SHAVUOT: RECONCILING WITH HASHEM

Lorraine Lipinski

For days, I have pondered what the festival of *Shavuot*, literally, translated as weeks, is really about. There are so many elements to this holiday, like manna, giving of the Torah, the wheat offering, but what is it, really?

The Torah states that *Shavuot* is the festival of the grain harvest, the time that the farmers bring the first fruits, *Bikkurim*, to the Temple, a time to consider the less fortunate. It is one of the three pilgrimage agricultural festivals, sandwiched between Passover's spring planting and Sukkot's ingathering of the harvest. Yet, to the Sages, *Shavuot* is a time to focus on the giving of the Torah and reading the Megillah of Ruth. It seems random, but it's what we do.

The other day, someone posted the following question on an online *shidduch* (matchmaking) group: "What is one thing you don't mention on your first date?" I thought, well, that's easy, don't mention ANYTHING about your ex… period!! And then, I recalled, that on our would-be wedding day to *Hashem* (G-d), we looked at this elephant in the room dressed like a Golden Calf and said; "This is our god who brought us out of Egypt." Wait, What!? What kind of first fruit offering was that? A rotten one, no doubt, like Cain's and Adam's; here we go again!

There's a Midrash that states when Moshe (Moses) came down on the 17th of Tammuz holding *Hashem's* Tablets and saw what was happening, the priests immediately knew that Hashem's heart had turned away. In desperation, they tried to grab the Tablets from Moshe's hands as they watched the letters disappearing from the stones. But, Moshe overpowered them and threw the Tablets down, smashing them to bits. *Hashem's* heart, his Torah, laid scattered and broken. How could we ever restore that?

Moshe quickly begged G-d for forgiveness for the people, but the only way *Hashem* agreed to continue His relationship was if Moshe would rewrite the Tablets himself! It is as if *Hashem* couldn't bring Himself to do it again. So, Moshe did, and placed Hashem's original broken Tablets into the Ark alongside his new set of Tablets. But, why put these two together--do we really have to be constantly reminded of our failure?

Everyone has their own personal Golden Calf incident with Hashem. According to King David, there is only one true way to rectify it. In Psalms 51:19, he writes: "The sacrifices of G-d are a broken spirit; O G-d, You will not despise a broken and crushed heart." Broken and crushed--is that not the story of *Shavuot*, and the story of Ruth?

Ruth, Naomi and Orpah, all three women lost their husbands during the time of a famine in the fields of Moab. I imagine that it was very much like the pandemic that the world is experiencing now. The Book of Ruth records that Naomi's husband died in Moab, leaving her and her sons in a foreign land. When her sons died as well, Naomi lost all hope. She took on a new name 'Bitter,' and decided to return to Bethlehem, the land where she was once prosperous, hoping for some reconciliation with *Hashem*. Her now widowed daughter-in-law, Orpah; however, gave up and returned to her Moabite family. But, Ruth, her second widowed daughter-in-law, professed her faith in Hashem and said to Naomi, "I'll go back with you;" desiring to live her life with Hashem, her Creator, the G-d of Israel.

You have to ask yourself, why would Ruth do that? For an outsider, Naomi's G-d really doesn't seem to be so reconcilable. But, apparently, Ruth saw something that Naomi and Orpah could not see--the heart of Hashem.

Lorraine Lipinski lives in Brooklyn, NY and work as an Operations Administrator for a family-owned brokerage firm in Midtown Manhattan. A transplant from Texas, she moved to NYC seeking conversion. She enjoys traveling, the outdoors and learning of holistic and alternative health choices.

CONGRATULATIONS AND MAZAL TOV

ENGAGEMENTS

Rebecca Ashkenazy and Yona Levitt
Mazal Tov to parents, Gayle and Stewart Ashkenazy

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Mazal Tov to mother, Carla Devillers

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Mazal Tov to parents, Lisanne and Arthur Lubitz

MARRIAGES

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Mazal Tov to parents, Gail and Gady Buiumsohn
Mazal Tov to grandmother, Helga Weisburger

BIRTHS

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Mazal Tov to grandparents, Leah and Joshua Marcus

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BAR/BAT MITZVAH

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Tamar Garmaise Gindis, Judy Garmaise and the late Miriam Garmaise, *z"l,* on the loss of their father, Arthur Garmaise, *z"l*

Wendy Gottlieb, on the loss of her mother, Barbara Hass, *z"l*

Passing of Barbara Reader **(SEE BOX)**

Yuri Usher, on the loss of his father, Joseph Heifetz, *z"l*

SPEEDY RECOVERY/REFUAH SH'LAIMA

Lloyd Epstein, *Arye Leib Eliyahu haLevi ben Elka*
Yedidya Flaquer, *Yedidya ben Ahuva*
Geraldine Katz, *Gershona Yehudit bat Rochel*
Ruth Nelkin, *Rochel bat Sarah*
Angelo Verga, *Malachi Yosef ben Miriam*
Louis Vynerib, *Elazar HaCohen ben Malka*

CONGRATULATIONS

Stephen Rosen for being chosen as a recipient of the inaugural "16 Over 61 Awards" of the Marlene Meyerson JCC Manhattan's Wechsler Center for Modern Aging and of The Forward

Robbin Schlissel on his 70th birthday

Rhonda Weinman, who has been named to the 2021 edition of the Forbes list of Best-In-State Wealth Advisors

TODAH RABBAH:

Jonathan Leong for designing the LSS Beginners Service's 45th anniversary logo

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sun May 16, 2021 - 5th of Sivan
EREV SHAVUOT
Morning Services . . . . . 8:30 AM
Candle Lighting . . . . . 7:49 PM
Mincha/Maariv . . . . . 7:55 PM

Mon May 17, 2021 - 6th of Sivan
1st DAY SHAVUOT
Morning Services . .5:11, 8:00 & 9:00 AM
Book of Ruth . . . . . 6:55 PM
Mincha . . . . . 7:55 PM
Candle Lighting . . . . . 8:50 PM

Tues May 18, 2021 - 7th of Sivan
2nd DAY SHAVUOT YIZKOR
Morning Service . . . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:40 AM
Book of Ruth . . . . . 6:55 PM
Mincha. . . . . 7:55 PM
Ma'ariv/Yom Tov ends . . . . . 8:52 PM
Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv . . . . . 7:55 PM

Fri May 21, 2021 - 10th of Sivan
Morning Services. . . . . 7:30 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting . . . . . 6:41 PM
Candle Lighting . . . . . 7:54 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat . . . . . 7:00 PM

Sat May 22, 2021 - 11th of Sivan
Naso
Morning Service . . . 7:30, 9:00 & 9:15 AM
Beginners Service. . . . . 9:30 AM
Mincha . . . . . 7:40 PM
Ma'ariv/Shabbat Ends . . . . . 8:56 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv . . . . . 8:05 PM

Fri May 28, 2021 - 17th of Sivan
Morning Services . . . . . 7:30 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting . . . . . 6:46 PM
Candle Lighting . . . . . 8:00 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat. . . . . 7:00 PM

Sat May 29, 2021 - 18th of Sivan
B'ha'a'lot'cha
Morning Services . . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:40 AM
Beginners Service. . . . . 9:30 AM
Mincha . . . . . 7:45 PM
Ma'ariv/Shabbat Ends . . . . . 9:02 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv . . . . . 8:10 PM

Mon May 31, 2021 - 20th of Sivan
MEMORIAL DAY
Morning Services. . . . . 8:30 AM

Fri June 4, 2021 - 24th of Sivan
Morning Services . . . . . 7:30 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting . . . . . 6:50 PM
Candle Lighting . . . . . 8:05 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat . . . . . 7:00 PM

Sat June 5, 2021 - 25th of Sivan
Shelach
Morning Service . . . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:40 AM
Beginners Service. . . . . 9:30 AM
Mincha . . . . . 7:50 PM
Ma'ariv/Shabbat Ends . . . . . 9:07 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv . . . . . 8:15 PM

Thurs June 10, 2021 - 30th of Sivan
ROSH CHODESH
Morning Services. . . . . 7:30 AM

Fri June 11, 2021 - 1st of Tammuz
ROSH CHODESH
Morning Services . . . . . 7:30 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting . . . . . 6:54 PM
Candle Lighting . . . . . 8:10 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat.6:45 & 8:15 PM

Sat June 12, 2021 - 2nd of Tammuz
Korach
Morning Service . . . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:40 AM
Beginners Service. . . . . 9:30 AM
Mincha . . . . . 7:55 PM
Maariv/Shabbat Ends. . . . . 9:11 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv . . . . . 8:20 PM

Fri June 18, 2021 - 8th of Tammuz
Morning Services . . . . . 7:30 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting . . . . . 6:56 PM
Candle Lighting . . . . . 8:12 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat . . . . . 7:00 PM

Sat June 19, 2021 - 9th of Tammuz
Chukat
Morning Service . . . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:40 AM
Beginners Service. . . . . 9:30 AM
Mincha . . . . . 8:00 PM
Maariv/Shabbat Ends. . . . . 9:13 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv . . . . . 8:20 PM

Fri June 25, 2021 - 15th of Tammuz
Morning Services . . . . . 7:30 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting . . . . . 6:58 PM
Candle Lighting . . . . . 8:14 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat . . . . . 7:00 PM

Sat June 26, 2021 - 16th of Tammuz
Balak
Morning Services . . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:40 AM
Beginners Service. . . . . 9:30 AM
Mincha . . . . . 8:00 PM
Maariv/Shabbat Ends. . . . . 9:14 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv . . . . . 8:20 PM

Sun June 27, 2021 - 17th of Tammuz
SHIVA ASSAR B'TAMMUZ
Fast Begins . . . . . 4:14 AM
Morning Services . . . . . 8:30 AM
Mincha/Maariv . . . . . 8:05 PM
Fast Ends . . . . . 9:03 PM

Fri July 2, 2021 - 22nd of Tammuz
Morning Services . . . . . 7:30 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting . . . . . 6:58 PM
Candle Lighting . . . . . 8:14 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat . . . . . 7:00 PM

Sat July 3, 2021 - 23rd of Tammuz
Pinchas
Morning Services . . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:40 AM
Beginners Service. . . . . 9:30 AM
Mincha . . . . . 8:00 PM
Maariv/Shabbat Ends. . . . . 9:14 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv . . . . . 8:20 PM

Mon July 5, 2021 - 25th of Tammuz
INDEPENDENCE DAY OBSERVED
Morning Service . . . . . 7:30 AM

Fri July 9, 2021 - 29th of Tammuz
Morning Services . . . . . 7:30 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting . . . . . 6:57 PM
Candle Lighting . . . . . 8:12 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat . . . . . 7:00 PM

Sat July 10, 2021 - 1st of Av
Matot-Masei
ROSH CHODESH
Morning Service . . . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:40 AM
Beginners Service. . . . . 9:30 AM
Mincha . . . . . 8:05 PM
Maariv/Shabbat Ends. . . . . 9:12 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv . . . . . 8:15 PM

Fri July 16, 2021 - 7th of Av
Morning Services . . . . . 7:30 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting . . . . . 6:54 PM
Candle Lighting . . . . . 8:08 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat . . . . . 7:00 PM

Sat July 17, 2021 - 8th of Av
Devarim **SHABBAT HAZON**
Morning Service . . . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Beginners Service. . . . . 9:30 AM
Mincha . . . . . 6:25 PM
Fast Begins . . . . . 8:26 PM
Shabbat Ends. . . . . 9:08 PM
Maariv/Eicha/Kinnot . . . . . 9:30 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv . . . . . 8:15 PM

Sun July 18, 2021 - 9th of Av
TISHA B'AV
Morning Services. . . . .7:00 & 8:30 AM
Chatzot . . . . . 1:02 PM
Mincha . . . . . 1:40 PM
Mincha/Maariv . . . . . 7:55 PM
Fast Ends . . . . . 8:56 PM

Fri July 23, 2021 - 14th of Av
Morning Services . . . . . 7:30 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting . . . . . 6:50 PM
Candle Lighting . . . . . 8:03 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat . . . . . 7:00 PM

Sat July 24, 2021 - 15th of Av
Va'etchanan **SHABBAT NACHAMU**
TU B'AV
Morning Service . . . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:40 AM
Beginners Service. . . . . 9:30 AM
Mincha . . . . . 7:50 PM
Maariv/Shabbat Ends. . . . . 9:03 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv . . . . . 8:05 PM

Fri July 30, 2021 - 21st of Av
Morning Services . . . . . 7:30 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting . . . . . 6:45 PM
Candle Lighting . . . . . 7:56 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat . . . . . 7:00 PM

Sat July 31, 2021 - 22nd of Av
Eikev
Morning Service . . . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:40 AM
Beginners Service. . . . . 9:30 AM
Mincha . . . . . 7:40 PM
Maariv/Shabbat Ends. . . . . 8:56 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv . . . . . 8:00 PM

Fri August 6, 2021 - 28th of Av
Morning Services . . . . . 7:30 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting . . . . . 6:38 PM
Candle Lighting . . . . . 7:48 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat . . . . . 7:00 PM

Sat August 7, 2021 - 29th of Av
Re'eh
Morning Services . . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:40 AM
Beginners Service. . . . . 9:30 AM
Mincha . . . . . 7:35 PM
Maariv/Shabbat Ends. . . . . 8:48 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv . . . . . 7:50 PM

Sun August 8, 2021 - 30th of Av
ROSH CHODESH
Morning Services . . . . . 8:30 AM

Mon August 9, 2021 - 1st of Elul
ROSH CHODESH
Morning Services . . . . . 7:30 AM

Fri August 13, 2021 - 5th of Elul
Morning Services . . . . . 7:30 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting . . . . . 6:31 PM
Candle Lighting . . . . . 7:39 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat . . . . . 7:00 PM

Sat August 14, 2021 - 6th of Elul
Shoftim
Morning Services . . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:40 AM
Beginners Service. . . . . 9:30 AM
Mincha . . . . . 7:25 PM
Maariv/Shabbat Ends. . . . . 8:39 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv . . . . . 7:40 PM

Fri August 20, 2021 - 12th of Elul
Morning Services . . . . . 7:30 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting . . . . . 6:23 PM
Candle Lighting . . . . . 7:30 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat . . . . . 7:00 PM

Sat August 21, 2021 - 13th of Elul
Kee Teitzei
Morning Services . . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:40 AM
Beginners Service. . . . . 9:30 AM
Mincha . . . . . 7:15 PM
Maariv/Shabbat Ends. . . . . 8:29 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv . . . . . 7:30 PM

Fri August 27, 2021 - 19th of Elul
Morning Services . . . . . 7:30 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting . . . . . 6:14 PM
Candle Lighting . . . . . 7:19 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat . . . . . 7:00 PM

Sat August 28, 2021 - 20th of Elul
Kee Tavo
Morning Service . . . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:40 AM
Beginners Service. . . . . 9:30 AM
Mincha . . . . . 7:05 PM
Maariv/Shabbat Ends. . . . . 8:18 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv . . . . . 7:20 PM

Fri September 3, 2021 - 26th of Elul
Selichot/Shacharit . . . . . 6:40 & 7:30 AM
Candle Lighting . . . . . 7:08 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat . . . . . 7:10 PM

Sat September 4, 2021 - 27th of Elul
Nitazvim
Morning Service . . . 7:45, 9:00 & 9:40 AM
Beginners Service. . . . . 9:30 AM
Mincha . . . . . 6:50 PM
Maariv/Shabbat Ends. . . . . 8:07 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv . . . . . 7:20 PM

Mon September 6, 2021 - 18th of Elul
EREV ROSH HASHANA
LABOR DAY
Selichot/Shacharit . . . . . .6:40 & 8:10 AM
Light Candles . . . . . 7:03 PM
Mincha/Maariv . . . . . 7:10 PM

All classes and events are tentative, pending state COVID-19 regulations and updated synagogue policies.

Some classes may be offered on Zoom.

Please check lss.org/beginners for the most up to date information.

SAVE THE DATE

All Night Shavuot Learn-A-Thon
Sun night, Mon morning,
May 16 - 17
12:45 - 4:45 AM

Book of Ruth,
Shavuot Afternoon classes
Mon - Tues, May 17 -18
6:55 PM

First Beginners Shabbat
Luncheon of the Season
Sat, Sep 4 - $25

Rosh Hashana
Tues - Wed, Sept 7 - Sept 8

BARBARA READER

Barbara Reader was not your average Beginner. She was extraordinary in everything that she did. She was a brilliant estates attorney, who cared about her clients and friends. She was a super committed Jew who was always in a "growth mode." She fought a valiant battle against a very serious disease, but never gave up hope. She enriched all of our lives immeasurably, especially Star Trek fans, who followed her popular blog, "Star Trek Reviewed." To see tributes to Barbara from her fan club, **click here.**