

# *Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam*

Newsletter for January 2013

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

## **Message from the Rabbi:**

Even though as I write this the secular New Year's Eve is still a week away, I've been noticing that people have been ending phone conversations and e-mail exchanges with a cheery, "Have a good New Year's!" Our secular New Year's—particularly New Year's Eve—is often scorned in the Jewish press and in other Jewish forums. The contrast with our religious New Year is, of course, striking. In the Jewish tradition, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and the 10 days in between are a time of significant self-examination. Ideally, these days consist of introspection and recognition of our failings, confession and self-rebuke, repentance, forgiveness, and, finally, renewal and transformation. The secular New Year is generally thought to be characterized by quickly broken resolutions, football games, raucous partying, and major hangovers. But I suspect that this year, the secular New Year's—the transition from 2012 to 2013—will be more somber and more reflective; in other words, more similar to the Jewish New Year.

If so, then what an opportunity this secular New Year's presents us with. On Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur we say and think and pray about many things and, I believe, most of us sincerely wish to make ourselves stronger, better, more righteous. But day-to-day living catches up with most of us and it's easy in December to forget what we promised to ourselves in September. It's easy to slide back to being impatient, forgetful, thoughtless, and uncaring. The secular New Year is upon us. Just think how much we often accomplish in the 10 days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Think how much each of us can accomplish as 2013 begins.

For one thing, we can go back to those days in September and review what we thought and felt and told ourselves during those Days of Awe. Before 5773 gets any older, we can do a mid-course correction; three months into the Jewish year we can catch ourselves as we start to slip and we can get back on whatever path we set for ourselves last fall. A friend of mine recently told me a story about teaching her 16 year-old son to drive. She said that she realized that, when you get right down to it, most of driving is about making small corrections. Unless you make a huge mistake, mostly what you do is keep your eyes focused ahead and your hands steadily on the wheel as you shift the car slightly, now to the right, now to the left. It's a good metaphor for what we need to do for ourselves. Granted, we sometimes make big mistakes—in behavior, in judgment, in timing. But most of the time, our errors are small. We just need to be alert enough to correct them before they take us across the double line.

Each of us lives in multiple communities—the community of our family, first and foremost, then perhaps communities of a school, a workplace, an organization. And, all of us here at Sha'arey Ha Yam also live in the community of this congregation. What is it that draws people here? It's not a beautiful building. It's not unlimited resources. Ultimately, what brings people into this or any congregation – and keeps them there - is something about the way they're treated when they're here, which they sense and which they respond to. It's hard to put into words, this business about how we treat each other. But here's a story I've found helpful:

In an address to the Polish Parliament in 1990, President Vaclav Havel of Czechoslovakia said, "The most dangerous enemy today...is our own bad qualities. My aspiration, therefore, is to bring spirituality, moral responsibility, humaneness, and humility into politics, and, in that way to make clear that there is something higher above us, *that our deeds do not disappear into the black hole of time but are recorded somewhere and judged.*" We need to remember that the qualities of basic decency, kindness, and attentiveness to one another are what undergird communities that care about their members and what, ultimately, make them thrive. The possibilities really are limitless. Not only are they limitless. Your one seemingly small gesture can be a spark that ignites a chain of other actions and reactions stretching

way beyond what you might see today, but no less meaningful for being hidden. May the secular year 2013 and the rest of the Jewish year 5773 be a time of increasing goodness, compassion, and integrity, and may we all use the first days of this year's first month to help us find the path to get there.

*Rabbi Kim S. Geringer*

**President's Message:**

As the New Year begins, we should all feel proud of the past accomplishments of Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam. We should also hope that the future of our temple will be even better.

We, as a congregation, need to pull together to continue to build our membership and to increase our active role in the community. Volunteerism is the key to our growth- what are you willing to do to help our temple grow? All of our committees are in need of new ideas and members to work toward that growth. Submit your ideas for activities, continue to attend and support our Sabbath services, make your voice heard and become a more active participant. If you would like to serve on a committee, please notify me and I will forward your name to the appropriate chairperson.

In researching for this article, I came across the following list of 2013 Jewish holidays- Since many of us may be interested in knowing these dates, I have included herein the list of holidays and the dates they will occur on the Gregorian calendar as well as a listing of the meaning of each holiday.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Jewish Festival</b>
<b>January 26</b>	<b>Tu B'Shevat</b>
<b>February 21</b>	<b>Ta'anit Esther</b>
<b>Evening of February 23 - Evening of February 24</b>	<b>Purim</b>
<b>February 25</b>	<b>Shushan Purim</b>
<b>March 25</b>	<b>Ta'anit Bechorot</b>
<b>Evening of March 25 - Evening of April 2</b>	<b>Passover</b>
<b>Evening of April 7 - Evening of April 8</b>	<b>Yom HaShoah</b>
<b>April 15</b>	<b>Yom Hazikaron</b>
<b>April 16</b>	<b>Yom HaAtzmaut</b>
<b>April 24</b>	<b>Second Passover</b>
<b>April 28</b>	<b>Lag B'Omer</b>
<b>May 7</b>	<b>Yom Yerushalayim</b>
<b>Evening of May 14 - Evening of May 16</b>	<b>Shavuot</b>
<b>June 25</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> of Tammuz</b>
<b>Evening of July 15 - Evening of July 16</b>	<b>Tish'a B'Av</b>
<b>Evening of September 4 - Evening of September 6</b>	<b>Rosh Hashanah</b>
<b>September 8</b>	<b>Gedaliah</b>
<b>Evening of September 13 - Evening of September 14</b>	<b>Yom Kippur</b>
<b>Evening of September 18 - Evening of September 25</b>	<b>Sukkot</b>
<b>September 25</b>	<b>Hoshanah Rabbah</b>
<b>Evening of September 25 - Evening of September 26</b>	<b>Shemini Atzeret</b>
<b>Evening of September 26 - Evening of September 27</b>	<b>Simchat Torah</b>
<b>Evening of November 27 - Evening of December 5</b>	<b>Hanukkah</b>
<b>December 13</b>	<b>Tevet 10</b>

Tu B'Shevat: Literally meaning "New Year For The Trees", Tu B'Shevat is a time for bonding with nature. This is observed generally by planting trees, eating produce from trees, and partaking Tu B'Shevat Seder. Officially, this marks the advent of Spring in Israel.

Ta'anit Esther: Falling on the thirteenth day of the Hebrew month of 'Adar', Ta'nit Esther is a minor fast that is observed from sunrise to sunset. Working is allowed on this day. It precedes Purim.

Purim: Purim finds its origin in the Biblical Book of Esther. It signifies defeat of a conspiracy to kill Jews. As such, Purim celebrations denote reversal of fate. Fun, feasting, frolicking are integral part of Purim celebrations. People dress up for the occasion and donate to charities.

Shushan Purim: Shushan Purim finds reference in the Megillah readings. It is celebrated mainly by pompous feasting and also by sharing meals with near and dear ones.

Ta'anit Bechorot: This is a unique observance that generally falls on fourteenth day of the Hebrew month of Nisan. In this, the first born Jewish males observe a fast by abstaining from any food or drink, and even water.

Passover: Passover finds its origin in the story of the Exodus. It is believed that it is the day when God "passed over" Israeli homes and freed the Jewish people from slavery in ancient Egypt. It is also time for spring-cleaning homes and celebrating the ritualistic meal called Seder.

Yom HaShoah: This is a National memorial day in Israel that pays homage to the millions of Jews who lost their lives in the Holocaust carried out by Nazis in Germany. Literally translated Yom HaShoah means "The Day to remember Holocaust and Heroism".

Yom Hazikaron: It is the day preceding the Independence Day of Israel. It has been declared Memorial Day by the Parliament of Israel in respect of the martyrs who sacrificed their lives to establish the country of Israel. All public entertainment avenues are shut down for the day. The most noted feature, however, are the two sounds of siren that mark the beginning and end of the two-minute standstill that the entire Nation observes.

Yom HaAtzmaut: This is the Independence Day of Israel observed on the fifth day of the Hebrew month of Iyar. It is celebrated by singing, dancing, fireworks, and by honoring Israeli citizens with notable contribution for a cause.

Second Passover: This comes on the fourteenth day of the Hebrew month of Iyar and is considered a minor holiday which has lost much of its significance outside the realm of conservative and orthodox Judaists.

Lag B'Omer: Celebrated on the 18th day of the Hebrew month of Iyar, Lag B'Omer marks the end of the mourning period of Omer and is commemorated with festivity, weddings, picnics and merriment.

Yom Yerushalayim: It is a National Holiday in Israel and is also known as Jerusalem Day and is celebrated with State ceremonies, parades, honoring the soldiers, and holding prayer services.

Shavuot: Shavuot is a minor religious observance that commemorates the revelation at Sinai and of God giving the Torah. It is marked by reading Torah, eating dairy products and reading the Book of Ruth.

17th of Tammuz: It is a minor fast day when Jewish people are required to fast from dawn till dusk that commemorates the destruction of Jewish Temples.

Hanukkah dinner and services at Lefty's Restaurant was a most successful event. Many thanks to Syble Bleiweis for arranging this event. I would also like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to Rosalie Donadio for her publication of the newsletter. Well done Rosalie!

May each and every one of you enjoy a happy and healthy new year.

With Warmest Regards,

**Aaron Shapiro, President**

**Donations:**

A donation has been made by Terry and Joan Silverman in memory of Les Silverman, Terry's brother.

**Following is a list of the committees and the names of the volunteers for each one:**

Committee	Chair/Members
MEMBERSHIP	Cyndy Friedland
RITUAL	Hal Polon, Charles Flum (Music: Philip Altland, Stan Jackson) (Greeter: Rose Jackson)
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	Susan Shapiro, Sandye Polter, Arlene Armstrong, Ruth Schlyen
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	Cyndy Friedland, Phil Miller
PUBLICITY	Aaron Shapiro
BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES	Susan Shapiro
Yahrzeits	Sandye Polter
NEWSLETTER	Rose Jackson, Rosalie Donadio, Hope Gardiner, Susan Shapiro
ONEG & DINNERS	Madelyn Dunn, Philomena Jonas, Sheila Ehrlich, Pat Barndt, Wendi Higgins

**Contact Aaron at 242-2390 or email at [shap1010@comcast.net](mailto: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.**

**2013 SCHEDULE OF SERVICES 7:30 PM (DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE).**

January 11	April 5: Rabbi Sally Priesand – Guest Speaker
January 25: Tu B'Shvat	April 19
February 8	May 3
February 22: Purim	May 17
March 8	May 19: <b>Congregational Meeting</b>
March 22	June 14
March 26: <b>(Tuesday) Seder</b>	June 28

### HEBREW SCHOOL NEWS

Our students have had a busy December with many activities. On December 6th they were joined by our adult choir and the Post B'nai Mitzvah students from the JCC for the Tree and Menorah Lighting at Southern Ocean Medical Center. Everyone sang their hearts out and enjoyed latkes, cookies and hot chocolate! Thanks to the parents for making sure their students were able to participate!! The students also made their own menorahs this year from rounded pieces of metal, mosaic pieces, paint and small metal cups used to hold the 9 candles. You can view pictures of the student's accomplishments on our website and on Facebook!! A special treat was made by Dayna Otto for the students, Fig Newton Draydel cookies....I don't believe there were any leftover!! For our Hanukkah celebration the students, directed by teacher Mike Kossove made latkes from scratch! The batches were finished up by Dayna Otto, and teacher Iris Harari led the students in playing draydel, and of course, having a fun party! Thanks to all for their assistance in making Hanukkah such a fun holiday this year!!

Mazel tov to our student Meghan Doctor and her cheerleader squad. They attended a competition in Florida and placed third in the national competition.

Students and their families are looking forward to attending our Tu B'Shvat Seder on January 25th and assisting Rabbi Geringer with this fun Seder.

***Cyndy Friedland***  
***Hebrew School Director***



**Congratulations** to Alexa Daley as her Barnegat Cheerleader team placed second in a national competition which was held in Florida.

## **Retirement Notice:**

*This issue is 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*

## **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 January 2013**

January 12,	Bill Armstrong	Husband of Arlene Armstrong
January 13,	Mary Taub	Mother of Cyndy Friedland
January 21	Alan Gardner	Father of Hope Gardner
January 21,	Gussie Schneider	Mother of Ruth Schlyen
January 22,	Betty Markman	Mother of Sandra Polter
January 22	George Harmon	Father of Inez Levine
January 27,	Hugh Higgins	Father of Wendy Higgins
January 30,	Celia Miller	Mother of Phillip Miller

## **JANUARY DATES**

<b>Birthdays</b>	02	Daley, Alexa
	17	Dunn, Marc
	30	Belitz, Cary
<b>Anniversaries</b>		None

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

## **JANUARY 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**

Am I a Jew?: Lost Tribes, Lapsed Jews, and One Man's Search for Himself by Theodore Ross (What makes someone Jewish?)

Theodore Ross was nine years old when he moved with his mother from New York City to the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Once there, his mother decided, for both personal and spiritual reasons, to have her family pretend not to be Jewish. He went to an Episcopal school, where he studied the New Testament, sang in the choir, and even took Communion. Later, as an adult, he wondered: Am I still Jewish?

Seeking an answer, Ross traveled around the country and to Israel, visiting a wide variety of Jewish communities. From "Crypto-Jews" in New Mexico and secluded ultra-devout Orthodox towns in upstate New York to a rare Classical Reform congregation in Kansas City, Ross tries to understand himself by experiencing the diversity of Judaism.

Off beat, but presented with sincere commitment, "Am I a Jew?" is a story about the universal struggle to define a relationship (or lack thereof) with religion.



**ANNUAL TU B'SHVAT SEDER JANUARY 25, 2013**

***Please join us for our annual Tu B'Shvat Seder on Friday, January 25th at 6PM. Our custom has been to hold a pot luck dinner, followed by our Seder led by Rabbi Geringer. We will be doing a few special projects prior to and during the service, so please bring your favorite dish for 8, and join us for a wonderful evening. If you are planning to only attend the Seder, kindly mail in your form so we may have seating available!!***



Please join us for a **Pot Luck Shabbat Dinner** on January 25<sup>th</sup>,

Tu B'Shvat Seder, at 6 PM

LCHS 333 N. Main Street, Manahawkin, NJ

Name(s) attending Dinner & Seder:

\_\_\_\_\_

Children under 13 attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) attending Seder only: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Dish being brought to share for dinner:

\_\_\_\_\_

RSVP prior to January 20<sup>th</sup>. Call to confirm reservation and offering of a food contribution to Pat Barndt and Wendi Higgins, 732-244-8006.

Mail checks made out to Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam to confirm your reservation to:

Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam

C/O Barndt-Higgins

145 Longboat Ave.

Beachwood, NJ 08722

Members, \$8. Non-Members, \$10. Children under 13, no charge