



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

NOVEMBER 2018 / CHESHVAN—KISLEV 5779

From the Rabbi

A Word ... or More

“Three Questions We Should Ask Ourselves Before We Vote”

To me it doesn't matter what your political affiliation is but I know that our candidates should be informed that the Jewish values of justice and righteousness play into our decisions at the poll. Yes, we have our share of Jewish creeps in government and they must be called out for their attitude contrary to those values. *Do our candidates reflect those positive values that enhance the sacredness of every human?*

Our candidates should know that we expect civility. What we are hearing today adds to the divisions in our country. Indeed anti-Semitism and racism in general, always under the surface, have emerged with full force, because the lack of civility “allows” the uncivil among us to unleash their fury in word and deed. *Take Charlottesville for example. Are our candidates models of civility themselves and condemn those who would divide us with word and deed?*

We expect candidates to see Israel, as flawed as she is at times, as an ally. America needs Israel as much as Israel needs America. Criticism of the State of Israel is fine, there's plenty to criticize. Nevertheless we see the rise of anti-Israel sentiments in the halls of legislatures as we do in the university campuses. This is not criticism. It is anti-Semitism in another form. Are our candidates objective in their approach to the Jewish State, and are they knowledgeable about her history and place in the family of nations since 1948?

This is a crucial election. It's our responsibility as Jews to take to heart the call of democracy and go to the polling place and vote! *Candidates should know that Jews will vote and will remember!*

Rabbi Peter H. Grumbacher

November Activities and Services

November 3: Team Tikvah Out of Darkness Community Walk at 10:00 in Gypsy Hill Park to support suicide prevention work

NOVEMBER 6th IS ELECTION DAY. Polls are open 6 am—7 pm

November 9: Rabbi-led Shabbat service at 7:30 pm

November 10: Torah study at 9:00 am

November 10: Congregational work session at 10:00

November 16: Rabbi-led Shabbat service at 7:30 pm

November 17: Torah study at 9:00 am

November 17: Congregational work session at 10:00

Words from our Temple President

Dear members and friends,

As I write this message, I am feeling a range of emotions—fear, unease, suspicion mingled with hope, thanks and gratitude. The realities of Jewish life in Pittsburgh are heartrending and while Staunton is geographically dissimilar, we are Jews all the same. As a congregation we have received countless words of support and offers of help from our Staunton community and interfaith friends. I am blown away by the empathy and the determination of friends of THOI who believe that the safety of our congregation is a priority. I am so grateful for their friendship and concern.

Now more than ever, I feel the need to reach out into the community, strengthen existing relationships, meet new people, and generally do good in the world. Words can be misleading, but actions are powerful and concrete. How can I make a change in a world where citizens are categorized by race and religion? Where people who do not look like us are demonized? Where ignorance and intolerance is the root of hatred and prejudice?

As a congregation, we have work to do. Yes, we all have our individual causes and volunteer work, but I'm not referring to the "I", but the "We". The Women's Group is a wonderful model of just that type of action, sharing their passion and commitment for social causes locally. For the first time, THOI will be participating in the Celebration of Holiday Lights at Gypsy Hill Park. THOI is also part of the Know Your Neighbor (KYN) interfaith network of Christians, Muslims and Jews who gather together four times a year, because building relationships across religions and cultures is a valid and meaningful experience. It is hard to hate a Muslim or Jew if you personally know one. So take a moment to consider our collective impact on the world around us. Consider how our congregation can continue to reach beyond our sanctuary and social hall, all the while strengthening ourselves as a rich Jewish community. I look forward to seeing us grow within our walls and out in the community.

L'Shalom,
Bonny Strassler

Celebrations

Tom Pereles who celebrates his birthday on November 4th

Jordan Kristoff celebrating on November 10th

Leah Farmer on the 12th

Sue Solomon also on the 12th

Carol Shapiro on the 15th

Jacob Goldenberg of the 15th

David Young celebrates on the 25th

Asher Brand celebrates on the 26th

*Happy
Anniversary*

to Sarah and Byron Grove-Humphries on November 19th

Women's Group

- It's not too late to make a donation to the American Foundation for the Prevention of Suicide. We are walking during the **Greater Shenandoah Out of the Darkness Walk** on **November 3rd at Gypsy Hill Park** in honor of Leah's beautiful granddaughter, Sky Liberty. All donations made to Team Tikvah between now and December 31, 2018 will be calculated towards our final fundraising total. Funds received are used by the national office of AFSP for advocacy efforts at the federal level and also distributed throughout Virginia for local suicide prevention programs as well as survivor support programs. To donate online, please go to www.AFSP.org/gsv and when searching for a team, indicate Team Tikvah. In advance of the actual walk, our Team Captain, Debbie Jacobs, would like to thank her Team Tikvah members: Beth, Leah, Pat, Bonny, Ruth, Jennifer Weston and Ellen as well as everyone who made a donation.

- "What a surprise to come home and see I've been flocked... it put a smile on my face!" words of a recent recipient of a "flocking". Leah? Gail? If you can't figure out what to buy for a gift for a local friend who has everything, or to say a big thank you, a pink flamingo flocking may be just the right gift, and it's a contribution to the Women's Group



Those flamingos get lonely in their box in the closet. They love seeing the light of day and the smiles on recipient's faces. Contact Debbie if you'd like them to share them! deb1130@hotmail.com.

- Michelle Clark is looking for someone to take over the Caring Committee. She and Jim have moved to Florida (although they haven't yet sold their house here) so we need someone willing to stay in touch and send cards or flowers to members of our own community.
- **Our next meeting will be held Sunday, November 18 at 2:00 pm.** If you want to add an item to the agenda or have an idea for an activity, please send an email to Elizabeth Schwartz at curo44@gmail.com

News from the Pews

- Ben Goldsmith is realizing a dream come true! Legendary country artist Tim McGraw just released the first single on his new solo album. The song, *Neon Church*, was written by Ben and two other Nashville based songwriters (Ben Stennis and Ross Ellis). Way to go Ben!
- Michelle and Jim Clark have put their home here on the market and have moved to Palm Coast, Florida, as of November 1st. We will miss Michelle's many contributions to our Women's Group and wish them both well on their new adventure. Michelle is keeping her email address so we can stay in touch
- Refuah Sh'leimah to Tom Davis who continues his slow but steady recovery from heart transplant surgery. He will soon be moved to a rehab facility. Gail thanks the congregation for all the thoughts and prayers sent to her.
- Steve Guberman is convalescing at Kings' Daughters Rehab Center after a stroke.
- For those of us who have been around for awhile, Robert (aka Bobby) Pendleton would love to have visitors on Tuesdays or Thursdays at Kings' Daughters Rehab Center (he has dialysis M-W-F).
- 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 personal best wishes.)

Recent Donations

Thank you to those who have supported our congregation during the past month with their much appreciated financial donations:

For the large print Gates of Repentance Benn Legum and Penelope Ferguson
For High Holydays Michelle Brown Grauer
..... Fran Sadler
..... Margie Morse
..... Bennett and Alyson Ross
In honor of Ruth Chodrow and Larry Sutker Fran Sadler
In honor of Ruth Chodrow Pam Huggins
To the general fund M. Craig Pascal

Congregants' Capsule

The Congregants Hour during Yom Kippur gave us an opportunity to learn more about each other. Everyone in the THOI community is invited to share fun facts about themselves. Perhaps you are involved in a cause, teach a class, or have a hobby you are passionate about. Please send your information to Heidi Lasser at hyl0604@gmail.com or call her at 540-569-2912.

To get this idea rolling, here are submissions from 2 of our members:

Three things you probably didn't know about Ruth Chodrow.

1. I never wanted to become a veterinarian. I always thought I would be a research biologist. But circumstances, including unemployment, intervened, and I had to reassess my goals. And it all worked out!
2. When Don and I first met, he was a graduate student dating three other women and I was a freshman in college. I couldn't stand him—I thought he was really obnoxious. I only tolerated him because I really liked the friends who introduced us, and I couldn't believe that their judgement could be so poor. It wasn't. We got engaged when I was a sophomore and were married for 40 years.
3. When I went off to Kinhaven music camp, for a summer of intensive music-making, I took along my clarinet, my music stand and my microscope. I couldn't imagine an entire summer without my microscope. My bunkmates used to find odd plants and bugs (generally dead) which they kindly left on my bed for me to look at.



Three things you probably didn't know about Heidi Yalowitz Lasser

1. I admire people who can settle on one career; I've changed so often that my occupation remains undefined. I've been: a Kitchen Supervisor in a lunch restaurant, Supervisor of telemarketers in a newspaper classified advertising department, Chartered Accountant (Canadian CPA)/Public Accountant, Senior Officer and Internal Audit Project Leader in a Canadian Government agency responsible for social housing, Disability Claims Examiner, Certified Medical Assistant, and finally Managed the Precertification department in a medical practice. Basically, I am the person who says "The Emperor has no clothes" or, "No I won't approve that".
2. Our Siamese cat, Marie Edwiwna, is our baby. She is not an animal, she just looks like one. On the other hand, I am a house-cat that looks like a human.
3. I am a former member of the Federation of Canadian Naturists. I'll leave it at that.

November Yahrzeits

Burton Blair
George Degen
Ida Klein
Beryl Gutnick
Leah Kirmko
Abraham Peretz
Ralph Rosen
Ethel Shapiro
Fannie Strauss
Julius Switzer

Jack Brodsky
Betty Donenfeld
Max Freeman
Harry Harris
Paul Lewis
Bernice Raskin
Louis Rosenthal
Louis Shapiro
Fannie Switzer
Jacob Wilhelm

Fannie Cohen
Sadie Werther
Julius Goldberg
Ada Kaufman
Ralph Lurie
Joseph Rosen
Leopold Schorsch



As a Reminder

Support Temple House of Israel

- THOI is registered at [amazonsmile.com](https://www.amazon.com). Any time you shop at Amazon simply go to [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) from the web browser on your computer or mobile device and a portion will be donated to THOI.
- If you use Facebook, you are encouraged to please add comments to THOI posts. 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".
- Can't figure out what to buy for a gift for a local friend who has everything, or to say a big thank you? A pink flamingo flocking may be just the right gift, and it's a contribution to the Women's Group Those flamingos get lonely in their box in the closet. They love seeing the light of day and the smiles on recipient's faces. Contact Debbie (deb1130@hotmail.com) if you'd like to share them.



Ellen Schorsch loved them on her 80th birthday celebration!

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