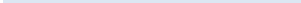


Temple House of Israel Bulletin

A Member Congregation of the Union for Reform Judaism
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Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1412, Staunton, VA 24402
www.thoi.org

Our mission is to perpetuate Jewish life and identity through a welcoming community of spirituality, learning, service, joy and worship

APRIL 2017 / NISSAN – IYAR 5777



SPECIAL
INTERFAITH
EVENT

The Interfaith Lenten Program continues with its last 2 weeks. We are participating with Trinity Episcopal Church, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Allen Chapel AME Church, and the Islamic Center of the Shenandoah Valley. Each session includes a delicious shared potluck dinner and then three speakers, one from each faith tradition, briefly present on various topics. The speakers are members of the various congregations with their own approach to each topic from a personal point of view. Since we are hosting the event March 29, we would love to have a good show of support to promote interfaith understanding. You might even learn something!

Wednesday, March 29 at 6:00 pm at Temple House of Israel on The Holy One; THOI Speaker: Bonny Strassler

Wednesday, April 5 at 6:00 pm at Emmanuel Episcopal Church on Holy Life; THOI Speaker: Caleb Payne

Many thanks to Ruth, Ellen W. and Beth for their earlier presentations.

From the
Rabbi's Desk

Dear Temple House of Israel Congregants and Friends,

I am so confused by the weather lately! This past few days have gone from high 50s and sunny to snow, then sunny and warm, and thunderstorms! I have no idea what to expect next! ☹

The Spring Elementary Biblical Hebrew course is continuing, and we have had some interesting conversations about the book of Job. There's still time to join in, if you are inclined. If you are interested, please join us for March 26, April 9, May 14 and 28. Meeting times are all at 4:00 – 5:30 at THOI.

The last Death Café took place and was a wonderful conversation. Fourteen people all had lots to say and we had to stop due to the time – everyone seemed willing to keep going! If you would like to share your thoughts about the value of the Death Café project, or if we should plan for more, and how many, please be in touch with me.

I had a wonderful evening engaging in thoughtful conversation with a fascinating cross section of the residents of our region at the Blackfriars Theater with Ralph Cohen. We started with the performance of the Merchant of Venice, and the anti-Semitic language it contains; discussed whether it should be performed, and then how it relates to today, especially in light of recent headlines. The highlight for me was being able to hear from so many different people and learn something about their views.

In a pulpit exchange, I was invited to "preach" at Emmanuel Episcopal Church. Rev. Shelby Owen will be addressing us at Temple House of Israel on April 7th. I am sure it will be most interesting, so mark your calendar now.

Torah and Calendar

The Torah Parashiot for the coming weeks are Vayikra, Tzav (Shabbat Hagadol), Chol HaMo'ed Pesach V, Shemini, and Tazria-Metzora. We are in year 1 of the triennial cycle of Torah readings.

Rosh Chodesh for Iyar will be April 26-27.

Lots of Calendar events upcoming in April: Ta'anit Bechorot (Fast of the First Born) on April 10; Pesach seder 1 and 2 on April 10 and 11; Passover sundown April 10 to sundown April 18 and Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) on April 24.

If you wish to sell your Chametz, please be in touch with me by the 9th of April.

Rabbi's Message

Purim celebrates rescue via the reversal of the normal order of things, the hidden becoming visible, and vice versa. Passover, on the other hand, is a celebration of things being placed in order, from the seder (order) of the ritual, to the relationship of the Hebrews to G0d. For Passover we focus on any leftover crumbs of chametz, those things that seem to cling to us (or we to them) which we need to be able to let go and of which we must rid ourselves to be able to move on. This could be anything from bad habits to poor choices, from emotional baggage to destructive relationships, from things we carry that continue to harm and damage us and others around us.

Passover is the checkpoint, the holiday half way around the cycle of the year from one Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur to the next. It offers us a matchless opportunity to reflect and correct. When we do that the bread of our affliction becomes the mannah tasting of our freedom.

I hope we can each take advantage and use this opportunity to stretch ourselves, moving in sync with the world around us that is approaching growth, re-birth, and renewal with the Spring. When that happens, the salt water we use that represents tears can become sweet and fresh, offering us a bubbling spring renewed and renewing.

Rabbi Joe Blair

Contacting the Rabbi

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 number is **925-272-8563** (925-2-RAVJOE). 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.

You are also invited to contact Rabbi Joe to arrange an appointment to meet. Rabbi Joe is happy to make an appointment to speak with you, so that he can offer you his full, undivided attention.

Passover 2017



JOIN US FOR OUR COMMUNITY PASSOVER SEDER

Our second night **Passover seder will be held on April 11** in our social hall at 6:00 pm. A huge thank you to Carol and Buffy Shapiro who have agreed to co-chair the event! The full details are included separately with this bulletin but please note: reservations are expected by April 1st. Please mark your calendars and offer to help with the set up.

President's Message

Dear THOI,

The long-awaited fence at the cemetery is being installed. Drive by and see it. It is quite handsome. Thanks to the trustees who have worked to take us from a poison ivy-infested hedge that needed expensive trimming to this fence that will need no maintenance for many years.

The Passover seder will go on at the temple on Tuesday, April 11 at 6 pm. Please get your reservations and money to the Shapiro sisters (Carol and Buffy at 703-517-4666). Send the forms to our post office address: THOI, P.O. Box 1412, Staunton 24402.

I just got a phone call from Billie Rosenberger, whom you might know from various classes she teaches at the YMCA. She is offering to the community a FREE beginning yoga class at Emmanuel Episcopal Church on 8 Monday afternoons from 5:30-6:30 pm beginning on April 3. Enter through the Washington Street entrance. The class will be held in the dining room, which is on the lower level. Wear loose clothing and bring a mat.

Spring began this morning, March 20th. The yards are full of birds. Leah Farmer is out of the hospital. Such a hopeful time, don't you think?

Rosalie Waterman
Temple president

Special Recognition

Mazel tov to **Rabbi Lynne Landsberg!** The Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism will honor Lynne at the Tzedek Dinner during the Consultation on Conscience conference, April 30th in Arlington. The event will celebrate Lynne's tenacious work to transform and strengthen the lives of people with disabilities and honor her legacy of tikkun olam. To make a gift in Lynne's honor go to: <http://www.rac.org/honoring-rabbi-lynn-landsberg> where a portion of all funds raised will go to support the RAC's disability rights work.

Thank You

Thank you to Kay Stohr for her 3 years of excellent service as a board member of THOI. Her perspective will be missed.

PLEASE NOTE

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 21, 2017

News from the Pews

- Refuah Shelema speedy recovery for Leah Farmer who is home after being hospitalized with pneumonia. Also to Vera Flint, Greg Ciszek, Lou Boden, Byron Grove-Humphries and Dennis Ward.
- Mi Sheberach prayers for healing and wholeness to Adam Clark, Steve Guberman, Sue Solomon, Dan Schorsch, David Waterman, Nancy Witt and Carla Donley's aunt.
- Mazal tov to Eliana, Mike and Bonnie Brown, on Eliana's Bat Mitzvah!

Women's Group

The Women's Group has been busy!

- The response to our **Journey Bag** project was amazing! Thank you to so many very generous women who provided necessities for children who are removed from their home and placed in foster care. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated. Elizabeth Schwartz coordinated the haul and with the help of members, sorted everything to be put into bags provided by First Choice Real Estate. The filled bags will go to the Virginia Department of Social Services following our April meeting. **People Places** is also looking for medium and small duffel bags which they will fill with personal care items.

WANTED

1. Duffel or small travel bags for People Places
 2. Gently used throws or twin size blankets for Social Services
- Dan Schorsch has created get well cards which Ellen has sent to members in need. Our **Caring Committee is working.** Dan will create "thinking of you" cards to be sent as well. Please let Ellen Schorsch know if you know of someone who is in need, would smile at receiving a card, would enjoy a friendly phone conversation or a visit. We can and will help if we know help is needed. Thanks to all who eagerly offered to help!
 - Our **Women's Group Shabbat** is being planned for **May 5th**. Bonny has sent out the service parts and your participation is encouraged. Contact Bonny for details.
 - **The next meeting will be April 9th at 2.** Please join us as we plan activities.

Religious School

If you have any interest in finding out more about Religious School instruction for Kindergarten through 7th grade, please contact Morah Dara at mddmhall@verizon.net.

SHORTY

If you have any youth interested in joining us, please contact Becky for details at rem82398@gmail.com or 540-908-7947.

Coming Workshop



Ducks in a Row: Getting Your Affairs in Order

The best gift you can leave your loved ones is an organized estate at your journey's end. In this informative and interesting class, you will learn how to address important matters that can save you and your family lots of time, money and extra work. Discussions include options for preparing a will, organizing family memorabilia, burial/cremation preferences, distribution of belongings, financial planning and much more! Bring \$30 to the first class for materials, including 2 books.

Wednesdays, May 3, 24 and 31, 6:30 - 8:30.

Instructor: Mary Ann Stripling, Ph.D.

Celebrations



HAPPY BIRTHDAYS TO:

Martha Degen who celebrates on April 7th

Rabbi Joe Blair celebrating on April 13th

Vicki Goldenberg celebrating on April 21st

April
Yahrzeits

Herman Barber	Ella Barth	David Bishop	Sim Brand
Alfred Brettner	Evelyn Brettner	Isadore Cohen	Walter Cohen
Samuel Duken	David Gelberg	Nathan Greenspan	Louis Harris
Jacob Klotz	Sylvia Kramer	Joseph Masinkoff	Joann Neuman
Arthur Printz	Esna Roth	Harold Shapiro	Maurice Siegel
Holly Singer	Irving Singer	Henry Switzer	Sophie Switzer
Janet Brody	Jack Witt		

Donations

Todoh Rabah - Thank you for the recent generous donation to Temple House of Israel:
 For the general fund Abram Kronsberg

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Rabbi	Joe Blair	925-272-8573	RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com

April 2017

March 26 Elementary Biblical Hebrew 4 – 5:30	27	28	29 Lenten Program: The Holy One – Bonny Strassler 6 pm at THOI	30 Author Stephanie Deutsch speaks on <i>You Need a Schoolhouse</i> 11 am - Beth El	31	1 10:00 Shabbat Services
2	3	4	5 Lenten Program: Holy Life - Caleb Payne 6 pm at Emmanuel Episcopal Church	6	7 Shabbat Services 7:30 with guest Rev. Shelby Owen	8
9 2 pm Women’s Group Biblical Hebrew 4-5:30	10	11 Community Passover Seder at 6	12 THOI board meeting at 7:00	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 Shabbat Services 7:30	22
23 Biblical Hebrew 4:00-5:30	24	25	26	27	28	29