



# 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***

**MAY 2016 / NISSAN - IYAR 5776**

## President's Message

Dear Congregants and Friends,

As I write this, we are anticipating 49 people to attend the seder this Friday evening. This is a large group and I hope we all come away feeling a strong sense of community.

As we look ahead to May, along with the warmth of spring, we know that the annual meeting is at hand, scheduled for **May 22 at 6 pm**. Currently, we are sorting out the board positions for the next year. The office yet to be filled is that of president. It is, of course, a big job; however, we can't move forward without one. Contact me if you would like to talk about what is involved in the role: 886-1713.

Assuming we find a president, we will send out by email or by postal mail, the yearly reports. You will be asked to review them and attend the meeting to ask questions and to vote on the new slate of officers. There will be a proxy document sent, also, so you can vote in that manner if you cannot attend.

**Before the 6 pm meeting, we will have a 5 pm pot luck meat meal.** (no dairy ingredients). Everyone should bring a main dish or a side dish/salad. If you want to bring two things, you can contribute a dessert as well.

Thanks for reading this far and for being members of our congregation.  
Rosalie Waterman, temple president

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## From the Rabbi's Desk

Dear Temple House of Israel Congregants and Friends,

This month zipped by! Here are the most notable events.

The April session of the Death Café was really interesting. Each event has been quite different from the others. This one was more of a discussion of practical matters. I am finding that the tagline used is very descriptive: "Coffee, Teac, Cake, & Death. Join the Conversation." I am looking forward to the next session, which will be held on May 4<sup>th</sup> at 7 -9 pm at Beth El Congregation in Harrisonburg. Feel free to be in touch about these events: email [DeathCafeoftheShenandoahValley@gmail.com](mailto:DeathCafeoftheShenandoahValley@gmail.com) or call 925-272-8563 or check the Facebook page for the *Death Café of the Shenandoah Valley* group.

A really high point during April was the three-session Redux of the Elementary Biblical Hebrew "grammar" on the Akedah (Binding of Isaac) – it was fabulous! Those signed up came together and had a fun time learning, and fantastic discussions about the different meanings that one could find in the text simply by looking closely at the actual words and sentences. Even better – we will begin the eight session course on Noah May 1<sup>st</sup>. Look at Things of Note for details. I urge you to think about putting that on your calendar – I'm sure you will enjoy it.

A lot of planning, preparation, and work have gone into the community Passover Seder. The Seder will take place after this article is submitted, but I am sure that those who attend will

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enjoy a lovely meal, and an opportunity to come together and celebrate in the manner that has been 'traditional' in the congregation for many years. This is just a shout out to all those who have been involved. Thanks for the work that you put in to make this happen.

## Torah and Calendar

The Torah Parashiot for the coming weeks are Pesach Day 1, Pesach Day 8, Acharei Mot, Kedoshim, Emor and Behar. We are in year 3 of the triennial cycle (the third of the three divisions of the cycle of Torah readings.)

Rosh Chodesh for Iyar is May 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. The Sefirat HaOmer (Counting of the Omer) begins April 23 in the evening (the second day of Passover) and goes through until Erev Shavuot, this year June 11<sup>th</sup> at sundown, marking the time between Redemption and Revelation, from Yetziat Mitzrayim (going out from Egypt) to the encounter with the Divine at Sinai. Also during this month, Yom HaSho'ah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) is May 5<sup>th</sup>, Yom HaZikaron (Day of Remembrance, Israel's Memorial Day) is May 11<sup>th</sup>, and Yom HaAtzma'ut (Israel Independence Day) is May 12<sup>th</sup>. On the secular calendar, Mother's Day is May 8<sup>th</sup> and Memorial Day is May 30<sup>th</sup>.

## Rabbi's Message

I hope that your Passover is/was a sweet and meaningful time and that you were able to deal with your figurative 'chametz'. May the period of the counting of the Omer be for you, as for the Hebrews, a time of preparation and rising from redemption to revelation. I have said before that memory is integral for us as Jews, and this month there are multiple events that commemorate both the happy and the sad, both communal and personal. The calendar this month is a reminder to stop and take note.

Communally we have Memorial Day and Yom HaZikaron, of course, but also Yom HaSho'ah and Yom HaAtzma'ut as reminders and signals. On the personal level, it is customary on the last day of Passover (and also on Yom Kippur, the last days of Shavuot and Sukkot, as well as during the period between Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur, in addition to the Yahrzeit) to remember our loved ones who remain with us only in memory.

Spanning the communal and personal, we see that the religious school year is coming to an end, with the secular school year not far behind. Some of the young people involved will be reaching the end of their time as students in the religious school. High school graduation is near at hand and the annual SHORTY Confirmation service is to take place on May 21<sup>st</sup>, signaling that we will soon be wishing well and farewell to those students going off into the wider world.

I am always happy for the students and proud of the people they have become, knowing that their presence will make their communities and the world a better place. I hope you will join me as we celebrate their accomplishments and ritually mark this moment of transition. In the words we use as we finish reading each of the books of the Torah, *chazak, chazak, venitchazake*. May they (and we) go from strength to strength and be strengthened.

Rabbi Joe Blair

## Things of note

- On the immediate horizon we have a Pulpit Exchange scheduled for the April 29<sup>th</sup> service. Rev. Shelby Owen will be delivering the Devar Torah that night and I will be preaching at Emmanuel Episcopal on Sunday morning, May 1<sup>st</sup>. I will be looking at Psalm 67 (which is part of the lectionary used for that day) as my text.
- 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.

## More things of note

- The Elementary Biblical Hebrew course will start on May 1<sup>st</sup>. We have scheduled this course for eight sessions over three months. Each session is scheduled to take place at 4-5:30 pm on Sunday afternoons at Temple House of Israel. The dates are May 1, 8, 15, June 19, 26, July 10, 17 and 24. In this course we will study the text of Noah and the Flood and we will also add selected Midrashim that expand on and try to explain the 'meaning' of the story. It is truly fascinating stuff and a lot of fun to read. Come with an open mind and prepare to be surprised. ☺ There is no cost and the texts are provided, but you will probably want to have a Tanakh (Hebrew bible) or a Chumash (commentary) available for reference. Please let Rabbi Joe know you are interested so the distribution of materials by email before the first class can occur. It helps if you know the Hebrew alphabet, but you don't need anything more than that (and opinions on the texts!) to participate.
- The first of a two-part article on Major Alexander Hart and his family has just been published in the prestigious New England Historical and Genealogical Register (Volume 170, pages 8-12). The article, written by Cherry Fletcher Bamberg, traces the family back to Major Hart's great-grandfather who emigrated from Germany to England; Major Hart's grandfather then came to America. The second part of the article, to be published in the next issue, will detail the life, career and descendants of Major Hart. The NEHG Register is considered to be one of the most prestigious genealogical journals in the country. Ms. Bamberg, a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists, has graciously donated a copy of the Register to our Temple library.

## Contacting the Rabbi

Please Note: Rabbi Joe may be reached by email at [RabbiJoeB@hotmail.com](mailto: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.

## NEWS FROM THE PEWS

- ✓ Larry and Patty Sutker had a wonderful time visiting in the Four Corners area (Utah, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona). They saw their Nashville grandchildren while attending a family wedding in Sedona, they spent a day in the snow in Taos and ate too much good Mexican food.
- ✓ Sarah Young is the new Marketing Manager for the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

## Women's Group

At our last Women's Group meeting, discussion ensued about how we may spend the money raised during our last two very successful events, the Yard Sale and the Heifetz benefit concert. The consensus was to consider putting our money toward a particular project or need within the temple. Please consider contributing to this conversation by attending the **next meeting on Sunday, May 15 at 2pm at the temple.**

Other upcoming events include an afternoon **Dress for Success** event in partnership with New Directions. Women of the temple have collected gently worn professional clothing, shoes, handbags and accessories over the last few months. The goal is to offer these clothes to local women via a "shopping" experience with afternoon tea and sweets. Please contact Michelle Clark [michelle.clark@verizon.net](mailto:michelle.clark@verizon.net) if you are interested in participating in any way.

Many thanks to Nadine Chase for leading a thoughtful discussion of our April book *Crones Don't Whine*. It was an enjoyable time sharing thoughts and experiences together. Don't forget to mark your calendars for our **next book discussion on Saturday, May 14 at 11am** at the temple. We will read a collection of short stories by author Nathan Englander titled ***What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank***. Worried about not having enough time to read the whole book and wondering if you should bother coming? No worries! Read a short story or two and come for great conversation and a delicious lunch together. We hope to see you there!

## Reasons to Celebrate in May

### Happy Birthday to:

Sim Brand celebrating his birthday on May 1<sup>st</sup>

Susan Pereles celebrating on the 4<sup>th</sup>

Sam Pereles on the 14<sup>th</sup>

Dianne Mason on the 19<sup>th</sup>

Ruth Chodrow on the 30<sup>th</sup>



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### Happy Anniversary to:

Lynne Landsberg and Dennis Ward celebrate on May 21<sup>st</sup>

Karen and Joe Blair celebrate on the 29<sup>th</sup>

MOTHER'S DAY !

## 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 ..... Beth and Rich Young  
 In memory of Muriel Shainsky Robbins ..... Pamela Robbins  
 For Passover ..... Benn Legum

## May Yahrzeits

Leah Barber	Elbert Evans Ward	Gertrude Barber
Ellna Byrne	Velma Byrne	Blanche Cohn
Joseph Cohn	Gloria Goldsmith	Ida Harris
Rosaline Kamerman	Heidi Kaplan	Ethel Kelly
Morris Klotz	Abraham Kravitz	Joseph Oppenheim
Edward Patterson	Rose Pickus	Jack Printz
Max Rabin	William Robins	Frank Rubin
Clara Sebell	Mildred Shor	Flora Switzer
Moses Walters	Nettie Williams	

## Board Member Contacts

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# May 2016 CALENDAR AND SERVICES

1 Elementary Hebrew Grammar at 4-5:30	2	3	4 Death Café in Harrisonburg	5	6	7 10:00 Shabbat Services – Pulpit Exch w/ Rev. Greg Hollis-Dodge
8 Elementary Hebrew Grammar at 4-5:30	9	10	11 7 pm Temple Board Meet	12	13 Shabbat Services at 7:30	14 11 am Book Discussion
15 Women’s Group at 2 Elementary Hebrew Grammar at 4-5:30	16	17	18	19	20 Shabbat Services at 7:30	21
22 5 pm potluck 6 PM ANNUAL MEETING	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				