



## From the Rabbi's Study

### Get ready for High Holy Days at Selichot service

It's an old joke: A man stops someone on the streets of New York and asks, "How do I get to Carnegie Hall?" The person who was stopped looks back at him

**Rabbi Brian Michelson**

I was thinking a lot about this joke as I watched portions of the recent Olympic and Para-Olympic games from Paris. I am awed by the athletic abilities displayed and people performing feats that I cannot even fantasize about doing myself. I marvel at the years of practice and preparation to be an Olympic or Para-Olympic athlete.

Ask any Olympian, he or

she will tell you that it takes years and years of training, discipline, guidance and instruction to reach the level of competence and excellence. Like most things in life, preparation is the key to success.

Yet, we forget that our faith and our spirits need training, as well, to be their very best.

We know that the High Holy Days are some of the most important days of the year, but what do we do to prepare ourselves for this special time? We expect the words, prayers, readings, and music to affect us: to move us (and, hopefully, sometimes they do).

However, just being moved is not the point. We want these

Days of Awe to speak to us, to move us, and to challenge us to move ourselves. We have to struggle and wrestle to do the spiritual examination and introspection that are meant to be a part of these holidays. As the exercise adage says, "No pain — no gain".

One of the ways we get ready is by starting the holidays a bit earlier than the New Year, with the Selichot service.

Selichot, Saturday evening Sept. 28 at 10 p.m., is the first time we say, hear and try to internalize the message of the High Holiday season. It is traditionally done late in the evening — we will be doing our joint service with Kesher Zion after the Reading Symphony Orchestra's first

concert — because we are tired and some of our usual defenses may be peeled away. We are rusty, sluggish, and unpracticed.

The Selichot service reminds us of the work that needs to be done in the weeks ahead and it offers us the opportunity to get into a training routine and to prepare ourselves for these important days.

Selichot may not get us to Carnegie Hall or win us an Olympic medal, but it can remind us that with sincerity and discipline, we can begin to transform our lives.

May 5785 be a year filled with health, happiness, and hope for a good year in the year to come.

### Junior Congregation for High Holidays

**By Vicki Graff**

This year, during the Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur morning services at Oheb Sholom, the Youth Committee will hold special "junior congregation" services for young congregants in grade 2 through grade 6. Members of Oheb Sholom as well as visiting youth are welcome and encouraged to

attend!

The junior congregation Rosh HaShanah service will be held Thursday, Oct. 3, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m..

The Yom Kippur services will take place Saturday, Oct. 12 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Both services will be held in the RCOS Chapel and will be coordinated by Jessica Leisawitz and Vicki

Graff.

During these services, young congregants will participate in an interactive, age-appropriate holiday service, create an art project, hear a themed story and have an apples-and-honey snack.

While parents or other adults are welcome, young congregants may attend on

their own, so parents can attend the main service.

Parents or teens who would like to volunteer can contact Vicki Graff (vh-graff@gmail.com).

Looking for the family service for younger children and their adults? Join the rabbi on Rosh HaShanah at 4 p.m. and Yom Kippur at 1:30 p.m.

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**Michael P. Pardo**  
*In memory of my beloved Eve Moscowitz Pardo*

# Lessons in Jewish values right from the start

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

Welcome to a new school year. This year we are fortunate to have the holidays “late,” so that we can actually teach about them in school before they happen instead of trying to squish them into a week or two and hope it all makes sense.

What does it mean to say we have a values-based curriculum? Some might say “why do we teach these, we have values in our homes.” Its not just

about teaching the values, it is about teaching Torah using actual texts, Prophets, Life cycle, holidays, Holocaust, prayers and history through the lens of Jewish values. The hope is to help students apply the values they’ve learned to real-world situations.

Koach HaDibbur, one of the values we teach, is about understanding the power of words. In third grade, the focus is on Moses and his speech and choosing one’s words carefully. In

another grade, they study a text from Pirkei Avot about actions speaking louder than words.

Yet another class uses a Torah text about the importance of words in the community. In our oldest class they talk about social media, freedom of speech, and the retelling of the story of Passover. Torah, Ancient Jewish writings, holidays, real life.

If you have a special skill you’d like to share with our school (cooking, art, dance, etc.), please reach out to me at

the synagogue. We’d love to have more community involvement. And speaking of community involvement, see below for information about Consecration of our young ones.

**Sunday, Sept. 8:** First day of school

**Tuesday, Sept. 10:** First day of Hebrew

**Wednesday, Oct. 23:** Simchat Torah and Consecration for 1st-graders and any older students who just started Religious School.

## Nomination request for volunteer appreciation

**By Marty Beckerman**

The Ruth and Irvin Balis Volunteer Appreciation Award Selection Committee is taking nominations for the 2025 award presentation.:

This annual award honors a congregation member who

has provided consistent and important volunteer service to the RCOS community. Please consider nominating a member you believe worthy of this honor, especially one whose efforts may otherwise go unnoticed or unrecognized.

Nominations must be received by Friday, Oct. 4.

Please submit the nomination in whatever way you feel most comfortable. Complete the online form at [ohebsholom.org/balis-award-nomination-2025/](http://ohebsholom.org/balis-award-nomination-2025/)

OR email the nomination to Marty Beckerman, Committee Chair, at [mbbeckerman@msn.com](mailto:mbbeckerman@msn.com), OR mail the nomination to Marty Beckerman at 70 Sycamore Drive, Reading, PA 19606.

Nominees must be current members who have been in

the congregation at least five years. (Because the purpose of the award is to recognize the unsung heroes of the congregation, past or present congregational presidents are not eligible for nomination.)

Nominations should include the following:

- 1) Name of person being nominated
- 2) Types of service the person has performed
- 3) Explanation why the nominee deserves the award
- 4) Name of person submitting nomination

<p><b>Rabbi's Discretionary Fund</b> In memory of Harlan Kutscher Yvonne &amp; Emanuel Wittels Susan &amp; William Weiser Norma &amp; Martin Beckerman Jeffrey &amp; Lisa Nemeroff Amy, Lee &amp; Luke Berger Amicie &amp; Allen Zimmerman Conrad &amp; Ruth Heisman Barbara Bender</p>	<p><b>Torah Endowment</b> In memory of Harlan Kutscher Richard &amp; Mindy Small Judy Synnaron Norma &amp; Marty Beckerman Ron &amp; Sharon Hrabak Robert &amp; Patricia Nase Theresa Schroeder Henry Herz Debra Franklin Carol &amp; Stuart Cohn</p>
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**CORRECTION:**  
Dorie Karp made a contribution in honor of the rabbi delivering a presentation at Penns Crossing Apartments. The location was incorrect in the May Bulletin

**Thank you**

Expressing my deepest gratitude to all of those who made contributions to the Temple in memory of Dr. Harlan Kutscher.

***Carole Kutscher***

# Happy surprises abound at rummage sale

By Esther Shanahan

I thought it was some kind of vintage ironing board. There was a triangular shaped top, with an indentation in it where an iron could go, and two long rods fastened to a large rectangular yellow and green base.

We gathered around it, trying to solve the puzzle this mysterious item presented. Finally, an “aha!” moment when someone discovered screws taped to it and a handwritten sheet of paper with instructions on how to fasten it to the ceiling: it was an authentic mid-century modern light fixture!

I didn't see how it would sell — it was enormous, and the wiring was definitely original. Someone priced it, and two volunteers schlepped it over to

the “Housewares” table. Within the first hour of the Sisterhood's annual rummage sale, I watched an intrepid shopper haul it to the register and pay for their windfall.

That's one of my favorite things about the rummage sale — you never know what you're going to find! Treasures abound, both recognizable and obscure. When someone brings in a box of Generation One Transformers, I know those will sell: the light fixture was a big surprise!

This year's sale had an abundance of items, with everything from curios to tchotchkes to jewelry to art, and, of course, practical items, like kitchen appliances, china and clothing for the entire family. Shoppers

loved unearthing bargains, whether it was a brand new pair of shoes for \$5, a juicer still in the package for \$10, or a beautiful black amethyst iridescent Carnival glass vase for \$10. I even witnessed one early bird customer do a fist pump when she snagged a nearly new piece of luggage for \$5.

While the three days of the sale are exhilarating, none of it would be possible without the work of many volunteers in the two weeks preceding the sale. Once rummage sale collection begins, a small but dedicated army of volunteers begin to sort, fold, arrange and price items. Then, for the three days of the sale, volunteers greet shoppers, check them out, make deals, and, sometimes,

offer encouragement to patrons who are trying on clothing and want to know if they should make a purchase.

After the shopping ends, the remaining items are donated to Community Aid and Spring Valley Church, and a dedicated crew sorts and packs the leftover rummage to free up the social hall for the next Oneg.

Thank you so much to everyone who assisted this year, with preparing, running, baking and cleaning up after the sale. Your help is invaluable and very much appreciated.

If you find the rummage sale intriguing and would like to join the Sisterhood, please contact Esther Shanahan at [esty730@gmail.com](mailto:esty730@gmail.com), we would love to have you!

## REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM

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## About our bulletin

**Editor:** Mark Nemirow ([marknem@aol.com](mailto:marknem@aol.com))

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*Please contact the Temple office for information on advertising and sponsorship opportunities.*

***Deadline for October issue  
is Sept. 5***

## Sponsor a bulletin

**Members of the community are welcome to sponsor issues of the bulletin. Contact the Temple office or email [Marknem@aol.com](mailto:Marknem@aol.com) if you're interested.**

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH STREAMING

Did you ever wonder how RCOS provides live video of its events on YouTube? Artificial Intelligence? Smart Phone App? Magic? No, four volunteers make this happen. Streaming requires very basic computer capabilities plus the willingness to give some of your time (~1.5 hours). We need a few more volunteers. Old or young doesn't matter, just a desire to help out. After about an hour of training scheduled at your convenience, you too can become a stream producer and take a turn at broadcasting our events.



**If interested, contact Steven Levine at [levkom2@verizon.net](mailto:levkom2@verizon.net) or 484-332-8726.**

### Perpetual Memorials

**Sept. 1-7**  
 Alan Baskin  
 Osker Hekler  
 Dr. Joseph A. Liefert  
 Bernard L. Simmons  
 Jack Loeb Stein  
 Rosa Weil

**Sept. 8-14**  
 Solly Gernsheimer  
 Sadie Gilbert  
 Dr. James Holzman  
 Josephine Katz  
 Robert Katz

Sylvia Schiff  
 Anna Stern

**Sept. 15-21**  
 Lawrence Diamond  
 Florence E. Frank  
 Albert Fried  
 Sitta Goldstein  
 Sara Holzman  
 Dr. Frederick P. Pokrass  
 Marsha Salpeter  
 Vivian Schachter  
 Rhoda Small  
 Bertha Whiteson

**Sept. 22-28**  
 Theresa R. Cohn  
 Dennis Deutsch  
 Bertha Eisman  
 Marilyn Frank  
 Manfred Jakobs  
 N. John Kelner  
 Joseph Marcus  
 Isabel Sondheim  
 Malcolm Spinrad

**Sept. 29-30**  
 Charlotte F. Levy  
 Ignatz Whiteson

### BIRTHDAYS

Laurie Waxler	Sept. 3	Katherine Kozloff-Banks	
Deborah Zelnick	Sept. 6		Sept. 12
Roberta Kozloff	Sept. 8	Norma Sigal	Sept. 15
Margery Gilbert	Sept. 10	Aleta Cohn	Sept. 17
Carole Kutscher	Sept. 10	Andrew Waxler	Sept. 18
Cantor Gerald Miller	Sept. 11	Jennifer Woodward	Sept. 19
Benjamin Leisawitz	Sept. 12	Jeremy Wasserman	Sept. 25
			Sept. 26
			Sept. 28
			Sept. 28
			Sept. 29
			Sept. 29
			Sept. 29

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# Cantor Binder service dates for upcoming year

Friday, Sept. 6, 6 p.m.  
 Friday, Sept. 27, 7:45 p.m. — full weekend: Selichot & Religious School  
 Friday, Oct. 25, 7:45 pm  
 Friday, Nov. 15, 6 p.m. — full weekend: Schneider BM & Religious School  
 Friday, Dec. 6 at 6 p.m.  
 Friday, Dec. 20, 6 p.m.  
 Friday, Jan. 3, 6 p.m.  
 Friday, Jan. 24, 7:45 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 7, at 6 p.m. — full weekend: Gan service, Tot Shabbat, & Religious School  
 Friday, Feb. 28, 6 p.m.  
 Friday, March 7, 6 p.m.  
 Friday, March 21, 7 p.m. — Speaker Series  
 Friday, April 4, 6 p.m. — full weekend: Balis award & Religious School  
 Friday, April 25 at 7 p.m. — Rabbi away  
 Friday, May 9, 7 p.m. — Teacher Appreciation & New Member Service

## ANNIVERSARIES

Tatiana & Boris Schneider	Sept. 1	Janet & Jeffry Gernsheimer	Sept. 5
Samantha & Scott Stein	Sept. 2	Russell Farbiarz	
Jodi & Adam Spiegel	Sept. 3	& Alexa Antanavage	Sept. 6
Tandy & David Goldstein	Sept. 4	Marjorie Shearer & Laurie Saren	Sept. 7
Michele & Benjamin Leisawitz	Sept. 4	Jeffrey Sternlieb & Andrea Watkins	Sept. 10
Geraldine & Mark Nemirow	Sept. 4	Steven Levine & Frances Komisar	Sept. 30

# September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Labor Day RCOS Office Closed	3	4	5	6 6 PM Shabbat Service & Dinner w/ Cantor Binder Stuart Binder	7 10 AM Haftarah Study Group
8 9:30 AM Religious School-1st Day	9 12 PM Torah Study 7 PM Executive Committee Meeting	10 4 PM Hebrew School	11	12	13 7 PM Musical Shabbat w/ David Mallinger	14 10 AM Tot Shabbat
15 9:30 AM Religious School 9:30 AM Postcard Party	16 12 PM Torah Study 7 PM Finance Committee Meeting	17 4 PM Hebrew School	18	19	20 6 PM Shabbat Service-Pulpit Swap w/ Revd. Bryce Wandry of Christ Episcopal	21
22 9:30 AM Religious School 9 AM Pulpit Swap w/ Christ Episcopal	23 12 PM Torah Study 3 PM Rosh Hashanah Event @ The Highlands 7 PM Board Meeting	24 4 PM Hebrew School	25	26	27 7:45 PM Shabbat Service w/ Speaker-Rachel Beck from RAC-PA-Cantor Stuart Binder	28 7:30 PM Reading Symphony Orchestra 10 PM Selichot-1st Night w/ Cantor Stuart Binder
29 9:30 AM Religious School	30 12 PM Torah Study	1 4 PM Hebrew School	2 Rosh Hashanah 8 PM Erev Rosh Hashanah Service	3 10 AM Service 4 PM RH Family Service 5:30 PM Tashlich Service	4 6 PM Shabbat Service	5 10 AM Haftarah Study Group

# Every Voice, Every Vote

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# 2024

## *POSTCARD PARTY*

Join us to make sure the voice of every eligible voter in PA is heard this fall. Write postcards to Pennsylvania voters connected with OnePA, a powerful Black-led base-building organization that has been RAC-PA's partner since 2020. Please be assured this is a completely **nonpartisan** effort to encourage voting.

*Sunday, September 15, 9:30 to 11:30, RCOS*

To RSVP or to ask any questions, please email Marty Beckerman ([mbbeckerman@msn.com](mailto:mbbeckerman@msn.com)) or Norma Beckerman ([necha18@msn.com](mailto:necha18@msn.com)).

