



## Message from the Rabbi January 2015

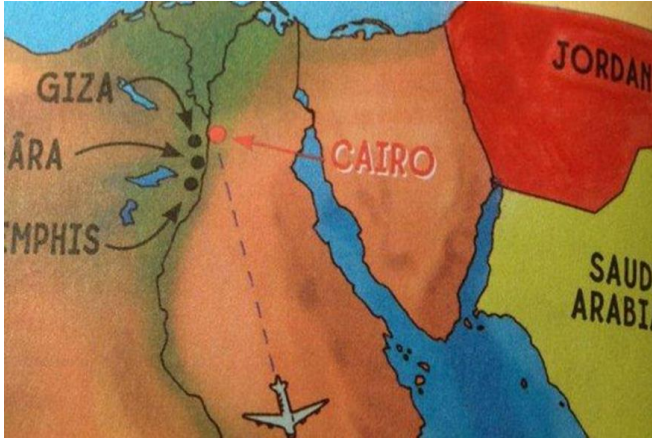
Last fall I had the opportunity to attend a lecture by the noted Israeli-American author and journalist, Yossi Klein Halevi. We hear a great deal about the so-called “pre-1967” borders in the Middle East, Halevi said, that is, the borders between Israel and her Arab neighbors prior to the start of the 1967 war. In that defensive war, Israel captured territory in the West Bank, Gaza and all of the Sinai (the latter given back completely to the Palestinians in 2007). But the current battles now raging in the Middle East, Halevi told his audience, are *not* about 1967 borders. Rather, they are about *1948* borders. That is to say, not about *where* Israel should be but, rather, *if* it should be at all.

One could not have asked for a more perfect example of Halevi’s point than the recent flap over an atlas produced by book publishing giant, HarperCollins. Last week, Tablet magazine reported that an atlas designed for students at English-speaking schools in the Middle East, published in May 2014, had apparently erased Israel from the region. Yes! The country of Israel simply did not appear on these maps of the Middle East. According to the similarly-named U.K. Catholic newspaper *The Tablet*, the maps in *Collins Primary Geography Atlas for the Middle East* “depict Jordan and Syria extending all the way to the Mediterranean Sea.” See for yourself:



Collins Bartholomew, the subsidiary of HarperCollins that specializes in maps, told *The Tablet* that including Israel would have been “unacceptable” to their customers in the Gulf and that the map incorporated “local preferences.” According to HarperCollins’ U.K. website, “The atlas has been developed specifically for schools in the Middle East. It has been designed to stimulate and inspire students with its syllabus specific content.” So “local preferences” trumps reality. Hmm. By the way, the West Bank and Gaza are clearly labeled on the HarperCollins maps. Although news of HarperCollins “locally preferred” Middle East map only came into wide circulation last week, a September 2014 review of the atlas on Amazon called it “deceiving and inaccurate,” pointing out that Israel was missing. Nor was this the first time that Israel has been left off a map designed for young readers. Scholastic Inc. stopped shipments of a book in a popular Italian children’s series after a mother discovered that Israel had been left off an illustration in the book. The country of Israel had been completely subsumed by Jordan.

Here's that map.



It seems that what all of Israel's enemies have not been able to do, HarperCollins achieved with just a few stroke marks on a piece of paper.

I suspect that many of us have mixed feelings about social media. There is too much faux "news" out there. There can be an appalling lack of privacy. We all know the criticism and the dangers. But it seems to me that in this matter of the fantasy map of the Middle East, social media came to the rescue. The response – on Facebook, Twitter and elsewhere – was lightning fast, and the criticism came thundering in. Within three days the embarrassed publishing giant announced that it was withdrawing the sale of the atlas.

One of the public critics of the atlas was the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales International Department which issued a statement calling the atlas "harmful to peace efforts in the Middle East." Bishop Declan Lang, chairman of the Conference, told The Tablet that the maps will harm peace efforts: "The publication of this atlas will confirm Israel's belief that there exists hostility towards their country from parts of the Arab world. It will not help to build up a spirit of trust leading to peaceful co-existence," he said.

While HarperCollins deserves a huge helping of New Year's shame for its unconscionable deed, and the Bishop's Conference deserves our gratitude, omission of the state of Israel was far more than simply being "harmful to peace efforts in the Middle East."

This omission constitutes a denial of the historical record, the DE legitimization of the state of Israel and the creation of an alliance of the book publisher with

those who would deny the right of the Jewish people to a state of our own – just as Yossi Klein Halevi said. This constitutes anti-Semitism, pure and simple, or at the least it is a catering to classic anti-Semitism. The omission was also a denial of the United Nation's charter and Israel's membership in the international body representing the family of nations.

There is something pathetic about the fact that HarperCollins should have chosen to publish an atlas in 2014 in which the State of Israel does not exist. A Philips' Record Atlas published by George Philip & Son back in 1958 showed Israel appearing on its maps of the Eastern Mediterranean. More than half a century later, what was then taken for granted is now open to question.

About its maps of the Middle East, HarperCollins notes: "[Their] content is specifically designed for schools in Middle East countries. It enables students to learn about the world today by exploring clear and engaging maps, study satellite imagery, understand key facts and statistics."

If one is to believe HarperCollins, one of those "key facts," is that, more than 65 years after Israel was admitted as a member of the United Nations, the Jewish State does not exist.

The unwillingness on the part of some to recognize the State of Israel is more than a shameful act on the part of major publisher. More seriously, such an attitude impedes progress towards a resolution of the Israel/Palestinian conflict. Palestinian children are inculcated with the belief that Israel does not exist, and that it is only a matter of time until the "Zionist entity" will in the words of Iran's former president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (remember him?) be "wiped off the map." As an Israeli colleague of mine, Rabbi Mickey Boyden, wrote this week:

"What is true for individuals is also true for peoples and nations. The preparedness of the Arab world in general and the Palestinians in particular to see Israel on the map is a prerequisite for any hope of a resolution of the Israel/Palestinian conflict."

What an irony that this week the Palestinian Authority, having been rejected in its bid for recognition by the

U.N. Security Council, is turning to the International Court of Justice for official recognition. "Recognition" means acknowledgement of reality. While this week the pressure was on HarperCollins, it really needs to be turned on those Arab states and others that find Israel's very existence "unacceptable," and, therefore, refuse to "recognize" its sovereignty, its existence and its reality.

As 2015 begins, let's be thankful for the quick resolution of his disgraceful episode and hope that the cooler and wiser heads of those unafraid to acknowledge reality will prevail in the year ahead.

Rabbi Kim S. Geringer

## President's Message

Hello Fellow Congregants,

I would like to start the new (secular) year by thanking those who give of their time to keep our Temple running. We have a dedicated and hard-working group of officers and trustees, dependable committee heads, tireless oneg and service organizers, a great Rabbi, and a core group of diehards who attend the majority of functions we put together. This was once again on display this past December 19, when we held our Hannukah Shabbat dinner. The event was extremely well-attended, the food was delicious, and the subsequent service including a theatrical presentation directed by our Rabbi, allowed us to show off some little-used acting skills. I cannot name everyone, but those who put in the hard work to make this event happen know who you are, and I give you my heartfelt thanks, as always.

Looking ahead to the rest of 2015, I see this as a pivotal year for our Congregation. We will be swearing in a new executive board in several months, and yours truly will be out of a job. Our membership has declined in recent years and a major focus will be stabilizing those numbers.

There is no doubt in my mind, however, that we will continue to thrive as a small but powerful group, due to our uniqueness and dedication. It is not the

membership numbers, the size of our monetary reserves, or the lack of a fancy building, that define us. It is our people.

*Philip Miller*



**Friday, February 6th we will be holding our annual Tu B'Shvat Seder... Details to follow**

## January Dates in Jewish History

- 1492 January 2, GRENADA (Spain) The last Moorish stronghold was overrun, adding even more Jews to Catholic Spain. Under the terms of surrender, the Jewish inhabitants were promised protection by the King and Queen. Within a few months the razing of the Jewish quarter was ordered by Ferdinand.
- On January 4, 1915, Moses Alexander, the first practicing Jew to be elected governor in the United States, was sworn into that position in Boise, Idaho. This was the first of two two-year terms served by Alexander, a Boise businessman and former mayor of that city. He was to introduce Prohibition to this region well ahead of the rest of America – but also to fight for the little man.

**Yahrzeits**

בראבא יתגדל

January 11	Rubin Kaplan, Father of Michael Kaplan
January 13	Mary Ellen Taub, Mother of Cyndy Friedland
January 21	Alan Gardiner, Father of Hope Gardiner
January 22	George Harmon, Father of Inez Levine
January 26	Donald P. Fisher Sr., Father of Laura Miller
January 27	Edith Rosen, Mother of Rhona Levy
January 27	Hugh Higgins, Father of Wendi Higgins
January 30	Ester Dunn, Mother of Robert Dunn, Shevat 10
January 30	Celia Miller, Mother of Philip Miller

May the memories of our loved ones be a blessing.

### CONGREGATION SHA'AREY HA-YAM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

<b>President</b>	Philip Miller	609-698-3933	pmmlegal@aol.com
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	Charles Flum	732-228-7991	cflum1@comcast.net
<b>Past President</b>	Aaron Shapiro	609-242-2390	shap1010@comcast.net



### Membership News

The Board of Trustees has a membership offer for individuals that have not been affiliated with our congregation. We will offer a membership rate of \$36 which will be a onetime offer, expiring on January 31, 2015. This will be in effect until May 31, 2015. We do hope that you will let your friends, neighbors and relatives, that have not had a previous membership with us, that this is available to them...encourage them to join and see what we have to offer!

### TRIBUTE CARD CONTACT

If you wish to send a tribute card, please contact: JOAN SILVERMAN at 609-698-0000 from December 28, 2014 until February 8, 2015.



# NEW Fundraisers... We need your support!!!!

**Amazon Smile** - When shopping at [www.SMILE.Amazon.com](http://www.SMILE.Amazon.com) you can designate **REFORM JEWISH COMMUNITY of BARNEGAT** (there no additional fees, the congregation makes a percentage). We have already received a check from this fundraiser :)

**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. JOAN SILVERMAN at 609-698-0000 from December 28, 2014 until February 8, 2015



## Hebrew School

The students, Iris and Emily enjoyed a Hanukkah party with latkes, doughnuts, gelt, and fun! Thank you parents that contributed to the celebration!!





- January 2 Alexa Daley
- January 17 Marc Dunn
- January 30 Cary Belitz

### 2015 Services Dates

Friday, January 9 , 7:30pm

Friday, January 23, 7:30pm

Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup> Tu'B Shavat Seder

Friday, February 20, 7:30pm

Friday, March 6, 7:30pm

Friday, March 20, 7:30pm

Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> Second night Seder

Friday, April 17, 7:30pm

Friday, May 8, 7:30pm

Friday, May 22, 7:30pm

Friday, June 5, 7:30pm

Friday, June 26, 7:30pm

## TEMPLE COMMITTEES

### New Members Welcome

Temple Committees	Chair/Members
Birthdays & Anniversaries	
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>Hope Gardiner</u> Pat Barndt, Syble Bleiweis, Wendi Higgins, Thelma Polon
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>Allan Levy</u> Charles Flum Philip Altland , Stan Jackson
Sunshine	<u>Syble Bleiweis</u> Ruth Schlyen, Phyllis Blum, Harriet Cohen
Tributes	<u>Syble Bleiweis</u>
Yahrzeits	<u>Harriet Cohen</u>





Our Hanukkah dinner this year was a great success!! Approximately 54 came for dinner and our service. The



cooks outdid themselves....making latkes off site at Madelyn and Robert Dunn's home...with plenty of brisket, chicken and salmon cakes for all. Thanks cooks for donating your time and energy to our congregation!!



Rabbi Geringer directed a modern version of the Maccabees which entertained us all!! Be sure to join us for our next holiday event!!



### **BARNEGAT CHANNUKAH CANDLE LIGHTING INSIDE TOWN HALL**



### **OUTDOOR CANDLE LIGHTING**

