

# REGO PARK JEWISH CENTER BULLETIN

*"And let them make for me a sanctuary that I may dwell among them."*

EXODUS 25:8

VOLUME 82 NO. 5

NISSAN / IYAR / SIVAN / TAMUZ 5782

MAY / JUNE 2022

## **MAY & JUNE 2022** **SERVICE SCHEDULE**

Sunday, May 1—8:30 A.M.

Friday, May 6 - 6:30 PM

Saturday, May 7 - 9:00 AM

Friday, May 13 - 6:30 PM

Saturday, May 14 - 9:00 AM

Friday, May 20 - 6:30 PM

Saturday, May 21 - 9:00 AM

Friday, May 27 - 6:30 PM

Saturday, May 28 - 9:00 AM

Friday, June 3 - 6:30 PM

Saturday, June 4 - 9:00 AM

Saturday, June 4 (Tikkun L'el Shavuot) - 8:00 P.M.

Sunday, June 5 (1<sup>st</sup> day Shavuot) - 9:00 A.M.

Friday, June 10 - 6:30 PM

Saturday, June 11 - 9:00 AM

Friday, June 17 - 6:30 PM

Saturday, June 18 - 9:00 AM

Friday, June 24 - 6:30 PM

Saturday, June 25 - 9:00 AM

## **ANNUAL MAY CENTER MEETING**

**SUNDAY, MAY 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**at 11:30 A.M.**

***ELECTION OF OFFICERS***  
***REFRESHMENTS***

**FOR ALL MEMBERS  
IN GOOD STANDING**

## **TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT**

**SATURDAY NIGHT, JUNE 4<sup>TH</sup>**  
**(SHAVUOT EVE)**

**8:00 P.M.**

Torah Study Session with Rabbi Daniel

Please call the Center office if  
you'd like to participate in the discussion.

Refreshments Served. No Charge.

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## REGO PARK JEWISH CENTER

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Website: [www.rpjc.org](http://www.rpjc.org)

Rabbi Romiel Daniel.....Rabbi

Josiah Derby, M.A\*.....Rabbi Emeritus

Rabbi Romiel Daniel.....President

\* deceased

Religious services conducted in the  
Main Sanctuary & Chapel  
are also available for viewing  
on Cisco Webex.

Please check your email  
for links to Cisco Webex.

Contact our Center office at  
[office@rpjc.org](mailto:office@rpjc.org)  
for more information.



The Rego Park Jewish Center Bulletin is published 9 times/year (Sept. - June)

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# FROM THE RABBI'S DESK

## IYAR

1. Iyar is both the eighth and second month of the Hebrew calendar - Both Nisan and Tishrei are referred to as the start of the Jewish calendar. Iyar is the second month from Nisan and month number eight from Tishrei.

2. The Torah has two other names for this month - In the Five Books of Moses, the Hebrew months don't have distinct names. Instead, Nisan is called "the first month", Iyar, "the second month", and so on. In the prophets, Iyar is called "the Month of Radiance" (Chodesh Ziv), because it is when the trees are bright with blossoms. The names we know today, the Talmud tells us, were adopted during the first Babylonian exile.

3. Iyar also means light - Iyar is related to the Hebrew word for light, "*ohr*." Midrash explains that it was named for the manna which began to fall during Iyar, a month after the Jews left Egypt. The manna was given with divine radiance.

4. There is a special mitzvah for every day of Iyar - For seven weeks, from the second day of Passover to Shavuot, the Jewish people count the Omer, marking the passage of 49 days between these two holidays. Each day, we recite another blessing, as the counting of each day is its own mitzvah.

Sefirat HaOmer (counting the Omer) extends from 16 Nisan through the entirety of Iyar until Shavuot (6 Sivan). Thus, Iyar is the only month in which the Omer is counted for all its 29 days.

5. The "Second Passover" is celebrated on 14 Iyar - In Temple times, the Second Passover (Pesach Sheni) was observed by one who could not—by virtue of being impure or in a distant place—bring the Paschal offering during Passover. He was given a second chance to eat the sacrifice a month later on the night subsequent to 14 Iyar. Today, when sacrifices are no longer brought, we commemorate the Second Passover by eating matzah.

6. Lag BaOmer is celebrated on 18 Iyar - Before his death, Rabbi Shimon bar (son of) Yochai, a 1st-century Talmudic sage, requested that his anniversary of passing be celebrated instead of mourned. He died on the 18th of Iyar in 160 CE, and that day, called Lag BaOmer (33rd of the Omer), has been commemorated since. Lag BaOmer also marks the end of the plague that struck Rabbi Akiva's students. The Talmud relates that 24,000 disciples of Rabbi Akiva died in the period between Passover and Shavuot. The Talmud states that they died because they failed to respect each other.

7. Iyar is a month of healing - The Chassidic masters see this in the month's acronym: אני יי רופאך "I am the L-rd who heals you."

The Jewish year is a miniature playbook of the entirety of a Jew's divine service. Nisan, the first month, is all about birth and renewal. We just "went out of Egypt" in a spiritual sense and are now ready to fulfill G-d's commandments with feeling.

Iyar represents the return to mundanity - our first day back at work after vacation. At this point, it becomes difficult to infuse our Torah-learning and mitzvah-doing with the excitement of novelty.

This is where healing comes in. G-d says, "All the sicknesses . . . I will not place upon you, for I am the L-rd who heals you." In other words, G-d is giving us preventative medicine - the ability to fight apathy and to experience our divine service with passion and excitement. But although G-d provides assistance we must do the legwork. If we make the effort to view the world through the eyes of a child, with openness and curiosity, we can keep the forces of apathy at bay.

Continued on page 4

8. It recalls the Patriarchs - The accepted custom is to spell it with two yuds, serving as an acrostic for Abraham, Isaac (Yitzchak), Jacob (Yaakov) and Rachel, the patriarchs and matriarch associated with the supernal merkavah, a Kabbalistic understanding of the divine revelation in this world.

9. Iyar’s Zodiac sign is Taurus (the bull) - In Jewish mystical thought, the bull symbolizes the animal soul. The animal soul, like the bull, is unruly but can be productive if harnessed. Chassidic thought understands that the negative tendencies of our animal soul stem from an amorphous koach hamit’aveh, a force that desires. Without a harness, the “desirous force” will lean toward self-gratification, but with a yoke, the animal soul can be abundantly productive. Our mission in Iyar is to tame the bull. Each night, after we’ve counted the Omer, we say a little prayer wherein we ask G-d to rectify a small part of our animal soul. We hope that by the time Shavuot comes around, we will be a bit more ready to receive G-d’s word.

## SIVAN

### **Fast Facts**

Sivan is the third month of the Jewish calendar.

Sivan comes at the same time as the secular months May/June.

The *mazal* (constellation) for Sivan is Gemini, the *teomim* (twins). We can think of the twins as symbolizing the two identical "tablets of the covenant" given to Moses during the month of Sivan.

Tradition teaches that it was on Rosh Hodesh Sivan that the Israelites "camped at the foot of Sinai" in preparation to receive the Torah (Exodus 19:6). The verb used for "camped" in Exodus 19:6 is in the singular. It is taught that at the moment the Israelites determined to receive the Torah, they were united in heart and mind like a single person. Sivan's symbol of the twins, two distinct human beings sharing one womb, can represent the harmony that comes when people celebrate their differences while coming together to work for a common, higher goal, such as receiving and following the Torah.

### **Features**

Shavuot (The Feast of Weeks) falls on the sixth day of Sivan (and on the seventh of Sivan for those Diaspora communities that observe two days). In biblical times, Shavuot marked the end of the grain harvest (which began with the bringing of the Omer on Pesakh), and was called *hag ha'katzir* (The Harvest Holiday). The ritual ushering in of the new agricultural season - the bringing of the first fruits of the land to the Temple - was also celebrated on Shavuot. From this practice Shavuot gets its third name, *hag ha'atzeret* (The Holiday of the First Fruit Offering).

With the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE, Shavuot's association with agricultural rites became obsolete. The rabbis began to connect Shavuot with the Revelation on Mount Sinai which, according to the Torah, took place in Sivan. Today Shavuot celebrates the giving and receiving of the Torah.

### **Shavuot Customs**

Studying Torah all night long! It is a kabbalistic tradition (coming from the sixteenth-century mystics of Safed) to stay up the entire (first) night of Shavuot studying Torah. Known as *Tikkun Leil Shavuot*, this all-night study session is an opportunity to recommit ourselves to the study of Torah. Tradition teaches that the skies open up during this night for a brief moment, and G-d favorably answers all prayers. The kabbalists also think of Shavuot as the moment when G-d and Israel wed; the Torah is the *ketubah* (marriage contract) or written affirmation of the covenant between them.

**Chanting the Ten Commandments** - On Shavuot it is customary to chant the Ten Commandments with a special trope (manner of chanting Torah). The Ten Commandments are found in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5 with minor differences.

Continued on page 5

**Reading Megillat Ruth (The Book of Ruth)** - Megillat Ruth tells a story of a relationship of great love, loyalty, and devotion, which develops between the two heroines of the story, Naomi and her daughter-in-law Ruth. It is customary among Ashkenazic (Western European) Jews to read Megillat Ruth during the morning services of Shavuot because:

- Like Shavuot, Ruth's story takes place during harvest time.
- Ruth converts to Judaism, which is similar to our acceptance of Torah on Shavuot.
- Tradition teaches that King David, Ruth's great, great grandson, was born and died on Shavuot.

It is customary to eat dairy foods on Shavuot. This custom may come from the verse in Shir HaShirim (Song of Songs): "Honey and milk are under your tongue," which can be understood as comparing the Torah to the sweetness of milk and honey. Another traditional explanation for this custom is that when the Israelites first received the laws of *kashrut*, they realized that all their pots were unkosher from having been used to eat forbidden meats, and so they ate dairy food until they were able to make their pots kosher. Try some new cheeses on Shavuot, and indulge in ice cream and other sweet and creamy desserts!

Since Shavuot is a harvest festival, in Israel there is a tradition of eating the first fruits of the season. We suggest doing the same.

Raise yourselves spiritually right unto Shavuot and then be prepared to receive the Commandments all over again.

*Rabbi Romiel Daniel*

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**SUNDAY MORNING LEARN-IN  
WITH RABBI DANIEL**



**May 1, 8, 15, 29**

**June 12, 19, 26**

*Bring your own dairy breakfast.*

*Coffee served.*

**SUNDAY MORNING LEARN-IN**

While just a few meetings were possible during March-April, they were meaningful learning experiences.

We focused on the important celebrations of Purim and Passover. In addition to reviewing the significance of each holiday, we discussed their continuing influence on how we conduct our daily lives.

We look forward to a more consistent meeting schedule and hope you will join us for the breakfast on May 1st.

Elaine Spodick

# May 2022

## NISSAN / IYAR / SIVAN 5782

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>1</b>      30 NISSAN</p> <p>M.S.    8:30 A.M.</p> <p>LEARN-IN 9:30 A.M.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">ROSH CHODESH</div>	<p><b>2</b>      1 IYAR</p>	<p><b>3</b>      2 IYAR</p>	<p><b>4</b>      3 IYAR</p>	<p><b>5</b>      4 IYAR</p>	<p><b>6</b>      5 IYAR</p> <p>E.S. 6:30 P.M. IN THE CHAPEL &amp; ON WEBEX</p> <p>C.L. 7:39 P.M.</p>	<p><b>7</b>      6 IYAR</p> <p>M.S.    9:00 A.M. SANC. &amp; WEBEX</p> <p>S.E.    8:44 P.M.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“KEDOSHIM”</p>
<p><b>8</b>      7 IYAR</p> <p>LEARN-IN 9:30 A.M.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MOTHER'S DAY</p>	<p><b>9</b>      8 IYAR</p>	<p><b>10</b>     9 IYAR</p>	<p><b>11</b>    10 IYAR</p>	<p><b>12</b>    11 IYAR</p>	<p><b>13</b>    12 IYAR</p> <p>E.S. 6:30 P.M. IN THE CHAPEL &amp; ON WEBEX</p> <p>C.L. 7:46 P.M.</p>	<p><b>14</b>    13 IYAR</p> <p>M.S.    9:00 A.M. SANC. &amp; WEBEX</p> <p>S.E.    8:52 P.M.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“EMOR”</p>
<p><b>15</b>    14 IYAR</p> <p>LEARN-IN 9:30 A.M.</p>	<p><b>16</b>    15 IYAR</p>	<p><b>17</b>    16 IYAR</p>	<p><b>18</b>    17 IYAR</p>	<p><b>19</b>    18 IYAR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LAG B'OMER</p>	<p><b>20</b>    19 IYAR</p> <p>E.S. 6:30 P.M. IN THE CHAPEL &amp; ON WEBEX</p> <p>C.L. 7:53 P.M.</p>	<p><b>21</b>    20 IYAR</p> <p>M.S.    9:00 A.M. SANC. &amp; WEBEX</p> <p>S.E.    9:00 P.M.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“BEHAR”</p>
<p><b>22</b>    21 IYAR</p> <p>NO LEARN IN CENTER MEMB. MEETING - 11:30 A.M.</p>	<p><b>23</b>    22 IYAR</p>	<p><b>24</b>    23 IYAR</p>	<p><b>25</b>    24 IYAR</p>	<p><b>26</b>    25 IYAR</p>	<p><b>27</b>    26 IYAR</p> <p>E.S. 6:30 P.M. IN THE CHAPEL &amp; ON WEBEX</p> <p>C.L. 7:59 P.M.</p>	<p><b>28</b>    27 IYAR</p> <p>M.S.    9:00 A.M. SANC. &amp; WEBEX</p> <p>S.E.    9:07 P.M.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“BEHOUKOTAI”</p>
<p><b>29</b>    28 IYAR</p> <p>LEARN-IN 9:30 A.M.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">YOM YERUSHALAYIM</p>	<p><b>30</b>    29 IYAR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MEMORIAL DAY</p>	<p><b>31</b>    1 SIVAN</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">ROSH CHODESH</div>	<div style="background-color: #ffffcc; padding: 10px;"> <p>C.L. = CANDLE LIGHTING E.S. = EVENING SERVICE M.S. = MORNING SERVICE N.E.S. = NO EVENING SERVICE N.M.S. = NO MORNING SERVICE S.E. = SHABBAT ENDS</p> </div>			

# June 2022

## SIVAN / TAMMUZ 5782

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
C.L. = CANDLE LIGHTING E.S. = EVENING SERVICE M.S. = MORNING SERVICE N.E.S. = NO EVENING SERVICE N.M.S. = NO MORNING SERVICE S.E. = SHABBAT ENDS			<b>1</b> 2 SIVAN	<b>2</b> 3 SIVAN	<b>3</b> 4 SIVAN E.S. 6:30 P.M. IN THE CHAPEL & ON WEBEX C.L. 8:04 P.M.	<b>4</b> 5 SIVAN M.S. 9:00 A.M. SANC. & WEBEX TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT - 8:00 PM C.L. 9:13 P.M.  "BEMIDBAR" EREV SHAVUOT
<b>5</b> 6 SIVAN M.S. 9:00 A.M. SANC. & WEBEX YIZKOR  1 <sup>ST</sup> DAY SHAVUOT	<b>6</b> 7 SIVAN N.M.S.  2 <sup>ND</sup> DAY SHAVUOT	<b>7</b> 8 SIVAN	<b>8</b> 9 SIVAN	<b>9</b> 10 SIVAN	<b>10</b> 11 SIVAN E.S. 6:30 P.M. IN THE CHAPEL & ON WEBEX C.L. 8:09 P.M.	<b>11</b> 12 SIVAN M.S. 9:00 A.M. SANC. & WEBEX S.E. 9:17 P.M.  "NASSO"
<b>12</b> 13 SIVAN LEARN-IN 9:30 A.M.	<b>13</b> 14 SIVAN	<b>14</b> 15 SIVAN	<b>15</b> 16 SIVAN	<b>16</b> 17 SIVAN	<b>17</b> 18 SIVAN E.S. 6:30 P.M. IN THE CHAPEL & ON WEBEX C.L. 8:12 P.M.	<b>18</b> 19 SIVAN M.S. 9:00 A.M. SANC. & WEBEX S.E. 9:21 P.M.  "BEHA'ALOTECHA"
<b>19</b> 20 SIVAN LEARN-IN 9:30 A.M.  FATHER'S DAY	<b>20</b> 21 SIVAN	<b>21</b> 22 SIVAN	<b>22</b> 23 SIVAN	<b>23</b> 24 SIVAN	<b>24</b> 25 SIVAN E.S. 6:30 P.M. IN THE CHAPEL & ON WEBEX C.L. 8:13 P.M.	<b>25</b> 26 SIVAN M.S. 9:00 A.M. SANC. & WEBEX S.E. 9:22 P.M.  "SHELACH"
<b>26</b> 27 SIVAN LEARN-IN 9:30 A.M.	<b>27</b> 28 SIVAN	<b>28</b> 29 SIVAN	<b>29</b> 30 SIVAN	<b>30</b> 1 TAMMUZ  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">ROSH CHODESH</div>		

**LOSS OF MEMBERS**

Rachel Kacenenbogen

Ruth Loewenstein

*We extend our deepest condolences to the Kacenenbogen & Loewenstein families.*

**LOSS IN MEMBER'S FAMILY**

Janet Herbst, sister of Joel Herbst  
Regina Weitz, sister of Aida Ovadia.

*We extend our deepest condolences to the Herbst and Ovadia families.*

**REFUAH SHELEIMAH**

Sandi Goodman

**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

Leonor Herbst  
William Katz  
Peter Landes  
Agnes Posner  
Elaine Spodick  
Ava Wand



**MAY ANNIVERSARIES**

Rabbi Romiel & Noreen Daniel  
Robin & Mark Hochberg  
Sandy & Martin Novzen

**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

Jack Alkana  
Roslyn Hochman  
Pnina Lanxner  
Sanford Operowsky  
Jenny Sill  
Herb Usenheimer



**JUNE ANNIVERSARIES**

Beverly & Carl Ellman





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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## MEMORIAL FUND

Mollie & Jack Alkana, in memory of Ruth Loewenstein.

Martin Cantor, in memory of Jack Siegel.

Susan Goldschmidt, in memory of Ruth Loewenstein.

Robin & Mark Hochberg, in memory of Rachel Kacenenbogen.

Robin & Mark Hochberg, in memory of Ruth Loewenstein.

John Landes, in memory of Stephanie Schlesinger.

Pnina Lanxner, in memory of Rachel Kacenenbogen.

Pnina Lanxner, in memory of Ruth Loewenstein.

Jeanette Mildner, in memory of Rachel Kacenenbogen.

Jeanette Mildner, in memory of Ruth Loewenstein.

Aida & Menashe Ovadia, in memory of Fanny Erlitz.

Aida & Menashe Ovadia, in memory of Ruth Loewenstein.

Aida & Menashe Ovadia, in memory of Regina Weitz.

Ida & Arthur Schwartz, in memory of Ruth Loewenstein.

Elaine Spodick, in memory of Rachel Kacenenbogen.

Elaine Spodick, in memory of Ruth Loewenstein.

Ruthe Unger, in memory of Shirley Decker.

Ruthe Unger, in memory of Howard Kaplan.

Ruthe Unger & Fern, Leslie and Joshua Penn, in memory of Ruth Loewenstein.

Ruthe Unger, in memory of Jack Siegel.

Ruthe Unger, in memory of Michael Wolfson.

Ruthe Unger, in memory of Lee Lobel-Zwang.

Rochelle Wasserman, in memory of Ruth Loewenstein.

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## GENERAL DONATIONS

Elise Bornstein, in honor of Rosh Chodesh Nissan.  
Elise Bornstein, in honor of Passover.  
Regina & Lael Daniel  
Maria Duron, in honor of Rosh Chodesh Nissan.  
Maria Duron, in honor of Passover.  
Mikhail Gelfer, in honor of Passover.  
Susan Goldschmidt, in honor of reading prayer on Shabbat.  
Reina Goodman, in honor of opening the ark on Shabbat.  
Pnina Lanxner, in honor of reading prayer on Shabbat.  
Aida & Menashe Ovadia, in honor of Passover.  
Paramdeo Patraj

## REFUAH SHELEIMAH

Mollie & Jack Alkana, for the recovery & good health of Sandi Goodman.  
Rabbi Romiel & Noreen Daniel, for the recovery & good health of Sandi Goodman.  
Susan Goldschmidt, for the recovery & good health of Joseph Farber.  
Robin & Mark Hochberg, for the recovery & good health of Sandi Goodman.  
Pnina Lanxner, for the recovery & good health of Susan Goldschmidt.  
Sandi & Martin Novzen, for the recovery & good health of Sandi Goodman.  
Ray & Ed Starer, for the recovery & good health of Sandi Goodman.

## COMMEMORATIVE FUND

Ida & Arthur Schwartz, in honor of their 71st Anniversary.

## Yahrzeit Fund

Jack Alkana, in memory of father Joseph Alkana.  
Max Amper, in memory of father Samuel Amper.  
Meryl Colman, in memory of husband Harry Colman.  
Reuben Ezra, in memory of mother Victoria Ezra.  
Mikhail Gelfer, in memory of wife.  
Mikhail Gelfer, in memory of father.  
Susan Goldschmidt, in memory of father David.  
Joel Herbst, in memory of father Nathan Herbst.  
Lemon Herbst, in memory of husband Morris Herbst.  
Ira Hochman, in memory of brother Elliott Hochman.  
Dan Isaacs, in memory of father Asher Isaacs.  
Ruth Kaplan, in memory of mother Mina.  
John Landes, in memory of mother Maria Landes.  
Pnina Lanxner, in memory of mother Miriam.  
Martin Novzen, in memory of father Abraham Novzen.  
Agnes Posner, in memory of husband Laszlo Posner.  
Frances Rotkopf, in memory of mother Sylvia.  
Ed Starer, in memory of mother Vera Starer.  
Ed Starer, in memory of grandmother Ida.  
Ruth Unger, in memory of brother Murray.  
Ira Werner, in memory of father Shephard Werner.

## PASSOVER YIZKOR

Susan Goldschmidt  
Pnina Lanxner

### **A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR**

Donations received after April 25th will be listed in the July/August bulletin.

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Rego Park Jewish Center  
97-30 Queens Blvd  
Rego Park, NY 11374



Change Service Requested

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