

# KESHER

Our Seventy-Fourth  
Year!

## FROM RABBI SAM

### While We Wait

In the movie "Oh God", God (played by George Burns) is asked to give the ultimate meaning of human life. He begins to answer, "Life is like a glass of tea... No, I'd better not go for laughs!" He is, of course, referring to an old Jewish joke where two men are sitting in a café. One says to the other, "Life is like a glass of tea without lemon or sugar." The other responds, "What do you mean, 'life is like a glass of tea without lemon or sugar'?" The first one then shoots back, "How should I know? Am I a philosopher?"

This is reflective of the traditional Jewish attitude toward the ultimately unanswerable philosophical and theological questions. Judaism through the Rabbis did not develop a body of mandated theological and philosophical answers to the mysteries of life. Instead, the Halacha was developed to teach us how to live well; even if we did not know with any certainty why to live well. The answers to the why questions that were offered in the traditional literature were often many and varied. What they had in common was the underlying view that, if the answer worked to inspire a better life then it was a good Jewish answer.

When the Rabbis of the Talmud would reach an impasse on such questions where they could not achieve consensus - and, indeed, where consensus was not necessary in a practical sense - they would say, "TEKU". The answer would have to wait for the coming of Elijah, who would answer all the previously unanswerable questions.

This was applied in some cases even to certain practical questions. One major example of this is the question of the number of cups we are required to drink at the Passover Seder. The original four cups were held to be symbolic of the four

promises (Exodus 6:6-7) God made to Israel at the time of the Exodus from Egypt. These four promises were fulfilled at the beginning of the 40 years, prior to the wanderings. There is, however, a fifth promise (vs. 8) which was not fulfilled until the end of the 40<sup>th</sup> year of the wanderings. Some Rabbis felt that this promise needed its own cup and others claimed that it was not part of the original relationship between God and Israel. So the debate raged as to whether there should be 4 or 5 cups at the Seder. The final answer was TEKU and the 5<sup>th</sup> cup became the cup of Elijah.

Elijah's cup is not, therefore, one for Elijah to come to our Seder and drink. Rather it is a challenge to each of us as to how to live in the paradox of life. When faced with an apparent dilemma of mutually exclusive actions, how do we move on? We cannot drink both 4 cups and 5 cups of wine at the Seder. If we waited for Elijah to resolve the conflict for us, we would be frozen into inaction. The Rabbis said to consume 4 cups each (as individuals) and to have one cup that is a reflection of shared community (the 5<sup>th</sup> cup). Thus, whichever Elijah tells us we were to have done (4 or 5), we can say, "We did!" We had 4 cups each for ourselves. Or, we had 4 cups each plus one as a community for a total of 5 each. It is my custom at seders, therefore, not to fill the cup in advance. Rather all donate a few drops and watch the cup fill. Truly the cup becomes a communal cup overflowing with wine.

What then is the meaning of life? As George Burns says, in a good Jewish / Victor Frankl answer: "The meaning of life is what we choose to make of it; no more and no less." That is, we create the meaning in how we face the issues and dilemmas and how we decide to deal with the apparent contradictions we see. We do not need to wait for the final answer. We can use the answers for now that make the world around us a more livable place.

**Temple Israel Board of Trustees—2011-2012**

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**TEMPLE OFFICE HOURS:**

**Monday—Wednesday, Friday**  
**9:00 am– 1:30 pm**

**Thursday**  
**1:00 pm– 6:00 pm**

**PASSOVER SEDERS**

Friday      April 6      Evening      First Seder (box below)

Saturday      April 7      6:00      Community Seder

**For more information or to register for the Seder  
please contact: [templeoffice@dovertemple.org](mailto:templeoffice@dovertemple.org)**

**KESHER**

*Kesher*, Connection,  
is the newsletter  
of Temple Israel  
Dover, NH.

Ideas for submissions and letters to the editor are welcomed from members of the Temple Israel family and from others who wish to communicate with the congregation.

All communication with the Editor should be by e-mail. Publication is limited by editorial and space considerations.

The deadline for submission is the twentieth (20th) of the month for the following month's issue of *Kesher*.

**mail to:**

Tammy Fascetta  
TempleOffice

[@dovertemple.org](mailto:@dovertemple.org)  
or

Rabbi Sam Seicol  
[rabbisam@dovertemple.org](mailto:rabbisam@dovertemple.org)

**SEDER HOSTING**

**If you have space at you Seder or would like to be invited to join in a family home Seder, we can help!**

**UNH students, young adults living alone, singles, and small families often feel left out on Passover. If you are in this group we want you to enjoy a Seder on the first night. If you have a big Seder and have room for a few more, please open your home.**

**If you have Seder space or would like to be invited, contact Rabbi Sam — [rabbisam@dovertemple.org](mailto:rabbisam@dovertemple.org)**

**A Seder matching form for hosts and guests  
is posted on the website.**

**Simply fill it out and return it to  
the Temple Office**

**THANK YOU TO  
OUR ONEG HOSTS**

**April 6**  
No Services — 1st Seder Have a healthy and Happy Pesach

**April 13**  
Sharon and Steve Brody, Ruth and Larry Gray

**April 20**  
Carol and Francis Birch, Heidi and Sidney Kotlus

**April 27**  
Potluck Oneg — School vacation week

**May 4**  
Pre K- Grade 2 Families and McDonald family  
in honor of Ben celebrating becoming a Bar Mitzvah

**May 11**  
Janice and Eric Miller, Razel and Keith Kallberg

**May 18**  
Beth and Scot Sakelarios, Erica and John Tauriello

**May 25**  
Potluck Oneg — Memorial Day Weekend

*All are encouraged to honor the memory of loved ones and to offer tribute to friends, relatives and community members through a donation to one or more of the special funds.*

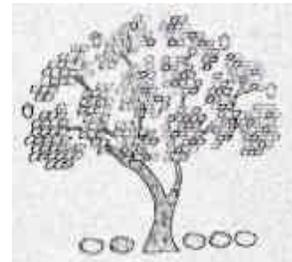
*We express our grateful appreciation to:*

***Yahrzeit Donation***

Marilyn & Alvin Mars  
in memory of Mary Mars

**ONEG SHABBAT HOSTS**

If you are unable to host the Oneg Shabbat on the night assigned to you, please find a substitute by trading with another family from the membership directory. If you need to change your assigned date, please notify  
Cathi Cherry-Liston 603-312-0152, 603-269-4888  
ccherryliston@yahoo.com  
or Susan Shepcaro 603-964-7959



**Please consider marking special occasions and milestones along the path of life for you or members of your family by purchasing a leaf on the Tree of Life.**

**The rocks in the Sanctuary can celebrate joyous occasions or honor the memory of a loved one.**

**For more information, contact:  
Tammy Fascetta in the Temple office.**



**Mazal Tov**

to our members celebrating happy occasions in April!

**Birthdays**

- Michael Blackman (2), Stephen Giguere (3),  
John D. Taurello (3), Rebecca Costa (9),  
Nancy Cherim (10), Jonathan Robbins (10),  
Polly Flagg (16), Benjamin Titus (18),  
Sid Kotlus (20), Steve Goren (20),  
Deborah Oshman (23), Andrew Diengott (25),  
Molly Samson (27), Stacey Smith Jackson (29)

**Anniversaries**

Pamela & Stephen Giguere (25)

# Calling all HS Seniors

## Hold the Date

**Saturday May 26**

**6:00 Dinner**

**7:00 Shavuot Service**

**In honor of all our  
High School Seniors**

## Upcoming B'nei/B'not Mitzvah

**April 21 Daniel Fishbein**

**May 5 Ben McDonald**

**June 2 Annie Yanofsky**



### Hospital Visits:

### Please keep us informed!

Due to national privacy laws, hospitals are not allowed to call congregations to inform them that their members have been admitted as patients.

If you know you are going to be in the hospital please call the Temple office. If you unexpectedly find yourself in the hospital, please tell a nurse that you would like to see the hospital chaplain, who can call the Temple to let us know that you are there.

Rabbi Sam and all the Temple Israel community would like to offer support and comfort to you and your family.

(From the files of Ann Isacoff at Langdon Place)

### "Men are just Happier People".....because:

1. The garage is all yours.
2. Wedding plans take care of themselves
3. Chocolate is just another snack food
4. You can be president
5. You can never be pregnant
6. You can wear a white T shirt to a water park
7. You can wear NO T Shirt to a water park
8. Car mechanics tell you the truth
9. You never have to drive to another gas station restroom because this one is just too icky
10. Wrinkles add character
11. Wedding Dress \$5000. Tux rental \$100.
12. People never stare at your chest when talking to you
13. Phone conversations are over in 30 seconds flat
14. A five day vacation requires only one suitcase.
15. Your underwear is \$8.95 for a three pack
16. You almost never have strap problems in public
17. You only have to shave your face and neck
18. Your belly usually hides your big hips
19. You can do your nails with a pocket knife
20. If someone forgets to invite you, he or she can still be your friend

**(No wonder men are happier)**

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# April 2012

## Happening at Temple Israel of Dover

- 01 NH Jewish Community trip to NYC  
NH Federation/Temple Day of Good Deeds
- 05 4:00 Family Program — Making the Seder Meaningful
- 06 No Shabbat Services – 1<sup>st</sup> Seder night
- 07 10:30 Passover/Shabbat Morning Service  
6:00 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Seder night – Community Seder
- 06 – 13 Passover
- 12 4:00 Religious School Classes
- 13 7:30 Shabbat Service with guest singer Sue Horowitz
- 14 10:30 Shabbat Study – Song of Songs  
2:30 Understanding Judaism (at the Bagelry in Durham)
- 19 Yom HaShoah
- 19 4:00 Yom HaShoah Family Program
- 20 7:30 Shabbat Service
- 21 10:30 Bar Mitzvah – Daniel Fishbein  
2:30 Understanding Judaism (at the Bagelry in Durham)
- 22 9:00 Brotherhood get together for B & L
- 25 Yom HaAtzma'ut program in Manchester
- 26 Yom HaAtzma'ut  
No Religious School – School Vacation
- 27 7:30 Shabbat Service
- 28 10:30 Shabbat Morning Study – Lev 9-15  
2:30 Understanding Judaism (at the Bagelry in Durham)

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**Welcome  
New Members**

Joel Lafargue

### Members in the News

#### JCC Association Announces Award Winners

Rabbi Alvin Mars will receive the Morton L. Mandel  
Jewish Education Leadership Award

# Dover Comedy Dinner Theater

at: Temple Israel 36 Olive Meadow Lane (formerly 515 Sixth St) Dover NH

Saturday, June 16, 2012

Cocktails @ 6:00pm - Dinner @ 7:00pm - Show @ 8:00pm  
\$40.00 per person - \$320.00 for a table of 8

Please call the Temple office at 742-3976 to reserve your seat(s)

*We have not moved*

**Only our address has changed**

We are still at what was formerly 515 Sixth Street. We are now a part of the neighborhood association that includes the owners of all the new houses that have been developed (and the few yet to be built) on the lower end of our former property. With the development of the new houses, came the establishment of a new Dover street — Olive Meadow Lane. Olive trees are special and protected in Israel. We requested and received number 36 (double Chai — 18 use numero-letters meaning “life” in Hebrew).

**Thus our new address is: 36 Olive Meadow Lane**

**Did you know that the Dover Chapter of Hadassah has cards and certificates available for purchase?**

Proceeds from the sales of these attractive certificates and lovely cards support Hadassah's many projects and programs in Israel and throughout the world, and the price is right for each certificate and card.

Here is a sample of one of the many cards available:



If you would like to order a greeting card — Bar or Bat Mitzvah, Congratulations or Mazel Tov, Birthday, Get Well, Sympathy, Thank You, Wedding or Holiday (New Year or Rosh Hashanah), or even note cards — let me know.

Certificates can also be purchased to honor or remember a loved one or commemorate a special Simcha, mark a Milestone, or make a Memorial Tribute.

**For more information or to order a card or certificate please contact Donna M. Goldfarb (603) 749-3293. It is best to call to talk about how you would like your card prepared, as well as to provide the appropriate addresses. In most cases, cards will be sent out the day they are ordered.**

## Sisterhood News

Are you looking for good gifts  
for up-coming simchas?

### Shop at the Temple Gift Shop

Would you like to share  
in friendship, learning, and events  
with other women?

### Consider joining the Sisterhood

For more information  
call Leslie 580-1871

## Brotherhood News

We enjoy getting together monthly over a coffee  
and bagel breakfast. We are excited about our  
events for the coming year.

- April 1                      Trip to New York
- April 22                     9 AM — Breakfast

### Coming later in the year

- June 16                     Dinner Theatre evening
- Jewish Food and Music Festival

## Temple Israel in the Community

### Dover Friendly Kitchen

**MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!**

**PLEASE JOIN THE CONGREGATIONAL & COMMUNITY!!!**

Temple Members serve dinner at the Dover Friendly Kitchen on the first Tuesday of each month at St. Thomas Church Parish Hall on Locust Street. Temple Israel's effort needs people to help cook, serve and clean. We are there from 3:45 until around 6:15. Volunteers do not need to come for the whole time. For more information or to let me know if you plan to attend, please contact me. We welcome everyone's help! Thank you!

*Andra Welch, Coordinator*

abbwelch@yahoo.com or 534-4142

### The Dover SHARE Fund

directly assists local residents  
with needs that cannot be met  
through other helping agencies,  
providing them with shelter  
and support for utilities and medical care.  
Your support is appreciated!

[www.dovershare.org](http://www.dovershare.org)

### Temple Israel Mitzvah Project

Please bring food items that can be do-  
nated to the Dover Food Pantry at any  
time. We would like to continue our ge-  
nerosity to people in need throughout the  
year. Your help in this act of tzedakah  
(righteous giving) and g'milut chasadim  
(acts of loving kindness) is appreciated!!!

### Temple Israel of Dover is active in cyberspace!

All are welcome to join us on Facebook, "Friends of Temple Israel of Dover NH,"  
established by Marc Hiller.

**Currently, this group can only be viewed by facebook members.**

We are also listed among the organizations at  
<http://www.interfaithfamily.com/elgg/pg/groups/2598/temple-israel/>

## Temple Israel of Dover

36 Olive Meadow lane  
P. O. Box 254  
Dover, N. H. 03821  
(603) 742-3976  
templeoffice@  
dovertemple.org  
www.dovertemple.org



*Temple Israel is a vibrant Reform Jewish congregation. We welcome all who wish to participate in Jewish study, worship, and fellowship. Our mission is to be a center for Jewish tradition, Shabbat and holiday services and programs, sharing of life-cycle events, opportunities for Jewish education for all ages, connection to Israel, and involvement in the wider Jewish world and support for all who are in need.*

*Temple Israel is a proud member of the URJ (Union for Reform Judaism) We join with more than 800 congregations in the Reform synagogue movement.*

*President:*  
Carole Krassner  
c.krassner@comcast.net  
*Rabbi:*  
Sam Seicol  
rabbisam@dovertemple.org  
*Administrative Assistant:*  
Tammy Fascetta  
TempleOffice@  
dovertemple.org

## News from the School — April

Regular classes are held Thursday afternoons.

Special family programs are planned around holiday times. Saturday morning study programs offer additional education for all students and adults.

**05 4:00 Family Program — Passover**

**12 4:00 Visit with Ore Ayah Dagan**

**19 4:00 Temple Community Program  
Yom HaShoah Observance**

**26 NO RELIGIOUS SCHOOL — VACATION**

**May 04 6:00 Shabbat Dinner 7:00 Service  
In honor of the preK — 2nd grade students**

### APRIL YAHRZEITS

**Week of April 7:** Irving Sternberg (1), Esther Issokson (1), Gil Victor Ornelas (2), Harry Pastor (2), Millicent Goodstein (4), Christine L. Kennon (5), Jean Willens (5), Nathan Mandell (5)

**Week of April 14:** Rose B. Kates (8), Reuben Weinstein (11), Irving Oshman (11), Sidney Goren (12), Morris A. Fox (12), Sam Ollar (12), Richard F. Morse (13), Marcia J. Feinberg (14), Sarah Mendelovtiz (14)

**Week of April 21:** Ruth Issokson (16), Lillian Lane (16), Judith Kramer (16), Bess Issokson (16), Sylvia Allen (17), Samuel Abeles (17), Frieda Osman (18), Morris Rotman (20), Dorothy Pearlstein (21), Morris S. Rosen (21), George James White (21), Leah Osman (21), Francis Brown (21)

**Week of April 28:** Rose Esther Weinstein (23), Louis Baumstein (25), Jules Philips (25), Lee Gunst (26), Bessie Kemler (26), Ruth Kram (26)

**Week of May 5:** Lloyd Amann Gage (29), Grace Turner (29), James Dieterich (29), Jackson Pastor (30), Douglas Hamilton (30), Lillian Hirsch (1), Louis Weinstein (1), Sarah Fisher (1), Herbert Turner (1), Nathan Balansky (3), Michael Shine (3), Bernard A. Black (3), Evelyn M. Miller (3), Ida Fox (4)

**NOTE:** *Yahrzeits are recorded according to the Hebrew date, so the English date will vary from year to year. Kaddish in the Synagogue may be recited on the Shabbat following the date of remembrance.*

*It is traditional to make a donation in memory of the Yahrzeit of a love one. To make a donation, please contact the Temple Office.*

### Memorial Wall



Members may add names of loved ones or reserve spaces on the new memorial wall with a minimum contribution of \$300. Please contact the Temple Office for more information.