

No matter what fun things your summer includes, be sure to have a great time. The newsletter will be on vacation in July and August, so be sure to watch your e-mail for upcoming Yad Shalom events.

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www.yadshalom.com

June 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 ANNUAL "TORAH AMONG THE TREES" SERVICE 10:00 AM, ELLANOR C. LAWRENCE PARK
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Father's Day ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND PICNIC, BULL RUN REGIONAL PARK, 11:00 AM, SHELTER #5	22 30th of Sivan, 5769 ל' בסיון תשס"ט Rosh Chodesh Tamuz ראש חודש תמוז	23 1st of Tamuz, 5769 א' בתמוז תשס"ט Rosh Chodesh Tamuz ראש חודש תמוז	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

YAD SHALOM

KIBBITZER



Sivan - Tamuz
5769
June 2009

www.yadshalom.com
yadshalom[at]yadshalom.com

Schedule of Services

JUNE

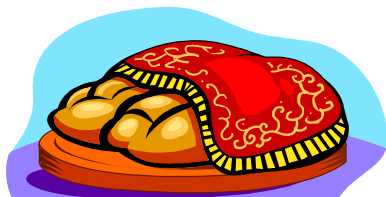
Saturday, 6: Outdoor Service at
Ellanor C. Lawrence Park

Sunday, 21: Annual Meeting &
Picnic

JULY AND AUGUST

**Please watch your e-mail for news
of activities for these months. The
newsletter will be on vacation for
the summer.**

Please remember that it is the tradition
for members of the congregation to
bring and snack and/or drink to share
for our Oneg Shabbat after services.
We thank you, as always, for your
generosity.



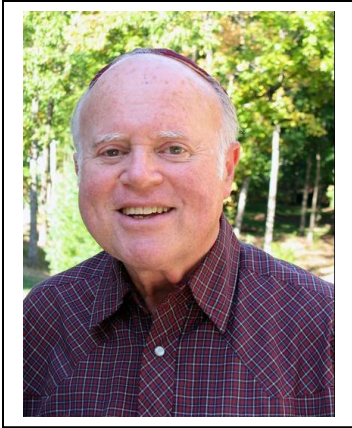
HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAYS TO:

7 – Aileen Fields
22 – Susan Bloom
24 – Jonathan Lasken



HAPPY JUNE ANNIVERSARIES TO:

2 – Janet and Lee Oppenheim
10- Sheila and Jon Sunray
11 – Evelyn and Dan Bystran
25 – Susan and Mike Goldenzweig



Chanting Along With Cantor Zucker

The *Torah* clearly proscribes the penalty of capital punishment where one person deliberately murders another (see Leviticus 24:17). However, if a person causes the death of another's animal, then payment of restitution is required but not the life of another animal.

This is followed by an interesting verse (Leviticus 24:19). "If anyone maims his fellow, as he has done so shall it be done to him." Verse 20 follows with: "Fracture for fracture, eye for eye, tooth for tooth; the injury he inflicted on another shall be inflicted on him." This raises a question: was the one who caused a fracture, eye or tooth damage to be (under Jewish law) retaliated against with a fracture or damage done to an eye/tooth?

The answer is certainly not. Restitution was paid by the defendant to the injured party and specified in the *Talmud* to include payment for (1) pain, (2) medical care, (3) recovery and (4) humiliation. Our rabbis set up a system of restitution to try to make victims of personal injury as whole as possible through monetary compensation - not through physical retaliation. For example, someone who stole a sheep had to pay back four-fold; a cow rustler was required to pay back five-fold, and so on.

But the term in the *Torah* a "life for [a] life" (Leviticus 24:18) is a legal term equivalent to fair compensation. Following up on this, the terms "eye for eye" and "tooth for tooth" are merely technical phrases for the demand that adequate and equitable compensation - after due and judicial appraisal of the injury inflicted - be paid to the injured party. There is in Jewish history no instance of the law of retaliation ever having been carried out literally: eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth.

Other parts of Leviticus, the third of the Five Books of Moses, deal with laws, rules and requirements for the religious bureaucracy of the Jewish people during Temple times, the Priests (or *Kohanim*) and the Levites (or *L'vi'im*). There are rules of dress - priests had to have their heads covered while in service - as well as strict rules of behavior involving infections, bodily secretions and emissions that restricted priests from religious performance until they were again deemed clean or, in today's parlance, having the "proper clearance" to continue in service.

There were more Levites than Priests since the priesthood started with Moses' older brother Aaron while there were already several generations of Levites before him. After singing, washing and heavy lifting of portable tabernacle items during the many years in the wilderness on their way to the Promised Land, the Levites also had more to do in their cities. The Tribe of Levi did not receive a territory distributed after the Promised Land was largely conquered by Joshua, but instead were assigned cities in which to dwell. The reason we still have twelve tribes without Levi is because

instead of a Tribe of Joseph, there are two tribes called Ephraim and Manasseh named after Joseph's two sons. Ephraim later played a leadership role in the history of the Kingdom of Israel until it was carried off by the Assyrians about 150 years before the Kingdom of Judah was ended with exile by the Babylonians in 586 BCE.

God charged the Children of Israel to be holy (Leviticus 19:2) but the physical restrictions on holiness for priests attending to the service in the Temple and other religious activities were stricter than for lay people. They had to be ready at all times, just like the eternal light that they were specifically responsible for maintaining (Leviticus 24:3-4). It was the lack of proper refill of this eternally lit candelabrum during Syrian Greek occupation of the Second Temple that led to the miracle of eight days of Chanukah.

We earlier discussed laws - during our study of Leviticus when we read the *Torah* - about personal holiness involving bodily secretions and specifically about leprosy. These rules of course were not limited to the Priests and Levites in holy service. A rudimentary system of separating people deemed not clean was employed with the intention of eventually re-including such affected people into the community again. The intention in Leviticus is that the people who looked diseased were not isolated permanently but encouraged to again become part of the nation.

The *Torah* repeatedly states that the Children of Israel are to be a holy in God's eyes because if not, then what's the point of replacing the Canaanites, Hittites, and other nations already living in the land promised to our forefathers with Hebrews from Egypt if they do not live cleanly as the *Torah* proscribes? God selects Moses to instruct a recently enslaved people who came out of Egypt to develop into "a kingdom of priests and a holy nation" (Exodus 19:6). This is the exceptionalism that is expected of the Jewish people. But it's not easy to accomplish and even God despaired of it after the idolatrous sin of the golden calf. Lucky for us, Moses talked God out of destroying His new people for this gross act of disobedience.

The concept of a "chosen people" – just like the not so well understood meaning of "eye for eye, tooth for tooth" – does not mean that the Jewish people are special or better than other people. Not at all. What it means is that the Jewish people were "chosen" to spread the word of God and would be protected by God while trying to accomplish this mission. But if the people chosen for this mission do not act as a "kingdom of priests and a holy nation", then they no longer deserve to be chosen for such a mission.

It will soon be seven weeks after Passover which means we will be visited by the Festival of *Shavuot*. A pilgrimage festival in ancient times, first fruits and other produce harvested early were then brought to the Temple out of gratefulness that the agricultural system was working again with the help of God. With no successor to the Temple in Jerusalem in sight at this moment, we have delicious alternatives with which to celebrate *Shavuot* including dairy ones like the ever-popular cheese blintzes.

Chag Samayach!



President's Message

Lee Oppenheim

On May 31st, the Yad Shalom book club discusses Bruce Feiler's book *Walking the Bible*. While in the Sinai, he states that the 'Bible was not merely a book to read but also a book to be experienced'¹. An interesting comment coming from a man who initially stated he was a disengaged Jew. The premise of this book is for the author to ascertain whether he could find clues to the story contained in the Five Books of Moses by walking around and through every place mentioned that is identifiable. Bruce Feiler took along a world renowned archeologist who happened to be an Israeli. How would the remnants of past society validate or discredit the story line? I won't give away the conclusion he found but I do encourage you to either join us at the Book Club meeting or put the book on your summer reading list.

As summer approaches and congregationally we slow down, I encourage all of us to continue to experience the Torah's teachings. Our actions do reflect upon us individually, as a family unit and as a community. Use the summer to grow internally. Experts agree that continuous learning is an important part of maintaining good health. Why not take a class at Chabad or the JCCNV? How about studying with your spouse, friend, children or grandchildren? Don't just read the text but make it fun. Find out why the 17th of Tammuz is a fast day and how does it connect to us today. Do an historical search for events through the ages that fall on the 9th of Av (Tisha B'Av). Why do many Jews like to be married during the month of Elul or what day is preferred and why? Sharing our learning with friends and family will keep us mentally alert. Having discussions on the meaning and practices shows that Jewishness is not only about the High Holidays, the Three Pilgrimage Festivals, Chanukah and Purim. It really is a way of life.

I identified things to do this summer that provide for self and family enrichment. I believe that if we do the first two, the third view (that of the community) will take care of itself. Community values are learned through teaching of a moral and ethical code. Our family teaches us through their value system. Others learn because they see us acting on the value system. We hear in business the expression walking the talk. A good Jew walks the talk. I use this mostly in the ethical and moral sense. We address new situations using both our secular and religious teachings. By having a strong Jewish identity and knowledge, our actions as seen by the community when our actions are tested will be exemplary. As Anastasis, an Orthodox Greek monk, says in *Walking the Bible* – "Wherever you are, if you are close to God, you are close. If you are far away, you are far away. It doesn't matter where you live. It matters what you feel". It is the feelings and experiences that make us a people, not just the words on the pages.

Our congregation is small in numbers but strong where it counts – our members. Everyone participates in keeping the lights on in their own special way. I want to thank each and every one of you for that support. Without it our light would be diminished. We are a community of people showing by example that being Jewish is important, that as a family we support each other and the synagogue. Janet and I are truly grateful to each and every one of you. We are ecstatic every time we claim you as family and friends. May our shimchas continue. We look forward to seeing you at our summer events and into next year. Have a wonderful, safe and healthy summer.

Lee

¹ *Walking the Bible* by Bruce Feiler, Page 236

² *ibid*, page 240

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS FOR JUNE

JEWISH GENEALOGY SEMINAR

Fran Lasken once again dazzled those seeking their roots in her second seminar on tracing our roots. Fran used her own experiences in family searches to provide us with techniques and tips on our journey. She showed us how to make the most of our most precious resource – our time. Her tips included what resources we should start with, how to cross reference our ancestors various name changes and uses of available documentation. For those that missed this great opportunity or those that desire additional assistance, Fran has volunteered to give a third seminar on this topic. Please email us of your interest and we'll schedule a time that meets most schedules.

BARBECUE AND HAVDALAH SERVICE

On Saturday July 18th, Congregation Yad Shalom Havdalah service will be held at the Gordon's home in Centreville. Prior to Havdalah we will hold our traditional BBQ. Dinner starts at 6:00 PM. The congregation provides the hot dogs and hamburgers while the rest of the meal is a pot luck. Please RSVP to us that you plan to attend, how many people you will bring and what pot luck item you will be bringing. We need appetizers, salads, desserts and drinks. We want to make sure that we don't end up with 10 watermelons and nothing else. If you RSVP late someone else may already have elected to bring your requested pot luck item. We may have to ask you bring another item. Commit early to participation and pencil the date in on your calendar.

ANNUAL MEETING AND BARBECUE

The annual meeting is set for Sunday, June 21st starting at 11:00 AM. The meeting will be held at Bull Run Regional Park off of Bull Run Post Office Drive. Our meeting will be held at Pavilion 5. Following the meeting, lunch will be served. This is a pot luck style gathering. We need appetizers, salads, desserts and drinks. Please RSVP back to us with the pot luck item you plan to bring and how many will attend with you. If you live outside of Fairfax County, there is an entrance fee per car. Please explain that you are attending a function at Pavilion 5 and the fee will be reduced.

**Donations are gratefully appreciated because
they help us serve the community and grow**

FROM: _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

ADDRESS: _____

MESSAGE: _____

Would you like an acknowledgment in the newsletter? _____

Send acknowledgment to: Name _____

Address _____

Send to: Congregation Yad Shalom
P.O. Box 1557
Centreville, Virginia 20122

THANK YOU!

**YAD SHALOM GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE
FOLLOWING GENEROUS DONATION MADE BY OUR
CONGREGATION DURING THIS PAST MONTH**

**In honor of Jerry Gordon's Aunt, Mollie Weinstein's 90th
Birthday**

**BY: Nancy, Jerry, Craig, Fay and Joey Gordon and Andrea
and Dani Schiffman**

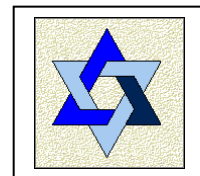
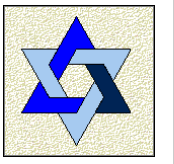
Board of Directors



YOUR 2008-09 YAD SHALOM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Front row (L-R): Gloria Pioso, Executive Vice President
Fran Lasken, Vice President for Education
Lee Oppenheim: President*

*Back row: (L-R): Robert Lasken, Treasurer
Jon Sunray, Immediate Past President*



JUNE YAHRZEITS – WE REMEMBER THEM

18 – Allen Bloom's Father, William Bloom
20 - Janet's grandmother, Mrs. Miriam Rabinowitz

Membership Application

We love having visitors and love talking to new members so please feel free to spend some time with us in our religious services and/or social events. If you have any questions, please call our President, Jon Sunray, at 703-378-1463. And if you would like to join us, GREAT!

Please fill out the following application and submit to: Congregation Yad Shalom,
PO Box 223809, Chantilly, VA 20153

Adult _____ Birthdate (mo/day/yr) _____

Work Phone _____

Adult _____ Birthdate (mo/day/yr) _____

Work Phone _____

Anniversary _____

Children and Birth Date (s)

Address _____ City/State/Zip

Home Phone _____ Email _____

Please select one of the following:

_____ Family Membership: \$700 (Married Jewish couple with children under 18 years of age)

_____ Married Couple Membership: \$600 (Married Jewish couple without children under 18 years of age)

_____ Family Individual Membership: \$500 (Jewish man or woman with child(ren) under 18 years of age)

_____ Associate Membership: \$180 (You belong to another synagogue but want to join Yad Shalom as well)

_____ Individual Membership: \$400 (Single Jewish man or woman or one married to non-Jewish partner)

_____ I am interested but need more information. Please contact me.