

SHAVUOT WITH SHELLEY

Menachem (Morty) Goldberg

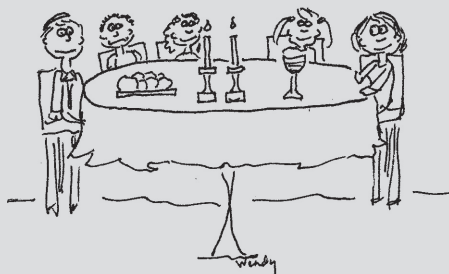
When Rabbi Buchwald suggested that I write an article for the May/Shavuot edition of *Bereishith*, it was not because I was a graduate of the wonderful Beginners Service or because of my writing ability. Rather, it was because of my late wife Shelley (*a"h* -- of blessed memory), who had written an article in the May 1988 *Bereishith* about her first observance of Shavuot in 1987.

Shelley's initial Shavuot experience has been a very special story to our family through the years. Rabbi Buchwald spoke about it when he stood with Shelley and me under our *chupah* (wedding canopy) on Chanukah in 1988. He also read part of the article, as he reminded me, when he stood with our family under a canopy shielding us from the rain at the cemetery for the *hakomas hamatzevah* (dedication of the monument) in February 2010, the year after Shelley had passed away.

Shelley was blessed with many talents, and it would not do justice to her Shavuot story for me to try to fully retell it. (You might want to read it at the following link: njop.org/shelleysarticle). In part, she described her first observance of Shavuot in 1987 in contrast with her Shavuot in 1984, when her business school graduation took place. Shelley wrote about how, in celebrating Shavuot at Lincoln Square Synagogue, she was able to stay up all night to learn Torah with a new community of friends.

Staying up all night was particularly significant because, as Shelley wrote, she normally went to bed at 10:00 pm (11:00 pm at the latest!). I can personally attest to this, since the first time that I called Shelley was just after 10:00 p.m. I am pretty sure that I woke her up. Out of concern, I waited two weeks to call her again, this time at an earlier hour. Things worked out far better than I could have ever imagined.

"SHELLEY UNDERSTOOD THAT SHAVUOT MEANT MUCH MORE THAN JUST STAYING UP ALL NIGHT"



I was so very fortunate (thank G-d) to have shared many Shavuot holidays with Shelley and our children during our twenty years of marriage. There were picnics, delicious dairy meals prepared by Shelley that were truly culinary delights, reviewing Shavuot Torah questions with the children, singing *Shir Hama'alot* after the conclusion of the meals, brochet bees for the

children at shul, and more.

In the weeks between one Shavuot and the next Shavuot, Shelley encouraged us all to learn and live Torah. There were evenings of parent-child learning at shul, guests and parasha questions at the Shabbat and Yom Tov table, and words of Torah at the weekday meal. On Super Bowl Sundays, Shelley served a 'sporting' deli meal and then sent our son Baruch and me off to "father-son learning" at the Yeshiva. From after Pesach to Shavuot, Shelley read Pirkei Avot (Ethics of the Fathers) with our children on each Shabbat afternoon, as is the custom. Shelley was a role model and inspiration for all of us.

As satisfying and even as exhilarating as staying up all night learning on Shavuot might be, as delicious as chocolate cheese cake and culinary dairy delights might be, and as special as Yom Tov meals with family and friends might be, Shelley understood that there was more. She recognized that Shavuot is the culmination of a year of learning the Torah and doing the mitzvot that G-d gave to us to elevate the Jewish people. We were so fortunate to have learned and experienced that in our years with Shelley.

Menachem/Morty Goldberg is the father of Baruch (and Rivkah), Chana Liebe and Meira. He is an attorney in a New York area real estate law firm.

CONGRATULATIONS AND MAZAL TOV

MARRIAGES

Mindy Greenberg and Aryeh Goodman

Mazal Tov to parents, Sharone D'vora and Shmuel Goodman

BIRTHS

Valerie (Aranov) and Menachem (Manny) Ben-Or on the birth of a daughter Rebecca and Shlomo Chotzen, on the birth of a daughter, Lilly Miriam

Mazal Tov to grandparents, Lorraine and Rafi Epand

Sarah (Estefania Matute) and Aaron Greenblott, on the birth of a son, Yosef Aryeh

Chassia and Yori Thau, on the birth of a son, Moshe Ezra

Mazal Tov to grandmother, Devorah Altman

Aliza (Erin Rent) and David Wasserman, on the birth of a son, Barry (Baruch Nachshon)

Sheryn Low and Abe Weishaus, on the birth of a daughter, Amy Claire

Tamar and Marki Roig, on the birth of a son, Lavi Emmanuel

Mazal Tov to grandparents, Chava and Yosef Maccaba

CONDOLENCES

Miriam Gluck, on the loss of her beloved mother, Rochelle Weiss

Dr. Fabienne Rottenberg, on the loss of her beloved mother, Arlette Rottenberg

Marc Weiner, on the loss of his beloved mother, Adele Weiner

SPEEDY RECOVERY

Regina Ullendorff, Rachel bat Feige



CONGRATULATIONS

Drs. Richard and Janice Bennett upon receiving the Keser Shem Tov Award at Yeshivah Ohavei Torah's 16th Anniversary Dinner

Dinah Bodden, Marty Kish, Jacqueline Pelzer and Louis Stock upon being guests of honor at Shabbat Across America at Lincoln Square Synagogue honoring law enforcement professionals

Susan E. Canter upon being honored with the Community Service Award at Congregation Ohav Zedek's (OZ) Annual Dinner

Nancy (Miller) and Tzvi Fishman upon being honored with the Tower of Light Award at the American Friends of Migdal Ohr 2015 Gala Dinner

TODAH RABBAH

Tova and Assaf Alster, Mordechai Beilis, Deborah Bendheim, Iris Cahn, Dr. Leonard

Davidman and Chaviva Warner for serving as committee members for

Shabbat Across America at Lincoln Square Synagogue

Naomi Ferrando for arranging the beautiful flowers for Shabbat Across America at Lincoln Square Synagogue

