

Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam

Newsletter for Month of February 2011

www.shaareyhayam.org

Message from the Rabbi:

Debbie Friedman – legendary performer, composer, recording artist, teacher and passionate Jewish visionary - died of complications from pneumonia on January 9, 2011 at the age of 59. Her death sent shock waves throughout the Jewish world that she had so influenced. She left a profound legacy on contemporary Jewish music and Jewish worship. Her music spoke across the generational lines and across the denominations. Through her joyous and singable music, Debbie made it possible for a whole generation of Jews to feel truly spiritual, to take their worship experiences and use them to transport themselves to richer, higher and more meaningful places. In a career spanning 35 years, Debbie released more than 20 albums and performed around the world at synagogues, churches, summer camps, schools, even Carnegie Hall. Her music has become such a staple of Reform (and Conservative, Reconstructionist and modern Orthodox) Jewish worship, that many people don't realize that she was the composer behind such songs as *Mishebeirach*, *Thou Shalt Love*, *Miriam's Song*, *L'chi Lach* and *Aleph Bet Vet*. Debbie also wrote new settings for such traditional prayers as *Adon Olam* and Psalm 150. Many people are shocked to learn that Debbie had no formal music training, that, in fact, she did not even read or write music. She learned to play guitar by ear as a teenager and then went on to inspire thousands of young people to write their own music, to become song leaders, Jewish professionals, and to sing joyously to God.

Debbie Friedman's life was not without both pain and controversy. For the last 20 years of her life she was affected by an autoimmune disorder which would sometimes rob her of her ability to stand or walk. On several occasions I saw her brought to a concert stage in a wheelchair and then – seemingly miraculously – rise from the chair, perform a spirited and passionate concert, sinking back into the chair only when the raucous applause and cheering stopped. It was largely as the result of her own medical challenges that Debbie began to lead healing services all over the country in which she brought together “those in need of healing” (in the words of her *Mishebeirach*) and their loved ones to find strength, support and hope through song. Since her death, many people are recalling the times that Debbie came to their hospital bedsides with only her guitar and her beautiful voice, singing to them and encouraging them.

In 2007 Debbie was appointed to the faculty at our Reform Movement's School of Sacred Music (SSM), the training seminary for cantors. This was a very controversial and contentious move. Many professional cantors resented Debbie's influence in the world of Jewish music. They feared that the very existence of the proud and beautiful heritage of Jewish cantorial music was being undermined and threatened by Debbie's type of singable and easily accessible Jewish worship music. On the other side were those who did not want to be a passive “audience” at services, who wanted to sing and encourage other Jews to sing too. There were – and continue to be – many passionate debates among Jewish professionals about how to both preserve and integrate the traditional cantorial arts with Debbie Friedman's folk-influenced style. The debate goes on, but Debbie's years at SSM were an unequivocal success. She proved herself to be a gifted teacher who encouraged cantorial students to find their best selves, write original music and help their congregants to find joy singing Jewish music.

At a lecture given at the (Conservative) Cantors Assembly in May, 2008, Debbie said, "When we open our hearts to freedom, freedom takes on a life of its own and we begin to reach those who are in *Mitzrayim* (Egypt). I think it's interesting that those who set the basic liturgy chose to place the *Mi Khamokha* right before the *Amidah*. In our wanderings and our ambivalence about leaving our personal *Mitzrayim* and our quest to find our essence, we practice crossing the sea every day - a few times a day - in the hopes that in every crossing, our soul's song will become more clear, immersed in the beauty of love that only God can create. We're asked to give that love to one another with our whole being." Debbie Friedman showed us new ways to cross the sea, by helping us all engage our souls in heartfelt prayer; we are all in her debt. Watch and listen to this tribute to her:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dA0nAec3y7U&feature=related>

Zichronah livrachah, may her memory be for a blessing.

Have a good month.

Rabbi Kim S. Geringer

Message from the President:

Rabbi Geringer led us in wonderful Tu B'Shavat Seder on Friday evening, January 21st. This was a first for us, and so informative on this holiday. Our Shabbat dinner preceded the Seder, and I thank all the members and guests that contributed their culinary specialties. We made bird feeders from bagels, peanut butter, birdseed and string to help our fine-feathered friends get through the winter. Our thanks to Rabbi Geringer for her expertise and guidance through our first Tu B'Shavat Seder!!

Tu B'shavat is a perfect time to plant trees in Israel. Due to the recent devastation of forests in Carmel, Jewish National Fund has pledged tree donations to restore the ruined forests. Think of using this donation to honor someone special for a birthday, anniversary, Bar or Bat Mitzvah, Wedding Anniversary, to Memorialize or even for Valentine's Day!! There is a form at the end of our newsletter to assist you with this. We also will have this form available on our website under our "Help Us Grow" section.

Our midyear special Congregational meeting of Sunday, January 23rd was postponed. We will be announcing the new date in the very near future. If you have questions or concerns that you would like to address with Rabbi Geringer, this would be the time to do it. Members will be notified by email and snail mail.

For those of you members that are vacationing where it's warmer than New Jersey, we do miss you all and hope you are having fabulous weather!! We are preparing for more snow.... watch your weather stations and smile that you are not here. However, we know that you are thinking of us, as we are of you!! See you in the spring. Hope you'll be back for our Second Night Seder:))

Cyndy Friedland, President

Join our congregation on a trip to the new National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia.

Date: Sunday, March 6th

Time: Pick up at 9:30 am at the Ocean Breeze Diner, Rt. 9 Waretown

Price: \$39.00 adult

\$38.00 senior (65 & up)

\$37.00 youth (13 - 21)

\$34.00 child (12 & under)

Price includes - roundtrip coach bus, bus driver's gratuity, museum admission & guided group tour.

There will be free time before our tour for lunch on your own.

Reservations and payments must be made by Sunday, February 13th.

Send payment to: Congregation Sha 'arey Ha Yam

P.O. Box 1268

Manahawkin, NJ 08050

For more info. call Madelyn 660-1614 or email justmemad@aol.com

Jewish Tidbits by Fran Breese

Trees are for Breeze

"I think that I shall never see

A poem lovely as a tree."

As much as I admire Joyce Kilmer for penning these words, his poem pales in comparison to the majesty of what we learn from a tree. A tree is more than just a wonder of beauty planted by G-d. It is an institution that teaches us one of the most important mitzvah's (positive commandments from the Bible) and that is - the welcoming of guests. In all seasons, it practically screams out, "Welcome Visitors". In the hot summer months it beckons the wayfarer- come, lean on me under my foliage. I have kept my trunk as narrow as possible to give you as much space as I can so you can enjoy the calm breezes of my shade. Hang a hammock on my branches and relax. Or if you are tired and weary, pull down some of my low hanging leaves and make a soft bed to lie on. You can also lull yourself to sleep from the sweet music of the birds perched in my branches. If you need, cut off some of my branches and build a fire to cook your food. Afterwards, you can partake of a healthy dessert from my fruits. In the spring, exult in the rebirth of my foliage. In the fall, marvel at the brilliant colors of my

leaves. In the winter, hang a basketball net on my trunk and enjoy yourself. Build a tree house far away from winter's snow. If you plan to stay for a long time, cut me down and use me to build your house. I am here for you. The more I provide, the greater my glory. What an awesome lesson. From a tree! How can we do less? *From: SimpleToRemember.com (Judaism On Line)*

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

YAHREIT February 2011

February 3	Harold Sagman	Father of Dolly Weiss
February 10	Lou Block	Father of Rena Kreisler
February 11	Leah Crespy	Mother of Jack Crespy (7 Adar)
February 12	Morris Bleiweis	Father of Ernie Bleiweis
February 13	Arthur Levine	Father of Michael Levine
February 13	Dr Elias Shapiro	Father of Aaron Shapiro (9 Adar)
February 28	Sophia Shapiro	Mother of Aaron Shapiro (24 Adar)

February BIRTHDAYS

Dunn Robert 7
Altland Philip 9
Shapiro Susan 14
Miller Laura 25
Levine Michael 25
Daley Matthew 24

February Anniversaries

There are no anniversaries for this month.

BOOK CORNER:

"Kalooki Nights" by Howard Jacobson: (From Publishers Weekly)

British comic author Jacobson unfolds his mordantly unsettling but hilarious ninth novel in retrospect. Cartoonist Max Glickman has built an uncertain career lampooning his own Judaism, while his relationships have been restricted to "women with diaereses or umlauts" (including ex-wives Chloë and Zoë). His introverted childhood friend, Manny Washinsky, grows up to commit a ghastly crime (also *shiksa*-related), but in their early adolescence, the two boys

get together in an abandoned air raid shelter in 1950s Manchester to work on a comic-book history of Jewish suffering, *Five Thousand Years of Bitterness*, completed years later by Max. The two meet again after decades, when Manny is released from prison and Max is hired by a TV production company headed by a Nazi sympathizer, in one of many caustic ironies, to develop a film treatment based on Manny's life. Paradoxically, it leads Max to real revelations about their pasts and their identities. The factual horror of the Holocaust is always close to the emotional core of this twisted tour de force—Max's fugue-like expletive-spewing first person reads like a British Zuckerman completely unbound—but Jacobson tempers the profane with meditations on what it means to be British and Jewish. *(personal note: my friends from Manchester – who know Howard and his family do not approve of this novel. After reading it, I understand why, but then again the U.S. does have Philip Roth!)*

February News from the Fundraising Committee

The fundraising committee meets monthly! Please join us and share your great moneymaking ideas. We need the support of every congregant to realize our collective dream of having a home of our own! Call Bari Cohen (908) 216-8742 hairvoyant@comcast.net for details.

Viridian is the green energy supplier!

You have the right to choose your own energy supplier! Take a stand and go green! Grab your current electric bill and just type www.viridian.com/temple into your browser or access from our website, www.shaareyhayam.org when you get to the website click on the leaf that says, "become a customer." Done. It's that easy, follow the prompts and provide your billing information. You still get your bill from JCP&L or Atlantic City Electric. Not only will save a few dollars on your monthly bill Viridian will donate up to \$2 per household per month to our congregation!

Dine-A-Round

February finds us dining at Lefty's Thurs. Feb. 10th Lefty's is located at 547 N. Main St. Barnegat across from the Wawa just south of the Bay Shore Dr. intersection. You must present the flier included with the newsletter. Lefty's will donate 10% of our total dining experience to the congregation. Look forward to three days of fun at T.G.I. Fridays in Manahawkin for our March Dine-A-Round. We are currently immersed in a Shop-A-Round at Five Below in the Staples Plaza also in Manahawkin. Present the included flier every time you shop until Feb.28th. Five Below is a terrific variety store with every kind of item. They will also make a 10% donation to the congregation based on our total sales! You can pass fliers out to shoppers while you are there!

The Hebrew School students are now selling Passover candy! Yummy Barton's chocolates and some cool inedible items as well. The sale will run through January and February. Congregants can place orders on line (www.misschocolate.com click on online store), at services, or with any of the Hebrew school students. All the information including the catalog and online instructions will be provided at the next few worship services. You may call or email Justin Friedland (732) 644-3463 justin.friedland@yahoo.com if more information is needed.

Gift Auction

Our gala gift auction will be held Saturday, May 14 2011 at the Manahawkin Elks. We are asking the congregants to please take the attached letter of solicitation to businesses and ask for donations to the gift auction. The donation can be in the form of gift basket, gift certificate or whatever the business owner deem appropriate. Call Dayna Otto (609)597-3239 if more information is needed.

Clothing Drive

We will be accepting your clothing and shoe donations at all worship services in March and April. Please pack shoes separately. We will be getting paid by the pound so please pack those bags as much as you can. Tell all your friends and neighbors too!

Please call Dayna to buy your tickets to Sahara Sam's Oasis indoor water park right away! It's a great fun filled day and tickets that you can use any day any time of year with no expiration date are only \$20 apiece. That is an incredible savings over the regular price.

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 or call or email Bari Cohen.

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.

<u>2011 SCHEDULE OF SERVICES</u>	<u>2011 SCHEDULE OF SERVICES</u>
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

Don't throw it way! Congregation Sha'arey Ha Yam is holding a **used clothing collection**. We will be collecting wearable and usable clothing and shoes (men's, women's and children's). The collection will take place from February 25th to April 29th. Clothing and shoes can be brought to our Friday night services where they will be collected by Madelyn Dunn. Contributions can also be brought to Madelyn's home which is where everything will be stored until the pickup date, April 30th. Please bag clothing separate from shoes. Put items in well tied plastic bags. We will receive a donation for the total poundage that is collected. For more info contact Madelyn – justmemad@aol.com

You are cordially invited to a very special fundraiser at...



five BELOW

would like to invite *YOU* to help raise money for

CONGREGATION SHA'AREY HAYAM

Our event will be held on:

Date: DECEMBER 1, 2010 THRU FEBRUARY 28, 2011

Time: Monday-Saturday 10am-9pm and Sunday 11am-6pm

Where: Five Below Manahawkin, NJ (609)597-0035.

Bring this invitation with you to Five Below in Manahawkin, NJ and
10% of your purchase will aid CONGREGATION SHA'AREY HAYAM!

(Pre tax) Purchase Amount\$ _____

To be completed by Five Below Associate

Register: 1 2 3 4 (circle one) Associate: _____

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Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam's

Dine A Round

At

Lefty's Tavern

547 N. Main St.

Barneгат

February Dine On

Thursday February 10th

3pm till closing

Please bring this flyer with you

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FUNDRAISING NIGHT AT T.G.I. FRIDAY'S

Your organization has teamed up with our restaurant to help raise money for your organization. We will be giving your organization back 15% of all food purchases excluding tax, gratuity, and alcohol that we receive from your organization's fundraising event.



In order to participate in this event please **BRING THIS FLYER** to the restaurant on one of the date(s) listed below.

Organization: CONGREGATION SHA' AREY HA-YAM

Time: 11:00 AM - MIDNIGHT

Date: 3/13/11 - 3/15/11

T.G.I. FRIDAY'S
601 WASHINGTON AVENUE
MANAHAWKIN, NJ 08050

If you have any questions about this event please contact your organizations representative or you can call the restaurant at 609.489.0950 and ask for a member of the management staff.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam
"Gates of the Sea"
P.O. Box 1268
Manahawkin, NJ 08005
Planting Trees in Israel

Name of Recipient _____

Address to mail certificate _____

(Street, Town, State, Zip Code)

Notation:

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Occasion _____

Number of trees:

Plant 1 Tree \$ 18.

Plant a Ring of 3 \$ 36.

Plant a Circle of 5 \$ 72.

Check enclosed for: _____

Please mail form to:

Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam
P.O. Box 1268
Manahawkin, NJ 08005



Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam

Gates of the Sea
A Reform Jewish Community
P.O. Box 1268, Manahawkin, NJ 08050
(609) 698-4459

Dear Friends and Business Owners,

Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam, a Reform Jewish Community is currently seeking donations for our third annual Gift Auction scheduled for May 14, 2011. It will be taking place at the Elks Lodge in Manahawkin, N.J.

This is a major fundraiser for our congregation. All proceeds from this event will be used to toward our growing Jewish community where we can worship, celebrate and educate our children in Jewish history and traditions.

We hope that you will consider making a charitable contribution for this event. The contribution can be in the form of merchandise, gift certificates, a monetary donation, or any appropriate gift of your choosing. All contributions are tax deductible. Tax ID #208 925 891/000.

In gratitude, your business will be listed in our evening's program as a benefactor for the event and we will be making a gift bag for attendees. Please include 50 marketing pieces.

Thank you in advance for your support. It is greatly appreciated and invaluable to our community. If you have any questions or require any additional information, kindly contact Dayna at YoursDayna@comcast.net or call 609-978-6581.

Sincerely,

The Fundraising Committee

THE ONLY REFORM CONGREGATION IN SOUTHERN OCEAN COUNTY