

Shavuot in Jerusalem

BY DR. DAVID GEFFEN

Jerusalem is the city perfectly suited for the Shavuot tikkun (study session). No matter where you live - within the city - you can find a tikkun in your neighborhood at anytime between 10 at night and 3 in the morning on Shavuot. Then, if the spirit moves you, as it does thousands of other Jerusalemites - you can make your way through the streets of Jerusalem down to the Kotel, the Western Wall. As the dawn breaks and the birds begin to fly, the prayers reverberate throughout the totality of the open area. Turn your head from the Kotel but for a moment and you can see waves of people pouring down the steps, coming through the gateways as they enter the Wall compound to link themselves with the past of their people on this traditional day marking the giving of the Torah.

Shavuot is the shortest of the pilgrimage festivals, but it has the most names. Hag Hakatzir - feast of the harvest and of Bikkurim, first fruits, reflect the agricultural aspects. Hag Hashavuot - the Feast of Weeks, Atzeret - the concluding festival, relate to the counting of the Omer. Zeman matan Toratenu - season of the giving of the Torah, gives a spiritual aspect to the holiday. In Italy the holiday has become known as the Feast of Roses and in Persia - the Feast of Flowers. This brief festival certainly packs a lot of meaning into its annual celebration.

As a holiday, Shavuot has the most symbolism connected to it because it is associated with the giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai. While Passover is the festival of freedom and Sukkot is the harvest celebration, Shavuot marks the giving of the Law, an event which has key theological implications for the existence of Judaism and the Jewish people.

The word Shavuot means weeks, and falls on the fiftieth day, concluding the seven week count begun on the second night of Passover. The count, which starts in the spring, at the time of the initial planting, concludes with the heat of early summer and the bringing of first fruits of the summer harvest.

SIG CELEBRATES DECADE IN VEGAS



Sig Sakowicz, internationally recognized as one of the finest entertainment journalists in radio, television and newspapers, celebrates his tenth year in Las Vegas this week. Sig has been on radio and television in Las Vegas, the Entertainment Capitol of the World, for his tenth consecutive year.

It was over thirty years ago that Sig started in the business in the windy city of Chicago. He fast became known as an important factor in the field of show business reporting. After establishing himself in the Chicago area, Sig decided to relocate his base of operations closer to the two major entertainment centers, Hollywood and Las Vegas.

The cold Chicago winters also played a major factor in his decision. "VEGAS HOTLINE," Sig's radio show has been on the air ever since he settled in Las Vegas. It is aired locally over KLAS-TV radio and is syndicated to stations all

over the country. Sig's SUPERSTAR SHOW, his long running television show is seen twice a week in Las Vegas over the airwaves of the local CBS affiliate, KLAS-TV. Every major name in every field of show business, sports and politics, have been guests.

HADASSAH - HEBREW MAKES MEDICAL ADVANCES

JERUSALEM -- The Cardiology Department of the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center in Jerusalem has recently introduced into Israel a new technique known as angioplasty. This in-

volves guiding a tiny balloon, a few millimeters in diameter, inside the coronary artery to the site where there is a localized narrowing in the artery, and then blowing up balloon. This widens the artery and allows the blood to flow

through.

Dr. Mervyn Gotsman, head of the Department of Cardiology, says that "Angioplasty could lead to a revolution in the treatment of heart disease without the need for open-heart surgery.

"It is a direct method of attacking a blockage or narrowing in the coronary artery and provided the narrowing is reasonably accessible and not too hardened, the incidence of complications is very low. Our success rate is high."

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- The Hebrew University has set up a "Center of the Study of anti-Semitism." The center which will be chaired by Holocaust Prof. Yehuda Bauer will be directed by Shmuel Almog, longtime director general of the Israel Broadcasting Authority.



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