



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

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

MARCH 2016 / ADAR I – ADAR II 5776

President's Message

Dear Congregants and Friends,

I am writing this message in anticipation of March, which will act far too much like February to suit most of us, but we are moving in the right direction, toward spring.

Many thanks to all. I want to thank our Board of Directors, who attend each month to make decisions that are from mundane to difficult. I thank Beth Young for cobbling together this bulletin each month and for being a very long-serving past president. I thank Ellen Boden for being our treasurer for the past 9 years (!) and Patty Sutker for being our new treasurer. Every service I try to thank our oneg hosts and so-accommodating kitchen helpers, Kyle Leister and Debby Austin. I thank Sarah Grove-Humphries for leading us in song week after week, and I thank the Rabbi for assembling our services throughout the year.

I also want to thank Beth El, our sister congregation in Harrisonburg, which graciously agreed to swap seder nights with us. If you can believe it, the problem started with Shakespeare's birthday. I learned that, because this is his 400th birthday, there will be a special party on April 23 (our original seder date) that includes roping off the parking lot next door to the temple and closing Market Street to accommodate vendors and activities. Because Beth El has agreed to swap with us, we will have the seder on Friday, April 22, and avoid the chaos of April 23 at the temple. Eric Kramer, president of Beth El, says that you can attend their service on the 23rd if the 22nd does not suit you. This swap was a generous decision for them to make. It was a mitzvah.

Rosalie Waterman, temple president

From the Rabbi's Desk

Dear Temple House of Israel Congregants and Friends,

A great source of pleasure for me has been the success of the Elementary Biblical Hebrew Grammar course that began in January. We have fourteen registered and the level of interest and attention has been fabulous. Students are a nice mix of congregants and community members. Kudos to Caleb Payne for doing a wonderful job of sharing infectious enthusiasm deep knowledge and prior experience teaching languages. It is a pleasure to support him in offering this course. After three sessions, students are already asking if we can schedule another course focusing on a different text. Caleb and I are discussing that now; there is a good chance that we will schedule a similar course, focusing on a different text for study. Watch for more information on it soon.

One of the highlights of the past month was the second Death Café, hosted at THOI in February. Forty-one people expressed interest and twenty-three people came. Congregants, unaffiliated Jews and many other people gathered with the sole purpose of talking about death. I suggest you consider attending one of the upcoming events. The next 4 sessions will be held the first Wednesday of the month from 7 to 9 pm with March 2nd held at THOI and the remaining at Beth El Congregation in Harrisonburg. If you want to know more, check the Facebook page, email DeathCafeoftheShenandoahValley@gmail.com, or call my cell phone. See the attached flyer for more specifics.

From the Rabbi's Desk (con't)

Another highlight was the pulpit exchange with Rev. Paul Oakley of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waynesboro. He joined the congregation on Saturday morning, Feb 6th, and gave an interesting sermon titled "Rashi's Problem and the Evolution of Justice." In turn, I spoke at the Fellowship the next day. The title of my devar Torah was "Entering the Fiery Cloud – Lessons for Today".

I was invited to speak as one of the many clergy who celebrated Rev. Oakley's installation as the settled minister of the Waynesboro Fellowship. It was my pleasure on behalf of THOI and the Jewish community to extend congratulations to the Fellowship and to wish them well as they move forward together to build a joint future.

The last highlight in the month of February was the Spring Community Awareness Shabbat service on February 19th. We had a good number of visitors and it was a lovely evening. Apparently this continues to be a popular and successful program.

Torah

The Torah Parashiot for the coming weeks are Ki Tisa, Vayelekh (Shabbat Shekalim), Pekudei, Vayikra (Shabbat Zachor) and Tzav. We are in year 3 of the triennial cycle (the third or last part of the cycle of Torah readings).

Rosh Chodesh for Adar II (this is a leap year) is March 10th. Ta'anit Esster (the Fast of Esther) falls on the day of March 23rd. Purim will be celebrated the evening of March 23rd and the day of March 24th.

Rabbi's Message

February is National Jewish Disabilities Awareness and Inclusion Month. The congregation has done much to make the building accessible and welcoming. In fact, the congregation was recognized as an Exemplar Congregation by the URJ to make the building welcoming, open and inclusive. When Rabbi Lynne Landsberg is able, we will celebrate and acknowledge that award and recognize her for her many years of service and advocacy for disability awareness and inclusion. As with most things, there is still room for improvement; please keep your eyes open and be alert to ways we might be even more welcoming and inclusive to those who would benefit from these efforts.

The weather is unpredictable. This week it was snowing, with ice and sleet predicted and then it warmed up to spring-like temperatures. At times such as this, there are many who are in need of assistance to find their next meal, or to seek out shelter. Please consider donations to the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, Food Pantries, and other places that provide shelter and assistance to our neighbors.

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 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

- There is an Interfaith Lenten series sponsored by Emmanuel, Trinity, Allen Chapel AME and Faith Lutheran churches which will look at common themes among three of the major Abrahamic faiths: Judaism, Islam and Christianity. Members from all 3 faiths will be speaking on each topic. Ruth Chodrow spoke on "Belief" earlier in February. The program continues February 24 with Sarah Grove-Humphries speaking on "Worship", Beth Young speaking about "Fasting" on March 2, Bonny Strassler speaking on the 9th about "Almsgiving" and on the 16th Rabbi Joe speaking about "Pilgrimage". Check out the attached flyer for full information.
- Saturday evening, February 27th at 7 pm we will have our next Havdalah and Conversation with guest Rev. Katherine Low. The title for the evening is "Bible Babes Breaking Boundaries". See the attached flyer.
- Martin's has 5 pound boxes of matzo on an endcap at the back of the store now. Their explanation was that they do everything ahead of time. Hurry in to get yours before they disappear! The matzo, Kedem's grape juice and gefilte fish complete their display. No macaroons.
- We've gotten our first Amazon Smile deposit. Remember to login at THOI and then Amazon Smile or note THOI when you order. We'll get credit!

The Women's Group has two big events coming in March:

The Women's Group

1. The **YARD SALE** on **Friday, March 11, 7:30 am– 11:30 am** and continuing on **Sunday, March 13, 12 noon – 2 pm**. Your help is needed to donate items, set up/clean up, monitor the sale, and/or bake items to sell. If you are able and have not signed up, contact Elizabeth Schwartz at curo44@gmail.com and she will put you to work! **Collection dates** are 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). Everyone can help with this fundraiser!
2. The **Heifetz Institute** has generously agreed to perform a joint fundraising **Concert at the Temple on Sunday, March 20th at 3:00 pm**. We are so pleased to welcome their talented musicians and look forward to a wonderful afternoon of music, followed by a reception to meet the artists. Tickets to this event are \$35. More information will be forthcoming about tickets.

Our regular events include

- Our next **regular meeting** of the Women's Group will be **March 6th at 2 pm**.
- Our **next book discussion** will be **March 19 at 11 am** and we'll be reading [A Pigeon and A Boy](#) by Meir Shalev, recommended by Rosalie Waterman.

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.



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

- CONGRATULATIONS to Rebecca Pereles and her father, Tom Pereles on winning multiple medals in multiple events at the Pan American Maccabbi Games in Santiago, Chile. Rebecca won gold in the open women's soccer competition (she was one of the only players on the team still in high school!). Tom won 7 medals including 2 individual golds in the masters swimming category. Very impressive!!
- Beth Young thoroughly enjoyed 10 days in Japan with her son, David. Shrines and temples in Tokyo and Kyoto, the bullet train and a visit to the Peace Museum in Hiroshima were highlights.
- Refuah shelemah bimheyra - Prayers for Healing, Wholeness & Comfort to Shirley Brand, Leah Farmer, Steve Guberman, Rabbi Lynne Landsberg, Jim Osborne, Dan Schorsch, Ellen Werther and Nancy Witt.
- Nesia Tovah – Safe Travels to Vera Flint, Lynne Landsberg, Deb Jacobs, Michelle Clark and anyone else planning to be on the road (either going or coming)
- Lynne Landsberg has asked me to convey that she expects to return home from the treatments she is receiving in the DC area at the end of February and would appreciate no visitors until she feels ready – she will let us know when that may be. Her recovery may preclude immediate response to phone calls or texts, but she loves to receive cards and letters.

March Celebrations



Steve Guberman celebrates his birthday on March 10th
 Lou Boden celebrates another birthday on the 11th
 Rebecca Pereles celebrates on March 14th with her Maccabiah gold medal~!
 Laura Jean Brand's birthday is March 19th
 Laurie Berman's birthday is on the 28th

MAZEL TOV and HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
 to Laura Jean and Asher Brand celebrating 32 years together
 to Bonnie and Mike Brown celebrating 20 years together on March 23rd

Donations

Thanks to those who have generously contributed to Temple House of Israel during the past month. Your additional support is what keeps us going!

For the building fund	..... Larry and Patty Sutker
...	..... Rosalie and David Waterman
...	..... Ellen and Dan Schorsch
...	..... Nadia Webb
...	..... Dianne Mason
...	..... Lynne Landsberg and Dennis Ward
...	..... Asher and Laura Jean Brand
...	..... Ruth Chodrow
.	..... Shirley Brand
For the general fund	..... Laurie Berman
.	..... Art Goldsmith and Jan Kaufman



March Calendar and Services

28 Biblical Hebrew Grammar 3:30-5:00		1	2 Death Café 7 – 9 pm	3	4	5 Shabbat Services at 10 Yard Sale Collection
6 Women's Group at 2 Yard Sale Collection	7	8	9 7 pm Temple Board meet	10	11 YARD SALE 7:30 – 11:30	12
13 YARD SALE noon – 2:00	14	15	16	17	18 Shabbat services 7:30	19 11 am Book discussion
20 Heifetz Institute concert @ 3 pm	21	22	23	24	25	26 Shabbat Services at 10
27	28	29	30	31		

March Yahrzeits

Melvin Berman	Moshe Cohen	B. Edelman
Irving Goldberg	David Goldstein	Henrietta Goldstein
Hiah Neuger	Hyman Greenstone	Oscar Mundell
Betty Robins	Harry Patterson	Fannie Greenstone
Leah Schneider	Jerome Seligmann	Beckie Shapiro
Dorothy Sragovitz	Regina Strauss	Mae Hare Suskins
Minnie Switzer	Albert Williams	Rose Zultowski

Board Member Contacts

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





