

## SELECTED SHAVUOT HALACHOT

### FIRST NIGHT (SUNDAY MAY 16)

1. On Sunday evening, first night Shavuot, many have the minhag to only daven Maariv at night fall. This is based on a well-established custom, cited in the Magen Avraham, not to bring in the Yom Tov of Shavuot early so as to complete the final, 49th, day of the Omer. This inevitably leads to a very late start to the Seuda, and must be weighed against the diminution in Simchat Yom Tov if one eats at a time at which one will not have appetite or when it will be too late for some members of the family to participate.

For this reason we offer two times for Kabbalat Yom Tov:

- Mincha followed Maariv at 7.15pm, with the earliest time for Hadlakat HaNerot at 7.10pm. Kiddush and the meal can then be made immediately upon one's return home from shul.
- Latest time for start of Yom Tov and Mincha at 8.33pm, followed by a shiur and late Maariv at 9.39pm

2. For those who say Yizkor, many have the minhag to light a Yahrzeit candle in advance of Chaggim on which we say Yizkor.

On Yom Tov we can only light from pre-existing flames. For this reason, a 24 or 48 hour candle might be useful for lighting the second day candles and for those who will wish to light their gas stove tops over Yom Tov

### TIKKUN LEYL

3. Please see [HERE](#) for full details of our communal Tikkun Leyl learning programmes, including for main learning programme, Youth and Lehava (young ladies)

4. For those learning all night:

- Tallit can be put on and Shacharit can be davened from 3.31am
- Since you have not slept all night, there are some changes to the regular format of Birchot HaShachar:
  - Netilat Yadayim: Only say the Beracha on Netilat Yadayim after using the facilities

- Tzitzit: Ideally make the Beracha on the Tallit to cover the Beracha for Tzitzit. If, however, you do not wear a Tallit, you should hear the beracha from someone else who does. If that is also not possible you should make the Beracha yourself
- Birchot HaTorah: Ideally you should hear Birchot HaTorah from someone who slept. If that is not possible you can make these Berachot yourself
- Elokai Neshama & HaMa'avir Shaina: Ideally you should hear these from someone who slept. If that is not possible you can make these Berachot yourself
- The rest of Birchot HaShachar: are said as usual

## **SECOND NIGHT (MONDAY MAY 17)**

5. On the second night Yom Tov, we accept the second day of Yom Tov early. We will daven Mincha followed by Kabbalat Yom Tov at shul at 7.15pm.

6. Candle lighting should not be before 7.10pm. Since it is Yom Tov the candles should be lit from a pre-existing flame.

Shehecheyanu is also said on the second night of Yom Tov.

7. Generally one should not make preparations on the first day of Yom Tov for the second day - "Hachana". For this reason, any heating of food, or even setting the table for the second day, cannot be done on the first day, or any time before nightfall.

Since, however, we are bringing in the second day early, as above, we can prepare for the evening's Yom Tov meal on first day Yom Tov, since it is eaten whilst it is still daylight, and still technically part of the first day.

## **LEARNING**

8. Yom Tov is an ideal time for extra learning, and of course this is particularly appropriate for Shavuot.

Whether you are able or unable to stay up on the first night of Shavuot, please see [HERE](#) for full details of our fantastic communal learning programme over Shavuot.

Please also click [HERE](#) to download Divrei Torah written by participants of our Project AMeN.

## **GENERAL**

9. From the first day of Yom Tov and on, the new Covid regulations allow some hosting of guests (please check the rules). One should try to invite guests, especially those for whom an

invitation is not mere socialising, but for whom it really enhances their Simchat Yom Tov. The Rambam says: "One who celebrates but closes his door to the less fortunate, is engaged in joy of the stomach and not joy of a Mitzvah."

10. If necessary, showering on Yom Tov is allowed, assuming an ordinary hot water tank system. As with washing-up on Yom Tov, a combi- or gas heater without a tank is a problem, because the rush of hot water triggers a gas flame or current. One must also be careful with hair washing (best just to stand under shower but do not rub or squeeze hair) and drying (best just to wrap the towel around your head and allow to dry by itself).

### **WEDNESDAY (MAY 19)**

11. Tachanun: Our Minhag is that we do not say Tachanun from Isru Chag until 13th Sivan inclusive. That means that we restart Tachanun on Tuesday 25th May.

Please email, call or WhatsApp me if I can clarify anything further or help in any other way.

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Warmest wishes and Chag Sameach,

Rabbi Zobin