



OUR TEMPLE

December 2005

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom

Vol. 42 No. 4

Notes from the President

It's time to rededicate ourselves

By **Scott Bram**
President

During Chanukah, we celebrate freedom that had to be fought for. We also note that this was a time of rededication, since the Temple was cleansed and turned once again into a Jewish house of worship.

Anyone familiar with Jewish history knows the ensuing Hasmonean dynasty of Maccabean descendents gradually became corrupt. The country slipped into turmoil. Roman rule followed. So what does all that have to do with us? The point is that we can work hard to achieve something, only to lose it if we don't take care of it, guard it, or protect it. I have been fortunate in building up in

the Board and Executive Committee, a group of dedicated people who bring a great deal of skills and talents to serving the Temple. Some are veterans of Temple service. Others are newcomers who have tremendous leadership potential.

I'm trying to take the Temple to a higher level of professionalism. It is important to remember that part of the formula for success not only rests with how hard we work but how we interact with each other. It is essential that we treat each other with respect and understanding; resolving our differences through discussion, not conflict. It is very easy for people to get discouraged if they experience ridicule or are berated when

they feel they put out their best effort. Constructive criticism, spoken with an air of common courtesy is always welcome. This also should hold true with how we relate to the Temple staff and Rabbi. I do not feel that we have a real problem with courtesy or respect at the Temple. This is just a subject that is always good to revisit from time to time.

We find that life is all about relationships. The prayer books that we read from during services constantly reference the principles of Torah in promoting kindness and peace between us, God, the environment, and all the living things therein. Let us rededicate ourselves to that message this Chanukah as we strive to improve all our relationships.

From the Rabbi's Study

No shirt, no shoes, no service

You see it while you are walking in the door and it is posted somewhere at nearly every

**Rabbi Brian
Michelson**

restaurant you walk into. "No shoes, No Shirt, No Service." It is the restaurant's less than subtle way of telling you that the way you are dressed may determine whether you are welcome. Some of their concern is about health issues, but part of it is also requiring you to show some courtesy to other patrons.

Over the years, I have patronized a number of restaurants that require men to wear

jackets. On the few occasions I have forgotten one, I have been lent some of the ugliest jackets known to humanity. I think the restaurants figure that if you are forced to wear an ugly jacket, just once, they can be sure you will not forget a jacket in the future. "No shirt, no shoes, no service"

The same thing might be said about the way we dress when coming to the synagogue. In generations past, people wore the Jewish equivalent to their Sunday best. To show up without a jacket or a tie was unthinkable. However, times

have changed and the way we dress for synagogue has changed. People come to service dressed in different ways. In some ways, I welcome this change, because I hope it means that people are more comfortable in our sanctuary. This comfort, I believe, helps people connect with their Judaism. However, we must also remember that the sanctuary is where we gather to worship God. Therefore, a reasonable level of dress can and should be expected.

Now, we do not, and should not, have a door attendant who turns anyone away because how they are dressed, but we should show a modicum of respect to God, to the Torah, and to our fellow congregants by dressing appropriately. Because, the last thing I would want you to see upon entering our building is a sign saying, "No shoes, No Shirt, No Service."

December Highlights

Friday, Dec. 2: Shabbat service, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 3: Shabbat service, 10 a.m.

Friday, Dec. 16: Religious School Shabbat service with Grade 2, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 17: Tot Shabbat, 10 a.m.

Sunday, Dec. 25: Erev Chanukah. Light first candle.

Friday night services at 7:45 unless otherwise noted

Babysitting available for 7:45 Shabbat services. Please check with the office for babysitting availability at other services.

*Bulletin sponsored by
Hilde Gernsheimer
in memory of Solly and Gabriel
Gernsheimer*

Religious School News

Help your children share the joy of Chanukah

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

As another winter approaches, our students anxiously await Chanukah, which, to their dismay, arrives quite late this year. Though a minor occasion in the Jewish scheme of things, it is always a major event in the eyes of the children. Along with all the joy and celebrating, it is also a good time to stress the importance of tzedakah and helping those less fortunate. On Sunday mornings, please help in reminding your children to bring in tzedakah and/or canned goods for the Food Bank. These donations go a long way in helping others and give each class a great sense of

accomplishment when they choose a charity at the end of the school year.

Part of our Chanukah celebration this year will be with Keshet Zion's Religious School. In the second of our six programs, we will join together Wednesday, Dec. 21 at the Jewish Community Center, 4-6pm.

A special thank you to those who have volunteered to be class parents. You will be contacted by your child's teacher for help in coordinating special events (i.e. Shabbat dinners, parties). You are not expected to do all the work yourself - we just need a contact person to coordinate!!! And if you would like to suggest an event

for your child's class, please feel free. We still need a parent volunteer for Grade 6.

Happy Birthday to Kevin Altman, Hannah Walker and Chase Weizer, all on Dec. 4, Ryan Egolf on Dec. 10, Abby Gelb on Dec. 21, and Cory Jeffers on Dec. 26!

Reminders:

Dec. 16 - Grade 2 Shabbat 6pm

Dec. 20 - No Hebrew School

Dec. 21 - Program with KZ at JCC 4-6pm

Dec. 25 - No Sunday School

Dec. 27 - No Hebrew School

A Happy (secular) New Year to all - see you in 2006!

A lasting legacy

Remember the Temple in your Estate Plans and in your Will, and save Inheritance and Estate Taxes. The following language is suggested for inclusion in your Will:

"I give the sum of . . . to Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom, located at 555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, to be used at such time and for such purposes as are determined in the sole discretion of the Board of Directors of the Congregation."

Perpetual Memorials

December 4 to December 10

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

December 11 to December 17

Edith Sondheim
Simon Falkowitz

Herman Folkman
Abraham W. Loeb
Bertha Guggenheim
Goldye B. Curson
Dora Kins
Josephine Miller
Deborah B. Schweriner

December 18 to December 24

Carlyn Liefert
Bernard Bash
David Hermann

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

December 25 to December 31

Johanna Gernsheimer
H. Robert Gilbert
Dora Sondheim
J. Harold Fisher

The Temple Online

www.ohebsholom.org

Office: office@ohebsholom.org

Rabbi Michelson: rabbi@ohebsholom.org **Bookkeeper Beth Bruck:** bookkeeper@ohebsholom.org

Sisterhood news**Gift shop fills all your Chanukah needs**

By Carol Freed and Karen Robinson

Happy Chanukah!! It's a little early, but it will be here before you know it. Please stop by the gift shop for all your Chanukah needs, gelt, dreidels, candles, menorahs and gift of all kinds. Come check out new Gary Rosenthal pieces just in time for the holidays, and our wide selection of jewelry.

The Sisterhood will be doing another Purim fundraiser this year. We are looking

for volunteers to help with this project. Remember all the fun we had last year making the Purim boxes? It was great meeting new people and getting to know each other better. If you're interested, please contact Karen Hogg.

Keep your eyes open for information on the upcoming joint meeting with Hadassah Dec. 18.

Please note the April 5 Donor Luncheon Meeting has been changed to a din-

ner.

Here are some dates to keep open for the year:

Dec. 18 - Joint meeting with Hadassah

March 10 - Sisterhood Shabbat

April 5 - Donor Dinner

May 20 - Comedy Night

We will keep you updated on any new additions to our above list. Don't miss out on the fun, please join us!!

Sisterhood Florence Frank Offering Fund

To Doris Brok for a speedy recovery

Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman
Mrs. Joseph Schlanger

To Mrs. Hilde Gernsheimer in memory of her husband Fred Jakobs

Mr. & Mrs. Alan Green
Mrs. Sue Wolfe

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brok

To Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Karasin in memory of her mother

Mrs. Sue Wolfe

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Lee Berger on the birth of a son

Mr. & Mrs. Murry Knoblauch

Congratulations to Rosalind Hyman on becoming first woman president of the Torch Club

Mr. & Mrs. Murry Knoblauch

To Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Cohen in memory of Sally Cohen

Dr. & Mrs. Eric Zelnick
Mr. & Mrs. Murry Knoblauch

To Mrs. Hilde Gernsheimer in memory of her sister

Mr. & Mrs. Murry Knoblauch
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brok

Congratulations to Mr. and Michael Perilstein on the engagement of their son

Dr. & Mrs. Eric Zelnick

To Mrs. Shirley Hand for a speedy recovery

Mrs. Dorothy Schlanger

To Sidney Symons for a speedy recovery

Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman
Mrs. Harriet Baskin

To Mrs. Doris Zeis and family in memory of her mother, Lillian Levin

Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Asher

To Mrs. Elaine Zeis and family in memory of her mother Lillian Levin

Mr. & Mrs. Lionel Asher

To Marvin Levin and family in memory of his mother Lillian Levin

Mr. & Mrs. Lionel Asher

•
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.

Correction

The November bulletin was sponsored by Eva Bartos. Her name was spelled incorrectly in the November bulletin. We deeply apologize for the error

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Mark Nemirow—Editor

Judith Arndt — Assistant Editor

Sidney L. Symons —

Advertising/Sponsorships Manager

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

We appreciate your help with our Onegs!

Thank you to everyone who has been dropping off cookies and cakes for our Onegs! Nothing tastes as good as homemade! When you are baking, think about making some extra and donating it to the Temple to be frozen and later used for an Oneg. It's always nice to have something in the freezer if we need some backup "goodies." Just drop any extras you may bake in the Temple office and they will be frozen for a later time. Your donation would be greatly appreciated.

Won't you consider sponsoring an Oneg? If you would like to sponsor an Oneg to celebrate a special event in your and your family's life or sponsor flowers in memory of a special person, please contact Susan Gelb at 610-927-1296.

Focus on the Food Festival

Bigger and better than ever!

By **Jeri Kozloff**

It's no joke! The 5th Jewish Food and Cultural Festival was our biggest and best event ever. As I write this, it's too early to give you the financial report. That will come next month. But early returns suggest that once again Festival proceeds will bring substantial contributions to the Student Cantor and Mortgage Funds.

It's not too soon to report about every other aspect of the festival:

A beautiful day: Once again the weather cooperated;

Effective publicity thanks to Boscov's, the *Reading Eagle*, and the signs installed

by Lynn Driben;

More people attending than ever before; Enthusiastic repeat visitors saying "I look forward to this all year;"

A wonderful concert by our religious school students led by student cantor Leah Holland. We in the audience were all "qvelling;"

Sales of over 150 apple cakes made by Barbara Rosenzweig and our indomitable bakers;

A higher level of participation by RCOS members. Good work, Harriet Baskin and your volunteer recruitment squad!

Museum quality exhibit of the work of

Ben Shahn loaned and curated by Jeff Sternlieb;

A beautiful, informative, and inspiring display of Jewish ritual objects assembled by Sue Wachs;

In mentioning the efforts of a few people, I know I'm leaving out the dozens of other members who labored before, during and after the festival to make it so very successful. All of us deserve a pat on the back and "mazel tov" for a job well done.

Watch for notice of our "Wrap-up" evaluation meeting in December and the "Focus on the Food Festival" article next month when we'll "show you the money."

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.

In honor of Lindsy Stoudt's Bat Mitzvah
Carole & Irv Beck

In honor of Ruth Barrer's granddaughter's Bat Mitzvah
Maxine & Dick Henry

Speedy recovery to Doris Brok
Sylvia Schiff

In memory of Sally Fromm Cohen
Maxine & Dick Henry

In memory of Edith Babich
Bob & Kaye Ullman

My sincere thanks to the congregation for their support, their expressions of sympathy, and the fruit basket during my recent bereavements.

Hilde Gernsheimer

Thank you to everyone who made contributions in memory of Sally Fromm Cohen.

Sharyn and Bruce Cohen

Thank you for the wishes everyone sent me for my special birthday.

Patty Goldstein

Don't forget to recycle those empty ink jet cartridges!!

Do you have an HP, Lexmark, Xerox, Compaq, Samsung, Kodak, Canon, or Apple printer? We cannot recycle Epson cartridges or the large toner cartridges. We recycle only the small, snap-in ink jet cartridges that have print heads. Bring in your empty ink jet cartridges (in a sealed bag, please) and we will have them recycled. The money we get helps the Temple. We have earned to date \$633! Keep those cartridges coming!

Get your food certificates. . .

from Carole Kutscher, Barbara Rosenzweig, or Sue Wolfe. You get full value for your coupon and the Temple earns 5% of what is spent!! The coupons come in amounts ranging from \$20 to \$100, depending on where you shop. The coupons can be mailed to you, dropped off at the Temple office for you to pick up, or sometimes, they can be delivered to you. The profit goes to the Building Fund.

Opportunity House thanks congregation for its help

Our collection of socks and underwear was greatly appreciated. Thanks to all who gave generously to our collection. The Social Action Committee received this letter and would like to share it with our Temple membership:

Dear Committee Members and Friends,

I am writing to thank you for your generous concern for the people that Opportunity House provides services to. The needs are

never ending. Each year, especially around the fall and winter months, the need for new, clean items like socks and underwear becomes more of a demand. Many of the folks who enter our shelter doors come to us with just the clothing on their backs, and little more. Your overwhelming donations will provide the essential needs for many of our clients. I know they appreciate your gifts, because, I have the pleasure of sharing the items with our clients and witnessing their smiles.

We all appreciate your kindness throughout the year with your on-going collection of toiletries, and for this special effort in collecting socks and other personal items. For now, my office is overflowing; but, for many more months to come our clients will remember your kindness. Thank you, from all of us at Opportunity House.

Sincerely
Delia McLendon

Thanks for your help

The Social Action Committee would like to thank all the temple members who prepared and served lunch at

Opportunity House on Sept. 11:

Harriet Baskin, Jo Cohen, Mimi Gavigan, Jack and Jeff Gernsheimer, Michelle Mart, Sylvia Schiff, and Leah Soloff.

Our next lunches will be on Sundays,
Jan. 8 and April 23.

*If you would like to be involved, please contact
Michelle Mart 610-378-9267.*

Viva Sunday 10% Donations

Thank you. Someone has been helping us by eating at Viva on Sundays. We received a check for \$9.23, 10% of the tab for members of our Temple when they ate at the restaurant. Every bit helps!

Viva's Euro-Mediterranean luncheon and dinner menus with featured Sunday Brunch specials are great - and if you eat at Viva on Sundays, you can earn money for our Temple too! Simply present our current week's synagogue service program to your server and all registered religious organizations will receive a donation from Viva representing 10% of all identified members' food and nonalcoholic beverage purchases made any

Greater Temple Fund

My sincere thanks to the congregation for their support, their expressions of sympathy, and the fruit basket during my recent bereavements
Hilde Gernsheimer

In memory of Edith Babich
Mr. & Mrs. Don Kelly

To honor Rabbi Michelson for his kindness during my recuperation from my surgery
Ellen Charney

In celebration of Sukkot
Richard D. & Carmen D. Fisher

In memory of Manfred Jakobs
James & Shirley Ullman
Lois & Steve Gutmann and Family

In memory of Edith Babich
Lois & Steve Gutmann and Family

In memory of Michael A. Noch
Howard Hafetz

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In memory of my mother, Edith Heyman
David Gedalecia

In memory of Fred Jakobs
Richard & Sharon Webb

In memory of Fred Coopersmith and Henrietta Nevitt
Sandee & Neal Nevitt

New Building Fund

General donation from
Richard D. & Carmen D. Fisher

In memory of Sally Fromm Cohen

Norma & Marty Beckerman
Sue & George Viener
Hilde Gernsheimer & Family
Barbara Stein & Kenneth

In memory of Edith Babich
Conrad & Ruth Heisman

In memory of Manfred Jakobs
Nancy & Murry Knoblauch

In memory of Samuel Frankel
Nancy & Murry Knoblauch
Barbara Stein & Kenneth

In memory of Murray Katz
Sue & George Viener

In observance of the yahrzeit of
Eugen Jaschek and Victoria Levine
Rosalye Yashek

Landscaping:
Holocaust Garden
Belated get well wishes to Henry D. Singer
Bob & Kaye Ullman

In memory of Manfred Jakobs
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Kelly
Beth Mortman
Mr. William Sotelo

In memory of Edith Babich
Sue & Herb Wachs

Thank you for the best wishes for my special birthday
Patty Goldstein

In memory of Andy Brenner Nelson
Barbara and Seth Rosenzweig

In memory of Manfred Jakobs
Barbara and Seth Rosenzweig
Conrad and Ruth Heisman

In memory of Richard Yashek
Kelly M. Antekeier and Edwin A. Pasha

Library Fund

Speedy recovery to Doris Brok
Susan Schlanger

In memory of Sally Fromm Cohen
Susan Schlanger