



Temple House of Israel Bulletin

A Member Congregation of the Union for Reform Judaism
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March 2007, Adar/Nisan 5767

From the Rabbi's Desk

My dear fellow Valley Jews and Friends,

Shalom!

It seems that winter finally blew in to our area with extreme cold, and even ice! I, for one, am already looking forward to have Spring arrive. ☺ Fortunately, we have a full calendar of events coming to warm us up and take our attention off the weather.

The Calendar & Holidays

Shevat ended on February 18th, and we moved into the month of Adar. February 18th and 19th were Rosh Chodesh for Adar. Because this is *not* a leap year, we have one month of Adar in this year (in leap years we add a second month of Adar – Adar II – to keep the lunar and solar aspects of the calendar in balance). Adar will run until March 19th, and March 20th will be Rosh Chodesh for the month of Nisan. It also happens that the vernal equinox (the point on the orbit of the earth around the sun when we switch from days growing shorter to days growing longer) is on the 21st of March, the 2nd of Nisan. Related to this, don't forget that you are to set your clocks ahead on March 11th as daylight savings time begins. Nisan runs until April 18th, with Rosh Chodesh for Iyar on the 18th and 19th of April.

We had a lovely Tu Bi'Shevat (the 15th of Shevat) celebration on February 3rd at Temple House of Israel this year, with a Seder and a lovely meal leading up to Shabbat services, as well as a Seder in the Religious school on February 4th. Tu Bi'Shevat is known as the new year for the Trees, sort of a Jewish Arbor day, and we enjoyed a large variety of delicious fruits of many trees. I think all those in attendance had a good time.

Adar is the month of the year in which we celebrate Purim (March 4th), and the last month of the year before the month of Nisan, when we celebrate Passover. That is why it is said in rabbinic writings that 'the one who rejoices in the arrival of Adar increases joy in the world.' We will hold a Purim observance at Shabbat services at Beth El on March 2nd this year, and will also observe it in the Religious School on March 4th, including a reading of the Megillat Ester (Scroll of Esther), a Purim Spiel (a performance with humor, song, and some silliness) by the students, and a Purim Carnival run by Shorty, the youth group. Look for more information to come soon about this and plan on attending. Congregants, and children especially, are invited to the March 4th event, and they do not have to be Religious school students to take part and have fun! Games and activities are planned, and lunch will be available.

One of the customs of Purim is 'mishloach manot' (the sending of portions), which takes two forms. For friends and family, we send a basket or bag of treats,

usually including Hamantaschen (those wonderful three cornered cookies with a variety of fillings) and other things. For those less fortunate, we send more substantial baskets with food staples and supplies or money. Because we are sending gifts to many people, it is thought, no one will know which kind of gift is sent to anyone, so no one who has need is embarrassed by receiving something. This is a beautiful custom, and I hope you will participate in it this year. You are welcome to bring non-perishable food items to the synagogue to be donated – leave them in the usual place. I also encourage you to make donations to Mazon (envelopes are available in the rack), to the Blue Ridge Food Bank, or to any other group that works to combat hunger. If you need information on any of these organizations, please ask me. This time of year is very difficult for those who don't have enough, and supplies from donations over the winter holidays are exhausted.

We had one of the special named Shabbatot (Sabbaths) on February 17th, the 29th of Shevat, called Shabbat Shekalim (the Sabbath of Shekels), when we read about the collection of the half-shekel from each eligible person for the building and maintenance of the Tabernacle, and later, the Temple. This is the text source in Torah for justifying the imposition of taxes, and for the obligation of each person to support the community's institutions. As we come closer to April 15th it may not be such a happy idea. ☺ Nonetheless, we are taught that we have a sacred obligation to assist those in need, and to support our own community.

Starting in March, we have a series of special named Shabbatot. On March 3rd this year we have Shabbat Zachor (the Sabbath of remembrance), when we are told to remember what Amalek did, and to blot out their name – closely connected to Purim, as Haman is seen as a descendant of Amalek. March 10th is Shabbat Parah, the Sabbath when we read the section of Torah that tells us about the red heifer (that mysterious description in the Tanakh that the Cohen Gadol/High Priest would use these ashes of the red heifer, ashes which purify anyone who is ritually impure, but impurify anyone who is ritually pure) in preparation for the celebration of Pesach/Passover (a time when the High Priest had to be ritually pure to make the offerings). March 17th is Shabbat HaChodesh, the Sabbath just before the start of THE Month (Nisan), which we are told is to be seen as the head of months (the most important way to track the year) for us, for in it we were redeemed and liberated from slavery. March 31st will be Shabbat Hagadol, the GREAT SABBATH, because it falls immediately before we celebrate Pesach/Passover!

Looking a little farther ahead, on the 2nd and 3rd of April we hold the Pesach Seders! This year, the first community seder will be held at THOI, on Monday, April 2nd. April 3rd will be the community seder at Beth El. Look for information to come soon, and make your reservation! Pesach begins the evening of April 2nd, and runs until sundown on the 10th of April.

One of the other things that happen at this time of year is the counting of the Omer. An omer is a measure, something like a small basket, in volume perhaps a cup or so. In the past, the 'omer' referred to the harvesting of the barley grain crop, which begins at this time of year. Barley does not ripen all at once, so it is collected over a period of time. In accordance with the command to offer first 'fruits' as a form of thanks, it became the custom to set aside a portion of the grain collected each day during the 49 days of the barley crop harvesting, and to keep it separately, to be taken all at once to the Temple as an offering to G-d. Thus, we have the counting of the Omer – a seven week, or 49 day period during which the barley would have been set aside. Since the barley crop was what sustained the people until the much later wheat crop would grow, it was imperative for survival, and the period

of harvesting took on a solemn and awesome note. It became the custom to treat it as a period of semi-mourning, in order not to act inappropriately. That is why it is traditional not to have any weddings or other public celebrations/parties during this time. Starting the evening of April 3rd (day 2 of Pesach) we begin to count the Omer. The Omer continues to be counted for forty-nine days, until May 22nd, on which evening after sundown we begin our celebration of Shavuot, the giving of the Aseret Hadibrot (the Ten Sayings or Ten Commandments) on Mount Sinai. In this way we link the liberation from slavery and Redemption to the giving of the commandments and Revelation.

Almost immediately after Pesach, on April 15th, Nisan 27 is Yom HaShoah, Holocaust remembrance day. The upper grade of the religious school will commemorate that event by visiting the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Others are welcome to accompany the school on that visit. You can order tickets online – the service charge is about \$2/person. I will try to help set up some car pools, if you let me know you plan to go. The plan is to drive to a Metro rail station in Northern Virginia, and then ride the train to the Mall to walk to the museum for our 11 am visit. Please contact me (Rabbi Joe) if you want any further details.

Also in April, on the 23rd, the 5th of Iyar, is Yom Ha'atzma'ut, Israel Independence Day. We hope to observe this event in the Religious school on the 22nd with a family education program focusing on Israel. Watch for more information on this, as well.

The Congregational Calendar

Allow me to point out a few of the many things that are upcoming:

- Sunday, February 25th, at 2 to 5 pm at THOI, we will hold a formal training session, a practicum, for those interested in the Chevrah Kadishah (the 'holy society' that deals with preparation of the dead) for all those interested in the Chevrah Kadishah training. This session will be led by two of the people from Charlottesville instrumental in starting and training the Chevrah there, and they have agreed to help us as we initiate our Chevrah. Janet and Elayne will be coming to teach us about what to do, and how to do it in a real hand-on learning process. All who are interested or curious are welcome: if you have any possible interest in learning about the Chevrah, or might be interested in participating, or are just curious about what a Chevrah does, please put this session on your calendar and make every effort to attend. If you cannot attend, please let Rabbi Joe know. If you will be attending, also please let Rabbi Joe know so he can arrange for enough copies of materials for all interested persons.
- PLEASE NOTE a change in schedule: There will be a Shabbat service on March 9th at THOI. The March 9th service at Beth El will be a lay led service.
- Intermediate Hebrew is scheduled to meet at Beth El on the following dates: February 25th (at 6:30 pm due to the Chevrah Kadishah training), March 11th, 25th (Please Note that the original calendar indicated March 4th but that has been postponed to the 25th), April 22nd, May 6th and 20th, and June 10th (all planned for 1-2 pm). This class is intended for those who can readily decode Hebrew and want to improve their liturgy skills and general Hebrew reading abilities, and add a smattering of vocabulary.
- March 15th at 7 pm at THOI there is an adult education program on Holidays. In this third session of the year we will focus on Pesach (Passover): customs, rituals, and halachah, as preparation for the holiday.
- March 16-19 there is a small congregation Kallah in Lynchburg. It will be a

wonderful opportunity to learn and to meet and spend time with others from many of the small congregations in the mid-Atlantic region. There will be worship services, educational sessions, social events, and many good chances to find things that can be brought back to enhance our congregation! If you can, please attend. For more information contact Rabbi Joe.

- March 17th is Tot Shabbat at 10 am. Contact Shelby at tot-shabbat@thoi.org to RSVP.
- The Adult Education Interfaith Dialogue program has been re-scheduled. The three dates for it are now fixed, and will be May 6th from 2 to 5 pm at Beth El, June 3rd from 2 to 5 pm at Otterbein United Methodist Church, and June 24th from 2 to 5 pm at Beth El.

The sessions are planned as three hours each, including a light meal together towards the end. Up to ten members of the congregations who would like to engage in a meaningful dialogue with a similar number of Christians from the Otterbein United Methodist Church will participate. If you wish to take part, we still have some openings, so please call or write Rabbi Joe. We have adapted the Open Doors, Open Minds curriculum from URJ, which helps us to explore similarities and differences, and how each faith community uses their sacred text. We will use the Aseret Hadibrot (the 10 sayings, which are often called the Ten Commandments) as the major text. Since a large part of the program is building rapport, understanding, and trust between the participants, we must insist that only if you can commit to attend all three sessions should you sign up – changing players in the middle of the game doesn't work! If you are interested, please be in touch with Rabbi Joe.

- March 19th at 7 pm at Beth El will be a Talmud Torah Limud (Torah Study). Bring your meal and join us for a discussion.
- March 22nd, Thursday evening, at 7 pm at THOI we are planning an Adult Education program. This will be a presentation by Professor Gordon Bowen entitled "Israel's Approach to Counter-Terrorism". See the details under Adult Education.
- March 25th, the Religious School will hold its model seder for Pesach.
- March 29th, Thursday evening at 7 pm at THOI, there will be another Adult Education program. Lou Boden will join me to discuss healing in a Jewish context and the mind-body-spirit connection. Details under Adult Ed.
- April 5th will be the first of five Adult Education sessions on Basic Judaism. These sessions will meet at 7 pm at THOI over a seven week period. You can attend any of them: they are not planned as a single unit. The broad topics planned for consideration, in order, are: God, Jewish Prayer, Shabbat, Jewish Observance, and Jewish views on Sexuality. More details will be sent out next month.

Trip to Israel

Our Congregational trip to Israel is now set to go! We have arranged a very good price, better than usual accommodations, and an excellent itinerary. Details under the Israel Trip. I am getting incredibly excited about this trip, and I am really looking forward to it! I truly hope you will join me on this trip for the experience of a lifetime!

Rabbi Joe Blair

<p>Reaching the Rabbi</p>	<p>The Rabbi is available this year on Sundays and Mondays in Harrisonburg, and Thursdays and Fridays in Staunton. If you wish to meet or speak with the rabbi, please email or call for an appointment to be sure that he will be able to give you his full undivided attention, as you deserve.</p> <p>Email: RabbiJoe@thoi.org Beth El Congregation 540-434-2744 Temple House of Israel 540-886-4091 Home [Emergencies only, please] 434-971-4741</p>
<p>Message from the President</p>	<p>Dear Congregants,</p> <p>The Board had a very successful and productive retreat a couple of weeks ago. We came up with a mission statement that reads “Our mission is to perpetuate Jewish life and identity through a welcoming community of spirituality, service, joy and worship.” You will be seeing that mission statement a lot and I will be talking about it from time to time. Note the word “service” and its placement in the statement. It is second only to spirituality! Service means donating your time and energy to the congregation in the best way for you that is possible. Toward that end, we would like ALL congregants to volunteer to be on a committee and to do their best to contribute in some way to that committee’s success. Some of you are already doing that, but many of you aren’t! If you are waiting to be asked, then I am asking you! Our committees are Buildings and Grounds, Fundraising, Finance, Membership, and Caring. Each of these committees is chaired by a board member. Just email me which committee you are interested in and I will pass your name along.</p> <p>In addition, we came up with a timeline for completing the accessibility and building projects we need and we hope to have everything done in five years. But that ambitious goal will also take money, time and a commitment from our members. If you haven’t already contributed to the building fund, please do so, so that we can make sure our actual physical building is around forever as a place to worship, learn and grow.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">---- Lisa Solod Warren</p>
<p>Recap of February Board Meeting</p>	<p>Two pews in the sanctuary have been removed to allow for additional space between the pews and also to relocate those pews, cut to fit, in the alcove off the bimah for handicapped accessibility. Carpet has been trimmed. • The board voted to help send Ruth Chodrow and Beth Young to the Small Congregations Kallah in March and to help send Beth to the training institute for congregational leadership in May. The URJ has already given Beth a grant for partial tuition • Finance committee met and recommended a fundraising committee be formed for major projects. A Men’s Group was suggested for project-oriented work. • A sound system was discussed and a proposal is being prepared by Crutchfield. • By-laws changes will be re-submitted at the next annual meeting in hopes that a quorum will vote. • Artwork for the stationery is done and Rachel Jordan has produced a beautiful watercolor of our building. • Beth Young was appointed as an at-large member to the Board. • Rabbi Joe and Alan Goldenberg are discussing a program of Holocaust education.</p>
<p>Noteworthy Congregational News</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thanks to Lou Boden, David Waterman and Beth and Rich Young for removing 2 pews and repositioned the remaining pews to allow for more legroom. David will fit the pews on the bimah to accommodate those who want to avoid the stairs.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dinner at L'Italia was well attended and very good. Thanks to all 56 people who dined and therefore supported this fun-raiser, we "earned" \$266. Good work! ▪ The URJ-MAC Small Congregations Kallah will be held on March 16-18 at Agudath Shalom Congregation in Lynchburg, VA. There will be 3 sets of workshops and meals as well as Shabbat services and study. The cost of the Kallah is \$60 for the weekend with reasonable rooms reserved in the area. For more information and to register, email to mac@urj.org or call Lisa Helfman at 888-842-8242. ▪ The Congregational Passover Seder will be held Monday, April 2nd at 6:00. A separate flyer is attached with the details and a reservation form. Volunteers are needed to help on Sunday, April 1st beginning at 1:00 pm cleaning out the refrigerator, replenishing salt, sugar and cream supplies, setting tables, arranging flowers, making matzo balls, making charoset, boiling eggs and preparing gefilte fish. On Monday afternoon at 1:00 pm we need volunteers to assemble the individual seder plates. We also need donations of matzo, gefilte fish, horseradish, and paper napkins. Please contact Laurie Berman at 885-2925 to volunteer as soon as possible! ▪ The next board meeting will be March 15th at 7:00 pm.
<p>News of our Community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Crys Sragovitz is recovering from knee replacement surgery done on January 22nd. She's sure that the pain of physical therapy will be worth it in the long run! ▪ Ellen Werther has been invited to join the Mary Baldwin College chapter of Kappa Delta Pi, the international honor society for education. She will be inducted at a ceremony on March 18th. ▪ Mazel tov to THOI President Lisa Solod and Michael Warren who were married on Valentine's Day! ▪ A.J. Hartung is now feeling good enough to conduct several equine clinic seminars in March. That's a huge improvement! ▪ The Final Draft book store has moved and re-opened at 103 West Beverley Street. Stop by their new, larger location! As always, Linda Singer will make a donation to the temple for your donated books. Just bring them to the temple and leave them in the Rabbi's office. ▪ On the same block, right next door is the Staunton Grocery, our new up-scale restaurant in town. Ellen and Lou Boden's son Ian is the chef – and a mighty good one he is. Make your reservations for an outstanding, delicious dinner made with (mostly) locally grown meats and vegetables! ▪ The Newtown Baking Company, located at 960 West Beverley Street is another excellent new addition to Staunton. Bill Willett is baking challah every Friday, both in loaf and small, round size. Enjoy!
<p>Israel Trip</p>	<p>Our Congregational trip to Israel is now set to go! We have arranged a very good price, better than usual accommodations and an excellent itinerary for August 5-15, 2007. You can register (and even pay) online by going directly to the website for our trip, to be found at: http://www.arzaworld.com/632/Tour_To_Israel-Search=begdate=01Aug07&enddate=31Aug07.</p> <p>If this link doesn't work, another way to get to the same place is to visit http://www.arzaworld.com. When you get to the website, look for the area labeled 'Find Your Journey'. Click on the down arrow next to the text box under the 'Departing' title. Select 'August 07' from the choices presented, and then click on the 'search' box. Select from the drop down menu the tour listed under the name</p>

	<p>Temple House of Israel & Beth-El (nr).</p> <p>Either way you get there, this should allow you to see the trip details, including the highlights, what is included, our itinerary, hotels, and dates and rates. If you click on Dates and Rates, it will show the dates, the total cost for the airfare and land portions of the trip, and have a link to ‘Reserve Now’ to allow you to sign up and register. You can select air and land, or land only if you wish to make your own air travel arrangements. Of course, if you have any questions, or you want to sign up but don’t want to do so online, you can call and speak to someone at Arza World Travel to make your reservation. The contact information for Arza World Travel is: ARZA World Travel, 33 East 33rd Street, Suite 1102, New York, NY 10016 Toll Free: 888-811-2812 Voice: 212-683-6311 Fax: 212-683-6324.</p> <p>If you have any questions that you can’t get answers to from the website or from the staff at Arza World Travel, please contact the Rabbi. There is still plenty of room to add people to our group, so please sign up yourself, and encourage friends and family to join you!</p>
<p>Book Group</p>	<p>From AJ: “A wonderful sense of the ridiculous brought our discussion on <u>The Sunflower</u> to a close, proving that in the end it is a small insight that can bring a group to a larger understanding. Thank you Pat Warner, a lady able to laugh at herself!</p> <p>As to last night’s discussion, we truly missed Rachel Peretz as <u>How to get More Out of Being Jewish</u> was her choice and we still yearn to know how she evolved with this author. Our talks ranged from what constitutes prayer to what constitutes God, all over societal Earth. Thank you Janet not only for the warm hospitality but for encouraging Linda Singer to join us.</p> <p>We meet next at Leah Farmer’s on Wednesday, March 21st for <u>The Year of Magical Thinking</u> by Joan Didion, a communal choice of Leah, Janet and Linda. Then, tentatively, for April it is <u>Life is So Good</u> by George Dawson. Join us!”</p>
<p>News from the Women’s Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Our yard sale was a huge success...in the approximate amount of \$780. We owe a huge thank you to Shirley Brand and Ruth Chodrow who co-chaired this event and to all who donated their “stuff”. Two big-ticket items sold after the event was over which added nicely to our profits. ▪ We are in need of a <u>scrapbook editor</u> to compile the various articles and photos we continue to collect. This is a job that can be done by anyone who would like to contribute to the temple archives! ▪ Our next meeting will be Sunday, March 25th at 2:00 pm. Our topics will include the community Passover seder celebration and the food which might accompany the film festival. Come join us! ▪ Happy Birthdays to be celebrated in March: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Janet Brody on March 2nd Rebecca Pereles on March 14th Laura Jean Brand on March 19th Laurie Berman on the 28th <p>Happy Anniversary to Laura Jean and Asher Brand celebrating 23 years! Happy Anniversary also to Bonnie and Mike Brown celebrating 21 years!</p>
<p>B’nai Mitzvah</p>	<p>If you are interested in studying for and having your own B’nai Mitzvah, or in learning to leyn (read/chant) Torah and/or Haftarah, or to lead services, or you wish to discuss conversion, please be in touch with Rabbi Joe.</p>

<p>Religious School</p>	<p>In February the Religious school had the first of its field trips. We attended a Conservative Shabbat morning service at Congregation Beth Israel in Charlottesville, then went to eat and talk a bit about the experience. The students in the Gimel and Daled class seemed to find it interesting and noted quite a few differences, but even more similarities. On March 17th we will undertake the second of our Religious School Field trips. We will be attending a Shabbat morning service in Charlottesville at the Orthodox/Chabad congregation, and then taking some time to discuss it. On April 28th we will have our last field trip of the year to the P'nai Or/Jewish Renewal Havurah Shabbat morning service. If other congregants would like to experience these services, please let me (Rabbi Joe) know.</p> <p>The other Religious school field trip planned for the upper grade will be April 15th to the Holocaust Museum (on Yom Hashoah – Holocaust Remembrance Day). The tickets have already been purchased for the Religious school students, but they are readily available online or by phone, and you can order them if you would like to go to the museum along with the Religious School. Again, if you would like to go along, please speak to Rabbi Joe so he can include you in the plans for transportation.</p>
<p>Adult Education (It's a busy month!)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ February 25th will be our Chevrah Kadishah training session at 2 pm. The details for this are under the Rabbi's report "The Congregational Calendar". ▪ On March 15th Rabbi Joe will present the next installment of the Jewish Holidays: customs, rituals and halachah in preparation for Pesach. 7:00 pm. ▪ March 22nd, Thursday evening, at 7 pm will be a presentation by Professor Gordon Bowen entitled "Israel's Approach to Counter-Terrorism," Prof. Bowen traveled to Israel in May and June 2006 as part of a study group sponsored by the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, a Washington D.C. based organization. His illustrated presentation (a slide show) will focus on what he learned from Israelis in the Shin Bet, Mossad, Border Police, and Israel Defense Forces. I expect it will be very interesting! All are welcome. This too is a broadening of our adult education offerings. ▪ On March 29th Rabbi Joe and Lou Boden will present a dual program with the Rabbi's introduction to the Jewish ideas on healing and the Tree of Life, and Lou's focus on the mind-body-spirit connection and the concept of Shefa (pouring or flow) through us. This is in response to those who have been asking about a program related to spirituality and/or practical Kabbalah, and is intended for those who have asked for a broader range of topics in our adult education series. <p>Torah Parashiot</p> <p>Torah parashiot (weekly portions) for this month include: Tetzaveh, Ki Tisa, Vayakhel-Pekudei, Vayikra, and Tzav, including the reading of Shemot (Exodus) 27:20 to Vayikra (Leviticus) 8:36.</p> <p>Included among the topics in these readings are the instructions on completion of the Mishkah (Tabernacle), the description of the clothes to be made for the high priests, the hallowing of the high priests and their ritual of consecration, the making of the altar, the census and half-shekel, the implements of the mishkan, the appointment of Bezalel and Oholiab as the artisans, the commandment of the Sabbath, the giving of the two tablets of the commandments, the incident of the golden calf and the punishment for it, the request of Moses to see G-d's glory, the second tablets, the prayer for forgiveness, the instruction of Moses into the Torah</p>

	and the law, the description of the work on the Mishkan and the clothing of the High priests, the reporting of the completion of the work, the description of the ceremony of consecration of the Mishkan, the description of the offerings to be made and the types of offerings allowed, and the actual ceremony of the consecration of the high priests. This section of Torah seems to follow the old adage: tell them what you are going to tell them, tell them, and then tell them what you told them! It seems quite repetitive, but hidden among these repetitions are gems and bits of wisdom.
Judaica Shop	If you have any specific needs, please let AJ know at 337-3863. There are many new items to see and catalogs are available. Pesach requests are being taken now and orders will be placed shortly.
Youth Group and Confirmation Class	<p>Shorty is definitely keeping busy. Two of the members and Sheri Alt attended the national NFTY Convention, held in Philadelphia. It was an amazing event, with over 1100 members of youth groups from all over North America, and Israel.</p> <p>The big events that they are looking forward to are the regional Kallot (gatherings), including TheVent in March, and the Spring Kallah in April. In addition, we will be having our own Shul-ins, projects, meetings, and programs, and of course, we will be leading a Confirmation service in May. Look for more information to be sent out soon! ☺</p> <p>The big news is that they are looking ahead to the regional and national events, including TheVent, the NFTY Convention, and the Spring Kallah, all yet to come, in addition to our Shul-ins, projects, meetings, and programs. No wonder they already look a little tired! ☺</p>
Tot Shabbat	Our next program will be on March 17th at 10AM at THOI . Please contact Shelby Apple at tot-shabbat@thoi.org if you would like more information. New families are always welcome. Programming consists of music, stories, interactive crafts and homemade challah! The goal of the program is to get young children interested in their Judaism in a fun, interactive environment. We also want to create a love of learning about their religion as well as a venue for parents with preschool aged children to get together and meet each other.
Film Series	<p>Join us Saturday, March 31st at 6:00 for “The Syrian Bride”. Directed by Eran Riklis, an Israeli Jew, the film tells the story of a Druze family in the Golan Heights, Syrian territory that Israel has occupied since 1967. The Druze (an 11th-century offshoot of Islam) in the Golan have been cut off from the Druze in Syria. When the family arranges to marry its daughter to a Druze from Damascus, the wedding must be held at the border. Bring your own brown bag supper, and Shirley Brand will supply the dessert.</p> <p>Details are being finalized for the THOI Jewish Film Festival at the Visulite Theater April 21st and 22nd! There will be a variety of films, great food, and lots to see and enjoy! More information will be in the April bulletin.</p>
Notes from the Editor	If you’d like to include anything, please have your information, comments and suggestions to me by March 20th for the April newsletter. Watch for a new column on the latest temple library acquisitions next month! Spring must be soon!

Donations	<p>Thank you to these generous people who have made contributions to the Temple during the previous month. We greatly appreciate your donations!</p> <p>For the general fundAnonymous Crys Sragovitz</p> <p>In honor of Lisa and Michael Warren’s wedding.....Beth and Richard Young In memory of Ruth Ellen Waterman..... Vera Flint In memory of Herb LernerMarsha Pillet In honor of Riff Blair’s Bat MitzvahRalph Swetlow</p>		
From the Web Maven	<p>If you haven’t yet visited the Rabbi’s web-log (blog), you should! Find it online at http://thoi.org/blog/</p> <p>Rabbi Joe writes of the issues on his mind and information that he believes congregants and people around the world might enjoy. We have also created the blog so that temple members can log their thoughts on themes related to Judaism in a small community. If you are interested in contributing to the blog, please contact the Rabbi who can help you get started.</p>		
Yahrzeits for March	Louis Cohen	Louis Cohen, Jr.	Rose Wecksler Freiberger
	Emanuel J. Gutnick	Irving L. Janus	Irving Kamerman
	Joseph Kamerman	Leah Kamerman	Annie Kaplan Klotz
	Abraham Kreitzer	Abraham Levin	Adrian 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	Bertram Peretz	

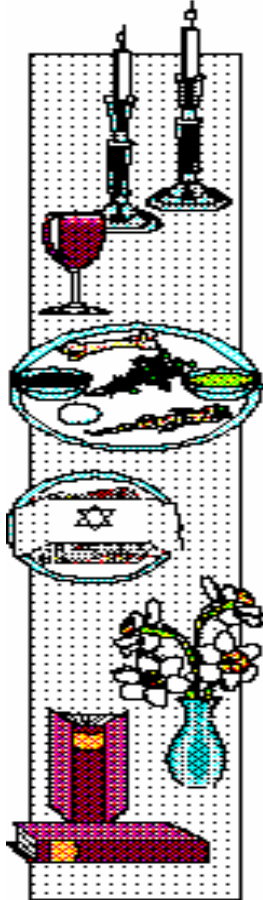
March				1	2 Torah study at noon	3
4 Religious School	5	6	7	8	9 Torah study at noon Services at 7:30	10
11 Religious School	12	13	14	15 Temple Board meet at 7:00 Adult Ed at 7 on Pesach	16 Torah study at noon Services at 7:30	17 Tot Shabbat at 10:00
18 Religious School	19	20	21 Book group 7:30 at Leah's	22 Adult Ed at 7 Prof. Bowen on Israel's Approach to Counter-Terrorism	23 Torah study at noon	24
25 Passover seder at Religious School	26	27	28	29 Adult Ed at 7 Lou Boden on mind-body-spirit and healing	30 Torah study at noon Services at 7:30	31 Film "The Syrian Bride" at 6:00
April 1	April 2 Passover Seder at 6:00					

March 2	Torah study at noon
March 9	Torah study at noon Shabbat services at 7:30 – Benn Legum 886-2165 and the Chodrows 886-2252 as oneg hosts
March 15	Temple Board Meeting at 7:00 Adult Education at 7:00 on the Holidays: Pesach
March 16	Torah study at noon Shabbat services at 7:30 – oneg hosts Leah Farmer 885-0206 and the Guttermans 941-8640
March 17	Tot Shabbat at 10:00
March 21	Book Group at 7:30 at Leah Farmer's home
March 22	Adult Education at 7:00: Gordon Bowen will discuss "Israel's Approach to Counter-Terrorism" based on his travels to Israel this past summer
March 23	Torah study at noon
March 25	Passover seder at religious school
March 29	Adult Education at 7:00: Lou Boden will join the Rabbi on the topic of healing and the Tree of Life with Lou's focus on the mind-body-spirit connection
March 30	Torah study at noon Shabbat Services at 7:30 – Vera Flint 886-1899 and the Bowens 885-3192 as hosts
March 31	"The Syrian Bride" film at 6:00. Bring your own dinner and Shirley will provide dessert.
April 2	Passover seder at the temple at 6:00 RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Temple Contacts	Rabbi	Joe Blair	886-4091 or rabbi@thoi.org
	President	Lisa Solod	463-7637 or president@thoi.org
	Past President	Paul Klein	pastpresident@thoi.org
	V. P. of Membership	Laurie Berman	885-2925 or membership@thoi.org
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	Secretary	Ruth Chodrow	886-2252 or secretary@thoi.org
	Treasurer	Laura Jean Brand	942-3656 or treasurer@thoi.org
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		Beth Young	885-1481
	Trustees	Doug Degen	886-8651 or trustees2@thoi.org
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	Caring Committee	AJ Hartung	337-6836
	Rosalie Waterman	caring-committee1@thoi.org or 886-1713	
	Lou Boden	caring-committee2@thoi.org or 540-255-5555	
Film Series	Shirley Brand	949-0529 or films@thoi.org	
Tot Shabbat	Shelby Apple	tot-shabbat@thoi.org	

Passover Seder at Temple House of Israel
Monday, April 2, 2007
6:00 pm

Come to celebrate Passover! Join with friends and members of Temple House of Israel in the reading of the wondrous miracles that brought the Israelites out of Egypt. Share in the festive meal and learn the important lessons of freedom and equality.



Dinner catered by Eric Stamer will include:

- Traditional Matzoh Ball Soup*
- Gefilte Fish and Horseradish*
- Herb Roasted Chicken*
- Roasted New Potatoes*
- Sautéed Green Beans with Tomatoes and Garlic*
- Raspberry Sherbet, Marinated California Strawberries,*
- Honey Sponge Cake and Assorted Macaroons*
- Coffee and Tea*

Please bring your own wine or grape juice

We need help with many tasks, both prior to Pesach and on the day of our Sedar. If you are able to help, please call Laurie Berman (885-2925) to volunteer, or if you have any questions.

The deadline for reservations is March 26, 2007. (There will be an additional \$5 charge per person if your reservations are not received by that date.) Only cancellations received prior to March 26 will be refunded upon request.

Please send the form below along with your **check made payable to Temple House of Israel to:**
 Laurie Berman P.O. Box 718, Staunton, VA 24402

Name _____ Amount enclosed _____

	Member	Non-Member	Number Attending
Adults	\$27.50	\$32.50	_____
Children 5 - 12 years	\$10.00	\$15.00	_____
Children under 5	no charge	no charge	_____
Students	\$15.00	\$15.00	_____