

# KOL MEVASSER

## Bonfires for Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai

*Rabbi Hagay Batzri*

This weekend we celebrate Lag Ba'Omer. Lag Ba'Omer occurs on the thirty-third day we count between Passover, the holiday of freedom from slavery, and Shavuot, the holiday of receiving the Torah. Generally, the period between Passover and Shavuot, the time of the Omer counting, is spent on spiritual improvement and cleansing in preparation for receiving the gift of Torah. But Lag Ba'Omer is marked by bonfires and celebrations. Why?

Among the attributes of the day is that Lag Ba'Omer marks the hillula or yahrzeit of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, a great Torah scholar. Bar Yochai was a student of Rabbi Akiva. He resisted Roman oppression and was forced to go into hiding for many years. During that time he developed a deep spiritual understanding of the Torah that we now call Kabbalah. He is considered the author of the Zohar, a primary work of Jewish Kabbalah that explains the "inner Torah."

On the anniversaries of most sages we light a candle of remembrance. The bonfires we light on Lag Ba'Omer are like a

huge candle honoring the memory of Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai.

Why don't we just light a candle for him, too? We light the bonfire to show the greatness of the Torah light that he brought into the world on his last day Torah that were not known before.

It is said that the night Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai departed from this world is equal in stature to the day on which we received the Torah and Mount Sinai. How can this be? At Har Sinai the entire world was shaking with thunder, lighting, and more so that everyone knew we were receiving the Torah. What Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai discovered also shook up our world, but in a different way. His teachings allowed us to learn about the inner Torah, the source of our soul, our neshama.

Without the Zohar we would not have access to understand much of the wisdom of the Torah. Rabbi Shimon showed that the wisdom of the Torah is like the sea, it has no ending. This revelation is equal to the whole purpose of matan Torah, the giving of the Torah that we celebrate in a few weeks at Shavuot.

For giving and sharing such tremendous knowledge and understanding with the

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## KJ Schedule

### Erev Shabbat Friday, April 26th

Shaharit .....	6:30 am
Shir Hashirim .....	6:45 pm
Minha & Arbit .....	7:00 pm
Candle Lighting.....	7:15 pm
Sefirat Ha'Omer Thirty Second Night	

### Shabbat / Parashat Emor Saturday, April 27th

Shaharit .....	8:30 am
Class with Rabbi Batzri .....	6:00 pm
Ladies Tehillim .....	6:00 pm
Minha/Arbit .....	6:30 pm
Shabbat Havdallah .....	8:00 pm
Sefirat Ha'Omer Thirty-Third Night	

### Lag Ba'Omer Sunday, April 28th

Shaharit .....	7:30 am
STAR Lag Ba'Omer .....	All Day Event
Sefirat Ha'Omer Thirty-Fourth Night	

### Weekdays

#### Monday to Friday, April 29 to May 3

Shaharit .....	6:30 am
Sefirat Ha'Omer Nights 35 to 39	

### Erev Shabbat / Friday, May 3rd

Shaharit .....	6:30 am
Shir Hashirim .....	6:45 pm
Minha & Arbit .....	7:00 pm
Candle Lighting.....	7:15 pm
Sefirat Ha'Omer Thirty Ninth Night	

### SHABBAT READINGS

Torah Portion 513-528, Haftara 528-530



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Norma & Sam Dabby Talmud Torah  
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For information call 310.474.0559 or  
e-mail [molly@kahaljoseph.org](mailto:molly@kahaljoseph.org)

### Women's Tehillim

with Orly Batzri, Shabbat Afternoon  
Saturdays at 6:00 pm before Mincha

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world, Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai's memory is honored with bonfires and the knowledge he share is recognized for its tremendous illuminative power.

I hope that the light of Rabbi Shimon will light our way and continue to do so until we achieve the final freedom of redemption. And I hope we will take the opportunity of using the light of Rabbi Shimon's teachings to light our way in this world until then.

Shabbat Shalom

## Seudah Shlisheet

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Iran bat Monavar, z"l

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priced for our members. Please see the show-  
case in our synagogue lobby and select those  
pieces that you fall in love with.*

## Shavuot Family Dinner & Torah Study Games

*with Rabbi Batzri*

*Tuesday, May 14th at 7:00 pm  
Dairy Dinner • Cheesecake • Ice Cream*

## In Memoriam

We remember these yahrzeit anniversaries for April 27th to May 4th, 2013. It is customary to light a memorial candle, donate tzedaka, and attend services the preceding Shabbat.

### 18 Iyar / Sunday, April 28th

Rachel Judah *Rahel bat Tifacha*  
Seemah Shemash *Seemah Sofaer bat Hanna*  
Homayouon John Nahai

### 19 Iyar / Monday, April 29th

Helen Ezra Shemtob *Habiba bat Lulu*  
Sulman Haroun Zanki *Sulman Haroun*

### 21 Iyar / Wednesday, May 1st

Lulu Ezra Azoori *Lulu Khatoun bat Masooda*  
Michael David Adrian Meyer *Michael David ben  
Yoseph Meir*  
Murad Saddick *Mordechai ben Sasson*  
Maisie Solomon

### 22 Iyar / Thursday, May 2nd

Rachel Bar *Rahel bat Miriam*  
Ezekiel Joseph *Yehezkel ben Itzhak Yosef*  
Grace Mussry *Grace bat Toba*  
Iran Rojhani *Iran bat Monavar*

### 23 Iyar / Friday, May 3rd

Moshe Bensabat *Moshe ben Clara*  
Sally Saul *Salha bat Simcha*

### 24 Iyar / Shabbat, May 4th

Judah Freddy Bekhore *Yehuda Faraj ben Yosef*

## Refuah Shlemah

Yocheved bat Rachel, Mazal bat Malka, Dan Her-  
doon, Mazal Tov bat Salha Matana, Moshe ben  
Ezra, Sasson ben Rahel/Sassoon Moses, Penina  
bat Henia, Dov Ber ben Sonia, Maurice Ovadia /  
Moshe ben Noosha, Pnina bat Esther, Vera Levi  
Yossef ben Jamila, Ruth bat Aliza

Shabbat Shalom U'Mevorach