



SYDENHAM
SHUL
PRESENTS

SOUNDS OF SYDENHAM

THE JOURNEY BEGINS

SHAVUOT
5779

08-09 JUNE 2019

WELCOMING OUR NEW MUSICAL DIRECTOR
RAV DORON CHITIZ
JOINING
CHAZAN YUDI COHEN
AND SINGERS

SLEEPLESS IN SYDENHAM!

Shavuot Tikun Layl - All Night Learning



The Diaspora: Dynamic or Dying?

From Jerusalem to Joburg; Kauai and Kimberley

PANEL DISCUSSION with Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, the Travelling Rabbi,
Rabbi Michael Goldman, Chabad of Kauai, Dr Liat Amar Arran, Director Israel Centre

12:00am	1:00am	2:00am	3:00am	3:45am

Rabbi Yossy Goldman
The Ten Commandments:
Things You Never Knew

Rabbi Yehuda Stern
Muslim Marranos
Is Islam Idolatry?
from the Rambam and Co.

Reb Zevi Chalton
The Principle of Prophecy
Why Is Prophecy a Foundation of our Faith?
Deeper Dimensions of Echad - Oneness

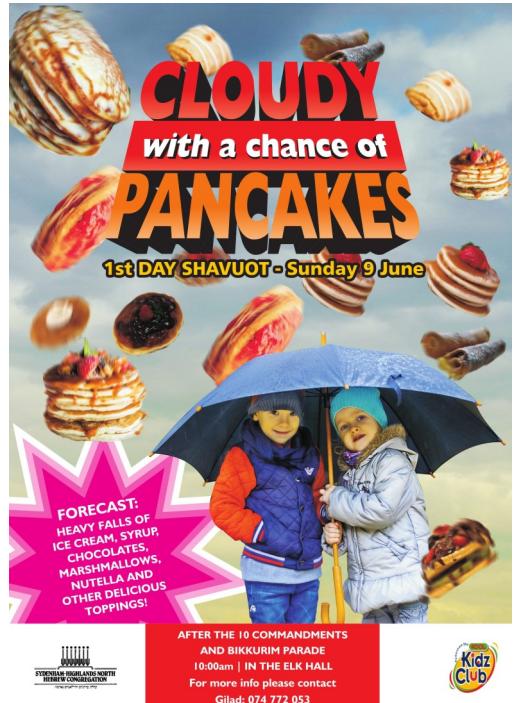
Rabbi Michael Goldman
Who Knows One?

Take Two Tablets... and I'll see you in the morning

4:30am Open Mic

Refreshments throughout the night.
CHEESECAKE and BLINTZES in the early hours of the morning.

"FROM SYDENHAM SHUL TO IDF SNIPER!"
This Shabbos morning straight after Shul.
Staff Sergeant Rabbi Yitzchok Schmukler
Our Past Rabbinic Intern (2015) shares his riveting story.
From Gemorrah to Gaza!
One Minyan only in Big Shul:
9:00 am
"Soup & Stix Snack Brocha"
Mincha: 12:30 pm



◆ **Nathan Fine** of Ideal Furnishers at Midway Mall, Bramley Gardens wishes all congregants a Good Shabbos. Call 011-887-5456/082-854-5706. **Furniture, Bedding & Appliances.**

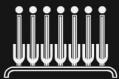
◆ **Vehicles wanted.** Any make, any condition. Best prices. Phone **ARNOLD ORKIN 082 823 7826**

◆ Acknowledgements: Chabad.org,

◆ Please take Good Shabbos Sydenham home if you will only carry it within the Eiruv.

75
Years Young!

Good Yom Tov
SYDENHAM!



Published by the
Sydenham Highlands North
Hebrew Congregation
Johannesburg, South Africa

9 & 10 June 2019

Shavuos

6 & 7 Sivan 5779

Of Life and Logos
By: Rabbi Yossy Goldman

Everything in life is luck, Donald Trump is reputed to have once said with uncharacteristic humility.

And for a change, the great Rabbis of Talmudic times agreed. Hakd l'duy b'mazel. Everything depends on luck, even the Sefer Torah in the Aron Kodesh. It's true. Some Torah scrolls get lucky and are used in Shul regularly. Others, for reasons unknown even to the Shamash, get relegated to the back of the Holy Ark and are rarely used, if ever. Some people have more mazel than others and, yes, even some Torahs enjoy more mazel than their neighbors.

And so, it would appear, is the case with our Jewish holidays. Our festivals all evoke excitement and splendor. Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Pesach and Sukkos all come wrapped up in festive symbols that fire our imaginations. The Shofar, the sacred Fast, the little huts we build and the Lulav and Etrog we buy, Matzoh and the whole Seder experience – they all shape so much of the imagery we have inside our childhood memories. Neither are Chanukah and Purim short on symbols – Menorahs and Graggers are only two of many. It is these vivid symbols that stimulate our eager anticipation of beautiful and meaningful holiday celebrations today.

But what about Shavuot? Does it not seem somewhat orphaned, bereft of imagery? Where is there a strong symbol for Shavuot? What prominent image do we hold aloft to represent the season of the Giving of the Torah? Yes, there are the Ten Commandments,

but they are used all year long too. Why do all the other Festivals seem to have specific signs, vivid emblems or icons to capture our attention and Shavuot does not?

The 19th century German Orthodox leader, Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch suggests that for something as special as Shavuot, which represents the Giving of the Torah itself, i.e. the very foundation of Judaism, a mere symbol would be utterly inadequate. What are Jews without Torah? What is Judaism without Torah? To reduce Torah to a symbol is to violate its sanctity. The only way to represent Torah is to live by it. Torah is measured by substance not by symbols. Can Torah be contained or encapsulated in a logo? G-d forbid!

And in the language of the Chassidic masters, the Torah is higher than mere symbolism; it is beyond depiction or embodiment. It is not only wisdom or law. The Giving of the Torah was not merely an event or a historical experience. Torah is the very essence of everything.

So because we need to remember the Exodus and the miraculous protection in the wilderness, we do things to keep that memory alive to help us relive those experiences. But Torah is not limited to memories. Remembering Sinai, the Ten Commandments, the thunder and lightning is not good enough. The only way we can plug into Torah is by living it. There are no shortcuts. We need to study Torah, learn its ways, and live by it.

That's why the great Torah teachers through the centuries have not necessarily been out-

wardly charismatic, at least not in the popular sense. Nor have they needed to be tall, larger than life personalities. Some of our greatest spiritual leaders have been small in size but giants in stature. They were humble, unassuming and pious. It wasn't their powerful baritones or handsome features which attracted the people but their nobility of character that commanded respect. Sure, their deep wisdom was an outstanding quality but, more importantly, it was their flawless behavior that made them stand out. Those who were academically brilliant at Talmud but whose conduct did not match their scholarship did not become the Torah leaders of their generation. The truly great ones who stood out were those who became "Torah personalities." The genuine Torah leaders of history weren't seeking fame or fortune. They hired no publicists to mount PR campaigns. They were men of truth and, intuitively, the people flocked to them. They never had to tell the world that they were "The Greatest!" or even "winners."

And the same holds true to this day. Because Torah is truth and truth must be lived truthfully and consistently, otherwise it's a lie.

On Shavuot we recite Yizkor, the memorial prayer for our departed loved ones. And what do we remember? What they said, or what they did? How they looked, or how they lived? It is not how they talked the game of life that counts but how they played it. After all is said and done, we remember what was done, not what was said. When talk is forgotten, deeds live on.

So, like life itself, Shavuot has no dominant symbol. Torah is too powerful, too awesome, and too sacred to be slickly packaged or labeled with a logo. Torah is truth. And truth cannot be marketed. It can only be lived.

Parsha Pointers

*Bamidbar: Artscroll Chumash pg 726;
Living Torah pg 655*

In the Sinai Desert, G-d says to conduct a census of the twelve tribes of Israel. Moses counts 603,550 men of draftable age (20 to 60 years); the tribe of Levi, numbering 22,300 males age one month and older, is counted

separately. The Levites are to serve in the Sanctuary, replacing the firstborn, whose number they approximated, who were disqualified when they participated in the worshipping of the Golden Calf. The 273 firstborn who lacked a Levite to replace them had to pay a five-shekel "ransom" to redeem themselves.

When the people broke camp, the three Levite clans dismantled and transported the Sanctuary, and reassembled it at the center of the next encampment. They then erected their own tents around it: the Kohathites, who carried the Sanctuary's vessels (the ark, menorah, etc.) in their specially designed coverings on their shoulders, camped to its south; the Gershonites, in charge of its tapestries and roof coverings, to its west; and the families of Merari, who transported its wall panels and pillars, to its north. Before the Sanctuary's entranceway, to its east, were the tents of Moses, Aaron, and Aaron's sons.

Rules

By Rabbi Yanki Tauber

Before you switch on your laser printer, read this:

A laser is a device that produces an intense beam of light of a very pure single colour. This beam can be made potent enough to vaporize a diamond, and precise enough to deposit a dot of ink 1/600th of an inch across, in exact juxtaposition with tens of thousands of similar dots, to produce your office memo in 12 pt. Times New Roman (captions in 14 pt. Arial Narrow). Even more precise (and more expensive) are devices that yield a beam exact enough to perform eye surgery.

A laser beam is a beam of optical light—basically the same light produced by the flashlight you keep in the glove compartment of your car. The difference is that while the excited atoms in your flashlight bulb each emit light independently of each other and in many different wavelengths, a laser device stimulates a great

Sydenham Shul 24 Main Street, Rouxville, 2192.
Telephone: 640-5021, Fax: 485-2810
E-mail: sydshul@sydshul.co.za
Website: www.sydshul.co.za
www.facebook.com/sydenhamshul

number of atoms to emit their light in a single frequency and in step with each other, thereby producing a light beam of great potency and accuracy.

As a rule, people don't like rules. We don't like being told that a food palatable to our taste buds is unhealthy for our body. We don't like being told that something desirous to ourselves is hurtful to another person. We don't like being told that a convenient habit is damaging to our environment. In other words, we don't like being told what to do. We don't like restrictions.

When the Children of Israel came out of Egypt, that were told that in seven weeks' time they would be given the Torah. They were so excited that they literally counted the days. At Mount Sinai, their souls flew from their bodies in ecstasy when they heard G-d proclaim the Ten Commandments.

On the face of it, their joy seems somewhat misplaced. After all, these were a people just emerging from several generations of slavery. The last thing they would want—one assumes—is a set of restrictions on their lives. Basically, that's what the Torah is. Seven of the Ten Commandments are "Thou Shalt Not's, as are 365 out of the Torah's 613 mitzvot (the rest are "Thou Shall's").

But the Jews wanted the Torah. The Midrash relates how G-d went to all the nations of the world, asking them if they want a copy. "What does the Torah contain?" they asked. "Thou shalt not . . .," said G-d, and was met with a no-thank-you before He could finish the sentence. The Jews, however, understood that this was no ordinary set of rules: this was a life regulator designed by the One who invented life and knows how it is best applied.

At Sinai, all the peoples of the world were given a choice. Take box A, and you get a life that expends its energies every which way, in whatever colour or frequency that strikes your fancy at any given moment. It'll even be able to do many useful things, like projecting animal shapes on the wall of a darkened room, or finding those car keys you dropped in the bushes. Take box B, and you get a life that focuses its energies on the purpose for which it was created.

Many took the flashlight. We opted for the laser.

Live & Laugh

Sharon tells her best friend Ruth, "I've broken off my engagement to Mark." "Oh Sharon," says Ruth, "I'm so sorry. Why?" "Because my feelings towards Mark have changed - they just aren't the same anymore," replies Sharon. "So tell me," whispers Ruth, "are you giving him back the engagement ring?" "No, I'm not," replies Sharon, "my feelings towards the ring haven't changed."

Calendar

- ◆ Shacharis: 9:00 am (one minyan)
- ◆ Soup & Stix Snack Brocha.
- ◆ Mincha: 12:30 pm
- ◆ Pirkei Avos: Chapter 6
- ◆ Candlelighting: 5:57 pm from a pre-existing flame (*Brocha for Yom Tov & Shehecheyanu*)
- ◆ Yom Tov Service: 6:00 pm

SUN 9 Jun - 1st Day Yom Tov

- ◆ Shacharit: 8.30 a.m.; Shtibl 9.00 a.m.
- ◆ Hallel: 9.15 a.m.
- ◆ **Children's Bikkurim Parade & the Ten Commandments:** + 10.00 am
- ◆ Duchening
- ◆ **Brocha Menu:** Lasagnas, Macaroni & Cheese, Cheesecake and Milk Tarts
- ◆ Mincha: After the Brocha
- ◆ Candle-lighting from a pre-lit flame not before 5:57 pm (Blessings for Yom Tov & Shehecheyanu)
- ◆ Full Yom Tov Service: 6:00 p.m.

MON 10 Jun - 2nd Day Yom Tov

- ◆ Shacharit: 8.30 a.m.; Shtibl 9:00 a.m.
- ◆ Hallel: 9.15 a.m.
- ◆ **Book of Ruth**
- ◆ **Yizkor:** approx 10.45 a.m.
- ◆ Duchening
- ◆ **Brocha Menu:** Lasagnas, Macaroni & Cheese, Cheesecake and Milk Tarts
- ◆ Mincha: 5.10 p.m.
- ◆ **Mini Shiur** by Reb Zevi Chaiton
- ◆ Yom Tov ends: 5:57 p.m.
- ◆ Havdallah: Wine only