

O.S.E.H.

Ohev Shalom Enrichment Happenings

PROGRAM BOOK 5772

“TEACH US TO USE ALL OF OUR DAYS,
SO THAT OUR HEARTS WILL BE FULL”

(PSALMS, 90:12)





What does O.S.E.H. Mean?

O.S.E.H., the acronym that we've chosen as the name of this book is also the Hebrew word for "doing," as in "Just Do It."

The O.S.E.H. Program Book is about involvement, energy, enthusiasm, and above all, active participation and empowerment.

We've given you all the options, now it's up to you to figure out how YOU are going to O.S.E.H.-get active!

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Bringing Judaism to Life in...YOU!

Rabbi Jeremy Gerber

“Wow, (*insert name of holiday*) is coming up next week? That’ll be really fun/educational/interesting/exciting for the kids!”

In the two years that I’ve been with Ohev Shalom, I’ve often heard people say some version of this to me. How did Judaism become something *only* for kids? It’s true that we spend a lot of our time trying to make religion engaging to our younger members, but what about you? What does Judaism mean to you? What role does it play in your life? *This* is an absolutely essential question for us as a congregation.

Judaism is not merely a religion for children, nor is it merely about education and prayer. Those are important components, of course, but there is so much more to being Jewish as well. There’s music, dance, art, movies, theater, bad Jewish jokes, and – of course – food! Our mission is to provide access to all those things right here at Ohev Shalom... or at least *through* Ohev. Being Jewish should be fun, exciting, and engaging at every age and every stage of life; starting right now!

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Please find a really swanky magnet, and hang this booklet on your fridge. Or find some other place to put it where you’ll see it, where you’ll use it. Please don’t let it gather dust at the bottom of a pile, or sit in your *tallis* bag until next High Holidays. Pick even just *one* program to attend, one new skill you want to learn this year, or one way you want to engage actively with your Jewish identity. Trust me, you’ll thank me later!

The great rabbi, Hillel, teaches us, “Do not say, ‘When I have time off, I will study,’ for you may never have time off.” Perhaps more importantly, he also said, “If not now, when?” So let’s not waste any more time; I invite you to turn the page and start discovering new ways to make Judaism a meaningful part of your life. Why should the kids have all the fun?

Take a Walk Through Our Doors

Frances Sheehan, President

Jews have always taken pride in being “the people of the book,” keeping the study of Torah alive for almost 6,000 years, but also making education a central tenet of a worthwhile life.

At Ohev Shalom, we know that there is a wide range of familiarity and knowledge about Jewish ritual, tradition, and history among our adult congregants. We also know that you are busy people with work and family obligations, as well as other volunteer responsibilities and rewarding hobbies. So, we’re setting out to give you many opportunities to squeeze interesting, fun, and rewarding educational programming into your busy schedules. We do not judge where you are in your educational level. On the contrary, we’re just happy to see you walk through our always open doors!

Luckily for all of us at Ohev Shalom, we have an embarrassment of riches in the number of Jewish educators and lecturers in our area. Thanks to our excellent staff, Cantor Friedrich and Rabbi Gerber, Rabbi Emeritus Louis Kaplan, our Adult Enrichment Committee led by Chairwoman Sherry Zigon, several talented Ohev lay leaders, and Jewish educators in our area like Rabbi Helen Plotkin, this new booklet of adult enrichment opportunities includes a wide array of programs designed to fit everyone’s schedule, interests, and level of education.

Your membership dues and generous contributions to events like this year’s Comedy Night on March 3 make these programs possible. We are also immensely grateful to the generous congregants who have come forward over the years to establish funds from which we are able to draw education program support each year. And, we thank Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia for their financial support of special programs each year.

Surveys of our Ohev Shalom members have shown that your satisfaction with belonging to our community is very high right now and that’s wonderful. We’re here to make your membership in Ohev Shalom even more worthwhile in 5772.

Holiday Calendar¹

5772 (2011-2012)

Rosh Hashanah – September 29 - 30, 2011

Yom Kippur (Y) – October 8, 2011

Sukkot – October 13-19, 2011

Shemini Atzeret (Y)– October 20, 2011

Simchat Torah – October 21, 2011

Chanukah – December 21-28, 2011

Tu Bishvat (New Year for the Trees) – February 8, 2012

Fast of Esther – March 7, 2012

Purim – March 8, 2012

Pesach (Y)– April 7-14, 2012

Yom Ha-Shoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) – April 19, 2012

Yom Ha-Zikaron – April 25, 2012

Yom Ha-Atzmaut (Israel's Independence Day) – April 26, 2012

Lag Ba-Omer – May 10, 2012

Yom Yerushalayim – May 20, 2012

Shavuot (Y)– May 27-28, 2012

Tisha B'Av (Fast Day) – July 29, 2012

5773 (2012-2013)

Rosh Hashanah – September 17-18, 2012

Yom Kippur (Y)– September 26, 2012

Sukkot – October 1-7, 2012

¹ Every holiday begins on the evening BEFORE the date indicated.
(Y) Yizkor

Ritual Happenings

SERVICES AT OHEV SHALOM

Weekday Morning Services

Join us for daily morning minyan (services) at 8:00 a.m., Monday-Friday, in the Balin Chapel. After services, we serve breakfast in the M.J. Freed Reception Room for all minyan attendees. Please note: Services begin at 9:00 a.m. on public holidays, but remain at 8:00 a.m. on weekday Jewish holidays.

Evening Services

Evening minyan is held at 7:15 p.m., once a month, immediately preceding the Board of Directors' meeting, and is also held prior to evening adult enrichment programs throughout the year. NOTE: In the event of a death in the congregation, evening shiva (mourning) services will also be conducted by the synagogue in the mourner's home.

Weekend Services

Friday evening services are generally held at 6:00 p.m., with the exception of Shabbat Echad services (see below and p. 12), Family Services, and special occasions. Please check the synagogue website or weekly announcements for updated schedules. Saturday and Sunday morning services begin at 9:00 a.m.

Shabbat Echad

Once every other month, please join us for a special Friday night program. Wine and cheese is served at 5:30 p.m., followed by a dairy/vegetarian potluck dinner in the M.J. Freed Reception Room. At 7:00 p.m. we move to the Wolf Auditorium for a Shabbat service in the round, and the evening ends with ice cream for our younger attendees. Parts of the evening and the service are enhanced by the accompaniment of the musical group, MOJO.

🌸 Ohev Shalom Scholar-in-Residence Weekend



**Please join us as we welcome
Professor Jordan Rosenblum
as this year's Scholar in
Residence.**

About our Scholar-in-Residence:

Jordan D. Rosenblum received a BA in Religion from Columbia University (2001); a BA in Ancient Judaism from The Jewish Theological Seminary (2001); an MA in Jewish Studies from Emory University (2003); and an MA (2005) and PhD (2008) in Religious Studies from Brown University. In Spring 2009, he was a Starr Fellow at the Center for Jewish Studies at Harvard University. His research focuses on the literature, culture, and history of the early rabbinic (tannaitic) movement. His book, *Food and Identity in Early Rabbinic Judaism*, explores the intersection between early rabbinic food regulations and identity construction, and was the subject of an NPR interview with Jean Feraca. Research on this project has led Professor Rosenblum to publish, present papers, and teach about such topics as the history of Jews and Chinese food; pork in discourse by and about Jews from antiquity to modernity; kosher olive oil in antiquity; and the connection between cookbooks and identity formation.

When:

- **Friday, February 3rd, 2012 @ 6:00 p.m.**
Kabbalat Shabbat services followed by
dessert and the first lecture:
“Jews and Food – Ancient and Modern Food Debates”
- **Saturday, February 4th, 2012 @ 12:00 p.m.**
Following services, we will have a
Kiddush Luncheon and the second lecture:
“The Jew as Other and the Other White Meat”
- **Saturday, February 4th, 2012 @ 6 :00 p.m.**
Mincha/Ma’ariv services and Havdalah,
a light evening meal and the third lecture:
*“The Goy of Cooking – Jews and Non-Jews in the
Rabbinic Kitchen”*
- **Sunday, February 5th, 2012 @ 10:00 a.m.**
Following morning minyan, a brunch reception
and our final lecture (which will also be open
to children in the Mispallelim Religious School):
“Jews, Chinese Food, and Cookbooks”

Where:

Locations to be publicized in the synagogue weekly
announcements, or please contact the synagogue
office for more information.

Registration: No registration necessary, but RSVP’s to the
synagogue office (*by Friday, January 27th*) are
greatly appreciated for food ordering purposes.

February 3rd - 5th, 2012

🌸 Weekly Happenings

Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Class

What: Have you ever thought about having a Bar or a Bat Mitzvah, but you've just never gotten around to it? Here's your chance! Please join other brave Ohevites who are taking charge of their Jewish education, and becoming active participants in our worship service. Join us for weekly classes with Rabbi Gerber and Cantor Friedrich to improve your Hebrew skills, learn to read Torah, learn to chant a Haftarah, prepare to deliver a short (I promise) D'var Torah, and gain all the expertise you'll need to _ become a Bar/Bat Mitzvah and feel a great sense of pride and ownership of your Jewish heritage.

When: **Every Thursday afternoon @ 4:00 p.m.**

Where: Room 8 at Ohev Shalom

Registration: Please contact the synagogue office or Rabbi Gerber directly before *Monday, October 31st* to join.

Bible Study Class

What: One of our greatest Ohev Shalom institutions is our weekly Bible study class which has been meeting every single week for more than two decades. Some participants have been in the group since the very beginning! Nevertheless, we are always open to new people. No background required, no knowledge of Hebrew reading necessary! Join us once, or join us every week; you definitely won't regret it. Together with Rabbi Gerber, the class is now working its way through the Book of the Prophets, learning about the life and times of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and all the other major and minor prophets.

When: **Every Wednesday morning @ 9:30 a.m.**

Where: The Ray Doblitz Memorial Library at Ohev Shalom

Registration: No registration needed. All are welcome!

Cantillation – Personal Instruction for Ohev Shalom Members

What: Chanting Biblical Texts and/or How to be a Service Leader. For beginners and experienced readers/daveners alike: Here's your opportunity to learn how to chant like a professional. You can arrange for private or group lessons with Cantor Friedrich at a time that's convenient for you. If you can read Hebrew, than you can do this. Guaranteed results!

When: **Monday through Thursday, at a mutually agreeable time**

Where: The Cantor's office, The Balin Chapel, or The Doblitz Library at Ohev Shalom

Registration: Please contact Cantor Friedrich – school@ohhev.net

Men's Club Softball (Spring and Summer Only)

What: Come join the Ohev Shalom Men's Club and participate in the local area Men's Club softball league. Every week, a game is played against another synagogue or community group, and beyond just playing the pastime of our youth, it's an opportunity for camaraderie, team building, activity outdoors, (some) exercise, and a whole lot of fun!

When: **Once a week on Sundays in the spring and summer; warm-up at 9:15 a.m., game at 10:00 a.m.**

Where: Schedule and local fields determined at the beginning of the season.

Registration: Please e-mail Allan Glanzman (allanglanzman@hotmail.com) or Cliff Cohen (clcoh11@gmail.com) for more information.

Lunch n' Learn Noontime Torah

What: The Rabbinical Assembly – Mid-Atlantic Region invites you to join us weekly at noon for the study of Torah. A rabbi and other like-minded individuals await you to engage in exciting discussion and thoughtful analysis of the weekly Torah portion or other stimulating topic. Each class is self-contained so you can plug in at any given week, in any given location. (Classes not held on major Jewish holidays.)

When: We will be meeting at three different locations, dates, and times:

- **Tuesdays in Center City (12:15 – 1:30 p.m.)**
- **Tuesdays in Abington/Jenkintown (12:00 – 1:00 p.m.)**
- **Wednesdays in Plymouth Meeting/Norristown (12:30 – 1:30 p.m.)**

Where: Please contact the synagogue office or Rabbi Gary Charlestein (610-239-6003) for specific location information.

Registration: No registration needed. For more details, please contact the program coordinator, Rabbi Gary Charlestein (610-239-6003), or speak to Rabbi Gerber.

❁ Monthly/Bi-Monthly Happenings

Adult Enrichment Lecture Series

What: Ohev Shalom is proud to host an impressive group of speakers on varied subjects from around the Jewish world. Refreshments will be served; questions will be answered. Be sure to tell your family, friends, colleagues, and neighbors. Our evening programs begin immediately after the Mincha (afternoon) or Ma'ariv (evening) service at 7:15 p.m., depending on the time of year. The Sunday morning programs follow the Shacharit (morning) service at 9:00 a.m. Please note that the events listed below may be subject to change and more programs may be added.

- When:**
- **Tuesday, November 15th, 2011 @ 7:15 p.m.**
“The Kaddish: Language, History, and Ritual”
with Rabbi Dr. David Rabeeya
 - **Tuesday, December 13th, 2011 @ 7:15 p.m.**
“The Personal Dilemmas of Jewish Classical Composers” with Dr. Bruce Bogdanoff
 - **Sunday, January 22nd, 2012 @ 10:00 a.m.**
“The Jewish Roots of Mindfulness Meditation”
with Rabbi Yael Levy
 - **Tuesday, March 13th, 2012 @ 7:15 p.m.**
“How Maimonides Negotiated Hellenistic Philosophy with Halakhah”
with Prof. Dr. Aryeh Kosman
 - **Sunday, May 6th, 2012 @ 10:00 a.m.**
“Changing Images of the Woman in Israeli Cinema” with Dr. Elna Yadin
 - **Wednesday, June 6th, 2012 @ 7:15 p.m.**
“How the Jewish Jesus Became the Christian Christ”
with Rabbi Dr. Louis Kaplan

Where: The M.J. Freed Reception Room at Ohev Shalom

Registration: No registration needed. All are welcome!

Hazak – USY for Adults

What: A new group designated as Hazak (USY for adults) is now being formed. Anyone over the age of 55 is eligible to participate. Hazak will have a variety of events including trips to area points of interest, social activities, cultural & educational programs, and a weekly game day at Ohev (i.e. Canasta, Scrabble, Bridge & Mah Jongg).

When: MARK YOUR CALENDARS! The first event will be a trip to Longwood Gardens on October 4th. It is a Senior Day with special programs and trams for transportation.

Where: **At Ohev Shalom, in Philly, AC, Delaware; wherever the group decides to go!**

Registration: If you have any questions about this new exciting Ohev Shalom group, please contact Barbara Levy at 610-565-7079 or artbarb@comcast.net.

Lunch n' Learn with Rabbi Gerber

What: What do you do if you really want to engage in some Jewish learning, but you just can't find the time? How about joining us for lunch once a month? In the back room of the Mediterranean restaurant, Aria, in Swarthmore, we will explore new areas of Jewish learning while enjoying terrific chumus and pita! Using new resource material from the American Jewish University in California, we will look at the Jewish lifecycle through a workshop entitled *Walking with Life*.

When: **The first Thursday of every month, 12:00 – 1:15 p.m., beginning on Thursday, November 3rd, 2011.**

Where: Aria – Mediterranean Cuisine, 405 Dartmouth Ave., Swarthmore. Participants pay for their own lunch.

Registration: Please contact the synagogue office or Rabbi Gerber directly. Registration ahead of time is greatly appreciated, but walk-ins are welcome as well!

Nosh n' Drosch

What: Join Rabbi Gerber for a fascinating exploration into the history, meaning, and spirituality of our prayers. Each session will look at a different prayer in our Shabbat service, and together we will expand our understanding of its meaning. Using the *Or Hadash* prayer book with expanded commentary and explanations, we will enhance our prayer experience and find new meaning in our personal conversations with God. And all this with lunch and dessert provided!

When: **Saturday afternoons, after Shabbat services, on the following dates:**

- **Saturday, November 19th, 2011**
- **Saturday, January 7th, 2012**
- **Saturday, March 31st, 2012**
- **Saturday, May 12th, 2012**

Where: The Ray Doblitz Memorial Library at Ohev Shalom

Registration: No registration needed. All are welcome!

Ohev Shalom Film Series

What: Throughout the year, we will be showing various films on either Jewish or Israeli topics, followed by discussions and conversations about each movie.

When: **All films will be shown at 7:00 p.m. on the following dates:**

- **Sunday, November 6th, 2011**
- **Saturday, December 24th, 2011 (Join us for dinner and Chinese food on Christmas Eve!)**
- **Sunday, February 26th, 2012**
- **Sunday, May 20th, 2012**

Where: The Wolf Auditorium at Ohev Shalom

Registration: Please contact the synagogue office *at least 3 days before* each event to ensure a critical mass of attendees.

Shabbat Echad

What: Please join us for a special Friday night program once every other month. We meet in the M.J. Freed Reception Room at 5:30 p.m. for wine and cheese, followed by a dairy/vegetarian potluck dinner. At 7:00 p.m. we move to the Wolf Auditorium for a Shabbat service in the round, led by Rabbi Gerber and Cantor Friedrich. The evening ends with ice cream for dessert! Parts of the evening and the service will be enhanced by the accompaniment of the musical group, MOJO.

When: **Shabbat Echad will take place on the following Friday evenings:**

- **Friday, September 23rd, 2011**
- **Friday, November 4th, 2011**
(InterFaithways Shabbat)
- **Friday, January 27th, 2012**
- **Friday, March 2nd, 2012**
- **Friday, May 11th, 2012**

Where: The M.J. Freed Reception Room and Wolf Auditorium at Ohav Shalom.

Registration: Please RSVP to the synagogue office by the Monday before each Shabbat Echad.

Taste of Shabbat

What: One Saturday afternoon every other month, you are invited to the home of a different member of the congregation for a wonderful vegetarian/dairy potluck lunch and stimulating conversation. It is a lovely way to spend a few hours with friends on a Shabbat afternoon, sharing food together in a relaxed living room, while chatting about that week's Torah portion, or another topic of interest in the Jewish community. If you would like to host a Taste of Shabbat, please contact the synagogue office or Andy Szabo (see next page).

When: Lunch will always follow our synagogue services, usually beginning around 12:30 p.m.

- Saturday, November 5th, 2011
- Saturday, January 21st, 2012
- Saturday, February 25th, 2012
- Saturday, April 21st, 2012

Where: Locations will be publicized in the synagogue weekly announcements, or please contact the synagogue office for more information.

Registration: Please RSVP before each event to Andy Szabo, aszabo9392@aol.com or 610-543-2173.

Torah on Tap

What: Come join the Ohev Shalom Men's Club and Rabbi Gerber for an evening of schmoozing, beer, and poignant conversation. We cover topics like United States politics, Middle Eastern affairs, Jewish life in America today, and what beer goes best with pizza... or other sundry appetizers. If you come to one, you'll want to come for them all!

When: We meet once every other month at 7:30 p.m. on the following dates:

- Monday, October 24th, 2011
- Wednesday, December 14th, 2011
- Monday, February 13th, 2012
- Monday, April 30th, 2012

Where: Generations Restaurant in Media

Registration: Please contact the Men's Club President, Joel Fein, FEIN@email.chop.edu or the synagogue office to RSVP.

Women's Spirituality Group

What: We are a diverse group of women who enjoy exploring Judaism within a circle of friendship. Our monthly meetings produce meaningful discussions on spiritual topics using a variety of sources. We read (essays, poetry, prayers, midrash, novels, articles, Bible stories), view films, visit museums, and delve into Jewish culture. One of our favorite traditions is our “check in” at each meeting when members have an opportunity to share their personal reflections and experiences. We welcome all women who are looking to share their spirituality within a supportive group.

When: **Monthly on Sunday evenings @ 7:00 p.m.**

Where: Members' homes

Registration: For more details on future meetings and joining our group, please contact Romie Griesmer (romiegriesmer@verizon.net), Amy Pollack (amypoldes@aol.com), or Elsa Wachs (elsa@elsawachs.com)

❁ One-time Happenings

High Holiday Food Drive

What: Ohev Shalom collects tuna (all kinds, types, and sizes) to benefit the Mitzvah Food Pantry. We also request donations of canned soups, stews, peanut butter, jelly, diapers, and wipes to benefit the Bernadine Center and Wesley House in Chester. Thank you very much for your contributions!

When: Anytime between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur (Wednesday, September 28th through Sunday, October 9th, 2011)

Where: Please bring your donations to the stage in the Wolf Auditorium at Ohev Shalom.

Information: E-mail Cindy Hoffman at choffman@gate.net or call 610-566-5557.

Yom Kippur – All Dressed Up & Someplace To Go!

What: You might not have known it, but yes, there is a “dress code” for the Torah scrolls. Elsa Wachs will discuss the why’s and how’s of dressing up the Torah, including an in-depth look at all of Ohev Shalom’s Torah finery; the covers, the breastplates, and the Torah ties.

When: **Saturday, October 8th, 2011**
(Yom Kippur afternoon), @ 3:30 p.m.

Where: The first 2 (not 3) rows of the Ohev Shalom Sanctuary

Registration: No registration needed. All are welcome!

Men's Club Sukkah Building

What: The Ohev Shalom Men's Club will spend a day or two assembling the synagogue's sukkah and adorning it with harvest-like decorations created by our religious school and Kehillah students. Meals and discussions will be held inside this sukkah each day during the holiday.

When: **Sunday, October 9th, 2011 @ 10:00 a.m.**

Where: The Ohev Shalom Sukkah Terrace

Registration: No registration needed. All are welcome! Please contact Joel Fein (FEIN@email.chop.edu) for more information.

Sukkah Lunch n' Learns

What: What are you doing for lunch? Why not bring your lunch to Ohev Shalom during the holiday of Sukkot, and eat out on our Sukkah Terrace? Come join us for three Lunch n' Learns with Rabbi Gerber and Cantor Friedrich. Each day we will be discussing a different Biblical prophet who will be "invited" to join us for lunch. Please remember, prophets love peanut butter! Dessert will be provided.

When: **Monday – Wednesday, October 17-19th, 2011 @ noon**

Where: The Ohev Shalom Sukkah Terrace

Registration: No registration needed. All are welcome!

Sukkah Hop

What: It's time to figure out how many sukkot you can visit in one day! Come join Ohev Shalom as we take on this challenge; migrating from one sukkah to another, visiting congregants' homes, and experiencing many different versions of how to build a sukkah. Join us for one visit or follow the tour to every stop – either way, it promises to be a sukkah-riffic afternoon!

When: **Sunday, October 16th, 2011 @ 1:00 - 5:30 p.m.**

Where: Rabbi Jeremy & Rebecca Gerber, 1134 Putnam Blvd.,
Wallingford, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Joel Fein & Vicky Levin, 47 Cedar Hill Lane, Media
2:30 - 4:00 p.m.

David & Amy Pollack, 143 Ogden Avenue, Swarthmore
4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Registration: Please register with the synagogue office by Monday,
October 10th for food ordering purposes.

Simchat Torah Celebration

What: It's time to celebrate the giving of the Torah! Every year we bring out all our Torah scrolls and dance around the back of the sanctuary (and sometimes outdoors), but this year we have a secret weapon: MOJO! Our in-house band will be joining us to really kick up the dancing and singing to another level. Join us for a fun evening with snacks, flags, circle dances, conga lines, and much more!

When: **Thursday evening, October 20th, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m.**

Where: The Ohev Shalom Sanctuary and M.J. Freed Reception Room

Registration: No registration needed. All are welcome!

Veterans Day Service

What: Last year, Ohev Shalom hosted four midshipmen for a wonderful and informative Veterans Day program. This year, we will once again be honoring our servicemen and women during Friday evening services, with an Oneg Shabbat reception to follow. The specific details of the program will be announced closer to the date.

When: **Friday evening, November 11th, 2011 @ 6:00 p.m.**

Where: The Ohev Shalom Sanctuary and M.J. Freed Reception Room

Registration: No registration necessary, but RSVP's to the synagogue office are greatly appreciated for food ordering purposes.

Thanksgiving Interfaith Community Gathering

What: This year, we will gather with other congregations from the Swarthmore-Wallingford Interfaith Ministerium (SWIM) to celebrate Thanksgiving as a community. There will be musical performances from several local-area choirs, speeches by several SWIM clergy members, and of course, refreshments! Please join us for a wonderful way to begin the holiday of Thanksgiving

When: **Sunday afternoon, November 20th, 2011 @ 3:00 p.m.**

Where: Swarthmore Presbyterian Church, 727 Harvard Ave., Swarthmore

Registration: No registration necessary, but RSVP's to the synagogue office are greatly appreciated for food ordering purposes.

Men's Club and Sisterhood Brunch

What: Join Ohev Shalom Men's Club and Sisterhood for brunch. There will be great food and a special guest speaker (TBD). This is a great opportunity to learn more about Sisterhood and Men's Club. Look for more information on the Ohev Shalom website and in the weekly announcements.

When: **Sunday, December 11th, 2011 @ 10:00 a.m.**

Where: The Wolf Auditorium at Ohev Shalom

Registration: No registration necessary, but RSVP's to the synagogue office are greatly appreciated for food ordering purposes.

Sisterhood and Men's Club Shabbat

What: The Ohev Shalom Men's Club and Sisterhood will facilitate a shared service, featuring members of both as readers of Torah, prayers, and D'var Torah (sermon). A Kiddush luncheon will also be sponsored by both groups.

When: **Saturday, January 28th, 2012 @ 9:00 a.m.**

Where: The Ohev Shalom Sanctuary and M.J. Freed Reception Room

Registration: No registration needed. If you would like to participate in any aspect of this service, please contact Joel Fein (FEIN@email.chop.edu) or Paula Lehrberger (P.Lehrbe@usp.edu).

Men's Club Beer Tasting

What: Join your Ohev Shalom friends for an evening of education and libation. Our beer sommelier will give us a tour of the wide world of beer, using carefully selected brews. Nuts and stuff to go with the beer will be provided. Cost for the event will be determined as the date gets closer. Please watch for more details.

When: **Saturday, January 28th, 2012 @ 7:00 p.m.**

Where: **The Wolf Auditorium at Ohev Shalom**

Registration: Please RSVP to Kyle Berman (berman19086@gmail.com) or Don Abramowitz (dabramow@brynmaur.edu) by *January 14, 2012*.

World Wide Wrap – Sponsored by Men’s Club

What: This event links the Men’s Club of Ohev Shalom to others around the nation and the world. Organized by the Federation of Jewish Men’s Clubs, we will spend the morning of “Super Bowl Sunday” teaching and encouraging Jews to put on tefillin. Ohev Shalom Men’s Club will provide food and facilitators for this event.

When: **Sunday morning, February 5th, 2012 @ 9:00 a.m.**

Where: The Balin Chapel at Ohev Shalom

Registration: No registration needed. All are welcome!

Choir Performance – Community Event

What: Our choir, along with the choirs from Swarthmore Presbyterian Church and Wallingford Presbyterian Church, will be performing Brahms’ German Requiem. The proceeds from the concert will benefit Chester Children’s Chorus and ABC Strath Haven.

When: **Sunday afternoon, March 11th, 2012 @ 3:00 p.m.**

Where: Lang Hall at Swarthmore College

Registration: If you’d like to represent Ohev Shalom in this performance, please contact Cantor Friedrich by *December 26th, 2011*.

Ohev Players Performance

What: After the resounding success of their first play in over 15 years, the Ohev Players are back with another performance! You probably think that nothing could top “Break a Leg – A Tribute to Broadway,” but the Players are ready to prove you wrong. Once again providing you with a medley of hit Broadway numbers performed by adults, teens, children, and yes, clergy members, this year’s show promises to be bigger, better, and more entertaining than ever!

- When:**
- **Thursday, April 19th, 2012 @ 7:00 p.m.**
 - **Sunday, April 22nd, 2012 @ 2:00 p.m. (MATINEE)**
 - **Sunday, April 22nd, 2012 @ 7:00 p.m.**
 - **Thursday, April 26th, 2012 @ 7:00 p.m.**
 - **Sunday, April 29th, 2012 @ 2:00 p.m. (MATINEE)**

Where: The Wolf Auditorium at Ohev Shalom

Registration: Look for audition information in the weekly announcements, or contact Ann Thaller at 610-733-1391 or equityann2000@yahoo.com. Please contact Ann if you would like to participate in any way in our wonderful show. For ticket information, please contact the synagogue office.

Hamentaschen Baking

What: Each year, prior to Purim, we bake the hamentaschen needed for shalach manot baskets and synagogue events. It is a great way to socialize and help with baking.

When: **February 26th and March 4th, 2012 @ 8:30 a.m.**

Where: Ohev Shalom kitchen

Purim Comedy Night

What: Why should Purim fun be limited to just the kids? Come to our Purim Comedy Night with professional comedians, drinks and dessert (and hamentaschen, of course!) Purim is the festival of joy and celebration, so what better way to observe it than with laughs and merriment? Costumes and masks are optional, but we can't promise you won't get picked on by the comedian... Happy Hilarious Holiday!

When: **Saturday, March 3rd, 2012 @ 7:00 p.m.**

Where: The Wolf Auditorium at Ohev Shalom

Registration: Please RSVP to the synagogue office by *Monday, February 27th.*

Purim Carnival

What: This annual event is a wonderful opportunity for people with school-aged and non-school-aged children to help run different booths. It is only a few hours of your day and the smiles on the kids' faces makes it worthwhile.

When: **Sunday, March 11th, 2012 @ 11:00 a.m.**

Where: The Wolf Auditorium at Ohev Shalom

Interfaith Passover Seder

What: For the third year in a row, Christ Church Episcopal in Media has invited us to lead an interfaith Passover seder with their congregation. Rabbi Gerber and Cantor Friedrich will be leading a model seder for members of Ohev Shalom, Christ Church, and Trinity Episcopal in Swarthmore. Please join us for a wonderful evening of learning, singing, great food, and new insights to incorporate into your own family seder.

When: **Sunday, March 25th, 2012 @ 5:00 p.m.**

Where: Christ Church Episcopal, 311 S. Orange St., Media, PA

Registration: Please RSVP to the synagogue office by *Monday, March 19th.*

Passover 2nd Seder

What: Please join us for a wonderful communal seder, as we celebrate the holiday of Passover together as a community. Once again, the menu will be exceptional, childcare will be available for families with younger children, and the discussions, singing, and learning will be filled with joy and spirituality.

When: **Saturday, April 7th, 2012 @ 6:00 p.m.**

Where: The Wolf Auditorium at Ohev Shalom

Registration: Please RSVP to the synagogue office by *Monday, March 26th.*

Nusach: The Art of Cantorial Singing

What: A lecture by Cantor Steven Friedrich
Refreshments will be served.

When: **Monday, May 14th, 2012 @ 7:15 p.m.**
**Mincha (afternoon service) followed immediately
by the lecture**

Where: Ohev Shalom

Hiddur-imedia – A Walking Tour of our Synagogue Home

What: Join Elsa Wachs on a guided walking tour through the halls of Ohev Shalom to discover the eye candy of our rituals, history, and culture. See, hear, and touch ceremonial objects and art to learn how they continue to impact our Jewish practice and spiritual life. As the former head of our Hiddur (beautification) Committee, an internationally recognized Judaica artist, and a major contributor to the artwork that enriches our building, Elsa is able to give a tour like no other! This is a unique opportunity to learn about our past, present, and future from an insider's perspective.

When: **Sunday, June 3rd, 2012 @ 11:00 a.m.**

Where: The tour will meet in the Ohev Shalom main lobby.

Registration: Please RSVP to the synagogue office by *Monday, May 28th*.

Tikkun Leyl Shavuot

What: Every year, we join the Reconstructionist congregation Beth Israel in Media for two programs, a Selichot service before Rosh Hashanah and a Tikkun Leyl Shavuot. The latter is an evening of learning, singing, meditating, and warm community spirit. This year we'll be gathering at Ohev Shalom, and members of both congregations are invited to teach during the evening. Our Confirmation class will also be offering a teaching, as will clergy members from both synagogues. Join us to study late into the night (and you can leave whenever you get too tired!)

When: **Saturday, May 26th, 2012 @ 8:00 p.m.**

Where: The Wolf Auditorium at Ohev Shalom

Registration: If you would like to teach at the Tikkun, please contact Rabbi Gerber by *Monday, May 21st*. No RSVP needed.

Memorial Day Service

What: Please join us at the Ohev Shalom Cemetery in Brookhaven for a moving tribute to members of our congregation, and members of the Jewish War Veterans, Chester Post No. 134. We honor all those who have fought, and died, for our country, and are proud that so many Ohev Shalom members have served in the military.

When: **Monday, May 28th, 2012 @ 11:00 a.m.**

Where: The Ohev Shalom Cemetery in Brookhaven

Registration: No registration needed. All are welcome!

❁ From Our Social Action Committee

Life Center Dinners

What: Shop for, set up, and serve dinner to 150 grateful clients at the Upper Darby Life Center, a soup kitchen & shelter run by Community Action Agency of Delaware County (Clients do the cleanup). Come share food with the hungry – it takes 2 hours and the glow lasts all week!

When: **The following Sundays: 9/4/11, 11/6/11, 1/1/12, 3/4/12, 5/6/12, and 7/1/12. We meet at 5:30 p.m. at Genuardi's in Springfield, and we finish at 7:45 p.m. (Shopping times are flexible.)**

Where: The East Coast Life Center of Delaware County, 6310 Market Street, Upper Darby

Registration: Please contact Fran Stier at franstier@comcast.net or 610-543-0815 for more information and/or to volunteer.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

What: Ohev Shalom collects frozen turkeys, stuffing, side-dish fixings, and pies for distribution by EastSide Ministries to local families. Families collect and bring donations, and then drive them down to Chester Eastside Ministries. It's wonderful to see the old church full of food, volunteers, and kindness.

When: **Sunday, November 18th, 9:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

Where: The parking lot at Ohev Shalom

Registration: Please contact David Hoffman (dhoffman@DHoffmanAssoc.com) or Joel Fein (FEIN@email.chop.edu) for more information and/or to volunteer.

Martin Luther King Day Community Event

What: Ohev Shalom hosts families from Wesley House and Family Management Center at Ohev Shalom for a morning filled with crafts, cookie baking, games, books to keep, a moon bounce at the HealthPlex, and lunch. Congregants cook lunch, bake with kids, and host. The moms and kids enjoy it immensely.

When: **Martin Luther King Day, Monday, January 16th, 2012, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., (prep session Sunday, January 15th, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)**

Where: The Wolf Auditorium at Ohev Shalom

Registration: Please contact Fran Stier at franstier@comcast.net or 610-543-0815 for more information and/or to volunteer.

Reading Partners

What: Every week, teens and adults read to elementary school students who are participating in an after-school program at the Family Management Center in Chester. Volunteers sign up whenever their schedule permits.

When: **Monday afternoons, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

Where: Participants meet in the Ohev Shalom parking lot to travel to the Family Management Center in Chester together.

Registration: Please contact Fran Stier at franstier@comcast.net or 610-543-0815 for more information and/or to volunteer.

Christmas Volunteers

What: As we learn throughout our Talmudic teachings, Jews have an obligation to make the world a better place. During the Christian holiday, Ohev Shalom congregants have found a special way to support our neighbors. We need “Mitzvah Makers” to assist in the kitchen, at the information desks, and generally just to lend a hand at Crozer-Chester Medical Center and Taylor Hospital.

When: **Sunday, December 25th, 2011**

Please note: Shifts can be as short as 1-2 hours or as long as 4 hours, from around 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. You may choose your hours and where you would like to volunteer.

Where: Crozer-Chester Medical Center and Taylor Hospital.

Registration: To volunteer, contact Jodi Leshner at 610-361-3482 throughout the month of December. Please leave a message indicating the hospital of your choice and preferred times.

Mekom Torah

About Mekom Torah

(pronounced like "McComb Toe-RAH")

Mekom Torah is a pioneering Jewish learning project developed by Rabbi Helen Plotkin in collaboration with Congregation Beth Israel of Media, PA, Congregation Ohev Shalom of Wallingford, PA, and Reconstructionist Rabbinical College.

The goal of Mekom Torah is to offer high quality Jewish study opportunities for adults and young people that transcend the boundaries of the various Jewish movements, and that work to strengthen congregational life in our synagogues and Jewish life in our homes. All study groups are open to members of the collaborating synagogues, members of other synagogues, and people who are not affiliated with a synagogue.

Beginning in September, 2011, Mekom Torah will offer the following study groups for adults, meeting weekly, monthly, or twice-a-month. These study groups are led by Rabbi Helen Plotkin.

Sign up at <http://mekomtorah.org>

Opening Judaism

What: This is a class designed to crack open the texts, practices, and ideas that are the foundation of Judaism, and to offer a taste of how study works as a sustaining element of Jewish life.

When: **Twice a month, on Tuesdays, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.**

Where: Starting at Beth Israel in September, 2011, then moving to Ohev Shalom in February, 2012.

Who is this class for?

- People who are educating Jewish children and yearn for a deeper understanding of what they offer their kids

- People who are active in Jewish life and want the experience to be more deeply infused with knowledge and tradition
- People who are beginning their relationship with Judaism and seek an adult understanding of Jewish life
- People who feel that their Jewish education stopped short of the mature version of the tradition
- People who want an overview of the rituals and sources that are the foundations of Judaism
- Anyone who would like to engage in meaningful Jewish study

Torah for Grownups

What: This is an ongoing study group that welcomes new and returning members. Topics of study follow the interests of the students and the teacher, addressing areas that are relevant to our Jewish and our human lives.

When: **Weekly, on Mondays, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.**

Where: This class meets at Congregation Beth Israel from September 2011 through June 2012.

Who is this group for?

- People who want to engage in the lifetime practice of Jewish learning.
- People who know some Hebrew, as well as people who only wish they did.
- People who suspect there is something thicker and richer behind the watery versions of “religion” that are most visible on the American public stage.
- People who want to experience the Jewish art of asking questions, uncovering the layers of meaning in texts, and letting them shed light on the past and the present.

Couples Torah

What: Participants sign up with a friend or significant other. In each session we examine deeply a small slice of Jewish tradition – a passage from the Bible, a Psalm, a prayer, or a commentary – which becomes an entryway into expansive discussion. Topics are aimed at inspiring ongoing conversation with a friend or partner.

When: **Once a month, on a Tuesday, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.**

Where: This class meets at Congregation Ohev Shalom from September 2011 through June 2012.

Who is this group for?

- People who want to deepen a relationship with a friend or significant other by engaging together in Jewish learning.
- People who want to bring some Torah into their lives but don't want to go it alone.
- People who deserve a date night that really lasts.

Downtown Lunchtime Torah

What: We gather over lunch, in the conference room – or occasionally the restaurant – of a generous participant. Sitting around the table over Torah, all barriers come down and everybody's voice is equal.

When: **Twice a month, on Thursdays, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.**

Where: Meetings are held at the offices of participants, within two blocks of Philadelphia City Hall.

Who is this group for?

- People who want to add meaning and depth to their work life by exploring the powerful texts of our tradition.
- People who want to give themselves the delightful gift of a break from the mundane.

- People who want a great reason to go into the city twice a month.
- People who want to be part of the Philadelphia Jewish renaissance.
- Doctors, lawyers, and students; financial wizards and office managers; scientists, chefs, and retailers; artists, teachers, and taxi drivers; retired urban wanderers and homemakers. You?

Women's Circle

This group meets monthly and is designed for women who want to explore meaning and connectedness in their lives as women, as individuals, and as members of the world. It is an intimate circle whose membership is capped at 12. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Rabbi Helen Plotkin at rabbi@mekomtorah.org, or 610-368-4065

Tuition for Mekom Torah

Per person tuition for the 2011-2012 year is as follows:

Monthly groups: \$100

Twice-a-month groups: \$200

Weekly groups: \$300

There are scholarships available. If money is an obstacle, contact one of the following:

- Rabbi Jeremy Gerber at Congregation Ohev Shalom: rabbi@ohav.net, 610-874-1465
- Rabbi Linda Potemken at Congregation Beth Israel: ravltp@bethisraelmedia.org, 610-566-4645
- Rabbi Helen Plotkin at Mekom Torah: rabbi@mekomtorah.org, 610-368-4065

Mekom Torah is a non-profit organization that welcomes donors at all levels, and relies on them.

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