

Ner's Newsletter SHAVUOT

Special Edition



Shavuot Times in London



Shavuot begins: 8.49 pm

Shabbat and Shavuot ends: 10.09 pm



Thursday is the 49th day of the Omer

Friday Is..... SHAVUOT! Well done to everyone who counted!

Here is a link to a Medley about Shavuot which you can listen to before Shavuot/Shabbat if you so wish.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2fuHZpLDfc>



The holiday of Shavuot is the second of the three foot festivals of the year and is a two-day holiday outside the Land of Israel and lasts one day in Israel. It begins on the evening of 5th of the Hebrew month of Sivan and lasts until nightfall on the 7th of Sivan.

The word **Shavuot** means 'weeks', as we celebrate the completion of the seven-week Omer counting period between Pesach and Shavuot. Other names for the festival of Shavuot are **Z'man Matan Torateinu** (The time of the giving of our Torah), **Chag Hakatzir** (The Harvest Festival) and **Chag HaBikkurim** (The Festival of the First Fruits).

More than 3,300 years ago God gave the Torah to the Jewish people on Mount Sinai and every year on the festival of Shavuot we celebrate this momentous occasion and we renew our acceptance of this special gift.

Shavuot also means 'oaths' as on this day God swore to the Jewish people that he would be devoted to them and in turn, the Jewish people promised to be loyal to God. In the times of the Beit Mikdash, people would begin to bring their first and choicest fruits to Jerusalem, to show their gratitude to God for giving them their crop. These first fruit were called 'Bikkurim'.

There is a **custom to stay up all night learning Torah** on the first night of Shavuot and it is customary for men, women and children to hear the reading of the Ten Commandments during the festival. There is also a custom to eat dairy foods on Shavuot, such as cheese blintzes, quiches, cheese-cake etc.

The **Book of Ruth** is read on Shavuot and many people have the custom to decorate their synagogues and homes with flowers and sweet-smelling plants because at the time of the giving of the Torah, flowers, plants and greenery appeared on Mount Sinai.

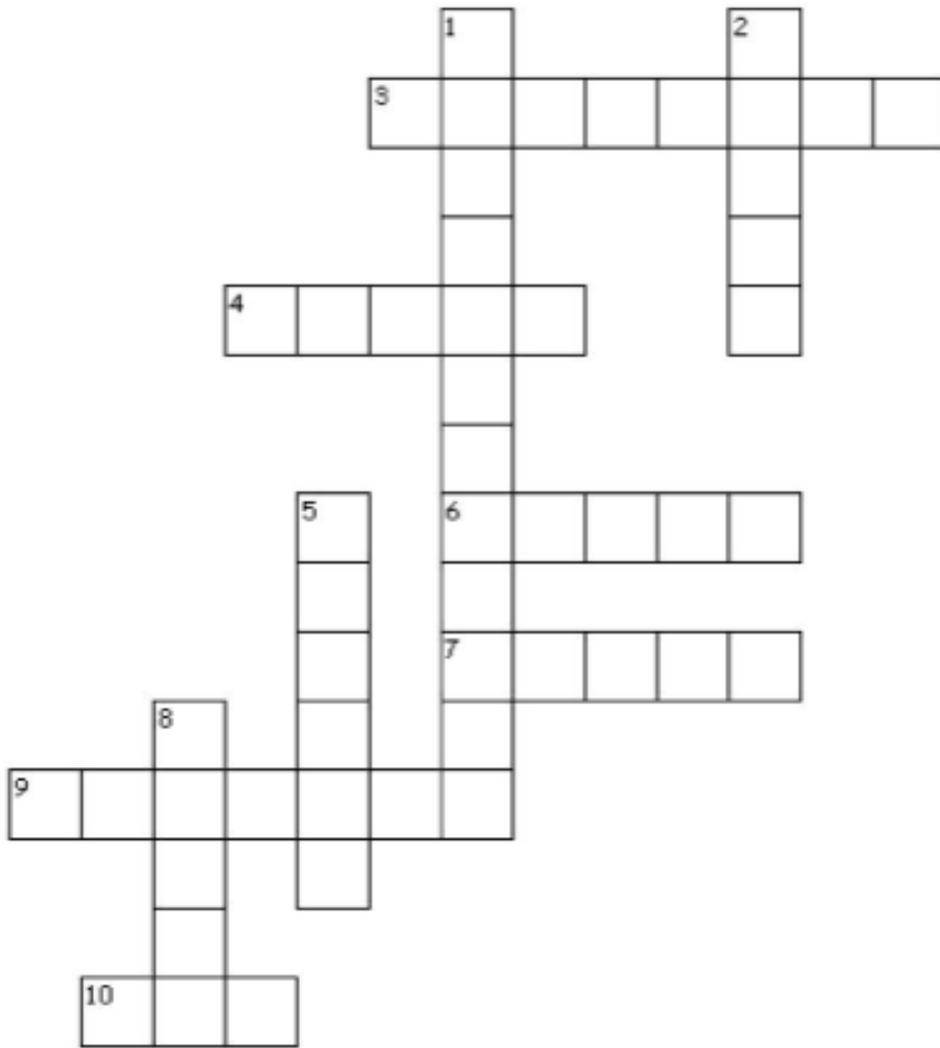


Fun Game – Foldable Activity

Cut out before Shavuot and enjoy over Yom tov. HAVE FUN! ☺

no other Gods before me 1	4	5 Honor thy father and thy mother	6 Commands
3 Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain	4 Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy	5 Thou shalt not kill	6 Thou shalt not kill
10 Thou shalt not covet	6 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor	7 Thou shalt not commit adultery	7 Thou shalt not commit adultery
2 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image	6 Thou shalt not steal	8 Thou shalt not steal	8 Thou shalt not steal
	9 The	9 The	10 The

Shavuot Crossword Puzzle



Across

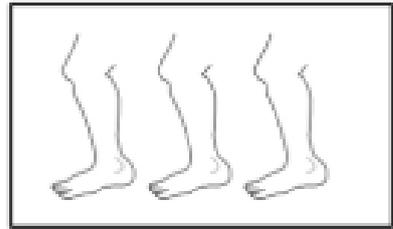
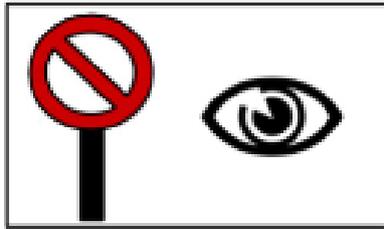
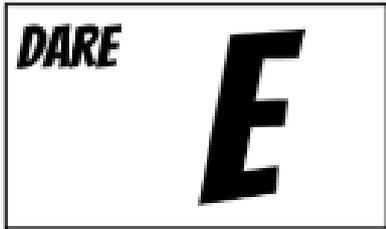
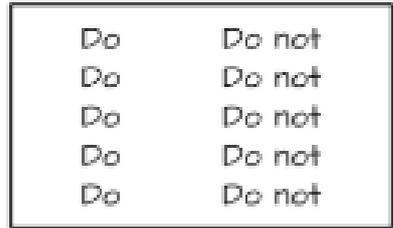
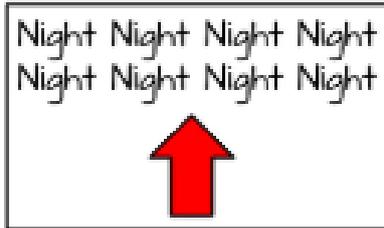
3. The Torah was given on a _____.
4. Hashem gave us the _____ on Shavuot.
6. What's the name of the mountain that the Torah was given.
7. We have the custom to stay up all _____ to prepare ourselves for getting the Torah.
9. The mountain was covered with _____.
10. How many commandments are in the Luchot.

Down

1. On Shavuot we are supposed to listen to the _____ in Shul.
2. It is a custom to eat _____ foods on Shavuot.
5. The first two commandments were said by _____.
8. I went up on the mountain for 40 days and nights.

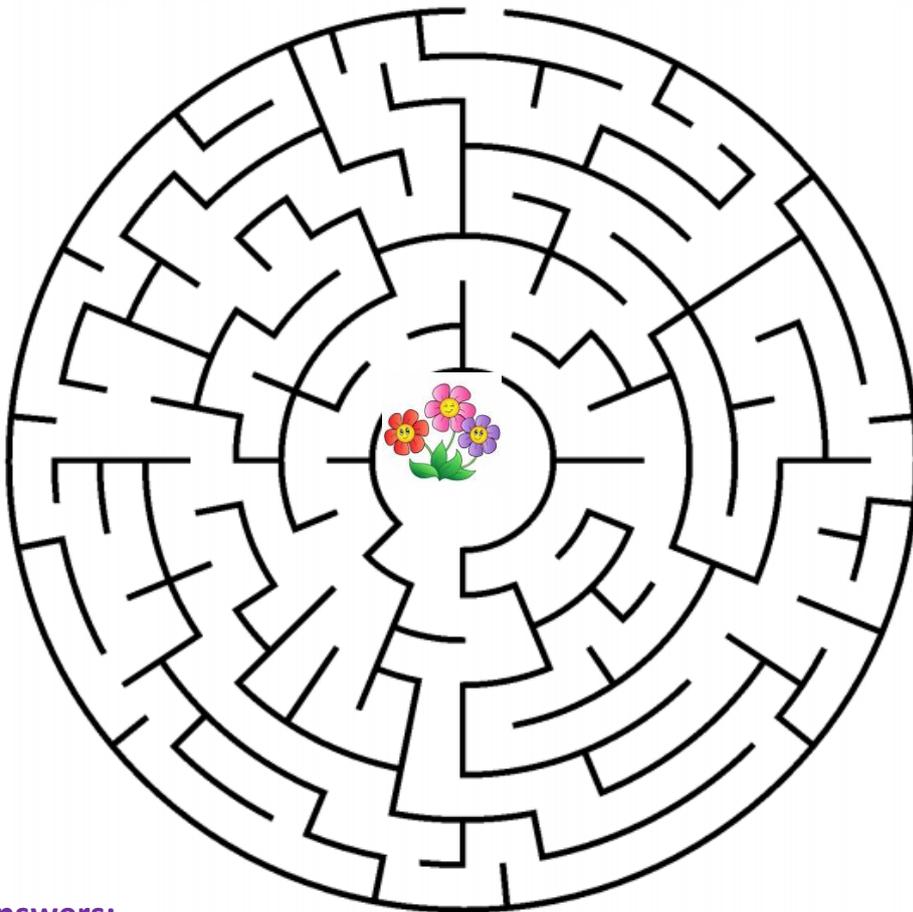
Send in your answers for a chance to win a super watergun and have lots of fun!! Send to: joelfherman@gmail.com. Put SHAVUOT ANSWERS and your NAME in the subject. Looking forward to get your answers! Deadline is Tuesday, 2nd of June, 10 pm.

Shavuot Dingbats



Shavuot Flower Maze

Can you find your way to the flowers through the maze?

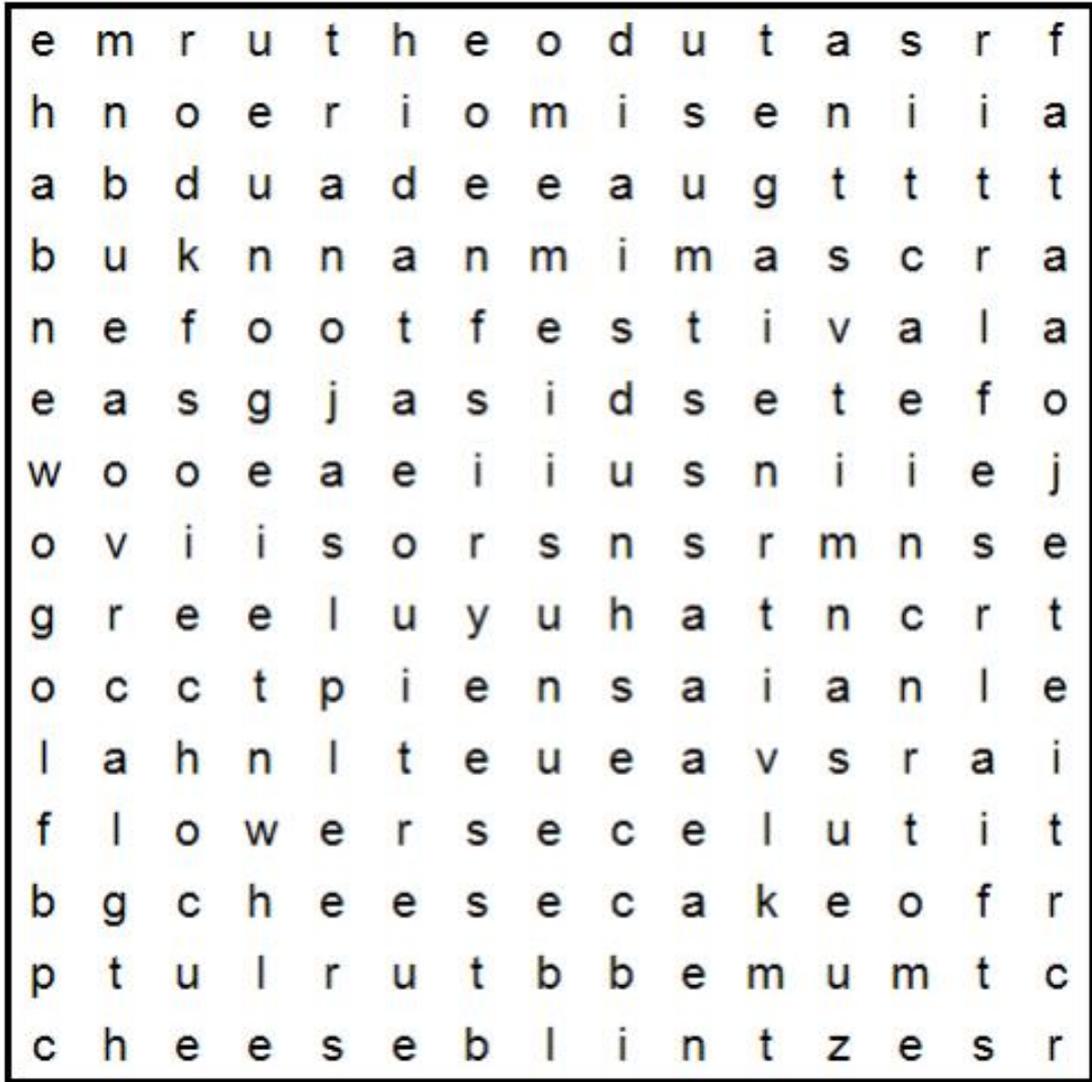


Answers:

Megilat Ruth	Up all night	Ten commandments
Dairy	Sinai (sign-eye)	3 Regalim

Family Wordsearch Challenge!

You'll find all the words in the summary above



Words to find:

Ruth	Mountain	Foot festival	Cheesecake
Flowers	Cheese blintzes	Jerusalem	



Story - Saved by the Coffee Cups

Many years ago there lived in Tunis a worthy Jew named Matzliach. He was a great lover of Torah, though not an outstanding Torah scholar. He was not very rich, but generous in his charity contributions, and he was a G-d-fearing man. Matzliach the Antique Dealer, as he was known, for he was a dealer in old wares and antiques, was well respected in the community. He was particularly praised for his special custom in connection with Shavuot, the Festival of the Giving of the Torah. Every year he would invite ten Torah scholars to his home on the first night of Shavuot, for whom he prepared a fine feast. After the feast they would all recite tikkun and study Torah all night, in honor of the great festival that celebrates the Jewish people's receiving the Torah at Mount Sinai. It all started many years before, when Matzliach learned for the first time about the origin of the Jewish custom to stay awake on the first night of Shavuot. He was greatly surprised to learn that on the night before that great day when G-d was to give the Torah to the Jewish people, they did not stay awake. Indeed, they slept soundly, so that when G-d descended on the mountain early in the morning to give the Torah to His chosen people, they were not there! So G-d let loose thunder and lightning, which woke them up and sent them hurrying to the mountain. Not that the people were not eager to receive the Torah. On the contrary, they had been counting the days—forty-nine days, seven full weeks—from the day after they departed from Egypt, eagerly awaiting the great day when the Torah would be given to them. Yet the night before that great event, when one would have expected them to be too excited even to think of sleep, they slept more soundly than ever! Did they want to be well rested, refreshed and wide awake for the great moment of the divine revelation? Be that as it may, it was a letdown. And so it became the custom of Jews everywhere to make up for it and stay awake the night of Shavuot, and in this way “correct” the wrong impression. This is what tikkun means—“correction.” Well, Matzliach and his guests certainly observed this custom in a fine way, and it impressed and inspired the



whole community. There was not a Jew in Tunisia who did not stay up that night. Old and young gathered in the synagogues to recite tikkun and learn Torah all night, and special refreshments were served to help keep them awake. There came a time, however, when Shavuot approached and Matzliach found himself in a difficult situation. Business had not been good, and Matzliach simply had no money, not only for his usual feast, but not even for the needs of his own family in the way of food and wine for the festival. Sadly he told his wife, Mazal, about his predicament, and she was greatly distressed. "It is not so much our own need that distresses me," the good woman explained, "but the fact that you cannot keep your fine custom. It is sad to think about it." "But what can we do?" "Well, I still have my precious earrings," Mazal said, taking them off from her ears. "Here, take them to the pawnbroker and get a loan till things will improve. You should be able to get enough for the festival meals and for your usual feast." "G-d bless you," Matzliach said gratefully. He took the earrings to the pawnbroker and obtained a tidy sum of money against them. As he was walking home cheerfully, Matzliach met the venerable Rabbi Hai Tayeb, chief rabbi of Tunisia. Matzliach greeted the rabbi respectfully, and the rabbi returned the greeting, obviously pleased to have met him in the street. "You saved me a trip," the rabbi said. "I'm going around collecting for our poor, so they, too, can celebrate the festival of Shavuot with joy." Without hesitation, Matzliach put his hand in his pocket and gave the rabbi the money he had just received from the pawnbroker. The smile with which Matzliach gave the money pleased the rabbi no less than the donation itself. "G-d bless you to do many mitzvot and good deeds," the saintly rabbi said, as they parted. Slowly Matzliach continued his way homeward. "What am I going to tell my wife?" he wondered. Suddenly he heard his name called. "Ya, Matzliach! You're just the man I want!" The caller was one of the royal servants of the Bey of Tunis. "His Majesty sent me out to buy a set of antique coffee cups. I have no idea where to get them. But you are an antique dealer. Get them for me, and you will be amply rewarded," the courtier said. "I

will try my best,” Matzliach promised. If there were such cups, Matzliach knew where to find them, and find them he did. The dealer Matzliach went to was pleased to get rid of them; he had had them too long, and despaired of ever selling them. Now he was pleased to sell them to Matzliach on credit, for he knew the Jewish antique dealer as a trustworthy man. Walking through the marketplace, Matzliach met the courtier again, for he was shopping for other things. “Did you manage to find the right cups for me?” the courtier asked eagerly. “Thanks to the One Above, I did.” The courtier took Matzliach with the cups to the royal court, and introduced him to the Bey. The king was very pleased with the cups. “Just what I wanted,” he said. “I know that the Jews are now busy with preparations for their festival. I am pleased that you took time out to find me these lovely cups. By the way, how are you doing with your preparations for the festival?” “The truth to tell, Your Majesty, I have not yet bought a thing.” The king immediately ordered one of his servants to send to Matzliach’s house two sacks of fine flour, a jug of olive oil and two choice live lambs. Then he asked Matzliach what he owed him for the cups. Matzliach told the king what he paid for them, and his usual commission. “What? That’s all you paid for these precious cups?” the king said, much surprised. “Well, the ruler of Tunisia is not looking for bargains. You shall be paid their full value!” Matzliach left the king’s palace with a very large sum of money. Walking briskly home, whom should he meet if not the chief rabbi, again. “I can now afford to double my donation,” Matzliach said happily, as he handed the rabbi an amount equal to his first generous donation. “Rabbi, your blessing was fulfilled,” Matzliach said, and told him how G-d was kind to him. “Thank G-d, we both did very well today,” the rabbi said. “Have a happy Yom Tov.” And a happy festival it was indeed for Matzliach and his good wife Mazal. And what made them happiest of all was that this year, too, they were able to observe their custom of celebrating tikkun-night as ever before. **Chag Sameach and Shabbat Shalom!**

From Malki and the Madrichim at Ner ☺