TREE of LIFE
CONGREGATION

March/April 2014
Adar I/Adar II/Nissan — 5774

Morgantown, West Virginia

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

RABBI
Joseph Hample

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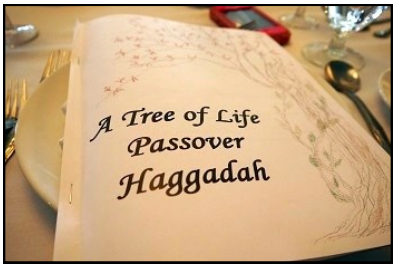
Presenting: Purim and Passover

Purim Party
Saturday, March 15
5:00—8:00 pm

Please join us at TOL for a potluck, Irreverent *m'gillah* reading with noisemakers, musical-comedy *purimshpil* called "Okla-Haman," sticky-sweet *homentash'n*, and children's carnival. Bring your friends.



Passover Seder
April 14, 5:30—9:00 pm

Please join us at Lakeview Resort for a delicious *seder*, with world-famous *haggadah* written and illustrated by TOL's talented children. Monday, April 14 (first night of Passover), 5:30-9:00 pm, 1 Lakeview Dr., Morgantown.
$40 – TOL member adults, $20 – TOL member children age 3-11, $50 – non-member adults, $25 – non-member children age 3-11. Children 3 and under are free. If you would like to sponsor a WVU/ Hillel student, full and $18 donations are welcome. Checks, payable to Tree of Life, may be mailed to

Tree of Life Congregation
PO Box 791
Morgantown, WV 26507-0791

RSVP to Steve Markwell via email at smarkwe2@gmail.com.
For questions regarding the seder contact Steve Markwell at smarkwe2@gmail.com or (304)680-1897.
For dietary concerns contact Steve Sharkey at sharkeys@gfhotels.com.

Rabbi Hample

Full Moon, Full Hearts

It is no coincidence that many of our happiest holidays fall at the full moon, the natural time for a celebration in the low-tech world of our ancestors. Two full-moon holidays are Purim (the last full moon of winter) and Passover (the first full moon of spring). Both are upbeat occasions in our traditional calendar.

Purim is a secondary holiday, when work is not forbidden and the only Scriptural reading is Esther. Passover is a primary holiday, when work *is* forbidden and there are numerous Scriptural readings. Purim is only one day, though a second day called Shushan Purim is observed in Jerusalem. But Passover is seven days according to the Torah, frequently extended to eight days in the Diaspora. There are certain leniencies on the eighth day, as it is un-Biblical.

In spite of their differences, Purim and Passover are alike in many ways. Both recall narrow escapes from murderous foes: Haman in the Purim story, Pharaoh in the Passover story. And both stories unfold outside the land of Israel: Purim in Persia, Passover in Egypt. Not surprisingly, the heroes of both festivals have foreign names. The heroes of Purim are Mordecai and Esther, suggesting the Persian deities Marduk and Ishtar: but Esther's alternative name, Hadassah (Esther 2:7), has a good Hebrew etymology; it means "myrtle." The hero of Passover is Moses, a name related to the typical *-mose* suffix of Egyptian names, such as *Thutmose*.

There are further parallels between Purim and Passover. Both holidays are preceded by a minor fast: the Fast of Esther before Purim, the Fast of the Firstborn before Passover. Both are also preceded by a special Shabbat. The Shabbat before Purim is called Shabbat Zachor, "Sabbath Remember," when we read the defeat of the wicked Agag, an ancestor of Haman. The Shabbat before Passover is called Shabbat ha-Gadol, "Sabbath of the Great," when we read the predicted return of the prophet Elijah, for whom we set a place at our Passover tables.

There is no Torah portion for Purim. But there is a traditional connection with Deuteronomy 31:18, *V'anochi haster astir panai ba-yom ha-hu*, "I will hide My face on that day," because God is "hidden" (not explicitly mentioned) in the book of Esther, and because the word *astir* ("I will hide") sounds like *Esther*. By the same token, there is no *haftarah* (Prophetic selection) for Purim. But there is a folk association with Isaiah 8:10, *Utzu etzah v'tufar, dabb'ru davar v'lo yakum, ki immanu El*, "Plot your plot and it is overturned, scheme your scheme and it comes to nothing, for God is with us," because it functions as a pithy summary of the Purim story.

At Passover, on the other hand, there are multiple Torah and *haftarah* readings. The departure from Egypt is read from Exodus 12-16, the laws of Passover from Leviticus 23 and Numbers 28, the messianic age from the Prophets: "The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid… and the lion shall eat straw like the ox" (Isaiah 11:6-7). On the Shabbat during Passover, the "Thirteen Attributes" (God's mercy) are read from Exodus 34, and the valley of dry bones (resurrection of the dead) from Ezekiel 37.

It is also customary on Passover to read the Song of Songs, love poetry understood by the rabbis as a metaphor of God's relationship with Israel: "I am for my beloved and my beloved is for me" (Song of Songs 6:3). And Hallel (freedom psalms) is recited: "When Israel went forth from Egypt… the mountains danced like rams, the hills like lambs" (Psalm 114:1, 4). Our liberation from Pharaoh is arguably *the* core narrative of Judaism, mentioned in all kinds of different contexts. The *V'ahavta*, for example, concludes with the words *Ani Adonai Eloheichem asher hotzeti et'chem me-eretz Mitzrayim lihyot lachem Lelohim: ani Adonai Eloheichem*, "I am the Eternal your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt to be your God: I am the Eternal your God" (Numbers 15:31).

Both Purim and Passover require a sort of pageant to reenact the story. The Purim pageant is called a *purimshpil*, a play embellishing the narrative from Esther with flamboyant costumes and fanciful details. The name of the villain, Haman, is drowned out with noisemakers called *gragers*. No specific foods are obligatory, but it is usual to serve triangular filled pastries called *homentash'n*.

The Passover pageant is called a *seder*, a ritual dinner with readings from the storybook called the *haggadah*. Much of the program and menu is defined in Mishnah P'sachim 10, from about 200 CE. Four questions, four cups of wine, unleavened bread, and bitter herbs are compulsory. Over the centuries, new songs and customs have been added. Many American Jews grew up singing African-American spirituals at the *seder*, like *Go Down Moses*.

Above all, both holidays require us to feed the needy. Purim is for "sending portions to one another and presents to the poor" (Esther 9:22). On Passover we hold up the *matzah* and declare, "This is the bread of poverty… let all the hungry come and eat." These holidays are known, not only for full moons and full hearts, but for full bellies. *Ken y'hi ratzon*, so may it be God's will.

In case winter is not done …

If it is snowing or inclement weather is forecast, please check your email for a cancellation message before heading to TOL.

Help Out at Bartlett House

ReadAloud of Monongalia County has started a reading program for children at Bartlett House. ReadAloud is asking for help with this project.

1. As part of the program, ReadAloud has established a children's library. More books are needed for the library's collection and to give to the children to keep as their own.

2. ReadAloud has purchased a cabinet to keep the books. ReadAloud is looking for an artist or artists to decorate the outside of the grey metal cabinet.

3. Bartlett House is also looking for a kid's size table and chairs for the newly renovated playroom area. The table and chairs are needed for a kids' homework and craft space.

If you have children's books (levels: baby/toddler through high school) that you would like to donate or can help with the project, please contact Kathleen Abate at 304-695-6693 or xuaf@aol.com.

Thank you, Kathy Abate

An All Star Yiddish Festival in Pittsburgh

1) Three Rivers Klezmer Festival: NESHOME - Concert of New & Old Yiddish

Alan Bern (piano), of the Other Europeans and Brave Old World, joined by Noah Bendix-Balgley (violin), concertmaster of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and Susanne Ortner-Roberts (clarinet), German-born klezmer and jazz musician present new and old Yiddish music.

March 20th, Rodef Shalom, 8pm — Cost: free

2) Three Rivers Klezmer Festival: Klezmer Dance Workshop/Party

A Purim klezmer dance party / workshop led by Steve Weintraub (internationally renowned teacher of traditional Yiddish dance, including at Klezkamp, Klezkanada, and festivals in Krakow, Furth, Paris and London). Live music by the Carnegie Shpil Company (Hillel JUC) with clarinetist Susanne Ortner-Roberts and accordionist Alan Bern of The Other Europeans (an international Yiddish/Roma collaboration) and Brave Old World (one of the first klezmer revival ensembles).

March 29th, Rodef Shalom, 8pm ($10 suggested donation)

The Wandering Cohens

Some of you may have noticed Stan's absence from the Latke Brigade the last couple of years. The reason: the party coincides with our treks to South Africa to visit Adam, Glenn, Lucy and Noah. Not to worry- it has become a family tradition that he makes latkes in Pretoria for Adam's family as well as their ex-pat friends. The oil smell of the frying latkes waifs out the doors and windows into their compound! This year, as last, we presented Chanukah traditions and played dreidel at Lucy's school. We also gave a presentation on the US as part of "international week" to all the second graders.

We arrived in South Africa on the night before the memorial for Mandela. It was quite an emotional time for the entire country. We felt privileged to watch the memorial service with 5 African nannies who provided us with singing and commentary. I went with Adam and Glenn early one morning to be part of the honor guard lining the streets as Mandela's body was transported from the military base in Pretoria to the Union Building where the public could come to say their good-byes. Later in our travels we saw the hillside where he had been buried in his childhood village of Qunu.

Adventures this year included Stan and I taking Lucy to Victoria Falls and on a Chobe River and Land Safari. Hippos, cape buffalo, impalas, elephants and many birds were abundant. It was our first time sleeping under mosquito netting and being watchful to close the shutters and windows to keep the monkeys out.

We traveled with Adam's entire family, as well as Josh and his fiancé, Scott, to the Wild Coast of SA. It is located along the Eastern Cape where the rocky volcanic cliffs drop down to the Indian Ocean. Lush, green hills also dot the countryside. Dirt, washboard, pot holes roads made this part of the trip quite memorable. The Africans who live there always looked happy and waved as we drove by. We frequently shared the roads with cows, goats, chickens, and sheep. The towns in this least developed part of SA are a scene of bedlam – people and animals just everywhere. Quite interesting to drive through!

I came back to the US appreciating "clean" water (this was before the water crisis in WV!). At some places we brushed our teeth as well as drank collected rain water. The water ran brown coming out of the faucet.

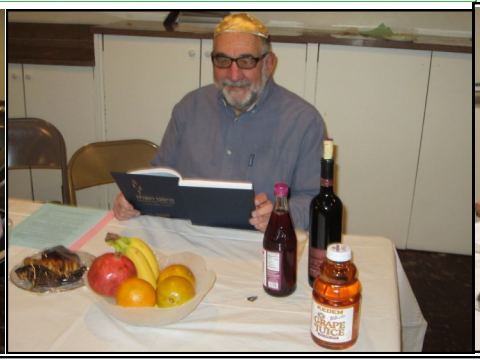
Stay warm! I know I am trying to.....after leaving SA during their summer!

Pass Over

-Maya Bernstein

Pass over
me
Though there is
no blood on my
Doorpost though, in
fact, I am not
home, but on this
train, like You,
in constant motion.
Hoping to go unnoticed
as I slide searching,
not so much
to smite, as to not be smitten

Photo Album



Grapes and tree nuts and wine—oh my! It must be Tu Bishvat!

TOL Fills EMPTY BOWLS

Once again TOL volunteers were out in force helping to make Empty Bowls 2014 a success. Steve policed tables, Linda ladled soup while Rita sold raffle tickets. Other members were spotted, but not photographed.

To all of you:
Job Well Done!

Family Shabbat—February 2014

If you think the sounds of happy children are wonderful, Family Shabbat is the place to be.

Soup Kitchen

TOL members will be making the lunch at the Morgantown Soup Kitchen on **Saturday, March 29th**, at the Episcopal Church. If you would like to volunteer, please arrive at the church by **10:00 a.m.** We finish up at noon. If you have questions, email Susan Brown at srbwva@gmail.com.

Thank you!

CHARM CAMPAIGN

Tree of Life
Building for our Future
Please join the effort

Send your
Pledge/donation
To our treasurer
Al Berrebi
at
Tree of Life, PO Box 791,
Morgantown, WV 26507-0791

Remember a loved one
with a
YAHRZEIT PLAQUE
$400 DONATION
Contact: Bennett Millstone

Worth Sharing

Our member **Gloria Lees** was born on February 29, 1924. She has only experienced 22 birthdays in her life, but arguably turned 90 at the end of February, 2014. Tree of Life Congregation wishes Gloria health and happiness on this milestone.

Mazel Tov to Yoav Kaddar, director of the Dance Program at West Virginia University, and his wife Maureen Mansfield Kaddar, an instructor in the dance program. Both will perform at Lincoln Center on NYC as part of the Paul Taylor Dance Company's Diamond Anniversary Gala on March 23.

Mazel Tov to the WV TOL Solomon men! Dan has been awarded a study fellowship from NASA and will be in Morgantown this year finishing his PhD in mathematics (Celestial Mechanics) at WVU. Deva was nominated by his law firm and selected as an emerging WV leader for 2014 Leadership West Virginia. Matanya persevered through a long recovery from an injury that kept him from dancing for months. We look forward to seeing him perform March 22 & 23 with the Nutmeg Ballet in Torrington, CT.

Lee Kass's book has been published:
Perspectives on Nobel Laureate Barbara McClintock's Publications (1926-1984): A Companion Volume Edited by Lee B. Kass

Books and Articles Collection – http://ecommons.library.cornell.edu/handle/1813/63
The Internet-First University Press – http://ecommons.library.cornell.edu/handle/1813/62
Published by The Internet
-First University Press

Mazal Tov to **Emily and Jonathan Lederman** who excelled at a recent swim meet—and had their photos in the paper!

We note with sorrow the passing of

Wilmarae Kiefer
Grandmother of Daya Masada Wright
Estebab Lederman
Father of David Lederman
Laurie Cohen
Mother of Liz Cohen
Rosemarie Birman
Sister-in-Law of Sylvia Cooper

May their memory be a blessing

Thank You

The Lederman-Leversee family thanks everyone for their kindness as we remember our father and grandfather, Esteban Lederman

Sara, Michael, Rebecca, & Noah thank everyone in the TOL community for your help, food and support following our loss of Chaya Michelle.

Share Your Simcha
Buy a Leaf on
THE SIMCHA TREE
$250/leaf
$2500/Small Stone
$5000/Large Stone
Contact
Merle Stolzenberg/
Barbara Jacowitz

MARCH/APRIL 2014			
Date	**Day**	**Event**	**Time**
3/1/14	Saturday	Shabbat & full Torah service & potluck	10:00 am-1:00 pm
3/1/14	Saturday	Teen shmooze: pizza & projects, 816 Grand St.	6:00-8:00 pm
3/5/14	Wed.	Adult Hebrew	7:00-8:30 pm
3/6/14	Thursday	Rabbi's drop-in office hours	1:00-5:00 pm
3/7/14	Friday	Shabbat Healing service & oneg	7:30-9:00 pm
3/8/14	Saturday	Torah study	10:00 am-12:00 noon
3/12/14	Wed.	Adult ed: Pirkei Avot chapter 3 ("Beloved is humanity…")	7:00-9:00 pm
3/13/14	Thursday	Rabbi's drop-in office hours	1:00-5:00 pm
3/14/14	Friday	Family potluck & Shabbat & oneg	6:00-8:30 pm
3/15/14	Saturday	Shabbat bagel brunch & short morning service	10:00 am-12:00 noon
3/15/14	Saturday	Purim party, play & carnival	5:00-8:00 pm
3/19/14	Wed.	Adult Hebrew	7:00-8:30 pm
3/20/14	Thursday	Rabbi's drop-in office hours	1:00-5:00 pm
3/21/14	Friday	Joint service with Hillel House: venue TBA	7:30-9:00 pm
3/22/14	Saturday	Torah study	10:00 am-12:00 noon
3/22/14	Saturday	Teen movie-pizza night: *Samson and Delilah*	6:00-8:00 pm
3/27/14	Thursday	Rabbi's drop-in office hours	1:00-5:00 pm
3/28/14	Friday	Wine & cheese Shabbat	6:30-7:30 pm
3/29/14	Saturday	Soup kitchen, Trinity Episc, 247 Willey St.	10:00 am-12:00 noon
4/2/14	Wed.	Adult Hebrew	7:00-8:30 pm
4/3/14	Thursday	Rabbi's drop-in office hours	1:00-5:00 pm
4/4/14	Friday	Mazzal Tov Shabbat & oneg	7:30-9:00 pm
4/5/14	Saturday	Shabbat & full Torah service & potluck	10:00 am-1:00 pm
4/5/14	Saturday	Teen shmooze: fun activity chosen at March 1 shmooze	6:00-8:00 pm
4/9/14	Wed.	Adult ed: Pirkei Avot chapter 4 ("Do not judge alone…")	7:00-9:00 pm
4/10/14	Thursday	Rabbi's drop-in office hours	1:00-5:00 pm
4/11/14	Friday	Family potluck & Shabbat & oneg	6:00-8:30 pm
4/12/14	Saturday	Torah study	10:00 am-12:00 noon
4/12/14	Saturday	Teen movie-pizza night: *Yentl*	6:00-8:00 pm
4/14/14	Monday	Congregational Passover seder, Lakeview Resort	5:30-9:00 pm
4/16/14	Wed.	Adult Hebrew	7:00-8:30 pm
4/17/14	Thursday	Rabbi's drop-in office hours	1:00-5:00 pm
4/18/14	Friday	Shabbat Pesach service & oneg	7:30-9:00 pm
4/19/14	Saturday	Torah study: Ezekiel 37 and/or Song of Songs	10:00 am-12:00 noon
4/24/14	Thursday	Rabbi's drop-in office hours	1:00-5:00 pm
4/25/14	Friday	Shabbat service & Yom ha-Sho'ah observance & oneg	7:30-9:00 pm
4/26/14	Saturday	Shabbat bagel brunch & short morning service	10:00 am-12:00 noon

Sponsor an Oneg

Donna prepared a wonderful Oneg in honor of Ed's 70th Birthday. You too can be a host. See page 6 and etzhaim.org for more info and available dates

CHARM Campaign

It is not too late to join TOLs CHARM offensive. Donate today and see your name embroidered on our CHARM menorah!

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Mazal Tov Shabbat

March & April Mazal Tov Shabbats will be recognized together Friday, April 4th. Join us for a festive Oneg with lots of good cheer. Errors? Omissions? Contact Linda: ljacknowitz@frontier.com

March 2014

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
Nina Price
Steve Sharkey
Eleanor Simmons
Terry Sippin
Judith Stitzel
Merle Stolzenberg
Jared Stern

April 2014

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
Lila Wright

Hadassah News

Sara Aronin will host a Hadassah Purim themed potluck brunch at her home on **Sunday March 16 from 10-12**. (203 Piave Lane.) We will learn about and participate in the four mitzvot of Purim. Even if you are not a Hadassah member or have never been to an event before, we encourage you to come for some quality girl time (no temple school that day).

We will make gift bags for the people in our community not able to be part of the celebration as well as for those we wish to surprise in our own personal lives. Sara will have the bags and things to put in them. (Feel free to make a donation towards this with all additional proceeds benefiting the TOL Care Committee). Part of the fun will be to bake our own Hamentashen!

To keep in the festive spirit, Sara kindly requests that each person wear their favorite (or most outlandish) head accessory- hat, bow, colander… the list is endless.

An additional fun activity will be the "*Mystery Item in my Kitchen Exchange*." For this, we request you bring one or more "thing" that has been sitting in your kitchen for longer than you care to remember. It can be something you don't use, don't know what it is, or something that you think might just be better off in someone else's home. PLEASE don't buy something for this, but rather simply look on those high shelves or the back of your drawers.

Please RSVP to Sara Aronin
407-408-3410 aronin8@gmail.com.
Looking forward to seeing everyone!