

MARCH 2016

Volume 7 Issue 1

TOHC MISSION

Our mission is to be a spiritual, educational, and social home for our Jewish community and to enhance the lives of our congregants and community at large. As we embrace our Jewish traditions, we are able to support one another through times of sadness and joy as well as further the Jewish vision of worldwide justice and peace.

Chai Times

TEMPLE OF THE HIGH COUNTRY



President's Message

Several weeks ago I came into my house from snow, sleet, gusts topping over 40, with a stack of wood for my wood stove. It really isn't all that bad, but I wanted to make the Floridians feel sorry for me.

As a recap we had a great Chanukah party with about 50 people in attendance. Many people contributed to make it a success.

The Temple will be having a Purim Party on Saturday evening March 26th. Eating and costumes will be the standard fare that evening. Rabbi Roberts will be here that weekend, to help with the festivities.

The Temple of the High Country will have a Community Seder for the 2nd night of Passover on Saturday April 23rd. It will be catered once again by Reid's Catering. Kudos must go out to Marilyn Kyle and Leigh Girard for organizing this event.

For this year's Yom HaShoah commemorations, the Temple of the High Country will work with ASU's Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies and ASU's Hillel chapter. There will be a number of events to which Temple members and the public at large are invited.

The commemorations will begin with a play by a second-generation Holocaust survivor and an educational program on Germans of Jewish ancestry in the Holocaust on Saturday, April 30. This program will begin at 7:30 pm at the Blue Ridge Ballroom (PSU 201 AB).

On May 5, Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Memorial Day), the Center, Temple and their partners will organize a public reading of the names of European Jews murdered by the Germans during the Holocaust on the ASU campus.

President's Message Continued.....

As we are now into March, the weather should be changing for the better, and Temple activities will start to increase. I am extending an invitation to any congregant who might have an interest in running for a Temple Board position to please contact Renee at the Temple and provide her with your contact info. In my 3 years as Temple President, besides saying some lame jokes, I have harped on the themes of inclusion and commitment. I am challenging the congregation to step up, take a position and help our temple to grow and prosper.

On May 6th, Hillel will be conducting their last service until the fall. Dr. Sheri Everts, Chancellor of Appalachian State University, will be our honored guest that evening. If you have not had the pleasure of participating in one of their services, perhaps you will be able to attend that evening. The service starts at 6:00 with a dinner to follow.

Elaine and I wish you and your family a Happy Purim and Passover, wherever our Temple family might be.

News from the Sisterhood....

By Rosemary Horowitz

Undeterred by December's very hectic schedule--the Chanukah party on Sunday, December 6th and the Hospitality House dinner on Friday, December 25th--sisterhood members continue to stay active. In January, we watched *The Women In Gold*, a film based on the true story of Maria Altmann and her lawyer who fought and won their case against the Austrian government to reclaim Gustav Klimt's painting of Altmann's aunt, which was stolen by the Nazis. In February, we welcomed Chuck Lieberman as our guest speaker. Guided by his mentor, the rabbi of Chelm, Chuck Lieberman read from his book *Annals of the North Carolina Jewish Christmas Tree Growers Association, Volume I: The Early Years*. Chuck's stories from his farm and other parts of his life are both entertaining and thought-provoking. Wanting to recognize the many talents and interesting experiences of our members, the board designated the March meeting as a get-to-know-each-other-better potluck of soup, salad, and sandwiches. The time together will allow us to learn about each other in more depth.

With Pesach approaching, plans are underway for our women's seder. For those who don't know, the first women's seder was held in 1975 in Israel by Esther Broner and some friends and has become somewhat of a world-wide tradition. Boone women were introduced to the idea by Marla Gentile several years ago. Our first ones were led by Marla and hosted by Sonny Harris and Judy Feinberg. This year, Carol Ann Mitchell, Nancy Dennett, and I will be conducting the service on Sunday, April 17th starting at noon at the temple. All sisterhood members are invited to help and/or attend. In fact, we welcome you to join us for any activity. For more information, contact me at tohcsisterhood@gmail.com

Rabbi's Message.....

Elections matter. Who heads a government matters. Purim and Passover, our two upcoming spring holidays, are testament to this fact.

The Purim and Passover stories are both accounts about what happens when a leader in government abuses power. In one case, Purim, the leader authorizes genocide. In the other case, Passover, the leader enslaves a whole group of people – the Israelites. Further, the leader orders the death of all newly born male babies – genocide as well.

The Purim and Passover stories are also about courageous women willing to risk their own lives to confront governments. In the story of our enslavement in Egypt, we learn about Shifrah and Puah, two midwives who take on the Egyptian government by refusing to participate in genocide. They find ways to defy the government by not killing newborn Israelite male babies. In the Purim story, in the Book of Esther, we follow as Esther (her Hebrew name was Hadassah) as she risks her own life repeatedly to save the Jewish people. Without Shifrah and Puah there would have been no Moses and no freedom from Egypt. Without Esther, there would have been no Israelites/no Jewish people left.

Who heads a government really matters. We, the Jewish people, know this from both our ancient history mentioned above and our recent history, as with the Holocaust. We are reminded that Hitler was originally elected to head his government in a democratic election. He told people what he planned on doing. He was clear prior to the election. Unfortunately, most people just did not believe that he would follow through. But he did. Six million Jews died in the Holocaust.

Elections matter. Who heads a government matters. In this presidential primary election season I encourage you to remember our stories of Purim and Passover. Vote wisely. AND, when we celebrate Purim and Passover, use the holy days as opportunities to teach about three amazing women who took on evil governments and changed the world for the better.

Rabbi Stephen Roberts.

RECENT DONATIONS

Donations Made to Honor Someone:

Howard & Maxine Garbo donated in honor of Robert & Sandra Drobner's Anniversary
Bob & Sandy Testani donated in honor of Chuck Lieberman and his dedication to TOHC
Dr. & Mrs. Richard Hines Jr. donated in honor of Ted Silver & Carol Berns

Donations Made in Memory of Someone:

Michael & Susan Hoffman donated in memory of Charlotte

A Special Thank You.....

To Mr. Leslie & Mrs. Joan Berman for completing their pledge payments to TOHC!
We thank you both for your continual support of our Temple. We are blessed to have so many wonderful congregants that donate and pledge money to the Temple of the High Country!

Thank You to all of our Donors!

Giving a donation to the Temple of the High Country , contributes to the ongoing programs and services that are provided by our Temple. It is also a wonderful way to show someone that you care!

Honor a friend or family member on any occasion, a birthday, anniversary, graduation, birth of a baby, or other special time, by making a donation to the Temple of the High Country in their name. A card will be sent from the Temple stating that the donation was made and will not specify a monetary amount. Please contact the Temple office at 828.266.9777 or Renee@TempleOfTheHighCountry.org for more information.

Yom HaShoah

For this year's Yom HaShoah commemorations, the Temple of the High Country will work with ASU's Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies, ASU's Hillel chapter, the NC Council on the Holocaust and various partners in Charlotte, including Temple Beth El, and organize a number of events to which Temple members and the public at large are invited.

The Days of Remembrance will start with a play by a second-generation Holocaust survivor and an educational program on Germans of Jewish ancestry in the Holocaust on Saturday, April 30. This program will begin at 7:30 pm at the Blue Ridge Ballroom (PSU 201 AB). It revolves around the Mitzvah Project, a one-person play performed by Roger Grunwald, an acclaimed actor and child of survivor who co-wrote the piece with Broadway veteran and director Annie McGreevey. The play tells the tragic story of Christoph Rosenberg, a German half-Jew who became a decorated officer in Hitler's army. The 30-minute play is followed by a panel discussion with the artist, Dr. John Cox, the director of UNCC's Holocaust, Genocide & Human Rights Studies, and Dr. Thomas Pegelow Kaplan, the director of ASU's Center for Judaic, Holocaust, and Peace Studies.

On May 5, Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Memorial Day), the Center, Temple and ASU Hillel will organize a public reading of the names of European Jews murdered by the Germans during the Holocaust on the ASU campus. This reading is scheduled to take place from 10:00 am until 6:00 pm in front of ASU's Belk Library and Information Commons. A ceremony that encompasses the lighting of candles, saying of the mourner's Kaddish and singing of the Hatikvah will conclude the readings, starting at 6:00 pm. Temple members, students, staff, faculty, and the Boone community are invited to sign up for one of the ten-minute reading slots ahead of time and participate. The sign-up sheet will be available at the Center's website at

<http://holocaust.appstate.edu/>. We hope that many Temple and community members will participate, linger and contemplate for as long as they like, and return to the 6:00 pm ceremony led by Temple President Skip Rackmill and Hillel President Jaycob Kitain.

For more information, please call 828.262.2311 or email thomaspegelowkaplan@appstate.edu

Now Available....

The Temple has 2 cemetery plots available in the Jewish section of Mount Lawn Cemetery in Boone, NC. They are for sale for \$1000 each (which is below market value). If you are interested in purchasing one of these beautiful plots, please call the Temple office at 828.266.9777.

Upcoming Events

TOHC Community Seder

TOHC is hosting our annual Community Seder on April 23rd 2016 at 6pm. Please keep an eye out for our emails with Seder information being sent out soon. Reservations are required. An RSVP form and menu will be emailed to everyone on our email list, they are also available in the Temple lobby. We look forward to seeing our whole community at the Seder!

TOHC Services & Events March 2016

Services:

Friday March 4th at 7pm

Saturday March 12th at 10:30am

Friday March 18th at 6pm – Service led by ASU Hillel & a potluck dinner to follow

Saturday March 26th at 10:30am

Purim Party:

Mark your calendars! Saturday March 26th we will be hosting the annual TOHC Purim Party. This party is always a lot of fun, so we hope everyone can join us. As we get closer to March 26th more information about this event will be sent out.

Sisterhood Meeting:

The Sisterhood meeting on Sunday March 13th at 1pm will be a soup, salad, and sandwich potluck with a get-to-know-each-other program.

Hillel Service & Potluck:

Join us on Friday March 18th starting at 6pm! ASU Hillel Students will be leading service and afterwards we will host a potluck dinner. Show your support of these amazing students by attending and bringing a non-dairy side dish, salad or dessert to share!

Board Meeting:

Sunday March 13th at 10am.

Mahjong:

Wednesdays at 1pm, dependent on weather and sisterhood attendees.