Hi Everyone!

As you read this article (hopefully on your computer), both Passover and Easter will coincide. As I often say, we blessed at Ohev Sholom because of the great diversity within our membership. When we gaze out into the Lehrman Chapel, or our Sanctuary as we hope to do in the coming months, I see men and women, Jews and Christians, Atheists, Agnostics, Muslims, the LGBTQ+ community, as well as people with white skin, brown skin, and every color in between. On the High Holidays we even count Sophie, the beloved dog kept hidden in one of my favorite congregant’s purse.

I love when the Jewish and Christian communities observe holidays at the same time. It reminds of the old 1965 Tom Lehrer (a secular Jew, by the way) parody, “National Brotherhood Week”. (If you haven’t seen it performed, please look it up on YOU-TUBE). Last December, Hanukkah was over before Christmas began so I had time to visit with one of my favorite pastors, Rev. Mark Russell of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Lancaster. (Yes, I’m still close with Pastor Hardy of Trinity Lutheran Church in Camp Hill, for those of you who remember him). Or is that hymn?

Pastor Russell was able to share many of the Christmas customs with me, as well as some of the beautiful Christmas music. This year, I hope to learn more about his faith when I visit on Easter Sunday.

Passover and Easter share similar themes. They are both Spring holidays when we rejoice that the winter is over and a time of joy is upon us. The Last Supper was a Passover Seder, and that coincidence wasn’t lost in our frequent discussions. We observe the bitterness of slavery at Passover, while our Christian friends and family relive the bitterness of the crucifixion as well as the joy of the resurrection that is part of the Christian liturgy.

Even more telling are the similarities Jews and Christians share during our Spring celebrations. We both honor family gatherings, our sense of faith, doing deeds of righteousness, and Tikkun Olam (the repairing of our world).

All of us have Christian friends, and most of us have Christian relatives (including myself). We have been experiencing a year of sadness, whether apart or together. This year, whether we can safely gather with our friends and family or simply see each other on a screen, let its rejoice together that our season of sadness is finally beginning to wane, and “joy awaits us in the morning” (Psalm 30). My best to all of you.

Your rabbi,
Peter Kessler
I am writing this message on the one-year anniversary of the COVID-19 pandemic forcing the board to close the temple building and suspend all in-person activities. Today, thanks to the availability of vaccines and other virus-mitigation measures, there is good reason to be optimistic that this strange and sorrowful chapter of our history will end.

As a result, I have been asked when temple life will return to normalcy or something close to it. Confronting that question is the board’s top priority. While we don’t know the precise answer at this time, please be assured that we will continue to make fact- and value-based decisions in the best interest of our temple family and share those decisions with you in real time. Simultaneously, we will continue to work hard to keep everyone connected and engaged through new and innovative programs and services.

Your ongoing input, support, and patience remain important elements of the decision-making process and are much appreciated. Together, we have successfully navigated these uncharted waters for the past year, and I am confident that we will find our way to a safe harbor in as responsible, transparent, and expeditious manner as possible.

As always, please feel free to contact me with your questions or concerns at robteplitz@comcast.net or (717) 329-3101.

Rob Teplitz  
President, Temple Ohev Sholom

SIGN UP FOR THE E-BULLETIN

Please let Michelle Darr know if you are willing to receive future issues of the bulletin electronically. Doing so will help both the temple budget and the environment. 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!
Are you facing challenges due to COVID-19?

You may be eligible for a Grant. Grants support members of the Jewish Community facing COVID related needs:

- financial challenges
- medical and mental health assistance needs
- funding for housing and utility expenses
- food insecurity and more

Please contact Board Treasurer, Dan Green, for a confidential conversation at 412-719-9329 or dangreen1984@gmail.com

Grants will be made to Temple Ohev Sholom through the Jewish Community Foundation of Central PA.

50% Matching Gift Opportunity to help friends and neighbors through these challenging times.

Our Jewish Community Foundation of Central PA will match up to 50%* of your gift for COVID relief!

*Up to $20,000 total

DONATE BY CHECK TO:
Jewish Community Foundation of Central PA,
3211 N. Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110

DONATE BY CREDIT CARD TO:
pajewishendowment.org
NOTE: “JCF Match Fund” on memo line

Call Paulette Keifer at (904) 307-2413
My name is Riley Kanenson and I am becoming a Bat Mitzvah on April 17, 2021. I am a seventh grader at the Londonderry School. I take contemporary dance, ballet, and hip hop classes. I have also taken voice lessons. I really enjoy drawing and playing with my two dogs.

My torah portion of Leviticus (Metzora) tells the story of the purification of the plague leprosy. It explains the law for the cleansing of the houses that contain the plague. I feel that I have an understanding of what a plague is since the Covid pandemic this past year.

For my Mitzvah project, I help my Grandma a few times a year collect and donate Barbie dolls to local shelters for children in need. We donate hundreds of dolls every year. I also help make lasagnas for Lasagna Love that helps feed local families. In April, every year I participate with my mom in the Unity Walk for Parkinsons Disease in NYC. If you would like to donate Barbies or support me in the Unity Walk, you can email mkanenson@comcast.net.

I would like to thank my parents, Rabbi Kessler, Mrs. Huttemann, and my Hebrew school teachers for helping me to prepare for my Bat Mitzvah. I am looking forward to this special day!

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RELIGIOUS SCHOOL UPDATE

We had a very busy month of March in the religious school. To name a few highlights:

The fifth graders worked hard in preparation for their Shabbat family service. The sixth graders celebrated their mock Shabbat party, in culmination of their Shabbat studies. The seventh graders got to meet different community leaders, as they begin to explore how they will connect Jewishly after graduating. And the younger grades learned all about the story of Passover. The third graders even got to make choreset in class... yum.

We look forward to all the learning and Jewishly joyful moments that will take place in April, our final month of school.

L'Shalom,

Jason Graf
Religious School Director
**BASIC JUDAISM:** April 11th at 10 AM  
**PEP:** April 11th at 11 AM  
**LUNCH N LEARN:** April 14th at 12 noon  
**CONFIRMATION:** April 18th at 12 noon  
**BOOK REVIEW:** April 18th at 11 AM  
I’ll send out the ZOOM link the week prior to the class.  
Looking forward to seeing you virtually!  
*Peter*

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**Presentation: “Vaccine Hesitancy Before and During COVID-19,” March 21, 2021**

Vaccine hesitancy is as old as vaccines. In this one-hour program via Zoom, Bernice Hausman, Ph.D., Chair of the Department of Humanities at Penn State College of Medicine and a member of Temple Ohev Sholom, shared her research on historical and contemporary themes in vaccine hesitancy and how these are being expressed during the COVID-19 pandemic. She focused on how understanding the reasons behind vaccine hesitancy and refusal can help to create common ground even in the context of a polarized social context.

The program was moderated by Dr. Erika Saunders, Chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health at Penn State College of Medicine. Dr. Saunders is a member of Temple Ohev Sholom’s Board of Trustees and Sisterhood, a member of the board’s COVID-19 Response Committee, and chair of the Religious School Committee.

This excellent program was sponsored by the temple board and Sisterhood. We thank Drs. Hausman and Saunders for their time and the participants for their great questions.

**A recording of the program can be found on the temple's YouTube channel at**  
https://www.youtube.com/ TempleOhevSholomHbgPA in the "Special Programs" playlist.
Program: "The Bible Players," March 13, 2021

"The Bible Players," a New York-based Jewish comedy group, presented a show via Zoom for our adult members last month. This program was made possible through a generous grant from The Jewish Community Foundation of Central Pennsylvania’s Harrisburg Haverim Society Fund. The adult show followed a special Purim show for our religious school families in February. Thank you to Audrey Miner, chair of the board’s Program Committee, and Jason Graf, Religious School Director, for their hard work on these events.

A recording of both shows can be found on the temple's YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/ TempleOhevSholomHbgPA in the "Special Programs" playlist.
Did you know?

Sisterhood:

Provides flowers for Shabbat Services in the Sanctuary and the Chapel.
Organizes an Oneg Shabbat for 7:30pm Shabbat Services.
Organizes the building and decorations of the Sukkah and decorations in the Sanctuary for Sukkot.
Organizes and implements Symons/Rose Book Review. A big thank you to the Symons/Rose family for their generosity.
Organizes and implements the Temple’s Hanukkah Dinner.

We provide the religious school students apples and honey for Rosh Hashanah, cookies and juice in the sukkah for Sukkot, gelt and Hannukkah candles for Hanukkah, and hamantaschen for Purim.

If you have a child who is in college, guess what?? Sisterhood will send them a gift card for Rosh Hashanah, Hanukkah and Passover.

We sponsor Soup and Study 2 or 3 times a year. Thank you to Rabbi Kessler for leading the discussion.

Process and send Uniongrams and Tributes to congregants celebrating their simchas of birthdays and anniversaries.

If G-d forbid you have a death among your immediate family, we will provide you a meal, if the funeral is local. If it is not local, we will make a memorial contribution in the name of your loved one.

Programs, programs and more programs throughout the year.

Friendship..Sisterhood is a “family.” We are here for each other in times of crisis or in times of happiness.

If you and your family have experienced any of the above activities this year or in the past, you should be a member of Sisterhood. There is so much we do for the temple and our community. We would love for you to be a member of Sisterhood. The more Sisterhood members we have, the more we can do. It is easy to join. Please complete the membership form which is in the Bulletin or you may call me for more information...717 379-0674.

In Sisterhood,

Reyna Jose

President
Temple Ohev Sholom Sisterhood
New Member Application

Name: ____________________________________________

Spouse’s Name: ____________________________________________

Street Address: ____________________________________________

Phone Numbers: Home: _______ Work: _______ Cell: _______

E-Mail Address: ____________________________________________

Birthday (Month and Day Only): __________________________

Anniversary: ____________________________________________

Children’s Names and Ages: ____________________________________________

Areas of Interest: ____________________________________________

I would like to be placed on both the Sisterhood mailing list and email list. (Circle one)
YES  NO

Comments or Suggestions: ____________________________________________

Signature: __________________________ Date: ________________

If you have any questions, please contact Dara Kluger. Please see below.

Membership dues are $36. Please make checks payable to “Temple Ohev Sholom Sisterhood”
or “TOSS”. Completed applications along with dues payment should be mailed to:

Dara Kluger, Financial Secretary
1105 Tiverton Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050
THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO DONATED!

POSITIVE Judaism

2021 DONOR EVENT

LEARN HOW THE MODERN SCIENCE OF HAPPINESS ECHOES JEWISH WISDOM FROM ALISON DEUTSCH

JOIN US APRIL 22, 7 P.M.

PLEASE R.S.V.P. BY APRIL 20 TO denysemiskin@gmail.com
April 2
Simon Abraham
Sarah Baturin
Herbert Dixon
Renee Feldman
Joseph Garner
James Gormley
Harry W. Gross
Hayman
Kirschenbaum
Max A. Kohn
Samuel Kraus
Ethyle Leventhal
A.L. Light
Harry Margolis
Max B. Menaker
Jacob M. Miller
Harry B. Rubin

April 9
Louis Astrachan
Arnold Becker
Louis W. Cohen
Sidney Disend
Jacob I. Doranz
Pauline Garner
Dr. Morris J. Gerber
Leon Grobman
Arthur H. Goldberg
Mae Gutschit
Mae Husick
Bernard Lehrman
Elizabeth Liebman
Harold May
Mary Straus Mayer
Ida Polk
Jennie Shapiro
Linda Gross Shapiro
Belle O. Stern
Harry A. Wagenheim
Shirley Walker
Rosalie Wolff
Norman Yoffe

April 16
Benjamin Cantor
Hyman Cohen
Sarah Cooper
Bill Disend
Rose Frahm
Warren Gittlen
Sarah Goldman
Richard Goldsmith
Frances Goodman
Helaine Gross
Martha Hurwitz
David Kaufman
Joseph Kaufman
Sam Klotzman
Judith Margolis
Dorothy Rosenbaum
Marilyn Roth
Tillie Shienvold
Benjamin Strouse
Joshua Strouse
S. Adam Symons
Helene Wiede
Vivian Zalkind

April 23
Michael Alper
Daniel Ball
Flora Beitman
Charles S. Berman
William Breder
Henry C. Claster
Bess Cohen
Samuel Disend
Donald F. Everhart
I. George Friedman
Jennie Myers
Friedman
Phyllis Gaynes
Herman L. Goldstein
William S. Goldstein

Mina Cohn Grosky
Oscar Jacobs
Margaret Kenney
David S. Kohn
Rosalind Kraus
David Lang
Helene W. Lehrman
Paul Lightman
Sylvia E. Melamed
J. N. Meyerwitz
Augusta Nassau
Rita Orons
Frances Corbett
Plesco
Hilda Rosenstrauh
Abe Siegal

April 30
Harold Berman
Israel Blinn
Bessie Brenner
Grace Brown
Regina Galowitz
Frances Gerber
Jacob Miller
Sanford Pinsker
William M. Poolman
Leah P. Rosen
Samuel Rosen
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