TEMPLE OHEV SHOLOM BULLETIN

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FROM YOUR RABBI: WINDING DOWN

Well, as everyone at Ohev Sholom knows, I'll be on my way to a new pulpit in Galveston Texas in June. It's hard to believe that my 21 years as the rabbi here at our congregation are coming to an end.

I look forward to these last several weeks when I'll have a chance to say good-bye to the many congregants who have enriched my life in the past several years.

I'll have a farewell message in the June bulletin...but for now, I hope to be able to see many of you before I leave for Texas.



Your rabbi, Peter Kessler



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Shortly before his death, the great physicist Albert Einstein was asked what he would do differently if he could live his life over again. His response: "I would study the Talmud."

To be honest, I probably wouldn't give the same response. But I do regret my ignorance about this important collection of Jewish laws and practices. What I have picked up in passing, however, I have always found to be significant.

A few months ago, I read an op/ed that reflected on a celebrity controversy that was in the news. The writer referenced a passage from the Talmud that I will very loosely paraphrase as, "The world is at the mercy of people who restrain themselves during times of great emotion."

That teaching has stuck with me. Perhaps it's due to the pandemic that has hit every corner of the globe and affected every aspect of our lives, or perhaps it's the political conflict at home that never seems to end, or the new war in Europe causing flashbacks to the darkest times of history, or even the significant transition that we are going through here at Ohev Sholom. The last few years have been unrelenting; emotions are running high, and understandably so.

Yet, as the Talmud suggests, giving in to those emotions only hurts the broader community. Restraint – not disengagement by any means, but rather respectful, civil, constructive engagement – is always the better course of action. That is true even when – maybe *especially* when – it may not be the easier path. In every organization in which I have served, I have always tried to lead by example in this regard. I will certainly continue that approach in the six or so weeks left in my term as board president. If there is anything that members of our temple family wish to engage about during this time, please do not hesitate to reach out.

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!

RABBINIC SEARCH COMMITTEE

An Interim Rabbi Application was submitted to the Central Conference of American Rabbis ("CCAR") on March 10, 2022. On or about March 11th, CCAR posted our position vacancy on its internal website to which rabbis have password-protected access. This process enables a confidential way for rabbis seeking employment to identify opportunities and express interest in being considered for a position.

After our Interim Rabbi Application was posted, Ohev Sholom's board established an ad hoc search committee to seek an interim rabbi and a permanent successor to Rabbi Kessler. Nine members of the congregation were chosen by the Board for this search committee: Shelley Adler, co-chair; Dillan Briggs; Bruce Feldman, co-chair; Irith Harpster; Reyna José; Steve Miskin; Ari Nepon; Bekah Saidman-Krauss; and Austin Wolfe. This very diverse search committee held its initial meeting on March 31, 2022. Since then, the committee communicated with CCAR's congregational search services staff, our membership, and other resources for congregations looking to replace a spiritual leader.

During the special congregational meeting on April 13, 2022, a segment of our membership expressed interest in having a direct role and voice in our rabbinic search process. Current members of the search committee are open to enlarging the committee to address this interest. In this endeavor, we will abide by CCAR guidance that search committees have an odd number of members not exceeding 15 people. Thus, we will add to the existing committee another six members to produce a 15-member committee.

At and subsequent to the special congregational meeting, 13 of our fellow congregants indicated their wish to serve on the search committee. It is the search committee's intent to more broadly solicit our congregation's interest in committee participation. By the time you read this update, you will have received a brief survey about qualities and characteristics desired in a rabbi, and a separate solicitation for those wishing to be appointed to the search committee. We encourage you to participate in the survey and search committee solicitation for new members.

After allowing a reasonable time for responses, six additional members will be chosen. Our goal is to complete these tasks before Rabbi Kessler leaves Ohev Sholom at the end of June, 2022. We will issue a status report to the congregation in July.

RELIGIOUS SCHOOL UPDATE

It's hard to believe that we are already at the end of our religious school year. Our last day was May 1st and all of our students are excited for their summer vacation.

I am so grateful for our fantastic religious school year. This year we began our new 1:1 Hebrew tutoring program in lieu of our midweek session - and feedback from parents has been overwhelmingly positive. Parents particularly loved the differentiated instruction which their children received and the flexibility that the program afforded their families. Additionally, we implemented a new values-based curriculum for Sunday mornings for students to explore Jewish holidays, Torah stories, Jewish History, and Prayer through different values. The curriculum drives towards helping students build positive relationships and responsible decision making, through Jewish exemplars and values.

This tremendous year would not have been possible without the dedication of our teachers, our tutors, our parents, and Rabbi Kessler -- all who played an essential role in ensuring student success.

I am looking forward to quieter times ahead, and further reflection on the year so that we can identify additional areas of improvement for next school year.

I wishing everyone a wonderful summer!

L'Shalom,

Jason Graf Religious School Director



Mazel Tov to Ernie Jose and Matthew Campbell as they become B'nai Mitzvah at Ohev Sholom on April 2nd

BAR MITZVAH: BENNETT LUTKINS



Hello. My name is Bennett Lutkins. I am the son of Monica Baturin-Lutkins and Kevin Lutkins and the vounger brother of Matthew and Richard Lutkins. I am also a fifth generation Ohev Sholom member. My grandfather Floyd Baturin became a Bar Mitzvah here in 1941. I am a 7th grade Honors student at Camp Hill Middle School. Some of my favorite activities are: cooking/baking interesting dishes; playing the saxophone, playing Gaga, chess and card games. I also enjoy participating in the Color guard and having fun outdoors.

My Bar Mitzvah will take place on May 21, 2022, and everyone from the congregation is welcome to attend. My Torah portion/parasheh is B'har. This portion discusses the laws on how to observe a Sabbath for the land and a Jubilee for the world. G-d believes that everyone should take a day of rest to observe the Sabbath. This includes giving the land a break from us.

Thank you to my parents who always encourage me to do my best, the religious school teachers, including my Hebrew School Tutor from Columbia University, Hadassah, Lynne and my Aunt Madelaine, who worked hard to enrich my Jewish learning, and to Rabbi Kessler, for giving me the opportunity to become a Bar Mitzvah. I also want to thank my Mormor for always cheering me on and a special note to my grandpa, Floyd Baturin, who just passed away in January, 2022. I will always remember how interested he was to hear about my Jewish learning and how hard he tried to stay alive so he could attend my special day. My Bar Mitzvah will be to honor his memory.

SISTERHOOD NEWS

Looks like spring has finally sprung! I think and hope the warmer weather is here to stay.

Sisterhood has had a busy spring. Our Donor campaign has been very successful. Thank you to everyone who has contributed, thus far. If you have not yet contributed, we are still accepting your donations to TOSS! As a thank you to all our Donors, we had a wonderful program, via Zoom, presented by Kathy Saks who is a Board member of the Philadelphia Museum of Art. She gave a virtual tour of the museum. It was fabulous. If you would like to see the recording of this program, please email Denyse Miskin at <u>denysemiskin@gmail.com</u> and she will email you the link. Again, thank you to those who participated in our Donor Campaign.

Thank you to everyone who participated and joined us on April 22nd for Sisterhood Shabbat. It is always a pleasure and a honor to lead the congregation in prayer.

May is, unfortunately, the end of Sisterhood's programming year. Even though we were dealing with pandemic, we had some fabulous programs! I have enjoyed leading such a wonderful group of people. I want to thank all Sisterhood board members for their leadership and energy as they organized and participated in the various activities and programs throughout the year. I am extremely grateful for the time they have given to our Sisterhood and our congregation. Words truly cannot express my appreciation!! A very big thank you to those of you who have joined Sisterhood, as well.

May also brings a new leadership to our Sisterhood. Please join me on Sunday, May 15th as we will install some new and renewing executive board members. I know I am excited to be co-president with Jeanette Krebs. Please join Sisterhood at 10am in the social hall for the Installation. This will be our first in person program since the pandemic started, so I am so excited to see everyone. Zoom has been good to Sisterhood, but there is nothing like seeing someone in person. All are welcome to attend.

As always, if you have any questions about Sisterhood, would like to join, or would like to volunteer, please call me at 717 379-0674 or you may email me at <u>rmjose32@comcast.net</u>.

In Sisterhood,

Reyna Jose President



Temple Ohev Sholom Sisterhood

INSTALLATION

Sunday, May 15, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

Temple Ohev Sholom Social Hall

Please join us for the installation of our 2022-2024 TOSS Executive Board. These are dedicated women who give so much time and talent to sustain the life of our temple community. This will be our first in-person event in the Social Hall since the pandemic began 2 years ago. There will be light food fare and beverages. So come to celebrate these incredible women and being together for real face-to-face time rather than on a screen in little boxes.

> RSVP by May 8, 2022 to: Patti Hivner at pattiscookin@comcast.net or Miriam Robinson at chutzy1@yahoo.com

> > 50

BOOK REVIEW NEWS... MARK YOUR CALENDARS...



Thursday, November 10, 2022

Temple Ohev Sholom Sisterhood and the Symons/Rose families are proud to welcome author, Cathy Barrow for our 25th Symons/Rose Book Review.

We are very excited for her to join us to speak to us about her book, *Bagels, Schmears and a Nice Piece of Fish*.

More information will come in the next couple of months.

MAY KADDISH

May 6

Louis Adler Laura Altaker Rozie Anzel Fanny Ascher Samuel Baturin Samuel D. Chirsan Sophie Rae Cibull Edith F. Cole Frieda L. Dietz Howard D. Fink **Rose Frahm** Sylvia Frahm Graber Frances Gerber Joseph Goldsmith Isadore A. Greene David Hutzler Morris E. Jacobson **Emily Lasker Bernard Levine** Mareaner Levy Kathryn Schwartz Tobe Schwartz Bertha Breder Senn **Rose Pyke Strouse** Samuel Weinberg

Marvin A. Zisman Beverly Zerwitz Zlotoff

May 13 **Conrad Elfenbein** Samuel Elfenbein Irene Rachel Gottfeld Sidney Greenspan Irving Hand Mildred Hand Fannie Jacobs Margaret Kenney Vincent Klawansky Sophia Lowengard **Bernice Melnicove** Joseph Nachman Albert Posner **Evelyn Rosenstrauch** Sophia Rothschild Wolfe Sachs Morris M. Serata Ella V. Spector Ida Spector Kenneth Stewart Sr.

MAY KADDISH

May 20

David Alexander Mildred Alexander Bernard Anzel Rabbi Philip David Bookstaber **Deborah Cohen** Leo Disend Ann Friedman Joseph Goldsmith Donald Goodman Peisah Gordin Jeanne Hammer Benjamin Koplovitz Molly R. Koppelman Donald Joseph Levy Rachel F. Light Florence Litvack Amalia Moss Cheryl Faith Plawsky **Helen Repshas** Bernard Resnick Libby Rosen Sidney B. Rubin

Beverly Shapiro Martin Weitzman Marvin A. Zisman

May 27 Martin Arch Edward Blandy Helen E. Cherksey **Rabbi Hillel Fine** Sophie Goldberg Esther Jacobs Marilynn Kanenson **Caroline Keller** Minnie Kramer Nathan Lehmayer II Marshall Linton Ben Olewine III Edwin Joseph Oppenheim **Beatrice Orman** David Rosen Jean Jeanette Rothman Amelia B. Strauss Shirley Woolf

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