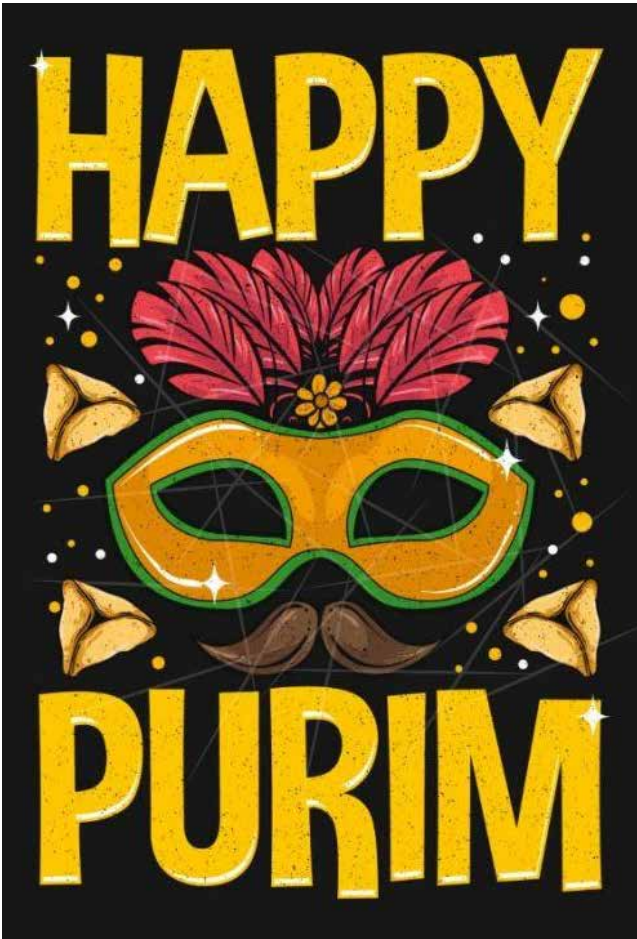




The Shofar

Mar-Apr, 2025 Congregation House of Israel 1 Adar - 2 Iyar, 5785



March 14, 2025



April 13 - 20, 2025

See Sisterhood article on page 3 for details

Thank You

We would like to thank the following donors (as of February 20, 2025)

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The Shofar

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Mark Levin Interview With Bibi Netanyahu

Submitted by Sherrill Nicolosi

Author, television and radio talk show host, and producer, Mark Levin, interviewed Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, on his "Life, Liberty and Levin" television program, February 8, 2025. The hour long telecast primarily focused on the October 7, 2023 savage and unprovoked attack on Israel by Hamas, although other subjects were discussed: the rise in anti-Semitism in the U.S., especially on college and university campuses, the current hostage situation, and the Prime Minister's take on "peace through strength".

Benjamin Netanyahu, age 75, is Israel's longest serving prime minister, since Israel's independence. In the television interview, Mr. Netanyahu stated, "Israel has no greater friend than America... and America has no greater friend than Israel". Mr. Levin pointed out that since the October 7th brutal

assault by Hamas on the Israeli people, many major changes have occurred in the Middle East. Prime Minister Netanyahu agreed with the interviewer, including Levin's statements that Hamas "is almost finished" and "Hezbollah is on its back".

Prime Minister Netanyahu called Hamas and Hezbollah "two tentacles of the toxic Iranian octopus", and that the Israel-Hamas War had resulted in a weakened Iranian Axis of Terror.

Mark Levin, who is Jewish and a staunch defender of Israel, asked where the prime minister got his strength. In addition to his wife, Sara, and his two sons, he stated his strength comes from his people, the courage of his soldiers and warriors, and the Jewish people who will not allow Israel to be lost to monsters.

The interview concluded with Mr. Netanyahu stating he will not be deterred and that Israel will forever be strong.

Reb Shelly's Desk



What Would Golda Do?

– by Eli L. Garfinkel

I recently read an article, the source of which escapes me, in which the author rightly criticized PM Benjamin Netanyahu's government. He memorably articulated his wish that the current government search the Knesset and "find the box in which Golda Meir's balls are hidden."

I tried looking for the quote by simply Googling that phrase. It turns out that Israel's fourth prime minister also had a matzah ball soup recipe, so that search turned out to be fruitless. Regardless of the source, the author is right. Israel—and the Jewish people as a whole—desperately need Golda Meir's brass balls.

Known as "the only man in Ben Gurion's cabinet," she had a well-earned reputation for being tougher than a diamond. Though her tenure was rocky as a result of the Yom Kippur War, she is nonetheless revered as a founder of the nation and an inspiration for all Jews.

Israel's 77th Independence Day will be a very difficult one. In more peaceful conditions, the holiday (known in Hebrew as Yom Ha'atzma'ut) features parades, cookouts, military flyovers, and a general feeling of joy. It is held immediately after Yom HaZikkaron, Israel's solemn Memorial Day,

when the nation honors the 25,000+ soldiers and others who have given their lives for the sake of the world's only Jewish state.

There may very well be some normal celebrations, but they will be muted. It will be hard to celebrate while the war continues and Israel's hostages are still in Hamas's captivity.

Though we will understandably mute the celebration of Israeli Independence Day under these circumstances, we must also boost the volume of this day's message. This time, we must focus on the meaning of Israeli Independence rather than its well-deserved joy.

And what, pray tell, is the meaning of Israeli Independence Day? We'll get that straight from the mouth of Golda Meir:

"On the question of 'to be or not to be?' each nation is required to come up with its answer in accordance with its customs. It is not possible for the Jews—and it is indeed forbidden for them—to ever depend upon someone else's permission to stay alive."

That is why we need an independent, free, and strong State of Israel. Without Israel, Jews will always have to ask, and sometimes beg, other people for the right merely to exist. In Israel, Jews do not ask anyone for permission to live.

I know, times feel rough for the Jewish people right now. There are micro-pogroms on our college campuses. A small but vocal minority in America

Continued on page 9

Sisterhood



We have two upcoming events in the next couple of months.

First, Sisterhood will host an expanded Oneg for Purim on March 14 at 5:30 p.m. Please feel free to wear your favorite Purim costume and play along with the

reading of the "whole Megillah" during our regular Shabbat worship time that evening. No reservations are required.

Second, our Congregational Seder will be held on Saturday, April 12 at 5:00 p.m. in Burgauer Hall. Our Sisterhood Treasurer, Ruth Sedler, has emailed information about the Seder. As Ruth stated in her email, reservations must be made by Friday, April 4 so we can plan for the correct number of people.

Please get your reservations and payment in to her as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for planning now and making your reservation early.

Standing Again at Sinai: Our Moment to Shape the Future.

By Rabbi Josh Weinberg

“There we were all in one place, a generation lost in space...” We stood together as an entire nation, waiting to be transformed.

Our tradition teaches that all Jews—past, present, and future—stood at the foot of Mt. Sinai to receive the Torah. This formative moment of revelation was so crucial to our collective narrative that even Jews who did not yet exist had to witness it directly.

Standing at Sinai was the quintessential formative moment of the Jewish people in our ancient past, and I maintain that Zionism and the establishment of the State of Israel were the formative moments of our people in the modern era. Zionism forever altered a wide variety of characteristics of the Jewish people and stressed that all aspects of Jewish culture – languages, religion, communal institutions, educational structures, and traditions – are the manifestations of Jewish national life, evolving over the centuries and coming to us today.

The voting will open for the World Zionist Congress elections in less than four weeks. We, the Reform Movement, have an opportunity to make a major impact in Israel and the Jewish world on behalf of our Jewish values of equality, justice, freedom, pluralism, justice, democracy, and peace.

Your vote will give us power and influence, essential funding for our Reform Movement in Israel, and the ability to advocate for our values in the Jewish State and worldwide. This is the moment when we proactively take control of our destiny and direction. Just like when we interpret Torah to adapt to the modern world, we also have a chance to craft and shape Zionism in the 21st century.

Many of us have spent so much time and energy over the past nearly 500 days making the case for Israel, defending Israel’s right to exist and defend itself, while also tirelessly advocating for the values of Redeeming the Captives and pressing for an immediate return of all hostages, humanitarian aid for Palestinians, and speaking out against antisemitism and undue criticism in our communities across the ocean.

As we watch the haunting images of those who have returned from Hamas captivity over the past few weeks, we know that we must do everything we can to speak out in favor of bringing home the remaining 76 hostages still languishing in unspeakable inhumane conditions.

This is a moment that demands we raise our voices and be counted among the multitudes of the Jewish people, to be counted and to be part of something bigger than ourselves.

Reflecting on our ancient past, the revelation at Mt. Sinai and receiving the Torah transformed us from a ragtag group of former slaves into what Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan famously coined a civilization. With the Torah we now have the context for our collective narrative, our master story of who we are as a people, where we came from, as well as a set of rules, precepts, values, and a moral code for how we live our lives.

Sinai was a pivotal moment in Jewish history when we came together as a spiritual nation to support a common cause for the first time. While the Torah defined us as a people, no other event in Jewish history was able to change the face of our history until Zionism emerged in the late 19th century and the State of Israel was established in 1948. These three monumental events (Sinai – Zionism – Israel) are defining moments in Jewish history, symbolizing divine destiny and our national renewal. At Sinai, the Israelites received the Torah, forged their covenant with God, and united the people through a shared faith and moral code. In contrast, Zionism and the founding of the State were political and nationalist movements that aimed to restore Jewish sovereignty in our people’s ancestral Homeland after centuries of exile. While Sinai emphasized divine intervention and required the people’s obedience to God’s commandments, Zionism was driven by human initiative, political activism, and a response to persecution. However, Sinai and Israel share the theme of redemption—Sinai through spiritual enlightenment and the clarification of our people’s moral values and Israel’s establishment through national self-determination—highlighting our enduring Jewish aspiration for unity, security, and purpose.

Despite their differences, both Mount Sinai and Zionism/Israel reflect the deep connection between the Jewish people, our faith, and our land. Religious Zionists (including Reform Zionists) regard the modern State of Israel as a continuation of the covenant made at Sinai and the continuation of the

Continued on page 6

Holocaust Remembrance Day”

&

“Yom HaShoah Memorial Day”

Whereas, the Holocaust was the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and extermination of six million Jews, along with millions of other innocent victims, by the Nazi regime and its collaborators between 1933 and 1945; and

Whereas, International Holocaust Remembrance Day, observed annually on January 27, marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau and serves as a solemn reminder of the atrocities of the Holocaust and the importance of combating antisemitism, hatred, and prejudice in all forms; and

Whereas, Yom HaShoah, will be observed this year on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, and commemorated in Hot Springs on Thursday, April 24, 2025, as a day of remembrance for the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust, as well as millions of other targeted groups, and a day to honor the survivors who continue to share their stories of resilience; and

Whereas, the City of Hot Springs recognizes the significance of remembering and educating future generations about the Holocaust to ensure that such atrocities are never repeated; and

Whereas, through remembrance, we reaffirm our commitment to stand against hate, discrimination, and injustice, and we honor the memory of those who perished by promoting tolerance, respect, and peace among all people.

Now, Therefore, I, Pat McCabe, Mayor of the City of Hot Springs, on behalf of the entire Board of Directors, do hereby proclaim January 27, 2025, as

International Holocaust Remembrance Day

and further proclaim April 23 & 24, 2025, as

Yom HaShoah Holocaust Memorial Day

in Hot Springs, Arkansas, and call upon the residents of Hot Springs to observe these days with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and educational activities to honor the memory of the victims and to renew our resolve to prevent such atrocities in the future.

In Witness, Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City to be affixed on this 21st day of January in the year of our Lord, two thousand twenty-five.

Yom HaShoah proclamation by City of Hot Springs -- See photo on page 6

----- H A N U K K A H P R O G R A M -----

I. "ALICE IN HANUKKAH LAND"
(The Fantasia "Alice In Hanukkah Land", Includes:
The Children's Choir -- Interpretive Dances,
Instrumental Offerings -----Recitations)

CAST:

Samuel Baim	Irving Greenberg	Jimmy Mahaffey
Barbara Botnick	Barry Gurdin	Jerry Rephan
Claire Brockman	Linda Kallsnick	Sydney Gale Rephan
Diane Brockman	Richard Kallsnick	Ellen Schwartz
Lynn Brockman	Samuel Kallsnick	Joseph Sharkey
Paula Darch	Sharon Kallsnick	Sandra Sharkey
Sandy Fidelman	Sue Kallsnick	Beverly Sherman
Mark Fleishner	Mickey Kirsch	Morry Silverman
Dianne Goltz	Steven Kirsch	Ricky Silverman
Jimmy Gottlieb	Suzanne Kirsch	Robert Stone
Julie Gottlieb	Janet Kleinman	Suzanne Stone
Linda Gottlieb	Alan Lax	Sandy Thalheimer
Maurice Gottlieb	David Lockwood	Marty Uzick
Mitzi Gottlieb	Keryl Lockwood	Beryl Wise
Bobby Greenberg	Danny Longacre	

II. THE SPIRIT OF AMERICAN ISRAEL

III. BLESSING OF THE HANUKKAH CANDLES
(Every child will have a part in these presentations)

IV. HYMN, "ROCK OF AGES" (Words,p.4) Congregation

V. A HANUKKAH SURPRISE.

VI. RECEPTION

Hanukkah Program from Temple House of Israel,
Hot Springs, AR, December 22, 1957



Our thanks to Millie Baron for providing this "Historic" CHI program reminder



*Photo at City of Hot Springs Yom HaShoah proclamation ceremony, January 21, 2025
(L- R) Dudley Webb, Rabbi Shelly, Mayor Pat McCabe, Stuart Fleischner, David
and Glenda Kirsch, Mark Fleischner*

Jewish Trivia for March and April

March

March 15, 1896: 63 Jewish Civil War veterans meet in New York City and established the Hebrew Union Veterans, an organization that continues today as Jewish War Veterans.

March 25, 1911: In the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire, in New York City, 146 workers, mostly Jewish women, perished.

March 18, 1922: Judith Kaplan Eisenstein, first woman to become Bat Mitzvah

March 30, 1945: Major General Maurice Rose, the highest ranking Jewish officer in World War II is killed in Germany while on patrol.

March 17, 1969: Golda Meir is named Israeli Prime Minister.

Deceased

March 23, 1964: Peter Lorre, actor

March 5, 1974: Sol Hurok, impresario

March 28, 1985: Marc Chagall, artist

March 3, 1987: Danny Kaye, actor

March 9, 1992: Menachim Begin, Israeli Prime Minister

March 9, 1996: George Burns, actor

March 23, 2011: Elizabeth Taylor, actress

March 12, 2012: Yehudi Menuhin, violinist

March 1, 2013: Bonnie Franklin, actress

March 15, 2014: David Brenner, comedian

April

April 27, 1940: Auschwitz concentration camp is opened

April 19, 1943: Warsaw Ghetto uprising

April 12, 1951: Israeli Knesset establishes Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day

April 22, 1993: Holocaust Museum opens in Washington, D.C.

Deceased

April 13, 1963: Yitchak Ben Zvi, Israel's second President

April 22, 1986: Irma Bombeck, writer

April 23, 1990: Paulette Goddard, actress

April 5, 1993: Molly Pican, Yiddish actress

April 23, 1995: Howard Kosell, sports announcer

April 25, 1995: Ginger Rogers, actress

April 25, 2009: Bea Arthur, actress

April 7, 2012: Mike Wallace, newscaster

April 6, 2014: Claire Berry, singer of Jewish folk songs

April 6, 2017: Don Rickles, comedian

ARZA - World Union

Continued from page 4

Despite their differences, both Mount Sinai and Zionism/Israel reflect the deep connection between the Jewish people, our faith, and our land. Religious Zionists (including Reform Zionists) regard the modern State of Israel as a continuation of the covenant made at Sinai and the continuation of the biblical kingdom. Others, particularly secular Zionists, view Israel's creation as a historical necessity, ensuring Jewish survival in a world that had repeatedly persecuted them. Yet, even among secular Zionists, the biblical promise of the Land of Israel served as an essential cultural and historical justification for Jewish statehood. Ultimately, Sinai and Zionism/Israel represent transformative moments in Jewish history—one defining our spiritual and moral mission and the other fulfilling our long-held aspiration for national restoration and return to our ancestral Homeland.

Just as we Reform Jews continuously reinvent and re-interpret Torah for today's world, the World Zionist Congress election can be the moment when together we can reinvent Zionism, take it back, and make it relevant as the national project of the Jewish people.

Sinai's and Zionism/Israel's interplay continue to shape Jewish identity, politics, and religious thought as debates persist over the role of Jewish law, nationalism, and divine purpose in the modern State of Israel.

Mark your calendars for March 10 – May 4, 2025, and be part of our Reform movement's effort to shape the future of Zionism, Israel, and the Jewish people. Take our vote pledge and be counted as if we were standing at Sinai again.

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Reb Shelly's Desk

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wants us dead. But listen to me: *Mah nishtanah halailah hazeh?* (How is this night different from all other nights?) Do you really think that Israel's actions have created Jew-haters? Impossible—it's simply that those Jew-haters feel more emboldened now than they did before.

They will always hate us. We represent everything they hate, no matter which they think we're talking about. There is no cure for this terminal hatred. We must not give up our identities or our support for Israel just because some ne'er do well blocking the street screams in our faces.

Besides, we have faced worse, far worse. Now is not the time to go crying to mommy that the meanies are bullying us. We have to put on our big boy and big girl pants and declare proudly that we are Jews and we love Israel and all of our Israeli brothers and sisters, especially when the chips are down.

Israel is not guilty of genocide—that shame belongs only to the enemy. In fact, Israel exists to prevent a genocide. Golda Meir put it this way:

“Israel itself is the strongest guarantee against another Holocaust.”

They tried to kill us,
we survived, let's eat!

Happy Purim!



Refuah Shleimah

The following people are in our thoughts and prayers for healing. Please offer prayers that they have a full and complete recovery.:

- Cheryl Cohen
- Walter Collier
- Oded Grenman
- Sue Koppel
- Randy Lewis
- Pat McCarthy
- Sherrill Nicolosi
- Mike Richardson
- Larry Taub
- Misty Stricklin
- Shep Taxer
- Anita Williams
- James Woodfork
- Tamara Keith

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Anniversaries

David and Glenda Kirsch	March 27
Lou and Susan Siegel	April 1
Harold and Laura Castillo	April 28

Birthdays

Michael Waxler	Mar 11
Oded Grenman	Mar 18
Phyllis Hearn	Mar 21
Barbara Morgan	Apr 4
Larry Levi	Apr 7
Rachel Gordon	Apr 16
Stuart Fleischner	Apr 22
Betty Kleinman	Apr 23
Gary Lax	Apr 29
Cheryl Cohen	Apr 30

March - April Yahrzeits

Kaddish Recited March 7

William J. Brown

Uncle of Betty Forshberg

Herman Fleischner

*Grandfather of Stuart Fleischner
Grandfather of Mark Fleischner*

Marvin Barenblat

Brother of Betty Kleinman

Kaddish Recited March 14

Jules B. Newman

Grandfather of Brad Wolken

Murray H. Forshberg

Father-in-law of Betty Forshberg

Kaddish Recited March 21

Wanda Burns

Mother of Glenda Kirsch

Julia C. Wigderson

Mother of Sue Koppel

Bernice Weisman Sherman

Aunt of Larry Levi

Ralph Edward Ballard

Grandfather of Laura Castillo

Shirley Clapman

Aunt of Sheldon Kleinman

Kaddish Recited March 28

Bette Katz

Mother of Sheri Cobb

Walter Ballard Haynie

Brother of Laura Castillo

Kaddish Recited April 4

Larry Wolken

Father of Brad Wolken

Larry Carrington

Son-in-law of Betty Forshberg

Sandra Rans

Sister-in-law of Fred Korngut

Roslyn Kirsch

Mother of David Kirsch

Darlene Smally

Mother of Kim Baron

Eva Brown

Mother of Betty Forshberg

Kaddish Recited April 11

Nettie Gladner

Mother of Neal Gladner

Luman Sheets

Father of Mary Klompus

Craney Bellin

Mother of Ruth Sedler

Kaddish Recited April 18

Lonnie Pederson

Nephew of Cheryl Cohen

Bernard Rephan

Father of Jerry Rephan

Sam Savel

Grandfather of David Cohen

Kaddish Recited April 26

Patricia Bosch Townley

Mother of Kathy Joy Townley

March Parshiot

Terumah

March 1

On the summit of Mount Sinai, Moses is given detailed instructions on how to construct a dwelling for G-d so that it could be readily dismantled, transported and reassembled as the people journeyed in the desert.

In the Sanctuary's inner chamber was the Ark containing the Tablets of Testimony engraved with the Ten Commandments; on the Ark's cover stood two winged cherubim hammered out of pure gold. In the outer chamber stood the seven-branched Menorah and the Table upon which the "showbread" was arranged.

Tetzaveh

March 8

G-d tells Moses to receive from the Children of Israel pure olive oil to feed the "everlasting flame" of the menorah, which Aaron is to kindle each day, "from evening till morning."

The priestly garments, to be worn by the Kohanim (priests) while serving in the Sanctuary are described. All Kohanim wore: 1) the ketonet -- a full length linen tunic; 2) michnasayim -- linen breeches; 3) mitznefet or migba'at -- a linen turban; 4) avnet -- a long sash wound above the waist.

Tetzaveh also includes G-d's detailed instructions for the seven-day initiation of Aaron and his four sons -- Nadav, Avihu, Elazar and Itamar -- into the priesthood, and for the making of the Golden Altar on which the ketoret ("incense") was burned.

Ki Tisa

March 15

When Moses does not return when expected from Mount Sinai, the people make a Golden Calf and worship it. G-d proposes to destroy the errant

nation, but Moses intercedes on their behalf.

Moses descends from the mountain carrying the Tablets of the Testimony engraved with the Ten Commandments; seeing the people dancing about their idol, he breaks the Tablets, destroys the Golden Calf and has the primary culprits put to death. He then returns to G-d to say: "If You do not forgive them, blot me out from the book that You have written.

Vayak'heil

March 22

Moses assembles the people of Israel and reiterates to them the commandment to observe the Shabbat. He then conveys G-d's instructions regarding the making of the Mishkan (Tabernacle).



The people donate the required materials in abundance, bringing gold, silver, copper, blue, purple and red-dyed wool, goat hair, spun linen, animal skins, wood, olive oil, herbs and precious stones. Moses has to tell

them to stop giving.

Pekudei

March 29

Moses makes an accounting of the gold, silver and copper donated by the people for the making of the Mishkan. Betzalel, Ahaliav and their assistants make the Eight Priestly Garments -- the Apron, Breastplate, Cloak, Crown, Hat, Tunic, Sash and Breeches -- according to the specifications communicated to Moses in the Parshah of Tetzaveh.

The Mishkan is completed and all its components are brought to Moses, who erects it and anoints it with the holy Anointing Oil, and initiates Aaron and his four sons into the priesthood. A cloud appears over the Mishkan, signifying the Divine Presence that has come to dwell within it.

April Parshiot

(Pesach)
April 13 - 30)

Vayikra

April 5

Moses makes an accounting of the gold, silver and copper donated by the people for the making of the Mishkan. Betzalel, Ahaliav and their assistants make the Eight Priestly Garments -- the Apron, Breastplate, Cloak, Crown, Hat, Tunic, Sash and Breeches -- according to the specifications communicated to Moses in the Parshah of Tetzaveh.

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Tzav

April 12

G-d instructs Moses to command Aaron and his sons regarding their duties and rights as kohanim ("priests") who offer the korbanot (animal and meal offerings) in the Sanctuary.

The fire on the Altar must be kept burning at all times. In it are burned the wholly consumed ascending offering; veins of fat from the peace, sin and guilt offerings; and the "handful" separated from the meal offering. The kohanim eat the meat of the sin and guilt offerings, and the remainder of the meal offering.

The peace offering is eaten by the one who brought it, except for specified portions given to the kohen. The holy meat of the offerings must be eaten by ritually pure persons, in their designated holy place and within their specified time.

Aaron and his sons remain within the Sanctuary compound for seven days, during which Moses initiates them into the priesthood.

Shemini

April 26

Aaron and his sons begin to officiate as Kohanim (priests); a fire issues forth from G-d to consume the offerings on the Altar and the Divine Presence comes to dwell in the Sanctuary.

Aaron's two elder sons, Nadav and Avihu, offer a "strange fire before G-d, which He commanded them not" and die before G-d. Aaron is silent in face of his tragedy.

G-d commands the kosher laws, identifying the animal species permissible and forbidden for consumption.

