

Congregation

◆◆◆ "Beth Yosef" ◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

Parashat **Terumah** (Zachor)
8th Adar 5781

Maqam Siga
Issue #927

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

Haftarat **Vayomer Shemuel**
February 20th 2021

*Candle Lighting 5:17pm * Shekiah 5:35pm * Shir Hashirim 5:15pm followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 5:00pm * Shabbat Ends 6:19pm & Rabbenu Tam 6:49pm
Time for Talit 5:39am * Seasonal Hour 64:00 * Alot Hashahar 5:26am * Netz Hachama 6:43am
Weekday Minha 5:30pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 4:54pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 6:14pm * Chatzot 12:09
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:38am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:42am*

This year Mahatzit HaShekel is approximately \$11 (1/3 oz of silver)

Taanit Esther Thursday February 25th Fast Begins 5:18am and Ends 6:05pm Strictly 6:19pm

Those who wish to contact R' Farhi can call (646) 552-3412

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Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

The Midrash teaches us: When Bnei Yisrael declared *Naaseh Venishmah*, we will do and we will listen, accepting the yoke of heaven, Hashem then commanded: *They shall make a Sanctuary for Me – so that I may dwell among them.* What is the connection? *Naaseh Venishmah* is a declaration that lacks action, and requires action in order to be validated. Hashem wanted them to prove their words through action as a nation. He therefore commanded: *Take for me a Terumah.* Why is Parashat Terumah, which talks about donations and gifts, written right after Parashat Mishpatim, which talks about laws and judgments? To teach us: upon learning all about the laws and judgments, one should not think that it is better to be safe and careful by not doing anything, to be inactive and prevent any harm to others, to be isolated and free of any potential damage to others. Instead, as Parashat Terumah explains, one must interact with others, donate and provide for others, help and assist others in any way, even at the risk of potentially damaging others in the process, for that is the only way to achieve the construction of the Bet Hamikdash, by donating to the Shul and learning programs, and helping others in need. What's more, only after Bnei Yisrael learned the laws of money, the prohibitions of theft and damage to others, would they be able to donate to Hashem from their clean honest money. Why does Hashem command them to make him a Mikdash, a sanctuary, and not a *Bet Hamikdash*, a *house* of

sanctuary? Also, why does it say *so that I may dwell among them* in plural form, and not so that Hashem will dwell in *it*, the *house* of sanctuary? Hashem wished to first and foremost dwell in *them*, in Bnei Yisrael, and only then would Hashem dwell in a *Bet Hamikdash*. If Bnei Yisrael wouldn't be deserving for Hashem to dwell amongst them directly, *within them*, then Hashem would not dwell in the Bet Hamikdash either, which is the cause for the Temple's destruction. This is why the Pasuk doesn't say a *Bet Hamikdash*, but rather a Mikdash, because we all must be Hashem's sanctuary before Hashem will rest in the Bet Hamikdash. This is also why it says that Hashem will dwell among *them* and not dwell in *it*. How can we make a sanctuary for Hashem? By enabling Hashem to dwell among us – within us. Each person is a miniature world, and each person must build a miniature Bet Hamikdash within himself so that Hashem can place His Shechinah upon him. How? By purifying our hearts, learning Torah, and supporting those who learn Torah, in order to properly fulfill this commandment. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – The Pasuk says: *From every man whose heart motivates him.* Why does it say 'man' – certainly it will be men who will contribute for the Tabernacle? *Rabi Shimon Bar Yochai* explains: Who is called a 'man' – one who has control over himself and rules over his

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desires and inclinations. One who fails to control himself is no better than an animal. We must strengthen ourselves to always act as men, not like animals.

2 – Rashi comments: Moshe was perplexed by the way in which the Menorah was to be made, so Hashem told him to throw the Kikar of gold into the fire and it will be made by itself. This is why the pasuk was not written, *You shall make*, rather, *Shall the Menorah be made* – on its own. When Hashem described the details to Moshe, he did not understand how it was to be made. So Hashem showed him a replica of the Menorah made of fire. Nevertheless, Moshe was still perplexed, so Hashem instructed him to have Betzalel throw the gold into the fire. The Sefat Emet asks: If Moshe was incapable, why did Hashem show him a replica? The answer to this is a very important lesson that we can use for the rest of our lives. Through the will and desire to succeed with your heart and soul in performing Hashem's Mitzvot, only then will Hashem help you fulfill and complete the task at hand, even if it is impossible. Hashem will do for you what you cannot actually do, but what you wish you could do.

History in Brief

50 years after the Temple's destruction, in the year 118AD. It once happened that Rabbi Akiva was passing through a cemetery, and he came upon a man carrying a great burden of wood that he was collecting. Rabbi Akiva asked: "Why are you doing this difficult work?" The man said: "I am dead, and every day I am sent out to collect wood, to be used to burn me as punishment for my sins." Rabbi Akiva asked: "Have you heard anything about how you might be relieved?" The man answered: "I did. If only I had a son who would recite Kaddish to which they will answer *Yehe sheme rabah mevorakh* (may His great name be blessed) then I would be immediately released from this punishment." Rabbi Akiva immediately set out to locate the man's son. He found out that the man's wife was pregnant. When she gave birth to a son, Rabbi Akiva circumcised him, raised him, taught him the Hebrew letters and how to read, and when he was old enough, he recited Kaddish for his father. That night the man came to Rabbi Akiva in a dream and thanked him for saving him from the terrible fate of punishment. Our Sages teach us: In the future Hashem will ask all Tzaddikim in Gan Eden to speak the words of Torah. When they are done, Zerubavel son of Shaltiel will recite Kaddish D'Rabbanan, and their answer will resonate from one end of the world to the other. All in the world will then answer as well. Rabbi Akiva accepted the responsibility of supporting his students and Torah Scholars. He would travel far and wide. When he came to Medea, he declared the people there to be the ten exiled tribes. When his Rebbe Rabbi Eliezer became sick, and was terribly pained from the sickness, the Sages went to visit him. Rabbi Akiva laughed. Why? Because all his Rebbe's life everything was successful: his wine wouldn't spoil to vinegar, his flax was of quality, his oil didn't go bad, and his honey was pure. Rabbi Akiva worried - perhaps his Rebbe was receiving his rewards in this world, which would be a terrible reality. But now that Rabbi Akiva witnessed his Rebbe in suffering from a terrible sickness, he was assured

that his reward in the next world would be whole and intact, an idea worthy of happiness for his Rebbe during his time of suffering.

Health and Recovery

Vitamin D is a nutrient your body needs for building and maintaining healthy bones. That's because your body can only absorb calcium, the primary component of bone, when vitamin D is present. Vitamin D also regulates many other cellular functions in your body. Its anti-inflammatory, antioxidant and neuroprotective properties support immune health, muscle function and brain cell activity. Vitamin D isn't naturally found in many foods, but you can get it from fortified milk, fortified cereal, and fatty fish. Your body also makes vitamin D when direct sunlight converts a chemical in your skin into an active form of the vitamin (calciferol). The amount of vitamin D your skin makes depends on many factors, including the time of day, season, latitude and your skin pigmentation. Depending on where you live and your lifestyle, vitamin D production might decrease or be completely absent during the winter months. Sunscreen also can decrease vitamin D production in the summer months. It is best to go outdoors, under the sun, during the hours of 10:00am-3:00pm. Nowadays, people remain indoors for most of the day, without enough windows, skylights, and access to sunlight. We have become accustomed to temperature-controlled environments, heating and cooling, and don't even open the windows to allow fresh air into our living spaces. Electricity has taken the place of sunlight. We sometimes barely even open the shades to allow the sunlight in. Neighboring buildings are tall and block much of the direct sunlight as well. All these factors greatly decrease our chances of receiving vitamin D through sunlight, especially during the winter months when the day is much shorter and the hours of sunlight significantly decreased.

Mussar: Imperfection

Nobody is perfect. Everyone makes mistakes and has their package of flaws and sins that they need to work on correcting. Only Hashem is complete and perfect. Unfortunately, man has the custom to see the flaws of others, and often does not see his own imperfections. Perhaps his flaw may even be greater than that of his friend. Seek out the truth and develop yourself properly. Go to the Rabbanim and ask for constructive criticism. Fear heaven and always do the right thing, even if you may not fully understand. Change for the better a little bit each day and declare, *'When will my actions reach the level of my forefathers Avraham, Yitzchak, and Yaakov?'* Pray for success and truth. One time, a Jewish man in Bagdad came before the great *Rav Yosef Chaim (Ben Ish Hai)* and explained that his neighbor was a sinner. He asked if he must sell his house and move, as the Mishnah states *'Distance from a neighbor that is bad'*. The Rav explained that he must actually read the Mishnah in this situation as *'Distance a neighbor from bad'* – meaning, he must pray and work with wisdom to show his neighbor the truth. One mustn't always abandon his neighbor just because he is at fault, rather he must sometimes find a way to rid his neighbor of the fault, thereby eliminating the need to move

altogether. This man listened to the Rav and was successful in helping his neighbor repent.

The Passing of Moshe Rabbenu a”h:

On the 7th of Adar, Moshe Rabbenu was born into the world and passed away 120 years later. We are obligated to commemorate this day in remembrance of our Rebbe. The Limud for this day will take place Thursday night February 18th in Beth Yosef after we pray Minha and Arbit, starting at 6:00pm, and will continue for two hours until 8:00pm. Please join us in this Limud and be a part of this great merit. “Remember the Torah of My servant Moshe” – This is fulfilled on the 7th of Adar. For a full and complete one hundred twenty years Moshe lived, as Tzaddikim utilize their time completely. “The number of your days I will fill” On this day the Mon ceased to fall as Moshe departed from our midst. Parashat Tetzaveh is read next to the week that the 7th of Adar falls out on. It is the first Parasha since Moshe’s birth that does not mention his name. That day the gates of Torah were closed. Rav Yehuda says in the name of Shemuel: 3,000 Halachot were forgotten when Moshe passed away. Some say Moshe never died. In one place it is written, “He died there” and in another place it says, “He is there with Hashem”. Just as there he was serving Hashem, so too even after his passing he is still serving Hashem. Within every member of our nation resides Moshe Rabbenu. His resting place is unknown, because he does not rest, but is actually actively guiding us, and is therefore titled a “Roeh Ne’eman” (trusted leader). Moshe is and will stand for our benefit and protection. May Hashem guard us from evil and wrong, Amen.

Rishon LeSion: R’ Yehuda Navon 1770-1845

Once, R’ Shemaria Luria, who was a Hacham and a wealthy man, came to the house of R’ Yehuda. In 1834 he had moved to Israel with his family, but due to financial hardships in Israel, R’ Shemaria lost most of his wealth. When all he had left to his name was a loaf of bread, he decided it was time to return to Europe. Before embarking on his journey, he visited the Rishon LeSion R’ Yehuda Navon. As he listened to his story, a small smile spread over R’ Yehuda’s face, and he commented: “I see that you are one step ahead of the righteous. While the righteous worry that their bodies should be buried in Israel, in your case, your money has been buried in Israel.” R’ Yehuda had a friend named R’ Avraham Bechor, a Hacham who stood at his side and helped him. Once, after completing Shaharit Vatikin, he began his return home along the wall of city. Suddenly, he came upon a group of soldiers who were hanging a young non-Jew. His heart had mercy and he asked them what crime this young man had committed to deserve such a harsh punishment. “He is a rebel!” replied one of the soldiers. R’ Avraham asked them to wait before carrying out the hanging, until he had a chance to speak with the government officials.

Story

When Reuven, the poor water carrier, realized that another important person had just arrived who wanted to share a few words with the assembled crowd in honor of the occasion,

he thought to himself that this had gone on far enough, and he needed to eat something. He quietly went over to the sink, washed his hands, thinking to return quickly to his seat and just have a piece of the bread on his plate. Suddenly he shook as the voice of the host rang out, “Are you not embarrassed to wash before all these great men in this room?!” His heart sank, his face paled, and he ran from the house starving. There was a great deal of talking in the room by all present following this incident, but after a few moments the room quieted down once again and the event proceeded as if nothing happened. That evening, after the cleaning crew restored the rooms to their normal settings, as if nothing had occurred that day, the wealthy man sat in his study learning Gemara. As he delved into the depths of the hard topic, he heard his name called outside. He went outside to investigate, but before he could even realize what was happening a strong force lifted him up and carried him away. When he opened his eyes, he found himself in the middle of a dark and empty desert, all alone.

Laws: Purim

- 1** – Today the value of a Machatzit Hashekel, 10 grams of silver, is approximately eleven dollars. Women are also obligated to give this amount, as well as for their children, and also for an unborn child within the mother. If one cannot afford this, he should at least use eleven dollars for the adults and whatever amount he could afford for the children. One may not use Ma’aser money for this Mitzvah.
- 2** – Ta’anit Esther, Thursday February 25th, begins 5:18am, as the seasonal hour, Shaah Zemanit, is 6:50, as one and a fifth seasonal hours before Netz is Alot HaShahar, according to the Ben Ish Hai and Hacham Ovadia. The fast ends 6:05pm, and 6:19pm for the strict.
- 3** – Megillah reading Purim night in Beth Yosef will be at 6:15pm after Minha in middle of Arbit. Friday Morning, Purim, Megillah reading will be at 6:40am, 8:10am, and again at 11:45am. Women please do not be late. The Seudah of Purim on Friday should be started before midday 12:00pm, in order to leave time and appetite for the Shabbat meal Friday night.
- 4** – Pregnant or nursing women, women who miscarried, or women who recently gave birth, are exempt from this fast. A sick person, even if he is not in a serious situation, is also exempt. An old person who doesn’t have adequate strength is exempt as well. A Hatan (Groom) and the three people who are directly involved in a Brit Milah, father, Mohel, and Sandak, are likewise exempt.
- 5** – One who missed the Megillah reading at night for whatever reason cannot fulfill that obligation during the day by reading twice.
- 6** – Shehechyanu recited by the reading should cover the other Mitzvot of Purim as well – Mishloach Manot, Matanot La’Evyonim, and the Seudah.
- 7** – After the reading, roll up the Megillah and recite ‘Ha-el Harav Et Rivenu...’ and end ‘Baruch Atah... Hanifrah Le’Amo...’ and do not say Ha-El Hanifrah.
- 8** – A Beracha after the reading is only recited when ten men or ten women are present.
- 9** – If one forgot Shehechyanu at night, he should recite it in the morning before the Megillah reading.

10 – If one does not have a Kosher Megillah then he cannot read along and must be completely silent while listening to the recitation. Do not respond Baruch Hu Ubaruch Shemo.

11 – One may not eat a meal before the reading of the Megillah, both at night and in the morning. However, one may snack on something small.

12 – After reading a page, do not roll it up until the end of the entire reading.

13 – Speaking and motioning during the reading is not allowed. If you have a Kosher Megillah, then you may answer Amen or Kedusha, as you will be able to not miss a word.

14 – One who missed Al Hanissim and recited Hashem's name cannot go back, but should include it in Elokai Netzor or the Harachamans.

15 – One should dress nicely on Purim.

16 – Shaving, haircuts, and cutting nails are prohibited during Purim.

17 – Perform Mishloach Manot and Matanot La'Evyonim before the Seudah.

18 – A mourner within 30 days, or within 12 months for his parents, cannot send Mishloach Manot but may receive. Some hold he may send to one person.

Sponsors

*** **Mr. Eli Alhalabi, his wife Klemance, and their children: Alin, Rina, Moni, and Joey.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to **Habib and Noi** on the birth of their daughter **Daniela**, Mabrouk, Amen. *** **Mr. Uzi Naim, his wife Susan, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat **Nouriel Ben Sarah a"h, Eliyahu Ben Chana a"h, Avraham Ben Chana a"h, and Chana Bat Shaul a"h**, Amen. *** **Mr. Yosef Ishay, his wife Suzette, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to their grandson **Soly David Bawabe and his wife Joel** on the Bar Mitzvah of their son **David**, Mabrouk, Amen. *** **The Sakal Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Rachamim Ben Zahie a"h**, please join us for a Derush Sunday February 21st in Shevet Achim at 5:30pm, Tizku L'Mitzvot, Amen. *** **The blessed siblings: Henri and Morris Abadi.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Salha Bat Leah a"h** Amen. *** **The blessed siblings: Moshe and Aharon Hasbani.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Nissim Ben Hisni a"h**, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Rachel Bat Frieda a"h**, Leilui Nishmat their brother **Avraham Ben Rachel a"h**, and Leilui Nishmat their sister **Esther Bat Rachel a"h**, Amen. *** **Mrs. Sofi Mograbi and her children.** Blessings and success for the entire family,

Leilui Nishmat her father **Mordechai Ben Jamila a"h**, Amen. *** **The blessed siblings: Yosef, Eli, and Fardosa of the Janani Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat **Hacham Shelomo Janani Ben Nizha a"h**, Leilui Nishmat their grandfather **Hacham Yaakov Janani a"h**, Leilui Nishmat **Jack Chaim Ben Sarah a"h**, and Leilui Nishmat the young woman **Estella Hasbani Bat Kahila a"h**, Amen. *** **Blessed siblings: Soly and Hillel Bawabe.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Rachel Bat Shafika a"h**, Amen. *** **Blessed siblings: Dibo, Mordechai, Sami, Touni, Ketty, Lina, and Nadia of the Kafif Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Olga Bat Zakie a"h**, Amen. *** **Mr. Yosef Alkada, his wife Vicky, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his mother **Rachel Bat Latifah a"h**, Amen. *** **The Dana Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Yosef Ben Simcha a"h**, Amen. *** Askani Tzibur **Mr. Shlomo Cohen, his wife Gila, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his mother **Kourjie Yaffa Bat Simha a"h**, 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. *** **Blessed siblings: Soly, Hillel, Arlett, and Sofia of the Bawabe Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father **Yitzchak 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. *** **The Janani Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat **Jack Yaakov Chaim Ben Sara a"h**, Amen.

This week's sponsorship total is \$950.

Weekly cost total is \$1,300

Tizku L'Mitzvot, Amen!

Since we launched our newly designed website in April 2020, there has been 33,900 visits!

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