



# Our Temple

April 2005

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom

Vol. 41 No. 8

## Notes from the President

# Passover message grows in importance

By **Scott Bram**  
*President*

Happy Passover from my family to all of you. This holiday is one of my favorites. I really enjoy the festive meal with the opportunity for everyone to participate. The story of our struggle for freedom and the subsequent difficulties

involved in turning ourselves from slaves to an independent nation has always been filled with powerful messages.

Freedom, even today, cannot be taken for granted. There are plenty of people who would be willing to fight and die in order to impose their rule and beliefs on us. We read about how they kill and

maim in their fight for power almost everyday. The struggle for freedom and democracy is going on in spots all over the world.

Furthermore, once freedom is gained, it doesn't mean that society has it easy. Many "free" countries are plagued by

*(Continued on page 3)*

## From the Rabbi's Study

# Crunch time is near for matzah hater

I hate matzah. It might be a heretical thing to say, but it is true. Holly and the girls love it and they look forward to getting their yearly fix during Passover. They like it with butter, peanut butter,

**Rabbi Brian  
Michelson**

covered with cheese or with nothing on it at all. To me, it is dry, tasteless, and has the

flavor of the cardboard box in which it comes. I eat just enough to get by for the holiday, and I am glad to see it go when Passover ends. However, the feeling is mutual, because the matzah doesn't like

me either.

There is a tradition that in the days leading up to Pesach, we are not to eat matzah in order to anticipate the first taste of matzah during the Seder. During the Seder, we are reminded that matzah is the food of our poor ancestors. This is what they ate when they took flight out of the land of Israel. It is our obligation to see ourselves as if we had traveled with our people from slavery to freedom. We read towards the beginning of the Seder, "This is the poor bread my ancestors ate when they came forth out of the land of Egypt.

Let all who are hungry come and eat, let all those in need share the bounty of our Seder table. This year we are slaves. Next year, may we all be free."

On Seder night, family surrounds us and our tables are set beautifully. This is often the one time of the year the fancy dishes and flatware are used. Very little of what we do reminds us of poverty or lack, yet one of the central symbols of this meal is a reminder of poverty. We are reminded that in the midst of plenty we should never forget how lucky we are. My dislike of matzah is a luxury. Those who truly know what hunger is understand that when you have nothing, anything, even matzah, is a wonderful thing.

Therefore, as we sit with our family, friends, and community, let us remember those in our community, in our country, and in our world who are not as fortunate as we are. Let us share the blessings we have received with those in need. Bring some food in for the food bank or donate to Mazon, as we remember to count our blessings and help God to make the world we live in a better place.

## April Highlights

**Friday, April 1:** New member Shabbat, 6 p.m.

**Saturday, April 2:** Shabbat service, 10 a.m.

**Sunday, April 3:** Blood drive, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Sunday, April 10:** Sisterhood tea and spring meeting, 4 p.m.

**Saturday, April 16:** Tot Shabbat, 10 a.m.;

Tessa Cohen Bat Mitzvah, 5 p.m.

**Sunday, April 17:** Men's Club, 9:30 a.m.

Kauffman's Chicken Bar-BQ, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Saturday, April 23:** First night Seder at RCOS, 6 p.m.

**Sunday, April 24:** Second night Seder, Keshet Zion

**Saturday, April 30:** Chocolate Seder at RCOS, 5:30-7 p.m.

**Friday night services at 7:45 unless otherwise noted**

**Babysitting available at all services**

*Bulletin sponsored by*

*Eva Bartos*

*in memory of Emile Bartos*



**Religious School News**

# Students going strong as year flies by

**By Beth Bruck and Cheryl Spillerman**  
*Religious School Administrators*

Though everyone is glad to see signs of spring, the school year always seems to fly by too quickly, and this year is no exception. We have accomplished a lot, but there is so much more to plan and do before the year ends.

We had a great time celebrating Purim, and now we need to get ready for Passover. On Sunday, April 17, we will be having our Model Seder. Details will be going out in the mail and watch for Religious School handouts as well.

The classes are continuing to work on their mitzvah projects.

The fifth grade has decided to do their part to support our troops overseas. We have the names (and pictures) of two

local men who are serving in the armed forces in Kuwait and Afghanistan. The students will be writing letters to them over the next two months.

We have also begun collecting toiletry and snack items the soldiers have requested. There will be a list of these items on the Religious School bulletin board if anyone is interested in contributing to the cause.

The seventh grade did a great job with their mitzvah project. They collected old cell phones to help victims of domestic violence and the frail elderly.

Report cards were mailed to the parents of all students in grades 1 through 7. If you have not yet signed and returned the bottom portion, please do so as soon as possible.

Fifth grade students will conduct Shabbat services on Friday, April 8 and the seventh grade Shabbat service has been rescheduled for Friday, April 15. Hope to see everyone there.

**Dates To Remember**

**April 3 and 17:** Pre K, Kindergarten and Confirmation

**April 8:** Grade 5 Shabbat Service

**April 15:** Grade 7 Shabbat Service

**April 16:** Bat Mitzvah of Tessa Cohn

**April 17:** Model Seder

**April 24:** No Religious School – Passover

**April 28:** No Hebrew School – Passover  
Mazel Tov to the Cohn Family on Tessa’s Bat Mitzvah!

Best wishes to those celebrating April birthdays – Gabriella Michelson, Marissa

## Perpetual Memorials

**April 3 to April 9**

Bertha Goldsmith  
Edward Miller  
Anne Coopersmith  
Amalie Schulhoff Feist  
J. Thomas Sher  
Edward L. Berger

**April 10 to April 16**

Irma Camperlik  
Olga S. Lurio  
Bertha Hammel  
Louise C. Wolper  
Sandel Bernheimer  
Ruth W. Frank  
Ella L. Goldsmith  
Hildegard Weinberg

**April 17 to April 23**

Meyer Liefert  
Herman Bodenheimer  
Jacob Weil  
Sara Ada Cohn  
Arthur Hammel  
Charles Hyman  
Herman Lightman

**April 24 to April 30**

William A. Miller  
Mary P. Isaacs  
Jodi Robin Juceam  
Beatrice Hammel  
Joseph Weinberg  
Karl Camperlik

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**Next deadline, April 5**

**May-June issue is last until September**

## The Temple Online

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

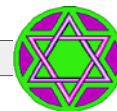
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## Men's Club News

# Is anybody reading this???

**By David Goldstein**

*Mens' Club president*

As I sit here and write this column, I am forced to ask myself the question, "Is anybody reading this?" As we try and build a better Men's Club, and create a certain level of interest, and get people to participate in their community, I really have to wonder. I wonder because I feel as if we are failing and I can't figure out why. What are we doing wrong? We have interesting speakers on topics such as target shooting and interfaith marriage,

but no one comes. We have bagels and lox for all who could want it. And being the eternal optimists that we are, we always set the table for 30 people even though only 10 show up.

What do you want from us? What can we do for you?

We have asked the Sisterhood about what works for them and have come to discover that they are in the same straits as us, just better off financially. Very recently, they had their "Thank You Breakfast" for all their paid up

members. About 40 women showed up. What a wonderful turnout. But it begs the question, which was asked by one of their members: Where were all of these people for the meetings without the free breakfast?

It is a legitimate question. What does it take to make you want to come out and participate?

Inquiring minds want to know...

Anyway, see you at the April 17 meeting at 9:30 a.m., just before the Kauffman Chicken sale. Rabbi Michelson

## Sisterhood news

# Thanks for supporting our recent activities

**By Carol Freed and Karen Robinson**

Hello everyone! First and foremost we would like to thank everyone for supporting our Purim Box fund-raiser. We hope you all enjoyed them.

We also want to thank all Sisterhood members who attended the "Thank You Breakfast" on March 13. Everyone had a wonderful time...yummy food catered by Lasting Impressions, fun entertainment by Tony Farina and great company...what

more can you ask for?!?!

Sisterhood Shabbat was held Friday, March 18. Thanks to all who participated in the service and those who baked the wonderful desserts for the Oneg.

Look for your invitation in the mail for Comedy Night which will be on Saturday, May 21, at 8 p.m. We all had a wonderful time the past two years and we expect to continue that tradition!

Start cleaning out your closets...the

annual Sisterhood Rummage Sale will be in July. Adrienne Cardinal will be working hard on this as she does every year...Adrienne, we really appreciate your efforts!! Watch for the flyer as the date gets closer.

Don't forget to stop by the gift shop to see all the fabulous merchandise available for sale. Linda Bram is doing a marvelous job purchasing the most unique items for the shop...so next time you're at the

## **PRESIDENT**

*(Continued from page 1)*

crime, drugs, inequality, apathy, depression and despair. Being able to say and do what you want does not ensure happiness. A free community must also be caring, compassionate, and educating. You need freedom to be able to live a

normal life.

However, you need to foster a loving, caring environment in order to get the most joy out of life for yourself and for those around you. Only then can society and civilization advance to that highest level that the Torah speaks of where

peace, joy, and happiness reign supreme.

The pathway to start you off on this enlightening journey begins at the Temple. The philosophies and tenets of Reform Judaism provide an excellent "school" for learning about treating others as you would treat yourself and repairing

### **Attention**

If you haven't already given the Temple office your email address and you wish to get reminders of events at the Temple, please call the Temple office at 610-375-6034 or send in an email to [office@ohebsholom.org](mailto:office@ohebsholom.org).  
Thank you.

### **Support the Temple the Easy Way!**

**Buy Food Certificates good at Giant, Redner's & Weis**

**Call: Carole Kutscher 610-779-7590  
Barbara Rosenzweig 610-775-5383**



### The Jane Henry Memorial Fund

The Jane Henry Memorial Fund is not just a camp fund for youth. It will help anyone in need, particularly young people. This fund will consider aiding someone during difficult, needy periods.

**Wishing everyone a happy and healthy Passover season**  
Saul "Marty" Miller

**In memory of Dr. Harry Troyen**  
Marcia & George Eligman

**In memory of Edythe Stern**  
Kaye & Bob Ullman

**In memory of my brother William A. Miller**  
Saul M. Miller

## Mazel Tov. . .

**to Ben Ueberroth,**  
a member of the Wyomissing Junior-Senior High School team that won the regional MATHCOUNTS competition at Alvernia College. The team will represent Berks County at the MATHCOUNTS state competition in Harrisburg.

### Greater Temple Fund

**In memory of Edythe Stern**  
Ruth & Paul Isenberg  
**Rabbi's**

**Discretionary Fund**  
**In memory of Dr. Harry Troyen**  
Hal & Ruth Cohn

**In memory of Joseph Schlanger**  
Dorothy & Phyllis Schlanger

**A donation has been received from**  
Paul & Roberta Kozloff

**In memory of Edythe Stern**  
The Staff of Webb Medical  
Jerry & Michele Rudnick

**In appreciation of Rabbi Michelson's lovely service in memory of David Larky**  
Steven & Alexis Larky

**In memory of Dr. Raymond Comess**  
Elvina Comess

**In memory of Philip Knoblauch**  
Nancy & Murry Knoblauch

**New Building Fund**  
**General contribution from**  
Richard & Carmen Fisher

**Speedy recovery wishes to Lee Katz**  
Rick & Debbie Zelnick

**In memory of Evelyn Levinger**  
Norma, Marty, Andy & Erica Beckerman

**In memory of Edythe Stern**  
Norma & Marty Beckerman  
Stuart & Carol Cohn  
Barbara & David Bender  
Barbara & Seth Rosenzweig

**In memory of Ruth Goldwasser**  
Raie & Gerald Fogelman

**Landscaping Fund**  
**In observance of the yahrzeit of a special aunt, Reba Locke**  
Barbara & Michael Perilstein

**General Fund**  
**In honor of the birth of Beth and Bob Bruck's grandson, Andrew**  
Rosalind Hyman

**In memory of Jonathan Glick's father, Richard Glick**  
Robin, Jess & Rachel Drezner

**In memory of Edythe Stern**  
Rosalind Hyman

# Community Seder

Join us for First Night Seder  
at Temple Oheb Sholom as we retell  
the story of the exodus from Egypt  
**Saturday, April 23, 6 - 8 p.m.**  
*\$25 adults/\$15 children (12 and under)*  
*For reservations, please send your check to TOS office by  
April 13*  
**Exciting new menu**

## Chicken Pot Pie Dinner

**Saturday, April 9**  
**4 - 7 p.m.**  
**First Church of  
the Brethren**  
2200 State Hill Road,  
Wyomissing  
(across from Temple)  
Adults: \$6.50  
Children (5-11): \$3.50  
Take out: \$7 (1 quart)  
For more info call:  
610-374-8451



## Silent Service Corps: Meet Shirley Friedman

By Shirley Riebman Friedman

I'm a native of Philadelphia and a graduate of Scott High School, Coatesville, and Pierce College.

My career began as a secretary in real estate and then as a legal secretary in Philadelphia and Washington. I stayed at home when my children were young and re-entered the secretarial ranks on a part-time basis, and then retail work, including managing a linen outlet. On retiring from Washington, I've kept busy with part-time work as a sales associate at the former Heather Shop and with Coach

Leather for the past 11 years.

I've been a member of the Temple for nearly 46 years and became active with Temple work with my mother-in-law Pauline Friedman as my guide. I served on Sisterhood committees, billing secretary, active on the bereavement committee, fund raising, helping at the rummage sale, and selling tickets and cooking for the Food Festival. My mother-in-law added my name to receive donations for the Florence Frank Fund. I have been doing that since 1991, helping to carry on the Friedman tradition. My father-in-law was Temple secretary for

more than 30 years, my mother-in-law was an active fundraiser, and my husband Temple secretary and board member.

My children, Ellen and Carol, were brought up in the Temple and both were confirmed. We have twin grandsons, Benjamin and Aaron, sons of Carol.

I enjoy being with people and there is no better place to be active than the Temple working with old and new members. It's a big happy family.

## Berkshire Chorale to sing at RCOS

Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 1, at 4 p.m. when the Berkshire Chorale will bring "the sound of music" to RCOS. Our own choir director, Brian Thompson, is the new leader of this ensemble, and RCOS members Mimi Braverman and

Jeri Kozloff sing with the group.

The chorale was formed about 15 years ago and specializes in American choral music. They've appeared in many regional concerts, toured in Europe, and sung at the White House. This year the

Chorale has been rehearsing at our temple, and in appreciation is presenting this concert at no charge. Your voluntary contribution at the door will help build our Music Fund. Join us for a spring afternoon of song followed by

### Chicken Bar-B-Q set for April 17, 11 to 2 p.m.

Our 4th annual Kauffman's Chicken Bar-B-Q and Bake Sale is coming up. Cost remains at \$6 for half a chicken and a baked potato. All ticket money should be returned to the Temple office no later than **Monday, April 4.**

Volunteers are needed to help event Chairman Neal Schneider the day of the sale with setup, distribution of chickens and cleanup. It's easy work (fun, too). We need everyone's help to make sure we have another success!

**Baked goods are needed** — we ran out last year. Please bake a cake, a batch of cookies, brownies or kugel.

Sell tickets to neighbors and co-workers. Pick up Sunday dinner when you get your children from Religious School.

### HOUSE ALERT!

To help you help us, the House Committee is establishing a simple system to service the needs of maintaining and improving our Temple.

If there is a problem or you have a suggestion for future consideration, please bring it to our attention by filling out a "work order" form that will be available in the Temple office.

Judy in the Temple office will be the coordinator and will see to it that the Committee receives it.

Your "work order" will be handled by the appropriate member who will respond to you.

Thank you for your cooperation.

### Eat well....

And help the Temple's Mitzvah Meal Program!  
Buy coupon strips good for breads and bagels at

#### Panera Bread.

We are still selling coupon strips for Panera Bread. Strips are \$9 each and are worth \$12 in product. Coupon strips can be purchased for all bagels. Stop in during regular office hours to purchase your coupons. Reminder: A check made payable to RCOS is preferred over cash.



# Sisterhood Florence Frank Offering Fund

To Mr. and Mrs. David Kozloff  
in honor of their new grandson  
Mr. & Mrs. Blair Hogg

To Ted Sherman in memory of  
his mother, Ethel  
Mr. & Mrs. Murry Knoblauch

To Dr. and Mrs. Stuart Cohn in  
memory of his aunt Frieda  
Dr. & Mrs. Eric Zelnick

To Dr. and Mrs. David Bartos  
on the birth of their  
granddaughter  
Dr. & Mrs. Eric Zelnick

To Mrs. Sharon Webb in

memory of her mother Edythe  
Stern

Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman  
Mr. & Mrs. Irvin Balis  
Dr. & Mrs. Eric Zelnick

Get well wishes to Marilyn  
Frank

Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman  
Mrs. Hilde Gernsheimer & Fred  
Jakobs

Mrs. Dorothy Schlanger  
Dr. & Mrs. Eric Zelnick  
Mrs. Barbara Stein

To Sue Wolfe in honor of her  
new home

Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman  
Dr. & Mrs. Eric Zelnick

To Mrs. Jeanette Finkel for a  
speedy recovery  
Mrs. Sue Wolfe

To Mr. and Mrs. Meyer Weiner  
in honor of the engagement of  
their son  
Dr. & Mrs. Eric Zelnick

To Harlan Kutscher for a  
speedy recovery  
Dr. & Mrs. Eric Zelnick

To Kaye Ullman for a speedy  
recovery

Mrs. Barbara Stein

To Fred Ullman for a speedy  
recovery  
Mrs. Barbara Stein

Get well wishes to Hilda Yablin  
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman

Kindly send Florence Frank  
Offering Fund contributions to  
Mrs. Marilyn Frank, Phoebe  
Village, 9 Reading Ave.,  
Wernersville, PA 19565; or Mrs.  
Gene Friedman, 107 Primrose  
Lane, Wyomissing, PA 19610.

*The Family of Tessa Cohn cordially  
invites you to join them in prayer at  
Tessa's Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, April 16,  
2005*

**Help our cantor feel at home**  
We need home hospitality for Cantor Liz Kessler  
in April and May. Interested persons should call  
Jeri Kozloff at 610-373-4400

**OPPORTUNITY HOUSE LUNCH  
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**  
The Social Action Committee is looking for  
volunteers to shop, prepare food or serve for the  
following dates:  
**Sunday, June 5**  
**Sunday, August 7**  
Please contact Harriet Baskin at 610-396-9599

**Share your empty ink cartridges**  
Do you have an HP, Lexmark, Xerox,  
Compaq, Samsung, Kodak, Canon, or Apple  
printer? Bring in your empty cartridges (inside  
a Ziploc bag to avoid ink spills) and we will  
have them recycled. The money we get to  
recycle them helps the Temple.

**BLOOD DRIVE**  
April 3 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
*Call the Temple office anytime to make an  
appointment to give!!!*  
*Invite neighbors and friends to come with you to  
donate!!!*  
*A pint of blood, a little more than an hour's time  
can mean a miracle to someone in a car accident  
or going into surgery!!!*  
Consider this: Ranked in descending order, the  
leading uses of blood by disease category are:  

- Cancer.
- Cardiovascular disease
- Diseases of the gastrointestinal tract
- Anemia
- Obstetric procedures
- Bone and joint disease
- Lung, liver and kidney disease

Premature babies are more likely to use blood than  
any other age group.  
Blood cannot be manufactured; blood is needed  
continuously. It can be frozen but the process is  
not cost effective, to date. Men can reduce their  
incidence of coronary artery disease by donating  
blood even once a year. Blood given by donors, on  
a regular basis can help keep hospital costs down.  
**Won't you take the time to give?**





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