



Temple House of Israel Bulletin

A Member Congregation of the Union for Reform Judaism
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www.thoi.org

Our mission is to perpetuate Jewish life and identity through a welcoming community of spirituality, learning, service, joy and worship

NOVEMBER 2015 / CHESHVAN - KISLEV 5776

President's Message

Now that the holidays have passed, we are moving into the month that holds Thanksgiving, my favorite holiday. During our high holidays we devote our time to acknowledging the bad things we've done during the year and setting ourselves straight to begin a new year, trying harder to be good people. Thanksgiving encourages us to be thankful for what we are and have.

We at THOI have several things to make us grateful. We have The Anthropology of Evil class, meeting in the social hall on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm. It began on October 14 and continues for 5 sessions. Come and sample, please. Pay what you will.

We are grateful for our services on November 13 and a special Havdalah and discussion on Saturday, November 21, at 6:30 pm. More details to follow. We are grateful that our Women's Group has another interesting book to read, *Lovesong* by Julius Lester, for a November 14 discussion. We are also grateful that Amazon Smile allows us to make a donation to the temple every time we order from Amazon. Just go to the temple website and click on Shop Til You Drop toward the bottom of the Home page. The site will lead you through choosing the recipient of your donation.

I just read the sad news that Nadia Webb's mother, Susan, has died. Nadia has been living here in the past year to be with her mother. We have enjoyed knowing her and watching her care so lovingly for Susan. To quote John Donne very broadly, "Every death diminishes us because we are involved in mankind." We send our condolences to Nadia at this time of loss.

We are most grateful for our group of friends who come together to worship monthly. Thank you all.

Rosalie Waterman, temple president

From the Rabbi's Desk

Dear Temple House of Israel Congregants and Friends,

The past month has been a blur with all that was happening. Other than the spate of holidays, the most noticeable thing was the sudden cold snap, then return to warm weather; now we are truly in the Fall season. School is in full swing. The leaves have changed, and many have already fallen. Many of us are thinking ahead, anticipating the Thanksgiving holidays. The next Jewish Holiday (other than Shabbat) will be Chanukah. It is supposed to be a quieter time on the congregational calendar, but so much is still in progress that it doesn't feel that way!

As I write this, we are coming up on the **Fall Community Awareness Shabbat service**, which will be **October 30, 2015**. Please invite any friends, neighbors, co-workers, teachers, or anyone else that has expressed any curiosity or interest in what Jewish services are like to join us to observe. We will insert some explanations as we go, offer an opportunity for questions afterwards, and invite our guests to come and 'meet' the Torah – to see it and talk about how it is made, as well as welcome all who are present to join us for the Oneg Shabbat. For anyone who is unable to join us for this event, please let them know that we will repeat it in the Spring at the February 19th service, so they can plan ahead.

From the Rabbi's Desk (con't)

The *Free Introduction to Hebrew* five-session course will begin on November 8th at 3 pm at Temple House of Israel. The sessions are scheduled for 3-6 pm on November 8, 15, 22, December 6 and 13 (no class the weekend of Thanksgiving). This class is open to anyone (congregant or not, Jewish or not) who wishes to learn the Hebrew Alphabet and vowels, begin to build a small vocabulary, and pick up some simple grammatical rules. Those who have taken the course before are welcome to do so again. The goal is that those taking the class will be able to decode - sound out - any Hebrew, and will begin to know some words or phrases that appear often in liturgy. Please pass this along to others who may be interested so they can join this class. No need to register ahead of time, just come to the first session.

See the flyer included with this bulletin which describes the **Kulanu** program on November 1st, at 3 pm, co-sponsored by Beth El Congregation and the JMU Hillel. Kulanu is an organization that seeks to support emerging Jewish communities in (usually) remote areas. The speaker at this event will be Modrek Maerersera, a member and leader in the Lemba Jewish community in Zimbabwe. He will discuss his own experience, the community, and life as a Jew in that region. I am sure it will be most interesting, as have been other Kulanu programs in the past.

Another program entitled **When a Loved One Dies: the Chevrah Kadisha and other Jewish Burial Practices**, is also taking place on November 1st. I want to share this one with you in particular, as this topic is near to my heart. I would be delighted to see you there. Author Michelle Brafman and I will discuss Jewish burial and mourning practices and related spiritual teachings at 7 pm Sunday, November 1st in Omansky Hall at Congregation Beth Israel (301 E. Jefferson Street). The work of a fictional Jewish volunteer burial society (Chevrah Kadisha) is an important plot element in Michelle's new novel *Washing the Dead*. There will be a question and answer period afterwards and Michelle will be available to sign copies of her book. Light refreshments will be served. RSVP to office@cbicville.org or 434-295-6382.

November 21st at 6:30 pm there is a Havdalah and Discussion program at Temple House of Israel. We will begin with Havdalah (5:42 pm that evening), and then enjoy some light refreshments, a brief presentation to outline the topic, and a conversation with all present. My guest that evening is Rev. Paul Oakley of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waynesboro (some of you may have met him during High Holiday services this year). The topic of the discussion will be announced, but this is expected to be an informal conversation more than a presentation. I had several very pleasant conversations with Rev. Oakley, and I am looking forward to the chance to engage with him in a larger group.

The Torah Parashiot for the coming weeks are Vayera, Chayei Sarah, Toldot, Vayeitzei, Vayishlach, Vayeshev, Miketz, Vayigash. Rosh Chodesh Kislev will be on November 12th.

Rabbi's Message

As we engage in the doings of daily life, may we find within them the seeds of holiness and wholeness. May it be so that the season of the upcoming holiday of Thanksgiving be time when each of us comes to appreciate the many blessings that surround and uphold us in our life. Amen.

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). Telephone messages left at the Congregation number are only checked periodically.

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 welcome a call or visit for any reason. You are also invited to contact Rabbi Joe to arrange an appointment to meet. Rabbi Joe will be happy to make an appointment to speak with you, so that he can offer you his full, undivided attention.

Contacting the Rabbi

Things of note

- The first **The Anthropology of Evil** classes, given by Stephen Kennemer, were amazing! There are still 4 more sessions on Wednesdays, October 28 - November 18, from 7 pm-9 pm. It is pay what you will and is open to everyone in the Staunton community. You don't have to have been to the first sessions to join the remainder of the class. It will stimulate your mind and question what you believe. This course is an inquiry into how to define evil. Evil will be examined from sociological, psychological, biological, and theological perspectives. Finally we will ask if evil can be prevented. Questions: LectureSeries@hotmail.com.
- **Remember when you shop at Amazon, go to our thoi.org website first and click on Amazon Smile to place your order. That way you get whatever it is you want and the temple gets a small rebate.**
- A reminder for mentioning names at yahrzeits: If you want your loved one's names entered into our red Book of Life, from which we read at each service, please give us the name of your loved one, their date of death (Hebrew and/or English date) and your check for \$50 per loved one. This information should be sent to Rosalie Waterman c/o THOI, P.O. Box 1412, Staunton VA 24402.
- Ellen Werther is now the Women's Group's moderator on the Temple's [Facebook](#) page. She just started this position and has been busy posting ever since. She asks all members of THOI who are on [Facebook](#) to "like" the page and to comment and like the posts. Doing so only takes but a moment but will help increase community awareness of THOI and help us build a stronger community.
- THOI welcomes our newest member, Emily Gorham, currently attending Washington & Lee University!
- We will have 2 Shiva Minyanim to support Nadia Webb following the passing of her mother, Susan. Join us Sunday, October 25 and Monday, October 26 at 6 pm at the temple.

The Women's Group

The Women's Group is busy preparing for a fun-filled year of activities and fundraising events and we hope to see lots of familiar and new faces throughout this year. Members have discussed several pioneering events for the temple that are in the early phases of planning and are considering other ways to reach out into the community. Please consider participating and sharing your ideas with us. **The next meeting of the Women's Group will be Sunday, November 8 at 2:00 pm at the temple.**

Several events are upcoming, namely the **next book discussion meeting led by Leah Farmer on Saturday, November 14 at 11:00am at the temple.** We will discuss **Julius Lester's book *Lovesong: Becoming a Jew***. It is a thoughtfully written book and fantastic read about his conversion to Judaism. There will be a dutch treat lunch after the meeting to extend the discussion or just to socialize. Edmund de Waal's *The Hare with Amber Eyes*, last month's book, is highly recommended.

The Women's Group is sponsoring a **Hanakkah Potluck and Silent Auction on Friday, December 11 beginning at 6pm.** Please consider contributing an item or two to the silent auction. In the past, both goods and services were generously donated by members as well as local businesses. Here is a list of items that were bought and enjoyed: fine jewelry and costume jewelry, scarves, theme baskets of items, cookware, artwork, coupons for food, and gift certificates for services such as yoga classes, OTHERS? Please consider participating by contributing an item to the auction, bidding and buying, or making a delicious dish and partaking of a historically fantastic meal in the company of friends. Contact Elizabeth Schwartz (curo44@gmail.com or Beth Young (bydesign1993@gmail.com) to donate items to the auction.

The Women's Group

Our flamingoes have visited both James Strassler and Lynne Landsberg to cheer them each after suffering from broken legs (one leg for each of them). Wouldn't you love to see twelve (12) **bright pink plastic flamingoes** in someone else's yard? For only \$25, you can have them stealthfully placed in the yard of a local friend, relative, neighbor, etc. along with your message telling them why they have been "flocked" (e.g. happy birthday, anniversary, thank you or Mazel Tov or just on account of because!!) These adorable flamingoes will visit for 24 hours and then be picked up by someone from the stealth flamingo flocking team. To order a flocking, please contact: Debbie Jacobs at: deb1130@hotmail.com or Beth Young at: bydesign1993@gmail.com

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Celebrations

Tom Pereles, celebrating a birthday on November 4th
Karen Blair on November 5th
Jordan Kristoff is celebrating on November 10th
Cordae Gardner celebrates 6 years on November 11th
Leah Farmer's birthday is November 12th
Sue Solomon also celebrates on November 12th
Jacob Goldenberg's birthday is November 15th
David Young celebrates his 28th birthday on November 25th
Asher Brand celebrates on November 26th
Debbie Jacobs celebrates on November 30th

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY and CONGRATULATIONS TO :

Sarah and Byron Grove-Humphries celebrating togetherness on November 19th

November Yahrzeits

Burton Blair	Jack Brodsky	Fannie Cohen
George Degen	Betty Donenfeld	Max Freeman
Esther Ruth 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	Leopold Schorsch	Ethel Shapiro
Louis Shapiro	Fannie Strauss	Julius Switzer
Fannie Switzer	Jacob Wilhelm	Sadie Slutsky Werther
Ida Laurie Klein		

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

- Larry and Patty Sutker welcome the addition of Ruby Lee Sutker, born 9-21-15 in Nashville to Colin Sutker and Andrea Jacobs and little sister to Arlo Sutker. She is very cute!
- Twins Sydney and Ben Fox, grandchildren of Alan and Vicki Goldenberg, celebrated their B'nai Mitzvah in Atlanta over Labor Day weekend. Mazel tov on their outstanding achievements!
- Refuah shelemah bimheyrah. Wishes for full and speedy recovery to Rabbi Lynne Landsberg as she continues to heal from injuries sustained in her recent fall.
- Ellen Werther's son Jonathan is starting a new job as Technical Project Manager at Verizon Digital Media Services.
- Baruch dayan haemet. We extend condolences to Nadia Webb whose mother Susan passed away October 18th.
- Mazel Tov to Sarah Grove-Humphries on being awarded the 2015 Musikgarten Exemplary Program award. She continues to touch so many young lives in such a positive way.

Donations

Thank you to the following generous supporters of Temple House of Israel:

Linda Blazer in memory of Hyman Blazer
..... Viola Pierantozzi Blazer
..... Charles Blazer
..... Lena & Harry Blazer
..... Ersilia Paci
..... Louis Sannino

Martha and Doug Degen in memory of Ralph and Mildred Degen
..... Frances and Jim Bruin
..... Joe Bruin
..... Morris and Hannah Degen
..... Jake and Annie Klotz
..... Abe and Jackie Ruday

Alan and Vicki Goldenbergin 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

Steve Goldfarb Leo Goldfarb
..... Sarah Jill Goldfarb
..... Celia Goldfarb

Susan Jacobson.....in memory of Tressa Schwartz Jacobson
..... Max Jacobson
..... Goldina Schwartz

For the High Holidays

Beth and Rich Young
Debbie Jacobs
Sue Solomon
Ken and Elizabeth Schwartz
Art Goldsmith and Jan Kaufman
Benn Legum
David and Rosalie Waterman
Sarah and Byron Grove-Humphries

Editor's note: Please excuse me if I've left anyone out. Every donation is appreciated!
I'm fighting my computer again!

November Calendar and Services

Oct. 25 Shiva Minyan for Nadia Webb @ 6	Oct. 26 Shiva Minyan for Nadia Webb @ 6	Oct. 27	Oct. 28 Anthropology of Evil 7:00	29	Oct. 30 Community Awareness Shabbat at 7:30	Oct. 31 Halloween 
1 Kulanu speaker @ Beth El 3 pm	2	3	4 Anthropology of Evil 7:00	5	6	7
8 Women's Group 2:00 Intro to Hebrew @ 3	9	10	18 Board Meet 5:30 Anthropology of Evil 7:00	19	13 Shabbat Services 7:30	14 Book Club at 11:00
15 Intro to Hebrew @ 3	16	17	18 Anthropology of Evil 7:00	19 Thanksgiving 	20	21 Havdalah and Discussion at 6:30
22 Intro to Hebrew @ 3	23	24	25	26 Thanks- giving	27	28
29	30					

Oneg hosts for October 30: Michelle Clark and Sue Solomon

Oneg hosts for November 13: Beth Young and Doug Degen

Oneg hosts for November 21: Ruth Chodrow, Vera Flint and Bonny Strassler

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR ONEG HOSTS FOR
THE DELICIOUS GOODIES WE ENJOY FOLLOWING EVERY SERVICE