

Halacha Newsletter

by Rabbi Yosef Shusterman

Shavuos 5764

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.

Shavuos Night

Tuesday Evening

Sivan 6, May 25

Candlelighting time is 7:37 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 Birkas 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

Wednesday, Sivan 6 May 26

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.

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 Thursday, Sivan 7, May 27

Shacharis The davening is the same as the first day. According to the Minhag of Chabad the book of Ruth is not read publicly.

Kriyas Hatorah "Hashem Hashem" is recited once. Two Sifrei Torah are taken

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

Yizkor is recited after Kriyas Hatorah.

Musaf of Sholosh Regolim. Be sure to include the special insertions describing the Shavuos Korbonos. Birkas K. ohanim is performed.

Motzei Yom Tov 8:38 p.m. Havdolo is the same as every Motzei Yom Tov: "Hiney," Borei Pri Hagofen, Brocho of Hamavdil (spices and candles are **not** used).

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 5:20 a.m. in addition to the regular 9:30 a.m. Minyan.

*All Men
and women
are welcome
to attend.*