



### Service Times

#### **Friday, May 11**

7:00 pm - Mincha  
7:51 pm - Candle Lighting

#### **Saturday, May 12**

9:00 am – Shacharit  
(9:49 am – Latest preferable time to say the shema)  
10:00 am – Shabbat Morning Youth Groups  
10:30 am – Youth Tefilla Begins  
6:40 pm – Weekly Parsha Shiur  
7:25 pm - Mincha  
8:51 pm – Havdalah

### Kiddush/Lunch Sponsor:

Joe and Edie Rubin in honor of their grandson, Natanel ben Avraham's 13th birthday

Thanks to Rabbi Michael and Ora Davies for sponsoring kiddush last week Remembering their grandparents, of blessed memory, on the occasion of the Rabbi's paternal grandparents' yahrtzeits

**May 19** – Linda Scheer in honor of Greg and Marian Yarus for all that they do for the Dor Tikvah house

**May 20: Shavuot Day 1** – Available

**May 21: Shavuot Day 2** – Available

**May 26** - The Avrahami Family in honor of the birthdays of Gershom and Esther

Please consider marking a special event in your life by sponsoring a Kiddush. Contact Lenny Zucker at [lenbarbz@alum.mit.edu](mailto:lenbarbz@alum.mit.edu). Regular Kiddush is \$150. Shabbat Academy Kiddush/Lunch is \$275.

### Weekday Services

Mincha/Maariv services Monday and Wednesday at 6:25 pm.

### Regular Classes

(Classes at the Dor Tikvah House. Park in the Shul parking lot, not the house.)

Torah Study @ 7:30pm on Sundays – The Avraham Stories

Lunchtime Talmud @ noon on Thursdays (With Facebook Live access. Please contact Rabbi@DorTikvah.org with questions.)

### Dor Tikvah Youth Programs

For programming updates visit [www.dortikvah.org/youth](http://www.dortikvah.org/youth)

### Upcoming Dor Tikvah Events

**Mon, May 14: Congregational Meeting at 6:45. Babysitting available upon advance notice.**

**May 27:** Breakfast Minyan. Speaker will be Chuck Jackson ex POW and member of KKBE. See Charles Steinert to RSVP for the breakfast.

**June 1-3:** Amiel BaKehila Israel Engagement Weekend - More Details Coming Soon.

### Shavuot

**May 18-21** - All of your favorite programs are back like *ShavuoSushi*, Torah Slam Volume V, Cheesecake Competition, Lakeside Wine and Cheese, and more.

ShavuoSushi Shavuot Dinner will be at 8pm on Saturday, May 19th - Sign up on the website.

Only 2 Parshiot are left for Torah Slam Volume V - Devarim, contact Rabbi Davies to sign up.

To compete in the cheesecake competition on Sunday, May 20th, please contact Michelle Avrahami [mcavrahami@gmail.com](mailto:mcavrahami@gmail.com).

### Refuah Shelema

Yechil Yeshiahu ben Fradel	Miriam bat Mazal
Robert Levinson	Mordechai Yehuda Zelig ben Ettl (Marvin Katzen)
Hodel bat Raozel (Linda Kirshstein)	Bear Phillips
Yehudit Elisheva bat Miriam Leah Claret (Kate Kalin Tobakos)	Tzvi Hirsch ben Pesha (Howard Hoffman)
Laella bat Simcha	Boaz Moshe ben Golda Tamar
Gershom ben Naomi	Moshe ben Chava
Talia bat Shoshana	Mary D. Anderson
Yosef Tzvi ben Chaya	Sura bat Oudis
Blooma bat Chaya Sara (Bertha Hoffman)	Linda Milligan
	Shmuel Zalman ben Shoshana

### Life Cycle

#### **Birthday**

- Gabby Zucker (5/14)
- Janet Fox (5/15)
- Russell Binder (5/16)
- Esther Beckmann (5/16)
- Dan Beckmann (5/17)

#### **Yahrzeit**

- Jonathan Grossman, son of Fran Grossman (5/14)
- Leon Zucker, grandfather of Jonathan Zucker (5/17)

### Shavuot: A Watershed Event

#### **Saturday Night, May 19**

7:30pm Mincha Services  
8:00pm ShavuoSushi Dinner (see back)  
9:00pm Dessert/Kiddush  
9:15pm Maariv Services  
9:30pm 'Torah Slam' Opening Study  
(Contact Rabbi@DorTikvah.org to present)  
10:45pm Move over to the DT House  
11:00pm Storm Session w/ R' Davies  
12:00am Raining it In w/ R' Italiaander  
1:00am Mopping it Up w/ Torah Tours

Questions? Email [Rabbi@DorTikvah.org](mailto:Rabbi@DorTikvah.org)

#### **Sunday, May 20**

9:30am Shacharit Services  
12:00pm 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Cheesecake Competition  
([mcavrahami@gmail.com](mailto:mcavrahami@gmail.com) to sign up)  
7:00pm Lakeside Wine and Cheese  
8:00pm Mincha/Maariv @ Rosenthal  
After 8:57pm Candle Lighting

#### **Monday, May 21**

9:30am Shacharit Services  
4:00pm Gleaton/Davies Wow  
7:50pm Mincha Services @ Dor Tikvah  
8:15pm The Calm After the Storm Class  
with our very own Yoni Alon  
8:58pm Maariv and Havdalah

# Why Things Happen

Rabbi Shraga Simmons | Aish HaTorah

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The beginning of this week's Parsha describes the specific cause-and-effect of human actions. "If you follow the laws, then you will have abundance ... but if you break the covenant, you will have distress..."

The idea that "choices are meaningful" is so basic to Judaism that it is expressed in the very first verse of the Bible: "In the beginning, G-d created heaven and earth." There are two ways to understand the origins of life: Either it is random, or by design. If world is an accident, then I am too. There's no purpose to my creation, no "consciousness" behind it. In the beginning, when the gasses were swirling, was there such a thing as good or evil? Obviously not. Was there good and evil when the amoebas first formed? Obviously not.

In a random world, there is no hierarchy of values. A human's life is no more valuable than a dog's. Should I save my drowning dog before the drowning stranger? Would it be morally acceptable to label a race of people sub-human and kill them all? Fortunately there's another approach. Nearly 4,000 years ago, a boy named Abraham, son of an idol-maker, meditated on the wonders of nature. He observed the sun as a perfect time-keeper, heat-producer, and water-evaporator that drives the world's ecosystem. He marveled at the symmetry of a flower and the purity of water; of the attractive smell and color of an orange with its protective coating and sections ready to share. He reasoned: The world is perfect in design. Logic dictates there must be a Designer. Thus Abraham became the first Jew.

## Soul Perfection

The Jewish perspective is that the world is here by design. Which leads us to the next question: Why are we here? We are here for a purpose. Before a person is born, his soul – non-physical and eternal – is living in a "world of souls." The soul is quite content there, spending its days doing typical "soul" things – like basking in the radiance of G-d's spiritual light, for example. But then one day the soul gets a tap on the shoulder. "It's time for you to go down into the physical world, to be placed into the body of a human." Why? Because the soul, as-yet imperfect, needs to refine itself through encountering and surmounting challenges.

These challenges come in the form of specific events, which modify our behavior in the area where our soul needs its "tikkun," rectification. These events are not random; rather, they are instructive. Which means there is a deep connection between the event and the message it contains. The task of life? To discover that connection, and grow from it.

I would like to share a personal example. I attended a prominent university, and one of my prized possessions was a coffee mug that bore the school's insignia. Years later, while working at an office, I would proudly carry my mug each day to get coffee. Then one day, a huge gust of wind blew through the window near my desk, knocking my mug to the floor and shattering it into a hundred pieces. My first thought was: "I'll call my old roommate and ask him to send me a new mug."

Then I forced myself to ask a deeper question: Why did this happen? Did this contain a message for my spiritual growth? Through introspection, I realized that every day, while carrying my mug through the office, I would hold it proudly aloft, relishing in the special status I imagined it conferred. Now I knew why the cup broke. I needed to rid myself of this foolish arrogance. It took those shattering shards to wake me up.

Sometimes the connection is not so obvious, and we have to work hard to discover it. We may not even always be successful in making the connection. But whatever the outcome, one thing is for sure: We cannot lose. The process of introspection is bound to reveal tremendous insight and growth.

Which reminds me of a story: A man was running to catch a bus, but he arrived a moment too late, only to see the bus pulling away. Despondent, he turned to a sagely looking man and asked, "Why did this happen to me?" "I don't know," replied the man, "but you've got another 15 minutes to think about it."

## Intensifying the Message

Discerning the message only works to the extent that our eyes are open to see it. We can choose to ignore the message as well. One time I was eating pizza with a friend who weighed 400 pounds. The next thing I know, my friend started choking. Before I could respond, a third man jumped up and performed the Heimlich maneuver. Out of his mouth popped a wad of dough the size of a baseball. At which point the big guy calmly picked up the wad of dough, placed it in the garbage next to him, and went on eating as if nothing had happened.

Ignoring the message, however, doesn't make the problem go away. On the contrary, the wake-up calls become more intense. In describing a spiritual malady called Tzara'as, the Talmud explains that initially, warning signs appear on a person's house. If one does not heed the sign, the spots move a bit closer - to the clothes. Once again, only if the message is not received do the spots appear on the body itself.

A doctor will tell you the same thing: If you have a pain, don't ignore it. It is there for a reason and you have to face it. Get treatment.

The end of the story with my overweight friend? A few months later, he slipped and broke his hip. Another message, this time more intense. When I went to visit him in the hospital, he said flatly, "I'm thinking of going on a diet."

## Countering the Natural Drive

Every test, every challenge, is tailor-made for our specific set of circumstances and station in life. The whole point is to awaken us from apathy and slumber, and to encourage the soul rectification that we came here to do. Granted, sometimes the test is fiercely difficult. But as difficult as it may seem, it reveals a deeper purpose in the overall scheme of life. That ordeal has the power to lift a person to become wiser, stronger, and more compassionate.

*The rest of this article can be found on [www.aish.com](http://www.aish.com)*