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Congregation Sons of Israel

The Lehigh Valley's Gateway to Judaism

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 CongregationSonsofIsrael



Congregation Sons of Israel's Information & Torah Newsletter



ת"ב

Hamodi'a

Rabbi's Shavuot Message



As my time in Allentown is near its end, I felt it appropriate to share again words that appeared here at the very beginning of my tenure here. The message is still just as pertinent, compelling, and wholly worthy of a repeated sharing.

The holiday of Shavuot celebrates the giving of the Torah on Har (Mount) Sinai, seven weeks after Yetziat Mitzrayim (the exodus from Egypt). It was on this day that the B'nei Yisrael (Israelites) accepted Hashem's divine law, entering into a covenant between G-d and Israel. In essence, the Jewish people were visited by G-d and given the foundation text of our religion.

The Ten Commandments, which embody the giving of the Torah, appear in Shavuot's leining (Torah reading) and have long held a special place not only in Judaism, but also within the broader western world as well. At one time, the three paragraphs of the Shema were joined by a fourth that contained the Aseret Hadibrot.

The Midrash (Jewish lore) tells us that before Hashem (G-d) gave the Torah to the Jewish people, he went to all

the nations of the world to offer it to them. Without fail, it was rejected by them all. Edom couldn't abide by "thou shalt not murder". Moav would not accept the injunction against lewdness.

The famous convert to Judaism and Polish noble, Count Valentine Pototzkie, also known as Avraham ben Avraham (1700-1749), adds an insight to this teaching of Chazal (the Rabbis). Just as all the future generations of the Jewish people were present to receive the Torah at Sinai, the souls of the future generations were present among the nations of the world when they rejected the Torah. This rejection, however, was not universal; some of the souls decided that Judaism was for them. These souls from amongst the nations who accepted the Torah are those Gentiles who convert to Yiddishkeit.

The Talmud makes a shocking statement that, without the explanation of the commentators, appears quite harsh. In Kiddushin 70B, we are told that "Kashim gerim liYisrael k'safachat, converts are as harmful to the Jewish people as a leprous scab". Obviously, such an inflammatory statement should not

"...they bring an energy and vitality that can put us to shame."

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Shavuot 5782

SHAVUOT SCHEDULE

Friday, June 3

Shabbat Candle Lighting: 7:00 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat: 7:00 PM
Shkia (latest time to daven Mincha): 8:28 PM
Tzeit Hachochavimm (repeat Shema): 9:19 PM

Saturday, June 4, Shabbat Day

Shacharit: 9:00 AM
Latest Time for Shema: 9:16 AM
One should consume their Seudat Shlishit before Mincha
Mincha: 8:00 PM
Shkia (latest time for Mincha): 8:28 PM
Daf Yomi: Between Mincha and Maariv
Maariv: 9:19 PM

Candle Lighting for First day of Shavuot: 9:19 PM
(From an existing flame & one should first say "Baruch hamavdil bein Kodesh l'kodesh")
No work or preparation for Shavuot may be performed before this time.

Night learning begins at 12:00 AM

Sunday, June 5, Shavuot I

Shacharit: 9:00 AM
Latest time for Shema: 9:16 AM
Mincha: 8:10 PM
Shkia (latest time for Mincha): 8:29 PM
Daf Yomi: Between Mincha and Maariv
Candle lighting from an existing flame for second day of Shavuot: 9:20 PM
No work or preparation for the second day may be performed before this time.
Maariv: 9:20 PM



Monday, June 6, Shavuot II

Shacharit: 9:00 AM
Latest time for Shema: 9:16 AM
Megilat Ruth: 10:00 AM (approx.)
Yizkor: 10:40 AM
Mincha: 8:10 PM
Shkia (latest time for Mincha): 8:30 PM
Maariv and Havdala (no spices or candle, only a cup of wine): 9:21 PM

Classes for Late Night Learning

The Halachic Method of the Maharsha"l (Rabbi Shlomo Luria of 16th Century Poland)
Egg Salad in Halacha; the Laws of *Losh* (kneading on Shabbat)
The (In)famous Get of Cleves

From Our President

With a mixture of feelings, we will bid farewell to Rabbi Nisan, Rebbetzin Hannah, and family. These past three years, Rabbi Andrews has devoted his time to strengthen our connection to Torah. His exemplary skills of reaching out to members, providing comfort, friendship, and guidance has led us through such a trying period in human history.

Rabbi Andrews ensured our pillars, minyan, and Daf Yomi, would not falter. While only a short three years with us, his Torah values have guided our community, and we have enjoyed such programs as Tuesday night classes, Schnapps and Schmooze, and Sing-Along Shabbat Dinners. His involvement outside of our walls are also well known: involvement with JDS, in the classroom and the kitchen, the Lehigh Valley Clergy Group, the Eruv, sitting on the JCC Board, and with the Hebrew Family League as Rav Hamachshir of the LVKC. Hannah has worked with our youth in shul programs and as an educator at the Jewish Day School.

On behalf of the entire board, I thank Rabbi Nisan and the entire Andrews family for all they have done for this community, and wish them all the best for their future.

As we look to our future, our Rabbi Search Committee is in full swing, led by Dr. Moshe Markowitz. The committee will be focusing its efforts on rabbinical candidates that are members of the Rabbinical Council of America (RCA). The RCA is the authoritative body

for Orthodox rabbis in the US. All Orthodox Jewish organizations seeking rabbis send their postings to the RCA, and rabbinical candidates send their resumes to the RCA for the positions available. The RCA uses the Yeshiva University Rabbinic Placement Center to aid them in the process. However, the YU Placement office will not be the sole source for our search for our next Rabbi. The Search Committee will review all available resumes, conduct interviews, and extend Shabbos tryouts to select candidates. We will ensure a smooth and transparent process.

Please join me and our congregation for the joy of learning with Rabbi Andrews over Shavuot. From Pesach to Shavuot, we count the Omer in place of the Omer Korban that would be brought in the Beis HaMikdash on Pesach. But we also count the ascent of holiness taken by the generation of the Midbar to Har Sinai. With Shavuot, we remember their journey, we stay up all night like giddy children waiting for the big reveal. With every day we get closer, we hope we will all be together again to receive the Torah.

Chag Sameach!

Kyle Newfeld,
President



Rabbi's message continued...

be taken at its face value. The Tosafot (school of Talmudic study established by Rashi's grandchildren) explain this comment to mean that when a non-Jew converts, they bring an energy and vitality that can put us to shame. They have, what in Yiddish is called "a bren", a zeal or passion, energy.

It is easy to understand that one could find it difficult to keep the flame burning when they wake up early in the morning to attend Shacharit, or stay up late to say the Shema at the correct time. Mitzvot can feel old-hat or tedious, and it is conceivable that one loses their enthusiasm. Those of us in this predicament may be subject to heavenly criticism, thus, says Tosafot, "Kashim gerim liYisrael". We have been shown-up by others in their enthusiasm.

This is an especially timely message as Shavuot is the festival to celebrate Torah, it is an auspicious time to renew our commitment to Torah study and induce "a bren" for Mitzvot. Almost like a "renewing of our vows" with G-d.

I greatly appreciated teaching, studying, growing and acquiring a renewed passion for Torah observance with all of you. It is with profound sadness that my family and I bid you all adieu.

With blessings and wishes for a Chag Sameach and a Gut Yom Tov,

~Rabbi Nisan Andrews

SOI Election of Officers & Board



The President and Board of Congregation Sons of Israel invite all members to join us for our **Annual Congregational Meeting** Sunday, June 12, 2022, at 4:30 p.m. in the social hall.

The state of our synagogue will be discussed, reports given by current officers and committees, and the proposed Board slate below will be presented. Please note, different this year only, as approved at the special meeting in April, half of the positions will be elected to one-year terms to facilitate staggered elections for future years.

Please make every effort to attend.

Proposed Board for Congregation Sons of Israel 2022

Officers

President: **Steven Tager** (2 year term)
VP Finance: **Jordan Goldman** (2 year term)
VP Membership: **Mayer Rubin** (2 Year term)
VP Education: **Robbie Simon** (1 year term)
VP Youth: **Neela Covel** (1 year term)
Treasurer: **Ira Robbins** (1 year term)
Financial Secretary: Open
Recording Secretary: **Seth Phillips** (1 year term)

General Board Members

Joe Aflalo (2yrs)
Eric Fels (1 yr)
Michael Frost (1 yr)
Henry Grossbard (1 yr)
Art Hochhauser (1 yr)
Debbie Kimmel (2yrs)
Jonathan Powers (2yrs)
Sandy Preis (2yrs)
Marcia Schechter (2yrs)
Pearl Schmier (1 yr)

Cooking Corner with Diana Hirsch

Dinner in a Pan

A zillion years ago, Jack and I lived in Los Angeles. Because we lived too far from an orthodox synagogue to walk, we were often hosted at people's homes for a Shabbat. We would arrive on Friday evening, unpack our bag, get a key, head off to shul, and then have dinner at someone's house. In the morning, we'd go to shul and lunch at someone's home. After Ma'ariv, we'd pack up and head home. Sometimes, we were with three different families, sometimes fewer. This series of kindnesses, by the way, is why I own a home: so that we could pay the kindnesses forward and host in our turn.

One of the homes we felt most comfortable at was that of the Gruen family. Judy is an author and a great cook. She often hosted up to 14 people at her Shabbat table. This is her family's favorite chicken dinner. (She also published it in the fundraiser cookbook produced by the Jewish Women's Initiative, a project of Aish LA.)

My Family's Favorite Chicken Dinner – Made in One Pan!

Ingredients:

- 8-10 chicken pieces, or enough to cover rice and vegetables and fill the pan – single layer
- 2 c. rice
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 carrots, peeled and cut
- 2 ribs of celery, cut small
- 1 orange sweet potato, peeled and cut in chunks
- 1-2 c. cut broccoli and/or cauliflower
- 1 c. mushrooms, sliced
- 4 c. water or bouillon

Directions:

- ⇒ Put the rice on the bottom of a baking pan.
- ⇒ Sprinkle the cut vegetables over the rice.
- ⇒ Pour bouillon over the rice and vegetables.
- ⇒ Season the chicken (both under and on the skin) to taste and layer the pieces over the other ingredients.
- ⇒ Cover the pan very tightly and bake at 375°.
- ⇒ Cook for 1 ½ hours.

Notes:

1. You can use white or brown rice. Using brown rice requires a lot more cooking time and the chicken could get a little dried out.
2. After the 1 ½ hours, if the rice has not finished cooking, lower the oven temperature to 350° and cook for another 30-60 minutes, depending on how much more time the rice needs to cook. In any case, you might need to add some more liquid for the rice to cook properly.
3. If you don't use bouillon, sprinkle the vegetables and rice with Italian seasoning mix and garlic powder (or fresh garlic) and salt and pepper.
4. Judy recommended the heavy-duty aluminum foil to assure a tight seal. The regular variety doesn't work as well.
5. She mentions the orange sweet potato because the purple kind just doesn't seem to taste right in this recipe.
6. I am not going to say anything about the cauliflower. See. I didn't say anything, did I?
7. My personal belief is that rice needs twice as much water, plus a little bit. When I cook, assuming I'm not looking for crunchy rice, I add 2 ¼ - 2 ½ cups of water for every cup of rice. This recipe doesn't need quite that much because the vegetables and chicken will add some liquid. But be prepared to add extra.
8. And to go along with what I just said, I'd look under the foil at about an hour in to see if the rice needs more liquid. Remember to scrunch the foil back down tightly.
9. And here's a fun fact I learned while spending too much time watching YouTube: rinsing the rice well will remove the slight outer layer of starch and make the rice fluffier. If you don't rinse it, the rice will stick together slightly. Like the difference between stones and clouds (matzah balls), family history will, no doubt, determine which method you have been using. But now that you have all this information, you decide.
10. Judy also mentioned two other bits. First, she thinks of this as a "winter" dish. I don't, but I didn't invent it. The other thing she said was that you can use almost any vegetable in the mix. The only one that she thought wouldn't work was beets.
11. I think that, if you think the chicken needs a little more color, you should take the chicken off the vegetables and brown it a little by itself under the broiler. You don't want the vegetables to dry out.
12. And the last step: enjoy!

Thank You for Sharing. . . And Caring

GENERAL FUND

In honor Moshe Markowitz for his beautiful recitation of Megillat Esther
Barry & Carol Halper

Best wishes to Steven & Anne Tager in their new home
Ira & Erica Robbins

In honor of the birth of Meir Reuven Danna
*Alan & Abby Wiener
Eric & Amy Fels*

In honor of the birth of Sandy & Bunnie Piltch's grandchildren, Nicholas Aaron and Ani Simone
Barry & Carol Halper

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Sholom Mordechai Andrews
Barry & Carol Halper

In honor of the birth of Mark & Alice Notis's grandson, Matan
Eric & Amy Fels

In honor of the engagement of Alan & Abby Wiener's grandson, Efraim, to Ilana Katz
*Bob & Ilene Levin-Dando
Eileen Ufberg*

In appreciation of the use of SOI's loom for Caroline's tallis
Andrew Block & Family

In honor April Daugherty for her 40 years at CSOI
Bob & Linda Becker

In honor of the Bnai Mitzvot of Lisa & Steve Shedroff's grandchildren, Ryan and Kaity
*Elaine & Leon Papir
Bob & Ilene Levin-Dando*

In honor of the birth of Lorrie Scherline's granddaughter, Jase
*Jeff & Jill Blinder
Bob & Ilene Levin-Dando*

In honor of the birth of Andy & Debbie Kimmel's grandson, Raphael Chaim
Bob & Ilene Levin-Dando

Good health wishes to Naomi Rubin
Bob & Ilene Levin-Dando

BUILDING FUND

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Sholom Mordechai Andrews
Aliza Martin

RALPH WEINER MEMORIAL

KIDDUSH FUND

In honor of the birth of Meir Reuven Danna
Sandy Preis and Gary Preis

In honor of the birth of Lorrie Scherline's granddaughter, Jase
*Pearl & Melvin Schmier
Marcia Schechter*

CANTOR SAMUEL WEISS

MEMORIAL YOUTH FUND

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Sholom Mordechai Andrews
*Marcel & Sharon Guindine
Robert Simon*

In honor of the birth of Sandy & Bunnie Piltch's grandchildren, Nicholas Aaron and Ani Simone
Robert Simon

Best wishes to Steven & Anne Tager in their new home
Robert Simon

In appreciation of Lisa Shedroff
Rance & Sheryl Block & Family

In appreciation of Ilene Levin-Dando
Rance & Sheryl Block & Family

In appreciation of Debbie Kimmel
Rance & Sheryl Block & Family

RABBI'S BENEVOLENT FUND

In honor of the birth of Andy & Debbie Kimmel's grandson, Raphael Chaim
Steven & Anne Tager

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Sholom Mordechai Andrews
Jan & Glenn Ehrich

PRAYER BOOK FUND

In honor of the birth of Lorrie Scherline's granddaughter, Jase
Barry & Carol Halper

JAY SCHERLINE KING DAVID SOCIETY

In honor of the Bar Mitzvah of Sholom Mordechai Andrews
The Scherline Family

In honor of the birth of Lorrie Scherline's granddaughter, Jase
*Moshe & Lisa Markowitz
Mike & Cooky Notis
Barry & Carol Halper
Ira & Erica Robbins
Mike & Carol Herman
April & Frank Daugherty*

In honor of the birth of Andy & Debbie Kimmel's grandson, Raphael Chaim
The Scherline Family

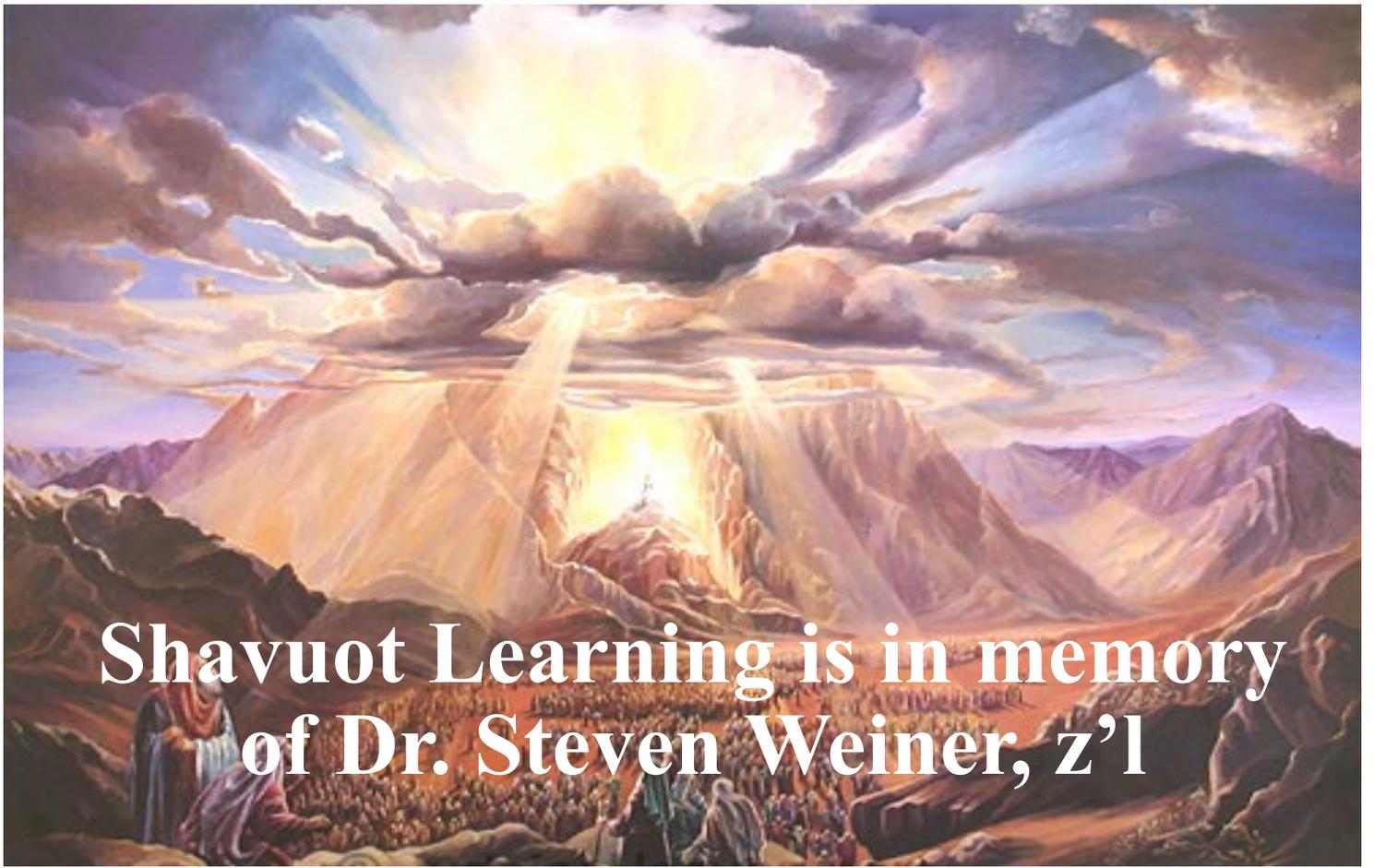


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**Shavuot Learning is in memory
of Dr. Steven Weiner, z'l**