



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

NOVEMBER 2014 / CHESHVAN-KISLEV 5775

President's Message

Welcome to 5775. I hope you were able to attend some of our services for the high holidays. We had many guests join us during that time. The music was particularly lovely, performed by Laura Mandeles, Sarah Grove-Humphries, Linda Blazer, and Mike Jarvis from JMU.

On a non-religious note, the rain has come, and the trees have begun to change so life seems reinvigorated. For the remainder of October we have 2 events to look forward to. On October 26, Nadine Chase and her musicians will appear in the sanctuary at 3 pm, performing jazz favorites. The event begins at 3 pm. The cost is \$10 for everyone over 12 years old. Following the performance there will be a reception, sponsored by the women's group, in the social hall. Snacks will be provided. Bring your own wine, please. We hope to see a full house and to have a good time. Our final service for October is on October 31 at 7:30 pm. Please plan to attend.

As this is my first bulletin for 5775, I want to appeal to you for action. We need your help to keep the temple working well and to make it better. We need volunteers in various capacities. They are as follows:

- We need a person with web expertise to maintain our web site once it has been reconfigured. Can anyone help with that?
- We need help with the Christmas Eve dinner at the Valley Mission, both in providing food (More to follow about that) and in serving and eating with the residents.
- We have several committees that aren't functioning and need to be revitalized. They are as follows: caring committee, ritual committee, and long-range planning committee. Along with these three, the following could use extra input: membership, building and grounds, and Chevrah Kadishah (burial). I am particularly interested, through the long-range planning group, in looking ahead financially for the stability of the temple. Please think how you can fit in best and then contact me (886-1713 or drwaterman@comcast.net) to volunteer.

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We all can contribute to the life of the congregation by picking up a little piece of the work. Together, the burden is lifted and we all are helped. Please contact me about any of the above.

Rosalie Waterman, temple president

From the Rabbi's Desk

Dear Temple House of Israel Congregants and Friends,

My sincere hope is that you had a meaningful, uplifting, and happy season of holidays in the last month or so, starting with Elul, through Tishrei with Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur and the Yamim Nora'im, and on into Sukkot, finally concluding with the season of our rejoicing in the law on Simchat Torah. Tishrei ended on the 24th of September, and we are in the month of Cheshvan, heading toward Kislev on the 23rd of November.

From the Rabbi's Desk (continued)

This time offered us the complete range of human emotions and feelings, all the way from hope to awe, love to fear, justice to mercy, judgment to compassion, creation to harvest, dryness to rain, famine to bounty, transcendence to immanence, bare plant to ripeness, and barrenness to fruitfulness – all this in each of the four worlds, at all of the levels on which we can appreciate and access it.

After the spate of holidays, with the emotional roller coaster they brought us, we can use a respite, and Cheshvan provides just that. Ignoring the secular events of Halloween on the 31st of October, the switch from Daylight Savings Time to Standard Time on November 2nd, Election Day (VOTE!) on November 4th, and the observance of Veterans Day on November 11th, the only secular event of note in this period is Thanksgiving Day.

The sole Jewish commemoration that falls in this time is on November 9th, and it is Krystallnacht, the anniversary of the Night of Broken Glass, the official start of the Sho'ah/Holocaust in Germany in 1939. In fact, our 'quiet' period on the Jewish calendar goes on, all the way until the 25th of Kislev, on the evening of December 16th, when we begin observing Chanukah (Remember last year when Chanukah began the night before Thanksgiving? Well, this year we had a leap-month, so the calendar is pushed back into closer synchronization with the solar/secular year). Take advantage of this quieter time on the Jewish calendar!

If you want to learn or to improve your Hebrew skills, please note: the free five week Introduction to Hebrew course will be offered at Temple House of Israel, running for five weeks, starting on November 9th at 3 pm. The course will extend until December 14th with no class on November 30 (Thanksgiving weekend). Again, this course is free, and open to anyone who wishes to attend. The goal is to teach the Hebrew Alefbet and decoding skills. The plan is that students will learn or sharpen their skills in knowing the letters (and the sounds they make), the vowels, how to combine letters and vowels to form syllables and make words, some/most of the grammar rules and a smattering of vocabulary that is used in liturgy and prayer. No requirement to sign up in advance; simply attend the first session to register – those registered will be provided the textbook at the second class session. All you need is a pen or pencil, something to write on, some curiosity, and a desire to work hard and learn. We will cover the foundation of the Hebrew language, help build your skills in this area, and have some fun! And if you have taken the course before – no problem! Take it again as a refresher, to solidify your knowledge, to pick up some of the finer points, or just to enjoy working on Hebrew with other people.

You might look at the Facebook page to see links to the newspaper column I have been writing. It also notes the entry on the blog of the sermons by both Rabbi Sue and me for the High Holidays. As always, I would welcome suggestions on how to improve the holidays for the future.

The Torah Parashiot in the month of November are Lech Lecha, Vayera, Chayei Sarah, Toledot and Vayeitzei. We are now in year 2 of the triennial cycle (starting on Simchat Torah on October 17th).

Rabbi's Message

In this sweet time following the major Jewish Holiday season, may you make the time and have the focus to take some moments each day to look, be aware of, and acknowledge all the good things that there are in your life. May each of us find a way to experience gratitude for the many gifts and blessings that surround and support us from moment to moment, each and every day. May that sense of gratitude inform our celebration of the holiday of Thanksgiving, and every other day of our lives. Ken Yehi Ratzon – may it be so. Amen.

B'Virkat Shalom,
Rabbi Joe Blair

Contacting the Rabbi

Please note: 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 now 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.

November Calendar and Services

					31 Halloween Shabbat Services 7:30	1
2	3	4 Election Day – VOTE!	5	6	7	8
9 Intro to Hebrew at 3:00	10	11	12 *	13	14 Community Awareness Shabbat 7:30	15
16 Women's Group 2 Intro to Hebrew at 3:00	17	18	19 Temple Board Meet 7:00	20	21 Shabbat Services 7:30	22
23 Intro to Hebrew at 3:00	24	25	26	27 Thanks- giving	28	29

Oneg hosts for November 14: Sue Solomon, Michelle Clark and Marsha Pillet

Oneg hosts for November 21: Patty Sutker and Ellen Schorsch

*** H A P P Y 8 0 t h B I R T H D A Y L E A H ! !**

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

- ❖ Linda Blazer, Ruth Chodrow and Sarah Grove-Humphries will be performing with Valley Collegium on November 15 at 8:00 at Muhlenberg Lutheran Church, 281 East Market Street in Harrisonburg. The concert features the musical legacy of Martin Luther, entitled "With Peace and Joy". It is free and open to the public. Arrive early for best seating!
- ❖ Congratulations to Bonny Strassler who is now on the board of Meals on Wheels. You can do more than just congratulate her. Meals on Wheels is sponsoring a spaghetti dinner at the Verona Moose Lodge on November 9th from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. Tickets are only \$10 and are available from Bonny or at the door.
- ❖ Bonnie Brown's 30 years of experience as a dietitian will serve her well in her new position at Western State Hospital. Mazel tov Bonnie!

The Women's Group

Greetings from the Women's Group. First and foremost, I cannot thank enough all those who helped make the High Holidays run so smoothly. So many people chipped in. But Michelle Clark and Linda Blazer deserve mention by name - - Michelle for organizing all the readings and other honors and Linda for organizing the amazing Break Fast. Now that the Holidays are over, we are looking ahead to Chanukah. We will have a pot luck on Friday, December 19th starting at 6:00. Bring your menorahs and your favorite Chanukah dish. We will be holding a silent auction for these delights. We will also be creating a "favorite Chanukah Memories" banner. Beth will be bringing in butcher paper on which we can all write our favorite memories. There will also be a children's table at which our young ones can play the dreidle game, draw pictures, etc.

As part of our community outreach activities, we will be preparing dinner for the folks who work at the Free Clinic in Fishersville on December 18th. We'll also be serving dinner at the Valley Mission on Christmas Eve.

More immediately, Nadine Chase will be putting on another Jazz Café on October 26th at 3:00. She and her ensemble will perform for an hour and her concert will be followed by fellowship – with good food to eat. The cost is \$10.

Religious School

In keeping with our tradition of High Holiday revelry, the religious school enjoyed a wonderful celebration of Sukkot on October 12th. We had numerous craft activities that the students engaged in to decorate the sukkah. We all enjoyed a wonderful snack together and had an opportunity to shake the lulav and etrog. Thank you so much to our parent volunteers – Ruth Berger, Valerie Lovinger, Caleb Payne and Tamara Johnstone-Yellin for your creativity and support of this excellent event!

We have a new Hebrew teacher in our midst – Morah Yael – you might have heard her blow the shofar at our Rosh Hashanah service! We also have had the opportunity to welcome a new music teacher in our midst – Moreh Mike! He is working with our students in multiple ways including teaching them trope. If you haven't met him yet, Moreh Mike is a vocalist who aspires to be a cantor. His skills are an excellent addition to our school and the kids are enjoying his presence. In order to accommodate this new type of small group music experience, the religious school instructional schedule has altered slightly (although the hours remain the same). Please contact Dara Hall, principal, at mddmhall@verizon.net if you have any questions.

Everyone is invited on Sunday, November 16th as we embark on another day of Global Jewish Learning! We will learn about heroes of our faith and will specifically be learning about the Maccabees! Come out and join the religious school for this exciting event beginning at 10:00am as we join congregations around the world in a special family education day! We look forward to seeing you then!

Holiday Donations

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR THEIR GENEROSITY

Mark and Laura Mandeles in memory of Dr. Stanley Mandeles, Francine Mandeles, Melvin S. Lewis and Marian Lewis

Mark and Laura Mandelesin honor of the Young family and the Chodrow family

Rosalie Waterman in memory of Leah Hoffman Franck, Molly Hoffman, Mildred Hoffman and Annette Hoffman

Michelle Clark.....in memory of Rita Cohen, Benny Cohen, Dorothy Riess, Clara Cohen, Abraham Riess, Mary Frances Clark and Robert Clark

Alan and Vicki Goldenberg... in memory of Samuel Goldenberg, Shirley Goldenberg, Howard Michael Goldenberg, Israel Scherer, Gussie Scherer, Helen Scherer, Abraham Scherer, Harold Shapiro, Stephen Shapiro, Pauline Shapiro, Morris Shapiro, Bernard Bresky, Peter Milone, Gertrude Scherer

Jan Kaufman and Art Goldsmith..... in memory of Ada Kaufman, Arthur Kaufman, Gloria Goldsmith, Bernard Goldsmith, Edith Goldsmith, David Goldsmith and Ray Savin

Ken and Elizabeth Schwartzin memory of Benjamin Schwartz and Harriet Schwartz

Sarah Grove-Humphries in memory of Pauline Kessler, Ernest Kessler, Mary Grove Chronister, Mildred Humphries, Gordon Humphries, Albert Kleiner

Steve Goldfarb in memory of Leo Goldfarb, Celia Goldfarb and Sarah Jill Goldfarb

Rich and Beth Young in memory of Beryl and Emanuel Gutnick, Joseph and Betty Gutnick, Art and Arlene Gutnick, Ina Tompkins, Julius and Esther Goldberg, Jack and Jean Moore, P.W. and Polly Moore, Betty Moore Young

Linda Blazer in memory of Viola Pierantozzi Blazer, Hyman Blazer, Charles Blazer, and Ersilia Paci

Ellen, Josh and Ian Boden..... in memory of Bernard Boden, Goldie Bloom Boden, Isidore Bloom, Pauline Boehm Drucker and Benjamin Drucker

Nadine Chase in memory of Ann Chase and William Berger

Ellen Werther..... in memory of Elain Werther, Robert Werther, Sadie Werther, Edward Werther, Ida Klein, Elaine Werther, Jerry Werther, Laura Evans and Jerry Evans

Ruth Chodrow in honor of the High Holidays

November Yahrzeits

Betty Donenfeld	Max Freeman	Esther Goldberg	Julius Goldberg
Beryl Gutnick	Harry Harris	Ada Kaufman	Leah Kirmko
Paul Lewis	Ralph Lurie	Abraham Peretz	Bernice Raskin
Joseph Rosen	Ralph Rosen	Louis Rosenthal	Ethel Shapiro
Leopold Schorsch	Louis Shapiro	Fannie Strauss	Fannie Switzer