



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—JULY 2019 / IYAR-SIVAN-TAMMUZ 5779

From the Rabbi

A Word...or More “A Truly Special Year for Me”

As I think about the months I served Temple House of Israel I'm struck by how quickly the time has flown by. Well, as they say—whoever “they” are—“Time flies when you're having fun!” And except for the very long drive it is to get here from Wilmington, Delaware, it has been fun. My drive in this coming year will be a smidgeon shorter as I'll be serving the Harrisonburg congregation.

The word “fun” in the dictionary has various definitions, one of which is “enjoyment.” That's my operative definition in this context.

It's been fun meeting such wonderful congregants and those who have just dropped by for various reasons. There is a definite feeling that despite issues of the past there WILL BE a Jewish future in this part of the Shenandoah Valley, and Temple House of Israel will be the center.

It's been fun experiencing worship in so beautiful a sanctuary as you have. As I might have mentioned (and at this stage of my life I might have mentioned a great deal, only I've forgotten that I mentioned them), I was struck by your magnificent Holy Ark. It's not in 2018 that I was taken by it; it was in 1970 when I was given a tour of the THOI! Since then I've said to countless people. “*The most beautiful Holy Ark I've ever seen is in the synagogue in Staunton, Virginia!*” That and the aura of true holiness (*kedusha* in Hebrew) I've felt at worship has made officiating at Shabbat services something I've looked forward to before each visit. Highlighting that *kedusha* is the incomparable melody to which you chant the first three parts of the *Amidah: Avot v'imahot: Gevurot and Kedushat HaShem*. Even more exciting to me.. EVERYBODY SINGS ALONG! You are a singing congregation, something I worked for many, many years to achieve in Wilmington.

I'm glad that you have begun occasional worship, conducted by laypeople. Thankfully our tradition doesn't require a rabbi for that. The requirement is that you must be over Bar/Bat Mitzvah age (it's also good to have a general sense that you know what you're doing). Those of THOI who have conducted worship—aside from meeting that age requirement—know what they're doing... they just need **more Jews in the Pews** to feel that it's a worthwhile endeavor.

You cannot give up on regular **weekly** services regardless who is conducting them. People come into a community, either for a visit or to consider relocating, and when they know they can count on a worship service being held each Friday or Saturday or both (yes, even if they don't attend!), they feel the permanence of Judaism in that town; if not, they might not consider that community in which to settle.

I've had fun writing weekly and monthly articles. It has given us the opportunity to “meet” each other even if we haven't done so in person. You now might know a bit more about me, what I believe, how I view my years in the rabbinate, and how I envision the Jewish faith and folk of tomorrow. I appreciate the feedback I've

Rabbi's Message Continued

received from those articles; I hope you've learned something of value.

I've had fun meeting some of the wonderful Christian clergy in Staunton and its environs. In this case the typical definition of "fun" might be applied. We've had a good time and had numerous laughs over this and that. But there is more: over almost five decades in the rabbinate, I haven't always felt comfortable in interfaith situations. In Staunton, with the show of support we've received after two horrific synagogue tragedies, I can say that a longer tenure in THOI might have results in solid friendships being established both professionally and personally.

I am confident that Rabbi Nagel will have a fruitful rabbinate in Temple House of Israel and have fun in the process. I hope you're as kind to her as you have been to me in my short time here. I sincerely hope that she guides you to even greater congregational health so you might grow in number and in spirit. I have all the confidence that you've got it within you—individually and communally—to be a force to be reckoned with, a Jewish force, a spiritual force.

May the force be with you... and may God bless you with the richest blessings that can be offered.

Rabbi Peter H. Grumbacher

Words from our Temple President

Dear members and friends,

As our year of services wraps up, it was encouraging to see so many members at the annual meeting. THOI exists because of people who care; care to be members, care to provide a meaningful service, care to provide fun social events, care about nurturing a Jewish community in the Shenandoah Valley. We are here because of the individual care of the collective US. So thank you and I look forward to more of Us as we plan for next year.

Speaking of planning for next year, Rabbi Grumbacher planned an opportunity for a congregational conversation after a brief Shabbat service on Friday, June 7. "*Let's talk: How can We and Rabbi Nagle Move Us Forward*" promises to be a fruitful discussion and one that I hope you can attend. Please join us!

L'Shalom,
Bonny Strassler
Temple House of Israel President

Shabbat Services

Friday, June 7	Rabbi-led Shabbat Service at 7:30 pm
Saturday, June 8	Torah study at 9:00 am
Friday, June 14	Shabbat dinner at 6:00 to wish Rabbi Grumbacher well in his next interim position
Friday, June 14	Final Rabbi Grumbacher-led Shabbat Service at 7:30 pm
Saturday, June 15	Torah study at 9:00 am

Services will resume in August

Words of Wisdom

Unplug the phone. Mix plaids and stripes. Drink 8 glasses of water a day. When the oil light goes on in the car, add oil. Take deep breaths. Scratch the itch. If it's collecting dust, throw it out. In the end, a spotless kitchen floor doesn't matter. Forgive somebody. Television isn't a role model. Think of the thing you fear the most and do it. Dance like no one is watching. Laugh.

Lay-led Services

At the encouragement of Rabbi Grumbacher, THOI has held several Lay Led Shabbat services. Bonny, Ruth and Heidi demonstrated the range of Jewish spiritual experience at each Shabbat service they conducted.

For our first lay led get-together, Bonny shared poems which we read together in the social hall, creating an informal but poignant Shabbat. On another evening she led a Shabbat service in the sanctuary. Our neighbors from First Presbyterian Church joined us in support of our Jewish community.

Ruth brought some of her musical instruments and taught us several new songs, and rekindled memories of songs we have known and loved. She brought out the musician in all of us by providing instruments for each participant to join along.

Heidi conducted a traditional Saturday morning service and wrote a thought provoking D'var Torah in which she discussed Kashrut from a Reform perspectives.

Whether you were able to attend or not, please thank these ladies for taking the time to create special Shabbat moments.

High Holidays Planning

Before we know it, the High Holidays at THOI will be upon us. Honors are a part of the congregational experience during this time. Honors can include opening the ark, doing a reading in English, being called up to the Torah, or carrying the Torah scroll. Performing an honor can enrich the spiritual experience of the Days of Awe for many people. Every year the Rabbi gives a list of honors to the Ritual Committee, who in turn offer these to members and other attendees. This list is returned to the Rabbi with names assigned to each one. The Ritual Committee will begin the Honors process early by gathering information from each member with respect to likely attendance for each service, your interest in an honor and whether you anticipate having guests who might like an honor. The goal is to communicate to the Rabbi at least one month prior to Erev Rosh Hashanah as to the number and type of honors that best suits our community, and to make progress in assignments in advance of the High Holiday period. Please contact Heidi (hyl0604@gmail.com) with your tentative plans; at some point during the summer she may be calling you.

Women's Group

Huge thanks to Carol and Buffy Shapiro for organizing our Cocktail Party in May! Everyone enjoyed themselves with good conversation and yummy food. Thanks to all who brought their delicious edibles to share.

Please join us at our **next meeting on Sunday, June 9th at 2:00 pm.** There will be no official meeting in July, but we'll plan a July lunch together.



Recent Donations

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 Entrance Renovation Fund Ruth Chodrow
In memory of Dan Schorsch Ellen Schorsch
Johanna and Abraham Weinberg Family Fund for the Torah Preservation
..... Harry and Miranda Shapiro

News from the Pews

- Congratulations to Sam Brown, graduating from Lee High School Summa Cum Laude. Sam will be going to Virginia Tech, majoring in engineering. Dad, Mike, says probably electrical engineering with interest in physics and/or music.
- Eliana Brown will be moving on to 10th grade. Where did the time go?!
- Mi Sheberach and Refua Sh'leimah to all those in our community who are in need of healing.
- Tom Davis is continuing his recovery and re-gaining his strength.

June Celebrations

Cake and Ice Cream for ... Sam Brown on June 2nd
Heidi Lasser celebrates on June 4th
Linda Blazer celebrates on June 18th
Ken Schwartz's birthday is June 20th
Debby Bishop on the 23rd
Mike Brown on the 25th
Ellen Schorsch celebrates on the 30th

Happy Anniversary to ... Vicki and Alan Goldenberg on June 6th

July Celebrations

Birthday Parties to Come

Kate Goldenberg celebrates July 3rd
Ben and Sydney Fox celebrating in Atlanta on July 6th
Ellen Boden also celebrates her birthday on July 6th
Elizabeth Schwartz on July 8th
Mike Wilkins also on July 8th
Sarah Young celebrates in Denver on July 10th
Byron Grove-Humphries on the 14th
Patty Sutker on the 21st
Elana Brody on the 24th
Steve Rosenberg celebrates on July 26th

Wedding Anniversary Bells are Ringing

Bonny and Frank Strassler on July 1st
Patty and Larry Sutker on July 4th
Martha and Doug Degen celebrate on July 30th

HELP US!

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!
- Remember that you can place any order on Amazon , [link your order to THOI](#) and the temple will benefit. Easy, no pain and the extra pennies count up!

June Yahrzeits

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	Frieda Mordetsky
Archie Prince	Bess Rosen	Ida Rosen
Jerry Schwartz	Dr. Sol Simon	Betty Jo Snyder
Erwin Solomon	Abraham Switzer	David Switzer

July Yahrzeits

Leah Barber	David M. Gutnick	Edith Belfor
Shirley Ruttenberg Brand	Ruby Bornstein	Abe Bressman
Maurice Cohen	Jerome Degen	Vera Duken
Bernice Fox	Eva Geller	Mollie Hoffman
Jacob Kaplan	Delores Levy	Joseph Loener
Ben Raybin	Richard Roth	Simon Sachs
Betty Rosenthal	Frances Schwartz	Sara Helen Seltzer
Morton Shor	Abraham Suskins	Samuel Weinberg
Muriel Shainsky Robbins		

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ENJOY THE SUMMER !

HELP!

A new bulletin editor will be collecting information for the August issue with the likely deadline of the end of July.

(I will be happy to help with the transition in July... Beth)