

Flushing-Fresh Meadows Jewish Center
 193-10 Peck Avenue ✦ Flushing, New York 11365 (718) 357-5100

THE BULLETIN

May-June 2019
 Vol.17. No. 5

Nisan/Iyar/Sivan 5779
 Rabbi Gerald M. Solomon
 Cantor Aaron Katz



Coming Events

Wednesday, May 1

This year the Annual Yom HaShoah Service will be hosted by Flushing-Fresh Meadows Jewish Center. Service will begin at 7:00pm.

Thursday, May 9

Yom Ha'Atzmaut

Celebrate Israel's 71st Independence Day! Buffet Luncheon will be served with entertainment by Irene Failenbogen. Lunch at 12:30pm. Cost: \$30 per person.

Thursday, May 23

Sisterhood Lunch and Program. Subject: "Ophthalmology and You" Guest Speaker: Dr. Howard Pomeranz. Lunch at 12 Noon \$10 at the door.

Thursday, May 30

"Little Fires Everywhere" by Celeste Ng.

Monday, June 10

Let's Celebrate Shavuot !!!

Join us for services, which begins at 9:00am and Yizkor which will begin at 10:45am. After services, a complete dairy lunch will be served, followed by Shavuot Torah Study and Sing A Long, conducted by Cantor Aaron Katz. Cost \$30 per person. **WATCH FOR THE FLYER**

Thursday, June 20

Sisterhood Luncheon and Program. Subject: Irving Berlin - An American Institution with Marty Schneit. Lunch at 12 Noon \$10 at the door.

Thursday, June 27

The Book Club will be discussing the book

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR MAY AND JUNE 2019

YOM HASHOAH

Wednesday, May 1

Eve of Yom Hashoah

Yom Hashoah Service Mincha/Maariv.....7:00PM

Friday, May 3

Mincha/Maariv.....7:00PM

Candle Lighting Time.....7:35PM

Saturday, May 4

Erev Rosh Chodesh Iyar/Parashat Achrei

Shabbat Services.....9:00AM

Shabbat Ends.....8:44PM

Friday, May 10

Mincha/Maariv.....7:00PM

Candle Lighting Time.....7:42PM

Saturday, May 11

Parashat Kedoshim

Shabbat Services.....9:00AM

Shabbat Ends.....8:51PM

Friday, May 17

Mincha/Maariv.....7:00PM

Candle Lighting Time.....7:49PM

Saturday, May 18

Parashat Emor

Shabbat Services.....9:00AM

Shabbat Ends.....8:58PM

Friday, May 24

Mincha/Maariv.....7:00PM

Candle Lighting Time.....7:55PM

Saturday, May 25

Parashat Behar

Shabbat Services.....9:00AM

Shabbat Ends.....9:04PM

Friday, May 31

Mincha/Maariv.....7:00PM

Candle Lighting Time.....8:01PM

Saturday, June 1

Parashat Bechukotai

Shabbat Mevarchim Services.....9:00AM

Shabbat Ends.....9:10PM

Friday, June 7

Mincha/Maariv.....7:00PM

Candle Lighting Time.....8:06PM

Saturday, June 8

Parashat Bamidbar

Erev Shavuot Shabbat Services.....9:00AM

Holiday Candle Lighting.....9:14PM

Maariv.....T.B.A

SHAVUOT

Sunday, June 9

First Day Shavuot

Holiday Services.....9:00AM

Candle Lighting Time Second Evening of Shavuot...9:15PM

Monday, June 10

Second Day of Shavuot

Holiday Services.....9:00AM

Yizkor.....10:45AM

Festival Ends.....9:15PM

Friday, June 14

Mincha/Maariv.....7:00PM

Candle Lighting Time.....8:09PM

Saturday, June 15

Parashat Naso

Shabbat Services.....9:00AM

Shabbat Ends.....9:18PM

Friday, June 21

Mincha/Maariv.....7:00PM

Candle Lighting Time.....8:11PM

Saturday, June 22

Parashat B'haalotecha

Shabbat Services.....9:00AM

Shabbat Ends.....9:20PM

Friday, June 28

Mincha/Maariv.....7:00PM

Candle Lighting Time.....8:12PM

Saturday, June 29

Parashat Shelach

Shabbat Mevarchim Services.....9:00AM

Shabbat Ends.....9:20PM

SUPPORT the Queens Jewish Community Council to continue to Feed
the Poor Homebound in Queens by donating to PROJECT CHAIM

It will take just \$54 from you to beat Hunger in our
Queens Neighborhoods for one year.
Any amount will help!

Please make checks payable to QJCC-Project Chaim and mail to
QJCC-Project Chaim
119-45 Union Turnpike Forest Hill, NY 1137
Call
718 544-9033





Mazal Tov

To: Zach and Joan Levine on the birth of their great-granddaughter Shaindel.

Thank You

To: The Dunaisky family for sponsoring a Kiddush in memory of Sue's mother Harriet Kooperman.

To: Morde and Matilda Cohen for sponsoring a Kiddush in memory of Matilda's mother Hilda Moses.

Congratulations

To: Lorraine Rothberg, New York State License Broker, who just received another award. This time from the Exit Realty National /Regional office— Top Producer 2018- Bronze Winner. Lorraine is an Award winner 6 years in a row. Keep up the great work!

Condolences

To: Zach Levine on the loss of his sister Janet Dorros.

To: The families of David and William Warshowsky on the loss of their mother Joyce Warshowsky. We are all saddened by the loss of our dear friend and long time member of our Sisterhood and our Synagogue. We will miss her.

To: Michael Greene on the loss of his dear wife Mirta, who passed away at the age of 74 on March 17th after a long illness. She is survived by Michael, and their sons Andres and Nathaniel.

Center News

Purim was celebrated with the reading of the Megillah and after services a light breakfast was served. We hope to continue this tradition every year.

Passover was celebrated on both the first and second Shabbats, with Kosher for Pesach breakfast. Gefilte fish, Herring, and different types of salads, matzos, fruits and desert was served. Everybody enjoyed, and we also hope to continue this new tradition every year.

Good Luck

To: Rabbi Gerald Solomon-We wish him all the best in the next chapter of his life.



*Let's Celebrate Shavuot
the Giving of the Torah!!*



Join us on Monday, June 10 for our annual Shavuot Services at 9:00AM.
Yizkor will begin at 10:45AM.

A complete dairy lunch will be served which will include Baked Salmon, Pasta, Different types of salads, Blintzes, and Cheesecake.

Torah Study and Sing A Long will be conducted by Cantor Aaron Katz.
Cost per person: \$30.00. **Watch for the Flyer**



Sisterhood News

Welcome back to the new season of Sisterhood activities! The chair exercise class is in full swing on Tuesday mornings at 11:00 AM. Everyone welcome. Five dollars a session. The book club has already had one meeting in March. The next book club session is scheduled for April 25th at 10:30AM, when we will be reviewing the book "Gateway to the Moon" by Mary Morris. The book for the meeting on May 30, is "Little Fires Everywhere" by Celeste NG. Books are reserved for our group at the Fresh Meadows Library. Looking ahead, the book for June 27th is "Pachinko" by Min Jin Lee.

We will be celebrating Israel Independence Day with a beautiful luncheon on May 9th at 12:30 PM. Great food, wonderful entertainment and a chance to be with our Synagogue friends. Respond to the flyer promptly.

On May 23rd, at 12 noon we will have the first of our regular monthly luncheons and programs. After lunch, Dr. Howard Pomeranz an ophthalmologist from Northwell Health will present an important program "Ophthalmology and You".

Save the date: June 20 for another luncheon and program.
Reminder! Cards are available from the Center office for any occasion., proceeds to support the programs of the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Call the office at 357-5100. \$5:00 a card.

Welcome back snowbirds and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Marilyn Brown and Joan Levine, Sisterhood Co-Presidents



IN MEMORIAM



Our Sisterhood mourns the passing of long-time member Joyce Warshowsky. The Warshowsky family were members of the Fresh Meadows Jewish Center for many years. Their boys attended our Hebrew School. Joyce was an active member of the Sisterhood Board. She served as recording secretary and was always eager to assist when we needed help. She will be missed. We send our condolences to the Warshowsky family.



Of Interest

Dear FMJC Sisterhood

Encl: Circa 1950's FMJC Sisterhood Cookbook

Please find enclosed the "constantly used for dinner ideas" cookbook that was created by members of the Fresh Meadows Jewish Center. These recipes were donated by members and others in the temples' community (my mom included).

My mom was Thelma Levy, a founding member of the temple, and an active participant in many of the activities both in the early years and until her moves to Israel in 1987 and to California in 1993. She kept (and used) this book all the time. When she was downsizing for her move from Fresh Meadows to Encinitas, California, she gave this Sisterhood Cookbook to my son/her grandson so he would be able to continue her menu traditions - and he did so for many years as he had to cook for himself when he was living on his own!

My son recently passed away (from cancer) and my siblings and I felt that it would be best to donate this cookbook to the place where it all began (as we have copied over the recipes we wanted for ourselves over the years and did not need the entire book). Thanks to all of those ladies who dedicated their time and efforts to the FMJC Sisterhood in the early years so that you can celebrate more than 65 years, the local Jewish community in Fresh Meadows!

Sincerely yours,

Phyllis (Levy) Stein on behalf of the Levy Family (Sam, Irene, and Esther), children of Thelma and Leonard Levy


May 2019

Nisan/Iyar 5779

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<div>On-going Low-Impact Chair Exercises Tuesdays 11 to Noon</div>	1 26 Nisan Erev Yom HaShoah Services at 7:00pm	2 27 Yom HaShoah	3 28  7:35pm	4 29 Erev Rosh Chodesh Parashat Achrei Ends: 8:44pm
5 30	6 1 Iyar	7 2	8 3	9 4 Sisterhood Luncheon at 12:30pm Israel's 71st Independence Day	10 5  7:42pm	11 6 Parashat Kedoshim Ends: 8:51pm
12 7	13 8	14 9	15 10	16 11	17 12  7:49pm	18 13 Parashat Emor Ends: 8:51pm
19 14	20 15	21 16	22 17	23 18 Lag B'Omer Sisterhood Luncheon Ophthalmology and You 12 Noon	24 19  7:55pm	25 20 Parashat Behar Ends: 9:04pm
26 21	27 22	28 23	29 24	30 25 Book Club "Little Fires Everywhere" by Celeste Ng	31 26  8:01pm	

June 2019

Iyar/Sivan 5779

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> On-going Low Impact Chair Exercises Tuesdays 11 to 12 Noon </div>				1 27 <i>Iyar</i> Jerusalem Day Parashat Bechukotai Ends: 9:10pm
2 28	3 29	4 1 <i>Sivan</i>	5 2	6 3	7 4  8:06pm	8 5 Parashat Bamidbar Erev Shavuot  9:14pm
9 6 1st Day of Shavuot  9:15pm	10 7 Shavuot Day 2 Shavuot Luncheon Festival Ends: 9:15pm	11 8	12 9	13 10	14 11  8:09pm	15 12 Parashat Naso Ends: 9:18pm
16 13	17 14	18 15	19 16	20 17 Sisterhood Luncheon Irving Berlin-An American Institution 12Noon	21 18  8:11pm	22 19 Parashat B'haalotecha Ends: 9:20pm
23 20	24 21	25 22	26 23	27 24 Book Club "Pachinko" by Min Jin Lee	28 25  8:12pm	29 26 Parashat Shelach Ends: 9:20pm
30 27						



Rabbi's Message

RELIGION IN THE AGE OF DISCOURTESY

The holiday of Shavuot commemorates our receiving of the Torah at Mount Sinai, words that transformed the world from barbarism to civilization. As Abraham Lincoln once said, “I believe that the Bible is the best gift that God has ever given to man.” To celebrate Shavuot is to acknowledge the divine call to moral and ethical growth, to the perfection of our minds and our souls in order to improve both ourselves and the world.

Shavuot usually coincides with the season of graduation commencements. It is the time when the young complete a major step in their educational journey, and yet it is called commencement. More than an ending, it is a new beginning. Commencement stresses potential rather than past, new beginnings and opportunities now possible by way of achievement.

And Shavuot was the commencement moment for the Jewish people. It too was a time of celebration, rejoicing in the precious gift we received – the commencement of our collective mission to become “a light unto the nations” and “a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”

Religion is usually defined as our relationship to God. But look at the two tablets of stone God gave to Moses and you will see that five of the Ten Commandments are concerned with our duties to God and the other five teach the equally important obligations we have to our fellow human beings.

It is striking that when the great Talmudic Sage Hillel was asked to summarize all of Torah “on one foot” in the most all-inclusive manner he chose the verse “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Leviticus 19:19), and not its corollary “You shall love the Lord with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your might” (Deuteronomy 6:5). The message Jews were meant to bring to the world was the revelation that treating fellow human beings with respect is in and of itself a form of divine worship. Kindness is a kind of prayer akin to the one offered in the synagogue. Charity to the needy is very much like tithing to the temple. And respect is what we owe God as well as every one of his children who are created in the image of God.

Yet we live in an age where disrespecting others is too often the norm. Cruel and hurtful words are disguised as humor, and vicious verbal assaults are repeatedly on social media. Respect has become Yet we live in an age where disrespecting others too often the norm. Cruel and hurtful words are disguised as humor, and vicious verbal assaults are repeatedly on social media. Respect has become old-fashioned relic of a time when good manners still mattered and civilized behavior was mandatory and expected.

When colleges around the country become scenes of hostility and mayhem they should be called out as failures for their primary mission. Education is meant amongst other things to create character. It demands open inquiry and respect, even when there is vehement disagreement.

As we celebrate Shavuot and enter the season of commencements, let us remember that they represent our aspirations for greater fulfillment, for ourselves and for the world around us. And the truths given to us at Sinai are still required for true success.

SEASONAL OBSERVANCES



ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY (Celebrated in Israel on May 8 - 9)

May 10, 2019 is the Hebrew date of the 71st anniversary of Israel's statehood. It behooves us at this time to offer our continued love and support to both Israel and the United States as well as our talents to encourage our families and friends, our neighbors, and our leaders to do their share in seeing to it that the relationship between Israel and the United States remains strong.

For American Jews, celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut has been a way to express solidarity with the state of Israel and to strengthen their alliance with it. In many communities, it is one of few occasions in which Jewish organizations and synagogues of different ideologies and denominations cooperate in forming a common celebration. Let us show our love and support for Israel at this time by celebrating its 71st anniversary even as we affirm our devotion to our beloved America.

A PRAYER FOR ISRAEL

"Our Father in Heaven, Protector and Redeemer of Israel, as we observe the 71st anniversary of the State of Israel's independence, we ask that you bless the State of Israel which marks the dawn of our deliverance. Shield it beneath the wings of Your love. Spread over it Your canopy of peace; send Your light and Your truth to its leaders, officers, and counselors, and direct them with Your good counsel.

O G-d, strengthen the defenders of our HOLY LAND. Grant them salvation and crown them with victory. Establish peace in the land, and everlasting joy for its inhabitants.

Remember our brothers and sisters, the whole house of Israel, in all the lands of their dispersion. Speedily let them walk upright to Ziplace, as it is written in the Torah of Your servant Moses: 'Even if you are dispersed in the uttermost parts of the world, from there the Lord your G-d will gather and fetch you. The Lord your G-d will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it.'

Unite our hearts to love and revere Your Name, and to observe all the precepts of Your Torah. Shine forth in Your glorious majesty over all the inhabitants of Your world. Let everything that breathes proclaim: The Lord G-d of Israel is King; His majesty rules over all."

FOR YOUR INFORMATION - FROM THE RABBI

*"The people of Gaza are not our enemy. We have no war with Islam. For years, our citizens in the south have lived with missiles from Gaza. Sleeping in bomb shelters, night after night for years, is a reality that is hard to grasp. Just last week a rocket fired from Gaza hit a house in the center of Israel and wounded seven people, including a six-month-old baby. These rockets are fired by Hamas, a ruthless and cruel terrorist organization. I want to thank you not only for your friendship, but for your moral leadership...

Unfortunately, we live in a time where moral leadership is not always valued. The UN Human Rights Council has been taken over by human rights violators, and many countries prioritize their economic ties with radical regimes like Iran, instead of speaking up against tyranny and terror...Israel and Canada can work together with other like-minded countries to build a new global alliance based on moral leadership and responsibility." – Israeli President Reuven Rivlin during a diplomatic visit to Canada. (Jerusalem Post, Apr. 2, 2019)

LAG B'OMER - MAY 23, 2019

Lag B'omer means the 33rd day of the (counting of the) Omer. This day is observed as a day of rejoicing because on this day, the students of Rabbi Akiva did not die. We therefore are permitted on that day to take haircuts, listen to music, hold weddings, etc., because the signs of mourning which we have been observing are not necessary on this day of great happiness.

Lag B'omer, the 18th day of Iyar, also corresponds to the date of the death of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, one of the great sages from the era of the Mishna. Although the death of a great sage is usually not marked with rejoicing, but rather with sadness, we treat Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai differently. The Zohar in Parshas Ha'azinu tells us that on the day Rabbi Shimon passed away, a great light of endless joy filled the day because of the secret wisdom he revealed to his students. That secret wisdom was written down and recorded in the holy Zohar. The happiness on that day was to him and his students like that of a groom while standing under the canopy at his wedding.

On that day, the sun did not set until Rabbi Shimon had revealed all that he was permitted to. As soon as he was done, the sun set, and his soul returned to its Maker. Because of the happiness back then, we celebrate with happiness now, as well.

In Israel, people flock to the grave of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai in the city of Meron. There is dancing, singing, and bonfires are lit. Many people wait until their son is three before cutting his hair, and on the Lag B'Omer of his third year, they cut the boy's hair. There is also a custom that children play with bows ("keshet" in Hebrew) on Lag B'Omer. A reason given for this is that in all the days of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai's life, a rainbow was never seen. A rainbow is a sign that the world was due for a

SHAVUOT - JUNE 9 -10, 2019

The Festival of Shavuot or "Weeks," is one of the Shalosh Regalim (Exodus 23:14); one of the three main pilgrimage festivals. It comes at the end of the seven-times-seven (a "week of weeks") cycle of the Omer, which begins on the second day of Pesach.

This year Shavuot begins on Saturday evening, JUNE 8th. Candle lighting is 9:14P.M.

The Festival of Shavuot is somewhat unusual. Not only is it not assigned to a specific date, but there is no real explanation given in Torah as to the meaning of the day, nor how it is to be observed ritually. In Biblical times, the period of counting seven weeks marked the transition from the very first grain crop (barley) of early spring (at Pesach) to the beginning of the summer grain (wheat harvest) at (at Shavuot). Thus names for Shavuot given in the Torah are Chag Ha-Katzir-the Festival of the Harvest-and Chag Ha-Bikkurim –the Festival of the First Fruits (Cf. Exodus 23:14-19; Leviticus 23:9-22) The day is identified as a holy occasion to be observed as a Sabbath, and specific sacrificial offerings are to be brought to the Temple. But beyond that, there is no special ritual prescribed.

These agricultural origins of Shavuot probably sufficed for the agrarian society of ancient Israel while they lived in the promised land. But they didn't really allow for a meaningful holiday for Jews once they were outside the Land of Israel, where farming was on a different cycle and there was no Temple to which one could bring the seasonal offerings. In exile, Jews were left with a commanded festival with no apparent meaning. But tradition abhors a vacuum. So what inherent meaning could be found for Shavuot?

The meaning of Shavuot became apparent after considering the relationship of Shavuot with Pesach and Sukkot. All are Biblically ordained festivals. All have an agricultural connection, assigned to a specific harvest season. But Pesach and Sukkot both have historical associations as well. Pesach commemorates the Exodus and the liberation from Egyptian bondage. Sukkot, and the dwelling in the Sukkah, recall the Israelite's experience while wandering in the wilderness for 40 years. So, our sages opined that Shavuot must fit into this paradigm as well. But how? Well, 50 days after leaving Egypt, and before they set out to wander in the desert, the Israelites found themselves camped out at the base of Mt. Sinai, awaiting the revelation of God's teachings. And so, in this historical sequence, Shavuot naturally became associated with an extraordinary and significant event: the revelation of the Torah to Moses on Mt. Sinai. While Shavuot had no 'historical' event associated with it in the Torah, and the event of Revelation had no holiday to mark it, it was a perfect match. Conveniently, since Revelation and Shavuot both do not have an actual date in the Torah, the Rabbis were able to determine that Revelation coincides with Shavuot. The Rabbis had a vested interest in this transformation as well. They saw themselves as the legitimate heirs to the Temple and priestly leadership. Instead of sacrifices, Torah learning must be at the center. How could there not be a holiday to acknowledge the giving of the Torah?

The sages came to refer to Shavuot as **“Z'man Matan Toratenu”**- **“The Time of the Giving of our Torah.”** As the anniversary of revelation, Shavuot evolved into a celebration of Torah. In the synagogue, the account of the revelation at Sinai and the Ten Commandments are read as part of the service. Among Ashkenazic Jews, a custom also developed associating the Megilat Ruth, the Book of Ruth with Shavuot. There are a number of links that make this an appropriate text. Particularly, the setting of the story is at the harvest time, and Ruth's conversion to Judaism is seen as analogous to the Israelite's acceptance of the covenant at Sinai. In addition, King David, who tradition teaches was born and died on Shavuot, is identified in the book as being descended from Ruth.

Rituals and Customs

There is a beautiful Sephardic custom of erecting a Chuppa (bridal canopy) over the lectern on which Torah is read on Shavuot and honoring recently married couples. The custom extends from the notion that Shavuot is like a wedding between God (the groom) and Israel (the bride), with Torah serving as the Ketubah- (marriage contract). Special Shavuot ketubot are also written and read.

Other customs include decorating the synagogue for Shavuot with flowers and green plants, again echoing the ancient holiday of the “first fruits,” and “Confirmation,” a relatively new ritual (only a hundred years or so) through which teenagers **are given the opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to Jewish life and living.**

It has often been asked why Shavuot is known as "The Season of the **Giving** of Our Torah," when perhaps it's more important for us as Jews to recall that not only did G-d give Torah to Israel, but that we freely accepted and committed ourselves to it. Shavuot, then, becomes not only Z'man Matan Toratenu - the time of the giving of our Torah, but also Z'man Kabbalat Toratenu - the time of the **accepting** of our Torah. The giving of Torah is an historical event, that happened just once. But the acceptance of Torah by individual Jews is a continual process that happens every day, anytime a Jew makes a decision based on Jewish values, wholeheartedly recites a Jewish prayer, or makes a conscious effort to better the world. Each and every experience of our lives provides us with a new context to learn and understand Torah and put it into action in our lives. This is referred to as progressive revelation. We were given Torah just once, thus allowing for this yearly anniversary of Shavuot. But we “accept” Torah continually, allowing us to live a renewed Jewish life every day.
