



Our Temple

May-June 2005

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom

Vol. 41 No. 9

Notes from the President

Much accomplished, much to achieve

By Scott Bram
President

Where are we now? It's been about one year since I, again, became President of the Temple. For those of you who don't know, I was also President from 1998 to 2000. So, what changes have been made regarding the various aspects of how the Temple is run?

My first priority has been to make sure that all the committees are functioning well and that they have the

needed funds and support to achieve their goals. Some committees, like the Social Action, Membership, and Food Festival seem to be functioning well. Others, like the Cemetery Committee, were in need of updating.

This brings me to my next point. Obviously, it is people who make the difference between a job well done and a job not done. I have tried to choose new people (Ex. Roz Hyman, chair of the Cemetery Committee; Jeff Driben, chair

of the Religious School Committee, Judith Kraines, Treasurer and chair of the Finance Committee) who have the talent, drive, and demeanor needed to tackle the tough issues they face in their respective positions. When I say new people, I mean new to my administration.

At the same time, I have retained the help of veteran members like Eric Zelnick, First Vice-President; Bruce Cohen, Ritual Committee chair and

(Continued on page 3)

From the Rabbi's Study

Saying farewell to a good friend

I find it hard to believe that almost two years have passed since we welcomed our student-cantor, Elizabeth Kessler, into our

**Rabbi Brian
Michelson**

community. During this time, she has become an important part of the Temple family. I know, for example, that many of the younger Religious School students look forward to the weekends that Liz is with us.

From the very beginning, we knew that we were fortunate to have Liz working with us. Yet, we have been fortunate to watch as Liz continues to grow as a cantor and a leader within the Jewish community. We have had the pleasure of enjoying the maturation of her voice and the honing of her skills. Her easy, relaxed style has helped to bring warmth and feeling to our worship

experiences and community functions. We are very fortunate to play a small part in helping to form the next generation of Jewish leaders.

There are many exciting changes that will be part of Liz's life in the near future. First, at the end of June, Liz will marry her fiancé, Eli. Shortly after this, Liz and Eli will be bound for Jerusalem. Liz will be spending an academic year at the Jerusalem campus of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Eli will be going with her and he will spend the year studying at Hebrew University.

I know that we have been very lucky to share these two years with Liz. Even as we start planning for our next student cantor, we know that Liz will be missed. I know you join me in wishing them both much success and happiness and that they

May-June Highlights

Friday, May 6: Shabbat, 6 p.m. Special guest: U.S. Rep. James Gerlach

Saturday, May 7: Shabbat service, 10 a.m.

Friday, May 13: Shabbat service with Grade 2, 6 p.m., with dinner

Saturday, May 14: Bar Mitzvah of Samuel Schlechter, 10 a.m.

Sunday, May 15: Men's Club, 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, May 21: Sisterhood Comedy Night, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, June 3: Early Shabbat service, 6 p.m.

Saturday, June 4: Bar Mitzvah of Joshua Schonberger

Sunday, June 5: Congregational meeting, 7 p.m.

Friday, June 10: Confirmation service, 7:45 p.m.

Friday night services at 7:45 unless otherwise noted

Babysitting available at all services

*Bulletin sponsored by
Rosalind Hyman
in memory of her beloved
husband, Lee*



Religious School News

Another successful year flies by

By Beth Bruck and Cheryl Spillerman
Religious School Administrators

As we prepare for the end of the school year, we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone – parents, staff **and** students – for being so supportive. Considering this was the first year of administrating for both of us, everything seemed to have gone rather smoothly.

The 5th Grade class did a great job on their Mitzvah Project – writing letters to and collecting requested items for our servicemen. On behalf of the soldiers, thanks to those of you who also sent in items for us to send their way. Other Mitzvah Projects this year included projects for Make A Wish Foundation (Grade 6), The Food Bank (Grade 2),

collection of videos to donate to hospitals (Grade 1), get well cards (PreK– K), book collection (Grade 3-4) and cell phones for the victims of domestic violence and the frail/elderly (Grade 7). Thanks to everyone who put in the effort for these worthy causes!

Though classes officially end May 22nd, don't forget to come celebrate with the Confirmation Class of 2005 – Alison Levy, Mason Cooper and Sarah Brok – on June 10. At this time, we will also take the opportunity to thank the Religious School staff for a job well done.

Happy May Birthday to Lauren Goldberg, Jessica Levy, Alex Altman, Samantha Weisberg, Sam Schlechter, Jeremy Lupowitz, Samantha Brok, Seth Schlechter, Tessa Cohn, Audra Nemirow

and Brett Driben!

And to all our summer Birthdays . . .
Happy June Birthday to Josh Mutzel, Nick Levine, Natasha Gilbert, Bryce Weizer, Rachel Jeffers, Joshua Schonberger and Naomi Michelson!

July Birthday Greetings to Ryan Bram, Ari Spillerman, Michael Saidman and Alexa Saidman!

August Birthday Wishes to Mason Cooper, Gina Schonberger and Brittany Eisenberg!

Reminders:

May 17: Last Day Hebrew School

May 22: Last Day Religious School

Please watch for 1) flyers regarding last school day activities and 2) registration forms for next year.

Perpetual Memorials

May 3 to May 7

Harry Stern
Ernestine Fisher
Helen P. Freedman
William Gilbert
Irving Imber
Charles Schwartz
Emil Bernheimer
Joseph H. Chivian

May 8 to May 14

Nathan P. Cohen
Mark Freedman
Harry Sack
Minna R. Austin
Clara F. Israel
Liebmann Katz
Herman Hammel
Louis Heibron

May 15 to May 21

Joseph Goldsmith
Paula Katz
Israel Losch
Celia A. Cooperman
Hortense Grotta
Jacob Rudnick
Ilse Simon
Karl Simon
Selma Katz Simon
Matthew H. Small

May 22 to May 28

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

May 29 to June 4

Julius Ehrlich
Rachel K. Loeb
Minnie Freedman
Eleanor Morganstern
Gertrude Kunis
Robert Ruttenberg

June 5 to June 11

Rose M. Salas
Reba Chivian
Milton S. Newman
Matilda Miller
Sally S. Friedman

June 12 to June 18

Margaret Hekler
Dr. Max Jacobs
David Mitchell
Ann Popkin
Anita Sulkis
Jennie Kelner
Julia Epstein
Henry S. Davidow
Milton S. Lapyowker

June 19 to June 25

Abraham Kins
Thomas Barnett
Henry Fein
David Sulkis

June 26 to July 2

Aaron Loeb
Goldye Fisher
Morton Gumpel
Adolph Fisher
David Fisher

July 3 to July 9

Tillie Hirshland
Jennie L. Cohen
Elsie Losch
Melville J. Ash
Rose Machat
Marvin Schachter
David Frankel

July 10 to July 16

Lawrence (Larry) Stein
Saul Dershwin
Jeanne Gumpel
Martha Miller Hoffman
Nathan H. Cohen
Gabriel Gernsheimer
Sophie Hammel
LeRoy Hyman
Edward Natanblut

July 17 to July 23

Morton J. Wolper
Bertha Folkman
Joseph A. Freedman
Dr. Gilbert Winston
Ella Fein

July 24 to July 30

Louis Katz
Randolph Horowitz
Esther Bash
Mary Fein
Dr. Emil Bartos
Samuel D. Gilbert
Fred Meyers

July 31 to Aug. 6

Abraham Weil
Hirsch B. Luria
Fred Morganstern
Frances M. Jaslów
Frances Kelner
Ernest Meier
Ilse Jeanette Meier
Martha Meier
Henry N. Miller

Aug. 7 to Aug. 13

Etta Burns
Al Schachter
Allerta Fein

Aug. 14 to Aug. 20

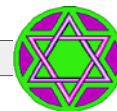
Samuel Levitz
Thomas H. Wiener
Joseph L. Weil
Emmy Humberg
Laura Shirl Kantor
Julius Frank
Karl Moses Heiman

Aug. 21 to Aug. 27

Theresa Eisman
Morris Friedman
Abraham Gerson-Simon
Nathan Holzman
Milton Mendelsohn
Frank Horowitz
Joseph W. Loeb
Nathan N. Greenberg
Jennie Mitchell
Sophia Sondheim
Emil J. Baums

Aug. 28 to Sept. 3

Shirley Boscov Holzman
Albert Aal
Bernard L. Simmons
Jack Loeb Stein
Rosa Weil
Alan Baskin
Dr. Joseph A. Liefert



Sisterhood news

Think of Rummage Sale as you do spring cleaning

By Carol Freed and Karen Robinson

Happy spring everyone! Finally some warmer weather is here. We hope you all enjoyed your Passover holiday with family and friends.

With spring comes spring cleaning. It's time to start cleaning out those stuffed closets and toy boxes! We would love to accept your gently worn treasures for our annual Sisterhood Rummage Sale. You may drop off your items July 5-8 and July 11-14, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Here is a list of items we will accept; gently worn ladies, mens & childrens clothing, shoes, purses, toys, books, CDs, tapes, records, household items, knick-knacks, kitchen items, bedding items such as quilts,

comforters, sheets, towels. Sorry, we're unable to accept cribs, car seats, play pens, etc.

A special thank you to Donna Zimmer, chair of the Purim Box fund-raiser and to her dedicated committee: Adrienne Cardinal, Karen Hogg, Elyse Horowitz, Karen Robinson and Debbie Zelnick for making this such a success. Special thanks go out to all the wonderful volunteers who helped with the countless working sessions. We couldn't have done it without you!

Come laugh with us!! Comedy night is Saturday, May 21 at 8pm cost is \$20 per person. If you haven't made your reservation there is still time to get

in on the fun. Just send it in to the Temple office. You will enjoy a delicious dessert reception catered by Lasting Impressions and a cash bar. You will laugh out of your seats thanks to comedian Jimmy Carroll from David Stein Productions. Carroll is a Philadelphia area native and a graduate of Kutztown University. Jimmy has worked with some of the most famous contemporary comedians, locally and in Las Vegas, and he has performed for U.S. troops all over the world. Jimmy also has television and two movies on his resume as well as a VIP flight in a Navy Blue Angels Jet. **Jimmy Carroll is a real talent and a must see at a bargain price.** We'd love to see you all there for

PRESIDENT

(Continued from page 1)

Executive Committee; Barbara Stein, House Committee chair and Executive Committee; Dick Henry, House Committee chair; Gene Friedman, Secretary; and Ellen Azrael, Past President and chair of the Membership Committee. These individuals possess a great deal of Temple historical knowledge and have done a lot for the Temple over

the years. They provide good counsel and help when questions arise.

There are many others who also serve on committees and provide the board with their time and expertise in a variety of ways.

My second priority has to do with the financial health of the Temple. Judith Kraines has been instrumental in putting plans into action that will help achieve

my goal of a balanced budget, along with a solid plan to pay off the mortgage.

The next goal involves updating the by-laws and starting a well defined process of leadership development. This should encourage new people to get involved in running the Temple.

This year was challenging.

Next year should be rewarding.

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, Aug. 5

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Bookkeeper Beth Bruck:

bookkeeper@ohebsholom.org

Attention

If you haven't already given the Temple office your email address and you wish to get reminders of events at the Temple, please call the Temple office at 610-375-6034 or send in an email to office@ohebsholom.org.

Thank you.

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**



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.

Thanks to Sisterhood for the magnificent

Purim Box
Saul M. Miller

Happy birthday wishes to Helen
Rappoport

Mr. & Mrs. Norbert Salpeter

In memory of Edythe Stern

Hilde Gernsheimer & Manfred Jakobs
Bob & Kaye Ullman
Rachel & David Yaffee

In memory of Jane Henry

The Beck Family

In memory of Milton Mortman
Lee & Judy Katz

In memory of Viola Schneider
Nancy & Murry Knoblauch

Money Matters: A budget challenge

By Judith Kraines
Treasurer

Pinching pennies is a good thing - unless it's "penny wise and pound foolish." Developing our congregational budget requires determining where we can pinch and where we need to spend. Maybe it would be easier if I weren't Jewish.

Jewish values mean we weigh short-term gains against long-range impact. Life-long learning is required in our faith. We can't scrimp on the education of our children or our adults. And, after being slaves in Egypt, we can't be miserly with our employees. We must recognize the importance of their work and compensate them appropriately.

My first draft of our budget for the coming year, Aug. 1, 2005 through July 31, 2006, had a \$35,000 deficit. That won't fly.

As I write this, in early April, I'm waiting for your responses to my survey. The information you provide will help resolve this crunch. If you have replied, thank you. If you haven't replied yet, please do so now. I'll probably be on my fourth or fifth draft of the budget, and the information will still be useful.

The problem on the income side is low interest rates and fewer workers. The Torah Endowment fund and Sisterhood used to provide 20 percent of the funds needed to run our congregation. As those funds have decreased, our budget relies more and more on annual pledges. The percentage of income from annual pledges has increased from 62 to 80 percent in the last three years.

Other income sources — the Bulletin, High Holy Day "tickets," the Yom Kippur

book, hall rentals — are fairly stable. The food certificate program has grown to \$10,000 or 3 percent of our income. The Food Festival is also a growing income stream. Fees for Religious School, bar and bat mitzvahs, and adult education historically are about 7 percent of our income. (See note.)

I tend to be conservative. So, for my first draft of the budget, I kept dues at the amount actually pledged for the current year, \$252,000. If no one increases their pledge or recruits new members, we will have red ink.

My first draft of our budget included \$361,000 in expenses, less than a 2 percent (\$7,000) increase over the current year. The reasons for the increase are a 16 percent increase in health-care premiums and higher costs for fuel and supplies.

To compensate for very modest salary increases (totaling less than \$6,000 for three employees and our religious school staff), I omitted \$6,000 in expenses that didn't seem realistic.

Our largest expense category, at 40 percent, is our religious function. This supports the rabbi's salary and expenses, our student cantor, and choir expenses.

Some members have said we don't need or can't afford the student cantor. Other members value the student cantor enough to make additional contributions to support the program. Without a cantor they would lose interest in the congregation and we would risk losing their memberships. The Food Festival supports about half the cantor's salary. Long-term, I feel it's cost effective to keep the student cantor program.

Our next category, at 20 percent, is maintaining our building. We know fuel

and utility costs are up. But there are many unknowns. Our custodian plans to retire after the High Holidays. How we will care for our building has not been determined. Whether we will keep or sell the caretaker's house has not been determined. We may also need repairs that are not included in this first draft of the budget.

Administration amounts to 16 percent of our budget. This includes office salaries and supplies, as well as auditor's fees.

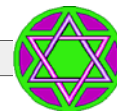
Religious school expenses are about 12 percent of our budget. Reform congregations subsidize, on average, 50 percent of religious school costs. Our parents pay about 36 percent of the cost. The Religious School Committee recommended increasing per student fees \$15 to \$20 to cover an \$1,820 increase in the requested budget.

The remaining 10 percent of our budget is congregational expenses, many of which have offsetting income. These include adult education, dinners, onegs and other gatherings, purchase of new prayer books, and printing our Bulletin and Yom Kippur book. Our annual support to the Union for Reform Judaism and the work of our committees have no associated income, but they provide long-term benefits in our growth as a congregation. (See note.)

If you'd like specifics on any aspect of our budget, please call or email me. I welcome your input.

Each month we analyze accounts and track income and expenses against our budget. This information is also available to you. Just contact me.

I truly appreciate the valuable input of



Silent Service Corps: Meet Karen Hogg

By Karen Hogg

I grew up in Bloomfield, Northern New Jersey. My grandfather was a cantor at the Conservative temple where we were members.

I grew up with my Mom being very active in Sisterhood, serving on many committees and also as president. My dad served as president of the Temple as well as serving on other committees and he is now a Life Trustee. They have and do serve as my "mentors." I grew up learning that volunteering should be part of your life. If we want our children to grow up to be productive and caring adults, we need to show them by example.

I am a stay-at-home mom, but have a small business making baby gifts called Cuddle Cakes, aka Diaper Cakes. I also volunteer in the school system chairing the Box Tops for Education Program for the Elementary School and by helping in the classroom and any other help that the

PTO needs from time to time. I also volunteer for the Cub Scout Pack in Mohnton.

My husband Blair and I have been married for 19 years and we have two boys, Jeffrey, age 9 and Robert, age 5. We became Temple Members in 2000.

The Committees for the Temple that I have been on or am on presently are:

Membership Committee (resigned May of 2004 when I became a co-president of Sisterhood); Religious School Committee (still a member); Sisterhood - served as 1st VP and am now co-President; Board of Trustees since 2003, will serve three years.

I have chaired and/or coordinated with the help of other Temple volunteers many events at the Temple: Hanukkah Dinners, Family Nights, Membership Events and many Sisterhood events.

For the past two years I have sent birthday cards to all of the Religious School children on behalf of the

Religious School Committee and staff, coordinated the library book purchases in honor of special occasions and helped to plan along with the Administrator quite a few of the holiday programs for the Religious School.

I have coordinated the baking of the Kugel's for the food festival for the past two years on behalf of the Sisterhood. I also help out with the cooking of many other items for the Food Festival.

I will say that one of my most favorite things is watching the children in the Religious School with little smiles on their faces when they come into the Yashek Social Hall and see the tables set up for them with a special treat for a holiday celebration.

I enjoy all of the jobs that I do at the Temple, they each have a special place in my heart.

There are many Temple members who work very hard for the Temple and I feel very lucky to be able to work along with

Greater Temple Fund

In memory of Edythe Stern
Norma C. Dashe

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In honor of Purim
Joyce and Paul Pottash

Wishing Lee Katz a speedy recovery
Ruth and Hal Cohn

In memory of Anne Coopersmith and Herman Nevitt
Sandee & Neal Nevitt

In memory of Philip Satinsky and Norma Perilstein
Barbara & Michael Perilstein

In memory of Edythe Stern
Elvina Comess

In memory of Evelyn Siferd, Carole Kutscher's mother
Barbara & David Bender

New Building Fund

In honor of Lana Schaeffer's conversion
Harriet Baskin

Get well wishes to Kaye Ullman
Richard & Rosalye Yashek

Get well wishes to Lee Katz
Ruth M. Brok

Get well wishes to Richard Yashek
Ruth M. Brok

In memory of Milton Mortman
Hilde Gernsheimer & Manfred Jakobs

In memory of Edythe Stern
Harriet Baskin
Louis P. Ariff
Shirley & Robert Kauffman

In memory of Carole Kutscher's mother, Evelyn Siferd
Richard & Rosalye Yashek

In observance of the yahrzeit of Dr. William R. Ueberroth, William A. Ueberroth, Mitzi J. Adis
Lisa, Josh & Ben Ueberroth

General Fund

Thank you to Rabbi Michelson for teaching the Taste of Judaism Course
St. Paul's UCC

Music Fund

In honor of Helen Rappoport's birthday
Hildegard Gernsheimer & Manfred Jakobs

Holocaust Memorial Garden

In appreciation for the good wishes sent to me for my birthday
Helen Rappoport

In memory of Jochen Jaschek and Lucy Jaschek
Richard & Rosalye Yashek

In memory of Dr. Larry Ginsberg's mother, Rita Ginsberg
Richard & Rosalye Yashek

In memory of Carole Kutscher's mother, Evelyn Siferd
Seth & Barbara Rosenzweig

Library Fund

Speedy recovery wishes to Richard Yashek
Sylvia Schiff



Sisterhood Florence Frank Offering Fund

To Mr. Samuel Silberstein in memory of his wife Frances
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brok

To Mr. Herbert Schneider in memory of his wife
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brok

To Malcolm Rosenthal for a speedy recovery
Mr. & Mrs. Lionel Asher
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman

To Mrs. Sharon Webb in memory of her mother
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brok

To Richard Yashek for a speedy recovery
Mrs. Barbara Stein

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.

Summer services:

Shabbat services for July will be at Keshet Zion Synagogue with Rabbi Weintraub leading the services.

August Shabbat Services will be at the Temple with Rabbi Michelson leading the services. On the first Friday night, Aug. 5, the service will begin at 6 p.m. On Aug.

Berkshire Chorale in Concert

Sunday, May 1, 4 p.m. at the Temple

Featuring RCOS choir director Brian Thompson and Temple members Mimi Braverman and Jeri Kozloff

Join us for a spring afternoon of song followed by refreshments

Meet U.S. Rep. James Gerlach

Congressman Gerlach represents the 6th District, which includes a large portion of Berks County as well as suburban Philadelphia.

The congressman will speak at the Temple

Friday, May 6

at the conclusion of the Shabbat service.

The service begins at 6 p.m.

The congressman will speak at about 6:30 p.m.

Thank you for all the good wishes sent to me on my birthday.

Helen Rappoport

Jewish Book Burial

Judaism teaches that when our sacred books are no longer usable that we must dispose of them in a respectful way.

Join us Sunday, May 22

at 11:30 a.m.

at the Mount Sinai Cemetery

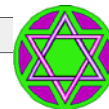
as we bury our

unusable Jewish books.

Members of the community can bring their own books for burial, but we request a donation to help cover our costs.

Share your empty ink cartridges

Do you have an HP, Lexmark, Xerox, Compaq, Samsung, Kodak, Canon, or Apple printer? 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.



Save the date:

Mark your calendar now for
Saturday, August 27,
 the date for our Annual Temple Picnic!
 Watch for more details over the summer.

Thank you for your kind words and thoughtful donations on the recent passing of Carole's mother, Evelyn Siferd.

Harlan & Carole Kutscher

See Holly Walk

Holly Michelson will be taking part in the Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk in Philadelphia, trekking 60 miles over three days and camping out two nights in September to benefit **The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation** and **National Philanthropic Trust Breast Cancer Fund**. To make an online donation in support of Holly's efforts, go to www.The3day.org
 Holly also welcomes congregants to join her on the walk.

Thanks for a great Blood Drive!

Our annual blood drive on Sunday, April 3, was a success thanks to the 17 people who made appointments and the 16 units of blood collected. Thank you to Donald Miller, chairperson, and Judy Arndt, Temple Secretary for their efforts in coordinating our

The family of Joshua Schonberger invites you to join them in prayer at Joshua's Bar Mitzvah

MAZEL TOV

From pre-school to graduate school – Best wishes on your graduation and success in all your future endeavors.

The family of Ryan P. Bram invites you to join them in prayer at Ryan's

Let us know about your simchas and sorrows

If you, a family member or a Temple member you know is sick or suffers the loss of a loved one, our Temple is here to help, but we have to know. We would like to recognize your simchas, too. Please call the Temple Office at (610) 375-6034 and help keep us informed.

The family of Samuel Schlechter invites you to join them in prayer at



When our work takes on a life of its own: Social Action Fair to become a signature event

From the Social Action Committee

Most of us like to see the results of our actions. We want to see the rewards of our commitment, energy, and hard work. We go through life thinking that that is how our lives are organized, and that is where most of our time goes. And in that limited arena, we watch, we weigh, we wait.

Most of what we do, however, affects people and events in ways we never see. Or in ways we don't connect to our own actions. Sometimes our actions are just part of everyday living: the kind word, the helping hand, the smile; the edge in a voice, the tensed body language; the burst of impatience. Yet they can become part of the weave of other people's lives...and change their fabric forever.

We create ripples that can become waves. We don't need to see the result; we just need (to mix a metaphor) to cast out spores, let the wind take them.

Sometimes we are privileged to know where they set down. And that is a

wonder.

And that has happened for our temple and for the members of the Social Action Committee. It is the result of the response our community had to the Social Action Fair.

One of the goals the committee had was to create a model that might be used by other congregations. When the Social Action Fair was recognized by the URJ (at that time UAHC) and awarded an Irving J. Fain Award in 2003, that possibility became real.

Because it was honored at the biennial conference in Washington that year, and because it was featured in a booklet describing model social action programs that was sent to congregations throughout North America, the wind carried the concept to many places.

The committee had no expectation of knowing where it might settle, or if it would at all. And we went on to other things.

In January 2005 we heard from a

congregation in Atlanta, Ga. — Temple Beth Tikvah — who had read about the Social Action Fair. They said “It provided the inspiration to do a fair” and asked for guidance in putting it together. We talked at length about structure, format, promotion, financing, and timelines. We talked about the response we'd received from the larger community — and the participating agencies in particular — and the elements they felt contributed most to the effectiveness of the event.

This congregation is excited about what a Social Action Fair can do for their congregants and their community. They “believe the fair can become a signature event for our synagogue.”

What is most wonderful about hearing about this place where our “spores” settled is realizing that it is likely they settled in other places, too. And realizing that much of what we do reverberates in other people's lives whether we hear about it or not. Most of the time, we won't. What is important is the reminder.

Sisterhood Rummage Sale July 17, 18, 19 Set-up begins Tuesday, July 5

Lots of help is needed in setting up, selling, and cleanup. Please call the office or Adrienne Cardinal if you are able to help.

Please remember when gathering your donations to send items that are in good, clean, sellable condition.

Please do not bring underwear or furniture, exercise equipment, and children's toys that are missing parts.

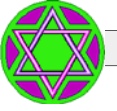
Eat well....

And help the Temple's Mitzvah Meal Program! Buy coupon strips good for breads and bagels at

Panera Bread.

We are still selling coupon strips for Panera Bread. Strips are \$9 each and are worth \$12 in product. Coupon strips can be purchased for all bagels. Stop in during regular office hours to purchase your coupons. Reminder: A check made payable to RCOS is preferred over cash.

Have a great summer!





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

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Alan G. Weitzman, Rabbi Emeritus

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Eric Zelnick.....First Vice President
Rosalind Hyman.....Second Vice President
Judith Kraines.....Treasurer
Gene Friedman.....Secretary
Ellen Azrael.....Past
president

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