

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

*Parashat **Mishpatim***

Rosh Hodesh Adar Alef 5784

Maqam Saba

Issue #1061

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

*Haftarat **Hadavar Asher***

February 10th 2024

*Candle Lighting 5:05pm * Shekiah 5:23pm * Shir Hashirim 5:00pm followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 4:50pm * Shabbat Ends 6:06pm & Rabbenu Tam 6:36pm
Time for Talit 5:56am * Seasonal Hour 61 * Alot Hashahar 5:44am * Netz Hachama 6:57am
Weekday Minha 5:15pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 4:43pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 6:01pm * Chatzot 12:10
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:47am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:48am*

Sponsored generously by the good-hearted:

Mr. Leon Farhi, his wife Eva, their parents, and their children.

May Hashem bless them with spiritual and physical success,

Mazal Tov to their son **Albert and his wife Grace on the birth of a son**, Mabrouk

Mazal Tov to their son **Henri and his bride Joyce**, Mabrouk,

Mazal Tov to **Shlomo Kabani and his wife Grace on the birth of a son**, Mabrouk, Amen.

Shovevim Fasting:

Thursday February 15th fast starts 5:43am and ends 5:55pm

Monday February 19th fast starts 5:32am and ends 6:00pm

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

Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

Hashem revealed Himself to our holy nation through a Cloud of Glory in order to speak with us directly. From the heavens we heard His voice, as we witnessed the revelation of our Almighty King upon Har Sinai, in order to teach us the Torah and the Mitzvot. This outstanding event granted our nation an eternal freedom through the learning of the Torah and the fulfillment of the Mitzvot. In Parashat Yitro we were given the Ten Commandments, and now in Parashat Mishpatim we are being taught the rest of the Torah. They were all anxious to hear about the other distinguished Mitzvot, such as Shabbat, Tefillin, Yom Kippur, Pesach, the laws of Korbanot, etc. However, they were taught seemingly simple laws such as the laws of how to treat Jewish or gentile slaves, the laws of damagers and watchmen, the laws of how to treat a convert, orphan, or widow, the prohibition of cursing another, not to twist judgment, the laws that apply between man and his friend, the punishment for striking a parent, the

consequences for kidnapping and selling a person, the obligations of one who creates an obstacle or stumbling block and causes damage, and one who damages another by not watching his ox or fire. These laws seem simple in nature – they are basic and obvious. One is naturally held responsible for the damages he causes another! What's even more puzzling about the simplicity of these laws is that all establishments and governments found in the world do not either permit theft, murder, or damages. They too punish those convicted and held accountable for committing such crimes. Why were they taught these first? The Torah is teaching us a valuable lesson: We must realize that our obligations to properly treat one another are just as important to Hashem as how we perform the other Commandments for Heaven, such as Shabbat, Korbanot, Kosher, etc. Hashem actually desires our peace and friendly relationships more than our fulfillment of holy Mitzvot for heaven, such as Tefillin and Korbanot. Performing kind

deeds to one another are very important forms of service to Hashem as well. The world is allowed to sacrifice an Olah, an animal that is completely burnt for Hashem, but only a Jew may sacrifice a Shelamim, a peace offering, an offering that is partially burnt on the Altar, partially eaten by the Cohanim, and partially eaten as well by the one bringing the sacrifice. Their consumption of the sacrifice is considered a Mitzvah. We must sow this idea into the roots of our hearts: The Ten Commandments include laws that we must observe concerning our relationship with our Creator, and our relationship between each other. Our nation is not like the rest of the world – we do not regularly consist of murderers, thieves, and wrongdoers. We must raise our children according to the lifestyle dictated in the Torah, for then they could reach great levels of purity and fulfillment. Any other path will lead the child to emptiness, destruction, and poison. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

1 – *If you see the donkey of someone you hate crouching under its burden.* Three times the Torah uses the word ‘crouching’ – once here, another time in Beresheet, referring to the Yetzer Hara with sins, and a third time regarding Yissachar who learns Torah. What is the connection? When a person is born, he is burdened with only a Yetzer Hara, but when he reaches the age of Bar Mitzvah he gains a Yetzer Hatov as well. If he sees that he is still crouching, burdened, from the Yetzer Hara at that point, what should he do? He should go learn Torah like Yissachar, for Hashem has created the problem, the illness, the Yetzer Hara, but Hashem has also created the solution, the medicine, which is the Torah. If one learns Torah, he will be saved from the burden causing him to crouch under the Yetzer Hara, his enemy. (*Achva V'Shalom*)

History in Brief

130 years after the Hurban, 200AD. Even though the evil Caesar decreed a prohibition against circumcision, Raban Shimon Ben Gamliel and his wife circumcised their son Yehuda publicly on the eighth day, sanctifying the Name of Hashem. He was then summoned to stand in judgment before the Caesar along with his wife and his newborn son. As they traveled to the Caesar, they stopped

by an inn, where the wife of a high-ranking Roman official had just given birth to a son named Antoninus. When she heard about their terrible circumstances, she told the wife of Raban Shimon to leave behind her son Yehuda and instead take Antoninus to the Caesar. When they witness that the baby was in fact not circumcised, they would be saved from terrible punishment. They agreed and thanked her. When they stood in judgment, the prosecuting officer stated the crime of circumcision, but upon investigation they realized that the baby in fact had not been circumcised. The Caesar became angry at the prosecuting officer who had informed him of the crime, but all the officer could say was that he had indeed saw the circumcision as he claimed, but Hashem must have once again performed a miracle on behalf of this well-known great Rabbi. The Caesar sentenced the officer to death and then abolished the decree against circumcision in honor of Raban Shimon. The Caesar then sent them on their way in peace. Because the mother of Rabbenu Hakadosh had nursed and fed the baby Antoninus, he grew up to be pure minded and his nature changed. The mother of Antoninus told Rebbe's mother that because a miracle was performed through their children, the two boys will grow up to be close friends and allies forever. Antoninus grew up serving Rabbenu Hakadosh, learning Torah, became a king of his people, converted to Judaism, and was rewarded in this world and in the next world.

Health and Recovery

To properly maintain your health, you need to be careful with the following things: 1 - If you are stressed or angry, you should not eat. 2 - Eat only from a small plate, and only while seated near the table. 3 - Put in the plate the whole portion you wish to eat at the meal, including bread, and do not add to it even if you aren't full afterwards. 4 - There is no obligation to finish eating everything on your plate! When you eat, always take time to chew before swallowing, and do not read a newspaper or a book. Also do not talk at all, especially not on the phone. 5 - As long as you are chewing food, place down the eating utensils from your hand. Do not fill the spoon while chewing because your mouth does not have a large capacity, and you will end up swallowing too quickly to make room for what is on the spoon

even though the food in the mouth has not yet been chewed well enough. 9 - Eat large things and do not eat small things because they cannot be chewed properly and also cause hemorrhoids. It's best to ground almonds and nuts, or to soak them in water to soften them. 10 - If you are still hungry at the end of a meal, stop eating and wait twenty minutes, at which time you can then decide if you really should continue to eat. In most cases you will decide not to eat anymore because you really are no longer hungry.

Mussar: Hashem's Kindness

We must constantly grace and thank Hashem for the countless blessings He bestows upon us every day throughout our entire life. He gives us even though we haven't earned it. He has created us from nothing. He has given us a body which is composed with countless wonders and outstanding wisdom. We were given a powerful and holy soul. We have intelligence in order to decipher between good and bad, right and wrong, and the ability to think and observe in order to recognize our Creator and Master. Hashem feeds us and gives us our necessities – even extras as well as some luxuries. He does not forsake us and cares for us every moment. The least we could do is recognize His greatness and bless His holy name in the world. Do not slumber and be ungrateful. Sing His praises to others and spread His presence throughout the world. He has created us in the form of His image, and blew a living soul within us, a soul of superiority and sovereignty; a soul with wisdom and great power, with the ability to understand and develop, greater than any other creation. The body is so complex and the mind is the control center. We must realize the awesome gift of life and praise Hashem with great devotion and emotion. Those who praise Hashem in this lifetime will praise him after a long life in the next world – where the true praises are spoken. May Hashem watch over us, Amen. (*Ma'alot Hamidot*)

Rishon LeSion:

R' Ben-Zion Meir Hai Uziel 1880-1953

R' Yosef Uziel, Av Bet Din of Jerusalem, and his wife from the Hazzan family, merited to have two sons who served as Rishon LeSion in Jerusalem. One night she had a dream that her son would illuminate the eyes of the world, and his name

would be Meir. On the 13th of Sivan in 1880 her dream came true, as the Uziel household lit up with the birth of their son Ben-Zion. He grew up learning Torah in his home from his holy father who served as the head judge faithfully and righteously. One time while judging a case amongst his judge colleagues, R' Yosef suddenly stood up and removed his robe in order to leave and return home. When they asked why, he explained that he saw a man enter the courtyard coming for judgment that he recognized as the man who had given him a gift not long ago, and a judge must recuse himself from such cases so as not to show any favoritism. He therefore wanted to first return home, retrieve the gift, return the gift, and only then could he judge the case with a clear mind.

Story

After Zusha went to his Rebbe for guidance, he was told to return the following day. When he came back the second day, his Rebbe told him to continue to remain close by for a few days, and he will advise him accordingly. After 3 more days, on the fourth day, Zusha returned to his Rebbe, nervous that the court case was drawing near and he had not yet secured counsel with a strategy. His Rebbe assured him that everything would be fine. The next day, as he sat with his Rebbe, he watched as he closed his eyes, in deep thought, as if seeing things far away, and when he opened his eyes he placed his hand upon Zusha's hand and blessed him with his departure, it was time to return home. Zusha's heart was filled with mixed emotions. He packed his few belongings and hired a coach to journey back home. As he came closer to home, thinking of what he needed to do next to win in court, he was greeted by his father-in-law who explained with great relief that all charges had been dropped, because the evil man had killed himself due to bad business dealings. Everything would return to normal, through the blessings of the Rebbe.

Laws: Chanukat Habayit

1 – It is our custom to make a Seudah of thanks to Hashem upon building a new home or purchasing a home. There should be words of Divrei Torah during the Seudah and songs of praise to Hashem. **2** – The custom is that the new owner of the house recites Shehechyanu on a new fruit, or a new

garment, and has in mind to cover his new home as well with the blessing. Nonetheless, one's happiness over acquiring a new home to reside in is enough on its own to enable him to recite the blessing of Shehechyanu.

3 – One who acquires a new home in which others had lived should first have it plastered and painted before moving into it, since a place has an influence upon a person, and the previous owners could have had a history of fighting, suffering, or sicknesses. Therefore, it is best to plaster and paint so as to rid their influence from the residence.

4 – If a house is ruined for whatever reason and is then rebuilt, even though it was rebuilt to be exactly as it had been before, still a Seudah should be made with Shehechyanu.

5 – An extension to a current residence does not obligate a Seudah; however Shehechyanu should be recited upon a new garment as mentioned above.

6 – A Seudah should be made also upon renting a home, and is not limited to owning a home. The Seudah should always be made immediately, and one should not wait until everything is fixed according to preference, since this Seudah is very important and it wards off evil and damagers from the new home. Ten men, or at least three, should join together and recite the Seder Chanukat Habayit.

Remember these measurements:

Kor = 166.6 kg
Eiphah = 16.66 kg
Se'ah = 5000 gm
Kav = 925 gm
Lug = 230 gm
Reviit = 86.40 gm
Beitzah = 57.60 gm
Kezayit = 28.80 gm or 25.60 gm
Gerogeret = 19.20 gm

Sponsors

*** **Mr. David Khafif, his wife Esther, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mr. Alfonse Kabani, his wife Golda, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to **Shlomo Kabani and his wife Grace** on the birth of a son, Mazal Tov to **Albert Farhi and his wife Grace** on the birth of a son, Mazal Tov to **Henri Farhi and**

his bride Joyce, Mabrouk, Amen. *** **Mr. Soli Bawabe, his brother Hillel, and their sisters.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Rachel Bat Shafikah a"h,** Amen. *** **Anonymous, his wife, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, thanking Hashem for health, strength, and Refuah Shelemah from sickness, may Hashem watch over them, Amen. *** **Mr. Victor Kassab HaCohen and his daughter Emily.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his wife and her mother **Becky Rivka Bat Rachel a"h,** Amen. *** **Blessed siblings: Avraham, Morris, Edward, and Rimon of the Cohen Family.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Joul Bat Bahie a"h,** Amen. *** **Mrs. Suzi Farhi, her husband David, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her brother **Avraham Ben Linda 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. *** **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. *** **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. Silya Setton Tawil and her children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to **Mr. Leon Farhi and his wife Eva** on the birth of a grandson, and for the bride and groom **Henri and Joyce, Mabrouk, Amen.** *** **Mr. Albert Jamal HaCohen, his wife Dina, their parents, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to **Shlomo Kabani and his wife Grace** on the birth of a son, Mabrouk, Amen. *** **Mr. Mordi Lozie HaCohen and his children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, wishing peace and prosperity to all of Bnei Yisrael, Amen.

*This week's sponsorship total is \$1800
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