



Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam

Gates of the Sea

THE BULLETIN

P.O. Box 1268, Manahawkin, NJ 08050 • (609)-698-4459

Website: reformjewishcommunity.org

Adar II — Nisan, 5771

Items to Note:

- April 1: Services
- April 11: Dine-A-Round, Tan's Garden
- April 19 Second Seder
- April 29: Services

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Message From the Rabbi:

Dear Friends,

Most everyone knows the biblical story about the Great Flood. Early in the Bible, in the Book of Genesis, Noah is commanded by God to build a great ark in which pairs of living creatures are saved while the earth endures a flood so great that everything else is washed away. From this disaster as well as many others depicted in the Bible, we get the commonly-used phrase, "a catastrophe of Biblical proportions." Yet what we consider fantastical or mythic or otherwise improbable in the Bible does, in fact, happen in our day as well. Witness, of course, the recent earthquake and tsunami in Japan which has wiped out entire communities, killed tens of thousands of men, women and children, and displaced almost half a million of the survivors. While at the time of this writing there is great concern about the fate of several damaged nuclear reactors, I believe that most of us are even more awed by the destructive power of nature. It is a humbling experience indeed when we are reminded of our relatively limited powers and of the far more potent forces of wind and water.

The Bible portrays natural disasters as deliberate acts of God meant to punish human beings for their evil behavior, and even in our day there is no shortage of religious leaders quick to make the same pronouncement. Yet at the same time our Jewish tradition offers us an alternative understanding of God's role at times of such natural catastrophes. Here it is, from the Book of First Kings, in a description eerily familiar to all of us:

"There was a great and mighty wind, splitting mountains and shattering rocks by the power of God but God was not in the wind. After the wind—an earthquake; but God was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake – fire; but God was not in the fire. After the fire – a still, small voice." (First Kings 19:11-12)

This text suggests that while God may have been the original Creator of those elements of nature that sometimes come together to create deadly winds and earthquakes and fires, that is not where God is found. The message of First Kings is that God is not in the destruction, the wind and earthquake and fire. Rather God is what comes *after* the destruction, "a still, small voice." And what is that voice? I believe it is the voice of response, of caring, compassion and comfort. Of reaching out, generosity and love. And if that is where God resides, well then, that means that these seemingly simple attributes are endowed with all the power necessary to counter the destruction, the loss and the pain. As Jews, we are commanded by our tradition to be like God, to also be "a still, small voice." What does that mean specifically? To help in whatever way we can – materially, emotionally, spiritually. To be present. To not turn away even when the images on our TVs are all but unbearable to witness. As a colleague of mine wrote this week:

May we shed tears.

May we feel compassion.

May we imagine ourselves and our loved ones in their places, and

May we use our blessings to help those in need.

May the upcoming month be one in which the whole human family works together to bring comfort, healing and hope to all those who suffer wherever they live on this extraordinary planet.

With all best wishes,

Rabbi Kim S. Geringer

Message from the President:

I would like to update our members on the midyear special meeting that we had in February. Rabbi Geringer attended and gave us her interpretation of “how we are doing” together and her thoughts of our future. Several questions were addressed concerning our Services and music, rotating different familiar melodies, and what is “traditional” to one member might not be “traditional” to another.

The turnout was minimal for our Congregation. The Board was asked to hold this meeting midyear, we did just that. Members that attended and gave their opinions and constructive issues to be addressed. Individuals wanted the update on our proceedings in areas from our negotiations with Rabbi Geringer and her contract to how we are pursuing our fundraisers. We did ask that congregants participate in as many of our fundraisers as possible and outlined how they could contribute. Did we accomplish what we set out to do? I think so.

Cyndy Friedland, President

Second Night Seder

We will be hosting our Second Night Seder at The Captain's Inn on Tuesday, April 19th starting at 5 PM. You are cordially welcome to invite your extended family at the member's rate for dinner. We are looking forward to our Seder being led by Rabbi Kim Geringer, so don't forget to make your reservations.

Seder Plates Wanted

There is a flyer included with our Newsletter. Each year we have asked for assistance with the Second Night Seder by way of Seder Plate Donations. If you would like to donate your Seder Plate to be used, kindly contact Cyndy Friedland at 609-290-4050 The Seder Plates need to be given to Cyndy by April 15th and will be available for you to take home immediately after the Seder.

Mazel Tov to Judith and David Levin as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. They sponsored the March 18th

Jewish Tidbits by Fran Breese

Passover Freedom

Am I the only one around here who struggles, or does this scenario sound familiar to you too? Let me tell you about a position I have found myself in more than once, and let me know if you can relate.

It's a cold, dark, winter morning and the last words I heard before going to sleep were my wife asking if I could get up in the morning and help our son get ready for school. The alarm has just sounded, I can hear the icy wind howling outside, and as my eyes begin to open I hear myself grum-

bling. Suddenly, I'm struggling. I'm conflicted and torn. On the one hand, I want to jump out of bed, whisper into my wife's ear that she should enjoy an extra cozy hour in bed, fill my sons bowl with cereal, his morning with smiles and his heart with a healthy dose of self-esteem. On the other hand, I feel like turning off the alarm, curling up under the covers like a hibernating Grizzly, and gently apologizing to my wife for not being able to get up. So you see, I'm clearly conflicted. I love my wife and son, I **want** to do what's right, kind, loving and generous, but I sure don't **feel** like it.

Does this sound familiar to you? Have you ever felt the tension between what you *want* to do and what you *feel* like doing?

Come on, I know you have—we all have.

Want to hear a secret? I can tell you the source of that tension. Listen to this:

Every human being has both a body and a soul. We are both physical and spiritual beings. And therein lays the tension. Our souls *want* to do what is good, kind, giving, idealistic, spiritual and deeply meaningful. Our bodies, on the other hand, *feel* like taking a nap, spending an extra day at the beach and generally doing that which requires the least amount of effort. To live a life of meaning and integrity, to strive for profound spirituality and to attempt to make a difference with our lives takes a lot of effort, and our bodies aren't thrilled with exerting lots of effort.

This month, Jews around the world will be celebrating the holiday of Passover. You have probably heard of Passover, you may even be attending a Passover Seder, but did you know that the core theme of Passover is **freedom**. And I'm not just talking about the fact that the Jews were liberated from slavery in Egypt, I'm talking about deep, inner freedom. The kind of freedom we all long and yearn for. You see, the essential inner tension that we all

struggle with is the tension between what we want to do and what we feel like doing. When we are unable to live life on a higher plane—when we allow the body to overwhelm us and deny us the achievement of what it is we truly want to accomplish in life, that's called slavery. However, when we are able to put our soul's agenda front-and-center, when we are able to overcome lethargy and the willingness to settle for mediocrity in life, when we learn to focus on what we *want* in life—that's the key to freedom.

From Judaism Online www.simpletoremember.com

Please forward ALL birthday and anniversary dates to Fran at nanny1141@comcast.net as our files must be re-done. Thank you.

Yahrzeit April 2011

April 4— Bernard Lewis

Father of Samuel Hull Lewis

April 10— Samuel Sales

Brother of Maralyn Ricciardi

April 11— Shirley Feather

Mother of Leonard Feather

April 20—Samuel Applebaum

Father of Arlene Armstrong

April 26—Sylvia Chasanoff

Mother of Deanna Bovasso

April 27— Jack Silverman

Father of Terry Silverman

(Please forward any new Yahrzeit dates for updating files to Phyllis at

bbbanner@aol.com. Thank you.)

April Birthdays

Jonas, David 11

Scranton, Joyce 13

Goldsborough, Sandy 29

April Anniversaries

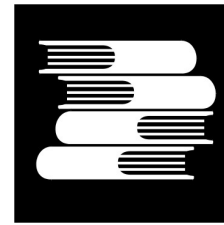
Breese, Joe/Fran 7/62

Donations

A tree has been planted in Israel in memory of Regina Boletta's Dad, Paul Melita, by Syble Bleiweis, Fran Breese, Madelyn Dunn, Phyllis Feather and Cyndy Friedland.

BOOK CORNER:

by Rosalie Donadio



In Ishmael's House: A History of Jews in Muslim Lands

In this epic examination, celebrated historian Sir Martin Gilbert (the six-volume biography of Winston Churchill) explores the evolution of Judaism and Islam through a lens of Middle Eastern stability. Islam upholds some of Judaism's practices, like strict dietary laws, circumcision, and multiple prayers daily, and followers of both religions have historically banded together during holy wars in opposition to Christianity. Yet early relations between Jews and Muslims were often precarious, and the treatment Jews received was often dependent on the manner in which the Islamic leader at the time interpreted "the two extremes of protection and intolerance," a conflict that Gilbert believes "has defined the Muslim-Jewish relationship to this day." Indeed, under the rule of the second Caliph, Jews volunteered as soldiers and guides and offered provisions for their Muslim allies, whereas under the eighth Caliph, Jews and Christians were equally segregated and oppressed. With a comprehensive yet accessible approach, Gilbert scrutinizes the roles that Muslims and Jews have played and continue to play in the Middle East, and the impact of this on the world, unearthing the ongoing struggles these religions have faced over their 1400 years of shared history. (From the Publisher's Weekly)

"This is a book for those who want on their shelf, ready to hand, the facts on the Jews in Muslim lands, from the days of Mohammad himself, a vivid chapter as related here, to the Arab-Israel conflict of the present day. With Sir Martin Gilbert's excellent maps and clear readable prose, this saga is both a reliable source and a pleasure to read."

(Herman Wouk)

Fundraising News



Dine A Round - April 11th we will be dining at Tan's please bring attached flyer. Hope to see you there! May 19th we will be at Calloway's!

Sahara Sam's - Tickets still available for the low rate of \$20 each. The indoor water park is a great way to spend time with family!

Clothing Drive - Please bring bags of clothes and shoes (bagged separately) to services or drop off at the Dunn's home on or before April 29th.

Gift Auction - May 14th, 7 - 11p.m. at the Manahawkin Elks. Tickets are on sale now from \$25 each. This includes coffee, tea, dessert and auction tickets. Please make checks out to RJCB. We are still in need of more donations (attached is a donation request letter). Please do all you can to be a part of our biggest fund raiser of the year!

Raffle Tickets - We are holding a raffle. Each member's household will be receiving 2 raffle books in the mail (unless you have already received yours). Each ticket is \$5, a book is \$25. Our hopes are that you will not only sell or buy the two books you receive, but you will be needing more to sell! 1st prize is \$500 Visa Cash card, 2nd is a \$250 Visa Cash card and 3rd \$150 Visa Cash card. The drawing will be on Oct. 8th (2nd Night Seder). This should give us plenty of time to sell, sell, sell!

The Fund Raising Committee is committed to the future of our congregation. If you would like to be a part, have any questions or would like to come to our next meeting, please contact Dayna at 609-978-6581.

Oneg Sponsorship:

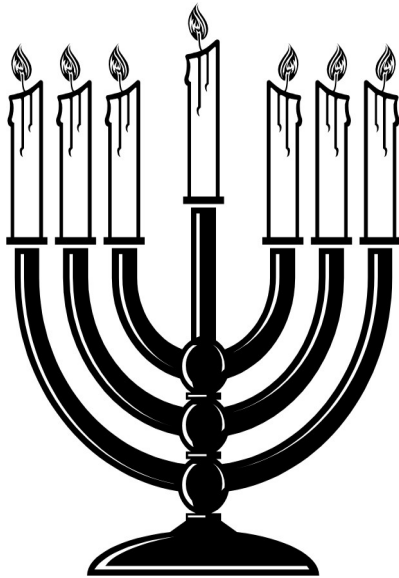
Do you or your family have a simcha to share with our congregation? What better way to celebrate than sponsoring an Oneg! We offer several levels that can be sponsored. \$50, \$75, and \$100. Our Onegs include wine, juice, challah and other desserts. The upper levels include fruit and extras to enhance the Oneg. Kindly contact Maralyn Ricciardi at 609-660-0935 or Madelyn Dunn at 609-660-1614 to reserve your date.

Help Wanted!

Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam has beautiful logo T-shirts available in all sizes for only \$10.00 apiece. "Recipes to Remember" our very own cookbook is a 3-ring binder with an included easel for free-standing on a countertop. Each cookbook is filled with over 180 recipes with lots of tips, hints and



Happy Passover



**2011
SCHEDULE
OF SERVICES**

March 4

March 18

April 1

April 19
Second night Seder,
held at Captain's Inn

April 29

May 6

May 20

June 10

June 24

Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam's

Dine A Round

At

TAN'S GARDEN

Chinese Cuisine

The Shoprite Plaza

Route 72 East • Manahawkin

Dine On

Monday, April 11th

3 till closing

Please bring this flyer with you

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Dear Friends and Business Owners,

Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam, a Reform Jewish Community is currently seeking donations for our third annual Gift Auction scheduled for May 14, 2011. It will be taking place at the Elks Lodge in Manahawkin, N.J.

This is a major fundraiser for our congregation. All proceeds from this event will be used to toward our growing Jewish community where we can worship, celebrate and educate our children in Jewish history and traditions.

We hope that you will consider making a charitable contribution for this event. The contribution can be in the form of merchandise, gift certificates, a monetary donation, or any appropriate gift of your choosing. All contributions are tax deductible. Tax ID #208 925 891/000.

In gratitude, your business will be listed in our evening's program as a benefactor for the event and we will be making a gift bag for attendees. Please include 50 marketing pieces.

Thank you in advance for your support. It is greatly appreciated and invaluable to our community. If you have any questions or require any additional information, kindly contact Dayna at YoursDayna@comcast.net or call 609-978-6581.

Sincerely,

The Fundraising Committee

THE ONLY REFORM CONGREGATION IN SOUTHERN OCEAN COUNTY

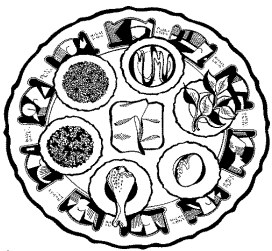
Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam

A Reform Jewish Community

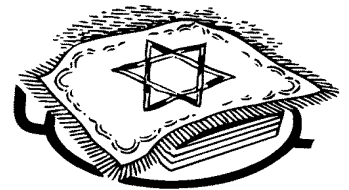
Invites you to attend our fully catered

Annual Second Seder

Tuesday, April 19 at 5:00 PM



Captain's Inn
304 East Lacey Road
Forked River, NJ



Rabbi Kim Geringer will conduct the Seder

Members and Extended Family: \$39.00 p.p. Children 12 yrs. and under: \$13.00 p.p.
Non-Members: \$50.00 p.p. Non Member Children: \$16.00 p.p.

Deadline for Reservations is April 12

Menu includes: Matzo Ball Soup, Gefilte Fish, Salad,
Roasted Chicken, Salmon, Brisket
Roasted Potatoes and Vegetable
Dessert, Wine, Soda, Coffee or Tea

(Reserve Early)

**Please return your reservation form with your check
made payable to Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam
c/o MADELYN DUNN**

148 Leeward Road, Manahawkin , NJ 08050

Phone: 609-660-1614

Name:

Address:

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Please List the Names of everyone attending the seder on the back of this sheet.
Please indicate choice of Chicken, Brisket or Salmon for each person.