



Temple Beth Israel News

8529 Placer Dr, Redding CA 96001/POBox 2582, Redding CA 96099-2582
(530) 243-5726



IYAR-SIVAN 5770

MAY 2010

FROM OUR RABBI

By Lisa Berney

From the second night of Passover until the Jewish holiday, *Shavuot*, we participate in what is called “the counting of the *omer*.” The *omer*, which literally means “a measure,” in ancient times was a sacrificial offering of the first of the new grain harvest that was brought to the temple on the sixteenth day of Nisan to offer thanks to God for providing the harvest. Leviticus 23 states: “You shall count from the eve of the second day of Pesach, when an *omer* of grain is to be brought as an offering, seven complete weeks. The day after the seventh week of your counting will make fifty days, and you shall present a new meal offering to God” (Leviticus 23:15-16). From this we learn the origins of counting the *omer*, but today, when we no longer have the ancient temple or provide sacrificial offerings to God, what is the counting of the *omer* all about? What is the significance of participating in this counting?

Sefirat Ha-Omer, or counting of the *omer*, and the holiday of *Shavuot* were purely based on the agricultural celebration associated with the peak of the harvest during the biblical period. Today, as *Shavuot* has become more associated with the giving of the Torah to Moses at Mount Sinai, the counting up to this holiday has represented the link between *Pesach* and *Shavuot*. Each day, we count our movement from slavery in Egypt, which we commemorate on *Pesach*, to the culmination of our liberation. *Shavuot* signifies when we became an independent community with our own laws and customs with the receiving of the Torah. We participate in many “countings” in our lives. As my school year comes to a close, I am counting down the days until the long hours of studying and finals are over. Our high school seniors are counting down to graduation with glee as their parents count down the days until they must send their precious children into the unknown world. Many of us may be counting down to summer—hotter days, kids away at camp, family vacations. This month, we continue to participate in the counting of the *omer* and the counting down to new cycles or life changes. Perhaps we can view this marking of time as an opportunity to be present in each of these days, as much as we may be wishing them away, and not just look to the counting down of time, but to the counting up of time; up towards new and rich beginnings.

Perhaps we can view this marking of time as an opportunity to be present in each of these days, as much as we may be wishing them away, and not just look to the counting down of time, but to the counting up of time; up towards new and rich beginnings.

We consider the following meditation question this month: **What are we counting up to in this new month?**

TBI CALENDAR

All events are at TBI unless otherwise indicated
Changes will be posted at www.tbiredding.org

Sat May 8

12:00: Shabbat Cinema (see p2)

Sun May 9

Mother's Day: No Bet Sefer

Fri May 14

7:00pm: Shabbat Service with Rabbi Lisa Bnai Mitzvot of Julie and Kendyll and High School seniors to be honored (see p2) Last rabbi weekend for this year

Sat May 15

10:00am: Bnai Mitzvot of Julie and Kendyl Kaplan **Pilgrim Congregational Church**

Sun May 16

10:00: Bet Sefer Meets

12:00pm: General Meeting

Wed May 19

1:30: Book Club Meets (see p2)

Sun May 23

10:00: Bet Sefer Meets (last meeting)

Thurs May 27

Riverfront Playhouse (see p 3)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Steve Zlotowski

It's hard to believe, but in four weeks TBI will settle into its summer slumber. So it seems like a good time to reflect on what we've absorbed this year, knowing full well that if it hadn't been for our merry band of Porifera, a virtual tidal wave of Judaism might have overwhelmed Redding and its surroundings. We've had a great year with Rabbi Lisa and hope to keep the good times rolling. High Holidays again showed that together we create a meaningful beginning to the New Year. All our holiday celebrations have been fun and well received, including the community Hanukkah party at almost one hundred strong in attendance. We've been blessed with two Bar Mitzvahs, two Bat Mitzvahs (pending, but I have great Kaplan faith), programs of adult torah study, Friday Night Live with Li, dedicated Bet Sefer teachers and students, Shabbat cinema and reaching out to help those in need of a helping hand. It's been a good year, and I expect next year will be more of the same. Thank you to all for your energy, passion, caring and hard work. Encore!

JULIE AND KENDYL TO BE HONORED

Rabbi Lisa will help us to celebrate a very special event this month. On May 14 Julie and Kendyl Kaplan will help lead the Friday Shabbat Service, and on Saturday morning they will be called to the Torah to complete their Bat Mitzvah.

It is always special when adults perform this mitzvah, and these are two ladies very dear to our hearts. Come, help us celebrate, and **don't forget, the event will be at Pilgrim Congregational Church at 1000am.**"

A UNIQUE BAT MITZVAH PROJECT

Kendyl and Julie will be donating 50 user friendly prayer books as their Bat Mitzvah project.

To help finance this, they have organized a Laser Day at Disappearing Act (office of Dr. Jory Kaplan) on Saturday. All revenues will be contributed to the book project, and all products and services will be 20% off as well.

You can get a new look, and TBO gets new books. Everybody wins.

IMPORTANT: GENERAL MEETING PLANNED FOR MAY 16

Come join us for a nosh and General Meeting of the congregation on Sunday, May 16th starting at 12:00. Bagels and nosh starting at 11:30 am.

The agenda includes:

Committee Reports:

- a. Fiscal Report
- b. Membership overview
- c. Site improvement projects
- d. Tikkun Olam projects
- e. Bet Sefer
- f. Rabbi update (2010-2011)
Future prospects (2011-2012)
Input regarding rabbi schedule
- g. Recognition of outgoing board members
- h. Election of the new board

SHABBAT CINEMA AGAIN OFFERS LAUGHS THIS MONTH

By Roberta Kelly

Meeting at noon for lunch, the "Frisco Kid" will be shown May 8 starting at 12:30. If you like Gene Wilder and Harrison Ford, you will certainly enjoy this one.

Editor's Note: This is one of my all time favorites. It's vintage Gene Wilder and Harrison Ford before he went legit as Indiana Jones. Well worth a second viewing if you have already seen it.

TODAY I AM A FOUNTAIN PEN*

Are you over the age of 13? Did you miss out, decline, or refuse to have a Bar/Bat Mitzvah when you were 13? Well, you're in luck! It's never too late to be called up to the Torah as a Bat/Bar Mitzvah.

Rabbi Lisa and Geri are looking to put together a B'nai Mitzvah group. (B'nai is just the plural form of Bar/ Bat Mitzvah.) There are only two requirements:

1. You either a) have at least one Jewish parent, or b) you officially converted to Judaism at some point, and
2. You're willing to take on a new challenge and work to the best of your ability. You don't even have to be a Hebrew reader - yet. (but it helps!)

So far we have two who are interested. Will you take the plunge (although we don't currently have a mikvah) and join them?

If you might just possibly be interested, please let Rabbi Lisa (Lisa.Berney@gmail.com) or Geri (Geri@CopitchInc.com) know, and we'll figure out where to go from there.

*Why a fountain pen? It was tradition for many years for a boy to get a good quality fountain pen as a Bar Mitzvah gift. There's a joke that a boy, when becoming a "man" after his Bar Mitzvah, began his Bar Mitzvah speech with, "Today I Become a Fountain Pen".

BOOK CLUB NEWS

We are pleased that the club has gained a few new members; we are growing. We will be meeting May 19, 1:30, at the home of Carl and Martha Hamon. The selection for our May meeting will be *My Father's Paradise*, by Ariel Sabar.

This is the story of a Jewish family living within a culture, now much in the news, the Iraqi Kurds. Did you know that the Jews there speak Aramaic? I thought it was long dead

as a spoken tongue but present in some of our prayers, like the Kaddish and Kol Nidre.

Our last visit this season will be at the Tillese's. July 14, and the book discussed will be Herman Wouk's *Inside, Outside*. For further information email or call me at 472-1533

TBI TO SPONSOR RIVERFRONT PERFORMANCE

Grab a friend, grab the kids, and come join us for a night out at the Riverfront Playhouse with the play: Every Little Crook and Nanny. TBI will be hosting this quick paced comedy on Thursday, May 27th. The play is based on the book by the same name by Evan Hunter, who is best known for Blackboard Jungle.

What can you expect? Lillie Scones is a sweet retired nanny who runs a boarding house with one resident and "a cat the size of the Louisiana Purchase." Her two friends help to pass the time by listening to music and gossiping. Then Stuart, an old charge of hers, rents a room. Lillie is tickled to have him around, not knowing that he's planning to rob the bank around the corner.

Throw in a chief of police, a suspicious fiance, a half pint-brat with "an Al Capone do-it-yourself tool kit", and a kidnapping, and no one knows what will happen next. This classic tale of three retired nannies and a bank heist has all the classic comedy twists and surprises fit for any audience. There is still time to purchase tickets for our Riverfront Playhouse fun-d-raiser

on Thursday Who can resist three retired nannies, an oversized cat, a bank heist, a kidnapping, a suspicious fiance, and -yes- even more!

This play has all the classic comedy twists and surprises fit for any audience.

And of course, no evening out with the TBI community would be complete without food... Tickets are \$17 and include intermission noshes - what a deal! Wine will be available for a small fee. Contact Geri Copitch for your tickets. 396-2505, or email: Geri@CopitchInc.com

BECAUSE WE WILL NEVER FORGET

By Roberta Kelly

On Sunday, April 11, we gathered together to observe Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Memorial Day.

Rabbi Lisa led us in prayer. We lit candles for the victims, for rescuers, for hope, and for the future generations. We read some personal stories from the *Holocaust Survivors Cookbook* and sampled some of the survivors recipes. We were intensely aware and grateful to be together.

As a matter of interest, Brianne took some of the cake she had baked to work to share with her coworkers. She had sign by the cake: "Yesterday was Holocaust Remembrance Day. This is a flourless chocolate cake. The recipe came from a Holocaust survivor. Please enjoy. Never forget."

Two responses were written on her sign: One said, "Thank you. We will never forget." The other said, "From my father and his family-- thank you."

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE APRIL BOARD MEETING

Josh reported 49 pledges received so far, amounting to \$35,800

Geri has given out (for sale) or sold 34 tickets to the play so far. 37 need to be sold just to break even..

Nominations for board positions still lacking one position

General meeting agenda will include: fiscal report, site improvement projects, membership stats, tikkun olam update, bet sefer rabbi plans for next year.

Site improvement: John West, contractor submitted a bid for several projects. Board made several suggestions which Steve will submit to John. John will be invited to May board meeting to discuss revised estimate..

BOARD POSITION NEEDS FILLING

We like to use the old cliché that our board members serve "tirelessly." But, as you know, no one can serve tirelessly. Won't you step forward and take a term? Contact me at 472-1533, Steve at 243-9693 or Pam at 245-0455. It's a Mitzvah Godol.



PENNIES FOR PEACE

What do you do with spare change? One penny in Pakistan or Afghanistan buys a pencil and opens the door to literacy; 300 pays one teacher's salary for a day. That's something priceless.

Redding's mayor has proclaimed May as "Pennies for Peace" month in response to SCIF's request. Empty

Heartland Payment Systems
CALIFORNIA Restaurant ASSOCIATION
Your Hometown Payments Provider

Louise A. Cogan
Relationship Manager

1650 Oregon Street
Suite 100
Redding, CA 96001

Phone: (530) 515-2344
Fax: (530) 547-5709
Email: louise.cogan@e-hps.com

PLACER SELF STORAGE
"Redding's Westside Neighborhood Storage"

(530) 246-1412

Site: 9488 Placer Road (Corner of Thompson Lane)
Office: 1650 Oregon Street, Suite 100, Redding, CA 96001

Louise Cogan
General Manager

Fax Number
(530) 243-6079

your tzedakah cans, your piggy banks, and your pockets of all your loose change to fill the jar at TBI.

If you have children in Bet Sefer, send your change with them. They'll have fun watching the jar fill up.

We'd really like the change, but if you want to send a check, make it out to Pennies for Peace and mail it to Pennies for Peace, PO Box 7209, Bozeman MT 59771 or go to www.ikat.org/make-a-donation/ to use your credit card.

THE BLESSINGS OF BEING A SMALL CONGREGATION

Being a small congregation is different. It's different quantitatively, of course. We don't have as many members as they have in large congregations. But—even more so—it's different qualitatively from large congregations. There are things they have that we don't. But there are other things—very important things—that we have that they don't. And a lot of them are spending a lot of time and money trying to capture—or recapture—that something that we have

WE HAVE A SENSE OF FAMILY. We have members we are close to, members we get along with, and members who drive us crazy. But there aren't enough of us that we can afford to get uppity. We need each other. And so we care about each other, and we know that every last one of us is important. We aren't an institution. We're still people.

WE HAVE A SENSE OF TENACITY. We know how fragile our presence is and how important it is that we stay alive, stay involved and stay together—no matter what. So we do.

WE HAVE A SENSE OF INVOLVEMENT. When organizational research indicates that most organizations operate on an average level of involvement of 5 per cent of the membership, it's rewarding to know that most of us

are involved most of the time.

WE HAVE A SENSE OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO THE CONGREGATION. When everyone depends on you, you tend to carry through. You might not always want to, but you do what you have to do, and you usually end up glad that you did.

WE HAVE A SENSE OF TOLERANCE. We often exist in areas isolated from mainstream Jewish life where many (if not most) of our marriages are (or were) mixed, and where some of our best friends aren't Jewish. And our kids' best friends aren't Jewish. And our survival may depend less on turning in on ourselves than on sharing what we have with others so they can see that we have something worth working for.

WE HAVE A SENSE OF HUMOR In a congregation with no permanent rabbi, and little money, we have to have something enduring!

WE HAVE A SENSE OF INTIMACY WITH OUR RABBI (or student rabbi, as the case may be). We really get to know the rabbi, one-on-one. And the rabbi gets to know us.

WE HAVE A SENSE OF CONTINUITY. We grow up with close personal role models of all ages. We have a wide diversity in age range, but we aren't big enough to stratify by age. So nobody thinks about age. We're just us.

WE HAVE A SENSE OF COMMUNITY In a very real way, we are Judaism in our respective communities. We realize that we have the responsibility to carry on

the traditions of Judaism in places not ordinarily known for their Jewish culture. And we do it with all the enthusiasm and energy we can summon. Because there's nobody to do it but us for further information or suggestions.

INTERFAITH

Editor's note: The following were executed for the Voices of Faith page of the Record Searchlight. The page is printed in the Record Searchlight religion page, in the second section on Saturdays. The section asks clergy and other representatives of various faiths how their tradition views certain values and issues, and George and I alternate in contributing to the feature.


How does your faith tradition address former members who have left your church, temple, mosque, etc.? How does your faith usually welcome back people who return?

George Wandrocke wrote:

TBI members worship God in accordance with Reform Jewish tenets, promote Jewish ideals of ethical monotheism, cultivate a love and understanding of Jewish heritage in ourselves and our children, stimulate fellowship in the Jewish community, and foster good will toward Jews in our secular community

TBI offers a place where you can reach for God through challenging prayer surrounded by a loving community. It's where your children learn they carry a spark of divinity, as do all people. It's where you can feel at home with words, songs, prayers, holidays and rituals that add layers of meaning to your life. Our doors are wide enough to receive all who desire spiritual awareness and the satisfaction of belonging. We shut out pettiness and pride, envy and enmity. We refuse to admit compla-


Alexa Singer-Telles, M.S., M.A.
Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist



Psychotherapy
for Individuals • Children • Families

748 North Market Street, Suite 104
Redding, CA 96003

(530) 246-8317



**Hudson & Hodge
Chiropractic**

Michelle R. Hodge, D.C. (530) 243-3118
Todd M. Hudson, D.C. Fax 243-3437

943 Parkview Ave. Redding, CA 96001

gency, selfishness and harshness. We offer a doorway to a richer and more meaningful life.

Is war ever justified? If so, when?

Art Tilles wrote:

Taken literally, the Bible justified war for the establishment and survival of a Jewish nation according to God's will and command. If there is any consensus among Jews today, I think it is that war is never justified to promulgate an ideology. Until 1948, the last war Jews fought as a nation was a revolt against Rome in 79A.D. In fact, the world was surprised by the military success of the infant nation of Israel in 1948.

A threat to a nation's survival and security can justify war today, but this lays a heavy burden on an interpretation of threat. Dictators have manipulated this concept to take nations into unjust wars. Thomas Jefferson saw democracy rooted in a well-informed electorate, and I think his dream still stands. Threats are real, but they must be carefully evaluated before action is taken .

TANTA GOLDA ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

Dear Tanta Golda,

I know that we are counting the Omer towards something. Is it a holiday? I also heard something about a pilgrimage? I know that in the middle ages Christian holy men would go on pilgrimages to Jerusalem, and that one of the five pillars of Islam is to make a pilgrimage to Mecca, but am I supposed to go on a pilgrimage somewhere too? Will I need sunscreen?

Packing my bags with caution.

Dear Cautious,

Ah, I love the curious ones! Yes, we are counting the Omer for 49 days until the holiday of Shavuot. Shavuot is one of three ancient pilgrimage holidays commanded in the Torah, which celebrate both agriculture and historical events, the other two being

Passover and Sukkot. During the time of the Temple, these holidays were a time when offerings of the harvest were brought to the Kohanim for ritual worship. They were also a time to reaffirm our communal commitment to our covenant with HaShem. However, you must remember that our people were not so spread out as we are now. When the second Temple was destroyed in 70 CE, pilgrimage was deemed no longer obligatory. This means you're off the hook - unpack your bags, put your feet up, and have a nice cup of tea.

While Shavuot was initially an agricultural holiday, in post-biblical times it developed into a celebration of the giving of the Torah on Mt.Sinai. You will note that I said 'giving' not 'receiving'. The rabbis, a wise lot, say that while we receive the Torah every day, we were given it but once.

It is a tradition among some more observant Jews to stay up all night on Shavuot studying Torah and related works. Many eat dairy foods, such as cheese blintzes, cheesecake, etc. This is often explained as being based on the Torah verse that says the land of Israel flows with milk and honey. Some who live in modern day Israel will go to the Western Wall, which, as you remember, is a remnant of the Temple, in order to emulate the pilgrimage. This year, Shavuot will begin on the evening of May 18th.

Take a moment on Shavuot to give thanks for your bread (the wheat harvest.)

Love as always- and keep sending me questions,

Tanta Golda

And for the occasion, here is Bubbe's blintz recipe:

Blintzes are a traditional dish for the holiday of Shavuot. Top with sour cream, apple sauce or cinnamon and sugar. BATTER 4 eggs 1/2 cup milk 1/2 cup water 1 cup flour 1/4 cup sugar 1 package vanilla sugar Pinch of salt 1 Tbsp. oil CHEESE FILLING I 1/2 pound farmer cheese 4 ounces cream cheese 4 Tbsps. honey or maple syrup juice of 1/2 lemon 1 egg yolk CHEESE FILLING II 1 pound cottage cheese, strained 2 egg yolks 2 Tbsps. flour 2 Tbsps. sugar 1 tsp. vanilla sugar 1/4 cup raisins (optional) USE: 7 inch skillet YIELDS: 12 blintzes BATTER: In a large mixer bowl combine eggs, milk, water and blend well. Gradually add flour, then both sugars, salt and oil. Beat well until there are no lumps in the batter. FILLING I: Combine all ingredients in a bowl and beat well. Or combine all the ingredients in a blender container and blend until smooth. FILLING II: Combine all ingredients, except raisins, in a bowl and beat well. Or all the ingredients can be combined in a blender container and blended until smooth. Then add raisins.

TO ASSEMBLE CREPES:

1. Prepare batter and filling of your choice. Using a paper towel or basting brush, apply a thin coating of oil to a 7 inch skillet. Place skillet over medium heat until skillet is hot but not smoking.
2. Ladle approximately 1/3 cup of batter into the skillet. Tilt pan to

Wind Chimes • Silver Jewelry
Seed Beads • Crystal
Incense • Tye Dye
Full line of Judaica

THE BEADMAN
Since 1976

2619 Park Marina Dr • Redding CA 96001
(530) 243-8808

Open 7 days a week

LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL COGAN

MICHAEL COGAN
Attorney at Law

1650 Oregon St., Suite 106
Redding, CA 96001

(530)246-1112

Fax: (530)243-6079

swirl the batter so it covers the bottom of the skillet.

3. Fry on one side until small air bubbles form, and top is set. Bottom should be golden brown. When done, carefully loosen edges of crepe and slip out of skillet onto a plate.

4. Repeat the above procedure until all the batter is used. Grease the skillet as needed.

5. Turn each crepe so that golden brown side is up. Place 3 tablespoons of filling on one edge in a 2 1/2 inch long by 1-inch wide mound.

6. Roll once to cover filling. Fold the sides into the center and continue rolling until completely closed.

7. Heat 2 tablespoons of oil in the skillet and place each crepe seam side down in the skillet and fry 2 minutes on each side, turning once.

TODAH RABAH TO

- All who ask not what their temple will do for them but what they can do for their temple..

REFUAH SH'LAYMAH

Phyllis Glaser
Putti Baigelman
Jan Cohen
Marscia Pereira
Allison Ashby
Judith Schmid
Leigh Stoval

A MIDRASH FABLE

Submitted by George Wandrocke

A long time ago, in the land of Jerusalem, lived two men, one a

Jew, the other a Muslim. Both tended their crops on opposite sides of a hilltop. One man was married and had a large family. The other lived alone. They farmed the land, and harvested equal amounts of produce. Every night the two men, each in his home at opposite ends of the field, would lie awake in thought.

The one with the large family would think to himself, "My neighbor is alone, and has no one to take care of him. Surely he needs more of the crop than I." Meanwhile, the other man wondered, "My neighbor has many children to feed. Surely he and his wife need more of the crop than I." So, each night, long after midnight, the married man would gather bundles from his crop, carry them across the field and quietly place them among his neighbor's supply. And likewise, the single man would gather some of his bundles late at night, and secretly deliver them to his married neighbor. Years passed and each man remained unaware of the other's generosity.

One clear starry night, as they carried their bundles across the field, the two men met. Realizing what each had been doing all these years, they dropped the produce, held out their arms, and embraced. Weeping together, they realized the true meaning of brotherly love.

The hill on which their fields sat was Mount Moriah. The spot where they wept became the site of two holy places, the Temple Mount

of Judaism and the Dome of the Rock of Islam--for only such a place of extraordinary giving could serve as the bedrock for such holy places.

May all who hear this story know peace and love.

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

14-May: Sara & Francis O'Conner

24-May: Royce & Ronald Seese

MAY BIRTHDAYS

5/5 Ilana Silverstein
5/7 Showshawnah Applebaum
5/13 Hanna Khoronov
5/14 Mitch Akman
5/14 Harvey Spector
5/15 Matthew Cohen
5/22 Bruce Silverstein
5/27 Geri Copitch
5/28 Letta Kaplan

MAY YAHRZEITS

Louis Cohen, father of Jan Cohen

Esther Miriam Glaser, mother of Phyllis Glaser

Rose Manasse, mother of Charlotte Ruskowitz

Peggy Paschke, aunt of Daniel Rubanowitz

Dorothy Powell, mother of Patty Bradlyn

Herman Roitman, paternal grandfather of Jeri Roitman

Annie Spector, paternal grandmother of Harvey Spector

Bennett Warsinger, father of Nancy Warsinger

Alex Weinstock, father of Lynne Currie