



Adelaide Hebrew Congregation News

Volume 5 Issue 3

May 20, 2011

Shabbat Details

- Friday night service
6.15pm
- Saturday morning
service 9am
followed by
Kiddush
- Times for Shabbat:
LC 5:00PM
ends 5:58PM

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Notices

- Many **thanks** for everyone who helped and joined us for the special Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration.
- Please join us to uplifting **Lag B'Omer party** and BBQ on Motzei Shabbat **May 21st 7:00 pm** at Massada College!
- The new Board is seeking **expressions of interest** from any of the long-term members of the community to join a committee to help find the way forward for the future of the AHC. Please contact President Mark Cohen via the office if you are able to assist.
- We wish **Refuah Shlemah** to Myer Solomon, Mara Zaks, Judith Bayer, John Pearlman, Ivor Lee, Kitty Anderson and anyone else who has been unwell recently.
- Please join us to **farewell** Leon and Miriam Zimmet and thank them both for the tremendous support they have given the AHC over their many years in Adelaide. A Kiddush will be held in their honour Shabbat 24 Iyar, 28 May 2011.

Yahrzeits

We wish the following members long life on their Yahrzeits:

Mrs. Miriam Rachel Zimmet for her grand-mother Ruchel Kalowska

Mrs. Miriam Rachel Zimmet for her grand-father David Kalowska

Mr. Adolf Eddie Skala for his wife Esther Diva Skala



Shabbat Parashat Bechukotai

Thoughts of the week- What is Lag Ba'omer all about?

Q- What is the day of Lag Ba'omer that every Jewish community around the world celebrating this day with big bonfires and archers playing around about?

A – Lag is 33 in numerical Hebrew. This is the 33rd day since the second night of Pesach when we started to counting the Omer (“Sefira”) for 49 days until the day of Shavuot when we received the Torah. During the period of the Mishna (after the destruction of the second temple) the Gemara (Yevamot 62b) teaches us about Rabbi Akiva which was one of the greatest “*Tanayim*”, and he had 24,000 students that all died between Pesach and Shavuot, because they did not respect one each other.

According to the tradition, they stopped dying on Lag Ba'omer, and all the people of Israel were delighted that the plague that killed all the Rabbis of that generation has stopped.

One of the few students of Rabbi Akiva that remained alive was R' Shimon Bar Yochai (Rashbi) and he was the one who continued the Torah learning of Rabbi Akiva.

During that time the Roman emperor ruled in Eretz Israel. They prosecuted Rashbi for teaching Torah and for his resistance to the Roman ruling. Rashbi and his son R' Elazar, had to hide in a cave in the Galilee mountain in Pekein, for 12 years. Hashem made a miracle for them and they had a fountain in the cave that gave them water, and a Carob tree for eating (The cave and the tree still can be found in Pekein in our days).

According to the tradition, Rashbi and his son came out from the cave on Lag Ba'omer, and he discovered to the world the secrets of the Kabala on the day he died which was also happened on Lag Ba'omer. His famous book on the Kabala is the Zohar. Because Rashbi reviled the inner secrets of the Torah, he gave to the world a special light that it had never seen before. This light is the “Zohar” in Hebrew, and this is the reason for lighting huge fires for his memory every year in Lag Ba'omer. Rashbi is buried in mount Meron, near Zefat, in the upper Galilee.

In the days of Rashbi the rainbow never showed up in the sky, because of his merits the world did not need any signs to remind the humanity about their sins that caused the flood.

That is the reason the kids are playing archers during Lag Ba'omer.

The bonfire gives the children joy and happiness, and for us the parents, it remind us our search for “warm” and caring in a dark and cynical world. The same way the fire goes up to the sky, it represent our desire and search for meaning life, above all the material life we are dealing with every day.

*Shabbat Shalom and Happy Lag Ba'omer,
Rabbi Netanel Friedler*

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מרכז ציוני יהודי אדלויד



אוסטרליה

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JULY 12-15

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Head of Camp

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Shlichah

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