



March/April — 2013  
Adar/Nisan/Iyyar — 5773

Morgantown, West Virginia

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

**RABBI**

Joseph Hample

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**It Has An English Name**

In Judaism we are blessed with a lot of holidays: jolly ones in the winter, solemn ones in the summer, cosmic ones in the fall. Most have Hebrew names only: or rather, the English names are cumbersome (Pentecost, Tabernacles) or inexact (Festival of Lights). Only one of our annual holidays has a catchy, familiar English name: Passover. Not that it doesn’t also have a Hebrew name: Pesach. Both the Hebrew and English names convey the idea of exemption (“passing over”) from the punishment visited upon Egypt.

Passover, the spring festival, is considered the first holiday in our annual cycle. This may seem confusing, since the New Year is in the fall. But we are supposed to regard the liberation from Egyptian bondage as the beginning of our national story. This year, Passover starts Monday evening, March 25. Our congregational *seder* (ritual dinner) will be Tuesday evening, March 26. We are also planning a youth *seder* to which young people of all faith traditions will be invited. Details TBA.

On the second day of Passover we begin counting the *omer*, the seven weeks leading up to the late-spring holiday of Shavu’ot. The *omer* can be thought of as recapitulating our journey from Egypt to Sinai, from liberation to revelation. In the Kabbalistic (mystical) tradition, each day of the *omer* has its own spiritual personality, its own unique combination of celestial

energies.

The *omer* is studded with minor holidays. The seventh day of Passover is identified as a holiday in the Biblical text. Tradition calls it Yom l’Yabbashah, the Day of Dry Land: for this is supposedly when the Red Sea parted. Yom ha-Sho’ah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, comes shortly after Passover (April 7 this year): the date was chosen to honor the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising of Passover 1943. Seven

days later – after we have, so to speak, sat *shiv’ah* for the Holocaust – comes Yom ha-Zikkaron (Israeli Memorial Day) and then Yom ha-Atzma’ut (Israeli Independence Day): this year, April 14 and April 15, respectively. In 2013 the State of Israel marks its 65th birthday.

A quirky holiday of medieval invention is Lag ba-Omer, the Scholars’ Festival, April 28 this year. This holiday honors the ancient rabbis, especially those who resisted the Hadrianic persecution of the 2nd century. Just as Purim celebrates Jewish survival under the Persians, and Chanukkah celebrates Jewish survival under the Greeks, so Lag ba-Omer celebrates Jewish survival under the Romans. Since it falls in mid-spring, Lag ba-Omer is traditionally marked with bonfires, bows and arrows, and other outdoor amusements. It is considered an auspicious day for personal transitions large and small, anything from haircuts to weddings.

But none of these holidays requires a ritual comparable to the Passover *seder* with its iconic foods. Along with the gefilte fish, which is not

*TOL Seder  
March 26th  
Lakeview  
Check it out!  
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Inside!*

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**Adam  
Rosefsky**

I was recently at the URJ sponsored Shallit Retreat for congregations in transition. It is a weekend long program for Congregation Presidents and their New Rabbi to go over ways to help the community deal with and accept change.

One of the strongest lessons taught at the retreat is that change happens in an instant and transition is the human response and reaction to change. Here at Tree of Life, we have been going through our transition for several years. We are in fact still going through this transition.

Many of the congregations that attended the retreat were dealing with the

transition from a long term rabbi going through a retirement. These congregations were just beginning their transition, which means they were still in the end of their connection to their old Rabbis. Their paths are still focusing on the issues of "the old rabbi used to..."

In some instances we are lucky that most of us had mentally and emotionally prepared for the change in spiritual leadership. Our path is now focusing on telling the story of the community to our new Rabbi, and to welcoming and integrating him into our lives and our community.

This past year we changed Rabbis. We had a successful community Seder, High Holiday celebration. Our Latke party and silent auction raised almost \$1,000. More importantly, not only is our membership up, which is fantastic, but participation at events is up. The entire community is coming back to-

gether and I see this in the rejuvenation and energy of the committees, the participation in Shabbat services, education programs, religious school and the general feel of the temple.

The coming year looks to be very successful as well. We have six B'nai Mitzvahs scheduled for this summer. We have already begun our planning for our Seder this year. I look forward to a very successful year. Our path still has a long way to go, and the transition committee will continue to be involved in the process, but I am excited about our future.

Addendum : The membership voted to authorize a capital expenditure of \$132,000 to replace the Roof, replace the Air-conditioning system and redo the social hall. Please read my article on the repairs for details.

Shalom,  
*Adam Rosefsky*  
TOL President

## Building Repair

Last summer, when we were straightening up the building for Rabbi Joe's arrival, there were some water stains noticed on some of the ceilings. Lee Kass's husband Bob, who is a building inspector, volunteered to look around the building and check for issues. The good news is that the water stains were old and the cause had been corrected many years ago. The bad news is that we discovered a couple items that need to be addressed.

When we went onto the roof, we discovered that there were a number of spots where the rubber is worn, and we discovered that the air conditioners on the roof were installed in 1984. The typical life of an air conditioner is 20-25 years. Bob recommended that we replace/repair the roof and replace the AC system. When we researched the roof, we discovered that the warranty had expired 3 years ago. The estimates to replace the roof were approximately \$50,000. We are looking at the possibility of having the original manufac-

turer of the roof come out and repair the roof and extend the warranty, however typically, that is only available for the first 18 months after the warranty. And we are also looking at patching the worn areas. However, this will leave us in the in the same situation a few years from now.

The AC vendors that came in explained that the downstairs air flow was terrible. We have large air returns right next to small half covered out-flow vents. This leads to very inefficient air conditioning, and explains why the area by the restrooms is always so much hotter than the area by the stage. Also, the radiators which heat the room from the boiler are all on the ceiling so that the heat that is put out gets trapped in the space between the drop ceiling and the regular ceiling. Their proposal was to remove the existing AC units from the roof and replace them with ground based heat pumps (which are much easier to maintain and service). Furthermore, they would redo the duct work downstairs to ensure more efficient airflow.

The estimates from the air conditioning vendors are approximately \$50,000.00.

Finally, part of the AC work will involve removing significant portions of the drop ceiling (and replacing when done). The board feels that since much of the drop ceiling would be removed for the AC repair and there will be construction going on down here, it makes sense to remove it completely, fix the original ceiling and take the opportunity to update some of the downstairs cabinets and decor. The estimate for this is approximately \$20,000.

We have also been working with John Sausen, the architect who oversaw the elevator project and he has agreed to manage the project for 5% of the overall expenditure. The Board strongly recommended approval by the membership of a capital expenditure not to exceed \$132,000.

At our annual meeting, the Membership voted unanimously to approve the capital expenditure.

*Adam Rosefsky*



**Rabbi  
Hample**

### Time for Holiness

In March-April we are reading the conclusion of Exodus and the greater part of Leviticus. These are mostly ritual texts: the furnishings of the sanctuary, the rules for slaughtering animals, the sexual and medical taboos. Special days are mentioned repeatedly: the sabbath in Exodus 31 and 35, the Day of Atonement in Leviticus 16, and the whole gamut of sacred times in Leviticus 23. In all ages Judaism is remarkable for its focus on the calendar.

Tucked in among these ceremonial matters is an ethical section, Leviticus 19, the holiness code. Here we are told to keep honest weights and measures, to pay laborers promptly, to make allowances for the disabled, and to welcome the stranger. Here we find the golden rule, the commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves. Is it a surprise to discover, amid the arbitrary technicalities, this detour to the subject of common decency? What can we make of the juxtaposition?

Often we can only speculate about the reasons for Biblical statutes. The logic belongs to a mythic world we no longer inhabit, a universe that has become strange to us. But the connection of the sabbath and the Day of Atonement to honorable behavior is no mystery. These holy days are dedicated to rest and reflection, the spiritual quest, the envisioning of a better self and a better reality. Isaiah 58, which we read on Yom Kippur, says it best: "This is the fast I desire: to unlock fetters of wickedness... to share your bread with the hungry... when you see the naked, to clothe them... refrain from trampling the sabbath, from pur-

suage your affairs on my holy day." That's a pretty clear statement of what Judaism is all about.

The primacy of Leviticus in old-fashioned Jewish education is unambiguous. The early commentary on Leviticus is called Sifra, "The Book"; and children encountering Torah for the first time traditionally begin with Leviticus. For the typical modern reader, Leviticus (and the closing chapters of Exodus) may hold less appeal. But if we understand these volumes as tying days of rest to avoidance of exploitation, we can get an inkling of Judaism's elusive essence.

God is someone we can never know fully. But the God who sets aside times to think about compassion is a God we can all appreciate. Perhaps the God of these ritual texts is actually more approachable than the God of the Torah's dramatic and deadly narrative sections.

### Who Were the Rabbis?



The Bible is pretty accessible. You can find it in the public library and the synagogue library, hotel rooms and hospital wards. As you know, the "Old Testament" in a Christian Bible is equivalent to the Scripture of Judaism. We Jews arrange the individual books of the Bible in a different order than the Christians, according to when and how

they are read in the synagogue, but the content is the same.

The sequel called the "New Testament" plays no part in Judaism. *Our* sequel is the corpus of books written by the ancient rabbis, mainly the Talmud. But the Talmud is voluminous and discursive, expensive to own and difficult to unpack. You can find it online at [halakhah.com](http://halakhah.com) (English) or [dafyomi.org](http://dafyomi.org) (Hebrew). But you might well wonder where to begin.

Luckily, one section of the Talmud is easy to understand and appreciate. It is called Pirkei Avot, "Ethics of the Ancestors." It is often published in a six-chapter format, meant to be read on the six Shabbatot (Saturdays) between the end of Passover and the beginning of Shavu'ot. This year, that would be the four Saturdays of April and the first two Saturdays of May.

Just as the Federalist Papers is an advertisement for the U.S. Constitution, Pirkei Avot is an advertisement for the rabbinic system. It starts by positioning the rabbis in the cosmic history of Judaism: "Moses got the Torah from Sinai and gave it to Joshua, Joshua to the elders, the elders to the prophets, the prophets to the great assembly." The "great assembly" passed the Torah on to the early rabbis, like Hillel and Shammai. The priests, leaders of Biblical Judaism, are absent from this spiritual pedigree. As a consolation prize, their ancestor Aaron is praised: "Be among the disciples of Aaron, loving peace and pursuing peace."

Pirkei Avot is replete with aphorisms. It is wisdom literature, like the Biblical book of Proverbs – or a collection of fortune cookies. "If I am not for myself, who will be for me?" "Do not separate yourself from the community." "Repent the day before you die (i.e. every day)." "Do not judge alone, for there is only One who is qualified to judge alone." "Be a tail among lions rather than a head among foxes." Here you will discover an adage for every occasion. If you don't

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### Who Were the Rabbis?

*Continued from page three*

like one, turn the page and you'll find another more to your taste.

Pirkei Avot is meant to familiarize you with the names of rabbis mentioned frequently in the Talmud. For example, Rabbi Tarfon said, "It is not for you to finish the task, but neither are you free to refrain from starting." Rabbi Akiva said, "Beloved is humanity, for it was created in the image of God. Beloved is Israel, for it was given a precious instrument (the Torah)." Rabbi Simeon ben Yochai said, "If three have eaten from a table and have spoken words of Torah, it is as though they had eaten from the table of God."

The last two chapters of Pirkei Avot contain many lists: the ten primordial miracles, the four kinds of people, the appropriate ages for different activities, the 48 qualities of the scholar. It seems there are two types of love, selfish and unselfish; and two types of controversy, respectful and disrespectful. The Torah is declared to be all-inclusive: "Turn it and turn it, for everything is in it."

Pirkei Avot teaches that study is more important than anything. This is such an ingrained Jewish value that we take it for granted, but it was new in the time of the Talmud. The rabbis constructed a cult of study to replace the defunct cult of Temple sacrifices. Pirkei Avot may induce a kind of *déjà vu* in the average Jewish reader. If you have imbibed the bookish ethos of Rabbinic Judaism, you could practically have written it yourself.

### It Has An English Name

*Continued from page one*

strictly a religious obligation, there are two foods that are compulsory at a *seder*: *matzah* (unleavened bread) and *maror* (bitter herbs). *Matzah*, particularly, is emblematic of the holiday. At the beginning of the *seder*, the leader holds up the *matzah* and announces: *Ha*

*lachma anya*, this is the bread of poverty; *kol dichfin yeitei v'yeichol*, let all the hungry come and eat. This beautiful affirmation ties Passover rather directly to the core Jewish value of feeding the hungry.

As a part of our Passover observance, Tree of Life Congregation will be feeding the hungry on Saturday, March 30, the fifth day of Passover. We will fulfill this *mitzvah* at the Morgantown Soup Kitchen, located in Trinity Episcopal Church, 247 Willey St., from 10:00 a.m to 12:00 noon. If you would like to volunteer, please notify Susan Brown, [srbwva@gmail.com](mailto:srbwva@gmail.com). If the day is inconvenient for you, you will have additional opportunities on June 29, August 31, and November 30. *V'achalta v'savata*, may you eat and be satisfied.

*Rabbi Joe Hample*

## Children's Education



In this second semester, the religious school has pivoted from Bible stories to tales of Jewish history. In February we learned about the destruction of the ancient Temple in Jerusalem and the beginnings of Rabbinic Judaism. In March-April we're addressing the Jewish experience in Europe, and emigration from Europe to Israel and America. Personalities like Rabbi Akiva, Anne Frank, and David ben Gurion provide a hero to the narrative and a focus for the lesson plan.

In the Hebrew school we've switched from the old-fashioned *Haveri* primers to the livelier *Z'man Likro* series. The *Z'man Likro* books are meant to be written in: circle all the words containing a particular letter, draw a line from the holiday to the ritual object. The children are noticeably more engaged with this colorful, participatory methodology.

I have published flexexpectations" for b'nei mitzvah ceremonies,

minimum requirements for the youngster and participation opportunities for family members. I've recorded and e-mailed out the blessings that all the students are supposed to know. Now I'm working on audio files specific to each youngster, the Torah and haftarah chant pertaining to the date of their ceremony. Some children are more enthusiastic singers than others, but most have experience playing an instrument and know the difference between major and minor keys.

Religious school teachers met at Blue Moose on January 21 for reflection and review. The finding is that the children enjoy the skits, art projects, and contests between classes. Among our challenges are conflicts around holidays and vacations, and last-minute cancellations for snow. Next year's curriculum is still fluid. Maybe we'll teach a different mitzvah every Sunday, interpreting the word mitzvah to include commandments, good deeds, traditions, and folkways.

We are planning a parents' meeting at noon on a Sunday to solicit family feedback and advice on how to handle sensitive subjects like the Holocaust. A still-unmet need is a teen program, which could include BBYO, confirmation classes, interfaith events, field trips, or pizza-and-movie nights. Margalit Persing and Rachel Spero have generously agreed to research the options and make recommendations.

One of our most creative and beloved teachers, Sheryl Grossman, has been in and out of the hospital in Baltimore. We pray for Sheryl's speedy recovery and return to Morgantown. In the interim we are welcoming WVU student Zevi Lowenberg, a leader of the campus Hillel program, who has stepped in to fill Sheryl's shoes. Other teachers are also sometimes absent, so if you are able to substitute now and then in the religious school, we'll be delighted to include you. I send out a detailed lesson plan every week, which you are free to follow, modify, or ignore, but it does forestall panic by suggesting suitable themes and activities.

## Adult Education

The Adult Ed program is drawing a larger crowd now that we've reverted to evening classes. On January 9 we considered "The Problem of God's Justice" and on February 13 we pondered "The Meaning of Minority." These ambiguous topics, well-documented but diversely understood, give each of us the scope to define our own Jewish worldview.

On March 13 we will meet some "Offbeat Jewish Heroes." Who was King David's realtor? Who rescued Jeremiah from a mud pit? What folksy king carried his own fruit basket into the Temple? Who broke the wine bottles when a man wouldn't let her say the blessing? Who reconciled a feuding couple by allowing himself to be spat upon? Meet 2000 years of little-known *mentsh'n* from the Bible, Talmud, and Midrash, the ancestors you never knew you had.

On April 10 we will review "A Brief History of Chutzpah." The definition of chutzpah is variable, but its function as a Jewish cultural touchstone is hard to deny. What challenges, dilemmas, and role models gave rise to our distinctive brazenness? Is it a vice or a virtue – or a survival strategy? How does it serve us, or hold us back? Is chutzpah an endangered resource?

No prior knowledge is required for TOL's Adult Ed classes. Feel free to come when you can and skip when you must. Our Adult Ed program is both an intellectual and social opportunity. Please join us!

## PJ LIBRARY

*Sara Aronin*

PJ LIBRARY is a Jewish family engagement program implemented on a local level throughout North America. They mail high-quality Jewish children's literature and music to families across the continent on a monthly basis.

Families raising Jewish chil-

dren from age six months through five, six, seven or eight years can sign up at <http://pjlibrary.org/>. Gift subscriptions are available for \$60/year. Since WV is not a "supporting community" you will need to go to the last tab - Donors and funders - and click purchase a gift subscription. For \$60 you get 11 Jewish children's books and one Jewish music CD (delivered one per month). Since they are age appropriate from 6 months to 8 years, you will have to choose an age or get multiple subscriptions.

Rebecca LOVES these books and I must say they are some of the most read books in her collection =)

## SISTERHOOD

*Rosa Becker*

The Tree of Life Sisterhood has had a busy year and is poised to broaden the range of our activities. We welcomed Rosa Becker as Co President. The eventful year has included a program in the fall featuring singer Susan Leviton. She charmed and informed the audience with Yiddish songs related to the labor movement and mobilizing the public following the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire. We hope to invite an annual guest scholar to enrich the synagogue culture.

We continue the honorable tradition of giving Gates of Prayer books to all Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, as well as providing onegs and helping with meals of bereavement for members who have lost loved ones. We will continue to plan Sisterhood events to support the Tree of Life Board of Trustees and contribute funds to support its functions particularly for education and youth. We are planning a membership drive with a goal of having all women in the congregation become active paid-up members. Rosa attended the Centennial conference of WRJ, Women of Reformed Judaism in Cincinnati which included stimulating speakers and sessions, a tour of the famous Plum Street synagogue (where Rabbi Wise convened) as well as the campus of He-

brew Union College. She will be sharing new ideas and opportunities. Watch for new initiatives for adult and youth education.

### Tree of Life Sisterhood Officers:

- Co Presidents Rosa Becker, Barbara Jacowitz
- Vice President Kathy Abate
- Secretary Judy Cohen
- Treasurer Eva Segrert Tauger

### Board Members are :

- Linda Herbst
- Marty Lass
- Gwen Rosenbluth
- Laura Cohen

If you are not already a member of Sisterhood, we hope you will contact any of our board members for information about joining.

## HADASSAH

*Sylvia*

Since Monique cannot write this column this issue, I'm pinch hitting. We share condolences with Monique and her family.

Purim is a special holiday for Hadassah since our organization was founded in 1912 during Purim. The year of our centennial is now complete, and I'm trying to figure out what 101 years signify. While longevity is honored in most cultures, we do not want our organization to become merely an honored historic relic. We want to look at Hadassah and see progress, commitment and enthusiasm. This spring we will take a hard look at our chapter. What are our strengths? Where do we need improvement? What can each of us do to help?

Take some time to think and, when you receive an invitation to join a brainstorming session, be prepared to say YES! In the meantime, keep reading so you will be ready for our Annual Book Brunch!

### Tree of Life History Project Committee

Adam appointed me as TOL Historian. Bennett Millstone and Rusty Mall volunteered and others have expressed an interest in this effort.

We plan to author a publication (print and/or electronic) describing and illustrating TOL's history. We have on hand board minutes, membership records, family records, cemetery records, newspaper articles as well as personal photos; certainly we would document our building and its historical contents. Can this task be substantially completed by 2014?

We have much information in a file cabinet which was recently reorganized by members of the Board and

the Transition Committee; we have acquisitions in the display case, and numerous dedicatory plaques in the building. What do you have that illustrates our history?

In preparation I already received the following:

"Starting from Scratch: Creating the Synagogue Archives" by Kevin Proffitt, The American Jewish Archives, Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati, 1994 (.pdf) which is courtesy of Deborah Goldman, URJ Librarian, NYC.

a 1988 (.pdf) report "Your Congregational Archives", also from Deborah Goldman, URJ Librarian, NYC.

from Jacksonville Fla. thru its Vice President Brian Bialak, a copy of their Centennial book: That

You May Remember - Temple Ahavat Chesed 1882-1982.

we've acquired a copy of Julian H. Preisler's Images of America - Jewish West Virginia, printed by Arcadia Publishing. The author lives in the Eastern Panhandle and has expressed an interest in our efforts.

We will be photographing and/or scanning historical photographs, documents and mementoes which you feel are of interest to the project; certainly there will be personal reflections. Times and locations are pending.

The TOL History Project has just begun. Stay tuned for notifications and information on how you can be a part of this permanent document.

*Shalom – Ed Gerson*

## ANNUAL MEETING

It didn't snow.  
The attendance was great.  
The information was useful.  
The decisions were wise.  
(See Adam's report page 2)  
See you next year.  
Same time. Same place.



## About CHARM

The Members of TOL have a wonderful gift. That gift is a building free and clear of a mortgage. Most temples, and especially those our size do not have such a prize, and because of this, we are able to afford a dedicated fulltime Rabbi.

As custodians of this gift, it is our responsibility to maintain it and to pass on a building in good repair to our children and future generations.

The last major building project that was undertaken was almost 20 years ago when many of our children were not born, or at least they were very young. This building enhancement was the addition of the elevator and other remodeling to make our synagogue ADA compliant. That was a major mitzvah and allowed all of our members' access to religious services

and community events.

It is now time for us to once again shoulder our responsibility to the building and to do some major overhauling. The work that needs to be done is replacement of the HVAC systems, the roof, and improvements in the social hall. This was recognized at the all Membership meeting earlier this month and the board was authorized to proceed with a capital improvements estimated to cost around \$132,000.

This isn't a super sexy kind of improvement filled with ooohs and aaahs, , but rather the kind that keeps water dripping on us because the roof is leaking or has us sweating on a 100 degree day because the AC isn't working!

We need to raise the money to cover these repairs. We can't deplete the endowment that we have worked to build with the help of the Fairmont and

Clarksburg funds donated to us to keep Judaism alive in our part of West Virginia. That endowment needs to be protected for our future.

Therefore, I am launching the CHARM Campaign – named by David Rosen – and standing for Ceiling, Heat, Air, Roof, and Mitzvah Campaign.

The goal is to raise all of the money - \$132,000 or more – so that we have the reserves to make the next round of repairs that are inevitable in any building

We need every member of this community – and our extended community - to dig deep into your pockets and make the most generous contribution that you can make - beyond your annual dues -towards the CHARM campaign. We owe it to the generations that follow to give them a spiritual home as sound and as welcoming as it is today!

## Haiku for Passover

Washington, DC sponsored a Passover Haiku contest. The challenge? Write a Haiku about one of the four children of Passover (one who is wise, one who is wicked, one who is simple, and one who doesn't know how to ask). Haiku is a form of Japanese poetry with three phrases consisting of five, seven and then five syllables. The poem should have a seasonal or natural reference and a "cut" or word used to compare and contrast two images or situations.

### First Place

"Which Child"  
The sea parted. You,  
gathering colorful stones,  
lagged behind, head down.  
- Amy Eisner

### Honorable Mention

Wise, sly, simple, mute  
These, the four children - who knew?  
Members of Congress  
- Dena Goodman

## Runners Up

There are four questions  
But at a Jewish table  
At least five answers  
- Evan Caplan

The wicked child shouts,  
"Flowers. Big Deal." And then a  
petal lands on him.  
- Hammad Ahmed

What if we answered  
the "wicked" child another way?  
Anger doesn't teach  
- Donna Saady

How do I speak of  
the plague that killed children to  
the child of my blood?  
- Susan Barocas

Though we're all grown up,  
We snicker when our brother  
Gets the wicked son.  
- Amy Finkelstein

forgotten daughter -  
sharp rebellious naive shy  
pricks out consciousness  
- Haya Laufer

Teach our children well:  
Then, freedom with divine help.  
Our part's not yet done.  
- Amy Cotton

Tell me everything  
Yahatz to Afikoman  
Wait ... Elijah's here!  
- Jill Venezian

Tho you hear my words,  
You are deaf to my thoughts.  
Help me find my way.  
- Bruce Waxman

When you have no words  
the egg and bone speak for you:  
question and answer.  
- Amy Eisner

## TOL CHALLENGE

Write your own Haiku! Share with us  
and we will publish the best.

**TOL'S MITZVAH MOMENT—EMPTY BOWLS FUNDRAISER**

TOL's members were out in full strength.  
We poured water. We served. We bussed. We ate. We enjoyed the mitzvah moment.



**PURIM 2013**

We ate. We read the megillah. We booted Haman.  
We enjoyed "Bye Bye Haman." We taste-tested hamentashen.

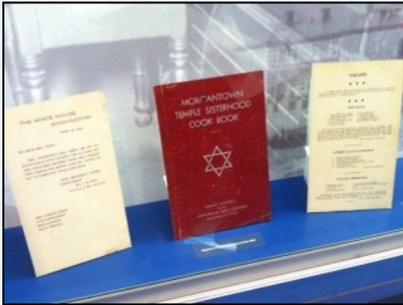


## From the Solomon family

Daya and Dan want to extend thanks to everyone who sent Ruth Krawetz a birthday card. It was much appreciated.

For those who wish to make a donation in Ruth's memory, they would like to suggest donations to Morgantown Hadassah (contact Merle or Sylvia) or to TOL's Rabbi's Discretionary Fund (contact Merle).

## Tree of Life Part of History



While attending Sisterhood's Centennial Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio, Rosa Becker spotted this vintage Sisterhood Cookbook (center above) on display in the URJ Archives.

We are famous!

## 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.

## Call for Volunteers

We all want Tree of Life to be the center of Jewish Life in North Central West Virginia.

In order to achieve this goal, you can help. We are looking to begin new and expand existing committees to help broaden our outreach and the services we offer.

If you are willing to serve on a committee, please let Adam Rosefsky know. 304-942-4856  
Adam.rosefsky@gmail.com

## TOL offers many donation opportunities.

For a complete listing  
please visit

<http://www.etzhaim.org/aboutus/temple/>

## Soup Kitchen TOL Mitzvah Opportunity

Saturday, March 30th  
10 am to noon  
Morgantown Soup Kitchen,  
Trinity Episcopal Church,  
247 Willey Street  
To volunteer contact  
Susan Brown at [srbwva@gmail.com](mailto:srbwva@gmail.com)

*We note with sorrow  
the passing of*

**Suzanne Friedmann  
Kossak**  
Mother of Monique Gingold

**Shirley Basevin**  
Mother of Lee Basevin Kass

**Ruth Chesler Krawetz**  
TOL member  
and  
Mother of Daya Solomon

*May their memory  
be a blessing*



## 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**

**Tree of Life  
Passover Seder**

**Tuesday  
March 26<sup>th</sup>  
5:30 – 9:00 PM**

**Lakeview Golf Resort and Spa**

**Cost  
\$35/adult  
\$20/child age 3 – 11  
Children under 3 are free**

**RSVP by March 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Steve Markwell  
(304)680-1897  
smarkwe2@gmail.com**

**Checks, payable to Tree of Life, may be mailed to  
Tree of Life Congregation  
PO Box 791  
Morgantown, WV 26507-0791**

**Directions  
See [www.lakeviewresort.com](http://www.lakeviewresort.com)  
FYI, they suggest using the new bridge rather than I-68.**

MAR/APR 2013			
Date	Day	Event	Time
3/1/13	Friday	Family Shabbat & potluck	6:30-8:00 pm
3/2/13	Saturday	Sorry, no Shabbat morning service this week	
3/7/13	Thursday	Sorry, no rabbi office hours this week	
3/8/13	Friday	Service & potluck at Hillel House (no service at TOL)	6:30-8:00 pm
3/9/13	Saturday	Shabbat & Torah service & potluck	10:00 am-1:00 pm
3/13/13	Wednesday	Adult Ed: Offbeat Jewish Heroes	7:00-9:00 pm
3/14/13	Thursday	Rabbi's drop-in office hours	1:00-5:00 pm
3/15/13	Friday	Mazzal Tov Shabbat	7:30-9:00 pm
3/16/13	Saturday	Shabbat & Torah study	10:00 am-12:00 noon
3/21/13	Thursday	Rabbi's drop-in office hours	1:00-5:00 pm
3/22/13	Friday	Shabbat ha-Gadol (before Passover)	7:30-9:00 pm
3/23/13	Saturday	Shabbat & Torah study	10:00 am-12:00 noon
3/26/13	Tuesday	Congregational seder Lakeview	5:30-9:00 pm
3/28/13	Thursday	Rabbi's drop-in office hours	1:00-5:00 pm
3/29/13	Friday	Wine & cheese & matzah Shabbat	6:30-7:30 pm
3/30/13	Saturday	Soup kitchen at Trinity Episcopal, 247 Willey St.	10:00 am-12:00 noon
4/4/13	Thursday	Rabbi's drop-in office hours	1:00-5:00 pm
4/5/13	Friday	Shabbat & Yom ha-Sho'ah observance	7:30-9:00 pm
4/6/13	Saturday	Shabbat & Torah service & potluck	10:00 am-1:00 pm
4/10/13	Wednesday	Adult Ed: A Brief History of Chutzpah	7:00-9:00 pm
4/11/13	Thursday	Rabbi's drop-in office hrs	1:00-5:00 pm
4/12/13	Friday	Family Shabbat & potluck	6:30-8:00 pm
4/13/13	Saturday	Shabbat & Torah study	10:00 am-12:00 noon
4/18/13	Thursday	Rabbi's drop-in office hours	1:00-5:00 pm
4/19/13	Friday	Mazzal Tov Shabbat	7:30-9:00 pm
4/20/13	Saturday	Shabbat & Torah study	10:00 am-12:00 noon
4/25/13	Thursday	Rabbi's drop-in office hrs	1:00-5:00 pm
4/26/13	Friday	Wine & cheese Shabbat	7:30-9:00 pm
4/27/13	Saturday	Shabbat & Torah study	10:00 am-12:00 noon

**Merle Stolzenberg**



## Message from the Treasurer

I would like to thank you for your support of the Tree of Life. Because we are a small, mostly volunteer run congregation, we rely on each member to make a financial contribution and to help in any other way possible.

We welcome the members who have joined this year and hope that you will become active participants in the Tree of Life Family. We hope that you attend services and other events regularly so that you get to know other congregants. But remember that even though you may not attend religious services regularly, Tree of Life will be there for you when you need and/or want Rabbinical services, a minyan to commemorate a yearzeit, or just a friendly offer of help from our Caring Committee if you are ill.

In addition to dues, we also rely on donations to help support the day to day operations of the Congregation. Making a donation in honor of a special occasion or in memory of a friend or loved one is a great way to show your support. You can donate either to the General Fund or to a specific area of interest such as the Rabbi Discretionary Fund, Religious School, Library Fund, Prayer Book Fund, etc. We also have the Simcha Tree where a donation of as little as \$250 purchases a leaf on the tree to commemorate events such as a Bar or Bat Mitzvah, wedding or birth of a special child. Stones are also available on the tree for a larger donation. If interested, contact me.

I welcome your questions about Tree of Life operations. It is important that each of you understands why your contribution is important. Please give me a call or email me if you have any questions.

*Merle Stolzenberg, Treasurer*  
Phone: 304-292-6767

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

## FIRST CLASS MAIL

### Mazal Tov Shabbat

On the third Friday of every month, we recognize, honor and bake a cake for all congregants who celebrate a birthday or anniversary in that month. The honorees for March will be recognized Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. April's honorees will be honored Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. Their names are below. If anyone has been inadvertently omitted, please contact Linda Jackowitz at [ljackowitz@frontier.com](mailto:ljackowitz@frontier.com).

#### March 2013

Linda Abrahams  
Alex Abrahams  
Joan Addicks  
Bill Bellman  
Sophie Brager  
Max Brager  
Yuki Cather  
Andrew Cather  
Lindsey Edwards  
Barbara and Larry Jacowitz

Stan Kanner  
Ted and Joyce Kohan  
Brian Lemoff  
Michael O'Neal  
Margalit Persing  
Steve Sharkey  
Eleanor Simmons  
Terry Sippin  
Merle Stolzenberg  
Jared Stern

#### April 2013

Sara Aronin  
Bill Addicks  
Anne Selinger Charon  
Barry Cooper  
Helene Friedberg  
Donna Bolyard and Ed Gerson  
Monique and Aryeh Gingold  
Aryeh Gingold  
Harry Golden  
Barbara Jacowitz  
Daniel Kaddar  
Michelle Leversee  
Jacob Lemoff  
Marvin Pakman



### January 2013



### February 2013

