

# THE CHEVRA

3'02



**Young Israel of Fair Lawn**  
The Morris J. Kraut z'l Torah Center  
[www.yifl.org](http://www.yifl.org)

**Rabbi Eli Belizon**

Avi Zanjirian  
President

## June 7, 2019

### ד סיון תשע"ט

Shacharis 7:00 AM  
Mincha 1 6:40 PM  
Mincha 2 8:13 PM  
Candle Lighting 6:53/8:08 PM  
*Make sure to have a flame for  
Yuntif*  
Repeat Shema/Sfira (49) 8:51 PM

## June 8, 2019

### ה סיון תשע"ט

No Chevra Mishnayos  
Shacharis 8:35 AM  
Sof Zman K"SS 9:10 AM

#### **Kiddush following davening**

*(Everyone is reminded to help out and  
clean up after your children.)*

Start eating Shaleshudes at  
home before 4:40 PM  
Women's Shiur 5:00 PM  
Seder 7:35 PM  
Mincha 8:05 PM

#### **Divrei Chizuk followed by Maariv**

*Baruch Hamavdil ben Kodesh  
L'kodesh*

Candle Lighting after 9:17 PM

## Sunday

Tikun Leil Shavuos 12:00 AM  
Alos 3:36 AM  
Shacharis 4:45 AM  
Hanetz Hachama 5:24 AM  
Women's Siyum 5:00 PM  
Seder 7:45 PM  
Mincha 8:15 PM

Maariv following the halacha  
chabura given by Etai Barach

Candle Lighting/Prep after 9:18 PM

## Monday

Shacharis 8:35 AM  
Sof Zman K"SS 9:10 AM  
*Megillas Rus*

Yizkor – approximately 10:15 AM

#### **Kiddush following davening**

*(Everyone is reminded to help out and  
clean up after your children.)*

Avos Ubanim 4:00 PM  
Seder 7:30 PM  
Mincha 8:00 PM  
Neilas HaChag 8:15 PM  
Maariv/Yom Tov Ends 9:18 PM

## Tuesday-Friday

Shacharis (T-F) 7:00 AM  
Night Seder (T-TH) 8:45 PM  
**No Sanhedrin Chabura (W)**  
Maariv (T-TH) 10:00 PM  
Chasidus Shiur (TH) 10:20 PM

## Shabbos Parshas Bamidbar

שבת פרשת במדבר  
שבועות

### Shavuos All Night Learning

This year the topic will be "Don't  
Trip Him Up, the Halachos of Lifnei  
Iver". We will be discussing buying  
non-kosher food for a Jewish boss,  
gifting dishes to those who don't  
keep kosher, and much more. The  
learning and refreshments is  
sponsored by the Mermelstein  
family l'ilui nishmas Jack's father  
חיים מרדכי בן הרב יעקב ע"ה

### Shabbos Women's Shiur

On Shabbos at 5:00PM, Rebbetzin  
Belizon will be giving a shiur for  
women at the Berman home, 38-55  
Dauria Drive. The shiur is sponsored  
by Zah and Rivki Berman in honor  
of their 10<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

### Women's Siyum

On the first day of Shavuos (Sunday)  
there will be a Siyum on the  
Chamesh Megilos for women at  
5:00PM at the Hardy home, 35-10  
Berdan Avenue.

### Kids Shavuos Program

On the first day of Shavuos (Sunday)  
there will be a Shavuos Ice Cream  
Program in Shul for ages 3 and up  
from 3:45-4:45PM. Ages 3 and 4  
will meet together and ages 5 and up  
will meet with their group leaders or  
can come for independent learning  
with their parents.

### **This Week's Chevra is Sponsored by Easy Climate Mechanics**

Air-Conditioning and Heating | Installation Maintenance and Repair | Mini Split AC/Heat Systems Specialist  
Factory Trained and Certified Installer | NJ State Licensed and Insured | Call Pinny at (201) 694-7034

## Halacha Chabura

Etai Barach will give this week's chabura on Sunday after mincha. This coming week's limud is 189:1 through the end of siman 191.

## Women's Halacha Series

The women's halacha series continues on Tuesday night at 8:15PM. The topic will be "Constructive Activity on Shabbos, the Halachos of Boneh."

## Children's Shaila of the Week

All children are encouraged to ask questions to the Rav, and each week a child will be singled out with the Children's Shaila of the Week. This week's shaila of the week goes to Ella Schwarz who asked if you can get ice cream from an ice cream truck, as long as you pay after Shabbos. Also to Akiva Belizon who asked if you are allowed to swim on Shabbos.

## Parshas Ha'Shavua

### Shabuot – We Won the Lottery of Life

#### *Rabbi Eli Mansour*

Shabuot is famously known, among other things, as the Yahrzeit of King David. Less known is the fact that the second day of Shabuot marks the Yahrzeit of another very important, and inspiring, Jewish figure.

A young man named Valentin belonged to the prominent Pototzki family in Poland, a fabulously wealthy family of devout Catholics who owned the spectacular Lancut Castle. Valentin traveled from Poland to Paris to study in a seminary, aspiring to become a minister. But while in Paris, he happened to come across an elderly Jew whose eyes were practically glued to the pages of a certain book. Valentin was struck by the man's devotion to his studies, and so he approached the man, inquired about what he was reading, and discovered, for the first time, the Jewish religion. This encounter triggered a lengthy, unlikely process which

culminated – remarkably – in Valentin's conversion to Judaism.

His family, naturally, was shocked, and mortified, upon hearing the news. Valentin was summoned back to Poland, and sharply reprimanded by his family. They brought leading Catholic figures to speak to him and try to change his mind and return to Catholicism, but he refused. They offered him great wealth if he returned, and threatened to leave him with nothing if he remained a Jew.

"No matter what you offer me," Valentin said, "I am remaining a Jew. I have found the truth, and it is worth more than anything."

Finally, Valentin was threatened with death. He heroically accepted his fate, rather than give up his new belief and lifestyle.

On the second day of Shabuot, 5509 (1749), Valentin – whose name had been changed to Abraham – was tortured to death and burned.

The Hafetz Haim, who lived over a century later, reportedly said that if ten Jewish men had been present at his execution and recited Kaddish, Mashiah would have come.

It is not coincidental that Abraham's execution occurred on Shabuot – the time when we read the story of another great person who gave up everything to become a Jew. Rut belonged to the family of the king of Moav, enjoying regal wealth, luxury and prestige, and she married into a wealthy, aristocratic Jewish family that had emigrated to Moab. After the tragic death of her husband and father-in-law, she could have very easily returned home to her life of royalty. But instead, she decided to join her mother-in-law, Naomi, and go to Eretz Yisrael and embrace Torah, even though this meant subjecting herself to abject poverty. Upon returning to Eretz Yisrael, Naomi and Rut did not even have food to eat, and Rut had to collect gleanings from Boaz's field just so that she and her mother-in-law would not starve to death. This is what Rut endured for the sake of joining Am Yisrael and committing herself to a life of Torah observance.

On Shabuot we also recall another famous convert. The Torah reading on

the first day of Shabuot comes from Parshat Yitro – which is named after the priest of Midyan who sacrificed his life of wealth and fame in order to join Beneh Yisrael in the desert. Like Rut and Valentin Pototzki, he was willing to give up everything for the sake of Torah. As we celebrate Matan Torah on Shabuot, we must stop to reflect upon the priceless treasure which we have been privileged to receive. The stories of Yitro, Rut and Valentin remind us of just how incalculably precious the Torah is, that nothing we can possibly have in this world will ever come anywhere close to the value of Torah.

Often, we complain about the difficulties entailed in religious observance. The prices of kosher food, the cost of Torah education, the loss of profit on Shabbat and Yom Tob, the inconvenience of praying three times a day – these, among many other things, make Torah life challenging. But the stories told above should put all these challenges in perspective, and reinforce our firm belief that what we gain by learning and observing the Torah far outweighs the costs and inconveniences.

The Gemara (Shabbat 88b) relates that at the time the Torah was given, the angels in heaven protested, insisting that something as precious as the Torah must remain with them. But they were wrong. The Torah belongs to us, the Jewish People. We are so beloved by Hashem that He gave us this precious treasure – which even the heavenly angels want but cannot have.

One of my Rabbis in high school would tell the class, "Boys, you have won the lottery of life!" The Torah is more precious than anything we could ever have – and Shabuot is the time to reflect upon the great privilege we have been given, the ability to study and live by Hashem's Torah.

## Shabbat Shalom!

## Chag Sameach!