

Shavu'ot 5775 at Tikvat Israel

SHAVU'OT IS THE SEASON OF THE GIVING OF THE TORAH. In keeping with tradition, Tikvat Israel will observe the holiday with prayer, study and celebration from Saturday evening, May 23, through Monday, May 25. Join us for our annual [TIKKUN LEIL SHAVU'OT](#)—the kabbalistic custom of studying *Torah* late into the night—on the first night of *Shavu'ot*. We will also have a congregational, bring-your-own picnic on Sunday evening. Come, participate, learn and enjoy!

[SATURDAY, MAY 23](#)

6:15 pm *Minchah Service*

6:45 pm *Se'udah Sh'lishit*

7:30 pm *First Study Session—Rabbi Alana Suskin: “Can Torah Speak to Us Today?”*

The Jewish tradition evolved in a time very different from ours. Societies were homogenous, conditions were primitive and people understood race, sex and gender in very different ways. And indeed, there were major ruptures in tradition and society. Does that mean that the teachings of the *Torah* and the rabbis spoke to a society so different than ours that we cannot honestly apply them to ourselves? Come and find out just how clever the sages were, and whether their search for the divine is a journey we can share.



8:15 pm *Second Study Session—Rabbi David Abramson: “Do We Really Believe It?”*

“God gave us the *Torah* at Mt. Sinai.” “We obey the commandments because God commanded us.” “God speaks to us through the *Torah*.” We hear or make statements like these all the time—but do we really believe them? Let’s explore the fundamental question: “Do we really believe it?”

9:05 pm *Ma'ariv Service followed by dairy dessert.*

9:30 pm *Third Study Session—Rabbi Moshe Faierstein: “Understanding the Torah before Modernity: The Ze'enah U-Re'enah as a Torah Commentary”*

We will look at selected passages from the Ze'enah U-Re'enah's commentary on the Book of Ruth to illustrate how ordinary Jews understood the Biblical books that were read in the synagogue, before the advent of modernity. The Ze'enah U-Re'enah was first published in the early 1600's and has been published in more than 275 editions.

[SUNDAY, MAY 24](#)

9:30 am *Yom Tov Services.* Bring fruits in baskets; you will be invited to place your *Bikkurim* on the *bimah* sometime during the service. The food will be donated to Manna.

Kiddush following services.

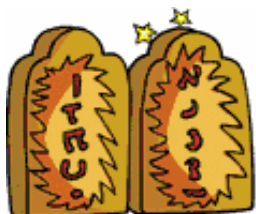
Study session—Rabbah Arlene Berger: “When God Held a Mountain Over My Head”

On the holiday of *kabbalat Torah* [the accepting of the *Torah*]*—*a discussion of whether that acceptance was freely given or made under duress/coercion and how the answer to that question impacts our relationship with Judaism today.

6:30 pm *BYO Dairy Picnic* on the front patio (inside in case of rain). TI will provide drinks and dessert.

[RSVP FOR THE PICNIC TO THE SYNAGOGUE OFFICE BY NOON, WEDNESDAY, MAY 20.](#)

7:30 pm *Minchah and Ma'ariv Services*



[MONDAY, MAY 25 \(MEMORIAL DAY\)](#)

9:30 am *Yom Tov Services* (including *Megillat Rut*, *Yizkor* and Memorial Day observance)

7:30 pm *Minchah Service*

No Ma'ariv Service