



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, learning, service, joy and worship.

Kislev > Tevet / December 2011

President's Message

Dear Members and Friends ~

We've just celebrated with those who have supported the temple with their time and energy as well as their financial contributions and wisdom, each through more than 25 years of membership. Shirley Brand came here with Rafael (Z"L) in 1952 and wins the prize for the longest connection to Temple House of Israel. Thank you to Marsha Pillet for making the evening a lovely, special event with excellent food and great camaraderie. The stories were a brief look at the past 60 years of temple activity.

December brings two events that beg for your attention beyond our regularly scheduled Shabbat services. (1) Join us on Friday, the 23rd for our Silent Auction and Chanukah potluck dinner but before then, call Ken and Elizabeth Schwartz (886-9222) if you have a treasure to donate to the auction. Details on page 3. (2) Consider contributing food or serving dinner – or both – for the Valley Mission on Christmas eve. The list of food items appears on page 3.

In the meantime, give thanks at Thanksgiving and know that the best gifts in this season are the ones that can't be wrapped. Light. Laughter. Lore. Latkes. Love. Learning. Liberty. Lots of fun.
B'Shalom, Beth

From the Rabbi's Desk

My dear fellow Valley Jews and Friends,

Shalom! The Thanksgiving holiday is later this week, as I write this. This is a time that I sometimes use to stop a moment and review the year so far. Let me share with you a bit of my thinking for that review.

The High Holy Day services went well, and (to me) felt meaningful and uplifting. Sukkot was good, and our Simchat Torah celebration was enhanced by including the Consecration of the new Religious school students and by welcoming all our Religious school students to take part. The Krystallnacht program that took place at THOI was very well received. Our Community Awareness Shabbat service has just been held and we welcomed a good number of community members from a wide variety of groups who were interested and excited to join us for the evening. The Religious school is going gangbusters and buzzing along. Shorty (the youth group) members have been meeting, and are planning a full year. The board has been active and busy. All sorts of projects and improvements have been taking place in the building and amidst the congregation members. Adult education classes I am offering are in progress and running smoothly. Chanukah lies just on the horizon. We have a number of traditional and adult B'nai Mitzvah coming up in the months ahead. Plans are in progress for an Israel trip in June. Much that is good and positive is happening and planned, and there is a lot of which we can be proud – very timely, because it is good cause to rejoice and give thanks.

The Calendar

KISLEV > TEVET

Rosh Chodesh for Kislev (a thirty day month) was on November 27th. Kislev runs from November 27th through December 26th, with Rosh Chodesh for Tevet (a twenty-nine day month) on December 26th and 27th. Tevet will run from December 27th until January 24th, with Rosh Chodesh for Shevat (a thirty day month) on January 25th.

Holidays and Special Services

December encompasses only one Jewish holiday, other than Rosh Chodesh and Shabbat, which as any child will tell you, is Chanukah. Chanukah runs from the 25th of Kislev until the 2nd of Tevet, which means this year it occurs on the secular calendar starting at sundown on Tuesday, December 20th (first candle), and ending at sundown on Wednesday, December 28th (eight candles lit at sundown on

December 27th). A reminder: in following both the teachings of the House of Hillel and the House of Shammai (two Talmudic schools of thought), we add candles starting at the RIGHT of the Chanukiah (the Chanukah menorah or candelabra) and adding to the LEFT each night, but we light candles starting on the LEFT and moving towards the RIGHT of the Chanukiah. On Erev Shabbat, we light the Chanukiah before we kindle the Shabbat candles so we are not creating new lights after we usher in the Sabbath. Of course, to commemorate the story of the oil that burned for eight days, we enjoy foods that are cooked in oil (on the theory that we are what we eat, I think) – so Potato Latkes (pancakes), Sufganiyot (jelly doughnuts), and other fried foods are common. Don't forget about the game of Dreidel and the chocolate Gelt (coins) that are often used to play.

As you can see from the dates, this year Chanukah overlaps with the Christian holiday of Christmas. Be careful - I am not too sure how well Latkes go with Eggnog. ☺ And hard on the heels of these days, we come to the changing of the secular year. Because Israeli's love a party, they celebrate Sylvester on December 31st-January 1st – so Happy Sylvester to all!

Rabbi-Led Services

As determined by the Calendar Committee and the two Boards, after changes and updates, the scheduled Rabbi-led Shabbat Services for this period are:

- ❖ Friday, December 2nd, 7:30 pm, THOI
- ❖ Friday, December 23rd, 7:30 pm, THOI
- ❖ Friday, January 13th, 7:30 pm, THOI [Shorty Fundraising Dinner at 6 pm]
- ❖ Saturday, January 28th, 10 am, THOI

Torah Parashiot

In December, the Torah Parashiot read will be Vayetze, Vayishlach, Vayeshev, Miketz, and Vayigash, from Bereshit (Gen.) 28-10-47:27, and Bamidbar (Num.) 7:30-35. We are in the second year of our Triennial cycle.

Haftarot (Haftarah readings selected from the prophets) to be read include segments from Hosea 12-14, Obadiah 1, Amos 2-3, Zechariah 2, and Ezekiel 37.

Candle Lighting Times

In December, times to light Shabbat candles are:

2 nd	4:39 pm	23 rd	4:42 pm
9 th	4:38 pm	30 th	4:47 pm
16 th	4:40 pm (begin to add to the length of daylight)		

Haftarah times are:

3 rd	5:38 pm	24 th	5:43 pm
10 th	5:38 pm	31 st	5:48 pm
17 th	5:40 pm		

Pastoral Care

If you feel a conversation or meeting with the rabbi on any topic would be of benefit, please be in touch to make an appointment. You can call or email Rabbi Joe as listed elsewhere in this newsletter. Also, if you are ill, or know someone who may be, and might like a visit or call, please let Rabbi Joe know.

Service Participation

Please know that we 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, contact Ruth Chodrow, BethYoung, or the rabbi.

Closing Message

I hope that everyone will have an opportunity to spend time over this Thanksgiving holiday realizing and appreciating all the blessings that grace each of us and those that we share. May each of you have a thanksgiving full of joy and love and blessings, and may that continue through the month and year ahead.

May Chanukah, our festival of lights, bring increasing light to us and to all the world, and may that light lead to enlightenment and blessings of peace, prosperity, health, joy and love to all. And let us each say, Amen.

Rabbi Joe

<p>Christmas Eve Dinner at the Valley Mission</p>	<p>Once again this year we will be teaming with Eric Stamer to provide and serve dinner to residents at the Valley Mission in Staunton on Saturday, December 24th. You may bring your donations to Eric's kitchen at 19 East Frederick Street beginning Monday, Dec 19th. We anticipate serving 100 people and need the following items:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">3 large whole turkeys</td> <td style="width: 50%;">3 pounds ground coffee</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10 - 12 - oz. pkgs. bread cubes</td> <td>5 - 9"x13" cakes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2 whole hams</td> <td>10 - 6-oz. cans French Fried Onions</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10 - 29 oz. cans green beans</td> <td>10 - 10-oz cans cream of mushroom soup</td> </tr> </table> <p>Dinner is to be served at 4:00 pm and we should meet at Eric's at 3:00 to set up. So that we can keep track of what we have, would you please let us know what you plan to contribute? Also let Beth know if you can help serve that afternoon. Contact president@thoi.org or 885-1481. A huge thank you goes to Eric Stamer for preparing our food and to Martin Moskowitz of Staunton Fruit and Produce for the fresh produce needed.</p>	3 large whole turkeys	3 pounds ground coffee	10 - 12 - oz. pkgs. bread cubes	5 - 9"x13" cakes	2 whole hams	10 - 6-oz. cans French Fried Onions	10 - 29 oz. cans green beans	10 - 10-oz cans cream of mushroom soup
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<p>Chanukah Potluck & Auction</p>	<p>The first night of Hanukkah is Tuesday, December 20th. THOI will be having our traditional Hanukkah pot luck on Friday, December 23rd beginning at 5:00 PM. Any volunteers for potato latkes??? The potluck assignment breakdown is as follows.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>A-B drinks C-G main dish H-R dessert S-Z side/salad</i></p> <p>We had such a great time last year at our Silent Auction in conjunction with the Chanukah potluck dinner we're going to do it again!</p> <p>Ken and Elizabeth Schwartz have agreed again to chair our Silent Auction on Friday, December 23rd. The Potluck Dinner will begin at 5:00 and so will your chance to browse the wonderful display we're anticipating. Your donations should be brought to the temple on Sunday, Dec 11th between 2:00 - 3:30 or on Thursday, Dec 15th between 5:00 - 6:30. If you would like to arrange any other delivery time or if you have any questions about the sale, please contact Elizabeth or Ken at 886-9222. Donations of products (photography, artwork, ceramics or jewelry to name a few) or gift certificates for services (dinners, desserts, computer help, interior design, calligraphy, veterinary services or tutoring for example) are welcome. Remember this is not a yard sale - we want only the best for your shopping pleasure</p>								
<p>Women's Group</p>	<p>Thanks for efforts of everyone who helped in the success of the many events in this fall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our fall Women's Group fund raiser raised over \$200.00 • Visit the Judaica shop stocked for Hanukkah with new candles, menorah, gelt and dreidels. There is still time for special order items. Contact Marsha for inquiries (macmeda@newhopetel.net or 540 3634946) • The next Women's Group meeting will be held at the temple tentatively Sunday, January 22nd at 2:00 PM. Please mark your calendars 								
<p>Oneg Reminder</p>	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Shabbat Friday, Dec. 2nd</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Rosalie Waterman Patty & Larry Sutker</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hanukah Potluck Friday, Dec. 23rd</td> <td>Leah Farmer Adam & Kim Gutterman</td> </tr> </table> <p><i>Oneg assignments and instructions can be found in the THOI Calendar.</i></p>	Shabbat Friday, Dec. 2nd	Rosalie Waterman Patty & Larry Sutker	Hanukah Potluck Friday, Dec. 23rd	Leah Farmer Adam & Kim Gutterman				
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<p>Kids</p>	<p>Congratulations on a great Global Day of Jewish Learning! On November 13th, we had the honor of being involved in this special day. Harrisonburg was one of 300 communities in 40 countries around the globe that participated in this awesome event. Our religious school families came together to think about the Shema in a special way. We focused on the Bedtime Shema, which we encourage all of our students to say before they go to sleep. We watched videos, did a "Shema" scavenger hunt, ate a bedtime snack, and made several Shema crafts including a Shema pillowcase, a beautiful copper mezzuzah, and a foam Shema bed. Many thanks to the participants, and the volunteer parents - Ruth Berger, Lara Sokoloff, and Heidi Rafferty. For more information about this special event, please see:</p>								

	<p>http://www.theglobalday.com/</p> <p>During this season of Thanksgiving, I would like to take a moment to say "Thank You" so much to some very special people involved in Religious School. Thank you to our wonderful teachers who are committed and caring. You are truly appreciated! Thank you to our amazing students - I am so proud of all of you! Thank you to our parents - without you and your support we could not continue to be so successful! And special thanks to Rabbi Joe, a great mentor and teacher, for sharing so much of yourself with us and for your constant encouragement.</p> <p>Some other thank yous - to the Renick family your many donations of school supplies, to Moreh Ron Ornstein for his superior skills with music and Jewish education, and to Ruth Berger for always willing to help me out and support our Religious School. There is so much to be thankful for!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">L'shalom, Dara Hall, Principal</p>																																																							
Yarzheits	Aaron Harris Abraham Rosenthal Albert Shultz Albert Klein Alma Samuels Anne Goldberg	Irvin Weinberg Joseph Barth Louis Belfor Lydia Switzer Max Klotz Milton Klotz	Phillip Seltzer Rhea Walters Rose Greenfield Sadie Jacobson Simon Rosenthal Tina Rosenberg	Clara Litvin David Brownold Earl Nicely Flora Barth Hannah Degen Hubert Thompson																																																				
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