

# Your Jewish Connection

brought to you by the TBA Lifelong Learning Committee

Some of us surf and do research on the Internet, also known as the Web or World Wide Web (WWW). Here we'll be discussing Jewish places on the Web. If you have a favorite Jewish Web site, please let us know!

Explore the Web sites – you may find you prefer one over the other, or you'll click a link that takes you somewhere else and it opens new possibilities. Sometimes there will be Web sites of general interest, or suggestions for news and events.

This month there are these events in the Jewish calendar:

- Yom Yerushalayim is Jerusalem Day and commemorates the re-unification of Jerusalem in 1967 as a result of the 6-Day War. In 2011 this starts the evening of May 31 and ends at sundown on June 1. This is a minor religious holiday and also marks the date from which Jews could once again pray at the Western Wall in modern times.
- Rosh Chodesh is the monthly celebration of the new moon and marks the beginning of a new month according to the Jewish calendar. The first day of the month of Sivan is June 3. Historically there would be a celebration to mark the start of a new month. Today there are special prayers to say in synagogue.
- Shavuot begins the evening of June 7 and ends at sundown on June 9. It is customary to remain awake the first night of Shavuot and study with others. We also read the Book of Ruth. Another custom is decorating with abundant greenery and eating dairy foods. NOTE: We will be studying through the night at TBA on June 7. Watch the weekly announcements, or contact the office or Rabbi Jon for information.

In addition, we are Counting the Omer until Shavuot.

A good place to start looking for general information is [www.myjewishlearning.com](http://www.myjewishlearning.com). This transdenominational Web site of Jewish information and education is for adults of all ages and backgrounds, from novice to experienced learners. The site features video and audio content, a blog, Ask the Expert column, recipes, weekly Torah commentaries, quizzes, and discussion boards. One of the site's founding partners is Hebrew College.

The menu bar near the top of the Web page provides access to all the content. Move the cursor over Holidays and a list opens. Find Rosh Chodesh and Shavuot in the list – click on one to get more information. Or click on Modern Holidays – when the Web page displays, look in the left column for Yom Yerushalayim and click on it to get information.

If you want to find all the information on MyJewishLearning for a topic, enter the topic in the Search box near the top of the page. The results list the pages on this Web site that reference that topic.

For Yom Yerushalayim, you may be wondering how it got started. With the help of a search engine, we discovered the Knesset Web site provided just this information – [www.knesset.gov.il/holidays/eng/jerusalem\\_day.htm](http://www.knesset.gov.il/holidays/eng/jerusalem_day.htm). There are links to background on the holiday, the text of the law establishing the holiday, and several speeches. This information helps in giving context and meaning to Jerusalem Day.

What about understanding Judaism from a traditional perspective? Then Judaism 101 at [www.jewfaq.org](http://www.jewfaq.org) may be useful. This is written by a lay person who's been posting on the Internet since the 1990s. The information on this Web site contains references to Torah, Mishnah, Talmud, and traditional customs, and is labeled as Basic, Intermediate, or Advanced level. Access the content via the menu bar at the top of the page. You can also enter a topic in the Search box at the top right of the page.

Judaism 101 is a good way to be grounded in the more traditional aspects of Judaism in order to understand the customs and changes seen today. The list of links provided here is mostly to Orthodox Web sites. We found that other Web sites and rabbis reference Judaism 101 on their sites, such as the site mentioned next.

For a mix of traditional and modern, check out the Jewish Virtual Library at [www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org). Sponsored by the American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise (AICE), the site's purpose is "to provide information about all facets of Jewish life: Jewish culture, Jews in the Diaspora, Jewish identity, the history of anti-Semitism, the rise of Zionism and Zionist thought, biographies of prominent Zionists, the Holocaust, Israel and Jerusalem, Israel's wars, and Jewish holidays." According to the menu on the left edge of the home page, it has a list of books, a glossary, and an extensive list of links to other Web sites (some links are broken, but there is a disclaimer about that).

You may have to search to find exactly what you're looking for at Jewish Virtual Library. A search for Shavuot offered these results: Cheesecake Treats for Shavuot, First Fruits, Omer, and the Five Scrolls, as well as other topics.

Don't be afraid to click on links and see where they take you! Sometimes the best adventure is the one you're not expecting.

Other Jewish Web Resources

[www.tbanashua.org](http://www.tbanashua.org) Our own TBA Web site!

[www.rabbijon.com](http://www.rabbijon.com) Rabbi Jon's blog.

[www.jewishnh.org](http://www.jewishnh.org) Jewish Federation of NH – check the community calendar and sign up for E-News.

[www.hebcal.com](http://www.hebcal.com) Check Hebrew calendar dates.

[www.jewishboston.com](http://www.jewishboston.com) Lists Jewish events in the greater Boston area and beyond. Provides free registration and newsletters. Check out the many blogs and explore areas of interest.

[www.shalomboston.com](http://www.shalomboston.com) More resources for Jewish information and events in the greater Boston area and beyond. This site includes recipes, a marketplace, and local directories.

NOTE TO BULLETIN EDITOR: Please keep Web site links active in Bulletin file posted on TBA Web site. Thanks!