

Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam

Newsletter for Month of March 2012

www.shaareyhayam.org

Message from the Rabbi:

Dear Friends,

Last month, for the first time in my rabbinic career, I was unable to meet the deadline for a Message from the Rabbi. In my message's usual place was the reason why - an announcement of my mother's death. As I write this, *shloshim*— the 30-day period of mourning following burial – is about to come to an end. The observance of *shloshim* (Hebrew for “thirty”) has its origins in the Torah where we learn that many of our patriarchs and matriarchs were mourned for thirty days. One who is mindful of *shloshim*, therefore, joins him- or herself to one of our most ancient traditions. There is some comfort in that.

Over the years, as a rabbi, I have to the best of my ability supported many individuals and families when they walked the walk I have myself been on for the past month. On this journey of my own, many things I already knew have been reinforced; I also learned some new things as well. I got it – really got it – about the power of presence. I have been bowled over, amazed, astonished and more grateful than I can ever adequately express for the outpouring of kindness and concern that has come to my family and to me in this last month. “Presence” means many things. It means physical presence, of course; each caring face that I saw at the funeral or *shiva* was like a beautiful gift. But presence also means phone calls, notes, cards, e-mails, food, memorial contributions, and help with tasks large and small. I heard from people I expected to, of course. I also heard from long-lost friends, students, colleagues, congregants and teachers. Each and every point of contact was like a shining star in a dark cosmos, letting in a little bit of light. I generally read e-mails when they arrived. But for awhile, I simply put every card or letter that came in the mail into a basket in our kitchen. Not too long ago, I began to open them and read them. Each one warmed me in its own way.

Here's what I learned and what I hope will guide my own actions going forward. Each of us grieves in her or his own unique way, of course, and there are no “rules” that apply to everyone. *However, I've come to believe that one can never go wrong by reaching out.* I say now, with some shame and much regret, that at times in the past I've neglected to send a card or pay a shiva call or otherwise extend myself to someone in mourning. Why? Well, I was busy. I sincerely meant to and then I forgot. Or I worried about intruding or bothering the mourner. I thought that I wasn't very close to the person and they wouldn't notice anyway. I think now that I was wrong, even though I really meant well. One of the things that I've now done – simple as it sounds – is to go out and purchase a box of condolence cards. Now that I've got them, I've already sent two, both to colleagues out of town whose losses I heard about via a rabbinic listserve. I might not have done so if I hadn't just had this experience of my own. I don't blame myself overly for what I didn't do in the past. I'm just glad that I now know what I know and can act on this knowledge in the future.

Many years ago a friend of mine talked about the power of presence at a time of great loss. “It doesn't make the situation *better*,” she explained. “But it most assuredly makes it less worse.” Thank you from the bottom of my heart for making this difficult time less worse.

Rabbi Kim Geringer

President's Message:

Many of you know that I believe strongly that the contribution of all of us in Temple life is the essence to the future of not only our Temple but to Judaism itself. In keeping with a Jewish way of thought, we view the children of the congregation as children of us all. It is always felt to be important that the community and temple as a whole, feel the responsibility of educating our youth. So too it is our responsibility as a community to ensure that we create and provide a community that helps people feel connected—both youth and non-youth alike.

My wish for all of you is that you find your connection. Partake in that one thing that might have a meaning for you. Come share in our new offering of adult education, volunteer to help in our religious school, become a greeter, get involved with one of our committees, i.e., fund raising, membership, publicity, ritual, planning special events, sunshine and come to our Friday night services.

Know also, that here at Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam that Jews are made and Jewish souls are nourished. Our doors are open to all, whether Jewish or not, and all are welcome.

As we continue to look to the future, on April 7th, the Congregation will gather at the Captain's Inn to celebrate the second annual Passover Seder. Last year, we had 89 members and guests attend this event. Please get your response back to me so we can finalize the planning. On April 28th, the gift auction is scheduled at the Manahawkin Elks Lodge. I hope to see you at these events.

Shalom,

Aaron 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, March – June 2012 from 5:15 – 6:45 pm starting on March 2, March 23, April 27, May 18, June 15 and another date to be determined. 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 or Aaron if you are attending course. 242-2390 or shap1010@comcast.net

Yahrzeit March 2012

March 1	Leah Crespy	Mother of Jack Crespy (7 Adar)
March 1	Ruth Chordock Bussell	Mother of Judie Levin
March 3	Dr. Elias Shapiro	Father of Aaron Shapiro (9 Adar)
March 8	Minnie Spielberg	Grandmother of Phyllis Feather
March 18	Sophia Shapiro	Mother of Aaron Shapiro (24 Adar)
March 21	Irving Topper	Father-in-Law of Samuel Hull Lewis
March 21	Melvin Shapiro	Brother of Aaron Shapiro (27 Adar)
March 21	Celine Kolb	Mother of Daniel Kolb
March 23	Yetta Grossman	Mother of Fran Breese
March 30	Shirley Feather	Mother of Leonard Feather

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.

March Birthdays

Daley Gary 1
Crespy Jack 4
Feldhuhn Marlene 5
Miller Emily 5
Silverman Joan 10
Feather Phyllis 10
Shapiro Aaron 13
Jackson Stanley 17
Newman Sandra 22
Feather M. Leonard 26
Cohen Gina 29
Jonas Danielle 30

CORRECTION: The birthday of Wendy Higgins was on February 11th. (Extra happy birthday to you, Wendy!)

Please forward ALL birthday and anniversary dates to Fran at nanny1141@comcast.net as our files must be re-done. Thank you.

March Anniversaries

Judy and David Levin March 25, 1961

The Hebrew School students are currently holding their annual Passover candy fundraiser. If you wish to purchase, please contact any of the Hebrew School families. Orders may also be taken prior to services on March 2

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FEBRUARY 20, 2012

Contact: Arlene Schragger, ads Public Relations & Marketing 609-240-1306

Christopher Seiz, executive Director, LBI Foundation 609-494-1241

JEWS AND BASEBALL: AN AMERICAN LOVE STORY to Screen at Lighthouse Film Society
Showing on March 24 at LBI Foundation at 7 PM.

JEWS AND BASEBALL: AN AMERICAN LOVE STORY explores the connection between Jewish Americans and baseball, our nation's most iconic institution. The movie, which will be shown as the next Lighthouse Film Society offering on Saturday, March 24, at 7 pm, is more than a film about sports. It is a story of immigration, assimilation, bigotry, heroism, the passing of traditions and the shattering of stereotypes.

Jewish athletes were expected to be lawyers or doctors, not ballplayers. But despite the stereotypes and in the face of hostility from fans and even violence from opposing players, there have been standout Jewish players in every decade from the 1860's to the present. JEWS AND BASEBALL is the first major documentary to tell their stories.

Interviews include fans, writers, executives and especially players—Al Rosen, Kevin Youkilis, Shawn Green, Norm Sherry, Ron Blomberg, Bob Feller, Yogi Berra and a rare interview with the legendary Hall of Fame pitcher Sandy Koufax. Fans Ron Howard and Larry King speak of the meaning of Jewish ball players in their lives, while historians and two baseball-loving rabbis relate the stories of Jewish players to the turbulent history of the last century. These powerful personal and historical stories are interwoven with an extraordinary collection of rare archival footage and photos and a musical score ranging from Benny Goodman to YO-YO Ma to Rush.

Written by Ira Berkow, directed by Peter Miller and narrated by Dustin Hoffman, the film is an engaging story of great drama, unforgettable games and the broad sweep of American history. It is likely that Director Peter Miller will join the audience via Skype for Q & A after the movie.

The cost of the movie is \$5 per person at the door; free to Film Society members. Ask about joining the Film Society at the desk when you attend the movie. It pays to join as there are movies scheduled every month throughout the year. Check out the Lighthouse website at www.lighthousefilmfestival.org or call the LBIF for more information at 609-494-1241.

BOOK CORNER: by Rosalie Donadio

Panorama by H.G. Adler

Panorama is a superb rediscovered novel of the Holocaust by a neglected modern master. A Panorama was a form of entertainment popular during the late 19th/early 20th century in one would enter a facsimile of a railway passenger compartment and while seated could view the life-size still photographs of world cities which would pass in succession. The author utilized this metaphor to present the stages of his autobiographical novel in order for the reader to traverse the changes in middle class Czech Jewish life from post WWI through the horrors of Auschwitz and post WWII dealing with the psychological after effects and the guilt which ensued.

The segment of Josef Kramer's (just like Kafka's Joseph K in "The Trial" – Adler looked to Kafka as a mentor) job in the cultural center described in the frenetic rhythm of a Marx Brothers' film offered comic relief of the central European bureaucratic system before the abyss imploded. It also aptly described middle class Czech assimilation, despite anti-Semitism, in Czechoslovakia along with the patriotism of the Czech Jews. Although the novel was written in 1948, it was not published until 1968. Adler was a brilliant writer whose stoic acceptance of these events brought him to the realization that "the viewer is also another participant" and that action must be taken in life, if only to make sure the dead are not forgotten.

I have read many, many books dealing with the Holocaust, both fiction and non-fiction. This book took me a long time to ingest, digest and register to my psyche. I had to put it down several times and resume the normalcy of my day to day existence ... because to become so involved that I literally "felt" the environment in which I was the "passenger" would, at times, be off-setting and so I would leave a marker and then return. It was because Josef's existence, initially, was "safe" and normal and at times predictable, that when his world was turned upside down without a net, gave pause for much thought. And during Josef's review during his safe sojourn in England, he concludes that ".....since everything that happens is the price paid for living in the present, if only the individual accepts it. Josef accepts it, otherwise he wouldn't be able to go on, for he can attest to his own existence as a person only to the degree that he is no longer reduced to the limits of his own personality, this being what he has learned on the hill in the castle park of Launceston where to this day he has woken."

When reviewing events post WWII of the many suicides, I view that with less surprise than that there were not many more. To carry such pain and recognize the futility of what transpired and the absolute waste ... it is beyond my ken.

Jewish Tidbits Fran Breese

Leap [*Thirty days hath September, April, June and November*]

To continue the logic, if every month had 30 days, that would make 360 days in something that we call a year. Actually, a year is 365 days. Actually it's a little more than that, it's 365 and $\frac{1}{4}$ days. That's why every four years we add a day. We call it a "Leap" Year, just like 2012 for example.

What exactly constitutes a year? It's a measure of the time it takes the earth to make one complete revolution around the sun. (Did you ever wonder how the ancients knew we had completed one complete cycle? Maybe they recognized the sunspots??)

The Jewish year is only 354 days because, in the main, we rely on the lunar cycle. 354 divided by 12 months gives you 29 and $\frac{1}{2}$ days per month. Actually, it's a little more than that. Actually, it's 29 and $\frac{1}{2}$ days plus 793 one-thousand-and-eightieths of an hour. We stated that over two thousand years ago. How did we know? The Talmud said it was a tradition handed down to us from generation to generation.

The people at NASA (the National Aeronautic and Space Administration of the United States) wondered how the Jewish people could have calculated it so accurately? NASA said, without the benefit of satellites, laser beams and telescopes, the best we could have done was guess.

So they decided to test our calculation. And they were right. We were off. We said a lunar month was 29.53059 days. It's not. It's 29.530588 days. Every thousand years, we would be off by about 17 hours. I can live with that (assuming I live for a thousand years).

So, a year is one complete revolution of the earth around the sun and a month is one complete revolution of the moon around the earth. A day, as we all know, is one complete rotation of the earth around its axis. But what's a week? One complete cycle between paydays? Who came up with the idea of a week?

Travel to any country in the world, they all have a Tuesday, they all have a Sunday and most agree that you have to give your workers at least one day off in seven. Why seven days? Why not twelve or three or thirty?

Just like most everything else good in the world, it all comes from the Bible. Jewish, Christian, pagan or atheist, a week is a week. Seven days. The day off, for three quarters of the globe, is called the Sabbath.

Chalk it up as another giant Jewish "leap" for mankind. From: JUDAISM ONLINE SimpleToRemember.com

March News from the Fundraising Committee

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 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.

Reserve The Date!

Jewish Heritage Night at the Lakewood Blue Claws on Tuesday, May 22. Gates open at 5:00 PM. Pregame program begins at 5:30 PM. Game starts at 6:45 PM. Information to follow.

2012 SCHEDULE OF SERVICE 7:30 PM (DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

March 2	September 7
March 23	September 16 Erev Rosh Hashanah
April 7 (Seder) AT Captain's Inn	September 17 Rosh Hashanah
April 13	September 25 Erev Yom Kippur
April 27	September 26 Yom Kippur; Break the Fast
May 4	October 2 (erect Sukkah on Tuesday)
May 18	October 5
June 8	October 19
June 29	November 2
July 13	November 16
July 27	November 30
August 10	December 14 Hanukkah
August 24	December 28

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** _____

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