



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

JUNE 2016 / IYAR - SIVAN 5776

President's Message

Dear Congregants and Friends,

Thanks to all of you who attended the annual meeting on Sunday, May 22nd. We had a good turnout. The meal was full of interesting meat dishes and good sides as well. Thanks also to you who sent proxies so that we could transact business.

The meeting portion of the afternoon passed quickly. The departmental reports were dealt with. Alan Goldenberg was able to answer questions about the cemetery fence plans, displaying drawings and a picture of the plaques. Patty Sutker fielded money questions as well. In the end the slate was elected. Congratulations to Debbie Jacobs, (returning membership VP), Kay Stohr (new buildings and grounds VP), Carla Donley (returning secretary) and our new members at large Ellen Boden, Bonny Strassler and Ellen Werther. I will be completing my final year as your president.

I want to thank our outgoing board members, Beth Young, (4 years as president, 3 years as past president and on-going bulletin composer) and David Waterman (multiple years as buildings and grounds VP). Volunteering to be responsible for a facet of the life of the temple is key to our survival. Sitting on the sidelines and criticizing how we do things is not a positive behavior. Join and make a difference.

I want to remind you we still have matching funds up for grabs: give a donation to the building fund and it will be matched! A 100% return on your money. Where else can you get that?

Remember the flamingoes. They go great in all yards, \$25 a pop! Profits benefit the Women's Group. Remember also Amazon Smile. Open an Amazon Smile account; enter the Amazon website through that account and a percentage of your purchase goes to the temple. It costs you nothing.

My hope is that you have a happy, pleasantly eventful summer and return ready to volunteer and establish new projects within the temple. We need inspiration.

Rosalie Waterman, temple president

From the Rabbi's Desk

Dear Temple House of Israel Congregants and Friends,

May brought many showers and some cold weather this year, sometimes feeling more like March. All the same, with the passing of May, we are moving towards the end of the Congregational year and summer mode.

I note that the Annual Congregational Meeting and Elections will take place just after this report being submitted (but before it enters your mailbox). Congratulations to all those elected, and many thanks to those who served, and appreciation to those who are now cycling off the Board. The congregation is in the shape it is today due to the hard work of members of the board.

From the Rabbi's Desk Con't.

The May session of the Death Café was really interesting. I offered a selection of five or six entries from the Expired and Inspired blog I edit as discussion pieces. That opened the doors to some deep and meaningful conversations. All I can say is that if you feel anything related to death and dying, want to talk about any aspect of it, need to face your own fears, describe events in your life, or talk about how to prepare for the eventuality, this is an unbeatable opportunity. It is not therapy, and it is not counseling – it is simply a safe space to explore what you want/need to talk about. Feel free to be in touch about these events: call 925-272-8563 or email DeathCafeoftheShenandoahValley@gmail.com, or check the Facebook page for the *Death Café of the Shenandoah Valley* group. You are also welcome to simply show up – no RSVP required. Please just join us. "Coffee. Tea. Cake. & Death. Join the conversation". Quite honestly, I am looking forward to the next session, which will be held on June 1st at 7-9 pm, at Beth El Congregation in Harrisonburg. This is the last session scheduled for this congregational year.

The Elementary Biblical Hebrew course in progress continues in June and July. It is addressing the story of Noah, and focuses heavily on some of the Midrash that accompanies this story. We have scheduled this course to take place at 4-5:30 pm on Sunday afternoons at Temple House of Israel. The remaining dates are 6/19, 6/26, 7/10, 7/17 and 7/24. It is truly fascinating stuff and a lot of fun to read. Come with an open mind, and prepare to be surprised. ☺ Again, there is no cost, and the texts are provided [but you will probably need to have a Tanakh (Hebrew bible) available for reference – though you can use a standard non-Jewish Bible, it may differ a bit, but it is serviceable for this purpose]. We are already thinking ahead to the follow-on course. 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.

Torah and Calendar

The Torah Parashiot for the coming weeks (through July 2nd) are Emor, Behar, Bechukotai, Bamidbar, Naso, Beha'alotecha, and Shelach Lecha. We are in year 3 of the triennial cycle (the third of three divisions of the cycle of Torah readings).

Rosh Chodesh for Sivan will be 6/7. The Sefirat HaOmer (Counting of the Omer) began April 23rd and continues through until Erev Shavuot, this year June 11st at sundown, marking the time between Redemption and Revelation, from Yetziat Mitzrayim (going out from Egypt) to the encounter with the Divine at Sinai. Yom Yerushalayim is June 5th, Shavuot is the evening of June 11th to sundown on June 13th. On the secular calendar, Memorial Day is May 30th and Father's Day is June 19th.

Rabbi's Message

I am guessing that all of us have noticed the weather of late. You know the old saying, everyone talks about the weather but no one does anything about it. ☺ What I want to call to your attention is all the flowers that have come into bloom, and how the varieties of greenery around us have changed their hue. The world around us is celebrating Spring. This is not a surprise: we all know that it happens every year. The question for me is not if this happens, or even if it has happened, but rather, am I taking the time to stop and notice it? Am I aware of the things around me? Do I just see them, or do I also notice them? Am I in tune with the everyday miracles that are taking place, not only at this time of year (when it is so very obvious due to the profusion of colors, growth, and scents), but all year long, every day? If not, I think, it is impossible for me to feel the appropriate sense of gratitude. How can I be grateful for things of which I am not even aware?

We are called to attend to the world around us, and our own physical existence in the various blessings in our services and established for us to use. We are reminded of the close connection to nature and creation as we pray, and in the values we are taught. I am seeking to be more conscious about these everyday miracles this month. Perhaps you will join me in this effort by taking a second look around you as you go through your day and noticing all that there is for which we can be grateful. May we each find and celebrate the everyday miracles that surround us. Ken Yehi Ratzon!

Things of note

- The Elementary Biblical Hebrew course started on May 1st. Each session takes place 4-5:30 pm on Sunday afternoons at Temple House of Israel. The remaining dates are June 19, 26, July 10, 17 and 24. In this course we will study the text of Noah and the Flood and we will also add selected Midrashim that expand on and try to explain the 'meaning' of the story. It is truly fascinating stuff and a lot of fun to read. Come with an open mind and prepare to be surprised. ☺ There is no cost and the texts are provided, but you will probably want to have a Tanakh (Hebrew bible) or a Chumash (commentary) available for reference. It helps if you know the Hebrew alphabet, but you don't need anything more than that (and opinions on the texts!) to participate.
- Looking ahead into the summer, **the Valley Mission is in need of volunteer groups in our kitchen to assist our staff by cooking and serving a meal for Mission residents and community members.** Help is needed any day of the week, and especially on weekends. Weekdays lunch is served at noon, and dinner is served at 5:00pm. Weekends brunch is served at 9:30am, and supper is served at 4:00. Groups can either cook a meal in their own kitchen, and bring it in to share; OR they can use our kitchen to cook and serve the meal. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Stephanie Morehead, Volunteer Coordinator, at stephaniemorehead@valleymission.net or [540-886-4673](tel:540-886-4673)
- 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: 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.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

- ✓ Gordon and Yael Sutker vacationed in China and are now back home in Israel
- ✓ Lou and Ellen Boden are back. Their intended river cruise was unexpectedly derailed when Lou fell ill. While he spent the past month in a hospital in the Netherlands, Ellen did her best as champion translator, cheering squad and communicator. Best wishes for a complete and total rest and recovery.

Women's Group

During the month of May, members of the Women's Group organized our first Dress for Success event and set up our collected clothing, shoes, clothing, shoes, handbags, scarves, belts and shoes for the women of New Directions to come "shop". While a small number of shoppers participated they left laden with bags of clothing, snack, and excitement for their new items. We are so happy they came! The remainder of the items were donated to the Valley Mission store in Waynesboro and the Augusta Health Thrift Shop in downtown Staunton.

As this bulletin submission is written, we are preparing for a Women's Group Shabbat service on May 20. 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 as our Shabbat service becomes a yearly event.

Planning is in the works for some great social and fundraising events this upcoming year. Keep an eye out for more information about a Temple House of Israel team to participate in the "Out of Darkness Walk", a suicide prevention event to be held in Gypsy Hill Park on October 8. Make a note of our next meeting scheduled for June 12 at 2pm. There will be no meeting in July, however, we will gather for a delicious lunch at Osaka in Waynesboro. Date and time will be forthcoming.



The flamingoes can be in a yard of your choice for only \$25.

Reasons to Celebrate in June

Happy Birthday to:

Karen Blair celebrating her birthday on June 1st

Sam Brown celebrating on June 2nd

Nancy Witt will be on the 13th

Mike Brown on the 25th

Shirley Brand will be on the 28th

Ellen Schorsch celebrates on June 30th



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Happy Anniversary to:

Vicki and Alan Goldenberg celebrate on June 6th

Ellen and Dan Schorsch celebrate on the 14th

Religious School

Where has the time gone? We have had such a wonderful year! Our last day of Religious School will be on Sunday, May 22 – SHORTY will lead our students in Lag Be'Omer Maccabean games at Oakdale Park in Bridgewater.

Thank you to our families for your commitment and participation in our program throughout the year. I have truly enjoyed working with all of our teachers and teacher assistants, who are all highly dedicated and excellent role models for our students. They are exceptional educators who have truly captured the hearts and minds of their students, helping them to succeed in their studies!

The summer is just about to begin, but it will be over before you know it! Please encourage anyone you know with children in rising grades K-7 and any new families interested in Religious School to contact Dara Hall at mddmhall@verizon.net. Next year I will be joined by Rebekah Greenfield as co-principal. We are looking forward to another wonderful year and we have great plans in store for our program!

SHORTY

On Sunday, June 5th SHORTY will lead a children's activity at the Beth El Bazaar. Hope to see you there!

We are also looking forward to a shul-in with Camp NOAR (from Charlottesville) on June 22-23rd.

Lots of other great events are being planned for the summer. Please contact Becky Mintzer at rem82398@gmail.com if you have any questions about upcoming events or joining SHORTY!

June Yahrzeits

Gertrude Barber	Charles Becher	Bertha Brand
Elan Brand	Bernard Bresky	Don Chodrow
Frederick Cohn	Howard Goldenberg	Fannie Goldstein
Henry Heilbroner	Aaron Hewitt	Samuel Jacobsen
Mollie Kamerman	Samuel Kamerman	Bernard Kaplan
Herbert Kaslow	Dora Klotz	Bessie Landsberg
Philip Levin	Infant Sam Levy	Bertha Mindell
Frieda Mordetsky	Archie Prince	Archie Prinz
Bess Rosen	Ida Rosen	Jerry Schwartz
Dr. Sol Simon	Betty Jo Snyder	Erwin Solomon
Abraham Switzer	David Switzer	Harry Witt

Donations

Donations to the temple are always appreciated. Consider making contributions while we have an offer to match one to one.

Thanks to Jim Osborne for his donation to the general fund.

Board Member Contacts

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2016-2017

Please don't hesitate to contact any board member with your questions, comments, concerns and suggestions.

Your participation is what keeps us going. Contribute your time and talent!

JUNE			1 Death Café at Beth El, 7-9	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 7 pm Temple Board Meet	9	10	11 8 pm Discussion pm; Havdalah
12 Women's Group at 2 pm	13	14	15	16	17 Shabbat Services at 7:30	18
19 Elementary Hebrew Grammar at 4-5:30	20	21	22	23	24	25 10:00 Shabbat Services
26 Elementary Hebrew Grammar at 4-5:30	27	28	29	30		