



NEWSLETTER

June 2009

Volume 4, Number 10

DATES TO REMEMBER

SHABBAT SERVICES	June 5	7:30 PM
	June 19	7:30 PM
TORAH STUDY	June 7	10:30 PM
ADULT EDUCATION	June 14	7:00 PM
ROSH CHODESH	June 18	7:30 PM
WOMEN'S TORAH STUDY	June 23	2:00 PM

See inside for details of all these events!

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

This is the last Newsletter that will be sent out by post. From now on it will be sent out electronically. Please be sure we have your email address. Send it to Florence or Alice. The Newsletter will continue to be posted at www.ahycc.org.

Check the website where changes in dates of events and the Newsletter are posted:

www.ahycc.org

Newsletter editors: Florence Seldin (floira@comcast.net) and Alice Weiss (amjweiss@alum.barnard.ed)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ten years ago, when I contemplated retiring to Cape Cod, I was concerned about finding a Jewish community in which I could be active. I knew about the congregation in Hyannis, but I really did not look forward to traveling that far for Shabbat and holiday services.

While on vacation, one summer morning, before finally moving to the Cape, as I sat in my back yard reading, I suddenly started hearing familiar Shabbat melodies. Was I dreaming? Putting my book aside, I casually crossed my yard, pretending I was inspecting the flowerbeds and pulling weeds, until I located the source of the melodies. They were coming from next door. My neighbor Renate Wasserman was practicing for her upcoming Bat Mitzvah. I not only discovered the source of the beautiful music but I also discovered Am HaYam. In discussions that followed, across the fence, Renate and George Wasserman were so enthusiastic about the Havarah that I knew it would be the community I was looking for. And it is.

It will be my honor to serve as your president. I look forward to working with the Board to make Am HaYam responsive to the needs of our community here on the lower and outer Cape. Please join me for Shabbat Services and at the programs being planned by the members of our Havarah. I welcome your input and your ideas.

Judy Keller

SHABBAT SERVICES

Services will take place, at the Chapel -in the- Pines on the *first and third Friday of the month*. All services start at 7:30 PM and are followed by an Oneg Shabbat. Please bring treats for the Oneg. The House Committee will provide challah and beverages. All services are led by members of the Havurah and each is different depending on the leader's orientation.

If someone is interested in leading services please contact Paul Biegelsen at landerbiegel@comcast.net. Written and verbal assistance is available.

June 5 – Arlene Cohen

June 15 – Bat Mitzvah “sisters”

July and August: open

Thank You for Your Support!

- Geltzer, Arthur
- Marks, Nathaniel&Rhoda – In appreciation of Florence Seldin and Paul Biegelsen for their leadership in a lovely seder at Pleasant Bay Nursing Home.
- Silverio, Arky&Janet – In appreciation of the service and programs that you work to provide.
- Florence&Ira Seldin – Thanks to Jay Bloom, out going president and

Congratulations to Judy Keller, incoming president.

Bookplate Information

If you wish to mark a celebratory event or honor the memory of one or more individuals by having a bookplate affixed in a prayer book, please send a contribution of \$18 (*Chai*—>life) per bookplate payable to *Am HaYam*, together with the following information to Gene Saklad, 51 Pochet Road, Orleans, MA 02653-3624: Name(s) of contributor(s); event being celebrated or memorialized; name(s) of individual(s) being honored or memorialized; relationship of each honoree to contributor(s), name, e-mail address (if any) and telephone number of contact if any questions arise.

Other contributions should be sent to *Am HaYam*, Box 1235, Brewster, MA 02631

TORAH STUDY

The next Torah Study will be held on Sunday, June 7, with Rabbi Deanna Douglas.

All are welcome! Each session is independent of the previous ones so even if you have never attended before, do not hesitate to come. The discussions are lively and always interesting.

All sessions are at the Brewster Ladies' Library at 10:30 AM. Please bring fruit or pastry to share. Beverages are provided.

From the New Editor:

Dear *Chaverim*:. In July I will become the new editor of the newsletter. I hope to continue the fine work that Florence Seldin and Alice Weiss have done over the past few years and add some new touches of my own. With Board approval, we will add a "Milestones" column which will include listings of significant events in the lives of our readers, such as births, *b'nai mitzvah*, weddings and engagements of your children and grandchildren; members' significant birthdays and wedding anniversaries, and special honors, such as college degrees of our members, book publications, gallery exhibitions, etc. We will include a condolences column of members and their immediate family members (spouse, children, siblings and parents). Whether you are a year-rounder, a snowbird or a summer only member, we want to keep up with your important news and share it with the other readers. Deadline is June 15 for the July issue. Please email me this information at rebeccabolmes@comcast.net. Put "newsletter" in the subject column. Thanks.

In addition, as a cost saving measure, the newsletter will be published electronically only. Please keep us updated with current email addresses (in the case of couples, send both email addresses). For those who don't have Internet access, we will try to work out another way for you to receive the newsletter. Please call me at 774-207-0285 or write me c/o Am HaYam, Box 1235, Brewster, MA 02631. You can also access the newsletter on the Internet at ahycc.org. Click on newsletter in the list at the upper right corner.

Rebecca B. Holmes

Note to Board Members, Committee Chairs and others who regularly send info for publication:

Please send to rebeccabolmes@comcast.net. Please put “newsletter” in the subject column. Deadline for material is the 15th of the previous month, e.g. deadline for July newsletter is June 15. Thanks.

Board Meetings – 2009/2010

The Am HaYam Board will be meeting on the following dates. All meetings will be held at the home of Judy Keller, 96 Tonset Road, Orleans. Meetings start at 7PM. All members of the Havurah are welcome to attend Board meetings.

June 28
July 26
August 23
October 25
November 22
January 24, 2010
February 28
March 28
April 25
May 16 – Annual Meeting

ROSH CHODESH

Do you know your chai -q-??

The next Rosh Chodesh meeting will take place at the home of Judi Bloom on June 18th at 7:30 p.m. We are planning a night of fun and team games with a Jewish theme, as our closing meeting for the season. Come to have fun and socialize, (and maybe even win a little prize!!)

Call Judi at: 508 255 0055 or email her at: judijay@comcast.net to R.S.V.P.

WOMEN’S TORAH STUDY

WHEN: June 23

WHERE: Carol Roth, 3 Doran Rd., Orleans
croth@primaryconnections.com

ANNUAL REPORTS 2008-2009

ADULT EDUCATION

The Committee presented seven speaker programs from July 2008 to June 2009 and one film. These programs attracted from eight participants (Jewish Genealogy) to over 45 (Kabbalah) and included both Am HaYam members and the public responding to event

listings in local newspapers and posters. Because the one film was so poorly attended, the remaining films scheduled were cancelled.

The schedule was as follows:

DATE	SPEAKER	TOPIC	VENUE
July 10, 2008	Rachel Kadish	Reading of <i>The Argument</i> followed by a Q and A	Brewster Ladies Library
Aug. 10, 2008	Ellen Cassedy	Vilna: Facing History in the Jerusalem of the North"	Wellfleet Library
Sept. 11, 2008	Gail Melson and Debra Kaufman	Mother Connection: Mothers, Fathers, and Daughters in the Changing Jewish Family	Wellfleet Library
Nov. 6, 2009	Philip Bloom	Jewish Genealogy	Wellfleet Library
Dec. 14, 2009	Anne Katz-Jacobson	Abayudaya Jews of Uganda: To Save a Live is to Save the World	Wellfleet Library
May 3, 2009	Rabbi Meir Sendor	Kabbalah: Counting the Omer from Pesach to Shavuot	Wellfleet Library
June 14, 2009	Dr. Len Lyons	Ethiopian Jews of Israel	Brewster Ladies Library

The committee expended \$2570 in speaker fees and \$350 in venue fees plus miscellaneous refreshment costs.

Respectfully submitted

Jessica Dill and Judy Underberg (co-chairs), Rebecca Holmes and Naomi Nadelberg.

- Members 2008-2009
Judy Keller, Judi Bloom, Jay Bloom, Arlene Cohen, Shira Sands, Judy Taylor, Paula Feinstein, Marilyn Greenberg, Florence Seldin, Alice Weiss (part time), Paul Biegelsen (chair)
- High Holidays
The Ritual Committee provided planning and publicizing for the High Holidays. Services were well attended at Federated Church in Orleans. Led by Rabbi Deanna Douglas. Cantorial services were provided by Liz Anker for the first time since Alan Drachman retired.
- Shabbat Services
Friday evening services were led by individuals and groups (such as Zamarei, Social Action)
- Other Holidays
The Ritual Committee planned and led services for Chanukah, Purim, and

Passover. All were quite successful and well attended.

- **Bereavement Services**
The Ritual Committee provided leaders for memorial services to two Am HaYam families including that of Len Howard. Bar/Bat Mitzvah Training
Members of the Ritual Committee have provided Bar and Bat Mitzvah training to two students who will celebrate their mitzvah services in 2010.
- **Service to groups outside of Am HaYam**
A Passover Seder was held for folks at the Pleasant Bay Nursing Home, led by ritual committee members.
- **Torah Inspection and Repair**
The Ritual Committee is in search for a sofer who can evaluate the Torah scrolls and give us an estimate for repair. Since our torah is on loan from another organization we cannot proceed without their permission.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Biegelsen

ROSH CHODESH

We've had another successful year with many interesting and varied programs.

In OCT. One month before the presidential election, a very important and appropriate film was shown. It is called, "Iron Jawed Angels". It's about the Suffragists movement of the early 1900's and the horror they endured to grant women the right to vote.

Rebecca Holmes and I talked about some of the Jewish women who were involved. A very emotional discussion followed.

In November we had a literary evening at the home of Joan Saklad. People brought their own personal poems and prose to share with the group.

In December some Rosh Chodesh members went to the New England Chavurah retreat in lieu of a regular Rosh Chodesh meeting. It was held at the Craigsville Conference Center in Centerville. It was a very worthwhile experience.

In January Rosh Chodesh was held at the home of Joyce Bush. She also facilitated. The Rosh Chodesh women came prepared to have a discussion on a book we read called, "On Women and Judaism", by Blu Greenberg. The topic was, Feminism and Orthodox Judaism. A riveting discussion followed.

In February we had a very interesting and informative talk on, Jewish Women and Midwifery. The facilitator was Anne Katz Jacobson who led a discussion of midwives in the Bible and their revolutionary contributions to the practice of a Jewish midwife today.

Since Anne is a certified and practiced midwife she told us about her extraordinary experiences in Africa.

In May Arline Lowenthal and Sharon Leder_ Teichman will co-facilitate a program about various types of abuse in Jewish homes.

I want to thank all the people who helped plan the programs, who hosted, facilitated and participated. Also a special thanks to Carol Roth for sending her e-mails out every month as a reminder and an update.

Bernice Simon-Wolfson, Chairperson

INTERFAITH- FACING HISTORY AND OURSELVES

Each year we budget to send two teachers to the weeklong Facing History Summer Institute held in Brookline. Last year one prospect dropped out at the last minute but Richard Houston, chair of the History Department at Harwich High School, attended. The program was entitled “Holocaust and Human Behavior”

Richard’s detailed report was published in the October 2008 Newsletter. He ends with this statement, “The professionals at Facing History did a fantastic job of engaging the group in this important work; they also provided all the teachers with resources, both print and electronic; that will facilitate our efforts to bring these lessons to our schools”.

Ira Seldin

NAUSET INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION

Noteworthy Services and Observances

Gene Saklad and Florence Seldin represented *Am HaYam* in leading parts of the program at the Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, which was held Sunday, November 23, at St. Joan of Arc Roman Catholic Church in Orleans. Shira Sands and other members of *Zamarei HaYam* participated in the combined choir.

This year’s Martin Luther King, Jr. observance was held as a breakfast meeting January 19, the date of his birth, at The Church of the Holy Spirit in Orleans. Diane Keon, a product of the “Facing History and Ourselves” program in Brookline, MA, and a highly regarded History teacher at Nauset Regional High School, also teaches “Facing History . . . “classes at the High School. Quoting from that non-profit “Facing History . . . “organization’s website, their “mission is to engage [participants] of diverse backgrounds in an examination of racism, prejudice, and anti-semitism in order to promote the development of a more humane and informed citizenry. By studying the historical development of the Holocaust and other examples of genocide, students make the essential connection between history and the moral choices they confront in their own lives.” Mrs. Keon introduced that high point of the MLK program, which included the participation of many of her students in that class.

Respectfully submitted,

E. L. Saklad
Florence Seldin

SOCIAL ACTION/TZEDAKAH COMMITTEE REPORT

The Social Action/Tzedakah Committee met five times this past year. The members of the committee are Judy Keller, Chair, Elaine Biegelsen, Joyce Bush, Marilyn Greenberg, Rebecca Holmes, Carol Roth, Ruth Shapiro, Judy Taylor, Judy Underberg and Alice Weiss.

Several discussions this year focused on Am HaYam members' involvement with local organizations. As a result of these discussions, members of the Committee planned and led a Social Action Shabbat Service on April 17, 2009. We plan to make this an annual event for the Havurah.

Every year the Havurah allocates 10% of all money donated the previous year to Am HaYam to support organizations on the lower and outer Cape. This year a total of \$2600 will be donated. Due to the change in the fiscal year of the Havurah, \$2000 was allocated in the spring and the additional money will be allocated in the fall. Allocation of the partial Tzedakah money for 2009 was presented to and approved by the Board at their meeting on February 22, 2009. The allocation is as follows:

LOCAL (Lower Cape Lunch)	\$400
LCOC (Lower Cape Outreach Council)	\$400
Homeless Prevention Council (formerly Interfaith Council for the Homeless)	\$300
Jewish Federation of Cape Cod	\$300
Children's Place	\$200
Community Development Partnership	\$200
Independence House	\$200
Total	\$2000

Guidelines have been developed for the Hineni group. We have not had many requests for our help this year, but those who did receive assistance were very appreciative.

The committee hopes to better inform the members of the Havurah of life cycle events being celebrated by others in our community through a new column in the bulletin. This column will be titled "Milestones" and will start in July.

Carol and Steve Roth again coordinated our High Holiday food drive. Special thanks go to them for doing this monumental job. In response to the need of the LCOC food pantry, an effort has been made this year to help stock the pantry on a continuing basis. Havurah members have been asked to bring food donations to all of our events. We have been able to make additional donations to LCOC which have been greatly appreciated. We will continue this effort in the coming year.

Judy Keller

TORAH STUDY

Two rabbis, Deanna Douglas and Allan Ullman taught eight illuminating sessions on some aspect of Torah. Discussions were held in the Brewster Ladies' Library one Sunday a month at 10:30 AM.

Alice Weiss, Joyce&Dick Bush

- RABBIS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS - NORTH AMERICA'S K'VOD HAVRIOT HUMAN RIGHTS NETWORK

In the Spring of 2008, *Am HaYam* began a one-year membership in Rabbis for Human Rights - North America's *K'vod Havriot* Human Rights Network, a division embracing individuals, congregations and *Havurot*. As a member of their Planning Committee, I was privileged to work with their Executive Director, their Director of Outreach and Education, and many other dedicated individuals. We have benefited from their liturgical materials for use in home and *Havurah* services, as well as from calls to action in the anti-torture campaign. When their news releases were more timely and/or expressed better than those of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, I distributed them to members of the Nauset Interfaith Association as well as members of the *Am HaYam* Board of Directors.

In marking Israel's 60th year of independence, we were offered study/discussion materials and a leader's guide for *Masekhet Atzma'ut* (Tractate Independence), analogous to *Talmud* study in English translation, which highlighted the disconnects, in many cases, between the inspiring language of Israel's Declaration of Statehood and the reality on the ground as it has developed for many minorities there. After months of delay because of scheduling conflicts, I regret that our Adult Education Committee decided against it.

RHR-NA's December conference on Judaism and Human Rights, held in Washington, DC, impressed me so highly that I prepared a written report for our Board members as well as for members of the Nauset Interfaith Association. I also copied members of the *Am HaYam* Shmooze List.

Although recent developments in the anti-torture campaign are encouraging, there is more work to be done, both investigative and legislative, as well as by education and demonstration, to insure against a repetition of many forms of inhumane treatment which were previously justified fallaciously at the highest levels of Government.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Saklad

TREASURER'S REPORT

Fiscal Year ended May 31, 2009

Attached you will find a report of Income and Expense for the current fiscal year, compared to the prior fiscal year. As you can see, donations were down by \$6,592., while expenses rose by \$3,412, giving us the first loss on the year that we have seen for several years. Note, however, that Am Ha Yam has over two years' operating expenses in reserve, about equally divided between its checking account and CD's. Given the economic conditions today, the Board has exercised caution in creating its proposed budget for the coming year.

This will be the last annual report you will receive for a fiscal year ended May 31st. The Board has decided to move our fiscal year to September 1st to August 31st, beginning next September. This change has several advantages:

- It eliminates the oddity of a budget based on a calendar year and an annual report based on a fiscal year.
- It eliminates periodic Treasurer's Reports that accurately monitor expenses, but provide no real information on income, as most of Am Ha Yam's income is received during the High Holy Days. By beginning the fiscal year close to the High Holy Day season, reports will have more value, providing up-to-date information on current income and expense.
- It eliminates the system by which an incoming Board inherits a budget created by the outgoing Board, together with the expenses incurred by the outgoing Board against the budget. The Annual Meeting will still take place in May and the outgoing Board may still propose a budget; however, the new Board will have ample time to appoint its own committees and, if it wishes, to make changes in the budget prior to September 1st

Dick Bush, Treasurer

Zamarei

Current members of our group are: Paul and Elaine Biegelson, Arlene Cohen, Judy Keller, Shira Sands, Mim Selig. This has been an active year for Zamarei. Our regular activities include providing music for weekly Sabbath services based on each leader's song preference. Each Sabbath program is planned to harmonize both literally and figuratively with the unique spirit of each evening's worship. We are fortunate to have Judy Keller accompany us on her base ukelele. In the past year, Zamarei also programmed holiday-specific music for our Passover seder, Chanukah, Rosh Hashana, and Yom Kippur services including a special arrangement of the Kol Nidre with soloist Greg Sands. Our Purim shpiel, which was written by Judy Keller, was a rousing musical event in the spirit of the holiday. Zamarei also led an all musical Shabbat service during the year.

Shira Sands



Dr. Len Lyons author of
THE ETHIOPIAN JEWS OF ISRAEL:
Personal Stories of Life in the
Promised Land

Brewster Ladies Library
Route 6A Brewster

June 14, 2009

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

(signed copies of book available for sale)

More than 100,000 Ethiopian Jews now live in Israel. Their courageous exodus from their native land and their mass immigration to Israel is a unique historical event. But their journey to feel at home in the Promised Land is not yet complete. Dr. Len Lyons will discuss the profound challenges and inspiring accomplishments of Ethiopian Jews struggling to become Ethiopian Israelis. Based on his candid interviews of religious leaders, soldiers, lawyers, students, musicians, a member of the Knesset, he reveals their fascinating personal stories and traces their hazardous journeys to Israel and how they fight to survive and thrive in an environment they could never have imagined.

Len Lyons, Ph.D. in Philosophy (Brown University) is the author of six books on a variety of subjects, including jazz and computers. Through hosting Ethiopian Israeli students visiting Boston in 2004, he became fascinated with the story of the Ethiopian Jews and their struggle for acceptance in the country that rescued them.

For more than two years, he has been meeting with Ethiopian Jews in Israel in many locations and in many sectors of the Ethiopian Jewish community. He serves on the Ethiopian Jewry Committee of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Boston.

Free and Open to the Public