



Message from the Rabbi

I'm writing this message without knowing the content of the President's message which usually follows mine. However, I suspect that at least part of what we're both going to be sharing here will be similar. I'm writing to urge you to attend the upcoming congregational meeting. But I also want to share with you some thoughts about what it means to be part of a smaller congregation.

The good news about smaller congregations is the same as the bad news about smaller congregations. The latter is pretty obvious. Smaller congregations have fewer resources with which to accomplish their goals. Purchases of equipment can't be undertaken lightly. People can't be so easily hired to carry out even important tasks. Some things that most everyone would like to see happen may not be possible. On the other hand, smaller congregations tend to build community like nothing else can. Members get to know each other and care for and about each other in ways that often don't happen in bigger communities. I have been in larger congregations where people don't linger at the oneg after a service, for instance. They just don't feel comfortable enough; they worry about having someone to talk to. In smaller congregations people stick around at the oneg simply because they're enjoying themselves. They catch up, schmooze, listen, sympathize, commiserate, encourage – in short, they act like a real community. And smaller congregations know the true secret of building community: working together to get something done. When members share a crowded kitchen, set up a

worship space, paint Torah covers together (as we did last year), carry and schlep, run errands and help out both each other and the general community, they bond in a way that is otherwise simply not possible.

The congregation that I previously served started out 40 years ago as a tiny little outpost, founded by under a dozen families looking for Jewish community. In the beginning they had no building other than two little huts on the grounds of a former estate. Literally, those early members did **everything** because there was no one else to do it. (Sound familiar?) In time, an interstate highway ran through the area and the demographics changed dramatically. Families poured into the town and its environs, Temple membership boomed, money was raised and a very large fancy synagogue building was constructed. And you know what? I can't tell you how many times I heard members of that founding group lament "the good old days" when everybody knew everybody else and when they all cooked and schlepped and worked together. They miss those days still.

Smaller congregations tend to be characterized by a small group of "worker bees." The trouble with this arrangement is that even bees wear out eventually. The key to continuity and growth is to change this way of thinking and instead have an entire congregation of "bees." That is, if everybody does a little, nobody has to burn out. Every single member of our community has a particular talent or ability. I began this message by urging you to attend the congregational meeting. But I want to go one step further. By all

means come to the meeting and share your good ideas. Your contribution starts with your own brain. But then don't stop there. Volunteering to do one thing doesn't commit you for life, just for that one task. Maybe it will stop there, maybe not. But you know that in some small way, *you* make it possible for there to be a vibrant Jewish presence in South Ocean County, New Jersey and because without you – and you and you and you – there wouldn't be one. This awareness is something to truly be proud of. In New York City, or Chicago or Atlanta or Los Angeles, if one member of a congregation doesn't pitch in, well, it probably wouldn't have that much of an impact. But here it will. That's the good news. *Here you are really important. Here you make a difference.*

There's an oft-quoted statement from one of our classic texts, Pirkei Avot ("Sayings of Our Ancestors") which is particularly apt here: *Lo alecha ha-m'lachah ligmor, v'lo atah ben chorin l'hibateil mimena*. "You are not required to complete the task, but neither are you free to abstain from it." I really can't think of a better slogan for us.

Have a very good month.

Rabbi Kim S. Geringer

Shavuot - May 2013

Shavuot marks the giving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai. The Ten Commandments are read in synagogues, just as they were in the desert on Mt. Sinai over 3,300 years ago.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we move forward and our new president takes charge at the upcoming Congregational meeting, I want to thank the members of the executive board as well as the many temple members that have contributed to the well being of our temple. With their continuous efforts, we have kept up with our forward progress.

Over the two years in which I have served as your president, our services have continued to grow with more members attending and new members taking part. Under the direction of Rabbi Geringer and the musical contribution of Philip Altland and Stan Jackson, our services are increasingly enjoyable and spiritually inspirational. We have increased our social activity and hope to do even more in the future to enhance our "temple" community. As most of you are aware, we are considering a location change in the near future. It will be essential that all members continue active participation. How have you volunteered lately? The future of our congregation depends on many more active participants. Become a committee member, take an active role in "your" temple and watch as we thrive.

On that final note, I wish you all a healthy and happy year under the auspices of our new Temple President.

Aaron Shapiro

TEMPLE COMMITTEES

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	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, Hope Gardiner, Susan Shapiro
ONEG & DINNERS	Madelyn Dunn, Philomena Jonas, Sheila Ehrlich, Pat Barndt, Wendi Higgins

Yahrzeit May 2013 – OF BLESSED MEMORY

According to the English Calendar

May	Yahrzeit	
5	Theodore Cohen	Father of Phil Cohen
9	Louis Platman	Father of Thelma Polon
10	Nicole Rynne Miller	Niece of Patricia Brandt
14	Terry Levin	Mother of David Levin
14	Annie Gordon	Sister of Maralyn Ricciardi
15	Alice Breese	Mother of Joe Breese
16	David Crespy	Father of Jack Crespy (7Sivan)
19	Samuel Kanowith	Father of Susan Shapiro (10 Sivan)
22	Herb Feldhuhn	Husband of Marlene Feldhuhn
28	Adele Berlin	Aunt of Syble Bleisweis
29	Eric Daniel Kreisler	Son of Mark & Rena Kreisler

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.

CONGREGATION SHA'AREY HA-YAM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President	Aaron Shapiro	609-242-2390	shap1010@comcast.net
1st Vice President	Philip Miller	609-698-3933	pmmlegal@aol.com
2nd Vice President	Dayna Otto	609-597-3239	yoursdayna@comcast.net
Secretary	Thelma Polon	609-693-2720	tp1967@comcast.net
Treasurer	Ernie Bleiweis	609-978-4240	sebleiweis@comcast.net
Financial Secretary	Mark Kreisler		mrmark0929@aol.com
Board of Trustees at Large	Wendi Higgins	732-232-1861	wendi.higgins@verizon.net
	Philip Altland	609-492-2751	paltland@elliman.com
	Rose Jackson	609-698-8803	rose-jackson@comcast.net
Past President	Cyndy Friedland	609-698-4459	cfriedland119@comcast.net

Sunday, May 19th at 7:00 PM Congregational Meeting

*Please mark your calendars to attend. At this meeting the congregation will be **voting** on the following:*

- *New Temple Officers and Board of Trustees members. The nominating committee will be presenting the new slate. Also, at this meeting nominations can be submitted from the congregations prior to the vote. Officers and Board of Trustees members will be elected for a two year term.*
- *2013 – 2014 Temple Budget (See 2012 -2013 budget summary on page 8)*

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



Hebrew School News



Our students are looking forward to a field trip to Stockton College to the Holocaust Studies Department on Tuesday, May 28th. This will be an age appropriate presentation of the Holocaust for our students and their families. If members are interested in joining us, please contact Cyndy Friedland.

Want to submit an article for the Newsletter – Please send to Rose-Jackson@comcast.net by the 27th of the month for consideration.

Ideas: Jewish facts, temple happening, book reviews, committee news, etc....



May	Date	Congregant
	3	Judy Levin
	9	Debbie Majewski
	25	Maralyn Ricciardi



Happy Anniversary, Happy Anniversary to



Craig & Gina Cohen - May 22, 2010



Mr. & Mrs. Carey Belitz – May 27, 1995



Cards were sent for wishes of a speedy recovery to:

- Dolly Weiss
- Mike Weiss
- David Levin



NEWS FROM THE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

- Fund Raising Committee needs your help. Please volunteer for helping at an event. Contact Dayna at 609-597-3239.



JEWES AND WORDS by Amos Oz and Fania Oz-Salzberger

Amos Oz, internationally-known author of more than 20 works of fiction and numerous essays on politics and professor of literature at Ben-Gurion University, literature, and peace and his daughter, Fania Oz-Salzberger, writer and history professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Haifa, have collaborated on this series of essays explaining the integral relationship of Jews and words. In an almost conversational format, father and daughter tell the tales behind Judaism's most enduring names, adages, disputes, texts, and quips: connecting Abraham with the Jews of every subsequent generation.

With demonstrated affection (and chutzpah), Oz points out that it was not necessarily the Sabbath that "kept the Jews", but "*What kept the Jews going were the books*" and offers many, many instances of information supporting his contention. Although born in Palestine, Oz is descended from Eastern European Ashkenazim and being fully aware of his past, he writes about his present and even the future.

There are pearls of wisdom and information featuring delicious tidbits about the linear history of Jews, their contribution to Western humanism and thought despite an unending history of persecution, torment, torture and murder ... He compares the situation of ethnic immigration in this passage which I found compelling:

"You see, unlike the Irish, the Italians, and other Old World emigrants, soon after we left the old place it ceased to exist, literally wiped off the map. There was no green grass of home to return to, or even to long for. Jewish émigrés who thought they were burning the bridges to the shtetl, looked back in horror to see that the shtetl itself had burned down, and Father and Mother in it. Their lot was worse than Lot's wife's, but they did not turn into stone. Forced into facing the future, they moved on."

And with regard to Yiddish: "*Since words have flavors, we can tell you that the flavor of Yiddishkeit is the opposite of the flavor of Judaism, even if the dictionary definitions of these two terms overlap. As lovers of words know well, dictionaries do not tell it all.*" (My grandfather would have loved Oz' "take" on Yiddishkeit.)

A small book efficiently packed with information presented in a most interesting manner .. almost as if it were an after dinner discussion with obvious affection by both father and daughter.

Rosalie Donadio

TRIBUTE CARDS SENT

- Congratulations to Aaron and Susan Shapiro on the May Bas Mitzvah of their Granddaughter Sarah from Thelma and Hal Polon.
- In Memory of Frieda Stolzmaker mother of Mrs. Irene Mandell from Thelma and Hal Polon.
- In memory of Oscar Haimowitz to Mrs. Sondra Haimowitz from Aaron and Susan Shapiro
- Congratulations to Sandye and Joel Polter in honor of 50th wedding anniversary from Ruth and Gary Schlyen.
- In memory of Sheila Silverman, beloved wife of Harold Silverman from Terry and Joan Silverman and family.
- Sympathy card from Congregation to: Terry and Joan Silverman on death of sister in law Sheila Silverman.



May Dates to Remember

- *Friday, May 3, Services 7:30pm*
- *Tuesday, May 7 Blue Claws Game – Jewish Heritage Evening*
- *Friday, May 17, Services 7:30pm*
- *Sunday, May 19th at 7:00 PM Congregational Meeting*



June Dates to Remember

- *Friday, June 14, Services 7:30pm*
- *Friday, June 28, Services 7:30pm*

Temple Membership

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. Invite a friend to visit our services and meet our spiritual community. Ask them "To try it; they might like it"!!



Jewish American Heritage Month (JAHM)

is an annual recognition and celebration of [Jewish American](#) achievements in and contributions to the United States of America. It is observed annually in the U.S. during the month of **May**.

JAHM was set into law by President George W. Bush in 2006, according to the Jewish American Heritage Month Coalition. This is the achievement of Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL) and Sen. Arlen Specter (D-PA), as well as the [Jewish Museum of Florida](#) and the [South Florida Jewish Community](#).¹



**Jewish Federation
of Ocean County**

Business & Professionals Division



**OBAMACARE
Friend or Foe?**

June 6th, 2013

8:00a.m.-9:15a.m.

The Clarion Hotel

815 Rt. 37 W Toms River 08755



Couvert \$18
RSVP by May 30th

Dairy Breakfast Buffet
Dietary Laws Observed