



Our Temple

January 2005

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom

Vol. 41 No. 5

Notes from the President

A year full of celebrations continues

By Scott Bram
President

January is the start of the secular New Year. However, the Jewish New Year started months ago. In that time, we celebrated many holidays, had a number of life cycle events, i.e. b'nai mitzvah, a babynaming, a conversion, and other community events like the Food Festival, Chanukah dinner, and Chanukah on Ice. There was also an adult education class

on the Talmud that was fascinating.

Many people celebrated in these different aspects of Jewish life. As president, I get to interact with people at these events. I can tell you that it is wonderful to see and experience how people personalize the bar/bat mitzvah, conversion, and baby-naming experience for themselves and their families. You really get an appreciation of how Judaism allows our individuality to express itself.

I am also impressed by the generosity in time and effort shown by all the volunteers who help out with the Hebrew School, services, Food Festival, holiday dinners and social events. What a wonderful group of people we have at the Temple! We are a vibrant, energetic, and fun congregation.

My thanks to all who are able to find the time to help out and participate in the richness of Temple life. You are the

From the Rabbi's Study

Judaism must be used to be effective

A rabbi and a soap maker went for a walk together. The soap maker turned to the rabbi and said, "What good is organized religion? Look at the trouble in the world. For thousands of years, religion has been

**Rabbi Brian
Michelson**

teaching and preaching peace — it is the subject of many of our Jewish prayers — yet, religion has also been a cause of war and hatred. If religion is true, why should this evil exist?

These questions were unsettling to the rabbi, but he remained silent. They continued walking until the rabbi noticed a child joyfully playing in the gutter. The child was filthy and covered with

mud. The rabbi then said, "Look at that child. You say that soap makes people clean, but see the dirt on this child? What good is soap if this child is still dirty? I wonder how effective soap is?"

The soap maker immediately protested, "But rabbi, soap cannot do anyone any good unless it is used!"

"Exactly," retorted the rabbi. "It is the same with Judaism, it can do you no good unless it is used."

I have been asked this same question hundreds of times over the years. It often comes from people who live on the periphery of Jewish life. They are often people looking for excuses not to belong

— not to be part of a community. Being part of a synagogue community is more than just coming on the High Holidays or attending the occasional Shabbat service. It is about using our Judaism to inform the way we live our lives. If we want and expect the synagogue to be there for us when we need it, then we must help make sure it is there when others need it, as well.

Just like when using soap, the more we use it the cleaner, the holier, our lives can be. Judaism constantly reminds us that we have obligations to those who are less fortunate in our community, both Jew and non-Jew. We are called to work with God in completing the world by helping to feed the hungry and clothe the naked. I encourage you to get involved with the work of our Social Action Committee or with one of the many worthy projects being done by members of the Temple

(Continued on page 2)

January Highlights

Friday, Jan. 7: Shabbat service, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 8: Shabbat service, 10 a.m.

Friday, Jan. 14: Shabbat with Grades 3-4, 6 p.m., followed by dinner

Sunday, Jan. 16: Men's Club/Sisterhood meeting, Keshet Zion, 10 a.m.

Friday, Jan. 21: Hadassah Shabbat at RCOS at 7:45 p.m.

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

Friday night services at 7:45 unless otherwise noted

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



Sisterhood news

Please join our dedicated crew of volunteers

By Carol Freed and Karen Robinson

Hello from the Sisterhood! We hope everyone enjoyed a very happy Chanukah.

The Sisterhood would like to acknowledge and thank Susan Gelb for taking on the responsibility of coordinating our onegs. It takes time to organize and coordinate these functions and we appreciate Susan taking this on. We also would like to acknowledge and thank Ellice Gunter for her generous efforts in handling this responsibility for the past few years.

The Sisterhood couldn't possibly do all that we do without the continuous

support of the volunteers. If you are willing to give us a small amount of your time, we would appreciate your help with organizing an event or volunteering to work in the gift shop. Please contact Carol Freed or Karen Robinson if you would like to be involved.

Watch your mail for a new and exciting Purim box fundraiser from the Sisterhood.

Also, please mark your calendars for the weekend of Feb. 25-27. The Sisterhood is helping to plan the Artist in Residence program. This will be a weekend filled with fun and activities for the whole family. Keep the date open and

watch your mail for further details.

The Sisterhood Woman of Valor Award is presented to the women in Sisterhood who displays the characteristics of courage and dedication. The award was presented to Elaine Backer and accepted by Adrienne Cardinal in honor of her mother.

Please stop by the gift shop and see all the fabulous merchandise and receive 20% off all the time. We will also take special orders, so let us know if you don't find what you are looking for.

We have a wonderful year planned, so please join us for our next event:

Jan. 16 - RCOS & KZ Joint

RABBI

(Continued from page 1)

community. Things can only get better if we are willing to do some of the work.

As we begin this new secular year, my

hope is that each of us will try just a bit harder to use our Judaism to make the world a little better than the way we found it. May 2005 be a year of blessing

and peace for us all.

I am grateful to Rabbi Avi Levine for the story.

Save the Dates -- Save the Dates
Save the Dates -- Save the Dates
Mark your calendars
for the weekend of Feb. 25-27!!!

Artist in Residence
Weekend

Events and activities for the Entire Family

New Adult Education Class

Rabbi Michelson will be leading an Adult Education class on Sundays starting in January, "5000-Year-Old Language." More details to come. Come join us for an interesting class.

ATTENTION ALL MEN'S CLUB AND SISTERHOOD MEMBERS!!!

There will be a joint meeting of all Men's Club and Sisterhood Members of Keshar Zion Syagogue and Reform Congregataion Oheb Sholom **at Keshar Zion Synagogue on Sunday, Jan. 16 at 10 a.m.**

Doors will open at 9:45 a.m. followed by brunch from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Entertainment will be by the Wyomissing Area Senior High School Camerata. Come out and help support this effort to hold more joint programs!!!



Religious School News

Busy, successful year reaches halfway point

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

Welcome back everyone! We hope you all had a very happy Chanukah and joyous secular New Year and had the opportunity to share some time with family and friends.

We all enjoyed the Chanukah activities in December, including music and jelly donuts for Sunday School and latkes and applesauce for Hebrew School — thank you to Sisterhood for all those delicious treats and for all you do throughout the year. Additional thanks go to Hilde Gernsheimer and Fred Jakobs for donating a box of Chanukah candles to

each of our Religious School families — they definitely helped to make the holiday bright.

On Dec. 3, Mrs. Pardo's 6th grade class expertly led the Shabbat service and treated us to a wonderful performance of "The Meaning of Religious School". Everyone was thoroughly entertained — great job!!!

Amazingly, we are already halfway through the school year. (Parents, be on the lookout for progress reports by the end of the month.) It seems true — time flies when you are having fun (and you're busy!). The teachers spent an in-service day working on organizing the art room. Though there is more work to be done,

it's a huge improvement. And we now have the beginnings of a reading corner in the room as well, so students are encouraged to take advantage of the library books currently available. The space is definitely a work in progress.

Look for Tu B'Shevat activities at the end of the month.

IMPORTANT DATES

Sundays, Jan. 9 and 23: Pre-K, Kindergarten and Confirmation

Friday, Jan. 14: 3rd – 4th Grades Shabbat service and dinner

Sunday, Jan. 16: School is in session (Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend)

Best wishes go out to Evan Gelman,

Food Festival Success Celebration

Sunday, Jan. 9 at 9:30 a.m.

Everyone is welcome to hear the financial report, offer suggestions for allocation of the profits, sign on for jobs for next year's event (Nov. 6), and (since this is all about food) enjoy a continental breakfast.

Volunteer Wanted.

Coordinator for Temple Oheb Sholom Seder
Easy Job... only once a year...just a few
hours of work.

Please contact Sharyn Cohen
smc7345@comcast.net

Correction

Lynn Bates' address was incorrect in the
December bulletin. The correct address is
Rev. and Mrs. Tiff Bates
N4083 Back Nine Court

Join in the laughter

Sisterhood is starting to plan
Comedy Night 2005.
If you would like to help please contact
Elyse Horowitz.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Mark Nemirow—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, Jan. 5

The Temple Online

www.ohebsholom.org

Office: office@ohebsholom.org

Rabbi Michelson: rabbi@ohebsholom.org

Bookkeeper Beth Bruck:

bookkeeper@ohebsholom.org



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.

Wishing Barbara Schneiderman a speedy recovery
Irv & Carole Beck
Richard & Maxine Henry

Wishing Walter Hamburger a speedy recovery
Richard & Maxine Henry

In memory of Elaine Backer
Ann Merkle

Wishing Dr. Phil Zeidman a speedy recovery
Bob & Kaye Ullman
Richard & Maxine Henry

In memory of Edith Mendelsohn's daughter, Susan
Richard & Maxine Henry
Ann Merkle
Sylvia Schiff

In memory of Judy Katz's aunt, Viola Halpren
Edna C. Pollak

Greater Temple Fund

In honor of Miriam Feldman's 90th birthday
Bob & Kaye Ullman

In memory of Edith Mendelsohn's daughter, Susan Mendelsohn
Zelda & Bill Cherner
Annabel Klein
Carol & Stuart Cohn

In memory of Barbara Perilstein's mother, Viola Satinsky
Robert & Norma Nagy

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

A contribution has been received from
Don Miller

With thanks for the "Talmud with Training Wheels" course
Roz Hyman

In memory of Susan Mendelsohn
Norma & Marty Beckerman

In memory of Esther Lonker
Iris & Leon Lonker

In memory of Gerald Frank
Nancy & Murry Knoblauch

In memory of Fred Coopersmith and Henrietta Goldstein
Sande, Neal, Michele, and Jonathan Nevitt

In thanks to Rabbi Michelson
Carol Freed
In honor of Sophia Paige's

naming
Jeffrey & Elyse Horowitz

In memory of Iris' mother, Anna Marine
Iris & Leon Lonker

Arthur Hammel Endowment Fund

In honor of Rosalye & Richard Yashek's 50th anniversary
Shirley & Robert Kauffman

New Building Fund

In honor of Fred Jakobs' recovery
Conrad & Ruth Heisman
Mr. & Mrs. Don Kelly

In honor of Rosalye and Richard Yashek's 50th anniversary
Ruth Brok

In honor of Carol Freed's conversion
Lynn & Jeffrey Driben

In honor of Sally Gilbert's special birthday
Sue & George Viener

In memory of Albert Diamond's brother, Leonard Diamond
Harriet Baskin

In memory of Edith Mendelsohn's daughter, Susan Mendelsohn
Sue & George Viener

In memory of Judy Katz's aunt, Viola Halpren

Bob & Kaye Ullman
Sue & George Viener
Hilde Gernsheimer and Fred Jakobs

In memory of Frances Beckerman
Norma, Marty, Andy & Erica Beckerman

In memory of Barbara Perilstein's mother, Viola Satinsky
The Zelnick Family
Sue and Herb Wachs

In memory of Judy Katz's aunt, Viola Halpren
M. Herbert & Susan Wachs
Michelle Wachs & Irwin Gross
Beth & Howard Mortman
Kathie & Jon Wachs

General Fund

Thank you to everyone for their best wishes on the celebration of our 50th wedding anniversary
Rosalye & Richard Yashek

New Building Landscaping Fund

In honor of Richard and Rosalye Yashek's 50th anniversary
Elaine & Paul Safir

Shirley K. Jacobs Religious School Fund

In honor of Carol Freed's conversion
Rick & Debbie Zelnick

Holocaust Memorial Garden

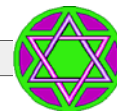
In honor of all the good wishes for Fred's recovery and in honor of all who sent Uniongrams for our anniversary
Fred Jakobs & Hilde Gernsheimer
In honor of Rosalye and Richard Yashek's 50th anniversary
Fred Jakobs & Hilde Gernsheimer

In memory of Edith Mendelsohn's daughter, Susan Mendelsohn
Phyllis Schlanger

Chanukah Donations to Congregation Mevasseret Zion, Israel

Don Miller
Robb Mutzel
Lynn & Jeff Driben
Barbara & Seth Rosenzweig

We want to thank everyone who sent us greetings for our 50th wedding anniversary.
Richard and Rosalye Yashek



Silent Service Corps: Meet Ellice Gunter

This is a new feature focusing on Temple members who work hard for the congregation and community, often out of the spotlight. These members will introduce themselves, in their own words, and describe the fulfillment they get from their work.

I am originally from New Jersey and went to school at the University of Maryland and University of Tel Aviv. I moved back to Washington to go to graduate school and then worked in various jobs in the D.C./Maryland area, where I met my husband, Rich.

We have three children: Justin, 17, a senior at Wyomissing High School; Brooke, 15, a sophomore; and Jake, 13, in

7th grade. All three have gone to religious school at Oheb Sholom and have been Bar/Bat Mitzvahed here as well.

We moved to Wyomissing six years ago, joined the Temple, and immediately I became involved in activities. I taught for a year at the Temple and for two years at the JCC pre-school, having experience for 14 years as a pre-school and kindergarten teacher at a private Jewish School in Rockville, Md.

I work as a medical secretary and also do home medical transcription.

I've been on the Religious School Committee, oneg coordinator for the sisterhood, and chair of the Food and

Cultural Festival.

My favorite activity at the Temple is the Food and Cultural Festival, which is our largest fundraiser for the past four years. I have met many people whom I otherwise probably would not have met by working on the Festival and have enjoyed the socializing, cooking and planning.

I have met many, many people at the Temple. I have made some very close friendships as a result and enjoy the activities that we all do together. I wish more people would come out and experience some of these activities, and help with fundraising efforts. We are all busy but we need to make time for these

Social Action Committee News

Lunch at Opportunity House

By Missy Zimmerman

As part of URJ's focus on poverty this year, the Social Action Committee has adopted Opportunity House for their focus. Several members of the committee served lunch on Dec. 12 to approximately 100 residents, which included men, women and children who reside at Opportunity House. SAC members prepared the meal which included tacos, fruit and cookies.

This was the committee's third opportunity to help address poverty issues in our community. Thank you to those who contributed to our Collection Jar at the Food Festival. Several of the people we served are involved in programs that will prepare them to seek long-term employment as the result of job training. Opportunity House provides excellent transitional housing programs that allow parents to provide safe housing for their

children while building their parenting and financial skills in order to obtain the goal of independent living.

The Social Action Committee plans on serving lunch several times in 2005. Please consider helping us. We need volunteers to shop, prepare food in advance and/or work the day we are serving. If you are interested in participating, please contact Missy Zimmerman 610-678-6573. Please

Perpetual Memorials

January 2 – January 8

Irving Bash
Anna Baerncof
Claire Dershwil
Benjamin W. Loeb
Helen Simmons
Louis S. Levy
Margaret Gilbert
Frieda Goldstein
Sidney Spinrad

January 9 – January 15

Beth Frankel
Norman B. Dunitz
Henrietta Weitzenkorn
Dora Lurio Greenberg

Josephine Meyers
Adolph Loewenstein
Fred Katz
Jonas Sondheim
Elaine Dunitz
Pauline Friedman
Levi Weitzenkorn

January 16 – January 22

Ella Brok
Emanuel W. Loeb
Norman M. Regner
Sarah Fisher
Fannie Loeb
Goldie Natanblut
Elias Schulhoff

William Crane
Bessie Knoblauch
Cary Abrams
Julius Curson
Jacob Gernsheimer
Morris Knoblauch
Bertha Loeb
Nettie Loeb

January 23 – January 29

Estela M. Cohen
Ida Salberg Rapp
Leo Camp
Edmund E. Eschwge
Maurice Meier
Mayme Bock
Morris Weil

January 30 – February 5

Julius Goldstein
Rose Griesemer
Leo J. Sondheim
William Bash
Ernest E. Israel
D. Leon Reidenberg
Julia Ehrlich
Valena R. Cohen
Natalie Folkman
Nathan Marcus
Susie Marcus



Sisterhood Florence Frank Offering Fund

To Edith Mendelsohn in memory of her daughter Susan

Mr. & Mrs. William Meyers
Mrs. Josephine Charnoff
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman
Mr. & Mrs. Murry Knoblauch
Mrs. Dorothy Schlanger
Mrs. Ethel Sherman
Mrs. Edith Blanck
Mrs. Barbara Stein
Mrs. Helen Rappoport
Mrs. Hilda Yablin & Ted Roeberg
Don Friedman & Dr. Rocky Slonaker
Mrs. Bella Blau

Mrs. Sue Wolfe
Mrs. Edythe Stern

To Fred Jakobs for a speedy recovery

Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman
Mrs. Sylvia Schiff

To Ruth Goldser for a speedy recovery

Dr. & Mrs. Eric Zelnick
Mrs. Barbara Stein

To Bob Gilbert for a speedy recovery

Mrs. Barbara Stein

To Rabbi Joel Weintraub in memory of his mother

Mrs. Ethel Sherman
Mrs. Sue Wolfe
Mrs. Edythe Stern

To Ellen Friedman in honor of her new job

Mrs. Barbara Stein

To Stephanie Rotenberg on the birth of a baby girl

Mrs. Sue Wolfe

To Frances Rudolph for a speedy recovery

Mrs. Sue Wolfe
Mrs. Edythe Stern

To Marilyn Frank in memory of her husband, Gerry

Mrs. Trudy Katz

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.

**Support the Temple the Easy Way!
Buy Food Certificates good at Giant, Redner's & Weis**

**Call: Carole Kutscher 610-779-7590
Barbara Rosenzweig 610-775-5383
or Sue Wolfe 610-376-8117**

Keep those empty ink cartridges coming...

Do you have an HP, Lexmark, Xerox, Compaq, Samsung, Kodak, Canon, or Apple printer? (Epson cartridges cannot be recycled.) Bring in your empty cartridges (inside a Ziploc bag to avoid ink spills) and we will have them recycled. The money we get to recycle them helps the Temple.

Lifesaving news

Our new Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is wall-mounted immediately inside the Yashek Social Hall and can save the life of a victim of sudden cardiac death by restarting their heart and renewing blood flow and oxygen to their brain.

FACT: 10 percent of blood function is lost every minute without oxygen.

Attend a FREE class for CPR/AED certification taught by the Temple's own Dr. Jeffrey Horowitz.

Contact Bruce Cohen at
BACohen@TheWebJockeys.com

You're Invited...

To visit our agency at any time!

Opportunity House!!!

Opportunity House is...
The Shelter, Supportive Housing, Second Street Learning Center, Job Quest/STRIVE, The Children's Alliance Center (CAC)

Save these dates:

Saturday, March 12: BRIDGES Bowl-A-Thon

Monday, May 9 – Souper Bowl

Monday, June 13: Annual Golf Tournament





REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB
SHOLOM

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555 Warwick Drive
Wyomissing, PA 19610
610-375-6034, Fax: 610-375-6036
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TIME VALUE

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