Our Temple

December 2001 | Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom | Volume 38 No. 4

Notes from the President

An absolutely fabulous food festival

By Ellen Azrael
President

Absolutely Fabulous! No, I am not talking about Patsy and Edina. I am referring to the Food Festival! A thousand thanks are given to Jeri Kozloff and her multitude of committee members and volunteers for a deliriously delectable day. The spirit that filled the Temple was awesome.

Guests from outside the Temple family have already asked when the next food festival will take place. They had such a great time; they can't wait to come back.

Not only was the event a successful fund raiser, but more importantly it was a terrific ***fun*** raiser. Thanks to everyone who cooked, baked, served, cleaned, sold tickets, bought tickets, manned the exhibits, and did whatever was necessary

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From the Rabbi's Study

Opportunity here to get Hebrew name

Rabbi Brian Michelson

What is a name? It is something that we are called by others. It is something that identifies who we are and to whom we are related. Imagine what life would be like if none of us had names. It would save us from those embarrassing moments when we meet someone and cannot recall their name, but it would make telling people apart or picking out someone in a crowd a bit more difficult.

Now, all of us have English names. These are the names that were given to us by our parents. They may be in memory or honor of someone or simply names that our parents liked.

Many of us also have Hebrew names. These are names used when we had our Brit Milah or baby naming. They might have been used when we were called to the Torah for our Bar or Bat Mitzvah. They might appear on our Ketubah-the Jewish wedding document-or even on our gravestones.

However, there are many people who never received a Hebrew name. It might not have been important to their parents or a normal part of their custom. It might have been something that was meant to happen, but because of the twists and turns of life, just never did.

On Saturday, Jan. 5, I would like to allow those who never received a Hebrew name to have the opportunity to get one. The Torah portion for this Shabbat is Shemot, which is Hebrew for "names"; therefore, it is appropriate to set some time aside on this morning to deal with questions of Hebrew names. As part of our Shabbat morning service (10 a.m.), we will include a service of congregational naming.

If you would like to participate

(Continued on page 2)

December Highlights

Saturday, Dec. 1 — Tot Shabbat, 10 a.m.
Friday, Dec. 7 — Early Shabbat service, 6 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 9 — Chanukah begins at sundown
Friday, Dec. 14 — Chanukah Family Night, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 15 — Bat Mitzvah of Sarah Brok, 10 a.m.
Sunday, Dec 16 — Men's Club, 9:30 a.m.
Friday, Dec. 21 — Ask the Rabbi Shabbat, 7:45 p.m.

Friday night services at 7:45 unless otherwise noted

Bulletin sponsored by
Ivan and Dr. Mildred Gordon in memory of Kate and Nathan Gross

Inside the Bulletin of Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom:

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Religious School News

Is it really a dilemma?

By Holly Michelson, RJE
Religious School Administrator

Just last evening, I attended a forum sponsored by Hadassah Too and Jewish Family Service about the "December Dilemma." It is the annual discussion of how do we in our Jewish families (or mixed families) deal with Christmas. Ultimately, it boiled down to something we all knew in our hearts. It is an issue of having a strong Jewish Identity. Christmas is like someone else's birthday (in fact it actually is the celebration of someone's birthday!). It is possible to attend someone else's celebration without it being our own. Creating Jewish identity is about being Jewish year-round. It is about creating rituals in your family that your children can cherish: Lighting Shabbat candles together (even if it is early or late to accommodate everyone's schedules), doing Tzedakah and Mitzvot TOGETHER, volunteer somewhere on Christmas day, being involved in what your children are doing in Religious School (join us Dec. 9 for a family program) are all good ways to begin. Children learn from their parents. If you do not care, neither will they.

In the last Religious School Committee meeting we decided to establish a new policy regarding service attendance. Currently, our pre Bar/Bat Mitzvah students must attend a certain number of Shabbat services (25 to be exact) in the year prior to their ceremony. Service attendance is important at all ages, not suddenly at the age of 12. To that end, we are asking those students in Religious School to now attend services as part of their curriculum. Once a month or five times over the rest of the year is all we are asking for this school year. A record of attendance form will be kept outside the Religious School office for parents to sign each time they are here with their child/ren for services.

Last year we started providing snack for purchase on Tuesdays before school and during break. This has worked well for the most part, but there have been some concerns of late. Please speak with your children about their purchases. Yes, we do offer candy and cookies, but also pretzels and fruit cups. Students will only be allowed to purchase one of two items a day from now on. This will ensure that everyone has a chance to make a purchase and we will not have to worry about too much food (before dinner) or sugar (during class). I appreciate your help in this matter.

Lastly, we are hoping to offer a Red Cross Community First Aid and CPR class at the school for teachers and any interested congregants. If you are a Red Cross Trained Instructor or know someone who is, please let me know. We are trying to find a way to keep costs down, and providing our own instructor is one of those ways.

Happy Chanukah.

IMPORTANT DATES

Dec. 9: Family Chanukah program in Religious School.
Dec. 14: Family Chanukah Service
Dec. 15: Bat Mitzvah of Sarah Brok
Pre K/K: Dec. 2, 9 and 16
Confirmation: Dec. 2 and 16
No Religious School, Dec. 23, 25, 30, Jan. 1

Oneg and Flowers Sponsors

Honor a special occasion by sponsoring an Oneg, purchasing pulpit flowers or a fruit basket to be donated to the Greater Berks Food Bank.

Call Ellice Gunter at 610-775-4448.

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RABBI

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personally, or for your children, please speak to me by Dec. 21. I am happy to speak with you and provide any help in choosing a Hebrew name for you or your child/ren. A special naming certificate will be given to everyone who participates that will record the newly given Hebrew name.

I hope that many of you will choose to be involved.

Thank you to the Congregation

Through the Social Action Fund, we have raised $3,641. $500 was sent to the UAHC disaster relief fund for 9/11 and $1,000 was given to the Greater Berks Food Bank. The rest of the money will be distributed by the end of the year

Sisterhood News

A special thanks to volunteers

By Elyse Horowitz

The Joint Women's Group Luncheon is on Dec. 6. Hadassah is hosting it. Look for your invitation in the mail. Hope to see you there.

A special "thank you" to Felice Stern for all the extra effort she put forth to make the lunch so wonderful at the Joint Sisterhood meeting.

I hope everyone is sending in their Pushke coupons. There are great prizes this year. You would not want to miss out. On behalf of the Sisterhood I would like to wish everyone a very happy Hanukkah.

Food Festival a congregational and community success

"We exceeded every goal we had set," reports Jeri Kozloff, chairperson of RCOS's very successful 2001 Jewish Food and Cultural Festival. Congregation members sold over 950 tickets, served over 1000 brisket or chicken platters, invited friends, managed traffic, baked, telephoned, decorated, publicized, sang, and set festival tables.

Our young members from the Religious School assisted with set-up and maintenance and also bused tables and helped in the children's craft room.

The result: a totally smooth-running event.

Approximately 2,000 people from Berks County's Jewish and non-Jewish communities admired our beautiful building, enjoyed the talents of our membership, and savored the richness of our culinary and cultural heritage.

The financial success of the festival means we achieved our goals of supporting the cost of a student cantor twice a month next year and completing the first phase of our landscaping project.

Planning for the next festival is already underway. Watch for details in the coming months and get involved!! You'll have fun, get to know your fellow members, and be proud of our temple. The food's good too!!

Rabbi Michelson will be the speaker
for the Men's Club meeting
Sunday, Dec. 16 at 9:30 a.m.
The topic will be:
"5,000 Jews in One Place: Reflections of the UAHC Biennial"

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Mark Nemirow—Editor
Sidney L. Symons—Advertising/Sponsorships Manager
Lynn Bates — Assistant Editor

To get an item in the bulletin, call Mark at 610-370-2533 (Marknem@aol.com) or the Temple office, 610-375-6043.

Deadline for the next issue is Dec. 5.

New to the Temple family

We welcome the following individuals and their families:
Nimrod and Janice Livingood-Goldshtain
Fred and Julie Singer and son Isaac

Happy Chanukah
from the Temple staff
— Beth, Lucy & Lynn

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.

To Ellen Azrael in honor of her special birthday
Harriet Baskin

To Shirley Friedman in honor of her special birthday
Harriet Baskin

To Dr. James Beck with congratulations on becoming Associate Professor of Internal Medicine
Maxine and Dick Henry

To Seymour Frank in honor of a very special birthday
Maxine and Dick Henry

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Fromm with best wishes in their new home
Maxine and Dick Henry

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Singer with best wishes in new home
Maxine and Dick Henry

Mrs. E. Mendelsohn and family in memory of their husband and father
Maxine and Dick Henry

Social Action Fund

Bonnie Friedman & Gerald Miller
Pat & Sam Frankel
Catherine M. Schultz
Jack Gernsheimer & Nancy Wolff
Judith Kraines & Neil Hoffman

Sunshine!

Doesn't everyone need a sprinkle of sunshine on their birthday?
If you would like to receive a birthday card on or near your birthday, please contact Adrienne Cardinal at 610-370-0058 or email her at mymelodyac@aol.com. Of course, we always welcome donations to help defray the cost of cards and postage. When someone does send a donation, we print their name in the monthly bulletin! I am always willing to sprinkle some sunshine!

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Geri Weisbaum and all those who perished on Sept. 11
Bonnie Friedman & Gerald Miller

General Fund

Thanks for all the good wishes in honor of my special birthday
Ellen Azrael

Thank you for all the get well wishes. They are so appreciated.
Richard Yashek

Birthday Greetings

Shirley Friedman
Ruth Balis

Greater Temple Fund

To Shirley Friedman in honor of her special birthday
Ralph and Margot Dessauer
Harriet and Marvin Sachs
Jeff, Marilyn, Nicole and Lisa at COACH
Barbara and Kenneth Stein

In memory of Lee Lurio
Mildred Lurio

To Gene Friedman in honor of becoming 1st Vice President
Barbara and Kenneth Stein

To Marty Beckerman in honor of becoming 2nd Vice President
Barbara and Kenneth Stein

To Lynn Bates in memory of her aunt
Barbara and Kenneth Stein

To Carol Cohn in honor of her birthday
Barbara and Kenneth Stein

To Richard Yashek for a speedy recovery
Esther and Sidney Bratt

To Michael and Jill Haas and children

Danan and Tristan in memory of mother and Grandmother Mira Haas
Carol and Mark Pollard

Jacobs Religious School Fund

In memory of LeRoy Hyman
Rosalind Hyman

To Bill Ueberroth with get well wishes
The Rosenzweig Family

To Jon and Kathie Wachs in honor of Sophie's naming
Rabbi Brian Michelson

Music Fund

In honor of Jeri Kozloff and her amazing Food Festival committee with appreciation
The membership of RCOS.

New Building Landscaping Fund

To Richard Schwartz in memory of his brother Harold
Carol and Stu Cohn

To Harlan Kutscher with wishes for good health
Carol and Stu Cohn
Barbara and Michael Perilstein

To Shirley Friedman in honor of her special birthday
Carol and Stu Cohn

To Ellen Azrael in honor of her special birthday
Carol and Stu Cohn

To Seth and Barbara Rosenzweig in honor of Michael's Bar Mitzvah
Barbara and Michael Perilstein

To Phyllis Goldstan and her continued good health
Evelyn and Ed Goodman

To Eva Bartos and her continued good health
Evelyn and Ed Goodman

PRESIDENT

(Continued from page 1)
to make our Food Festival – Absolutely Fabulous.

While all the planning and preparation for the Food Festival was occurring, there were many other committees working diligently to reach their goals. The Memorials Committee, led by Jeff Gernsheimer, finished the Building Fund Dedication Wall, which is very beautiful. We hope to formally dedicate it in the near future. The Social Action Committee has been doing a number of projects and is always looking for new committee members. If you have a passion for a social action, please contact Claudia Strauss. Harriet Baskin and her Membership Committee have the busiest time of the year behind them, having welcomed almost 20 new families to the Temple. The Religious School, chaired by Elice Gunter, and Rites and Ritual Committees, led by Bruce Cohen, have also completed a busy time, with the start of the new school year and the High Holidays. If you would like to join one of these committees, please call any of the people mentioned or call the Temple office. We welcome your help and participation.

The UAHC Biennial will be held in Boston Dec. 5th through the 9th. The Michelsons, the Azraels, the Kutschers, and Marilyn Frank plan to attend. The Biennial is a convention of nearly 5,000 Reform Jews from around the world who gather together to worship, to study, and to formulate the policies of the UAHC. I look forward to reporting on my experiences in a future edition of the bulletin. Next year there will be a regional Biennial in Bethlehem, and I hope many of our members will attend. It is an indescribably invaluable experience.

Have a happy Chanukah.

Still Searching!

The Western Berks Volunteer Home Care (VHC) team is still looking for a Team Coordinator for that area. This is a paid position, $11.00 hourly, for 65 hours per month.

While the position is home based, it requires weekday availability and some local travel. Responsibilities include in-home client assessment, working with clergy, volunteers and clients. A background in nursing or social services is preferred.

VHC is an interfaith outreach ministry of on-professional service through dedicated volunteers.

For more information, contact Dee Dee Mayer, Program Manager, The Lutheran Home at Topton, (610) 682-1412, 1-800-322-9597.

Are you or do you know someone who is a Certified First Aid Instructor? We are in the beginning stages of arranging for a Red Cross First Aid course to be held here at the Temple. We could use our "own" instructor if one is available. If you know of someone who is certified to teach first aid, please see Holly Michelson or leave the information in the Temple office

Perpetual Memorials

December 7 and 8
Samuel R. Lurio
Rose Ehrlich Liefter
Samuel Goldsmith
Nathan Mendelson

December 14
Leopold Loeb
Solomon Weil
Bertha Knoblauch
Edith Sondheim
Herman Falkowitz
Herman Folkman
Abraham W. Loeb
Bertha Guggenheim

December 21
Goldye B. Carson
Dora Kins
Josephine Miller
Deborah B. Scheriner
Carlyn Liefter
Bernard Bash
Julius Sassaman
David Hermann
Harry J. Bash
Albert M. Salas

December 28
Julius L. Cohen
Johanna Gernsheimer

Sisterhood Florence Frank Offering Fund

To Mrs. Frances Mendelsohn in memory of her husband, Eugene
Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Symons
Mrs. Elaine Backer
Mrs. Edythe Stern
Mrs. Sue Wolfe

To Mrs. Elaine M. Pleet in memory of her father, Eugene Mendelsohn
Mrs. Sue Wolfe
Mrs. Edythe Stern
Mrs. Ruth Goldser

Get well wishes to Rachel Yaffe
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sherman
Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Frank
Mrs. Edythe Stern
Mrs. Sue Wolfe

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Davy Goldsmith on their son's Bar Mitzvah
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sherman

Speedy recovery to Edith Mendelsohn
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman
Mrs. Vivian Polter
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sherman

Speedy recovery to Richard Yashek
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman
Mrs. Elaine Backer
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Schlanger
Mrs. Toni Guttmann
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sherman
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Diamond
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Schlanger
Mr. & Mrs. Nam Ger

Speedy recovery to Sidney Bratt
Mr. & Mrs. Nam Ger
Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Frank
Mrs. Sue Wolfe
Mrs. Edythe Stern

Congratulations to Rabbi & Mrs. Alan Weitzman on the arrival of their grandson
Mrs. Vivian Polter
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Schlanger
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Schlanger
Mrs. Harriet Baskin
Mr. & Mrs. Murry Knoblauch
Mrs. Elaine Backer

Greetings to Shirley Friedman on her special birthday
Mr. & Mrs. Irvin Balis
Mr. & Mrs. William Meyers
Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Goldberg
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Green
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Schlanger
Mrs. Edith Blanck
Mrs. Sylvia Schiff

To Mrs. Mildred Lurio in memory of her son, Lee
Mr. & Mrs. Irvin Balis
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman
Mrs. Vivian Polter
Mrs. Hilde Gernsheimer & Fred Jakobs
Mrs. Harriet Baskin
Mrs. Sylvia Schiff

To Mrs. Eva Bartos in memory of her nephew Lee Lurio
Mr. & Mrs. Irvin Balis

Get well to Mrs. Ruth Balis
Mrs. Hilde Gernsheimer & Fred Jakobs
Mrs. Toni Gutmann
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Schlanger

Thanks for all the Uniongrams for my special birthday
Mrs. Shirley Friedman

Get well to Ed Lakin
Mrs. Elaine Backer

Speedy recovery to Mrs. Barbara Baker
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Silverstein

Congratulations to Mrs. Edith Blanck on the arrival of her great-grandson
Mrs. Harriet Baskin

Get well to Adam Viener
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Schlanger

Get well to Sue Viener
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Schlanger

Get well to Harlan Kutscher
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Schlanger

Birthday greetings to Ellen Azrael
Mrs. Sylvia Schiff

Get well to Nate Chernoff
Mrs. Sue Wolfe
Mrs. Edythe Stern

✍

Kindly send Florence Frank Offering Fund contributions to Mrs. Marilyn Frank, 2027 Lorraine Road, Reading, PA 19604; or Mrs. Gene

New Building Fund

To Dr.and Mrs. Seth Rosenzweig in honor of Michael's Bar Mitzvah
Rosalye & Richard Yashek

To Shirley Friedman in honor of her special birthday
Richard & Rosalye Yashek
Ellen, Carol, Mike, Benjamin & Aaron
Norma Dashe
Martha & Sam Greenstein
Susan & Avery Kelner
Steve & Judy Greenstein

To Helmut Sonnenfeldt in honor of his special birthday
Bob & Kaye Ullman

To Toni Gutman in honor of her special birthday
Bob & Kaye Ullman
T**o Hilde Gernsheimer in honor of her special birthday**
Bob & Kaye Ullman

Congratulations on a beautiful sanctuary and service. Good Luck.
Dr. & Mrs. M. Bram

To Edith Mendelsohn for her continued recovery
Evelyn & Ed Goodman

To Harlan Kutscher for a speedy recovery
Evelyn & Ed Goodman

To Richard Yashek with wishes for a speedy recovery
Harriet Baskin
The Rosenzweig Family
Doris & Bob Brok
Barbara & Kenneth Stein
Hilde Gernsheimer & Fred Jakobs
Norman, Marty, Andy & Erica Beckerman
Bob & Kaye Ullman
Herb & Sue Wachs

Thanks for welcoming me to the Erev Rosh Hashanah service
Edna C. Pollak

To Joe and Bruce Sherman with wishes for good health
Larry & Sue Schlanger

To Ellen Azrael on becoming President and in honor of her special birthday
Barbara & Kenneth Stein

To Midge Sokol and family in memory of Myrtle Epstein
Judy & Lee Katz

To Fran Mendelsohn and family in memory of Eugene Mendelsohn
Judy & Lee Katz

To Mildred Lurio in memory of Lee Lurio
Judy & Lee Katz

With best wishes
Susan & Michael Sands

Yahrzeit in memory of Arthur Levinger
Norman, Marty, Andy & Erica Beckerman

"Sex in the Texts: The Jewish View of Human Sexuality"

Tuesdays, January 8, 15, 22, 29 & February 4 7:30 - 9:00 PM @ RCOS

$15 members/$30 non-members. Call the office to reserve your space.

Try this special Chanukah doughnut recipe

Chanukah begins at sundown on Dec. 9. Here is a recipe for your family to try this month.

Sufganiyot

This jelly doughnut is an Israeli Chanukah treat that has become increasing popular in the United States. The oil in the recipe symbolizes the miracle of Chanukah, where a single jug of oil, enough for only one day, lit the temple menorah for eight days. The sufganiyot also symbolizes the meeting of Eastern and Westem cultures. The fritter is of Sephardic origin while the sugar topping and jelly filling are part of the Chanukah tradition of European immigrants, who celebrated Chanukah with glazed doughnuts filled with apricot jelly.

¾ cup milk (orange juice or water can be substituted)
¼ lb. Margarine
¼ cup sugar
2 packages of dry yeast
3 cups flour
2 eggs
a pinch of salt
oil
powdered sugar
jelly such as apricot or raspberry

In a saucepan combine milk, margarine and sugar, heating until melted. Cool the mixture to lukewarm. Add the yeast, stirring until dissolved. Combine flour, eggs and salt with yeast mixture. Knead until the dough has a smooth texture. Over with a clean cloth and let the dough rise for 30 minutes. Punch down and roll out dough.

Cut into circles with a small glass. Set aside the circles and allow them to rise for another 30 minutes. Drop the dough into hot oil, fry until golden brown. Drain on paper towels. When cool, inject each fritter with jelly using a pastry tube. Finish with a sprinkle of powdered sugar. Yields about 2 dozen doughnuts.

And don't forget the latkas and applesauce.

JCC 14th Annual Book Fair

Books — The Heritage of the Jewish People

Sunday, Dec. 2 through Sunday, Dec. 9

This is your opportunity to become acquainted with and purchase a wide variety of books of Jewish interest appropriate for all ages.

Dec. 2, 3 p.m.: Lecture and dessert with Larry Tye, author of “Home Lands: Portraits of the New Jewish Diaspora,” tracing the regeneration of Jewish life through the stories of seven far-flung Jewish communities

Dec. 4, 5:30 p.m.: Kosher Delicatessen Buffet, catered by Boscov’s, featuring storyteller Lois Greenberg

Dec. 6, 11:30 a.m.: Joint Women’s Organization Luncheon. Enjoy a delicious lunch and an entertaining program with Joyce Eisenberg and Ellen Scolnic, co-authors of the JPS Dictionary of Jewish Words.

Dec. 9, 12:15 p.m.: Hanukkah Hoopla. Have the whole family join us for Lunch ‘n’ Latkes, Creative Hanukkah Crafts and a concert with award-winning Jewish entertainer David Jack. Last chance to purchase books at the JCC Book Fair

Thank you for the many expressions of sympathy received on the death of my brother Harold Schwartz

—Richard Schwartz

A contribution to the Shirley Jacobs Religious School Fund has been made by Michael Rosenzweig in appreciation for all the good wishes on his Bar Mitzvah.

REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM
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