



Dear Ellie

I'm a little confused. We are about to celebrate Shavuot and I'm told it is the "Season of the Giving of the Torah." But isn't there another holiday when we celebrate with the Torah? Simchat Torah, right? So why are we celebrating twice? Why two festivals to remember the same thing? I really like the fact that we are saying Yizkor on Memorial Day but how do you explain whats going on with the Torah's celebrating days?

The answer is that on Simchat Torah we conclude our annual reading of the Torah. We end the Book of - Devarim - Deuteronomy and immediately begin anew the Book of - Breishis - Genesis. We have reason to rejoice at the achievements of the year gone by, so we celebrate.

And how do we celebrate? We dance with the Torah. Is the Torah scroll on the bimah (reading table)? No. It is in the aisles. Is it open? No, it is closed and covered. Why? Because on Simchat Torah we are reminded that even if a Jew has, G-d forbid, not opened the Torah all year long, he still has a spiritual place in the Torah. Even if, for him, the Torah has been a closed book, nevertheless, every Jew has a deep-rooted, innate connection to Torah. As we read on Simchat Torah, "The Torah that Moses commanded us is the heritage of the entire Congregation of Jacob." Each and every single Jew, the entire congregation, has an intrinsic relationship with Torah. Torah is not the private property of the intellectual elite. Scholars or simple folk, academics or the unlettered, Torah belongs to one and all.

But there comes a time when you have to open the book! We don't dance with the Torah wrapped in its mantle all year long. That is for Simchat Torah. But we also have to open, read, study, ask, learn and become more familiar with our heritage. We need to get to know Torah from the inside, to understand the Torah as a textbook too.

That time is every day. But the anniversary of the Giving of the Torah is Shavuot. That is when we celebrate the Torah as a book of wisdom, as a moral code, an ethical system, and a guiding light in our lives. Shavuot reminds us that the Torah is not only a beautiful, cherished ceremonial ornament to revere and dance with on Simchat Torah, but the source of all our wisdom, knowledge and understanding about life and how we are to live it.

There once were two sisters. One married a rich man; the other's husband was poor. Yet, ironically, it was the wealthy sister who was the unhappy one. Her sister couldn't understand why she should be so miserable. "He supports you handsomely. He buys you beautiful clothes, expensive jewelry. Just look at your diamonds. Why are you so unhappy?"

The wealthy sister replied, "Actually, I am jealous of you, my sister. You have a wonderful, loving relationship with your husband. Yes, my husband does buy me expensive things. It is true that he does spend money on me. But your husband spends time with you and mine does not."

So while it may be true that we adorn our Torahs with exquisite velvet mantles, precious silver crowns, breastplates, bells and pointers, all the expensive ornaments don't come close to spending time with the Torah. And the Torah is unhappy and cries out, "Thanks for the silver, thanks for the décor, but what I really want is you! I want your time, your mind. I want you."

It is surely one of the sad ironies of contemporary Jewish life that this most educated generation should be so unaware of its own heritage. How is it that we have produced the most successful people in the professions, in commerce - titans of industry - and yet knowledge of our priceless Jewish wisdom is at an all-time low? Why is it that some of our most brilliant legal minds have never even read a single page of the Talmud? Why should our most sophisticated computer whiz kids not know which way to hold a prayer book? Taking a small step forward in studying Torah is a leap forward in blessings for all involved.

So on Shavuot we are reminded that we all need to open the book and spend some quality time, meaningful study discovering our Jewish identity.

Practically speaking, this is the season to commit oneself to learning more about our real Jewish identity. Wherever we are in our Jewish education, it must be ongoing. Our children have questions and if we make time to study more we will be able to give them meaningful answers.

And because this is the Season of the Giving of the Torah, we are assured that the Torah will indeed be given to us once again and we will make the sincere effort to acquire it. Hopefully, this Shavuot will be for us not only the Season of the Giving of the Torah - that is G-d's job - but the Season of Receiving the Torah - which is our job.

This Memorial weekend, when we remember our loved ones during Monday's Yizkor service, lets try to reconnect with who they were, proud, committed Jews. By taking a step forward in studying our heritage we will not only be connecting with our past but we will be planting seeds of hope and direction for our precious children.

Shabbat Shalom,

Areyah

**זמני הדלקת הנרות**

Candle Lighting Times for  
New Albany, OH (Based on Zip Code  
43034):

Shabbat Candle Lighting:	8:28 pm
Friday, May 22	
Shabbat Ends / Holiday Begins:	9:34 pm
Shabbat, May 23	
Second Day Holiday:	9:35 pm
Sunday, May 24	
Holiday Ends:	9:36 pm
Monday, May 25	

Torah Portion: **Bamidbar**



**Schedule of Services**

The Lori Schottenstein Chabad Center offers a full schedule of Shabbat services.

Come and be inspired for the rest of the week! For more information, please call us at 614-939-0765.

**5 Sivan 5775**  
**Saturday, May 23, 2015**

Morning Services: 9:30 a.m.  
Yizkor: 11:00

CKids - ages 5-12: 10:45 a.m.

Torah and Tea: 10:00 a.m.  
Shabbat, May 23  
This class is now Dedicated in Memory of Rashi Minkowitz, 6876, a community leader, mother and Shikha

**Tot Shabbat for 4 and under: 11:00 a.m.**

KIDDUSH - 12:00 pm

**6 Sivan, 5775**  
**Sunday, May 24, 2015**

Shachrit: 9:45 a.m.

Subscribe to this newsletter



**לחמדות**

**Upcoming Events**  
**Thurs night Parsha class**  
May 28, 2015 - 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

[More Info >](#)

**JLI-Art of Parenting**  
May 31, 2015 - 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

[More Info >](#)

**Thurs night Parsha class**  
Jun. 4, 2015 - 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

[More Info >](#)

[View all upcoming events](#)

**פרשת השבוע**

**Parshat Bamidbar**

In the Sinai Desert, G-d says to conduct a census of the twelve tribes of Israel. Moses counts 603,550 men of draftable age (20 to 60 years); the tribe of Levi, numbering 22,300 males age one month and older, is counted separately. The Levites are to serve in the Sanctuary, replacing the firstborn, whose number they approximated, who were disqualified when they participated in the worshiping of the Golden Calf. The 273 firstborn who lacked a Levite to replace them had to pay a five-shekel "ransom" to redeem themselves.

When the people broke camp, the three Levite clans dismantled and transported the Sanctuary, and reassembled it at the center of the next encampment. They then erected their own tents around it: the Kohathites, who carried the Sanctuary's vessels (the Ark, menorah, etc.) in their specially designed coverings on their shoulders, camped to its south; the Gershonites, in charge of its tapestries and roof coverings, to its west; and the families of Merari, who transported its wall panels and pillars, to its north. Before the Sanctuary's entranceway, to its east, were the tents of Moses, Aaron, and Aaron's sons.

Beyond the Levite circle, the twelve tribes camped in four groups of three tribes each. To the east were Judah (pop. 74,600), Issachar (54,400) and Zebulun (57,400); to the south, Reuben (46,500), Simeon (59,300) and Gad (45,650); to the west, Ephraim (40,500), Manasseh (32,200) and Benjamin (35,400); and to the north, Dan (62,700), Asher (41,500) and Naphtali (53,400). This formation was kept also while traveling. Each tribe had its own *nassi* (prince or leader), and its own *flag* with its tribal color and emblem.

**Chabad Hebrew School**  
For more information:  
[www.chabadids.org](http://www.chabadids.org)  
Call 614-939-0765 or 614-578-9318 or email [hebrewschool@chabadids.org](mailto:hebrewschool@chabadids.org)

**מגזין שבועי**

This Week @ [www.ChabadColumbus.com](http://www.ChabadColumbus.com)

**shavuot**  
**Your Spiritual Fix: Late For Sinai**  
What was the real point of the Ten Commandments—what was the Tan, or how?

**video**  
**Texting in Judaism**  
What does Judaism say about texting?

**your questions**  
**Ask "Rabbi Y": Why Don't We Recite the Ten Commandments Every Day?**  
The Talmud tells us that the sages wanted to establish the reading of the Ten Commandments as an everyday prayer ...

**parshah**  
**Why Bamidbar Precedes Shavuot**  
Bamidbar is, as it were, a preparation for that special union between G-d and His people.

**THE TOP TEN**

TOP TEN SIGNS YOU SHOULD BE IN SYNAGOGUE TO HEAR THE 10 COMMANDMENTS:

- You have no other plans.
- You heard them last year.
- You didn't hear them last year.
- You don't know what they are.
- You've never met a Rabbi.
- You've never been to Chabad.
- Your recollection of them has faded since you first heard them.
- You can not list at least 5 of them.
- You have kids and want to raise them as a 'Mentch'.
- You are a Jew.

Be there when the Torah is given for the 3,326<sup>th</sup> time. You don't have to travel to the desert—it's happening right here! Come hear the Torah reading of the Ten Commandments.

**Sunday, May 24 - 11:00 AM**

Prayer services begin at 9:45, followed by a dairy buffet and lots of ice cream for the children from 11:00 - 12:30!

**Chabad of Columbus**  
6220 East Dublin Granville Road, New Albany, OH 43054

**Sunday, May 24**      **Monday, May 25**

11:00 (Prayer services begin at 9:45)  
10 Commandments & Children's Ice Cream Party

Yizkor 11:00  
Holiday ends 9:36 PM

Ice cream party \$5/person  
Please RSVP in advance:  
[www.chabadcolumbus.com](http://www.chabadcolumbus.com)  
For more information call 614-939-0765

**Congratulations!**

To our college graduates:

Alex Alfonso  
Steven Marowitz  
Evan Soll

This week we acknowledge the yahrzeit of Mr. Ivan Gilbert, Mr. Harry Tanzer, and Mr. Ben Zion Krongauz.

**JOIN US FOR A Special Shabbos at Chabad!**

Join us on Friday May 22 for 8:30 Shabbat services.

You're invited to join us for a **SHAVUOT ICE CREAM PARTY**  
Sunday, May 24, 11:00 - 12:30

Dairy Lunch Buffet  
Food Crafts  
Experience the reading of the Ten Commandments  
For the entire family

You're invited to a Shavuot Ice Cream Party!  
Sunday, May 24, 2015  
11:00 am - 12:30 pm

- Experience the reading of the Ten Commandments
- Ice cream party
- Food crafts
- Dairy lunch buffet
- For the entire family

\$5 per person

For more information email [chabadcolumbus@global.net](mailto:chabadcolumbus@global.net) or call 614-939-0765

**RSVP HERE**

The Lori Schottenstein Chabad Center  
6220 East Dublin-Granville Rd.  
New Albany, OH 43054



Thanks to all the volunteers who spent the past months planning the LifeTown Legends Luncheon. Your hard work paid off and our third annual luncheon was a tremendous success. LifeTown and our 2,500 kids thank you!



The LifeTown Volunteer Appreciation party was a great way to end the year - even the therapy dogs joined in the games! Thanks so much to Nancy Eiseman for her leadership this year and this final event with games, prizes, good food and a chance to socialize.

**Mitzvah Soup**

Don't miss out! Last hot soup until fall!

Mitzvah Soup... Good for the Body and Soul

Father's (Gene & Aaron) Chicken Spaetzle Soup Available at the Chabad Center now until we run out!

Just \$10!

All fresh and all delicious, with 100% of the proceeds benefiting the Columbus LifeTown program. Please contact Rozanne Stern at [rozannestern@gmail.com](mailto:rozannestern@gmail.com) to order.

Limited quantities.

**The 10th Annual NATIONAL JEWISH RETREAT** Est. 2006

August 11-16, 2015 26 Av - 1 Elul 5775

OMNI SHOREHAM HOTEL Washington, DC

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**Registration Now Open!**

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**NEW - Four Weeks of Camp Gan Izzy, with Extended Wednesdays**

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- June 29 - July 2
- July 6 - 10
- July 13 - 17

Monday through Friday  
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**LOCATION:** New Albany Middle School Facility  
6600 E. Dublin-Granville Rd., New Albany, OH 43054

**PHONE:** (614) 235-9395 / (614) 939-0765

**EMAIL:** [camp@cgicolumbus.com](mailto:camp@cgicolumbus.com)

**WEBSITE:** [www.cgicolumbus.com](http://www.cgicolumbus.com)

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"Gan Izzy is a warm, fun and exciting summer program that made a tremendous impact on my son...While I knew that my son greatly enjoyed camp, I didn't realize just how connected he felt to the camp until after the program completed. He felt so close to his counselor... Throughout the year, he tells me how much he's looking forward to returning next summer."  
- Elana Katz

[camp.cgicolumbus.com](http://camp.cgicolumbus.com)  
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Questions or to register: email Esther Kaltmann or call office at 614-939-0765

The Lori Schottenstein Chabad Center  
6220 East Dublin-Granville Rd., New Albany, OH 43054

**LIFE TOWN LEADERS FUTURE**

LifeTown provides life skills training for children with disabilities. We rely on volunteers to make our unique program work. To volunteer, sign up at [SignUp.Genius.org](http://SignUp.Genius.org) or email volunteer coordinator Nancy Eiseman for more information.

**Weekly Torah study**  
Please join us for "A Journey into the Soul of Torah", a weekly Torah study. The class will continue on Thursdays at 7:30 pm at The Lori Schottenstein Chabad Center. Open to all and free of charge.

**Kiddush Sponsorship Opportunities Available**  
Looking for a meaningful way to recognize a special day? Consider sponsoring a Kiddush. For more information, please contact the Chabad office at 614-939-0765.