



Green Road Synagogue

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

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2008

החודש שבט תשס"ח

FROM OUR RABBI...

SHEVAT



Tu B'Shevat, or Chamishah Asar B'Shevat, literally means "the 15th of Shevat." It falls this year on Tuesday, January 22nd. 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. 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.

NOTICE OUR CHANGES...

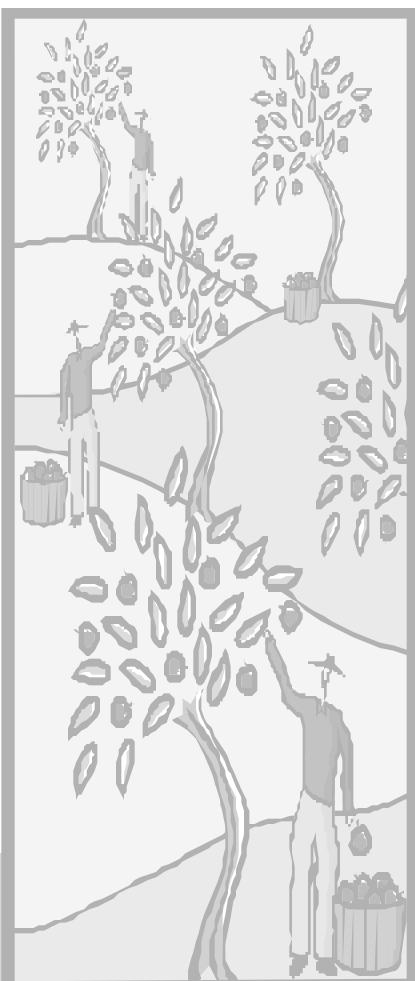
We have made a few changes to the monthly bulletin, including a more inclusive monthly calendar, as well as a monthly Drasha from Rabbi Granatstein.

SAVE THE DATE!

March 1st: Fabulous Vegas Night

Green Road Synagogue Sports!

Join us Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM for pick-up flag football at the Synagogue!
The Table Tennis club will resume in May when Louis returns from his winter travels.





MONTHLY CALENDAR

Tuesday, January 8 - **Rosh Chodesh Shevat**

Morning Service6:30 a.m.

Wednesday, January 9

Executive Committee Meeting.....8:00 p.m.

Friday, January 11

Candle Lighting4:59 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat5:05 p.m.

Saturday, January 12

Parshat Bo

Morning Service9:00 a.m.

Rabbi's Talmud Class.....3:50 p.m.

First Grade Parsha Club.....4:20 p.m.

Mincha4:50 p.m.

Motsaei Shabbat.....5:58 p.m.

Sunday Morning Services8:00 a.m.

Weekday Morning Services6:40 a.m.

Weekday Evening Services.....5:10 p.m.

Saturday Night, January 12 - **The REEL Jewish Experience**

Patron's Reception.....7:00 p.m.

"West Side Story/Fish Out Of Water".....8:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 13

Rabbi Granatstein's class in Jewish Philosophical Text

At Torat Tzion Kollel9:15 a.m.

Rabbi Granatstein's monthly seminar - Sefer B'reishit

At his house.....8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 16

Board of Trustees Meeting.....8:00 p.m.

Friday, January 18

Candle Lighting5:07 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat5:15 p.m.

Saturday, January 19

Parshat BeShalach

Morning Service9:00 a.m.

Rabbi's Talmud Class.....3:55 p.m.

First Grade Parsha Club.....4:25 p.m.

Mincha4:55 p.m.

Motsaei Shabbat.....6:06 p.m.

Sunday Morning Services8:00 a.m.

Weekday Morning Services6:40 a.m.

Weekday Evening Services.....5:15 p.m.

MAZEL TOV

To Simon & Amy Feiglin on the birth of a girl, Tali Ruth.

To Eliav & Caroline Sharvit on the birth of a son, Elitzur Itai.

To Rabbi Yehuda & Channah Appel on the birth of a granddaughter, born locally to Devorah & David Goldblatt.

To Jeff & Linda Bookman on the engagement of their daughter, Riva to Nathaniel Wieder of Lawrence, NY, and Mazel Tov to grandparents George & Peppie Weisz.

To Bob & Marla Stark on the engagement of their son, Ezra, to Rachel Rothner.

To Dr. Moshe Lovinger on his engagement to Dr. Robyn Fisher of Johannesburg, South Africa, and to his parents Henry & Gisele Lovinger.



האגודה היהודית
בברוקלין
מזל טוב

THE CONGREGATION WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND ITS HEARTFELT SYMPATHY TO DAVID & AUDREY BELLELI & FAMILY ON THE LOSS OF HIS MOTHER, ROSE BELLELI, & AND TO MOSHE WEISZNER ON THE LOSS OF HIS SISTER WHO PASSED AWAY ON DECEMBER 13TH.

Sunday, January 13

Rabbi Granatstein's class in Jewish Philosophical Text

At Torat Tzion Kollel.....9:15 a.m.

Tuesday, January 22 - Tu B'Shevat

Friday, January 25

Candle Lighting5:15 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat.....5:20 p.m.

Saturday, January 26

Parshat Yitro

Morning Service9:00 a.m.

Rabbi's Talmud Class.....4:05 p.m.

First Grade Parsha Club.....4:35 p.m.

Mincha5:05 p.m.

Motsaei Shabbat.....6:14 p.m.

Sunday Morning Services8:00 a.m.

Weekday Morning Services6:40 a.m.

Weekday Evening Services.....5:25 p.m.

Saturday Night, January 12 **The REEL Jewish Experience**

"It's About Time/The Transparent Kipa"....7:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 13

Rabbi Granatstein's class in Jewish Philosophical Text

At Torat Tzion Kollel.....9:15 a.m.

Friday, February 1

Candle Lighting5:24 p.m.

Kabbalat Shabbat.....5:35 p.m.

Saturday, February 2

Parshat Mishpatim

Morning Service9:00 a.m.

Rabbi's Talmud Class.....4:15 p.m.

First Grade Parsha Club.....4:45 p.m.

Mincha5:15 p.m.

Motsaei Shabbat.....6:23 p.m.

Sunday Morning Services8:00 a.m.

Weekday Morning Services6:40 a.m.

Weekday Evening Services.....5:35 p.m.

Saturday Night, February 2 - **The REEL Jewish Experience**

"Rambam-Story of Maimonides" (*families*)...7:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 13

Rabbi Granatstein's class in Jewish Philosophical Text

At Torat Tzion Kollel.....9:15 a.m.

Wed.-Thurs., February 6-7 - **Rosh Chodesh Adar I**

Weekday Morning Services.....6:30 a.m.

The REEL Jewish Experience

2008 Film Series Schedule:

Jan. 12, 8:00 PM - "West Bank Story/Fish Out Of Water"

Jan. 26, 7:30 PM - "It's About Time/Transparent Kipa"

Feb. 2, 7:30 PM - "Rambam" (*for families*)

Feb. 16, 7:30 PM - "First Basket"

THE CONGREGATION WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND ITS HEARTFELT SYMPATHY TO ROSE EPSTEIN AND FAMILY ON THE LOSS OF HER HUSBAND, PHILIP EPSTEIN, WHO PASSED AWAY ON DECEMBER 23RD.

THE CONGREGATION WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND ITS HEARTFELT SYMPATHY TO CYNTHIA & AL UVLIN ON THE LOSS OF HER SISTER, CHARLOTTE ORATZ, WHO PASSED AWAY IN NEW YORK ON DECEMBER 23RD.

2437 South Green Road
Beachwood, Ohio 44122
Phone: 216-381-4757
Fax: 216-381-5059
Email:
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!**

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Rabbi Mevin Granatstein

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DONATIONS

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

IN MEMORY OF:

David Weingarten: Joel & Elaine Axelrod
Ruth Hershfield: Bennett & Donna Yanowitz; Lili Markowitz
Rose Belleli: Art & Kathy Feuer
Moishe Davis: Walter & Suzanne Gumpertz
Phillip Epstein: Leon & Helen Shear

IN HONOR OF:

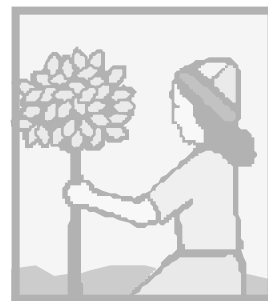
Gerry Engelhart: Diane Davis
Ari Jaffe: Ezra Jaffe
Jonathan & Donna Baskin's Wedding: Ivan Goldberg

KIDDUSH:

December 22: By Tibor and Moishe Rosenberg in memory of their mother, Channah Rosenberg and in memory of Malka's mother, Yehudis Jakobovich, on the occasion of their Yahrzeits.

SEUDAH SHLISHIT:

December 1: By Boris and Mike Gecovich and families in memory of their mother, Rosa Gecovich, on the occasion of Shloshim.
December 8: By Cal & Judy Kirchick in memory of Judy's father, Morris B. Madian, on the occasion of his Yahrzeit.
December 15: By Debbie Senders and family in honor of Shelly Senders' milestone birthday.
December 22: By Dr. Allen & Carol Seftel in memory of Allen's father, Larry Seftel, on the occasion of his Yahrzeit.



בראשית

A Retrospective on Sefer Breishit

By Rabbi Melvin Granatstein

One of the most salient features of Sefer Breishit is the profound significance invested in names - both the names of God and the names of man. Let us note the central role played in names and the name-giving of the Patriarchs. Avram becomes Avraham, and Ya'acov becomes Yisrael. These name transformations are critical to the narrative.

The differing names applied to God are equally critical. The tetragrammaton is God's proper name, used in the context of personal and cultic relationships. Elokim is the generic name that implies distance between the Creator and the creation.

The name of God whose meaning I want to explore is E-I Sha-dai. To the present day there is no consensus on this name's etymology or even its intrinsic meaning. The classical commentators who differ among themselves relate the name to דַּי or self-sufficient and absolute, or שׁוֹדֵד - "the Dominant," i.e. "he who dominates the constellations." The real etymology still eludes us.

The beginning of wisdom here is to side-step the etymological question and ask: how is this name used? Specifically, how is this name used in Sefer Breishit?

E-I Sha-dai is introduced in the context of the assignment of Brit Milah at the end of Parashat Lech L'cha. As the Sefer Hinukh teaches us, the Brit Milah serves as a symbol of the consecration of male procreative power to the Brit's content such that the Jewish male will be obligated to procreate only licitly and morally within the covenanted community and thus be part of the eternal creation of Knesset Yisrael. When the terms of the Brit are articulated to Avraham, he is promised procreative increase and designated "father of a multitude of peoples." Only after the circumcision will Avraham succeed in siring the chosen son Yitzhak, the first Ben Brit.

According to Rashi, the יָדִיד in the circumcision blessing מְבָטֵן יָדִיד קְדִישׁ, "who sanctifies the beloved from the womb" refers to Yitzhak, the first Ben Brit (Shabbat 137b).

Every subsequent use of the name Sha-dai in Breishit makes reference to procreation and offspring (this is less certain elsewhere in Tanakh).

When God tells מֹשֶׁה about the theological difference between the epoch of the Avot and the epoch of the Banim who will soon be redeemed he says: "I am Y-H-V-H. I appeared to Avraham, Yitzhak, and Ya'acov as E-I Sha-dai." Rashi gets it exactly right when he says that this means that "I [only] made promises and with all of them I said E-I Sha-dai but I was not familiar to them by my quality of truth ... for I [only] promised and did not fulfill."

The fulfillment of the promise of procreative increase into a nationhood would not happen in the lifetime of the Patriarchs. It was their specific destiny to live their life's odysseys under the spell of deferment to a later day, to live by promise and not by fulfillment.

In this, the Avot become the models for one hundred generations of Jews who lived their dreams of redemption only in deferment and enacted the miracles of Israel's long suffering eternity.