

Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam

Newsletter for Month of February 2012

www.shaareyhayam.org

The Congregation extends its sincere condolences to Rabbi Kim Geringer and her family upon the recent loss of her mother, Eda Geringer.

***The family requests that memorial contributions be sent to:
ARZA, 633 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017.***

OR

***The Temple can send tributes for any contributions received. Please forward checks to
Aaron Shapiro, 17 Sea Girt Lane, Waretown, NJ 08758.***

Message from the President:

Is religion a part of your life? We have all gone through periods of being disconnected from our religion. Judaism teaches that my home should be a house of prayer leading to charity, good deeds and concern for humanity. Our society today, including most religions, is going through a stage less and less prone to a curiosity about spiritualism. Personally, I have found faith has been a source of guidance, strength and perspective. It has led me through difficult periods and made my life today one of active charitable participation.

Our brief history as a congregation has proven that by being open to all, growth can be accomplished. Judaism is a practical spirituality. When we see that something is broken, we fix it. When we find something is lost, we return it. Whether we know it or not, by doing these acts, we are doing G-d's work. Every day we are getting stronger as a group and as a religious entity. This has been done under the spiritual guidance of Rabbi Kim Geringer and the musical enhancement of Philip Altland. The number of congregants and guests attending Friday services has increased demonstrating that our congregation is growing. Last year at this time we would have some 20 odd members at services. The first services in January this year, we had 36. Attendance at the Hanukkah dinner was the best ever with over 70 attendees. The efforts and time put in by many of our members made this a most enjoyable event. Our next event, the Passover Seder, is scheduled for Saturday, April 7th at the Captain's Inn. I am positive that this will be a well attended event as well.

Our thoughts turn to questions like - where do we progress from here? Our fund raising committee has come to be a most important arm. By supporting our functions, whether it is a Dine-A-Round, an Oneg, a donation for a Yahrzeit or the upcoming auction, we will be able to grow in the future. The auction is scheduled for April 28 at the Manahawkin Elks Lodge. Please plan on supporting your Temple with donations to the auction and by your attendance and the attendance of your friends and neighbors.

As a reminder for all, certain service dates have been changed; please check the new dates in this newsletter.

With the Warmest Regards,

Aaron I Shapiro, President

ADULT EDUCATION....

Iris Harari our new Hebrew Teacher is available to start Adult Education Classes for us. We need to know what you are interested in; Hebrew 101, basics and some conversational Hebrew, Life in Israel, What it was like to be in the Yom Kippur War, and whatever you would like to learn about! Please email Cyndy Friedland at Cfriedland119@comcast.net with your wish list. There will be a fee for the course, and we will also open these classes to non-members.

From Philip Altland

As everyone who attended High Holiday services discovered, our new choir is a great asset to the Congregation and really enhances our services. We will be performing periodically at Shabbat services throughout the year. Only membership requirement is a desire to sing and ability to attend an occasional Thursday night rehearsal. Anyone interested, please feel free to email or call me or see me at services.

- **A Taste of Judaism**

This is a six-session course for Jews and non-Jews interested in an introduction to key aspects of Jewish life. The course will introduce students to the following concepts: principles of Judaism, basic Jewish texts (Torah, Bible, Talmud, Midrash), Shabbat, the major Jewish holidays, Jewish liturgy, the Jewish lifecycle, and the history of the Reform Movement. The course will meet monthly, January - June 2012 from 5:15 - 6:45 pm starting on February 3, March 23, April 27, May 18 and June 15. The cost of the course is \$300. Students will need to purchase one basic textbook; I would provide articles and other supplemental material.

Please contact the Rabbi if you plan in attending the course. Rabbi will adjust date(s) to make up for missed session

Yahrzeit February 2012

February 3	Harold Sagman	Father of Dolly Weiss
February 9	Eleanor Beckman	Grandmother of Wendi Higgins
February 10	Lou Block	Father of Rena Kreisler
February 12	Morris Bleiweis	Father of Ernie Bleiweis
February 13	Arthur Levine	Father of Michael Levine
March 1	Leah Crespy	Mother of Jack Crespy (7 Adar)

PLEASE NOTE: To have the name of your loved one listed in The Bulletin and announced at Services by the Rabbi on the anniversary of their Yahrzeit, contact Phyllis Feather at PO Box 624, Barnegat, NJ 08005 or call (609) 978-5500. The list must be updated; even if you have sent in a name/names, response is necessary in order to insure that this process is up to date.

Since our files need to be updated, please forward ALL birthday and anniversary dates to

Fran at nanny1141@comcast.net even if you have done so previously. Thank you.

February Anniversaries (none this month)

February Birthdays

Higgins Wendi	2
Dunn Robert	7
Altland Philip	9
Shapiro Susan	14
Daley Matthew	24
Miller Laura	25
Levine Michael	25

Jewish Heroes (submitted by Cyndy Friedland) *(Note: perhaps many of us remember such neighborhoods when we "all" were neighbors in the true sense of the word. Of various ethnicities, we shared the same space, the same fears, the same joys....a world long gone with memory dissolving into the veils of time.)*

I was the Shabbos Goy of Sterling Place and Utica Ave: by Joe Velarde

(Joe Velarde became the fencing coach of Columbia University in the 1940's-50s and was an early advocate of civil rights in sports, eventually retiring to California.)

Snow came early in the winter of 1933 when our extended Cuban family moved into the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn. I was ten years old. We were the first Spanish speakers to arrive, yet we fit more or less easily into that crowded, multicultural neighborhood. Soon we began learning a little Italian, a few Greek and Polish words, lots of Yiddish and some heavily accented English. I first heard the expression 'Shabbos is falling' when Mr. Rosenthal refused to open the door of his dry goods store on Bedford Avenue. My mother had sent me with a dime to buy a pair of black socks for my father. In those days, men wore mostly black and Navy blue. Brown and gray were somehow special and cost more. Mr. Rosenthal stood inside the locked door, arms folded, glaring at me through the thick glass while a heavy snow and darkness began to fall on a Friday evening. "We're closed, already", Mr. Rosenthal had said, shaking his head, "can't you see that Shabbos is falling? Don't be a *nudnik*! Go home." I could feel the cold wetness covering my head and thought that Shabbos was the Jewish word for snow.

My misperception of Shabbos didn't last long, however, as the area's dominant culture soon became apparent; Gentiles were the minority. From then on, as Shabbos fell with its immutable regularity and Jewish lore took over the life of the neighborhood, I came to realize that so many human activities, ordinarily mundane at any other time, ceased, and a palpable silence, a pleasant tranquility, fell over all of us. It was then that a family with an urgent need would dispatch a youngster to "get the Spanish boy, and hurry." That was me. In time, I stopped being nameless and became Yussel, sometimes Yuss or Yusseleh. And so began my life as a Shabbos Goy, voluntarily doing chores for my neighbors on Friday nights and Saturdays: lighting stoves, running errands, getting a prescription for an old *tante*, stoking coal furnaces, putting lights on or out, clearing snow and ice from slippery sidewalks and stoops. Doing just about anything that was forbidden to the devout by their religious code.

Friday afternoons were special. I'd walk home from school assailed by the rich aroma emanating from Jewish kitchens preparing that evening's special menu. By now, I had developed a list of steady "clients," Jewish families who depended on me. Furnaces, in particular, demanded frequent tending during Brooklyn's many freezing winters. I shudder remembering brutally cold winds blowing off the East River. Anticipation ran high as I thought of the warm home-baked treats I'd bring home that night after my Shabbos rounds were over. Thanks to me, my entire family had become Jewish

pastry junkies. *Moi?* I'm still addicted to checkerboard cake, halvah and Egg Creams (made only with Fox's Ubet chocolate syrup). I remember as if it were yesterday how I discovered that Jews were the smartest people in the world. You see, in our Cuban household we all loved the ends of bread loaves and, to keep peace, my father always decided who would get them. One harsh winter night I was rewarded for my Shabbos ministrations with a loaf of warm challah (we pronounced it "holly") and I knew I was witnessing genius! Who else could have invented a bread that had wonderfully crusted ends all over it -- enough for everyone in a large family?

There was an "International" aspect to my teen years in Williamsburg. The Sternberg family had two sons who had fought with the Abraham Lincoln Brigade in Spain. Whenever we kids could get their attention, they'd spellbind us with tales also introduced us to a novel way of thinking, one that embraced such humane ideas as 'From each according to his means and to each according to his needs'. In retrospect, this innocent exposure to a different philosophy was the starting point of a journey that would also incorporate the concept of *Tzedakah* in my personal guide to the world.

In what historians would later call The Great Depression, a nickel was a lot of *mazuma* and its economic power could buy a brand new Spaldeen, our local name for the pink-colored rubber ball then produced by the Spalding Company. The famous Spaldeen was central to our endless street games: stickball and punch ball or the simpler stoop ball. One balmy summer evenings our youthful fantasies converted South Tenth Street into Ebbits Field with the Dodgers' Dolph Camilli swinging a broom handle at a viciously curving Spaldeen thrown by the Giants' great lefty, Carl Hubbell. We really thought it curved, I swear.

Our neighbors, magically transformed into spectators kibitzing from their brownstone stoops and windows, were treated to a unique version of major league baseball. My tenure as the resident *Shabbos Goy* came to an abrupt end after Pearl Harbor Day, December 7, 1941. I withdrew from Brooklyn College the following day and joined the U.S. Army. In June of 1944, the Army Air Corps shipped me home after flying sixty combat missions over Italy and the Balkans. I was overwhelmed to find that several of my Jewish friends and neighbors had set a place for me at their supper tables every Shabbos throughout my absence, including me in their prayers. What mitzvoth! My homecoming was highlighted by wonderful invitations to dinner. Can you imagine the effect after twenty-two months of Army field rations? As my post-World War II life developed, the nature of the association I'd had with Jewish families during my formative years became clearer. I had learned the meaning of friendship, of loyalty, and of honor and respect. I discovered obedience without subservience. And caring about all living things had become as natural as breathing. The worth of a strong work ethic and of purposeful dedication was manifest. Love of learning blossomed and I began to set higher standards for my developing skills, and loftier goals for future activities and dreams. Mind, none of this was the result of any sort of formal instruction; my yeshiva had been the neighborhood. I learned these things, absorbed them actually says it better, by association and role modeling, by pursuing curious inquiry, and by what educators called "incidental learning" in the crucible that was pre-World War II Williamsburg. It seems many of life's most elemental lessons are learned this way.

While my parents' Cuban home sheltered me with warm, intimate affection and provided for my well-being and self esteem, the group of Jewish families I came to know and help in the Williamsburg of the 1930s was a surrogate tribe that abetted my teenage rite of passage to adulthood. One might even say we had experienced a special kind of Bar Mitzvah. I couldn't explain then the concept of *tikkun olam*, but I realized as I matured how well I had been oriented by the Jewish experience to live it and to apply it. What a truly uplifting outlook on life it is to be genuinely motivated "to repair the world."

In these twilight years when my good wife is occasionally told, "Your husband is a funny man," I'm aware that my humor has its roots in the *shticks* of Second Avenue Yiddish Theater, entertainers at Catskill summer resorts, and their many imitators. And, when I argue issues of human or civil rights and am cautioned about showing too much zeal, I recall how chutzpah first flourished on Williamsburg sidewalks, competing for filberts (hazelnuts) with tough kids wearing *payess* and yarmulkes. Along the way I played chess and one-wall handball, learned to fence, listened to Rimsky-Korsakov, ate roasted chestnuts, and read Maimonides. I am ever grateful for having had the opportunity to be a *Shabbos Goy*.

Aleichem Sholem

(Mario Cuomo, Colin Powell & Pete Hamill were also *Shabbos goyim*)

BOOK CORNER: by Rosalie Donadio

The Dovekeepers by Alice Hoffman: Over five years in the writing, *The Dovekeepers* is Alice Hoffman's most ambitious and mesmerizing novel, a tour de force of imagination and research, set in ancient Israel.

In 70 C.E., nine hundred Jews held out for months against armies of Romans on Masada, a mountain in the Judean desert. According to the ancient historian Josephus, two women and five children survived. Based on this tragic and iconic event, Hoffman's novel is a spellbinding tale of four extraordinarily bold, resourceful, and sensuous women, each of whom has come to Masada by a different path. Yael's mother died in childbirth, and her father, an expert assassin, never forgave her for that death. Revka, a village baker's wife, watched the horrifically brutal murder of her daughter by Roman soldiers; she brings to Masada her young grandsons, rendered mute by what they have witnessed. Aziza is a warrior's daughter, raised as a boy, a fearless rider and an expert marksman who finds passion with a fellow soldier. Shirah, born in Alexandria, is wise in the ways of ancient magic and medicine, a woman with uncanny insight and power. The lives of these four complex and fiercely independent women intersect in the desperate days of the siege. All are dovekeepers, and all are also keeping secrets—about whom they are, where they come from, who fathered them, and whom they love. *The Dovekeepers* is Alice Hoffman's masterpiece.

Ms. Hoffman displays an uncanny talent in her literary creation of Jerusalem of 70 A.D. The dry sand of Masada's plateau fills your nostrils. The inevitability of the dismal future of our people against the Roman "machine" weighs heavily upon their shoulders: the readers as well. The cries to G-d went unanswered as it did almost 2000 years later in Europe and these victims went to their deaths thinking that this was the end of our people. But it wasn't.

Jewish Tidbits Fran Breese

The Reason For Anti-Semitism: [Anti-Semitism The Longest Hatred](#)

"Who has made us Jews different from all other people? Who has allowed us to suffer so terribly up until now? It is G-d who has made us as we are, but it will be God, too, who will raise us up again. Who knows it might even be our religion from which the world and all peoples learn good and for that reason and only that reason do we suffer. We can never become just Netherlanders, or just English or representatives of any country for that matter. We will always remain Jews." (The Diary of Anne Frank April, 11, 1944) *From: SimpleToRemember.com JUDAISM ONLINE*

DATE CHANGES FOR SERVICES: Check the dates for services. There are changes to the previously sent schedule.

<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>
6	3	2	13	4	8
20	10	23	27	18	29

REMINDER:

SAVE THE DATE: THIRD ANNUAL SEDER IS SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 7 AT 5:00 PM
AT THE CAPTAIN'S INN IN LACEY.

Tu B'Shevat Services and Seder is February 10th.

Oneg Sponsorship: Share your simcha with the congregation. Sponsor an ONEG! There are 3 levels of ONEGS to choose - \$50.00, \$75.00 and \$100.00. Basic ONEG has wine, juice, challah and a dessert. Additional levels of an ONEG add fruits and other desserts. To reserve your date and order, please contact Madelyn at 609-660-1614.

February News from the Fundraising Committee

Fund Raising Corner - we need your help!!!

Sahara Sam's Water Park - we still have 12 tickets available at a great discount - \$20.00 each.

Contact Dayna to purchase.

Dine-A-Round - Look for an email blast to update you on what's to come. Lefty's is sponsoring the next Dine-A-Round. Flyer attached. If anyone can think of a restaurant to ask, please feel free to book something and let us know!!!

Gift Auction - April 28th, From 6:30 to 11:00 PM at the Manahawkin Elk's Lodge, tickets will be pre-sold at a reduced rate of \$20.00 until March 30, then \$25.00 in the weeks leading up to it and at the door.

DONATIONS NEEDED - please ask if anyone has gifts they received that they or you could re-gift and donate.

Also bring the donation letter (attached) to all of the stores, salons, doctor appointments and restaurants.

Calendar magnets - available for your refrigerator and more - \$5.00 each. Call Dayna

Jewish Heritage Night at the Lakewood Blue Claws – May 22. Call Madelyn for your tickets. Wear your LOGO T-shirt to show our group.

Clothing Drive - Start collecting shoes, clothes, toys (smaller than 24"sq), stuffed animals, bikes - date for pick up is 4/30. Please contact Madelyn.

Bus trip to Broadway - Shows & date to follow. Sounds like a fun day, could we sell 56 tickets???? If so, the company will give our congregation \$1000!!!!!! Please contact Madelyn.

Next meeting of the Fund Raising is at Syble Bleiwies' house on Feb. 8 at 7:00 pm. Anyone wishing to volunteer is welcome. Call Dayna and let her know if you will attend.

Beautiful LOGO T-SHIRTS are available for only \$10.00 each. "Recipes to Remember", our very own COOKBOOK, in a 3 ring binder with an easel for freestanding on the counter use is only \$18.00. Each COOKBOOK has over 180 recipes with lots of tips, hints and suggestions. T-Shirts and Cookbooks are always available at services.

Well Wishes to:

Terry Silverman on his recent surgery

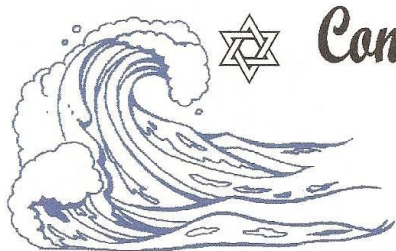
Rita Gold on her road to remission

Debra Majewski on the progress of her father and her father-in-law

Danielle Jonas on her recent surgery

It is an important part of our family experience to know if there is someone with a simcha or an illness within our congregation. Many of us would like to share our feelings with that family.

PLEASE CALL AARON AT 242-2390 OR E-MAIL AT shap1010@comcast.net WITH ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING A SIMCHA OR AN ILL FAMILY MEMBER.



Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam

Gates of the Sea

P.O. Box 1268, Manahawkin, NJ 08050

DINE - A - ROUND

Date: Monday, February 27, 2012

Place: **Lefty's**

547 North Main St. (Rte. 9)
Barnegat

Time: All day (lunch and
dinner)

Must present this flyer for Temple
to receive credit.



Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam

Gates of the Sea

P.O. Box 1268, Manahawkin, NJ 08050

Website: www.shaareyhayam.org

Dear Friends and Business Owners,

Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam, a Reform Jewish Community is currently seeking donations for our fourth annual Gift Auction scheduled for April 28, 2012. It will be taking place at the Elks Lodge in Manahawkin, N.J.

This is a major fundraiser for our congregation. All proceeds from this event will be used to toward our growing Jewish community where we can worship, celebrate and educate our children, along with giving back to the surrounding community.

We hope that you will consider making a charitable contribution for this event. The contribution can be in the form of merchandise, gift certificates, a monetary donation, or any appropriate gift of your choosing. All contributions are tax deductible. Tax ID #208 925 891/000. Please send to 306 Winding Oak Trail, Manahawkin, NJ 08050.

In gratitude, your business will be listed in our evening's program as a benefactor for the event and we will be making a gift bag for attendees. Please include 50 marketing pieces.

Thank you in advance for your support. It is greatly appreciated and invaluable to our community. If you have any questions or require any additional information, kindly contact Dayna at YoursDayna@comcast.net or call 609-978-6581.

Sincerely,

The Fundraising Committee

THE ONLY REFORM CONGREGATION IN SOUTHERN OCEAN COUNTY



GIFT AUCTION

APRIL 28, 2012

FROM 6:30 TO 11.00 PM

AT THE

MANAHAWKIN ELKS LODGE

SUPPORT YOUR CONGREGATION

REGULAR PRICE - \$ 25.00 PER ADULT

BUY YOUR TICKET BY MARCH 30TH

SAVE \$ 5.00 - \$20.00 PER ADULT

INCLUDES AUCTION TICKETS, COFFEE,
TEA AND DESERT

CASH BAR AVAILABLE

CALL DAYNA AT 609-978-6581

TO MAKE A DONATION AND

PURCHASE TICKETS

COME OUT AND SUPPORT YOUR TEMPLE

CONGREGATION SHA'AREY HA-YAM

Presents our

THIRD ANNUAL SEDER

Saturday, April 7, 2012 at 5:00 PM



Location:

CAPTAIN'S INN

**304 East Lacey Road
Forked River, NJ**



Seder Conducted by Rabbi Kim Geringer

Members & Extended Family: \$39.00P.P.

Member Children 12 & under: \$13.00 P.P.

Non-member: \$50.00 P.P. Non-member child: \$17.00 P.P.

RESERVE EARLY—DEADLINE IS APRIL 1

Menu includes:

*Salad, Matzo Ball Soup, Gefilte Fish
Herb Roasted Chicken or Salmon w/Dill or Brisket
Roasted Potatoes and Vegetable
Desert
Includes Wine, Soda, Coffee or Tea*

See following page

Please return your reservation form and check payable to:

Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam

**C/O Aaron Shapiro
17 Sea Girt Lane
Waretown, NJ 08758**

Phone: (609) 242-2390

Names Attending _____

Address _____ **Tele #** _____

Members attending ____ **Non-members attending** ____

Amount of check enclosed \$ _____

Indicate entree choice and how many:

Chicken _____ **Brisket** _____ **Salmon** _____