

Congregation and Talmud Torah Ahavath Achim

1741 East 3rd Street, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11223 • 718-375-3895 • www.ahavathachimonline.org

Affiliated with the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America



May 2015

Shavuot 2015-5775

SHAVUOT NEWSLETTER



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SATURDAY EVENING MAY 23

Talmud class	6:55 P.M.
Mincha	7:55 P.M.
Maariv	8:55 P.M.

SUNDAY MAY 24

Schacharis	8:45 A.M.
Mincha & Maariv	7:55 P.M.

MONDAY MAY 25

Schacharis	8:45 A.M.
Yizkor	10:30 A.M.
Mincha & Maariv	7:55 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.

THE NATURE OF SHAVUOT

Rabbi Shlomo Yosef Zevin in his work *The Festivals in Halacha* notes two somewhat obvious points. This holiday is observed briefly; one or two days. More importantly there are no specific mitzvos associated with this holiday. It doesn't have the august mitzva of matza or chometz. It doesn't have something like the blowing of the shofar or the shaking of the four species or succah. I'm sorry but cheesecake or blintzes doesn't cut it.

Why not some super mitzva? He suggests this is the nature of the all encompassing not to require details. For us Torah is everything so how can we encapsulate it even in a "cheftza shel mitzva", some mitzva object.

The point clearly is that this holiday should remind us to connect ourselves again with Torah and those who never allowed the relationship to lapse- they have to deepen their commitment with Torah. It is perhaps easier when you can latch on to some mitzva object. Shavuot allows us to realize that our relationship must be profoundly consistent and all encompassing.

*Chag samaach,
Rabbi Ari Kagan*

FROM THE SISTERHOOD

The reading of AkDaMus is saved for Shavuos. It speaks about the Greatness of Hashem and that He chose us as his nation. At the end of AkDaMus we praise and thank Hashem for giving us the [His] Torah.

Have a happy and healthy Shavuos.

WITIN THE SYNAGOGUE FAMILY

MAZEL TOV

To Mr. & Mrs. Krassner as well as Mr. & Mrs. Weinstock on the marriage of
Rivka Krassner to Shmuel Boorstein

To Mr. & Mrs. Kopciel on the bris of son, Benjamin.