



The El Paso **CHABAD TIMES** Issue 150

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May-June 2018 | Sivan-Tammuz 5778

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The Rebbe's Message for **Humanity**

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**Celebrate Shavuot**

**Anniversary 3,330**

**Shabbat, May 19 - 6:30pm**

Evening Study in Preparation for Matan Torah

Lecture One: Hillel: The Entire Torah on One Foot?

Lecture Two: Six Hundred and Thirteen Commandments

Light Refreshments



**Sunday, May 20 - 11:00am**

Shavuot commemorates the day we received the Torah at Mt. Sinai 3,330 years ago. The children played an crucial role in that event. It is crucial for all children to be present in the Synagogue when we read the Ten Commandments.



**Hear the Ten Commandments**



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**Your Shavuot Guide**  
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Monday, May 21st  
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# The Rabbi's Message



Shavuot, Sunday, May 20 commemorates the day we received the Ten Commandments and the revelation on Mt. Sinai, 3,330 years ago.

Our Sages share with us a conversation that occurred between G-d and the Jewish People prior to that event.

G-d asked: "Who will be the guarantors of the Torah?"

The Jews replied: "Heaven and Earth shall be our guarantors."

G-d refused to accept this offer.

"The merit of our forefathers, Avraham, Yitzchak and Yaakov," they offered.

Again, G-d was not satisfied "Our children will guarantee it!"

G-d was satisfied and said, "THESE ARE EXCELLENT GUARANTORS!"

This is the key to the survival of our people.

Shavuot is an opportune time to instill within children a pride in being Jewish. To nurture

a strong connection to our past and to create a sense of purpose and contribution to our world. To actualize the divine potential for goodness imbued by the Creator within each and every one of us.

As part of Chabad's mission statement to reveal the beauty and joy of Judaism, we will host a special children's program on Shavuot: The Annual Ice Cream Parlor and Dairy Luncheon following the reading of the Ten Commandments. (See the front page for details.)

The Lubavitcher Rebbe explained that "Shavuot reminds us that true Torah education is the only way to ensure our children are not swept away in the spiritual confusion of our times. The Torah in all of its sanctity, the Torah of Truth must always remain intact and not subject to compromise or concession."

"This is what King Solomon, the wisest of all men, meant when he said "Train the child in the way he should go, and he will not depart from it when he grows old. (Proverbs 22:6)"

Every Shavuot we are standing at Mt. Sinai to renew our covenant with G-d and rededicate ourselves to our mission. We are granted the necessary strength to succeed.

Shavuot is a critical juncture. May it be an inspirational and memorable one for ourselves and our families.

Best wishes for a healthy summer.

Chag Sameach!  
*Rabbi Yisrael Greenberg*

# You are cordially invited to toast Lechaim!

to our

# Pillars of 2017

## Monday, June 25 - 7:00pm

Sidney & Meralee Schlusberg

Yosef & Karina Abraham

Moshe & Suzanne Azoulay

Adam & Dana Frank

Nat & Linda Holzer

Enoch & Yocheved Kimmelman

Esther Kishk

Dr. Sam & Monica Kupetz

Dr. Steve & Wendy Lanski

Eric & Sara Laytin

Shalom & Julie Laytin

Clement & Amy Marcus

Meyer & Mindy Marcus

Yair & Shira Moskowitz

Rachelle Nedow

Louis & Miriam Rosenbaum

Nancy Rothschild

Jerry & Stanlee Rubin

Dr. David & Meirav Sidransky

Edward & Helene Solomon

Amit & Pollie Toren

## Mazel Tov

### Graduations

**Middle School**  
Roei Arusi

**High School**  
Sydney Reiter

### THE EL PASO CHABAD TIMES

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## A Holiday Message

from the Lubavitcher Rebbe



*The Rebbe is honored with an Aliya to the Torah.*

The holiday is called Shavuos, which means “weeks,” recalling the verse: “And you shall count seven weeks for yourselves.” The day of the holiday itself is not counted. Nevertheless, all the days leading up to the holiday must be counted; only then is the holiday celebrated. This is one of the differences between Shavuos and the other pilgrimage holidays. The Torah associates Pesach and Sukkos with a specific date. With regard

to Shavuos, in contrast, the Torah merely states that it is to be celebrated on the fiftieth day after we begin counting [Sefirat HaOmer - on the second day of Pesach]. What is the lesson we can derive from this? Shavuos is the holiday commemorating G-d’s giving us the Torah. Before the giving of the Torah, the Jewish people also studied the Torah. Our Sages relate: “Abraham - the

## Torah: The Constant Gift

first Jew - was an elder, sitting in a yeshivah.” This pattern continued in subsequent generations. At that time, however, the Jews were not commanded to study; they were acting on their own initiative, with their own powers. Since they were not commanded to study, they were able to achieve only according to their own potential. Even those who had greater powers and were able to advance higher and higher, were nevertheless limited in their degree of progress. For every created being is limited.

When G-d gave the Torah, He proclaimed: “The lower realms shall ascend to the higher realms, and the higher realms shall ascend to the lower realms. And I will begin.” Through taking this initiative, He invested His own self in the Torah which He gave, and this granted the Jewish people the potential to ascend higher and higher without limitation.

Afterwards, from the giving of the Torah onward, this potential was granted to everyone, whether a small child or a man of developed intellect. For every Jew has a

portion in the Torah.

For this reason, the event is called “The *Giving* of the Torah,” like the giving of a gift. For one can only receive the Torah - and more specifically, the “light of the Torah” - as a gift; it cannot be earned through one’s own powers...

...The Jewish people received the Torah in the merit of the divine service of the righteous patriarchs. They prepared themselves by leaving the morally corrupt Egypt and counting the days in anticipation for the Giving of the Torah at Sinai.

We must always remember that When we study the Torah, we are studying G-d’s Torah. Therefore, a blessing must be recited before studying the Torah, declaring “Blessed are You G-d, who gives the Torah,” using the present tense. For G-d is gifting us the Torah now, at this moment, just like He gave it at Mount Sinai.

# Your old gold and silver can become cash for the new Chabad Lubavitch Center for Jewish Life

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Advisory Committee: Dr. Sam Kupetz, Dr. Steven Lanski, Mr. Sidney Schlusberg & Mr. Ed Solomon

# Lag B'Omer Community BBQ



# Kids in the Kitchen - Edible Arrangements



Rabbi Levi Greenberg distributes Matzah - a gift from Chabad - to the participants of the Café Europa event before Pesach.

City Rep. Peter Svarzbein gives Tzedaka before the invocation at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, May 1.

# The Model Matzah Bakery & Spring Camp



## From the Rabbis' Blog

[www.chabadelpaso.com/blog](http://www.chabadelpaso.com/blog)

Dedicated by **Northeast Feed**



**Rabbi Levi Greenberg**

Several years ago, a young Jewish man from a remote town in Alaska moved to El Paso for personal and economic reasons. He contacted Chabad and was graciously invited to join my parents for Shabbat dinner. My father mentioned that he had recently spoken with his brother, Rabbi Yosef Greenberg, the Chabad Rabbi in Anchorage, Alaska and he remembers the informal Bar Mitzvah ceremony he had at the Chabad Center in Anchorage.

The young man admitted that he did something for his thirteenth birthday but that he could not recall the details of the ceremony let alone the name of the officiating Rabbi. My father smiled and said,

“You might forget about Judaism, but Judaism does not forget about you.”

A few months later he experienced a serious medical emergency here in town and, only due to our intervention, he received the necessary treatment in time to save his life.

In one Torah episode, Moshe's intelligent, wealthy and powerful cousin Korach expresses frustration at Moshe's lofty leadership status. “The entire nation is holy,” he argued. “Why is Moshe so unique?” He felt that although Moshe surely surpassed him in academics, piety and humility, they were surely within comparable levels and therefore should share the leadership of the masses.

Korach's approach to leadership was fundamentally flawed. He maintained that the privileged deserved leadership by default. G-d has a different vetting process.

Moshe was chosen to be the leader of G-d's people after he demonstrated an extraordi-

nary characteristic while tending Jethro's flock. He was a dedicated shepherd, ensuring each one grazed in pastures best suited for their needs. But that was not enough.

Once, a tiny sheep strayed away from the flock, running off into the wilderness. Moshe ran after the little creature and returned it to the flock. No sheep was dispensable. This convinced G-d of his ability to lead the Jewish nation.

True Jewish leadership means personal responsibility for every individual Jew. This is a position of soulful commitment not a political office occupied through elections or political intrigue.

In our time, the Rebbe assumed this responsibility for every individual Jew. The enormous empire of Chabad emissaries in every corner of the globe is the result of the Rebbe's personal commitment to ensure that not a single Jew be forgotten to Judaism.

As we observe the Rebbe's 24th Yartzeit on the Third of Tammuz - Shabbat, June 16,

reflect on how you can participate in the Rebbe's mission to connect every Jew to G-d. Be inspired by the Rebbe's message and encourage a fellow Jew to observe another mitzvah. Share the beauty of Torah with someone who knows less.

When we gather the entire Jewish family together, we will merit the arrival of Moshiach who will herald in an era of true peace and tranquility for all.

In keeping with the age-old tradition of writing prayer petitions at our holiest sites, it is customary to send written notes to the Rebbe's resting place for intercession. On High for blessings large and small, in matters both material and spiritual.

Petitions may be sent via fax or email and will be placed at the Rebbe's Ohel. Fax: 718-723-4444 Email: [ohel@ohel-chabad.org](mailto:ohel@ohel-chabad.org)

To learn more about the Rebbe, please visit [TheRebbe.org](http://TheRebbe.org)

# Judaism Does Not Forget You

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**5779 | 2018-19**

# Shavuot Guide • Sivan 4 - 7, 5778 • May 18 - 21, 2018

## SHAVUOT IS A MAJOR FESTIVAL

**S**havuot, following exactly fifty days after Passover, is the second of the three major festivals. The holiday marks the giving of the Torah by G-d to the entire Jewish people on Mount Sinai 3,330 years ago.

In Hebrew, the word "Shavuot" means "weeks" symbolic of the seven weeks during which the Jewish people prepared themselves for the giving of the Torah in the desert. During these seven weeks they rid themselves of the scars of bondage and became a holy nation ready to stand before G-d.

## THE GIVING OF THE TORAH

The giving of the Torah is far more than a historical event. It is a far-reaching spiritual event that touches the essence of the Jewish soul then and for all time. Our Sages have compared Matan Torah to a marriage ceremony between G-d and the Jewish people. We became His special nation and He became our G-d.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF SHAVUOT TODAY

Each year, Shavuot is the special time for us to reawaken and strengthen our special relationship with G-d. One way to reaffirm our commitment is by rededicating ourselves to the observance and study of our most precious heritage - the Torah.

## THE WRITTEN AND ORAL LAW

The Torah is composed of two dimensions: the written law and the oral law. The written Torah contains the Five Book of Moses, the Prophets and the Writings. Together with the written Torah, Moses was also given the oral law which is an explanation and clarification of the written law. It was transmitted orally from generation to generation and was only transcribed years later in the Talmud and Midrash.

Throughout the generations our people have studied these works, commenting upon them, clarifying their meanings, deriving practical applications of these principles and codifying the laws derived from them. Thus, a continuous chain of tradition extends throughout the generations, connecting the scholars of the present day to the revelation at Mount Sinai.

## THE "BLUEPRINT" FOR CREATION

Speaking metaphorically, our Sages tell us that G-d constantly "gazes into the Torah and creates the world." The Torah is not only a practical guide for our behaviour in daily life, but also on a deeper level it is actually the "blueprint" for creation.

Everything that happens in our lives is a manifestation of G-d's wisdom, as expressed in His Torah. As such, Torah represents the very source of our vitality, and the key to the fulfilment of our deepest aspirations.

The Revelation at Mount Sinai was a tumultuous awe-inspiring experience. The entire universe, our Sages say, trembled with the piercing sound of the ram's horn. Thunder and lightning filled the skies. Then-silence. Not a bird chirped. No creature spoke. The seas did not stir. Even the angels ceased to fly, as the voice was heard: "I am the L-rd your G-d ..."

## Candle Lighting Blessings

1) BO-RUCH A-TOH ADO-NOI E-LO-HEI-NU ME-LECH HO-LOM,  
A-SHER KI-DE-SHA-NU, BE-MITZ-VO-SOV VE-TZI-VO-NU LE-HAD-LIK  
NER SHEL SHABBOS KODESH.

Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments, and commanded us to kindle the light of the holy Shabbos.

2) BO-RUCH A-TOH ADO-NOI E-LO-HEI-NU ME-LECH HO-LOM,  
A-SHER KI-DE-SHA-NU, BE-MITZ-VO-SOV VE-TZI-VO-NU  
LE-HAD-LIK NER SHEL YOM-TOV.

Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments, and commanded us to kindle the Yom Tov light.

3) BO-RUCH A-TOH ADO-NOI E-LO-HEI-NU ME-LECH HO-LOM,  
SHE-HEH-CHE-YOH-NU, VI-KIYE-MO-NU VE-HE-GE-O-NU  
LEZ-MAN HA-ZEH.

Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, who has granted us life, sustained us, and enabled us to reach this occasion.

## HEAR THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Relive the Sinai experience by hearing the reading of the Ten Commandments in the Synagogue.

When G-d revealed Himself on Mount Sinai, our entire people heard His holy and awesome voice as he proclaimed the Ten Commandments:

- 1) I am the L-rd your G-d who took you out of the land of Egypt.
- 2) You shall have no other gods before Me.
- 3) Do not utter the name of the L-rd your G-d in vain.
- 4) Remember the Sabbath to keep it holy.
- 5) Honor your father and mother.
- 6) Do not murder.
- 7) Do not commit adultery.
- 8) Do not steal.
- 9) Do not bear false witness.
- 10) Do not covet.

These ten commands range from the highest and most refined concept of the belief in the oneness of G-d, to the most basic laws which every society has found it necessary to enforce such as not killing and not stealing.

It is customary to eat a dairy meal on Shavuot. It is reminiscent of the Shavuot meal 3,330 years ago. With the Giving of the Torah, the Jews became obligated to observe the laws of Kosher. As the Torah was given on Shabbat, no cattle could be slaughtered nor could their utensils be koshered, and thus on that day they ate dairy.

## TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT

The Torah was given at daybreak. Our tradition relates that the Jewish people went to sleep the night before Matan Torah, and that it was necessary for G-d Himself to awaken them. To compensate for their mistaken behavior, it is customary to stay up the entire first night of Shavuot studying Torah. This custom is called Tikun Leil Shavuot.

## Shavuot Calendar

### Friday, May 18

Candle Lighting Time - 7:40 p.m.  
Recite Blessing 1  
Mincha - 7:40 p.m.

### Shabbat, May 19

Shacharit - 9:30 am  
Children's Service 11:00 a.m.  
Kiddush Lunch Following Services  
First Study Session - 6:30pm  
Refreshments  
Mincha - 7:30 p.m.  
Second Study Session - 7:45pm  
Maariv - 8:40pm  
Light Yom Tov Candles after 8:40 p.m.  
(Pre-existent flame)  
Recite Blessings 2 & 3

### Sunday, May 20

Shacharit - 9:30 a.m.  
Children's Service - 11:00 a.m.  
Ten Commandments - 11:30am  
Ice Cream Parlor  
Dairy Luncheon  
Mincha - 7:45pm  
Light Yom Tov Candles at 8:40pm  
(Pre-existent flame)  
Recite Blessings 2 & 3

### Monday, May 21

Shacharit - 9:30am  
Yizkor - 11:30am  
Mincha - 7:45 p.m.  
Holiday ends 8:41 p.m.

## Ongoing Programs at Chabad

### Sunday

Tanya Class 8:00 am  
Shacharit 9:00am  
Mincha and Maariv 7:00pm

### Monday

Shacharit 7:00am  
Mincha and Maariv 7:00pm

### Tuesday

Shacharit 8:30am  
Talmud Class 12:00pm  
Stories from the Talmud  
at the Monte Vista 2:00pm  
Mincha and Maariv 7:00pm  
Torah Studies 7:30pm

### Wednesday

Shacharit 8:30am  
Mincha and Maariv 7:00pm  
Women's Night Out  
Class for Women  
7:00pm - 8:00pm

### Thursday

Shacharit 7:00am  
Bi-Monthly Lunch & Learn  
12:00pm  
Mincha and Maariv 7:00pm

### Friday

Shacharit 8:30am  
Kabbalat Shabbat 7:00pm

### Shabbat

Shacharit 9:30 am • Followed by A Sit Down Kiddush • Mincha will follow the Kiddush  
Children's Program 11:00am • Maariv, Havdalah and film half hour after Shabbat

**Chabad is always hosting new classes and programs.  
To receive updates, e-mail [chabad@chabadelpaso.com](mailto:chabad@chabadelpaso.com)  
or visit us online at [chabadelpaso.com](http://chabadelpaso.com)**

**If you would like to set up a private study session,  
please call 584-8218.**

# TOGETHER

WE WILL TRANSFORM THE LANDSCAPE OF  
JEWISH EL PASO FOREVER!



## INDIVIDUAL | COMMUNITY | FAMILY

By the Grace of G-d, for three decades a dream has been nurtured and realized in our town. Uniting fellow Jews from a plethora of backgrounds and spanning all age groups, Chabad Lubavitch of El Paso has blossomed into a vibrant community. With special emphasis on the individual we have evolved into family. Your staunch support and friendship has helped us reach this momentous milestone. We have a vision. Building on the phenomenal success of the past we look forward to an even greater future. To erect an edifice that you will be proud to call home. A place to gather, discover, pray, laugh and celebrate our glorious heritage. Together we will ensure the continued growth and expansion of our oasis community in Southwest Texas.

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