



Our Temple

October 2004

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom

Vol. 41 No. 2

Notes from the President

Volunteering opportunities plentiful

By **Scott Bram**
President

The High Holidays are meant to renew us spiritually and prepare us for the coming year. They also should serve as a springboard to guide us into the fall holidays of Sukkot and Simchas Torah. Along with these wonderful festivals are the Jewish Food Festival, Bar/Bat Mitzvahs and Shabbat services. What all these holidays and events have in common is the chance for all of us to come together as a congregational family. I always enjoy an opportunity to share simchas, holidays, and cultural activities

with all of you. It's wonderful to have fun together.

This time of year is also perfect for establishing a pattern of volunteerism. As usual, the concept is the same. Find out what the various committees and sub-committees are doing and join a group that you share an interest in. How about the Food Festival committee, the 140th anniversary celebration of the Temple subcommittee? How about the By-laws updating subcommittee?

Would you like to represent the Temple as a greeter at Sabbath and holiday services? How about representing

the Temple at community interfaith services and other social functions? The Reform Movement is one that celebrates community! How about participating in our Reform Movement's Regional or National Bi-annual events? What a great way to meet other committed Reform Jews and attend fascinating workshops and beautiful services. These events are also subsidized.

How about adult education? The Rabbi loves to teach many different subjects.

Do you and a group of friends have any ideas for something new you would

From the Rabbi's Study

A Jewish home checklist

There is an oft-quoted comment made by a Catholic priest. It says, "Give me a child from birth to 5 years of age and I will have him for life."

**Rabbi Brian
Michelson**

This priest knows that what children are taught and observe in the early years of life will set the tone for the rest of their lives. Where do many of our

children spend the first years of their lives? At home.

Judaism has always taught that faith and practice begins at home. It begins in homes where Jewish words are uttered, where Jewish books are honored, where Jewish time is marked, and where Jewish songs, prayers and blessings are heard. In the world of our ancestors, no one would

have gone to *shul* on Friday night expecting the candles to be lit. This was something that happened at home. We must work hard to make sure that we do not lose the understanding of what it means to have a Jewish home.

Judaism begins in the home where the child sees and participates in symbols and

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October Highlights

Friday, Oct. 1: Early Shabbat service, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 2: Ben Ueberroth Bar Mitzvah, 10 a.m.
Tot Shabbat, 5 p.m., Oley Turnpike Dairy

Wednesday, Oct. 6: Simchat Torah, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 9: Stephanie Zimmer Bat Mitzvah, 10 a.m.

Saturday, Oct. 16: Jake Gunter Bar Mitzvah, 10 a.m.

Saturday, Oct. 23: Michael Kaneff Bar Mitzvah, 5 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 24: Sisterhood fall general meeting, 4 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 30: Ben Cooper Bar Mitzvah, 10 a.m.

Friday night services at 7:45 unless otherwise noted

Babysitting available at all services

*Bulletin sponsored by
Carol Cohn*

*in honor of the 100th
anniversary of Dr. Stuart
Cohn's family optometric
practice, Cohn & Reiniger PC
and by*

*Jane Sher and
Clara Breen*

in memory of Bernard Sher



Money Matters

It's a good time of year to share your bounty

By Judith Kraines
Treasurer

Simple things mean a lot. I opened my cereal cupboard the other morning. As I stood there eyeing my choices, I was suddenly struck by the bounty. What a blessing to have choices of what to eat! How many generations would have been thrilled to have one thing to eat? How many people are hungry today?

I hope your holidays were wonderful. And I hope – in appreciation of the bounty you enjoyed – you remembered to give a little something to MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger. If you haven't attended to it yet, just send your check – made out to MAZON -to the Temple, and we'll see it gets to MAZON to feed the hungry.

Last month Rabbi Michelson noted that our ancestors were willing to deny themselves even bread to eat to keep the synagogue alive. We trust it won't come to that here, and we do appreciate your help to keep the synagogue vital and vibrant.

By Labor Day 130 families had made their annual pledges. They promised \$183,144 to support our synagogue. This is 70 percent of our goal of \$265,404. Thanks to all who pledged. Those who didn't pledge received statements with our best "guess" of what they'd like to pledge. I expect to hear from anyone who needs to change the amount of their pledge now or at any time during the year.

I like realistic pledges. It helps us

budget accurately. Pledging more than one can realistically pay in the current year gives bloated expectations. As I've told many congregants, we'll be glad to receive additional contributions if you have more money than you expected.

In reviewing our records, I found that many members were not financially current. I am trying to bring everyone up to date. Sometimes that means writing off old, unrealistic pledges, so people can make a new pledge they can live with. Only if we know our current resources can we live within our means.

We still have a way to go to meet our basic needs. But with everyone pitching in, I think we can do it. We are the richest generation of Jews in history. Our ancestors would marvel at the bounty in

RABBI

(Continued from page 1)

rites that link her to a people and a culture. It begins in homes where Jewish art and ritual objects are visible and are used. All of these things both planned and unplanned exercise a silent, yet powerful, influence on those that behold them.

If you were to look around your own home, what Jewish items would be found? What would indicate to an outside observer that this is a Jewish

home? What things would be noticed only by one who has knowledge of Judaism? As we begin this New Year in earnest, let us strive to ensure that Judaism does begin at home.

Do you have: (just to name a few)

- Bar/Bat Mitzvah certificate or Ketubah displayed
- Shabbat Candlesticks
- Challah platter, knife, and cover
- A Chanukiah (Chanukah menorah)

- Dreidles
- A Jewish calendar (we have plenty to spare at the Temple)
- A Mezuzah
- A prayer book
- A Seder plate
- A tzedakah box

If not, think about adding one or two items on this list to what you do have at home. *(I know the Sisterhood gift shop*

Walk to fight leukemia

This year's "Light the Night Walk" for the Leukemia & Lymphoma society is Saturday, Oct. 23 at 6:30 p.m. at Gring's Mill recreation area. Please join us walking for Team Bill Ueberroth. If you can't be there but would like to donate, please send your donation to Lisa Ueberroth.

It's easy to participate in the walk. If you can walk and gather your own sponsor donations, call Lisa at 371-0750.

Or go to <http://www.lightthenight.org/> or phone 877-LTN-WALK and register as a walker for Team Bill Ueberroth.

Guidelines for Donations

In order to maintain an efficient system of handling donations, the Temple office has adopted the following guidelines:

- No donations will be accepted over the phone.
- Donations must be accompanied by a check.
- Make checks payable to Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom (or RCOS), with fund name written in memo of check
- Use one donation envelope for each donation.
- Include addresses of the donor and the recipient.
- Minimum donations: Jane Henry Fund, \$5; All other funds, \$10..



Religious School News

A belated hello and New Year news

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

Though we have gotten off to a late start in our bulletin articles this year, we would now like to officially welcome everyone to the 2004-2005 religious school year. We hope everyone had the opportunity to share the High Holy days with friends and family and we wish you all a happy and healthy new year.

This has started out to be quite a hectic and interesting time, with *two* new administrators and several new teachers joining our ranks,

some with experience and some without, but all with much enthusiasm and determination. We will be looking to the parents for cooperation and patience as we embark on our new responsibilities. Please feel free to contact us with any concerns, suggestions, etc. that you may have – we want religious school to be a meaningful experience for all.

Important Dates

October is shaping up to be another incredibly busy month.

Oct. 5: We celebrate Simchat Torah and Consecration

We wish a hearty mazel tov to **5** of our students becoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah!

Oct. 2: Ben Ueberroth

Oct. 9: Stephanie Zimmer

Oct. 16: Jake Gunter

Oct. 23: Michael Kaneff

Oct. 30: Ben Cooper

Congratulations to everyone!!!

Many thanks go to Jeff Driben for his tremendous commitment of time and energy in pulling everything together this year. We are truly fortunate to have him as Religious School Chairman.

Focus on the Food Festival

A fun Food Festival pop quiz

By **Jeri Kozloff**

A few weeks ago you received your Food Festival 2004 packet in the mail. Please answer the following questions:

1) When you received the Food Festival packet you a) threw it away b) placed it the pile of papers on the dining room table c) carefully filed it away d) opened it, read the contents and began helping to make the event a success.

2) The 10 platter tickets have been a) used for book marks b) sold c) bought by you and given as gifts d) bought by you and you'll eat or freeze 10 meals

3) The volunteer sign-up form has been a) saved for Halloween decorations since it's orange b) filled out and returned to RCOS c) used as a reference sheet when you called to volunteer d) inspiration for your baking

4) The food festival poster can be a) folded into a paper airplane b) copied and distributed to colleagues and friends c) copied and hung at locations you patronize d) posted in your office or store.

5) The program book ad order form can be a) ignored - who wants to pay off the

mortgage, anyway? b) copied and taken to businesses you patronize c) used for your own business or personal ad d) used for two or more families to share an ad.

NOTE: Ad deadline was Sept. 30!!!! If your copy is not ready call to save a space immediately.

ANSWERS: If you answered a) to any of these questions you have failed to be a good Food Festival volunteer. But you can get remedial help by calling the office to get new tickets and copies of festival materials. We need 100% scores to make the grade and make the 2004

**Please remember to vote Nov. 2
-- It's too important to forget!**

If you need an absentee ballot application, especially students away at college and homebound members, please contact the Temple Office or someone from the Social Action Committee. (mam20@psu.edu)

**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**

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, Oct. 5

The Temple Online

www.ohebsholom.org

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bookkeeper@ohebsholom.org



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 memory of Mildred and Edward Rosner

Carole & Irv Beck and Family

To Edna Pollak, wishing her good luck in her new home

Maxine & Dick Henry
Bob & Kaye Ullman

Sylvia H. Gross

Special birthday wishes to Irv Beck

Maxine and Dick Henry
Sylvia H. Gross

In memory of Milton Diamond

Maxine & Dick Henry

Follow the Jewish year

Jewish calendars are available in the Temple office for the year 2004-2005, 5765. Pick up one now to keep track of any upcoming observances.

Greater Temple Fund

In memory of Joseph Boscov

Norma C. Dashe

In memory of my mother, Etta Burns

Barbara Singer

Thanks to everyone for their kind wishes on our special anniversary

Mark & Geri Nemirow

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Elaine Backer

Hal & Ruth Cohn

In memory of Henrietta Nevitt

Sandee & Neal Nevitt

In memory of my dear

husband, Joe, and as thanks to my many friends for their kind words and deeds at this time of personal loss

Shirley K. Boscov

In memory of Mary K. Gross

Mildred & Ivan Gordon

In memory of David Gordon

Mildred & Ivan Gordon

In memory of Betty

Gordon

Mildred & Ivan Gordon

Music Fund

In observance of the yearzeits of Benjamin Mendelsohn, Gertrude Mendelsohn, Lena Bideman, and Milton Mendelsohn

Edith Mendelsohn

Shirley K.

Jacobs Religious School Fund

In memory of Edith Bisgyer

Norma, Marty, Andy & Erica Beckerman

I

Join the RCOS delegation at the Regional Biennial

Reform Jews from our region will gather in Pittsburgh Nov. 18-21 for the Union for Reform Judaism's Regional Biennial Convention, sponsored by the PA Council and the Federation of Reform Synagogues of Greater Philadelphia. With the theme "Remember I am with You: Continuing the Dream," this year's Biennial will be an opportunity to

recharge, replenish and learn the skills for congregational leadership. It is a weekend you will not want to miss.

The URJ Regional Biennial is that once-every-two-year gathering when we take time to explore synagogue life and gather new ideas, to worship, study with scholars and celebrate with friends, learn from the pros and each other, and sing and schmooze.

It is a place to find warmth and comfort in a strong, united community.

Join the growing number of participants who will travel to Pittsburgh to share in this unique and moving experience. For further details, call the Temple office or the URJ regional office (215-563-8183) or log onto www.urj.org/PAC for registration information.

A month of celebration

You are cordially invited to join our Bar/Bat Mitzvah students and families in prayer at their services:

Ben Ueberroth, son of Lisa Ueberroth and the late William Ueberroth, Saturday, Oct. 2, 10 a.m.

Stephanie Zimmer, daughter of Mitch and Donna Zimmer, Saturday, Oct. 9, 10 a.m.

Jake Gunter, son of Ellice and Richard Gunter, Saturday, Oct. 16, 10 a.m..

Michael Kaneff, son of Judith and Scott Kaneff, Saturday, Oct. 23, 5 p.m..

Benjamin Cooper, son of Deborah Cooper, Saturday, Oct. 30, 10 a.m.

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.



Sisterhood News

Make your own jewelry at big Sisterhood event

By Carol Freed and Karen Robinson

L'Shanah Tova! We wish everyone a very happy and healthy New Year. The rummage sale brought in about \$3,700 this year. Thanks again to everyone involved for making the event a huge success.

Please join us Oct. 24 at 1 p.m. for our Fall General Meeting at Le Petit Artist. We will be making our own jewelry. Come and make something for yourself or a gift for someone special. Look for your invitation in the mail. We look forward to seeing you.

Please 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, so let us know if you don't find what you are looking for.

We continually need volunteers to help with any Sisterhood event. If you would like to get involved please contact Carol Freed or Karen Robinson. We also need

volunteers to help in the gift shop. If you can share time on a Friday evening, please contact Linda Bram.

Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Day is on October 5. You can purchase your 20% off shopping pass through Sisterhood. There will be refreshments, entertainment and a chance to win fabulous door prizes. Purchase your shopping pass for \$5 at the Temple office or gift shop. Don't miss out on this great opportunity and a fun day of shopping. Sisterhood will use the proceeds from the sale of the tickets to continue its good work.

A special thank you to Rosalind Hyman for her generous donation to the Sisterhood to purchase two new tables for the Social Hall.

The Sisterhood would like to acknowledge and thank Adrienne Cardinal for spreading happiness throughout the year with her birthday

cards. We all appreciate the smile and warmth the good wishes bring to us on our special day. We also thank all who generously send in donations, it helps with the cost of cards and stamps for this lovely cause.

We have a wonderful year planned filled with many exciting events and we look forward to seeing you there.

Oct. 24: Fall General Mtg. @ Le Petit Artist

Nov. 10: Joint Women's Luncheon @ JCC

Jan. 16: RCOS & KZ Joint Sisterhood/Men's Club Breakfast @ KZ

Feb. 26: Sisterhood & Other Committees Joint Havdalah & Family Night

March 13: RCOS Sisterhood Thank You Breakfast

March 22: Joint Women's Dinner @ Shomrei

March 25: Sisterhood Shabbat

April 10: Spring General Meeting

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.

Perpetual Memorials

October 3-9

Nathan R. Liever
Sol Greenstein
Samuel Sinaink
Dr. Sidney J. Sondheim
Maurice Gumpel
Henry Phillip King
Justin J. Baumann

October 10 – 16

Else Gerson-Simon
Leon Klevansky
Hilda Bodenheimer
Nathan Fein
Jack H. Blumberg
Jane R. Pokrass
Geraldine G. Salpeter

October 17 – 23

Yetta Levitz

Sadie R. Newman
Jacob Morris Cohn
Edith Luria
Theodore Rachlin
Emanuel Jacobs
Samuel J. Sondheim
Ruth G. Greenberg

October 24 – 30

Eve Frankel
Joseph Bloch
Molly Miller
Rebecca Liever
Anna G. Popkin
Lily D. Heilbron
Morris Eisman

October 31

Eleanor Gould



Sisterhood Florence Frank Offering Fund

To Ethel Sherman for a speedy recovery
Mrs. Barbara Stein

speedy recovery
Dr. & Mrs. Scott Bram

mother, Elaine Backer
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman
Mrs. Barbara Stein
Mrs. Dorothy Schlanger
Mrs. Ethel Sherman
Mr. & Mrs. Naum Ger

Mrs. Edythe Stern
Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Frank

To Albert Diamond in memory of his brother Milton
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brok
Mrs. Edith Blanck

Congratulations to Mrs. Carol Friedman Cooper on her new home
Mrs. Dorothy Schlanger

To Mrs. Shirley Boscov in memory of her husband Joe
Mrs. Sue Wolfe

Many thanks for the many Uniongrams on my special birthday
Ted Roeborg

To Mr. and Mrs.. Stan Ramati for a speedy recovery
Mr. & Mrs. Murry Knoblauch
Mrs. Ethel Sherman

To Albert Diamond in memory of his wife, Sara
Sara & David Natkin
Shelley Seltzer
Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Frank

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.

Many thanks for all the greetings sent for my birthday anniversary
Mrs. Linda Bram

To Bruce Sherman for a speedy recovery
Mrs. Dorothy Schlanger
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman

To the Backer family in memory of their mother Elaine
Mrs. Sue Wolfe

To Martin Beckerman for a

To Mrs. Adrienne Cardinal and family in memory of her

Book group returns

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

Please help welcome our cantor

Those wishing to host our student cantor, Liz Kessler, for a meal or overnight should contact Jeri Kozloff at 610-373-4400 or jdkoz@talon.net

FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS DAY

At all Boscov's stores!!!
TUESDAY, OCT. 5
Stores open at 9 a.m.

Purchase a \$5 ticket for a 20% off shopping pass and a chance to win fabulous door prizes. Entire donation benefits our Sisterhood. Tickets can be purchased in the Temple office or by calling Karen Hogg at 610-603-9070.

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.





REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB
SHOLOM

Affiliated with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations since 1907
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