



# Ner Tamid Times

[www.CongregationNerTamid.org](http://www.CongregationNerTamid.org)

12 IYAR -- 13 SIVAN 5775

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## Cantor's Notes

**Cantor Patti Turner**

This month we will finish reading Vayikra (Leviticus). Some of us might wonder, "Why," do we even study this book in Torah. Why is it even included in Torah? After all, it seems, at first glance, to be a "how to" book for the priests.

Rabbi Yaakov Menken - Director, Project Genesis - Torah.org in an article about its relevance, wrote:

"The Book of VaYikra, Leviticus, begins with an unusual phrase that seems redundant: "And He called to Moshe, and G-d spoke to him from the tent of meeting, to say. " Why does G-d first call to Moshe before speaking to him?"

"Rabbi Shimshon Raphael Hirsch zt"l explains that this phrasing emphasizes the Torah's statement that it is, in its entirety, Divine Revelation, transmitted to Moshe "as one man speaks to his friend" [Exodus 33:11]. Unlike the other prophets, who experienced dreamlike visions which they then recorded in their own words, Moshe spoke with G-d like we speak with people standing around a corner (or on a telephone), unseen but clearly heard. As Rav Hirsch says, it was a revelation to Moses, not a revelation in Moses.

"This is, of course, a crucial message. It changes our understanding of the Five Books "of Moses" entirely. But still the question arises: why here? Why now? If we have heard this message previously, and its restatement is not more explicit, why is it important to place it here, at the beginning of the third book?"

"I (Rabbi Menken) would suggest that there is a second message here: that we need to be paying special attention now.

"VaYikra was called "Leviticus" in Latin because it concerns itself with the sacrifices offered in the Temple, as well as many things pertaining to the Kohanim, the Priests, and the other members of the tribe of Levi. Sacrifices, voluntary

*(Cantor Continued on page 3)*



## Prez's Menschen-ings

Things are moving very quickly at Congregation Ner Tamid! We have a number of activities coming up during May and planning many more for the coming months. The Board is continually listening to, and very interested in, your ideas for services, social events, and other activities. We have recently established a Social Activity Committee, chaired by Michael Bergel, to plan and implement additional social gatherings for the Congregation. Please feel free to contact any member of the Board to discuss your ideas!

Please join us Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM for the screening of the movie, "The Dove Flyer." Based on the novel by Eli Amir, "The Dove Flyer" depicts the final years of the Jewish community in Baghdad before its expulsion and resettlement in Israel in the early 1950's. Dr. Ruth Levitz, whose parents were part of the Jewish community in Baghdad, will be with us and available to discuss and answer questions. The screening will be preceded by Torah Study at 5:30 PM, Havdallah and Bring Your Own Dinner (Dairy) at 6:30 PM. Come for part, or all, of the evening!

The Torah Study Group will conduct a Torah Service the following week, Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 AM as we complete the reading of Shemini (Leviticus). The service will be followed by a light Kiddish. The 2<sup>nd</sup> day of Shavuot Yizkor Memorial Service will be held on Monday morning, May 25<sup>th</sup>, (Memorial Day) at 10:00 AM.

Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup> is the Fifth Friday and while we will not hold services that evening, we are planning Dinner Out at 7:00 PM. Details will follow by email. Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, will be the next installment of Israeli /International Folk Dancing at 7:00 PM. The dancing will be preceded by Torah Study at 5:30 PM, Havdallah and Bring Your Own Dinner (Dairy) at 6:30 PM. Come for part, or all, of the evening!

*(President Continued on page 7)*

## Educational & Upcoming Events

- ☆ "The Dove Flyer" May 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM
- ☆ Torah Service, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 AM
- ☆ Yizkor Service, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 AM
- ☆ Fifth Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM
- ☆ Israeli/International Folk Dancing, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM
- ☆ Every Shabbat, 7:30 PM, Friday Night Services.
- ☆ Every Shabbat 10:00 AM, Shabbat Morning Service, 10:45 AM Torah Study.

# Congregation Ner Tamid

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### Wanted!

- **Stories** ➤
- Anecdotes**
- **Poems** ➤
- Quotes**



**Share your interests and points of view with the rest of us that we all may grow.**

***Kathy & Daryl Friedberg*, Editor**  
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## Congregation Ner Tamid's **CARE COMMITTEE**



Congregation Ner Tamid's CARE COMMITTEE brings a "neighbor helping neighbor" approach to providing aid and support to congregants who need help during difficult times. We offer help with cooking because of illness or accidents; and provide assistance to families in mourning or with other special needs.

If you know of an individual, or family, in the C-N-T community who can use our assistance, or if you want to join our team, please e-mail: KAThy Friedberg at: [KAT@CongregationNerTamid.org](mailto:KAT@CongregationNerTamid.org)

## ONEG SHABBAT GUIDELINES

☆ If you are unable to provide Oneg on your assigned date, please find a replacement for yourself or feel free to send in a donation or drop items off beforehand. Thank you!

**When providing Oneg, please keep the following guidelines in mind:**

- An inexpensive, small centerpiece would be appreciated. Vases will be provided for flowers.
- Oneg suggestions include a sheet cake or two dozen cookies as well as fruit, nuts, trail mix or vegetables.
- Juice and wine will be provided.
- Paper products and silverware will be provided.
- Set up should be done before Services, but, if necessary, can be done quietly during Services.
- Clean up includes emptying trash cans, sweeping and mopping floors, washing and putting away all items used, and wiping down countertops.

If you are aware of a special occasion [anniversary, birthday, graduation, etc.] and would like to provide Oneg on a date not scheduled for yourself, please feel free to contact the Oneg provider scheduled and make arrangements with them. [Kat@CongregationNerTamid.org](mailto:Kat@CongregationNerTamid.org)



The Harlan S. Friedberg Memorial Yahrzeit Plaque is a thoughtful way to remember loved ones who have departed from us but will never be forgotten.

Memorial Plates, each with a light to be illuminated for the Yahrzeit, are available that can be inscribed with up to three lines of personal engraving which may include the departed's name, Hebrew name, if desired, and the Hebrew and Gregorian dates.

The cost of each Memorial Plate is \$180.00. The ten times Chai will provide for the continued funding of additional Memorial Yahrzeit Plaques, as they become necessary, as well as the cost of the individual Memorial Plates and engraving.

If you have someone's name that you would like to have placed on the Yahrzeit Plaque, please contact Randy Friedberg or any member of the Board. Much as the Mourner's Kaddish is a spiritual reaffirmation to the goodness of life, so shall these Memorial Plates be a visual reaffirmation and tribute to the goodness of our loved one's lives.

## Shavuot

*Shavuot* (or *Shovuos*), in Ashkenazi usage; *Shavu'oth* in Sephardi and Mizrahi Hebrew (Hebrew: שבועות, lit. "Weeks"), known as the **Feast of Weeks** in English and as **Pentecost** (Πεντηκοστή) in Ancient Greek, is a Jewish holiday that occurs on the sixth day of the Hebrew month of Sivan (late May or early June).

*Shavuot* commemorates the anniversary of the day God gave the Torah to the entire nation of Israel assembled at Mount Sinai, although the association between the giving of the Torah (*Matan Torah*) and *Shavuot* is not explicit in the Biblical text. The holiday is one of the Shalosh Regalim, the three Biblical pilgrimage festivals. It marks the conclusion of the Counting of the Omer, and its date is directly linked to that of Passover. The Torah mandates the seven-week Counting of the Omer, beginning on the second day of Passover, to be immediately followed by *Shavuot*. This counting of days and weeks is understood to express anticipation and desire for the giving of the Torah. On Passover, the people of Israel were freed from their enslavement to Pharaoh; on *Shavuot* they were given the Torah and became a nation committed to serving God. The word *Shavuot* means weeks, and the festival of *Shavuot* marks the completion of the seven-week counting period between Passover and *Shavuot*.

*Shavuot* is one of the lesser-known Jewish holidays among secular Jews in the Jewish diaspora, while those in Israel are more aware of it. According to Jewish law, *Shavuot* is celebrated in Israel for one day and in the Diaspora (outside of Israel) for two days. Reform Judaism celebrates only one day, even in the Diaspora.

## Origins

### In the Torah

In the Bible, *Shavuot* is called the *Festival of Weeks* (Hebrew: חג השבועות, *Hag ha-Shavuot*, Exodus 34:22, Deuteronomy 16:10); *Festival of Reaping* (Hebrew: חג הקציר, *Hag ha-Katsir*, Exodus 23:16), and *Day of the*

*First Fruits* (Hebrew יום הבכורים, *Yom ha-Bikkurim*, Numbers 28:26).

## In the Talmud

The Talmud refers to *Shavuot* as *Atzeret* (Hebrew: לעצרת, literally, "refraining" or "holding back"), referring to the prohibition against work on this holiday and to the conclusion of the holiday and season of Passover. Since *Shavuot* occurs 50 days after Passover, Hellenistic Jews gave it the name "**Pentecost**" (πεντηκοστή, "fiftieth day") (not to be confused with the Christian observance of Pentecost).

## Grain harvest

Besides its significance as the day on which the Torah was revealed by God to the Israelite nation at Mount Sinai (which includes the Ten Commandments), *Shavuot* is also connected to the season of the grain harvest in Israel. In ancient times, the grain harvest lasted seven weeks and was a season of gladness (Jer. 5:24, Deut. 16:9-11, Isa. 9:2). It began with the harvesting of the barley during Passover and ended with the harvesting of the wheat at *Shavuot*. *Shavuot* was thus the concluding festival of the grain harvest, just as the eighth day of Sukkot (Tabernacles) was the concluding festival of the fruit harvest. During the existence of the Temple in Jerusalem, an offering of two loaves of bread from the wheat harvest was made on *Shavuot*.

## Modern Observances

*Shavuot* is unlike other Jewish holidays in that it has no prescribed mitzvot (Torah commandments) other than traditional festival observances of meals and merriment; and the traditional holiday observances of special prayer services and abstention from work. However, it is also characterized by many minhagim (customs).

A mnemonic for these customs is the letters of the Hebrew word *acharit* ("last"). Since the Torah is called *reishit* ("first") the customs of *Shavuot* highlight the importance of custom for the continuation and preser-

vation of Jewish religious observance. These customs, largely observed in Ashkenazic communities, are:

- – אקדמות *Akdamut*, the reading of a liturgical poem during *Shavuot* morning synagogue services
- – חלב *Chalav* (milk), the consumption of dairy products like milk and cheese
- – רות *Ruth*, the reading of the Book of Ruth at morning services (outside Israel: on the second day)
- – ירק *Yerek*, the decoration of homes and synagogues with greenery
- – תורה *Torah*, engaging in all-night Torah study.

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(Cantor Continued from page 1)

offerings, incense, Tzara'as (the spiritual ailment discussed in Parshas Metzora and elsewhere) -- all of them are found here. And because there is no Temple standing now, because we are not all united in our land, and because we are not on the spiritual level necessary to experience Tzara'as, almost none of the aforementioned laws are applicable today. It has been said, though I have not seen this myself, that the Reader's Digest Bible simply omits Leviticus!

"Needless to say, we must take a different approach.

"Simply because a law is not applicable today, that doesn't mean it is irrelevant, or has nothing to teach us. The Torah is teaching us to elevate ourselves, to become more Holy, to emulate the Divine. In these cases it may not be obvious to us what lessons we are to learn, as we cannot put them "to practical use" or witness the Kohanim doing so. But if simply skimming the surface will leave us uninspired and unmoved, the answer is not to look away, but to look deeper."

I invite you to join us on Saturday mornings to "look deeper" into what might seem irrelevant to us today, so as "to become more Holy," not more so than anyone else, but to improve ourselves each and every day, so that we can become a light to the nations that Gd. intended us to be.

# Weekly Parshas

## Achrei Mot

### Leviticus 16:1 – 18:30

After the death of two of Aaron's sons, who were struck down by God for attempting to enter the Holy of Holies, the High Priest is given strict instructions that the Sanctuary's most holy place may only be entered on Yom Kippur. The purification of the Sanctuary and the rituals of Yom Kippur – including the scapegoat and the personal and communal confessions – are enumerated. The entire Israelite nation was commanded to “afflict their souls” - to fast on Yom Kippur.

Rules are given prohibiting the random sacrifice of animals in any locale; they may only be offered on the Sanctuary's altar. To do otherwise was tantamount to idolatry. The consumption of any blood or of the flesh of an animal that was not slaughtered properly was also considered an abomination.

The Torah's standards of personal morality include sexual behavior: the excesses of both the Egyptian and Canaanite cultures were rejected, and prohibited marital unions were also spelled out.

## Kedoshim

### Leviticus 19:1 – 20:27

In scholarly circles the opening section of Kedoshim is called the Holiness Code. In it we are enjoined by God to strive for human holiness to parallel the divine holiness.

The commandments through which holiness is expressed may be divided into two groups: those that emphasize the human-divine relationship and those stressing interpersonal behavior. In the first category we find respect for one's parents, Shabbat, and the condemnation of idolatry and of a variety of other practices common to the Canaanite peoples, including tattooing.

With reference to our interaction with fellow human beings, we are enjoined to consider the poor, and the stranger. Specific laws with regard to the poor applicable to the farmer are enumerated. Laws promulgated based on truth and justice are set forth: stealing, defrauding, slander, etc. are prohibited. Protection for all disadvantaged – not just the poor, but the deaf and the blind – is required. Not

surprisingly, Judaism's Golden Rule, “Love Your Neighbor As Yourself,” is found here, too.

The sidra concludes with the reminder that just as the heathen nations are to be punished for their ways, Israel will suffer a similar fate if these commandments are breached.

## Emor

### Leviticus 21:1 – 24:23

Because of their unique status as ritual functionaries, the priests had to maintain a high standard of purity. As contact with the dead was a source of ritual defilement, the priests were only permitted to attend the funerals of their closest relatives. The High Priest was held to an even higher standard: he was not permitted to attend anyone's funeral.

Any physical defect disqualified a priest from functioning in an official capacity, just as any physical defect in an animal rendered it unfit for sacrifice. Sacred food (donated, dedicated or sacrificed) could only be eaten by those members of the priests' families who themselves were in a state of ritual purity.

The holidays: Shabbat, Passover, Shavuot, Rosh Hashannah, Yom Kippur and Sukkot - are enumerated.

The people are reminded of their obligation to provide olive oil for the Sanctuary's menorah to keep it burning continually. The showbread, changed each week, was to be made of twelve loaves arranged in two rows.

During a quarrel a man blasphemes God. He is placed in custody until his penalty is disclosed: blasphemy, like murder, is punishable by death.

## Behar

### Leviticus 25:1 – 26:2

The opening segment of this Torah portion deals with certain aspects of agricultural law that only apply to the land of Israel. The Sabbatical Year (Sh'mittah) regulations stipulate that every seventh year the farmer may not till the earth, and upon the completion of seven seven-year cycles, the fiftieth year, or Jubilee, is to be proclaimed. In the Jubilee year all land must revert to its original tribal ownership, and all Hebrew slaves are to be freed.

If ancestral land was sold because



Photo by Cary H. Miller

of financial hardship, the owner or another relative could buy back the property prior to the Jubilee. Only houses in walled cities were exempt from the Jubilee rules: they could be sold in perpetuity.

In keeping with one of the purposes of the Jubilee Year (economic protection of the impoverished), the Torah sets forth additional laws governing treatment of the poor: loans were to be made without charging interest; an Israelite slave (one who was sold or sold himself/herself into servitude due to indebtedness) was to be treated as hired help throughout his/her term of bondage.

The sidra ends with the admonition not to fashion idols, to observe the Shabbat and to revere the Sanctuary.












## Bechukotai









### Leviticus 26:3 – 27:24

This sidra brings us to the conclusion of the Book of Leviticus. The prominent feature of our portion is the tocheicha - a sevenfold series of warnings or reproofs, which are chanted in a subdued voice. After outlining the rewards for the observance of God's Torah (peace, prosperity, and agricultural overabundance), the consequences for disobedience (disease, famine, siege, conquest and exile) follow.

The rules regarding the valuation and redemption of voluntary pledges are found in this parasha. An individual could vow to donate the value of an animal, a plot of land, an edifice, himself/herself or another family member to the upkeep and maintenance of the Sanctuary. The procedure for doing so and for determining the value of the property or person are set forth.

*(Parsha Continued on page 7)*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<p>1 IYAR 12</p> <p>7:30 PM Services: <b>Cantor Patti Turner</b></p> <p>Oneg: <b>Marcy &amp; Alan Prager</b></p> <p>27th day of the Omer</p>  7:52 PM	<p>2 IYAR 13</p> <p>Parshat: <b>Acharei Mot – Kedoshim</b> פרשת אַחֲרֵי מוֹת -- קְדוֹשִׁים Leviticus 16:1 – 20:27</p> <p><b>10:00 AM Shabbat Service</b></p> <p><b>10:45 AM Torah Study</b></p> <p>28th day of the Omer</p>  <b>8:29 PM (18 min)</b>
<p>3 IYAR 14</p> <p><b><u>Pesach Sheni</u></b> <b><u>פסח שני</u></b></p> <p>29th day of the Omer</p>	<p>4 IYAR 15</p> <p>30th day of the Omer</p>	<p>5 IYAR 16</p> <p>31st day of the Omer</p>	<p>6 IYAR 17</p> <p>32nd day of the Omer</p>	<p>7 IYAR 18</p> <p><b><u>Lag Ba-Omer</u></b> <b><u>ל"ג בעומר</u></b></p> <p>33rd day of the Omer</p>	<p>8 IYAR 19</p> <p>7:30 PM Services: <b>Randy Friedberg</b></p> <p>Oneg: <b>Hilda Pritsker</b></p> <p>34th day of the Omer</p>  7:57 PM	<p>9 IYAR 20</p> <p>Parshat: <b>Emor</b> <b>אֵמֹר</b> Leviticus 21:1 - 24:23</p> <p><b>5:30 PM Torah Study, Havdalah</b></p> <p><b>6:30 PM Bring Your Own Dairy Dinner</b></p> <p><b>7:00 PM Movie "The Dove Flyer"</b></p> <p>35th day of the Omer</p>  <b>8:34 PM (18 min)</b>
<p>10 IYAR 21</p> <p><b>Mother's Day</b></p> <p>36th day of the Omer</p>	<p>11 IYAR 22</p> <p>37th day of the Omer</p>	<p>12 IYAR 23</p> <p>38th day of the Omer</p>	<p>13 IYAR 24</p> <p>39th day of the Omer</p>	<p>14 IYAR 25</p> <p>40th day of the Omer</p>	<p>15 IYAR 26</p> <p>7:30 PM Services: <b>Cantor Patti Turner</b></p> <p>Oneg: <b>Harry Rav</b></p> <p>41st day of the Omer</p>  8:02 PM	<p>16 IYAR 27</p> <p><b><u>Shabbat HaChodesh</u></b> <b>שַׁבַּת הַחֹדֶשׁ</b></p> <p>Parshat: <b>Behar – Bechukotai</b> פרשת בְּהַר -- בְּחֻקֹּתַי Leviticus 25:1 – 27:34</p> <p><b>10:00 AM Torah Service</b></p> <p>42nd day of the Omer</p>  <b>8:39 PM (18 min)</b>
<p>17 IYAR 28</p> <p><b><u>Yom Yerushalayim</u></b> <b><u>יום ירושלים</u></b></p> <p>43rd day of the Omer</p>	<p>18 IYAR 29</p> <p>44th day of the Omer</p>	<p>19 SIVAN 1</p> <p><b><u>Rosh Chodesh Sivan</u></b> <b><u>ראש חודש סיון</u></b></p> <p>45th day of the Omer</p>	<p>20 SIVAN 2</p> <p><b><u>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</u></b></p> <p>46th day of the Omer</p>	<p>21 SIVAN 3</p> <p>47th day of the Omer</p>	<p>22 SIVAN 4</p> <p>7:30 PM Services: <b>Cantor Patti Turner</b></p> <p>Oneg: <b>Suzv Smith</b></p> <p>48th day of the Omer</p>  8:07 PM	<p>23 SIVAN 5</p> <p><b><u>Erev Shavuot</u></b> <b>שְׁבוּעוֹת</b></p> <p>Parshat: <b>BeMidbar</b> <b>בְּמִדְבָּר</b> Numbers 1:1 - 4:20</p> <p><b>10:00 AM Shabbat Service</b></p> <p><b>10:45 AM Torah Study</b></p> <p>49th day of the Omer</p>  <b>8:44 PM (18 min)</b>
<p>24 SIVAN 6</p> <p><b><u>Shavuot I</u></b> <b><u>שבועות</u></b></p>	<p>25 SIVAN 7</p> <p><b>Memorial Day</b></p> <p><b><u>Shavuot II</u></b> <b><u>שבועות</u></b></p> <p><b>10:00 am Yizkor Service</b></p>  <b>8:48 PM (18 min)</b>	<p>26 SIVAN 8</p> <p>45th day of the Omer</p>	<p>27 SIVAN 9</p> <p>46th day of the Omer</p>	<p>28 SIVAN 10</p> <p>47th day of the Omer</p>	<p>29 SIVAN 11</p> <p>7:00 PM <b>5<sup>th</sup> Friday – Social Activity</b></p> <p><b>Dinner Out</b> (Details to Follow)</p>  8:11 PM	<p>30 SIVAN 12</p> <p>Parshat: <b>Nasso</b> <b>נָסָא</b> Numbers 4:21 - 7:89</p> <p><b>5:30 PM Torah Study, Havdalah</b></p> <p><b>6:30 PM Bring Your Own Dairy Dinner</b></p> <p><b>7:00 PM Israeli Folk Dancing</b></p>  <b>8:48 PM (18 min)</b>
<p>31 SIVAN 13</p>						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 SIVAN 14	2 SIVAN 15	3 SIVAN 16	4 SIVAN 17	5 SIVAN 18 7:30 PM Services: <u>Cantor Patti Turner</u> Oneg: <u>Renée &amp; Larry Spritzer</u>  8:15 PM	6 SIVAN 19 Parshat <u>Beha'alotecha</u> פרשת בהעלותך Numbers 8:1 – 12:16 <u>10:00 AM Shabbat Service</u> <u>10:45 AM Torah Study</u>  8:52 PM (18 min)
7 SIVAN 20	8 SIVAN 21	9 SIVAN 22	10 SIVAN 23	11 SIVAN 24	12 SIVAN 25 7:30 PM Services: <u>Brittni Coe</u> Oneg: <u>Patti &amp; Rav Turner</u>  8:19 PM	13 SIVAN 26 Parshat: <u>Sh'lach</u> פרשת שלח-לקך Numbers 13:1 - 15:41 <u>10:00 AM Shabbat Service</u> <u>10:45 AM Torah Study</u>  8:55 PM (18 min)
14 SIVAN 27	15 SIVAN 28	16 SIVAN 29	17 SIVAN 30	18 TAMMUZ 1 <u>Rosh Chodesh Tammuz</u> ראש חודש תמוז	19 TAMMUZ 2 7:30 PM Services: <u>Cantor Patti Turner</u> Oneg: <u>Shelley Allison</u>  8:21 PM	20 TAMMUZ 3 Parshat: <u>Korach</u> פרשת קורח Numbers 16:1 - 18:32 <u>10:00 AM Shabbat Service</u> <u>10:45 AM Torah Study</u>  8:57 PM (18 min)
21 TAMMUZ 4 <u>Father's Day</u> <u>Summer Begins</u>	22 TAMMUZ 5	23 TAMMUZ 6 <u>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</u>	24 TAMMUZ 7	25 TAMMUZ 8	26 TAMMUZ 9 7:30 PM Services: <u>Cantor Patti Turner</u> Oneg: <u>Mara &amp; Michael Bergel</u>  8:22 PM	27 TAMMUZ 10 Parshat: <u>Chukkat</u> פרשת חקת Numbers 19:1-22:1 <u>10:00 AM Shabbat Service</u> <u>10:45 AM Torah Study</u>  8:58 PM (18 min)
28 TAMMUZ 11 <u>Annual Meeting</u> <u>10:00 AM</u>	29 TAMMUZ 12	30 TAMMUZ 13				

(Continued from page 4)

## Bamidbar

### Numbers 1:1 - 4:20

True to its name in English, the fourth book of the Torah, Numbers, begins with a census of all Israelite males over the age of twenty who would be eligible for military service. The total came to 605,550.

Because of their consecrated role in the Sanctuary, the Levites were exempt from military service and were not a part of this population tally. However, in a separate survey there were found to be 22,000 male Levites, who were to serve in a religiously dedicated capacity in place of all other firstborn males. In the general population 22,273 firstborn males were numbered. The extra 273 firstborn Israelites (for whom there were no corresponding Levites) had to pay the sum of five sh'kalim to Aaron as their redemption price from service in the Sanctuary.

The Torah provides us with a description of the configuration of the Israelite encampment. The Sanctuary was at

the center with the priests and the three Levitical families stationed on each of its four sides. The twelve tribes formed the outer cordon, with three tribes arrayed on each side.

## Naso

### Numbers 4:21 - 7:89

The portion begins with additional information about the role of the Levitical families in the transport of the Sanctuary, under the supervision of Aaron's son, Itamar.

The Torah then cites three instances where matters of a private nature come under the supervision of the priest. One who retains a neighbor's property must return it, add 20% to its value, and bring a guilt offering in atonement. A wife suspected of adultery was to be brought before the priest and asked to swear an oath. The wording of this oath was written down and its ink was mixed in water, which the wife was then compelled to drink. If she suffered no ill effects from this potion, she was innocent of the charge; if she became

ill, she was deemed guilty. A Nazirite was one who took a special oath of dedication to God. Upon the expiration of this vow, his/her head was shaven and the hair burnt under the sacrifice that marked the conclusion of this consecrated period.

The priests were commanded to bless the people with a specific threefold formula consisting of verses of three, five and seven words, concluding with shalom (peace, wholeness).

The sidra concludes with the prince of each tribe presenting an identical dedicatory gift of silver, gold, sacrificial animals and meal offerings to the Sanctuary.

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## Jewish Shavuot Jokes!

### **It's a Bargain!**

There is a well known Midrash about how God offered the Law to a number of nations, which all refused it, before He offered it to the Jews. What isn't known very well is the inside story.

God first went to the Egyptians and asked them if they would like a commandment.

"What's a commandment?" they asked.

"Well, one of them goes, 'Thou shalt not commit adultery,'" replied God.

The Egyptians thought about it and then said, "No way, that would ruin our weekends."

So then God went to the Assyrians and asked them if they would like a

commandment.

They also asked, "What's a commandment?"

"Well," said God, "one says, 'Thou shalt not steal!'"

The Assyrians immediately replied, "No way. That would ruin our economy."

So finally God went to the Jews and asked them if they wanted a commandment.

They asked, "How much?"

God said, "They're free."

The Jews said, "Great! We'll take ten."



Shalom,  
**Hilda & Kathy**

Downloaded 4/30/2015, [www.kehillatisrael.net](http://www.kehillatisrael.net)

(President Continued from page 1)

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 AM. Members and guests are invited to this meeting to review the past year, discuss the coming year, review the financial status, and elect officers for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

Please remember to support our Community Service activities (see page 9) including our new association with the Kroger Community Rewards Program. Don't forget to add Ner Tamid to your Tom Thumb Rewards Program, and the Amazon Smiles program.

**Come experience what sets Ner Tamid apart.  
Where you are more than just a name!**

Shalom,  
Randy

## **NEED A GREETING CARD?**

Send a family member/friend a greeting card and help fund C-N-T. Greeting cards, for any occasion, will be made up and sent out quickly. Just make a monetary donation to C-N-T, to whatever fund you wish, and send the information to: **KATHY Friedberg** at [KAT@CongregationNerTamid.org](mailto:KAT@CongregationNerTamid.org)

*Cakes by Renee*

*Party Baking*

*Personalized Cakes For*

*Special Occasions*

*Call Renee at (972) 539-7206*

We are told in Proverbs,  
"The soul of a person is the candle of God."



## Yahrzeits

### MAY

- 1 - Herman Silver, Husband of Marilyn Silver
- 3 - Mike Friedman, Father of Jolene Weisblat
- 5 - Ruth Leibmann, Aunt of Renée Spritzer
- 10 - Cynthia Villarreal, Daughter of Marilyn Lepley
- 11 - Joel Prager, Father of Alan Prager
- 12 - Estelle L Fliegel, (Ester Golda), Mother of Renée Spritzer, H 23 Iyyar
- 15 - Natalie Ann Sheffer, Mother of Patti Turner
- 20 - Austin Carter, Uncle of Brittni Coe
- 23 - John J. Arden, Father of Stan Arden
- 26 - Jean Silverman Miller, Mother of Cary Miller, H 08 Sivan
- 26 - Samuel Lee Turner, Brother of Ray Turner
- 29 - Faren Penny Feigenbaum, Sister of Kathy Friedberg
- 30 - Rose Gold, Aunt of Joel Goodman & Sheldon Goodman

### June

- 1 - Mildred "Bunnie" Munves, GrandMother of Patti Turner
- 2 - Howard Belkoff, Father of Jeffrey Belkoff
- 3 - Gayle Friedman, Sister of Kathy Friedberg
- 4 - Ruth Rudolph, Grandmother of Randy Friedberg
- 5 - Warren Lepley, Husband of Marilyn Lepley
- 9 - Harlan S. Friedberg, Son of Kathy & Randy Friedberg, Brother of Mardi Moon & Daryl Friedberg
- 10 - I. D. Freed
- 15 - Miriam Tiras, Grandmother of Alan Prager
- 18 - Florence Isenberg, Mother of Bobbi Goodman
- 18 - Bertha Kurzban, Mother of Marcy Prager
- 18 - Eva Silver, Mother of Herm Silver
- 19 - Minnie Spritzer (Minya bat Chiam Mordechai), Mother of Larry Spritzer, H 02 Tammuz
- 24 - Morty Smith, Father of Dr. Suzy Smith
- 26 - Michael Belkoff, Grandfather of Jeffrey Belkoff



## Anniversaries

### MAY

- 6 - Karen & Thaine Briscoe
- 14 - Betsy cook & Don Darden
- 15 - Bobbi & Joel Goodman

### JUNE

- 3 - Eryn & Victor Putman
- 7 - Flo & Stan Arden
- 14 - Jolene & Harvey Weisblat
- 23 - Renée & Larry Spritzer
- 30 - Patti & Ray Turner



## Birthdays

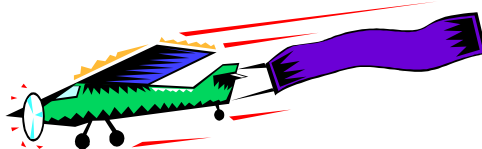
### MAY

- 1 - Brittni Coe
- 1 - Adam Turner
- 6 - Violet Thompson
- 6 - Jolene Weisblat
- 8 - Harvey Weisblat
- 11 - Avi Cagan
- 11 - Micah Villarreal
- 11 - Moriah Villarreal
- 12 - Damion Bertsch
- 16 - Marilyn Lepley
- 16 - Jeffery Shore
- 18 - Benjamin Prager
- 20 - Meagan Turner
- 21 - Benjamin Clark
- 27 - Trey Geltmeier
- 30 - Weston Hardowin
- 30 - Brandon Putman
- 31 - Brandon Garcia
- 31 - Chani Erber

### JUNE

- 1 - Larry Spritzer
- 2 - Liam Turner
- 3 - Casey Thuman
- 6 - Alex Garcia
- 6 - Matthew Turner
- 9 - Robert D. Moon
- 9 - Marshall D. Moon
- 15 - Aidan Turner
- 17 - Guy Bergel
- 19 - Casey Pierce
- 24 - Robby Moon
- 26 - Nathaniel Putman
- 30 - Cole Putman

## Publicity



Your assistance is needed. A Publicity Committee is being formed to help get the word out that Ner Tamid is one of the best kept secrets in the Metroplex. We don't want to be secret anymore. We need some ideas, some writing and some placement to get the word out.

Please contact:

Randy Friedberg at [randy@CongregationNerTamid.org](mailto:randy@CongregationNerTamid.org)  
if you can give us a couple of minutes of your time.



# TRIBUTES 5775

Cut out and mail with contribution to Congregation Ner Tamid, P.O. Box 112772, Carrollton, Texas 75011-2772.

## My Contribution to Ner Tamid

\_\_\_ in memory of \_\_\_ in honor of \_\_\_ honoring the Yahrzeit of \_\_\_ speedy recovery of \_\_\_ in appreciation of

Honoree: \_\_\_\_\_ Fund: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

(optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions are gratefully accepted for the following funds. Acknowledgments will be published monthly.

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☆ <b><u>Rabbinic Fund</u></b></li> <li>☆ <b><u>Building Fund</u></b></li> <li>☆ <b><u>Ark Fund</u></b> – Maintains and/or remodels the Ark.</li> <li>☆ <b><u>Torah Fund</u></b>—Repair our Torah &amp; acquire another Torah</li> <li>☆ <b><u>Prayer Book Fund</u></b></li> <li>☆ <b><u>Rabbi's Discretionary Fund</u></b> – Distributes funds to individuals, community causes or worthy institutions as determined by the Rabbi.</li> <li>☆ <b><u>Religious School Fund</u></b></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☆ <b><u>Temple Beautification Fund</u></b></li> <li>☆ <b><u>Caring Congregation Fund</u></b> – Supports programs of caring for our members and Community.</li> <li>☆ <b><u>Temple Endowment Fund</u></b> – Supports the general programs and events of the Temple.</li> <li>☆ <b><u>Harlan S. Friedberg Memorial Fund</u></b> – Maintains and adds to the Yahrzeit Plaque.</li> <li>☆ <b><u>Lee Mirowitz Memorial Fund</u></b> – Provides educational computer software.</li> <li>☆ <b><u>Marilyn &amp; I. D. Freed Study Center Fund</u></b> –</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides for enhanced study opportunities.</li> <li>☆ <b><u>Maimonides Fund</u></b> – for members in dire need.</li> <li>☆ <b><u>General Fund</u></b> – Supports the administrative costs of the Temple, i.e. Rabbi, facility maintenance, etc.</li> <li>☆ <b><u>Bertha Kurzban Music Fund</u></b> – provides for the Congregations needs in all areas involving music.</li> <li>☆ <b><u>Cantor's Discretionary Fund</u></b> – Distributes funds to individuals, community causes or worthy institutions as determined by the Cantor.</li> </ul> |
|---|---|---|

- ☆ Please add our **Tom Thumb Rewards number, 2740, to your rewards card and shop at Tom Thumb!**
- ☆ Please shop Amazon at [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and designate Congregation Ner Tamid as your charity.
- ☆ Please add our **Kroger Community Rewards number, 93262, to your rewards card and shop at Kroger**

## Donations have been received to the:

### General Fund from:

The Prager Family

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

### Bertha Kurzban Music Fund from:

Inez Kaufman in Honor of the 90th Birthday of  
Miriam Vernon

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

### Harlan S. Friedberg Memorial Fund from:

Anonymous

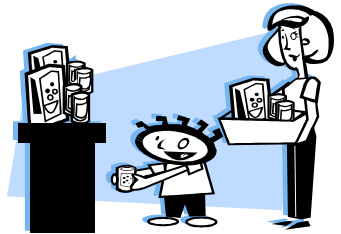
☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

### Congregation from:

Tom Thumb, Carrollton, of Passover items  
Alfred Hersh, of signed and numbered Art Work

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

## Community Service



Please support our on-going Community Mitzvah Projects:

- ☆ Collect staple food items, coats and blankets for Jewish Family Service (contact Randy Friedberg)
- ☆ Collect manufacturer coupons for Military bases overseas (contact Marilynn Lepley)
- ☆ Donation bottles for a variety of community & outreach service organizations.

**Misheberach**  
Blessing of Healing

*The Friedberg / Moon families wish Refuah Shlema  
~ complete healing to all who need healing and /or*

# Congregation Ner Tamid

P.O. Box 112772  
Carrollton, Texas 75011-2772



Web Site:  
<http://www.CongregationNerTamid.org>

Phone: (972) 416-9738

**Address Service Requested**

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Check our web site for up to date info.  
We can be found at:  
<http://www.CongregationNerTamid.org>

### Congregation Ner Tamid Mission Statement

Congregation Ner Tamid is dedicated to preserving and strengthening Jewish values, through communal worship, education and community service. We offer an atmosphere of warm involvement and welcome all families and individuals interested in participating in the community of the congregation. We interpret and practice Judaism according to Reform principles and embrace the Reform movement's commitment to diversity, outreach, inclusiveness and social justice.



## MEMBERSHIP

[Includes tickets for High Holiday Services]

*We are missing one member . . . where are you?!*

Are you, or do you know of someone, interested in a small, but active, and most of all, friendly Reform Jewish Congregation that has been in existence since 1984 and is located in the heart of the Dallas Metrocrest Community? Well, that describes CONGREGATION NER TAMID! For information email Kathy Friedberg, Membership Committee Chairperson, at [kat@congregationnertamid.org](mailto:kat@congregationnertamid.org).

### MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS:

- FAMILY
- SINGLE PARENT
- SINGLE PERSON
- STUDENT
- JUNIOR
- ASSOCIATE

[Membership includes tickets for High Holiday Services]

*Interested? . . . Talk to us!*