

Where All Jews Learn Together

# Aish Happenings

Summer 2020

# Letter from Rabbi Yosef David



when the Jews stood at the foot of Mount Sinai after they had said to Moses we agree to accept the Torah

as God's wisdom, it says they stood beneath the mountain. The Talmud explains that this means the mountain was held over the entire Jewish people and the Almighty said, "Accept my Torah or there shall be your Burial!" The obvious question was Why? Why was this necessary? They had already agreed to accept the Torah. And furthermore, don't we have free will? Isn't the Torah predicated on the idea that you can't be responsible unless its your choice, your decision?

Rabbi Yehuda Loew of Prague, known as the Maharal, explains we are not to understand this literally, rather God held the mountain over their heads in the sense that it was clear as day that their lives depended on the Torah; they couldn't survive without it. There was no alternative to accepting the Torah. The entire purpose of the world's existence was dependent on the acceptance of the Torah and the fulfillment of the Torah is the world's purpose.

The Zohar says God looked into the Torah and created the world. The blueprint of the world is the Torah. Not that God looked at the world and said, "Gosh! I created the pig." And then, "Ok Jewish people, don't eat it." Or that after creating human beings that procreate and raise their children



The Aish Destiny Women's Israel trip in February brought together women from several cities. Our St. Louis group included Melanie Thiede and Jodi Leise (standing in back) and from the right, Melanie Huet, Fran Hoffman and City Leader, Mimi David. The ladies are shown here dining at the Gush Etzion Winery. See more about the trip on page 5.

until adulthood, He says, "Well, now that you have parents, honor them." No, the reason He created humans with parents is because He had a mitzvah of honoring parents and, if we hatched from an egg like a turtle or an alligator, we wouldn't have a relationship with a parent that would enable us to fulfill the Mitzvah of Kibud Av V'em (Honor your father and your mother). The same with the pig. He could have created the world without it if He didn't like it. He created it so that we could fulfill the Torah mitzvah of "do not eat pig." What the Zohar is teaching us is that the entire universe is built according to the Torah to enable people to connect to the divine through earthly existence by fulfilling the Torah.

King David in Psalm 119 tells us "If not for your (God's) Torah being my preoccupation, I would have perished in my suffering." King David had the clarity that Torah was his lifeline and he couldn't survive without it. He would have been lost.

At Aish HaTorah, we feel deeply that every Jew deserves to be thrown the lifeline of Torah without which a Jew is adrift. There is no one too detached or too far away that the Torah cannot reach them. I felt this especially strongly over the last two months when the study and teaching of Torah was and continues to be my daily lifeline. I invite everyone to join me in the study of Torah and the inspiration and connection to the purpose of existence it brings. The world depends on it!

## Musings from Rabbi Greenwald: On Shavuos



When I was growing up, I never heard of a holiday called Shavuos! True, I was part of a family that didn't observe Jewish holidays, but I did have

friends whose families made a Passover seder, and I had a friend who kept kosher, and I remember eating with him in a Succah at a kosher restaurant. Of course, I had heard of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur! Those were days off of school as my neighborhood was so Jewish even the public schools were basically closed. I knew it was the Jewish new year and day of atonement, whatever that means. (Aish gives high holiday educational services to explain what the holidays and services mean).

When I ponder the notion that I had never heard of Shavuos, it's preposterous! After all, Shavuos is the culmination of Passover, the day when the purpose of leaving Egypt was fulfilled. It's seemingly the most important day in history when G-d communicated His will to our entire people, that we are to become His emissaries to bring His message to the world; Love your neighbor as yourself, stay away from vulgar idolatries, have a holy relationship with your spouse, and only honest business dealings, etc. How could I

have never heard of Shavuos and why have I spoken to so many Jews who share my experience?

I have a theory. Shavuos doesn't have a shofar, a seder, or a succah. It doesn't have an object or a ceremony that makes it easy to connect with.

We observe Shavuos by eating holiday meals together with our families and going to shul (not this year) to hear and relive the awesome and unique experience at Sinai. We stay up late studying and there's a custom to eat cheesecake.

Jewish holidays were given to ponder the depth of their meaning and inculcate their ideals into our lives. I have a few ideas that I've been contemplating that I'd like to share.

In the Shavuos prayer service, we refer to the holiday as "the time of the giving of our Torah", and what a gift! The Torah is referred to as the Almighty's "beloved vessel" and His instruction for living! Every gadget comes with instruction but not life?

The Torah is our book of relationship with the Almighty; like every relationship, it comes with rules, in this case, mitzvos. The rules create the relationship. Just as you would want your spouse to be loyal, G-d wants us to be loyal and declares His loyalty to us. Just as you would demand that your spouse be kind and fair with others so too G-d requires the same.

Just as the game of chess has identical rules for all players, each person plays their own game. It's the rules of the game that produce the creative approaches. After all, without the rules, the game would be meaningless. So it is with our Torah. We all play by the same rules but each one of us is an individual. It's the instructions for living that provide the meaning, give us goals to achieve, and provides a genuine, non-superficial path to express the unique qualities of our souls.

I hope you and your families will partake of the cheesecake and ponder the significance of the revelation at Sinai.

- Shmuel Greenwald

For more information about Shavuos, visit Aish.com

For more about our programs, visit Aishstlouis.org



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#### Where All Jews Learn Together.

At Aish, all Jews, regardless of background or affiliation, come together to learn and have fun. Judaism is not all or nothing; it's a journey where every step counts, to be pursued according to one's own pace and interest.

# Musical, Educational Service to Bring in Shabbos

# Friday nights at 6:30 pm (via zoom webinar)

June 5, 12, 19, 26 and July 3

Rabbi Shmuel Greenwald will share inspiration and how to's for Shabbos

Rabbi Avi Kula will lead us in songs of inspiration

Mimi David will introduce the Shabbos candles

Go to <a href="https://zoom.us/j/9699246316">https://zoom.us/j/9699246316</a>.

To dial in, call 1-312-626-6799. Meeting ID is 9699246316.

# MERS Goodwill can help, through our Jewish Community Employment Services At MERS Goodwill, we assist unemployed and underemployed members of the Jewish Community in all phases of the job search process. Whether you are in transistion, job hunting, or have recently been laid off, we can help at no cost to you.

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## Jewish Federation

## Mazal Tov to...

Charlie & Naomi Ruth Deutsch and Patti Deutsch on the birth of a grandson born to Zach & Rachel Deutsch; the birth of a grandson born to Daniel & Gabby Zylberberg; and on the marriage of your son, Josh to Shoshana Falk

Rabbi Shmuel & Chana Greenwald on the engagement of your daughter, Shira to Daniel Altshuler of Baltimore; and on the birth of a grandson born to Chai & Miriam Greenwald in Israel

Bob & Joni Kaiser on the birth of a grandson born to Yehuda & Rebecca Bromberg in Chicago and a granddaughter born to Lee & Hannah Mirowitz in Israel

Murray & Eva Gail Bresler and to Rita Bresler on the birth of a grandson/great grandson born to Rabbi Alex & Michal Pudles

Alex & Bexley Lyss on the birth of a son, Leib Shalom

Marc & Debbie Jacob on the bar mitzvah of your son, Asher

Howard & Arleen Bly on the bar mitzvah of your grandson, Asher Jacob

Gavriel & Sarah Beth Matt on the birth of a son

Bruce & Faith Waxman on the birth of a grandson born to Gavriel & Sarah Beth Matt

Rabbi Yonason & Sara Miriam Goldson on the birth of a grandson, Asher Yochanan born to Akiva & Avigayil Schreiber

Drs. Joan & Sherman Silber on the engagement of your granddaughter

Rabbi Shmuel & Chanie Wasser on the engagement of your daughter, Leah to Yaakov Strics of Los Angeles

Jeff & Shelley Dean on the bat mitzvah of your daughter, Tzofia

Dr. Jose' & Pirchie Greenspon on the bar mitzvah of your son, Hillel

Rabbi Menachem & Zelda Tendler on the bar mitzvah of your son, Yaakov

Mark & Jill Abrams on the birth of a granddaughter born to Joey & Lauren Abrams

Dr. Jenna Abrams on earning your Doctorate in Audiology

Dave & Jill Mogil on the birth of a granddaughter born to Elana & Frankie Shulkin in Dallas

Elisheva Heit on the engagement of your daughter, Dina to Yitzy Wenick of Montreal

Rabbi Gidon & Pnina Nitsun on the birth of a grandson born to Rabbi Dovid & Devori Nitsun in Israel

Rabbi Avraham & Sara Bromberg on the bar mitzvah of your grandson in Detroit

Yehuda & Elisheva Raskas on the bar mitzvah of your son, Shalom Yitzchok Yale & Gail Miller on the engagement of your grandson in Baltimore

BEGIN

Jerry & Marcia Esrig on the birth of twin grandchildren (a girl and a boy) born to Yossi and Hodaya Esrig in Baltimore

Dr. Alan & Marcia Weiss on the birth of twin great-grandsons born to Aaron & Aliza Rudman Roth in NY, and to grandparents Ephraim & Rachel Rudman

Rabbi Ze'ev & Chani Smason on the bar mitzvah of your grandson, Kobi in Israel, son of Avrumi & Aliza Smason

Dr. Keith & Janice Mankowitz on the birth of a granddaughter born to Mr. & Mrs. Eytan Mankowitz

Michael & Charisse Treisman on the birth of granddaughter born to Farryn & Jacob Willner

## **Aish Virtual Events**

Hundreds of our friends have joined Aish on a journey of learning and inspiration from the safety of their homes in the last two months.

#### **Adult Sunday School**





Bill Green (on left) listens during Rabbi Shmuel Greenwald's weekly class





Mimi David (with help from Adina) introduces the Shabbos candles and Rabbi Kula & sons sing traditional Shabbos songs

#### Robert Walker: How to Defend Israel



Israel advocacy expert, Robert Walker teaches how to defend Israel against some of the most common anti-Israel claims.

#### The Jewish Superwoman



Mimi David explains the Eishet Chayil, the Jewish ideal of a woman on Aish.tv

Preparing for Shavuo



Mimi presented a series of 3 Shavuos classes "Shavuos Then & Now," "The Little Mountain that Could" and "The Importance of the Process"

#### **Hebrew School for Kids**





Rabbi David and the Aish St. Louis Hebrew School join Aish Global in Jerusalem

#### The Holiday of Kabbalah, Lag B'Omer







Above:
Tour guide
extraordinaire,
David Sussman
took us on a
revealing virtual
tour in Israel
of the mystical
holiday of Lag
B'Omer.

Left: Mimi David, shown here with her helper, Adina, taught why it's a special mitzvah for women to make challah. She also showed the class how to make a 4 braid challah.



Mimi presents her monthly class, an in-depth, fascinating look at the psalms of King David

## The Jewish Women's Society of St. Louis

## **Aish Destiny Trip**

Mimi David led a group of four St. Louis ladies to spend an incredible week in Israel learning in-depth about Judaism, Jewish heritage and themselves. This not-to-be missed trip wowed the group with an incredible itinerary.



Shiloh



Melanie Thiede, Jodi Leise & Mimi hiking at Ein Gedi (nature reserve)

#### **ABOUT JWS**

A division of Aish St. Louis, JWS provides Jewish educational opportunities to Jewish women of all backgrounds through inspirational classes, lectures and Israel trips.



Tomb of Patriarchs & Matriarchs in Hebron



Tour of the Muslim Quarter at the Cotton Market entrance to the Temple Mount with Mimi's brother, Tzvi Satt

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** please call 314-862-2474 or email mimidavid@aish.com

#### **JWS BOARD**

Mimi David (Director), Mia Mandel (President); Diane Friedman, Elise Goldberg, Ellie Grossman-Cohen, Debra Klevens, Blimala Luecking and Alana Minoff

#### RAV NOAH WEINBERG LECTURE DEDICATED BY THE AXELBAUM FAMILY IN MEMORY OF JERRY AXELBAUM A"H





Left: Rabbi Mordechai Yaroslawitz (Yari), Jeff Dean and Jay Englander

Below: Nicole Loiterstein and Faith Waxman





Howard Loiterstein receives the "Student of the Year Award" from Rabbi Shmuel Greenwald, Aish Director of Education



Our guest lecturer, Kivi Bernhard talks about his journeys speaking for Fortune 500 companies while living as a proud Jew



Dr. Rich Axelbaum delivers a tribute to his late father, Jerry Axelbaum a"h"

#### TEFILLIN & BREAKFAST HOSTED BY MARK CANTOR



Dr. Bruce Berwald and Mark Cantor



Eran Raviv, Rich Wolkowitz, Mark Cantor, Rabbi Yosef David, Steve Starr and Bruce Berwald at Cantorland

#### **HEBREW SCHOOL PURIM PARTY**



HAMANTASHAN BAKE HOSTED BY RABBI YOSEF DAVID





A.J. Moll and son

#### Nava Scheer and Becky Goldberg



Mark Koritz, Mike Alter, Larry Comensky and Mike Sokolik



Michael Grafman, Alan Zarkowsky, Victor Tendler and Jay Umansky

# **Tributes**Aish Tributes

In memory of Gerda Berger, forever loved and never forgotten, from her children

To Mia Mandel, in memory of your father, Lou, from Fran & Harold Hoffman

To Rabbi Shmuel & Chanie Wasser, in honor of the engagement of your daughter, Leah to Yaakov Strics of Los Angeles, from Bill & Sylvia Poe

To Rabbi Yonason & Sara Miriam Goldson, in honor of the birth of your grandson, Asher Yochanan, from Bill & Sylvia Poe

To Rabbi Larry Glestein, in memory of your father, from Bill & Sylvia Poe

To Doug Rudman, in memory of your mother, Maureen Rudman, from Howard & Phyllis Loiterstein

To Dovid Eichorn, in memory of your father, from Bill & Sylvia Poe

To Gay Lee Freedman, in memory of your sister, Mindy Backer, from Bill & Sylvia Poe

To Rabbi Yossi Golombeck, in memory of your father, Rabbi Yitzchak Golombeck, from Bill & Sylvia Poe

To Rabbi Yossi Golombeck, in memory of your father, Rabbi Yitzchak Golombeck, from Sender & Shifra Axelbaum

To Rabbi Yerachmiel Frank, in memory of your father, Rabbi Tzvi Pinchas Frank, from Sender & Shifra Axelbaum

To Esther Klein, in memory of your father, Reb Yossi Winter, from Sender & Shifra Axelbaum

To Gay Lee Freedman, in memory of your sister, Mindy Backer, from Sender & Shifra Axelbaum

To Shelley List, in memory of your brother, David Miller, from Sender & Shifra Axelbaum

To Rebbetzin Blima Majerovic, in memory of your beloved father, Naftali Zeigermann, from Lewis & Ellen Notowich

To Rabbi Ahron Hoch, in memory of your beloved wife, Faigie, from Sender & Shifra Axelbaum

To Dr. Debbie Fink, in memory of your beloved husband, Joel, from Sender & Shifra Axelbaum

To Drs. Joan & Sherman Silber, mazel tov on the engagement of your granddaughter, from Bill & Sylvia Poe

To Murray & Eva Gail Bresler, mazel tov on the birth of a grandson born to Rabbi Alex & Michal Pudles, from Bill & Sylvia Poe

To Bob & Judy Hellman, condolences on the loss of Bob's mother, Molly Hellman, from Bill & Sylvia Poe

To Josh & Shoshana Deutsch, mazel tov on your marriage, from Bill & Sylvia Poe

To Charlie & Naomi Ruth Deutsch, mazel tov on the marriage of your son, Joshua to Shoshana Falk, from Bill & Sylvia Poe

To Charlie & Naomi Ruth Deutsch, mazel tov on the marriage of your son, Joshua to Shoshana Falk, from Art & Karen Noss

To Charlie & Naomi Ruth Deutsch, mazel tov on Joshua & Shoshana's marriage, from Gloria Feldman

To Rabbi Shmuel Greenwald, your presence and comfort meant so much to us, from Harriet Ross

To Sarah Hermelin, condolences on the loss of your husband, Marc Hermelin, from Bill & Sylvia Poe

To David Hermelin, condolences on the loss of your father, Marc Hermelin, from Bill & Sylvia Poe

To Arnold Hermelin, condolences on the loss of your brother, Marc Hermelin, from Bill & Sylvia Poe

To Mrs. Mimi Sabol, condolences on the loss of your sister, Laura Jane Eckert, from Bill & Sylvia Poe

To Dr. Alan & Helen Burns, mazel tov on your grandson, Asher Jacob's bar mitzvah, from Bill & Sylvia Poe

To Howard & Arleen Bly, mazel tov on your grandson, Asher Jacob's bar mitzvah, from Bill & Sylvia Poe

To Marc & Debbie Jacob, mazel tov on Asher's bar mitzvah, from Bill & Sylvia Poe

To Barb Bianco, in memory of Bill Solomon, from The Loiterstein Group/Howard Loiterstein

To Barb Bianco, in memory of Bill Solomon, from Phyllis & Howard Loiterstein

To Alex & Bexley Lyss, in honor of the birth of your son, Leib Shalom, from Alice Brown

## Social Media Advocacy: How to be a Digital Warrior for Israel





## with Robert Walker

## Sunday, June 7th

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Go to https://zoom.us/j/6222390354 Dial in to 1+ (647) 374-4685 Meeting ID 6222390354



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To Rabbi Shmuel Greenwald, in appreciation, from Alice Brown

To Rabbi Dov & Toby Elefant, in honor of your daughter, Chana Leah's bas mitzvah, from Alice Brown

To Larry & Barbara Poger, condolences on the loss of your son, Brad Stephen Poger, from Bill & Sylvia Poe

To Bob & Joni Kaiser, mazel tov on the birth of a grandson born to Yehuda & Rebecca Bromberg in Chicago, from Bill & Sylvia Poe

To Mrs. Chavie Frank, condolences on the loss of your father, Rabbi Seymour Nussbaum, from Bill & Sylvia Poe

Rabbi Shmuel & Chana Greenwald, in honor of your new grandson, from Art & Karen Noss

Rabbi Shmuel & Chana Greenwald and their family, mazel tov on becoming grandparents, from David & Debbie Friedman Rabbi Shmuel & Chana Greenwald, mazel tov on the birth of a grandson born to Chai & Miriam Greenwald, from Bill & Sylvia Poe

Rabbi Shmuel & Chana Greenwald, in honor of your grandson, Bob & Joni Kaiser

To Mia Mandel, in memory of your father, Lou Osheroff, from Jay & Peggy Umansky

To Doug Rudman, in memory of your mother, Maureen Rudman, from Jay & Peggy Umansky

To Rabbi Shmuel & Chana Greenwald, in honor of the birth of your first grandchild, from Jay & Peggy Umansky

To the Davids and the Greenwalds, thank you for keeping us all educated during the pandemic, from Jay & Peggy Umansky

Continued bottom of page 11

# Aish Stories: Jennifer and Bryson Hartranft



"Aish Hatorah has not only changed our lives; it has helped change the way we live our lives. We have learned valuable ways to communicate as a couple and as a family. We have learned how to apply Jewish values to our everyday lives. Learning from the amazing Rabbis and Rebbitzens at Aish have impacted our family in so many positive ways that I can't even imagine what our family would have been like without them."

# Our Sincere Condolences

Mia Mandel on the loss of your father, Louis Osheroff

Doug (Caryn) Rudman on the loss of your mother, Maureen Rudman

Gay Lee (Rabbi Tzvi) Freedman on the loss of your sister, Mindy Backer

Andy (Mimi) Pultman on the loss of your mother, Jacqueline Pultman

Esther (Mayer) Klein on the loss of your father, Reb Yossi Winter

Rabbi Yossi (Raizy) Golombeck on the loss of your father, Rabbi Yitzchak Golombeck

Harvey Brown on the loss of your wife, Edie Brown

Bob (Judy) Hellman on the loss of your mother, Molly Hellman

Sheri Nove on the loss of your father, Hannan Nove

David (Dr. Daniela) Hermelin on the loss of your father, Marc (Moshe) Hermelin

Arnold (Yael) Hermelin on the loss of your brother, Marc (Moshe) Hermelin

Harriet Ross on the loss of your husband, Monte Ross

Dr. Debbie Fink on the loss of your husband, Joel Fink

Barbara Bianco on the loss of your special friend, Bill Solomon

Mindy Rennard on the loss of your father, Robert Yawitz

Larry & Barbara Poger on the loss of their son, Brad

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# Aish Stories: Faith & Bruce Waxman



"Aish St. Louis has provided us with many opportunities for learning and connecting with others in a welcoming and friendly environment. The speakers and classes offered are inspiring and provide a meaningful and Jewish perspective to our everyday life. The Couples Israel Trip was the icing on the cake. Thank you Aish, Rabbi David, Rabbi Greenwald and Mimi David for enriching our lives."









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\$150 Gift Certificate fron

1 Catered Sunday Brunch with Chef AJ 10 Ppl - \$200 Value

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Design consult with Melanie Winograd Interior Decorator

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1 Ticket for \$36

2 Tickets for \$65

3 Tickets for \$90

7 Tickets for \$180

15 Tickets for \$360 25 Tickets for \$500 60 Tickets for \$1000 \$18 Enter 1st & 2nd Prizes Only

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personal Torah tutor or "mentor." Together you'll discover those eternal truths that give our lives a sense of purpose and greater meaning. In addition to making Jewish knowledge accessible to every Jew, Partners In Torah of St. Louis aims to foster unity among Jews of all backgrounds and denominations.

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The topics are endless and your individual course of study is up to you.

**To find out more or to join,** please contact Rabbi Shmuel Greenwald at 314-862-2474 or <a href="mailto:sgreenwald@aish.com">sgreenwald@aish.com</a>.

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#### Jewish Women's Society Tributes

Mimi David, in honor of your women's classes, from Margy Weisman

#### Mark Raiffie Memorial Tributes

Dr. Steve & Marcia Feit, in loving memory of Mark Raiffie, from Nancy Hammerman & Jay Levin

## The Annual Mark Raiffie Memorial Lecture presents

Noted psychotherapist, Rabbi Yaakov Salomon

"What should you do when you don't know what to do?"

Rabbi Salomon will share 3 personal stories of difficult dilemmas that he faced. Wednesday Jun 3 at 7:45 pm

Zoom webinar

Sponsored in loving memory of Mark by the Raiffie family

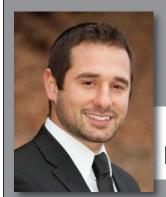
Go to https://zoom.us/j/3740953378 To dial in on your mobile device: 1-312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 3740953378



Mark Raiffie's life was cut short but his smile, charm and love will be with us forever. His dedication to his family and friends will live on as an inspiration to us all.

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## Aryeh Freylicher, Realtor



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# Aish Stories: Jeff & Shelley Dean



Jeff and I (Shelley) have found a home with Aish HaTorah in St. Louis. Every class we attend, every speaker we hear, every meal that we join, has filled our souls with just the right nuggets of relevant Judaism for our life at that moment in time. The Rabbis, Rebbetzins, Teachers, are all so open-hearted and open to all types of students and we always feel comfortable to ask questions and feel grateful to learn from an honest Torah perspective. Thank you for all that you provide, dear Aish HaTorah Family!!

## Virtual Adult Sunday School with Rabbi Shmuel Greenwald

# Continuing through the Summer by popular demand!

Do you want something to do on Sundays that will change your week? Do you want to be less stressed, create balance in your life, and have the wisdom to focus on what really matters?

Join me on Sundays from 10 – 11 am via Zoom

Go to https://zoom.us/j/810877678.

To dial in, call 1-312-626-6799. Meeting ID is 810 877 678.

Note: No sessions on July 5 or 12.



This Sunday: LOGIN to LEARN