



## Rabbi's Message

It is common for rabbis to say, "There are just no words," - and then go on to talk. This is going to be one of those times.

I want to start by saying that a rabbi can leave a congregation in anger and pain - or she can leave in love. I have done it both ways now, and I am here to say that leaving in love is better. **Immeasurably better.** I served my former congregation for eleven years – two as a rabbinic student intern and then the next nine as the associate rabbi, working during that time with four different senior colleagues. In those years, the lay leadership had difficulty figuring out how to partner with their rabbis and cantor in constructive ways. There were struggles – too many struggles – over power and decision-making and authority. And, regrettably, some of those struggles trickled down to the clergy themselves. It wasn't a sustainable situation. **That** was a departure in pain. **This** is a departure in love.

Coming up in a few weeks is the Torah portion *Sh'lach L'cha* - a favorite of mine. The portion begins with God's instruction to Moses to "*Sh'lach l'cha*" - **send forth** brave spies to explore the land which had been promised to the Israelites. But the words "*sh'lach l'cha*" can also be translated to mean a more personal, self-reflective process: "Send **yourself** forth." In this rendition, it is we who are called upon to find the courage to cross over a boundary and enter a new land, a new chapter of life. In my case, my head told me it was time to do it. My body did too. Nevertheless, my heart hurts. It's complicated and bittersweet.

You have been amazing and compassionate and loving and inspirational. What we have done, we did together. For instance, the way this congregation now worships is not the way it worshipped when I arrived seven years ago. I had a vision then of worship that was engaging and inspiring and meaningful and beautiful – and fun too. To me, that meant starting with the traditional liturgical framework, of course – and then adding to and embellishing it with poetry and stories and blessings – and always, **always** music. Do you know the Chasidic saying, "The one who sings, prays twice"? A congregation that sings had always been my dream. My former congregants didn't sing, for the most part. They listened to the cantor, who did have a beautiful voice. But when I came here I said to you, "Music-wise, we're all in this together." And you did it. You were willing to try new music, and for our part, Philip and I made an effort to move slowly and to balance the familiar with the new. But we also nudged you. Some of our attempts didn't make it. But many did. What are now our "standard" melodies for the *Barechu*, *Hinei MaTov*, *Mi Chamocha*, the beginning of the *Amidah*, *Hashkiveinu*, *Ritzei* – these weren't the melodies we were singing seven years ago. Last month, at our first service without Philip, I was concerned about singing without accompaniment. As it turned out, I need not have worried. It was a great moment when I first heard all your voices singing out loud and strong, I

was so proud of all of us.

I mentioned the compassion of this community, and I want to say something more about that. First, on a personal note, you know that both of my parents died during my seven years here. I can never thank you enough for the outpouring of love and concern my family and I received from you – the sympathy cards and tributes and donations and phone calls and cookies and shiva visits. All so appreciated. And some of you have suffered very painful losses during these years too, and your fellow members have been there for you the way they were for me.

Something else. When I invite you to say the name of someone for *Mi Shebeirach*, very often a person who is ill will be mentioned by more than one of you – sometimes by many of you! I wasn't used to this. In my former congregation, it was the custom to mention names just one time. If someone before you named someone that **you** were going to name, then you'd either pass altogether or just name other people. That doesn't happen here. When I first became aware of it, I almost said something to you about it like, "If someone's already been mentioned, no need to say their name again." But then I thought better of it. I figured – why not? If it was good to name an ill person one time, wouldn't three times be even better? What a lovely expression of support and concern and from so many different people. And how typical of this congregation.

Other memories. The way this community pitched in after Hurricane Sandy, for instance. I'm remembering Madelyn and her merry band of carpet removers, and the generosity extended to our own members whose homes were seriously damaged or destroyed altogether – Hope and Rosalie, Phyllis and Stan, Inez and Michael. As a community, we embraced and celebrated our members who chose to become Jews. We have been blessed by those who remain in their own faith traditions but support us wholeheartedly nonetheless. We have rejoiced when young people took their place up here as *b'nai mitzvah*. (Next week, of course, we will welcome up here the young-at-heart: Wendi and Syble and Joan! Don't miss it!) We laughed with Uncle Shmuel at Purim and a befuddled Moses at Passover. We created our own Torah covers – literally, the work of our hands. We have broken fasts, studied, worshiped, visited the sick, donated clothing, raised money, delivered meals, done good. In other words, we have been a true community.

My introduction to the congregation came at my interview one Sunday afternoon in the spring of 2009 when I met with Cyndy and Philip and Herb Feldhun, of blessed memory. I was charmed by this intrepid band of Jews so determined to have a Reform presence here in this corner of South Ocean County. My first impression was: this group is small but strong. And that first impression turned out to be correct. I am very grateful to the leadership of this synagogue, particularly the presidents – Cyndy, Aaron, Phil and Wendi – with whom I have had the honor to be in partnership. Going forward, I am so happy that you will shortly be in the hands of a wonderful rabbi, a dear friend and true mensch – Rabbi Josh Goldstein. You couldn't have picked a better rabbi, and this is making my departure easier for me. Thank you for that.

In their 4<sup>th</sup> year of rabbinical school, students give what's called the senior sermon, based on the Torah portion of the week. The portion for my senior sermon was *Noach*, Noah. Everybody knows the story about how the animals went into the ark two-by-two. Generally, we know the tale in its most simplistic, superficial sense. But it's instructive to look at it a little more closely. Why does God tell Noah to take representatives of every animal into the ark with him? And why do they all have to be

bound up together for forty days? I think the answer to these questions has something to do with the meaning and importance of community, in our case, Jewish community. God makes it clear that the survivors of the flood have a mission, and that mission is to rebuild the world into something better, something holy. I believe that what the story is telling us is that in order to accomplish that mission, the survivors—all of them—had to do it together. Each part of Creation—every living thing—was absolutely necessary, but none was sufficient by itself. In the story, God leaves nothing to chance. God forces the survivors together in a place and in a way in which they have only each other, forging a community in the crucible of the Ark experience. Ever since, we Jews have been a people of community. We can see this communal orientation reflected in our liturgy and in the way we pray, with almost all of our prayers in the first person plural: “We,” “Us.” At our most joyful moments as well as our most painful ones, Judaism provides us with rituals and practices that are almost always communal in nature. While I in no way want to minimize the importance of individual enterprise and achievement, I believe that there is a reason why human beings pray together and why they form political parties, professional associations, charitable organizations—and why, as Jews, we build synagogues. We do it because it works, because we have learned that when like-minded people join together to promote and fulfill their goals, they have the power to change themselves and the world.

Most of you know that in what I sometimes jokingly refer to as “my previous life,” before rabbinical school, I was a clinical social worker. Over the course of the years and after experiences with many individuals I came to believe that the most disturbing experience for human beings is the fear that all is randomness, chaos and emptiness, that life is without purpose. In part, I changed professions because I came to believe that Judaism and Jewish community offer an antidote—perhaps **the** antidote—to the human search for meaning and for a life that feels purposeful, joyful, compelling and whole. For me, Judaism does this by offering three life-organizing parameters. First, Judaism gives us a grand, master story to which each of us can link our personal story so that we become a part of a chain stretching back farther than we can imagine. Second, Judaism proclaims a vision of a world in which hope, purpose, and meaning trump desperation, entropy, and despair. And finally, Judaism prescribes an all-encompassing value- and action-shaping way of life whose goal is nothing less than, in the words of the writer, Dennis Prager, “the creation of a moral and holy people who in turn morally improve the world.” But community is always a two-way process. We get, but we also have to give back. That’s the nature of being in a covenantal relationship. Having described what I think we get, I want to say that I believe that our obligation—our part of the covenant—is to function as the repository of the highest ethical and spiritual visions possible and to develop active means to carry out those visions. As a rabbi, it’s been my great honor and privilege to teach and – I hope – to inspire and lead others to this end. I trust that I have also been able to convey to you the elements of Jewish congregational life that I consider most essential: commitment to Jewish learning; a community of welcome and acceptance; dedication not only to one’s own community but to the larger world as well; and, finally, a fundamental belief in the power of Judaism to lead us to our most fully realized selves.

One more thing. If you ever think that Judaism is easy – that faith is uncomplicated, that truth is clear-cut, that the Torah is undemanding – then you can be sure you’re not doing it right. Judaism is not for the faint of heart. It is an adult religion requiring determination, patience, intellect and soul. And Jews need each other to get there. I hope that you will never stop asking the Big Questions. And if you haven’t started asking them, that you will very soon. Asking the Big Questions is a sacred obligation. And be worried – very worried – if you never change your mind, because we are the inheritors of a

tradition that values – indeed, **demands** – questions and doubt and struggle.

So we will go in different directions, but not entirely, because my heart remains here. It has been said that every Jewish prayer essentially falls into one of three categories: *Please*. *Wow*. And *Thank you*. Borrowing a bit, I would like to leave you this evening with three messages:

1. *Please* be as generous and wonderful to Rabbi Goldstein – and to each other - as you have been to me.
2. You have *wowed* me.
3. *Thank you*.

**Rabbi Kim S. Geringer**

(\*This sermon was delivered on June 3, 2016)



**President's Message**

By the time this newsletter gets out it will be Rabbi Kim's last service with us. I know we all feel a connection to our wonderful Rabbi who has been with, and developed our congregation for the past 8 years. I'd like to take this time to tell you my connection. As many of you know Pat and I found Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam thanks to a post on Facebook by Rose Jackson. Prior to this I had been searching the URJ site for a temple and to learn about Judaism, but never made the leap. That was, up until that moment! Shortly after I clicked like on the Facebook page I found myself in a Facebook conversation with Cyndy (of course that's not surprising), but it's because of that conversation, and later phone calls from our wonderful Philip, that I asked Pat how she felt about going to a service (to which she obviously said yes). Rabbi Kim took the time to meet with us before hand and talk to us about what to expect, what is different than how we were raised, and answered all of our questions. This was truly a wonderful experience. So we came to the service (Rabbi Kim was kind enough to make us sit all the way in the front so we could muddle through the Hebrew parts), and we really enjoyed meeting everyone, and learning. During our car ride home we talked about the

Hebrew parts, and we laughed at each other's efforts. But then we came back, and we kept on coming back.

Then at one of the Tu B'Shevat Seders Ernie was across from us at the table and asked, "When are you converting?" I think Syble may have given him a nudge at this point, but after the high holidays, which resonated like nothing we've ever felt before, we talked to Rabbi Kim about converting. She developed a class to teach us about Judaism, everything we should know, everything we should read, and everything we should do. We really enjoyed the class. I requested that we go to the mikvah and have a Beit Din for our conversion, and Rabbi Kim recommended a wonderful place next to Temple Emeth in Teaneck, and Cyndy was there as our witness. Rabbi Kim also put together a wonderful Beit Din, with Rabbi Victor, and sadly I don't remember the other female Rabbi's name, but I remember her face vividly. We sat in the lobby of the mikvah and the 3 Rabbis asked Pat and myself questions. Then we went to the changing rooms of the mikvah. Rabbi Kim took Pat and I one at a time into the mikvah while the other two Rabbis, and Cyndy sang Oseh Shalom outside. Some of you may not understand what a truly amazing experience this was for the two of us. When we left the mikvah everything felt different, in the most wonderful of ways.

A year later, when it finally became legal, I was able to marry my best friend after 15 years of being together. Rabbi Kim made such a wonderful Jewish wedding (many of you were there) and it was just simply a whirlwind of a day. Our ketubah hangs in our dining room over the buffet where we light our Shabbat candles so we are always able to reflect on one of the best days of our life while we kindle the lights of Shabbat.

And now, at the end of this week as I'm typing this, I will become a Bat Mitzvah under the guidance of Rabbi Kim along with Syble and Joan. Another year of study has come to pass, and there's still so much more to learn!

With all of this being said, I have to say that though I may have made many good decisions in life, I have made 4 life-changing decisions that were by far the best decisions I could have ever made, and are:

1. Joining the military
2. Converting to Judaism
3. Marrying Pat in the Jewish tradition
4. Becoming Bat Mitzvah

As you can see, Rabbi Kim has been a part of 75% of my excellent, life-changing decisions, and for this I am grateful. I am generally a bit of a jokester, but it is with heartfelt thanks, and gratitude that I wish Rabbi Kim all the best, and know that she will always be a part of my family's life.

The board will be meeting again on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm at the Friedland home. Since we do not have a permanent place to meet, please speak to the homeowner hosting the meeting if you would like to attend.

L'Shalom, Wendi Higgins

### **Message from Rabbi Goldstein**

Dear Sha'arey Ha-Yam Members,

I am truly thrilled and honored to succeed Rabbi Geringer as your new Rabbi. I've been able to share Shabbat with the Sha'arey Ha-Yam Community twice (the last with my wife, Sally) and we are deeply impressed with the warmth and vibrancy of our Congregation.

When I spoke on that last Friday night, I shared a bit about myself: my passions (books, Israel, sports), my Jewish background (raised traditionally, I've been a Reform congregational Rabbi for four decades, and I'm Rabbi Emeritus at Temple Sha'arey Shalom in Springfield), and my hopes and visions for Sha'arey Ha-Yam. Most importantly, I am continually inspired by the story of our people, grateful that I've had a part in that remarkable story and I hope to encourage you to find your place in the Jewish narrative as well.

For now, I'm looking forward to getting to know all of our Temple family members.

Warm Wishes,

Josh Goldstein

### **Membership**

As we join together for our services on Friday evenings, it's always nice to see a new face or two.....we are all ambassadors for our community, and ambassadors are also part of our welcoming committee!! When you see a new person in the pew, please welcome them to our spiritual community! Remember when you were a "newbie" joining our family? Who reached out to you and made you feel at home.... We all can be shy when it comes to introducing ourselves to strangers, but for sure, there's nothing so heartwarming as being greeted and welcomed by a "Hello..my name is (say your name)...and welcome to our community!" Think of how you felt to be recognized...and extend that courtesy to a first time visitor. This is not just one person's "job".... each of us can do this!! Help show how warm and inviting our congregation is...trust me..as you extend your hand and smile, the welcome is met with a smile..back at cha!! Help us grow...this is the first step in planting the seed of nurturing our congregation!!

### **Hebrew School**

For information on Hebrew School, please contact Dayna Otto at 609-709-9410

### **Tributes**

Tribute cards are available from Syble Bleiweis 609-978-4240 or Joan Silverman 609-698-0000. This is great way to donate to our congregation while celebrating simchas, acknowledging births, wedding, get well wishes, etc. Non-Jewish individuals can also receive these cards!! Tribute cards will be mailed as soon as receipt of payment is made.



*Birthdays are always something to celebrate*

**June**

Deanna Bovasso	3
Ret Wallerstein	8
Philip Miller	10
Terry Silverman	12
Helen Cocuzza	15
Patricia Barndt-Higgins	30

**July**

Rachel Miller	4
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*Love grows with every year*

**June**

Joan and Terry Silverman	June 12 (54 years)
Rose and Stanley Jackson	June 12 (50 years)
Rhonda and Gary Daley	June 12 (17 years)



**Yahrzeits**

יתגדל בראבא

*May the memories of our loved ones be a blessing*

**First Year**

05/01/2016

Joseph Flum

Father of Charles Flum

<b>June</b>		
06/05	Gussie Wallach	Mother of Sheldon Wallerstein
06/07	Earl Wallerstein	Brother of Sheldon Wallerstein
06/07	Barbara Levine	Mother of Michael Levine
06/21	Harley Crespy	Wife of Jack Crespy
06/24	Ronald Ehrlich	Husband of Sheila Ehrlich
<b>July</b>		
07/01	Rose Lewis Gtross	Mother of Samuel Lewis
07/07	Bernice Jachter	
07/09	Sarah Halpert	Mother of Marlene Feldhuhn
07/12	Esther Ehrlich	Mother of Jackie Jacobs, Grandmother of Helen Cocuzza
07/16	Nathan Sales	Father of Maralyn Ricciardi
07/19	Dorothy Heineman	Mother of Syble Bleiweis
07/25	Clark Webb	Brother-In-Law of Cyndy Friedland, Uncle of Justin Friedland
07/27	Gladys Cohen	Mother of Phil Cohen
07/31	Brian Jacobs	Son of Jackie Jacobs, Brother of Helen Cocuzza

### **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.

### **High Holiday Sidurim Dedications**

This year for the High Holidays we have a wonderful way to remember those who's memories are a blessing to us. Dedications can be made through donating a High Holiday prayer book in their memory. Attached is a form to do this with. Sam Lewis has graciously volunteered to undertake this project for us. Kindly send your form filled out and your donation to Sam. The information is on the form.

### **Fundraising News**

#### **Art Auction**

**Save the date...Thursday, August 4th will be our Third annual Art Auction date!! We will be holding the auction at The Captain's Inn in Forked River. Our preview will start at 7 PM with the auction starting at 8 PM. Plan to bring your friends, relatives and neighbors...this will be a fun evening out!! The Captain's Inn features a Prime Rib special for dinner on Thursdays...so plan a great night out!!**

#### **Shoprite Gift Cards**

So, let's discuss what goes on with the Shoprite gift cards....or congregation sells these gift cards as a fundraiser....it is a very painless process!! Anyone can purchase these cards...they are in increments of

\$25, \$50, or \$100.

The plus to this fundraiser is...

- 1 - you write your check to the Congregation
- 2 - this is the same as using cash at Shoprite, nothing different
- 3 - you are able to receive your discounts, coupons, sale prices etc. if you use the gift card
- 4 - you are able to help donate to the congregation...we do make 5% on every \$100 we sell on these cards
- 5 - it does not cost you anything out of pocket...your purchase of the Shoprite gift card is the total value you get to spend in Shoprite...
- 6 - Currently approximately 12 members participate in this fundraiser...if everyone participates, WOW...Success!!!

Syble Bleiweis and Dayna Otto are the keepers of these cards....reach out to them and be a supporter!! They have them at every service...

### **Amazon Smile**

When shopping at [www.SMILE.Amazon.com](http://www.SMILE.Amazon.com) you can designate REFORM JEWISH COMMUNITY of BARNEGAT (there are no additional fees, the congregation makes a percentage).

### **Tribute Cards**

Tribute Cards are a great way to celebrate any life cycle event, birthday, or anniversary. The minimum donation is \$5 and up to whatever you'd like to donate. Syble Bleiweis, 609-978-4240 or Joan Silverman, 609-698-0000 will gladly assist with your cards and have them mailed out immediately. Saves you a trip to the store and a stamp!!

## **2016 Shabbat Services Dates/Times**

### **June 2016**

Friday, June 3, 7:30 PM  
Friday, June 10, 7:30 PM

### **July 2016**

Friday, July 8, 7:30 PM  
Friday, July 22, 7:30 PM

### **August 2016**

Friday, August 5, 7:30 PM  
Friday, August 19, 7:30 PM

*A Simcha for our community*

*On Friday July 8th, Rabbi Josh Goldstein will celebrate his 1<sup>st</sup> Shabbat as our Rabbi. Please make every effort to join us for this joyous event....we have a special evening planned!*

<b>Shabbat Candle Lighting Times and Holiday Calendar</b>						
June 2016						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 24 Iyyar	2 25 Iyyar Yom HaShoah	3 26 Iyyar Shabbat Candle Lighting 8:03 PM	4 27 Iyyar
5 28 Iyyar Jerusalem Day (Yom Yerushalayim)	6 29 Iyyar	7 1 Sivan Rosh Chodesh Sivan	8 2 Sivan	9 3 Sivan	10 4 Sivan Shabbat Candle Lighting 8:07 PM	11 5 Sivan Erev Shavuot
12 6 Sivan Shavuot I	13 7 Sivan Shavuot II	14 8 Sivan Flag Day	15 9 Sivan	16 10 Sivan	17 11 Sivan Shabbat Candle Lighting 8:09 PM	18 12 Sivan
19 13 Sivan Father's Day	20 14 Sivan 1st Day of Summer	21 15 Sivan	22 16 Sivan	23 17 Sivan	24 18 Sivan Shabbat Candle Lighting 8:11 PM	25 19 Sivan
26 20 Sivan	27 21 Sivan	28 22 Sivan	29 23 Sivan	30 24 Sivan		

<b>Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam Board of Trustees</b>			
The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Thursday June 23, 2016 at 7 PM at the home of Cyndy Friedland. If you are interested in attending, please contact Wendi Higgins (732-232-1861 or <a href="mailto:cbreezegeo@gmail.com">cbreezegeo@gmail.com</a> ) or Cyndy Friedland (609-698-4459 or <a href="mailto:cfriedland119@comcast.net">cfriedland119@comcast.net</a> ).			
<b>President</b>	Wendi Higgins	732-232-1861	<a href="mailto:cbreezegeo@gmail.com">cbreezegeo@gmail.com</a>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b>	Dayna Otto	609-597-3239	<a href="mailto:yoursdayna@comcast.net">yoursdayna@comcast.net</a>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b>	Syble Bleiweis	609-978-4240	<a href="mailto:sybern3539@comcast.net">sybern3539@comcast.net</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Helen Cocuzza	609-978-8653	<a href="mailto:heja0615@aol.com">heja0615@aol.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Robert Dunn	609-660-1614	<a href="mailto:rdunn2960@aol.com">rdunn2960@aol.com</a>
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Cyndy Friedland	609-698-4459	<a href="mailto:cfriedland119@comcast.net">cfriedland119@comcast.net</a>
<b>Board of Trustees at Large</b>	Allan Levy	609-549-6539	<a href="mailto:ahlbeach@hotmail.com">ahlbeach@hotmail.com</a>
	Laura Miller	609-660-9072	<a href="mailto:millerlaura303@gmail.com">millerlaura303@gmail.com</a>
<b>Past President</b>	Philip Miller	609-698-3933	<a href="mailto:pmmlegal@aol.com">pmmlegal@aol.com</a>

<b>Temple Committees</b>	
<b>Committee</b>	<b><u>Chair/Membership</u></b>
<b>Choir</b>	Cyndy Friedland, Wendi Higgins, Pat Barndt-Higgins, Madelyn Dunn, Robert Dunn, Syble Bleiweis, Rena Kreisler, Helen Cocuzza
<b>Finance</b>	<u>Treasurer, Robert Dunn</u> Financial Secretary, Cyndy Friedland President, Wendi Higgins
<b>Fundraising</b>	<u>Cyndy Friedland</u> Pat Barndt-Higgins, Syble Bleiweis, Madelyn Dunn, Wendi Higgins, Joan Silverman, Ruth Schlyen, Helen Cocuzza
<b>Greeters</b>	Hope Gardiner, Rhona Levy, Myles Levy, Edna Schaffler
<b>Hospital Visits</b>	Jack Crespy
<b>Membership</b>	<u>Cyndy Friedland</u> Syble Bleiweis, Joan Silverman, Helen Cocuzza
<b>Music</b>	
<b>Newsletter</b>	Helen Cocuzza
<b>Oneg &amp; Dinners</b>	<u>Madelyn Dunn</u> Pat Barndt-Higgins, Wendi Higgins, Filomina Jonas
<b>Religious School</b>	<u>Dayna Otto</u> Phil Miller, Helen Cocuzza
<b>Ritual</b>	<u>Allan Levy</u> Philip Altland, Charles Flum, Helen Cocuzza
<b>Tributes &amp; Get Well</b>	<u>Syble Bleiweis</u> Joan Silverman
<b>Yahrzeits</b>	Pat Barndt-Higgins

### Kibbitz Corner

*Editors Notes...Happy Shavuot.....may the wisdom of the laws given to Moses on Mt Sinai help guide us during these troubled times!*

*A few special moments from Shabbat Services June 10<sup>th</sup>.....*

*Candle Lighting Birthday honors for Deanna*



*Mazel Tov to Wendi, Syble and Joan on their B'not Mitzvah!!*





*Stafford Township Founder's Day....June 11<sup>th</sup>*



**Community Announcements**

***New Jersey Organizing Project: Super Storm Sandy Memorial Wall***

***June 23 - Stafford Township Municipal Building, 6:30 to 8 PM***

***June 28 - Tuckerton Seaport, 6:30 to 8 PM***