



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

June/July 2008

Sivan/Tamuz 5768

“The Time Of The Giving Of Our Torah”



“זמן מתן תורתנו”

THE RABBI'S MESSAGE

This Sunday night, June 8th, the holiday of Shavuot will commence. It is a two day celebration observed Monday and Tuesday, June 9th and 10th. 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

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THE President's MESSAGE

One of the frequent activities which makes our synagogue unique among area congregations is our sponsoring of holiday meals - without cost to attendees - thus ensuring that all who wish can experience and enjoy the Jewish holidays. This Passover we had over 100 people in attendance at our Community *Sedarim* which Rabbi Mykoff conducted on both the first night and second nights 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.

Shavuot, the holiday of "The Giving of Our Torah", begins on the 6th of Sivan, Sunday evening, June 8. As is customary, Poile Zedek will celebrate by hosting a Torah Study Vigil on Sunday night, following evening services and a wonderful holiday meal. Poile Zedek will also sponsor a Torah Study Program on Monday, June 9, 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.

Our recent membership meeting, on May 25th, saw a number of new faces. Sincere thanks to all who participated.

Congratulations to all our officers who were elected or re-elected to the shul's board:

President - Danny Ravitz
Eric Kammer—Vice President
Hy Appelbaum—Treasurer
Ira Gang—Recording Secretary
Caryn Lipson—Financial Secretary
Continuing Trustees: -
Bob Berkowitz

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Shavuot Schedule

SUNDAY, JUNE 8 — EREV SHAVUOT

Shacharit: 8:00 A.M.
 Candle lighting: 8:08 P.M.
 Mincha & Maariv: 8:15 P.M.
 followed by a holiday Seudah (dinner) & Torah Vigil Study Program.

MONDAY, JUNE 9 — 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 9:20 P.M.

TUESDAY, JUNE 10 — 2ND DAY OF SHAVUOT

Shacharit: 9:00 A.M.
 Book of Ruth: 9:45 A.M.
 Yizkor: after 10:00 A.M.
 Yom Tov ends: 9:20 P.M.

FRIDAY, JUNE 13 - EREV SHABBAT B'HA'ALOTCHA

Shacharit: 7:15 A.M.
 Candle lighting & Mincha: 8:11 P.M.

SHABBAT, JUNE 14—PARSHAT B'HA'ALOTCHA

Shacharit: 9:00 A.M.
 Mincha followed by Seudah Shlishit in honor of Bar Mitavah Joshua Gonzales, son of Gary & Elise Gonzales: 7:00 P.M.
 Maariv & Shabbat ends: 9:22 P.M.

WEEKLY CLASSES & SHIURIM

Millionaire Club — Lunch & Torah study with Rabbi Mykoff
 Tues. & Thurs. 12:00 - 1:30 P.M.



Partners in Torah — Study with your own private rabbi from Lakewood. Refreshments & *Ma'ariv* following. Weds. - 8:10 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

*** Save the Date ***

Congregation Poile Zedek & Congregation Etz Ahaim will be holding a

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sunday, June 29th, 11:00 am
 at the

POILE ZEDEK CEMETERY

(Joyce Kilmer Ave. bet. Reed and Elizabeth Streets, New Brunswick)



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 June 9, 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.

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 .

Akdmut 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:

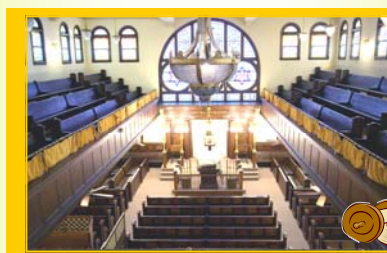
*"Were the skies parchment, were all the reeds quills,
Were the seas and all waters made of ink,
Were all the world's inhabitants made scribes."
We could not begin to describe the glory of Hashem.*

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.



MAKING A SIMCHA? WE MAKE IT AFFORDABLE!

The magnificent sanctuary and party room of
Congregation Poile Zedek
are available for your simcha
at a remarkably affordable price.



Centrally located at 145 Neilson Street,
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

(President's message continued from page 1)

Morris Gorlin
Ron Greenberg
Marvin Marantz
New Trustees:
Mark Morrison
Chaim Solomon.

We would like to express our sincere appreciation for their dedication to the synagogue. May they go from strength to strength. Mark and Chaim are replacing Sara-Ann Goldman whom we thank for her many years of dedicated service to Poile Zedek and Seymour Kamp, ל"ת, a life long member who will be missed by all.

Bruchim Habaim (welcome) to the following new members:

Dan Black, Chaim Blokh, Yaakov Burr, William Feldman, Reuben Morginstin, Sarah Parsowith, Edith Schwartz, Janet Shopowich, Joshua Shorr, and Chaim Solomon.

As you know, the congregation maintains the New Brunswick eruv on a weekly basis. We have been fortunate to have students from Rutgers Hillel partnering with us in this endeavor, with Rabbi Mykoff overseeing the process. For this past year Poile Zedek weekly checkers and repair workers have been Moshe Kreydin, Avie Brungard, and Robert Levinson who have been working with Covey Shnipper as co-ordinator, Shlomo Aronoff, Gabe Homa, Hod Klein, Michael Schaier, Michael Schechter, and Elon Weintraub under the direction of Rabbi Porath of Rutgers Hillel. We owe them a debt of gratitude for their conscientious work. We are sorry to say goodbye to Covey who is graduating from Rutgers and wish him much hatzlacha in the future. Gabe Homa will be taking Covey's place as co-ordinator.

Please note that on Sunday morning, June 29, at 11:00 a.m., we will be having a Memorial Service in conjunction with Cong. Etz Ahaim at the Poile Zedek Cemetery on Joyce Kilmer Ave. bet. Reed and Elizabeth Streets, New Brunswick. The entire community is invited to attend.



(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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Good & Welfare Mazel Tov

To the following upon their celebrations:

Births

- Dr. & Mrs. Barry Herman on the birth of a son to their children, Tzvi & Orit.
- Rabbi Yaakov and Faigie Luban on the birth of a son, to their children, Yosef Dov and Devori.
- Danny & Miriam Ravitz on the birth of a son to their children Shmueli & Devorah Ravitz.
- Israel and Rebecca Rivkin on the birth of a daughter to their children Shira and Sammie Markowitz.
- Michael & Judi Seidemann upon the birth of a son to their children Shmuel & Sima Zinnes in Baltimore.

Engagements

- Gary & Bonnie Schechter on the engagement of their daughter Allison to Jonathan Mell of Teaneck.
- Michael & Judi Seidemann on the engagement of their granddaughter Ayelet Seidemann to Yosef Konick of Silver Spring, MD.
- Rabbi Eliyahu & Debby Kaufman on the engagement of their daughter Yehudis to Shimon Abrams of Oak Park, Mich.
- Gedaliah & Phyllis Reiss on the engagement of their son Donny Hochberg to Dena Goldfinger of Queens.

Marriage

- Marty & Elisha Klein on the forthcoming marriage of their son Michael to Erin Kaplan.
- Leon & Susan Haller on the marriage of their son Eli to Kimmy Tau.

Bat Mitzvah

- Bruce & Carla Herniter on the Bat Mitzvah of their daughter Moriah Shanni.

Refuah Shelaima

A speedy and complete recovery to the following:

Shraga Davis, Bea Einstein, Pearl Friedkin, Miriam Goldman, Mike Gross, Yehudit Mitchell, Baruch Savitt, Helen S. Solomon, Sima Svirskiy, and Meyer Voldman

Condolences

Mycya Babich and family on the loss of her beloved husband, Leonid.

Acy Gjoldshteyn and family on the loss of her beloved brother, Leonid Babich.

Halina Shegoski and family on the loss of her beloved husband, Ted.

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

Yahrzeits

Sivan 5768 - June 2008

1 Sivan—June 4

Mark Morrison Aunt Rose

2 Sivan—June 5

Irene Bank husband, Gilbert

6 Sivan—June 9

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 13

Ida Hodos husband

13 Sivan—June 16

Rabbi Dr. Bernhard Rosenberg father, Jacob

Helen Solowey grandfather, Harry Siegel

14 Sivan—June 17

George Schrier father

15 Sivan—June 18

Joan Israel uncle, Leo Pfeffer

18 Sivan—June 21

Judith Evans father, Lionel J. Coen

Mark Morrison grandmother, Musa

19 Sivan—June 22

Bernard Israel grandmother, Fannie Israel

20 Sivan—June 23

Joan Israel Uncle Isie Pfeffer

21 Sivan—June 24

Ron Greenberg father, Stanley Greenberg

22 Sivan—June 25

Helen Solowey mother, Sarah Siegel

23 Sivan—June 26

Elliot Bienenstock Hy Weintraub

Bernard Israel uncle, Samuel Israel

Sara Parsowith father, Herman Parsowith

24 Sivan—June 27

Robert Speis grandmother, Lena Grossman

Robert Speis aunt, Etta Grossman

25 Sivan—June 28

Joan Israel uncle, Max Ribowsky

27 Sivan—June 30

Beatrice Einstein brother, Jack

29 Sivan—July 2

Hannah Idesis mother, Berta Milman

Tamuz 5768 – July 2008

2 Tamuz – July 5

Ruth Gordon son

3 Tamuz – July 6

Golda Bosowitch husband, Shimon Pearlman

6 Tamuz – July 9

Corrine Natelson father

12 Tamuz – July 15

Lola Kamp brother

Danny Ravitz father

15 Tamuz – July 18

Sophia Mezhibovsky father, Israel Kleyner

16 Tamuz – July 19

Barbara Bruskin father, Samuel Shakin

Sylvia Margolis husband

Robert Speis aunt, Eva Grossman

19 Tamuz - July 22

Ethel Meyers father

22 Tamuz - July 25

Michael Harrison mother

Reuben Morginstin father, Joseph Morginstin

23 Tamuz - July 26

Pamela Kammer mother, Amy J. Bell

Klara Rublyova father, Mordechai Davelman

24 Tamuz - July 27

Marie Herman son, Marc Rosenberg

Ruth Weinfeld brother, Marc Rosenberg

We Need Your Help!

As part of the Poile Zedek Cemetery restoration, we will be replacing several broken stones. Unfortunately, we have no family contacts for the following monuments: Nathan Kastelansky – died 1947, Sol Schwartz – died 1943, Samuel Sofin – died 1930, Benjamin Kornbluth – died 1940, Eva Turetzky – died 1908, Gershon Munitz – died 1918 and Leon Bogner—died 1901.

If you know how we can contact relatives of the deceased or would like to “adopt” a monument and contribute toward it’s repair, please contact Kevin Leff of the PZ Cemetery Association at (201-310-4802) or Caryn Lipson at the synagogue (732-545-6123).

Congregation Poile Zedek represented at NORPAC's Mission to Washington

On Wednesday, May 21, 2008, NORPAC, a non-partisan political action committee, sponsored their 2008 "Mission to Washington" to strengthen ties between the United States and Israel. The delegation was addressed by congressmen and senators.

Congregation Poile Zedek was represented by Rabbi Mykoff and Mark Morrison who were among the 900 Jews (200 more than the 2007 mission) from New Jersey and the Metropolitan New York area attending this mission.

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

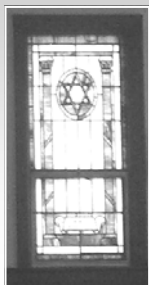
The Poile Zedek Cemetery has a number of plots still available. Reserving a plot in advance gives you and your family peace of mind and insures that family members will be buried next to each other. The fee for reserving/buying a plot in our cemetery is extremely reasonable.

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.

A Loving Tribute

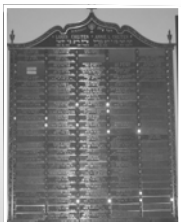
Memorial Windows

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.

Your Contributions Count!

Your contributions to Poile Zedek help support the operation of the shul and enable Poile Zedek to provide vital services to our community. In addition to your contributions directly to Poile Zedek, we have five funds for communal support.

The Rebbetzin Fanny Mykoff Torah Fund

Established in the memory of Rabbi Abraham Mykoff's mother, of blessed memory, the Torah fund furthers Torah observance by assisting individuals to meet their social and religious needs.

The Joan Schick Educational Fund

The fund supports Torah education on both a community and individual basis. This fund includes the Joan Schick Memorial Library. It is in memory of a true woman of valor who devoted herself tirelessly to the synagogue.

The William Weber Matzah Fund

The William Weber Matzah fund was established by William Weber, of blessed memory, a veteran member of the congregation. The Matzah fund provides Passover food for the needy and sponsors our annual Community Seder.

Project Chesed Free Loan Fund

The Project Chesed Free Loan Fund was established by Mr. & Mrs. Zalman and Miriam Widofsky, in memory of their parents. This fund provides small, short term, interest free loans to individuals. To make a donation or inquire about a free loan, please call the synagogue (732) 545-6123.

The Ellen Schick Gemilat Chesed fund

This fund was established in order to allow people to continue to benefit from Ellen's warmth and compassion for many, many years to come. This fund provides moderate loans to individuals. Donation checks should be made out to: Ellen Schick Gemilat Chesed Fund, c/o: Barry and Diane Mael, 423 Benner Street, Highland Park, NJ 08904. For more information please call (732) 819-3512.

SHAVUOT PROGRAMS

- Holiday Dinner & Torah Vigil Study Program
- Sunday, June 8, following 8:15 P.M. services.
- Holiday Luncheon & Torah Study Program
- Monday, June 9, following 9:00 A.M. services.

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.