

SONS OF JACOB BULLETIN



Upcoming Services with Rabbi Kushner

Friday, June 17th
Saturday, June 18th

Friday, July 22nd
Saturday, July 23rd

Friday, August 26th
Saturday, August 27th

Please join us after regular Shabbat Services on Fridays for oneg and social time and Saturday for luncheons. All are welcome, even if you are unable to attend services.

The SOJ office will be closed on Monday, June 6th in observance of Shavuot

5783 High Holiday Services with Rabbi Ora Simon-Schnitzer

will take place on
Monday, September 26th
Tuesday, October 5th
Wednesday, October 6th

Please watch for more information and detailed schedule in future bulletins





will feature
John McCormick
Sunday, June 12th
2:00pm

The next 2nd Sunday Speaker Series event will feature well-known, local photographer **John McCormick**.

The presentation will be on Sunday, June 12 at 2:00 PM in the Community Room at Hartman Reserve.

There is no cost for this event and no registration is required.

John McCormick is a retired computer scientist and geologist. For over 50 years, John has expanded his photography knowledge to the point where his skill level is that of a professional. His work has been exhibited locally, and he has won many awards for his work. John's presentation will celebrate nature in the United States and abroad. Expect to learn about and see vibrant, stunningly-detailed photographs of birds, flowers, insects, reptiles, amphibians, landscapes, and night skies!

The 2nd Sunday Speaker Series features a different speaker each month on various topics related to nature.

For more information, please call Conservation staff at Hartman: 319-277-2187.

The main entrance to Hartman Reserve Nature Center is located at 657 Reserve Dr. in Cedar Falls.



Marsha Leizer has moved.
If you would like her new address and phone number,
please contact Stephanie in the office.

Yahrzeits

The yahrzeits of these beloved, departed relatives listed below should be observed on the Friday and Saturday of the week listed.

May 29 - June 4:

Lazar Melmood
Bebe Rosen
Mel Finkelstein
Stanley Cohn
Isaac Gradinger
Yitzchak Guralnik
Nicholas Brent Corwin
Joseph Bookatz
Ralph McGlaughlin

June 5 -11:

Roslyn Uze
Jennie Kopel
Herman Kaplan
Leon Dorfman
Edith Schultz
Sidney Greenfield
Judith Kramer
Bernard Nash
Morris Cohen
Fannie Greenman
Ida Guralnik
Molly Serber

June 12-18:

William Goldstein
Rabbi Sol Serber
Dinah Shapero
Dena Strom
Morey Lazar
Jean Lund
Rose Wolfson Praglin
Lou P Myers
Nathan Rosen
Herman Weinberg
Mildred Abrams
Becky Robin
Frank Rosenbaum

June 19-25 :

Ralph Schwartz
Ann Lipkin
David Targoff
David Sprague
Ruth Schultz
Harry Brod
Harry Barg
David Lemson
Phillip Freese
Sylvia Kanofsky
Esther Margolis
Jack Wolfson

Jun 26 - Jul 2:

Osna Goldstein
Philip Rosenbaum
Michael Weinger
Nathan Kronberg
Ida Walner
Isaac Klein
Sarah Rosenthal



We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:

EDELMAN, Lisa & Jesse - In memory of grandfather, Ralph McGlaughlin

FINKELSTEIN, Judy - Donation to the Finkelstein Educational Fund: In memory of beloved husband, Mel Finkelstein; In honor of the graduation of Sydney Stokes; In honor of the graduation of Annabeth Volz; In honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Abby Lederman

GOLDNER, Doris - In memory of uncle, Albert Arenson and In memory of niece, Ellen Jacobs

GOLDNER, Norman - In memory of niece, Ellen Jacobs

GRIFFING, Marion - Donation to the General Fund

KOHN, Joyce - In memory of mother, Regina Lemson

KOUFER, Joyce - Donation to the Cemetery Fund: In memory of mother, Edna Cohn

LEDERMAN, Jacob - In appreciation of the Board and In honor of Abby's Bat Mitzvah

STICKFORT, Allen - Donation to the General Fund

WIDERSCHEIN, Lotte (Michael) - Estate Donation

*Todah
Rabah*



The Strongest of Them All

Who are your favorite women in our sacred scriptures? Brave Queen Esther? Huldah the prophetess? Deborah the Judge? Tamar the righteous? Or our matriarchs Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah? My vote this holiday of Shavuot goes to the magnificent Moabite woman Ruth. Her story is read every year in the synagogue during this holiday. The Biblical narrative unfolds during the barley harvest, which was a significant part of the agricultural celebration of Shavuot during Temple times. It's an intricately woven page-turner. Here's the condensed version: Naomi's widowed mother-in-law decides to leave Moab (where she had been living) and return to the land of Israel. Not merely widowed, Naomi had also lost her two adult sons, both of whom who had married Moabite women. One daughter-in-law returned to her family, but the other, Ruth, insisted on staying with Naomi, uttering this beautiful statement of loyalty: "Do not pressure me to desert you, to give up following you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried." To the casual observer, Ruth was simply embracing Naomi. However, scholars point out that this was the moment that Ruth the Moabite chose to become an Israelite; a follower of יהוה. In her stubbornness to cling to her chosen God, she becomes something akin to a female counterpart of Abraham. Both were ready to leave their familiar surroundings and set out to a land and to a God they did not know, a land where they were strangers. Not merely strangers, the Moabites were pagans, worshipers of the god Chemosh, who demanded child sacrifice. To make it even worse, the Moab nation descended traditionally from an incestuous relationship between Noah and his eldest daughter.

Small wonder that Ruth could not reckon with a warm welcome in her new surroundings, being grafted onto the Israelite people, as it were. However, she prevails, and works tirelessly gleaning barley in the fields to support herself and her mother-in-law. Through a series of "coincidences" where the God of Israel seems to be pulling the strings in the background, Ruth finds in Boaz (a distant relative of Naomi's deceased husband) a protector and eventually a husband. It is intriguing to realize when reading this courageous story that it is actually Ruth who "pops the question." And Obed, the son of Ruth and Boaz, becomes the grandfather of our great King David.

Many women who have chosen Judaism, also choose the name "Ruth" as their Hebrew name. They identify with Ruth's passionate statement of loyalty to the Hebrew God. This story reminds me that our Sages teach: "all souls, even those not yet born, were standing there at Sinai" and were given the gift of God's teaching, the Torah. Whether Jews by Chance or Jews by Choice, the holiday of Shavuot is our precious heritage.

Chag Shavuot Sameach! Rabbi Rebecca