHORTY Meeting 10 Kislev	12 11 Kislev	13 12 Kislev	14 13 Kislev	15 14 Kislev	16 L 4:40p 12:00p Torah Study 15 Kislev	17 10:00a Tot Shabbat 16 Kislev
18 17 Kislev	19 18 Kislev	20 19 Kislev	21 20 Kislev	22 21 Kislev	23 L 4:43p 12:00p Torah Study 6:00p Chanukah 22 Kislev	24 23 Kislev
25 24 Kislev	26 Chanukah 25 Kislev	27 Chanukah 26 Kislev	28 Chanukah 27 Kislev	29 Chanukah 28 Kislev	30 L 4:48p 12:00p Torah Study Chanukah 29 Kislev	31 Rosh Chodesh Chanukah 30 Kislev

Dec. 1	Board Meeting, 7:00 PM
Dec.2	Weekly Torah Study at noon. Everyone is welcome!
Dec.3	Youth Group and Confirmation Meetings at Beth El after Sherri Alt's Bat Mitzvah Luncheon
Dec.4	Temple Board Meeting at 7:00 pm in the social hall
Dec.9	Weekly Torah Study at noon. Everyone is welcome! Shabbat Services, 7:30 PM. Oneg Hosts: Lisa Solod 463-7637 with Linda & Gordon Bowen 885-3192
Dec. 11	SHORTY Meeting, 5:00 PM at THOI
Dec. 11	Jewish Discussion: Planning Ahead: Jewish Thoughts on End of Life Preparations – Planning for One's Own Death, Funeral and Legacy, 7:00 PM
Dec.12	Adult Hebrew 7–9 pm
Dec. 16	Weekly Torah Study at noon. Everyone is welcome!
Dec.17	Tot Shabbat at 10:00 am
Dec.19	Adult Hebrew 7–9 pm
Dec. 23	Chanukah Party and Shabbat Services, 6:00 P.M. Hosts: Shirley & Rafael Brand 949-0529
Dec. 30	Weekly Torah Study at noon. Everyone is welcome!