



# Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam

Gates of the Sea

## THE BULLETIN

P.O. Box 1268, Manahawkin, NJ 08050 • (609)-698-4459

Website: [reformjewishcommunity.org](http://reformjewishcommunity.org)

### Items to Note:

- June 1: Yom Yerushalayim
- June 5: Congregational Meeting
- June 8: 1st day of Shavuot
- June 9: 2nd day of Shavuot
- June 10: Shabbat Services
- June 15: Jewish Heritage Night at the BlueClaws
- June 24: Shabbat
- Services

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### Message From the Rabbi:

Several years ago a woman I know (I'll call her Barbara) lost her husband suddenly and unexpectedly. There was the usual whirl of the funeral and period of shiva. During shiva, Barbara's house was full of people. I also saw many cards and letters arrive as well as more food than anyone could ever do anything with. A few weeks after the conclusion of shiva, Barbara and I had lunch, and the name of a mutual acquaintance of ours came up. Barbara expressed pain, hurt, and anger that this person had neither come to the funeral nor paid a shiva call. I was surprised and I said to Barbara, "Can you really remember who was there and who wasn't? Wasn't it all just a jumble for you?" Barbara looked me straight in the eye and said, "I know who came. I know who called. I know who sent a card. I remember everything."

That was a real eye-opener for me and I will always be grateful to Barbara for teaching me a lesson I have never forgotten. Previously, like many of you, I'm sure, I had sometimes passed on a shiva call or failed to otherwise acknowledge the death of someone I hadn't known very well like a neighbor or a rather removed acquaintance. You know those cases. You're busy. Your life is full. You tell yourself, "I didn't really know them. I'm not important to their family. They won't notice or care if I come or I don't." Well, maybe they would and maybe they wouldn't. Maybe Barbara was more sensitive than most of other people. I don't know. But as for me, all I can say is, ever since that defining moment over lunch with Barbara, I try to err on the side of doing more rather than less. I figure it couldn't hurt.

Jewish law, custom, and tradition have a great deal to say about how one ought to behave at the time of another's loss and bereavement. The Talmud considers escorting the dead to their final resting place to be one of the most meritorious deeds an individual can perform in his or her lifetime. It is referred to in Hebrew as *chesed shel emet*, "the ultimate kindness," for it is done out of pure motive, without the expectation of reward. Similarly, shiva--the seven-day period of mourning--although not directly mandated in the Bible, is nevertheless believed by the Rabbis to have the full force of biblical law. Visiting mourners during the week of shiva is a primary obligation of Jews. The Hebrew expression for comforting mourners is *nichum avelim*. How do we offer comfort? By our presence and by our words. The healing power of the spoken word is highlighted in a story that once made the rounds in Chasidic circles concerning the Magid ("Preacher") of Kosenitz, who had suffered the grievous loss of his wife. "When the preacher's most gifted disciple learned of his teacher's loss, he and two of his students came to the preacher's home to read Psalms and sing

Sabbath melodies to him and thereby soothe his pain. The three arrived and began their mission. With each word offered, the preacher grew stronger and stronger, and at the conclusion of shiva he rose and returned to his life. He praised his disciple and the students for allowing him to recover enough to complete his unfinished tasks on earth. The soft, moving words of the students had served as balm to the heartsick preacher. “

Not too long ago someone came up to me at one of our onegs and told me that she had been both surprised and deeply moved by the support and caring shown her by members of our congregation at the time that she had suffered a loss. I can tell you from personal experience that what may seem like a small gesture of comfort can take on enormous proportion to those who are grieving. All of us will be mourners; that is something we have no control over. But we **choose** to be comforters. Let us accept with gratitude what is offered to us when **we** are in need, and push ourselves just a little further to give the gift of our presence and our words to others when a loss falls on their home.

Have a good month.

*Rabbi Kim S. Geringer*

### ***Message from the President:***

Our Congregation has really grown from its inception. We have members from different areas of the East, family and friends that join us for Services and who knows what our future will bring? My journey with our Congregation has been an amazing experience for me. Meeting every one of you, whether it was at the very first Pirate's Day in Barnegat when we sold tickets for the High Holy Days or receiving a phone call inquiring about membership; we all started this journey together. It has been my pleasure to work with you all in every capacity possible to bring Reform Judaism to Southern Ocean County.

It wasn't easy to put this stake in the ground and find the Landsmen and women who were looking for a spiritual home, but here we are. Every day has been a different experience, from interviewing Rabbi's, starting our Hebrew School, asking for volunteers to take on positions of leadership when they wanted to be “just a part” of the new beginning. Little did they, or I realize how we would grow together and form bonds of friendships; that is what we do as Jews; worship, bond, work and move forward together to have a sense of presence in Southern Ocean County. Every volunteer that has worked on our Committees has added their touch to building our foundation. You all should be very proud of our accomplishments. Without your helping hands and minds, we would not be surviving. Thank you all for your assistance. It has been my personal pleasure to lead you all for seven years, and I am grateful to have had this opportunity to work for and with you all in moving Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam forward.

Looking forward to seeing you all at services,  
Cyndy Friedland, President

**Please Make a Note and Attend This Important  
Annual Congregational Meeting — Sunday, June 5th - 7 PM  
The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit**

## ***Family News:***

### **Yahrzeit June 2011**

June 6	Debra Lynn Preissman Granddaughter of Rhoda Preissman
June 7	Barbara Levine Mother of Michael Levine
June 9	David Crespy Father of Jack Crespy
June 12	Samuel Kanowith Father of Susan Shapiro
June 13	George Levin Father of David Levin
June 16	Jennie Sigal Mother-in-Law of Rhoda Preissman
June 17	Ronald Ehrlich Husband of Sheila Ehrlich
June 17	William Feather Father of Leonard Feather
June 26	Lillian Goodman Mother of Sandra Newman

***( Please forward any new Yahrzeit dates  
for updating files to Phyllis at  
[bbbanner@aol.com](mailto:bbbanner@aol.com). Thank you.)***

### **June Birthdays**

Deanna Bovasso	3
Ret Wallerstein	8
Philip Miller	10
Terry Silverman	12

### **June Anniveraries**

Joan & Terry Silverman	12/62
Rose & Stanley Jackson	12/66
Rhonda & Gary Daley	12/99
Susan & Aaron Shapiro	13/61
Sybil & Mel Kleinfeld	19/60
Joyce & John Scranton	20/75

***Please forward ALL birthday and anniversary dates  
to Fran at [nanny1141@comcast.net](mailto:nanny1141@comcast.net) as our  
files must be re-done. Thank you.***

## ***Good and Welfare***

Our sincerest condolences to Rena and Mark Kreisler on the loss of their beloved son Eric. Donations may be made to Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam, P.O. Box 1268, Manahawkin, NJ 08050.

### ***Get well wishes are extended to***

Lenny Feather  
Dolly Weiss

### ***We are glad to hear that these members are feeling better:***

Joan Silverman  
Rita Gold  
Joyce Scranton

## ***Jewish Heritage Night***

Jewish Heritage Night at the  
Lakewood Blue Claws is  
**Wednesday, June 15th.**

It is a 7:00 p.m. game.

We would like to get a group  
together to go and  
represent our congregation again this year.

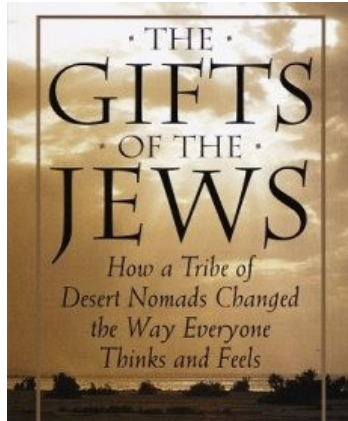
Tickets are: \$9.00 adult;  
\$7.00 juniors (5-12) and seniors: 60 & up.  
Madelyn will take reservations *starting*  
*now.*

**660-1614.**

Call right away - don't delay.

## Jewish Tidbits

### The Gifts of the Jews: How a Tribe of Desert Nomads Changed the Way Everyone Thinks and Feels



"If we had lived in the second millennium BC, the millennium of Abraham, and could have canvassed all the nations of the earth, what would they have said of Abraham's journey? In most of Africa and Europe, they would have laughed at Abraham's madness and pointed to the heavens, where the life of earth had been plotted from all eternity ... a man cannot escape his fate. The Egyptians would have shaken their heads in disbelief. The early Greeks might have told Abraham the story of Prometheus ... Do not overreach, they would advise; come to resignation. In India, he would be told that time is black, irrational and merciless. Do not set yourself the task of accomplishing something in time, which is only the dominion of suffering. On every continent, in every society, Abraham would have been given the same advice that wise men as diverse as Heraclitus, Lao-Tsu and Siddhartha would one day give their followers: do not journey but sit; compose yourself by the river of life, meditate on its ceaseless and meaningless flow."

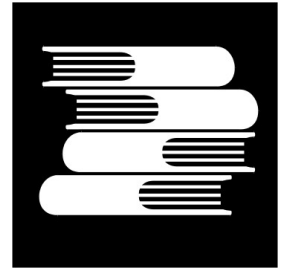
"The Jews started it all—and by 'it' I mean so many of the things we care about, the underlying values that make all of us, Jew and Gentile, believer and aesthete, tick. Without the Jews, we would see the world through different eyes, hear with different ears, even feel with different feelings ... we would think with a different mind, interpret all our experience differently, draw different conclusions from the things that befall us. And we would set a different course for our lives."

- Thomas Cahill,

*The Gifts of the Jews: How a Tribe of Desert*

*Nomads Changed the Way Everyone Thinks and Feels.*

From the website: [SIMPLETOREMEMBER.COM](http://SIMPLETOREMEMBER.COM)  
JUDAISM ONLINE



## BOOK CORNER:

by Rosalie Donadio

### Saving Israel: How the Jewish People Can Win A War That May Never End by Daniel Gordis

Attacked by terrorist, threatened by Arab states, and criticized by nearly everyone, Israel is the only country about which there is discussion as to whether it has a right to exist. Yet even its most ardent defenders cannot always articulate why Israel deserves to survive. In *Saving Israel*, Daniel Gordis admits that peace has never been farther off, but he also captures the wonder and vitality of this very special country, painting a picture of a nation well worth preserving. He provides a profound and persuasive argument, not just for how the Jewish homeland can survive, but how the enthusiasm so apparent at its founding can be cultivated today and for generations to come.

My opinion: 20<sup>th</sup> century history underscores the necessity for Israel's existence and coupled with the resurgence of anti-Semitism (in western Europe, intellectualized as anti Zionism) even in countries with a minimal Jewish population provides a powerful impetus for support for Israel. History should not be allowed to repeat itself.

## Fundraising News

**Sahara Sam's** - Tickets still available for the low rate of \$20 each. The indoor water park is a great way to spend time with family!

**Clothing Drive** - Was a success! Thank you for all of your clothes and shoes.

**Gift Auction** - Thank you to all that participated. This was our best one yet we made a nice profit.

**Raffle Tickets** - You should have received your 2 raffle booklets by now. Some of you, I am proud to say, are on your 3rd, 4th & even 5th. Checks can be made out to RJCB and are tax deductible. If you need more please contact Dayna Otto 609-597-3239. The drawing will be on Oct. 8th (Break The Fast). This should give us plenty of time to sell, sell, sell!

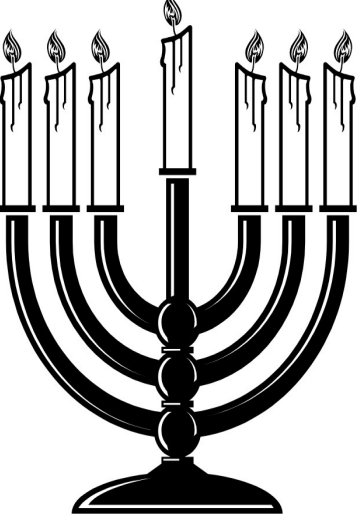
**Holiday Boutique** - will be happening in the Fall. If you are interested in being a part of this fabulous fund raiser please contact Cyndy. [cfriedland119@comcast.net](mailto:cfriedland119@comcast.net) The Fund Raising Committee is committed to the future of our congregation. If you would like to be a part, have any questions or would like to come to our next meeting, please contact Dayna at 609-978-6581.

### 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 Maralyn Ricciardi at 609-660-0935 or 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.

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>2011 SCHEDULE OF SERVICES</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">June 10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">June 24</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Important Meeting Notice</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, June 5th - 7 PM The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit</b></p>
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## ***Thank You ... Thank You ... Thank You***

Our Fund Raising Committee lead by Dayna Otto has done a fabulous job on our third annual Gift Auction. The hours put in by Arlene Armstrong, Syble Bleiweis, Bari Cohen, Rhonda Daley, Madelyn Dunn, Rita Gold, Joyce Scranton, and Joan Silverman were insurmountable. The soliciting, schlepping, gathering, wrapping and other tasks that are too numerous to mention, without their dedication and perseverance the event would not have happened. The volunteers that picked up the wrapped gifts from Arlene Armstrong's home and delivered them to set up, thank you. The day of the event, Gary Daley stepped up to the plate to emcee for us; we had volunteers helping to set up the room, runners, ticket sellers, kitchen helpers, we thank you all for your assistance. Again we could not have been a success without your help. Thanks to all of the congregants that donated gifts and to the Hebrew School families for their special gift baskets. Every item brought us closer to our goal for the evening.

On behalf of the Congregation I thank you all for your time and efforts in contributing to our future.

Cyndy Friedland

President

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