



SHAVUOT GREETINGS

From our Rabbi

When Good Isn't Good Enough!



Shavuot, one of the three Biblical Jewish holidays, celebrates the "Giving of the Torah" 3,333 years ago at Mount Sinai. We, as one people, all heard the Ten Commandments from G-d when Moses brought down

another (between man and man) one must follow the first five Commandments as well; and to be holy (between man and G-d) one must fulfill the latter five Commandments. Living life one way without the other is simply not good enough! Just as a bird needs its two wings to fly, we need our Two Luchot to soar and fulfill our purpose.

the Tablets; and we relive this significant and eternal event each year at this time.

There is much excitement and anticipation to the summer season. Our momentous upcoming Gala honouring Murray Dalfen is a testament to our precious House of Israel and our wonderful up north Jewish community. Yasher Koach to Menachem (Murray) for his incredible efforts and devotion to our shul. Special thanks to our President, Elliot Berzan for his meticulous dedication and special mention to our Board/Executive, Debby Leboff, Women's Council and Gala Committee for their involvement and dedication. To our generous Gala Contributors, Gala Patrons, Gala Journal advertisers and all supporters; your generosity enables us to soar to greater heights. May G-d bless us all with good health, abundance and nachas.

The 'Ten Commandments' were engraved on two "Luchot"; two Tablets which implores the question, why two? Could G-d have not engraved all Ten Commandments on one single Tablet?

Upon hearing the Commandments we can notice a pattern; all five Commandments of each Tablet have something uniquely in common. The Two Tablets themselves present a profound message in keeping the Torah.

The first Tablet and the first five Commandments are commandments between man and G-d. The second Tablet and the latter five Commandments are between man and man.

These Two Tablets are inseparable! They were given by G-d as a set; one dependent on the other. To be kind to one

We have a beautiful shul! We hope to see and greet you soon!

Rabbi Emanuel Carlebach



Celebrate Shavuot & Discover!

SUNDAY EVENING, MAY 16 – 8:30 P.M.

Services • All Night Torah Study

MONDAY MORNING, MAY 17 – 10:00 A.M.

Ten Commandments

SHAVUOT GREETINGS

From our President



The holiday of Shavuot is really a double celebration that has great relevance to all of us in the middle of this isolating pandemic. In addition to hearing the Ten Commandments, we read the Book of Ruth on Shavuot. The Ten Commandments form an indelible mark on us

and our children and bring clarity to the Covenant between G-d and the Jewish People.

The Book of Ruth celebrates the Acts of Loving Kindness between Ruth and her mother-in-law Naomi, which in turn symbolizes the Acts of Loving Kindness between G-d and man and between man and G-d. The Covenant is a reciprocal agreement: You serve me, says G-d and I will protect you. But Chesed, (Acts of Loving Kindness), is G-d's unconditional love for us. And as the Book of Ruth demonstrates, Acts of Loving Kindness should form the basis of our relationships with one another.

So many of our shul members have demonstrated Chesed with family, friends and complete strangers during this

period of isolation. Phone calls, Zoom calls, checking in, delivering groceries and looking out for one another has become part of their daily routine. These individuals are true 'Heroes'!

Rabbi Carlebach, who always demonstrates Chesed, has been nothing short of amazing during this pandemic. Not only does he stay in touch with so many of our members, he visits those in hospitals, delivers Challahs, Matzah, Lulavs and Etrogs, and care packages for those in need. He also teaches several courses on Zoom, conducts a Thursday morning Zoom 'minyan', Shabbat and Holiday services in Shul, instructs Bar Mitzvah boys, attends funerals, and nurtures our faith in Hashem. And he still has time to be a loving husband, father and grandfather. All wonderful Acts of Loving Kindness!

This summer the House of Israel will host a celebration for all our members and families. This "Gala Virtual Event" will take place on June 22nd. Please plan to join us! I look forward to the day when all our members have received their second vaccinations and we can see each other again at the House of Israel.

Shavuot Sameach!

Elliot Berzan



The House of Israel Congregation is proud to present our Annual Summer Gala. This year our virtual event will pay tribute to all our members and families who have graced our shul over so many years; activists, supporters, participants and all those who have contributed so much to keep our shul alive and well.

This Gala celebration is also in honour of a long standing member and generous supporter to our House of Israel.

Murray Dalfen joined the synagogue when he originally bought his country home and ever since then he has devoted himself to maintaining, renovating, dedicating, honouring and supporting this country shul. For Murray, contributing his efforts has been and is a labour of love.

This professionally produced Gala Event will be fun, fast paced and entertaining. The renowned and "hot" Israeli singer Gad Elbaz will be the highlight of the show. We will also share in meaningful tributes honouring those who are part of our shul family and work so hard to keep our synagogue a vibrant and welcoming home.

Join us virtually for this exciting celebration!



WHAT IS SHAVUOT?

Shavuot, one of the three major Festivals (the other two being Pesach and Sukkot), marks the 'Giving of the Torah' to the entire Jewish people at Mount Sinai 3,333 years ago. This holiday comes exactly fifty days after Passover.

Every year on this day we renew our acceptance of G-d's gift. The word Shavuot also means "weeks". It culminates the spiritual preparation of the seven week "Omer" period which commenced on the second night of Passover. During this time the Jewish people cleansed themselves of the scars of bondage and became a holy nation ready to enter into a spiritual covenant with G-d.

THE GIVING OF THE TORAH

The word "giving" is related to the word "gift" since the Torah wasn't merely "presented" or "given", but was a special gift which created a profound and permanent impression upon the Jewish people and bound us to G-d. On that momentous day at Mount Sinai, only the giving of the Torah occurred, whereas our receiving the Torah takes place every day. In addition, the Torah was given to all Jews alike, without distinction.

The giving of the Torah was far more than an historical event. It was a far reaching spiritual event – one that touched the essence of the Jewish soul then and for all time. Our Sages have compared Shavuot to a wedding between G-d and the Jewish people. We became His special nation and He became our G-d.

WHAT IS THE TORAH?

The Torah is composed of two parts: the Written Law and the Oral Law. The Written Torah contains the Five Books of Moses, the Prophets and the Writings. Together with the Written Torah, Moses was also given the Oral Law which explains and clarifies the Written law. It was to be transmitted from generation to generation and eventually was transcribed in the Talmud, Midrash and Zohar.

The Torah is not mere human knowledge subject to revision but represents Divine immutable universal guidelines, tried and tested by the Jewish people over several millennia in every country and culture throughout the world. Torah provides a framework for daily living based on the most authoritative moral code. The Torah is a most precise and eternal yardstick against which to measure our deeds and lifestyles.

HOLIDAY CUSTOMS

On the evenings preceding a Jewish holiday, women and girls usher and welcome in the holiday by lighting candles, and saying the proper blessing.

It is customary to stay awake on the first night of Shavuot (Sunday, May 16, 2021) and to read the "Tikkun Lail Shavuoth" anthology; selections from the Written and Oral Torah.

All people, especially children, should hear the Torah reading of the Ten Commandments in the Synagogue on the first day of Shavuot (Monday, May 17).

On Shavuot we dedicate ourselves to increase our Torah study throughout the year.

DAIRY FOODS

It is customary to eat dairy foods such as blintzes and cheesecake on Shavuot. Full dairy courses can be served as the main meal or as a lighter snack preceding the traditional meat dinner.

One reason for eating dairy is that when the Jews received the Torah on Shavuot, they had no kosher utensils for meat preparation, so they ate dairy, which is relatively easier to prepare.

THE BOOK OF RUTH

It is customary to read the Book of Ruth on (the second day of) Shavuot. Ruth was a sincere convert who embraced Judaism with all her heart. Through her conversion, Ruth entered into a covenant with G-d; on Shavuot, the Jews entered into their covenant with Hashem through their acceptance of the Torah.

Shavuot is the birthday and yahrzeit of King David (as well as Reb Yisrael Baal Shem Tov,) and the Book of Ruth records King David's ancestry. Ruth and her husband Boaz were King David's great grandparents. Ruth, who merited to become the Mother of Royalty, represents the spiritual striving and accomplishments of Jewish women.

YIZKOR

On the second day of Shavuot, **Tuesday, May 18, 2021** (as on Passover, Sukkot and Yom Kippur) it is customary to recite Yizkor, a prayer in memory of a departed relative or friend.

SHABBAT and SHAVUOT



CANDLE LIGHTING TIMES



Friday, May 14, 2021
Parshat Bamidba
@ 8:04 pm
Recite blessing # 1

Friday, May 21, 2021
Parshat Naso
@ 8:12 pm
Recite blessing # 1

Friday, June 18, 2021
Parshat Chukat
@ 8:33 pm
Recite blessing # 1

Friday, July 16, 2021
Parshat Devarim
Shabbat Chazon
@ 8:25 pm
Recite blessing # 1

Friday, August 13, 2021
Parshat Shoftim
@ 7:50 pm
Recite blessing # 1

Sunday, May 16, 2021
First eve of Shavuot
@ 8:06 pm
Recite blessings # 2 & 3

Friday, May 28, 2021
Parshat Be-haalotcha
@ 8:19 pm
Recite blessing # 1

Friday, July 25, 2021
Parshat Balak
@ 8:34 pm
Recite blessing # 1

Friday, July 23, 2021
Parshat Va-etchanan
Shabbat Nachamu
@ 8:19 pm
Recite blessing # 1

Friday, August 20, 2021
Parshat Ki Tai-tzai
@ 7:38 pm
Recite blessing # 1

Monday, May 17, 2021
Second eve of Shavuot
After 9:19 pm
(from a pre-existing flame)
Recite blessings # 2 & 3

Friday, June 4, 2021
Parshat Sh'lach
@ 8:25 pm
Recite blessing # 1

Friday, July 2, 2021
Parshat Pinchas
@ 8:33 pm
Recite blessing # 1

Friday, July 30, 2021
Parshat Eikev
@ 8:11 pm
Recite blessing # 1

Friday, August 27, 2021
Parshat Ki Tavo
@ 7:26 pm
Recite blessing # 1



Friday, June 11, 2021
Parshat Korach
@ 8:30 pm
Recite blessing # 1

Friday, July 9, 2021
Parshat Matot & Masei
@ 8:30 pm
Recite blessing # 1

Friday, August 6, 2021
Parshat Re-ai
@ 8:01 pm
Recite blessing # 1

Friday, September 3, 2021
Parshat Nitzavim
@ 7:13 pm
Recite blessing # 1

PROCEDURE: Candles are lit approximately eighteen minutes before sunset. A minimum of two candles should be lit. Light the candles at the prescribed time. To indicate your acceptance of the sanctity of the day, spread your hands out around the candles and then bring your hands inward in a circular motion three times. Cover your eyes with your hands and recite the blessing(s). Uncover your eyes and gaze at the candles briefly. Good Shabbos (Yom Tov)!!

BLESSING #1

*Bo-ruch Ah-toh Ado-noi Elo-heinu Melech Ha-
olam Asher Ki-deshonu Bemitz-votov Vetzi-
vonu Lehadlik Ner Shel Shabbos Kodesh.*

BLESSING #2

*Bo-ruch Ah-toh Ado-noi Elo-heinu Melech Ha-
olam Asher Ki-deshonu Bemitz-votov Vetzi-vonu
Lehadlik Ner Shel Yom Tov.*

BLESSING #3

*Bo-ruch Ah-toh Ado-noi Elo-heinu Melech Ha-
olam Shehe-che-yonu Veki-yemonu Vehi-gi-onu
Lazman Haseh.*

From our Women's Council

- S** - Shalom Aleichem
- H** - Harvest of Wheat
- A** - All night Torah study
- V** - Varieties of fruit get eaten
- U** - Unless you like cheese blintzes
- O** - Or even Kreplach, Cheesecake or 7 layer cake
- T** - Torah to the Nation

On behalf of the Women's Council, we would like to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy Shavuot!

DONATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR GALA 2021

The Gala is our major fundraising event with funds going both to our operating budget and to assuring the continuity of our Shul for the next generation. Murray has done an outstanding job at raising significant contributions, but our needs are great. We have not set categories of giving for this event, leaving it completely up to the discretion of each donor, however, every donation will be acknowledged in our Ad Book. Most donations have fallen between \$180 and \$18,000 and many have agreed to sponsor the event with a donation of \$500. Every donation will be greatly appreciated. Please click on <https://www.houseofisrael.org/payment.php> , and **select Gala 2021**, to make your donation.

The House of Israel has been serving Jewish families, from all walks of life, in the Laurentians since 1953. Please help us continue serving our community.

Our Ad Book will feature photos and stories about our families and our honouree, Murray Dalfen. Debby Leboff would be delighted to discuss advertising options with you. You may reach Debby at 514-893-6015, or drop her a line at debbybrooksleboff@bell.net

Thanks again,

Elliot



Gala 2021

**In Honour of Murray Dalfen
In Tribute to our HOI Families**

Join us for a

House of Israel

virtual fun-filled celebration

featuring

Gad Elbaz

one of Israel's hottest singers

June 22, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

HOUSE OF ISRAEL LIFE CYCLE EVENTS

MAZAL TOV

We wish the following members and their families a very hearty Mazal Tov on their happy occasion.

Tania & Charon Benchlouch on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Jonathan
Carin & Brian Byer on the birth of their grandson, Henri Rae
Deborah & Ron Cons on the Bar Mitzvah of their son, Isaac Akiva
Helen & Stanley Cons on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Isaac Akiva
Ellen & George Fantus on the birth of their grandson, Rafael Evoy
Cindy & Michael Kay on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson, Ryan
Laetitia & Sholom Robret on the engagement of their daughter Odelia, to David Gabbay

CONDOLENCES

Our deepest sympathy to the following members and their families. May they be spared any further sorrow.

Susanna & David Bierbrier on the passing of their daughter, **Chani Kaplan**
Jack Dym on the passing of his mother, **Frieda Dym**
Channy Gniwisch on the passing of her mother, **Gitel Weberman**
Chaim Kaplan on the passing of his wife, **Chani Kaplan**
The Koss Family on the passing of **Lora Ann Koss**
Marvin Libman on the passing of his brother, **Allan Libman**
Cheryl Polansky on the passing of her father, **Hyman Polansky**
Eden Polansky on the passing of her father, **Hyman Polansky**
Sandi Taite on the passing of her mother, **Ruth Maclan**
Sandra Wechsler on the passing of **David Hendler**

CONTRIBUTORS

Our sincere appreciation to our members and friends for their continued support of our Shul.

Yohann Abitbol in honour of Rabbi Carlebach's Birthday
Marla & David Applebaum for Passover donation
Rickie & Bernie Backman
Gail & Elliot Berzan for Yahrtzeit donation
Vera Boros
Ian Brock to our Mitzvah fund
Carin & Brian Byer
Cons Family for Passover donation
Florence & Burt Dalfen to our Mitzvah fund
Lori & Stuart Forman for Yahrtzeit donation
George Friedman
Howard Geniele for Yahrtzeit donation
Arieh Gomolin in memory of Lily Bass
Marcia & Abe Gurman to our Mitzvah fund
Mirna & Sandor Hofbauer for Yahrtzeit donation
Kathryn Kis for Yizkor donation
Paul Kushner for Passover donation
Howard Lapkovsky

CONTRIBUTORS CONT

Valerie & Jay Lawrence

Elizabeth Laxer for Yahrtzeit donation

Beatrice & Joe Levine

Heather & Howard Liebman for Passover donation

Rachel & Morley Lonn

Marilyn & Jack Miller

Percy Ostroff for Yahrtzeit donation

Aharon Revah to our Mitzvah fund

Fred Rabiner in memory of Allan Libman

Evelyn Shrier for Yahrtzeit donation

RoseLee & Bernie Shuster

Arlene & Howard Silver to our Mitzvah fund

Lily Steinfeld for Yizkor donation

Roberta Steinfeld for Yizkor donation

Julius & Terry Suss to our Liquor fund

Chainie & Bruce Zikman in memory of Marty Leboff

TRIBUTE TO MARTY LEBOFF O.B.M.

Over the past 30 years, as members of the House of Israel, Bruce and I have had the privilege of meeting so many wonderful people and making so many new friends. Each person was interesting and unique, having their own personal background (history), therefore contributing to the life of our shul in their own special way. We were like an eclectic family celebrating Shabbat, holidays and fundraising events. As the years passed and people grew older, we starting loosing them, leaving a void and emptiness in our hearts.

For Bruce and myself, some of these relationships had turned into lifelong friendships. The loss of our good friend Marty Leboff was a shock in itself. It happened so quickly, at least he was spared long term suffering. We became close friends when Bruce became President in 2001. Marty made a pact with Bruce to be his right hand man and support him in fundraising events. They together with a committee of dedicated members initiated the Gala Auction at Mont Gabriel which proved to be a successful fundraiser for many years.

Bruce and Marty then became business partners and spent a lot of time together. Sometimes Marty would call Bruce several times a day. They became real good buddies - skiing together, biking, hiking and getting together with the "boys" every Thursday night. Marty was intelligent, sensitive, warm hearted, level headed and had a great sense of humour. He was a gentleman and a real mensch! But Debby was the one who grounded him and who made a beautiful life and home with him. They enjoyed spending time with friends and family, hosting spectacular holiday dinners!

Our sympathies go out to Debby. May all the good memories and her strength of character help her though this difficult time. We all miss Marty terribly. One minute he was there and then suddenly he wasn't ...but he will always be in our hearts and on the ski hill!!

With much sorrow,

Chainie Zikman



**On Zoom or Live!
Time will tell!**

Zoom in and join us for our
continuing **Study Classes**
Mondays
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING**
Sunday, August 2021
10:00 a.m. at the Shul
All Members
are invited to attend.

SOUVENIR CALENDAR 2021-2022

RESERVE YOUR DATE

All special occasions

dated in actual date boxes \$36 per dedication
Date boxes are limited – Please respond early



Contact Debby Leboff

at 514.893.6015 • debbybrooksleboff@bell.net

Important Dates

FAST OF 17TH OF TAMMUZ SUNDAY, JUNE 27, 2021

On this day a number of calamities befell the Jewish People. Among them were the breaching of the walls of Jerusalem (422 BCE & 70 BCE) that signified the destruction of the city, the Holy Temples, and the beginning of an exile.

This day is observed as a public fast day. **Fast begins at 3:20 am and ends 9:27 pm.**

This day begins the “Three Weeks” – a period of national mourning for the destruction of the two Temples, during which we don’t celebrate weddings or schedule festivities.

TISHA B’AV SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, JULY 17 & 18, 2021

This day is noted as the saddest day in the Jewish calendar.

Among the number of calamities, which befell the Jewish people on this day was the actual destruction of both Holy Temples (433 BCE & 70 BCE). This period is commemorated as a 25-hour fast day. Bathing, wearing perfumes or leather shoes, and marital relations are not permitted. **Fast and all restrictions start on Saturday at 8:40 p.m.** We sit on a low chair and do not put on our Tallit and Tefillin until Sunday afternoon (during Mincha service). **Fast ends on Sunday at 9:19 p.m.**

HIGH HOLIDAY SEATING 5782

Rosh Hashana - Sept. 6 - 8, 2021

Yom Kippur - Sept. 15 - 16, 2021

To reserve your seat call Debby:

514-893-6015

Covid-19 restrictions will apply.

HOUSE OF ISRAEL CONGREGATION

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TO REACH

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