

Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam

Newsletter for December 2012

www.shaareyhayam.org

Message from the Rabbi:

Dear Friends,

This is from a press release dated October 17, 2012, sent out by the Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA):

“Last night, police intervened as women, including Anat Hoffman, Executive Director of the Israel Religious Action Center and chairwoman of Women of the Wall, prayed at the Western Wall (Kotel) in celebration of the beginning of the Jewish month of Cheshvan and the 100th anniversary of Hadassah. Hoffman was arrested and charged with the ‘offense’ of wearing a prayer shawl and disturbing public order. She vividly described excessive use of force and mistreatment by the police...Last night’s police intervention as women prayed at the Kotel, as well as the arrest of Anat Hoffman are appalling. Anat Hoffman is...a courageous champion of social justice...These events are unacceptable and an affront to Jews worldwide who treasure Israel as a vibrant democracy committed to the right of gender equality and religious freedom...There is no denominational monopoly on spirituality of the Kotel, and it is intolerable that any woman should be arrested for praying at one of Judaism’s most cherished sites...”

The ARZA statement went on to call on the Israeli government to remove the ultra-Orthodox authority that oversees the Kotel and to ensure the rights of all Jews to pray at this holy site, men and women alike. “The words of Hatikvah, Israel’s national anthem, express the will ‘To be a free people in our land.’ That freedom will only be a reality when all Jews, women and men, are able to pray openly without being harassed or physically attacked.”

“Daring” to wear a tallit on my shoulders, I’ve worshipped in synagogues in many European cities as well as such unlikely places as China and Japan, the Philippines, Australia and Hong Kong. Sometimes I’ve been honored with an aliyah, an opportunity to ascend the bimah, hold a sacred Torah scroll and recite blessings. Never, in any location, have I felt threatened or afraid to perform these fundamental Jewish rituals. And so it is with immense sadness, that I have to say that the one place where I *have* felt afraid – and where my fear was justified – was at the Western Wall – the Kotel, formerly known as the Wailing Wall – in Jerusalem. *In Israel*. In July of 2011 I went to the Wall early on the morning of the first of the Hebrew month of Tammuz. I joined other women- including Anat Hoffman - at the very back of the women’s section. Most of the women in our group were Israeli, the rest of us were visiting Americans, Canadians and Europeans. The whole time, four police officers watched us; one of them filmed us. From the other side of the barrier we heard harsh men’s voices. Chairs were rattled – but, this time at least, not thrown as they regularly are at women who dare to worship out loud. Interestingly, on that day we got much more flak from the traditional women who had come to pray (silently) on the women’s side. One of them screamed at the police officers that we should be thrown out. The funniest incident was a woman shouting at us that by doing ‘strange’ things, we were disturbing *her* praying!

Because it is not permitted for women to bring a Torah scroll to the Wall, when we got to the Torah service, we had to leave the actual Wall and walk around to Robinson's Arch – an archeological site – where we continued our service. We were lucky that day. None of us was arrested although I confess that I was kind of hoping to be. Let me simply and briefly say that there is nothing in Jewish law that prohibits women from performing any of these religious rites. The issue is custom only and the "sensitivities" of some traditional worshipers who are supported by those who happen to have taken authority over the Wall and who can do what there.

Who is Anat Hoffman? An extraordinary woman, a true heroine of our time. Previously, Anat served as a Jerusalem City Councilwoman for 14 years, carving out a niche for herself as an untiring warrior for justice and equality. She has dedicated her adult life to the Jewish principle of tikkun olam, to social action and social justice. Among many battles, she has fought long and hard to see that the powerful Orthodox bloc in the City Council does not dictate lifestyle choices for the secular population of Jerusalem. Significantly, too, in a city split by religious differences, Anat has fought tirelessly for religious pluralism. Currently, she serves as the Executive Director of the Israel Religious Action Center which is the Reform Movement's advocacy and lobbying group. She has been arrested before, for the "crime" of carrying a Torah scroll, and detained under the pretext that she was not praying according to the "traditional" customs of the Wall. Other women have also been arrested, for such "crimes" as reciting the Shma aloud, holding a Torah scroll, wearing a tallit, singing, and so forth. Two years ago, Anat visited Hebrew Union College in the city, where I teach, and she was given the honor of carrying a Torah scroll around our chapel during the morning service. When she returned to the front of the room, Anat grinned and said, "It's really pretty nice to carry a Torah and not have to worry about being arrested for it."

If you are as disturbed about this state of affairs as I am – and I hope that you are – there are things you can do. Sign on-line petitions of support. Support ARZA (www.arza.org) which fights for the full religious rights of Jews like YOU in Israel. Support Women of the Wall (<http://womenofthewall.org.il/>) (As a fundraiser, Women of the Wall sells a beautiful tallit, a wonderful gift for a bat mitzvah girl or for any special occasion.) My late mother was a passionate supporter of ARZA, and so when she died, we asked for memorial contributions in her name to support its incredible work. In her honor I am making another donation today. On the 100th anniversary of the founding of Hadassah – the Jewish women's organization that has done perhaps more than any other to strengthen Jewish life around the world – it is shocking that Jewish women in Israel today are, literally, at the back of the Wall, silenced, and arrested if they raise their voices. I hope that you will join me and raise yours.

Rabbi Kim S. Geringer

Message from the President:

The Menorah lighting ceremony for the Meridian Hospital (SOMH)(formerly SOCH) is scheduled for Thursday evening of *December 6^h at 6:00 PM.* Come and demonstrate our presence in this area. The Menorah lighting ceremony for Barnegat at the township municipal complex is scheduled for the first night of Chanukah on Saturday, December 8 at 5:00 PM. Make your reservation now for the December 14th services and Hanukah dinner to be held at 5:00 PM at Lefty's Restaurant. The cost is \$ 25.00 per adult, children are \$

9.00 each. Your payment should be sent to Syble Bleiweis, 70 Oak Ridge Lane, Manahawkin, NJ 08050, and telephone # (609) 978-4240 to make your reservation.

Congratulations to Bailey Otto on becoming a Bar Mitzvah and the magnificent reading of his Torah portion. A special thanks to the members that donated food for the benefit of the food banks to Bailey as part of his mitzvah. Also, a thank you for the food donated for the annual Lutheran Church Thanksgiving baskets drive. Filomena Jonas did a wonderful job of assembling and decorating these baskets.

My best wishes to those that are suffering the effects of "Sandy". Please let me know if the congregation can be of some help to you.

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

Aaron Shapiro, President

Following is a list of the committees and the names of some of the volunteers:

Committee	Chair/Members
MEMBERSHIP	Cyndy Friedland
RITUAL	Hal Polon, Joel Polter, Charles Flum (Music: Philip Altland, Stan Jackson) (Greeter: Rose Jackson, Judie Levin)
FUNDRAISING	Dayna Otto, Syble Bleiweis, Madelyn Dunn, Bari Cohen, Gina Cohen, Rena Kreisler, Cyndy Friedland, Rhonda Daley
SUNSHINE	Syble Bleiweis, Arlene Armstrong, Harriet Cohen, Ruth Schlyen
HOSPITAL VISITS	Arlene Armstrong, Ruth Schlyen, Sandye Polter, Susan Shapiro
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	Cyndy Friedland, Phil Miller
PUBLICITY	Aaron Shapiro
BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES	Susan Shapiro
YAHREZEITS	Sandye Polter
NEWSLETTER	Rosalie Donadio, Hope Gardiner, Susan Shapiro
ONEG & DINNERS	Madelyn Dunn, Filomena Jonas, Sheila Ehrlich, Pat Barndt, Wendi Higgins

Contact Aaron at 242-2390 or email at shap1010@comcast.net if you wish to become a member of one of these committees. We need your expertise to keep our congregation moving forward. All our committees need volunteers.

Retirement Notice:

January 2013 will be the last newsletter that I will produce/edit. It has been four wonderful years in which I felt I was doing my share along with the many great volunteers of our Congregation. And now it is time for someone else who can offer their perspective. It has been a great learning experience for me and I do hope you got something out of it as well, if only an updated Service schedule :)

And I extend a welcome to Rose Jackson, the new Editor of the Newsletter (whose first newsletter will be in February).

Thank you for your support Rosalie

HEBREW SCHOOL UPDATE

On December 6th our Hebrew School students, joined by our adult choir, will be once again singing at the SOMH Festival of Lights. Please join us in supporting our community. The programming will start at 6 PM....and then there is dessert, fresh latkes and other refreshments!!! See you there :)

Ocean County Federation is sponsoring a contest for all Hebrew school students. They are going to design their own Passover cards and enter their creations for a final winner. Federation will be sending out cards for Passover, and we hope that at least one of our students is a winner!!

Cyndy Friedland, Hebrew School Director

News for Post B'nai Mitzvah Students

The JCC of LBI has invited our Post B'nai Mitzvah students to join their Youth Group on Sundays at The JCC of LBI in Spray Beach. The Youth Group meets from 11 until 12ish. This week's topic is Community - Define and what it means to our life what Judaism views as our role in the Community. Marilyn Berkowitz will be leading the group.

URGENT NOTICE

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 Sandye Polter at 36 Rumson Ct, Waretown, NJ 08758 or call (609)242-7525.** Even if you have sent in a name/names before, your response is necessary in order to insure that this process is up to date and that your Yahrzeit will be announced.

Yahrzeit December 2012

December 1	Louis Young	Father of Phyllis Young-Feather
December 4	Andrew Brandt	Brother of Patricia Brandt
December 7	Robert Brandt	Father of Patricia Brandt
December 10	Beatrice Sales	Sister-in-Law of Maralyn Ricciardi
December 13	Belle Keitchel	Mother of Judy Horowitz
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 23	Hyman Ketchel	Father of Judy Horowitz
December 31	A. Lionel Seigenberg	Father of Bernice Jachter
December 31	Cecelia Topper	Mother-in-Law- of Samuel Lewis
December	Ruth Lessig	Grandmother of Ben Lessig

DECEMBER

Birthdays	08	Friedland Cyndy
	09	Donadio Rosalie
	12	Weiss Dolly
	12	Levine Inez
	17	Wallerstein Shelly
	24	Dunn Michael
Anniversaries	21/1961	Bleiweis Syble/Ernest
	31/1958	Weiss Dolly/Mike

(Please email Sue Shapiro at shap1010@comcast.net with birthday and anniversary update information.)

Course: HEBREW #101



Public Welcome

*EAT, LOVE AND PRAY (Jewish Style)

Instructor – Iris Harari

Cost: \$60 for 6 Sundays (beginning Sunday, November 4, 11, 18 and December 2, 9, and 16)

At the Jewish Community Center of LBI, 2411 Long Beach Boulevard, Spray Beach, NJ 08008

Phone: 609-492-4090

Time: 10:30am

Location: Classroom A

Description: Basic Hebrew with explanation and translation from a Hebrew speaking Israeli. No need to have previous knowledge. Come and “re-JEW-venate” your spirituality.

Prerequisites: A desire to learn the Hebrew language.

*Food will be provided. You bring the LOVE.



Hear ye! Hear ye! Come one, come all!

We are forming a social group for all Jewish youth between the ages of 13 and 17. We plan to meet:

At the Jewish Community Center of LBI, 2411 Long Beach Boulevard, Spray Beach, NJ 08008

Phone: 609-709-3160 (Mrs. "B")

Time: Sundays at 11am

Purpose: Greet and Meet other Jewish Teens

Qualifications: Jewish and not over 18. General public welcome no need to be affiliated with another organization. The ability to have fun!!!

Nominal charge (to be decided)

Tribute Cards:

Tribute cards are available to congregants and friends for making donations in memory of, in honor of, and/or to celebrate all life cycle events. To make the donation kindly contact Syble Bleiweis at 609-978-4240 or via email at sebleiweis@comcast.net or Cyndy Friedland at 609-698-4459 or cfriedland119@comcast.net. As soon as your check for the donation is received the tribute card will be mailed to the recipient.

Syble Bleiweis 70 Oak Ridge Lane Manahawkin, NJ 08050	Cyndy Friedland 16D Acorn Road Manahawkin, NJ 08050
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2012 SCHEDULE OF SERVICES 7:30 PM (DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE). PLEASE NOTE THAT SERVICE DATES HAVE BEEN CHANGED FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER.

December 14: Chanukah dinner/Services at Lefty's	March 26: (Tuesday) Seder
December 28	April 5

January 11	April 19
January 25	May 3
February 8	May 17
February 22: Purim	May 19: Congregational Meeting
March 8	June 14
March 22	June 28

DECEMBER 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.

Book Review

Real Time by Pnina Moed Kass

Set in contemporary Israel, this riveting, powerful novel is narrated by many voices: Sixteen year old Thomas, from Berlin, seeking answer to questions about his grandfather a Nazi officer in WWII; Vera from Odessa, reclaiming her Jewish heritage; Baruch Ben Tov, a Holocaust survivor; Sameh Laham, illegally employed at a dine; Sameh's friend, Omar A Palestinian doctor in an Israeli hospital and a mother, a soldier, and a newscaster. These lives and many others intersect in one violent moment on a highway outside Jerusalem, and each person's future is drastically, irrevocably changed. Hour by hour, minute by , minute the events in Real Time unfold; multiple strands of narrative form a compelling tale that here in America, we could relate to as well.

A much needed insight into life in modern Israel is presented by the author who communicates the internal as well as external lives, histories, and observations of a diverse cast of characters. A suicide bomb attack on a crowded Jerusalem bus is the focus of Kass' tense, terrifying debut, told from the viewpoints of the passengers and their families, friends, and lovers. The second half of the book focuses on the wounded and those who care for them in a Jerusalem hospital. The grief and the chaos of the bombing and its aftermath are unforgettable and are brought home to the reader in vivid and violent word pictures. There is no happy ending even for the survivors of this senseless attack and what is continually illuminated in this and the thousands of such incidents is the waste of it all.

LAST CALL for Chanukah Dinner and Service,

See our attached flyer

CHANUKAH SHABBAT DINNER AND SERVICE

**JOIN US FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2012,
AT LEFTY'S RESTAURANT,
547 NORTH MAIN ST., BARNEGAT, NJ, AT 5:00PM.**

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Kindly fill out the form and mail with your check to:

SYBLE BLEIWEIS @ 70 OAK RIDGE LANE, MANAHAWKIN, NJ 08050

MENU CHOICES

Horseradish encrusted salmon
Roasted chicken
Brisket

NUMBER REQUESTED

CHILDREN'S MENU (under 12 years of age)

Hamburger or cheeseburger

Chicken fingers

Pasta with butter or marina sauce

Grilled cheese

Meals will include latkes with apple sauce and sour cream, vegetable, coffee/tea, soft drinks and dessert.
Challah on each table.

COST: \$25.00 PER PERSON

CHILDREN: \$9.00 (CHILDREN'S MENU ONLY)

Make checks payable to: Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam

Call Syble at 609-978-4240 for any questions

RESERVATIONS ARE LIMITED

Name(s) of Adults: _____

Name(s) of Children: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Number of Adults _____ x \$25.00= _____

Number of Children _____ x \$9.00= _____