

# Chai Times

Temple of the High Country

Volume 4, Issue 13

## President's Message....

I had a great farm plan for today. Three tanks of herbicide in my highest tree field. Finish mowing the bottom of the valley, Work on garden and on the trout pond retaining wall. But the best laid plans of man oft go awry. Or as Eleanor likes to say, "between the cup and the lip there's many a slip."

We had much rain and thunder in the afternoon so the latter half of the plan failed to materialize and so I am instead here trying to catch up on my e mail. That includes this- the Presidential Newsletter Message. That sounds so portentous. But I am equal to the task.

The Temple. It is sprouting from the earth. Donations and

good will are now made manifest in brick and stone. And that is just the outside. Inside the tile and sheetrock are largely done. What really amazes me, and I have seen many buildings go up, is the huge amount of work going into what is never seen. Enormous quantities of wire and pipe are snaking through the walls and ceiling. Electricians, plumbers, HVAC workers, the alarm system. There is no end to this. When I visit, which is usually twice a week, I try and imagine what it will finally look like. Painting and furnishings, carpeting, chairs and tables. All these have yet to make their appearance. I can say this. I like the proportions of the

building. I think the main sanctuary will provide a certain intimacy. I try to imagine standing before the ark. Our Torahs with a proper home at last. All of that is to come. I have taken, for the last few months, to a new morning routine. After many years on the farm I discovered a walkable route to the Cafe on old Hwy 421. Mid way on this mile and a half long walk is a large flat pasture. In the pasture, and facing the new Hwy 421 is a sign, erected by the local Baptist church that says, "The Lord is good, his mercy endures forever." By this Old Testament promise, and with the mountains poking up through clouds on the horizon, I halt and say the 14

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## Sisterhood News.....

The Sisterhood has been quite active over the "winter" months, even though we didn't have much of a winter. In January, 13 women met at Evelyn Asher's home where we played "Jewish Jeopardy." Fran Greenfield organized, planned, purchased prizes, and ran this fun game which tested our Jewish knowledge of customs, traditions and history. A good time was had by

all. Our February meeting, a book discussion, was actually held on March 4 due to a snow threat on the original date. Twelve women attended at Leigh Girard's home and we had a lively and informative discussion of the book, The Dovekeepers, by Alice Hoffman. This book is historical fiction based on the lives of 4 strong women living at the time of the Masada. Most

of us enjoyed the book and felt it was a worthwhile read. Speaking of good books, if you have not read, The Stone Pillow, by our own Jona Lerman, I highly recommend it. It is the true and amazing story of Jona and Annie Lerman's lives as they were pioneers and fighters in the early independence movement in Israel. I found the book

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## President's Message Con't....

By this Old Testament promise, and with the mountains poking up through clouds on the horizon, I halt and say the 14 morning blessings that I am so fond of repeating every year at the High Holy Day services. No prayer book is needed. I have committed them to memory.

While I pray, the killdeer fly about and add their characteristic skreeing cries. Lately they have been joined by the red winged blackbirds. It is a very nice moment in my day.

I hope that the repose that I have discovered in this place will be equaled or exceeded by standing before the Ark in our new synagogue. We shall see. I am planning to do an early minyon service, perhaps on Monday or Thursday.

Through the generousness and hard work of the Schaeffers, and the gifts of many others, the Jews of the High Country have been given a great opportunity. I hope we can fill our new home with some efforts of genuine devotion.

Services this spring have been modestly attended. I could bewail this reality but in fact the intimacy of a small service, with the chairs arranged in a circle and the Torah discussion lively, are what has always drawn me to the Jewish services in the High Country. The Passover Seder this year was also a bit less well attended, about 45 people. But once again, the spirit was there and we all had a great time. Many thanks to Erika Siegel who

does all the real work while I recline on my Passover pillow and get all the credit. The site, the Evergreen Restaurant in the Banner Elk Best Western, was quite nice and the staff did a good job. Next year we will be in the Schaefer Center. That is the High Country version of Jerusalem. Soon our summer people will come trickling in, family by family. I urge you all to drop by the synagogue. It is still rough looking now. The landscaping will make a big difference. If there are no big trucks on King St, and you listen intently, you will hear the waters of Kraut Creek, as they rush toward the sea. Chuck Lieberman, Pres of the Temple of the High Country

## Joy, Celebrations and Upcoming Events....

Please join us this Friday night as we say good bye to Gil Ezring as he has graduated from ASU and will be leaving the area. He will be leading this weeks service with his father Rabbi Ezring in attendance. We will greatly miss his presence.

**Save the date: Friday night June 22.** Please join us at 6:00 for a special dedication of our Temple of the High Country. Help us welcome our Torah home. A special Shabbat service will follow at 7:00 which will be led by Peter Cohen. Join us for a beautiful oneg afterwards, sponsored by Murray and Renee Miller

in honor of their 60th anniversary

**Save the date: Friday July 6th** join us for a special Friday night service with Rabbi Dan Levin from Boca Rotan

**Save the date:** A special preview of the Theodore Herzl Story will be presented on **Wednesday August 15** at the Temple of the High Country. Please join us and our special guest Rabbi Heir as we enjoy this wonderful film in our new home.

Until we move in to the new temple services are held at 7PM every Friday at St. Luke's located behind Earthfare on King

Congratulations to Leslie Lisak, one of our Hillel student for being accepted to the Hebrew Union College in Ohio. We wish you Mazel Tov

We have partnered with Children's Council to help provide diapers for some families in need. Please bring diapers in any size along with you to any Friday night service call Leigh at 828-264-2557 for drop off arrangements

If you have a joy, celebration or an upcoming event that you think we need to include in the newsletter email me at templeofthehighcountry@gmail.com

## Sisterhood News Con't .....

fascinating and it is inspiring to know that these brave people are active members of our Boone Jewish community.

The Sisterhood celebrated Passover with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Women's Seder at the beautiful home of Judie Feinstein and Sonny Harris. Twenty-two women attended this event, along with a representative from *All About Women*. Marla Gentile led the seder with a Hagadah she had put together from various womens' seders. It was a quite meaningful service, and then we all ate very well from the various dishes that everyone had brought. We are looking forward to, "next year in our own Temple."

We are anticipating seeing our summer residents soon, and we have some interesting events planned. On April 15, we will be going bowling along with spouses and other invited guests. On May 20, we will walk around Bass Lake in Blowing Rock and have lunch at a local restaurant. On June 10, we will have the Annual Welcome-Back Tea at Ruth Etkin's home. Ruth will present a talk on "Jewish Kitchen Traditions from the Middle Ages to the Middle East to the East Side of New York." This should put us in the mood for our Kitchen Shower on July 22 at Sorrento's in Banner Elk, which is being planned by a committee

chaired by Fran Greenfield. The shower is meant to stock the kitchen of our new Temple with donated gently-used and new items. Leigh Girard has put together an extensive list of all our needs and she has already received many pledges. Sisterhood members will be receiving an updated pledge list periodically.

As we watch our new Temple grow, we are happy to know that our future Sisterhood meetings can be held at our new Jewish home and hope to have many exciting, intellectual and fun events there.

Elaine Rothenberg (Sisterhood President)

## Words from our Torah Scholar....

The biblical King Solomon was known for his wisdom, his wealth and his writings. He became a ruler in approximately 967 BCE and his Kingdom extended from the Euphrates River on the North to Egypt in the South. His greatest achievement was the building of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem.

Solomon was the son of King David and Bathsheba. He was not the oldest son but David promised Bathsheba that Solomon would be the next King. This did not happen easily. Solomon's brother Adonijah fought to obtain the throne but in the end it was Solomon who ruled.

King Solomon was a very wise ruler and

people came from surrounding nations to hear his words. He composed 3,000 proverbs and 1,005 songs. He wrote the Song of Songs, The Book of Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes.

During a tranquil period of his empire, he began to build a Holy Temple. This Temple took seven years to complete and Solomon spared no expense in the creation of the building. When it was completed, the Holy Temple was dedicated in a public ceremony of prayer. Solomon even invited non-Jews to come and pray there and in Jerusalem this was the holiest spot.

Approximately 400 years later in 586

BC, this Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians. 70 years later a second Temple was built on this site and it was destroyed by the Romans in 70 CE. To this day, Traditional Jews pray three times a day for the restoration of the Temple.

Although G-d's presence is always with us no matter where we pray, the Temple structure is Holy and Sacred. G-d has always been with the Jews in all of their travels just as he has been with us in all of our resting places; the latest being St. Lukes Church.

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## Just for laughs...

Back in cowboy times, a westbound wagon train was lost and low on food. No other humans had been seen for days and then the pioneers saw an old Jewish rabbi sitting beneath a tree. "Is there some place ahead where we can get food?" they asked.

"Vell, I tink so," the old man said, "but I wouldn't go up dat hill und down de udder side. Somevun tole me you'd run into a big bacon tree."

"A bacon tree?" asked the wagon train leader.

"Yah, an bacon tree. Would I lie?"

Trust me. I vouldn't go dere."

The leader goes back and tells his people what the rabbi said.

"So why did he say not to go there?," a person asked.

Other pioneers said, "Oh, you know those Jewish people - they don't eat bacon."

So the wagon train goes up the hill and down the other side. Suddenly, Indians attack them from everywhere and massacre all except the leader who manages to escape and get

back to the old rabbi.

Near dead, the man shouts, "You fool! You sent us to our deaths! We followed your route but there was no bacon tree, just hundreds of Indians who killed everyone but me."

The old Jewish man holds up his hand and says, "Oy, vait a minute." He quickly picks up an English-Yiddish dictionary and begins thumbing through it.

"Oy Gevalt, I made myself such ah big mishtake! It vuzn't a bacon tree, it vuz a ham bush!!"

## Cheese Bourekas.....

### Ingredients:

- 2 eggs
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 teaspoon dried parsley
- 1 pinch garlic powder
- 1 pinch onion powder
- 1 pinch salt
- 1 pinch black pepper
- 1 (17.5 ounce) package frozen puff pastry
- 2 teaspoons water
- 2 tablespoons sesame seeds

1. Preheat oven to 350\* and grease a baking sheet.
2. Beat 1 egg in a medium bowl and mix with mozzarella cheese. Season with fried parsley, garlic powder, onion powder, salt and black pepper
3. On a lightly floured surface, cut each sheet of puff pastry into 6 equal squares to give 12 squares in total. Beat the remaining egg with water in a small bowl. Brush edges of each square with the egg wash. Place a heaping tablespoon of the cheese mixture in the center of each square.

4. Bake in the preheated oven for 30 minutes, or until golden brown, serve immediately.

## Temple of the High Country

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Www.  
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CHAI TIMES



**Please note:** Thank you to everyone who has made donations to the building of the Temple, without your contributions we would not have been able to accomplish our goal. It is the policy of the Temple of the High Country to list all donors who obtained naming opportunities on our website. You may check our fundraising page for this information. However, we will list the name of the donor and the opportunity that they have gifted and no money amount will be present unless requested. If you would like to have the money amount listed or if you would like to remain anonymous, please email Marla Gentile at [befit51@aol.com](mailto:befit51@aol.com)

### Amendment One

On May 8, voters in all North Carolina Primaries will have the opportunity to vote on AMENDMENT ONE, which states "*Marriage, between one man and one woman is the only domestic legal union that shall be valid or recognized in this state.*" This vote would amend the North Carolina State Constitution. Passage of this amendment would deny legal rights to BOTH heterosexual and homosexual relationships, including issues of domestic violence, child custody, employer-sponsored family medical benefits, short-and-long-term disability benefits, visitation rights and end-of-life arrangements. Current North Carolina law already does not allow same-gender marriage.

You are encouraged to familiarize yourself with this amendment and try to vote on May 8 or the week before at the City Hall.

There is a group organizing faith communities against Amendment One, including many Jewish congregations. Their website is: <http://www.protectnrcfamilies.org/home>

## *Torah Scholar Con't .....*

We will now have our own Holy and Sacred resting place and a permanent home for our beautiful Torah. This is truly a mitzvah and an exceptional milestone. Come join us on Friday night, June 22 as we create our own ceremony of prayer and celebration. Join us as our dream comes true and we welcome our Torah home.

Get involved and help the Temple of the High Country grow. If you interested in being on leading a committee or part of a committee team email [templeofthehighcountry@gmail.com](mailto:templeofthehighcountry@gmail.com)

If you would like to make a donation to the Temple of the High Country in honor of a wedding, birthday or any type of simcha or if you would like to wish someone a get well, we will be happy to receive your donation and send an acknowledgement for you.

If you haven't done so lately visit the temple's website  
[Http://www.templeofthehighcountry.org](http://www.templeofthehighcountry.org)  
and find all the updates and happenings