



March Friday Night Services Dates 14 and 28.

Message from the Rabbi - "Well, the feel-good Olympics are certainly over now." That was one of my first reactions to the news from Ukraine this week – the ouster of its President, Russian troops occupying the Crimean Peninsula in the name of protecting ethnic Russians, and the frightening incidents of anti-Semitism when vandals sprayed swastikas and graffiti reading "Death to the Jews" on a synagogue in Simferopol. "Since the crisis started, prices have risen by 30 percent and people aren't receiving their pensions. As always, the Jews are being blamed, and I'm scared to think where it could progress," said the leader of the Association of Jewish Organizations and Communities of Crimea in an interview with an Israeli TV station. The Jewish community of Ukraine numbers about 200,000, including those who are not considered Jews by halakha but are rather their offspring or spouses. Another 340,000 Ukrainian Jews have immigrated to Israel since the early 1990s. Most of the Jews of Ukraine reside in the capital, Kiev, with large concentrations also in Odessa, Lvov and Dnepropetrovsk. There are about 17,000 in Crimea. In recent years, an average of 2,000 Ukrainian Jews have immigrated to Israel annually.

Most of us probably knew little about Jewish life in Ukraine, Crimea specifically, until very recently; to be sure, this has been a disturbing way to find out. But Jews have been living in the Crimean Peninsula since ancient times, largely divided into two communities: the Krymchaks, who followed

the Judaism most of us know and practice today, and the Karaites, who rejected the Oral Torah (adhering strictly to the Judaism of the Bible.). Soon after Catherine the Great conquered the region from the Ottoman Empire in 1783, she opened it up to Jewish settlement, hoping that the Jews would serve as a bulwark against the Turks. Although Jews were later barred from living in the major cities, the Peninsula promised open spaces and freedom to adventurous Jews seeking new frontiers and willing to take up a spade.

Tens of thousands of mostly young Jews settled in this part of "New Russia" over the next century. The Crimea became so identified with Russia's Jewish history, in fact, that Jewish activists in St. Petersburg pointed to the long legacy of Crimean Jews as an argument for Jewish emancipation in the empire—after all, they claimed, Jews had been living there longer than Russians. (The 19th-century Karaite historian Avraam Firkovich even tried to argue that Karaites were living in the Crimea before the time of Jesus, and he fabricated tombstone inscriptions to prove it.)

Jewish residents of the Crimea were also deeply engaged in the critical Jewish question of the time—Zionism—and by the late 19th century the area had become a training ground for future Zionist pioneers, who practiced agricultural techniques there before relocating to Palestine.

In the early 1920s, the new Soviet government once again turned its attention to the Peninsula.

Concerned that the Crimean Tatars, Ukrainians, and Germans who mostly populated the region were anti-Communist, officials in Moscow were eager to buy the loyalty of new recruits with land grants and promises of autonomy in the agriculturally rich peninsula. When the American agronomist and communal activist Joseph A. Rosen suggested providing financial support through the Joint Distribution Committee to resettle Jewish victims of the pogroms in the region, the Kremlin jumped at the opportunity. In 1923, the Politburo actually accepted a proposal for establishing a Jewish Autonomous Region in the Crimea, before reversing itself a few months later. Nevertheless, from 1924 until 1938, the Joint Distribution Committee, through its subsidiary American Jewish Joint Agricultural Corporation and with the financial support of American Jewish philanthropists like Julius Rosenwald, supported Jewish agricultural settlements in Soviet Crimea. Numerous Jewish collective farms and even whole Jewish districts sprouted over the next few years. The dream of building a Jewish republic in the Crimea remained alive until the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941. Most of the Jewish colonists in the Crimea fled east to seek safety far from the front; entire collective farms fled together, traveling in convoys eastward, just ahead of the German troops, all the way to Kazakhstan or Uzbekistan.

After the war, Josef Stalin began a decades-long assault on Soviet Jewry. The United Nations vote in support of the establishment of the State of Israel in November 1947 had rendered a Jewish homeland in the Crimea superfluous and reinforced Stalin's suspicions of Jewish national aspirations. The subsequent struggle to free Jews from the Soviet Union and the mass subsequent

emigration to Israel, the United States and elsewhere is well-known.

A few days ago, Abraham Foxman, Executive Director of the Anti-Defamation League released the following statement: "I want to make one last point, regarding the situation today in Ukraine. There is a strong and growing Ukrainian nationalist movement. It faces a choice of role models: the Ukrainian nationalist Stepan Bandera, who declared an independent Ukrainian state on June 30, 1941 in Lviv, when the Nazis drove out the Soviet army, and the next day began murdering Jews. Or it can be inspired by the Ukrainian nationalist Metropolitan Andrei Sheptytsky, who wrote on July 1, the day after the state was declared, that the new government should exercise - quote -- "wise, just leadership and measures that would take into consideration the needs and welfare of all citizens who inhabit our land, without regard to what faith, nationality, or social stratum they belong... The Ukrainian nationalism of Andrei Sheptytsky, one of compassion, even love, for his Jewish neighbors, is one that Jews around the world can embrace and support. And we ask all who are inspired by the Metropolitan's actions and words to help oppose the destructive Banderite strain... If achieved, the future of Ukraine's Jewish community may be bright, not bleak."

We pray for our sisters and brothers in Ukraine. We remember that anti-Semitism is not dead, nor a relic of the past. We are not alarmists, but we are realists. We watch carefully, remain informed and help where we can. Here's one way:

<http://blogs.rj.org/blog/2014/02/24/an-appeal-to-aid-jewish-communities-in-ukraine/>

Have a good month.

Rabbi Kim S. Geringer

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Does prayer really help people to heal?

We have often heard requests to pray for others who are ill or injured. In fact, this is a regular and important part of our Friday evening services at Congregation Sha'arey Ha'Yam.

Do you ever wonder whether there is any medical or other scientific evidence to support our efforts? There have in fact been a number of studies done on intercessory prayer (the prayer of others at a distance.) Not surprisingly, these studies have been inconclusive on the subject. As an aside, it is interesting to note there are increasing numbers of studies having to do with the power of prayer to heal oneself, including one by the National Institute of Health.

I propose we do our own study. As most of you have heard by now, one of our key players has been knocked out of the game with a serious injury. Although we will manage in the short term, our team needs Philip Altland back as soon as possible. Let us see how quickly your prayers can speed this along, and I will forward along the results to prominent scientists looking into this subject.

By the way, monetary donations to the Congregation wishing Philip well can also help this effort, as well as our bottom line.

Hoping everyone has a healthy month.

Philip M. Miller



Thank you

I want to take this opportunity to thank my wonderful congregational family for the love and support I received after my fall in the subway on February 11th.

I was released from rehab last Thursday and I'm at home in my apartment on 52nd street now. The fall forced the cancellation of my bar mitzvah on February 14th. It is now scheduled for March 28th at 7:30. I hope as many people as possible can join me on that night. My d'var torah has changed a little as a result of the last 3 weeks' ordeal. Please attend on the 28th if you can.

Philip Altland

We NEED your support!

FUND RAISING

- New fundraiser - Amazon Smile - When shopping at **AMAZON Smile** 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**

CONGREGATION SHA'AREY HA-YAM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Now You Can Help Sha'arey Ha-Yam When You Shop at Amazon! By: Wendi Higgins

Did you know there is now a very easy way for you to help Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam? It's called Amazon Smile! Most of us have had the experience of ordering through Amazon.com for books or the many other items they offer. In my house, we will often stream videos to our television through amazon, and I personally order tons and tons of books from them (when I run out of room I'll get the Kindle, but until then, I'm going to continue turning pages). Well now, you can make the purchases you normally make on Amazon.com and Amazon will donate a percentage of your sale to our Congregation. It does not increase your price in any way, it's a donation from the company, and signing up is easy! Just go to www.smile.amazon.com and pick "Reform Jewish Community of Barnegat Ocean County Inc." as the charitable organization you would like Amazon's donation to go to and shop as you normally would.

A great feature of this is that if you log-on to your normal account (non-charity) and go to make a purchase it will specifically ask you if you would like a donation to made to your charity using Amazon Smile, so as long as you're shopping on Amazon, you can help our congregation grow and do the many great things we try to do all year long. In my house, besides movies, we rent and purchase textbooks for school, have gotten great deals on electronics, and even purchased a bookcase from them (perhaps I should get a Kindle)! The point is that so many people shop at Amazon to purchase a multitude of things, and now every time you shop there you, as well as your friends and family, can really help us out by using Amazon Smile and designating "Reform Jewish Community of Barnegat Ocean County Inc." to be the charitable organization that Amazon will make a donation to. An even better deal is that if anyone has ANY trouble working or signing up for Amazon Smile, I will be happy to personally help you through it! Now really, does it get any better?!

Yahrzeits

בראבא ve yitkadash sh'mei יתגדל

| | |
|----------|--|
| March 1 | Ken Schwitz, Cousin of Hope Gardiner |
| March 1 | Ruth Chordock Bussell, Mother of Judith Levin |
| March 3 | Francis J. LaMagna, Father of Luci Lewisohn |
| March 11 | Adam Benjamin Lewisohn, Son of Barry & Luci Lewisohn |
| March 17 | Rose Rosenberg, Grandmother of Philip Miller |
| March 21 | Irving Topper, Father-in-Law of Samuel Lewis, Hebrew Date: Adar 20 |
| March 27 | Yetta Grossman, Mother of Fran Breese, Hebrew date: Adar 24 |

TEMPLE COMMITTEES**New Members Welcome**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENT Tribute Card Contact**

Joan Silverman will be doing the Tribute cards from February 27th to March 21st.

PLEASE CONTACT HER AT 609-698-0000

**GET WELL CARDS SENT FROM CONGREGATION To:**

- Dolly Weiss
- Aaron Shapiro
- Susan Shapiro
- Philip Altland

DONATION TO SHA'AREY HA-YAM

Donation to Congregation in memory of Cyndy Friedland's brother Dr., Marvin Taub from Business & Professional Women.

THANK YOU

**2013 - 2014 Temple Sha'arey
Ha-Yam Schedule
Services 7:30pm**

- Friday, March 14, 2014
- Friday, March 28, 2014
- Friday, April 11, 2014
- April 17, 2014 Second Night Seder
- Friday, April 25, 2014
- Friday, May 9, 2014 Israel Independence Day
- Friday, May 23, 2014
- Friday, June 13, 2014
- Friday, June 27, 2014



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|------------|--------------------|
| ☉ March 1 | Gary Daley |
| ☉ March 4 | Jack Crespy |
| ☉ March 5 | Marlene Feldhuhn |
| ☉ March 5 | Emily Miller |
| ☉ March 6 | Charles Flum |
| ☉ March 10 | Joan Silverman |
| ☉ March 10 | Phyllis Feather |
| ☉ March 13 | Aaron Shapiro |
| ☉ March 17 | Stanley Jackson |
| ☉ March 21 | Michael Kaplan |
| ☉ March 26 | M. Leonard Feather |
| ☉ March 29 | Gina Cohen |
| ☉ March 30 | Danielle Jonas |

TRIBUTE CARD SENT

To: Philip Altland in honor of his Bar Mitzvah from Inez & Mike Levine

To: Philip Altland in honor of his Bar Mitzvah from Hope Gardiner

Philip's Bar Mitzvah has been postponed.

To: Rosalie Donadio in honor of granddaughter Jackie's wedding to Joe, from Inez & Mike Levine

To: Philip Altland for a speedy recovery from Harriet & Phil Cohen

To: Philip Altland for a speedy recovery from Susan & Aaron Shapiro

To: Sandy Gurtov in celebration of his 80th Birthday from Syble & Ernie Bleiweis

To: Michelle Silverman in memory of beloved mother from Hope Gardiner

To: Steven Kimmelman for a speedy & healthy 100% recovery from Hope Gardiner

To: Mr. & Mrs. Ed Nadelman in memory of your loving daughter, Debbie, from Joan & Terry Silverman

To: Chari & Ken Chanley in memory of beloved mother & grandmother Pearl Spritzer from Thelma & Hal Polon

Hebrew School News



Hebrew School News..Purim is coming

We do hope that all our members with children and grandchildren in the area will join us at the Second joint Purim Carnival on Sunday, March 16th at Temple Beth Am Shalom, Route 70 in Lakewood.

The carnival will be held 11:30am to 2:30pm. There will be games for all ages, even HUMAN FOOZBALL.....a huge hit last year. Kosher food will be available, and even a 50/50 drawing is being held!! The flyer is included in the newsletter for your convenience.

Membership

There are many ways for us to attract new members, but the best way is to extend an invitation to your friends and neighbors to join us for our Purim Service on Friday, March 14th. This will be fun, Rabbi always has something entertaining for us, and perhaps Uncle Schlomo will be making another appearance!! This service is a fun one, so please invite as many friends as you can!! Looking forward to seeing you there!!

*Come one!
Come All!*

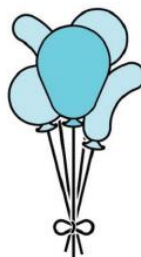
*Come one!
Come All!*



*Free Game Cards
for all Kids*



*Costume
Optional*



*Prizes for all
Game Players*

*Free
Parking*



**Queen Esther Beauty Salon
Costume Parade and Judging 1pm**

**Arts and Crafts
50/50 Raffle for adults**

Sponsored by

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Congregation B'nai Israel
Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam
Congregation Ahavat Olam

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

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