



Temple House of Israel Bulletin

A Member Congregation of the Union for Reform Judaism
15 North Market Street, Staunton, VA 24401 (540) 886-4091

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1412, Staunton VA 24402

Web Address: <http://www.thoi.org>

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

April 2007, Nisan/Iyar 5767

From the Rabbi's Desk

My dear fellow Valley Jews and Friends,
Shalom!

Welcome to the beginning of the glories of Spring! March had a few leonine days of cold and wind, and even some snow and ice, but now we are moving towards the pleasures of springtime in the Valley. I have noticed the greenery and the budding of trees and some flowers as I make my drive over the mountain. It is truly one of the joys of living in this part of the world. Such natural beauty, and an almost tangible sense of the presence of G-d all around us. What a blessing it is! I hope that you can each take some time to notice and appreciate it.

The Calendar & Holidays

Adar concluded on the 19th of March, ushering in the month of Nisan. March 20th was Rosh Chodesh for Nisan. March 21st was the Vernal Equinox. Nisan runs until April 18th, with Rosh Chodesh for Iyar on the 18th and 19th of April.

We marked Purim in a Shabbat service with the reading of the Megillat Ester (Scroll of Esther) on March 2nd. On Sunday, March 4th, on the day of Purim, we had a reading of the Megillah, followed by a musical performance of the story of Purim put on by the Religious School, and then a Purim activity and the Carnival. Shorty, the Youth Group for our area, ran the Carnival and did a wonderful job.

One of the customs of Purim is 'mishloach manot' (the sending of portions). The Youth Group prepared Mishloach Manot (bags of goodies) to be sent with a gift card and message to friends and family as a small fund-raiser as one of their projects. I hope you noticed them (they turned out to be very pretty and had some delicious items in them!), and even took part in this custom! I think this will be repeated next year, so be on the look out for it and join in. Who would not be happy to receive a bag of treats including home-made Hamataschen (three sided filled cookies – prune YUM!).

Mishloach Manot is a beautiful custom. You still can participate in it: 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, the Volunteer Farm, 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 know that need doesn't rest, and there is a surprisingly large population in our area that has need for food, food security, and housing. This is a mitzvah (commandment) that is year round, but especially pertinent in the time from

Purim (with Mishloach Manot) to Passover when we will once again utter the very important and meaningful phrase at our Pesach sederim (Passover ritual meals), “Let all who are hungry, come and eat.” Please make it true and help feed those who are hungry.

In March, we had a series of special named Shabbatot. On March 3rd this year we had 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 was 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 was 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, with its themes of liberation, freedom, and Redemption!

Now, on the 2nd and 3rd of April we hold the Pesach Sedarim (Passover ritual meals)! This year, the first community seder (a meal in an ordered ritual with symbols and liturgy) will be held at THOI, on Monday, April 2nd. April 3rd will be the community seder at Beth El. Information was sent out, so if you didn’t get it, please contact me or one of the congregational officers. Be sure to make your reservation to attend our Seder! Pesach begins the evening of April 2nd, and runs until sundown on the 10th of April.

Of course, the hallmark of Passover is the change in our usual diet. No Bread or leavened items - Matzah for the eight days. (No wonder prunes are a favorite fruit this time of year!) Not only are we to avoid leavened items, we are not even supposed to own them! The minhag (custom) has grown up to ‘sell’ your chametz (leavened materials) through the rabbi. If you are interested in doing so, please be in touch with me, and I will take care of it for you.

There is a difference between the minhag of the Ashkenazi and the Sephardi (Germanic and Spanish origin) Jews around food stuff at this time of year. Sephardi Jews avoid all five of the grains mentioned in the Torah as things that leaven (wheat, rye, spelt, barley, and [most agree] oats), carefully making matzah without possibility of any leavening taking place. Traditionally, Ashkenzi Jews avoid all five of the grains as well, and observe the same restrictions on making matzah, but they also avoid all growing items and their products that seem to ferment or ‘swell up’ when placed in water, calling these things ‘kitniyot’, and including legumes, rice, beans, soy, corn, and peanuts, to name a few items. This seems easy, but when you consider how often wheat or soy or peanut or corn oil are included in prepared foods, it is a major issue! It is much more restrictive. Lots of questions arise around these minhagim (customs), and how to apply them.

Beginning on the second day of Pesach we count 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 in the middle east. 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, ripen, and be harvested, 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.

It is a custom to count the omer each evening. Of course, if one skips a day, the count is broken, and it is not a continuous action, so it is often seen as a challenge to remember to do so each night. One of the fun ways to remember that I have used is to look for the online printable calendar of the counting of the Homer – based on the cartoon character Homer Simpson. This includes the blessings and the actual count for the entire time. Enjoy it at <http://www.jvibe.com/homer/Bart.html>.

Almost immediately after Pesach, on Sunday, 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 at <http://www.ushmm.org>, or tickets may be ordered directly online at tickets.com or by phone at (800) 400-9373. 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:

- March 29th, Thursday evening at 7 pm at THOI, there will be an Adult Education program for members of both congregations. In it Lou Boden will join me: I will talk briefly about Jewish ideas on healing, shefa (pouring or flow) and the Tree of Life, and Lou will 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.
- On March 31st we are planning the second of our three Religious School Field trips to a Shabbat service. We will be attending a Shabbat morning service in Charlottesville at the Orthodox/Chabad congregation, and then taking some time to discuss it. If other congregants would like to experience these services and field trips, please let Rabbi Joe know.
- April 2nd will be the first Pesach seder. This year it is at THOI.

- 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 topics planned in order are: God, Jewish Prayer, Shabbat, Jewish Observance, and Jewish views on Sexuality. No homework assignments, no required reading, and no pop quizzes! Open to members of both congregations.
- The non-service 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.
- April 19th is the second in the Adult Education series on Basic Judaism at 7 pm at THOI. This will be on the topic of Prayer.
- April 21st is the next Tot Shabbat at THOI at 10 am. Contact Shelby at totshabbat@thoi.org to RSVP.
- April 22nd is a Family Education program at Religious school on Israel and Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israel Independence Day).
- April 23rd at 7 pm at Beth El will be a Talmud Torah Limud (Torah Study). Bring your meal and join us for a discussion.
- April 26th is the third in the Adult Education series on Basic Judaism at 7 pm at THOI. This will be on the topic of Shabbat.
- April 28th we will undertake the last of our Religious School Field trips to a Shabbat service. We will be attending the Shabbat morning service in Charlottesville at the P'nai Or/Jewish Renewal Havurah Shabbat morning service. If other congregants would like to experience this service, please let me (Rabbi Joe) know – you are welcome to join us.
- April 29th will be the next in our film series at Beth El. It will be 6 pm – bring a meal and watch a movie, then talk about it afterwards. We will view Walk on Water, the Israeli film that was cancelled by bad weather earlier in the series.
- May 3rd is the fourth in the Adult Education series on Basic Judaism at 7 pm at THOI. This will be on the topic of Jewish Observance.
- May 6th we will be commemorating Lag Be'omer (33rd day of the omer count).
- Also May 6th: The three dates for the Adult Education Interfaith Dialogue program 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. Details under “Adult Education”.
- Sunday, May 13th at 2 to 5 pm at THOI we will hold a formal training session for those interested in the Chevrah Kadishah. Details under “Adult Ed.”

We still have plenty of room to add people to our Congregational trip to Israel, so please sign up yourself, and encourage friends and family to join you! I am really looking forward to this adventure! I truly hope you will join me on this trip for the experience of a lifetime!

Rabbi Joe Blair
April 2007

<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, You are blessed to have what may be the hardest working Board around! Everyone is pitching in and doing their best to try and make our Temple a sacred, giving, alive space for us to gather and worship. We are working hard on handicapped issues, fundraising, committees and other projects, and we hope all of you will get involved as best you can. For our Temple to thrive and grow, we need all of you to give of yourself to your own ability. We have a wonderful Rabbi and are also blessed with all of you wonderful congregants. We are in one of the best, most productive times in Temple history. Help us keep the momentum going! ---- <i>Lisa Solod Warren</i></p>
<p>Recap of March Board Meeting</p>	<p>The applications of Linda Blazer and Anne Saval were approved by the board for temple membership. • Rachel Jordan is the new membership chairperson. • The Jewish film festival, to be held at the Visulite, will be moved to October to allow for more fundraising opportunities and further planning. Everyone is encouraged to contact potential sponsors for the necessary seed money. • For this year’s accessibility progress the Board voted to widen the 4 doors (men’s room, women’s room, door from the social hall to the back hall and from the back hall into the sanctuary), install lever handles on the new doors, change the swing of the toilet stall doors, and to pursue the sound system to allow for speakers in the social hall and the alcoves of the bimah. • Rachel Jordan has done the artwork for the new temple stationery which will be printed soon. • Information was received about the cost of leasing a copier for the office needs as well as printing the bulletin. We print more than 90 copies of the bulletin each month. It was suggested that if people who have email request a hard copy, there will be a charge to them. A letter will be sent out with the next bulletin. • Vera Flint requested that there be a special membership rate for senior members. It will be discussed further in the finance committee. • Vera also requested that seniors over the age of 70 or 75 be exempt from doing the oneg. It was suggested that anyone in that category could contact Beth and ask for the exemption. Ruth suggested that the letter to new members include a list of privileges and responsibilities, including the oneg.</p>
<p>Noteworthy Congregational News</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A memorial service for David Brody will be held on Sunday, April 1st at 2:00 pm Everyone who would like to support Janet and her family at this difficult time is encouraged to come and share the smiles and warmth and humor that made David such a special person. ▪ The Congregational Passover Seder will be held Monday, April 2nd at 6:00. please contact Laurie Berman at 885-2925 if you haven’t already, to reserve your seat. If you can help with set-up on Monday at noon, please join us! ▪ And speaking of seders: A huge thank you is overdue to AJ Hartung and her friend Selena who did an incredible job of putting together all the marvelous

	<p>foods – ceremonial and otherwise – for our Tu B'Shevat seder in February. The social hall was transformed with flowers and candles and we had a wonderful evening celebrating the New Year of the Trees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We welcome Linda Blazer as a new temple member. We've already heard Linda's fine singing voice and look forward to seeing Linda as well as Jim Osbourne in the near future. ▪ Welcome also to Anne Saval who applied for membership and was accepted at the March board meeting. We look forward to seeing you! ▪ The Fundraising Committee has announced that the Jewish film festival dates have been moved to the week of October 26th. The goals for this project include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ large fundraiser for the temple to raise the money to update our historical building's exterior façade ▫ to promote understanding and tolerance of other people by providing films, music, discussions and meals in order to raise consciousness and provide insight into diverse cultural life and issues ▫ to work with the city of Staunton, and its many businesses to promote another yearly destination event to ensure Staunton's economic viability. <p>We need sponsorship to make this ambitious project a reality. Please consider volunteering to locate and enlist sponsors. Any suggestions or volunteers are asked to contact Laurie Berman by email or phone. laurieberman@mac.com or 885-2925.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ruth Chodrow and Beth Young attended the URJ-MAC Small Congregations Kallah in March and will share their new-found information at the next board meeting. Ruth's Hebrew calligraphy workshop was a hit! ▪ Save the date: Our next Mitzvah Day will be May 20th from 2:00 – 5:00 pm. ▪ From AJ Hartung: "The Caring Committee got together to share feelings as to how we can strengthen awareness of need and support. The three of us feel we can truly complement each other and so bring together not only support but also practical solutions, gathering our congregation together with an eye to outreach in general. One of our members, Steve Guberman is to be a 'friendly visitor' for the Blue Ridge MS Chapter. This will not only give him a greater insight into his own disease but at the same time allow people of other backgrounds to realize that we as a people care. So many in this congregation have so much to offer. Lou, Rosalie and I thank each one of you in advance for your support not only in alerting us to troubles but almost more importantly in our day to day joys. Please, please give us your ideas as to how we develop and evolve." ▪ Mazel tov to Rachel Jordan who is our new Membership chairperson. She's already at work revising letters and applications. ▪ The next board meeting will be April 12th at 7:00 pm.
<p>News of our Community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We extend our heartfelt sympathies to Janet Brody on the sudden death of her husband David on February 25th. Condolences to the entire Brody and Berman families on their loss of a warm, kind and gentle soul who was husband, father, grandfather and friend. A memorial service will be held on Sunday, April 1st at 2:00 pm in the sanctuary. ▪ Our condolences to the members of the Miller family on the passing of Irwin Miller, Steve's father on March 21st. Our prayers go out to the extended family. ▪ Our wishes for a speedy recovery to Phil Schwartz who suffered a heart attack and is suffering from emphysema as well.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ You are invited to the spring concert of Lyrisa, the women’s vocal ensemble directed by Sarah Grove-Humphries, on Sunday afternoon, April 22nd at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 300 W. Frederick Street. Ruth Chodrow and a friend will also make guest appearances playing recorders. There will be a free-will offering to benefit their building fund. ▪ Mazel tov to Deb Singer who has been accepted to Brandeis with scholarship money to make it possible! Congratulations! Deb’s final decision is pending. ▪ Rachael Brody will be graduating on April 28th from the University of Michigan’s School of Music, Theater and Drama with a BFA in theater with an emphasis in directing for stage. She is producing, directing, choreographing and designing her senior theater piece “The Cripple of Inishmaan” which will be performed April 13-15 at the University of Michigan’s Walgreen Drama Center. Congratulations! ▪ Sarah Young has finished her last classes at the University of Denver and will receive a BA in Communications, Marketing and Electronic Media Art and Design. She has interviews set in Portland, Oregon but will finish her internship in Denver and take part in commencement on June 9th. She has also been selected as a Student Global Ambassador to Uganda July 2-18th through the Global Youth Partnership for Africa program. ▪ Mazel tov to Marsha Pillet for her first Torah reading! It was a long portion and she did an amazing job!!
<p>New in the Library</p>	<p>We thought you’d be interested in some of our library acquisitions and perhaps be interested enough to check out a book!</p> <p><u>The Gifts of the Jews: How a Tribe of Desert Nomads Changed the Way Everyone Thinks and Feels</u> by Thomas Cahill</p> <p><u>Jewish Heritage Travel, A Guide to Central and Eastern Europe</u> by Ruth Ellen Gruber</p> <p><u>In One Ear and Out the Other</u> by Sam Levenson</p> <p><u>The Forgotten</u> by Faye Kellerman</p> <p><u>The Street Where I Live</u> by Alan Jay Lerner</p> <p><u>S.J. Perelman, A Life</u> by Dorothy Hermann</p> <p>Thanks to our webmaven for suggesting this addition to the newsletter and Leah Farmer for choosing these titles from our collection.</p>
<p>Israel Trip</p>	<p>The Congregational trip to Israel will include some unusual sites (including Rosh Hanikra) as well as the more usual and expected sites such as Masada, the Dead Sea, Jerusalem, and Caesarea. <u>SIGN UP AND REGISTRATION MUST OCCUR BY APRIL 25TH.</u></p> <p>You can see all of the information about the trip online, and 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>Select the tour listed under the name Temple House of Israel & Beth-El (nr).</p> <p>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 (if you plan to stay on longer, go to another location en route, or use frequent flyer miles, for example).</p> <p>If you have any questions, or you want to sign up but don’t want to do so</p>

	<p>online, you can call and speak to someone at Arza World Travel to make your reservation and let them know about any special accommodations or needs you may have. 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 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 me, and I will do my best to find out what you want to know.</p> <p>We still have plenty of room to add people to our group, so please sign up yourself, and encourage friends and family to join you!</p>
Book Group	<p>From AJ Hartung: "Our book group rearranged our March gathering to Wednesday, March 28th and changed our book to <u>Ellen Foster: The Life all Around Me</u> by Kaye Gibbons and changed our place to AJ's at our usual 7:30. For our group this is a particularly difficult time, the first we have had to face together, a loss. We have celebrated birthdays, jobs, day to day high and low-lights but we all feel deeply for Janet Brody and all the family now. I can only say and will remember David's hug to me at the February meeting with tears and thankfulness in the privilege of his love."</p> <p>Leah Farmer will host April 25th at 7:30 after visiting her son this month. We will read <u>Life is so Good</u> by George Dawson. Join us!"</p>
News from the Women's Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What started as a wonderful gift from Martha Degen to Beth Young is now a collection of framed illuminated Hebrew letters that will soon hang on the walls in the alcoves on either side of the bimah. Thank you to Martha for the gift, to Beth for the giving and to Marsha Pillet for the framing. If you would like to "purchase" any of the letters and have your name credited with a particular piece, the cost is \$18. Your gift will cover the cost of the frames and be a donation to the Women's Group. Contact Beth Young if you are interested. ▪ 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! ▪ Birthdays to be celebrated happily in April: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eva Blair celebrating on April 4th Kelli Lynn Goldenberg on April 6th Martha Degen on the 7th Also on the 7th, Amy Goldenberg Fox Rabbi Joe Blair on April 13th – brace yourself! Sara Blair on April 19th Vicki Goldenberg on the 21st
B'nai Mitzvah	<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>
Religious School	<p>From Linda, Ruth and Dara: "Our Purim celebration was great fun. Rabbi Joe wore the hats of many while reading the Megillah. Thank you to everyone who helped out that day, making hamentashen, getting costumes together and joining in the fun. Thanks to Bonnie and Mike Brown for borrowing and bringing costumes to share. Special thanks to Roberta Stein for producing and directing "The Sound of Purim" and to Gary Stein for equipment set up and photography. Sherri and the Youth Group did a terrific job providing us with the carnival, lunch and Shalach Manot bags.</p>

	<p>We would like to welcome Lillian (Lilly) Levin and her family to Religious School. She recently joined the Gimmel class.</p> <p>We are now planning our Passover Model Seder on March 25th.</p> <p>On April 15th the Dalet students will be going to the Holocaust Museum with parents and Rabbi Joe. The Gimmel students will be reading and discussing the book Hannah’s Suitcase. The Gimmel and Dalet students are also scheduled to visit two others congregations in Charlottesville for Saturday Shabbat services with the Rabbi.</p> <p>At the end of February, I (Linda) participated in a URJ-sponsored telephone conference call for those involved with Religious Schools of small congregations. It was titled “Small Giants: Religious Schools that are Small but Great”. It was interesting to hear what others had to say about their challenges. I think it was a stimulating and inspiring hour well spent – certainly not enough time. I hung up the phone feeling fortunate to be working with your children, to have your support in our efforts to keep our Religious School growing and responsive to our congregations’ needs. On that note, please spread the word to anyone you know who may be interested in Religious School for the next school year. While we gather the names of prospective students, please let us know if you would be interested in substitute teaching.”</p> <p>Look for another family education program on April 22nd on Israel and Yom Ha’atzmaut (Israel Independence Day). B’Shalom, Linda, Ruth and Dara</p>
<p>Adult Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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 asked for a program related to spirituality and/or practical Kabbalah, and is intended for those interested in a broader range of topics in our adult education series. ▪ The three dates for the Adult Education <u>Interfaith Dialogue program</u> 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. <p>The sessions are planned as three hours each, including time for snacks and to eat 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 me (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, particularly for the third session. There are still a few openings, so if you are interested, or for more information, please be in touch with Rabbi Joe.</p> <p>The first session will focus on the history and development of each participant’s beliefs, and on the historical context of the Biblical text. Session two will look into how we read and use scripture and liturgy in each tradition. Session three will focus on the actual text and how it is read, including the significant differences in each of our traditions. In all sessions it is planned that there will be an opportunity for significant conversation and dialogue among the participants.</p> <p>Because we will need to have you read some articles in advance of the</p>

	<p>meeting, we must ask that you sign up for this no later than April 25th. We will accept those signing up in order until our slots are full. We have six who have definitely signed up, and three more who have said they may do so. Please speak to Rabbi Joe as soon as you can.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Sunday, May 13th</u> at 2 to 5 pm at THOI we will hold a formal <u>training session</u> for those interested in the <u>Chevrah Kadishah</u> (the ‘holy burial society’ that deals with preparations) for all those interested in the Chevrah Kadishah training. This session will be led by two or more persons from Charlottesville who were instrumental in starting and training the Chevrah there, and they have agreed to help us as we initiate our Chevrah. They will be coming to teach us about what to do, and how to do it in a real hands-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. <p>Torah Parashiot Torah parashiot (weekly portions) for this month include: Shemini, Tazria-Metzora, Achare Mot-Kedoshim, as well as the reading for Chol Hamo’ed Pesach (the intermediate day Shabbat of the Passover festival). This includes Vayikra (Leviticus) 9:1-20:27, and Exodus 12:21-51 for Passover. Included among the topics in these readings are the final ceremony for consecration of the priests, the offering with ‘strange fire’ of the two sons of Aaron and their death, rules of purity for the priesthood, rules of acceptable animals and beasts to eat, rules for impurity of other people than the priests, rules of ‘leprosy’ of people and of garments and houses, rules for impurity from bodily discharges, instructions on atonement offerings, rules for offerings, rules of religious and sexual morality, rules of religious purity, absolute prohibition on human sacrifice, and in the special reading in Shemot (Exodus), the laws concerning Pesach (Passover).</p>
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.
Youth Group and Confirmation Class	<p>Seven members of Shorty attended TheVent in Baltimore and had a wonderful time. The next regional event will be the Spring Kallah in April, which is the last Kallah of the school year, when seniors say farewell and a new board is elected. I hope we send a good representation to this event.</p> <p>Of course, we will be having our TYG meetings, a Shul-in, projects, and programs, and we will be serving dinner and leading a Confirmation service in May.</p>
Film Series	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 11 th -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.

Tot Shabbat	Come enjoy music, stories and crafts with your pre-school child. Our next program will be on April 21st, 10 – 11:30 at THOI . Please contact Shelby Apple at tot-shabbat@thoi.org if you would like more information.		
Notes from the Editor	If you'd like to include anything, please have your information, comments and suggestions to me by April 20 th for the May newsletter.		
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 fundFinal Draft Booksellers Leah Farmer Michael and Nancy Clayman Jan Berkowitz</p> <p>In honor of Lisa and Michael Warren's wedding.....Asher and Laura Jean Brand For the accessibility fund.....Michael and Lisa Warren</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 April	Herman L. Barber	Ella Hirsh Barth	David Wayne Bishop
	Sim Brand	Alfred Brettner	Evelyn Brettner
	Isadore Cohen	Walter E. Cohen	Samuel Duken
	David Gelberg	Jacob H. Klotz	Sylvia Kramer
	Joseph Masinkoff	Joann Neuman	Arthur H. Printz
	Harold Ely Shapiro	Maurice Siegel	Henry Switzer
	Sophie Switzer	Jack Witt	Esna Lee Roth
	Irving Singer	Holly Singer	

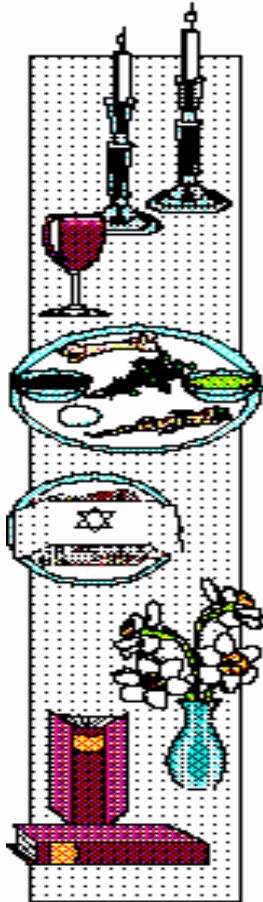
1 NO religious school Memorial service for David Brody 2:00	2 Passover seder at 6:00	3	4	5 Adult Ed at 7:00 Basic Judaism	6 Torah study at noon	7
8 NO Religious School	9	10	11	12 Temple Board meet at 7:00	13 Torah study at noon Services at 7:30	14
15 Religious School Field trip to Holocaust Museum	16	17	18	19 Adult Ed at 7:00 Basic Judaism	20 Torah study at noon	21 Tot Shabbat at 10:00
22 Religious School Family Education - Israel	23	24	25 Book group 7:30 at Leah's	26 Adult Ed at 7:00 Basic Judaism	27 Torah study at noon Services at 7:30	28
29	30	1	2	3 Adult Ed at 7:00 Basic Judaism	4 Torah study at noon Services at 7:30	April

March 29	Adult Education at 7:00. Lou Boden and Rabbi Joe on Jewish ideas on healing and the mind-body-spirit connection
April 1	Memorial Service for David Brody at 2:00 pm
April 2	Community Passover Seder beginning at 6:00 . Reservations required.
April 5	Adult Education at 7:00 – Basic Judaism session 1
April 6	Torah study at noon – everyone is welcome!
April 12	Temple Board Meeting at 7:00
April 13	Torah study at noon – everyone is welcome! Shabbat services at 7:30 – Ellen and Dan Schorsch 942-3149 and Rachel Peretz 363-4881 hosts
April 15	Holocaust Museum field trip
April 19	Adult Education at 7:00 – Basic Judaism session 2
April 20	Torah study at noon – everyone is welcome!
April 21	Tot Shabbat at 10:00
April 22	Family Education at Religious School on Israel and Yom Ha'atzmaut
April 25	Book Group at 7:30 at Leah Farmer's home
April 26	Adult Education at 7:00 – Basic Judaism session 3
April 27	Torah study at noon – everyone is welcome! Shabbat services at 7:30 – Dianne Mason 885-1899 and Linda and Gordon Bowen 885-3192 hosts
May 3	Adult Education at 7:00 – Basic Judaism session 4
May 4	Torah study at noon Shabbat Services at 7:30 – Laurie Berman 885-2925 and TBA - oneg host

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
	V. P. of Building/Grounds	Michael Brown	885-3809 or building@thoi.org
	Secretary	Ruth Chodrow	886-2252 or secretary@thoi.org
	Treasurer	Laura Jean Brand	942-3656 or treasurer@thoi.org
	Director at large	Rachel Jordan	804-440-5839 or director-at-large@thoi.org
		Beth Young	885-1481
	Trustees	Doug Degen	886-8651 or trustees2@thoi.org
		Alan Goldenberg	trustees3@thoi.org
		Richard Young	885-1481 or trustees@thoi.org
	Cantorial Soloist	Sarah Grove-Humphries	885-4223 or cantor@thoi.org
	Temple Webmaven	M Conner	website@thoi.org
	Bulletin Editor	Beth Young	885-1481 or bulletin@thoi.org
	Bulletin Circulation	A.J. Hartung	337-6836
	Shorty (youth group)	Sheri Alt	youth-group@thoi.org
	Religious School	Linda Kohn	religious-school@thoi.org
	Young Adults Group	Natasha Benenson.	young-adults@thoi.org
	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 on the day of our Seder. If you are able to help, please call Laurie Berman (885-2925) to volunteer.

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	_____