



# 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 2019 / IYAR– SIVAN 5779**

## From the Rabbi

### A Word...or More “A Zeesen Pesach!”

Many believe that Chanukah is the Jews’ favorite holiday. Not so! Survey says Passover is tops by a mile. It is a family holiday, and while synagogues have worship services on the first and last days we all know that the seder is the center of our religious observance.

Even those who could care less about God or the Torah, the *Sh’ma* or *Ein Kelo-heinu*, find an appropriate Haggadah (yes, there are some that are strictly agricultural/historical in nature and ignore the religious implications of the exodus) and go through the Passover rituals. They might have strange interpretations, but, heck, does it really matter? I know of one family who puts on a seder c.d.; not a word from the Haggadah is uttered, not a song is sung by those around the table. They listen to the c.d. as they eat.

There are all kinds of Haggadot, all kinds of rituals, all kinds of themes. Years ago I co-wrote a Haggadah with an Orthodox rabbi on the theme of the plight of Soviet Jewry. Prominently included were selections dealing with their hoped-for exodus; we were so happy to exclude it when the doors were opened and the Jews were permitted to leave!

One more thing...I encourage you to follow the dietary regulations of Passover. You don’t have to be strict, something not easy to do anyway in this community, but at least for a week try to refrain from eating leaven (read “bread” and “donuts”) and focus on the culinary delights of matzah and macaroons.

Remember your connection to our biblical ancestors and follow the admonition written thirty-six times as a refrain in the Torah: “*You shall not oppress the stranger, the immigrant, the widow, the orphan, the hungry, the homeless, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.*” This is somewhat of a paraphrase but you get the point.

As is said, *a zeesen Pesach!* May each of you have a sweet Passover!+

Rabbi Peter H. Grumbacher



## Words from our Temple President

Dear members and friends,

Thank goodness spring is coming! The chattering birdsong in the morning, the warm undertones in the western breeze, and the fact that Spring Break is here are the markers that a pleasant change is in the offing. I'm thrilled and I hope you all can find a time to join us at THOI.

The coming month of April is a busy one. There will be a lay-led service, two evening services with Rabbi Grumbacher and, of course, the annual Community Passover Seder. For me, the seder is one of the happiest events at THOI. This year we have a lot that is different and new: Rabbi Grumbacher, his delightful sense of humor and a new menu. Choose to spend the second night of Passover with us. Hope to meet you there!

L'Shalom,  
Bonny Strassler

## Services and Events

April 5th	Rabbi-led Shabbat Service at 7:30 pm
April 6th	Torah study at 9:00 am
April 10th	Board meeting at 7:00 pm
April 12th	Lay led service at 7:30 pm
April 14th	Women's Group at 2:00 pm
April 20th	<b>Community Passover Seder at 6:00 pm Reservations are due April 1st.</b> Please see the attached flyer. If you have questions, please email Beth at <a href="mailto:bydesign1993@gmail.com">bydesign1993@gmail.com</a>
April 26th	Rabbi-led Shabbat Service at 7:30 pm
April 27th	Torah study at 9:00 am

**Mark you calendars now:** Congregational Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 26 at 4:00 pm with a potluck (meat) dinner to follow.

## Women's Group

- The Ben Raybin Library within our social hall now has a new section. We've set up a **lending library of cookbooks** since most of us have a few cookbooks that we don't always use. If you are interested, please bring any books you'd be willing to include to our next meeting or just place them on the marked shelves. You'll see the signs for the new reserved section.
- 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!

Thanks to everyone who helped to make great hamantashen. Ruth's dough, Beth's fillings and the work from Heidi, Ellen and Bonny in filling and forming were all wonderful. Thanks to Elizabeth for putting together almost a dozen Purim baskets which were delivered to friends in need and to several others who have earned out admiration. It was an enjoyable and delicious afternoon

- During our **April 14 meeting at 2:00 pm** we'll set up for the Community Seder. We'll also discuss the cocktail party and silent auction so mark your calendars for Saturday, May 18. Please join us and bring any ideas you have for future social events or charitable work. **Everyone** is welcome to share their ideas!

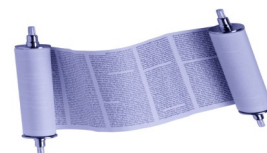
## News from the Pews

- Mi Sheberach and Refua Sh'leimah to all those in our community who are in need of healing.
- We are sad to announce the passing of Fran Sadler on February 27, 2019. She joined us for high holidays for several years and always shared her cheerful smile.
- Ken Schwartz has recently had two strokes but the doctors are pleased with his progress and his prognosis is good. He's frustrated with his limitations but Elizabeth says he is pain-free. We wish him a speedy and complete recovery.
- We are happy to report that Paul Klein has been declared cancer free! His treatments were deemed successful and he was able to "ring the bell" at AHC.
- 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.
- Michelle Clark sends her regards to everyone. She and Jim are feeling content for now being home and have no immediate travel plans.
- Congratulations to Ann Cohen for being inducted into the Forest of Fame for her remarkable efforts to beautify the city of Philadelphia with the Tree Philly Program. Her river birch trees soak up storm water runoff which helps the rest of her gorgeous garden thrive. That and a whole lot of creative work on her part!
- Anita Davidson, daughter of Ann Cohen and Stuart Davidson, is also due our kudos for co-founding the Muhibbah Dinner Series, a nonprofit that brings cooks from kitchens across the city to serve a dish from their heritage at special dinner parties. For her activities, Anita has been awarded the 2019 Public Servant of the Year from Edible Philly's Local Heroes. The proceeds benefit immigrants and refugees in Philadelphia.
- Ellen Werther enjoyed visiting with her grandson in California in March.
- Young True Value Hardware is officially FOR SALE. If you happen to know anyone who might be interested,

## Support Temple House of Israel

### As a Reminder

- Why not slip a dollar into the **Tzedakah Box** as you walk into the sanctuary? We'd have close to \$50/month if everyone did that!
- THOI is registered at **amazonsmile.com**. Any time you shop at Amazon simply go to [smile.amazon.com](https://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 on going and regular effort. Your checks to THOI should be marked "Torah Restoration Fund".



### April Celebrations



Bonny Strassler who will celebrate on April 5  
Martha Degen who celebrates on April 7  
Vicki Goldenberg who celebrates on April 21  
Ellen Werther celebrating on April 25

It's a quiet month—or maybe, more accurately, the previous July was a quiet month....

## 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.

The annual **Breaking Bread to Build Bridges** event will be held on **Sat. April 13** at the **Booker T Washington Community Center**, 1114 West Johnson Street. Bring a bread or pastry from your own culture to share with those at your table and have the opportunity for dialogue and conversation about our history and our collective future as a community.

## Judaica Shop

- ◆ Passover begins April 20 and the Judaica Shop has everything you might need. There are beautiful seder plates and of course, [jumping frogs](#) to decorate your table. Contact Marsha (horsebaskets@gmail.com) for any special requests.

## A New Art Display

Beginning in April, **Ellen Werther will be our featured artist**. Her collage work will be displayed once our new picture rail is installed in the southeast corner of the social hall. We'll be able to hang a changing display of work on a rotating basis. If you'd like to contribute, please contact Beth or Marsha and provide your name and preferred contact information so that others may contact you directly if desired, once your artwork is displayed. Photography, painting, collage, needlework, any original art will be considered.

Questions? Contact Beth at [bydesign1993@gmail.com](mailto:bydesign1993@gmail.com)

## Recent Donations

The families of Abe Kronsberg and Barth Weinberg are renewing their commitment to Temple House of Israel with the establishment of the Johanna and Abraham Weinberg Family Fund for the maintenance and preservation of our Torah scrolls. A plaque on the right hand side of the ark reads "In memory of Johanna and Abraham Weinberg for the Perpetual Care of the Ark, 5749". That was 1987.

Our hope is that the congregation will continue to support this effort so that all of our Torah scrolls can be returned to their whole and complete condition and can be used into the future.

**Our sincere thanks** to those who have recently supported our congregation as we look to enhance our physical building and our holy Torahs.

For the Torah preservation and maintenance .... Abram Kronsberg and Robin Kaplan  
in the Johanna and Abraham Weinberg Family Fund for Torah Maintenance  
For the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund ..... Doug and Martha Degen  
For the Entrance Renovation Fund ..... The trust of Peggy Jean Klotz  
..... Abram Kronsberg and Robin Kaplan  
In honor of Vera's birthday ..... Stuart Davidson and Ann Cohen

Note: We have so far matched \$6,643 of the \$10,000 challenge donation for the Entrance Renovation fund. You are encouraged to meet that match by the April 15th deadline.

## April Yahrzeits

Herman Barber	Ella Barth	David Bishop
Sim Brand	Alfred Brettner	Evelyn Brettner
Isadore Cohen	Walter Cohen	Samuel Duken
David Gelberg	Nathan Greenspan	Louis Harris
Jacob Klotz	Sylvia Kramer	Joseph Masinkoff
Joann Neuman	Arthur Printz	Esna Lee Roth
Harold Shapiro	Maurice Siegel	Holly Singer
Irving Singer	Henry Switzer	Sophie Switzer
Janet Brody	Jack Witt	

## Board Contacts

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