



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

MARCH 2019 / NISAN— IYAR 5779

From the Rabbi

A Word ... or More “The Strange Connection Between Purim and the Day of Atonement”

The “official” name of our Day of Atonement is *Yom Hakippurim*. Hebrew being the fascinating language it is, we can take that name and translate it “A day that is like Purim.” Why? Grammatically, because the letter/sound “k” means “like” or “as.”

Religiously, because just as on Purim, many Jews masquerade as pious Jews on Yom Kippur. As some ministers and priests say about their flock on their special days, “*They’re ‘revolving’ Christians, in on Christmas and out on Easter*”. For our people such is often the case with Rosh Hashonah and Yom Kippur.

Of course there are those who are “regulars” in the synagogues. They are present every Shabbat, sometimes during the week as well. But is this real or a masquerade? Fortunately most have an authentic sense of the Eternal in their lives, but in some cases Jewish identity is only within the four walls of the synagogue; we’re not so pious in our personal and professional lives.

There are those who wear the mask of “*Captain Justice: Guardian of the Poor and Oppressed, the Orphan and the Widow*.” They pay verbal homage to the causes of social justice yet do better with the *idea* of justice than the hard work of justice. I know such a leader who loved humanity but didn’t particularly love humans.

Purim is the time when we’re permitted—even encouraged—to wear masks: on Yom Kippur we are asked to leave those masks behind and seriously look at ourselves for what we are, what we’ve done and how we plan to change. It always amazes me how relevant Judaism is despite the centuries we’ve been around.

Rabbi Peter H. Grumbacher

Services and Events

- March 1st Rabbi-led Shabbat Service at 7:30 pm
- March 2nd Torah study at 9:00 am
- March 8th Lay-led service at 7:30 pm
- March 10th Women’s Group at 2:00 pm celebrating Purim, making hamentaschen
- March 14th Board meeting at 7:30 pm
- March 15th Rabbi-led Community Awareness Shabbat at 7:30 pm
- March 16th Torah study at 9:00 am
- March 22nd Lay-led service at 7:30 pm
- March 30th Lay-led Shabbat Service at 10:00 am with Heidi Lasser

Passover Seder

SAVE THE DATE: Our Community Passover Seder will be held on Saturday April 20th, catered by Eric Stamer. The reservation form will be coming to you shortly.

Words from our Temple President

Dear members and friends,

At the first lay-led Shabbat service of 2019, seven of us worshipped together, not in the sanctuary but in the library. It was an intimate and moving service centered around seven poems that reflected and reinterpreted the liturgy. We talked, sang and learned from each other. That sense of community continued with the oneg and the many stories and laughter that followed.

As I've said many times before, Temple House of Israel is a special place; a beautiful synagogue filled with warm and caring people. While attending services may not be everyone's priority or interest, the choice made to become and remain member of THOI is a common thread that binds us together. Our congregation requires both religious and social opportunities to meet the interests and needs of members, as well as attract and invite Jews from our local community to join us.

Last month, we focused on bringing a friend to a service. During March, please consider what you find attractive and significant in our THOI community. What keeps you coming back? What more would you like to see? What might you be willing to lead, organize, or coordinate? A spaghetti supper, a book club, lay-led service, bowling outing, summer picnic, whatever. Share your ideas with me or a member of the board. We would love to hear them!

L'Shalom,
Bonny Strassler

Women's Group

A big thank you to Ellen Schorsch for sharing her Baklava recipe and her delicious baking with us! Speaking of delicious goodies...

- Since most of us have a substantial collection of cookbooks, not all of which are being used, it was suggested that we establish a lending library of cookbooks. If you are interested, please bring any books you'd be willing to include to our March meeting and we'll set it up.
- And speaking of cookbooks.... We still have a few THOI Cookbooks compiled from members in 2004. Also a few autographed copies of Joan Nathan's *Quiches, Kugels and Couscous* from the time of her visit here are available in the Judaica shop. They'd make great gifts!
- Vera's response was "Where did these come from?" The flamingos are always ready to fly—they follow directions well. Help the Women's Group raise funds that help THOI and the Greater Staunton community. Contact Deb Jacobs by email: deb1130@hotmail.com at least 1 week in advance of the 'flocking' date. The cost to 'flock' someone has dropped to \$15 during the winter!



At our **March 10th meeting at 2:00 pm** we'll celebrate Purim by making **hamentaschen**. Ruth is planning to bring her dough recipe and Beth will bring prune and apricot fillings so everything will be ready for us to fill and bake. We will also discuss events planned for April (Passover seder) and May. Please join us and bring any ideas you have for future social events or charitable work. Everyone is welcome to share their ideas!

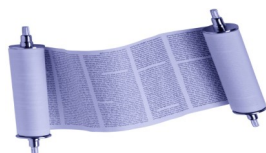
News from the Pews

- We're happy to report that Rabbi Grumbacher's surgery to repair his thumb was successful. But he's expressed a bit of frustration in the recovery!
- Robert Pendleton, long-time custodian and friend of our Jewish community, passed away on February 21st at King's Daughters Rehab Center. His funeral will be held on Saturday, March 2 at 1:00 pm at Ebenezer Baptist Church led by Rev. Michael Turner.
- Heidi Lasser has been volunteering with Friendly City Co-op in Harrisonburg. She is part of a team that is promoting their Member Investor Program which will help fund the store's expansion plan. Friendly City Co-op provides local, natural and organic products from the area, and fair trade items from the large sustainable global market.
- Paul Klein has finished his treatments for a slow growing, esophageal cancer. We wish him a smooth recovery and continued good wishes.
- Gail and Tom Davis are grateful for your prayers and support as he continues to rehabilitate from his heart transplant. Now he is on the list for a kidney transplant, and they ask for your continued prayers and support. Any questions, please contact Gail. Thank you.
- The Philadelphia Bar Foundation recognized the law firm of Willig, Williams and Davidson (our own Stuart Davidson) with its 2018 Pro Bono Award in recognition of its dedication to providing pro bono services to those in need and advancing equal access to justice and promoting pro bono volunteerism within the firm. Mazel tov!
- Mi Sheberach and Refua Sh'leimah to all those in our community who are in need of healing.

As a Reminder

Support Temple House of Israel

- Why not slip a dollar into the **Tzedakah Box** as you walk into the sanctuary? We'd have close to \$50 a month if everyone did that!
- THOI is registered at **amazonsmile.com**. Any time you shop at Amazon simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device and a portion will be donated to THOI.
- If you use Facebook, you are encouraged to add comments to THOI posts. Please "like" and "follow" us on social media. Spreading the word will encourage others to join.



- Consider a donation to the Torah Maintenance and Repair fund. Keeping our Torah scrolls in good repair requires an ongoing and regular effort. Your checks to THOI should be marked "Torah Restoration Fund".

March Celebrations

Steve Guberman will celebrate his birthday on March 10th
Lou Boden celebrates on the 11th
Rebecca Pereles celebrates on the 14th
Laura Jean Brand on the 19th
Linda Schorsch will celebrate on the 21st
Laurie Berman celebrates on March 28th



Laura Jean and Asher Brand celebrate their 35th anniversary (?) in March
Bonnie and Mike Brown celebrate their anniversary on March 23rd.

Outreach

Building Bridges for the Greater Good has been conducting conversations in hopes of fostering greater understanding about the history of race and race relations in our community, ultimately empowering us to work together towards healing, justice and greater opportunities for all. Their next meeting on **March 19 at City Hall, 6:00—8:00 pm** will share a set of resource materials (film, podcasts, readings) that can be used for self-education about our wider historical context, as well as suggestions and question prompts for discussion circles. These resources will be helpful in discussions with friends, neighbors, and civic or faith groups leading up to the April Breaking Bread event.

The annual **Breaking Bread** event, provisionally scheduled for Saturday April 13 at Booker T Washington Community Center, will include an opportunity for dialogue and conversation about our history and our collective future as a community. More details will be available as the date is confirmed.

Judaica Shop

- ◆ Purim is celebrated (*Boo hiss* and *Yea!*) on March 21 and the Judaica Shop has groggers for you—just in case you need a bit more noise in your life.
- ◆ Passover begins April 20 and the Judaica Shop is ready. Are you? There are beautiful seder plates available and of course, leaping frogs to decorate your table. Contact Marsha (horsebaskets@gmail.com) for any special requests.

A New Idea

A few weeks ago Rabbi Grumbacher's weekly message included the suggestion that we might have **congregant's artwork on display**. We don't have much available wall space, but we thought we'd try it....

We'll soon be installing a picture rail in one corner of the social hall (to the right of the Tree of Life designed by Martha Degen) so that we can display two-dimensional work on a changing basis. If you would like to submit your artwork, please bring it to the temple during any Shabbat service and leave it in the Rabbi's office where it will be secure. In addition, Marsha Pillet will be at the temple on two Tuesdays, March 5 and 12 from 11:00—12 noon to meet you. Provide your name and preferred contact information so that others may contact you directly if desired.

Depending on the response, our intention is to hang the first selected artwork on April 3 and have it on display for one month.

Questions? Contact Beth at bydesign1993@gmail.com

Recent Donations

Your donations, above and beyond your annual dues, keep us moving forward. **Many thanks** to those who have recently supported our congregation as we look to enhance our physical building and our holy Torahs.

For the Entrance Renovation Fund Joseph Siron
..... David Hockstein
..... Asher and Laura Jean Brand
..... Art Goldsmith and Jan Kaufman
..... Stu Davidson and Ann Cohen

March Yahrzeits

Louis Cohen

Louis Cohen, Jr.

Rose Freiberger

Manny Gutnick

Irving Janus

Irving Kamerman

Joseph Kamerman

Leah Kamerman

Annie Klotz

Abraham Kreitzer

Abraham Levin

Adrian Neuman

Betram Peretz

Harry Raskin

Moses Rosenthal

Rebecca Rosenthal

Regina Ruttenberg

David Lebson

Dorothy Ward

Ralph Seltzer

Albert Shultz

Sophie Strauss

Irving Waxman

C. Herman Weinberg

Samuel Zeldin

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I'm hoping for Spring!

