

TEMPLE OHEV SHOLOM NEWSLETTER

KISLEV - TEVET 5786 DECEMBER 2025 - VOL 16, NO. 4

717.233.6459 (P) 717.236.7844 (F) office@ohevsholom.org ohevsholom.org

Founded in 1853 and the oldest synagogue in Harrisburg, Temple Ohev Sholom is a diverse and inclusive Reform Jewish Congregation in Central Pennsylvania. We support one another throughout the cycles of life. We foster and encourage spiritual growth, lifelong learning, social opportunities, and connections, and Tikkun Olam—healing the world.

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Dec. 3	7:00 pm	Introduction to Judaism with	
		Rabbi Jasper	
Dec. 5	6:00 pm	Shabbat Services	
Dec. 6	10:30 am	Bar Mitzvah – Drew Scott	
	7:00 pm	Sisterhood Designer Bag Bingo	
Dec. 7	9:30 am	Religious School	
	10:30 am	Adult Education with Rabbi Jasper	
Dec. 10	7:00 pm	Introduction to Judaism with	
		Rabbi Jasper	
Dec. 11	7:00 pm	Board of Trustees Meeting	
Dec. 12	6:00 pm	Shabbat Services	
Dec. 13	10:00 am	Tot Shabbat & Saturday at the	
		Shul	
Dec. 14	9:30 am	Religious School Hannukah Party	
Dec. 17	7:00 pm	Introduction to Judaism with	
		Rabbi Jasper	
Dec. 18	6:30 pm	Sisterhood Board Meeting via	
		Zoom	
Dec. 19	6:00 pm	Special Hannukah Dinner &	
		Shabbat Services	
Dec. 21	9:30 am	Religious School	
	11:00 am	Ohev Book Club	
Dec. 26	6:00 pm	Shabbat Services Shalom	





CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Shalom,

It was such a joy to celebrate my Installation with all of you on Friday! The energy in the room, the warmth in your greetings, and the joy in our community made it clear that Temple Ohev Sholom is thriving. Standing together, it was easy to see just how bright our future truly is.

For those who could not join us, we want to share a meaningful announcement that was made from the Bimah. With deep excitement, we are launching our Capital Campaign. We want to bring you into this moment with us.

Our goal is to raise \$1,000,000 (or more!) in pledges over the next year. These pledges can be fulfilled over three years, allowing everyone to take part in a way that is comfortable and meaningful.

Why are we doing this? Because we love this Temple, and we want to ensure its strength for generations. We have identified two areas that need care: our life-long learning programs, which nurture our children and sustain our Jewish growth, and the maintenance of our beloved building, the sacred home that holds our prayers, celebrations, and memories.

Our children and grandchildren will inherit the future of Temple Ohev Sholom. It is our responsibility and our blessing to prepare that future for them. Our campaign slogan is:

You Belong at Ohev Our Home. Our Future.

We chose it because it speaks from the heart. Every one of you belongs here. Every one of you helps make this place a sacred home.

Where do you come in? You are at the center of this campaign. Each gift, no matter the amount, is an act of love for our community. We hope you will pause for a moment to reflect on how Temple Ohev Sholom has touched your life and consider how you can give generously from the heart. To kickstart this campaign we have already secured 100% participation from the Board and Temple Leadership. Now is the time for you to give.

Below you will find the pledge card. You may return it in person or by email, and online donations can be made using the QR code.

We will track our progress on the thermometers in our lobbies and will send monthly updates so we can celebrate each step forward together. If you have any questions or want to talk more about the campaign, please reach out to Rabbi Jasper at Rabbi@ohevsholom.org. We would love to hear from you.

With resounding gratitude,

Rabbi Tzvia Jasper April Hutcheson - Temple President Reyna Jose - Executive Director



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the families who supported our annual Kol Nidre appeal. Your financial contributions help us sustain our incredible educational programs and the daily operations of our synagogue.

If you weren't able to contribute, there is a new opportunity to help secure our future. Over the next year, you will hear more about our capital campaign, You Belong at Ohev: Our Home, Our Future. This is our chance to ensure that Temple Ohev Sholom will remain a vibrant center of Jewish life for generations to come. If you are considering an end-of-year donation, I encourage you to make a pledge to the campaign.



And... just in time for Hanukkah, our new online store is open! Don't wait to order your Hanukkah gifts—we have shirts, sweatshirts, hats, and more featuring our You Belong at Ohev logo. Your purchases will be shipped directly to you, and all proceeds support our capital campaign.

I hope everyone enjoys a happy and healthy holiday season, whether you are celebrating Hanukkah, Christmas, or Christmakkah!

B'Shalom, April Hutcheson







MESSAGE FROM RABBI JASPER

As we enter December, we watch as our days get darker. No longer are we blessed with a beautiful sunset as we enter the sanctuary for Shabbat. Now, the darkness and shadows guide our steps. It's easy to feel the weight of this time of year. But our Jewish response to darkness has always been the same: we are the source of light.

In the Talmudic tractate, Shabbat 21b, it reads,

Beit Shammai says: On the **first day one kindles eight** lights and, from **there on, gradually decreases** the number of lights until, on the last day of Hanukkah, they kindle one light.



And Beit Hillel says: On the **first day one kindles one light**, and from **there on, gradually increases** the number of lights until, on the last day, they kindles eight lights.

This passage, like many in the Talmud, is a disagreement between two schools of thought about the proper way one is to light the Hanukkiah, aka the Menorah. For the House of Shammai, they believe that you begin with all eight candles, and on the last night you end with just one.

We traditionally do not follow this school of thought, preferring the House of Hillel who tells us the opposite - begin with one candle and gradually increase each night until there are all eight. But why do we do this?

For Hillel and his followers, he understood that the Hanukkah candles should grow in light, as the holiness of this time grows too. This is the argument we use whenever we are thinking about our holidays and gatherings. Our responsibility to one another is to increase the light in the world, rather than decrease it.

The great Talmudic scholar, Sefat Emet, further teaches that the Hanukkah light represents the hidden divine spark within each soul. When we act with kindness, faith, or courage, we let that spark shine. And when we bring our lights together, we create something powerful, a ner tamid, an everlasting burning light, that pushes back even the longest nights.

I saw that light shining so clearly during my installation weekend. Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate, to pray, to sing, and to welcome me and my family into this sacred community. I know that Temple Ohev Sholom is a place where the light burns brightly. You reminded me that I am not stepping into the unknown, but into a bright future.

Just as one candle lights another without losing any of its own glow, so too may we bring our light to one another in the weeks ahead. May we continue to build a community where each of us becomes our source of light. Afterall, everyone "Belongs @ Ohev."

Wishing you a season of light and warmth, *Rabbi Jasper*



רְפּוּאָה: רְפָּאֵנוּ יְהִנָה וְגַרָפֵא, הוֹשִׁיעֵנוּ וְנִנְּשֵּׁעָה,

פּי תְהַלְּתֵׁנוּ אָתַּה, וְהַעֲלֵה רְפוּאָה שְׁלֵמָה לְכָל מַכּוֹתֵינוּ, כִּי אֵל מֶּלֶךְ רוֹפֵא נֶאֶמָן וְרַחֲמָן אָתַה. בַּרוּךְ אָתַה יִהוָה רוֹפָא חוֹלִי עַמוֹ יִשִּׂרָאל.

We send our prayers and healing energy to members of our Temple Ohev Sholom family and loved ones of members who have been hospitalized or injured in recent weeks or who are facing or have had health challenges. Prayers will be offered during Shabbat services when the Mi Shebeirach blessing is said.

Please contact Rabbi Jasper if you would like to add the name of someone you love to the Temple Ohev Sholom healing prayer list, to the list of family members who have died or if there is a celebration or milestone in your life which you want to share with the Temple Ohev Sholom family. Additionally, please let Rabbi Jasper know when you are ready to have names removed from the healing list. (Names may be removed after a few weeks if we don't receive an update.)

Celebrating a special occasion or commemorating a yahrzeit?? How about making a donation in honor of that occasion or person by sponsoring an Oneg or purchasing flowers for our bema on Shabbat??

To sponsor an Oneg, please contact Doreen at Doreen819@verizon.net.
To provide flowers for our bema, contact Fran at Fr1ca19@yahoo.com.

Your name and special occasion or special person you are honoring will be listed in our Friday evening Shabbat handout.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Over the next few months, you will hear the phrase "You Belong at Ohev: Our Home. Our Future" frequently as we embark on our Capital Campaign fundraising efforts. We are on a mission to secure funds for our cherished building, which is over one hundred years old, and to ensure a bright future for our Life-Long-Learning programs.

Being part of Temple Ohev Sholom fills me with joy and inspiration. The energy here is palpable during our numerous activities, from Religious School to engaging Temple, Brotherhood, and Sisterhood events, all orchestrated by our dedicated staff and Board of Trustees and, finally, our wonderful volunteers.



At the time of this writing, I had the honor of participating in a beautiful Veterans Day service and Oneg attended by over eighty members of our Ohev family and the larger community. We also celebrated Rabbi Jasper's Installation Dinner and Service, where we welcomed more than 150 guests and a couple of days after, we welcomed folks for Ohev's Trivia Night, a fun opportunity to connect with friends and family! The energy was great and what a gift it is to have Rabbi Jasper as our new Rabbi.

We also have exciting events coming up in the very near future, such as Sisterhood's Bingo Night on December 6th, the Religious School Hanukkah Party on December 14th, and Ohev's Hanukkah Dinner and Service on Friday, December 19th. Please bring your Hanukkiah and candles—together, we will illuminate our sanctuary as one united family.

Every one of these activities depends on the passion and dedication of our committees, who work tirelessly to create enriching experiences for our community. Remember: You belong at Ohev—this is your home and your future. We invite you to engage, participate, and create lasting memories with us.

Temple Ohev Sholom has a rich legacy, and with your involvement, we can continue to thrive together. We hope you will pause for a moment to reflect on how Temple Ohev Sholom has touched your life and consider how you can give generously, from the heart to our Capital Campaign.

As always, if you have any questions, please call me at 717 233-6459 or email me reynajose@ohevsholom.org.

Reyna Jose Executive Director

MAZEL TOV DREW SCOTT



Drew Scott is a 7th grader at Palmyra Area Middle School. For his bar mitzvah project, Drew dedicated his time to feeding people experiencing homelessness in Harrisburg. He spent Saturdays preparing sandwiches and distributing them, while also engaging with the individuals there. Through this experience, Drew not only learned about their unique stories and challenges but also developed a deep sense of empathy and community. This project beautifully reflects his commitment to service and compassion.

Drew is a caring and supportive brother to his two younger sisters Gabriela and Giuliana. He is an avid baseball and basketball player and particularly enjoys studying and keeping detailed records of baseball and basketball statistics. Drew values his time at religious school where he continues to strengthen his connection with his faith and community.

Drew is grateful to all his religious school teachers, tutors, family, Rabbi Tzvia and Yonah who helped prepare him for this day.



Meet **Evyatar Azar**, the one year shinshin (from Israel) volunteer thriving while interacting with many Jewish Harrisburg entities! Rabbi Jasper introduced today's Monday at noon lesson. Evyatar is enthusiastic and a wonderful young ambassador for Israel. He meets every Monday at noon with anyone who interested. Kim Poolman recommends trying it-please email or call Reyna Jose.



Mondays NOON - IPM

Temple Ohev Sholom - Lehrman Chapel

Come meet others, try a craft, and learn about Israel with Evyatar Azar, our Shinshiniot Student Ambassador!

Everyone is Welcome - JOIN US!

SISTERHOOD REPORT

Dear Friends,

If you haven't signed up already, there is still time to register for our annual Designer Bag Bingo fundraiser on Saturday, December 6! Each year it gets bigger! See the flier in the newsletter for details. Great bags and terrific baskets of all sorts of goodies will be raffled off.



Also, don't forget to pick up your latke orders in Sisterhood Hall from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on December 14.

The big news for 2026 is that Sisterhood will be offering mahjong lessons. The game has become very popular across the country, and we are giving you an opportunity to get in on the fun!

Our Ohev Maj masters will be teaching the basics in a four-week course that will include playing the game. You don't need any experience playing mahjong, and men and women are invited to learn!

Lessons will be held in Sisterhood Hall from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Sundays: January 25, February 1, February 8, February 15, and February 22 will be a snow makeup date.

Contact Jeanette at <u>jeanettedkrebs@gmail.com</u> to sign up. First come, first serve.

Finally, a special thank you to everyone who attended our book event at Midtown Scholar in November. We had 160 people sign up for tickets! Author Gary Shteyngart was entertaining, and Bernice Hausman did an amazing job moderating a discussion with him. A heartfelt thank you to Susan Symons and the Symons-Rose Family for their generous support of the event.

Yours,

Jodi Neuschwander and Jeanette Krebs, Sisterhood Co-Presidents



Sundays from 9:30 to noon

New Hanukkah items have arrived!



















DISCOVER THE FUN AND STRATEGY BEHIND THIS TIMELESS GAME THAT'S GROWING IN POPULARITY! TAUGHT BY THE PROS — PERFECT FOR BEGINNERS!

Jan. 25
Feb. 1

10 a.m. to
Feb. 8

11:30 a.m.
Feb. 15
Feb. 22 (snow makeup date)

Sisterhood Hall, Temple Ohev Sholom 2345 N Front St, Harrisburg, PA 17110 \$18 for Ohev Sholom members \$25 for nonmembers

RESERVE YOUR SPOT:

- Email jeanettedkrebs@gmail.com or use the QR code to sign up and pay.
- Spots will be filled on a first-come basis, so don't wait!
- Come join the fun and connect with others over the tiles!





DONATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Kol Nidre Appeal Since November 14,2025

Shelley & Ted Adler Elissa & Ken Arch

Dr. Jennie & Aaron Baar Karen Ball

Reesa & Joe Beggs Zachary Benjamin

Sarah & Andrew Brown

Fran Casher Barbara Danowitz

Teresa Dorritie

Doreen Evrard Robin Farber

Diane & Michael Fine

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Dr. Margaret & Dr. John Goldman Maureen & John Goldman

Linda & Corky Goldstein

Maria & Vitaly Gordin

Linda Grobman Ricki Hurwitz

April & Anthony Hutcheson

Dr. Bernice Hausman & Clair James Reyna & Ernesto Jose

Eileen & Maurey Katz

Joelle & Dr. Dennis Katz Sally Klein

Cheryl & Áaron Krause

Frank Levy Patti & Gary Lightman

Kristen Milke

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Rachael & Ari Nepon

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Faith Pearlstein & Michael Chwastyk

Kim & Leslie Poolman

Gail Riegler

Miriam & Robert Robinson

Paul Rockoff

Nancy & David Rose

Cheryl Rosenstrauch

Dr. Erika & Dr. Brian Saunders

Joshua Sharfstein

Julie Sherman & Marty Rogoff Susan Shermer & Mel Wolff

Miriam Siegel & Suzanne Rinato

Linda Stewart Thomas Tepe Nancy Weber Lisa & Robert Wolff Fern & Howard Zlotoff

Thank you for your generous donations this month to the following funds:

Building Fund, D. Sauertieg Beautification Fund, our 25-26 Capital Campaign, Kol Nidre Campaign, Sacred Music Fund and Rabbi's Discretionary Fund.

<u>In Memory of Deena Schuman</u> Robin Farber

In Memory of Elaine Shapiro
Milton Shapiro

In Memory of Shelly Verber

Joel & Barbara Turk

<u>In Memory of Sally C. Levy</u> Frank Levy

<u>In Celebration of Justin Carre's Eagle</u> <u>Scout Court of Honor</u>

Rabbi Marc Kline & Lori Bernard

In Celebration of the talents of Sarah

Kawasaki

Gail Riegler Joshua Sharfstein

<u>In Honor of our High Holiday Volunteer</u> Gardeners

Gail Riegler

<u>In Honor of Rabbi Tzvia Jasper's</u> <u>Installation</u>

Karen Ball

Fran Casher

Barbara Danowitz

Bruce Feldman

Ricki Hurwitz

Patti and Gary Lightman

Cindy & Don Lynch Kim & Les Poolman

Gail Riegler

Paul Rokoff

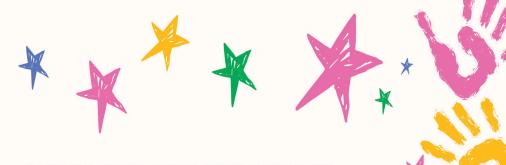


Barbara Arch Max Astrachan Maura Chwastyk Amilia Danielson Teresa Dorritie Alicia Duke Reese Goddard John Goldman Joelle Katz Maurey Katz Harriet Kopp Kevin Lutkins
Cindy Lynch
Kristen Milke
Larry Pepper
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Cole Rose
Alex Schamroth
Drew Scott
Maya Semanick
Todd Shamash
Lisa Silver

Dianne Stolberg Amy Taylor Avery Rob Teplitz Pamela Tulchinsky Dan Weber Jordyn White Cheryl Wieder Linda Zisman



Harvey & Barbara Blinn Charles & Carol Liebman Patti & Gary Lightman



CHECK OUT THE UPDATES IN

THE TOT SPOT

(THE ROOM BEHIND THE SANCTUARY)





Additional upgrades coming soon!



























































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Trivia





Sight

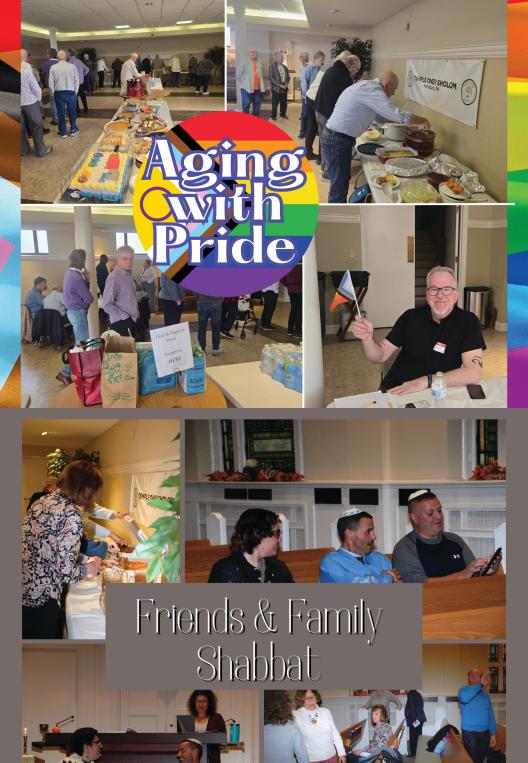














UPCOMING EVENTS



This December Join TOSS Social Action in a Collection for



We are specifically collecting

Journaling Supplies

- Pens
- Markers
- Crayons
- Notebooks & Play Doh
 - **Coloring Books**
 - **Colored Pencils**
 - Stickers

Caitlin's Smiles is a unique Harrisburg non-profit which encourages children with serious health challenges to find comfort & healing through exploring their creative talents.

Please Bring Your Donations to the Boxes located in either Sisterhood Hall, the Temple Office, or the Sanctuary Vestibule

ADULT EDUCATION with Rabbi Jasper



Held monthly during Religious School these Adult Education Sessions are OPEN TO EVERYONE!

Temple Ohev Sholom's



December 13 10am

Tot Shabbat

in Lehrman Chapel

Learning Minyan

in the Sanctuary

Followed by a Pizza Lunch in Sisterhood Hall

Where we celebrate our Jewish life together!

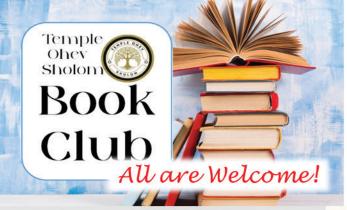
RSVP to ReynaJose@ohevsholom.org



DINNER WILL BE AT 6:00 PM SHABBAT SERVICES: 7:00 PM

ONEG: IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SERVICES

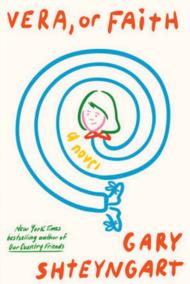




Sunday December 21 at 11am

Temple Ohev Sholom's Library





The Bradford-Shmulkin family is falling apart. A very modern blend of Russian, Jewish, Korean, and New England WASP, they love one another deeply, but the pressures of life in an unstable America are fraying their bonds. . . . Both biting and deeply moving, Vera, or Faith is a boldly imagined story of family and country told through the clear and tender eyes of a child.

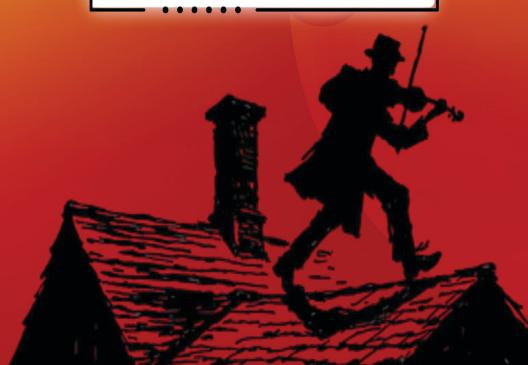
For more Info—Contact Bernice at BHausman210@gmail.com

Megillah on the Roof

A Temple Ohev Sholom Purim Spiel Saturday, Feb. 28 7pm

Casting Call:

Interested in participating? All ages welcome! Email: Rabbi@ohevsholom.org



KADDISH LIST

If you have a loved one who has passed away and whose yahrzeit you wish to have remembered, please contact the Temple Office at 717-233-6459.

Dec 5

Louis Adler Richard I. Baum Ilse Feldhiem Jay Feldman Steven Forman J. Helen Goldberg Rosa M. Goldsmith John Goldsmith Joseph Goldstein Etta J. Goodman **Ida Gross** Bill Gross Andrea Huggard Trudi Pepper Frank L. Rubin Sally Aronson Yoffee

Dec 12

Sam Begler
William Cox
Reuben Ettinger
Martin L. Finkelstein
Herbert Galowitz
Robert Geers
Anita Jaffe
Martha Lehrman
Norman Neiman
Cantor Judith Ovadia
Carolyn Schwartz
Herbert Wolf

Dec 19

Mae Robbins Adler Melvin Asher Phyllis Bagley Henry Benjamin Michael A. Brenner Albert Bryant Grace S. Buxbaum Sylvia Casher Abe Epstein Nat Epstein Michael P. Feldser Myer Gross Ken Hess Sue Hoffman Israel Kades Joseph E. Morris Jerome Rogoff Jacob Samkoff Shirley S. Schneiderman Caroline Schultz Morrie Schwab Leroy M. Shellhammer Anne V. Wagenheim Abe Yamin Dr. Bernard Zeliger Natalie Zisman Lila Zlotoff

Dec 26

Matilda Arch Robert Baum Myra Bornstein Beatrice K. Clymin Helene Cohen Rebecca Cox Harvey Danowitz Beth Fine Minnie Gordon Dr. Louis C. Jacobs Mr. Robert Ketchem Shirley Klawansky Blanche Krauss Thomas Lynch Abe May Philip Menaker Saul Migatz Bessie B. Miller I. Lawrence Robbins Jean Sensel Clarabelle Sharosky Abram D. Sharosky S. James Shwartz III Leona May Speer Harry Yablonovitz Morris S. Yoffee



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BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2025-26

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Brooke Kibler – Layout and Graphic Design

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SPECIAL THANKS to our contributing photographers for this edition:

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2345 North Front St, Harrisburg Monday-Friday: 9am-5pm

> Religious School Sundays 9:30am-12:00pm

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