

# *Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam*

Newsletter for November 2012

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

## **Message from the Rabbi:**

Dear Friends,

This is from a press release dated October 17, 2012, sent out by the Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA):

“Last night, police intervened as women, including Anat Hoffman, Executive Director of the Israel Religious Action Center and chairwoman of Women of the Wall, prayed at the Western Wall (Kotel) in celebration of the beginning of the Jewish month of Cheshvan and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hadassah. Hoffman was arrested and charged with the ‘offense’ of wearing a prayer shawl and disturbing public order. She vividly described excessive use of force and mistreatment by the police...Last night’s police intervention as women prayed at the Kotel, as well as the arrest of Anat Hoffman are appalling. Anat Hoffman is...a courageous champion of social justice...These events are unacceptable and an affront to Jews worldwide who treasure Israel as a vibrant democracy committed to the right of gender equality and religious freedom...There is no denominational monopoly on spirituality of the Kotel, and it is intolerable that any woman should be arrested for praying at one of Judaism’s most cherished sites...”

The ARZA statement went on to call on the Israeli government to remove the ultra-Orthodox authority that oversees the Kotel and to ensure the rights of all Jews to pray at this holy site, men and women alike. “The words of Hatikvah, Israel’s national anthem, express the will ‘To be a free people in our land.’ That freedom will only be a reality when all Jews, women and men, are able to pray openly without being harassed or physically attacked.”

“Daring” to wear a tallit on my shoulders, I’ve worshipped in synagogues in many European cities as well as such unlikely places as China and Japan, the Philippines, Australia and Hong Kong. Sometimes I’ve been honored with an aliyah, an opportunity to ascend the bimah, hold a sacred Torah scroll and recite blessings. Never, in any location, have I felt threatened or afraid to perform these fundamental Jewish rituals. And so it is with immense sadness, that I have to say that the one place where I *have* felt afraid – and where my fear was justified – was at the Western Wall – the Kotel, formerly known as the Wailing Wall – in Jerusalem. *In Israel*. In July of 2011 I went to the Wall early on the morning of the first of the Hebrew month of Tammuz. I joined other women- including Anat Hoffman - at the very back of the women’s section. Most of the women in our group were Israeli, the rest of us were visiting Americans, Canadians and Europeans. The whole time, four police officers watched us; one of them filmed us. From the other side of the barrier we heard harsh men’s voices. Chairs were rattled – but, this time at least, not thrown as they regularly are at women who dare to worship out loud. Interestingly, on that day we got much more flak from the traditional women who had come to pray (silently) on the women’s side. One of them screamed at the police officers that we should be thrown out. The funniest incident was a woman shouting at us that by doing ‘strange’ things, we were disturbing *her* praying!

Because it is not permitted for women to bring a Torah scroll to the Wall, when we got to the Torah service, we had to leave the actual Wall and walk around to Robinson’s Arch – an archeological site – where we continued our service. We were lucky that day. None of us was arrested although I confess that I was kind of hoping to

be. Let me simply and briefly say that there is nothing in Jewish law that prohibits women from performing any of these religious rites. The issue is custom only and the “sensitivities” of some traditional worshipers who are supported by those who happen to have taken authority over the Wall and who can do what there.

Who is Anat Hoffman? An extraordinary woman, a true heroine of our time. Previously, Anat served as a Jerusalem City Councilwoman for 14 years, carving out a niche for herself as an untiring warrior for justice and equality. She has dedicated her adult life to the Jewish principle of tikkun olam, to social action and social justice. Among many battles, she has fought long and hard to see that the powerful Orthodox bloc in the City Council does not dictate lifestyle choices for the secular population of Jerusalem. Significantly, too, in a city split by religious differences, Anat has fought tirelessly for religious pluralism. Currently, she serves as the Executive Director of the Israel Religious Action Center which is the Reform Movement’s advocacy and lobbying group. She has been arrested before, for the “crime” of carrying a Torah scroll, and detained under the pretext that she was not praying according to the “traditional” customs of the Wall. Other women have also been arrested, for such “crimes” as reciting the Shma aloud, holding a Torah scroll, wearing a tallit, singing, and so forth. Two years ago, Anat visited Hebrew Union College in the city, where I teach, and she was given the honor of carrying a Torah scroll around our chapel during the morning service. When she returned to the front of the room, Anat grinned and said, “It’s really pretty nice to carry a Torah and not have to worry about being arrested for it.”

If you are as disturbed about this state of affairs as I am – and I hope that you are – there are things you can do. Sign on-line petitions of support. Support ARZA ([www.arza.org](http://www.arza.org)) which fights for the full religious rights of Jews like YOU in Israel. Support Women of the Wall (<http://womenofthewall.org.il/>) (As a fundraiser, Women of the Wall sells a beautiful tallit, a wonderful gift for a bat mitzvah girl or for any special occasion.) My late mother was a passionate supporter of ARZA, and so when she died, we asked for memorial contributions in her name to support its incredible work. In her honor I am making another donation today. On the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Hadassah – the Jewish women’s organization that has done perhaps more than any other to strengthen Jewish life around the world – it is shocking that Jewish women in Israel today are, literally, at the back of the Wall, silenced, and arrested if they raise their voices. I hope that you will join me and raise yours.

*Rabbi Kim S. Geringer*

### **President’s Message:**

As we move into November, I want to point out to you some changes in coverage of services and service preparations. Since we are “guests” in our facility, there are a number of preparatory activities which need to be accomplished for each Sabbath service. Members of your executive board have been asked to volunteer for service set up and coverage on each upcoming service date. This will enable us to have a continuation of services with many having the ability to set up the church.

You will also notice that the Torah that was noticeably in need of repair during the high holidays has now been fixed. Also, the height of the Torah has been adjusted so that it now fits easily within the ark. I want to thank and acknowledge the assistance of a personal friend, Tom Toscano, who accomplished this repair for us so that it is impossible to notice where the repair was done. This will make it much easier to remove and replace the Torah in the ark when it is in use.

With the coming holidays sneaking up on us very quickly, I want to wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving and a joyous Chanukah. I hope everyone has made their reservation for the Chanukah dinner and services at Lefty's Restaurant. Don't be shut out for there is a limit to the number of people that the room can hold. If you haven't made your reservation, contact Syble Bleiweis.

I would also like to remind you that Bailey Otto, son of Dayna and Kurt Otto, will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, November 17. It would be fitting if our congregants would attend that service at 10:00 in the morning to show the Otto family our support.

**Aaron Shapiro, President**

**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, (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
HOSPITALITY	Volunteers needed, Arlene Armstrong, Ruth Schlyen
RELIGIOUS SCHOOL	Cyndy Friedland, Phil Miller
PUBLICITY	Aaron Shapiro
BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES	Susan Shapiro
Yahrzeits	Sandy Polter
NEWSLETTER	Rosalie Donadio, Hope Gardiner, Susan Shapiro
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.**

## HEBREW SCHOOL UPDATE

In cooperation with the JCC of LBI we are inviting our Post B'nai Mitzvah students to be a part of this social group of teen-aged Jewish boys and girls in our area.

Please alert your teenager of this opportunity!! If you should have any questions, feel free to email me at [cfriedland119@comcast.net](mailto:cfriedland119@comcast.net) or contact me via my cell at **609-290-5040**.

Let's pull together for our youth to know more Jewish friends in Southern Ocean County.

\* \* \* \* \*

Our classes started on October 2<sup>nd</sup> with a total of 12 students. Iris and Mike are thrilled with the students ability to "remember" over the summer their Hebrew!! We have welcomed four students from the JCC of LBI that will be with us this year. The focus is to have the students know that there are other Jewish children in our community. We welcome Meghan Doctor from Whiting, Emily and AJ Irwin from Manahawkin, and Michael Silver from Little Egg Harbor.

For Sukkot the students were able to make decorations for our Sukkah. We are hoping to save them to hang again next year; we need a collection of our students' projects so this is the first one! We also made a "Flowerpot of Hands" for the Class of 5773. We hope to make this a tradition for the students. The students have learned the Hebrew months of the year...exciting for them!! Along with their reviewing of Israel, ethics and history, we are off to a great start! So we are off to a great start and look forward to our student's participation in future Shabbat Dinners and services.

Our class had their first question that they needed to consider and write in their Hebrew Journal books. The question asked was:

***What does it mean to be Jewish? Here are their thoughts:***

***Reece:*** We get to celebrate special holidays, eat special foods, and go to services on special days.

***Meghan:*** There is very important stuff to read. We go to services and Hebrew school so that we can learn to read Hebrew and learn about very important holidays.

***Corey:*** I support my religion because not a lot of people are Jewish.

***Briana:*** We're lucky to be Jewish because not all of my friends are Jewish.

***Mike:*** Jewish means to be different. None of the people in my town are Jewish.

***Case:*** We follow the religion. It is not always about what you want or need, we put others first.

***Emily:*** Not everybody is the same religion. Being Jewish is special because not everybody is Jewish.

**Matt G** : *We celebrate different holidays.*

**AJ**: *Being Jewish is special because I get to celebrate special holidays and learn about the bible and my ancestors.*

**Bailey**: *Since there are no right or wrong answers, to me, it's all about the food. The food all has different meanings on all the different holidays and it tastes great.*

Thanks Mike for submitting the above to us from our students:))

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Lynn Berkowitz of the JCC of LBI will be leading a teen class for Post B'nai Mitzvah students starting Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at the JCC. The students will be seeing a film followed by pizza. We have extended this invitation to our Post B'nai Mitzvah students and hope that they will participate. There is an article regarding this in our newsletter.

Lynn Berkowitz and Iris Harari will be hosting an Adult Hebrew class that will be held at the JCC of LBI on Sunday mornings at 10:30. The focus of this class will be beginning Hebrew, learning the universal prayers used during services and general Jewish life. There will be a fee for this class. There is a flyer in our newsletter with more information on this program.

**Cyndy Friedland**  
**Hebrew School Chair**

In Time for Chanukah:

Wendi and Pat will be setting up a table with Shira Judaica's featured products for Chanukah and other items after services in November.

**Membership:**

Please join me in welcoming Sharon Gatto of Ocean Acres, Manahawkin to our congregation. Sharon joins us with her family and has enrolled her son Matthew in our Hebrew School.

**Cyndy Friedland**  
**Membership Chair**

## **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 November 2012**

11/01	Beulah Sagman	Mother of Dolly Weiss *
11/02	Benjamin Chasanoff	Father of Diana Bovasso
11/12	Samuel Bailen	Uncle to Rosalie Donadio
11/15	Minnie Krupnick	Mother of Madeline Dunn
11/16	Blaize Bovasso	Husband of Deanna Bovasso
11/17	Louis Young	Father of Phyllis Young-Feather
11/21	Frances Myles	Mother of Loretta Wallerstein
11/22	Meyer Chordok	Father of Judie Levin
11/24	Leo Miller	Father of Phil Miller
11/29	Donald Fischer Jr.	Father of Laura Miller

\*Please note Dolly Weiss had given me the wrong date of her mother death in October. This is the correct date.

### **Good and Welfare**

Get well wishes are extended to Rose Jackson and Phyllis Feather. Continued well wishes go out to Geri Seiler as she recuperates from double by-pass surgery.

### **The Pastoral Care**

For the past few months, Ruth Schlyen and Arlene Armstrong have been visiting Southern Ocean Medical Center, on behalf of the congregation. They have been seeing Jewish patients twice monthly. This week Sandy Polter joined them. Both Sandy and Susan Shapiro will be filling in when needed. Ruth and Arlene have found the reception of the patients to be warm and welcoming. Both of us have found this to be a rewarding experience and a great Mitzvot.



**Course: HEBREW #101**

\*EAT, LOVE AND PRAY (Jewish Style)

Instructor – Iris Harari

Cost: \$60 for 6 Sundays (beginning Sunday, November 4, 11, 18 and December 2, 9, and 16)

At the Jewish Community Center of LBI, 2411 Long Beach Boulevard, Spray Beach, NJ 08008

Phone: 609-492-4090

Time: 10:30am

Location: Classroom A

Description: Basic Hebrew with explanation and translation from a Hebrew speaking Israeli. No need to have previous knowledge. Come and “re-JEW-venate” your spirituality.

Prerequisites: A desire to learn the Hebrew language.

## Public Welcome

\*Food will be provided. You bring the LOVE.





Hear ye! Hear ye! Come one, come all!

We are forming a social group for all Jewish youth between the ages of 13 and 17. We plan to meet:

At the Jewish Community Center of LBI, 2411 Long Beach Boulevard, Spray Beach, NJ 08008

Phone: 609-709-3160 (Mrs. "B")

Time: Sundays at 11am

Purpose: Greet and Meet other Jewish Teens

Qualifications: Jewish and not over 18. General public welcome no need to be affiliated with another organization. The ability to have fun!!!

Nominal charge (to be decided \$)

FIRST MEETING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2012 AT 11  
FOR PIZZA AND A SPECIAL FILM.

**Tribute Cards:**

Tribute cards are available to congregants and friends for making donations in memory of, in honor of, and/or to celebrate all life cycle events. To make the donation kindly contact Syble Bleiweis at 609-978-4240 or via email at [sebleiweis@comcast.net](mailto:sebleiweis@comcast.net) or Cyndy Friedland at 609-698-4459 or [cfriedland119@comcast.net](mailto:cfriedland119@comcast.net).

As soon as your check for the donation is received the tribute card will be mailed to the recipient. Checks should be mailed to whomever you speak to or email the request to:

Syble Bleiweis 70 Oak Ridge Lane Manahawkin, NJ 08050	Cyndy Friedland 16D Acorn Road Manahawkin, NJ 08050
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**NOVEMBER**

Birthdays	<b>November</b>	03 09 27 26	Polon Hal Majewski Damian Breese Fran Bleiweis Ernest
Anniversaries	<b>November</b>	13/1971 24/	Kreisler Mark/Rena Wallerstein Loretta (Ret) /Sheldon (Shelly)

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

**NOVEMBER NEWS FROM THE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE:**

**FUND RAISING NEWS:** On **Wednesday, November 14th** we are hosting a Dine-A-Round at Kirsty's Casual Dining, Route 9 in Waretown. We hope you will bring your family, friends and/or neighbors and join us in camaraderie with your fellow congregants. There will be a flyer emailed to you separately if it is not included in this newsletter, and we will have flyers available at Services. Mark your calendar so you don't have to prepare dinner!! And, you can have breakfast or lunch after 4PM; it's not mandatory that you must have dinner:))  
***The Fund Raising 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.

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

November 2	March 8
November 16	March 22
November 17: 10 am Bailey Otto's Bar Mitzvah	March 26: <b>(Tuesday) Seder</b>
December 7	April 5
December 14: <b>Chanukah dinner/Services at Lefty's</b>	April 19
December 28	May 3
January 11	May 17
January 25	May 19: <b>Congregational Meeting</b>
February 8	June 14
February 22: Purim	June 28

**Book Review**

An Orphan in History: Retrieving a Jewish Legacy by Paul Cowan

Paul Cowan, son of a well known Television producer whose mother was a "Spiegel", grew up unaware of his "Litvak" heritage. He was raised in the privileged world of Park Avenue unaware that he was a descendant of Rabbis. When his parents died in a tragic fire, Paul begins a search for that part of his parents that had perished in America. Once Cowan felt like an orphan in history, now after his quest for establishment of his identity, he has learned not only where he is from but where he is going. An interesting biography of a young man residing in a Jewish "non-Jewish" world. Despite his father's continued but limited attachment to his inherited ethnicity, Paul investigates his past and finds a strong pull to the same ethnicity from which his father wished to escape. Ambivalence toward an inherited past is sometimes very overwhelming when people achieve economic, artistic or literary "heights".

"I am not alone. Indeed, I believe my story, with all its odd, buried, old-world family, mysteries, with its poised tension between material wealth and the promise of spiritual wealth, is the story of much of my generation, Jew and gentile alike." ( Paul Cowan)

**CHANUKAH SHABBAT DINNER AND SERVICE**  
**JOIN US FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2012,**  
**AT LEFTY'S RESTAURANT**  
**547 NORTH MAIN ST., BARNEGAT, NJ, AT 5:00PM.**

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**

Kindly fill out the form and mail with your check to:  
**SYBLE BLEIWEIS @ 70 OAK RIDGE LANE, MANAHAWKIN, NJ 08050**

<u>MENU CHOICES</u>	<u>NUMBER REQUESTED</u>
Horseradish encrusted salmon	_____
Roasted chicken	_____
Brisket	_____

**CHILDREN'S MENU (under 12 years of age )**

Hamburger or cheeseburger	_____
Chicken fingers	_____
Pasta with butter or marina sauce	_____
Grilled cheese	_____

Meals will include latkes with apple sauce and sour cream, vegetable, coffee/tea, soft drinks and dessert.  
 Challahs on each table.

**COST: \$25.00 PER PERSON**  
**CHILDREN: \$9.00 (CHILDREN'S MENU ONLY)**

**Make checks payable to: Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam**  
**Call Syble at 609-978-4240 for any questions**

**Checks must be received by December 3, 2012**

**RESERVATIONS LIMITED TO 70 PEOPLE**

Name(s) of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name(s) of Children: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Adults \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25.00= \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of Children \_\_\_\_\_ x \$9.00= \_\_\_\_\_