

# Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam

Newsletter for Month of December 2010

[www.shaarehayam.org](http://www.shaarehayam.org)

## **Message from the Rabbi:**

Dear Friends,

Last month I wrote about the *Mishebeirach* prayer for health and healing which we recite at most of our services. I discussed specifically what I see as one of the most significant consequences of reciting this prayer; namely, that we ourselves are spurred to act as “healers” by visiting, sending notes, cards, flowers, or providing practical assistance, laughter or companionship. In all these ways and more we act as partners with the Divine forces of strength, hope and recovery in the Universe as we understand them.

Since one of the ways that we can provide a form of “healing,” is by visiting those who are ill, I want to share with you some extraordinarily insightful wisdom from our Jewish tradition. Despite our best intentions, there are better (and worse) ways to be with people in their times of illness, stress and fear. How often have you had the experience of being with a seriously ill or injured person who, despite your best attempts at comfort, responds with bitterness or anger or even rejects outright everything you say? It is tempting – and understandable – for the visitor to be angry right back, to feel spurned and resentful that his or her time and good intentions are going unappreciated! But wait, says the Talmud, the 5<sup>th</sup> century Jewish legal compendium. “We are not held accountable for what we say in anguish.” (*Baba Batra* 16b). Perhaps you are talking to the patient in an effort to cheer them up or distract them from their concerns and nothing you say seems to be having any effect or even getting through. “A person must be silent at moments he will not be listened to.” (*Yevamot* 65b) Don’t overlook the power of companionable silence, or the impact of simply sitting quietly and being present with someone who is suffering. Sometimes there is absolutely nothing we can say to cheer or encourage someone out of their profound experience of anger at the fate they have been dealt. In fact, trying to do so may actually make the sick person feel even more isolated and alone, convinced that the visitor cannot understand the depth of his pain and despair. At those times it may help to remember these words from Rabbi Simon ben Elazar, “Do not placate your friend during the time of his anger.” We can’t fix everything, but we *can* meet the one suffers where she or he is, honoring and listening patiently to expressions of anger or other powerful emotions even when they are difficult for us to hear. Finally, this piece of wisdom from the medieval commentator, Sforno: “Although righteous persons should normally

attempt to assist their fellow human beings, it is not proper to do so under certain trying circumstances. When someone cannot control their emotions or is unable to understand or accept your words, you could end up aggravating the situation.” Our challenge is to offer that which we can with thoughtfulness and careful attention to what we are able – and not able – to achieve, remembering always this wise dictum from *Pirke Avot* (The Wisdom of Our Ancestors), “It is not up to you to complete the task, but neither are you free to desist from it.”

Wishing you a very good month of December,

Rabbi Kim S. Geringer

**Message from the President:**

Your Board of Trustees would like to inform the members of our Congregation that on Sunday evening, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 7 PM there will be a Congregational meeting at the LCHS. We will be discussing “How are we doing” and what, constructively, can we do going forward. Rabbi Geringer will be joining us to answer any questions you may have for her.

I would like to welcome Sandra and Joel Polter, Dr. Richard Newman, Jennifer and Jeffrey Schwartzman, and their children Max, Sammy and Eli, and Dr. Arthur and Gerry Seiler as new members of our Congregation! We are thrilled to have you as members of our spiritual family.

Thank you all that brought in donations for our Thanksgiving food drive. We have a contact at the Barnegat High School that will accept 3 frozen turkeys and our collection to deliver to families in need from our area. This is one way we can be supportive of our community.

My best wishes to you all for a wonderful Thanksgiving, and I’m looking forward to celebrating Hanukkah with you all!!

Cyndy Friedland, President

. Your Board of Trustees would like to inform the members of our Congregation that on Sunday evening, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 7 PM there will be a Congregational meeting at the LCHS. We will be discussing our year to date progress and what, constructively, can we do going forward. We need support from every congregant to assist with all areas from Services to Fund Raising. Many hands make light work; and we need some of your time dedicated to our efforts. Rabbi Geringer will be joining us to answer any questions you may have for her. Your attendance is important in the future planning of our congregation

*FROM PHILIP E. ATLAND, MUSIC DIRECTOR*

*Hello fellow congregants. This won't be a musicological background of any of the songs we sing but I do have a few things I'd like to communicate with everyone.*

*New songs: I am delighted that the congregation has been so receptive to my favorite Lecha Dodi. It is sounding really good, and I know the more times you sing it, the more you'll like it as much as I do. I am also happy that we have been singing Eli Eli to close our Shabbat services. This melody is easy to learn and has one verse in English. It is the piece that plays on the Home page of our website. The more times you visit the website and click the play arrow, the more familiar you will be with the song. It will also raise our Google ratings for the site. I should also add that we will not be adding anything new in the foreseeable future, so not to worry about that.*

*Speaking of the website, I am delighted with the way it is progressing. I want to be sure that everyone knows the web address of the site. It is EITHER [www.shaareyhayam.org](http://www.shaareyhayam.org) or [www.reformjewishcommunity.org](http://www.reformjewishcommunity.org). We have made it work that way in case people have trouble remembering how to spell Shaarey Hayam. If you haven't been there for a while, look over the various pages of the site. If you have any pictures that you would like posted, please feel free to send them to me and I will see that it is done. We are also getting requests from various congregants and non-congregants to have their businesses linked to the site. This is a good way to raise a little bit of money for the Congregation and also promote you and your friends' businesses. Contact me for more details.*

*Also on web matters, we are now on Facebook. Our page is Congregation Shaarey Hayam. We have almost 100 friends. If you are on Facebook, please send a friend request. You should also get into the habit of checking the Facebook page frequently. As a result of people, congregations and Jewish organizations that I have "friended", we get some really interesting updates every day. For instance, there was recently one of a group of cantors performing at the Vatican. If it weren't for Facebook, I would not have known it existed. We are also receiving*

*membership inquiries from Facebook so I am very delighted to see that we are getting results from this social networking medium. We have a nice gallery of over 20 pictures on Facebook. If you have any you'd like to be included, please email them to me.*

*I also wanted to update the congregation on the progress I've made recently regarding Bikor Cholim (visiting the sick) at Southern Ocean Medical Center (that's the new name, I think). The Rabbi and I have created a new prayer brochure to take to patients in the hospital. It contains some of the prayers in the old pamphlet along with some more contemporary prayers for people who are undergoing surgery, have undergone surgery, etc. I made my first visit last Friday afternoon. There were three Jewish patients in the hospital. I explained to the nurse on the floor who I was and what I was doing there. Her response was, "This is SOOO wonderful. The Jewish patients here often request a visit but there hasn't been anyone to do it for a while." I spoke to the mother of one of the patients who was in SOCH for some surgery. She had been to our services a while back and had some interesting observations. I did my best to convince her to come back and see our "new" rabbi, listen to our "new" music and try us on for size. If there are any congregants who would be willing to help with this wonderful mitzvah, please contact me. As you all know, I am only here 3 ½ days a week so it would be wonderful if someone else would volunteer to help out on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday.*

*Also be sure to come to the Chanukah dinner. It is going to be even more wonderful than last year. We have a great group of chefs to create a traditional holiday dinner for your enjoyment. For those vegetarians in the group we will also offer a parve alternative to the brisket. Please remember to bring your menorahs so that we can light them at the Shabbat service and enjoy the warm glow of all of the candles throughout the service.*

*Philip*

**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](mailto: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

Jewish Tidbits by Fran Breese:

Over 300 years ago, King Louis XIV of France asked Blaise Pascal, the great Christian philosopher, to give him proof of God. Pascal answered, "Why the Jews, your Majesty, the Jews!"  
From [www.simpletoremember.com](http://www.simpletoremember.com)

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

**Yahrzeit December 2010** (Correction to Yahrzeit Nov.2010: "Diana" Bovasso should be listed as "Deanna")

December 10	Beatrice Sales	Sister-in-Law of Maralyn Ricciardi
December 14	Paul Donadio	Husband of Rosalie Donadio
December 16	Marian Polon	Mother of Hal Polon
December 18	Emanuel Berlin	Grandfather of Syble Bleiweis
December 31	S. Lionel Seigenberg	Father of Bernice Jachter
December 31	Cecelia Topper	Mother-in-Law of Samuel Lewis

**December BIRTHDAYS**

December 8	Friedland Cyndy
December 9	Donadio Rosalie
December 12	Weiss Dolly
December 12	Levine Inez
December 17	Wallerstein Shelly
December 24	Dunn Michael
December 26	Jeffrey Schwartzman

**BELATED BIRTHDAYS:** (and now our records are up to date! : many happy returns)

Sandra Polter	October 18
Sammy Schwartzman	November 2
Richard Newman	November 19

**December ANNIVERSARIES**

<i>LAST NAME</i>	<i>FIRST NAME</i>	<i>DAY/YR</i>
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Weiss	Dolly & Mike	31
Bleiweis	Syble & Ernest	21/1961

## Donations

Yahrzeit Fund: In memory of Leo Miller, father of Philip Miller, by the Philip Miller Family  
In memory of Marvin Lewis Taub, father of Cyndy Friedland

Torah Fund: A donation has been made to the Torah fund by Filomina Jonas

## BOOK CORNER:

*Jewish: Does It Make A Difference?* By Elvira & Mihai Nadin -- Are Jews different? Why have they so influenced civilization, and why is their presence so strongly felt as we begin the twenty-first century? Why, as Mark Twain asks, have Jews had an impact on the world so out of proportion to their numbers? Seeking answers to these controversial questions, over a six-year period Mihai and Elvira Nadin distributed questionnaires, initiated telephone and Internet contacts, and otherwise interviewed thousands of Jews worldwide from Hollywood to Istanbul, from Bremen to Lusaka and asked quite pointedly, *Does being Jewish make a difference in your life?* Their respondents -- distinguished writers, scientists, artists, and politicians as well as average hard-working Jews -- some old, some young; some highly observant, some completely unaffiliated -- provided answers that are variously eloquent, inspiring, poignant, and provocative: • Actor Edward Asner: If we cease to function as an outsider, as a prodder, as a reminder to the world that we can be and are different, I wonder how long we can survive. • South African parliamentarian Helen Suzman: Many of the values to which I have always adhered could be closely correlated with the Jewish ethos....These values include consistency, principles, rule of law, and simple justice. • Television journalist Mike Wallace: Being Jewish for me is a matter of some pride, for I believe I'm an inheritor of a remarkable ethnic gene pool. • U. S. senator from Connecticut Joseph I. Lieberman: God gave us a purpose and a destiny to do justice and to protect, indeed to perfect, the human community • Concentration camp survivor Helen Luksenberg: We, the Jewish people, are dedicated to the well-being of anyone who is oppressed. . . . A Jew does not live only for himself.

In *Jewish: Does It Make a Difference?* The Nadins present over two hundred incisive responses to the vital question posed in the title of this work. These statements of belief will inspire you to ask questions about yourself that you never asked before.

**DECEMBER News from the Fundraising Committee**

Viridian Energy is a company that believes in providing greener electricity at affordable prices. They specialize in renewable energy resources such as locally produced high quality wind power. Viridian supplies energy to companies such as JCP&L and Atlantic City Electric. Customers who switch to Viridian not only save money on their monthly electric bill, but also earn money for their fundraising efforts. Viridian Energy has teamed with Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam and a Viridian representative will be coming to an upcoming service to present this truly exciting concept. Anyone who is interested in learning more can check out their website [www.viridian.com](http://www.viridian.com).

Thanks to everyone who helped make our November dine-a-round at Sweet Jenny's a great success! There may be a dine around for the month of December; look out for an email announcement!

Sahara Sam's Oasis Indoor Water Park located in West Berlin, NJ (near Cherry Hill) is an amazing, fun-filled day for the entire family, group outings and birthday parties all year long. Tickets are available for only \$20.00 apiece. That's a huge savings on the regular park price. Sahara Sam's Park tickets never, ever expire. They make excellent gifts for all occasions! Please call Dayna Otto (609) 597-3239 to buy your tickets right away!

Congregation Sha'arey HaYam 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.

**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.

***The Oneg of November 19th was sponsored by Jack Crespy in honor of Maralyn Ricciardi's Bat Mitzvah in Israel.***

<b><u>2010 SCHEDULE OF SERVICES</u></b>	<b><u>2011 SCHEDULE OF SERVICES</u></b>
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December 3, Hanukkah	January 7
December 10	January 21, Tu Bishvat, Seder
	February 4
	February 18
	March 4
	March 18
	April 1
	April 19 Second night Seder, held at Captain's Inn
	April 29
	May 6
	May 20
	June 10
	June 24