

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

**Rabbi Aharon Farhi**

*Parashat **Tahor** (Metzora)*  
8<sup>th</sup> Nissan 5782

*Maqam Nawa*  
Issue #980

**Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President**

*Haftarat **VeArbaah Anashim***  
April 9<sup>th</sup> 2022

*Candle Lighting **7:09pm** \* Shekiah **7:27pm** \* Shir Hashirim **7:00pm** followed by Minha Friday Night  
Shaharit Shabbat **8:15am** \* Minha Shabbat **6:55pm** \* Shabbat Ends **8:10pm** & Rabbenu Tam **8:40pm**  
Time for Talit **5:11am** \* Seasonal Hour **76:00** \* Alot Hashahar **4:56am** \* Netz Hachama **6:27am**  
Weekday Minha **7:20pm** \* Earliest Time for Arbit **6:30pm** \* Tzet Hacoachavim **8:05pm** \* Chatzot **12:57**  
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema **8:44am** \* Latest Time for Morning Amidah **10:00am***

***Shabbat HaGadol Derasha in Beth Yosef 6:30pm***

*Those who wish to contact Rabbi Aharon Farhi can call (646) 552-3412*

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**Vaad Tehilim Torah c/o R' A. Farhi**  
**2415 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn NY 11235**  
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***Pesah Schedule 5782 / 2022***

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***Erev Pesah Friday April 15<sup>th</sup> Taanit Bechorot Shaharit 6:00am \* Kiddush Bechorot 6:35am***  
*Latest Time to Eat Chametz 9:54am \* Latest Time to Burn Chametz 11:11am*

***Erev Shabbat First Night of Pesah Candle Lighting 7:17pm \* Shekiah 7:35pm \* Minha 7:00pm***  
*Shaharit First Two Days of Pesah Shabbat & Sunday 8:15am \* Minha First Day 7:00pm*  
***Second Night of Pesah Candle Lighting Before Kiddush 8:18pm \* Minha Second Day 7:20pm***  
*Havdalah / Yom Tov Ends 8:19pm \* Minha Chol Hamo'ed 7:30pm*

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***Erev 7th Day Pesah Thursday April 21<sup>st</sup> Candle Lighting 7:23pm \* Shekiah 7:41pm \* Minha 7:30pm***  
***Tikun Reading Friday Morning April 22<sup>nd</sup> Seventh Day of Pesah 5:30am***  
*Shaharit Both Days of Yom Tov 8:15am \* Minha 7<sup>th</sup> Day Erev Shabbat 7:25pm*  
***8th Day Pesah Candle Lighting 7:24pm \* Minha 8<sup>th</sup> Day (Shabbat) 7:05pm \* Havdalah 8:25pm***  
*One is allowed to once again eat Chametz Motzei Pesah April 23<sup>rd</sup> after 9:00pm*

***Wishing Everyone a Kosher and Joyous Pesah, with our Entire Nation, Amen.***

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Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah  
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This week's Parasha discusses the purification process of the Metzora. The laws of purity and impurity fill an entire volume and play an important role in the life of a Jewish person. These laws are a whole world of their own, unnatural, without physical substance, and yet somehow have an effect on a person, his vessels, his clothing, his food, his drink, all through contact with a dead body or some other various levels of impurity, such as a carcass, or the Tzaraat affliction. The true essence of a person is his soul, a mysterious and eternal being, a portion of Hashem. The soul dwells in the body temporarily, while the Torah

advises how to properly care for it. A person can never think that he is not valuable, worthless after the soul departs. The Torah instructs us to be careful with the body of the deceased, as contact will require one to undergo the purification process, dipping in the Mikveh, and possibly waiting multiple days until he can return to purity. The person is the soul within the body, and the soul is primary while the body is secondary. The body is a covering of the soul that is temporary, while the coverings of the soul that will be eternal are the Mitzvot and good deeds performed with the body while alive. These protect a person from impurity

and keeps the soul safe and clean. This is why we call the Parasha Tahor, The one afflicted with Tzaraat impurity had spoken Lashon Hara, which can cause a physical blemish on the body, the clothing, and even the home. The person can repair this damage of impurity while it is still only affecting the physical and it has not yet reached his soul. The Metzora has to be secluded from all others for a period of time, and announces his impurity if anyone comes too close. He calls out 'impure' to them, because what one says negatively is his actuality. He also tears his clothing, because through speaking Lashon Hara about someone else, his merits get turned over to the other person. The Mitzvot are the garments of the soul. Since he caused impurity to his soul by sullyng the garments, he physically rends his clothing as well, as he is left bare of Mitzvot due to his iniquities. May Hashem watch over us always, Amen.

### ***Insights on the Parasha***

The word Metzora is composed of the words *Motzi Shem Ra*, fabricated negative speech or slander about another. A person who is careful with his speech is a soul who has true fear of heaven, with holiness and purity. The power of speech that Hashem gave us differentiates us from animals. Speech is an outstanding gift from Hashem, and the choice of what to speak is even more outstanding. The ability to think and choose for yourself what will come out of your mouth, the thoughts and understanding, along with all the physical components used in order to speak, such as the lips, the cheeks, the throat, the tongue, the teeth, and the brain, make speech so important, so unique, and so much more necessary to guard from evil and impurity. We therefore have the responsibility to use our speech for Torah, Mitzvot, and only purity, and distance completely from slander, lies, cynicism, flattery, and profanity. The Torah commands us to speak about Divre Torah, and not to waste words. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

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

*80 years after the Temple's destruction, in the year 150AD. After the Roman Caesars finally stopped attacking and killing the Jewish people, and life was starting to return to more peaceful times,*

certain wicked Jews who hated the Torah and its followers started making up negative stories about their brethren who observe Torah and Mitzvot and reported them to the government with malicious intent. Elisha Ben Avuya was one of these instigators. He had been amongst the group of R' Akiva, one of the Sages who watched the destruction of the Bet Hamikdash with his own eyes. Rebi Elazar HaZaken would ask him Halacha decisions in the laws of Avelut. Rebi Meir learned Torah from him as well. He was also one of the four people who went up to heaven during his lifetime. Unfortunately, nobody is guaranteed to be and remain righteous, and this Elisha went off the path. R' Natan would say that when Elisha's mother was pregnant with him, she passed by a place of idolatry and smelled roasting pig. She ate from it and her son in her stomach was affected and eventually went away from Hashem. All day he would sing songs from the Goyim, and would read their heretic literature. He also witnessed the tongue of R' Yehuda HaNahtom severed and bloody while in the mouth of a pig. He remarked: could this be the reward for those who learn and keep the Torah? He therefore concluded for himself: there will be no reward, no resurrection, and no reason not to enjoy whatever this world has to offer. He then went out and committed terrible sins.

### ***The Road to Health and Recovery***

One of the most important aspects of human health is the digestive system. The digestive system is not only an indicator of our health, it is also the direct cause of our health. The better the digestion, the more nutrients and vitamins the body can get from the food consumed in order to keep it warm and healthy, without which it would be impossible to exist. If you ask, what can we do? Is the digestive system under our control? Such thoughts are a mistake. The digestive system does not start in the stomach and intestines, but in the mouth, in what is inserted into the mouth, and in the way those things are inserted and how it is all handled. As we know, the human body receives its vitality from the food it eats, which must be according to Hashem's instructions. When Hashem created man, what did He say to man? *I have given all the grass to you to eat.* Hashem knows what food is good for us and for our health: vegetables and

fruits, which can provide humans and animals with very good health. Food begins to digest with the chewing process in the mouth cavity. The saliva makes the food a paste ready to slide through the esophagus into the stomach. The saliva contains 64 enzymes needed for the digestive system and the human body. The salivary glands secrete saliva not only while chewing the food, rather the process continues throughout ingestion. However, without the stimulus of eating, the secretion of saliva stays open so as not to become a nuisance. For twenty-four hours the body secretes and swallows about two liters of water (saliva). The mouth swallows fifty times an hour while we're awake, and ten times an hour while we sleep.

#### **Mussar: *Ma'aser (Tithes)***

Giving a tenth of your earnings to charity is so great that Hashem allows you to test Him, to see whether or not you will be rewarded with wealth. Fortunate is the one who keeps track of the exact amounts and follows through. Hashem is greatly pleased through this Mitzvah. Keep the money separate so it will be easier to give to charity. One cannot be absolutely certain that another man will follow through with his promises of profit, but he can be absolutely certain that Hashem will follow through and bless him accordingly. He will be rewarded and fortunate in this world and the next with everlasting benefits. His portion will multiply if he uses it for charity towards the study of Torah. Hashem will have mercy on those who show mercy to others. May our rewards be complete, Amen.

#### **Rishon LeSion: *R' Rephael Meir 1801-1893***

During R' Rephael's tenure as Rishon LeSion, a book was published in Egypt that accused the Jewish leaders of killing young Christian boys in order to use their blood for Matzot to celebrate Pesah. Unfortunately, this terrible book of lies began spreading fast throughout the towns and cities. The Jews suffered terribly as a result of this false publication. Fear gripped their hearts that at any moment a mob of crazed Goyim would come through their streets with murderous intent for revenge. They turned to R' Rephael who understood the severity of the danger and sent a delegation of Rabbanim to the leader in Egypt. When the Egyptian leader heard that it was R'

Rephael who sent this delegation, he immediately admitted them into his palace. When he asked them why they were sent, they took out the book and explained that it was full of false slander that could result in terrible suffering for the Jews. R' Rephael was prepared to testify that the book is full of lies, and is only intended to increase hate and violence against Jews. The Egyptian Pasha explained that there was no need for R' Rephael to come testify, he will immediately ban anyone from owning the book and will actively collect them and destroy them. Woe upon those who are found with this book in their possession.

#### ***Story***

Shimon the flour merchant, who leased a wheat grinding mill from the non-Jewish owner to produce flour, was told that by the end of the month the mill was going to be leased to someone else instead for significantly more money. Shimon tried to plead and reason, but his words fell on deaf ears. Loyalty over the past decade meant nothing when money was the concern. By the end of the month, he would no longer be able to continue producing and selling flour, and many family members and close friends would not have a job, money, or food. What should they do? They all advised him to visit the holy Rabbi Yaakov Aryeh Radzymin, to whom thousands flocked for blessings and salvation, as he was merciful, compassionate, and through his prayers Hashem would help those in need of help.

#### ***Laws: Sefirat HaOmer***

- 1** – Women are exempt from Sefirat HaOmer and may not count with a blessing. According to the 'Sod', it's better if women do not count at all.
- 2** – There is a Mitzvah of Chinuch to train your son who is under 13 to count the Sefirat HaOmer. They may even recite the blessing, and continue doing so even if a day is missed, since it is for Chinuch. This does not apply to those over 13.
- 3** – The time to count is 37 minutes after Shekiah, after Tzet Hacoachavim, continued throughout the night. In Shul, with a Minyan, we count after Shekiah with a Beracha.
- 4** – One who forgot to count at night and remembered in the day, counts without a blessing, but continues to count with a blessing from then on.

**5** – If one is not sure if he counted the correct day, he may continue counting with a Beracha.

**6** – One who is unsure of the number and can't clarify it, counts both numbers without a blessing, and continues the rest of the nights the correct number with a blessing.

**7** – One who told someone else the number of days but not the number of weeks after the time to count already arrived may still count with a blessing since he didn't count the weeks.

**8** – If one says *Mashiv Haruach* instead of *Morid Hatal* and realizes: in middle of the Beracha – goes back to *Atah Gibor*. After *Berachat Mechayeh Hametim* – go back to beginning. If he is unsure: within 30 days of the change – he goes back. After 30 days – doesn't need to go back.

**9** – If one says *Barech Alenu* instead of *Barechenu*: in middle of Beracha – goes back to *Barechenu*. After saying *Baruch Atah Hashem* – end with *Lamedeni Chukecha* and go back to *Barechenu*. If he already said *Yihyu Leratzon* (second one) he then goes back to beginning of Tefillah.

**10** – During the Sefirat HaOmer we do not listen to music, even pre-recorded, from after Pesach until the 33<sup>rd</sup> of the Omer.

**11** – The Sephardic people have the custom not to get a haircut or shave during the days of Sefirat HaOmer until the morning of the 34<sup>th</sup> day of the Omer. Since it is only a Minhag, if one has pain from keeping a beard, he may shave on Erev Rosh Chodesh Iyar. If one is greatly pained he may be lenient and shave every Friday for the honor of Shabbat. Bnei Yeshiva are obligated to fulfill this Minhag.

**12** – *Harav Mordechai Eliyahu ztl* writes in his *Kitzur Shulchan Aruch* that we must decrease our joy during Sefirat Ha'Omer, and some have the custom to not recite Shehechyanu on clothing but could recite it on fruit. One may buy new clothing and wear it after the 33<sup>rd</sup> of the Omer. Some do not have this custom and recite it on everything, which is the custom we follow.

#### **Sponsors**

\*\*\* **Hazzan Menachem Moustaki, his wife Nina, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to Hazan **Hacham David Shiro** and to Hazan **Rachamim and his wife Naomi** on the birth of a newborn baby, Mabrouk, Amen. \*\*\* **R' Mark David Hefes, his wife Esther, their parents, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat Sar HaTorah **Rav Chaim Kanievsky zt"l**, may his

merits protect us, Amen. \*\*\* **The young man Yosef Leon Farhi, his parents, and his siblings.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Eli Levy, his wife Becky, and their children.** Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Amen. \*\*\* **Anonymous, his wife, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. David Nahum, his wife Soura, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his father **Moshe Ben Esther a"h**, Leilui Nishmat his mother **Ayala Bat Rima a"h**, and Leilui Nishmat his sister **Habiba Bat Ayala a"h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Askan Tzibur Mr. Faraj Srou, his wife Leah, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. \*\*\* **Mrs. Berta Malbasati, her husband Eliyahu Elias, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father **Avraham Ben Sabrie a"h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Victor Guindi HaCohen and his children Henry, Freddy, and Bella.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Nadia Chaya Bat Victoria a"h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Leon Farhi, his wife Eva, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat **Rachel Sithon Bat Bahia a"h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Askan Tzibur Mr. Isaac Jade and his family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his mother **Jamila Bat Bahie a"h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mrs. Esther Sasson Nahum, her husband David, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father **Moshe Ben Esther a"h**, Leilui Nishmat her mother **Ayala Bat Rima a"h**, and Leilui Nishmat her sister **Habiba Bat Ayala a"h**, Amen.

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