

THE TEMPLE ISRAEL NEWS

ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS VOL. 6 ADAR II – NISAN 5763 APRIL, 2003

the rich, but also the bread of enslavement.
Going on a hametz-free diet teaches us that we are

RABBI'S MESSAGE for PESACH



I am beginning to pare down the breadstuffs in our house. I am separating out the lasagna noodles and the cookies and the cereal. I am taking an inventory of all that is “hametz” (leavened bread) and I am trying to figure out how I am going to either eat it, give it away, or destroy it before Pesach arrives in two weeks. It is a little *mishgas* that we Jews go through every year before Pesach. After all, the rule is not only are we *not* permitted to eat “hametz,” we are not permitted to have it in our possession. For this reason, some house cleaning is in order. At the end of the day, the bread that you cannot get rid off, says our tradition, you must sell in a fictitious “transfer of ownership.” Please see me after Shabbat next week (April 5), if you wish to sell the remainder of your hametz.

Every year I ask myself, why am I doing this? If it is to inspire us to change our diets and to remember the way the Jewish slaves ate, why limit it to one week a year? After all if hametz is really so terrible, why not eliminate entirely? In other words, why is something that is permitted 51 weeks a year become suddenly prohibited? I think the answer lies in the difference between matza and hametz. Matza has a dual meaning: it is at once the poor bread of the slaves and also the bread of our freedom. Hametz is the soft bread of

not slaves to our possessions. Our things come to possess us in serious ways and rob us of our freedom. Are we working in order to acquire the necessities we need to live or in order to support ourselves in a style we covet? Is acquiring the only way to measure your value as a person? The way to freedom is surrendering that which enslaves us and coming to appreciate how truly blessed we are to live with small gifts. Pesach is orientation to the world: we need to get ready, remove our hametz, and live as free people for a week, surrendering the riches that often come to enslave us.

Getting rid of hametz is just as important as not eating it on Passover and even more important than eating matza during the week of Passover. It is a spiritual house cleaning that prepares us to see the world a little differently.

Shalom,

Jon Perlman

SHABBAT SERVICES AND YOM HASHOAH OBSERVANCE HIGHLIGHT TEMPLE ISRAEL ACTIVITIES IN APRIL

Another **Shabbaton**—and yet another opportunity to enjoy Shabbat as a community—comes on the evening of **Friday, April 4 and on Saturday, April 5**. On Friday evening, we will have a “dairy-vegetarian” potluck dinner at 6:00, followed by a Shabbat service at 7:00 and a delicious Oneg after the service at 8:00. Please give a call to Deborah Leta Habib and Richard Baruc, Dinner Coordinators, at 978-544-7564 to give us an idea of what you plan to bring for the potluck dinner. We are usually particularly in need of main dishes.

THE TEMPLE ISRAEL NEWS

ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS VOL. 6 ADAR II – NISAN 5763 APRIL, 2003

Then, on Saturday morning, we have meditation with Dr. Maron, beginning at 9:15. The Shabbat

service itself will be from 10:00 to 12:00 with a special lunch at noon.



NOTE: Child care for the little ones will be available from 9:15 until lunchtime.

The afternoon will be filled with learning and fellowship. You may join us in singing or learning some traditional Shabbat songs, if you like. We will conclude with some lovely poetry reading and discussion at 6:30 and then a beautiful Ma'ariv/Havdalah service, beginning at approximately 7:00 P.M. Please accept our warm invitation to attend any or all of the components of this wonderful Shabbat.

Note: There will be a Board of Directors meeting immediately following the service at 7:20 p.m. We hope that all board members can attend.

YOM HASHOAH OBSERVANCE HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL SERVICE TO FEATURE ORIGINAL PLAY, MUSIC, AND AWARD CEREMONY

On Monday evening, April 28, we will have a special evening service and ceremony in observance of Yom Hashoah—Holocaust Memorial Day. In addition to a meaningful service conducted by Rabbi Perlman, there will be a number of other special activities.

Among these activities is an outstanding one-man play, written and performed by Athol-Royalston Middle School Teacher, Bill LaRose.

Mr. LaRose, a multi-talented eighth grade social studies teacher and an Athol resident, has been performing this moving play annually at school for the last three years, and we are honored that he has accepted our invitation to perform it in front of our Temple Israel congregation and invited guests.

In addition to this emotionally-riveting dramatic presentation, we are pleased to announce that Joe Kurland, founder and leader of the Wholesale Klezmer Band, will present some special music in memory of the Holocaust.

Another highlight of the evening will be the presentation of a special certificate of appreciation to Athol-Royalston Middle School Teacher, Kathleen Goudie. Mrs. Goudie, an absolutely extraordinary teacher of English, has been teaching an excellent, in-depth unit on the Holocaust to Athol and Royalston students for the past 18- 20 years. Some of the award-winning novels which she uses in connection with the unit include the following: *Daniel's Story*, *Diary of Anne Frank*, *The Devil's Arithmetic*, and *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*. Mrs. Goudie's work has brought meaning to and understanding of the Holocaust to literally thousands of young adults in our community.

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.

ATHOL-ROYALSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL SPONSORS MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL

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

THE TEMPLE ISRAEL NEWS

ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS VOL. 6 ADAR II – NISAN 5763 APRIL, 2003

The 2003 Multicultural Festival sponsored by the Athol-Royalston Middle School, will be a unique

celebration of ethnic cultures through the arts, education, and recreation. It will be held on Thursday evening, May 1, at 6:30 p.m. and will offer a festival atmosphere while providing an exciting educational experience. The event is free and open to students, their parents, and members of the Athol-Royalston community. The evening will feature students, families and community organizations exhibiting arts, crafts, music and food. It is the goal of this event to provide a venue for members of the community to share and celebrate the traditions of their cultural or ethnic heritage.

The Athol-Royalston Middle School has held "Diversity Week" during the month of April in the past. However, this year our school community decided to expand our celebration of diversity beyond its walls to include the greater community as it focuses on encouraging tolerance and values such as respect, caring, cooperation, honesty and responsibility. This Multicultural Festival offers a special opportunity for the whole community to work and learn together to build a bridge of cooperation, understanding and tolerance. This is a time for our community to step out and work for a common goal-- to celebrate our differences!

A musical extravaganza will be featured, with several live performances by local musicians. Athol-Royalston Middle School will come alive with the sound of music. Kimsa, a band performing South American music, and bagpipe music provided by Dr. Thomas G. Cropley, will be highlights. The festival will also include performances by the Athol-Royalston Middle School Chorus. The evening will engage the community in a celebration of diversity and multiculturalism.

This event will be an important place to connect to our roots, our past and to envision the hope of the future. It will be a showcase of community talent, culture and diversity. An array of displays, each

presenting cultural arts and activities will be offered.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Athol Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, Athol-Royalston Educational Foundation, Athol-Orange Savings Bank, Athol-Orange Rotary Club, Athol-Clinton Cooperative Bank and the Institute for Community Building.

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. 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!



Coming
events 

April 4 and 5—Shabbaton Weekend

Wed. and Thurs, April 16 and 17----

First 2 nights (& seders) of Passover

Thurs. April 24—Pesach ends after sunset

THE TEMPLE ISRAEL NEWS

ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS VOL. 6 ADAR II – NISAN 5763 APRIL, 2003

COMING EVENTS CONTINUED
ON NEXT PAGE

Monday, April 28—6:30 p.m.

Yom Hashoah Evening Program
Holocaust Remembrance Day

May 1—6:30 p.m. Multicultural Festival at
Athol-Royalston Middle School

May 2 and 3--Shabbaton Weekend

May 18—Sunday--Lag Ba-Omer

(Think “Jewish Field Day”-Fun &
Games) Joint celebration of the
holiday in Warwick with
Greenfield’s Temple Israel. Details
to follow....Volunteers Needed!
Please call Emily Koester, Event
Coordinator, at 978-544-3135 in
order to volunteer.

For more information, please call Temple Israel in Athol at 978-249-9481 or contact Co-presidents Dr. Myron Maron at 978-724-0238 or Mitchell Grosky at 978-249-9090.

*Happy
Passover*