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**July, 2016**  
**25 Sivan – 25 Tammuz 5776**

**Service Schedule**

Egalitarian Friday Night Services begin at 8:00 p.m., followed by an Oneg.

Traditional Saturday morning services begin at 10:00 a.m. and are followed by a Kiddush.

**Candle Lighting Times:**

- July 1, 9:04 p.m.
- July 8, 9:02 p.m.
- July 15, 8:59 p.m.
- July 22, 8:54 p.m.
- July 29, 8:47 p.m.

**Dates for your Calendar:**



July 24 The Fast of Tammuz (postponed)

Suggestions and information for this Bulletin are always welcome. Please contact me at [bridgejudy@aol.com](mailto:bridgejudy@aol.com). Deadlines are usually 7 days before the end of the month.

Judy Weitzman, Editor

*Yahrzeits*  
*May their memories be for a blessing.*

- Luba Levinthal – 27 Sivan, July 3
- Hannah Spector – 27 Sivan, July 3
- William Meyers - 28 Sivan, July 4
- Peter Paul – 28 Sivan, July 4
- Goldie Berger – 29 Sivan, July 5
- Phyllis Schreiber – 30 Sivan, July 6
- Goldie Elkin – 1 Tammuz, July 7
- Arthur Prohofsky – 1 Tammuz, July 7
- Anne Myers – 1 Tammuz, July 7
- Aaron Shapiro – 2 Tammuz, July 8
- Joseph Haberer – 3 Tammuz, July 9
- Solomon Hartman – 6 Tammuz, July 12
- Minnie Roger – 6 Tammuz, July 12
- Sarah Elkin – 7 Tammuz, July 13
- Solomon Spector – 8 Tammuz, July 14
- Harry Kaplan - 8 Tammuz, July 14
- Esther Prohofsky - 8 Tammuz, July 14
- Bernard Lillianfeld – 9 Tammuz,- July 15
- Jeanette Mazor - 10 Tammuz, July 16
- Nathan Winski - 12 Tammuz, July 18
- Jacob Elkin - 12 Tammuz, July 18
- Aaron Singer - 15 Tammuz, July 21
- Anna Rubin - 15 Tammuz, July 21
- Richard Alder - 18 Tammuz, July 24
- Calvin Stein - 19 Tammuz, July 25
- Bernard Altman - 20 Tammuz, July 26
- Stella Cohen - 21 Tammuz, July 27
- Eva Blecher - 21 Tammuz, July 27
- Deb Bercovitz - 23 Tammuz, July 29
- Anna Goodman - 24 Tammuz, July 30



**Refuah Schlemah**

May the One who was a source of blessing for our ancestors bring blessings of healing upon Harriet Diamond, Alan Garfinkel, Sol Gartenhaus, Cyrelle Simon, Florence Weingram and Leo Weitzman.

And may G-d hear our prayers and grant a speedy recovery to all who are ill.



To have a Happy Day card or a Memorial card sent in your name, please contact Esther Chosnek by e-mail at [erc@wolfelt.com](mailto:erc@wolfelt.com). She will promptly send your card for a minimum donation of only \$5.00. You need only contact Esther, then send your check, made payable to

Sisterhood Sons of Abraham to Sisterhood Treasurer, Sonya Garfinkel, 2229 Carberry Dr., West Lafayette, IN 47906.

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## The Jewish Connection



The Jewish Connection is a community-wide book discussion group that meets monthly. But, like many of us, the Connection will be on vacation for July.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 24 at 2:30 p.m. at the home of Anna Berkovitz, 1131 Hillcrest.

The book for August is The City of Thieves, a novel by David Benioff. This historical novel tells the story of two young men, one of whom is a Jewish emigree. They live in the Leningrad area and desperately search for a carton of eggs for a Soviet NKVD officer during the German siege of the city. Their adventure is both black and comedic, and their story is compelling.

It is not necessary to have read the book to attend. For additional information, please call Rose Haberer, at 463-2772 or Anna Berkovitz, 463-5950.



Mazal Tov to Aaron and the entire Slamovich family for his Bar Mitzvah. The ceremony was inspiring and the celebration was a total delight.

## What are the Three Weeks?

The Three Weeks is an annual mourning period that falls out in the summer. This is when we mourn the destruction of the Holy Temple and our launch into a still-ongoing exile.

The period begins on the 17th of the Hebrew month of Tammuz, a fast day that marks the day when the walls of Jerusalem were breached by the Romans in 69 CE. (This year, that date is postponed by one day so as not to fall on Shabbat.)


It reaches its climax and concludes with the fast of the 9th of Av, the date when both Holy Temples were set aflame. This is the saddest day of the Jewish calendar, and it is also the date of other tragedies spanning our nation's history.

There are various mourning-related customs and observances that are followed for the entire three-week period (until midday of the 10th of the Hebrew month of Av, or—if that date falls on Friday—the morning of that day). We do not cut our hair, purchase new clothes, or listen to music. No weddings are held.

**17 Tammuz** is a fast day, on which we refrain from eating and drinking from dawn to nightfall. The final Nine Days of the Three Weeks are a time of intensified mourning. Starting on the first of Av, we refrain from eating meat or drinking wine, and from wearing freshly laundered clothes.

**9 Av** is a more stringent fast than 17 Tammuz. It begins at sunset of the previous evening, when we gather in the synagogue to read the Book of Lamentations. Besides fasting, we abstain from additional pleasures: washing, applying lotions or creams, wearing leather shoes, and marital relations. Until midday, we sit on the floor or on low stools.

There is more to the Three Weeks than fasting and lamentation. Our sages tell us that those who mourn the destruction of Jerusalem will merit seeing it rebuilt with the coming of Moshiach. May that day come soon, and then all the mournful dates on the calendar will be transformed into days of tremendous joy and happiness.



## Attention to all Shul and Sisterhood Members

Harriet Diamond is working on the new Shul Directories. Please check your listing in the current editions and notify Harriet of any changes or corrections. Send changes to Harriet by e-mail, [hardiam819@gmail.com](mailto:hardiam819@gmail.com).



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### *Letter from Jerusalem*



### Religious Royalty at the Kotel

Ovadia Yosef, former chief Sephardic rabbi of Israel was one of the best known and most respected religious leaders of our time. Soon after his recent demise, his son, Rabbi Yitzchok Yosef assumed the mantle of leadership.

Joining the people who had come to "daven" at the Kotel a few days before Shavuot were two of my grandsons, now staying with me, Menachem from Milwaukee and Levi from London. Shortly after their arrival they noticed the crowds making way for a former Chief Rabbi prior to Ovadia Yosef, Rabbi Amar. He was attired like royalty, in a high hat and a long velvet caftan. Accompanied by his entourage, he approached the kotel just where Menachem and Levi were standing. I was very touched that Levi asked the Rabbi to say a special prayer for my health.

From my daughter, Shira:

Shavuot is coming and we're all excited! We are happily opening our hearts and souls to receiving the Torah from the Holy One, Blessed Be He, again this year. It is an uplifting time and there are Torah classes and inspiring remarks by our spiritual leaders on all fronts: in Shuls, in classrooms, newsletters that are distributed for free, telephone "shiurim" which one can dial, and newspapers. The men, in

particular must sleep in the afternoon "erev chag," so they can be awake learning Torah all night, usually with a "chavrusa," a learning partner. Most have regular partners for Shavuot, even if it's only once a year.

The culmination of Shavuot's night of learning is the procession of worshipers to the Kotel. This takes place about 4:00 a.m. when the city reverberates to the sound of marching feet that stream toward the Old City where upwards of 50,000 people gather to pray. This is the traditional "aliyat ha Regel" as in ancient days. (I'm very pleased to say that my two grandsons, Menachem from Milwaukee and Levi from Chicago were part of this crowd.) It is a truly unforgettable sight

In the 19th century Rabbi Shimshon Raphael Hirsch commented that Shavuot is the culmination of the journey of the Jewish people who were given their physical freedom on Pesach and received their spiritual redemption seven weeks later after the giving of the Torah on Mt. Sinai (exerpted from the Jerusalem Post).

I am writing this on the first of the three days of "Hagbalah". meaning limitations or boundaries. People are instructed to not approach Mt. Sinai, to not have relations with their spouses and to purify themselves. The goal is to have the proper frame of mind and spiritual state in order to receive the Torah. Exodus, Chapter 9, verses 10 to 15.

Since I am interested in words, I learned that this root gimel bet lamed can mean border, as in "gvulot revhavot" (wide borders) or "mugbalot" (handicapped) such as "yeladim mugbalot" (handicapped children).

### A Surprising Connection

Along with several other ladies, I was invited to a friend's house for lunch. As is natural our conversation referred to some details about our families. Our hostess made an especially interesting comment: Her "mechutan" by the name of Lee Samson, was once an Orthodox Jewish Youth group leader, NCSY, in California. He formed several groups throughout the state and with his

leadership savvy, he was able to prosper financially, after he left his youth group work. So, our hostess asked, "Whom do you think is having lunch at my "mechutan's" home in Los Angeles? The surprising answer was--- Donald Trump. Our discussion then led to the fact that Trump's daughter converted and married an orthodox man and Clinton's daughter-also became Jewish though she and her husband are not orthodox.....so the world turns.

When we come to the Kotel we may be so engrossed in our davening that we don't realize that the Kotel -- spiritual home to millions-- is built of stones that serve as the physical home for various animals and plants. The many cracks and clefts in the Kotel stones serve as nesting spots for birds. Among the birds that come are jackdaws, swallows, house sparrows and the common swift. Pigeons and doves also abound. It is said that birds have a sixth sense for holiness, and visitors to the Kotel will notice the profusion of birds that inhabit the area. Small lizards are also seen darting among the stones.

The most common plant in the Wall is the henbane. Its Hebrew name is shikaron a form of the word "drunkenness." The name is thought to derive from the poisonous intoxicating substances contained within the plant. It was used by ancient peoples for "witchcraft (kishuf) and potions." The Egyptians smoked henbane to obtain relief from toothaches while the first hospitals in Eretz Yisrael utilized it as an anesthetic. Today, alkaloids derived from henbane are used in anti-spasm medications and painkillers.

*Podonosma orientalis*, called "matsitsuri " in Hebrew is the second most common plant in the Wall. It is able to penetrate stone with its roots in order to extract water. The Sicilian snapdragon, called "loa ha'ari" (mouth of the lion) in Hebrew, is often found on the higher sections of the Wall. This plant often roots in cracks between the stones of a wall and on fences. The Kotel is also host to the horsetail knotgrass, called "shvatvatanafi" in Hebrew, which is mentioned in the Gemara (Shabbos 15) as an antidote for snakebite. Phagnalon, a small plant called

"tzamarnithaslayim" in Hebrew can be found scattered along the Wall.

Late Breaking Happy Family News. Last night my granddaughter (Rashi and Ruti) Yocheved, gave birth to a lovely baby boy. We are looking forward to his Bris next week. B:H Yocheved today, looking a bit wan and tired, is, along with her husband, and two boys, aged two and four years old, radiating happiness.

Shavua Tov and Warm Regards,

Cyrelle

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### **Jewish Heritage Europe**

Jewish Heritage Europe is an expanding web portal to a wide range of news, information and resources concerning Jewish monuments and heritage sites all over Europe. It is a project of the Rothschild Foundation (Hanadiv) Europe (RFHE) and builds on and expands a previous version of the site. To learn more about this important organization, visit [www.jewish-heritage-europe.eu](http://www.jewish-heritage-europe.eu)

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Ed. Note.:

For all you Facebook junkies ...

There are couple of FB groups that have provided me with hours of good reading, research and insight, and I recommend them for anyone looking for Jewish insight and history and a connection to others who are doing the same.

Polish Jewish Roots

Polish Jewish Matters and the Holocaust

Gesher Galicia

Jewish Genealogy Portal

Enjoy!  
*Judy*