

# Whitestone Hebrew Centre Bulletin

12-45 Clintonville St. Whitestone, NY 11357



## שלום

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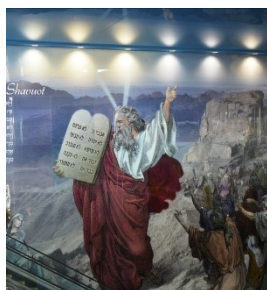


Volume XXXI No. 7

Summer 2022

Sivan — Elul 5782

### Schedule of Shavuot Services



*Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> — 7:00 PM*

*Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> — 9:30 AM & 7:00 PM*

*Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup> — (Yizkor) 9:30 A.M.*

*Tikkun Leil Shavuot — Study and Discussion  
Following first night services — June 4<sup>th</sup>*

### President's Message

My dear friends and fellow congregants, As many of you know, I've been under treatment for Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma since this past December (the path preceding the treatments began several months earlier). Even if we were in a pre-Covid world, my immune system is compromised to the point where I've not been able to risk interaction, save doctors, procedures and contacts with a very small circle of family members. Although it is certainly not a secret, I've not publicly referenced my medical journey – at least not in detail, and will not until medical

interventions are finished and I can begin planning a cautious return to the Real World. I do want to thank everyone for the cards and good wishes – it means a great deal and along with my Faith, is certainly a factor in the healing process. Nothing is 100 percent but I'm cautiously optimistic for a return to Shul in a couple of months. I wish you all good health - and a peaceful and enjoyable summer.

Bruce

### Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, June 28th -- 7:30 PM





### WHC Bulletin Staff

Rabbi Steven Axelman,  
Editor  
Sharon Samet  
Patricia Smolker

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Sunday June 19th

### WHC ADMINISTRATION

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## Overview of Shavuot

by Rabbi Axelman



Shavuot begins this year on Saturday night, June 4th and continues until nightfall on June 6th. 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 *Eitrog* 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 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. Chag Samayach!

# SISTERHOOD

## Sisterhood President's Message

Sisterhood wishes everyone a Happy Mother's and Father's Day and a Happy, Healthy and Safe summer. Please do a mitzvah and call our senior members to ask if they need anything or just to chat for a while. Hearing a friendly voice will lift their spirits.

Naomi Gukowsky  
Sisterhood President

## 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".

## May Happy Birthdays



Binny Axelman                      Kathryn Safran  
Martina Osdoby                  Zachary Skow  
Melvin Mesnick

## June Happy Birthdays

Kayla Berenson                  Alex Ratner  
Max Berenson                    Ashley Samet  
Juliana Hakim                    Yechezkel Yamen

\*Editor's note: If your birthday should be listed on this page and is not, please call the office at (718) 767-1500 and give us your date of birth. Thank you.

## Best Wishes for a

## speedy and complete recovery

Bruce Berenson  
Jill Dee



## 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](mailto: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!


## Summer Fast Days

by Rabbi Axelman

During the summer, two fast-days are observed by traditional Jews, Shiva Asar B'Tammuz (17<sup>th</sup> day of the month of Tammuz) and Tisha B'av (9<sup>th</sup> day of the month of Av). The following is based on articles on [Chabad.org](http://Chabad.org) and [Aish.com](http://Aish.com).

### Shiva Asar B'Tammuz

The 17th of Tammuz, which this year falls on Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> of July, is the first of four fast-days mentioned in the Prophets. This day marks the start of a three-week mourning period for the destruction of Jerusalem and the two Holy Temples. The fast also commemorates five tragic events that occurred on this date, according to our tradition:

- 1) Moses broke the tablets when he saw the Jewish people worshipping the Golden Calf. 
- 2) During the Babylonian siege of Jerusalem, the Jews were forced to cease offering the daily sacrifices due to the lack of sheep.
- 3) Apostomos burned the holy Torah.
- 4) An idol was placed in the Holy Temple.
- 5) The walls of Jerusalem were breached by the Romans, in 69 CE, after a lengthy siege. The Jerusalem Talmud maintains that this is also the date when Babylonians breached the walls of Jerusalem on their way to destroying the first Temple.





On this fast day, healthy adults—bar- or bat-mitzvah age and older—abstain from eating or drinking between dawn and nightfall. There are also some modifications to the daily prayers services.



### Tisha B'Av

Tisha B'Av, which this year begins on Saturday night, August 6<sup>th</sup> and ends at nightfall on Sunday August 7<sup>th</sup>, is the saddest day on the Jewish calendar. It is the culmination of the Three Weeks, which began on the 17<sup>th</sup> of Tammuz, a period of time during which gradually intensifying mourning customs and rituals are observed by traditional Jews. During these three weeks, weddings are not celebrated and live music is forbidden. During the first nine days of the month of Av, people refrain from eating meat and drinking wine (other than on Shabbat), as well as bathing for pleasure (e.g., swimming) and certain other pleasurable activities. Like Shiva Asar B'Tammuz, Tisha B'av also commemorates five tragic events that occurred on this date according to our tradition.

- 1) During the time of Moses, (1312 BCE) the Jews in the desert accepted the slanderous report of the 10 Spies, and the decree was issued forbidding them from entering the Land of Israel. 
- 2) The First Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians (586 or 423 BCE), led by Nebuchadnezzar. 100,000 Jews were slaughtered and millions more exiled. 
- 3) The Second Temple was destroyed by the Romans (70 CE), led by Titus. Some two million Jews died, and another one million were exiled.
- 4) The Bar Kochba revolt was crushed by the Roman Emperor Hadrian (135 CE). The city of Beitar – the Jews' last stand against the Romans – was captured and liquidated. Over 100,000 Jews were slaughtered.
- 5) The Temple area and its surroundings were plowed under by the Roman general Turnus Rufus. Jerusalem was rebuilt as a pagan city – renamed Aelia Capitolina – and access was forbidden to Jews.

Later on in our history, many more tragedies happened on this day, including the 1290 expulsion of England's Jews and the 1492 banishment of all Jews from Spain.

Tisha B'av is the only fast-day that, like Yom Kippur, begins at sunset the night before. Also, like on Yom Kippur, leather shoes are not worn and there is a custom to sit low to the floor (as during Shiva) until after prayer services the morning of Tisha B'av. The custom is not to greet people in the customary manner the entire day. Services are usually conducted with dimmed lights and in the morning Tallis and Tefillin are not worn during services, but they are donned during the afternoon services instead.





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



### **Texas school shooting: Could Israeli school security methods serve as model for US schools?**

May 27, 2022

[foxnews.com](https://www.foxnews.com)



Shooting attacks on schools in Israel are rare and the Jewish state's preventive security measures could be a helpful starting point for improved school security in the U.S. This comes at a time of public debate on how best to secure schools in the wake of the Texas school shooting that left 19 students and two teachers dead at the Robb elementary school in Uvalde, Texas. There have been six terrorist attacks on Israeli schools since 1974. That low figure can be explained by the multiple layers of security Israel employs and the engagement of civil society in aiding the nation's law enforcement. David Hazony, a writer, and commentator on Israeli and American affairs and a father to

eleven children, told Fox News Digital that the country "puts effort into identifying potential assailants through behavioral profiling." Israel could not prevent attacks if its efforts were based solely on armed security guards at each school, he said. Israel "invests heavily in monitoring profiles of people," Hazony continued. It has a "complex, multi-layered approach" to security that uses intelligence networks to examine the acquisition of weapons and social media activity, he said. Arbiv, who has 27 years of military and security experience, said his system employed a "spotter 50 meters from school" who patrolled the area and kept an eye out. Visitors to the school "could only come from one direction," he said.

### **Israeli innovation: A glimpse into the future of surgical robotics**

May 2, 2022

[jpost.com](https://www.jpost.com)

Dvir Cohen is the CEO of Memic Innovative Surgery, a company that develops advanced robotic medical tools. Memic's proprietary product, a servo-controlled robotic tissue grasper, allows surgeons to perform less damaging and less invasive procedures thanks to its unique design, which emulates the shoulder, elbow and wrist joints of a human arm. "When you add the shoulder into play, it allows more than 360 degrees of rotation and flexion, allowing the surgeon to reach regions that were previously unreachable."

Gynecology is a key use case for your technology; are there any other applications for Memic's device that you're eyeing? "We're definitely not a one-trick pony. Now as we speak, we're going to general surgery. The vast majority of surgical

cases are not being adopted robotically today, due to the physical footprint and the sheer cost of other systems. "Today's surgical robotics devices are straight sticks with graspers at one end, and large and bulky motors at the other. Our device puts the motors inside the shoulder, elbow and wrist along the instrumentation. It's a fraction of the size of other systems, and therefore it's a fraction of the price of other systems. We're solving the economical value proposition and the clinical value proposition in gynecology and now in general surgery."



### **Israeli startup will supply a major automaker in \$4 billion deal**

May 16, 2022

[worldisraelnews.com](https://www.worldisraelnews.com)



Innoviz Technologies, an Israeli company providing LiDAR sensors and perception software for safe autonomous vehicles, has entered a multibillion-dollar deal to be the direct LiDAR supplier across multiple brands of a major vehicle manufacturer. The selection follows "two years of extensive diligence and qualification, and will increase Innoviz's forward-looking order book by \$4 billion to \$6.6 billion," the company revealed in a press statement. The vehicle manufacturer was not named but there has been speculation that it may be Volkswagen. "We are proud to deliver our outstanding

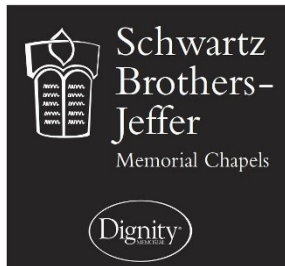
InnovizTwo LiDAR and perception software as the direct supplier to support this new series production program," said Innoviz CEO and co-founder Omer Keilaf. "We are expecting the scope of this deal to grow even further as additional car brands within the group adopt our platform. In addition, we anticipate more carmakers to follow this decision in their autonomous vehicle programs," Keilaf said. Innoviz's LiDAR and perception software, he explained, "see" better than a human driver and reduce the possibility of error.



Rabbi Axelman at the May 30th Whitestone Memorial Day Parade, the first one held in three years.  
 From L. to R. with NYS Senator (and Congregant) Toby Stavisky,  
 Whitestone VFW Post 4787 Commander Fred Hensel , Queens Borough President Donovan Richards  
 and NYC Councilwoman Vickie Paladino

#### Excerpts from a recent press release updating the community

Schwartz Brothers-Jeffer Memorial Chapels in Forest Hills and its sister chapel, Riverside Nassau North Chapels in Great Neck have



entered into an agreement to serve Sinai Chapels' families following the decision to sell the real estate and close the Sinai Chapels building on Horace Harding Expressway. Michael Resnick, the long-time President of Sinai Chapels, will serve as a consultant to Schwartz Brothers and Riverside-Nassau North. This agreement ensures that the Jewish community of Queens and its surrounding areas will continue to have the Resnick family's commitment of providing attentive, quality services that reflect Jewish funeral traditions and customs and honor loved ones with compassionate care. "My family and I are deeply committed to New York's Jewish community," said Resnick. "It is deeply important to me that our community will be well cared for in their time of need.



Schwartz Brothers provides the high-quality services that Sinai Chapels has been committed to providing for four generations. I made this decision with great care and effort and am confident that Schwartz Brothers and Riverside Nassau North Chapels are the perfect fit to accommodate the families who have relied on Sinai Chapels for many years." Said Resnick, "I recently sold the Sinai Chapels building. As I thought about the future and how Sinai's families would best be served, only one organization came to mind, SCI Funeral Services of New York, Inc. (SCI), which owns and operates Schwartz Brothers-Jeffer Memorial Chapels, Riverside Nassau North Chapels. SCI has served Queens and the surrounding community in New York with distinction for generations and is a part of the Dignity Memorial network, which is the largest network of fine funeral homes in the United States. Knowing that SCI has the experience to serve Sinai's families and the affiliate network to support those services gave me confidence that those with Sinai Chapels' Pre Plans would be best served in SCI's care." Mr. Resnick further stated, "I am pleased that many of Sinai's licensed and experienced funeral directors are now working at SCI area chapels. They, along with their SCI colleagues, will continue to provide the same level of care and compassion that Sinai's families are accustomed to receiving." All Pre-need contracts written through Sinai Chapels will be honored by Schwartz Brothers, Riverside Nassau North Chapels as well as other providers in the Dignity Memorial network, depending on a family's desires. Families will primarily be served at Schwartz Brothers-Jeffer Memorial Chapels at 114-03 Queens Blvd in Forest Hills, located approximately 3 miles from the former Sinai Chapels building. Schwartz Brothers-Jeffer Memorial Chapels specializes in Jewish funeral traditions and is currently completing a multi-million dollar renovation.



## Thank you for Donations -- April and May 2022

### Yahrzeit

Eli Albagli  
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Sandy Westen  
Clara Wiesler  
Edward Winkler  
Jeffrey Young & Judi Glass

### General Donations

**Sponsoring of a Kiddush on the 7th day of Pesach  
for the yahrzeit of Hannah Axelman,  
Rabbi Axelman's grandmother**  
Phyllis Oppenheim and family

**Donation and Shabbat Kiddush  
in honor of dedicating a plaque  
in memory of Paula Hanover**

John & Berthe Ford  
Alain & Carol Hanover

#### **For Mi Shebeirach**

Madelaine Kasden

#### **Yizkor donations**

Arthur Isman


Jeffrey & Kathy Bardekoff

Zula Schibuk



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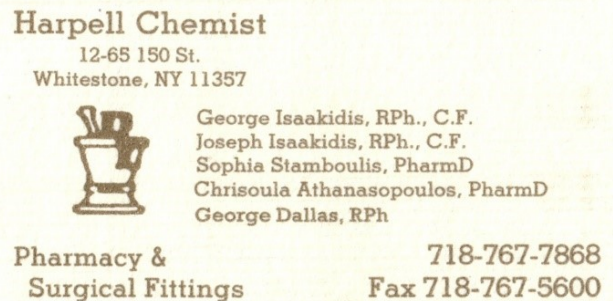
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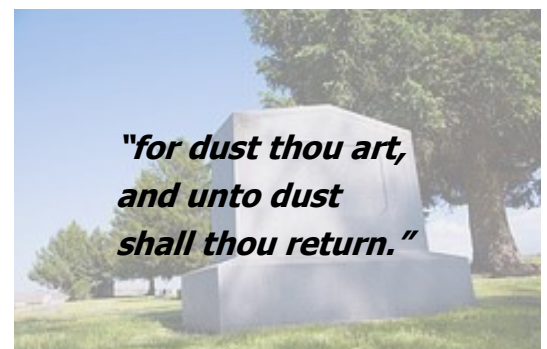
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## Whitestone Hebrew Centre Congregational Cemetery

**Burial Plots Available**  
**New Montefiore Cemetery**  
**Pinelawn, Long Island**  
**Contact: Ronald Kohn**  
**Cemetery Committee Chair**  
**at WHC (718) 767-1500**



## SCHEDULE OF WHC CLASSES

(led by Rabbi Axelman)

**Mondays @7:00 PM -- Judaism 101 Explore Your Questions**



Please check our website for updated days and times of classes.  
Currently classes are being streamed on zoom and not being held in person.