



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 2015 /SIVAN–TAMMUZ-AV 5775

Congregational Annual Meeting

Sunday, May 31 at 5 pm will be our annual congregational meeting, beginning with a meat potluck dinner. (No dairy products) Those members with names F-J should bring desserts. Everyone else brings either a salad or a main dish. **The meeting will be at 6.** As we did last year, most of the reports will go out ahead of time so the meeting can move expeditiously without time needed to read each report at the meeting. The only item on the agenda besides the reports is to vote on next year's slate of officers. The bylaws require two thirds of our members either to be present or to have submitted proxy forms to someone attending the meeting. Proxy forms will be sent out later in May for that purpose. Remember a family membership = two votes.

The Slate of Officers follows:

President - Rosalie Waterman
VP. Membership – Debbie Jacobs
VP. Bldgs & Grounds – David Waterman
Secretary – Carla Donley
Treasurer – Ellen Boden
At-Large – Leah Farmer and Kay Stohr

Trustees:
Doug Degen
Alan Goldenberg
Richard Young

President's Message

For me, June is a time to look back at the previous year, and it is also a time to look ahead to our next year. Specifically I am thinking about the high holidays. Are there things you would change about the services - anything at all? Please let me know now so we can incorporate your ideas into the planning.

Secondly, please consider which temple board position you are willing to fill. Next year (2016), most of the positions will be open. Please consider relieving those who are currently serving.

If you check your calendar, you will see that we have services until the end of July. June's services are on June 13 (Havdalah), June 19, July 17 and July 24. Please plan to attend a few of these services. You also might want to spend some time visiting a friend who cannot get out, re-establishing old ties. The opportunity for mitzvahs is all around.

Summer is our reward for the cold misery of winter. Enjoy.

Rosalie Waterman
Temple President

From the Rabbi's Desk

Dear Temple House of Israel Congregants and Friends,

First, let me thank all of you who have welcomed me back and asked about my travels. I am very glad to be home. There is clearly a reason that the words travel and travail are related. I love being there, but not getting there – and the airline companies don't make it easy to think kindly of them. ☺ The entire trip was incredibly educational and helpful. I learned so very many things, most of which will be useful in our community, as well as help me to learn and grow as a person, as a leader, as a teacher, and as a member of a Chevrah Kadisha. My sense of meaning, purpose and commitment was refreshed, and I am ready to engage in mitzvah and community building afresh in supports of the ideals and vision that this study mission touched and helped strengthen.

From the Rabbi's Desk (con't.)

The trip was in three segments: A New York component, a Prague/Czech Republic component and an Israel component. The Israel component had both a Tsefat (Safed) and a Jerusalem focus. Each component had a different focus, a different feeling and a different set of lessons. I hope to share those lessons with congregants over the coming year.

I will offer two stories of very different things here as an example, both from the New York component. First, we had a special pre-arranged tour of the Ellis Island hospital, morgue and cemetery area – not part of the usual tour. The hospital complex was simply abandoned, and only recently is in partial renovation, and in part is not thought to be repairable, so we were obliged to sign waivers, wear hardhats and stay in specific areas. Our guide was an historian who works at Ellis Island, but for the State of New Jersey (that state owns much of the Ellis Island area, only a small section is actually in New York), who did significant specialized research in advance of our trip about Jewish patients and burial of those who died on Ellis Island. In short, the hospital provided Kosher meals on request, sponsored Jewish religious services, brought in Jewish chaplains, and engaged the Jewish community to perform burial rituals for anyone identified as Jewish, and the Jewish community in New York and New Jersey was involved. We were able to see the operating theater, both the infectious disease and other wards, patient rooms and furniture, much of the structure and the grounds of the hospital. Our guide debunked a few of the myths about Ellis Island: for example, names were not changed there, that was done months before people ever boarded a ship by the steamship company employees when passage was booked; taxpayers did not pay for those at Ellis Island, that come from the steamship companies that charged a price for tickets that would defray the expenses of anyone detained at Ellis Island (or other ports) and for passage back for the 1-2% of those refused entry. What was amazing was that the Jewish community, small and poor as it may have been at times, still reached out and took care of the needs of those immigrants it never knew, at a time and in a place that was out of sight.

Second, we spent time in New York with members of the Orthodox/Haredi community. The man we met headed up the volunteer organization that sends out first responders to accidents with Jewish victims to collect all blood and body parts so that the person can be buried as fully as possible. This includes everything from searching for body parts and pieces at accident scenes, to identifying and collecting spilled blood in the area, and preparing the body ritually. These men are what we might call "Ultra-Orthodox", but they received us with respect because we share the value of the mitzvot of Shmirah and Taharah. The woman we met is from one Orthodox sect, but serves on the Chevrot Kadisha for multiple sects, offering her knowledge and expertise to anyone who may need it. She "doesn't work" out of the house and receives no pay, but she is involved in Taharot (ritual purifications) around the clock, any time of day or night, as many as a dozen a week, as well as serving as the coordinator for multiple Chevrot Kadisha, and her husband and children support her work with these mitzvot. What this taught me is the Jews, no matter what their level of observance, can share and connect around the values of Mitzvot and love of Jews and Judaism. I was in awe of these people (and others) I met and proud that our community can stand with them and offer the same care and loving treatment of our members, so that we are on par with them in our values and our actions. There is so much more to say, but it is impossible to say it in the space available. Suffice it to say that I was enriched and hope to share that experience with many others.

What I want to share now is that the experience has confirmed fully the value, dignity and worth of the Jewish way in death and dying. I fully believe that every Jew should be offered the opportunity to be treated with the care, kindness respect and honor that is represented by the Chevrah Kadisha and Jewish burial customs, and that those who mourn should be supported and comforted by the Chevrah Kadisha and the Community in which they live with the sensitivity and concern that Jewish traditions offer. As well-meaning and respectful as may be those who follow other traditions, I feel that even at the best what they do lacks the dignity, simplicity, honesty and sensitivity that Jewish practices offer and represent. Jewish burial and mourning practices are significantly lower cost, green (environmentally sensitive) and dignified, support Jewish values of the worth of every human being (each of us being B'tzelem Elohim) – both body and soul, and provide honor and respect to the deceased and support and comfort to the mourners. There is deep wisdom and much experience encapsulated in the Jewish approach and I would like to see it available to and embraced by all in our community. This is a long-term goal we should work together to make a reality.

Things of note

It is already time to begin planning for the coming congregational year. A calendar planning meeting is scheduled for the last week in June, at which time we will begin to cement in the major building blocks of communal activities: holidays, celebrations, community awareness Shabbatot, Shabbat services and major activities, and then fill in with plans for Religious School, educational events and other things as they arise. If you have any suggestions or input for the calendar, please speak to me or to Rosalie between now and June 19th so it can be factored in as we make these plans.

The Torah Parashiot for the coming weeks are Be'ha'alotecha, She'lach, Korach, Chukat, Balak, and Pinchas. Rosh Chodesh Sivan was on May 19th. Rosh Chodesh Tamuz will be on June 17th and 18th. Rosh Chodesh for Av is July 17th. We are in year 2 of the triennial cycle (the middle or second part of the cycle).

Rabbi's Message

As the current congregational year winds down and we plan for and look towards the coming year, may we all engage not only with the activities and events that go on our calendar, but with the relevant words of Torah, with the hope that those words will become holy sparks that alight and enlighten our days and nights, and that then rise up and are reunited with the divine source from which they come. May it be so.

B'virkat Shalom,
Rabbi Joe Blair

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

Special Award

Rabbi Lynne Landsberg will be recognized for her years of service on behalf of people with disabilities with the inaugural Thornburgh Family Award. The award will be presented by the Interfaith Disability Advocacy Coalition, a program of the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD). Rabbi Landsberg will receive the award at "From Access to Inclusion", an interfaith service at First Trinity Lutheran Church, Washington DC on July 26, 2015, the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), by President George H.W. Bush. "... we are thrilled to present this award to Rabbi Landsberg. Her passion and commitment to creating inclusive places of worship has ensured more people with disabilities are getting an opportunity to worship and participate in congregational activities that are welcoming and accessible. She is Senior Advisor on Disability Rights for the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism in Washington DC, co-founder of the Jewish Disability Network, and founder and co-chair of the CCAR Committee on Disability Awareness and Inclusion. She is co-founder of Hineinu: Jewish Community for People of All Abilities, a historic and innovative collaboration of the Conservative, Orthodox, Reconstructionist and Reform Jewish Movement as well as Chabad.

The Thornburgh Family Award recognizes a religious leader who exemplifies the spirit of the ADA as demonstrated by Dick and Ginny Thornburgh's efforts to expand opportunities for people with disabilities. As U.S. Attorney General, Dick Thornburgh was tapped by then-President Bush to negotiate with Congress over legislation that became the ADA.



The Women's Group

Many of us met for lunch at the Purple Foot for a nice, social gathering with no agenda. It was fun!

Our group met in May to discuss future activities: a fall book club discussion; a self-defense class for women; a "dress for success clothing drive"; with more plans to come.

Our next meeting will be a short one on Sunday, June 28th at 2:00 pm.

Immediately following the meeting, Ruth Chodrow will be giving an introductory class on **Hebrew Calligraphy** on Sunday, June 28 at 3 P.M. **All are welcome to attend.** You DO NOT need any knowledge of Hebrew; you DO NOT need any knowledge of calligraphy. You'll learn a basic alphabet and go home with a hand-calligraphed bookmark with your Hebrew name (or anything else you want) on it. If you can hold a pen, you can do Hebrew calligraphy! All materials will be provided - just let Ruth know at [540-886-2252](tel:540-886-2252) or rchodrow@gmail.com if you're coming.

July 8th we'll celebrate summer at the Gypsy Hill Bandstand enjoying a **potluck dinner** we listen to the **Stonewall Brigade Band** performance. (Ed note: Rosalie plays sax)

A HUGE THANK YOU to Ellen Werther who has led the Women's Group for the past (almost) 2 years. And Mazel Tov to Ellen for increasing her business to the extent that she'd like to become Madame President Emeritus.

Now it's someone else's turn to lead. Please consider serving as president or secretary/treasurer of the Women's Group. Contact Ellen at junetenth1935@gmail.com if you interested. It doesn't take that much time and we need someone to herd us cats.

June Celebrations

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Karen Blair celebrating on June 1st

Sam Brown on the June 2nd

Nancy Witt on the 13th

Ken Schwartz on the 20th

Mike Brown on the 25th

Shirley Brand on the 28th

Ellen Schorsch on the 30th

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

Alan & Vicki Goldenberg celebrating on June 6th

Ellen & Dan Schorsch celebrating 56 years together June 14th

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Marsha Conner celebrating on July 2nd

Elizabeth Schwartz celebrates her birthday on July 8th

Byron Grove Humphries on the 14th

Lynne Landsberg celebrates her birthday on July 21st

Patty Sutker also celebrates on the 21st

Margie Schwartz celebrates on July 25th

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:

Patty and Larry Sutker celebrating with July 4th fireworks!

Martha and Doug Degen celebrating on July 30th

July Celebrations

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

- ❖ Philip Chodrow, son of Ruth Chodrow, will be starting graduate school in the fall. He'll be attending the Operations Research Center at MIT. Operations Research is a branch of applied mathematics that focuses on decision-making problems. His long-time girlfriend, Rose Morris-Wright, will start graduate study at Brandeis in the Department of Mathematics. The two of them will be living in Cambridge.
- ❖ Come hear Ruth Chodrow play! Her group, Trio Dolce, will present a program of music for recorder, keyboard and viola da gamba at the Staunton Senior Center (the old Lee High Building on Churchville Avenue) on Thursday, May 28 at 12:15 P.M. Ruth will be playing recorder, along with local musicians Jerry Bryant on keyboard and Mac Warford on viola da gamba and percussion. The program will include Baroque sonatas, Renaissance dances, and folk tunes. All are welcome to attend.

Religious School

We wrapped up the end of the religious school year with a fun-filled day at Oakdale Park in Bridgewater. Lag B'Omer was celebrated with Maccabean games organized by our youth group, SHORTY. They did a wonderful job engaging students with relay races, water balloon tosses, soccer, hula hoops and more!! Everyone had a super time! A delicious potluck lunch was enjoyed by students and parents. Thanks so much to everyone for ending the school year with such a great event!

In August, our dalet students from this year and our rising dalet students will join SHORTY members on a field trip to Washington DC to visit the Holocaust Museum and the Washington Monument. More information to come.

An informational email will be sent the first week of August about registration for 2015-2016 religious school year. If any new families/children are considering joining us – please contact Dara Hall, Principal at mddmhall@verizon.net.

SHORTY

On Friday, June 5th, SHORTY will lead services. Please come join them in worship at Beth El at 7:30 pm. We will be looking forward to many summer SHORTY events. If there are any teens interested in joining, please contact the youth group advisor, Becky Mintzer, at rem82398@aol.com.

June Yahrzeits

Gertrude Barber	Charles Becher	Bertha Brand	Elan Brand
Bernard Bresky	Frederick Cohn	Howard Goldenberg	Aaron Hewitt
Fannie Goldstein	Henry Heilbronner	Samuel Jacobsen	Dora Klotz
Mollie Kamerman	Samuel Kamerman	Bernard Kaplan	Ida Rosen
Herbert Kaslow	Bessie Landsberg	Infant Sam Levy	Philip Levin
Bertha Mindell	Frieda Mordetsky	Archie Prince	Bess Rosen
Jerry Schwartz	Dr. Sol Simon	Betty Jo Snyder	Harry Witt
Erwin Solomon	Abraham Switzer	David Switzer	

June-July Calendar and Services

May 31 Congr. Annual Meet at 6; Dinner at 5	June 1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Havdalah service
14	15	16	17 Board Meet 7:00	18	19 Shabbat Service 7:30	20
21 Father's Day	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	July 1	2	3	4 Independence Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 Board Meet 7:00	16	17 Shabbat Service 7:30	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 Shabbat Service 7:30	25
26	27	28	28	30	31	

Oneg hosts for June 13: Ruth and Vera

Oneg hosts for June 19: The Brands and Michelle Clark

Oneg hosts for July 17: The Browns and Greg Cizek

Oneg hosts for July 24: Leah Farmer and Doug Degen

July Yahrzeits

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

Board Contacts

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HAPPY SUMMER TO EVERYONE!



