

### FROM YOUR RABBI: WHAT WILL 2021 BRING

#### Hi Everyone!

The New Year is upon us, and while we may breathe a sigh of relief that 2020 is leaving us, there is still a sense of trepidation about the coming year. What will 2021 bring for your congregation, your families, and your own sense of personal awareness as the hope of the vaccine keeps us in a positive mood, but the restrictions that remain may make us feel less than comfortable.

I've heard it said, "we are all in the same boat", but in reality, we are in different boats that try to stay afloat in a sea of anxiety over the virus and its implications.



I'd like to offer my condolences to the many Ohev Sholom families who have lost loved ones in recent months, and hope for the full recovery of those who are still sick and in need of healing. Please keep your prayers for all of us who are suffering in body, mind, and in spirit. We may be able to see "the light at the end of the tunnel", but I'm afraid we may be in this tunnel for a while. Please try to stay hopeful, even in these cold winter months. Remember that I am here for you, as well as everyone in the Ohev Sholom family. One of our greatest gifts is that we are truly a family, and do a great job of staying in touch with each other and offering our support. Thank you to the many members who have included us in their planned giving and the Yom Kippur appeal, both of which are so necessary to keep the Ohev Sholom "boat" afloat in these turbulent seas.

So let's begin 2021 with a sense of gratitude. Great events are on the horizon from our Sisterhood, the Religious School, and your clergy. I plan to continue our weekly Shabbat videos with Chris Prestia, and more Tot Shabbat videos will take place as well. The temple board, guided by our tireless president Rob Teplitz, is already brainstorming ideas for Purim and Passover observances. Our new Religious School Director, Jason Graf, has been a great addition to our Ohev Sholom family, working with our faculty to keep the Religious School vibrant and meaningful, even under the constraints of ZOOM. We are indeed grateful for what we have, and we look forward to be able to be together soon, once it is safe to do so. But in the meanwhile, please take care of yourselves and each other. Watch our weekly Shabbat services and make sure to take part in PEP, our Book Review class, and Lunch-N-Learn. Our Confirmation Class is thriving, and we have a great group of people in our Basic Judaism class who are learning more about us once a month. Things may not be perfect, but they are doing fine.

I wish us all a very Happy 2021...a year filled with promise of health and joy once again. If you need me, I am available atrabbi@ohevsholom.orgor on my cell phone: 717-460-6444.

Your rabbi,

Peter Kessler

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am writing this message during Hanukkah, realizing that we are living through our own modern Hanukkah story. We all know the *real* story: in 168 B.C.E., the Maccabees won a battle to reclaim the Temple in Jerusalem; when they wanted to rededicate the Temple, they could only find enough oil to light the Menorah for one day; miraculously, the oil lasted for eight days, enough time to make more oil and keep the eternal flame lit. As any our Religious School students can tell you, that's why the holiday is called the "Festival of Lights."

Flash forward a few thousand years to March 2020. When the world shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we all thought that we would be stuck at home for two weeks. Maybe we would be little inconvenienced, but no sweat. Then two weeks turned into a month, then two months, and, well, you know the rest.

It's been hard. Everyone has been affected in one way or another, some more than others, but nobody has been spared.

Yet...as a community, we are still here. Resilience – the ability to withstand difficult circumstances – is a quintessentially human trait, dare I say a *Jewish* trait. How many stories are there of our people beating the odds? There is truth in the old joke that all of Jewish history can be summed up in nine words: "They tried to kill us. We won. Let's eat."

So while we thought we had enough resilience to survive two weeks at home, we have managed to get through ten months and counting. I do not mean to sugarcoat this – there have been real, tragic losses, and we should acknowledge and remember them. But if you are reading this column, you have somehow found a way to get through this pandemic one day at a time.

Your oil has lasted for more than one day. And now, with vaccines being developed and distributed, there is a *light* at the end of the tunnel. Just a few months ago, we weren't even sure there was a tunnel!

All of this is to say that – despite these short, cold, dark days of January – 2021 promises to be a better year for all of us. Please hang in there, both as individuals and as a congregation. Like our forebears, we will survive these hard times, recover, and be stronger than before.

As always, please contact me with questions or concerns at robteplitz@comcast.net or (717) 329-3101. In the meantime, a happy, healthy, and safe new year to you and your loved ones!

Rob Teplitz
President, Temple Ohev Sholom

### **JOIN THE CLUB!**

For both financial and logistical reasons, we must continue to decrease the number of hard copies of the Bulletin that we mail out. Please notify Michelle Darr if you are willing to receive the electronic version only. Greater member participation in this effort is needed in order to achieve meaningful cost savings. Thank you!

### **DRIVE-THROUGH HANUKKAH EVENT**

On Sunday, December 6, 2020, members were able to drive through our parking lot to safely pick up Hanukkah gift bags and materials for the second half of the religious school year. Members also generously donated so much food to Jewish Family Service's food pantry that we filled three delivery vehicles. There was also a shopping cart's worth of non-kosher food that we donated to Domestic Violence Services of Lancaster County. Thank you to Program Chair Audrey Miner, Social Action Chair Rachel Pinsker, Sisterhood President Reyna Jose, Religious School Director Jason Graf, and everyone who volunteered and participated!











# SISTERHOOD NEWS

It is the fifth night of Hanukkah as I sit writing this article. I love Hanukkah. I love to see the glow of the candles burning, I enjoy listening to the upbeat music and I love the food...I enjoy making and eating latkes; and I am known to eat a jelly donut now and again, too.

My husband, Ernie and I look forward to going to temple each year, to join with other congregational families to light our hanukkiah together. Of course, we always participate in Sisterhood's Hanukkah Dinner, as well. But this was not to be this year.

Temple Ohev Sholom had to think outside the box...I am so proud of our Sisterhood, our temple and our temple families. There was a wonderful turnout for our **Drive- through Hanukkah gift bag** pick up and food drive for **Jewish Family Service Food Pantry**. We collected well over 40 bags of kosher non- perishable food items; and several families gave monetary donations, as well. I think that is just amazing. We had a wonderful turn out, via Zoom on the first night of Hanukkah for **Rabbi Kessler's candle lighting and songs**. Sisterhood also had a wonderful turnout for our **Latkes and Lights** program. A big thank you goes to Sarah Kawasaki for leading us in the Hanukkah blessings; and to Jaimi Smith for agreeing to take the lead and do a latke demonstration. So you see, even though we are not together in person; we can still be together through the magic of Zoom, both physically and spiritually.

#### **Upcoming events:**

Please mark your calendars for **Sisterhood's Winter Social** which is scheduled for Saturday evening, January 23, 2021. More details to come very soon. Also, for **Sisterhood's Winter Brunch** is scheduled for Sunday, February 21st.

Sisterhood welcomes all women of our synagogue community to join our group. Our Sisterhood is a vibrant and active group that reflects the diversity of Temple Ohev Sholom – with members of varied backgrounds, ages, and interests.

Whether you would simply like to get to know some of the other women in the congregation, or would just like to get more involved – there is a place for you in our Sisterhood. However you choose to participate, please know that a warm and caring group of women awaits you. We would love for you to participate and get involved in any way you feel comfortable.

Thank you to those who have already sent in their dues to Dara Kluger, Financial Secretary. If you have not done so yet, you will be getting a reminder in the mail within the next couple of weeks. As always, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to give me a call..717 379-0674, or email me at <a href="mailto:rmjose32@comcast.net">rmjose32@comcast.net</a>.

In Sisterhood,

Reyna Jose President

### ADULT EDUCATION | JANUARY SCHEDULE

I look forward to seeing you on ZOOM for our January classes:

January 10 - Basic Judaism & PEP

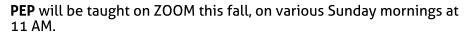
January 13 - Lunch n Learn (Noon)

January 24 - Book Review

I'll send out the ZOOM link the week prior to the class.

Looking forward to seeing you virtually!





**Book Review** will be taught on ZOOM this fall, on various Sunday mornings at 11 AM.

**Basic Judaism/Conversion clas**s will be taught on ZOOM this fall, on various Sunday mornings at 10 AM.

**Hershey Study** will be taught on ZOOM this fall, on various Thursday evenings at 7:30 PM.

**Lunch N Learn** will be taught on ZOOM this fall, on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 12 noon.

If you haven't received the schedule for these classes by e-mail, please contact Rabbi Kessler at <a href="mailto:rabbi@ohevsholom.org">rabbi@ohevsholom.org</a> to be placed on the e-mail list. Many thanks!!





### Please join us for Sisterhood's Winter Social



Temple Ohev Sholom Sisterhood would like to invite you to BINGO Night! This event will be held via Zoom on Saturday January 23rd at 7:00pm.

If you would like to join, please RSVP to Reyna Jose via email <a href="mjose32@comcast.net">mjose32@comcast.net</a>. Once you RSVP, an email will be sent to you closer to the date with a Zoom link.

This event is FREE of charge!

### **RELIGIOUS SCHOOL UPDATE**

In the last two months, so much has happened in religious school. Our first and second graders had an opportunity to contribute to our wonderful Shabbat services. The second graders were blessed with their Hebrew names -- offering another important connection point to their Jewish identity. Our third graders got to make their very own menorahs in time for Hanukkah. And our sixth and seventh graders completed projects, which got them thinking about how Judaism touches all facets of life. Of course, we also participated in the Hanukkah drive-by event.

As we look towards the second half of the year, we are hoping to improve on the solid foundation that which has been set. Teaching on Zoom is still new to all of us and we will continue to work on innovative ways to engage our students online. We are also looking forward to more special events which will help keep religious school exciting and different for our students.

Have a safe and healthy new year,

Jason Graf

**Religious School Director** 

### Sisterhood Tributes -- your support is greatly appreciated.

Donations are (minimum) \$5.00, it's an easy and inexpensive way to acknowledge all types of greetings, well wishes and any family milestones.

<u>The Tribute Fund</u>: Donations are used for Sisterhood programs and expenses.

<u>The Margaret Friedman Emergency Aid Fund</u>: Donations are used to sustain the committee that prepares and serves meals following funerals for a bereaved family.

<u>The Doris Zaritzky</u> Fund: Donations are used to benefit Temple youth and religious school activities.

It's easy--choose the fund, a short message, and send a check made out to T.O.S.S.,

Please send to: Kim Poolman, 1304 Georgetown Circle, Carlisle, PA 17013 or <a href="mailto:poolmankb@gmail.com">poolmankb@gmail.com</a> or 717-580-5667 (any questions)

## JANUARY KADDISH

### January 1

Franklin Abel Bowman A. Brown, Jr. Lita Cramer Max Garner **Pauline Goldring** M. Lee Goldsmith Irwin I. Grossman H. Albert Kerstein Jack Klawansky Joseph Klein Bernhardt Kramer Sol Kuhn Moses Landis **Irving Levine** Henrietta H. Mayer Bernard Rosenstrauch Max Salkin William Moss Strouse

#### January 8

Ida G. Abraham Lewis F. Adler Florence Gurwitz Aaron Henken Seth Jacobs Bessie Kaufman Barry Koppel Fanny Kruger Erwin H. Lenz Mary Levine Herman Levy Robin Rogoff Star Doris O. Zaritzky

### January 15

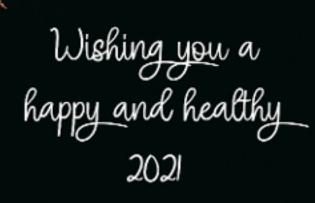
Lewis Baturin Herman Berk Samuel Bronstein Rosalyn Chizeck Luella Evrard Norma Finstein Beth Frahm Frank Morris Goldberg Philip Goldberg Sarah Goldstein Bette Goodman Benjamin Jaffe Mayer (Bob) Kutler Lena Lang Martin Levine Mamie K. Levinson Saul Litvack Karen McManuels Lillian Melman Gloria G. Miller Gustav H. Nachman Betty Snyder Harold Spector Hedwig M. Strouse David Daniel Ufberg Amelia Wilson Isaac L. Yoffe

### January 22

Emma Astrich Joseph Baum Oskar Beck Bernard Beitman Minnie R. Cohn Randall Disend Alan I. Ettinger
Edward Friedman
Morris Goldring
Seymour Hartman
Thelma Marie Johnson
Yetta Marino
Lily Meyerwitz
Sylvia Nurick
Bernard M. Plawsky
Aaron Rokoff
Sally Rokoff
Rebecca Scheier
Donald Schwartz
Maxine Talkov

#### January 29

Morris Baturin Isadore Cibull David Gaynes Bertram Goldberg Hannah L. Goldberg Helen Goldberg **Evelyn Goldstein** Faina Gordin Louis Gordon Sara J. Gross Harry E. Pyke Bernhard Rubin Bernard Sack Anna S. Sherman Carl A. Wagenheim Mollie B. Yoffe Jack Zuckerman





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