



Our Temple

May-June 2001

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom

Volume 37 No. 9

Notes from the President

The year is just about over

By Alan Schlechter
President

I hope everyone had a Happy Passover this year. Our family was lucky enough to spend two great evenings with friends and family. In retrospect, this holiday is probably one of the most important

holidays in our history. Think about it, if we the Jewish people would not have left Egypt, who knows where we would be today.

Anyway, this was an exhausting year for many of our hard working members. First I would like to thank everyone who

has worked hard on the Dues Committee. As of March 31, 2001 our dedicated members have increased their dues by \$49,080 and our Mitzvah Pledge drive to make up for the deficit is at \$29,912. In less than a year we brought into our

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From the Rabbi's Study

New student-cantor to serve Temple

This is a month of change for our Temple family as we head into the summer. The first weekend in May will be our last weekend with our present student-Cantor, Rebecca Fletcher. On May 20, Rebecca will be officially invested into the cantorate as she completes her studies

Rabbi Brian

at the Hebrew Union College. I want to publicly thank Rebecca for all her work and effort of the past two years. It has been a pleasure for me, and for the community, to watch her grow into her role as our student-cantor and as a cantor who will serve the Jewish people. I know that you join me in wishing Rebecca much success and happiness in her future

endeavors. I know that she will always have a special place in hearts and memory of this congregation.

Although we will miss Rebecca, I am pleased to announce that Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom has been successful in arranging for the services of a new student-cantor for 5762. Jill Abramson has accepted our offer to be our student cantor for the coming school year. Jill will be a fourth, and final, year student at Hebrew Union College's School of Sacred Music. She has served as the student-Cantor for B'nai Jeshurun Barnett Temple in Franklin Lakes, New Jersey for two years. Jill is hoping to broaden her experience by joining us. Jill has a background as a cantorial soloist

(Continued on page 2)

May-June and Summer Highlights

Friday, May 4: Shabbat Service, 6 p.m.

Saturday, May 5: Morning Shabbat Service, 10 a.m.

Saturday, May 19: Tot Shabbat in the Library, 10 a.m.

Sunday, May 20: Men's Club, 9:30 a.m.; Landscaping work day, 9-noon

Sunday, May 27: Tikkun Leil Shavuot—study & cheesecake, 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 2: Annual confirmation service, 10 a.m.

Sunday, June 3: Temple's annual meeting, dessert-6:30 p.m., meeting at 7

Saturday, June 9: Tot Shabbat, 10 a.m.

Saturday, June 16: Bat Mitzvah of Suzanne Cooper, 10 a.m.

Saturday, June 23: Bat Mitzvah of Samantha Jo Schlechter, 10 a.m.

Sunday, Aug. 19: Book Group — "The Sunflower," by Simon Wiesenthal

Saturday, Sept. 8: Adult B'nei Mitzvah service, 10 a.m.

*Bulletin sponsored by
Edythe Stern in
memory of Joseph
Stern*

Inside the Bulletin of Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom:

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Religious School News

Looking back, looking ahead

By Holly Michelson

Religious School Administrator

I cannot believe that we have reached the end of the school year already, and yet, I am already looking towards next year. While we only have two days of Religious School on Sundays in May (the 6th and 20th for everyone), the month is full of activity. We will begin the month with a fond farewell to our wonderful student Cantor, Rebecca Fletcher. There will be a special service on Friday evening, May 4 for the whole congregation, while the school children will have the opportunity to say goodbye on the 6th in the morning. On that same day, our 6th/7th grade class led by Dr.

Stern will be taking a very important trip to Washington to visit the Holocaust Museum. Since we were fortunate in not having more than one snow day, there will be NO SCHOOL on May 13th. Happy Mother's Day everyone. Our last day of Hebrew school will take place on Tuesday, May 15, but Hebrew does not end there. Please join us Friday evening, May 18 when we will be having our Hebrew School/Teacher Appreciation Shabbat. The last day of Sunday Religious school will take place on the 20th.

In June, two of our students will be celebrating the ceremony of becoming a Bat Mitzvah. We look forward to hearing

Suzanne Cooper on June 16th and Samantha Schlechter on June 23rd lead our services and read Torah.

Later in the summer you will receive the new enrollment forms and handbook for next year. We will be starting school on Sunday, Sept. 9th and Hebrew will start two days later. If anyone needs a more complete schedule of dates for next year in advance, please contact me at the Synagogue.

Thank you all for a great year.

Important Dates:

May 6: 6/7 Grade trip to Washington D. C.

May 13: NO SCHOOL

May 15: Last Day for Hebrew School

RABBI

(Continued from page 1)

and music teacher in a number of different Reform congregations. While at HUC, Jill has received a number of

awards and scholarships. She has a BA in anthropology from Grinnell College in Iowa and she is a self-taught piano and guitar player. We look forward to

welcoming Jill to our community and we all look forward to a good year together.

Save this Date !!!

**2nd RCOS Jewish Food Festival
Sunday, Oct. 28**

Join in the early stages of planning for this fun event. Call Jeri Kozloff (610-373-4400) or the Temple office for meeting dates and to offer your help

**Also, Watch for Details for
Kauffman's Chicken Barbeque,
takeouts only, Sunday, July 29**

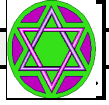
Effective immediately, there will no longer be a Baby-sitting coordinator for Shabbat and holiday services. If interested is assuming this position, call Melissa Schlechter ASAP.

Oneg and Flowers Sponsors

To sponsor an oneg, purchase pulpit flowers or a fruit basket to be donated to the Greater Berks Food Bank,

call Ellice Gunter at 610-775-4448.

Fruit baskets may be ordered through A.J.'s Baskets in Shillington (610-796-0700) or the vendor of your choice.



Sisterhood News

Don't miss the chance to join us at meeting

By Elyse Horowitz

On behalf of the Sisterhood I would like to thank everyone for attending the Donor Dinner. I hope everyone enjoyed themselves, and found Rita Miller to be educational as well inspirational.

Our spring general meeting is May 15 at noon in the Temple social hall. We will be having the election and the installation of the officers as well as a delicious lunch. The Sisterhood nominating committee (Marilyn Frank, Linda Bram, Dorothy Schlanger and Lisa Ueberoth) is pleased to announce the following slate of officers:

President	Melissa Schlechter
1st Vice-president	Linda Bram
2nd Vice-president	Felice Stern
Treasurer	Debbie

Zelnick

Recording Secretary	Marian Smith
Corresp. Sect'y	Adrienne Cardinal
Financial Secretary	Leah Levin

We will also be having our drawing for the Pushke Fund at the meeting. If you haven't sent in you coupons, **HURRY UP.** You don't want to miss a chance to win any of our four wonderful prizes; a beautiful white and black diamond 14k white gold ring, a collectible Longaberger magazine basket, a gift certificate to the restaurant 201 west and a Borders Book Store gift certificate. We would like to thank everyone for their generosity to the Pushke Fund. All your support has made this fund-raising event quite a success.

We would also like to make one final plea; The Sisterhood will no longer have a baby-sitting coordinator. There will not be baby-sitting available for Shabbat and Holiday Services. Anyone interested in assuming the position, call Melissa Schlechter.

The Sisterhood is already planning many exciting events for next year. We look forward to having a joint meeting with the Sisterhood of Kesher Zion in the fall. We hope all of you come take part of Sisterhood events for 2001-2002.

The Sisterhood wishes everyone a happy and a healthy summer. See you in September.

Help Create a Garden of Eden at RCOS

The landscaping committee has selected a landscape architect to create a design for the west and south sides of the building. We hope to begin planting in the spring. There are lots of ways you can help:

Donations to the landscape fund for general purposes; Purchase of trees, shrubs and other materials as memorial or honorary gifts; Donations of your own plant material or garden equipment; Help us plan and carry out a plant sale this spring; Join us for planting and maintenance work sessions; Join our committee

For information about all these opportunities leave your name at the Temple office and you will be contacted.

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 August 5.
This is the final issue until September.**

RUMMAGE SALE COMING SOON!

The next rummage sale will take place **July 15-17.** Dropoff will be July 2-6 (but not the 4th) and July 9-13 during Temple office hours.

We would love volunteers to bake, set up, pick up items and sell.

Please call Adrienne at 610-370-0058 or Elaine at 610-779-0903 to help!



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 Maxine & Dick Henry in honor of their new home
Barbara Schneiderman

For the Yahrzeit in memory of William A. Miller
Saul M. Miller

To Maxine & Dick Henry in appreciation for their remembering special celebrations
Bob & Kaye Ullman

To Louise Wiener in honor of her birthday
Barbara Schneiderman

To Maxine & Dick Henry in memory of Jane Henry
Louise Wiener
Sylvia H. Gross

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Jeanette Finkel's sister Mitchell, Michelle & Jessica Edelson

Thanks to all who sent good wishes on my special birthday
Evelyn Goodman

In honor of Gabriella Michelson's birthday and in memory of Nat Weisbaum and Devera Gutterman
Mrs. Bonnie Friedman and Cantor Gerald Miller

Temple Building Fund

For the Yahrzeit of Philip Satinsky, Norma Perilstein & Reba Locke
Barbara, Michael & Mindy Perilstein

Judith Kraines in memory of her mother, Sylvia Miller Kraines
Barbara & Seth Rosenzweig
Dr. & Mrs. Stuart Cohn

Kaplan
Dr. & Mrs. Stuart Cohn
In remembrance of Philip Knoblauch
Murry & Nancy Knoblauch

Erica Beckerman
To Joseph Sherman in honor of his special birthday
Edith Blanck

For the Yahrzeit in memory of Evelyn Levinger
Norma, Marty, Andy & Erica Beckerman

To Richard Yashek for continuing good health
Harriet Baskin

Barb & Dave Bender
Sharon & Kenn Spinrad

To Larry & Sue Schlanger in honor of Larry's new business
Sharon & Kenn Spinrad

To Dr. & Mrs. Mark Kahn and family in memory of Pat Kahn's mother
Norma, Marty, Andy & Erica Beckerman

To Carol & Chuck Hirsch in honor of the birth of their son
Phyllis Schlanger

To Mrs. Barbara Singer in memory of her husband, Bernie
Dr. & Mrs. Stuart Cohn

Yahrzeit in remembrance of Richard's father, mother and brother
Richard & Rosalye Yashek

To Linda & Scott Bram in honor of Aaron Franklin's birth
Sharon & Kenn Spinrad
Thank you for all the Uniongrams and special wishes on my special birthday
Joe Sherman

To Debbie & Steve Pearlman in honor of the birth of their son
Phyllis Schlanger
To Dr. Neil Hoffman &

To Mr. John Freedson, in memory of his mother, Anita Freedson
Dr. & Mrs. Stuart Cohn
To Mr. & Mrs. Edward Golden, in memory of her father, Norman

To Eve & Cindy Fass in memory of Gloria Fass
Norma, Marty, Andy &

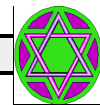
Greater Temple Fund
For the Yahrzeit in memory of Reva Marcus
Ronald & Sharon Hrabak

Birthday Greetings
Melissa Schlechter

Birthday Greetings/Sunshine Fund

Every Sisterhood member is sent a special birthday message. Send donations to:

Adrienne Cardinal
907 Brighton Ave.



Social Action News

Ideas that inspire, ideas to ponder

Sometimes a few words taken in isolation can generate more thought and more creativity and more action than an informative article or a persuasive essay. And sometimes, those few words can turn the key to a kaleidoscope, and change our world. Here are some such:

At Set of Sun

If you sit down at set of sun
And count the acts that you have done,
And counting, find
One self-denying deed, one word
That eased the heart of him who heard,
One glance most kind
That fell like sunshine where it went—
Then you may count that day well spent.

But if, through all the livelong day,
You've cheered no heart, by yea or nay—
If, through it all
You've nothing done that you can trace
That brought the sunshine to one face—
No act most small
That helped some soul and nothing cost—
Then count that day as worst than lost.
George Eliot (1819-1880)

"Everything you can imagine is real." (Picasso)

"Between the wish and the thing, life lies waiting." (Unknown)

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,

nothing is going to get better. It's not."
(Dr. Seuss, The Lorax)

"We must become the change we want to see." (Ghandi)

"We can do no great things; only small things with great love." (Mother Teresa)

"It is a most mortifying reflection for a man to consider what he has done, compared to what he might have done." (Samuel Johnson)

Volunteer Opportunities at Jewish Family Service

We tend to think of Berks County Jews as givers of services rather than receivers of services. But this is frequently not the case, and Jewish Family Service exists to meet the varied needs of our community. As part of the Jewish Federation, our contributions to the United Jewish Campaign support the many services it provides.

As our population ages, there are many problems related to getting around, socializing, health care and housing. In 1984, in cooperation with ManorCare Health Services, a Jewish wing with a kosher kitchen was set up at the Laureldale facility, and this continues to be well utilized by people who need nursing home services and prefer to live in a Jewish environment. Sari Inledon visits there weekly, and also makes regular visits to other facilities with Jewish residents. She is a wonderful source of information and/or referral for elder services and to general social services in the area. She frequently speaks with out-of-town children concerned about their parents, and does assessments and makes recommendations. She also makes hospital visits to Jewish patients and

assists with discharge planning.

In recognition of the fact that many people who don't drive are isolated from full participation in community activities, Jewish Family Service instituted a well-utilized taxi coupon program that has been copied in other communities. The service is subsidized by the Jewish Federation, and users purchase a book of coupons for a nominal price, with maximum personal choice for how to use them.

A Jewish Food Bank operates monthly, with bags of groceries being delivered to people who need them. The Kosher Meals on Wheels program operates five days a week, with hot meals delivered at noon. On Rosh Hashanah, Thanksgiving, and Passover they coordinate a program of holiday meal sharing. Other services provided are personal counseling and community education of various types.

Volunteers are needed in every type of endeavor. You can help in meal-sharing at the holidays by delivering part of your own holiday menu. You can provide a truly important connection between the homebound and normal community life by agreeing to make regular visits or phone calls. Taking

someone shopping or to an appointment offers needed socializing in addition to the ride. Visits to nursing homes or assisted living facilities, either individually or in groups, are very welcome - to read, write letters, play cards, help with bingo, just talk, or participate in holiday activities or entertainment.

Delivery people and alternates are needed for Kosher Meals on Wheels. Two people go out together on each delivery, one to drive (and possibly double park) while the other delivers the meal. If you don't want to commit to a regular day each week, alternates are often needed when the regulars are unable to be there. It requires only 1-1/2 - 2 hours. Jewish Food Bank packers are also needed on a monthly basis, together with delivery people.

Whether your volunteer time is minimal or extensive, it's hard to overstate the satisfaction involved in helping the Jewish community take care of its own. Call Sari Inledon or Shirley Jacobs at the JCC (610-921-0624) to discuss your areas of interest and the time you have to give.



Sisterhood Florence Frank Offering Fund

To Joe Natale for a speedy recovery
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sherman

To Mrs. Sadie Patton in memory of her
husband, George
Mr. & Mrs. Lionel Asher

To Mr. Frank Petrakis in memory of his
uncle George
Mr. & Mrs. Lionel Asher

Get well to Elizabeth Kitchenoff
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sherman

Good luck to Larry Schlanger on his new
business
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sherman
Mrs. Hanna Goldsmith
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman
Mr. Korey Blanck, Bryant & Nick Blanck

To Mrs. Judith Kraines in memory of her
mother, Sylvia
Mrs. Edith Blanck

To Mrs. Hannah Lipsker in honor of her
birthday anniversary
Mrs. Sue Wolfe

To Dr. & Mrs. Scott Bram on the birth of a
new son
Mrs. & Mrs. Milton Mendelsohn
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.*

PRESIDENT

(Continued from page 1)

Temple additional \$78,992.00. Considering I was the Co-Chair of the Solicitation Committee and helped raise the money to build our new building, and then we had to turn around and ask our members for more, well I just don't know what to say but thank you. Thanks to everyone who is truly committed to our Temple. Not only this year were we able to overcome our deficit, but we had our parking lot re-paved from monies raised

privately within our congregation. We even brought our computer systems into this century, with networking and new software specifically written for Temples. Thanks to all who were involved with this project.

Next, what is coming up for the summer? First, our landscaping committee is moving forward in raising money and planting plants. Jeri Kozloff is working on two major projects this year. First as you are all aware of is the

landscaping project and second is the Jewish Food Festival. That's right, were going to have the Food Festival this year. If you want to volunteer for either one of these projects, give Jeri a call.

I hope this past year these notes/articles that I have been writing every month have kept you, our members, informed of what is going on within our Temple.

On behalf of my family and myself, we wish everyone a happy and healthy

JEWISH WEB SITE OF THE MONTH

I have discovered a very interesting web site that caters to the needs and questions of the interfaith (or dual-faith) family. The site (<http://www.interfaithfamily.com>) provides information and articles that deal with a range of issues faced by the interfaith family. The site is not perfect, but I do believe that it is a good starting place for anyone who has questions or is struggling with some of the issues that face interfaith families.

**The Jewish Parent Page
is a wonderful resource with
information, full of timeless ideas
for parents and kids. There are now
four years of Jewish Parent Pages
available at [http://www.uahc.org/
educate/parent/](http://www.uahc.org/educate/parent/) Be sure to
bookmark this page**

**Hey Kids
Will you be going on vacation with
your family or attending summer
camp? Send the Temple a
postcard letting us know how
you're doing (Our secretary loves
getting mail). Postcards will be
posted on the bulletin board in the
Rotunda over the summer months.**



Ask the Rabbi

History explains difference on festival lengths

Q: Why do some Jews celebrate two days of most holidays while Reform Judaism only celebrates one day of the festival?

A: This is an excellent question. The tradition of celebrating two days of festival at the beginning and end of Jewish holidays began during the period of the Diaspora (Jews living outside the land of Israel). The beginning of each festival was declared in Jerusalem and

then bon fires were lit on the top of a series of high hills to alert the outlying areas that the holiday had officially started. To ensure that they did not miss the start of a holiday, the Diaspora community set aside two days for the holiday, knowing that the holiday would "officially" begin on one of those two days. After the Jewish calendar was formalized, the question of when a holiday began was no longer in question,

but the tradition of a second day continued in Diaspora communities. Reform Judaism decided that since we know, for sure, when the holidays begin that there was no longer any reason to continue to follow the second day tradition. The only holiday where this is not true is Rosh Hashanah, which even in Israel is celebrated as a two-day festival.

Have a religious question of general

Perpetual Memorials

May 4

Joseph Weinberg
Karl Camperlik
Harry Stern
Ernestine Fisher
Helen P. Freedman
William Gilber
Charles Schwartz

May 11

Emil Bernheimer
Joseph H. Chivian
Nathan P. Cohen
Mark Freedman
Harry Sack
Minna R. Austin
Clara F. Israel
Liebmann Katz

May 18

Herman Hammel
Louis Heibron
Joseph Goldsmith
Pauline Katz
Israel Losch
Celia A. Cooperman
Hortense Grotta
Jacob Rudnick

May 25

Ilse, Karl & Selma Simon
Matthew H. Small

Helen M. Echenberg
Lena Holzman
Joseph W. Cohen
Simon Knoblauch
Libbie Tamor
Minnie Winston Hirsch

June 1

Minnie Freedman
Leah L. Livingston Winston
Julius Ehrlich
Rachel K. Loeb
Eleanor Morganstern

June 8

Gertrude Kunis
Robert Ruttenberg
Rose M. Salas
Reba Chivin
Milton S. Newman
Matilda Miller

June 15

Sally S. Friedman
Margaret Hekler
Dr. Max Jacobs
David Mitchell
Jennie Kelner

June 22

Julia Epstein

Henry S. Davidow
Milton S. Lapyowker
Abraham Kins
Thomas Barnett
Henry Fein

June 29

David Sulkis
Jacob W. Loeb
Aaron Loeb

July 6

Adolph Fisher
David Fisher
Harry Abramson
Tillie Hirshland
Jennie L. Cohen
Elsie Losch
Melville J. Ash
Rose Machat
Marvin Schachter

July 13

David Frankel
Saul Dershwin
Jeanne Gumpel
Martha Miller Hoffman
Nathan H. Cohen
Gabriel Gernsheimer

July 20

Sophie Hammel
Morton J. Wolper
Bertha Folkman
Joseph A. Freedman
Dr. Gilbert Winston

July 27

Ella Fein
Louis Katz
Randolph Horowitz
Mary Fein

August 3

Dr. Emil Bartos
Samuel D. Gilbert
Fred Meyers
Abraham Weil
Hirsch B. Luria
Fred Morganstern
Frances M. Jaslow

August 10

Frances Keiner
Ernest Meier
Ilse Jeanette Meier
Martha Meier
Henry N. Miller
Al Schachter

August 17

Alerta Fein
Samuel Levitz
Thomas H. Wiener
Joseph L. Weil
Emmy Humberg
Laura Shirl Kantor

August 24

Julius Frank
Karl Moses Heiman
Theresa Eisman
Abraham Gerson
Nathan Holzman
Frank Horowitz
Joseph W. Loeb

August 31

Nathan Greenberg
Shirley Holzman
Jennie Mitchell
Sophia Sondheim
Emil J. Baums

Mazel Tov

to all our graduates

— from Preschool up to University!

Best wishes for continued success

Please join us **Saturday, June 2**
at 10 a.m. for the confirmations of:
Brett Lutz, son of Dennis & Karen
Lutz

Carly Mazzochetti, daughter of



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Complaints about breastfeeding hurtful

To the Editor,

Recently, the rabbi asked me to wear a shawl when I breastfeed my son at the temple due to complaints from numerous congregants. I was shocked and saddened by this. I will comply with the request out of my respect for the rabbi and sympathy for the uncomfortable position he's in. Nevertheless, I think that this is a very important issue. I hope we can all reflect upon it and discuss it with mutual respect.

I love coming to Shabbat and other holiday services at the temple, and over the past couple of years I have come to feel at home in the congregation. Today, I feel less at home, less welcome, and reluctant to bring my son. I understand that many of us have different social expectations. I regret upsetting anyone,

but I am simply doing the most natural thing for a mother to do – feed her baby. In consultation with my son's pediatrician and upon his recommendation, I have chosen to breastfeed my son. I am not ashamed of how I feed my son, but when I am asked to disappear under a shawl to do so, I feel as if I am being told that what is going on under there is wrong. Moreover, I think that such a cover is unnecessary. I, like all breastfeeding mothers that I know, try hard to be discreet, and do not expose my body to anyone but my baby.

I was happy to see the rabbi's plea a few months ago to welcome children and their families to the temple. But if we are to take his words to heart, we need to expect that parents of babies will have to feed their children at temple. Assuming

that parents can simply feed their babies before they come, doesn't work: young babies eat very frequently and older babies usually favor their evening feedings. Were I to leave the sanctuary every time I needed to feed my son, I would miss most of the service and miss out on the feeling of community I treasure so much.

I am writing this letter to stimulate dialogue and reflection within our temple family. I hope that we might discuss this issue face-to-face and in the newsletter. I care deeply about this congregation, and hope to be a part of it for years to come. Please accept these thoughts in that spirit.

**Yours truly,
Michelle Mart**

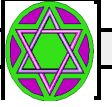
Support the Temple the Easy Way!

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





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Alan G. Weitzman, Rabbi Emeritus

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