



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

NOVEMBER 2016 / TISHREI – CHESHVAN 5777

President's Message

Dear Temple House of Israel,

In the president's message I usually try to look ahead, but this time I must look back over our very recent high holidays. Beginning and ending with lovely meals as a community made the season special. The Women's Group's Elizabeth Schwartz and Bonny Strassler did such a good job organizing the menus. The services were thoughtfully prepared and rendered by Rabbi Joe and Rabbi Joel. Laura Mandeles filled in the melodies, accompanied by Linda Blazer, Sarah Grove-Humphries and Samantha Mandeles.

My hope is that you stored away some good memories of this particular season. Maybe the next time you think of the story of Jonah you will catch a mental glimpse of us sitting together in the social hall, talking about Jonah's bad attitude. Or as you approach the temple one evening you remember us at the front door ready to enter on Rosh Hashana eve with three shofars wailing in the night air. Or you remember the bima crowded with Browns and Rosenbergs, the Havdalah candles blazing. Good memories to all.

Rosalie Waterman, temple president

From the Rabbi's Desk

Dear Temple House of Israel Congregants and Friends,

I hope that your High Holy days were a meaningful and uplifting time. It was a pleasure and an honor to share time with you and to worship together over these days. Now, as our year marches on, I wish you a very good Zman Simchateinu, season of our rejoicing, as we continue our period of celebration with Sukkot, Shemini Atzeret, and Simchat Torah, then start our reading of the Torah again from the beginning. I look forward to seeing you in the Sukkah, at services, religious school, and for many other events and activities that are scheduled soon.

The High Holy days were definitely a high, for me. Coming together as a community to celebrate, commemorate and to atone – what could be better? And now, we have the pleasure of celebrating together for Sukkot and Simchat Torah. The holidays ran smoothly because of all the preparations and effort put in by many ahead of time, and that kept many people occupied. This was a major effort! Kudos, and Todah Rabah to everyone responsible!

Looking forward:

* The **Elementary Biblical Hebrew** course continues at THOI Sunday afternoons, 2:30 – 4:00 pm and will meet 5 more times. Upcoming dates are October 30, November 13 and 20 and December 4 and 11.

* **Introduction to Hebrew** to learn the Hebrew Alefbet and vowels, along with very basic vocabulary, will take place following Biblical Hebrew from 4:00 – 7:00 October 30, November 13 and 20 and December 4 and 11. Free and open to anyone who wishes to participate. The same course will be offered at Beth El 6:30 - 9:30 pm on Wednesdays, November 16 and 30, December 7, 14 and 21.

* The next **Death Café** will be Wednesday, November 2 at THOI from 7 – 9 pm. We will continue in 2017. Come talk about death. Join the conversation.

* The next **Tot Shabbat**, led by Morah Allison, will be on December 2 at Beth El. This is suitable for pre-school through about 3rd grade but older children can come and enjoy it, too. Contact Morah Allison for information: Allison.s.kaye@gmail.com.

From the Rabbi's Desk Con't.

* **Shorty** continues to impress me! I am very proud of them – and all of us should be. They are a wonderful group.

* **Religious school** is chugging along in high gear! Co-principals Morah Dara and Morah Rebekah are making it all happen! Our teachers and assistants are phenomenal. Lots to be proud and happy about there!

I continue to visit (or have groups visit us) from the community and to respond to many calls and emails. I was happy to host the upper and middle school students from Stuart Hall, and students from JMU, EMU, Bridgewater, Mary Baldwin, and Blue Ridge. I will be going to classes at JMU, VMI and the Harrisonburg Kiwanis club in the next few weeks. I have been in contact with the new Imam at the IASV, as well as multiple pastors and ministers in the region. I always enjoy all of these interactions and see them as an important time to teach and build connections with others, serving as an ambassador for the congregation.

Scheduled religious services are listed on the calendar.

Torah and Calendar

The Torah Parashiot for the coming weeks are: Sukkot Shabbat Chol Hamo'ed, Bereshit, Noach, Lekh Lecha, Vayera, and Chayei Sarah. We are still in year 3 of the triennial cycle. We begin our cycle anew after Simchat Torah, starting the first readings of the triennial cycled with Bereshit/Genesis 1:1.

Rosh Chodesh for Cheshvan will be November 1 and 2. Simchat Torah begins the evening of October 24th. Sukkot will be celebrated in the Shabbat service on October 22nd.

Rabbi's Message

As we enter into the year 5777, may the promises, vows and oaths that we utter be realistic and come to be fulfilled. May the intentions we voiced as part of our process of Teshuvah come to successful fruition. May we seek our highest and best, and come ever closer to achieving it. May this be for us a year full of blessings for each one and for all.
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 note this number. 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 want 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.

Dues Notice

This is a reminder that as we approach the deadline of December 31st, everyone has an obligation to pay his or her dues in full or at a reduced amount based on a waiver the finance committee has previously approved. If you feel that you cannot meet your dues obligation, I urge you to contact me via email (lpsutker@yahoo.com) and we can have a confidential conversation. I will then take any information you provide to the finance committee for final review.

When the annual meeting comes around in May, only members in good standing as of December 31st are given voting privileges. Temple by-laws state that these are the members who have fulfilled their dues requirements.

Patty Sutker, temple board treasurer

News from the Pews

- ✓ Refuah Sheleimah to Adam Clark, Leah Farmer, Ken Schwartz and Ellen Werther.
- ✓ Mi Sheberach for healing and wholeness to Steve Guberman, Sue Solomon, Dan Schorsch, David Waterman and Nancy Witt.
- ✓ Mazal tov and Hatzlachah to Linda Blazer as she participates in a musical competition in Italy.
- ✓ Mazal tov also to David Oblon on being elected to represent the 17th Judicial Circuit on the Virginia State Bar Council.
- ✓ Mazal tov and huge thanks to Larry Sutker on his debut as a shofar maven. The trio of shofarot closing our high holiday services from Larry, Rabbi Joel and Rich Young was amazing!



International Day of Prayer for Peace

On September 25, THOI joined members of the area's Christian, Muslim and Buddhist communities for the International Day of Prayer for Peace, an annual event initiated by the United Nations several years ago. This year, the over-riding theme was "Welcoming the Stranger", a timely topic. With the help and support of Rabbi Lynne Landsberg, Ellen Werther coordinated with the other groups and helped plan the program. They were joined by Gail Davis, who is new to the area and not yet a member of the congregation, and Bonny Strassler. Other temple members came out to support them. Thanks to all for helping to make this event a success.

Our city mayor and the chaplain of the Staunton Police Department also participated, making this truly a community event. Each group read and commented on the topics of hospitality, peace conflict, welcoming the stranger, and love. The chaplain also gave a short talk. In addition, the program also included a choir which sang a number of songs, and a break out session during which small groups got together for discussion.

Rosenwald film

TEMPLE HOUSE OF ISRAEL, EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH AND MARY BALDWIN ARE CO-SPONSORING "**ROSENWALD**" **Wednesday, Nov. 16 at 6:45 pm**
Screening at Mary Baldwin's Francis Auditorium

This documentary tells the remarkable story of Julius Rosenwald's partnership with African American communities across the south, building over 5,300 schools and educating more than 600,000 rural southern African American student. "**Rosenwald**" sheds light on this silent partner of the Pre-Civil Rights Movement. His Jewish ideal of tzedakah (charity) and tikkun olam (repairing the world) led to his deep concern over racial inequality. He was inspired by Booker T. Washington and horrified that youth of southern African American Communities, forbidden to attend area public schools, had no means of formal education. His impact on education, social justice and philanthropy in America is unparalleled. His innovative philanthropic approach transformed American education and positively affected tens of thousands of southern African Americans.

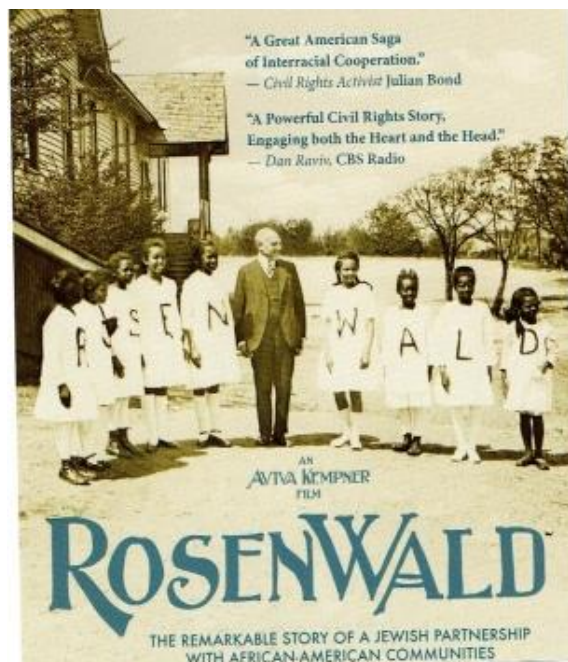
Many prominent alumni and educators attended the Rosenwald schools and many others were awarded fellowship grants as African American intellectuals and artists of their day so that they could pursue their scholarship and art. The Shenandoah Valley has our own Rosenwald School in Waynesboro on Port Republic Road. When the schools integrated in 1965, the building became the Rosenwald Community Center and operates today as a gym, meeting space, and offices for the Waynesboro Parks and Recreation Dept.

"**Rosenwald**" is directed by the award winning documentarian Aviva Kempner.

For more information

Rabbi Lynne Landsberg lynne.landsberg@gmail.com

Dr. Amy Tillerson Brown atillers@marybaldwin.edu



Thanks to the many members of the Women's Group who spent two Sundays prior to the High Holidays sprucing up the sanctuary and organizing the kitchen in preparation for the many members and guests. You all did a fantastic job! The WG organized the Erev Rosh Hashonah potluck and the Break the fast meal on Yom Kippur. Both were very well attended and we were well nourished with food and conversation. Thanks to all who participated with setting up, cleaning up and contributing food and drink.

Upcoming on our calendar is a **T'ai Chi class** open to the congregation on Sunday, October 30 at 3pm in the social hall. Come prepared to learn the benefits of this practice as well as try out some moves with experienced T'ai Chi instructor Linda Revis. Please contact Ellen Werther for more information at junetenth1935@gmail.com.

Our **next Women's Group meeting will be Sunday, November 13 at 2 pm**. We will be discussing the Chanukah party and activities, to raise funds and for fun, for the next couple of months. Please come and contribute your ideas!

Thirteen members of the Women's Group (plus 2 supportive sons!) formed **Team Tikvah** and participated (in less than ideal weather) in the October 8th Greater Augusta Out of the Darkness Walk to raise funds to fight suicide. We dedicated our walk to Leah Farmer's beautiful granddaughter, Sky, who died by suicide last November, and we were so pleased that Leah was there with us.

For our maiden effort, our team raised \$1461 (and more \$ is still coming in, I hear!!). Everyone loved being involved in this important effort to support survivors and raise money for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) - some of which will come back to our area to provide needed prevention services. Overall the event raised \$53,000!

Thanks to everyone who registered, raised money, and walked or supported us as virtual walkers! Thanks to Beth for help creating the **Remembering Skyward** buttons and Marsha Pillet for help designing our awesome t-shirts. Special kudos to Ellen Schorsch who raised more than \$500 by reaching out to her friends and family for donations. Also thanks to Ellen Werther who got very excited and brought in some excellent donations. She's already looking forward to how we're going to try to raise more in 2017. We hope to attract more THOI members (men are very welcome) to join us in raising money and walking to support this very worthy cause. Be on the lookout for information about next year's WALK!



From left: friend Wendy Watros, Debbie Jacobs, Ellen Werther, Vera Flint, Ruth Chodrow, Beth Young, and Nadine Chase. Kneeling: Bonny Strassler and son, James. Leah Farmer came to cheer us on!

There is a new **plaque from Staunton Grace Covenant Church**, located across from the bulletin board in the back hall. The photograph shown was taken on September 12, 1999 after the church had been renting our temple for four years. Their congregation had outgrown our space and was moving to a larger space. The congregation gathered outside mid-way through its last service at the temple, and posed for this picture. They then walked downtown to the new building and finished the service there. In front, two small girls are holding the plaque that THOI gave to the church. On the top of the plaque is a drawing of the temple, and below is the quotation from Isaiah, "And My house shall be a house of prayer to all people." Then-President Ruth Chodrow is holding the plaque that the church gave to the temple, containing the verses from Psalm 133 which say, "How goodly and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." Both plaques still hang in the church and in the temple. This plaque was presented to THOI at the church's 20th anniversary celebration, in memory of the temple's importance in the church's early years.

The third installment of the series about **Major Alexander Hart, our temple's founder**, and his family has been published in "The NEHG Register: The Journal of American Genealogy". The author, Cherry Bamberg, has donated a copy (as well as the journals containing parts one and two) to the THOI library. This article details Alexander Hart's early life, his family, his distinguished military career, and his life in Norfolk after he left Staunton. It's worth reading!

Crafting, dancing, singing, eating – the joys of celebrating Sukkot and Simchat Torah were evident in Beth El on Friday, October 21st at our Tot/Family Shabbat Service and then again on Sunday, October 23 during our Religious School celebration. We may be small in numbers, but we are mighty in enthusiasm! Thank you so much to our volunteers – Kim and Adam Gutterman, Gale Clemons, and Liz Webb – who helped create a wonderful event!

Please join us for a very special day of Family Education on Sunday, November 20th at 10:00 when we begin learning about "Appreciating Nature" as part of a Global Day of Jewish Learning. <http://www.theglobalday.org>. The whole congregation is welcome to join us and 500+communities worldwide. L'shalom, Dara, Co-Principal

Our youth group, SHORTY, will be meeting on Thursday, October 27th at 7:45 pm. We will be enjoying dessert and carving pumpkins! Any youth interested in joining us? Then, please contact Dara for directions at mddmhall@verizon.net.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY !!!!

Tom Pereles celebrating on November 4th
Karen Blair celebrates on the 5th
Jordan Kristoff on the 10th
Leah Farmer on the 12th
Sue Solomon also on the 12th
Jacob Goldenberg on the 15th
David Young on the 25th
Asher Brand on the 26th
Debbie Jacobs celebrates a big one on the 30th



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to Sarah and Byron Grove-Humphries Nov 19th !!!!

Burton Blair	Jack Brodsky	Fannie Cohen	George Degen
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	Leopold Schorsch
Ethel Shapiro	Louis Shapiro	Fannie Strauss	Fannie Switzer
Julius Switzer	Jacob Wilhelm	Sadie Werther	Ida Klein

Thank you to the following generous people for their recent donations to our temple:

For the High Holidays

Stuart Davidson and Ann Cohen
 Jamie Agins and Robert Greenberg
 Robert and Marjorie Rosenberg

In Memory of

Beryl & Manny Gutnick, Betty Young and David Gutnick Beth and Rich Young
 Hannah, Morris, Jerry & George Degen, Milton & Pearl Klotz,
 Ralph and Mildred Degen, Jim & Frances Bruin Doug and Martha Degen
 Elain Werther, Robert Werther, Sadie Werther, Edward Werther,
 Ida Klein, Ann Guerrero, Mary Lerza Ellen Werther
 Seymour Dubinsky, Libbie Dubinsky, Stephen Dubinsky Gail Davis
 Don Chodrow Ruth Chodrow
 Paul Lowe Sherry Lowe & Bonnie Brown
 K. Robert Lange and Sylvia Lange Karen Lange
 Leo Goldfarb, Celia Goldfarb and Sarah Jill Goldfarb Steve Goldfarb
 Dr. Stanley Mandeles, Francine Mandeles, Melvin S. Lewis
 and Marian Lewis Dr. Mark and Laura Mandeles
 Ada and Arthur Kaufman, Gloria and Bernard Goldsmith Jan Kaufman/Art Goldsmith
 Ed Solomon Susan Solomon
 Mabel Kaplan, Jacob Kaplan, Bernard Kaplan, Joseph Kaplan
 and David Kaplan Leah Farmer
 Benjamin Schwartz, Harriet Schwartz, Charles Fuchs and Simon Fuchs .. Kenneth Schwartz
 Eric L. Jacobs and Norman J. Jacobs Jacqueline Jacobs
 Gilad and Bobbie Landsberg, Evans and Dorothy Ward Lynne Landsberg and Dennis Ward
 Viola Pierantozzi Blazer, Hyman Blazer, Samuel Blazer, Charles Blazer
 and Harmony Blazer Linda Blazer
 Tressa Schwartz Jacobson, Max Jacobson, Goldina Schwartz Susan Jacobson
 Samuel Goldenberg, Shirley Goldenberg, Howard Michaels Goldenberg,
 Dorothy Shapiro Bresky, Harold Shapiro, Stephen Shapiro, Gussie Scherer,
 Israel Scherer, Helen Scherer, Al Scherer, Gertrude Scherer ... Alan and Vicki Goldenberg
 Beatrice Legum, Leonard Legum, Henry Steinouser, Minnie Steinouser,
 Joe Miller, Robert Steinouser, Betty Steinouser, Lena Legum Benn Legum

In Honor of

Ruth Chodrow and the Young family Dr. Mark and Laura Mandeles

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About the Bulletin

If you have any suggestions for new topics or categories to eliminate, comments or other recommendations, please contact the editor Beth Young, at 885-1481 or bydesign1993@gmail.com

NOVEMBER 2016

30 T'ai Chi at 3 pm in soc hall Biblical Hebrew 2:30- 4:00	31 	1	2 Death Café 7-9	3	4 Community Awareness Shabbat 7:30	5
6	7	8	9 THOI board meeting at 7:00	10	11	12
13 Women's Group at 2 Biblical Hebrew 2:30- 4:00 Intro Hebrew 4:00-7:00	14	15	16 "Rosenwald" MBU Francis Auditorium 6:45 pm	17	18 Shabbat Services 7:30 pm	19
20 Biblical Hebrew 2:30- 4:00 Intro Hebrew 4:00-7:00	21	22	23	24 	25	26
27 Elem Biblical Hebrew 2:30- 4:00	28	29	30	1	2 Shabbat Services 7:30 pm	

Oneg hosts for November 4: Rosalie, Ruth and Vera

Oneg hosts for November 18: Doug and Mike and Bonnie

Oneg hosts for December 2: Debbie and Karen