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**THOI** Temple House of Israel  
*A Reform Jewish congregation in Staunton Virginia*

Weekly eNews  
January 28, 2020

## CALENDAR

Wednesday, January 29, @4:00 -6:30 pm  
Rabbi's Office Hours

Wednesday, January 29, @6:30-7:30  
The first of a 2-part class on the PROPHETS and PROPHECY  
With Rabbi Nagel

Friday, January 31, @8:00 am  
Return of our Torah

Friday, January 31, @7:30 pm  
Shabbat Evening Service with Rabbi Nagel

Looking ahead:

Wednesday, February 5, @6:30-7:30 pm  
Part 2 of the two-part class PROPHETS and PROPHECY

Monday, February 10, @Noon  
Tu B'shevat with Rabbi Nagel  
Bring your own lunch and learn about the  
holiday of the trees. (See the flyer below)

Saturday, February 15, @10:00 am  
Shabbat Morning Service with Rabbi Nagel

Wednesday, February 19, @6:30 pm  
Book Club @THOI.  
With Rabbi Nagel  
(See the flyer below)

Thursday, February 20, @9:45 (not 10:00 am)  
Torah Study @ the Valley Pike in Weyers Cave  
The Parsha is *Mishpatim* (These Are the Rule)  
*Exodus 21:1 - 24:18*

Wednesday, February 26, @7:00 pm  
Board of Directors Meeting  
All members in good standing are welcome  
to attend all but the Executive Session



CELEBRATING A NEW MONTH

Yesterday, January 27, 2020, welcomed the new Jewish month of Shevat. Jews around the world celebrated Rosh Chodesh (which means Head of the Month.) The Jewish people have always had a connection to the moon. Other ancient cultures revered the sun but as a smaller nation, we saw ourselves in the small moon. Just like God, the moon would always return providing us with the safety of its protective light.

Rosh Chodesh is considered a minor holiday, with relatively few observances, but there are several significant liturgical changes. An extra paragraph is added to the Amidah, and to the grace after meals. An abbreviated form of Hallel is recited, and a selection from the Torah about the Rosh Chodesh sacrifice is read. An additional service, Musaf, is added after Shachrit (morning prayers).

Rosh Chodesh has long been considered a special holiday for women. Some say that this is because the women of Israel did not offer their jewelry for the creation of the Golden Calf. As a result, they were given Rosh Chodesh as a day when they could abstain from work. To this day, some women refrain from some forms of labor on Rosh Chodesh. Others have connected the waxing and waning of the moon to a woman's menstrual cycle. Whatever the reason, Rosh Chodesh has long been a time for Jewish women to gather for a wide variety of activities, from reciting traditional liturgy to sharing a meal, discussing Jewish ethics, and working for social change.

May the new month of Shevat bring us health, happiness, and peace.

Blessings, Rabbi Nagel

1

## ROSH CHODESH PRAYER

By Rabbi Sheila Peltz Weinberg

Dear God, God of our mothers and fathers,

Renew us this month and this year

Direct us

Toward goodness and blessing

Toward the joyful

Toward liberation and challenge, as well as

Toward patience and consolation

Toward becoming ever more human beings.

Let us become capable of supporting ourselves,

Our families and friends,

Let us serve our community in dignity.

Direct us

Toward life and peace



## Never Forget

Editor's Note. I realize you will be reading this on or after January 28, 2020. However, I am preparing it on the 27th, which happens to be the 75th Anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. The radio show, [On Point](#) (on WMRA, our local NPR station), aired a segment during which a survivor, Anna Ornstein, told her and her family's story. It is a moving and touching show and particularly important because so few survivors are still living.



## Our Home

Sofar Neil Yerman will be bringing our Torah home. He arrives on Thursday, January 30, and will be staying at the Stonewall Jackson. He will bring our Torah at 8:00 am on Friday, January 31, so we can look it over and ask questions if we wish. The return of a Torah is, as Rabbi Nagel says, "exciting for the congregation. It is a significant financial endeavor and we should be proud of taking care of our most precious gift from God."



## We Are a Work in Progress







Thanks to generous donations from our members, we are making progress on the construction of the new entrance.

Back By Popular Demand!  
A new "class" with the Rabbi:  
**PROPHETS AND PROPHECY**

January 29 and February 5th @ 6:30-7:30 @THOI

Prophets and prophecy are integral to Judaism. According to our great sage, Rashi, there were 42 prophets and 7 prophetesses in Judaism.

Come for one, two, or both sessions as we define who is a prophet and how the prophets shaped Judaism.



# TU B'SHEVAT DISCUSSION AND TASTING

## THINK OF THE TREES

Bring your own lunch and join Rabbi Nagel as  
we learn about, celebrate and enjoy  
Tu B'Shevat snacks.

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**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2020**  
**12 PM**

**Temple House of Israel**





# THOI BOOK CLUB

Wednesday, February 19, 2020  
6:30 PM-Temple House of Israel

Read the Book and Join Us as We  
Discuss

## Dara Horn's A World to Come

Dara Horn interweaves a real art heist, history,  
biography, theology, and Yiddish literature.  
Richly satisfying, utterly unique, her novel opens  
the door to "the world to come"--not life after  
death



THOI is registered at [amazonsmile.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile).

When you shop at Amazon go to [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile) on your browser. A portion  
of the purchase price will be donated to THOI.

Total donated: to date: \$124.66. (We can do more!)





## WHAT? THE FLOCK?

Flock Your Friends and support the Women's Group!

Only \$15 or 2 for \$25 for a stealthy lawn placement and sign commemorating the event.

Contact Pam Dettelman



## THOI Needs you to host an Oneg or Two

[Click here to sign up to host](#)

Click here for the  
[Temple House of Israel January Bulletin](#)

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