



Volunteers make Food Festival a success

By Jeff Bornstein

A tremendous thank you to everyone who participated in the 24th Annual Food and Cultural Festival. The challenging work put into the setup, day of the event and cleanup was utterly amazing among about 100 volunteers serving over 1,000 customers!

We are also extremely proud of the Temple youth who participated.

A special shout out to all those who baked about 300 of our famous Apple Cakes. WOW to all of you!!!! Also, congratulations to my fellow committee members for their success and dedication through nine months of planning (including our Chicken BBQ, which acts as a trial run).

We also want to thank everyone who purchased items, donated baskets or placed an ad in our ad book. Making money for the Temple is our main goal; however we felt that this year, cultural and entertainment activities were important to emphasize, and we succeeded in having several guests take part in these activities.

Now for what we accomplished: Although not all the numbers are in yet, revenues set another record. Including record ad sales, in early returns we believe our total gross revenue exceeded \$87,000. We expect the net to the Temple will be

between around 50% or over \$40,000..

We bought sharp new aprons as a gift to the Temple. Everyone looked great and acted professionally. We fully implemented our four Square Restaurant Terminals for better inventory control and data gathering to help us predict future demand. We plan to buy at least one more terminal as early-morning crowds were extremely large for only four stations.

We added a few new food items to our offering including kugel, tongue, and additional bakery items. We will reevaluate item offerings for next year based on sales and profitability of these items, intense data analysis and any comments we receive.

Summing it all up —, we did well, and our volunteers are responsible. Special recognition to others who have put in countless hours and taken on additional responsibility: Ellen & Jake Azrael, Scott Davis, Laurie Waxler, Cantor Binder, Mark Nemirow, Esther Shanahan and Emily Hollinger.

The Food Festival committee thanks all of you greatly

*The Food Festival committee:
Jeff Bornstein, Jon Avins, Lynn Driben, Marty Beckerman, Bruce Cohen, Alex McManimen, James Rowe, Holly Michelson, Judith Kraines and Eric Shocket.*



THIS ISSUE SPONSORED BY

Rita Galovic

In memory of my dad, Jack Stross

The power of kindness on display

By Holly Michelson

Religious School Director

First of all, thank you to all of the students and their families who helped out at the Food Festival.

So much will be going on in December. On Dec. 13, our Sixth/Seventh grade class will be leading our Erev Shabbat services for the congregation. This is the first of our class-led services this year. Please join us and the community in supporting them and their hard work.

Also in December, on Sundays and Tuesdays during Religious School, we will once again have Chanukah “stuff” available for sale. In addition to what we had last year, we will have stuffed animals, note cards, socks, and more. No credit cards.

If you will be teaching about Chanukah in your child’s weekday class, we have created Chanukah boxes that you can borrow. The box includes historical information, a suggested lesson plan, a Chanukah menorah, candles, dreidels with directions on how to play, and a children’s book.

The time you take can make a big difference to your child and to their friends’ knowledge about Judaism and tolerance of people of

different faiths. Please let me or Rabbi Michelson know if there is anything else you need to help you teach.

Last month I told the story of the kindness I witnessed among one of the classes. I cannot resist telling you another. This comes from a new child who had not been in our school before. She was visiting her grade’s class for the day before her parents decided if she would join us for the rest of the year. This is what I received from her mother (names have been removed). “When we left there, I told [my child] you know I always called this Hebrew school just because that’s what I’m used to from when I grew up but it’s not Hebrew school because that’s on Tuesdays. She said well, can we just call it kindness school because it seems like we’re learning a lot about kindness and I responded ‘absolutely’.” Thanks to that mom who shared her story.

Reminders:

Sunday, Dec. 1: No School

Friday, Dec. 13 Our Sixth/Seventh Grade class will be leading our Shabbat Service

Sunday, Dec. 22: Chanukah party 4:00-7:00

Sunday, Dec. 22-Dec. 31: No School

We return Jan. 5.



TORAH ENDOWMENT FUND MEMBERS NEEDED

The Torah Endowment Fund Committee is looking for one or two new members. This is a committee established under the bylaws of the Temple to operate independently of the Board of Directors. The committee meets in February and July for 30 minutes by Zoom to manage the fund and distribute its proceeds. It also manages the Temple’s Gift Card program. Membership has no qualifications and is not a huge time commitment. The committee simply seeks someone who has the best interests of the Temple at heart.

If interested, contact Jim Harrison at Treasurer@ohebsholom.org

Bringing light to our lives at Hanukkah

The country is fully into the Christmas season, and there's nothing wrong with that. I am not threatened by Christmas. On the contrary, I think Christmas is nice.

Rabbi Brian Michelson

People become happier, they sing beautiful songs — especially the ones that Jews wrote — and the Western world seems to take a vacation from the pessimism of the other 11 months of the year.

There was a time, to be sure when Christmas was a threat to Jews. In Europe, Christmas was a time to harass the Jews even more than usual. It was a time to go to hide from drunken Cossacks who would be only too pleased to kill

any Jews who crossed their merry path. As challenging as things are today, I don't think we have returned to these dangerous times.

I don't mind if people wish me a Merry Christmas, and that happens all the time, even with my kippah on. Why should I get mad if people wish me well? I'll take any happy wishes I can get of any flavor. I don't usually object and say, "Oh, I'm a Jew, I don't celebrate Christmas." I say, "Thanks, Merry Christmas to you, too." By cheerfully receiving and returning these Yuletide wishes, we extend an olive branch to another faith community. When I say Merry Christmas, I'm not saying, "Wow, I wish I was Christian." I'm saying, "I wish you well as you

celebrate your holiday."

Hanukkah is about bringing light into our lives when the world is at its darkest. The days are short, and it can be depressing. We're not the only religion that has a festival of light. Many Eastern religions observe Diwali, a festival that celebrates light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. Easter and Christmas are Christian festivals of light. Muslims hang special lanterns on Eid al Fitr, the holiday at the end of Ramadan.

Light is vitally important to many religions, and that should come as no surprise. The American philosopher and scientist Dan Dennet argues that human religion should be studied just like

any other biological phenomenon. We humans are religious because religion has proved to have evolutionary value in our lives.

Hanukkah is our annual declaration that we, as Jews, are still here. It reminds us that we have stood up to those who hated us in the past, we must do so in the present, and we will continue to do so in the future. Hanukkah does not have to compete with any other holiday. Just as Hanukkah reminds us of the importance of light, we are expected, by our actions and conduct, to bring light into the world.

May your Hanukkah, this and every year, be filled with beautiful light and meaning. Chag Hanukkah Samayach!

Greater Temple Fund

Thank you for being able to attend Rosh Hoshana Services

Joan & David Rosenfeld

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In appreciation of Rabbi Brian

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Rabbi Brian Michelson:

rabbi@ohebsholom.org

Kandycce Clark, administrative secretary:

temple.office@ohebsholom.org

Beth Bruck, bookkeeper:

bookkeeper@ohebsholom.org

James Rowe, webmaster:

jamesrowe@outlook.com

About our bulletin

Editor: Mark Nemirow (marknem@aol.com
or 610-334-8438)

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

Deadline for February issue is Jan. 5

Perpetual Memorials

Dec. 1-7
 Dr. Samuel Goldsmith
 Rose Ehrlich Liefert
 Samuel R. Lurio
 Saul Marty" Miller"
 Seymour Nemeroff
 Helen Winston Quartner
 Barbara Stein

Dec. 8-14
 Simon Falkowitz
 Herman Folkman
 H. Robert Gilbert
 Dr. Julius Goldsmith
 Bertha Guggenheim
 Bertha Knoblauch

Abraham W. Loeb
 Leopold Loeb
 Nathan Mendelsohn
 Edith Sondheim
 Solomon Weil

Dec. 15-21
 Bernard Bash
 Harry J. Bash
 Goldye B. Curson
 David Herman
 Dora Kins
 Carlyn Liefert
 Josephine Miller
 Albert M. Salas
 Irene R. Salpeter

Deborah B. Schweriner
 Anne Seltzer
 Sidney Symons

Dec. 22-28
 Lionel Asher
 Julius L. Cohen
 Johanna Gernsheimer
 Dr. William Holzman

Dec. 29-31
 J. Harold Fisher
 Dora Sondheim

ANNIVERSARIES

Norma & Martin Beckerman
 Paul & Ivan Bub
 Sara Kleiman & Mitch Weglos

Dec. 3
 Dec. 15
 Dec. 22

Holly & Rabbi Brian Michelson
 Yvonne & Emanuel Wittels

Dec. 23
 Dec. 23

BIRTHDAYS

David Bluestone Dec. 1
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 Sheina Missan Dec. 3
 Jeffrey Weizer Dec. 6
 Yvonne Wittels Dec. 7
 Alec Platt Dec. 8
 Lisa Jacobson Dec. 10
 Joseph Goldstein Dec. 14
 Richard Small Dec. 14
 Jane Weiner Dec. 14

Jeffry Gernsheimer Dec. 15
 Laurie Saren Dec. 16
 Lee Radosh Dec. 17
 Rick Langlois Dec. 18
 Lyudmila Ger Dec. 19
 Alan Weisberg Dec. 20
 Randolph Grabiak Dec. 21
 Michael Musso Dec. 22
 James Rothstein Dec. 22
 Barry Levine Dec. 24
 Sharon Berman Dec. 26

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 Margarita Levin Dec. 26
 Jordan Regester Dec. 26
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December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 No Religious School	2 12 PM Torah Study 7 PM Finance Committee Meeting	3 11 AM Lunch & Learn @ The Highlands 3:30 PM Hebrew School	4	5	6 6 PM Shabbat Service & Dinner w/ Cantor Stuart Binder	7 10 AM Haftarah Study Group
8 9:30 AM Religious School	9 12 PM Torah Study 7 PM Executive Committee Meeting	10 3:30 PM Hebrew School	11	12	13 7:45 PM 6th & 7th Grade Service	14 10 AM Tot Shabbat
15 9:30 AM Religious School	16 12 PM Torah Study 7 PM Finance Committee Meeting	17 3:30 PM Hebrew School	18	19	20 6 PM Shabbat Service	21
22 No Religious School 4 PM Sisterhood Hanukkah Party	23 12 PM Torah Study 7 PM Board Meeting	24 3:30 PM Hebrew School	25 RCOS OFFICE CLOSED 1st Night of Chanukah	26	27 7:45 PM Shabbat Service	28
29 No Religious School	30 12 PM Torah Study	31 3:30 PM Hebrew School	1 Last Night of Chanukah	2	3 6 PM Shabbat Service & Dinner w/ Cantor Stuart Binder	4 10 AM Haftarah Study Group

Liefter-Fein scholarship applications available

By Steven Levine

The Liefter-Fein Memorial Scholarship Fund Committee is pleased to announce that applications for the academic year 2025-2026 will accepted beginning Dec. 1.

The application form will be available on the RCOS website (ohebsholom.org) from that date.

Completed applications

will need to be returned by Feb. 1 to qualify for consideration.

Applications will be reviewed and interviews will be held between February and April. Scholarship winners will be announced May 1.

The Liefter-Fein Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 1971 by Nathan and Allerta Fein and has been sup-

plemented by a major donation from Joseph Liefter.

The income from this fund is used to provide scholarships for higher education to children of members of our congregation in good standing.

The awards are based on academic achievement, need, and character. The size of the scholarship(s) is dependent on the income from the fund.

The Liefter-Fein Memorial Scholarship Fund Committee is composed of Steven Levine, Chair, Pat Frankel, Rabbi Brian Michelson, Bruce Cohen, Holly Michelson, and Scott Davis.

If you have any questions about the fund, please contact Steven Levine at levkom2@verizon.net or at 484-332-8726.



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- WHERE: 555 WARWICK DR. WYOMISSING, PA 19610

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CONTACT KANDYCE IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS



Give these new members a warm welcome



Robbie Coville and Naomi Crimm

Robbie Coville and Naomi Crimm met during graduate school at Cornell University (agronomy for Robbie, and city and regional planning for Naomi). We moved to the area in 2021 to be closer to family, and in August they welcomed their daughter Adira. Robbie works as an agroforestry specialist for Pennsylvania DCNR, and Naomi works as a community planner for Montgomery County Planning Commission. We enjoy gardening, hiking, camping, canoeing, and all things tree-related. We are looking forward to being a part of the Oheb Sholom community!

LITERATOUR BERKS
CELEBRATING AUTHORS AND BOOKS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22ND, 2024
4:00 PM AT THE REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM

JANE ZALBEN
AUTHOR OF: *GINGERBREAD DREIDELS*

THIS PROGRAM IS RECOMMENDED FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES!

PLUS: PRE-REGISTER AND GET 1 FREE BOOK PER FAMILY

Join us at the Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom this holiday season for a visit from Jane Zalben, author of the festive book "Gingerbread Dreidels"! Jane will be conducting a story time of her book with kids, as well as signing & selling copies during this community wide Hanukkah celebration following an all-faiths activity. This program is brought to us by Literatour Berks, Jewish Book Council, The Jewish Federation of Reading & Berks, and the Exeter Community Library.

Visit the Federation Website: www.readingjewishcommunity.org/home/literatour

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Presentation to Carol Cohn

REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM



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4-7PM**

Dinner, Latkes and Dessert!
A special author presentation.
Games, Crafts and Music!



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