



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

SEPTEMBER 2015 / ELUL 5775 – TISHREI 5776

High Holy Days

NEW THIS YEAR

The Women's Group is trying something new this year.

Erev Rosh Hashonah Congregational Potluck meat meal. Sunday, Sept 13 at 6:00

The Women's Group will provide beverages, apples and honey and some dessert. Challah will be courtesy of Beth. Please bring either a main or a side dish to share. If you have a special holiday dish (potato kugel, a kasha dish, a vegetarian dish or a holiday dessert), please bring it.

We will be having dessert following dinner and are asking people from P-T in the alphabet to bring a dessert. However, bring whatever you are comfortable with.

We will have our regular oneg immediately following services.

It would be good to know how many people are planning to come. Please let Elizabeth Schwartz know by Sept. 6 (curo44@gmail.com or [540-886-9222](tel:540-886-9222)) so the tables can be set. If you find that you can attend after that date, let us know.

Hope to see you there and start a great new tradition !

September 13 at 8:00 Erev Rosh Hashonah Services led by Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell

September 14 at 10:00 am Rosh Hashonah Services led by Rabbi Joe Blair
Tashlich Service will follow at 1:00 pm with Rabbi Joe at the Gypsy Hill duck pond

September 20 at 3:00 pm Yizkor Service will be led by Rabbi Joe at the cemetery

September 22 at 8:00 pm Kol Nidre Services led by Rabbi Joe

September 23 Rabbi Sue begins Yom Kippur Services with an optional 9:00 am service, followed by Morning Services at 10:00
Services will continue with an optional 3:00 pm service, and continue with the 4:00 afternoon service and then memorial service
Our community Break the fast will follow immediately at approximately 6:00 pm

We are happy to have you join us for our High Holy Day services.

\$75 per non-member person

For non-members seeking membership the \$75 would be applied toward membership.



L'SHANA TOVA

President's Message

Happy New Year to you all. I hope you approach this beginning with ideas about what to continue and what to change. It is a good time for evaluation and for delight in being alive and having the chance to re-evaluate. My hope is that this year you will volunteer for more activities and volunteer your ideas about new activities. Become an active part of our community. Give generously of your time, effort and even your money.

There are a couple of changes to the High Holidays this year which we hope will enhance your experience. One is that both rabbis will streamline the services to keep the within a two-hour length. Secondly, we have new prayer books. We hope that these two changes will enliven the services.

As you will see from the schedule, Rabbi Sue has added 2 optional services of one-hour each that will enhance the regular service that follows on Yom Kippur morning and on Yom Kippur afternoon. She says that the first involves movement! You might want to check out this service to see what she means.

Also new this year will be a community pot luck prior to the Rosh Hashana evening service. Please sign up and join in. There is more information on the front page of this bulletin. Be a part of your Jewish community. Sign-up sheets for both the Rosh Hashana meal and the Break-the-Fast meal will be at the picnic on August 30 at the Waterman house, 15 Brookwood Road, at 5 pm.

Rosalie Waterman, temple president

From the Rabbi's Desk

Dear Temple House of Israel Congregants and Friends,

The summer is drawing to a close and the High Holy Days are fast approaching. I am going to take a break for this month from writing about the Mission Trip I took. Instead, I want to focus on things closer to home, both in terms of geography and calendar.

In light of the impending High Holy Days and now that we have entered the month of Elul, it is almost a foregone conclusion that we will take time to reflect on the past year and look ahead to the one that is about to begin.

In looking back, inevitably, there are moments we can find in which we did not rise to our highest and best self. We will catalog the various failures to which we might have fallen prey throughout the liturgy of the High Holidays. We know that having fallen short is a universal experience. Judaism teaches that our purpose in this retrospective evaluation is not to 'beat ourselves up', but to note and learn where we can improve in the year ahead. It is impossible to change or improve what is not seen; the first step is to be aware of what there is to work on.

Then, we are taught, the next step is to perform Teshuvah. This consists of acknowledging to ourself that we fell short, and that we regret it and wish not to do so again.

Once we are aware, we can see that this shortfall meant we affected, even injured, others. Our obligation at that point is to do whatever is possible to repair the injury or damage, to try to make it right.

Part of that effort must be to speak to those we injured and ask their forgiveness. They are not obliged to forgive just because we ask. Insincere apologies and empty requests for forgiveness will not do. Only if the apology and request for forgiveness are true and heartfelt is there a fulfillment of this effort. And if we ask sincerely and are refused three times, then the obligation to ask is fulfilled, and the one who refuses must deal with the matter for themselves. Withholding forgiveness in the face of sincere repentance is intransigence, and is itself an injury caused to the one who has repented. So asking is essential, but equally, we must be ready to offer forgiveness when we are asked.

From the Rabbi's Desk (con't)

Related, but often overlooked: there are many instances when the one we have injured is our self, and it is often incredibly difficult to forgive yourself. For many of us, our most severe, unyielding, and unforgiving critic is our self. When we truly repent, we should work to find the same forgiveness for our self as we do for others.

Forgiveness does not mean that either party should forget, or that the harm did not happen; it means that each party is willing to move past that event and continue a relationship of some sort, even when it cannot be the same as it was before the injury. It means looking to the future with hope and a sense of possibility, not being stuck in the past and in despair because it cannot change.

All of this hard work is in preparation for the High Holy Days. Only after this has all been accomplished can we approach and seek forgiveness for our transgressions before G-d. If we do all of this with heart and sincerely, then we will be ready to encounter the divine, and to look at the future with hope and joy, knowing that G-d is infinitely forgiving of those who repent.

Now that September is on us, the High Holy Days are only a short time away. We are in the month of Elul, the time of introspection and getting ready for the Yamim Nora'im (the days of awe). This is the busiest time of the year in regard to holidays, and it is truly full, beginning the evening of September the 13th with Erev Rosh HaShanah. In this month we also have a Yizkor service on the 20th, Yom Kippur on the 23rd-24th, and Sukkot starting the evening of the 27th. Falling in early October we continue the holiday marathon with Hoshanah Rabbah on the 4th, Shemini Atzeret on the 5th, and Simchat Torah on the 6th.

Here are a few items coming up that may be of interest. Look for details next month.

- Introduction to Hebrew class
- A post-Intro to Hebrew class for Hebrew structure, grammar, words and sentence formation
- A film screening: *The Power of Good* a documentary about Sir Nicholas Winton

The Torah Parashiot for the coming weeks are Re'eh, Shofetim, Ki Teitzei, Ki Tavo, Nitzavim, Rosh Hashanah, Vayeilech (Shabbat Shuvah), Yom Kippur, Ha'azinu, Sukkot, and Bereshit. As always, we pass by the final reading in Deuteronomy, Vezot Habrachah, featuring the death of Moses.

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

We start in year 2 of the triennial cycle (the middle or second part of the cycle), which continues until Simchat Torah on October 6th, when we move to the 3rd year of the triennial cycle, during which we read from the final third of each weekly Torah portion.

Rabbi's Message

There has been too much on the world stage in the news this summer, a great deal of it troubling, difficult, or disturbing. Even here, close to home, there has been a spate of events of great concern and distress to many. As we move into and through the period of reflection and reevaluation and engage in the task of Teshuvah (repentance), which is at the heart of Elul, and continue forward into the focus on renewal and recommitment of Rosh Hashonah (the New Year), Yom Kippur (the day of Atonement), and the Yamim Nora'im (the Days of Awe), may our prayers that all will be for good be answered. May we find the will and strength to pray, so that we can act rightly, even when it does not feel as if it will be possible at the time.

B'virkat Shalom, with many wishes for a new year of 5776 filled with good and blessings,
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). 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. He 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 our library offerings. You'll find books in many sections to pique your interest: biography, history, humor, philosophy and religion, mysticism, the Holocaust as well as reference books. This is your last chance to pick up Judaica books of interest. Bookshelves in 2 locations (across from the bulletin board in the back hall and also near the side entrance door) are loaded with books which are looking for a new home. Please take them! Any books left after September 30 will be given to the Staunton or Augusta County libraries for their book sales.
- The Staunton Senior Center's Meals on Wheels program is looking for volunteers who can drive and deliver meals Monday through Friday, 11:00 – 12:30. If you're able and interested, please contact Maria Chavez Goldberg at 886-4634 or maria@vpas.info.

The Women's Group

MAZEL TOV to Bonny Strassler, our new Women's Group President, and to Elizabeth Schwartz, our new Women's Group treasurer.

Many, many thanks to Ellen Werther, president emeritus, for leading us for the past 2 years and to Rosalie Waterman who has been our secretary and treasurer.

There will be a second opportunity to learn **Hebrew calligraphy** on Tuesday, August 25, 3-5 pm. **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.

Women's Group 2015-16 Ongoing Fundraiser

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

We received thanks from the Staunton SPCA for the donations we made. Your contributions were very much appreciated. Thank you all.

- We're starting a **Book Group!** Come join in with Leah Farmer leading us in discussion about ***The Hare with Amber Eyes*** by Edmund deWaal. We'll meet on Saturday, **October 17 at 11:00**. For those who would like, we can have an optional Dutch-treat lunch following our discussion, to continue the conversation. The book is available at the library and also at Amazon. Remember to go to our thoi.org website and click on Amazon Smile to place your order. That way you get your book and temple gets a small rebate.

Our next meeting is on September 6th at 2:00.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

- Newly-weds Gordon and Yael Sutker will close on their new apartment in Ramat Gan, Israel, at the end of August and Gordon will start his MBA program in November
- Seth Jones, grandson of Dan and Ellen Schorsch and son of Linda and Steve Jones, was salutatorian of Waynesboro High School's graduating class and has just left for Webb Institute of Naval Architecture, Dan's alma mater.
- Congratulations to Maria Chavez Goldberg who is the new Meals on Wheels coordinator for the Staunton Senior Center. See related note on page 4 – they need drivers.
- Nancy Witt appreciates calls if you find some time to chat with her.
- Dan and Ellen Schorsch would welcome your support.

Religious School

Religious school 2015-16 will begin on Sunday, September 6th! We have a wonderful year planned – can't wait to see you soon!
 If you have a new student interested in joining Beth El Religious School, please contact Dara Hall, Principal at mddmhall@verizon.net.

SHORTY

A trip to Washington DC with our religious school dalet class is planned for August 30th. Hope to see you there!
 For more information about SHORTY and youth group events, please contact Becky Mintzer, youth group advisor at rem82398@aol.com.

September Yahrzeits

Flossie Cohen	Reuben Harris	Harry Harrison	Herman Levy
Henrietta Harrison	Miriam Loewner	Julius Margolis	Milton Mann
Minnie Patterson	Hermina Printz	Samuel Printz	Connie Rubin
Joseph Ruttenberg	Nathan Schilling	Michael Seltzer	Anna Seltzer
Stephen Shapiro	Samuel Shultz	Bennie Sragovitz	Sadie Witt

Board Contacts

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Past President – Beth Young	bydesign1993@gmail.com	885-1481
Rabbi Joe Blair	RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com	925-272-8563

3 days of
August,
September
and 2
days of
October
Calendar
and
Services

					28 Shabbat Services 7:30	29
30 Picnic at Waterman's 5 pm	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Board Meet 7:00	10	11	12
13 Dinner 6:15 and Erev Rosh Hashonah service 8 pm	14 Rosh Hashonah service @ 10 am; tashlich 1	15	16	17	18 Shabbat service 7:30 pm	19
20 Yizkor service @ cemetery at 3 pm	21	22 Erev Yom Kippur 8 pm	23 Yom Kippur 9 (optn'l) 10 service 3 (optn'l); 4 service; 6 break fast	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1 October	2 October Sukkot	

Oneg hosts for August 28: Youngs and Watermans
Oneg hosts for Erev Rosh Hashonah - EVERYONE

*MAY YOU ALL BE INSCRIBED IN THE BOOK OF LIFE,
WITH BLESSINGS AND HOPES FOR PEACE*

