

SHAVUOT IN ISRAEL IS DIFFERENT

Gabrielle Donati

Shavuot in Israel is different than Shavuot anywhere else. In the US, Shavuot is a relatively unknown holiday outside of the Traditional Jewish community. Many secular Jews have never heard of Shavuot, and those who have, likely don't know what it's about or what we're celebrating. In Israel - everyone knows Shavuot.

One of the perks of living in Israel is that Shabbat and the *chagim* (religious holidays) are legal holidays. Even in more secular cities like Tel Aviv, outside of some restaurants and small markets, everything is closed. No one is shopping, offices and schools are closed; public transport stops. There is a quietness and holiness to these days that is palpable no matter your level of observance. As one of the three "pilgrim festivals" detailed in the Torah, where Jews from all over the country traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate at the Temple, Shavuot is an official holiday, and everyone is observing on some level.

Shabbat and *chagim* are synonymous with family in Jewish tradition, and this is certainly the same in Israel. Orthodox to secular, these are days that focus on family and spending time together. The Orthodox structure of Shavuot is the same as outside of Israel, the restrictions of *chagim* are in place, synagogue services are attended, the table is laden with dairy delights, and the tradition is all-night study at the synagogue or at other Jewish organizations. In Anglo communities, there are plenty of study sessions in Israel to attend. Secular Israelis don't have the tradition of all-night study but Shavuot dinner with the family is a given and the day is spent in a family activity - often taking a road trip to a national park, the sea, or a quaint Israeli town. Whereas in the diaspora, secular Jews likely don't even know that a Jewish holiday is taking place, it's a festive and happy event in Israel that everyone is aware of and with few exceptions, everyone celebrates with family and friends.

My best friend's Hebrew birthday is on Shavuot and I have enjoyed many Shabbat and holiday meals at his family table. There is an extra layer of joy on Shavuot as we celebrate his birthday, and I personally celebrate the gift of his friendship and the gift of being so warmly welcomed by his family throughout the years.

His family epitomizes the blending of various observance levels and Jewish traditions. His father was Yemenite, and his mother is Polish, so I've been exposed to both Ashkenazi and Sephardi customs. In the 1950s, his grandfather founded a Yemenite shul in Tel Aviv that still holds Shabbat and *chagim* services. All the milestones of his family are

celebrated there. His older sister, a mother of seven children, has become more involved in Judaism since their father passed and is on her own journey of more traditional observance. It's been beautiful to witness the deep joy that she experiences in becoming more observant while at the same time, being completely accepting and non-judgmental toward family members who still lean toward the secular.

Everyone in this family respects everyone else's religious observance and does not judge, separate, or exclude. As a Jew-by-Choice myself, this acceptance resonates deeply with me as I have had to find a balance between my religious beliefs and those of my Christian family. It's all about *Shalom Bayit*—domestic tranquility!

For me personally, Shavuot is not only about what we receive from *Hashem* (G-d): the gifts of the harvest and the gift of the Torah - it's about giving thanks in return for these gifts, as well as the innumerable blessings that we receive moment-to-moment from *Hashem*.

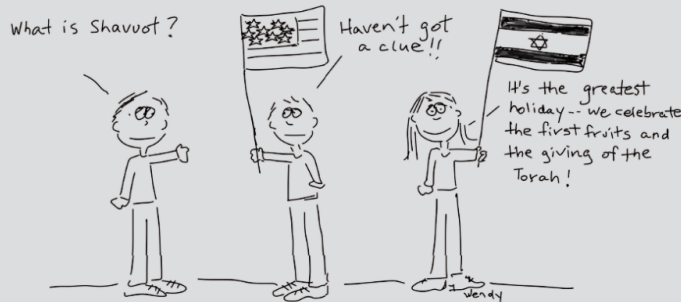
The Torah was given to the Jewish people, but I see it as a gift to all humankind. Three major world religions embrace the Torah as their ethical foundation and even much of secular society respect the variety of moral and ethical laws that are based on Torah commandments. This world would be a very different place had *Hashem* not provided us with this guidebook to living ethically. No matter your religion, tradition, or lack thereof, every soul is blessed by this gift.

It's a particular comfort to spend Shabbat and the *chagim* in Israel. After so many years living here, I take it for granted that these holy days of ours are embedded in the energy of this place and I profoundly feel the difference when I travel outside the country.

As we celebrate the first fruits and the giving of the Torah on Shavuot, I wish that all of us are able to feel the joy and gratitude that comes from being on the receiving end of such priceless treasures --and that we acknowledge and give thanks for the abundance in our lives on so many levels.

Hashem is surely the Giver Who keeps on giving.
Shavuot Sameach.

Gabrielle Donati is a former member of the Beginners Service, a rabid fan of Rabbi Buchwald, and happily resides in Tel Aviv, Israel.



CONGRATULATIONS AND MAZAL TOV

ENGAGEMENTS

Sarah Bracha Goldberg and Yishai Bousbib

Mazal Tov to parents,

Yehudah Aryeh and Ilana Devorah Bousbib

Prina Aronov and Chananya Kaplan

Mazal Tov to parents, Chava and Steven Kaplan

Hanna Gerber and Ilan Kapenstein

Mazal Tov to parents, Tracy and Sander Gerber

Tamar Asknow and Jake Kornblatt

Mazal Tov to parents,

Drs. Judith Deutsch and Marc Kornblatt

Gavi Magder and David Levi

Mazal Tov to parents, Anat and Dr. Gabriel Levi

Mazal Tov to grandmother, Helga Weisburger

BIRTHS

Elisheva and Rabbi Oren Epstein on the birth of a son,

Aryeh Leib Eliyahu haLevi

Mazal Tov to grandparents,

Judith Weil and the late Lloyd Epstein, z"l

CONDOLENCES

David Cohen on the passing of his father,

Jerome Cohen, z"l

SPEEDY RECOVERY/REFUAH SH'LAIMA

Dr. Marvin Belsky,

Shimon Michael haLevi ben Sorah Risa

Dr. Leonard Davidman, Aryeh Leib haLevi ben Machliah

Peter Halasz, Yehonatan haCohen ben Ora

Geraldine Katz, Gershona Yehudit bat Rochel

Irwin Mandel, Yitzchak ben Rivka

Miriam bat Chana Gitl

Moshe Zvi Michael ben Miriam

Natan ben Naomi Malka

Ruth Nelkin, Rochel bat Sarah

Dr. Nichole Pacheco, Naavah bat Emma

Louis Vynerib, Elazar HaCohen ben Malka

Yisrael Chaim ben Etta Leah

CONGRATULATIONS

Tracy and Sander Gerber on being the Guests of Honor at Manhattan High School for Girls' 30th Anniversary Scholarship Dinner.

Jill and Jonathan Lamstein on being the Parents of the Year at Manhattan High School for Girls' 30th Anniversary Scholarship Dinner.

Anat and Dr. Gabriel Levi on being the Guests of Honor at Congregation Ohav Zedek's Annual Dinner.

Mazal Tov to Kayla (Kristina) Reiko Cooper Rosen on organizing a musical tribute to "Japanese Schindler," Chiune Sugihara, the Japanese Imperial Consul who saved thousands of Jewish refugees in Lithuania in 1940. The musical tribute recently had its successful U.S. debut in Carnegie Hall on April 19th.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Thurs May 25, 2023 - 5th of Sivan**EREV SHAUVUOT**

Morning Services	7:00 & 7:50 AM
Candle Lighting	7:58 PM
Mincha/Maariv	8:05 PM

Fri May 26, 2023 - 6th of Sivan**1st DAY SHAUVUOT**

Morning Services	4:54, 8:00 & 9:00 AM
Bible Class/Book of Ruth	6:05 PM
Candle Lighting	6:45 PM
Regular Candle Lighting	7:59 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:05 PM

Sat May 27, 2023 - 7th of Sivan**2nd DAY SHAUVUOT****Yizkor**

Morning Services	8:00 & 9:00 AM
Bible Class/Book of Ruth	6:50 PM
Mincha	7:50 PM
Ma'ariv/Shabbat ends	9:00 PM
Daily Mincha & Ma'ariv	8:10 PM

Mon May 29, 2023 - 8th of Sivan**MEMORIAL DAY**

Morning Services	7:10, 8:30 AM
Mincha/Maariv	8:10 PM

Fri June 2, 2023 - 13th of Sivan

Morning Services	7:10 & 7:50 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting	6:49 PM
Candle Lighting	8:04 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	8:10 PM

Sat June 3, 2023 - 14th of Sivan**Naso**

Morning Service	7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Beginners Service	9:30 AM
Beginners Mishnayot	6:05 PM
Lazar Class	6:50 PM
Mincha	7:50 PM
Ma'ariv/Shabbat Ends	9:05 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv	8:15 PM

Fri June 9, 2023 - 20th of Sivan

Morning Services	7:10 & 7:50 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting	6:53 PM
Candle Lighting	8:09 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	8:15 PM

Sat June 10, 2023 - 21st of Sivan**B'ha'a'lot'cha**

Morning Services	7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Beginners Service	9:30 AM
Beginners Mishnayot	6:10 PM
Lazar Class	6:55 PM
Mincha	7:55 PM
Ma'ariv/Shabbat Ends	9:10 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv	8:20 PM

Fri June 16, 2023 - 27th of Sivan

Morning Services	7:10 & 7:50 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting	6:56 PM
Candle Lighting	8:12 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	8:15 PM

Sat June 17, 2023 - 28th of Sivan**SHABBAT MEVARCHIM****Shelach**

Morning Service	7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Beginners Service	9:30 AM
Beginners Mishnayot	6:15 PM
Lazar Class	7:00 PM
Mincha	8:00 PM
Ma'ariv/Shabbat Ends	9:13 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv	8:20 PM

Mon June 19, 2023 - 30th of Sivan**ROSH CHODESH**

Morning Services	7:10 & 7:40 AM
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Tues June 20, 2023 - 1st of Tammuz**ROSH CHODESH**

Morning Services	7:10 & 7:40 AM
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Fri June 23, 2023 - 4th of Tammuz

Morning Services	7:10 & 7:50 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting	6:57 PM
Candle Lighting	8:14 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	8:20 PM

Sat June 24, 2023 - 5th of Tammuz**Korach**

Morning Service	7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Beginners Service	9:30 AM
Beginners Mishnayot	6:15 PM

Lazar Class	7:00 PM
Mincha	8:00 PM
Maariv/Shabbat Ends	9:14 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv	8:20 PM

Fri June 30, 2023 - 11th of Tammuz

Morning Services	7:10 & 7:50 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting	6:58 PM
Candle Lighting	8:14 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	8:20 PM

Sat July 1, 2023 - 12th of Tammuz**Chukat-Balak**

Morning Service	7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Beginners Service	9:30 AM
Beginners Mishnayot	6:15 PM
Lazar Class	7:00 PM
Mincha	8:00 PM
Maariv/Shabbat Ends	9:14 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv	8:20 PM

Tues July 4, 2023 - 15th of Tammuz**INDEPENDENCE DAY OBSERVED**

Morning Services	7:10 & 8:30 AM
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Thurs July 6, 2023 - 17th of Tammuz**SHIVA ASSAR B'TAMMUZ**

Fast Begins	4:19 AM
Morning Services	6:50 & 7:30 AM
Mincha/Maariv	8:05 PM
3 Fast Ends	9:02 PM

Fri July 7, 2023 - 18th of Tammuz

Morning Services	7:10 & 7:50 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting	6:57 PM
Candle Lighting	8:12 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	8:15 PM

Sat July 8, 2023 - 19th of Tammuz**Pinchas**

Morning Services	7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Beginners Service	9:30 AM
Beginners Mishnayot	6:15 PM
Lazar Class	7:00 PM
Mincha	8:00 PM
Maariv/Shabbat Ends	9:12 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv	8:20 PM

Fri July 14, 2023 - 25th of Tammuz

Morning Services	7:10 & 7:50 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting	6:55 PM
Candle Lighting	8:09 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	8:15 PM

Sat July 15, 2023 - 26th of Tammuz**SHABBAT MEVARCHIM****Matot-Masei**

Morning Services	7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Beginners Service	9:30 AM
Beginners Mishnayot	6:10 PM
Lazar Class	6:55 PM
Mincha	7:55 PM
Maariv/Shabbat Ends	9:09 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv	8:10 PM

Wed July 19, 2023 - 1st of Av**ROSH CHODESH**

Morning Services	7:10 & 7:40 AM
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Fri July 21, 2023 - 3rd of Av

Morning Services	7:10 & 7:50 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting	6:51 PM
Candle Lighting	8:04 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	8:10 PM

Sat July 22, 2023 - 4th of Av**Devarim****SHABBAT HAZON**

Morning Service	7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Beginners Service	9:30 AM
Beginners Mishnayot	6:05 PM
Lazar Class	6:50 PM
Mincha	7:50 PM
Maariv/Shabbat Ends	9:04 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv	8:10 PM

Wed July 26, 2023 - 8th of Av**EREV TISHA B'AV**

Morning Services	7:10 & 7:50 AM
Mincha	8:05 PM
Fast Begins	8:19 PM
Maariv/Eicha/Kinnot	8:50 PM

Thurs July 27, 2023 - 9th of Av**TISHA B'AV**

Morning Services	6:30 & 8:30 AM
Chatzot	1:02 PM
Mincha	1:40 PM
Mincha/Maariv	7:45 PM
Fast Ends	8:49 PM

Fri July 28, 2023 - 10th of Av

Morning Services	7:10 & 7:50 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting	6:46 PM
Candle Lighting	7:58 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	8:00 PM

Sat July 29, 2023 - 11th of Av**SHABBAT NACHAMU****Va'etchanan**

Morning Service	7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Beginners Service	9:30 AM
Beginners Mishnayot	6:00 PM
Lazar Class	6:45 PM
Mincha	7:45 PM
Maariv/Shabbat Ends	8:58 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv	8:00 PM

Wed August 2, 2023 - 15th of Av**TU B'AV**

Morning Services	7:10 & 7:50 AM
Mincha/Maariv	8:00 PM

Fri August 4, 2023 - 17th of Av

Morning Services	7:10 & 7:50 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting	6:40 PM
Candle Lighting	7:51 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:55 PM

Sat August 5, 2023 - 18th of Av**Eikev**

Morning Service	7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Beginners Service	9:30 AM
Beginners Mishnayot	5:50 PM
Lazar Class	6:35 PM
Mincha	7:35 PM
Maariv/Shabbat Ends	8:50 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv	7:50 PM

Fri August 11, 2023 - 24th of Av

Morning Services	7:10 & 7:50 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting	6:33 PM
Candle Lighting	7:42 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:45 PM

Sat August 12, 2023 - 25th of Av**SHABBAT MEVARCHIM****Re'eh**

Morning Services	7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Beginners Service	9:30 AM
Beginners Mishnayot	5:40 PM
Lazar Class	6:25 PM
Mincha	7:25 PM
Maariv/Shabbat Ends	8:41 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv	7:45 PM

Thurs August 17, 2023 - 30th of Av**ROSH CHODESH**

Morning Services	7:10 & 7:40 AM
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Fri August 18, 2023 - 1st of Elul**ROSH CHODESH**

Morning Services	7:10 & 7:40 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting	6:25 PM
Candle Lighting	7:32 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:35 PM

Sat August 19, 2023 - 2nd of Elul**Shoftim**

Morning Services	7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Beginners Service	9:30 AM
Beginners Mishnayot	5:30 PM
Lazar Class	6:15 PM
Mincha	7:15 PM
Maariv/Shabbat Ends	8:32 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv	7:35 PM

Fri August 25, 2023 - 8th of Elul

Morning Services	7:10 & 7:50 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting	6:17 PM
Candle Lighting	7:22 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:25 PM

Sat August 26, 2023 - 9th of Elul**Kee Teitzei**

Morning Services	7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Beginners Service	9:30 AM
Beginners Mishnayot	5:20 PM
Lazar Class	6:05 PM

Mincha	7:05 PM
Maariv/Shabbat Ends	8:21 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv	7:25 PM

Fri September 1, 2023 - 15th of Elul

Morning Services	7:10 & 7:50 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting	6:07 PM
Candle Lighting	7:11 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:15 PM

Sat September 2, 2023 - 16th of Elul**Kee Tavo**

Morning Service	7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Beginners Service	9:30 AM
Beginners Mishnayot	5:10 PM
Lazar Class	5:55 PM
Mincha	6:55 PM
Maariv/Shabbat Ends	8:10 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv	7:10 PM

Fri September 8, 2023 - 22nd of Elul

Morning Services	7:10 & 7:50 AM
Earliest Candle Lighting	5:58 PM
Candle Lighting	6:29 PM
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:05 PM

Sat September 9, 2023 - 23rd of Elul**Nitzavim-Vayeilech**

Morning Service	7:45, 9:00 & 9:45 AM
Beginners Service	9:30 AM
Beginners Mishnayot	5:00 PM
Lazar Class	5:45 PM
Mincha	6:45 PM
Maariv/Shabbat Ends	7:58 PM
Daily Mincha & Maariv	7:00 PM

Fri September 15, 2023 - 29th of Elul**EREV ROSH HASHANA**

Selichot/Shacharit	5:45 & 6:45 AM
Light Candles	6:48 PM
Mincha/Maariv	6:50 PM

SAVE THE DATE

All Night Shavuot Learn-A-Thon

Thurs night, Fri morning,
May 25 - 26
12:45 - 4:45 AM

*Book of Ruth,
Shavuot afternoon classes*
Fri, May 26 6:05 PM
Sat, May 27, 6:50 PM

*Final Beginners Shabbat
Luncheon of the Season*
Sat, June 3 - \$35

*First Beginners Shabbat
Luncheon of the Season*
Sat, Sept. 2 - \$35

Rosh Hashana
Sat - Sun, Sept 16 - Sept 17