

Dear Friends,

We have not yet “landed” from last night’s high and the ceremony receiving our new Torah scroll, and we are already preparing for Tikkun Leil Shavu’ot, which takes place tonight.

Tikkun in modern Hebrew means “repair”, implying that something is broken, but what? The answer lies, perhaps, in the original use of the word, which is related to the word “Lehatkin”, meaning to place something in its proper place, in the place where it is appealing and energizing. According to this meaning, its opposite is not “broken”, but “chaotic”.

Deep within us there is always chaos (“tohu vavohu”, in Hebrew, the state of existence prior to Creation) and always will be, because we are constantly recreating ourselves, and to do that it is necessary to return to a state of chaos. Sometimes this state is brief and mild, and sometimes it is longer and more profound.

Therefore, tonight we will gather for Tikkun Leil Shavu’ot in order to touch upon the chaos in our lives and seek new order, new creation for the coming year, or perhaps just for one night.

Veahavta’s Tikkun will be about “Jerusalem - Navel of the World.”

Although we are in the midst of events marking 50 years since the Six Day War and the reunification of Jerusalem, we will not be dealing with politics or ideology. Tonight we will study the myths and the magical midrashim that deal with Jerusalem. We will discover that it is not coincidental that the city is holy to Jews, Christians and Moslems. Jerusalem is an amazing reflection of any human being who searches for connection and for order within the chaos of his or her life - order between heaven and earth, between the holy and mundane, between despair and redemption.

The evening’s schedule is included below. There will be refreshments at 9:30 p.m., songs at 9:45 p.m., and at 10:00 p.m. there will be a class in English with Bilha.

The Tikkun is free of charge, of course. You are welcome to participate in all or some of it, and to come and go as is convenient.

Chag Sameach,

Elisha