

Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam

Newsletter for AUGUST 2012

www.shaareyhayam.org

Message from the Rabbi:

Before I came to Sha'arey Ha-Yam I had never led worship services in a church. Synagogue, beach, summer camp, classroom – yes. But church? No. When I came to meet with the search committee, they showed me around; of course, I was particularly interested in the sanctuary. A large screen pulled down over a large cross mounted on the back wall, so the space seemed manageable. Pretty quickly, I found myself used to it and I came to enjoy the coziness of the sanctuary. When I look out, I see only all of your faces and the rest of the surroundings fade into the background anyway. The sanctuary decorations during the month of December are, well, intense (☺), but we all seem to have the ability to shrug and laugh together about it. We are, after all, renters in another faith community's home.

How much does the actual space in which Jewish worship takes place matter? I would have to say – not too much but also a lot. I've been aware of the yearning for our own space since I arrived here three years ago although I don't know how much of that feeling is about the sanctuary and how much about what it would mean to have an actual synagogue building here in south Ocean County – the symbolism and the statement that that would make. Sometimes things that happen by accident or chance are revelatory. One Friday night last spring we were observing Yom Ha'atzma'ut, Israel Independence Day. I had asked Madeline and Cyndy if we could have some Israel-themed items for the oneg. At literally the last minute, one of them (forgive me, I can't recall who) said, "I brought an Israeli flag," and I got the idea to fasten it to the altar so that everyone could see it during our service. What an impact! So many people came up to me at the oneg to say, "It was wonderful having the flag there! The flag made the space feel so much more Jewish, so much warmer and more welcoming!" Ever since, we've put up the flag at every service, and I agree that it's had a transformative effect. And that really got me thinking.

I know that for a long time the hope has been to build or buy our own building, and I would love that too. But a few months ago, I told a few of our congregational leaders that I wanted to take a different approach. It seems likely, I said, that we're going to be here or in some other rented space for the foreseeable future. Given the size of our congregation, its demographics and the state of the economy, I don't realistically see the situation changing. That being said, why don't we turn our attention to how we can make the worship space that we *do* have as comfortable for us as possible? Once in agreement, we started to think about how creatively – and inexpensively – we could do so.

The first thing I did was send an e-mail to Gary Daly, who had once said to me, "I can build anything." Now, in our circumstances, you don't forget a statement like that! I asked Gary if he would be willing to help us construct a new ark. The ark that we inherited is not only terribly heavy but our Torah scrolls don't fit in it properly. As a result, we put it up only on the High Holidays and when we have a bar or bat mitzvah ceremony. I figured that if we had a more functional ark, we could have it with us at every service, and we could see our scrolls, the

embodiment of our tradition. Gary could not have been more gracious in his response, and despite being about to undergo shoulder surgery, he offered to build us a new and beautiful ark. We next focused on the covers for our Torahs. As you probably know, since they too were donated, they are old and worn, unattractive, and pay tribute to people none of us know! I suggested that the Board investigate working with Judaic artist, Nancy Katz, with whom I did several projects in past years. Nancy can not only create beautiful hand-painted silk Torah covers, banners, chuppahs and other ritual items, she leads communities in designing and then co-creating these items under her guidance. The results are beautiful, one of a kind, and the work of the congregation itself – young and old. I am so pleased that Nancy Katz will be coming to our community on August 7 and 8 for what will be an incredibly creative, dynamic and just plain fun experience creating covers for our Torah scrolls and a curtain for what will be our new ark. Philip Altland, with help from Dayna Otto, is coordinating the project. Don't miss it! Once everything is completed, we'll have a wonderful dedication ceremony – this will really be something to celebrate. So save the date(s) and prepared to be dazzled by the results. And prepare to sit in a worship space that feels more *hamish*, more Jewish – more like home!

Have a good month!

Rabbi Kim S. Geringer

President's Message:

There are many events that have an effect upon our lives as Jews. The latest danger is the situation in Syria that may force Israel to attack the arsenals in that country. The reason behind this thinking is that al-Qaida may get their hands on the chemical and biological warfare arsenal as well as other dangerous material to the Israeli nation. Accompanying these problems is the situations in most of the countries throughout the Middle East. Along with these dangers, a worldwide alert is out to all Israelis travelling throughout the world as to their safety. This is after the fatal tourist bus attack carrying Israelis in Belarus.

It is becoming more and more important for us to become much more alert to the surroundings in which we live and travel. Many of us travel within this country and abroad. Many countries have become less friendly as the years have progressed and we should only travel to areas that we know are completely friendly for our own safety. This is especially true at a time when we remember and honor those members of the Israeli Olympic team that were slaughtered during the Munich Olympics. Even though this has not currently occurred here in Ocean County, it is strongly recommended that we be ever aware that some radical somewhere may decide it is time to make waves here in Ocean County. Be aware of where you travel and be ever cautious.

“REMINDER”: Everyone should be getting in touch with Philip Altland to schedule their participation in the design and painting of our modern torah covers and new curtain for the Ark. This is a once in a lifetime event. Don't miss out, make your day and time reservation now (see accompanying flyer).

Aaron Shapiro, President

Get Well Wishes to:

Joel Polter, Gary Daley, Terry Silverman, Beatrice Roth and Joseph Breese.

Mazel Tov to:

Wendi Higgins and Pat Barndt on their recent conversion to Judaism.

Our condolences to the families of Stan Jackson and Rita Gold on their recent losses.

Following is a list of the committees and the names of the volunteers for each one:

Committee	Chair/Members
MEMBERSHIP	Cyndy Friedland
RITUAL	Hal Polon, (Music: Philip Altland, Stan Jackson) (Greeter: Rose Jackson)
FUNDRAISING	Dayna Otto, Syble Bleiweis, Madelyn Dunn, Bari Cohen, Gina Cohen, Rena Kreisler, Cyndy Friedland, Rhonda Daley
SUNSHINE	Syble Bleiweis, Arlene Armstrong, Harriet Cohen, Ruth Schlyen
HOSPITALITY	Volunteers needed, Arlene Armstrong, Ruth Schlyen
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	Cyndy Friedland, Phil Miller
PUBLICITY	Aaron Shapiro
BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES	Susan Shapiro
Yahrzeits	Sandy Polter
NEWSLETTER	Rosalie Donadio, Hope Gardiner, Susan Shapiro
ONEG & DINNERS	Madelyn Dunn, Philomena Jonas, Sheila Erlich, Pat Barndt, Wendi Higgins

Contact Aaron at 242-2390 or email at shap1010@comcast.net if you wish to become a member of one of these committees. We need your expertise to keep our congregation moving forward. All our committees need volunteers.

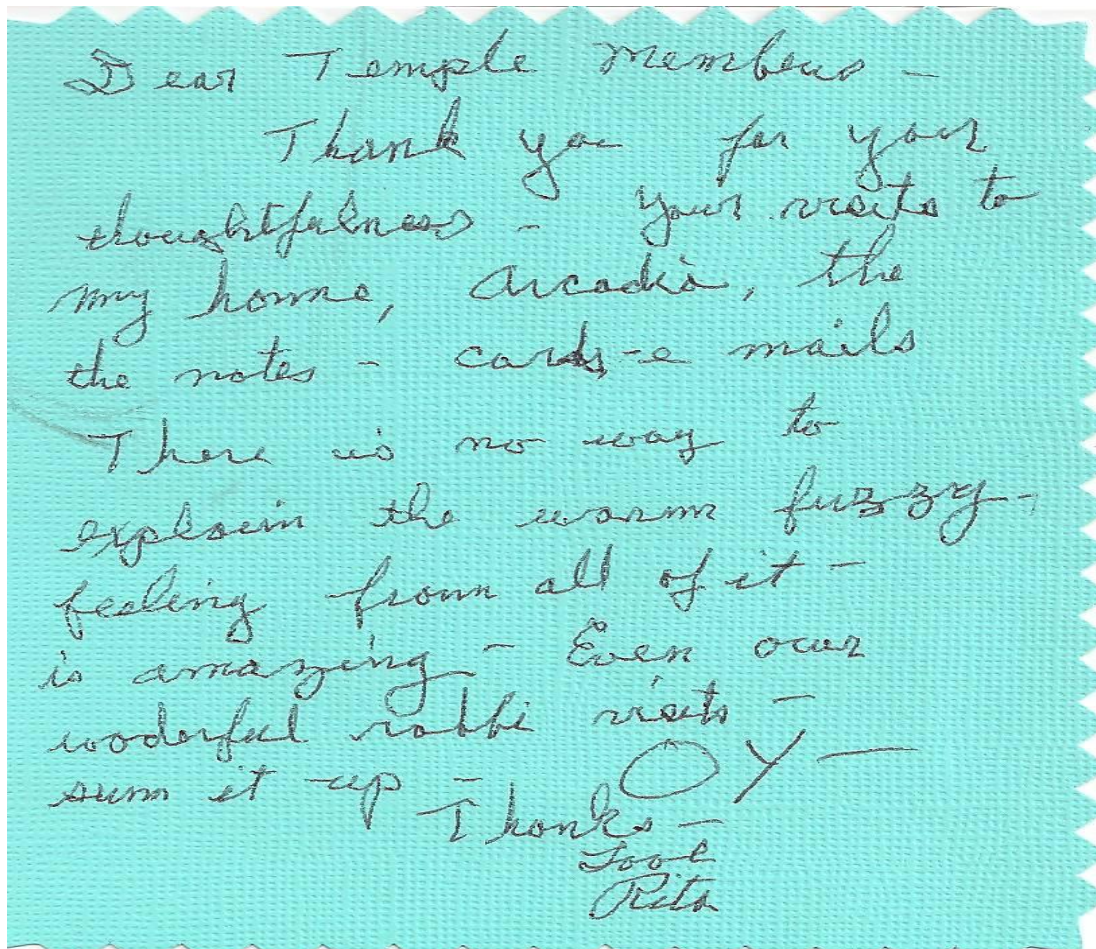
HEBREW 101 STUDENTS SURVIVED!!!

Iris Hariri instructed 4 members and 3 non-members through 5 weeks of classes of Hebrew 101, and everyone would like to continue!! This is great, as we knew once everyone got familiar with their alphabet, it would be repeating the letters, learning the vowels, then the prayers! The students enjoyed their time with Iris and are looking to continue in the fall. If there are others who would like to start a second Hebrew 101 class, please email me at Cfriedland119@comcast.net or call me at 609-698-4459. We will see how we can coordinate timing for a second class.

Cyndy Friedland, Hebrew School Director

The following note to Temple members was received from Rita Gold just prior to her passing. I thought I should share her thoughts with you. May she rest in peace.

Aaron Shapiro



Dear Temple members -
Thank you for your
thoughtfulness - your visits to
my home, Acadia, the
the notes - cards & mails
There is no way to
express the warm fuzzy
feeling from all of it -
is amazing - Even our
wonderful rabbi visits -
sum it up - Thank you -
Love
Rita

URGENT NOTICE

PLEASE NOTE: To have the name of your loved one listed in The Bulletin and announced at Services by the Rabbi on the anniversary of their Yahrzeit, **contact Sandye Polter at 36 Rumson Ct, Waretown, NJ 08758 or call (609)242-7525.** Even if you have sent in a name/names before, your response is necessary in order to insure that this process is up to date and that your Yahrzeit will be announced.

Yahrzeit August 2012

(Av 16) August 4	Molly Young, Mother of Phyllis Feather
August 4	Esther Frank, Mother of Rhoda Preissman
August 16	Nathan Sales, Father of Maralyn Ricciardi
August 17	Morris Gold, Father of Rita Gold
August 18	Gussie Flaxman, Mother of Joan Silverman
August 19	Lillyan Harmon, Mother of Inez Levine
August 19	Trudi Gardiner, Mother of Hope Gardiner
August 20	Dave Frank, Father of Rhoda Preissman
August 26	Albert Grossman, Brother of Fran Breese

August Birthdays

16	Rena Kreisler
23	David Levin
29	Rhonda Daley

August Anniversaries

11/1996	Rich and Sandy Goldsborough
20/1967	Hal and Thelma Polon

Please email Sue Shapiro at shap1010@comcast.net with birthday and anniversary update information.

AUGUST NEWS FROM THE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE:

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 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 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.

2012 SCHEDULE OF SERVICES 7:30 PM (DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE). PLEASE NOTE THAT SERVICE DATES HAVE BEEN CHANGED FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER.

	September 26 Yom Kippur; Break the Fast
July 27	October 2 (erect Sukkah on Tuesday)
August 3 (NEW DATE)	October 5
August 17 (NEW DATE)	October 19
September 7	November 2
September 16 Erev Rosh Hashanah	November 16
September 17 Rosh Hashanah	December 7
September 25 Erev Yom Kippur	December 21

Book Review

Azare! by Karoly Pap

Never before published in English, *Azare!* almost disappeared forever, along with its author, into the flames of Hitler's Holocaust. Nearly sixty-five years after its first publication, this realistic and powerful novel by one of Hungary's finest writers may at least claim the modern masterpiece status it so richly deserves. Gyuri is the son of a rabbi in a modern Jewish setting living in rural Hungary at the start of the twentieth century. Papa Jeremiah, Gyuri's paternal grandfather and an Orthodox fanatic, believes that by consorting and living with "pagans", his son and his followers are helping to "melt the Jewish people in the furnaces of exile" –prophetic and haunting language for a book published in 1937.

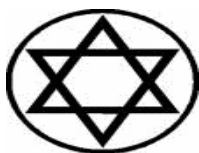
The father rigid and respectable, expects filial obedience and Judaic devotion from his son, but gets something quite different. The boy is furious at Judaism and at his father for trying to make him believe in a God for whom he has little use.

Born in 1897, Karoly Pap worked as a laborer and actor, and published numerous poems, stories, and essays, and two novels. In 1944, he was taken to Buchenwald where he refused to leave his fellow inmates, who recognized him and offered to help him escape so he could write about their plight. Later that year, he disappeared into Bergen-Belsen.

Dramatized with a sensibility that echoes Isaac Babel (Russian) and Henry Roth (Austrian), this is a realistic and powerful story, narrated with authority and force; the result is a corrosive sense of human suffering that pulls the reader along to a redemptive ending, made all the more poignant by the reader's knowledge of the author's own fate.

La Shana Tova 5773
Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam

"Gates of the Sea"



A Reform Congregation

Rabbi Kim Geringer Conducting



COME JOIN US FOR THE HIGH HOLIDAYS

ROSH HASHANAH – SEPTEMBER 16 & 17

& YOM KIPPUR SERVICES – SEPTEMBER 25 & 26

HELD AT THE

Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit,

333 NO. Main St. (Route 9), Manahawkin

Evening services start at 7:00 PM

Morning services start at 10:00 AM

High Holiday Tickets Order Form 5773

NAME

ADDRESS TOWN

PHONE EMAIL

Non-Member Tickets: \$ 125.00 per seat

Children Ages 6– 21: \$25.00

Children 5 & under: No Charge

Member & Children tickets: Included in Dues

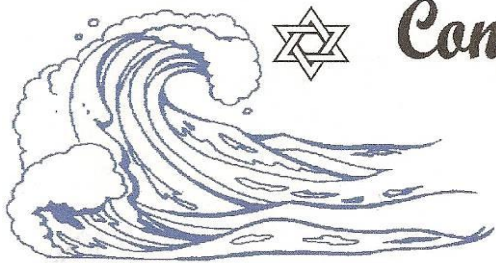
Family of Members: \$ 75.00 per seat

Children of family members: \$ 15.00

NEED INFO.—CALL AARON @ (609) 242-2390

Mail form & make check payable to:

RJCB, PO Box 1268, Manahawkin, NJ 08050



Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam

Gates of the Sea

P.O. Box 1268, Manahawkin, NJ 08050

**Help us design and paint covers
for our torahs and a curtain for our new ark
under the direction of
NANCY KATZ**

**Nationally Known Jewish Artist and Educator
Bring your brother, sister or grandchildren to
watch this amazing procedure!**



AUGUST 7 & 8

1:00 – 4:00 PM

**LBI Foundation for the Arts and Sciences in
LOVELADIES**

**TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT, CONTACT
PHILIP ALTLAND 609-492-2751**