

# CONGREGATION SONS OF ZION

Volume 5 | Issue 9 | May 2020 | Iyar/Sivan 5780

## Congregation Sons of Zion

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## About the Month of Iyar

Although Iyar does not contain many “special days,” every single day of the month is included in the Sefirat HaOmer, the mitzvah of counting each of the 49 days between Passover and Shavuot. Sefirat HaOmer is a period of introspection and self-refinement, as we prepare ourselves to receive the Torah anew on Shavuot. Each day of Iyar represents another step in this spiritual journey toward Sinai.



## From the Rabbi

I am sending my monthly newsletter article to you in advance of the newsletter itself because I want to let you know in time about an upcoming, important and unique Jewish event that is happening very soon.

What event?, you ask.

Here are a few clues:

The event involves a Jewish holiday that is not mentioned in the Torah, but has roots that go back 3,000 years.

Even with such ancient roots, the holiday is actually very new in terms of the long sweep of Jewish history.

This Jewish holiday, when it was enacted, actually went against long-standing Jewish traditional practice, yet it is widely celebrated both by secular and most branches of religious Jews today. Those ultra-orthodox Jews who oppose this holiday generally do so more out of historical concerns than Jewish legal considerations (halacha).

This year, the holiday can be celebrated together simultaneously online all around the world, even by Jews who refrain from using electricity on other Jewish holidays.

And - last clue - in addition to the international celebration, we at SOZ will be having our own special Zoom get-together, and it will all be happening this Wednesday, April 29.

As you may already have determined, the holiday is...Yom Ha'atzma'ut, Israel Independence Day.

What follows is some historical background -- or just skip to the end of this article to find out how you can mark the day with Jews all over the world and with our SOZ community.

Although the first modern Yom Ha'atzma'ut fell on May 15, 1948 (corresponding to the Jewish calendar date of the 5<sup>th</sup> of Iyar, 5708) when David Ben Gurion declared Israel's independence, the precedent for a self-governing Jewish "state" in that part of the world was set when King David established the First Jewish Commonwealth with Jerusalem as its capitol some 3,000 years earlier. His son, King Solomon, built the Temple in Jerusalem, which symbolized Jewish religious and national independence.

That first Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BCE and Jews were exiled from their land. Eventually Jews were allowed to return, a second Temple was built on the site of the first Temple, and Jewish independence was re-established with Jerusalem again as its capitol. That Second Jewish Commonwealth lasted until 70 CE, when the second Temple was destroyed by the Romans on Tisha B'Av, the 9<sup>th</sup> day of the month of Av, a Jewish day of fasting and mourning. That date marked the end of Jewish self-rule, and it could well have marked the end of Jewish aspirations to live as a free and independent people in our own land.

Over the centuries that followed, Jews became an international people, dispersed all over the world. There was no central governing body to unite them. We probably would have eventually disappeared as a people from the face of the earth were it not for an enduring memory of and yearning for Jerusalem. In our daily prayers we faced Jerusalem. Every Yom Kippur and every

## From the Rabbi (continued)

Passover, we declared L'Shana Haba'ah B'Yerushalayim, Next Year in Jerusalem.

The re-establishment of Jewish independence in the land of Israel after nearly 1900 years of statelessness and dispersion has to be one of the most amazing stories in the annals of human history. That is why Yom Ha'atzma'ut marks not only an event that happened 72 years ago. It is also a culmination of centuries of Jewish history and yearning.

The day the modern state of Israel declared its independence falls in the 49 day period known as the time of the counting of the omer. This is a period of semi-mourning that lasts from the second night of Passover until Shavuot. Because a plague during this time devastated the students of Rabbi Akiva who were part of the unsuccessful Bar Kochba revolt against the Romans, celebrations like weddings, parties, and dancing traditionally do not take place during this time. (Exceptions are the 33<sup>rd</sup> day of the omer -- Lag B'Omer -- and the festive new moons -- Rosh Hodesh -- of Iyar and Sivan that fall during the omer period.)

Even though Yom Ha'atzma'ut falls during the omer period of semi-mourning, most Jews, including many traditionally orthodox rabbinical authorities, allow and encourage this modern holiday of celebration to override the traditional restrictions of the omer period. In Israel and elsewhere, for example, Jewish weddings now take place on Yom Ha'atzma'ut as well as on Lag B'Omer and Rosh Hodesh during the omer period. Yom Ha'atzma'ut is thus seen as so significant as a religious as well as secular holiday that it overrides a centuries-old tradition of semi-mourning during omer.

So how can we celebrate Yom Ha'atzma'ut today? The plague of covid-19 is not going to stop us now any more than the plague in the days of Bar Kochba stopped the yearning for Jewish independence among the students of Bar Kochba.

Jews not only in Israel but around the world will be coming together to celebrate online. On Yom Ha'atzma'ut, which falls on Wednesday, April 29, there will be a Worldwide Celebration of Yom Ha'atzma'ut from 2:00 - 3:00 pm, our time. It should be quite extraordinary! Invitations and links were sent yesterday, and they will be sent out today and tomorrow as well.

Our own special SOZ program for Yom Ha'atzma'ut will be on Wednesday, April 29. It follows the weekly pre-mincha minyan schmooze at 5:00 pm and the minyan itself at 5:15 pm. At about 5:30 pm, we will have a Zoom get-together to share our own experiences, memories, and stories about Israel. Whether or not we have actually been there, we will explore how Israel affects our identity as Jews today and how our relationship with Israel may have developed and changed over time. Access the program by Zoom or by phone if you don't have Zoom. The synagogue will be emailing links to Zoom and the phone conference connection in time for Wednesday's minyan. Please join us, and be prepared to hear -- and share your own -- great Israel stories and thoughts about what Israel means to us today!

*Rabbi Saul Perlmutter*

# IYAR/SIVAN 5780

May 2020

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
29 2 Iyar	30 3 Iyar	31 4 Iyar	29 5 Iyar *Mincha Minyan Schmooze, 5pm Service, 5:15pm (Zoom)*	30 6 Iyar	1 7 Iyar	2 8 Iyar Shabbat Service, 10am (Zoom)*  23 Omer <i>Acharei- Kedoshim</i>
3 9 Iyar  24 Omer	4 10 Iyar Minyan Cancelled  25 Omer	5 11 Iyar  26 Omer	6 12 Iyar Mincha Minyan Schmooze, 5pm Service, 5:15pm (Zoom)*  27 Omer	7 13 Iyar  28 Omer	8 14 Iyar  29 Omer	9 15 Iyar Shabbat Service, 10am (Zoom)*  30 Omer <i>Emor</i>
10 16 Iyar Mother's Day  31 Omer	11 17 Iyar Minyan Cancelled  32 Omer	12 18 Iyar Lag B'Omer  33 Omer	13 19 Iyar Mincha Minyan Schmooze, 5pm Service, 5:15pm (Zoom)* SOZ Board Meeting, 6:30pm (Zoom)*  34 Omer	14 20 Iyar  35 Omer	15 21 Iyar  36 Omer	16 22 Iyar Shabbat Service, 10am (Zoom)*  37 Omer <i>Behar- Bechukotai</i>
17 23 Iyar  38 Omer	18 24 Iyar Minyan Cancelled  39 Omer	19 25 Iyar  40 Omer	20 26 Iyar Mincha Minyan Schmooze, 5pm Service, 5:15pm (Zoom)*  41 Omer	21 27 Iyar  42 Omer	22 28 Iyar Yom Yerushalayim (Jerusalem Day)  43 Omer	23 29 Iyar Shabbat Service, 10am (Zoom)*  44 Omer <i>Bamidbar</i>
24 1 Sivan Rosh Hodesh Sivan 45 Omer	25 2 Sivan Minyan Cancelled  46 Omer	26 3 Sivan  47 Omer	27 4 Sivan Mincha Minyan Schmooze, 5pm Service, 5:15pm (Zoom)*  48 Omer	28 5 Sivan Erev Shavuot Tikkun Leil Shavuot, 8pm (Zoom)*  49 Omer (Last Day)	29 6 Sivan First Day Shavuot	30 7 Sivan Shabbat Service, 10am (Zoom)* (Including Yizkor) Second Day Shavuot/Yizkor  <i>Shavuot</i>
31 8 Sivan Memorial Day						

\*(Zoom) and cancelled Monday minyanim assume that Covid-19 restrictions continue

# DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday, May 2, 2020

Shabbat Service, 10am (Zoom)\*

Monday, May 4, 2020

Minyan cancelled

Wednesday, May 6, 2020

Mincha Minyan: 5pm schmooze, 5:15pm service (Zoom)\*

Saturday, May 9, 2020

Shabbat Service, 10am (Zoom)\*

Sunday, May 10, 2020

Mother's Day

Monday, May 11, 2020

Minyan cancelled

Tuesday, May 12, 2020

Lag B'Omer

Wednesday, May 13, 2020

Mincha Minyan: 5pm schmooze, 5:15pm service (Zoom)\*

SOZ Board Meeting (Zoom)\*: 6:30pm

Saturday, May 16, 2020

Shabbat Service, 10am (Zoom)\*

Monday, May 18, 2020

Minyan cancelled

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

Mincha Minyan: 5pm schmooze, 5:15pm service (Zoom)\*

Friday, May 22, 2020

Yom Yerushalayim, Jerusalem Day

Saturday, May 23, 2020

Shabbat Service, 10am (Zoom)\*

Sunday, May 24, 2020

Rosh Hodesh Sivan

Monday, May 25, 2020

Minyan cancelled

Memorial Day

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mincha Minyan: 5pm schmooze, 5:15pm service (Zoom)\*

Thursday, May 28, 2020

Erev Shavuot, 49 Omer (Last Day), Tikkun Leil Shavuot, 8pm (Zoom)\*

Friday, May 29, 2020

First Day Shavuot

Saturday, May 30, 2020

Second Day Shavuot/Yizkor

Shabbat Service, 10am (Zoom)\*

\*(Zoom) and cancelled Monday minyanim assume that Covid-19 restrictions continue



# Tikkun Leil Shavuot



Celebrate Receiving the Torah  
by studying with us on Zoom!

**Thursday, May 28, 2020 at 8pm**

- Choose a section of Tanach (the Bible). In the Tanach, please choose from (Neviim) Prophets or (Ketuvim) Writings since we study Torah every week. You may also choose Talmud or any other sacred text and tell us how the section relates to you.
- Choose a couple of sentences to a whole book.
- Copies of the Tanach are available in the office to borrow or purchase. Call the office at (413) 534-3369 or Joan at (413) 575-8679.
- We will help if you want to explore other texts. Expand your world!

**Or.....simply enjoy the discussion!!**

**Everyone is welcome!!**

**Followed by...Make your own ice cream sundae at home!!**

To reserve your passage, contact the office at  
office@sonsofzionholyokeye.org or (413)534-3369.



## Shabbat Service Second Day Shavuot

**Saturday, May 30, 2020 at 10am**

Service will include Yizkor

CONGREGATION SONS OF ZION  
378 MAPLE STREET  
HOLYOKE, MA 01040

## How to Watch SOZ's Past Shabbat Services on YouTube:

*(Zoom services are not recorded)*

Turn on your computer and speakers.

1. Run an internet browser (Internet Explorer or Chrome, for example)
2. Type [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) in the navigation bar and press enter.
3. In YouTube, type [Congregation Sons of Zion](#) (not just "Sons of Zion") in the box that says Search and then click on the magnifying glass or press enter.
4. Click on the video that has a red "Live" button on the bottom right corner. It may take up to 45 seconds for the video to load.

*Services start at 10:00am. Shabbat Shalom!*

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#### **Kishuti "Fancy":**

Everything in the Sosvin Kiddush, plus lox, kugel, and fancier dessert if desired - \$75



## **A Special Thank you to Our Sustaining Members**

Andrew Barowsky

Ned and Cindy Barowsky

Richard and Ellen Freyman

Bonnie and Maggie Gruszecki

Norman and Marion Halpern

Alfred and Lee Hutt

Steve and Lois Levin

Buddy and Margie Resnic

Michael and Joan Rosner

Bill and Joanne Saltman

***Please consider joining our generous  
Sustaining Members...at any time!***



# Congregation Sons of Zion Legacy Society

## ☆ Congregation Sons of Zion Legacy Society ☆

The following congregants have made arrangements in their wills to leave a bequest to Congregation Sons of Zion and/or have named Congregation Sons of Zion as a beneficiary in their life insurance policy and/or have established a tax-deductible fund for the synagogue, retaining a lifetime income from the fund.

Anonymous (4)

Elaine Baskin

Irene Bernstein

Joseph Boucher

David & Nancy Carmen

Louise Citron

James Eisenstock

Andrea Fox

Richard & Ellen Freyman

Albert Goldberg\*

Herbert\* & Barbara\* Goldberg

Debra Goldberg and Seth Waxman

Rose Gorin\*

Janet & Richard Greenfield

Rachel Henderson

Alfred & Lee Hutt

Ira Laby

Aaron & Gail Lansky

Stephen & Lois Levin

Stephen & Joan Levine

Sidney\* & Elizabeth\* Paul

Burton & Marjorie Resnic

Michael & Joan Rosner

William Robbins\* & Mollie Blatt\*

Ellen Saltman\*

Paul Saltman

William & Joanne Saltman

Elihu & Joan Schepps

Nitza Seaver

Charles Weinstein

Frances Welson & Thomas Osborn\*

Sherwin & Rhoda Wernick

Thomas & Eleanor Wilson

\*Deceased

Congregation Sons of Zion Legacy Society has participated in Create a Jewish Legacy of Western Massachusetts, which is jointly funded by the Jewish Endowment Foundation and the Harold Grinspoon Foundation. The Federations of Western Massachusetts and the Berkshires are program partners.

For further information about supporting Congregation Sons of Zion through a legacy or planned gift, please contact Michael Rosner at [office@sonsofzionholioke.org](mailto:office@sonsofzionholioke.org) or (413)534-3369. Thank you very much.



# Donations: Thank you!

## Cemetery Fund

- ✦ Steve Kappel and Elaine Clean: In memory of their father, Charles Kaplinsky
- ✦ Rhoda and Sherwin Wernick: In memory of Rhoda and Ozzie's fathers, Morris Lipnick and Harry Wernick

## General Fund

- ✦ Ned and Cindy Barowsky: In memory of Ned's grandfather, Saul Magidson
- ✦ Ned and Cindy Barowsky: In memory of Ned's uncle, Alfred Barowsky
- ✦ Louise Citron and the Herbert & Barbara Goldberg Foundation: 2020 Shortfall Appeal
- ✦ David and Maya Edelman: 2020 Shortfall Appeal
- ✦ Arlene Fox: 2020 Shortfall Appeal
- ✦ Andrea Fox: In memory of her cousin, Jerome S. Cohen
- ✦ Arlene Fox: In memory of our beloved Jerome S. Cohen
- ✦ Tilli Friedrich: 2020 Shortfall Appeal
- ✦ Edward Greenbaum: Passover Donation
- ✦ Norman and Marion Halpern: 2020 Shortfall Appeal
- ✦ Alfred and Lee Hutt: 2020 Shortfall Appeal
- ✦ Ira Laby: 2020 Shortfall Appeal
- ✦ Deborah Levine: 2020 Shortfall Appeal
- ✦ Deborah Levine: In memory of her mother, Barbara Levine
- ✦ Michael and Joan Rosner: In memory of Michael's mother, Lillian Thorn
- ✦ Simon Sibelman: 2020 Shortfall Appeal
- ✦ Laura Weiss: 2020 Shortfall Appeal
- ✦ Richard Wilson: 2020 Shortfall Appeal, in memory of his parents, Benjamin and Teresa Wilson



## May Yahrzeits

### **April 26 - May 2: Deb Levine**

April 27 Susan Marks  
May 2 \*Sidney H. Wilson

### **May 3 - 9: Laura Marks**

May 3 \*Robert Seaver  
May 4 \*Shorrie Bernstein  
May 6 Selma Lesnow

### **May 10 - 16: Buddy Resnic**

May 10 \*Joseph Gerstein  
May 11 \*Benjamin Wilson  
May 12 \*Saul Magidson  
May 13 \*Gilbert Saex  
May 14 \*Frances Karukin  
May 15 William Shirley  
May 16 \*Sheila Halpern  
Anna Goodman Samel

### **May 17 - 23: Margie Resnic**

May 17 \*Rachel Saltman  
May 18 \*Llyod Everett Stein  
May 19 \*Harold Haley  
May 21 Russell Bernstein

### **May 24 - 30: Joan Rosner**

May 24 Jacob Orlen  
May 25 \*Annie Welson  
May 30 Theodore Freyman  
\*Harry Hirsch  
Nathan Kahan  
\*Louis Marks

### **May 31 - June 6: Michael Rosner**

June 1 Leo Halpern  
June 2 \*Sophie Mekler  
June 4 \*Etta Goldberg



## Zoom Shabbat Services on March 28, 2020

Provided by Andrea Fox



This is a picture of one of our first Shabbat Services on Zoom.



## Ads from our Sponsors

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[office@sonsofzionholyoke.org](mailto:office@sonsofzionholyoke.org)

There is always room for more!!!