



חוק חזק ונתחזק

נא לא לדבר בשעת התפילה
PLEASE NO CONVERSATION DURING SERVICES



שבת פרשת בהר-בחוקותי
SHABBAT PARSHAT BEHAR-
BECHUKOTAI
24 IYAR/MAY 20

Haftorah is Jeremiah 16:19-17:14. We bless the month of Sivan. No מלא מלא or צדקתך צדק, but say אב הרחמים Pirkei Avot Ch. 5.

FRIDAY NIGHT
EARLIEST CANDLES - 6:40 PM
MINCHA - 7:00 PM
CANDLE LIGHTING - 7:53 PM
TZAIT - 8:56 PM

SATURDAY
HASHKAMA/YOUTH - 8:20 AM
SHACHARIT MAIN - 9:00 AM
LAST KRIAT SHEMA - 9:14 AM
GEMARA SHIUR - 6:40 PM
MINCHA - 7:40 PM
SHKIA - 8:12 PM
MAARIV/HAVDALAH - 8:57 PM

BULLETIN INFORMATION
TO REQUEST A BULLETIN
ANNOUNCEMENT (BY 7:00 PM
WEDNESDAY) OR DEDICATE A
BULLETIN FOR \$36 (\$54 W/PHOTO),
EMAIL SEPLOTNICK@GMAIL.COM.


CONGREGATION AHAVAT ACHIM
18-25 SADDLE RIVER ROAD
FAIR LAWN, NJ 07410-5909
201-797-0502
WWW.AHAVATACHIM.ORG

החדש הזה לכם

Molad for Sivan is Thur., May 25, 8:32 PM & 12 Chalokim.


WEEKDAY DAVENING INFORMATION

	Sunday (5/21)	Monday (5/22)	Tuesday (5/23)	Wednesday (5/24)	Thursday (5/25)	Friday (5/26)
Earliest Talit	4:26 AM	4:25 AM	4:24 AM	4:23 AM	4:22 AM	4:21 AM
Shacharit	8:15 AM	6:15 AM	6:25 AM	6:20 AM	6:15 AM	6:00 AM
Gedolah	1:30 PM	1:30 PM	1:30 PM	1:30 PM	1:31 PM	1:31 PM
Mincha (Sun/Fri) - Maariv	8:00 PM	8:00 PM	8:00 PM	8:00 PM	8:00 PM	7:00 PM
Shkia	8:13 PM	8:14 PM	8:15 PM	8:16 PM	8:17 PM	
Tzait	8:58 PM	8:59 PM	9:00 PM	9:01 PM	9:02 PM	




Kiddush is sponsored by Joyce Heller in honor of the upcoming wedding of Zisse Hanfling to Barry Mueller. May the beautiful couple be elevated in the building of a faithful house of Israel. יעלה הזיבוג יפה ביבנו בית נאמן בישראל

Suedah shlishit is sponsored by Leah & Stewart Mueller in honor of Zisse & Barry's upcoming wedding

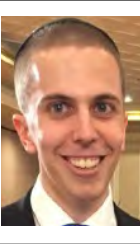


Mazel tov to this year's Journal Dinner honorees Gloria & Robert Lewissohn. Thank you to the Journal Committee (David & Lori Garfunkel) and also to the skit performers (Lori, Shelly & Steve Winchester, Elliot Greene and Rabbi Shestack) for their hard work in making this event possible!

Book Club this Shabbat to discuss Behind the Beautiful Forevers, by Katherine Boo, 5:00 PM at Shelly's house (19-18 Angelo Terrace).



We regret to inform you of the passing of Howie Rein's father, Julius Rein^{ע"ה}. Shiva is in Pennsylvania. המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים.



Welcome to Rabbi Josh Abramson who will be giving the Shabbat gemara shiur. He grew up in Dallas, attended Yeshivat Torat Shraga, graduated from Yeshiva College and has semikha from RIETS. A former rabbinic intern at Riverdale Jewish Center and Mt. Sinai Jewish Center, he now works as an actuary at Everest Re living in Fair Lawn with his wife Ophira and son Aryeh.

Fair Lawn Shul Events

- ☆ New JLI Course: "SURVIVAL OF A NATION", beginning Sunday, May 21, 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM, ANSHEI LUBAVITCH. For info email RabbiBergstein@FLChabad.com.

Kiddush Information

- ☆ If you are in attendance when the Rabbi says "על המחיה", your assistance in clean up would be appreciated.
- ☆ Kiddush setup for this Shabbat: Goldgur, Safier, Strich
- ☆ Kiddush setup for next Shabbat: Halpern, Lang, Lewis, Racenstein
- ☆ To sponsor a Kiddush (\$1000/\$613/\$318 plus scotch) send an email to gplotnick@aol.com.

Adult Education



- ☆ CHUMASH CLASS - Shabbat morning before Shacharit.
- ☆ RETIREES' SHIUR - Mondays, at 1:00 PM.
- ☆ WEEKNIGHT GEMARA SHIUR - On Summer Hiatus.
- ☆ FUNDAMENTALS OF JEWISH THOUGHT - After Kiddush (On hiatus this week).



Ahavat Achim Future Events

- ☆ May 21 - Journal Dinner, 5:00 PM, at Rinat in Teaneck
- ☆ May 23 - Board Meeting (tentative)
- ☆ May 27 - Suedah Shlishit is sponsored by Eli Zefon in memory of שלמה בן אליהו זון נלב"ע זי סיון תשס"ד
- ☆ June 1 - Kiddush sponsored by the Schwitzers in honor of Steven Plotnick for his bestowing of the honors of Chatan Torah and Chatan Bereshit, and the 21st anniversary of Jason's Bar Mitzvah
- ☆ June 10 - Graduation Kiddush
- ☆ Jun 17 - Suedah Shlishit is sponsored by Eli Zefon in memory of ברוך מפציר בן שמואל נלב"ע and Alan Komet in memory of his father Howie^{ה"ע} צבי הירש בן שמואל
- ☆ June 20 - Membership Meeting (TBD)
- ☆ Aug. 26 - Kiddush sponsored by the Sonnenblick family in honor of Avi's Aufruf and upcoming marriage to Tova Medetsky
- ☆ Feb. 10 - Yachad Shabbaton

Gita Cooperwasser^{ה"ע}

Youth Program



- ☆ Groups for children ages 3-12 begin at 10:15 AM in the Beit Midrash.
- ☆ Youth leaders this Shabbat are Uri Garfunkel & Matthew Levine.
- ☆ Children under 13 are welcome at Youth Group. Parents, please ensure that your children are in groups or with you at all times.
- ☆ Beginning May 13, children under five are welcome to be in the playroom (with an accompanying adult)
- ☆ NO FOOD ALLOWED DURING GROUPS!

Friday Evening, May 19



Saturday Evening, May 20



Sunday Evening, May 21



Monday Evening, May 22



Tuesday Evening, May 23



Wednesday Evening, May 24



Thursday Evening, May 25



IN SIVAN WE REMEMBER . . .



NAME	HEBREW DATE	CANDLE EVENING OF	DEDICATOR	RELATIONSHIP
Roza Weiss Samuel	2	May 26	Charlotte Moskovitz	Mother
Friedrich D. & Lina Rothschild	3	May 27	Audrey Bickel	Grandparents
Czarna Bickel	3	May 27	Jack Bickel	Grandmother
Nacha Bat Yitzchak	6	May 30	Shirley Vann	Mother
Samual Smedresman	7	May 31	Steve Smedresman	Grandfather
Solomon Heimer	9	June 2	Sophie Infield	Friend
Louis Lewissohn	10	June 3	Robert Lewissohn	Father
Arnold M. Mailman	12	June 5	Elyce Smedresman	Father
Ernest Kuhl	12	June 5	Linda Stock	Father
Molly Mittelpunkt	16	June 9	Eita Latkin	Cousin
Rymer Frankel	21	June 14	Elyce Smedresman	Grandmother
Baruch Mafzir	24	June 17	Orit Zezon	Father
Sara Page	25	June 18	Eita Latkin	Cousin
Haskell Cohen	25	June 18	Irene Komet	Father

SUPPORT YOUR SHUL

Donate a Sefer, etc.

The shul has Siddurim & Machzorim (\$36) and Chumashim (\$54) available to be donated. Please contact Jeff Safier at robynsafier@gmail.com for details.

Yahrzeit Plaques

Memorialize a loved one and receive written notice of upcoming yahrzeit every year. In addition, your loved one's name will be mentioned during the public Yizkor we recite on Yom Kippur and in the Bulletin. Plaques are \$300 for members and \$350 for non-members. For more information, contact Sophie Infield at 791-5518.

Scrip

Scrip is available from Men's Club. Email David at dmgarfunkel@gmail.com. Pay using Paypal (treasurer@ahavatachim.org) or use Discover, MasterCard or Visa - email treasurer@ahavatachim.org for details.

Mishebayrach

If you've made a Mishebayrach you've pledged to give Tzedakah on behalf of those for whom you asked Hashem's blessing. Contributions to the shul are appropriate and can be made via Paypal to treasurer@ahavatachim.org, or via MasterCard, Visa or Discover by sending info to Steve Winchester (contact him at treasurer@ahavatachim.org). If by check indicate on its face "Aliyah Donation."

David Schwitzer^{ר"ב} Social Hall

Please contact Ben Lang at bmmnpl@aol.com to book the David Schwitzer^{ר"ב} Social Hall for an event or special occasion. \$250 per simcha (members) / \$500 paid in advance for non-members, plus the cost of any additional clean up (plus a \$150 security deposit refunded when the social hall is returned in the condition it started in). Private caterers must be approved in advance by the Rabbi.

Sisterhood & Men's Club

Please contact Elliot Greene at egreene@acm.org to join the Men's Club. To join Sisterhood, please contact Shelly at sewinchester58@gmail.com or Renee at reneeafreund@yahoo.com.

Honoraria

Contributions to acquire honoraria in memory or honor of a loved one are welcome. The available Honoraria list will be provided upon request by contacting Steven Plotnick at seplotnick@gmail.com.

Mitzvah Cards

Want mitzvah cards, contact Eita Latkin at 791-8940 or parentsof3@aol.com. Cost is \$3 per card. Also can be ordered in bulk - ten cards for \$25, which you send out yourself privately.

SUPPORT YOUR SHUL



Graduation Kiddush is Shabbat, June 10. Sponsorship is just \$36 per graduate. To sponsor just email seplotnick@gmail.com with each graduate's name, school, and her or his degree and major if graduating from college. [Note that bulletin sponsorship announcing graduations are only available in addition to Graduation Kiddush sponsorship, but not in lieu thereof.] Graduates so far: **Leah Katter** (Solomon Schechter Elementary School), **Rebekah Katter** (Solomon Schechter Middle School), **Daniel Mazover** (Frisch), **Deborah Riskin** (Frisch), **Haim Tawil** (MDS, Rutgers Orthodontics, with a Certificate in Orthodontics) and **Ben Wechsler** (Yavneh Academy).

On Shavuot we welcome Sarah Robinson, noted speaker & teacher, who will be giving a shiur on the first day of Shavuot in the afternoon, "Megillat Ruth: What's Love Got to do with it?!" Even if you didn't stay up all night learning, don't miss the chance to commit to learning on the holiday we commemorate our acceptance of the Torah. Look out for other opportunities to learn on Shavuot, including a teen program on the first night of Shavuot from 11:45 PM to 1:30 AM with guest speakers.



You can help Ahavat Achim's finances and it won't cost you a cent! Just make your regular Amazon purchases via this link: <https://smile.amazon.com/>. After a one-time set up designating Congregation Ahavat Achim of Fair Lawn as your preferred charity, nothing more for you to do except make your regular Amazon purchases.

- Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Ahavat Achim.
- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.

MISCELLANEOUS

Ahavat Achim Membership/ Hospitality

Please contact Arnie at aspier@verizon.net for details on membership. For Shabbat hospitality contact Melanie at mkwestel@gmail.com.

Bikkur Cholim/Chesed Committee

If someone needs a visit/assistance, contact Sara Levine at saralevine06@gmail.com or Mary Lisa Katter at kenkatter541@gmail.com.

Personal Announcements

Various life cycle events related to members are announced in the bulletin (*e.g.*, births, bar and bat mitzvahs, weddings and deaths, as well as travel to/from Israel to study). We also welcome new members. Other personal announcements are not appropriate for inclusion, except as part of the bulletin's dedication (a \$36 cost - \$54 with photo). Thank you for your cooperation.

Numbers & Info

- ☆ ERUV UPDATE – By Email Only. To subscribe, email fairlawneruv-subscribe@yahoo.com or check the status at www.fairlawneruv.com.
- ☆ MIKVAH – 201-796-0350. At Shomrei Torah, weekdays 9:00 PM–10:30 PM, Motzei Shabbat from 1 ¼ hours after Shabbat ends for 1½ hours.
Kaylim Mikvah: Sunday 10 AM-3 PM
- ☆ TWITTER: [AhavatAchimFL](https://twitter.com/AhavatAchimFL)
- ☆ FACEBOOK: facebook.com/groups/ahavat.achim/
- ☆ INSTAGRAM: instagram.com/ahavatachimfl/?hl=en
- ☆ FLICKR: flickr.com/photos/ahavatachim/albums

Shul Calendar

- ☆ To add events to the shul calendar email Larry at lardavbern@gmail.com



Shirley Vann has dedicated this week's Covenant & Conversation (used with permission of the Office of Rabbi Sacks) in memory of her beloved mother Necha bat Yitzchok^{ה"ו}.



COVENANT & Conversation

A STUDY OF THE PARSHA WITH RABBI SACKS



ת"ו

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I am deeply touched that Covenant & Conversation has been generously sponsored by The Maurice Wohl Charitable Foundation in memory of Maurice and Vivienne Wohl ז"ל. Maurice was a visionary philanthropist on a vast scale, driven throughout his life by a sense of Jewish responsibility. Vivienne was a woman of the deepest humanity and compassion, who had a kind word for everyone. Together, they were a unique partnership of dedication and grace, for whom living was giving. Through their Charitable Foundation, they continue to bring blessings to Jewish communities around the world.

— RABBI LORD JONATHAN SACKS



THE MAURICE WOHL
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Minority Rights

Behar & Bechukotai 2017 / 5777

One of the most striking features of the Torah is its emphasis on love of, and vigilance toward, the ger, the stranger: *Do not oppress a stranger; you yourselves know how it feels to be strangers, because you were strangers in Egypt.* (Ex. 23:9)

For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the stranger residing among you, giving them food and clothing. You are to love those who are strangers, for you yourselves were strangers in Egypt. (Deut 10:17-19)

The Sages went so far as to say that the Torah commands us in only one place to love our neighbour but thirty-six times to love the stranger (Baba Metsia 59b).

What is the definition of a stranger? Clearly the reference is to one who is not Jewish by birth. It could mean one of the original inhabitants of the land of Canaan. It could mean one of the “mixed multitude” who left Egypt with the Israelites. It might mean a foreigner who has entered the land seeking safety or a livelihood.

Whatever the case, immense significance is attached to the way the Israelites treat the stranger. This was what they were meant to have learned from their own experience of exile and suffering in Egypt. They were strangers. They were oppressed. Therefore they knew “how it feels to be a stranger.” They were not to inflict on others what was once inflicted on them.

The Sages held that the word ger might mean one of two things. One was a ger tzedek, a convert to Judaism who had accepted all its commands and obligations. The other was the ger toshav, the “resident alien”, who had not adopted the religion of Israel but who lived in the land of Israel. Behar spells out the rights of such a person. Specifically:

If any of your fellow Israelites become poor and are unable to support themselves among you, help them as you would a resident alien, so they can continue to live among you. (Lev. 25:35)

There is, in other words, an obligation to support and sustain a resident alien. Not only does he or she have the right to live in the Holy Land, but they have the right to share in its welfare provisions. Recall that this is a very ancient law indeed, long before the Sages formulated such principles as “the ways of peace”, obligating Jews to extend charity and care to non-Jews as well as Jews.

What then was a ger toshav? There are three views in the Talmud. According to Rabbi Meir it was anyone who took it upon himself not to worship idols. According to the Sages, it was anyone who committed himself to keeping the seven Noahide commandments. A third view, more stringent, held that it was someone who had undertaken to keep all the commands of the Torah except one, the prohibition of meat not ritually slaughtered (Avodah Zarah 64b). The law follows the Sages. A ger toshav is thus a non-Jew living in Israel who accepts the Noahide laws binding on everyone.

Ger toshav legislation is thus one of the earliest extant forms of minority rights. According to the Rambam there is an obligation on Jews in Israel to establish courts of law for resident aliens to allow them to settle their own disputes – or disputes they have with Jews – according to the provisions of Noahide law. The Rambam adds: “One should act towards resident aliens with the same respect and loving kindness as one would to a fellow Jew” (Hilkhos Melachim 10:12).

The difference between this and later “ways of peace” legislation is that the ways of peace apply to non-Jews without regard to their beliefs or religious practice. They date from a time when Jews were a minority in a predominantly non-Jewish, non-monotheistic environment. “Ways of peace” are essentially pragmatic rules of what today we would call good community relations and active citizenship in a multi-ethnic and multicultural society. Ger toshav legislation cuts deeper. It is based not on pragmatism but religious principle. According to the Torah you don’t have to be Jewish in a Jewish society and Jewish land to have many of the rights of citizenship. You simply have to be moral.

“You don’t have to be Jewish in a Jewish society and Jewish land to have many of the rights of citizenship. You simply have to be moral.”

One biblical vignette portrays this with enormous power. King David has fallen in love and had an adulterous relationship with Batsheva, wife of a ger toshav, Uriah the Hittite. She becomes pregnant. Uriah meanwhile has been away from home as a soldier in Israel's army. David, afraid that Uriah will come home, see that his wife is pregnant, realise that she has committed adultery, and come to discover that the king is the guilty party, has Uriah brought home. His pretext is that he wants to know how the battle is going. He then tells Uriah to go home and sleep with his wife before returning, so that he will later assume that he himself is the father of the child. The plan fails. This is what happens:

When Uriah came to him, David asked him how Joab was, how the soldiers were and how the war was going. Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." So Uriah left the palace, and a gift from the king was sent after him. But Uriah slept at the entrance to the palace with all his master's servants and did not go down to his house.

David was told, "Uriah did not go home." So he asked Uriah, "Haven't you just come from a military campaign? Why didn't you go home?"

Uriah said to David, "The Ark and Israel and Judah are staying in tents, and my commander Joab and my lord's men are camped in the open country. How could I go to my house to eat and drink and make love to my wife? As surely as you live, I will not do such a thing!" (2 Samuel 11:6-11)

Uriah's utter loyalty to the Jewish people, despite the fact that he is not himself Jewish, is contrasted with King David, who has stayed in Jerusalem, not been with the army, and instead had a relationship with another man's wife. The fact that Tanakh can tell such a story in which a resident alien is the moral hero, and David, Israel's greatest king, the wrongdoer, tells us much about the morality of Judaism.

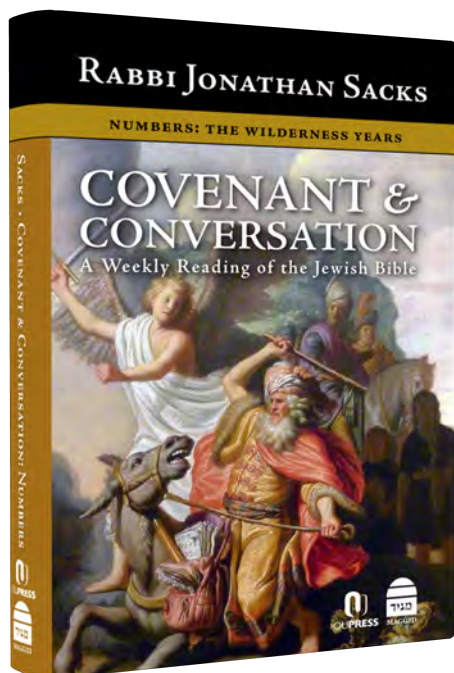
Minority rights are the best test of a free and just society. Since the days of Moses they have been central to the vision of the kind of society God wants us to create in the land of Israel. How vital, therefore, that we take them seriously today.

Shabbat Shalom

**"Minority rights
are the best test of a
free and just society."**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jonathan Sacks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Now available to order from Koren, Amazon and other Jewish bookstores!



NEW! Numbers: The Wilderness Years

This collection makes Rabbi Jonathan Sacks' brilliant essays on the weekly Torah portion available in book form for the first time. Rabbi Sacks fuses Jewish tradition, Western philosophy and literature to present a highly developed understanding of the human condition under God's sovereignty.

This is the fourth and penultimate volume of Rabbi Sacks' celebrated series. Rabbi Sacks writes: "The book of Numbers – in Hebrew, Bemidbar, "In the Wilderness" – is a key text for our time. It is among the most searching, self-critical books in all of literature about what Nelson Mandela called "the long walk to freedom." Its message is that there is no shortcut to liberty. Numbers is not an easy book to read, nor is it an optimistic one. It is a sober warning set in the midst of a text – the Hebrew Bible – that remains the West's master narrative of hope."

The Koren Sacks Shavuot Mahzor

From the receiving of the Torah to the exploration of the Megillat Ruth, Shavuot stands in contrast to other Festivals, in its stark simplicity. In this beautiful Shavuot Mahzor, Rabbi Sacks explores the themes unique to the day, bringing out the meaning of the customs and texts with his brilliant insights.



For more material from Rabbi Sacks, or to join his mailing list, please visit www.rabbisacks.org

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