

BET CHAVERIM

(206) 577-0403 May 2018

“To provide a forum for news and editorials relevant to
Bet Chaverim and its Jewish Community”

Editor: Barbara Roessler Proofreader: Carrie Bagatell
Services with Rabbi Emily Meyer
Always at 7:30 p.m.



From Our Rabbi

Emily Meyer emilymeyer18@gmail.com

The holiday of Shavuot teaches us an important lesson. Shavuot is the celebration connected to receiving the commandments at Mt. Sinai. In the Torah we read, “And God said to us at Mount Sinai, ‘Today you stand before Me, all of you... stand before Me to enter into this covenant. And I make this covenant not with you alone, but both with those of you who are standing before me today and with those who are not with us here today.’” Every person throughout time stood together, experiencing the revelation of God's Torah.



Tradition teaches that this common experience of our pasts links us together in a unique way. Since we all stood together, we are all connected as one community. Rabbi Alex Greenbaum writes, "Sinai means that we are all, all part of the congregation of Israel, young and old, man and woman, rich and poor, observant and unobservant." All of us were there, at Sinai. All of us are equal participants in the Jewish community.

But we can take this teaching further. Because we each stood at Sinai and received the gift of Torah, each of us is able to play an active role in the interpretation of Torah. Each of us is capable of understanding the text - we bring the Torah around the congregation when we read from it because it is not meant to be something out of reach. Each of us is able to own Jewish tradition, adding our unique threads to the tapestry.

This is one of the biggest gifts of Judaism: the power of each person to raise his or her voice as an important contributor to the interpretation and application of scripture, history, and values. Jews don't need an intermediary to access these, we are all teachers as we are all learners. Indeed, it is our responsibility to learn from each and every voice we encounter, not just those who have studied the text. Together, we are a community of thinkers, questioners, and storytellers who value listening to one another and learning from all.

May this holiday of Shavuot remind us of our commitment to being lifelong learners and lifelong teachers.



Our Temple Board:

President:	Melissa Brooks
Vice President:	Michael Banks
Secretary:	Robyn Alpert
Treasurer:	Archie Levine
Members at Large:	Eytan Olivier
	Judy Schainen
	Rick Siegler
	Peter Smith

From Our President:

Melissa Brooks melissabrooks25@gmail.com

We had some great food and fun at our Israeli potluck/Havdalah/bowling event. Jack Locascio, toting his own bowling ball was the high scorer.

We have some exciting events coming up – the biggest event is our Priceless Auction on **May 26th** – please see the information below. It will be a fun event with food and entertainment and we are anticipating a good turnout. There will be the opportunity to purchase some fun items/activities and help support our synagogue.

On Sunday, May 20th at 6 P.M. we are meeting at Vince's restaurant in Federal Way for our Shavuot learning session/dinner. Rabbi Emily will be discussing Judaism's ten big ideas.

Please mark your calendars for **Sunday, June 24th at 5 P.M.** for our synagogue general meeting. This is an election meeting – we have three members at large and a Treasurer position open.

Thank you to Deborah Appel for being our nominating committee. If you haven't already, you can expect a call from her regarding whether you are interested in serving on our board. If you have any bookkeeping skills or a familiarity with Quick Books – I would encourage you to agree to serve as our Treasurer. This is a critical position to fill. As our outgoing Treasurer – Archie has agreed to help support our next Treasurer. I am often reminded that serving on our synagogue board is sacred work – you are supporting our synagogue and in essence the greater Jewish community by taking on this responsibility.

I mentioned in my article last month that we are collaborating with the Saltwater church to help support the Federal Way Day Center. This is a center serving homeless people by providing them access to kitchen, laundry and shower facilities. They also help clients find employment and housing. The center is in need of the following supplies:

- 30-gallon garbage bags
- Latex gloves
- Towels
- Laundry detergent
- Sugar
- Aspirin
- Outdoor patio furniture

You can bring your donations to the synagogue – there are volunteers from the Saltwater church that bring the donated supplies to the Day Center on a monthly basis.

This month we remember:

5/1 Rudolf Jaffee, grandfather of Melissa Brooks
5/3 Rose Alpert, mother of Sherwin Alpert
5/5 Roberta Brooks, mother of Carmi Brooks
5/15 Stanley Alexander, father of Deborah Appel
5/22 Mary Feder, grandmother of Melissa Brooks
5/23 Toby Epstein, mother of Brenda La Point
5/27 Eitan Appel, son of Samuel and Deborah Appel

May Birthdays

5/1 Marie-Anne Harkness
5/7 Susan Levine - Gillespie
5/12 Rabbi Aaron Meyer
5/13 Paul Serrine
5/15 Eytan Olivier
5/18 Rachel Cohen

May Anniversaries

5/9 Mort and Rose Berman
5/27 Carrie Bagatell and Peter Smith

Our services are held at:
Saltwater Unitarian
Universalist Church
25701 14th Pl. S.
Des Moines, WA 98198



Bet Chaverim
House of Friends

IT'S ON!!!



Bet Chaverim
House of Friends

The First Annual Bet Chaverim Priceless Auction

You Can't Get These Anywhere Else – That's Why They're Priceless!

Learn to Play the Piano

How to Make and Can Jam

Italian Gourmet Cooking Class and Dinner

Pizza Party with a Real, Honest to Goodness Wood Fired Pizza Oven

Beach Getaway

Craft Beer Tasting

And Many More...

YOU ARE INVITED!!!

But You Gotta Be In It to Win It

Join Us for an Enchanting Evening of Fabulous Food, Excellent Entertainment and Priceless Prizes

May 26th at 6:00 pm

Bet Chaverim 25701 14th Place South Des Moines, WA 98198

RSVP ksteinman@comcast.net

Stay in touch with a Sunshine Card!

You can order a hand stamped card for any occasion: birthday to bar mitzvah, births to funerals, get well and greetings! Support Sisterhood with Sunshine cards for only \$3.00; this covers the card and postage.

To order, contact Vickie Burns by phone, 206 878-6926 or email mvblburns@comcast.net. Just tell her the name and address of the recipient, the occasion and how you want the card signed. Send payment to Sisterhood treasurer, Judy Schainen.

Caring Committee

Some of you might not be aware that our synagogue has a "caring committee". The purpose of the committee is to help coordinate assistance to any congregation members who might need additional support due to illness or other life events. Judy Schainen is the current chair of this committee.

If you are in need of assistance: please e-mail: caringcommittee@betchaverim.org.

May 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 Shabbat Service 7:30 pm with Rabbi Emily and Noah Weinstein Torah Reading: Emor Candle Lighting 8:08 pm	5
6	7 Chant Torah Class 7:00 pm	8	9 Temple Board Mtg - 7:00 pm	10	11 Shabbat Service 7:30 pm with Rabbi Emily and Neil Weinstein Come meet possible new members Torah Reading: Behar-Bechukotai Candle Lighting 8:17 pm	12
13 Mother's Day	14	15	16	17	18 Torah Reading: Bamidbar Candle Lighting 8:26 pm	19 Erev Shavuot
20 Shavuot dinner/learning session with Rabbi Emily 6:00 pm Vince's Restaurant, Federal Way	21	22	23	24	25 Torah Reading: Naso Candle Lighting 8:34 pm	26 Priceless Auction at Bet Chaverim 6:00 pm
27	28 Memorial Day	29	30	31	June 1 Torah Reading: Behaalotecha Candle Lighting 8:41 pm	2