

We are studying MEGILAT RUTH in our ZIP HAVURAH

## The Book of Ruth

Ashkenazi Jews read the Book of Ruth during the morning services on Shavuot. Some say this book is read because the story takes place during the harvest season. Another reason given is that Ruth's conversion is similar to the Jewish People's acceptance of the Torah. Ruth was King David's ancestor, and it is believed that King David was born and died on Shavuot.

### Torah

Every Jew is a part of our History.



Picnic: Sunday, May 16th 5:30pm at Liana Levetan park "BROOK RUN" in Dunwoody.(By the playground) Mothers, Please prepare food for YOUR family,as you know what they like to eat. Please review the 10 commandments with your children.

[Brook Run Park, 4770 N Peachtree Rd, Dunwoody GA 30338.](#)

**Sunday, May 16th 5:30pm**

# **Shavuot Customs:**

## **Dairy Food**

It is customary to eat dairy food on Shavuot. The most popular reason given is that we were given the laws of kashrut (kosher dietary laws) when we were given the Torah. While in Sinai, the Jews did not have the utensils needed to prepare kosher meat, so they ate only dairy.

Others say that eating dairy shows restraint. When the Jewish People accepted the Torah and committed themselves to follow it, they committed themselves to leading lives with restraints.

## **Tikun Lail Shavuot**

"Tikun Lail Shavuot" is the custom of staying up all night long on Shavuot to study Torah. Studying Torah the entire night is one way to celebrate the anniversary of its giving.

Some say we study all night to compensate for the behavior of the Jewish People at Mount Sinai. They slept so soundly that they had to be awakened by God with thunder and lightening at daybreak to prepare to receive the Torah.

## **Shavuot Services**

It is customary for everyone, even children and infants, to attend synagogue on Shavuot to hear the reading of the Ten Commandments from the Torah. Thus, we relive the historic event when the Jews received the Torah and committed themselves to observe it. Yizkor is recited after the Torah reading on Shavuot.

## **Decorating with Greenery and Flowers**

There is a custom to decorate homes and synagogues with greenery as Shavuot is a harvest holiday. In the time of the Temple, the first fruits were brought on Shavuot.

We also decorate with flowers as Shavuot commemorates the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai. It is said that although Mount Sinai is located in the desert, the desert bloomed with flowers when the Torah was given to the Jewish People.