



# OUR TEMPLE

April 2009

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom

Vol. 45, No.8

## Notes from the treasurer

### A springtime dilemma

By Karen Hogg  
*Treasurer*

While growing up, I watched my parents volunteer at our Temple in Bloomfield, N.J. They taught me that in Jewish life it is important to do good deeds. They said, “The Jewish religion believes that the good deeds you do while here on Earth are your legacy, and in turn you will teach your children and they will teach their children.”

My parents also taught me to treat others as you would want to be treated, and of

course to respect my elders. Following these basic rules has helped me succeed in my endeavors in my nine years as a member and volunteer at the Temple. I take these lessons very seriously, and I abide by them in fulfilling my duties as RCOS treasurer.

The job of a treasurer has many facets. The treasurer needs to work very closely with the Temple bookkeeper, chair the Finance Committee, attend Executive Committee meetings and attend Temple board meetings. The Treasurer must make sure there is enough

money in the checking account to pay the bills, keep a close eye on the investments of the Temple, especially in light of the current market conditions, keep in contact with congregants about annual commitment payments and monitor general information on the state of the finances of the Temple. I have done my best to be understanding to each congregant in reference to their personal situation and as always, all contact with congregants remains confidential.

*Continued on Page 3*

## From the Rabbi's study

### Times are tough, but don't lose sight of priorities

It is close to impossible to pick up a newspaper, news magazine, or to watch the television news without hearing at least one or two stories about the current state of our economy. Having spoken to a wide variety of people, I know how concerned people are regarding

**Rabbi Brian  
Michelson**

monetary issues.

Money is important. It buys us food, shelter, and security. It

helps us provide for our children and to have the opportunity for leisure time and various forms of recreation. However, we must remember that the pursuit of money or wealth can also lead to ruin. We have seen that the model of short-term gain at a long-term price does not work. We must also be careful that

we do not make money our ultimate goal, because we could risk betraying our personal and communal morals.

Judaism teaches us that some of our very basic assumptions about money are, at best, questionable. In the Torah, we are warned, “Beware lest your heart grow haughty and you forget the Lord your God . . . and you say to yourselves, ‘My own power and the might of my own hand that has won this wealth for me.’” (Deut. 8:14 & 17) We are to remember that God is our partner in the prosperity we achieve. We are meant to remember and praise God, both when things are going well just as we do when things are difficult.

Our tradition emphasizes the importance of using money to help others. We are re-

minded again and again that we have an obligation to those at risk in society. We are expected to give tzedakah and to be honest in dealing with those we employ. Money comes with responsibility, and we become less human, less Jewish, when we allow its pursuit to compromise our honesty, humility, and generosity.

This month during our Seders, we will read the inspiring words of “Ha Lachma Anyah — This is the poor bread.” We invite those who are hungry to come and eat with us symbolically. However, this year, more than many others, we must act on these words. Use the Mazon envelope sent to you or make a small donation to the Greater Berks Food Bank, but let us do something.

Finally, Pirkei Avot, one of the great sources of ethical teaching within Jewish tradition, teaches: “Who is rich? Those who are satisfied with their share.” (Avot 4:1) As we celebrate this Passover season, may we be satisfied with what we have; thus, we will be considered rich in ways that not even money can buy.

## April Highlights

**Friday, April 3** — Shabbat service, 6 p.m.

**Saturday, April 4** — Shabbat service, 10 a.m.

**Wednesday, April 8** — First night Passover Seder at RCOS, 6 p.m.

**Saturday, April 18** — Jamie Weisberg Bat Mitzvah, 5 p.m.

**Friday, April 24** — Grade 3 Shabbat and dinner, 6 p.m.

**Saturday, April 25** — Tot Shabbat, 10 a.m.

**Services Friday nights at 7:45 p.m. unless otherwise noted  
Babysitting available for 7:45 Shabbat services.**

**Bulletin sponsored by  
Rosalye Yashek  
in memory of  
her beloved husband,  
Richard J. Yashek**

**Religious School News****Our Passover stories are powerful**By **Judy Synnamon***Religious School administrator*

Passover is one of the most celebrated holidays of Jews today. This year the first Seder will be Wednesday, April 8, and the second will be Thursday, April 9. Many of us have fond childhood memories of the Seder night. I remember being in Brooklyn at Aunt Rose's and Uncle Barney's apartment when I was a young child. When we opened the door at midnight to welcome Elijah, a neighborhood cat walked in! Another fond memory I have is from my college days, when I was invited to a friend's

Seder in Chattanooga, Tenn. I felt so comfortable at my friend's home realizing the familiarity of that Seder to the one my folks had in Yankee territory.

We all have our Passover stories, and children learn best by telling our Jewish history in story fashion. A story has a special charm that leaves a deep impression on its listeners, and especially on the children.

We have a wonderful Passover story to tell. This story consists of faith, miracles, and people of strength. The power of the story of the Exodus from Egypt makes a lasting impression. It is this message that

we should take to heart: the power that the stories from our history have to transmit faith and courage to the next generation.

**April Dates to Remember:**

**April 5:** Model Seder in Sunday School. We have asked the students from Church of the Brethren to be our guests.

**April 7:** No Hebrew School

**April 12:** No Sunday School, Passover

**April 14:** Hebrew School will be held

**April 24:** Friday night services will be conducted by grade 3 starting at 6 p.m. Dinner to follow.

**Please join us . . .****for weekly Torah study*****Mondays at noon*****GET READY FOR THE  
RUMMAGE SALE**

**We'd like to remind people to start collecting their rummage, as this year it will be more important than ever to serve our community in need.**

**The set-up / collection weeks are July 5 and July 12 and the sale is July 19, 20 and 21.**

**ABOUT OUR NEWSLETTER****Editor:** Mark Nemirow**Assistant editor:** Donna Oaks

*To get an item in the bulletin, contact Mark at [Marknem@aol.com](mailto:Marknem@aol.com) or 610-370-2533, or contact the Temple office.*

**Deadline for next bulletin: April 5**

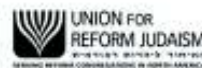
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the Temple in your will?***

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# PRESIDENT

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I have watched closely as my predecessors charted the very same waters that I am trying to navigate. The Finance Committee makes all decisions and recommendations to the Board so that there are checks and balances. I have a wonderful committee whose members care about the future of the Temple and encourage me in all that I attempt to accomplish as treasurer.

I believe most people have good intentions and that we all have the Temple's best interests at heart. Without donations, fundraising and volunteers, RCOS would falter.

In a normal fiscal year at the Temple,

spring is always a time when we are short on cash. I am expecting it to be much worse this spring because of the economy and the fact that some congregants will not be able to pay their annual commitment on the schedule that they established with the Temple.

I am writing this article because the Finance Committee and I want the congregation to be aware of this situation.

We are asking each congregant to do three things.

The first is to make your best effort to make timely payments for your annual commitment so we can possibly avoid the "Spring Dilemma."

Secondly, if you are able, please give an additional donation to the Temple in this fiscal year, which ends June 30.

The last item is to reflect on your Temple life and ask yourself if you are doing all that you can to support the Temple either by volunteering and/or by your financial support, so that you can leave your legacy of "good deeds." If we all work together, we can get through this rough economic period.

As always, the Temple appreciates your continued support. I thank our President, Herb Karasin, for allowing me to use his normal space in this month's bulletin and I thank you for taking the time to read this article.

## April Simchas

### Anniversaries

Mr. & Mrs. David Kozloff	April 7
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Fogelman	April 15
Dr. & Mrs. Seth Rosenzweig	April 18
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Shore	April 19
Mr. & Mrs. Blair Hogg	April 27
Mr. & Mrs. Lee Katz	April 30

### Birthdays

Amy White Berger	April 2
Sidney Spillerman	April 3
Dr. Jeffrey Horowitz	April 4

Jeri Kozloff	April 4
Boris Lyudmirsky	April 5
Donald Miller	April 6
Dr. M. Herbert Wachs	April 8
Janice Livingood Goldshtain	April 9
Judith Katz	April 10
Marilyn Frank	April 11
Jeffrey Sternlieb	April 11
Sue Viener	April 12
Allison Althouse	April 14
Nathaniel Ehrlich	April 14
Phyllis Imber	April 14

Rosalind Hyman	April 17
Beth Bruck	April 19
Phyllis Goldstan	April 19
Ivy Schlechter	April 20
Harvey Seidel	April 20
Gerald Fogelman	April 22
Debra Weiland	April 22
Audrey Sagel	April 24
Lynn Salpeter	April 24
Neal Schneider	April 25
Sharon Hrabak	April 27

## Old laptops wanted!

Do you have an old laptop sitting around that you do not know what to do with? If so, it can help raise funds for RCOS.

E-mail Rabbi Michelson ([rabbi@ohebsholom.org](mailto:rabbi@ohebsholom.org)) to find out about donating. The recycling program will not take all makes and models, but will accept many of them.

## Please patronize the Sisterhood Gift Shop...

*for all of your Judaic and non-Judaic gift giving. We have a vast array of holiday items in addition to personal items for men, women and children. If you don't see it in the shop, we would be happy to place a special order for you. We save you money while you support the Sisterhood. It's a win, win situation. See you at the gift shop.*

## Book Group

We are reading  
"A Changed Man"  
by Francine Prouse.  
A few copies  
are available  
in the Temple office.

## Emergency Shopper Program

**Are you unable to get to the store? RCOS volunteers are ready to help. If you need someone to pick up a few items, please call the Temple office.**

## Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Anne Coopersmith and Herman Nevitt  
Sandee & Neal Nevitt

In honor of the Bris and naming of the Kopan twins  
Cantor Mark E. Kushner

In memory of Rose Knoblauch  
Nancy Knoblauch

In honor of Scott Kaneff's special birthday  
Sandra Sigal

## Building Fund

In honor of the engagement of Sarah Pardo  
Sue Schlanger

To thank Linda Bram for organizing our Passover Seder  
Roz Hyman

In memory of the Yahrzeit of Evelyn Levinger  
Marty & Norma Beckerman

Wishing Barbara Nazimov a speedy recovery  
Harriet Baskin

Wishing Claudia Strauss a speedy recovery  
Harriet Baskin

In memory of Ted Roeberg  
Roz Hyman

In honor of Sue & Herb Wachs' granddaughter's Bat Mitzvah  
Mr. & Mrs. Don Kelly

In honor of Hilde Gernsheimer's granddaughter's Bat Mitzvah  
Mr. & Mrs. Don Kelly

## Landscaping Fund

In memory of the Yahrzeit of Reba Locke  
Barbara & Michael Perilstein

## Cantor Fund

In memory of Sara Cohn  
Roz Hyman

In memory of Lee Fishman  
Roz Hyman

## Life of the Temple

In honor of Sue Viener's 70th birthday  
Paul & Bess Wilson

In honor of Sue & George Viener's grandson Jack's Bar Mitzvah  
Sue Schlanger

## Music Fund

In memory of Ted Roeberg  
Harriet Baskin  
The Hogg Family

In memory of Lee Fishman  
The Hogg Family

## 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.

In memory of Jane Henry  
The Beck & Stoudt Families

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need volunteers to help with dinner at Kennedy House

### Easter Sunday, April 12

Adults and members of the confirmation class are encouraged to volunteer.

Volunteers are needed from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Monetary donations would be appreciated to help offset the cost of the meal.

*Please contact Barbara Rosenzweig, 610-775-5383*

## Perpetual Memorials

### April 1-4

Henry Herman  
Bertha Goldsmith  
Edward Miller

Hildegard Weinberg  
Sandel Bernheimer  
Ella L. Goldsmith

### April 5-11

Anne Coopersmith  
Amalie Schulhoff Feist  
Olga S. Lurio  
J. Thomas Sher  
Louise C. Wolper  
Edward L. Berger  
Bertha Hammel  
Irma Camperlik

April 19-25  
Arthur Hammel  
Jacob Weil  
Sara Ada Cohn  
William A. Miller  
Herman Lightman  
Herman Bodenheimer  
Charles Hyman

### April 12-18

Ruth W. Frank  
Meyer Liefter  
Richard Yashek

April 26-30  
Mary P. Isaacs  
Beatrice Hammel  
Jodi Robin Juceam  
Joseph Weinberg  
Karl Camperlik

## Special thanks to . . .

*Roz Hyman*

for sponsoring our Student Cantor for a weekend stay

*Dr. Mildred Gordon*

for sponsoring the challahs



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