

# Youth Happenings @ Congregation Etz Chaim

**June 8-10, Bamidbar- Shavuot, 5-7 Sivan 5779**



## Bamidbar/Shavuot Times & Numbers

Candle Lighting- 8:08pm

Mincha- 7:00

Shacharit- 9:00 am

Teen Minyan Days 1 & 3- 9:45am

Tot Shabbat- 10:15 each day

Junior Cong.- 10:15 days 1-3

Minchas- See shul sched.

Shabbos Ends- 9:06pm



שבועות

NUMBER OF MITZVOT: 0

NUMBER OF PESUKIM: 159

NUMBER OF WORDS: 1823

NUMBER OF LETTERS: 7393

We read Megillat Ruth on Shavuot. However, many Sephardic and most Chabad congregations do not have this tradition.

## 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*.

## BE OUR GUEST

TUESDAY, JUNE 18- 7:00 PM

ETZ CHAIM YOUTH OUTING TO SEE

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

@ THE PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE.

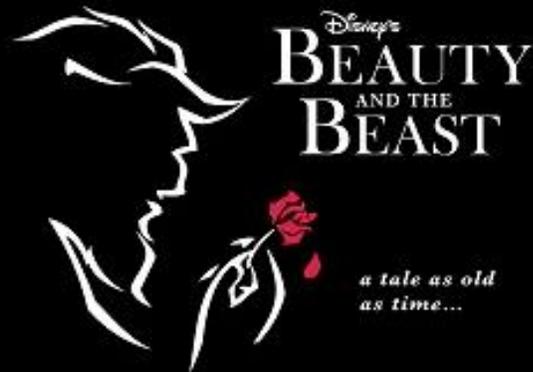
ONLY \$30 PER SEAT.

TALK W/ YONI TO RESERVE TICKETS

All you can eat

FRESH MADE

PIZZA- 9:30 Shavuot Night!



## 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SHAVUOS

## YOUTH BBQ

@ The Youth House- Shavuot,

Sunday, June 9, 1:00pm

All ages

welcome!!



Congregation Etz Chaim: [www.etzchaimnj.org](http://www.etzchaimnj.org)

Rabbi Sam Klibanoff

Rabbi Natan Kapustin, Assistant Rabbi

Presidents: Jeff Susskind & Dr. Michael Rieber

Youth Director: Yoni Glatt

## MIDDLE RIDDLE ??????

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

My grandson was wise and strong  
He also knew how to sing a song  
So go find me in a holy book  
Next to my son & dad you should look

Last Week:

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

**THE SHABBAT OF- JUNE 15**  
**SPECIAL KIDS SERVICES WILL BE**  
**HELD UPSTAIRS IN CLASSROOM 2 AT**  
**10:15 AM. Grades 2-6.**



### "Quote of the Week"

"Self-respect is the root of discipline:  
The sense of dignity grows with the  
ability to say no to oneself."

-Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

**WHILE WE ARE VERY SAD THAT THE  
ROMANOFF'S WILL BE MOVING TO FLORIDA  
WE ARE VERY EXCITED TO  
INTRODUCE THE NEW  
LIVINGSTON HEAD OF NCSY:  
MIRIAM PITTINSKY!**

**COME HEAR MIRIAM  
SPEAK SATURDAY NIGHT  
AT APPROX. 11:30PM.  
HER TOPIC:  
"THE 10  
COMMANDMENTS:  
WHY THOSE 10?"**

### **MIDOT MATTER MOST...**

**When you're a guest at  
someone's house attempt to  
try as much of the prepared  
food as possible- your hosts  
worked hard to make the  
meal for you.**

Altruism- Al-tru-ism

(אַלְטְרוּיִזְם)

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 & 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 & 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 \$ 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 U 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 & 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 & 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."