



Our Temple

December 2004

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom

Vol. 41 No. 4

Notes from the President

Take advantage of opportunities to learn

By **Scott Bram**
President

For many of us, our Jewish education ends with Bar or Bat Mitzvah. However, it doesn't have to be that way. We should strive to engage in a life of learning.

The Temple gives us an opportunity to enrich ourselves throughout the year. The Rabbi is offering continuation courses on a variety of subjects. Right now I am taking part in the Talmud w/Training Wheels class. I have always thought that it would be great to study the Talmud. This collection of texts and commentaries is so often talked about and referred to in Judaism. But, how much do we really know about it? I have found the Rabbi to

be a great teacher; both in his depth of knowledge and in the presentation of the subject matter. The class is interesting and enjoyable. The Rabbi is very good at explaining the material in a way that is easy and clear to understand. Other courses are being offered throughout the year.

The Reform movement also provides us with opportunities to learn. There are regional, national, and international conferences in which many courses on countless subjects are offered. Everything from Music, art, language, culture, history, ethics, politics, and more happens at these events. There are numerous educational materials available from the

URJ. The Temple office can assist you in getting any information that you may want.

The Jewish community here in Reading is also a source of education. The other synagogues and the JCC offer educational and holiday programs throughout the year. I have always enjoyed going to the other Temples and sharing the holidays. I have also enjoyed some of the educational and community programs at the JCC. I enjoy the friendships I have made as a result of these social/educational/religious experiences. You can too.

The opportunities are all around you. The Torah says go and learn. Your life

From the Rabbi's Study

Friends in Israel need their own home

If you would see her, you would never imagine that she is a dynamo. However, when Rabbi Maya Leibovich speaks of

Rabbi Brian Michelson her congregation in the community of Mevasseret Zion, she speaks with a passion and intensity that is rarely found. Rabbi Leibovich is a dynamic rabbi and a true hero of modern non-

Orthodox Judaism in Israel. Maya works tirelessly to ensure that her congregation will survive. I have been an overseas member of her congregation, because I believe in what Rabbi Leibovich is doing. Personally, I am privileged to call her my friend.

The congregation has, despite the many — and I mean *many* — roadblocks

placed in their path, they have built a beautiful new synagogue. The outside of the building is done, but unfortunately the inside remains bare. If you can remember our first High Holidays in our new building — we sat on a mismatched lot of chairs in a sanctuary that had no carpet — you will understand what the past few years have been like for Kehilat Mevasseret Zion. Besides the building, the congregation subsists on a shoestring budget. It receives no government support, unlike most Orthodox congregations in Israel. They deserve to have a home of their own that will

(Continued on page 2)

December Highlights

Friday, Dec. 3: Shabbat service with Grade 6, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 4: Shabbat service, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 7: Chanukah begins at sundown

Friday, Dec. 10: Chanukah Family Dinner and service

Saturday, Dec. 11: Tot Shabbat, 10 a.m.

Saturday, Dec. 18: Bar Mitzvah of Michael Chwiecko, 10 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 19: Men's Club, 9:30 a.m.

Friday night services at 7:45 unless otherwise noted

Babysitting available at all services

*Bulletin sponsored by
Ivan & Dr. Mildred
Gordon
in memory of Kate and*



Sisterhood news

Thanks for helping make fall events a success

By Carol Freed and Karen Robinson

Hello from the Sisterhood! We hope everyone is having a wonderful Fall season so far. Many thanks to all who attended our general meeting at Le Petit Artist. It was a lot of fun and we have some great jewelry to adorn! Sisterhood would also like to thank those who purchased Boscov's Friends Helping Friends shopping passes. The money collected was used toward the purchase of a defibrillator for the Temple.

A special thanks to Linda Bram for organizing this year's Rosh Hashanah oneg and to Lynn Driven for organizing the Yom Kippur break the fast. We are also grateful to Linda Bram and Michelle Mart for arranging babysitting services

for the holidays.

Do you find yourself yearning for nostalgic tunes around this time of year? If so, stop by the gift shop & purchase one of Karl Hausman's cassettes that he generously donated. Karl and his band bring you "*back in time*" with music from the past that will keep you *hoppin' in the future!!* It's all in the gift shop...Karl's tunes, special Hanukkah gifts, beautiful jewelry and other unique gifts!!

The Sisterhood couldn't possibly do all that we do without the continuous support of the volunteers. If you are willing to give us a small amount of your time, we would appreciate your help with organizing an event or volunteering to

work in the gift shop. We can help you by providing a "step-by-step" breakdown of what needs to be done, so that the job isn't so overwhelming. Please contact Carol Freed or Karen Robinson if you would like to be involved.

The Sisterhood would like to acknowledge and thank Norma Beckerman for sending uniongrams to Temple members. A uniongram is a special note sent from one member to another in times of joy or sorrow. Compiling lists of events such as weddings, anniversaries and Bar/Bat Mitzvahs takes time and effort. We greatly appreciate Norma's contribution.

Lastly, the Sisterhood officers would like to congratulate co-president Elyse

An update from Lynn Bates and family

Greetings to you all. I thought I would let you know that we are heading for Wisconsin. Tiff has accepted the call to serve as pastor of the Congregational United Church of Christ in Brodhead, Wisc. The congregation is 150 years old, but the building is just 2 years old. They were a downtown church that needed lots of upgrading so they decided to move and

build new (sound familiar?). Brodhead is south of Madison, west of Janesville. A small town but close enough to bigger cities for shopping and culture. We will be two hours from Milwaukee or Chicago. Our new address as of Dec. 15 will be:

4083 N Back Nine Court
Brodhead, WI 53520

(and yes we are on the golf course) I do not have a phone number yet but my e-mail remains the same, lkbates827@aol.com

We wish you all a very Happy Chanukah. May all your days be filled with peaceful lights.

Do take care and know I think of you often.

RABBI

(Continued from page 1)

represent Reform Judaism within Israeli society.

Last year the Union for Reform Judaism, started a program that is worthy of our consideration this Chanukah. For one of the nights of Chanukah, instead of getting we should give.

We all quote the old saying that it is better to give than to receive. This Chanukah, I am asking to put your words into action.

I am asking you to choose one night during Chanukah to donate Chai (\$18) to Kehilat Mevasseret Zion. **Donations should be made out to the Temple and sent to my attention.** I will collect the money and forward it on to the congregation as a single check to keep their money conversion expenses down. In return, you will be sent a beautiful certificate marking your donation.

If you would like to make this donation in place of a gift for someone

else, I will be happy to make sure that the person you have chosen to honor is aware of your donation.

Over the Ark in our sanctuary are words from Psalm 36, "For you are the fountain of life, by your light do we see light." It should remind us that one of our responsibilities is to help bring light into places where there is darkness. **Choose one night this Chanukah to help another congregation bring light into the world.**



Religious School News

Fire safety program educational, entertaining

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

On Sunday, Oct. 10, we had a visit from the Wyomissing Fire Department. The Fire Chief along with three firefighters presented a fire safety program, after which the entire school adjourned to the parking lot where a pumper and a hook and ladder were parked.

We were able to go inside each of the trucks, and some of our students were lucky enough to be able to ride in the basket of the hook and ladder while it went up and down.

New Pick-Up Regulations

By this time all parents have received the memo regarding our new pick-up

regulations. The system is working well and we feel this is a much safer option for your children. Thank you for your cooperation.

Happy December birthdays to Hannah Walker, Kevin Altman, Chase Weizer, Ryan Egolf, Maya Goldstein, Sarah Brok, Abby Gelb and Cory Jeffers. Mazel tov to Michael

Focus on the Food Festival

Celebrating a big success and a great effort

By **Jeri Kozloff**

The weather was gorgeous, the food great, the music glorious, and the turnout grand.

And best of all the number of RCOS congregants who volunteered their time and talent to the 2004 Food and Cultural Festival was GIGANTIC!. Two and three generations of some families, young and

old members worked side-by-side baking, cooking, serving, singing, selling, and cleaning.

The result: more food, more fun, more friendships, and a brighter future for the congregation.

We can all thank and praise each other for a job well done. Watch for the date of the follow-up meeting where the financial

results will be announced and decisions made for use of the profits.

Everyone is welcome to come to celebrate our success evaluate this year's event, and plan for an even better food and cultural festival next year.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!
**CHANUKAH FAMILY DINNER
AND SERVICE
FRIDAY, DEC. 10**

**Join us for the Baked Honey Chicken and Latkes Chanukah dinner at 6:15 p.m.
followed by our Chanukah Service.**

***Children's Shabbat will be celebrated during
this 7:45 p.m. service.***

**Visitors from two area churches
will be here to share our evening.**

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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To get an item in the bulletin, call Mark, 610-370-2533

(Marknem@aol.com) or Temple office, 610-375-6043.

Next deadline, Dec. 5

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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.

Happy, Healthy Chanukah season
Saul "Marty" Miller

**In honor of May and Leon Kaplan's
40th anniversary**
Bobbie Singer

In memory of Gerald Frank
Sylvia Schiff
Maxine & Dick Henry
Leah B. Levin
Lee and Judy Katz

**In honor of Hilde Gernsheimer and
Fred Jakob's fifth anniversary**
Bobbie Singer

In memory of Mildred Rosner
The Beck Family

Greater Temple Fund

A donation has been received
from
Joan Darlington

**In honor of the 90th birthday of
Miriam Fogelman**
Bob & Kaye Ullman

In memory of Gerald Frank
Lisa Ueberroth
Dr. & Mrs. Harold Smolinsky
Barbara C. Silverberg

In memory of Elaine Backer
The Behneys
Debbie, Stan, & Stephanie
Cieplinski

**In memory of Seymour
Kurlancheek**
Barbara C. Silverberg

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In gratitude for allowing us to
use the Temple for our meetings
The World Affairs Council

With thanks for the kindness of
our members and staff in
memory of Leon Levin
Lorri and Yoni Oziri

**In honor of Rabbi Michelson's
trio of B'nai Mitzvah with the
Gunter family**
Ellice and Rich Gunter

**In memory of Fred Coopersmith
& Henrietta Goldstein**
Sandee, Neal, Michele and
Jonathan Nevitt

**In honor of Rabbi Michelson's
work with her for her conversion**
Carol Freed

New Building Fund

**In honor of the birth of Sophia
Paige Horowitz, daughter of
Elyse and Jeff Horowitz**
Harriet Baskin

**In honor of Michael Saidman on
his Bar Mitzvah**
Lynn & Jeffrey Driben

**In honor of Jake Gunter on his
Bar Mitzvah**
Lynn & Jeffrey Driben

**In honor of the birth of Talia
Rotenberg**
Lynn & Jeffrey Driben

In memory of Gerald Frank
Seth & Barbara Rosenzweig
Susan Schlanger
Norma & Marty Beckerman
Dr. C. Harold & Ruth Cohn
Carole & George Mason
Lynn & Jeffrey Driben
Judith & Francis Synnamon
Jean O. Kapka
Virginia H. Turrisi
Sara & David Natkin
Shelly & Barry Seltzer
Rick & Debbie Zelnick

In memory of Sonia Freed
Lynn & Jeffrey Driben

General Fund

**In honor of the birth of Sophia
Paige Horowitz**
Jill & Michael Haas

In memory of Dr. Gerald Frank
Jill and Michael Haas
Hilde Gernsheimer &
Fred Jakobs

New Building Landscaping Fund

In memory of Gerald Frank
Ron & Sharon Hrabak
Loreen & David Miller
Sue & Herb Wachs

In memory of Seymour

Kurlancheek Susan J. Schlanger Library Fund

**To Amy and Lee Berger in honor
of the birth of their new baby**
Susan Schlanger

**To Alison and Larry Rotenberg
on the birth of their
granddaughter**
Bobbie Singer

Holocaust Memorial Garden In memory of Dr. Gerald Frank Richard & Rosalye Yashek

Our sincere thanks for the
many good wishes for the
Fred's recovery and our
thanks to all who sent
Uniongrams to us for our
anniversary.

**Hildegard
Gernsheimer and
Manfred Jakobs**

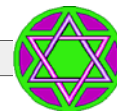
Poverty Teach-In

Dec. 5, 9:30 a.m. – noon

We will be participating with Reform congregations across the country as we look at the issue of poverty in our community and nationwide. Please call the Temple office to reserve your spot. Admission is one new bath towel which will be donated to the Opportunity House (formerly the Reading Emergency Shelter)

Correction

Bruce Cohen's e-mail
address is
**Bruce.A.Cohen
@comcast.net**
The information was



A special prayer for Chanukah

As part of the URJ's focus on poverty this year, please consider joining with Jews from across North America to extend your Chanukah celebration to those less fortunate.

Ner Shel Tzedakah ("candle of righteousness") is a project in which families and individuals devote the sixth night of Chanukah (Sunday, Dec. 12 this year) to learning about the problem of poverty. They donate the value of the gifts (or the gifts themselves) that they would otherwise exchange on that night to organizations that assist the poor.

A Blessing to recite on the 6th night of Chanukah

Baruch Ata Adonai, Eloheinu Melech Haolam, Asher Kidshanu B' mitzvotav, V'limdeinu L'Hadlik Ner Shel Tzedakah

Blessed are You, Eternal, our God, who makes us holy through the performance of Mitzvot, and inspires us to light the Candle of Righteousness.

As we light this "Ner Shel Tzedakah" tonight, we pray that its light will shine into the dark corners of our world, bringing relief to those suffering from the indignity and pain that accompany poverty. May our act of giving inspire others to join with us in the fight against the scourge of hunger, homelessness, need and want. Together, let us raise our voices to cry out for justice, and may that clarion call burst through the night's silence and declare that change must come.

Let us know about your simchas and sorrows

If you, a family member or a Temple member you know is sick or suffers the loss of a loved one, our Temple is here to help, but we have to know. We would like to recognize your simchas, too. Please call the Temple Office at (610) 375-6034 and help keep us informed.

Perpetual Memorials

November 28 – December 4

Louis Hirsch
 Albert B. Ball
 Albert Gilbert
 Helen Winston Quartner
 Samuel R. Lurio
 Rose Ehrlich Liefert

December 5–11

Dr. Samuel Goldsmith
 Dr. Julius Goldsmith
 Nathan Mendelsohn
 Leopold Loeb
 Solomon Weil
 Bertha Knoblauch

December 12-18

Edith Sondheim
 Simon Falkowitz
 Herman Folkman
 Abraham W. Loeb
 Bertha Guggenheim
 Goldye B. Curson
 Dora Kins
 Josephine Miller
 Deborah B. Schweriner
 Carlyn Liefert

December 19-25

Bernard Bash
 David Hermann
 Irene R. Salpeter
 Harry J. Bash
 Albert M. Salas
 Julius L. Cohen
 Dr. William Holzman

December 26-January 1

Johanna Gernsheimer
 Dora Sondheim
 J. Harold Fisher
 Samuel Frankel



Sisterhood Florence Frank Offering Fund

Congratulations to Mrs. Susan Schlanger in honor of her daughter's marriage
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman
Mrs. Ethel Sherman

Congratulations to Mrs. Dorothy Schlanger in honor of her granddaughter's marriage
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman
Mrs. Ethel Sherman

To Adrienne Cardinal in memory of her mother
Mr. & Mrs. David Natkin
Barry & Shellie Seltzer

Get well wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Stan Ramati
Mrs. Ethel Sherman

To Keith Backer in memory of his mother
Mrs. Marcia Gross
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Gross

To Marilyn Frank in memory of her husband
Mrs. Marcia Gross

To Carol Freed in honor of her birthday anniversary
Mr. & Mrs. Blair Hogg

Thanks to everyone for the cards and donations made in memory of Gerry
Mrs. Marilyn Frank

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.

You are cordially invited to join Michael Chwiecko and his family in prayer at his Bar

Thanks to all

who participated in the Light the Night Walk for Leukemia and Lymphoma at Gring's Mill Park on Oct. 23. This is the second year that "Team Bill Ueberroth" participated in this most worthy cause.

Keep those empty ink cartridges coming...

Recently we sent in 70 empty ink cartridges to Empties4Cash, and we received a check in the amount of \$113. Any cartridge with a printhead can be recycled, regardless of brand or type. Do you have an HP, Lexmark, Xerox, Compaq, Samsung, Kodak, Canon, or Apple printer? (Note: Epson cartridges cannot be recycled – they don't have a printhead.) Bring in your empty cartridges (inside a Ziploc bag to avoid ink spills) and we will recycle them for the Temple. We thank all of you who take the time to drop off your used, empty printer cartridges. The money we get to recycle them helps the Temple.

Book group returns

Our next meeting is **Sunday, Dec. 5 at 4 p.m.**
We are reading: "The Counterlife" by Philip Roth

Eat well . . .

and help the Temple's **Mitzvah Meal Program.**
Buy coupon strips good for breads and bagels at Panera Bread and raise money for the Temple. Contact the office for details.

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
or Sue Wolfe 610-376-8117





Volunteer Wanted.

Coordinator for Temple Oheb Sholom's Seder

Easy Job... only once a year...just a few hours of work.

Please contact : Sharyn Cohen

smc7345@comcast.net

REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM

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TIME VALUE

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