



# OUR TEMPLE

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom

October 2010/Tishrei-Cheshvan 5771

## Notes from the president

### A belated introduction

By **Rosalind Hyman**  
*President*

We held our first Board of Trustees meeting Aug. 23. It was suggested by my Vice President, Scott Davis, that our first meeting should be an orientation session. I thought this was a marvelous idea, and with the help of Alan Seltzer and Jodi Radosh, Scott held a most interesting meeting.

One of the concepts was to go around the conference table and tell the other board members something about themselves. I then thought, this is my second year as president and I

am sure most of you know little about me! So, here it is!!

My name is Rosalind Hyman, usually shortened to Roz. My husband, Lee, was an attorney at Liever, Hyman and Potter. I tell you with sadness that he passed away 12 years ago after a long and devastating illness. I have two children, the eldest a daughter, who, in protest to the name of Rosalind, I named Cathy! Who thought she would grow up to be an attorney, having to sign legal documents with the name Cathy?!!! She is a Guardian-ad-litem for endangered children and

works in Berks County. Her husband, John Badal, is also an attorney and is a senior partner at Liever, Hyman and Potter. Their practice of law is limited to personal injury cases. They have given me two wonderful grandsons (I should say I rather insisted on this), Andrew, the eldest, a great pal to me, and Nicholas, who is an engineer, now lives in Portland, Oregon, (from my point of view, much too far away!!)

My son, Bradley, is an MD/PhD. The PhD degree is in biochemistry and his

*Continued on Page 2*

## From the rabbi's study

### Visiting the sick can make a difference

David Goleman, a science correspondent for *The New York Times*, reports that many recent

**Rabbi Brian I. Michelson**

studies confirm that the emotional state of patients can greatly affect the course of their diseases. For example, one study at the University of Minnesota, which dealt with patients who had strong emotional support from their spouses and had gone through bone marrow transplants for leukemia, showed that 54 percent of those backed by family or friends were still alive after two years, while the survival rate for those with little social support was only 20 percent.

In another study, 122 men were evaluated for the pessimism or optimism they had felt at the time of suffering a heart attack. Their state of mind was found to be a better predictor of death from a heart attack eight years later than were any of the standard risk factors, including damage to the heart in the first episode, artery blockage, cholesterol levels, or blood pressure. Of the 25 most pessimistic men, 21 had died after eight years; of the 25 most optimistic, just six died.

Intuitively, Judaism grasped this central truth that comfort, morale, and feelings can constitute potent medicine. That is why it emphasized the mitzvah of *bik-kur cholim*, visiting the sick.

Visiting the sick is not as easy as it seems at first blush. In fact, I know some people who are unable to do it at all; because they can't handle the sight of sick people which reminds them of their own mortality. Even those who are capable of carrying out this religious obligation need to follow certain guidelines if their visits are to be maximally effective in raising the spirits of the sick.

Remember to be a good guest and that the person you are visiting is not feeling well. Your concern is the patient. Try and let them do as much talking as they are able. Remember not to bring your woes into the room with you.

*Continued on Page 3*

## October Highlights

*Services Fridays at 7:45 unless otherwise noted. Babysitting available for all 7:45 Shabbat services.*

**Friday, Oct. 1:**  
Shabbat service, 6 p.m., with student cantor

**Saturday, Oct. 2:**  
Shabbat service, 10 a.m., with student cantor

**Saturday, Oct. 16**  
Jessica Smith Bat Mitzvah, 10 a.m.

**Saturday, Oct. 25**  
Tot Shabbat, 10 a.m.

## IT'S SISTERHOOD MEMBERSHIP MONTH

WE OFFER GREAT PROGRAMMING, A CHANCE TO ENJOY THE COMPANY OF FRIENDS AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR OUR TEMPLE AS WELL AS THE READING AREA. A BROCHURE WILL FOLLOW IN THE MAIL. YOUR DUES HELP US TO HELP RCOS.

**PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY**

## THIS ISSUE SPONSORED BY

**Rosalind Hyman, in loving memory  
of her beloved husband, LeRoy**

# PRESIDENT

*Continued from Page 1*

medical doctorate degree is in neurology, sub-specialty Alzheimer's. He is director of Alzheimer's research at Harvard Medical School and is director of the Alzheimer's clinic at Massachusetts General Hospital. His wife, Cynthia, is also an MD/PhD. Her PhD degree is in physics and her medical degree is in ophthalmology. After working at Harvard for 20 years doing research in glaucoma, she was hired by the Novartis drug company as head of translational medicine in ophthalmology. They have given me (finally) a lovely granddaughter, Sarah, and one more grandson, Nathaniel, who has just left for Washington University in St. Louis.

I have just read this to my daughter. She, who always comes directly to the point, said, "Mom, no one really cares and it may sound like you are bragging." So, let me say right up front, I am hopeful that someone does care...and, yes, I AM BRAGGING!!

Oh, and the tall gentleman that you frequently see me with is Dr. Tim Blessing. He has master's degrees in history and public administration and a doctorate degree in history. O.K. so now I really am bragging!!! He also spent two years as Robert's Rules advisor to the Temple's Bylaws Committee and played a most important role in developing new bylaws for us.

And me, I was raised on a farm in Frystown, Berks County, spent my middle years in Lebanon, married at the age of 18, moved to Reading, and have been here ever since. I am a first-generation American of Hungarian parentage. I have worked in a law office, served as president of a Parkinson's Support Group, served as associate director of the Seniors College at Alvernia University and as president of the Board of the Seniors College, served as president of Torch International, and now president of the Temple. Rather dull compared to everyone else!!!

### Paint job completed

In my last column I told you that by the time your receive this column the caretaker's residence will be sold. The sale has been completed. With that chore done, Linda Bram, Chair of the House Committee, and I hired Troutman Painting, Inc., and chose colors for the Temple so our Temple looked new again in time for the New Year. John Troutman has been in business for 50 years, his workmen are neat and hard-working and extraordinarily cooperative.

A special thanks must go to Peter Alvarez, our caretaker. He has been extremely helpful, as always, working around the painters, setting up the Social Hall for a Bat Mitzvah, hanging paintings, moving paintings, moving books, and still finding time to do all he must do to keep

our Temple looking grand.

### Welcome to our new cantor

Joshua Finkel is our cantor for this year. He is a young man with a deep and melodious voice, and I know will be a great asset to the Temple. I have had the pleasure of meeting his pretty wife, Emily, and have heard him sing in our Temple.

On the evening of Aug. 28 Art Becker, the chairman of our Ritual Committee and his lovely wife, Maryann, invited Tim and me to join them for dinner with the cantor and his wife. We had a wonderful evening, good food and good conversation. I have requested that Donna Oaks, our secretary, send out special e-mails on Tuesday and again on Thursday when Cantor Finkel will be singing in the Temple on a Friday night. Between our new cantor and our choir our Temple will be filled with song, as it should be!!

### JCC school keeps Temple busy

On Aug. 30 I received a call from Judy Synnamon, director of the JCC Pre-school and Kindergarten. She had a problem that I am hopeful she will have every year!! She needed to put up more coat hangers for the children!! With great joy I immediately gave her permission to do so!! We have 45 students in our Temple, and we could not be happier.

I have also received an honor which I was delighted to accept. Judy has invited me to be

a reader to the children. I can hardly wait for school to start!!

The Pre-school and Kindergarten is open to all denominations, and all children are welcomed with open arms.

### A sweet New Year

On Sept. 9 we celebrated the first day of Rosh Hashana. As a special treat our choir, lead by the most extraordinary Dan Pardo, sang the song composed for the dedication of our Temple 11 years ago. Once again, Ina Grapenthin accompanied the choir and our cantor. How lucky we are to have this talented woman join us on our holidays. And the Rabbi, every year I tell him that I am sure his sermons could not be better...and then they are!!! Always with humor and always with a lesson we should take to heart.

With Janine Ure out of town, Susan Gelb, co-chairwoman of the Sisterhood, was on her own...and what a masterful job she did!! The silver sparkled (one of Susan's favorite jobs) the tables were set, the menu was chosen and it could not have been more perfect. One of our young members even commented that the desserts were decadent, and I agree!!

We now have heard the sound of the shofar and once more, we are filled with awe. May this year bring to you all good health, happiness, contentment in your soul and sweetness in your life.

## The Temple Online

[www.ohebsholom.org](http://www.ohebsholom.org)

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***Deadline for November issue: Oct. 5***

**Religious School News****School off to a good start**By **Judy Synnamon***Religious School Director*

Our first sessions of Sunday School and Hebrew School went well. We have about 60 students in our school from 37 families. Hopefully you all took the opportunity to visit your child's classroom and met their teacher. Congratulations to our first-graders and new students who celebrated their Consecration, or their official welcoming to formal Jewish education during the Simchat Torah Service.

Our sixth grade will be participating in our family service on Friday, Oct. 22, at 7:45 p.m. Participating in these services gives all the students the opportunity to

become comfortable leading prayers and reading in front of a congregation. By the time these students reach their Bar/Bat Mitzvah service, standing before the congregation isn't so intimidating.

**Important dates:**

**Oct. 22:** Grade 6 will be conducting Shabbat Services, 7:45 p.m.

**Oct. 24:** Ross Levy, Jewish educator and musician, will be entertaining our Sunday School students at 11 am. Please feel free to join in the fun!! Ross has played for Jewish youth groups and congregations around the country. Please visit [www.rossmlevy.com](http://www.rossmlevy.com) to hear a preview of his music and to learn about him.

**Oct. 31:** 7th Grade will volunteer at Opportunity House. Details to follow.

The Religious School staff had the first meeting and in-service on Sunday, Aug. 29. Thanks to Holly Michelson who has accepted an additional role in our Religious School as Judaic Curriculum Advisor. She will serve as a resource for the teachers in planning and implementing Judaic content.

The staff and I are looking forward to a great year. Please join the Religious School Committee, led by Jeff Weizer, to share your ideas with us.

**RABBI***Continued from Page 1*

The person you are visiting does not need to add that worry on top of their own.

Try to take your leave of the person without tiring them out or waiting until they ask you to leave.

Remember, hospitals are not great places

to rest and patients are often very tired.

Visiting the sick is a way of paying homage to God; since man is a creature of God, fashioned in God's image. Perhaps this is what our Sages had in mind when they taught that the Shechina (God's spiritual presence) hovers over the bed of the sick. The Talmud,

also, teaches that whoever visits the sick removes one sixtieth of their suffering.

Sometimes our simple presence can help set someone at ease. Hence, your visit to the sick, if carried out in an appropriate way, may be the most potent medicine known to man.

**Wyomissing library to hold author talks**

The Wyomissing Public Library invites you to attend a series of three Author Talks in October in collaboration with the county-wide Reading Reads program. All sessions are free and open to the public and will be held in the Community Room of the library.

**Tuesday, Oct. 5, 7 p.m.**

*A Survivor's Story: Memoirs of Severin Fayerman* by **Severin Fayerman**

In his autobiography, Fayerman recounts his days as a Holocaust prisoner in World War II Poland and Germany at death camps such as Auschwitz. Fayerman survived the Holocaust and the war and eventually settled in America with his family. He started the company Baldwin Hardware, which has become one of the largest man-

ufacturers of hardware (such as door knobs) in the country and world. Now retired and residing in Reading, Fayerman tells his story to audiences including high school and middle school students in the hope that they see the opportunity that America can provide for them just as it did for him.

**Saturday, Oct. 16, 2 p.m.**

*Kindness and Compassion: The Inspiring Aftermath of the Tragic Amish Schoolhouse Shootings* by **Bruce Becker**

Bruce Becker, an internationally known artist, author, teacher, humanitarian and public speaker, shares his involvement with the victims of the Amish Schoolhouse shootings as we approach the fourth anniversary of the October 2006 tragedy. His painting associ-

ated with this tragedy and its message are the driving force behind his book. His powerful and compelling presentation contains a universal message, which emphasizes a conscious choice to treat others with kindness and compassion.

**Wednesday, Oct. 27, 7 p.m.***Writers' Block*

Join us for an evening with local authors. Learn how they came up with their ideas and how they took the necessary steps to publish their work. Talk and get help on the various difficulties — and successes — of getting work finished and published. Discuss aspects of character development. Share methods of making characters real. Brainstorm ideas and share general writing techniques.

**IT'S FOOD  
FESTIVAL  
TIME**

This year's Food  
Festival is  
**Sunday, Nov. 7.**

Now is the time to volunteer to help with the cooking, baking and planning. And make sure you've signed up to help out on the big day itself.

It takes a team effort to make our festival a success. Call the Temple office to find out how to help.

**Rabbi's Discretionary Fund**

In honor of Michael Levy  
Anonymus

In memory of Betty Gordon  
Mildred & Ivan Gordon

In honor of the New Year  
The Rosing Family

In honor of her son Michael's  
upcoming wedding to Rachel  
**Scheiner**  
Dorie Karp

In memory of Geri Weisbaum  
Bonnie Friedman &  
Cantor Gerald Miller

Wishing the Michelson family a  
happy New Year  
Bonnie Friedman &  
Cantor Gerald Miller

In honor of Sue Schlanger's new  
home and new granddaughter  
Harriet Baskin

In honor of the enlightening sermons  
given by Rabbi Michelson  
during the High Holidays.  
Karen Hogg

**Building Fund**

In memory of Stephen  
Greenstein  
Gene & Shirley Friedman

In honor of Rabbi Michelson for  
his guidance & support during  
my period of conversion  
Jeri Diesinger

**Music Fund**

In memory of the Yahrzeit of my  
grandmother Anna E. Scholes  
Jeri Diesinger

With thanks to Dan Pardo for  
a wonderful job conducting the  
choir  
Sharon & Ron Hrabak

In honor of the conversion  
of Jeri Diesinger  
Harriet Baskin

**Religious School Fund**

In honor of the children and  
young adults who participated  
so beautifully in the High  
Holidays Services.  
Karen Hogg

**Landscaping Fund**

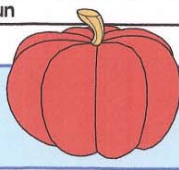










In memory of Lee & Rhoda Small  
Seth & Barbara Rosenzweig

In memory of Lee A. Small  
Susan Schlanger

**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.  
Wishing Maxine Henry a speedy recovery  
Helen Rappoport

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

**October 2010**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p><b>October</b></p> </div>					<p>Shabbat Service 1 6:00 PM </p>	<p>Shabbat Service 2 10:00 AM </p>
<p>3 Religious School 9:00 AM</p>	<p>4 Torah Study 12:00 Noon</p>	<p>5 Hebrew School 4:15 PM</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 Wyomissing Hills Elem Emergency Drill 9:00 AM </p>	<p>8 Shabbat Service 7:45 PM </p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10 Religious School 9:00 AM</p>	<p>11 Exec. Committee Mtg. 7:00 PM <i>Columbus Day</i></p>	<p>12 Hebrew School 4:15 PM Adult Educ. 7:00 PM</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 Shabbat Service 7:45 PM </p>	<p>16 Jessica Smith Bat Mitzvah 10:00 AM </p>
<p>17 Religious School 9:00 AM Men's Club 9:30 AM</p>	<p>18 Torah Study 12:00 Noon</p>	<p>19 Hebrew School 4:15 PM Adult Educ. - 7 PM Finance Cmte. 7 PM</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 Grade 6 Shabbat Service 7:45 PM </p>	<p>23 Tot Shabbat 10:00 AM </p>
<p>24 Religious School 9:00 AM</p>	<p>25 Torah Study 12:00 Noon Board of Trustees Mtg. 7:00 PM </p>	<p>26 Hebrew School 4:15 PM Adult Educ. 7:00 PM</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 Shabbat Service 7:45 PM </p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31 Religious School 9:00 AM 7th Grade @ Oppor. House</p>	<p>Dates/times are subject to change. <b>October 1-3 - Cantor Josh Weekend</b></p>					

## Book Group

**Nov. 14 at 4 p.m..**

We are reading "Day After Night"

by Anita Diamant,  
best-selling author  
of "The Red Tent."

# SISTERHOOD HAPPENINGS

Sisterhood welcomed everyone back from summer activities with our annual "Welcome Back BBQ" held Aug. 24 at Happy Hollow Park. Thanks to Eve Pardo, BBQ committee chair, and her wonderful committee members Rabbi Michelson, Sandy Fishman, Tandy Goldstein, Anne Missan, Lisa Nemeroff, Dan Pardo, Jodi Radosh,

and Cindy Tomlinson, a great time was had by all.

Sisterhood provided the hot dogs, hamburgers and drinks and in true RCOS. tradition attendees brought the most amazing sides and desserts. We always comment on the truly wonderful additions that everyone contributes. That is why we continue to do these kinds of programs. Everyone loves to bring something special!

Sept. 8 was Sisterhood's most special evening of the year — the Erev Rosh Hashanah Oneg. It was, again, a lovely evening. The oneg is a time to see friends and family and share happy wishes for the New Year. Sisterhood is honored to be able to bring the congregation together for such an important evening.

We ended the Yom Kippur day of prayer and reflection with our tradition of break the fast. This year we offered challah and cake along with juice and coffee in the rotunda, along with another chance to share wishes for a wonderful, prosperous year ahead.

In the New Year, Sisterhood will continue to strive to bring relevant programming that will enrich the lives of all of the membership of Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom. We wish you all a happy and healthy New Year!

## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Dr. Jonathan Primack & Pamela Charendoff	Oct. 6
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brok	Oct. 10
Dr. & Mrs. Glenn Freed	Oct. 11
Mr. & Mrs. Jason Kraft	Oct. 11
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Gelb	Oct. 24
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Schuchart	Oct. 25
Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Seidel	Oct. 26

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Conrad Heisman	Oct. 1	Dr. Ruth Spillerman	Oct. 15
Cynthia Gerber Tomlinson	Oct. 2	Carol Freed	Oct. 16
Dr. Prudence Precourt	Oct. 3	Geraldine Nemirow	Oct. 16
Erica Hesselson	Oct. 4	Mary Gibson	Oct. 17
Jane Goodman	Oct. 8	Patricia Goldstein	Oct. 18
Eric S. Shocket	Oct. 8	Susan Jeffers	Oct. 18
Susan Schlanger	Oct. 10	Shirley Friedman	Oct. 19
Alan Seltzer	Oct. 10	David Graff	Oct. 22
Ellen Azrael	Oct. 12	Ruth Heisman	Oct. 23
Carol Cohn	Oct. 12	Karen Hogg	Oct. 23
Evan Cooper	Oct. 12	Lynne Schwartz	Oct. 25
James Harrison	Oct. 12	Wendy Kraft	Oct. 29
Jodi Radosh	Oct. 12	Shirley Ullman	Oct. 30
Russell Farbiarz	Oct. 13	Ronald Hrabak	Oct. 31
Sylvia Schiff	Oct. 13		
Nelson Cohen	Oct. 15		

## Perpetual Memorials

### Oct. 1-9

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

### Oct. 10-16

Leon Klevansky  
Geraldine G. Salpeter  
Nathan Fein  
Else Gerson-Simon

Hilda Bodenheimer  
Jack H. Blumberg  
Jane R. Pokrass

### Oct. 17-23

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

### Oct. 24-31

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



James P. Restrepo, M.D., F.A.C.S.  
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