



Temple House of Israel Bulletin

A Member Congregation of the Union for Reform Judaism
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www.thoi.org

Our mission is to perpetuate Jewish life and identity through a welcoming community of spirituality, learning, service, joy and worship

OCTOBER 2015 / TISHREI – CHESHVAN 5776

President's Message

The holidays are now in the past. The Rosh Hashana meal was a great success as were the services with the new prayer books. There are already people to thank: the women's group for hosting the meal prior to beginning Rosh Hashana and generally being ready to try something new or something once again. This kind of commitment is important in a religious organization that forms around personal relationships. Special thanks go to Elizabeth Schwartz for initiating the opening event and carrying through in a superb manner. The Yom Kippur services and meal also went well. I believe we had five kugels at the break-the-fast meal! Sounds like a good number to me. Thanks to all who came, prayed, and stayed to eat.

As you now know, Rabbi Sue Elwell has decided to leave our congregation after twenty years of providing us with high holidays services. Newly retired, she has other options she wants to try out in her life. We will be seeking another rabbi to share the duties with Rabbi Joe for next year.

I also want to thank our congregation for making visitors feel so welcome. It is heartening to see new faces, usually apprehensive, relax into smiles as they are invited to share a pew or an oneg with us. Thank you all for treating others the way you would like to be treated.

Would you like to do something new? How about a book group? October 17 at 11 am is a beginning attempt at a temple book group, led by Leah Farmer. The first book is *The Hare with Amber Eyes* by Edmund DeWaal. This non-fiction book is about a family and a collection of Japanese figurines. It encompasses Russia, Europe, World War II and the present. Just show up and listen if nothing else.

Secondly, think about blowing the shofar at next year's services. We need to relieve Laura Mandeles of this task. She already does so much. Please contact me or Rich Young if you want to develop this skill.

Three come to a discussion at the temple based around the title "The Anthropology of Evil". The class, under Osher Life-Long Learning Institute's Stephen Kennemer, studies the nature of evil throughout history and literature in an attempt to understand it. October 14 – November 18, 7-9 pm, pay what you will, in the social hall. Go to LectureSeries@hotmail.com to ask questions or to sign up.

Four, think about assuming a place on the temple Board of Directors. The change-over is in June. What can you do?

Rosalie Waterman, temple president

From the Rabbi's Desk

Dear Temple House of Israel Congregations and Friends,

I hope that the High Holy days were a time of joyous celebration, fruitful self-examination, and meaningful Teshuvah for each of you, as they were for me. I enjoyed the opportunity to spend a part of each of the holidays with you.

Following Simchat Torah on October 6th, there is a bit of a break ahead in the calendar, following this period of intensity, and the religious and emotional roller coaster we have been riding for the past month. Sukkot starts the evening of September 27th, and continues until Hoshanah Rabbah on October 4th, Shemini Atzeret on the 5th and Simchat Torah on the 6th.

From the Rabbi's Desk (con't)

I hope you will hold some time open in the coming months. Here is a short list of a few items that are coming up that may be of interest.

- I will again be offering the free five session Introduction to Hebrew class in the period of October to December. This course will run on Wednesday evenings in Harrisonburg from 6-9:30 pm, starting October 7th. In Staunton, the course will run on Sunday afternoons from 3:30-6:30, starting November 8th. You are welcome to let others know, I am happy to include anyone who wishes to learn the Hebrew Alefbet and vowels, so that they can decode the language.
- Beginning on October 8th at 10 am to noon I will be offering a Special Interest Group (SIG) option through the JMU Lifelong Learning Institute. This will be a participatory class over five months examining and working on creating an Ethical Will. The course is open to registrants through the JMU LLI office, and I have reserved some of the spaces for congregants. The focus of this group is on hands-on workshop, with support and sharing by those participating.
- I will be offering a course through the JMU Lifelong Learning Institute on Thursday at 1-3 starting October 22 in Harrisonburg. This is a brief survey on Women in the Tanakh (looking at the stories that are usually bypassed – pretty racy, and NEVER taught in religious school!). Congregants are invited to participate. For information and to register, please visit the website at <http://www.jmu.edu/outreach/programs/all/lli/>. There is a link on that page to the program guide for Fall 2015.
- I will be teaching a course through the UVA Osher Lifelong Learning Institute on Mondays at 1-3 starting October 26th in Charlottesville. This is a continuation of the "Judaism on One Foot: Ask the Rabbi" course from last year. Congregants are invited to participate. For information and to register please visit <http://www.olluva.org> and check out the catalog, or use one of the links on the website to register.
- October 30th, our Friday night service is also Fall Community Awareness Shabbat. Please invite anyone you know who might be interested in observing a Jewish Shabbat service, and tell them to bring their questions.

The Torah Parashiot for the coming weeks are Sukkot, Bereshit, Noach, Lech Lecha, Vayera, and Chayei Sarah.

Rosh Chodesh for Cheshvan will be on October 13th and 14th.

May you find many blessings in this year in all the aspects of your life.

Contacting the Rabbi

Please Note: Rabbi Joe may be reached by email at RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com. (Other email addresses may not reach him in a timely fashion or at all.) He reads email regularly, except on Jewish Holidays or Shabbat, when he does not use the computer.

His cell phone number is 925-272-8563 (925-2-RAVJOE).

Telephone messages left at the Congregation number are only checked periodically.

PLEASE CALL if you have any urgent messages or in case of an emergency, and please let Rabbi Joe know if you or anyone you know is ill or would welcome a call or visit for any reason. You are also invited to contact Rabbi Joe to arrange an appointment to meet.

Rabbi Joe will be happy to make an appointment to speak with you, so that he can offer you his full, undivided attention.

Things of note

- Our temple is holding a class called **The Anthropology of Evil**, given by Stephen Kennemer. It will be held at the temple on Wednesdays, October 14 - November 18, from 7 pm-9 pm. It is pay what you will and is open to everyone in the Staunton community.

This course is an inquiry into how to define evil. Evil will be examined from sociological, psychological, biological, and theological perspectives. Both person evil and evil done by groups, tribes, and nations will be considered. We will entertain the question of when human moral evil arose and what its history has been and attempt to account for evil of psychopaths and ordinary, law-abiding citizens. We will examine a wide variety of historical events as well as fictional treatments of evil. Finally we will ask if evil can be prevented.

This course is developed and taught by Stephen Kennemer, who is well-known and respected in the community. Stephen holds a BS from Virginia Commonwealth University. He is a lifelong educator, a teacher at both high school and college level. He is a former music and sometime drama critic for the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Questions or to sign up: LectureSeries@hotmail.com.

- **Remember when you shop at Amazon, go to our thoi.org website first and click on Amazon Smile to place your order. That way you get whatever it is you want and the temple gets a small rebate.**
- A reminder for mentioning names at yahrzeits: If you want your loved one's names entered into our red Book of Life, from which we read at each service, please give us the name of your loved one, their date of death (Hebrew and/or English date) and your check for \$50 per loved one. This information should be sent to Rosalie Waterman c/o THOI, P.O. Box 1412, Staunton VA 24402.

The Women's Group

Members of the Women's Group spent a busy August and September preparing for the High Holidays. Some activities undertaken included hosting an Erev Rosh Hashanah potluck dinner (attended by over 40 people!), preparing the sanctuary with prayer books and changing the drape in the ark as well as the Torah covers, greeting members and guests, organizing honors for all services, and finally coordinating the Break the Fast meal following Yom Kippur services. Thanks to all who participated in preparing and partaking of the many community opportunities during the High Holidays.

The Women's Group is hosting a book discussion for those interested in reading Edmund de Waal's ***The Hare with Amber Eyes***, on **Saturday, October 17th at 11am**. Come prepared to continue our discussion over lunch at a local restaurant or just socialize. There may be a spare copy or two of the book to loan if you would like to participate but do not have access to a book.

Finally, our **next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 11th at 2pm**. We will meet at the temple to discuss upcoming events such as the Chanukah dinner and silent auction, yard sale in the spring, and other fun and exciting events. Please join us!

Wouldn't you love to see twelve (12) **bright pink plastic flamingoes** in someone else's yard? For only \$25, you can have them stealthfully placed in the yard of a local friend, relative, neighbor, etc. along with your message telling them why they have been "flocked" (e.g. happy birthday, anniversary, thank you or Mazel Tov or just on account of because!!) These adorable flamingoes will visit for 24 hours and then be picked up by someone from the stealth flamingo flocking team. To order a flocking, please contact: Debbie Jacobs at: deb1130@hotmail.com or Beth Young at: bydesign1993@gmail.com

Religious School

L'shanah Tovah!

Religious school is off to a great start! On Sunday August 30, a group of 20 dalet students, SHORTY members, and parents, joined with Rabbi Joe to visit our nation's capital. After lunch at Chutzpah Delicatessen in northern Virginia, we took a tour of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum and visited the Washington Monument. It was a humbling and meaningful learning opportunity for our students!

On Sunday September 6th, we enjoyed our first day of religious school! The calendar was not entirely kind to us as religious school started on Labor Day weekend and week two was Rosh Hashanah, and so week three was our parent's meeting. We welcomed one new family and two new kindergartners to Religious School this year! Our exceptional teaching staff will work together to create a fun-filled learning environment as our children create deeper connections to the history, holidays, stories, and life cycle of Judaism while learning Hebrew liturgy.

Please join us on October 4th for a celebration of Simchat Torah beginning at 11 am in the Sanctuary!

If you have any questions about religious school or have students interested in enrolling, please contact Dara Hall, principal, at mddmhall@verizon.net.

L'shalom,
Dara

SHORTY

L'shanah Tovah!

NFTY-MAR's Jewish Educational Leadership and Learning (JELLO) took place the weekend of September 18th-20th. Our youth group leader attended with two of our members. It seems like it was a lot of fun with great new memories!

SHORTY has a busy year planned with lots of fun events for all Jewish youth post b'nai mitzvah (or over the age of 13). If you are interested in joining, please contact Becky Mintzer at rem82398@aol.com.

October Yahrzeits

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Annette Biatch | Nina Finkel | Shirley Goldenberg |
| Morris Geller | Samuel Goldenberg | Gussie Greenspan |
| Nathan Harrison | Joseph Kaplan | Annie Klotz |
| Mary Kravitz | Leonard Legum | Kenneth Lussen |
| Irving Schwartz | Henrietta Siegel | Benjamin Sragovitz |
| Babette Switzer | Moses Walters | Daughter of M&R Walters |
| Leon Weinberg | | |

Celebrations

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Chuck Fox, celebrating a birthday on October 5th

Elias Gardner is 7 years old on October 9th

Marsha Pillet is celebrating on October 21st

Paul Klein's birthday is October 22nd

Benn Legum's birthday is October 23rd

Bonnie Brown celebrates on October 28th

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY and CONGRATULATIONS TO :

Paul and Diane Klein celebrating 53 years on October 12th. Wow!

Steve and Catherine Rosenberg will be married 25 years on October 27th.

Board Contacts

Rosalie Waterman - president drwaterman@comcast.net 886-1713
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 Trustee - Doug Degen dbd@ntelos.net 886-8651
 Trustee - Alan Goldenberg adgvlq@gmail.com 885-6878
 Trustee - Richard Young richardfyoung@gmail.com 885-1481
 Past President – Beth Young bydesign1993@gmail.com 885-1481
 Rabbi Joe Blair RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com 925-272-8563

October Calendar and Services

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|--|----|----|---|--|---|-----------------------------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 Shabbat Services 7:30 | 3 |
| 4 Religious School | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 Heifetz concert 7:30 @ MBC | 9 | 10 |
| 11 Women's Group Meet at 2:00 | 12 | 13 | 14 Board Meet 5:30; Anthropology of Evil 7:00 | 15 | 16 Shabbat Services 7:30 | 17 Book Club at 11:00 |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 Anthropology of Evil 7:00 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 Anthropology of Evil 7:00 | 29 | 30 Community Awareness Shabbat 7:30 | 31 |

Oneg hosts for October 16: Leah and Linda
 Oneg hosts for October 30: Michelle and Sue