

TEMPLE OHEV
SHOLOM
BULLETIN

SH'VAT - ADAR 5778
FEBRUARY 2018 - VOL. 8 NO. 6

FROM YOUR RABBI: OPENING OUR HEARTS TO JEWS-BY-CHOICE



A recent article from the URJ tells the story of a person who asks about becoming a Jew-by-Choice. "So tell me...the article begins, "how does one convert to Judaism?"

Judaism is not a proselytizing religion, unlike most religions. Throughout the ages, our Talmud teaches us that the rabbi must turn away a potential convert three times, and then if he, or she, insists, remind them how difficult it is to be a Jew, as we are a "despised people", according the Talmudic sages. Even today, many people still believe this story, and potential converts are often surprised that they are welcomed into the rabbi's office on the first visit, sometimes even saying when they leave with a book, or a schedule of conversion classes, "thanks, rabbi, I thought you were going to throw me out the first two times."

Things have changed since the days of the Talmud...in fact, things have changed since the 1950's and 60's when rabbis routinely sent people back three times, or refused to convert someone simply because they were marrying a Jew. The rules for religion have changed, and if we want to follow our mission to be an open community, the rules of conversion need to change.

So...what are the rules of conversion? Rules for conversion today are as varied as there are rabbis, and vary among Reform, Conservative, and Orthodox rabbis. My conversion requirements are very different from Conservative rabbis and are even very different from many Reform rabbis.

Today, at our congregation, most anyone who has a desire to become a Jew may do so, by taking a series of classes and living as a Jewish person for a proscribed amount of time. And since Judaism is not a finite religion, but rather one that grows and grows over time, I don't feel I have the authority to tell a student when he or she is ready to "take the plunge", as it were. Yes, there have been students who told me they were ready and I strongly suggested waiting a little longer to do some more studying, but for the most part, when the classes are over, and they say they are ready...then it's time.

Our conversion classes range in size from 4 to 10 people, depending upon the year. Sometimes everyone converts, other times one or two take the classes and walk away. Everyone who converts becomes a member of the congregation, or the members of a congregation, if they're only here for a short while. Conversion is a long and often arduous process, both for the student and the teacher. There is a lot of discussion, sometimes some compromise, and always an extreme sense of joy when the process is finished, and the real hard work begins...trying to live a Jewish life without the benefit of growing up with Jewish parents.

We often read studies that tell us that the future of Judaism rests with the Orthodox, because they don't intermarry and they have large families. But if we keep our doors, and our hearts, open to those who want to find a home within our tent, we can create Jewish families that help sustain the future of our faith in numbers that come close to, or even surpass, those of the more observant in our midst. This, I believe, is a very virtuous goal.

Your Rabbi,
Peter Kessler

FEBRUARY SERVICES SCHEDULE

Friday, February 2

7:30pm Fourth Grade Family Shabbat Services - Sanctuary 7:30

Saturday, February 3

10:30am Bar Mitzvah - Sanctuary

Sunday, February 4

9:30am Religious school

10:00am Rabbi's Basic Judaism Class

11:00am Rabbi's PEP Class

Wednesday, February 7

4:30pm Religious School

Friday, February 9

6:00pm Shabbat Services - Lehrman Chapel

Sunday, February 11

9:30am Religious school

Wednesday, February 14

12:00pm Lunch & Learn

4:30pm Religious School

Thursday, February 15

7:00pm Hershey Study

Friday, February 16

6:00pm Shabbat Services - Lehrman Chapel

Saturday, February 17

10:30am Tot Shabbat - Lehrman Chapel

Sunday, February 18

No Religious school

Monday, February 19

President's Day Holiday

Wednesday, February 21

4:30pm Religious School

Friday, February 23

7:30pm Shabbat Services - Sanctuary

Saturday, February 24

7:30pm Purim Spiel @ JCC

Sunday, February 25

No Religious school - Purim Carnival at JCC

2:00pm Purim Spiel @ JCC

4:00pm Market Square Concert in Sanctuary

Tuesday, February 27

7:00pm Adult B'nai Mitzvah

Wednesday, February 28

4:30pm Religious School

SAVE THE DATE



PEP

PEP is our Parallel Education Program. We meet once-a-month on Sunday mornings for bagels & coffee, and an hour of study and discussion. This year's curriculum is YIDDISH...learning more about the Mother Tongue. Our next class is **February 4 th at 11 AM in the Lehrman Chapel**. Hope to see you there!

RABBI KESSLER'S BOOK REVIEW

Rabbi Kessler leads a discussion each month on a book of Jewish interest. Refreshments are always provided...no need to RSVP...just join us! There is no Book Review in February...see you in March!



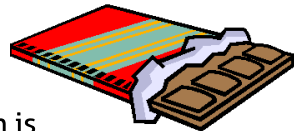
LUNCH AND LEARN

On the 2nd Wednesday of each month, Rabbi Kessler teaches a noon-time class called LUNCH AND LEARN. The class is taught in a very informal way. Participants come to the Lehrman Chapel at 12 noon with their lunch (we supply the beverage) and an hour of study follows. No need to RSVP...just drop in! This year's topic comes from the book **BROKEN TABLETS**, Restoring the 10 Commandments. February 14th.



HERSHEY STUDY

Rabbi Kessler comes to Hershey every month on a Thursday evening to teach a cozy and relaxed study session at a congregant's home. This year's curriculum is taken from the book "Jewish Literacy", by Rabbi Joseph Telushkin. Our next class is scheduled **February 15 th at 7:30 PM**. Location will be announced.



TOT SHABBAT

Tot Shabbat is for our "little ones", from birth through 2nd grade, and their family & friends. We have a short service, story time, singing & dancing with Rabbi Kessler, and a great snack. **Our next Tot Shabbat is February 17th at 10:30 AM in the Lehrman Chapel.**

BAR MITZVAH: JONAH SPOTTS

My name is Jonah Spotts and I will become a Bar Mitzvah on February 3. I am a 7th grade distinguished honors student at Camp Hill Middle School. I play basketball for my school and baseball for Camp Hill Little League. I participate in my school's archery club team, the middle school Jazz Band and am a Student Council member. I enjoy history, science, and playing the trumpet, drums and piano.



My Torah portion is Yitro. In this portion, Moses' father-in-law Jethro joins Moses and the Israelites at their camp and suggests to Moses he set up a functioning legal system. Moses agrees and several months later Moses and the Israelites arrive at the base of Mount Sinai. Here God speaks to Moses and promises to protect the people if they follow the Ten Commandments he gives him.

For my mitzvah project, I am collecting new and gently used shoes and sneakers (youth and adult) for Soles4Souls. This organization distributes shoes to those in need around the world to break the cycle of poverty and help protect the environment. Since Soles4Souls began in 2006, they've distributed over 30 million pairs of shoes in 127 countries and all 50 US states. Please consider donating! There will be a collection box in the temple lobby for your donations until mid-February. Visit www.soles4souls.org for more information.

I am very excited to celebrate my Bar Mitzvah with my family and friends. I would like to thank Rabbi Kessler, Mrs. Rappaport, Mrs. Hutteman and all my religious school teachers for their guidance and support. A special thank you to my parents, Abby and Paul Spotts, and my brother Eli for all their help.

Purim Megillah Reading during Religious School February 21st

Is your costume ready? Rabbi Kessler's is, and so is the 7th grade class as we act out the story of Esther **IN COSTUMES** Wednesday February 21st from 5:15-5:45 PM in the Sanctuary.



Everyone is invited....our Religious School, our Tot Shabbat friends, the adults who come to Adult Ed, and everyone else in the Ohev Shalom community and their friends and families.

Come in a costume (or not), and enjoy Hamantaschen and a great time.

A LETTER FROM THE SISTERHOOD

We hope you are all staying warm during these cold winter months. Our Soup and Torah Study with Rabbi Kessler in January was both warming for our tummies and our brains. Attendees were treated to tasty soups while Rabbi continued to teach about the new high holiday prayer books.

We have several sisterhood and temple members participating in this year's Purim Spiel. So please come support these talented congregants as they tell the megillah to the sounds of the Beach Boys. The performance takes place at the JCC on Sunday, February 25 at 2:00. Still to be determined is an additional performance . . . keep your eyes open for an update.

TOSS provides services and funds to our synagogue. Being a member is wonderful experience. It is a way to give back and to interact with various women of talent and knowledge. We'd love you to become a part of TOSS. Give us a call to help a committee (listed in the directory) or chair a committee (a list of available positions is included in this bulletin). We look forward to having you onboard.

Our gift shop just completed inventory. There are lots of items for upcoming holidays such as Purim and Passover. Remember to look at the display case in the social hall. These items are also for sale. The gift shop is open on Sundays when religious school is in session from 9:45-12:00. If you'd like to see something or make a purchase at another time, please call the gift shop or the temple office to make arrangements.

A new flyer for the Uniongrams will be delivered soon if not already. This is a terrific way to honor fellow congregants and sisterhood members. Funds raised go to support temple programs.

Please call us with any questions you may have. We look forward to welcoming all of you into our Sisterhood!!

Sincerely,

Sarah Brown

Co-President

717-540-9709

Patti Hivner

Co-President

717-533-6269

OPEN TOSS BOARD POSITIONS

Program Chair

Hospitality/Social Chair

Religious School

Publicity/Communications Chair

Recording Secretary

SISTERHOOD TRIBUTE CARDS

Sisterhood Tribute cards, at a minimum amount of \$5.00 each, are an easy and inexpensive way to send greetings, well wishes and any other family milestones you wish to acknowledge.

The three Sisterhood funds are:

The Margaret Friedman Emergency Aid Fund

Donations are used to sustain the committee that prepares and serves meals

following funerals for a bereaved family.

The Doris Zaritzky Fund

Donations are used to benefit Temple youth and religious school activities.

The Tribute Fund

Donations are used for Sisterhood Temple expenses.

Tribute goes to:

Address (if not a Temple member):

Message:

Your name:

Please check one:

☐ **Margaret Friedman Emergency Aid Fund** ☐ **Doris Zaritzky Educational Fund**
☐ **Tribute Fund**

Please mail a check made out to "TOSS" to:

Irith Harpster, 1184 Heron Court Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

TRIBUTES

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In honor of Victor Morrison's special birthday

Sheila & Larry Altaker

With thanks for his support during my illness

Sheila & Larry Altaker

In honor of Rabbi Peter Kessler & our youth

Dr. Thom Lobe & Kathy Levitin

DIANA SAUERTIEG BEAUTIFICATION FUND

In memory of Betty Silverman

Raymond & Susan Schreckengaust

MEMORIAL TRIBUTES TO THE TEMPLE ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Barry Krause

Joyce & Alex Schamroth

Jackie Becker

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FUND

For the speedy recovery of Lee Spitalny

Tom Bryant & Ulysses Jimenez

STEVEN HARPSTER MEMORIAL YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of Patti and Gary Lightman

Joyce & Niles Benn

TEMPLE FUND

Thank you to our wonderful family and friends who sent 50th anniversary wishes.

It made our special occasion even more memorable!

From: Patti & Gary Lightman

Sisterhood Flower Fund:

In memory of Harry Lasker

Harriet Katz

We sincerely appreciate all the loving and wonderful Uniongrams that we received for our anniversary.

Bobby & Harvey Danowitz

Temple Ohev Sholom Sisterhood Flower Fund not only provides Shabbat and Bar and Bat Mitzvah flowers for the sanctuary, we accept contributions to the fund in honor or memory of a loved one. These contributions are helpful so that Sisterhood can continue providing the flower arrangements which enhance our Shabbat services. Please contact Fran Casher if you wish to make a contribution.



KADDISH

February 2

Sophia Aronson
Sarah Disend
Rose Epstein
David Gaynes
Bertram Goldberg
Sara J. Gross
Helen Heinemann
Pauline Kessler
Ella Lehrman
Leon Lowengard
Rebecca Menaker
Bernhard Rubin
Dr. Jay J. Segal
Anna S. Sherman
Jack E. Spector
William Spitalny
Mollie Yoffe
Jack Zuckerman

February 9

Charlotte E. Ansell
Harold J. Astrich
Helene Beck
Sol Berliner
Hyman Blank
Barbara Brown
Betty Danowitz
Albert P. Doranz
John Feldman
Jane Cohen Goodman
Bernard Halpern

William L. Kanenson
Hannah Kline
Wilma Levy
Harry Lowengard
Jean Migatz
Bertha S. Oppenheim
Rose Rubin
Mervin Silver
Alan F. Teplitz
Irving Weber

February 16

Hilda Baturin Bennett
Lillian Blinn
Francine E. Brenner
Norman Bronstein
Matilda Brookner
Leroy J. Brown
Katherine Tharrington
Bryant
Laverne Canfield
Pauline S. Claster
Edilia Coulianos
Velma Ehring
Marcia Feldman
Muriel Fleishman
Jonas Greenberg
Pauline Hollander
Harold Houck
Irene Houck
Louis Kerner
Shirley Kerner
Nathan B. Liebman

Jeffrey Magid
Doris Newman
Martin Pepper
Jonathan Saxe
Edwin Silver
Bertha R. Smigel
Benjamin Zalman

February 23

Gloria Adler
Sadie Alexander
Fannie Baturin
Matilda Berk
Harry Casher
Harry Chirson
Anna Cohen
Annie S. Cohen
David Dubin
Lena I. Feinberg
Pincus Friedman
Charles D. Herbert
Alice W. Kanenson
Rachel Kyler
Louis Melamed
Pauline Mishkin
Goldye Reiner
Phyllis Scher
David T. Shaffer
Molly Spitalny
Marion Swanger



SAVE THE DATE

Temple Ohev Sholom Congregational Seder

**Second Night of Passover
SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 2018**

Reservation forms will be mailed to members' homes in
late February and may be included with the March Temple Bulletin

Rabbi Kessler is available for home and hospital visits for our congregants in need. Won't you please do a mitzvah and let him know of those who would like a visit? Thank you.



OUR COMMUNITY



Community Purim Carnival

Sunday, February 25, 2018

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Jewish Community Center

*Exciting carnival games for all ages,
arts & craft projects, prizes & inflatable fun.*

Free to the entire community.

A snack is available at a nominal fee.



This program is funded by the Annual Campaign of the Jewish Federation of Greater Harrisburg.



Thank you to our
7th graders who
volunteered at
Downtown Daily
Bread, a local
soup kitchen.

TEMPLE OHEV SHOLOM
2345 N. FRONT ST
HARRISBURG PA 17110

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED