

Jewish Discovery Center

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

College students worked until four o'clock in the morning to make sure Jewish residents in Amherst had cheesecake to celebrate the holiday of Shavuot ((sha-VOO-oh)).

For the past month, Rabbi Laizer Labkovski ((LAY-zer luhb-KUHV-skee)) along with the Jewish Discovery Center employees have taught classes for the community explaining what Shavuot means as well as customs and rituals associated with it. Shavuot is the annual Jewish holiday when the Jewish people celebrate and remember the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai ((SEYE-neye)).

Cheesecake, blintzes, and other dairy foods are commonly eaten on Shavuot to mark the giving of the Jewish Torah at Mount Sinai as the first time the Jewish people were commanded to keep separate meat and dairy dishes, along with the rest of the kosher laws.

Rabbi Labkovski tells what Shavuot is all about.

(SOUND BITE . . . 30 SECONDS)

During the holiday of Passover, we begin a deep spiritual journey that reflects the Jewish people's escape from Egyptian enslavement. Just as our forefathers taught us about our long and meaningful journey through the desert to reach Mount Sinai, so too today we go through a long and very careful journey of self reflection lasting seven full weeks. The end of the seventh week is followed the next day with Shavuot, a climactic celebration, where we remember when G-d gave the Jewish people His Torah.

The Jewish Discovery center is located at 757 Hopkins Road across from the Clearfield Recreation Center, and will begin Shavuot celebrations at 7:30pm. Rabbi Labkovski encourages all Jewish members of the community to attend, reminding everyone that as always, the Jewish Discovery Center does not charge admission for services.

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