

CONGREGATION AGUDATH JACOB

May Nisan/Iyar 5780
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This bulletin is published twelve times per year by Congregation Agudath Jacob, a non-profit organization.
Founded in 1888 * Celebrating 132 years * Member of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

From the Desk of Susan Silver

I think if my math is correct this Shabbat will mark the 8th Shabbat, we have not been together in the synagogue. On March 13th (Friday the 13th) we made the decision to cancel services and 8 weeks later we are still worshipping from our homes. Of course, that's not the way any of us want it to be, but for now it is what is in the best interest and safety of our members and our Rabbi.

Our Zoom Shabbat services have proven to be a big success with (for our small congregation) large numbers of participants. Rabbi Lanxner and his wife Susan have graciously allowed us into their home and have provided us some sense of normalcy during Shabbat. There is something comforting about hearing the Rabbi and Susan begin Friday night services by singing Shalom Aleichem and ending on Saturday night with the beautiful Eliyahu Hanavi during Havdalah. I want to thank both of them for doing everything they can to provide us with services during this time.

Rabbi Lanxner has also been working tirelessly on providing us with weekly Dvar Torahs and other very interesting writings for Pesach, Yom HaShoah, Yom Hazikkaron and Yom Ha'atzma'ut. In eight weeks, that is a lot of holidays! We are very fortunate to have a full time Rabbi who continues to dedicate all of his time to making us feel comfortable and safe in our homes and in our synagogue.

Virtual services do work and in 8 short weeks I have personally attended a virtual Brit Milah, a virtual funeral and a shiva. I was thankful that I was able to "be" at all of these events but it also made me realize how much we need to be together in person as soon as it is safe to do so. Judaism is centered around community and our challenge will be to get everyone back in to the shul with the same enthusiasm as people have had doing it virtually. We all joke that you can worship at home without getting dressed up or wearing makeup or looking your best. But when we do get back in to our building I personally am not sure if any of that matters as much as being together safely. We will continue to monitor the situation and give you any updates as to when we will reopen our doors.

And finally, I would like to make an appeal for donations. As you know we rely on donations to help with our annual budget which runs at a deficit year after year. Since we have not had services in the synagogue for two months our Shabbat morning donations have completely stopped as have almost all other donations. So, if you find you would like to make a donation in memory of someone, in honor of someone, or for any reason, please remember we are here for all of us.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and we will be together soon.

Shalom,
Susan



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

May 2

Miguel Perez

May 11

Dorothy Harelik

May 12

Chava Kamenetsky

May 14

David Fay

Avigail Via

May 20

Betty Bauer

May 21

Jayden Mayette

May 24

Daniel Barish



May 4

George & Kathleen Keller

May 9

Craig & Lydia Hoffman

May 20

James & Gabrielle Howle

May 25

David & Maura Jortner

May 30

Joel & Nancy Weissman



Saturday, May 23 – Stormy Rogers Bat Mitzvah

Friday, May 29, 6:00 p.m. – Shavuot Service

Saturday, May 30. 9:30 a.m.- Shavuot and Yizkor Service



SHAVU'OT

Sinai and the Big Bang

On the morning of the day the Torah was given at Mt. Sinai, along with thunder and lightning and a heavy cloud on the mountain, there was the sound of a shofar that grew increasingly loud. Later it states that the people saw the sounds of the thunder and the shofar (Exodus 20:15). Rashi comments that their seeing sounds was something that was impossible to do in any other place. He also comments that these sounds emanated from the “mouth of God.”

According to the Mishnah in Pirkei Avot (5.1) and expounded upon by Kabbalah, the agency of creation was Divine speech – the ten utterances through which G-d spoke the world into existence. Rashi's comment regarding the unusual phenomenon of the sound of a shofar from the “mouth of G-d” continually increasing in loudness is somehow connected to the actual creation of the world.

In the 1960's two scientists practically by mistake stumbled onto one of the greatest discoveries of modern science. Their picking up of an unexplainable static on a measuring device lead them ultimately to discover the background static of the “**big bang**,” thus revolutionizing our concept of how the world was created. And the emphasis is on the word “created,” for before this discovery, science could not or would not admit what Torah has always claimed – that there was a beginning point of creation – and not that the world was eternal as the Greeks posited and accepted by many or most scientists until the big bang theory, now referred to as the standard model of creation.

The comment of Rashi regarding the Jewish people “**seeing the sounds**” is explained in Kabbalah in the following manner: at the giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai, in order to perceive the Divine revelation, all the physical senses and dimensions were unified, as were all levels of human consciousness in an extraordinary union of physical and spiritual synesthesia. When the people saw the sounds of the thunder and an increasingly loud shofar, it is possible to say that they were privy to seeing/hearing the background static of the big bang, in as much as this day had been set aside from the very beginning of creation as Rashi states – it was as if the world was in fact being created on the day of the giving of the Torah.

In our Ethics of our Fathers (**Pirkei Avot 6.2**) it states that everyday a voice goes out from Sinai admonishing the Jewish people to return to Torah. The Ba'al Shem Tov once asked – if there is a voice coming out every day from Sinai – then why don't we hear it; and if we don't hear it – why bother to have a voice come out at all? He answers by saying that every time a person has the arousal to better themselves, or return to G-d and Torah, it is because they are in fact hearing that voice.

Just as there is a background sound permeating all the universe as a result of the initial instant of the big bang, we can say similarly that there is a spiritual background voice in the world resulting from the giving of the Torah at Sinai, an event that actualizes G-d's purpose for creation. Just because we don't hear the sound of the Big Bang, doesn't mean it's not there. Similarly – just because we don't hear the voice emanating from Mt. Sinai everyday doesn't mean it's not there to be heard.

The entire universe, which we now know consists of billions of galaxies, each one greater in size than we can imagine, all comes from one almost infinitely small “point.” The world is all the result of that expanding seed or spark. So too, the Jewish people are spiritually rooted and unified in our source in receiving the Torah “**as one being with one heart.**” (Rashi on Exodus 19:2).

May we all merit to hear the voice coming from Sinai “as if it was given today.”

Rabbi Ben-Zion Laxner

May 2020

7 Iyar 5780 - 8 Sivan 5780

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 5:21AM/7:24PM ij7:06PM Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 p.m. 7 Iyar/22 L'Omer Shabbos 56	2 5:20AM/7:25PM §8:10PM Shacharit 9:30 a.m. 8 Iyar/23 L'Omer Shabbos 57
3 5:18AM/7:26PM MINYAN 10:00 a.m. TALMUD 11:00 a.m. 9 Iyar/24 L'Omer Shabbos 58	4 5:17AM/7:27PM 10 Iyar/25 L'Omer Shabbos 59	5 5:16AM/7:28PM 11 Iyar/26 L'Omer Shabbos 60	6 5:15AM/7:29PM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 4:15 - 5:45 p.m. 12 Iyar/27 L'Omer Shabbos 61	7 5:14AM/7:30PM 13 Iyar/28 L'Omer Shabbos 62	8 5:12AM/7:31PM §8:16PM/ij7:13PM Pesach Sheini Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 p.m. 14 Iyar/29 L'Omer Shabbos 63	9 5:11AM/7:32PM §8:17PM Shacharit 9:30 a.m. 15 Iyar/30 L'Omer Shabbos 64
10 5:10AM/7:33PM MINYAN 10:00 a.m. TALMUD 11:00 a.m. 16 Iyar/31 L'Omer Shabbos 65	11 5:09AM/7:34PM 17 Iyar/32 L'Omer Shabbos 66	12 5:08AM/7:35PM §8:20PM Lag B'Omer 18 Iyar/33 L'Omer Shabbos 67	13 5:07AM/7:36PM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 4:15 - 5:45 p.m. 19 Iyar/34 L'Omer Shabbos 68	14 5:06AM/7:37PM 20 Iyar/35 L'Omer Shabbos 69	15 5:05AM/7:38PM ij7:20PM Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 p.m. 21 Iyar/36 L'Omer Shabbos 70	16 5:04AM/7:39PM §8:24PM Shacharit 9:30 a.m. 22 Iyar/37 L'Omer Shabbos 71
17 5:03AM/7:40PM MINYAN 10:00 a.m. TALMUD 11:00 a.m. 23 Iyar/38 L'Omer Shabbos 72	18 5:03AM/7:41PM 24 Iyar/39 L'Omer Shabbos 73	19 5:02AM/7:42PM 25 Iyar/40 L'Omer Shabbos 74	20 5:01AM/7:43PM LAST DAY RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 4:15 - 5:45 p.m. 26 Iyar/41 L'Omer Shabbos 75	21 5:00AM/7:44PM 27 Iyar/42 L'Omer Shabbos 76	22 4:59AM/7:45PM §8:30PM/ij7:27PM Yom Yerushalayim Kabbalat Shabbat 6:00 p.m. 28 Iyar/43 L'Omer Shabbos 77	23 4:59AM/7:45PM §8:30PM Shacharit 9:30 a.m. STORMY ROGERS BAT MITZVAH 29 Iyar/44 L'Omer Shabbos 78
24 4:58AM/7:46PM Rosh Hodesh MINYAN 10:00 a.m. TALMUD 11:00 a.m. 1 Sivan/45 L'Omer Shabbos 79	25 4:57AM/7:47PM 2 Sivan/46 L'Omer Shabbos 80	26 4:57AM/7:48PM 3 Sivan/47 L'Omer Shabbos 81	27 4:56AM/7:49PM 4 Sivan/48 L'Omer Shabbos 82	28 4:56AM/7:50PM ij7:32PM Erev Shavuot 5 Sivan/49 L'Omer Shabbos 83	29 4:55AM/7:51PM §8:36PM/ij7:33PM Shavuot SHAVUOT SERVICE 6:00 P.M. 6 Sivan Shabbos 84	30 4:55AM/7:51PM §8:36PM Shavuot II (Yizkor) SHAVUOT AND YIZKOR SERVICE 9:30 A.M. 7 Sivan Shabbos 85
31 4:54AM/7:52PM MINYAN 10:00 a.m. TALMUD 11:00 a.m. 8 Sivan Shabbos 86						

In Loving Memory



Deana Stupak

Richard & Ellen Shaw
Mike Stupak
Harriet Stupak

Ethel Cecile Israel

Nancy Israel

Mollie Weissman

Joel Weissman

Norma Ivette Alvarez Norat

Zahira Meiling Camacho

Ana Nieves

Gerardo Romero

Howard Miller

William Beville deMerville

R.L. Brinkley

Brent & Dianne deMerville
Rabbi & Susan Lanxner

Bella Citrin

Jeff Levin

Jack Ruttenberg

Phyllis & Mahmoud Akmal
Rina Ruttenberg & Daniel Holland

Jake Bauer

Joseph Settle
Debbie Hersh
Alan & Sherri Darver
Rabbi & Susan Lanxner

Dave Wizig

David Novy
Rabbi & Susan Lanxner

Bessie Zoblotsky

Morris & Beverly Zoblotsky

Max Jortner

Bernard Jortner

Leibel Harelik

Harry Harelik

Doris Silver

Larry & Elizabeth Silver

Jerry Gurkoff

Jim Stanton
Abbye & Susan Silver
Rabbi & Susan Lanxner

Stanley Hersh

Debbie Hersh

Anna Goldman Hersh

Florence Hersh

Donald C. Stuckey

Jim & Morasha Stuckey

HOW TO OBSERVE THE YAHRZEIT

It is traditional to kindle a Yahrzeit Candle in the home on the evening Yahrzeit begins. It should remain lighted until sunset the next day. Possible prayer before lighting a Yahrzeit candle: Eternal God, I/we light this candle in memory of (name) _____, my/our beloved (relationship) _____. The light of the flame rekindles all the warm memories of the moment we shared together and reassures me/us that a piece of his/her soul dwells in my/our heart(s) forever. May his/her soul be bound up with the bonds of eternal life. Amen. Candles are available at the Gift Shop. Every effort should be made to say Kaddish at congregational services. It is meritorious to perform some Mitzvah or to contribute to the synagogue in commemoration of the deceased.

	<u>Kaddish will be read on May 1</u>		
<i>Iyar 7</i>	<i>Bertha Rosen Rebecca Brickman Jake Berkman</i>	<i>Iyar 25</i>	<i>Orpha Starr Otto Levy David Harry Rubel Sara Stupak Steve Zelen Ryan Younger Blythe</i>
<i>Iyar 8</i>	<i>Eva Wizig Abe Hashfield M. Berlowitz</i>	<i>Iyar 26</i>	<i>Dave Spero Melba Howeth Warren</i>
<i>Iyar 9</i>	<i>Zorach Hoppenstein Muriel Jesenof</i>	<i>Iyar 27</i>	<i>Phillip M. Citrin Sarah Cohen Julius Englander Hannah Lasinker Lilly Maleh Barbara Vondra</i>
<i>Iyar 10</i>	<i>Mary Novich Dr. Sam Chernoff Leona Faye Stuckey</i>		<u>Kaddish will be read on May 22</u>
<i>Iyar 11</i>	<i>Mrs. L. Esserman Sarah Israel Jack Weissman Dave Freed Max Chodorow Lillian Rubenstein</i>	<i>Iyar 28</i>	<i>Abe Levy Toby Mallen</i>
<i>Iyar 12</i>	<i>Benjamin Bauer Joe Leo Siegel Louis Woolf</i>	<i>Iyar 29</i>	<i>Al Jacobson</i>
<i>Iyar 13</i>	<i>Millie Gardner Abe Adams</i>	<i>Sivan 1</i>	<i>Rosaline Gardner Jacob Jacobson Rebecca Zoblotsky Hennie Genecov John Harry Fay Morris Brickman Max Harris Frances Lebowitz Ervin Graubard Abe Schwartz Esther Zackin Hazel Warnstaff Audrey Mendelson</i>
	<u>Kaddish will be read on May 8</u>	<i>Sivan 2</i>	
<i>Iyar 14</i>	<i>Adrian Moes Fannie Genecov Rhua Settle (J. Settle)</i>	<i>Sivan 4</i>	<i>Morris Brickman Max Harris Frances Lebowitz Ervin Graubard Abe Schwartz Esther Zackin Hazel Warnstaff Audrey Mendelson</i>
<i>Iyar 15</i>	<i>Mrs. E. Hoffman Morris Cohen Annie Rae Wizig</i>	<i>Sivan 5</i>	
<i>Iyar 16</i>	<i>Gilford Fred</i>		<u>Kaddish will be read on May 29</u>
<i>Iyar 17</i>	<i>Julius Berkman Jacob Greenspan Samuel Kestner Abe Udashen</i>	<i>Sivan 6</i>	<i>Rosa Keen Jake Kirschner Sarah Stein Mary Meinstein Golda Faigle Wizig Betty Birnbach Hector Lago Sol Cohen Jolan Halpern Frank Sifuentes David Stein Barbara Andrews Mrs. A. Adelman Klaire Schwarz Yehashaua Nechemiah ben Gershon Nathan Gurwitz Max Zelen Louise Grass</i>
<i>Iyar 18</i>	<i>N. Suravitz Jennie Rosenberg</i>	<i>Sivan 7</i>	
<i>Iyar 19</i>	<i>Louis Kleiman Ralph Leeds</i>		
<i>Iyar 20</i>	<i>Sonia Stein</i>	<i>Sivan 9</i>	
	<u>Kaddish will be read on May 15</u>		
<i>Iyar 21</i>	<i>Louis Marks Lee Wolkoff Sarah Stein</i>		
<i>Iyar 22</i>	<i>Max Hoppenstein Abe Lewis Hyman Novy</i>	<i>Sivan 10</i>	
<i>Iyar 23</i>	<i>Mandel H. Citrin</i>	<i>Sivan 11</i>	
<i>Iyar 24</i>	<i>A. Polansky Mary Budin</i>	<i>Sivan 12</i>	