



June 2019 | IYAR/SIVAN 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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## A Note from the Rabbi

*It's an argument I hear all the time. People will approach me at weddings and after funerals, they'll stop me on the street and corner me in the supermarket, and attempt to explain to me exactly why they can't accept more Judaism into their lives: because they just weren't born into it.*

*Their parents didn't practice, they didn't attend Jewish school or weren't paying attention during religious classes. They can't read Hebrew fluently, they've never felt comfortable in shul, and they're sorry, but it's definitely too late to start now. Is that true?*



*There have been tens of thousands of ba'alei teshuvah over the last few decades—men and women who weren't born into religious families but who have chosen to become Torah-observant. We all have the free choice to change and the ability to succeed. Admittedly, it might be harder to pick up a new language and to adopt new rituals at a relatively advanced age, but it definitely can be done, if one wants it enough.*

*Perhaps even more extraordinary than ba'alei teshuvah are geirim, converts, who weren't born Jewish and yet have taken the audacious step of transforming their lives and casting their lot in with ours. We welcome them aboard, and we admire their courage.*

*If you think about it, Shavuot is the festival where we celebrate this capacity to adopt Judaism and commit oneself to G d. The men and women clustered around Mt. Sinai didn't really know what they were getting into, but they were willing to find out. Right then and there, they chose G d and promised to spend the rest of their lives changing, learning and practicing until they got it right. It's not easy, but it's worth it.*

*On Shavuot, we all become ba'alei teshuvah and we all promise to convert. It makes no difference where we've come from; the real question is, where are we heading?*

*When Moses climbed the mountain to receive G d's commands to His new nation, G d instructed him to "say to the House of Jacob and tell the Children of Israel." Biblical commentators point out that the variant expressions "the House of Jacob" and "the Children of Israel" reflect the different types of people whom Moses was addressing.*



*Jacob and Israel are both names of our forefather Jacob. Jacob was the name that he was given at birth, and reflects his identity as an innately holy Jew, born to spiritually pure parents. Israel is the name that he received when, as an adult, he demonstrated the courage and maturity to struggle against adversity and independently chose to transform himself.*

*The “House of Jacob” is a reference to our birthplace. We don't get to pick our parents, and we have done nothing to deserve the treasures into which we're born. The “Children of Israel,” by contrast, describes us as the adults we have become, who choose our own paths in life and deserve the rewards that we have personally earned. G d was instructing Moses to speak on both levels and tailor his message to every stage in the journey through life.*

*G d is speaking to all of us, all the time. No matter what we've been doing till now, we can and must do better in the future. The training we've received to date and the legacy we inherited from our parents and teachers are useful only if we utilize them to better ourselves in the future. We were all born holy and, at the same time, we must all improve further.*

*When we gather in the synagogue on Shavuot to hear the Ten Commandments and receive the Torah anew, let us be truly grateful for the gifts we've received in the past, and let us promise to transform ourselves into the people that G d wishes us to become—and thus earn the reward that He is confident we deserve.*

*Rabbbi Tzali and Rochel Stillerman*



# June 2019 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 <b>Birthday Shabbat</b> 9:00 am  P: Bechukotai  
2 <b>Jewish Food Festival</b>  5:00 pm	3	4	5 <b>JLI: Wrestling with Faith</b> 7:00 pm  	6 <b>Mah Jongg</b> 10:30-12:30 pm  <b>Chicken Soup Delivery</b> 1:30-2:30 pm	7	8 <b>Shabbat Service</b> 9:00 am  P: Bamidbar
9 <b>Shavuot</b>  Services 9:00 am Brunch 11:30 am  	10 <b>Shavuot and Yizkor Services</b> 9:00 am  	11	12	13 <b>Mah Jongg</b> 10:30-12:30 pm  <b>Chicken Soup Delivery</b> 1:30-2:30 pm  	14	15 <b>Shabbat Service</b> 9:00 am  P: Naso  
16 <b>Father's Day</b>  <b>Jewish Culture Club: "Homicide"</b> 2:45 pm  	17	18	19	20 <b>Mah Jongg</b> 10:30-12:30 pm  <b>Chicken Soup Delivery</b> 1:30-2:30 pm  <b>Yeshiva with the Rabbi</b> 7:00 pm  	21	22 <b>Shabbat Service</b> 9:00 am  P: Behaalotecha  
23 <b>Yiddishkeit Club</b> 10:30 am  <b>Judaica Bake Sale</b> 12:00  <b>Cigars, Scotch and Kaballa</b> 3:00 pm	24	25	26 <b>Shards and Chardonnay</b>  7:00 pm  	27 <b>Mah Jongg</b> 10:30-12:30 pm  <b>Chicken Soup Delivery</b> 1:30-2:30 pm  	28	29 <b>Shabbat Service</b> 9:00 am  P: Shlach  
30 <b>Memorial Service for Gerry Boxstein</b> 1:00 pm  <b>Jewish Culture Club: "Chariots of Fire"</b> 2:45 pm						





Saturday, June 1 – **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 Bechukotai](#)

Sunday, June 2 – **Jewish Food Festival.** Sponsored by the Reform Temple of Laguna Woods, enjoy a wide a variety of Jewish food, a Klezmer band, an Israeli dance exhibition and selected Village crafters.



This year there will be twice as much food and extra parking in the employee lot off Moulton and a free shuttle. Please come to support Chabad and volunteer to man our booth in selling our delicious kosher made challah and chicken soup. At 5pm in Clubhouse One, enter at Gates 2 or 3. For non-Laguna Woods Resident gate access, contact

Lita Pickman at (949) 586-4795 or [lpickman@comline.com](mailto:lpickman@comline.com)

Wednesday, June 5 – **Jewish Learning Institute Presents: Wrestling with Faith** “Are Religion and Science at Odds” 7pm at Chabad. Cost \$54.



Thursdays, June 6, 13, 20, 27 – **Mah Jongg Mavens!!!** Mah Jongg will be played from 10:30-12:30 pm every Thursday. No prior knowledge of Mah Jongg 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, June 6, 13, 20, 27 - **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>

Saturday, June 8 – **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 Bamidbar



Sunday, June 9 – **Shavuot** Also known as the the "Feast of Weeks," Shavuot is celebrated seven weeks after Passover (Pesach); it takes place exactly 50 days after the (first) seder. Although its origins are to be found in an ancient grain harvest festival,

Shavuot has long been identified with the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai. At Chabad. Services begin at 9am with a reading of the Ten Commandments at 10am followed by a delicious and mouth-watering no cost, dairy brunch at 11:30am. (If you would like to help sponsor our Shavuot Brunch, please call Rochel Leah at (949) 244-8173).





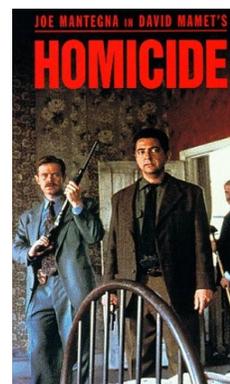
Monday, June 10 – **Shavuot and Yizkor Services**  
 9am in Beth Torah Sanctuary at Chabad. Yizkor Services at 10:30am.

Saturday, June 15 – **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 Naso



Sunday, June 16 –  
**Father's Day!**

Sunday, June 16 – **Jewish Culture Club** will be featuring "**Homicide**" (1991). *Written and directed by David Mamet and entered into the Cannes Film Festival, A Jewish homicide detective investigates a seemingly minor murder and falls in with a Zionist group as a result. Starring Joe Mantegna and William H. Macy. At 2:45pm LW Clubhouse One. Main Lounge.*



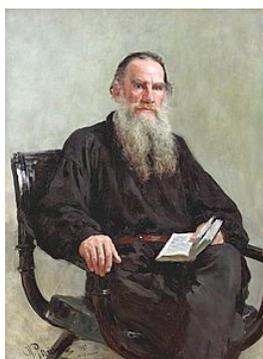
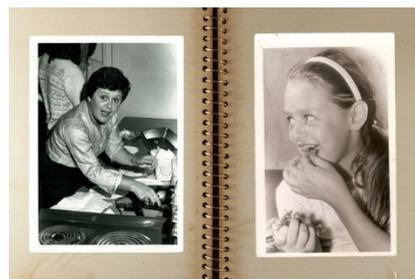
Thursday, June 20 – **Yeshiva with The Rabbi** – Once a month in-depth study, learn, debate and philosophize with the Rabbi over small select pieces of Jewish religious texts. Open to EVERYONE! No prior knowledge of Judaism is necessary, but a willingness and desire to learn, discover and debate is a must! 7pm at Chabad.





Saturday, June 22 – **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 Behaalotecha

Sunday, June 23 – **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



“The Jew – is the symbol of eternity. ... He is the one who for so long had guarded the prophetic message and transmitted it to all mankind. A people such as this can never disappear. The Jew is eternal. He is the embodiment of eternity.”

**Leo Tolstoy**, *What is the Jew?* printed in Jewish World periodical, 1908

Saturday, June 23 – **Judaica and Bake Sale** @Chabad 12:00 noon. Stock up on freshly baked challahs, cakes, cookies and more



Sunday, June 24 – **Cigars, Scotch and Kabbalah** – Enjoy fine scotch and cigars on a private boat in Seal Beach Harbor and learn about the mystical side of Judaism with a shot of Kabbalah. Cost \$36. For more information and to RSVP, contact Rabbi Stillerman at (949) 244-7627 or [rabbi@jewishalisoviejo.com](mailto:rabbi@jewishalisoviejo.com) or visit <https://bit.ly/2l0dSX4>



Wednesday, June 26 – **Shards and Chardonnay** – The Jewish Women's Circle will gather and design a one-of-a-kind fused glass Mezuzah case while sipping Chardonnay. Delve into the Exodus from Egypt and discover the birth of the Jewish nation. At Chabad at 7:00pm. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Rochel at (949)244-8173 or [rochel@jewishaliso Viejo.com](mailto:rochel@jewishaliso Viejo.com)



Saturday, June 29 – **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 Shlach

Sunday, June 30 –

### **Memorial Service for Gerry Boxstein.**

At Chabad at 1:00pm

Sunday, June 30 – **Jewish Culture Club** will be featuring "**Chariots of Fire**" (1981). The movie tells the true story of two British track athletes in the 1924 Paris Olympic Games: Eric Liddell, a devout Scottish Christian who runs for the glory of God, and Harold Abrahams, an English Jew who runs to overcome prejudice. The Film won both the BAFTA Award and the Academy Award for best picture and also garnered the Golden Globe Award for best foreign movie. At 2:45pm LW Clubhouse One. Main Lounge.



## 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 June 1) and Rochel will provide a surprise treat from her kitchen. To register, please call Flo Malakoff at (949) 770-3116.

### JUNE BIRTHDAYS:

Beulah Dubery	Miriam Kahn
Candy Levy	Merri Levy
Sarah Lipner	Saul Mann
Terry Markowits	Judy Moore
Myrna Rozman	Harry Zipper

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:rwhallet@gmail.com)



## ***Have you done it yet?? 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.



***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@jewishalisoviejo.com](mailto:rabbi@jewishalisoviejo.com)

## A special note of thanks and recognition from Selma Silverman

The Rabbi spoke very kindly and sincerely at my beloved late husband's, Phil Silverman, funeral and mentioned how helpful Phil had been to him and to our congregation.

If I may, I want to highlight some of these contributions. Phil helped the Rabbi to conduct and coordinate services each Shabbat and holiday. He introduced beautiful melodies to enhance our Services. In addition to setting the Torah portion in the Torah each week and for every holiday, he noted dates and special readings for Rosh Chodesh and holidays and even prepared, printed and inserted special prayers in our Siddur for the new month and the prayer for Israeli soldiers. Phil loved to teach prayers to members of the Congregation and enjoyed giving the weekly summary of the Torah portion ending with his own inimitable "Punchline." He encouraged Sruli Stillerman to lead the prayer "Ein Keloheyenu" by himself for the congregation. Phil donated the silver Rimonim crowns to enhance our Torah in honor of my 90th Birthday and delivered chicken soup each week as part of the Congregation's "Hug-in-a-Jug" program.

Thank you so much to all our dear friends of this congregation who extended their condolences, sent cards, made donations, attended the funeral, and visited me during Shivah week. I'd like to especially thank Rabbi Tzali and Rochel Stillerman for their many kindnesses during my recent bereavement. Thank you again.

Sincerely and Sholom,

*Selma Silverman*

