



Our Temple

February 2003

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom

Vol. 39 No. 6

Notes from the President

Much to be proud of at halfway point

By Ellen Azrael
President

As we head into February, it is hard to believe that half of our fiscal year is over. January 31 marks the end of the first half of the year. While most of us have just celebrated the arrival of the secular New Year, the Board of Trustees is busy putting the finishing touches on our fiscal year, which ends July 31.

We'll be welcoming Seymour Rossel as our Scholar in Residence, Feb. 28-March 2. Please plan to attend Friday

night's dinner and service, Saturday's deli supper and havdalah, as well as the Sunday program. More details will be coming soon.

Meanwhile the gears are turning to establish next year's budget. And the nominating committee is hard at work developing a list of members to become the newest trustees.

At this halfway point in our year I want to thank all of you for being members of Oheb Sholom. We hope that everyone feels welcome at the Temple. If

our service's prayers and music aren't just like what we grew up with, we should still feel comfortable with the people in attendance.

Some of us are not that great at starting up conversations with people we don't know, but that is exactly what visitors are looking for when they come to the Temple, someone to greet them. So, if you see someone at the Temple whom you don't know, introduce yourself. You might make a new friend.

See you at the Temple!

From the Rabbi's Study

Please inform us of hospital stays

As I sit down to write this, the New Year has just begun. However, along with the new secular year have come a number of challenges. These are challenges that

**Rabbi Brian
Michelson**

will require your help over the coming year.

A new law has been creating a certain amount of havoc for the last few months. This new law is the HIPPA (Healthcare Information Portability and Protection Act).

HIPPA provides for very stringent handling of patient information by

doctors and hospitals.

For us as a congregation the biggest impact involves finding out who is in the hospital. Hospitals can no longer make lists of patients available to visiting clergy without first getting written permission to release the name. If the form gets skipped during the admissions procedure, there will be no way for us to know that people are in the hospital. It makes no difference if this information was shared in the past; patient consent will be needed again.

This means I will need your help over the coming months. If you know someone

who is in the hospital or if you will be going in yourself, **PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE**, let the Temple office know. Don't rely on others to pass the information along. Even if you think we know, call us to make sure that we do.

It is only with your help that, as a congregation, we can continue to do what a congregation should. Therefore, I thank you in advance for your assistance and understanding.

February Highlights

Friday, Feb. 7: Shabbat service with Pre-K-Kindergarten, 6 p.m. followed by dinner.

Saturday, Feb 8: Morning Shabbat Service, 10 a.m.

Mid-Winter Family Night, beginning at 5:30 p.m. Dinner, silent auction

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

Saturday, Feb. 22: Tot Shabbat, 10 a.m.

Friday, Feb. 28-Sunday, March 2: Scholar in Residence weekend

Friday night services at 7:45 unless otherwise noted

Babysitting available at all services

**Scholar in Residence
to explore mysticism
Details on Page 5**

**Bulletin sponsored by
Sylvia Schiff
in memory of my loving
husband,**



Religious School News

The people of the book

By Holly Michelson, RJE
Religious School Administrator

For reasons that will soon become clear, during our last Education Committee meeting, I offered to write this month's article with a "book" theme. I've always heard the phrase that the Jews were the "people of the book," but had not known specifically where that phrase came from. I always knew education was very important in Judaism, and I figured the phrase had to do primarily with the Torah. So I went looking to see what I would find if I simply looked up "book" in some of our Judaic books. While none of them gave me a direct answer, many of them had several references to books by way of the Hebrew word "sefer." Our Torah is called a "Sefer Torah." We of course treat our Torah with great honor,

so should we treat all of our books with great honor.

I would also like to suggest we recognize our readers as well. In November, our students were offered the opportunity to raise money for the Jewish Braille Institute. One of our students, Rebecca Loewenstein-Harting, raised more than \$50 and was honored at our Volunteer Service at the end of January. We congratulate her effort.

This year, as I hope many of you know, we started a program through which we might increase our Children's Library collection. We are asking you to consider either purchasing (there is a wish list in my office) a new children's book for our library, or donating a particular amount for the purchase of a new book. We will include a bookplate in the front

cover saying that the book was donated in a child's honor (your child, grandchild, niece, nephew and so on). If the child is a Religious School student, we will present the book on or around the child's birthday so that he/she may be the first to check it out. For more details, or to arrange for a donation, please contact Karen Hogg for more information.

Important Dates:

February 2: PreK/K will have class (instead of Feb. 9)

February 7: PreK/K Service and Dinner
February 8: Mid-Winter Family Fun Night

February 16: No Religious School
February 28-March 2: Scholar in Residence Weekend

Men's Club News

Get an education about a growing local college

By Marshall Azrael
Men's Club president

Founded in 1971, Reading Area Community College initially held classes in various public school buildings. The initial enrollment was 265 students. The college steadily grew, and in 1977 a permanent campus was established at Second & Penn Streets at the former Holiday Inn. Now there are several buildings and enrollment is over 3,000.

Our guest speaker for February is Dr.

Richard A. Kratz, the new president of RACC. Dr. Kratz came to RACC in 1987 as the Dean of Student Services and became the Vice-President and Dean of Academic Affairs in 1992. Previously he was at Bucks County Community College, and prior to that he served in public school districts. Dr. Kratz also has professional baseball experience and served in the Army Reserve from 1967 to 1973.

At our Feb. 9 meeting Dr. Kratz will

tell about his vision for the future of RACC. Join us for breakfast! I'll be looking forward to see you.

Please call me if you have any questions or suggestions.

Our next meeting will be March 16.

Our officers are Marshall Azrael, President; Sidney Symons, Vice President; Michael Pardo, Secretary; Arthur Becker, Past President

Future Meetings, all on Sundays:
April 6

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Our journey to Bethlehem (Bethlehem, PA, that is)

By Lynn and Jeff Driben

Early on a Saturday morning in the middle of November, we dropped our preschoolers off at their grandparents' house and headed to Bethlehem for the Regional Biennial. The biennial was held over a long weekend, and by the time we arrived, our temple colleagues had already participated in two full days of workshops with other clergy, educators, and lay leaders from Reform congregations in our region. Prayer and Torah study were the focus for this Shabbat.

The theme for the biennial was "God was in this place and I did not know it": Discovering Holiness in Our Lives. Interestingly enough, our temple's book club just finished discussing a book with this name (the timing was not a coincidence!). We joined the morning Shabbat service and were energized immediately by the packed ballroom and enthusiastic participants. This buzz continued throughout the day as we attended a lively Torah study session, a presentation by the new director of Camp Harlam, and various breakout sessions

that explored Jewish values, spirituality, social action, and leadership among other topics. The day concluded with a lovely Havdalah service and an awards banquet that recognized volunteers including our own Nancy Knoblauch.

This conference, like others we have attended, was very stimulating. It was informative, thought-provoking and fun, too. Our biggest challenge is making time to go. Once we work out the logistics, we always walk away at the end of the day with some learning or insight that makes our effort worthwhile. This biennial was

The Reading-Berks Emergency Shelter

Our own Rosalind Hyman spoke eloquently and enthusiastically about The Reading-Berks Emergency Shelter at the RCOS Social Action Fair in October. Roz kindly wrote the following version of the comments she delivered at the Fair.

By Rosalind Hyman

The Reading-Berks Emergency Shelter provides a wide array of services to homeless, formerly homeless, and low-income families. The ultimate goal of the Shelter is to have our guests become self-sufficient. In addition to services that meet basic needs (shelter, meals, showers, laundry) services are provided to help individuals become and remain independent, responsible members of our community. These services include: case

management, life skills classes, after care case management for individuals and families moving back into the community, short and long term transitional housing programs, and permanent housing for individuals with disabilities.

Our Shelter also provides 24 hour a day, 7 day a week child-care services through the Second Street Learning Center for children age 6 weeks to 12 years, averaging about 115 each day. We provide readiness training through Job Quest, and primary health care services through the Reading Health Dispensary staffed by the Reading Hospital and Medical Center. The Reading-Berks Emergency Shelter is a multi-service organization that focuses on improving the

quality of life for those in need and assists them in breaking their cycle of dependency.

The Shelter can always use volunteers -- I find the most rewarding to be in the Second Street Learning Center. Here, should one choose to do so, you can rock babies, play with toddlers, do crafts with our students, give a presentation of your favorite hobby, help with homework, help with the computer, and, of course, read to our children.

Volunteers are also needed for cooking all three meals, breakfast, lunch and dinner. For group activities (more than one volunteer) we always need volunteers to sort clothing, household goods, food, etc. that have been generously donated to the Shelter. We at the Shelter will try to find the

NOW FORMING

SISTERHOOD BOOK CLUB

WE WILL BE MEETING EVERY OTHER MONTH
ON SUNDAY AFTERNOONS AND WEEKDAY EVENINGS
WE WILL BE READING "THE NANNY DIARIES"

CONTACT LINDA BRAM OR ELYSE HOROWITZ FOR MORE DETAILS

SAVE THE DATE!

APRIL 5TH
COMEDY NIGHT WITH DESSERT RECEPTION

Don't Miss

VHC

Revisited

Spring 2003 at RCOS



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.

A contribution has been received from:
Sylvia Gross

In honor of Mrs. Sylvia Gross on her special
birthday
Carole & Irv Beck

Yahrzeit in memory of my father, Jacob H.
Miller
Saul "Marty" Miller

Large (frozen) Knishes are for sale. These are delicious and heat in your own oven. One dozen for \$10.00, Half dozen for \$5.00. Stop in anyday 9:00 -4:00 to pick up a bag or two.

New Building Fund

To Susan Kelner in honor of her special birthday
Gene & Shirley Friedman

To Hilda Yablin in honor of her special birthday
Gene & Shirley Friedman

To Richard & Rosalye Yashek in appreciation of their wonderful hospitality
Trina Rudolph
Esther & Sid Bratt

Dan & Shoshana Tannenbaum
Bob & Shirley Kaufman
Norman & Rita Wilikofsky
Ruth & Walter Hamburger
Louise & Phil Zeidman
Sylvia Wenger
Fay Spitz & Harold Spector
Meyer & Grace Lewis
Edith Blanck

To Dr. Leonard & Mrs. Sheila Rosenzweig in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary
Seth, Barbara, Dana & Michael Rosenzweig

To Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Riegler, Yahrzeit in memory of Eugene Riegler
Marty, Norman, Andy and Erica Beckerman

To Andrew & Sandy Sigal in memory of Michael Sigal
Norma & Marty Beckerman

Landscaping Fund

A tribute has been received from the estate of Etta Burns for the new garden area

Sisterhood

Thank you for all the uniongrams we received for

our 40th anniversary
Roseann and Allen Michelson
In honor of those wishing Barbara a special happy birthday
Roy and Barbara Schwartz

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In appreciation for the many good wishes on our anniversary
Norma & Marty Beckerman

In memory of David Beckerman
Norma & Marty Beckerman

In honor of Holly & Brian Michelson's recent anniversary
Cantor Gerald Miller and Ms. Bonnie Friedman

A donation has been received

from:
Dr. Kalmen Feinberg

Shirley K. Jacobs

Religious School Fund

In honor of Holly Michelson's birthday
Bonnie Friedman & Cantor Gerald Miller

Greater Temple Fund

Thank you for the beautiful Chanukah basket
Samuel & Frances Silberstein

Yahrzeit in memory of my father, Henry M. Schneider
Nancy & Murry Knoblauch

To Albert Boscov in honor of receiving the Pennsylvania Society's Gold Medal
Murry & Nancy Knoblauch

In honor of Ed and Evelyn Goodman's 50th anniversary
Spencer & Mary Ann Watts

General Fund

To Ed and Evelyn Goodman in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary
Edith Mendelsohn

For new High Holy Day prayer books for children in memory of Samuel R. Kozloff
Jeri & David Kozloff

Perpetual Memorials

February 7 and 8

Julia Ehrlich
Valena R. Cohen
Natalie Folkman
Nathan Marcus
Susie Marcus
Hattie Horowitz

February 14

Franklin A. Herman
Mildred H. Lurio
Ruth Y. Ruttenberg
Josef Goldstein
David Grotta
Goldie Schachter

February 21

Leonard Schiff, Jr.
Rebecca Bash
Isaac Goldsmith

Jacob H. Miller
Virginia Smith Sinaink
Ralph Brok
Abram B. Luria
Meyer Lurio
Emanuel B. Friedman
Fred Stein
Hannah Bash
Henrietta Camp
Irwin Kins

February 28

Rudolf Abrams
Carrye L. Loewestein
Sylvia R. Ball
Samuel L. Shaffer
Belle Edelstein
Stanley Folkman
Harry Edelstein

We need your Help!

We are asking you to please call the office and inform us of the hospitalization of any congregation member so that we can arrange for visits from the Rabbi. We have no other way of knowing if you or a family member or friend is in the hospital. This is also for those who may be ill and recuperating at home or in a nursing home facility. Please call and let us know so that we can visit and perhaps help with a meal.

SISTERHOOD CONGRATULATES. . .
CLARA LEARY FOR RECEIVING THE
SISTERHOOD VOLUNTEER AWARD AND



Sisterhood News

Helping the sick when they're out of town

By Elyse Horowitz

We have a new program that we are very excited about. Thanks to the Sunshine Fund and the Hampton Inn we will be sending personal care packages to ill congregation members who are going out of town for treatment. Hopefully our small package will help them through their difficult time, and let them know that their Temple family is thinking of them.

Thanks to all that attended our coffee klatch. It was nice to spend time with our Sisterhood friends. We would like to thank Carol Freed for baking, and Karen Hogg for organizing the breakfast.

Just a reminder, all members of the congregation have received a directory information form, as well as a questionnaire from the Sisterhood. Please take the time to fill it out and send it in. We need your updated information for the Temple Directory and we would love to hear your thoughts and opinions for future Sisterhood events.

WE NEED HELP! Our Donor Lunch is March 18 and we need volunteers to help organize it. Also, Sisterhood Shabbat is April 25. If you would like to take part in this service in English or Hebrew please contact Linda Bram.

YOU ASKED FOR IT, AND WE

GOT IT. We will be having a comedy and dessert reception on April 5. This is a non-fundraising event, so please come out and laugh with us.

Mark your calendars; May 20 is the Spring General Meeting.

THERE IS SUCH A THING AS A FREE LUNCH! We started a great new volunteer system called Donor Dollars. For every hour you work at the gift shop you earn \$1 toward your lunch for the Donor Luncheon in the spring. All you need to do is volunteer your time. If you can work Tuesday afternoons 4:15-6, Friday evenings 7:30-7:45, after services 9-9:15, and Sunday mornings 9-noon. Please call Donna

Capturing Jewish Magic & Mysticism: Rabbi Seymour Rossel

RCOS Scholar in Residence 2003

Friday, Feb. 28 at 7:45 p.m.

Religion, Magic, & Meaning

Setting aside science and reason, many modern Jews are seeking meaning in Jewish mystical teachings. Jewish mysticism, however, is tinged by large doses of magic, superstition, and demonology. Where does magic leave off and mysticism begin? Can we capture the spiritual while avoiding the superstitious? And can we build a liberal faith that allows for angels and miracles? This

lecture will be part of our Friday Evening service.

Saturday, March 1 at 5 p.m.

Havdalah: Jewish Mysticism & Meaning

What is Jewish mysticism all about? What paths to spirituality do different Jewish mystical strains follow? Can modern Jews build a unique mystic path for our own generation?

There will be a deli dinner available after the program for a small charge. Please call the office to reserve your space.

Sunday, March 2 at 9:30 a.m. for breakfast (\$5 fee), 10 a.m. speaker

Jewish Mystical Meaning in Our Lives
Explore the mystical, magical dimensions of Jacob's dream. Discover a "stairway to heaven" that Jews have shared for thousands of years and how this stairway can be your own ladder to a richer Jewish life. Please call the office to reserve your space. This program is co-sponsored by the Jewish Community Center of
R e a d i n g .

Mid-Winter Family Night Out At Oheb Sholom

Saturday, Feb. 8 starting at 5:30 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to join in the fun

Adults: \$10 Children: \$4 (Under 4 yrs. - no charge)

The celebration will include the following and more...

Havdalah Service Cuban Style Dinner Buffet

Best Decorated Giant Cookie (Provided by the Religious School children)

& A Silent Auction

All proceeds raised at this lively event will go directly to the very serious work



Sisterhood Florence Frank Offering Fund

Congratulations to Nancy Knoblauch for receiving the Scroll of Honor from the UAHC

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

To Mrs. Judith Copeland on the birth of a granddaughter
Mrs. Sylvia Schiff

To Mrs. Wallace Rudolph in memory of her husband
Mrs. Helen Rappoport
Mrs. Sue Wolfe
Mrs. Edythe Stern
Mrs. Miriam Fogelman

Ms. Frances Rudolph

To Joseph Schlanger for a speedy recovery
Mrs. Helen Rappoport
Mr. & Mrs. Irvin Balis

To Susan Schlanger for a speedy recovery
Mr. & Mrs. Irvin Balis

To Edwin Lakin in memory of his sister
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brok

Many thanks for the good wishes sent to us on our 30th anniversary
Dr. & Mrs. Eric Zelnick

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Edward Goodman on their 50th wedding anniversary
Mrs. Hilde Gernsheimer & Fred Jakobs

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Gene Sterling on the birth of their grandson

Mr. & Mrs. Albert Diamond
To Joseph Lebate in memory of his wife
Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Symons

To Mr. & Mrs. Andy Sigal in memory of his brother Michael
Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Frank
Mrs. Sue Wolfe
Mrs. Edythe Stern

To Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Sigal in memory of his brother Michael
Mrs. Sue Wolfe

Mrs. Edythe Stern
To the Sisterhood in appreciation of the Chanukah basket
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Karp

Kindly send Florence Frank Offering Fund contributions to Mrs. Marilyn Frank, 2027 Lorraine Road, Reading, PA 19604; or Mrs. Gene Friedman, 107 Primrose Lane, Wyomissing, PA 19610.

Wanted: A Few Friendly Faces

The Young Adults Division (YAD) of the Jewish Federation is looking for a few friendly faces to help welcome new Jewish families to Berks County. As a member of this welcoming committee, you would call new residents, bring them a welcome gift (courtesy of the Federation) and serve as a resource if they need help

Oneg and flowers sponsors

To sponsor flowers, a food basket or oneg, call Ellice Gunter

Save the Date...

Friday March 7, has been reserved for a community Shabbat service and dinner at the JCC. Rabbi Michelson will be participating. (There will not be an evening Shabbat service at RCOS.) Candle lighting at 5:40 p.m., 6 p.m. service, 7:00 Kiddush and buffet style dinner. Watch for more details!!!

Eat well . . .

and help the Temple's

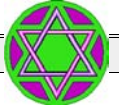
Mitzvah Meal Program.

We have entered into a partnership with Panera Bread to sell coupon strips for their breads and bagels.

For \$9 you receive coupons worth \$12 for bread or bagels and we keep 50% of the purchase price.

Stop by the Temple office and purchase a combo strip of 6 mixed coupons: 3 bread coupons, 1 bagel, 1 muffin and 1 cookie coupon or a strip of 6 bagel coupons (each coupon buys 3 bagels).

Enjoy delicious, fresh bread products and help the Temple's Mitzvah Meal Program at the same time.





REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM
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