
The YI/Merrick NEWS

** Shavuot 1998 **

Just when you thought you finally got your cholesterol level back to something approaching normal after all that Pesach snacking, here comes Shavuot, and there's nothing quite like a three day yontif to make you seriously consider moving to Israel. There are lots of things going on at the shul and this year, thanks to David Ritholtz, we have an organized set of speakers that can now be revealed to the public.

Shavuot Schedule:

Friday night, May 29: Candle-lighting is 7:58 p.m., Mincha is at 8:05 p.m.

Shabbat Morning, May 30:

Shacharit - 9:00 a.m., Rabbi's Shiur - 7:25 p.m., Mincha - 7:55 p.m., Candle-lighting is after 9:07 p.m.

Tikkun Layl Shavuot begins at 12:00 a.m.

Sunday, May 31, 1st day yomtov: Shacharit will be at 4:40 a.m. and at 9:00 a.m., Mincha - 8:05, and Candle-lighting - after 9:08.

Monday, June 1, 2nd day yomtov : Shacharit begins at 9:00 a.m. during which Yizkor will be recited and Megillat Ruth will be read. Mincha - 8:05 and YomTov ends at 9:09 (at which point you can officially start your diet with no excuses until mid-September).

Shabbat goes on Summertime

As of Friday June 5th the Young Israel of Merrick will start bringing in Shabbat early. Mincha will be at 7.15p.m.. and candles have to be lit before 7.30pm.

Program for Tikkun Layl Shavuot:

12:00 a.m. - 12:45 a.m. : Rabbi M. Volk will speak on "The P'sak Halacha through the Perspective of Rabbi Joseph B. Soleveitchik".

12:45 a.m. - 1:30 a.m. : Dr. Howard Nathanson will speak on "The Halachic Ramifications of Translations"

1:30 a.m. - 2:00 a.m. : There will be a break and chevrusa learning

2:00 a.m. - 2:30 a.m. : Avi Abikzer will speak on "Sefirat Ha'Omer".

2:30 a.m. - 3:00 a.m. : Jack Lockspeiser will speak on "The Rambam and the Neshama".

3:00 a.m. - 3:45 a.m. : A hot home-cooked breakfast will be served to the loyal, devoted, coherent and awake, courtesy of Avi Abikzer, with Arthur Ritholtz, donning chef's hat, and cooking up a storm.

3:50 a.m. - 4:15 a.m. : Aharon Rattner will speak on the "The Ten Commandments".

4:15 a.m. - 4:40 a.m. : Yishai Maynard will speak on "Is it acceptable to perform a small sin in order to prevent someone from doing a greater one?".

Shacharit will be, P"YH, at 4:40 a.m. An advance yasher koach to all the speakers and learners alike.

"Tikkun Layl Shavuot"

"It is written in the Zohar that the pious of former days would stay awake all night and engage in the study of the Torah. This is a custom which has been adopted by most of those who diligently study the Law. A plausible explanation for this custom may be found in the Midrash, where we are told that the people of

Israel slept during the entire night before the Giving of the Law and Hashem had to awaken them before He could reveal His Torah to them. Therefore, in order to make amends for their negligence at that time, Jews today should remain awake all night and study. According to this explanation, the term 'tikkun', which is employed to designate this night of study, refers not simply to the "order" of study which 'tikkun' could also denote, but to the "amends" for the indifference to the Torah that is displayed by Israel even today no less than it was in the past. Accordingly the concluding paragraph, 'yehi ratzon', which is recited at the end of the passages studied during that night, expresses the hope that, by thus sacrificing one full night's sleep to study, we might have made amends for all of our transgression against the Torah and thus expiated whatever punishments we might have deserved for our violations of G-d's law." (*The World of Prayer by Rabbi Dr. Elie Munk*)

Second Day of YomTov Kiddush

There will be a dairy Kiddush provided by the shul in honor of **Gaby Lakser**, our dynamite Youth Director. Unfortunately for us, Gaby will be returning to his native Canada to continue his studies. Gaby is a wonderful young man who really connected with the kids in the shul. Many of the children who didn't want to go to shul, now wait, impatiently, by the front door of their homes telling their fathers to get a move on or they'll miss Junior Congregation. He made davening fun and limud

Torah so interesting for the kids that the void that he will leave will be difficult to fill. But Gaby will leave us with a bang. After the Kiddush, there will be a Shavuot play performed once again by the talented Very Young Israel of Merrick Players, directed by Gaby, at approximately 1:00 p.m.

At this time we would like to thank all the families who housed Gaby over the course of the year. In addition, a big thanks to Robin Ritholtz for organizing Gaby's sleeping and eating arrangements. And finally, thank you Gaby for being a part of our community and our children's lives. To say that you will be missed is an understatement. Please come back and visit us whenever you are in the New York area. Good luck in your studies - Behatzlacha U'lehitraot!

New Program for 3-5 years

In keeping with the spirit of teaching our young ones, a program is being set up for children ages 3 - 5 years old. It will be led by the teenagers in the shul and will run from 10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. in the playroom. The program will consist of story-time, songs and playgroup. The program begins this Shabbat, May 23. Any teenager interested in participating in this program, please contact Jeff Bienenfeld.

Thank You!

Thank You - to Audrey Kuland for running the CPR course. The people who participated got alot out of it and the time and effort that you put in was very, very appreciated.

Thank You - to Susan Abikzer who, after several years of organizing the Journal Dinner and acting as its Chairperson, is stepping down for a well-deserved retirement. Susan did a wonderful job in running one of our most important fund-raisers of the year. Thank you, Susan and Avi, for

your years of hard work and devotion to the shul.

Journal Dinner Committee:

Stuart Daitch has been appointed Dinner Committee Chairperson. A dinner committee is now in the process of being formed and anyone interested in serving on the committee will be welcomed. Basically, Stuart is looking for a few good men and women to continue to help make our annual dinner its usual rousing success. If you would like to help out or want more information, please contact Stuart Daitch or Steven Gage.

Mikvah Meeting

Reminders: Wednesday, June 3 - A presentation and information session on the proposed Merrick/Bellmore Mikvah will be held at the shul at 9:00 p.m. All are encouraged to attend to hear about the Mikvah and to ask any questions.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Membership Meeting will be held at 9:00 p.m. at the shul. The 1998 budget will be discussed and voted on. This is the one that counts, folks, so no excuses please. Do your best to show up and vote or don't complain. In addition to the vote this will be an opportunity to bring out in the open any other issues that need to be addressed.

Marketing

Now is the season that people are looking for new homes. If you know of anyone who is interested in moving and Merrick might be the right place, please contact Loren Daitch who will arrange information and teas for prospective members.

Laser Tag

Laser Tag will held on Motzei Shabbat, June 6 from 10:00 p.m. to Midnight, at Laser Kingdon, located on Milbar Blvd in Farmingdale. This is an excellent opportunity to legally

release all your pent-up anger and frustration. For example, you could pretend you are shooting at various Board members. Cost - \$36.- per couple. Refreshments , desserts, and a lot of fun will be served. You have to bring your own Advil.

Bingo

Bingo has been very successful, B"H. But we still need people to participate in making this a success. As has been stated in the past , you can work a split shift as well a full shift. Help is needed in all areas (Can you pour coffee? Count Change? Inhale smoke? You're hired) Call Allen Rosenthal, Michael Jacobson, or Steve Reisner. Your participation is welcome and needed.

Scrip

Dairy products cost money too, you know. Do your Shavuot shopping through the purchase of scrip through the shul. How about flowers for the holiday? New clothes? Cheesecake? (now, we're talking).

Please call Liza or Betsy and order your scrip now.

Birthday Wishes

April Birthdays - Noa Abrams - April 15; Rachel David - April 26; Debbie Gage - April 5; Lisa Goldstein - April 7; Hinde Gross - April 3; Magen Landau - April 2 ; David Ritholtz - April 2; Emma Stein - April 15.

May Birthdays - David Abrams - May 20; Orly Banilivy - May 22; David Baran - May 22; Shifra Bell - May 20 and Justin Rosenson - May 7; Jeff Bienenfeld - May 15; Shane Blumenblatt - May 15; Jillian Daitch - May 28; Sydney Daitch - May 17; Melissa Goldstein - May 21; Aliza Goldstein - May 10; Sarah Goldstein - May 10; Steven Goldstein - May 25; Gabriel Goldstein- May 6; Caryn Lockspeiser - May 12; Renee Maynard - May 27; Yishai

Maynard - May 9; Meira Maynard - May 1; Lori Reisner - May 13; Danny Reisner - May 8; Jeffrey Ritholtz - May 11; Ofra Somer - May 1; Aaron Stein - May 2; Evan Stein - May 30; Miriam Wiesenfeld - May 20.

Anniversaries - April - Varda and Max Banilivy - April 10; Debbie and Steve Hamburg - April 18. May - Loren and Stuart Daitch - May 30; Rachel and Jan Levine - May 29.

Mazel tov to everyone listed and much health and happiness until 120!

Mazel Tov to Debbie and Eric Herschmann (and big brother Michael) on the birth of their beautiful twins. Beruchim Habaim to Alexander Joshua (Ari Yehoshua) and Rachel Sara (Sarah Rachel) who arrived March 31. MazelTov to all the grandparents and family and may you only know happines, health and joy until 120!

Mazel Tov to Carrie and Kenny Jerome and the entire Jerome Clan and the addition of Alec Jordan (Eliyahu Elazar) on April 30. Mazel tov to grandparents, Yetta and Is Schechter, and Chani Jerozolimsky. Only nachas and health and good times for many years until 120! (In addition, the Board has decided that Carrie should be guaranteed Gan Eden right now, by a unanimous vote)

Statements and opinions presented in signed articles are those of the respective authors, and do not necessarily reflect official opinions of the Young Israel of Merrick.

Board Minutes Review

- 1) As Gaby will not be returning after Shavuot, the Youth Committe will reconvene and

start a search for a new Youth Director.

- 2) Discussed plan to get papers filed for expanding the building and how it might look.
- 3) Seating survey for the Yomim Noraim was sent out. Seating Committee consists of Hedy Katz, Audrey Kurland, Susan Abikzer and Debbie Gage. Members must return their seating plans soon.
- 4) Discussed the Mikvan in North Bellmore. They've made some changes to the original plans. Will organize information meeting for June 3.
- 5) Stuart Daitch has been appointed new Dinner Committee Chairman, and will form committee to work on next year's dinner
- 6) The issue of me'sheberachs at aliyahs was discussed. People used to make donations. We need to remind congregants that if they have an additional me'sheberach, they should make their donation.
- 7) Gail Daitch has generously donated a menorah in honor of Jillian's upcoming Bat-Mitzvah, which will be put in a case and placed in Shul.
- 8) Debbie Gage requires additional software for accounting purposes.
- 9) The issue of children being outside between Mincha and Maariv was brought up. Youth committee will come up with recommendations but basically, the children must be supervised by their parents.
- 10) Discussed the general membership meeting and the budget.
- 11) Bingo - discussed the possibility of giving people a break on their dues if they participate in bingo for a set number of nights.

- 12) Bingo - discussed the possibility that if bingo continues to do well, that ma'aser should be set aside for the shul to donate to charity.
- 13) Discussed that people should not put their seforim on the mechitzah as it cuts visibility.
- 14) For Shavuot, speakers will be organized.
- 15) Will give kiddush in honor of Gaby.
- 16) Rabbi Gorelik called to ask for a joint ceremony to bury Shaimos. The expense will be shared. It's a whole service. Anyone interested in participating or has seforim, tziziot, etc. should contact Rabbi Volk.

Recipes

How about some recipes that are guaranteed not to stick to your arteries?

Hearty Tacos

2 tsp. vegetable oil, 1/2 cup chopped onion, 1/2 cup chopped green pepper, 6 oz. drained cooked red kidney beans, 1 cup tomato sauce, 2 tsp red wine vinegar, 1 tsp honey, 1/4 tsp Mexican seasoning, 4 small pitas, 1/2 cup shredded lettuce, 1/2 cup chopped tomato, 1 1/2 oz. shredded cheddar cheese. In a medium nonstick skillet, heat oil., stir in onion and pepper. Cook over medium heat until onion is translucent, about 2 minutes. Stir in beans, tomato sauce, vinegar, honey and seasoning. Reduce heat; simmer, stirring occasionally, 10 minutes. Cool slightly. Spoon equal amount of bean mixture into each pits; top evenly with lettuce, tomato and cheese.

Baked Lentils with Cheese

12 oz dried lentils; 2 cups chopped onions; 2 cups canned stewed

tomatoes; 2 cups tomato juice; 1 1/2 cups chopped carrots; 1 cup chopped green pepper; 2 garlic cloves, minced; 1 bay leaf; 1 1/2 tsp salt; 1/2 tsp dried thyme; 1/2 tsp dried marjoram; 1/4 tsp rubbed sage; 6 oz. shredded cheddar cheese; chopped fresh parsley for garnish. Preheat oven to 375. In a 13 by 9 baking pan, combine all ingredients except cheese and parsley. Cover with foil; bake until carrots are tender, about 40 minutes. Sprinkle with cheese; bake until cheese is bubbly, about 5 minutes. Garnish with parsley.

Vegetables, Macaroni, and Cheese Medley

1 cup low-fat cottage cheese; 1 Tbsp Dijon Mustard; 1/2 tsp hot pepper sauce; 2 cups cooked penne or ziti; 2 cups cooked diced zucchini; 1 1/2 cups cooked sliced carrots; 1/2 cup cooked broccoli florets; 1/2 cups frozen peas, thaws and drained; 1 1/2 oz shredded mozzarella cheese; 1 1/2 oz shredded cheddar cheese; 3/4 oz grated Romano cheese. Preheat oven to 400. In a blender, combine cottage cheese, mustard, pepper sauce, and 1/2 cup water until smooth. In large bowl combine remaining ingredients, pour in cheese mixture and stir until thoroughly blended. Spray 3 quart casserole with nonstick cooking spray. Transfer pasta mixture to casserole. Cover and bake until heated through, 15 - 20 minutes.

Cheese Blintz

3/4 cup plus 3 Tbsp all-purpose flour; 1/4 cup sugar; 2 1/2 tsp baking powder; 1/8 tsp salt; 3 large eggs; 1/2 cup reduced-calorie margarine; 1/4 cup skim milk; 2 1/2 cups part skim ricotta cheese; 8 oz reduced-calorie cream cheese, softened; 2 large eggs; 1/4 cup sugar; 3 Tbsp fresh lemon juice; 1 tsp grated lemon pel; 1 tsp grated

orange peel; dash salt. Preheat oven to 300. Spray 13 by 9 baking pan with nonstick cooking spray. Set aside. To prepare batter: in a large bowl, with electric mixer on medium speed, mix flour, sugar, baking powder, salt eggs margarine and milk until just blended. (Do not over mix). To prepare filling; in a separate large bowl with electric mixer, on low speed, mix remaining ingredients until blended. Pour half the batter into prepared pan. Gently pout filling on top, being careful not to mix layers; pour remaining batter over cheese mixture. Bake until golden brown and set (about 1 1/2 hours). Let stand 10 minutes before cutting or cover and refrigerate until ready to serve (can be served chilled or at room temperature.)

Ricotta-Lemon Cheesecake

9 graham crackers (2 1/2 inch squares)made into crumbs; 1 cup low fat cottage cheese; 3/4 cup part-skim ricotta cheese; 1 cup instant nonfat dry milk powder; 3/4 cup egg substitute; 1 cup sugar; 3 Tbsp fresh lemon juice; 2 tsp vanilla extract. Preheat oven to 300. Spray a 9 inch pie plate with nonstick cooking spray; sprinkle graham cracker crumbs over bottom of pie plate; set aside. In blender or food processor, puree remaining ingredients until smooth about 1 minute; pour mixture into prepared pie plate. Bake 50 to 60 minutes, or until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Cool completely on rack. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve.

This Month's Web Sites:

<http://www.torah.org/learning/maharal/shavuos.html> The Maharal on Shavuos, a class taught by Rabbi Shaya Karlinsky.

<http://www.torah.org> Torah on the Information Superhighway.

“The best site for serious Jewish education on the Internet – period.”

<http://www.jewishgen.org> The primary Internet source for Jewish Genealogy. Look up your surname in the many databases. Find your ancestral town.

<http://www.wzo.org.il/aliyah/aliyah.htm> The Student and Academics Department of the World Zionist Organization present comprehensive Aliyah information.

<http://208.150.11.101/content.htm> The Orthodox Union Cyber Home of Torah.

<http://www.ligolf.com/merrrdgc.htm> Merrick Park Golf Course.

All the information. Course Layout.

<http://lilrc1.lilrc.org/~mk1/cd.htm> The Merrick Library's embarrassingly outdated Merrick community directory. Has Steve Hamburg as Shul President!

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