



# Our Temple

November 2004

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom

Vol. 41 No. 3

## Notes from the President

# Every congregant can be a leader

By **Scott Bram**  
*President*

What is leadership? From my point of view, it's when you take charge in order to solve a problem or chart a direction to be taken. At the Temple there are many issues in which leadership is necessary in order to solve problems that come up or to chart a course for the future (financial, religious, educational, social). All these areas interrelate and must be in balance for the Temple to function properly.

Can you be a leader as a congregant?

Absolutely! Lead yourself and others to Shabbat Services, holiday observances, education courses, participate in your children's activities and join in community events that the Temple is involved in. Everyone is a leader when they represent the Temple. Your presence is very important.

This Nov. 2. is Election Day. Judaism tells us it is important to participate in the society around us. Issues such as terrorism, national security, Israel, the economy, income tax structure, social

security concern all of us. Most of us don't have to be reminded of how important it is to get out and vote. Voting has been a right denied to us in many countries where Jews lived over the centuries. In these times of extreme violence and economic uncertainty, it is important to choose leaders who are strong on security and economic growth. The ability of people to support the Temple is often tied, to a certain extent, to the economic status of the country. Research the candidates and vote as an

## From the Rabbi's Study

# Thanksgiving has roots in Judaism

The Pilgrims who, according to American tradition, founded Thanksgiving loved the Hebrew Bible and they knew its language well.

It is no accident the early settlers called their Plymouth Colony "Little Israel," and they even compared Governor William Bradford to Moses. They felt that they had fled lands of oppression and had found a new home, just as the Israelites had once fled Egyptian slavery and settled in the Holy Land.

The Pilgrims, also, recalled their emigration from Holland as being like the return of the Jews from the Babylonian exile to Israel under the leadership of Ezra and Nehemiah. In fact, there is evidence that John Winthrop, Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1629, was called the "American Nehemiah."

It is, then, understandable from the association the Pilgrims had with the Bible and the traditions of Israel, that our Thanksgiving Festival would be patterned after the Jewish harvest festivals as found in the Torah, namely, Shavuot, the

festival of the first fruits; Pesach, the spring barley harvest; and especially Succot, the festival of ingathering. Even this most American of holidays finds its origins in our faith. With this in mind, it is very appropriate for us to gather with other Americans of faith to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday.

Therefore, I want to invite you to join me on Thursday, Nov. 25 for our annual Thanksgiving Day interfaith service. Washington Presbyterian Church (715 N. 10th St. in Reading) will host this year's service. We will gather at 9 a.m. for fellowship and coffee followed by the service at 10. The service will include a Thanksgiving Tzedakah collection that will go to support one of the many worthy causes in Reading that work with those in need within our community.

I hope to see many of you

## November Highlights

**Friday, Nov. 5:** Shabbat service, 6 p.m.; Conversion of Carol Freed

**Saturday, Nov. 6:** Shabbat service, 10 a.m.

**Sunday, Nov. 7:** Food Festival

**Saturday, Nov. 13:** Bat Mitzvah of Rachel (Remy) Stein, 10 a.m.

**Sunday, Nov. 21:** Men's Club, 9:30 a.m.

**Thursday, Nov. 25:** Thanksgiving, fellowship, 9 a.m.; service, 10 a.m., Washington Presbyterian Church, 715 N. 10th St., Reading

**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*



# Temple directory update

## Additions:

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## Religious School News

# Hebrew School off to a wonderful start

By **Beth Bruck and Cheryl Spillerman**  
*Religious School Administrators*

RCOS Hebrew School is off to a wonderful start this year. Tuesday's 4th grade class picked apples from our very own tree. The apples (and honey) were enjoyed by the congregation during the High Holy Days. The remainder of our crop was used to make applesauce for the Food Festival.

Our youngest students are diligently bringing in non-perishable food items for our Mitzvah Project – The Berks County

Food Bank. We have extended this Mitzvah Project to include all students.

We have some wonderful art projects in the making, and our music classes with our Student Cantor, Liz Kessler, are enjoyed by all.

Services continue to be an integral part of our education and we have decided to try to schedule some Sunday services at 11:30 a.m. Hopefully parents will be able to join their children at these services. We will notify you about these dates.

Simchat Torah and Consecration services

were celebrated Oct. 6. Congratulations to consecrants Alexa Chronister, Rachel Jeffers, Hannah Walker, Talia Wolf, Bryce Weizer, Brittany Eisenberg and Cory Jeffers.

We would like to wish belated birthday greetings to the following students who had birthdays in September: David Gelman, Alexa Chronister, TaliaWolf, Aaron McCracken and in October to Ian Gavigan. November birthday wishes go to: Sarah Mutzel, Jamie Weisberg, Sara Saidman, Jeffrey Hogg, and Max Wolf. And a hearty mazel

## Focus on the Food Festival

# True or false test: It's not too late

By **Jeri Kozloff**

It's about a week until the 4th annual Jewish Food and Cultural Festival and time for the final exam. We want everyone to pass, so this is an easy True/False quiz.

True or False?

1. It's too late for me to do any more to make the Food Festival a success
2. I will bake an apple cake and bring it to the temple Sunday morning

3. I will bake a kugel and bring it to the temple Sunday morning.
4. I will call Ellice or Jeri and volunteer to help set up Saturday or work on Sunday.
5. I will sell a few more platter tickets.
6. I will put up a poster in a store I patronize.
7. I will invite some friends to come with me to the Festival
8. I will give some tickets to colleagues at work, people who help me, or friends.

9. I will bring some trash cans, coolers, coffee makers, and high chairs to the temple.
10. I will come to the festival, stock my freezer, buy some Hanukkah presents, and HAVE A WONDERFUL TIME!!!

Answer Key:

1. **FALSE!!!!**
- 2-10. **TRUE**

**Passing this test is easy and we want 100% graduation on Nov. 7.**

***Mark your calendars and talk it up!!!***

# FOOD FESTIVAL – SUNDAY, NOV. 7!

**TELL YOUR FRIENDS, TELL YOUR RELATIVES,  
TELL THE PEOPLE AT WORK, OR  
THE PEOPLE IN THE STORES YOU PATRONIZE!**

## **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, Nov. 5**

The Temple Online

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### 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.

**In honor of Hilde Gernsheimer and Fred Jakob's 5th anniversary**  
Bobbie Singer

**In memory of Gerald Frank**  
Sylvia Schiff

**In honor of May and Leon Kaplan's 40th anniversary**  
Bobbie Singer

**You are cordially invited to join Rachel (Remy) Stein and her family in prayer at Rachel's**

### Greater Temple Fund

A donation has been received from  
Joan Darlington

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

**In memory of Samuel Kozloff**  
Joyce & Paul Pottash  
Mr. & Mrs. David Dickson

**In memory of Sonia Freed**  
Lorri & Yoni Oziri

**In memory of Gerald Frank**  
Lorri & Yoni Oziri  
Sue L. Lewis

**In thanks for the Temple's hospitality over the High Holidays**  
Lilian Zimmerman

**In memory of Norman Goodman**  
Sandee & Neal Nevitt

**In memory of Seymour Kurlancheek**  
Wendy Neuhs

### New Building Fund

**In memory of Gerald Frank**  
Seth & Barbara Rosenzweig  
Susan Schlanger  
Norma & Marty Beckerman

### Library Fund

**To Amy and Lee Berger in honor of the birth of their new baby**  
Susan Schlanger

### Holocaust Memorial Garden

**In memory of Dr. Gerald Frank**  
Richard & Rosalyn Yashek

## Help us stay in touch with you

*If you change your address, phone number or e-mail address, please notify the office.*

*We can't communicate with you if we can't reach you.*

## Recycle your printer cartridges and help the Temple

Please bring empty inkjet cartridges (all models except Epson) in a zipped plastic bag and deposit it in the appropriate bin in the Temple lobby. RCOS receives \$2 for each cartridge from Empties4Cash.

2005 UJA-Federation Community Gifts Event

## The Yemin Orde Teen Choir Thursday, Nov. 4

at the Jewish Community Center

Kosher deli dinner from Boscov's Ala Carte from 5 to 7 p.m. (on your own).

Program begins at 7:30 p.m.

Requested individual minimum 2005 campaign pledge: \$36

## ATTENTION ALL TEENS

Meet the Teen Choir from

Israel's Yemin Orde Youth Village

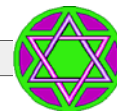
## Thursday, Nov. 4, 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. at the JCC.

Munch a kosher hoagie dinner with all the fixings.

Mingle with young representatives of Israel. Stay to enjoy the choir's concert at 7:30.

Program sponsored free of charge for all teens by the Jewish Federation of Reading.

RSVP [jfrbarbaran@comcast.net](mailto:jfrbarbaran@comcast.net) or call (610)921-2766.



## Social Action Spotlight

# Working to improve the lives of prisoners

By Nancy J. Knoblauch

*Is this not the fast I look for: To unlock the shackles of injustice, to undo the fetters of bondage, to let the oppressed go free and to break every cruel chain?*

Isaiah 58:5

The work that Jack Gernsheimer and fellow volunteers (not Temple members) Jen Esposito and Kevin McCloskey, have been doing at Berks County Prison for the last 3 1/2 years may not quite take on the grand scope of what the prophet Isaiah had in mind, but it's in that spirit.

Twice a month on Friday afternoons, Jack, Jen and Kevin bring art supplies and ideas for projects to the prison as part of the Refugee Rescue Program there.

Our prison houses detainees from other countries who are, for one reason or another, being held until a determination is made about their status in this country — whether or not they will be deported. A couple of hours to be “free” to create something artistic can mean the world.

One other contribution Jack and other members of the Temple's Social Action Committee have been involved with, related to the refugee population, has been the collection of books and negotiations with the prison to establish a

library available to refugee detainees. As a congregant you may have been one of the people who contributed donations of money or books to this project some months back.

Jack's involvement with social action projects has been long and distinguished, though he said for this article: “Don't make it sound too good. I've only done what I wanted to do, and what fit in with my life at different points of time — kind of sporadically.” But the list is still quite impressive.

Jack worked hard pre-presidential election to get voters registered. He'd made a choice, of course, but the registration efforts were nonpartisan, and the hope is that once registered, citizens will maintain an interest in our government and who runs it.

With his brother Jeff, he's been supportive of many organizations benefiting the community, helping them by donating artwork through their business — Partners Design. Early on they made a logo for the Prison Society that is still in use.

A literally colorful project Jack inspired was to deflect attention from the red paint splashed on the Planned Parenthood facility in downtown Reading

by turning it into a Jackson Pollock-esque work of art. Volunteers rallied on a Sunday afternoon and splashed a rainbow of colors all over the building — a triumph for choice.

The list goes on. Jack worked with Talk Line after his son Gabe's tragic death — a hot line for teen that is still available. After a stint in the Army, while living in Philadelphia, he was involved with Big Brothers, has done one-on-one visitations with the Prison Society here in Berks County, was an escort for Planned Parenthood, and served three years on the Red Cross board locally.

When asked what he'd like to see happen at the Temple with the Social Action Committee, not surprisingly he answered that he'd like to see more congregants on the committee.

The committee welcome mat is out. Meetings are usually held on the third

**Social Action  
Committee's next  
meeting is scheduled  
for Tuesday, Nov. 16  
at 6:30 p.m.**

## Perpetual Memorials

### November 1 – 6

Daniel Epstein  
Tessie Fried  
Eleanor Gould  
Lea Rachel Heiman  
Arthur Humberg  
Eugene Jaschek  
Sig S. Schweriner  
Jacob Weitzenkorn  
I. G. Schneeberger

### November 7 – 13

Max Baerncopf  
Natalie Barnett  
Ervin Brok  
Emily Epstein

Julia Folkman  
Morris Guggenheim  
Regina Hermann  
Helen Lightman  
Martha M. Marcus  
Anna Miller

### November 14 – 20

Barnett Fein  
Georgene E. Goldsmith  
Henrietta Goldsmith  
Eva N. Hyman  
Maurice C. Isaacs  
Hattie Jacobs  
Elizabeth S. Sher  
Max Stein

### November 21 – 27

Morris H. Bash  
Paulina Bernheimer  
Joseph F. Brenner  
Charles Burns  
Fred Coopersmith  
Jonas Epstein  
Paul Jaslow  
Samuel R. Liever  
Rose Shlionsky Sack

### November 28 – 30

Albert B. Ball  
Albert Gilbert  
Louis Hirsch



# Sisterhood Florence Frank Offering Fund

To Mrs. Adrienne Cardinal and family in memory of her mother **Elaine Backer**  
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Beckerman  
Mrs. Rhoda Rosenberg

Congratulations to Dr. & Mrs. **Jeffrey Horowitz** on the birth of their daughter  
Mr. & Mrs. Blair Hogg  
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman

memory of her husband  
Mrs. Ethel Sherman  
Mrs. Dorothy Schlanger  
Mr. & Mrs. William Meyers  
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman  
Mrs. Hilda Yablin & Ted Roeberg  
Mrs. Josephine Charnoff  
Mrs. Helen Rappoport  
Mrs. Edith Blanck  
Mr. & Mrs. David Bender  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brok  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Nemirow

**Sherman on becoming a great-grandmother**  
Mr. & Mrs. David Bender

To Mr. Michael Strunk in memory of his wife  
Mrs. Helen Rappoport

To Dr. Glenn Freed in memory of his mother  
Mrs. Audrey Sagel  
Mr. & Mrs. Blair Hogg

To Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Pleet in honor of their daughter's Bat Mitzvah  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brok

Congratulations to Mrs. **Barbara Solowey** in honor of her granddaughter  
Mrs. Audrey Sagel

To **Bruce Sherman** for a speedy recovery  
Mr. & Mrs. Murry Knoblauch

•  
*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.*

To Mrs. Marilyn Frank in

Congratulations to Mrs. Ethel

## Book group returns

Our next meeting is  
Sunday, Dec. 5 at 4 p.m.  
We are reading: "The Counterlife" by  
Philip Roth

## Eat well . . .

and help the Temple's  
**Mitzvah Meal Program.**  
Buy coupon strips good for breads and bagels at  
Panera Bread and raise money for the Temple.  
Contact the office for details.

## 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





REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB  
SHOLOM

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