



OUR TEMPLE

Notes from the president

Thanks for another opportunity to serve

By **Scott Bram**

President

My dear friends at Oheb Sholom, I want to thank you for all of the support that you have shown me during these last three years. It may seem hard to believe, but the time has come for me to step down as president. This term, like when I was president seven-plus years ago, was a great learning experience for me. I would say that my leadership abilities grew again. I definitely got more out of being president than the time and effort I put into it.

I would like to thank the Rabbi and everyone on the Executive Committee for their input and guidance. My mission was to have an overall plan for the Temple. Their job was to refine the plan and put specific action to it. I want to commend them

and all of the many volunteers who put so much time and effort into making our program and religious services so special.

The biggest challenge of this presidential term has been keeping peace within our Temple family. I feel bad that I did not do a better job in this area. We, as with any large group, are a diverse bunch of people. There are many different personalities and temperaments. Managing to focus everyone toward a common goal while giving room for individual expression is not an easy task.

My goal at this point is to leave the Temple operating at a higher level in every way from when I took over. This should be the goal of every leader – to take us to the “next” level. Right now I feel that there is a friendlier atmosphere at the Temple. Our

volunteers are very upbeat and energized. Financially, we certainly have our challenges, but the treasurer and her finance committee are putting some excellent plans together to deal with our budgetary deficit and mortgage. Please give them your full support. I would also ask that you give the incoming president, Herb Karasin, the same respect and help that all of you were kind enough to show me. I will still be around, but now that I’m an old veteran, it’s time for some new kids to take over.

On behalf of my family and myself, I want to again thank all of you for making the Temple the wonderful house of study and worship and the caring place that it is. The pleasure of the presidency has been mine and I have all of you to thank!! God bless you all!

From the Rabbi’s study

A round of applause for our student-cantor

Saying goodbye can be a hard thing to do, however, sometimes goodbyes are inevitable. The time has come for us, as a congregation, to say goodbye to our student-cantor, Leah Holland.

Rabbi Brian Michelson

Leah leaves us to gain experience in different congregational settings. Even though I am sorry to see her go, I fully support and agree with her choice. One of the priorities of a student cantor is to see how Judaism is lived out in a variety of settings, using different models and philosophies. I know you

join me in wishing her only the best in her future. Even as we say goodbye, however, we are also working on plans to welcome our next student-cantor to Oheb Sholom.

During her time in Reading, Leah has given a great deal to Oheb Sholom. On an obvious level, she has added greatly to our services when she visited. Her relaxed manner and her presence invited us to join her in song or to sit back and listen, when appropriate. Her manner with the Sunday school students made her popular with many of the children, and she has worked and supported our Bar and Bat Mitzvah students extremely well. In addition, she introduced and ran our Junior Choir. Her

Continued on Page 2

May-June Highlights

Friday, May 4 — Grade 5 Shabbat service, 6 p.m.

Saturday, May 5 — Shabbat service, 10 a.m.

Thursday, May 10 — Hospitality Network Training, 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 12 — Tot Shabbat, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, May 15 — Religious School fundraiser at Isaacs, 6-9 p.m.

Saturday, May 19 — Nick Levine Bar Mitzvah, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, May 22 — Erev Shavuot event, 8 p.m.

June 3-10 — Temple hosts family for Hospitality Network

Sunday, June 10 — Annual congregational meeting, 4 p.m.

**All services at 7:45 p.m. unless otherwise noted
Babysitting available for 7:45 Shabbat services.**

*Bulletin sponsored by
Mr. & Mrs. Richard
Henry
in memory of Jane Henry*

Religious School News**Thanks to all for a successful year****By Judy Synnamon***Religious School administrator*

Religious School classes sure seem to have flown by. Our 2006–2007 school year is almost over.

The Fifth Grade will be conducting Shabbat Services Friday night, May 4, at 6:00. Please note the early start time. There will NOT be a Family Night Dinner held.

Our final day of Hebrew School is Tuesday, May 15. All Temple members, but especially Religious School students, are invited

to celebrate the last day of Tuesday School by going to Isaac's Deli from 6 – 9 p.m. that evening. We will be taking over the rear area of Isaac's for eat-in or take-out meals, and 25 percent of the proceeds will go to our school. Forms for use at this fundraiser are found in this bulletin or distributed at school.

Our final day of Sunday School is Sunday, May 20.

Confirmation and Teacher Appreciation will be held May 18 at 7:45 p.m., during Shabbat Services. Congratulations to our

Confirmand, Ian Gavigan, son of Thomas and Mimi Gavigan. Everyone in the congregational family is welcome to attend and congratulate the Confirmand.

In closing, I would like to thank the teachers and rabbi for their hard work and dedication during this past year. I would also like to thank Cindy Chronister and Linda Bram, co-chairwomen of the Religious School Committee.

I wish you all a wonderful and relaxing summer.

RABBI*Continued from Page 1*

work on the 100th anniversary of Reform Judaism in Reading was a big part in making this service a success.

Over the two years that Leah has been with us, we have had the opportunity to watch her grow and mature as a cantor. She had purposefully tried to move outside her comfort zone by taking on new

and different challenges. She has given sermons, participated in life cycle events, and taught adult education. As a congregation, you have allowed her to share both the happy and sad times with you. We should be proud of the part we have played in accepting and aiding Leah's growth during her time at Oheb Sholom. We should be honored to have played a small part in her

education and her understanding of the cantorate.

On a personal level, I have had the opportunity to supervise and support Leah through many things. Although my primary role was to be her mentor, she has become my friend and my colleague, as well. I can only hope that Oheb Sholom will always have a special place in her heart.

Help Us Feed the Hungry at Opportunity House

Several times each year, a group of RCOS members shop, prepare, and serve lunch at Opportunity House. This successful and much appreciated program needs additional sponsors and contributors. Won't you please consider making a donation to help in this worthy cause? Any amount would be welcome, and acknowledged in the bulletin. All donations can be sent to the Temple office; please mark your contribution "Opportunity House Lunch."

To learn more about sponsoring a lunch, contact David Walker at dwalker100@comcast.net.



JOIN US FOR OUR "COMMUNITY NIGHT" FUNDRAISER

On Tuesday, May 15, 2007, celebrate the last day of Hebrew School for this school year. Isaac's Restaurant & Deli in Wyomissing will host a fundraiser to benefit Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom Religious School. Bring your friends and family to enjoy great food and great company while supporting our school. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the cost of your meal will go directly to the school.

WHERE: Isaac's Restaurant & Deli
Village Square Shopping Center (610-376-1717)
94 Commerce Drive, Wyomissing
(Valid at this location ONLY!)

WHEN: Tuesday, May 15, 2007 from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Forms for use are found in the bulletin.

Seeing homelessness through our children's eyes

By Holly Michelson and Janine Ure.

It just so happens that we both have a child in the same class on Sundays and Tuesdays. One of the recent topics has been that of the Maimonides' ladder of tzedakah. These steps show how tzedakah can take many forms. On the lower end are those who give, but only grudgingly and with much prodding. Toward the top is giving what one can just to give, without knowing the recipient. The highest involves helping others to help themselves. It occurred to us that the work our congregation does for Hospitality Network comes pretty close to that level. We saw this even this last hosting week as Bruce Cohen stayed up one

night helping one of our guests study for an entrance exam for a job. The hope of the program is to help families get to the point where they are able to take care of themselves.

Our children have really taken to the task. They are eager to help, want to stay over, and have even asked if they can see some of the guest children again for playdates. It has been wonderful. They truly see our guests as simply families who need some place to stay while they get back on their feet. No stigma attached. They don't see "homeless people." They see families without a home. It is how it should be. We recently discovered that not everyone sees

it this way. Some adults have expressed concern (we hear through the grapevine) about volunteering. They are wary, uneasy, or downright scared to be with our guests. Nobody wants to be homeless. These guests are carefully screened, follow specific rules, and are saving up to get homes. Yes, at times, it is hard. This is a stressful time for them and sometimes the behavior is not polite and sweet. Would we act any different?

Consider volunteering. Give the program a chance. You might be pleasantly surprised. Let us count our blessings and see the world, in this case, through our children's eyes.

*Have you considered
remembering
the Temple in your will?*

Florence Frank Offering Fund

To Eric Zelnick to get well
Mrs. Dorothy Schlanger

To Norma Beckerman in memory of her sister
Mr. and Mrs. Gene Friedman

To Mr. and Mrs. Richard Henry in honor of their 60th
wedding anniversary
Mr. and Mrs. Gene Friedman

Kindly send Florence Frank Offering Fund contributions to Mrs. Marilyn Frank, Phoebe Village, 9 Reading Ave., Wernersville, PA 19565; or Mrs. Shirley Friedman, 107 Primrose Lane, Wyomissing, PA 19610.

Tikkun Leil Shavuot Tuesday, May 22 at 8 p.m.

Spend the evening learning about Judaism as we continue the ancient practice of welcoming Shavuot with study. There will be a short service at 8 p.m. followed by study and, of course, cheesecake.

Please join us . . . **Friday, May 18 at 7:45 p.m.**

for

Confirmation & Teacher Appreciation Shabbat.

Ian Gavigan will be confirmed, and we will say thank you to our teachers and goodbye to those who are leaving us.

This will also be the student-cantor's last Friday night with the congregation, a good chance to say goodbye.

ABOUT OUR NEWSLETTER

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Assistant editor: Donna Oaks

To get an item in the bulletin, contact Mark at Marknem@aol.com or 610-370-2533, or contact the Temple office.

**Deadline for September bulletin: Aug. 5
This is the final issue until September.**

The Temple Online

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Cantor Leah Holland: cantor@ohebsholom.org

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Phillip Knoblauch
Nancy Knoblauch

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

In memory of Myriam Sapriel
Renee & Harvey Seidel

In memory of Renee Zeisel
Norma & Marty Beckerman

In honor of her 85th birthday
Marjorie Wolf

In memory of Philip Satinsky
Barbara & Michael Perilstein

In memory of Kate Gross
Mildred & Ivan Gordon

Building Fund

In honor of Kevin & Alex
Altman's B'nei Mitzvah
Rabbi Brian & Holly Michelson

In memory of Renee Zeisel
The Bram Family
Dr. & Mrs. Eric Zelnick
Harriet Baskin

In memory of David Blumberg
Stu & Carol Cohn

In honor of Dick & Maxine
Henry's 60th wedding
anniversary
The Bram Family

In honor of Beth & Bob Bruck's
35th wedding anniversary
The Bram Family

In honor of David & Jeri
Kozloff's 40th wedding
anniversary
Ruth Balis

Get well wishes to Eric Zelnick
Norma & Marty Beckerman

Library Fund

In memory of Murry Knoblauch
Barbara Silverberg

In memory of David Blumberg
Susan Schlanger

Greater Temple Fund

In memory of David Blumberg
Rick & Debbie Zelnick

In memory of Renee Zeisel
Sandee & Nel Nevitt
Susan Schlanger

Best wishes to Marilyn Frank on
her special birthday
Yair & Lorri Oziri

Shirley Jacobs Religious School Fund

In memory of David Blumberg
Barbara Silverberg

Music Fund

Best wishes to David & Jeri
Kozloff on their 40th wedding
anniversary
George & Sue Viener

Best wishes to David & Jeri
Kozloff on their 40th wedding
anniversary
Rick & Debbie Zelnick

Best wishes to Dr. & Mrs. Ron
Miller on their 40th wedding
anniversary
Rick & Debbie Zelnick

In memory of Murry Knoblauch
Barbara Silverberg

Trudy Katz Birthday Fund

Best wishes to Herb Wachs on
your special birthday
Conrad & Ruth Heisman
Mr. & Mrs. Don Kelly

Complete & speedy recovery to
Ellen Azrael & Shirley Friedman
Conrad & Ruth Heisman

Landscaping Fund

With appreciation to Rabbi
Michelson
Andrea Watkins

In honor of Jeri & David's
Kozloff's 40th Wedding
Anniversary & Jeri's Birthday
Judy Hartman

In memory of David Blumberg
Anne & Alan Seltzer

To wish Shirley Friedman
continued good health
Anne & Alan Seltzer

In honor of Barb & Seth
Rosenzweig's 25th wedding
anniversary
Anne & Alan Seltzer

Best wishes to Charles Sunstein
on his 90th birthday
Bob & Kaye Ullman

General Fund

In memory of Renee Zeisel
David & Barbara Bender

Thanks to everyone for all the warm wishes on my
recent birthday.

Bonnie Friedman

Perpetual Memorials

May 1-5

Ernestine Fisher
Irving Imber
Charles Schwartz
Harry Stern
William Gilbert
Julius Ehrlich
Helen P. Freedman

May 6-12

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

May 13-19

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

May 20-26

Karl Simon
Selma Katz Simon
Ilse Simon
Minnie Winston Hirsch
Joseph W. Cohen
Lena Holzman
Matthew H. Small
Simon Knoblauch
Libbie Tamor
Helen M. Echenberg

May 27-31

Minnie Freedman
Leah Livingston Winston
Rachel K. Loeb
Samuel R. Frankel

June 1-2

Eleanor Morganstern

June 3-9

Gertrude Kunis
Robert Ruttenberg
Milton S. Newman
Matilda Miller
Reba Chivian
Rose M. Salas
Stanley Solowey

June 10-16

Jennie Kelner
Margaret Hekler
David Mitchell
Dr. Max Jacobs
Ann Popkin
Anita Sulkis

June 17-23

Henry S. Davidow
Milton S. Lapayowker
Henry Fein
Julia Epstein
Thomas Barnett
Abraham Kins

June 24-30

Sara Diamond
Goldye Fisher
David Sulkis
Morton Gumpel
Aaron Loeb

We wish to thank our many friends for their contributions in honor of our 60th wedding anniversary. We deeply appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Most sincerely,
Maxine & Dick Henry

Book group Sunday, June 3

We are reading
"Heir to the Glimmering World" by Cynthia Ozick.
 The office has 1 copy available to purchase, \$11

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.

**In honor of Kevin & Alex
 Altman's B'nei Mitzvah**
 Irene & Howard Martin

In memory of David Blumberg
 Andrea Watkins & Family
 Sylvia Schiff

**In honor of Dick & Maxine's
 60th wedding anniversary**
 Frances & Arthur Abramson

Mitzi Wernich
 Sue & George Viener
 Diane & Howard Silverman
 Bernice T. Rosenfeld
 Barbara Schneiderman
 Bob & Kaye Ullman
 Hilde Gernsheimer

**Congratulations to Ruth
 Balis on the dedication of her
 daughter's Barbara Frank,
 MD Learning Center**
 Hilde Gernsheimer

In memory of Jane Henry
 The Beck & Stoudt Families

May-June Simchas

Anniversaries

Mr. and Mrs. Yair Oziri	May 1
Mr. and Mrs. Paul D. Cohn	May 11
Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Heisman	May 15
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Karp	May 16
Mr. and Mrs. Neal Schneider	May 25
Mr. and Mrs. Sidney L. Symons	May 25
Dr. and Mrs. David Bender	May 28
Mr. and Mrs. Herb Karasin	May 28
Dr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Horowitz	May 29
Mr. and Mrs. Lee Berger	May 31
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Bornstein	June 3
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Goldstein	June 4
Dr. and Mrs. Benjamin Schlechter	June 4
Drs. Adam and Robin Altman	June 5
Mrs. Amicie Zimmerman	June 10
Mr. Ivan and Dr. Mildred Gordon	June 13
Mr. Evan Cooper & Ms. Leah Soloff	June 14
Mr. and Mrs. David Rotenberg	June 17
Mr. and Ms. Brett Chronister	June 18
Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Cohen	June 18
Mr. and Mrs. Neal Nevitt	June 19
Dr. and Mrs. Stuart S. Cohn	June 20
Mrs. Allison Althouse	June 21
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Hrabak	June 22
Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Asher	June 23
Mr. and Mrs. Leon Lonker	June 23

Birthdays

Herb Karasin	May 1
Hilde Gernsheimer	May 2
Lin Langlois	May 3
Anne Seltzer	May 5
Catherine Schultz	May 7
Barbara Perilstein	May 9

Chip Karasin	May 10
Jason Kraft	May 11
Paul Kozloff	May 13
Brett Chronister	May 14
Eve Pardo	May 16
Karen T. Robinson	May 16
Steven W. Levine	May 18
Harriet Baskin	May 23
Jennifer Hausman	May 26
Janet Gernsheimer	May 27
Galen Glassmire	May 27
Norbert Salpeter	May 27
Janine Ure	May 29
Jeanine Levy	May 31
Yair Oziri	June 1
Rabbi Brian Michelson	June 2
Lorri Oziri	June 3
Herbert Jacoby	June 5
Raie Fogelman	June 7
Jennifer Jacobs	June 7
Phyllis Jacoby	June 9
Susan Egolf	June 11
Robin Jacobson	June 11
Frances Gross	June 18
Dr. Adam J. Altman	June 19
Edward Goodman	June 20
Sandee Nevitt	June 20
Jay W. Waldman	June 20
Marian Smith	June 21
Sandra Gelb	June 24
Jeffrey Bornstein	June 25
Robin Lupowitz	June 29
Anita Reuben	June 30
David Rotenberg	June 30

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