

5774 תשע"ד

Tewish CALENDAR 2013 2014







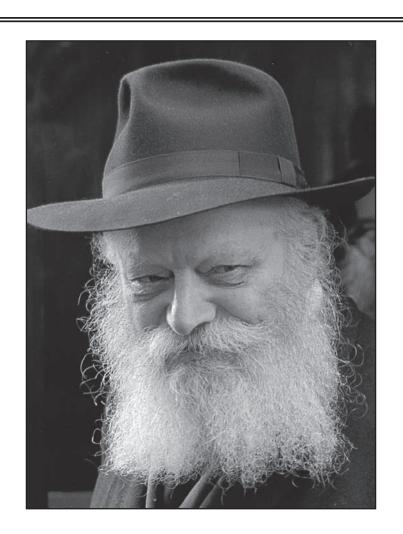








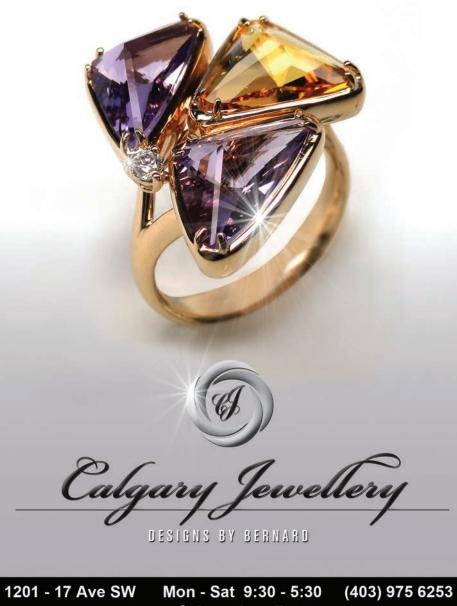




THE LUBAVITCHER REBBE YECHI HAMELECH This Calendar Is Dedicated To The Rebbe Whose teachings and example are a never-ending source of life for all mankind. May we continue in his paths and complete the mission with which he has charged us: to make the world conscious of the imminent Redemption and to prepare an environment where this ideal can

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The Chevra Kadisha, literally "The Holy Society," is Calgary's oldest Jewish communal organization. Its mandate to provide Jewish burial services is the continuation of an age-old tradition of burying the dead with dignity, with proper ritual and as a communal service. The Chevra Kadisha was formed in 1904, when Calgary had only a few Jewish families. The community was growing rapidly, and in 1914 the Chevra Kadisha was incorporated as an independent society.



Calgary Chevra Kadisha continues to provide a service to the Jewish community maintaining many of the historical traditions of our people that go back hundreds of years. May its volunteer membership continue to grow from strength to strength.



"Tashlich Prayer at the Water" by E. Flerova, www.nerartgallery.com

SEPTEMBER 2013 - ELUL 5773/TISHREI 5774 אלול תשעייג~תשרי תשעייד

ROSH HASHANAH

Rosh Hashanah (literally, the "head" of the year) is the beginning of the Jewish year – and the "birthday" of all of creation. It commemorates the creation of Adam and Eve, the first humans. On the day he was created, Adam acknowledged G-d's kingship over the entire universe. Each Rosh Hashanah, we reaffirm this with our renewed commitment to G-d and His commandments.

THE SHOFAR

The sounding of the Shofar (the ram's horn) is a central observance of Rosh Hashanah. The Shofar calls many things to mind: It symbolizes our coronation of G-d as King, it is a "wake up call" to return to G-d, and it presages the coming of Moshiach, whose arrival will be heralded by the "Great Shofar".

YOM KIPPUR

Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, is the holiest day in the Jewish calendar. On this day, we acknowledge and regret our past sins and resolve to improve in the future. In return, G-d promises us forgiveness. This day is one of spiritual cleansing; we refrain from working, eating and drinking, washing, anointing with oils or lotions, marital relations and wearing leather shoes.

SUKKOT

After a period of sober and reverent reflection

during the Days of Awe, we are ready for the joyous holiday of Sukkot, "the Season of our Joy", rejoicing in the knowledge that G-d has inscribed us for a good and healthy new year. The name Sukkot is derived from the word Sukkah, or hut. In commemoration of the protective "clouds of glory" with which G-d surrounded the Jewish people on their way out of Egypt, we live in makeshift huts during the seven days of this holiday.

During Sukkot, we observe the special mitzvah of shaking the Lulav (palm branch) and the Etrog (citron). Taken together with the Hadas (myrtle) and the Aravah (willow), these very different plant species represent the unity of disparate types of Jews who all play their part in forming the Jewish nation.

SIMCHAT TORAH

Simchat Torah marks the day we complete the reading of the Torah in its annual cycle. On the evening of Simchat Torah, (and in many communities, on the previous evening of Shemini Atzeret as well) we make seven Hakafot (circuits) around the table upon which the Torah is read, dancing and rejoicing with the Torah scrolls. During morning services on Simchat Torah, we complete the Torah, reading the last Torah portion. We immediately start reading the Torah from the beginning again– remembering that the Torah is an endless source of wisdom, each cycle challenging us to discover its ever deeper meaning.





September 2013 - Elul 5773/Tishrei 5774



"Noah and the Dove" by Natalie Kadish, www.nataliakadish.com

October 2013 - Tishrei/Cheshvan 5774 תשרי~חשון תשעי*י*ד

CHESHVAN 7

In Israel, this is the first day of the official rain season. Prayers for rain were held off until this day, in deference to those making their way back from Jerusalem where they spent the holidays.

CHESHVAN 11

Passing of our Matriarch Rachel, wife of Yaakov. Rachel passed away in 1563 BCE as Yaakov was returning home to his parents. She is buried in Bethlehem.

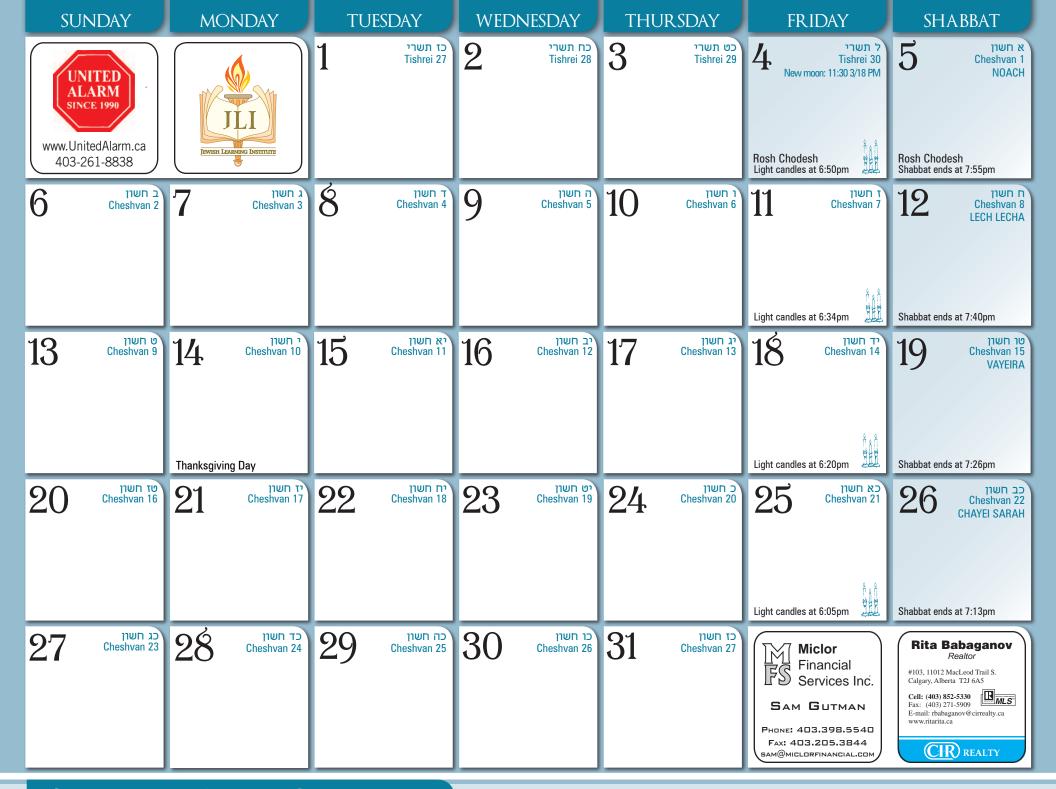
CHESHVAN 20

Birthday of Rabbi Sholom Dov Ber (1860), fifth leader of Chabad Lubavitch.

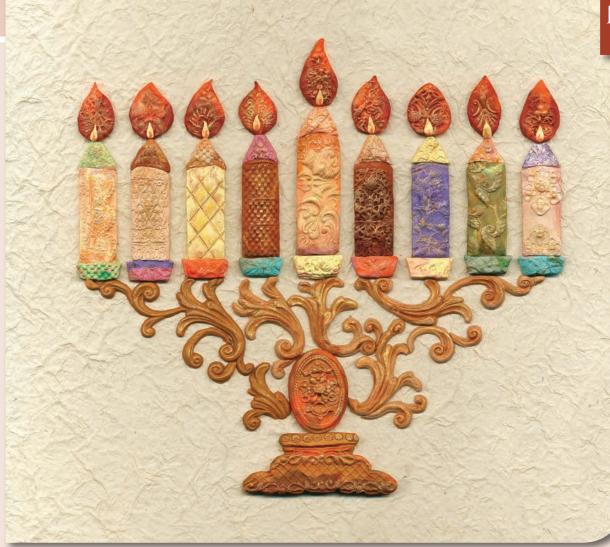
THE WEEKLY TORAH READING

According to our tradition, the custom of reading from the Torah in the Synagogue every Shabbat is one of the oldest Jewish customs, instituted by Moshe Rabbeinu (Moses) himself. The Torah was divided by Moshe into 54 portions, which is the maximum number of regular readings possible during a Jewish calendar year. The regular cycle is suspended during Jewish holidays, when we read holiday themed portions instead. Most years, it becomes necessary to occasionally group two portions together in order to complete the cycle on time for Simchat Torah. Our lives are built around the calendar cycles: The year, the month, the week. Every day, the current Torah Reading offers a fresh source of inspiration. Though repeated again and again, there is always a new insight, a new guidance, a new commentary on the here and the now. This is the Jewish way of "living with the times."





October 2013 - Tishrei/Cheshvan 5774



"Chanukah" by Michoel Muchnik, www.muchnikarts.com



November 2013 - Cheshvan/Kislev 5774 חשון~כסלו תשע״ד

KISLEV 19

Yartzeit of Rabbi Dov Ber of Mezritch, the second leader of the Chassidic movement (1772). Release from prison of Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi, founder of the Chabad movement (1798). His triumphant release marked a turning point in the spreading of Chassidic thought, and this date is celebrated in many communities throughout the world, as "Chassidic Rosh Hashanah".

CELEBRATING CHANUKAH

The kindling of the Menorah is the focal point of the Chanukah holiday, symbolizing religious freedom and the strength of the Jewish spirit. The menorah is kindled on each of the eight nights of Chanukah, this year beginning Wednesday night, November 27th.

The Menorah is placed at the left side of a central doorway of the home, or at the front window. The candles should be lit immediately following sunset, and should be prepared so that they will remain lit for at least a half hour after dusk. Due to Shabbat observance, the Menorah is lit before the Shabbat candles on Friday evening and after the Havdalah ceremony at the end of Shabbat.

Gather all family members and light the Shamash, the service candle. Recite the proper blessings and then light the candles beginning from the left. Then place the Shamash at its designated place, separated from the other candles.

OTHER CHANUKAH OBSERVANCES:

In addition to the kindling of the Menorah, special prayers are added to the regular services during the eight days of the holiday. Additional customs include preparing oil-rich dishes such as doughnuts or latkes; playing with the dreidel (spintop); and the giving of Chanukah-gelt (cash gifts) to the young.



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November 2013 - Cheshvan/Kislev 5774

DECEMBER 2013 - KISLEV/TEVET 5774 כסלו~טבת תשע״ד

TEVET 10

Observed as a fast day. On this date, Jerusalem was placed under siege by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar, resulting in the destruction of the First Temple (422 BCE).

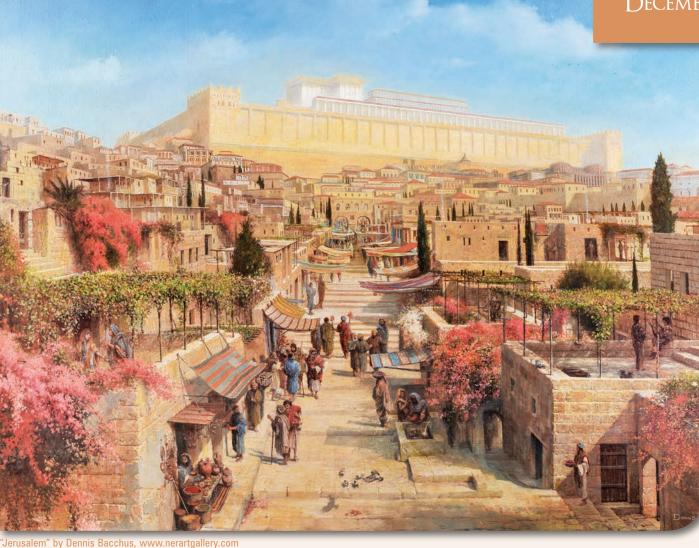
TEVET 24

Yartzeit of Rabbi Schneur Zalman of Liadi, founder of the Chabad movement (1813).

KOSHER

Kashrut: Spiritual Diet for a Small Planet

For our physical wellbeing, few things are as important as a healthy diet. But the Kosher laws offer the soul similar benefits, and more. The mystical masters teach us that everything we eat has a bit of holiness – a "spark" of divine energy released when we eat foods prepared in accord with the kosher laws. Just as the body responds to the quality of the food that fuels it, so too the soul: With appropriate foods prepared in the prescribed manner, we absorb the Divine nourishment that makes for a healthy spirit. Adapting your diet to a kosher life style is easier than you might imagine. The shelves of your local supermarket are stocked with literally hundreds and thousands of products produced under kosher supervision. All you need to do is ask – call our office for advice and information.





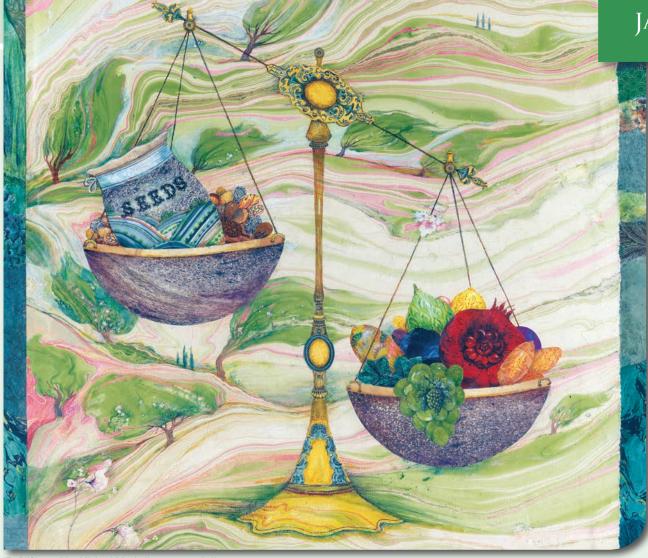


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DECEMBER 2013 - KISLEV/TEVET 5774



"Tu Bi'Shevat" by Michoel Muchnik, www.muchnikarts.com

JANUARY 2014 - TEVET/SHEVAT 5774 טבת~שבט תשע״ד

SHEVAT 10

Yartzeit of Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak Schneersohn, sixth leader of Chabad Lubavitch (1950). Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak fought to preserve Jewish life in the U.S.S.R. until he was imprisoned, threatened with his life, and finally forced to leave (1927). In 1940 he came to the United States and established the network of Chabad-Lubavitch educational institutions throughout the U.S.A. and across the world.

This day also marks the beginning of the leadership of his son-in-law Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, known as the Lubavitcher Rebbe.

SHEVAT 22

Yartzeit of Rebbetzin Chaya Mushka Schneerson, wife of the Lubavitcher Rebbe (1988).

SHEVAT 15 TU B'SHEVAT

In Jewish tradition, the fifteenth day of Shevat is the "New Year" of the trees, opening the season in which trees begin to bud in the Holy Land of Israel. Just as Rosh Hashanah, the New Year for all creation, is the day on which man is judged, so too is Tu B'Shevat the day of judgment for earth's trees.

To commemorate this special day, Jews throughout the world eat the distinctive foods that are characteristic of the Holy Land, especially the five fruits mentioned in the Torah: Grapes, Figs, Pomegranates, Olives, and Dates.

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JANUARY 2014 - TEVET/SHEVAT 5774



"A Father's Blessing", photo by Michail Levit, levit@actcom.co.il

FEBRUARY 2014 - Adar i 5774 אדר א תשע״ד

Shabbat and festival candles

Throughout the ages, light has stirred the imagination of poets, mystics, scientists and psychologists. Because its nature is so different from other material entities, it is often used to describe spiritual insight. Shabbat is a day of light; its pattern and valueorientation is different from the other days of the week. Thus it is the lighting of the Shabbat Candles that ushers in this state of awareness and inspires us to feel the way it permeates our lives. The mystics call this day of light the Shabbat Queen, and the responsibility for lighting the candles and inducing this change of perspective is the woman's. It is she who welcomes the Shabbat Queen into the home.

Young girls, from the age of three or younger, are encouraged to light their own candles, to involve and educate them in this profound and beautiful mitzvah.

The Shabbat Candles are lit 18 minutes before sunset.

THE JEWISH CALENDAR

The Jewish calendar is the only calendar to which both the monthly and annual units are governed by real astronomical events: The lunar month, and the solar year.

The word for month in the Torah is either chodesh ("renewal"), or yerach ("moon"), both hinting at a lunar month. At the same time, the Torah commands us to ensure that the holiday of Passover always occurs in the spring, hinting at a solar year.

Because twelve lunar months are approximately 11 days short of a solar year, it becomes necessary to occasionally add a 13th month, Adar I, to the Jewish calendar year, which is then called a Leap Year.

Our sages have devised a system of 19-year cycles, 7 of which are declared leap years. This includes this year, the 17th in the 304th cycle.





FEBRUARY 2014 - ADAR I 5774







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"Purim" by Michoel Muchnik, www.muchnikarts.com

March 2014 - Adar I/Adar II 5774 אדר א ~ אדר ב תשע"ד

ADAR 7

Birthday and Yartzeit of Moshe Rabbeinu (Moses), who led the Jewish people out of Egyptian bondage.

PURIM

The actual story of Purim, as told in the Scroll of Esther, is as fascinating and spellbinding as any best seller. Yet, though it is sacred scripture, we do not find the name of G-d mentioned even once! But within the intricate details of the Megillah, we can detect the unmistakable hand of Divine Providence. And the closer we examine the story, the more we discover that even seemingly insignificant events are precisely arranged by the hand of the Almighty.

THE MITZVOT OF PURIM ARE:

• The Fast of Esther, held before Purim, to commemorate the day of prayer and fasting which the Jews held before their victory.

WE WISH YOU ALL A JOYOUS PURIM!

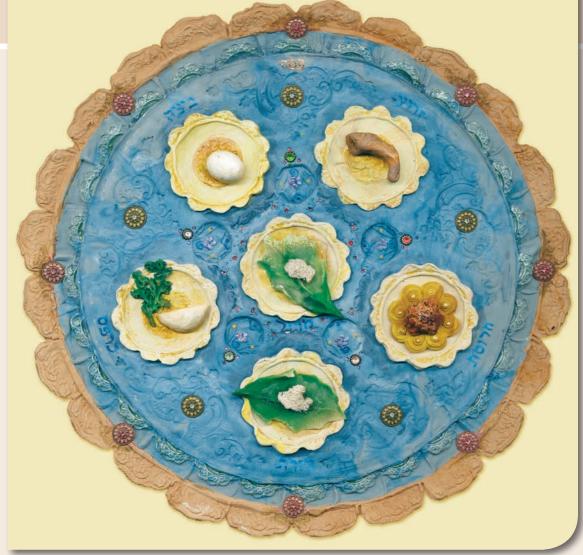
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• Listen to the reading of Megillat Esther (the Scroll of Esther) at night and day, recounting the story of Purim.

- Send gifts containing at least two types of ready-to-eat food to one or more friends on the day of Purim. These gifts, called Mishloach Manot ("sending portions"), should preferably be sent via a third party.
- Give Matanot L'evyonim ("gifts of charity to the poor"). While Tzedakah (charity) is a year-round responsibility, it is a particularly special Mitzvah on Purim. Give to at least two needy individuals on Purim day.
- Celebrate with a special festive and joyous meal.
- It is traditional to give 3 half dollar coins to charity before Purim, to commemorate the annual halfshekel given by each Jew in the times of the Holy Temple. This mitzvah is usually performed in the synagogue.



MARCH 2014 - ADAR I/ADAR II 5774



APRIL 2014 - NISSAN 5774 ניסן תשעי*י*ד

NISAN 11

Birthday of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson (1902).

CELEBRATING PESACH (PASSOVER)

Pesach is celebrated by refraining from eating or owning any chametz foods for the duration of the holiday, and by participating in a Seder dinner on the first two nights of the holiday, during which we partake of some Shmurah-Matzah.

REMOVAL OF CHAMETZ

Chametz (leaven) is defined as wheat, barley, oats, rye or spelt which have been mixed with water and then had time to rise. During Pesach it is forbidden to eat, derive benefit or even own chametz, or any mixture containing chametz. We prepare for Pesach by thoroughly cleaning and removing any trace of chametz from our space, then koshering our kitchen to prepare it for Pesach use. Food products used on Pesach must be certified Kosher for Passover. Any chametz we don't plan on destroying before Pesach is placed in a special room or closet, sealed, and sold, with the help of a Rabbi, to a non-Jew.

THE SEDER

The Pesach Seder, conducted each of the first two nights of Pesach, is the central event of the Passover festival.

DURING THE SEDER, WE:

- Drink four cups of wine (or grape juice), reminding us of the redemption and its four stages.
- Ask the Four Questions and recite the Haggadah, which tells the story of Passover and describes the miracles of our redemption.
- Eat hand-made Shmurah Matzah, the plain unleavened bread which symbolizes both the simple bread of slaves and the swiftness of the redemption from Egypt, when our ancestors did not even have time to let the dough rise.
- Eat Maror (bitter herbs), which reminds us of the bitterness of the enslavement.

THE LAST DAY OF PESACH

The eighth and final day of Pesach is associated with Moshiach and our fervent hope for his imminent arrival. In many communities, a festive "Moshiach Meal" is organized toward the evening, to emphasize this day's special dimension.

"The Seder Plate" by Michoel Muchnik, www.muchnikarts.com







April 2014 - Nissan 5774



May 2014 - Jyar/Sivan 5774 אייר~סיון תשע״ד

COUNTING OF THE OMER:

Beginning the second evening of Pesach, we count seven weeks until the arrival of the festival of Shavuot. They correspond to the seven weeks, starting from the night after the exodus during which our ancestors eagerly awaited the receiving of the Torah at Mount Sinai.

IYAR 14 - PESACH SHENI

When the Holy Temple stood in Jerusalem, this day offered a second chance to offer the Passover sacrifice for those who, because of distance or ritual impurity, had been unable to bring their offering at the appropriate time.

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE:

The eternal significance of the Second Passover, says the sixth Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak Schneersohn, is that it is never too late to rectify a past failing. Even if a person has failed to fulfill an aspect of his/her mission in life, so that the Torah calls him/her "contaminated by death" (i.e., in a state of disconnection from the divine source of life) or "on a distant road" from his people and G-d, there is always another chance, a second "Passover", in which s/he can make good on what s/he has missed out.

IYAR 18 - LAG BA'OMER

On this date, in the early 2nd century, the students of Rabbi Akiva, the greatest sage of that era, ceased to die from an epidemic. Years later on this same date, his student Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai, Mishnaic sage and author of the Zohar (the seminal work of Kabbalah) passed away. Having fulfilled his mission in this world he asked that the anniversary of his death be celebrated as a joyous occasion. Throughout the Land of Israel - and indeed in Jewish communities throughout the world - this day is marked with festivities and bonfires. In particular, thousands journey to rejoice in the town of Miron, site of Rabbi Shimon's resting place.

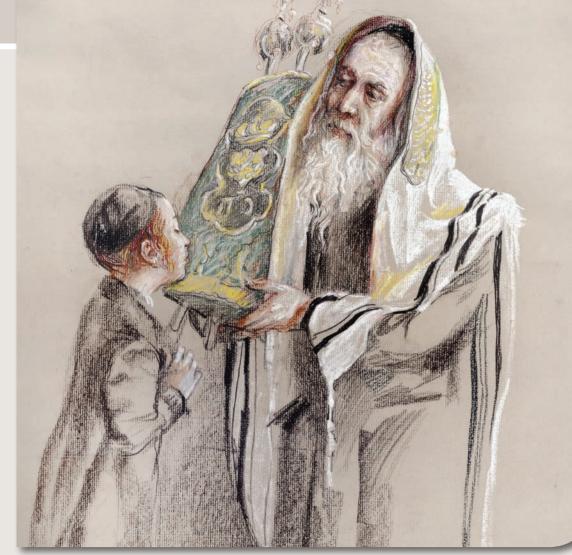
"Prayer at the Wall", photo by Michail Levit, levit@actcom.co.il







May 2014 - Iyar/Sivan 5774



"Kissing the Torah" by E. Flerova, www.nerartgallery.com

THE HOLIDAY OF Shavuot:

The festival of Shavuot celebrates the giving of the Torah – G-d's gift to every single Jew. The Torah provides humankind with directives to lead a meaningful, productive life. It gives us the insight to see beyond the outer layers of our physical existence and behold the G-dliness within, and the means with which we can refine our lives and the world around us.

SHAVUOT OBSERVANCES:

- All-night Torah-study on the first night of Shavuot. This is the best preparation for receiving the Torah!
- Reading of the Ten Commandments in the synagogue on the first day of Shavuot. Bring your children too!
- A festive dairy meal is served on the first day of Shavuot. Our ancestors had not yet learned to prepare Kosher meat!

TEFILLIN

Tefillin, or phylacteries, are donned every weekday by Jewish men and boys over the age of 13. The Torah describes Tefillin as a sign, a public statement of Jewish involvement. By donning Tefillin daily, an individual gives expression to his basic feeling of Jewish identity and its importance to him.

The Tefillin are placed on the arm facing the heart, and on the head. This signifies the binding of one's emotional and intellectual powers to the service of G-d. The straps, stretching from the arm to the hand and from the head to the legs, signify the transmission of intellectual and emotional energy to the hands and feet, symbolizing deed and action.





June 2014 - Sivan/Tammuz 5774



"Like a dove, I would ... be at rest" (Psalms 55:7), By N. Solominsky, www.nertartgallery.com

JULY 2014 - TAMMUZ/MENACHEM AV 5774 תמוז~מנחם אב תשע״ד

TAMMUZ 3

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THE UPCOMING REDEMPTION

The belief in the upcoming redemption is one of the foundations of our faith, and has been promised to us by almost every one of our prophets, beginning with Moses himself. Maimonides included it in his famous Thirteen Principles of the Jewish Faith. Throughout the ages, even during the most trying times, our ancestors have always prayed for and looked forward to the coming of Moshiach, our redeemer.

LET'S WELCOME MOSHIACH

Led by the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, many prominent Rabbis pro claimed this generation to be the one to usher in the redemption. We can prepare for this special time by studying the relevant passages in the Torah and its commentaries, and by increasing in acts of goodness and kindness. This will not only help us prepare for the redemption – this will hasten its arrival!

TAMMUZ 12

Birthday of Rabbi Yosef Yitzchak, sixth leader of Chabad Lubavitch (1880), and his release from Bolshevik imprisonment (1927). He was imprisoned and threatened with his life for his struggle to preserve Judaism in the Soviet Union. His release was celebrated throughout the Jewish world as a victory for Jewry and Judaism.

FAST OF TAMMUZ 17

The 17th of Tammuz marks the beginning of a three-week period of mourning. This is a tragic time on our calendar during which many calamities befell our nation in the course of history. On the 17th of Tammuz in particular, after years of siege, the walls of Jerusalem were breached. The Jewish forces continued to defend the Temple Mount for another 19 days, until it too fell on the 7th of Av. The Beit HaMikdash, the Holy Temple, was torched late on Av 9. Thus the "Three Weeks" begins with a fast on the 17th of Tammuz and concludes with a full day (25 hour) fast on the Ninth of Av. During this period, we do not celebrate weddings and in general hold no festivities.



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July 2014 - Tammuz/Menachem AV 5774



"Bride in Ancient Jerusalem" by Dennis Bacchus, www.nerartgallery.com

AUGUST 2014 - MENACHEM AV/ELUL 5774 מנחם אב~אלול תשע"ד

THE NINE DAYS OF MOURNING

While the mourning period begins on Tammuz 17, it intensifies when the month of Av begins. From the First of Av until after the Ninth of Av (excluding Shabbat), we refrain from consuming meat or wine and from various pleasurable activities as a sign of additional mourning.

TISH'A B'AV – The NINTH OF AV

The Ninth of Av has been a sad day on the Jewish calendar from the earliest days of our history as a people. Just one year after our forefathers left Egypt, it was on this date that G-d punished that generation, decreeing that they would wander the desert for forty years, never entering into the Holy Land. Much more recently, World War I began on Av 9. The focus of our mourning, however, is on the destruction on this date of both the first Temple (422 BCE) and the second Temple (68 CE). The observances of the fast of Tish'a B'Av are similar to those of Yom Kippur. These include refraining from any food or drink, wearing leather shoes, washing or showering, anointing oneself with oils or lotions, and from marital relations. Additionally, on the eve of the fast, the scroll of Eichah (Lamentations) is read in the synagogue in a unique chant, melancholy yet reassuring. Until noon we sit on low seats only, as a mourner does during Shiva.

May we merit seeing the ultimate redemption and rebuilding of the Temple by Moshiach, now!

AV 15

The Mishnah (Tractate Ta'anit) recounts: "There were no greater holidays for the Jewish people than that of the 15th of Av and of Yom Kippur." Several joyful events have occurred on this date, including the end of the 40 year decree upon the Jewish people to wander and die in the desert after leaving Egypt. This date is particularly joyful as it occurs just as we conclude the mourning period over the destruction of the Temple.

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August 2014 - Menachem av/Elul 5774



"The Sound of the Shofar", photo by Michail Levit, levit@actcom.co.il

SEPTEMBER 2014 - ELUL 5774/TISHREI 5775 אלול תשעי*י*ד~תשרי תשעי*י*ה

ELUL

The month of Elul, the last of the Jewish calendar, is the time to reflect on our actions of the passing year, and to find ways to correct any shortcomings. In synagogues around the world, extra prayers are recited daily and the Shofar is sounded every weekday.

THE KING IS IN THE FIELD

During the month of Elul, G-d is closer and more accessible to us than the rest of the year. When the king leaves his guarded palace and travels through the fields, he makes himself accessible to all – and the people stop what they are doing and come out to greet him, excited by the rare opportunity to see their king up-close. So too with us: The knowledge that G-d is more accessible to us this month compels us to reach out to him through repentance, prayer and charity.

ELUL 18

Known as Chai Elul, the "life" of Elul. Birthday of Rabbi Israel Baal Shem Tov (1698), founder of the Chassidic movement, and of Rabbi Shneur Zalman of Liadi (1745), founder of the Chabad movement.

ELUL 25-26

After midnight, we recite Selichot (special penitential prayers). We continue to recite Selichot every weekday from Monday morning until Rosh Hashanah.





September 2014 - Elul 5774/Tishrei 5775

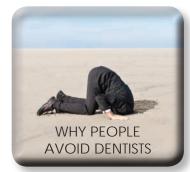


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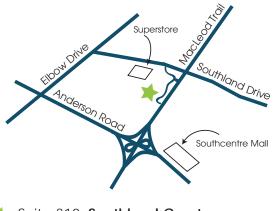




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