

THE TEMPLE ISRAEL NEWS

ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS VOL. 24 IYYAR 5765 MAY, 2005

RABBI'S THOUGHTS

This year marks the third annual Yom Hashoah program at Temple Israel on Thursday, May 5th at 8:00 PM. Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) has been designated as the “Yom Kaddish Klali,” the day in which we are obligated to say “kaddish” for the millions of souls who were murdered in unknown circumstances, at an unknown time and unknown day. For many individuals, men, women, and children, we have no recorded yartzheit (memorial day) to observe; nor are there survivors who are still around to say “kaddish” for them. Therefore, we gather as a community to discharge our duty to say “kaddish” for all of them in keeping with our tradition. Yom Hashoah in Athol has also become a day in which we invite our non-Jewish friends to come to Temple so that we can affirm the message of “Never Again!” We need to join with other peoples of the world on Yom Hashoah to proclaim our duty to reduce prejudice. The lesson of the Holocaust, if it is to be remembered, is to maintain a world where the “other” is not seen as strange or foreign. Every year we have honored a non-Jew who has done his or her part to reduce prejudice in our community. This year we honor the World War II veterans who did their share in bringing Hitler’s war to an end and effectively shut down the death camps. One of the vets I invited expressed his gratitude to me. “In all of the years I have lived in Athol,” he said, “I never one set foot in Temple Israel. This will be a first for me.” We will also listen to a presentation by Elizabeth Dopazo, a survivor of the Holocaust, whose family was targeted and killed by the Third Reich because they were Jehovah Witnesses. She is an excellent speaker.

In April, a group of us traveled from Athol to New York City to learn about the history of Jewish settlement. One of our stops included “Beis Midrash Hagadol,” the largest synagogue on the Lower East Side and now defunct. Its last rabbi was Rabbi Ephraim Oshry who survived the

Kovno ghetto. He authored a famous book of answers to religious questions during the Holocaust called “From the Depths.” In the book, he is asked questions about whether it is permissible to use sweetened tea on Passover when wine is not available (it wasn’t in the ghetto) or whether or not men doing forced labor away from the ghetto can eat traif soup if no other food is available. One of the more touching stories is a question posed by Jews who attended and observed other Jews shot at gunpoint and pushed into mass graves by the Nazis. The victims were stripped of all their clothing before being killed. Was it permissible under Jewish law to use the discarded clothing of these martyrs? Halacha is strict that a murdered person must be buried with his blood-stained clothing. Rabbi Oshry ruled that the clothing of the martyrs could be used – in fact, it was an honor to them for they would have no greater satisfaction in knowing that fellow Jews could warm their bodies using these garments or sell them for food.

As I looked at the remains of “Beis Midrash Hagadol,” I could only imagine Rabbi Oshry preaching from his pulpit on Shabbat, a model of true leadership in very difficult times. It is for Rabbi Oshry that we also observe Yom Hashoah as a “day of heroism” hence its given name “Yom Hashoah v’ha-Gevurah,” the day of the Holocaust and Heroism. I look forward to your attendance at the May 5th program.

Jon Perlman



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ATHOL-ROYALSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL SPONSORS MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

**“BUILDING BRIDGES OF
UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION
IN OUR COMMUNITY”**

The Athol-Royalston Middle School will hold its third annual Multicultural Festival on Thursday, May 5 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. The festival will celebrate the cultural and ethnic heritage of area students, their families, and our communities. The entire community is invited to attend this free event.

There will be over 50 tables with displays by middle school students and families, religious organizations, and local agencies and organizations which help resolve conflicts, emphasize respect for differences, and work to build community. There will be food to sample, and traditional clothing and artifacts to see.

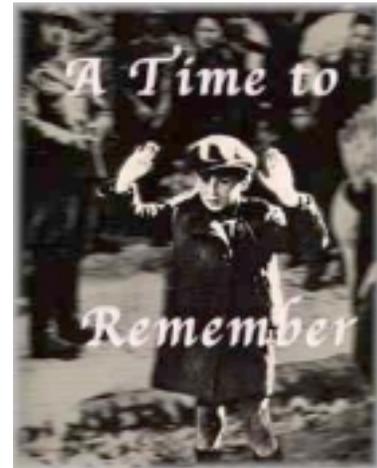
This event is sponsored by the Athol-Royalston Education Foundation, the Athol Cultural Council—a local agency sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council—the Rotary Club of the Athol-Orange Area, and Hannaford Supermarkets.

A Special Note to Temple Israel Members and Friends:

Temple Israel will be setting up a booth at which we plan to share some delicious Jewish delicacies and also share a display of ritual objects from Shabbat and the Jewish holidays.

Last year, the Plotkins and Marons were able to join Mitch in participating in this exciting event. We hope that many of you can be there for all of the festivities this year!

One more note: We are very much in need of volunteers to do any or all of the following: baking or cooking, lending us Jewish items or artwork for display, manning the booth, contributing Jewish CD's, etc. Please contact Mitch Grosky at 978-249-9090 if you are able to help us out. We really need your help if this is to be a success!



Yom Hashoah Holocaust Remembrance Day Thursday, May 5th at 8:00 P.M.

On Thursday evening, May 5, we will have a special evening service and ceremony in observance of Yom Hashoah—Holocaust Memorial Day. On this evening, we remember all of those who lost their lives in the Holocaust.

To quote Rabbi Perlman in his message (printed in its entirety at the beginning of this newsletter), “We say “kaddish” for the millions of souls who were murdered in unknown circumstances, at an

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unknown time and unknown day. . . Yom Hashoah in Athol has also become a day in which we invite our non-Jewish friends to come to Temple so that we can affirm the message of “Never Again!” Rabbi Perlman goes on to say that “We need to join with other peoples of the world on Yom Hashoah to proclaim our duty to reduce prejudice.”

In addition to a meaningful service conducted by the Rabbi, there will be a number of other special activities. This year, at Temple Israel, we pay a special tribute to our World War II veterans who did their share—many risking or giving their lives—to bring “Hitler’s war to an end and effectively shut down the death camps.” There will also be a presentation by Elizabeth Dopazo, a survivor of the Holocaust, whose family was targeted and killed by the Third Reich because they were Jehovah Witnesses.

The evening will conclude with a simple Oneg upstairs, at which time we will all be able to reflect on a program which is sure to be an evening to remember for many years to come.

Please join us for this powerful and emotional service and program.

SHABBATON IYYAR



Friday, May 6th

6:00 PM Dairy Pot Luck Supper

7:00 PM Kabbalat Shabbat Services

Special Note: Dean Cycon will be speaking at Friday evening’s service!

Saturday, May 7th

9:15 AM Meditation

10:00 AM Schacharit Services

10:30 AM Children’s Program

11:30 AM Torah Discussion

12:10 PM Hot Cholent Lunch

8:00 PM Sunset Children’s Torah Talk with the Rabbi

8:30 PM Havdalah



CANDLE-LIGHTING TIMES FOR ATHOL, MA

22 Apr	7:20	3 Jun	8:03
29 Apr	7:28	10 Jun	8:07
6 May	7:35	12 Jun	8:08
13 May	7:43	17 Jun	8:10
20 May	7:50	24 Jun	8:12
27 May	7:57		

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Sunday, June 12th

Shavuot

Family Education Program

Athol's Temple Israel invites all families and friends to a family education program:

The 10 Commandments, The Torah, and Shavuot
Sunday, June 12, 2005 5 Sivan 5765
1:00 – 3:00 pm

with Janice Colbert, family educator
and
Rabbi Jon Perlman

Learn about the meaning and customs of Shavuot

Parallel Learning for Adults and Children
(Children will put on a skit for the adults)

Learn about the 10 Commandments and How to
Personalize Them for Your Family

Make a Jewish Papercut

Make and Eat Your Own Ice Cream Sundae

IMPORTANT:
Please RSVP Janice at
rcolbert@massmed.org
or 413 774-2178 by June 5

PLEASE LEND US A HAND!
PLEASE JOIN TEMPLE ISRAEL'S
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN--AN AMBITIOUS
AND IMPORTANT PLAN TO RAISE \$100,000 FOR
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES FOR OUR TEMPLE!

To make a separate Capital Campaign donation for the building, please send a check to
Temple Israel c/o David Koester
245 Gale Road Warwick, MA 01378.

Thank you, in advance, for your generosity!

Coming events

REMINDERS...THIS MONTH



April 23 First Night of Passover

May 5 Multicultural Festival 6:30 PM
at Athol-Royalston Middle School

Yom Hashoah Service/Program 8:00 PM

May 6-7 Shabbaton (Havdalah 8-8:30)

May 11 Board Meeting - Temple Israel 6:30

AND COMING UP...

June 8 Annual Meeting

June 10-11 Shabbaton - Havdalah 8:30 – 9

June 12 Shavuot Family Program and Community
Torah Study

July 1-2 Shabbaton - Havdalah 8:45-9:15

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There's so much happening these days at Temple Israel -- for adults, for families, for children! Please visit with us, and see what all the excitement is about! We'd love to see you!

For more information, please call Temple Israel in Athol at 978-249-9481. Our new voice mailboxes are now in operation. You may also directly contact President Dr. Myron Maron at 978-724-0238 or Rabbi Jonathan Perlman at 414-736-1033 (home) or 413-739-4715 (work) Ask for Rabbi Perlman.