

CONGREGATION SONS OF ZION

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Congregation Sons of Zion

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About the Month of Sivan

In the month of Sivan, we celebrate the holiday of Shavuot, when the Torah was given by God to the Jewish people on Mount Sinai more than 3,300 years ago. Every year on the holiday of Shavuot, we renew our acceptance of God's gift, and God "re-gives" the Torah.

The holiday of Shavuot is a two-day holiday, beginning at sundown of the fifth of Sivan and lasting until nightfall of the seventh of Sivan. (In Israel it is a one-day holiday, ending at nightfall of the sixth of Sivan.)



Rabbi's Message for Shavuot

Our prayer book includes a short descriptive phrase for each of the major Jewish pilgrimage holidays. Sukkot is referred to as z'man simchateynu, the season of our joy. Passover is z'man chayrutaynu, the season of our liberation. And Shavuot is described as z'man matan torateynu, the season of the giving of our Torah. (See page 42 in our Siddur Sim Shalom for Shabbat and Festivals.)

The Origin of Shavuot in the Torah

It's no big surprise then that the Torah reading for the first day of Shavuot, the festival that marks the giving of our Torah, includes the description of the giving of the Ten Commandments – and some say the entire Torah -- to Moses and the Jewish people assembled at Mount Sinai. But what IS a big surprise is that nowhere in the Torah, the source for all of our major festivals, does it say anything about Shavuot commemorating the giving of the Ten Commandments or the Torah as a whole at Mount Sinai. The Torah describes Shavuot simply as a holiday marking the conclusion of counting seven weeks from Passover, the time for the grain harvest to ripen. We are instructed to bring new grain, along with various animal sacrifices – goats, lambs, rams and a bull -- as offerings to God. (Once the Temple was built in Jerusalem, it was understood that the animal sacrifices that were stipulated for Shavuot and the other two Pilgrimage Festivals -- Passover and Sukkot -- were to be offered up at the Temple in Jerusalem.) But there is no mention of any connection between Shavuot and the awesome divine revelation at Mount Sinai to our whole Jewish people.

The Transition from the Harvest to the Giving of the Torah

So how did we get from Shavuot as an agricultural festival of first fruits as outlined in the Torah to celebrating Shavuot as the festival marking the giving of our Torah?!

The rabbis of the Talmud were pretty ingenious about discovering hints from the Torah text that enable us to find continuing meaning and relevance of time-honored traditions over the centuries. Some rabbis calculated that the time it took for the Israelites to travel from Egypt to Mount Sinai turned out to coincide with the seven-week period that we are commanded to count from Passover to Shavuot. "All of which, for the rabbis of the Talmud, proves that Shavuot is also the day the Israelites received the Torah at Mount Sinai." (From A Torah Commentary for our Times by Harvey J. Fields)

From a historical perspective, the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem by the Romans in the year 70 C.E., made impossible the original rationale for Shavuot: to bring an offering of first fruits to the Temple in Jerusalem. Once exiled from our land, the Temple no longer in existence, what meaning might this once-important pilgrimage festival now have for our people?

The clue for the explanation that I like most comes from the original connection in the Torah between Passover and Shavuot: these are the only two holidays where we are supposed to

Rabbi's Message for Shavuot (Continued)

count a specified number of days from one to the other. Unlike other holidays, a specific month and date are not mentioned for Shavuot – only that it comes at the end of the 49 days of counting the omer beginning at Passover. This made a unique linkage between Passover (the beginning of the agricultural growing season) with Shavuot (a grateful celebration of the harvest of the first fruits – the new grain).

This linkage between Passover and Shavuot can also be understood spiritually. Passover is the festival of our freedom from the oppression of slavery in Egypt. It marks the necessary, first planting of the seed of our becoming a free people, the beginning of our “growing season” as a people. The first fruits, the next step in our harvesting the full potential of becoming a free people, is to develop our own moral and spiritual values. Passover is about **freedom from** oppression, slavery, tyranny; Shavuot is about our **freedom to** form our positive identity as people with a moral code and a constitution for a good and just society.

This is in keeping with the Torah's description of the timing of Shavuot as dependent upon Passover while marking the first fruits of the growth that begins with Passover. The words we heard at Sinai (known in Hebrew as the Aseret Ha-Dibrot, more accurately translated as The Ten Words/Statements/Pronouncements, rather than the Ten Commandments – see Etz Hayim p. 441), call us to live a holy life (remember the Sabbath to keep it holy), a life of honor and respect (honor your father and your mother), a godly life (do not bow down to false idols or images), and a society based not on avarice, greed, and dishonesty, but on showing kindness (chesed) to one another as God has shown kindness to us. Passover plants the seed of our becoming a free people; Shavuot, with its Ten Pronouncements, marks the first fruits of how to live as a free people.

The Next Step: Study - Making the Torah our Torah at SOZ's Night of Torah Study

Just as the rabbis of the Talmud built upon the agricultural roots of Shavuot to develop the idea of the fulfillment of the harvest of freedom through the revelation at Sinai on Shavuot, Jewish mystics took the next step of encouraging the study of the content of the Torah that was given to us at Mount Sinai. They encouraged a late-night Shavuot study session, known as a Tikkun Leil Shavuot, that included all the books of the Bible as well as other Jewish texts. For them, the roots of both the Written Torah and the Oral Torah go back all the way to that revelation at Mount Sinai on Shavuot.

In our own way at SOZ, we too have a Tikkun Leil Shavuot on the first night of Shavuot, this year falling on **Saturday night, June 4, at 8:00 pm**. While we don't stay up all night as many of the mystics did, we do get together to study many of the books of the Bible, especially those we don't regularly read in services on Shabbat. These consist of the two sections of the Bible we do not read as regularly (the Prophets (Nevi'im) and the Writings (Ketuvim)) and some folks even select from later sources like the Mishnah or Talmud.

Rabbi's Message for Shavuot (Continued)

The SOZ Tikkun Leil Shavuot is a great opportunity to learn about parts of our sacred literary tradition that we may never have read or that we may have had a taste of and want to explore further. Leading up to the Tikkun, please consider selecting and reading part or all of a book from the Hebrew Bible that interests you. At the Tikkun on June 4th, which will be on Zoom, each person speaks about the book or section they have chosen, giving a short description of the reading and especially sharing something they found that was particularly interesting, meaningful or surprising for them. The talks are around 5 - 10 minutes each. No one expects a scholarly dissertation - this is about our personal reaction to the text, the significance or message that we each derive from it.

A New Way to Access the Tanakh (Hebrew Bible)

What if you would like to speak about a Biblical book but don't have access to a Tanakh (the acronym for the Hebrew Bible)? Two options: contact Joan about how to get a Tanakh from the synagogue, or go online to **[Sefaria.org](https://www.sefaria.org)**. Sefaria is a great, free source for traditional Jewish texts. Under "Browse the Library," click on Tanakh. Scroll down past TORAH (The Five Books of Moses) to either PROPHETS or WRITINGS. Select a chapter from the squares with numbers in them, and the text will appear in both Hebrew and English. As you read the text, you may come to a sentence that you would like to explore. If so, click on the sentence and RESOURCES will appear on the right side of your screen. You might then scroll down to Commentary or Midrash, for example, where you can find comments related to the sentence you are reading.

Whatever its agricultural roots, we now understand that Shavuot came to be considered as "the season of the giving of our Torah." But this now-traditional description of Shavuot does not stipulate who (or Who) does the giving of our Torah. Like the other holiday characterizations - the season of our joy for Sukkot, or the season of our liberation for Pesach - the focus is more on our human experience of the holiday - our joy, our liberation, our Torah - than on the source or Source of that joy, liberation, or Torah. This summary statement of Shavuot is about us making the Torah our Torah; however it was given, and whoever gave it.

The SOZ Tikkun Leil Shavuot is all about us giving the Torah -- our understanding of the Torah --- to one another so that it becomes our Torah. By sharing our insights and appreciations of the Torah, we really are sharing our lives with one another and helping to make the Torah our Torah. And that is what this wonderful celebration of Shavuot at SOZ is all about.

Chag Sameach - warm wishes for a joyous sharing of ourselves and our Torah this Shavuot,

Rabbi Saul Perlmutter

Sivan/Tammuz
5782

June 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>29 28 Iyar</p> <p>Yom Yerushalayim Jerusalem Day</p> <p>43 Omer</p>	<p>30 29 Iyar</p> <p>Memorial Day</p> <p>44 Omer</p>	<p>31 1 Sivan</p> <p>Rosh Hodesh Sivan</p>	<p>1 2 Sivan</p> <p>Mincha Minyan Schmooze, 5 pm Service, 5:15 pm (Zoom)</p> <p>46 Omer</p>	<p>2 3 Sivan</p> <p>47 Omer</p>	<p>3 4 Sivan</p> <p>48 Omer</p>	<p>4 5 Sivan</p> <p>Shabbat Service, 10 am (Zoom)</p> <p>Tikkun Leil Shavuot, 8 pm (Zoom)</p> <p>Erev Shavuot 49 Omer Be-Midbar</p>
<p>5 6 Sivan</p> <p>First Day Shavuot</p>	<p>6 7 Sivan</p> <p>Second Day Shavuot</p>	<p>7 8 Sivan</p>	<p>8 9 Sivan</p> <p>Mincha Minyan Schmooze, 5 pm Service, 5:15 pm (Zoom)</p> <p>SOZ Board Meeting, 6:30 pm (Zoom)</p>	<p>9 10 Sivan</p>	<p>10 11 Sivan</p>	<p>11 12 Sivan</p> <p>Shabbat Service, 10 am (Zoom)</p> <p>Nasso</p>
<p>12 13 Sivan</p>	<p>13 14 Sivan</p>	<p>14 15 Sivan</p>	<p>15 16 Sivan</p> <p>Mincha Minyan Schmooze, 5 pm Service, 5:15 pm (Zoom)</p>	<p>16 17 Sivan</p>	<p>17 18 Sivan</p>	<p>18 19 Sivan</p> <p>Shabbat Service, 10 am (Zoom)</p> <p>Be-Ha'alotcha</p>
<p>19 20 Sivan</p> <p>Happy Father's Day</p> <p>Juneteenth</p>	<p>20 21 Sivan</p> <p>Juneteenth Observed</p>	<p>21 22 Sivan</p>	<p>22 23 Sivan</p> <p>Mincha Minyan Schmooze, 5 pm Service, 5:15 pm (Zoom)</p>	<p>23 24 Sivan</p>	<p>24 25 Sivan</p>	<p>25 26 Sivan</p> <p>Shabbat Service, 10 am (Zoom)</p> <p>Shelach</p>
<p>26 27 Sivan</p> <p>SOZ Book Club, 10:30 am (Zoom)</p>	<p>27 28 Sivan</p>	<p>28 29 Sivan</p>	<p>29 30 Sivan</p> <p>Mincha Minyan Schmooze, 5 pm Service, 5:15 pm (Zoom)</p> <p>SOZ 118th Annual Meeting, 6:30 pm (Zoom)</p>	<p>30 1 Tammuz</p> <p>Rosh Hodesh Tammuz</p>	<p>1 2 Tammuz</p>	<p>2 3 Tammuz</p> <p>Shabbat Service, 10 am (Zoom)</p> <p>Korach</p>

*(Zoom) and cancelled Monday minyanim assume that COVID-19 restrictions continue.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, June 1, 2022

Mincha Minyan (Zoom):
5 pm Schmooze, 5:15 pm Service

Saturday, June 4, 2022

Shabbat Service, 10 am (Zoom)
Tikkun Leil Shavuot, 8 pm (Zoom)
Erev Shavuot

Sunday, June 5, 2022

First Day Shavuot

Monday, June 6, 2022

Second Day Shavuot

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

Mincha Minyan (Zoom):
5 pm Schmooze, 5:15 pm Service
SOZ Board Meeting,
6:30 pm (Zoom)

Saturday, June 11, 2022

Shabbat Service, 10 am (Zoom)

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Mincha Minyan (Zoom):
5 pm Schmooze, 5:15 pm Service

Saturday, June 18, 2022

Shabbat Service, 10 am (Zoom)

Sunday, June 19, 2022

Happy Father's Day
Juneteenth (Observed June 20th)

Wednesday, June 22, 2022

Mincha Minyan (Zoom):
5 pm Schmooze, 5:15 pm Service

Saturday, June 28, 2022

Shabbat Service, 10 am (Zoom)

Sunday, June 29, 2022

SOZ Book Club, 10:30 am (Zoom)

Wednesday, June 29, 2022

Mincha Minyan (Zoom):
5 pm Schmooze, 5:15 pm Service
SOZ 118th Annual Meeting,
6:30 pm (Zoom)

Thursday, June 30, 2022

Rosh Hodesh Tammuz

Tikkun Leil Shavuot



Celebrate Receiving the Torah
by studying with us on Zoom!

Saturday, June 4, 2022 at 8 pm

- 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) 535-8679.
- 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...or have a slice of
cheesecake!!**



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

**CONGREGATION SONS OF ZION
378 MAPLE STREET
HOLYOKE, MA 01040**



The garden and yard of SOZ are looking terrific. The trees we planted are all thriving and many flowers are coming up through the mulch. All of last year's hard work is paying off.

Help is needed for some weeding to keep the weeds from reappearing, as well as weeding along Maple Street. We'll also be planting some perennials. Much harder work than last year.

POSTPONED
WATCH FOR NEW DATE

Sunday, June 5, 2022
 From 10 am - 12 pm
 (Rain Date: June 12 from 10 am to 12 pm)

Please bring gloves, trowels, other weeding tools, sunscreen, bug spray, hats, etc.

Please contact the office with any questions at (413)536-3369 or office@sonsofzionholyoke.org.

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 378 Maple Street
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Help Restore the SOZ Garden

SOZ used to have a thriving garden of flowers and vegetables in the yard. It is time to bring that back!



A small group of dedicated volunteers has started clearing the vines and tangles from along the perimeters of the SOZ yard. The plan is to continue the work and to hire professionals with the right equipment to complete the job.

We need help raising the funds to make this vision a reality.

Please help by contributing whatever you are able to the SOZ Garden Fund.

Contributions can be mailed to SOZ: 378 Maple Street
Holyoke, MA 01040

You can also donate by clicking the button below or by using PayPal on our website. Please add a note stating that the donation is marked to Restore the SOZ Garden.

Donate Now

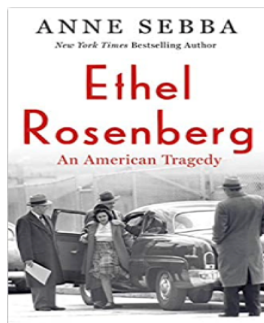
For the convenience of being able to make donations on our website, PayPal takes 2.9% plus 30¢ of your donation as part of their fee. There is an option to help offset the cost of processing. Please consider using this option so that SOZ will receive all of your thoughtful donation.



Congregation Sons of Zion
378 Maple Street
Holyoke, MA 01040

SOZ BOOK CLUB MEETING

Sunday, June 26th at 10:30 am



***Ethel Rosenberg: An American Tragedy* by Anne Sebba**

New York Times bestselling author Anne Sebba's moving biography of Ethel Rosenberg, the wife and mother whose execution for espionage-related crimes defined the Cold War and horrified the world.

In June 1953, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, a couple with two young sons, were led separately from their prison cells on Death Row and electrocuted moments apart. Both had been convicted of conspiracy to commit espionage for the Soviet Union, despite the fact that the US government was aware that the evidence against Ethel was shaky at best and based on the perjury of her own brother.

This book is the first to focus on one half of that couple in more than thirty years, and much new evidence has surfaced since then. Ethel was a bright girl who might have fulfilled her personal dream of becoming an opera singer, but instead found herself struggling with the social mores of the 1950's. She longed to be a good wife and perfect mother, while battling the political paranoia of the McCarthy era, anti-Semitism, misogyny, and a mother who never valued her. Because of her profound love for and loyalty to her husband, she refused to incriminate him, despite government pressure on her to do so. Instead, she courageously faced the death penalty for a crime she hadn't committed, orphaning her children.

Seventy years after her trial, this is the first time Ethel's story has been told with the full use of the dramatic and tragic prison letters she exchanged with her husband, her lawyer and her psychotherapist over a three-year period, two of them in solitary confinement. Hers is the resonant story of what happens when a government motivated by fear tramples on the rights of its citizens.

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!

Congregation Sons of Zion

118th Annual Meeting



Wednesday, June 29, 2022
6:30 pm

Meeting will be held via Zoom or Phone

Everyone is welcome!!!

Members in good standing may vote!!!*

AGENDA:

Welcome

Budget

Committee Reports via Email

Election of 2022-2023 Board of Directors

Board of Directors Elects Officers

*You are a voting member if you have paid or you are paying your dues pledge since 2021. Please contact Joanne (js24saltman@gmail.com) or the office (office@sonsofzionholyo.org or 413-534-3369) if you need a payment plan or if you have any questions.

SAVE THE DATE



Congregation Sons of Zion's
Annual Picnic is BACK!!!

Sunday, July 31st, 2022
Hosted by Bill and Joanne Saltman
Details TBD

CONGREGATION SONS OF ZION
378 MAPLE STREET
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HOLYOKE JEWISH HOMECOMING SAVE THE DATE AUGUST 14/15 2022



**◆ RECONNECTIONS ◆ STORIES ◆ MEMORIES
◆ HISTORIC TOUR OF HOLYOKE**

CEMETERIES WILL BE OPEN AND MUCH MORE..

**COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS TO BE
PRESENTED TO**

BURTON RESNIC

&

JUDY (KALICKA) INGIS

**WATCH FOR THE REGISTRATION
FORM COMING TO YOU SOON.**

ברוך הבא הביתה

Casual Attire

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
Stephen and Lois Levin
Buddy and Margie Resnic
Michael and Joan Rosner
William 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)	Aaron & Gail Lansky
Elaine Baskin	Stephen & Lois Levin
Irene Bernstein*	Stephen & Joan Levine
Joseph Boucher	Sidney* & Elizabeth* Paul
David & Nancy Carmen	Burton & Marjorie Resnic
Louise Citron	Michael & Joan Rosner
James Eisenstock*	William Robbins* & Mollie Blatt*
Andrea Fox	Ellen Saltman*
Richard & Ellen Freyman	Paul Saltman
Albert Goldberg*	William & Joanne Saltman
Herbert* & Barbara* Goldberg	Elihu & Joan Schepps
Debra Goldberg and Seth Waxman	Nitza Seaver
Rose Gorin*	Charles Weinstein
Janet & Richard Greenfield	Frances Welson & Thomas Osborn*
Rachel Henderson	Sherwin & Rhoda Wernick
Alfred & Lee Hutt	Thomas & Eleanor Wilson
Ira Laby	*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@sonsofzionholyoake.com or (413)534-3369. Thank you very much.





Donations: Thank you!



Cemetery Fund

- ✦ Elaine and Fred Clein: In memory of Elaine's father, Charles Kaplinsky
- ✦ Steve Kappel: In memory of Steve's father, Charles Kaplinsky
- ✦ Laura and Jordan Marks: In memory of Jordan's mom, Sue Marks
- ✦ Leslie and Rich O'Donnell: In memory of Leslie's mother, Irene Bernstein
- ✦ Charles Weinstein: In memory of his father, Samuel Weinstein

General Fund

- ✦ Barbara C. Bernard: In memory of Edith Barowsky Eskenasy
- ✦ Amy Bernstein: In memory of her parents, Shorrie and Milton Bernstein
- ✦ Amy Bernstein: In memory of her grandfather, Samuel Hirshon
- ✦ Gary, Dennis and Amy Bernstein: In memory of their parents, Shorrie and Milton Bernstein
- ✦ Gary, Dennis and Amy Bernstein: In memory of their grandfather, Samuel Hirshon
- ✦ Harriet Costa: In memory of Edith Eskenasy, loving mother, daughter and wife
- ✦ Michael Karukin: In memory of his loving mother, Frances Marshall Karukin
- ✦ Judy Katz: In memory of Ruth Schorsch
- ✦ Lois and Steve Levin: To Mady Schorsch, in memory of her mother
- ✦ Lois and Steve Levin: In memory of Edith Eskenasy
- ✦ Joan and Michael Rosner: To Nitza Seaver, wishing her a quick and comfortable recovery
- ✦ Joan and Michael Rosner: To Arlene Fox, wishing her a speedy and full recovery
- ✦ Joan and Michael Rosner: In memory of Edith Eskenasy - a truly lovely woman
- ✦ Carol Halpern Wernick: To Diane Eskenasy, in memory of her mother, Edith Eskenasy
- ✦ Toby and Ellie Wilson: In memory of Toby's father, Sidney Wilson



June 2022 Yahrzeits

May 29 - June 4: Steve Levin

May 31 Jacob Orlen
June 1 Annie Welson

June 5 - 11: Deborah Levine

June 6 Theodore Freyman
*Harry Hirsch
Nathan Kahan
*Louis Marks
June 8 Leo Halpern
June 9 *Sophie Mekler
June 11 *Etta Goldberg

June 12 - 18: Laura Marks

June 14 *Mary Garber
Harry Pincus
June 15 Arthur Levine
June 17 Gladys Gruszecki
*Isadore Schepps
June 18 Isadore Barowsky
*Abraham Hirsch
Israel Seamon

June 19 - 25: Joan Rosner

June 19 Harold David Fox
June 20 *James Samuel Hirshon
Sadie Rothchild
*Stanley G. Weiss
June 22 *Milton Bernstein
June 23 Sidney Radner
Louis Weiner
June 24 *Solomon Harmetz
*Fannie Weiss

June 26 - July 2: Michael Rosner

June 26 Morris Levine
June 27 *Sarah Bialer
David Karukin
June 28 *Irving Carmen
*Eva Yecheved Falk
*Robert Lasher
*Dr. David Saltman
Miriam Waxler
June 29 David Lieban
*Emil S. Schwartzwald
June 30 Samuel Leitzen
July 1 *David Judelson
Iokel Rosenbloom
*Fannie Wolkovsky
July 2 Max Carlinsky
Max (Mordecai) Schorsch



Memorial Day: Placing Flags on Veterans' Graves at SOZ Cemetery



Rich Freyman, Michael Rosner, Lois Levin, Nitza Seaver, Joan Rosner, Joe Cohen
Photographer: Joanne Saltman



Rich Freyman, Michael Rosner, Lois Levin, Nitza Seaver, Joanne Saltman, Joe Cohen
Photographer: Joan Rosner

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**Business Card Ads: \$180/Year - Please contact the
 synagogue office at (413) 534-3369 OR
 office@sonsofzionholyoke.org**

There is always room for more!!!

