

## June 7, 2019 /4 Sivan 5779

Dear chevreh,

I'm excited for this weekend beginning with Shabbat and moving into Shavuot which celebrates the giving of the Torah by God to the Jewish people.

This evening, I look forward to seeing many of you at our monthly potluck at 6:15 pm followed by services at 7:00 pm.

Tomorrow evening at 7:00 pm, I will offer gentle Torah Yoga with themes related to receiving our own Torah/teachings. At 8:00 pm we will have a Tikkun Leil Shavuot, Torah study sessions based on kabbalistic practices from 16th-century mystics of Safed, Israel. We will learn, meditate, chant and eat together (Please bring a dairy dessert or a snack of some kind if possible). Some people stay awake the entire evening in order to correct the mistake – according to midrash - that our ancestors at Sinai made when they overslept on the morning of receiving Torah and had to be woken by a shofar. [Shir Hashirim Rabbah, ch. 1, pg. 12b]

Instead of risking sleeping in, we traditionally stay up all night. There is also the idea that at midnight the heavens open and favorably receive the thoughts, prayers and fruits of study of those who stay awake on the anniversary of the Revelation.

However, we will likely only stay until 10:30 pm or thereabouts. We will gather again Sunday morning for Shavuot services at 10:00 am which will include Hallel, Yizkor, and the chanting of the 10 Commandments followed by a luncheon. Please come to one or all of these gatherings.

Unbelievably, we have already arrived at the 48th day of the Omer, *Yesod Sh'b Malchut*: Foundation within Majesty. We think about all the people, teachings, influences and divine gifts of insight which have strengthened us, given us direction and clarity, and brought us to where we are today. Rabbi Yael Levy asks these questions about this day:

What can I bring forth from the experiences of my life?

What do I have to teach?

How can my words and actions reflect what I hold as most sacred?

May we continue to purify and prepare ourselves for receiving Torah again this year.

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For those following the unfortunate and heartbreaking decision of the DC Dyke March to ban Jewish pride flags, here are three important voices coming out against the decision:

[https://www.keshetonline.org/about/media-center/dcdykemarch/?fbclid=IwAR2JgtOPTg1WFKKeQoSeZSHKliM5-YLMj\\_IRZVWY9QYQq-i9Bw3lhYrVgJj4](https://www.keshetonline.org/about/media-center/dcdykemarch/?fbclid=IwAR2JgtOPTg1WFKKeQoSeZSHKliM5-YLMj_IRZVWY9QYQq-i9Bw3lhYrVgJj4)

<https://forward.com/opinion/425575/fellow-dykes-we-must-be-both-pro-israel-and-pro-palestine/?fbclid=IwAR24MW8VyPbpSJIO4qkw9-cFJgvtYkCPllaLgtrRoYsOyCj1Mhq1iZFKUBI>

<https://yair.substack.com/p/four-reasons-the-dc-dyke-marchs-ban?fbclid=IwAR0jJTI0Hr7yrxgGAloOC5zzc196auJOUQ9hStuf417d2efEyzpiBSw-3c0>

Here is one (overly simplistic, misguided and unsound, in my opinion) voice of a person who agrees with the decision:

<https://medium.com/ifnotnoworg/jewish-dykes-are-welcome-at-dc-dyke-march-nationalist-symbols-are-not-c603b1f81b4c?fbclid=IwAR2510RIJiaXQ1sUF5SN-P0zXVNJKmf9dFVW2JsHcequfCXjrILoykx7WQ>

Wishing everyone a Gut Shabbes!

Shabbat shalom and Chag Sameach,

Rabbi Diana