



Our Temple

September 2002

Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom

Vol. 39 No. 1

Notes from the President

Get ready for a busy September

By Ellen Azrael
President

As the High Holidays rapidly approach my family and I wish you all a very happy new year. For many of us this is a time when we get to see people we haven't seen for an entire year. Some of

the faces are familiar, but we can't remember names. There are often faces in the crowd that we don't recognize. These are just a few of the reasons why we ask you to wear nametags for the holidays. As you enter the sanctuary the ushers will be looking for your nametag.

The nametag is your "ticket" into the service. All registered guests will have a nametag awaiting them. If you cannot find your nametag, there will be someone to assist you.

September is always very busy. That's
(Continued on page 3)

From the Rabbi's Study

A delicious Mitzvah

Every once in a while I worry that we end up doing things backwards. Sometimes, it feels as if we have turned Jewish tradition on its head in ways that were never intended. We challenge the inherent logic of much of Jewish tradition. Let me give you an example.

**Rabbi Brian
Michelson**

Jewish tradition says that it is a Mitzvah for friends, family and members of the community to gather after a funeral for what is known as the "Seudat Havra'ah--Meal of Healing/Consolation." This was understood as the community's obligation to make sure that the mourner was not alone for this first meal and the community would rally around the mourners and provide enough food to feed the family, and anyone who joined

them, for days. Now, I speak with bereaved families who are worried about calling the caterer and making sure that there is enough food to serve everyone. They worry about plates, napkins and cutlery instead of taking care of themselves and their families at such a difficult time. I think we have lost something through this transfer of responsibility from community to mourners.

It was with this scenario and others in mind that we have created the new Mitzvah meal program. This program helps us to supply food (either as trays or frozen meals) to members who are dealing with difficult times; whether it is the death of a loved one, the return home from the hospital, caring for someone who is dying or coming home with a new

baby. At some point, we will all face these difficult times and I believe it is important that people know that their synagogue—their community—will be there to stand by them.

For this program to work, however, I need your help. First, I need your help preparing meals that can easily be frozen. Simply label the item and don't forget to include an ingredient list in case of food allergies. There is a small supply of containers available from the office. By the end of September, there will be a list of suggested recipes available.

The second way you can help is even easier. The office is now selling strips that are good for a variety of products from Panera Bread at Broadcasting Square Shopping Center. The strips are nine dollars each and our Mitzvah meal program makes \$4.50 on every one. These funds will help us supply a simple tray of food for after a funeral, baby naming or bris. It may not be enough to feed a large crowd, but it does show that, as a Temple family, we care and that we take our obligation as a community seriously.

September Highlights

Fri-Sun, Sept. 6-8: Rosh Hashanah services (see page 3)

Sunday, Sept. 15: Memorial Service and Kol Nidre (see page 3)

Monday, Sept. 16: Yom Kippur services (see page 3)

Friday, Sept. 20: Sukkot observance (see page 3)

Sunday, Sept. 22: Men's Club, 9:30 a.m.

Friday, Sept. 27: Simchat Torah and Consecration, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 28: Bat Mitzvah of Brooke Gunter, 5:30 p.m.

Friday night services at 7:45 unless otherwise noted

Babysitting available at all services

Bulletin sponsored by

Trudy Katz

in memory of Fred Katz



Religious School News

Learn as a family before school year begins

By Holly Michelson, RJE
Religious School Administrator

Welcome back to a new school year. This is one of those odd years when it unfortunately makes more sense to begin school after the holidays (or most of them). This means that the "learning" part of the celebration of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is missed to some extent. On the positive side, it means that the family as a whole has an even greater responsibility and privilege of learning, reflecting, remembering and rejoicing together. One possible topic to reflect upon and discuss: It is traditional to give tzedakah - a donation of money to a worthy cause - before lighting the holiday candles. This signifies our intention of

leading a good life in the year to come. Before the holidays begin, have a family conversation about the causes and groups your family wants to support with tzedakah during the coming year. For other suggestions of family activities for the Days of Awe, look for the "Jewish Parent Page" that will be available at the children's service on Second Day Rosh Hashanah. Internet savvy families can try www.virtualjerusalem.com/judaism/holidays.

Please be sure to join us on Friday, Sept. 20 at 5:30 for sukkah decorating, a light dinner and services. You can even bring a friend. After all, one of the main themes of Sukkot is welcoming guests, new friends and old ones.

On Sept. 27 at 7 p.m. we will be beginning our celebration of Simchat Torah with the formal welcoming, Consecration, of our new students to their religious education. This service is not just for Religious School families. It is for everyone. Welcome, and have a good sweet year.

Teaser: Watch in October for news of camp...

Important Dates:

Sunday, Sept. 22: First Day Religious School 9 a.m. for grades Pre/K through 7th; 10:30 for Confirmation Class

Tuesday, Sept. 24: First Day of Hebrew School. Class begins at 4:15.

Saturday, Sept. 28: Bat Mitzvah of Brooke Gunter

Men's Club News

Friendly monthly breakfasts open to everyone

By Marshall Azrael
Men's Club president

Your Temple Men's Club, wishes Happy New Year to you and your family. The Men's Club will sponsor nine breakfasts this year, most on the third Sunday, September through May. Everyone, male and female, and friends are welcome. The meetings are scheduled concurrent with the religious

school, 9:30 A.M. on Sundays. So, you can save a trip home while we share lox and bagels and schmooze with friends. At most meetings there will be a guest speaker.

This will be an election year for the Men's Club; so, the current officers are looking for new leaders and committeemen. Let me know which position you are interested in . . . to chart

the future course for your men's Club!

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
5763 Men's Club Schedule, Sundays Sept. 22; Oct. 20; Nov. 10; Dec. 15; Jan.

Oneg and flowers sponsors

Friday, Sept. 6 (Rosh Hashanah): Pulpit flowers provided by Mr. & Mrs. Irvin Balis in memory of Mrs. Balis' parents, Bessie and Morris Knoblauch. Oneg sponsored by Sisterhood

Friday, Sept. 27: Pulpit flowers and oneg will be provided by Ellice and Rich Gunter in honor of their daughter Brooke's Bat Mitzvah.

Sept. 15 and 16 (Yom Kippur) The pulpit flowers for Yom Kippur are provided by the Wiener family in memory of Thomas Wiener.

To sponsor flowers, a food basket or oneg, call Ellice Gunter at 610-775-

Jewish Food Festival 2002

Needs YOU!!!!

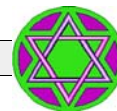
Make a Jewish New Year's resolution to:

Save the date, Sunday, Oct. 27.

Volunteer - cook, bake, serve, greet.

**Sell tickets to friends, colleagues, neighbors
Come and enjoy the food, entertainment, and
fellowship.**

Consult your Food Festival packet for details.



HIGH HOLY DAYS SCHEDULE

Rosh Hashanah

Friday, Sept. 6, 8 p.m. service

Saturday, Sept. 7, 10 a.m. service

Sunday, Sept. 8: Children's service, 10 a.m.;

Tashlich service and family picnic at Gring's Mill, 11:30-2:30

Yom Kippur

Sunday, Sept. 15, Memorial service at Mt. Sinai, 1 p.m.

Kol Nidre service, 8 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 16: Morning service, 9:30 a.m.; Children's service, 1:30 p.m.; Study session, noon-2:15; Afternoon service, 2:30 p.m.

Sukkot

Friday, Sept. 20: Sukkot decorating, dinner and service with installation of Board of Trustees, 5:30 p.m.

Simchat Torah

Sunday, Sept. 27: Simchat Torah service and Consecration, 7 p.m.

Rosh Hashanah Awesome Apple Cranberry Crisp

For a good, sweet year, try this classic comfort food. It's quick and easy and can be made dairy* or pareve.

Ingredients

4 cups sliced tart apples (about 3-4 large Granny Smith)
 about 1/3 cup orange juice 1/4 c dried cranberries
 2-3 cup packed brown sugar 1/2 cup flour
 1/2 cup oats 3/4 tsp. cinnamon 2 dashes nutmeg
 1/3 cup butter or margarine softened
 butter*, margarine, or cooking spray for pan

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Grease 8-inch square pan. Peel (optional) and slice apples and spread apples evenly in the pan. Pour orange juice over the apples. Sprinkle the cranberries over the apples. Combine topping ingredients in small bowl, and mix with knife, fork or pastry cutter until the butter or margarine is in very small pieces and evenly coated. Sprinkle the topping over the apples. Bake at 375 degrees for about 30 minutes or until golden brown, bubbly and crispy.

Serve warm with vanilla ice cream and hot apple cider.

PRESIDENT

(Continued from page 1)

probably why the first Monday is called Labor Day. This year it is especially busy. Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkoth, and Simchat Torah all fall in September. This year for Simchat Torah, Sept. 29, we plan to

add a special event, being promoted by the UAHC, an Israel Schul-In. Throughout the day we will have programs about Israel and the crisis in the Middle East.

Speaking of the UAHC (Union of American Hebrew Congregations – the “parent” organization of Reform congregations), the regional Biennial is in Bethlehem the weekend of Nov. 15-17. To find out what other Reform congregations are doing throughout Pennsylvania and parts of New York and New Jersey, plan on attending this wonderful event. If we have enough interest, we will look into hiring a bus to take us to Bethlehem.

Last year we initiated coffee klatches to discuss things that we could do at the Temple. There were many great ideas brought to the table, and we hope we can institute a few. Most ideas had to do with better servicing the needs of the various

groups within our membership. It appears that identifying what is needed is much easier than to figure out how to do what is needed. This is why creating “Covenants” for our membership is so important. An important part of a covenant is outlining what members are expected to do. We should have this covenant completed before our next annual meeting in June. Anyone not on the Board of Trustees who would like to work on creating covenants, please let the office know.

Throughout the year, if there are Temple issues you wish to discuss, please contact me. I have tried to respond to phone calls, but I know a few slipped through the system. Please accept my apology, if I failed to get back to you over the past year.

As we pass through the “Days of Awe” may we all look back at the past year, celebrating our good deeds, while

NEWSLETTER STAFF

Mark Nemirow—Editor

Sidney L. Symons —
 Advertising/Sponsorships
 Manager

Lynn Bates — Assistant Editor

*To get an item in the bulletin,
 call Mark, 610-370-2533*

(Marknem@aol.com)

or Temple office, 610-375-6043.

Deadline for next issue: Sept 5



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 Janet Cosgrove in memory of her mother, Ruth Kins
Bob & Kaye Ullman

Thank you for all the

contributions at the time of my illness
Kaye Ullman

To Harry Van Tosh and family in memory of Mildred Van Tosh
Maxine & Dick Henry

Thank you for all the uniongrams for our special anniversary
Phyllis & Harold Farber

To Sara Diamond on her special birthday
Diane Kemble Allaire and Ariel Diamond

To Neil Hoffman in honor of being the recipient of the 2002 PA Medical Society Physician award for International Voluntary service

Amy White Berger & Lee Berger
To Lee and Judy Katz in memory of Toni Gutmann
Marlyn & Joel Gilbert

In memory of Mildred and Edward Rosner
Carole & Irv Beck and family

To May Kaplan in memory of her grandson Ben Blutstein
Louise Wiener

Thank you for all the get well cards, flowers and fruit basket during my illness
Lucy Lott

Web site offers Holiday info

The UAHC Web site helps you celebrate and learn about the high holidays. Start at <http://uahc.org/holidays>. The Jewish Parent Page (<http://uahc.org/educate/parent>) has activities for children For holiday music try <http://uahc.org/transmp/>. Commentary on the holiday Torah portions can be found at <http://uahc.org/torah/index.shtml>. Happy browsing!

New Building Fund

To Harlan Kutscher in honor of becoming a Life Trustee
David & Barbara Bender.

To Amy Berger in memory of her mother, Martha Abrahams
Joe & Patty Goldstein
Hilde Gernsheimer & Fred Jakobs
Jeff, Jan, Peter & Graham Gernsheimer
Sue & Herb Wachs

To Ethel Sherman in memory of Joseph
Joe & Patty Goldstein
Kay & McIntosh Families

To Doris Bushman in memory of Lester Bushman
Kay & McIntosh families

To Toby Sherman Sanburg in memory of Ruth Sherman
Kay & McIntosh families

To Mr. and Mrs. A. Miller in memory of Jerry Miller
Rabbi Brian Michelson.

To Marilyn and Gerald Frank in honor of their special anniversary
Sue & George Viener.

To Phyllis and Sid Symons in honor of their special anniversary
Sue & George Viener.

To Harriet Baskin in memory of her father, Samuel Miller
Sue & George Viener.

To Milton and Edith Mendelsohn in honor of their special birthdays
Sue & George Viener
Jane & Bernard Sher

To Dr. and Mrs. Michael Perilstein in honor of the wedding of Mindy Perilstein and Jeffrey Rosen
Rabbi Brian Michelson

In memory of Toni Gutmann
Jim & Shirley Ullman
Jeanne & Norman Winston

To Alan and Melissa Schelchter in memory of father Aaron
Norma & Marty Beckerman
Seth, Barbara, Dana & Michael Rosenzweig

To Ben and Ivy Schlechter in memory of father Aaron
Seth, Barbara, Dana & Michael Rosenzweig

To May and Leon Kaplan in memory of grandson Ben Blutstein
Sally and Bob Gilbert

Music Fund

To Dr. Neil Hoffman with congratulations on his professional achievements
Iris & Leon Lonker

To Hilde Gernsheimer in memory of her sister-in-law Toni Gutmann
Harriet Baskin

In honor of Elaine and Paul Safir's 50th anniversary
Harriet Baskin

Social Action-Soup Kitchen

In memory of Toni Gutmann
Seth, Barbara, Dana & Michael Rosenzweig

Greater Temple Fund

Yahrzeit in memory of Julia Baskin
Harriet Baskin
Yahrzeit in memory of Alan Baskin
Harriet Baskin

To Amy White Berger in memory of her mother, Martha
Edna Pollak

To Amy White Berger in honor of daughter Jessica's wedding
Edna Pollak

New Building Landscaping Fund

To Jeff Sternlieb for a speedy recovery

Carol & Stuart Cohn
Mindy & Rick Small
Seth, Barbara, Dana & Michael Rosenzweig

To Alan and Melissa Schlechter in memory of father Aaron
Carol & Stuart Cohn

To Dr. and Mrs. Michael Perilstein in honor of Mindy and Jeff's wedding

Seth, Barbara, Dana & Michael Rosenzweig

To Alan and Melissa Schlechter and family with best wishes in their new home

The Rosenzweig Family
To May and Leon Kaplan in memory of grandson Ben Blutstein
Stu & Carol Cohn.

In memory of Toni Gutmann
Stu & Carol Cohn

Shirley K. Jacobs Religious School Fund

In honor of the birthdays of Rabbi Brian and Naomi Michelson
Bonnie Friedman & Cantor Gerald Miller

In memory of Irving Rose, grandfather of Holly and Brian Michelson, great grandfather of Naomi and Gabriella
Bonnie Friedman & Cantor Gerald Miller

Rabbi's

Discretionary Fund

Thanks for all the Uniongrams and cards received for our anniversary

Roy and Barbara Schwartz
In memory of my brother and father

Barbara Silverberg
In memory of Michelle's father, Eric Mart and with heartfelt thanks for everyone's many kindnesses at this time.

Michelle Mart and David Walker
In memory of Michelle Mart's father, Eric Mart
Harriet Baskin

In memory of Ken Barnett
Carol and Stu Cohn
In appreciation of Adrienne Cardinal and Elaine Backer's work on the Sisterhood Rummage sale
Evelyn and Ed Goodman

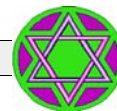
General Fund

To Alan and Melissa Schlechter and family in memory of father, Aaron

The Temple Online
www.ohebsholom.org

To contact us:

Office:
office@ohebsholom.org
Rabbi Michelson:
rabbi@ohebsholom.org
Bookkeeper Beth Bruck:
bookkeeper@ohebsholom.org



Sisterhood News

Looking forward to another great year

By Elyse Horowitz

I hope everyone had a fun as well as a relaxing summer.

The Annual Sisterhood General Spring Meeting was held May 14. We would like to thank all who attended a special thank you to Karen Hogg for helping to organize a great Luncheon and Lucy Lott for always giving us extra help. Thanks to Iris Lonker, who did an excellent demonstration on making scented bath oils, and Heck Bros. for donating the flowers used in the centerpieces. The Vivian Polter award was presented to Elaine Backer by her daughter Adrienne Cardinal. The Pushke Prizes were drawn, and Carole Kutscher won a white and gray pearl necklace with jade chips, and Karen Hogg won gold and silver name bracelet. Mildred Gordon won a certificate to Canal Street, and Marilyn Frank won a Barnes and Noble gift certificate. Thanks to all who sent in Pushke coupons. With your help we were able to purchase more tables and

tablecloths for the social hall.

The Sisterhood would like to thank everyone for all their donations for the Rummage sale, including all the wonderful bake goods. Thanks to all the volunteers, and the Backer and Cardinal family for all their hard work to make the Rummage Sale a great success.

We would like to bid a fond Farewell to Vivian Polter. Thank you for 59 years of dedication to the Temple as well as the Sisterhood.

Here are some dates to remember; Oct. 15 is our Fall General meeting, Nov. 5 is the Joint Women's Organization Luncheon, March 18 is the Donor Lunch, and May 20 is the Spring General Meeting.

The Sisterhood is looking for ladies to take over as gift shop coordinator or to volunteer to run the gift shop one Friday night. Please contact Donna Zimmer if you are interested. Thank you Donna for all your hard work.

Do you remember our great Passover baskets? It was one of our best

fundraisers. We will be doing them this year for Hanukkah and need volunteers to help assemble the baskets. Come help and join in on the fun. Check your mail for further details.

We will be starting a great new volunteer system called Donor Dollars. By volunteering your time at the Rummage Sale and the Gift shop can earn yourself a free lunch at the Donor Luncheon.

The following slate of officers for 2002-2004 was elected May 14.

President—Linda Bram
1st Vice President—Karen Hogg
2nd Vice President—Elyse Horowitz
3rd Vice President—Felice Stern
Treasurer—Deborah Zelnick
Recording Secretary—Marian Smith
Corresponding Secretary—Adrienne Cardinal

Financial Secretary—Shirley Friedman

On behalf of the Sisterhood I wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

Social Action Fair: Good works, good friends, good food!

By Tom Lynn

Tzedakah--doing good unto our neighbors--is at the very core of Jewish philosophy and Jewish living. As Jews and as human beings we long to share our gifts with others, to help those with needs that we can help to meet.

Yet we often find ourselves looking for but not finding the activity that could best use our talents or that best fits our busy schedules. That is why Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom is sponsoring its second Social Action Fair. It will take place Wednesday, Oct. 9 at 7 p.m. at

RCOS.

There are many, many worthy social programs in Berks County. The Social Action Fair will allow speakers from a cross-section of these programs to describe how ordinary people may contribute (in small, medium, or large ways) to the well-being of the community.

Speakers from each program will introduce their work in the community for a few minutes during the first part of the fair. Then a wide variety of desserts and beverages will be served, and while

people are enjoying the goodies they will get a chance to mill around and speak one-on-one with presenters about volunteer opportunities in specific social programs.

Groups presenting at this Social Action Fair will include Jewish Family Services, Manor Care of Laureldale, Olivet Club, Greater Berks Food Bank, Berks Emergency Shelter, Refugee Resource Project, and Y.E.S. Mentor. And there will be others!

The first Social Action Fair at RCOS (October 2000) was a great success, and

The 15th Annual Festival of Faith . . .

an Interfaith celebration of accessibility in Berks County's 250th Anniversary year will be held Sunday, Sept. 22 at 3 p.m., at Zion Baptist Church, Washington and Thorn Streets, Reading. Parking available behind the church.

Mazel Tov to

Dr. Neil Hoffman, co-recipient of the 2002 PA Medical Society Physician Award for International Voluntary Service. Dr. Hoffman was honored for his volunteer humanitarian service in the Balkans in 1996 and 1999.



Sisterhood Florence Frank Offering Fund

To Mr. & Mrs. Richard Gordon in honor of their granddaughter

Mr. & Mrs. Albert Diamond

To Mr. & Mrs. Irving Suknow in honor of their great-granddaughter

Mr. & Mrs. Albert Diamond

To Mrs. Marietta Weitz in memory of her husband, Ronald

Mr. & Mrs. Albert Diamond
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Schlanger
Mrs. Ethel Sherman
Mrs. Edythe Stern
Mrs. Sue Wolfe
Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Symons

Congratulations to Mrs. Sylvia Sulman on her birthday anniversary

Mrs. Ethel Sherman

A speedy recovery to Cathy Sanders

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Schlanger
Mrs. Ethel Sherman

Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman

To Mr. Charles Elner in memory of his wife

Mr. & Mrs. Albert Diamond

To Mrs. Amy Berger in memory of her mother

Mrs. Toni Gutmann
Mrs. Ethel Sherman
Mrs. Trudy Katz

Congratulations to Edith Mendelsohn in honor of her special birthday anniversary

Mrs. Toni Gutmann
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman
Mrs. Ethel Sherman

Congratulations to Milton Mendelsohn in honor of his special birthday anniversary

Mrs. Toni Gutmann

Speedy recovery to Jeffrey Sternlieb

Dr. & Mrs. Eric Zelnick

Congratulations to Dr. Neil Hoffman on receiving a humanitarian award

Dr. & Mrs. Eric Zelnick
Mr. & Mrs. Murry Knoblauch

To Alan Schlechter in memory of his father

Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman
Dr. & Mrs. Eric Zelnick
Mr. & Mrs. Murry Knoblauch

To Mrs. Michelle Mart in memory of her father

Mr. & Mrs. Milton Mendelsohn
Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Frank
Mr. & Mrs. Murry Knoblauch
Mrs. Sue Wolfe
Mrs. Edythe Stern

A speedy recovery to Milton Mendelsohn

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Schlanger
Mrs. Ethel Sherman
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman
Mrs. Edythe Stern
Mrs. Sue Wolfe

Congratulations to Mrs. Vivian Polter in her new home

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brok
Mrs. Bella Blau
Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Frank

Speedy recovery to Mrs. Lucille Lott

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brok

To Mrs. Hilde Gernsheimer and family in memory of Toni Gutmann

Mrs. Helen Rappoport
Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Symons
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman

Get well to Roy Schwartz

Mrs. Sue Wolfe

To the Rachlin family in memory of their mother, Charlotte

Mrs. Ruth Goldser
Mrs. Sue Wolfe
Mrs. Edythe Stern
Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Symons

Congratulations to Dr. Lee and Jody Radosh on the birth of a daughter

Mrs. Harriet Baskin

To Harry Van Tosh and family in memory of Mildred Van Tosh

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brok
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Friedman

In memory of the Yahrzeit of Morris Friedman

Dr. & Mrs. Ellis Friedman

Kindly send Florence Frank Offering Fund contributions to Mrs. Marilyn Frank, 2027 Lorraine Road, Reading, PA 19604; or Mrs. Gene Friedman, 107 Primrose

The corners of our fields: MAZON High Holy Day appeal

This is the fast I have chosen... to share your bread with the hungry... (Isaiah 58) Inspired by the words of the prophet Isaiah, Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist and Hillel movements have joined with MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger in a High Holy Days appeal to collect food and

funds for hungry people in our own country, in Israel and around the world.

To deepen the meaning of your Yom Kippur fast and to help end the involuntary fast of millions, we have envelopes available for you to send to MAZON the dollars you would have spent to feed yourself and your

family on Yom Kippur. Sending a contribution to MAZON fulfills not only Isaiah's words, but also the biblical mandate to "leave the corners of your fields for the poor and the stranger."

Please pick up your envelope the next time you are at the Temple.

The Gunter Family cordially invites all members of the congregation to the Bat Mitzvah service of Brooke

Support the Temple the Easy Way!
Buy Food Certificates good at Giant, Redner's & Weis

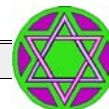
Call: Carole Kutscher 610-779-7590

Barbara Rosenzweig 610-775-5383

or Sue Wolfe 610-376-8117

Eat well . . .

and help the Temple's **Mitzvah Meal Program**. We have entered into a partnership with Panera Bread to sell coupon strips for their breads and bagels. For \$9 you receive coupons worth \$12 for bread or bagels and we keep 50% of the purchase price. Stop by the Temple office and purchase a combo strip of 6 mixed coupons: 3 bread coupons, 1 bagel, 1 muffin and 1 cookie coupon or purchase a strip of 6 bagel coupons (each coupon good for 3 bagels). Enjoy delicious, fresh bread products from one of Berks County's newest bakery/cafes and help the Temple's Mitzvah Meal Program at the



An event worth singing about

By **Mimi Braverman**

From July 21 to 25 the Zamir Choral Foundation held the 13th Annual North American Jewish Choral Festival. Brian Thompson and I were fortunate to attend. This year's festival was held at the Nevele Resort in Ellenville, N.Y. Although the Nevele is in the Catskills, we didn't have time for activities outdoors. We were booked solid with musical activities!

The festival opened on Sunday with the introduction of the staff and a quick overview of how the festival would work. The staff gathered on the stage and popped off their rendition of "Tradition," with lyrics changed to reflect the characteristics of sopranos, altos, tenors, and basses. It was our first hint that the entire staff of the festival—cantors, composers, choir directors, music educators, performers—were comedians. The evening ended with a concert and a community sing led by Nick Page, who taught us a South African 4-part melody for Yeish Ladu Ko'ach.

Each morning started with a community sing. The 500 or so attendees gathered in an outdoor skating rink (no ice) to sight-sing pieces of music that had been provided with the registration materials. We ran through three or four pieces of choral music, each conducted by

a different person. We would rehearse each piece for about 10 minutes and then sing the song through, not quite flawlessly but pretty close, while it was recorded.

After the community sing, the group broke up into individual choirs for rehearsals for the rest of the morning. There were six choirs in all, ranging from beginners to a premier group (there was also a small women's choir). These "Instant Ensembles" were arranged according to self-rated sight-singing ability. Brian was in a high-level choir conducted by Stanley Sperber, conductor of the National Choir of Israel and the Haifa Symphony Orchestra. I was in an intermediate choir directed by Richard Cohn, a Chicago cantor and conductor of Kol Zimrah: The Jewish Community Singers of Greater Chicago.

In the early afternoons we attended workshops. I took seminars to expand my awareness of the repertoire available for choirs. Brian took a workshop in intermediate conducting. We hope to incorporate some of our newly gained knowledge into our work with the RCOS Volunteer Choir. In the late afternoons it was back to rehearsals with our individual choirs.

Our evenings were also filled with music. Each night three or four choirs performed in a concert of Jewish compositions. A highlight of these concerts was the Zamir Chorale, a group that regularly performs and records. One of the funniest moments was brought to us by composer Stephen Glass and his Montreal choir: a rendition of Adon Olam set to the melodies of *The Sound of Music*.

On the last day of the festival, the six Instant Ensembles gave their joint concert. It was truly amazing to hear how perfectly the often difficult choral arrangements were performed with only eight hours of rehearsal (well, Brian's choir cheated and sneaked in an extra hour-and-a-half rehearsal). This concert was recorded and will be included on a CD along with the community sings.

It was exhausting, but the festival was a wonderful opportunity to sing all day and to explore the spectrum of Jewish music. I would recommend it for anyone with a strong interest and at least a basic ability in music.

By the way, if you are interested in singing Jewish music yourself, join the volunteer choir! Just let Brian or me know, and we'll get you set up. Rehearsals are most Tuesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00.

Perpetual Memorials

Sept. 6, 7

Bernard L. Simmons
Jack Loeb Stein
Rosa Weil
Alan Baskin
Dr. Joseph A. Liefster
Osker Hekler

Sept. 20

Dr. Frederick P. Pokrass
Vivian Schachter
Florence E. Frank
Marsha Salpeter
Bertha Whiteson
Lawrence Diamond

Sept. 13

Dr. James Holzman
Anna Stern
Solly Gernsheimer
Robert Katz
Samuel B. Cohen
Sadie Gilbert
Josephine Katz

Sept. 27

Albert Fried
Sitta Goldstein
Joseph Marcus
Sara Holzman
Isabel Sondheim
Bertha Eisman
N. John Kelner
Theresa R. Cohn

Get to know Dan Sklar, our new student cantor, "up close and personal"

If you would like to provide weekend hospitality for Dan, please contact

Attention parents:

We would like to send all our college students a card for the Jewish New Year as well as keeping in touch with them through out the school year.

Please notify the office as soon as you have an address for your son/daughter. If applicable we'd like to have their e-mail address and what university/college they are attending.



Mitzvah ops: Volunteering fulfilling for everyone

By Nancy J. Knoblauch

One of the nicest things that happened to me during 2001-02 — 5761-62 — was being part of my grandson Justin Creed’s mitzvah project for confirmation class.

He allowed himself, not too reluctantly, to be scheduled for weekly, late afternoon visits to the Berkshire Genesis Elder Care facility. I provided transportation, and as long as I was there, had the pleasure of also being part of the activity, which was to help wheelchair bound residents into the dining room, chat with them til trays arrived, and help with serving.

Jus took a summer break, but in the coming school term it’s likely he’ll be required to put in time doing community service — another name for mitzvot — fulfilling the commandment to “love your neighbor as yourself” as a school assignment (nonsectarian).

It isn’t easy to visit facilities devoted to care of the elderly and infirm, but these places can surely use extra help, and they

are among the best places to give a volunteer a sense of personal satisfaction knowing it’s possible in small ways to make life more pleasant for others, even if it’s only with a smile, a pat on the shoulder, by filling a coffee cup.

Jus took a break, but it seems I’m hooked. In the course of our visits, November through May, I made some special friends at the facility — and lost a few, as it happens — and have been returning for “News and Chews” when folks gather for snacks and coffee, and a staff person reads the newspaper aloud.

For guidance in how to approach/participate in such visits as a volunteer or as a family member with a loved one in a nursing care facility, Claudia Strauss’ book “Talking to Alzheimer’s” is very helpful. Strauss focuses on the Alzheimer resident, but much of what she writes has general relevance. She suggests ways the times spent in the company of persons limited by age or illness can be good times for both.

Another avenue of care opportunities open to Temple members is through the Volunteer Home Care program to which our congregation belongs. Carol Cohn has been particularly active in this program, doing such things as driving a woman to a cataract operation.

A VHC representative will be presenting at the Volunteer Fair to take place at the Temple on Oct. 9.

On Nov. 3 at 9:30 a.m., a training session for VHC participants will be conducted. It’s a perfect time for parents who want to become involved and who will be bringing their children to Religious School. The session will be open to all interested.

“Gratitude . . . goes beyond ‘counting our blessings.’ It involves sharing our blessings. A thankful sense of dependence on God leads to an awareness of our duty to His children.” (Siddur Chadash).

May the New Year bring abundant blessings to us all.

Passing the Torah

By Val Scott

When I watch the passing of the Torah at a bar or bat mitzvah, I wonder: Who passes the Torah to me?
My father is Irish Catholic, and my mother a Catholic who was once a Presbyterian. My name is Ruth bat Avraham v’Sarah But Abraham and Sarah died a long time ago. I have no family stories

about Passover. Like Ruth, I’m here only because I wanted to be. Who passes the Torah to me? When I approached a rabbi about conversion He gently suggested we study together And passed the Torah to me. When my first Hebrew teacher patiently guided me right to left through the aleph-bet She passed the Torah to me. When I shivered in the

water of the mikveh and the cantor led me through the blessings She passed the Torah to me. When I talked for an hour with the Beit Din When the Torah study class showed me how Jews study Bible When the Talmud group welcomed me for discussions and stories When an Israeli acquaintance corrected my Hebrew

When my study partner clapped a kippah on my head They passed the Torah to me. When a little girl showed me how to tear the challah When a woman offered me my first taste of a Hillel sandwich When the guy at the bakery said, "Shabbat Shalom!" When a committee chair said to me, "Here, you can do this." When friends shared recipes and stories and customs They passed the Torah to me.

If it takes a village to raise a child It takes a congregation to raise a convert: We pass the Torah from hand to hand and make sure all the Jews who want can hold it: can write it on their hearts, speak of it in their homes, teach it to their children, bind it on their hands, hold it before their eyes, and write it - in golden letters! - on the doorposts of their gates.



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555 Warwick Drive
Wyomissing Hills, PA 19610
610-375-6034, Fax: 610-375-6036
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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