

Our mission is to ensure the flourishing of Jewish life through educational, social and Conservative religious experiences in a warm and dynamic community.

# Tidings

## Community-Wide Tikkun Leil Shavuot @Home 5780

At this time, we need to come together as a community with a message of unity, faith and gratitude for study in celebration of Shavuot while maintaining physical distancing. The **Tikkun@Home** will include a series of pre-recorded lessons from Northeast Ohio's leading rabbis, cantors, educators and presenters released the week of Shavuot for viewing before and during the holiday.

Details of this year's community wide **Tikkun@Home** are still in formation as our list of co-sponsors and presenters grows. Links and more information are being regularly updated and may be found at: [https://www.bnaijeshurun.org/tikkun\\_at\\_home](https://www.bnaijeshurun.org/tikkun_at_home).

Chair, Harriet Rosenberg Mann  
Vice-Chair, Richard Berkowitz

Supported in part by the Estelle & Dr. Milton Rosenberg<sup>z"l</sup> Tikkun Leil Shavuot Study Session Fund.

## Tikkun Live

Erev Shavuot, Thursday, May 28

Join together with us for services and live Zoom sessions led by our clergy, educators and community teachers.

Tentative Schedule:

7:15 pm Mincha Afternoon Service on Nickman Chapel live stream and Zoom

7:30 pm Zoom Class(es)

8:33 pm Candlelighting

8:45 pm Zoom Class(es)

9:45 pm Festival Ma'ariv Evening Service on the David J. & Ruth A. Moskowitz Sanctuary live stream and Zoom

10:15 pm Zoom Classes follow into the night

This program is still in formation. Links and more information, including session presenters and titles, are being regularly updated and may be found at: <https://www.bnaijeshurun.org/pray-with-us-holidays-shavuot>.

## 154th Annual Meeting

Sunday, May 31 • 1:30 pm

Mazal tov to our awardees:

**Fay Blumenthal** ~ Joseph M. Lomberg Award for Outstanding Individual Service

**Theresa & Lee Markowitz** ~ Rabbi Rudolph M. Rosenthal Outstanding Family Award

While we hope this may be a live meeting, there is a strong chance this will be a Zoom meeting. With that in mind, it is anticipated that voting will be handled online, with details to follow. We will send out paper ballots to anyone who would prefer to vote in that manner. If you are interested in a paper ballot, please let the synagogue office know and we will mail a ballot once they are available in May.

# Beineinu - Between Us



During the counting of the omer (the days between Passover and Shavuot), it is customary to observe certain ascetic traditions. We do not shave or cut our hair (unless necessary for our profession), nor do we swim, listen to live music or hold celebrations. These practices are done as an expression of mourning for the destruction of the Temple and the exile of the Jewish people. Those restrictions are lifted starting on May 12, the 33rd day of the count, known as Lag B'Omer.

There are many different reasons for why this day is a celebratory day that lifts our mourning. One tradition teaches that this is the date on which manna first fell to sustain the Israelites during their wandering in the wilderness. This date is also the *hilula* (yarzheit) of Rabbi Shimon bar Yohai, who was long believed to be the author of the Zohar, one of the most essential texts of Jewish mysticism. Kabbalistic traditions hold that on this, his last day on earth, Rabbi Shimon revealed the mystical secrets of the nature of God and how God's light brings into being and sustains both this physical world and our souls. A third tradition teaches that there was a terrible plague that killed 24,000 of Rabbi Akiva's students during the second century, but that on Lag B'Omer the plague miraculously ceased. Many modern scholars believe that this plague described in the Talmud was not really an epidemic but that the word plague is a code word used by the rabbis to describe slaughter at the hands of the Romans.

In Israel on Lag B'Omer, people hold picnics and barbecues. Children play with toy bows and arrows and families light gigantic bonfires around which they hold sing-a-longs featuring either religious or Zionist music. The toy bows and arrows are a reminder of the struggle of the Jews to oppose Roman occupation of the Holy land. The light of the bonfires is symbolic of the light of God that streams into our world. Lag B'Omer always falls on the 18th day of the Hebrew month of Iyar. Of course, for us as Jews, 18 always stands for Chai – life. Indeed, though normally the number 18 would be written *yud chet*, with the number 10 coming before the 8, it is customary to write the date of Lag B'Omer as *chet yud*, that is, *Chai Iyyar*.

Somehow, this very minor holiday, which in America has fallen largely into desuetude seems to take on greater significance this year as we find ourselves fighting against our own plague. I pray that this Lag B'Omer brings us relief from our affliction. May we feel the light of God's spirit rising in us, giving us the strength of body and spirit to persevere and overcome the challenges that we face, and that on this *Chai Iyyar*, God blesses us all with life.

Naomi joins me in wishing you a joyous Lag B'Omer and Shavuot!

Rabbi Stephen Weiss

## Candle Lighting

May 1 .....	8:06 pm
May 8 .....	8:14 pm
May 15 .....	8:21 pm
May 22 .....	8:27 pm
May 28 .....	8:33 pm
May 29 .....	8:33 pm

## Torah Portions

May 2 .....	Acharei Mot-Kedoshim
May 9 .....	Emor
May 16 .....	Behar-Bechukotai
May 23 .....	Bamidbar
May 30 .....	Shavuot

## Daily Service Schedule

The building is closed and services are being led by clergy virtually. Please join us via live stream at [www.bnaijeshurun.org/streaming](http://www.bnaijeshurun.org/streaming) or Zoom in via phone at (929) 205-6099 (Meeting IDs: Weekday mornings 413 413 630; Evenings 200 230 834; Sunday mornings 298 657 543) or computer at:

<https://cutt.ly/bjcSundayMorningMinyan8am>

<https://cutt.ly/bjcMorningMinyanM-F715am>

<https://cutt.ly/bjcWeekdayAfternoonMinyan6pm>

Friday evening service:

<https://zoom.us/j/843828395>,

Meeting ID #843 828 395

Shabbat morning service:

<https://zoom.us/j/750690071>,

Meeting ID #750 690 071

Shabbat afternoon service:

<https://zoom.us/j/843828395>,

Meeting ID #84 828 395

### Service Times:

**Mondays - Fridays: 7:15 am, 6:00 pm**

**Saturdays: 9:00 am, 6:00 pm**

**Sundays, 8:00 am, 6:00 pm**

### Shavuot Service Schedule:

Erev Shavuot – Thursday, May 28 - Tikkun begins at 7:15 pm

1st day Shavuot – Friday, May 29 – 9:00 am

2nd day Shavuot; Yizkor -  
Saturday, May 30 – 9:00 am

## President's Message



These are difficult times for everyone. We are all isolated from our friends and families. During times like this, we even more appreciate our synagogue, especially our clergy and fellow congregants. The streamed and

Zoom services have allowed us to continue davening and see each other, even have a morning "I'chayim" together, bridging the physical distance. The Zoom and Facebook Live programs have also brought us together to learn, exercise, enjoy Kinder Shabbat, continue religious school classes and more. Thank you to all the faculty, including both clergy and other instructors, for giving us these opportunities for outside engagement.

Also, I hope you have received one or more phone calls from other congregants, including members of the Chesed Committee, Sunshine Committee, 1000 Cups of Coffee, Board and Executive Board. We have been trying to keep in touch with all of you, especially those who live alone and who are older or vulnerable. We know how isolating these weeks have been and hope that these phone calls brighten your days.

The number of congregants participating in our Friday evening, Saturday morning and daily services has been much higher than usual. We are extremely grateful to our anonymous donor who funded the streaming in Moskowitz Sanctuary, Nickman Chapel and Halpern Hall. Because of their foresight and generosity, we were able to hit the ground running and offer these services as soon as the limitations on in-person gatherings began. We have received emails from across the world, thanking us for our streamed services, which allow others to daven, including saying kaddish, from anywhere.

Seeing how our customs evolve as the prohibitions relax will be interesting. For example, will we host more educational programs online? Will people who did not attend services regularly before and who are now using our streaming services continue to attend regularly, virtually or in person? Regardless, I think most of us appreciate even more the importance of the synagogue in our lives and the ways that our clergy and fellow members support each other in difficult times. We are a community, and we are here for each other.

Stay well!!

Gena Cohen

## Cantor's Corner



Over 3,500 years ago, we eagerly anticipated the giving of the Torah. G-d had proved His awesomeness beyond a shadow of a doubt. The Jews had been freed from servitude and for the first time had reason to be optimistic. They understood there was a power driving them unlike anything they had witnessed before and they put their trust in G-d and Moses. This faith and belief have held true to this day.

On Shavuot, we commemorate the giving of the Torah. We read the 10 Commandments and try to recreate the events that transpired. We study all night in anticipation of the Torah reading, which recaps all the wondrous events that ultimately led to the acceptance of G-d's Torah.

The Torah is replete with life's lessons and a blueprint for how to live in harmony with G-d and one another. Are we much happier than our ancestors? It is something we need to think about. Observing the Torah was part and parcel of the deal we made with G-d. At Mt. Sinai we proclaimed, "*Nashé venishma*". We will do and then listen and understand the decrees. This is unconditional, not whether it feels right, whether we agree, or if it's convenient.

We remind G-d daily of his promises to us in the first blessing of the *Amidah*. It is a two-way street and we need to demonstrate to G-d that we are worthy of being his people as well as a suitable partner.

Shavuot is a reminder to recommit ourselves. Our agreement has no statute of limitations. This is for eternity. Even when we stray, G-d gives us a chance to make amends. There are many temptations to pull us away from G-d. We have to realize that this worship of G-d is the purpose in life. We can all find different ways to connect to G-d. However, there is no vacation or sabbatical in this endeavor. This is a daily task with wonderful opportunities to elevate in holiness.

May Shavuot catapult us and may we see a year filled with good health and blessing.

Cantor Aaron Shifman

## Flags for Memorial Day

On Memorial Day, a United States flag is traditionally placed on the graves of those who served our country. If you would like to assist in the placing of flags at Chesterland Memorial Park or Bet Olam Cemetery, or would like to help the Jewish War Veterans at other cemeteries, please contact Murray Berkowitz (mjbnick@gmail.com or (216) 513-6662). This is one of the highest mitzvot and a good patriotic learning experience for children, one in which the whole family can participate.

# Education & Youth



## Navigating our New Reality

We have been very busy here at the Youth & Learning Center over the past six weeks as we have shifted all of our learning to virtual settings. Classes and services over Zoom and tutoring over FaceTime and What'sApp was not what we anticipated as recently as Purim, but our world has changed and we are busy trying to adapt to our new reality. However, as we prepare to celebrate Shavuot and the receiving of the Torah later this month, just as in our celebration of Passover this past month, there is much uncertainty about how we will celebrate. Thankfully, the Torah itself reminds us that we must continue to interpret anew in each generation, so that its words can speak to us in ways that help guide us and provide meaning in our lives: "The Torah is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who can go up to heaven to get it for us?'...No, rather it is very close to you, in your mouth and in your heart..." (Deut. 30: 12-14).

There are countless examples from our tradition where we interpret in ways that may seem incongruent with the words found in the Torah (an eye for an eye & tooth for a tooth means monetary compensation for damages?); our tradition teaches that in addition to a written Torah given at Sinai, we are inheritors of an oral Torah – interpretation passed on from parent to child, generation to generation, that is no less divine than the Five Books of Moses. While the words in the Torah are unchanging, the oral Torah is being added to in each generation to help us answer new questions for our time. We can take solace and pride in the fact that our tradition embraces new interpretations of Torah based on the time in which we live – especially in a time when everything in our world seems upside down, it is truly comforting to know that God empowers us to translate the Torah in light of our needs in this moment.

Rabbi Josh Foster

## Mazal tov to our Confirmands!

Confirmation is traditionally held over Shavuot. However, due to this unusual year, we are still working out details for the service. Stay tuned to our website for updates.

### Confirmand

Abigail Rose Berman  
Ethan Jesse Dobres  
Cole Griffith Ettinger  
Perry Gelwasser  
Lawrence Cameron Huston  
Yehonatan Tzur Hyer  
Eli Mersack Jacobs

Sadie Shaula Meyer

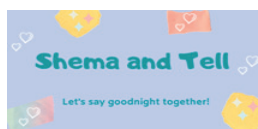
Samuel Caleb Polikoff  
Ethan Daniel Smith  
Hailey Michelle Weisberg  
Isaac Noah Zabarsky

Daniel Zomber

### Parents

Amy & Michael Berman  
Wendy & Dan Dobres  
Stacie & Brian Ettinger  
Robyn & David Gelwasser  
Bonnie K. & Charles S. Huston  
Shoshana & Moshe Hyer  
Rabbi Melinda Mersack & Mark Jacobs  
Elin Sapell Meyer & Stuart Jeffrey Meyer  
Leah Eisenberg and Todd Polikoff  
Rebecca A. & Jason M. Smith  
Ilana & Matthew Weisberg  
Florence V. Zabarsky and Ronald J. Zabarsky  
Rebecca & Joseph Zomber

## Shema and Tell Wednesdays • 6:30 pm



Join us for a virtual goodnight in your pajamas! Say hello to friends who you miss and get ready for bedtime. Bring a special friend (teddy bear, doll, etc.) to show everyone, hear a story, and say the Shema all together. Zoom in at <https://zoom.us/j/954688923>; Meeting ID: 954 688 923.



## Kinder Shabbat Fridays • 10:30 am

Have fun with us on Facebook (Mishpachot - B'nai Jeshurun Young Families) as we sing your favorite songs with Mr. Chuck and pray with the clergy, too! Zoom in at <https://zoom.us/j/233169518>, Meeting ID: 233 169 518.



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# From Our Affiliates

## Thank you to our 2019-2020 Sisterhood Torah Fund Supporters, Benefactors & Guardian

Sisterhood's Torah Fund supports The Jewish Theological Seminary of America and the Center for Conservative Judaism, which trains rabbis, cantors, educators and social workers for the Conservative Movement.

### Guardian

Erika Rudin-Luria

### Benefactors

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Sylvia Rose  
Rhoda Seifert  
Marlene Sobol  
Natalie Titlebaum  
Lynn Wasserman<sup>z"l</sup>

## Zoom in with Zamir!

Friday, May 1 • 6 pm

Our Zamir Children's Choir, led by Sherri Gross, will brighten our Friday service with songs and a parody. Zoom in at <https://zoom.us/j/843828395>, Meeting ID #843 828 395.

## Men's Club Happy Hour

Tuesdays • 5 pm



Join us each week as we discuss a variety of topics. Open to everyone and drinks are optional. Look for weekly topics in Thursday's Shul News and/or our website. We look forward to seeing you! If you're interested in leading a discussion or have ideas for a future topic, please contact Jerry Brodsky (330-998-2283 or [jerrybrodsky2@gmail.com](mailto:jerrybrodsky2@gmail.com)).

## All In Trivia

with ATID, Men's Club & Sisterhood

Sunday, May 3 • 7 pm



Do you have what it takes to win the ALL IN Trivia Challenge? Join in for a fun and social evening where we will cover different categories to test your knowledge. Besides joining on Zoom, everyone participating will also need another device (phone, Ipad...) that can access wifi. Zoom in at <https://zoom.us/j/98886617218> or dial in at 929-205-6099, Meeting ID: 988-8661-7218.

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# Virtual Online Learning



## Free Jewish Virtual Learning for Adults We are just a click or a phone call away!

Stay connected with BJC! Zoom in via computer or phone at (929) 205-6099, the Meeting ID is the number at the end of each link. Please check our website frequently for updates. We look forward to 'seeing' you in class!

### **What's NU? with Rabbi Hal Rudin-Luria** **Mondays at 10 am**

Topical text study and discussion on the most relevant Jewish topics of the day. <https://zoom.us/j/97066069527>.

### **Neffesh Ha-Chayyim – The Mystical Secrets of God, Life, the Universe and Everything** **with Rabbi Stephen Weiss** **Mondays at 8 pm**

Exploring Jewish beliefs and practice through Kabbalah. <https://zoom.us/j/6837168354>.

### **Bible Study with Susan Wyner** **Tuesdays at 10:30 am**

Join in for a close reading of the Torah as we make our way through our most central text. We are currently studying the book of Deuteronomy. <https://zoom.us/j/864643841> or call (253) 215-8782, Meeting ID: 864 643 84.

### **Parshat HaShavua with Prof. Doron Kalir, CSU** **Tuesdays at noon**

Discuss the weekly Torah portion from a liberal viewpoint. In particular, we will examine implications of the text for today's community and the meaning of *emunah* (faith) in the 21st century. <https://zoom.us/j/213131426>.

### **Conversational Hebrew with Rabbi Josh Foster** **Tuesdays at 2 pm**

Come join for Hebrew conversation and learning. We will watch and practice through a variety of Hebrew video clips. <https://zoom.us/j/896167443>.

### **Mishnah: The New Scripture** **with Rabbi Alan Lettovsky** **Wednesdays at 10:30 am**

Most Jewish institutions and values, while based on the Bible, were created by the ancient rabbis. The Mishnah and its expansion into the full Talmud are the core texts for our Jewish foundations. <https://zoom.us/j/408458674>.

### **Ethical & Ritual Issues Through the Lens of Conservative Jewish Law** **with Rabbi Stephen Weiss** **Thursdays at noon**

Through the study of *responsa* (Jewish law papers) from the Law Committee of the Rabbinical Assembly, we will explore what Jewish tradition has to say about the most pressing and significant issues of our day. Class is always lively, filled with text study and discussion. <https://zoom.us/j/388326341>.

### **The How & Why of Jewish Rituals** **with Cantor Aaron Shifman** **Fridays at 10 am**

We will discuss kaddish, mikvah, tallit and tzitzit, brit milah, Shabbat and havdallah and more using Medrashim and Talmudic resources. <https://zoom.us/j/524068297>.

### **Come Learn Torah Trope with Rabbi Josh Foster** **Fridays at 2 pm**

Have you ever wanted to learn to chant from the Torah? Join us as we learn the melodies of the cantillation notes so that you can take on this sacred role in our services. <https://zoom.us/j/642708239>.

### **Starbucks Bread & Torah** **with rotating teachers** **Saturdays at 9 am**

Gain fresh insights into the Torah, and study with great teachers! <https://zoom.us/j/979212512>.

### **Kosher Fitness Workout** **with Rabbi Michael Ungar** **Mondays - Fridays at 10 am**

Request to join the Facebook Group page of "kosher-fitness".



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# Tree of Life

## In Memoriam

We note with sorrow the passing of

### **RICHARD CARR**

Father of Dawn Nickman

### **DOROTHY DORFMAN**

Mother of Gary Dorfman

### **LEE FRIEDMAN**

Nephew of Pinky Levy

Uncle of Carly Saham Isakovic

Cousin of Gregg Levy and Marne Baerson

### **ROSE MARKOWITZ**

Mother of Lee Markowitz

### **\*HARRIET RUBIN**

Cousin of Ethel Klein,

Marcie Gilmore and Barbara Linden

### **\*ROBERT SPIRA**

Husband of Cheryl Spira

### **\*PAUL VISHNY**

Father of Miriam Vishny

### **\*LYNN WASSERMAN**

Wife of Harold Wasserman

\* B'nai Jeshurun member

We extend our deepest condolences to all the members of their families.

## Mazal Tov to

- **Cheryl Wolkoff & Chuck Nachman** on the arrival of a grandson, **Emmet Lee Nachman**.

- **Amy & Stephen Hoffman** on the birth of a grandson, **Harrison Perry Friedman**.

- **Michelle & Michael Adler** on the birth of a granddaughter, **Madden Beck Winick**.

- **Cathy Randall** on the birth of a granddaughter, **London Rose Lubline**.

- **Judy and Rick Schiller** on the birth of a grandson, **Thelonious Quin Schiller**.

- **Robin & Mark Rood** on the engagement of their daughter, **Sarah**, to **David Dehner**.



Friedman



Winick



Lubline



Schiller



Dehner & Rood

## Yasher Koach

- **Shirley Haas and Diane Dronzek** for 20 years each of dedicated service to the synagogue.



Haas



Dronzek

## Happy Milestone Anniversary to:

Alan & Lorin Gottlieb	40 years
Arthur & Patricia Klein	40 years
David & Karen Yahr	40 years
Neil & Jennifer Tramer	30 years
Scott & Sheryl Matasar	25 years
Mark & Lauren Freiman	10 years
Jeff & Jana Lazarus	10 years
Jonathan & Danielle Shaper	10 years

If you have an achievement or mazal tov to share, please contact Diane Dronzek. We are happy to share your good news! Milestone listings recognize birthdays at five-year intervals beginning with age 25, and every year after 90. Anniversaries are recognized at five-year intervals.

## Happy Milestone Birthday to:

Sheila Allenick	Pamela Goss	Donald Levy
Benjamin Altose	Avery Gottfried	Helayne Loeb
Joyce Becker	Cari Gross	Michael Meckler
Julie Beynenson	Fran Held	Sherry Morris
Szlama Borensztein	Frances Hurwitz	William Proper
Doris Copeland	Ken Ingber	Barbara Rosskamm
Marilyn Fenton	Abraham Kay	Mark Scher
Marion Fish	Stacy Kertesz-Steinberg	Helene Siegel
Mark Fremont	Renee Klein	Laurie Terkel
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To better manage administrative expenses, it is requested that contributions be at least \$10 or more each.

Thank you for helping us reduce the synagogue's cost, which increases the actual value of your gifts.

## ABRAHAM FAMILY COURTYARD FUND

In Honor of:  
The birth of **Emmett Daniel Cohen** and **Miriam Rubenstein** and **Ben Weiss** becoming great-grandparents by Harry & Rosalyn Abraham.

## ABRAHAM-GRUENSPAN HIGH HOLY DAY CHOIR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In Honor of:  
Milestone birthday of **Judy Freedman** by Charles & Linda Gruenspan.

## JULIUS ABRAMS MINYAN FUND

In Honor of:  
**Zehava Galun** by David & Dana Blocker.

In Memory of:  
**Lois Teitelman** by Evan Buller... **Bruce Bialer** by Kenny & Yael Cohen... **Ceil Gecht** and **William Friedman** by Joel & Phyllis Gecht... **Reinette Madow** by Paul & Teri Madow.

## ALIYAH FUND

By: Jon & Darby Steiger.  
In Honor of:  
**Aliyah** by Bob & Sandy Berkowitz.  
In Memory of:  
**Maurice Polar** by Monique Polar... **Elliot Heller** by Brian & Renee Heller.

## HOWARD R. BANCHEK MEMORIAL FUND

In Honor of:  
**Michael, Julie, Morgan & Jake Leeson** by Amanda Banckek.

## EUNICE AND ERNEST BENCHELL ENDOWMENT FUND

In Honor of:  
Milestone birthdays of **Judy Shafroon** and **Ileen Tepper** by Eunice Benchell...

Engagement of daughter of **Terry & Jay Marcus** by Marvin Harris & Lynn Benchell-Harris.

In Memory of:  
**Lois Teitelman** by Eunice Benchell.

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# May 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>If we do not already have your email address, please share it with us so we can better communicate with you during this critical time!</b>					<b>1</b> 6:00 pm Service; Birthday Shabbat; Zamir via Zoom	<b>2</b> 9:00 am Service
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 5:00 pm Men's Club Happy Hour	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6:00 pm Service	<b>9</b> 9:00 am Service
<b>10</b> Mother's Day	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Lag B'Omer 5:00 pm Men's Club Happy Hour	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 6:00 pm Service; Anniversary Shabbat	<b>16</b> 9:00 am Service
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 5:00 pm Men's Club Happy Hour	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Yom Yerushalayim 6:00 pm Service	<b>23</b> 9:00 am Service
<b>24</b> Rosh Hodesh Sivan	<b>25</b> Memorial Day	<b>26</b> 5:00 pm Men's Club Happy Hour	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Erev Shavuot; office closes at noon 7:15 pm Tikkun Leil Shavuot begins	<b>29</b> 1st day Shavuot; office closed 9:00 am Festival Service 6:00 pm Service	<b>30</b> 2nd day Shavuot 9:00 am Shabbat & Festival Service; Yizkor
<b>31</b> 1:30 pm Annual Meeting						



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