



YOUNG ISRAEL OF WEST HARTFORD
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YOUNG ISRAEL OF WEST HARTFORD

Rabbi's Corner

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable Memorial Day weekend. I heard from so many people about the things that they did from the most exciting to the most simple. It is nice to have a little reprieve sometimes from the daily grind and from the weekly routine to clear your head, to relax, or to do the things you don't otherwise get to do. It had struck me that it is, in fact, a very Jewish concept!

Judaism is very cyclical and routine. In general, we strive for consistency because it helps to get us in the habit of doing *Torah* and *Mitzvot*. Chazal (actually Shammai), already in the first chapter of *Pirke Avot*, tell us: "*aseh toratcha keva*," you should make your *Torah* learning "*keva*". Rashi interprets this as habitual, fixed, and regular. Rambam seems to read it more as a charge to make *Torah* the one fixed thing in your life; as much as life is always changing and we need to adapt, *Torah* should remain the constant. However, in stark contrast to this general human desire, general Jewish desire, and specific *Torah* desire for habituation, we have a counter statement of Chazal which says, also about *Torah* learning, that we wish for newness and something different every day. Furthermore, in the second chapter of *Pirke Avot* it says in the name of Rabbi Shimon: "*al taas tefiltacha keva*." This is a plea NOT to make our prayers habitual or routine, but to change them up and make them new and exciting for ourselves every day.

What we see from the totality of Judaism is that both habit and newness are important. It is good to get in the groove and set a routine because it helps train us better and it helps us get used to observances, but it is also good to change it up sometimes because it makes you think and makes you appreciate all you are doing. Breaking the habit once in a while is a way of keeping things fresh and exciting.

Rabbi Frand points out that this message of trying to take a *Torah* that we always strive to make habitual and make it new is the message of Shavuot as well. In *Parshat Emor* the *Torah* says: "You shall offer a new

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Shabbat Parshat Naso
June 4th, 2011 ✨ **2 Sivan 5771**
Kiddush this Shabbat
Is in honor of our Graduates

<u>Nursery</u>	<u>Kindergarten</u>
Yeshaiyah Bernstein	Elaine Braunschweiger
Eden Kesler	Tziyona Goldfischer
Nira Kesler	Yitzy Loew
Maya Wolpaw	Aharon Sheinkopf

<u>5th Grade</u>	<u>8th Grade</u>
Netanel Lindenberg	Danielle Dulberg
Renee Silver	Segev Kanik
	Miriam Young

High School
 Nathaniel Pava

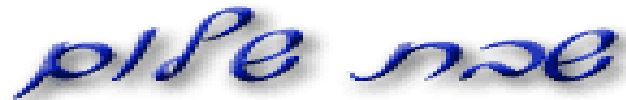
College
 Judie Laufer
 Simon Lichter
 Judith Luger
 Ranit Patel
 Lisa Pinchover
 Zach Pinchover

Post Graduate
 Eric Wittenberg

Ice cream for the kiddush has been dedicated by Rena and Eli in honor of Judith's graduation and the one year anniversary of the last time they dedicated ice cream.

WOMEN'S ROSH CHODESH TEHILLIM GROUP

Will be held on
 Sunday evening, June 5th
 at 7:30 PM
 at the home of Judie Patel, 100 Lawler Road



והג שמח!

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judith.hessing@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATES
UPCOMING YIWH & COMMUNITY EVENTS

HAGH SCHOLARSHIP DINNER

Tuesday, June 14th at 5:30 PM

At Beth El Temple

Honoring

Rabbi Yitzchok Adler

Betty Anderson

Marc Bokoff

Steve Shuman

Sherry Whitehead

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Acknowledgment donations should be sent to
Debbie Luger at 37 Miamis Road

מזל טוב

מזל טוב to Meira Goldfischer on taking first place in the recent Memorial Day essay contest sponsored by the Jewish War Veterans of America at the Hebrew Academy of Greater Hartford. Congratulations also to classmates Aviana Schwartz and Elana Everett, on being chosen as runner-up winners.

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meal offering to Hashem" [Vayikra 23:16]. This "new meal offering" is what is known as the "Shteit HaLechem" [Two Loaves]. Rashi cites the simple interpretation of the expression "new meal offering", namely that it must come from the new year's wheat crop.

Rabbi Frand in one of his *parsha* classes cites the Kli Yakar's more homiletic interpretation of this expression. The Kli Yakar suggests that the "new meal offering" alludes to the day of the giving of the Torah. The Torah should be seen as new to us, every day, as if just we had just received it from Sinai that very day (similar to the Rashi which says this about *Torah* in the book of *Devarim*). In other words, the sacrifice that symbolizes the essence of the holiday of *Shavuot* is a "new meal offering" because *Shavuot* represents the day *Torah* was given and *Torah* equates with the idea that "every day it should be fresh in your eyes."

The Kli Yakar points out that *Shavuot* is unique among all Torah holidays in that there is no specific calendar date associated with it. *Pesach* is the 15th of *Nissan*, *Yom Kippur* is the 10th of *Tishrei*, and so forth. Each *Yom Tov* has an exact date and time whereas *Shavuot* has no set day. It is merely 50 days after the second day of *Pesach* at the end of the counting of the 49 days of the *Omer*. The lesson behind this is that every day is a day of receiving the *Torah*. There was only one day on which the Exodus occurred. But receipt of *Torah* is an "every day event." The symbol of this holiday is the NEW meal offering to Hashem.

We have an AMAZING *Shavuot* program planned full of new things that will change up our regular patterns and inspire us to greater heights in *Torah* learning. We will be joined by two wonderful young ladies from the Graduate Program for Advanced Talmudic Studies at Stern College; they will deliver classes and enhance our *yom tov*. Also, we will hear from many congregants and friends over the two days of *chag*. Please join us, take advantage of all that is being offered, and enjoy! Whether overnight or during the day each of us should strive to make the most of the time.

I wish you all a very good *shabbos* and a *chag sameach* for next week.

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Contact: Judith Hessing (860-233-6042)

at 18 Grenhart Street

URGENT ERUV ALERT- PLEASE BE ADVISED:

Due to complications the ERUV has been

RE-ROUTED for a few weeks.

SEE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

<http://youngisraelwh.org/index.php/en/home/the-eruv>

KOSHER FOOD PANTRY DRIVE

The Jewish Family Services Kosher Food Pantry is running low to empty. Summer is a tough time for any pantry; so why not help ours. A box will be placed in the basement and lobby of the *Shul* through June 30th. PLEASE-HELP, cans, boxes, staples, paper products, toiletries and cleaning products accepted.

SAVE THE DATE
YIWH CRUISE DINNER
September 11th at 6:30 PM

Rabbi Mayer Twersky www.torahweb.org

Chazal [our Sages] comment that the *parsha* of *nazir* (the nazirite) is juxtaposed to that of *sotah* (the adulteress) to teach us that “one who witnesses the corruption and downfall of the *sotah* should accept upon himself an oath to abstain from wine.”

Chazal are commenting on a typological case where intoxication was a major contributing factor to the sin of adultery. This causal nexus between intoxication and loss of appropriate inhibition is all too prominently manifest in contemporary American society, most infamously on college campuses. But adultery in particular, and promiscuity, in general, are only two of the manifold dangers of intoxication. *Ono'as devarim* (hurtful speech) commonly issues forth from lips loosened by the effects of intoxication. Nor should we forget for even a moment the sacrilege perpetrated by those who are visibly intoxicated on *Shabbos* during *musaf* after participating in their *kiddush* club. *Shabbos* is a day consecrated “*la-Hashem Elokecha*”(to Hashem, your God); *tefillah* (prayer) involves standing before Hashem and speaking to Him. What a compounded *chilul Hashem* to be intoxicated while *davening* (praying) on *Shabbos*!

The Sochatchover Rebbe, with great insight and sensitivity, recognizes in the aforementioned comment of *Chazal* vital guidance for a life of continuous ascent in *avodas Hashem* (service of Hashem). Why is it necessary, asks the Rebbe, to accept an oath? One who witnessed the gruesome death of the adulteress will forever be deterred from drinking by this powerful memory. The answer, he explained, is that the force of even the most vivid and powerful experience gradually wanes and dissipates. As the memory becomes more distant, its affect on the person diminishes until it ultimately disappears entirely.

One can, however, prevent this process. While in the firm grip of the powerful experience, one makes a *kabalah* (resolution). A clearly defined, practical *kabalah* introduces permanent change into a person's life in a very concrete fashion. The memory of the *sotah* will steadily weaken and its influence will dissipate unless he reacts by accepting an oath.

At various points and times in our lives we are blessed with moments of inspiration and exceptional clarity. The possible sources of inspiration are many. Perhaps it was a *dvar Torah* (Torah thought) we heard, the experience of *Shabbos* or *Yom Tov*. At such moments we gain clarity about life and its priorities. The inspiration and pursuant clarity, however, will be short-lived unless we immediately translate them into action.

Case in point: *b'ezras Hashem* the *Yom Tov* of *Shavuot* will be such a source of inspiration. In order to consolidate the spiritual gains of *Yom Tov*, however, we must make *kabalot*. What additional learning *sedarim* (sessions) are we going to accept? When precisely are we going to learn? What - and at what pace - are we going to learn? How are we going to enhance the quality of the time that we already devote to *Talmud Torah*? The inspiration and clarity afforded by the *Yom Tov* of *Shavuot* can permanently impact our lives if we ask and successfully answer these questions.

YAHREIT LECTURE

Sunday, June 12th at 7:30 PM

Nechama Liss-Levinson, PhD

Talking to Children About Death

As in past years, Yahrzeit booklets will be distributed that include the names of family members and others whom we wish to remember on this occasion. These booklets are then used when remembering departed loved ones during Yizkor services.

Dr. Liss-Levinson is a psychologist and psychoanalyst who has spent many years helping people learn to cope with the difficulties and complexities of life, will be our keynote speaker. She has written extensively on helping families grieve, especially dealing with children facing loss. Her book, *When a Grandparent Dies: A Kid's Own Remembering Workbook for Dealing with Shiva and the Year Beyond* (Jewish Lights Publishing) has helped thousands of children and their families and is now in its fifth printing. Dr. Liss-Levinson recently won the 2009 Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award for her children's book, *When the Hurricane Came to New Orleans*, a story about a young Jewish girl, Gertie, and her family, who must evacuate New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina arrives.

☆ YIWH Schedule of Services ☆ June 3rd - 10th, 2011 Shabbat Parshat Naso		<u>It is easy to sponsor a Kiddush</u> <u>Or Seudah Shlishit!</u>
Friday, June 3rd - Rosh Chodesh Sivan Shacharit Mincha/Maariv Candle Lighting Shabbat, June 4th Rabbi Sheinkopf's Mishna Brurah Class Shacharit Sof Zman Kriat Shma Shabbat Morning Youth Groups Rabbi's Shabbat Afternoon Class Mincha followed by Seudah Shlishit & Maariv Shabbat Ends Sunday, June 5th - Thursday, June 2nd Earliest Tallit & Tefillin Shacharit... Sunday Followed by Rabbi Weinberg's Gemara Shiur on Masechet Makot Shacharit... Monday Mincha/Maariv... Sunday & Monday Tuesday, June 7th - Erev Shavuot Shacharit... Tuesday Candle lighting Mincha/Maariv Tikkun Layl Shavuot Wednesday, June 8th - 1st Day of Shavuot Alot Hashachar - Dawn Shacharit Vatikin Shacharit Mincha/Maariv Candle Lighting after... Thursday, June 9th - 2nd Day of Shavuot Shacharit Megillat Ruth Yizkor Mincha/Maariv Chag Ends Friday, June 10th Shacharit Mincha/Maariv Candle Lighting	6:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m. 8:02 p.m. 8:15 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 9:03 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 7:05 p.m. 7:50 p.m. 9:03 p.m. 4:14 a.m. 8:15 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 6:45 a.m. 8:10 p.m. 6:45 a.m. 8:05 p.m. 8:10 p.m. 11:45 p.m. 4:04 a.m. 4:40 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 8:10 p.m. 9:05 p.m. 9:00 a.m. 9:45 a.m. 8:10 p.m. 9:06 p.m. 6:45 a.m. 7:00 p.m. 8:06 p.m.	Shul handles set up & Clean up! Contact Judie Patel at 236-4178 or judiep@gmail.com to check the availability of the date you need & call Fran Wittenberg 860-232-2320 to make the arrangements for the type of Kiddush you want to sponsor. <u>Checks need to be received</u> <u>the Sunday prior to your</u> <u>Kiddush date.</u> Send to David Cohen at 19 Mansfield Avenue. There are three types of Kiddushim: Standard for \$150, Semi-Deluxe for \$250 & Deluxe for \$350 With supplements available. For Seudah Shlishit contact Stan Rutstein at 232-3369 <u>KIDDUSH SCHEDULE</u> 6/4 Graduates Kiddush 6/25 Halpern

Check out the weekly Schedule on the YIWH Website <http://go.youngisraelwh.org/times> Times from: www.ou.org/holidays/calendar
For Eruv Information: twitter.com/WHartfordEruv or <http://youngisraelwh.org/index.php/en/home/the-eruv>
(Hotline - 860-232-6417)

Want to join the Listserve?

If you are interested in subscribing to the yiwhevents listserv, send an e-mail to webmaster@youngisraelwh.org and he will add your name. If you are a member of the group, you can send an e-mail to the entire group by addressing your e-mail to yiwhevents@yahoogroups.com.

