

**May 25<sup>th</sup> 2018 / 11<sup>th</sup> of Sivan 5778**

Dear chevreh,

I have had a chance to tell many but not all of you that over my sabbatical I will be studying Yiddish language, literature and song at YIVO in Manhattan. My mother – who will be at services this evening! – told an acquaintance of hers what I was doing, and the woman said, “Yiddish is a dead language and there is no hope in restoring it.” Tragically, millions of speakers of Yiddish *were* murdered in the Shoah, along with a thriving, complex civilization, but Yiddish remains spoken by many observant Jews and pockets of scholars, Yiddishists, klezmer enthusiasts and others. Actually, I’m not learning Yiddish to try to revive the language, but rather to dip into the rich treasury of literature, culture, humor and stories embedded singularly in the language, one of the expressive languages of the Jewish people. I look forward to bringing back some of what I learn to share with you.

While I am away, if there is an emergency, please contact Andy Kaufman at: 609-273-1999

Rabbinic intern Janine Jankovitz, along with lay-leaders, will be leading services which you can find announced in the e-bulletin. Janine can be reached at: [janinejulia@gmail.com](mailto:janinejulia@gmail.com)

I will be leading services this evening at 7:30 pm, next Friday at 7:00 pm, and a Zimra service on Saturday the 2nd at 10:00. Starting June 4th, I will begin my sabbatical.

I offer the priestly blessing to you, which appears in this week’s Torah portion:

May God bless you and keep you  
May God deal kindly and graciously with you  
May God bestow favor upon you, and grant you peace.

Shabbat shalom,

Rabbi Diana