

#### Message from the Rabbi

This is in the "Just when you think there's absolutely nothing new or creative to do with your seder" category.

Two years ago, a British colleague of mine wrote on a rabbinic listserve that a local journalist had asked him an interesting question: If you were able to add another symbolic item to your seder table, this reporter wondered, what would it be? The question caught my attention and my imagination, so I invited members of my own family and the guests who came to our home seder that year to bring such an item and be prepared to tell us why they'd chosen it. We made room on our seder plate for these items; it was a lot of fun.

One of our guests brought a battery, a plain old 9 volt battery. His explanation? "A battery represents stored, potential energy. And, in a way, that's all that we all are – stored, potential energy. This battery is capable of doing so much: running appliances, illuminating a room, filling a room with music, even protecting sleeping people from a fire! Think how much each of us is capable of doing just with what is stored away within us, waiting to be activated."

My nephew brought a tomato. He told us about agricultural workers – tomato pickers – in Florida whose backbreaking labor earns them \$1.10 an hour, in clear violation of federal and state laws. He gave us petitions to sign and asked us to send letters to our local members of Congress.

My sister placed a very old toy on the table — in-the-box. Remember them? She said it reminded her every day of the medically fragile children with whom she works as the director of a specialized health care center in New York City. She told us that the jack-in-the-box was a constant inspiration to her, symbolizing the extraordinary will that makes it possible for human beings to pick themselves back up from sometimes catastrophic injuries and illnesses and — literally — start walking again.

When it was my turn, I shared what my British colleague, Rabbi Walter Rothschild, had written because it moved me so much. I hope you will be equally affected. He said:

"My answer was – I would bring a passport. Our ancestors were stateless slaves, driven out of Egypt, wandering homeless in the desert and eventually having to push their way into a land so as to be able to establish their own State. And many, many times Jews have been driven out of their homes, had their citizenship revoked, been deported, refused entry..."

"A person with a passport is a Someone. It is sad but amazing how a little booklet of whatever color makes out of a Nobody a Somebody. With a passport you may leave your country and come back again. You may apply for a transit or a tourist or a residence visa; you are a citizen. Without it, you are a stateless piece of flotsam, liable to be arrested at harbors or airports, deported back, denied entry, even denied the right to leave. You are dependent on the mercy of someone to grant you asylum. And mercy is in short supply. Always has been.

"My grandfather died 'stateless,' a refugee from Germany into Switzerland – a country which denied him his request for an extended visa literally a week before he died. My father was a teenage schoolboy refugee from Germany to England where, after ten years or so, and after serving in the Royal Air Force, he was able to apply for naturalization papers. In contrast, all that I had to do was to make the necessary arrangements with my Creator to get born in the right place and I got this citizenship automatically!

"So – if I fill in the forms, supply the photo and pay the fees – Her Majesty's Government in return gives me a little booklet and promises to protect me and support me wherever I may go – and promises me a homeland to return to when I wish. That's pretty good, powerful stuff! And a good symbol for all of us lucky enough to have such a booklet. And food for thought – to stimulate us into thinking about refugees today, those who still eat the bread of poverty with the bitter taste of salt tears."

What matters to you? What could you bring to your seder table to explain it?

I wish you a most meaningful Passover 5774.

### Rabbi Kim Geringer



#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Here is the Wikipedia description of Jewish houses of worship:



Interior of the Esnoga synagogue in Amsterdam

Synagogues are Jewish houses of prayer and study. They usually contain separate rooms for prayer (the main sanctuary), smaller rooms for study, and often an area for community or educational use. There is no set blueprint for synagogues and the architectural shapes and interior designs of synagogues vary greatly. The Reform movement mostly refer to their synagogues as temples. Some traditional features of a synagogue are:

- The <u>ark</u> (called *aron ha-kodesh* by <u>Ashkenazim</u> and *hekhal* by <u>Sephardim</u>) where the <u>Torah</u> scrolls are kept (the ark is often closed with an ornate curtain (*parochet*) outside or inside the ark doors);
- The elevated reader's platform (called *bimah* by Ashkenazim and *tebah* by Sephardim), where the Torah is read (and services are conducted in Sephardi synagogues);
- The <u>eternal light</u> (*ner tamid*), a continually lit lamp or lantern used as a reminder of the constantly lit <u>menorah</u> of the <u>Temple in</u> <u>Jerusalem</u>
- The pulpit, or *amud*, a lectern facing the Ark where the <u>hazzan</u> or prayer leader stands while praying.

Newsletter April 2014

It does not require much, but at the same time requires quite a bit.

Just some food for thought. Wishing everyone a good month.

Phílíp Míller





CONGREGATION SHA'AREY HA-YAM BOARD OF TRUSTEES					
President	Philip Miller	609-698-3933	pmmlegal@aol.com		
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Philip Altland	609-492-2751	paltland@elliman.com		
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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	cfriedland 119@ com cast. 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		
Past President	Aaron Shapiro	609-242-2390	shap1010@comcast.net		

	4
;	

#### Yahrzeits

#### יתגדל ve yitkadash sh'mei בראבא

April 3	Harry Herman, Father of Phyllis Remocker
April 6	Bernard Lewis, Father of Samuel Lewis, Hebrew Date: Nisan 4
April 7	Ida Fienstein, Grandmother of Samuel Lewis, Hebrew Date: Nisan 5
April 7	Shirley Feather, Mother of Leonard Feather, Hebrew Date: Nisan 7
April 10	Samuel Sales, Brother of Maralyn Ricciardi
April 22	Rita LaMell, Wife of Harold Markowitz
April 26	Sylvia Chasanoff, Mother of Deanna Bovasso
April 27	Jack Silverman, Father of Terry Silverman, Hebrew Date: Iyar 16

#### **Hebrew School News**



Our students enjoyed watching a movie *The Story of Esther* this month as they studied about Purim.

They also did wonderful pictures which were displayed at our Purim Shabbat service. Sharon Gatto made Hamantashin with the fixings provided by Filomina Jonas with the students so they could partake in this traditional dessert.

Studying Hebrew and history has been ongoing with Iris, and the camaraderie of the class is growing stronger every week.

2013 - 2014 Temple Sha'arey Ha-Yam Schedule			
Services 7:30pm			
Friday, April 11, 2014			
April 15, 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			

# TEMPLE COMMITTEES New Members Welcome

Temple Committees	Chair/Members
Birthdays &	Susan Shapiro
Anniversaries	<u> </u>
	Philip Altland
	Cyndy Friedland, Wendi Higgins, Pat
Choir	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	Rose Jackson & Judie Levin
	Pat Barndt, Syble Bleiweis, Hope
	Gardiner, Wendi Higgins, Thelma
	Polon, Susan Shapiro
Hospital Visits	<u>Jack Crespy</u>
Membership	Cyndy Friedland
	Syble Bleiweis, Joan Silverman
Music	<u>Philip Altland</u>
	Stan Jackson
Newsletter	Rose Jackson
	Hope Gardiner
Oneg & Dinners	<u>Madelyn Dunn</u>
	Pat Barndt, Wendi Higgins
Publicity	<u>Cyndy Friedland</u>
Religious School	Cyndy Friedland/ Phil Miller
Ritual	<u>Charles Flum</u>
	Philip Altland , Stan Jackson, Alan Levy
Sunshine	<u>Syble Bleiweis</u>
	Ruth Schlyen, Phyllis Blum,
	Harriet Cohen
Tributes	Syble Bleiweis
Yahrzeits	<u>Harriet Cohen</u>





April 11 David Jonas

April 29 Sandy Goldsborough





#### TRIBUTE CARD SENT

Sympathy: Robin and Dennis Meyerson,

Loss of Beloved pets. From: Hope Gardiner

#### **TRIBUTE CARD SENT**



Congratulations to: Philip Altland on the occasion

of his Bar Mitzvah

From: Phil and Harriet Cohen, Alan and Rhona

Levy, and Miles Levy

Congratulations to: Jack Crespy on the birth of his

Great Grandaughter Eva Grace

From:

Phil and Harriet Cohen



Get Well to: Lou Lehman from the Congregation

Get Well to: Robert Dunn and Pat Barndt from the Congregation as they recover from surgery.

We also are keeping Maralyn Ricciardi in our thoughts and prayers as she is hospitalized in Florida.

**Matzo Brei** For each person use: 1 MATZO (Try whole wheat - they won't even notice!), 1 MEDIUM EGG, 1 teaspoon BROWN SUGAR, 1 shake of cinnamon

Break matzos in a large bowl, pour hot water over. After a couple of minutes, pour water off, squeeze surplus water out, add other ingredients and mix well.

Melt a little butter or margarine in a frying pan, add mixture all at once and flatten out into a large cake. You can cut it in the pan while it is cooking, or make small individual ones. Flip it when it starts getting crusty underneath (good luck flipping a whole one!). Cook through until well done but still soft.

Serve immediately, with brown sugar to sprinkle. You'll have a great morning after that! Susan Levy, Australia

### We NEED your support!

- New fundraiser Amazon Smile When shopping at <u>AMAZON Smile</u> you can designate REFORM JEWISH COMMUNITY of BARNEGAT (there are no additional fees, the congregation makes a percentage).
- ShopRite Cards are always sold at services, but can be purchased anytime by contacting Dayna (609.709.9410) or Syble (609.978.4240)
- Tribute Cards can be sent to anyone for any reason with a minimum donation of \$5. Please contact Syble (609.978.4240).
- Stay tuned for our next dine-a-round



Saturday April 26th at the Little Egg Harbor Library on Mathistown Road (off Route 9) 2 PM a music concert



Featuring Ed Goldberg & the Odessa Klezmer Band (sponsored by the Friends of the Little Egg Harbor Library 609-294-1197) ARTWORK by

DANIELLE ADELAIDE JONAS

Studies in the Arts:

BFA Senior Exhibition

April 1st to April 28th

Free and open to the public

Saturday Noon to 7:30 pm; Sunday Noon to 4 pm

Reception: April 6th,1 pm to 3 pm

Richard Stockton College of New Jersey

Art Gallery

101 Vera King Farris Drive

Galloway, NJ 08205

## HELP GROW OUR MEMBERSHIP INVITE A FRIEND TO FRIDAY NITE



#### Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam's Annual

Second Night Seder will be held at 5PM on Tuesday, April 15th

at

Kristy's Casual Dining, 562 Route 9, Waretown

Seder will be conducted by Rabbi Kim Geringer

Members & Extended Family: \$39 pp Member Children 12 & under: \$13 pp Non-member: \$50 pp Non-member children \$17 pp

#### Menu-includes:

Salad, Matzo Ball Soup, Gefilte Fish, Herb Roasted Chicken or Salmon Roasted Potatoes and Vegetable



Dessert Wine, Soda, Coffee or Tea Children's menu will be chicken

### RESERVATIONS DUE BEFORE APRIL 10TH

Please return your reservation form and check payable to:

Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam
C/O Madelyn Dunn
148 Leeward Road
Manahawkin, NJ 08050
Phone 609-660-1614

Names Attending\_\_\_\_\_\_
Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_Phone\_\_\_\_\_

Member's attending\_\_\_\_ Non-members attending\_\_\_\_\_
Amount of check enclosed\_\_\_\_\_ Choice of entree and how many:

Chicken\_\_\_\_\_ Salmon\_\_\_\_ Children's meal\_\_\_\_\_\_



## The Lion Seeker Bonert

#### by Kenneth

It seems that the majority of the Jewish population of Johannesburg, South Africa, (or Joberg as it is called by its citizens) came from Lithuania and known (as they were in the U.S.) as Litvaks with a distinct Yiddish dialect. And that dialect is accurately translated from its idiomatic expressions via phonetic Yiddish. In the style of I.B.Singer, Philip Roth and Henry Roth, who documented the layers of "adjustment", the story of an émigré family from a shtetl in Lithuania who travels to a land of opportunity and safety in the 1920's. The feel of poverty is palpable, the adjusting to an alien culture is oftimes painful and the ways in which both are dealt with are similar to the 20s and 30s in the U.S. Most took or attempted to take the entire family with them and the ties of "landsleit" are strong.

The choices made and their ramifications against the background of local anti-Semitism and the rise of Nazi Germany are trapped and digested on these pages. It is not a quick read (a large book) but one to be digested. I was mesmerized by the familiarity of the characters ... I knew these people, these survivors from a culture and language with which I was familiar. If you are a Litvak and are curious about the strength of character passed on via your "survival gene", I recommend this .... And if you are "old" enough, you will recognize and enjoy the phonetic Yiddish expressions ... now lost to us ... for that world had disappeared (the Yiddish of the Haredim ... doesn't count):

Submitted by: Rosalie Donadio



Passover is coming....don't miss our Second Night Seder!!

The deadline for our Passover reservations is Tuesday, April 10th! We need to have your reservations by 3PM. Bring your family and extended family to Kristy's casual dining in Waretown for a wonderful Seder with your spiritual family. You can have your own family and friends table. Be sure to indicate this on your reservation and mail it to Madelyn Dunn. It's getting late, so be sure to get your reservations in!! The flyer is included with this newsletter.

