

Whitestone Hebrew Centre Bulletin

12-45 Clintonville St. Whitestone, NY 11357



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Iyar -- Sivan 5779

שלום

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Schedule of Shavuot Services



Saturday, June 8th — 7:45 PM
 Sunday, June 9th — 9:30 AM & 7:45 PM
 Monday, June 10th— (Yizkor) 9:30 A.M.

Tikkun Leil Shavuot — Study and Discussion
 Following first night services — June 8th

WHC

wishes you and yours
 a Happy and Healthy
 Summer!



Family Shabbat
June 22nd @ 10:00 AM

We look forward to seeing everyone there!



WHC Bulletin Staff

Rabbi Steven Axelman,
Editor
Sharon Samet
Patricia Smolker

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Sunday June 16th

WHC ADMINISTRATION

2018-19 Officers

Rabbi & Cantor - Steven Axelman
President - Bruce Berenson
Vice-President - Ellis Rosenblatt
Treasurer/Financial Secretary -
Barbara Parker
Corresponding/Recording Secretary -
Ron Kohn
Sisterhood Co-Presidents
Esther Cohen
Rhoda Weinstein

Rabbi Steven Axelman
haxelman@gmail.com
718-208-5059



FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY

President's Message

By: Bruce Berenson

As this is the bulletin article right before the Celebration of Shavuot, commemorating the Giving of The Law to Moses on Mt. Sinai (beginning nightfall June 8 and ending evening June 10) – I want to take the opportunity to promote something readily available here at the WHC, but not taken advantage of by most congregants – Torah Study.

We don't need to look any further than the Shema: where we recite daily the words "You shall teach them diligently to your children" -- (directing us to transmit Torah to the next generation)... "And you shall speak of them (words of Torah) while you sit at home, while you walk on the way, when you go to bed and when you get up" -- which directs us to study the Torah ourselves. This need to devote ourselves to knowing the Torah is repeatedly stressed throughout the Bible...

Our history demonstrates that the moment study of Torah is neglected, assimilation of the Jewish people into its surroundings accelerates. For the most part, every Jewish community in history that did not emphasize the teaching and study of Torah as a priority gradually disappeared from the scene.

As the world's first book-based religion, Judaism gained the flexibility to move the focus from sacred land to sacred text, making it portable. Had it not, it is unlikely we would have survived the fate of exile.

Its very portability raised Judaism to a universal religion. God's presence was no longer restricted to a single sanctuary. Through the portal of Torah, Jews could

Shavuot begins this year on Saturday night, June 8th and continues until nightfall on June 10th. In the past I have commented on Shavuot being the least known of the major Jewish Holidays, its being tied in our tradition and liturgy to the anniversary of the Revelation on Mount Sinai and the receiving of the Ten Commandments by the Jews after leaving Egypt, and its coming on the 50th day after the second day of Pesach, a period during which we count the "omer" every night. Though I have quite an affinity for cheesecake, there is much more to Shavuot than just that.

I want to share a few thoughts on *Akdamus*. *Akdamus* is a poem written about a thousand years ago that is read aloud in shuls at the beginning of the Torah Reading on the first day of Shavuot. It serves as an introduction to the Torah Reading; the name *Akdamus* comes from the word for "introduction". The Torah Reading on the first day of Shavuot appropriately is about the giving of the Torah. *Akdamus* is one of the most beautiful and meaningful pieces of liturgy of the whole year. It may be my absolute favorite. A few years ago we spoke about it for hours at the learning session that was held on the first night of Shavuot.

Akdamus begins with praises for God, the Torah, the prayers of the angels and the prayers of the Jewish People. It continues with a dialogue between the nations and Israel that occurs throughout history. The nations ask the Jews why they stay so steadfastly with their God in light of all the horrible sufferings that have befallen them. They invite the Jews to assimilate and promise them great things if they do so. The Jews answer that their strength comes from the knowledge that there will come a time when the rewards to be bestowed upon them

(Continued on page 7)

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SISTERHOOD

Sisterhood Message

Sisterhood's Fifth Joint Fashion Show, last month, was once again a very successful event. It's one of Sisterhood's highlights of the year. (For more about the Fashion Show see the article in this bulletin.)

At our general meeting in May, Sisterhood celebrated Israel Independence Day. As always, Iris Kirschner, Sisterhood's Program Chairperson, led another interesting program. Thank you, Iris, for the great programs you provided for our General Meetings throughout the year. We look forward to next year's programs.

Also last month, Sisterhood held its Spring Luncheon at Ben's with Bingo. Thank you, Naomi Gukowsky, Sisterhood's Fundraiser, for chairing not only our Luncheons during the year, but also our Theatre Parties. (See the article for details about the Luncheon in this Bulletin.)

During the summer Sisterhood will be busy planning programs, luncheons and other functions for next year. We look forward to seeing you at these functions.

Sisterhood wishes everyone a happy and healthy summer.

SISTERHOOD DATES TO REMEMBER

Tue.	June 4 th	Sisterhood Board Meeting	10:00 AM
Thu.	June 13 th	Women's League BQLI Region Woman of Achievement Dinner Gala	

Sisterhood Spring Luncheon

Back by popular demand, Sisterhood celebrated Spring by having a Spring Luncheon and Bingo at Ben's Kosher Restaurant in the Bay Terrace Shopping Center on Wednesday, May 15th. We had a wonderful turnout. There were 32 people who had a good time.

The food was delicious as usual. We enjoyed potato latkes with applesauce, overstuffed sandwiches, coleslaw, potato salad, pickles, soda, coffee or tea and rugelach.

Everyone enjoyed playing Bingo, which was a lot of fun. We had several lucky winners. The winners were: Dale Katz and Ruby Cohen, who won \$12 each, generously donated by Naomi Oates; Alex Ratner, who won a bottle of wine and two wine glasses; Ann Fussteig, who won a Yiddishe Cup Mug and Jewish Star Pasta; Naomi Oates and Roz Weinstein, who each won \$10 gift cards; I won a \$15 gift card and Roz Weinstein won a \$30 gift card.

A special thank you to Patricia Smolker for making all of the arrangements and to David Czegledi, General Manager of Ben's, whose help made for a wonderful day. Thank you to all the drivers, including Evelyn Apter and Iris Kirschner.

Please join us for our Summer Luncheon. Look for the date and further details in future mailings. I hope to see you there, you'll have a great time.

Naomi Gukowsky
Chairperson



See more pictures on page 6

Prayer Book Fund - May 2019

In memory of Abraham Weinstein

- Madeline Karlitz

Making Contributions

For many years Sisterhood has offered the service of sending cards from all those who wish to acknowledge both Simchas and Condolences. The response from the recipients is most heart warming. The following funds are available:

Simcha Fund	\$10
Chai Fund	\$18
Prayer Book Fund	\$10
Inscribed Prayer Books.....	\$25

The recipient receives an acknowledgement of the contribution and it is printed in the monthly Bulletin so all can share the feelings expressed. To place orders, call Patricia Smolker at (718) 746-7068.

Checks for the above funds should be made payable to "Sisterhood of WHC".



Sisterhood Fashion Show



The Sisterhoods of Hillcrest Jewish Center, Temple Gates of Prayer and Whitestone Hebrew Centre held our fifth joint Gala Fashion Show and Dinner on Sunday, May 5th at Temple Gates of Prayer in Flushing.

The 100 attendees had a chance to win raffle prizes that were donated by various businesses and stores. We also had a 50/50 raffle. Everyone had a chance to go vendor shopping for Judaica jewelry from Roberta Flatow, handbags and scarves from Kostume Klassics, and Fabulous Fashions by Sheri. We thank each of our vendors who not only donated raffles prizes, but also some of their proceeds for this event. A special thank you to Bagel Boss Lake Success, located at 1564 Union Turnpike in New Hyde Park for donating the discount cards, which everyone received and also, a special thank you to Queens County Savings Bank for donating the complimentary gifts given to everyone.

We ate a delicious kosher Chinese lunch catered by Soy Sauce, located at 68-22 Main Street in Kew Gardens Hills. Soy Sauce also donated raffles for the Fashion Show.

Esther Cohen, Co-President of our Sisterhood, introduced Iris Kirschner, from our Sisterhood, as the MC for the Fashion Show. Irene Okner, from the Sisterhood of Temple Gates of Prayer, was the pianist for the Fashion Show. Thank you to Iris for the great commentary and to Irene for playing the

piano so beautifully. The models were from all three Sisterhoods. Thank you to our Sisterhood models, Evelyn Apter, Liliya Berezovsky and Malva Luban Rothstein. Malva, as usual you always surprise us with your special accessories. Thanks also to Chico's, in the Bay Terrace Shopping Center, for providing the fashions and to J&J Snack Foods Corp. for donating the Luigi's Real Italian Ices for our dessert.

The Fashion Show was a joint effort and many thanks go to the Committee ladies from Hillcrest Jewish Center and Temple Gates of Prayer. To my Sisterhood Co-Committee members, Esther Cohen and Rhoda Weinstein, a special thank you.

Thanks also to Lilian Gradofsky and her daughter, Miranda Koss, for helping at the Raffle Table as well as helping with the 50/50 raffle. To Evelyn Apter, a special thank you, for being our Sisterhood Treasurer and Registrar for our Sisterhood for the Fashion Show. To our "Chauffeurs Par Excellence," Evelyn Apter and Iris Kirschner, thank you.

The Fashion Show was a financial as well as a social success. Thank you to all who attended. It was great to see so many women supporting this event. Everyone had fun and a wonderful time. See you at our next Fashion Show.

Patricia Smolker





Israel Ranked World's 2nd Most Innovative Nation

From the [Jewish Press](#)

By Aryeh Savir, Tazpit News Agency— 28 Nisan 5779 – May 2, 2019

Israel is the second most innovative nation on the world, ranked just after the US and ahead of South Korea, the UK's Daily Mail showed in a special project. Israel has ranked ahead of six European countries which were in the top 10, with the United Kingdom sitting in 15th position, between Norway and Singapore. Chile came in last. No Arab countries made the list. The US is the overall winner with a score of 75.07 out of 100, and Israel followed with a 61.33. The list was compiled by engineering firm RS Components.

The survey notes that while there is no single measure that captures global scientific progress, but by evaluating Research and Development spending and patents, and looking at the number of researchers and academic papers a country has, one can see the leading indicators of a nation's commitment to be at the forefront of scientific discovery. Every 17 employees out of 1,000 in Israel are researchers, the Jewish state has registered 3,804 patents, has published 1,133 scientific papers,

and spends 4.25 percent of its GDP on R&D. Israel is the world leader when it comes to spending on research and development and the number of researchers in its population.

Israel has previously received high scores in global innovation rankings. The United Nations' Global Innovation Index (GII) published in July 2018 showed that Israel ranked 11th globally, and the first in the Northern Africa and Western Asia region, for the sixth consecutive year. The GI ranks 127 economies based on 80 indicators, ranging from intellectual property filing rates to mobile-application creation, education spending and scientific and technical publications. Israel leads in the number of researchers, research and development (R&D) expenditures, venture capital deals, R&D funded by business enterprises, research talent in business enterprise, exports of information and communications technology services and Wikipedia edits, the survey found.

WHC's Yom Hashoah observance on May 1st
in memory of the Six Million who perished in the Shoah.





FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY*(Continued from page 2)*

will so greatly outshine all that the nations have had over the millennia that it will be the rest of the nations that will be embarrassed and surprised at how much on top Israel ends up. It is impossible to do this great piece of liturgy justice in a

paragraph or two, certainly not in English. I hope that more and more congregants join us for services on the first day of Shavuot (especially since it is a Sunday) and we can discuss this further. Meanwhile, Chag Samayach!



Rabbi Axelman was honored to deliver the invocation at this year's Whitestone Memorial Day Ceremony, held prior to the annual parade.

Seen here with the Grand Marshal of this year's parade, John McHugh, Sr. who stormed the beaches on Normandy.

President's Message*(Continued from page 2)*

access God everywhere. It is the bridge which connects the Jew and God, across which they interact and communicate, and by means of which God fulfills The Covenant with His people to sustain and protect them.

So it's no surprise that Torah study is so central with us. Our prayer books are filled with petitions to God to help us understand His Torah...

When we learn Torah, we are not studying an abstract and arcane text of the ancient world. We are studying the way God wants us to live on this earth... We are in fact engaged in discovering the essence of Judaism, and so, the essence of ourselves...

If Torah study is among the most important of our mitzvot - allowing the means for others to study Torah can only be slightly less important. I urge you to attend our weekly classes - Talmud (Sundays at 12:45 p.m.), and Judaism 101 (Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m.). We are fortunate having a first rate scholar in our Rabbi Axelman to guide and illuminate the commandments, words and writings that have sustained our People over the Millennia. Take advantage.

B 'Shalom
Bruce Berenson

Transportation to and from WHC now available!

Now you no longer have to worry about a ride to and from shul. The Whitestone Hebrew Centre has set up an account with Four Two's. This was set up for our members that are no longer able to drive or find it difficult to drive to shul. The way it works is simple: Four Two's has a list of members' names that will be using this service. You need to call Four Two's, preferably 2 days in advance, 1 day in advance the latest, and tell them your name, address, what time you need to be picked up, and if you will need them to come back to shul to take you home, at what time. You can use this service anytime you need to come to shul, whether it be for services, an event, or a meeting. The tip is already included, so there is no cost to you! Four Two's phone # is 718 746-2222.



If you think you are not on the list, please call the shul office to ensure that you are.

Sharon Samet

May Family Shabbat Sponsors



Rabbi Axelman, Sharon and family in honor of Binny's birthday and in memory of the yahrzeit of the Rabbi's father, Joseph B. Axelman

Penny Pinsdorf in appreciation of the congregation's support of Eric's Bar Mitzvah

Ellis Rosenblatt in memory of the yahrzeit of his mother, Anne Rosenblatt and in honor of Paula Hanover's birthday

The Smith Family in honor of all the mothers for Mother's Day

Patricia Smolker in memory of the birthday of her father, Joseph Smolker

Happy Summer Birthdays



June

Kayla Berenson	Alex Ratner
Max Berenson	Ashley Samet
Juliana Hakim	Yechezkel Yamen

July

Leon Gukowsky	Joseph Wolkin
---------------	---------------

August

Rabbi Steven Axelman	Morgan Rubin
Lee Berenson	Jeffrey Young
Joshua Friedman	Cheryl Wolkin
Iris Kirschner	

SCHEDULE OF WHC CLASSES

(led by Rabbi Axelman)

Sundays @12:45 PM -- Talmud Class

The goal of this class is to reintroduce people to the wisdom of the Talmud. As Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz writes in Essential Talmud:

"The Talmud is a very hard book to define ... from content to style, every definition is incomplete or contradictory. ... The Talmud is completely unique--a book that has no parallel anywhere.... If the bible is the cornerstone of Judaism, then the Talmud is the central pillar, soaring up from the foundations and supporting the entire spiritual and intellectual edifice.... In many ways the Talmud is the most important book in Jewish culture, the backbone of creativity and of national life. No other work has had a comparable influence on the theory and practice of Jewish life, shaping spiritual content and serving as a guide to conduct.... [t]he Jewish people have always been keenly aware that their continued survival and development depend on study of the Talmud.

Mondays @7:30 PM -- Judaism 101

Explores Your Questions: Why?... Because...

A class at which you can ask any question, dispel misconceptions, and discuss any current issues and concerns relating to Jews, Judaism or Israel, in a non-judgmental, open and candid forum. This is an ideal venue for individuals who wish to discuss basic principles of Judaism and express their views, questions, etc.

Refreshments are served at every class.

Your donations are greatly appreciated.

WHC Phone System



Due to the increase of business being conducted more on the internet than in the past, coupled with our new virtual phone system, we no longer need someone staffing the office during the day. Anyone phoning the shul will be presented with options to hear hours of services, directions, or to be connected to me or the Rabbi. If you are not connected directly to me or the Rabbi, please leave a message and your call will be returned in a timely manner. When the calendar states that the office is closed, that means that messages may not be returned on the same day. When you need to conduct business in shul in person, please leave that in your message and we will arrange to meet you.

Sharon Samet



Thank you for Donations -- May 2019

Yahrzeit

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Edward Winkler
Joseph Wolkin

General Donations

In Memory of her Liberation
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In memory of Trudy Messinger
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When mailing checks and other notes or correspondence to WHC, if for Sisterhood, please write in the lower left hand corner of the envelope: ATTN: SISTERHOOD (and if you know the name of the Sisterhood member, please include it as well).

If you are enclosing multiple checks and/or correspondence in the same envelope, and they are for different people, please include a note as to the distribution of the checks and/or correspondence. This will ensure that the office will direct your checks, notes and/or correspondence to the proper person in a timely fashion.

Donations are accepted by Credit Card in one of the following ways:

Option 1: Phone our office and your card information can be given by phone



Option 2: Come into our office and your credit card can be read by a chip-enabled card reader



Option 3: Request an emailed invoice from our office, which will include a "pay now" button



Option 4: Go to our website at www.whitestonehebrewcenter.org, and click on the "Donate" button



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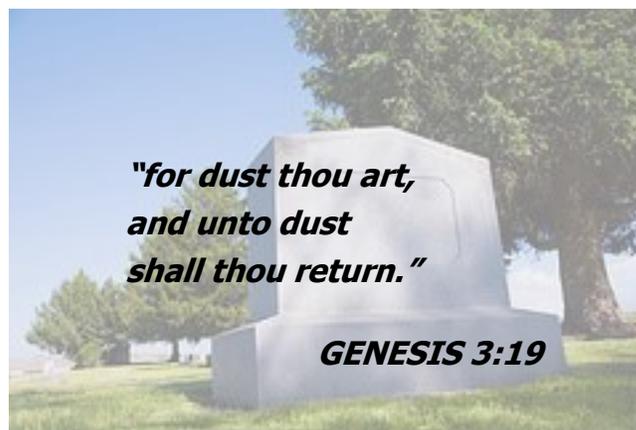
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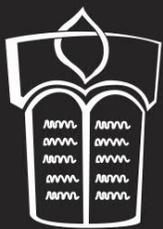
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