



# 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***

**SEPTEMBER 2016 / SIVAN – TAMMUZ - AV 5776**

## President's Message

Dear Congregants and Friends,

Welcome back from wherever you have gone this summer. If you have been reading your emails, you know that we have had to replace the air conditioning unit in the social hall. The new one is much more efficient and should save us money over time. However, replacement is a considerable expense. The good news is that we have a donation matching program through 2016, courtesy of a generous, anonymous temple member. The donor will match dollar for dollar your contribution to the building fund only. It's a great time to help, don't you think?

We will be having temple clean up days on September 18 and 25 at 2 pm. We will clean the sanctuary and the kitchen to make us ready for the holidays. We have made a list of job. Please get further details from Elizabeth Schwartz or bonny Strassler or just show up on these days at 2 pm. The more who come, the shorter the time.

The High Holidays begin on the evening of October 2 this year and end on October 12. We will celebrate with a Rosh Hashanah meal together on October 2 at 6:15 pm and a break-the-fast meal on October 12. Please come and eat with your temple family. Come also to meet our new second rabbi, Rabbi Joel Schwartzman of Colorado and Charlottesville. He will be on the bima beginning October 2 and then alternating with Rabi Joe through the holidays.

Our thoughts continue to go to Michelle and Jim Clark for the continued recovery of their son Adam from an infection and resulting temporary paralysis. We continue also to grieve with Sue Solomon on the sudden death of her husband Ed.

Let's move into this year together.

Rosalie Waterman, temple president

## From the Rabbi's Desk

Dear Temple House of Israel Congregants and Friends,

The year has kicked off explosively, exiting the starting gate at a full gallop! The congregational picnic took place, religious school is underway, scheduled services are taking place, and many activities and events are in preparation. We are now entering the most intensive time in the year in the run up to the High Holy Days. I hope that you will be taking advantage of much that the congregation offers and even more, that you will be an active participant, making it happen! The community is made up of individuals; we are each the person who needs to be the 'someone' who steps up to keep the congregation and community vibrant and active.

The cycle of services for this year started on August 12<sup>th</sup>. Events through the year are noted on the congregational calendar; please take a look and mark your own planner with the events and activities of interest to you. I hope that you will find many things that you want to include in your plans; there is much being offered. For my part, I would point out a few things that I hope will be of interest to many.

## From the Rabbi's Desk Con't.

The **Death Café** series last year was quite successful and those who attended requested that it be continued. I have planned it at a slightly scaled back pace for this year. There will be four sessions, two in Harrisonburg (September 7<sup>th</sup> and January 4<sup>th</sup>) and two in Staunton (November 2<sup>nd</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup>). All events will take place at 7-9 pm on a Wednesday evening.

The **Elementary Biblical Hebrew** course will begin on Sunday September 11<sup>th</sup> and continue September 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, October 30<sup>th</sup>, November 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, December 4<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. The times in September are 4-5:30 pm and all other classes will be 2:30-4 pm. The text for this course will primarily be from the book of Samuel, and we will also look at the roots of Semitic languages and work towards 'original pronunciation' as an exercise in one of the class sessions (possibly more, if there is interest). Contact Rabbi Joe to register: [rabbijoe@hotmail.com](mailto:rabbijoe@hotmail.com). The spring semester will study and translate selected prayers in the siddur. Details to follow.

The **Introduction to Hebrew** course to learn the Hebrew Alefbet and vowels, along with a very basic and rudimentary vocabulary will take place on Sunday afternoons, 4-7 pm, for 5 sessions beginning in October. The same course will be offered at Beth El beginning in November. Dates to follow.

The first **Tot Shabbat** for this year will be on Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup> in Harrisonburg. Families with pre-school children should contact Dara Hall, Rebekah Greenfield or Allison Kaye.

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## Torah and Calendar

The Torah Parashiot for the coming weeks are Va'etchanan (Shabbat Nachamu), Ekev, Re'eh (Rosh Chodesh Elul), Shoftim, Ki Teitzei, Ki Tavo and Nitzavim.

Rosh Chodesh for Elul is September 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Rosh Chodesh for Tishrei (which is also Rosh Hashanah) is on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. The traditional date for Selichot begins September 24<sup>th</sup>.

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## Rabbi's Message

As the year 5776 draws to a close, and we look forward to 5777, we are coming into the period of the Jewish year when we are encouraged to engage in introspection and self-examination. In that spirit, I want to acknowledge all that has taken place in this year that is ending, and express gratitude for and to all those who have made this year so special. This has been a difficult year, with many ups and downs, and more than our fair share of difficulties, challenges, and sad moments in the congregation. The picture in the larger community, and frankly, the world in general, has been much the same. I have had the sense that there is much distress and tension, many people who are feeling pressured, and a general feeling of being unsettled and off-balance among many of our number, as well as in the wider world.

Yet despite the difficulties, the losses, and the sad times, I have felt heartened this year, because it has seemed to me that the congregation has been a source of strength, uplift, and support for all who sought them in the congregation. That is what makes the congregation not just another community but a Kehilah Kedoshah – a holy community. I am proud that this has been the case – not proud for myself but for the congregation. This is the essence of what we should be to each other. This is what we are enjoined to do and be, as directed by the Mitzvot given us.

May this be true now, throughout the year 5777, and for many more years to come.

Rabbi Joe Blair

## Contacting the Rabbi

Please Note: Rabbi Joe may be reached by email at [RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com](mailto: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.

## Women's Group

The Women's Group is participating in several upcoming events this fall as well as preparing for the High Holidays. It is our plan this year to set aside **two work days to clean the sanctuary**, polish woodwork, wash glass, and vacuum/steam clean. The Women's Group invites all members of the congregation to come and participate in these workdays on **Sunday, September 18 and 25 at 2 pm**. Many hands make light work!

On the subject of the High Holidays, the Women's Group is sponsoring again the very well attended **Erev Rosh Hashanah Potluck Dinner on Sunday, October 2 at 6pm**. The WG will provide drinks, apples and honey, bread and a light dessert. This will be a meat meal so plan to bring a main dish, side dish or vegetarian dish to share, drink of choice, and a dessert for the after-service one. A signup sheet will be available at services as well as an email link to sign up on line. Be on the lookout for more information in the next few weeks!

Join **Team Tikvah on October 8 at 10am** for the "**Out of Darkness Walk**", a suicide prevention event, to be held in Gypsy Hill Park. In addition to showing our support on the day of the walk, the WG is putting together a basket for the silent auction with the theme "Tea, Coffee, Chocolate". Team Tikvah will also accept monetary donations as well as in-kind donations to add to our basket. Please contact Debbie Jacobs or Bonny Strassler if you would like to make a donation, participate with friends, or order a team shirt.

The **self-defense class** is finally scheduled and on the books! Please make plans to join us on **November 11 and 20** as Phil Kennedy teaches us the basics to be safe and confident. Cost for the class is \$40 and we need at least 10 people to make this a go. Please consider asking a friend to join you! Contact Debbie Jacobs to make your reservation at [deb1130@hotmail.com](mailto:deb1130@hotmail.com).

The Women's Group is considering purchasing large print Mishkan T'Filah as well as exploring large print options for the High Holiday services. Please contact Bonny Strassler at [bonstrassler@comcast.net](mailto:bonstrassler@comcast.net) or [\(540\)885-8715](tel:(540)885-8715) if you are interested in using large print text or helping with this project.

Our **next meeting is Sunday, September 11 at 2pm**. We will be planning for the High Holidays. See you there!



only \$25

Reasons  
to  
Celebrate

*Happy Birthday to:*

Scott Goldenberg celebrates another birthday Sept 17th  
Zach Pereles celebrates on September 18<sup>th</sup>

*Happy Anniversary to:*

Beth and Rich Young (35 years) on September 20<sup>th</sup>



Religious  
School

Religious School is coming soon! First day of religious school will be on Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup>. We hope to see you then! If you have any questions or need information about Religious School, please contact Dara Hall at [mddmhall@verizon.net](mailto:mddmhall@verizon.net). Looking forward to another wonderful year!

SHORTY

SHORTY will meet after religious school on August 28<sup>th</sup>. We are trying to confirm a new date for our exciting event of Dessert and Dancing. It looks like there will be some scheduling conflicts for September 10<sup>th</sup>... so keep your eyes and ears open for MORE INFORMATION coming soon! We are going to have a blast!

## NEWS FROM THE PEWS

- ✓ Our most sincere condolences to Sue Solomon whose husband Ed passed away on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. A celebration of Ed's life was held on August 9<sup>th</sup> and Ed was interred at the Culpepper National Cemetery with military honors. Sue and Ed shared a wonderful married life for 43 years.
- ✓ Adam Clark, son of Michelle and Jim, continues to make progress and work hard at the spinal rehab center in Richmond. Every day brings forth some new movement. Adam's arms have muscles and his legs are progressing, working on muscles in his weaker leg. From Michelle: "Please know how much we appreciate everything and all of you."
- ✓ Condolences also to Beth Young whose brother David passed away July 3<sup>rd</sup>. A memorial service will be held in their childhood hometown of Castro Valley, CA on August 30<sup>th</sup>.
- ✓ Continuing wishes for health and recovery to Jim Osborne, Dennis Ward, Dan Schorsch, Ken Schwartz, David Waterman and Nancy Witt.
- ✓ Welcome home after travels to Ruth Chodrow and Vera Flint, Sarah and Byron Grove-Humphries and Debbie Jacobs.
- ✓ We officially welcome Caleb Payne to our membership.

**Yahrzeits  
for  
September**

Flossie Cohen	Reuben Harris	Harry Harrison	Henrietta Harrison
Herman Levy	Miriam Loewner	Milton Mann	Julius Margolis
Minnie Patterson	Hermina Printz	Samuel Printz	Connie Rubin
Joseph Ruttenberg	Nathan Schilling	Anna Seltzer	Michael Seltzer
Stephen Shapiro	Samuel Shultz	Bennie Sragovitz	Sadie Witt

**Donations**

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

For the Building Fund

In memory of David Gutnick..... Rabbi Lynne Landsberg  
 ..... Rosalie and David Waterman  
 ..... Michelle Clark  
 ..... Ken and Elizabeth Schwartz

In memory of Ed Solomon ..... Anonymous

To the Rabbi's discretionary fund ..... Michelle and Jim Clark  
 ..... Sue Solomon

To the General Fund

In memory of Ed Solomon ..... Ellen and Dan Schorsch  
 For the bulletin ..... David Hockstein

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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.

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