



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

MAY 2019 / NISSAN—IYAR 5779

From the Rabbi

A Word...or More

“Re-Jew-venation as Individuals and as a Community”

There’s the old riddle: If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring? And the answer? May flowers bring pilgrims. But May in general brings the anticipation of more laid-back days. We will have wonderful opportunities to relax and to rejuvenate ourselves.

Jews should do a unique form of the latter...we should reJEWvenate.

We should do a preliminary look at the months that have passed (a more serious process precedes the holydays) and ask ourselves,

“What have I done to strengthen my Jewish identity?”

“What have I done to strengthen my congregation?”

“What have I done to bring Jewish values to my community?”

Note: in my opinion the operative word is “I.” We cannot leave the future of our faith and folk to others. It is our responsibility. Each of us has to appreciate the precarious situation in which we American Jews find ourselves. Yes, it’s far worse in Europe, but we found out this year that the relationship Americans had with our People here and in Israel is changing...and not for the better. And we must not hide behind the shadow of assimilation; we are called to proudly proclaim who we are, what we represent, and to prove it through not only words but deed as well. Remember, Judaism is a religion of deed, not creed.

On that note, one way each one of us can identify is to join together at our ANNUAL MEETING which will take place on Sunday, May 26 at 4:00 PM. It’s been a year of healing, as it were, and to see the members of THOI stand together on that day is one step in showing we are ready to move forward as one community.

Rabbi Peter H. Grumbacher

Services and Events

- April 26 Rabbi-led Shabbat Service at 7:30 pm
- April 27 Torah study at 9:00 am
- May 17 Rabbi-led Shabbat Service at 7:30 pm
- May 18 Torah study at 9:00 am
- May 18 Cocktail party in the social hall with cheeses, wine and hors d’oeuvres 5:00—7:00 pm
- May 26 Congregational Annual Meeting at 4:00 pm with a potluck (meat) dinner to follow.

Words from our Temple President

Dear members and friends,

As I reflect the day after our Community Passover Seder, I am struck by how important this event is to THOI. Personally, this is how I celebrate Passover. My Passover memories are not from childhood family gatherings, they are solely from THOI gatherings. How many others look to our temple as the opportunity to be part of a larger body of Jews and ritual?

This second night of Passover, THOI was the glue for many and reinforces that we must plan and host many opportunities and choices for all Jews in our community. If an event is host to many or few matters little. Historically, THOI is a small temple with a dedicated core of congregants that lead, and is not so different from larger congregations. Yes, numbers matter to our financial bottom line. But in the context of community, we need to plan and hold events, for big and small groups, always expecting that our ability to offer the opportunity to gather is our strength and path to growth.

As this year winds down and we get closer to our annual meeting, the Rabbi Search Committee continues to interview and looks to recommend a candidate to the Board of Directors in the next few weeks. THOI is in a state of change, one that will naturally that will naturally lead us to reach inward and expand opportunities to grow and strengthen. Together let's build on the positive events, moments and conversations we shared collectively this year. What talents and interests can you share with THOI? Will you join temple leaders to grow our religious and social life? We need you!

L'Shalom,
Bonny Strassler

News from the Pews

- Mi Sheberach and Refua Sh'leimah to all those in our community who are in need of healing.
- Ken Schwartz is still frustrated with his limitations but is recovering slowly. We continue to wish him a speedy and complete recovery as well as additional strength to Elizabeth!
- Gail and Tom Davis are grateful for your prayers and support as he continues to rehabilitate from his heart transplant. Now he is on the list for a kidney transplant, and they ask for your continued prayers and support. Any questions, please contact Gail.
- Ruth Chodrow talked about temple history and architecture and Judaism in general to a Stuart Hall comparative religion class with their chaplain on April 8.
- Ruth went to Beth El Congregation in Winchester to teach Hebrew calligraphy. Both the B'nai Mitzvah students and adults seemed to enjoy the classes and several indicated they planned to continue practicing their new skill. (Big secret: Hebrew calligraphy is a lot easier than English!)

Women's Group

We're having a cocktail party and you're invited!

Come join us in the social hall on Saturday, May 18, 5:00-7:00 pm

Cheese, wine and hors d'oeuvres

\$12 donation per person

- In deference to Mother's Day, our next meeting will be **May 5 at 2:00 pm**. Please join us and bring any ideas you have for future social events or charitable work. **Everyone** is welcome to share their ideas!

Thanks to Elizabeth, Debbie, Heidi, Buffy, Carol and Beth for setting up the tables for our Community Seder. It was a delightful, delicious evening with Rabbi Grumbacher's wonderful sense of humor along with our exodus from Egypt!

A New Art Display

Come see the work of Ellen Werther, our featured artist. Her collage work is installed in the southeast corner of the social hall and her contact information is also provided, in case you're interested....

If you'd like to show your work, please contact Beth or Marsha and provide your name and preferred contact information so that others may contact you directly if desired, once your artwork is displayed. Photography, painting, collage, needlework, any original art will be considered.

Questions? Contact Beth at bydesign1993@gmail.com

May Celebrations



Sim Brand celebrates his birthday on May 1st
 Susan Pereles celebrates on May 4th
 Sam Pereles celebrates on May 14th
 Larry Sutker will celebrate on May 24th
 Ruth Chodrow celebrates on May 30th

Aleeza and Mike Wilkins celebrate their wedding anniversary on May 17th
 Rosalie and David Waterman celebrate their wedding anniversary on May 27th
 Debbie and David Jacobs celebrate their anniversary on May 29th

Recent Donations

The families of Abe Kronsberg and Barth Weinberg are renewing their commitment to Temple House of Israel with the establishment of the Johanna and Abraham Weinberg Family Fund for the maintenance and preservation of our Torah scrolls. Our hope is that the congregation will continue to support this effort so that all of our Torah scrolls can be returned to their whole and complete condition and can be used into the future.

Our sincere thanks to those who have recently supported our congregation as we look to enhance our physical building and our holy Torahs.

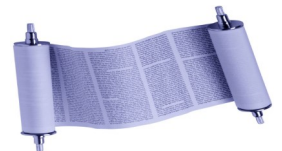
For the Torah preservation in the Johanna and Abraham Weinberg Family Fund
 Abram Kronsberg and Robin Kaplan
 Adele and Steven Sinder
 Barbara PENCHUK
 Lauren and Robert Gottlieb

For the Entrance Renovation Fund Sam Witt
 Jim Osborne and Linda Blazer
 Dennis Ward
 Benn Legum and Penelope Ferguson
 Anglican Church of the Valley

As a Reminder

Support Temple House of Israel

- Why not slip a dollar into the **Tzedakah Box** as you walk into the sanctuary? We'd have close to \$50/month if everyone did that!
- Consider a donation to the Torah Maintenance and Repair fund. Keeping our Torah scrolls in good repair requires an on going and regular effort. Your checks to THOI should be marked "Torah Restoration Fund".
- Social media plays an important part in attracting new friends and potential members. Like us and comment on Facebook. We'll take pictures!



May Yahrzeits

Gertrude Barber
Velma Byrne
Gloria Goldsmith
Heidi Kaplan
Abraham Kravitz
Rose Pickus
William Robins
Mildred Shor
Nettie Williams

Leah Barber
Blanche Cohn
Ida Harris
Ethel Kelly
Joseph Oppenheim
Jack Printz
Frank Rubin
Flora Switzer
Dan Schorsch

Ellna Byrne
Joseph Cohn
Rosaline Kamerman
Morris Klotz
Edward Patterson
Max Raybin
Clara Sebell
Moses Walters
Elbert Evans Ward



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
Interim Rabbi	Peter H. Grumbacher		interimTHOrabbi@gmail.com