TEMPLE OHEV SHOLOM

BULLETIN

SIVAN - ELUL 5781 **SUMMER 2021 - VOL. 11 NO. 10**

GETTING GOD'S ATTENTION

I've often wonder if God is always available to us. Does God sit around heaven waiting for us to praise Him, or ask for forgiveness, or heal the sick, or whatever else we need? Perhaps God is busy doing other things, and is only available to listen to our prayers on Shabbat? Or maybe God takes Shabbat off, and listens to our prayers on Monday through Friday, with Saturday for Jewish prayers and Sunday for Christian prayers? Is God available 24/7? I wonder...



I always believed that God was there for us whenever we needed God. But now I wonder if we need to do something to get God's attention. I assumed God was always paying attention, so that whenever I needed God, God would be there. But to "get God's attention" really might just be another way to say "pray." Certainly God hears our prayers and intentions, but how do we get God's attention in prayer?

In our Shabbat service, we have the Barchu...the prayer that praises God before we begin our asking for God's blessings. Barchu, especially when we bow down before God, is a way to humble ourselves before we pray. We get God's attention by approaching God with humility.

What I found so interesting is the similarity between this and what I was taught as a child about making friends: give compliments and admit when you're wrong. Giving someone a compliment disarms them and makes them feel good, and admitting when you're wrong builds trust and also disarms. Both practices yield humility and listening. It gets a person's attention and they listen, just as we seek God's attention and want God to listen to our prayers.

But something else happens. Humbling ourselves actually gets us to listen. This applies equally to prayer and interpersonal relationships. How often have you tried to explain something to someone several times, then, after finally listening to them, find that they understood what you were saying all along? You thought they weren't listening, but really you weren't listening. Have you ever prayed to God and gotten frustrated because your prayer wasn't answered, then figured out later that the answer had been right in front of you all along? Perhaps the practice of humbling ourselves to "get God's attention" is really about humbling ourselves so that God gets our attention. Just one of the ways we can stay connected to God...

My best to all of you.

Your rabbi,

Peter Kessler

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Almost exactly one year ago, Rabbi Kessler and I shared with the congregation the plan to keep Temple Ohev Sholom functioning during the global COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, the leadership has tried our best to make fact- and value-based decisions in the best interests of our entire temple family. That approach allowed us to continue to meet the spiritual, educational, and social needs of our congregation. Your support, patience, and generosity as we navigated those uncharted waters have been greatly appreciated.

We are now pleased to report that the Board of Trustees has adopted a "Back to Shul" plan, the details of which were recently mailed to every member household. As infection rates decline and vaccination rates increase, we are ready to put Temple Ohev Sholom on a path towards normalcy. However, in order for this plan to work, it is important that everyone follow the required health and safety protocols that are listed in the plan. In particular, as I write this message, masks are still required for everyone in the building, despite the recent CDC guidance that allows organizations to adopt more liberal policies. We will revisit and revise that requirement and other elements of our policy as appropriate in the future.

Please note that the temple office continues to be closed to non-employees until further notice. If you have business to conduct, please make appropriate arrangements by phone or email. We will notify the congregation when regular access to the building can resume.

Thank you in advance for doing your part to help our temple family get "Back to Shul" as safely and quickly 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

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!

BAR MITZVAH: SAM FREEDMAN

My name is Sam Freedman. I became a Bar Mitzvah on May 22, 2021.

I attend Linglestown Middle School. I play soccer for CASA. I also enjoy hiking and spending time boating and swimming with my family at our lake house in the summers. It is also fun to play video games and ride bikes with my friends.

My Torah portion, Nasso, is about Moses commanding the sons of Aaron to take a census. Similarly, this pandemic year has been as year of counting. Counting the ill, the recovered, and who has been lost. The



most important counting this year has been learning to count our blessings.

For my Bar Mitzvah I collected items and donations for the Canine Rescue of Central Pennsylvania. I had chosen this organization because we had adopted our dog Abby there. Abby passed away in the fall of 2019. As a way to honor our bond, it became important to me to help rescue dogs and families find each other.

I would like to thank my parents, grandparents, family and friends for their support and encouragement. I would also like to thank Rabbi Kessler and all my teachers

Becoming a Bar Mitzvah is important to me because I am now considered to be part of the Jewish community and I can celebrate fully in all the traditions.

Mazel tov to this year's Confirmation class!

Sid Astrachan Ethan Cohen Zoe Mendelsohn Cara Morrison Ean Morrison Adam Saunders Jonathan Saunders Ben Teplitz

A recording of the live-streamed Confirmation service from May 21st is available on the temple's Facebook and YouTube pages. The students did a great job with their parts of the service and their individual speeches reflecting on their Jewish education. We wish them well in all that comes next!

SISTERHOOD NEWS

As I complete my first of two years as Sisterhood President, I am thankful for so many things. I am thankful for Sisterhood's Executive Board and Chair people who run our various committees. I am thankful for all of you, who have participated and attended our programs through Zoom and who have supported Sisterhood monetarily during our Donor Campaign. I am thankful for Rabbi Kessler, Michelle Darr and Rob Teplitz for all they do for our Temple, and the support they have shown me through this year. Last, but not least, I am thankful for my family. My husband, Ernie and my son, Michael who have given me support throughout this year.

Although it has been a different type of year due to the Coronavirus, I am so proud of all things Sisterhood has accomplished and I look forward to the year ahead. Please keep an eye out for emails during the summer and/or check our Facebook page for any upcoming activities or news. We are in midst of planning an interesting and fun Opening Program and our Symons/Rose Book Review is slated for Thursday, November 4th. We will be welcoming author, Ronald Balson to speak to us about his book, *Eli's Promise*.

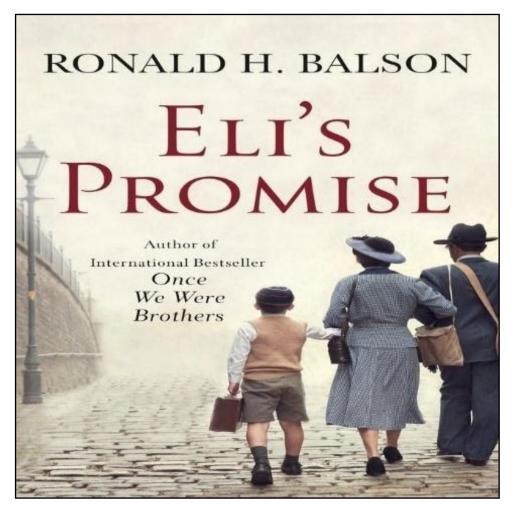
We will be having our Planning Meeting on Sunday, May 23rd, but if you have any ideas on programming/activities, I would love to hear from you. Don't be shy! If would like to volunteer to help plan programs or would like to serve as a committee chair, please contact me at 717 379-0674 or email me at rmjose32@comcast.net. Sisterhood is currently looking for someone to organize the building and taking down of the Sukkah (getting volunteers and ordering decorations), a Program Chair or (Co-Chairs) for Programming, and a Co-Chair for our Emergency Aid Committee. Come help make a difference!

Have a wonderful summer! Take care and I hope to see you soon.

Reyna Jose President

SAVE THE DATE: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2021

Temple Ohev Sholom Sisterhood and the Symons/Rose families are proud to present this year's guest author, Ronald Balson, when he introduces his latest novel, *ELI'S PROMISE*, for this year's Jewish Book Month event.



Further information will follow in the coming months.

OHEV PICNIC BY THE BEACH



SUNDAY, JUNE 6 AT 12 PM PINE GROVE FURNACE STATE PARK

Celebrate the beginning of summer with your Temple Ohev Sholom family at the **Laurel Pavilion** at Pine Grove Furnace State Park, 1100 Pine Grove Rd., Gardners, PA (Cumberland County)

Bring your own food — we will provide soda, water, chips, ice, charcoal, matches, and access to grille. There are lifeguards at Fuller Lake but not Laurel Lake.

Please follow CDC guidance below ("fully vaccinated" means 2 weeks after 2nd dose):



RSVP TO DAN GREEN: (412) 719-9329; DANGREEN1984@GMAIL.COM

Phase stay home if you are feeling sick or have recently been exposed to the rirus. We'll see you next time!

JUNE KADDISH

June 4

Mollie Cohen Moe L. Cooper Samuel Dealham, Jr. Lena Eisenberg Howard Fineshriber Jessica Goodman Millard Jay Gordon E. Mortimer Israel **Toby Jacobs** Harold Kravitz Sarah Lehrman Hedy K. Lenz **Evelyn Lightman** Richards Bessie Rouse Fanny Sachs I.Richard Savage Sarah Saxe Ella C. Sykes Florence Symons Rabbi Jeffrey J. Weisblatt Ria M. Wolff

June 11

Milton M. Cohen Tasos Coulianos Jack Fleishman Morton A. Friedman Jean Goldberg Beatrice Goldsmith Morris Hoffman Ellen Brody Hughes Terry Kassel Margaret Kelly Joseph G. Levy A.L.Nassau Matilda Pyke Max Rubin Anne N. Sauertieg

June 18

Charles Berg Manya Burickson Zoel Burickson Esther Cohen Rene Cohen Seibert Feldman S. Joseph Freedman Daniel A. Greene Geri Henken Sarah Jaffe Jeanettee Laubheim I.E. Meyers Marcus Rosenbaum Stanley Roth Leah Ruda **Howard Spitalny** Sol Wiener

June 25

Lena D. Adler Sarah Baturin Kassnar Rita Levitiss Beck Anne F. Berman Harry Bryant Jacob Garner Eli Goldstein Fran Z. Guttman Berniece Hyman **Dolly Krause** Jack Levy Aileen Osofsky Mary Sachs Gina Steiner Sophie Vladimerov Philip E. Yolles

JULY KADDISH

July 2

Robert Abel Rosalyn Meritz Blum Lee Braff Avis Cooper **Albert Percy Doranz** Mildred Forman Marilyn Fox Abraham Garner Rose Goodman Grace Hess Roy W. Kibler Bessie Latt Herman Marks Jerome Newman Florence Rindley Martin S. Roberts Jack Rose Minnie Schwartz Abraham J. Sherman Walter L. Stern Esther Gross Weill

July 9

Alexander Aronson Mark R. Becker Augusta Cohen James Elwood Davidheiser Mitzi Frahm Tomisieto Cecilia T. Friedman Lt. Miles F. Goodman Jr. Lewis Ibsen Alan Jacobs Manuel Kraus Lynne Marrits Kitty G. Myers William B. Schleisner Benjamin H. Schneiderman Sylvia Tolk Dorothy I. Zalman

July 16

Martin S. Abel Charles Adler Gordon D. Adler Gustav J. Beck Robert D. Brenner Margaret Friedman Greta Gallia Joan S. Goldsmith Oscar Goodman Caroline Greene Arthur Hess Lester Hess Norman Krause Annette Lang Samuel Latt Bessie Abel Lehrman Samuel Levinson Rebecca Levy Gloria Olewine Lois Rockmaker Martha Miller Roth Nathan Segal David Shapiro Israel Sweig Matilda Wolf John Woodard Bryant Jr. Paul Zucker

July 23

Esther Astrachan Moses Baturin Richard Casher Harris Cohen

Monroe Cohen Shirley Englander **Betty Frahm** Rosenblatt Ruth Friedman Rose S. Gross Evan Helmuth Rosebelle Holdsworth Kenneth Johnson Joseph Katz Martha Lehrman Leon Abraham Mayer Henry M. Miller Ethel Segal George Sherman Albert J. Simms Herman Stein Emanuel Stern

July 30

Sadie Frank Adler Stanley D. Adler Abraham Bornstein Lois Breder Adams Harold M. Feinberg Margaret Goddard Alice May Heath Harry Heinemann Idelle J. Hess Pearl Kaplan Selma Katzman Klein Rose Klotzman Joseph Lowengard Joseph Oppenheim Melba Ball Schwartz Sherlee S. Seglin Harvey Tesman Yetta Yamin

AUGUST KADDISH

August 6

Alec Cohen
Lizzie Dealham
Herman Freedman
Seymour Goldberg
Paul Gourley
Steven M. Harpster
Bernice Ibsen
Emma Israel
Gail Holt Koppelman
Abraham J. Lehrman
Edith Marcus
Sadye H. Menaker
Herman J. Nathan
Arthur Siegel

August 13

June Bedwell
Jeanette Bronstein
Justine O. Cohen
Bernard Forner
Felix Gallia
Joseph Goldberg
Jacob Hand
Ralph C. Koppleman
Daniel Krause
Joseph G. Lowengard
Diane K. Sauertieg
Jeanette Shellhammer
Bernard Symons
Harold Zerfuss

August 20

Harry Bagley
William I. Bienstock
J. Stanley Cohen
Sheila Culberson
Mark Galowitz
Lucetta Gross
Morton Klausner
Reuben Levenson
Ray Melnicove
Linnea Nueman
Marc Steven Saxe
Elizabeth Schwartz

August 27

Leah Blank Frances Cohn Marvin Feinman Marcus Forman Lou Goldstein Julius Goodman Alex Grass **Eleanor Jacobs** Samuel Jaffe Henry Nachman Richard H. Podolle Joseph Roth Goldie Rubin J. David Snyder Sylvia Goldstein Stern Betty F. Sykes Gloria Palkes Weiss

ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Ed Classes for the fall at Temple Ohev Sholom are in the Planning Phase and are subject to change. Decisions on in-person classes will be made during the summer.

If you are interested, contact Rabbi Kessler rabbi@ohevsholom.org or the temple office office@ohevsholom.org for more information and the necessary ZOOM link.

PEP is the Parallel Education Course taught once-a-month on Sunday mornings. Our topic will be announced soon.

**Book Review is our monthly Sunday morning book club. We will read the selection of the month and then join together in person and on ZOOM for an open discussion.

Our books will be Eli's Promise, by Ronald Balson; The Lost Shtetl, by Max Gross; Leopold & Loeb, the Crime of the Century by Hal Higdon; All the Rivers by Dorit Rabinyan; The Book of Lost Names, by Kristin Harmel; Apeirogon, by Colum McCann.

**Lunch-n-Learn is a monthly "drop-in" discussion on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 12 noon in the Lehrman Chapel. The topic will be announced.

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.

Our next **Adult B'nai Mitzvah Class** will begin this fall, September 2021. Details will follow.

Sisterhood's Soup, Study, & the Rabbi Too! will take place twice this coming year, following a 6 PM Shabbat Service.

**Confirmation of in-person classes to be announced at a later date

TEMPLE OHEV SHOLOM 2345 N. FRONT ST HARRISBURG PA 17110

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED