



## The Torah, Love & Happenstance

By Rabbi Melvin Granatstein



Sefer VaYikrah, the third book of the Torah, is primarily concerned with the themes of the sacrificial rites in the Mishkan and later in the Temple in Yerushalaim, and the laws of holiness and ritual impurity. Strikingly, these laws are presented to Moshe in the Mishkan itself.

This book begins with the word that gives the book its name. ויקרא. “God calls to Moshe” In a Sefer Torah, the last letter of the word – the aleph – is written in miniature form so that the word as written contrasts with another term – Vayikar -

ויקר - no aleph.

Syntactically, ויקר Vayikar would also work and it would still imply God’s revealing his word to Moshe. In Sefer BaMidbar, in the narrative of Bala’am, God’s revelation to Bala’am is described as ויקר – this very word! The Midrash explains that ויקר Vayikar is best understood when compared to its noun form - מיקרה Mikreh-which means a happenstance affair. It enjoys no constancy.

By contrast, the verb ויקרא - VaYikra - implies constancy. When the angels of Isaiah’s great revelation call to each other, the term used is related to Vayikra קדוש, קדוש, קדוש ויקרא זה אל זה ואמר קדוש, קדוש, קדוש ...V’kara Zeh el Zeh V’amar

When this revelation, which serves as the basis of our Kedushah prayer, is understood according to its plain meaning, it clearly implies that one angel calls to the other angel pronouncing God holy - קדוש, and this calling of one to the other reverberates forever. The standard Aramaic translation says קדיש לעלם ולעלמי עלמיא - “holy forever and ever”.

In a word, God’s revelation to Bala’am is mere happenstance whereas Gods calling to Moshe is steady and constant. In the words of the Midrash, it is “the language of love”.

At the end of VaYikra, when Israel is warned of the dire consequences of breaking the covenant – the Torah characterizes this violation as קרי ואם תלכו עמי קרי “If you walk with me – ‘keri” This word comes from the same root as ויקר – VaYikar. The covenant is broken whenever it is reduced to mere happenstance. Rather, Israel is called to constancy which is the language of ויקרא, VaYikra – the language of love.





# MONTHLY CALENDAR

Monday—Tuesday, May 5-6 - **Rosh Chodesh Iyar**  
Morning Service..... 6:30 a.m.

Friday, May 9  
Candle Lighting..... 8:14 p.m.  
Kabbalat Shabbat..... 7:30 p.m.  
\*\* When you Daven at an early Kabbalat Shabbat, you should light candles at that time.

Saturday, May 10  
**Parshat Emor**  
Morning Service..... 9:00 a.m.  
Rabbi's Talmud Class..... 7:05 p.m.  
First Grade Parsha Club..... 7:35 p.m.  
Mincha..... 8:05 p.m.  
Motsaei Shabbat..... 9:13 p.m.  
Sunday Morning Services..... 8:00 a.m.  
Weekday Morning Services..... 6:40 a.m.  
Weekday Evening Services..... 8:25 p.m.

Sunday, May 11  
Rabbi Granatstein's class in Jewish Philosophical Text  
At Torat Tzion Kollel..... 9:15 a.m.  
Rabbi Granatstein's monthly class on Sefer B'reishit  
At his house..... 8:00 p.m.

Friday, May 16  
Candle Lighting..... 8:21 p.m.  
Kabbalat Shabbat..... 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 17  
**Parshat Behar**  
Morning Service..... 9:00 a.m.  
Rabbi's Talmud Class..... 7:10 p.m.  
First Grade Parsha Club..... 7:40 p.m.  
Mincha..... 8:10 p.m.  
Motsaei Shabbat..... 9:20 p.m.  
Sunday Morning Services..... 8:00 a.m.  
Weekday Morning Services..... 6:40 a.m.  
Weekday Evening Services..... 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 18  
Rabbi Granatstein's class in Jewish Philosophical Text  
At Torat Tzion Kollel..... 9:15 a.m.

Friday, May 23  
Candle Lighting..... 8:28 p.m.  
Kabbalat Shabbat..... 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 24  
**Parshat Bechukotai**  
Morning Service..... 9:00 a.m.  
Rabbi's Talmud Class..... 7:15 p.m.  
First Grade Parsha Club..... 7:45 p.m.  
Mincha..... 8:15 p.m.  
Motsaei Shabbat..... 9:27 p.m.  
Sunday Morning Services..... 8:00 a.m.  
Weekday Morning Services..... 6:40 a.m.  
Weekday Evening Services..... 8:35 p.m.

Sunday, May 18  
Rabbi Granatstein's class in Jewish Philosophical Text  
At Torat Tzion Kollel..... 9:15 a.m.

Friday, May 30  
Candle Lighting..... 8:34 p.m.  
Kabbalat Shabbat..... 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 31  
**Parshat BaMidbar**  
Morning Service..... 9:00 a.m.  
Rabbi's Talmud Class..... 7:20 p.m.  
First Grade Parsha Club..... 7:50 p.m.  
Mincha..... 8:20 p.m.  
Motsaei Shabbat..... 9:33 p.m.  
Sunday Morning Services..... 8:00 a.m.  
Weekday Morning Services..... 6:40 a.m.  
Weekday Evening Services..... 8:45 p.m.

Sunday, June 1  
Rabbi Granatstein's class in Jewish Philosophical Text  
At Torat Tzion Kollel..... 9:15 a.m.

Wednesday, June 4 - **Rosh Chodesh Sivan**  
Morning Service..... 6:30 a.m.

## IN SYMPATHY

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

THE CONGREGATION WOULD LIKE TO  
EXTEND ITS HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES

TO YITZHAK ZEMELMAN AND FAMILY, ON THE LOSS  
OF HIS MOTHER.

### BOY SCOUTS ARE HERE!

Green Road Synagogue is now hosting a Boy Scouts troop led by our member, Andy Stone. If you or someone you know are interested, please contact David (also a Boy Scout) in the office for

more details. This troop is open to anyone in our Jewish community, so bring a friend!



## MAZEL TOV

To Rabbi Eran & Tchiya Naane on the birth of a boy.

To Hy & Heddy Holz on the birth of a grandson born to Julie & Michael White.

To Tom & Julie Feuerman on the birth of a grandson born to Allan & Jamie Feuerman.

To Yoel & Marcia Anouchi on the engagement of their son Avi to Mori Teitz, daughter of Avi & Debbie Teitz of Edison, NJ.

**Sponsor a Kiddush** for the entire congregation starting at \$400, or with Cholent at \$1000? Team up with friends who have birthdays or Yahrzeits around the same time and sponsor together. Every family event is enhanced when shared with the Shul. To schedule a Kiddush, call the office at 216-381-4757 or email [Jane@GreenRoadSynagogue.org](mailto:Jane@GreenRoadSynagogue.org)



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 Office@GreenRoadSynagogue.org  
 Website:  
 www.GreenRoadSynagogue.org

**Office Hours:**

Monday – Thursday  
 9:30 am – 5:00 pm  
 Friday  
 9:30 am – 3:00 pm



**Come grow  
 with us!**

*Spiritual Leader*  
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**MAY-JUNE 2008  
 NISAN 5768**

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# DONATIONS

*We would like to thank the following for their generous contributions to our Synagogue.*

**IN MEMORY OF:**

**Norbert Amsterdam:** Ira Lorber and Family; Rose Inenberg  
**Yitzhak Zemelman's Mother:** Boaz & Shanie Shevach  
**Nathan & Betty Berliner's daughter, Sherry Dimarsky:** Sonia Goldstein

**IN HONOR OF:**

**Boris and Alla Mikhli for their hospitality:** Vivian Greenberg  
**The baby naming of Penina Ruth Seed:** Ethan & Gena Cohen  
**A speedy recovery to Goldie Weiss:** Bertha Weider and Family  
**A speedy recovery to Sherry Epstein:** Boaz & Shanie Shevach; Herschel & Sheila Pickholtz

**KIDDUSH:**

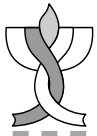
**May 3:** In honor of Morry Weiss' birthday, by his family.

**SEUDAH SHLISHIT:**

**May 3:** By Shmulie & Daryle Spero in memory of Shmulie's mother Elissa Spero, on the occasion of her Yahrzeit.

## Upcoming Events at Green Road Synagogue

- May 10:** Shabbat Yisrael Kiddush sponsored by Fuchs Mizrahi School following Davening.
- May 31, 6:00 pm:** Fuchs Mizrahi School Seudah Shlishit in honor of Rabbi Shmuel Jablon, Rabbi Yossi & Mrs. Deganit Sharbi, Rabbi Adi & Mrs. Bracha Krohn and Rachel Klein.
- June 12, 8:00 pm:** Fuchs Mizrahi School Eighth Grade Graduation.



# Sephira

The period of Sephirat Ha'Omer is a period of Jewish national mourning, for it was during this period that the students of Rabbi Akiva were decimated by a plague, apparently during the tragic period of the rebellion of Bar Kochba against Rome. The rebellion of the Jews was put down with severity. Jerusalem was converted into a pagan city and the Jews were driven out of Judea.

On Lag B'Omer, the 33rd day of the counting of the Omer, the plague afflicting the students of Rabbi Akiva remitted and as a consequence this day became a day of joy.

During the Omer period we are forbidden to cut our hair and celebrate weddings. On Lag B'Omer all this becomes permissible. There are several alternate customs regarding mourning observances. One custom is to observe these tokens of national mourning from the day after Pesach until Lag B'Omer. Another custom is to observe this mourning from Rosh Chodesh Iyar until the second day of Sivan.

## Yom Ha'Atsmaut - Israel Independence Day - יום העצמאות

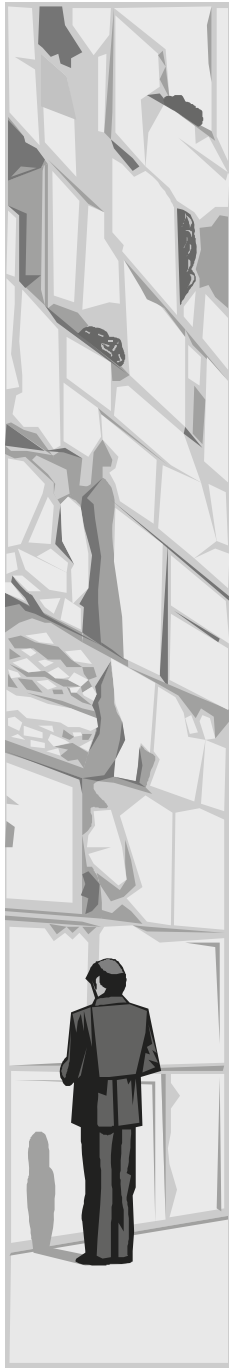
We live at a time when two of our mourning days of Sephirah have been turned into days of our joy; Yom Ha'Atsmaut and Yom Yerushalayim. In accordance with P'sak of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel, we shall recite Hallel in the morning service. As a sign of joy and thankfulness that we have been Zocheh to see the rebuilding of our homeland in our lifetime, we invite all our members to join us for the morning service to recite Hallel. May we see peace in our homeland. Yom Ha'Atsmaut will occur on Thursday, May 8th.



## Yom Yerushalayim - יום ירושלים

### Day of the Liberation of Jerusalem

Jerusalem was liberated on Iyar 28 in 1967. This year Yom Yerushalayim will be celebrated on Monday, June 2nd.



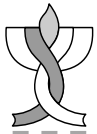
## Lag B'Omer

Lag B'omer will occur Friday, May 23rd. On this day we are permitted to celebrate weddings and other Semachot. Tachanun is not recited.

## Pesach Sheni

Pesach Sheni occurs on the 14th day of Iyar. When the Temple stood, those who were unable to offer the Korban Pesach on Erev Pesach either because they were ritually impure or outside of the environs of the Temple Mount area at the time, could offer Korban Pesach on Pesach Sheni. It is customary to serve Matzah at the table on this day. We do not recite Tachanun. This year Pesach Sheni will be on Monday, May 19th.





5th Annual  
Green Road  
Synagogue  
Graduation  
Kiddush

**June 14**

Honor your  
graduates by  
becoming a  
Kiddush  
sponsor:



Pre-school thru Graduate School

For \$100 you can co-sponsor Kiddush & have your graduate's name announced and listed in the special Shabbat program we will be printing for that weekend.

To list your graduate and co-sponsor Kiddush you can call Jane at the Shul: 216-381-4757, e-mail: [Jane@GreenRoadSynagogue.org](mailto:Jane@GreenRoadSynagogue.org), or fax: 216-381-5059.



GRS Graduation Kiddush Sponsor Sign Up Card

Name of Graduate: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Graduating/Degree: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' Names: \_\_\_\_\_