

Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam

Newsletter for Month of November 2010

Message from the Rabbi:

Dear Friends,

Our regular Friday night service attendees are familiar with the *Mishebeirach* prayer which we recite together at the conclusion of the *Amidah* or *Tefillah*. The *Mishebeirach* is commonly thought of as the prayer for healing. It is, but it's also more than that, and I'd like to share some thoughts about it with you this month. The term "*Mishebeirach*" comes from the opening line of the prayer, "*Mishebeirach*" ("May the One Who blessed") our mothers and our fathers bless all those who are ill." Thus when we recite this prayer, we are linking the present to the past. We make a connection between the challenges and difficulties that illness forces on us today with the experiences of all those who came before us, who also knew what it means to be less than fully whole. Our biblical stories are replete with descriptions of depression (King David), infertility (Sarah, Rebecca, Tamar, Rachel, Hannah), visual impairment (Isaac), speech problems (Moses), and the infirmity of old age (Jacob and many more). Not only that. The Torah also relates deeply poignant stories about the emotional stress and strain that are often the accompaniment to physical illness. We are a people well familiar with the painful side of life, but we are equally conversant with the resiliency, hope, strength and courage that a loving community can generate. Here we come to the *Mishebeirach* prayer. Taken in its most literal sense, the prayer simply asks God to heal those who are suffering. But reading between the lines, there's much more. Here's the full text:

"May the One who blessed our ancestors, patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, matriarchs Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah, bless and heal the one who is ill: _____ son/daughter of _____. May the Holy Blessed One overflow with compassion upon him/her, to restore him/her, to heal him/her, to strengthen him/her, to enliven him/her. May the Holy One will send him/her, speedily, a complete healing -- healing of the soul and healing of the body -- along with all the ill, among the people of Israel and all humankind, soon, speedily, without delay, and let us all say: Amen!"

Note that in addition to linking our present circumstances with those who came before us, the prayer requests not only "a healing of the body," but also "a healing of the soul." This is important because it reminds us that while we may not be able to be restored to full physical health, it is still possible to live richly and well if our souls are healed, that is, at peace. And how is this "peace" achieved? This is where community comes in and why we Jews recite the *Mishebeirach* prayer communally, not privately. Judaism conceives of a world in which individuals partner with God to accomplish desired aims, not a world in which God acts alone and is petitioned to serve us as a sort of celestial butler. Thus, while we express our fervent hope that the myriad and mysterious forces of the Universe will come together to make it possible for a sick person to heal, the prayer reminds us of this fundamental tenet of Judaism - that hoping is not enough. Judaism calls on us to act like God, in this case, to provide the forms of "healing" that are within our power. What are they? Well, think of what has helped you when you were sick or in a very low place. Most people say that one or several of the following things literally had the power to bring them from darkness to light: Being remembered. Being visited. Being helped with practical daily tasks. Being brought laughter or flowers or books or just good company. You can add to the list. Who really needs the *Mishebeirach* prayer? Us. Does God need it? I think - less than we do. This is not the place, in the words of the popular adage, to "let go and let God." On the contrary, I would adapt this sentiment and render it as, "Let's get going, and let God do what God will do." And that's really why we say - and live - the *Mishebeirach* prayer together. Have a good month.

Rabbi Kim S. Geringer

Message from the President:

This year we will be collecting non-perishable food to donate to the Barnegat Food Pantry. As we attend services, please bring your donations and we will contribute them after our last service in November. Also, should you have a frozen turkey to donate, kindly contact me at cfriedland119@comcast.net or via phone at 609-698-4459 and I will assist with the pickup of the turkey. Hebrew school families can also bring extra donations to classes.

Have you checked our web site lately and found the following changes? There is a drop down under “Who we are” where you can write a testimonial of how you found our congregation, or if you’d like to share a positive experience. These stories are a wonderful marketing tool to share in providing information to prospective members about the makeup of our congregation. Folks looking for a spiritual home are interested in reading about us. Under our Hebrew School section there are additional pictures and bios of our faculty. For those of you that do not have children in our school this will give you insight to our staff! In our Holiday section there are current pictures from the High Holidays and music. Coming soon in the Shabbat section there will be a musical piece from Philip Altland and Stan Jackson playing a new *Lechah Dodi*. Philip Altland has been working diligently to bring our website to the public and to put us on the map in Southern Ocean County. Thanks Philip for your talents, both in marketing our congregation and by enriching our Shabbat services with your musical talent!!

Cyndy Friedland, President

SAVE THESE DATES:

November 12th and 13th** Bar Mitzvah Services for Damian Majewski at 7:30 PM and 10 AM

December 1st 5:30 PM ** Menorah Lighting at Barnegat Township Municipal Building

December 3rd ** Second Annual Hanukkah Dinner (flyer to follow)

DONATIONS

Thelma and Hal Polon have made a donation to the Congregation’s Future Fund in honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Benjamin Stephen Goldenthal, grandson of Susan and Aaron Shapiro.

The Iocavelli Family has sponsored the Oneg and Kiddush on October 15th and 16th in honor of their son Max’s Bar Mitzvah.

Susan and Aaron Shapiro will sponsor the Oneg for Friday, October 29th in honor of their grandson Benjamin Stephen Goldenthal’s Bar Mitzvah.

Other Donations

The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit is collecting coats for their holiday donations. There is a box to drop off coats in their lobby. They are running the coat drive for the month of October. The majority of the coats will go to the AC Rescue Mission (they always need them and blankets down there in the winter) and some of the coats will go to the Stafford Township School system for a few of the kids that don’t get a nice warm winter coat every year. Please check your closets for unused items.

Remember to bring your non-perishable food donations to services.

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

Thought of the Month by Fran Breese:

How much trouble he avoids who does not look to see what others say or do, but only what he does himself, that it may be just and pure. Marcus Aurelius: *Meditations*

Please forward ALL birthday and anniversary dates to Fran at nanny 1141@comcast.net as our files must be re-done. Thank you.

Yahrzeit November 2010

November 1	Beulah Sagman	Mother of Dolly Weiss
November 3	Benjamin Chasanoff	Father of Diana Bovasso
November 12	Samuel Bailen	Uncle of Rosalie Donadio
November 16	Miriam Rebo	Mother of Rita Fleischmajer
November 16	Blaize Bovasso	Husband of Diana Bovasso
November 17	Louis Young	Father of Phyllis Young-Feather
November 22	Meyer Chordock	Father of Judie Levin

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Polon	Hal	3
Majewski	Damian	9
Scranton	John	15
Breese	Fran	27
Bleiweis	Ernest	26

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	DAY/YR
Kreisler	Mark/Rena	13/71
Wallerstein	Loretta (Ret) /Sheldon (Shelly)	24

BOOK CORNER: The Fortune Teller's Kiss by Brenda Serotte

[Kuando mas eskura es la nochada, mas presto se amanese – When the night is very dark, morning comes faster. Ladino proverb]

“This is a vivid, finely written memoir that reads like good fiction. Brenda Serotte fills her story with the lively details of convergent and interpenetrating worlds: the not-so-distant past, where a beautiful aunt could be abducted into a Turkish harem, and the present, where another aunt still keeps the 400-year-old iron key to the family house in the Cordoba of the Spanish Inquisition. Serotte is a wry and often very funny narrator, capturing the speech and habits of a unique world that probably would have disappeared from human memory were it not for this memoir of a cultural realm where catholic and Jew and Turkish Moslem once met .” (John Balaban) Brenda was one of the last children in NYC to have contracted Polio traumatizing her very youth and that of her close knit and superstitious Turkish Jewish family. She developed into an amazing young woman who honed her writing skills supported by her mesmerizing, handsome father whom she adored. Her memoir invites the reader into this exotic world, located in the Bronx, where belly dancing, Ladino love songs and middle-eastern foods burrowed into the larger Jewish world of the Ashkenazim.

NOVEMBER News from the Fundraising Committee

Viridian Energy is a 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 and a Viridian representative will be coming to an upcoming service to present this truly exciting concept. Anyone who is interested in learning more can check out their website www.viridian.com.

Thanks to everyone who helped make our October dine-a-round at LaGuardia's a great success! Look out for an email announcement for our November dine-a-round

Let's make our Fancy Nancy and Dirty Joe the Pirate Party a smashing success. This gala affair will be held Sunday afternoon November 14th at the Ocean Acres Community Center located at 489 Nautilus Dr., Manahawkin. Volunteers are needed for set-up 12-2, party help from 2-4 and clean-up 4-6. We need donations of baked goods, drinks and items to sell (children's costume jewelry, trinkets, etc.) at our retail table. Please call Bari Cohen (908) 216-8742 or Dayna Otto (609) 597-3239 for more information.

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 HaYam 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.

!!! Ladies Alert...

*Our Hebrew School is doing an Avon Fund Raiser. Watch your sale mail for the current Catalogue. You can place your orders on line or with Deb Majewski or Bari Cohen. More details will be available next week; the orders you place will be delivered before Thanksgiving so there will be plenty of time to deliver your holiday treats!!
Thanking you in advance for your continued support of our Hebrew School!*

2010 SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

November 12
November 13 Bar Mitzvah of Damian Majewski Saturday morning Service
November 19
December 3, Hanukkah
December 10

2011 SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

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

THANK YOU from Rita Gold

Thanks to all the congregation for sending prayers, notes and emails. It means so much.
A special thanks to Rabbi Kim for her spiritual and emotional support from the very beginning of the journey.
Blessings to all. Hope to get to services soon.