

Halacha Newsletter

by Rabbi Yosef Shusterman

Shavuos 5763

Sivan

Tachnun is not said from the first through the twelfth day of the month. During this time period fasting is forbidden except in the following two cases. A Chossan and Kallah fast on the day of their wedding. One accustomed to fast following a disturbing dream may do so.

The second day of Sivan is known as "Yom HaM'yuchos." It was on that day that Hashem said to the Jewish people, "V'atem Tihyu Li Mamleches Kohanim V'goy Kodosh" (And you shall be unto me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation). The following Yom Kippur will fall on the same day of the week as the Yom HaM'yuchos.

The third, fourth and fifth days of Sivan are called "Shioshes Y'mei Hagboloh," the three preparatory days before Mattan Torah. Although hair-cuts are permitted during these three days, Minhag Chabad is to wait until Erev Shavuos.

Erev Shavuos

Thursday, Sivan 5, June 5

Eruv Tavshillin One should take at least a "kibeah" (2 ounces) of Challa, and a highly regarded food (at

least a "K'zayis" - 1 oz.) such as fish or meat, and recite the Brocho "Al Mitzvas Eruv" followed by the verse "B'dein..." This permits cooking and other preparations for Shabbos to take place on Friday, which is Yom Tov.

The Eruv must exist until all Shabbos preparation is completed on Friday. We combine the Eruv along with another Challa to serve as Lechem Mishneh at the first two Shabbos meals, and again at Shalosh Seudas, when it is eaten.

Shavuos Night

Candlelighting time is 7:44 p.m. The following two Brochos are recited: 1) L'Hadlik Ner Shel Yom Tov; and 2) Shehechiyonu.

Maariv We daven later than usual to make sure that the forty-nine days of the Omer are complete.

Beginning at Shir Hamaalos we recite Maariv L'Sholosh Regolim **Kiddush** is performed in the following order:

1. BorehP'riHagofen
2. Birkas Kiddush
3. Shehechiyonu

It is customary to stay awake all night to recite "Tikun Leil Shavuos" and to learn. This is to rectify the Jews' having slept the night prior to

Mattan Torah. One who was up all night (until morning) washes "Negel Vasser" and says Birchash Hashachar. (For further details, refer to Likutei Sichos, Volume 9, page 276.)

Some have a custom to immerse in the Mikveh at dawn to receive the Torah in purity.

Shavuos Day

First Day of Shavuos Friday, Sivan 6 June 6

Shacharis of Sholosh Regol'im and Hallel.

There has been an urgent call from the Lubavitcher Rebbe, to bring all children, including infants, to Shul to hear the Torah reading, especially the portion containing the Aseres Hadibros.

Kriyas Hatorah After Vay'hi Binsoa we say "Hashem, Hashem" once, and take out two Sifrei Torah. From the first Sefer we read the portion concerning Mattan Torah in Parshas Yisro. It is customary to stand facing the Sefer Torah during the reading of the Aseres Hadibros. For Maftir, from the second Sefer we read "U'vayom Habikurim" in Parshas Pinchas.

According to the Minhag of Chabad we do not say Akdomos.

Musaf of Sholosh Regolim. Note the special insertions describing the Shavuos Korbonos. Birkas Kohanim is performed.

It is customary to eat dairy foods on the first day of Shavuos. However, we are also obligated to eat meat on Shabbos and Yom Tov. Therefore, one should take caution to rinse the mouth out and wait approximately one hour (six hours after "hard cheese") between the dairy foods and any meat meals which follow.

Mincha Before Mincha, Posach Eliyahu is said. ("Hodu" is omitted.)

Second Day

Second Night of Shavuos Friday Evening

Candlelighting at 7:44 p.m. from a pre-existing flame. The following two Brachos are recited: 1) L'Hadlik Ner Shel Shabbos V'Shel Yom Tov; and 2) Shehechiyonu.

Maariv begins with "Mizmor L'Dovid." In the last verse of L'cho Dodi (Bo-ee V'Sholom"), we substitute the word "B'Simcha" in place of "B'Rina." Shmoneh Esrei for Sholosh Regolim with Shabbos insertions.

Kiddush Sholom Aleichem, Aishes Chayil, and Mizmor L'Dovid are recited quietly. The Kiddush is for L' Sholosh Regolim, with Shabbos insertions, and Shehechiyonu.

Second Day of Shavuos Shabbos, Sivan 7, June 7

Shacharis Shabbos davening until the Shmoneh Esrei, which is that of the Sholosh Regolim including Shabbos insertions. According to the Minhag of Chabad the book of Ruth is not read publicly.

Kriyas **Hatorah** "Hashem Hashem" is not said. Two Sifrei Torah are taken

out. In the first we read "Aser Aser" in Parshas Re'eh. Maftir is the same as for the first day.

Yizkor is recited after Kriyas Hatorah.

Musaf of Sholosh Regolim with Shabbos insertions. Be sure to include the special insertions describing the Shavuos Korbonos. Birkas Kohanim is performed.

Motzei Yom Tov 8:44 p.m.
Havdolo is the same as every Motzei Shabbos.

Did You Know...

Shavuos means not only "weeks" but also "oaths." The name indicates that, on the day of the giving of the Torah, G-d and Israel exchanged oaths to remain faithful to each other forever.

The true sanctification and holiness of the Jews began at Mattan Torah. Therefore, any "Shchitah" done prior to Shavuos was not "kosher" for them afterwards. This holds true even according to those opinions that maintain that the Jews kept the laws of kashrus before Mattan Torah. Being that the Torah was given on Shabbos, they were not permitted to "schecht" that day. Hence, the only thing available for them to eat was dairy. This is one reason we eat dairy on Shavuos.

Another reason we eat dairy on Shavuos is because the word "cholov" (milk) has the numerical value of forty. This corresponds to the forty days which Moshe Rabeinu spent on Har Sinai to receive the Torah.

Best Wishes
For a
Happy Shavuos

You're Invited

Chabad of Northern Beverly Hills will be open the entire night of Shavuos for classes and learning. Refreshments will be served. There will be an early morning Minyan at 5:15 a.m. in addition to the regular 9:30 a.m. Minyan.

*All Men
and women
are welcome
to attend.*