



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 I — Adar II, 5771

Items to Note:

- March 4: Services
- March 6: Bus Trip to American Jewish History Museum
- March 13-15: Dine-A-Round, T.G.I. Friday's
- March 18: Services
- March 19-20 Purim

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Message From the Rabbi:

Dear Friends,

This past week Jews all over the world read the Torah portion Ki Tisa . Ki Tisa contains a story that's familiar to most of us: after safely leading the Israelites out of Egypt and across the Red Sea, Moses ascends to the top of Mt. Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments. While he is gone, the people construct and worship an idol, the golden calf, and in a fit of rage, Moses hurls to the ground the tablets that God had given him on top of the mountain. Although Moses ultimately gets a second set of tablets, the Torah never again mentions the broken pieces from the first set. And yet they weren't forgotten. Our sages thought about those fragments quite a bit and they wrote *midrashim* about them. Rabbi Judah bar Illai taught that two arks journeyed with Israelites in the wilderness, one containing the intact Torah and the other holding the fragments of the original tablets. They were always together. Another *midrash* has it that the broken pieces of the tablets and the whole second set of tablets were placed side by side in one ark, not two. And finally there was this one: that although Moses initially cast away the stones of the broken tablet, he later thought better of it. Realizing that the broken pieces had value in themselves, Moses accepted them from God for safekeeping. According to this *midrash*, far from being just worthless junks of stone, these fragments were made of sapphire, and they were beautiful. The thread that links these three stories, of course, is that the broken pieces were too valuable and too important to be gotten rid of. Somehow they had to be included as part of our tradition. In this view, our people never forgot what had been broken. Instead, they took what was broken together with what was whole and moved forward to their destiny.

Ten years ago this week—that is, exactly at this time in the Jewish calendar—my eye fell on an obituary as I was leafing through the New York Times: “Rose Freedman,” it said, “Dies at 107.” I didn't recognize the name, but I figured that anyone who lives to 107 is worth taking a moment for, so I proceeded to read the full text. Do you know who she was? Rose Freedman was the last survivor of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in which 146 of her co-workers perished 100 years ago next month, March 25, 1911. The majority of the victims were young Jewish immigrants, girls, teenagers and very young women from Germany, Italy and Eastern Europe, who routinely worked 72-hour weeks. Rose Friedman was just two days shy of her 18th birthday at the time. The disastrous New York City fire, one of the worst catastrophes to occur since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, saw these girls and young women leaping from eighth and ninth-story windows in a

desperate attempt to escape the inferno, their flaming skirts billowing in the wind. This was a preventable tragedy. Doors to the factory work areas opened from the inside but were locked by management from the outside. There were no safety regulations in place, and when the fire broke out, there was nothing on hand with which to fight it, prevent it from spreading, or evacuate the workers. The disaster changed workplace safety forever. The first child labor laws were enacted. The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration was created. It gave a powerful impetus to the fledgling labor movement, greatly strengthening the building of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union which two years before the fire had led a three-month strike to focus attention on dangerous conditions in workplaces like the Triangle factory.

Mrs. Freedman's life after the fire was colorful and courageous. She was visiting her native Austria when World War 1 broke out, and she was credited with sheltering and saving the life of a spy there. After her husband's death in 1959 she went back to work to support her three children, two of whom had polio. Lying about her age, she worked at a Manhattan insurance company until she was 79. She studied languages all her life, eventually speaking seven of them. She was still attending Spanish classes at the time of her death. She painted, had her hair and nails done weekly and shopped and cooked for herself. She moved to Los Angeles where she became a passionate Lakers basketball fan. On her 100th birthday the team presented her with a jersey bearing the number 100.

But most significant was that the Triangle fire never left Rose Freedman's consciousness. For the rest of her life she appeared at labor rallies in support of safe and decent working conditions for factory workers. She always expressed rage that the Triangle Factory doors had been locked, either to keep workers at their machines or to prevent them stealing scraps of cloth. She always spoke publicly of how one of the factory owners tried to

bribe her to say the doors were not locked. She not only refused to do so, but she went on to testify against the owners in subsequent criminal and civil suits brought by relatives of the dead. Many years later in an interview Rose Freedman said, "146 young girls died in a half an hour. Some of my dearest friends. I always have tears in my eyes to this day when I remember."

Rose Freedman knew about broken pieces and she kept hers with her for the rest of her days, using them to spur her on to a life of meaning and purpose. What she couldn't make whole for her young friends who died; she used to insure the health and safety of workers who came after her. Well, is there anyone of us who has not in had to live with loss, fear, disappointment, unfulfilled dreams, and unrealized promises? Even at moments of satisfaction and joy, we know that the possibility of brokenness is never very far away. It seems to me that, in a way, the essential task of human life is to figure out what to do with our own broken pieces, how to somehow live with them but not be defined by them. In an interview at the age of 106 Rose Freedman said, "To me, 106 is just a number. I lived that long not only on account of my genes but on account of my attitude. Sadness takes years from you. You've got to stand up for yourself and for other people. Am I right?"

There's a poignant Yiddish saying, "No one should ever find out how much pain they can endure." Nevertheless, as a rabbinical school professor of mine once reminded us, "Everyone has a story about their life that would break your heart." So to be human is to always be living in a state of something less than wholeness. We are anxious about the future. We suffer in the present. We remember losses from the past. Those are the shattered fragments – the broken tablets – that we carry in our own personal arks. So I choose to believe that it was for some cosmic purpose that when Rose Friedman died ten years ago it was the week of the portion *Ki Tisa*, the story about the broken tablets. Perhaps the juxtaposition of the two events occurred in order to teach us something. We learn from Rose Freedman and so many others like her that

wholeness does not cancel out brokenness, nor does brokenness render wholeness impossible. To be a whole human being means making room for both to live together within us while still finding joy, making a difference. Rose Friedman said near the end of her life, "Having survived the fire physically, I refused to let it destroy me emotionally. So I took it and I made

let it destroy me emotionally. So I took it and I made something from it." In the upcoming month, as we acknowledge the 100th anniversary of the Triangle fire and think about wholeness and brokenness, I can't imagine a more noble statement. Have a good month.

Rabbi Kim S. Geringer

Message from the President:

Our midyear Congregational meeting date has been changed to Sunday, February 27th at 7 PM. We will be meeting at the LCHS. Rabbi Geringer will be joining us to answer any questions or address your concerns. Plan to join us for this informative meeting. It's getting close to the time for us to close out our ticket sales for the bus trip to the Jewish Museum in Philadelphia. An email was sent to all congregants with a UTube link to preview what we will be seeing. Here is the link for anyone who did not see the email. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DBmgIA-yCCK>

There are many different ways to be supportive of our Congregation; attending Services, volunteering on committees, attending our Dine A Rounds, joining our members and friends on the bus trip to Philadelphia, or donating items and soliciting for our Gift Auction in May. We are all working towards a future and a home for our Congregation so we have a spiritual community in Southern Ocean County. We have another way to do this. One of our families has offered to take credit cards for payments using your Master Card, Visa or Discover cards, which is an awesome offer! If you have a financial obligation outstanding to our Congregation, here is an opportunity to assist with your payments. Please speak to Robert Dunn or Ernie Bleiweis about this arrangement.

The Hebrew School is doing their annual Passover Candy Sale. If you need a house gift for Passover, this is the perfect gift! Orders will be taken by any of our students or you can contact me at 609-698-4459 or via email at cfriedland119@comcast.net to place your order. WE will be accepting order through March 4th.

Cyndy Friedland, President

Jewish Tidbits

Trees are for Breeze

*"I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree."*

As much as I admire Joyce Kilmer for penning these words, his poem pales in comparison to the majesty of what we learn from a tree. A tree is more than just a wonder of beauty planted by Gd. It is an institution that teaches us one of the most important mitzvah's (positive commandments from the Bible) and that is- the welcoming of guests. In all seasons, it practically screams out, "Welcome Visitors".

In the hot summer months it beckons the wayfarer- come, lean on me under my foliage. I have kept my trunk as narrow as possible to give you as much space as I can so you can enjoy the calm breezes of my shade. Hang a hammock on my branches and relax. Or if you are tired and weary, pull down some of my low hanging leaves and make a soft bed to lie on. You can also lull yourself to sleep from the sweet music of the birds perched in my branches. If you need, cut off some of my branches and build a fire to cook your food. Afterwards, you can partake of a healthy dessert from my fruits.

In the spring, exult in the rebirth of my foliage. In the fall, marvel at the brilliant colors of my leaves. In the winter, hang a basketball net on my trunk and enjoy yourself. Build a tree house far away from winter's snow.

If you plan to stay for a long time, cut me down and use me to build your house. I am here for you. The more I provide, the greater my glory. What an awesome lesson. From a tree!

How can we do less?

From: SimpleToRemember.com (Judaism On Line)

Join our congregation on a trip to the new National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia.

Date: Sunday, March 6th

Time: Pick up at 9:30 am at the Ocean Breeze Diner, Rt. 9 Waretown

Price: \$39.00 adult

\$38.00 senior (65 & up)

\$37.00 youth (13 - 21)

\$34.00 child (12 & under)

Price includes - roundtrip coach bus, bus driver's gratuity, museum admission & guided group tour. There will be free time before our tour for lunch on your own.

Reservations and payments must be made by Sunday, February 13th.

Send payment to: Congregation Sha 'arey Ha Yam

P.O. Box 1268

Manahawkin, NJ 08050

For more info. call Madelyn 660-1614 or email justmemad@aol.com

Yahrzeit March 2011

March 1 Ruth Chordock Bussell

Mother of Judie Levin

March 3 Melvin Shapiro

Brother of Aaron Shapiro (27 Adar)

March 27 Yetta Grossman

Mother of Fran Breese

March 19 Minnie Spielberg

Grandmother of Phyllis Feather

March 21 Irving Topper

Father-in-Law of Samuel Hull Lewis

*(Please forward any new
Yahrzeit dates for updating files to Phyllis at
bbbanner@aol.com. Thank you.)*

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

March Birthdays

Daley Gary 1

Crespy Jack 4

Feldhuhn Marlene 5

Miller Emily 5

Silverman Joan 10

Feather Phyllis 10

Shapiro Aaron 13

Jackson Stanley 17

Newman Sandra 22

Feather M. Leonard 26

Jonas Danielle 30

March Anniveraries

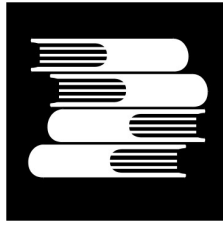
Levin Judie/David 25/61

Donations

A circle of Trees have been donated in the memory of Dr. Robert Taub, cousin of Cyndy Friedland, Phyllis Albritton, Marvin Taub and Arnold Taub.

A donation of a Ring of Trees has been made by Patricia Barndt and Wendi Higgins in Memory of Eleanor Beckman, Robert R. Barndt and Andrew P. Barndt. The trees will be planted by JNF in Carmel, Israel.

BOOK CORNER:



“A Thousand Darknesses: Lies and Truth in Holocaust Fiction” by Ruth Franklin. What is the difference between writing a novel about the Holocaust and fabricating a memoir? Do narratives about the Holocaust have a special obligation to be ‘truthful’-- that is, faithful to the facts of history? Or is it okay to lie in such works? In her provocative study *A Thousand Darknesses*, Ruth Franklin investigates these questions as they arise in the most significant works of Holocaust fiction, from Tadeusz Borowski’s Auschwitz stories to Jonathan Safran Foer’s postmodernist family history. Franklin argues that the memory-obsessed culture of the last few decades has led us to mistakenly focus on testimony as the only valid form of Holocaust writing. As even the most canonical texts have come under scrutiny for their fidelity to the facts, we have lost sight of the essential role that imagination plays in the creation of any literary work, including the memoir.

Taking a fresh look at memoirs by Elie Wiesel and Primo Levi, and examining novels by writers such as Piotr Rawicz, Jerzy Kosinski, W.G. Sebald, and Wolfgang Koeppen, Franklin makes a persuasive case for literature as an equally vital vehicle for understanding the Holocaust (and for memoir as an equally ambiguous form). The result is a study of immense depth and range that offers a lucid view of an often cloudy field. (*Amazon. Com*)

An excerpt from page 8:

“In the Warsaw Ghetto a child wrote in its diary: ‘I am hungry, I am cold; when I grow up I want to be a German, and then I shall never be hungry, and no longer cold.’ And now I want to write that sentence again: ‘I am hungry, I am cold: when I grow up I want to be a German, and then I shall no longer be hungry, and no longer cold.’ And say it many times over, in prayer for the child, in prayer for myself. Because when that sentence was written I was fed, beyond my need, and slept warm, and was silent.”

MEET ME IN THE MATZOH AISLE

Dear Congregants,

I don’t have any music-related items to share with you this month, but I have something I think is worthy of our consideration. As you know, the Congregation has a page on Facebook, Congregation Shaarey Hayam. We currently have 127 friends which is pretty good because when we started we had 2 or 3. In addition to congregants who are on Facebook, I have made a conscious effort to “friend” other Reform temples and other Reform and Progressive Jewish organizations. As a result, our page has lots of very interesting and wonderful Jewish content on it every day.

Recently I saw such a posting which I am including here: <http://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fjoi.org%2Fblog%2F%3Fp%3D2745&h=4ea24>. Feel free to check it out if you like. This article is from the Jewish Outreach Institute. It contains what I think is a great idea. The suggestion is that temple members should hang around the Matzoh aisle and tell other Jewish shoppers about your terrific congregation. I am pretty sure that we won’t get any volunteers to spend their weekends or evenings at Shop-Rite doing this.

I did have an idea which we are exploring. I thought we could have a little brochure about our Congregation called, “Being Jewish is More than Buying Matzoh.” I am willing to design it as I did our Hospital Visit leaflet. It would be very simple with some great pictures of our congregational activities and encourage people to come see what we’re all about. Cyndy said she would speak to the management at Shop-Rite about allowing us to do such a thing. If anyone could convince the manager to do this, Cyndy can.

Even if they won’t allow our brochure, we

can all be conscious of who's around us in the Passover Section when we're in Shop-Rite or wherever you shop and be friendly to any Jewish can all be conscious of who's around us in the Passover Section when we're in Shop-Rite or wherever you shop and be friendly to any Jewish shopprs you meet there.

Statistically more Jews celebrate Passover than any other Jewish holiday. Even people who don't consider themselves religious have Seders of some kind. This is a great opportunity for us to expand membership and let the area know that we are here and welcome new members.

When I was in Shop-Rite yesterday, I saw that they getting ready for the Passover section to be put in ((the Easter candy is already out)).

Thank you for reading this and maybe it will help us expand and grow our membership.

Philip Altland



Fundraising News

The fundraising committee meets monthly! Please join us and share your great moneymaking ideas. We need the support of every congregant to realize our collective dream of having a home of our own! Call Bari Cohen (908) 216-8742 hairvoyant@comcast.net for details.

Viridian is the green energy supplier!

Go green! Grab your current electric bill and just type www.viridian.com/temple into your browser or access from our Sha'arey Ha-Yam website, www.shaareyhayam.org. When you get to the website click on the leaf that says, "become a customer." It's that easy, just follow the prompts and provide your billing information. You will still be getting your bill from JCP&L or Atlantic City Electric. Viridian will

donate up to \$2 per household to the congregation and we save on our electric bills because of lower rates.

Dine-A-Round

Let's go for dinner! T.G.I. Fridays in Manahawkin welcomes us for 3 days of feasting starting March 17. Fridays is located on Rt. 72 next to Dunkin Donuts. Thanks to everyone who came out to Lefty's, shopped at Five Below and purchased Passover candy from the Hebrew School students.

Clothing Drive

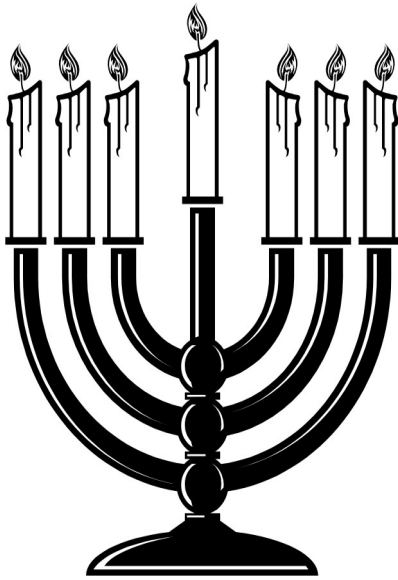
We will be accepting your clothing and shoe donations at all worship services in March and April. Please pack shoes separately in plastic bags. Collect items from your friends and neighbors too! We will be getting paid by the pound so pack those bags!

Help Wanted! The fundraising committee wants you! We need new members to help us reach our goal of having our own temple. Bring your great ideas or your brainstorming caps to the next monthly fundraising meeting. Call Bari Cohen (908) 216-8742 for details.

Please call Dayna Otto (609) 597-3239 to buy your tickets to Sahara Sam's Oasis indoor water park right away! It's a great fun filled day and tickets that you can use any day any time of year with no expiration date are only \$20 apiece. That is an incredible savings over the regular price.

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 suggestions. The cookbook sells for \$18.00 and makes an excellent gift for friends or family, and is a wonderful keepsake as well. T-shirts and cookbooks are always available at services or call or email Bari Cohen.

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.



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

FUNDRAISING NIGHT AT T.G.I. FRIDAY'S

Your organization has teamed up with our restaurant to help raise money for your organization. We will be giving your organization back 15% of all food purchases excluding tax, gratuity, and alcohol that we receive from your organization's fundraising event.



In order to participate in this event please

BRING THIS FLYER

to the restaurant on one of the date(s) listed below.

Organization:

CONGREGATION SHA' AREY HA-YAM

Time:

11:00 AM – MIDNIGHT

Date:

3/13/11 - 3/15/11

T.G.I. FRIDAY'S

**601 WASHINGTON AVENUE
MANAHAWKIN, NJ 08050**

If you have any questions about this event please contact your organizations representative or you can call the restaurant at 609.489.0950 and ask for a member of the management staff.

We look forward to seeing you there!