



SINAI SYNAGOGUE MONTHLY BULLETIN



A Letter From The Rabbi

May 2009

Iyar 5769

MAILING ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 22004

Beachwood, OH 44122

216-765-0770

E-mail:

SinaiSynagogue@Juno.com

Website:

www.sinaisynagogue.com

Davening and events:

Fuchs Mizrachi School

2301 Fenwick Rd.

University Hts.

- Rabbi Moshe Berger, Ph.D.
- Rabbi Isadore Pickholtz, z'l
- Marshall Rosenberg, president
- Mitchell Rose, ba'al tefilah
- Fran Hoen, administrative assistant

Dear Sinai Family,

As many of you know, the Torah obligates each Jew to formally count the days and weeks for forty-nine days, from the second day of Passover until the holiday of Shavuot. This obligation is called the mitzvah of *sefirat ha'omer*. I want to share a few facts and concepts connected with this mitzvah.

During the Biblical period and for centuries following, Pesach marked the beginning of the *barley harvest* which was the first important harvest of the spring season. *Aviv*, which is the Modern Hebrew word for *spring*, actually means *ripe barley* in Biblical Hebrew.

The term *Omer* refers to the *barley offering* that the Jewish People brought to the Temple on the second day of Pesach. Prior to that offering, the Jews in the Land of Israel were not allowed to partake of the spring produce. Therefore, from the second day of Pesach, after the *omer* was offered, the new spring produce became permissible.

During the Biblical period and through the period of the Talmud, barley was extremely rough and therefore unfit for human consumption. The barley crop was nevertheless very valuable, as it was appropriate fodder for domesticated animals.

Seven weeks after Pesach, around the time of the holiday of Shavuot, was the commencement of the *wheat* harvest. To mark this event, the Jews were obligated to offer two loaves of wheat-bread – known as *shetay halechem* – at the Temple on Shavuot. The loaves were waved (like a *lulav*!) before the altar and then they were apportioned among the *kohanim* who were officiating at that time.

The mitzvah of *sefirat ha'omer* (counting the omer), therefore, forces us to forge a link between the barley harvest and the wheat harvest, between food for animals and food for human consumption. This correlates with the historical significance of this time period, as Pesach commemorates our freedom from slavery - from being treated as beasts of burden - and Shavuot commemorates our receiving the Torah at Sinai, therefore becoming wheat-consuming humans - representatives of Godly values to the entire world.

The mitzvah of *sefirat ha'omer* thus reminds us that freedom alone is of little value unless we utilize it properly by committing our time and resources to the realization of Godly values as revealed in the Oral and Written Torah.

May Hashem give us the strength and wisdom to “count our days” - and weeks - conscientiously, and utilize our time in this world appropriately. I hope to see you with friends and family at the Kiddush luncheon May 16th in honor of Cantor Moshe Krause, who will be visiting in order to continue recording his oral history with me.

Shabbat shalom.

Moshe Berger



Mark Your Calendar

May 10th– Mother's Day—Breakfast Sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Ed Robins in honor of Helene's Birthday.

May 12th– Lag B'Omer

May 16th– Cholent Kiddush in honor of Chazan Krause. Please call the office if you would like to help sponsor this Kiddush.

May 17th– Board Meeting 10:15 am

May 23rd– Rosh Chodesh Dairy Kiddush— We are in need of sponsors. Please call the office if you would like to help sponsor this Kiddush.

May 24th– Rosh Chodesh Sivan

May 25th– Memorial Day

May 28– Erev Shavuot— Candle Lighting is at 8:32 pm. Rabbi Berger will be having his late night study group from 12:30—2:00am

May 29th– First Day of Shavuot– Shacharit 9:30 am. Candle Lighting is at 8:33 pm.

May 30th– Second Day of Shavuot– Shacharit 9:00 am. Yizkor 10:30 am. Megillat Ruth is read. Havdala will be at 9:42 pm.

Sinai Book Club

The next meeting of the [Sinai Bookclub](#) will be on May 11th, 2009 at the home of Nikki and Haki Flores at 7:30 pm. "Not Me" by Michael Lavigne will be discussed.

Heshel Rosenheim, a Holocaust survivor suffering from Alzheimer's disease, hands his son, Michael, a boxful of journals. These journals reveal that Heshel might not be a survivor at all--He might in fact have been a Nazi, a concentration camp officer who stole the identity of one of his victims. Confusing the situation further, the journals are written in the form of a novel, and Michael cannot tell if this story is true or merely a figment of his father's guilt-ridden imagination.

Mazel Tov

***We are proud to acknowledge the honoring of Mike Frum at the Holocaust program that was presented at Park Synagogue.

***Mazel Tov to Hy Weiss on the recent Bar Mitzvah of his grandson.

***~~Happy Birthday~~ to Yossi Cassius, Helene Robins, Helayne Loeb, Molly Rosenberg, and Daniel Worthington

The next Rosh Chodesh Dairy Kiddush will be on May 23, 2009 if you would like to help sponsor this event, please call the office.

Yahrzeits for May/Iyar

Iyar 3– Morris Katz,
Betty Leiken, Jacob
Weiss

Iyar 4– Rae Gisser

Iyar 5– Dorothy Katz

Iyar 6– Sol Weiss, Samuel
Altshuler, Gizella
Benis, Helen Biel, Sidney
Davis

Iyar 7– Marcus Scheps,
Edith Brover, Thelma
Cherry, Jack Cohen,
Isaac Levin, Rose Man-
deles

Iyar 8– Harry Seucher

Iyar 9– Helen Agronoff,
Sam Auerbach, Robert
Hertz

Iyar 10– Aron Pincus

Iyar 11– Sadie Rosenthal

Iyar 13– Joseph Brover

Iyar 14– Ben Tansky,
Bene Beck

Iyar 15– Louis Steiger,
Samuel Birnbaum, Mil-
dred Congress

Iyar 16– Joseph Rehmar,
Jean Cohen

Iyar 17– Esther Pinkus,
Max Resnick

Iyar 18– Celia Swed

Iyar 19– Frieda Turkel

Iyar 21– Sidney Nagel-
bush, Louis Minsk

Iyar 24– Leon Grossman,
Klein Family

Iyar 25– Harav Yitzchak
Auerbach

Iyar 26– Henry Gisser,
Abraham Mandel, Deb-
orah Rose

Iyar 28– Rachel Savino

Iyar 29– Stanley Fried-
land, William Geller

In Appreciation

Thank you to Marshall and Judy
Rosenberg for their outstanding
commitment for taking charge of
the Sinai Wine Order Fundraiser.

Thank you to Irv Auerbach for
his outstanding commitment
and preparation for Sinai Syna-
gogue during the Pesach Holi-
day.

Donations

Kiddushes and Kiddush Fund

Mr. and Mrs. Irv Auerbach

Rabbi and Mrs. Moshe Berger

Breakfasts and Breakfast Fund

Mr. Herman Weiss

Mr. Leo Weiss

Mr. Irv Kaye

Mr. and Mrs. Steve Pincus

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Gould

In Memory

Barbara Beder– IMO Robert Hertz

Lois Kuvin– IMO Sidney Nagel-

Refuah Shleimah

We wish a speedy
recovery to...

Al Wasserman,
Saittle bat Hannah,
Hadassa bat Chaya,
Rena Kelson , Beila
bas Luba , Alex
Hertz, Samuel
Beder, Estelle
Beder, Leo
Berkenwald,
Stephen Rubin and
Steven Blau.



Rabbis:

Moshe Berger, Ph.D.

Isidore Pickholtz, z"l

Ba'al Tefilah:

Mitchell Rose, Ph.D.

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We're on the web:

www.sinaisynagogue.com

Eruv Hotline Number : 586-9222

Minyan

Monday thru Friday: 6:45 am

We are in need of men for the minyan. Please have a schedule of your availability when Fran calls you. If you are not on the list for the minyan and would like to be, please call the office and let Fran know.

Rosh Chodesh : 6:30 am (May 24th)

Candle Lighting for May:

May 1- Earliest C/L 6:57 Latest C/L 8:06 - Achare Kedoshim

May 8- Earliest C/L 7:02 Latest C/L 8:13 Parsha Emor

May 15- Earliest C/L - 7:08- Latest C/L 8:20- Parsha Behar-Bechukotai

May 22- Earliest C/L - 7:31- Latest C/L 8:27- Parsha Bamidbar

May 28- Erev Shavuos- C/L 8:32

May 29- First Day Shavuos - Shacharis 9:30 am C/L 8:33

May 30- Second Day Shavuos- Shacharit 9:00 am Yizkor 10:30 AM

