



May 2019



NISSAN/IYAR 5779

Newsletter

Rabbi Tzali & Rochel Leah Stillerman (949) 244-7627

The Rabbi is available by appointment to consult on personal or religious issues

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From the Desk of Rabbi Stillerman

We are terribly saddened and pained by the attack at Chabad of Poway, CA on the last day of Passover during the Yizkor memorial service. It is at a time when many Jews gather in Synagogue to commemorate their loved ones and memorialize their lives. The irony is thick when at a time of celebrating a loving and peaceful life of beautiful memories, members faced a senseless and baseless assault from a terrorist believing Jewish continuity should be nonexistent.



Whether it is an attack in a synagogue in Pittsburg or in a Chabad Center in Southern California proves that this is an attack against us all, as we grieve the loss of Lori Gilbert Kaye and pray for the wellbeing of the injured, Rabbi Yisroel Goldstein, Mr. Alon Peretz, and Noya Dahan with healing and comfort to the entire Jewish community.

The Chabad Rebbe strongly encouraged responding to times of distress with acts of goodness and kindness. It is no longer enough to think about these atrocities or speak about them; it is time for a change, namely action. We must fight darkness with light. Please consider doing a Mitzvah, an act of kindness to show positive change, a resolve of strength against adversity.

"We sat at the Passover Seder singing the V'hi Sheamda stating that in every generation they rise against us and yet G-d saves us from their hands. We need to stand in solidarity as we see these words ring true in our time. We will prevail." This message was spoken by Rabbi Goldstein at a press conference today and on Shabbat when he was injured as he stayed close to his congregation standing in shock and addressed them, comforting them by saying these words.

At this time, we want to assure you that we are taking immediate measures to continue to ensure our facility is safe and secure with the assistance from the Orange County Sheriff and Chabad Security commission. We want to thank all those who reached out and checked in on us showing their care and support, specifically our local law enforcement, community members and residents.

With deep pain, endless love and fierce determination,

Rabbi Tzali Stillerman



From the President

Over the past several months our Chabad lost two pillars of our congregation, Gerry Boxstein in late December and Phil Silverman in late March.



I first met these two men at Beth Torah Synagogue in Laguna Woods prior to its merging with Chabad. For me it was a “test” shabbat – I wanted to see if the two shuls could find enough common ground to warrant a merger and could the two sets of congregants get along with our different prayer books, tunes, order of prayers, and not to mention, different personalities. I was called up to the Torah where both Gerry and Phil stood aiding the Rabbi in the davening. Both men were arguing with each other. Loudly. I did not understand the source of their conflict, but the tension was real and you could cut it with a knife!

I don't recount this story out of any disrespect to the memories of Gerry and Phil – just the opposite.

Both men revered and loved the Torah to a degree that was personal. A wrong word or a “should when we shouldn't have” was as if the slight was against him personally. I never experienced that before and it was something to witness.

Gerry knew and respected tradition and was adamant in all of us abiding by it. He knew how things were to be done, said and performed and if we strayed one iota, he let the Rabbi and all of us know. His bark was truly worse than his bite, however. He often gave me advice that came from the heart and just below his gruff demeanor, Gerry was a complete softy. When he smiled or gave an encouraging word, you knew that you had done right.

Phil on the other hand, exuded love. No less a stickler for tradition and how services should be conducted, Phil wore his Torah on his sleeve – that is to say, his love of prayer, study, singing, music and teaching of Torah and Judaism shined through like an actual light. He had such joy in all things Judaism that it was absolutely contagious. You wanted to be like Phil when you grew up!

When one talks of another making a house a home, we know that it means the structure and its environment are a more permanent, safe, loving, warm, and welcoming place. I often thought that both men meant the same for me for Chabad. They made two separate Jewish communities in Beth Torah and Chabad a shul – a home.

Both Gerry's and Phil's respective families and friends are mourning their loss. As a community we deeply mourn their loss as well. G-d broke the molds when he made those two very unique and yet very similar individuals. I joked that when Gerry welcomed Phil to Heaven, he was beaming because not only did he get there first, he could proudly show Phil how things were done up there.

It is true that as a congregation we have big shoes to fill. We do so humbly and with gratitude that we got to spend so much quality time learning from both Gerry Boxstein and Phil Silverman. They left a tremendous impression on so many. May their memories be a blessing for us all.

Bill Guzik



May 2019 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Mah Jongg 10:30-12:30 pm Chicken Soup Delivery 1:30-2:30 pm Hug-2-Go  3:00-4:00 pm	3	4 Birthday Shabbat 9:00 am P: Achrei Mot 
5	6	7	8 Israel Memorial Day JLI: Wrestling with Faith 7:00 pm 	9 Israel Independence Day Mah Jongg 10:30-12:30 pm Chicken Soup Delivery 1:30-2:30 pm Hug-2-Go  3:00-4:00 pm	10 Eva is turning 3 Years Old 6:30 pm 	11 Shabbat Service 9:00 am P: Kedoshim 
12 Mother's Day! 	13	14	15 JLI: Wrestling with Faith 7:00 pm 	16 Mah Jongg 10:30-12:30 pm Chicken Soup Delivery 1:30-2:30 pm Yeshiva with the Rabbi  7:00 pm	17	18 Shabbat Service 9:00 am P: Emor 
19	20	21	22 JLI: Wrestling with Faith 7:00 pm 	23 Mah Jongg 10:30-12:30 pm Chicken Soup Delivery 1:30-2:30 pm Lag Ba'Omer  5:30 pm	24	25 Shabbat Service 9:00 am P: Behar 
26 Yiddishkeit Club 10:30 am Judaica Bake Sale 12:00 Jewish Culture Club: "Blazing Saddles" 2:45 pm 	27 Memorial Day! 	28	29 JLI: Wrestling with Faith 7:00 pm 	30 Mah Jongg 10:30-12:30 pm Chicken Soup Delivery 1:30-2:30 pm 	31	



Thursdays, May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 – **Mah Jongg Mavens!!!** Mah Jongg will be played from 10:30-12:30 pm every Thursday. No prior knowledge of Mah Jong is necessary. We will teach you this once Chinese and now iconic Jewish tile game of memory, skill, and chance. **All levels welcome! First timers will be coached to join more advanced and intermediate players.**



Thursdays, May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - **Chicken Soup Delivery** 1:30-2:30 PM at Chabad – The Chabad That Brings the Soup -- Chicken soup will be available for deliveries **Every Thursday. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.** If you would like to volunteer to deliver soup or know of someone who could use this warm and delicious "hug-in-a-jug", please call Rochel Leah at (949) 244-8173 and **be**

sure to check out our new website <https://huginajug.org>

Thursdays, May 2, 9 - **"Hug-in-a-Jug" Kosher Chicken Meals To-Go.** By popular request, Chabad will have ready for pick-up, mouth-watering complete kosher dinner to go. Available from 3-4pm for \$10! Dinners must be ordered 24-hours in advance by contacting Susan Grosfeld at (949) 233-7351 or susangrosfeld@wellnessense.com.



Saturday, May 4 – **May Birthday Blessings Shabbat Service** in the Beth Torah Sanctuary at Chabad 9:00am. Kiddush to Follow. (Kiddush sponsorships welcome. If you would like to sponsor a Kiddush call Rochel Leah at (949) 244-8173) [Parashat Achrei Mot](#)



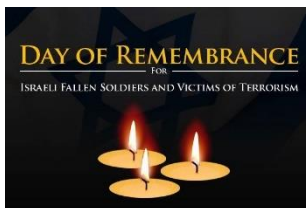
Wednesday, May 8, 15, 22, 29 – **Jewish Learning Institute Presents: Wrestling with Faith**

Most people, even the devout, struggle with beliefs about G-d. It is easy, for example, to affirm the basic tenets of Judaism during a prayer service, but when it comes to trusting G-d with our daily decisions, many share a secret, painful fear that G-d isn't really looking out for them. Many of us have been brought up under the assumption that mainstream science is incompatible with our Jewish faith. So when we see compelling evidence for biological evolution, for example, we feel forced to choose between science and our faith. Wrestling with Faith was created to tackle questions like these—the “Big Issues” that keep people from an intimate relationship with G-d. The course acknowledges the often-unspoken doubts and fears that all people share, and seizes their invitation for us to dig deeper for the answers. For five weeks 5/8, 5/15, 5/22, 5/29 and 6/5 at 7pm at Chabad. Cost \$54.



Wednesday, May 8 – **Israel Memorial Day** (Yom Ha'Zikaron)

Thursday May 9 – **Israel Independence Day** (Yom Ha'Atzmaut)



Friday, May 10 – **Eva Stillerman's Candle Lighting Ceremony – Eva is turning 3 Years Old!** Help Eva celebrate as she lights the Shabbat Candles for the first time in this beautiful ceremony. Buffet dinner will follow. At Chabad 6:30pm.

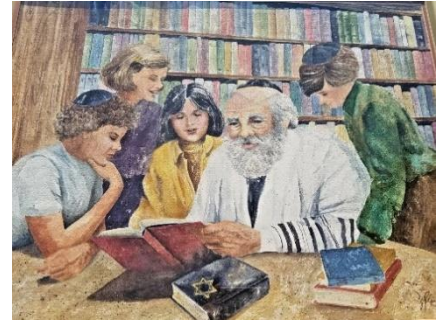
Saturday, May 11 – **Shabbat Service** in the Beth Torah Sanctuary at Chabad 9:00am. Kiddush to Follow (*Kiddush sponsorships welcome. If you would like to sponsor a Kiddush call Rochel Leah at (949) 244-8173*) Parashat Kedoshim





Sunday, May 12 –
Mother's Day!

Thursday, May 16 – **Yeshiva with The Rabbi** – Once a month in-depth study, learn, debate and philosophize with the Rabbi over small select pieces of Jewish religious texts. Open to EVERYONE! No prior knowledge of Judaism is necessary, but a willingness and desire to learn, discover and debate is a must! 7pm at Chabad.



Saturday, May 18 – **Shabbat Service** in the Beth Torah Sanctuary at Chabad 9:00am. Kiddush to Follow (Kiddush sponsorships welcome. If you would like to sponsor a Kiddush call Rochel Leah at (949) 244-8173) Parashat Emor

Thursday, May 23 – **Lag Ba'Omer BBQ** Anyone??? Join us for an evening of food, fun, family and friends. Mouthwatering Kosher BBQ- Grilled hot dogs, hamburgers, salads, and desserts. Hope to see you there. \$18 for adults. \$13 for children. Please RSVP by May 21 – See form below. At 5:30pm at Chabad. [Lag B'Omer is the 33rd day of the Omer count—this year, May 23, 2019—is a festive day on the Jewish calendar. It is celebrated with outings (on which children traditionally play with bows and arrows), bonfires, parades and other joyous events.]



Saturday, May 25 – **Shabbat Service** in the Beth Torah Sanctuary at Chabad 9:00am. this Shabbat we will honor our Jewish men and women who gave their all in defense of our Country. Kiddush to Follow (Kiddush sponsorships welcome. If you would like to sponsor a Kiddush call Rochel Leah at (949) 244-8173) Parashat Behar

Sunday, May 26 – **Yiddishkeit Club** Literally translated, Yiddishkeit means “Jewish way of life.” Come share your stories growing up Jewish, sing along to familiar and new Jewish songs, discuss current events and Jewish news, laugh a ton, and learn a little Yiddish while you’re at it. 10:30AM-Noon at Chabad. \$5 Donation



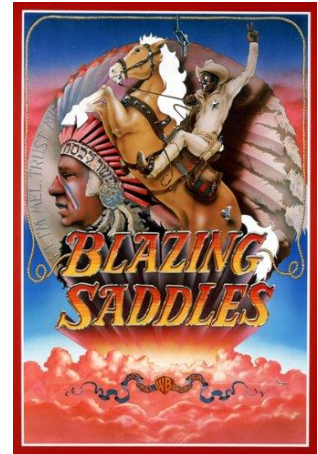
“I will insist the Hebrews have [contributed] more to civilize men than any other nation. If I was an atheist and believed in blind eternal fate, I should still believe that fate had ordained the Jews to be the most essential instrument for civilizing the nations ... They are the most glorious nation that ever inhabited this Earth. The Romans and their empire were but a bubble in comparison to the Jews. They have given religion to three-quarters of the globe and have influenced the affairs of mankind more and more happily than any other nation, ancient or modern.” **John Adams**, Second President of the United States

(From a letter to F. A. Van der Kemp [Feb. 16, 1808] Pennsylvania Historical Society)

Saturday, May 26 – **Judaica and Bake Sale** @Chabad 12:00noon. Stock up on freshly baked challahs, cakes, cookies and more



Sunday, May 26 – **Jewish Culture Club** will be featuring “**Blazing Saddles**” (1974). Vulgar, crude, and occasionally scandalous in its racial humor, this hilarious bad-taste spoof of Westerns, co-written by Richard Pryor, features Cleavon Little as the first black sheriff of a stunned town scheduled for demolition by an encroaching railroad. Little and co-star Gene Wilder have great chemistry, and the delightful supporting cast includes Harvey Korman, Slim Pickens, and Madeline Kahn as a chanteuse modelled on Marlene Dietrich. Director/writer Mel Brooks gives a burlesque spin to a classic Hollywood movie genre. At 2:45pm LW Clubhouse One. Main Lounge.

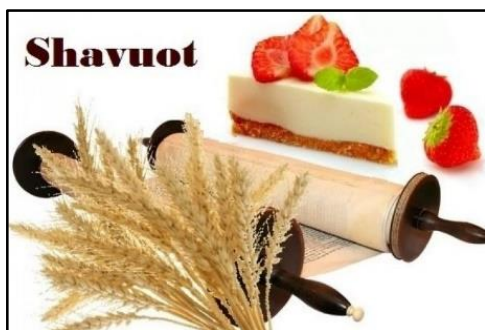


Monday, May 27 –
Memorial Day!

Save the Date

Sunday, June 2
Jewish Food Festival





Save the Date

Thursday, June 9
Shavuot

Celebrate Your Birthday with Chabad



If you have registered your special dates with us, Rabbi Stillerman will give you a special blessing during our Birthday Shabbat (this month it's May 4) and Rochel will provide a surprise treat from her kitchen. To register, please call Flo Malakoff at (949) 770-3116.

MAY BIRTHDAYS:

Marlene Barkley
Phyllis Faigeles
Mollie Fennik
Gloria Greenspan
Susan Grosfeld
Jackie Guzik
Nancy Reichbach
Beverly Rosoff

SEND A VERY SPECIAL TRIBUTE CARD!

Celebrate and acknowledge life's special events with a Chabad Tribute Card. It sends a greeting to a loved one, stating that a donation has been made to Chabad in their honor or their memory. Send a Mazel Tov Card or an In-Memoriam Card.

*** To purchase a Tribute Card, contact Toby Farbman at (781) 367-5310 or email to: massmed@yahoo.ca or by mail: 3167 Via Vista, #O, Laguna Woods, CA 92637**



Yahrzeit Memorials – Debbie Hallet is our Yahrzeit Memorial volunteer. Call Debbie with the names and dates of your loved ones who have passed and who you would like to see remembered by the congregation on a regular basis at our Shabbat Services. Debbie will record those dates and will call to remind you of the service marking their passing. Please provide your name, the name and relationship of the departed, your phone number, and your mail and email addresses. Please call Debbie or leave a message at (617) 281-1105 or email to: rwhallet@gmail.com



Consider Chabad in Your Estate Planning

Wills and Trusts: Creating a will or trust is one of the most important steps in planning for your future, and we encourage you to consider including the Chabad of Aliso Viejo and Laguna Woods in your estate plan at a level that is appropriate for you and your family. Not only may this provide a tax benefit to you and to your heirs, but it also will bring priceless benefits to our community.

A great
PLACE TO LEAVE
A legacy

Create a new special fund: If you are considering a more substantial gift, you may also honor a loved one by creating a fund in their name to support a designated program or project at Chabad. These gifts help support our vibrant and enriching congregational community, while helping you achieve your philanthropic goals and bring additional meaning to special moments in your life.



Chabad of Aliso Viejo and Laguna Woods Now Accepts Car Donations (Running or Not!): It's a win/win for you and for Chabad! Car donations are an easy way to support Chabad, providing you with a tax write-off and Chabad with additional funds for our community. We take care of the DMV paperwork, pick up your car, sell it at auction and then send you a receipt for the full amount that the car sold for. It's that easy! We can also accept

trucks, boats, motorcycles and RVs.

For more information on the above, please contact Rabbi Tzali Stillerman directly at (949) 244-7627.



Remembering those who came before us

By memorializing the names of our deceased loved ones, we express our gratitude for the gifts of their precious lives—and the hope that their spirits will continue to inspire us.

Congregants commemorate loved ones by making charitable gifts in their honor and by adding plaques in their names to our beautiful Memorial Wall located in the Beth Torah Sanctuary.



In accordance with Jewish tradition, we honor the memories of those who have passed away when the Kaddish prayer is recited at worship services. We mark the memories of these loved ones by illuminating their plaques during yahrzeit (the annual anniversary of their deaths), and illuminating all plaques at Yizkor services on Yom Kippur, Shemini Atzeret, Pesach, and Shavuot.

For information about ordering a Memorial Wall plaque, please contact Rabbi Tzali Stillerman directly at (949) 244-7627 or rabbi@jewishaliso Viejo.com

LAG BA'OMER BBQ – RSVP FORM

Thursday, May 23, 5:30pm

Name(s) _____

of Adults: _____ x \$18 each. # of Children: _____ x \$13 each.

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____ Phone #: _____

Mail your RSVP by Tuesday, May 21 to Chabad, 23665 Moulton Pkwy, #D, Laguna Hills, CA 92653 or call Rochel Leah Stillerman at (949) 244-8173

