

THE SHO- FAR שופר

115 West 42nd, Street
Bayonne, NJ 07002 201.436.4499
templemanuelbayonne.com

INSIDE THIS MONTH'S ISSUE...

Shabbat Schedule
Presidents' message
Rabbi's message
Tributes
Yahrzeits

BOARD MEETING

April 20th, 2026

RABBI PRAVER'S SHABBAT

April 2nd

April 2nd-Seder

April 24th.– Shabbat Israel

Temple Emanu-El of Bayonne

Volume 154/April 2026

12 Nissan-13 Iyar

CONTACT NUMBERS

Irene Kravitz

Co-President

201 432 6849

Varda Wendroff

Co-President

201 437 4481

Rabbi Shaul Praver

203.209.4662

SHABBAT

Fri., April 3/16 Nissan

Candle Lighting 7:05

Sat., April 4/17 Nissan

CHOL HAMOED PESACH=Omer 3

Fri., April 10/23 Nissan

Candle Lighting 7:13

Sat., April 11/24 Nissan

SHEMINI/BIRKAT HACHODESH

Fri., April 17/30 Nissan

Candle Lighting 7:20

Sat., April 18/ 1 Iyar

TAZRIAH/METZORA

ROSH CHODESH

Fri., April 24/7 Iyar

Candle Lighting 7:27

Sat., April 25/ 8 Iyar

ACHAREI MOT

KEDOSHIM

OMER 24

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

On March 3, 2026, the Jewish date of 14 Adar 5786, the Jewish people celebrated the holiday of Purim. As the story goes, the Persians with their king Ahashverosh had a minister named Haman. This man traveled around the country and demanded that everyone bow down to him. When Mordechai, the Jew, stated that he only bows to G-d, Haman decreed that this man should be hanged and kill all the Jews. A lottery (PUR) took place to decide on the date for this event. The result was the 14th of Adar,

What sounds familiar? If we think about this, the current situation in Iran, which was once called Persia, comes to mind. As we know, Jews have been persecuted in many countries for many years. This type of hatred is called antisemitism, which we refer to as hatred of Jews (Against the semites). This disdain has reared its ugly head in the United States as well as many other countries recently.

The present country of Iran has vowed many times to blow up Israel off the face of the earth. This regime has as its goal to kill all the Jews. This fact has been their aim. They acted upon this mission in many ways, especially by supporting other countries to help them, shoot bombs at the state of Israel, and so many other negative activities.

What should Israel do? How should they respond to "Haman?" They had to do something. What should they do? It is not up to us to say whether war is the answer. Everyone has an opinion about it. We wish the result to be positive for the world. We pray that there is a good result soon.

One of the ways in which we can support Israel is by continuing to support our Jewish community, our temple, and our brothers and sisters in the world. At this time, it is more important to stick together and not be afraid to be Jewish. We need to celebrate our holidays aloud and together. We need to be proud of our heritage and continue to create a Jewish community. We are grateful to our Bayonne police department for protecting us during these programs so that we can continue them, enjoy them without fear of danger.

The holiday of Passover is coming up soon. This story is about the Egyptians, who enslaved the Jews and treated them poorly. It is about Moses and Aaron, with G-d's encouragement, let our people go from that country.

May the war succeed in ridding us of hateful people. May there be peace on earth and for all the Jews and for all of humanity.



This month of April holds many holidays as you know – two biblical and the rest instituted by modern-day Israeli civilization. You will recognize them as I list them. But the one I will elucidate at great depth is Sefirat HaOmer, the Counting of the Omer. Here is a chronological guide to our observances this month, including their meanings and the specific dates for 2026:

1. Pesach (Passover) Hebrew Dates: 14th – 21st of Nisan 5786 (in Israel), 14th – 22nd of Nisan 5786 (outside Israel)
Gregorian Dates: Sundown on Wednesday, April 1st – Sundown on Wednesday, April 8th (in Israel) / Sundown on Thursday, April 9th (outside Israel) Passover commemorates our miraculous liberation from slavery in ancient Egypt. The first Seder is on the evening of Wednesday, April 1st, and the second Seder is on the evening of Thursday, April 2nd. I can't wait to celebrate the community Seder with many of you on the evening of April 2nd!
2. First Day of Sefirat HaOmer (Counting of the Omer)
Hebrew Date: 16th of Nisan 5786
Gregorian Date: Sundown on Thursday, April 2nd This is when we begin the 49-day journey of counting towards Shavuot. More on this in a moment!
3. Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day)
Hebrew Date: 27th of Nisan 5786
Gregorian Date: Monday, April 13th Yom HaShoah is our solemn day to remember the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust.
4. Yom HaZikaron (Israel's Memorial Day)
Hebrew Date: 4th of Iyar 5786
Gregorian Date: Sundown on Monday, April 20th This is Israel's Memorial Day, honoring its fallen soldiers and victims of terror.
5. Yom HaAtzmaut (Israel's Independence Day)
Hebrew Date: 5th of Iyar 5786
Gregorian Date: Sundown on Monday, April 20th – Sundown on Tuesday, April 21st Immediately following Yom HaZikaron, we celebrate Yom HaAtzmaut, the anniversary of Israel's independence.

6. Lag BaOmer

Hebrew Date: 18th of Iyar 5786

Gregorian Date: Sundown on Wednesday, May 6th – Sundown on Thursday, May 7th Lag BaOmer, the 33rd day of the Omer count, marks a joyous break in the semi-mourning period.

I feel like you know about all the events listed above, with the exception of the Counting of the Omer. Since Sefirat HaOmer is less understood, I decided to elucidate it more this year, both for myself and for you, my synagogue family members.

HaOmer: A Forty-Nine Day Journey of Growth At its core, the Counting of the Omer is a 49-day period that bridges the spiritual gap between Passover and Shavuot. It's not just counting days; it's counting towards something.

Let's start with the Biblical Commandment:

וּסְפַרְתֶּם לָכֶם מִמִּקְרַת הַשַּׁבָּת... שִׁבְעַת שַׁבָּתוֹת תְּמַיְמוֹת תִּהְיֶינָה

“And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath... seven full Sabbaths shall be complete.” (Leviticus 23:15)

The p'shat – the simple meaning – is agricultural: counting from the barley harvest to the wheat harvest. But spiritually, it represents our journey from physical liberation in Egypt to receiving the Torah at Sinai. This 49-day count mirrors that path, helping us purify our souls and prepare to truly receive the Torah.

Mixing Paint Colors of the Soul: The Kabbalistic System

For something truly beautiful and transformative, let's explore the Kabbalistic understanding of the Omer. Think of it like this: our soul has many "colors" or qualities, known as Sefirot (Divine attributes). During the Omer, we focus on seven that correspond to our emotional and ethical makeup:

1. Chesed (חסד): Loving-kindness
2. Gevurah (גבורה): Justice, discipline
3. Tiferet (תפארת): Harmony, compassion
4. Netzach (נצח): Endurance, victory
5. Hod (הוד): Humility, splendor
6. Yesod (יסוד): Foundation, bonding
7. Malchut (מלכות): Kingship, presence

Each of the seven weeks of the Omer is dedicated to one of these primary Sefirot. But it gets even more insightful! Within each week, each day is assigned a unique combination of these Sefirot – 49 in total. Each day calls upon us to reflect on and refine that specific blend of character traits.

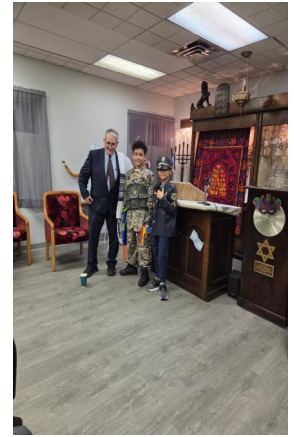
New nuanced hues emerge. For example:

- Week 1: Chesed (Loving-kindness)
 - Day 1: Chesed she'b'Chesed (– חסד שבחסד) Kindness within Kindness: This is pure, boundless kindness, like Abraham's unconditional hospitality.
 - Day 2: Gevurah she'b'Chesed (– גבורה שבחסד) Discipline within Kindness: Here, we consider how discipline or appropriate boundaries function within kindness. Sometimes, kindness means setting limits or offering tough love for someone's ultimate good. It's discriminating kindness.
- Week 2: Gevurah (Discipline/Justice)
 - Day 8: Chesed she'b'Gevurah (– חסד שבגבורה) Kindness within Discipline: How can our discipline, our judgment, or our boundaries still be expressed with kindness? Can we be firm but fair?
 - Day 9: Gevurah she'b'Gevurah (– גבורה שבגבורה) Discipline within Discipline: This is pure, unyielding discipline and strict justice. This daily reflection allows us to examine our character traits with incredible nuance. The exercise the Kabbalists have prescribed for us is this: a journey of self-improvement, of tikkun middot (rectification of character traits), where we strive to integrate these Divine qualities into our own personalities. The goal isn't just to know about these attributes, but to actively cultivate them, preparing our souls for the spiritual harvest of Torah on Shavuot. This was always the underlying intention and of this practice. I look forward discussing this in greater depth when we meet on March 21, for shabbat

I hope this helps shed some light on this thoughtful practice.

With deepest blessings of peace, health and prosperity . SHAUL

PURIM



On Monday, March 2, 2026, Erev Purim, we celebrated the holiday of Purim. In the usual traditions, as Rabbi Praver read the megilla, we reacted to Haman's name with the sound of noise and groggers. After the service the congregants enjoyed hamantaschen cookies and ice cream. It was the "required" partying and revelry.

Schmooze A Little, Eat a Little, Learn A Lot

February- Andrew Platizky will present I'm Dead. What comes next? Jewish belief in the Afterlife

Andy's presentation taught us that there are many thoughts about what happens when we pass. Maybe there is a heaven, maybe not. If you wanted to know, you could have come to our program. Maybe we will find out.

March- Roger Platizky will present Two Gay, Jewish Playwrights' Response to AIDS.

April- Paloma Martinez Jimenez will present Jewish by Choice.

May- Bennett Carlin- TBA

TRIBUTES

Please send tributes and payments directly to the Temple or call 201.436.4499

CONDOLENCES...

TO: THE SUSSKIND FAMILY— IN LOVING MEMORY OF BEVERLY SUSSKIND ז"ל ; BELOVED MOTHER, GRANDMOTHER, AND GREAT-GRANDMOTHER.

FROM: ELLEN & BILL BRODERICK,

VARDA & ARNIE WENDROFF, IRENE KRAVITZ, RENEE & ALBERT BOUSSO, SUZANNE SURPIN & FAMILY

TO: CAROL LIPPER— IN MEMORY OF HER HUSBAND SEYMOUR ז"ל.

FROM: ROZ FELSTEIN

We regret to announce the passing of Francie Turner, our former office manager.

YAHRTZEIT DONATIONS...

FROM:

EvaLynn Hollander Greenberg

Elaine Ziff

Toby Shimshak

Marilyn Werber

Lenore Berkowitz

FOR:

Philip Grodberg

Abraham Friedland

Dr. Milton Hollander

Evelyn Hollander Verbel

Dorothy & Jacob Sandler

Shirley Shimshak

Howard Steinman

Richard Gelb

Charles Berkowitz

BELOVED:

Uncle

Uncle

Father

Parents

Mother-in-law

Brother

Brother-in-law

Father



SHABBAT ACROSS AMERICA AND CANADA



On Friday, March 13, 2026, we celebrated Shabbat Across America. We welcomed some friends from other synagogues. We all enjoyed being together and sharing a Friday meal. After candle lighting and children's blessings, we sang some songs while creating a community program. Gene Woods talked about the New Jersey Commission of Holocaust Education and taught us many things. We hope to continue this tradition next year.

KOL NIDRE 2025



Diane & Marshall Duberstein

Helene Nagiar

Renee & Albert Bousso

Ellen & Bill Broderick

Sandra Drogin Greenberg

Cheryl Levy

Carol Shapiro

Irene Kravitz

Dr. David Weisman & Family

Bernice Bramson

Joe Shediak, III

Sam & Arlene Lichtenfeld

Bennett Carlin

Sally Friedman

Varda & Arnie Wendroff

Marilyn Werber

David Leinwand

Carol Klein

Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Goldman

Steven Drogin

Roz Felstein

Andy & Charlene Platizky

Harriet & Deborah Werner

Toby Shimshak

Y A H R Z E I T

March 29-April 4/11-17 Nissan

Elizabeth Gold, Dr. Nathan Epstein, Rose Wind Goodman, Natha Zinader, Isador M. Konigsberg, Max Oxe, Philip Sall, Della Levine, Joseph Sigman, Anna Schaffe, Lottie Chodash, Louis Adler, Nathan Strassman, Bertha Samuels, David Bradley Thompson, Anna Ripps, Esther Feldman, Harris Barowitz

April 5-11/18-24 Nissan

Louis Locket, Sydney Levy, Joseph Wigdor, Alexander Drogin, Hilda Marshak Schechter, Dr. Milton Hollander, Dr. Theodore Altschuler, Bertha Weiss, Florence Zlotnick, Rose Potashkin

April 12-18/25 Nissan- 1 Iyar

Emma Saltin, Miriam Ripps Schnitzer, Dr. Moe R. Sommers, Louie Miller, Jeanette Lawsky, Jennie Sall, Edith Edelman, Esther Molly Magulies, Hilkda Schachter, Charles Bressler, Leo Turteltaub, Harry Turkish, Harold Steiner, Fannie Steiner, Gertrude Herman, Deborah Millinger Pearl, Samuel E. Kresch, Nathan Tonkelson

April 19-25/ 2-8 Iyar

Samuel Dubowsky, Sadue Chodash, Ruth Herman Field, Lenette Naylor, Reva L. Herman, Irving Freedman, Bernard M. Ockene, EveLynn Hollander Verbel, Edna Hockstein, Jeanette Steinert, Frances Grenert, Isidore Wechsler, Jacob Steiner

April 26-May 2/9-15 Iyar

Freda Berger, Joseph George Grubner, Lt. Samuel H. Cohen, Frieda Eisenberg, Pearl Jacobs, Philip Temkin, Michael Guterman, Howard Steinman, Jacob Schnitzer, David Trambitzky, Bernard S. Levy, Sidney Serkin, Paula Magulies Cohen, Herman Cozewith, Aryeh Leib Berlin, Rose Edelman, Nathan Saltzman, Gertrude Grodberg, Hyman Gromnick

PASSOVER SEDER

Tuesday, April 2, 2026 6:PM

The Orchid Kosher Caterer

R.S.V.P by March 24, 2026

\$75.00 per person

Name: _____ Number _____

(Choose one)- Gefilte Fish: _____ Salmon: _____

(Choose One)-Brisket: _____ Chicken: _____ Vegetarian: _____

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			11st Seder	22nd Seder	3 OMER 2 PESACH	4C'H PESACH
5 C'H PESACH	6 C'H PESACH	7 C'H PESACH	8PESACH	9PESACH YIZKOR	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20Yom Hazikaron BOARD	21Yom Ha'Azmout	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Temple Emanu-El
115 West 42nd Street
Bayonne, NJ 07002

POSTMASTER:
Dated Material
Please Expedite