

# NEWSLETTER

*Women of Ohav Shalom's mission is to bring together the women of Temple Ohav Shalom to serve our Temple, support our community and enrich our lives through personal growth and friendship.*

*We accomplish this mission through social and educational programs, fundraising, community service and involvement with Women of Reform Judaism. Our activities, enhanced by the richness of our diversity, further our commitment to Jewish ideals, education, spirituality, social action and leadership development.*

## Message from the WOS President

*WRJ Assembly/URJ Biennial 2011*

Attending the Women of Reform Judaism Assembly, referred to as the WRJ Assembly, and the Union for Reform Judaism Biennial, known as the URJ Biennial, was a phenomenal experience. This was the largest URJ biennial ever. There were close to 6000 participants representing the Reform Congregations in the US, Canada, Israel and South Africa. Included were over 500 delegates representing Reform Jewish sisterhoods and also 400 youths representing the National Federation of Temple Youths (NFTY). It's hard to know where to begin to fully summarize the 5 day conference. For me it was filled with tremendous feelings of pride at being a Reform Jew. There were hours and days of spirituality, religious commitment, intellectual pursuits, practical thinking and still time for tikkun olam, repairing the world.

I went to the conference as a delegate to the WRJ Assembly but was able to participate in several plenary sessions and workshops with the URJ Biennial delegates. Social events and Shabbat observance were also done jointly.

At one of the plenary sessions, I was privileged to see and listen to President Obama speak eloquently to this gathering of Reform Jews, confirming his commitment to Israel, stating "I have never wavered in pursuit of a just and lasting peace; two states for two peoples, an independent state of Palestine, alongside a secure Jewish state of Israel". He also spoke of his commitment to social justices and his commitment to the youth of America. During his speech he said, "I want to give a shout-out to NFTY" and he continued because "they're leading the way." The NFTYites went wild. President Obama referred to the parshah for that Shabbat which was about Joseph. "The text is telling us that while Joseph does not know what lies ahead, he is ready to answer the call..At this moment every American of every background, has the opportunity to stand up and say, 'Here I am, Hineni' ". He urged the attendees of the biennial to take action.

At another plenary session, Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of the Union for Reform Judaism, spoke to the WRJ Assembly. He remarked that WRJ does not give itself enough credit. He felt that the sisterhoods are the backbone of the synagogue.

(Continued next page...)

## Something to Ponder

*"Freedom is actually a bigger game than power. Power is what you can control. Freedom is about what you can unleash."*

*Harriet Rubin, author*

## Open Oneg Dates:

February 10  
 March 9  
 March 16  
 March 23

*We are looking for volunteers to host onegs on the above dates.*

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At this same plenary session, Cecile Richards, President of Planned Parenthood, spoke to this group of nearly 500 women and reviewed recent developments regarding the fight to secure healthcare for women.

In other plenary sessions, many resolutions regarding social issues were voted upon along with the Campaign for Youth Engagement. Rabbi Rick Jacobs, the incoming president of the URJ has made this campaign, engaging our movement's youth, as his number one priority. Overall, at this Biennial "the URJ recommitted itself to cultivating the next generation through the Campaign for Youth Engagement and announced a new emphasis on reaching North American Jews both inside and outside the walls of its congregations."

There were special sessions presenting awards to sisterhoods for social action programs that have been completed and membership goals that have been accomplished. Some of the programs went under the heading of the WRJ's YES fund. The YES fund (Youth, Education and Special Projects) is a fund that tries to meet the needs of the Reform Jewish community in religious, social and educational areas. It is the collective financial efforts of WRJ's members and donors. As a group effort, we are able to achieve what no one individual or sisterhood could accomplish alone. YES Fund beneficiaries include rabbis, cantors, and educators in North America, England, Germany, South America, and Israel; the youth of our Movement; nursery schools, social justice projects; bat mitzvah programs in Israel; summer camps and early childhood educational programs.

Besides attending plenary sessions, I also participated in several workshops that provided leadership, temple community, intellectual and personal growth. Some of these workshops included topics as: Embrace the Changing Reality of "The Jewish People": Making Your Sisterhood Inclusive; Creating and Sustaining a Caring Community Program; Holding a Successful Sisterhood Retreat; Ethical Wills; and Shaping Your Synagogue's Future Through the Voices of Congregants. An additional workshop for the Atlantic district to which our sisterhood belongs, gave me and the other delegates the opportunity to participate in tikkun olam, repairing the world, as we made blankets for Project Linus. Project Linus provides handmade blankets to children who are seriously ill, traumatized or otherwise in need of security, warmth or comfort. I also learned about grants that could be available to our congregation such as the Incubator Grant. These grants are meant to encourage congregations to experiment with new ways to further engage current members and attract new members.

I certainly cannot leave out information about our Shabbat observance. Having a wonderful Shabbat dinner with 6000 other Reform Jews is quite an experience. Participating in Kabbalat and Saturday morning Shabbat services, singing songs, saying the Shabbat blessings, taking part in Torah study, eating lunch and then enjoying a delightful presentation by Tina Wasserman, author of a cookbook entitled *Entrée to Judaism, a Culinary Exploration of the Jewish Diaspora*, was a superb way to spend Shabbat. Of course, we ended Shabbat with a lovely Havdalah service.

My take on everything is that we are fortunate to be members of a wonderful congregation....we do much for furthering Reform Jewish ideals, for providing for our members, and for providing for the community....we know that we have the potential to do even more and be even better. Just as it is the priority of the URJ to engage our youth so it is the job for each of us at Temple Ohav Shalom to do the same and to reach out to each of our members and to Jews outside the walls of our congregation.

This was a wonderful journey for me that I hope others in this congregation will be able to experience in the future.

Ellen Sapinkopf, WOS President



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## SHALACH MANOT GIFT BAGS FOR PURIM

Purim is just around the corner. One of the nicest traditions on Purim is that of giving a gift of food to friends and family. According to Jewish law, one should give a gift of two different types of food, one of which is prepared (cooked or baked) to at least one person. THE GIVING OF GIFTS TO ONE ANOTHER HELPS US CREATE A FEELING OF CLOSENESS AND HOPE IN THE COMMUNITY. The Women of Ohav Shalom are pleased to announce that we will be making Shalach Manot Bags again this year as a fundraiser. Please consider purchasing bags for your fellow Temple friends. Keep an eye out for your e-mail order form in a separate e-mail.



And speaking of Purim:

### HELP WANTED!

I am looking for one or more women to take over Deb Cohen's job as prize maven at the Purim Carnival. Train this year with the wonderful Debbie Cohen and take over next year. It's a great way to help out your temple and Sunday School with an annual job. Do it with a friend for even more fun. Debbie has done this for over ten years; she will train you this year. WOS will support you. Contact Cheryl Bradshaw 412-369-0312 or [dcmjcbad@verizon.net](mailto:dcmjcbad@verizon.net).

Please step up and help!!!

### SAVE THE DATES:

**Tuesday February 28, 5:45-7:30**

Organizing Shalach Manot bags

**Sunday, March 4, 12:00-2:00**

Purim Carnival

**Tuesday March 13, 6:00-7:30**

Join us for another fun night of Bunco at the temple! Bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Cost is \$5.00 for WOS members and \$6.00 for nonmembers. Cash prizes will be awarded! Any questions, contact Vikki Center at [shmom1999@aol.com](mailto:shmom1999@aol.com)

**Sunday, April 22**

Joint program with North Hills Hadassah -- trip to Maltz Jewish Heritage Museum in Cleveland

**Sunday, April 29, 1:00 p.m.**

Paid-up Members' Afternoon Tea (and coffee, too!)

Join us as we enjoy savory and sweet treats at our afternoon tea. Mark your calendars now!



**GENERAL INFORMATION**

For WOS membership information, please contact Beth Mongilio at [enmsmom@msn.com](mailto:enmsmom@msn.com) or 724-443-3566. New members are welcome at any time throughout the year.

The WOS board meets at TOS every month during Hebrew School hours (5:45-7:30) typically on the 3rd Tuesday and all are welcome to attend. The next meeting is on Tuesday, February 21.

Please email any March newsletter submissions to Hilary Daninhirsch at [hdaninbirsch@gmail.com](mailto:hdaninbirsch@gmail.com) before February 23.

**MEET THE BOARD**

|                          |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| President:               | Ellen Sapinkopf    |
| Past-President:          | Kristi Karsh       |
| Treasurer:               | Andrea Conlon      |
| Recording Secretary:     | Laura Flieder      |
| Corresponding Secretary: | Marcie Fassler     |
| Membership:              | Beth Mongilio      |
| Programming:             | Vikki Center       |
| Fundraising:             | Cheryl Bradshaw    |
| Oneg:                    | Joni Ferrara       |
| Member at Large:         | Graciela Connor    |
| Newsletter:              | Hilary Daninhirsch |

**RECIPE OF THE MONTH**

**3-Bean Chili**

(Submitted by Ellen Sapinkopf)

**Directions:**

In 3-quart, microwave-safe casserole, combine onion, celery, green pepper and oil. Cover. Microwave on high for 5 to 8 minutes, or until vegetables are tender, stirring once or twice. Add remaining ingredients. Mix well. Re-cover. Microwave on high for 20 to 25 minutes, or until mixture is hot and flavors are blended, stirring 2 or 3 times. Makes about 8 cups.



**Ingredients:**

- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 cup chopped celery
- 1/3 cup chopped green pepper
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 can (28 oz) whole tomatoes, cut up
- 1 can (15 oz) tomato sauce
- 1 can (16 oz) Great Northern beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 can (15 oz) Garbonzo
- 1 can (15 1/2 oz) kidney beans, rinsed and drained
- 2 tsp chili powder
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1 tsp sugar
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp garlic powder
- 1/8 tsp pepper
- 1/8 tsp cayenne pepper