



# Temple House of Israel Bulletin

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

**July/August 2007, Tamuz/Av/Elul 5767**

## From the Rabbi's Desk

My dear fellow Valley Jews and Friends,  
**Shalom!**

The lazy days of summer are upon us. So why does it seem that I am being rushed into the coming year? Our summer service schedule is set, and in progress. The congregational calendar for the coming year will be distributed soon. Major events are planned, and the year is shaping up. It'll be a great year.

### **The Calendar & Holidays**

Rosh Chodesh (New Month) for Tamuz was on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of June. Tamuz continues until July 15<sup>th</sup>. July 16<sup>th</sup> is Rosh Chodesh for Av. Av ends on August 14<sup>th</sup>, and the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of August are Rosh Chodesh for Elul. Elul ends on September 12<sup>th</sup>, and we begin our new year that evening with the arrival of the first of Tishrei, and Rosh Hashanah. Tishrei will continue until October 12<sup>th</sup>, with Rosh Chodesh for Cheshvan on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.

There are only a few summer holidays or commemorations. July 3<sup>rd</sup> will be Tamuz 17, the Tzom Yud-Zayin (17<sup>th</sup>) Be'Tamuz (the fast of the 17<sup>th</sup> day of Tamuz). This is a fast day commemorating the breach of the defenses of Jerusalem, and beginning the three weeks of mourning leading up to Tisha Be'av (the 9<sup>th</sup> day of Av), which recalls the destruction of the Temple – which occurred twice – once in the year 586 B.C.E., and once in the year 70 C.E. During this three week period, it is tradition to act as mourners by not holding public celebrations [events that can be scheduled], and not getting haircuts.

This year Tisha Be'Av falls on July 24<sup>th</sup>. It is customary to gather at midnight on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, and to sit on the floor or low stools, as is the custom for mourners, and read the scroll of Eicha (Lamentations). This text is a dire lament, five chapters of regret, sadness, loss, destruction, and visions of pain and oppression, a cry from the depths of the broken heart. The melody used for the trope is a mournful and very moving one. This is an embodiment of the words of Psalm 137, 'by the waters of Babylon, we sat down and wept when we remembered Zion.' And yet, even this terrible vision is mitigated by hope, as we read at the end, in Eicha 5:21-22, the conclusion: "(Re) Turn us to You, O Lord, and we shall truly be (re)turned (to you), renew our days as of before (of old or as in past). You cannot have utterly rejected us and remain exceedingly wroth against us." The verse, Eicha 5:21, is that incredibly beautiful one we sing as we close the Ark at the end of the Torah service. 'Hashivenu Adonay eylecha, venashuvah; chadesh yameinu kekedem.'

The month of Elul is a time of introspection and self-examination, the period of preparation for the High Holy Days. From the 15<sup>th</sup> of August until the 12<sup>th</sup> of September this year, we are given the opportunity to look at our behavior and actions in the past year, to seek to make amends where we have fallen short of the mark, and to ask forgiveness of those we have hurt. This can be a powerful and very emotional time and a time of deep contemplation and meditation, as well as a time to perform true Tikkun Olam (repair of the world) and Teshuvah (repentance and return). I hope that all of us are able to take full advantage of this period and to find the strength, courage, and ability to truly prepare for the Yamim Nora'im (days of awe).

A few notes:

- For next year I am proposing including a few Shabbat morning services in place of selected Friday evenings, spaced out throughout the year. In addition, I would like to consider offering a Healing service and to add Havdalah services periodically through the year.
- I have been approached to teach a section of Hebrew Scriptures at MBC (a professor there resigned). I agreed and will do so in the fall.
- Adult education programs overall were successful, but I would like to change things up a bit and see if we can encourage more active participation. Please be in touch and let me know what you would like. Our Chevrah Kadishah training session was held in May. We had a very nice sized core group of about a dozen people come. I am very pleased. We have pamphlets, and the next step is to produce our local instruction book, acquire supplies, work with the funeral homes, and prepare to fulfill the mitzvah.
- Alan Goldenberg is spearheading the Shenandoah Valley Holocaust Education Program. There will be a program in October, and a series of events in March. Watch for information, and be prepared to volunteer to support this effort. The events may include live theater performances, speakers, survivors, and many other kinds of events.
- The film festival planning seems to be moving along well. I am impressed with the committee, and hope that it will be a huge success. The dates for the festival are October 26<sup>th</sup> to November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Put it on your calendar now!
- 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.

### **Summer Wishes**

I want to close this article with a wish that each of you will have a lovely, relaxing, refreshing, and re-energizing summer, and come back ready to jump in and continue to make the kind of wonderful, important and significant progress we have seen in building our Jewish community and contributing to our larger community. Be safe, stay healthy, and enjoy it!

B'virvat shalom (with blessings for peace),  
Rabbi Joe Blair



<p><b>News of our Community</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Congratulations to Philip Chodrow whose research project was awarded first place in the mathematics division of the Virginia Junior Academy of Sciences. He presented his paper “Iterated Partial Sums of Homogeneous Linear Recurrence Relations with Constant Coefficients” at the May 2007 meeting. He was also given the Mathematics Honor Award, sponsored jointly by the VJAS and the Virginia Academy of Sciences. [David Young's translation of the topic is “chaos theory patterns that start the same.”]</li> <li>▪ The Valley Music Academy is offering summer Musikgarten classes July 10-31 in Staunton and Waynesboro for children from 4 months to 5 years. Musikgarten’s programs awaken and develop a young child’s natural joy and talent for making music. Registration is also available for fall classes beginning September 5, 2007 for ages 4 months to 7 years. A piano preparation class for 5-7 year olds is now available, too. To register or for more information please contact the Valley Music Academy at 540-942-8648 (<a href="http://www.ValleyMusicAcademy.org">www.ValleyMusicAcademy.org</a>) or Sarah Grove-Humphries at 540-885-4223 (<a href="mailto:Humphries@rica.net">Humphries@rica.net</a>).</li> </ul>
<p><b>New in the Library</b></p>	<p>These books just came into our library. Check them out!</p> <p><u>The Land That I Show You: Three Centuries of Jewish Life in America</u> by Stanley Feldstein</p> <p><u>Is Paris Burning? How Paris Escaped Hitler’s Sentence of Death in August 1944</u> by Larry Collins and Dominique LePierre</p> <p><u>American Kelmner: Its Roots and Offshoots</u> by Mark Slobin</p> <p><u>A History of God: The 4000 Year Old Quest of Judaism, Christianity and Islam</u> by Karen Armstrong</p>
<p><b>Israel Trip</b></p>	<p>The trip is on! Rabbi Joe will be traveling in Israel August 5<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>, with ten congregants! We still have plenty of room to add people to our group, so please sign up yourself, and encourage friends and family to join you!</p>
<p><b>Book Group</b></p>	<p>Our July book is <u>Pitching My Tent</u> by Anita Diamont. We’ll be meeting July 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm at Natasha Benenson’s home and would love to have you come join us! Our August’s book will be <u>Pudd’nhead Wilson</u> by Mark Twain.</p>
<p><b>News from the Women’s Group</b></p>	<p><i>Birthdays to be celebrated happily in July and August:</i></p> <p>Marcia Conner on July 2<sup>nd</sup>  Kate Goldenberg on July 3<sup>rd</sup>  Benjamin and Sydney Fox on July 6<sup>th</sup>  Betty Menaker on July 7<sup>th</sup>  Sarah Young on July 10<sup>th</sup>  Byron Grove-Humphries on the 14<sup>th</sup>  Lynne Landsberg on July 21<sup>st</sup>  Elana Brody on July 24<sup>th</sup>  Lillian Blair on August 9<sup>th</sup>  Jonathan Freedman on August 10<sup>th</sup>  Stephanie Brand on August 11<sup>th</sup>  A.J. Hartung on August 13<sup>th</sup>  Joe Kristoff also on August 13<sup>th</sup></p>

	<p><i>Happy Anniversary to:</i> Martha and Doug Degen on July 30<sup>th</sup></p> <p>The Women's Group will have a "volunteer opportunities" sign-up poster at the August picnic. Please take a minute now to think of ways in which you would like to help the temple community.</p>		
<b>Judaica Shop</b>	There are lots of goodies to choose from at the Judaica shop. If you have any specific needs, please let Dianne Mason know at 885-6254.		
<b>Religious School</b>	If you are interested in teaching or being a substitute next year, please be in touch with the principals, Dara, Linda, and Ruth. You can also email <a href="mailto:religious-school@thoi.org">religious-school@thoi.org</a> .		
<b>Notes from the Editor</b>	September's bulletin will be the first issue for our religious year. If you'd like to include anything, please have your information, comments and suggestions to me by August 20 <sup>th</sup> <b>I'm open to your suggestions for continuing a column, deleting a column or adding a new one. Just let me know at <a href="mailto:bulletin@thoi.org">bulletin@thoi.org</a>.</b>		
<b>Donations</b>	<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>In memory of Benjamin Raybin David and Kay Raybin In memory of Phil Schwartz Mark and Julie Ayers</p>		
<b>From the Web Maven</b>	It's update time for the THOI website ( <a href="http://www.thoi.org">www.thoi.org</a> ). We want to add more useful links about Judaism and also update basic information about the temple. If you have any suggestions, please send them along to <a href="mailto:website@thoi.org">website@thoi.org</a>		
<b>Yahrzeits for July and August</b>	Leah Barber	Simon Sachs	Mabel Kaplan
	Edith Belfor	Frances Schwartz	Dr. Samuel Loewner
	Ruby Bornstein	Sara Seltzer	Donald Mindell
	Abe Bressman	Morton Shor	Lucy Nicely
	Maurice Cohen	Abraham Suskins	Doris Patterson
	Jerome Degen	Samuel Weinberg	Shirley Peretz
	Vera Duken	Charles Brand	Eva Roberts
	Bernice Fox	Louise Cohen	Eva Robins
	Eva Geller	Mildred Fay Degen	Esther Rosenthal
	Mollie Hoffman	Bernard Goldsmith	Rachel Rothenberg
	Jacob Kaplan	Albert Gomberg	Sandra Schoenberg
	Delores Levy	David Greenstein	Vivian Schorsch
	Joseph Loener	Cynthia Grossman	Samuel Sebell
	Ben Raybin	Anna Harris	Madeline Shultz
	Betty Rosenthal	Louis Kamerman	Charles Switzer
	Richard Roth	Julius Kane	Miriam Wasserman

July 6	Lay-led services led by Ruth Chodrow
July 13	Lay-led services led by Linda Blazer – oneg hostess: Dianne Mason
July 20	Lay-led services led by Natasha Benenson – oneg hostess: Natasha Benenson
July 27	Lay-led services led by Linda Blazer – oneg hostess: Leah Farmer
Aug. 2	Temple board meeting at 7:00
Aug. 3	Lay-led services led by Sarah Grove-Humphries – oneg hosts: the Blair family
Aug. 10	Lay-led services – oneg hostess: Linda Singer
Aug. 19	Potluck picnic at the Young's at 5:00
Aug. 17	Lay-led services led by Philip Chodrow – oneg hostesses: Vera Flint and Gail Brusoe
Aug. 24	Lay led services led by Linda Blazer – oneg hosts: Rosalie and David Waterman
Sept 1	Lay-led services led by Ruth Chodrow – oneg hostess: Laura Jean Brand

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