



March/April 2011  
 Adar I/Adar II/Nisan — 5771

Morgantown, West Virginia

It is a Tree of Life to  
 those that hold fast to it.

## Purim Fundraiser, Celebration & Carnival

**Carnival:** Sunday March 13 at 10:00am  
**Megillah Reading & Oneg Celebration:**  
 Saturday, March 19 at 7:00pm  
 (more info to follow)

Please join us at the Tree of Life for Purim with the traditional Megillah reading/ Purim Carnival. Have fun and adhere to these mitzvot.

Everyone who attends will receive a Mishloach Manot box with goodies!

**If you would like to send a personal message and sponsor a box for someone, please send a note giving:**

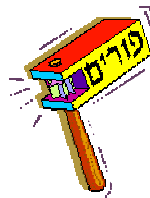
- \* your name,
- \* name(s) of those you are sponsoring and
- \* your message(s).

**For each box enclose a \$15.00 check, payable to Tree of Life Congregation. Send to: Tree of Life, PO Box 791, Morgantown, WV 26507-0791 (Or you can use the form on etzhaim.org.)**

This is your opportunity to thank a friend, tell someone you appreciate them, send a greeting, wish someone well, or make an anonymous donation.

Don't Fret- If the person or family you are sponsoring doesn't attend the celebration, we will see that they receive their box!

Please be generous and support this fun and worthwhile fundraiser! Call with questions: Joan Addicks 304-685-9448



### JUDAICA SHOP HAS YOUR PURIM & PASSOVER NEEDS

Joan wants everyone to know there is no need to look any place else. The Judaica Shop has what you need for your holiday celebrations. Not only do you get great things, but also you do a mitzvah since shop profits benefit our Religious School.

Visit <http://etzhaim.org>

#### RABBI

David Feder

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Linda Herbst	Co-President
Joan Addicks	First Vice President
Al Berrebi	Second Vice President
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**Rabbi  
David  
Feder**

A familiar passage from the Passover Haggadah proclaims, "In every generation, a person is obligated to see himself or herself as if he or she came forth from Egypt – *B'chol dor v'dor chayav adam lirot et atzmo k'ilu hu yatza mimitzrayim.*" We carry within us the collective memory of the Jewish people. We are asked, commanded, to experience Pesach, not as history, but as memory. We have to relive the experience annually of coming out of Egypt and Egyptian bondage.

This year we have seen the quest for freedom from bondage spread throughout the Middle East – Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Yemen and elsewhere. We hear stories not from history, but from the headlines of people recounting their own journeys from oppression to liberation. We do not know where their journeys will end, or how they will impact us in this country or our brethren in Israel, but we can see the universal message of Passover acted out each day on the television or the computer screen

There is a variant reading of our Haggadah text, found in the Erfurt edition of the Mishnah: *B'chol dor v'dor chayav adam l'hayrot et atzmo k'ilu yatza mimitzrayim* – In every generation, a person is obligated to point to himself as if he or she came forth out of Egypt. We are transformed from passively reviewing the story to actively telling our own role within it. What are our own stories of liberation? What are the stories about our own lives and our own struggles? These stories have a place at our seder tables. We have to be able to answer the question, "what makes us free?" In fact, Haggadah begins with the assumption that we in fact are not fully free, that we are en-

slaved to something.

Therein lies the power of Passover. Its theme of the road to freedom and liberation from bondage is a universal one. All people can tell a story of how they became free. For us, however, it is also how we became a people. Retelling it every year reminds us of our connections to each other and reinforces those very connections. It is not just the story of how "I" became free, but of how "we" became free.

As we prepare for *z'man cheruteinu*, the season of our freedom, let us look into the pages of our haggadot, and find our own lives written across those pages.

## ISLAMIC-CHRISTIAN-JEWISH TRIALOGUE

On Sunday, January 30, ten members of Tree of Life joined in triologue with ten members each from both the Islamic Center of Morgantown and First Presbyterian Church. Over the course of the evening, we got to know each other better and dispelled some myths and misconceptions about each other. Most importantly, committees were formed to continue to engage in conversation and work on issues of common concern.

The youth committee is busy working on a program for high school and junior high students to take place on the evening of Saturday, April 2 in the Mountainlair. The exact times and contents of the program are still being worked out and further details will be provided through email.

We hope that these conversations mark a time of increased dialogue among the faith communities within Morgantown and will lead to greater understanding and cooperation.



## MAZAL TOV SHABBAT

We offer blessings and cake for those marking a simchas in March & April:

### March 18th

Linda Abrahams  
Alex Abrahams  
Joan Addicks  
Bill Bellman  
Sophie Brager  
Max Brager  
Yuki Cather  
Andrew Cather  
Lindsey Edwards  
Carole and David Hart  
Barbara and Larry Jacowitz  
Stan Kanner  
Ted and Joyce Kohan  
Margalit Persing  
Eleanor Simmons  
Terry Sippin  
Merle Stolzenberg  
Jared Stern

### April 15th

Bill Addicks  
Anne Selinger Charon  
Barry Cooper  
Donna Bolyard and Ed Gerson  
Monique and Aryeh Gingold  
Aryeh Gingold  
Harry Golden  
Barbara Jacowitz  
Michelle Leverage  
Jacob Lemoff  
Marvin Pakman

*Send them a card. See page five.*





**Ed  
Gerson**

### President's Report

Push to Shlep to Push

“And a man in the rain picked up his bag of secrets. And journeyed up the mountainside far above the clouds and nothing was ever heard from him again.” Oops. Wrong narrative. But while you're waiting...

In between two presentations by Moses at Mt. Sinai was an overlooked trek not down, but up the mountain, with Moses carrying two blank stone tablets in the hands that quarried them. Upon return, all Israel, minus the 3000, became guarantors for one another.

We plan two URJ events in the next six months: within 90 days, a URJ rabbi-congregational effort facilitated by a URJ rabbi and a lay person. These interviews are for the purpose of the mutual evaluation of our relationship. Not a forum, not a seminar. Both myself and Rabbi Feder have requested this URJ service, which is at no charge to us, or rather, you. We will receive a URJ report about two weeks afterwards. Secondly, within six months, we plan a URJ leadership workshop for the board and future leadership facilitated by URJ's Lisa Adler.

Numerous improvements are being realized thru the Education Committee, with better communications with parents, lesson plans, and coordination working with our principal, Rabbi Feder. We are exploring ways in which the Ritual committee can be strengthened through more participation and...even more participation. Both of these efforts will induce membership.

The Contract Committee has met with

Rabbi Feder and presented the mutual agreements to the Board of Trustees, which recently authorized us to begin wording a one year extension contract. Merle, Barry and myself have worked intensely to provide our legal mavens, Kathy and Deva, with starting points to fulfill the trust our congregation placed in us at the annual meeting.

There is no “bag of secrets up a mountainside far above the clouds”. Down here, we all remain guarantors for one another.

*Shalom - Ed*

### RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Our Religious School remained busy during the months of January and February.

The Kindergarten / First Grade class prepared for leading the March Family Shabbat Service by learning about Shabbat and creating Shabbat books.

The 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Class hosted the February Family Shabbat Service and in addition to doing a wonderful job of leading services, they also set up the social hall for Shabbat dinner beautifully.

Our 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade class experienced a change of teachers. While Ariel Wasserstrom continues to teach midweek Hebrew, David Levine now teaches on Sunday mornings. The class continues its unit on Israel, learning about the peoples and places within Israel, as well as learning about kibbutz life.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Grade class continues to explore Torah and midrash, completing the book of Genesis and moving on to Exodus.

All of the grades joined together in celebrating Tu B'shevat with a seder and sharing in learning about the natural resources in Israel with material from the Jewish National Fund.

In March and April, the focus of the Religious School will be on the observances on Purim and Pesach.

**Merle  
Stolzenberg**



Thank you for your support of Tree of Life Congregation. I sound like a broken record, but if you have not yet pledged for this fiscal year, please take the opportunity to do so now. Your contribution is very important to the fiscal stability of our congregation.

Contributions to any of the Tree of Life funds make an ideal gift to commemorate a special event or to memorialize a loved one. These funds include: General, Religious School, Rabbi Discretionary, and Prayer Book funds. For \$25, you can have a book plate placed in one of our new prayer books. You might also consider a leaf (\$250) or a stone (\$2,500 for the small ones) on our beautiful Simcha Tree.

If you have any questions about dues pledge guidelines or donations, please contact me at (304) 292-6767 evenings and weekends or by email at [mpstolzen@yahoo.com](mailto:mpstolzen@yahoo.com). Hope to see you at Tree of Life soon!

### ADULT EDUCATION HAGGADAH THEMES

On Sunday evening April 3 and April 10, at 7:00 pm, we will look at some of the larger themes that inform the telling of the story of our exodus from Egyptian bondage. We will look at how the story is told in the Torah and then look to see how the Rabbis tweak the story to fit their own needs and experiences and then how subsequent generations of Jews have retold this Biblical and rabbinic tale through narrative, midrash, mysticism and art.



## PURIM

Purim is celebrated on the 13th day of the Hebrew month of Adar, which this year corresponds to Saturday, March 19th and Sunday, the 20th. Purim celebrates the events found within the Biblical book of Esther. Contemporary observance consists of four mitzvot

- Mikra Megillah – hearing the reading of Megillat Esther (the scroll of Esther)
- Se'udat Purim – celebrating the holiday with a festive meal
- Mishloach Manot – sending parcels of food and goodies to friends
- Mattanot L'evyonim – giving gifts to the poor

Our Megillah reading will take place on Saturday, March 19, at 7:00 pm, followed by an oneg.

## PURIM CARNIVAL

Our Purim Carnival will take place on Sunday morning, March 13, during Religious School. Students from WVU Hillel will once again help to organize our carnival. Join us for games and pizza and our celebration of one of our most joyous holidays.

## COMMUNITY SEDER

The Tree of Life Community Seder will be held the first night of Passover, Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. The place and cost have not been finalized. As soon as the information is available, we will let everyone know. If you have any questions, please call Linda Herbst at 599-6947.



## PASSOVER

Passover begins on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which corresponds to Monday evening, April 18, this year. For the seven days following, we refrain from consuming foods made from the grains, wheat, barley, rye, oats, and spelt. Many Ashkenazi Jews also follow the practice of refraining from consuming kitniyot – other grains and legumes that could be mistaken or accidentally mixed with the aforementioned grains, such as lentils, beans, rice, and corn.

For many, preparations for Pesach occupy a large role in the observance of the festival. Some transform their kitchens, removing pots and pans, dishes and flatware used throughout the year and substituting items used exclusively for Pesach. Others use the approach of Pesach as an opportunity to engage in serious spring cleaning.

Wherever one fits in the spectrum of Pesach observance or involvement, Pesach means the chance for transformation, to willingly disrupt one's life for a week. Not disruption for the sake of disruption, but an interruption for the purpose of growth and introspection.

No where is this more evident than in the core of Passover observance, the story, the mitzvah of sipur yetziat mitzrayim – telling the story of the exodus from Egypt. Each of us on Seder night personalizes that story, telling the story of our own lives and the life of our people. Some do it with more of a dramatic flair, others seem to stumble through it, but on this night, we are all telling our story. That is why we have so many different haggadot to choose from; so many different ways to weave our own lives into the story of the formation of our people.

## ONEG SCHEDULE

### March

- 4th Pot luck
- 11th Eleanor Simmons
- 18th Mazel Tov Shabbat
- 25th Julie Penn

### April

- 1st Pot Luck
- 8th Nelson France
- 15th Mazel Tov Shabbat
- 22nd Unassigned (Passover)
- 29th Sharon Hildebrand and Lee Kasner

### May

- 6th Pot Luck
- 13th Laura Cohen
- 20th Mazel Tov Shabbat
- 27th Unassigned

### June

- 3rd Pot Luck
- 10 Andrea Works in honor of daughter Alana's Bat Mitzvah.
- 17th Mazel Tov Shabbat
- 24th Unassigned

Many thanks to our Oneg Shabbat hosts. Please contact Linda Jackowitz [ljackowitz@frontier.com](mailto:ljackowitz@frontier.com); (304.292.1777) to host one of the currently unassigned Shabbats.



## MAZAL TOV WISHES

Linda Herbst has designed and hand colored special greeting cards to be used for our new Mazal Tov Wishes project.

On page 2 of this newsletter, and on our web page, etzhaim.org, there are lists of birthday and anniversary celebrants for March and April.

For a minimum donation of ten dollars to Tree of Life, we will prepare and mail your personalized message to any or all of the honorees. A sample message is below. If you prefer a different text, we will accommodate.

*In Honor of your  
March Birthday  
a gift has been made  
to Tree of Life  
Congregation  
by  
Jane and John Doe*

*Mazel Tov!*

Interested? Contact Linda Herbst (leherbst@gmail.com or 304 599 6947) to place your orders. Let your Mazel Tov wishes be a simcha.

## CLERGY HOSPITAL VISITATION

The law (HIPPA) prohibits The Temple and our clergy from obtaining clergy sheets and religious census information from hospitals.

### We need your help!

Please notify  
**Kathy Abate, xuaf@aol.com**  
co-chair of the CARE Committee of any serious sickness in your family or hospital admissions.

**Thank you.**

## etzhaim.org

Lost your TOL calendar?  
Can't remember a date?  
Wondering exactly when a Jewish holiday occurs?

etzhaim.org's calendar has all that information and more. Check it out!

*We note with sorrow  
the passing of  
Paul Becker*

*May his memory be  
as a blessing*



*Mazel Tov!*

*Nathan Vehse  
2011  
Morgantown  
High School  
Honor Boy*

**Share Your Simcha  
Buy a Leaf on**

### THE SIMCHA TREE

**\$250/leaf  
\$2500/Small Stone  
\$5000/Large Stone  
Contact  
Merle Stolzenberg/  
Barbara Jacowitz**

Remember a loved one  
with a  
**Yahrzeit Plaque**  
\$400 DONATION  
Contact: Bennett Millstone

## MI SHEBEIRACH / WELLNESS PRAYERS

Please remember to consult with those who are in need of healing, before publicly adding their names to the Mi Shebeirach list. With their permission, we would like to add whatever support we can to their recovery and healing.



## HADASSAH

Monique Gingold

Shalom le-culam (shalom y'all). Punxsutawney Phil did not see his shadow so an early spring will soon be here. To offer an early welcome to spring, Hadassah is proud to invite you to an evening of wine tasting and gourmet dining, March 5 at Joan Addicks's lovely home. Following the decadent dessert, we will have a short Rosh Chodesh program. Spouses/guests are invited. A donation of \$25 a person is requested. All moneys raised will be donated to Hadassah Medical Center and its projects in Israel. Please RSVP by February 27th to Marty Lass, mlass@comcast.net or 304-599-4010.

Looking ahead, we will, as usual end our year with our stimulating and delicious book exchange meeting. We nosh, shmooze, nibble, kibbitz, and share books we have read and enjoyed this last year. Date and time will be determined soon - stay tuned for details.

I hope more of you have bought the beautiful Hadassah Centennial key necklace. My daughter and I receive many compliments on it. Actually, I never remove mine. It is attractive and matches everything. This key is a replica of the original key that opened Hadassah Hospital that was found after Israel regained Hadassah Hospital. It is made of silver and Swarovski crystals. I wear this necklace proudly because not only is it beautiful, not only

does it represent Hadassah hospital, but also because purchasing this key supports the wonderful work provided by Hadassah Hospital. If you are interested in purchasing one, please go to Hadassah.org website and follow the links, or contact Merle for an order form.

Big news on the membership front! In celebration of Hadassah's upcoming 100th Anniversary, a special promotional rate of \$100 for Life and Associates membership is in effect for all of 2011. If you have ever thought about joining Hadassah or signing up your family, this is the time. The rate will never be this low again. Just talk to Merle if you are interested in taking advantage of this once in 100 years opportunity. If you have a daughter, granddaughter, niece, or other favorite female, this makes a wonderful gift. The magazine is so informative and I love reading mine. I learn about cutting edge medical technology from Hadassah Hospital. I just read an interview with the female head of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. There is always an article about a city somewhere in the world and the Jewish aspect of visiting that locale. Naomi, my 26 year old daughter in Boston loves reading hers, too. So, not only are you giving someone a life membership in Hadassah at an incredible bargain price, you are providing them with interesting, educational Jewish reading material, plus supporting Hadassah.

## 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL PROGRAM

Once again, WVU Hillel will host the "Unto Every Person There is a Name, Yom Hashoah International Holocaust Memorial Program." This event will begin on Tuesday April 12th, 2010 **inside** the Mountainlair on University Ave. The program will begin at 12 noon and will conclude the following day at 12 noon.

For 24 hours we will be reading names of people who were killed in the Holocaust, and we would like to welcome and invite anyone who is interested in volunteering to read names to come and participate in our program. WVU Hillel would appreciate your help and your time! You can sign up to read names for as long as you would like - even if you only have 5 or 10 minutes.

The members of WVU Hillel hope to bring alive the memories of those who perished during the Holocaust by remembering who they were, understanding why they were killed, and identifying what we can do to prevent this from ever happening again. Six million is a difficult number to comprehend. By reading the names of the victims, we are able to help people understand the immense loss the Jewish people faced. This program will promote an atmosphere of tolerance throughout the university and local community.

Organizing such an event is quite a financial responsibility for our small Hillel. Security and equipment are all very expensive. If anyone is interested in making a tax deductible donation to WVU Hillel for our Yom Hashoah program, we would greatly appreciate your support.

We hope to see you all at our Yom Hashoah program! Please contact us by e-mail or phone if you have any questions, are interested in reading, or would like to make a donation of any kind. Please invite anyone you know who would be interested in participating in this important program.

## Schmooze with Jewz

Hillel is hosting the congregation for another *Schmooze with Jewz* Friday night dinner on Friday, April 8, 2011, beginning at 6:30 PM at Hillel. Please RSVP to Heidi.Solomon@Mac.com. Please come to socialize and to see the newly renovated Hillel House."

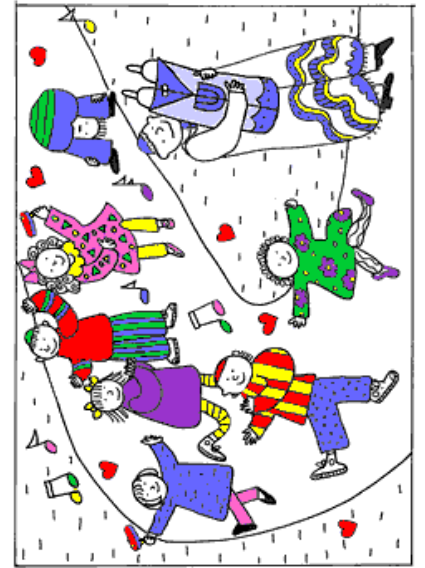
**HILLEL'S OFFICERS WELCOME YOU:** Evan Williams – President, David Freeman – Vice President, Dina Hornbaker – Secretary, Max Levine – Treasurer and Kevin Thaler and David Levine – Social Committee Chair.

**RSVP for HOLOCAUST PROGRAM:** (304) 545-1369 (Dina Hornbaker) or wvuhillel@gmail.com



# Calendars

MARCH 2011			
Date	Day	Event	Time
March 2	Wednesday	Hebrew School	5:00 pm
March 4	Friday	Judaism: The Basics	7:00 pm
March 5	Saturday	Family Shabbat Service	6:30 pm
March 6	Sunday	Torah Study	10:00 am
March 9	Wednesday	Hadassah Dinner	5:00 pm
March 11	Friday	Religious School	10:00 am
March 12	Saturday	Myths of Judaism	7:00 pm
March 13	Sunday	Hebrew School	5:00 pm
March 16	Wednesday	Judaism: The Basics	7:00 pm
March 18	Friday	Shabbat Evening Service	7:30 pm
March 19	Saturday	Shabbat Morning Service	10:00 am
March 20	Sunday	Purim Carnival	10:00 am
March 23	Wednesday	Religious School	10:00 am
March 25	Friday	Myths of Judaism	7:00 pm
March 26	Saturday	Hebrew School	10:00 am
March 27	Sunday	Hebrew School	10:00 am
March 30	Wednesday	Judaism: The Basics	5:00 pm
		Judaism: The Basics	7:00 pm



APRIL 2011			
Date	Day	Event	Time
April 1	Friday	Family Shabbat Service	6:30 pm
April 2	Saturday	Torah Study	10:00 am
April 3	Sunday	Interfaith Youth Event	6:00 pm
April 6	Wednesday	Religious School	10:00 am
April 8	Friday	Haggadah Themes	7:00 pm
April 9	Saturday	Hebrew School	5:00 pm
April 10	Sunday	Judaism: The Basics	7:00 pm
April 13	Wednesday	Schmooze with Jewz	6:30 pm
April 15	Friday	Shabbat Evening Service	7:30 pm
April 16	Saturday	Shabbat Morning Service	10:00 am
April 17	Sunday	Religious School	10:00 am
April 18	Monday	Haggadah Themes	7:00 pm
April 19	Tuesday	Hebrew School	5:00 pm
April 20	Wednesday	Judaism: The Basics	7:00 pm
April 22	Friday	Mazal Tov Shabbat	7:30 pm
April 23	Saturday	Torah Study	10:00 am
April 24	Sunday	Religious School	10:00 am
April 25	Monday	First Seder	
April 27	Wednesday	Passover Morning Service	9:00 am
April 29	Friday	NO HEBREW SCHOOL	
April 30	Saturday	Shabbat Evening Service	7:30 pm
		Shabbat Morning Service	10:00 am
		Shabbat Morning Service	7:30 pm
		NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	
		Passover Morning Service	9:00 pm
		Hebrew School	5:00 pm
		Judaism: The Basics	7:00 pm
		Shabbat Evening Service	7:30 pm
		Shabbat Morning Service	10:00 am



**Tree of Life Congregation**  
PO Box 791  
Morgantown, WV 26507-0791  
(304) 292-7029  
<http://etzhaim.org>

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**FIRST CLASS MAIL**



## ***Cheryl's Poetry Corner***

### **Covenant**

*By J. Frederick Gold on October 20, 2010*

Something I meant to remember  
So I drew a line in the sand  
But the sea came in and washed it out;  
Something I meant to remember  
So I scratched a line in hard ground  
But Winter cracked the frozen ground  
And Spring thawed and washed it out:  
Of the line I had scratched, not a trace;  
Something I meant to remember  
So I etched a line in stone  
And placed it on a pedestal  
'til the day that it fell down,  
And the broken pieces held no line for me, nor any memory;  
So I cut a line in my flesh  
And not a day goes by when I'm not aware of the line that I cut in my flesh  
And there's something I meant to remember by that  
And though I haven't remembered, all the same I'll never forget.



Visit <http://etzhaim.org>