

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi
*Parashat **Ki Tavo***
16th Elul 5783

Maqam Siga
Issue #1043

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President
*Haftarat **Koumi Ouri***
September 2nd 2023

*Candle Lighting 7:10pm * Shekiah 7:28pm * Shir Hashirim 7:00pm followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 6:50pm * Shabbat Ends 8:08pm & Rabbenu Tam 8:38pm
Time for Talit 5:08am * Seasonal Hour 76 * Alot Hashahar 4:53am * Netz Hachama 6:24am
Weekday Minha 7:00pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 6:28pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 8:03pm * Chatzot 12:55
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:41am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:57am*

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The generous and kind-hearted **Mr. Leon Aharon Farhi, his wife Eva, their parents, & their children.** May Hashem bless their entire family with spiritual & physical success, Mazal Tov to **Mr. Ricky Shehebar and his wife Myra** on the birth of a daughter **Terry**, Mazal Tov to **Mr. Joey Yedid HaLevi and his wife Sara** on the birth of a son **Yitzchak**, Mabrouk, Amen.

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

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2415 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn NY 11235

Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

As each day of Selihot passes, we are drawing ever closer to the Day of Judgment, Rosh Hashanah, a day of awe and greatness, a day when every being in creation is either written for life, health, wealth, prosperity, success, strength, or otherwise heaven forbid. Hashem set in front of us in this world the choice between blessings and curses. Everyone has a choice. If a person lives in the ways of Hashem, does kindness for others, he will be blessed throughout his lifetime, while someone who harms, oppresses, and damages others and does not follow in the ways of Hashem will be chased by curses heaven forbid. This week's Parasha discusses two separate topics: the first is the bringing of Bikkurim, and the second is the enumeration of the ninety-eight terrible curses. What is this Mitzvah of Bikkurim? It is a wondrous obligation, in which the owner of a field collects his first fruits worth less than half a Dinar coin, whether they be a cluster of grapes, or

pomegranates, or dates, or figs, places them in his basket on his shoulder, leaves his home, leaves his town, whether he is rich or poor, or even King Agrippa, as he reaches the gates of Jerusalem, they announce from Tehillim, *I am overjoyed when they say we are going to the House of Hashem.* Hashem has given him a field and allowed it to sprout fruits. It is not good enough for him to just say thank you, he must perform actions to show his gratitude. He takes his first fruit and carries them in a basket to Yerushalayim, to the holy temple, and places it before the holy altar, waves it there, then recites the declaration stated in the chapter of Bikkurim. This entire Mitzvah is in essence a complete performance of Hakarat Hatov, gratitude and recognition. Hakarat Hatov is so important that the world was created for Bikkurim, as our Sages teach us, "*Beresheet*" – in the beginning, Hashem created the world – "*Beresheet*" – Bishvil Resheet – for the purpose of 'Resheet' – the

first of our crops, otherwise known as the Mitzvah of Bikkurim. This is compared to a king who gives a field to his servant, to work it for produce and guard it. He works hard every day and it produces fruits. What does the servant do? He takes the fruit in a basket and goes to his king in the palace to show him the result of his labor, and to thank the king for the opportunity. He wouldn't even eat from the fruits until he first speaks with the king. He knows the field wasn't his own and the fruits therefore aren't either, if not for the kindness of his king. The king doesn't need the fruits brought by his servant, but he greatly appreciates the gesture of recognition and thanks, and is happy to have given the field to his servant. So too, when we thank Hashem for the goodness and blessings we are given, even through our hard work, not taking a good opportunity for granted, and we thank Hashem and show appreciation, Hashem as well is happy to have given us the opportunity to be appreciative, and wants us to enjoy the fruits and blessings with happiness and to satisfaction. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – The Pasuk warns: *Your life will hang in the balance, you will be frightened night and day, and you will not be sure of your livelihood.* There is never any reason to worry about your livelihood, because how much money you will earn that year has already been decided on Rosh Hashanah. So, to understand the Pasuk, *your life, or livelihood, will hang in the balance,* meaning it is already set, balanced, and doesn't need to be a source of concern or worry. However, if a person *will be frightened night and day,* if he will cause himself to worry and be afraid for his livelihood because he lacks basic trust in Hashem, then as a direct result, *he will not be sure of his livelihood,* he will suffer from fear, and must therefore strengthen his Emunah and Bitahon, trust and belief in Hashem. (*The Belzer Rebbe*)

Health and Recovery

Folic acid is important for building up our body. It is essential for the metabolism and for

preventing blood vessel diseases. It is found in green leaves such as lettuce and the like. It is important and recommended to periodically monitor folic acid levels in the body while conducting a general blood test, especially in adults today. The worldwide medical recommendation is that women aged 20-40 should intake about 400mg/day of folic acid and monitor the amounts in the blood. One of the side effects is constipation. Another important level one must monitor is Vitamin B12, which is found in animal-derived foods, especially in all types of beef, because beef has 10 times the amount of B12 than chicken. Studies in Israel indicate a high deficiency of vitamin B12 in adults, especially those who do not eat meat. This deficiency causes anemia, weakness, fatigue, and neurological dysfunction, and can also be a cause of difficulties in regular movements. These levels can be checked with a simple blood test. Vegetarians need to constantly monitor their levels of protein and vitamin B12 in the blood. If indeed a deficiency is found, first add non-fat meat to the diet and menu, two or three times per week at least. There are tablets that dissolve under the tongue to be taken once a day for adults, but they can cause digestion issues, so such tablets may not always be the best solutions to increase levels. It is recommended that you occasionally receive vitamin B12 injections as directed by your family physician based on your blood levels. Also, ask your doctor whether to take B12 alone, or to take a B12 and folic acid combination tablet.

Mussar: Where Are We?

We are in middle of the days of Mercy and the days of Judgment combined. Everyone that lived through the year 5783 until the upcoming new year of 5784, all the health, livelihood, and everything in between, was all decided on Rosh Hashanah 5783, as well as sickness, death, pain and suffering, all decreed Rosh Hashanah 5783. That year is coming to a close, and a new year is coming soon, Be'ezrat Hashem it should bring peace and blessings. What can we do in the last two weeks of this year? How can we prepare to

have a good year 5784? We need to crown our King, the Creator of all. The word Elul strikes the heart of man who understands its meaning. One who wakes up while it is still dark outside to recite Selihot in Shul feels happier and more confident in his preparations before the Day of Judgment. However, one who doesn't get up for Selihot, remains sleeping in bed, doesn't prepare even a little bit and doesn't feel any awakening, will feel afraid and unready for the Day of Judgment rapidly approaching. These days must be inspirational and awakening in preparation for the days that will decide the fate of the year to come. The angels are busy, the Shofar is sounding and stirring the sleepy, and all should be telling themselves: Hashem is closer during these days. Pray, recite Selihot, give charity, do kindness, this is the time to search within, introspection, contemplation, meditation, and self-analysis. Fix the broken, straighten the crooked. Hashem is calling out to us with mercy and kindness, telling us to heed His call and return to Him. He wants us! The days left are few, the time is short, learn Torah, recite Tehillim, learn Mussar, Mishnah, Gemara, each at his level. We are approaching days of cleansing, which will then lead into days of great happiness and joy during Sukkot, to celebrate success of a good judgment, as we shake Lulav and live in the Sukkah with Hashem. Climb the mountain of Hashem and cling to it. In two weeks is Rosh Hashanah, after a month of work and preparations. The holiness and faith of a Jew is noticeable during these days, when we feel Hashem's Presence closer to us. The books of life and death will be opened in front of the King of Kings Who sits on the throne of mercy, Who hears the Shofar of Bnei Yisrael to switch from judgment to mercy. During these days Hashem offers to us gifts of life and we must extend out our hands to take and accept. Our Teshuvah, our repentance, our sincerity to do better, to be better, this is how we reach the throne of glory, to be worthy of life, to embrace the future year, to be blessed with health, happiness, success, and everything else. May our efforts be blessed, and may Hashem write and sign us for a year of good peaceful life, Amen.

Rishon LeSion: R' Yaakov Meir 1856-1939

After getting married, R' Yaakov moved to Yafo, where he spent part of his day working as a moneychanger, and the other part of his day learning Torah. After a number of months, the judge R' Pinto was visiting Yafo and he recognized R' Yaakov. When he saw that R' Yaakov was spending his time working instead of learning Torah, he felt very bad, his heart weakened. He was determined to convince R' Yaakov to return to Jerusalem to continue his learning. He spoke with him for an hour, but made no progress in convincing him. In the end, his wealthy companion Azariah Biton decided to open a Yeshiva so that R' Yaakov could teach Torah there and continue learning Torah without pressure. R' Yaakov then agreed, and R' Pinto blessed the wealthy man with very beautiful words. They did not know that they were securing the future of a great leader in our nation for that generation, a great leading Torah scholar for Jerusalem. From then on R' Yaakov spent his days in his Yeshiva teaching and learning in peace, while the philanthropist Azaria Biton made sure he had everything he needed. He established himself well within the sages of Jerusalem, joining the Bet Din of R' Yaakov Shaul Elyashar. His reputation spread wide and far. He judged, counseled, and uplifted everyone with a warm inviting face.

Laws: Rosh Hashanah

1 – Some have the custom that the head of the household recites the blessings as well as the Yehi Ratzon and everyone else fulfills their obligations by reciting Amen afterwards. In any event, if you hear another recite a Yehi Ratzon, you should recite Amen afterwards.

2 – If one is tired during Rosh Hashanah and needs to rest, he may only do so after Hatzot (midday). One should not be angry, even in his mind, during Rosh Hashanah, since it might be bad for the person during these days, besides for the prohibition of being angry that is all year round. Be friendly, smile, and don't be particular or stubborn about anything.

3 – Shehechyanu is recited at the end of Kiddush on both nights, but not in the day.

4 – One who forgot to say ‘Yaaleh Veyavo’ in Birkat Hamazon on Rosh Hashanah should follow these rules: If he said Hashem’s name in the Beracha but did not say Boneh Yerushalayim, then he should say with Malchut, “*Baruch Atah... Asher Natan Yamim Tovim Le’amo Yisrael, Et Yom Hazikaron Ve’et Yom Tov Mikraei Kodesh Hazeh, Baruch... Melech Al Kol Ha’aretz Mekadesh Yisrael Veyom Hazikaron.*” If he remembered after he began the fourth Beracha, he can end the Beracha with “*Asher Natan Yamim Tovim...*” However, if he began to say “Hakel Avinu Malkenu” then he may not go back and must continue as usual.

5 – The blower of the Shofar and the congregation must be careful not to speak between the Beracha and the blowing. ‘Baruch Hu Ubaruch Shemo’ must not be recited for this Beracha.

6 – One is forbidden to talk during the blowing until the end of Mussaf.

7 – A Shofar is Muktzeh on Shabbat and may not be touched. Women are accustomed to be strict and come to Shul to hear the Shofar. If a woman or man cannot make it to Shul, a blower may blow for her or him. However, it is forbidden for her, or for her blower, to make the Beracha, if the blower already fulfilled his obligation. For a man, however, a Beracha may be recited.

8 – The blower and congregation must have in mind to fulfill their obligation to hear the Shofar. After prayers blowing without purpose is prohibited.

9 – During the Ten Days of Repentance, *Oseh Hashalom* is recited at the end of the Amidah, and the Chazzan recites it in Kaddish Titkabal of Shaharit and Minha, but not in the Kaddish Titkabal of Arbit, or at the end of Selihot. However, Friday night when the Chazzan recites the Beracha of Seven after the Amidah, if he then says *Oseh Hashalom* in that Kaddish Titkabal, he has what to rely upon.

Sponsors

*** *Mr. Eli Levy, his wife Becky, and their children.* Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Amen. *** *Mrs. Salma Flah and*

her children. Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** *Blessed siblings: Henry, Morris, and Lidia.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat *Edmon Sabbag Ben Rina a”h,* Amen. *** *Mrs. Tania Antabi and her son Soly Shaalo, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her mother *Linda Bat Tera Esther a”h,* Amen. *** *Mrs. Eva Khafif Antabi, her husband Shlomo, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her mother *Linda Bat Tera Esther a”h,* Amen. *** *Blessed siblings: Azar, David, Charlie, Estella, and Arlit of the Halabi Family.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their sister *Sonia Bat Rachel a”h,* Amen. *** *Blessed siblings: Sammy, Seymour, and Renee of the Esses Family.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father *Ovadia Ben Rina a”h,* Amen. *** *Mr. Toby Cohen, his wife Shella, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father *Avraham Ben Badia a”h,* Amen. *** *Mr. Nissim Kassab HaCohen, his wife Maggie, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his mother *Odette Bat Sofia a”h,* Amen. *** *Mrs. Leah Bareket and her children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her husband *Yehuda Ben Rima a”h,* Amen. *** *Mr. Edmon Nahum, his wife Lina, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat *Yehuda Ben Rima a”h,* Amen. *** *Mrs. Stella Zafrani Cohen, her husband Hacham Shelomo, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her mother *Lidia Bat Alice a”h,* Amen.

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