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Fr: 9:30 am — 3:00 pm

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Green Road Synagogue

“Where we enrich our lives and our community through
TAM: Torah, Ahavat Yisrael & Medinat Yisrael.”

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2009

החודש שבט תשס"ט

THE ANNUAL BANQUET IS FEBRUARY 8TH!

THESE ARE OUR HEROES כל אלה גבורי חיל
(דברי הימים ב', י"ד גז') (Chronicles II, 14:7)

Green Road Synagogue invites you to the annual banquet, honoring our members who have served in the United States Armed Services.

February 8, 2009 י"ד שבט ה'תשס"ט

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Green Road Synagogue

Buffet Brunch ~ Activities for young children

\$65 per person | \$15 per child | \$250 Patron

500 Full Table (10)

The Honorees:

Daniel Cord	Jack Jaffe	Ivan Soclof
Mark Ellen	Sidney Katz	Sam Teitelbaum
Albert Hersh	Josh Mandel	Albert Uvlin
Ted Hersh	Tamas Muencz	Bennet Yanowitz
Hy Holz	Andrew Salamon	

Please contact the office before January 28th with your Reservations and Ads.

AD JOURNAL CHAIRS
Sheila Pearl Pickholtz
Tikvah Shachter

DINNER CHAIRS
Noa Baskin
Johanna Ratner

New Bulletin Format

In an effort to improve the speed and reduce costs for sending our monthly bulletin, we are now printing the bulletin in our office. We will send this print version to those who can not receive it electronically. Please contact the office with email addresses for yourself, friends and family. For more information please call 216-381-4757 or email David@GreenRoadSynagogue.org.



Torah as the Eternal Present

By Rabbi Melvin Granatstein



Matan Torah, as a climatic moment in Sefer Sh'mot, is set apart from the proceeding narrative by language and by mood. Already in the first verse, Rashi notes the designation "ביום הזה" which means not simply "on that day" but more emphatically on this very day – the word

"זה" being a pointed demonstrative. This usage conveys the excitement of something altogether new. Rashi's own comments here are "that the teaching of the Torah should be as fresh as on the day they were given." The broader point is that the text is forewarning us that something unparalleled is about to take place.

The sense of the special character of the event is also conveyed through conscious mystification. The B'nai Yisrael arrive at Mt Sinai on the third month. But within this month they are told to be prepared for the "third day" – yet this "third day" does not appear to correspond either to the third day of the month or the third day of the week. The Maharal of Prague, intrigued by this invocation of an unknown third day in the events of the third month, understands the true meaning of the use of number three to be symbolic. He points to a comment made in the Talmud (Shabbat 88) that seems also to be fixing its focus on the mysterious number three in this passage. The Talmud says "Blessed be God who gives a three-fold Torah (Torah, Nevi'im, Ketuvim) to a three-fold nation (Abraham, Isaac & Jacob) through a third party (Moshe) on a third day in a third month."

But if the number three has some symbolic meaning here, what could it be?



The Maharal, drawing upon Kabbalistic sources understands the number three to be the number of mediation. Perhaps we can understand this by noting the use of a "third party" to reconcile a dispute between two disputants. As the Maharal puts it, this symbolic number three reconciles the one sidedness of the preceding numbers one and two. The numbers one and two represent the polar tension of two forces or qualities standing in opposition to each other. Using the terminology employed by the philosopher Hegel, we might say that the number one represents thesis, two represents antithesis, and the number three represents the reconciling synthesis. The Torah is given on a third day that bring a reconciling embrace to the tension of the single days of one and two. The Torah's purpose is to embrace and reconcile all one sided perspectives and give us a sense of integrity or wholeness. The way the Torah is given conveys that same sense of wholeness.

The Maharal then uses this symbolic meaning of the number three by applying it to our sense of time.

The mysterious "third day" of the giving of the Torah remains elusive. Its elusiveness, says the Maharal, is related to the Torah's timelessness. The Torah does not belong either to the past or to the future. There really is no one day on which the Torah is completely given. Rather, the Torah is always being given. We just don't listen with enough acuity to hear it.



The Torah belongs to an eternal present where past and future meet. Using this number symbolism, the number one can be assigned the value of the past. The number two can be assigned the value of the future. The "third day" of the Torah is the embracing eternal present in which God through his Torah speaks to us always. The "third day" of the Torah, is then that day we truly listen to God's commanding voice.



SHEVAT

Tu B'Shevat, or Chamishah Asar B'Shevat, literally means "the 15th of Shevat." It falls this year on Monday, February 9th. It represents the demarcation point during the period of the Temple in which a portion of the fruit trees of each separate year had to be given as T'rumah to the Kohen, ten percent to the Levite, and pertained to other Mitzvot as well.



It is customary to eat the fruit of Eretz Yisrael on this day. Chamishah Asar B' Shevat thus ties us to our homeland and reminds us of the beauty and creative power of the land that God gave us.

With the rise of the Zionist movement, and the work of the Jewish National Fund in the reforestation of the Land of Israel, this day has become the occasion of tree planting in Israel. It has, in effect, become a modern holiday for Jewish national renaissance. Participation in the reclaiming of Eretz Yisrael is a great Mitzvah in which all Jews must take part, especially in these times of Arab terrorism and attempted delegitimization of Israel.

MAZEL TOV

To Rabbi Melvin & Malka Granatstein on the Bar Mitzvah of their grandson Yechiel Scheinfeld, son of Hillel & Miriam Scheinfeld in Beit Shemesh, Israel

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

To Eliezer Balanson on the marriage of his son Uriel to Atara Thomas, daughter of Stuart & Pam Thomas, of Memphis, TN.



DONATIONS

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

IN MEMORY OF:

Sam Mendlovic: David & Kimberly Altman; Judy Kirchick

Rose Ickowicz: Eileen Mittleman; Anna Pearl & Family; Ruth Koway

Lili Hollender's Father: Shlomo & Erna Laufer

Ben Arnovitz: Hilda Blatt

Judy Kirchick's Mother, Esther Madian: Barry & Lynne Shiller; Jack & Minda Jaffe; Sidney & Bernice Borison; Shanie & Boaz Shevach; Herschel & Sheila Pickholtz

Asher Weiss: Hedy & Hy Holz; Helena & David Ingber; Rose Feuer; Helen & Eugene Klein; Sarah & Louis Radzeli; Leon & Helen Shear; Herchel & Sheila Pickholtz

IN HONOR OF:

Arlene Smith for her support following Henry Lovinger's passing: Robyn & Mark Lovinger

KIDDUSH:

We did not have any sponsors for Kiddush the entire month! To sponsor or co-sponsor a Kiddush, call the Shul office today!

SEUDAH SHLISHIT:

January 3: By Allen & Carol Seftel in memory of Allen's father, Larry Seftel on the occasion of his Yahrzeit.

January 17: By Yehiel Benshoshan in memory of his father, Yaakov Ben Saada, on the occasion of his Yahrzeit.

IN SYMPATHY



המקום ינחם אתכם
בתוך שאר אבלי
ציון וירושלים

THE CONGREGATION WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND ITS HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES

TO JUDY KIRCHICK ON THE PASSING OF HER MOTHER, ESTHER MADIAN.

TO MALCHI WEISS & FAMILY ON THE PASSING OF HER HUSBAND, ASHER WEISS, WHO PASSED AWAY ON JAN. 8TH, AND TO NATHAN & KATHLEEN WEISS ON THE PASSING OF THEIR FATHER.

TO THE FAMILY OF ADELE JACOBS, WHO PASSED AWAY IN FLORIDA ON JAN. 9TH.



MONTHLY CALENDAR - SHEVAT

Monday, January 26 - **Rosh Chodesh Shevat**

Morning Services 6:30 a.m.

Parshat Bo

Friday, January 30

Candle Lighting 5:21 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat 5:20 p.m.

Saturday, January 31

Morning Service 9:00 a.m.

Rabbi's Talmud Class Canceled

Mincha 5:10 p.m.

Motsaei Shabbat 6:20 p.m.

Sunday Morning Services 8:00 a.m.

Weekday Morning Services 6:40 a.m.

Weekday Evening Services 5:30 p.m.

Parshat B'Shalach

Friday, February 6

Candle Lighting 5:30 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 7

Morning Service 9:00 a.m.

Rabbi's Talmud Class 4:20 p.m.

Mincha 5:20 p.m.

Motsaei Shabbat 6:29 p.m.

Sunday Morning Services 8:00 a.m.

Weekday Morning Services 6:40 a.m.

Weekday Evening Services 5:40 p.m.

Sunday, February 8

Rabbi Granatstein's class in Jewish Philosophical Text

At Torat Tzion Kollel 9:15 a.m.

Green Road Synagogue Annual Banquet Honoring our US Armed Service. (see page 1)

** Rabbi Granatstein's Monthly Chumash Class

At his home 8:00 p.m.

Parshat Yitro

Friday, February 13

Candle Lighting 5:39 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat 5:40 p.m.

Saturday, February 14

Morning Service 9:00 a.m.

Rabbi's Talmud Class 4:30 p.m.

Mincha 5:30 p.m.

Motsaei Shabbat 6:38 p.m.

Sunday Morning Services 8:00 a.m.

Weekday Morning Services 6:40 a.m.

Weekday Evening Services 5:45 p.m.

Sunday, February 15

Rabbi Granatstein's class in Jewish Philosophical Text

At Torat Tzion Kollel 9:15 a.m.

Parshat Mishpatim - Shekalim - Mevarchim

Friday, February 20

Candle Lighting 5:48 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat 5:50 p.m.

Saturday, February 21

Morning Service 9:00 a.m.

Rabbi's Talmud Class 4:35 p.m.

Mincha 5:35 p.m.

Motsaei Shabbat 6:47 p.m.

Sunday Morning Services 8:00 a.m.

Weekday Morning Services 6:40 a.m.

Weekday Evening Services 5:55 p.m.

Sunday, February 22

Rabbi Granatstein's class in Jewish Philosophical Text

At Torat Tzion Kollel 9:15 a.m.

Tuesday-Wednesday, February 24-25

Rosh Chodesh Adar

Morning Services 6:30 a.m.

The DEEL Jewish Experience

2009 Film Series Schedule:

Jan. 31, 8:00 PM - "The Persecution And Assassination Of Dr. Israel Kasztner"

Feb. 14, 8:00 PM - Maale Films

Feb. 21, 8:30 PM - "The Story of the Hasidic Actors Guild (HAG)"

Mar. 7, 8:30 PM - "Orthodox Stance"

Upcoming Community Events at Green Road Synagogue

January 31-February 1:

NCSY Overnight Skiing & Movies

February 6-7: Bnei Akiva Chevraya Aleph Shabbaton

February 8: Fuchs Mizrachi School Tu B'Shevat Seder

Shabbat February 27-28:

Cedar Green Community Kollel Oneg Shabbat & Luncheon

Motsaei Shabbat, February 28:

Torat Tzion Kollel Comedy Night

March 5-8: Senior NCSY Cleveland Shabbaton

GRS Boy Scouts Winter Calendar

Feb 22: Tobogganing at Strongsville Metro Park

March 14 & 15 Camp at Hinckley Metro Park

To join please contact Channa Appel at 216-691-0859.



MINYAN REMINDER

We are calling on all men in our membership to commit to coming to one morning or evening Minyan each week.

Sponsor a Kiddush for the entire congregation starting at \$500, or with Cholent at \$1000! To schedule a Kiddush, call Dovid at 216-381-4757.