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TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT - AN INSPIRING EVENT

The Tikkun Leil Shavuot on the first night of Shavuot was again an inspiring experience for the multi-minyaned congregation who returned to The Center after dinner. This was the second successive year in which the learning was conducted at The Center for the entire night - until the time to "receive the Torah" the next morning.

The Auditorium, the Beth Hamidrash, and the lobby were all appropriately fit for the occasion. Hundreds of Sefarim were placed on tables in these areas: Talmud, Humash, Nakh, Rambam, and Shulhan Arukh, available for *collective* ~~public~~ as well as for individual study.

At the beginning of the evening, the traditional Tikkun selections were led by Rabbi Wermuth in the Beth Hamidrash. This was accompanied by the learning of smaller groups in the lobby and in various corners of the auditorium. The new feature this year was a premidnight study session in Megillat Ruth led by Rabbi Jonathan Helfand of the Brooklyn College faculty of Judaic Studies. After some light refreshments which graced the intermissions at midnight, the continued study of Midrash Mekhilta on the Aseret Ha-dibrot was forcefully led again by our own Rabbi Lamm in the auditorium.

Meanwhile, enthusiastic groups of Yeshiva students kept up their own studies, turning to Rabbi Benjamin Mandel for assistance in their ~~studies~~ *work*.

The All-Night study of Torah continued until 4:35 A.M., when early morning services were held and Kabbalat Hatorah took place.

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TIKKUN LEIL SHAVUOT - AN INSPIRING EVENT - page two:

The success of this five hundred year old custom was attested to not only by the remarkable number of people who participated, and the inspiration imparted to all those who remained to "receive the ~~W~~orah," but by the varied spectrum of people who attended. They included pre-Bar-Mitzvah boys and those already retired, young ladies as well as mothers of grown children, parents and children, the learned as well as beginners, officers and rabbinic members of the congregation as well as non-members and guests from diverse places.

Our many thanks to all those who helped make this important occasion such an impressive success. Special appreciation is owed to our own Dr. Elmer L. Offenbacher, for whom this was labor of love; to his dear wife Esther for her gracious hospitality during the All-Night Torah sessions; to their son Joey who mobilized the young people.

May we have years of such experiences to look forward to in the future -- whether at The Center or in Eretz Israel.