



Shabbat Shalom!

Parasha Emor

Friday (5/17) candle lighting: 8:16pm

Shabbat ends (5/18) at 3 stars: 9:20pm

NOTE: The above times are for the shul. Please check the times for your residence at

<http://www.myzmanim.com> or <http://www.hebc.com>

Shabbat morning minyan begins at 9:15am

Please join us for kiddush following services. Everyone is welcome to attend.

LAG B'OMER

This coming Thursday, May 23, is Lag B'Omer, the thirty-third day of the Omer period. It serves as a break in the semi-mourning days between Pesach and Shavuoth. A plague that raged among the disciples of Rabbi Akiva ended on this day. In Israel, this day is marked by a pilgrimage of many thousands to the tomb of Rabbi Simeon ben Yochai, a second century scholar, in Meron in northern Israel. He is believed to have died this day. It is customary to light bonfires (not advisable in Eugene) and conduct mock battles in commemoration of the military victories of Bar Kochba against the Romans.

SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS AT AHAVAS TORAH

Shortly after the tragic shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, members of Ahavas Torah decided that we need to improve the security arrangements at our shul. We organized a Safety Committee, and the committee met with officers from the Eugene Police Department and representatives from fire safety and security companies. The Eugene Police Department provided us with a thorough security assessment report, and the committee spent considerable time and effort investigating what needs to be done and weighing different options.

The current arrangement is unsatisfactory. There is effectively only one entrance/exit at the front of the sanctuary, and a low window, also in the front. We need to install a second entrance and create a safe space. The committee recommended the following specific changes:

- 1) Install a new metal entry door at the southwest corner of the sanctuary.
- 2) Remove the low window in the sanctuary and close up the wall.
- 3) Replace the existing sanctuary entry door with a metal door with a push-bar allowing exit only.
- 4) Install a narrow observation window in the northwest corner of the sanctuary,
- 5) Remove the exterior door to the small bathroom.
- 6) Replace the door between the kitchen and laundry room with a metal door.
- 7) Install a new gate between the shed and house.

The entry door at the back of the sanctuary will be provided with a narrow vertical door light for observation, a mechanical keypad push button lock, and dead bolt. We hope that these changes will enhance security at the shul, but, of course, nothing is 100% foolproof.

Congregants will enter the shul from the rear of the sanctuary and will be required to know the keypad code in order to enter the shul. Whenever we have services, a volunteer will monitor the entryway. Although in the past we have had a completely open-door policy, regrettably, this is no longer possible. Jewish institutions all over the country have updated their security arrangements and are controlling access.

At our last Board meeting the recommendations of the Safety Committee were approved, including spending \$12,000 of our 2019 budget for the security improvements described above. We have signed an agreement with David Zarzycki, a general contractor, to do the work. We are making every effort to keep the costs as low as possible. Our yearly income from donations and membership dues usually matches our ordinary expenditures, so we think it is essential that we ask our members and friends to make an extra contribution this spring to help pay for the security improvements. So far, we have raised \$3,900. Tax-deductible donations should be made payable to "Ahavas Torah" and designated "for security." Please contact us if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Baruch HaLevi, Safety Committee Chair

George Tanner, Secretary



SUNDAY SCHMOOZE WITH RABBI OZER



FASCINATING INSIGHTS ON THE WEEKLY TORAH PORTION

Every Sunday, 10:30am at Family Moszkowski 1208 E 19th Avenue
Come try Leah's delicious baking!

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Serving the Jewish community in Eugene, Oregon