



Lubavitch, Aventura South

PARSHAT EMOR

On The Lighter Side...

Sam Goldstein converts and becomes a priest.

He gives his first Mass in front of a number of high ranking priests who came for the occasion. At the end of the new priest's sermon, a cardinal goes up to congratulate him. "Pastor Goldstein," he said. "That was very well done, you were just perfect. But next time, please don't start your sermon with, "Fellow Goyim..."

Shabbat

Candle lighting Times:

Times for the
Aventura area:

Friday, May 20

Light Candles at 7:44 pm

Shabbat, May 21

Shabbat Ends: 8:41 pm

On Shabbat we read
Emor

Avot Perek 3

The Torah Portion in a Nutshell:

This portion discusses the laws which pertain to Kohanim (priests), and various laws which relate to sacrifices. These are followed by a lengthy discussion of the festivals. The portion concludes with the story of a blasphemer who was put to death.

Lighting Up the Table By Rabbi N. Silberberg

The menorah and the show bread table stood opposite each other in the outer chamber of the Tabernacle, and later of the Temple in Jerusalem: the menorah standing against the southern wall, and the table against the northern wall.

The menorah was kindled every afternoon, and remained lit throughout the night. The lights of the menorah symbolize the illumination provided by Torah and mitzvot: "For a mitzvah is a candle, and the Torah is light." The spiritual illumination supplied by studying Torah and observing G-d's commandments lights up the

darkest and coldest nights. As Isaiah said, "For behold, darkness shall cover the earth . . . and the L-rd shall shine upon you."

Every Shabbat twelve loaves of bread were placed on the table, where they remained until the following Shabbat. Bread is the staff of life, and a metaphor for all forms of nourishment. Thus, the table symbolizes all our material needs.

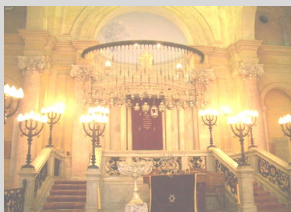
The Temple serves as the portal to heaven. As Jacob said regarding the Temple Mount: "This is none other than the house of G-d, and this is the gate of heaven." This gateway serves a dual purpose: it is the path through which our

prayers ascend to heaven, and it is the conduit through which we receive all beneficence which descends from Above. Both our spiritual and physical needs are provided by G-d, and both come to us via the Temple: the spiritual needs are channeled through the menorah, and material largess through the table.

The biblical commentator Rabbi Shmuel ben Meir (Rashbam), explains that the menorah's practical purpose was to provide light for the table. After all, the royal table needs to be illuminated by a royal candelabrum!

The message is quite clear. Our Torah and mitzvot must "illuminate" all our physical pursuits. We cannot relegate the spiritual to the synagogue, or to the hour or two of the day which we dedicate to Torah study, prayer and good deeds. Our connection with G-d must be apparent even while involved in a business meeting, or when sitting down to eat.

A home whose "table" is illuminated by its "menorah" is truly worthy of being a sanctuary wherein G-d willingly dwells.



Minyan Schedule

Summer Schedule

Friday Night
Mincha— 7:00

Maariv - Kabbalat Shabbat 15
minutes after Mincha

Shabbat

Shacharit: 10:00 a.m.

Torah Reading: 10:45 a.m.

Kidush: 12:00 p.m.

Mincha at 7:00

Followed by Ma'ariv
(on time)

MONDAY-FRIDAY MINYAN 8:15
AM and

SUNDAY MINYAN 9:00 AM Fol-

lowed by Talmud class

& Breakfast

Mincha 7:00 p.m.

followed by Ma'ariv

לזכות ולרפור"ש עבור:
פנחס מאיר בן הינדא גיטל שיח'
נועה מי' בת דבורה רחל תחי'

Ongoing Classes

SUNDAY-FRIDAY

Tanya class for men and women
after prayers

MONDAY

5:00– 6:00 p.m. Girls Club at our
Shul (For girls ages 8-11)

TUESDAY

9:00 a.m.
Lunch and learn for young women
at Fresko restaurant.
Please call Raizel (786) 515-5729
1:30-3:30 p.m. Jewish Retiree
Club

WEDNESDAY

8:00 –9:00 p.m. class followed by
dinner for men and women

THURSDAY

Loaves Of Love. Volunteer and
make challah for those in need

SHABBAT

9:00 Chasidus before the
Tefilah
10:45 Running commentary on the
Parasha

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Everything You Wanted To Know About...

Pesach Sheni and Lag B'Omer

Pesach Sheni

This Sunday, the 14th of Iyar, is Pesach Sheni—the Second Passover. On the first anniversary of the Exodus, Moses was approached by a group of Jews who were ritually impure and thus excluded from offering, or partaking of, the Paschal Offering. "Why should we be deprived?" they exclaimed. "We, too, want to observe the mitzvah of the Paschal Offering!" Moses conveyed their grievance to the Almighty, and G-d instructed that from that year and onwards all those who weren't capable of offering the Paschal Lamb in its proper time on the 14th of Nisan (due to impurity or distance from the Temple) should offer the Paschal Lamb exactly one month later, on the 14th of Iyar.

It is customary to eat Matzah – Shmurah Matzah if possible – on this day. Also, due to the festive nature of the day, we omit the *tachanun* (confession and prayers for forgiveness) from the daily prayers.

The lesson of Pesach Sheni is that it is never too late. Don't think, "everyone else has already left Egypt and is well on his way toward receiving the Torah—and I haven't even begun my spiritual journey! I'm impure!" Don't despair, you too can make the leap, and join everyone else in their state of Redemption, worthy of receiving the Torah on the holiday of Shavuot.

Lag B'Omer

This Thursday, May 26th, the holiday of Lag b'Omer is observed. Lag b'Omer, the 33rd day of the counting of the Omer, celebrates two events: 1) the end of the epidemic which killed 24,000 of Rabbi Akiva's students. 2) The passing of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, author of the primary work on Kabbalah—the Zohar. On the day of his passing, Rabbi Shimon revealed many of the

greatest secrets of Kabbalah, and he requested that his yahrtzeit be joyfully celebrated each year.

By far, the largest celebration for Lag b'Omer takes place in and around Meron, the town near Safed where Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai and his son Rabbi Elazar are buried. Hundreds of thousands attend the festivities, large bonfires can be seen from miles away, and the celebration is unparalleled.

- On Lag b'Omer it is customary to light bonfires, and the children play with bows and (wooden) arrows. The bonfires celebrate the immense light that was brought into the world by Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, especially on the day of his passing. The Zohar relates that on the day that Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai died, he revealed the secrets of the Torah, and the house became filled with light and fire to the point that the students could not approach or even look at Rabbi Shimon. The bow commemorates the fact that during Rabbi Shimon's lifetime no rainbow was ever seen. The rainbow appears when the earth deserves punishment. The first time a rainbow appeared was after Noah's flood, when G-d said that He will no longer disrupt the world, rather, when the world is deserving of punishment, He would send a sign: the rainbow. During Rabbi Shimon's lifetime, the world was filled with merit because of him and therefore never saw a rainbow.

- All the laws of mourning which are practiced throughout the Omer period are suspended on this day: Permitted are marriages, haircuts, music, etc.

- Due to the festive nature of the day, we omit the *tachanun* (prayers for forgiveness and

Non-Trivial Trivia

The mitzvah of Pesach Sheni was instigated by a group of impure Jews (see "Timely Reminders" above). Who were these individuals? The Midrash gives several answers: 1) Joseph's pallbearers. 2) Mishael and Eltzafan, Moses' nephews who removed the bodies of Nadab and Abihu from the Tabernacle a few days earlier. 3) For those who prefer a less exotic explanation: The group was comprised of ordinary people who were impure because they participated in the funerals of loved ones within the past week.