



OUR TEMPLE

February 2008

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom

Vol. 44, No. 6

Notes from the president

When will it be time to empower the young?

By Herb Karasin

President

This time it's I again (Boy, does that sound weird! — but I am relatively sure it's correct. However, I invite any English teachers or English majors out there to respond.) The point is, this Note is being written by the actual president and not by my wife who pinch hit (pinched hit?) last month. I had indicated earlier that I may run out of ideas for these Notes, and Chip, who is clearly a better writer than I, agreed to write one, or more. I thank her for that.

No one would want to see a large blank block at the top of the Bulletin.

I am afraid I am going to return to my childhood again, briefly. This seems to be the area that I am most familiar with. Also, I seem to have so many prior years under my belt that there is a lot of material there.

Some of my happiest early memories revolve around the beginnings of independence as a child. For example, my family used to spend the last week or two of the Summer in Atlantic City. Even at quite young ages, my brother and I would spend

the day at the beach in front of the hotel we stayed at with no adult supervision. Our mother would let us know when to come in by hanging a towel in the window of our room at the right time. We would watch for the towel in the window; hopefully we figured out the right window — it was a large hotel. In the evenings, with about a dollar in our pockets we would head off down the boardwalk — once again alone — to play at an arcade or miniature golf course. Of course it was fun when our parents were there and

Continued on Page 3

From the Rabbi's study

Don't assume Temple knows you're in hospital

As I sit down to write this article; 2008 has just begun. I have been struggling with an issue that I hope you will be able to help me overcome.

**Rabbi Brian
Michelson**

In January 2003, a new law was created impacting how the health-care industry must handle patient information. HIPPA (Healthcare Information Portability and Protection Act) provides for very stringent handling of patient information by doctors and hospitals. For us as a congregation the greatest 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 permis-

sion to release the name. (This is often done as part of the admissions procedure.) If this gets skipped, 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 that I will need your help. 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. In addition, please make sure that you indicate your religion on admissions documents to ensure that I can be informed if you are hospital-

ized. If you are transferred from one hospital to another, to a rehab facility, or you are going home, please ask someone to call the Temple office and advise us.

On more than a few occasions I have shown up at a hospital or rehab center only to be told the person has been transferred or sent home. In addition, if you would like to have your name added or removed from the Temple's prayer list, please call the office.

On a personal note, please do not expect me to let others know about your hospitalization. A huge part of my responsibilities is about maintaining confidentiality. I tend not to share information about anyone. Holly gets annoyed at me regularly when I don't tell her what I am permitted to tell her, because I value your privacy and take this responsibility so seriously.

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 continuing assistance and understanding.

February Highlights

Friday, Feb. 1 — Early Shabbat Service, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 2 — Shabbat service, 10 a.m.

Sunday, Feb. 3 — Blood drive at Temple, 9 a.m. to noon

Friday, Feb. 8 — First grade Shabbat and dinner, 6 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 10 — Men's Club, 9:30 a.m.

All services at 7:45 p.m. unless otherwise noted

Babysitting available for 7:45 Shabbat services.

*Bulletin sponsored by
Sylvia Schiff
in memory of
Leonard Schiff Jr.*

Focus on the Food Festival**Congregation's work brings lots of 'Pennies'**By **Jeri Kozloff**

"Pennies from Heaven"
(with apologies to Bing Crosby)

*Every year the Food Fest brings
Pennies from Heaven
We all do our allocation with
Pennies from Heaven
Ad book profit to the mortgage,
keep paying it down
Funds for the student cantor,
to come to town
Trade debt for a balanced budget?
Great! Herb K. replies
Extra for the rabbi's programs
And kitchen supplies
So when you're called to help out,
don't run away from the phone
'Cause this is a project
no one can do alone.*

Bruce Cohen's slide show of Food Festival '07 with musical background entertained about 50 adult volunteers and the Religious School students who feasted on pancakes, scrambled eggs, coffee cake, and fruit salad at the wrapup meeting on January 6. The first group of volunteers to be recognized and applauded were the students who had made cookie dough, bused tables, served beverages, and helped in so many other ways. Each class had a job to

do and executed it beautifully.

Then Shirley Friedman was awarded the honor of being our first Food Festival Ambassador in recognition of the many hours she worked before, during, and after the festival; and always with willing hands and a big smile. Team leaders and coordinators were next to be thanked and finally, and most importantly, Susan Gelb and Janine Ure (and their husbands) the Festival's marvelous co-chairs.

My lyrics for "Pennies From Heaven" highlight the three important subjects discussed at the breakfast. With a drum roll Janine and Sue announced that NET INCOME for the 2007 festival was \$23,120.72 This represents a substantial increase over last year's profit of \$17,189.14

Here are the details

INCOME	
Ad book	\$ 7,022.00
Food	31,110.19
Donations	2,145.00
Vendors	510.00
Interest Income	39.95
Gross income:	\$38,172.14

EXPENSES	
Then the moment we all work for and anticipate: Allocation	\$15,051.42
Ad book proceeds of \$7,022 were al-	

ready applied the mortgage principal. The group voted to continue this practice for 2008.

After a lively and congenial discussion, we agreed to reduce the "seed money" in the money market account to not less than \$2,000 and add the freed-up funds to the net proceeds from of all other income allowing us to allocate a total of \$ 23,780.77 as follows:

RCOS Cantor Fund	\$13,394.95
RCOS Building Fund	\$1575.88
RCOS Rabbi's Fund	\$1000.00
RCOS Mortgage Principal	\$7022.00
Mazon	\$200.00

Greater Berks Food Bank \$587.94
Hold \$2000 for equipment investment.

As the meeting ended, RCOS President Herb Karasin emphasized the message that Janine and Sue delivered earlier in the morning. For this great festival and money maker to continue we need lots more volunteer help in the preparation (mostly cooking) stages. Every hour of your time helps; so plan to give as much of it as you can next fall. When the flier arrives or the phone rings, step up and follow Shirley Friedman's wonderful example: Say "Yes, I'll be there" and always with a smile.

TEN REASONS TO HOST A MEAL FOR THE RCOS STUDENT CANTOR

10. Joanna is a gracious person and great conversationalist.
9. When her husband joins you, he's entertaining and interesting as well
8. You help defray the costs of the student cantor program
7. You make our student cantor feel welcome
6. You add to our great reputation as a good placement for student cantors. This is a sought-after assignment.
5. Because of #5 we keep getting excellent student cantors.
4. You'll get to have a nice meal yourself; be it home-cooked or dining out.
3. You might make it an opportunity to invite family members or friends for a special meal and occasion
2. It's an opportunity to learn about Jewish history, customs, education, and the thoughts of young Reform leaders

AND THE #1 REASON TO HOST THE STUDENT CANTOR IS:

When she sings on the bima, leads us in prayer, or gives a sermon or program you will think, "I know her; I spent a more informal, relaxed, and personal time with her; and now this means so much more to me."

**Please contact Jeri Kozloff at 610-373-4400
or jdkoz@comcast.net to volunteer.**

Religious School News**Teaching children the value of helping others****By Judy Synnamon***Religious School administrator*

The teachers had a faculty meeting, luncheon and workshop Jan. 6. Thank you to Holly Michelson for providing an informative workshop for the teachers about supplementary teaching materials to be utilized in the classroom.

Another topic that was discussed at the Faculty meeting was the status of mitzvah and tzedukah projects for each class. Each class is working on helping to make our world a better place by incorporating mitzvah and tzedukah projects into their curriculum.

Our next Joint Program with Keshet Zion will be held Tuesday, Feb. 5 (Snow date: Feb. 19). We will be hosting the program from 4:15 to 6 pm. Our guest will be Rabbi Benjamin Cohen, who is a certified and registered Torah Scribe, or Sofer. Rabbi Cohen will be showing the materials he uses to write in the Torah. He will show us how to prepare the parchment and quill. This program will be very informative for teachers and students alike. Parents are welcome to stay for the presentation.

The synagogue children's library cart is in need of some additional books, especially for ages 9 and older. A book may

be donated to your child or family for any occasion. Please contact Michelle Mart (mam20@psu.edu) or Judy Synnamon if you are interested in making a donation. We have a list of books you can select from, or we can select a book for you.

On Friday night, Feb. 8, the First Grade class will be helping to conduct our Sabbath Service. The Service will start at 6 pm, with a Family Dinner at 7 p.m. Please refer to the Family Night Dinner flyer hanging on the bulletin board to check on your family's responsibility for the pot luck dinner.

Religious School will not be held Sunday, Feb. 17, in honor of President's Day.

PRESIDENT*Continued from Page 1*

watching, but it was liberating to be allowed to be on our own. We felt trusted and it never occurred that there could be any danger, and there never was. At home at a slightly older age, but still quite young, I would head off on my bicycle to ride throughout the neighborhood for the afternoon — again alone. On other occasions I was allowed to take a trolley car into Center City Philadelphia for the afternoon — with no adult supervision. In spite of all of these examples, I believe my parents were cautious with us. But, they apparently did not fear our being alone and away from their view at these times.

I think things are different today. For whatever reason, it now seems that parents keep their children on a tighter watch than then. Chip and I live in an area that is turning

from rural to suburban. As I drive to work, I see the following: children waiting for the school bus at the end of a driveway, possibly 100 feet from their home. Next to them is a large SUV with a parent in it. Of course, the parent is there to protect them. But what does this say to the child? That the world outside the house is so full of danger that the child cannot be in it alone? Or that the child cannot be trusted alone? I believe we have lost a lot when young children don't have the opportunity to play and explore on their own. Kids don't seem to walk alone, or even play outside alone as we used to do. They are driven to organized practices, sporting events and school and then they are picked up and driven home. I don't know whether things are actually more dangerous or if people just believe it's a more dangerous

place than in the past. For whichever reason, things have changed.

Also, I am not sure that this is confined to childhood; it may be carried over. If children can't be trusted on their own, then what about young adults? When do the older generations have the confidence to let younger adults take charge on their own without oversight by seniors?

In the Temple, when can younger members have a strong voice in running activities and committees? Do they have to wait until they are seniors? Seniors bring knowledge and experience to the table; young adults bring other necessary qualities such as enthusiasm, fresh perspectives, and optimism. Both should be at the table. All of the above are necessary; all should be included.

Keystone Community Blood Bank at the Temple

Sunday, Feb. 3, 9 a.m. to noon.

Contact the Temple office to sign up and help us save lives!

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

To get an item in the bulletin, contact Mark at Marknem@aol.com or 610-370-2533, or contact the Temple office.

Deadline for February bulletin: Feb. 5**The Temple Online**www.ohebsholom.orgOffice: office@ohebsholom.orgRabbi Michelson: rabbi@ohebsholom.orgBookkeeper Beth Bruck: bookkeeper@ohebsholom.orgCantor Joanna Alexander: cantor@ohebsholom.org

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In honor of the birth of their grandson,
Nathan Asher Stein
The Steins

In memory of Renee's mother, Esther Assayag
Renee & Harvey Seidel

In memory of Glenn Freed's father, Carl
Robert Freed Kal & Margaret Feinberg

In memory of Sherri Reagan and in
celebration of Holly Michelson's birthday and
the Michelsons' 18th anniversary
Bonnie Friedman & Gerald Miller

In memory of his father, Jacob N. Miller
Saul M. Miller

A donation has been received from
Susan Sellgren

In celebration of the Michelsons' 18th
anniversary
Roseann & Allen Michelson

In thanks for the Uniongrams they received in
honor of the special anniversary
Roseann & Allen Michelson

In memory of her father, David Stenzel
Susan Sellgren

Wishing her cousin Helen Lax peace and
strength
Roz Hyman

Building Fund

In memory of Ruth Balis' sister Evelyn
Lichtenstein
Helen Rappoport

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 Evelyn Blumberg's beloved son
Mr. & Mrs. Irwin Beck

For Phyllis Goldstan's speedy recovery
Barbara (Bobbie) Singer

*Have you considered
remembering the
Temple in your will?*

In memory of Dr. Leon Riebman
Gene & Shirley Friedman

In memory of Carl Freed
Dr. & Mrs. Eric Zelnick

In memory of the Yahrzeits of Eugene
Riegler & David Beckerman
Norma & Marty Beckerman

In memory of Anita Reuben
Eric & Debbie Zelnick

In honor of Paul Cohn's 50th Birthday
David Cohn & Carol Borloff

In honor of Elizabeth Fishman's special birthday
Yoni & Lorri Oziri

General Fund

In memory of Ruth Balis' sister, Evelyn
Lichtenstein
Hilde Gernsheimer

A donation was received from
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Ullman

Landscaping Fund

In memory of family & friends
Paulo Kuczer

Trudy Katz Fund

In memory of Ruth Balis' sister, Evelyn
Lichtenstein
Conrad & Ruth Heisman

Florence Frank Offering Fund

Congratulations to Shirley and Gene
Friedman on their 49th wedding anniversary
Mrs. Dorothy Schlanger

To Mrs. Maxine Henry on her birthday
Mrs. Dorothy Schlanger

To Barbara Silverberg on her birthday
Mrs. Dorothy Schlanger

To Dr. Eric Zelnick on his birthday
Mrs. Dorothy Schlanger
Mr. and Mrs. Gene Friedman

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Richard
Roeberg on the arrival of a grandson
Dr. and Mrs. Eric Zelnick

Thanks for all the greetings received on our
35th wedding anniversary
Dr. and Mrs. Eric Zelnick

*Kindly send Florence Frank Offering
Fund contributions to Mrs. Marilyn
Frank, Phoebe Village, 9 Reading Ave.,
Wernersville, PA 19565;
or Mrs. Shirley Friedman, 107 Primrose
Lane, Wyomissing, PA 19610.*

Perpetual Memorials

Feb. 1-9

Ruth Y. Ruttenberg
Franklin A Herman
Ernest E. Israel
Leon Reidenberg, MD
Natalie Folkman
Nathan Marcus
William Bash
Mildred H. Lurio
Susie Marcus
Hattie Horowitz
Valena R. Cohen
Julia Ehrlich
Irving Steinberg

Feb. 10-16

Goldie Schachter
Josef Goldstein
David Grotta
Leonard Schiff Jr.

Feb. 17-23

Emanuel B. Friedman
Irwin Kins
Henrietta Camp
Fred Stein
Meyer Lurio
Jacob H. Miller
Thelma Garfinkle
Ralph Brok

Virginia Smith Sinaink

Abram B. Luria
Hannah Bash
Rebecca Bash
Isaac Goldsmith

Feb. 23-29

Sylvia R. Ball
Stanley Folkman
Lawrence Schlanger
Harry Edelstein
Belle Edelstein
Carrye L. Loewenstein
Samuel L. Shaffer
Rudolf Abrams

Our next Tot Shabbat is Friday, Feb. 23, at 10 a.m.

You can e-mail Rabbi Michelson if you would like to be included on the
reminder list: rabbi@ohebsholom.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR EASTER DINNER

We need volunteers to help with dinner at Kennedy House

**Easter Sunday,
March 23.**

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

or call the Temple office if you are able to help with food preparations on or before Sunday, March 23

**Book
group**

Feb. 3 at 4 p.m.

We will be discussing Amos Oz's book "A Tale of Love and Darkness." In addition, copies of our next book Kabbalah (a novel) by Lawrence Kushner will be available.

Help orphans with used children's books

Marj Berman, a junior at Wyomissing and a member of Keshet Zion Synagogue, is working on a project for her Girl Scout Gold Award. Marj is collecting books to donate to an orphanage in Guatemala. She will be visiting the orphanage in March to help build a library. This orphanage just started an English language program, so the children's English reading level is relatively low. Books ages 0 to 10 would be most appreciated. (Dr. Seuss, Romana Quimby, Mother Goose, etc.)

If you have new or gently loved books for this age group, please drop them off in the box in the RCOS lobby or contact Marj at 610-678-5774 to arrange a pickup.

Thank you very much for all your help in the children's efforts to learn English.

I would like to thank everyone for their contributions made in memory of my sister, Evelyn. I appreciate all the kind thoughts and sympathy cards.

Ruth Balis

Thanks . . .

**to Mrs. Sylvia Schiff
for sponsoring the challahs
for February and
Mrs. Patricia Frankel
for the month of March.**

February Simchas**Anniversaries**

Dr. Neil Hoffman & Ms. Judith Kraines	Feb. 14
Mr. Darryl Rode & Mrs. Jodi Goren-Rod	Feb. 14

Birthdays

Ruth Cohn	Feb. 3
Ivan Gordon	Feb. 4
Howard Saidman	Feb. 6
Susan Gelb	Feb. 7
Michael Pardo	Feb. 7
Naum Ger	Feb. 8
Richard Tomlinson	Feb. 8
Neal Nevitt	Feb. 9
Rae Rudnick	Feb. 14
Deborah Cooper	Feb. 23
Dr. Glenn Freed	Feb. 23
Amy Saidman	Feb. 26
Dr. Ilene K. Weizer	Feb. 26
George P. Viener	Feb. 27

**A delicious way to
help the Interfaith
Hospitality Network**

Check out the insert in this month's bulletin. Bring the coupon to Casa Grande on Van Reed Road in Spring Township on Tuesday, Feb. 12, and 20 percent of your food bill will be donated to the Interfaith Hospitality Network, a program that gives homeless families a chance to stay at local houses of worship, including the Temple.



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**FREE 10 day
trip!**

Trips occur two times a year;
December/January and May/June.

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**Be in touch with the
KESHER College Department
at kesherisraeltrip@urj.org,
www.keshernet.com/birthright,
or 212.650.4070**

**Help Feed
the Hungry at
Opportunity House**

Several times each year, a group of RCOS members shop, prepare, and serve lunch at Opportunity House. This successful and much appreciated program needs additional sponsors and contributors. Won't you please consider making a donation to help in this worthy cause?

Lunch sponsors or contributors of any amount are welcome, and acknowledged in the bulletin. All donations can be sent to the Temple office; please mark your contribution "Opportunity House Lunch."

If you would like information about volunteering for one of the lunches, please contact
David Walker
at dwalker100@comcast.net.

**SAVE THE
DATE!**

Sisterhood is sponsoring an International Bistro on Saturday, March 8 at 6:30 p.m. Watch your mail for details



**Attention All Families:
Open House: Sunday, March 23, 2008
12 PM – 3 PM**

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