



L'Chaim!

July 2005
Issue No. 11
Federation: 940-6001
E-mail:
altfed@atlanticbb.net

News & "Chailights" of The Greater Altoona Jewish Community



Brothers Michael (left) and Sam Scheinberg share a light moment with their cousin, Ruth Ann Rosend. For L'Chaim's "Smile for the Camera feature," please see Pages 6-7.

Schneider serving in Iraq

The Altoona Jewish Community is represented in Iraq.

Adam Schneider, a 2002 graduate of Hollidaysburg Area High School, has been serving the U.S. Army since December. He was deployed in January.



Adam Schneider is the son of Ben and Cathy Schneider of Duncansville.

The community has been sending Adam care packages. He has relayed his appreciation through correspondence to his family and in a recent E-mail to Agudath Achim Rabbi Ammos Chorny.

"I am good, and I am staying safe," he wrote. "I miss you all."

The entire Jewish community's thoughts and prayers with Adam and his family.

For anyone wishing to write to Adam, his address is:

SPC Benjamin A. Schneider 1225th CSB/818th Maint CO Q-West Base Complex APO, AE 09334.

Kivitzes to host picnic Aug. 28

The Federation will hold its fourth annual late summer family barbeque/pool party at the home of Vicki and Alan Kivitz on Sunday, August 28.

The picnic, which will run from 3-7 p.m., has become a tradition and a nice way to celebrate the end of summer.

"We always have a great turnout and a lot of fun at the pool party, and the Federation thanks the Kivitz family for inviting us this year," Federation Executive Director Bill Wallen said.

In previous years, this event



Vicki and Alan Kivitz

has been hosted by Phyllis and Bruce Thaler, Kathy and Ed Henderson and Michael Tomor and Tom Trexler.

Each year the number attending has increased with well over 100 joining us last year.

"We're small enough of a community that we can still hold the event at somebody's home but big enough that we truly appreciate the hospitality of the Kivitz family and those who have hosted previous picnics," Wallen said.

There will be swimming, a picnic dinner and fun for all ages.

The Federation will also hold a brief installation of its new officers, including incoming president Michael Tomor. Mark your calendars now!

Call 940-6001 to RSVP or E-mail to altfed@atlanticbb.net



Comings and goings

We are happy to welcome **Alan and Vicki Liss** to Altoona. They are new members of Temple Beth Israel. Alan was born and raised in Jersey City (you can't miss the accent) where he was a *Yeshiva boucher*.

Vicki is from Bellwood. They are newlyweds, having just celebrated their second wedding anniversary. Alan has always been involved with sales and currently works with **Mike Rosen** at Value City Furniture. He has a special interest in working with youth and has volunteered as a coach and with Boys Club. Vicki and Alan look forward to meeting all of us.

Our community sends our best wishes with **Helen and Jack Edelman**, who will be moving to Chico, Calif., where they will be closer to their son, **Sam**, and his family. Helen (Cazen) and Jack are both Altoona natives. Jack moved to Mt. Vernon, N.Y. as a boy and returned home when he and Helen married.

They are both retired. Jack worked at **Sky Brothers** and **Imler's** and Helen at the **DPW, County Board of Assistance**. All of their friends will miss them.

Mazel Tov

The Blair County Chamber of Commerce honored **Don Devorris** on May 2 with the 2005 Lifetime Achievement for Business Advocacy Award.

At the dinner, along with his many achievements, it was noted that he always keeps his priorities in order. "His faith, his family and his community have been the unwavering top three," his son, Philip said.

Our Federation appreciates Don's lifetime of service to the Jewish and general community and joins in congratulating him.

The **Jewish National Fund** presented the Tree of Life award to Senator **Bob Jubelirer** at a special dinner on May 19 in Philadelphia. The record-setting amount of money raised for this event will go toward the **Robert and Renee Jubelirer Playground and Shelter in the Negev Desert**. It will serve more than 120 chil-

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Around the community

By Bill Wallen



Greg Morris was honored recently by the NAACP.

dren in the rapidly-growing community of Sansana in the northern Negev.

Greg Morris was the 2005 recipient of the NAACP 2005 Community Service Award in grateful appreciation for his continuing support, loyalty and dedication to the community. The award was presented at the Freedom Fund dinner on April 30, 2005. Good work, Greg!

Yasher Koach to **Joel Hollander**, who is the new Board President at Agudath Achim Congregation. **Madelyn Greenberg** continues as Sisterhood President. At Temple Beth Israel, **Mike Rosen** enters his second year as Board President and **Karen Allen** and **Annette Shaw** are Sisterhood Presidents.

Thank you

Special thanks to **Barry Newborn** and **The Book Store** for donating DVDs and VHS tapes for the Film Festival. Barry has also contributed other films of Jewish interest. The Federation has a growing collection of videos. They are available to borrow. Contact the office for a list of resources.

Subscribe to Hayom

The third issue of this Jewish lifestyle

magazine has just been published. The first two issues were distributed by the Federation at no charge.

Beginning with this issue, the magazine will be mailed to subscribers only. Some of the articles in this edition include: Jews with tattoos, current Jewish music and Hilel and Chabad in State College. For subscriptions or advertising, contact King Publishing at 1-800-507-1222.

Way Off Broadway

Did you know that – "There's Trouble in River City?" It begins with T and rhymes with P – and that means Port. **Neil Port** plays the mayor of River City and is keeping his eye on Professor Harold Hill in the Cresson Lake Playhouse production of the **Music Man** from Aug. 4–20.

Don't miss Mayor Neil, Marian the Librarian, 76 trombones and the magic of this wonderful show. For information and tickets, call 886-5290.

Hot off the presses

Mazel Tov to **Heidi Housman** and **Deva Solomon**, who were married on July 17, at Agudath Achim Congregation. The couple are both May graduates of West Virginia University and will return there in the fall for graduate work – Heidi in Speech and Language and Deva in Law School.



Housman

Heidi is the daughter of **Jan and Jack Housman** and the granddaughter of **Hilda and Joe Lurie**.

Mazel Tov to our former Federation Director and a friend to all in the community, **Reva Schulman**, on her engagement to **Gary Feldman**. Reva will be moving to Harrisburg, where she will become the campaign director of their Federation.

She currently is the Executive Director of Temple Emanuel of South Hills in Pittsburgh. Tentative plans are for a wedding in the spring of 2006.



Schulman



Devorris



Hollander



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- August 14** Tisha B'Av
- August 28** Annual Picnic at the home of Vicki & Alan Kivitz
- September 11** Bus trip to Jewish Baltimore
- September 18** Opening session of Altoona Jewish Community Sunday school, 10 a.m. – noon, Agudath Achim Congregation
- October 3** Erev Rosh Hashanah
- October 4-5** Rosh Hashanah
- October 12** Kol Nidrei
- October 13** Yom Kippur

- Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah**
- September 17** Leah Schneider 9:30 a.m. Agudath Achim Congregation

PSU president Spanier leading mission to Israel

A UJC Central PA mission to Israel will be led by Dr. Graham Spanier, Penn State University president, June 11-19, 2006.

Missions are travel experiences unlike any other. They deliver exciting adventures, and cultural discoveries. They offer you exclusive, insider access to residents, community leaders, area experts and political personalities.

Yet a UJC mission is something much deeper. What makes each Mission truly unique is its sense of purpose, guaranteeing our travelers a heightened appreciation and connection to their Jewish identity.

Our goal is to create travel experiences imbued with meaning, giving our participants the chance to visit with members of their extended Jewish family and to come face to face with the shared heritage, traditions and values that unite us all.

Mission participants are sure to come away with a newfound understanding of where we've been as well as a vision of



Those visiting Israel never miss The Wailing Wall.

where we're headed.

This is a very special opportunity to visit Israel with people from our area. Details to follow soon.

L'Chain!

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Conscience: Bill Wallen

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Articles should be submitted to the Federation at 940-6001, Fax 940-6002, or e-mailed to altfed@atlanticbb.net

Suggestions and feedback are welcome.

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JOIN US FOR A VISIT TO JEWISH BALTIMORE SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2005



The Eighteen: Blessings from the Heart of Jewish Worship in the Samson, Rosetta, and Sadie E. Feldman Gallery. How do you paint a prayer? This exhibition includes fifteen never before exhibited paintings.

The Temple Adult Education Committee and the Federation are planning a full day of learning and activities on our bus tour to Jewish Baltimore. Featuring:

- The Jewish Museum and gift shop
- Historic Synagogues - built in 1845 and 1876
- Jewish neighborhoods - old and new
- Meals in Jewish restaurants
- Barry Levinson films about Baltimore during our bus trip

Our tour guide will be Rabbi Martin Siegel (author of Amen The Diary of Rabbi Martin Siegel.) Cost is \$36 excluding meals.

For details and reservations, contact the Federation at 940-6001 or altfed@atlanticbb.net



L' CHAIM PROFILE

Zimmermans are proud of community

Name: Len Zimmerman

Address: 895 Greenway Drive, Altoona

Family: Wife Bonnie, daughter Ilissa, who is an attorney in Altoona and son Josh, who is a physician in Scotch Plains, N.J., Len and Bonnie are the grandparents of five, including Ginger and Grant Glass of Altoona and Allison, Kelly and Jeremy Zimmerman of Scotch Plains.

Education: AAHS (1950), Bucknell (1954), University of Pittsburgh (1958) Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. (1959-62)

Occupation: Physician

Interests: Family, reading, travel and sports (both as a spectator and participant).

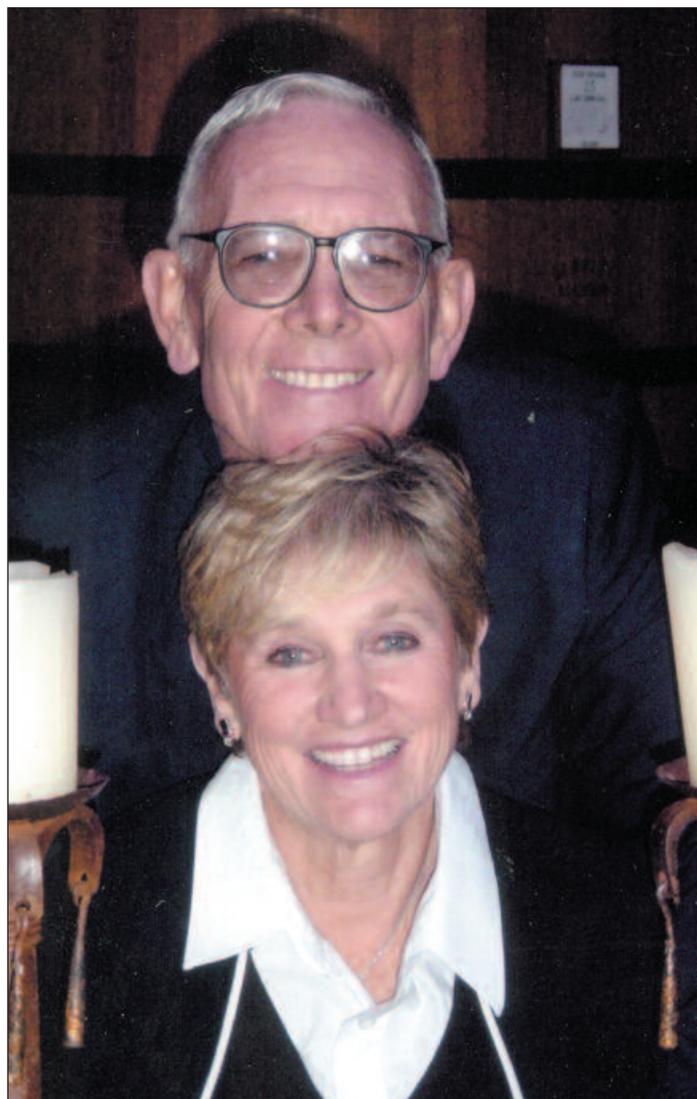
Congregation: The Zimmermans are members at both Temple Beth Israel and Agudath Achim Congregation.

First memories of being Jewish include: Len was born in Brooklyn and lived in a neighborhood where everyone was Jewish until he was 14 years old. "The next neighborhood was Italian, and it was about 20 blocks away. We were told not to venture there alone, to always go with a group. The same people who told us that would complain about Italians who came into our area. Seders were very long – they seemed even longer to us as kids – but we sat quietly at the end of the table and compared matzoh balls made by one grandmother vs. those made by the other."

Our strongest Jewish influence at an early age was: My grandparents.

We've been to Israel: Yes. We traveled to Israel about 10 years ago with Joe and Pat Silverman as part of a physicians group. It was a great experience! We traveled throughout the whole country and visited Elot, Tel Aviv, Massada and of course, Jerusalem. "We felt a great sense of history walking in the same streets in Jerusalem where thousands of years ago David and Solomon had been."

Activities/responsibilities in the Jewish Community: I served as president and board member at Temple Beth Israel, and I also served as president of the Jewish Memorial Center.



Len and Bonnie Zimmerman often travel the world, but they love their life in Altoona.

In our Jewish community, I am most proud of: The accomplishments of its members in the business and professional community and the arts. Giving the relatively small numbers, the contribution has been outstanding. I should also mention there has been strong leadership in philanthropy.

My vision (hope) for our Jewish community includes: I would like to see a coming together of the entire Jewish community to spread its Yiddishkeit among all its members, both young and old. I would also like a strong Temple and Synagogue so each may worship according to his own personal beliefs.



PERSPECTIVE

Cuban experience enlightening

By Norma Sevel

If Stanley Cohen of Pittsburgh hadn't returned from a visit to Cuba 10 years ago with a deep sense of Tikkun Olam, the B'nai B'rith Cuban Jewish Relief Project might never have been born.

Through his efforts, from 1995 to the present, much has improved in the life of the Cuban Jewish community.

A notice in the Pittsburgh/Ohio B'nai B'rith newsletter about the project, now in its 10th year, piqued my interest. After a few calls, I decided that this trip held a real focus for me. The purpose, as it was for the other 13 members from all over the country, was humanitarian – a chance to visit the Jewish community, deliver aid and learn about life in Cuba.

Each participant was required to bring 14 pounds of supplies ranging from over-the-counter medicines, medical supplies to spiritual and personal support items such as Judaica, new clothes, toothbrushes, toothpaste, pens, pencils, paper, etc. Indeed, this was a heavy load!

From 15,000 Jews before the Revolution, there are now only 1500, most of whom live in Havana, the others in Aenfuegos and Santa Clara. The B'nai B'rith missions contribute support with both supplies and funds. The funds, which come from the U.S. through Canada, supplement the small government allowances they receive as well as helping to repair the three synagogues, maintain (as well as they can), the two cemeteries and other community needs.

On our arrival in Cuba, after a frustrating two-hour wait getting through Cuban Customs, we were driven in our beautiful, comfortable bus for the week to the Beth Shalom Synagogue and the Patronato AKA the Jewish Community Center. There we met with the president of the Jewish community, Dr. Jose Miller, and the vice president, Adela Devorin, who reported that most of their ancestors came from Turkey, Syria, Spain, Russia and Poland.

Today's Jews in Cuba are or were professionals or government employees who earn a small salary to supplement the very small government grant. Education is free from pre-school through graduate schools. Health care is provided for all as are the basic food necessities for which government ration books are a must.



Norma Sevel wasn't too busy in Cuba to mug for the camera.

The majority of our supplies were delivered to the pharmacy and the remainder repacked for delivery to our people further down the island. As a group, we attended Friday night services which were interesting, even though they were conducted in Spanish and Hebrew.

A wonderful feeling of family and Jewishness pervaded the sanctuary, and we were greeted with open arms. We met the congregation members both at the oneg and the post-Saturday morning services lunch, which is free each week. They were as curious about us as we were about them. Even the language barrier didn't deter our com-

municating because hugs, smiles and handshakes and pats on the back said it all. As a community, Cuba supports senior and youth groups an active B'nai B'rith Maimonides Chapter as well as men and women's groups and even Hadassah. Through our new friends, we learned the Jewish community on the whole is poor, but there is no misery. Their active Jewish life makes them proud and enthusiastic and their profound feeling for Judaism is obvious. They display all forms of Judaica in their homes from menorahs to mezuzahs, Sabbath candles and candlesticks, book and wine goblets.

In a non-religious state, the young Jewish people are being educated for life, learning tradition, customs and prayers. It is thought by some that the practice of Judaism is accepted because Castro himself might have Jewish blood — an interesting thought!

There are many conversions that can take years to complete because there is no permanent Rabbi. Each synagogue does its own thing, so to speak, but there is an overall committee to approve suggestions, proposals and Sunday School curriculum.

I want to thank the members of our Jewish community who supplied the items that I carried with me and to relay to you words of gratitude from our Cuban friends.

Also, a word of thanks to Neil Rudel, Bill Wallen and the Federation for their support. It was deeply appreciated. I had a very memorable and enjoyable experience.

Anyone interested in participating in a B'nai B'rith Cuban Relief Mission can call me at 942-7435 or Lynne Feinberg, our group leader, or Stanley Cohen, international chairman, B'nai B'rith Cuban Jewish Relief Project at (412) 521-2390 or bbrelief@earthlink.net.



Take a trip with B'nai B'rith



B'nai B'rith's Cuban Jewish Relief Projects travels to the island nation periodically during each year.

Each mission allows participants to personally deliver humanitarian supplies to members of the Cuban Jewish community and experience an

unsurpassed week in a powerful setting.

Additionally, the Project sends humanitarian relief through the year. Project Chair Stanley. Cohen, who regularly visits Cuba, leads each mission.

Smile for the camera: The



Ian Bilofsky maintains his family's proud tradition of cross-dressing.



Carly Port (right) and Ginger Glass are ready for a trip to Dom Pablo's.



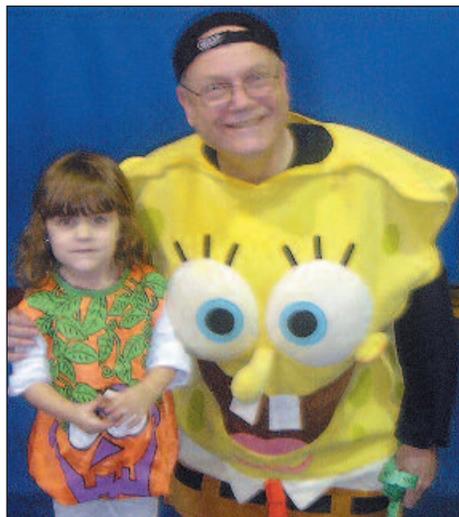
Ava Kline befriends a stuffed animal.



From left: Samantha Bilofsky, Sophira Morris and S



Paula Binus (left) and her sister, Sue.



Ruth Vanderglas joins Rabbi Burt Schubob.



From left: Phyllis Thaler, Sue Katz, Miche Schmidt at the Super bowl party.

Jewish community in focus



From left: Phil, Izzy and Roz Sky.



L'Chaim researchers are checking to see if Sarah Lipitz is distantly related to Richard Nixon.



Sidney Glass.



Mandy Belle Sky was one of the many princesses at the Purim Carnival.



From left: Ben Scheinberg, Scott Cohen, David Katz.



Arielle Port gets some encouragement from teacher Brent Pielmeier during the Maccabean Games.



L'CHAIM MILESTONES

WEDDINGS

Scott Marlowe and Sue Croft,
May 7, 2005

B'NAI MITZVAH

Alex Primack, April 16, 2005
Asher Kline, May 28, 2005
Allison Cohen, June 4, 2005
Dana Holliday, June 11, 2005

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

ALTOONA

Emily Benjamin
Jason Kivitz
Brian Thaler

HOLLIDAYSBURG

Erin Allen
David Kivitz
Matthew Kivitz
Daniel Chorny
Annie Schneider
Caitlyn Williamson

CAMDEN MILITARY ACADEMY

Rick Evan Rosenthal

COLLEGE GRADUATION

Heidi Housman, daughter of Jan and Jack Housman, graduated from WVA with a degree in Speech Pathology and Audiology.
Nicole Hollander, daughter of Barbara and Joel Hollander, received a degree from George Washington University.

CONDOLENCES TO

Lynn and Mike Rosen on the death of Mike's mother Gloria.
Dianne and Neil Rudel on the death of Dianne's grandmother, Josephine DeLeo.
Ethel Fried, Bess Lang and the Kline family on the death of their sister and aunt, Ann Kline Gilbert.
Harry Hansel on the loss of his son-in-law Simon Perlman.

TRIBUTE

Rosch led generously

Dr. Julius C. Rosch, 85 died May 9, 2005 in St. Petersburg, Fla. Even though Jules and his wife, Annette, lived in Florida for the past 12 years, he is remembered with love by his family, many friends and former patients in Altoona and Bellwood.



Rosch

Jules was a native of Altoona who went to Philadelphia for medical school and then returned here to treat patients in his home area for many years. He was the only physician in Bellwood from 1947-53. He then received training in internal medicine and cardiology and served the Altoona area until his retirement in 1991.

He brought Dr. Bernie Kron to Altoona

to practice with him.

Jules was a true citizen of the community and volunteered his time generously in the Jewish and general community. He loved Judaism and served as a Gabbai as well as Board President at Agudath Achim Congregation.

Dr. Rosch was a member of the Chevra Kaddisha, and led the rebuilding of the synagogue chapel.

He was equally active in the community with Blair Civic Music and the Altoona Library as well as the Federation and JMC boards. He became active in his synagogue in St. Petersburg and was a volunteer for Habitat for Humanity.

Jules was a loving husband, father, grandfather, physician and friend and will be sadly missed by all.

We also remember...

So long as we live, they too shall live, for they are now part of us, as we remember them

Ruth Freeman Karp, 88, died on May 13, 2005. Ruth was an Altoona native who taught English to thousands of junior high students at Roosevelt during her 34 years of teaching. After retiring in 1981, she was a loyal volunteer for the Altoona Hospital and the American Cancer Society. She was a devoted wife to "Swifty" for over 41 years until his death in 1983 and a loving mother to their son Ardie.

Ruth is remembered with love by Ardie, her sister Eleanor, family members and friends.

Jack "Smitty" Schmitt, 80, died on April 4, 2005. Jack was one of the three Schmitt brothers who were born and grew up in Altoona. (Bernie now lives in Huntingdon and Irv, of blessed memory, is deceased.)

Jack was an honored and decorated veteran of WWII and participated in the D Day invasion. He returned to Altoona after the war and began his 47-year career with Automotive Supply Co. He married the love of his life, Elva, in 1952. In their over 52 years of marriage, they had two children, Jackie and Jay and two grandchildren.

Jack was an active and loyal member of Agudath Achim Synagogue and was active in playing and coaching sports in the community.

Pat Adelson Park, 71, died on January

10, 2005. She was born in York, PA, but made our area her home for her whole adult life. Pat was active and well known in the Jewish and general community for her work and volunteer activities. She helped countless young couples begin their lives together as a bridal consultant for JC Penney's. Pat also helped assure quality daycare services for children as one of the founders and early board members of Daycare Services of Blair County. She was a loyal member of Agudath Achim Synagogue and looked forward to celebrating the 50th anniversary of her conversion to Judaism this year.

Pat was married twice, first to Abe Adelson and later to Sam Park; both are deceased. She is sadly missed by children Amos and Peggy and their families, as well as her niece Anna Paikin, nephews Sam and Harold Kaplan and by many friends.

Dr. Samuel Cohen, 87, died on June 21, 2005. Along with his wife, Beverly, and their children, Sam moved to Hollidaysburg from New York City in 1961. He practiced Optometry there until his retirement in 1988. He was a fixture on Allegheny Street. The family were members of Agudath Achim Congregation and Sam was active in Civic organizations. Upon his retirement, Sam and Beverly moved to Georgia. He is remembered and missed by his family and many friends in our community.



Woods retires from Temple

A familiar face has left Temple Beth Israel.

Long-time secretary Barbara Woods, who served the Temple for 20 years, has retired, this time for good.

"I'm going to miss all of the friends that I have made in the Jewish community. Many of you have become members of my family," she said. "I've really enjoyed my many years at the Temple getting to know so many people in the Jewish community."

TBI leadership knows Barbara leaves a significant void.

"Barbara has meant so much to Temple Beth Israel," Temple president Mike Rosen said. "She is without a doubt the glue that held the Temple together for many years. She is a friend to many and a right arm to others. She has helped me every step of the way. We wish her a very



Barbara Woods (left) is leaving the Temple after 20 years and being replaced by Mary Boscaino.

happy and healthy retirement."

Barbara also served as a mentor to

Rabbi Burt Schuman.

"When I arrived at Temple Beth Israel, a raw rookie, I was desperate for someone who would orient me, set professional priorities and organize my time — as well as put up with my hyperactivity, my moods, driving deficiencies, and my tendency to get lost in Altoona," he said. "I will miss her very much."

Barbara is being replaced by Mary Boscaino, who has been on the job since May 20. Mary and her husband, Dennis, have two adult children — Frank, who currently resides at home, and Toni who lives in Maryland.

Mary has worked different jobs over the years, including at Kranich's Jewelers. She says she has had a varied career. She is enjoying her work and "getting to know everyone in the lovely Temple family."

SUNDAY SCHOOL

School on Sunday ... Oy Vay!

By Mark Thaler

As part of my Jewish education requirements in this community, I attend Sunday School during the regular school year. When I was younger, I went to make crafts, see my friends and talk about the Jewish holidays. But as time went on and the years progressed, the idea of school on Sunday became more tedious.

Having just completed my first year at Hollidaysburg Junior High School, it didn't take me long to realize that getting up for school each morning at 6:15a.m. was not fun. Completing the many homework assignments was about as equally entertaining. By Friday afternoon I was looking forward to chilling out, sleeping in and hanging out with my friends. Just one catch...Sunday School...Oy Vay!

Every Sunday, as much as I protested, I would find myself in the car at 9:45 on my way to Sunday



Mark Thaler believes it takes time to fully appreciate Sunday School.

School. As much as I sound like I'm slamming Sunday School, I wouldn't give it up for anything. Even though we talk about the same holidays each year and the same Ten Commandments, it seems as though we delve into deeper meanings. I can remember long class discussions about "loving your neighbor as yourself."

Early on in my education, I would have said it's nothing more than the golden rule.

Now after many Sunday morning talks, I understand that those five words can mean a lot more. I find myself thinking about deeper meanings and realize that this is what it must have been like for our sages as they read over each and every passage of our holy books.

Sunday School has other benefits. There is something nice about spending two hours with just Jewish kids talking about Jewish issues. I am fortunate to have many Jewish friends in public school. But, when we come together on Sunday mornings, we connect on a much deeper level.

Yes, it is a struggle to wake up each Sunday and head off to Sunday School, but it is well worth the while. Learning about current Jewish events and those that hap-

pened thousands of years ago helps me feel connected with my people. We are a people with a deep commitment to educating our children about Jewish history, torah and traditions.

After eight years of Sunday School, I am beginning to feel the same way.



THE WAY WE WERE

Memories like the corners of my mind, misty water colored memories of the way we were.



Members of Agudath Achim performed "Thoroughly Modern Mollie" well, let's just say a few years ago. The cast included, from left, front row – Susan Cohen (flower power), Sigrid Rosenbloom (seated in chair). Second row – Sharon Zwirn, Anita Sherman. Third row – Lee Goldberg, Karen Sky, Carol Kron, Phyllis Port, Marion Lebendig. Back row – Evelyn Krivoy, Freya Berger, Zelda Goldstein, Roz Handler, Mickey Port, Maxine Weinberg, Blanche Kaminsky, Annette Rosch, Helen Rosch.



JMC founders include, from left: Phil Klevan, Mike Devorris, Izzy Sky, Rabbi Michelson, Community Chest Rep: Ralph Smith, Ed Henderson, Abe Colbus, Joe Cohen (1949 photo)



Mickey Port Nancy Devorris Shirley Pechter

Our Lions of Judah

The Lion of Judah (Aryeh Yehuda) has long symbolized strength and majesty, in the Jewish world.

It is first mentioned in the Bible (Genesis, 49:9) as the Patriarch Jacob defines the qualities, and prophecies the fates of his 12 sons and their tribes.

In Jacob's vision, his fourth-born Judah is a "lion's whelp" (gur aryeh), poised to spring at his enemies in defense of his people.



Out of the tribe of Judah, in time, emerged the House of David. Through the centuries, the Lion of Judah has become a central sign, standard and symbol of the entire Jewish people.

It is frequently depicted on such ritual objects as rimonim (Torah crowns or finials), yadaim (Torah pointers) and parochot (Torah mantles).

The lion as a Women's Division symbol is completely appropriate.

When Israeli Prime Minister Peres said of Avital Sharansky that "she fought like a lioness" for her husband Natan's release, it was a dramatic reminder that one woman, if she is sufficiently determined, can make a significant difference in the life, well-being and continuity of her family and her people.

The Lion of Judah is a very proud and beautiful symbol of strength in Jewish life, was instituted as a pin in 14kt gold by the Miami Women's Division Campaign in 1972. It was created to serve as a symbol of commitment for a woman whose personal pledge to the annual campaign is \$5,000 or more.

It later became available nationwide. We salute Altoona Lion's Shirley Pechter, Mickey Port and Nancy Devorris.

To become a Lion of Judah, contact the Federation office.

CAMPAIGN 2005

Campaign under way: Please give generously

OUR MISSION

The Federation shall:

Foster continuity and growth while seeking to preserve and strengthen Jewish life.

Study, plan and provide for the present and future social, education, cultural and welfare needs of the local Jewish community.

Support Israel as well as Americans and World Jewry.

Raise, allocate and disburse the resources needed to meet the Federation's goals.

OUR PROGRAMS

Local programs to strengthen and preserve Jewish life

Enhancing the Jewish identity of children and teens thru:

- The community Sunday school
- YES (Youth Experience Scholarships) to Jewish camps, retreats and seminars.
- Passport to Israel - trips to Israel funded by parents, Congregation and Federation

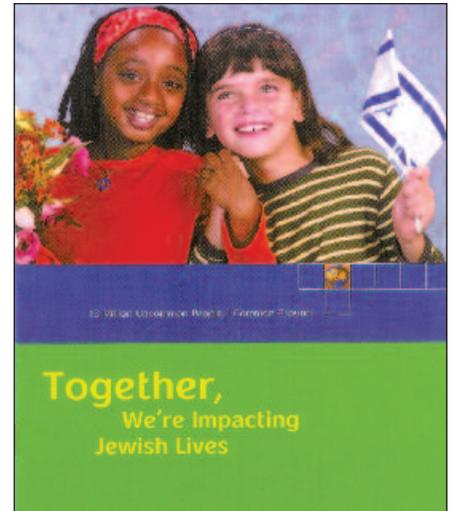
Outreach services to students at Penn State Altoona

Social, cultural and educational programs for adults and families

- Annual International Jewish Film Festival
- Family Super Bowl Party and Summer BBQ and Pool Party
- Speakers on current topics of interest
- Annual Holocaust Remembrance Program
- Trips to museums, concerts and exhibits
- Newsletters - Being Jewish and L'Chaim

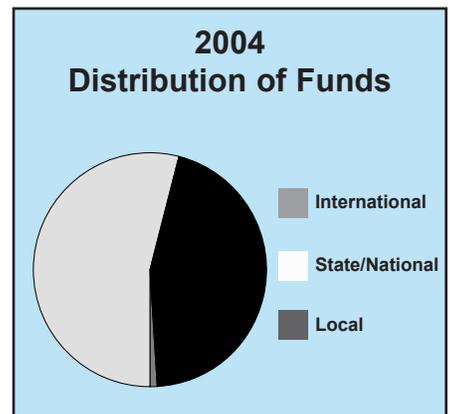
Services to our Senior Citizens

- Adult Social Club
- Senior Outreach - friendly visiting and case management to Seniors in their home or in nursing facilities



Interfaith activities to maintain a strong Jewish presence in the community

- Celebrate Diversity - sending Junior High students to the Holocaust Museum
- Educational programs to schools and community groups
- Jewish Memorial Center Programs



You are the Jewish federation:

giving to others,
taking responsibility,
acting with loving-kindness.



The Greater Altoona Jewish Federation
1308 17th Street
Altoona PA 16601

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Sunday School students gathered for a group picture following the Maccabean Games. For the second straight year the Games marked the end of Sunday School, and each student received a T-shirt and a trophy, courtesy of UNO's Chicago Grill.