



Temple House of Israel Bulletin

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

April 2004, Nisan/Iyar 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! We packed a lot into the time we had in February and March!

Upcoming Events

The first week of April this year we reach the holiday of PESACH (Passover)! Be sure to reserve and attend the Congregational Seder on April 6th. You will NOT want to miss it! (You should have received a separate flyer and reservation form in the mail last week. Please RSVP to Doug Degen at 886-8651 if you would like to attend). We will be using the new Haggadah - the text telling the story of the Exodus - edited by Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell, and I anticipate a rocking evening!

News

We continue to offer a variety and scope of activities that is really impressive. Take a look at this very abbreviated summary listing of the items planned for the coming months!

Book group discussion of The Five People You Will Meet in Heaven on March 28th; Religious School Model Seder on March 28th, the first Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class on March 28th; our very first Chocolate Seder on April 1st; Passover Seders April 5th and 6th; the Yeast Feast in Harrisonburg on April 13th; Yom HaShoah observance April 18th; Yom Ha'Atzma'ut celebration April 23rd; Religious School picnic May 30th; Youth Group Jewish New York trip; 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! Be sure to take your vitamins so you can keep up!

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 for our discussion. If you have time, please join us at noon on Thursday in Staunton or Friday in Harrisonburg. No preparation or prior experience is needed; you don't need to know Hebrew or have any past exposure. This is a "come as you are" kind of discussion. The Level Two Read Hebrew American Hebrew literacy course is in progress. The students are moving forward and making tremendous progress. I am so proud for them! This class has been such a success that I am planning to offer it again next fall, so if you would like to join those who have learned to read Hebrew, your chance is coming soon! The Introduction to Jewish Living course is ongoing. We have met fourteen times, but the nature of the classes is such that if you want to join in now, you will fit right in! We meet at 7 on Sunday evenings at Beth El in Harrisonburg. There are six sessions left. Please come and join us. The current topics are the Jewish Calendar

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

and Lifecycle events. The Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah group is starting. Our first session will be March 28th, Sunday at 3 pm at Beth El and it is open to all congregants. If you are an adult 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 (we know that you are a party animal)! This time is not firm – if the participants want to change it, we can, so please don't feel you are locking yourself into this time slot indefinitely. Gabbai Class: On April 25th from 5-6:30, I will be conducting a one-session class on the role of the Gabbai (the person who serves as the MC for the Torah Service). If you are interested or have any curiosity about it, this is your chance to learn what it is that is being done up there on the Bimah when the Torah is out. Free, open to all.

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.

Contact Information

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 me know as soon as you can. You can leave a message on the telephone answering machine at the temple – it is checked daily (except Shabbat).

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

**Hospital
Visits and
Chaplaincy Calls**

**Rabbi's Office
Hours**

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

Monday, Apr 5	Thursday, Apr 8	Thursday, Apr 15	Monday, Apr 19
Thursday, Apr 22	Monday, Apr 26	Thursday, Apr 29	

**President's
Message**

Passover is around the corner. Thanks to Beth Young, bulletin editor, for publicizing the THOI Seder on April 6th and to Benn Legum and Doug Degen for marshalling the Matzo Ball Brigade to meet April 5th for Seder preparations.

The film series got off to a good start thanks to Debbie Bishop and Shirley Brand. Another film will be shown in April 25th. Details follow. So far I have not received suggestions as to which of our 2004/05 holidays we may want to celebrate jointly with Beth El in Harrisonburg. Please make your preferences known so we can coordinate them.

Rafael Brand
Congregation President

Special Notice

JWI is organizing a delegation for the upcoming March for Women's Lives on Sunday, April 25 to demonstrate overwhelming majority support for a woman's right to choose safe, legal abortion and birth control. We would love to march with you! Please call 1-800-343-2823 to join the JWI delegation. To learn more about the march, visit <http://www.marchforwomen.org/>

<p>Religious School</p>	<p>Rabbi Joe reports “I am very happy with the progress that I am seeing overall in the Religious School. The student body is working hard and learning a great deal, and the teachers have made a lot of progress with them. All that work is paying in results! Our services on Sunday morning have been vastly broader with many more prayers and songs included. 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 Ron Ornstein for coming in to work with the students on singing the prayers. If you didn’t make it to the Religious School Shabbat service, you missed a treat! The students led the entire service and did a really first-rate job. Give yourselves a big pat on the back students!</p> <p>Kitah Daled ‘s last of the four class trips for this year took place on March 21st when the class traveled to DC and visited the Holocaust Museum. This was a very moving and important experience for the students and those parents who accompanied us, and proved to be very worthwhile.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a planning meeting on May 30th at 10 at Beth El for all B’nai Mitzvah Families who plan their B’nai Mitzvah in the coming year (2004-05). Further information to be forthcoming. Please hold the date. • No religious school April 4th or 11th for Passover break.
<p>Pre-School Activities</p>	<p>The Religious School Model Seder will take place on March 28th at 10:15.</p>
<p>Youth Group</p>	<p>The Youth Group is in the planning phase for their trip. Be on the lookout for their fund-raising activities... and be generous.</p> <p>There will be a Youth Service on June 4th at Beth El. The Youth Group members and all Religious School students whose B’nai Mitzvah was in this school year (2003-04) will be participating. Please attend and help them celebrate their accomplishments.</p>
<p>Noteworthy Congregational News</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Join us for our Community Passover Seder on April 6th at 6:00 pm. A huge thank you to Doug Degen and Benn Legum for chairing this event! Details were mailed in a separate flyer and reservations are due to Doug at 886-8651 by April 1st. Call Benn at 932-3000 if you can help with setting up. • 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. Services will be at 10:00 and the congregation is invited to a luncheon immediately following in the social hall. • There is still wood available to anyone who wants to come and get it! 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 the chapel to load up. • The meeting of the Book Club will be Sunday, Mar. 28th at 9:30 am in Harrisonburg. Under discussion: <u>The Five People You Will Meet in Heaven</u>. • The next board meeting will be Thursday, April 22nd at 7:00 PM at

Temple House of Israel. Everyone is welcome to attend.

News from the Women's Group

- Our cookbook has gone to press! And what a fine cookbook it will be! We ended up with 223 recipes, thanks to all who contributed their favorite dishes. We hope to receive the finished books in early May in time for our Bake Sale. *Sharing our Best* will be selling for \$8.00 with all proceeds going to our scholarship fund for religious school students. **Plan now to buy** – for yourself, for your friends, for your relatives, as Chanukah gifts, as birthday gifts – you get the idea. And don't forget to thank the cookbook committee (Ruth, Beth and Marsha) and all the terrific typists without whom it wouldn't have happened.
- Thanks to all who supported our Sisterhood Shabbat Dinner in March. It was delicious, as usual!
- The workshop conducted by Rabbi Sue Elwell in March reviewing her new haggadah, The Open Door, was wonderful! Following the workshop and conversations with several people, an "executive decision" was made to purchase the 38 copies of the haggadah that were left in Harrisonburg after the workshop. We look forward to using this beautiful, new, and gender neutral, story of the Exodus from Egypt at our Passover Seder on April 6th.
- A going away party is planned for Debby Bishop who will be moving to North Carolina to be closer to her daughter Bridget. Please join us at the oneg following services on April 23rd to honor Debby for her years of quiet service to our Sisterhood and to the congregation. Debby's mother, Sara Helen Seltzer (of blessed memory), taught her well!
- We'd like to say **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to the known April birthdays:
 - Eva Blair on the 4th
 - Martha Degen on the 7th (this is the BIG one for Martha)
 - Amy Goldenberg Fox also on the 7th
 - Joe Blair on the 13th (how 'bout a party?)
 - Rafael Brand on the 14th
 - Sara Blair on the 19th
 - Vicki Goldenberg on the 21st.
- **PLEASE COME TO OUR NEXT MEETING ON SUNDAY APRIL 18TH AT 2:00.** Details will be finalized for the bake sale.
- **Our bake sale is scheduled for Sunday May 8th** at the Staunton Farmer's Market 7 AM – 12 noon, rain or shine. This year we'll be prepared thanks to Marsha Pillet's tarps, tables from Ruth and Beth and all the goodies you'll bring! If you've submitted a recipe for the cookbook that can be sold in portions at the sale, that would make an excellent item to bake. We'll sell the bake sale item AND the cookbook, too.

Film Series

The next film is **"The Comedian Harmonists" showing on Sunday, April 25th** at 7:00 pm. Actor/singer Harry Frommmermann is frustrated by his lack of success and decides to put together his own a cappella group – a musical sextet known as The Comedian Harmonists who find great success in Germany. Unfortunately, as the 1920's give way to the 30's and the rise of Nazism, the group begins to run into trouble since three of its members are Jewish. Eventually the political pressures force the group to disband and send its Jewish members into exile. German with subtitles.

<p>News of our Community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nancy Witt is back at work part-time but the recovery process is going to take time. Nancy says everyone’s attention and well wishes are appreciated. • Mike Brown has been diagnosed with primary sclerosing cholangitis, a very rare cancer of the bile duct and liver. The good news is that the condition was discovered extremely early through a blood test and makes Mike eligible for treatment not normally available to patients. The not-so-great news is that Mike will be undergoing radiation and a liver transplant in the very near future. The exact date and location have not yet been decided pending further discussions between the doctors at UVa and the Mayo Clinic. If you are interested or know of anyone who might be interested in donating a live liver, you must be 21-55 years old and have type A or O blood. The liver is the one organ in the human body that rejuvenates itself which makes live organ donation possible.
<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"> • Something has changed in this issue – any responses? • <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. Thank you! • 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>
<p>Contributions</p>	<p>Thank you to these generous people who have recently supported our Temple: We do appreciate your contributions!</p> <p>In Memory of Beryl Gutnick: Sarah and Byron Grove-Humphries Pearl Klotz Ronni and Marvin Marblestone</p> <p>For the use of the Torah Scroll during High Holidays: University of Virginia Hillel</p> <p>For enclosing the storage area: Roz Kamerman</p> <p>For the Youth Group trip to New York City: Betty Menaker</p> <p>In Memory of Freda Weinberg Kronsberg and Irvin and Ethel Weinberg: Jeffrey and Miriam Rosenblum</p>

**Yahrzeits for
April**

Herman L. Barber	Walter E. Cohen	Arthur Printz
Ella Hirsh Barth	Samuel Duken	Marold Ely Shapiro
David Wayne Bishop	David Gelberg	Maurice Siegel
Sim Brand	Jacob H. Klotz	Henry Switzer
Alfred Brettner	Sylvia Kramer	Sophie Switzer
Evelyn Brettner	Joseph Masinkoff	Jack Witt
Isadore Cohen	Joann Neuman	

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Every single one of these people would welcome your input!

APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Apr. 5	Rabbi's office day
Apr. 6	Community Passover Seder at 6:00. For reservations contact Doug Degen at 886-8651
Apr. 8	Rabbi's office day; Torah study at noon open to all interested people
Apr. 9	Shabbat Services at 7:30 PM - Chol Ha-mo'ed– Leah Farmer and Nancy Witt, hostesses
Apr. 15	Rabbi's office day; Torah study at noon open to all interested people
Apr. 16	Shabbat Services at 7:30 PM – Kaufman/Goldsmith oneg in honor of son Ben's Bar Mitzvah
Apr. 17	Bar Mitzvah of Ben Goldsmith at 10:00 AM
Apr. 18	Yom Hashoah service in Harrisonburg The Women's Group meeting at 2:00 in the social hall, Staunton
Apr. 19	Rabbi's office day
Apr. 22	Rabbi's office day; Torah study at noon open to all interested people Temple Board Meeting at 7:00 PM
Apr. 23	Shabbat Services at 7:30 PM – Yom Ha'Atzma'ut (Israel Independence Day) Women's Group oneg to honor Debby Bishop's years of service
Apr. 26	Rabbi's office day
Apr. 29	Rabbi's office day; Torah study at noon open to all interested people
Apr. 30	Shabbat services at 7:30 PM – Chodrow oneg in honor of son Philip's Bar Mitzvah
May 1	Bar Mitzvah of Philip Chodrow at 10:00 AM