



Community Cemetery

Our congregation's one acre cemetery, established in 1886, is located on N. Augusta Street and holds the key to Jewish heritage in this area. The cemetery was acquired even before there was a synagogue. For the past 150 years members of the Jewish community have used this cemetery to honor our ancestors. Throughout the year, special services are conducted within the cemetery.



Library

Our collection includes Jewish history, culture, religious life, cookbooks and novels. All members have borrowing privileges.



Women's Group

The Women's Group has been a vibrant part of our synagogue for over 100 years. We provide an opportunity for fun and friendship among the women of the Temple. Our group organizes and facilitates community outreach activities and holds fundraising activities which support additional Temple functions.



Judaica Shop

Our Judaica shop is the source for all things Jewish in Staunton. Find a little of everything from books, cards and jewelry to seder plates, menorahs, mezuzot, and yahrzeit candles. What isn't in stock is always available by special order by contacting the Temple.



Membership

Our membership is a representative demographic from Staunton, Waynesboro and Lexington plus Bath, Augusta, Highland, Rockbridge and Nelson counties. Outreach extends to the students of Mary Baldwin University, Blue Ridge Community College, Washington and Lee University, Stuart Hall School and Fishburne Military School.

The congregation is a family into which all Jews are welcome. We welcome non-Jewish partners.

Membership benefits include access to educational programs, access to the Temple library, voting privileges, and a monthly bulletin. Dues are structured on a sliding scale, when necessary. Our application information is listed on our web site.



Contact Information

Please call: (540) 886-4091

Visit us online at:
www.thoi.org

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Temple House of Israel

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Staunton, VA 24401

Temple House of Israel



Our community's
center of Jewish life and culture



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Staunton, VA 24401
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About Us

Our synagogue is aligned with the principles of Reform Judaism. We hold to a tradition that emphasizes both religious practice and social action. We participate in local interfaith programs, presentations in local schools and colleges and support charitable drives. Although small in number, we are proud of our spirit, energy, history, and commitment to our members. Engaging in projects that enhance social justice, tikkun olam and tzedakah are important to us.

We offer our members and the community-at-large a sense of caring, as well as a full complement of religious services and activities for the entire family. Each member is an vital part of our temple *mishpachah* (family).

Temple House of Israel (THOI) maintains a working relationship with Congregation Beth El in Harrisonburg with whom we share rabbinic services as well as various programming and social events. Rabbi-led services with Oneg are held every week, alternating between synagogues. Our vision is to build and nurture a strong, vibrant Jewish community, connected to and supporting the larger community and the world.

Our congregation is governed by a Board of Directors elected from the membership. In a small community such as ours, every voice is important and is heard.



History

We honor our congregation's long history, heritage and traditions while adapting to the interests of members. The congregation dates to 1876 and was organized under the leadership of Alexander Hart, a former major in the Confederate Army.

In 1884 a building was purchased as a place of worship at 200 Kalorama Street that still stands today. Shortly thereafter THOI joined the Union for Reform Judaism then known as the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

When the congregation outgrew the original building, a lot on North Market Street was purchased from Mary Baldwin College, now known as Mary Baldwin University. In 1924 architect S. J. Collins was engaged to design our new building which has been in use ever since. The building's Moorish style, the treasured Connick stained glass windows, Moravian ceramic tiles and other details all contribute to the structure's historic and architectural significance.

Preserving the integrity of the structure is a major concern of our congregation. In the interest of accessibility, renovations have made the building largely compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Further accommodations may be requested.

Tours of our historic sanctuary are available by special arrangement.



Religious School

Together with Congregation Beth El in Harrisonburg, we offer a comprehensive religious school for students ages 3 - 13. The curriculum includes Jewish history, religion, holiday celebrations, liturgy, music, Torah, Hebrew and modern Israel.



Adult Education

Under the direction of the Rabbi, Adult Education classes are offered throughout the year including Hebrew, Torah study, Talmud, and introduction to Judaism.



Jewish Calendar Celebrations

Each year we celebrate an Erev Rosh Hashanah dessert, Yom Kippur break-the-fast, Chanukah menorah lighting with dinner, Passover community seder, Women's Group Shabbat dinners and Kiddush luncheons.

The Staunton and Harrisonburg congregations annually alternate Sukkah building, Simchat Torah celebration, Tu B'shevat Seder and Purim party.