



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

SEPTEMBER 2018 / ELUL – TISHREI 5779

From the Rabbi

A Word ... or More

“From Temple to Synagogue to Congregation: A thought for the Month of Tishri, even Beyond”

It's no coincidence that our Holydays and the Festival of Succot, concluding with Shemini Atzeret, are clumped together from the first through the twenty-second of Tishri. When you realize that on Shemini Atzeret there is a prayer for rain you'll understand why. Today it isn't difficult to travel to Jerusalem and back home regardless where in Israel you live. It might be a relatively long trek but there are modern highways and paved roads. Not so in the days of our biblical ancestors when the rainy season made such travel virtually impossible.

We read that on Shemini Atzeret King Solomon sent the people to their homes following the dedication of the Temple. It wasn't until the following Passover, approximately six months, that offerings at the Temple were required. Following its destruction the synagogue replaced the Second Temple (thank God!), and prayer, study and deeds of lovingkindness replaced sacrifices (an even greater thanks). You didn't need to concern yourself as much about weather; the synagogue was local.

All the above was a brief lesson about the season in which we find ourselves today, but there is more...

About forty years ago my Wilmington synagogue changed its name from Temple Beth Emeth to Congregation Beth Emeth, not because of the (Orthodox) position that synagogues couldn't call themselves "Temple", but because we felt the emphasis had to be on the PEOPLE not the BUILDING. There is so much more to a congregation than there was to the Jerusalem Temples. As a sentence in virtually all of our Reform prayerbooks reminds us,

The synagogue is the sanctuary of Israel. Born out of our longing for the living God, it has been to Israel, throughout our wanderings, a visible token of the presence of God in our people's midst. Its beauty is the beauty of holiness; steadfast it has stood as the champion of justice, mercy, and peace.

To achieve this you need PEOPLE. Interestingly, there are congregations without walls, far more today than in the past, but you'll never find a building without people that is alive and thriving! We have a beautiful sanctuary and a caring and committed congregation,. Let's keep it that way for a long, long time....even if it is called "Temple" House of Israel.

Rabbi Peter H. Grumbacher

L'shanah Tovah!

Words from our Temple President

Dear members and friends,

There is no better way to finish out and begin a new Jewish year than sitting in the temple sanctuary with more than a minyan present. Rabbi Grumbacher's first weekend was a grand success with nearly 40 people attending Shabbat service. Brunch was lovely and those present spent some time discussing concerns and hopes for the future of our congregation. Our interactions were positive and I am encouraged that this year will be one of reconciliation and growth for the whole congregation.

This is a time of reflection, forgiveness and new beginnings. The next year cannot happen without you. Everyone participating in some way is necessary as we move through small group meetings with Rabbi Grumbacher to discuss who we are and what we need to be a cohesive and vital Jewish community. So please, make time to come to a Shabbat service, Torah study or a congregational work session in the next few months. Your experiences, thoughts and ideas are valuable to our whole community.

L'Shalom,
Bonny Strassler

High Holy Days

Introducing **Cantor Michael M. Mandel**, who was ordained as Cantor, and received a Masters in Sacred Music degree from the Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion's School of Sacred Music in 1997.

A native of Havana, Cuba, Cantor Mandel taught Spanish, Hebrew and French for many years in Washington DC where he sang with the Washington National Opera Chorus before deciding to pursue the cantorate as a career.

Cantor Mandel has sung in many congregations around the world, including in Lyon, France, San Juan, Puerto Rico and in Havana, Cuba. He has served as Cantor at Temple Menorah in Redondo Beach, California and was asked by Rabbi Grumbacher to come to Congregation Beth Emeth in Wilmington, Delaware.

Following his four years in Wilmington he served as High Holyday Cantor at Sixth and I Synagogue in Washington DC, Bucknell University in PA, Knoxville, TN and Lewes, DE. In 2013, he founded Mizmor, an a cappella group specializing in Jewish choral music.



Sam Brown, son of Bonnie and Mike Brown, will be blowing the shofar at our High Holy services this year.

Thanks to Ruth Chodrow, Heidi Lasser, and Larry Sutker, members of the ritual committee, who made many phone calls, sent emails, confirmed readers and bestowed honors for our High Holy Days services. It does indeed take a village! Thank you!

Women's Group

- **Our next meeting will be held Sunday, September 16 at 2:00 pm** as our normal 3rd Sunday of the month. We'll find new ways to become involved, count our blessings, and make sure the Yom Kippur break-the-fast will be ready and waiting for us.
- 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.

- **October 14th, 2—4 pm** Team Tikvah will host a **water color painting class** with Buffy Guthrie as our instructor. The individual price will be \$50 (\$30 goes towards our team goal) and will be held at the Ellen Boden's Artisan's Loft. Light refreshments, Prosecco and bottled water will be provided. There is room for up to 30 painters...so please spread the word beyond the temple so we can possibly raise \$900 towards our \$1500 goal.

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.

Recent Donations

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

In memory of Shirley Brand Joan Hewlet
..... Jane and Whit Morriss
..... Judy Schwarz and Rena Schwarz
In honor of Bonny's Bat Mitzvah Ellen Werther
For the Torah Restoration Challenge Sarah Grove-Humphries
For Torah Restoration Art Goldsmith and Jan Kaufman
In honor of Rabbi Joe Bonny Strassler
Yizkor Donations
In memory of Ed Solomon Sue Solomon
In memory of Adam Clark Michelle and Jim Clark

Lots of News from the Pews

- A hearty mazel tov to Daniel and Janne Heifetz on another year of amazing musical performances during the 6 weeks of the Heifetz International Music Festival this summer. What a truly awe-inspiring group of students and faculty brought to Staunton for the entire community to enjoy.
- Refuah Sh'leimah to Tom Davis who successfully underwent a heart transplant at the end of August. Gail is grateful for your thoughts and prayers and reports that Tom is stable and resting.
- Mi Sheberach and Refua Sh'leimah and all those in our community who are in need of health and healing. (If we know who you are, we can offer our best wishes personally.)
- Mazel tov to Stuart Davidson who has been recognized for the fifteenth year (that's 15 years!) as a "Pennsylvania Super Lawyer".
- Many thanks to Bonny, Marsha, Ruth, Buffy, Elizabeth and Beth who helped clean out, re-design, paint and set up the rabbi's office. Stop by and take a look!
- While we were in the building during the clean-up time, several Jewish visitors here for the Staunton Music Festival stopped by. As a result we received donations of \$80 in our tzedakah box.
- Ruth Chodrow led a tour of the temple and discussion of its history and architecture to a group from Summit Square in Waynesboro. The 16 participants were part of a class entitled "The Jewishness of Jesus" and their interest extended to our modern-day Jewish congregation. The participants asked so many interesting questions that they ran well over their time, and kept asking questions and expressing appreciation right up until they boarded their bus back.
- Ellen Werther got to spend time with her grandson and family in Northern Virginia this summer.

Celebrations

Happy Birthdays to

Scott Goldenberg who celebrates on September 17th

Zach Pereles celebrating on September 18th

Happy Anniversary to

Beth and Rich Young celebrating on September 20

September Yahrzeits

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

Dianne Mason

Nathan Schilling

Anna Seltzer

Michael Seltzer

Stephen Shapiro

Samuel Schultz

Bennie Sragovitz

Sadie Witt

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** are still flying around Contact Debbie if you'd like them to fly to someone you know! deb1130@hotmail.com.
- Start the New Year with a welcome to Jews and non-Jews alike. Our presence on **Facebook** will potentially reach others 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.

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

2018 HIGH HOLY DAYS 5779

TEMPLE HOUSE OF ISRAEL
STAUNTON VA

Sunday, September 9

Erev Rosh Hashanah Potluck Dinner
(Meat meal) @ 6:30 pm

Erev Rosh Hashanah Service @ 8:00 pm
followed by dessert oneg

Monday, September 10

Rosh Hashanah morning service @ 10:00 am
Tashlich @ 1:00 pm,
Gypsy Hill Park Duck Pond

Tuesday, September 18

Kol Nidre @ 8:00 pm

Wednesday, September 19

Yom Kippur morning service @ 10:00 am
Congregants' Hour @ 1:00 pm
Mincha service @ 4:00 pm
Yizkor service @ 5:00 pm
Neilah service @ 6:00 pm
Break the Fast Potluck (Dairy meal) @ 7:00 pm

No tickets required, but donations are encouraged.

Questions? Call 540-885-8715

