



VOLUME 26 ISSUE 8

JUNE 2011

NISAN - IYAR 5771

Temple Talk

Standing – All of Us – At Sinai

By: Rabbi Tracy Nathan

When we think of sacred encounters with the Ultimate, we often have the image of a solitary holy figure receiving a Divine message and enlightenment. The setting is frequently a mountain or a desert. We had the mountain and the desert at Sinai when we encountered the Divine and received the gift of Torah, which we will re-enact and commemorate on Shavuot (begins Tuesday night, June 7). But what is different about the Sinai revelation is that the entire people experienced it.

Matan Torah, the Giving of Torah, was a collective spiritual encounter and revelation. Each person may have experienced the Divine voice differently, but the key feature of this Divine encounter is that it was shared with others – many others.

To emphasize the collective and inclusive spirit of the giving of Torah, at the end of Moses' life, he speaks of the parties to the covenant: "You stand this day, all of you, before Adonai, your God – the heads of your tribes, your elders and your officers, every man of Israel; your children; your women and your stranger who is in your camp; from the hewer of your wood to the drawer of your water – to enter into covenant with Adonai....Not

with you alone do I make this covenant and this oath, but with the one who stands here with us this day before Adonai our God and also with the one who is not here with us this day."

Everyone is included – rich or poor, men, women, children – and, most surprisingly, those who are not even present. The sages used this as a source for understanding the souls of future converts to be present at Sinai (Talmud Bavli Shavuot 39a) – but truly, this is a statement of expansive inclusion.

This is something we surely need to be reminded of in our Jewish world today, one that is quite divisive. Torah is for everyone. The covenant was made with the entire community – and everyone was there – people similar to you and very different from you; rich and poor; young and old; men and women; traditional, progressive, conservative, liberal. As we stand at Sinai again on Shavuot, ready to receive the Divine gift of Torah, may we remember that Divine encounters take place in public and with the public; and may we ourselves be as radically inclusive as the moment of the giving of the Torah at Sinai.

Upcoming Events

Shavuot Services - June 7 - 7pm, June 8 - 8am and June 9 - 7am
Friday Night Dinner and Service - June 17 and July 15
Jews in the Civil War & A Breakfast on Father's Day - June 19
Annual Meeting - June 26

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Marks Remarks: How Do You Keep Kosher? A Tale of Two Tables

By Mark Frydenberg

Let's face it -- one activity that all Jews like to do is eat. Some of us bless our food before and after we eat. Our holidays all revolve around eating special foods (or not eating any food). From "glatt" kosher, to kosher, to kosher style, what, how, and where we eat, differs with each individual. Some people are strictly kosher, eating only foods with certified kosher ingredients prepared in kitchens that only use kosher pots and pans; others keep kosher at home, but eat non-kosher meat out of the house. Still some keep kosher at home, but eat cold food only, such as salads, at restaurants. Others may eat cooked vegetarian food in non-kosher restaurants. Some people are "ingredient kosher," not worrying whether the can of peaches packed in grape juice syrup has a hechsher (kosher certification symbol), or whether the eggs were cooked on the same grill as the bacon at the neighborhood diner. Some people are concerned about the reliability of various hechsher symbols, and for others, if there's a K on the package it's fine. For others, the K is unreliable, and the symbol needs to be from the OU, the Vaad HaRabbonim (VH), or another authority. Some people only eat kosher cheese or drink kosher wine. And some of us consider ourselves to be good Jews, but don't keep kosher at all. We still like our bacon double cheeseburgers or a cup of clam chowder once in a while.

In the synagogue, our policy is that meals served in and from the kitchen are made with certified kosher ingredients or ingredients that don't need a hechsher, such as fresh fruits, vegetables, and fish. We have separate dishes for dairy and meat. For these reasons, we generally don't allow people to prepare food in their homes to bring into the synagogue kitchen.

Next month, we'll be holding a special Shabbat "Service under the Stars" service on Friday night July 15, at the home of Susan Holbert and Pierce Butler, about a mile down the road from the Temple.



Rather than bring in a prepared dinner, we'll be holding a pot luck dinner. We hope you'll attend and bring a dish or dessert that you like to eat to share. (We'll provide challah, wine, grape juice, and beverages. Watch for details on signing up in next month's newsletter.) The question arose, how can we have a pot luck dinner in a way that honor's each person's (and the community's) observance of kashruth?



In 2006, my friend Ben Dreyfus wrote a blog post entitled "The Two-Table System" to address this very question. The Two-Table System has become the standard practice in many independent communities where people share pot-luck meals together. Ben writes, "There is an incredibly wide range of ideology and practice brought together in a single community....therefore, instead of having a process for making decisions about [what's kosher], we find ways of avoiding making those decisions at the communal level, while creating an atmosphere that respects everyone's individual decisions." He then describes the two-table system for enabling everyone to eat together in a place that does not have a kashruth policy of its own:

We acknowledge the diversity of kashruth practices in our community, and in order to ensure that everyone can contribute and everyone can eat, it is requested that all food adhere to ONE of the following two standards:

Vegetarian, with only vegetarian ingredients. (Fish with fins and scales is also ok as long as it is labeled or self-evident.)

Still vegetarian (plus fish, as above), and all ingredients are marked with a recognized kosher symbol (more than just "K"), cooked (if applicable) in a kosher kitchen that uses only hechshered products.

At pot luck dinners that follow the two table system, there are two tables, one for food from

(Continued on page 4)

June Yahrzeits

Plaque Loc.	Name	Yahrzeit Date		Plaque Loc.	Name	Yahrzeit Date	
2-1	Jacob Cohn	1-Jun	Iyar 28	4-3	Harry Klein	22-Jun	Sivan 20
2-4	Charles Tankel	2-Jun	Iyar 29	4-4	Anna Goldstein	22-Jun	Sivan 20
2-4	Fannie Tatelman	2-Jun	Iyar 29	5-4	Abigail Cotton	22-Jun	Sivan 20
5-1	John Hoffman	3-Jun	Sivan 01	4-2	Samuel S. Stoeger	23-Jun	Sivan 21
3-1	Dr. Samuel Berstein	3-Jun	Sivan 01	1-1	Ethel Cohen	23-Jun	Sivan 21
1-2	Polly Freedman	4-Jun	Sivan 02	1-2	Sarah Greenblott	25-Jun	Sivan 23
4-2	Sarah Eisenberg	4-Jun	Sivan 02	3-2	Jacob Ginsburg	26-Jun	Sivan 24
1-2	Morris Gordon	4-Jun	Sivan 02	4-1	Jennie Shapiro	26-Jun	Sivan 24
3-1	Max Berman	5-Jun	Sivan 03		Barnet Borkow	27-Jun	Sivan 25
5-3	Joseph Kaufman	7-Jun	Sivan 05	4-3	Samuel L. Webb	27-Jun	Sivan 25
4-2	Albert Michelson	8-Jun	Sivan 06		Harry Ross	28-Jun	Sivan 26
2-4	Molly Smith	8-Jun	Sivan 06	1-4	Anna Wolk	29-Jun	Sivan 27
1-1	Morris Alpert	9-Jun	Sivan 07	2-4	Harold Resnick	29-Jun	Sivan 27
4-3	Betty Tushin	9-Jun	Sivan 07	1-4	Dora Rouffe	30-Jun	Sivan 28
4-2	Ethel Wigod	9-Jun	Sivan 07	6-1	Nathan Freedman	30-Jun	Sivan 28
4-4	Carl Goldstein	10-Jun	Sivan 08	4-3	Gertrude Riseberg	2-Jul	Sivan 30
2-3	Barnett Messer	11-Jun	Sivan 09	6-3	Herbert Phillip Dane	2-Jul	Sivan 30
3-3	Samuel Bloom	12-Jun	Sivan 10	3-1	Hyman Benjaminson	2-Jul	Sivan 30
5-3	Jacob Pernakoff	13-Jun	Sivan 11	1-2	Samuel Kaitz	2-Jul	Sivan 30
2-2	Abraham Josephson	14-Jun	Sivan 12	5-4	Irma Salus	3-Jul	Tammuz 01
	Minnie Zeramby	14-Jun	Sivan 12	6-3	Barbara Griff Kappitt	4-Jul	Tammuz 02
6-1	Barnard Wolf	15-Jun	Sivan 13	1-4	Max Wolk	5-Jul	Tammuz 03
1-1	Max Backer	15-Jun	Sivan 13	2-1	Elizabeth Berman	5-Jul	Tammuz 03
2-2	Abraham Harris	16-Jun	Sivan 14	3-3	James Cohn	6-Jul	Tammuz 04
5-2	Irving Forbes	16-Jun	Sivan 14	1-4	Louis Rouffe	6-Jul	Tammuz 04
6-4	Rebecca Cohen	17-Jun	Sivan 15	5-2	Elizabeth Barack	6-Jul	Tammuz 04
4-4	Lillian Goldstein	18-Jun	Sivan 16	1-1	Ephraim Burofsky	7-Jul	Tammuz 05
	Lillian Levine	19-Jun	Sivan 17	1-2	Benjamin Kaitz	7-Jul	Tammuz 05
2-1	Miriam Beecher	20-Jun	Sivan 18	6-3	Bernard Wolf	8-Jul	Tammuz 06
5-3	Frieda Simmons	21-Jun	Sivan 19	4-1	Joseph Norman	9-Jul	Tammuz 07
4-2	Louis Sulkin	22-Jun	Sivan 20	3-1	Louis Kaswell	9-Jul	Tammuz 07



If you would like to make a donation in memory of a loved one listed above please send it along with a brief note of who you would like remembered to the Temple Office.



**Marks Remarks: How Do You Keep Kosher?
A Tale of Two Tables**

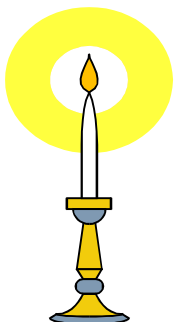
By Mark Frydenberg

(Continued from page 2)

each category. People put the food on the table where it belongs, and eat what they want. The idea is that people bring something they like to eat and enough to share. We hope this makes it possible for everyone to come and attend the special July “service under the stars.”

Need some ideas? Check out <http://twoheadsoflettuce.blogspot.com> for recipes for many vegetarian dishes to make at home and bring to pot luck dinners. Can't cook? Head to the supermarket and pick up a box of cookies or a cake that is certified kosher. (Costco's bakery is certified kosher, as are the bakeries at Stop and Shop in Brighton, Lexington, and Framingham.) Otherwise, Entenmanns', Stella Doro cookies, and Oreos all work. Want to bring something a bit healthier? Get a bag of baby carrots and some hummus; or some tortilla chips, salsa, and guacamole. Hard boil some eggs, cut up some veggies, make a fruit salad, or slice up a pineapple or a mango. Buy a bag of salad and a container of cherry tomatoes and mix them together. (Don't forget the salad dressing!) Buy some Triscuits or other interesting crackers, and a bag of cubed Cabot cheese. It's not hard to find something to bring.

Watch the July newsletter for more information about the special “Shabbat under the Stars” service. And in the meantime, practice making your favorite recipe.



Candle Lighting Times

June 3	7:57pm
June 10	8:02pm
June 17	8:05pm
June 24	8:07pm
July 1	8:07pm

Hebrew Seminar and Discussion Group

Reading and translating passages from the weekly parshah.

Meets Thursday evenings at 7, in the Temple library.

This group is led by Genevieve Fosa

From the Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is eager to help members get to weekday and Shabbat services.

Please - if you would like a ride to shul-- Contact the Temple office and let Andrea know the date you would like a ride.

The Membership committee will try to match drivers to those who need a ride.

Thank you.

Diana Korzenik
Membership Secretary

June 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 7:57pm Rosh Chodesh Sivan	4 Nasso Rabbi Tracy Nathan
5	6	7 Erev Shavuot Program 7:00pm	8 Shavuot Services 8:00am	9 Shavuot Services 7:00am	10 8:02pm	11 Behaalotecha
12	13	14	15	16	17 8:05pm Dinner / Services 6:30pm	18 Shelach Rabbi Tracy Nathan
19 Father's Day <i>Jews in the Civil War Program</i> 10:00am	20	21	22	23	24 8:07pm	25 Korach
26 Annual Meeting 4:00pm	27	28	29	30	1 8:07pm	2 Chukat Rosh Chodesh Tammuz

If not specified, Minyan—Monday—Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday is at 7:00am and on Saturday and Sunday at 9:00am.

Slate of Officers

With the Annual Meeting and Election of Officers coming on June 26th at 4:00pm the following is our slate of officers:

- President: Merrill Griff
- Vice President: James Baron
- Treasurer: Edward Kaufman
- Membership Secretary: Diana Korzenik
- Recording Secretary: Genevieve Fosa

If you wish to be considered for a Board position please submit a letter of intent, to the Temple office, before June 15th. Nominations will not be accepted from the floor on the day of the meeting.

Friday Night Services

There will be Friday night services and dinner on June 17th.

We Need Minyanaires

Services are held at 7:00am on weekdays (except Tuesday) and at 9:00am on weekends & holidays.

Kaddish

We are not able to guarantee a minyan at each morning service, so if you need a minyan on a particular day to recite Kaddish, please let the Temple know at least 2 days prior.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Esther Davidson, in memory of her husband, Oscar, her parents Morris and Ethel Potash and her Brother Dr. Louis Potash.

Saturday Kiddush Sponsors

Freedman-Kaitz Jewish War Veterans - June 4

Refuah Shlema



Herb Baron
George Kaitz

Condolences

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Shirley "Sarai" Port, beloved mother of Sam (and Marcia) Slarskey, Ilene (and Len) Karnow, and Dr. David (and Dorothy) Port. Shirley was the proud grandmother of Rabbi Scott (Rabbi Tracy Nathan) Slarskey, David (Samantha) Slarskey, Jared (Mindy) Feinberg, the late Carrie Feinberg, and Alex Port; and the adored great grandmother of Elijah, Hanan, Parker, and Lyla.

Shirley's life drew to a close erev Shabbat (May 20th) with family members present at her bedside. Since becoming ill eight months ago, she continued to live her life to the fullest, even celebrating her adult bat mitzvah on the last Shabbat of her life.

Please send expressions of sympathy to the Temple office.

Donations

In memory of Shirley Port from:

- Jim, Andrea and Michaela Baron
- Ed and Renee Brown
- Diana Korzenik

Reena Schultz, in honor of her aliyah on the 8th day of Passover.

Lillian Etkind, in memory of her mother Anne Itzkowitz.

Dianne and Burt Gesserman, in honor of Louis Goldstein's graduation from NYU.

Rabbi Tracy Nathan, in gratitude for personal and communal expressions of comfort to our family.

Sheila and Irving Lesnick, in honor of Morris and Edith Hollender's 61st wedding anniversary.

Erika and Ben Cohen, in honor of Morris and Edith Hollender's 61st wedding anniversary.

Shavuot Services

Tuesday, June 7, 7pm - Program with Rabbi Nathan and Mark Frydenberg - Dairy desserts, Tea and Coffee

Day 1 Wednesday, June 8, 8:00am (Please note that this is later than our usual 7 am weekday start time) Followed by a light breakfast

Day 2 (with Yizkor), Thursday, June 9, 7:00am Followed by Torah study with Rabbi Nathan

A Breakfast on Father's Day and Jews in the Civil War

All are Welcome

Sunday June 19 10:00am

Presented by: David L. Smith, President of the Civil War Round Table of Greater Boston

Mr. Smith, a longtime Waltham resident, will speak in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the very start of the Civil War in 1861. He will speak on Jews who fought on both sides of the Civil War; observing the Jewish holidays during the war; and will share rarely told tales about Jews' challenging lives during the Civil War era.

\$5.00 per person for breakfast

If your ancestors were in that war, please bring information and photographs.

RSVP to the Temple Office by June 15th

Join us for Shabbat.



Welcome Shabbat with Services and Community Dinner at Temple Beth Israel

Services: 6:30 pm

Dinner: 7:30 pm

\$10 per adult, \$25 per family

Welcome Shabbat with a spirited Kabbalat Shabbat Service at 6:30 pm, led by **Rabbi Tracy Nathan**, followed by a home-cooked dinner at 7:30 pm, singing, and good conversation. **Reserve now!** Payment must be received by Thursday morning, the day before the dinner you are attending. We cannot accept payment at the door, and will not send bills afterward. Sign up for all three dinners and save!

**Friday Nights,
June 17
July 15**

Names of Adults and Children Attending:	Date		Number		Amount
	June 17	Adults		\$10 per adult or \$25 per family	
	Children				
Contact Phone:	July 15	Adults		Pot Luck Dinner - No charge	
		Children			
Email:				Payment Enclosed:	

What is the number of vegetarian meals required at each dinner for this reservation? _____

Here's how I/we can help: (check all that apply)

- shopping
 setting tables
 cooking
 serving
 cleaning up
 making phone calls
 offering a ride to someone who otherwise couldn't come

Send your check to Temple Beth Israel, P.O. Box 540182, Waltham, MA 02454-0182. For more information, see www.tbiwaltham.org, email: office@tbiwaltham.org or call the Temple Office at (781) 894-5146.

Temple Beth Israel

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stamp

Donate on the web
at
www.tbiwaltham.org

- Beautification
- General Fund
- Guest Speakers
- Library
- Rabbi's Discretionary Fund
- Adult Programs
- Morris Hollender Music Appreciation Fund
- Carl Goldstein Memorial Fund
- Other, please specify: _____

Temple Beth Israel Donation Form

For your convenience, please use this form to make your donations and send to:
Temple Beth Israel, P O Box 540182, Waltham, MA 02454-0182

I have chosen the fund indicated at the right:

(Please use a separate form for each fund. Minimum donation: \$10)

Attached is my check in the amount of: \$ _____

The donation is being made

In Honor Of _____

In Memory Of _____

Other _____

This donation is made by:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Please send acknowledgement to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____