



# Our Temple

March 2004

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom

Vol. 40 No. 7

## Notes from the President

# Look for the sweet side of Temple life

**By Ellen Azrael**  
*President*

It is that time of the year when we prepare to celebrate the holiday that most of us remember vividly from our childhood. For some of us Passover is our favorite holiday, because we remember all those great seders with families and friends. For others it is not their favorite, because of the dreaded matzo.

I have always loved Passover. I remember our family seders as if they

were only yesterday. The adults sat on one end of the long table, while the “kids” sat on the other end. We “the kids” had our little side conversations, but we all paid attention, so we would know when we could drink our “wine.” My mother always made raisin “wine” for those of us too young to drink wine, or for those who preferred the sweet nonalcoholic drink to real wine. Along with the raisin wine there would be the hottest horseradish on earth, the tastiest charosis, and the most wonderful dinner.

And as much as I love Passover, my daughter, Rose, doesn’t share my enthusiasm. She complains bitterly about eating matzo for a week. Not that she doesn’t have good memories of seders (and my own raisin wine), but because of the matzo, Passover doesn’t rate as her favorite holiday. I must admit, that I’m not all that crazy about matzo, but all the other things that I think about at Passover, make it a most wonderful holiday.

Many times I am amazed by the fact  
*(Continued on page 3)*

## From the Rabbi’s Study

# A New York Times puzzle to ponder

Every Friday, the *New York Times* carries announcements of synagogue services. I’m sure there is no malice on the part of the editor, but I am always disturbed by the fact that the synagogue notices, with their descriptions of \_\_\_\_\_ weekend service schedules, are always placed on the page devoted to the obituaries. It always seems strange to read of sermon topics like “The Jewish Way of Life” on one part of the page and to read the names of those people who have died one column over. I wonder where

**Rabbi Brian Michelson**

synagogue notices could be appropriately placed. The following possibilities are considered:

Synagogue notices might be placed on the Sports Page. For some, the synagogue is not an institution that touches on the essentials of life and, therefore, does not require their attention. It is something we might or might not have time to do. For many, the synagogue like so many athletic activities is an interesting diversion. Others view Judaism as something for the children — a child’s game. It is not something an adult should consider seriously. Others sit on the

sidelines, watching others play the game, but never getting involved.

One might argue that the announcement of services belongs on the Theatrical or Amusement pages. The candles and Kiddush, the songs and blessings, the home, family, and synagogue must often compete with popular TV shows, a new movie, a party, or a new restaurant.

Perhaps a proper place for synagogue notices is on the Help Wanted pages. It might indicate that what we Jews are saying is that we need men and women who will come to the synagogue to worship, who are concerned with preserving and enhancing the spiritual

*(Continued on page 3)*

## March Highlights

**Friday, March 5:** Shabbat service, 6 p.m.

**Saturday, March 6:** Shabbat, 10 a.m.

**Sunday, March 7:** Happy Purim! Celebration at JCC starts at 12:30

**March 12-14:** Cantor in Residence program

**Friday, March 19:** Shabbat service, 6 p.m., followed by family dinner

**Saturday, March 20:** Tot Shabbat, 10 a.m.

**Friday night services at 7:45 unless otherwise noted**

**Babysitting available at all services**

*Bulletin sponsored by  
Richard & Rosalye  
Yashek*

*in memory of parents, Lucy  
& Eugen Jaschek, and  
brother Jochem Jaschek*



**Religious School News**

# Jewish education beyond the Bar/Bat Mitzvah

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

Recently there have been discussions about why we are sending our children to Religious School and what they should be learning. These discussions have stemmed from parents as well as students.

Many of the students, especially those approaching becoming Bar or Bat Mitzvah, only see Religious School as being a means to an end. They feel they don't need to continue their religious education past that magic 13. As I have written before, the process of Jewish Education is a life-long pursuit. Just look at the number of adults who have been taking the Rabbi's classes lately.

And then there is our Confirmation class. One recent Sunday, only five minutes before we were due to start, I

asked the Confirmation teacher if his class would be interested in leading our morning service. He wasn't sure. He had a lot to cover with them, didn't think it would work, but he would check. Then he came back to me to say they would. Not only did they lead the service well, they never came to ask anything and needed no prompting. They picked up the siddurim and started, including leading the students in singing. I was so proud of them. This is why we should be sending our children for Jewish Education. It is not for the Bar or Bat Mitzvah, it is to create educated and involved young adults.

Next school year, someone else will be taking on the awesome responsibility and honor of administrating our Religious School. After much deliberation, I have decided not to renew

my contract as administrator. Some of you are already aware of the fact that I have been moving down a new career path and now wish to devote more of my time in that pursuit. These last 3 1/2 years have been an amazing experience. I have many wonderful memories which I will cherish and I will continue to care about, and for, the school.

**Important March dates:**  
**Tuesday, March 2** – NO SCHOOL  
**Sunday, March 7** – Purim program during Religious School and we continue the celebration with the Megillah reading and carnival at the JCC in the afternoon.  
**Friday, March 19** – Grades 3/4 Shabbat Service and Dinner

**Looking ahead at April dates:**  
**Sunday, April 4:** Model seder in Religious School  
**Tuesday, April 6:** NO SCHOOL

## KENNEDY HOUSE ON APRIL 11

We need volunteers to help with Sunday dinner at the Kennedy House on Easter, April 11. This is also the sixth day of Passover. Volunteers are needed 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 before or on Sunday, April 11.

**P.S. WE NEED HELP!!** We are looking for someone to co-chair this annual project with Barbara. Can you give a few hours to work with Barb before hand and then on Sunday? Please call Barb or the Temple office.

*Please join your family and friends at the Temple for the*

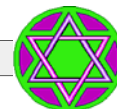
## Second Night Community Seder Tuesday, April 6 6-8 p.m.

**\$25 Adults/\$15 Children (12 and under)**  
**For reservations, please use the enclosed flyer and send your check to the TOS office by March 29**

## NEWSLETTER STAFF

Mark Nemirow—Editor  
Sidney L. Symons — Advertising/Sponsorships Manager  
Lynn Bates — Assistant Editor  
*To get an item in the bulletin, call Mark, 610-370-2533 (Marknem@aol.com) or Temple office, 610-375-6043.*  
**Next deadline, March 5**

The Temple Online  
[www.ohebsholom.org](http://www.ohebsholom.org)  
**Office:** [office@ohebsholom.org](mailto:office@ohebsholom.org)  
**Rabbi Michelson:**  
[rabbi@ohebsholom.org](mailto:rabbi@ohebsholom.org)  
**Bookkeeper Beth Bruck:**  
[bookkeeper@ohebsholom.org](mailto:bookkeeper@ohebsholom.org)



## PRESIDENT

*(Continued from page 1)*

that I can talk to a group of people about things that occur at the Temple, and I will hear totally different versions about the same thing. One person decides to concentrate on some of the weaknesses,

and complains about all the problems (like the matzo). Yet another person looks at the big picture, enjoying the experience, and might offer a suggestion to make the experience even better (like dunking the matzo in raisin wine).

I hope to see many of you at the Scholar in Residence program. It should be a wonderful weekend of music and education. May you be one of the people who find the program to be interesting and satisfying!

## RABBI

*(Continued from page 1)*

heritage of the Jewish people. Certainly the thrust of so many of our prayers is God's compelling invitation that help is wanted: to end despair by the work we do, to root out prejudice by the way in which we view all people, to end starvation by putting to use the resources we have already been given, and to find

peace by seeking it in our own life. The fundamental Jewish prayer *Aleinu* states most clearly that God needs us to be partners in creating a better world.

It may very well be that the juxtaposition of these synagogue announcements and the Obituary Column in the pages of the New York Times may be the best arrangement of all. Certainly,

we need to recognize how fragile life is and how quickly the years we are given go past. Maybe the *New York Times* is pointing out that after all is said and done the quality of our days is determined by what we have done with the canvas called *life*.

*I am grateful to Allan Blaine for the*

### Our 3rd Annual Kauffman's Chicken Bar B Q and Bake Sale

is scheduled for

**Sunday, April 18**

**11 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

Cost remains at \$6

for half a chicken and a baked  
potato.

Volunteers are needed  
to help Chairperson Neal Schneider  
the day of the sale with setup,  
distribution of chickens and clean up.  
It's easy work (fun, too). We need  
everyone's help in making sure we  
have another success. Baked goods  
are needed – we ran out last year.

Please bake a cake, a batch of  
cookies, brownies, or kugel. Sell  
tickets to neighbors and co-workers.

Pick up Sunday dinner when you  
pick up your children from Religious



### 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 Kaye Ullman a speedy recovery**

Norbert & Lynn Salpeter  
Maxine & Dick Henry  
Ann Goldstan

Lillian Abramson  
Ellen & Donny Abramson and family  
Hilde Gernsheimer & Fred Jakobs

**Wishing Maxine Henry a speedy recovery**

Norbert & Lynn Salpeter

**To Sue Viener with get well wishes**  
Hilde Gernsheimer & Fred Jakobs

**To Helen Rappoport in memory of her brother Meyer "Bud" Jaskulek**

Maxine & Dick Henry  
Hilde Gernsheimer & Fred Jakobs  
Kaye & Bob Ullman  
Lynn & Norbert Salpeter

I wish to thank my many friends who were kind enough to send me their best wishes on my recent birthday.

Thank you for all the good wishes for my speedy recovery.

**Kaye Ullman**

#### New Building Fund

**To Barbara Silverberg in memory of her aunt Virginia Stein**  
Sue Schlanger

**Yahrzeit in memory of David Beckerman**

Norma, Marty, Andy & Erica Beckerman

**Yahrzeit in memory of Eugene Riegler**

Norma, Marty, Andy & Erica Beckerman

**To Kaye Ullman with wishes for a speedy recovery**

Sue & Herb Wachs

**To Helen Rappoport in memory of her brother Meyer Jaskulek**

Trudy Katz

#### Music Fund

**Yahrzeit in memory of Samuel R. Kozloff**  
Jeri & David Kozloff

#### Greater Temple Fund

**In honor of Jim & Shirley Ullman's 60th wedding anniversary**

Hilde Gernsheimer & Fred Jakobs

**In appreciation for all the good wishes for my speedy recovery**

Kaye Ullman

#### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

**In honor of Hal's birthday**  
Dr. Hal & Ruth Cohn

**In memory of Dr. Raymond Comess**  
Mrs. Elvina Comess

**In honor of two old friends**  
Mr. Fenwick Brown

**In memory of Meyer Jaskulek**  
Helen Rappoport

**In memory of my husband, Ralph, at this time of his birthday**  
Pauline Griesemer

**In memory of my father, Meyer "Bud" Jaskulek**  
Margaret Jaskulek Boehner

**With thanks for all the kind birthday wishes from the congregation**  
Ivan Gordon

#### New Building Landscaping Fund

**To George and Sue Viener in memory of Rose Viener**  
Mr. & Mrs. Don Kelly

Shirley K.

#### Jacobs Religious School Fund

**To Holly Michelson in honor of her special birthday**

Roseann & Allen Michelson  
Driben Family

#### Sisterhood

**In appreciation to all who have sent good wishes**  
Ruth and Irv Balis

**In appreciation for all the get well wishes**  
Kaye Ullman

## New Member Shabbat Friday, April 2

You are cordially invited to come and officially welcome our newest members. Shabbat service will begin at 6 p.m. followed by a reception.

**Our newest members are:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Scott & Susan Egolf, children Ryan and Leah                          | Nathaniel Ehrlich, wife Meghan, daughter Helen |
| Rick & Suzanne Flynn, daughter Sara                                  | Steve & Susan Gelb, daughter Abby              |
| Jeffrey & Michelle Gold, children Kyle and Alexander                 | Anne Missan, children Marissa and Brandon      |
| Paul & Joyce Pottash   | Stanley & Barbara Solowey                      |
| Alan & Carol Stern, children Isabelle, Jacob and Jenna               |  |
| Jay Waldman, children Stephen and Victoria                           |  |
| Martha & Stephen Silverman, daughter Hope and granddaughter Samantha |  |



## Sisterhood News

# Schedule heats up as warm weather arrives

By **Linda Bram**

Best wishes from the Sisterhood for a very happy Purim. May the holiday be filled with peace, kindness, tasty goodies and health for your family; but, no Haman (Booooo). As spring approaches we all look forward to warm weather and new activities. The **Sisterhood** spring calendar of events begins with our **Shabbat** service on **March 26 at 7:45 p.m.** Call Felice Stern to tell her you would like to be a part of this special celebration.

The donor luncheon has been moved to **Tuesday, April 20, at noon.** Our own maven of antiques, Gene Friedman, will speak and provide verbal appraisals of any treasures you take along. At the last

“Temple antique road show,” Gene educated us on antiques in general as well as purchasing and appraising these treasures. The lecture was very informative and so much fun that we have asked him to return. Please join us for good food, good discussion and the chance to discover your treasure is worth a mint! Look for your invitation in the mail as to venue.

Sisterhood’s **Spring general meeting** will take place **Sunday, May 16, at 5:30 p.m.** in the social hall. This dinner meeting will be chock full of activity. In addition to election of new officers, our own Rosalind Hyman is back to entertain us once again. This energetic lady will

speak on the topic of manners. It is sure to be an enlightening experience; one you won’t want to miss.

Since spring is a time for many holidays, special celebrations and graduations, please visit our gift shop for all your needs and desires. The shelves are bursting with new merchandise. Shop us first for unique Judaic and non-Judaic gifts at 20% off retail everyday. Just wait until you taste the premium Kosher for Passover wines. Remember, we can special order merchandise at any time. Planning a Bar/Bat mitzvah, wedding, baby naming or Bris? We can order all of your ceremonial items. See you in the gift shop.

Please note that the Sisterhood Casino

## Cantor in Residence March 12-14

Cantor Josee Wolff will be presenting three public programs during her time with Oheb Sholom. On Friday, March 12, she will help lead our Shabbat service and give a sermon-in-song titled “Mi Chamocha- What Would Moses Have Sung?” This program will explore how music and melodies can effect how we understand the liturgy. Our Erev Shabbat service will begin at 7:45 p.m. followed by an oneg.

On Saturday, March 13, at 10 a.m., Cantor Wolff will present a participatory session to the choir, but others are welcome to join and sing. This program is titled: “Shiru LAdonai, Shir Chadash! — Sing to the Eternal One, Sing a New Song.” This is a workshop for past,

present and future choir members, and anyone else who would like to learn.

On Saturday afternoon beginning at 4:30 p.m., she will present a program called “Who Changed My Tune?” A brief history of Reform Judaism as expressed through words and music. We will do Havdalah together. A deli supper is available for those wishing to share a meal. Cost for the deli supper will be \$8 per person. Please RSVP for the deli supper by Monday, March 10, by calling the office.

On Sunday, March 14th, Cantor Wolff will spend time with our students.

So if you are music lover, if you love to sing when you attend services and if you want to learn more about what and

KESHER ZION SYNAGOGUE  
INVITES YOU TO A

**COMMUNITY  
PASSOVER SEDER**

**Monday, April 5**

**6:30-8:30 p.m.**

Catered by Boscov’s Ala  
Carte Caterers

Cost: Children (12 and  
under) - \$15 /

Adults - \$25

**Menu: Soup, gefilte fish,  
turkey, kugel, vegetables,  
wine, and dessert.**

## Perpetual Memorials

**March 5 and 6**  
Rachel Loeb  
Bessie Meyer  
Ruth Greenburg  
Roy P. Hirshland  
Adeline Reidenberg

**March 12**  
Isaac L. Scherck  
Betty Herman

Irving Popkin  
Jean Gilbert  
Rachel Loeb Stein  
Jeanette Miller Brenner

**March 19**  
Kathryn H. Soltan  
Henry Loeb  
Emanuel Hammel  
Eugene H. Meyer

**March 26**  
Esther Aal  
Jane Henry  
Solly L. Katz  
Harold I. Miller  
Hilda Klevansky  
Evelyn Imber  
Joseph Schlanger

**April 2-3**  
Jochen Jaschek  
Lucy Jaschek  
Darcy Lou Spinrad  
Raymond Hammel  
Jettchen Katz  
Henry Herman



# Sisterhood Florence Frank Offering Fund

**To Helen Rappoport in memory of her brother**

Mr. and Mrs. Gene Friedman  
Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Balis  
Mrs. Sylvia Schiff

**To Mrs. Beulah Miller in memory of her husband, Willard**

Mrs. Ethel Sherman

**Mazel Tov to Ann Seltzer in receiving her bachelor of science degree from Albright**

Mrs. Harriet Baskin

**To Scott Miller in memory of his father, Willard**

Mrs. Ethel Sherman

**To Kaye Ullman for a speedy recovery**

Mrs. Helen Rappoport

**To Gene Friedman in honor of his special birthday**

Mr. & Mrs. Irvin Balis

**To Dr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Horowitz in honor of their new home**

Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman

Mrs. Harriet Baskin  
**Mazel Tov to Karen McCracken and Mark Robinson on their recent marriage**

Mrs. Harriet Baskin  
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman

**Mazel Tov to Mrs. Dorothy Schlanger on her granddaughter Stephanie's engagement**

Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman

**Mazel Tov to Mrs. Sue Schlanger on her daughter Stephanie's engagement**

Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman

•  
*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.*

## It's All About Life

Our annual blood drive is scheduled for  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 28**

**9 a.m.- 1 p.m.**

Call the Temple office anytime to make an appointment to give. Call early as the best times fill up fast. Invite neighbors and friends to come with you to donate. A pint of blood, a little more than an hour's time can mean a miracle to someone in a car accident or going into surgery.

Thanks to all of you for your wonderful good wishes on our new home, our birthdays and our 70th wedding anniversary, Thank you sincerely.

**Love, Ruth and Irv Balis**

## Sisterhood Shabbat March 26

If you would like to participate, please call Linda Bram, (610) 856-0926

## 2nd Annual Mitzvah Blitzvah Day at Keshet Zion will be Sunday, March 21

Save the date and plan on joining our Jewish community in performing a mitzvah. Sandy Bloom, coordinator for this event, promises there will be something for all ages and interest.

## We need your help

The Oneg Shabbat is an important part of our weekly gathering. We all enjoy this time to chat and enjoy something sweet and a beverage.

### We need sponsors for 2004.

When sponsoring an oneg you are asked to provide a challah and sweets of your choice.

The Temple provides the beverage.

*Please call Ellice Gunter (610) 775-4448 for available dates*

**OR** perhaps you can help us by baking a little extra when you bake and then drop it off at the Temple. Any type of cake, cookie, or bars that freeze well would be appreciated. Don't let your baking talents get rusty between Food Festivals, bake something for our freezer.

## Cantor in Residence weekend

**March 12,13, and 14**

Join us as we welcome Cantor Josee Wolfe. There will be something for everyone from Shabbat service on Friday and special programs Saturday. On Sunday, Cantor Wolfe will be with our Religious School children



### Men's Club News

## Coffee for connoisseurs (or Java for the regular Joe)

**By Marshall Azrael**

*Men's Club president*

Coffee is an essential part of the daily routine for many of us. And a hot cup of coffee was a tasty way to warm up after we came in from shoveling snow when our December and January meetings were canceled.

Some of us can't start the day without "a shot of caffeine." And, we all have

our favorite blend or method of brewing. On Sunday, March 21, Rabbi Michelson will lead us on an expedition into the flavorful world of coffee. Join us; so, you won't miss your seat on our **J a v a J o u r n e y .**

This is an election year for your Men's Club - Please let the officers know your nominations for your new leadership.

I hope to see you on March 21, to

learn more about coffee, "the elixir of life" -- for some, with Rabbi Michelson. Please call me if you have any questions or suggestions. These are the meeting date for the rest of the year:

April 18: Ancient Priests & Temples In Judaism - Paul Pottash

May 16: The Lost Ten Tribes - Don Miller

### Social Action Spotlight

## Volunteering with Native Americans

**By Scott Davis**

Since 1992 Sandy and I have traveled through Indian Country. We had become intrigued and appreciative of the different tribal nations as well as disheartened by the socio-economic and health related hardships. We felt that our country's first people were a forgotten minority. We asked how could we ignore a people, who like us Jews, had gone through genocide?

After several unsuccessful attempts to do volunteer work with Native Americans, we did so for two weeks at the Billy Mills Youth Center, which the local folks call The Main. The Main is located in Eagle Butte, South Dakota which is the tribal center for the Cheyenne River Sioux (Lakota) Reservation. The Main is a youth drop in center attended by 20-50 children some of whom are just out of diapers to their mid adolescence. The Main is the only youth program that operates year round in the

community. Volunteers, almost all of whom are not Native American, come from around the world and are the ones who work with the kids. Both the Director and Assistant Director are Native American. When there are not enough volunteers The Main cuts their hours of operation or closes its doors to the children. The volunteers live dormitory style at The Main.

Programming at The Main includes kids reading to each other or being read to in the library, arts and crafts, playing games, educational and cultural programs, time at the playground and helping the children to plant and maintain an organic garden (obesity and diabetes are at epidemic levels). The volunteers prepare the evening meal for the children. When the children leave The Main the volunteers clean and sanitize the entire facility. On Friday's The Main is closed, as the volunteers are busy with fund

raising or facilitating the midnight basketball program for older adolescents at the high school.

Volunteering at The Main is long and tiring. So why do we do it? Because mitzvah is our tradition. How wonderful it is to share our time, energy, and talent with those who are less fortunate. To those of you who have volunteered you know that you receive more than you give. We have been blessed with hugs, sharing in the children's joys as well as helping them to overcome daily obstacles. As a people, Native Americans value generosity which has allowed us to share in their culture such as attending a Sun Dance Ceremony.

In short, volunteering at The Main is like living in a kibbutz. I went back in 2003 and plan to return in 2004 with Sandy. If you are interested in learning more about our experiences, volunteering

### **Empties 4 Cash**

We have received our second check for the empty inkjet cartridges brought to the Temple for recycling. Our first check was \$66 and this one is \$84. Monies from this project get deposited into the general operating fund. Please continue to bring empty cartridges to the Temple for recycling. Any cartridge with a printhead can be recycled, regardless of brand or type. (Epson cartridges don't have a printhead). To avoid damage, please put your empty cartridge in a Ziploc bag or back

### **Thanks for your help. . .**

We raised \$522 for Congregation Mevateret Tzion in Israel as part of the Chanukah drive.

### ***Special Appearance***

Organist Ina Grapenthin will take part in the service Friday, April 2 at 6 p.m.



## Focus on the Food Festival Program Book Ads

It's not too early to be thinking about Food Festival 2004 (Nov. 7); and not too early to help make the event be a financial success again. Remember, our student cantor program is entirely funded by festival proceeds. Of equal importance has been our ability to reduce the principal on our mortgage by about \$6,000 with festival earnings.

The program book is a vital part of this effort. Last year ads in the pamphlet yielded \$2,500. **Every penny was profit which went to reduce the mortgage!** We can do this because Boscov's generously prints the programs for us without charge!

It's not too early to begin soliciting advertisements for 2004's program book.

Many businesses set their advertising budget early in the year. We're ready to help you help us launch this effort. Here's the basic information:

- Ads are available at full page (\$180) half page (\$100) and quarter page (\$60)
- Full and half page ads submitted and paid for by May 1st receive an "early bird" discount of 10%.
- Full and half page advertisers receive two complimentary platter tickets.
- Solicitation packets containing cover letter, forms, sales pitch suggestions, and return envelopes are now available at the temple.

**Who might place an ad?**

Consider your own business or professional office; a personal ad; and all the professionals, stores, and suppliers you deal with on a regular basis. Just one ad from each of us brings success.

**Here's why this is easier than you think:**

- You're offering a valuable marketing tool to businesses and professional groups.
- Our sales pitch script suggestions tell you what to say.
- You can pick up a solicitation packet in the RCOS lobby or call the office and we'll deliver one to you.

## Next year, you have to go, too . . .

**By Lorri G. Oziri**

Three congregations from York, Lancaster and Berks Counties met at the Hershey Lodge Jan. 9 for a 24-hour retreat. More than 30 people (11 from RCOS) attended and during the overnight experience discussed topics such as marriage, sex, confirmation, death and artificial insemination — all relating to Judaism and specifically the Reform movement. Friday began with Shabbat dinner, services and the first workshop which led us into an enlightening sing-along. If you closed your eyes it was reminiscent of camp days and sitting around on a cool summer night at the camp fire (*many* years ago, at least for me.)

The topics were controversial and interesting and the group, a mixture of ages, couples, single individuals and Jewish backgrounds, offered serious responses combined with lighthearted discussion. It was an opportunity to delve deeper into the origins of the Reform

movement and its views of these topics. For me, growing up in an Orthodox/Conservative (Jewish) home this was an eye-opening experience.

Saturday, began with an emotional Shabbat morning service, the Torah was completely rolled out (across the room) as two lines of seated participants facing each other held a section and supported it on their laps. With the closeness of nearly being able to wrap ourselves up in the words of the Torah, the reaction from some was that of awe and a unique feeling of being closer to their spirituality that they had never experienced at any other time.

Following the service and a brief break to stretch, we continued on with discussion and I have to say a great deal of humor as the group bonded by realizing how much we shared though most of us never met prior to this retreat. We reveled in the notion that where ever you go there are Jews and how wonderfully special it is to be a Jew. To

wrap up the evening (and, by the way the 24 hours flew by), we concluded with a magnificent and moving Havdalah service, which left me with the feeling that this retreat was well worth my time; and, wondering when we would all be together like this, again.

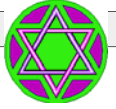
So, next year you have to go, too. Do the best you can to put aside all of the excuses that limit us from experiencing these kinds of valuable opportunities. It is not easy for any of us to get away from our busy, busy lives; but it is worth the effort for just 24 hours. The more participants that attend this kind of retreat, the more valuable the experience can be. Until you go it may be difficult to conceive. It is whatever you choose to make of it; but, I guarantee it will bring you to a new degree of understanding and level of spirituality. So, don't use your kids or spouse or parents or work as a reason not to go. If you are truly interested, I believe appropriate accommodations can be arranged, and

### Looking ahead to April:

First Night Seder, Keshet Zion, Monday, April 5 Second Night Seder, RCOS, Tuesday, April 6

Kauffman's Chicken Sale, Sunday, April 18 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Schlechter, daughter of Benjamin and Ivy Schlechter.





REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB  
SHOLOM

Affiliated with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations since 1907  
555 Warwick Drive  
Wyomissing, PA 19610  
610-375-6034, Fax: 610-375-6036  
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Brian I. Michelson, Rabbi  
Alan G. Weitzman, Rabbi Emeritus

OFFICERS

Ellen Azrael..... President  
Scott Bram.....First Vice President  
Eric Zelnick.....Second Vice President  
Paul Cohn.....Treasurer  
Gene Friedman.....Secretary

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Sandra Davis                      Jeffrey Driben  
Karen Hogg                         Rosalind Hyman  
Herb Karasin                       Sue Loewenstein  
Richard Roeberg                   James Rothstein  
Richard Schwartz                 David Spillerman  
Jeffrey Sternlieb                   George Viener  
Kathie Wachs                       M. Herbert Wachs  
Richard Yashek

Marshall Azrael.....President of the Men's  
Club

Linda Bram.....Sisterhood President

LIFE TRUSTEES

Bruce A. Cohen                     Richard Henry  
Ellis F. Friedman, M.D.             Harlan Kutscher, M.D.  
Barbara Stein

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Reading, PA

TIME VALUE

Bulletin published monthly, September through May. Items are due  
**no later than** the 5th of the month prior to publication.