



# Our Temple

September 2001

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom

Volume 38 No. 1

## Notes from the President

# Plenty happening as year begins

By Alan Schlechter  
*President*

Well, a new year is upon us, and on behalf of myself and my family we would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year. I would like to bring everyone up to date on what has been

happening since the annual meeting.

First, the Landscaping Committee is moving forward and looks like we will be starting work this fall. Jeri Kozloff is working very hard along with her committee to make our Temple grounds look beautiful. Second, Neal Schneider is

to be commended on a job well done for putting together the Kauffman's Chicken Sale. We sold over \$600 worth of chickens. Thank you Neal for doing such a great job on this fundraiser. Also, another project in the works also being

*(Continued on page 5)*

## From the Rabbi's Study

# Adults inspire with desire to learn

On Shabbat morning Sept. 8, six adults in our community will become **Rabbi Brian Michelson** B'nei Mitzvah. It will be, I am sure, a beautiful and inspiring service. Each of them will lead a portion of our service and be called to read from the Torah. For most of them, Hebrew was no more than a

rudimentary skill when classes began over a year ago, but through hard work and determination; they have all come a very long way. I know that they should all be proud and we, as their congregation, should also be proud of their accomplishments.

Each student chose to give up his or her time to study, learn and practice. I

had weekly appointments with them over the summer like I do with any other Bar or Bat Mitzvah candidate. They have made choices that have helped them to grow, helped me as a teacher grown, and that will ultimately enrich us as a community.

It is with this in mind that I want to challenge those of you who have considered an adult Bar or Bat Mitzvah to take the plunge. Three or four people have already spoken to me about forming a class and we need just a few more to make this year's class viable.

The class covers a broad range of topics from a discussion of the different streams of Judaism, to the festivals, Hebrew reading skills and many more.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## September Highlights

**Monday, Sept. 3** — Labor Day, Temple offices closed

**Friday, Sept. 7** — Shabbat service, 6 p.m.

**Saturday, Sept. 8** — Adult B'nei Mitzvah and Kiddush, 10 a.m.  
Selichot program and service, 8:30 p.m.

**Sunday, Sept. 9** — First day of Religious School, 9 a.m.-noon

**Tuesday, Sept. 11** — First day of Hebrew School, 4:15 -6 p.m.

**Saturday, Sept. 15** — Tot Shabbat, 10 a.m..

**Sunday, Sept. 16** — Men's Club Breakfast and Program, 9:30 a.m.

**Mon-Tues, Sept. 17-18** — Rosh Hashanah (see schedule, Page 2)

**Sunday, Sept. 23** — Annual Cemetery Service, 1 p.m.

**Wed.-Thurs, Sept. 26-27** — Yom Kippur (see schedule, Page 2)

**Friday night services at 7:45, except 6 p.m. service Sept. 3**

**Babysitting available at all services**

*Bulletin sponsored by  
Trudy Katz in memory  
of Fred Katz*

## Inside the Bulletin of Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom:

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## Religious School News

# Becoming involved in our children's education

By **Holly Michelson, RJE**  
*Religious School Administrator*

"Welcome to a New Year of Religious School" was how I was planning to start. After all, I am well aware of the fact that this article is read mostly by parents (I hope) and occasionally by other members of our congregation. This year though, my hope is that everyone will take a look at this article. Most of the time it will be about Religious School, but the hope is that, in time, we can explore the idea of becoming a congregation of learners.

For those of you who are parents, or grandparents, or aunts or uncles and so on and have or know a child in Religious School, here are some hints on how to become more involved in the education of

all of our children: Be interested. Ask about class. Carefully display the drawings and the craft projects that are sent home or given to you. Honestly share your own experiences with your child. If the topics studied evoke family memories, this is a wonderful time to show pictures, take things out of the dresser drawer, and tell the stories. If you are learning things for the first time, that, too, is a wonderful truth to share. If you have questions or doubts, these, too, should be part of the discussions.

Another way to become more involved is to make friends with your children's teachers. Form a relationship with your child's teacher. Know his/her name. Make sure that she knows your name and that

she can call on you when help is needed. Your home should be an extension of the classroom, and good communications make that easy.

Even if you do not have a child in Religious School, there are ways to become involved. Contact me for ideas. For now, welcome to a great New Year of Jewish Education.

### Important Dates:

Sept. 9: First Day of School - all grades

Sept. 11: First Day of Hebrew School

Sept. 18: No Hebrew School - Rosh Hashanah

Oct. 2: No Hebrew School: Sukkot

Oct. 8: Consecration and Simchat Torah Celebration in the evening

Oct. 9: No Hebrew School: Simchat Torah

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## RABBI

*(Continued from page 1)*

Class is usually lively and full of energy and there are always more questions than I could ever answer.

If you are interested, please speak to me by Yom Kippur, so I can begin planning for this year's class.

Holly, Naomi, Gabriella & I wish you

and those dear to you a very happy and healthy New Year.

# Oneg and Flowers Sponsors

To sponsor an oneg, purchase pulpit flowers or a fruit basket to be donated to the Greater Berks Food Bank,

call Ellice Gunter at 610-775-4448.

Fruit baskets may be ordered through A.J.'s Baskets in Shillington (610-796-0700) or the vendor of your choice.

## High Holy Days services

Sept. 17 Erev Rosh Hashanah - 8 p.m.

Sept. 18 Rosh Hashanah morning - 10 a.m.

Sept. 23 Annual Cemetery Service, 1 p.m.

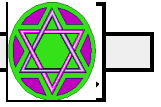
Sept. 26 Yom Kippur Eve - 7 p.m.

Sept. 27 Yom Kippur morning - 9:30 a.m.

Sept. 27 Yom Kippur Afternoon - 2:30 p.m.

Oct. 1 Sukkot Decorating, Dinner 5:30 p.m.

Sukkot Service, 7:00 p.m.



## Sisterhood News

# Watch for exciting activities in works

By Elyse Horowitz

Welcome back! We hope everyone enjoyed their summer. We have many exciting things planned for the Sisterhood this year and we hope everyone will come take part.

We would like to thank everyone for all their help with the Rummage Sale.

A great big thank you to Adrienne Cardinal and Elaine Backer for all the extra effort they put forth to make the event a success.

This fall we will be having a joint Sisterhood meeting. It will be a nice opportunity for all of us to get together with our friends from Kesher Zion and

Shomrei Habrith.

Here are a few dates to remember: Our donor Lunch is March 19 and our General Meeting is May 14. So mark your calendars.

On behalf of the Sisterhood I would like to wish you and your families a very happy Rosh Hashanah. May everyone's

## Thank you everyone for a successful Rummage Sale

By Adrienne Cardinal  
and Elaine Backer

We owe the success of our Rummage Sale to all the members of our congregation who generously donated their goods, time and efforts. Thank you all for volunteering.

Special thanks go out to our full-time crew of Sue Wolfe, Sharon Scullin,

Norma Beckerman, Cindy and Brian Schuchart, Lauren, Jordan and Alexander Cardinal, Lynn and Andy Bates, Beth and Jonathan Bruck, Brian Chwiecko and Lucy Lott, who all worked above and beyond the call of duty.

Special thanks also goes to Evelyn Goodman and her phone squad. Another

"delicious" thank you goes out to those of you who donated their tasty baked goods.

The Rummage Sale is a combined effort of the Sisterhood and our entire congregation. Our continued success depends upon ALL OF YOUR HELP. Volunteering can be fun! We need you to help and will be looking for you next

## All invited to share in fellowship at Men's Club

By Marshall Azrael

*Men's Club President*

On behalf of the Temple Men's Club, I wish a Happy New Year to you and your family. The Men's Club will sponsor nine breakfasts this year on the third Sunday, September through May. All congregants and friends, male and female, are welcome.

Our meetings are scheduled concurrent with the religious school, 9:30 a.m. on Sunday. This way we can share lox and

bagels, while we schmooze with our friends. At most meetings there will be a guest speaker. I look forward to seeing you. Please call me if you have any questions or suggestions.

Our officers are:

Marshall Azrael, President  
Sidney Symons, Vice President  
Milton Mendelsohn, Treasurer  
Arthur Becker, Past President

5762 Men's Club Schedule,  
Third Sundays,

Sept. 16, 2001

Oct. 21, 2001

Nov. 18, 2001

Dec. 16, 2001

Jan. 20, 2002

Feb. 17, 2002

Mar. 17, 2002

Apr. 21, 2001

May 19, 2001

### NEWSLETTER STAFF

Mark Nemirow—Editor

Sidney L. Symons—Advertising/  
Sponsorships Manager

*To get an item in the bulletin, call Mark at  
610-370-2533 (Marknem@aol.com) or the  
Temple office, 610-375-6043.*

**Deadline for the next issue is Sept 5.  
This is the final issue until September.**

When visiting the Sisterhood Gift Shop, please ask Donna about the new items from OFAR Enterprises.

The proprietors of OFAR Enterprises are Yoni and Lorri Oziri, new members of Temple Oheb Sholom. Yoni and Lorri import fine art, specialty items and crafts from



### 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 Harriet Baskin and Matthew Goldstan in honor of their work as outstanding volunteers with the Literacy Council of Reading/Berks**  
Nancy Knoblauch.

**To Dick and Maxine Henry in memory of Jane Henry**  
Carole and Irv Beck and family

**To Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Fromm in honor of their granddaughter Hannah's Bat Mitzvah**  
Maxine and Dick Henry

**To Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Goldberg in memory of Robert Goldberg**  
Carole and Irv Beck.

**To Sheila Strunk for her recovery**

Bob and Kaye Ullman.  
**To Sue and Herb Wachs in honor of Beth and Howard's marriage**  
Sylvia Schiff.

**In memory of Jane Henry**  
Sylvia H. Gross.

**In honor of our second wedding anniversary**  
Jon and Kathie Wachs

**To Dr. James Beck in honor of his many achievements**  
Carole and Irv Beck and family.

**Wishing everyone a happy and healthy New Year**  
Saul "Marty" Miller

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund In memory of Morton Gumpel Barbara Stein

**In honor of Samantha's Bat Mitzvah**  
Melissa & Alan Schlechter

**In honor of Andy Beckerman's college graduation**  
Harriet Baskin

**In honor of Edith & Milt Mendelsohn's new home**  
Harriet Baskin

**In honor of Marilyn Frank's award from the Greater Berks Food Bank**  
Harriet Baskin

### Landscaping Fund

**To Gene and Shirley Friedman in memory of Pauline G. Friedman**  
Murry and Nancy Knoblauch.

**To David Kozloff in honor of his recent achievement**  
Leo and Iris Lonker.

**Yahrzeit in remembrance of Viola Schneider**  
Murry and Nancy Knoblauch

**To Hilde Gernsheimer in honor of her birthday**  
Evelyn Wolff

**To Beth and Bob Bruck in honor of graduations of Evan, Ronni and Jonathan**  
The Rosenzweig family.

**To Andy and Judy Ellsworth in honor of graduations of Jessica, Diana and Michael**  
The Rosenzweig family.

**To Dr. and Mrs. Peter Schwartz in honor of graduations of Seth, Lael and Drew**  
The Rosenzweig family

**To Sam Frankel in honor of the debut of his opera**  
Sylvia Schiff.

**To Dr. and Mrs. Michael**

**Perilstein in honor of Mindy and Jeff's engagement**  
Sue and Herb Wachs.

**To Barbara Stein in memory of her brother, Morton Gumpel**  
Dr. Sandra Rowan  
Stuart and Carol Cohn

**To David and Nancy Dickson in honor of their birthdays and wedding anniversary**  
David and Jeri Kozloff

**their new home**  
Edith Blanck.

**To Al and Melissa Schlechter in honor of Samantha's Bar Mitzvah**  
The Kastenbaum family.

**Yahrzeit in memory of William Stern**  
Edythe Stern.  
Bernard and Jane Sher.

**To Barbara Stein in memory of her brother Morton Gumpel**  
Sally and Bob Gilbert  
Lou and Lucy Lott and family  
Sylvia Schiff

**Greater Temple Fund**  
**To Edythe Stern in honor of her special birthday**  
Honey and Sy Youngerman  
Sidney Bratt

**In celebration of our anniversary**  
Jane and Bernard Sher

**To Paul Kozloff to honor his generosity and kindness to the Temple and community**  
Jason and Nancy Geisinger

**Yahrzeit in memory of father Philip Roda**  
Edythe Stern

**To Raie and Jerry Fogelman in honor of their 50th**

**wedding anniversary**  
Dorothy and Howard Goldwasser  
Jill and Miles Goodman  
Cousins Yetta and Ed Fishkin  
Evelyn and Peter Brauer  
Julius and Helen Raicer  
Sidney Bratt  
Grace and Sol Shapiro  
Barb, Ed and Ryan Butz  
Mae Kivert and Don and Maxine Klein  
Gerald and Georgia Fogelson

**Thank you to all who remembered us on our 25th wedding anniversary**  
Sally and Bob Gilbert.

**To Milt and Edith Mendelsohn in honor of**

### Arthur Hammel Endowment Fund

**In memory of Hanna Goldsmith**  
Donald and H. Anne Kelly

### Social Action Fund

(as of 8/16/01 we have raised \$980)

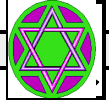
Clara Leary Richard & Carmen Fisher  
Louise Wiener Helen Rappoport  
Leah Levin Allison & Kurt Althouse  
Tom Lynn Maxine & Richard Henry  
Frances & Larry Gross Elvina Comess  
Lois & Irvin Cohen  
Nan Kurlancheek Ruth & Irvin Balis  
Lynn & Jeff Driben Jane & Bernie Sher  
Barbara & Roy Schwartz

### Birthday Greetings

Lynn Salpeter  
Nancy Knoblauch  
Harriet Baskin  
Edith Mendelsohn

### Birthday Greetings/Sunshine Fund

Every Sisterhood member is sent a special birthday message. Send donations to:  
Adrienne Cardinal  
907 Brighton Ave.



## Social Action News

# Many opportunities to help others

**By Jack Gernsheimer**

The Social Action Committee will be hosting a Bingo Hour for residents of the third floor at Manor Care in Laureldale at 1:30 on Saturday, August 25. Members of the congregation are urged to join us for future events.

Nancy Knoblauch has been active in the Black/Jewish Dialog Group, and will be loaning copies of "A Place at the Table", a video recently produced by The Southern Poverty Law Center. For more information, call Nancy at 610-779-0858.

The committee will be joining other congregations in a project to paint the façade of Reading's Planned Parenthood Center, which has been defaced by vandals. For more details on that event, which is preliminarily

scheduled for the fall, call Planned Parenthood at 610-376-8061.

Tom Lynn and Michelle Mart have been involved in drafting a letter on behalf of the Social Action Committee, supporting gun control initiatives. In addition to submitting the letter to the *Reading Eagle/Times* for publication, plans are being discussed to produce an ad jointly sponsored by a number of local congregations. Partners Design will design and produce the ad.

A copy of Berks Talkline's extensive Social Services Guide will be kept in the Temple office, and will be accessible to all Temple members.

The Social Action Committee will be conducting the Shabbat service on Friday

evening, Oct. 19.

Anyone interested in helping to paint the Berks Emergency Shelter, please contact Tom Lynn at 610-927-2711 or at [tjl7@psu.edu](mailto:tjl7@psu.edu).

Anyone interested in joining this vibrant group is invited to attend meetings at the Temple on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Due to Rosh Hashanah, this month's meeting will be Sept. 25.

Those who would like to be involved in specific projects can call the Temple office for more information.

## PRESIDENT

*(Continued from page 1)*

chaired by Jeri Kozloff is this year's Food Festival. The food festival will be held on October 28th. Mark your calendars now and come out and support the Temple.

The last major project going on right

now at the Temple is the Dedication / Memorial Plaques for our Temple. Jeff Gernsheimer is committee chair for this project. He and the committee members are working hard in getting the memorial and dedications up on the wall.

I would like to thank all the members

for returning their questionnaire for our Temple Database. By giving us the updated information we will be able to serve members in a more productive manner.

## Perpetual Memorials

### September 7

Jack Loeb Stein  
Rosa Weil  
Alan Baskin  
Dr. Joseph A. Liefert  
Osker Hekler  
Dr. James Holzman  
Anna Stern

### September 14

Solly Gernsheimer  
Robert Katz  
Sadie Gilberts  
Josephine Katz

### September 21

Florence E. Frank  
Marsha Salpeter  
Bertha Whiteson  
Lawrence Diamond  
Sitta Goldstein  
Joseph Marcus  
Sara Holzman

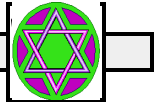
### September 28

Isabel Sondheim  
Bertha Eisman  
N. John Kelner  
Samuel B. Cohen  
Theresa R. Cohn  
Charlotte F. Levy



# Sisterhood Florence Frank Offering Fund

- Congratulations to Dr. & Mrs. Scott Bram on the birth of their new son**  
Mrs. Harriet Baskin  
Mrs. Vivian Polter  
Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Symons  
Mr. & Mrs. Milton Mendelsohn
- Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Mendelsohn on the engagement of their son Howard**  
Mrs. Harriet Baskin
- For a speedy recovery to Marjorie Leisawitz**  
Mrs. Harriet Baskin
- Good luck to Mr. & Mrs. Milton Mendelsohn on their new residence**  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Schlanger  
Hilda Yablin & Ted Roeborg  
Mr. & Mrs. Murry Knoblauch  
Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Frank
- To Mr. & Mrs. Milton Mendelsohn on their granddaughter's graduation from high school**  
Hilda Yablin & Ted Roeborg
- To Ms. Judith Mendelsohn on graduation from high school**  
Hilda Yablin & Ted Roeborg
- To Mrs. Judith Kraines on the death of her mother**  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Schlanger  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sherman
- Good luck to Ruth Brok on her new residence**  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sherman  
Mr. & Mrs. William Meyers  
Mrs. Ruth Goldser
- Good luck to Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Kurlansik in their new home**  
Mrs. Rhoda Rosenberg  
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman
- Congratulations to Dr. & Mrs. Herbert Wachs on their daughter's wedding**  
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Diamond
- A speedy recovery to Ronald Weitz**  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sherman
- A speedy recovery to Larry Schlanger**  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sherman
- Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman
- Congratulations to Phyllis Schlanger on her special birthday**  
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sherman
- Happy anniversary to Mr. & Mrs. Dwight Macintosh**  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sherman
- Congratulations to Hilde Gernsheimer on her special birthday**  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Jacobson
- Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Meyer Weiner on Sam's graduation from medical school**  
Dr. & Mrs. Eric Zelnick  
Mrs. Harriet Baskin
- Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Martin Beckerman on Erica's graduation from high school**  
Dr. & Mrs. Eric Zelnick  
Mrs. Harriet Baskin
- Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bruck on Jon's graduation from high school**  
Dr. & Mrs. Eric Zelnick  
Mrs. Harriet Baskin
- Congratulations to Dr. & Mrs. Michael Perilstein on Mindy's graduation from college**  
Dr. & Mrs. Eric Zelnick  
Mrs. Harriet Baskin
- Congratulations to Dr. & Mrs. Michael Perilstein on Philip's graduation from medical school**  
Dr. & Mrs. Eric Zelnick  
Mrs. Harriet Baskin
- Congratulations to Brett Lutz on his confirmation**  
Mr. & Mrs. Murry Knoblauch
- Welcome home to Phyllis Schlanger on her trip to Italy**  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sherman
- To Dr. & Mrs. Eugene Mendelsohn in memory of his brother Lester**  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sherman
- To Mrs. Fern Mendelsohn in memory of her husband, Lester**
- Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sherman
- To Mrs. Hannah Lazin in memory of her brother Lester**  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sherman
- To Joseph Sherman for a speedy recovery**  
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Schlanger  
Mrs. Sue Wolfe  
Mrs. Edythe Stern
- To Mr. & Mrs. Kenn Spinrad on the graduation of their children from high school**  
Mrs. Harriet Baskin
- To Mr. & Mrs. David Bender on their son's graduation from high school**  
Mrs. Harriet Baskin
- To Frances Rosenberg in memory of her sister Dora**  
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sherman  
Mrs. Vivian Polter  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brok  
Mrs. Hilda Yablin and Ted Roeborg  
Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Symons  
Mrs. Ruth Goldser  
Mrs. Edith Blanck  
Mrs. Sue Wolfe
- To Mr. & Mrs. Malcolm Rosenthal in memory of his sister Betty Crystal**  
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sherman  
Mr. & Mrs. Lionel Asher  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brok  
Mrs. Hilda Yablin & Ted Roeborg
- To Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Rosenthal in memory of his sister Betty Crystal**  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sherman  
Mrs. Vivian Polter  
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman  
Mr. & Mrs. Lionel Asher  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brok  
Mrs. Hilda Yablin & Ted Roeborg  
Mrs. Sue Wolfe  
Mrs. Edythe Stern  
Mrs. Bella Blau
- To welcome home Mrs. Leah Levin**  
Mrs. & Mrs. Joseph Sherman
- To Mr. & Mrs. Dan Tannenbaum on their wedding anniversary**  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sherman
- To Mr. Ronald Weitz on his Bar Mitzvah**  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sherman
- To Dr. & Mrs. Michael Perilstein on the engagement of their daughter Mindy**  
Dr. & Mrs. Eric Zelnick  
Mrs. Harriet Baskin
- To Mrs. Barbara Stein on the death of her brother**  
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman  
Mr. & Mrs. Irvin Balis  
Mrs. Vivian Polter  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sherman  
Mrs. Ruth Goldser  
Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Frank  
Mr. & Mrs. Murry Knoblauch  
Dr. & Mrs. Eric Zelnick
- To Ronald Weitz on his birthday**  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sherman
- Glad you are feeling better to Joseph Sherman**  
Mr. & Mrs. Murry Knoblauch
- To Fay Spitz for a speedy recovery**  
Mr. & Mrs. Irvin Balis
- To Joseph Schlanger for a speedy recovery**  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sherman  
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman
- To Mrs. Vivian Polter for a speedy recovery**  
Mr. & Mrs. Irvin Balis
- To Mrs. Mildred Meyers for a speedy recovery**  
Mrs. Ruth Goldser  
Mrs. Edythe Stern  
Mrs. Sue Wolfe
- To Sadie Schwartz in memory of her sister-in-law**  
Mrs. Ruth Goldser
- To Kyle & Rachel Spinrad on their graduation from high school**  
Mr. & Mrs. Morris Abramson
- To Mrs. Susan Davis and her family in memory of her father, George Grossman**
- Mr. & Mrs. Murry Knoblauch
- To Sue Briskin in honor of her receiving the League of Women Voters Leadership Award**  
Mr. & Mrs. Murry Knoblauch
- To Mr. & Mrs. David Moyer on their new home**  
Mrs. Ruth Goldser
- To Tara Ullman on her graduation**  
Mr. & Mrs. Morris Abramson
- To Ben Robinson on his graduation**  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenn Spinrad
- To Jennifer Daniels on her graduation**  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenn Spinrad
- To Jeff Bender on his graduation**  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenn Spinrad
- To Malcolm Spinrad for a speedy recovery**  
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Diamond
- To Sue Viener for a speedy recovery**  
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman  
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Diamond  
Dr. & Mrs. Eric Zelnick  
Mrs. Harriet Baskin  
Mrs. Sylvia Schiff
- To Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Sher for a speedy recovery of their daughter**  
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Diamond
- To Mrs. Sheila Gordon and family in memory of her husband**  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Silverstein  
Mr. & Mrs. Barry Baker
- To Mr. & Mrs. Davey Goldsmith and family in memory of Hanna Goldsmith**  
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Schlanger  
Mrs. Vivian Polter  
Mr. & Mrs. Irvin Balis  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sherman  
Mr. & Mrs. Naum Ger
- To Mr. & Mrs. Richard Yashek in memory of Hanna Goldsmith**  
Dr. & Mrs. Eric Zelnick
- Many thanks for the good wishes for Joe's eye surgery**



# A matter of commitment

**By Ira Gelman**

At the very end of July a notice arrived from the JCC announcing a "solidarity rally" to be held Sunday, Sept. 23, in Manhattan. Feeling the extreme importance of this was the impetus of putting some of my thoughts down in the newsletter. I ended up having a very enjoyable conversation with another member of our congregation about trying to get as many members from Oheb as we could to attend this rally.

As we were talking about this issue, I realized that this was not about simply attending a rally, but about making a commitment. I firmly believe that a person greatly defines who they are by where they put their time and effort. Donating money is nice, but for some people, donating money is not a major problem; getting a person to commit themselves and give their time is.

How many people fill not only our congregation but other congregations as well during the High Holy Days across

the U.S. and then rarely, if ever, step foot in another service during the rest of the year?

I always remember a certain discussion I had a number of years back with a hasidic rabbi. He began his talk with the group I was with by stating that he was not necessarily more religious than any of us just because he was a hasidic rabbi, but that he was simply more observant than us. That statement had a great impact on me and I gave his words and opinions much thought as a result.

I am not trying to say that our "religiousness" or "goodness" is defined by the number of services one attends, but I personally would feel like an extreme hypocrite and empty person if the only time I ever attended a service was during the High Holy Days.

What message do we send our children when we as parents "insist" that they attend services on High Holy Days or to simply fulfill a quota set for Bar/Bat Mitzvah or confirmation and then disappear for the rest of the year? All of us are busy. This is not about "being

holier than thou"; it is about defining who we are by our actions, by giving our time and energy when maybe it is not the most convenient for us.

I would hope that the security and peace for the nation of Israel is high on all of our lists of importance and prayers. This is not about politics or agreeing/disagreeing; going to the solidarity rally on Sunday, Sept 23, sends a message to Israel, to the world, to our own politicians that we are committed to the survival of our homeland.

Buses will be leaving the JCC sometime around 8:30 a.m. Sunday and will return to the JCC at about 6:30 p.m. There will be a \$5 cost per person to cover the expenses of the buses going. As of early August, the JCC was planning on two buses. I hope these two buses and maybe even a third are filled to capacity. I hope we help define who we are not by donating money or "talking," but by how we invest our time. This is a wonderful opportunity to show our children as well as ourselves what is really important to all of us.

## Help an adult learn to read

The Literacy Council of Reading-Berks will host a two session/six hour new tutor orientation for those who wish to assist an adult learner reach his/her literacy goals. The orientation will be held at the Literacy Council's office in West Lawn on Sept. 22 and 29 and Nov. 10 and 17.

For more information about this exciting and rewarding volunteer opportunity, or to register for the orientation, call (610) 670-9960

**Standing With Israel Now and Forever  
Solidarity Rally, Sunday, Sept. 23 at Noon  
2nd Ave. at 47th St., New York City  
Buses leaving Reading JCC at 8 a.m. RSVP by Sept. 10.  
Call Jewish Federation at 610-921-2766 for info.**



## New Building Fund

**To Judith Kraines and Dr. Neil Hoffman in memory of Sylvia Miller Kraines**  
Conrad and Ruth Heisman  
Edith H. Gilman

**Yahrzeit in remembrance of Catherine Hrabak**  
Ronald and Sharon Hrabak.

**To Mel and Eileen Senger in memory of their son Jeffrey**  
Judy and Lee Katz.

**To Ruth and Paul Eisenberg in memory of their daughter Laura**  
Judy and Lee Katz.

**To Sue Wolfe in honor of being named JFS's Volunteer of the Year**  
The Ueberroth Family.

**In honor of our 25th wedding anniversary**  
Bob and Sally Gilbert

**To Sylvia Schiff in honor**

**of the college graduation of grandson Evan Schiff**  
Harriett Baskin.

**To Raie and Jerry Fogelman in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary**

Richard and Rosalye Yashek  
Harriet Baskin  
Elaine and Paul Saif  
Tama Fogelman  
Mark Fogelman  
Emory Davis  
Dr. and Mrs. William Levin  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Thometz

**To Raie and Jerry Fogelman in honor of their granddaughter's Bat Mitzvah**  
Elaine and Paul Safir

**To Hill Kutscher, Andy Beckerman, Erica Beckerman, Rachel Spinrad and Kyle Spinrad in honor of their recent graduations**

The Bender family.

**To Edythe Stern in honor of her special birthday**  
Paul and Ruth Isenberg  
Marilyn and Gerry Frank  
Ruth Brok

**To Ruth Brok in honor of her new home**  
Richard and Rosalye Yashek

**To Milton and Edith Mendelsohn in honor of their years of dedication to the Bridge Room**  
Richard and Rosalye Yashek.

**To Dr. Scott and Linda Bram in honor of the birth of their son Aaron**  
Lisa and Bill Ueberroth.  
Norma, Marty, Andy and Erica Beckerman  
Ruth Brok.

**To Beth and Bob Bruck in honor of the graduations**

**of Evan, Ronni and Jonathan**  
The Bender family.

**To Dr. Samuel Weiner in honor of his graduation from medical school**  
The Abramson family.

**To Joseph Sherman for a speedy recovery**  
Richard and Rosalye Yashek  
Phyllis Schlanger

**Thank you to all my wonderful friends for their good wishes on my special birthday**  
Etta Burns.

**To Etta Burns in honor of her special birthday**  
Evelyn and Edward Drezner.

**To Sam and Patricia Frankel in honor of Sam's opera**  
Harriet Baskin.

**To Hilde Gernsheimer in memory of her brother-in-law**  
George and Sue Viener.

**To Barbara Stein in memory of her brother, Morton Gumpel**  
Sue and Herb Wachs  
Barbara Nazimov  
Judith M. Hartman  
Doris Kelsey

**To Milt and Edith Mendelsohn with best wishes in their new home and in honor of their bridge club work**  
George and Sue Viener

**To Sheila Strunk with best wishes for a speedy recovery**  
Marilyn and Gerald Frank

**Yahrzeit in memory of Matilda Miller and Martha Miller Hoffman**  
Saul "Marty" Miller

## Landscaping Garden of Eden Fund

**To Edythe Stern, in honor of her 90th birthday**  
Art and Mary Ann Becker

**In honor of Holly L. Springer's miraculous recovery**  
Bernard and Jane Sher  
Clara Leary

**In memory of Nancy's parents, Henry and Viola Schneider**  
Murry and Nancy Knoblauch

**In honor of grandchildren Judith and Beth Mendelsohn and Daniel Hollingshead**  
Edith and Milton Mendelsohn.

**In memory of parents Emanuel and Pauline Friedman**  
Gene and Shirley Friedman.

**In memory of Janet Goldstan and H. Robert Goldstan**  
Phyllis C. Goldstan.

**In memory of William J. Luria**  
Mrs. William J. Luria

**In memory of Philip and Rose Knoblauch**  
Murry and Nancy Knoblauch.

**In memory of Hanna Goldsmith**  
Phyllis Schlanger  
Stuart and Carol Cohn

**In honor of the Gernsheimer family**

Nancy Wolff.

**In memory of Dr. Comess**  
Elvina P. Comess.

**Yahrzeit in memory of Alan Baskin**  
Harriet Baskin

**To Sue Viener and Adam Viener with wishes for good health**  
Stuart and Carol Cohn

Shirley K. Jacobs  
Religious School Fund

**To Barbara and Dave Bender in honor of the graduations of Michele and Jeffrey**  
Beth and Bob Bruck.

**To Shirley Jacobs in honor of her 40 plus years of uninterrupted service**  
Murry and Nancy Knoblauch.

**To Edythe Stern in celebration of her 90th birthday**  
Rich and Ellice Gunter  
Randy and Esta Neugroschel.

**In honor of Holly Michelson, Dr. Felice Stern and Eve Pardo**  
Kaylin and Erik Sigal.

Joseph and Carlyn Liefster  
Religious School Fund

**To Brian and Holly Michelson, in honor of Gabriella's birthday**  
Bonnie Friedman and Cantor Gerald Miller

**To Brian and Holly Michelson, in memory of Nat Weisbaum and Devera Gutterman**  
Bonnie Friedman and Cantor Gerald Miller.

Morton and Louise Wolper  
Education Fund

**To Sue and Herb Wachs and Beth and Howard Mortman in honor of Beth & Howard's marriage**  
Rabbi Brian and Holly Michelson.

Library Fund  
**To Edythe Stern in honor of her special birthday**  
Rachel and David Yaffee

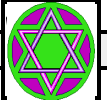
Temple Music Fund  
**To Edythe Stern on her special birthday**  
Sue Wolfe

**To Iris and Leon Lonker in honor of their wedding anniversary**  
The Pardo Family

**To Malcolm Rosenthal in memory of his sister, Betty Crystal**  
Sylvia Schiff.

**Yahrzeit in memory of Lawrence (Larry) Stein**  
Mark and Blanche Stein

**To Raie and Jerry Fogelman on their 50th wedding anniversary**  
Beverly and Seymour Bloom

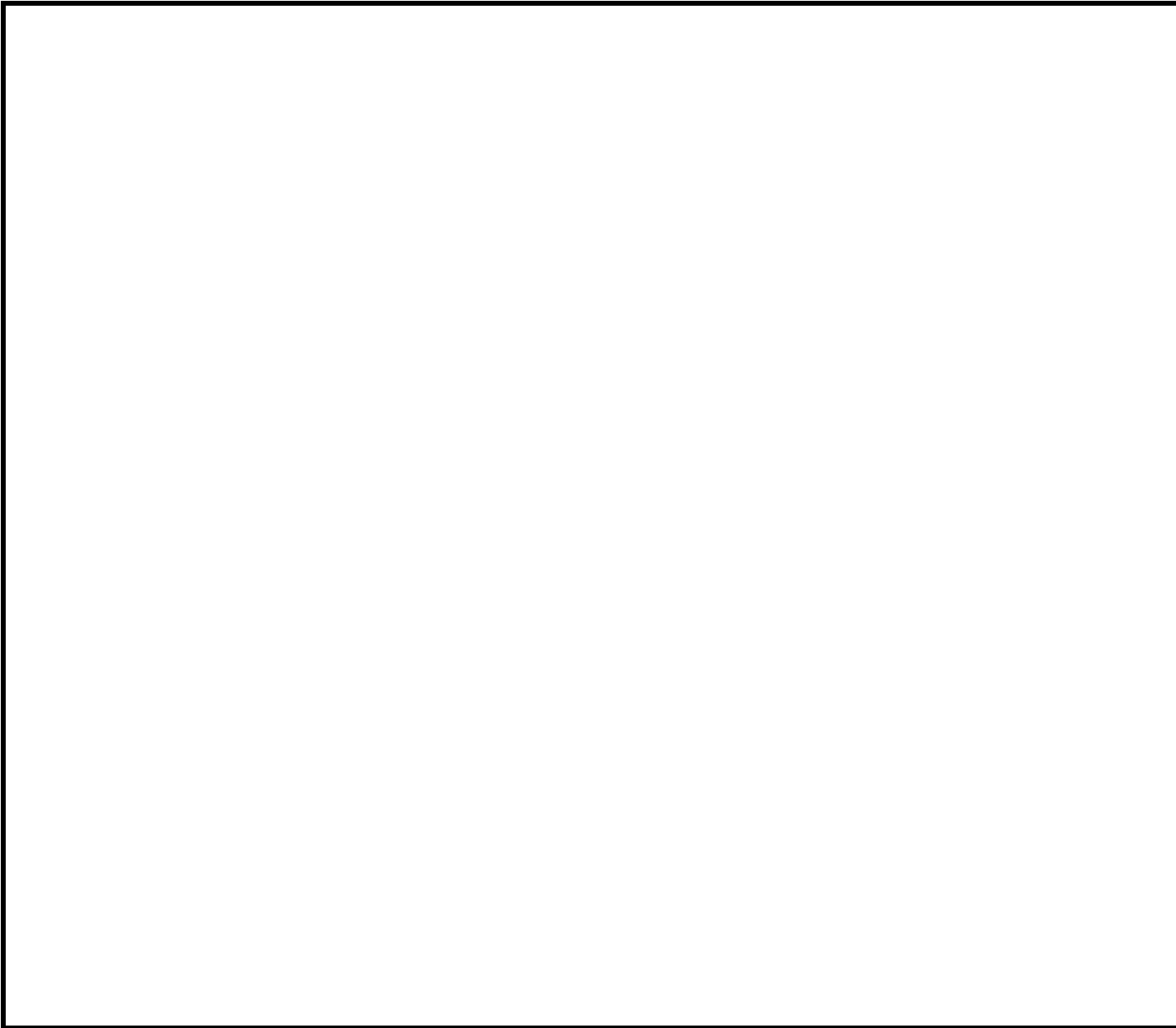


## Enjoy chance to host student cantor

Get to know our new student cantor, Jill Abramson, while you provide a place for her to stay while serving our Temple. You will find Jill to be a delightful young woman.

Our student cantor arrives by bus on Friday and leaves on Sunday. Please consider hosting her for the weekend. We have tried to keep to the first weekend of each month.

You will need to provide transportation, lodging and meals (meals do not need to be kosher). Please call Jeri Kozloff at 610- 373-4400 or Lynn in the Temple Office.





## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Breastfeeding mother gets support

**To the Editor,**

My first reaction upon reading the article titled "Complaints about breastfeeding hurtful" in the May/June issue of "Our Temple" was anger mixed with incredulity. How, in a day and age when gratuitous vulgarity and lewdness abound on ubiquitous television, in movies, in advertising everywhere, and on the Internet (so I'm told — I'm not a user), could anyone in her/his right mind be offended by the sweet and gentle, hamish sight of a nursing mother????!!

A rambunctious child or the nonstop squealing of an infant — yes — these can be truly disturbing in a religious service. Changing a stinky diaper in a pew during a service would be cause for real distress in the congregation. But nursing a baby? No way!

But upon reflection I began to see "the other hand" (as in "... on the other ...") Modesty is a highly valued commodity in traditional Judaism. So is following the rules set by the society in which one lives. Quite a few of us who are members of Congregation Oheb Shalom grew up with enforced modesty and rules of conduct quite different from the permissive ways

that followed World War II.

The same persons who find the sight of a nursing mother in our midst at services disturbing are also mightily offended by the aforementioned gratuitous lewdness and vulgarity that abounds today.

What I would suggest to them is that they re-evaluate and try to make a generous distinction between what is healthy, normal behavior that ought to be accepted and encouraged in our society (i. e. nursing babies in public) and that which is, indeed, vulgar, lewd and ought not to be imposed upon us.

b'Shalom,

**Nancy J. Knoblauch**

**Dear Editor,**

Concerning the letter from Michelle Mart in the last Temple Bulletin, I do not think that what she did was wrong. On numerous occasions I have sat right next to Michelle when she was nursing Tobias and at no time did I see or hear anything that was unseemly or immodest.

I do believe that decorum should prevail at our synagogue, but from my perspective a mother quietly and

modestly nursing her baby when he is hungry does not violate decorum, whether or not a shawl is used.

Yes, we can all see that nursing is the activity in which Michelle is partially engaged (I say *partially* because Michelle also concentrates on the service itself), and that is true whether she is using a shawl or not.

It seems to me quite beautiful, and in the spirit of Jewish reverence for life, that our services include, among many other people, a nursing baby and his mother. And unless there is some flagrant breach of modesty, I don't think such a life-affirming activity needs to be so energetically covered over, at services or elsewhere, as to demand a shawl. Such an idea could possibly further influence parents of very young children -- who are already heavily burdened -- to stay away from services.

L'Chaim!

Sincerely,  
Tom Lynn

Thank you to all who sent contributions to the Temple in honor of my special birthday! — Edythe Stern

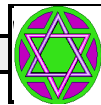
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