



Rabbi's Message

As I write this article, Passover has been over for two weeks. By now, the last of the matzo has, thankfully, been consumed, the seder dishes and *haggadot* put away, and the uneaten macaroons retired to the trash. Those who were responsible for the meal preparation, table setting, cooking, cleaning, and Seder-leading have had their sigh of relief, kicked back, and taken a well-deserved breather before the next major Jewish holiday. Many Jews would tell you that that holiday is Rosh Hashanah, and certainly on the North American Jewish scene, the High Holidays loom large as the next significant period of Jewish observance. Before we skim too quickly over the upcoming months, however, I want to talk about the festival of Shavuot (which begins this year on the evening of June 12) and, in particular, its connection to the Passover holiday just past.

Shavuot is traditionally considered to be the anniversary of the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai. One of the three pilgrim festivals (along with Passover and Sukkot), Shavuot marks the end of the barley and the beginning of the wheat harvest and was associated in ancient Israel with the bringing of the *bikurim*, “first ripe fruits,” to the Temple in Jerusalem. (Exodus 23:19; Deuteronomy 26:1-11) In many Reform congregations, Confirmation is observed on or close to Shavuot. Since Confirmation is the ritual through which our young people “confirm,” the Jewish identity and education that they have acquired to date, it makes sense to link Confirmation to Shavuot when, as a people, we recall the central event of Jewish covenantal history, the giving (and receiving) of the Torah at Mount Sinai.

Shavuot in Hebrew means “weeks.” The name derives from the biblical instruction to count seven weeks from the time of the Passover harvest festival, at the end of which a second harvest festival was to be observed. In Temple times, this second festival, Shavuot, was primarily an agricultural event, complete with elaborate preparations for bringing the offerings to Jerusalem. When the Temple was destroyed, the pilgrimage system ended and the main emphasis of Shavuot shifted to the festival’s identification as the anniversary of the giving of the Torah.

The Torah explicitly links Passover and Shavuot together chronologically, and our tradition has linked them in meaning and message as well. Passover may represent our liberation as a people, but the question may then be asked, “Liberation for what purpose?” Physical liberation from servitude was not the ultimate purpose. Rather, our tradition understands the linkage of Passover and Shavuot to mean that we were liberated in order to fulfill a specific purpose in the world. That purpose was revealed with the giving of the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai. It was to function as the repository of the highest ethical and spiritual vision possible and to develop active means to carry out that vision. If Passover, in part, represents a question, then Shavuot, in part, represents an answer.

Today, Jews live more freely than at almost any other time in our history as a people. No longer confined to a marginal, ghettoized existence, we are free to choose not only *how* we wish to practice our religion, but whether we even wish to be Jewish at all. No agent of the state is waiting to push us back into our community should we choose to separate ourselves from it. The Reform Movement is often considered to be the “freest” of the major denominations. This is a misunderstanding of the history and purpose of Reform, but it’s not difficult to see how this notion came into being. The Reform Movement grew out of post-Enlightenment ideas about the primacy of personal autonomy; that is, the right of individuals to be self-determining in their beliefs and their behavior. But the early Reformers never meant that such crucial decisions should be made out of laziness or lack of knowledge. On this topic, the preeminent Reform theologian Dr. Eugene Borowitz has written, “Autonomy exercised in ignorance is foolish freedom, a great human gift exercised in a self-negating way.” This year, let’s use the Passover just past to think not only about the *act* of liberation, but the *purpose* of it too. There is a myriad of ways to fulfill the promise of our freedom, but how easily that freedom can be squandered! Each of us needs to figure out how to be Jewish and how to use the gift of freedom that is ours. I urge you to allow the message of Passover and Shavuot to guide and inspire you throughout the whole Jewish year.

Have a wonderful month.

Rabbi Kim S. Seinger

President’s Message

This year has had its share of challenges and rewards. In looking back over the past year, we have joined the Union for Reform Judaism, gotten new Machzors thanks to Rabbi Kim, Philip Altland, and Allan Levy; we’ve also had one of the most successful fundraising events we’ve had in years with our Art Auction. So as we close out the year I want to say thank you to the Board, and all of you for all of the dedication and effort it takes to keep us moving forward as a congregation!

Our annual Congregation Meeting will be on 5/22/16 at 7pm. This year we will be holding it at the Stafford Township, Pine Street Recreation Building located at 25 Pine Street. It’s right behind where the Exit 63 restaurant is, just off of East Bay Ave. So I hope to see all of you there.

The board will be meeting again on May 19th at 7pm at the Levy 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

Membership

Can you find a friend to join our spiritual family....we need to grow...sooner than later! As we look into our future it will be difficult to sustain ourselves without any growth in membership. We need everyone’s help to keep us going. Think about what we offer....a Jewish identity in our community,

For Information and Membership: 609-698-4459
friends that we never would have had, bi-monthly services.... support from our Rabbi and Board of Trustees. Consider helping on a committee to reach out to increase our membership. You can speak to Syble Bleiweis, Joan Silverman or Cyndy Friedland to participate.

Hebrew School

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

Tributes

Do a Mitzvah... Send a Tribute Card to acknowledge a special event. Call Syble Bleiweis 609-978-4240 or Joan Silverman 609- 698-0000. Every Tribute sent is a charitable donation that helps support our Congregational community.

Congratulations...

To: Syble and Ernie Bleiweis
Congratulations on your Grandson Kyle's Bar Mitzvah
From: Cyndy Friedland

To: Syble and Ernie Bleiweis
In Honor of your Grandson Kyle's Bar Mitzvah
From: Ruth and Gary Schlyen

To: Jean Friedland
Congratulations on your 96th birthday
From: Cyndy Friedland

Get Well...

To: Ina Morgenthal
Wishing you a speedy and complete recovery from surgery
From: Syble and Ernie Bleiweis



Birthdays are always something to celebrate

Maralyn Ricciardi

May

May 25

For Information and Membership: 609-698-4459

June

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



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
05/07/2015	Christine Kaplan	Sister of Dolly Weiss
07/25/2015	Clark Webb	Brother-in-Law of Cyndy Friedland

May

05/1984	Aaron Shapinsky	Uncle of Helen Cocuzza
05/01/11	Albert Hanok	Uncle of Helen Cocuzza
05/02	Herb Feldhuhn	Husband of Marlene Feldhuhn
05/04	Shirley Levy	Mother of Allan Levy
05/05/45 (22 Iyyar)	Ted Cohen	Father of Phil Cohen
05/07/15	Christine Kaplan	Sister of Dolly Weiss
05/11/2011	Eric Kriesler	Son of Mark and Rena Kriesler
05/13	Isadore Levy	Father of Allan Levy
05/14	Annie Gordon	Sister of Maralyn Ricciardi
05/17 (9 Iyyar)	Matthew Dunn	Father of Robert Dunn
05/25 (7 Sivan)	David Crespy	Father of Jack Crespy

05/28/2008

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Adele Berlin

Aunt of Syble Bleiweis

June

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

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....our congregation sells these gift cards as a fundraiser....it is a very simple, painless process!! Anyone can purchase these cards..they are available in increments of \$25, \$50, or \$100.

Here's how it works:

- #1..write your check payable to the congregation
- #2..the cards are the same as using cash at Shoprite...nothing different
- #3..you continue to receive store discounts; you may use manufacturer's coupons; you still qualify for sale prices; etc. if you use the gift card instead of cash or credit cards
- #4..best of all, you are able to help the congregation.....we earn 5% on every \$100.00 we sell
- #5..it does not cost you anything extra to use the cards...face value of the card is what you have to spend in Shoprite
- #6..currently there are 12 congregation members participate regularly in this fundraiser...if everyone participates...WOW...what a success that would be!!!

Syble Bleiweis (609-978-4240) and Dayna Otto (609-709-9410) 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 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 stamp!!

2016 Shabbat Services Dates/Times	
May 2016	
Friday, May 6, 7:30 PM	
Friday, May 20, 7:30 PM	
June 2016	
Friday, June 3, 7:30 PM	
Friday, June 10, 7:30 PM	
<i>A Simcha for our community</i>	
<i>On Friday June 10th, Rabbi Geringer will be calling Syble Bleiweis, Wendi Higgins and Joan Silverman to the Torah for the “right of passage” as they become B'nai Mitzvah...what a wonderful celebration for our community and for these ladies. They have been preparing for this day for the last year. Let's be supportive and join together for this special service.</i>	

Shabbat Candle Lighting Times and Holiday Calendar						
April 2016						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 23 Nisan	2 24 Nisan	3 25 Nisan	4 26 Nisan	5 27 Nisan Yom HaShoah	6 28 Nisan Shabbat Candle Lighting 7:39 PM	7 29 Nisan
8 30 Nisan Rosh Chodesh Iyyar Mother's Day	9 1 Iyyar Rosh Chodesh Iyyar	10 2 Iyyar	11 3 Iyyar Yom HaZikaron	12 4 Iyyar Yom HaAtzma'ut	13 5 Iyyar Shabbat Candle Lighting 7:45 PM	14 6 Iyyar
15 7 Iyyar	16 8 Iyyar	17 9 Iyyar	18 10 Iyyar	19 11 Iyyar	20 12 Iyyar Shabbat Candle Lighting 7:52 PM	21 13 Iyyar Armed Forces Day
22 14 Iyyar Pesach Sheni	23 15 Iyyar	24 16 Iyyar	25 17 Iyyar	26 18 Iyyar Lag B'Omer	27 19 Iyyar Shabbat Candle Lighting 7:58 PM	28 20 Iyyar
29 21 Iyyar	30 22 Iyyar Memorial Day	31 23 Iyyar				

Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam Board of Trustees			
The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Thursday May 19, 2016 at 7 PM at the home of Allan Levy. If you are interested in attending, please contact Wendi Higgins (732-232-1861 or cbreezego@gmail.com) or Allan Levy (609-549-6539 or ahlbeach@hotmail.com).			
President	Wendi Higgins	732-232-1861	cbreezego@gmail.com
1st Vice President	Philip Altland	609-492-2751	paltland@elliman.com
2nd Vice President	Dayna Otto	609-597-3239	yoursdayna@comcast.net
Secretary	Helen Cocuzza	609-978-8653	heja0615@aol.com
Treasurer	Robert Dunn	609-660-1614	rdunn2960@aol.com
Financial Secretary	Cyndy Friedland	609-698-4459	cfriedland119@comcast.net
Board of Trustees at Large	Allan Levy	609-549-6539	ahlbeach@hotmail.com
	Laura Miller	609-660-9072	millerlaura303@gmail.com
Past President	Philip Miller	609-698-3933	pmmlegal@aol.com

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

Kibbitz Corner

Editors Notes...I want to take a few moments to acknowledge a few important dates during the month of May...Yom HaShoah (May 5th) "Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Day", Yom HaZikaron (May 11th) "Israeli Memorial Day" and Yom HaAtzma'ut (May 12th) Israeli Independence Day – Happy 68th Birthday Israel!

These special days are an opportunity to remember our honored dead....the family and friends we lost in the Holocaust...the brave men and women of the IDF who have given their lives to protect the State of Israel; and to celebrate the founding of the modern State of Israel.

The following article was posted on Facebook by one of my cousin's and I thought it was worth sharing with you here...

ITALIAN JOURNALIST GIULIO MEOTTI

I don't know another nation on earth which since its founding, less than seventy years ago, had to sacrifice 23,000 soldiers.

I don't know another nation on earth without recognized borders.

I don't know another nation on earth whose population lives under a perpetual emotional strain.

I don't know another nation on earth threatened to be wiped off the map.

I don't know another nation on earth so threatened by boycotts all over the world.

I don't know another nation on earth where winners tend to lose wars.

I don't know another nation on earth which provides its own enemy with water, electricity, food, weapons, and medical treatment.

I don't know another nation on earth where guests on official visits utter disrespectful and offensive words.

But I also don't know another nation on earth which has recorded so many miracles.

Imagine a helpless, naked Jew at the gas ovens facing a Nazi official, who thinks he will get rid of the "Jewish cancer", get rid of this unique phenomenon of 2,000 years.

Could that helpless, naked Jew imagine that in 50 years other Jews will be flying F-16's in the skies over Israel?

Could that helpless Jew imagine that Israel's population today would be nine times that of 1948, the year of the state's creation?

Could that helpless Jew imagine that Israel is much happier than all the European countries?

Could that helpless Jew imagine that Israel has the highest production of scientific publications per capita in the world?

Could that helpless Jew imagine that Israel has the highest worldwide publication of new books?

Could that helpless Jew imagine that Israel is the only nation which began the XXI century with a net gain in the number of trees?

Could that helpless Jew imagine that Israel has with largest number of chess grandmasters per capita of any city in the world?

Could that helpless Jew imagine that Israel is the nation whose academics produce more scientific papers per capita than anywhere else in the world?

Could that helpless Jew imagine that Israel is the nation with the highest ratio of university degrees to the population in the world?

Could that helpless Jew imagine that Israel is the country which, in proportion to its population, with the largest number of startup companies in the world?

Could that helpless Jew imagine that Israel is the country with the highest percentage in the world of home computers per capita?

Could that helpless Jew imagine that Israel is the nation with the largest immigrant-absorbing model on earth?

Unfortunately, you will not find Israel's goodness and superiority in the media (also Israeli), because it doesn't fit in with the stereotype of the colonialist Zionist occupier.

In the world's consciousness, the word "Israel" must be equated with fear.

Israel just came out of another war against terrorists whose value is less than that of animals. Do you know of any animal species sheltering behind its own children?

But the Jewish State, despite its media, its cynical politicians, establishment, once again showed the world it is the best humanity has to offer.

This hope is impressed in the faces of Israel's fallen soldiers, its wounded and injured soldiers. In those faces there is joy de vivre, not sadness or hatred.

Terrorists and their Western appeasers want to destroy Israel because it is a light unto the nations.

Giulio Meotti | IsraelSeen.com

The writer, an Italian journalist with Il Foglio, writes a twice-weekly column for Arutz Sheva. He is the author of the book "A New Shoah" that researched the personal stories of Israel's terror victims, published by Encounter. His writing has appeared in publications, such as the Wall Street Journal, Frontpage and Commentary. He has just published a book about the Vatican and Israel titled "J'Accuse: the Vatican Against Israel" published by Mantua Books.

Community Announcements

Jewish Heritage Day sponsored by Jewish Federation of Ocean County and the Blue Claws – 1:05 PM Sunday May 15th, Blue Claws Stadium, Lakewood

The American Cancer Society Relay for Life – 5 PM Friday May 20th to 5 AM Saturday May 21. Southern Regional High School Track, Route 9, Stafford Township

Stafford Township Founders Day – Manahawkin Lake, Route 9, Stafford Township