



Temple House of Israel Bulletin

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

<http://uahc.org/congs/va/va008/>

May 2004, Iyar/Sivan 5764

From the Rabbi's Disk

My dear fellow Valley Jews and Friends,
Shalom!

What an amazing and full month it has been! I can't quite believe how busy it was in March and April!

Of course the big news was the community seder for Passover. We used the Haggadah (the text retelling the story of the Exodus) edited by Rabbi Sue Elwell (following her presentation on how to work with it) and had a phenomenal turnout! Amazing and really fun! Great food, good company, laughs, singing, four questions and four cups of wine – who could ask for anything more?

Our first-ever chocolate seder also was a huge success! There were over thirty people there to experience the joys of chocolate in the context of a learning seder. Tons of fun, educational, and lots of laughs! If you are curious how it could happen, you will just have to attend the next one: I look forward to doing it again next year!

The Gabbai class was wonderful. We now have several folks who are ready to serve the congregation in that role to enhance our services.

The Adult B'nai Mitzvah class began and we have a nice group of people who will be preparing for their own B'nai Mitzvah in the next few years.

During this past month we observed Yom HaShoah and Yom Ha'atzma'ut and celebrated the B'nai Mitzvot of Ben Goldsmith and Philip Chodrow.

The book group had a lively discussion of The Five People you will Meet in Heaven, and is planning to discuss the book Revenge at their next meeting on Sunday, May 16th at 9:30 am. For more information, contact Mona Wolf, Judy Freudenthal or Rabbi Joe. (See more information elsewhere in this bulletin).

Upcoming Events

The B'nai Mitzvah of Ian Jordan on June 18-19 and Jordan Kristoff on June 25-26.

News

As we approach the end of the year, some things are winding down. Religious School ends for the year on May 16th. The Introduction to Jewish Living class ends May 30th and the Hebrew Literacy Level Two class will conclude sometime in June. The Adult B'nai Mitzvah class will continue through June, as will the weekly Torah study sessions. The weekly Torah study sessions have continued to be a highlight of my week. Those members attending offer lively and interesting conversations about that week's Torah portion, highlighting the differing ways in which each of us sees the text in light of our life. This makes for a wonderful 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 Adult B'nai Mitzvah group started! Our first sessions met in April, but if you are an adult congregation member interested in studying for your

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

Bar or Bat Mitzvah celebration, it is NOT TOO LATE! Please be in touch with me to catch up and join in the class. The next scheduled class will be on May 23 at 2:30 at Beth El.

I hope that you have all heard about how wonderful the service conducted by the students in our Religious School was. I was so very proud of them! The students have done a great job this year and have really come a long way. I am delighted that the teachers and students worked so hard and accomplished so much.

Feedback

As I have said in the past, I am looking for feedback from each of you. I am always happy to accept compliments (who isn't?), but I especially want to hear from you how you think I can do better in the future, and what we need to do to make our Jewish community stronger and more vibrant. What did we try this year that was especially good, and what should we not do again? What should we have done that did not happen? What do you think would make our community even more fun and provide a richer Jewish experience? Please feel free to communicate your thoughts to me by email, in writing, by telephone or in person. If for any reason you are shy or don't want to speak to or contact me directly, you can provide your views to a member of the board and ask that they pass it along anonymously. I am sincerely seeking your views on how to make things even better.

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. Although my schedule is a tad hectic, I will always try to make time to meet with congregants.

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.

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

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

Monday, May 3	Thursday, May 6	Monday, May 10	Thursday, May 13
Monday, May 17	Thursday, May 20	Monday, May 24	Thursday, May 27

**Hospital
Visits and
Chaplaincy Calls**

**Rabbi's Office
Hours**

**President's
Message**

I want to personally, and on behalf of the Temple House of Israel community, wish Debby Bishop farewell and a hearty Mazal Tov on becoming a grandmother in April. Debby will move to North Carolina to be closer to her daughter Bridget who gave birth to a healthy baby boy – Emmet Miles – on April 8, 2004.

Debby and her family have been members of THOI community for many years. We will miss her and wish her much joy and pleasure as she watches her family grow.

Rafael Brand
Congregation President





<p style="text-align: center;">Noteworthy Congregational News</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A huge thank you to Doug Degen and Benn Legum for chairing our Community Passover Seder on April 6th! And Todah Rabbah to Rabbi Joe for leading all 70 people who shared the evening with us! The new haggadot by Rabbi Sue Elwell added to the festivities and a grand time was had by all. • Please give the Rabbi your feedback on the various programs he has initiated during his first year with us. Your comments will help direct the programs in the coming year. • Please bring your favorite dish to a potluck dinner with Staunton Grace Covenant Church to be held in our social hall Sunday, June 6th at 6:00 pm. For newer members, this friendly congregation rented our temple building a few years ago to hold their own religious services until they were able to buy a building of their own. During their tenure with us, their monetary donations and in-kind labor made our building comfortable, and we all benefited. Their “farewell/thank you” plaque, given in friendship, is near the door to our sanctuary. It would be nice to have good representation from our congregation since they invariably come by the dozens! • Sarah Grove-Humphries would like to attend a Cantorial workshop in Cincinnati this summer, but temple funds are tight. Since we all enjoy Sarah’s singing and would all benefit from her participation in these sessions, maybe we could all contribute toward the costs. The temple will provide matching funds. Your checks, written to THOI, can be sent to Laura Jean Brand, treasurer, at PO Box 1412, Staunton, VA 24402 • The next board meeting will be Thursday, May 27th at 7:00 PM at Temple House of Israel. Everyone is welcome to attend.
<p style="text-align: center;">News of our Community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mazel Tov to Alan and Vicki Goldenberg, proud grandparents for the 6th time! Gregg and Freddy Goldenberg are pleased to announce Kelli Lynn, their second child, who was born April 6th. Everyone in Atlanta is happy and healthy! • Congratulations to Debby Bishop who became a grandmother on April 8th! Debby’s daughter Bridget gave birth to Emmet Miles Cardwell – a healthy, whopping 9 lbs 14 ozs and 22” long. Bridget, her husband, and baby Emmet are all doing well. Debby will soon be moving to North Carolina to be closer to her growing family. We thank her for all she’s done in the past years and wish her all the best. • Nancy Witt’s recovery was slowed by a negative reaction to her chemotherapy treatments. She seems to be past the crisis point, is now regaining her strength and on the right track. Nancy thanks everyone for their concern and urges us all to have routine tests done regularly. • Mike Brown is undergoing radiation and chemotherapy treatment for primary sclerosing cholangitis and bile duct cancer at the Mayo Clinic. He’s passed all the pre-qualifications for a liver transplant and Mike’s sister is being evaluated as a possible donor. By the time you read this, Mike should be back home in Staunton and will be awaiting the scheduled surgery later in the month. • Rosalie Waterman had minor foot surgery at the beginning of April and is recovering nicely.

<p>News from the Women's Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We hope to receive our cookbook, <i>Sharing our Best</i>, in early May. It will be selling for \$8.00 with all profits going to our religious school scholarship fund. Plan now to buy – for yourself, for your friends, as gifts – you get the idea. • Ellen Schorsch to the rescue! When we were doing inventory in the library last year, we found out that our one copy of Sarah Lee Margolis' cookbook was missing. This was truly a loss since the plates for "The Jewish Woman's Cookbook" had been destroyed in a fire and those of us who had copies were selfishly not going to donate ours to the temple. Resourceful Ellen went online and tracked down 2 copies which she purchased and donated to the temple library. An important piece of our temple history is back in place. Sarah Lee passed away in January of 2003 but will always be remembered for her many kindnesses and wonderful food. Thank you Ellen for your contribution! • Our bake sale is scheduled for Saturday May 8th at the Staunton Farmer's Market 7 AM – 12 noon, rain or shine. 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. Please wrap everything in plastic (saran) wrap – tightly. Zip-lock bags and wrapped paper plates don't work as well sitting out for extended periods of time. And if your item contains nuts, please note that. Marsha Pillet will make labels so we'll look professional – contact her at 249-4946 and she'll mail them out to you. Ruth Chodrow is the depository for Staunton and Shirley Brand will collect the Waynesboro goodies. We'll sell your bake sale items AND hopefully the cookbook, too. • THANK YOU to Marsha Pillet, Jordan Kristoff and Laura Jean Brand for the work they have done in our front garden. Their labors of love are evident! Try walking to the front door of our sanctuary and see the beautiful entry created. • We'd like to say HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the known May birthdays: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sim Brand celebrating his on May 1st Don Chodrow on the 15th Dianne Mason on the 19th Roz Kamerman celebrating on the 24th Ruth Chodrow on the 30th <p>And HAPPY ANNIVERSARY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A.J. and Nick Hartung celebrating 38 years together Joe and Karen Blair celebrating 28 years together • PLEASE COME TO OUR NEXT MEETING ON SUNDAY MAY 16TH AT 2:00. We'll recap the bake sale, distribute cookbooks and plan for a welcome back picnic to be held in August.
<p>Film Series</p>	<p>There's an encore showing of "Left Luggage" on Sunday, May 23rd at 7:00 pm. Set in Antwerp Belgium, Chaja, a philosophy student, has a complex relationship with her parents. With a friend's help, she secures a job as a nanny with a Hasidic family, adores their 5-year-old son and becomes attached to the family. In the process, she learns about her own parents, survivors of a concentration camp.</p>
<p>Youth Group</p>	<p>There will be an end-of-year Youth Service on June 4th at Beth El. The current Youth Group members and all Religious School students whose B'nai Mitzvah</p>

	<p>was in this school year (2003-04) are invited to participate. Please attend and help them celebrate their accomplishments.</p>
<p>Book Group</p>	<p>The next book we will be reading is <u>Revenge</u> by Laura Blumenfeld. This book is a true story about a Jewish woman journalist who explores the meaning of revenge.</p> <p>“As he walked through the market in Jerusalem, Mrs. Blumenfeld’s father was randomly shot by a Palestinian. He survived. Years later, the author combines her first year of marriage with her desire for revenge, and living in Israel, she seeks out the family of the shooter and ingratiates herself in among them. As she comes to know them in the course of the year, she explores different ways to exact revenge and what revenge means. Finally, she finds her answers just as she is to return home to the U.S.”</p> <p>The book group will meet on Sunday, May 16th at 9:30 at Beth El. Get a bagel and coffee at the Sunday bagel bar and join us for a stimulating conversation. For more information, please contact Judy Freudenthal at (540) 867-5648 or Rabbi Joe at the temple.</p>
<p>Religious School</p>	<p>Amy Meyer reports for the steering committee: Religious school is wrapping up the year quickly! Students met with our new Co-Principals, Ellen DeFriece and Margee Greenfield to voice their opinions, wishes and dreams about religious school and gave some insightful suggestions. This has been an exciting, full year for the students, teachers and the Rabbi. Thank you to all the families and volunteers who have helped with events and holidays.</p> <p>Please note the following calendar dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philip Chodrow is called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on May 1st • There are no religious school classes on May 9 in honor of Mother’s Day and Lag B’omer. • The last day of religious school classes is May 16 • Religious school picnic will be held May 23 - details will come home with your student. • There will be a planning meeting for those whose B’nai Mitzvah is in the coming school year (2004-05). It is tentatively scheduled for May 30th at 10:00 at Beth El. Further information to be forthcoming by email! Please hold the date and make every effort to attend.
<p>Judaica Shop</p>	<p>Check out our many gift items in stock and peruse the many Judaica catalogs available. There’s a lot to choose from! 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.</p>
<p>Notes from the Editor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OK – it’s back! Thanks to those of you who noticed and requested it. Any other comments? I’m happy to oblige. • <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.

Bulletin and Membership	<p>If you are not currently a member and would like to continue receiving this bulletin, the subscription rate is \$15 per year (August-June) made payable to Temple House of Israel. Please contact Laura Jean Brand, our treasurer, at 942-3656 or mail your check to THOI, PO Box 1412, Staunton, VA 24402.</p>																																							
Contributions	<p>Thank you to these generous people who have recently supported our Temple: We do appreciate your contributions! For the Rabbi's discretionary fund: Tony and Rachel Jordan</p>																																							
Yahrzeits for May	Leah Barber Ellna Byrne Velma Byrne Blanche Spritzer Cohn Joseph Cohn Heidi Kaplan	Ethel Kelly Morris G. Klotz Abraham Kravitz Edward Patterson Rose Jaffey Pickus	Jack Printz Max Raybin William C. Robins Flora Switzer Nettie Williams																																					
Temple Contacts	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Rabbi</td> <td>Joe Blair</td> <td>886-4091 or rabbijob@hotmail.com</td> </tr> <tr> <td>President</td> <td>Rafael Brand</td> <td>949-0529 or rafa@cfw.com</td> </tr> <tr> <td>V. P. - Membership</td> <td>Paul Klein</td> <td>396-6169 or mediamat@ntelos.net</td> </tr> <tr> <td>V. P. – Bldgs. Grds.</td> <td>Michael Brown</td> <td>885-3809 or mcbrown@uaix.net</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Secretary</td> <td>Ruth Chodrow</td> <td>886-2252 or rchodrow@cfw.com</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Treasurer</td> <td>Laura Jean Brand</td> <td>942-3656 or ljvp@adelphia.net</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Director at large</td> <td>Lisa Solod</td> <td>463-7637 or lisa@rockbridge.net</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Past President</td> <td>Doug Degen</td> <td>886-8651 or wkdegen@aol.com</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="3">Trustees</td> <td>Ralph Degen</td> <td>886-5434</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alan Goldenberg</td> <td>adg1221@aol.com</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Richard Young</td> <td>885-1481</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bulletin Editor</td> <td>Beth Young</td> <td>885-1481 or templenews@ntelos.net</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bulletin Circulation</td> <td>A.J. Hartung</td> <td>337-6836</td> </tr> </table>			Rabbi	Joe Blair	886-4091 or rabbijob@hotmail.com	President	Rafael Brand	949-0529 or rafa@cfw.com	V. P. - Membership	Paul Klein	396-6169 or mediamat@ntelos.net	V. P. – Bldgs. Grds.	Michael Brown	885-3809 or mcbrown@uaix.net	Secretary	Ruth Chodrow	886-2252 or rchodrow@cfw.com	Treasurer	Laura Jean Brand	942-3656 or ljvp@adelphia.net	Director at large	Lisa Solod	463-7637 or lisa@rockbridge.net	Past President	Doug Degen	886-8651 or wkdegen@aol.com	Trustees	Ralph Degen	886-5434	Alan Goldenberg	adg1221@aol.com	Richard Young	885-1481	Bulletin Editor	Beth Young	885-1481 or templenews@ntelos.net	Bulletin Circulation	A.J. Hartung	337-6836
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<p style="text-align: center;">Every single one of these people would welcome your input!</p>																																								

May 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10:00a Philip Chodrow Bar Mitzvah 10 Iyar
2 11 Iyar	3 Rabbi's office day 12 Iyar	4  5 13 Iyar	6 12:00a Torah study Rabbi's office day 14 Iyar	7 L 7:55p 15 Iyar	8 16 Iyar	9 17 Iyar
9 Lag B'Omer 18 Iyar	10 Rabbi's office day 19 Iyar	11  12 20 Iyar	13 12:00a Torah study Rabbi's office day 21 Iyar	14 L 8:02p 22 Iyar	15 23 Iyar	16 24 Iyar
16 9:30a Book-Beth El 2:00p Women's Group Staunton 25 Iyar	17 Rabbi's office day 26 Iyar	18 27 Iyar	19  20 12:00a Torah study Rabbi's office day 28 Iyar	21 29 Iyar	22 L 8:08p 7:30p Shabbat Services Rosh Chodesh 1 Sivan	23 2 Sivan
23 2:30p Adult B'nai Mitzvah 7:00p "Left 3 Sivan	24 Rabbi's office day 4 Sivan	25 5 Sivan	26 Shavuot 6 Sivan	27  28 12:00a Torah study 7:00p Temple Board Meet 7 Sivan	28 L 8:13p 8 Sivan	29 9 Sivan
30 10 Sivan	31 Holiday 11 Sivan					

May 1	Bar Mitzvah of Philip Chodrow at 10:00 AM
May 3	Rabbi's office day
May 6	Rabbi's office day; Torah study at noon open to all interested people
May 10	Rabbi's office day
May 13	Rabbi's office day; Torah study at noon open to all interested people
May 16	Book Group "Revenge" at Beth El at 9:30 AND The Women's Group at 2:00 in Staunton
May 17	Rabbi's office day
May 20	Rabbi's office day; Torah study at noon open to all interested people
May 21	Shabbat Services at 7:30 PM – oneg hostesses Laurie Berman and Sue Johnsen
May 23	Adult B'nai Mitzvah at Beth El at 2:30 AND Film "Left Luggage" at 7:00 pm
May 24	Rabbi's office day
May 27	Rabbi's office day; Torah study at noon open to all interested people. 7:00 pm Temple Board Meeting