



Our Temple

November 2003

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom

Vol. 40 No. 3

Notes from the President

November is a month of Thanksgiving

By Ellen Azrael
President

As our national holiday of Thanksgiving approaches I would like to take this opportunity to thank a few people, who have done so much for our congregation.

Special thanks go to my family, Jake

and Rose, who have supported me during my tenure as president of our great Temple. Kudos to our secretary, Lynn Bates, who worked relentlessly to have everything set up for the high holidays, and who makes calling our office a most pleasurable event. Thanks go to our bookkeeper, Beth Bruck, for

doing a great job in spite of the plague of computer problems.

Thanks go to Lucy Lott, for watching over our buildings for 25 years. Thanks to the choir and to our student cantor, Liz Kessler for sharing your beautiful music with us. Thanks to all the Trustees,

(Continued on page 3)

From the Rabbi's Study

Adult education made more rewarding

The High Holidays already seem like a distant memory. However, before they totally vanish, I wanted to remind you of something I spoke of on Erev Rosh Hashanah. That evening, I spoke of the importance of the adult members of this

**Rabbi Brian
Michelson**

community taking responsibility for continuing their Jewish education. I tried to

remind us all that the best way to lead is by example. If we want our community's young people to value their Judaism and their ongoing Jewish education, then we must show them the way.

I also announced that as a congregation, we would participate in the Union of American Hebrew

Congregation's Keva program. The Keva program was created to recognize those adults who are actively seeking to increase their understanding of Judaism. The program rewards adults who have undertaken 100 hours of Jewish education. Upon reaching this goal, honorees will be recognized on both a local and national level.

I know 100 hours seems like a great deal, but there are many opportunities to earn credit hours. Any of our adult education classes, adult Hebrew classes, book groups, holiday study sessions and scholar-in-residence programs are eligible. In addition, continuing education courses (on a Jewish subject) at any of our local colleges, programs, or lectures at the JCC or

Elderhostel programs are eligible.

Registration for the Keva program is easy and there is no charge to participate. If you attend adult education classes at the Temple, you will automatically be enrolled. At the end of each short course, I will forward my attendance sheet to our board member who is keeping records. If you attend a community-sponsored program, like the annual Leo Camp lecture, attendance certificates will be available from me or from the Temple office. All you will need to do is submit them to Sandy Davis, who is acting as the Temple's administrator for the Keva program.

To show you that I hope to put my money where my mouth is, I plan to offer more adult education classes. My goal is to offer, at least, four short courses and a number of one-time learning opportunities. I look forward to the participation of many members. I want us to set the example for our children, our families, and the rest of the Jewish

November Highlights

Friday, Nov. 1: Tot Shabbat, 10 a.m.

Friday, Nov. 7: Shabbat service, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 8: Shabbat morning service, 10 a.m.

Nov. 5-9: UAHC Biennial conference, Minneapolis

Saturday, Nov. 15: Sisterhood/Men's Club Comedy Night, 8 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 16: Men's Club meeting, 9:30 a.m.

Saturday, Oct. 25: Mara Schneider Bat Mitzvah, 10 a.m.

Sunday, Oct. 26: Food Festival, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Friday night services at 7:45 unless otherwise noted

Babysitting available at all services

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



Religious School News

Communication comes in many forms

By **Holly Michelson**

Religious School Administrator

Announcements, announcements, announcements... It was a song used to get all of the campers' attention. If you don't already know it, you are probably better off. However, how do we best communicate among each other and within the school and greater Jewish community?

Many of you are aware of the large bulletin board that is up at the entrance of the classroom wing. (If you are not, come check it out!) It is divided into five categories. They are school announcements, general RCOS announcements, Greater Reading Jewish Community announcements and what I call "The Big Picture," which deals with other bits of interesting news and information from around the country and around the world. There is also a section called "Good Works," which highlights letters we have received thanking us for

our charitable contributions, whether they be monetary or time that was given.

Inside the hall where the classrooms are, there are two more bulletin boards (and I hope a third one soon). Teachers create one of these either by themselves or with their classes. The other is devoted entirely to Mitzvah project suggestions. There are more than 100 suggestions that children and families can do to help others.

We communicate through letters home from the teachers or me. We asked you to bring in self-addressed stamped envelopes so we can send home material that a student misses when absent. I communicate through this article.

We also communicate with each other in the hall, on the phone, and especially in the parking lot. Most of the time, it is just chatting. Sometimes it is complaints or concerns. I don't believe anyone sets out to hurt another's feelings (at least I'd like to think that). However, others hear

something and rumors start. If you have any questions or concerns about something that happened or didn't happen in your child's class, speak with the teacher first and give him/her an appropriate amount of time to remedy the situation. If a situation is still making you uncomfortable or if you have any questions about the school at large, please come to me or to Mimi Gavigan, chair of our Religious School Committee. In the hall at the end of school is not a good time to air concerns, but we would be willing to arrange a time to meet and talk. Good communication. It works for everyone.

Happy Thanksgiving.

Important Dates:

Nov. 5-9: UAHC Biennial in Minneapolis

Nov. 15-17: Camp Harlam Weekend

Nov. 21: 5th grade Shabbat Service

Nov. 30: NO SCHOOL

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Men's Club News

Would you like to improve your health

By Marshall Azrael

Men's Club president

At the next Men's Club meeting on, Sunday, Nov. 16, Dr. Jeffrey Lupowitz will tell us, "How to Increase Your Abilities For Healing." Dr. Lupowitz practices at Network Spinal Care West, specializing with Gentle Spinal Touch for Greater Life, Health and Happiness.

Searching for History

Do you have a missing piece of Men's Club history? In efforts to track down the beginnings of the Men's Club, I hit the proverbial "Brick Wall." Our national organization, NFTB, says we are Charter Members; so, that confirms your Men's Club dates back to January 23, 1923. However, our congregation is almost 40 years older! Do you have any information that shows when our Men's Club was initially formed? Please let me know. We're also missing copies of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Men's Club. So, please check your archives to

see if you have a copy of these crucial documents.

Bigger and Better

At the Men's Club meeting in September, Steve Chesin, from NFTB, spoke about infrastructure needed for a strong "Brotherhood". It was all very basic "Nuts & Bolts" that you and I can put together. Key to his message was that the Men's Club has to be where the active members are. Will you help is to rebuild the Men's Club?

At one time your Men's Club included most of the men whose children attended religious school as well leaders from the congregational officers and the Temple board. In addition to the monthly breakfast meeting, the Men's Club held annual fund raising events for the Temple, as well as, the Club. We were a major manpower force for most Temple events.

What are the things you would like our Men's Club to do? Do you like the

breakfast meetings? Are there new things you want to see? For example, at Mr. Chesin's Brotherhood there are football nights at their temple, brunch speakers, Meet-The-Candidates nights, new Year's Eve parties, Torah Study Brunches, outings to the Phillies, Super Bowl parties at their Temple, a Mother's Day Brunch, a Man & Women of the year brunch and more. Let's hear from you!

Where can you demonstrate your leadership? This is an election year for new officers and committee chairmen. Some of the standing committees are Membership, Publicity, Kitchen Program, Fund raising, Ushering and Nominating.

I look forward to seeing you on November 16, to learn about improving our health. Please call me if you have any questions or suggestions.

At our Dec. 14 meeting, Rabbi Michelson will speak.

PRESIDENT

(Continued from page 1)

officers, committee chairs, and the Sisterhood, for going the extra mile. Special thanks Ellice Gunter and everyone involved in the Food Festival. All your efforts culminated on Oct. 26, when you made friends, neighbors, and

strangers feel welcome in our home.

Thanks to Mrs. Michelson and all the Religious School teachers for giving our children links to the past and future of Judaism. Thanks go to Arthur Becker for organizing the participants in the High Holy Day services.

And very special thanks to Rabbi Michelson, who works hard to do what is best for the Temple. Your efforts to make our services meaningful and not too long have been extraordinary. And your work with our student cantors has been exemplary. And thank you all for being

SAVE THE DATE

Chanukah Family Dinner

Friday, Dec. 19

Details to follow

Shop the Sisterhood Gift Shop !!
New merchandise – 20% off retail price all the time.

Visit us first before buying your holiday and special occasion gifts.

Treat yourself to a new piece of jewelry.

Blood Drive

Sunday, Dec. 14 – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"It's All About Life" is the theme of our blood drive this year. By giving just a little more than an hour's time and one pint of blood you are giving someone else a chance at living. Please call the Temple office and make your appointment. Our goal is 30 donors. **The best times fill up fast so call today.** We will need help with unloading the truck in the morning and setting up. Also, we could use people to act as host/hostesses. Call the office to learn more.



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 Mr. Seymour Frank in memory of brother David Frank
Maxine & Dick Henry

To wish Claudia Strauss a speedy recovery
Hilde Gernsheimer & Fred Jakobs

To Marcus Claster in honor of his

daughter Jennifer's marriage
Ann Goldstan

In memory of Bernard Sher
Edna C. Pollack
Bob and Kaye Ullman

In memory of Phyllis Farber
Bob & Kaye Ullman
I

Thank you to Al and Missy Zimmerman for the new 15 cubic-foot chest freezer. It was put to good use storing Food Festival

Thank you to Ellice Gunter, chairperson and ALL our members who helped with this year's Food Festival. Everyone's efforts, hard work, and dedication are very much appreciated.

New Building Fund

In honor of Gene Friedman's special birthday
Barbara Nazimov
Martha Sam Greenstein

In honor of Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Balis's special birthdays
Mr. and Mrs. Don Kelly
Conrad and Ruth Heisman

In honor of Robert Brok's birthday
Raie & Gerald Fogelman

In memory of Bernard Sher
Trudy Katz
Hilde Gernsheimer & Fred Jakobs
Clara J. Breen
Holly & Aaron Springer
The Jeffrey Schneebaum family

In honor of Rosalye Yashek's special birthday
Bob & Kaye Ullman

In memory of Bart Neugroschel
Miriam & Herman
Neugroschel

Music Fund

In honor of Gene Friedman's special birthday
Sue & George Viener
In memory of Bernard

Sher
Edith Mendelsohn

In honor of Rosalye Yashek's special birthday
Sue & Herb Wachs
Sue & George Viener

In memory of Vivian Polter
Murry & Nancy Knoblauch

Landscaping Fund

To Herb and Sue Wachs in honor of the birth of granddaughter Emily
Barbara & Michael Perilstein
Harriet Baskin

In memory of Lawrence Diamond
Sara & Al Diamond and family

To the Filstein family in memory of Marc Filstein's father
Sharon Scullin & Jim Rothstein

To Jeff Sternleib in memory of Esther Sternlieb
Sharon Scullin & Jim Rothstein

In memory of Henry and Betty Herman
Dennis Herman

In memory of Bernard Sher
Harriet Baskin

In honor of Rosalye Yashek's special birthday
Edith Blanck

Landscaping Holocaust Garden

In honor of Rosalye Yashek's special birthday
Bob & Shirley Kauffman

In memory of Arthur and Emmy Humberg
Ruth & Conrad Heisman

In honor of Rosalye Yashek's special birthday
Hilde Gernsheimer & Fred Jakobs

In memory of Matthew H. Small
Dr. Richard & Mindy Small
Herb & Phyllis Jacoby

Greater Temple Fund

In honor of Gene Friedman's special birthday
Susie & Avery Kelner
Harriet & Marvin Sachs
Steve & Judy Greenstein
Clifford & Isabel Yeich

Yahrzeit in memory of my father, J.C. Goldsmith
Kaye G. Ullman

In honor of Rosalye Yashek's special birthday

Mae Marlowe

In memory of Bernard Sher
Edith S. Brown
Nancy and Karl Hemmerich

Don & Audrey Brown
Gail & Thomas Freymoyer
William & June Lessig
Jean & Richard Johnston
Charles & Teresa Boylan
Dr. & Mrs C. Harold Cohn
Harry & Magdalen Dougherty

To Mrs. David Marlowe in memory of Joseph Levin
E. Jane Sher.

Shirley K. Jacobs Religious School Fund

In memory of Bernard Sher
Leah & Joseph Wittenberg

Library Fund

In memory of Lee Cappel
Rosalind Hyman

Thank you to everyone who sent me a birthday greeting on my 75th birthday
Rosalie Yashek

You added an extra dimension of joy and happiness for us, by sending your good wishes for our birthdays and 70th wedding anniversary. We wish you a happy, healthy New Year for your "caring" and also helping our Temple.

Ruth & Irvin Balis

Keep the Temple library in mind during the JCC Book Fair. Donations are welcome.



Sisterhood News

Share a few laughs on Comedy Night

By Elyse Horowitz

It is not too late to RSVP for Comedy Night: **Saturday Nov. 15 at 8 pm.** This comedy night is being held in association with the Men's Club and David Stein Productions. Come and have a few laughs with your friends. Our comedians will be Pat Godwin and Eric Lyden.

Thanks to all who purchased a Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Shopping Pass. We hope everyone enjoyed a fun day of shopping.

Stop by the Gift Shop and see all the great new merchandise and receive 20%

off all the time. We will also take special orders if there is something special that you are looking for.

Tuesday, Nov. 18, is the JOINT WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS LUNCHEON at the JCC. Trudy Alexy, award-winning author of *The Mezuzah in the Madonna's Foot: Marranos and Other Secret Jews* and *The Marrano Legacy* will speak on this fascinating topic.

Here is a calendar of other events:

March 16: Donor event

April 16: Sisterhood Shabbat

May 1: Casino Night

May 16: Sisterhood Spring Meeting, 5 p.m.

We need volunteers to help with any Sisterhood events and the gift shop. If you would like to get involved or if you can share time on a Friday night to work the gift shop, contact Linda Bram.

Come take part of Great Reading and Great conversation at the Sisterhood book club. We meet on Sunday afternoons at Borders every other month. Contact Elyse Horowitz if you are interested.

Congratulations to the Food

An ode to Vivian Polter

An ode to Vivian Polter, long time Temple member, who died Sept. 24 in Las Vegas. Written and read by Barbara Stein at a minyan held in Vivian's memory.

You gave us so much! You taught us so much! You reinforced Sisterhood by virtue of your will, determination and strength.

Educator as profession, music as vocation, collector of dolls among other interests. Your dedication to Sisterhood knew no boundaries and brought honor and acclaim and a touch of class.

You established the Vivian Polter Outstanding Achievement award in 1983, a yearly recognition and we were finally able to surprise you with this award in

1989. It was always rather difficult to "put one over on you."

Vivian, you and I shared the Presidency of the Temple from 1987 to 1990 during several milestones for the congregation. Rabbi Weitzman's 25th anniversary, the 75th anniversary of the Sisterhood and the 125th anniversary of the Temple. During this time we were also involved in the year of the Torah.

The Sisterhood under your leadership was in charge of the 125th anniversary ball and brought about a beautiful, memorable dinner dance. Thank you Vivian.

We planned and plotted many agendas riding to meetings and attending biennials, we structured the world, you

and I. Little does Rabbi Michelson know what he missed. You gave us not only direction for a viable Sisterhood but graced us with a sense of humor, your knowledge, and your love for the amenities-not only of dining but for life itself. You were indeed a touch of class.

Vivian you were chosen as Sisterhood Woman of Valor in District V in the year 2002 – you will always be our Woman of Valor. Thank you for all you have done for the Sisterhood and the Temple!

I would be remiss if I did not mention that in addition to Vivian's love for Sisterhood and the Temple, her true love affair was with her husband Harry, and her pride and joy, her daughter Glynn. That joy also embraced her son in law

Perpetual Memorials

October 31

Arthur Humberg
Sig S. Schweriner
Jacob Weitzenkorn

November 7 and 8

Lea Rachel Heiman
Daniel Epstein
Eleanor Gould
Eugene Jaschek
I.G. Schneeberger
Tessie Fried
Max Baerncopf
Julia Folkman

November 14

Natalie Barnett
Ervin Brok
Emily Epstein
Regina Hermann
Helen Lightman
Anna Miller
Morris Guggenheim
Martha M. Marcus
Maurice C. Isaacs

November 21

Eva N. Hyman

Barnett Fein
Henrietta Goldsmith
Hattie Jacobs
Elizabeth S. Sher
Georgene E. Goldsmith
Max Stein
Joseph F. Brenner
Jonas Epstein

November 28

Charles Burns

Paul Jaslow

Fred Coopersmith
Rose Shlionsky Sack
Morris H. Bash
Samuel R. Liever
Pauline Bernheimer
Albert B. Ball
Louis Hirsch



Sisterhood Florence Frank Offering Fund

To Gene Friedman on his special birthday
Mrs. Edith Blanck
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brok

To Mrs. Jane Sher in memory of her husband, Bernard
Mrs. Helen Rappoport

To Glynn Polter in memory of her mother, Vivian
Dr. & Mrs. Eric Zelnick

Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman
Miss Fran Rosenberg
Mr. & Mrs. Alan Green
Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Frank
Mrs. Edythe Stern
Mrs. Sue Wolfe

To Mr. & Mrs. Martin Gerhart in memory of her father
Mr. & Mrs. Lionel Asher

To Mrs. Joseph Levin in memory of her husband
Mr. & Mrs. Lionel Asher

To Dan Tannenbaum in honor of his birthday
Mrs. Ethel Sherman

To Claudia Strauss for a speedy recovery
Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Frank
Mrs. Edythe Stern
Mrs. Sue Wolfe

To Dr. Harold Farber in memory of his wife, Phyllis
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman
Mrs. Edythe Stern
Mrs. Sue Wolfe

To Lorri Oziri in memory of her mother
Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Frank

Thanks to everyone who sent uniongrams on my special birthday
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.

JCC Of Reading

ANNUAL HANNA GOLDSMITH JEWISH BOOK FAIR

SUNDAY NOV. 2 - SUNDAY, NOV. 9

Visit the JCC for a grand celebration of Jewish Book Month, featuring interesting visiting authors and a great selection of books for infants through adults.

Sunday, Nov. 2: HOWARD BLUM

Award winning investigative journalist's new book is "The Eve of Destruction: The Untold Story of the Yom Kippur War." 11:30 a.m. brunch; 12:30 lecture

Sunday, Nov. 9: BRYAN MARK RIGG

Author of "Hitler's Jewish Soldiers: The Untold Story of Nazi Racial Laws and Men of Jewish Descent in the German Military." 5:30 p.m. light supper; 6:15 p.m. lecture

Fees for above lectures: JCC members -\$6, nonmembers - \$10. with reservations. Add \$2 to fees purchased at door.

Child care available with advance reservations.

Children's Program - Thursday, Nov. 6, 6:30 p.m.

Ann Eisenberg, author of *Bible Heroes I Can Be* and *I Can Celebrate*, will entertain preschoolers through third graders.

NO FEE - RESERVATIONS APPRECIATED.

Please call the JCC at 610 -921 - 0624 or email to

Book group

meets Sunday, Dec.7 at 4 p.m.

We will be discussing "Everything is Illuminated" by Jonathan Safran Foer

The Pictorial Directories

have arrived. Please pick up your directory during office hours Monday -Friday, 8:30 - 4:00 p.m. during Religious School on Sunday or at Friday Shabbat services. The more directories that are picked up, the less we spend on postage. Every RCOS member is entitled to a directory, even if you did not have your picture taken. Any questions, call the office.

There's still time. . .

to sign up for:

"In the Shadow: Issues at the Boundaries of Life", a six-week introduction to Judaism and medical ethics at the end of life taught by Rabbi Brian Michelson.

Classes will be Tuesdays Nov. 11, 18, 25 and December 2,9,16, 8-10 p.m. Cost: \$20 for RCOS members, \$40 for non-members.

Class size is limited to 25. Call the office to reserve your seat.





REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB
SHOLOM

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