



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
www.thoi.org

*Our mission is to perpetuate Jewish life and identity through a welcoming
community of spirituality,
Kislev / Tevet 5770 * December 2009*

From The Rabbi's Desk

My dear fellow Valley Jews and Friends,

Shalom. I was reminded by a friend that in Israel, this is winter - the long rainy season for which we add prayers in the Amidah, with the hope that there will be sufficient water in the year to come. It is cold and wet there, and once in a while in Jerusalem there is even snow – something I enjoyed seeing, especially after the heat of summer.

Holidays

This month other than Shabbat and Rosh Chodesh, there is only one holiday to celebrate, and one fast day to observe.

Falling somewhat early this year, near the end of the month of Kislev, we begin the celebration of Chanukah on Kislev 25. The celebration runs from sundown the evening of December 11th until sundown the evening of December 19th. We will celebrate Chanukah by lighting the Chaunukiah just prior to the Shabbat service on the 18th at THOI. This is because when we are preparing to light the Chanukiah on Erev Shabbat, we light the Chanukah lights first, before the Shabbat candles which mark the start of the Sabbath when our tradition teaches that we do not make a fire (as a form of work which we avoid on Shabbat). Conversely, on Saturday evening, we light and bless the Havdalah candle before we light the Chanukah lamp, waiting until the Sabbath has ended to celebrate Chanukah.

Tzedakah

NEW INITIATIVE! We (THOI) will provide a hot meal to the approximately 80 residents of the **Valley Mission** on December 24th. We are responsible for acquiring, delivering, cooking, serving, clean up and sharing the food. If you can contribute money, food, or time to help us with this project, contact Lou Boden or a THOI board member.

Adult Education

- *Women in the Tanakh* (Bible) - December 6th, Sunday, 2 to 3 pm, Beth El. All are welcome to join in. This has been rescheduled to prepare for the Chanukah.
- *Introduction to Hebrew* - December 3rd, Beth El (last session concluded @ THOI 11/30)
- *JMU Lifelong Learning Institute* - December 3rd, 1-3 pm, Beth El, the last session. This is the class on Anti-Semitism. All are welcomed.
- *Book Discussion* - January 24th at 6 pm, THOI, we will begin a discussion group around the book, "Witnesses to the One: The Spiritual History of the Shema" by Rabbi Joseph B. Meszler. www.Jewishlights.com The book looks at the Shema through the eyes of Jewish thinkers through the ages (something like the book "G-d was in this place, and I, i did not know" by Lawrence Kushner). All are welcome.

Events

- December 3rd at 12:15-1:30 pm, **Interfaith Association** meeting. At this meeting, the

program presented will be "Stories of Conflict and Cooperation Among Valley Congregations." Robert Hewett III, historian and author of "Where the River Flows," (a beautifully illustrated book on the history of faith communities in our area), will help us focus on how people of differing faith perspectives might find common ground today. The meeting is in the West Dining room at Eastern Mennonite University. Lunch is available for purchase in the cafeteria, starting at 11:45 am. Please feel free to attend this meeting, and invite others.

- December 4th, **Fall Community Awareness Shabbat** at THOI. Invite anyone who may be interested in joining us to experience the service and the Oneg Shabbat that follows.
- December 6th, 3 pm, there will be a reading by published poet and author **Sharon Leiter** at THOI. This program is free and open to the community, though donations are requested.
- December 6th, 5 to 7:30 pm, **Shorty**, will plan their Ski Weekend service. This is a dinner meeting, so please bring money for food, and don't forget your dues of \$25 for Shorty/Nfty membership.
- December 12th, 10 am at THOI is the next **Kinderlachen**.
- December 13th, Religious school observes Chanukah during the regular Sunday hours.
- December 14th, 7 pm is the THOI **Board** meeting.
- December 18th, 6 pm, the **Chanukah** performance, Chanukah dinner at 7, lighting of the Chanukiot at 7:45, and Shabbat services with a special guest Haftarah reader at 8.
- December 24th starting by 2 pm, THOI members will meet at the **Valley Mission** and provide a full dinner for the residents and others on Christmas Eve.
- January 2nd, Saturday morning, **Shacharit Shabbat** service at 10 am.

Closing

In this season of increased darkness, may you find light and love in your heart and in those around you. May the light of the Chanukiah spread, bringing joy and peace to all that see them, and from them to all others whom those persons touch.

Rabbi Joe Blair

President's Message

Dear Members and Friends,

December is our regularly scheduled Kinderlachen on the 12th at 10:00 and our Chanukah party on the 18th and it's also outreach in a major way.

Join us and bring your friends to our Community Awareness Shabbat Services at 7:30 on the 4th. This has become a true community event where we can have our regularly scheduled Shabbat service and Rabbi Joe can add a bit of explanation for our non-Jewish friends. Yes, we're usually out-numbered, but it's a great educational opportunity.

Another outreach program this year **is providing, preparing, serving and joining in the meal** at the Valley Mission on Christmas Eve. Lou Boden is the Mission's chairman and proposed the idea to the board, we accepted and now we need your help. If you can donate food, prepare food, write a check, serve the meal on Christmas Eve, join the Valley Mission for dinner at 5:00 pm that evening, or all, please contact Lou (lousfriend54@yahoo.com or 255-5555), Rachel Peretz Comes (rperetzcomes@gmail.com or 414-7078) or me (bydesign@ntelos.net or 885-1481) know as soon as possible.

Happy Chanukah, Happy Hanuka, Happy Hannukah,

Beth

<p>Reaching the Rabbi</p>	<p>The rabbi is available by appointment. If you wish to meet or speak with the rabbi, please email or call him. In that way, the rabbi will be able to respond and give you his full attention, as you deserve. The rabbi does not read or respond to email or phone messages on Shabbat or holidays.</p> <p>In the event of an emergency, the rabbi may be contacted by telephone. In that case, please call the cell phone number listed: if you reach voicemail, please leave a message speaking clearly with your name, telephone numbers, the specific topic, and be sure to express the need for an urgent response. The rabbi will respond as soon as possible.</p> <p>Rabbi Joe's Email: <u>RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com</u> Beth El Congregation 540-434-2744 Temple House of Israel 540-886-4091 Cell phone (Please use this # for emergencies) 434-981-3959</p>								
<p>Oneg Reminder</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Dec. 4</td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Community Awareness Shabbat</td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Natasha Benenson 540-886-1157 Dan & Ellen Schorsh 540- 942-3149</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Dec. 18</td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Shabbat Services <i>Hanukkah Pot Luck Dinner 6:00</i></td> <td style="vertical-align: top;">Gary Cizek 540-943-5559 Don & Ruth Chodrow 540-886-2252</td> </tr> </table>			Dec. 4	Community Awareness Shabbat	Natasha Benenson 540-886-1157 Dan & Ellen Schorsh 540- 942-3149	Dec. 18	Shabbat Services <i>Hanukkah Pot Luck Dinner 6:00</i>	Gary Cizek 540-943-5559 Don & Ruth Chodrow 540-886-2252
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<p>Religious School</p>	<p>A hearty Mazel Tov to our three new Alef students – Keenan Glago, Danielle Hall, and Maxfield Joyner, who attended consecration service at Temple House of Israel on Saturday, November 14. We rejoiced with them and the other attending religious school students who helped lead us in several prayers and songs. Our three new students received beautiful certificates and their own torah. We welcome them to the study of torah!! Thank you so much to the Sisterhood of Temple House of Israel for providing a lovely Kiddush lunch after the Consecration service. It was delicious and enjoyed by all.</p> <p>The religious school is proud to present a Chanukah musical under the direction of Roberta Stein. We will perform our musical at Beth El at 5:00pm on Sunday, December 13 and at Temple House of Israel on Friday, December 18. We look forward to seeing you there.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>L'shalom, Dara Hall</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Each child brings his own blessing into the world.–Talmud, Nedarim</i></p>								
<p>Judaica Shop</p>	<p>Hanukkah items have arrived. Contact Natasha B. at 540-886-1157 or judaica@thoi.org to set up a time to shop. Watch the emails for posted shopping days.</p>								
<p>Caring Committee</p>	<p>Please let the Temple know of any illnesses, deaths or joyous occasions so that Rabbi Joe and the congregation can respond appropriately. It is a mitzvah to visit those who are ill. We ask that if you are aware that one of our members or friends are in the hospital please call the Temple, Rabbi Joe or a <i>Caring Committee</i> member : Lou at caring-committee2@thoi.org , Janet at 851-0877 or Rosalie at caring-committee2@thoi.org so that we may visit them.</p>								
<p>Yarzheits</p>	<p>Irvin Weinberg Aaron Harris Abraham Rosenthal Phillip Seltzer David Brownold Earl Nicely Flora Barth Hannah Degen Hubert Thompson</p>	<p>Clara Litvin Alma Samuels Toby Guberman Joseph Barth Louis Belfor Lydia Switzer Max Klotz Milton Klotz</p>	<p>Anne Goldberg Albert Klein Albert Shultz Rhea Walters Rose Greenfield Sadie Jacobson Simon Rosenthal Tina Rosenberg</p>						

Special Requests

If you feel a conversation with the rabbi on any topic would be of benefit to you, please be in touch to make an appointment. You can call or email Rabbi Joe as shown elsewhere in this newsletter.

Please know that we always seek congregant and guest participation in services throughout the year. If you are interested in leading a lay service, or in taking a role in a service, please be in touch with Don Chodrow, Ellen Werther, Lisa Solod, Rabbi Joe, or Beth Young. Roles include: reading Torah or Haftarah (Hebrew and English), serving as Gabbai (the “MC” for the Torah service), an English reading, or having an honor. The honors we usually confer in our services include being called up for an Aliyah (saying the blessings for the Torah or the Haftarah reading; there are some restrictions on who may have this honor), serving as Hagbah (lift, hold, and carry the Torah), Gelilah (undressing and dressing the Torah), Petichah Usegurah (opening and closing the Ark), and candle lighting with the blessings. Please remember that these roles each are honors, and that we are counting on you to be there to help us make our services special.

And if you are interested in singing for our services, please be in touch with Sarah Grove-Humphries, who is ably coordinating music for our worship.

If you are interested in studying for and celebrating an adult B’nai Mitzvah, or in learning to leyn (read/chant) Torah and/or Haftarah, or to lead services, or serve as a gabbai, please be in touch with the rabbi.

If you are interested in or wish to consider conversion, or you just want to learn more about Judaism (whether you are Jewish or not), please be in touch with the rabbi.

THOI December 2009		1	2	3 Intro to Hebrew JMU Lifelong Learning 1 – 3PM Interfaith Assoc. Meeting 12:15 – 1:30 PM	4 Community Awareness & Rabbi-led Shabbat 7:30 PM	5
6 Women in the Bible 2-3:00 PM**** Sharon Leiter Poet Performs 3:00 PM ***** SHORTY MEETS 5 -7:00 pm	7	8	9	10	11	12 Kinderlachen 10:00 AM
13 Religious School	14 Board Meeting 7:00 PM	15	16	17	18 Religious School Musical @ THOI 6 :00PM Chanukah Dinner 7:00 PM Shabbat 8:00 PM	19
20	21	22	23	24 Valley Mission Project 2:00 PM	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2 Shacharit Shabbat 10:00AM

