May 2015
Vol. 7 No. 9

Buai Torah

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A BREATH, BREEZE, AND SPIRIT OF THE TIMES



Shavuot:

Join us for study,

Join us for brunch,

Together we will celebrate Torah.

B'NAI MITZVAH



May 2 Madison Lapiana

Holly Sher

My name is Maddy Lapiana and I attend Howitt Middle School. I competitively play lacrosse, basketball and soccer. My mitzvah project is called, "Art from the Heart". My cousin and I collected art supplies and donated them to Cohen Children's Hospital. I have really enjoyed studying with Cantor Sher because he has given me the tools I need to help me get to my bat mitzvah day.

May 9 Alex Holden

Christopher & Jennifer

My name is Alex Holden and I am a seventh grade honor student at Berner Middle School. I have interests ranging from fishing, soccer, baseball, skiing, bowling and swimming. Last summer my grandma was diagnosed with breast cancer and I wanted to help, so for my mitzvah project I organized a team for the 'Making Strides Walk-a-Thon' at Jones Beach. It felt great knowing I raised money to help the fight against breast cancer. I would like to thank Mrs. Altman, Rabbi Bellow, Cantor Sher, and my family for helping me prepare for this special day.

May 16 Kayla Nietsch

Brian &Julie

My name is Kayla Nietsch and I am a seventh grader at Seaford Middle School. I enjoying being on the cheerleading squad and dancing on my competition team. I am active in Girl Scouts and currently working on my silver award. For my bat mitzvah project, I promoted awareness for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in memory of my grandparents. An article was written in the East Meadow Herald and I raised donations towards our team's goal. A big thank you to my parents, my sister Nicole, Rabbi Bellows, Cantor Sher and Mrs. Altman for preparing me for this special day.

May 16 Michael Silverman

Jeffrey & Colleen

My name is Michael Silverman. I am a seventh grade student at Wantagh Middle School. I enjoy running and I participate on the school cross country and track teams. I also enjoy Boy Scouting. For my project, I combined my love for running and scouting and volunteered for the Rolling Thunder Special Needs Running Program, a program that teaches children with special needs the sport of running. I also volunteered at various running races to help raise awareness and donations. I would like to thank Rabbi Bellows, Cantor Sher and my family for preparing me for this special day.

May 23 Andrew Almont

Daniel & Cori

My name is Andrew Almont and I attend Grand Avenue Middle School where I am a seventh grade honor student. I like playing soccer, hanging out with my friends, and building/designing different things. I love animals and volunteer at the Last Hope Animal Shelter. I'd like to thank Rabbi Bellows, Mrs. Altman, and my family for helping me get ready for my bar mitzvah.

May 30 Evelyn Yousha

Eric & La Donna

My name is Evelyn Yousha. I am a seventh grade honor student at Jonas E. Salk Middle School. I like to read, hang out with my friends, and be a Girl Scout. I have a dog named Columbo and love animals. For my bat mitzvah project, I am making therapy socks for sick animals. My favorite subject is English. My favorite vacation destination is Disney World. I would like to thank Rabbi Bellows, Mrs. Altman and Mr. Kramer for all their help and support.

May 30 Jonathan Goldsmith

Michael Goldsmith and Cathy Lewis

My name is Jonathan Goldsmith. I am a seventh grade honor student at Grand Avenue Middle School. I like basketball, football, video games, chicken nuggets and ketchup. For my mitzvah project, I plan to do "Extreme Couponing" in order to make a food donation to Island Harvest. I am the youngest of my brothers, and the third generation of my family to become a bar mitzvah at our temple. I would like to thank Mom, Dad, my Stepmom, Rabbi Bellows, Cantor Sher, and Emily Altman for helping me to prepare for my big day!



MAY RITUAL CALENDAR

Friday, May 1	6:00 pm	Pre-Neg
Friday, May 1	6:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat Family/Graduation/K-2
Saturday, May 2	10:30 am	Shabbat Service – 1 BM
Friday, May 8	5:30 pm	Tot Shabbat Service
Friday, May 8	8:00 pm	Shabbat Service
Saturday, May 9	10:30 am	Shabbat Service – 2 BM
Friday, May 15	6:00 pm	Pre-Neg
Friday, May 15	6:30 pm	Kabbalat Shabbat
Saturday, May 16	10:30 am	Shabbat Service – 2 BM
Friday, May 22	7:30 pm	Shabbat/Confirmation Service
Saturday, May 23	10:30 am	Shabbat Service – 1 BM
Saturday, May 23	7:30 pm	Tikkun Layl Shavuot/Study & Service
		Service Includes Yizkor
Sunday, May 24	10:30 am	Shavuot Morning Holiday Service
		Service Includes Yizkor
Friday, May 29	8:00 pm	Shabbat Service
Saturday, May 30	10:30 am	Shabbat Service – 2 BM
Friday, June 5	7:30 pm	Family Service
Saturday, June 6	10:30 am	Shabbat Service – 2 BM



RITUAL WRITINGS -- SHAVUOT

The Torah was given by G-d to the Jewish people on Mount Sinai more than 3,300 years ago. Every year on Shavuot we renew our acceptance of G-d's gift.

The word Shavuot means "weeks". It marks the completion of the seven week counting period between Passover and Shavuot. It also means oaths. On this day G-d swore eternal devotion to us, and we in turn pledged everlasting loyalty to G-d.

One popular custom is eating dairy foods on Shavuot. The Revelation at Sinai (when the Torah was given to the Jews) occurs directly after their Exodus from slavery. This journey is described as "from the misery of Egypt to a country flowing with milk and honey..." (Exodus 3:8-17). Thus, eating dairy on Shavuot commemorates the sweetness of freedom. The dairy meal has also been compared to the celebration of the nourishing quality of the Torah.

JOIN US FOR SHAVUOT

SATURDAY MAY 23rd @ 7:30pm: STUDY SESSION SERVICE/YIZKOR HOLIDAY DESSERTS

> SUNDAY MAY 24th -- @ 10:30am: SHAVUOT MORNING SERVICE/YIZKOR

> > Janee

INSPIRATION FROM OUR RABBI

Lifecycle Learning: Jewish Views of the Afterlife



Shalom, Chaverim,

We've spent the year looking at various stages of the Jewish lifecycle. But, there might be a question that remains for you: what happens *after* life? All too often, we mis-educate our children and adults when we tell them, "There is no hell in Judaism," or "There are no angels," or, "We don't really believe

in an afterlife." None of these could be further from the truth. Rabbi Roland B. Gittelsohn pondered why we are so interested in understanding death. He gave five suggestions:

- 1. Fear of death. We know the difference between sleeping and death. We are afraid that the latter will carry us off forever.
- Our deep sorrow when people dear to us pass away.
 We yearn to know what happened to our deceased loved ones. We care for them in death, as we did in life.
- 3. Our deep love for life. This makes us wonder not only what happens in life but in death as well.
- 4. Our desire to remain creative. We seek to know whether or not our death terminates our achievements.
- Our conviction that righteousness must prevail over injustice, that the thrust of moral evolution will continue.

In Biblical times, two primary ideas tried to address these issues. Our ancestors during those times proclaimed that God is life-affirming and the source of all goodness. There are few speculations about life after death in the *Tanach*. The ultimate purpose is to "sanctify" life here on earth. We learn that inquiries of the dead are an abomination (Deut. 18:11) and that God does not want sacrifices offered to the dead (Deut. 26:14).

Additionally, we learn from our biblical texts that death does not represent total annihilation of the individual, but a transition to a new kind of life, where people meet their own ancestors, continuing to live a shadowy kind of existence. Death is final. We see this in the repetitive use of the phrase that implies that one goes to one's fathers (Genesis 15:15), or is gathered unto one's kin (Genesis 25:8, 17).

The Bible also references a place called, "Sheol," or "The Pit." It seems to be a place where the dead dwell, and it is always understood as being underground. We also read about resurrection (the "dry bones" of Ezekiel), but it is unclear if the stories are meant to be metaphorical or literal.

Readers of the Bible will be most perplexed by the numerous references to ghosts. "Let no one be found among you who casts spells or consults ghosts or familiar spirits or inquiries of the dead." (Deuteronomy 18:10-11) We also learn that King Menasseh of Judah "practiced soothsaying, divination, and sorcery, and consulted ghosts and familiar spirits." (II Chronicles 33:6) Then there's the crazy story of the Witch of En-dor, who is able to bring the prophet, Samuel, back from the grave in I Samuel 28:

And the woman said to Saul: "I see a divine being coming up from the earth." "What does he look like?" he asked her. "It is an old man coming up," she said, "and he is wrapped up in a robe." Then Saul knew that it was Samuel; and he bowed low in homage with his face to the ground. Samuel said to Saul, "Why have you disturbed me and brought me up?" And Saul answered, "I am in great trouble." — I Samuel 28:13-15

The rabbinic era brought many more ideas of afterlife into Jewish thought. The rabbis believed that those who were righteous were sent to Gan Eden, the Garden of Eden, after they died. However, those who were evil were sent to Gehenna, our equivalent of hell. The rabbis would argue over how GOOD or how BAD one had to be to merit each location. Some were so afraid of the idea of Gehenna that they taught that souls would be sent there merely temporarily to be punished, but then all souls would eventually wind up in Gan Eden.

For those who believe in reincarnation (present in Judaism since the Middle Ages), there are many who teach that souls have an independent life, existing before and after the death of the body. The soul joins the body at an appropriate time, stays with it for a specified period, then takes leave of the body about the time of death, ready to assume its next "assignment" in the physical world. The souls of human beings help determine the destination of their reincarnation.

The mystics taught about three types of reincarnation:

- 1) Gilgul: Takes place during pregnancy
- 2) Ibbur: Takes place when an "old" soul enters the body of another individual at any time during its lifetime. The soul dwells in the new body for a limited period of time and performs certain acts or commandments.
- 3) Dybbuk: An evil, invading soul that enters a person, causing mental illness and temporarily manifesting itself as a foreign personality. It must be exorcised.

(continued on page 5)

INSPIRATION FROM OUR CANTOR



and concentrated read.

While making a regular visit to the home of Carl Getzel, one of our long time active members, he shared with me what, to him, is a most important aspect of his legacy, his war-time autobiography. So, on a recent vacation trip, when I had a bit of spare time, what started, honestly, as a brief perusal, became a deeply engrossing

Carl, who turns ninety this month, is a highly decorated veteran of World War II. He received, among many others, the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, the French Foragerre and the European/African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal. I began to understand his current urgency to

have this brief, but substantive and compelling story made available to those to whom he dedicated it: "My children: Marlene, Jeffrey and Gail; my grandchildren: Lori, Stacey, Melissa, Michael and Kari; My great grandchildren: Jason, Emily, Micki and Alan."

My rabbinic "muse," Rabbi David Wolpe, recently wrote that, "Jews venerate memory. So important is memory to Jews that one characterization of God in our prayers is 'Zochair kol Hanishkachot'—the one who remembers everything forgotten." Rabbi Wolpe goes on to declare, "To be a Jew is less to commit to a set of beliefs than to a network of recollection."

Carl's recollections, now written down for all to read, are a marvelous and exemplary supportive statement for what Rabbi Wolpe teaches. Carl is not a traditionally identifying Jew. Yet, within his writings, he comments on the great and painful challenges he experienced with the virulent anti-Semitism of his army days, instilling in him a greater desire to survive, not only as a soldier, but also as a Jew.

From his writings it is apparent that survival was not only a basic desire, but the avatar of all his strength and striving during those times. To barely escape death so many times, to witness and be surrounded by constant carnage, violence and lethal enemies, to have been forced to kill or be killed, has been the Jewish as well as the secular experience of war time.

Carl begins his story, "Recently, while discussing my Army service during World War II with my grandson Michael, I made a promise that I would put down on paper that period of time in which I served my country....I have dedicated this document to my wife, my children, my grandchildren, my great grandchildren, their spouses, and all others that may come after I am gone, so that they may perhaps know me better and why I was the person that I became."

How many of us have considered setting down the stories of our lives, whether or not they are dramatically stirring and moving or mundane and predictable? How important is it that those who follow us know our stories, thoughts, desires, life experiences and values?

Rabbi Wolpe concludes his article by stating, "So, if you have an aged parent or grandparent, ask them about their lives. If you are getting older, gather your family around and tell them your tale. Add to our memories so we can better know who we are. Tell the story-it's the Jewish thing to do!"

Cantor Steve Sher

(continued from page 4)

Finally, many modern thinkers teach that we live on through our deeds of righteousness, as well as through our biological *immortality* (*children*).

So, where do you find yourself? What do you believe? Rest assured, you can find your idea within Jewish tradition and thought. The views of the afterlife are much more complex than most Jewish understand. If you would like to learn more, let me know, and I'd be honored to recommend further reading and materials for you.

L'shalom, Rabbi Marci N. Bellows

FAMILY SERVICES SAVE THESE DATES

May 1st, 2015 6:30pm (note early time)

Kg -2 SHABBAT

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

APRIL and MAY BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS FOR ALL AGES

June 5th, 2015 7:30 PM
BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS FOR ALL AGES



CHAILIGHTS



As each month ends, I can't believe how much we experience as part of Chai Club. Last month we completed the four week series of Adventures-in-Music led by Cantor Sher. We have had the opportunity to experience artists we never would have heard or learned from. Thank you to Tessa, Shelley, Janis and Barbara for helping with the lunches

that followed. The Family Seder that Chai Club arranges for our temple under the direction of Brian, Joan, Ed and Marilyn was enjoyed by almost eighty people. Our general meeting featured our member and wonderful speaker, Martha Kolodkin. We always learn so much from her. Even the Passover collation was delicious. Thank you Jan, Vicki and Beverly.

We have mailed to our Chai Club members our list of our incoming board members for next year. Congratulations and thank you so much for volunteering to plan, lead and arrange for all Chai Club events.

Vice Presidents - Ben Cernese, Sarita Keyser and Esther Philips

Recording Secretary - Allan Itzkowitz Corresponding Secretary - Pearl Sutz Financial Secretary - Harvey Drucker Treasurer - Ed Pincus

Past co-Presidents - Joan and Brian Levy Past President - Shelley Lomove

Trustees - Janis Beldner, Harriet Bernstein, Vicki Deutsch, Dorothy Duckstein, Beverly Frank, Sol Goldstein, Barbara Gouveia, Barbara Held, Tessa Kean, Martha Kolodkin, Judy Kule, Barry Lomove, and Artie Schlesinger. Welcome new members Judy and Martha.

This month our temple will honor our Chai Club Recording Secretary and Past President Allan Itzkowitz at the Israeli Bond Breakfast on Sunday, May 3rd. We all look forward to honoring our special member.

Our General Meeting will feature a well-known speaker on the Civil War on Monday night, May 4th. Let's support together the temple fundraiser featuring "Elvis" on Saturday, May 16th, Wandering Jew Program with Cantor Sher, and Triple Bingo on Sunday, May 17th, Mark your Calendar and make your reservation for an exciting Chai Club end-of-year program, Monday, June 1st, with the Banjo Rascals, a fun dinner, celebration of our flag, and don't forget to wear red, white and blue.

Have a good month, Call for any questions.

Rita Hofer, President (next year also)

BROTHERHOOD SPEAKS





April has flown by and May has arrived and is moving quickly. We hope everyone enjoyed the highly successful Men's Passover Seder ably run by brother Marc Herbert as well as the Brotherhood Shabbat organized by Brother Mark Chester with assistance from brother Dave Schuster. The fabulous Brotherhood Breakfasts continued to be well attended.

We look forward to everyone attending the second annual Brotherhood and PTA sponsored picnic scheduled for May 17th (the last day of Sunday religious school), and the upcoming Tuesday, May 12th Brotherhood Dinner (menu to be determined). As the Brotherhood year is winding down Harvey and I would like to thank the

Breakfast Crew, the Dinner Chefs and our entire Executive Committee and Board for a successful year. Mazel Tov to Mark and Laurie Chester on the birth of their granddaughter and get well wishes to Brother Sol Goldstein.

Thanks again in Brotherhood Bruce Jaffe and Harvey Wiener

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RELIGIOUS SCHOOL



On Friday, May 22nd, we will celebrate the festival of Shavuot. For Reform Jews, this date coincides with the celebration of our confirmands -- our students who have chosen to continue their Jewish education beyond B'nai Mitzvah. But for many of us, these questions may arise: What exactly does the festival of Shavuot celebrate? What

are the origins of this holiday?

Traditionally on Shavuot we read the Scroll of Ruth. For many, Ruth is simply the story of the rare occurrence of the biblical heroine, the righteous convert. But what binds this text to Shavuot?

Chapter 23 of Leviticus sheds light on the biblical celebration of Shavuot. We began counting the Omer on Pesach and Shavuot marks the culmination of our harvest celebration. Biblically, Shavuot was a time to rejoice, make sacrifices to God and reap the benefits of the harvest. It was a time of celebration, of renewal and thanksgiving.

How does the Biblical description of Shavuot relate to the Scroll of Ruth? Leviticus 23 also details how to reap the harvest of one's land, saying that one is obligated to leave the gleanings of the harvest for the poor and the stranger. The Ruth narrative takes place during the harvest of Shavuot. Ruth, a poor widow caring for her mother-in-law Naomi, gleans in Boaz's field so as to have some food to put on their modest dinner table.

In Talmudic times, the rabbis strived to connect all festivals to God's miraculous deeds. In addition to a celebration of the harvest, the rabbis attributed to Shavuot a commemoration of the revelation at Mount Sinai. Shavuot is a time to celebrate the Israelite's choosing and being chosen to receive the Ten Commandments. Again, Shavuot is a time for renewal and thanksgiving. Now, how does this rabbinic take on Shavuot relate to the story of Ruth? Ruth is a Jew by choice. She chooses to accept the laws and precepts of Judaism. In her own way, when Ruth becomes a Jew, she embodies revelation at Sinai and carries on the tradition of our people.

On Friday, May 22nd, our confirmation students will stand before the congregation and renew their commitment to a Jewish way of life. They will connect to Ruth and Naomi, Moses and all those that stood at the foot of Mount Sinai choosing to accept the laws and precepts of Judaism. Mazel Tov to all of our confirmation students and their families! Looking forward to seeing all of you as we, with our confirmands, celebrate the festival of Shavuot.





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ben and Sharon Cernese for all of the hard work that they and their committee put into creating the wonderful Masquerade Ball. This event honored all of the people that were involved in the "fixing up"

of Temple B'nai Torah, from the new roof to the new carpeting, these hard working individuals deserved the recognition that they received. I would also like to thank Danny Strauss and his BNTY group, as well as Girl Scout Troup #3079 for all of their assistance with serving at the ball. They were called upon at the very last minute and they did not disappoint. It is nice to know that these wonderful young adults are the future of our temple.

On a more serious note, very shortly you will receive a letter from Temple B'nai Torah informing you of a Congregational meeting on Wednesday, May 20st. During that meeting you will be asked to vote upon a number of important matters. The budget for the 2015-2016 fiscal year is one of the items.

The budget is assembled by Bart Cohen and the Budget Committee, utilizing data from various committees that work within the temple. These are committees which may have never seen your face or heard your voice. If you don't mind having a relatively small percentage of congregants make temple decisions for you, fine. However, if you don't like the idea of vocal minority acting for you, it is still not too late to do something about it. Try attending a few committee meetings. Have a say.

You will also be voting for the new Congregational Board . Do you know who they are? Do you know their policies? If you don't, why don't you? These are the congregants that are making the decisions involving the temple. These decisions involve the clergy, housing, religious education and spirituality, just to name a few. Wouldn't you like to have some say on many or all of these items?

This is your Temple, why not come down and find out more.

At this Congregational Meeting we will also be presenting awards to a number of very special students and congregants. It would be wonderful if you would come down to support this.

I would also like to remind everyone to come to the Israel Bond Breakfast on Sunday, May 3rd..

We will be honoring Allan Izkowitz for his tireless effort on behalf of Temple B'nai Torah. Come down and show your support for Allan and for Israeli Bonds.

> Sherrill Spatz Congregation President



Fran & Al from the Adventures-in-Music Series

1

COUPLES CLUB & SINGLES CLUB

Dif tor heh smusma



As our three-year term as presidents nears its end, we look back at many memories of this period. The following ten are a few of the many memorable achievements we look

back upon. 10. Ed (The Deliverer) Pincus- liberating the Super Bowl Hot Wings. 9. Arthur (The Chairman) Schlesinger – 27 Chair Salute. 8. Harvey (Lensman) Drucker, Boating Adventure. 7. Steven (Lord Bubble) Blocks, Tiger Reunion. 6. Richard & Francine (Lord and Lady Dahlia) Royal Receptions and Prince Baby Naming, 5. Barbara (The Voice) Morgenlender, Deborah (Grandmotherin-law) Schlesinger, and Linda (Ginger Rogers) Lazarus-Eisenhower Park- Frankie Avalon Concert. 4. Marilyn Pincus Named by the Pope -Empress Matris Nobis 3. Bernie (Bowlerman) Deutsch – Membership Dinner Break Dance. 2. Ira and Yolanda Friedman – Record setting Board dinner shrimp consumption 1. Sharon and Ben Cernese (The Dependables), Villa Roma Chariot Race 0. Gerry (The Marksman) Morgenlender, Man with Many identities. -1. Richard (The Mechanic) Ser Building our supercars. -2. Dave (The Destroyer) Schuster 307 Bowling score. -3. Barry (Doc ") Lomove, Hollywood Squares winner.

The votes are in and the TBT naming committee, working with the National Science Foundation among others, has established the name of a ginormous supercluster of galaxies

(which the Milky Way Galaxy is part of), which they have dubbed "Bowlerman -Laniakea," which means "Man of the Immense Heaven" in Hawaiian, in honor of Bowlerman Bernie.

The planned events for this year include: May: Museum of the Moving Image in Queens; June: High Line and Chelsea Market (NYC visit) and the L.I Cabaret.

The casting of the rolls of the Melody Mavens, Al & Fran (formally know as Princess Summer-Fall-Winter-Spring) Woods will be played by Neil Diamond, and Barbra Streisand.

A special reminder to new TBT members: As new members, you automatically get a free year of Couples Club Membership. Take advantage of this opportunity to get to know us and discover for yourselves, how great the Couples Club is. You will be welcomed into the group, and very soon you will feel as if you were a long-time member. We would like to share this feeling with all TBT members. The Couples Club members actively participate in the other arms' functions, Chai Club and Sisterhood activities. Being part of our family makes it easier to become engaged in the areas that interest you, as you will always have a friend in attendance.

If there is anything you would like to know about our group, please call us at (516) 798-5724 or email us at fdinstell@yahoo.com.

Couples Club's monthly word of wisdom: "A life is like a garden. Perfect moments can be had, but not preserved, except in memory" - Leonard Nimoy

Fred Dinstell

ONE..TWO...THREE....GO!

Sisterhood and Brotherhood warmed up, each with their own Passover events. Rabbi Bellows conducted the Sisterhood Seder and Marc Herbert led the Men's Seder. Then, several days later, Cantor Sher conducted Chai Club's Second Night Seder. We were taught about Jewish History three times.... and got to eat special dinners three times too!





OUR TBT SISTERHOOD SOURCE



We in Sisterhood have lost a member of our board on March 18th. After a period of illness, we had to say goodbye to Linda Cannata. Linda was a long-time member of our temple, having first joined legacy Suburban Temple many years ago. Her job for Sisterhood was as an oneg rep. In addition, she was part of the adult choir, a

volunteer at our Thursday night Bingo games, and a teacher in the religious school. She was part of other arms of TBT as well. So, obviously, temple life meant a great deal to her. Rest in peace Linda—we will miss you. Of course, our deepest condolences go to her family and friends.

Mother's Day is coming up on Sunday, May 10th. Did you order Mother's Day cards through Sisterhood for all the special ladies in your life? And whenever you see one of them, give her a big hug and kiss and tell her what she means to you.

Our final Rosh Chodesh session of the 2014/2015 year will be on Sunday, May 17th at 1:00pm. By then, I hope

you'll have finished dissecting all the good parts of the book, A Bride for One Night.

Our end-of-year dinner is on Tuesday, May 19 at 6:30pm, when we'll be taking over the Kiddush Lounge (for appetizers) and social hall (for the main event). This terrific dinner is also considered our annual meeting. We'll be presenting our budget and slate for the 2015/2016 year and will vote to accept both. Our Budget and Nominating Committees have been working very hard so that Sisterhood continues to thrive. A fun night is in store for those who attend.

In closing, as we all belong to a community larger than the temple itself, I ask you to think about those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country on Memorial Day, May 25th.

> Sincerely, Diane Schoenberg Sisterhood President

CONGREGANT CORNER

Jessica Spar her husband, Eric and their two children Alec & Madison are active members of our temple family. Jessica is a New York City school teacher and her husband is a flight attendant for JetBlue airlines. In addition, they are both fitness instructors.

You can say that they are traveling folks. They have been



on many adventures as a family. With two children under age ten (Alec is 8 and Madison is 7), you know that Disney is almost a home away from home. But as a family they have also traveled to Mexico and Italy. When they are home they enjoy game and movie nights.

Jessica is an active member of the TBT PTA. Son Alec is involved with Cub Scout Pack 189 which meets here at Temple B'nai Torah on Thursday evenings. Alec is working on his Aleph Emblem which is a Jewish scout religious award.

When it comes to our clergy, Jessica points out that "Rabbi Bellows and Cantor Sher make a great team! We usually attend family services for Shabbat and other holidays.

The rabbi and cantor always make the service enjoyable for the kids and for us! We love the songs!"

Jessica also says, "Being a member of TBT is special to me and my family. My brother had his bar mitzvah here (legacy Suburban). Since my husband and I both grew up here in Wantagh, we both attended quite a few bar and bat mitzvahs of friends here back in the day. It's familiar to us and very comfortable here.

When we were looking for a temple to belong to and to send our children to for religious instruction, we knew this would be the perfect fit. My husband was not brought up Jewish, and although I was, I did not attend Hebrew school nor have a bat mitzvah (although my parents would have preferred me to). We needed a temple that used English throughout the services, so we could understand what was going on and feel like we belong. This is the temple we needed!

It's just so welcoming here. I'm even considering taking the class next fall to study for my own bat mitzvah. Our kids really enjoy attending Hebrew school here. I enjoy learning from them. I love when they come home and want to tell me about what they've learned. I also enjoy all of the opportunities I have to join my children while they're in Hebrew school. The family classes, the Tu b'Shevat and Passover Seders are great. Thank you to Mrs. Blank, Rabbi Bellows and Cantor Sher for making those events possible. Our family really enjoys those special events!"

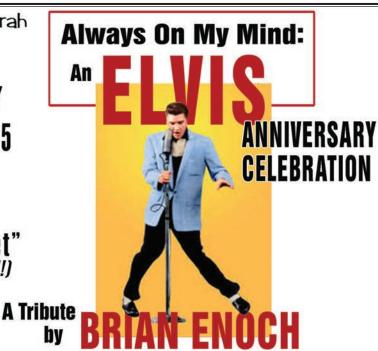
We enjoy having the Spar's a part of the temple family.

Submitted by Jeff Cohen



Temple B'nai Torah Presents

SATURDAY
May 16, 2015
7:30pm
at the
TBT "Cabaret"
(aka:Social Hal!!)



Tickets:

All seats in front row ("stage") tables - \$30.¹⁰, All other tables - \$20.¹⁰ Adults, \$10.¹⁰ Children under age 13

Show Format:

Cabaret Style

Snacks and Beverages will be provided

Information:

Joan & Brian Levy 516 781 4966, email: bellobl@aol.com

Join us as we welcome back Brian Enoch as he performs all the Elvis hits on the 60th Anniversary of the birth of "Heartbreak Hotel"



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BLOG FROM RABBI MIRI GOLD

We find ourselves in the period of counting the Omer, between Pesach and Shavuot, between the birth and freedom of the nation of Israel and the acceptance of the Torah and its guidelines and structure for a healthy, just, and compassionate society. The children of Israel, still with their slave mentality, might have thought that freedom meant doing as one pleases, with no concern for anyone else. Therefore it must have been frightening, and sobering, to realize that the nation would survive only if it would accept a different kind of "slavery", the worship of God and fulfillment of the commandments. The word slave in Hebrew is "eved" דרבע . The word "avodah" הדובע, comes from the same root, meaning both "work" and "worship". When we worship God, we become loyal servants, and we have to work hard to maintain a healthy framework in which to live with other people.

Counting the Omer in Israel can be a time of anxiety, when the farmers wonder how successful the wheat harvest, which culminates at Shavuot, will be. Likewise, in the aftermath of the elections in Israel, we have uncertainties about the future of our country. As much as we feel bound to the Land of Israel, in this "shmita" year we are reminded that the land belongs to God, and that we are not its owner. Since 1948, the transition from Pesach to Shavuot also includes our celebration of our sovereignty, on Yom Ha'atzmaut. Here, too, we invoke the visions of our prophets and strive for a country which upholds

and exemplifies the noble commandments "bein adam l'havero" ורבחל מדא , as a light unto the nations.

We are constantly reminded that it takes hard work, with a sense of devotion and dedication, to make our country Israel special, excellent, praiseworthy. Sometimes the gap between what "is" and what "ought to be" is great. It can be discouraging, and it can lead us to a paralysis in which we feel that we cannot change things for the better. What gives us a "shot in the arm" is the loving and steadfast support of you, our friends. Whatever the criticisms, and there is need for your impressions, advice and dismay, we also need to know that you care, that you are our family.

I was bolstered right after the election results, when Peter Yarrow sponsored a free concert of Solidarity and Goodwill. He reminded the six hundred people in the audience that moments of peace can bring us closer to lasting peace. We were inspired by three children's groups—Ukeleles for Peace, The Voice of Peace and The Jerusalem Choir—composed of Jews, Christians and Muslims, as well as learning about Project Respect, an anti-bullying project in schools in the US and Israel. We can't give up, and we can't let the light go out.

Rabbi Miri Gold, of Kehilat Birkat Shalom at Kibbutz Gezer, invites you to visit next time you are in Israel.

Having a ball at the Matzoh Ball!



SPECIAL GIFTS

SPECIAL FUNDS AND DONATIONS

Temple B'nai Torah follows a long and rich heritage of Tzedakah, consistent with our Jewish tradition. Such giving often recognizes a birth, birthday, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, wedding, anniversary, or death. Your generosity, large and small, continues to provide for Temple B'nai Torah by sustaining programs for its members. A beautifully inscribed card is sent acknowledging and commemorating your gift.

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For either the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund or Cantor's Discretionary Fund, please make your check payable to the fund; for all other fund donations, please make your check payable to TEMPLE B'NAI TORAH.

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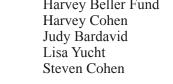
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My birthday from Dorothy Saperstein In memory of:

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Linda Cannata from Harvey & Rita Drucker

Linda Cannata from Barbara & Don Gouveia

Linda Cannata from Ellie Dayton

Linda Cannata from Barbara & Gerry Morgenlender

Linda Cannata from Sarita Keyser Linda Cannata from Rita Hofer

Linda Cannata from Brian & Joan Levy

Linda Cannata from Beverly Frank

Linda Cannata from Barry & Shelley Lomove

Linda Cannata from Gloria & Miles Glantz

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Linda Cannata from Judy & Richard Cromwell

Linda Cannata from Linda Lazarus

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The beautiful music at the Couples Club Shabbat from Freyda & Warren Kolinsky

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In memory of:

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In appreciation of:

Harvey Drucker's work on the Memorial Boards from Tessa Kean

Rita Drucker's patience while Harvey worked on the Memorial Boards from Tessa Kean

In memory of:

Linda Cannata from Jan & Stan Friedman

Sheldon Kule from Tessa Kean

Harry Meister from Tessa Kean

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Bat Mitzvah of Madison Lapiana from Holly Sher Bat Mitzvah of Kayla Nietsch from Brian & Julie Nietsch

Bat Mitzvah of Evelyn Yousha from Eric & LaDonna Yousha

SPECIAL GIFTS

YAHRZEITS

Sylvia Hulse from Herb Price Charlotte Price from Herb Price Herbert Grossbard from The Grossbard Family Anschel Strauss from Elaine Becker Robert Bardavid from Bill Bardavid Clara Okon from The Okon Family Joseph Friedman from Yolanda & Ira Friedman Joel Horowitz from Edward Horowitz **Albert Horowitz** from Edward Horowitz Carole Jacobi from Edward Horowitz Sam Gelder from Pearl Sutz Yury Likht from Boris Likht Morris Yabkowitz from Laura & Mel Yorke **Dorothy Chautin** from Carl Getzel Rhonda Ernst from Michelle Yelner Joseph Honig from Leonard Honig Max Cohen from Rabbi Howard & Patti Nacht Clara Moskowitz from Rabbi Howard & Patti Nacht Jennie Nacht from Rabbi Howard & Patti Nacht Lee Herbert Boyarsky from Marc Herbert **Howard Schmertz** from Judith Schmertz Helen Weinreb from Shari Cullen **Shirley Fingerhood** from Shelly Spivack Esther Madnick from Stephanie & Jay Jacobson Rebecca Feierstein from Pearl Sutz Millie Osherow from Cynthia Gittin Herman Goodman from Charlotte Bornstein Leo Silk from Andrea Baron Joseph Meizler from Elaine Becker Morris Meizler from Elaine Becker

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MAZEL TOV TO:

Mark & Laurie Chester on the birth of their granddaughter Avery Lauren Volk

Mitchell & Shari Macy on the engagement of their daughter Andrea Macy to Eric Niederman

Peter & Dale Pomeranz on the marriage of their son Jeffrey Pomeranz to Wendy Caceres

Ray & Bonnie Russolillo on the engagement of their son Steve Russolillo to Shelly Banjo

YISKOR ELOHIM:

Mary Bellows, great aunt of Rabbi Bellows Linda Cannata, mother of Marisa Arena & Andrea Cannata, fiancée of Arthur Solop Melvin Kaplan, founding member of legacy Suburban Temple

Sheldon Kule, father of Les Kule Ellen Kramer, sister of Rabbi Kramer Arnold Mates, father of Ellen Goolnick

Harry Meister, father of Joni Christie Ronnie Riefberg, former active member of legacy Suburban Temple Ruth Solomon, grandmother of Sharon Curry

From the TEMPLE B'NAI TORAH BOARD MEETING MINUTES February 24, 2015 at 8:00 pm

Meeting called to order at 8:07 pm

Elly Becker from Elaine Becker

Blessings / D'var Torah – The Rabbi discussed Relational Judaism and had the group engaged in an exercise to get to

Secretary's Report -Correction to last month's minutes: Membership is at 480, not 478.

Unfinished Business — Tessa Kean discussed the concept of voluntary dues. After attending a "Webinar" regarding the matter, she reported that the recommendations of three years of financial backing, as well as people in the congregation who will pick up the slack if others are not as generous. After one year if it does not work it should be ended. Tessa is exploring other temples to see how they are handling their dues.

New Business – Tessa Kean suggested a policy that if the temple is closed for weather, or if Wantagh schools close, or if Wantagh schools cancels after school activities, then all temple outside activities would also be cancelled, including Minyan services. The board agreed that this would be a policy going forward.

Vice Presidents' Reports - Rob Saunders - Budget approval is put off one month to iron out the details of Elisa Blank's contract. Our organ player Barry will accept the same contract. There will be a food drive in coordination with the Purim service. We will be asking members to bring a box of pasts in place of a grogger. Thank you to Brian Levy for great publicity. Regarding the Matzo Ball event, proceeds will be dedicated to a beautification fund earmarked for stained glass windows in the Social Hall. The squared dunce netted \$1343.00 after expenses.

Learning - Helaine Schnall – Report Stands. Judy Novet added that \$1000.00 was received from the Jewish Education Project.

House and Administration: Shelly Lomove - Report stands.

Spirituality: Janee Loewenstein - Report stands. Jan Friedman noted that the prayer book fund needs more donations. Rabbi Bellows' Report – Report stands. In addition, Rabbi Bellows discussed an interfaith panel at Nassau Community College that she spoke at today, celebrating differences and also speaking in peace and solidarity. She noted also that as of this morning she has all of the information for the Cuba trip and as of next week registration will be open.

Cantor Sher's Report - Report stands. Community and Fundraising - Les Kule - Report stands

Membership - Robin Galardi - Report stands.

Education Report - Elisa Blank - Report stands.

Youth Group Director's Report - Daniel Strauss – 3/8 is the Purim Carnival from 9am-1pm. On 3/22 we will be holding a Flapjack Fundraiser at Applebee's from 8-10am. On 3/29 we will be hosting March Madness Rock Paper Scissors Tournament Extravaganza. There will also be a chocolate seder sometime in April for 5th grade and older students. Spring Kallah will take place 4/24 – 4/26.

Financial Secretary Report - Tessa Kean - Report stands. The numbers have remained the same

Temple Administrator Report — Sue-Ellen Pennington — Report stands. Also noted that the main front lobby foyer had a pipe burst, repair was \$1875.00. Ceilings are also in need of repair. Cost for snow removal so far has been \$4926.00. Corner outside sign was damaged and needs to be replaced at a cost of \$58575.00.00 of which we have to pay \$2500.00 due to our deductible. Repairs and maintenance have cost over \$14,000 so far. These are just a few examples of some of the costs that arise each year. Other news is that the Kule family donated 150 new prayer books to the temple, and that Stacey Spiller was able to obtain a used Baby Grand Piano. The Temple Show and Cabaret will cover the cost for it. Investments Report - Alan Loewenstein - Report stands.

Long Range Planning Committee Report - Jeff Spiller - Report stands.

BINGO/Gift Certificates/Purchasing Report – Rita Hofer – Report stands.

Caring Committee Report – Jan Friedman. This has been a difficult few weeks. Thank you to Pearl Sutz who has been wonderful.

Minyan Committee - Tessa Kean – Explanation of the service for the Minyan Committee. Please join and spread the word. Thank you to Mark Herbert, Ann Dinstell, Rabbi Bellows, Cantor Sher, and Tessa Kean for doing Minyans this month. Meeting adjourned 9:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Sharon Curry, Congregation Secretary

Linda Cannata

A congregant and a teacher in our religious school, succumbed to pancreatic cancer on March 18th. More than one hundred people (family, fellow congregants, colleagues, former students, and even Bingo players) turned out in the sanctuary to remember her and say, "Good-bye" on Sunday, March 22nd. Speakers included her daughters, Marisa and Andrea; her fiancé, Artie Solop; and her dear friend and former colleague, Rabbi Deanna Pasternak.

She was remembered as a caring and giving person and as a teacher who cared about her students. I know that she was instrumental in encouraging my daughter, Randi, to consider a Bat Mitzvah ceremony, and both of my daughters had fond recollections of their days in Linda's classroom (though it was nearly 15 years ago). I remember Linda in the social hall on Triple Bingo Sundays, with her mustard-colored apron and her handfuls of different colored paper. She would move from one player to the next, while several others called out her name. There was usually another person on the floor selling the same paper, but the players would routinely wait for her, just so that they could interact with her. She had that kind of effect on people, and she will be sorely missed.

Submitted by Rob Saunders



Cundou	Manday	Tuesday	Madaaalay	Thursday	Friday	Cotunday
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday 1 • 3:00pm B/M Rehearsal (Sanc.) • 6:30pm Family/Graduation/K-2 Shabbat Service	Saturday 2 • 8:15am B/M photos Sher (Sanc.) • 9:30-11:00am Torah Study (K/L) • 10:30am Service (1) B/M Lapiana • 4:00pm PTA event set-up (S/H & K/L) • 5:00-9:00pm PTA Dance (S/H K-/L)
Oam Rel. School 00-12:00pm Israel d Breakfast (S/H) 00am PTA Mting 30am Youth Choir 1) 45am B/M ntation May-June 6 Fam (K/L) 00-1:30pm Jewish king Cls (S/H-Kit) 30pm Lev (Sanc.) 2:30-2:00pm Scout (104) 0pm Jewish Ex- ence on Film K/L 00-11:00pm aret Reh. S/H	4 • 12:00pm Torah Study (K/L) • 5:30-6:30pm BNTY Jr. (Y/L) • 6:30-7:00pm Teen Choir (Rm. 201) • 7:00-8:30pm Religious School • 7:30-9:30pm Adult Choir (Rm. 201) • 7:30pm Chai Club Gen'l Mtg (K/L) • 8:30-10:00pm BNTY Sr. (Y/L)	5 • 10:00am Al Anon (K/L) • 4:30-6:00pm Religious School • 6:45pm Sisterhood Exec. Mtg (101/103) • 7:00pm Brotherhood Exec. Mtg (104) • 7:30pm Sisterhood Board Mtg (101/103) • 7:30-10:00pm Cabaret Reh. (Y/L) • 8:00pm Brotherhood Board Mtg (K/L)	6 • 10:30am Bingo	7 • 6:00-7:30pm Cub Scouts (Y/L) • 7:30-9:00pm Boy Scouts (Y/L) • 7:30pm Bingo	8 • 3:00pm B/M Rehearsal (Sanc.) • 5:30pm Tot Shabbat Service • 8:00pm Erev Shabbat Service	9 • 9:30-11:00am Torah Study (K/L) • 10:30am Service (1) B/M Holden • 3:00-6:00pm Rental Set-up (S/H & K/L) • 6:00-12:00midnight Rental (S/H & K/L)
Mother's Day 00am Religious 00I 00-11:30am Rel. Dance Class (K/L) 00-2:00pm dering Jew Series 00-11:00pm aret Reh. (S/H)	11 • 12:00pm Torah Study (K/L) • 5:3030pm BNTY Jr. (Y/L) • 6:30-7:00pm Teen Choir (Rm. 201) • 6:45pm Housing Mtg (Conf. Rm.) • 7:00-8:30pm Religious School Last Monday Class • 7:00pm Jewish War Veterans Mtg (S/H) • 7:30pm Adult Choir (Rm. 201)	12 • 10:00am Al Anon (K/L) • 4:30-6:00pm Rel. School-Last Tuesday Class • 7:00pm Shavuot Cooking Event (S/H) • 7:00pm Brotherhood Dinner (K/L) • 7:30-10:00pm Cabaret Reh. (Y/L)	13 • 10:30am Bingo • 7:00pm fundraising Mtg (Away)	14 • 6:00-7:30pm Cub Scouts (Y/L) • 7:30-9:00pm Boy Scouts (Y/L) • 7:30pm B/M photos Nietsch (Sanc.) • 7:30pm Bingo	15 • 3:00pm B/M Rehearsal (Sanc.) • 6:00pm Pre-Neg • 6:30pm Kabbalat Service	16 • 8:15-9:30am B/M photos Silverman (Sanc.) • 9:30-11:00am Torah Study (K/L) • 10:30am Service (2) B/M Nietsch & Silverman • 1:00-4:00pm Baby Naming (K/L) • 2:00pm "Elvis Presley Tribute" Set-up (S/H) • 6:00pm "Elvis Presley Tribute" (S/H)
00am Rel. School- Day 1:00am Member- Mtg (Library) :30-noon Youth ir (Rm 201) 1:00pm Rosh desh (K/L) 00pm Couples 1:00pm Bingo Set-up 1:00pm Adult firmation Class 1/103) 00-7:00pm herhood/PTA illy picnic (Brady 1) 45pm Triple Bingo	• 10:00-12:00noon Chai Club Board Meeting (K/L) • 12:00pm Torah Study (K/L) • Building Closes @5:00pm	19 • 10:00am Al Anon (K/L) • 5:00-7:00pm Confirmation Final Reh. (Sanc.) • 6:30pm Sisterhood End of Year Dinner (K/L & S/H) • 7:00-10:00pm Cabaret Reh. (Y/L)	20 • 10:30am Bingo • 7:30pm Annual Congregation Meeting (S/H)	21 • 6:00-7:30pm Cub Scouts (Y/L) • 7:30-9:00pm Boy Scouts (Y/L) • 7:30pm Bingo	22 • 3:00pm B/M Rehearsal (Sanc.) • 6:00pm Confirmation Dinner (K/L) • 7:30pm Erev Shabbat Confirmation Svc	• 9:30-11:00am Torah Study (K/L) • 10:30am Service (1) B/M Almont • 12:00-4:00pm Almont Luncheon (K/L) • 7:30pm Tikkun Layl Shavuot/Study & Svc/Yizkor (S/H)



FROM THE EDITOR'S PEN

Shavuot, The Festival of...... Weeks??



Shavuot, the Rodney Dangerfield of Holidays, deserves more respect. A holiday that celebrates Torah, Ten Commandments plus spring harvest in the holy land needs better PR. But there is something lacking.

I think we should start with a change of title. "Jewish Holiday of Weeks" doesn't cut it. Even though that's the literal translation of Shavuot. I cringe each time I hear it. Why not "the holiday of sevens"? Or just call it "50!" since it occurs 50 days after Passover.

While we're at it, Shavuot can also use a symbol.

Other holidays have a flag, or a tree, or a menorah or even a turkey. Shavuot needs a symbol, but Shavuot ends up being symbolized by the Blintz. Ov!



Maybe we can reposition Shavuot to be a celebration of spring. Why not?

Mark Chester, Editor



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UNIONGRAM ORDER FORM

The following is a list of the boys and girls who will be celebrating their Bar/Bat Mitzvah APRIL 18 through JUNE 20, 2015. Circle the names of those to whom you would like to send congratulations, and PRINT your name as you want it to appear on the Uniongrams. Please return the list promptly with \$1.25 for each Uniongram made payable to

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DATE	CHILD'S NAME	<u>PARENTS</u>		
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May 9	Alex Holden	Christopher & Jennifer		
May 16	Kayla Nietsch	Brian &Julie		
	Michael Silverman	Jeffrey & Colleen		
May 23	Andrew Almont	Daniel & Cori		
May 30	Evelyn Yousha	Eric & La Donna		
	Jonathan Goldsmith	Michael & Cathy Lewis		
June 6	Jack Chillemi	Robert & Jennifer		
	Autumn Ledbetter	Lee & Evren		
June 13	Jake Boden	Andrew & Stephanie		
	Harrison Rubin	Richard & Ann		
June 20	Matthew Axelrod	Alan & Audrey		
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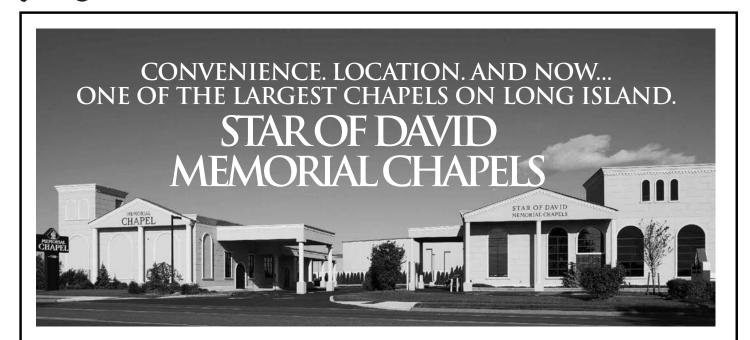
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Mission Statement

Temple B'nai Torah's mission is to embody, enhance and perpetuate Jewish tradition by providing a welcoming spiritual home where the community gathers to worship God, study Torah, engage in acts of Tikun Olam (repairing the world), participate in Jewish rituals and life cycle events, and experience the joy of being part of a caring community.



Address Correction Requested

Dated Material - Please Rush!

Let's Celebrate





PROGRAM: HOW TO DO SHAVUOT

DATE: Tuesday, May 12th

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

- 1. HOW TO WITH RABBI BELLOWS
- 2. COOKING DEMO Emily Altman
- 3. SAMPLE SHAVUOT DAIRY DISHES
- 4. TAKE HOME A COOK BOOK OF RECIPES FOR SHAVUOT

Would you like to contribute a dairy recipe to the Shavuot cookbook?

Recipes must be sent in, camera ready, on 8.5 x 11 paper. Place it in the envelope hanging in the office or you can email the recipe to Jan Friedman (janleyf@verizon.net) or Janis Beldner (jab873@aol.com).

The deadline for us to receive your recipe is May 5th.

Questions? Call Jan (516-781-5041) or Janis (516-679-1450).





