



## Congregation activities warm up winter



*RCOS volunteers helped out at this year's Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service*



*Plenty of fun times at RCOS Happy Hour at Building 24 in Wyomissing.*

## Religious School News

# Our students are living the values they're learning

By **Holly Michelson**  
*Religious School Director*

I originally wrote something like this more than 20 years ago for a religious school bulletin when our daughters (or at least one of them) were in preschool at the old JCC.

I told the story of how I was working at the soup kitchen on a particular day. It was winter and a really, really, cold day. The power had gone out at the JCC, but I decided to leave the girls there that day even though they didn't have any heat. I realized how fortunate we were that they had a place to be.

I was serving lunch to people who had stood in line for an hour, on a below-freezing morning, to get a meal that may be the only one they got that day.

My daughters, on the other

hand, had lunch, coats and a roof over the head and would be picked up in a few hours.

One weekend last month, when the temperatures were at or below freezing during the day, we had no heat in our house. We did however have electricity, hot water, food, warm beds (albeit with many extra blankets), and each other. Our being without heat was an inconvenience, a decent size one, but an inconvenience nonetheless.

On Jan. 15 we joined the greater community in what has become the annual Martin Luther King Day of Service, a joint program combining different communities of faith. Once again, I was given a unique perspective on just how lucky we are.

Several of the students from



*RCOS children take part in this year's MLK Day of Service*

the congregation participated and were there making blankets and sandwiches, packing emergency food bags for students who don't always have food at home, and coloring thank you notes for first responders.

I'm pleased to report that the doing, the action of tzedakah will not end here. Once again, students in the upper grades

will be making and serving lunch to the residents of Opportunity House this spring.

Archrayut – taking responsibility, not just for ourselves, but our greater community in making the world a better place. Tikkun Olam – repairing the world. Shalom – peace. Our students are living the values they are learning in school.

## Give these new members a warm welcome

### Daniel and Elana Weinblatt

Daniel and Elana Weinblatt recently moved to the area from Lower Merion, PA for Daniel's GI fellowship at Tower Health. Elana works mostly from home as a cybersecurity attorney. They have an almost 2-year-old daughter named Adina, who loves to sing "Bim Bam" at Shabbat services. Daniel and Elana met when they were 11 years old at Camp Ramah in the Poconos. Now, the Weinblatt family enjoys baking challah, following Philly sports teams, and anything involving Elmo. They are looking forward to being part of the RCOS community!



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# Keeping RCOS strong for generations to come

It was one of those moments you cannot plan for, but you are so grateful when they happen. It was a moment 25 years in the making. I was at Tot Shabbat a couple of

## Rabbi Brian Michelson

months ago, and a young woman who grew up at RCOS brought her son and her mother to join us for Tot Shabbat. I have had the pleasure of helping her become a Bat Mitzvah and officiating at her wedding. When I first met her, she was about the same age as her son is now.

Tot Shabbat was its usual chaotic service with children singing, clapping, dancing, wandering around the room, or cuddling into their parents being

shy. This little boy started the morning very shy, not wanting to say hello. He hid behind his mom or with his grandma pretending he was not listening or taking part. When it came time for the story, he inched a little closer so he could see the pictures in the book. Afterward, we headed for our oneg, so the children could play together. It was during this time that something magical happened.

I was checking out what each of the children was playing with, and then I discovered a small hand grabbing mine leading me over to play with him. We sat down and he began showing me what he was doing. Here I was sitting on the floor playing with the next generation as I did with

the generation before. It wasn't a big deal for anyone else, except maybe mom and grandma, but it meant a great deal to me. It was a reminder of why I do what I do and why the synagogue is such an important place.

Judaism regularly reminds us of the importance of doing things L'dor va'Dor, from "Generation to Generation." It is meant to remind us that we are not just doing things for our benefit but for the benefit of generations to come. The synagogue may not look the same and the way we do things may continue to evolve, but part of the point is making sure that the synagogue is here to serve future generations of Jewish families. Those who came before us made

sure that Oheb Sholom was here for us. Now, we need to do the same.

Times are tough for synagogues all over. We continue to need gifts of both time and treasure to survive. If you can be a little more generous with your support of the congregation, that would be a big help. If you have time that you are willing to give to volunteer on one of the many projects and programs that take place at RCOS; thank you. We cannot hold many of our programs, especially the fundraisers, without you.

I ask you to consider this not for your benefit or mine, but for the Tot Shabbat child who is finally ready to take us by the hand and lead us to the future.

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Brian I. Michelson, Rabbi

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**Deadline for March issue: Feb. 5**

## *Perpetual Memorials*

**Feb. 1-3**  
William Bash  
Valena R. Cohen  
Julia Ehrlich  
Ernest E. Israel  
Leon Reidenberg, MD

**Feb. 4-10**  
Natalie Folkman  
Franklin A. Herman  
Hattie Horowitz  
Mildred H. Lurio  
Nathan Marcus  
Susie Marcus  
Ruth Y. Ruttenberg  
Irving Steinberg

**Feb. 11-17**  
Rebecca Bash  
Thelma Garfinkle

Isaac Goldsmith  
Josef Goldstein  
David Grotta  
Jacob H. Miller  
Goldie Schachter  
Leonard Schiff, Jr.  
Virginia Smith Sinaink  
Barbara Solowey  
Ella Weitzman

**Feb. 18-24**  
Rudolf Abrams  
Sylvia R. Ball  
Hannah Bash  
Ralph Brok  
Ruth Brok  
Henrietta Camp  
Emanuel B. Friedman  
Rosalind Hymen  
Irwin Kins

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Abram B. Luria  
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Jimmy Mendelsohn  
Edward Nemeroff  
Eve Pardo  
Samuel L. Shaffer  
Fred Stein

**Feb. 25-29**  
Doris Brok  
Belle Edelstein  
Harry Edelstein  
Stanley Folkman  
Eugene Friedman  
Ruth Harrison  
Lawrence Schlanger  
Louise Wiener

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

Susan & Bill Weiser  
Neil Hoffman & Judith Kraines

Feb. 12  
Feb. 14

Cathy & Whitney Sanders

Feb. 21

## **BIRTHDAYS**

Frantz Peretz Feb. 1  
John Incledon Feb. 5  
Ellen Mitnick Feb. 5  
Howard Saidman Feb. 6  
Adam Spiegel Feb. 6  
Paul Mitnick Feb. 7  
Michael Pardo Feb. 7  
Richard Tomlinson Feb. 8

Neal Nevitt Feb. 9  
Ronald Strieb Feb. 9  
Brian Chartock Feb. 10  
Norman Winston Feb. 11  
Jeri Diesinger Feb. 13  
Susan Weiser Feb. 15  
Andrea Watkins Feb. 16  
William Weiser Feb. 19

Deborah Cooper Feb. 23  
Pam Charendoff Feb. 25  
Ilene Weizer Feb. 26  
George Viener Feb. 27  
David Walker Feb. 27  
Martin Jacobson Feb. 28

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28 9:30 AM Religious School	29 12 PM Torah Study	30 3:30 PM Hebrew School	31	1	2 6 PM 2nd & 3rd Grade Shabbat Service and Dinner	3 10 AM Haftarah Study Group
4 9:30 AM Religious School	5 12 PM Torah Study	6 11 AM Lunch & Learn @ The Highlands 3:30 PM Hebrew School	7	8	9 7:45 PM Shabbat Service with Cantor Binder	10 10 AM Tot Shabbat 4 PM American Scripture
11 9:30 AM Religious School	12 12 PM Torah Study 7 PM Executive Committee Meeting	13 3:30 PM Hebrew School	14 6 PM Judaism Lecture @ Wyomissing Library	15	16 6 PM Shabbat Service	17
18	19 President's Day RCOS Office Closed	20 3:30 PM Hebrew School	21	22	23 7:45 PM Shabbat Service	24
25 9:30 AM Religious School	26 12 PM Torah Study 7 PM Board Meeting	27 3:30 PM Hebrew School	28	29	1 6 PM Shabbat Service	2 10 AM Bar Mitzvah of Gavin McManimen