



L'Chaim לחיים

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Happy Purim



Ohev Shalom Virtual

CABARET

Saturday, March 5

7:30 p.m.

Please join us on the Ohev Zoom line
for a fun evening of entertainment!

It's free, although you know we love donations!



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President's Message— "Do You Believe in Guard?"



In recent years our leadership and clergy have considered how to best describe Ohev Shalom to others, especially to those looking to join a synagogue, and what to put front and center on our website. One of the most overused terms in the business is "warm and

welcoming." We can debate back and forth what that truly means, but every shul seems to have it. Of late, a close second is "safe and secure." In light of recent events in Texas and the never-distant memories from Poway to Pittsburgh, we have been forced to think about how to prevent and mitigate unthinkable attacks on our building, our congregants, and our students.

According to the Anti-Defamation League, antisemitic incidents at Jewish institutions increased by 40 percent from 2019 to 2020. Although most were "Zoombombings," many were vandalism and three were incidents of assault. Although three may not seem like a lot, it is clearly three too many.

What have we done (and continue to do) to secure our safety? There are three pillars of defense: structural changes that hinder forced entry, alterations that enable law enforcement to do their job more easily, and training/education of personnel and volunteers. Because our *L'Chaim* newsletter is universally available on the web, I will not list the details of what we have accomplished in this regard — these were outlined in a letter sent to the congregation last month. Suffice it to say that the FEMA security grant that Betty Bard and Missy worked on was truly beneficial, as well as the inspections and subsequent guidance that we obtained from the FBI and Chief Splain from the Nether Providence Police. In 2019, our Security Task Force put together a detailed emergency plan that recommended staff and teacher trainings, as well as education sessions for ushers, greeters and other volunteers. While

we were able to complete an initial round of in-person trainings before COVID hit. We anticipate that we will be able to continue them in the upcoming months and moving forward.

A key objective of these trainings is to learn how to recognize threats and keep potentially dangerous individuals out of the building. I mention this because if there is ever a time when you can't remember our entry code and need to be let inside, the person who is responsible for "perimeter management" will need to confirm your identity before letting you into the building. If you are not immediately recognized (minyanares don't worry), please do not take offense to this. The balance between "welcoming" and "safe" is a spectrum, and there are times when leaning on the latter (careful you don't fall) takes priority. And remember, the more you come by the synagogue the more easily you are recognized and more likely remember the entry code.

Another question circulating among synagogue leaders and Executive Directors asks if, when, and how to deploy security guards inside or outside of the building. You have already noted that we have security personnel at our High Holy Day services and will likely be seeing them at more events and services this year. If you have thoughts or ideas about this or other aspects of our security plan, please let me know. It is impossible to plan for every situation, but our persistent goal is for us, our children and our staff is to feel safe and be safe.

I feel sad that I even have to write this column. I suppose that you feel the same having to read it. There are so many aspects of our community to love, and we guard the things we love with all that we can.

Also, spring is coming!

Warmly (and welcomingly),
Joel

A Fein Day for Sailing

The President's Event

Sunday, May 1, 2022



2022 Ohev Shalom President's Gala Ad Book/Program Form

You are invited to include your personal or company sponsorship in messaging for this year's President's Gala! Fill out the form below and drop off or mail ad to Congregation Ohev Shalom, 2 Chester Rd., Wallingford, PA 19086, attn: Missy Lowdermilk; or, via email to adbook@ohev.net

Name of Business: _____

Contact Person: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Telephone: _____

_____ Email: _____

Program book ad size and cost:

_____	\$180	1/4 page	4.75" x 2"
_____	\$350	1/2 page	4.75" x 4"
_____	\$600	Full page	4.75" x 7.75"
_____	\$1500	Inside cover	4.75" x 7.75"
_____	\$2500	Back cover	4.75" x 7.75" SOLD

Other sponsorship opportunities:

_____ \$360 4.75" x 2" ad in Ohev Shalom's newsletter L'Chaim for 1 year (10 issues)
(\$180 as add-on to program book ad)

_____ \$50/week* Sponsor Ohev Shalom's weekly email to the congregation.

_____ Number of weeks

* Weekly fee waived with Full Page ad or Larger in program book. (\$25 as add-on to program book ad)

_____ \$25** Graphic/digital sponsor message included in the scroll/chyron during the live-streamed event.

** Fee waived with Full Page ad or Larger in program book.

Anyone who purchases a digital ad will be added to a sponsor page on our website.

Preferred format:

High resolution 250 or 300 dpi

MS Word, .jpg, tif, eps or press ready pdf.

Hard copy accepted if digital copy not available

Note: If you would like to submit a business card, we can adjust it to fit any size ad.

Please make check payable to *Congregation Ohev Shalom* and mail to Missy Lowdermilk at the office. If you would like to pay by credit card, please contact Missy Lowdermilk at 610.874.1465 or exec@ohev.net. Missy can also answer any questions you may have. **Please return ad copy no later than March 28, 2022!** Thank you so much for your support!

Mispallelim — At Kabbalat HaSiddur, Remembering friends and looking to the future



It is that time of year again, when we celebrate the milestone of gifting our 3rd graders their very own Siddurim (prayerbooks). This is always such a beautiful moment in our year, and has been a focus of the 3rd grade curriculum since long before I arrived at

Ohev. Our students have already decorated their own embroidered Siddur covers, and they have been preparing to lead prayers in the service for many weeks now. As I write this, I am anticipating receiving the student artwork that will go into the very special keepsake program for the Kabbalat HaSiddur service.

It is impossible to reflect on the meaning of this moment without thinking of Karen Ernest, z"l. For those who do not know, Karen was the mastermind and champion behind our Kabbalat HaSiddur ceremony for over a decade. She devised so many ways, large and small, to create a sense of sacredness and specialness around the milestone of receiving a Siddur - not only working with the students, but also recruiting parents and siblings into the celebration.

Honestly, when I arrived at Ohev, I was actually a bit overwhelmed by the intensity that Karen brought to the planning around Kabbalat HaSiddur - everything had to be just right, which meant that arrangements needed to take shape months in advance. Everything was double-checked, and the program must have been proofed 4-5 times! I am a relatively low-key person when it comes to ceremonies, so it took a little bit of time for me to fully appreciate what Karen had been successfully building during the years before my arrival. But my appreciation grew quickly once I saw what it meant for our students and their families to be caught up in the anticipation of this special service. The very intensity of the planning brought a sense of

excitement and gravity to the entire process that the students could feel. I became convinced, and we were able to build further on the ceremony together.

This year, we are so excited to be able to hold Kabbalat HaSiddur in person once again (God-willing). But the joy is diminished by the fact that Karen is not here to celebrate with us, having lost her valiant battle with cancer last year. In fact, the last time I (and many in the community) saw her was on the Zoom line as she joined us for last year's virtual Kabbalat HaSiddur. Though she was already in the last stages of her illness, she showed up for her students with her proud smile and beautiful words of encouragement. She looked radiant. This is the image of Karen that I retain most strongly when I think of her.

I hope that the Kabbalat HaSiddur ceremony that we hold on March 5th will honor Karen's legacy and memory (though I am sure I have missed one or two details without her guidance!), and I hope that those who loved her most can join me in taking real pleasure in seeing a new group of young Jews receive a Siddur, which is a significant part of their spiritual inheritance.

In preparation for each year's Kabbalat HaSiddur, Karen always used to have the students create a piece of art based on the prompt: "What I love about being Jewish." This year, one thing that I love about being Jewish is seeing how our rituals and celebrations can continue to embody those whom we have loved and lost - we can feel their pride, their love, and their legacy.

*Rabbi Kelilah Miller
Education Director/Cantor*

A Fein Day for an Auction

Do you have a collection or item to share?

A hobby or talent you can teach?

A service or vacation home to offer?

None of the above, but have some ideas?



Talk to us and we'll see what we can come up with!

The Ohev President's Ball Committee requests your participation in the Silent Auction with proceeds going to Ohev.

The Silent Auction has always been a fun, interactive and competitive part of the Gala and can't happen without your participation.

Please reach out to the Silent Auction Committee and help make it a Fein Day for an auction! Contact Becca Reuben at silentauction@ohav.net

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FUSE has been busily preparing for the time when "life gets normal" again. Of course, we realize "normal" is a relative term since the pandemic began, but creating the time and space for in-person connections remains a top FUSE goal. With that being shared, please SAVE the Date of Sunday, April 24th. An in-person Re-Membering FUSE event is being planned from 2:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. in Chester. Tentative plans include a covered gathering place followed by a walking tour with stops at local businesses and historic sites along and around the Avenue of the States. This is hopefully "Part One" of two or three more in-person activities for FUSE. Each event will be designed to learn more about our neighbor, the historic and vibrant City of Chester. Look for upcoming details in the April weekly announcements.



Recently, the Steering Committee learned more about the Chester Peace Initiative that is focused on reducing gun violence in Chester. The evidence-based program has been implemented nationally, and the two-year Chester program has experienced tremendous

success. In the targeted neighborhood, deaths by gun violence have been reduced by half since its implementation. FUSE is exploring ways to partner and support these efforts. To learn more about the Chester Peace Initiative, visit the FUSE Facebook page to see the February 10, 2022 presentation offering more detail.

Last month, FUSE partnered with Penn State Brandywine Center for Ethics and Civic Engagement to hold our 4th DELCO Community Forum. Although we met by Zoom, we still shared many positive efforts now happening and those that were upcoming in our county. Collaborating with other agencies supports the FUSE mission of breaking down fences and creating relationships across communities. We continue to build relationships.

FUSE is funded primarily by the annual contribution from the Netzach Grant. We remain grateful to Ohev Shalom and its congregants for the ongoing donations and support of the mission. To learn more about FUSE or how to become involved, contact Bonnie Breit or Rabbi Gerber at fuse@ohav.net.

***"It is not the length of life,
but the depth of life."***

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

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A Fein Doctor's Work to Help Young Victims of Violence

The theme for this year's President's Gala, "A Fein Day for Sailing," focuses on Joel Fein's love of sailing and his musical talent, two hobbies that Joel does in his spare time (*he has spare time?!*) But, when Joel isn't swabbing the deck, "battening down the hatches," or taking the helm as president of Ohev, he trades in his captain's hat for a stethoscope as attending physician in Emergency Medicine at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) and Professor of Pediatrics at the Perelman School of Medicine at The University of Pennsylvania.



Unfortunately, among the patients Joel treats include some of the young victims of violence (including gun violence), that is plaguing Philadelphia. To help these victims of trauma and their families, both by prevention and intervention, Joel works with CHOP's Center for Violence Prevention, where he is a co-director. The mission of the Center is to reduce the exposure to and impact of violence among children and teens, and to help them and their families live successful and productive lives.

This year's Ohev 5K Walk/Run (formerly, the "Oy Vey 5K"), on Sunday, April 3rd, will honor Joel and raise funds to support CHOP and its programs (see ad on page 9). It will be a Fein Day for a Fein cause!

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April 3, 2022

**Ohev's Legendary 5K/Walk is back!
Help us honor Joel and support CHOP**

**All runners and walkers are welcome
All participants are eligible for raffle prizes**

Signup Today!

www.runsignup.com/feinDay5k

Benefiting



**Children's Hospital
of PhiladelphiaSM**

Join us for a Fein day of exercise and help raise funds for the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP)! In honor of Joel Fein, we are happy to host an event where 100% of all donations will go toward the great work being done at CHOP.

Choose between a 5K (a relatively flat out-and-back) or a fun 1 mile walk along part of the 5K course. Immediately following the race there will be refreshments served and a raffle.

Entry Fee for the race or the walk: \$25 if registered by March 10th.
All participants who register by March 21st will receive a race t-shirt. All finishers will be eligible to win various raffle prizes from our local sponsors after the events conclude.

Day of Event: Sunday, April 3rd

8:30am Race Registration Starts

9:30am 5K Start / Walk Start

Raffle Giveaways after the events complete

The event will take place rain or shine

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January Tributes

Balin Chapel Fund

- In honor of the good deeds done by Benjamin R. Balin (z"l) and in honor of the good deeds done by Sally K. Balin (z"l) from anonymous

Daily Minyan Account

- Happy to donate to Ohev's Daily Minyan Fund to honor the one-year anniversary of the passing of my grandmother, Violet Mansky. Morning Minyan was an important part of her life for many years, from Amy Mansky

Debby Silver Camp Fund

- To Naomi and Harvey Spector in honor of the engagement of your grandson, Zachery to Paula. Wishing them a long, happy, and healthy marriage from Eunice Silver

Dorothy Sparkler School/ Scholarship Fund

- In memory of my beloved mother-in-law, Pessiah Freedman, from Reisha Freedman
- In memory of my beloved mother, Edith, on her yahrzeit from Reisha Freedman
- In memory of my beloved father, Joe Sosonkin, on his yahrzeit from Reisha Freedman
- To Brad Ernest and family in memory of Karen Ernest. Our son, Ben, met Morah Karen in 3rd grade as a student at Ohev Shalom and she absolutely changed the course of his life and our family's. We will forever be grateful for Karen's support, kindness, and passion for teaching, from the Matt and Molly Wallace Family
- To the Krauss/Fackenthal family: Mazal tov on Steven's engagement from Reisha Freedman

- To Sylvia Schneider: Sincere condolences on the loss of your brother, Charles, from Reisha Freedman

Jerry & Janet Stern Rosset Fund

- To Diane Rosset in memory of Michael Rosset from Donna and Cliff Cohen

Rabbi Louis and Mindell Kaplan Cultural Fund

- On the yahrzeit of Morris Kanter, my father-in-law, from Rabbi Louis Kaplan
- To Sylvia Schneider in memory of your brother, Charles Schneider, with deepest sympathy, from Ruth Kaplan

Rabbi's Discretionary Account

- To Tammie, Seth and Kaya Luck on the loss of your beloved mother and grandmother, Gloria Block, from Cathy and William Yeager
- In memory of Betty and Bobby Burman, members in 1925, from Harvey Burman
- To Rabbi Gerber and Rabbi Miller in thanks for the Shabbat Services from Jonathan Ehrlich. I enjoyed Rabbi Gerber's d'var torah and Rabbi Miller's davening.
- To Merle and Steven Fischer in loving memory of your son-in-law, Chris Myers, with our deepest sympathy from Ceil and Eric Dobkin
- To honor the yahrzeit of Otto Katz from Lauren and Steven Katz

Ray Doblitz Library Fund

- In memory of Albert Sellers from Helene S. Bruhl

Rose Isaacson Library Account

- In honor of Rabbi Dr. Louis Kaplan from Peter Brampton Koelle

Simon Levin Torah Restoration Fund

- To Sylvia Schneider in memory of your beloved brother, Charlie Schneider, from Ann and Jeff Littman
- To Sylvia Schneider in memory of Charles Schneider from Donna and Cliff Cohen

Sisterhood Kitchen and Special Projects Account

- To Louis Stesis and family in memory of your dear Karen. It's been many years since we saw one another but I remember her kind, sweet smile. May time heal and comfort you with love from second cousins Dale and Bob Cominsky

Synagogue General Account

- Get well wishes to my aunt, Sarah Rivkah bat Shifra from Rhonda Newmark-White
- In honor of Dr. Joel Fein from Peter Brampton Koelle
- To Rabbi Miller: Get well wishes to you from Shelley and Michael Spear

Yahrzeit/Yizkor Account

- In memory of mother and grandmother, Edith Waldman, from Harriet Madison
- In memory of Jerome A. Winer, M.D. from his family

The donor names for the Helping the Community tribute to the Chairs of the Thanksgiving drive, shown in the January issue of the L'Chaim, should read Ron and Ilene Beckman. The Office Administrator apologizes for the error.

March Calendar

Recurring Events

Minyan
 9:00 a.m. Sunday
 8:00 a.m. Monday – Friday
 Bible Study 9:30 a.m.—Wednesday
 Shabbat Services
 6:00 p.m. Friday
 (unless otherwise noted)
 9:00 a.m. Saturday Shabbat

Wednesday March 2

4:15 p.m. Mispallelim Religious School

Thursday, March 3

12:00 p.m. Lunch n' Learn

Saturday, March 5

7:30 p.m. Ohev Shalom Virtual Cabaret

Sunday, March 6

9:00 a.m. Mispallelim Religious School
 11:00 a.m. Bereavement Group
 via Zoom
 2:00 p.m. Hamentashen Baking
 via Zoom
 5:30 p.m. LifeCenter Dinner

Monday, March 7

7:30 p.m. MT: Reading Hebrew

Wednesday, March 9

4:15 p.m. Mispallelim Religious School

Thursday, March 10

7:00 p.m. Budget and Audit Meeting

Sunday, March 13

3rd & 4th Grade to Plush Mills
 9:00 a.m. Mispallelim Religious School
 9:15 a.m. Men's Club Meeting
 10:30 a.m. Purim Carnival
 for Members Only
 11:00 a.m. Bereavement Group
 via Zoom

Monday, March 14, 2022

7:00 p.m. School Committee Meeting
 7:30 p.m. MT: Reading Hebrew

Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Erev Purim
 4:15 p.m. Mispallelim Religious School
 5:00 p.m. Megillah Reading

Thursday, March 17

Purim

7:00 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting

Sunday, March 20

11:00 a.m. Bereavement Group
 via Zoom
 9:00 a.m. Mispallelim Religious School

Monday, March 21

7:30 p.m. MT: Reading Hebrew

Wednesday, March 23

4:15 p.m. Mispallelim Religious School

Thursday, March 24

7:30 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting

Sunday, March 27

9:00 a.m. Mispallelim Religious School

Monday, March 28

7:30 p.m. MT: Reading Hebrew

Wednesday, March 30

4:15 p.m. Mispallelim Religious School



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