

Congregation and Talmud Torah Ahavath Achim

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Affiliated with the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America



May 2013
SHAVUOT 2013-5773



SHAVUOT NEWSLETTER

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

TUESDAY EVENING MAY 14

MINCHA	7:45 P.M.
MAARIV	8:45 P.M.

WEDNESDAY MAY 15

SCHACHARIS	8:45 A.M.
MINCHA & MAARIV	7:45 P.M.

THURSDAY MAY 16

SCHACHARIS	8:45 A.M.
YIZKOR	10:30 A.M.
MINCHA & MAARIV	7:45 P.M.

TIKKUN LEYL SHAVUOT

Our *Bais Hamidrash* will again be open the entire first night of Shavuot for individual and group study. This universal practice emphasizes the importance of Torah study and practice on the night commemorating the giving of The Torah with its moral implications to us, and through us to the entire world.

WHY WE BELIEVE MOSES

We as human beings tend to greater or lesser extent to be dazzled by the new object on the scene. Not long ago the world was enchanted by the appointment of a new pope. Certainly there were or are features of his personality and background that make him enchanting to many.

This reminded me of the words of the *Rambam*. He reports that we believed in the revelation at Sinai not on the basis of another party, be they Moses or whoever telling us what happened but on the basis of what we experienced ourselves- what we saw; what we heard. The result of that fact enables us to always confront new fangled prophets or religious gurus who seek for us to convert to their mode of worship by saying : look, we saw and heard and experience revelation first hand. And if you seek by means of persuasion and supernatural means for us to forsake our approach it is trickery or a delusion.

This is a lesson that as individuals and as a nation we need to remind ourselves on a regular basis. The blandishments of other beliefs can be quite attractive because we as Jews in particular seek spirituality. When enticed to any degree we must plumb the depths of our own heritage; we are bound to find what we seek!

*Chag samaach,
Rabbi Ari Kagan*

From Our Sisterhood

Reading *Ruth* on Shavuot reminds us of the final Redemption. Ruth is the great grandmother of King David, from whom Moshiach is destined to be born.

It will be a day as glorious as when the Torah was given, and Moshiach ben Dovid will appear. If Shavuot marked the onset of Jewish history with the Ten Commandments, then Moshiach's arrival will be its splendid climax.

A happy Shavuot to all!

WITHIN THE SYNAGOGUE FAMILY

Mazel Tov

To Zacharyah Honikman on the engagement of his sister Aviva Honikman to Shalom Goodman.