



MESSAGE FROM THE RABBI

JANUARY 2016

“A man takes a wife and possesses her. She does not find favor in his eyes because he finds some unseemly thing in her, and he writes her a bill of divorcement (literally, ‘a document of cutting off’), hands it to her, and sends her away from his house.” (Deuteronomy 24:1-2)

“If the husband debars his wife from participating in certain joyous functions, or if he prevents her from wearing costly dresses and jewelry that he can afford to buy, she may sue for and be granted a divorce...If she says, ‘My husband is distasteful to me, I cannot live with him,’ the court should compel the husband to divorce her because a wife is not like a captive woman.” (Mishneh Torah, 12th century)

Since earliest times, Judaism has provided for divorce when the relationship between two people who have been joined together in *kiddushin* (sacred matrimony) has broken down irrevocably. The decision to separate is painful, not only for the couple (and any children that they may have), but also for their extended families and the entire community. Jewish tradition teaches that when a marriage is dissolved, “...even the altar sheds tears.” (Talmud). Jews who wish to divorce their partners of course obtain civil divorces like everyone else. However, the mechanism by which a Jewish marriage is traditionally dissolved is called a *get*. In a Jewish wedding, it is *kiddushin*, the act of declaring this particular person and relationship to be separate and apart from all others, that creates a marriage. In Jewish terms, a *get* cancels *kiddushin*. A *get* is a no-fault document that makes no mention of the grounds for the divorce or the resolution of other issues. In Jewish law, only the man can issue the *get*. Each party must acknowledge that they understand what is happening and that they are acting freely and without coercion. The husband authorizes a scribe to write the document and witnesses sign it. Either the husband or his proxy presents the signed document to the wife. Once she accepts it, the divorce takes effect immediately. The problems that can be created when a Jewish man refuses to give his estranged wife a *get* have been well publicized in recent years. These women, known as *agunot* (“chained ones”) can be stuck in limbo indefinitely. With only a civil divorce and no *get*, many Conservative and virtually all Orthodox rabbis (including in the State of Israel) will not officiate at the wedding of a Jewish woman since in the eyes of traditional Judaism she and her ex-spouse are still considered married. Should she marry anyway, the children resulting from the new marriage may be considered illegitimate and in some parts of the Jewish community those children themselves will be limited as to whom they will be able to marry.

Why, you may be wondering, am I talking here in this bulletin about traditional Jewish divorce practices? What does this have to do with us as Reform Jews? The answer is: more than you might think. Let this serve as your introduction to a very important resource called *Kayama*, a non-profit, non-denominational organization founded in 1985 and located in northern New Jersey which provides information regarding the ramifications and implications of a Jewish divorce and technical and financial assistance to those who wish to

obtain one. Since 1985 they have facilitated Jewish divorces for thousands of couples. What does this have to do with us Reform Jews? I believe that, from a religious standpoint, no Jews ought to limit her or his options for the future, and for that reason I routinely refer all divorcing couples to *Kayama* for information, assistance, and support. Who knows whom or under what circumstances a person may wish to remarry in the future? In addition, I strongly believe that obtaining a Jewish divorce can also provide a sense of emotional closure, especially for those whose marriage began with a Jewish ceremony. Within the Jewish community, our views on the *get* process do vary. But I have found that by referring couples to *Kayama*, I have helped them preserve their freedom to choose future spouses and wedding officiants. The *Kayama* staff are thoughtful and sensitive individuals who interact very well with Reform rabbis and members of our communities.

There are substantial differences among the Jewish denominations on many issues. Jewish divorce and *gittin* (plural of *get*) is one of them. The unequal position of husband and wife in the *get* process is troubling, even offensive to many liberal Jews. Reform rabbis have at their disposal an egalitarian “Ritual of Release” ceremony which some couples find comforting and meaningful. Nevertheless, despite diverse views on the need for a *get*, I want you to understand the practical importance of the *get* and the availability of *Kayama* as a trusted resource. I have spoken to a number of Jewish women who were issued *gittin* by divorcing spouses in a traditional, Orthodox setting. Overwhelmingly they have told me that their experiences were very difficult. Generally they did not understand the process and no one explained it to them. Rather than feeling relief and closure as a result of the ritual, they more often felt awkward, uncomfortable, embarrassed, and diminished. But for those who choose a traditional Jewish divorce, it doesn’t have to be this way.

If you know a Jewish couple in the painful situation of planning to divorce, consider telling them about *Kayama* and at least giving them the option to learn more about what it can offer. *Kayama* can be reached at (800) 932-8589 or at www.Kayama.org.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Kim S. Geringer

President’s Message

Another secular year is upon us, and quite a few changes are in our future that we will need to adapt to. As I wrote in last month’s message, Philip will sadly be leaving us. Though we are happy for him as he takes on another chapter in his life, he will be sorely missed. That being said, I want you to know that the board is looking for a way to continue having the wonderful music that makes our services so much more fulfilling. If any of you have thoughts or suggestions, please let me know.

As we approach the second half of our fiscal year I want to thank all of you for all the support you have given our congregation, from the very successful Art Auction to our most recent Chanukah Dinner and recognition as a URJ congregation, it’s been a good six months! Though we’re a small group, we have an amazing ability to make great things happen!

The board will be meeting again on February 18 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

Membership

Help us grow.....as Tu B'shvat is coming, bring your friends, relatives and neighbors to our service to celebrate the planting of the trees in Israel....we never know what will inspire someone to join our congregation! Sometimes we need some spiritual friendship, or spiritual healing or just have the need to hang out with our Jewish community!! Think of where you'd be if we didn't have our community...and let's grow it together!

Please *save the date* of March 19th to attend the **B'nai Mitzvah** of **Reece** and **Brianna Otto**. Our service will begin at 10AM...be sure to circle this date!!



Birthdays are always something to celebrate.....

JANUARY 2016

Alexa Daly	January 2
Marc Dunn	January 17
Cary Belitz	January 30

FEBRUARY 2016

Robert Dunn	February 7
Philip Altland	February 9
Wendi Higgins	February 11
Matthew Daley	February 24
Laura Miller	February 25
Matthew Levine	February 25

Yahrzeits



בראבא יתגדל

May the memories of our loved ones be a blessing.

First Year

02/11/2015	Hugh Bleiweis	Brother of Ernie Bleiweis
03/17/2015	David Freschman	Nephew of Jack Crespy
05/07/2015	Christine Kaplan	Sister of Dolly Weiss
07/25/2015	Clark Webb	Brother-in-Law of Cyndy Friedland

Annual

01/13	Mary Taub	Mother of Cyndy Friedland
01/19/2009	Trudi Gardiner	Mother of Hope Gardiner
01/20 (Shevat 10)	Esther Dunn	Mother of Robert Dunn
01/21/2009	Alan Gardiner	Father of Hope Gardiner
01/22/1994	George Harmon	Father of Inez Levine
01/26/1981	Donald P. Fisher, Sr.	Father of Laura Miller
01/27/1991	Hugh I. Higgins	Father of Wendi Higgins
01/27/1985	Edith Rosen	Mother of Rhona Levy
01/30/2001	Ceila Miller	Mother of Phil Miller

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: Harold Markowitz
From: Inez Levine



To: Patricia Barndt-Higgins
Mazel Tov! On the Completion of your Business Degree at OCC



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

To: Cyndy and Justin Friedland
Sincere condolences upon the loss of their cousin Mollyanne Taub of Silver Spring,
Maryland

Fundraisers... We need your support!!

Winter Collection Drive – January 16 to January 23 (items must arrive no later than 9 AM on the 23rd). Please donate clothing, shoes, and linens. Items may be left on Dayna Otto's front porch beginning Saturday 01/16/16 until Friday evening 01/22/16 (you may bring your items to services on the 22nd), 306 Winding Oak Trail, Manahawkin

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).

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).

Tu B'shvat

Tu B'shvat or the "New Year of the Trees" is Jewish Arbor Day. The holiday is observed on the fifteenth (tu) of Sh'vat. Scholars believe that Tu B'shvat was originally an agricultural festival, marking the emergence of spring. After the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE this holiday was a way for Jews to symbolically bind themselves to their former homeland by eating foods that could be found in Israel.

Today, Tu B'shvat has also become a tree planting festival in Israel, in which both Israelis and Jews around the world plant trees in honor or in memory of a loved one or friend or to celebrate life cycle events. If you would like to have a tree or trees planted in Israel, contact Cyndy Friedland at 609-698-4459 or cfriedland119@comcast.net. Trees are \$18.00 each and a lovely card is sent to the honoree by the Jewish National Fund. What a wonderful way to support Israel and our congregation!!

Board of Trustees

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Thursday February 18, 2016 at 7 PM. At present, the Board does not have a regular meeting location. The February 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).

2016 Shabbat Services Dates/Times

January 2016

Friday, January 22 (Tu B'shvat Seder), 7:30 PM

Please let Madelyn Dunn know if you will be attending the Tu B'shvat Seder so that we may plan accordingly. Madelyn may be reached at 609-660-1614 or via email at justmemad@aol.com

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 (2nd 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

Shabbat Candle Lighting Times and Holiday Calendar

January 2016

					Friday 01/01/15 20 Tevet New Year's Day	Saturday 01/02/16 21 Tevet
Sunday 01/03/16 22 Tevet	Monday 01/04/16 23 Tevet	Tuesday 01/05/16 24 Tevet	Wednesday 01/06/16 25 Tevet	Thursday 01/07/16 26 Tevet	Friday 01/08/16 27 Tevet Shabbat Candle Lighting 4:31 PM	Saturday 01/09/16 28 Tevet
Sunday 01/10/16 29 Tevet	Monday 01/11/16 1 Sh'vat Rosh Chodesh Sh'vat	Tuesday 01/12/16 2 Sh'vat	Wednesday 01/13/16 3 Sh'vat	Thursday 01/14/16 4 Sh'vat	Friday 01/15/16 5 Sh'vat Shabbat Candle Lighting 4:39 PM	Saturday 01/16/16 6 Sh'vat
Sunday 01/17/16 7 Sh'vat	Monday 01/18/16 8 Sh'vat Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Tuesday 01/19/16 9 Sh'vat	Wednesday 01/20/16 10 Sh'vat	Thursday 01/21/16 11 Sh'vat	Friday 01/22/16 12 Sh'vat Shabbat Candle Lighting 4:46 PM	Saturday 01/23/16 13 Sh'vat
Sunday 01/24/16 14 Sh'vat	Monday 01/25/16 15 Sh'vat Tu B'shvat	Tuesday 01/26/16 16 Sh'vat	Wednesday 01/27/16 17 Sh'vat	Thursday 01/28/16 18 Sh'vat	Friday 01/29/16 19 Sh'vat Shabbat Candle Lighting 4:55 PM	Saturday 01/30/16 20 Sh'vat
Sunday 01/31/16 21 Sh'vat						

Kibbitz Corner

Hebrew School

For many years our students have made Hanukkah Menorahs, so this year we switched it up to designing our own Hanukkah Mugs! The students enjoyed using their artistic talents and did very well with their creations!!



Class photo: teacher Morah Iris Hariri and students Alexa Daley, Reece Otto, and Brianna Otto



Brianna Otto



Reese Otto



Alexa Daley

Ocean County Jewish Federation**A different Purim for Ocean County**

The Ariel Rivka Dance Company will be performing an original ballet entitled, "Book of Esther: The Journey of Queen Vashti and Queen Esther" on Sunday, March 6, 2016 at noon. The event will be hosted by Congregation B'nai Israel, however this will be a Community-Wide Event, with 100% of the proceeds supporting Jewish Summer Camping and sponsored by Ocean County Jewish Federation. Federation would like to offer a scholarship or 2 or 3 to children from the Ocean County Community (guidelines to be established) so that they may attend a Jewish Summer Camp Program during the summer of 2016 and maybe we can start a new tradition in Ocean County.

Of course we cannot succeed without participation, so this where we need assistance in forming a committee and working together to make this program a success. We have a vision of sponsorship and community marketing, as the ballet is a cultural event for all, not just the children and not just the Jewish community; but for all! Time is short and March 6th will be here before you know it, so we would like to hold an introductory meeting to discuss the details and assign responsibilities on Thursday, January 7th at 7pm at Congregation B'nai Israel (please enter through the school/office wing). However, in advance of the meeting, if you would like to volunteer a few hours of your time to assist with this new endeavor, kindly forward your contact information to membership@cbitr.org (Phil Brilliant), so we are aware of attendees in advance.

CONGREGATION SHA'AREY HA-YAM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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/Members
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