

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

\*\*\* 2108 Ocean Parkway Brooklyn, N.Y. 11223 \*\*\*

**Rabbi Aharon Farhi**

*Parashat Vayera*  
20<sup>th</sup> Cheshvan 5781

*Maqam Nawa*  
Issue #912

**Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President**

*Haftarat V'Isha Ahat*  
November 7<sup>th</sup> 2020

*Candle Lighting 4:28pm \* Shekiah 4:46pm \* Shir Hashirim 5:30pm followed by Minha Friday Night Shahrarit Shabbat 8:15am \* Minha Shabbat 5:15pm \* Shabbat Ends 6:34pm & Rabbenu Tam 7:04pm Time for Talit 6:25am \* Seasonal Hour 6:00 \* Alot Hashahar 6:13am \* Netz Hachama 7:26am Weekday Minha 4:35pm \* Earliest Time for Arbit 4:12pm \* Tzet Hacoachavim 6:29pm \* Chatzot 12:39 Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 9:16am \* Latest Time for Morning Amidah 10:17am*

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Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah  
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Avraham Avinu loved performing Mitzvot, especially acts of kindness such as hosting guests. Upon fulfilling the Mitzvah of Brit Milah, close to the advanced age of one hundred, although he was very weak and should have rested in recovery, he nonetheless went out to proactively look for guests. Hashem removed the sun from its shell in order to increase the heat and keep any potential guests away, so that Avraham could have an excuse to rest. However, Avraham was not looking for excuses. He did not stay in bed, but rather stayed at his entrance, hoping that a guest would arrive. When Hashem recognized his resolve, he sent three angels, disguised as people, to act as guests for Avraham. These two miracles Hashem performed for Avraham's sake, removing the sun from its shell and then sending angels as guests, teaches us that the Mitzvot are in fact for our own benefit. When we fulfill a Mitzvah, we are not doing Hashem a favor. Hashem does not need our actions. Positive and negative commandments are for our benefit, to cleanse and purify our soul, and increase in spirituality and holiness. Hashem increased the number of Mitzvot for Bnei Yisrael to fulfill so that our potential for gaining merits will increase as well. Avraham knew this important lesson very well. This is why even after the angels informed him that he would have a son Yitzchak, and he already knew that they were not ordinary human beings, he

nonetheless escorted them out. Why? Because regardless of whether the service is between man and man, between man and Hashem, or between man and angels, the purpose of the Mitzvah is not to provide the service, but rather to perform acts that will increase our own spirituality, our own holiness and purity, and increase our merits, thus living with the holy Shechinah in our midst, living in happiness, health, peace, prosperity, for us and our community, Amen.

**Insights on the Parasha**

**1** – The Pasuk says: “*Why is it that Sarah laughed?*” ... “*I did not laugh*” ... “*No, you laughed indeed*”. How can we understand this chain of events in the Pasuk? Sarah certainly did not lack faith in Hashem, certainly she believed Hashem could perform a miracle and she would give birth, as the Pasuk says, ‘is anything beyond Hashem?!’ This is what actually happened: Sarah laughed in disbelief because she thought that the guest's statement was simply a courteous, but meaningless, blessing, not a prophecy directly from Hashem. In view of her advanced age, she thought that such a miraculous rejuvenation would be as great a miracle as the resurrection of the dead, which only Hashem Himself could accomplish. Although Sarah did not know this truly was a message from Hashem, Hashem was angered at her reaction, for a person of her great stature should have had faith that the miracle

of birth could in fact happen if Hashem willed it so. She should at least have said: "Amen, may it be the will of Hashem!"

### **Rishon LeSion:**

#### ***R' Rephael Hazzan ztl 1741-1821***

When R' Rephael Hazzan became of marriageable age, he married a righteous and virtuous girl, a daughter of Rabbanim, named Rina. She was of outstanding character and pure in all her dealings. She was a great partner to R' Rephael, always at his side to help him. She was quiet, respectfully silent, speaking concisely only when necessary, her voice hardly ever heard, keeping far away from any prohibited talk or frivolous gaiety. She merited a long life of meaning. Her grandson R' Chaim Palagi eulogized his grandmother, stating that she was a powerful source of goodness for her generation. She merited children and descendants who became Rabbanim that illuminated the nation with Torah. She loved the land of Israel and would sit and talk with those who traveled from Israel for many hours, drinking up their words about the land with thirst. When R' Rephael was seventy years old, they packed up and moved to Israel, to the land of our forefathers in Hebron. The people of Hebron were overjoyed by his arrival, and they crowned him as Av Bet Din, where he remained for five years until the passing of the Rishon LeSion R' Yaakov Koral.

#### ***History in Brief***

*23 years after the Temple's destruction, in the year 91AD.* After Raban Gamliel's passing, Rabi Elazar Ben Azariah became the Av Bet Din. As the Sages were settled in Lod, they debated the following question: What is greater, the learning or the action? Rabi Tarfon believed the action was greater. Rabi Akiva believed the learning was greater, since the action cannot be accomplished without the learning, and the learning leads to the action. The peaceful and compassionate Caesar Nerva did not reign for long, as he died after only a year and four months. He was succeeded by the wicked Caesar Trajan. Bnei Yisrael suffered

under his rule, but remained separate from the nations of the world; they did not learn from their evil ways and disgusting lifestyles. Our Sages teach us: in the future, the righteous will sit in Gan Eden, Hashem will bring the Torah and we will learn the laws of purity, prohibition, and other laws. King David will stand before Hashem and exclaim that 'we will gather to Hashem'. The sinners still in Gehinam will answer 'Amen'. Hashem will ask his angels, "Who is answering Amen from Gehinam?" They will advise: "Master of the world, they are the Jewish sinners who throughout their suffering in Gehinam nonetheless still answer Amen to you!" Hashem will then open the gates of Gan Eden, and bring them in, with song of praise on their tongues, all because they answer Amen!

#### ***Health and Recovery***

Diabetes symptoms vary depending on how much your blood sugar is elevated. Some people, especially those with prediabetes or type 2 diabetes, may sometimes not experience symptoms until after the sickness has advanced to type one. If someone exerts themselves physically, he may 'muscle through' the resistance now without noticing anything significant, however in due time he will feel the full effects of his exertion. Some who are overweight, oftentimes when they start going to the gym to work out, they overexert themselves thinking that the harder they push the more weight they will lose. This is a ridiculous weight loss strategy and usually only leads to bodily damage, not weight loss. An overweight person must first change his lifestyle and eating habits, limit his food intake, and only perform very limited physical exercises, before he can workout with much vigor. This is actually true of everyone, not just an overweight individual. Change is through steady progress. Results are not immediately noticed. One has to be patient and pace himself over a certain period of time to be successful. If one is, for example, working on push-ups, the first week he should do sets of five, the next week sets of ten, the third week fifteen, and so on until he reaches

his goal. Eventually he finds himself doing sets of fifty pushups, without feeling sore or incurring any bodily damage. Without the gradual progress, had he initially tried doing sets of fifty pushups on day one, he surely would not have been able to accomplish that feat, and he would have in all likelihood injured himself in the process.

### **Mussar: Visiting the Sick**

It is a great Mitzvah to visit the sick. Our Sages of blessed memory teach us: When you visit the sick, you reduce their sickness by one sixtieth. Many ask: Is it also a Mitzvah to visit someone sick who will not know that he is being visited? There are three reasons to visit the sick: 1- To help him with his needs. 2- To pray for mercy on behalf of the sick. 3- The Shechinah of Hashem is resting on the head of his bed, and your prayer on his behalf can be answered. One who visits without praying for mercy has not fulfilled the Mitzvah to its fullest. One who doesn't visit the sick is compared to a murderer. When you visit, you give much needed strength to the sick. Even if he does not understand, and even if he is sleeping, you are still fulfilling the Mitzvah. The visitor should not cause any problems through visiting. If he walks to visit, every step will bring him merit. Rav Aryeh Levine ztl was strict to especially visit those who were not able to understand that he was visiting, for then the Mitzvah is completely for the sake of heaven. He would pray by the bedside, with the Shechinah, for the sake of the sick person's body and soul. Visiting a poor man is greater than visiting a wealthy man. It is great to also assist with Talit and Tefillin. Give some charity on his behalf, as charity saves from death.

### **Story**

R' Moshe was a Maggid Shiur during the summer months for a Yeshiva that was spending the season in the mountains. Shiurim, Chabrutot, Tefillot Derushim – they continued at a powerful pace despite their relaxed environment, far away from the busy city. As R' Moshe sat and prepared a deep lecture he

would be delivering to twenty boys in the coming days, he noticed someone out of the corner of his eye that looked quite different. He had long hair, a large Yamulka, and was humming a pleasant tune as he learned Gemara. He would read one line out loud, explain it, hum sweetly, and then continue on to the next line. He looked like someone who not long ago returned to observance of Judaism. R' Moshe got up from his chair and began walking towards him to get a better look. As he learned, his face would brighten upon understanding the meaning of something. R' Moshe looked to see what it was that he was learning.

### **Two Halachot: Posek Rav Mordechai Eliyahu**

**1** – When learning Torah, make sure to hear the words you are speaking, in order to fulfill the biblical commandment of learning Torah, even when you do not understand what you are learning. Also, if one is unable to understand learning, he will understand it in the next world if he tries in this world. All should study the laws that most pertain to him on a daily basis, so that he will be proficient in their observance.  
**2** – One should never place a Sefer or Siddur upside down. If one cannot afford a Sefer Torah, he should purchase and own Sefarim, and either learn them or lend them to others to learn. If you want to use a Sefer that belongs to your friend, you should ask permission first, unless you know that your friend would not mind if you use it, provided that you are careful with it while using it, and you return it to its place.

### **Laws**

**1** – Women are obligated to pray once every day, since prayers are a request for heavenly mercy, and women also require heavenly mercy on a daily basis.  
**2** – Mussaf, however, which is not a request for mercy, but rather a Mitzvah dependent on time as it is only recited on Shabbat and Holidays, women are not obligated to pray Mussaf. Hacham Ovadia Yossef writes that women are not supposed to recite Mussaf, as it is possibly wasted Beracha recitation, however if they

insist on praying Mussaf we do not tell them not to pray.

3 – The Tziporen is a type of wood, or branch, that one recites Boreh Atzeh Besamim upon smelling it. However, this is only if the leaves are whole, whereas if the leaves are crushed into small pieces then one recites Boreh Mineh Besamim.

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family, Leilui Nishmat his mother **Kourjie Yaffa Bat Simha a”h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mrs. Sely Jajati and her children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, please join us for a Derush Leilui Nishmat their father **Yehuda Leon Ben Jamila a”h**, in **Bet Kneset Mishkan Yerushalayim Thursday November 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm**, Tizku L’Mitzvot, Amen. \*\*\* **Blessed siblings: Faraj, David, Clod, Edmon, Janett, Rina, Esther, Gila, Syma, and Evon of the Nahum Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Ayala Gazalo Bat Rima a”h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Ovadia Avraham, his wife Sabah, and their children: Naim, Yosef, Moshe, and Yonatan.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their son who passed away at a young age **David Ben Sabah a”h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mrs. Frieda Hasbani Rabi and her children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Nissim Sami Hasbani Ben Amilia a”h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Blessed siblings: Soly, Hillel, Arlett, and Sofia of the Bawabe Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Yitzhak Zaki Ben Simcha a”h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Victor Maleh, his wife Shirley, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his father **Yehuda Aslan Ben Jamila a”h**, Amen.

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