



Temple House of Israel Bulletin

A Member Congregation of the Union for Reform Judaism
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Our mission is to perpetuate Jewish life and identity through a welcoming community of spirituality, learning, service, joy and worship

APRIL 2016 / ADAR II –NISSAN 5776

President's Message

Dear Congregants and Friends,

The willow tree in my back yard has a green haze now, proof that spring is here. It is a welcome sight. Another sign of spring is looking forward to Passover. Our seder is on Friday, April 22 at 6 pm. Note that this is a date change from an earlier calendar. If you want to attend the seder get your reservation form and money to me by April 8. Eric Stamer Catering will be preparing the meal.

We will, however, need help with the set up, shopping, arranging tables, and making seder plates. (Martha Degen has already offered to make the charoset.) Someone will need to shop for the items that fill the seder plates. The physical set up will commence at 2 pm on Friday, April 22. Please contact me if you can help in any way. I feel as if I should permanently affix a sign over the door to the temple which says "Help Needed Here!"

I want to thank the women's group for successfully completing the yard sale on March 11 and March 13. It was a Herculean effort which began with the Schwartzes organizing, cleaning, pricing and supervising. It continued with Ellen Schorsch, Beth, Bonny, Ellen Werther, Nadine, Ruth, Carla, Marsha, Michelle, Patty, Leah and me working together. Thanks also to those who donated to the sale.

Now we really need two people to step forward to be officers for the next two years. We need a building and grounds vice president and a president. Please step forward. Thanks once again to Beth Young for putting together this bulletin.

Rosalie Waterman, temple president

From the Rabbi's Desk

Dear Temple House of Israel Congregants and Friends,

The third session of the Death Café hosted at THOI was great. We used rapid-fire starter questions and had a fabulous conversation with the entire group that attended. If you want to know more about the Death Café project, please take a look at the Facebook page *Death Café of the Shenandoah Valley* – there you will find information and links to the international organization's website. I suggest you consider attending one of the upcoming events. There are three sessions scheduled on the first Wednesday of the month from 7 to 9 pm at Beth El Congregation in Harrisonburg. Feel free to check the Facebook page, email me or DeathCafeoftheShenandoahValley@gmail.com, or call my cell phone.

Mazal tov to those congregants who served as ambassadors to the larger community, speaking at the interfaith Lenten events. These included Ruth Chodrow, Sarah Grove-Humphries, Beth Young and Bonny Strassler. I spoke at the final event in the Islamic Center of the Shenandoah Valley in Harrisonburg on the topic of "pilgrimage". The emphasis was on personal reflections on experiences with each one of the five pillars of Islam, week by week. Those present seemed to feel that they had gotten a great deal out of the program and were very appreciative of all the speakers. I suspect that there will be something like it in future, so if you did not attend, you will have a chance to learn get to know some of our neighbors and have an interesting time.

From the Rabbi's Desk (con't)

Outstanding News: the Elementary Biblical Hebrew "grammar" course was so enthusiastically received that we are forced to continue and expand it! This is YOUR CHANCE! Look at the Things of Note for details. ☺ I just want to give a shout out to Caleb Payne and the whole group of students who came and spent time together learning and exploring the text. It was fun, informative, exciting, and a really excellent example of Jewish learning!

May will bring Part 2 of the Elementary Biblical Hebrew Grammar class, Death Café at Beth El and the final Pulpit Exchange with Rev. Greg Hollis-Dodge.

Torah

The Torah Parashiot for the coming weeks are Tzav, Shemini (Shabbat Parah), Tazria (Shabbat HaChodesh), Metzora (Shabbat Hagadol), Pesach Day 1 and Pesach Day 8. We are in year 3 of the triennial cycle (the third or last part of the cycle of Torah readings).

Rosh Chodesh for Nisan is April 9th. Ta'anit Bechorim (Fast of the First Born, sometimes called Ta'anit Bechorot) is observed by only a small segment of the Jewish population – first born males – on April 22nd from sunrise to sundown in commemoration of being spared from the death of the firstborn as the tenth plague. The Sefirat HaOmer (Counting of the Omer) begins on the second night of Passover and goes until Erev Shavuot, this years from sundown April 23rd until June 11th sundown, marking the time between Redemption and Revelation, from Yetziat Mitzrayim (going out from Egypt) to the encounter with the Divine at Sinai.

Rabbi's Message

For me, Pesach is a very special part of the cycle of the year. It marks the start of our calendar, with redemption and liberation from slavery, a rescue from an oppressive and intolerable situation. It tells the story of the rescue and formation of the Hebrew slaves through shared experience, time together, and the forging of mutual strength, into a nation of people that became the Israelites. It offers the opportunity to 'walk with G-d' and immerse in G-d's creation in the form of nature, and even to approach and experience the divine on both a personal and collective level. It serves as our formative story, offering us an origin and a common narrative, and allows us to forge a collective past, a shared vision, a mutual future, and a sense of meaning.

May this Passover be a time for you and yours to experience all of these aspects, and may this be a zissen (sweet) time for you. Chag Pesach Sameeach (Happy Passover holiday).

Rabbi Joe Blair

Contacting the Rabbi

Please Note: Rabbi Joe may be reached by email at RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com. (Other email addresses may not reach him in a timely fashion, or at all.) He reads email regularly, except on Jewish Holidays or Shabbat, when he does not use the computer.

His cell phone number is **925-272-8563 (925-2-RAVJOE)**. Please note: any other number you may have is no longer active.

Telephone messages left at the Congregation number are only checked sporadically.

PLEASE CALL if you have any urgent messages or in case of an emergency, and please let Rabbi Joe know if you or anyone you know is ill or would welcome a call or visit for any reason.

You are also invited to contact Rabbi Joe to arrange an appointment to meet. Rabbi Joe will be happy to make an appointment to speak with you, so that he can offer you his full, undivided attention.

*Special
Announcement*

We are extremely happy to announce that we have a contract with Rabbi Joel Schwartzman to share in leading High Holy services in October. Beth El posted the position on the CCAR website and search committees from both congregations got referrals from members*. We spoke with several candidates, met with representatives from Beth El and both congregations interviewed Rabbi Schwartzman. We are excited and delighted to have found such a qualified, engaging Rabbi now living in Charlottesville.

Rabbi Schwartzman has been a Reform Rabbi for forty years, with his BA in Philosophy from the University of Cincinnati, his Bachelor of Hebrew Letters, Masters of Hebrew Letters and Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*, from Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. He served as a Chaplain in the U.S. Air Force for 23 years and after many postings in the U.S. as well as Germany and Greece, retired at the rank of Colonel. Following military service, Rabbi Schwartzman was Associate Rabbi of Temple Sinai in Denver and then Rabbi of Congregation B'nai Chaim in Morrison, Colorado. As of 2010 he is Rabbi Emeritus.

He and his wife Ziva are parents to Dr. Micah Jacob of Charlottesville and Rabbi Ilana Rachel of Salt Lake City, and grandparents to 3 grandchildren. Their move to Charlottesville to be closer to their grandchildren makes us very happy.

"Rabbi Joel", as he likes to be called, enjoys hiking and skiing in the Colorado Rockies, traveling, singing folk and Jewish songs, and reading. He has his own blog and tries to write at least an article a week, if not more.

* Temple member Steve Rosenberg introduced us to Rabbi Joel. Steve's family became acquainted with Rabbi Joel in the late 80s when Rabbi Joel served as the Jewish chaplain at the U.S. Air Force Academy and Steve's dad was stationed at a nearby air force base in Colorado Springs.

Things of
note

- Passover is coming. The first seder is April 22nd and will be led by Rabbi Joe. Reservations are due April 8 – the caterer needs time to prepare!
- Friday evening April 29th we will be hosting Rev. Shelby Owen for a Pulpit Exchange. Rabbi Joe will be speaking at Emmanuel Episcopal on Sunday, May 1st
- Caleb Payne has agreed to repeat the first level of Hebrew grammar so anyone who did not have a chance to take it can 'catch up' and those who did take it can work on deepening their engagement with the Akedah – Genesis 22, a truly amazing and seminal text. See the calendar for dates.
- High holidays will be here before you know it and one of the central parts of the service is the blowing of the shofar. As we have for the past several years, WE NEED A SHOFAR BLOWER. A new shofar blower would benefit from several months to practice and rehearse and learn to play the instrument and learn the calls. Please contact Rosalie Waterman.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

•If you have news to share, I'll be happy to share it•

Women's Group

- Our yard sale was a huge success led by the woman (and her able assistant) who knows exactly how to put it all together. Thanks to Elizabeth and Ken Schwartz, who say "thanks to everyone who worked so hard from set up to baking and packaging to working the sale and finally, helping to clean-up. Your efforts were greatly appreciated and resulted in our making over \$1,400. Kudos to a great group of women!"
- The Heifetz Concert brought in over \$700 for us and was a real treat for our ears. Thanks to the members who helped out with planning and setting up the reception after the concert: Nadine Chase, Ruth Chodrow, Ellen Schorsch, Bonny Strassler, Rosalie Waterman, Ellen Werther and Beth Young.
- Our next **meeting** of the Women's Group will be **April 10th at 2 pm.**
- Our **next book discussion** is set for **April 16 at 11 am** and we'll be reading *Crones Don't Whine: Concentrated Wisdom for Juicy Women* by Jean Shinoda Bolen.
- As you start your spring cleaning, remember our "**Dress for Success**" collection in partnership with **New Directions**. Women's professional and nice casual clothing and accessories will be collected and then donated to women in the shelter in need clothes for jobs or interviews.

April Birthdays

Eva Blair celebrating on April 4th
Bonny Strassler on the 5th
Kelli Lynn Goldenberg on the 6th
Martha Degen on the 7th
Amy Goldenberg Fox also on the 7th
Rabbi Joe Blair on April 13th
Sara Blair on the 19th
Vicki Goldenberg on the 21st
Ellen Werther celebrates on the 25th



Religious School

Spring has sprung! And the kids bounced, bounded, hopped and leaped in celebration... of Purim on Sunday March 20th. After some fun crafts, delicious hamantaschen eating and then Rabbi Joe's famous Megillah reading with many hats – we all headed to Pump it Up to jump in our costumes. We had a fabulous time thanks to the generous donations from SHORTY and Religious School for the field trip and to our parent helpers – Ashley Renick, Karen Sitrin, Gale Clemons and Becky Mintzer - for our craft supplies and snacks.

We will have a short spring break in Religious School and we will be back in action on Sunday, April 10th. We look forward to seeing everyone then.

L'Shalom,

Dara

Donations

Thank you to those who have generously contributed to Temple House of Israel during the past month. Your additional support is what keeps us going!
For the building fund Nadine Chase
... Ann Cohen and Stuart Davidson
For the Rabbi's discretionary fund Ruth Chodrow

April Yahrzeits

April 2 Nathan Greenspan
April 6 David Gelberg
April 7 Joann Neuman
April 8 David Bishop
April 10 Ella Barth and Sylvia Kramer
April 11 Esna Roth
April 12 Irving Singer
April 14 Samuel Duken
April 15 Walter Cohen
April 16 Arthur Printz and Sim Brand
April 17 Henry Switzer
April 18 Janet Brody
April 19 Louis Harris and Holly Singer and Jacob Klotz
April 22 Isadore Cohen
April 25 Sophie Switzer
April 26 Alfred Brettner and Evelyn Brettner and Maurice Siegel
April 27 Jack Witt
April 28 Harold Shapiro
April 29 Herman Barber and Joseph Masinkoff

Board Member Contacts

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APRIL, 2016 CALENDAR AND SERVICES

				Welcome April Showers – no more snow!	1	2
3 Elementary Hebrew Grammar at 4-5:30	4	5	6 Death Café in Harrisonburg	7	8 Shabbat Services at 7:30	9
10 Women’s Group at 2 Elementary Hebrew Grammar at 4-5:30	11	12	13 7 pm Temple Board Meet	14	15	16 11 am Book Discussion
17 Elementary Hebrew Grammar at 4-5:30	18	19	20	21	22 6 pm Passover Seder	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 7:30 Shabbat Services w/ Shelby Owen	30