

# OHEB SHALOM BULLETIN



Sandusky, Ohio

High Holy Days 5750

September 1989

## RABBI'S MESSAGE

Once for some, summer was a time of respite, and renewal. As children we left our teachers to their hallowed halls, and sprang out with new found energy, into a world which for nine months we looked at but seldom touched. There was no time to lose, every moment away from the sunshine of summer was a moment lost forever. In our hands we carried bookbags, autograph books, relics of an abandoned desk, and in all our hands, we carried a card, a report card. That night, though we had celebrated the day as a birthday extrodinare, Summer had to wait a bit longer. A time came when the card would appear, and Mom, Dad, and we, the child with a new lease on life, would sit to evaluate those nine months, discuss their strengths, discuss the areas perhaps needing more attention. In addition to making a fresh start on life, the real birthday of the year -- that first day of summer -- meant taking the time to look back, look ahead, and more importantly, to look within.



**FROM THE RABBI**

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In a small city in Russia, a student of the Rebbe of Minsk, was hired by a small community to lead them in the prayers of the Holy Day season. A few days before the student was to leave, he approached the Rebbe.

"Rebbe," began the student, "I would like permission to leave my studies early."

The Rebbe looked quietly at his student. With a moistening of his eyes, and a raise of his whitened brow, the Rebbe silently asked the student "why."

"So that I might have more time to better put my prayers in order, Rebbe."

The Rebbe closed his eyes, warming a moment of patience and love.

"The prayers," began the Rebbe slowly, "Are the same prayers as they were last year and the year before." "It is better," he continued, "that you take this time to look into yourself and put yourself in order."

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Throughout the year, we busy ourselves preparing for one engagement after another. Our calendars are a full range of deadlines, presentations, budgets, meetings, social gatherings, celebrations, and family get-togethers. It isn't often we take or have the opportunity to pause between lines, or to put ourselves in order.

Rosh Hashana, though it comes at the end of the summer, is for Jews the world over, the birthday of the world. It is a celebration of life and renewal, dedication and spirit. It is also a time of looking within, a time of looking around, of taking stock of the lives we live, and, of putting ourselves, in order.

May the pause in time we call the Days of Awe, afford us the blessing of insight and renewal.

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### RABBI'S MESSAGE

(continued from previous page)

May God bless us and seal us  
in the Book of Life, a year of peace,  
a year of love, a year of humanity.

From Adrienne and myself, and all  
of our family in Cincinnati, we wish  
all of our Oheb Shalom family a healthy,  
warm, and love-filled Shana Tova.

Rabbi David Castiglione

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\*\*\* For a brief biography of the new  
rabbi, see page 4 of the Bulletin.

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### SISTERHOOD CONTRIBUTION

#### Library Fund:

In memory of Sol Rothman, in New Jersey  
From Beverly Brian

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### PLEASE NOTE!

The rummage sale is coming, but  
please don't bring rummage to the Temple  
until after Yom Kippur.

Also, please, no more paper. Recycling  
places will no longer accept it and it's  
a fire hazard in the Temple.

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### TEMPLE DUES BILL SPEAKS TO EVERY MEMBER

(Editor's note: the Sinai Temple in Marion,  
Indiana, shares this "love note" to members  
regarding payment of annual dues)

Why don't you treat me like the Electric bill?

I, too, mean light — for darkened lives.

Why don't you treat me like the Telephone bill?

I, too, stand for that which connects — the  
present with the past.

Why don't you treat me like the Coal bill?

I am the symbol of Jewish warmth and motive  
power.

Why don't you treat me like the Grocery bill?

I represent that which nourishes the Jewish  
people and gives them strength.

Why don't you treat me like the clothing bill?

I am the reminder of that clothing of the  
spirit which is the Jew's finest ornament.

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### CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions to Oheb Shalom Congregation  
April 4th through August 1989

#### YAHREZIT FUND

In memory of Al Mann  
by Bobbie Mann

In memory of Harold West  
by Sylvia West

In memory of Max Stark  
by Richard Stark

In memory of Frank Scheingross  
by Joe & Andrea Scheingross

In memory of Beckie Schulman  
by Dorothy Probbler

In memory of Max Davids  
In memory of Bernard Bohrman  
by Rena Davids

In memory of Joseph Hirsh  
Emerson Reed  
Sol Hirsh  
Edna Hirsh  
by Dorothy Reed

In memory of Rebecca Marenberg  
Laura Moscovitz  
by Bea & Lew Marenberg

#### IN HONOR OF ROBIN SESSEL CONVERSION

by Andrea & Joe Scheingross  
Shirley & David Sapper  
Joan & Marcus Sessel  
Madeline & Nate Lichtcsien

In honor of baby daughter born to  
Michael & Sharon Garber  
by Madeline & Nate Lichtcsien

In honor of Rose & Sam Stein's 60th anniversary  
by Rose & Stan Pohl

In honor of birth of grandson to Shirley &  
David Sapper  
by Helen & Bob Randel

In memory of Minnie Sapper  
by Rose & Stan Pohl

In honor of birth of grandson to Effie &  
Bob Shiff  
by Phyllis & Jerry Matz

In honor of Robert Epner's graduation from  
medical school  
by Phyllis & Jerry Matz  
Minnie & Leo Lichtcsien  
Madeline & Nate Lichtcsien

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I mentioned in my letter, Oheb Shalom is going to be having a great year! Not because of me, but because of all the enthusiasm, willingness, and dedication of our Temple members and new Rabbi.

Plans are already well underway for a full year for our Congregation. Our Sisterhood's goals, through Joyce and Madeline, are numerous, as always. These goals include plans to bring the Congregation closer together as a unified and caring unit. This goal, alone, will bring pleasure to us all.

As for being your new President, my task has already been gratifying because of all the help I have gotten from many of you. My personal thanks to Effie for her hard work on the Temple and Religious School calendar; and to Effie, Dave Gluck, and Andrea for their hard work on providing to us a fine Religious School program. Judy Weiss, with Dick Pohl's assistance, has developed a brand new and exciting Art Auction plan. These plans will be shared with you shortly. Our auction this year (Saturday, April 21) will not only be an extremely effective fund raiser, but will also be an event that will allow us to express our Jewish tradition of helping others in the community.

Others who have given me invaluable help, often without my even asking, are Bea and Lew; Joe and Andrea; Dave Sapper; my wife, Sue; and many more. I thank you all for helping me to learn much about the Temple and Religious School.

Our goals this year blend beautifully with our fine new Rabbi, David Castiglione. In a year in which we are striving to strengthen our Congregational unit and our standing in the community, Rabbi David is precisely what we need to help us to band together.

Please let me know of your personal wishes and goals for our Congregation. Only through open communication will we reach our goals and enjoy the benefits of our fine Jewish community.

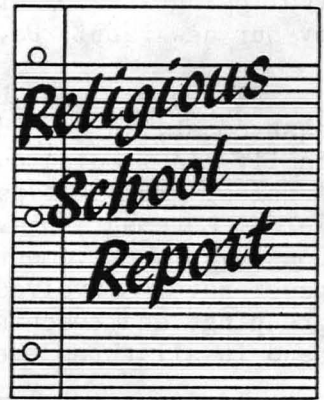
My wish to you all is a happy, healthy New Year!

Dennis Newman

President, Oheb Shalom Temple

## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Fall is here and the school year is in full swing. The opening of Oheb Shalom Temple Religious School was September 17. We welcome back all of our fourteen students from last year. A few of them seem to have grown a foot taller over the summer!



We are also happy to have five new students: In our youngest group we have Benjamin Leffler, Ellen Leffler, Adam Levine and Elana Amit; in our intermediate level class we have Doron Amit.

On September 9th, Rabbi David Castiglione, Effie Shiff, David Gluck and I made our annual trek to Oberlin to seek out and hire the finest of religious school teachers. We are so pleased this year to have two returning teachers, Devorah Freehling and Eliyana Adler. Devorah did a fabulous job with our preschool-kindergarten group last year and will undoubtedly do as well this year. Eliyana taught our oldest students last year but made the switch to our intermediate level class this year. Group III, our oldest class, is being taught by a junior from the Maryland area, Ben Wittis. Ben substituted for us briefly a couple of years ago.

Hebrew will once again be part of the Religious School weekly curriculum for all the students. Teaching Hebrew will be freshman Debbie Albenberg from New Jersey.

New student Rabbi David Castiglione is certain to carry on the fine traditions of the past several years. The Religious School students are high on his list of priorities. He will be providing Hebrew instruction and Bar/Bat Mitzvah training on his weekends in Sandusky. Although he was unable to attend the opening day of Religious School, he introduced himself to the students via videotape. On the videotape he welcomed the children and told them a story. He told them that knowledge was like a treasure they carry with them when they

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## ABOUT OUR NEW RABBI

(Following is a brief biography, written by our new rabbi, David Castiglione)

I had my first beginnings on the east coast, in New York. At age 12, my family and I moved out west to Los Angeles. From that point I grew up in the Reform Movement (previously of the Conservative Movement). I became passionately involved in camping, youth grouping, and teaching, and have had my hand in all three ever since.

Adrienne and I met in Santa Cruz, California, while I was finishing up a B.A. in child psychology at the University of California. We have three children, Nathan age 11, Brandon age 10 and Jared age 3. In a sense, I suppose our favorite pastime is family time.

We are currently working at our third year of H.U.C. Having served a moving and special year with the congregation in Mattoon Il. last year, we are all looking forward to our time together in Sandusky. We've fallen in love with the midwest, and hope, God willing, to continue making our home here.

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## RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

(continued from previous page)

leave the Temple each week.

Those of us on the Religious School Committee feel that we're off to a very good start. After the high holidays, we'll have a Religious School parents' meeting to further discuss and plan the year ahead.

From the entire Religious School Committee -----

Shana Tovah

Andrea Scheingross



## NEW MEMBERS, WELCOME!

Special welcome to new members of the Temple, Fern and Yudah Amit and their children, Elana and Doron. We are looking forward to meeting them at High Holiday services.

## MAZEL TOV, PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS!

Several new grandchildren arrived this summer to Temple members.

Congratulations to:

\* The Shiffs, who have a new grandson in Michigan;

\* The Smiths, who have a new grandson in Columbus;

\* The Sappers, who have a new grandson in Denver;

\* The Goldfarbs, who have a new granddaughter in California.

Also, congratulations to Russell and Debbie Leffler on the birth of their son, Joseph Alan. He was born on June 11, weighing 9 lb., 5 oz., and is sleeping now while his mother types this Bulletin.

## TELEVISION DEBUT

Jaime Scheingross, daughter of Joe and Andrea Scheingross, will be appearing on television! A special segment of the TV show "Kidsworld" was filmed at Cedar Point on August 24, and Jaime had a few speaking parts in it. Still waiting to find out when the program will be aired.....

## JUST A REMINDER

Just a reminder that Sisterhood dues and Religious School tuition are due.

Send them to Blanche Sage, Sisterhood Treasurer, 119 Stonyridge Drive, Sandusky, OH 44870.

Oheb Shalom Temple, along with all religious and educational institutions, has been invited to ring its bells on September 17, 1989, at 4 p.m. E.D.T. to commemorate the 202d anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution, the cornerstone of the nation's ideals of freedom, justice and equal opportunity.

But Oheb Shalom Temple has no bells, so we can't participate in the "ringing tribute" to the document so important to us as Americans and Reform Jews.

We can, however, blow the shofar -- only 12 days later -- on the Jewish New Year and renew our pledges to work for freedom and justice, and, thereby, honor both our own religious traditions and the U.S. Constitution.

Please note that the word is "renew," because we are going to have to re-fight some old battles we thought we'd already won.

We have to re-enlist in the fight for....

1. Abortion Rights: We won that fight in 1973, when the U.S. Supreme Court in Roe v. Wade made abortion safe and legal throughout the United States. Now, 16 years later, we must re-fight the battle, but on different fronts. This time, the battle will be in the Congress and the state legislatures.

On July 3, 1989, the U.S. Supreme Court in a 5-4 decision in Webster v. Reproductive Health Services gave broad powers to the individual 50 states to restrict abortion. Abortions can be banned at "public" hospitals, but that means almost all hospitals, since even "private" hospitals receive some public funding. Abortion can be allowed, restricted, or completely prohibited by individual states, so access will depend on geography or the ability to travel to states without abortion restrictions. Low-income women will suffer the most. Yes, the Supreme Court stopped short of reversing Roe v. Wade, but they will hear three more abortion cases this fall.

Since the Webster decision, the battle over abortion rights has moved to the Congress. In August, the House of Representatives defeated efforts to limit the ability of the District of Columbia to provide reproductive health services, including abortion. The bill was the District of Columbia Appropriations Bill. The battle now moves to the U.S. Senate, scheduled to vote on their version of the D.C. Appropriations

Bill in September. So you can get involved immediately by writing The Honorable John Glenn and The Honorable Howard Metzenbaum, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510, urging them to oppose any such restrictions in the D.C. District of Columbia Appropriations Bill.

In the Ohio legislature, State Sen. Linda Furney (Dem. - Toledo) has proposed legislation insuring the abortion rights for all Ohio women. The progress of her proposal deserves our attention.

If you just have time to write a letter, you can be in the battle for abortion rights. Brief letters of appreciation need to be sent to the network and the sponsors of the docu-drama "Roe v. Wade" shown earlier this year. Write to: Mr. Robert Wright, Pres., NBC, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City 10112; Mr. Brandon Tartikoff, Pres., NBC Entertainment, 3000 North Alameda Ave., Burbank, Calif. 91523. Sponsors were: Maxwell House Coffee, General Foods Corp., 250 North Street, White Plains, N.Y. 10625; Alama Rent-a-Car, P.O. Box 22776, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. 33335; People Magazine, Rockefeller Center, New York City 10020-1393; and Acutrim, Consumer Pharmaceuticals, Edison, N.J. 08837. Both the network and the sponsors received many threatening letters from anti-choice groups. They deserve our letters of appreciation for their courage in showing the film.

In late July, Station TBS aired "Abortion: For Survival." Again, they were harassed by anti-choice groups. Please, therefore, write and thank: Mr. R.E. "Ted" Turner, Chairman, Better World Society and Pres. & Board Chair of TBS, Inc., 1 CNN Center, Box 105366, Atlanta, GA 30348 and Mr. Tom Belford, Exec. Dir., Better World Society, 1100 - 17th St. NW, #502, Washington, D.C. 20036.

How strong is our commitment to abortion rights? If it's strong enough, we can become "one issue" voters in next year's state and congressional elections. Vote only for those candidates who are pro-choice, no matter how good they may be on other issues. Make their pro-choice position the litmus test. That's drastic action, but our opposition has been doing just that for years. Perhaps it's time for us to do the same. It could make the difference and win the battle!

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Remember that Reform Judaism is pro-choice. The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods is an active partner in The Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations through its Religious Action Center is actively pro-choice.

2. Affirmative Action and Civil Rights:

The new conservative majority U.S. Supreme Court handed down rulings limiting civil rights and scaling back affirmative action.

State and local governments have been given new protection against lawsuits charging discrimination. Plaintiffs can succeed only if they can show that the discrimination was not a random act of an individual public employee, but resulted from an official "policy or custom." Since most governmental bodies have official policies against racial discrimination, it will be difficult for plaintiffs to meet this new burden.

The new court struck down state affirmative action laws requiring a percentage of government contracts to be awarded to minority businesses. The case involved City of Richmond v. J.A. Croson Co. And they further weakened affirmative action by giving whites the right to challenge affirmative action plans in a "reverse discrimination" case from Birmingham, Alabama. The case was John Martin v. Robert Wilks.

3. Capital Punishment With A Vengeance!:

In another 5-4 decision the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that states may execute juveniles and the mentally retarded! Young persons convicted of murder who committed their crimes when they were 16 or 17 years old may be executed, as well as persons with the mental capacity of a child.

Yet studies show that juveniles are immature and lack the degree of criminal responsibility that is used to justify capital punishment. Certainly the mental retardation of a defendant should automatically rule out imposition of the death penalty.

Our battle to eliminate the death penalty must continue. The facts are on our side. Capital punishment is not a deterrent. States who are most willing to execute are still among the states with the

highest murder rates. The justice system is imperfect. It has already resulted in the execution of some innocents and it will inevitably claim more. It is actually more expensive than long prison terms, if we explore the economics of capital punishment. Most of the advanced nations of the world gave it up years ago. Why can't we in the United States do the same? Let's "stop killing people who have killed people to show that killing is wrong!"

4. Church and State: The U.S. Supreme Court also looked at a controversial Pennsylvania case involving the display of religious symbols at government buildings.

The Allegheny County v. ACLU decision was divided into two parts. In the first, the justices ruled 5-4 that the display of a Nativity scene standing alone on the steps of the county court house in Pittsburgh was unconstitutional. The other half of the ruling upheld the display of a menorah in front of another municipal building because it was surrounded by secular symbols of the season.

Therefore, if a congregation has sponsored religious displays at government buildings in the past, they will most likely not be permitted to do so in the future, unless they are willing to display the symbols along with non-religious elements -- Santas, reindeers, snowmen, etc. As many religious groups think it is offensive to mix religious and secular symbols, the best solution is to keep such displays on private property.

5. Flag-Burning: There was one rare bright spot among the U.S. Supreme Court decisions, and, wonder of wonders, it came in the area of civil liberties. The Court ruled 5-4 that the burning of the American flag as a political protest is protected by the First Amendment guarantee of freedom of speech.

Conservative Justices Scalia and Kennedy joined with their liberal colleagues on this one: a most unusual alliance.

Now the President has proposed a constitutional amendment to prohibit such desecration of the American flag, and Congress and the state legislatures may soon be weighing the proposal. Let us hope that the proposed amendment dies an early death so that the Bill of Rights remains intact.

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## SOCIAL ACTION AGENDA

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### 6. Holocaust Studies in Ohio Schools:

The work of the Ohio Council on Holocaust Education, created by Gov. Richard Celeste and his wife Dagmar, is now complete. The result of their efforts, a two-inch thick study titled The Holocaust: Prejudice Unleashed, was presented to the State Supt. of Public Instruction, Dr. Franklin Walter.

The study examines the consequences of apathy, the chronology of the Holocaust, Jewish culture, the resistance movement, and the Nuremberg war crimes trials. The lesson plans are optional for Ohio school districts.

### 7. Let Us Mourn The Loss of Mickey Leland:

The Jewish community and the State of Israel are mourning the death of Mickey Leland, the black Congressman from Houston, Texas. Congressman Leland died recently in a plane crash in Ethiopia, not far from a refugee camp filled with hungry people he had to feed.

Leland was like one of the Jewish prophets of old, obsessed with the problem of hunger in the world, with the need for social action and saving people. He saw troubled black youth in his home district in Texas and sent them to work on a kibbutz in Israel! He was a strong supporter of the State of Israel and he used this creative exchange program to improve race relations between blacks and Jews.

The Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism gave its coveted Kovler Award to Mickey Leland in April of this year, honoring a remarkable human being. Abraham Foxman of the Anti-Defamation League said that Mickey Leland was a "mensch." He was that and he knew all about "tikkun olam" -- mending, healing, and transforming the world.

At this New Year, let us pledge ourselves to carry on his work. "Let his memory be for a blessing."

L'Shonah Tovah.

Jean Goldfarb, Chairperson  
Social Action Committee

The foregoing is No. 24 in a series of articles on Social Action. It is a regular feature of each Temple Bulletin.

## SISTERHOOD NEWS

Shirley S apper

Andrea Sche I ngross

Barbara S mith

Minnie Lich T csien

Mich E lle Gluck

R ose Pohl

C H ris Craig

Emmy W O lff

Nancy Sim O n

Jean Gol D farb

These women and thirty others are the reason our Sisterhood is so successful.

If you weren't able to come to the opening brunch, please come to the October 17 meeting. We have a busy year planned -- pot lucks, lunches, rummage sale, brunches, art auction, programs and more.

We want and need each of you.

Madeline Lichtcsien

Joyce Pohl

Sisterhood Presidents

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## JUST BELONG

(This poem, written by an anonymous poet, was taken from the June 1989 issue of "Just For You," the small congregations newsletter of UAHC.)

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed?  
Or are you just contented that your name is on the list?  
Do you attend meetings and mingle with the flock?  
Or do you stay home and criticize and knock?  
Do you take an active part to help the work along?  
Or are you satisfied to be the kind that "just belong?"  
Do you ever go to visit a member who is sick?  
Or leave the work to just a few and talk about the  
"Clique?"

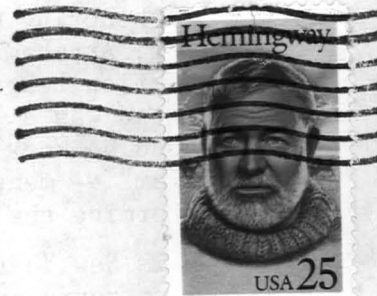
There's quite a program schedule that I am sure you  
heard about,  
And we'll appreciate it if you, too, will come down  
and help us out;  
So come to the meetings often and help with hand  
and heart.

Don't be just a member, but take an active part.  
Think this over, member, you know right from wrong;  
Are you an active member, or do you "Just Belong?"

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# L'Shanah Tovah

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