

Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam

Newsletter for Month of December 2011

www.shaarehayam.org

Message from the Rabbi:

Dear Friends,

As I write this column, Thanksgiving is less than a week away. The High Holidays are, of course, behind us and we're looking ahead to winter. Given how much importance Jewish tradition places on the meaning of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, I always regret how easy it is to forget about these holidays once they're over. The lessons to be drawn from our holiest of days ought to sustain us all through the year, not just for a few hours in the fall. With this thought in mind, I want to share the following musings with you:

A few years ago, a colleague of mine told me about an experience he had leading a healing service in a synagogue in California. Those attending the service were all facing serious, and in some cases, life-threatening illnesses. Midway through the service, the rabbi asked those present, "From where do you draw your strength? Where are the places in your life in which you feel safe and cared for?" The participants went around the room sharing their responses. One person found respite in a support group for cancer patients. Another drew strength at home, from her family. Yet another expressed gratitude for caring colleagues at her job. Finally, a sad-looking woman spoke up. "I gather my strength from the nail salon," she said. "From the nail salon?" asked the rabbi, thinking that perhaps he had misunderstood. "Yes," said the woman, "From the nail salon." She went on to explain. "I have been going to the same salon for 15 years. The manicurists and the clients all know each other there and we know one another's joy and pain. We know whose marriages have failed and whose spouses have overcome illness, whose children are flourishing and whose bank accounts are low. But the best thing for me about the nail salon is that every time I go there, someone is holding my hands."

At the end of our Yom Kippur liturgy, at our concluding *Neilah* service, are these words: "*Ata notein yad la'poshim, v'yimincha p'shuta l'kabel shavin.*" "You stretch out your hand to sinners and your right hand is open to receive those who want to return." Imagine. One of the last images of Yom Kippur is of God with hand outstretched, waiting to take ours.

What an image. Most of us shake hands so casually and thoughtlessly that I suspect that we have forgotten the potential power in the seemingly small gesture of just touching hands. I've read that there are ancient cave paintings showing people shaking hands, which would seem to suggest that something about this act has made it part of human interaction since the beginning of time. Some scholars think that shaking hands might originally have been a way of saying, "Look, I am hiding no weapons." But it can also mean, "You have nothing to fear, join me."

So, before we forget the power of the High Holy Days altogether until 2012, I want to suggest that you do three things in the near future, three things that I learned from Rabbi Jack Riemer. I list these things in ascending order of difficulty to do and in ascending order of importance. In one way or another, each incorporates the act of touching hands.

First: The next time you have the opportunity, please take a few minutes to shake hands with anyone you see volunteering at one of our events – setting up the oneg, greeting arriving worshipers, bringing in a potluck dish, putting flowers on our altar—as well as the members of our Board. Each of these individuals works hard for all of us during the year. Whatever differences of opinion we may have, we all share the goal of building and strengthening our community. Take a moment to shake hands with them and tell them that you appreciate all that they do.

Second: If you see someone sitting alone at a service, a meeting, or any other Temple function, take a moment to shake hands and introduce yourself. To be alone in a community is a very difficult thing. So reach out, say hello, and shake hands. I know that it is not easy to approach a stranger, but try to do it. You will be fulfilling the Jewish *mitzvah* of *hachnasat orchim*, welcoming guests and strangers.

Finally: the hardest thing. If there is anyone in this community who has hurt you this year, anyone with whom you are angry, anyone you have not spoken to in a while, shake hands with that person. I know full well that this is not easy to do. But if we are not willing to reach out to each other and make peace, what was the purpose of sitting in services from *erev Rosh Hashanah* to *Neilah* and asking for forgiveness for ourselves? I don't ask you to hug these people or to deny the hurt they may have caused you or the wrong they may have done you. Just shake hands with them and wish them well in the religious New Year that is underway and the secular New Year which will be upon us soon. Because if we can't do that, if we won't do that, if we don't take the words we recite in services outside the sanctuary doors, then our worship becomes a meaningless and empty gesture.

So that's my request: to shake hands with and thank those who work for our community all year; to shake hands with and welcome those who are new or alone among us; and to shake hands with and acknowledge those with whom you've had differences. That is what it means to live our Judaism, not just talk about it. Or, in more colloquial terms, this is what it means to be a *mensch*.

Have a good month, Rabbi Kim Geringer

Message from the President:

As your president, I have found that our Temple is very unique. Where can you attend Sabbath services and be welcomed with a smile at the door, know and have a conversation with all the attendees on a friendly basis, enjoy an upbeat service led by Rabbi Geringer and settle the world's problems at the Oneg. There are many reasons for our success and we, as a congregation, are reaping the rewards of new ideas and new members. They are stepping forward and volunteering to further strengthen and enhance our group.

The Menorah lighting ceremony for Barnegat is scheduled for the first evening of *Hanukkah*, *December 20th at 6:00 PM*. Come and demonstrate our presence in this area. Barnegat, as far as I am aware, is the only town in this area that has this ceremony. I will start to plant the seed for other towns to follow suit with Barnegat. If you know of any towns in the area that have a Menorah with lights erected, please let me know. *Make your reservation now for the December 23rd Hanukkah dinner to be held at 6:00 PM at the Lutheran Church. A donation of \$ 12.00 per adult sent to Pat Barndt or Wendi Higgins, 145 Longboat Avenue, Beachwood, NJ 08722, telephone # (732) 244-8006 will make your reservation.* Children, 12 or under, accompanied by a parent are free. Philip Altland (and company) is preparing a fine Hanukkah meal for all.

After the High Holidays and the recent Bar Mitzvahs, it was noted that the covers for the Torahs are showing their age and are in need of replacement. The board is researching costs for their replacement for Sabbath services and is, also, looking into having white covers for the High Holidays. This is another example of our growth and needs. As this information is attained, the board will develop a plan for the procedure for finalizing this purchase. As a note, we were very lucky to have our celebration of Succoth. Mother Nature, during the evening after our use of the Sukkah, caused damage. Sections of the frame were bent and became unusable and will be repaired/replaced for our use next year thanks to Gary Daley.

Tan's Garden in Manahawkin has graciously scheduled a *Dine-A-Round for Monday, December 12th*. As always, we need your help. The fund raising committee and ritual committee are in need of volunteers. Call Dayna at 597-3239 or Lenny at 978-5500 and contribute to the future of our congregation. We must all work together to enhance our congregation and continue its growth. "Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer".

I hope you all had a Happy Thanksgiving. My best wishes for a Happy Hanukkah and a Happy New Year.

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.

SAVE THESE DATES

12/12/2011	Dine Around at Tan's Garden	at your convenience
12/20/2011	Menorah Lighting Ceremony in Barnegat	Approx 5:15 PM
12/23/2011	Hanukkah Dinner	6:00 PM/Services to follow
03/09/2012	Purim Dinner	6:00 PM/Services to follow
04/07/2012	Passover Seder at Captain's Inn in the evening	Time to be announced
04/28/2012	Gift Auction at Manahawkin Elks Club	Time to be announced

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.

Yahrzeit December 2011

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|-------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| December 6 | Louis Young | Father of Phyllis Young-Feather |
| 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 |

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.

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

Well Wishes

- To Maralyn Ricciardi on her recovery from surgery
- To Ernest Bleiweis on his recent surgery
- To Dr. Arthur Seiler, hoping he is feeling better and will be able to join us for services soon

Simchas

Rita Gold is happy to announce that her daughter Bonny Bowman will marry Robert Derhay in a civil ceremony in Jackson, NJ on December 2, 2011. Bonny's son Ross will give her away. A dinner for the immediate family will follow.

December Anniversaries

- Weiss, Mike and Dolly 31
- Bleiweis, Syble and Ernest 21

December Birthdays

Friedland, Cyndy	8
Donadio, Rosalie	9
Weiss, Dolly	12
Levine, Inez	12
Wallerstein, Shelly	17
Dunn, Michael	24

BOOK CORNER: by Rosalie Donadio

DAYS OF AWE by Achy Obejas (appropriate to the occasion of my Cuban sojourn: "Sholem Cuba")

Alejandra San Jose was born in Havana, entering the world through the heart of revolution. Fearing the turmoil brewing in Cuba, her parents took Ale and fled to the shores of North America---ending up in Chicago amid a close community of Cuban refugees. As an adult, Ale becomes an interpreter which takes her back to her homeland for the first time. There, she makes her way back through San Jose history, uncovering new fragments of truth about the relatives who struggled with their own identities so long ago. For the San José's, ostensibly Catholics, are actually Jews. They are *conversos*, who converted to Christianity during the Spanish Inquisition. As Alexandra struggles to confront what it is to be Cuban and American, Catholic and Jewish, she translates her father's troubling youthful experiences into the healing language of her own heart.

Although written as a novel, the author has created an autobiographical piece of fiction. The reader receives a compelling portrait of this time period demonstrated with carefully honed historical accuracy and valid emotional content. It is a great "read".

Buy
American

ALWAYS READ THE LABELS ON THE FOODS YOU BUY--NO MATTER WHAT THE FRONT OF THE BOX OR PACKAGE SAYS, TURN IT OVER AND READ THE BACK---CAREFULLY! With all the food and pet products now coming from China , it is best to make sure you read labels at the grocery store and especially Walmart when buying food products. Many products no longer show where they were made, only give where the distributor is located. It is important to read the bar code to track its origin.

How to read Bar Codes.... interesting!

This may be useful to know when grocery shopping, if it's a concern to you. **GREAT WAY TO "BUY USA & CANADA " AND NOT FROM CHINA!!** The whole world is concerned about China-made "black hearted goods".

Can you differentiate which one is made in Taiwan or China?

If the first 3 digits of the barcode are **690 691 or 692**, the product is **MADE IN CHINA**.

471 is **Made in Taiwan**. This is our right to know, but the government and related departments never educate the public, therefore we have to RESCUE ourselves. Nowadays, Chinese businessmen know that consumers do not prefer products "MADE IN CHINA ", so they don't show from which country it is made. However, you may now refer to the barcode - remember if the first 3 digits are:

690-692 ... then it is MADE IN CHINA	00 - 09 ... USA & CANADA
30 - 37 FRANCE	40 - 44 GERMANY
471 ... Taiwan	49 ... JAPAN
50 ... UK	

BUY USA & CANADIAN MADE by watching for "0" at the beginning of the number.

Jewish Tidbits Fran Breese

Use Your Inner Guide

Buried within the subconscious, in the farthest corner of our memory, lies the knowledge of everything we need to know about living. Now bring it to the forefront of your mind.

Please have in mind that your study of "48 Ways to Wisdom" is in the merit of Rabbi Noah Weinberg, beloved founder and dean of Aish HaTorah—Yisrael Noach ben Yitzhak Mattisyahu. We all want to do the right thing. Nobody wakes up in the morning and says, "I want to be bad." Even the criminal will try to justify his behavior as "good." Yet if everyone claims to be doing "good," how do we know objectively whether we're doing good or not? We can't simply look at the norm to gauge what's straight and not. We have to check it out for ourselves. We need a basic set of ethical laws for guidance. But that's not enough. Since circumstances constantly change, laws cannot be legislated to cover every possible case. So we have to cultivate an inner sense of the right thing to do. Way #34 is Ohev et ha'mesharin—literally "love the straight path." Don't blindly follow society's idea of "what's right." People tend to the path of least resistance, and the more difficult approach is often the "true" one.

From: SimpleToRemember.com JudaismOnline

December News from the Fundraising Committee

Dine-A-Round - 12/12, Monday at Tan's Restaurant in Manahawkin. Please bring attached flyer. Think your favorite restaurant is a great place to have our next/future dine-a-round? We would love for you to get involved!

Sahara Sam's - Tickets still available for the low rate of \$20 each. The indoor water park is a great way to spend time with family!

Cookbooks and T-Shirts also available.

Congratulations to the winners of our Break Fast Raffle, Dolly W., Eric H. & Syble B.!!! Thank you to all that supported this fund raiser!

The Fund Raising Committee is committed to the future of our congregation. If you would like to be a part, have any questions or would like to come to our next meeting please contact Dayna at 609-978-6581.

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.

2011 SCHEDULE OF SERVICE

December 9th 7:30 pm

December 23rd 7:30 pm

Anyone wishing to submit an item of interest, please email Aaron Shapiro, President, at shap1010@comcast.net

Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam's

April Dine A Round

At

TAN'S GARDEN Chinese Cuisine

The Shoprite Plaza

Route 72 East, Manahawkin

Dine On

Monday, December 12th

3pm till closing

Please bring this flyer with you

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