



The Poile Zedek Bulletin

145 Neilson Street, P.O. Box 166 New Brunswick, NJ 08903 * (732) 545-6123

www.poilezedek.org • admin@poilezedek.org

Rabbi: Abraham J. Mykoff • President: Mr. Danny Ravitz

May/June 2009

Sivan/Tamuz 5769

“The Time Of The Giving Of Our Torah”



THE RABBI'S MESSAGE

On Thursday night, May 28th, the holiday of Shavuot will commence. It is a two day celebration observed Friday and Shabbat, May 29th and 30th. Shavuot is identified in the liturgy as זמן מתן תורתנו, “The Time of the Giving of Our Torah”, for it commemorates the revelation at Mt. Sinai when Hashem, the Almighty, spoke directly to the Jewish Nation, proclaiming the Ten Commandments.

Unlike Passover, or any of the other holidays, it was not assigned a specific date. In the Torah the holiday of Shavuot is primarily linked with the *Omer* offering and a seven week counting period, starting with Passover and climaxing on the 50th day. Thus, the name “Shavuot”, the Holiday of Weeks.

It is also called *Yom Habikurim*, the day of the first ripe fruits, when a special new offering was brought to the Temple.

Surprisingly, Shavuot, as commemorating מתן תורה- *Matan Torah*, the revelation at Mount Sinai, is not noted at all in the Torah. The only way we can directly connect Shavuot with the giving of the Torah is from the Book of Exodus (Chapter XIX) which describes how "in the third month [Sivan] following the children of Israel's departure from Egypt on this day they came to the Sinai Desert. They camped there opposite the mountain..."

One reason Shavuot is not openly identified with the giving of the Torah is attributed to the reluctance to commemorate a single day with our acceptance of the Torah, for every day is an opportunity for us to renew our acceptance of the Torah and make it part of our lives. As we proclaim in the blessing made over the Torah: “Blessed are You, our G-d, who *gives* the Torah.”

Another reason for the Torah's reluctance to

(Continued on page 4)

“זמן מתן תורתנו”

THE President's MESSAGE

IN MEMORIUM
MIRIAM GOLDMAN
1918-2009

This week Poile Zedek lost one of its most beloved members at the age of 90. Miriam lived in New Brunswick her entire life until about five years ago when she moved in with her daughter Sara-Ann in South River. Miriam was an exceptional individual. She was a kind-hearted person who was always ready to help anyone who needed it. She worked very hard on behalf of the shul and especially the Sisterhood. She served in various capacities on the shul and sisterhood boards. She and Sara-Ann annually sponsored the synagogues' Rosh Hashanah appeal mailing, often doing much of the work themselves. As long as she could, she would always attend the shul's meetings and functions. She would cook and serve the food at the shul's parties and the sisterhood meetings.

Miriam was a very intelligent and capable woman. Her knitting and sewing talents were extraordinary. She was very creative and artistic. Personally speaking, I always valued the comments and advice she offered at our meetings. She always said just the right thing. We were privileged to have the opportunity to honor her with the Lifetime Service Award at our dinner this past November.

On behalf of myself and my family and on behalf of the congregation, I wish to convey our heartfelt condolences to son Allen, daughter Sara-Ann, and sister Bernice Weinblatt. Miriam will be sorely missed by us all.

(Continued on page 4)



Shavuot Schedule*

THURSDAY, MAY 28 — *EREV SHAVUOT*
 Shacharit: 7:30 A.M.
****Eruv Tavshilin**** before 8:00 P.M.
 Candle lighting 8:00 P.M.
 Mincha & Maariv 8:00 P.M.
 followed by a holiday Seudah (dinner) & Torah Vigil Study Program.

FRIDAY, MAY 29 — *1ST DAY OF SHAVUOT*
 Shacharit 9:00 A.M.
 Services to be followed by a holiday luncheon, Torah Study program, and Mincha.
 Candle lighting after 9:15 P.M.

SHABBAT, MAY 30 — *2ND DAY OF SHAVUOT*
 Shacharit 9:00 A.M.
 Book of Ruth 9:45 A.M.
 Yizkor after 10:00 A.M.
 Yom Tov & Shabbat end 9:16 P.M.

SUNDAY, MAY 31 — *PARSHAT B'HA'ALOTCHA*
 Shacharit 8:00 A.M.

* Please note that times are for the New Brunswick, Highland Park & Edison areas only.

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WEEKLY CLASSES & SHIURIM



Millionaire Club — Lunch & Torah study with Rabbi Mykoff Tues. & Thurs. 12:00 - 1:00 P.M.

Torah Study in Russian — Learn the Torah with Rabbi Eli Kogan. Thursdays — 7:00 P.M. Men and women. Refreshments served.

Eruv Information

In order to utilize the New Brunswick eruv, you must check weekly on its status (whether it is functioning for that Shabbat) by calling the Eruv hotline: (732) 247-ERUV before Shabbat.

To request to be placed on the Eruv e-mail list, please call the Rutgers Hillel Foundation: (732) 545-2407. For a map of the Highland Park/Edison and New Brunswick Eruvim boundaries go to www.hperuv.org.

The Holiday of Shavuot



Shavuot, *Z'man Matan Torateinu*, The Time of the Giving of Our Torah, is the second of the three major pilgrimage festivals (Pesach being the first and Sukkot the third) and comes exactly fifty days after Pesach. Shavuot, also known

as Atzeret, which means completion, is the culmination of the odyssey which we began on Pesach. The goal of our redemption and departure from Egypt was to receive the Torah. On the sixth day of Sivan in the year 2448 after creation, the revelation at Mt. Sinai took place. G-d gave the Torah to the Jewish people on Mt. Sinai. Every year, on Shavuot, we renew our acceptance of G-d's gift.

Shavuot, which means "weeks", signifies the completion of the seven week period between Pesach and Shavuot (the 'Omer' period) during which time the Jewish people prepared themselves to receive the Torah. During this period they cleansed themselves of the scars of slavery and elevated themselves spiritually so that they would be ready to enter into an eternal covenant with Hashem, through receiving and accepting the Torah.

The word Shavuot also means "oaths". On this day Hashem swore eternal devotion to us, and we in turn pledged everlasting loyalty to Him. Our Sages have compared it to a wedding between G-d and the Jewish people.

Our Sages said that before Hashem gave us the Torah He demanded guarantors. The Jews made a number of suggestions, all of which were rejected by G-d, until they declared, "Our children will be our guarantors that the Jewish people will cherish and observe the Torah"; G-d immediately accepted them and agreed to give them the Torah.

On this day we received a gift (matan) from Above which we could not have achieved with our own limited faculties. We received the ability to reach and touch the Divine; not only to be cultivated human beings, but Divine human beings who are capable of rising above and beyond the limitations of nature. Jewish men, women and, especially, children should make every effort to be present in a synagogue on May 29, as the Ten Commandments are read from the Torah.

The holiday of Shavuot is also known by two other names: Yom Habikurim and Chag HaKatzir.



Yom Habikurim, the Day of the First Fruits, is an expression of thanks to G-d. Starting from Shavuot, each farmer in the Land of Israel brought an offering to the Temple of the first wheat, barley, grapes, figs pomegranates, olives and dates that grew in his field.



Chag HaKatzir, the Festival of the Harvest, commemorates the harvesting of the wheat. The wheat, the last of the grains to be ready to be cut, was harvested at this time of the year.

The Book of Ruth

It is on the second day of Shavuot that we read the Book of Ruth, one of the five *megillot*, scrolls, which are read on the various holidays.

This megillah tells the story of Ruth and her mother-in-law, Naomi. Ruth is a Moabite woman, who, after her husband dies, follows Naomi back to Israel and pledges to her: “Your nation shall be my nation and your G-d shall be my G-d.” In Israel, Ruth marries Naomi’s kinsman, Boaz and becomes the great-grandmother of King David. Additionally, this episode takes place during the time of the bringing of the first fruits.

Ruth’s acceptance of G-d and His commandments mirrors our acceptance of His Torah, the bringing of the first fruits, and the harvest season depicted, makes reading the Book of Ruth particularly meaningful on Shavuot.

ERUV TAVSHILIN

This year, since Shavuot falls on Friday and Shabbat, we must make an Eruv Tavshilin to allow us to cook on Friday for the Shabbat .

The Eruv Tavshilin consists of two cooked items, a Challah roll and something cooked, for example, a boiled egg or a piece of fish, which have been prepared before the onset of the Festival. The blessing: “Blessed are You, Hashem, our G-d, King of the Universe, who has commanded us, concerning the mitzvah of the eruv” is recited and the two foods are put aside until Shabbat. They are eaten at the Shabbat meal.

The Eruv Tavshilin symbolically serves as the beginning of the preparation of food for Shabbat. Thus, any subsequent cooking done on the Festival is considered to be a continuation of the preparation begun before the Festival.

Shavuot Customs

Tikun Leil Shavuot — It is customary for many to stay up all night the first night of Shavuot learning Torah. When B’nai Yisrael were about to receive the Torah, rather than sleepless anticipation, B’nai Yisrael overslept. As rectification for this, it is customary on the first night of Shavuot to stay up learning all night.

Akdamut is a *piyut*, liturgical poem, read on the first day of Shavuot before the Torah is read. It was composed as an introduction to the Ten Commandments by Rabbi Meir ben Yitzchak (during the time of the crusades in the 11th century). *Akdamut*, written in Aramaic, describes Hashem’s creation of the world and the splendor of the World to Come, the angels praise of the Almighty, and the greatness and suffering of the Jewish people. As it says:

*“Were the skies parchment, were all the reeds quills,
Were the seas and all waters made of ink,
Were all the world’s inhabitants made scribes.”
We could not begin to describe the glory of Hashem.*

Dairy— It is customary to also eat a dairy meal on Shavuot. The most noted reason for this is because when B’nai Yisrael received the Torah and learned the laws of ritual slaughter, they had no time to prepare kosher meat and thus had dairy instead.



A Loving Tribute

Memorial Windows



Memorialize your loved ones by dedicating a stained glass window in our beautiful sanctuary. We have a limited number of windows still available for this fitting tribute to the memory of a cherished family member. Each window is \$1500.

Memorial Plaques

Memorialize your loved ones by having their names listed on our bronze Memorial Boards in the sanctuary. A light will be illuminated on their *yahrzeit* dates. Each plaque is \$150.



Please call the synagogue at (732) 545-6123 to dedicate a window, order a plaque, or for more information.

(Rabbi's message continued from page 1)

directly identify Shavuot with *Matan Torah*, is perhaps due to the fact that after committing ourselves to fulfilling G-d's Torah, we failed to live up to our commitment. Only forty days later there was the incident of the Golden Calf and the breaking of the Tablets, containing the Ten Commandments. It was only on Yom Kippur, after our *teshuva* - repentance was accepted, that we received the Second Tablets. Because of this, to this very day, on Shavuot, we endeavor to strengthen our commitment to Hashem and His Torah.

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(President's message continued from page 1)

I would like to thank all those who participated in our annual sedarim this Pesach. We had about 100 people in attendance at our Community *Sedarim*, which Rabbi Mykoff conducted on both the first night and second night of Passover. Poile Zedek members and others who attend our *Sedarim* appreciate the *heimish* and informal atmosphere in which Rabbi Mykoff conducts the *Seder* and explains the significance of its different aspects; each *Seder* is an informative, meaningful, and enjoyable experience.

Shavuos, the holiday of "The Giving of Our Torah", begins on the 6th of Sivan, Thursday evening, May 28. As is customary, Poile Zedek will celebrate by hosting a Torah Study Vigil on Thursday night, following evening services and a wonderful holiday meal. Poile Zedek will also sponsor a Torah Study Program on Friday, May 29, following morning services and a holiday luncheon. Please join us—there is no charge and this is a wonderful time to recommit to Torah learning.



**POILE ZEDEK CEMETERY —
Affordable Interment Options
for you and your family.**

The Poile Zedek Cemetery has a number of plots still available. Reserving a plot in advance gives you and your family peace of mind and insures that family members will be buried next to each other. The fee for reserving/buying a plot in our cemetery is extremely reasonable.

To reserve plots for your family or for more information please call Kevin Leff (201) 310-4802 of the Poile Zedek Cemetery Association or the synagogue at (732) 545-6123, email admin@poilezedek.org.

Good & Welfare

Mazel Tov

To the following upon their celebrations:

Births

- Mrs. Sima Milgraum on the birth of a granddaughter to her children Koby & Rivky Milgraum.
- Rabbi Dr. Bernhard and Charlene Rosenberg upon the birth of a granddaughter to their children Ayelet & Ari Feder.
- Michael & Judi Seidemann on the birth of a great-grandson, Uri Shraga, to their children Yosef & Faigie Ettlinger.

Engagements

- Rabbi Eliyahu & Debby Kaufman on the engagement of their daughter Esti to Yossi Nath ,
- Rabbi Eliyahu & Debby Kaufman on the engagement of their daughter Yehudis to Yaakov Merling.
- Michael & Judi Seidemann on the engagement of their granddaughter, Elisheva Ettlinger, to Eliyahu Goldwasser.

Marriage

- Steve & Ann Salit on the marriage of their son Jerry to Deborah Weinstein. Mazel Tov to Jerry's grandmother, Edythe Salit.

Bar Mitzvah

- Rabbi & Mrs. Abraham Mykoff on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson Donny and to the proud parents Rabbi & Mrs. Jonathan Peysner.
- Rabbi & Mrs. Sharir Yablonsky on the Bar Mitzvah of their son Yehuda.

Refuah Shelaima

A speedy and complete recovery to the following:

- Bea Einstein, Pearl Friedkin, Mike Gross, Eugenia Kreydin, Yehudit Mitchell, Mark Morrison, Yaakov Novichenok, Albert Sandler, Baruch & Wade Savitt, Boris Shualov, Irving Smith, Phyllis Smith, Helen S. Solomon, and Libby Sonz.

Condolences

- Akiva Bosowitch and family on the death of his mother, Mrs. Molly Bosowitch.
- Sara-Ann Goldman, Alan Goldman, and Bernice Weinblatt and family on the death of their mother, and sister, Miriam Goldman.
- Bella Gutnik and family on the death of her father, Michael Vilensky.

"May the Almighty comfort you among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem."

Yahrzeits

Sivan 5769 – May/June 2009

1 Sivan—May 24

Mark Morrison Aunt Rose

2 Sivan—May 25

Irene Bank..... husband, Gilbert

6 Sivan—May 29

Lillian Glasser mother

Joan Israel uncle, Hyman Rosen

Bobbi Rubin uncle, Arthur Buchbinder

Harry Schick uncle, Arthur Buchbinder

Irving Smith.....mother, Annie Goldie Smith

10 Sivan—June 2

Ida Hodos husband

13 Sivan—June 5

Rabbi Dr. Bernhard Rosenberg.....father, Jacob

Helen Solowey.....grandfather, Harry Siegel

14 Sivan—June 6

George Schrierfather

15 Sivan—June 7

Joan Israel uncle, Leo Pfeffer

18 Sivan—June 10

Judith Evans father, Lionel J. Coen

Mark Morrison grandmother, Musa

19 Sivan—June 11

Bernard Israel grandmother, Fannie Israel

20 Sivan—June 12

Joan Israel Uncle Isie Pfeffer

21 Sivan—June 13

Ron Greenberg..... father, Stanley Greenberg

22 Sivan—June 14

Helen Solowey..... mother, Sarah Siegel

23 Sivan—June 15

Elliot Bienenstock..... Hy Weintraub

Bernard Israel uncle, Samuel Israel

Sara Parsowith..... father, Herman Parsowith

24 Sivan—June 16

Robert Speis.....grandmother, Lena Grossman

Robert Speis..... aunt, Etta Grossman

25 Sivan—June 17

Joan Israel uncle, Max Ribowsky

27 Sivan—June 19

Beatrice Einstein brother, Jack

29 Sivan—June 21

Hannah Idesis.....mother, Berta Milman

Tamuz 5769 – June/July 2009

2 Tamuz – June 24

Ruth Gordonson

3 Tamuz – June 25

Golda Bosowitchhusband, Shimon Pearlman

6 Tamuz – June 28

Corrine Natelson father

12 Tamuz – July 4

Lola Kamp..... brother

Danny Ravitz..... father

15 Tamuz – July 7

Sophia Mezhibovsky father, Israel Kleyner

16 Tamuz – July 8

Barbara Bruskin father, Samuel Shakin

Robert Speis aunt, Eva Grossman

19 Tamuz - July 11

Ethel Meyers father

22 Tamuz - July 14

Michael Harrison mother

23 Tamuz - July 15

Pamela Kammer mother, Amy J. Bell

Klara Rublyovafather, Mordechai Davelman

24 Tamuz - July 16

Marie Herman son, Marc Rosenberg

Ruth Weinfeld brother, Marc Rosenberg

25 Tamuz - July 17

Reuben Morginstin..... father, Joseph Morginstin

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**A SIMCHA YOU CAN AFFORD
IN Congregation Poile Zedek's
HISTORIC LANDMARK SYNAGOGUE**

Our magnificent sanctuary
and party room
are available for your simcha
at a remarkably affordable price.



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New Brunswick, NJ, we are just a few short
blocks from New Jersey Transit, major
highways, and the New Brunswick Hyatt.

DON'T GO ANYWHERE ELSE BEFORE CALLING US!
(732) 545-6123

In the Orthodox tradition.
www.poilezedek.org

הזכרת נשמות Yizkor Remembrance



On the second day of Shavuot it is customary to recite the Yizkor prayers in which we beseech Hashem to remember the *neshamot* (souls) of our departed loved ones and to bound their souls in the bonds of life in the Garden of Eden. We also pledge charity in their memory, for the benefit of their *neshamot*.

To make a contribution in the memory of your loved one(s), please fill out the form below with your check and return to Cong. Poile Zedek, P.O. Box 166, New Brunswick, NJ 08903. Alternatively, a donation may be made through our website at www.poilezedek.org.



Congregation Poile Zedek

145 Neilson St., P.O. Box 166, New Brunswick, NJ 08903
732-545-6123

Yizkor—Shavuot 5769

Name _____

Address _____

Tel. _____ Email: _____

I would like to make a Shavuot Yizkor donation.

Enclosed is my check for (please circle one):

\$18 \$36 \$54 \$72 \$100 \$180 Other _\$ _____

I would like to dedicate to the Joan Schick Memorial Library a

Siddur ____ @ \$30 each

Total Siddurim \$ _____

Chumash ____ @ \$50 each

Total Chumashim \$ _____

Grand Total \$ _____

In memory of

Name _____ Relationship _____

Name _____ Relationship _____

Name _____ Relationship _____

Name _____ Relationship _____

Congregation Poile Zedek

145 Neilson Street, P.O. Box 166, New Brunswick, NJ 08903

www.poilezedek.org ♦ admin@poilezedek.org

Membership Application

Applicant Information

Name: (Rabbi, Dr., Mr., Mrs., Ms.) _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Hebrew Name: _____ Father's Hebrew Name: _____
Kohen _____ Levi _____ Yisrael _____
Mother's Hebrew Name: _____ Maternal Grandmother's Hebrew Name: _____
Employer: _____ Position: _____
Home #: _____ Office #: _____ Ext.: _____ Cell phone #: _____
E-mail Address _____ Birth Date: Hebrew _____ Secular _____

Spouse Information

Name: (Rabbi, Dr., Mr., Mrs., Ms.) _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Hebrew Name: _____ Father's Hebrew Name: _____
Kohen _____ Levi _____ Yisrael _____
Mother's Hebrew Name: _____ Maternal Grandmother's Hebrew Name: _____
Employer: _____ Position: _____
Home #: _____ Office #: _____ Ext.: _____ Cell phone #: _____
E-mail Address _____ Birth Date: Hebrew _____ Secular _____

Previous/Other Affiliation: _____ Denomination: _____

Children (use married names where applicable)

Name	Hebrew Date	Eng. Date	School
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Yahrzeit Dates

Kaddish is said for a parent, spouse, sibling, or child on the anniversary of his/her death. Please provide information on anyone whose Yahrzeit you observe, so that we may send you a reminder.

Name	Hebrew Date	Eng. Date	Relationship:
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

I hereby apply for membership and agree to pay the annual dues of \$_____.*

If my membership application to Congregation Poile Zedek is accepted, I agree to follow Congregation's constitution and by-laws.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Spouse: _____ Date: _____

*** Note:** Annual membership is \$150. First year membership for applicants from June to September is \$75. First year membership for applicants from October 1st – end of year is _____ waived with payment of \$150 credited to following year dues. High Holiday Seats are \$75.



Commemorate the
Giving of the Torah
on Mt. Sinai



Shavuot Holiday Dinner
& Torah Vigil Study Program

Thursday evening, May 28, following 8:00 P.M. services.

Shavuot Holiday Luncheon
& Torah Study Program

Friday, May 29, the first day of Shavuot,
following morning services.

Bring your friends & family.

☆☆ **Free to the community.** ☆☆

Holiday Services:

Friday & Shabbat, May 29 & 30 — 9:00 AM

Yizkor: Shabbat, May 30 — after 10:00 AM

Congregation Poile Zedek

145 Neilson Street, New Brunswick, NJ

732-545-6123

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