GIVING SHAVUOT A LITTLE RESPECT

by Neil Roland

It seems like every Shavuot article has to begin with a hackneyed [illegible] -- something about it being the Rodney Dangerfield of Jewish holidays. Well, I'm here to tell you how to turn Shavuot's lack of concrete symbols and dearth of conspicuous rituals, jujitsu-like, to your advantage. It took me years to appreciate the opportunity; now it's my favorite holiday.

Sure, you can't explain Shavuot to your secular extended family, nor can you interest them in observing it. Staying up late into the night to study, and eating dairy foods, hasn't piqued the popular imagination the way Rosh HaShanah and Pesach have. It's hard to get revved up for a holiday for which there is minimal preparation required, like cleaning for Pesach or constructing a sukkah. And the kids don't get excited about it they way they do for Purim, with its costumes, and Hanukkah, with its gifts.

Exactly. Shavuot travels light. The relative absence of obligation means you can take wing, slip out of town with some of your favorite people, and celebrate the Spring-time holiday in relaxed style. It's stress- and neurosis-free.

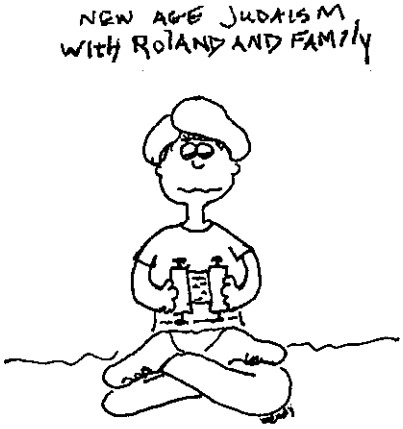
In recent years, we've gotten together with a couple of dozen families and headed for the mountains of West Virginia, where we've stayed in cabins and dressed casually. One cabin is the shul, and everyone pitches in to make the minyan and prepare meals. The days together are filled with leisurely shmoozes with shifting groups of friends. It's a diverse, tolerant crew (no rabbis allowed!), and the time before and after Yom Tov allows some take long hikes on the leafy trails in May sunshine, others to play softball (adults vs. kids) on a makeshift field, and still others to jog and bicycle with the young 'uns.

In this idyllic setting, we've cemented long-term friendships that have continued throughout the year, arranged joint vacations to the West Coast, found medical treatment for long-time ailments, and taught our four-year-old how to read hiking trails.

This year, we're shifting venue, and four families are sharing a house on the beach in Delaware. We all look forward to davening together on Shavuot at a nearby synagogue and strolling on the beach in the moonlight. Of course, we also look forward to spending erev Yom Tov (the time before the holiday) splashing in the waves and throwing frisbees with the kids. Who knows what new tales and bonds of friendship will emerge?

Shavuot for us has become a way to observe Yom Tov in a communal, natural setting. And if anyone complains that the holiday reminds them of the disrespected Rodney Dangerfield, we counter that it exudes the sunny disposition of the Bill Cosby show.

Neil Roland, a graduate of the LSS Beginners Service, is a journalist who lives in Silver Spring, Maryland, with his wife Shelly and children Joella and Micah.



CONGRATULATIONS AND MAZAL TOV

ENGAGEMENTS

Ephraim (Jared) Osgood and Miriam Goldstein
Mazal Tov to parents Marilyn and Armin Osgood

WEDDINGS

Bayla Sheva Jacobs and Baruch Brenner

BIRTHS

Heidi and Dr. Jeff Davis, on the birth of a girl, Shaina Leah
Chava and Jay Gottlieb, on the birth of a boy, Eliezer Moshe
Jacqueline and Dr. Barry Grossman, on the birth of twin girls, Sarah Menucha and Dvorah Necha Genendel
Emily and Leon Metzger, on the birth of a girl, Renee Hannah
Jennifer Paradise and Dr. Lawrence Maayan, on the birth of a girl, Leah Talia
Nancy (Harris) and Isaac Rouemy, on the birth of a boy, Yisrael Yair

BAR/BAT MITZVAH

Oriel Chasadya Weinberg
Mazal Tov to Dodi Lee Lamm and Debbie and Rabbi Simcha Weinberg

CONDOLENCES

To the family of Harold Goldberg
To Steven Hirsch and the family of Caryn Heyman
Steven Lancman, on the loss of his father, Henry Lancman
Nancy Slater Loorie, on the loss of her mother, Kate Slater

REFUAH SH'LEIMAH (SPEEDY RECOVERY)

Ruth Gutradt (Ruth bat Ella)
Elisheva bat Miriam

THANK YOU

Dr. Leonard Davidman, for leading the Beginners Service during Rabbi Buchwald's absence.

TZEITCHEM L'SHALOM/FAREWELL (To live and/or study in Israel)

Karen and Alain Ickovics

SAVE THE DATE

All Night Shavuot Learn-in
Thur, May 16, 11:30 p.m. - 5:05 a.m.

Last and First Beginners Shabbat Luncheons of the Seasons
June 1, Sept 14

Rosh Hashana
Fri - Sun, Sept 6 - 8

HAROLD GOLDBERG

Harold Goldberg's untimely passing leaves a void in our Beginners Service (which he attended in the mid-1980's) and in the broader Jewish community as well. Harold, by profession a guidance counselor for the New York public school system, was really a counselor and advisor to many friends and admirers (and rabbis). His stimulating Divrei Torah, which he developed into an art form, and which he shared in many Manhattan synagogues, will be greatly missed by the many who heard them and learned much from them.

CARYN HEYMAN

Caryn Heyman was a beautiful, vivacious and deeply spirited person. Although she began attending the Beginners Service relatively recently, she made many friends and was growing rapidly in her knowledge and observance of Judaism, when she was suddenly diagnosed with cancer about 7 months ago. Her courage during her illness, and her commitment to her faith during that time, is a lesson in "living" from which we can all learn. Her passing at age 38 is a tragedy from which we will not soon recover.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Thu May 16, 2002 - 5th of Sivan EREV SHAVUOT
Morning Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM
REMEMBER TO MAKE AN ERUV TAVSHILIN
Candle Lighting ..... 7:49 PM
Mincha ..... 7:55 PM
Maariv ..... 8:38 PM

Fri May 17, 2002 - 6th of Sivan SHAVUOT
Morning Services ..... 5:05 & 9:00 AM
Bible Class ..... 6:45 PM
Daf Yomi ..... 7:00 PM
Mincha ..... 7:45 PM
Shabbat candles before ..... 7:50 PM

Sat May 18, 2002 - 7th of Sivan SHAVUOT
Daf Yomi ..... 7:15 AM
Morning Services ..... 8:00 & 9:00 AM
Bible Class ..... 6:45 PM
Talmud Class ..... 7:00 PM
Mincha ..... 7:45 PM
Maariv ..... 8:50 PM
Yom Tov ends ..... 8:50 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 7:55 PM

Fri May 24, 2002 - 13th of Sivan
Morning Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting ..... 6:39 PM
Candle Lighting ..... 7:56 PM
Mincha ..... 6:45 & 8:00 PM

Sat May 25, 2002 - 14th of Sivan *Nasso*
Daf Yomi ..... 7:00 AM
Bible Class ..... 8:30 AM
Morning Services ..... 7:45, 9:00& 9:45 AM
Talmud & Bible Class ..... 6:50 PM
Mincha ..... 7:50 PM
Shabbat Ends ..... 8:56 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 8:05 PM

Mon May 27, 2002 - 16th of Sivan MEMORIAL DAY
Morning Services ..... 7:05 & 8:30 AM

Fri May 31, 2002 - 20th of Sivan
Morning Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting ..... 6:45 PM
Candle Lighting ..... 8:02 PM
Mincha ..... 6:45 & 8:05 PM

Sat June 1, 2002 - 21st of Sivan *Beha'alotcha*
Daf Yomi ..... 7:00 AM
Bible Class ..... 8:30 AM
Morning Services ..... 7:45, 9:00& 9:45 AM
Talmud & Bible Class ..... 6:55 PM
Mincha ..... 7:55 PM
Shabbat Ends ..... 9:02 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 8:10 PM

Fri June 7, 2002 - 27th of Sivan
Morning Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting ..... 6:50 PM
Candle Lighting ..... 8:07 PM
Mincha ..... 6:45 & 8:10 PM

Sat June 8, 2002 - 28th of Sivan *Sh'lach*
Daf Yomi ..... 7:00 AM
Bible Class ..... 8:30 AM
Morning Services ..... 7:45, 9:00& 9:45 AM
Talmud & Bible Class ..... 7:00 PM
Mincha ..... 8:00 PM
Shabbat Ends ..... 9:07 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 8:15 PM

Mon June 10, 2002 - 30th of Sivan ROSH CHODESH
Morning Services ..... 7:00 & 7:40 AM

Tue June 11, 2002 - 1st of Tamuz ROSH CHODESH
Morning Services ..... 7:00 & 7:40 AM

Fri June 14, 2002 - 4th of Tamuz
Morning Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting ..... 6:54 PM
Candle Lighting ..... 8:11 PM
Mincha ..... 6:45 & 8:15 PM

Sat June 15, 2002 - 5th of Tamuz *Korach*
Daf Yomi ..... 7:00 AM
Bible Class ..... 8:30 AM
Morning Services ..... 7:45, 9:00& 9:45 AM
Talmud & Bible Class ..... 7:05 PM
Mincha ..... 8:05 PM
Shabbat Ends ..... 9:11 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 8:15 PM

Fri June 21, 2002 - 11th of Tamuz
Morning Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting ..... 6:56 PM
Candle Lighting ..... 8:13 PM
Mincha ..... 6:45 & 8:20 PM

Sat June 22, 2002 - 12th of Tamuz *Chukat-Balak*
Daf Yomi ..... 7:00 AM
Bible Class ..... 8:30 AM
Morning Services ..... 7:45, 9:00& 9:45 AM
Talmud & Bible Class ..... 7:10 PM
Mincha ..... 8:10 PM
Shabbat Ends ..... 9:13 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 8:20 PM

Thu June 27, 2002 - 17th of Tamuz
SHIV'A ASSAR B'TAMMUZ
Fast Begins ..... 4:14 AM
Morning Services ..... 7:00 & 7:30 AM
Mincha ..... 8:05 PM
Fast Ends ..... 9:02 PM

Fri June 28, 2002 - 18th of Tamuz
Morning Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting ..... 6:56 PM
Candle Lighting ..... 8:13 PM
Mincha ..... 6:45 & 8:20 PM

Sat June 29, 2002 - 19th of Tamuz *Pinchas*
Daf Yomi ..... 7:00 AM
Bible Class ..... 8:30 AM
Morning Services ..... 7:45, 9:00& 9:45 AM
Talmud & Bible Class ..... 7:10 PM
Mincha ..... 8:10 PM
Shabbat Ends ..... 9:13 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 8:20 PM

Thu July 4, 2002 - 24th of Tamuz
INDEPENDENCE DAY
Morning Services ..... 7:05 & 8:30 AM

Fri July 5, 2002 - 25th of Tamuz
Morning Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting ..... 6:55 PM
Candle Lighting ..... 8:12 PM
Mincha ..... 6:45 & 8:15 PM

Sat July 6, 2002 - 26th of Tamuz *Matot-Masei*
Daf Yomi ..... 7:00 AM
Bible Class ..... 8:30 AM
Morning Services ..... 7:45, 9:00& 9:45 AM
Pirkei Avot & Bible Class ..... 7:05 PM
Mincha ..... 8:05 PM
Shabbat Ends ..... 9:12 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 8:15 PM

Wed July 10, 2002 - 1st of Av ROSH CHODESH
Morning Services ..... 7:00 & 7:40 AM

Fri July 12, 2002 - 3rd of Av
Morning Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting ..... 6:53 PM
Candle Lighting ..... 8:10 PM
Mincha ..... 6:45 & 8:15 PM

Sat July 13, 2002 - 4th of Av *Devarim* HAZON
Daf Yomi ..... 7:00 AM
Bible Class ..... 8:30 AM
Morning Services ..... 7:45, 9:00& 9:45 AM
Pirkei Avot & Bible Class ..... 7:05 PM
Mincha ..... 8:05 PM
Shabbat Ends ..... 9:10 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 8:10 PM

Wed July 17, 2002 - 8th of Av EREV TISH'A B'AV
Mincha ..... 8:15 PM
Fast Begins ..... 8:25 PM
Maariv & Kinnot ..... 8:56 PM

Thu July 18, 2002 - 9th of Av TISH'A B'AV
Morning Services ..... 6:30 & 8:30 AM
Early Mincha ..... 1:39 PM
Mincha ..... 7:50 PM
Fast Ends ..... 8:55 PM

Fri July 19, 2002 - 10th of Av
Morning Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting ..... 6:49 PM
Candle Lighting ..... 8:06 PM
Mincha ..... 6:45 & 8:10 PM

Sat July 20, 2002 - 11th of Av *Va'et'chanan* NACHAMU
Daf Yomi ..... 7:00 AM
Bible Class ..... 8:30 AM
Morning Services ..... 7:45, 9:00& 9:45 AM
Pirkei Avot & Bible Class ..... 7:00 PM
Mincha ..... 8:00 PM
Shabbat Ends ..... 9:06 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 8:05 PM

Fri July 26, 2002 - 17th of Av
Morning Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting ..... 6:48 PM
Candle Lighting ..... 8:00 PM
Mincha ..... 6:45 & 8:05 PM

Sat July 27, 2002 - 18th of Av *Eikev*
Daf Yomi ..... 7:00 AM
Bible Class ..... 8:30 AM
Morning Services ..... 7:45, 9:00& 9:[illegible] AM
Pirkei Avot & Bible Class ..... [illegible] M
Mincha ..... [illegible] M
Shabbat Ends ..... 9:00 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 8:00 PM

Fri August 2, 2002 - 24th of Av
Morning Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting ..... 6:41 PM
Candle Lighting ..... 7:53 PM
Mincha ..... 6:45 & 8:00 PM

Sat August 3, 2002 - 25th of Av *Re'eh*
Daf Yomi ..... 7:00 AM
Bible Class ..... 8:30 AM
Morning Services ..... 7:45, 9:00& 9:45 AM
Pirkei Avot & Bible Class ..... 6:50 PM
Mincha ..... 7:50 PM
Shabbat Ends ..... 8:53 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 7:50 PM

Thu August 8, 2002 - 30th of Av ROSH CHODESH
Morning Services ..... 7:00 & 7:40 AM

Fri August 9, 2002 - 1st of Elul ROSH CHODESH
Morning Services ..... 7:00 & 7:40 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting ..... 6:32 PM
Candle Lighting ..... 7:44 PM
Mincha ..... 6:45 & 7:50 PM

Sat August 10, 2002 - 2nd of Elul *Shoftim*
Daf Yomi ..... 7:00 AM
Bible Class ..... 8:30 AM
Morning Services ..... 7:45, 9:00& 9:45 AM
Pirkei Avot & Bible Class ..... 6:40 PM
Mincha ..... 7:40 PM
Shabbat Ends ..... 8:44 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 7:40 PM

Fri August 16, 2002 - 8th of Elul
Morning Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting ..... 6:28 PM
Candle Lighting ..... 7:35 PM
Mincha ..... 6:45 & 7:40 PM

Sat August 17, 2002 - 9th of Elul *Ki Teitzei*
Daf Yomi ..... 7:00 AM
Bible Class ..... 8[illegible] M
Morning Services ..... 7:45, 9:00& [illegible] M
Pirkei Avot & Bible Class ..... 6[illegible] M
Mincha ..... 7:30 PM
Shabbat Ends ..... 8:35 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 7:30 PM

Fri August 23, 2002 - 15th of Elul
Morning Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting ..... 6:18 PM
Candle Lighting ..... 7:25 PM
Mincha ..... 6:45 & 7:30 PM

Sat August 24, 2002 - 16th of Elul *Ki Tavo*
Daf Yomi ..... 7:00 AM
Bible Class ..... 8:30 AM
Morning Services ..... 7:45, 9:00& 9:45 AM
Pirkei Avot & Bible Class ..... 6:20 PM
Mincha ..... 7:20 PM
Shabbat Ends ..... 8:25 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 7:20 PM

Fri August 30, 2002 - 22nd of Elul
Morning Services ..... 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting ..... 6:07 PM
Candle Lighting ..... 7:14 PM
Mincha ..... 6:45 & 7:20 PM

Sat August 31, 2002 - 23rd of Elul *Nitzavim-Vayeilech*
Daf Yomi ..... 7:00 AM
Bible Class ..... 8:30 AM
Morning Services ..... 7:45, 9:00& 9:45 AM
Pirkei Avot & Bible Class ..... 6:10 PM
Mincha ..... 7:10 PM
Shabbat Ends ..... 8:14 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv ..... 7:10 PM
Early Selichot ..... 10:00 PM
Late Selichot ..... 12:56 AM

Sun September 1, 2002 - 24th of Elul
Morning Services ..... 7:10 & 8:30 AM

Mon September 2, 2002 - 25th of Elul LABOR DAY
Selichot & Morning Services ..... 6:40 & 8:30 AM

Tue September 3, 2002 - 26th of Elul
Selichot & Morning Services ..... 6:40 & 7:30 AM

Wed September 4, 2002 - 27th of Elul
Selichot & Morning Services ..... 6:40 & 7:[illegible]

Thu September 5, 2002 - 28th of Elul
Selichot & Morning Services ..... 6:40 & 7:30 AM
Late Selichot ..... 9:00 PM