



CONGREGATION TIFERETH BETH DAVID JERUSALEM

Shabbat Bulletin

שבת פרשת נשא
יא סיון ה'תשפ"א

Shabbat Parshat Naso
May 21-22, 2021 / 5781

Please print this bulletin before Shabbat.

Rabbi
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Chazzan Sheini
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SHABBAT SHALOM • שבת שלום

Shabbat Parshat Naso

Haftara: *Shoftim 13:2 - 13:25*

All minyanim on Shabbat are restricted to those who have pre-registered. When davening at home, it is preferable to do so at the same time as the rest of the community.

Friday, May 21

- 4:00pm Daf Yomi on Zoom
- 6:30pm Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat and Maariv (Plag) - Social Hall
- 6:30pm Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat and Maariv - Outdoor
- 6:50pm Plag Hamincha
- 7:00pm Mincha, Kabbalat Shabbat and Maariv - Main Sanctuary
- 8:06pm Candle Lighting
- 8:25pm Sh'kiah

Shabbat, May 22 / 11 Sivan 5781

- 7:45am Shacharit - Main Sanctuary
- 8:45am Shacharit - Social Hall
- 9:00am Shacharit - Outdoor
- 9:04am Sof Zman Kriyat Shma
- 9:45am Shacharit - Main Sanctuary
- 6:51pm Plag Hamincha
- 8:05pm Mincha and Maariv - Sanctuary
- 8:05pm Mincha and Maariv - Outdoor
- 8:26pm Sh'kiah
- 9:20pm Havdala
- 9:45pm Musical Havdala and Kumzitz on Facebook with Rev. Bender
- 9:45pm Daf Yomi on Zoom

SCHEDULE FOR THE NEXT WEEK

Mincha will be at **8:10pm** in the Main Sanctuary and on Zoom.

Candle Lighting on Friday, May 28 is at **8:14pm**.

Due to changing regulations and necessary adjustment of our scheduling, please visit our website (TBDJ.org) and check your emails for up-to-date schedules and information on minyan locations and registration.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Mazal Tov to **Julie Nattel** and **Celia & Stan Nattel** on the birth of a great grandson and grandson on the first day of Shavuot - Monday, May 17 - in Phoenix, Arizona. Proud parents are Devora & Daniel Nattel. Sharing in their simcha are the baby's siblings Yisrael Meir, Tzvi, Vivi and Zev, his grandparents Lori & Barry Frank, his great grandfather Harold Frank and many delighted aunts, uncles and cousins.

SPONSORSHIPS AND THANK YOUS

This Shabbat Bulletin is sponsored by **Adele & Jeff Altmann** in memory of Jeff's beloved grandparents Eszter & Ignacz Stern z"l (Esther bat Yaakov Moshe - 11 Sivan and Yitzhak Isaac ben Yosef - 16 Sivan).

Rabbi Freundlich's Gemara Shiur on Wednesday, May 19 was sponsored by **Fanny & Nathan Rosenshein** in memory of Nathan's beloved grandparents Sara & Nosson Rosenshein z"l, and in memory of his beloved aunts Chana Frimet Rosenshein z"l and Perel Rosenshein z"l - who were all killed in the Shoah on Shavuot in 1943.

UPCOMING SHIURIM, PROGRAMS AND EVENTS ON ZOOM

Mon., May 24, 11:00am:*Tehilim Study Group for Women*
with Rifki Freundlich

Tues., May 25, 12:00pm:*Lunchtime Halacha Shiur* with the Rabbi

Wed., May 26, 12:15pm*Lunch & Learn Parsha Shiur* with the Rabbi

Wed., May 26, 3:00pm*Jewish Music Shiur* with Rev. Bender

Wed., May 26, 9:00pm*Gemara Shiur* with the Rabbi

Thurs., May 27, 9:00pm*Chumash Shiur on Midrash* with the Rabbi

It's Membership Renewal Time!

Watch for an email message in your in-box or a paper statement in your mailbox notifying all members that it is time to pay your membership for 2021!

Your prompt payment of your annual tax-deductible donation would be greatly appreciated, as we begin to plan for a return to more regular services and enlightening programming in the fall.

Every Day is a New Day of Torah

The holiday of Shavuot is unique among the Torah-prescribed holidays in that it has no specific date mentioned in the Torah as the other holidays do: Rosh Hashanah is on the first day of the seventh month, Yom Kippur is on the tenth day of the seventh month, Sukkot is on the fifteenth day of the seventh month and Pesach is on the fifteenth day in the first month. In reality, this does not mean that we can celebrate Shavuot on any random day. Despite not having the day explicitly stated in the Torah, Shavuot is marked at a specific time - fifty days after Pesach - on the sixth day of Sivan. Why is the date of Shavuot not mentioned in the Torah? Rabbi Shmuel Rabinowitz writes that receiving the Torah is not a one-time occurrence connected to a specific day. Though Hashem gave us our holy Torah on a specific day, it is much greater than this. The Torah is a comprehensive lifestyle, a complete way of thinking, a whole set of values. There is a tremendous difference between a person who lives life without the Torah and a person who lives life with the Torah. The Torah is not merely a book, but a unique worldview that ties morality together with faith, the goodness of holiness and the beauty in truth. It teaches and guides the perplexed person who is debating how to choose from among different values and conceptions. The Torah is not just a book of commandments and good deeds. It seeks to create a qualitative humane society that is not directed by power, respect and wealth but, rather, is based on grace, charity, justice, honesty and faith. Rabbi Rabinowitz concludes that, in actuality, Shavuot has a date, but, when viewed profoundly, Shavuot is every day.

Rabbi Kenneth Brander comes to the same conclusion as he examines the fact that Shavuot, unlike the other Torah-ordained holidays, has no particular commandments. On Pesach we are commanded to eat matzah, on Sukkot to sit in the sukkah. Yet on Shavuot when our relationship with Hashem is consecrated through receiving the holy Torah, there are no particular commandments. He quips that eating cheesecake is not a biblical commandment. Why are there no particular commandments for the holiday of Shavuot? Rabbi Brander writes: *I believe there is a deep message here for us. First there is the acknowledging of the fact that our relationship with G-d, which is fully celebrated on Shavuot, cannot be limited to a particular basket of commandments. It's the way we engage with G-d every single day that's important. Shavuot is about Torah and Torah is about the way we live our lives - every day! We take out twenty-five hours - or outside of Israel we take out two days - to reflect upon that perspective: that Shavuot is about the way we talk to our neighbors, how we fill out our tax forms, how we interact with our spouses, our children, our grandchildren, our parents and more. And that's why it's not limited to specific commandments - to highlight the fact that Shavuot requires us to realize that our engagement with God is based on our entire Jewish way of life.*

What a thought! In reality, do we ever think about the giving and receiving of the Torah in this way - that every day in our lives is a potential Shavuot? The Torah in Parashat Yitro tells us that *"In the third month from the exodus of the Children of Israel from the land of Egypt, on this day they arrived at the wilderness of Sinai"* (Shmot 19:1). On this day the children of Israel arrived at the desert of Sinai, the place of the giving of the Torah. Rashi teaches us from this verse that every day the words of Torah should be new and special to us as though every day we are receiving the Torah anew. Later on in Parashat Ki Tavo we read that *"This day Hashem your G-d commands you to perform these decrees and the statutes and you shall observe and perform them with all your heart and with all your soul"* (Devarim 26:16). Again, Rashi teaches us from this verse to always think of and accept the Torah as fresh, new and exciting as if the Torah had been given today.

Shavuot is where it all began and every day it all begins again in a new and exciting way for us. Think of where we came from – an abyss of impurity in the land of Egypt. Our rabbis teach that our ancestors had sunk to the forty-ninth level of impurity. Had we dropped but one more level we would not have been worthy of our redemption. Hashem took us, his chosen people, out of Egypt with a mighty hand and brought us to where we are today - a nation of Torah. If we take just one moment on every new day in our lives to reflect on where we come from and where we are, it should be enough for each and every one of us to accept every new day as one of receiving the Torah anew.

As Jews we are fortunate that our journey through life is a Torah journey. While as individuals and as a community we have our challenges, we are safeguarded by the commandments and statutes of our holy Torah which serve to guide us, our thoughts and our behavior in infinite ways as we negotiate our lives anew on a daily basis.

The onset of this past years' pandemic has challenged and adjusted our Torah journey in many ways. *On this day...* Every pandemic day was in a sense a day of Shavuot, a day of going back to the source, a new day of negotiating pandemic issues within our Torah lives. On a personal note, with social distancing in practice, the quality of my davening has intensified. When you aren't sitting or standing next to people in shul your yeitzer hara actually lets you daven. Praying for the many afflicted with the virus also gives our prayers significant importance, meaning and urgency. While we would rather have 350-500 people in shul on Shabbos than the limited numbers of ten, and now twenty-five, in our various minyanim - we look forward to the day! Our limited numbers seem to have affected our synagogue behaviour in a positive way. Within our community, acts of chesed have lent themselves to a plethora of new opportune mitzvot that may have been neglected or taken lightly pre-pandemic. New and revised halachic guidelines for prayers and other practices were introduced at a relatively high frequency as the pandemic surged within us. For myself, it was an amazing eye-opener to understand and observe the evolution and application of halacha in these difficult times - all of which safeguarded the Torah anew each day as we faced the formidable challenge of Torah life amidst the challenges of Covid-19. My personal daily learning has reached renewed heights as a result of the Covid-imposed reorganization of my working time inside and outside of the shul, allowing me to dedicate precious time to Torah study, time that may have been seriously misappropriated prior to March 14th of last year.

It is important to note that my reflections are bittersweet. Too many people in the world are sadly gone and so many have suffered greatly as a result of the pandemic. At this point in time it seems that we are slowly marching towards renewing our lives, similarly related to our ancestors progressing upwards for forty-nine days towards the receiving of the Torah following the exodus from Egypt. What a difference a year can make! Last year we celebrated Shavuot locked out of TBDJ. A few days ago on Shavuot, we were in shul albeit in limited numbers. We are getting there...

On this day... This past week I read interesting articles in the Shavuot edition of Yeshiva University's *Torah to Go* magazine - featuring a diverse collection of rabbinic reflections and experiences related to the Covid pandemic. Different challenges and solutions which came up over the past year were discussed. Among many other spiritual and communal challenges, concerns for the future of synagogue attendance post pandemic were raised. We are indeed blessed that every day brings us a new Torah guidance as if we, you and I, were standing together at Mount Sinai.

Shabbat Shalom,

Rev. Amiel