### JOURNEY TO SHAVUOT AND JEWISH LEARNING

David Glassberg

Every spring, we count the *Omer* on each of the forty-nine days between Pesach and Shavuot. This special period affords us the opportunity to reflect on what it means to be Jewish – to feel how we connect to our religion, our people, our history and our laws.

Learning Torah and Talmud is one of the most meaningful personal ways that I connect.

I grew up in the 1950s in a small town in northern New York State. We had a tiny, but cohesive, Jewish community. Except when there was a Bar Mitzvah (at most five times a year), our temple was closed on Saturdays. Most of the retail businesses on Main Street were owned by Jewish shopkeepers, and Saturdays were the big shopping days. On Friday nights though, my family usually went to shul.



Services always started at 8:00 pm, after the stores closed, of course.

Jewish learning in our town was hard to find. Sunday school was mandatory for me and my younger brother. The big draw, however, was the candy store across the street from our temple. Learning came second.

The situation was much the same at my college in Upstate New York. There was a very small Jewish population on campus, and no Hillel or rabbi. My only connection to Judaism then was again culinary-trips to the Jewish-owned New York Bakery in nearby

All that changed after my move to the Upper West Side in 1978. Jewish people and Jewish culture, and synagogues of all denominations, were everywhere. All this was literally at my doorstep, as I lived at the time across the street from The Jewish Center on West 86th Street.

My younger brother, who had become observant, introduced me to Lincoln Square Synagogue (LSS) in the early 1980s, where I met Rabbi Buchwald at my first LSS Friday night service. Soon thereafter, I enrolled in the LSS Beginners Service, where I learned to daven and was blessed to make many good friends. I was particularly drawn to learning, which I did with gusto, spending many hours every week attending lectures and study groups on Jewish history, Israel, Torah and Talmud. I dreamed of learning oneon-one with someone (like they do in yeshivas), but that never

happened.

Then, with a job change, I moved from New York City to a small town in Massachusetts and, once again, I found myself in a place devoid of Jewish culture and learning opportunities.

Then, one day I read about the appointment of a young rabbi

to a conservative synagogue, a short drive from my home. We met for coffee. We were simpatico. We decided to learn together.

Our learning was a bit unorthodox (despite the rabbi being a former yeshiva bocher and an ordained Orthodox rabbi). Instead of going straight through volumes of the Talmud one at a time, we would spend several weeks or months on one subject, usually focusing on an ethical question: What does it mean to be a good father, husband, brother, friend and

neighbor? What does it mean to honor one's parents? How should we treat strangers? Is it ever okay to tell a lie (for shalom bayit, for

Thus began many rewarding years of learning together until my "Wednesdays with Avi" ended when he and his family made

The days of counting the Omer are a special time - a time of spiritual preparation for the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai. For me, it is also a time of reflection, much like the month of Elul, just before Rosh Hashana.

According to tradition, *Elul* is the month that Moses spent on Mount Sinai waiting for the second set of Ten Commandments after the sin of the Golden Calf. I often wonder how Moses spent his time up there. I like to think he learned--that he studied Torah with G-d.

There are many rewarding ways to connect to our religion and our people. Learning Torah and Talmud is one of them. Shavuot is a good time to start. You can spend the entire first night of Shavuot learning Torah at LSS or at your local synagogue. Go for

David Glassberg is a graduate of the LSS Beginners Service and a mostly retired lawyer. He lives, once again, in Manhattan.

# CONGRATULATIONS AND MAZAL TOV



# **ENGAGEMENTS**

Miriam Adler and Shimon Golish Mazal Tov to parents, Loren and Reuven Adler Mazal Tov to grandparents,

Sarah Leah and Lou Vynerib Estee Gerber and Ezra Husney

Mazal Tov to parents, Tracy and Sander Gerber Tamara Reich and Dvir Weil

Mazal Tov to parents,

Sema and Rabbi Dr. Mordechai Reich

### **MARRIAGES**

Gavriella Milder and Shmuel Yedidya Schwartz Mazal Tov to parents, Elisheva and John Milder

Tammy and Tzuriel Biale on the birth of a son, Yonaton Harel

Mazal Tov to grandparents, Anne Bossewitch and Golda and Kenneth Bossewitch

Rachel and Coby Zekry on the birth of a daughter, Nava Ellie

# **BAR/BAT MITZVAH**

Yuval Yair Biale

Mazal Tov to parents, Tammy and Tzuriel Biale Mazal Tov to grandparents, Anne Bossewitch and Golda and Kenneth Bossewitch

Mazal Tov to mother, Suzann Goldberg

#### CONDOLENCES

Family of Irving Centor [see box on other side] Andy Dimond, on the loss of his mother, Marianne Davis Family of Evalyn Steinbock

# SPEEDY RECOVERY/REFUAH SH'LAIMA

Geraldine Katz, Gershona Yehudit bat Rochel Ruth Nelkin, Rochel bat Sarah Barbara Reader, Baila bat Clarissa Rabbi Dr. Mordechai Reich, Mordechai Menashe ben Henya Ruchama Louis Vynerib, Elazar HaCohen ben Malka

#### **CONGRATULATIONS**

Rabbi Avraham Yitzchok (Tod) Jacobs on the publication of his new book, Not a Partnership

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sat, 12:30 PM - \$25 Sept. 7 Rosh Hashanah Sun - Tue, Sept 29 - Oct 1

Sat June 8, 2019 - 5th of Sivan EREV SHAVUOT		Sat July 6, 2019 - 30th of Sivan	Sat August 10, 2019 - 9th of Av Devarim SHABBAT HAZON		Fri September 13, 2019 - 13th of Elul Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM
Bamidbar		Morning Service 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM	Morning Service 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 A	AM	Earliest Candle Lighting 5:51 PM
Morning Services 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45		Beginners Service9:15 AM	Beginners Service9:15		Candle Lighting 6:51 PM
Beginners Service9:15 Beginners Mishnayot6:25	AM PM	Beginners Mishnayot 6:15 PM Bible Class 7:00 PM	Mincha		Mincha 6:55 PM
Bible Class & Book of Ruth 6:55	РМ	Mincha 8:00 PM	Shabbat Ends8:44 F		Sat September 14, 2019 - 14th of Elul Ki Teitzei
Mincha	PM	Maariv/Shabbat Ends9:13 PM	Maariv/Eicha/Kinnot 9:05 A		Morning Services 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Ma'ariv/Candle Lighting 9:08 Beginners Shavuot Learn-A-Thon.11:45		Daily Mincha & Maariv 8:20 PM			Beginners Service9:15 AM
	I IVI	Fri July 12, 2019 - 9th of Tammuz	Sun August 11, 2019 - 10th of Av TISHA B'AV		Beginners Mishnayot 4:50 PM
Sun June 9, 2019 - 6th of Sivan 1st DAY SHAVUOT		Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM	Morning Services 7:00 & 8:30 A	AΜ	Bible Class 5:35 PM
Morning Services 4:58 & 8:00	AM	Earliest Candle Lighting 6:56 PM Candle Lighting 8:10 PM	Chatzot 1:01 F		Mincha 6:35 PM Maariv/Shabbat Ends 7:50 PM
Mincha		Mincha 7:05 & 8:15 PM	Mincha		Daily Mincha & Maariv 6:55 PM
Light Candlesafter 9:08 Maariv9:09		Sat July 13, 2019 - 10th of Tammuz	Mincha/Maariv 7:30 F Fast Ends		Fri September 20, 2019 - 20th of Elul
Mon June 10, 2019 - 7th of Sivan	1 141	Chukat	Fri August 16, 2019 - 15th of Av	141	Morning Services7:10 & 7:50 AM
2nd DAY SHAVUOT Yizkor		Morning Service 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM	TU B'AV		Earliest Candle Lighting 5:41 PM
Morning Services 8:00 & 9:00		Beginners Service9:15 AM Beginners Mishnayot6:10 PM	Morning Services7:10 & 7:50 A	AM	Candle Lighting 6:39 PM Mincha 6:45 PM
Mincha		Talmud & Bible Class 6:55 PM	Earliest Candle Lighting 6:28 F		Sat September 21, 2019 - 21st of Elul
Ma'ariv/Yom Tov ends 9:10	PIVI	Mincha 7:55 PM	Candle Lighting 7:35 F Mincha	⊃M ⊃M	Ki Tavo
<b>Tue June 11, 2019 - 8th of Sivan</b> Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50	ΔΜ	Maariv/Shabbat Ends9:10 PM Daily Mincha & Maariv8:15 PM		IVI	Morning Service 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Mincha/Maariv 8:15		· ·	Sat August 17, 2019 - 16th of Av Va'etchanan SHABBAT NACHAMU		Beginners Service9:15 AM
Fri June 14, 2019 - 11th of Sivan		Fri July 19, 2019 - 16th of Tammuz Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM	Morning Service 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45	AM	Beginners Mishnayot 4:40 PM Bible Class 5:25 PM
Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50	AM	Earliest Candle Lighting 6:52 PM	Beginners Service9:15 A	AΜ	Mincha 6:25 PM
Earliest Candle Lighting 6:55		Candle Lighting8:06 PM	Beginners Mishnayot 5:35 F		Maariv/Shabbat Ends 7:38 PM
Candle Lighting 8:11		Mincha 7:05 & 8:10 PM	Bible Class	>M ⊃M	Daily Mincha & Maariv 6:40 PM
Mincha 7:05 & 8:15	PIVI	Sat July 20, 2019 - 17th of Tammuz	Maariv/Shabbat Ends 8:34 F		Sun September 222, 2019 - 28th of Elul
Sat June 15, 2019 - 12th of Sivan Nasso		<b>Balak</b> Morning Services 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM	Daily Mincha & Maariv 7:35 F	PM	Selichot
	AM	Beginners Service9:15 AM	Fri August 23, 2019 - 22nd of Av		Morning Services7:10 & 8:30 AM
Beginners Service9:15	AM	Beginners Mishnayot 6:05 PM	Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 A		Fri September 27, 2019 - 27th of Elul
Beginners Mishnayot 6:10	PM	Bible Class 6:50 PM	Earliest Candle Lighting 6:19 F Candle Lighting 7:25 F		Selichot/Shacharit 6:40 & 7:30 AM
Bible Class 6:55 Mincha 7:55	PM PM	Mincha 7:50 PM Maariv/Shabbat Ends	Mincha 7:30 F		Candle Lighting
Ma'ariv/Shabbat Ends 9:12		Daily Mincha & Maariv 8:10 PM	Sat August 24, 2019 - 23rd of Av		Mincha
Daily Mincha & Maariv 8:20	РМ	Sun July 21, 2019 - 18th of Tammuz	Eikev		Sat September 28, 2019 - 28th of Elul Nitzavim
Fri June 21, 2019 - 18th of Sivan	A N A	SHIVA ASSAR B'TAMMUZ	Morning Service 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45		Morning Service 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Morning Services7:10 & 7:50 Earliest Candle Lighting 6:57		Fast Begins 4:30 AM	Beginners Service		Beginners Service9:15 AM
Candle Lighting 8:13		Morning Services 6:50 & 8:30 AM Mincha	Bible Class 6:10 F		Beginners Mishnayot 4:25 PM
Mincha 7:05 & 8:15		Mincha/Maariv 7:55 PM	Mincha 7:10 F		Bible Class
Sat June 22, 2019 - 19th of Sivan		Fast Ends 8:54 PM	Maariv/Shabbat Ends 8:24 F		Maariv/Shabbat Ends7:26 PM
Beha'alotcha	A B 4	Fri July 26, 2019 - 23rd of Tammuz	Daily Mincha & Maariv 7:30 F	JM	Sun September 29, 2019 - 29th of Elul
Morning Services 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 Beginners Service 9:15	AM AM	Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 AM	Fri August 30, 2019 - 29th of Av	A B 4	EREV ROSH HASHANA
Beginners Mishnayot 6:15		Earliest Candle Lighting 6:48 PM Candle Lighting 8:00 PM	Morning Services7:10 & 7:50 A Earliest Candle Lighting 6:10 F		Selichot/Morning Services
Bible Class 7:00		Mincha 7:05 & 8:05 PM	Candle Lighting 7:14 F		6:00 & 7:30 AM
Mincha 8:00 Ma'ariv/Shabbat Ends 9:14	PM PM	Sat July 27, 2019 - 24th of Tammuz	Mincha 7:20 F	PM	Light Candles 6:24 PM Mincha/Maariv 6:30 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv 8:20		Pinchas	Sat August 31, 2019 - 30th of Av		Willicha/Maariv
Fri June 28, 2019 - 25th of Sivan		Morning Service 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM	Re'eh ROSH CHODESH  Morning Services 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45	ΛN./	IRVING CENTOR
Morning Services7:10 & 7:50		Beginners Service	Beginners Service9:15		Yitzchak (Irving) Centor (93 years old),
Earliest Candle Lighting 6:58		Bible Class 6:45 PM	Beginners Mishnayot 5:15 F		was a practicing lawyer, whose real
Candle Lighting 8:14 Mincha 7:05 & 8:20		Mincha 7:45 PM	Bible Classes 6:00 F		passion was to write the most wonderful
Sat June 29, 2019 - 26th of Sivan		Maariv/Shabbat Ends9:00 PM	Mincha		Jewish poetry. Under the name Isadore
Sh'lach		Daily Mincha & Maariv 8:05 PM	Daily Mincha & Maariv 7:20 F		Century, he published several acclaimed
Morning Service 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45		Fri August 2, 2019 - 1st of Av ROSH CHODESH	Sun September 1, 2019 - 1st of Elul		volumes of poetry.
Beginners Service9:15 Beginners Mishnayot6:15	AM PM	Morning Services7:00 & 7:40 AM	ROSH CHODESH		Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald would introduce his weekly Shabbat afternoon
Bible Class 7:00		Earliest Candle Lighting 6:42 PM	Morning Services7:00 & 8:30 A	AΜ	parasha class by reading Yitzchak's
Mincha8:00	PM	Candle Lighting 7:53 PM Mincha 6:45 & 7:55 PM	Mon September 2, 2019 - 2nd of Elul		poems as a "warmup act." He enriched
Ma'ariv/Shabbat Ends 9:14 Daily Mincha & Maariv 8:20			LABOR DAY Morning Services7:00 & 8:30 A	۸.۸	us all with his wit, wisdom and formidable
•	F IVI	Matot-Masei		-VIVI	talents. We will sorely miss him.
Wed July 3, 2019 - 30th of Sivan ROSH CHODESH		Morning Service 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM	Fri September 6, 2019 - 6th of Elul Morning Services 7:10 & 7:50 A	AΜ	
Morning Services7:00 & 7:40	AM	Beginners Service9:15 AM	Earliest Candle Lighting 6:01 F		SAVE THE DATE
Thurs July 4, 2019 - 1st of Tammuz		Beginners Mishnayot 5:55 PM Bible Class 6:40 PM	Candle Lighting 7:03 F		
ROSH CHODESH		Mincha 7:40 PM	Mincha 7:05 F	-M	All Night Shavuot Learn-A-Thon
Morning Sorvings 7:10 8 9:20	A N A	Maariv/Shabbat Ends 8:52 PM	Sat September 7, 2019 - 7th of Elul		Sat, June 8
Morning Services 7:10 & 8:30	AIVI	Daily Mincha & Maariv 7:55 PM	<b>Shoftim</b> Morning Services 7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 A	ΔM	11:45 PM - 7:00 AM
Fri July 5, 2019 - 2nd of Tammuz Morning Services7:10 & 7:50	AM	Fri August 9, 2019 - 8th of Av	Beginners Service9:15		Finet Perior Cl-11-4
Earliest Candle Lighting 6:57		Morning Services7:10 & 7:50 AM Earliest Candle Lighting 6:35 PM	Beginners Mishnayot 5:00 F	PM	First Beginners Shabbat
Candle Lighting 8:13		Candle Lighting 7:45 PM	Bible Classes		Lundron of the Season
Mincha 7:05 & 8:15	ЧM	Mincha 7:50 PM	Maariv/Shabbat Ends 8:02 F		Sat, 12:30 PM - \$25
			Daily Mincha & Maariv 7:05 F		Sept. 7