



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

DECEMBER 2015 / KISLEV – TEVET 5776

President's Message

The first major topic for December is the new look at the cemetery. If you have driven by on North Augusta Street, you know that the hedge that defined the area has been removed as it had become a mass of weeds and poison ivy. The trustees have since been working on a plan for a replacement. They have decided on a galvanized wrought iron fence with piers (posts) that will hold commemorative plaques. I have seen samples of the fencing material which is sturdy and handsome. Once in place, the fence will enhance the North Augusta area. Getting the details settled will take a while, but by this time next year, the cemetery will be defined by a new fence. It will be worth the wait.

The money for this project comes from a separate cemetery fund. You will have an opportunity to defray some of the cost by purchasing a plaque at a later time.

On December 4 there is a memorial service for Susan Webb at 5 pm followed by a meal. The regular religious service begins at 7:30 with the oneg provided by Susan's daughter, new member Nadia Webb.

We have a **Chanukah party and silent auction on Saturday, December 12 at 6:00 pm.** The auction will be assembled and displayed by Ken and Elizabeth Schwartz and set up, ready for bidding when you arrive. All money collected goes to the Women's Group projects. There are gift baskets, restaurant gift cards, certificates for various services, artwork and accessories. Come, see and bid, please. And eat! Beginning with an oh-so-brief Havdalah service and menorah lightings (**bring your menorahs!**), the meal will begin at 6:30. Please bring a dairy dish to share. People with last names beginning C-D should bring a dessert. We will eat like meatless kings!

Again this year we will be providing dinner to the Free Clinic staff. And again this year the temple will provide the food and serve a meal on December 24 at the Valley Mission on West Beverley Street. Eric Stamer Catering makes it happen by preparing and transporting everything for us. Please volunteer to provide one or more of the items on the list – itemized on page 3 under Things of Note.

Rosalie Waterman, temple president

From the Rabbi's Desk

Dear Temple House of Israel Congregants and Friends,
As I write this we are coming up on the secular holiday of Thanksgiving, which falls in the span from the end of Sukkot and Simchat Torah to Chanukah. This holiday is connected to Sukkot, our festival celebrating the harvest, the bounty of creation, and the blessings that have been bestowed upon us. This secular version is a wonderful time for us to pause, note all those blessings in our life, and express gratitude for them.

November 21st was the first of three Havdalah and Conversation programs at Temple House of Israel. My guest was Rev. Paul Oakley, of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waynesboro, and the topic was "mysticism in our faith traditions". I had a lovely evening and I hope all those there did as well. We will have our next Havdalah Conversation on February 27th with guest Rev. Katherine Low – mark your calendars!

From the
Rabbi's Desk
(con't)

A funeral was conducted for Eleanor Janis Eisenman at our cemetery on November 20th. On December 4th there is a memorial service for Susan Webb, mother of Nadia Webb, at 5 pm. It will be followed by dinner, the Shabbat service at 7:30 pm and the oneg Shabbat.

Chanukah begins at sundown on December 6th (first night), and runs until sundown on December 14th (eighth day).

Refuah shelema bimheyrah: Continuing wishes for health and well-being to Shirley Brand, Leah Farmer, Steve Guberman, David Waterman, Ellen Werther, Nancy Witt and Lynne Landsberg.

The Torah Parashiot for the coming weeks (through January) are Vayishlach, Vayeshev, Miketz (Chanukah and Rosh Chodesh), Vayigash, Vayechi, Shemot (the beginning of the book of Exodus), Vaera, Bo, Beshalach and Yitro. Rosh Chodesh Tevet will be on December 12th- 13th.

May we each be granted the wisdom to see and acknowledge the many blessings that surround us, and the ability to be grateful for them all. May this gratitude help us to be a blessing to others, and lead us to work for the betterment of those around us, and for healing for the entire world. May there be joy among us, and peace for all.

Rabbi's
Message

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). 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.

News from
the URJ
Biennial

- ✓ Temple House of Israel was recognized by the URJ as being an Exemplar Congregation in its acceptance and accommodation of people with disabilities.
- ✓ The URJ passed a resolution affirming the full equality, inclusion and acceptance of all gender identities and gender expressions.
- ✓ Check out urj.org/biennial for the Reform Movement's statement on Syrian refugees. Rabbi Jonah Pesner of the Religious Action Center is quoted saying "In these trying times, we cannot lose sight of our values and what we stand for. To repair the brokenness in our world, we must stand united with those who reject violence and divisiveness and instead support those who uphold healing, safety and security for all."

Things of note

- Temple House of Israel will once again provide the food for Christmas Eve Dinner at the Valley Mission. Eric Stamer Catering will once again do all the preparation for us – a win-win for everyone. Please let Beth Young know what you will provide so that we can be sure of giving Eric everything he needs.

4 whole turkeys

2 pounds bacon

4 loaves white bread

Ingredients for green bean casserole (unassembled)

16 cans (10.5 oz each) cream of mushroom soup or equal if larger cans

32 cans (14.5 oz each) green beans or equivalent if buying larger cans

22 cups French's crispy fried onions

2 whole hams

40 pounds russet potatoes

40 pounds carrots

30 heads romaine lettuce

assorted desserts (cakes, pies, cookies, etc)

All items should be delivered on Tuesday, December 15 directly to Eric Stamer Catering, 19 East Frederick Street in Staunton. Call Tish's cell (540) 849-0537 or Eric's cell (540) 294-7307 to confirm that someone can meet you there.

- We need one more pan of lasagna for the dinner we provide for the staff at the **Free Clinic on December 17th**. Please let Rosalie (886-1713) know if you are able to contribute that.
- Check out the continually updated **thoi.org** website and thank Carla Donley for keeping it up for us.
- **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.**

The Women's Group

Please note a date change for the Women's Group's **Chanakkah Potluck and Silent Auction on Saturday, December 12, beginning at 6pm**. Come ready to feast and shop the auction. Some items include gift certificates from local businesses, tickets to a Blackfriars performance as well as art and handcrafted items. If you are still considering contributing an item or two for the auction, those donations will be accepted until Friday, December 4. Contact Elizabeth Schwartz (curo44@gmail.com or 886-9222 for more details.

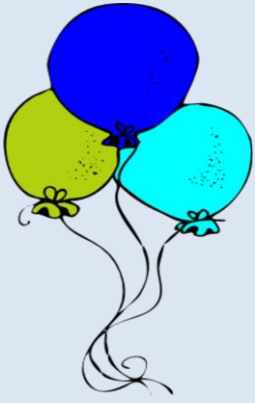
The **book discussion group** is taking the month of December off and will meet again on **Saturday, January 16th at 11am** at the temple. Our next book will be a fun and easygoing read by Rita Lakin titled **Getting Old Can Kill You**. The book is out of print and cannot be ordered through one of our independent bookstores. An alternative option may be to order a copy through Amazon Smiles and a portion of the sales will benefit the temple.

Ellen Werther encourages all members to visit the **THOI Facebook page** and comment, like or share postings. Social media is a great way to reach out to the larger pool of friends and potential members. Keep a lookout for Women's Group postings and our next gathering over lunch one afternoon in the last week of December. Details will be forthcoming!

Remember the flamingoes are always ready, willing and able to congregate in a yard of your choosing....



Celebrations



Gregg Goldenberg celebrating his birthday on December 6th
Robert Pendleton's birthday is December 11th
Alan Goldenberg on December 12th
Beth Young will celebrate on December 14th
Sam Goldenberg also celebrates on the 14th
Sarah Grove Humphries celebrates on December 15th
Rosalie Waterman's birthday is December 19th
Eliana Brown will be 12 on December 22nd
Jesse Landsberg Ward will be 25 years old on December 25th
Anna Degen celebrates on December 28th
Philip Chodrow will be 25 on the 28th

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY and CONGRATULATIONS TO :
Ellen and Lou Boden were married on December 7, 1969

December Yahrzeits

Albert Shultz
David Brownold
Flora Barth
Hannah Degen
Sadie Jacobson
Clara Litvin
Alma Samuels
Rhea Walters

Aaron Harris
Simon Rosenthal
Joseph Barth
Anne Goldberg
Max Klotz
Earl Nicely
Phillip Seltzer
Irvin Weinberg

Abraham Rosenthal
Hubert "Danny" Thompson
Louis Belfor
Rose Greenfield
Milton Klotz
Tina Rosenberg
Lydia Switzer
Elain Werther

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

- Refuah shelemah bimheyrah. Rabbi Lynne Landsberg is home from rehab! She is not walking yet, but is making progress. Wishes for a full and speedy recovery to her.
- Gordon and Yael Sutker and Stuart Davidson had lunch together on the beach in Tel Aviv! We do live in a small world....
- Ben Goldsmith recently had a song he co-wrote become a country hit! Jerrod Niemann, a country artist, cut "Blue Bandana" which is getting air time and concert publicity. As a result, Ben has signed a joint venture with Big Deal Publishing and BMG music. Yeah, Ben! Art and Jan can tell you more about it.

CHANUKAH BEGINS THE EVENING OF DECEMBER 6TH



Calendar and Services

		1	2	3	4 Memorial service for Susan Webb at 5 Shabbat at 7:30	5
6 3:00 Intro to Hebrew 	7 	8 	9 Board Meet 7:30 	10 	11 	12 Chanukah Potluck & Silent Auction 6:00 
13 Women's Group 2:00 3:00 Intro to Hebrew LAST NIGHT of HANUKA	14	15	16	17 Bring dinner to the Free Clinic	18 Shabbat Services 7:30	19
20 3:00 Intro to Hebrew	21	22	23	24 Xmas dinner at the Mission	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 		

Oneg hosts for December 4: Nadia Webb in memory of her mother Susan
 Oneg hosts for December 19: Nancy Witt and Debbie Jacobs

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR ONEG HOSTS and HOSTESSES

Religious School

On November 15th, religious school held a family education event that is a part of a Global Day of Jewish Education program
<http://www.theglobalday.org/about/>. Everyone enjoyed conversations and activities on the topic of "Love".

SHORTY

Our next big event will be Ski weekend February 6 and 7.

Board Member Contacts

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