

KADIMA JEWISH HOLIDAY SERIES.

HOLIDAY SERIES.

קדימה
KADIMA

TIKUN LEL CHATZOT SHAVUOT

תקון ליל חצות שבועות

SHAVUOT MIDNIGHT STUDY



EDITED BY:

ROBERT J. LEIFERT
VICKI FISHOF

PREPARED BY:

RABBI BARRY DOV LERNER
TEMPLE BETH AHM
MATAWAN, NEW JERSEY

KADIMA JEWISH

HOLIDAY SERIES. KADIMA JEWISH

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Kadima Chairman

United Synagogue of America
Department of Youth Activities
155 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10010

212-673-5900

HAGIM -- HOLIDAYS

Holidays and Festivals are so vitally a part of the Jewish year. KADIMA believes that during the cycle of its program year, chapters should devote meetings and other sessions to learning about and experiencing the joys of the "HAGIM."

Many chapters conduct special programs in connection with the CHAGIM. Please send us yours so that we may consider including it in a future issue.

P.S. We suggest you keep all issues of the HAGIM series in a special loose-leaf binder or permanent file.

KADIMA: The pre-teen movement of the United Synagogue of America, Department of Youth Activities.

TIKUN LEL CHATZOT

INTRODUCTION

The Cabbalists, probably dating from the 16th century in Safed, prepared a special text from which they studied all night of Shavuot (Pentecost) based upon an old custom. The readings consisted of excerpts from the beginning and the end of every book of the Bible and Mishnah which they considered to be equal to having read the entire Bible and Mishnah.

The custom of studying either all night or until midnight is a tradition from Eastern Europe and especially from the Oriental Jewish community. In addition to the above texts, the tikun also included a study of the 613 commandments according to Maimonides and ultimately some sections from the Zohar, after which the participants recite "The Rabbis' Kaddish." (For a fuller discussion, see The Jewish Encyclopedia.)

EXPLANATION

On the first night of Shavuot, the Kadima group gathers in the synagogue, after all planning has been completed and approved. If the congregation has an early yom tov service, then the group would also plan on preparing and serving dinner (Remember the regulations regarding preparation and serving of food on Shavuot and when Shavuot also falls on Shabbat, and always check with the Rabbi.) If the congregation has a late evening yom tov service, then your tikun will begin later in the evening, after each participant has eaten dinner at home. You may want to speak with the Rabbi about the possibility or the desirability of a separate youth service to enable you to serve a traditional Shavuot dinner (blintzes!)

In the course of the all-night tikun, various leaders may be invited to lead discussions, different simultaneous study groups, or teach special skills.

Kadima members may prepare with specialists and also lead discussions, study groups, skill sessions, special interest sessions.

There are many different kinds of programs, schedules, themes, formats, snacks and meals, brochures and handbooks, guests, and standards for a tikun.

As you can see, this custom requires a great deal of planning with the group leader/advisor and the group's officers and committees.

In the morning, you might consider a sunrise service or you can return home to wash and dress appropriately for services with the synagogue. You may have a synagogue with such facilities, or nearby families may volunteer their homes for morning washing and dressing.

If the synagogue will permit, the Kadima tikun participants can then participate in the conducting of the Shavuot services. This coordination would be accomplished with the Rabbi, Cantor, and the Ritual Committee. This would be an appropriate time for some of the Temple aliyot as well to be given, congregational plans and policies permitting, to the Kadima tikuniks.

PROGRAMMING SUGGESTIONS

1. Tikun. Publish your own tikun in the traditional fashion, composing a textbook for study consisting of units on Torah, Prophets, Writings, Mishnah, Talmud and modern writings on a particular theme, e.g., "Shavuot," "Conversion," "Marriage," "Gratitude for Harvest," and the "Omer."
2. Cantor. Speak to the Cantor in your congregation about possible musical games which can be played during the course of the evening. He might also be willing to come to a portion of the evening and lead the game (s), e.g., Sing Down.
3. Workshop. The workshop must be consistent with the spirit and laws of Shavuot (and also Shabbat if appropriate). One of the possibilities is to have

skill instruction in the areas of synagogue or Torah study. Several examples have been given in the sample program schedule. Others might very well concentrate on preparing for the following morning in such areas as Hazzanut: leading P'sukei D'zimra, Shacharit, Hallel, Torah Services, Musaf, or special individual units including Ashrei, Anim Z'mirot; Torah: preparing the reading of the Shavuot Torah portion and Maftir with the proper trup; Haftorah; Megillat Ruth learned with the special trup.

Kadima and the Department of Youth Activities produces study materials which can also be used during these periods.

Speak with your congregational Educational Director for other ideas on subjects and formats in a study and workshop program. He/she also has lists of institutions and organizations which have study materials available for free or at low costs.

4. Cooking. Cooking in most congregational kitchens requires you to check with a series of administrators and responsible persons, usually the Rabbi for kashrut and holiday/Shabbat customs and laws; Temple administrator to schedule the use of the kitchen and maintenance for clean-up; Sisterhood for necessary pots, pans and explanation of utensils/supplies/pots/etc; Ritual Committee for serving special Shavuot luncheon kiddush. Be certain to invite someone who is experienced in the recipes you ultimately choose and in cooking with large numbers for large numbers.

5. Decoration. It is customary in many congregations to decorate the Temple sanctuary, or the bimah area and aron hakodesh with fresh greens and flowers. If they are delivered before Shavuot begins, you might spend some time decorating these areas such that they demonstrate the agricultural background of the Shavuot holiday in ancient Israel and in modern Israel. Speak with the Rabbi and/or

Ritual Committee about appropriate areas to decorate, limits which the synagogue would require such as permitting flowers to be woven into the Torah crowns.

6. Dramatization. Consider using the tikun as a time in which to prepare, with very simple costumes prepared in advance, a dramatization of Megillat Ruth. You can even prepare simple dances for which the group can sing dance music, perhaps even to the trup of the Megillah. Perhaps the group can dramatize the story line while the Megillah is read.

7. Choir. Using the time of the evening and workshops, work with the Cantor of the congregation in preparing for a choir presentation the following morning during Shavuot services.

SUGGESTED PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

- 6:30 Mincha, Maariv
- 7:30 Dinner, Z'mirot
- 8:30 Birkat Hamazon
- 9:00 Workshops in Torah
 - (a) Torah trup and reading
 - (b) Megillah trup and reading for Shavuot: Ruth
 - (c) Study of the Book of Ruth including explanation as to why Ruth is chosen
 - (d) Laws and customs of Shavuot
 - (e) Midrash Ruth
- 10:00 Presentations: Midrash on Theophony (God speaking to man)
- 10:30 Workshops as above
- 11:30 Snack
- 12:00 Presentation: Midrash on the Ten Commandments
- 1:00 Cooking: Blintzes and dairy kugel for Temple reception/Kiddush
- 2:00* Talmud lesson on Rabbinic View of Torah

- 2:45* Prepare snack of 10 commandment cookies for selves and/or Kiddush
- 3:30* Workshops as above/ or decorate Synagogue sanctuary
- 6:30 Wake-up for all
- 7:30 1) Sunrise Shacharit and breakfast
or 2) Breakfast, wash and dress to join congregation for services
- 8:30 3) Combine for early sunrise Shacharit, have breakfast and join the congregation for Torah reading

* Optional activity while others may go to sleep

CHECKLIST FOR TIKUN

1. Planning

Schedule

Calendar cleared with Temple

Calendared on chapter program

Committees determined

assigned

chairmen determined

a. Invitations to staff/chaperones

b. Workshops

c. Food and Cooking

d. Sleeping arrangements

e. Budget

f. Worship

g. Preparation for Tikun text

h. Publicity

i. Registration

j. Hospitality

Program approved by advisor/Youth Commission/Rabbi

2. Invitations

List of invitees approved

Invitations sent out

List of RSVP maintained

Thank-yous sent out afterwards

Provision made for sleeping/food

3. Workshops

Rooms set up

Instructors assigned

Materials ready for distribution

Attendance taken

4. Food and Cooking

Menu planned/recipes selected

Ingredients, utensils ready

Menu/recipes cleared by Rabbi

4. Food and Cooking (con't)
 - Organization for cooking defined (teams, roles, kitchen, time, cleanup, storage)
 - Organization for snacks/meals defined (teams, roles, kitchen, time, cleanup, storage)
 - Serving for congregation (waiters, waitresses, storage, utensils, cleanup)
 - Contributions of ingredients/equipment

5. Sleeping arrangements
 - Dress/sleeping list
 - Beds/Cots/Bedrolls
 - Classrooms/Rooms separate
 - Instructions

6. Budget
 - Budget determined/approved
 - Sponsors/Ads
 - Journal/Ads
 - Supervision of expenditures/purchases
 - Cost per member determined
 - Policy on non-member participating and cost

7. Worship
 - Planning of services to be conducted by Kadimaniks (with/apart from congregation)
 - Training to be part of congregational worship
 - Assigning of parts
 - Review of parts and fluency of each participant per part
 - Invitation to Cantor to work closely with training
 - Creation of special liturgy for the group to utilize during the night

8. Tikun Text
 - Planning of themes/sources
 - Request of Rabbi/Ed Director to doublecheck materials/sources/layouts
 - Proper printing and binding
 - Artwork: photographs, line drawings, cartoons, collages, montage
 - Poetry
 - Prose
 - Short Story
 - Teacher's Guide to Tikun prepared
 - Complimentary copies for Temple/National Kadima/Regional Kadima
 - Invitation to Temple/Region/National for letters of welcome/greetings/congratulations

9. Publicity
 - Description of publicity wanted
 - Newspapers/Journals/Magazines selected

9. Publicity (con't)

Series of articles determined with news focus: theme, chairmen, tikun, Kiddush emphasizing items worthy of newspaper interest
Inclusion in Temple Bulletin on regular basis building interest
Chairman with Committee with experience in news, typing
Not to indicate in public which homes will be unwatched during this night

10. Registration

List of approved participants
Policy on non-members participating
Invitation of another Kadima chapter to participate for full weekend
Preparation of clothing list for distribution prior to Tikun
Preparation of policy, standards, rules for distribution prior to Tikun
Check registration as participants arrive before Shavuot begins

11. Hospitality

Greeting of participants as they register
Distribution of kits
Preparation of kits
Special welcome and kit to teachers/chaperones/advisors/guests:
Rabbi, Cantor, etc.

Materials Checklist

Checklists prepared
Tikun Text
Registration forms
Hospitality/registration kit
Recipes
Ingredients
Pots/Pans/Utensils
Serving needs: spoons, forks, knives, plates, napkins, etc.
name tags
Bibles
Siddurim
Greenery for decoration
Cakes for decoration with adequate buttercream and decorators
Cleanup materials for kitchen
Beds/cots/bedrolls
Snacks
Classrooms or workshop areas prepared (give specific description to administrator)
Journal

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