

FROM YOUR RABBI

I've been a rabbi for close to 25 years, so after writing close to 300 monthly bulletin articles, I can honestly say this is one of the most unusual ones I've ever composed.

We are living in a very difficult time where quarantine and isolation have been become commonplace. While the Covid-19 situation changes day-by-day, I think the mood in our congregational family is one of cautious optimism.

For the first time in anyone's memory, services, classes, and social events have been canceled and the fear of



transmission has frightened us to a staggering point in our lives. We scrub our hands, wear a mask, stay away from large gatherings, and hope for the best.

While there hasn't been a printed Ohev bulletin in three months, so much is taking place with our temple family. I hope you have been able to see the weekly video services and messages you receive every Friday, and for those of you who are immune-compromised, getting up in years, or living in health care facilities, I hope the notes I've sent out have been a source of comfort.

Now it's time to look at the future and make some decisions about opening the building, planning for Religious School and Adult Education classes, and of course, the High Holidays.

While we live in uncertain times, and the fear of a 2nd or 3rd wave of the virus is always a possibility, I can tell you with certainty the following facts:

- 1. Shabbat services will take place either by video or in some other format every Friday.
- 2. Religious School will open in September utilizing ZOOM. PEP, Book Review, Lunch N Learn, and Hershey Study will resume in the fall, most likely through the ZOOM format as well. Tot Shabbat will be available once a month, virtually, by clicking a link on our FACBOOK page, or You-Tube.
- 3. The High Holidays have taken place every year for centuries, and 5781-2020 will be no different. We will observe Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur with an experience that will be meaningful and spiritual.

We won't be able to join together in our Sanctuary or the Lehrman Chapel, but we will be able to have a High Holiday service in a form that will be meaningful to all of us, utilizing links on our computers or other devices.

- 4. Temple Ohev Sholom has been around for over 165 years, and will be around for many years to come. Our membership is strong, all of you have been supportive in paying your dues, and the temple board passed a budget that reflects the changing economy and is balanced, without a dues increase. Yes, those of us whose finances will allow them to be more generous than usual, will be asked to help us with a Yom Kippur appeal that we hope will be more successful than ever.
- 5. Our Sisterhood is stronger than ever. Our new president, Reyna Jose and her board have many new events and programs to share with us.
- 6. The temple staff is strong and stable. Michelle Darr is beginning her 12th year with us, Lillian Rappaport has retired but is being extremely helpful with our new Religious School Director, Jason Graf, our organist Chris Prestia has been "instrumental" in providing us with an enhanced musical experience for services, and will take a major role providing music for the High Holidays. Jon Snavely continues to be handy as our maintenance director, and I am beginning my 20th year as your rabbi. Of course, our temple president Rob Teplitz does all of the "heavy lifting" along with his dedicated board.
- 7. Our membership continues to be a blessing to all of us. We have kept together and cared for each other over the past four months, and will continue to do so in the future. The love we have for each other is an inspiration to our congregation.

Most importantly, we know that God is with us every step of the way. We learn, we teach, and we pray with the help of the Almighty, and that is a comfort to us every day.

In closing, we all agree that we living in different world now. Together we will navigate these uncharted waters and we will not only survive, but also be better because of our commitment to each other. Enjoy your summer, and I am always here for by e-mail: rabbi@ohevsholom.org or on my cell phone, 717-460-6444.

May God bless us all with good health during this crisis.

Your Rabbi,

Peter Kessler

SAVE THE DATE: VIRTUAL HIGH HOLIDAY SERVICES



Erev Rosh Hashanah, Friday September 18th Rosh Hashanah, Saturday September 19th

Kol Nidre, Monday September 28th Yom Kippur, Tuesday September 29th

> Morning Service Children's Service Yizkor Ne'ilah

The High Holidays will take place on the appropriate days, regardless of the COVID-19 pandemic. Members of Temple Ohev Sholom will be given instructions on how to open links to view the various parts of the service prior to the High Holidays. This will provide a similar experience to being in our beautiful Sanctuary in person, along with some innovative approaches to worship.

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE!

As an early result of the Board's ongoing strategic planning process, we have begun to redesign and update the temple's website. Phase 1 is now complete. The website can still be found at **www.ohevsholom.org**, but that is where the similarities to the old site end. Now you can:

- Sign up to receive Rabbi Kessler's weekly emails
- Read daily news and information from the Union for Reform
 Judaism and subscribe to the URJ's free e-newsletters
- Send messages to the temple office
- Connect directly to our Facebook page and YouTube channel
- Pay membership dues and register for programs (anticipated as of July 1st)

Additional exciting features will be added in the future. Let us know what you think!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have said many times how honored I am to serve as President of Temple Ohev Sholom. Given all that has occurred since my last bulletin message many months ago, it is an even more special and humbling honor to be entrusted to serve our congregation during these challenging times.

I am grateful for the hard work and dedication of Rabbi Kessler, our fulland part-time staff, members of the Board, Sisterhood, and volunteers. I am equally grateful for the support, encouragement, and patience of our congregants. Collectively, we are managing the difficult balance of protecting our temple family while also keeping all of us connected.

As we move forward together into the "new normal," our temple leadership will continue to make fact- and value-based decisions and share those decisions with you. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to reach out with your comments and concerns – and, most importantly, stay healthy and safe.

Rob Teplitz
President, Temple Ohev Sholom

SAVE THE DATE

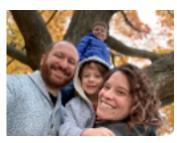
TEMPLE OHEV SHOLOM SISTERHOOD

22nd ANNUAL BOOK REVIEW

generously sponsored by
THE SYMONS /ROSE FAMILIES will present
acclaimed author and social justice activist Talia Carner
when she presents her latest book
THE THIRD DAUGHTER on Thursday, Nov. 5th via zoom.

Look for additional Information to follow Books are available at Barnes and Noble and Amazon as well as your local libraries

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: ARI & RACHAEL NEPON



Ari and Rachael Nepon moved to Mechanicsburg in July 2019, and are delighted to be back on the East Coast after more than a decade living in California.

Ari spent his early life in rural New Jersey, and moved to Allentown, PA as a young child where he and much of his family were members of congregation Keneseth Israel. Rachael grew up in the mid-state (Perry County proud!). They met at Ursinus College.

After school, it was off to New Haven for Rachael, and then Paris, France. Ari spent his post-college years in Philadelphia, and then packed up his car –really, a one car move—and headed to San Francisco to work for Apple and to experience the California Dream. After completing her studies, Rachael made the move to San Francisco to join him. They were married in 2009.

Outdoor lovers, Ari and Rachael found their home in the towering redwoods of the Santa Cruz mountains between Palo Alto and the Pacific Ocean. The family grew from two to three with the arrival of Isaac in 2012 and then Benjamin in 2015.

Putting her Ph.D. to work, Rachael spent the first half of her career in California as an editor for an educational technology company. She then shifted to work as a teacher and then the director of a Silicon Valley preschool. Ari continued to work for Apple. During his time in Cupertino he worked in project, product and for the last 8 years in progressively senior engineering leadership roles, most recently as part of the team that brought Apple Pay to the world. Ari still works on Apple Pay remotely, with a focus on forward looking due diligence.

By the 12th year in Northern California, it was time for a change, and to spend more time with our extended family. Since moving this past summer we've spent the weekends catching up with grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends. We convinced Rachael's parents to move next door. Isaac, in first grade at Broad Street Elementary, is living out his dreams of riding a school bus (not an option in his previous school!). Ben is looking forward to kindergarten next year. We're so happy to be living here, and look forward to becoming more active in our new community.

RABBI KESSLER'S BOOK REVIEW | BOOKS FOR 2020-21



The Third Daughter, by Talia Carner
The Plot Against America, by Philip Roth
Kaddish.com, by Nathan Englander
Inheritance, by Dani Shapiro
The World that We Knew, by Alice Hoffman
Mistress of the Ritz, by Melanie Benjamin

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

In accordance with the temple's bylaws, Temple Ohev Sholom's Annual Congregation Meeting was held on Wednesday, June 10, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. For obvious reasons, the meeting was held via the Zoom online platform rather than in person. However, approximately 30 members attended, satisfying the quorum requirements and enabling important business to be conducted. The highlights of the meeting are listed below:

Rabbi's Report: Rabbi Kessler reported that, prior to our March 13th closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic, services and activities were well attended. Since that time, outreach and virtual activities have been well received. Our new organist, Chris Prestia, is working out well, as seen in the rabbi's weekly Shabbat service videos.

President's Report: Rob Teplitz reported that membership and finances have been stable over the past year. He referenced the letter sent in May detailing the actions taken by temple leadership in response to the pandemic. The Board continues to work with Rabbi Kessler to make decisions based on guidance from government and public health officials. Rob thanked everyone, especially Rabbi Kessler and Office Administrator Michelle Darr, for their tireless efforts under difficult circumstances.

New Budget: The membership unanimously approved the temple's fiscal year 2020-21 budget with no dues increase. Members will soon be able to pay their dues via credit card on the new website at www.ohevsholom.org.

Sisterhood: Outgoing President Denyse Miskin reviewed 2019-20 programming, including a barbeque, building the Sukkah, and Book Review. Sisterhood increased its annual contributions to the temple and the religious school, in part in honor of the June 30th retirement of our long-time Principal, Lillian Rappaport. Denyse will continue to serve on the Board as a presidential appointee and member of the COVID-19 Response Committee. New Sisterhood President Reyna Jose announced a June 24th Zoom program on handling stress and anxiety during these challenging times. Details are on the temple's Facebook page.

Religious School Committee: Erika Saunders and Jill Family announced the hiring of our new Director, Jason Graf, following a formal search process that considered several worthwhile candidates. A final report from Lillian Rappaport was distributed with the annual meeting packet.

Facilities Committee: Aaron Krause reported that a new HVAC system will be installed and that other maintenance and safety efforts will continue.

Worship Committee: Michelle Berliner reviewed events over the past year and thanked committee members and volunteers.

Social Action Committee: Rachel Pinsker is considering future opportunities for the committee and asked interested members to contact her.

ADULT EDUCATION | FALL 2020 SCHEDULE

I am pleased to let you know that the Adult Education Classes scheduled for 2020-21 will take place, most likely on ZOOM.

Hershey Study is a once-a-month class taught on Thursday evenings. The topic for next year will be announced soon.

PEP is the Parallel Education Course taught once-a-month on Sunday mornings. We will focusing on "Women in the Bible". It may not be as fun as the Yiddish classes from previous years but it will be fascinating I'm sure.

Book Review is our monthly Sunday morning book club. We will read the selection of the month and then join together on ZOOM for an open discussion. Our books will be *The Third Daughter*, by Talia Carner, *The Plot Against America*, by Philip Roth

Kaddish.com, by Nathan Englander, Inheritance, by Dani Shapiro, The World that We Knew, by Alice Hoffman and Mistress of the Ritz, by Melanie Benjamin.

Lunch-n-Learn is a monthly "drop-in" discussion on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 12 noon in the Lehrman Chapel. This year will watch each other eat lunch on ZOOM, and continue our discussion of the "Timeline of Jewish History".

Basic Judaism classes, for those interested in converting to Judaism, or just want to learn more about Judaism, take place at various Sunday mornings during the year.

Please contact Rabbi Kessler for more information about our Adult Educational opportunities at Temple Ohev Sholom: rabbi@ohevsholom.org.

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, our building remains closed. We plan to continue with our weekly Shabbat video until it is safe for communal worship.

SAVE A TREE...AND OUR BUDGET

We know how important the temple bulletin is to our members. At the same time, however, it is also expensive to produce and difficult to sustain during times like a national emergency.

Over the past few months, we have seen how successful the rabbi's emails have been in communicating with our congregation. Therefore, we are asking members to tell us if they are willing to *opt-in* to receive the bulletin by email. For those members only, we would discontinue the hard copy mailing and email the link to the bulletin on our new website. Anyone who wants to continue receiving the hard copy will continue to receive it without having to do anything.

Please let Michelle Darr know if you are willing to receive the bulletin electronically. Doing so will help us keep our costs down during these financially uncertain times. If you change your mind later, we would be happy to re-subscribe you to the hard copy, no questions asked. Thank you in advance for your consideration

TRIBUTES

RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In memory of Seymour Blank Madeleine Blank Stephanie & Rob Blandy

In honor of Michael McNulty's milestone birthday Margery & Michael McNulty

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Liam Casher Joyce & Niles Benn Fran & Richard Casher Patti & Gary Lightman Debby & David Casher

MEMORIAL TRIBUTES TO TEMPLE ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory of Vincent Klawansky, brother of Eileen Katz Joelle and Denny Katz and family

In memory of Dr. Bruce Ettinger, uncle of Steven Ettinger Vicky Gladowsky

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FUND

To Todd Shamash, Mazel Tov on your new position as President and CEO of Capital Blue Cross. Patti and Gary Lightman

ROBERT D. WOLDORF MEMORIAL YOUTH FUND

For the speedy recovery of Fran Casher
Kickan & Floyd Baturin

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Liam Casher, grandson of Fran & Richard Casher Kickan & Floyd Baturin

SISTERHOOD FUNDS: Margaret Friedman

Emergency Aid Fund In memory of Seymour Blank, father of Stephanie Blandy Elyse & Al Bienstock

In memory of Lara Shapiro Ellis

Diane & Mike Goldberg

For the speedy recovery of

Lee Spitalny
Diane & Mike Goldberg

In memory of David Lang, brother of Elyse Bienstock Sherry & Gary Rosenstrach

Sisterhood Tribute Fund:

For the speedy recovery of Fran Casher Elyse & Al Bienstock

To: Frankie & George Glass Mazel Tov on the birth of your granddaughter, Lila James Irith Harpster Fern Zlotoff

For the speedy recovery of Lee Spitalny Nancy Weber

In memory of David Lang,

brother of Elyse Bienstock
Patti & Gary Lightman
Gail Reigler
Cindy and Don Lynch
Lainie & Elliott Strokoff
Sueann & Steven Lehner
Eileen & Steve Forman
Fern & Howard Zlotoff
Jackie Becker & Susan
Evans

Diane and Alan Stolberg Irith Harpster

Mazel Tov to Dr. Elise Krause, on receiving your doctorate from University of Pittsburgh's Occupational Therapy Program Irith Harpster Happy Birthday to Ricki Hurwitz, Irith Harpster, Doreen Evrard, Nancy Weber, Honi Kibler and Sue Shienvold From: Gail Riegler

In memory of Elliot Ross, father of Mike (Jen) Ross Cindy & Don Lynch Kim & Les Poolman

Mazel Tov on the birth of Max Locy, grandson of Cindy & Don Lynch Kim & Les Poolman Sherry & Gary Rosenstrauch Irith Harpster

Congratulations on your graduation from Cumberland Valley High School – Ben Kluger & Max Astrachan Irith Harpster

Congratulations and Happy Retirement to Lillian Rappaport. Thank you for your years of directing Ohev's Religious School! Irith Harpster

Happy 95th Birthday & Mazel Tov to Abe Leidereman Irith Harpster

Doris Zaritzky Fund:

In memory of David Lang, brother of Elyse Bienstock Doreen Evrard

Mazel Tov on the birth of Max Locy, grandson of Cindy & Don Lynch Elyse & Al Bienstock

Happy Birthday to Gail Riegler Doreen Evrard

Altar Flower Fund: For the speedy recovery of Fran Casher Diane & Mike Goldberg

JULY/AUGUST KADDISH

July 3

Robert Abel Mark R. Becker Rosalyn Meritz Blum

Lee Braff Milton M. Cohen

Avis Cooper Mildred Forman

Abraham Garner Rose Goodman

Marilyn Fox

Alan Jacobs Roy W. Kibler

Roy W. Kibler Bessie Latt

Herman Marks Jerome Newman Aileen Osofsky

Florence Rindley Martin S. Roberts

Max Rubin William B. Schleisner

Walter L. Stern Sylvia Tolk

July 10

Martin S. Abel Charles Adler Alexander Aronson Augusta Cohen Esther Cohen Mitzi Frahm Tomisieto

Cecilia T. Friedman Margaret Friedman Lt. Miles F. Goodman Jr.

Lewis Ibsen Manuel Kraus Annette Lang

Lynne Marrits Kitty G. Myers

Dorothy I. Zalman

Charles Adler

July 17

Gordon D. Adler Dr. Gustav J. Beck Robert D. Brenner Margaret Friedman Greta Gallia Joan S. Goldsmith Oscar Goodman

Caroline Greene Evan Helmuth

Arthur Hess Lester Hess

Norman Krause Marilyn Landesberg Annette Lang

Samuel Latt

Bessie Abel Lehrman Martha Lehrman Leon

Samuel Levinson Rebecca Levy

Rebecca Levy Gloria Olewine Lois Rockmaker

Benjamin H. Schneiderman Nathan Segal

David Shapiro Israel Sweig Matilda Wolf

John Woodard Bryant, Jr. Paul Zucker

July 24

Moses Baturin

Harris Cohen Monroe Cohen Shirley Englander Randee Forman Bette Frahm Rosenblatt Ruth Friedman Rosebelle Holdsworth Kenneth Johnson Joseph Katz Rose Klotzman

Abraham Mayer Henry M. Miller Martha Miller Roth Ethel Segal

George Sherman Albert J. Simms Herman Stein

July 31

Sadie Frank Adler Esther Astrachan Abraham Bornstein Lois Breder Adams Harold M. Feinberg Frances Fradkin Margaret Goddard Alice May Heath
Harry Heinemann
Pearl Kaplan
Selma Katzman Klein
Joseph Lowengard
Melba Ball Schwartz
Arthur Siegel
Harvey Tesman
Cherney Yarowsky

August 7

Alec Cohen
Lizzie Dealham
Felix Gallia
Seymour Goldberg
Paul Gourley
Steven M. Harpster
Bernice Ibsen
Emma Israel
Gail Holt Koppleman
Abraham J. Lehrman
Sadye H. Menaker

Herman J. Nathan

Bernard Symons

August 14

Yetta Yamin

June Bedwell
Jeanette Bronstein
Justine O. Cohen
Donald Ehring
Ray Fisher
Bernard Forner
Herman Freedman
Joseph Goldberg
Daniel Krause
Joseph G. Lowengard
Diana K. Sauertieg
Jeanette Shellhammer
Harold Zerfuss

KADDISH (CONTINUED)

August 21

Harry Bagley
William Bienstock
J. Stanley Cohen
Sheila Culberson
Dr. Mark Galowitz
Lucetta Gross
Jay Holsopple
Morton Klausner
Reuben Levenson
Ray Melnicove
Linnea Neuman
Elizabeth Schwartz
Sylvia Goldstein Stern

August 28

Henra J. Abrams
Leah Blank
Frances Cohn
Marvin Feinman
Marcus Forman
Barry Fox
Lou Goldstein
Julius Goodman
Alex Grass
Eleanor Jacobs
Samuel Jaffe
Henry Nachman
Richard H. Podolle
J. David Snyder
Betty F. Sykes

Meet our New Religious School Director!



The Board has hired Jason Graf to serve as the Director of Temple Ohev Sholom's Religious School beginning on July 1. He takes over from Lillian Rappaport, who retired after a long and successful tenure.

Jason moved to Harrisburg in July 2019. He attended Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS), where he earned two bachelor's degrees, one in psychology and one in Talmud. Jason is in the process of

pursuing his master's degree in Jewish Education from JTS.

He has had extensive experience working in religious school settings both as a classroom teacher and directing religious school programming. During the day, Jason works at Reading Plus, a reading intervention program for students in grades 3-12. When not working, Jason loves to spend time outdoors with his wife Zeva.

Jason will be working with Lillian this summer as he transitions to the role and we work toward launching religious school for the fall. Please join us in welcoming Jason to the Temple Ohev Sholom family!He can be reached at jason@ohevsholom.org.

TEMPLE OHEV SHOLOM 2345 N. FRONT ST HARRISBURG PA 17110

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED