



Temple House of Israel Bulletin

A Member Congregation of the Union for Reform Judaism
15 North Market Street, Staunton, VA 24401 (540) 886-4091
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

AUGUST 2018 / AV 5778 – ELUL 5779

From the Rabbi

A Word ... or More

“Reaching Out: A Verb for the New Year”

Is there a difference between calling good friends to make a date to see a movie and calling someone you’ve been out of touch with for a while because you heard of sickness in the family?

Of course there is, but why in both cases is the same verb used? “Thanks for ‘reaching out’ to me”.

I’m probably over-sensitive when it comes to the English language. Things that others don’t even think about can drive me up the wall. The overuse of “reach out” is my *mishugas du jour*.

“Reaching out” (“outreach”) means you are making a special, focused effort to communicate with someone to the point that the person is deeply moved, as when you inquire about his parent’s condition. When friends call and ask if we’re interested in a movie, I may be glad they thought of us, but I’m not deeply moved; they didn’t “reach out”, in my humble opinion.

I don’t know, but it seems to me that when God called the prophets, when Moses spoke to Aaron, among other examples, the words the Torah uses are *vayidaber*, “and He spoke”, or *vayomer*, “and He said”. They didn’t “reach out”. We need more true “outreach”, more attempts in the Divine image and one of the characteristics we ascribe to God is compassion. Well, let’s see who can use a one-on-one, someone perhaps you don’t know well. And don’t say, “Oh, that’s the ‘job’ of the rabbi”! The ‘job’ is ours.

May you and your family, our congregation, the State of Israel, *k’lal Yisrael* (world Jewry), and this wonderful country of ours, be blessed in 5779 with health and peace.

Rabbi Peter H. Grumbacher



August events and services

- **Know Your Neighbor Picnic Sunday, August 5th**, 5:30 at Oakdale Park, 134 Mt. Crawford Avenue in Bridgewater.
- **Mitzvah day on Sunday, August 12th**, 2:00—5:00 pm. Come help get our Rabbi’s office, storage closet and sanctuary ready for the new year.
- **Shabbat Services on August 24th** when Rabbi Grumbacher will speak on “*The Message of My Traveling Hat*”
- **Saturday, August 25 Torah Study** at 9:00 am in the social hall
- **Saturday, August 25 Meet-the-Rabbi brunch**. Join us in the social hall as we get to know Rabbi Grumbacher during an informal discussion at 10:30. Brunch will be at 11:00. PLEASE BRING A DISH TO SHARE.
RSVP: 540-885-8715 or bonstrassler@comcast.net

Words from our Temple President

Dear members and friends,

The start of a new religious year is fast approaching and the slow summer months were spent planning and coordinating with Rabbi Grumbacher for Shabbat services, Torah studies, the High Holy Days and, most importantly, the interim work he plans for us to work on jointly. The Rabbi's office is being spruced up with new carpet and a coat of paint, while books and temple records are being organized and safely stored.

There is a lot going on behind the scenes to prepare to kickoff a new year, but there is more to do, so please consider helping out. Plan to gather together on Sunday, August 12 for a Mitzvah Day to finish up the Rabbi's office, clean out the storage closet and spruce up the sanctuary. We will start at 2:00 pm, work until 5:00 pm and finish up with a pizza and salad dinner, reveling in our success working together.

This will not be the last time you will be asked to "work together" this year. We will work together to build a relationship with Rabbi Grumbacher and listen to and build relationships with one another. Our task is to work together as a congregation so we may positively navigate our way forward, clarifying who we are collectively and how we can strengthen and grow our Jewish community. This is important work, so don't stay home. EVERYONE is needed to make our year of transition meaningful and productive. Let us begin!

L'Shalom,
Bonny Strassler

Special thanks to Penelope Ferguson and Benn Legum for graciously opening their home to host our farewell gathering for Rabbi Joe. Delicious food, fun caricatures and delightful conversations.

News from the Pews

- Our condolences to Asher and Laura Jean Brand and their children, Jessie, Sim and Stephanie on the passing of Asher's mother, Shirley Brand, on July 7th. Shirley was always kind and welcoming to everyone. She and Rafael (z"l) were both long-time supporters of Temple House of Israel, involved in many, many aspects of temple life. We will miss her.
- Our condolences also to Ray Cabbage and Pam Robbins on the loss of Ray's mother on July 17.
- Mi Sheberach and Refuah Shelemach to all those in our community who are in need of health and healing.

Religious School

The first day of religious school 2018-19 will begin Sunday, August 26th with a family meeting in the sanctuary beginning at 9:30am. Information will be emailed to families in early August. If you want to receive religious school information, please contact Dara Hall at mddmhall@verizon.net. We look forward to wonderful school year!



Women's Group

- This year the Greater Shenandoah Out of the Darkness Walk will be held on November 3rd at Gypsy Hill Park. We hope you and your friends will join Team Tikvah as we work to raise \$1500 by 11/3. Here's the direct link to donate to our team: <https://afsp.donordrive.com/index.cfm...>

To register to join Team Tikvah, click the link below:

<https://afsp.donordrive.com/index.cfm...>

Suicide often strikes close to home. Two years ago, the Temple House of Israel's Women's Group created Team Tikvah--(Team Hope)--to support Leah who had just lost her precious granddaughter from suicide. We walked with countless others in our greater community to raise awareness and funds for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP). We raised more than \$1500 and hope to do the same this year. Funds raised will provide support to survivors, invest in research, create educational programs, and advocate for sound public policy.

Not able to walk? There are other ways you can help: be a virtual walker or use your creativity to help us reach our \$1500 fundraising goal. Contact our Team Captain, Debbie Jacobs at deb1130@hotmail.com to discuss some ideas or get answers to your questions. A fundraising activity is being planned for mid-October - stay tuned for details.

- The group voted to contribute toward the new landscaping plan being proposed for the cemetery as a memorial to those treasured members who have passed away during the past several months: Rabbi Lynne Landsberg, Nancy Witt, Dan Schorsch and Shirley Brand. May their memories be for a blessing.
- **Our next meeting will be held Sunday, August 12th.** Following our successful July meeting, an informal, potluck gathering will be held at 1:00 pm at the home of Carol and Buffy Shapiro, 316 Berkeley Place. ALL temple women are invited to attend—even those who have never participated. Please RSVP to Carol at 703-517-4666 or pinxid@gmail.com

Outreach

- ♦ The wish list for **New Directions** includes household items (towels, washcloths, kitchenware, light bulbs and AA batteries, toilet paper and tissues), cleaning supplies (laundry detergent for HE washers, Swiffer Wet Jet pads, dishwasher detergent, dish soap and trash bags) and personal items (hand soap, deodorant, body wash and shampoo). Add your donations to the box in the social hall.



Celebrations



Jonathan Freedman celebrates on August 10th
Stephanie Brand celebrates on the 11th
Joe Kristoff celebrates on the 13th
Nadine Chase on the 23rd
Mark Schorsch on the 30th

Recent Donations

Thank you to those who support our small congregation with their much appreciated financial donations:

In honor of Bonny Strassler's bat mitzvah (for Torah restoration). Gail Davis (for Torah restoration) Ruth Chodrow (for building fund) Doug and Martha Degen (for building fund) Rich and Beth Young (for building fund) Larry and Patty Sutker

..... Heidi Lasser
In memory of Dan Schorsch (for building fund) Doug and Martha Degen (for building fund) Larry and Patty Sutker (for building fund) Rich and Beth Young

..... Debbie Bishop
In memory of Shirley Brand Ruth Chodrow
..... Ellen Schorsch
..... Jim and Latane Long
..... Larry Harrell and Tom Arbaugh
..... Doug and Martha Degen
..... Bonny Strassler
..... Rich and Beth Young
..... Susan and Tom Pereles
..... Roger Willetts
..... Judy Schwartz
..... Rena Schwartz
..... Debbie Bishop
..... Highland County Rescue Squad
..... Walter Flora
For the general fund David Hockstein
..... Ruth Chodrow

As a Reminder

Easy Ways to help

- THOI is registered at **amazonsmile.com**. Any time you shop at Amazon simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device and a portion will be donated to THOI.
- Our flamingoes have flown for the summer But, while Debbie is away, contact Beth if you'd like them to come back! bydesign1993@gmail.com.
- Our presence on **Facebook** will potentially reach more Jews and non-Jews alike and will perhaps generate new members. **Please "like" and "follow" us on social media.**
- Consider a donation to the Torah Maintenance and Repair fund. Keeping our Torah scrolls in good repair requires an ongoing and regular effort. Your checks to THOI should be marked "Torah Restoration" fund.



MITZVAH DAY - SUNDAY, AUGUST 12
2:00-5:00 PM
TEMPLE HOUSE OF ISRAEL



TEMPLE HOUSE OF ISRAEL

Meet-the-Rabbi Brunch



Saturday, August 25
10:30 am
Social Hall

GET TO KNOW
RABBI GRUMBACHER
DURING AN INFORMAL
DISCUSSION AT 10:30AM.

BRUNCH AT 11:00 AM

RSVP 540-885-8715
bonstrassler@comcast.net
BRING A DISH TO SHARE



August Yahrzeits

Charles Brand	Louise Cohen	Mildred Faye Degen
Bernard Goldsmith	Albert Gomberg	David Greenstein
Cynthia Grossman	Anna Harris	Louis Kamerman
Julius Kane	Ed Solomon	Dorothy Bresky
Mabel Kaplan	Dr. Samuel Loewner	Donald Mindell
Lucy Nicely	Doris Patterson	Shirley Peretz
Eva Roberts	Eva Robins	Esther Rosenthal
Rachel Rothenberg	Sandra Rothenberg	Vivian Schorsch
Samuel Sebell	Madeline Shultz	Charles Switzer
Miriam Wasserman	Claire Jacobs	

Board Contacts

President	Bonny Strassler	885-8715	bonstrassler@gmail.com
VP Membership	Ellen Werther	430-4343	junetenth1935@gmail.com
VP Buildings	Larry Sutker	456-6647	ceolhs@gmail.com
Secretary	Ruth Chodrow	886-2252	rchodrow@gmail.com
Treasurer	Patty Sutker	456-6647	lpsutker@yahoo.com
Member-at-Large	Gail Davis	224-392-5812	gdavism@gmail.com
Member-at-Large	Leah Farmer	885-0206	
Trustee	Doug Degen	886-8651	dbd@ntelos.net
Trustee	Alan Goldenberg	885-6878	adgvlg@gmail.com
Trustee	Richard Young	885-1481	richardfyoung@gmail.com

Thank you to Ellen Boden who served on the temple board as treasurer and as vice president of buildings and grounds for a combined 12 years.