



# Chai Times

Temple of the High Country

Volume 5 Issue 16

## President's Message....

Writing the president's message is always fun at this time of year. That is because I know the majority of our membership, happily ensconced in their Florida condos and homes, is now casting their eyes to the North. The joys of life in Florida are beginning to pale. The blazing sun is beginning to blaze just a bit to hotly. The concept of sweat, yes, icky smelly sweat, is beginning to be a concern. Of course that only applies to the men of our congregation. Women if course do not sweat, they only perspire. And I have it on good authority that the women of the Temple of the High Country do not even do that. Jewish women, whatever their age, merely get a slight flush during times of exertion. They glow.

In any case, Jews are

dreaming of the cool breezes that waft across the upper elevations of Beech Mountain, Linville Ridge, and Banner Elk. Is there anything sweeter than the smell of white pine and Fraser fir, that is a product of natural transpiration. It is so superior to even the finest air conditioning.

The Temple of the High Country is preparing for the annual pilgrimage that is about to occur. In honor of this cavalcade of returnees, we now have courtesy of Frank Girard, a light switch in the kitchen near the refrigerator. We now have bathroom sinks properly attached to the wall. And wait- this is really big. We have a part time employee. Meet Renee Schulman, our Temple secretary. She works 12 hours a week.

She is a great gal. Please do not yell at her. If you remember my address at the last High Holy Service, you know that the major duty of the President is to communicate with the members of the Club of the Unhappy. If you are unhappy about the Synagogue, you should speak to the President only.

It may be too hot. It may be too cool. There may be too much Hebrew. There may not be enough Hebrew. The urinal in the men's rest room may be so cleverly designed that splash back is an inevitable phenomenon. Please do not bother Renee with these things. She is young. She is sensitive. We do not want to loose her.

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## Sisterhood Message....

The Sisterhood of the Temple of the High Country has been going strong through the Winter months. Now we are looking forward to some great programs coming up with the anticipation of welcoming back our Florida (and other winter habitats) friends. Here is a run-down of upcoming meetings:

**May 19 @ 2:00** – A presentation by Joanne Weintraub, Professor of Sustainability at ASU. She will explain the concept of sustainability and its connections to Judaism. We will discuss what we can do in our synagogue and our homes to help sustain the planet. All are welcome.

**June 23 @ 1:00** - Welcome Back Tea with Jewish storyteller Linda Spitzer  
Ten years as the Biltmore Hotel's Storyteller  
Author of 3 stories published in *Sandspun, Florida Stories by Florida Storytellers*  
Selected as Regional Storyteller at National Storytelling Conference 2000  
Appearances at many Churches, Temples and Jewish Day Schools in Florida & Georgia  
Over 15 years experience as a professional storyteller

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## President's Message...continued

Instead, go straight to the top. Chuck Lieberman, the current President, has nothing to do but care for 2000 Christmas trees and 300 blueberry bushes that are all under assault by various species of the order Insecta. He loves to put down his tools, pull out his cell phone, and address all concerns of his flock, no matter how small.

The tuition free Hebrew school is now flourishing. We meet Tues and Thurs afternoons and I also am tutoring two children for Bar and Bat Mitzvah. I am also teaching two adults Hebrew later in the day after the Children leave for track or soccer practice.

Returning to more solid matters, Frank Girard, Skip Rackmill, and a certain Jewish Christmas tree grower are now involved in ditching and moving six tons of rock so as to ameliorate a drainage problem that was discovered after

Boone got a six inch rain. We have put up another chain so as to stop people from using our parking lot as a freeway.

Our first Seder was great. We had about sixty people in the social room of the Schaefer Center. We used the Terrific Hagaddah that was donated to us by the Norden Family, A wandering Christmas tree grower of Jewish extraction conducted the seder. The matzah ball soup was good. Next year in Jerusalem. We hope that our Floridians will arrive in time for our musical extravaganza that is coming in June. Actually, as your President has admitted in the past, the spring migration leads to a certain feeling of trepidation. I have now been President for longer than Barak Obama. I don't get Air Force One. I don't get vacations in Hawaii. And when it comes to obtuseness, I would stack the Board of the Temple against the House of Representa-

tives any day of the week...

This month the congregation has switched to alternating Friday and Saturday morning services. That is working out well. I especially like reading from the Torah on Saturday mornings. The students of Hillel did the last Friday service and did a great job. Also this month, I did a memorial service for Marshall Docteroff and a burial service for Ruth Tornick. Both were very moving to me. I continue to lay tfillan and pray in the Temple on Thursday mornings. It is very peaceful. It is very quiet. At that time the burdens of my life seem to lighten, the blessings of God seem to fall like rain on a parched field. All regrets dissipate. Hopes and anticipation prevail over fears and worry. What else is there to ask of life? Chuck Lieberman. Pres.

## Member News.....

A very dear member of our congregation, Ruth Tornick, has passed way this week. Ruth was an active member of the Boone Jewish Community until moving to Asheville a few years ago but always came back to celebrate many special events with us in our new home.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Marlene and Nick Rossin on the loss of their son, Michael Jankowitz and to Barbara Sugerman on the loss of her husband Barry Sugerman.

### Upcoming Events

Temple of the High Country  
Presents

"Celebrating One Year"  
Featuring

Gil Morgenstern & Akal Dev Sharonne  
Saturday June 15, 2013 at  
8PM

TOHC Solomon Sanctuary

\$40

If you want tickets send your check to  
Temple of the High Country c/o Erika  
Siegel PO Box 1763, Banner Elk NC

28604. Please let me know the address you want your tickets mailed to.

Annual Meeting is scheduled for August 18, 2013.

Membership dues and Yiskor Book information will be mailed out shortly. If you don't receive anything please contact us, we have had several mailings returned to us due to incorrect addresses.

## Sisterhood News ....Continued

**July (date TBD)** - Presentation by Gail Bluestein on Emma Lazarus

**Aug (date TBD)** - Presentation by Ruth Etkin

As always, we have taken on a new *Tikkun Olam* (repair the world) project for The Children's Council. We are asking all to:

- 1) Please bring **Diapers** to all our meetings or services
- 2) Please bring gently used **children's**

**books and books for young women** in the GED class

3) Please volunteer to help prepare and **bring a lunch** once a month to the GED class, however this project only goes through May.

Sisterhood has the responsibility of providing a lovely Oneg Shabbat each week. Our funds for this food is running low and we would appreciate donations. Thank you. Please send any donations to

Leigh Girard at the address below.

If you are not currently a member and would like to join and receive notices of all our events, please send the \$18 membership fee, made out to TOHC Sisterhood, and mail to Leigh Girard at 500 Appalachian Dr, Boone, NC 28607.

Sisterhood Co President  
Elaine Rothenberg

## Words from our Torah Scholar.....

### Birkat Hachamah

#### Blessing the Sun

Finally, it seems as though the winter may be over for our local High Country residents. The sun is shining and we are grateful and joyous. It was a cold, hard, winter season. As Jews, we only worship our creator as opposed to ancient times when various sects worshipped the sun, the moon, stars and planets. However, we do have a blessing for the sun. This prayer called Birkat Hachamah is a special blessing recited once every 28 years commemorating the work of creation and acknowledging G-d as creator of all things including the sun. Torah tells us that the sun was created on the fourth day

and tradition teaches us that it was created at the Tekufat (Nissan), the beginning of Spring. G-d created the sun, the moon, the stars on the fourth day. A solar year is about 365 1/4 days or about 52 weeks and 1 1/4 days. So, each year since creation, the sun rises 1 1/4 days or 30 hours later. It takes 28 years for the sun to again hit the same position in the firmament at the same moment on the same day of the week as creation. This event and this blessing occurs once every 28 years. The blessing is recited only if the sun or at least its light is visible. If it is completely overcast, the blessing is not recited. The last time Birkat Hachamah was observed was in 2009. The prayer states: "Blessed are you Lord, our G-d,

King of the universe. Maker of the works of creation". On this day, the sun is at its turning point. Ultra-Orthodox Jews have seen this as a time of joyous celebration. It is a milestone. However, one must be careful to look at the sun only once to emphasize that they are praying not to the sun but to the creator. In this spring season, we celebrate the sunshine, we celebrate the anticipation of our seasonal members coming back to join us soon and we celebrate the light, the hope and the joy that we have found in our new spiritual home.

Marla Gentle

## Just For Laughs.....

### The Divorce

An elderly man in Miami calls his son in New York and says, "I hate to ruin your day, but I have to tell you that your mother and I are divorcing. Forty-five years of misery is enough."  
"Pop, what are you talking about?" the son screams.

"We can't stand the sight of each other any longer," the old man says. "We're sick of each other, and I'm sick of talking about this, so you call your sister in Chicago and tell her," and he hangs up.

Frantic, the son calls his sister, who ex-

plodes on the phone, "Like heck they're getting divorced," she shouts, "I'll take care of this." She calls her father immediately and screams at the old man, "You are NOT getting divorced! Don't do a single thing until I get there. I'm calling my brother back! , and we'll both be there tomorrow. Until then, don't do a thing, DO YOU HEAR ME?" and hangs up.

The old man hangs up his phone and turns to his wife. "Okay," he says, "They're coming for Passover and paying their own airfares."

Q: In the Jewish doctrine, when does a fetus become a human?

A: When it graduates from med school.

Q: Why were gentiles invented?

A: Somebody has to pay retail.

Q: What is the proper blessing to recite before logging on to the Internet?

A: "Modem anachnu loch...

Q: If a doctor carries a black leather bag and a plumber carries a box of tools, what does a mohel carry?

A: A bris kit.

## Hummus Recipe with Sundried Tomatoes....

This is an easy Hummus Recipe made with chickpeas and sundried tomatoes combined with lemon juice, garlic, olive oil and salt in a blender. The blend of chickpeas and sundried tomatoes is extremely tasty and colorful - it makes a lovely spread or dip to serve with pita crisps, crackers, veggies or sliced baguettes.

### Ingredients:

2 - 15 oz. can chickpeas, drained and rinsed  
1 8.5 oz. jar sun dried tomatoes, packed in oil  
1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil (use a bit more or less, to taste)  
1/2 lemon, juiced  
2 cloves garlic, peeled  
1 1/2 tsp. salt

1/4 cup water

Garnish: fresh basil leaves, sliced olives  
Combine all ingredients (except for garnish) in a blender and mix on low speed until smooth. Add a few more drops of oil if the mixture seems dry. Spoon mixture into a serving dish and garnish with fresh basil and olives, as desired.

Serve with veggies, pita, crackers and sliced baguettes.

## Temple of the High Country

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### Upcoming Events

May 31- June 1 Shabbat Weekend with Rabbi Bentley

Fri, May 31 @ 7:00 PM - Evening Service

Sat, June 1 @ 10:00 AM - Shabbat morning service, pot-luck luncheon and Torah Study

June 7- 8<sup>th</sup> Shabbat Weekend with Rabbi Kirschner

Fri, June 7 @ 7:00 PM - Evening Service

Sat, June 8 @ 10:00 AM - Shabbat morning service, pot-luck luncheon and Torah Study

June 15<sup>th</sup> Fundraising Benefit Concert Synagogue Sonatas

Location: Temple of the High Country

World renown violinist Gil Morgenstern and flutist Akal Dev Sharone will perform Saturday June 15 @ 8:00 PM for a fundraising Benefit Concert . Tickets are available for sale at the Temple Tuesday and Thursday mornings and Friday afternoons. Price is \$40.

June 23<sup>rd</sup> Sisterhood Welcome-Back Tea

Time: 1:00

Welcome-Back Tea with Jewish storyteller, Linda Spitzer

June 28-29<sup>th</sup> Shabbat Weekend with Rabbi Arnold Belzer, Savannah GA

Fri, June 28 @ 7:00 PM - Evening Service

Sat, June 29 @ 10:00 AM - Shabbat morning service, pot-luck luncheon and Torah Study

## Meet Renee Shulman

As many of you may know we have hired a part time secretary. Here is a little about her. We encourage you to stop by and meet her when you are in Boone.

Renee Shulman

I received my undergraduate degree from Appalachian State University here in Boone and really enjoy this area of the state. After a couple of years away I moved back to Boone to become a more permanent resident.

In the past I have worked or volunteered for a number of non-profit organizations within North Carolina. I have also worked at a couple of different businesses and university run programs. My favorite jobs have always been those where I was able to run an efficient office and work with people in the aim of improving our community. I think that

working at the Temple of the High Country will allow me to work towards that end. I look forward to meeting all of you and building something great together!

I really enjoy the beauty of the mountains, especially when I go hiking or just sit outside on a nice day. My two dogs keep me pretty active. I like taking them on walks and to the Valle Crucis Park. I also have some laying hens that make the best eggs! I enjoy gardening during our short growing season, and am looking forward to blueberry picking soon.

If you would ever like to stop by the Temple to chat, I will be there Tuesdays 9am-1pm, Thursdays 1pm-4pm and Fridays 1pm-4pm.