

# Youth Happenings @ Congregation Etz Chaim

**May 19-21, Parsha Bamidbar-Shavuot, 5-7 Sivan 5778**



## Bamidbar- Shavuot Times & Numbers:

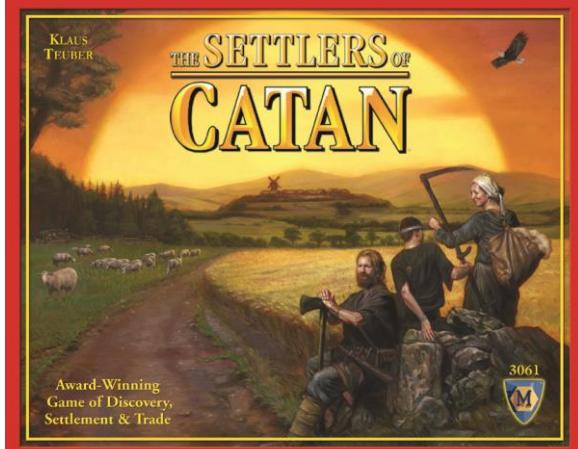
Candle Lighting- 7:52pm  
 Mincha- 7:00pm  
 Shacharit- 9:00 am  
 Teen Minyan- See Below  
 Jr. Congregation- 10:15  
 Tot Shabbat- See Below  
 Mincha -See shul schedule  
 Yomtov Ends- 9:02 pm



## BAMIDBAR:

NUMBER OF *MITZVOT*: 0  
 NUMBER OF *PESUKIM*: 159  
 NUMBER OF WORDS: 1823  
 NUMBER OF LETTERS: 7393

- There will be Teen Minyan on Saturday and Monday, but NOT Sunday.
- There will be Tot Shabbat on Saturday and Sunday only.
- There will be Junior Cong. all three days.



**Settlers of Catan Tournament!**  
 Sunday at the Shul at 5:00pm- All ages welcome. Winner gets the Settlers expansion set of their choice!

Congregation Etz Chaim: [www.etzchaimnj.org](http://www.etzchaimnj.org)  
 Rabbi E. Samuel Klibanoff  
 Rabbi Natan Kapustin, Assistant Rabbi  
 Presidents: Neil Kaplan & Alan Schall  
 Youth Director: Yoni Glatt  
 Rabbinic Intern: Yoni Gold

## THE GIVING OF THE TORAH

*Shavuot* commemorates the giving of the *Torah* by *Hashem* to the entire *Bnai Yisrael* (Jewish people) on *Har* (Mount) *Sinai* over 3,300 years ago. In the *Torah*, *Shavuot* is also called the *Feast of Weeks*. In Hebrew, the word "*Shavuot*" means "weeks" & stands for the 7 weeks during which the *Bnai Yisrael* prepared themselves for the giving of the *Torah*. During this time they rid themselves of the scars of bondage & became a holy nation ready to stand before *G-d*.

The period from *Pesach* to *Shavuot* is a time of great anticipation. We count each of the days from the second day of *Pesach* to the day before *Shavuot*, 49 days or 7 full weeks. The counting reminds us of the important connection between *Pesach* and *Shavuot*: *Pesach* freed us physically from bondage, but the giving of the *Torah* on *Shavuot* redeemed us spiritually from our bondage of idolatry and immorality.

The giving of the *Torah* was far more than an historical event. It was a far-reaching spiritual event, one that touched the essence of the Jewish soul then and for all time. Our Sages have compared it to a wedding between *Hashem* and the *Bnai Yisrael*. We became His special nation. *Bnai Yisrael* stood at the foot of *Har Sinai* and received the *Torah* from *Hashem*. Together they proclaimed: "Na'ahseh V'Nishma, (We will do and we will listen)" (*Shmot* 24:7). Each year on the *Yom Tov* of *Shavuot*, this historic event is relived as we commit ourselves anew to observing the *Torah*.

**THIS YEAR'S EPIC SHAVUOT BBQ  
 AT THE YOUTH HOUSE:  
 THIS MONDAY, MAY 21- 1:00PM**



## DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that David and Goliath were actually...ousins? According to the Midrash Ruth's sister, Orpah, was the mother of Goliath. This makes Ruth Goliath's uncle and David is Goliath's first cousin, twice removed! A couple of other fun items: David was born on *Shavuot*, and not only was Ruth was still alive when he was born, but it's believed Ruth lived until the time of her great-great-grandson Solomon.

## **YIDDLE RIDDLE**

THE FIRST KID WHO TELLS YONI THE ANSWER GETS \$3 MM,  
THE SECOND GETS \$2, & THE THIRD GETS \$1- NO TELLNG  
THE ANSWER!

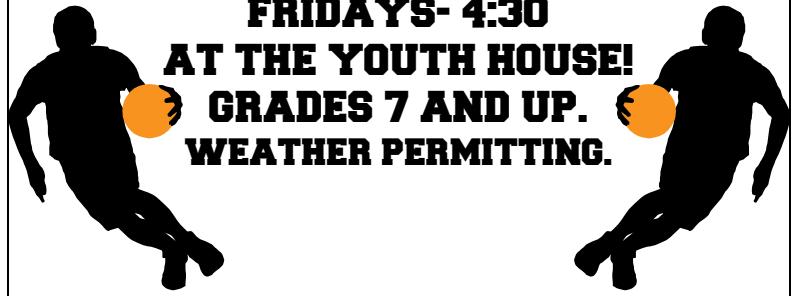
**My grandson was wise and strong  
And also knew how to sing a song  
So go find me in a holy book  
Where I'm next to my son and dad  
Is where you should look**

**Last Week-**

Shavuot is almost here, that's the truth  
And on it we read the Book of Ruth  
A midrash says she had this nephew that was bad  
He was a big deal and died when he was mad  
A- Goliath

## **FRIDAY AFTERNOON BASKETBALL IS BACK!**

**FRIDAYS- 4:30  
AT THE YOUTH HOUSE!  
GRADES 7 AND UP.  
WEATHER PERMITTING.**



## **ISRAEL THROUGH THE AGES**

Our free ongoing class for  
grades 8-12 will return  
**Tuesday, May 22 @ 5:45PM.**  
Dinner & snacks served.  
Next class:

### **A TIME FOR PEACE**

## **ISRAEL IN THE PARSHA**

JENNIFER ROMANOFF'S  
CLASS WILL CONTINUE  
**TUESDAY BEFORE YONI'S  
CLASS.**

**MIDOT MATTER MOST:  
IT'S GOOD TO BE PASSIONATE  
ABOUT ISRAEL, BUT ALWAYS  
BE KIND TO THOSE WHO  
DISAGREE WITH YOU.**

Altruism- Al·tru·ism

(ăl trōō-ĭz'ĕm) n.

1. Unselfish concern for the welfare of others; selflessness.
2. Zoology-behavior by an animal that is not beneficial to or may be harmful to itself but that benefits others of its species.

## **TORAH GREATS: NECHAMA LEIBOWITZ 1905-1997**

Nehama Leibowitz (NL) was born in 1905 in Riga, Latvia, to Mordechai and Freyda Leibowitz. The family moved to Berlin in 1919 where she received a doctorate in *Techniques in the Translations of German-Jewish Biblical Translations*. NL married her uncle, Lipman Leibowitz, and on the day she finished her doctorate they fulfilled their dream and moved to Israel in 1930. She taught at a religious Zionist teachers' seminar for the next twenty-five years. She traveled around Israel teaching Torah & commentaries to teachers, new immigrants, soldiers, kibbutzniks and thousands of others

In 1942, some of Nechama Leibowitz's students decided that they wanted to continue studying her material after the school year had ended. Acceding to their request, NL began mailing them her worksheets, which contained commentaries unavailable at the time and, furthermore, challenged them with difficult questions, with every answer checked personally by NL. Word spread to friends and neighbors, who also wished to fill out these sheets. Eventually the correspondents ran into the thousands: young and old, religious and secular, kibbutzniks and city-dwellers. Thus NL functioned as a one-woman Open University correspondence course for over thirty years without ever receiving remuneration. A passionate Zionist, NL refused to leave Israel even when offered large sums of money to lecture abroad.

In 1957 NL began lecturing at Tel Aviv University, and became a full professor in 1968. She also gave classes at Hebrew University of Jerusalem and other educational institutions around the country. In addition to her writings, NL commented on the Torah readings regularly for the Voice of Israel radio station. She received a professorship at Tel-Aviv University in 1968 and was awarded several prizes in the course of her life, including the prestigious Israel Prize in the Field of Education (1956). Through her teaching, her worksheets and the famous *Iyyunim/Studies* series of books on the parsha, appearing in six languages on bookshelves from Jerusalem to Guatemala, NL brought numerous people, including non-Jews, to a new conception of Torah study. She revolutionized the world of Torah study; and today, NL's question, "What's Rashi's difficulty?" is commonplace, as is her method encouraging comparison and evaluation of commentaries.

NL refused to acknowledge that she was a revolutionary in any way; but ultimately her unique achievements changed Orthodox society's perception of a woman's capabilities and undoubtedly opened doors for the female Torah scholars who followed. Though she died without having children, her funeral was attended by thousands of people whose lives she affected. As she requested her gravestone only says "Nehama Leibowitz: Teacher."