If You Ask Them, They Will Come: Saving Evening Minyan

Last year, services on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings at Shirat Hayam were in trouble. Many evenings, there were not enough people present to make a minyan (minimum of 10 Jewish post Bar/Bat Mitzvah aged adults) and so those who were in mourning or were observing yahrzeit could not say Kaddish.

In November, Rabbi Michael knew something had to be done. “Judaism has long posited that God’s presence is found among the community. A minyan is a community capable of receiving God’s presence and, in turn, praising God. Most critically, one prayer of praise that is recited only in the presence of a minyan is the Mourner’s Kaddish,” he explained.

He called a congregational meeting on November 28 and advised that without coordination and support, daily evening minyan might not survive. During the second week in December, he met with four women — Sandy Goldstein and Nancy Klayman (Tues.), Rita Swartz Buckley (Wed.) and Margery Shapiro (Thurs.) — who volunteered to serve as Minyan Captains and organize coverage for their nights. He then sent out an email to the CSH community, asking congregants to volunteer one evening a month and to contact one of the captains to sign up. Each captain has her own special connection to minyan and a deep commitment to its continuation at CSH.

Sandy Goldstein began attending minyan after her mom passed away in 2009, and found it both comforting and helpful to be with other people who were honoring and remembering their loved ones in the same religious way she was. Margery Shapiro grew up at Temple Israel, occasionally

Bruce Greenfield of Needham, who was visiting a friend in Salem, was able to say Kaddish for his father at evening minyan recently. Ann Segal, who decided to do her part to save evening minyan by learning to lead the service, now treats the congregation to her exquisite soprano voice every Wednesday at 7 pm.

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On Thursday evening, February 28, at a special congregational meeting, the congregants of Shirat Hayam approved amendments to the Bylaws permitting the Board of Directors to adopt a voluntary dues model of membership. This innovative approach to synagogue membership has been shown to increase membership and membership revenue. Moreover, congregations with a voluntary commitment model laud the profoundly positive impact on congregational culture and values.

Shirat Hayam’s new membership model is called T’rumot HaLev, Gifts of the Heart, and on the Shabbat morning following the historic vote, the congregation read the very Torah verses that inspired this name.

*Kehu me’itchem trumah l’Adonai kol nediv libo yevi’eha et trumat Adonai*

Take from among your gifts to the Lord; everyone whose heart so moves him shall bring them — gifts for the Lord — Exodus 35:5

Why were the people asked to bring gifts to the Lord? The ancient Tabernacle, which enabled the Israelites to experience God’s presence within their camp, could only be constructed if the people’s hearts were moved to donate materials for its construction. Was it successful? Yes! The Israelites “continued to bring freewill offerings to Him morning after morning,” so much that Moses had to ask the people to stop bringing gifts for the sanctuary. (Exodus 36:3, 6)

As the Israelites helped build the ancient Tabernacle, how can today’s congregants help Shirat Hayam mimic the success of the ancient ancestors?

First, they can complete their Membership Commitment Form that was mailed in March. Second, under this membership model, congregants have a unique opportunity to help secure Shirat Hayam’s future. This model radically changes how we invite friends to join the congregation. No longer will peer recruitment have to involve a sometimes uncomfortable financial discussion; instead, we can now focus the conversation on the intangible personal and community benefits of joining Shirat Hayam, and the values advanced by supporting our mission. Congregants are asked to email the membership chair, Amy Powell, amy4powell@gmail.com, with the names of potential members.

Stay connected with Shirat Hayam and The New Wave to follow the implementation of T’rumot HaLev, the most significant development since the merger of Temple Israel and Temple Beth El.
Cantor’s News

Quietude

Before the creation of light (Genesis 1:2):
“The earth was formless and empty” (Tohu Vavohu)

Perhaps all songs are “born” out of silence. When we sing together at our Shabbat morning Renewal service, we subtly move between sound and silence. This interplay helps me ease into a Shabbat state of mind. We’ll sing one melody repeatedly, and I let the overtones wash over me. At some point the song is brought to a close and I’ll listen carefully to the quiet. Often, after singing together with fellow congregants, I can hear what I didn’t know existed before the song began. Slowly, I start releasing the running and doing of the work week. Ahhhh…. I feel a sense of solidarity, gathering, coming close together, physically, and sharing energy, spiritually.

“And the Great Shofar is sounded and the still small voice is heard”— from the Unetaneh Tokef prayer

First, we hear the great, loud sounds of the shofar and our communal singing. But after the loud sounds, we hope our ears have been opened, so we can hear the quietest sounds of the universe. All the creative possibilities of the cosmos are to be found there. It is the innate ability of each of us to be God-like, to behave with extreme decency, and to channel an endless stream of life-enhancing ideas and celebratory sounds for the upliftment of mankind. When I surrender my desires, I hear it. From this space, I feel compassion and love.

I invite everyone reading this to give yourself the beautiful gift of Shabbat repose at our weekly Renewal service @ 9am. A Shabbat Soul Spa for you. You deserve it.

We’re delighted to announce that the USCJ (United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism) has chosen to showcase Shirat Hayam’s Renewal service at this year’s Biennial convention in Boston, MA on December 7, 2019. Join us, as we take our glow on the road.

B’shalom,
Cantor Alty

Evening Minyan

Continued from page 1

going with her parents when they were observing yahrzeits. When her husband died in 2013, she went daily for 11 months and developed an appreciation for how vital minyan is. “Saying Kaddish is a personal experience, but it is also a time when community support is very important. As a bereaved person, the last thing you should have to worry about is whether or not there will be enough people to have a minyan,” she said.

Nancy Klayman, who started attending after her father passed away, feels it’s imperative to make minyan a daily, not a weekly, occurrence. “Little by little, certain traditions are being dropped, and this was one I hoped could be revitalized. We are there not just for our members, but also families in the community with perhaps no affiliation elsewhere. A very good feeling comes from that,” she said.

Rita Swartz Buckley started attending after her father’s death in 1996 and 23 years later, minyan is still a part of her life. “It’s a safe place in a world that can be harsh and unforgiving, a quick way to remember who I am and why I’m here, to connect with the Divine, if only briefly, through ritual and prayer. Attending minyan gives me a rewarding way to stay connected to community and perform a mitzvah,” she said.

The response to the Rabbi’s email seeking volunteers was overwhelming. Just two months later, the numbers are in: February 2019 had twice as many services with a minyan and a 50% increase in average daily attendance over February 2018.

None of the captains are surprised by the numbers of volunteers. “I have happily found that people feel the same way about minyan that I do,” Goldstein said. “I have been thanked for my efforts and the efforts of all those involved in saving the evening meeting. People just needed to be asked for a specific commitment and they responded.”

Nonetheless, with vacations, snowbirds, the flu and the weather, more volunteers are always needed, especially on Thursday evenings. All of the minyan captains would love to hear from you. Contact them by email or just show up at 7 pm, any Tues. (Sandra@slgoldsteinlaw.com or nk211@comcast.net), Wed. (rbuckley@buckley-swartz.com) or Thurs. (shapiro_margery@yahoo.com).
More than 40 people attended the “Future of Shirat Hayam Interfaith Conversations” program held on March 3 and March 5. The program was designed to provide a forum for members to discuss what Shirat Hayam needs to do to become the congregation of choice for intermarried/interfaith couples and families.

Rabbi Jillian Cameron, the Director of Adult Learning at Combined Jewish Philanthropies (CJP), along with two staff members from CJP’s Leadership Development Institute, facilitated the discussion. Those attending the Interfaith Conversations program, among other things, expressed the values they believe make for a good and strong community. Values such as “welcoming” and “accepting” were some of the more common values expressed.

Attendees also spoke of their hopes and concerns with respect to interfaith/interruption issues. Members and would-be members of Shirat Hayam shared at times quite personal stories that underscored a common theme: Many people are affected by demographic changes in the Jewish community and are looking for ways to express themselves and connect with others on the topic. One member, for instance, expressed his hope that children of interfaith couples would raise their children Jewish.

Shirat Hayam’s Interfaith Committee, whose members include Anne Selby, Robert Powell and Maria Samiljan, organized the program. That committee was established by Rabbi Michael Ragozin in the wake of failed efforts to pass a temporary Bylaw change that would allow a non-Jewish member of Shirat Hayam to serve on the board.

From time to time, as space allows, The New Wave will publish original recipes submitted by Shirat congregants. This month, we feature Doris Villa’s Lox Kugel.

**Lox Kugel**

- 12 oz. pkg. medium noodles
- 1 lb. cream cheese
- 1 pt. low fat sour cream
- 1 cup low fat milk
- 4 eggs
- 1¼ sticks butter
- 1½ teas. salt
- 4 c diced onions
- A 14 oz. pkg. lox (chopped)
- ½ c chopped scallions
- ¾ c frozen peas
- 2 c unflavored panko crumbs

**Method:**

Use ¼ stick of butter to grease a 9x13 deep-dish casserole. Boil and drain the noodles. Turn noodles into the buttered dish. Sauté onions in ½ stick of butter and salt until translucent. Spread onions over the noodles, then the lox. Add the peas and scallions. Set aside. With a mixer, beat cream cheese until creamy. Then add one egg at a time, beating after each one. Add sour cream and milk on low speed, mixing well. Combine with noodle mixture. Refrigerate overnight. When ready to bake, melt 1 stick of butter and mix with panko. Spread over the kugel. Bake 1 hour @ 350° or until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean.
Voluntary Dues Update

At the February 28 congregational meeting, the amendment to the Bylaws was voted on and approved. The final votes were: 92 in favor, 1 no, and 1 abstained.

Reneée Sidman, President of the Board, explained that amendment approval meant that Congregation gave the Board and Voluntary Dues committee the authority to move forward with the voluntary dues model. Since the congregational meeting, the Board approved an updated member definition and benefit handout. “We will begin communicating with our members and start a marketing campaign for new members. This is when the big work begins,” she said.

“This is the most monumental change at Shirat since the merger. We are opening the doors to the unaffiliated. We are taking away the barrier of cost and allowing people to give whatever they want within their own means. This is huge,” she added.

Rabbi Michael Ragozin is equally enthused. “Now we begin membership renewal and new member recruitment in earnest. We would love for people to continue to give what they were previously giving — and consider increasing their donation,” he said.

CEE & CJE

Learning through play! CEE preschoolers learned about the story of Purim during Hebrew classes with Morah Rachel Jacobson.

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Women’s Seder

Connecting and Celebrating Together as Women

Thursday, March 28th
6:30 pm

The purpose of the Women’s Seder at Shirat Hayam, led by CJE Director Janis Knight, is to offer a space where the women of our community can come together and prepare for Pesach emotionally and spiritually even before we prepare physically for the holiday. Bringing out the hidden in our lives and reconnecting with it is part of the spiritual preparation for Pesach.

Our seder is a dairy/vegetarian potluck meal with food assigned by the letter of your last name. An upcoming flyer will provide more information on reservations and assignments. Volunteers to help shape the evening are most welcome. Space is limited. Please contact Janis@ShiratHayam.org or 781-599-8005, ext. 25.

Young Family Seder Workshop

Saturday, April 6th
10 – 11:30 am
RSVP required to CJE@shirathayam.org, no walk-ins, please. No charge but all adults must be accompanied by at least one child aged 3 – 6.

The Passover seder is the ultimate opportunity to make lasting and joyful Jewish memories. Our workshop will offer a selection of stations designed for parents and children to learn more about the holiday together and to pick up some new ways to deepen your understanding and increase the fun at whatever Passover experience your family may have.
CONDOLENCES
Our deepest condolences to those who have passed away.

MEMBERS:
Marilyn Fishman 2/9/2019
Wife of Cy Fishman, z”l

RELATIVES OF MEMBERS:
Mary Valle 3/1/2019
Mother of Susan Goldberg

DONATIONS

RABBI’S DISCRETIONARY FUND
In memory of Saul Kraft, brother of Frances Pearlman
by Edye Baker

In memory of
Father, Leo Cohen
by Mike Cohen
Husband, Ralph Kaplan
by Harriett Kaplan and the Kaplan Family

BRODY MINYAN FUND
In memory of Margery Schwartz, mother of Sheila Rich
by Doris Villa

In memory of
Father, Eli Barnett
by Jodie Barnett
Mother, Edna Bornstein
by Helaine Cotton
Mother, Eva Hurst
by Phyllis Dinerman
Parents, Chana and Beno Dodyk
by Elizabeth Dodyk
Brother-in-law, Eugene Poster
Mother-in-law, Phyllis Dunn
by Linda Dunn
Sister-in-law, Ruth Goodman
Father, David Grover
Mother, Rose Grover
by Thelma Gibbs

BURT AND BECKY SHEPARD SCHOLARSHIP FUND
In memory of Margery Schwartz, mother of Sheila Rich
In memory of Marilyn Fishman, mother of Robin Godine, Rhonda Fishman, and Harriet Fishman
by Herbert Goldberg

In memory of
Father, Harold Weiner
by Lawrence Weiner

GENERAL FUND
In honor of the birth of Marilyn Stoll’s great-granddaughter
by Harvey and Helaine Cotton
In memory of Bernard Handis’s 90th birthday
by Tamar and Ken Frieze; Sloane, Marin and Avery Frieze; Tom and Tess Salter; James and Ronnie Salter

In memory of Marilyn Fishman, mother of Robin Godine, Rhonda Fishman, and Harriet Fishman
by David and Harriet Moldau; Eunice Strager; Barbara Vinick; Christopher and Jennifer Hockett
In memory of Barbara Gannino, mother of Leslie Harrip
by Keith MacDonald
In memory of Margery Schwartz, mother of Sheila Rich
by Barbara Vinick

In memory of
Mother, Lillian Cohen
by John Cohen
Husband, Sidney Lipsky
by Beatrice Lipsky
Brother, Larry Pressman
Mother, Mary Pressman
Father, Sam Pressman
by Florence Pressman
Brother, Barry Rosen
Wife, Arlene Rosen
by Jerry Rosen
Father, Shepard Salinsky
by Richard Salinsky
Mother, Marion Freedman
by June Salny
Grandmother, Marion Freedman
by Stephen Salny

KIDDUSH FUND
In honor of Marilyn Fishman, mother of Robin Godine, Rhonda Fishman, and Harriet Fishman
by Harvey and Helaine Cotton
In memory of Shirley Kessler, sister of Bob Myerson
by Stephen and Helyne Hamelburg

In memory of
Great-grandfather, Max Kramer
by Deborah McWade
Nephew, Jonathan Ogan
Mother, Judith Ogan
by Bob Ogan
Sister, Sarah Liberty
by Ann Segal

In memory of
Father, Harold Weiner
by Lawrence Weiner

In memory of
Father, David Goldberg
by Roz and Marty Goldberg
Mother, Fay Bonfeld
by Roz Goldberg
Mother, Fayga Goldman
by Larry Goldman

In memory of
Grandfather, David Gartz
by Karen Hirsch
Mother, Mamie Cohen
by Miriam Kaplan
Husband, Martin Harris
Mother, Rose Bluestein
by Janice Kelley

In memory of
Son, Louis Patkin
by Phyllis Patkin

In memory of
In honor of Marilyn Stoll’s 2 new great-grandchildren
by Lois Ogan
In honor of the birth of our great-granddaughter, Emilia Grace Jeffries
by Harvey and Helaine Cotton

In memory of
Grandfather, Samuel Newman
by Robert Cashman
Brother, Carl Zidel
Brother, Marshall Zidel
by Linda Dubinsky

In memory of
Father, Bernard Kaplan
by Marlene Goldberg
Father, David Goldberg
by Roz and Marty Goldberg
Mother, Fay Bonfeld
by Roz Goldberg
Mother, Fayga Goldman
by Larry Goldman

In memory of
Grandfather, David Gartz
by Karen Hirsch
Mother, Mamie Cohen
by Miriam Kaplan
Husband, Martin Harris
Mother, Rose Bluestein
by Janice Kelley

In memory of
Son, Louis Patkin
by Phyllis Patkin

Donations / Condolences  Received February 1 – 28, 2019
Father, Josef Strulovici  
by Robert Sanford

Mother, Eugenia Zissu  
by Bery Sanford

Cousin, Dave Stern  
by Arthur Schwartz

Grandmother, Anna Needle  
by Rosalyn Shapiro

Father, Bert Korson  
by Mark Korson

Father/Father-in-law, William Greenblatt  
by Stephen and Judi Simmons

Mother, Vivian Weisman  
by Ellen Weisman

LEV INITIATIVE

In memory of Marilyn Fishman, mother of Robin Godine, Rhonda Fishman, and Harriet Fishman  
by Larry and Susan Goldberg

PRAYERBOOK PURCHASED

In memory of Stanley Gordon  
by Ellen Gordon, Larry and Marsha Ffeffer, and the extended Zoll Family

SHIR CHESED FUND

In memory of Marilyn Fishman, mother of Robin Godine, Rhonda Fishman, and Harriet Fishman  
by Arnold and Sandi Shuman

In appreciation of Shir Chesed during our mother, Estelle Halpern’s recent passing  
by Ira and Diane Rubtchinsky and Judy Halpern

In memory of

Father, Leonard Gold  
by Fred Gold

Mother, Rose Alfond  
Sister, Harriet Mack  
by Bette Shoreman

TORAH FUND

In memory of

Husband, Robert Garfinkel  
Grandfather, Harry Osattin  
Sister-in-law, Barbara Freedman  
by Marion Garfinkel and family

TREE PLANTED IN ISRAEL

In memory of Marilyn Fishman, mother of Robin Godine, Rhonda Fishman, and Harriet Fishman  
by Arnold and Sandi Shuman

Make a Donation

To make a donation, please visit  
shirathayam.org/Donate or mail your donation with a check made out to CSH or Congregation Shirat Hayam. Please specify the fund to which your donation should be allocated.

Come enjoy the warmth of Passover

Second Night Seder at Congregation Shirat Hayam  
Saturday, April 20, 6 pm

with Rabbi Michael, Cantor Alty and the Ruach Band
**Congregational Spotlight**

**Meet Sara Ewing**

In every issue, The New Wave spotlights a congregant as a way to help us get to know each other better by putting a face with a name. This month, JCCNS Adult Program Director Sara Ewing shares the path that led her to conversion and Shirat Hayam.

**Where did you grow up? What was your religious upbringing like?**

I grew up in the small college town of Swarthmore, PA, about 15 miles outside of Philadelphia. I attended the local Presbyterian Church sporadically with my Mom and two siblings, but never felt connected to the theology or service (although I did love being part of the hand bell choir, which was ironically led by a Jewish college student). My Dad is an atheist, so I give a lot of credit to my mother, who tried to raise us with a sense of spirituality and community.

**What brought you to Judaism? Can you describe your journey from that first spark to today?**

Many of my close friends growing up were Jewish, so I was invited to B’nei Mitzvot and Passover Seders, and always felt more comfortable in that setting than at church. When I met my husband (Jay Mahler) in my 20s, he made it clear from the start that his Jewish identity was very important to him. As we started getting serious, I began to read and learn more about Judaism, which resonated with me, although I knew if I decided to convert I would need to figure out a way to make the traditions my own. Jay and I took an Intro to Judaism class at Temple Emanuel in Newton with an amazing teacher, Rabbi Michelle Robinson, and made many friends along the way who were in interfaith relationships. The decision to convert was full of emotional ups and downs and a lot of questioning my theology, motivation, and purpose, but I was happy to find that these struggles were always met with understanding and openness and my questions never discouraged. After my conversion, I felt I still had more to learn, so I joined a Bat Mitzvah program and ultimately had my Bat Mitzvah at age 31.

**What resonates with you about CSH? How do you choose to participate?**

There is so much about CSH that I love. Hebrew school is on Shabbat, so we can all be there as a family. Shabbat Synaplex™ offers me different pathways to engage – yoga, nosh and drash, renewal, or just catching up with friends that I don’t see during the week. I enjoy the laid back, inclusive and progressive atmosphere. I feel so blessed to have found a synagogue that values the power of music as much as I do and added the unique renewal service to its offerings. My son Nathaniel will become a Bar Mitzvah next year and his sister Kay is just three years behind him. I chaired the search committee to hire the amazing Janis Knight a few years ago, and my husband plays in the Ruach Rally Band and occasionally in the Renewal service, and also sits on the board.

**Anything else you want to add?**

Outside of Shirat, you will find me enjoying the outdoors and beach, creating pottery, reading, socializing with friends and family, and running adult programs at the JCC.