



Temple House of Israel Bulletin

A Member Congregation of the Union for Reform Judaism
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May 2005, Nisan/Iyar 5765

From the Rabbi's Desk

My dear fellow Valley Jews and Friends,
SHALOM!

Tax season is behind us, spring is firmly established, and Passover, the season of crumbs, has arrived! I write this hoping that you are having a joyous and sweet Pesach (Passover), one that brought you new insights into liberation and redemption, and a wonderful entry into this season of the year that shows the glories of Aviv (Spring)!

THE CALENDAR AND HOLIDAYS

We are now deep into the month of Nisan, the season of Passover. On May 9th and 10th we will arrive at Rosh Chodesh (the new month beginning) for Iyar. We are in the midst of Pesach now. It concludes on either Nisan 21/April 30th or Nisan 22/May 1st (depending on whether you follow the seven or eight day holiday minhag (custom for Passover). Immediately on the heels of Pesach, we come to Nisan 27, Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) - the day we commemorate the Holocaust victims as best we can, which this year falls on Friday the 6th of May. We will incorporate a memorial into the liturgy of the Shabbat service scheduled for the evening of May 6th. Yizkor (memory) candles are available at the congregation for those who wish to light them.

A few days later we celebrate Yom Ha'atzma'ut (Israel's Independence Day, Iyar 5). Because Iyar 5 falls on Shabbat, we celebrate on Thursday, May 12th or Friday May 13th. We will incorporate a Yom Ha'atzma'ut commemoration into the Shabbat service scheduled for Friday May 13th at Beth El this year.

Another feature of the calendar this month is the Sefirat Ha'Omer (counting of the Omer - the measures of the barley crop harvest collected and brought to the Temple as first fruit produce offerings. The Omer is an interesting feature of this season. Starting on the second night of Passover (towards the end of the second seder) we begin to count off the time between Pesach (Passover, the holiday of liberation and redemption) and Shavuot (the holiday of revelation of the Ten Commandments and Torah). Shavuot falls on the fiftieth day after Pesach. That means we count a total of forty-nine days, or seven weeks of seven days, a number that is symbolic of completion, wholeness and well-being. This recalls a period of awe and trepidation and is treated as a semi-mourning time, with no celebrations scheduled. There is a rabbinic story, however, that at one time when a plague fell upon the people of Israel, it began with the counting of the Omer, but lifted on the thirty-third day of this period, so there arose a custom of celebrating the end of that plague on the 33rd day, and the restrictions associated with mourning were lifted for the remainder of the counting of the Omer. It has become a fairly widely accepted custom that weddings and celebrations can take place from Lag Be'omer (the 33rd day of the counting) forward. This year Lag Be'omer falls on May 27th.

Sefirat Ha'Omer is a lovely custom of mindfulness that helps to focus on making a

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connection between Pesach and Shavuot, Redemption and Revelation. Many people find it difficult to remember to count the Omer each day. If you can remember to do so, it only takes a few seconds each evening or morning. To help make it a little easier, some folks have come up with clever and funny ideas. One that I have enjoyed is fun for anyone who is a fan of The Simpsons comedy cartoon show. You can print out a calendar of the County of the H'omer (I recommend the week by week calendar for ease of use). Click to this web site and enjoy! <http://www.jvibe.com/homor/Welcome.html>.

Enjoy this season of joys, especially now that the weather is so gorgeous. I look forward to sharing these celebrations with you.

B'virvat shalom (With Blessings of Peace),
Rabbi Joe

**Office Hours
and
Contact
Information**

The Rabbi is generally in Staunton on Tuesdays and Thursdays and in Harrisonburg on Mondays and Fridays. You may email or call for an appointment.

Email: RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com

Beth El Congregation 540-434-2744

Temple House of Israel 540-886-4091

Home (for emergencies only, please) 434-971-4741

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

**Noteworthy
Congregational
News**

- Richard and Walapa Marks warmly invite the entire congregation to attend Shabbat services and the luncheon afterwards on May 28th when their daughter Ariya will become Bat Mitzvah.
- A huge thank you to Doug Degen and Rosalie Waterman for co-chairing our Community Passover Seder. And thanks to everyone in the matzo ball brigade for making everything happen. All who attended had a wonderful evening of history, story-telling and good food.
- The temple annual Potluck Dinner with Grace Covenant Church will be held on Sunday, June 5th at 6:00 pm at the Temple. Lyrisa, led by Sarah Grove-Humphries, will present a short before-dinner music program. Please come, bring any dish to share and join a reunion with old friends who have previously rented our space for their own congregation in its smaller days.
- Sarah Grove-Humphries would like to attend a Jewish music conference this summer July 31 through August 4th. Since Sarah's cantorial services are a donation to our congregation and we all benefit from her wonderful addition to our Shabbat services... and since these expenses are not budgeted, your contributions toward the tuition and hotel are very much appreciated.
- Ruth Chodrow represented THOI at the April Board meeting of the URJ-Mid Atlantic Council. Ruth was asked by Rabbi Scott Sperling to deliver the D'var Torah for the opening of the Board meeting. Board discussion included exciting information about the purchase of a handicap-accessible summer camp near Bowling Green, VA. Board members also had the opportunity to tour newly constructed Temple Isaiah and engage in study sessions with regional rabbis. Also ask Ruth about the new Outreach director for our area.
- THANK YOU to David Waterman who has graciously volunteered his

<p style="text-align: center;">Noteworthy Congregational News</p>	<p>services to do the landscape work needed for both the Temple and cemetery grounds. His labors will maintain and improve our surroundings and drastically cut the expenses we incurred previously.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next Temple board meeting is on May 26th at 7:00 in the temple social hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.
<p style="text-align: center;">News of our Community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philip Chodrow is listed by the United States Chess Federation as one of the top 100 14-year-old chess players in the United States based on tournament play and is ranked the top 14-year-old player in Virginia! Congratulations Philip!! And congratulations to the proud parents Ruth and Don who drive him to all those tournaments and to grandmother Vera Flint who is a constant in the cheering section! • Elana Brody has the leading lady role in Stuart Hall’s spring musical “Crazy for You”. And Sara is also singing and dancing in the chorus. Enjoy the show April 29th and 30th at 7:30 pm or May 1st at 7:00 pm. The music is by Gershwin and the choreography was done by Larry Vickers, director extraordinaire! Reservations can be made by contacting Barbara Holt via email at bholt@stuart-hall.org. • Betty Pendleton is scheduled for knee-replacement surgery on May 3rd. The plan as of now is to keep her in skilled care at AMC following surgery while she heals and learns to walk again. If anyone is interested in helping Robert and Betty during Betty’s recovery, please contact Beth Young at 885-1481.
<p style="text-align: center;">News from the Women’s Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please bring your baked goodies to Ruth Chodrow’s house for our annual Bake Sale to take place at the Staunton Farmer’s Market on Saturday, May 7th from 7:00 am until noon. All baked goods can be dropped off at Ruth’s screened in back porch at any time before the bake sale. We also need people to sell all the goodies you bake. Thanks to Nancy Witt who donated the funds and Marsha Pillet for the shopping, the Women’s Group now has a portable canopy for weather protection. Please contact Ruth at 886-2252 if you can help in any way. <p><u>Bake sale tips:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ethnic food sells well – challah, mandel bread, rugelach, etc. 2. Avoid things with delicate fillings or frostings – if it’s a hot day, these will melt. 3. When you package your items, please wrap them tightly with cling wrap. Do not use ziplock baggies because they condense moisture inside and the baked goods get soggy. 4. Please label and price your items – we will have labels for you, or you can create your own. Package items like cookies to sell in small units of 2-3 rather than by the dozen. Packages worth 50 cents up to \$2 are suggested.
<p style="text-align: center;">Special Notice</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B’nai B’rith Radio presents Studio J - the first nationwide Jewish news and feature radio magazine. <i>Studio J</i> offers a livelier, Jewish version of National Public Radio’s acclaimed “All Things Considered” with in-depth feature stories behind the weekly headlines, and covers the culture, music, arts and entertainment events of world Jewry. Scheduled for nationwide broadcast syndication this summer, <i>Studio J</i> presently can be heard on Sundays 3-4 pm on SIRIUS satellite radio Channel 115 and 24/7 at www.bnaibrith.org.

<p>Adult Education</p>	<p>Although the year is drawing to a close, we are still keeping busy and there are a number of classes ongoing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next monthly <u>Torah study at Beth El</u> will take place on May 13th at 6 pm. Once again, bring your own dinner, eat and join in as we discuss the Torah portion. • A <u>weekly Torah study</u> meets on Thursdays (except the first Thursday of the month) at noon at THOI. All congregants are welcome to drop in and take part. • <u>Weekly Hebrew classes</u> meet about three times a month, on Mondays at Beth El and Thursdays at THOI. You can join in the class at any time. Call for more information. • The <u>Adult B'nai Mitzvah</u> class has shifted into a more individual mode for those who are participating. If you are interested in pursuing this goal, please speak to the Rabbi. <p>If you have any particular request for lectures, classes or discussions, please let the Rabbi know as he begins to plan for the coming year.</p>
<p>Youth Group SHORTY and Confirmation Class</p>	<p>The last meeting was combined with a shul-in at CBI in Charlottesville. SHORTY members went to an early Shabbat service led by BITY, then attended a performance by AVP, one of the Uva a capella groups, and some members of the local improv troupe called The Weathermen. They returned to CBI where they spent the night. Saturday morning they arose and attended conservative services at CBI. After the Kiddush, our group went to a fun little spot, the Tea Bazaar, where we sat on pillows, drank chair, had some lunch and had a conversation about Kabbalah.</p> <p>Our next meeting will be Saturday, May 14th. We will be on the road again for the day. We are going to attend the Renewal service in Charlottesville at the Uva Hillel house at 10:00 am. Afterwards we will again head to a local spot for some lunch and a meeting. This meeting will be very important because we will be planning the services for June 3rd (our youth service at Temple House of Israel) and June 10th (confirmation and Shavuot service at Beth El). This means we are asking the B'nai Mitzvah students from this year to join us at this meeting and also for these services.</p>
<p>Tot Shabbat</p>	<p>The Tot Shabbat held in April was a great success with 5 families attending and others who expressed interest. The group decided to meet on a monthly basis and Shelby Apple will again lead the children in song, story and craft. Please contact Shelby at 943-6934 or shelbyapple@yahoo.com if you're interested or know of someone who might be. All pre-school children and their families are invited to our next Tot Shabbat on Saturday May 21st at 10:00 at the Temple!</p>
<p>Staunton Book Group</p>	<p>Our choice for May is <u>My Forbidden Face: Growing up under the Taliban</u>, a selection from the current AAUW list that sounded like a good read. We'll meet at Leah Farmer's house, 1306 Lyle Avenue in Staunton at 7:30 on Wed., May 25th. Our group is usually 6-10 people, but we welcome new folks any time. Please join us if you're interested in the book and/or lively conversation!</p> <p>In June we'll read <u>The Elephant's Child</u> by Rudyard Kipling and listen to narration by Jack Nicholson with music composed and performed by Bobby McFerrin.</p>

Judaica Shop	We have lots of new items in the Judaica Shop: Israeli key rings, card for all occasions, and lots more. If you have any suggestions for inventory at our Judaica Shop, please call Dianne Mason at 885-6254.		
Notes from the Editor	The deadline for each issue is the 20 th of the preceding month. (April's bulletin will go to press on May 20 th .) Your suggestions are welcome!		
Corrections and Additions to Member/Friend List	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ruth Chodrow's new e-mail address is rchodrow@verizon.net. ➤ If your information is not correct or is incomplete, please let me know at bydesign@ntelos.net. 		
Donations	<p>We gratefully acknowledge and thank these generous members and friends who have given to the Temple during the past month:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">In Memory of Regina Ruttenberg and Sim BrandShirley and Rafael Brand</p>		
Yahrzeits for May	Leah Barber	Ethel Kelly	Jack Printz
	Ellna Byrne	Morris G. Klotz	Max Raybin
	Velma Byrne	Abraham Kravitz	William Robins
	Blanche Spritzer Cohn	Edward Patterson	Flora Switzer
	Joseph Cohn	Rose Jaffey Rickus	Nettie Williams
	Heidi Kaplan		
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1	2	3 Rabbi's office day	4	5 Rabbi's office day; Hebrew 7- 8:30 pm	6 Shabbat services at 7:30	7 Bake Sale at Staunton Farmer's Market 7-noon
8	9	10 Rabbi's office day	11	12 Rabbi's office day; Torah study noon; Hebrew 7- 8:30 pm	13	14 SHORTY and confirmation class meet in C-ville at 10:00
15	16	17 Rabbi's office day	18	19 Rabbi's office day; Torah study noon; Hebrew 7-8:30 pm	20	21 Tot Shabbat at 10:00 am
22	23	24 Rabbi's office day	25 Book Group at Leah Farmer's home at 7:30 pm	26 Rabbi's office day: Torah study noon; Board Meet @ 7:00	27 Shabbat Services at 7:30	28 Bat Mitzvah of Ariya Marks at 10:00
29	30	31 Rabbi's office day				M A Y

May 3	Rabbi's office day 10 am – 5 pm
May 5	Rabbi's office day 11 am – 7 pm; Hebrew 7-8:30 pm
May 6	Shabbat Services at 7:30 Parashat Kedoshim – Philip & Margie Schwartz 886-1689 w/ Vera Flint 886-1899 hosts
May 7	Women's Group Bake Sale at Staunton Farmer's Market 7- noon
May 10	Rabbi's office day 10 am – 5 pm
May 12	Rabbi's office day 11 am – 7 pm; Torah study at noon; everyone is welcome! Hebrew 7-8:30 pm
May 14	Youth Group and Confirmation Class meeting in Charlottesville at 10:00 am
May 17	Rabbi's office day 10 am – 5 pm
May 19	Rabbi's office day 11 am – 7 pm; Torah study at noon; everyone is welcome! Hebrew 7-8:30 pm
May 21	Tot Shabbat at 10:00 am
May 24	Rabbi's office day 10 am – 5 pm
May 25	Book Club at Leah Farmer's house at 7:30 pm. My Forbidden Face:
May 26	Rabbi's office day 11 am – 7 pm; Torah study at noon; everyone is welcome! Temple Board Meeting at 7:00 pm in the social hall
May 27	Shabbat Services at 7:30 Parashat Bechukotai – Benn Legum 886-2165 w/ Lynn Hewitt 377-6704
May 28	Bat Mitzvah of Ariya Marks at 10:00 am with luncheon following
May 31	Rabbi's office day 10 am – 5 pm