



Temple House of Israel Bulletin

A Member Congregation of the Union for Reform Judaism
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<http://uahc.org/congs/va/va008/>

March 2004, Adar/Nisan 5764

From the Rabbi's Desk

My dear fellow Valley Jews and Friends, Shalom!

What an exciting month it has been, and how very wonderful! For the short month of February, we have packed a lot into the time we had!

Upcoming Events

March 6th this year, we reach PURIM! Don't fail to mark your calendar now for the Joint Congregational Purim Gala at Beth El. A truly marvelous time will be had by all! You will NOT want to miss it for anything – this will be a fantastic evening! It begins with an all-you-can-eat dinner of brisket and chicken and all the sides from 5:30-7:30 for the minimal sum of \$10 per person/ \$7 for children. Call Janet Kohen 433-1898 or email at janetacts@adelphia.net to get your tickets. Plan on staying on afterwards for the Adult Purim Gala: dance the night away from 8-11! Please contact Sherri Alt at 249-5463 or sherishops@aol.com for more information. Our Megillah reading will be on Sunday morning during Religious School. Please come to listen to the story then and stay for the festivities.

And not too long after Purim, on March 14th, there will be a workshop with Rabbi Sue Elwell on the use of her Passover Haggadah – a very timely preparation for the next holiday! The workshop will take place at Beth El in Harrisonburg at 1 pm and congregations from all around our region are invited to participate. Be sure to come! There will be a chance for you to purchase copies of her Haggadah if you wish, but the opportunity to come and learn from her in preparation for our seders is open to all congregants. Dessert and coffee will be served so please contact Janet Kohen 433-1898 or janetacts@adelphia.net so we have enough food.

News

We continue to offer a variety and scope of activities that is quite impressive. Take a look at this very abbreviated summary listing of the other items planned for the coming months! Religious School Purim Celebration; Passover Haggadah Workshop; Religious School Shabbat; a Chocolate Seder; Passover Seders; the Yeast Feast; Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance); Yom Ha'Atzma'ut (Israeli Independence Day) celebration; Beth El Sisterhood/Men's Club Brotherhood dinner; Family Service; Youth service; Religious School picnic; Youth Group trip; Kitah Dahled Holocaust Museum trip; Havdalah for the very young; and FIVE (5!) B'nai Mitzvot between now and the end of June! Add in the adult education, film series, and Board activities, and we have a FULL CALENDAR! Not bad for a small band of Jews!

Adult Education

The weekly Torah study sessions continue to provide lively and interesting conversations about that week's Torah portion. The differing ways in which those attending see the texts in light of today and their own lives provides fascinating insights into our discussion. If you have time, whether for one week, once in a while, or on a more regular basis, please join us at noon on Thursday in Staunton

**The
Rabbi's Disk
(Continued)**

or Friday in Harrisonburg. No preparation or prior experience is needed; you don't need to know Hebrew or have any past exposure. Level Two Read Hebrew American Hebrew: This literacy group is moving forward with sixteen students! If you are interested in joining the class, please call for details. To get the most out of the class you should already know the Hebrew alefbet and all the vowels and be able to sound out Hebrew text. Introduction to Jewish Living: The course is ongoing. If you want to join in, you certainly can! We meet at 7 pm on Sunday evenings at Beth El in Harrisonburg. The current topics are the Jewish Calendar and Lifecycle events. Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah group. We will have our first class session on March 28th, Sunday at 3 pm at Beth El. If you are interested in studying for your Bar or Bat Mitzvah celebration, please be in touch with me and plan to attend this class. This is a really great opportunity to learn and celebrate for those who have not had a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, or for anyone who wants to celebrate a second one (be a party animal). Gabbai Class: In late April I will be conducting a one-session class on the role of the Gabbai (the MC for the Torah Service) in services. If you are interested or have any curiosity, this is your chance to learn what's done up on the Bimah when the Torah is out. Keep your eyes open for more information

Chocolate Seder

Every year we get many requests to speak to churches and groups about the Passover Seder and often to help them hold one. This year we are trying something new. On Thursday evening, April 1st (before Passover) at 7 pm at Beth El in Harrisonburg, there will be a Chocolate Seder. This is a teaching seder – we will go through the entire seder, with explanations, but will use only chocolate items! It is fun, educational and an opportunity to have an event that will help us build bridges in the community and learn together. All are most welcome, and I would be delighted if you would extend the invitation to anyone you believe would like to attend, Jewish or not. I only ask that anyone who wishes to attend RSVP to me NO LATER THAN March 28th so I will have numbers for food items. There will be a small fee or a request for donations to cover the costs of the foodstuff. More information will be forthcoming soon.

Come On By! Please feel free to call, email, make an appointment or drop in to see me to discuss anything that is on your mind, to ask about something you have always wanted to know, for pastoral counseling, or just to chat. One of my great pleasures is to get to know each of you better.

B'virvat Shalom (with blessings of peace),
Rabbi Joe Blair

Rabbi Blair's office days are Mondays and Thursdays in Staunton 886-4091 and Wednesdays and Fridays in Harrisonburg 434-2744. **Drop In times are those days 2-4 at each synagogue.** For other times email: RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com

**Rabbi's Office
Hours, Hospital
Visits and
Chaplaincy Calls**

Monday, Mar 1	Thursday, Mar 4	Monday, Mar 8	Thursday, Mar 11
Monday, Mar 15	Thursday, Mar 18	Monday, Mar 22	Thursday, Mar 25
Monday, Mar 29			

If you should hear or know of anyone who is ill or hospitalized or who might otherwise wish a visit or call, please be sure to let Rabbi Joe know as soon as you can. You can leave a message on the telephone answering machine at the temple.

<p>President's Message</p>	<p>With Purim coming up March 7th, I wish the THOI community a Happy Purim and bring to your attention that Beth El has invited our Congregation to join them at their Purim Gala on March 6th. Details are in the Rabbi's message.</p> <p>In the first joint Temple House of Israel/Beth El Board meeting on Feb.16th there was a consensus for having a number of joint activities. Ron Ornstein suggested three spaced during the year coinciding with the Seasonal Holydays. Possibilities include: Succot/Simchat Torah, Chanukah, Purim, TuB'Shevat, Shavuot, or Yom Haatz'maut. Our next joint meeting will be held in June so we can coordinate our calendars at that time. In the meantime, I am eager to have suggestions (preferably before June) from all our members on your holidays of choice. You can e-mail your ideas to me, call me, or buttonhole me at the onegs following Friday night worship services.</p> <p>- Rafael</p>
<p>Jews and News</p>	<p>A big topic of conversation in the larger community lately has been the not-yet-released film produced by Mel Gibson, the "Passion of Christ". The film is potentially a trigger for increased interaction between Jews and non-Jews, both good and bad. This means that although we may encounter those for whom the negative and bigoted views of us as Jews are reinforced by the film, we should also be prepared to be presented with the opportunity to engage in meaningful and positive dialogue with non-Jews. To give you the resources to prepare for the situation, if and when this conversation should take place, here are a few of the many reference sites that you can use to be more fully educated on the subject.</p> <p>http://www.bridgecraft.org/Passion.htm or http://huc.edu/jointcomm/onsite http://rj.org/interreligious/pub/passions.html or http://www.adl.org/adl.asp</p>
<p>Special Program in Charlottesville</p>	<p>P'nai Yisrael Chavurah is pleased to bring Arthur Kurzweil to Charlottesville for a weekend of learning from Friday, March 12th through Sunday, March 14th. Kurzweil is a gifted, knowledgeable and engaging teacher. He will learn Talmud with his participants, speak of his teacher, Adin Steinsaltz and dazzle all with sleight of hand. Friday's teaching "My Rebbe: A Personal Look at the Work of Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz" will discuss Rabbi Steinsaltz's comprehensive commentary on the entire Talmud over a potluck vegetarian dinner beginning at 6:00 pm. Saturday at the UVa Hillel, 10-2:30, will be Torah drosh, Mishpochology 101. Using this week's Torah portion, "Ki Tisa", discussion will focus on Jewish family history and genealogy. Saturday evening, 7-9 at Congregation Beth Israel a session entitled "I Don't Know Enough Hebrew, I Never Went to a Yeshivah, But I Want to Study Talmud" will be held. Sunday's events, also held at Congregation Beth El include: 10-noon, Talmud study and 2:30-4 Magic Show: Searching for God in a Magic Shop". If you are interested in participating, contact Latifa Kropf (434) 974-7016 or latifafital@yahoo.com.</p>
<p>Memorial Service Question</p>	<p>Traditionally, in addition to individual yahrzeit commemorations, there are four times a year when a memorial service is conducted. These fall on Yom Kippur and the last days of Passover, Shavuot and Sukkot. Because we do not necessarily have services with a Torah reading on those days, your input is requested. Should we have memorial services on those days, and if so, should they be in the cemetery or in the sanctuary? Please let Rabbi Joe know what you think.</p>
<p>Religious School</p>	<p>Rabbi Joe reports "I am very happy with the progress that I am seeing overall in</p>

the Religious School. Kitah Aleph is over half-way through the Alef Bet and on track to finish it; Kitah Bet is working on reading many new words and phrases and constructing sentences, and is now beginning to prepare to read prayers; Kitah Gimel has been learning to read and chant many more of the prayers, and Kitah Daled is working on mastery of the Friday evening and Saturday morning services. Tov Me'od, Kulam! (Very Good, all!) Keep up the excellent progress! Todah Rabbah (many thanks) to Ronn Ornstein for coming in to work with the students on singing the prayers. Kitah Daled 's first three of the four planned class trips this year have taken place. We attended a Renewal service at P'nai Or, a Conservative service at Congregation Beth Israel and an Orthodox service at Chabad, all in Charlottesville. The intent of these trips was to see how Shabbat services are conducted in other denominations of Judaism and to highlight how much there is in common among all Jewish groups with the idea that the students will be at home in any service anywhere. The final trip this year will be to the Holocaust Museum in Washington DC on Sunday, March 21st. This will be an all day affair. We will visit the Air and Space museum at the Smithsonian, have lunch and then take our tour of the Holocaust Museum. If you plan to come and have not yet done so, please tell Jon Meyer. Don't forget to submit permission slips for your children.

** Mark your calendars for the Religious School Shabbat, scheduled for March 19 at Beth El. All grades will participate – be sure to be there!*

A meeting took place with the families of the five students who will become B'Nai Mitzvah in the current school year. Based on the feedback received, there is thought being given to having a similar meeting before the end of this year for the B'nai Mitzvah and families whose date is coming up during the 2004-05 school year. Stay tuned for more information.

<p>Pre-School Activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 7th at 10:30, Religious School will be celebrating Purim. Come hear the reading of the whole Megillah – boo and hiss for Mordecai and cheer for King Ahasuerus - and stay for the Youth Group Purim Carnival immediately follow-ing. Contact Maureen Goldberger at 433-0071 or ocallamp@jmu.edu for more details! • Religious School will have a children's Passover Seder on March 28th at 10:30. Please contact Linda Kohn at LIN5KO@aol.com or (540) 269-2213 or Sue Johnson at SuesBluesClues@hotmail.com for more information.
<p>Youth Group</p>	<p>The Youth Group is in the planning phase for their end-of-year trip. Be on the lookout for their fund-raising activities... and donate generously! ;-)</p> <p>We are planning for the Youth to take part in a service on June 4th at Beth El. This is a chance for the Kitah Daled students (who will be eligible to join the youth group) to take part, making a transition into the group for them. Please plan to attend to recognize the students and to help them celebrate their accomplishments.</p>
<p>Noteworthy Congregational News</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rabbi Joe Blair has been accepted as a probationary member of the CCAR, (Central Conference of American Rabbis), the association of Reform rabbis in the U.S. This is Rabbi Joe's first step towards full membership in the Conference and we would like to congratulate him! • We're delighted to have David and Rosalie Waterman as new members of the

Congregational News

temple. They recently retired (clearly an early retirement) and moved here from Fairfax, Virginia. David was a physics teacher and Rosalie taught English. David likes to canoe (and so does Marcia Conner and the Youngs have 2 kayaks – this sounds like a party!) and they both like the mountains. They have a son in northern Virginia. Please welcome them at services!

- The Kaufman / Goldsmith family would be honored to have the congregation join them in their celebration of Ben’s Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, April 17th. Mark your calendars and save the date. Services will be at 10:00 and the congregation is invited to a luncheon immediately following in the social hall.
- Mike Brown reports that we have a large stock of firewood at the cemetery, courtesy of hurricane Isabel. The wood is cut up in pieces and is piled in the back behind the chapel building. You can drive back behind there to load up. Some of the pieces are quite large, others are much smaller and more manageable. The wood is available to anyone who wants to come and get it.
- The temple would like to sell the large oak secretary’s desk that is now in the storage area. It’s in very good condition. Ruth would be happy to show it to anyone who is interested – asking price is \$150. Last call for temple members – we’ll attempt to sell it to someone outside. Contact Ruth at 886-2252.
- The first meeting of the **Book Club will be Sunday, Feb. 29th at 9:30 am** in Harrisonburg. The DaVinci Code will be presented by Mona Wolf, so even if you haven’t read it, you can participate in the discussion.
- **The next board meeting will be Thursday, March 25th at 7:00 PM at Temple House of Israel.** Your input is what makes our temple alive!

Film Series

- Our film series has been very well received. Thanks to Shirley Brand and Debby Bishop for previewing and selecting movies for our enjoyment. One correction: The 25” TV screen and VCR were donated from the estate of Beryl Gutnick for the use of all temple members. The bean-bag chair was contributed by Sarah Young. Get comfortable watching our film series!
Showing Sunday, March 21st at 7:00 pm is “Left Luggage”, set in Antwerp, Belgium. Chaja, a philosophy student, has a complex relationship with her parents. With a friend’s help, she secures a job as a nanny with a Hasidic family, adores their 5 year-old son and becomes attached to the family. In the process, she learns about her own parents, survivors of a concentration camp.

News from the Women of the Temple

- **PLEASE COME TO OUR NEXT MEETING ON SUNDAY FEBRUARY 29TH AT 2:00.** We’ll confirm our cookbook order, plan our Shabbat dinner and get ready for the planned bake sale and other activities.
- Thanks to everyone who has contributed recipes for our **“Sharing our Best”** cookbook. Special thanks from the cookbook committee (Ruth Chodrow, Marsha Pillet and Beth Young) to those who helped type the recipes into the on-line format given by the publisher: Debby Bishop, Laura Jean Brand, Shirley Brand, Linda Bowen, Rachel Jordan, and Iris Rubin. All proceeds will go to the temple’s subsidy of Religious School and education of our youth. Please come to our **Sisterhood Shabbat Dinner on Friday, March 26th**. Roast chicken and all the trimmings will be served at 6:30. Cost: \$8 / person. Please RSVP to Beth Young, 885-1481 or templenews@ntelos.net, by 3-22 so we’re sure to have enough!
- We’d like to say **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to the one known March birthday:
Laura Jean Brand on the February 19th

	<p>And special greetings and HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to: Asher and Laura Jean Brand celebrating 10 years on the 19th Mike and Bonnie Brown celebrating 8 years together on the 23rd</p>
<p>News of our Community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congratulations to Ellen Schorsch! She has had her article “Musical Lessons for Audiences in Exciting Lecture-Recitals” published in the February 2004 issue of <i>Clavier</i> magazine. <i>Clavier</i> is one of the top publications for pianists and piano teachers in the US. A second article has been accepted for future publication as well. • Come hear Ellen Schorsch perform! Ellen will be presenting programs of “Movie Favorites” at the Staunton Public Library on Thursday, March 4th and at the Waynesboro Library on Tuesday, March 9th. • Nancy Witt is recovering from her surgery and things are going quite well. All the attention and well wishes are appreciated. • Some of us remember Roz and Lou Kamerman, members of the temple for many years. Lou was the inveterate fix-it person. He loved doing things with his hands and we can still see his “Shalom” sign and his “Judaica Shop” sign in our social hall. They both moved to Michigan many years ago to be near their daughter Marlene. Since then Lou has passed away, but Roz still receives the temple bulletin and follows the doings of her friends here. We recently received this note from Marlene: “My mother and I were reading the bulletin and noted the suggestion ‘to build a wall to enclose the storage area’. We both thought that if my father were alive and there, he’d surely want to do it! So, in his memory, my mother is sending a donation for the materials for the wall.” We appreciate the generosity and support of all our members and friends, past and present, near and far. THANK YOU ROZ and MARLENE – and LOU.
<p>Judaica Shop</p>	<p>We have books, cards, mezuzot, gift items and many Judaica catalog items from which to choose. Please let Dianne Mason know of any items that you would like stocked. The shop is normally open during Friday night services and Dianne can be reached at 885-6254 to arrange another time if necessary.</p>
<p>Notes from the Editor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Any address and/or email address changes and updates for our files would be very much appreciated.</u> Please send them on to me. Thanks! • Especially now that we’re up to 8 pages, if you would prefer to receive this bulletin via e-mail, please let me know and I’ll be happy to send it in that format. Thanks to those who have responded! • The deadline for each issue is the 20th of the preceding month. Any suggestions you may have for new items or changes are always welcome. I look forward to hearing from you at templenews@ntelos.net.
<p>Bulletin and Membership</p>	<p>If you are not currently a member and would like to continue receiving this bulletin, the subscription rate is \$15 per year (August-June) made payable to Temple House of Israel. Please contact Laura Jean Brand, our treasurer, at 942-3656 or mail your check to THOI, PO Box 1412, Staunton, VA 24402.</p>

Contributions

Thank you to these generous people who have recently supported our Temple: We do appreciate your contributions!

In Memory of Beryl Gutnick:

Lynne Landsberg

Tom and Susan Pereles

In memory of Mildred Degen

Tom and Susan Pereles

In honor of the Presidency of Rafael Brand

Lynne Landsberg

Yahrzeits for March





Louis Cohen	Annie Kaplan Klotz	Regina Ruttenberg
Louis Cohen, Jr.	Abraham Kreitzer	Ralph Aaron Seltzer
Rose Weckler Freiberger	Abraham Levin	Albert Laub Schultz
Emanuel Gutnick	Adrian Neuman	Sophie K. Strauss
Irving L. Janus	Harry Raskin	Irving Waxman
Irving Kamerman	Moses Rosenthal	C. Herman Weinberg
Joseph Kamerman	Rebecca Rosenthal	Samuel I. Zeldin
Leah Kamerman		

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Every one of the people listed above would welcome your input!

March 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Rabbi's Office Day 8 Adar	2 9 Adar	3 10 Adar	4 Fast of Esther Rabbi's Office Day 11 Adar	5 L 5:56p 12 Adar	6 
7 Purim 14 Adar	8 Rabbi's Office Day 15 Adar	9 16 Adar	10 17 Adar	11 Rabbi's Office Day 18 Adar	12 L 6:03p 7:30p Shabbat Services 19 Adar	13 
14 1:00p Rabbi Sue Elwell's Hagaddah workshop 21 Adar	15 Rabbi's Office Day 22 Adar	16 23 Adar	17 24 Adar	18 Rabbi's Office Day 25 Adar	19 L 6:10p 7:30p Rel. Sch. Shabbat Services-H'burg 26 Adar	20 
21 3:00p Adult B'nai Mitzvah class 28 Adar	22 Rabbi's Office Day 29 Adar	23 Rosh Chodesh 1 Nisan	24 2 Nisan	25 7:00p Temple Board Meeting Rabbi's Office Day 3 Nisan	26 L 6:16p 6:30p Sisterhood Dinner, 7:30 Service 4 Nisan	27 5 Nisan
28  6 Nisan	29 Rabbi's Office Day 7 Nisan	30 8 Nisan	31 9 Nisan			

Feb. 29	Book Club at Beth El in Harrisonburg at 9:30 Women of the Temple Meeting at 2:00 PM
Mar. 4	Torah study at noon
Mar. 11	Torah study at noon
Mar. 12	Shabbat Services at 7:30 PM – Joan Robins and Richard & Walapa Marks hosts
Mar. 14	Rabbi Sue Elwell's Hagaddah workshop 1:00 pm at Beth El, Harrisonburg
Mar. 18	Torah study at noon
Mar. 19	Religious School Shabbat Services in Harrisonburg at 7:30
Mar. 21	Adult B'nai Mitzvah class at 3:00 pm in Harrisonburg
Mar. 25	Torah study at noon; Temple Board Meeting at 7:00 PM
Mar. 26	Sisterhood Shabbat Dinner at 6:30 with Shabbat Services at 7:30 PM