



A joyful salute to Carol Cohn



The community gathered to celebrate Carol Cohn, this year's winner of the Irvin and Ruth Balis Volunteer Appreciation Award.

**THIS ISSUE SPONSORED
With Love from Carol Cohn**

*A huge thank you to everyone
who came or contributed to the Balis Award
and made the night so special!*

Education can occur at any age

By Holly Michelson
Religious School Director

One of the things that I often tell the students is that their Jewish Education does not end at Brit (Bar/Bat) Mitzvah. In the past, some students have stopped coming to Hebrew and to school on Sundays. Some continue just on Sundays, and every so often, I'll have a student stay to the end of the year with both.

Our students need to see that education can occur at any age. This year, there were two new opportunities provided for parent education. The first was the Rabbi's "Learner's Service."

I was able to attend the one in March and thoroughly enjoyed it. It is designed for religious school students and their parents though others are welcome. We had only two families (three more meant to attend and couldn't make it) that week, but the conversation flowed and the students

and their parents participated and stayed engaged.

I've already heard from one parent that her child has asked to return the next time. It is not a normal service. It is about learning about the service, not just doing it.

I also recently did a parent program about Passover. I've always wanted to be able to do this, but time constraints don't always allow for it. I wasn't sure I'd have more than a few, but in the end I had nine parents. We discussed Passover, shared our memories and/or knowledge of the holiday and discussed the memories we want for our children. We even had time for a sweet Passover treat before joining the students for their special chocolate "seder" with the Rabbi. The hope is to continue both of these programs next year. Topics that were suggested for the parent program included, holidays, music, and Shabbat. The next Learner's Service will be May 24. No previous



Chocolate Seder at Religious School

knowledge necessary.

This is the last bulletin of this school year. Last year, I forgot that there wasn't another until late in the summer, so that is why this column is so long. It has been a great year (and there is still more to come as we finish out the month).

We welcomed new students. We learned more about the Shabbat service, continued our studies

of holidays and values, and so much more. We were fortunate to have the cantor join us a few times on Sundays, our STEM program with Galen Newman continued to excite the students, and Abraham Graff, an eighth-grader, was our madrich (student helper).

Add to that group, all of our weekly regular teachers: Rebecca Balchunas Stack, Rachel Wasserman, Jessica Leisawitz, Amana Woolf Gibbs, Ryan Zeitzer, Linda Murphy, and last but not least, Esther Shanahan whose valuable help went above and beyond. I am grateful for all of you more than you know and thank you for doing this important work with me. To the rest of the community, I hope you join me in honoring these teachers on May 9 at our Shabbat service.

Looking ahead:

NO SCHOOL on Mother's Day

May 9: Teacher appreciation and New Member Shabbat. I hope you can all join us.

May 18: Last Day of school. Party to follow.

May 24: Learners' Service workshop.

Summer B'nei Mitzvah: Lyla Kleiman and Uriah Merin

Sept. 7: First day of school. Enrollment form will be available in July/August

END OF SCHOOL PARTY

FREE EVENT FOR FAMILIES AND RCOS YOUTH!

The RCOS Youth Committee is hosting an end of the school year party for all kids and families! Enjoy a bounce house obstacle course, giant bubble and games, pizza and snacks! Parents encouraged to come and schmooze!

**SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025
11:30AM - 1PM
RCOS PARKING LOT
RSVP WITH THE QR CODE**

Nourish your soul with Torah at Shavuot

At the beginning of June, we will celebrate the poor stepchild of Jewish holidays, Shavuot. Shavuot is the third of the three

Rabbi Brian Michelson

pilgrimage festivals we celebrate each year, and it is tied to the wheat harvest and the giving of the commandments on Mount Sinai. It is often overlooked because it comes so close to the end of the school year, and everyone is thinking about summer vacation and not Torah.

There is a tradition to eat dairy products for Shavuot. Some people say that we stay away from meat to distance ourselves from the sin of the golden calf, but

dairy also comes from cows, so I don't know how much distance we are actually getting.

How interesting it is that on this festival when we are celebrating being given the Torah, we also remember how, feeling that Moses was taking too long to come down from Mount Sinai, a group decided to build a golden calf...a cow. I know that all of this is "udderly" ridiculous. However, I find it interesting that we built a cow to turn away from God and Moses — a holiday celebrated eating dairy. Isn't it odd that such a high percentage of Jews have difficulty with milk?

What is it about a cow? Let me quote "The Cow" written by Ogden Nash: "The cow is of the

bovine ilk; one end is moo, the other milk".

Nash starts by saying that the cow is of the bovine ilk...remember that there is more than one type of bovine...just ask an ox. It is the second line of Nash's poem that can teach us something interesting: "One end is moo" — one end is all talk — and too frequently, what comes out of our mouths would have been better off left unsaid.

Let's look at the other end. (I know what you're thinking.) Yet, I think most of the crap comes from the moo end. Nash was referring to the udders as the other end. The udders are where the milk comes from, and that milk is what nourishes and enables its' calves to grow and mature. That

milk is also one of the nutrients that helps us grow and thrive... unless we suffer from digestive or allergy issues.

Shavuot and Torah, in general, are about the milk, the nourishment that we get from Torah. Torah and Jewish learning are the milk that we need to drink, digest, and keep drinking it over and over again. (Don't worry, there are no Torah allergies.)

As we prepare to observe Shavuot (Sunday night, June 1), I would like you to take a moment to see the words and the scrolls of Torah as milk to nourish our souls. Ruminant on that for a minute. I think I have milked this column for all it is worth, so I will simply say, "Chag Sameach!"

Cemetery Fund

In memory of Harry Witels
Yvonne & Manny Witels

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

In memory of Harriet Baskin
Rae Baskin & Jeff Baskin

In memory of Anne Coopersmith
Sandee & Neal Nevitt

In memory of Herman Nevitt
Sandee & Neal Nevitt

In honor of the birth of Sue &
Alan Weisberg's granddaughter
Lynn & Jeff Driben

In memory of Steven Zeisel
Norma & Marty Beckerman

In memory of Arthur Humberg
Ruth & Conrad Heisman

Thank you to Rabbi Michelson
teaching Pirkei Avot classes
Sharon & Ron Hrabak

In honor of the birth of
Norma & Marty Beckerman's
grandchild
Sue & Alan Weisberg

In memory of
Norman Willenzik
Vicki Graff

REFORM CONGREGATION OHEB SHOLOM

Affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism since 1907

555 Warwick Drive, Wyomissing, PA 19610

610-375-6034

Brian I. Michelson, Rabbi

OFFICERS

Bruce Cohen.....President
Marty Beckerman.....Vice President
Tracy Weiss.....Secretary
Bruce Cole.....Treasurer
James Harrison.....Assistant Treasurer
Steven Cohn.....Past President

TRUSTEES

Bruce Cole
Vicki Graff
Galen Newman
Jeri Diesinger
Jessica Leisawitz
James Rothstein
Susan Weisberg
Russ Farbiarz
Alex McManimen
Esther Shanahan

Life Trustee
Bruce Cohen

The Temple Online

www.ohebsholom.org

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.

Last issue until September

Perpetual Memorials

May 1-3

Ernestine Fisher
Harry Stern
Jeanne Winston

May 4-10

Emil Bernheimer
Joseph H. Chivian
Nathan P. Cohen
Helen P. Freedman
Mark Freedman
William Gilbert
Irving Imber
Jeraldine Kozloff
Harry Sack
Charles Schwartz

May 11-17

Minna R. Austin
Joseph Goldsmith
Eta Greenwood
Herman Hammel
Louis Heibron
Clara F. Israel
Liebmann Katz
Paula Katz
Israel Losch
Phyllis Symons

May 18-24

Joseph W. Cohen
Celia A. Cooperman
Helen M. Echenberg
Hortense Grota

Lena Holzman
Simon Knoblauch
Jacob Rudnick
Ilse Simon
Karl Simon
Selma Katz Simon
Mathew H. Small

May 25-31

Robert Brok
Julius Ehrlich
Samuel R. Frankel
Minnie Freedman
Minnie Winston Hirsch
Rachel K. Loeb
Libbie Tamor
Leah Livingston Winston

ANNIVERSARIES

Mary Ann & Jonathan Avins	May 5	Herb & Chip Karasin	May 28
Jo & Paul D. Cohn	May 11	Elyse & Jeffrey Horowitz	May 29
Radene Gordon-Beck & Hugh Beck	May 15	Amy & Lee Berger	May 31
Gretchen & Alec Platt	May 15	Jodi & Lee Radosh	May 31
Sharon Gernsheimer & Barry Levine	May 26		

BIRTHDAYS

Herb Karasin	May 1	Jason Kraft	May 11	Steven Levine	May 18
David Goldstein	May 2	Sara Pfeiffer	May 12	Dena Hammel	May 21
Lin Langlois	May 3	Phyllis Schlanger	May 12	Susan Kerschner	May 21
Chad Schlanger	May 4	Vicki Graff	May 13	Nancy Knoblauch	May 22
Pamela Ravetz	May 5	Paul Kozloff	May 13	Whitney Sanders	May 23
Catherine Schultz	May 7	Brett Chronister	May 14	Steven A. Ehrlich	May 24
Gretchen Platt	May 8	Brett Wartluft	May 15	Mark Weiss	May 28
Chip Karasin	May 10	Adam Levin	May 18	Jeanine Levy	May 31

JAMES P. RESTREPO, M.D., FACS, ECNU
JEFFREY S. DRIBEN, M.D., FACS, ECNU
SCOTT J. CRONIN, M.D., FACS
ADAM P. VASCONCELLOS, M.D., FACS
CHETAN Y. SAFI, M.D.
ROSEMARIE MONTGOMERY, CRNP
MELANIE A. APPLER, AU.D., FAAA
MATTHEW R. BONSALL, AU.D., FAAA
JENNA L. GALAN, AU.D., CCC-A

ENT HEAD & NECK SPECIALISTS

985 Berkshire Boulevard • Suite 101
Wyomissing, PA 19610
Phone 610-374-5599 • Fax 610-375-1262
www.ent-hns.net



Kuhn Funeral Home, INC.

EDWARD J. KUHN, JR., SUPERVISOR
MICHAEL R. KUHN, PRESIDENT

739 Penn Ave., West Reading

www.kuhnfuneralhomes.com

610-374-5440

**Thank you to our advertisers
for supporting the bulletin!**

RCOS WARMLY THANKS OUR SPONSORS OF
MEDITERRANEAN NIGHTS &
THE ANNUAL BALIS VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION AWARD
PRESENTED TO
CAROL COHN

DIAMOND LEVEL: UP TO \$1000

JEFFREY & LISA NEMEROFF

PLATINUM LEVEL: UP TO \$500

MARSHALL & ELLEN AZRAEL * JEFFREY & LYNN DRIBEN * NEIL HOFFMAN
TONY & TRINH VO-NGUYEN * RCOS SISTERHOOD * SETH & BARBARA ROSENZWEIG
RUSS & ESTHER SHANAHAN * M ROBERT & KAYE ULLMAN

GOLD LEVEL: UP TO \$250

MICHAEL & JILL HAAS * JEWISH FEDERATION OF READING * MICHAEL & LORI LINTON
MICHELLE MART & DAVID WALKER * BRIAN & HOLLY MICHELSON
DEBRA MONTANINO & JOAN SHERMAN * JAMES ROTHSTEIN & SHARON SCULLIN
HENRY & HELENE SINGER * ANDREW & LAURIE WAXLER * ALAN & SUSAN WEISBERG

SILVER LEVEL: UP TO \$150

MARTY & NORMA BECKERMAN * BRUCE COHEN * SCOTT & SANDRA DAVIS
KALMEN & MARGARET FEINBERG * SANDRA FISHMAN
MELVYN JACOBSON & ROBIN COSTENBADER-JACOBSON * ANNETTE PEPPARD
MICHAEL PARDO * RICHARD & MINDY SMALL * ERIC & DEBORAH ZELNICK

BRONZE LEVEL: UP TO \$75

ANONYMOUS * JONATHAN & MARY ANNE AVINS * BARBARA BENDER
RUSSELL & JERI DIESINGER * WILLIAM EHRLICH * ANN GOLDEN
VICKI GRAFF * JAMES & ANITA HARRISON * STEPHEN & CARRIE LATMAN
TOM & SUE REESE * IRENE & JOHN SILESKE * JEFF STERNLIEB & ANDY WATKINS
MARK & TRACY WEISS * EMANUEL & YVONNE WITTELS

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- * MARTY BECKERMAN FOR CHAIRING THE BALIS NOMINATING COMMITTEE.
- * ERIC SHOCKET'S TABLE 13 FOR CATERING ANOTHER DELICIOUS EVENT.
- * SWEET STREET DESSERTS DONATED AN ASSORTMENT OF TEMPTING DESSERTS.
- * BARBARA ROSENZWEIG FOR DONATING DELICIOUS HOMEMADE DESSERTS.
- * BRUCE & PIYALI COLE FOR DONATING TIME & INGREDIENTS FOR OUR DRINKS
- * BALIS COMMITTEE: PIYALI COLE, LYNN DRIBEN, SANDRA FISHMAN,
JENNIFER GURWITZ, JILL HAAS, MARGO LEVIN, JESSICA LEISAWITZ, LORI LINTON,
MICHELLE MART, BARBARA ROSENZWEIG, LAURIE WAXLER,
SUSAN WEISBERG, & TRACY WEISS

WE APOLOGIZE FOR ANY DONOR OMISSIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE PRINT DEADLINE

May 2025

<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>
27 9:30 AM Religious School	28 12 PM Torah Study 7 PM Board Meeting	29 3:30 PM Hebrew School	30 Yom HaZikaron	1 Yom HaZikaron RCOS Founding Date	2 6 PM Shabbat Service & Dinner	3 10 AM Haftarah Study Group
4 9:30 AM Religious School 11:30 AM Sisterhood Committee Meeting 12 PM Kauffman's Chicken BBQ	5 NO Torah Study 7 PM Executive Committee Meeting 7 PM Security Committee Meeting	6 11 AM Lunch & Learn @ The Highlands 3:30 PM Hebrew School	7	8	9 7 PM New Member & Teacher Appreciation Shabbat Service	10 10 AM Tot Shabbat
11 NO Religious School	12 12 PM Torah Study	13 3:30 PM Hebrew School— Last Day	14	15	16 6 PM Joint Lag b'Omer Shabbat Service w/ KZ	17 Bat Mitzvah of Leah Leisawitz
18 9:30 AM Religious School— Last Day 11:30 AM Youth Committee End of the Year Party	19 12 PM Torah Study 7 PM Board Meeting	20	21	22	23 7:45 PM Shabbat Service	24 10 AM Learners' Shabbat Service
25	26 Memorial Day RCOS Office Closed	27	28	29	30 7:45 PM Shabbat Service	31 2 PM Bat Mitzvah of Lyla Kleiman

Youth Committee to hold end-of-school-year party

By Vicki Graff

Calling all kids! Well, calling all parents: Bring your kids (or leave your kids) to the end of (religious) school party on Sunday, May 18, 11:30 - 1 p.m., in the RCOS parking lot.

As in previous years, we'll have a bounce house obstacle course to race through, giant bubbles to create and destroy, field day games to win, giant board games to play, and, of course, food to eat! We'll have pizza,

water and juice, and sno-cones!

Why celebrate? Why not? It's a transition to end one year of study and move into summer break. We want the Jewish children in our community to look forward to coming to Temple, and that means making it a space for learning and for fun. We also want them to build relationships with other Jewish kids and feel a sense of community among each

other. We love seeing them running around together!

The program is free, but donations to the Youth Committee Fund are welcome. Parents or teens who would like to volunteer can contact Vicki Graff (vhgraff@gmail.com).

We ask that you sign up your children in advance, so we can have enough food, but no one will be turned away: bit.ly/42Ed84l or use this QR code:



SCAN ME

Liefer-Fein scholarship winners

By Steven Levine

The Liefer-Fein Memorial Scholarship Fund Committee is pleased to announce that we were able to award four scholarships this fiscal year. The recipients are Sophia Horowitz, Kayla Kraft, Jasper Platt and Maxwell Weiss.

Kayla Kraft will be graduating from Gov. Mifflin High School. Kayla has not yet decided on where she will pursue her post-

secondary education but she intends to study nursing.

Jasper Platt will be graduating from Wyomissing High School. Jasper will be attending the University of Pennsylvania and intends to study math/philosophy.

Maxwell Weiss will be graduating from Wyomissing. Maxwell has not yet decided on where he will pursue his postsecondary education but

intends to study computer science.

Sophia Horowitz will be returning to Emerson College, where she is studying media arts production.

Applications for the FY26 Liefer-Fein Memorial Scholarship will be announced later this calendar year.

The Liefer-Fein Memorial Scholarship Fund Committee is composed of Steven Levine,

Chair, Pat Frankel, Rabbi Brian Michelson, Bruce Cohen, Holly Michelson, and Scott Davis.

Contributions to the Liefer-Fein Memorial Scholarship Fund can be sent to RCOS or made online at <https://ohebsholom.org/support/>.

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





Sunday, May 4th, 2025
12:00 noon - 3:00 pm
Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom
555 Warwick Drive

\$13 Kauffman's Chicken BBQ Platter

**\$22 Quarter Apple Cake &
Chicken BBQ Combo Platter**

\$10 Quarter Apple Cake

Credit Card Preferred or
Cash Accepted on Event Day

Pre-Order Starts April 14th
Credit Card Only

www.ohebsholom.org

Prices same as last year!



JOIN RCOS

Tuesday, May 13th
6:00-8:00 pm




Happy Hour

GNA RISTORANTE



421 PENN AVE

WEST READING

FREE PARKING | FREE APPS | CASH BAR

 **WYOMISSING OPTOMETRIC CENTER**   *The Best Care In Sight!*

Glenn S. Corbin, OD
Kerry J. Burrell, OD
Amanda S. Legge, OD
Perry C. Umlauf, OD
Jeffrey S. Stefanick, OD
Leslie B. Miller, OD

 COMPREHENSIVE
VISION & MEDICAL
EYE HEALTH CARE
FOR ALL AGES  24/7
MEDICAL EYE
EMERGENCIES

DOUGLASSVILLE
1050 Benjamin Franklin Hwy. W.
Douglassville, PA 19518
610-385-4333

WYOMISSING
50 Berkshire Court, Wyomissing, PA 19610
610-374-3134
wyo-opto.com

MYERSTOWN
356 West Main Avenue
Myerstown, PA 17067
717-866-1400

**Help RCOS at no extra
cost to you**

Try our grocery gift card program.

Contact Ellen Azrael: ehazrael@gmail.com
or 610-779-0448 text 610-406-7676