

# The Roslyn Synagogue Newsletter

Shavuot 5770

P.O. Box 218  
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www.roslynsynagogue.org

## Schedule of Services

### Monday to Friday morning

Shacharit: 6:30am  
(except Rosh Chodesh 6:20am)

### Sunday morning

Shacharit: 8:30am

### Sunday evening

Mincha/Ma'ariv at the previous Friday's candle lighting time.

### Erev Shabbat

Mincha and Kabbalat Shabbat at 6:45pm.

### Shabbat morning

Shacharit: 9:00am

### Saturday evening

Shiur 40 minutes before previous Friday's candle lighting time.

Mincha: Ten minutes before previous Friday's candle lighting time, followed by Seudat Shlishit, Ma'ariv and Havdalah.

### Summer Schedule:

Weekday Mincha-Ma'ariv Monday - Thursday at previous Friday's candlelighting time (same as Sunday)

## Message From the Rabbi

In a few days, we will be celebrating “Zman Matan Torataynu”, the “Season of the Giving of our Torah,” Shavuot. As we have often pointed out, Shavuot is the only chag that is without its own unique ritual observance. Pesach has matzo and the removal of chametz; Sukkot, the sukka and lulav and etrog. Rosh Hashanna the shofar and on Yom Kippur, we fast.

Saadya Gaon explains that our nation, Am Yisrael, is a nation only by virtue of the Torah. It is our essence, and without it we could not be the Jewish People, nor would we be able to practice Judaism. Accordingly, our tradition deemed it proper to celebrate the seminal event in the history of the Jewish nation by focusing on the centrality of Torah.

But what does this mean? Do we merely pay lip service to this idea? How does Torah actually “speak to us”? If Torah is our lifeblood, then should we not continually be transfused with its content and import? Is Torah study part of our daily routine? It certainly should be, but is it?

This Shavuot completes yet another cycle of Shalosh Regalim that I have spent as the Rabbi of the Roslyn Synagogue. I often ask myself, “to what avail”?

Do we listen to what the Rabbi says? Does anyone take heed? Or is it “Oznayim Lahem Velo Yishmaoo”, in the immortal words of the Psalmist, “they have ears but do not hear”.

On this, the holiday that celebrates the giving of our Torah at Mt. Sinai, let us all ask ourselves, Are we learning more Torah than we were last year? Do the principles and guidelines of Torah guide us and inform our daily lives? Our shul offers many opportunities each week for Torah learning. If schedules don't permit attendance, is anyone actually devoting time to Torah study at home?

There is much lip service paid to this idea, but, unfortunately, follow through is lacking.

Let us this year declare, as did our ancestors at Mt. Sinai: “Na'aseh Venishma”, and commit ourselves as individuals and as a community. “We will do, and we will hear”.

Beile joins me in wishing everyone chag samayach.

Rabbi Robert D. Block



## Message From the President

**S**havuot is known as the celebration of Matan Torah, although the pesukim in the Torah identify Shavuot only by its agricultural component. As we all know, Shavuot is related to the Omer offering, counting 49 days, seven weeks from the time of Pesach to Shavuot. It's also related to the first harvest in spring.

The Torah does not tell us exactly on what day the Torah was given, although by tradition it is calculated to be either the sixth or seventh of Sivan, and of course in our fixed calendar it is the sixth of Sivan. Although the Torah often tells us the exact day and even time of some events, for example the Exodus from Egypt and the tenth plague, it remains vague about the exact day of Matan Torah. When describing the arrival of B'nei Yisroel at Sinai the Torah says, "In the third month from the Exodus of the Children of Israel from Egypt, on this day, they arrived at the Wilderness of Sinai."

Rashi, in his commentary, has a famous interpretation from the Midrash, saying, "it should not have been written on this day, but on that day because the Torah is relating events after they happened. What is meant by "on this day"? The words of the Torah should be new to you as if it was given to you today."

We in the Roslyn Synagogue community live and learn Torah every day, making it part of our daily life. Under the direction of Rabbi Block all aspects of Torah, halacha and aggadah are taught, learned and expounded throughout the year. The Torah in all its facets is alive in our shul. The words, teachings, and laws and lore of the Torah are new to us throughout the year.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all in shul for Shavuot and for all our shul events, Shabbat davening and kiddush, daily minyanim, classes and social events. Although the Rabbi's Gemorra shiur and Chumash class will be on hiatus during the summer months you should all plan on participating in these programs in the coming year, G-d willing, as they are a great opportunity to learn Torah in our community. Chag sameach,

Marc Yunis

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### Shavuot Schedule: 5770, 2010

#### Tuesday, May 18th, 2010, Erev Shavuot

Minchah-Ma'ariv 7:15pm

Tikkun Leil Shavuot 11:30pm

#### Wednesday, May 19th, 2010, First Day of Shavuot

Early Shacharit (Vatikun) 4:50am

Late Shacharit 9:00am

Mincha-Ma'ariv 7:50pm

#### Thursday, May 20th, 2010 Second Day of Shavuot

Shacharit 9:00am

Yizkor 10:15am

Mincha-Ma'ariv 7:50pm

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*The Sisterhood dinner/meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 2nd at Colbeh in Roslyn at 7:30. The cost of the dinner will be \$45.*

*Please rsvp as soon as possible so we can give Colbeh a head count. email your rsvp to Jill at [jsonnenk@nshs.edu](mailto:jsonnenk@nshs.edu) or to Susan at [susanicooper7@gmail.com](mailto:susanicooper7@gmail.com)*

### Buy through Amazon, Help the Shul!

There's a new and convenient way to support the shul through the Amazon.com link on the Roslyn Synagogue web site. Amazon.com donates 4% of the purchase amount to the shul for any purchases made using the link.

Just go to the shul website at [www.roslynsynagogue.org](http://www.roslynsynagogue.org). Any purchase made through the Amazon link on the shul website will generate a donation for the shul. Click on the Amazon link on the shul website. Even though no verification of the Amazon donation is provided to the purchaser, any time you go through The Roslyn Synagogue website to get to Amazon, the shul will get credit. Use Amazon to buy your next book club selection, school books, houseware, office supplies, music or electronics. Amazon's prices are competitive so you can save money too! Alternatively, you can click on "RS Judaica Store" on the shul web site which features Judaica, jewelry and Jewish books through Amazon.com.

Shopping at Amazon through the synagogue's referral link adds no extra costs and is an easy way to support the synagogue. It's secure and private. Please encourage your friends and family who shop at Amazon.com to use the synagogue's link to help raise money for The Roslyn Synagogue.

Please e-mail [roslynwebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:roslynwebmaster@gmail.com) with any questions about this program.