

Come Join Us for Services

Please join us in person or virtually at one of our Shabbat services, held on the 1st Friday evening (7:00 pm) and 3rd Saturday morning (10:00 am) of every month - except July.

For High Holy Day services, we welcome all guests and visitors. Tickets are not required but we do ask that you consider making a donation.

We use the *Mishkan T'Filah* Reform prayer book for Shabbat and High Holy Day Services. Afterwards, we often gather in our social hall for *oneg* (fellowship and desserts), where you can meet members of our congregation and learn more about our community.



We also invite you to participate in our other programs and activities. You can find out more by checking the calendar on our website, where you can also sign up to receive our weekly email newsletter. For additional information on THOI or membership questions, please refer to our website for contact information.



If You Would Like to Make A Donation

THOI appreciates and relies on contributions from our members, friends, and community to help support our programs, activities, operate and maintain our historic building, keep up the grounds, and preserve our priceless Torahs. To make a donation please:

- Click the *Donate* button on our website homepage to access PayPal, or
- Mail a check payable to THOI, marked Attn: Treasurer

Donations can be made to celebrate a lifecycle event, honor or thank someone, in memory of a relative or friend, or as a gift of *Tzedakah*. We have established several Funds (listed when you click on the website *Donate* button) if you would like to designate your contribution to be used in a specific manner. Any unspecified donation will be deposited in the General Fund.



Temple House of Israel

Celebrating and sustaining Jewish life in a spiritual and welcoming community in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley



**Temple House of Israel
15 North Market Street
Staunton, VA 24401
(540) 886-4091**

**Mailing address:
P.O. Box 1412
Staunton, VA 24402-1412**

Website: <https://thoi.org>

About Us

From its beginning, Temple House of Israel (THOI) has been an integral part of the Jewish presence in Staunton and the surrounding towns, counties, and universities. We are a Reform congregation dedicated to perpetuate Jewish life and identity through a welcoming community of spirituality, learning, service, joy, and worship.

While THOI may be relatively small in number, we are strong at heart and vibrant in spirit. We offer a friendly, caring, and supportive environment, taking pride in our inclusive and diverse community. THOI welcomes Jews of all backgrounds - by birth, by choice, and at heart along with interfaith couples and families.

Congregational & Building History

Temple House of Israel congregation was founded in 1876 by Maj Alexander Hart, a Confederate veteran from New Orleans. T.J. Collins & Sons, the firm responsible for many of the historic buildings in Staunton, designed and began construction of our current, historic building - based on a Moorish style - in 1925.

The stained glass windows, by Charles Connick Associates of Boston, feature fruits and plants (olives, grapes, citrons, and pomegranates, etc.) found in Israel. The tiles at the base of the ark are from the Moravian Pottery and Tile Works in Doylestown, PA. Our building has been extended twice to accommodate a kitchen and enlarged social hall.

What THOI Offers

Every THOI member is treated as *mishpachah* (family). We join together to celebrate life-cycle and milestone occasions while offering comfort and support during times of need, sorrow, and mourning. In a small community such as ours, every voice is important and is heard. Members have the opportunity to participate in a full range of programs, services, and activities such as:

- Rabbinic spiritual counseling
- Adult Education including Torah study
- Book Club
- Women's Group
- Ritual Committee
- Holiday celebrations
- Ecumenical gathering
- Special congregational dinners
- THOI Library
- Judaica Shop
- Weekly THOI Newsletters
- THOI Cares

THOI Cemetery

In 1886, the congregation purchased land for a cemetery on what is now known as North Augusta Street. The cemetery, still in use today, has a beautiful mix of old and new monuments that memorialize members of our temple family. As is the Jewish tradition, special services are conducted throughout the year honoring our ancestors from Yizkor to opening and closing the Genizah.

Trustees of Temple House of Israel are the stewards of our sacred burial ground.

Meet Our Rabbi

Rabbi Randi C. Nagel joined the Temple House of Israel in 2019. She was born and raised in Youngstown, Ohio. While her rabbi recognized her rabbinic potential during her bat mitzvah - telling the congregation "*A future rabbi is standing before you.*" It was during her time at Boston University and then at Hebrew College in Brookline, Massachusetts that Rabbi Nagel realized the truth in that declaration. She attended the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion where she met her future husband, Rabbi Scott Nagel, who currently serves Congregation Beth Ahabah, in Richmond, Virginia.

Rabbi Nagel has a long record of rabbinic and pastoral service: she was student rabbi in Beckley, West Virginia; Sandusky, Ohio; and Cincinnati, Ohio, Associate Director of Jewish Life at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Baltimore, Adjunct Clergy at the Temple Oheb Shalom, Staff Chaplain at two Lifebridge Health System Hospitals (Sinai and Northwest), and the Jewish Chaplain and Staff Educator for Seasons Hospice for the entire Baltimore Metro area. Most recently she served as the staff chaplain at the Life Care Shalom Senior Living in Richmond.

The Nagels moved to Virginia in July 2016 with their three sons: Daniel, Lev, and Ari. Rabbi Nagel has a passion for working with small congregations and enjoys outreach into the greater community.