

Shavuot

“*Shavuot*” is the Hebrew word for “weeks”. It also refers to our Festival marking the giving and receiving of the Torah by G-d at Mt. Sinai. It marks the completion of the special seven week period between Passover and Shavuot. As with many holidays, Shavuot has several focuses and is one of the “*shalosh reg'alim*” the Three Pilgrimage Festivals (Passover and Sukkot being the other two.)

The Festival began as an ancient agricultural festival that marked the end of the spring barley harvest and the beginning of the summer wheat harvest. During the time of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem, Shavuot was a pilgrimage festival during which Israelites brought fine crop offerings to the Temple. Today, it is a celebration of the Torah, education and actively choosing to participate in Jewish life.

Many people stay up all night studying Torah, *erev Shavuot*. This custom evolved from the *midrash* that says when the Israelites were at Sinai, they over slept the day they were to accept the commandments; they had to be awakened by Moses. The idea is to study with a community in order to prepare for re-receiving the gift of the commandments and to re-experience standing at Mt. Sinai. The giving of the Torah was a far-reaching spiritual event, one that touches the essence of every Jewish soul and those who support Judaism. Our sages have compared Shavuot to a wedding between G-d and the Jewish people. Since “Shavuot” also translates to mean: “oaths”, it is considered that on this day G-d swore eternal devotion to the Jewish people and we reciprocated.

Early Zionists deemphasized the religious elements of Shavuot to focus on its cultural aspects. For years, First Fruits Festivals were held on kibbutzim and first-fruit pageants and celebrations were held in cities.

Most communities read the Book of Ruth. Tradition writes that King David died on this day and was a descendant of Ruth.

It is customary to eat dairy foods on Shavuot because Jewish tradition compares the words of Torah to the sweetness of milk and honey. Blintzes and cheesecake are among the popular foods eaten to add in the enjoyment of this Festival. *Erev Shavuot* (evening which begins a holiday) begins 5 June at sunset.

From page 2

Despite our achievements and progress, as individuals and as a people, many of us may find that we are ourselves *b' midbar*, in the wilderness. Our plans, our health, our careers, and our families' lives do not unfold in the ways that we have anticipated or yearned for, and we find ourselves wandering in uncharted territory; It is not that we must be in a place of pain or despair or lost in order to commune with God; rather, it is in these times that we may be more open to the encounter. The unknown, unexpected, unpredictable *midbar*, *wilderness*, where we encounter the Presence and voice of the Sacred can be a positive place, too. The commentator Aviva Zornberg teaches that authentic prayer always leads us to *midbar*, to an unexpected and uncharted territory. And so, we find ourselves in the *midbar*, in the wilderness; Temple Sinai is facing the unknown, having to find a new cantor; I am about to start serving a new congregation, in a new location, working with a new Rabbi, a new leadership and a new community. I hope that both of us can draw strength and courage from the happy and enriching past three years that I was privileged to serve as your Cantor, and look forward in optimism and excitement. My wish to us all is that *even* in a spiritual wilderness, when we might be most compromised by despair, the wonder of Revelation will be with us. God's *word* will be with us.

And on a personal note – I want to thank each and every one of you, for welcoming me into your midst; Thank You to the leadership of Temple Sinai, past and present, for their willingness to deal with my sometimes crazy schedule; Thank You to Peggy for never failing to be there at the organ or the piano, ready to play whatever I had planned for the service; Thank You to the Sinai Singers, Temple Sinai's choir, under the (virtual) baton of Alan Kunins, for helping me enhance our celebrations with beautiful singing; and most of all: Thank You to Rabbi Poticha for being a true rabbi to me – a teacher and a friend.

Shalom Ul' hitra'ot – Goodbye till we meet again,

Cantor Orna Green

Celebrate Israel Parade. Sunday, June 1 - March with Us!

If you are not marching with us, you can line

5th Avenue in Manhattan to show your support. <http://celebrateisraelny.org/>

D'varim (words) from Rabbi Poticha

As I write this article, Pope Francis's historic 24+-hour visit to Jerusalem is upcoming. His itinerary within such a short time is replete with visits to national landmarks, religious institutions and private meetings. His trip to the Middle East will begin in Jordan, then arriving in the West Bank meeting with leaders of the Palestinian Authority followed by conducting a holy mass at Manger Square in Bethlehem. His trip to Israel is to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the historic meeting between Pope Paul VI and Orthodox Christian spiritual leader Ecumenical patriarch Atengora, in Jerusalem. The Holy See will arrive at Mt. Scopus and travel to the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher. Spending time at the Dome of the Rock he will then walk down to the Western Wall (Kotel). He will lay a wreath at Mt. Herzl, Israel's national cemetery before visiting Yad Vashem, Israel's official Holocaust memorial museum. After meeting with President Peres, the Pope will conclude his trip by holding a holy mass in the Room of the Cenacle in Jerusalem. Pope Francis was last in Jerusalem in 1973, just as the Yom Kippur war broke out. Due to the war, he spent all his time inside his hotel studying the Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

Immediately after his election as Pope, President Shimon Peres invited Francis to Israel, calling on him to visit as a spiritual leader, not a political leader. Peres wrote: “The sooner you visit, the better, in these days, a new opportunity is being created for peace, and your arrival could contribute significantly to increasing the trust and belief in peace.”

This sacred pilgrimage is not without conflict. Israel is concerned that ultra-Orthodox Jews will protest the Pope's scheduled visit to an ancient Jerusalem site venerated by Jews as the location of King David's Tomb and by Catholics as the setting of the Last Supper. The ground floor is said to be the site of David's Tomb, while a few floors above supposedly stand the Upper Room (the Cenacle) of the Last Supper and on top of the building is a 16th century mosque.

Jewish and Catholic religious leaders from six Latin American countries will make a pilgrimage to the Middle East, following the route that Pope Francis will take. While they are hoping to experience a similar atmosphere that Francis will feel, their goal is to better establish firm understanding between Jews and Catholics.

Jerusalem is a city of overwhelming emotions, a city that promises a religious and spiritual experience, excitement and pleasure. Jerusalem is a city home to the three great Abrahamic faiths: Judaism, Catholicism and Islam. It is no wonder that millions of worshippers and tourists have made their pilgrimage to this holy city. It is no wonder that Jerusalem is the first city our Temple Sinai group will tour during our June trip. Our first stop will be the Haas Promenade –

Newsletter Temple Sinai June-July-August 2014

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Schedule of Services

JUNE

1 June: Celebrate Israel Parade.
 3 June: Erev Shavuot
 6 June @ 7:30PM: Shabbat Family Worship to include the acknowledgment of World Environmental Day
 13 June @ 8:00PM: Shabbat Worship
 14 June @ 10:15AM: Avery Stevenson called to the Torah as a bar mitzvah. Parshat Shelah.
 15 June: Father's Day
 20 June: Shabbat Under The Stars
 23 June: Members of Temple Sinai traveling to Israel
 27 June @ 8:00PM: Shabbat Worship. Our b'nai mitzvah class will conduct services.

JULY

4 -Shabbat Worship 8PM
 11-Shabbat Worship 8PM
 18-Shabbat Worship 8PM
 25-Shabbat Worship 8PM

AUGUST

1-Shabbat Worship 8PM
 8-Shabbat Worship 8PM
 15-Shabbat Worship 8PM
 22-Shabbat Worship 8PM
 29-Shabbat Worship 8PM

Shalom Ul'hitra'ot – Goodbye Till We Meet Again

I am writing this note on the Friday of Shabbat B'midbar; this week's Torah Portion is the first in the Book of Numbers. *B'midbar* means "in the wilderness," "in the wild place," or "wandering in uncharted lands."

However translated, this verse represents a strange mixture of precision and vagueness. A specific moment in time during the Israelites' journey from Egypt toward the Promised Land is noted: "On the first day of the second month, in the second year following the exodus from the land of Egypt", only to be immediately put in contrast when the location of the encounter is not specified: it is simply, "*B'midbar* . . . in the wilderness."

Wilderness is as important a concept, in the Bible, as it is for us. Again and again, it is in the wilderness—the uncivilized, unmapped place—where sacred encounters occur. Moses first encounters God when his flock of sheep are wandering *achar hamidbar*, literally "beyond the wilderness" (Exodus 3:1); later he asks Pharaoh to give the Israelites not just respite from their labors, but also leave to go on a spiritual pilgrimage outside of the urban center: "Let us go, we pray, a distance of three days into the wilderness . . ." (Exodus 5:3). When Jacob flees from Esau, he heads toward Haran, but his life-transforming encounter takes place in a random place in the middle of nowhere; he unexpectedly collides with the Place, or as commentators have long explained, with God.

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June

June 6 - Feinstein
 June 13 - Avery Stevenson Bar Mitzvah
 June 20 - Shabbat Under the Stars – Kulakoff
 June 27 - Bar/Bat Mitzvah class

July TBA

August TBA

Temple Sinai Open House

Sunday, August 10, 2014

Early School Registration and Introductions to Temple

Please join us and invite anyone you know who may be looking for Religious School and Temple membership.

Choir is looking for singers Call Asha
 1 631 673 4620

Schedule of Board Meetings

Tuesdays at 7:30, in the Oneg Room
 July 1 -Aug 5- Sept 2 - Oct 7 - Nov 4 - Dec 2

Yahrzeit Lists

JUNE 2014

2 Sophie Hershorn
 2 Helen Jacobson
 2 Sylvia Plotnik
 2 David J. Weinblatt
 2 Roger S. Weinblatt
 4 Isaac Kulakoff
 5 Seymour Meyerson
 5 Sarah Stern
 5 Julie Wasserman
 6 Joseph Bodeck
 6 May Jacobson
 10 Lynn Gruenberg
 11 Morris Weissman
 11 Jean Wolf
 14 Ira Sprinz
 15 Robert Stranger
 16 Celia Barkus
 16 Melvin Kulakoff
 17 Joseph Morris Friedberg
 17 Louis Rutkofsky
 18 Jacob Schechter
 19 Kay Bloomingdale
 19 Tillie Schuster
 21 Roslyn Sacks
 22 Lillian Schneider
 23 Mary Sunshine
 24 Morris Shapiro
 24 Benjamin Weinstein
 25 Leonard Levine
 25 Amelia Welt
 27 Frank Pitilon
 27 Nat Smilen
 28 Harvey Berkowitz
 28 Fannie Mason
 29 Janet Lewis
 30 William Allan Rosenberg
 6/1990 Emanuel Helfand

JULY 2014

1 Jerome Shapiro
 2 Brian Goldberg
 2 Lewis Stern
 2 Daniel Zindler
 4 Sally Singer
 4 Theodore Ziegler
 6 Martha Barkus
 7 Eve Lesley
 7 Leo Matalon
 8 Jan Keltz
 8 Ruth Schechter
 11 Theodore Rosedale
 11 Lolita Shears
 12 Bessie Kulakoff
 14 Joe Baron
 15 Ruth Silber
 15 Julius Traeger
 15 Martin Walters
 16 Sadie Bernstein
 16 Philip Chinsky
 16 Joseph Aaron Weisberger
 19 Sanford Burke
 22 Helene Fleischer
 23 Barbara Berkowitz
 23 Israel Greenspan
 23 Harlow Meckes
 23 Abraham Shapiro
 24 Esther Brown
 26 Henry Feinberg
 26 Rebecca Liebler
 26 Celia Rutkovsky
 27 Esther Hamer
 29 Bernice Zwanger
 31 Lillian Berman
 31 Annie Canter
 31 Benjamin Lambert
 31 Arlene Levine
 ?? Paul Munch

AUGUST 2014

1 Julia Weinstein
 2 Frieda Beckerman
 3 Paul Poticha
 4 Alfred Doerrier
 4 Minnie Greenspan
 6 Estelle Fermaglich
 7 Joan Hertz
 10 Harry Charkowsky
 12 Benjamin Erenstoff
 12 Julius Mindel
 15 Janette Eisner
 16 Edwin I. Bloomingdale
 16 Harley Frederick
 17 Harlan Bradley
 17 Vita Charmack
 17 Brett Paul Cohen
 17 Bella Horowitz
 18 Irving Wolf
 20 Carl Fleischer
 25 William Wolfson
 26 Janet Borak
 26 Joseph Eisner
 26 Ruth Schatz LaBelle
 27 Helene Newman Antman
 27 Blossom Kutz
 27 David Rand
 28 E. Jack Harris
 28 Abraham Nachtigal
 29 Doris Shapiro
 30 Irma Rudin
 31 Theresa Banks

To purchase memorial plaques to place on the Board in our Sanctuary
 Contact Asha Rotstein at 1 631 673 4620

International/Chinese Auction

As we have done in previous years, we are planning a Chinese Auction to be held on October 12, 2014. As usual, we will need a lot of prizes and hope you will use the following months to start accumulating things that we can use for this Auction.

If you go to a restaurant, by showing them one of our letters, they may give you a gift certificate or some item that we can use for a prize. We will also need liquor for our liquor basket. Your assistance is urgently required if we are to have a successful auction.

If you need letters, see Barbara Ringlen who will be happy to supply you with them. If we all pitch in, this will be as successful as our previous auctions have been. CAN I COUNT ON ALL OF YOU?

Barbara Ringlen, Auction Coordinator

SAVE THE DATE

TEMPLE SINAI'S 2ND ANNUAL HOLIDAY FAIR

Sunday, November 9, 2014

10am – 4pm

We will have vendors on hand for all your holiday shopping – handcrafted items, pocketbooks, scarves, jewelry, makeup and beauty supplies, handcrafted wine bottles, Homemade chocolates & baked goods, direct merchants such as Origami Owl, Tastefully Simple, Pampered Chef, Tupperware and much more

If you would like to be a vendor please contact Lisa Tasch for information and an application – lisadube@optonline.net

Advertising Section

A very good way to raise funds for temple is our bulletin ads. In this issue of our newsletter you will find a page with two ad contracts. Please use these forms to order your ads or to get our neighborhood stores to place ads in our blue pages. The Blue Pages are printed once a year and “wrap” around the white pages, which have our quarterly news. There are 225 copies printed and distributed by mail four times a year. We have a loyal following, so please continue to patronize our advertisers and let them know you saw their ad in the Temple Sinai Bulletin.

Please return all advertising contracts, ad copy and checks to Fred Stern
You can contact Fred at 1516 851 0564

Summer Garage Sale – Sunday July 27 indoors at Temple Sinai

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

GENTLY USED CLOTHING, SHOES, HANDBAGS, HOUSEHOLD ITEMS, TOOLS, SMALL FURNITURE, JEWELRY, DISHES.

TO HELP: CALL ASHA ROTSTEIN 631-766-3653

FOR PICK UP: CALL BOB SAILOR 516-509-4353

Come one come all, to this great community event. This is one of the best ways we have of giving back to our community. Please bring your gently used items including anything you want to unload from kitchen utensils to sweatshirts.

Purchase your Coupon Books for fun on Long Island

Reserve your SaveAround 2015 Long Island Discount Book today.

The book is filled with coupons for use all around Long Island. Some of last years coupons included tickets to Regal Entertainment Theaters, Deer Park Bowl, United Skates of America, Farmingdale Golf Center, Midas, Edible Arrangements, Dick's Sporting Goods, Modell's, Men's Warehouse, The Children's Place, Baskin Robbins, Boston Market, McDonalds, Buffalo Wild Wings, Denny's, Ihop, Texas Roadhouse... The Coupon Books make great gifts for teachers, coaches, family members, coworkers, even for you. Last year's price was \$20 per book and the Temple earned \$8.00 each.

Makes a great gift and a great fundraiser for the Temple.

Books should be here in early September

To reserve your discount book email lisadube@optonline.net

Evening of Learning

Dec 8th at 7:30 at Congregation Beth El

Richard Knox will present “Great Jewish Entertainers”. He discusses Jews in musical theater, films and television.

Congratulations to all our June Graduates!

Welcome to the Newly Elected Executive Committee and Board of Trustees

Congratulations to all and best of luck in your new positions.

President – Leslie Eichen 1st Vice President – Roni Schneider 2nd Vice President
– Mark Feinstein 3rd Vice President – Lynn Rudin Recording Secretary –
Barbara Ringlen Corresponding Secretary – Penny Katz Financial
Secretary – Asha Rotstein Treasurer – Anne Fulop
Trustees – Bob Sailor – Jeff Tasch – Arthur Goldberg – Joy Findling – Ron
Cholewa – Kathy Eifenbein – Denise Pavlides

Dear Temple Sinai Congregation and Friends,

Letter from the Editor

I have had the privilege and honor of serving on the board of Temple Sinai in many capacities for the past 17 years. It has mostly been a delight and has taken, as you may imagine, much time.

It is time for other members to take the helm. I have been privileged to meet and speak with most of you and will remain in touch and in membership. I will also continue to handle your advertising section (blue pages) for a while, until we can train, or find, someone who can do that job. In the meantime, I am turning over my position as Editor into the capable hands of Marilyn Hametz, who, I'm sure most of you know. Marilyn has graciously offered to carry on the White Pages of the Bulletin. Fred Stern has taken over much of Blue Page work, and my sweet friend Anne Fulop has been elected Treasurer.

I'm taking this time to thank you all for the opportunity to serve Temple Sinai and to wish you the best of luck as you carry on into the future.

Shalom, Marcia

Yahrzeit Donations

In Memory of

Muriel Vainder
Ron Costa
Stanley Fermaglich
Robert & Evelyn Zwanger
Dora Davidson
Irene Jaffe
Mayer Lesser
Edward Barnett
Ade Antman
Bernard Bokofsky
Seymour Meyerson
Jean Wolf

From

Martin Vainder
Liz Costa
Dale & Mark Fermaglich
Jerry Zwanger
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Denise Pavlides
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Sue Keltz
Cynthia Kohl
Mel Meyerson
Mel Meyerson
Dale & Mark Fermaglich

Donations

Denise Pavlides
Ellen Teitelbaum
Lynn Rudin
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If you would like to make a donation to Temple Sinai please make check payable to Temple Sinai and send them c/o Asha Rotstein 29 Lewis Court Huntington, NY 11746

Principals Note

June/July/August 2014

Now that school has ended for the year, we would like to extend our appreciation to all those who made our special "extras" possible: our wonderful teachers, the enthusiastic School Committee members, those reliable parents who organized our class dinners, and everyone else who pitched in and gave of themselves to help the students have a great experience. Thank You!

We would like to say Mazal Tov to the following families as their children have become B'nai Mitzvah: Jillian Micozzi 5/31 and Avery Stevenson 6/14. We look forward to celebrating with the family of Adam Koch, who will be called to the Torah on 11/15.

It may seem that summertime is filled with quiet months for our Religious School, but much activity happens behind the scenes. The school calendar is being set up and the curriculum is being reviewed. By early August, school letters and registration information will be sent to the families of returning students, the classrooms will be reorganized, and books and supplies inventoried and ordered. A great deal of planning and preparation goes on in the lazy days of summer!

The first day of school will be September 14. There will be a welcome brunch for parents that morning, after a general assembly for parents and students.

Enjoy your summer! Shalom! Lynn Rudin

Dear Friends and Fellow Congregants,

Presidents Note

Each year dedicated members devote their substantial time and effort to ensure the well being and operations of our beloved Temple Sinai. As our new board has been elected and installed, I take this opportunity to welcome those new board members and say good-bye to those who will no longer serve as temple board members.

To all who are leaving the board, we all extend our deepest and profound thanks for all of your hard work and never ending devotion to Temple Sinai. As an outgoing board member, you surely made a difference and impacted the workings of Temple Sinai. You will all be missed. It has been a pleasure and an honor to work with our outgoing board and I am excited and honored once again to be the President of Temple Sinai. I appreciate your support. All my best, Leslie

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– a magnificent promenade overlooking the spectacular city of Gold: Jerusalem, where together we will say the: *she'hec'heyanu* blessing. Exploring the City of David, walking through the Western Wall Tunnels, meandering the streets of the Old City, the spirit of the city will be palpable.

The county of Israel is not only eternally historic replete with archeological sites, interesting tours, exciting adventures, it is also a country full of modern attractions for lovers of history, culture, religion, architecture, theater, music, the arts and culinary delights.

Whether Pope or pilgrim, Israel has something for everyone. In Israel, the Bible is no longer a storybook but it becomes a living narrative. Shabbat in much of the country is just that: Shabbat, with so much of the country closing for Sabbath rest/peace. Israel is the place where thousands of years of wandering ended. Israel is the place where everyone counts, where everyone makes a difference. You can be part of making a difference. We are leaving for Israel on 23 June. Rabbi P