

The Family Chavurah

May 16, 2010

Volume 2, Issue 6



Closer to each other ...
Closer to G-d

SAVE THESE DATES!

05/23—10:00am—
Torah Teens
Go Bowling

06/01—High Holy Day
tickets go on sale

06/11—7pm—Shabbat
Service and Dinner

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SHAVUOT IS HERE!

He just returned with His entourage from Sinai. He is now in His office in a region called Torah-Torah. Shortly after His Majesty arrived, the angels in charge of videotaping the great ceremony are back as well. Now they are facing the dilemma: which scenes to put on youtube!

The Almighty, of course, has no lack of recording equipment. Yet, not even G-d can get away with posting whatever He wants. There are scenes from the days prior to revelation. There are also images of Moses getting ready for the meeting of his life. Not to mention the soundtrack of the shofar sounds, while everything else was completely silent.

He thinks, He thinks again... and it seems G-d decides to split the screen in a way only He is able to. The youtube screen is split in three areas. One shows Mount Sinai in "shock": revelation is in progress. The other third follows Moses' descent from Sinai with the Tablets of the Law. The last section shows the transformation of the Children of Israel from a fearful bunch of former slaves into a nation with a purpose eternally guiding their lives.

Over three thousand years later, the purpose is still the same: to envelop our lives with deeds of Torah. This is what we celebrate on Shavuot: the coming of Torah into our lives. Shavuot begins this Tuesday, May 18th in the evening and is celebrated for two days outside of Israel. It is customary to eat dairy foods, and to hear the reading of the 10 Commandments in the synagogue on the first day. It is also customary to read the Book of Ruth, a short book in our Bible which tells the story of Ruth, who was not born a Jew, but made the decision to become one through committing herself to our traditions, our nation and our Torah. If you are unable to attend a synagogue service on Shavuot, try reading the Ten Commandments and the Book of Ruth at home. There are also many websites with stories and customs for Shavuot. Do some research—bring Torah into your lives! And let us know if we can help in any way!

Chag Sameach



HELP SAVE A LIFE!

Some of you might know Goldie, a member of our Rosh Chodesh group; some of you might not. But it makes no difference! Goldie's son-in-law, a young man, father of four young children, was diagnosed a month ago with AML, which is a type of Leukemia. In order to survive, Matt needs a bone marrow transplant. There are many ways in which you can help, but mainly:

* register with the Gift of Life Foundation, which matches potential donors to those who are in need of a bone marrow transplant. This is VERY easy to do! The process is a simple one - whether you order a kit online or pick one up at one of their drives. The kit contains four large q-tips that you use to swab the inside of your mouth. There is one for each quadrant of your mouth. Then, the 4 q-tips are placed in a protective holder and sent off to the Gift of Life Foundation for processing, where they will make a determination as to whether you are a match for Matt, or for someone else like him who needs a bone marrow transplant. The entire process should take 5 minutes. Check www.giftoflife.org for more information.

* add Matt to your prayers! His complete name is Matt Fenster, and his Hebrew name is Moshe Shmuel HaLevi ben Henka.

READ-ON!

There is a great project going on at Memorial Hospital West/Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, and the Family Chavurah is getting involved with it! Project Read-On was begun by Zelda Benjamin, an author and emergency room nurse, who decided to collect at least one thousand children's books (!), new or gently used, to be enjoyed by the kids who need to stay in the Emergency Room at Joe Di Maggio Children's Hospital.



If you would like to help collect books, or if you have books to donate, please contact Nina Benaroch at craftybunny@bellsouth.net, or Zelda Benjamin at bpiskosz@yahoo.com. You can also drop off your books at the Chavurah and we will make sure to get the to the hospital.

It would be great if you could help!

HIGH HOLY DAYS AT THE FAMILY CHAVURAH



Our High Holy Days services will be held at La Quinta Inn. In order to maintain the family environment the Family Chavurah always has, and in accordance with Fire Safety requirements, we will limit attendance to 120 people. Tickets will go on sale on June 1st. We are only charging to cover costs. There will be a one month period in which we will only sell tickets to Chavurah members. On July 1st, if we still have tickets left, we will start selling to non-members at a higher price.

Expect an e-mail from us with days and times of services!

THANK YOU!

- To Barbara Fellner for helping Sandra cook our Shabbat Dinner!
- To Judith Sands who came over to make the delicious coffee cake we enjoyed!
- To Sheila Holtzman and Jerry Gilbert who brought cookies for our Rosh Chodesh Sivan meeting!
- To Peter Brown for the delicious wine!
- To the Fellner family for donations made in memory of Edward Fellner (may his memory be a blessing for all whose lives he touched) and wishing Michelle Fellner a speedy recovery!
- Thank you to Laura and Mark Myers for their donation to the Family Chavurah!
- To the Sands family for their donation to the Family Chavurah!

תודה

We really appreciate your support!

MAZAL TOV!!!



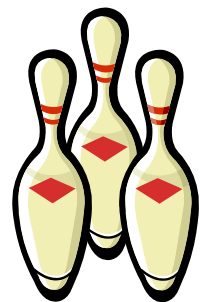
- To the Myers family—Jackie graduated from UCF with a Bachelor's in Science in Legal Studies. Jackie will be pursuing her Paralegal designation over the summer and her Master's in Criminal Justice in the fall. Way to go, Jackie! Please make sure to stop by when you are in South Florida!
- To the Clewner family—Lucas placed first place at the regional Science Fair in Weston. He then went to the State Final in Orlando, where he came in fourth place/honorable mention. Lucas is a 4th grade student and his project was called "Does Height Affect Spatter?" He used water balloons to test his theory that the higher you drop them, the larger the spatter!
- To Tamar Lilienthal— on having had her poem "The Weather, the Time of Martin Luther King, Jr." win the Creative Communication's Poem Contest. Tamar's poem will be published in the A Celebration of Poets book, coming out October 2010.

TORAH TEENS GO BOWLING!

The Torah Teens participated in many activities this year helping others. Now, as the year comes to an end, they are going out for a fun time together! Bowling and Pizza are on the agenda for this coming Sunday, May 23rd, at 10am. If you know a teenager that might be interested in joining our Torah Teens, please contact Nina Benaroch at craftybunny@bellsouth.net or Rabbi Lilienthal at rabbi@familychavurah.com.

We are currently planning our 2010/2011 year. If you have any ideas you would like to submit, you can also do so by contacting Mrs., Benaroch or Rabbi Lilienthal.

Thanks, Teens, for a great year!



THE YOUNG ONES LEARN IMPORTANT LESSONS!

This Children's Service we discussed the upcoming holiday of Shavuot. We mentioned that G-d gave the Torah on Mt. Sinai, which wasn't the tallest mountain, yet it wasn't in a valley. This is a lesson for us to strive to attain the perfect balance between a lack of self-confidence and arrogance. We also discussed the Torah portion of the week and how G-d counted the Jewish people in the desert. On a practical level, this was to see how many men there were that could fight in a war, but on a deeper level, G-d counted the Jews because He loved them, just like someone counts their treasured marble collection just to see how many they have. Lastly, we talked about the three choices we have when there is any pressure, be it peer or societal, pushing us to do something under certain conditions: give up what's important to you by giving in to the pressures, stand up for what's important to you by not giving in, or running away and avoiding the problem. We heard the story about Knownas, a young Indian boy who needed to make such a decision. When asked what they would do if in his place, the majority of the kids chose to stick to their values and face isolation from society versus giving up what they treasure for a position of wealth and authority.



END OF THE YEAR ROSH CHODESH

This past week we held our Rosh Chodesh Sivan meeting, in which we discussed what we can learn from Matan Torah—The Giving of the Torah. Our next meeting, on Rosh Chodesh Tamuz, will be held on Sunday, June 13th, at 10am. Like we did a few months ago, we will have a nice brunch, and time to socialize a little more, since no one will feel the rush to go to bed!



If you have any ideas of topics you would like to see discussed in our next year's Rosh Chodesh meetings, please feel free to contact Sandra at Sandra@familychavurah.com. We will do our best to include your interests in our planning.

Chag Sameach!



Happy Shavuot!