



# THE EL PASO CHABAD TIMES

A PUBLICATION OF CHABAD LUBAVITCH EL PASO

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Issue 140

Sivan 5776

June 2016

## Third of Tammuz



Shabbat, July 9 marks the 22nd anniversary of the passing of the Lubavitcher Rebbe. His entire life was a seamless act of devotion and service to G-d and humanity. The Rebbe stands astride the world as the colossus of our times. To abandoned outposts of Jewish life, he dispatched tireless emissaries to bring the joy of living Judaism there. No community was too small, too distant, or too hopeless.

Through his 4,000 institutions around the world, legions of alienated Jews have reaffirmed their identity and thousands of charitable organizations and

social service programs have been established. All has been permeated by his inspirational and scholarly teachings, each a unique insight into the eternity of Jewish thinking, each idea spurring a new wave of positive action. No deed was too small and no person insignificant.

Let us honor the legacy of a man who has redrawn the Jewish landscape in our own time and whose work continues to grow with increasing momentum through his emissaries the world over.

Give charity. Study Torah. Treat

*Continued on page 3*

## Three Decades and Counting

This summer, Chabad Lubavitch will celebrate 30 years of service in Southwest Texas. Established under the guidance and with the blessing of the Lubavitcher Rebbe in the summer of 1986, the arrival of Rabbi and Rebbeitzin Yisrael and Chana Greenberg set the foundations of a beautiful and flourishing community.

It is a time to reflect on the accomplishments of the past and to set our sights on achieving greater goals in the decades to come. In honor of this milestone, Chabad will host a celebration weekend.

**Sunday, September 11**

**Feature Story:**

**Behind Enemy Lines**

**The True Story of a Jewish Spy in Nazi Germany**

Marthe Cohn was in her late teens when Hitler was rising to power. Living across the German border in Alsace-Lorraine, her family sheltered Jews fleeing the Nazis, including Jewish children sent away by their terrified parents. But soon her homeland was also under Nazi rule. As the Nazi occupation escalated, Marthe's sister was

arrested and sent to Auschwitz. The rest of her family was forced to flee to the south of France. Always a fighter, Marthe joined the French Army.

She fought valiantly to retrieve needed inside information about Nazi troop movements by slipping behind enemy lines, utilizing her perfect German accent and blonde hair to pose as a young German nurse who was desperately trying to obtain word about her fictional fiancée. In traveling about the countryside and approaching troops sympathetic to her plight, she learned where they were going next and was able to alert Allied commanders.

**Behind Enemy Lines** is Marthe Cohn's internationally best-selling memoir of a time and place that has mesmerized the world for more than half a century. But at its heart is the tale of an ordinary human being who, under extraordinary circumstances, became the heroine her country needed her to be.

At the age of eighty, Marthe Cohn was awarded France's highest military honor, the Médaille

*Continued on page 3*

## Celebrate Shavuot

In Style

### All Night Study & Festive Dinner

🕒 Shabbat, June 11 | First Session: 7:00pm  
Services: 8:00pm | Dinner & Study: 9:00pm

📍 Chabad Lubavitch - 6615 Westwind Drive

Couvert: Adult: \$10 Child: \$5 | Cosponsor: \$180

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### Your Shavuot Guide

Saturday, June 11th -

Monday, June 13th

Page 7



## The Rabbi's Message



Rabbi Yisrael Greenberg

### A Happy Torah

The festival of Shavuot is titled "Zman Matan Torateinu" – The Season of the Giving of Our Torah. We commemorate that on the 6th of Sivan, 3,328 years ago, G-d gifted the Torah to us at the revelation at Sinai. Interestingly enough, in a few months we will celebrate the Torah once again on

Simchat Torah. Why the need for two festivals in honor of the Torah?

While both holidays celebrate the Torah, their respective messages are different. Simchat Torah is dedicated to rejoicing with the Torah scrolls. Wrapped in their beautiful covers and adorned with crowns we express our unbridled joy by singing and dancing with the closed Torah scrolls. This emphasizes that the Torah is the equal heritage of every Jew, no matter their capacity or past accomplishments in Torah study. It is not the privilege of the academic elite – as long as you are part of the mishpacha (Jewish family) the Torah is yours for keeps.

However, Torah is not just a precious heirloom to be preserved behind closed doors and beautiful drapes. We must invest time and effort to learn the Torah and to inculcate its lessons in our lives. It is our moral and ethical compass

with which we navigate through the waters of reality and truly serves as a guide in every aspect of life. Shavuot celebrates the fact that Torah is not simply a ceremonial treasure – it is the blueprint of the universe and the DNA of our nation.

I'd like to share an anecdote to illustrate this idea. There were two sisters that lived radically different lifestyles. One was married to an affluent gentleman that provided for her every need with extravagance, yet she was always depressed. The other sister, although married to a wonderful fellow who struggled to cover the monthly bills, was very happy and content with life.

The poor sister was baffled at the sadness of her more privileged sister. "You have everything you need. Why are you so sad?" she asked. "True, my husband works hard and provides me with everything," her sister responded

sadly. "Yet we never spend quality time together. I feel alone and dejected."

Traditionally we adorn the Torah scroll with beautiful drapes and exquisite crowns and treat it with reverence and formality. Yet the true desire of the Torah is to spend more quality time with us. That we should concentrate our minds and hearts to absorb the limitless wisdom contained within it.

Shavuot is a two-way street. G-d gifts the Torah to us and we must receive the Torah as well. Each year we are granted renewed strength and inspiration to be true recipients of Torah and we must channel this energy by committing ourselves to greater Torah study. Join a Torah class once a week or spend a few minutes each day reading a Torah book. Let's be sure the Torah is happy in our possession.

Best wishes for a happy Shavuot and a healthy summer.

## Mazel Tov

### Baby Girl

**Rivka Goldstein**

Proud Parents

**Rabbi Mendy and Shitna Goldstein**

Proud Grandparents

**Rabbi Yisrael and Chana Greenberg**

### Engagement

**Shiran Arusi to Yaakov Kaplan**

Proud Parents

**Yinon and Nili Arusi**

**Jonathan and Abigail Kaplan**

**Denise Hamicha to Chase Alyshermerni**

Proud Parents

**Daniel and Dina Hamicha**

**Albert and Shari Alyshermerni**

### Graduation

**High School - Brenda Hamicha**

**College - Jonathan Kaplan • Eliana Toren**

## Ongoing Programs at Chabad

### Sunday

Shacharit 9:00am

Chabad Hebrew School

10:00am - 12:00pm

Mincha 7:00pm

### Monday

Shacharit 7:00am

Mincha 7:00pm

### Tuesday

Shacharit 8:30am

Downton

Talmud Class

12:00 noon - 1:00pm

Mincha 7:00pm

Torah Studies 7:45pm

### Wednesday

Shacharit 8:30am

Mincha 7:00pm

Class for Women

7:30pm - 8:30pm

### Thursday

Shacharit 7:00am

Lunch and Learn 12:00pm

Mincha 7:00pm

### Friday

Shacharit 8:30am

Kabbalat Shabbat 7:15pm

### Shabbat

Shacharit 9:30 am • Followed by A Sit Down Kiddush • Mincha will follow the Kiddush Children's Program 11:00am • Maariv, Havdalah and film after Shabbat

Chabad is always hosting new classes and programs.

To receive updates, e-mail [chabad@chabadelpaso.com](mailto:chabad@chabadelpaso.com)

or visit us online at [chabadelpaso.com](http://chabadelpaso.com)

If you would like to set up a private study session, please call 584-8218.

## THE EL PASO CHABAD TIMES

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CHABAD LUBAVITCH

OF EL PASO

6615 Westwind Drive

El Paso, Texas 79912

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## In This Issue

Third of Tammuz	p1
Celebration 30	p1
Shavuot Dinner and Study	p1
Shavuot Ice Cream Party	p1
Rabbi's Message	p2
Ongoing Programs at Chabad	p2
Mazel Tovs	p2
Holiday Message from the Rabbi	p3
Morning of Learning and Inspiration	p3
Chabad in Photos	p4-5
From the Rabbi's Blog	p6
Jewish Community Calendar	p6
Camp G-don Israel	p6
Shirley's Chalkboard	p6
Shavuot Guide	p7
G-d Menachem Preschool	p7
New Building Campaign	p8

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## A Holiday Message from the Lubavitcher Rebbe



### The Power of Change

The opening sentence of the Ten Commandments reads: "I am the L-rd your G-d, Who took you out of the land of Egypt."

Our Sages ask a pointed question: What was so unique about the exodus from Egypt that G-d chose to mention it in the very first Commandment? Perhaps "I am the L-rd your G-d, Who created heaven and earth" would be a fitting alternative. Is not the creation of the world more fundamental than an isolated historical incident involving only a few million people?

In addition, the exodus from Egypt - although a great miracle - involved only that generation. The existence of the physical world, however, is a phenomenon which each generation can point to as evidence of G-d's greatness. Why then did G-d give the exodus such prominence at the moment of His revelation to mankind?

In certain respects, the liberation from Egypt slavery was a greater

event than the creation of the world. G-d created the world ex nihilo - substance out of nothingness - something which we, as created beings, cannot comprehend. Although the creation of the world was a wondrous event, for an all-powerful, eternal and infinite G-d, it was no particular feat. Creation expressed only the outermost fraction of G-d's true might.

The exodus from Egypt, however, was a miracle of a totally different order. In order for the Jews to leave Egypt, G-d had to supersede the laws of nature He had already created to run the world. G-d Himself, not an angel, led the Jews as they departed. Abrogating natural law to free the Children of Israel involved an even higher level of Divine intervention than creating the world in the first place! The exodus from Egypt was therefore given the top billing it deserved in the Ten Commandments.

Likewise, in our own lives, we sometimes find that it is harder to change ingrained and established habits than it is to begin a completely new undertaking.

When G-d took our ancestors out of Egypt (Mitzrayim), He gave each and every Jew the strength to break through the boundaries and limitations (metzaram) which stand in his or her way to personal growth. This innate power, bestowed upon the Jewish people when the Torah was revealed, gives us the ability to overcome any negative habits or character traits which may prevent us from properly serving G-d through Torah study and Mitzvah observance.

*continued from front page Third of Tammuz*

others with respect. Show more consideration for your family, friends and neighbors. Get involved in good works and charitable deeds. Because every Mitzvah, each act of kindness, makes this world a better place and hastens Moshiach, when good, peace and freedom will abound for all.

The date of a righteous person's passing is a particularly auspicious time for G-d to accept our prayers, particularly those recited at the resting place of the departed tzaddik (righteous

person). In keeping with the age-old tradition of writing prayer petitions at our holiest sites, it is also customary to send written notes to the Rebbe's resting place for intercession On High for blessings large and small, in matters both material and spiritual.

Petitions may be sent via fax or email and will be placed at the Rebbe's Ohel (before and after Shabbat). Fax: 718-723-4444 Email: ohel@ohelchabad.org

To learn more about the Rebbe, please visit TheRebbe.org

## A Morning of Learning Inspiration

A TRIBUTE TO THE LUBAVITCHER REBBE

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 22ND YARTZEIT | TAMMUZ 3

**Sunday, June 26 | Sivan 20**

**Shacharit Services: 9:00am | Breakfast: 9:45am**

**Chabad Lubavitch - 6645 Westwind Drive**

**Cosponsor: \$100 | Admission: Free**

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For more information call 584-8218

**Do a good deed today ...  
And help others do  
a good deed tomorrow!**

**Remember  
Chabad Lubavitch  
of El Paso in your will.**

*continued from front page Celebration 30*

Militaire, a relatively rare medal awarded for outstanding military service and given, in the past, to the likes of Winston Churchill. With this award came official acknowledgement of the heroic exploits of a beautiful young Jewish woman who faced death every day as she sought to help defeat the Nazi empire.

Mrs. Cohn will share her amazing story with our community followed by a book signing. Copies of her book will be available for sale at the event.

**Shabbat, September 9-10  
Cantorial Sensation to  
Make Debut Performance  
In Texas**

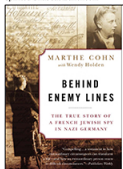
Cantor Aryeh Leib Hurwitz is a soloist and performer from Brooklyn, NY, whose brilliant voice has been featured all over the world. From the United States to France, England to South Africa, from the wild beauty of South America, his voice has shaken audiences and pierced hearts.

His musical repertoire consists of many melodic genres and songs in a variety of languages, including traditional Hebrew liturgy, Yiddish folk songs, Opera, Broadway, modern Jewish music and more.

Aryeh Leib is praised among his peers for his lyric tenor voice.

He began his singing career as the cantor in Johannesburg, South Africa, leading high-holiday and special occasion services. He has studied chazonus as well as music theory with legendary world renowned cantors including Joseph Malovany. Aryeh Leib's powerful voice earned him a scholarship to the Helz School of Jewish Music at the Yeshiva University. He is currently serving as Cantor at the Chai Center in Dix Hills, Long Island.

Aryeh Leib will lead the services at Chabad on Friday evening and Shabbat morning followed by a spirited Shabbat Luncheon.



Visit [www.chabadelpaso.com/celebration30](http://www.chabadelpaso.com/celebration30) for more details.

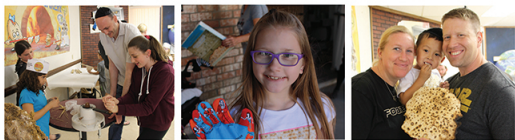
# Lechaim To The Chabad Pillars 2015



## Gan Menachem Preschool



## Jewish Youth Zone - Matzah Bakery



## Lag B'Omer Community BBQ



## Kids in the Kitchen - Lasagna!



## From the Rabbis' Blog

[www.chabadelpaso.com/blog](http://www.chabadelpaso.com/blog)



**Rabbi Levi Greenberg**  
**That's The Rule, Rabbi**

I frequently serve as a mashgiach (kosher supervisor) on behalf of a well-known kosher certification agency to ensure that the products of several plants in town meet the kosher standards. On a recent inspection, the company representative escorted me into a room used to produce a food that is a strong allergen. Due to the high risk of cross contamination, it is necessary to change smocks, thoroughly wash your hands and sanitize your shoes before entering the room.

As it turned out, during my inspection this production line was not in operation, and the entire apparatus had been disassembled to be cleaned and sanitized. After spending a few minutes there, we returned to the main production floor—but not before sanitizing our shoes, washing our hands and changing smocks. Chuckling, I commented to my escort, "Mike, I wonder why we need to go through this process. The room was empty!" He smiled wryly and replied, "That's the rule, rabbi."

A good answer, and an attitude that put me at ease.

Upon receiving the Torah, the Jewish nation was charged with the task of preserving this precious heritage for eternity. To do so, the Torah obligated the sages in each generation to introduce precautionary measures to ensure the integrity of mitzvah observance for generations. "You must safeguard My charge" is the directive for the sages, as the successors of Moses and his Sanhedrin, to legislate precautionary measures to protect the people from transgressing any

of the Torah's explicit prohibitions.

The kosher diet is rich with such safety nets. For example, to prevent the strong possibility of rationalizing the mixing of beef with dairy, the sages prohibited the mixture of poultry and dairy. These rabbinic measures are as timeless as the Torah itself.

This is a clear indication that the intended recipients of the Torah are human beings. Since we are prone to overconfidence, laziness and forgetfulness, it is necessary for us to be aware of our natural weaknesses and to set up buffer zones to protect us from transgression.

Angels would have no need for these protective measures. In fact, before Matan Torah (the Revelation at Sinai), they challenged the prudence of entrusting the Torah to Israel. "What is man that you should remember him?" they argued. Humans err all the time and should not be trusted with the precious Torah.

They were wrong. There is no greater pleasure to G-d than us humans overcoming the challenges of life to remain steadfast to the prin-

ciples of Torah. We can successfully do so only with strict adherence to the rules, even when they may seem superfluous and not directly connected to what we perceive as the original biblical ordinance. In fact, careful adherence to these laws serves to elevate the same human deficiencies that necessitated their formulation.

As I observed the responsible micro-lab coordinator at the plant thoroughly clean his hands before re-entering the main production room, even though there was no need for it, my confidence in the food industry was strengthened.

Now, the analogy only goes so far. While the rules in the plant are man-made (and probably redundant at times), the rabbinic safeguards are divinely inspired and as important as the Torah laws themselves. They're 100% valid even when we don't understand how they help us in our Torah observance or in our lives.

Let's embrace how Torah elevates our humanity and appreciate the crucial role each iota of Jewish law plays in preserving the Torah for eternity—whether we understand it or not.

## Participate in the Jewish Community Calendar!

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# Shavuot Guide • Sivan 5 - 7, 5776 • June 11-13, 2016

## SHAVUOT IS A MAJOR FESTIVAL

**S**havuot, following exactly fifty days after Passover, is the second of the three major festivals. The holiday marks the giving of the Torah by G-d to the entire Jewish people on Mount Sinai 3,328 years ago.

In Hebrew, the word "Shavuot" means "weeks" symbolic of the seven weeks during which the Jewish people prepared themselves for the giving of the Torah in the desert. During these seven weeks they rid themselves of the scars of bondage and became a holy nation ready to stand before G-d.

## THE GIVING OF THE TORAH

The giving of the Torah is far more than a historical event. It is a far-reaching spiritual event that touches the essence of the Jewish soul then and for all time. Our Sages have compared Matan Torah to a marriage ceremony between G-d and the Jewish people. We became His special nation and He became our G-d.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF SHAVUOT TODAY

Each year, Shavuot is the special time for us to reawaken and strengthen our special relationship with G-d. One way to reaffirm our commitment is by dedicating ourselves to the observance and study of our most precious heritage - the Torah.

## THE WRITTEN AND ORAL LAW

The Torah is composed of two dimensions: the written law and the oral law. The written Torah contains the Five Books of Moses, the Prophets and the Writings. Together with the written Torah, Moses was also given the oral law which is an explanation and clarification of the written law. It was transmitted orally from generation to generation and was only transcribed years later in the Talmud and Midrash.

Throughout the generations our people have studied these works, commenting upon them, clarifying their meanings, deriving practical applications of these principles and codifying the laws derived from them. Thus, a continuous chain of tradition extends throughout the generations, connecting the scholars of the present day to the revelation at Mount Sinai.

## THE "BLUEPRINT" FOR CREATION

Speaking metaphorically, our Sages tell us that G-d constantly "gazes into the Torah and creates the world." The Torah is not only a practical guide for our behavior in daily life, but also on a deeper level it is actually the "blueprint" for creation.

Everything that happens in our lives is a manifestation of G-d's wisdom, as expressed in His Torah. As such, Torah represents the very source of our vitality, and the key to the fulfillment of our deepest aspirations.

The Revelation at Mount Sinai was a tumultuous awe-inspiring experience. The entire universe, our Sages say, trembled with the piercing sound of the ram's horn. Thunder and lightning filled the skies. Then-silence. Not a bird chirped. No creature spoke. The seas did not stir. Even the angels ceased to fly, as the voice was heard: "I am the L-rd your G-d..."

## HEAR THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Relive the Sinai experience by hearing the reading of the Ten Commandments in the Synagogue.

When G-d revealed Himself on Mount Sinai, our entire people heard His holy and awesome voice as He proclaimed the Ten Commandments:

- 1) I am the L-rd your G-d who took you out of the land of Egypt.
- 2) You shall have no other gods before Me.
- 3) Do not utter the name of the L-rd your G-d in vain.
- 4) Remember the Sabbath to keep it holy.
- 5) Honor your father and mother.
- 6) Do not murder.
- 7) Do not commit adultery.
- 8) Do not steal.
- 9) Do not bear false witness.
- 10) Do not covet.

These ten commands range from the highest and most refined concept of the belief in the oneness of G-d, to the most basic laws which every society has found it necessary to enforce such as not killing and not stealing.

It is customary to eat a dairy meal on Shavuot. It is reminiscent of the Shavuot meal over 3,000 years ago. With the Giving of the Torah, the Jews became obligated to observe the laws of Kosher. As the Torah was given on Shabbat, no cattle could be slaughtered nor could their utensils be koshered, and thus on that day they ate dairy.

## TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT

The Torah was given at daybreak. Our tradition relates that the Jewish people went to sleep the night before Matan Torah, and that it was necessary for G-d Himself to awaken them. To compensate for their mistaken behavior, it is customary to stay up the entire first night of Shavuot studying Torah. This custom is called Tikun Leil Shavuot.

## Shavuot Calendar

### Shabbat, June 11

First Study Session - 7:00 p.m.  
Light Yom Tov Candles after 8:54 p.m.  
Recite Blessings 1 & 2  
Mincha - 8:00 p.m.  
Festive Dinner and Study - 9:00 p.m.

### Sunday, June 12

Shacharit - 9:30 a.m.  
Reading of the 10 commandments 11:00 a.m.  
Shavuot Dairy Luncheon following services  
Mincha - 8:00 p.m.  
Light Yom Tov Candles after 8:55 p.m.  
Recite Blessings 1 & 2

### Monday, June 13

Shacharit - 9:30 a.m.  
Yizkor - 11:00 a.m.  
Mincha - 8:00 p.m.  
Holiday ends 8:55 p.m.



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## Candle Lighting Blessings

1) BO-RUCH A-TOH ADO-NOI E-LO-HEI-NU  
ME-LECH HO-LOM, A-SHER KI-DE-SHA-NU.  
BE-MITZ-VO-SOV VE-TZI-VO-NU LE-HAD-  
LIK NER SHEL YOM-TOV.  
Blessed are You, Lord our G-d, King of the  
universe, who has sanctified us with His com-  
mandments, and commanded us to kindle the  
Yom Tov light.

2) BO-RUCH A-TOH ADO-NOI E-LO-HEI-NU  
ME-LECH HO-LOM, SHE-HEH-CHE-YOH-NU,  
VI-KIYE-MO-NU VE-HE-GE-O-NU LEZ-MAN  
HA-ZEH.  
Blessed are You, Lord our G-d, King of the  
universe, who has granted us life, sustained  
us, and enabled us to reach this occasion.

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JEWISH EL PASO FOREVER!



By the Grace of G-d, for three decades a dream has been nurtured and realized in our town. Uniting fellow Jews from a plethora of backgrounds and spanning all age groups, Chabad Lubavitch of El Paso has blossomed into a vibrant community. With special emphasis on the individual we have evolved into family. Your staunch support and friendship has helped us reach this momentous milestone. We have a vision. Building on the phenomenal success of the past we look forward to an even greater future. We invite you to join us in our quest to continue to grow, to gather, discover, pray, laugh and celebrate our glorious heritage. Together we will ensure the continued growth and expansion of our oasis community in Southwest Texas.

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KETER/DOWN	AMUDIM/PILLARS
\$250,000	\$100,000
SHOMRIM/GUARDIANS	NEDIVIM/BENEFACTORS
\$72,000	\$54,000
BONIM/BUILDERS	CHAVIM/SUPPORTERS
\$36,000	\$36,000
CHAVIM/COLLEAGUES	YEDIM/FRIENDS
\$10,000	\$3,600
TOMCHIM/ADVOCATES	
\$1,000	