



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 AND JULY 2018 / SIVAN, TAMUZ, AV 5778

From our Temple President

Dear members and friends,

This past year has moved quickly and much has occurred in our small congregation. The board of directors has made positive and cohesive relationships within our congregation a priority for the next year. One in which an interim rabbi will help with by assisting us to build on our strengths, heal divisions and reinforce our common commitment to foster our small Jewish community. There is much work to accomplish and I hope that you will participate in the process to come.

One way to participate is choosing to lead a lay-led service over the summer. We had several services last year that were well attended and I hope our offerings will grow. See this as an opportunity to attend your favorite type of service! Please contact me if this interests you.

On a final note, please join temple and community members on the evening of June 16 to wish Rabbi Joe a farewell and celebrate his 15 years of being our rabbi. It will be a lovely evening culminating with Havdalah. Hope to see you there!

L'Shalom
Bonny Strassler

Reception for Rabbi Joe

Come celebrate Rabbi Joe's 15 years at Temple House of Israel.

Farewell Celebration and Havdalah

An evening of food, kosher wine tastings, caricature sketches, and fellowship
The evening will conclude with a short Havdalah service.

Open House from 6:00 pm—Havdalah at 9:00 pm
Home of Benn Legum and Penelope Ferguson
1204 Westmoreland Drive, Staunton

Heavy hors d'oeuvres provided
Please bring a dairy dessert or beverage to share
Casual dress

RSVP (**Please Respond to 885-8715**) by June 4th for food and beverage ordering

June Services and Events

- June 3 is our Annual Meeting at 4 pm with a meat meal to follow.
- June 8 lay-led Women's Group Shabbat at 7:30; oneg by Sue and Michelle
- June 16 is a Havdalah service at the home of Benn Legum and Penelope Ferguson
- June 22 is Bonny Strassler's Bat Mitzvah at 7:30 pm
- June 23 is Bonny's Bat Mitzvah at 10:00 am with lunch following the service

From the Rabbi's Desk

Dear Temple House of Israel Congregants and Friends,

As I write this, we are on the verge of entering Shavuot, our joyous holiday of Revelation and the encounter with the divine, immediately following which we receive the Torah. We are moving out of the period of the counting of the Omer, past the journey from Redemption to Revelation, and towards the recollection of our moments of sadness and loss, as we prepare to enter the Three Weeks, from the day of Tzom Shiva Asar Be'Tamuz (fast of the 17th of Tamuz) on July 1st to Tzom Tisha Be'Av (the fast of the 9th of Av) on July 22nd, remembering the siege and capture of Jerusalem and the destruction of the first and second Temples in 586 BCE and in 70 CE. On Tisha Be'Av it is the custom to read the book of Lamentations, the mournful story of destruction and exile, using special melodies for the trope. The readings are mournful and sad, but the music is hauntingly beautiful and makes the hearing of the text somehow more bearable, at times reaching an emotional peak that is rare.

In our transition from joy to sadness and back again, may we all find meaning, strength, and many blessings in our life, and may we experience life fully. May you find reason to rejoice, learn and grow in sorrow, and comfort and joy around you.

Of note:

- May 25th is our final Pulpit Exchange Shabbat with Rev. Paul Oakley as the guest preacher. In turn, I will be preaching at the Waynesboro Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on Sunday, May 27th. You are welcome to join me—I find it interesting and educational to experience the form of worship service that they hold, and a pleasure to continue to build bridges and create a larger community connection.
- June 3rd is the Congregational meeting. Due to a conference, which was scheduled many months ago, I will be unable to be present at this meeting. For those interested, I will submit a report to be presented there. In advance, I offer thanks to those who served and whose terms are now concluding, many thanks to those who are continuing to serve, and congratulations to those elected to offices and positions on the board at the annual meeting.
- Be sure to mark your calendars to attend and help Bonny Strassler celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on June 22nd and 23rd.
- June 23rd will be the last service for which I will be serving as rabbi at Temple House of Israel. My last day is June 30th; I will be taking vacation time for the month of July and will be unavailable.

Rabbi's Message

Liminal Moments—Mingled Joy and Sadness

Liminality is the quality of standing on the threshold, in the in-between space between two places or things. It refers to the split-second when you have not yet left something and entered something else. Liminal moments are instances of transition and change. They are neither good nor bad, and we cannot hold them—they are fleeting at best. All the same, they offer an instant and an opportunity; a frozen second of time when we can look both backward and forward—and that is how they can be so freighted, so emotionally powerful and fraught.

Each time we come to a change, a significant decision, or a lifecycle event, we pass through a liminal moment, crossing a threshold that we have not come to before. These thresholds are often times of both joy and sadness—sadness for what we leave behind, happiness for the prospect of what we expect.

A young adult who graduates from high school is crossing a threshold of this sort, as they leave the comfortable life they have known for many years and enter the unknown, they leave the comfortable life they have known for many years, and enter the unknown; they are shedding the familiar, and stepping forward into the open possibility of what is to come. They are both happily anticipating and feeling a bit of concern, because it is unknown, and shedding the past is not always comfortable.

Rabbi's Message (cont'd)

When we come to the end of a life, that too, is a liminal moment—those who are left behind are saddened by the loss, and the dying person may have regrets. At the same time, death can serve as a release from burdens and pain, and offer hope for those who believe it, that something new and more is ahead.

Significant changes, too, bring about a liminal moment. The transition from the current to something else requires that a threshold be crossed. So, my leave taking from this community is in this mold. I am now coming upon a liminal moment in my life and the life of the community.

Frankly, I have hesitated to write this article, feeling unsure of what I wanted to say. Now it is not possible to delay; the deadline has arrived and that is what I share.

This will be my final message for the Bulletin, and my last to you as your rabbi. As you can easily guess, I say that with some sadness, because it means that I will not be seeing and serving you, the members of this kehilah kedoshah (holy congregation) and the community in which it is nestled. I have come to know, to care for, and to love many of you. I have felt that our lives were intertwined as I was permitted to share in your moments of joy and sorrow. I will miss that, and you, very much.

At the same time, standing on this threshold, I am anticipating good things in the future. For me, there will be a new congregation and community to come to know and to serve. For you, I anticipate a time of thoughtful consideration and reconciliation and consolidation, a chance to take stock and to build on the strengths on the community, in order to grow stronger, more vibrant, and more cohesive. I am hopeful that the congregation will emerge stronger and healthier.

For those who do not already know, I am taking the pulpit at Congregation Temple Israel in Charleston, West Virginia. If you happen to be passing by, please make a point of visiting. I will retain the cell phone I have, so I can be reached that way.

I want to thank you for the gift of electing me as your rabbi. It has been my privilege, honor and pleasure to serve for the past fifteen years. I know you will do well, and that you will thrive as individuals and as a community. Please remember to treat each other with care, love and respect, as deserved.

A closing wish: if you are so inclined, I want to urge you to consider a donation to the Torah maintenance and repair fund that has been established. Keeping the sifrei Torah (scrolls of the Torah) in good repair requires an ongoing and regular effort, something close to my heart and important for this community.

This is not goodbye, but simply a godspeed and farewell. I wish you all many blessings, as here (from Danny Siegel, *The Lord is a Whisper at Midnight*, Town House Press 1985):

May your eyes sparkle with the light of the Torah,
And your ears hear the music of its words.
May the space between each letter of the scrolls
Bring warmth and comfort to your soul.
May the syllables draw holiness from your heart,
And may this holiness be gentle and soothing
To you and all God's creatures.
May your study be passionate,
And meanings bear more meanings
Until Life itself arrays itself to you
As a dazzling wedding feast.
And may your conversation,
Even of the commonplace,
Be a blessing to all who listen to your words
And see the Torah glowing in your face.

Rabbi's Contact Information

Rabbi Joe may be reached by email at **RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com** through June 30. He reads email regularly, except for Jewish holidays and Shabbat, when he does not use the computer.

His cell phone number is 925-272-8563 (925-2-RAVJOE).

Please note and use this number—messages left elsewhere are not checked regularly.

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 set a time to speak with you, through June 30th, so that he can offer you his full, undivided attention.

Women's Group

- Please join the **Women's Group Lay-led Shabbat** when members will lead the service on **June 8th**. Come to support the hard-working women of the temple. The service will primarily be in English.
- This year's Walk Out of Darkness will happen at Gypsy Hill Park as part of the Shenandoah Region on Saturday, November 3rd. Contact Debbie Jacobs (deb1130@hotmail.com) if you are interested in the walk or another way of participating to support this worthy cause.
- The group voted to contribute toward the new landscaping plan being proposed for the cemetery as a memorial to Dan Schorsch.

Outreach

- ◆ **Know Your Neighbor Picnic on Sunday, June 24, 4:00—7:00 pm.** We'll have a potluck dinner with fun and games and even door prizes at **Oakdale Park, 134 Mt. Crawford Avenue in Bridgewater**. Join congregants from Allen Chapel AME Church, Emmanuel Episcopal, the Islamic Center of the Shenandoah Valley, Temple House of Israel and Trinity Church for food and fellowship. Please bring a potluck dish to share. See the attached flyer.
- ◆ 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.

News from the Pews

- Congratulations to Leah Farmer and Patricia Matthews on their marriage May 17th. They will be traveling to Oregon to visit Leah's son and Washington to visit Pat's daughter and then return home to Staunton. Mazel tov!
- With sadness we announce that Dan Schorsch died peacefully on May 17th after his long battle with cancer. A memorial service will be held at McDow Funeral Home, 1701 W. Main Street, in Waynesboro on Wednesday, June 20 at 10:00 am. Our prayers are with Ellen, Mark Schorsch and Linda and Steve Jones and their sons Zach and Seth, on their loss.
- **Mi Sheberach and Refuah Shelemach:** Continued thoughts and prayers for Shirley Brand, Leah Farmer, Steve Guberman, Joanne Simons (Carla Donley's aunt), and Greg Cizek's father. For Greg Cizek, Jim Clark, Michelle Clark, Tom Davis (Gail's husband), Kate Goldenberg, Byron Grove– Humphries, Sherry Lowe, Sue Solomon, Ellen Schorsch, Ellen Werther and Dennis Ward.
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Religious School

May was a busy month for preschool and religious school. On May 6th after a pizza lunch with the congregation, we celebrated Lag Be'Omer with all sorts of fun games. Thanks to all our SHORTY members for leading the fun! Everyone had a blast! The school year ended on May 20th with a delicious Shavuot potluck—with kugels and cheesecake and all sorts of yummy food to nosh. During the festivities, Rabbi Joe recognized all of our teachers with a certificate of appreciation. The religious school recognized Rabbi Joe with a signed “LOVE” plaque so that he can take our love for him wherever he goes. We will miss you, Rabbi Joe!

SHORTY Youth Group

SHORTY had a celebration on May 18th as we led the Beth El Congregation's Shabbat service and celebrated the confirmation of Madeline Hall and Matt Lovinger. The fun for SHORTY has just begun. We will welcome Charlottesville's Camp Noar for a shul-in on June 19th. Then on June 20 we will embark on an adventure as SHORTY travels to Charlottesville with Rabbi Joe for a fun day trip.

On behalf of the preschool, the religious school and the youth group, please contact Dara Hall at mddmhall@verizon.net if you know of any pre-school, K-7th grade students or 13+ year-olds interested in joining either pre-school, religious school or SHORTY, our youth group.

Have a wonderful summer!

June Yahrzeits

Gertrude Barber

Charles Becher

Bertha Brand

Elan Brand

Don Chodrow

Bernard Bresky

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

Freida Mordetsky

Archie Printz

Bess Rosen

Jerry Schwartz

Ida Rosen

Dr. Sol Simon

Betty Jo Snyder

Erwin Solomon

Abraham Switzer

David Switzer

Harry Witt

July Yahrzeits

Leah Barber

Edith Belfor

David Gutnick

Ruby Bornstein

Abe Bressman

Maurice Cohen

Jerome Degen

Vera Duken

Bernice Fox

Eva Geller

Mollie Hoffman

Jacob Kaplan

Recent Donations

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

General Fund Dennis and Jesse Ward
In honor of the Women's Group..... Mille and Daniel Grossberg

As a Reminder

Easy Ways to help

1. 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.
2. Our flamingoes have flown to Florida for the summer but contact Debbie if you'd like them to come back! deb1130@hotmail.com.
3. Our presence on **Facebook** will potentially reach more Jews and non-Jews alike and will perhaps generate new members. **Please "like" and "follow" the THOI Facebook** page.
4. 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.

Celebrations

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS in June:

Sam Brown who will be 18 years old on June 2
Debby Bishop celebrates on the 23rd
Ken Schwartz will have a birthday on the 20th
Mike Brown celebrates on the 25th
Shirley Brand on June 28th
Ellen Schorsch celebrates her 80th on the 30th

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS in July:

Kate Goldenberg celebrates July 3rd
Twins Ben and Sydney Fox celebrate on July 6th
Elizabeth Schwartz on July 8th
Sarah Young will be 33 on July 10th
Byron Grove-Humphries on the 14th
Patty Sutker celebrates on July 21st



Happy Anniversary

TO:

Alan and Vicki Goldenberg celebrating on June 6th
Bonny and Frank Strassler celebrate on July 1st
Patty and Larry Sutker on July 4th with fireworks
Martha and Doug Degen on July 30th

Board Contacts

President	Bonny Strassler	885-8715	bonstrassler@gmail.com
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VP Buildings	Ellen Boden	703-401-2939	championsresource@hotmail.com
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Trustee	Alan Goldenberg	885-6878	adgvlg@gmail.com
Trustee	Richard Young	885-1481	richardfyong@gmail.com
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Summer Time