



TEMPLE OHEV  
**SHOLOM**  
BULLETIN

**ADAR - NISAN 5780**  
**MARCH 2020 - VOL. 10 NO. 7**

# FROM YOUR RABBI

I remember a time when I was a young child back in Chicago...at least 50, or 55 years ago. My mother was preparing dinner in the kitchen; my dad already came home from work and was fooling around with my brothers and me in the living room. The phone rang. My mother answered it. She said, "Phil, the rabbi's on the line". My dad got up, and went to the bedroom to talk on the extension. When he came out, he told my mother, "The rabbi wants to take me to lunch on Thursday." My mom said, "great...just make sure to bring your checkbook along".



50 years ago. The rabbi calls, and you answer-you never say no, and oh yes...you bring your checkbook along. How times have changed. But for most of Jewish Harrisburg, the days when the rabbi called and you brought along your checkbook went the way of saying "someone was on the line".

What does this mean for us, in 2020, when synagogue membership is shrinking and expenses go up astronomically? It's a real problem. When I was a kid, Jewish families in the neighborhood would skip their summer vacations if they couldn't afford membership dues and a trip to the shore. Temple came first. Always. And without question. There was never any doubt that the family would belong to the synagogue, whether the kids were in pre-school or already out of college, whether the roof needed to be replaced or the car was getting old.

So what happened between 1967 and 2020? A lot has happened. The generation that felt an obligation to support a congregation began to wane. People became more aware of their financial situation and life became more expensive. Stay at home moms began to work. Budgets were stretched. One car became two. Then the kids were driving and 2 cars became 3, or 4. No one wanted an old car if their neighbor was driving a new one. No one wanted to live in a house smaller than his or her brother-in-law's, so credit became the norm. And before we knew it, the unthinkable happened: some of our homes actually lost value! The guarantee of smart investing assuring a good return disappeared.

In synagogue life, congregants became consumers. What do I get for my dues became a question that never was asked before. You support the synagogue whether you go or not was a phrase heard less and less often.

Maybe not by the regulars who come to Shabbat services, but certainly by the unaffiliated who just don't bother with synagogue life.

Yes, there will always be unaffiliated Jewish people in Harrisburg and all over the country. People who think they can educate their children about their faith and culture by going on line, and not by being part of a Jewish community. People who watch the news or get instant feeds on their phones and know more about the political situation in Israel by 5 PM than the rabbi because he or she has been doing hospital visits all day.

Beside the unaffiliated there is the group of people who leaves the temple after the kids become B'nai Mitzvah. They paid their dues, they paid their religious school and B'nai Mitzvah fees and now they only show up at the High Holidays, so their money is better spent elsewhere and they leave the temple.

So the temple budget is stretched. Synagogues can't afford assistant rabbis, and many decide they can't afford a cantor either. And while people leave the congregation, or decide not to join because their money is better spent elsewhere, the cost of maintaining the building, and the staff, and the programming, and the air-conditioning unit that needs to be replaced, goes up and up and up.

Another issue that didn't exist in the past was the cost of security. No one worried about security in 1967, or in 2001 for that matter. But today, security is a major concern at every synagogue. You may not see the thousands of dollars needed to spend on cameras and alarms and the hidden security measures, but the cost is there, to be sure.

So synagogues raise the dues a little bit and do some fund raising here and there and hope for the best. But there is a better answer. An easier answer. An answer that you can help me with this Shabbat to alleviate some of the stress.

Simply put: tell your friends who have left the synagogue to come back. We may not be able to convince the unaffiliated to be part of a community, but I'll bet, especially now with anti-Semitism on the rise in America, that we can convince those who didn't see the value in remaining their membership to rethink their position...and perhaps decide to come back and join the temple, not necessarily because they want to attend Shabbat services, but because they believe in our mission to be open to the stranger, provide a quality education for Jewish children, and most importantly...simply to exist.

**(Cont'd on reverse side)**

Harrisburg congregations are not-for-profit, just like any other not-for-profit in our community. Maybe it's time for all of us to remind our friends who don't belong to a congregation, or who have left a congregation, the importance of being part of a community and the importance of supporting the Jewish community financially...to make sure there is a rabbi when you need one, to make sure that there are classes for those who want to convert, to make sure that the Jewish community remains vibrant and safe. To make sure that when something tragic happens to Jewish people, there is a spokesperson who can be interviewed to let the greater community know that we exist. If synagogues don't exist, we don't exist. We become just another group of nameless faceless people who one day won't matter to anyone else.

Maybe it's time to remind the people you know, the ones you meet for dinner, the ones who belong to your condo association, the ones you greet at the GIANT or Weis or Wegman's...and ask if they still belong to a temple. Synagogues try to let you know who the new members are...but we never publicize the names of those who have left us. I'll bet we assume our Jewish neighbors and friends support a congregation in the same way we do. But maybe they don't. Maybe they have left us.

It's a scary world out there, and it's not going to become safer, or cheaper, or easier. It's only going to become more difficult. And if synagogue life were to disappear, who would be around to speak out against anti-Semitism, or hatred of anyone for that matter, or have an open door to be part of a community.

So in that way this really isn't about finances at all. It's about making an investment to ensure that our Jewish institutions continue to exist. Yes, we can't continue without money, but we also can't continue without membership. And so I ask two things: The first is...please don't leave us, even if there comes a time when you think you don't need us anymore. You need us, and we need you. The second is this: talk about your congregation when you are with your Jewish friends. Ask them if they plan to come to a Purim spiel, or the Congregational Seder, want to attend a Shabbat service or come to learn Yiddish on a Sunday morning. Ask them if they made a pledge to the Yom Kippur appeal, and ask them if they still retain their membership. And if they don't, convince them to come back.

Your rabbi,  
Peter Kessler

---

# SAVE THE DATE: CONGREGATIONAL SEDER

## CELEBRATED SATURDAY, APRIL 11

# MARCH SCHEDULE

## Sunday, March 1

9:30am Religious School

11:00am PEP-Lehrman Chapel

## Wednesday, March 4

4:30pm Religious School

## Friday, March 6

6:00pm Old World Folk Band Shabbat-Lehrman Chapel

## Sunday, March 8

9:30am Religious School @ JCC for Purim Carnival

2:00pm Purim Spiel - Sanctuary

## Wednesday, March 11

4:30pm Religious School

## Friday, March 13

7:30pm Fifth Grade Family Services - Sanctuary

## Saturday, March 14

10:30pm Tot Shabbat - Lehrman Chapel

## Sunday, March 15

9:30am Religious School

## Wednesday, March 18

4:30pm Religious School

## Thursday, March 19

7:00pm Hershey Study

## Friday, March 20

6:00pm Shabbat Services - Lehrman Chapel

## Sunday, March 22

9:30am Religious School

10:00am Sisterhood Social Action Event

## Wednesday, March 25

4:30pm Religious School

## Friday, March 27

6:00pm Shabbat Services -Lehrman Chapel

## Sunday, March 29

Rabbi's Book Review Class

9:30am 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 PART III...learning more about the Mother Tongue. We use Leo Rosten's wonderful book, *The Joys of Yiddish*. **Our next class is March 1st at 11 AM in the Lehrman Chapel. Hope to see you there!**



## Purim Megillah Reading During Religious School - March 4th

Is your costume ready? Rabbi Kessler's is, so join us as we act out the story of Esther IN COSTUMES 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 Sholom community and their friends and families. Come in a costume (or not), and enjoy Hamantaschen and a great time.



## 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 is the *Timeline of Jewish History*. **Our next class is March 11th. Hope to see you there!**

## TOT SHABBAT

Tot Shabbat is for our "little ones", from birth through 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 March 14th at 10:30am in the Lehrman Chapel.**



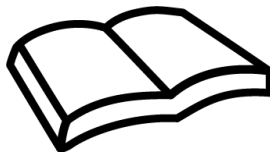
## HERSHEY STUDY

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 *Maimonides Spinoza and Us* by Rabbi Marc Angel. Our next class is scheduled for **March 19th**. Location will be announced. 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! Book Review this month is on **March 29th at 11am** in the Lehrman Chapel. We will be discussing *Kaddish.com* by Nathan Englander.



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last month, I highlighted the efforts of our national organization, the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), in promoting this year's elections to the World Zionist Congress. Voting is still open until March 11th. Don't miss your opportunity to help strengthen the future of Reform Judaism in Israel! If you haven't yet voted for the Reform slate, please do so today at [www.ARZA.org](http://www.ARZA.org).

Speaking of URJ, I am constantly learning new things from its free email newsletters, available by signing up at [www.ReformJudaism.org](http://www.ReformJudaism.org). For example, did you know that February was Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance, and Inclusion Month? An article by Jordan Dashow emphasized that, "[a]s Jews, we...have a religious obligation to actively include people with disabilities in our community and to advocate for their full inclusion in all facets of society." It then discussed five ways to be an ally to people with physical and/or mental disabilities: (1) listen to and take your lead from them; (2) educate yourself about the state of disability rights in America, best practices, and disability inclusion efforts; (3) be conscious of the language you use; (4) work for inclusion; and (5) advocate for disability rights.

The third item on the list is worth excerpting in full:

When speaking about people with disabilities, avoid ableist language, which includes words such as "retarded" and "crippled" and derogatory language using disability metaphors (i.e., seeing something wrong and comparing it to a physical or mental disability).

Many disability rights organizations support the use of *person-first language*, which puts the focus on the person first, rather than on their disability. For example, rather than saying "a disabled person," say "a person with disabilities"; rather than "an autistic person," say "a person with autism." It is important to note that some people self-identify with disability first language – particularly within the deaf community – and that's OK.

Allies' first responsibility is to respect someone else's self-label (see #1 on this list!) – but as a general rule, person-first language is considered the most respectful way to reference people with disabilities unless and until you know how they prefer to be identified.

The article concludes by making the important point that, while Jewish Disability Awareness, Acceptance, and Inclusion Month is a great time to focus on the issue of disability inclusion, we must demonstrate disability inclusion as a pillar of our Jewish communal values *every month* of the year. I am proud to join the members of our congregation in making that effort.

**Rob Teplitz**  
President, Temple Ohev Sholom



# Temple Ohev Sholom Celebrates Our Donors!

On December 3 Temple Ohev Sholom celebrated the amazing commitment of the congregation members who committed to the financial future of our Temple Family. Donors and Legacy Members joined together in celebration of the season. This amazing group provides a guiding light sustaining the future of our congregation for years to come. Over 48 members have made Legacy commitments to our congregation, adding Temple Ohev Sholom to their estate planning. The estimated value of these commitments is over \$1.3 million. Our Legacy donors have already provided us with over \$22,000 in realized income for our endowment. Through our Kol Nidre Appeal we are about to realize the best year ever. Congregants have helped ensure the yearly financial health by giving \$32,135. Please consider joining these amazing people in ensuring the future of Temple Ohev Sholom for years to come. Contact the Temple office for more information.



**Don't let your friends  
forget that you care.  
Send a Uniongram!**



# MESSAGE FROM THE SISTERHOOD

Our next Soup, Study and the Rabbi Too! will be held Friday, March 20 following the 6 p.m. Shabbat service. Rabbi will pick the topic; we'll have the hot soup and bread – you, me and the Rabbi will supply the always lively discussion of Torah. If you haven't yet, please try to attend, all are welcome.

We also have a very special "Brunch Social" on Sunday, March 22, 10 a.m. with members from the Hadee Mosque Harrisburg Amadiyyah Muslim Community.

The Amadiyyah Muslim Community was established in 1889 as a revival movement within Islam, emphasizing its essential teachings of peace, love, justice, and sanctity of life.

Please join us for an opportunity to meet members of the Hadee Mosque and to learn about the ways in which we are more alike than we are different.

Also, on April 26 at 6 pm we will be having Sisterhood Shabbat that we hope you all we join us in celebrating our Sisterhood.

Denyse Miskin, 717-480-9865

Join us for a special **Sisterhood Brunch Social** as we hear from members of the

## **HADEE MOSQUE HARRISBURG AMADIYYAH MUSLIM COMMUNITY**

This is an opportunity to meet members of the **Hadee Mosque** and learn about the ways in which we are more alike than we are different.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 22 | 10 A.M.**

Please RSVP by March 18 to Denyse at  
717-480-9865 | [tossisterhood@gmail.com](mailto:tossisterhood@gmail.com)

**FREEDOM | KINDNESS |  
EQUALITY | RESPECT | PEACE**

This brunch is sponsored through the generosity of Steven and Shira Eltinger.



# TRIBUTES

## MEMORIAL TRIBUTES TO THE TEMPLE ENDOWMENT FUND

*In memory of Helene & Oskar Beck  
and Dora Sawicki  
Ed & Esther Beck*

*In memory of Maxine Talkov  
Nancy & David Rose*

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FUND

*For the speedy recovery of  
Lee Spitalny  
The religious school students and  
staff*

## TEMPLE FUND

*For the speedy recovery of  
Fran Casher  
Patti & Gary Lightman*

*For the speedy recovery of  
Lee Spitalny  
Patti & Gary Lightman*

## SISTERHOOD TRIBUTE FUND:

*For the speedy recovery of  
Alyssa Kibler  
Gail Riegler*

*For the speedy recovery of  
Honi Kibler  
Gail Riegler*

*For the speedy recovery of  
Fran Casher  
Gail Riegler*

*For the speedy recovery of  
Lee Spitalny  
Gail Riegler  
Debbie Yoffe  
Fern Zlotoff  
Irith Harpster  
Cindy & Don Lynch*

*Mazel Tov on Reyna Jose's  
nomination as Sisterhood President  
Irith Harpster*

*With appreciation for Denyse  
Miskin's hard work as Sisterhood  
President the past two years  
Irith Harpster*

*In memory of Jay Prensky (  
to Colleen Prensky)  
Cindy & Don Lynch*

*Happy Birthday wishes to  
Lisa Ramirez  
Cindy & Don Lynch*

*In memory of Morris Lamonoff (to  
Debbie & Bob Chernicoff)  
Cindy & Don Lynch*

## Zaritzky Fund:

*For the speedy recovery of  
Lee Spitalny  
Elyse and Al Bienstock*



# KADDISH

## March 6

Maurice Altaker  
Edward J. Brenner  
Louis Brenner  
Joseph Cluster  
Joseph D. Cohn  
April DeLoach  
Rosa Frank  
Lewis C. Friedman  
Benjamin Gainsburg  
Sidney Haftman  
Meyer Jacobs  
Caryl Louise Hess  
Kramer  
Sam Levy  
Edgar Marks  
Romaine Sadler  
Menaker  
Melvin Portnoy  
Barbie Shauf  
Charles Silver  
Louis Spitalny  
Bernard Zaritzky

## March 13

Huldah Appell  
Jeanette M. Brenner  
Lena T. Brenner  
Dora Cramer  
Faye F. Doranz  
Gerald Eisnitz  
Tillie Garner  
Samuel Gross

Yetta Gurwitz  
Rise Gomez Hausman  
Abram S. Jacobson  
Joseph G. Kanenson  
Rosalind Lax  
Israel Mayer  
George Jasper  
McArthur  
Fay Millstein May  
Adell Jaffe Nanus  
Mark Pihony  
Lillian A. Roberts  
Sheila Schooler  
Miriam R. Silver  
William Strouse  
Isaac Vladimerov

## March 20

Morris Aboff  
Ephraim Brenner  
Naomi Doranz  
Hannah Druckman  
Eugene Frahm  
Steven Henry Galowitz  
Leon Grobman  
Solomon Hurwitz  
George I. Katzman  
Leonard Kessler  
Rebecca Kraus  
Samuel Kuhn  
Louis Lehrman  
Gertrude Lesser  
Dora Levine

Maurice M. Melamed  
Thelma Riegler  
Stephanie Sacks  
David M. Saxe  
Hilda R. Schleisner  
Michael Strouse  
Joseph Tanchum  
Robert D. Woldorf  
Morris Yarowsky

## March 27

Estelle Bartok  
Marjorie Bryant  
Herbert Dixon  
Morris Estreicher  
Julia Fineshriber  
Morris Goldman  
Bernard Goodman  
Louis Grass  
Harry W. Gross  
Samuel Kuhn  
Herbert Lang  
Max B. Menaker  
Bernice (Bunny)  
Nepon  
Gerald (Jerry) Nepon  
Tony Repshas  
Harry B. Rubin  
Sidney Schleifer  
Otis Sensel  
Leo Talkov

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.



TEMPLE OHEV SHOLOM  
2345 N. FRONT ST  
HARRISBURG PA 17110

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**