

Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam

Newsletter for Month of January 2011

www.shaarehayam.org

Message from the Rabbi:

Dear Friends,

At the conclusion of a recent Friday evening service, I read the names of deceased loved ones from our community's Kaddish list, and then, as always, I asked if there were any other names we should be mentioning that week. "Elizabeth Edwards," said one person. "John Lennon," said another. At the oneg after the service, two people came up to me with the same question, "Is it permissible for Jews to say Kaddish for non-Jews?" The short answer, as I told them, is yes, but I thought it would be interesting to share with you a little of the traditional Jewish thinking behind that answer.

Contrary to what is often thought, Kaddish is *not* a prayer for the dead. The actual name of the prayer is *Kaddish Yatom*, the Mourner's Kaddish, which more accurately describes the prayer; it is for the benefit of those who are grieving a loss. The Kaddish is in Aramaic, not Hebrew, and it is almost always read, liturgically, in Aramaic. Because it isn't customary to read it in English, many people don't know what the prayer actually says. Next time you have a prayer book in your hand, take a look at the English translation. You will see that the prayer says nothing about death or mourning. The Kaddish is a type of prayer known as a doxology – that is, simply a prayer of unadulterated praise to God. It "exalts," "hallows," "blesses," "praises," "honors," glorifies," "adores" and "lauds" God "beyond all earthly words and songs of blessing, praise and comfort." The Kaddish expresses the wish that one day all humanity will know "God's great name" and hopes for a time of "abundant peace from heaven" for all. That's it!

Now why would a mourner benefit from reciting such a prayer? For starters, when confronted with a great loss, it is natural for all of us to question and even lose faith in the idea that the universe is ultimately a just place. Questions often asked at such a time are, "How could there be a God if my beloved was taken from me?" "Is there no justice in the world?" or "How can I maintain a sense of hope in the face of such a loss?" So, one reason that we say Kaddish is help reconcile personal tragedy with a bigger picture, to help the mourner work his or her way

out of a personal dungeon of despair with an affirmation that, ultimately, there will come a time of renewed faith in human existence and belief that life still has purpose and meaning.

The question of whether it is appropriate for Jews to say Kaddish for non-Jews is not new. Through history, Jews have grieved for Gentile friends, neighbors, or business associates. According to Jewish law, accompanying the body of a non-Jew to the cemetery was considered an appropriate show of respect. Rabbi Maurice Lamm, a contemporary Orthodox authority on death and mourning, says that Kaddish may be recited "at the graveside of a worthy gentile." Other distinguished Jewish commentators and legal decisors have clearly said that a Jew may – and should – say Kaddish for a non-Jewish parent, may pray more generally for the well-being of non-Jews, visit ailing non-Jews, and bury their dead, "for the sake of peace" and good relations between our respective communities. Maimonides, the great medieval commentator said on this matter, "For God is good to all and God's tender mercies are over all God's works." Thus, whoever has discussed this question answers in the affirmative, and the position of Reform Judaism is that a person is completely justified "to utter this praise of God" in honor of a deceased Gentile or even a Jew who has abandoned Judaism and gone to another faith.

To end, here is a touching story from Rabbi J. Oshry in his book, "Responsa from the Holocaust." He writes: "In 1945 shortly after our liberation, Reb Moshe Segal came to me with the following question: He had been saved by a gentile woman who, at enormous risk to herself, had hidden him in her basement together with ten other Jews, providing them all with food and shelter until the liberation. After the war, when these Jews wanted to repay her in some way for her great compassion they discovered to their deep sorrow that she had died right after the liberation. The idea took root in their minds to say Kaddish for her, and Reb Moshe Segal was chosen for the task. His question was whether it is permissible to say Kaddish for a gentile?" After mentioning a number of sources, Rabbi Oshry decided: "...it is clearly permissible to say Kaddish in memory of the gentile woman who saved so many Jews from death...May He who grants bounty to the Jewish people grant bounty to all the generous non-Jews who endangered themselves to save Jews."

Have a good month.

Rabbi Kim S. Geringer

Message from the President:

Winter certainly has arrived. Several of our members will be heading to warmer climate so we wish them all a safe journey and await their return in the spring. For others, a quick get a way vacation is on the horizon, and some are going to tough out the cold and snow! We will be holding services as usual; be sure to check our schedule for dates, Hebrew School and an upcoming Tu Bshevat Seder on Friday, January 21st. This will be in lieu of our Services on that evening. Rabbi Geringer will lead us in the Seder that will be quite fun and informative.

Be sure to mark your calendar for our **mid-year Congregational meeting on Sunday, January 23rd** at 7 PM at LCHS. At our May Congregational meeting we agreed to hold a mid-year “How are we doing” meeting. Rabbi Geringer will join us to address and questions or concerns we may have. If you are unable to attend and would like to share your views, feel free to email me at Cfriedland119@comcast.net and I will relay your information.

There will be a bus trip to the National Museum of Jewish History in Philadelphia. Plans are in the making for a Sunday bus trip with lunch at a Jewish Deli. More information will be available as details are being worked out. We will invite the community at large to join us for this excursion

A possibility for a movie and discussion evening is being explored. As usual, more specifics will be presented as final plans evolve. This will be open to the community at large.

As a small (?) congregation, we are planning events for everyone to attend and enjoy. The camaraderie is important as well as being supportive of our endeavors for the present and future of our congregation. I hope you all will join in and participate in these, as well as our fund raising events. Dine a rounds are an easy way to be supportive, as well as joining in on savings for your electrical power supplier by signing up for Viridian at <http://www.viridian.com/temple>. For each household that signs up our congregation will receive \$2. per month for as long as we are registered. This is a great way to be supportive without doing anything but signing up on line to participate!! The more folks we get to participate, the more income we have! Your family, friends and neighbors can sign up too, not a problem!!

Cyndy Friedland, President

Sunday, January 23rd is our Mid-year Congregational meeting, 7 PM at LCHS. Rabbi Geringer will join us to answer any questions or concerns. We'll look forward to seeing you all there.

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

SO WHAT IS TU B'SHEVAT? (you may ask? :)

Dear Congregants, On one of those nasty snowy January weekends last year when I was not able to come down to LBI, I attended a Tu B'Shevat seder at a temple near my apartment in New York. It was a truly delightful experience. When I found out that Rabbi Geringer wanted to do a Tu B'Shevat seder for us on January 21st, I was ecstatic. So what is Tu B'Shevat anyway? Are there other kinds of seders besides Passover? Read on:

Tu B'Shevat is the 15th day of the Jewish month of Shevat. It is known as the New Year for Trees.

Tu B'Shevat is one of four new years in the Jewish calendar. The others are: the first of Nissan for counting the reigns of the kings, the first of Elul for the tithing of animals, the first of Tishrei for the judgment of humankind (Rosh Hashonah) . And Tu B'Shevat, the New Year for Trees.

In Israel, Winter is usually a time of heavy rains and rushing, surging creeks and rivers. At about the middle of the month of Shevat, the rainstorms stop, and soon thereafter signs of spring begin to appear. Even though two more months of Winter remain, buds begin to swell on the trees in Israel, the enduring symbol of God's promise of renewed life.

According to some traditions, Noah's Ark landed in the month of Shevat and the dove returned to the Ark with an olive branch in her beak. She heralds new life and the promise of a world that will once gain bloom and provide nurture.

In Israel, since the beginning of agricultural settlements in the late 19th century, the New Year of Trees has acquired great significance, symbolizing the revival and redemption of the land. Today Tu B'Shevat has become a day of commitment to protecting the environment.

It is customary to eat the Seven Species that were abundant in the land of Israel. They are wheat, barley, grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates. As with the Passover seder, it is customary to drink four cups of wine. The first cup is white wine which symbolizes winter. As we drink it, we recall that nature has been dormant for many months, awaiting the warmth of spring and its annual renewal of life. With this cup we eat nuts and fruit with a tough skin to remind us of the protection the earth gives. In this group we eat pomegranates, nuts, citrus fruits and coconuts. Some people are hard to know but once their outer layer is peeled away you are rewarded.

The second cup of wine is white but tinged with a small amount of red. The mixture of colors symbolizes the beginning of spring and the reawakening of the earth. In Israel, pink and white flowers dot the hills at this season. Fruits in this group with a tough inner core. Through this act we acknowledge the need to fortify our hearts. These fruits are dates, olives, cherries, peaches and avocados.

The third cup is red wine with a splash of white. This represents the warmth and beauty of Summer. With this cup we eat fruits that are completely edible. Fruits in this group include: figs, carob, grapes, berries apples and pears.

The fourth cup, completely red, symbolizes the glow of autumn. The crops are ready and the leaves are full of color. Plants are preparing seed for the next cycle of nature. This is the time of Rosh Hashonah and Yom Kippur –a time to take stock of ourselves. Also it is the time of Sukkot and the celebration of the harvest.

If you are like me and not a fan of Winter and cold weather, you will find that attending the Tu B'Shevat seder will be an uplifting, comforting and wonderful experience. I strongly urge you all to attend this wonderful ceremony. I can assure you that once you have attended a Tu B'Shevat seder you will look forward to them every year.

Philip Altland

(Tu Bishevat is a perfect time to donate trees to be planted in Israel. Kindly contact Cyndy Friedland at Cfriedland119@comcast.net or at 609-698-4459. She will take your information and have dedication/tribute cards sent out from Federation to your honorees. This is a wonderful way to assist Israel with rebuilding their forests.)

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

Jewish Tidbits by Fran Breese

A Gift Called Time

Nights are ideal for creating a little beachhead in time. Try this for a week. After dinner, for just ten minutes, don't turn on the television, check your email, Facebook any friends or dive back into the work you brought home from the office. Instead, try putting aside ten minutes to read something about whatever it is you have always been curious about but never had the time to study. Just think, by finding ten minutes a night you are actually discovering over fifty hours a year. Keep that up for a few years and before you know it you'll know many of the things you always wanted to know.

Give yourself a little gift this week. The gift of time.

"Do not say 'when I have the time then I'll study,' because you may never find the time." (- Talmud)

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

Yahrzeit January 2011

January 13	Mary Ellen Taub	Mother of Cyndy Friedland
January 22	George Harmon	Father of Inez Levine
January 30	Celia Miller	Mother of Philip Miller

January BIRTHDAYS

Dunn ,Marc	17
Belitz, Cary	30
Daley, Alexa	2

January ANNIVERSARIES

Newman, Richard and Sandra 30/1965

BOOK CORNER:

Walking Israel by Martin Fletcher: Acclaimed for his fearless broadcast journalism, Fletcher here visits not the tense battle line dividing Jew from Arab in Israel's eastern sector but rather the peaceful western coastline, a surprisingly complex region where fascinating human stories unfold outside of the media limelight. Peopled by a colorful array of characters, these stories define the cultural landscape the author traverses in journeying by foot from Lebanon to Gaza: learning from a friendly Jewish geologist explaining fossilized tree roots near Achziv; considering with a Christian Arab guide a four-faced clock in Acre's Old Town; surveying the streets of Jaffa, where Muslim women dressed in long dresses and head coverings jostle against Jewish women in shorts and T-shirts. This kaleidoscope of perspectives allows readers to glimpse an Israel too complex to reduce to the familiar script for interethnic strife. To be sure, Fletcher encounters reminders of that strife. But he also encounters heartening evidence that open-minded individuals—Jewish and Arab—can surmount the walls of prejudice and hate. A much-needed corrective to media stereotypes. – Reviewer: Bryce Christensen

January News from the Fundraising Committee

We will be having a Tupperware Fund Raiser prior to the Congregational meeting in the LCHS January 23rd @ 6:30 pm. Please support this event. If you do not need any products please consider a monetary donation. Looking forward to seeing you all there!

Help Wanted! The fundraising committee wants you! We need new members to help us reach our goal of having our own temple. Bring your great ideas or your brainstorming caps to the next monthly fundraising meeting. Call Bari Cohen (908) 216-8742 for details.

Sign up by the end of December to receive an extra 10% monthly savings!

Viridian Energy is a wonderful 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. To get in on these savings just type www.viridian.com/temple into your browser, when you get to the website click on the leaf that says sign up for savings! It's that easy, you just follow the prompts and provide your billing information including your existing account information.

Dine-A-Round

Mon. Jun. 10th is Tan's located in Stafford Square Mall Rt.72 (Shoprite center next to Manahawkin Music). Thurs. Feb. 10th we have Lefty's Rt. 9 Barnegat. Both restaurants want the vouchers presented at the time of the purchase. We'll be dining at Friday's for 3 days in March and those dates will be announced.

The Hebrew School will be starting our Passover candy sale fundraiser! The sale will run through January and February. Congregants can place orders on line, at services, or with any of the Hebrew school students. All the information including the catalog and online instructions will be provided as soon as they are available. You may call or email Justin Friedland (732) 644-3463 justin.friedland@yahoo.com

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 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.

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>
January 7	April 19 Second night Seder, held at
January 21, Tu Bishvat, Seder	Captain's Inn
February 4	April 29
February 18	May 6
March 4	May 20
March 18	June 10
April 1	June 24

Dine Around coupon on following page

Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam's
January Dine A Round

At

Tan's Garden
Chinese Cuisine
The Shoprite Plaza

Route 72 East

Manahawkin

Dine On

Monday, January 10th

3pm till closing

Please bring this flyer with you

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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