



OUR TEMPLE

January 2001

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom

Volume 37 No. 5

Notes from the President

January . . . Brrrrrrrrrrrrrr

By Alan Schlechter
President

Last month I mentioned that Tracy Snyder, our Temple Secretary, was leaving us to work for the Children's Home of Reading. I'm pleased to announce that

Mrs. Lynn Bates has joined our working team as the new Temple Secretary. Lynn started the Monday before Thanksgiving and is doing a wonderful job for us. When you're in the Temple please stop by and introduce yourself to her.

To date, our fare share dues campaign

has reached a total in increased dues for this fiscal year of \$44,733.30. The Mitzvah Drive has raised an additional \$29,912.42. Not a bad way to end this year and a good way to start the new one. Thanks to all who were involved in this

(Continued on page 5)

From the Rabbi's Study

Making beautiful music together

Over the two years Rebecca Fletcher, our student cantor, has been with our congregation, we have had the

Rabbi Brian opportunity to watch her grow as a cantor and as a person. She has helped to lead services, teach both children and adults and help a number of Bar and Bat

Mitzvah students prepare for their special day. She has been a wonderful addition to our Temple family.

As a small congregation, we have a wonderful opportunity to be a big part of the future of Reform Judaism in the United States. Over the last couple of years, we have participated in the student cantor program of the Hebrew Union

College's School of Sacred Music. This program provides students with the opportunity to get some "real life" experience in a congregation and congregations who cannot afford to hire fully invested cantors to have the services of a training Jewish professional at a significantly reduced cost.

The experience and mentoring that these students receive is an invaluable part of their development in the future. This program allows all of us to be part of informing and teaching a new generation of Jewish professionals. I feel that, as a congregation, we should feel privileged to be a part of such an important process.

January Highlights

Monday, Jan. 1: New Year's Day, office closed

Friday, Jan. 5: Early Friday service, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 6: Shabbat Morning Service, 10 a.m.

Saturday & Sunday, Jan. 20-21: Reading Symphony JCC fund-raiser

Sunday, Jan. 21: Men's Club, 9:30 a.m.

Friday night services at 7:45, except 6 p.m. service Jan. 6
Baby sitter available at Friday night services

Anyone interested or who is aware of someone who might be interested in babysitting at Saturday morning services, please forward the name to Linda Bram.

*This month's bulletin
is sponsored by
Kenn, Sharon, Kyle &
Rachel Spinrad
in memory of Darcy
Spinrad*

Inside the Bulletin of Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom:

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Religious School News

First half of school year filled with excitement

By Holly Michelson
Religious School Administrator

Our first semester is drawing to a close. It is hard to believe that we are already halfway through the school year. It has been an exciting first half. The students have been immersing themselves in so many different areas. Some classes have already been on field trips, while others are planning their trips. Class Shabbats are scheduled (the 6th/7th grade Shabbat service is January 12!) and the

students are practicing hard on their Hebrew. You could say that our school is a hub of activity.

While we want our students to have fun, the Religious School Committee, the Rabbi and I feel that it also is important to find ways to evaluate our and the students' progress. With that in mind, a newly designed progress report will be sent home with each student sometime in the middle of January.

As I write this, my daughters are at

school with no heat, electricity or phone. At this point they are fine and warm, but I may need to go get them. It reminded me that as it gets colder and windier out, there will inevitably be days when everyone is better off staying home. Should it become necessary to close school on either Sunday or Tuesday, announcements can be found on BCTV, WEEU (830 AM), WRAW (1340 AM) and WRFY (102.5 FM). There will also be a message on the Synagogue's

Save the Date: Tuesday, March 27

Bus trip to Hebrew Union College in Manhattan for our student Cantor Rebecca Fletcher's graduation concert, followed by lunch hosted by her family and a tour of an exhibition of modern ritual objects.

Cost \$20

Watch for announcements and a reservation flier.

Book group returns

The next book we will be reading is *Turbulent Souls* by Stephen J. Dubner. It is the amazing true story of a son's rediscovery of his parents' Jewish roots.

We will be meeting to discuss the book on Sunday, February 25 at 4:00 PM. A small number of books are available for purchase from the Temple office.

Former Temple building gets exciting new life

By Marilyn Frank

RCOS at 13th & Perkiomen is now the home of The Olivet's Boys and Girls Club. I have been lucky over the years to visit and was very much impressed and pleased.

Thanks to a member of our congregation giving a donation to the Temple, we were able to turn the building over to the club.

They have certainly utilized all portions of the synagogue. The kitchen has been painted bright blue and

brightened up quite a bit. It was good to see the young people helping to prepare their meals there and taking responsibility for themselves. They are ably led by Kevin Devera who not only is liked by the children, but is also respected and a disciplinarian.

The former social hall has been transformed into a beehive of activities. All kinds of games are being played in different areas of the room.

The former Religious School rooms are also being used for other activities.

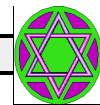
The last two Religious School rooms are being used by Head Start, so they are making use of the building all day.

The sanctuary has remained intact. It is used as a theater, and even though the stained glass windows are gone, it has maintained the same elegance. The day I was there the children were being given music lessons in the front part of the sanctuary. Kevin would be delighted to show you around. He is there from 3-10 p.m. daily. What a marvelous experience seeing the building put to good use.

IN THE EVENT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER

Call the Temple office if you believe a service, class or other scheduled event may be cancelled or delayed due to weather. Cancellation announcements will be made on:

WEEU, 830 AM; WRAW 1340 AM; or WRFY, 102.5 FM.



Sisterhood News

Keep pushing cash toward the Pushke Fund

By **Linda Bram**

Sisterhood 1st Vice President

Happy 2001 to all! Congratulations for making it through the new millennium safe and sound. The fall was a busy time for Sisterhood and the spring promises to be an equally productive and fun time for the membership.

On behalf of the Sisterhood I want to give a huge "Thank You" to those

members who have sent back their Pushke coupons. Your generosity has been wonderful; the 2000-2001 Pushke Fund is sure to be an even bigger success than last year.

To those of you who haven't send your coupons in yet, don't worry, there is still time and I will keep on hocking until May's bulletin article!

Take a look in the Gift shop to see the

beautiful Longaberger basket that is the 2nd prize in the Pushke Fund drawing. This collectors basket will continue to increase in value as the years go by. We are anticipating that the first prize, that one of a kind custom piece of white and black diamonds set in 14k white gold, will be ready for display by February. Keep your eyes peeled.

Until February, stay well!

Men's Club News

Learn how to talk to your family doctor

By **Marshall Azrael**

Men's Club President

For most of us, our family doctor is part of our extended family in whom we put our trust. To get the best help, we need to tell our doctors not only what is bothering us, but also what we did to

contribute to the condition. At our first meeting in 2001, one of our new members will tell us about talking to our family doctor. Dr. Ralph Mazzochetti and his family, wife Mindy and daughters Carly and Gabby joined our congregation about year ago. He has a family practice in

Minersville, Pennsylvania.

I look forward to seeing you on Jan. 21. All congregants and friends are welcome. Please call me if you have any questions or suggestions. Next month's meeting is on Sunday, Feb. 11. This is the second Sunday in February.

JEWISH WEB SITE OF THE MONTH

<http://www.rac.org> This is the link to the Reform movements Religious Action Center in Washington. This is a great site to check out what is on the political agenda that is of interest to the Jewish community. It also offers an easy way to contact elected officials on issues that are of interest to us. It is worth checking

Food donations

for the Greater Berks Food Bank are being accepted in the Rotunda.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Mark Nemirow—Editor

Sidney L. Symons—Advertising/
Sponsorships Manager

To get an item in the bulletin, call Mark at 610-370-2533 (Marknem@aol.com) or the Temple office ,610-375-6043.

Deadline for the next issue is Jan. 5.

CORRECTION

The December bulletin was sponsored by Ivan and Dr. Mildred Gordon in memory of Kate and Nathan Gross.

Save the Date! Sunday, May 6
JCC Gala Dinner Celebration
Details to follow



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 Dick Henry's Volunteer of the Year Award
The Bram Family

In honor of Erica Beckerman's 18th birthday
The Bram Family

In honor of Richard Henry's Scroll of Honor Award
Mr. & Mrs. Irwin Beck
Joyce & Leonard Goldberg
Bob & Kaye Ullman

In memory of Bernie Singer
Carole & Irv Beck

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
In memory of Samuel R. Lurio
Mildred Lurio

In memory of Mollie Fruchman
Sandee & Neal Nevitt

In honor of Rabbi Brian & Holly Michelson's 11th anniversary
Cantor Gerald Miller & Mrs. Bonnie Friedman (Mom & Dad)

Birthday Greetings/Sunshine Fund

Every Sisterhood member is sent a special birthday message. Send donations to: Adrienne Cardinal
907 Brighton Ave.
Reading, PA 19606

Oneg and Flowers Sponsors

Jan. 12 - Oneg sponsored by the Sixth and Seventh grade classes

To sponsor an oneg or purchase pulpit flowers, call Ellice Gunter at 610-775-4448

Birthday Greetings

Phyllis Symons Patricia Frankel
Elaine Backer

Temple Building Fund

For the Yahrzeit and in memory of Arthur Levinger

Norma, Marty, Andy & Erica Beckerman

For a speedy recovery to Lillian Barrer

Jane & Bernie Sher

To Mr. & Mrs. Murry

Knoblauch in honor of Justin's Bar Mitzvah
Sue & George Viener

Special birthday wishes to Sue Wachs

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Yashek

For a speedy recovery to Gerry Sigal

Margery Altman & Beth

Ritterband

In memory of Esther Fisher Miller

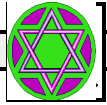
Carmen & Richard D. Fisher

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Sue Wachs

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Yashek

A Tisket-A Tasket We Recycle Baskets!

They once held holiday goodies, but if they're only holding cobwebs in your garage now, we'll be glad to pick them up for the membership committee to use. Phone Harriet Baskin at 610-396-9599



Welcome to new Temple secretary, Lynn Bates

Let me introduce myself to you as I begin the position as your Temple Secretary.

I am Lynn Bates, a relatively new resident of Berks County having moved from Sparta, Wisconsin in August 1998. I am married to Tiff Bates, Associate Minister for Christian Education at Immanuel United Church of Christ in Shillington.

We have three teenagers. Our oldest, Amber, is a freshman at West Chester University, Crystal is a junior at Governor Mifflin and Andy is a freshman also at

Governor Mifflin. I have worked in a variety of places and settings from Municipal Court Clerk, legal secretary, income tax preparer to owning our own Book Store. My last position was at Griffith & Bixler Furniture Store. I enjoy walking and sewing, particularly quilting and folk art stitching and doll making.

I am excited about my new role as your Temple Secretary and look forward to working not only for you but with you.

Because I do not know all the ins and outs of Temple Oheb Sholom yet, I am asking for your help. You will need to

help me keep an accurate calendar. I do not know that a certain group always meets the fifth Monday, or that on Thursday at 3:00 p.m. you need the Library. You will need to share this information with me. Please call the Temple Office, or slip the information under the office door. Thank you.

I will be working Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. so please stop in and introduce yourself. I look forward to getting to know you.

Perpetual Memorials

January 5

Claire Dershwin
Samuel Frankel
Benjamin W. Loeb
Anna Baernkopf
Helen Simmons
J. Harold Fisher

January 12

Frieda Goldstein
Sidney Spinrad
Henrietta Weitzenkorn
Josephine Meyers
Dora Lurio Greenberg
Adolph Loewenstein

January 19

Ella Brok
Pauline Friedman
Fred Katz
Jonas Sondheim
Levi Weitzenkorn
Elaine Dunitz
Emanuel W. Loeb
Norman M. Regner
Sarah Fisher
Elias Schulhoff
Fannie Loeb

January 26

Bessie Knoblauch
Morris Knoblauch
Leo Camp

Jacob Gernsheimer
William Crane
Bertha Loeb
Julius Curson
Carry Abrams
Nettie Loeb
Estella M. Cohen
Ida Salberg Rapp
Edmond E. Eschwege
Maurice Meier

CORRECTION

Samuel R. Lurio's name was inadvertently omitted from the Dec. 1 Perpetual Memorials. We apologize for the error.

PRESIDENT

(Continued from page 1)

project. Your hard work and dedication have made it a true success.

Well, it is getting colder, and what a great opportunity to warm up among friends by coming to Temple on Friday night. Our Rabbi always has informative and entertaining sermons that both lift the spirit and put a smile on your face (not to

put any additional pressure on our Rabbi).

Also, our Temple has a new Web site: www.ohebsholom.org. We also have new e-mail addresses to make it easier for members to send comments or requests:

Beth Bruck - Bookkeeper
bookkeeper@ohebsholom.org
Lynn Bates - Secretary
office@ohebsholom.org

Alan Schlechter - President
president@ohebsholom.org
Rabbi Brian Michelson
rabbi@ohebsholom.org

Holly Michelson-Religious School administrator:
School@ohebsholom.org

I hope everyone had a Happy Chanukah,

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★
★

VISIT THE SISTERHOOD GIFT SHOP



Sisterhood Florence Frank Offering Fund

To Helen Spinrad in memory of her mother
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Diamond

To Mrs. Leah Wittenberg for a speedy recovery
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Diamond

To Mrs. Bea Leifer for a speedy recovery
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Diamond

To Mrs. Rhoda Rosenberg for a special birthday
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sherman
Mrs. Hilde Gernsheimer & Fred Jakobs

Congratulations to Mrs. Hilda Yablin and Ted Roeberg on the arrival of a new granddaughter
Mrs. Hilde Gernsheimer & Fred Jakobs

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Brad Friedman on the arrival of their new daughter
Mrs. Hilde Gernsheimer & Fred Jakobs

To Mrs. Lillian Barrer for a speedy recovery
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman
Mrs. Vivian Polter
Mr. & Mrs. Irvin Balis
Mrs. Hilda Yablin & Ted Roeberg
Mr. & Mrs. Naum Ger

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Murry Knoblauch on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson
Mr. & Mrs. Milton Mendelsohn

To Mr. & Mrs. Izzie Margulies in memory of her brother Gene Blumenreich
Mrs. Hilda Yablin & Ted Roeberg

To Mrs. Bernard Singer in memory of her husband
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman
Mrs. Vivian Polter
Mrs. Helen Rappoport
Mrs. Hilda Yablin & Ted Roeberg
Mrs. Edythe Stern
Mrs. Sue Wolfe
Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Frank

To Mr. & Mrs. Henry D. Singer in memory of his brother Bernard
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman

To Gerald Sigal for a speedy recovery
Mrs. Harriet Baskin
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman
Mrs. Sue Wolfe
Mrs. Edythe Stern
Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Frank

Birthday greetings to Mrs. Mimi Gavigan
Mrs. Sue Wolfe

To Mrs. Ruth Kins for a speedy recovery
Mrs. & Mrs. Naum Ger
Mrs. Sylvia Schiff

To Mrs. Sue Wachs for a speedy recovery
Mrs. Sylvia Schiff

To Laurie Capin in memory of her father
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Diamond

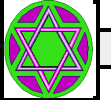
To Mrs. Gladys Skaist in memory of her brother Herbert Oritsky
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Diamond

To Mrs. Carole Mason in memory of her mother
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sherman

To Mrs. Sylvia Lempiner in memory of her sister
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sherman

✍

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.





REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM

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TIME VALUE

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