



Message from the Rabbi February, 2013

“We’re a warm and welcoming congregation!” How many times have you heard that phrase used by a congregation to describe itself? Don’t get me wrong; it’s an admirable goal. But it falls short of the mark far too often. Several years ago, over the course of a several month period, a “stealth” group of lay leaders from the Union for Reform Judaism visited congregations all over the country on Friday evenings. Arriving unannounced, they almost always found themselves ignored. No one greeted them when they entered the building. They sat alone in the sanctuary and, more often than not, stood by themselves at the oneg. Their widely-reported experiences were sobering to those who care about creating synagogue communities that are, in fact, truly welcoming. One of those visitors later said, “I did it frequently enough that I knew within *15 seconds of walking into the building* if anyone there would talk to me that night. If I hadn’t been ‘on a mission’ I would have walked right out.”

This past Friday evening was our annual Tu b’Shvat Seder. Told in advance that we might have some new faces there, I was on the lookout. Sure enough, before the dinner began I was introduced to a lovely woman who was with us for the first time. We chatted for awhile. As much as I was enjoying the conversation, after a few minutes I needed to excuse myself to confer with Philip about music for the Seder. I spotted a table where some of our members had already settled themselves. Steering the woman to that table, I made introductions, went off to find Philip, and hoped for the best. I needn’t have been concerned. When I looked back about 20 minutes later, the entire table – the four “regulars” plus our visitor – were engaged in a spirited discussion. We may be small in number and limited in resources, but in our congregation, “warm and welcoming” is the real deal.

Why does “warm and welcoming” so often fail? Why are synagogue visitors too often left to fend for themselves? Some of us are genuinely shy; it’s not so easy for us to start a conversation with a stranger. And we all like to catch up with our own friends. Still, think about a time when you were new somewhere - unsure or alone. Did someone reach out to you? Do you remember how grateful you were? Imagine what might be behind the timid smile of the first-time visitor – the pain of a recent loss, the insecurity of having just moved to a new community, the hope of finding new friends. What else just might be waiting there for an opportunity to emerge? A great sense of humor, an understanding ear, an intuitive mind, compassion, enthusiasm, energy? There is a period of *15 seconds* to find out, 15 seconds in which a stranger may either join the mosaic of our

Message from the Rabbi (continued)

community – or, walk out the door and never come back. In these moments, each and every member of the congregation is a *malach* – an angel, a messenger of God. *Melachim* – angels – change lives. From Rabbi Lawrence Kushner, we learn: “And so we understand that ordinary people are messengers of the Most High. They go about their tasks in holy anonymity, often, even unknown to themselves. Yet, if they had not been there, if they had not said what they said or did what they did, it would not be the way it is now. We would not be the way we are now. Never forget that you, too, yourself may be a messenger. Perhaps even one whose errand extends over several lifetimes.”

Have a very good month.

Rabbi Kim S. Geringer

CONGREGATION SHA'AREY HA-YAM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Past President	Cyndy Friedland	609-698-4459	cfriedland119@comcast.net

MEMBERS BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES FOR FEBRUARY – MAZEL TOV AND ENJOY YOUR SPECIAL DAY!

Birthdays	February	07	Dunn Robert
		09	Altland Philip
		11	Higgins Wendi
		14	Shapiro Susan
		20	Benjamin Lessig
		24	Daley Matthew
		25	Miller Laura
		25	Levine Michael
Anniversaries	February		none

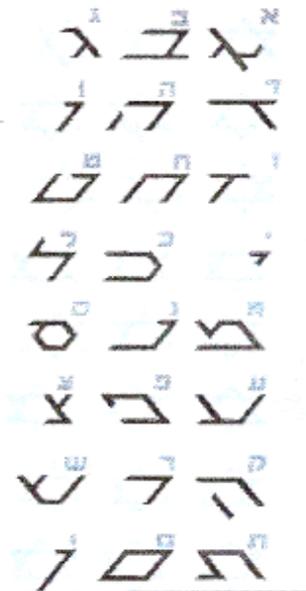
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This is an exciting month to enjoy Hamentaschin and the story of Queen Esther. As Purim approaches, we can all enjoy a joint Purim Carnival on Sunday, February 24 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Congregation B'nai Israel, 1488 Old Freehold Road in Toms River. Your children and grand kids will have a wonderful time playing games, doing arts and crafts as well as other fun things.

The continued effects that the storm Sandy has had on some of our members is unthinkable. Maybe, with the government finally passing the Sandy relief bill, work can progress as the money becomes available. This has been a trying period for those affected and it is time for this period to end.

As we look forward, Passover will soon be upon us. The second Seder falls on Tuesday March 26 and we will hold ours at the Captain's Inn. Last year we filled up very quickly, so when reservations are requested, please get yours in as soon as possible. May we all have a warm winter and deal with only a little white stuff. The following was sent to me online and I thought it would be interesting to share.

Interesting. An amazing fact about the Jewish Star: Even if you are not Jewish, this is really amazing. The Jewish Star (of David) is also referred to as a MAGEN DAVID. ALL 24 LETTERS OF THE HEBREW ALPHABET ARE FOUND IN A MAGEN DAVID (Star of David). THERE IS NO SUCH THING IN ANY OTHER LANGUAGE.



Best Regards,
Aaron Shapiro

GUEST SPEAKER

Rabbi Sally J. Priesand
First Woman Rabbi

Attached is a short biography of our special speaker scheduled for
Friday evening, April 5.

SAVE THE DATE

“Reflections On My Life As A Rabbi”



Rabbi Sally J. Priesand, America's first female rabbi, was ordained in June, 1972, by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio. From 1981-2006, she served as Rabbi of Monmouth Reform Temple, becoming Rabbi Emerita upon her retirement.

Nationally, she has served on the Executive Board of both the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the Union for Reform Judaism. She also served as a member of the Board of Governors of HUC-JIR, as President of the Rabbinic Alumni Association, and for three years as editor of the CCAR

Newsletter. In 2007, she invited her female rabbinic colleagues of all denominations to join her in donating their professional and personal papers to the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati, Ohio, in order to document the history of women in the rabbinate.

Locally, she is an Honorary Vice President of the Jewish Federation of Greater Monmouth County and President of Interfaith Neighbors. She chairs the membership committee of the Center for Holocaust, Human Rights and Genocide Education (CHHANGE) at Brookdale Community College, is an active supporter of the Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County and works closely with Planned Parenthood on both the local and national level. .

She is the recipient of many awards and honors. The most recent include receiving, in 2009, the Elizabeth Blackwell Award from Hobart and William Smith Colleges and the Distinguished Alumni Award from the McMicken College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Cincinnati. In 2010, in honor of its 125th anniversary, GOOD HOUSEKEEPING MAGAZINE named her one of 125 women who changed our lives and our world.

Rabbi Priesand, a native of Cleveland, Ohio, lives in Ocean Township, New Jersey, together with her Boston Terrier, Shadow.

TEMPLE COMMITTEES

Yahrzeit FEBRUARY 2013

Contact Aaron at 242-2390 or email at shap1010@comcast.net if you wish to become a member of one of these committees or contact the Committee Chairperson.

Committee	Chair/Members
MEMBERSHIP	Cyndy Friedland
RITUAL	Hal Polon, Charles Flum
MUSIC	Philip Altland , Stan Jackson
GREETERS	Rose Jackson, Judie Levin, Pat Barndt, Syble Bleiweis, Hope Gardiner, Wendi Higgins, Thelma Polon, Maralyn Ricciardi
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
HOSPITAL VISITS	Susan Shapiro, Sandye Polter, Arlene Armstrong, Ruth Schlyen
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	Cyndy Friedland, Phil Miller
PUBLICITY	Aaron Shapiro
BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES	Susan Shapiro
Yahrzeits	Sandye Polter
NEWSLETTER	Rose Jackson, Rosalie Donadio, Hope Gardiner, Susan Shapiro
ONEG & DINNERS	Madelyn Dunn, Philomena Jonas, Sheila Ehrlich, Pat Barndt, Wendi Higgins

Date	Yahrzeit	Congregant
1	Marvin Taub	Cousin of Cyndy Friedland
3	Harold Sagman	Father of Dolly Weiss
3	Mortimer Krupnick	Father of Madeline Dunn
7	Irwin Frazer	Cousin of Harriet Cohen
9	Eleanor Beckman	Grandmother of Wendi Higgins
10	Lou Block	Father of Rena Kreisler
12	Morris Bleiweis	Father of Ernie Bleiweis
13	Arthur Levine	Father of Michael Levine
17	Irving Schneider	Father of Ruth Schyen
27	Elias Shapiro	Father of Aaron Shapiro

Illness or Sympathy Cards from the Congregation

Please notify Arlene Armstrong at 609-242-1303 or by e-mail at aarmst@hotmail.com of an illness of one of our members or of the death of a member of our congregation or member of their family. Arlene will be doing this for February and March.

Tribute Cards

Tribute cards are available to congregants and friends for making donations in memory of, in honor of, to celebrate all life cycle events.

To make the donation kindly contact:
Syble Bleiweis at 609-978-4240 or
sebleiweis@comcast.net
or Cyndy Friedland at 609-698-4459
or cfriedland119@comcast.net.

As soon as your check for the donation is received the tribute card will be mailed to the recipient. Checks should be mailed to whomever you speak to or email the request to:

Syble Bleiweis
70 Oak Ridge Lane
Manahawkin, NJ 08050

Cyndy Friedland
16D Acorn Road
Manahawkin, NJ 08050

Passover. During our Tu B'Shvat Shabbat dinner Reece Otto, Matthew Gatto, Meghan Doctor, Garrett Majewski, Brianna Otto and Corey Mullen all shared their home work assignments on what they felt their ancestors contributed to their lives and what they would leave to their descendents. It was quite an array of different stories!! Next month the students will be preparing for Purim...watch for a surprise at our Hebrew School Shabbat dinner :))

Purim Shabbat Dinner

Please join the Hebrew school as they invite all our congregants, family, friends and neighbors to share in another culinary delight....our pot luck Purim dinner!! There is an invitation in this newsletter for you to fill out so you won't miss out on another fun evening with your spiritual family and friends. Save the date of Friday, February 22nd and be sure to come in costume if you wish!!

PURIM CARNIVAL on SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH

Our congregation along with 4 other congregations in Ocean County and Ocean County Federation are holding a Purim Carnival for young and old at Congregation B'nai Israel in Toms River. This is the first carnival of its kind, with rides, Queen Esther's Beauty Salon, great food and friendship! This is a great opportunity for your youth to mix and mingle with approximately 250 other Jewish students that are from Ocean County. Please plan to attend and bring your friends. Why not be at an ***Ocean County First joint venture***!! It's a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon...see you there...and check out the flyer!! Volunteers are needed to help supervise the games, gifts, etc. There will be a sign up sheet at the Oneg. See Flyer attached.

Tribute Card Sent to Rabbi Kim Geringer

Patricia Barndt and Wendi Higgins in honor of Rabbi Geringer helping them through their conversion process.

Hebrew School News

Our students have been making great progress with their lessons and history with Iris and Mike. For Tu B'Shvat the students dressed up flower pots to plant their parsley that will grow and be ready

Suggested Good Reads by Rose Jackson

The List

By [Martin Fletcher](#)

★★★★☆ 3.66 Out of 5.00 on Goodreads.com

Review by Goodreads.com

“Martin Fletcher has captivated television audiences for thirty-five years as a foreign correspondent for NBC News. Now, Fletcher combines his own family’s history with meticulous research in this gripping story of a young Jewish family struggling to stay afloat after World War II. “

“London, October 1945. Austrian refugees Georg and Edith await the birth of their first child. Yet how can they celebrate when almost every day brings news of another relative or friend murdered in the Holocaust? Their struggle to rebuild their lives is further threatened by growing anti-Semitism in London's streets; Englishmen want to take homes and jobs from Jewish refugees and give them to returning servicemen.

Edith's father is believed to have survived, and finding him rests on Georg's shoulders. Then Georg learns of a plot by Palestinian Jews to assassinate Britain’s foreign minister. Georg must try to stop the murder, all the while navigating a city that wants to "eject the aliens."

In The List, Fletcher investigates an ignored and painful chapter in London’s history. The novel is both a breathless thriller of postwar sabotage and a heartrending and historically accurate portrait of an almost forgotten era. In this sensitive, deeply touching, and impossible-to-forget story, Martin Fletcher explores the themes of hope, prejudice, loss and love that make up the lives of all refugees everywhere.”

Comment: I enjoyed this book and recommend it.

Jewish Tidbits

What is the big deal about Friday the 13th? The idea of 13 as an unlucky number has origins in both pagan and Christian traditions. In the Jewish tradition, however, 13 is not an inauspicious number.

- However, the great 12th-century Rabbi [Maimonides](#) put together "13 Articles of Faith" that he believed every Jew ought to adhere to.
- 13 months in the maximum Jewish Calendar
- 12 or 13 Tribes of Israel
- Boy is Bar Mitzvah at age of 13
- 613 Commandments
- God has 13 attributes
- 13 original colonies in the US

ATTENTION ALL CONGREGANTS

Are there unaffiliated Jews in your community, in your neighborhood, in the stores of services you utilize. Reach out; they may be seeking a spiritual home. You may be surprised.

Welcome them and we will be able to expand our community and share our heritage. Be proactive and invite them to our Services. Our Congregation is unique and our community warm and welcoming. It's time to share what we have developed.

Bring them "home".

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.

Dine A Round - Tuesday, February 26th at LEFTY's - Mark Your Calendar

See Flyer below. You must bring the flyer to the restaurant.

Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam's

Dine A Round

At

Lefty's Tavern

547 North Main Street, Barnegat, NJ

On

Tuesday, February 26th

3 till closing

Please bring this flyer with you!



Purim Shabbat Dinner

Sponsored by the Hebrew School

Date: Friday, February 22, 2013

Time: 6 PM (Services to follow at 7:30 pm)

Place: LCHS, 333 N. Main Street, Manahawkin, NJ

Please bring a covered dish for 8 to 10 people

Reservations will be taken by:

Deb Majewski, 32 Spruce Circle South, Barnegat, NJ 08005

(609) 698-8326 or email is "Deb and Alex Majewski" debna1m@comcast.net

Members, \$8. Non-Members, \$10. Children under 13, no charge

Names(s) attending Dinner & Services: _____

Children under 13 attending: _____

Name(s) Attending Services Only: _____

Phone Number: _____

Dish you will be bringing to share: _____

RSVP prior to February 19th. Call **Deb Majewski at (609) 698-8326** to confirm reservation and let her know what dish you will be bringing. To insure your place(s) are reserved for this event, checks must be received prior to the event.

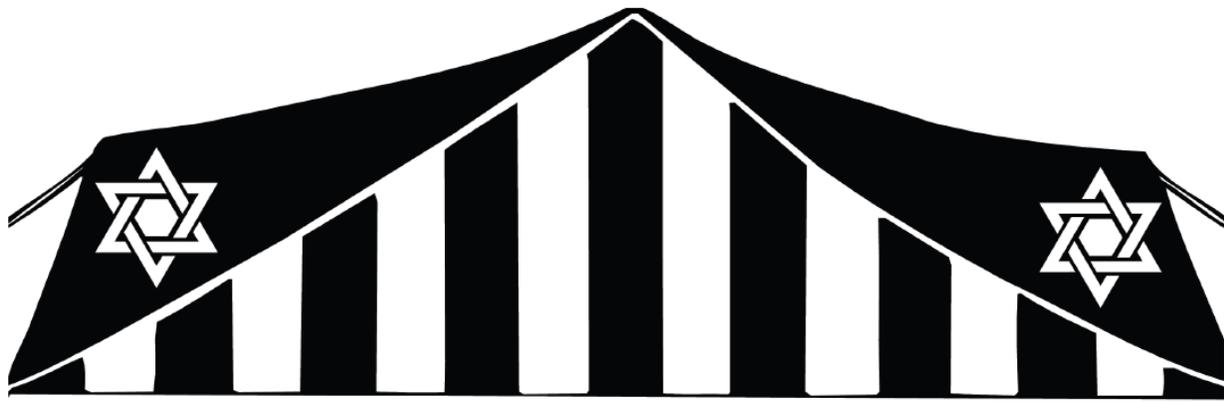
Checks should be made out to: **Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam** and send to:

Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam

c/o Deb Majewski

32 Spruce Circle South

Barnegat, NJ 08005



Joint Purim Carnival

Sunday, February 24, 2013

11:30 to 2:00 pm at

Congregation B'nai Israel

1488 Old Freehold Road • Toms River, NJ

OPEN TO THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY

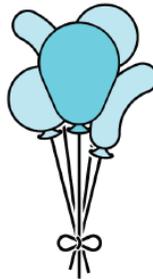
No Admission Charge!

KOSHER FOOD FOR PURCHASE

*Free Game Cards
for all Kids*



*Costume
Optional*



*Prizes for all
Game Players*

*Free
Parking*



Queen Esther Beauty Salon

Arts and Crafts

Sponsored by

Beth Am Shalom
Congregation B'nai Israel
Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam

Jewish Community Center of LBI
Temple Beth Or
Jewish Federation of Ocean County

