

# the Shofar



Etz Chayim Conservative Synagogue's Monthly Newsletter

JUNE, 2019

IYYAR/SIVAN, 5779

Friday evening services begin at 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday morning services begin at 9:30 a.m.

## SHAVUOT, 5779

From Rabbi Listfield

Happy Shavuot! This year the holiday begins Saturday night, June 8 and concludes with nightfall on Monday, June 10. Here is a brief review of this holiday that is known as *z'man matan Torateinu*.

### **What is Shavuot?**

#### **Shavuot** (Feast of Weeks)

commemorates the revelation of the Torah on Mt. Sinai to the Jewish people and occurs on the 50th day after the 49 days of counting the Omer. Shavuot is one of the three biblically based pilgrimage holidays known as the **shalosh regalim**. It is associated with the harvest of the season's first fruits in the Torah.

### **How is Shavuot celebrated?**

Shavuot is observed by abstaining from work and attending synagogue services. There are a few special readings: a liturgical poem called Akdamut, which emphasizes the greatness of God; the Book of Ruth, because the story highlights one woman's choice to join the

Jewish people and accept the Torah; and most importantly, the Ten Commandments, in honor of the revelation of the Torah. It is also customary to study Torah all night; this practice is called Tikkun Leil Shavuot.

### **What kinds of foods are eaten on Shavuot?**

Traditional holiday meals on Shavuot center around dairy foods. Milk is considered to be a symbol of the Torah, which nourishes the people directly, as milk does for a baby. Popular Shavuot foods include cheesecake, blintzes, and kugels. Some Sephardic Jews make a seven-layered bread called siete cielos (seven heavens), which is supposed to represent Mt. Sinai.

### **What is the proper greeting for Shavuot?**

The greeting for Shavuot is "Chag Sameach!" (Happy Holiday). People who favor Yiddish say "Good yontiff."

See the full post:

<https://toriavey.com/what-is-shavuot/#TGTzcHtyQGL5gk6w.99>

June 6, 1944.  
The beginning of the end  
of World War II.

From Howard Polin

## SISTERHOOD

Ladies,

Sorry most of you missed the nutritionist from Huntsville Hospital who came to talk to our group last month. She was very informative and provided some helpful handouts. Thanks, Amy for arranging to have her visit.

The election/installation of officers for the Sisterhood Board will be on June 17 at 11:30 in conjunction with our last Lunch Bunch of the year. We will meet at Rosie's Cantina on South Parkway. I hope to see all of you there.

I hope everyone comes to the Congregational Meeting next month. Huntsville Police Department will be providing security training for the congregation. You don't want to miss it.

We also plan to sponsor a social activity this summer for the congregation. It will probably be a "Jewish" baseball movie with popcorn (and maybe hot dogs)! Be on the lookout. This will be for the entire family.

Natha

## ONEGS

May 31 Meyer  
Jun 07 Meyer  
Jun 14 Levitt  
Jun 21 Benko  
Jun 28 Yalowitz

## DONATIONS

### General Fund

From: Natha & Scott Hancock

### Outdoor Lighting Fund

In Memory of Gertrude and Perry Schlein from their daughters, Natha Hancock and Robin Slomka and their families.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Jun 02 EC Annual Picnic, Green Mountain Nature Preserve, 11:30 AM  
Jun 06 D-Day  
Jun 08-10 Shavuot  
Jun 10 Shavuot services, with Yizkor at about 11 AM  
Jun 13 EC Book Club meets, 11:30 AM  
Jun 17 Sisterhood elections & Lunch Bunch at Rosie's, 11:30 AM

## BIRTHDAYS

Jun 01 Jeff Zelickson  
Jun 03 Benjamin Yalowitz  
Jun 10 Adam Liles  
Jun 19 Jacob Copeland  
Jun 19 Sheree Greenbaum

Jun 26 Natha Hancock  
Jun 30 Bill Brigadier  
Jun 30 Rochelle Berry

## ANNIVERSARIES

Jun 05 Brenda & Cliff Liles  
Jun 12 Karen Hirsch & Eric Jackson  
Jun 27 Diane & Stan Belsky

## YAHREZEITS\*\*

Jun 01	Iyyar 27	Renee Fisher
Jun 05	Sivan 02	Adolph Karmioli*
Jun 05	Sivan 02	Aaron M. Novick
Jun 07	Sivan 04	Rose Sacks*
Jun 10	Sivan 07	Rose Rosenthal*
Jun 10	Sivan 07	Irving Sainker*
Jun 13	Sivan 10	Molly Meyer
Jun 14	Sivan 11	Boyce White
Jun 18	Sivan 15	Harry Kaufman*
Jun 19	Sivan 16	Myrna Klazmer
Jun 20	Sivan 17	Harriet B. Schlein*
Jun 23	Sivan 20	Julius Strimling*
Jun 28	Sivan 25	Goldie N. Brown
Jun 28	Sivan 25	Stanley Weiss
Jun 30	Sivan 27	Al Krupnick*
Jul 03	Sivan 30	Phyllis E.A. Schreiber

\* Plaque

\*\*Light Memorial candle sunset of previous evening

## LAMED VAV—THE 36

By Ted Roberts

Remember the story of Sodom and Gomorrah – remember how the Almighty debates with Abraham over the fate of the devilish twin cities – the sinful cities on the plain. He promises to spare them if ten righteous ones exist.

Accordingly, a legend has emerged saying that 36 humble holy men – Lamed

Vav in Hebrew (Lamed is 30, Vav is six) – safeguard our very existence. So long as *THEY* are true, no matter to what moral swamps the rest of us have descended we shall survive. No flood – no destruction.

These holy men also periodically report to the divine headquarters as to the moral condition of His creation. You might call them spies. And above all, they are humble. But if only one of these special ones defects to sin, the entire world is doomed.

In other words, for the sake of the 36, He spares the world His wrath. So goes the legend. Not quite a Midrash, just a legend. Add to that; all of the 36 hide their membership in this exclusive fraternity. They are not even revealed to each other, much less we mortal members of the human race.

Well, I think I met one of the 36 the other day. It's midmorning. The doorbell rings. A sad looking young man faces me. Right away by the expression on his face, I know there's trouble. He looks forlorn. His car is in my driveway. He ran out of gas; do I have any? Does my three-bedroom, two-bath home without an Exxon sign look like a gas station? Do you see pumps in my front yard? Well then, says the Lamed Vav, do I at least have a gas container? This is a traveler that needs help. The Jewish accent on hospitality pops into my head, a survival prerequisite in the wastes of Sinai which still lives in the twenty first century. And so does the legend of those 36 humble holy men. He could be one.

I scurry into the garage. Find a gas can.  
But there's more.

"How are you going to get to the filling  
station?" I ask.

"Walk I guess." He replies.

Not on my watch I'm thinking – the  
legend brightening my mind. So I take  
him to the gas station – he fills up the  
two-gallon container. Back we go to his  
car in my driveway. The Holy one (so  
young to be so holy) has little to say. Not  
even thanks for disrupting my morning,  
(that's typical of the Lamed Vavs; too  
much politeness could give him away, I'm  
thinking.) My divine visitor says goodbye  
and abruptly jumps in his gassed-up car  
and departs. I think I had a celestial visit.  
I hope he remembers me when he  
reports to the Boss.

By Ted Roberts

Ted Roberts, "The Scribbler on the Roof," is a  
syndicated Jewish columnist and longtime member  
of our Synagogue. Buy Ted's collected works at  
Amazon.com or the Sisterhood Gift Shop. Ted  
welcomes your comment and/or critique and can be  
contacted at: [shirlr@hiwaay.net](mailto:shirlr@hiwaay.net) , [te11d@hiwaay.net](mailto:te11d@hiwaay.net),  
<http://www.wonderwordworks.com>

See Ted's illustrated children's book on the birth of  
numbers <[http://www.lulu.com/shop/roberts-ted-  
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romance-of-zero-and-one/paperback/product-  
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