

Whitestone Hebrew Centre Bulletin

12-45 Clintonville St. Whitestone, NY 11357



שלום

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Volume XXIX No. 9

May 2020

Iyar — Sivan 5780

PLEASE NOTE:

All dates and times of services and events are contingent and depend on the current Covid-19 situation.

Until further notice (by phone tree and email), please assume that NO events or services will take place.

Schedule of Shavuot Services



Thursday, May 28th — 7:45 PM

Friday, May 29th — 9:30 AM & 7:45 PM

Saturday, May 30th — (Yizkor) 9:30 A.M.

Tikkun Leil Shavuot — Study and Discussion
Following first night services — May 28th

Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, May 19th -- 7:30 PM



Congregation Meeting

Tuesday, May 26th — 7:30 PM



Family Shabbat

May 23rd @ 10:00 AM

We look forward to seeing everyone there!





WHC Bulletin Staff

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FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY



Shavuot begins this year on Thursday night, May 28th and continues until nightfall on May 30th. Though it is one of the Three

Festivals repeatedly mentioned in the Torah, it seems to be the least known. It is no less important than Sukkot and Pesach--all three were pilgrimage festivals during which everyone living in Israel used to go to the Holy Temple in Jerusalem. Perhaps it is overlooked because according to the original Torah commandment, Shavuot only lasts one day, though the custom for the last two thousand years or so is to add an extra day to each Jewish Holiday when living in the diaspora. And there is far less preparation in anticipation of Shavuot--no cleaning the house, preparing a *Seder*, building a *Sukkah* or buying an *Etrog* and *Lulav* set. For Shavuot all we need to do is to make blintzes and buy or bake cheese cake. Nonetheless, it is worthwhile to mention why Shavuot is indeed an important and relevant holiday. How exactly Shavuot became connected with the Revelation and the receiving of the Torah on Mount Sinai is the subject of much discussion, but our liturgy in the *Amida* and in the *Kiddush* describes Shavuot as "*Z'man Matan*

Torateinu", the time of the giving of our Torah. Personally, I have difficulty with the concept that Judaism can be separated from or exist without the Torah. Whether we are comfortable with the concept or not, the blessing we all make when we are honored with an aliyah, reads "who chose us from amongst the nations and gave us the Torah". Either following or rebelling against the Torah could easily be said to define the entire historical existence of the Jewish People.

The word, Shavuot, literally means weeks, a reference to its being celebrated on the fiftieth day (seven complete weeks having gone by) after the second night of Passover. How is Shavuot celebrated (other than the cheese cake thing)? We read the Ten Commandments from the Torah on the first day. Prior to beginning the Torah Reading, a beautiful and esoteric poem, *Akdamut*, is read, which describes the relationship between God, the Torah and the Jews over the years. And for many centuries, at least some have stayed up all night studying Torah, a practice usually referred to as *Tikkun Leil Shavuot*. According to one *midrash*, the Jews slept through the night preceding the giving of the Torah and needed to be awakened. Since most of us have trouble sleeping in anticipation of major events the next morning, this was

(Continued on page 5)

SISTERHOOD

Prayer Book Fund—April 2020

Inscribed Prayer Book
in memory of Paula Hanover

- Doris Shankman

May Happy Birthdays



Binny Axelman

Kathryn Safran

Martina Osdoby

Zachary Skow

Melvin Mesnick

Condolences

To the family of Lenny Hartman on his loss

המקום ינחם אתכם
בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

May his memory be a blessing

Happy
Mother's
Day

Sunday May 10th

Sponsor a Family Shabbat , Kiddush or a Friday Night Oneg



Celebrating a birthday, anniversary,
recent achievement or observing a loved-one's Yahrzeit?

Just want to honor someone?

Sponsoring a Family Shabbat, a Shabbat Kiddush
or a Friday night Oneg in honor of a loved one
is a great way to share a special occasion.

Minimum donation - \$36.

Please contact the Centre office
at (718) 767-1500 to arrange your sponsorship.

Making Contributions

For many years Sisterhood has offered the service of sending cards from all those who wish to acknowledge both Simchas and Condolences. The response from the recipients is most heart warming. The following funds are available:

Simcha Fund.....	\$10
Chai Fund	\$18
Prayer Book Fund.....	\$10
Inscribed Prayer Books	\$25

The recipient receives an acknowledgement of the contribution and it is printed in the monthly Bulletin so all can share the feelings expressed. To place orders, call Patricia Smolker at (718) 746-7068.

Checks for the above funds should be made payable to "Sisterhood of WHC".



Recent positive news generated by Israel, of which we can all be proud.
(Articles below are excerpts of originals only)

Israeli researchers develop technology that transforms tap water into virus disinfectant

israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/279095

By Arutz Sheva Staff , April 23, 2020



Researchers from Bar-Ilan University have developed new methodologies they say produce powerful, environmentally-friendly disinfectants, based on tap water, that can eliminate bacteria and kill viruses, including microbes from the coronavirus family.

The ability to turn ordinary tap water into virus-fighting materials was developed and patented by Dr. Eran Avraham, Dr. Izaak Cohen, and Prof. Doron Aurbach , the leader of the electrochemistry group, in the Department of Chemistry and Institute of Nanotechnology and Advanced Materials at Bar-Ilan University. The materials were recently tested by Dr. Inna Kalt and Dr. Tatiana Borodiansky Shteinberg in the lab of Prof. Ronit Sarid, of the Mina and Everard Goodman Faculty of Life Sciences at the University, and proven effective in neutralizing corona-type viruses. The disinfectants are effective and safe to

use, and do not contaminate groundwater, the researchers say. The technology works through an array of nanometer-shaped electrodes with unique surface properties. The platform on which the technology is based enables the preparation of a variety of solutions for clean spaces from bacteria, such as spray-aerosols (for disinfecting surfaces, appliances, beds, closets, bathrooms, toilets, etc.), containers for immersion (washing devices, hands etc.), disinfectant wipes, hand washing, shoe washing, buckets for washing and disinfecting floors, air-conditioning systems, washing machines, and dry fog air-purifiers. The antiseptic capability is 100 times more effective than bleach and therefore low concentrations of between 50 and 200 mg of the active materials per liter are enough to disinfect (unlike bleach, which by contrast requires between 5,000 and 20,000 mg per liter). They are also much more environmentally friendly and do not cause burns or dry skin.

AmboVent: Israeli Low-Cost Invention Proposes Solution to Ventilator Crisis

<https://tinyurl.com/ybockhds>

Deborah Danan April 25, 2020

TEL AVIV – As countries around the world scramble to gain access to ventilators, an Israeli DIY design that can be downloaded for free on the internet is offering a stopgap solution to the shortage by providing the blueprint to build makeshift breathing machines for as little as \$500. AmboVent, whose inventors come from Israel's military, medical and hitech sectors, was downloaded 19,000 times within an hour of being uploaded. Three weeks later, some 300 teams around the world are working towards prototypes.

The device uses easy to find components such as windshield wipers while other parts are able to be 3D printed straight

from the design itself. Standard ventilators can cost 100 times the price so AmbuVent's solution can be a boon for poorer regions. "This can ventilate millions in Africa when no other machine is around," Eliram was quoted by the [Times of Israel](#) as saying. "In Africa, they haven't fully woken up to the coronavirus and there are hardly any ventilators, so this can make a huge difference."



Hebrew U Researchers Develop 10x Faster COVID-19 Test

<https://tinyurl.com/yc3v2q9a>

By David Israel April 13, 2020



Media outlets around the world have reported a shortage of COVID-19 testing materials. This shortage slows down the rate of testing and increases the rate of infection, as thousands of undiagnosed patients walk around,

unknowingly infecting healthy and at-risk populations. Now, Professor Nir Friedman at Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HU)'s Institute of Life Sciences and School of Engineering and Computer Science and Professor Naomi Habib at HU's Edmond and Lily Safra Center for Brain Science have developed a faster and cheaper way to test for COVID-19 using materials commonly found in diagnostic labs. Testing for COVID-19

currently involves extracting RNA molecules from a patient's swab sample to see whether they contain viral RNA that confirms the presence of the COVID-19 virus. The new method developed by Friedman and Habib can do the same thing, only faster. As Habib shared, "The virus detection protocol we developed is four-to-ten times faster than the current protocol. It's based on magnetic beads and works both robotically and manually. The robotic protocol has already been tested at Hadassah Hospital and is now fully operational." Another advantage to this new testing method is its low price. The test relies on materials that are readily available and easy to manufacture locally, making it significantly cheaper than imported kits.

Tuesday, May 12th



[Lag BaOmer](#) is a Jewish holiday celebrated on the 33rd day of the Counting of the Omer, which occurs on the 18th day of the month of Iyar. Traditionally this day marks the hillula (celebration, interpreted by some as anniversary of death) of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, a Mishnaic sage in the 2nd century, and the day on which he revealed the deepest secrets of kabbalah in the form of the Zohar, a landmark text of Jewish mysticism. This association has spawned several well-known customs and practices on Lag BaOmer, including the lighting of bonfires and pilgrimages to the tomb of Bar Yochai in the northern Israeli town of Meron.

SCHEDULE OF WHC CLASSES

(led by Rabbi Axelman)

Mondays @7:00 PM -- Judaism 101

Explores Your Questions: Why?... Because...

This is a class at which you can ask any question, dispel misconceptions, and discuss any current issues and concerns relating to Jews, Judaism or Israel, in a non-judgmental, open and candid forum. This is an ideal venue for individuals who wish to discuss basic principles of Judaism and express their views, questions, etc.

Please note that during this period of lockdown, we have been holding the Monday night class at 7:00 PM on Zoom and we would love for others to join us, either on a computer or through any telephone. Please phone the office for details.

Refreshments are served at every (in-person) class.



Memorial Day -- May 25th

FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

(Continued from page 2)

considered a lack of enthusiasm. Compensating for this failing is one of the reasons given for staying up all night studying on Shavuot.

Some read a fixed text of study compiled specifically for this night, which covers several verses from every portion of the Five Books of the Torah, the book of Ruth, parts of the *Mishna* (Oral Torah) and readings from the *Zohar* (the original book of

Kabbala). Many have a custom of studying any area of the Torah that interests them. Pending the end of this pandemic and its related lockdown, this year we would again plan to have a few hours of learning following services the first night of Shavuot, which begin at 7:45 p.m. I would hope to see many of you there. Chag Samayach!



Thank you for Donations -- April 2020

Yahrzeit

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 David and Diane Brown
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General Donations

In memory of Lenny Hartman
 Ellis Rosenblatt

In memory of Lenny Hartman
 Zula Schibuk



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WHC BULLETIN BY EMAIL!



If you would like to receive a copy of the bulletin by email, in addition to the printed version, please send your email address to haxelman@gmail.com and let us know. The email version appears in color and will reach you several days before the hard copy. Thank you!



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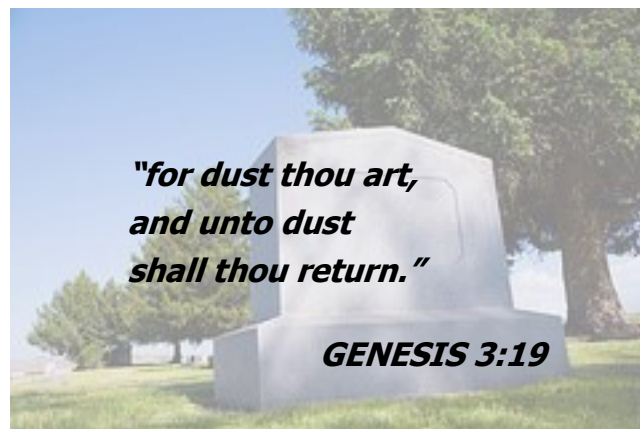
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