

the SHOEFAR



TEMPLE BET YAM

May 2021

Iyar/Sivan 5781



from the desk of

Rabbi Nadia Siritsky, LCSW, BCC

On Friday night, May 7th, we will celebrate the festival of Shavuot together as a congregation, although technically the holiday falls on the following week. This lesser known religious holiday is both an agricultural celebration as well as a deeply spiritual one. It is actually considered one of the three major biblical pilgrimage festivals, although because it sometimes falls after religious school ends, many of us may not have learned much about it.

Falling 7 weeks after Passover, Shavuot literally means “weeks” in Hebrew. It marks the wheat harvest, but this physical harvest is meant to be accompanied with a deeper spiritual harvesting of profound meditation, introspection and reflection. This holiday (sometimes translated as Pentecost) celebrates the giving of the Torah at Mount Sinai.

Reform Jews recognize that the physical Torah is a human record of this extraordinary moment in time where we were finally liberated from slavery and able to enter freely into relationship with our Creator. While not bound by the literal text, we embrace the spiritual teachings rooted in it, that attempt to articulate the inexpress-

ible truths that define our faith. We celebrate the deeper symbolism of this holiday, namely the culmination of intensive spiritual work intended to provide the tools whereby each of us can connect with that which we name Sacred in our own lives.

Rabbinic tradition understands this period, the time between Passover and Shavuot, as an important time of transition and preparation – one of discarding old beliefs and shedding old habits. The years of bondage had taught a culture of blame, fear and resentment. It is impossible to encounter G!d authentically so long as we are clinging to the past, and holding on to the defense mechanisms that keep us from being fully present to the wonders of the moment.

Change is scary. Indeed, even after the encounter on Mount Sinai, when all became clear, and the Children of Israel gained a deep knowing of how to live in such a way that G!d would be able to guide and comfort them in their journeys, they still had lapses... moments when they missed the past... forgetting the trauma of slavery and thinking only of the delicious leeks and onions of Egypt.

But scary though change may be... it is

THE SHOFAR

Temple Bet Yam

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necessary and inevitable. For all of us who have been stuck in this difficult chapter of the pandemic, which has transformed everything about the way we live and pray and learn and celebrate and grieve... this holiday can also mark the transition to a new chapter. However, for this to happen, we must learn not to fight change but make peace with it, and seek to remain open to what can become.

Our congregation traditionally marks the end of its own synagogue and presidential board terms on this holiday. This year is especially transformational, as this new leadership will be charged with important decisions about how to re-open and how to move forward into 2022. They will need all of our prayers, guidance, support and courage to ensure that we move forward with the wisdom and insight gleaned thus far.

Sadly, this journey is not one that I will be taking with you all, the way I had anticipated I would, a year ago at this time. Revelation comes unexpectedly at times, but when it comes, one must remain open to its truths, even if they lead us into unexpected directions. But the holiday of Shavuot reminds us that, no matter how scary the unknown is, with G!d's Love and Guidance, we will be shepherded along our journey, fed with manna along the way, sustained and blessed as we make our way toward our own respective promised lands, richer for the blessings shared.

As Moses (I'havdil as we say in Hebrew, I am not Moses, but I do look to him to learn how to be as a role model) sadly watched the Children of Israel enter into the Promised Land without him, know that I will be cheering you all on and trusting G!d to send your next leader to you, as indeed, G!d has done again and again thus far...



from the President – Ruth Kurlandsky

According to the schedule of “years” at TBY, May is the last month of the current term of the Board of Trustees. On June 1, a new board comes on duty. For this to happen, we hold an Annual Meeting, which this year will take place on Wednesday, May 19 at 5:30 pm. At this meeting, we will review several things and take votes on the proposed budget for next year, and on the slate of candidates for the board.

The other “years” are our fiscal year, which turns over on September 1, and our rabbinical year which turns over on July 1.

This leaves us only one off from our own Judaic traditions, where we have four different new years: Rosh HaShana, our most known new year, where the Hebrew calendar starts on the first of Tishrei, Tu B'Shvat, the 15th of Shvat, which is the new year of the trees, the first of Nissan, which is the month in which we were redeemed from Egypt (which we celebrate with the holiday of Pesach, starting on the 14th of Nissan), and the first of Elul, the new year for the tithing of cattle. By the way, it is NOT common for most of us to know these, but Dr. Google is always handy, and has a wealth of Jewish information. MyJewishLearning.com is a particularly useful resource!

Speaking of our rabbinical year, I would like to offer my thanks to the Search Committee, and especially its co-chairs, Art Rogove and Teresa Freedman. We listed our post for a new rabbi in February, but have received only one application (and that person took a different position). We don't know if it's because of the pandemic and travel restrictions, because we're only asking for a part-time position, or because our compensation package is relatively small, or because of other factors. At an emergency board meeting on April 13, the board decided to seek a temporary solution, as needed. Your new officers will, I'm sure, keep you posted.

I want to wish everyone health, happiness, a relaxed summer and a joyful future.



In Memoriam

May 3rd, Philip Bernstein
Father of Gary Bernstein

May 3rd, Jonathan Pauker
Nephew of Elianne Sims

May 4th, Irving Arenofsky
Father of Betsy Lee

May 5th, Norris Brannstrom
Forever friend of Maxine Kronick

May 6th, Matthew Tillenger
Cousin of Liz Feldman

May 7th, Joe Lieberman
Father of Larry Lieberman

May 9th, Harry Eisler
Grandfather of Jaime Combs

May 10th, Caroline Marx
Grandmother of Joe Marx

May 10th, Oscar Goldberg
Father of George Goldberg

May 11th, Arthur Heilweil
Husband of Marge Heilweil

May 12th, Gloria Cohen
Mother of Nancy Cohen

May 13th, Stuart Feldman
Son of Roberta Feldman

May 13th, Nathan N. Perlman
Brother of Benita Sirkin

May 14th, Samuel Karp
Father of Philip Karp

May 14th, David Salinger
Father of Ellie Sussman

May 14th, Lloyd Swickle
Uncle of Jane Seiden

May 15th, Jody Cruise Nichols
Step Daughter of Bernice Cruise

May 16th, Herman Shepett
First Husband of Bernice Cruise

May 17th, Cecilia Aronoff
Mother of Bonnie Yales-Gibson

May 18th, Minnie Lavenberg
Grandmother of Barbara Kushner

May 18th, Mary Seiden
Mother of Henry Seiden

May 19th, Seymour Friedman
Father of Marge Heilweil

May 20th, Isaac Cohen
Father of Marty Cohen

May 20th, Miriam Epstein
Grandmother of Jane Seiden

May 21st, Meryl Goldman
Wife of Rabbi Mark Goldman

May 21st, Beatrice Rogove
Mother of Art Rogove

May 22nd, Edith Spiegleman
Mother of Isabel Sherman &
Grandmother of Dave Sherman

May 22nd, Lilian Mirman
Mother of Joe Mirman

May 23rd, Ann Diamond
Mother of Pamela Diamond

May 24th, Mitchell Kasriel
Uncle of David Kasriel

May 24th, Louis Miller
Grandfather of Phil Kushner

May 25th, Mel Segal
Friend of Rabbi Fred Raskind

May 25th, Harry Sorkin
Father of Bob Sorkin

May 26th, Tillie Henkin
Grandmother of Bruce Simon

My 29th, Blanche Goreff
Great aunt of Samuel Zucker

May 30th, Irene Hale Andrews
Aunt of Bev Darkatsh

May 30th, Irwin Jolles
Beloved Companion of Bev Darkatsh

May 30th, Mildred Meiselman
Stepmother of Chuck Meiselman

May 31st, Bernice Meiselman
Aunt of Chuck Meiselman

May their memory be a blessing

Donations Made To Temple Bet Yam

General Fund

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Ellen Mensh In memory of John Perretti, father of Jen Sherman

Carol Gladstone In memory of John Perretti, father of Jen Sherman

Barbara Carman In memory of Meri McCarthy

Vitina Pellot

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Ellen & Harold Miller In memory of Russ Rice, brother of Rod Rice

Religious School Fund

Andrea & Joe Marx In memory of Meri McCarthy

Ron Rich In memory of Florence D. Rich, mother & Seymour Rich, father

Jaqueline Witte In honor of Ella Love's 12th birthday

Ellen & Harold Miller In honor of TBY Adult B'nai Mitzvah class

Mitzvah Fund

Sara Berman for Dining with Dignity

Murray Weiss Fund

Bernice Cruise In memory of Meri McCarthy

Clare Collins & Louis Post In honor of Rabbi Nadia Siritsky

Rabbinic Leadership Fund

Marcia Rector

Barbara Carman In memory of Sadie Drimmer, grandmother of Terre Wallach & Barbara Carman, David Petziner, grandfather of Terre Wallach & Barbara Carman, and John Perretti, father of Jen Sherman

Terre Wallach In memory of Marty Cohen's sister Susan Boone, Jen Sherman's father John Perretti, & Renee Speisman's father Nathan Weinberger

JNF Plant a Tree Fund

Diana Azpiazu In memory of Bruce

Isabel Sherman In memory of Jen Sherman's father John Perretti

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Ellen & Harold Miller In honor of Ruth Kurlandsky being an incredible TBY president; In honor of Barbara Rogove getting so many of us the Covid vaccine



TBY Member Honored

Temple Bet Yam member Gary Bernstein was recently honored by the St. Johns County Sheriff's Department for decades of community service. Please click on the link to read the article: <https://historiccity.com/2021/staugustine/news/bernstein-honored-by-sheriff-for-decades-of-community-service-132816>

Let's Celebrate!

May Anniversaries

May 2nd, Barbara Stafford & Rob Armstrong, 28th anniversary

May 3rd, Louise & Brian Crawford, 13th anniversary

May 6th, Jen & David Sherman, 26th anniversary

May 16th, Sue & Frank Kinkela, 17th anniversary

May 24th, Ruth & Lawrence Kurlandsky, 51st anniversary

May Birthdays

May 2nd, Lawrence Kurlandsky

May 4th, Laura Weiss

May 6th, Carol Gladstone

May 6th, Ella Love, 12th birthday

May 7th, Noreen Davis

May 7th, Judy Holmes

May 9th, Lawrence Lieberman

May 10th, Marcia Rector

May 10th, Min Stone

May 12th, Debra Rideman

May 13th, Jen Sherman

May 16th, Maury Keiser

May 22nd, Aaron Fuhrmann, 19th birthday

May 24th, SaraRose Freedman

May 27th, Molly Grossholz

For Your Information

The Sunshine Committee sends cards or gifts to TBY members or family members who are ill or have had a death in the family. If you know of such a situation, please notify Laura Weiss at (805) 705-6266 or l.s.weiss@comacast.net.

Temple Bet Yam Cemetery – TBY has consecrated a portion of the Craig Memorial Park on Old Moultrie Road. All Temple members are eligible to purchase burial plots in this section for themselves, their spouses, partners, children and parents. Following Reform Jewish philosophy, there are no restrictions concerning burial of non-Jewish family members adjacent to their loved ones.

Those interested in purchasing burial plots as part of their preplanning should contact Craig Memorial Park directly at (904) 824-1672. For further information or questions, contact Marty Cohen at shelmar826@gmail.com.

Donations

The custom of making donations as an expression of prayer traces back to Biblical times and has always been a practice of congregations. The amount given is less important than the deed. At TBY, we have a number of offerings for you to consider when making donations. Here is an explanation of a few of them. Additional funds are listed on our Contribution Form.

Memorial Board Plaques – When you purchase a plaque for your loved ones, you memorialize them on our memorial board in the sanctuary, as well as in the Book of Remembrance. All names on the Memorial Board are recognized during the Yizkor Service on Yom Kippur. See the Donation form on our web site, TempleBetYam.org or contact Phyllis Keiser at (904) 797-1508.

Celebratory Wall – Celebrate a simcha in your family or honor a TBY member by purchasing a plaque for our commemorative garden wall. For additional information and order forms, please contact Phyllis Keiser at (904) 797-1508.

Murray Weiss Memorial Fund – In the spirit of Tzedakah, this fund helps congregants in need. Past gifts have helped pay for dental surgery, medications, enrollment for children in a Jewish summer camp, and past due mortgage payments. Requests are held in the strictest of confidence. For more information, contact Mimi Selig at (904) 461-4316. To make donations, see the Contribution Form on the next page.



Trees For Israel



We are enjoying huge success with our Trees for Israel. Every tree purchased is not only recognition of some significant event in your life or in the life of someone close to you but is also a mitzvah for Israel and contributes to our Temple fundraising effort. Please use this very important program as a memorial to a friend or loved one or in celebration of a happy occasion for someone dear to you.

Israel's forests are not only a valuable source for water preservation, but are a source for boosting the morale of Israel's citizens by providing a haven in which to put aside the pressures of living in a nation under siege.

JNF will acknowledge every donation with a receipt to the donor and a certificate to the recipient of the honor. Your donation will also benefit Temple Bet Yam with a portion of the donation amount. It is a double Mitzvah.

Trees may be ordered by contacting Toby Weintraub at 904-471-0418. Please provide Toby with your name, address, phone number, the name and address of the person being honored and the name and address of the person you want to receive acknowledgment.

Donations for Trees for Israel are \$18.00 per tree.
Checks should be made out to Temple Bet Yam.

CONTRIBUTION FORM

TEMPLE BET YAM

PO BOX 860098

ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32086



DONOR NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE: _____

ZIP: _____ **TELEPHONE:** _____

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IN MEMORY OF (OR OTHER DESIGNATION)

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TOTAL TBY CONTRIBUTION	_____
*RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND	_____

**NOTE: A SEPARATE CHECK IS REQUIRED FOR THE RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND.*

PLEASE MAKE PAYABLE TO TEMPLE BET YAM, WITH NAME OF FUND ON THE MEMO LINE. THANK YOU.

Upcoming Events for May. Mark your calendar!

Please note all services and functions will be via Zoom until further notice.

Saturday, May 1st, 7:00pm, Virtual Concert: Commentary and Songs from Jewish Broadway Composers sung by Joy Katzen-Guthrie

Sunday, May 2nd, 10:00am, Religious School



Monday, May 3rd 1-2:30pm, Honoring Choices: An Interactive Process For Advanced Care Planning Meeting for EVERYONE, sponsored by Sisterhood and Men's Club

Tuesday, May 4th, 6:30pm, Board Meeting

Friday, May 7th, 7:30pm, Shabbat Service/Shavuot

Saturday, May 8th, 11:00am, Torah Portion/Bible Study

Sunday, May 16th, 10:00am, Religious School, Final session, Awards Day



Monday, May 17th, 11:00am, Life Long Learning: "What should we do with the Jews?" The sources of Nazi ideology and how it changed with German expansion, especially into the East

Monday, May 17th, 5:30pm, Dining with Dignity

Wednesday, May 19th, 5:30pm, Annual Congregational Meeting

Friday, May 21st, 7:30pm, Shabbat Service/Celebrating Adult B'Nai Mitzvah



Saturday, May 22nd, 10:00am, Adult B'nai Mitzvah Ceremony

Tuesday, May 25th, 5:00pm, Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 26th, 1:00pm, Sisterhood Book Club: *Actress* by Ann Enright



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