

Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam

Newsletter for Month of August 2010

Message from the Rabbi:

I am writing this message on July 12, the six-month anniversary of the devastating earthquake in Haiti which has been called the greatest urban disaster in world history. Three hundred thousand Haitian men, women and children were killed. One and half million people were displaced from their homes; most of them continue to live in one of hundreds of tent encampments. Perhaps most heartbreaking are the so-called "lost children." Disaster relief experts estimate that at least 50,000 Haitian children are currently "lost" to their parents or other adult relatives who simply have no idea where they are or if they are even living. In a world of seemingly constant disasters of one sort or another, compassion fatigue sets in and it is easy – and tempting – to turn away from last month's or last year's catastrophe. Last week my husband and I traveled to Haiti with an interfaith group (a Reform temple and a Presbyterian church from Hollywood, FL) which has been supporting an orphanage in Port au Prince since 2006. Parts of the orphanage was damaged in the earthquake, and our group went to make repairs, paint, and deliver large quantities of donated items – sheets, towels, clothing, books and school supplies. I would like to share with you part of an e-mail I wrote to some friends on our last night in Haiti:

"This has been extraordinary in every way and unexpected ways. What stands out: the heat, the vast quantities of trash and rubble, the unpaved and/or broken roads, the indescribable poverty, destruction and number of collapsed buildings, the tent cities anywhere there was once a park, sports field or just an open space, and the absolutely awe-inspiring people behind the orphanage here and also the kids themselves. We have painted and done repairs on the children's houses in infernal heat, unpacked and organized supplies, and played a lot with the kids. The houses have no running water, no ovens, no laundry facilities, and very limited electricity. (So, of course, no AC.) Yet the children are loved, almost impossibly clean and neat, and overwhelmingly sweet and affectionate. A quarter of them are HIV-positive, although all look and act healthy. And these are the lucky ones because they are not living on the street and they have adults who are committed to them and their future. They go to a school run by the orphanage (which operates on a shoestring of love and donations) headed up by a skinny, young, charismatic community organizer and minister of seemingly boundless energy. Late this afternoon after we finished working, we visited a tent city of **50,000** people which is largely being funded by an organization of the actor, Sean Penn (J/P HRO). The "city" is located in a valley that was once part of a private golf club. On the day of the earthquake, the stone walls around the club collapsed and desperate Haitians poured in. They're still there. Private no more! The tents are set up on the sides of the hills; it is VAST. Our vans got stuck in the mud from last night's rain, and so we had to get out and walk until eventually we found our way to the tent city's school - which turns out to be run by ISRAELIS! They are from an organization called *Tevel b'Tzedek* ("The earth – in justice") which is an Israeli NGO, a humanitarian aid group. They came to Haiti before anyone after the earthquake, including the Americans, and they have set up an incredible school for 300 kids in that hellhole (out of 10,000 children in the tent city, all they can accommodate). The "school" is a series of Israeli military tents - so organized - and the kids sang welcome songs to us and hugged us. (All these kids are big huggers). The Israelis have also established teen programs for the older kids, are training young Haitian adults to be their own community organizers, and are setting up various food cooperatives to encourage self-sufficiency. Absolutely amazing, we were really floored and so moved. We asked the Israelis (who are all in their early 20s), "Do the Haitian people know you're Israeli?" and they said, "Oh yes, they LOVE Israel!" And why not??? One of the Israelis is tall, thin, with long brown hair and a beard, and he told us that the Haitian kids ask him all the time if he is Jesus. And under the circumstances, one can understand why these children just might believe that he had come to save them."

At the moment it is impossible for private individuals to ship relief donations to Haiti. However, if you would like to support efforts to provide shelter, food, clean water and medicine to the people of Haiti, may I suggest two organizations - J/P HRO web site (<http://jphro.org/>) which funds the tent city we visited, and *Tevel b'Tzedek* (<http://www.tevelbtzedek.org/>). We saw the vital work of these groups firsthand and feel confident that monetary donations to them will be put to good use. As Jews, we are commanded to remember that, at one time, we too “were in the land of Egypt.” I hope you will join me in helping some Haitians find their way out of Egypt.

Sincerely, Rabbi Kim Geringer

Message from the President:

Last month I mentioned that our website, www.reformjewishcommunity.org has appeared on the Internet. Philip Altland has volunteered to organize materials that will show who we are and what we are all about. Our home page will change dramatically with an interactive opening, and it will just get better from that point on. There will be more information and pictures to explain our history, holidays, Hebrew school and hype about all of us! Stay tuned to see the new developing site.

This will be a great means of communicating our existence here in Southern Ocean County. When landsmen move into our neighborhoods, they will be able to find us on the Internet, have information about when and where Services are being held, how to contact us for Membership and Hebrew School, and yes, even to obtain tickets for the High Holidays too! All our forms will be accessible; our Newsletter will be available and our Congregants will be able to have their businesses linked through us, for a nominal annual fee of \$18. This process will enable us to network for our members, letting individuals that are looking for a “Jewish Source” to find one through our Congregation.

If you have photos that you would be willing to share on our site, kindly forward them to Philip at PALTLAND@elliman.com. Philip is working diligently on compiling our visuals for the site so the folks inquiring will see what we are all about.

There will be monthly updates to the site, so keep checking in for the new developments.

Cyndy Friedland, President

PICTURES NEEDED!

I am meeting with our web design person to make our congregational website more attractive to prospective members. There will be sections that show how we celebrate the holidays at Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam. Anyone who has any pictures of anything that would be suitable for this purpose, please email them as an attachment directly to me at paltland@elliman.com. We're particularly hoping for pictures of the *succah*, menorah lighting, *tashlich*, etc. And of course for you proud parents, grandparents and *mishpocha*, *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* photos would be most welcome. Thank you to all. I think you'll be proud and happy when you see the end results.

Philip Altland

Thought of the Month by Fran Breese:

Look to this day,
 For it is life,
 The very life of life.
 In its brief course lies all
 The realities and verities of existence,
 The bliss of growth,
 The splendor of action,
 The glory of power----
 For yesterday is but a dream
 And tomorrow is only a vision.
 But today, well lived,
 Makes every yesterday a dream of happiness
 And every tomorrow a vision of hope.
 Look well, therefore, to this day.

(Sanskrit Proverb)

Please forward ALL birthday and anniversary dates to Fran at nanny 1141@comcast.net as our files must be re-done. Thank you.

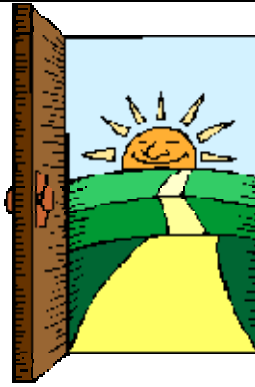
2010 Schedule (Services will commence promptly at 7:30 pm)		
July 30	September 8	Erev Rosh Hashanah
August 13	September 9	Rosh Hashanah
August 27	September 17	Kol Nidre
	September 18	Yom Kippur, Break the Fast
	September 24	Sukkot

Yahrzeit August 2010

- August 4 Esther Frank, Mother of Rhoda Preissman
- August 16 Nathan Sales, Father of Maralyn Ricciardi
- August 17 Morris Gold, Father of Rita Gold
- August 18 Gussie Flaxman, Mother of Joan Silverman
- August 19 Lillyan Harmon, Mother of Inez Levine
- August 20 Dave Frank, Father of Rhoda Preissman
- August 26 Albert Grossman, Brother of Fran Breese

GET WELL WISHES:

Get well wishes go out to Rhonda Daley as she recuperates from pneumonia.



To All My Friends at Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam

Thank you so much for bringing some sunshine through my door with your wonderful get-well cards and calls. It is sincerely appreciated. I'm looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Dolly Weiss

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

<i>LAST NAME</i>	<i>FIRST NAME</i>	<i>DAY</i>
Kreisler	Rena	16 th
Daley	Rhonda	29 th
Levin	David	23

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

<i>LAST NAME</i>	<i>FIRST NAME</i>	<i>DAY/YR</i>
Polon	Thelma & Hal	20/67
Goldsborough	Sandy/Rich	11/96

Book Corner: (This book is available through the Ocean County Library system)

“A Century of Ambivalence: The Jews of Russia and the Soviet Union 1881 to the Present” by Zvi Gitelman

First Printing in 1988 and although that is over twenty years ago (so much has changed since then) the background and hardships of our ancestors are well documented through words and photographs. Few Jewish populations have experienced as many dramatic upheavals in the course of three or four generations as the Jews of Russia and the Soviet Union, who comprised the largest single concentration of Jews in the world for much of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This book contains over 380 photographs, documents Jewish life in the Soviet Union of the course of one hundred years.

August News from the Fundraising Committee

Thanks to everyone who participated in our yummy July Dine-A-Round at Lefty's. Dates and details of our next dine-around event will be available very soon.

Sahara Sam's Oasis Indoor Water Park in West Berlin NJ (near Cherry Hill) offers an awesome fun-filled day for the entire family any time of the year no matter the weather! **What a great way for guests of all ages to cool off in this ridiculous heat. Summer Special * Tickets are now available for only \$20.00 apiece!!!** That's an unheard of savings off the regular park price! Sahara Sam's Park tickets never expire. They make excellent birthday and all occasion gifts! Please call Dayna Otto (609) 597-3239 to get yours right away!

What if Congregation Sha'arey HaYam earned a donation every time you searched the internet? Or how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support our cause? Well now it can.

Goodsearch.com is a new Yahoo powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up! Goodshop.com is a new online shopping mall which donates up to 30 percent of each purchase to our favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, eBay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with Goodshop and every time you place an order you'll be supporting Congregation Sha'arey HaYam. And if you download the Goodsearch-Congregation Sha'arey HaYam toolbar, our congregation will earn money every time you shop and search online-even if you forget to go to the Goodshop or Goodsearch !

Beautiful logo T-shirts available in all sizes for only \$10.00 apiece. The T-shirts have our Sha'arey HaYam wave printed in a beautiful blue against a white background. Wearing our shirts to group events really promotes a sense of community. Get yours today!

"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 loads of tips, hints and suggestions. The cookbook sells for \$18.00 and makes an excellent, all occasion gifts for friends or family, and is a wonderful keepsake as well. T-shirts and cookbooks are always available at services.

Please call Bari Cohen (908) 216-8742 or Rhonda Daley (609) 513-2310 if you are interested in meeting with the fundraising committee to help plan future events.

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 Maralyn Ricciardi at 609-660-0935 or Madelyn Dunn at 609-660-1614 to reserve your date.

PLEASE HELP US TO TEACH THE CHILDREN...

The children are learning about Tzedakah in Hebrew School. They have a box that they are supposed to drop some coins or bills in every Shabbat. Then we collect the money and decide on a Jewish charity to donate it to. Every year the children pool their money and buy a tree in Israel. We are asking that the congregation LEAD BY EXAMPLE and have some change/dollar bills in their pocket at services. This way when the children approach you with the Tzedakah box, you can participate

We appreciate your continued support, Hebrew School Staff

ADULT EDUCATION

Nancy Weisenfeld our Hebrew School teacher has offered to teach classes in Yiddish and Hebrew 101 this summer. We are looking to hold these classes every other week during July and August. The classes will be open to members and non-members at \$50. and \$60. respectively. We will need approximately 20 participants to cover the expenses of the classes. There may be an extra charge for books if required. Kindly contact **Cyndy at 609-698-4459** if interested in attending these classes. These classes will also be open to the community at large.

***WE CORDIALLY INVITE YOU AND YOUR FAMILY
TO JOIN US FOR OUR BREAK THE FAST DINNER
AFTER CONCLUDING SERVICES OF YOM KIPPUR***

KINDLY FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING FORM AND MAIL WITH YOUR CHECK TO:

*MARALYN RICCIARDI
72 HIDDEN CIRCLE DRIVE
BARNEGAT, NJ 08005*

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED

\$15. PER PERSON

NON-MEMBER \$20. PER PERSON

NO CHARGE FOR CHILDREN UP TO AGE 13

Make Checks Payable to: Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam

WE ARE REQUESTING DONATIONS OF DESSERTS

RESERVATIONS

Will be accepted through September 13th

Call Maralyn at 609-660-0935 for further information

Name(s) of Adults attending _____

Names of Children attending _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Number of Adults _____ x \$15.00 = _____

Number of Non-Member Adults _____ x \$20.00 = _____

Number of Children attending _____

Dessert I am bringing _____

2010 / 2011 SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

August 13

August 27

September 8, Erev Rosh Hashanah 7:30 PM

September 9, Rosh Hashanah 10 AM

September 17, Kol Nidre 7:30 PM

September 18, Yom Kippur, Break the Fast 10 AM

September 24, Sukkot

October 15

October 16 Bar Mitzvah of Max Iaccovelli Saturday morning Service

October 29

November 12

November 13 Bar Mitzvah of Damian Majewski Saturday morning Service

November 19

December 3, Hanukkah

December 10

January 7

January 21, Tu B'Shvat, Seder

February 4

February 18

March 4

March 18

April 1

April 18 Second night Seder, held at Captain's Inn

April 29

May 6

May 20

June 10

June 24