

Temple Shabbat Shalom

Volume 4, Issue 2

Summer 2004

The “Global Village” Congregation

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Do you have any idea of the most asked question of modern Rabbis?

What is Kabballah?

Webster defines the term Kabballah (Cabala, or Kaballah) as the mystic theosophy of the Jewish Rabbi's. A theosophy claims knowledge of God via mystical Revelation. Kabballah is further defined as any occult system of knowledge. A Cabal is a group intending to carry out secret plans. Webster's confusion is typical of popular misunderstanding of Kabballah.

Kabballah is not a secret.
Kabballah is not mysticism.
Kabballah is not occult.
Kabballah is not intrigue.

Kabballah is intriguing and focuses on two major domains. First the Kabballahist uncovers the essence of Creation. Physics. Second the Kabballah focuses on the deep Truths of Revelation.

Following are excerpts from my fifth book *See the Thunder*, which is on the Kabballah.

Blessings and Enjoy,
Rabbi Aryeh Alpern

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The major poetic idea in the world is and always has been the idea of God.

Wallace Stevens

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High Holy Days

Rosh Hashanah September 16
2pm Services and Tashlich
Yom Kipper: September 25
5:15 Services and Yizkor
*If you will be attending any of these
Services-please call and let us know*

Simcha's- Mazel Tov to all

A Very Special Thank you for their generous donation

Bob and Lila Tickman

Frederick and Deborah Novomestky in honor of their new grandson

Mazel Tov to Bob and Lila on their Fifty-Fifth wedding anniversary in April

Mazel Tov to our Newest Newlywes

Beth & Brice Faubel-Chicago Jim and Sandra Shuster-Rhode Island

Brian & Amy Levine—Rhode Island Alex and Cynthia Rudolph-Florida

Mazel Tov to Alysia and Jessica on their Bat Mitzvahs

Mazel Tov on the newest bundles of Joy

Kevin and Kerry Pertchik on the birth of Sophia March 19th

Mark and Allison on the birth of Benjamin and Caroline April 25th

Eric and Dasha on the birth of Daniel and Steven May 16th

Laurie Novomestky and David Fernandez on the birth of their son Matthew

Happy Anniversary

Kristin and Gary Belgium July 13

Jonathan and Emily Minneapolis July 18

Allison and Mark California July 19

Melissa and Emile New York July 19

Susan and Mark New York July 20

Tracy and Tim Rochester New York July 27

Matt and Marie Massachusetts July 28

Jeremy and Connie Long Island July 28

Ari and Elizabeth Manhattan August 3

Kevin and Jennifer California August 3

Hal and Galia Syracuse and Montreal August 9

Marc and Kate Massachusetts August 9

Glen and Marissa Texas August 10

Mike and Kerri Rochester New York August 17

Dan and Kimberly South Carolina August 24

Lori and John New York August 30

Ellen and Michael New York August 31

Newest Congregants

Naomi and Jeffery Allen

Josh Fagen and Maureen O'Brien

Andrew Goldstein and Erin Chapman

David Rettinger and Julie Foster

Bill Wise and Ronna Freiberg

The "Global Village" Congregation

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See the Thunder

The Kabbalah of Sinai is encountered in the book of Exodus, Chapter Twenty. What Western Religion calls Revelation the Torah refers to as *Mattan Torah*. Mattan Torah means the giving of Torah, and The Gift of Torah

Kabbalah means a receiving of the gift. At that moment we catch a glimpse of the Thunder.

See the Thunder? (Exodus 20:15)

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See the Thunder

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On the day of *Mattan Torah* the tremors from Sinai shook the very foundations of the Earth. What the children of Israel saw in the thunder was the Name of God. From the Mouth of God the children could see the thunder of God pronouncing the letter Aleph. In truth they perceived the End was at hand. They saw the sound of the Aleph and thought they would die. According to A Midrash, they were literally frightened to death.

Seeing the Thunder their hearts stopped and their heads fell. God sent two angels to revive each of the Children of Israel, one to awaken their dead hearts, and the other to raise their faces to the Presence of God.

Seeing the Thunder, they heard the Aleph God's question:

Will thou accept these teachings into the very body of your being?

Yes, Yes each and every one answers, but no sooner than they spoke, they broke their

word!

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Moses, they were told, was dead, floating in his coffin midway between earth and heaven, on the Mountain's peak, in the clouds.

Everything went up in smoke as each tribe fashioned a golden calf and then the Golden Calf for all the people. Thirteen measures of forgiveness would be needed to atone for this idolatry. Aleph God has exactly that many attributes of Mercy.

When Moses came down from the Mountain as one resurrected, he saw the enthusiasm of his children dancing around the calves. He began to head up the mountain to speak with God, but the Seventy Elders, the leaders of Israel who were also leading the dancing, tried to wrestle the two tablets of testimony from his strong hands. The Elders wanted to place the Tablets on their awaiting pedestal, the Golden Calf!

Moses alone saw the words rising and vanishing from the Tablets. They had again become only smooth stone. Without asking

See the Thunder *continued from page 3*

Moses lifted the Tablets. All the Children of Israel gasped. Moses smashed the Tablets at the base of the Mountain, at their feet. Their leader bewildered the Children of Israel once again. Now he had destroyed the most sacred object in the world.

From the beginning, the children of Israel did not understand the awesome leadership of this man Moses who ascended the Mountain to personally meet God, and they did not understand all the special effects God showed them at Sinai. The children of Israel could not fathom their teacher Moses or Moses' teacher, the Aleph God. Not until God buried Moses in the glen opposite Beth Peor did the children of Israel begin to grasp the strong hand of Moses, which smashed the Tablets.

Our great rabbinic commentator, Rashi, ends his commentary to the book of Deuteronomy his final word on the final verses of the Torah explaining the actions of Moses our teacher at Sinai.

**"And in all that strong hand
And in all the awe inspiring vision
Which Moses did
Before the eyes of all Israel."**

***That he received the Torah*
The Tablets in hand
Working the wonders of God
In the great and terrible wilderness
Moses' heart inspired him
To break the Tablets
And God agreed
As it is said!
Exodus 34:1**

**I am happy says God
Mazel Tov
Congratulations
That you shattered them!**

See the Thunder *continued from page 4*

Because of all of the above the Second Set of Tablets, given on the Day of Atonement, were given quietly. God said, "I love nothing more than humility. The first set of Tablets was the work of my hand. The second set is yours. You must put the pieces together to be at one with my law. The wonders that I performed on the Mountain, the lightening, the trembling, you must discover within your hearts and within my Torah. In this way alone will you see again the thunder."

One of my Kabballah mentors, the Holy Rabbi, the Kotzger Rebbe, whispers to me continuously, "Silence is the loudest cry, a broken heart the greatest wholeness."

KABBALLAH

A Summer Study Lead by

Rabbi Aryeh Alpern

- June 16** Madonna, Hilary and Rosie. What Kabballah are they studying?
- June 23** Rereading Genesis from a Kabbalistic Perspective
- June 30** Secrets made Basic - Exodus
- July 14** The Ten Principle Teachings
- July 21** The Wisdom of Questioning
- July 28** Hollywood and The End Kabballah on Redemption

All classes will begin at 7:00PM on Wednesday evenings.

If you wish to partake in these classes "longdistance" Please email Rabbi Alpern.

The Series will be free to Members of Temple Shabbat Shalom. For Non-members the fee for the Entire Series is \$60 or specific sessions may be attended for \$15 per session (subject to space availability)

Temple Shabbat Shalom is a non-sectarian, non-denominational House of Worship and Study. All are welcome as members.

**Please do contact Rabbi Aryeh and Karen Alpern 518-893-0808
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**We look
forward to hearing from you!**