



Please note February Friday Night Service Dates will be February 7 and February 14.

Message from the Rabbi –February 2014

Last month I wrote about my colleague, Rabbi Phyllis Somers' blog, "Superman Sam," which chronicles the last 18 months of the life of her young son who died on December 14 of Acute Myeloid Leukemia at the age of 8. When we were together at our January service, I was touched at how many of you came up to me at the oneg to talk about it. There is something singularly tragic and awful about the death of a young child, of course. In the face of such a terrible event, most people want to be helpful; certainly, few intend to cause hurt. Since young Sam Somers' death, there's been some impassioned conversation on one of my rabbinic list serves about some of the things one should – and should never – say to a mourner. Since all of us come into contact with people who are grieving, I hope that you'll tuck these pieces of wisdom away somewhere for a time when you might use them. Typical comments appear first on each line followed by responses often felt, although not said aloud, by the mourner. Feel free to share with others as well.

Well-meaning but just plain wrong. (And here's why)

1. "God needed [your loved one] so He took him/her." (*"Do you know that for sure? Anyway, I'd rather have my husband here with me than with God, thank you very much, and I'm quite sure that he would agree."*)

2. "Be grateful that she's no longer suffering." (*"My mother's suffering was terribly painful to witness, but the end to her suffering doesn't in any way diminish how much I miss her."*)

3. "He's in a better place now." (*See #1 above.*)

4. "At least, you still have your mother." (*"Each of my parents was absolutely unique and so is my relationship with each one. I love my mother and am grateful she is here, but she doesn't substitute for my father."*)

5. "At least, you still have your other children." (*See #4 above.*)

6. "You're still young enough to meet someone else." (*"But there were so many things we never got to share together!"*)

7. "You're so lucky that you had her for so many years." (*"I'm too old to meet someone else now."*)

8. "Everybody loses their parents eventually. This is part of the natural order of things." (*"Of course I know that, but I wanted him in my life forever."*)

9. "Just give me a call if you need anything." (*"When I get up in the morning, I barely know what day it is, I have trouble getting dressed, and I can't seem to remember anything that happened more than five minutes ago. Figuring out what I might need on any given day, finding your phone number and then having the energy to pick up the phone is*

way more than I can possibly imagine doing at this time in my life.”)

10. “You just need to get closure.” (*“I don’t want to ever forget him. There is nothing that I want to ‘close.’”*)

11. “God has a purpose for everything even when we don’t know what it is.” (*“Can you explain that purpose to me?”*)

Better (And here’s why.)

1. “I am so sorry for your loss.” (*“I feel that you’re with me and that comforts me.”*)
2. “May I bring you dinner tomorrow?” (*“That would be so helpful. I wouldn’t eat otherwise.”*)
3. “I am going to the supermarket now. Can I pick up some items for you?” – OR – “I see you’re low on paper goods. Can I restock them for you?” (*“You saw what I needed. Thank you.”*)
4. “There’s snow forecast for tomorrow. Can I send over my teenager to clear your driveway?” (*“I have no idea where a shovel is. That would be so helpful.”*)
5. “I see you have a lot of thank-you notes here next to all the condolence cards you’ve received. Can I help you address them/get you stamps/take them to the post office?” (*See #3 above.*)
6. “Next Tuesday I was planning to go to a lecture at the library. Can I pick you up?” (*“I’m so worried about being alone when shiva’s over. Thank you.”*)

I’m sure that you can add your own examples to this list.

Have a very good month.

Rabbi Kim S. Geringer

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Who knew there was a Jewish Valentine’s Day?
Who knew you could learn so much stuff on Wikipedia?

As American Jews, we have become accustomed to our “corresponding holidays.” We all know about Christmas around Hanukkah and Passover around Easter. Remember to remind our Christian friends we had our holidays first.

This month of February brings us the annual celebration of Valentine’s Day, which commemorates a Christian saint, so it is not exactly a non-denominational holiday. Luckily, we have our own version, known as Tu B’Av.



This year, Tu B’Av actually falls on August 12, but you know I try not to get too technical in this column.

Apparently, in the days of the Temple, this holiday was marked by unmarried women dressing in white clothing and dancing out in the vineyards, in an effort to attract a mate. I imagine this may not go over so well currently. The modern tradition is to mark the date by getting married, renewing vows, commitment ceremonies and proposing.

So if anyone is thinking these romantic thoughts, you now have the perfect date to take action. And you even have six months to get ready!

Philip Miller

CONGREGATION SHA'AREY HA-YAM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| President | Philip Miller | 609-698-3933 | pmmlegal@aol.com |
| 1st Vice President | Philip Altland | 609-492-2751 | paltland@elliman.com |
| 2nd Vice President | Wendi Higgins | 732-232-1861 | wendi.higgins@verizon.net |
| Secretary | Rosalie Donadio | 609-296-0408 | raisele@comcast.net |
| Treasurer | Ernie Bleiweis | 609-978-4240 | sybern3539@comcast.net |
| Financial Secretary | Cyndy Friedland | 609-698-4459 | cfriedland119@comcast.net |
| Board of Trustees at Large | Rose Jackson | 609-698-8803 | rose-jackson@comcast.net |
| | Dayna Otto | 609-597-3239 | yoursdayna@comcast.net |
| | Charles Flum | 732-228-7991 | cflum1@comcast.net |
| | Aaron Shapiro | 609-242-2390 | shap1010@comcast.net |
| Past President | | | |



Yahrzeits

בראבא ve yitkadash sh'mei יתגדל

| | |
|-------------|---|
| February 3 | Mortimer Krupnick, Father of Madelyn Dunn & Sheila Ehrlich (Hebrew 3 Adar) |
| February 3 | Harold Sagman, Father of Dolly Weiss (Hebrew 17 Sherat) |
| February 7 | Leah Crespy, Mother of Jack Crespy (Hebrew 7 Adar) |
| February 9 | Eleanor Beckman, Grandmother of Wendi Higgins |
| February 9 | Dr. Elias Shapiro, Father of Aaron I. Shapiro (Hebrew 9 Adar) |
| February 12 | Morris Bleiweis, Father of Ernie Bleiweis |
| February 13 | Arthur Levine, Father of Michael Levine |
| February 19 | Olive H. Davenport, Grandmother of Laura Miller |
| February 24 | Sophia Shapiro, Mother of Aaron I. Sharpiro (Hebrew 24 Adar) |
| February 27 | Melvin Sharpiro, Brother of Aaron I. Shapiro (Hebrew 27 Adar) |



Why are Mezuzot hung diagonal?

One of the most famous French rabbis of the twelfth century was Rabbi Solomon ben Isaac, also known as Rashi. His grandson, Rabbenu Tam, felt that *mezuzot* should be affixed horizontally for the sake of tradition, because the scrolls in their leather cases were originally pushed horizontally into the crevices between the stones around the doorways of homes. Rashi argued that *mezuzot* should be affixed vertically, in such a way that the top pointed toward the Almighty. They eventually compromised, and agreed that a *mezuzah* should be hung on the diagonal, with its top inclined toward the inside.

Upcoming on February 14th.

I will be having a long-overdue Bar Mitzvah on Friday night, February 14th at 7:30. People are surprised that I never had one when I was 13, but in fact I didn't.

Thanks to the wonders of the internet, I was able to find what Torah portion I would have read in February of 1961, so I will be doing that portion at the service.

I realize this is on Valentine's Day, and many of you can think of other places you'd rather be than in Shabbat services that night, but I hope that you will come anyway and do your dinner earlier that evening (Early Bird specials are OK even on Valentine's) and please come share this occasion with me.

My college roommate, Sheldon Eldridge, will be playing the piano that evening, so that I can stand on the bimah with Rabbi Kim and lead the services. I hope to see everyone that night.

Consider it your Valentine's date with me, since I love you all.

Philip

**TEMPLE COMMITTEES****New Members Welcome**

| Temple Committees | <u>Chair/Members</u> |
|---------------------------|--|
| Birthdays & Anniversaries | <u>Susan Shapiro</u> |
| Choir | <u>Philip Altland</u> Cyndy Friedland, Wendi Higgins, Pat Barndt, Madelyn Dunn, Robert Dunn, Syble Bleiweis, Rena Kreisler |
| Finance | Treasurer, Financial Secretary, President |
| Fundraising | <u>Dayna Otto</u> Pat Barndt, Syble Bleiweis, Bari Cohen, Madelyn Dunn, Cyndy Friedland, Wendi Higgins, Joan Silverman, Blanche Spiegel |
| Greeters | <u>Rose Jackson & Judie Levin</u> Pat Barndt, Syble Bleiweis, Hope Gardiner, Wendi Higgins, Rhona Levy, Thelma Polon, Susan Shapiro |
| Hospital Visits | <u>Jack Crespy</u> |
| Membership | <u>Cyndy Friedland</u> Syble Bleiweis, Joan Silverman |
| Music | <u>Philip Altland</u> Stan Jackson |
| Newsletter | <u>Rose Jackson</u> Hope Gardiner |
| Oneg & Dinners | <u>Madelyn Dunn</u> Pat Barndt, Wendi Higgins |
| Publicity | <u>Cyndy Friedland</u> |
| Religious School | <u>Cyndy Friedland/ Phil Miller</u> |
| Ritual | <u>Charles Flum</u> Philip Altland, Stan Jackson, Alan Levy |
| Sunshine | <u>Syble Bleiweis</u> Ruth Schlyen, Phyllis Blum, Harriet Cohen |
| Tributes | <u>Syble Bleiweis</u> |
| Yahrzeits | <u>Harriet Cohen</u> |





- 📅 February 7 Robert Dunn
- 📅 February 9 Philip Altland
- 📅 February 10 Roy Spiegel
- 📅 February 11 Wendi Higgins
- 📅 February 14 Susan Shapiro
- 📅 February 24 Matthew Daley
- 📅 February 25 Laura Miller
- 📅 February 25 Michael Levine

TRIBUTE CARD SENT



To Cyndy Friedland, Death of her brother Marvin Taub from: Syble and Ernie Bleiweis, Susan and Aaron Shapiro, Philip Altland, Joan and Terry Silverman, Madelyn and Robert Dunn, Rosalie Donadio, Laura and Philip Miller, Dayna and Kurt Otto, Wendi Higgins and Pat Barndt, Rose and Stan Jackson, Harriet and Phil Cohen, Hope Gardiner, Filomena and Doug Jonas, Thelma and Hal Polon, Ruth and Gary Schlyen, Fran and Joe Breese, Sharon and Michael Kaplan, Gwendolyn Evans and Donald and Susan Mennella.

To Craig and Melanie Bleiweis and family in memory of Melanie's father, Ed Baker, from Joan and Terry Silverman and Syble and Ernie Bleiweis.

To Carol Baker in memory of her husband, Ed Baker, from Syble and Ernie Bleiweis.

Thank you



I want to send my sincerest thanks to my spiritual family and friends that have graciously acknowledged and honored the memory of my brother, Dr. Marvin Julius Taub. Your support, friendship and condolences have been instrumental in helping me through a most difficult time of his unexpected and untimely passing.

Cyndy Friedland

TRIBUTE ENGAGEMENT CONGRATULATIONS SENT



To Ruth and Gary Schlyen for the engagement of their son, Larry to Shelly Goldklang and birth of their grandson Evan Leo Goldstein---from Thelma and Hal Polon.

DONATION TO SHA'AREY HA-YAM



A donation has been made to our congregation by members, Ruth and Gary Schlyen in honor of the engagement of their son, Larry to Shelly Goldklang and the birth of their grandson Evan Leo Goldstein.

THANK YOU



Hebrew School News



With Tu B'shevat celebrated with the congregation at our annual Seder, the students' shared different ways that we can save trees and our environment. Iris has been working diligently with the students on improving their Hebrew skills, history and Jewish Ethics. Bailey Otto has joined our staff, volunteering to assist as needed by Iris, and teaching beginners Hebrew!! We are fortunate to have his assistance this year.

Watch for our Passover Candy Sale.....it's not too



far away.

Do you know any Holocaust Survivor's Family members?

Pam Ligorski from Temple Beth Am Shalom has taken on the task of finding Holocaust Survivor's family members. Her goal is to organize a '2nd Generation' group in Southern Monmouth and Ocean County. While JFS and Federation have many activities in place for the dwindling population of holocaust survivors, little is available for their children. As the wife of a child of a survivor family, she has become intimately aware of the needs of the '2nd Generation'. Needs that can be well addressed through communal efforts. Working with the Ocean County Jewish Federation, she is eager to begin organizing such a group.

Note: There are 350,000 Holocaust survivors that are alive today. Many of the survivors are in their sixties and seventies. Many of them live in the United States and Europe.

Tu B'Shevat Seder



Our third Tu B'Shevat Seder on January 14th was a huge success. We began the evening by welcoming Shabbat with the candle blessing, Kiddush and Motzei. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the pot luck dinner which featured a wide array of delicious homemade dishes of all descriptions. Amazingly enough, all of that food seemed to disappear somehow with the help of our 57 hungry congregants.

Rabbi Kim then led the Seder which was a little different this year and featured the usual selection of fruits, nuts and other foods from the land of Israel. Our Hebrew School students each gave a brief interpretation of how to celebrate the holiday by paying special care to our environment. The evening concluded with a table full of scrumptious desserts. The Hebrew School children loved making their own bird feeding treats of bagels, peanut butter and bird seed. The local birds surely had a great lunch the next day. We ended with the usual L'shanah haba'ah b'Yerushalayim (Next Year in Jerusalem)!



GABRIELLAS

PIZZERIA & RESTAURANTE

IS SPONSORING

A DINE AROUND

FOR

CONGREGATION SHA'AREY HA-YAM

DATE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2014

TIME: LUNCH THRU DINNER

1:00PM TO 8:00PM

PLACE: 733 ROUTE 72, EAST

MANAHAWKIN, NJ

(KMART SHOPPING CENTER)

609-698-7750

NOTE: CASH ONLY (ATM MACHINE AVAILABLE)

BYOB

SEE YOU THERE

PLEASE BRING THIS FLYER WITH YOU

There's more than one way to answer the call.



Super Sunday February 23, 2014

FirstEnergy Park, (Home of the Blueclaws)
2 Stadium Way, Lakewood, NJ 08701



On Super Sunday, February 23, 2014 I would like to volunteer for:

☐ Shift 1 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

☐ Yes, I will work computer data entry:

☐ Shift 2 11:30 am – 2:00 pm

11:00 to 1:30 ☐ 1:30 to 3:30 ☐ 5:00 to 7:30 ☐

☐ Shift 3 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Follow-up Sessions: Tuesday February 25th 5:00pm ☐

Thursday February 27th 5:00pm ☐

Name(s) _____ (Please print)

Phone (Home) _____ (Cell) _____ (email) _____

☐ I cannot participate at Super Sunday, but enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

Remember to bring your cell phone and charger

Please return this to: 301 Madison Ave. Lakewood, NJ 08701

Or call: 732-363-0530

THE **STRENGTH** OF A PEOPLE.
THE **POWER** OF COMMUNITY.

<http://www.jewishoceancounty.org/>



jewishocean



@jewishocean



Jewish Federation
OF OCEAN COUNTY

We NEED your support!

FUND RAISING

- Thursday, February 20, 2014 Dine Around Gabriella's 1:00pm to 8:00pm
- ShopRite Cards are a constant fund raiser. Please contact Dayna (609-709-9410) or Syble (609.978.4240) to purchase anytime. They will always be sold at services.
- Tribute Cards can be sent on your behalf to anyone you would like, for any reason you have, for a \$5 donation. Please contact Syble.

SUDS AND STUFF FUND RAISER



2013 - 2014 Temple Sha'arey Ha-Yam Schedule Services 7:30pm

Friday, February 7, 2014

**Friday, February 14, 2014 Services &
Bar Mitzvah of Philip Altland**

**Thursday, February 20, 2014 - Dine
Around , Gabriellas**

Friday, March 14, 2014

Friday, March 28, 2014

Friday, April 11, 2014

April 17, 2014 Second Seder

Friday, April 25, 2014

**Friday, May 9, 2014 Israel
Independence Day**

Friday, May 23, 2014

Friday, June 13, 2014

Friday, June 27, 2014

Birthdays

