

Whitestone Hebrew Centre Bulletin

12-45 Clintonville St. Whitestone, NY 11357



שלום

Inside this issue

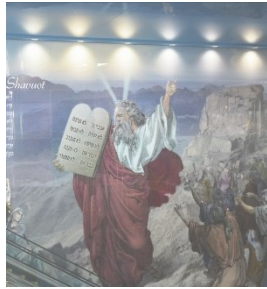
FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY	2
SISTERHOOD	3
BIRTHDAYS	3
SUMMER FAST DAYS	4
ISRAEL	5
YOM HASHOAH & MEMORIAL DAY PIX	6
DONATIONS	7
ADS	8

Volume XXXIV No. 5

June 2024

Iyar — Sivan 5784

Schedule of Shavuot Services



Tuesday, June 11th — 7:00 PM

Wednesday, June 12th — 9:30 AM & 7:00 PM

Thursday, June 13th — (Yizkor) 9:30 A.M.

*Tikkun Leil Shavuot — Study and Discussion
Following first night services — June 11th
Blintzes and cheesecake will be served!*

President's Message


I've always felt (and suspect I'm not alone in this) a certain sense of satisfaction following the conclusion of another Pesach. Maybe it's the flurry of initial preparation and attention to detail that (ideally) produces a meaningful Yom Tov for yourself and those you share the holiday with. Perhaps that many of us identify with the Hebrews in their newfound freedom and follow the admonition stated in the Haggadah (shortly before the second cup of wine) that each person must feel as if he/she personally had been freed to serve G-d who liberated us after nearly 400 years of forced labor. You may even feel a sense of relief from the dietary restrictions being lifted and chometz restored to its proper place in the

food chain. However, our faith has another major event in store for us not that much further into the calendar.

The Rabbi has suggested over the years that too many of our fellow Jews are unaware of the Holiday, known as Shavuot, that follows 49 days after the 2nd day of Pesach. Referenced in the Torah, it is one of the Festival Holidays requiring Jews to travel to Jerusalem and bring their first fruits as offerings to God at the Holy Temple, celebrating the summer grain harvest and - paramount to our existence as a unique people, the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai seven weeks after the Israelites left Egypt. As we've learned from the Rabbi's Judaism 101


(Continued on page 5)





Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, June 25th -- 7:30 PM





WHC Bulletin Staff

Rabbi Steven Axelman,
Editor
Sharon Samet
Patricia Smolker

WHITESTONE
HEBREW CENTRE
12-45 Clintonville St.
Whitestone, NY 11357
718-767-1500

Email:
Whitestonehebrewcentre
@gmail.com

Website:
whitestonehebrewcenter.org



Sunday June 16th

WHC ADMINISTRATION

2023-24 Officers

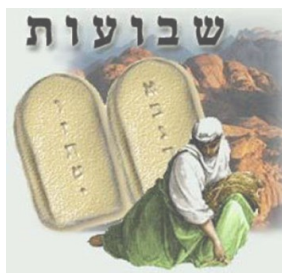
Rabbi & Cantor - Steven Axelman
President - Bruce Berenson
Vice-President - Ellis Rosenblatt
Corresponding/Recording Secretary -
Ron Kohn
Sisterhood President -
Naomi Gukowsky

Rabbi Steven Axelman
rabbiaxelman@outlook.com
718-208-5059



Overview of Shavuot

by Rabbi Axelman



Shavuot begins this year on Tuesday night, June 11th and continues until nightfall on June 13th. Though it is one of the Three Festivals repeatedly mentioned in the Torah, it seems to be the least known. It is no less important than Sukkot and Pesach--all three were pilgrimage festivals during which everyone living in Israel used to go to the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. Perhaps it is overlooked because according to the original Torah commandment, Shavuot only lasts one day, though the custom for the last two thousand years or so is to add an extra day to each Jewish Holiday when living in the diaspora. And there is far less preparation in anticipation of Shavuot--no cleaning the house, preparing a *Seder*, building a *Sukkah* or buying an *Etrog* and *Lulav* set. For Shavuot all we need to do is to make blintzes and buy or bake cheese cake. Nonetheless, it is worthwhile to mention why Shavuot is indeed an important and relevant holiday. How exactly Shavuot became connected with the Revelation and the receiving of the Torah on Mount Sinai is the subject of much discussion, but our liturgy in the *Amida* and in the *Kiddush* describes Shavuot as "*Z'man Matan Torateinu*", the time of the giving of our Torah. Personally, I have difficulty with the concept that Judaism can be separated from or exist without the Torah. Whether we are comfortable with the concept or not, the blessing we all make when we are honored

with an aliyah, reads "who chose us from amongst the nations and gave us the Torah". Either following or rebelling against the Torah could easily be said to define the entire historical existence of the Jewish People.

The word, Shavuot, literally means weeks, a reference to its being celebrated on the fiftieth day (seven complete weeks having gone by) after the second night of Passover. How is Shavuot celebrated (other than the cheese cake thing)? We read the Ten Commandments from the Torah on the first day. Prior to beginning the Torah Reading, a beautiful and esoteric poem, *Akdmut*, is read, which describes the relationship between God, the Torah and the Jews over the years. And for many centuries, at least some have stayed up all night studying Torah, a practice usually referred to as *Tikkun Leil Shavuot*. According to one *midrash*, the Jews slept through the night preceding the giving of the Torah and needed to be awakened. Since most of us have trouble sleeping in anticipation of major events the next morning, this was considered a lack of enthusiasm. Compensating for this failing is one of the reasons given for staying up all night studying on Shavuot.

Some read a fixed text of study compiled specifically for this night, which covers several verses from every portion of the Five Books of the Torah, the book of Ruth, parts of the *Mishna* (Oral Torah) and readings from the *Zohar* (the original book of *Kabbala*). Many have a custom of studying any area of the Torah that interests them. Chag Samayach!

Chag Samayach!

SISTERHOOD

Sisterhood President's Message

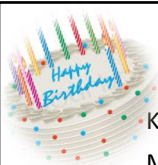
Sisterhood wishes everyone a Happy, Healthy and Safe Summer. We all pray that there will be peace in Israel and also around the world. Please do a mitzvah and call our senior members to ask if they need anything or just to chat for a while. Hearing a friendly voice will lift their spirits.

Naomi Gukowsky
Sisterhood President

Chai Fund - May 2024

A Smith family "Legal" Mazel Tov
for the Axelman family's new attorney, Binny

Frank, Shirley and Tricia



June Happy Birthdays

- Kayla Berenson Ashley Samet
- Max Berenson Yechezkel Yamen
- Alex Ratner

*Editor's note: If your birthday should be listed on this page and is not, please call the office at (718) 767-1500 and give us your date of birth. Thank you.

Prayer for the Sick

If you would like a name mentioned in the weekly Prayer for the Sick, please email the name of the sick person and the name of that person's mother (if available) to the Rabbi, at rabbiaxelman@outlook.com. If you do not have access to email, please leave a message on the WHC office voice mail. There are names on our list for a very long time and we have no way of knowing who are still in need of prayers. Thank you.



Rabbi Axelman



Shalach Manot

Thank You For Additional
Shalach Manot Donations

Bonnie Buxbaum

Making Contributions

For many years Sisterhood has offered the service of sending cards from all those who wish to acknowledge both Simchas and Condolences. The response from the recipients is most heart warming. The following funds are available:

- Simcha Fund..... \$10
- Chai Fund \$18
- Prayer Book Fund..... \$10
- Inscribed Prayer Books \$25

The recipient receives an acknowledgement of the contribution and it is printed in the monthly Bulletin, so all can share the feelings expressed. To place orders, call Patricia Smolker at (718) 746-7068.

Checks for the above funds should be made payable to "Sisterhood of WHC".





Summer Fast Days

by Rabbi Axelman

During the summer, two fast-days are observed by traditional Jews, Shiva Asar B'Tammuz (17th day of the month of Tamuz) and Tisha B'av (9th day of the month of Av). The following is based on articles on Chabad.org and Aish.com.

Shiva Asar B'Tammuz

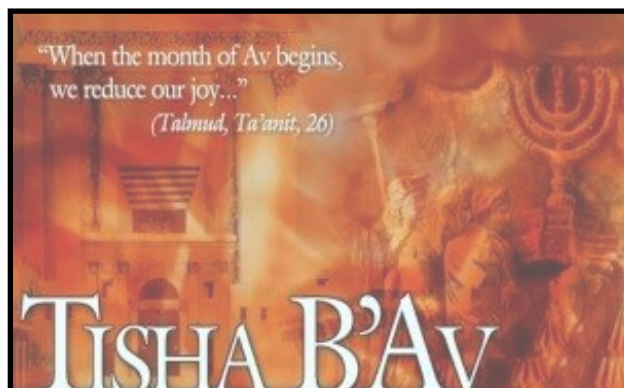
The 17th of Tammuz, which this year falls on Tuesday the 23rd of July, is the first of four fast-days mentioned in the Prophets. This day marks the start of a three-week mourning period for the destruction of Jerusalem and the two Holy Temples. The fast also commemorates five tragic events that occurred on this date, according to our tradition:

- 1) Moses broke the tablets when he saw the Jewish people worshipping the Golden Calf. 
- 2) During the Babylonian siege of Jerusalem, the Jews were forced to cease offering the daily sacrifices due to the lack of sheep.
- 3) Apostomos burned the holy Torah.
- 4) An idol was placed in the Holy Temple.
- 5) The walls of Jerusalem were breached by the Romans, in 69 CE, after a lengthy siege. The Jerusalem Talmud maintains that this is also the date when Babylonians breached the walls of Jerusalem on their way to destroying the first Temple. 



On this fast day, healthy adults—Bar- or Bat-mitzvah age and older—abstain from eating or drinking between dawn and nightfall. There are also some modifications to the daily prayers services.

Tisha B'Av

Tisha B'Av, which this year begins on Monday evening, August 12th and ends at nightfall on Tuesday August 13th, is the saddest day on the Jewish calendar. It is the culmination of the Three Weeks, which began on the 17th of Tammuz, a



period of time during which gradually intensifying mourning customs and rituals are observed by traditional Jews. During these three weeks, weddings are not celebrated and live music is forbidden. During the first nine days of the month of Av, people refrain from eating meat and drinking wine (other than on Shabbat), as well as bathing for pleasure (e.g., swimming) and certain other pleasurable activities. Like Shiva Asar B'Tammuz, Tisha B'av also commemorates five tragic events that occurred on this date according to our tradition.

- 1) During the time of Moses, (1312 BCE) the Jews in the desert accepted the slanderous report of the 10 Spies, and the decree was issued forbidding them from entering the Land of Israel. 
- 2) The First Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians (586 or 423 BCE), led by Nebuchadnezzar. 100,000 Jews were slaughtered and millions more exiled. 
- 3) The Second Temple was destroyed by the Romans (70 CE), led by Titus. Some two million Jews died, and another one million were exiled.
- 4) The Bar Kochba revolt was crushed by the Roman Emperor Hadrian (135 CE). The city of Beitar – the Jews' last stand against the Romans – was captured and liquidated. Over 100,000 Jews were slaughtered.
- 5) The Temple area and its surroundings were plowed under by the Roman general Turnus Rufus. Jerusalem was rebuilt as a pagan city – renamed Aelia Capitolina – and access was forbidden to Jews.

Later on in our history, many more tragedies happened on this day, including the 1290 expulsion of England's Jews and the 1492 banishment of all Jews from Spain.

Tisha B'av is the only fast-day that, like Yom Kippur, begins at sunset the night before. Also, like on Yom Kippur, leather shoes are not worn and there is a custom to sit low to the floor (as during Shiva) until after prayer services the morning of Tisha B'av. The custom is not to greet people in the customary manner the entire day. Services are usually conducted with dimmed lights and in the morning Tallis and Tefillin are not worn during services, but they are donned during the afternoon services instead.



Recent positive news generated by Israel, of which we can all be proud.
(Articles below are excerpts of originals only)



Yale (Inadvertently) Proves the Jews' Ancient Claim to Israel

By Milli Sands April 24, 2024

americanthinker.com

This is the Yale coat of arms:



The Hebrew script in the open book is pronounced in English as "Urim ve'Tummim."

Urim ve'Tummim is a Hebrew phrase that means "lights and perfections." The

Torah uses the term to describe a device that the high priest of Israel used to seek guidance from God on a variety of matters, including military campaigns, legal disputes, and religious rituals. It is mentioned in the Torah on several occasions, e.g., Exodus 28:30, Numbers 27:21, and Deuteronomy 33:8. The Urim ve'Tummim's significance is emphasized in various historical accounts and religious texts from ancient Israelite tradition. The Urim ve'Tummim comprised two objects that were kept in the breastplate of the High Priest of the ancient Israelites. The breastplate was also inlaid with 12 precious stones, each of which was engraved with the name of one of the 12 tribes of Israel. According to historical and biblical

accounts, the Urim ve'Tummim were primarily used during the period of ancient Israelite history, specifically during the time of the Tabernacle and, later, the First Temple in Jerusalem. This period is generally believed to have spanned from approximately the 14th century BCE to the 6th century BCE. As the Urim ve'Tummim were used by the Israelite (that is, Jewish), high priest from the 14th to the 6th centuries BCE, they are a testament to the fact that Jews have had a presence in the land dating back at least 35 centuries. Further, this time period includes the United Kingdom of Israel under King David and his son, King Solomon. The United Kingdom of Israel comprised the lands of the Kingdoms of Israel and Judea, which separated into independent entities following King Solomon's reign. The State of Israel is situated within the boundaries of the Kingdoms of Judah and Israel. Thus, through its coat of arms, Yale places the Jewish people in the land of Israel, at a minimum, 3,500 years ago.

MK Boaz Bismuth spoke with Arutz Sheva about his upcoming trip to the US

Yoni Kempinski May 29, 2024

israelnationalnews.com

MK Boaz Bismuth (Likud) spoke with Arutz Sheva-Israel National News from the Knesset about his upcoming trip to New York to participate in the Celebrate Israel Parade on Sunday. "I fly to the US as a proud Israeli. I'm very proud of who I am, I'm very proud of being an Israeli, and an Israeli member of parliament. It is true that I'm flying to America when my country has a big challenge of winning the war," says Bismuth. He describes the various challenges that Israel is facing: "We have a big challenge, which is not only the fighting in Gaza, it's a diplomatic challenge, it's an economic challenge, it's a judicial challenge, it's a communications challenge. October 7th didn't occur a hundred years ago, it only happened

about half a year ago, yet we're presented as the aggressors. But we were aggressed." The MK points to something that could help Israel progress in the war: "First thing is unity, we have to be united. I haven't seen any nation, especially Israel, that can win a war if it's not united. Bismuth notes that "respecting international and humanitarian law is so easy for us. We don't do it to satisfy our friends in the West. Do you know why we respect humanitarian law? Do you know why we respect lives, including the lives of Palestinians in Gaza? Because I'm Israel."

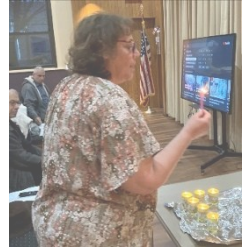
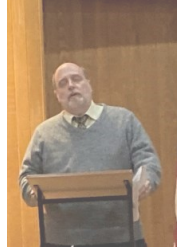
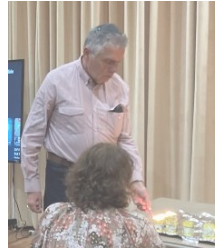


President's Message

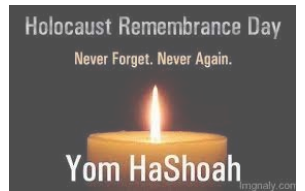
(Continued from page 1)

classes (brief promotional message - every Monday night @ 7p) this is an intense period no less spiritually charged than that between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur (the far better known of the two intervals). As important as it is, common belief suggests Shavuot is not as familiar as its biblical counterparts, Sukkot and Passover, because it doesn't feature the iconic symbols and rituals of those holidays, the Sukkah and the Seder, and that it lacks the in-home celebration aspect of the other two. Yet, what it does provide is an opportunity to reset your relationship with The Almighty. When the Hebrews - through Moses - received the Torah they were in a

sense (to borrow a phrase) born again, literally a new people. We became more than descendants of the first Patriarch Abraham, or an enslaved Middle-Eastern people. We had now become God's people, chosen to learn His Torah and keep its laws. This is what we celebrate every year on the festival of Shavuot. I hope you will join us in Synagogue for this important observance (check the calendar for the dates) and remember the Whitestone Hebrew Centre is here throughout the Summer months for all your spiritual needs. See you in Shul!



WHC's Yom Hashoah observance on May 5th
in memory of the Six Million who perished in the Shoah.



Rabbi Axelman at the Whitestone Memorial Day Parade on May 27th
On left with Councilwoman Vicki Paladino; on right with Vietnam Veteran Joseph A. Panzardi, Sr.

SCHEDULE OF WHC CLASSES

(led by Rabbi Axelman)

- Sundays @ Time TBA -- Talmud Class**
- Mondays @ 7:00 PM -- Judaism 101**
- Explore Your Questions**



Please check our website for updated days and times of classes.
Currently classes are being streamed on zoom and not being held in person.



Thank you for Donations -- April - May 2024

Yahrzeit

Evelyn Apter
 Ralph Baer
 Lottie Bloch
 Laurie Chester
 Steven Dorf
 Barbara Dublin
 Deborah Fishman
 Eve Hausler
 Francine Kerner Klein

Melinda Kizner
 Maurice & Gloria Lampel
 Elaine Neal
 Alex Ratner
 Ellis Rosenblatt
 Michelle Rosenman
 Mark & Kathryn Safran
 Melodie Schneider

Audrey Seidman
 Jonathan & Rosalind Shapiro
 Stephanie Simon-Petrover
 Henry & Carolyn Solny
 Leonard A. & Nicole Spivak
 Jerome & Norma Strassler
 Mozelle Tawil Mayer
 Clara Wiesler
 Edward Winkler

Donations to the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Mazel Tov on Binny's Law School Graduation

Ellis Rosenblatt



D
O
N
A
T
I
O
N
S

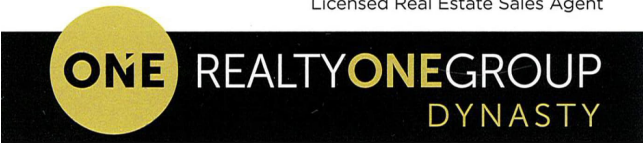


WHC BULLETIN BY EMAIL!

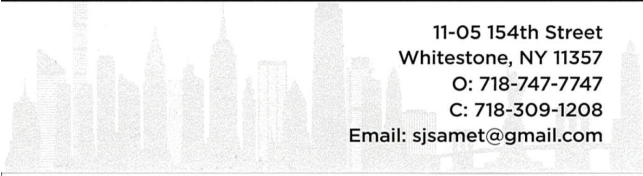


If you would like to receive a copy of the bulletin by email, in addition to the printed version, please send your email address to haxelman@gmail.com and let us know. The email version appears in color and will reach you several days before the hard copy. Thank you!

Sharon Samet
Licensed Real Estate Sales Agent



11-05 154th Street
Whitestone, NY 11357
O: 718-747-7747
C: 718-309-1208
Email: sjsamet@gmail.com



Cascon™
BAKING COMPANY
Home of "Cascon Cheesecakes" Since 1975

For a New York moment-anywhere, anytime...

Wholesale & Retail Distributor of Cakes, Cookies, Pastries & Pies

7-04 149th Street Whitestone, NY 11357
Monday - Saturday 7am - 7pm
Sunday 8am - 2pm

Tel: 718.767.5700
Fax: 718.767.5701

www.casconcheesecakes.com Email: casconbakery1@aol.com

Re-Action Auto Service Center

NATIONAL FIRESTONE THE CORONA CAR CONNECTION ACCOUNTS

- COMPUTERIZED ENGINE ANALYSIS
- AIR CONDITIONING EXPERTS
- ALL TYPES OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC REPAIRS
- N.Y.S. INSPECTION STATION

WE GLADLY ACCEPT EXTENDED WARRANTIES
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
FLEETS WELCOME

Charlie or Anthony Operations Managers 718-767-3113
12-30 Clintonville Street Whitestone, New York 11357 FAX: 718-746-3749

Harpell Chemist
12-65 150 St.
Whitestone, NY 11357

George Isaakidis, RPh., C.F.
Joseph Isaakidis, RPh., C.F.
Sophia Stamboulis, PharmD
Chrisoula Athanasopoulos, PharmD
George Dallas, RPh

Pharmacy & Surgical Fittings
718-767-7868
Fax 718-767-5600

JAMES A. CAPPA
Attorney - At - Law

718-640-7814

Benjamin Moore Whitestone Hardware

Whitestone Hardware
12-48 150th Street
Whitestone, NY 11357
Phone: 718-767-9546
Fax: 718-767-0442

Now together, serving the Jewish community just as we have for generations.

SCHWARTZ BROTHERS-JEFFERS MEMORIAL CHAPELS
718-263-7600

SINAI CHAPELS™
718-445-0300

PARKSIDE MEMORIAL CHAPELS
718-896-9000

Michael Resnick, Jennifer Martin and David Goldstein, Funeral Directors

114-03 QUEENS BOULEVARD • FOREST HILLS, NEW YORK 11375

THESE FIRMS ARE OWNED BY A SUBSIDIARY OF SERVICE CORP. INTERNATIONAL 1929 ALLEN PKWY, HOUSTON, TX 77019, 713-522-5141