



# Temple House of Israel Bulletin

A Member Congregation of the Union for Reform Judaism  
15 North Market Street, Staunton, VA 24401 (540) 886-4091  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1412, Staunton, VA 24402  
[www.thoi.org](http://www.thoi.org)

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

**FEBRUARY 2016 / SHEVAT - ADAR I 5776**

## President's Message

Dear Congregants and Friends,

Welcome to February, a month that is sometimes hard to like. You have received your dues bills by now. Notice, please, that you can contact Patty Sutker, our new treasurer, to request a change in your assessment. Adding an additional amount for the building fund is especially helpful this year as we have an anonymous donor who will match your amount! Whatever amount you send is tax deductible as well.

As you know, dues only cover about 30% of our operating expenses. We have survived through these many years because members have donated generously to keep us alive. Please keep us in mind as you plan for 2016 and beyond.

I would like to thank Reverend Reed Hopkins of Loch Willow Presbyterian Church for his January 8 well-considered sermon about the "God is great; God is good" relationship. We enjoyed having him and some of his congregation in attendance that night.

We have an assortment of religious services for February. On Saturday morning, February 6, we have Reverend Paul Oakley of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Waynesboro assisting Rabbi Joe in the service. Then on February 19 we have our second Community Awareness Shabbat at 7:30 pm. Lastly, on Saturday February 27 we have a brief Saturday evening Havdalah service followed by a discussion with Katharine Lowe, chaplain of Mary Baldwin College. (The topic will follow.) Something for everyone.

Lastly, we will after all have a yard sale, March 11 and 13. Please gather together your donations and contact Elizabeth Schwartz (886-9222) or any other member of the Women's Group for drop off information.

Questions or comments? Call me at 886-1713.

Rosalie Waterman, temple president

## From the Rabbi's Desk

Dear Temple House of Israel Congregants and Friends,

New (secular) year, new flavor for this report. Trying something different.

One of the highlights of the past month for me was the first Death Café, hosted at THOI on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Thirty-eight people expressed interest, and twenty-four people came together with the sole purpose of talking to each other about death. This is a project that is international in scope, and which aims to move death from being a taboo subject to discuss by offering a safe place in which to talk about it; to raise fears, share experiences and thoughts, express concerns and be heard without judgement. This approach has been used in over 2500 official events (and probably many more unofficially) worldwide since 2011. It is never possible to know where the conversation will go because it depends on who attends the session, but it seems to always touch on important and meaningful matters. To keep the tone from being too somber or morbid, the prompt questions, the title of the event, and the inclusion of food and drink are intended to lighten the mood and minimize any feelings of threat or anxiety.

If you were not present at the first session, I suggest you consider attending one of the upcoming events. We have five more, each on the first Wednesday of the month from 7 to 9 pm. The next two will be at THOI and the three following that (starting in April) will be in Harrisonburg at Beth El. Feel free to be in touch with me: call my cell phone number, email [DeathCafeoftheShenandoahValley@gmail.com](mailto:DeathCafeoftheShenandoahValley@gmail.com), or check the Facebook page for the Death Café of the Shenandoah Valley group.

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

Another highlight was the pulpit exchange with Rev. Reed Hopkins of Loch Willow Presbyterian Church. This was the first of several pulpit exchanges this year in which I trade pulpits with the pastor, priest, or minister at a Church. My guest delivers a sermon (what we would consider a Devar Torah or Drash) to the THOI community at one of our scheduled services, and I deliver a sermon (or otherwise participate in their activities) for their congregation.

In February:

- I have been asked to present a lecture to a religion class at Washington and Lee University.
- For a Hebrew Grammar class, I am looking forward to working with and supporting Caleb Payne as he teaches a four session course on Elementary Biblical Hebrew Grammar. This is for those who already know how to decode (sound out the letters and vowels), and want to take it up a notch, working with roots, grammatical constructs, prefixes, how words are formed and changed by the vowels chosen, and more. I am also very excited because he has chosen to teach using the Akedah, the binding of Isaac as the text, and to approach it each week from a different level of the four world model (often referred to as the PaRDeS). If none of that makes sense now, don't worry – it will all be clear once you take this free course. It will meet Sunday afternoons from 3:30 to 5, on January 31<sup>st</sup>, and February 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup>. RSVP to Rabbi Joe – the class size is limited - don't delay!
- The second Death Café event is scheduled February 3<sup>rd</sup>. NO RSVP required. Please just come at 7-9 pm. Join the Conversation.
- The third pulpit exchange will take place on Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, when Rev. Pal Oakley from the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waynesboro will address THOI congregants. You may remember him from the very successful Havdalah and Conversation event in November. I will speak at his Church on Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Two events on February 16<sup>th</sup>: I am participating in a panel discussion for an interfaith event at Bridgewater College. I will also be lecturing at Mary Baldwin to an Honors course on Judaism and Uncertainty.
- February 19<sup>th</sup> is the Spring Community Awareness Shabbat service. Please remember to invite anyone you know who may be curious or interested in joining us for that service.
- On February 27<sup>th</sup>, Saturday evening at 7 pm, we will have our next Havdalah and Conversation event. My guest this time will be Rev. Katherine Low. She joined me last year for the first event of this type and it was a blast. I am sure it will be an interesting and fun evening again.

The Torah Parashiot for the coming weeks are Beshalach, Yitro, Mishpatim, Terumah, Tetzaveh and Ki Tisa. We are in year 3 of the triennial cycle (the third or last part of the cycle of Torah readings).

Tu B'Shevat (the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month), the celebration of Trees, falls on the evening of January 24<sup>th</sup>. Rosh Chodesh for Adar I is February 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

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## Rabbi's Message

The calendar of events is very full this month, and I hope you find much that appeals to you. I hope to see you at a variety of events. May you be healthy and strong, aware of the blessings around you, and able to appreciate all the tiny miracles that appear in life each day.

Rabbi Joe Blair

## Contacting the Rabbi

Please Note: Rabbi Joe may be reached by email at [RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com](mailto: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 note: **any other number you may have is no longer active**. Telephone messages left at the Congregation number are only checked sporadically.

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

Check out the continually updated **thoi.org** website and thank Carla Donley for keeping it up for us.

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.

All members are encouraged to visit the **THOI Facebook page** and comment, like or share postings. Social media is a great way to reach out to the larger pool of friends and potential members.

## February Celebrations



Jesse Brand celebrates his birthday on February 2<sup>nd</sup>

Freddie Goldenberg celebrates on the 8<sup>th</sup>

Sara Brody celebrates on the 13<sup>th</sup>

Kasey Goldenberg celebrates her birthday on February 24<sup>th</sup>

David Waterman will celebrate 17 dates of birth on February 29 (but counting additional years between leap years, this will mark 68 !)

Vera Flint will be celebrating 87 years old on February 17<sup>th</sup>

She's still walking the park every day (except for snow and ice) working out at the "Y" with weights, going to water class, line dancing and also shelving books at the Talking Book Center. She admits to possibly being a might bit slower but still enjoying going out to concerts, restaurants and on trips.

MAZEL TOV and HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO KEN and ELIZABETH SCHWARTZ  
Celebrating their many years together on February 12<sup>th</sup> .

## Donations

Thanks to those who have generously contributed to Temple House of Israel during the past month:

In memory of Frederica (Weinberg) and Milton Kronsberg,  
Fannie Barth Strauss, Irvin and Ethel Weinberg, Abraham  
and Johanna Weinberg and Flora Barth .....

Mickey and Jeff Rosenblum  
In memory of Susan Webb .....

James and Margaret Weston  
In memory of Gil Landsberg .....

Richard and Rochelle Christensen  
..... Beth and Rich Young  
For the general fund .....

Larry and Patty Sutker  
..... Stuart Davidson and Ann Cohen

## The Women's Group

We will have our biennial **YARD SALE** on **Friday, March 11, 7:30 am– 11:30 am** and continuing on **Sunday, March 13, 12 noon – 2 pm**. Please save and bring to us your gently used jewelry, small furniture, linens, decorative items, kitchen items, china, electrical items that work, clothing (clean and repaired), children's books and toys. **Collection dates are February 6, from 10:00-2 :00** during our Saturday service, **February 7, 2:00-3:30** during our Women's Group meeting, **March 5, 10:00 – 2:00** during our Saturday service and **March 6, 2:00-3:30** during our Women's Group meeting. If you need to arrange a different time, please contact Elizabeth ([curo44@gmail.com](mailto:curo44@gmail.com)) or Rosalie (886-1713 or [drwaterman@comcast.net](mailto:drwaterman@comcast.net)). In addition to needing help for the 2 days of the sale, we will also need help with set up on Thursday, March 10 and tear down on March 14. Everyone can help with this fundraiser!

While you're culling through your belongings for potential yard sale items, we are beginning a **"Dress for Success"** collection in partnership with **New Directions**. Women's professional and nice casual clothing and accessories will be collected and then donated to women from the shelter in need clothes for jobs or interviews.

Two meetings are coming up in the month of February:

- The Women's Group monthly meeting will be on Sunday, February 7 at 2:00 pm at the temple
- The next book discussion will be Saturday, February 20 at 11 am at the temple. We will read ***The Coffee Trader*** by David Liss. Please let Bonny Strassler know if you plan to come.



For only \$25, the flamingoes are always ready, willing and able to congregate in a yard of your choosing.... Your friends and neighbors would love to be recognized!

## NEWS FROM THE PEWS

- Ann Cohen and her daughter Anita worked with the Red Cross in Vienna, Austria, serving meals to the refugees from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. She reported that there were 800 refugees with over 200 children fleeing from unimaginable violence at the end of January. On behalf of the congregation and the refugees, THANK YOU!
- Refuah shelemah bimheyra - Prayers for Healing & Wholeness to Shirley Brand, Leah Farmer, Steve Guberman, Rabbi Lynne Landsberg, Jim Osborne, Dan Schorsch, Ellen Werther and Nancy Witt.
- Nesia Tovah – Safe Travels to Linda Blazer and Jim Osborne, Michelle Clark, Debbie Jacobs and Nadia Webb
- CONGRATULATIONS to Zachary Jones, grandson of Ellen and Dan Schorsch and son of Linda and Steve, who will be spending the next 5 months in Israel starting a baseball program there. His 5 month assignment was arranged through Virginia Tech's Hillel program. Way to go Zachary!

## February Calendar and Services

31 Biblical Hebrew Grammar 3:30-5:00	1	2	3 Death Café 7 – 9 pm	4	5	6 Shabbat Services at 10 pulpit exchge Paul Oakley, UU
7 Women's Group 2:00  Biblical Hebrew Grammar 3:30-5:00	8	9	10 7 pm Temple Board meet	11	12	13
14 Biblical Hebrew Grammar 3:30-5:00	15	16	17	18	19 Community Awareness Shabbat Services 7:30	20 11 am Book Discussion
21 Biblical Hebrew Grammar 3:30-5:00	22	23	24	25	26	27 7 p Havdalah w/ discussion Katharine Low, MBC
28	29					

## Religious School

Happy Leap Year! Hoping all 29 days of February treat you well!  
Religious school is back in full swing. We will (weather permitting) be enjoying a Tu Be'shevat seder on Sunday January 24<sup>th</sup> (Snow Date on the 31<sup>st</sup>). We will celebrate our teachers on January 29<sup>th</sup> with dinner before services at Beth El. In February, we have a whole month of learning to look forward to!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at [mddmhall@verizon.net](mailto:mddmhall@verizon.net).  
L'Shalom,  
Dara

## SHORTY

Staunton Harrisonburg Reform Temple Youth, better known as Shorty, had a great time on December 25<sup>th</sup> with Friday night services, a late dinner, and an even later movie. We are really excited about our upcoming events:

If you have any 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> graders interested in attending the Kallah MAJYK with NFTY-MAR, it's not too late. We have a few already registered to go on January 29-31. For more information, please see [http://midatlantic.mfty.org/?event=majyk&event\\_date=2016-01-29](http://midatlantic.mfty.org/?event=majyk&event_date=2016-01-29).

It's almost here... our annual ski weekend is coming up in a couple of weeks on **February 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>**. **All 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to join in the fun** that weekend! Please let us know if you are able to attend. And EVERYONE (all ages) is invited to support our SHORTY kids as they lead a fun Dr. Seuss themed service on Friday night February 5, 2016 at 7:30. If you have questions, or want to attend even if you're not a member, please contact Becky Mintzer at [rem82398@gmail.com](mailto:rem82398@gmail.com)

## February Yahrzeits

Melvin Berman  
Irving Goldberg  
Hiah Neuger  
Betty Robins  
Leah Schneider  
Dorothy Sragovitz  
Minnie Switzer

Moshe Cohen  
David Goldstein  
Hyman Greenstone  
Harry Patterson  
Jerome Seligmann  
Regina Strauss  
Albert Williams

B. Edelman  
Henrietta Goldstein  
Oscar Mundell  
Fannie Greenstone  
Beckie Shapiro  
Mae Hare Suskins  
Rose Zultowski

## Board Member Contacts

Rosalie Waterman	President	886-1713	<a href="mailto:drwaterman@comcast.net">drwaterman@comcast.net</a>
Debbie Jacobs	VP Member	688-8058	<a href="mailto:deb1130@hotmail.com">deb1130@hotmail.com</a>
David Waterman	VP Bldgs	886-1713	<a href="mailto:drwaterman@comcast.net">drwaterman@comcast.net</a>
Carla Donley	Secretary	434-987-3325	<a href="mailto:carla.donley@yahoo.com">carla.donley@yahoo.com</a>
Patty Sutker	Treasurer	456-6647	<a href="mailto:lpsutker@yahoo.com">lpsutker@yahoo.com</a>
Leah Farmer	At-Large	885-0206	
Kay Stohr	At-Large	636-1185	<a href="mailto:kay.senator99@gmail.com">kay.senator99@gmail.com</a>
Ellen Boden	At-Large	703-401-2939	<a href="mailto:championsresource@hotmail.com">championsresource@hotmail.com</a>
Doug Degen	Trustee	886-8651	<a href="mailto:dbd@ntelos.net">dbd@ntelos.net</a>
Alan Goldenberg	Trustee	885-6878	<a href="mailto:adgvlq@gmail.com">adgvlq@gmail.com</a>
Richard Young	Trustee	884-1481	<a href="mailto:richardfyoung@gmail.com">richardfyoung@gmail.com</a>
Beth Young	Bulletin Ed.	290-1929	<a href="mailto:bydesign1993@gmail.com">bydesign1993@gmail.com</a>
Rabbi Joe Blair	Rabbi	434-272-8563	<a href="mailto:RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com">RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com</a>