



## MESSAGE FROM THE RABBI

DECEMBER 2015

Dear friends,

The Million Mom March was held on [Mother's Day](#), May 14, 2000 in the [Washington D.C. National Mall](#) in order to promote effective [gun safety laws](#). The march drew an estimated attendance of 750,000 people at the D.C. location, and with 150,000 to 200,000 people holding satellite events in more than 70 cities across the country, the total number of participants was about one million.

The Million Mom March began as a [grassroots](#) movement sparked by Donna Dees-Thomases after she viewed broadcast coverage of the [Jewish Community Center shooting in Granada Hills, California](#) in August of 1999. In that event, [white supremacist](#), Buford O. Furrow, Jr. walked into the lobby of the North Valley Jewish Community Center and opened fire with a semiautomatic weapon, firing 70 shots into the complex. The attack killed one person and wounded five people including three children, one of whom barely survived.

I attended the Million Mom March. Among the many speakers at the rally was Rabbi Eric Yoffie, then President of the Union for Reform Judaism. He was the only clergy member among the speakers. I remember how profoundly proud those around me and I were listening to him, knowing that he represented *us* – Jews and, especially, Reform Jews. Rabbi Yoffie's words and his passionate delivery that day were prophetic in nature. Tragically, Rabbi Yoffie's speech more than 15 years ago is as relevant today as it was the day he delivered it. The complete text is below, and you can watch the video [here](#):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6S52M9reLHc>.

I hope it will move you to thoughtful commitment and action.

Sincerely,

**Rabbi Kim S. Geringer**

\*\*\*\*\*

Rabbi Eric Yoffie at the Million Mom  
March for Gun-Control, May 14, 2000.  
Washington D.C.

“Is the need for sensible gun-control a religious issue? You bet it is.

The indiscriminate distribution of guns is an offense against God and humanity. Controlling guns is not only a political matter, it is a solemn religious obligation. Our gun-flooded society has turned weapons into idols, and the worship of idols must be recognized for what it is—blasphemy. And the only appropriate religious response to blasphemy is sustained moral outrage. Our legislators and the gun lobby want to blame everyone but themselves. The problem, they say, is media violence: violent action films, gory horror flicks, violent computer games. And this **is** a deeply troubling problem. There is far too much violent entertainment, and it is very bad for our children's souls.

But in Canada, Germany, and Japan, children watch the same movies and play the same computer games, and they don't kill anyone afterward. Their children are not

more religious than our children, and their parents are not better parents than we are. What distinguishes us from them is the prevalence of our guns, and the cowardliness of our politicians. Some say that the problem is young people with violent fantasies. Oh really? Young people **everywhere** have violent fantasies. Teaching teenagers to curb their angry impulses is a challenge for every parent and religious leader on the planet. But of all the developed countries, only in America is it possible for a disturbed teenager to get his hands so easily on such a terrifying array of weapons. And so we come here today to counter the cheap platitudes of our political season, and to help fill the moral void of our land. We come here with a voice loud and strong, intent on shattering the complacency of our lawmakers and arousing their dormant conscience. We are proud Americans, each and every one of us, and we know that we live in the greatest country on earth. But are we proud of the fact that our murder rate is 12 times higher than any advanced country? Are we proud of the fact that too many members of Congress pontificate on morality and then do nothing while the carnage continues in our streets and our homes? Are we proud of the fact that there are too many handguns in too many trigger-happy hands, while politicians remains deaf to the frightened cries of children? Are we proud of the fact that the House and Senate are awash in NRA cash, while the voice of the average American gets lost in the halls of Congress? And so let's send a message today to those who represent us in Washington. And the message is this: We care deeply about this issue and we will hold you accountable.

We are ready for a knock-down, drag-out, no-holds-barred battle against the NRA, which is the real criminals' lobby in this country, and which is drenched in the blood of murdered children.

True, we may not have the money of the NRA, but we've got savvy, grit, and passion. And we're going to find out who's getting NRA funds, and benefiting from NRA ads, and we're going to vote for the other guy.

Until now, our moral outrage has been too feeble and our sense of injustice too timid, but we look at the mothers of the murdered and the maimed, and we say: Enough.

I for one am filled with a fresh spirit of hope.

Yes, all of this may seem daunting, but the tobacco lobbyists once seemed invincible, and look what happened to them.

The American people, I believe, are ready for a leader who will take on the fanatics and support sensible gun control.

We are not prisoners of our past. We are not doomed to relive history.

We are here today, in such great numbers, because we are, all of us, partners with God in shaping a better and more hopeful future for all of God's children."

*(Rabbi Eric Yoffie is a writer, lecturer, and internationally-known religious leader. He is the former President of the Union for Reform Judaism. A bold, compelling, and inspiring speaker, he has presented at the World Economic Forum in Davos and has appeared on Fox news, CNN, and many other news outlets. He writes regularly for Time, The Huffington Post, The Jerusalem Post and the Israeli daily Haaretz. He lectures, writes articles and blogs on Israel and the Middle East, interfaith relations, social justice, ethics, American Jewish life and American Religious life. For more information about Rabbi Yoffie:*

<https://ericcyoffie.com/>

**President’s Message**

Chag Sameach! I hope everyone enjoyed the festival of lights, fried foods, as well as friends and family!

We had a great turn out for our December 4<sup>th</sup> Chanukah Dinner! Thank you to everyone that brought a dish or desert, and thank you to Madelyn and Sheila for handling all the arrangements and making it a great experience! It wouldn’t have been a success without you!

Our annual Chanukah candle lighting at the Barnegat Municipal building drew nearly 40 people. We were fortunate to have such great weather for this event which helped. Thank you to our past President, Phil Miller for helping to arrange this!

Our Music Director, 1<sup>st</sup> VP, and multi-talented Philip has sold his place in NYC and will be leaving us in a couple of months for much warmer weather. Thankfully he will record himself on the piano so we can still have Shabbat music (and also have him with us)! So please take a moment to tell him how much you appreciate everything he has done for our community!

The board will be meeting again on January 7th at 7pm at the Miller 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

**Temple Committees**

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

## Membership

In an effort to make it easier for the membership to contact members of the Board of Trustees or our various Committees, we have set up a new email address ([www.shaareyhayam@gmail.com](mailto:www.shaareyhayam@gmail.com)). Please use this email address to contact the BOT or Committees with questions; concerns; suggestions for new/innovative ways to attract new members; fundraising suggestions; music you'd like to hear at a Shabbat Service....the BOT wants to hear from you!



Birthdays are always something to celebrate.....

Mile Levy	December 6
Cyndy Friedland	December 8
Rosalie Donadio	December 9
Dolly Weiss	December 12
Inez Levine	December 12
Shelly Wallerstein	December 17
Michael Dunn	December 24



Syble and Ernest Bleiweis  
Dolly and Mike Weiss

December 21 (54 years)  
December 31 (57 years)



**Yahrzeits**

בראבא יתגדל

May the memories of our loved ones be a blessing.

12/4/2008	Andrew Paul Barndt	Brother of Pat Barndt-Higgins
12/6 (Kislev 24)	Billy Krupnick	Brother of Madelyn Dunn & Sheila Ehrlich
12/7/2007	Robert Raymond Barndt	Father of Pat Barndt-Higgins
12/7/2013	Judy Lester	Aunt of Wendi Higgins
12/9 (Kislev 27)	Bernice Sales	Sister-in-Law of Maralyn Riccardi
12/14/1995	Paul Donadio	Husband of Rosalie Donadio
12/18/1964	Emanuel Berlin	Grandfather of Syble Bleiweis
12/30	Dr. Marvin J. Taub	Brother of Cyndi Friedland
12/31/1997 (Teveth 21)	Cecelia Topper	Mother-in-Law Samuel Lewis

## Tributes Cards

Tribute cards can be sent for weddings, engagements, promotions, bat and bar mitzvahs, in memory, births and any reason you may choose.

The donation amount is \$5.00 and upwards in increments of \$5.00. It is a wonderful way to earn money for our temple. Just call Syble Bleiweis at [609-978-4240](tel:609-978-4240) or Joan Silverman at [609-698-0000](tel:609-698-0000) to send these cards.



Wishing you a complete & speedy recovery.....

To: Dolores Sheps  
From: Hope Gardiner

To: Rhona Levy  
From: Syble Bleiweis, Joan Silverman, and Cyndy Friedland

To: Linda Post  
From: Hope Gardiner



To: Ernie Bleiweis  
Happy 80th Birthday  
From: Madelyn and Robert Dunn, and Cyndy Friedland

To: Mr. and Mrs. Duarte  
Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary  
From: Madelyn and Robert Dunn



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

To: Lynn Roth, Sincere condolences on the loss of your husband Henry  
From: Hope Gardiner

To: Norma Kimmelman, Condolences on the loss of your husband Henry  
From: Hope Gardiner

## Fundraisers... We need your support!!

**\*\*\*January 22, 2016 - Clothing Drive.....Additional details in the January Newsletter\*\*\***

**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).**

**ShopRite Cards are always sold at services, but can be purchased anytime by contacting Dayna (609-709-9410) or Syble (609-978-4240).**

**Tribute Cards can be sent to anyone for any reason with a *minimum* donation of \$5. Contact Syble (609-978-4240).**

## Board of Trustees

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Thursday January 7, 2016 at 7 PM. At present, the Board does not have a regular meeting location. The January Board meeting will be held at the home of Phil and Laura Miller. If you are interested in attending, please contact Laura for directions (609-660-9072 or [millerlaura303@gmail.com](mailto:millerlaura303@gmail.com)).

### **2015-2016 Shabbat Services**

#### **Dates/Times**

##### **December 2015**

Friday, December 4, 7:30 PM  
Friday, December 18, 7:30 PM

##### **January 2016**

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

##### **February 2016**

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

##### **March 2016**

Friday, March 11, 7:30 PM  
Friday, March 18, 7:30 PM

##### **April 2016**

Friday, April 8, 7:30 PM  
Friday, April 23 (2<sup>nd</sup> Night Seder)

##### **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

## Kibbitz Corner

*A note from the editor..... Chag Sameach!! I hope you are all enjoying this season of miracles and light. I don't know about you, but I never get enough latkes, jelly donuts and chocolate gelt.*

*Our Congregation had a very busy Chanukah this year. Here are a few photographs of our pre-Chanukah dinner on December 4<sup>th</sup>; the presentation of our membership certificate from the URJ on December 4<sup>th</sup>; and the lighting of the menorah in Barnegat on December 6<sup>th</sup>, sponsored for the 11th year by Congregation Sha'arey Ha-Yam.*





*Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the newsletter this year. Please continue to send me your movie and book reviews; comments of current events; recipes; and gardening tips; etc. All you need to do is send your contribution to [shaarehayam@gmail.com](mailto:shaarehayam@gmail.com) and use either **Kibbitz Corner** or **Congregation Newsletter** in the message line.*

---

*A little Chanukah humor from Cyndy Friedland.....*

A woman goes to the post office to buy stamps for her Chanukah cards.

She says to the clerk, "May I have 50 Chanukah stamps?"

The clerk says, "What denomination?"

"Oh my God," the woman says, "has it come to this?"

Give me 6 Orthodox, 12 Conservative, and 32 Reform."

---

*A book review from Rosalie Donadio.....*

The Marriage of Opposites (by Alice Hoffman, author of The Dovekeepers)

Hoffman presents (in her novels) portraits of powerful, passionate women who stand up to and overcome difficult circumstance. She weaves her story (based upon carefully researched fact) into a tapestry of emotion ... her words are dreamlike propelling you into another time. And she is very much a "Jewish" writer.

In "The Marriage of Opposites," Hoffman turns to actual historical figures, namely Rachel Pomie Petit Pizarro and her son, the artist Camille Pissarro (the father of impressionism). The family are descendants of Iberia's *Marranos* transported to the island of St. Thomas and are Danish citizens (an enlightened country granting Jewish residents the privilege of citizen since the 18<sup>th</sup> century).



Each component of this tale is first person (all of the principals are presented). Plot is one challenge of writing fiction about real people, and the stories of Rachel and Camille unfold more as chronicle than narrative. Rachel's parents marry her off to an older widower with three children; she has three more children, and her husband dies. She then falls scandalously in love with her husband's nephew, with whom she has a disputed (by Jewish law) marriage and more children, including Camille, her youngest, before battling her way back to respectability. Over the course of these events, Rachel evolves from rebel to oppressor, as the novel's conflicts and relationships repeat themselves across new generations.

Hoffman beautifully evokes the tropical lushness of St. Thomas and the emergence of Camille's artistic career. Her descriptions are akin to the paintings of Pissaro (French spelling of the family name of Pizzaro). It is almost always a surprise to Ashkenazim of the existence of names such as Pizzaro, Cardozo, Modigliani, Caro, Montefiore (all "Jewish" names); these are very common among Sefardim. And there are even Ashkenazic names such as Peretz (Perez) and Bailen, among many, which emanated from Spain/Portugal. But this is a Sephardic Jewish tale who cognizance of their heritage defines them in a very particular way.

I visited St. Thomas some years ago and visited the birthplace (now a travel agency and art gallery) the birthplace of Pissaro (whose work I enjoy) in Charlotte Amalie...even the synagogue where his family worshipped. It was unlike anything I had seen; the entire floor was covered with sand and there was the ubiquitous section for the women. It would have been more meaningful to me had I been aware of the familial dynamics that helped create Pissaro's genius. He brought the revelation of light and color from St. Thomas to Paris with him.

I enjoyed this book (as I did *The Dove Keepers*). Hoffman is a great storyteller and you become educated despite yourself.

**CONGREGATION SHA'AREY HA-YAM BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

<b>President</b>	Wendi Higgins	732-232-1861	<a href="mailto:cbreezego@gmail.com">cbreezego@gmail.com</a>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</b>	Philip Altland	609-492-2751	<a href="mailto:paltland@elliman.com">paltland@elliman.com</a>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</b>	Dayna Otto	609-597-3239	<a href="mailto:yoursdayna@comcast.net">yoursdayna@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>