



Lake Placid Synagogue Newsletter

2307 Saranac Avenue, Lake Placid, NY 518-523-3876

May/June 2012

From the Desk of the Adirondacker May/June 2012

As I look forward in the calendar the first thing that strikes me is that Shavuot is on May 27 and 28. It means that the liturgical cycle of the Jewish year is almost over. Then we look forward to Rosh Hashanah - New Year. The preparation begins almost immediately.

Now is the time when we count the omer. It is a fifty day count from the first day of Passover until Shavuot (which means 'weeks' that is a week of weeks, or 7 times seven days and the next day, number 50 is Pentecost). There is a special meaning to counting. We can do in anticipation of something good and positive, or something bad and negative. Personally I describe myself as an optimistic fatalist – everything which happens is meant to be, is the right thing at the right time and is in our best interest.

Shavuot is the time when we remember the giving of the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai and our Brit - our covenant with God that we would be his people. It is a festival full of expectation and responsibility. We are reminded of our acceptance of the Torah on many occasions - and especially when our young people accept the responsibilities and privileges of Judaism for themselves.

Life is directly proportional to the effort which we put into living. In the old computer world there was a word, and probably still is, GIGO, garbage in, garbage out. That is how it is with life. When you focus on the good things, they come into your life. And when you focus on the bad things, they too come into your life. Moses says that there is a choice between good and evil, life and death, blessing and curse. Then he says: CHOOSE good and life and blessing. Let us follow his advice, remembering that no choice is a choice!

With best wishes for a wonderful summer and looking forward to seeing you at services.

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JOIN US FOR SHABBAT SERVICES AND
POTLUCK DINNER THE THIRD FRIDAY
EVENING OF EACH MONTH AT 6:30PM*

May 18th, 6:30pm – Service & Potluck
May 27th, 11am - Shavuot Service & Brunch
June 15th, 6:30pm – Service & Potluck

*Summer Services start July 6th and are every
Friday evening at 8pm for July and August

President's Message – May 2012

Last issue I said that winter had finally arrived at the end of February. I think it forgot to stay for March, but returned for April. What weird weather we have had!

Once again we had a fabulous Passover Seder. While our numbers were down as the Seder fell during school vacation, we still had 32. My sincere thanks go out to our organizers, cooks and setup/cleanup crew - Susan Friedmann, Jordanna Mallach, Adrienne Ratigan and her god-daughter, Hannah, and my hubby, Harris Semegram.

On a personal note, this month holds a huge highlight for me as my youngest son Richard will graduate from Law School. I am so very proud of his accomplishments.

Sue Semegram, President

A bissel a Yiddish– a continuing tutorial

Here are the Yiddish words for this issue:

1. **shamus** (SHAH-muhs, SHAY-)

noun: 1. A private detective. 2. A police officer.

Perhaps from Yiddish shames/shammes (sexton, a caretaker at a synagogue), from Hebrew shamash (servant). The spelling of the word has altered from the influence of the Celtic name Seamus (equivalent to James) as many police officers in the US at the time, especially in New York, were Irish. First recorded use: 1925.

2. **golem** (GO-luhm, -lem)

noun: 1. An automaton. 2. A blockhead.

From Yiddish goylem, from Hebrew golem (shapeless mass). First recorded use: 1897.

In Jewish legend a golem was a human-like figure brought to life supernaturally. The most famous of these golem stories is of the golem of Prague, in which a 16th century rabbi created a golem to protect the Jews from anti-Semitic attacks.



Yartzeit Candle/Yizkor Service

There are 4 times a year when Jews light a special candle, called a Yartzeit Candle, in memory of loved ones who have died. Yizkor is a memorial service recited on Yom Kippur as well as the last days of Passover, Shavuot, and Sukkot. Yizkor, the Hebrew word for "remember", asks God to remember those we mourn and to grant them proper rest.

A Yartzeit Candle is lit at sundown on...

The first night of Yom Kippur

The night of Shemini Atzeret
(the 8th night of Sukkot)

The second night of Shavuot

The last night of Passover

Yizkor service takes place the following day.

LYAR

Lyar 10	May 2	Yetta Cymberg Ben Zucker
Lyar 13	May 5	Anne Ida Futterman David Sheckley
Lyar 15	May 7	Yentha Gelles Louis Goldberg
Lyar 19	May 11	Johanna Lichtenstein Adolph Leon
Lyar 24	May 16	Henrietta Sabel Lillian Ringler
Lyar 26	May 18	Lea Maskovice
Lyar 27	May 19	Annie Wyzanski Spiro Baruch Halpern Harry Vinograd Rene E. Bloch
Lyar 29	May 21	Rebecca Goldberg

SIVAN

Sivan 3	May 24	Lucy Roberts
Sivan 5	May 26	Abraham Gross
Sivan 7	May 28	Abraham Dreyer
Sivan 9	May 30	Harry Rosenblum
Sivan 11	June 1	Fanny Epstein Harry Silman
Sivan 13	June 3	Hanna Silver
Sivan 14	June 4	Bertha Vinograd
Sivan 15	June 5	William W. Prager Jr.
Sivan 16	June 6	Samuel Fellman
Sivan 18	June 8	Gussie Gellers
Sivan 19	June 9	Samuel Cymberg
Sivan 20	June 10	Jenny Cohn Alan E. Mendelsohn Ben Kinberg
Sivan 23	June 13	Zolton Simoni
Sivan 24	June 14	Samuel Gorssman
Sivan 28	June 18	Victoria Feinberg
Sivan 30	June 20	Yvette Greenberg

TAMMUZ

Tammuz 1	June 21	Rose L. Berg
Tammuz 3	June 23	Dora Sussman Helen Effenbach
Tammuz 9	June 29	Hilda Mayman
Tammuz 10	June 30	Irving Mendelson Gussie Fellman

Each issue of the newsletter contains YARTZEIT observances of individuals that have some connection to the temple. We would appreciate your help by carefully reviewing the list and advising us of any additions or corrections. If your loved ones names do not appear please send the correct information including the exact date so it can be converted to the Hebrew date. We would be honored to publish their names. Please email this to Sue at: sue@lakeplacidsynagogue.org

Shavuot Service – Sunday, May 27th at 11am – Blintz Brunch!

Shavuot marks the completion of the 7-week period between Passover and Shavuot. This holiday dates from biblical times and was also known as the Festival of the Giving of the Torah (at Mount Sinai). The Torah tells us it took precisely 49 days for our ancestors to travel from Egypt to the foot of Mount Sinai (the same number of days as the Counting of the Omer) where they were to receive the Torah. Thus, Leviticus 23:21 commands: "And you shall proclaim that day (the fiftieth day) to be a holy convocation!" The name *Shavuot*, "weeks," then symbolizes the completion of a 7-week journey.

Special customs on Shavuot are the reading of the Book of Ruth, which reminds us that we too can find a continual source of blessing in our tradition. Another tradition includes staying up all night to study Torah and Mishnah, a custom called *Tikkun Leil Shavuot*, which symbolizes our commitment to the Torah and that we are always ready to receive the Torah. Traditionally, dairy dishes are served on this holiday to symbolize the sweetness of the Torah, as well as the "land of milk and honey."

CHEESE BLINTZES

For wrapper batter

3 large eggs
1/4 cup water
1/4 cup milk
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 cup all-purpose flour
1 1/2 teaspoons sugar

For filling

1 1/2 cups farmer cheese
2 cups cottage cheese
1/4 cup sugar
1 1/2 teaspoons cinnamon
1 tablespoon all-purpose flour if needed

Wrappers: Blend wrapper batter ingredients and let stand 30 minutes.

In an 8-inch skillet, preferable non-stick, melt 1/2 tbsp butter over moderately high heat. Pour in enough batter to just coat the bottom of skillet, swirling, and cook, undisturbed, until top is set and bottom is golden (do not turn wrapper over). Transfer wrapper to paper towels golden side down. Make more wrappers with remaining batter.

Filling: Blend cheeses, sugar, and cinnamon until smooth. If necessary, add flour to thicken filling.

Preheat oven to 250° and line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

Put 3 tablespoons filling in center of each wrapper and fold opposite sides of wrapper over filling until sides barely touch. Fold in ends to completely enclose filling, forming packets, and arrange, seams sides down, on baking sheet. Make more blintzes with remaining filling and wrappers. Bake blintzes, covered loosely with foil, until heated through, 5 to 10 minutes.

Shabbat Services and Potluck dinner, Friday evening, 6:30pm, May 18th, June 15th

Shavout Service and Blintz Brunch, Sunday, May 27th 11am

Summer Services start July 6th and are every Friday evening at 8pm for July and August.

Lake Placid Synagogue

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