



# Temple House of Israel Bulletin

A Member Congregation of the Union for Reform Judaism  
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Web Address: [thoi.org](http://thoi.org)

**March 2006, Adar/Nisan 5766**

## From the Rabbi's Desk

My dear fellow Valley Jews and Friends,  
SHALOM!

Please be sure to read the monthly newsletter regularly to keep up with all that is going on and any changes that may be announced. Check the congregational calendar for the list of upcoming events each month and come join in! Take advantage of all that your congregation and Jewish community offer. There are Holiday celebrations, adult education classes, youth activities, religious school, and social events on the calendar throughout the year. Social action, Tikkun Olam (repair of the world), Gemilut Chasidim (Acts of loving kindness), and Tzedakah (righteous action) project ideas and suggestions are offered continuously. Be a part of it all!

Tu Bi'Shevat has come and gone, and we are rushing towards Purim in the middle of this month! ☺ Can Passover be far behind? Be Happy – It's soon Adar!

### **THE CALENDAR & HOLIDAYS**

Adar is the next month to come. Adar is considered THE month of great joy and celebration. Rosh Chodesh for Adar is February 28<sup>th</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup> and Rosh Chodesh (New Month) for Nisan is March 30<sup>th</sup>. The holidays in this month are Ta'anit Ester (the fast of Esther) observed the day before Purim, Purim (the Feast of Lots), which falls on Tuesday, the 14<sup>th</sup> of March, and Shushan Purim (Purim as celebrated in walled cities, a day later than Purim is noted elsewhere). A time of great joy to you in this month of Adar! The Purim service is scheduled for March 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **JEWISH LIFECYCLE: MARRIAGE**

Our abbreviated discussion of Jewish Lifecycle continues this month with the most widely celebrated ceremony, Marriage.

Most of us have attended at least one, and think we know about Jewish weddings and marriage. As with so many things, however, there is much more to it than we are often aware. This is a very short listing of a few aspects, some widely known, some less so.

In the background, we often have an overlay of westernized thought, which includes the concept of romantic love. Not specifically eschewed by Judaism, this sensibility is not seen as a necessary component for marriage in Jewish thought. If you wonder at it, recall that it is only after twenty-five years of marriage that Tevye asks Golde if she loves him in Fiddler on the Roof! That said, we can begin our examination of Jewish marriage.

The Talmud describes three forms of establishing a marriage. All require witnesses.

The first is "bi'ah" or cohabitation, with no formal act. This was not viewed favorably by the rabbis, though one might argue that it is the basis for palimony in community property states such as California. It involves the couple placing themselves in the position to hold themselves out as a couple in the eyes of others, and to act as a couple.

Second was the formal act of delivery of a document by a man to a woman, and her acceptance of it. This might be seen as the marriage contract or wedding license being signed and given to the woman.

The third method was the giving of an article of some value (usually ascertainable) by a

man to a woman, and her acceptance of it. A wedding gift is not uncommon even today. A Jewish wedding ceremony today goes one better, and incorporates all three! First, we have the document of the Ketubah, the marriage contract. Second, there is the article of value – the ring. And third, from their symbolic home, the Chuppah (marriage canopy), the couple retire together in private in Yichud (a time alone) after the ceremony.

But before we get there.....

When the bride- and groom-to-be decide that they will marry, they may introduce their families and engage in a ritual known as Tena'im (conditions). This is a drawing up of the conditions for the marriage to take place. Some of these conditions are carried over to the Ketubah. One of the customs is that at the end of the meeting, to seal the agreement, a plate is smashed, and the pieces are often kept and displayed in an ornamental fashion, such as in a shadow box. The scene in Fiddler where Tevye and Lazer Vulf agree (and drink), and throw a glass against the wall, is reminiscent of this custom.

Later, the actual conditions and agreements are finalized and set down in writing in the Ketubah (marriage contract). Traditionally, this set forth the bride price, the dowry, the responsibilities of the bride and groom, and the financial penalty to the groom if he later chooses to divorce the bride. This contract is not signed until the wedding.

Sometime before, usually the Shabbat preceding the wedding, the groom (and nowadays the bride) may be called up to an aliyah at the Torah, which is called an Aufruf (sounds like oof-roof, Oyfrufn in plural). At the conclusion of the blessings after the Torah reading, it is the custom to throw candy to wish them a sweet life. This is the source of the custom we occasionally see at B'nai Mitzvah. The custom of Oyfrufn is so old that Solomon included a gate for bridegrooms in the original Temple design. With the destruction of the second Temple in the year 70, the practice moved to the synagogue.

The wedding usually takes place in two locales, one private, and one public. The signing of the Ketubah is often done in private, as this is in part a business agreement, and the terms are not necessarily public. The public ceremony is the wedding itself.

The private ceremony can take two flavors. If the couple have chosen not to see each other before the wedding, this can be done in two parts, with only the witnesses and officiant required at both. The basic ritual is that the Ketubah is signed and witnessed.

The witnesses are to be two persons, Jewish, not related to the bride or groom, who can sign their Hebrew and English names.

If the couple are to see each other, the groom may veil the bride; if not, either she is already veiled in a prior ceremony before she enters, or they are not in the room at the same time. The veiling ceremony is called Bedeken. Either the groom veils the bride to assure that a fast one isn't pulled on him, as happened to Jacob with Leah; or the groom may send a representative to the bride to question her after she is veiled, to assure that this is the woman he has chosen to marry.

What the public sees is the wedding. A wedding is more or less evenly divided into four segments. After the procession, when the bridal party is at or under the chuppah (canopy), the first portion of the ceremony begins. The officiant welcomes the guests and bridal party, and calls upon them to come together as a kehillah, a sacred congregation to witness this religious ritual. The officiant recites the blessings of Erusin (betrothal), and the bride and groom sip from the wine. They then exchange rings, and recite the formulaic Hebrew phrases that make this a legal ritual for Jewish purposes.

The custom is that the ring will be a plain band of precious metal, without stones or incisions, something that has an easily ascertainable value, and which can be seen by the witnesses at a distance.

The second segment of the ceremony is a brief separation of the Erusin from the next major section. It often includes the reading of parts of the Ketubah, offering of vows to

each other, addresses to the couple by friends and/or the officiant, readings, or other insertions that help the couple make this a more personal moment.

Third, the second half of the wedding ceremony, Nisu'in takes place. Again, there is a cup of wine, and the Sheva Berachot (seven blessings) are recited.

The final segment of the ceremony is the legal pronouncement, kiss, threefold priestly benediction, breaking of the glass, shouts of 'mazel tov', and recession.

All together, Erusin, Nisu'in and the optional additions, form the ceremony of Kiddushin, the sanctification of the union.

Often the couple will go into seclusion for a short time, which is called Yichud (aloneness). There it is common for them to share a small meal – all too often they don't get a chance to eat at their own wedding! This is all the more important when they have chosen to fast for the day. This is in recognition that one's wedding day is viewed as a private Yom Kippur for the bride and groom. It is also true that we don't like to see brides and grooms fainting at their receptions!

We have not mentioned the Chuppah (bridal canopy). This is a symbolic dwelling under which the ceremony takes place. It represents the new home being created, reminds us all of what is above us and that G-d is a part of this union, and helps us to see these two people as a unified couple, and a sanctified family. The Chuppah can be made of many things. Often it is a beautifully decorated and artistic piece of sewing or embroidery, some use a special Tallis, others make it from flowers and growing things, still others use articles that have meaning to them. It is a personal statement that enhances the moment. Some grooms have the custom of wearing a Tallit (prayer shawl) during the ceremony. A Sephardic (Jews of Spanish descent) custom is to enwrap the bride and groom in the tallis during part of the ceremony.

Not too common nowadays is the wearing of a kittel (a white robe) by the groom, similar to the custom for Yom Kippur.

One of the customs that is shrouded in ancient mystery is the circling of the groom by the bride. The number of circles varies with custom and the nature of the symbolic aspect one chooses to follow, from zero to thirteen times, with seven being the most well-known number, though not necessarily the most often chosen. There are connections to each number for various reasons, and it is up to the couple to decide what they will incorporate into the ceremony.

The ceremony can be as plain or as elaborate as the couple and the family may choose. The key elements being present, a small ceremony is no different than a large one, and each is spiritually the same.

Next month, we will continue with the topic of Death and Burial.

### **TZEDAKAH (Righteous Action)**

After all the natural disasters and wars, basic needs around the world, in our nation, and locally all continue to be much greater than anyone could ever have imagined.

Please donate whatever funds you are able to those in need by going to [www.jdc.org](http://www.jdc.org), [www.ujc.org](http://www.ujc.org), [www.mazon.org](http://www.mazon.org), or at [www.urj.org](http://www.urj.org), or send your donations by mail.

Please

also support First Step, Mazon, the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, the Free Clinic, and the other worthwhile organizations that help those in need in our own area.

### **JEWS ONLINE**

A website I recommend is <http://www.hebrew-verbs.co.il/>. This is worth a visit! It's a site that lays out the full declension of over 200 Hebrew roots in all persons, for all tenses! If you are trying to make sense of why sometimes you hear 'Oseh' and sometimes 'Asah', this might just help! ☺ An excellent reference for those who are trying to master

Hebrew.

### **JEWISH HUMOR**

#### My Son, the Surgeon

Samuel, age 79, was on the operating table awaiting surgery, to be performed at his insistence by his own son, a renowned specialist.

"Before they put me out, son, I want to say one thing."

"Yes, dad, what is it?"

"I just want you to know, you shouldn't be nervous. Do your best. And remember, if things don't go well... a slip of the knife, an accident, well, you know.... your mother's coming to live with you and your wife."

#### So Tell Me Doctor

Myron asked his doctor, "Do you think I'll live to be ninety?"

"Do you drink or smoke?"

"No, doctor."

"Eat juicy steaks?"

"I don't touch red meat!"

"What about loose women?"

"NEVER!"

The doctor said, "I have only one more question. Why exactly do you want to live to be ninety?"

#### Miami Drivers

A Miami officer pulled over eighty-six year old Mrs. Posner because her signals were very confusing.

"First you put your hand up, like you are turning left, then you waved up and down, then you turned right" said the officer.

Mrs. Posner said, "I decided not to turn left."

"So what was the up and down motion?"

She disdainfully sniffed, "Officer, I was erasing!"

### **JEWISH WIT AND WISDOM**

What a pleasure it is to talk about tsuris (troubles) that have passed.

You can't chew with someone else's teeth.

For a long, happy life, breathe through your nose and keep your mouth shut.

Peeling an egg doesn't put it in your mouth.

#### The Magen David (Star of David)

The six-pointed star of David, frequently identified as the "Jewish Star", was not a historic symbol for ancient Jews or Jewish tribes. This is simply a geometric shape that has existed and been used for longer than anyone can remember. A six-pointed star was used decoratively in some ancient Jewish contexts, but it is also found in other religions, including in a 1200 year-old Muslim mosaic floor near Tel Aviv. It was not until as late as 1897 that it became an emblem for the Jewish people. That was when Theodore Herzl's Zionist conference chose it as the symbol for their movement. That was the moment when it took on the widely-recognized Jewish context in which it is so often seen today.

### **JEWISH HISTORY**

#### Jews in Flight

In 1892, German Jew Otto Lillienthal made the first glider flights to develop theories of aerodynamics. He was considering adding a motor to his craft when, on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 1896, he lost control in a sudden wind, and fell to his death. His efforts were an inspiration to the Wright brothers, according to the American Heritage History of Flight,

and he was the first to demonstrate that ‘air could support a man in winged flight.’ Another Jewish flight first: that large cigar-shaped object over the superbowl should rightfully have been named the ‘Schwarzian’, not the Zeppelin. It was Austrian Jew David Schwarz who invented the airship, and built a prototype in 1892. Unfortunately, when the German government told him they wished him to proceed with production, the shock was too much, and he dropped dead on the spot. That is how Count Zeppelin bought the patents from Schwarz’s wife and claimed credit for the invention.

**ISRAEL TRIP UPDATE**

I have asked for responses concerning a possible Israel trip in the last several newsletters. I have received some responses, and there is interest in going.

I also was contacted by someone from the UJC, who offered to let us tie our trip into theirs, if we wish, with some separate activities possible, but assuring us of reaching the numbers we need to get the group rate. That makes this a very real prospect, and much of the logistical and legwork would be done by UJC, bringing this much closer to a reality.

A note to families of upcoming B’nai Mitzvah: one of the suggestions offered by the UJC was to make this a B’nai Mitzvah trip, if anyone wishes to do so. They will help us to plan and execute a B’nai mitzvah celebration there, so that is also an option available.

We are now in the position of needing to decide how soon we would want to plan such a trip. The earliest date would be July or August of 2006 for ten days. That seems awfully soon (4 or 5 months out), given all the planning and preparation that is needed. I am inclined to aim at a later time, perhaps May or June of 2007, giving us time to plan ahead, make preparations, and be ready, rather than rush.

If you are interested in going to Israel on a group trip, please contact me (again, if you have) and let me know if you could come at any of these times. I will begin to collect the answers and make some initial plans. Thanks. Rabbi Joe

**Office Hours  
and  
Contact  
Information**

**RABBI’S AVAILABILITY & OFFICE DAYS**

Rabbi Joe available *by appointment*. Simply leave a message at the congregation, or email him to arrange a time to meet. In the event of an emergency, if you can’t reach him through the synagogues, please contact the rabbi at home by phone.

Email: [RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com](mailto:RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com)

Beth El Congregation 540-434-2744

Temple House of Israel 540-886-4091

Home [Emergencies only, please] 434-971-4741

If you should hear or know of anyone who is ill or hospitalized or who might otherwise wish a visit or call, please leave a message on the telephone answering machine at the temple. Messages are checked frequently.

**A Message from  
Lisa Solod**

Dear Congregants:

I think I have not only gotten my feet wet as your new president, but am completely immersed! Just a short note to say that I am blessed with a terrific hard-working, creative and committed board of directors, and we have some ambitious plans for the next year in terms of fundraising, membership and programming. I hope that, should a board member approach you about volunteering your time, energy and wisdom to one of our committees you will answer with an enthusiastic Yes!

Many of you have already answered the call from our treasurer to add a little to your dues to help fund the fledgling building fund. We very much appreciate that: there are

Message from  
Lisa Solod

many building issues that will need to be addressed soon, and as you know, our monies are limited. If, when you get your tax returns, you find a little extra in the refund, please consider another small gift to the temple (you can always write it off on next year's taxes!) as that will enable us to get some important things done.

Once again, I am honored to serve as your board president and feel very grateful for all the help and support I have received thus far from fellow board members and the congregation at large. If you read your bulletin closely you will be amazed at all that happens at Temple House of Israel. We are, indeed, a little miracle.

Please dig deep into your hearts and pocketbooks to help our small but vital congregation not only survive but *thrive* in the years to come.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Solod

Summary of  
February Board  
Meeting

Shelby Apple of Fishersville came to tell the Board about her Tot Shabbat program. This very successful program has been attracting 4-5 families with preschool children each month. Shelby, who has a degree in Jewish education, provides the children with songs, stories, special foods and a craft project. The Board commended her efforts and suggested ways that the Temple might help with the program \*

- The expenses never stop – our heating unit needed a new exchanger and circuit board. While the parts were under warranty, there was a substantial labor charge.
- \* Accessibility issues concerning our temple were also discussed. Rabbi Lynne Landsberg, as the senior advisor on disability issues for the Religious Action Coalition, has been helping Rachel Jordan obtain information about handicapped accessibility.
- \* The Board discussed the trees in front of the temple, which have grown too large for the space and which probably should be removed. If the trees are removed, some bare areas of the front yard could grow grass.
- \* Fundraising: On March 17<sup>th</sup> from 5 – 7:15, each person calls L'Italia to make a reservation. When you make the reservation, identify that you are from Temple House of Israel. They will give us 20% of the cost of the dinners. Non-temple members can also attend, to help support the temple.
- \* Ruth suggested that the temple collect used computer ink cartridges that are then brought to Staples. The cartridges can be traded in for a \$3. coupon at Staples, which can then be used to purchase anything at Staples. It was suggested that we set up a collection box for used ink cartridges.
- \* Change of date for Grace Covenant Potluck – new date is June 4<sup>th</sup>.

Noteworthy  
Congregational  
News

- From our treasurer: As of early February, your generous contributions have already funded 25 percent of our goal for the building fund in 2006. Thank you, and keep those contributions coming!
- Staunton has a new bookstore! Linda and Matt Singer of **Final Draft Booksellers**, 16 East Beverley Street, have proposed that if we collectively gather books to pass on to them, they would, in turn, make a donation to the temple. We think this is a great idea! **Leave any books you wish to donate** in the Rabbi's office.
- Enjoy **dinner at L'Italia** and make money for the temple! Contact your friends, make up a group and then make your reservations at L'Italia for **Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>** at 5:00 or 5:30 by calling L'Italia direct at 885-0102. Tell the hostess you are with the Temple House of Israel group when you make the reservations and then again when you come to the restaurant that evening. You'll be able to order from their regular menu and they will give the temple 20% of their income from our tables.
- Our potluck dinner with Staunton Grace Covenant will be held on June 4<sup>th</sup>.
- The **March Board meeting** will be held on **Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00.**

## News of our Community

- Philip Chodrow, son of Ruth and Don and grandson of Vera Flint, is one of the top 50 15-year-old chess players in the country. He was recently named to the list of top players published by the U.S. Chess Federation, based on tournament competition.
- Congratulations to Lynn Hewitt who is engaged to be married to Raymond Tuckwiller this spring. Lynn will be moving to a circa 1851 home in the Lewisburg, West Virginia valley which has been in Raymond's family for 6 generations. Between them they will have 1 daughter (Emily) and 3 sons (ages 17-21) and more than 20 horse carriages! Lynn sounds extremely happy and her eyes sparkle!
- We extend our sincere condolences to Rachel Jordan and her family of the death of Rachel's uncle, Daniel Seligmann. He died unexpectedly on January 27<sup>th</sup>. We wish the entire family our heartfelt sympathy.
- We also note with sadness the passing of Anne Goldberg, lately of Seattle, WA, on Dec 28<sup>th</sup>. Anne was a member of the Temple many years ago – she remembered going to the building on Kalorama Street as a child! Even though she moved away decades ago, she kept a fondness for the temple. May her memory be for a blessing.
- We're happy to report that Ellen Schorsch has been given the all-clear to drive both her car and a supermarket shopping cart. Her ankle continues to be a problem which requires additional therapy and a brace, but everything else is doing fine.
- Lynne Landsberg is recovering from back surgery done in January. Dennis was in town supervising the construction on their downtown Staunton retreat.
- Jan Kaufman's father passed away at the end of January after a hospital, rehab and nursing home stay. Our thoughts are with the Kaufman/Goldsmith families.
- The congregation notes the passing of Richard Mark's father who passed away within the past month. May his memory be for a blessing.
- Sarah Grove-Humphries will be recognized among a select group of 12 teachers for outstanding educational achievements in Musikgarten. The 2006 Musikgarten Achievement Award will be announced at their 8<sup>th</sup> annual festival in March and signifies the successful completion of all coursework for the entire Musikgarten curriculum. Congratulations Sarah!
- Martha Degen is currently showing her fiber arts at the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs as well as in Dallas. Her national recognition is well earned.

## News from the Women's Group

- We'll have our "second semester" **Shabbat dinner on Fri, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.** Please mark your calendars and make your reservations with Beth Young, 885-1481 or [bydesign@ntelos.net](mailto:bydesign@ntelos.net). Adults - \$8 / children under 13 - \$5.
- Thanks to Ellen Schorsch who has contacted the Staunton Farmer's Market, we'll have our **Bake Sale on May 13<sup>th</sup>** (the day before Mother's Day). Please get out your favorite recipes and get ready. Remember, ethnic food sells well.
- Please join us for our **next meeting on Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>** to finalize plans for dinner and get the details for our bake sale.

### *Happy Birthdays to be celebrated in March:*

Janet Brody celebrating on March 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Rebecca Pereles on the 14<sup>th</sup>  
Laura Jean Brand on the 19<sup>th</sup>  
Laurie Berman on the 28<sup>th</sup>

### *Happy Anniversary to:*

Laura Jean and Asher Brand celebrating 12 years on the 12<sup>th</sup>  
Bonnie and Mike Brown celebrating 10 years on the 23<sup>rd</sup>

## Our College Students

- Rachael Brody had her directorial debut at the University of Michigan in early February. On a very small budget she directed M Butterfly, her first full-length production, and did a great job with the set and stage movement. Yeah Rachael!
- Michael Degen is looking forward to attending the California Culinary Academy in San Francisco beginning in October. He is currently one of the managers at The Virginian in Charlottesville.
- Anna Degen is enjoying an internship during her senior year at JMU. She's working in Fredericksburg at a center for abused women and children and will graduate with a degree in Bachelor of Social Work in May.
- Sarah Young is re-adjusting to the University of Denver after having spent 6 months at the University of Cape Town in South Africa for her junior term abroad. Her experiences there were phenomenal and Denver seems a bit foreign now!
- David Young is currently doing web design at a computer technology incubator in Wellington, New Zealand, one of 4 internships during this year between high school and college. Sound mixing at a recording studio and film-making were both wonderful and Lone Pine Koala Preserve in Brisbane, Australia is next.
- Allyson Goldsmith was admitted Early Decision to Brandeis University in Waltham, MA. She's very excited both by the intellectual climate at Brandeis and the opportunity to be near Boston. Mazel tov Allyson!
- Philip Lambeth is completing his freshman year at Colgate, taking courses in neuroscience, modern French literature (in French) and moral philosophical thought. And not minding all the snow!!
- Elana Brody is still deciding on her college selection after auditioning in New York and Michigan among others.

## Adult Education

- Intermediate Hebrew is moving along well. This course is a chance to practice reading Hebrew, to improve prayer service skills, and to build Hebrew vocabulary to better understand the liturgy. Our textbook is the Siddur – our regular prayerbook! In March we will meet at THOI on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> at 6 to 7 pm, and at BE on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 to 3:30 pm. It is not too late - you can still join the group! There is no cost to members for this course. Please see the Rabbi to sign up or for more information.
- Our postponed discussion of The Zohar and Kabbalah will take place on March 12<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, at 7 pm. There is no prerequisite. All members of the congregations are invited to come to temple that evening.
- The weekly Parashat Hashavuah (weekly Torah portion) discussion continues at noon on Fridays at THOI on days when the office is open. All members of both congregations are invited to bring your lunch and join the discussion. No prior knowledge or experience required.
- The Harrisonburg-Rockingham IFA meets on the first Thursday of each month at noon. The group is open to individuals and religious institutions, and all are welcome to attend. The March 2<sup>nd</sup> program will be a presentation on volunteering to do farmwork to raise and harvest food to fight hunger in Virginia, presented by the director of the Volunteer Farm. We will meet at the West Dining Room of Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg. A buffet style lunch will be available in the cafeteria, at \$5.50/person (\$3.50 for seniors).  
Programs for the rest of this year include: an Interfaith Chocolate Seder (April 6<sup>th</sup>, tentatively at Beth El); a presentation on Clinical Pastoral Education training (May 4<sup>th</sup>); and a presentation on Immigrants in our growing and changing area (June 1<sup>st</sup>). The topic for the annual retreat is a presentation by the Virginia Interfaith Council

<p><b>Adult Education</b></p>	<p>on Public Policy (VICPP), discussing why and how one would be involved in ‘faithful democracy’ and advocacy. It is planned for Friday April 21<sup>st</sup> at Blessings Lodge from 9:00-3:30, will cost \$20/person, and includes lunch. If you would like to attend any of the meetings, please be in touch with Rabbi Joe for details.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The (Re-) Introduction to Judaism course began Monday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, and will meet for fifteen sessions (ending June 26<sup>th</sup>) at 7 pm at THOI in Staunton. The full schedule and list of topics we will address, textbooks, and materials was provided at the first class. It is still not too late to join this class, but hurry! After the fifth session, entry to the class will be closed. We have a really wonderful group – come join us and learn! *This course is intended to offer an overview of Judaism in a conversational and welcoming setting. It can serve as a reminder or as a first introduction. *This course is also a prerequisite for anyone who may wish to convert to Judaism. This course is generally only offered every other year, based on the level of interest. *The course is open to all congregational members, and to members of the public with permission of the instructor (Rabbi Joe). There are several textbooks to be purchased for the course (generally available at local bookstores), and homework and several ‘field trips’ will be assigned. So you are aware – this is a real bargain. The URJ recommended fee for this course is \$300.00/person, PLUS textbooks and materials. Please call for further information or to register at 540-886-4091.</li> </ul>
<p><b>B’nai Mitzvah</b></p>	<p>Our next B’nai Mitzvah event is coming up soon. Devin Oberdorff will celebrate his Bar Mitzvah at Beth El on April 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. After that we have <u>THREE</u> B’not Mitzvah: Laura Jean Brand May 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, Grace Lambeth June 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, and Martha Weinberg, in June, date to be confirmed, each at Temple House of Israel.</p> <p>If you would be interested in having a B’nai Mitzvah, or in learning to read Torah, chant Haftarah, lead services, or to serve as Gabbai, please be in touch with the rabbi.</p>
<p><b>Film Series</b></p>	<p><b>Showing on Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm – My Architect.</b> Nathaniel Kahn is searching for the heart and soul of his father, Louis Kahn, a well-known architect, who he hardly remembers. His quest takes him to several places around the world. There is a breathtaking parliament building in Bangladesh, which he designed. It is a moving and interesting story.</p>
<p><b>Staunton Book Group</b></p>	<p>From AJ: “It was both a stimulating and far-reaching discussion on “Bel Canto” leaving us with questions concerning the validity of the likelihood of the desired ending to this book being able to overcome the realities of day to day life and therefore the ending we read being much closer to truth. For once the general consensus was pleasure in this beautifully constructed story. We are now a week away from a VERY different book BUT one that does, however, unlikely as it seems, have direct ties to Bel Canto. We meet Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 7:30 pm at the home of Pat and Jerry Warner for <u>The End of Faith</u> by Sam Harris.</p> <p>This will be followed in March for Dianne Mason’s choice of <u>Siddhartha</u> by Herman Hesse that will be familiar to some but new to others. Leah Farmer will offer us hospitality on Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30 pm. Call Leah for directions at 885-0206. April’s book, <u>The Bread Givers</u> by Anzia Yezierska, has been chosen by Leah. If you love to read and share your insights with several opinionated folk in a cheerful atmosphere, feel free to join us with YOUR feelings and ideas.</p>
<p><b>Tot Shabbat</b></p>	<p><b>Tot Shabbat on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM</b> at the temple. Families with children 6 and under are welcome to come, learn about the holidays and enjoy light</p>

	refreshments. This is a wonderful interactive program for parents and children. To RSVP contact Shelby at <a href="mailto:shelbyapple@yahoo.com">shelbyapple@yahoo.com</a> or 943-6934.		
<b>Religious School</b>	The Religious school had a lovely Tu Bi'Shevat seder on February 19 <sup>th</sup> (postponed due to weather). Thanks to all who participated. In celebration of the holiday, trees were planted in Israel and we ate lovely fruits and nuts. In March we look forward to two big events: the <b>Religious School Shabbat on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at Beth El</b> , and the <b>Purim Celebration on March 12<sup>th</sup></b> ! Be sure to come for both. Don't forget to mark your calendars – NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL on March 26 <sup>th</sup> or April 2 <sup>nd</sup> for Spring Break.		
<b>Youth Group SHORTY</b>	Shorty continued their regular schedule, meeting at BE in Harrisonburg on February 26 <sup>th</sup> to visit the "Felafel Stand of Faith & Religion", and to plan for the coming months. After the extremely full month of January, they needed a little bit of a break! Next up: March 3 <sup>rd</sup> to 5 <sup>th</sup> is TheVent, this year in Raleigh. Of all the Kallot, THIS is the one NOT to miss! Sign up EARLY! Applications are already on the NFTY-Mar website! They come back from that Kallah only to do more: On the 12 <sup>th</sup> they will work with the Religious School to put on the annual Purim Carnival. Then, the March monthly meeting will be at 5 pm on March 26 <sup>th</sup> at THOI. Don't forget to bring children's books as donations to help Shorty with their Tzedakah efforts for the Reach out and Read project. You can leave these donations in the office or the social hall. Shorty will continue this project until June.		
<b>Judaica Shop</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dianne Mason has added many new items in the Judaica Shop and it looks wonderful. If you have any Judaica needs, please call Dianne at 885-6254.</li> </ul>		
<b>Donations</b>	<p><b>Thank you</b> to this generous person who has made a contribution to the Temple during the previous month. We appreciate your donation!</p> <p>For the floor refinishing .....Ralph Degen</p>		
<b>Notes from the Editor</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The deadline for each issue is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month. Anything you'd like published in the April bulletin should be given to me by March 20<sup>th</sup>. Your suggestions are welcome!</li> </ul>		
<b>Yahrzeits for October</b>	Louis Cohen Louis Cohen, Jr. Rose Wecksler Freiberger Emanuel J. Gutnick Irving Janus Irving Kamerman Joseph Kamerman Leah Kamerman	Annie Kaplan Klotz Abraham Kreitzer Abraham Levin Adrien Neuman Harry Raskin Moses Rosenthal Rebecca Rosenthal Regina Ruttenberg	Ralph Aaron Seltzer Albert Laub Shultz Sophie K. Strauss Irving Waxman C. Herman Weinberg Samuel I. Zeldin
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<b>MARCH</b>			1	2	3 Torah study at noon religious school Shabbat at BE	4
5	6 Intermediate Hebrew 6-7 Re-Intro to Judaism 7-9	7	8	9 Board Meeting at 7:00	10 Torah study at noon Shabbat services at 7:30 PURIM	11
12 7:00 discussion on Zohar and Kabbalah	13 Intermediate Hebrew 6-7	14	15	16	17 Torah study at noon dinner at L'Italia services at 7:30	18
19	20 Intermediate Hebrew 6-7 Re-Intro to Judaism 7-9	21	22	23	24 Torah study at noon Shabbat services at 7:30	25 Tot Shabbat at 10:30
26 Youth Group meet at 5:00 at THOI	27 Intermediate Hebrew 6-7 Re-Intro to Judaism 7-9	28	29 7:30 book group at Leah Farmer's	30	31 Torah study at noon	

Mar 3	Torah study at noon Religious School Shabbat services 7:30 at Beth El
Mar 6	Intermediate Hebrew 6-7 (Re-)Introduction to Hebrew 7-9
Mar 9	Board meeting at 7:00
Mar 10	Torah study at noon Shabbat services at 7:30, PURIM
Mar 12	Discussion: the Zohar and Kabbalah at 7:00 pm
Mar 13	Intermediate Hebrew 6-7
Mar 17	Torah study at noon Dinner at L'Italia fundraiser – Make your reservations 885-0102 Shabbat Services at THOI at 7:30 pm
Mar 20	Intermediate Hebrew 6-7 (Re-)Introduction to Hebrew 7-9
Mar 24	Torah study at noon
Mar 24	Shabbat Services at THOI at 7:30 pm
Mar 26	Youth Group Meeting at 5:00 at temple
Mar 27	Intermediate Hebrew 6-7 (Re-)Introduction to Hebrew 7-9
Mar 29	Book group at Leah Farmer's at 7:30 - Siddhartha
Mar 31	Torah study at noon