

# Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam

Newsletter for JUNE 2012

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

## **Message from the Rabbi:**

I recently officiated at a funeral for a woman who had suffered for some years with a terminal illness. Prior to the service, as I always do, I asked the deceased woman's family if they knew her Hebrew name. They were overcome, as often happens, with confusion, frustration and remorse. "I *think* she had a Hebrew name," said her son. "I mean, I have a vague memory of her mentioning that she was named for her grandmother..." He trailed off. "I feel terrible," said her husband. "I know she wanted a traditional Jewish funeral. That, she was always clear about. She told me what music she wanted and what kind of flowers. I can't believe I never thought to ask her about a Hebrew name." I reassured the family that we would create for their beloved wife, mother and grandmother the beautiful and fitting Jewish funeral she had asked for – and we did, using her English name during the recitation of the concluding prayer, *El Malei Rachamim* ("God, full of compassion") But it got me thinking and, as often happens, I'd like to share my musings about this with you.

What's in a Jewish name (or Hebrew) name? In short, ties to family and reinforcement of the historical continuity of the Jewish people. We give a Hebrew name to a child, and that name is then used religiously throughout his or her lifetime – at rituals of birth, when called to the Torah, and – of course – at death. Some background:

In early biblical times, the name conferred upon a person often reflected something about that person's birth; several of our patriarch Jacob's sons, for instance, received their names in this manner. You might be surprised to learn that usually the mother chose the name, occasionally the father and yet at other time someone other than the parent was the namer, as with both Moses and King Solomon. Sometimes names were derived from birth order. ("Jacob" refers to his being the second-born twin, emerging from the womb clutching his brother's heel, for example.) Many Hebrew names derive from animals: Leah for cow, Rachel for ewe, Ze'ev for wolf, Jonah for dove, Tsiporah for bird, and Deborah for bee. The name Ari means lion; combined with the ending "el" it becomes "God is my lion."

As Jews were dispersed throughout the lands bordering the Mediterranean, they began the practice we know today: they drew upon the local language for their personal names while bestowing a Hebrew/Jewish one too. There were lots of regional variations, probably the best known of which is the difference between the Ashkenazim (Jews of Eastern European origin) and the Sephardim (those from Spain/Portugal, North Africa or the Middle East). The former named their children only after deceased relatives; the latter after those still living. Ashkenazim often name a child after someone who has recently died, in most cases a grandparent or great-grandparent. In doing so, it's hoped that the child will emulate in her or his life the virtues of the deceased namesake. To a certain extent, too, it is believed that the soul of the loved one lives on in the child who now bears his or her name. Among Sephardim, children are usually named after a living (or also deceased) grandparent; many Sephardic grandparents look forward to being honored with grandchildren who bear their own names while they are still alive to see it.

Jewish tradition accords such importance to one's name, that in the Middle Ages, the custom developed of changing the name of a seriously ill person in the hope that the Angel of Death, who summons a person by name, would be confused and overlook the one who was sick! Appropriately enough, one of the most common "new" names taken by an ill person was Chaim, "life"!

Today, "typical" Hebrew names take many different forms because, over time, they developed from so many different languages. Not all "Hebrew" names are strictly Hebrew in origin; some names may have been borrowed from other languages - Egyptian, Aramaic, Phoenician, Greek, Latin, Arabic, Spanish, German and English. Sometimes parents will select a name whose meaning has particular significance for them. I once worked to select a Hebrew name with a

woman who had survived an exceptionally dangerous pregnancy. The name she chose for her newborn son? Rafael, which means, appropriately enough, "God has healed."

So, now I come to you. Do you have a Hebrew name? If you do not, would you like to create one? Yes, you can select your own! There are all sorts of reasons why you might not have had a Hebrew name bestowed upon you at birth, but in no way was or is this your last opportunity. ***Please let me know if you would like to choose a Hebrew name for yourself.*** I will happily work with you to find the perfect one for you, and then we'll bestow them officially and ritually at an upcoming service so that your Jewish community can celebrate this milestone with you.

Have a good month.

Rabbi Kim Geringer

**President's Message:**

For all of the members that attended the congregational meeting, I send my thanks. Many items of interest were discussed and a direction for the coming year was determined. Firstly the new budget was approved for the coming year. Secondly, a most important decision was reached for the replacement of our Torah covers and the design of a new Ark curtain. A replacement Ark is being designed and built by Gary Daley once he recovers from his recent operation.

The board will request sample designs and costs of the Ark curtain and Torah covers for the Sabbath services. Once this is done, date(s) will be set up and the course of action will be developed for volunteers to paint the designs. This is a very exciting project in which all of us should be involved.

It was decided at the meeting to reactivate the Sunshine Committee. Syble Bleiweis, Arlene Armstrong and Harriet Cohen have volunteered to serve in this capacity. If you have any news concerning our members, good as well as not so good, please notify one of them so that the appropriate action can be taken. In addition, if anyone wishes to represent the congregation and be a volunteer to visit the hospital please notify me so that I can explain how such visits are arranged.

The Jewish Heritage Night at the Blue Claws game was a sellout. 25 tickets were gobbled up by our members. We were well represented and students proudly paraded with our banner.

Our special congratulations go to Philip and Laura Miller on the upcoming Bat Mitzvah of their daughter, Rachel.

If you have any news of which you feel the congregation should be aware, please notify me. My phone number is (609)242-2390 and my email is [shap1010@comcast.net](mailto:shap1010@comcast.net).

Aaron Shapiro, President

**Get Well Wishes to:**

Rita Gold, Joel Polter, Gary Daley, Terry Silverman, Beatrice Roth and Joseph Breese

**Mazel Tov to:**

Rachel Miller on her upcoming Bat Mitzvah on June 30<sup>th</sup>.

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

<i>Committee</i>	<i>Chair/Members</i>
MEMBERSHIP	Cyndy Friedland
RITUAL	Hal Polon, Lenny Feather (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
HOSPITALITY	Volunteers needed
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	Cyndy Friedland, Phil Miller
PUBLICITY	Aaron Shapiro
YHRZEITS	Phyllis Feather
NEWSLETTER	Rosalie Donadio, Hope Gardiner
ONEG & DINNERS	Madelyn Dunn, Philomena Jonas, Sheila Erlich, 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.

**News from the Hebrew School:**

As our school year comes to a close our students have made great strides in their lessons. They have been under the guidance of Iris Harari and Mike Kossove, and loving every minute of classes. Iris and Mike have been team teaching which has worked out wonderfully for the students. Iris has given them not only the Hebrew language experience, but her valuable Israeli life experiences. Mike has brought many "green" ideas to the students to help them learn how they can apply these lessons to their everyday lives. Thank you Iris and Mike for a year of solid learning!! We look forward to seeing you and the students in September!!

*Cyndy Friedland, Director, Hebrew School*

**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](mailto: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.

**HEBREW 101 UPDATE:**

Spring is upon us and it's time once again to introduce our Hebrew 101 course. Iris Harari will be teaching this class on Tuesdays starting in June at the Stafford Library. Our target date for the first class will be June 12th starting at 5 PM. This will be an introduction to beginners Hebrew concentrating on the alphabet and ritual prayers. To sign up for the class email Cyndy at [cfriedland119@comcast.net](mailto:cfriedland119@comcast.net) or call 609-698-4459 with your reservation. There will be a charge for the class.

Cyndy Friedland, Director, Hebrew School

**Yahrzeit June 2012**

June 5	Raul Fleishmajer	Husband of Rita Fleishmajer
June 6	Debra Lynn Preissman	Granddaughter of Rhoda Preissman
June 7	Barbara Levine	Mother of Michael Levine
June 12	Jennie Sigal	Mother-in-Law of Rhoda Preissman
June 13	George Levin	Father of David Levin
June 17	Ronald Ehrlich	Husband of Sheila Ehrlich
June 17	William Feather	Father of Leonard Feather
June 22	Harley Crespy	Wife of Jack Crespy (Tammuz 2)
June 26	Theodore Shapiro	Brother of Aaron Shapiro (Tammuz 6)

**Condolences to:**

Pat Barndt on the passing of her Aunt, Ella Badman, on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**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 Phyllis Feather at PO Box 624, Barnegat, NJ 08005 or call **(609) 978-5500**. The list must be updated; even if you have sent in a name/names, response is necessary in order to insure that this process is up to date and that your Yahrzeit will be announced.

Please email Sue Shapiro at [shap1010@comcast.net](mailto:shap1010@comcast.net) with birthday and anniversary information.

**June Birthdays**

03	Deanna Bovasso
08	Ret Wallerstein
10	Philip Miller
11	Daniel Kolb
12	Terry Silverman
30	Patricia Barndt

**June Anniversaries**

12/1962	Terry and Joan Silverman
12/1966	Stanley and Rose Jackson
13/1961	Aaron and Susan Shapiro
12/1999	Gary and Rhonda Daley

**JUNE NEWS FROM THE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE:**

**Gift Auction:** *A monumental thank you to all who solicited, donated, sent emails for donations, schlepped, set up, sold tickets, baked, and attended our biggest fundraiser!! This has been a very successful annual event for us, and without everyone's participation we could not do this!! We are a wonderful group of dedicated members and friends that are committed to our Congregation!!*

**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.

**2012 SCHEDULE OF SERVICE 7:30 PM (DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE). PLEASE NOTE THAT SERVICE DATES HAVE BEEN CHANGED FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST.**

June 8	September 26 Yom Kippur; Break the Fast
June 29	October 2 (erect Sukkah on Tuesday)
June 30 Bat Mitzvah of Rachel Miller	October 5

July 13	October 19
July 27	November 2
August 3 (NEW DATE)	November 16
August 17 (NEW DATE)	November 30
September 7	December 14 Hanukkah
September 16 Erev Rosh Hashanah	December 28
September 17 Rosh Hashanah	
September 25 Erev Yom Kippur	

## **Book Review**

### A Convenient Hatred: The History of Anti-Semitism by Phyllis Goldstein

Riveting oration has historically been used to influence and manipulate the frustration and hatred of people into responding to such evil overtures with violent and deadly behavior. Sadly, this process is very familiar to Jewish history since the Hellenic Culture of Egypt where it was noted by Netanyahu as the birth place of Anti-Semitism.

This book makes a valuable and timely contribution to our understanding of this subject by tracing the origins and evolution of Anti-Semitism from antiquity to the present day. It provides a well-informed, highly accessible, and admirably balanced account. Although it could be an impressive asset into the fields concerned with the humanities and social sciences, the lay person also would receive an awakening. It is difficult reading, but necessary. We have been fortunate to live in the United States and exist in safety and prosperity; unknown to our grandparents and/or great grandparents. But we are still only 350 years old ... very, very young historically and should be aware that there is always the possibility of episodic cycles. Perhaps that is why we may be genetically programmed for survival; it is an evolutionary development ...an enduring quality of what has been termed "the longest hatred".

Phyllis Goldstein is the senior writer and researcher on key Facing History and Ourselves publications including the latest edition of "Facing History and Ourselves: Holocaust and Human Behavior," as well as "The Jews of Poland" and "Race and Membership in American History." She graduated from the University of Chicago and holds a master's degree in teaching from Harvard University. She has worked as a teacher, author, editor, and editorial director.