



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

MARCH 2015 / ADAR-NISAN 5775

President's Message

Dear Congregants and Friends,

The Romantic poet Shelley said, "...if winter comes, can spring be far behind?" It is such a hopeful way of thinking. I want to convey that hopefulness in this message to you.

I am hopeful that you all will return your yearly dues envelopes, adding some extra for the upkeep of our lovely, but old building. We can use all of the financial assistance you can afford to give.

I am hopeful that you will join us at the Community Awareness Shabbat on March 13 so that members will outnumber visitors, and we can assist the rabbi in explaining our service. Onegs also seem so much more welcoming when there are more in attendance.

I am also hopeful that you will plan to set aside April 3 for our Passover seder because we need the sense of community that comes with sitting around a table, hearing the story and participating in the ritual once again.

Be hopeful with me by choosing to do these things, please.

Note: In an effort to balance our budget, the Board voted to cancel our URJ membership. We will revisit this action next year. If you have thoughts about this decision, speak to a board member sometime in the next year, please.

Rosalie Waterman, President THOI

From the Rabbi's Desk

Dear Temple House of Israel Congregants and Friends,

For a time that is supposed to be 'dead' on the calendar, we have certainly been busy and that doesn't appear to be changing in the coming month. This, despite the cold and threat of snow that has hung over us. Please dress warmly and stay healthy.

Again, a reminder that at this time of year, especially with the cold weather we have been experiencing, food pantries and shelters are overtaxed, so any donations you can make to support them are much appreciated. I also commend to your attention Mazon, the Jewish organization that seeks to alleviate hunger – pre-addressed envelopes are in the synagogue.

Gone By:

- The most recent article in the newspaper that I penned appeared in early February, under the rubric "Here's Looking at Jews". That column, and all previous, are linked on the congregation's Facebook page. Please take a look! A March version will be forthcoming.
- The Shorty (youth group) Ski Weekend was a success. Thanks to all who helped make it so and *mazel tov* to members of the youth group who brought it to life.
- Shelley Christensen, noted author and activist in the area of Jewish Disabilities Awareness, spoke during services on Feb. 20th. Read her book: *Jewish Community Guide to Inclusion of People with Disabilities*.

To Come:

- Rev. Shelby Owen will come as our guest and deliver the sermon on Feb 27th. This is part of a pulpit exchange. I will speak at both the 8 and 10:30 services at Emmanuel Episcopal on March 1st. You are welcome to join me, visiting the Church that day.

Rabbi's Message

- March 13th we are holding the Spring Community Awareness Shabbat. We invite all who are interested and encourage our members to spread the word. Please feel free to pass this invitation to anyone who may be interested in attending to observe or ask questions.

The Torah Parashiot now through the month of March are Ki Tisa, Vayakhel-Pekudei (Shabbat Parah), Vayikra (Rosh Chodesh Nisan, and Shabbat HaChodesh), Tsav (Shabbat Hagadol), then Pesach 1 and VIII as we enter April. We are in year 2 of the triennial cycle.

The Religious School will have a pre-Purim carnival on the 1st [led by our fantastic Religious School teachers and parent volunteers] but not a Megillah reading because of when it falls on the calendar. The reading of the Megillat Ester will be folded into the service at Beth El on March 6th.

Later this month, we enter into Nisan. Nisan is a bit more serious than Adar, as it portends the arrival of Pesach/Passover, the holiday when we celebrate our liberation and Redemption, and read about G-d's working through miracles, signs and wonders, even touching on life and death. It is identified as the first of months for Jews, though not the start of the year; it indicates that Creation was for all humankind and all living things, but Redemption was for the Hebrews/Jews, and it led in a direct line to Revelation, which we will celebrate at Shavuot, the Feast of Weeks, 49 days after Passover. Passover will begin on Friday evening, April 3rd with the first Seder, the ritual that reminds us of and retells the story of the Redemption, known as Exodus. Many of us will also have a second Seder on the 4th. Passover is biblically a seven day holiday, but for those living outside Israel, it became the custom to extend to eight days in order to be sure to be observing the holiday on the correct days. I will write more about Passover for next month.

Some of you may recall that I will be out of town for several days to attend a conference. This is the 13th annual Kavod v'Nichum (Honor and Comfort) conference, put on by the organization that supports communities and trains leaders in regard to the Chevrah Kadisha – the Holy Society – that performs the Chesed Shel Emet, the True Kindness. These are the persons that help by preparing the body of Jews for burial; an act that is selfless, because they can never be thanked by those for whom they undertake this work. The holy task is sometimes difficult, often occurs at inconvenient times, but is always a sacred act. If you are interested in knowing more about the Chevrah Kadisha, or how the ritual they perform can be requested for yourself or your loved ones, please be in touch with me.

I close by praying that in this period we are all offered the opportunity to increase joy and happiness in the world for others, and experience it ourselves. May we all be blessed and feel gratitude for what we have. And let us say, Amen.

B'virkat Shalom,
Rabbi Joe Blair

Contacting the Rabbi

Rabbi Joe may be reached by email at RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com (Other email addresses may not reach him in a timely fashion or at all.) He reads email regularly, except on Jewish holidays or Shabbat, when he does not use the computer. His cell phone number is 925-272-8563 (925-2-RAVJOE). PLEASE CALL if you have any urgent messages or in case of an emergency, and please let Rabbi Joe know if you or anyone you know is ill or would want a call or visit for any reason. You are also invited to contact Rabbi Joe to arrange an appointment to meet.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

- ❖ Linda Schorsch Jones, daughter of Dan and Ellen Schorsch, is now a juvenile and domestic relations judge for the 25th District of Virginia. Until her judgeship was announced, Linda was a practicing attorney in Waynesboro from 1991- November 2014 with Poindexter, Schorsch, Jones & Hill.
- ❖ Ellen Werther would like to make sure everyone knows that her son Jonathan will be married to Hayana on Maui, on March 23rd. They will continue to live in Santa Monica, California. Mazel Tov!
- ❖ Rabbi Lynne Landsberg is improving slowly, and is facing a long period of physical therapy for her broken shoulder. We wish her a R'fuah Shlema.
- ❖ Nancy Witt is recovering from her recent surgery and adapting, but does not feel confident yet going out or having many visitors. She might appreciate a call.

March Calendar and Services

1	Rabbi Joe's sermon at Emmanuel Episcopal	2	Also on the 1 st : Pre-Purim Carnival at Beth El	3		4		5		6		7	
8		9		10		11		12		13	Community Awareness Shabbat Services 7:30	14	
15	9:00 AM Allyson Goldsmith - Eleveate @ the Youngs	16		17		18	Temple Board Meet 7:00	19		20		21	Shabbat Services at 10 am
22		23		24		25		26		27		28	
29		30		31							April 3		
											Passover Seder		

Special Event
Sunday,
March 15 @
9:00 AM

After spending 10 weeks in 2007 as a volunteer intern for Women's Health Educations and Prevention Strategies Alliance (WHEPSA) in Senegal, Allyson Goldsmith focused on empowering young girls through education. COME HEAR ALLYSON SPEAK ABOUT ELEVEate, the non-profit she established to elevate girls to success and to their potential through after-school programs and summer school. In order to attend secondary school a student must pass the national Secondary School Entrance Examination; a requirement to sit for the exam is a birth certificate; a birth certificate costs about \$25; most people live on \$2/day.

Sunday, March 15 at 9 am at the home of Beth and Rich Young, 226 Taylor Street, Staunton.
Allyson is the daughter of Jan Kaufman and Art Goldsmith in Lexington.

The Women's
Group

Our Feb 22nd meeting was postponed because of the 12" of snow we received that Saturday. Our **rescheduled meeting will be held Sunday, March 1st at 2:00 pm.**

- ❖ It seems hard to believe, but Passover is just a few short weeks away and we need to start making arrangements (see full information and reservation form in this bulletin) set for Friday, April 3.
- ❖ We are hoping to plan a social event--maybe a dinner?--for some time at the end of April.
- ❖ At our April meeting, we will have our first-ever book club, a discussion of Chapters of the Heart, a compilation of stories edited by Rabbi Sue. To get a copy of the book, see Rosalie or Ellen W. Or purchase a copy through the Temple's Judaica Gift Shop or the Sacred Circle.
- ❖ There is an **SPCA box in the store room to hold your donations** for the organization. Elizabeth has put a list on the bulletin board which indicates what donations the SPCA can use.

We welcome all women of the Temple. If you have a suggestion or want to put something on the agenda, please email Ellen W at junetenth1935@gmail.com. Join us!

Oneg
Reminder

Oneg hosts for March 13: Degens and Bodens

Oneg hosts for March 21: Dianne Mason with Jan Kaufman and Art Goldsmith

Religious School

“Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore, send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed, to me: I lift my lamp beside the golden door.”—Emma Larzarus

On February 8th, our Dalet students joined religious school students from a number of synagogues in Northern Virginia at Olam Tikvah. We experienced what it might have been like to be an immigrant coming through Ellis Island. It was a wonderful hands-on program!

During the rest of the month, snow, ice, and freezing temperatures have led to two consecutive cancellations. We are adding a make-up day on March 8th.

A pre-Purim event will engage our students on March 1st. Our parent helpers will help our students engage in some fun activities.

We have rescheduled the RS Shabbat service to April 18th. (The March 7th day was cancelled.). Please mark your calendar and plan to join us!

SHORTY

SHORTY experienced a very successful ski weekend on February 6-7th! The theme was Heroes & Villains. Our youth conducted a very contemporary & reflective NFTY service. Youth groups from VA & MD engaged in many fun activities on Friday night. On Saturday they went skiing, tubing &/or to the water park. We ended with Havdalah & dinner on Saturday.

Thanks so much to Beth El's Men's Club for a delicious pizza & salad dinner on Friday, to Judy Freudenthal for Friday Oneg, and Sisterhood members Gale Clemons & Rebekah Greenfield for the delicious potato bar for dinner on Saturday. Many thanks to Moreh Mike Jarvis for leading us in Havdalah. And thanks to Leslie Harris for the great t-shirt design. The rest of the events were organized by our SHORTY members and advisors. Thanks also to Rabbi Joe for his support of our youth group!

March Yahrzeits

Louis Cohen	Louis Cohen, Jr.	Rose Freiberger
Manny Gutnick	Irving Janus	Irving Kamerman
Joseph Kamerman	Leah Kamerman	Annie Kaplan Klotz
Abraham Kreitzer	Abraham Levin	Adrian Neuman
Bertram Peretz	Harry Raskin	Moses Rosenthal
Rebecca Rosenthal	Regina Ruttenberg	Ralph Seltzer
Albert Shultz	Sophie Strauss	Irving Waxman

Donations

THANK YOU to the following people who have given to the building fund:

Asher and Laura Jean Brand

Shirley Brand

Nadine Chase

Abram Kronsberg

Dan and Ellen Schorsch

Larry and Patty Sutker

David and Rosalie Waterman

Thank you also for an anonymous donation in honor of Rosalie Waterman

A second anonymous donation was received to repair our heating ducts.

WEBSITE RE-DO

CHECK OUT OUR ALL NEW WEBSITE AT THE SAME ADDRESS:

thoi.org

**Thanks to Debbie, Beth and Carla who worked with
Kimberly Watters at Graphic Artist 4 You**

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