



May-June 2011
Nisan/Iyyar/Sivan— 5771

Morgantown, West Virginia

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

RABBI

David Feder

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**SOUL TRAIN TO VISIT TOL
MONDAY, MAY 16, 2011 (Time TBA)**

**The Hebrews: The Time Passengers
A Journey into Spirit and Land in the path**

Since the first Hebrew heard the call "Go forth from your native land, and from your people and from your father's house to the land that I will show you" (Genesis 12:1), the walk beyond the spirit boundaries and mind's limit has become a raison d'etre (life principle) for the Jew. Abraham, who heard the call, was "the walking man" – the only person among his contemporaries who heard his inner voice knocking and pushing him forward for action. He was

the only person of his age who dared to cross the fire sea of beliefs and social conventions and ideologies of his time.



The only person who had the courage to leave his native land, his people and his family for the sake of an idea. And with his walking, he created a movement, a movement which brought about a family, a tribe, a people, a nation - and teaching, belief, morality and a different vision of the world and life as well.

See "SOUL TRAIN" page 4

**Adult Education...New Class beginning May 1st
"Introduction to Abraham Joshua Heschel"
Led by Shlomo Chertok,
Israeli scholar of Jewish Thought**

Social activist, theologian, mystic, poet, teacher and prophet all describe Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, one of the most prolific Jewish thinkers of the twentieth century. Plucked out of Europe to come to the United States in 1940, he was the only survivor of a long line of Hasidic rabbis on both of his father's and mother's sides' of the family. He taught first at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati and then at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. He pioneered Christian Jewish dialogue, marched arm in arm with Rev. Martin Luther King and voiced an unwavering Jewish voice against the war in Vietnam. He is the



most often quoted Jewish voice of authority by non-Jews but despite, or perhaps because of all of this, his writings are too often overlooked in circles of Jewish intelligentsia, or dismissed as naïve or mere poetics.

This discussion group will introduce his character and major tenets of his religious philosophy through careful reading of his writings. The class will meet at Tree of Life at 7:00 pm on Sundays May 1, 8, 22 and possibly May 29th. The cost is \$18 for TOL members and \$25 for non-members. Since registration is limited to 15 people, please RSVP to Roz ...

See "HERSCHEL" page 4



**Rabbi
David
Feder**

The combination of preparing for Passover and preparing taxes is not necessarily a pleasant one and definitely a tiring one. While working on my taxes, like many of you, I travelled back through the previous year, pouring over bank and credit card transactions to be sure that I hadn't missed anything. Eventually it occurred to me the two processes were quite similar.

Working through my financial records brought back memories: a dinner here, a doctor's visit there, a birthday present, an image on television that led to a contribution, a story on the radio that led to another gift, a trip to see family and an afternoon of play from the purchase of a video game.

These memories add up and become the story of a lifetime. Pesach involves recounting the memories of our people. The Haggadah contains those snapshots which we then spin into stories, recalling where we have been throughout the generations as a people, as a family, and as individuals.

In our Jewish education, our primary focus is creating those Jewish memories, to which at some point in the future, be it near or distant, we make a connection to a story, an activity, something a teacher said, a craft we completed, a song we sang or just listened to. The accumulation of these memories creates the matrix from which our Jewish identity is formed.

It is often those small moments, like the individual purchases, which make lasting impressions in our lives, creating connections to our history and heritage, which lead us to futures filled with meaning.



UPDATE: MULTI-FAITH RELIGIOUS TRIALOGUE

We are looking to a follow-up meeting with the members of First Presbyterian and the Islamic Center of Morgantown and expanding to include other faith traditions as well.

The youth committee held a very successful interfaith dialogue program on April 2, at the WVU Mountainlair in which junior high and high school students were able to share their feelings and experiences about both commonalities and differences. Karen Feder helped to plan and organize the event and David Levine, one of our Religious School teachers, helped to facilitate it. Lauren Addicks, Lily Bailey and Matanya Solomon participated. Follow-up programs including visiting each other's houses of worship are planned for the near future.



MAZAL TOV SHABBAT

We offer blessings and cake for those marking a simchas in May, June and July. We will honor May celebrants on May 20 and June/July on June 17.

We need your help to insure completeness and accuracy in keeping the TOL Mazal Tov list up to date. Please send information about omissions, corrections, or additions to the monthly list to Linda Jackowitz (ljackowitz@frontier.com; 304.292.1777). Members who are new to TOL and those who recently welcomed additions to their families are especially encouraged to contact Linda with updates. Please include honoree's name and day/month of each birth and/or anniversary.

May 2011

Joan and Bill Addicks
Laurie and Paul Brager
Ben Addicks
Millie and Al Karlin
Lee Kass

Al Karlin
Sharon Hildebrand
Alex Lubman
Jacob Lubman
Reed Tanner
Heidi Solomon
Reis Snyder
Nathan Tauger

June 2011

Judy and Stan Cohen
Alex Berrebi
Lily Bailey
Elana Gutmann
David Lederman
Nicholas Lemoff
Susan Brown and Lee Petsonk
Gwen and Alan Rosenbluth
David Pariser
Leah and Franc Stern
Merle and Alan Stolzenberg
Cindy and Reed Tanner
Andrea Works
Austin Works
Andrea and Austin Works

July 2011

Rich and Laura Cohen
Bob Cohen and Kathy Abate
Laurie Brader
Jean Gould
Jack Golden
Carole Hart
Linda Herbst
Heather Meit
Marilyn Manilla
Max Meit
Ruth and Paul Siegel
Terry and Marty Sippin
Heidi and Deva Solomon
Eva Segert Tauger
Franc Stern
Marty Sippin
Ariel Stern
Naomi Tauger
Ariana Tauger

Send them a card.

We invite you to celebrate with us by sending one or more of our celebrants a "Mazal Tov Shabbat" card. For a minimum donation of ten dollars/card, we will prepare and mail your personalized message. Contact Linda Herbst (leherbst@gmail.com or 304 599 6947) to place your orders. Let your Mazal Tov wishes be a simcha.



**Ed
Gerson**

President's Report

On April 14, the Board approved a new one-year contract with Rabbi Feder beginning Aug. 1, 2011. Kathy Abate and Deva Solomon provided legal guidance and remarkable patience on our behalf and deserve our gratitude for their efforts.

With the new contract there are new commitments. The board will strive to maintain our committee structure in an effort to support the rabbi's efforts and also the rabbi has an upgraded pastoral emphasis. We plan a URJ Leadership Workshop early this Fall, a stronger Rabbi-Board commitment, a continued upgrading of our standing committees, and more frequent mutual evaluation than in the past.

Many congregations have High Holy Day tickets. Tree of Life is no longer an exception. The board of trustees on April 14 voted that we implement this new policy. For the first time in my memory we will charge non-members to offset our additional expenses for cantor, our building, sound system, utilities, and other expenses during the Days of Awe. Final details will be announced as they become available.

We have an increasingly active relationship with Hillel, in our services at TOL, to our Religious school teachers. "Schmoozing with Jews" is one recent TOL - Hillel collaboration, and additional mutual efforts are expected. Unless you've seen the new improvements at the Hillel building you don't know what you're missing, in the entrance area, kitchen, and upstairs. There are noticeable quality upgrades in the walls, ceilings, even the kitchen vent (ok, especially the kitchen vent).

By the time you receive this news-

letter, my all-time favorite Jewish time of the year will have begun. Don't worry, I won't keep it to myself. From a sparse inkling of matzah at home a few decades ago to a generous matzah presence here, the journey continues for me personally. Pesach's meaning is both in its own departure and its own arrival.

Chag Sameach Pesach! – Ed Gerson

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

March and April have been busy months within the Religious School. In March we prepared for Purim, participated in the Purim Carnival organized by Hillel and several students were then even able to attend this year's Megillah reading.

Following spring break, preparations for Pesach began. The Kindergarten/First Grade Class created a digital version of the book "The Matzah That Papa Brought Home" complete with pictures of themselves appearing in the scenes of the story and recording a reading of the book.

The 2nd / 3rd Grade class also completed a digital version of "The Passover Parrot" recording their versions of the Four Questions as both children, as well as parrots. All the students participated in learning stations for Passover involving cooking, shopping and arts and crafts.

In the month of May, we'll be wrapping up another year of Religious School. On May 15, we have scheduled a Mitzvah Day in which children will have the opportunity to give back to others in the community. The following week, May 22, will be the last Sunday session and will conclude with a special Lag B'Omer picnic.

Thanks to the effort of our teachers, parents and the Education Committee, we have had a very successful year in our Religious School.



**Merle
Stolzenberg**

To those of you who have not yet pledged for this fiscal year, please take the opportunity to do so now. Remember that our fiscal year runs from September 1 through August 31, so it is nearing the end of the TOL fiscal year. Every family's 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. Hope to see you at Tree of Life soon!

COOPERS ROCK SHABBAT

Please join us on Friday night, June 3, at Coopers Rock at 6:00 pm, for annual beginning of summer potluck Shabbat dinner followed by services. Once again we will be meeting at Shelter III/Rock City Trail. In case of extremely severe weather, services and dinner will take place at Tree of Life. In the case of mild to moderate rain, services and dinner will take place at Coopers Rock. Please check the answering machine at 292-7029 if you have questions that evening.

SOUL TRAIN

From Page One

Together with these ideas, the lecture will include a new and fascinating archaeological discovery that has recently been exposed in the Jordan Valley (east of Israel): an ancient site which the Hebrew tribes built around the beginning of 12th century B.C. The site, its unique shape and its function are deeply connected to the old ideas of the Jewish People as they have shaped throughout history since the time of the Patriarchs. Thus, this discovery illuminates not only the past but the very present of the Jewish Nation. The lecture will be accompanied by a power point presentation. In the second half of the evening, a performance of a musical show will be given, containing Jewish soul music and Israeli songs.

Dr. Dror Eydar has a Ph.D. in Hebrew and Jewish literature. He gives lectures in Hebrew literature, Jewish thought, Jewish mysticism and Israeli politics at some universities and colleges in Israel. Dr. Eydar is a known columnist in Israel Hayom (Israel Today) daily newspaper (the largest newspaper in Israel), and was the editor of the art and literature supplement in Nativ, a journal of politics and the arts. He wrote two books on Hebrew literature and Jewish mysticism combining chosen parts of Israel's history in the twentieth century. He publishes from time to time essays and criticism in politics and general culture and original works in poetry and prose in Israeli journals for literature, culture and politics.

In addition to his academic occupations, Dror Eydar is an active musician who has performed in many places across Israel and the world (North-America, Africa and Europe). Eydar has written music for many songs, and has conducted choirs and music bands. During the last decade, he published three music albums.

HESCHEL

From Page One

.please RSVP to Roz Becker to reserve a spot. (rebroz@comcast.net or 304 292-2983)

“Our objective is to acquaint ourselves with selected principles of the religious philosophy of Abraham Joshua Heschel, such as interfaith dialogue and manifestations of sanctity in time, space and the human spirit. His writings will serve as a portal to the rich world of Heschel's roots in Hasidic thought and modern Western philosophy. The first meeting will introduce the man, his life and works. Thereafter we will read his address No Religion is an Island, and selected passages from his books, The Sabbath, Man is Not Alone and God in Search of Man.”

Shlomo Chertok is a Jewish educator. Over the past twenty years he has taught a wide range of Jewish studies in various formal and informal educational frameworks in Israel and in the United States. He studied at Har-Etzion Yeshiva and holds a Bachelor's degree in Jewish education (Ya'akov Herzog Teachers' College), an MA in Jewish Studies (University of Chicago) and a PhD in Jewish Thought (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev). His book, a critical study of Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch's Torah commentary, was published last year in Israel. His research interests include modern biblical exegesis, Jewish environmental ethics and Rabbinic literature.



According to Google, above is Dr. Chertok. Take the class to check out Google's reliability!

ONEG SCHEDULE

May

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

June

- 3rd Pot Luck
- 10 Andrea and Austin 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; (304.292.1777) to host one of the currently unassigned Shabbats.



**MAZAL TOV SHABBAT
APRIL 15, 2011**



Photo: Joan Addicks

Calendars/URJ Summer Programs

MAY 2011			
Date	Day	Event	Time
May 1	Sunday	Religious School	10:00 am
		Sisterhood Meeting	12:30 pm
		Yom Hashoah Observance	5:00 pm
		Heschel	7:00 pm
May 4	Wednesday	Hebrew School	5:00 pm
		Judaism: The Basics	7:00 pm
May 6	Friday	Family Shabbat Service	6:30 pm
May 7	Saturday	Torah Study	10:00 am
May 8	Sunday	MOTHERS DAY	
		NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	
		Heschel	7:00 pm
May 9	Monday	YOM HA' ATZMA"UT	
May 11	Wednesday	Hebrew School	5:00 pm
		Judaism: The Basics	7:00 pm
May 13	Friday	Sisterhood Shabbat	7:30 pm
May 14	Saturday	Shabbat Morning Service	11:00 am
May 15	Sunday	Religious School	10:00 am
		Mitzvah Day	
May 18	Wednesday	Hebrew School	5:00 pm
		Judaism: The Basics	7:00 pm
May 20	Friday	Mazal Tov Shabbat	7:30 pm
May 21	Saturday	Torah Study	10:00 am
May 22	Sunday	Religious School	10:00 am
		Lag B'Omer Picnic	11:30 pm
		Heschel	7:00 pm
May 25	Wednesday	Hebrew School	5:00 pm
		Judaism: The Basics	7:00 pm
May 27	Friday	Shabbat Evening Service	7:30 pm
May 28	Saturday	Shabbat Morning Service	10:00 am
May 29	Sunday	Heschel (maybe)	7:00 pm
May 30	Monday	MEMORIAL DAY	

SUMMER PROGRAMS FROM THE URJ

The URJ Summer Learning Institute will be held July 6-10 at the Princeton Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, a retreat like setting outside Princeton, NJ. www.urj.org/summer

Continued — next column

JUNE 2011			
Date	Day	Event	Time
June 3	Friday	Coopers Rock Shabbat	6:00 pm
June 4	Saturday	Torah Study	10:00 am
June 7	Wednesday	Erev Shavuot Service	
June 8	Thursday	Shavuot Morning Service	
June 9	Friday	Shabbat Evening Service	
June 10	Saturday	Bat Mitzvah of Alana Works	10:00 am
June 17	Friday	Shabbat Evening Service	
June 18	Saturday	Shabbat Morning Service	

SUMMER URJ PROGRAMS (Continued)

The Schindler Fellows Program for Conversion Certification, known as Conversion Fellows, provides in-depth training for lay leaders so that they can mentor conversion candidates. Is your congregation approached by spiritual seekers looking to join the Jewish people? Do you have non-Jewish spouses or partners who are interested in conversion, but there is no one to work with them? This program may help you get started. While the endorsement of your congregational rabbi is required, for those in congregations without a rabbi, we can arrange for a rabbinic mentor. Scholarship money is available from the Small Congregations Resource Fund (SCRF) of \$400.

Had'rachah is a two year program designed to train lay people in the areas of ritual and worship. Do you wish you had more people to lead Shabbat Services? Conduct funerals, unveilings and lead Shiva minyan? Prepare and teach Torah study? Send those members of your congregation who connect to ritual and worship to Had'rachah. It will be a gift for your congregation and for each graduate of Had'rachah. Scholarship money is available from the Small Congregations Resource Fund (SCRF) of \$500.

Kallah gives you the gift of Adult Learning. The **Kallah**'s emphasis is Torah L'shmah (study for its own sake). This Summer's theme is "Living A Reform Jewish Life." The Kallah is appropriate for any adult learner who is searching for an intensive study experience with dynamic faculty in a community of learners.

To learn more about the Summer Learning Institute, contact:

Rabbi Joan Glazer Farber – jfarber@urj.org

Vicky Farhi – vfarhi@urj.org

Cantor Alane Katzew – akatzew@urj.org

For questions regarding the Small Congregations Resource Fund contact: Merry Lugasy – mlugasy@urj.org

*Andrea and Austin Works
are pleased to invite
everyone to join us on
Saturday, June 11th
for the
Bat Mitzvah
of our daughter
Alana
Please also
join us at the
Luncheon which will follow
and the
Special Oneg
in Alana's honor on
Friday Evening,
June 10th.*

**The Tree of Life
Congregation
gratefully acknowledges
a very generous donation received from
The Petsonk Family Trust**

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.

**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.

**Share Your Simcha
Buy a Leaf on
THE SIMCHA TREE**

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



HADASSAH

Monique Gingold

Shalom le-culam (shalom y'all). I hope spring is finally here to stay by time this newsletter is out. As usual, we will bring our year to an end with our stimulating and delicious book exchange meeting. We nosh, shmooze, nibble, kibbitz, and share books we have read and enjoyed this last year. When and where will be announced later.

Two incredible opportunities are available this year. In celebration of Hadassah's 100th anniversary, you can give someone the gift a lifetime membership to Hadassah for the unbelievable price of \$100. Life Memberships normally cost \$360, so this is a savings of \$260. Not only will you support Hadassah's programs, but also your recipient will receive the beautiful and informative *Hadassah Magazine*. I love reading mine. I learn about cutting edge medical research from Hadassah Hospital and there is always an article about a city somewhere in the world and the Jewish aspect of visiting that locale. With this gift you are giving someone a Life Membership in Hadassah at an incredible bargain price, as well as providing them with interesting, educational Jewish reading material, plus supporting Hadassah. I will be gifting my future daughter-in-law with life membership in Hadassah. What an incredible gift!

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 reminder of the original key to Hadassah Hospital that was found after Israel regained Mount Scopus. 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 purchasing this key supports the wonderful work provided by Hadassah Hospital. If you have a daughter, granddaughter, niece, or special friend, this makes a wonderful gift.

The Tree of Life Sisterhood

Invites: Women and children to

Lunch on May 1, 2011 after Sunday School

Lunch begins at 12:30

- ◆ We will discuss the future of Sisterhood
- ◆ You will have an opportunity to pay next year's dues
- ◆ You will have an opportunity to create a successful Sisterhood
- ◆ We want you to be active in Sisterhood
We need your participation,
- ◆ *so come and enjoy the luncheon*

Reminder: The entire congregation is invited to join us for Sisterhood Sabbath May 13

Tree of Life Sisterhood News

The Tree of life Sisterhood board met on March 31 to formulate plans for the Spring meetings. We invite all women and children to have a lunch with us on May 1 at 12:30 at The Tree of Life. We need your help to plan a game night in the Fall and determine future efforts. You will be able to pay next year's dues at the luncheon.

There will be a Sisterhood Sabbath on May 13. We hope you will join us in celebrating the Sabbath. Laura Cohen is committee chairman for the Sabbath. She and her committee are planning an exciting Sabbath Service.

Do join us and help in our efforts to serve the Tree of Life.

TOL'S COMMUNITY SEDER



To view the other Seder photos, please go to etzhaim.org



Visit <http://etzhaim.org>

YOM HASHOAH



The 27th day of the Hebrew month of Nisan was set aside as a day for mourning the victims of the Shoah or Holocaust by the Israeli Knesset in 1951. This year our observance takes place on May 1. At 5:00 pm, on Sunday, May 1, we will remember those who perished and those who rescued during our annual Yom Shoah service. This year that service will feature members of the drama department of East Fairmont High School who have created a Reader's Theater For Holocaust Memorial Day. The students will be sharing the poetry created by the students of the Terezin concentration camp found in the collection, "I Never Saw Another Butterfly". Music and artwork will also accompany their performance. Please join us for this meaningful remembrance.

The Hebrew word "shoah" means destruction or catastrophe. Holocaust comes from the Greek word meaning burnt whole, referring to a burnt offering entirely consumed by fire. The meaning of holocaust and its use in describing such a wide array of contemporary tragedies makes the use of the term Shoah much more appropriate for the destruction of European Jewry during the Second World War.

It is a mitzvah to recall the six million Jews who were murdered during the Shoah, as well as the Chasdei Umot Haolam, the righteous non-Jews, who gave their lives in attempts to save members of the Jewish people. We will do this by attending special Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Memorial Day) services. In order to fulfill the mitzvah of remembrance it is suggested that a memorial (yahrzeit) candle be lit and passages of Holocaust and/or memorial literature be read. In keeping with the spirit of Yom Hashoah, festive social events are inappropriate. It is further suggested

that one eat a very simple meal on the eve of Yom Hashoah as an act of identification and solidarity with those who were in concentration camps and slowly starved to death.

YOM HA'ATZMA'UT



On the fourth day of the Hebrew month of Iyar in 1948, Israel was reborn as a modern state. This year, that corresponds to sundown on May 8 through sundown on May 9. Our plans for our celebration of Yom Hashoah are incomplete at this time. Please watch for updates in the near future.

SHAVUOT



Shavuot is a Hebrew word meaning "weeks" and refers to the Jewish festival marking the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai.

This year, Shavuot begins on Tuesday evening, June 7, and continues through Wednesday morning, June 8. Shavuot, like so many other Jewish holidays began as an ancient agricultural festival, marking the end of the spring barley harvest and the beginning of the summer wheat harvest. Shavuot was distinguished in ancient times by bringing offerings of first fruits to the Temple in Jerusalem.

Shavuot, also known as the Festival of the Giving of the Torah, dates from biblical times, and helps to explain the holiday's name, "Weeks." The Torah tells us it took precisely forty-nine days for our ancestors to travel from Egypt to the foot of Mount Sinai (the same number of days as the Counting of the Omer) where they were to receive the Torah. Thus, Leviticus 23:21 commands: "And you shall proclaim that day (the fiftieth day) to be a holy convocation?" The name Shavuot, "Weeks," then symbolizes the completion of a seven-week journey.

Special customs on Shavuot are the reading of the Book of Ruth, which reminds us that we too can find a continual source of blessing in our tradition. Another tradition includes staying up all night to study Torah, a custom called *Tikkun Leil Shavuot*, which symbolizes our commitment to the Torah, and that we are always ready and awake to receive the Torah. Traditionally, dairy dishes are served on this holiday to symbolize the sweetness of the Torah, as well as the "land of milk and honey".

Our celebration of Shavuot will include services on Tuesday night, June 7 at 7:00 pm and Shavuot morning services on Wednesday, June 8, at 9:00 am. Yizkor will be recited on Shavuot morning.

TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT



In honor of the sweetness of Torah, we will host a Shavuot Sundae Bar oneg and a special Tikkun Leil Shavuot following our Erev Shavuot service. After preparing your own sundae, we are asking each member to bring a text, story, poem or teaching that helps to explain their experience and understanding of Judaism, to share something of their personal Torah. The source of this material need not be from Jewish sources, just be personally meaningful in describing or defining your understanding of Judaism. Each person will have from five to twenty minutes to present their teaching and then we will have time to interact and share. Over the course of the evening, I hope we will all be able to share some of our personal sense of Torah with each other and be able to look at Judaism from many new perspectives.



Purim Megillah Reading & Carnival



We extend a hearty Todah Rabah to WVU Hillel for organizing and running the Purim Carnival and to Joan Addicks for organizing the Mishloach Manot boxes. Thank you also to Heidi Solomon for the Carnival photos. If you want to see the rest of the photos, they are available on-line at etzhaim.org.



FIRST CLASS MAIL



Cheryl's Poetry Corner:

'How to make challah'

By Deborah Leipziger, Jan 13, 2011

Begin with the biggest bowl you
have,
let it be large enough to contain your
whole week.
You will need to wrestle with angels.

Begin in the place of knowing,
the place that venerates.
Summon stillness, kavannah.

In the smallest nesting bowl,
proof the yeast in lukewarm water.
Remember that you are proof.

Let the fragrance of yeast envelop
you,
rain, wet earth, fecund.
Now, trust.

Measure 7 or 8 cups of flour,
challah is not precise.
Notice the flour cloud.

Make a well.
A deep well to contain the grief.
Pour the yeast water into the well.

Let it seep in.
Add 3 eggs and 3 tablespoons of oil.
Take off your rings.

Plunge.
Pound.
Let the dough silence your rage.

Pour yourself into the challah,
filament and fractal
fingertip and phial.

Now walk away.
Give it a few hours to grow.
Let it rise.

When you return, let the growth sur-
prise you.
Add raisins, golden and black.
Summon helpers to braid.

Take a tiny marble of dough,
set it apart
to recall loss, sadness.

Braid as if this is your last act.
Round, double braid, single braid.
Trust completely, irrevocably, let go.

After the braids have doubled in size,
entrust them to the oven
under a coat of egg wash.

Let the aroma
permeate your village
with the smell of rest and kindness.

Bring forth the challah
with both hands
Let the heat radiate.

Just as the poet unleashes the poem,
so will you clear a path
towards home.