OUR TEMPLE

February 2009 | Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom | Vol. 45, No.6

Notes from the president

Subject of money unpleasant, unavoidable

By Herb Karasin
President

As I write this during the holiday season, both Jewish and secular, my thoughts turn, naturally, to . . . money. I imagine that wasn't what you expected me to say. You were thinking I would talk about family and friends, gatherings, exchanging gifts and greetings, seeing and hearing from people who have been absent from sight for a time, coming in from the cold to a warm and inviting meal or celebration with those we cherish. Of course, these are all important parts of the season and have their place, but money, once again, seems to be of major importance.

Now why would I bring up this venal subject in a Temple newsletter? Obviously, because money is necessary for the functioning of the Temple. And it always seems to be in short supply. It seems that at virtually every committee meeting or any gathering to discuss Temple plans or policy the M word is raised.

The fact that money is in short supply appears to be true now more then ever. The economy, unlike many of us, seems to have gone south. (Question, Where did that expression come from, anyway? Anyone who supplies the correct, or at least a plausible answer, will get extra credit on the final grade.)

As we all know, during this past year the economy and the stock market has suffered something of a, shall we say, reversal. It is unnerving to open the year end review of one's pension plan and investments and to see words such as *Kaput* and *Farblondzhet*. These are not normally financial terms, and I, for one, do not want to see them on my financial reports. One doesn't want to get a statement from an investment adviser and read that because the remaining balance in the account won't pay his annual fee, he is billing me, and he won't take my check.

Also, we are being told by the experts that we are going to have a bad financial picture for some time. They tell us to "tighten our belt"; as if my belt weren't already tight enough. If I tighten my belt any more, I'll need a haircut.

I exaggerate, of course, but you get the idea. We all seem to be having a hard time financially. And when this happens, our ability and desire to contribute, however good the cause, likewise seems to decline.

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From the Rabbi's study

Please help add to my collection of memories

Rabbi Brian Michelson

This May, I will mark the 19th anniversary of my ordination as a rabbi. Over these 19 years and my four years as a student rabbi, I have had the privilege of participating in hundreds of Bar/Bat Mitzvahs, baby namings, weddings, and funerals. It has truly been an honor to share these important moments in people lives both the happy and the sad.

In the 10 years I have been in Reading, I have watched many children I have named become part of the Religious School and students whose Bar or Bat Mitzvah or Confirmation I officiated at go off to college. I get great pride from watching the years go by and the children grow up. There are few things as gratifying as having a past student come back to visit just to see the Temple and say hello.

As I mentioned during the High Holidays, Holly and I had some work done on our home that required me to pack up my home study. During the packing, and again at the unpacking, I came across the photo album that has pictures of many of the joyous occasions I have shared with members of our community. I look through it and think about how much has changed.

I want to ask your help to complete my collection. If I officiated at a happy occasion with your family, would you please share a picture with me so I can add it to my collection. You can drop off or mail a print—I don't need anything big—to the Temple office or send an electronic version by e-mail.

I thank all of you who take the time to help me complete this simple project.

February Highlights

Friday, Feb. 6 — Shabbat service, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 7 — Shabbat service, 10 a.m.
Friday, Feb. 20 — Grade 4 Shabbat service and dinner, 6 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 21 — Tot Shabbat, 10 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.

Religious School News

Tu B'Shevat offers lesson about environment

By Judy Synnamon
Religious School administrator

There will be several special activities during the month of February.

The holiday we will be celebrating is Tu B'Shevat. We will be having a Tu B'Shevat Seder for the students on Feb. 8 at 11 a.m. This Seder will be led by the students in Grades 6 and 7. Tu B'Shevat is the birthday of the trees and is Feb. 9. During the Seder we will drink white and purple grape juice and eat three different kinds of fruit, fruit with shells, fruit with pits and fruits that are entirely edible.

We are reminded that though it is cold here, Israel is in the middle of her rainy period, and it is the perfect time to plant trees that will have their first birthday next year on Tu B'Shevat. It allows us to think about what we can do to help the environment and the world to ensure that it is just as beautiful for our children and our children's children to enjoy in the future.

It also reminds us of Israel and how Jews all around the world not only plant trees in Israel, but help Israel grow to be a stronger, more peaceful place.

While the children are celebrating Tu B'Shevat in the Gallery, the parents are invited to attend a 15-minute presentation in their child's class(es) regarding an explanation of the midyear curriculum evaluation and an update on the class Mitzvah project. These classroom presentations will begin at 11 a.m., while the students are in the Seder, the teachers will be available to make classroom presentations.

The teachers attended a workshop by Rabbi Vicky Tuchman, new URJ Educational Director. She spoke about how teachers can make classroom activities fun and casual, similar to a camp experience. Her suggestions were very useful.

February Schedule of Events

Feb. 8: Tu B'Shevat Seder and Curriculum Presentation for Parents

Feb. 15: No Sunday School, President's Weekend

Feb. 20: Family Night Dinner @ 6 p.m. Friday Night Services led by 4th Grade Students at 7 p.m.

The Emergency Shopper Program is up and running

Are you unable to get to the store due to winter weather or other problems? A crew of about 20 RCOS volunteers is ready to help.

If you need help or someone to pick up a few items, please call the Temple office to get the process started.

Score a goal with your Temple family

Join us as we watch the Reading Royals take on the South Carolina Stingrays,

Sunday, Feb. 22, at 5 p.m.

at the Sovereign Center.
Tickets are just $13
Contact the Temple office to sign up.

Next book group meeting

Sunday, Feb. 8 at 4 p.m. We will be discussing "The Book Thief" by Markus Zusak.

Have you considered remembering the Temple in your will?

"I Remember RCOS When . . ."

Join us Feb. 27 at 7:45 PM. as Jack & Jeff Gernsheimer share stories of growing up at Oheb Sholom

ABOUT OUR NEWSLETTER

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

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I don't have a good answer. I have considered money raising options for the Temple. We could open a business on the side, but what? A restaurant? The Food Festival proved that we could do that, at least once a year. But, I doubt that we could get that many volunteers out on a frequent and regular basis. How about a pirate supply store? There seem to be a shortage of these in the area - but maybe there is a reason for this. Nothing I can think of seems to be appropriate.

We better stick to those things we do well; we can't operate the Temple like a business. I guess we will have to rely on the old-fashioned way, dues, contributions and occasional fundraising events. I am confident that we will be able to survive if we continue doing this. The amazing success of the Life of the Temple campaign has shown that we can.

So, the point of this is just to emphasize the importance of following through with pledges. We certainly don't want to have to take shifts selling cannonballs and cutlasses.

Thanks to Mrs. Linda Bram for sponsoring the challahs in February

February Simchas

Anniversaries

Mr. & Mrs. Nimrod Goldshtain	Feb. 9
Dr. Neil Hoffman & Ms. Judith Kraines	Feb. 14
Darryl & Jodi Rode	Feb. 14

Birthdays

Ruth Harrison	Feb. 1
Jon Wachs	Feb. 1
Ruth Cohn	Feb. 3
Alison Welsh	Feb. 3
Ivan Gordon	Feb. 4
Mimi Braverman	Feb. 5
Howard Saidman	Feb. 6
Susan Gelb	Feb. 7
Michael Pardo	Feb. 7
Carol Stern	Feb. 7
Naum Ger	Feb. 8
Richard Tomlinson	Feb. 8
Neal Nevitt	Feb. 9
Annalee Aarons	Feb. 10
Sue Loewenstein	Feb. 11
Rae Rudnick	Feb. 14
Holly Landau	Feb. 21
Marina Schneider	Feb. 21
Deborah Cooper	Feb. 23
Dr. Glenn Freed	Feb. 23
Pamela Charendoff	Feb. 25
Amy Saidman	Feb. 26
Dr. Ilene K. Weizer	Feb. 26
George P. Viener	Feb. 27
David Walker	Feb. 27

NEWS FROM THE UNION

A summer of singing

Summer is a beautiful time to sing! Join hundreds of music lovers and professionals for the chai anniversary of the annual North American Jewish Choral Festival this July 12-16. This four-day conference brings the world's best Jewish choral voices to Kerhonkson, N.Y. From morning until night you will sing and learn the newest trends and classic melodies of Jewish choral music.

For more information, please contact the Department of Worship, Music and Religious Living at 212-650-4193 or worship@urj.org, or go to the Zamir Choral Foundation's Web site, http://www.zamirfdn.org/

20 years of adult learning

This summer's Kallah, an adult study retreat, will be July 14-19 at Franklin Pierce College in Rindge, N.H. The theme L'dor Va'dor — from Generation to Generation — is apt as the Union celebrates 20 years of adult learning at Kallot.

For more information visit http://urj.org/educate/adultstudy/summer/

NFTY's summer home

Kutz: NFTY's Campus for Reform Jewish Teens in Warwick, NY offers highly motivated Reform 10th-12th graders an intense summer leadership program. NFTY Leadership Experience participants design a custom-made summer program that is meaningful, challenging and fun.

For more information, go to www.kutz.urjcamps.org or call 212-650-4039.

URJ Camp Harlam

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Elizabeth Fishman
Jayne Cumisky
Eleanor Shedlusky
Wendy, Steve, and Ruth Piller
Ellen & Donald Abramson
Barbara Silverberg
Marcia & Marc Filstein
Anzie & Ed Golden

In honor of the Michelsons' wedding anniversary
Lana Schaeffer

In honor of Hal's special birthday
Hal & Ruth Cohn

In honor of Shirley and Gene Friedman's 50th wedding anniversary
Barbara Nazimov

In memory of Cindy Chronister's grandmother
The Driben Family

In memory of Saul "Marty" Miller
Norma and Marty Beckerman

In honor of a family yahrzeit
Barbara Silverberg

In honor of the naming of their grandson
Mindy & Rick Small

Building Fund

Wishing Sylvia Schiff a speedy recovery
Conrad & Ruth Heisman

Wishing Trudy Katz a Speedy Recovery
Conrad & Ruth Heisman

In memory of Sara J. Cohn
Gene & Shirley Friedman
Barbara Silverberg

In honor of the Yahrzeits of Irving & Frances Steinberg
Michael & Susan Sands

In memory of Gladys Bodin
Norma & Marty Beckerman

In honor of Dr. Harold Cohn's special birthday
Sue & Herb Wachs

In honor of Gene & Shirley Friedman's 50th Wedding Anniversary
Sue & Herb Wachs
Sue Schlanger

In memory of Lee Fishman
Harriet Baskin
Kathie & Jon Wachs
Susan Schlanger
Mindy & Rick Small
The Nemirow Family

Greater Temple Fund

With thanks to RCOS for a great time had during Chanukah
Jerome Smith Family

In honor of Gene & Shirley Friedman's 50th wedding anniversary
Gordon & Jeanne Luckenbill
Mr. & Mrs. James Rhoads

In honor of Shirley & Jimmy Ullman's 65th wedding anniversary
Mindy & Rick Small

Religious School Fund

In memory of Sophie Silverman
The Haas Family

With thanks to Brian & Holly Michelson
Dan & Cheri Wozniak

Music Fund

In honor of Sarah Pardo's engagement
Harriet Baskin

In memory of Sara J. Cohn
Sue & Herb Wachs

General Fund

In honor of Gene & Shirley Friedman's 50th wedding anniversary
Hilde Gernsheimer

In memory of Sara J. Cohn
Hilde Gernsheimer

In memory of Elizabeth Fishman
Andy & Corinne Wernick
Esther & Sid Bratt

Library Fund

In honor of Sarah Pardo's engagement
Sylvia Schiff

Liefter Fund

In memory of Sara Cohn
Susan Schlanger

Landscaping Fund

In memory of Lee Fishman
Sue & Herb Wachs

Life of the Temple

In honor of C. Harold Cohn's 85th birthday
Paul, Jo, Abby & Tess Cohn

In memory of Sara Cohn
Donna Oaks

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 Sara Cohn
Louise Wiener
Lee & Judy Katz
Maxine & Dick Henry
Bob & Kaye Ullman

In memory of Gladys Otis
Maxine & Dick Henry

In honor of Sarah Pardo's engagement
Hilde Gernsheimer

In memory of Elizabeth Fishman
Sylvia Schiff

Perpetual Memorials

Feb. 1-7
Ernest E. Israel
Leon Reidenberg, MD
Natalie Folkman
Nathan Marcus
William Bash
Susie Marcus
Hattie Horowitz
Valena R. Cohen
Julia Ehrlich

Feb. 8-14
Josef Goldstein
Ruth Y. Ruttenberg
Franklin A Herman
Mildred H. Lurio
Irving Steinberg

Feb. 15-21
Goldie Schachter
Emanuel B. Friedman
Fred Stein
Sylvia R. Ball
David Grotta
Meyer Lurio
Jimmy Mendelsohn
Jacob H. Miller
Leonard Schiff, Jr.
Thelma Garfinkle
Ralph Brok
Virginia Smith Sinaink
Abram B. Luria
Rebecca Bash
Isaac Goldsmith

Feb. 22-28
Irwin Kins
Henrietta Camp
Stanley Folkman
Lawrence Schlanger
Hannah Bash
Harry Edelstein
Belle Edelstein
Carrye L. Loewenstein
Samuel L. Shaffer
Rudolf Abrams

Florence Frank Offering Fund

To Sandra Fishman in memory of her mother Elizabeth
Dr. & Mrs. Eric Zelnick
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brok

To Marcia Gross for a speedy recovery and her safe return to Reading
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brok

To Mr. & Mrs. Dan Tannenbaum in honor of their son's engagement
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brok

Congratulations to Frances Mendelsohn on the arrival of new great-granddaughter
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brok

To Trudy Katz for a speedy recovery
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brok

Congratulations to Alma and Ed Lakin on the arrival of twin great-granddaughters
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brok

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.

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www.rac.org

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