



## **Frequently Asked Questions about the Rocky Mountain Shavuaton**

### **What is Minyan Na'aleh?**

*Minyan Na'aleh is a small, informal and inviting minyan based in Denver, Colorado. We started in September of 2004 and currently meet monthly for Kabbalat Shabbat services and pot luck dinners. Learn more on our website at [www.naalehdenver.org](http://www.naalehdenver.org).*

### **What is a Tikun Leyl Shavuot?**

*It is tradition to stay up all night on the first night of Shavuot studying Jewish texts in celebration of the receiving of the Torah. Our Tikun will feature a series of 30-60 minute mini-sessions interspersed with schmoozing and snack breaks to keep us all awake. Each mini-session will be taught by a different member of our community and will explore eclectic and interesting topics.*

### **What if I can't stay up all night?**

*No worries, most of us don't anyway! While we hope to see you throughout the weekend, this is a no-pressure Shavuaton. Participate in as many of the spectacular activities as you'd like!*

### **What are the accommodations like?**

*We will be staying in a beautiful mountain lodge in a truly spectacular setting. Each room has a queen-size bed and at least one twin bed and a private bathroom. Rooms are equipped hotel-style, with fresh linens, towels and soap. We expect to provide couples and families with their own rooms. If you are single, we will likely give you a roommate. Please indicate any roommate preferences on your registration form.*

### **What will the weather be like?**

*While we'll hope for gorgeous late-spring weather, the weather in the Rocky Mountains is unpredictable. Late May in Breckenridge typically has warm, sunny days (in the 60s and 70s) and cooler nights (in the 30s and 40s). Of course, in the Rockies it can rain, hail or even snow (last year, it snowed 6 inches)! Rest assured, the soaring peaks are beautiful in any weather! In the event of inclement weather, our toasty lodge will be warm and comfy!*

### **What will the davening be like?**

*It will be soulful and stirring, highly participatory, with lots of great singing! From a halachic perspective, we will have separate seating for men and women with a low and unobtrusive mechitza, or barrier, between the two sections. Men will lead parts of the davening that traditionally require a minyan, or quorum, such as shacharit and mussaf. Men and women will participate equally in all other parts, including torah reading, aliyot and hallel.*

**I live in Denver. Can I get a ride to the Shavuaton?**

*We will do our best to match up people for carpools. Please indicate in your registration form if you need a ride or have room in your car to drive others.*

**I do not live in Denver. How do I get to the Shavuaton?**

*Breckenridge is about 1 hour and 45 minutes from Denver International Airport (DIA). All major carriers serve DIA, which is a hub for United Airlines and Frontier Airlines. There is a 2-10% discount on United flights to Denver purchased within 30 days of travel. Call the United meeting desk at 1-800-521-4041 and use ID code 510CY. There are also sometimes cheap flights available on JetBlue (from New York/JFK and Boston) and on Southwest (from California, Baltimore/Washington, Chicago and other places). Please let us know your arrival times. We will do our best to coordinate rides from DIA to Breckenridge.*

**When should I plan to arrive?**

*Please try to arrive by 6:30 pm on Tuesday. Registration will open at 5:00 pm on and services will begin at 7:15. Candle lighting on Tuesday night is at 8:12 pm. Of course, there will still be plenty of food if you have to arrive late.*

**When should I plan to leave?**

*The Shavuaton will officially end on Wednesday morning after Shavuot, although some may choose to depart late Tuesday night after Shavuot.*

**What will my children do during the Shavuaton?**

*We will have babysitting for as much of the Shavuaton as possible and we will be in touch with parents to determine needs and times. We will try to organize kids' programming if there is a need and interest.*

**What other activities should I expect over the weekend?**

*It wouldn't be a Na'aleh event without uplifting singing, davening, learning and eating. In addition to the holiday meals, we'll have a special oneg with refreshments for body and soul. The Lodge is located right on the Colorado trail, so there will be plenty of hiking. There will be many opportunities for meditative walks around the breathtaking grounds or a nap beneath the snow-capped peaks.*

**If I cancel, can I get my money back?**

*We can refund 50% of your registration fee until May 27<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, we cannot give refunds after that date.*

**I would like to lead davening but I don't know how. Can somebody teach me?**

*Absolutely! Please let us know what you want to learn and we will set you up with somebody who can teach you!*

**Are there any plans for Memorial Day weekend?**

*Out of town guests who are interested in staying in Denver for the weekend can be provided with home hospitality. Please notify us in advance, and we will try and match you with a family in Denver.*



# Minyan Na'aleh

Shavuot 5768 · June 8 – 10, 2008

## Schedule

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Welcome to Minyan Na'aleh's third Shavuaton! We are thrilled that you are spending Shavuot with us in Breckenridge. The following pages contain a schedule of planned events for the Chag. We hope you will participate in as much of the program as you can, but you are more than welcome to pick and choose, and enjoy the lodge and surroundings at your own pace. If there is something that you would like to do with the group that is not on the schedule, please plan it and we will make time for it!

All of the events of the Shavuaton will take place at the High Country Lodge. Meals will take place in the main floor lounge. Davening will take place in the tent outside, weather permitting (bring a sweater), otherwise on the second floor. Babysitting will be in the basement. There are lounges on the first, second and third floors, and a game room in the basement. Please feel free to use the all of the lodge and grounds for your enjoyment. Chag Sameach!!!

## Sunday, June 8 תיקון ליל שבועות

Time	Event	Location	Comment
4:00-7:00p	Check-in	Main floor	
5:00-7:00p	Snacks	Main floor	Blintzes and other treats; dinner is not until late, so please help yourself!
5:30-6:30p	Children's dinner	Main floor	
<b>6:30-9:40p</b>	<b>Babysitting for older children</b>	<b>Basement</b>	No babysitting for babies tonight.
8:12p	Candle lighting	Main floor	<b>Chag Sameach! Please do not light candles in your room.</b>
8:15-9:20p	Welcome and singing	Tent / 2nd	
9:20p	Ma'ariv	Tent / 2nd	
9:40p	Dinner	Main floor	Please see the Toranut schedule.
11:00-1:30a	Tikkun Leyl Shavuot	Second floor	See the Tikkun schedule below for program details.
11:55-12:10a	Cheesecake Contest!	Main floor	Sample delicious homemade cheesecakes, and vote for the winner.
1:45-10:00a	Tikkun - self study		Burning the midnight oil...

### Tikkun Leyl Shavuot – Second floor lounge

Time	Facilitator	Topic
11:00-11:45a	Rina Goldberg	<i>Repairing the town walls (and the world while you are at it): Jewish values that shape our actions.</i>
11:45-12:10a	Cheesecake Contest	Dessert
12:10-12:55a	Josh Fine	<i>Ve'abavta li'rey'acha ka'mocha: Loving your neighbour Part I: How do you love?</i>
12:55-1:45a	Myles Steiner	<i>Va'balach'tem imi b'keri (If you walk with me with casualness...): Our responsibility in a finely-balanced world.</i>
1:45-10:00a	Self-study	

## Monday, June 9

### יום א שבועות

Time	Event	Location	Comments
8:00-10:00a	Breakfast	Main floor	Please see the Toranut schedule.
10:00-12:30p	Shacharit	Tent / 2nd	Please be timely, as we're counting on you for our minyan!
<b>10:00-12:30p</b>	<b>Babysitting</b>	<b>Basement</b>	
12:30-2:00p	Lunch	Main floor	Please see the Toranut schedule.
2:00-5:30p	Free time		Snacks are available all day. Enjoy the lodge, grounds and surrounding area.
2:30-5:30p	Trail hike, if dry Poker, if wet	Woods / Main floor	Bring your boots for the trail hike, and water and a sweater.
<b>2:30-5:30p</b>	<b>Babysitting for babies</b>	<b>Basement</b>	Older children are welcome on the hike.
5:30-6:30p	Wine and cheese tasting	Main floor	Sample a variety of tasty libations and cheeses.
5:30-6:30p	Children's dinner	Main floor	
6:30-7:30p	Study	2nd floor	Led by Sam Strauss
7:40-8:00p	Mincha	Tent / 2nd	
8:00-9:20p	Chavruta study	Main floor	<i>Ve'ahava li'rey'acha ka'mocha: Loving your neighbour</i> Part II: Who do you love?
9:20p	Candle lighting	Main floor	<b>Chag Sameach! Please do not light candles in your room.</b>
9:20p	Ma'ariv	Tent / 2nd	
9:40p	Dinner	Main floor	Please see the Toranut schedule
11:00...	Farbrengen / Oneg	TBA	

## Tuesday, June 10

### יום ב שבועות

Time	Event	Location	Comments
7:30-9:00a	Breakfast	Main floor	Please see the Toranut schedule
9:00-12:00p	Shacharit (including Ruth and Yizkor)	Tent / 2nd	Please be timely, as we're counting on you for our minyan!
<b>9:00-12:00p</b>	<b>Babysitting</b>	<b>Basement</b>	
12:00-1:30p	Lunch	Main floor	Please see the Toranut schedule
1:30-5:30p	Free time		
<b>3:00-5:30p</b>	<b>Babysitting</b>	<b>Basement</b>	
4:00-5:30p	Kickball tournament	Backyard	Adults and children are all welcome.
5:30-6:30p	Yoga	Tent / 2nd	Bring your yoga mat or a towel.
5:30-6:30p	Children's dinner	Main floor	
7:00-7:20p	Mincha	Tent / 2nd	
7:20-9:20p	Dinner and discussion	Main floor	Please see the Toranut schedule
9:20-9:40p	Ma'ariv and Havdalah	Tent / 2nd	



## Shavuot Customs



There are a variety of customs associated with Shavuot – here are some brief explanations as well as sources for further learning:

### **Late evening services to begin Shavuot:**

Ma'ariv is normally begun about 42 minutes after sundown, and under some circumstances can be said even earlier. On the first night of Shavuot, however, we are particular about waiting longer than usual until night has definitely started. We do this in order to fulfill the words of Leviticus 23:15: “You shall count . . . seven complete weeks”, referring to the counting of the omer on the days between Passover and Shavuot. Only once the 49<sup>th</sup> day has completely finished is the *omer* “complete” (Magen David to OH 494:1).

### **Dairy foods:**

It is customary to have dairy foods on the first day of Shavuot (Rema to OH 494:3). One of the earliest mentions of this custom notes that the midrash (“Tanhuma Ki Tissa 9) compares Torah to milk, using the verse: “Honey and milk are under your tongue” (Song of Songs 4:11, cited in Kol Bo 52). Since it is also traditional to celebrate holidays with meat, the menu on the following day has fleishig meals.

### **All-night Tikkun (Torah learning) and early morning services:**

The Zohar (Emor 98a) mentions that pious Jews would stay awake all night studying Torah on Shavuot, and the custom has become widespread. Some attribute this practice to a midrash (Shir haShirim Rabba 1:12) that says the Israelites overslept on the morning of the giving of the Torah, hence we stay up all night on the first night of Shavuot to correct this (the word *tikkun*, in fact, literally means fixing; see Magen Avraham to OH 494:1). Davening the next morning is at sunrise, and the Torah reading is Exodus 19:1-20:23, the giving of the Ten Commandments, since the Talmud (Shabbat 86b-88a) derives that they were given on Shavuot.

### **Akdamut:**

Before the first aliyah on the first morning of Shavuot, an extended liturgical poem (*piyyut*) in Aramaic called Akdamut is recited (Mishnah Berurah to OH 494:1). This poem was written in the 11<sup>th</sup> century by Rabbi Meir of Orléans, one of Rashi’s teachers, and praises God for giving the Torah to the Jewish people.

### **Ruth:**

Outside Israel, the Book of Ruth is read on the second morning of Shavuot before the Torah service. Many commentaries suggest that Ruth is read because as a convert, she accepted the Torah just as the Israelites did in the desert. Others point out that the story takes place at the time of the harvest (see Ruth 1:22), just as Shavuot is referred to as a harvest festival (see Exodus 23:16; Levush to OH 494:2).

*(“OH refers to Orah Hayyim, a section of the Shulhan Arukh – the 16<sup>th</sup> century authoritative code of Jewish law compiled by Rabbi Yoseph Karo. Most sources cited are commentaries on the Shulhan Arukh.)*

### **General practices related to *chagim* (holidays):**

Everything that is prohibited on Shabbat is prohibited on *chag*, excluding activities connected with the preparation of food – these are permitted on *chag* but not on Shabbat (Mishnah Megillah 1:5, Beitzah 5:2). Furthermore, transferring fire and carrying in a public domain (which are seen as activities related to preparing food), even if not directly necessary for food preparation, are permitted on *chag*. According to Maimonides (Hilkhos Yom Tov 1:7), this leniency is motivated by a desire on the part of the Rabbis to add to the joy of the holidays. Practically speaking, this means holiday candles can be lit even after sundown, provided the flame is transferred from a pre-existing flame.

*We understand that people have varying personal practices and standards of observance. During the retreat, we ask that in public areas everyone be mindful of others’ observance (e.g., leaving lights on in shared bathrooms, talking on cell phones, etc.). If you have any questions about this, feel free to talk to one of the organizers of the retreat. Thank you for your cooperation, and chag sameach!*





### ***Minyan Na'aleh Shavuaton 2008***

*Additional information for attendees:*

- ***Cheesecake Contest!!!*** *There will be a Cheesecake contest on Sunday night; if you bake a killer cake, then prepare your cake following Na'aleh's Kashrut policy (available at [www.naalehdenver.org](http://www.naalehdenver.org)) and bring it up to Breck!*
- ***What to Bring***
  - *Water bottle*
  - *Sunscreen*
  - *Hat*
  - *Sunglasses*
  - *Hiking shoes(the trail will be muddy)*
  - *Sefarim for self-study*
  - *Sport apparel and equipment*
  - *Rain gear*
  - *Jacket*
  - *Relaxed yom tov clothing*
  - *Yoga mats*
  - *Board games for board game tournament (in case of rain)*
- ***Additional Items for Parents to Bring***
  - *Portable crib*
  - *Baby monitor*
  - *Toys, games, and balls (very important)*
  - *A booster seat (we already have three high chairs and one booster seats between six babies so not everyone needs to bring one. We're probably fine either way).*
  - *We could use an additional baby gate or two. Please bring one if you're able.*