



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 2016 / SIVAN – TAMMUZ - AV 5776

President's Message

Dear Congregants and Friends,

Much has happened to us this month. Lou and Ellen Boden returned from Amsterdam and Lou is doing well. Dennis Ward had a successful hip replacement. Patty and Larry Sutker just returned from three weeks in Scotland. Kay and Lee Stohr will return soon from the Pacific Northwest. Sarah Grove-Humphries attended a workshop for cantors, which we hope she enjoyed. Vera Flint and Ruth Chodrow are returning and leaving happily all summer. Yay to all!

On the other hand, we just had an unlawful entry at the temple, a scary experience, but the locks are changed and we are fine – yay!

We do need to say a prayer for Michelle and Jim Clark's son Adam who is at UVA hospital recovering from a serious infection. Life takes us on unexpected turns.

Our services for this year are finished. Our first service is on August 12. The kick-off picnic is scheduled for August 21, site to be determined. (Want to volunteer?)

I hope you all get to do something enjoyable this summer. If you have any ideas for activities for next year, e-mail me anytime. Also, if your contact information changes, please let me know so we can update the roster.

Rosalie Waterman, temple president

From the Rabbi's Desk

Dear Temple House of Israel Congregants and Friends,

Welcome to Summer. ☺ This is a quieter time on the published congregational calendar, but a busy time for planning and preparing for the coming year.

May/June included a number of noteworthy events:

The first annual (I hope) Women's Group Shabbat service on May 20th, with participation by a good number of women – a fun and quite successful evening. That same weekend, the annual congregational meeting took place on the 22nd, including the election of several new board members. I was happy to see a positive story in the Waynesboro News Virginia about the THOI cemetery (the reporter even got most of the facts right!).

The last of the Death Café sessions on June 1st. This was a very interesting experience and seemed to divide people into one of a few groups. The first group, consisting of perhaps half the community, was made up of people who thought that talking about death was macabre and even distasteful, and they did not attend. The second group was people who came to a session and did not feel that it was something they wanted to continue to participate in, consisting of about 10% of the community, serving as a set of new faces that appeared in a session and did not re-appear. The final group, roughly 40% of the community, found that the program offered them something they wanted, needed or found of value. I can't say specifically what they got from it, but I speculate that for some it was a safe and

From the Rabbi's Desk Con't.

non-judgmental space in which to talk about something that others outside that environment were not willing to hear, or that they found others who had somewhat similar experiences to share. In any case, attendance at the six events ranged from nine to twenty-seven, with a small core group that participated in the bulk of the events, and those who took part requested that we continue the events in the coming year.

The Elementary Biblical Hebrew course continues through July. See details under Things of Note. We are already thinking ahead to the follow-on course in the fall. We will return to the more directly Biblical text based (with grammar) approach of the earlier classes. That will be in the Fall of 2016. Watch for information about it to be forthcoming, as well as about the Introduction to Hebrew course to learn the Alefbet and Vowels.

There may be one or more lay-led services upcoming. If you are interested, please be in touch with Ruth Chodrow, chair of the Ritual committee.

Torah and Calendar

The Torah Parashiot for the coming weeks (through July 30th) are Bechukotai, Bamidar, Shavuot, Naso, Beha'alotecha, Shelach Lecha, Korach, Chukat, Balak, and Pinchas. The August Parashiot are Matot-Masei, Devarim (Shabat Chazon), Va'etchanan (Shabbat Nachamu), Ekev, and Re'eh.

Rosh Chodesh for Tammuz will be July 6th and 7th. Rosh Chodesh for Av is August 5th. July 24th is Tzom Tamuz 17 (fast of the 17th of Tamuz, the start of the three weeks, delayed a day to avoid Shabbat).

Rabbi's Message

As we enter the summer months, the focus moves away from the activities of the 'regular' year, and our attention is often drawn to the end of school, vacations, the changed schedule warm weather activities and travel. Fewer items appear on the calendar of congregational events, it appears that communal activities diminish, and our attention is focused elsewhere.

In reality, despite appearances of it being a 'quiet' time, this is the time of year when so very much is happening behind the scenes. It is the season of evaluation, planning, preparing and readying so much that will manifest during the rest of the year. This is when the calendar is set, programs designed, holidays prepared and a great deal that is out of sight is done in advance of the return to the 'regular' calendar and schedule come late August.

We know that nothing 'just happens'. It takes people, planning, preparation and action. This is your community. I hope that you will take the opportunity to be involved and shape it to serve your needs, and the needs of your friends, neighbors and fellow congregants. Please – take part in the life of the congregation, both by attending and participating, and by helping to plan and bring about what is offered. The participation and efforts of each of us is what makes it a community.

May we all be blessed by a supportive community that meets the bulk of our needs.

Rabbi Joe Blair

Things of note

- The Elementary Biblical Hebrew course continues through July, 4-5:30 pm on Sunday afternoons at Temple House of Israel. It began addressing the story of Noah, and focusing on some of the Midrash that accompanies this story, but has switched direction to be a more specifically text study, focusing on interesting verses from Tanakh, as was done in the first course. There is no cost and the texts are provided, but you will probably want to have a Tanakh (Hebrew bible) available for reference. Although you can use a standard non-Jewish Bible, it may differ a bit (as we found on June 19th!), but it is serviceable for this purpose.
- High holidays will be here before you know it and one of the central parts of the service is the blowing of the shofar. As we have for the past several years, WE NEED A SHOFAR BLOWER. A new shofar blower would benefit from several months to practice and rehearse and learn to play the instrument and learn the calls. Please contact Rosalie Waterman.

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 note this number; any other number you may have is no longer active.

Telephone messages left at the Congregation number are only checked sporadically.

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.

Women's Group

What a lovely thought to have a gathering of strong, smart and thoughtful women together in one place! If you did not get a chance to participate this year, consider next year in May as our **Women's Group Shabbat** service becomes a yearly event.

- We will be participating in the "**Out of Darkness Walk**", a suicide prevention event to be held in Gypsy Hill Park on October 8. One and all are welcome to join us – not just Women's Group members. We will have a team t-shirts so if you'd like to participate, please let Debbie Jacobs or Bonny Strassler know.
- To enhance our physical plant we (1) voted to donate \$250 to the building fund specifically to upgrade the electrical service in the kitchen which is in desperate need and (2) are exploring options to cover the existing tile on the kitchen floor.
- Bonny, Ruth and Beth will work on an inventory of existing prayer books and consider a list of suggested chumashim as well as large-print Mishkan T'Filah.
- A **temple cleanup day** for the sanctuary will be scheduled in September, prior to the High Holidays. EVERYONE is welcome. Many hands make work go quickly.
- We will gather for a delicious Dutch treat **lunch at Osaka** in Waynesboro on **Wednesday, August 3** at 11:30
- The last dance class was enjoyable – so we propose having Pam Diehl return!
- Our **next meeting** will be **Sunday, August 14th** at 2 pm.,

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

- ✓ Ellen Werther's son and daughter-in-law--Jonathan and Hayana--will be visiting her in Washington DC and in Staunton from July 1 - 10. All three will be spending the 4th in DC. Ellen would love for you to meet them when they come to Staunton
- ✓ We extend our condolences to Frank and Bonny Strassler on the death of Frank's brother, Mark, in an automobile accident at the end of June.
- ✓ Adam Clark, son of Michelle and Jim Clark is in ICU at UVa and will face 6-12 months of rehabilitation to hopefully regain movement in his fingers and legs. Once the infection is eliminated, he will probably be in Atlanta for spinal rehab.
- ✓ **Trio Dolce** will be presenting a program of music for recorder, keyboard, and viola da gamba as part of the **Staunton Public Library's "A Little Lunch Music"** series. Players include Jerry Bryant, Mac Warford, and Ruth Chodrow. The free program will be at 12 noon on **Thursday, August 4**, in the 2nd floor meeting room. There will be Baroque, Renaissance, and even a little folk music - do come join us!
- ✓ While in Scotland, Patty and Larry Sutker settled the Brexit controversy once and for all two days before they left. Patty says she now knows what the men wear under their kilts.

Reasons
to
Celebrate

Happy Birthday to:

Elizabeth Schwartz on July 8th
Sarah Young celebrating 31 years on July 10th
Byron Grove-Humphries celebrates on July 14th
Lynne Landsberg on July 21st
Patty Sutker also on July 21st
Ellen Boden on August 6th
Stephanie Brand on August 11th
Joe Kristoff on August 13th
Nadine Chase on August 23rd
Mark Schorsch on August 30th



Happy Anniversary to:

Patty and Larry Sutker on the 4th of July!
Martha and Doug Degen on July 30th

Religious
School

- The **first day of Religious School is August 28, 2016**. Contact Dara Hall mddmhall@verizon.net or Rebekah Greenfield, co-principals, for information or to register your child.
- Kitah Daled and Shorty Youth Group will be traveling to the Holocaust Museum on August 21st. Contact Dara Hall or Rabbi Joe for details and to reserve your tickets.

SHORTY

Happy Summer from SHORTY!
SHORTY enjoyed participating in the Beth El Bazaar. They led children's activities- watercolors, friendship bracelet weaving, and other crafts throughout the entire event for all in attendance.
We spent a wonderful couple of days June 22-23 with Camp Noar from Charlottesville. We had 14 kids (rising 7th to 9th grade) enjoy a great shul-in with 7 of our SHORTY-ites! Kudos to Madeline for planning celebrity themed games to keep everyone energized and enthusiastic! We have plans for more fun in our future.

- Rising 7th-12th grade students are eligible to join Shorty (Staunton-Harrisonburg Organization of Reform Temple Youth). Contact Becky Mintzer rem82398@gmail.com or Dara Hall, advisors, or Madeline Hall, president, for information or to join.



Summer – time to relax!?!

Yahrzeits for July

Leah Barber	Edith Belfor	Ruby Bornstein	Abe Bressman
Maurice Cohen	Jerome Degen	Vera Duken	Bernice Fox
Eva Geller	Mollie Hoffman	Jacob Kaplan	Delores Levy
Joseph Loener	Ben Raybin	Betty Rosenthal	Richard Roth
Simon Sachs	Sara Seltzer	Frances Schwartz	Morton Shor
Abraham Suskins	Samuel Weinberg		

Yahrzeits for August

Charles Brand	Louise Cohen	Mildred Fay Degen	Bernard Goldsmith
Albert Gomberg	David Greenstein	Cynthia Grossman	Anna Harris
Louis Kamerman	Julius Kane	Mabel Kaplan	Samuel Loewner
Donald Mindell	Lucy Nicely	Doris Patterson	Shirley Peretz
Eva Roberts	Eva Robins	Esther Rosenthal	Rachel Rothenberg
Vivian Schorsch	Samuel Sebell	Sandra Schoenberg	Madeline Shultz
Charles Switzer	Claire Jacobs	Miriam Wasserman	

Donations

Donations to the temple are always appreciated! Thank you to the following generous people:

For the Building Fund Ruth Chodrow in memory of Don Chodrow
 Bonny Strassler
 Ken and Elizabeth Schwartz
 The Women's Group
 In honor of Ken Schwartz' 80th birthday Ruth Chodrow
 To the General Fund Michele Endick
 Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia

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