



Message from the Rabbi March 2015

Dear friends,

Did you know that the Reform Movement was the first Jewish denomination? That's right. It wasn't Orthodox Judaism, as some people think. To be sure, throughout Jewish history there have been geographical differences in liturgy, observance, music. We tend to think of these differences largely divided between the Ashkenazic and Sephardic styles, but there were many others as well. In each of the increasingly far-flung communities in which they lived, Jews developed their own style, customs, blessings, and 'right' way to do things. But as they were more often than not denied access to the institutions and professions of their surrounding communities, Judaism tended to stay inward-focused. The dawning of our Reform Movement initiated a change that animated all of Judaism and continues to do so today. The Reform Movement, begun in the early part of the 19th century in Germany, was initially a worship and liturgical revolution. Jews, increasingly freed from the ghetto, were making their way into the non-Jewish world – socially, in business and academia. They were assimilating rapidly, they were busy in that world, and worship services were competition for their time and attention. Services were often very long and in Hebrew, a language not understood by the majority of Jews. In addition, now that Jews were exposed to the new worlds of science, secular philosophy, history and literature, some of the old theology expressed in traditional Jewish liturgy simply no longer resonated. So the early Reformers worked to create worship that honored the past but also reflected newly-acquired knowledge and insight from the modern world. Traditional yeshiva curricula were expanded to include secular subjects like mathematics, the science, literature and

"reforming" ghetto Judaism to fit a free, modern society.

Other changes followed. The traditional belief in a personal Messiah gave way to the notion of a Messianic Age. Religious education was expanded to include girls. The Reform Movement began to see itself as descendants of the biblical prophets who had called for the righteous treatment of society's most vulnerable members – the elderly, sick, poor and orphaned – and became passionately engaged with tikkun olam, the repair of the world. They shifted the emphasis from belief to action, a balance that has continued to be debated for the last 200 years. Nonetheless, Reform pioneered what today we call liberal Judaism. It brought democracy into Judaism in ways never tried before, respecting the right of well-informed Jews to think for themselves and use their God-given intellect in making decisions about belief and practice.

I grew up as Reform Jew in what seemed to me to be the most vital religious tradition I could imagine. One of the greatest days of my life was May 16, 1999, when I was ordained as a Reform rabbi. Since then I've worked for the Reform Movement in two congregations, our national organization, the Union for Reform Judaism, and now our seminary, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. I've served all these institutions with immense pride. So it causes me tremendous frustration and sorrow when I hear this statement: "Rabbi, I grew up very Reform." I react the way I do because when I hear people describe themselves as "very Reform," what they usually mean is "Reform equals practically nothing." But that's not "very" Reform, not even a little Reform. Reform has never been a license to throw away Judaism. On the contrary, Reform is a commitment to consider Judaism seriously and to live it with integrity. Why? Because religion taken seriously is the most liberating force there is. It strips things down to their essentials, weeding out the trivial and offering

pathways and answers to life's greatest challenges. While I honor the religious choices that others make, for me, Reform Judaism does this best. So I am "very" Reform. I take Shabbat seriously. I attend worship services regularly. I study Jewish subjects on an ongoing basis. I keep a form of kashrut that, for me, is ethically principled. What I do is not the province of rabbis or Jewish professionals alone. It is your tradition to claim too. Our Reform worship services, for instance, follow the traditional structure and format of Jewish liturgy. But the prayers are made more relevant to contemporary Jews by the addition of beautiful poetry and prose, careful translation and enlightened interpretation. For me, the most important thing about kashrut is that my eating reflects a moral response to food production, animal welfare and the rights of workers – ethical standards, by the way, which I learned from Judaism. And so on. Each of the ancient Abrahamic religions – Judaism, Christianity and Islam – has had to wrestle with the challenge of honoring its past while at the same time figuring out how to live in the modern world. The Reformation and the Enlightenment were the outcomes of such internal struggles; today, of course, this struggle is being played out most dramatically within Islam. So my message this month is that you can be "very" Reform by taking your Judaism seriously. This month four members of our community – Syble Bleiweis, Joan Silverman, Wendi Higgins and Rosalie Donadio – have embarked on a journey to do just that. They have committed themselves to studying and learning and thinking in our first ever bat mitzvah program for adults. Although the end point will be a Shabbat morning service that they lead, the real meaning of the program is the serious engagement with Judaism that culminates in that service. I consider such a commitment to be "very" Reform. I hope you'll consider being this kind of "very Reform" too. Ask me if you'd like some ideas on how to get started.

Have a very good month!

Rabbi Kim S. Geringer

President's Message

Hello all,

As we enter the month within which the spring season will begin, I am sure many of you wish to put this winter behind us. Not only has the weather been harsher than normal, it seems many of our congregants have faced personal challenges and difficulties; whether illness, accidents or passing of family members, these instances have seemed far more frequent than usual over the last several months.

So to those of you having faced difficulties such as these recently, I wish to send you condolences get wells and feel betters. Know also at times like these, you have an entire community supporting you. This is an important advantage of being part of our Temple, a return for having made the effort to contribute to something larger than any of us can have individually.

Let us all look forward to the warm weather.

Philip Miller



Yahrzeits



בראבא יתגדל

March 1	Ken Schwitz, Cousin of Hope Gardiner
March 15	Sam Salstein, Father of Evelyn Sullivan
March 17	Rose Rosenberg, Grandmother of Philip Miller
March 27	Yetta Grossman, Mother of Fran Breese

May the memories of our loved ones be a blessing.

CONGREGATION SHA'AREY HA-YAM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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From the bottom of my heart and with all the warmth and gratitude this heart can hold, Mike and I thank you for the get well cards & calls you have sent. I need you all to know how much they each lifted my spirit when "spirit lifting" was the medicine I needed. Your thoughts, prayers and good wishes were heard and in no small way are responsible for my being on the road to recovery.

With lots a love 'n hugs 'n kisses..

Dolly Weiss

Come one!
Come All!

Come one!
Come All!

Community Purim Carnival
OPEN TO THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY

Sunday, March 8, 2015
12:00 to 3:00 pm at
Temple Beth Or
200 Van Zile Road, Brick, NJ

No Admission Charge!
KOSHER FOOD FOR PURCHASE

Costume Optional

Prizes for all Game Players
Free Parking

Queen Esther Beauty Salon • Arts and Crafts • 50/50 Raffle for adults

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

Corporate Sponsors
Jewish Community Center of LBI
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Jewish Federation of Ocean County

Pine Grove
732.264.0900
www.pinegrovefunerals.com

BECAUSE GOLDSTEIN FUNERAL CHAPEL
732.264.0900 800.487.2553

Fundraisers... We need your support!!!

Amazon Smile - When shopping at 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 are a good way to help our Temple raise funds. They can be sent for any occasion with a minimum donation of \$5.00. Please contact Syble Bleiweis (609-978-4240) or Joan Silverman (609-698-0000).



Tribute Cards Sent To
Get well: To Harriet Cohen
From: Cyndy Friedman and
Hope Gardiner

To: Rae Pack for recovery from hip
surgery From: Hope Gardiner

Temple Get Well Wishes to:

- Harriet Cohen
- Phyllis and Stan Blum
- Dolly Weiss



March Birthdays

☺ 01	Gary Daley
☺ 04	Jack Crespy
☺ 05	Marlene Feldhuhn
☺ 05	Emily Miller
☺ 06	Charles Flum
☺ 10	Joan Silverman
☺ 10	Phyllis Feather
☺ 13	Aaron Shapiro
☺ 17	Stanley Jackson
☺ 21	Michael Kaplan
☺ 26	M. Leonard Feather
☺ 29	Gina Cohen
☺ 30	Danielle Jonas



March 25/1961

Judy/David Levin

2015 Services Dates

Friday, March 6, 7:30pm

Friday, March 20, 7:30pm

Saturday, April 4th 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



Sympathy: To Ernie Bleiweis on the loss of his brother,
Hugh, beloved husband, father, and grandfather

From: Board Members ---Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam,
Joan and Terry Silverman, Joyce and John Scranton,
Hope Gardiner

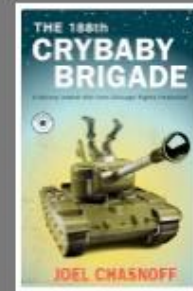
**TEMPLE COMMITTEES****New Members Welcome**

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>

The Place To Be

The Women's Division of the Jewish Federation of Ocean County
invites you to join us for an evening of laughter
with comedian and author

JOEL CHASNOFF



Thursday, April 30, 2015

Clarion Hotel

815 Route 37 West, Toms River

Dessert Reception & Gift Auction - 7 p.m.

Comedy Show - 8 p.m.

To purchase tickets, please call the Federation office
at 732.363.0530 or go to www.jewishoceancounty.org

Ticket deadline, Friday, April 24. Tickets at door based on availability.

Platinum Ticket Sponsor - \$500

8 tickets, reserved premium seating, prominent program listing, and gift auction tickets

Gold Ticket Sponsor - \$236

4 tickets, reserved premium seating, prominent program listing, and gift auction tickets

Silver Ticket Sponsor - \$118

2 tickets, reserved seating, program listing, and gift auction tickets

Bronze Ticket Sponsor - \$54

1 ticket, reserved seating, program listing, and gift auction tickets

\$36 general admission ticket

With thanks to our Event Sponsor:

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JAI MIRCHANDANI, MD
732.349.4422

Bring your spouses and friends!



Dietary laws observed



All proceeds benefit the Jewish Federation of Ocean County, providing programs and services which foster the well-being
of our Jewish community here at home, in Israel and around the world.
Jewish Federation of Ocean County 1235A Rt. 70, Lakewood, New Jersey 08701



SUPER Sunday is March 29, 2015.

One Day, One Community.

AT: The Jewish Federation of Ocean County at 1235 A Route 70, Lakewood, NJ 08701



One day to come together.
One day to touch the world.

I Want to Be a Part of One Day, One Community and will join you on Sunday March 29, from:

☐ 9:00-11:00 am ☐ 11:00 am -1:00pm ☐ 1:00-3:00pm ☐ 3:00-5:00 pm

I can't be there on SUPER Sunday but am willing to help on:

Tues March 31 from: ☐ 10:00 am-1:00 pm ☐ 1:00pm -4:00pm ☐ 4:00-7:00pm

Wed April 1 from: ☐ 10:00 am-1:00 pm ☐ 1:00pm -4:00pm ☐ 4:00-7:00pm

☐ *I can't participate in SUPER Sunday but have enclose my donation*

**PLEASE
BRING YOUR
CELL PHONE
AND
CHARGER**

Please return this form to: Jewish Federation of Ocean County at 1235 A Route 70, Lakewood, NJ 08701

Name: _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

REGISTER OR DONATE ONLINE AT: WWW.JEWISHOCEANCOUNTY.ORG