

# The Shul

at the Lubavitch Center

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May 19, 2018

Bamidbar — Shavuot

5 Sivan, 5778

## A Torah Scroll's Thoughts

I still remember some of the amazing lessons I learned from the elder Torah scroll as we stood quietly in the ark at the eastern wall of the synagogue.

Having been free to roam over plain and valley just a few years before as the hide of a kosher animal, I had a hard time adjusting to what I considered the restricted life of a Torah scroll.

I was the upstart Torah scroll - born and bred in America. Not only was I made in America, but even the scribe who wrote me was born and trained here. So you can understand why at first I didn't really subscribe to the whole humble and modest lifestyle that we Torah scrolls lived. I didn't feel like I belonged with the other half-dozen scrolls in the ark - a few survivors of the Holocaust, another scroll straight from one of the ultra-Orthodox sections in Israel, and another of unknown but strictly kosher and ancient origins.

"Why can't we just hang out in the synagogue, like the prayer books?" I asked one of the elder scrolls. I explained to him that I wasn't used to all of these restrictive coverings. First there was the regal but-oh-so-hot-on-summer-days velvet that totally covered my skin - except on Mondays, Thursdays and Shabbat when I was uncovered and unrolled in order to be read.

Then there was the big ark itself that I was placed in with the other scrolls. "I feel like a prisoner in the ark," I told the kindly scroll.

I complained incessantly that the only time we had fun was on Simchat Torah when we were all taken out on the town. Well, not really on the town but at least around the synagogue where everyone sang and danced with us. But even then - even at the height of our rejoicing - we were still covered up.

Little by little, the elderly scroll took me under his wing. He gently explained that even for a scroll proudly "made in America" there was something called tzniut - one of those impossible to translate words (though I'm an expert in Hebrew), often rendered "modesty," but meaning a whole lot more.

"The first tablets with the Ten Commandments written on them were given amidst fanfare, fuss and noise," the elderly scroll whispered. "And those tablets were broken. But the second set, given quietly, humbly and unpretentiously, remain eternally with the Jewish people. Why, even now they exist, secreted away with other treasures from the Holy Temples under the Temple Mount where the Third Temple will assuredly and very soon be built."

The scroll also gave me examples from everyday life and they made sense to me. He told me that the most precious items are kept under lock and key. Not as a punishment but in deference to their value. Vaults in banks overflow with people's jewels that sit there much of the time - rather than being worn. Original paintings by famous artists are carefully watched and monitored because they are priceless. They, too, don't hang out just anywhere. Little by little, I began to see my velvet coverings as royal cloaks. I acknowledged the ark was my castle and even my refuge.

That which is precious is not flaunted, not unnecessarily exposed, for in so doing it is often cheapened, the scroll would remind me. I remember the old scroll stating one day, "People don't go around sharing and exposing that which they truly care about. For some, it is their innermost thoughts. For others it is their bank accounts - though they'll share everything else. And if you really care about yourself, if you really value yourself," the old scroll told me, "you will take pride in the fact that most of the time you are covered, hidden, out of public view."

It's been a long time since I've been out in the public eye like this. It sort of goes against my grain by now to stand here and sermonize - especially since that's the rabbi's job. But in honor of Shavuot, the day when all of the Jewish people received the Torah from G-d on Mount Sinai - which by the way was a very humble and modest mountain - I decided to share with you the intimate thoughts of just one little Torah scroll, proud to be Made in America, and even prouder that my preciousness to the Jewish people and to myself is symbolized by my multi-layered coverings.

*(from <http://www.lchaimweekly.org/>)*



We wish Mazel Tov to  
**Dr. Allan and Mrs. Kate Genut**  
 on the  
**engagement of their  
 grandson  
 Eli Teichman**  
 to  
**Rivky Vaiselbuh**  
 of Monsey, New York.

We wish both of you much mazel, simcha and a  
 long life together.  
 Also a Mazel Tov to Eli's parents  
**Michael and Devora Teichman.**

This Summer beginning

**Shabbos Parshas Korach,  
 3 Tammuz-June 16, 2018  
 5:30-6:30pm**

Join ladies of our community for weekly  
 Shabbat afternoon Torah Learning and Refreshments.  
 Presented by **Mrs. Rochel Kaplan**  
 6509 Deancroft Road (corner of Hanway Rd)

RSVP 4104861959

לעילוי נשמת חיה יוטא בת חנוך הענוך הכהן ה.ב.צ.ג.ת

Kiddush this Shabbos is sponsored by **Mr. Reuven and Mrs. Gavi Frank**  
 in honor of the **birth of their daughter Miriam Binah.**  
 Mazel Tov to the **Frank, Palanker, and Friedman families!**



**Yahrzeits This Week:**

Marsha Blumberg 8 Sivan - Monday night / Tuesday for father Nathan Brenner

**SHUL DIRECTORY**

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**Davening and Shiurim Schedule**

**Friday, 5/18 — 4 Sivan**  
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.

**Shabbat - Erev Shavuot, 5/19 — 5 Sivan**  
 Shacharit — 9:00 a.m.  
 Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 10:37 a.m.  
 Berachot Gemora Shiur — 6:45  
 Minchah — 7:45 p.m. — NO Seudah Shilishit  
 Ma'ariv — 9:00 p.m.  
 Candles — 9:04 p.m.  
 Tikun Layl Shavuot — 12:00 to 5:00 a.m.

**Sunday — Shavuot, 5/20 — 6 Sivan**  
 Shacharit — 5:13 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.  
 Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 10:37 a.m.  
 Minchah — 8:00 p.m.  
 Candles — 9:04 p.m.  
 Ma'ariv — 9:02 p.m.

**Monday — Shavuot, 5/21— 7 Sivan**  
 Shacharit — 9:0 a.m.  
 Sof Z'man Kriat Shema — 10:36 a.m.  
 Yiskor — approximately 10:50 a.m.  
 Minchah — 8:00 p.m.  
 Ma'ariv — 9:04 p.m.

**Tuesday, 5/22— 8 Sivan**  
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, 5/23 — 9 Sivan**  
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:00 p.m.

**Thursday, 5/24 — 10 Sivan**  
 Shacharit — 6:50 a.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 8:00 p.m.

**Friday, 5/25 — 11 Sivan**  
 Shacharit — 7:00 a.m.  
 Candles — 8:04 p.m.  
 Minchah / Ma'ariv — 7:00 p.m.