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Iyar/Sivan 5780

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THE SCHRIER

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF WEST PASCO
Home of Congregation Beth Tefillah

Coronavirus Update

As of the date this issue of the Schrier went to press, we are still prohibited by state and federal guidelines to congregate and our Jewish Community Center is still closed to both religious and social activities.

As you know, we depend on three types of income to keep our JCC viable. They are:

Dues, donations and bingo (which produces the largest portion of funds to the JCC).

As bingo has been canceled since mid-March, we have seen a tremendous reduction in funds. To that end, we are asking for help to tide us over until the pandemic has run its course and a return to more normal activities can commence. We all have received emails. Consider this a 'plea-mail'.

Please think about all that your JCC and your JCC family mean to you. We've been here for you in good times and bad. Let's be here for our JCC in this unparalleled time. If you can, reach down and send a check to the JCC of West Pasco. Put 'SOS' on the memo line ('Save Our Shul'). Thank you!

MAY

HIGHLIGHTS

- * Sunday, 5/10
Mother's Day
- * Monday, 5/11 7pm
JCC Board Meeting
- * Tuesday, 5/12 Lag
Ba'Omer
- * Friday, 5/22 Yom
Yerushalayim
- * Sunday, 5/24 Rosh
Chodesh
- * Monday, 5/25
Memorial Day
- * Thursday, 5/28 Erev
Shavuot
- * Friday-Saturday,
5/29-5/30 Shavuot

Shabbat Services
Conducted by Ron Becker and Elliot Shapiro
EVERY FRIDAY EVENING AT 7:30 PM
EVERY SATURDAY MORNING AT 9:30 AM
Alan Goldberg, Rabbi Emeritus

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - by Eileen Hochstadt

Rabbi Benjamin Blech, a frequent contributor to Aish.com is a Professor of Talmud at Yeshiva University and an internationally recognized educator, religious leader and lecturer has inspired me with an article today April 14th 2020 about “How G-d lets us know that the events of our lives are not haphazard coincidence.”

“One of the most important messages of the splitting of the sea within the Story of Exodus. In Hebrew it is referred to as *midah k'neged midah* – our actions are repaid in similar manner. What we do unto others comes back to us, either as punishment or repayment.

The Passover story itself has yet another illustration of this principle, this time for good. According to the Talmud it demonstrates how the concept of measure for measure is biblically applied for reward even as it serves for ideal retribution.

Miriam, sister of Moses, deserves special recognition for the role she played in saving the life of her brother. Miriam couldn't leave the banks of the Nile after her mother left her brother floating in a basket. She did not know what she could possibly do. She only knew she could not leave. She had to wait – perhaps there would be some way she would be able to be of help. That is what made possible her remarkable meeting with the daughter of Pharaoh, her advice to have the baby nursed by a Hebrew midwife, and the subsequent story of Moses being saved and then raised in the palace.

It was not until many years later that there was a measure for measure sequel. Miriam was smitten with leprosy during the journey of the Jews in the desert. Instead of moving on, the entire camp of Israel waited until Miriam again became ritually pure. G-d Himself, the Divine Presence, the ark of the covenant, the priests, the Levites, the Israelites, and the seven clouds of glory all waited for Miriam—a rather impressive waiting list. Why? As fitting reward for the time that Miriam waited. And while that good deed took no more than an hour, repayment lasted for seven days because measure for measure for good rather than as punishment always exceeds in great measure the action warranting compensation.

History has many messages. The past has much to teach us. But what Judaism is most anxious for us to be sensitive to is the profound recognition that in due time the Hamans who plot to hang Mordechai are themselves hung on those very gallows. The Egyptians didn't just die; they drowned, in order for us not to miss the link between crime and punishment.

The measure for measure concept is all relevant in our own lives as well. I have witnessed many times how “what goes around comes around.” I have seen divine payback – not just cruelty being punished with cruelty but with the same “packaging,” with similarities so eerily similar they couldn't possibly be coincidence. I have observed acts of kindness and goodness finding reward after time in ways that clearly reference them.

Is it possible that upon reflection you too might find a sequel to the story of the Red Sea in your own life as well?”

DATES TO REMEMBER

5/10	Mother's Day
5/11	JCC Board Meeting 7 pm
5/12	Lag B'Omer
5/22	Yom Yerushalayim
5/24	Rosh Chodesh
5/25	Memorial Day
5/28	Erev Shavuot
5/29	Shavuot Day 1
5/30	Shavuot Day 2

Candle Lighting Times



May 1	7:48 p.m.
May 8	7:52 p.m.
May 15	7:56 p.m.
May 22	8:00 p.m.
May 29	8:04 p.m.

A Message from Ron Becker

Dear friends,

With the most unusual Passover holiday now behind us and our continuing to self-isolate during a very difficult time in the history of our community, our nation, and the world, we must continue to be vigilant and take precautions to protect ourselves, our families, and our society. However, this does not mean that we just hide away from all human contact. I am happy to say that I know of none of our members who are ill with the virus and that our attendance at our virtual services has been very heartening. I have spoken with nearly all of you at various times throughout this period and continue to encourage you to reach out to your families and friends by phone, Skype, Zoom and any other of the electronic marvels that help bring us close together even when we must remain physically separate. A little phone call goes a very long way to helping people cope with isolation and loneliness.

In addition to the weekly Shabbat evening services that we are providing every Friday night at 7:30 pm (thanks to the hard work and dedication of our webmaster Barbara D. Johnson and president Eileen Hochstadt), we have been cordially invited by Rabbi Eric Rosin of Congregation Neve Shalom in Metuchen, NJ—my old shul) to participate in their virtual events as well. We have already “zoomed” into their Yizkor Service during Passover and their Yom Ha Shoah service on April 20th. I anticipate that we will be tuning into more of their educational and spiritual activities throughout the month of May and if necessary, well beyond. Please take advantage of as many of these opportunities as you can.

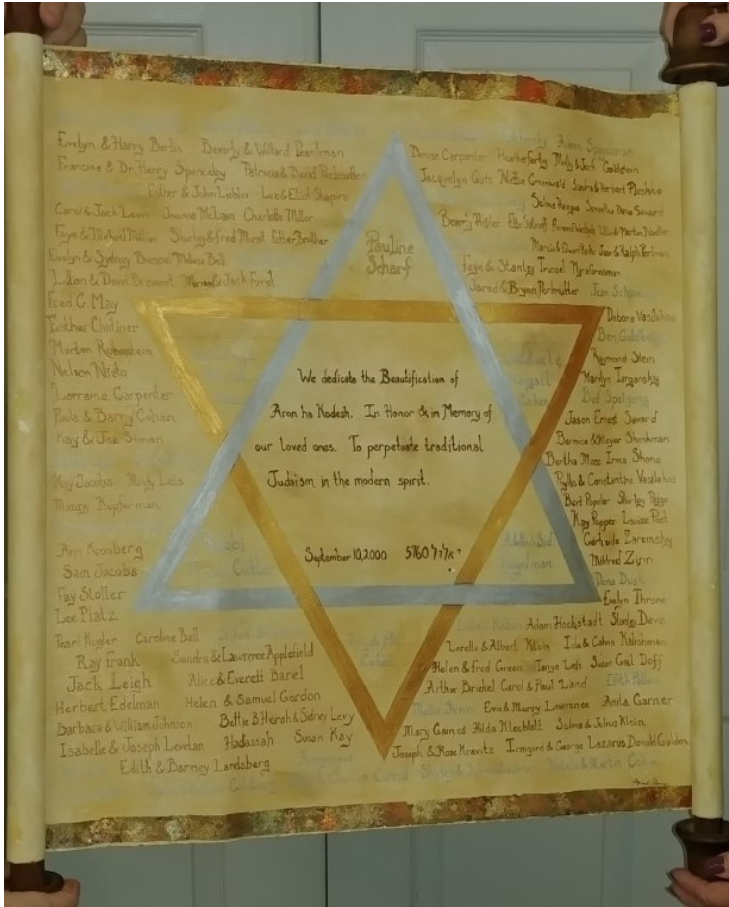
The COVID-19 virus epidemic has taught us how important it is for us to appreciate our health and our ability to move around freely and the need for human companionship. Every generation has had to deal with seemingly insurmountable troubles—war, famine, storms, fires, diseases, etc. In the United States we are relatively lucky as a whole, although parts of the country have faced devastating events and overcame them. We too will overcome this crisis and we will do so with a greater appreciation for what we have and a greater sympathy for those in other parts of the world for which catastrophes are commonplace. There has been continuous famine throughout parts of Africa, Asia, and Latin America for generations. A plague of billions of locusts devastates crops in Africa at the same time as the world copes with the virus. Floods are commonplace in many parts of the globe and there are more homeless and displaced persons than at almost any other time in our history. As a community of faith, we are obligated to do more than sympathize. As our own troubling experiences this season have made clear, we share this earth with nearly eight billion other human beings. As the old phrase suggests “we are in this together” and we must all do our small part in helping to heal the world. Whether it is making certain that our neighbors have enough food and access to transportation, or volunteering time for better the lot of others, or simply being in touch with those who live alone and suffer from isolation, we all can practice Tikkun Olam (repairing the world). Despite the continued isolation we are enduring, the month of May contains numerous observances for us to look forward to. We continue to Count the Omer every day until the joyous holiday of Shavuot at the end of the month (May 28th-30th). Counting the Omer teaches us to make every day of our lives meaningful in some way. It is a time for introspection and taking stock especially as we are in physical isolation from people and events. In addition to Shavuot, we will observe Lag b’Omer (May 12th) and our newest holiday, Yom Yerushalayim (May 22nd), the celebration of the liberation and unification of the city of Jerusalem as a result of the Six Day War in 1967.

Chris and I wish you continued good health, safety, and as much happiness as you can muster during this unusual and difficult time in our history, knowing that we will emerge from this experience as better people and a more caring society. At the same time, we mourn the losses and grief that this disease has caused to so many. I will look forward to seeing you at least virtually every Shabbat evening and beyond. Take care and be well!

Ron Becker
Spiritual Leader

PLEASE NOTE

No activities at the JCC (religious and social) are listed in this edition of The Schrier. However since it is published in advance, it is unknown if the stay-at-home order will still be in effect or has been lifted. Therefore events are subject to change.



As you sat in the Sanctuary and looked at the Ark housing our precious Torahs, have you ever thought how that Ark came to be? Through the contributions of many of our members, past and present, in 2000 our Ark was refurbished to what you see today, including the stained glass 12 tribes of Israel flanking each side. Those contributors were included on a scroll which was housed in the Ark. Left is a picture of that scroll.

The scroll has been framed and is now hanging in our Sanctuary.



“Honor to the soldier and sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country’s cause. Honor, also, to the citizen who cares for his brother in the field and serves, as he best can, the same cause”
Abraham Lincoln

“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter the words, but to live by them.”
John F. Kennedy



Please visit the JCC’s web page at:
jccwestpasco.com
 (our easy-to-remember site!)
 Find us on Facebook, too
 (and don’t forget to ‘like us’).

[Visit Our Website](#)

JCC T-Shirts

We have JCC T-SHIRTS available in our gift shop. They are only \$10.00 each. We have a variety of sizes. Come show your support for your JCC by wearing your T-shirt proudly!

May 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 88 7:48 pm	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 88 7:52 pm	9
					Pesach Sheni	<i>Emor</i>
10	11 JCC Board Meeting 7 pm	12	13	14	15 88 7:56 pm	16
Mother's Day 		Lag B'Omer				<i>Behar-Bechukotai</i>
17	18	19	20	21	22 88 8:00 pm	23
					Yom Yerushalayim	<i>Bamidbar</i>
24 Rosh Chodesh	25  Memorial Day	26	27	28 88	29 88 8:04 pm	30
31				Erev Shavuot	1st Day Shavuot	2nd Day Shavuot