



May, June 2022

Congregation House of Israel

30 Nisan - 1 Tammuz, 5782



Jewish Federation\*  
OF ARKANSAS

THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLE.  
THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.



### **We've Worked in Ukraine for Decades**

Ukraine's estimated 200,000 Jews rely on the strong presence built up through years of Federation support that is today serving as a lifeline for the community. Through our partner agencies JDC, The Jewish Agency for Israel, and World ORT, we're there on the ground every day of the year, helping the most vulnerable and supporting programming to help younger generations reimagine Jewish life where it was all but destroyed. Learn more about our work in Ukraine, [here](#).

### **But Today, The Need is Different**

As the crisis in Ukraine escalates, thousands have come under fire in areas across the country. Thousands more have fled the fighting. Federations are planning to allocate millions of dollars to our partner agencies on the ground. Immediate and short-term needs already total about \$20 million.

### **Emergency funding will focus on:**

- Helping people make Aliyah to Israel
- Securing the local community and its institutions
- Maintaining critical welfare services
- Assisting internally displaced people in multiple

locations.

- Launching an emergency hotline

- Securing temporary housing for people in transit
- Purchasing satellite phones to maintain communications across the region

- Securing five Jewish schools and training staff to manage crisis needs

It is because we're always there, day after day, year after year, that we can deliver hope and help now when it is so desperately needed!

By donating directly through JFNA your assistance will go quickly to our partner agencies on the ground in Ukraine.

Our Ukrainian brothers and sisters are counting on you. Will you join me and the Jewish Federation of Arkansas in showing your support?

<https://jewishfederations.org/crisis-in-ukraine2022>

**ACT NOW!**

## Thank You

We would like to thank the following donors (as of April 20, 2022)

### General Fund

**Sheldon and Caol Kleinman**

*In loving memory of Irvin Kleinman*

*In loving memory of Marvin Barenblatt*

**Anthony and Sherrill Nicolosi**

*In loving memory of Clay Farrar, Jr.*

*In loving memory of Sally Friedlander Boley*

*In appreciation of Rabbi Shelly*

**Millie Baron**

*In loving memory of Marvin Barenblatt*

### Sisterhood Fund

**Jerry and Fran Rephan**

*In loving memory of Bernard Rephan*

**Steven and Clarissa Kirsch**

*In loving memory of Sam Kirsch*

*In loving memory of Serena Kirsch*

### The Shofar

Published monthly by:

Congregation House of Israel

PO Box 20802

300 Quapaw

Hot Springs, AR 71903

(501) 623-5821

Website: <http://hschi.org>

Editor: Shelly Kleinman

Webmaster: Shelly Kleinman

Editorial Assistance: Anita Williams

Email to: [info@hschi.org](mailto:info@hschi.org)

Submissions due the 15th of the prior month.  
Distributed free to members, prospective members, local clergy and other interested parties.

## Jews In the News

By Sherrill Nicolosi

With the 24 hour news cycle, we are able to see major current events as they happen, or within minutes of the occurrence. The good news is that there are always stories of benevolence and kindness by and for Jews, in this country and throughout the world. The bad news is that Jews are often the target of disturbing and violent acts of malevolence, to a greater degree than some other ethnic and religious groups.

Recently, we have had some good news about Jews. Earlier this year, comedic actor, writer, and director, Mel Brooks, released his memoir, *All About Me! My Remarkable Life In Show Business*. As with almost all of his past endeavors, the book is proving to be another triumph for the 95 year old Brooks, much of whose humor is based on Jewish experiences

The late Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died in 2020, will be honored by the U.S. Navy, when a ship

will be named for her. In doing so, Secretary of the Navy, Carlos Del Toro, stated that "RBG" will be remembered for her contributions to the advancements in civil and human rights, women's rights, and gender equality.

On April 1, 2022, Justice Ginsburg posthumously received the Smithsonian National Museum Of American History "Greatest Americans Medal" award for her extraordinary leadership.

Israeli Prime Minister, Naftali Bennett, met in Negev with U.S. Secretary Of State, Anthony Blinkin, and world leaders from Egypt, Morocco, U.A.E., and Bahrain. The leaders jointly condemned the terrorist attacks in Israel, which resulted in multiple incidents of terrorist murders in the week of March 30, 2022.

Ending on a more positive note, many American Jews and Christians gathered to celebrate Passover, each religious group reflecting on the importance of the holiday. In the coming months, may we be blessed to see more good news of Jews, and fewer devastating stories of Jews in the news.

## Reb Shelly's Desk



How are the Oscars a Jewish issue?

In Deuteronomy, we are taught that if a person dies in open land and the identity of the slayer is unknown, the elders and magistrates of the two

closest towns have to be brought to the scene of the crime. The elders of the town closest to the corpse have to take part in a ritual and are responsible for washing the body of the corpse. All the elders must then make the declaration, "our hands did not shed this blood, nor did our eyes see it done." The question looms, what is the significance of this ceremony? What is the purpose of requiring the elders of two cities to participate in a ritual together over a corpse than neither town recognized?

In grappling with this question, our rabbis understood it as a form of communal atonement for a tragedy. How is it that a person walked through a town without being noticed or greeted and offered food and shelter? Even if the town was not directly responsible for this individual's death, what responsibility should the town have taken when a stranger visits?

Our rabbis are focused on the responsibility of the community to come to the aid of one another. The town may not have directly murdered the victim, but in neglecting to address problems such as hunger and safety, they are indeed responsible.

Back to the Oscars, let's look at two incidents that took place that can be understood through the lens of this part of the Torah.

First, how does one respond when they experience a joke made at their expense or at the expense of someone they love? Is violence the answer? Moses learned that one should never hit a rock, but rather should talk to it. But that isn't what happened this past week. Rather than take a deep breath after being offended by a joke made about a medical condition of Jada Pinkett

*Continued on page 6*

## Sisterhood



Passover is one of my favorite holidays. Perhaps, because in addition to the celebration of our ancestor's rebirth as free people, Passover is also a celebration of Spring. Spring of course, is the season for rebirth and all around us winter is ending, the azaleas are blooming,

yards are being cleaned and mulched, gardens turned and seeds planted. Our seven days of Passover observance, seems perfectly aligned with an article I read recently in *Psychology Today*, citing seven rituals for spring renewal to better balance our lives. The author suggests we re-group, re-prioritize and re-invent ourselves spiritually. Her article suggests decluttering your living space as well as mental and emotional clutter. Perhaps start a practice like a time-out for walking to clear your mind, yoga or mediation. Begin something new, a discipline that will help ensure you embrace mindfulness into your life. Explore your creativity, learn a new language, seek to fulfill a dream. Maybe spend more time outdoors, plant a garden, take a trip. Life moves so quickly; we have to find ways to quiet our minds and seek quality time for ourselves and to appreciate those we love. Psychologists and our Sages of old, tell us to honor this beautiful season, refreshing our lives, metaphorically pruning the dead wood so new growth can be achieved. For me, the tasks described in the article are ones I also pursued during Covid and perhaps Spring is reminding me I'm not finished! Passover and Spring say reflect! Be grateful for the gift of new life and new opportunity. The month of Nisan, when Passover falls is also the month for this blessing. "Blessed are You, Lord our G-d, sovereign of the Universe, who has made nothing lacking in this world, and created in it goodly creatures and goodly trees for humans to enjoy." May we enjoy and appreciate this season of Sunshine and each work together in our own small way, to bring a sense of order and purpose to our lives, our future and the world. Amen

We will enjoy a summer re-birth in mid-August when our Sisterhood resumes our ritual of monthly in person Sisterhood meetings. Our treasurer, Ruth Sedler will provide instructions by mail for updating your membership and we will meet in person on Monday, August 15th. Please mark your calendars and join us as we gather for a new year of community and friendship!

## ARZA - World Union

Imagine for a moment that you are an Israeli couple who wants to get married but not through the Chief Rabbinate. Now imagine that instead of hopping a plane to Cyprus or waiting for a visa to clear to the U.S. for a long-overdue trip – which would include a stop-over at city hall for a short and meaningless perfunctory marriage – one could simply pop into any foreign Consulate or Embassy in Tel Aviv or Herzliya and get married. Technically, each Embassy and Consulate is a sovereign entity of the country it represents, so why not?

This not-quite-believable concept is the conciliatory prize proposed this week by Religious Affairs Minister Matan Kahana of the Yamina party. Having pushed through reforms on Kashrut regulation and Conversion (keeping both strictly according to Orthodox rabbinic supervision, merely breaking the stronghold of the Chief Rabbinate over personal status issues), Kahana has set his sights on allowing civil marriage in an embassy or consulate of your choice. This is, on the surface, a positive development, yet it comes with a huge price tag: The Law of Return.

No, not canceling it but severely amending it.

The Law of Return was passed into law in 1950 clearly stating that “Every Jew has the right to come to this country as an *oleh* (immigrant).” However, in 1970 the law was amended, adding a critical clause:

4A. (a) The rights of a Jew under this Law and the rights of an *oleh* under the Nationality Law, 5712-1952\*\*\*, as well as the rights of an *oleh* under any other enactment, are also vested in a child and a grandchild of a Jew, the spouse of a Jew, the spouse of a child of a Jew, and the spouse of a grandchild of a Jew, except for a person who has been a Jew and has voluntarily changed his religion.

Known as the “Grandchild clause”, this clause means that anyone with at least one Jewish grandparent can claim citizenship in the State of Israel whether they themselves identify as Jewish or not. Said to have been inspired by the Nazi Nuremberg laws of 1935, the prevailing notion was that if someone could be killed for being Jewish, then the Jewish State would welcome them as a citizen. This clause was particularly emphasized during the 1990s when over one million immigrants made their way to Israel after the collapse of the Soviet Union, many of

whom would not be considered Jewish by Orthodox standards.

Minister Kahana had previously vetoed the consular marriage bill, originally proposed by MK Sharren Haskel (New Hope Party), but reportedly said he could support consular marriages in exchange for repealing the 1970 grandchild amendment to the Law of Return. Kahana believes that the repeal of the grandchild’s clause is critical to maintaining the Jewish character of the state.

His first major speech in the Knesset as the appointed Minister of Religious Affairs was downplayed as it came just an hour before the now-infamous swearing-in ceremony and inaugural speech of PM Bennett. In his speech, Kahana delivered a thundering rebuke to the various ultra-Orthodox MKs, who themselves never spent a day in uniform defending the country in which they serve as legislators, and who had been castigating incoming Prime Minister Bennett and his new coalition as anti-Jewish, wicked, and a direct threat to the integrity and character of Israel as a Jewish state:

“Who are you to teach us about fearing Heaven?” Kahana demanded of the ultra-Orthodox legislators from the Knesset podium. “Who are you to lecture us about sanctifying God’s name? You should be ashamed of yourselves. Your behavior is the worst imaginable desecration of God’s name.”

“When did you ever get special permission to pray the Amidah (Standing) while lying down in an [IDF] ambush, in the pouring rain and bitter cold?” Kahana asked furiously. “When did you ever pray to God before going into battle?”

MK Rabbi Gilad Kariv, Israel’s first Reform rabbi Member of Knesset and chairman of the Knesset Constitution, Law and Justice Committee, sees the idea of amending the Law of Return as crossing over a firm red line:

“This is an idea that undermines basic Zionist principles and shows an absolute disconnect from the challenges facing the Jewish people in the 21st century,” said the Labor lawmaker in a statement Monday.

“Freedom of choice in marriage and divorce should be promoted without any connection to the Law of Return or any other issue. The current monopoly exercised by the Rabbinate and the rabbinical courts harms both the basic rights of Israeli citizens and

*Continued on page 6*



## Congregation House of Israel Board of Directors

Rabbi Sheldon "Shelly" Kleinman  
501-282-0055  
[rebshelly@hschi.org](mailto:rebshelly@hschi.org)

Ira Kleinman, President  
501-520-1323  
[irakleinman@hotmail.com](mailto:irakleinman@hotmail.com)

Michael Richardson, Vice President  
903-278-6453  
[maheegan@aol.com](mailto:maheegan@aol.com)

Glenda Kirsch, Secretary  
281-458-2655  
[ghkirsch@hotmail.com](mailto:ghkirsch@hotmail.com)

Hal Koppel, Treasurer  
501-525-3238  
[hjkkrew@yahoo.com](mailto:hjkkrew@yahoo.com)

Patti Fleischner, Sisterhood  
501-321-2441  
[fleischnerp@gmail.com](mailto:fleischnerp@gmail.com)

Yossi Baron  
501-655-1280  
[kimyossibaron@yahoo.com](mailto:kimyossibaron@yahoo.com)

Sherrill Nicolosi  
501-984-1517  
[sherrill@thevillagelawyer.com](mailto:sherrill@thevillagelawyer.com)

Dennis Williams,  
870-230-3529  
[jwmenschl@gmail.com](mailto:jwmenschl@gmail.com)

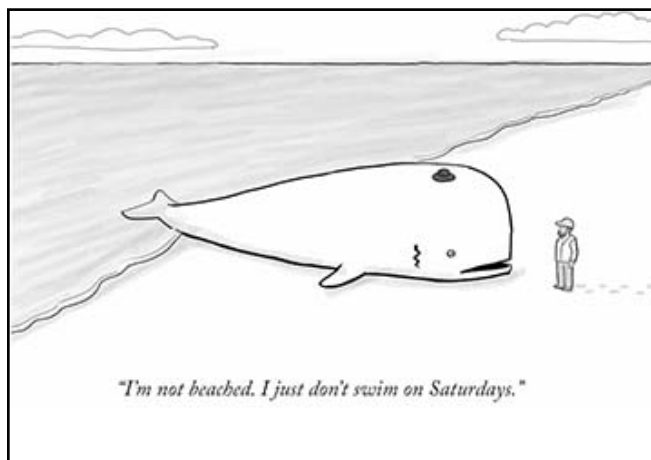
David D. Reagler, Past President  
870-208-4495  
[daviddavisreagler@gmail.com](mailto:daviddavisreagler@gmail.com)

## Sophie Wins Again



2021 Henry Glover Songwriting Competition winner, singer and songwriter **Sophie Laura** (**Fleischner**) will perform numbers including her winning entry "Does Your Girlfriend Know" at the event.

Since winning the Inaugural Henry Glover Award for songwriting, **Sophie Laura** is now working with top music industry professionals to launch a career that combines her unique abilities as a singer, songwriter, producer and performer.



## Rabbi's Desk

*Continued from page 3*

Smith; Will Smith went on stage and slapped Chris Rock across his face and responded with some expletives.

There are a couple of nuanced issues at play here: should Chris have made a joke about someone's medical condition in the first place? Clearly, Judaism wouldn't support that kind of comedy. According to Judaism, Rock made an inappropriate joke. However, is it appropriate to respond with physical violence? Judaism teaches that while violence is sometimes necessary, first, there has to be a genuine attempt to make peace and avoid conflict.

The second incident from the Oscars was between Liza Minnelli and Lady Gaga. The two legends entered the stage together to present the final award of the evening. When Minnelli, in a wheelchair, appeared to have a little trouble reading the teleprompter, Lady Gaga had her back, helping her finish her line. Then, Lady Gaga leaned down to Minnelli and quietly whispered, "I got you." "I know," Minnelli was heard whispering back, "Thank you."

This sweet moment illustrates what it means to accept responsibility for one another. Lady Gaga and Minnelli were each given specific roles on stage and Gaga could easily have allowed Liza Minnelli to get flustered or acted in a condescending way toward the aging woman.

Just like in the case of the corpse in between two towns, Lady Gaga could have said, "well, this person's self-respect is not my responsibility." But she didn't go that route. Instead, in their classy ways – these women supported one another and helped each other get to the finish line.

These two moments at the Oscars force us to look deep into our souls and ask how much responsibility we take for the outsiders, or the ones who fall through the cracks?

Do we respond with violence, or with thoughtfulness?

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### May Anniversaries

Jerry and Fran Rephan	May 3
Les and Diana Surfas	May 18
Dennis and Anita Williams	May 25
Larry and Carol Levi	May 27

### June Anniversaries

Ira and Stephanie Kleinman	June 8
Mark and Patti Fleischner	June 12
Anthony & Sherrill Nicolosi	June 14
Mary Klompus	June 15
Ross and Ruth Sedler	June 16
David and Cheryl Cohen	June 27

### May Birthdays

Ira Kleinman	May 13
Mark Fleischner	May 14
Sharon Waxler	May 14
Elaine Wolken	May 16
Patti Fleischner	May 17
Glenda Kirsch	May 23
Rachel Schulman	May 26

### June Birthdays

Clarissa Kirsch	June 1
Sheldon Kleinman	June 4
Michael Richardson	June 4
Carol Kleinman	June 8
Andrea Parker	June 9
Randy Lewis	June 12
Mary Klompus	June 20
David Cohen	June 21
Yossi Baron	June 28

## Refuah Shelemah

*The following people are in our thoughts and prayers for healing:*

*Ken Baim  
Sam Banks  
Mitch Boley  
Hy Fishman  
David Kirsch  
Pat McCarthy  
Mike Richardson  
Misty Stricklin  
Steven West  
Anita Williams*

Please offer prayers that they all have a full and speedy recovery.



## ARZA - World Union

*Continued from page 4*

the status of Jewish tradition in Israeli society.”

Intelligence Minister Eliezer Stern (from the Yesh Atid party) also said on Twitter that he would object to such a compromise.

“The ‘grandchild clause’ is of strategic importance to Diaspora Jewry and Israel. It was not and will not be negotiable in this government.”

### Is this good for the Jews?

Yes... and, No.

Any progress in moving towards changing the ‘Status Quo’ on marriage (and other life cycles/personal status issues) is a good thing. As our readers are no doubt aware, the current situation is that Jews wishing to marry non-Jews or same-sex partners must travel to another country — often nearby Cyprus — to do so. This is true for anyone wishing to marry outside the framework of the Rabbinate. It is the same for Christians wanting to marry Muslims — or anyone marrying outside of their own religious group.

However, amending the Law of Return will cause considerable damage and will continue to play into the monopoly of the ultra-Orthodox political parties on the “Who Is A Jew?” question.

While this unusual proposal of linking civil marriage in a foreign embassy or consulate within Israel to the Law of Return is unlikely to pass, it is certainly causing more than a small ripple in the ebb and flow of the relationship between Judaism and the Jewish State. As Reform Jews and as the largest Zionist Movement in North America, our voices are critical here. Ours are the voices calling for Israel to be a Jewish State and to continue to reimagine what it means to be Jewish in the Jewish State, to remind the government that our Movement is providing legitimate answers to the biggest questions concerning the nature of Jewish identity and the Jewish character of the state. Our Reform rabbis are increasingly regarded by many Israelis as religious authorities and as authentic conduits of Jewish tradition and expression. We are leading a broad-sweeping coalition of those who want the government to foster a panoply of options and to recognize that in a democracy no one group can dictate observance.

## May, June Yahrzeits

### Kaddish Recited May 6

**Carol Crow Nanez**  
*Member of Chi*

**Mark Cohen**  
*Father of David Cohen*

**Samuel Kirsch**  
*Grandfather of Steven Kirsch*  
*Grandfather of Mark Fleischner*  
*Grandfather of Stuart Fleischner*

### Kaddish Recited May 13

**Serena Kirsch**  
*Mother of Steven Kirsch*

**Frances Koppel**  
*Mother of Hal Koppel*

**Helen Kleinman**  
*Mother-in-law of Betty Kleinman*  
*Grandmother of Ira Kleinman*

**Nathan Davis**  
*Grandfather of David D. Reagler*  
*Grandfather of Rachel Schulman*

### Kaddish Recited May 20

**Louise Levi**  
*Mother of Larry Levi*

### Kaddish Recited May 27

**Morris Reagler**  
*Grandfather of David D. Reagler*  
*Grandfather of Rachel Schulman*

**Shirley Sedler**  
*Mother of Ross Sedler*

**Irwin Kleinman**  
*Brother of Sheldon Kleinman*

**George Thronton Ginsburg**  
*Brother of Millie Baron*

**Norman "Dick" Franklin**  
*Step-father of David Cohen*

### Kaddish Recited June 3

**Annie Marcus**  
*Grandmother of Carol Kleinman*

**Nancy Kleinman**  
*Mother of Sheldon Kleinman*

### Kaddish Recited June 10

**Dora Korngut**  
*Mother of Fred Korngut*

**Tillie Creim**  
*Great-aunt of David D. Reagler*  
*Great-aunt of Rachel Schulman*

**Faye Kirsch**  
*Grandmother of Steven Kirsch*  
*Grandmother of Mark Fleischner*  
*Grandmother of Stuart Fleischner*

**David Lockwood**  
*Grandfather of Susan Siegel*  
*Grandfather of Diane Goltz*

### Kaddish Recited June 17

**Tikva Baron**  
*Mother of Yossi Baron*

**Charles Bellin**  
*Father of Ruth Sedler*

**Estee Klompus**  
*Mother-in-law of Mary Klompus*

*Note: There are no member yahrzeits the week of June 24*



# May Parshiot

## Kedoshim

May 7, 2022

The parshah of Kedoshim begins with the statement: “You shall be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy.” This is followed by dozens of mitzvot (divine commandments) through which the Jew sanctifies him-or-herself and relates to the holiness of God.

These include: the prohibition against idolatry, the mitzvah of charity, the principle of equality before the law, Shabbat, sexual morality, honesty in business, honor and awe of one’s parents, and the sacredness of life.

Also in Kedoshim is the dictum which the great sage Rabbi Akiva called a cardinal principle of Torah, and of which Hillel said, “This is the entire Torah, the rest is commentary”—“Love your fellow as yourself.”

## Emor

May 14, 2022

The second part of Emdr lists the annual Callings of Holiness—the festivals of the Jewish calendar: the weekly Shabbat; the bringing of the Passover offering on 14 Nissan; the seven-day Passover festival beginning on 15 Nissan; the bringing of the Omer offering from the first barley harvest on the second day of Passover, and the commencement, on that day, of the 49-day Counting of the Omer, culminating in the festival of Shavuot on the fiftieth day; a “remembrance of shofar blowing” on 1 Tishrei; a solemn fast day on 10 Tishrei; the Sukkot festival—during which we are to dwell in huts for seven days and take the “Four Kinds”—beginning on 15 Tishrei; and the immediately following holiday of the “eighth day” of Sukkot (Shemini Atzeret).

Next the Torah discusses the lighting of the menorah in the Temple, and the showbread (lechem hapanim) placed weekly on the table there.

## Behar

May 21, 2022

G-d promises that if the people of Israel will keep His commandments, they will enjoy material prosperity and dwell secure in their homeland. But He also delivers a harsh “rebuke,” warning of the exile, persecution and other evils that will befall them if they abandon their covenant with Him.

Nevertheless, “Even when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away; nor will I ever abhor them, to destroy them and to break My covenant with them; for I am the L-rd their God.”

The Parshah concludes with the rules on how to calculate the value of different types of pledges made to G-d, and the mitzvah of tithing produce and livestock.”



(c) 1999 Sarah Kraus

to destroy them and to break My covenant with them; for I am the Lord their God.”

## Bechukotai

May 28, 2022

God promises that if the people of Israel will keep His commandments, they will enjoy material prosperity and dwell secure in their homeland. But He also delivers a harsh “rebuke,” warning of the exile, persecution and other evils that will befall them if they abandon their covenant with Him.

Nevertheless, “Even when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away; nor will I ever abhor them,

## June Parshiot

### Bamidbar

**June 4, 2022**

In the Sinai Desert, God says to conduct a census of the twelve tribes of Israel. Moses counts 603,550 men of draftable age (20 to 60 years); the tribe of Levi, numbering 22,300 males age one month and older, is counted separately.

The Levites are to serve in the Sanctuary, replacing the firstborn, whose number they approximated, who were disqualified when they participated in the worshipping of the Golden Calf. The 273 firstborn who lacked a Levite to replace them had to pay a five-shekel “ransom” to redeem themselves.

### Naso

**June 11, 2022**

Completing the headcount of the Children of Israel taken in the Sinai Desert, a total of 8,580 Levite men between the ages of 30 and 50 are counted in a tally of those who will be doing the actual work of transporting the Tabernacle.

God communicates to Moses the law of the sotah, the wayward wife suspected of unfaithfulness to her husband. Also given is the law of the nazir, who forswears wine, lets his or her hair grow long, and is forbidden to become contaminated through contact with a dead body. Aaron and his descendants, the kohanim, are instructed on how to bless the people of Israel.

### Behaloscha

**June 18, 2022**

A “Second Passover” is instituted in response to the petition, “Why should we be deprived?” by a group of Jews who were unable to bring the Passover offering in its appointed time because they were ritually impure. God instructs Moses on the procedures for Israel’s journeys and encampments in the desert, and the people journey in formation from Mount Sinai, where they had been camped for nearly a year.

The people are dissatisfied with their “bread from heaven” (the manna), and demand that Moses supply them with meat. Moses appoints 70 elders,

to whom he imparts of his spirit, to assist him in the burden of governing the people. Miriam speaks negatively of Moses, and is punished with leprosy; Moses prays for her healing, and the entire community waits seven days for her recovery.



### Shlach

**June 25, 2022**

Moses sends twelve spies to the land of Canaan. Forty days later they return, carrying a huge cluster of grapes, a pomegranate and a

fig, to report on a lush and bountiful land. But ten of the spies warn that the inhabitants of the land are giants and warriors “more powerful than we”; only Caleb and Joshua insist that the land can be conquered, as G-d has commanded.

The people weep that they’d rather return to Egypt. God decrees that Israel’s entry into the Land shall be delayed forty years, during which time that entire generation will die out in the desert.