



# Our Temple

March 2001

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom

Volume 37 No. 7

## Notes from the President

# Agree with the Rabbi

By Alan Schlechter  
*President*

Last month's article by the Rabbi ("Please don't chase the children away") struck a chord with me. The reason for this is because approximately eight years ago my wife and I attended our first

service at the Temple. At the time our children were toddlers and like all toddlers their attention span was short. I can remember Rabbi Weitzman giving his sermon, and one of my kids let out a loud noise that made him look up and the congregation turned to see what was

going on. My wife and I both turned red and immediately tried to get the child to calm down (I don't recall which child it was). After the service we apologized to the Rabbi for the outburst, and his reply was that it was wonderful to see young

*(Continued on page 6)*

## From the Rabbi's Study

# Introducing Tot Shabbat

With the growth of young children in our congregation, I am pleased to announce that we will now be introducing a special Tot Shabbat service for the younger members of our congregation. This special service will be geared for our youngest congregants through

**Rabbi Brian**

kindergarten age children. The brief service will include singing, some of the basic prayers, a short Torah reading or story, a special oneg and a special creative activity. This will be one of those services where no one will have to worry about noise level or the way their children are behaving, because it is especially for them.

Our first Tot Shabbat service will be on Saturday, March 10 at 10 a.m. This new service will be held monthly on the second Saturday morning of the month, except over the summer or when the congregation has a Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

I know that many congregations hold their Tot Shabbat services on Friday evenings. I believe that by taking some time on Shabbat morning, we will not have to rush to get done in time for the adult service and, hopefully, the children will be fresher in the morning.

I look forward to sharing this special Shabbat experience with you, your children and grandchildren. This should be a fun and new experience for us all.

## March Highlights

- Friday, March 2:** Early Friday service, 6 p.m.
- Saturday, March 3:** Shabbat Morning Service, 10 a.m.
- Thursday, March 8:** Purim service, 7 p.m.
- Saturday, March 10:** Tot Shabbat, 10 a.m.
- Friday, March 16:** Sisterhood Shabbat, 7:45 p.m.
- Sunday, March 18:** Men's Club, 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday, March 25:** Passover Food Workshop, 10 a.m.
- Tuesday, March 27:** Bus trip to N.Y. for Rebecca Fletcher's senior recital
- Sunday, April 1:** Doug Cotler concert, 4 p.m.

**Friday night services at 7:45, except 6 p.m. service March 2**  
**Baby sitter available at Shabbat services**

*Bulletin sponsored by*  
**Richard Yashek**  
*in memory of his parents, Lucy & Eugen Jaschek and his brother Jochem Yaschek*

## Inside the Bulletin of Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom:

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## Religious School News

# Set a good example by giving “tzedakah”

By **Holly Michelson**  
*Religious School Administrator*

As most of you know, the Religious School children regularly bring in for collection, money for “tzedakah” (often translated as “charity”). The students have already collected more than \$200 this year and we are very proud of them. This month, we celebrate a holiday which has as one of its obligations the giving of tzedakah. “The Book of Esther 9:22 enjoins the Jews to ‘make days of feasting and gladness, and of sending gifts to one another (mishloach manot), and gifts to the poor.’ It is typical of Judaism that, even during a holiday of revelry, we remember others, especially those less

fortunate than ourselves. It is customary to send two gifts to at least one friend and to give a single gift to at least two poor people. Even the poorest Jew is expected to share with others. Thus we learn that tzedakah, at all times and in all places, is a religious duty.” (The Jewish Home by Daniel Syme)

Giving is not that hard. Now is the time to teach our children this important concept. Money is important. So is the giving of coats, blankets, shoes and soap to the homeless. Working in a soup kitchen is also an important activity that a family could do together (Speak with Barbara Rosenzweig). One of the best ways for us to teach are children and

grandchildren the importance of giving is for them to learn by watching us. Example, is always the best teacher. Enjoy the holiday. Help others enjoy it too.

- Important Dates:**  
**Kindergarten will meet March 4th & 18th**  
**Confirmation will meet March 4th & 25th**  
**5th Grade Family Service: March 22nd**  
**Passover Family Day at Religious School: April 1st at 9:00**  
**Doug Cotler Concert: April 1st at 4:00**

## A Special Day of Celebration and Song

Bus trip to Hebrew Union College in Manhattan for our student Cantor Rebecca Fletcher’s senior recital: “Longings: Jewish experiences of home expressed through music and theater,” followed by lunch hosted by her family and a tour of an exhibition of modern ritual objects, or enjoy time on your own.

Cost \$20. Bus departs RCOS at 7:30 a.m. and will return by 6 p.m. Please reserve by March 10

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Enjoy the presence of children at services

Dear Editor:

I have just read an article by Rabbi Michelson in the February Bulletin. I thoroughly agree with him that it is OK to bring children to services. And I am disappointed that some people comment under their breath or even are impolite to some young families.

If we haven't had children - then we have missed out on a lot - and if we do have children and they are grown - those complaining about kids should stop and think about it. After all the future of Judaism is with our babies and hopeful they will grow up and continue to be Jewish. I commend the rabbi on his article and hope he will continue to bring

in new families and lots of babies. Gerry and I both enjoy going to family night services as the parents and the young children are there and it is a joy to get to

know them.

Enjoy those children - they are Judaism's future.

Shalom,

## Congratulations to the choir

Dear Editor:

We wish to commend the choir for its outstanding contribution to the services on Jan. 26.

Their performance did much to enhance the enjoyment and the spirituality of the Sabbath service. Enlarged choir participation would be most welcome.

Brian Thompson deserves much credit for his efforts and leadership in bringing the choir to its level of excellence.

I would suggest that dates for choir services be published in the bulletin so that they will not be missed.

**Sid & Phyllis Symons**



## Sisterhood News

# Wanted: Sisterhood officer nominations

By **Linda Bram**

*Sisterhood 1st Vice President*

Happy Purim from the Sisterhood! March is here and spring is coming -- hooray! Once again I am calling for nominations for Sisterhood officers for the next two-year term (2001-2003). This call was advertised in last month's bulletin. Unfortunately, I have not received any calls indicating intent or nomination for Sisterhood office. The list of those running for Sisterhood executive office must be advertised in next month's (April) bulletin. Please call, ASAP, either one of the Sisterhood Nominating Committee co-chairs (Marilyn Frank or myself) should you like to nominate someone for one of these positions:

president, 1st vice-president, 2nd vice-president, recording secretary, financial secretary, corresponding secretary or treasurer. Voting will take place at the spring general meeting May 15 (NOT May 9) at noon.

This month's Sisterhood Event will be the Sisterhood Sabbath Service on Friday, March 16 at 7:45 p.m. The Sisterhood Donor Dinner takes place NEXT MONTH, APRIL 4th, NOT March 21st, at 6:30 p.m.

The speaker will be Rita Miller, local therapist extraordinaire. Her program is sure to be educational and inspirational so I'm sure you will not want to miss her lecture. Look for details regarding the delicious dinner menu in the mail and

RSVP, ASAP!

Sisterhood would like to once again thank the membership at large for their generosity with the Pushke Fund. Keep those coupons coming. If you have misplaced your coupons or should you need additional coupons, please contact Felice Stern. Remember, there are four prizes to be given away!!

One final plea, Sisterhood needs a baby-sitter coordinator and a 2001 Spring General Meeting coordinator immediately as I can no longer fulfill these responsibilities. Won't you call me or Melissa to volunteer?

Until next month, stay well.

## Men's Club News

# The good, the bad and the aching

By **Marshall Azrael**

*Men's Club President*

Our March meeting will be a great time for us to commiserate about how bad the winter treated us, and all else that ails us. The topic of our speaker is, "Trying Desperately To Grow Old Gracefully -

And Not Succeeding".

Roz Hyman is the Associate Director of Alvernia Seniors' College, and on the board of directors of the Jewish Federation, the Reading Emergency Shelter and several other philanthropic organizations in our community.

We all have a good time together at the Men's Club Breakfast; so I'll look forward to seeing you on the 18th. All congregants (guys & gals) and friends are welcome. Please call me if you have any questions or suggestions. Next month's meeting is Sunday, April 15.

## JEWISH WEB SITE OF THE MONTH

The Web site of the month is: <http://www.thebreastcancersite.com>. This site helps provide mammograms to underprivileged women. Donations are free, because they are underwritten by sponsors. This site also has links to five other free donation sites. It is worth a visit.

## 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](mailto:Marknem@aol.com)) or the Temple office, 610-375-6043.

**Deadline for the next issue is March 5.**

**Food donations  
for the Greater Berks Food Bank are  
being accepted in the Rotunda.  
Please bring nonperishable items  
when you visit the Temple.**



### 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.

To Harold B. Leifer and family in memory of Beatrice Leifer  
Bob & Kaye Ullman

### Food Festival Committee

will meet **Sunday, March 11** at 10:45 a.m. in the Temple library. Anyone who would like to help is invited

### General Fund

In honor of Lillian Cohn's 100th birthday  
Hazel M. Brodstein

### Music Fund

In honor of Lillian Cohn's 100th birthday  
Brian & Holly Michelson

### Other Contributions

To the Social Action Committee for the Soup Kitchen in honor of Dr. Peter Schwartz's birthday  
Barbara & Seth Rosenzweig

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Jim Berger  
Harriet Baskin

In memory of Ralph Griesemer on his birthday  
Pauline Griesemer

### Joseph & Carlyn Liefert Religious School Fund

To Bella Blau in memory of her husband, Jack Blau  
Roy & Barbara Schwartz  
Rabbi Brian Michelson

To Elvina Comess in memory of her husband, Raymond Comess  
Dr. & Mrs. C. Harold Cohn

### Greater Temple Fund

To Gene & Shirley Friedman in honor of their anniversary  
Nancy Linton

To Dr. James Barrer, in memory of his mother, Lillian Barrer  
Nancy Linton

For the Yahrzeit and in memory of Joseph Stern and Minnie Roda  
Edythe Stern

## Temple Building Fund

For the Yahrzeit in memory of Eugene Riegler

Norman, Marty, Andy & Erica Beckerman

To Richard & Rosalye Yashek in honor of their grandson's Bar Mitzvah

Hilde Gernsheimer & Fred Jakobs

To Lillian Cohn in honor of her 100th birthday

Hilde Gernsheimer & Fred Jakobs

To Lee Berger in memory of his brother Jim

Barbara Nazimov

For the Yahrzeit and in memory of David Beckerman

Norman, Marty, Andy & Erica Beckerman

To Kaye & Bob Ullman in honor of their special anniversary

Sue & Herb Wachs

To Harold B. Leifer & family in memory of Beatrice Leifer

Jane & Bernard Sher

### Birthday Greetings

Vivian Polter  
Barbara Stein  
Pat Shore

### Birthday Greetings/Sunshine Fund

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

## Perpetual Memorials

### March 2

Belle Edelstein  
Stanley Folkman  
Harry Edelstein  
Rachel Loeb  
Bessie Meyer

### March 9

Roy P. Hirshland  
Adeline Reidenberg  
Isaac I. Scherck  
Betty Herman  
Jean Gilbert  
Irving Popkin

### March 16

Rachel Loeb Stein  
Jeanette M. Brenner  
Kathryn H. Soltau  
Henry Loeb

### March 23

Emanuel Hammel  
Eugene H. Meyer  
Esther Aal  
Jane Henry  
Solly L. Katz  
Harold I. Miller  
Hilda Klevansky

### March 30

Evelyn Imber  
Jochen Jaschek  
Lucy Jaschek  
Darcy Lou Spinrad  
Raymond Hammel  
Jettchen Katz



## From the Temple archives

By Lynn Bates

*Temple secretary*

I have been going through several of the old file cabinets since I started as Temple secretary. It is a very enlightening, educational and dusty process and one that is taking longer than I thought.

I recently came upon a folder marked Natalie Folkman, date of death February 6, 1995. Enclosed I found Ms. Folkman's eulogy and part of a wonderful poem

entitled, "Youth Is Not a Time of Life." I like it and I'm sure Ms. Folkman would like that I'm sharing it with you.

"Youth is not a time of life, it is a state of mind.

It is not a matter of red cheeks, red lips and supple knees.

It is a temper of the will; a quality of the imagination.

A vigor of the emotions.

It is a freshness of the deep springs of life.

Youth means a temperamental dominance of courage over timidity.

Of the appetite for adventure...Nobody grows old by merely living a number.

Of years; people grow old by deserting their ideals.

Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul.

You are as young as your faith, as old as your doubt, as young as your hope, as old as your despair."

I think I would have liked to have met

## Passover Food Workshop

Enjoy a hands-on introduction to the variety of foods and food customs associated with Passover

**Sunday, March 25 at 10 a.m.**

in the congregational kitchen. Make reservations through the office. Babysitting will be provided.

### In search of Gratz alumni

Gratz College, Melrose Park, PA, has recently established an Office of Alumni Affairs to better serve its growing network of alumni.

Do you know any Gratz alumni? The alumni office can be contacted by phone at 215-635-7300 ext. 131, or e-mail at [Alumni@Gratz.edu](mailto:Alumni@Gratz.edu) or by mail to Gratz College. You can also check out their Web site at [www.gratzcollege.edu](http://www.gratzcollege.edu)

### Thanks from the Food Bank

We recently received a letter from the Greater Berks Food Bank thanking us for 127 pounds of food donated November through January.

"You and your congregation have cared enough to share your goods with the poorest of the poor, hurting and suffering from the effects of hunger, who have gone to bed with empty stomachs. We are grateful and thank you for being sensitive to those who have been forgotten by many in our economically growing society.

In appreciation,  
George Keitel Jr., director of development

### Have a good question?

**Friday, March 9**

will be an "Ask the Rabbi" Shabbat. Please join us for an enlightening evening. Services begin at 7:45 p.m.

### Trope class with the cantor

Study chanting

with Student Cantor Rebecca Fletcher

**Saturday March 3 at 4:30 p.m.**

at the Temple

Thank you to the congregation for the beautiful leather brief. It will be used well during my school career. Thank you also for all your good wishes.

Tracy Snyder

### Oneg and Flowers Sponsors

March 9: Oneg in honor of Jason's 2nd birthday by Linda & Scott Bram

March 16: Sisterhood Shabbat, Oneg supplied by Sisterhood

March 23: Oneg supplied by Grade 5

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



# Sisterhood Florence Frank Offering Fund

**To Harold Leifer in memory of his wife, Bea**

Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman  
Mrs. Vivian Polter

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Schlanger  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sherman  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Silverstein  
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Diamond  
Mrs. Hilda Yablin & Mr. Ted Roeberg

Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Symons  
Mr. & Mrs. Irvin Balis  
Mrs. Sue Wolfe  
Mrs. Edythe Stern  
Mrs. Elaine Backer

**To the Freedson family in memory of Anita**

Mr. & Mrs. Irvin Balis

**To Mr. & Mrs. Lee Berger in memory of his brother Jim**

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sherman

**To Mr. & Mrs. Steve Berger in memory of his brother Jim**

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sherman

**To Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Singer in memory of their son Jeffrey**

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sherman  
Mrs. Hilda Yablin & Ted Roeberg  
Mrs. Sue Wolfe  
Mrs. Edythe Stern

**Good luck to Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Natale in their new home**

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sherman

**Congratulations to Mae Marlowe on her granddaughter's wedding**  
Mrs. Hilda Yablin & Ted Roeberg

**To Mrs. Jack Blau in memory of her husband**

Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman  
Mrs. Vivian Polter  
Mrs. Hilde Gernsheimer & Fred Jakobs  
Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Frank

**To Loretta Green in memory of her mother**

Mrs. Hilde Gernsheimer & Fred Jakobs

**To Mr. & Mrs. Irvin Berger in memory of their son**

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Schlanger

**To Ms. Ann Golden in memory of her father, Norman Kaplan**

Mr. & Mrs. Irvin Balis

**To Mrs. Raymond Mazur in memory of her husband**

Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman

**To Dr. Kenneth Sodomsy in memory of his father**

Mrs. Hilda Yablin & Ted Roeberg

**To Mrs. Jill Schonfeld in memory of her father**

Mrs. Hilda Yablin & Ted Roeberg

**To Dr. Max Trost in memory of his wife, Hannah**

Mrs. Hilda Yablin & Ted Roeberg

**To Edna Rubin in memory of her sister Frieda**

Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Frank  
Mrs. Ruth Goldser  
Mrs. Sue Wolfe

**Get well to Leah Levin**  
Mrs. Ruth Goldser

**To Mr. & Mrs. Paul Isenberg in memory of their daughter Laurie**

Mrs. Ruth Goldser  
Mrs. Edythe Stern  
Mrs. Sue Wolfe

*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.*

## PRESIDENT

*(Continued from page 1)*

children in the sanctuary and not to worry about the short disruption. We were also greeted by other members of the congregation and made to feel welcome. No one gave us a funny look or frowned upon what transpired during the Friday evening service.

After reading the Rabbi's article I was upset because our Temple members have

always tried to make new members feel welcome. I have the honor to sit on the Bimah during Services. This gives me the opportunity to watch the antics of the children during the services. Sometimes I chuckle under my breath watching a mom or dad trying to keep their child from running amuck in the sanctuary. It really is a pleasant sight to watch especially knowing exactly what they are going

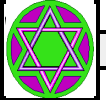
through.

I probably would not be as involved with the Temple, nor would my wife, if we did not feel welcomed or were looked upon poorly due to our children's somewhat inappropriate behavior. Anyone who has or has had little children can understand this situation, and should not frown upon it. Our children of today are tomorrow's Temple Leaders. Let's

## Did you know . . .

we have a room set aside to provide child care during Shabbat services? This room is regularly used and will continue to be used with the increase of babies born into our membership. We need your help. We are looking for good, clean furniture and toys to be used in this room. We would like a rocking chair, comfortable chair, play pen, walker, small crib and toys for birth to 5 years old. If you have any of these items in storage and they are in good condition, please call Melissa Schlechter, Sisterhood President or Lynn at the Temple office.

Please also contact us or Linda Bram of the Sisterhood if you are interested in helping out with babysitting.



## 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**

### *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.**

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Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom presents an  
afternoon of contemporary Jewish music with  
Grammy Award Winning Singer-Songwriter-Musician

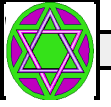
# Doug Cotler

in concert at RCOS Sunday, April 1 at 4 p.m.  
Tickets in advance, \$10 each (\$36 for a family)  
At the door: \$12 each (\$40 for a family)

To purchase tickets in advance, send a check payable to Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom at 555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing Hills, PA 19610. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want tickets mailed to you. Otherwise tickets can be picked up the day of the concert at the will-call table.

Seating is first-come, first serve

Doug Cotler albums are available for sale  
in the Sisterhood Gift Shop





**REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM**

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Alan G. Weitzman, Rabbi Emeritus

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TIME VALUE

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