

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

**Rabbi Aharon Farhi**

*Parashat Pekudei*  
9<sup>th</sup> Adar Sheni 5784

*Maqam Nawa*  
Issue #1066

**Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President**

*Haftarat Vayaas Hirom*  
March 16<sup>th</sup> 2024

*Candle Lighting 6:45pm \* Shekiah 7:03pm \* Shir Hashirim 6:40pm followed by Mincha Friday Night  
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am \* Mincha Shabbat 6:30pm \* Shabbat Ends 7:46pm & Rabbenu Tam 8:16pm  
Time for Talit 5:56am \* Seasonal Hour 70 \* Alot Hashahar 5:42am \* Netz Hachama 7:05am  
Weekday Mincha 6:50pm \* Earliest Time for Arbit 6:13pm \* Tzet Hacoachavim 7:41pm \* Chatzot 1:04  
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 9:12am \* Latest Time for Morning Amidah 10:22am*

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***Mr. Daniel Gabay, his wife Miriam, and their children:  
Ariel, Yehoshua, Max, and Yosef.***

May Hashem bless them with spiritual and physical success, Amen.

*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

We are fortunate this week to complete Sefer Shemot, the second book of the Torah. We are also completing the chapters dealing with the building of the Mishkan and Ohel Mo'ed. When they completed this task, the Pasuk states that they brought the Mishkan to Moshe. Why? Because they were simply unable to erect the pillars due to its outstanding weight. Nonetheless, Moshe was able to do it. Moshe had asked Hashem how it would be possible for man to erect and construct such a structure when its weight was so outstanding. Hashem told Moshe to just try and he will be successful. Moshe did just that and the pillars miraculously came together to form the Mishkan. We can learn from this the following: Are we only granted heavenly help from Hashem when we are completing the building of the Mishkan? Absolutely not. As each day goes by, we are receiving special powerful and miraculous assistance from heaven in order to build our families. We are always obligated and responsible to try our best and work hard in order to produce a family that serves Hashem properly according to the Torah, however success is always very hard to achieve without Hashem's help. Not only were the pillars of the

Mishkan too heavy for us to manage on our own, but every situation that we face in life and every necessity that we have for our family is likewise extremely heavy to bear the burden alone. How can we achieve success in life? It all depends on the power and strength of Hashem, not us. Hashem is the Almighty, Who is capable of anything and everything, and Whose might and glory fills the entire universe. Hashem constantly guides and assists us every day, through every step in life, with every breath we take. The amount of assistance and guidance that we're granted is based solely upon our faith and belief in Hashem. As we pray to Hashem for help, Hashem influences our lives with blessings and success, without measure, as our Sages of blessed memory teach: Man who purifies himself a little down here is purified much more from above. Faith and trust are the foundational settings of life, as it says that *the righteous with his faith and belief shall live*. We are all aware of the trials and tests that we face each day in this world. We wage battles within ourselves and outwardly. The Yetzer Hara is constantly at the front lines of the war trying to destroy us spiritually and physically. He tries to convince us to give up, he tries to break our spirits, he tries

to make us disgusted from our lives, and he tries to draw us away from our faith and belief in Hashem. The truth is that the world is an awesome place, as Hashem Himself testified after creating the world that it is *very good*. Who are we to disagree with Hashem and claim otherwise about the world? Hashem is good and performs good for others. We must follow in the steps of Moshe Ben Amram, who tried to fulfill a seemingly hopeless and unachievable task regardless, and yet enjoyed success as a result. If we just try, perform, and leave the results up to Hashem, then we will definitely enjoy success as well! May Hashem distance our enemies and danger from us, and help us and our families enjoy a long life of blessing and success, Amen.

### **Insights on the Parasha**

*All the gold that was used for the work – for all the holy work...* The Torah tells us the amounts in weight of the materials that were donated: Gold – 29 Kikar (640 kg), Silver – 2900 kg, and Copper – 1936 kg. (a Kikar measurement is approximately 21.5 kg) There is a question asked: Why did the Pasuk list the amounts of silver and copper that were accepted and the amounts used, while it only lists the amount of gold accepted but not the amount used? The answer is simple: The amount of gold used was actually far more than the amount accepted. Naturally, this could not be, but a miracle was performed and there was enough gold. This is hinted in the words of the Pasuk: *All the gold that was used for the work – for all the holy work...* It must have been a miracle, for ‘*all the gold used for the work...*’ had to be enough ‘*...for all the holy work*’ which was clearly naturally impossible without divine intervention. Speaking of gold, silver, and copper, let us quote our Sages’ comments concerning opulence and those who possess it: (1) A wealthy person has a bigger test than a poverty-stricken person when it comes to having faith and trust in Hashem. (2) A wealthy person always has two paths in front of him: one leads to paradise while the other leads to Gehinam. (3) Rabbenu Hakadosh would respect wealthy people, for Hashem gave them power and great

ability to accomplish and succeed in this world. How careful they must be not to abuse or take advantage of this power and to use it properly.

### ***The Passing of Moshe Rabbenu a”h:***

On the 7<sup>th</sup> of Adar, which falls this year on Motzei Shabbat and Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup>, Moshe Rabbenu was born into the world and passed away 120 years later. *Remember the Torah of My servant Moshe* – This commandment is fulfilled on the 7<sup>th</sup> of Adar. Moshe lived for a full and complete one hundred twenty years, as Tzaddikim utilize their time in this world efficiently and completely. *The number of your days I will fill*. On this day the Mon, heaven-sent bread, ceased to fall in the desert as Moshe departed from our midst. Parashat Tetzaveh is always read the week that the 7<sup>th</sup> 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 a portion of 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). The Limud for this day will take place Motzei Shabbat after Havdallah. Please join us in this Limud and be a part of this great merit. Moshe is standing, and will stand, for our benefit and protection. May Hashem guard and protect us from evil and wrong, Amen.

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

*130 years after the Hurban, calendar year 200.* Rebi Yehuda Hanasi, *Rabbenu Hakadosh*, was respected and held in great honor by many kings and ministers of countries besides Rome. Once, the king of Persia sent Rabbenu a gift of precious stones worth a small fortune, and instructed Rabbenu to send back something of similar value. What did Rabbenu do? He sent him back

one Mezuzah. The king asked, he had sent something priceless and Rabbenu sent back something worth only a few coins? Rabbenu explained that the true value of a Mezuzah is priceless, and what's more, the king had sent something that required a lot of watching, protecting, and guarding from loss and theft, while Rabbenu had sent something that watches over you as you sleep, in this world and in the next world. Rabbenu always showed great respect to Caesar Antoninus. Once, while dictating a letter to be sent to Antoninus, Rabbenu instructed to write *from Yehuda Nesiah to King Antoninus*, but when he read it himself, he ripped it up and instructed to write instead *from your servant Yehuda to my master Antoninus*. When asked why he was lowering his honor, Rabbenu explained that he was surely not greater than Yaakov Avinu who sent a message to Esav that *this is what his servant Yaakov says*.

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

Vitamin D is a nutrient that your body needs in order to properly build and maintain 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 that your skin can produce actually depends on many factors, including the time of day, season, latitude, and your skin pigmentation. Depending on where you live in the world and your type of lifestyle, vitamin D production might either decrease significantly or it can 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.

### ***Rishon LeSion:***

#### ***R' Ben-Zion Uziel 1880-1953***

R' Uziel denied the request of the Turkish soldiers to allow the Jewish flour mill owner to work during Shabbat on their behalf. The soldiers brought R' Uziel to their commander Hassan-Bek, but when he saw the face of R' Uziel his anger immediately subsided and he calmed down. R' Uziel asked, why he was being disturbed from his

rest on this holy day of Shabbat for the Jews? The commander explained, because he had not listened to his command. R' Uziel explains that his command was going against the commandment of the King of kings, Hashem, and he was unable to fulfill it. Immediately Hassan-Bek apologized to R' Uziel. There were many Jewish men in the Turkish army as well, as R' Uziel would worry for them, bring them extra food, clothing, medicine, and holy Sefarim to feed their souls. His actions really lifted them up during hard times, and helped them survive the hardships day by day.

### Story

The father of Mordechai continued the story: We heard of a righteous and holy Rabbi Moshe who lived in the city Stern, whose blessings brought miraculous salvation, *as the righteous decree and Hashem fulfills*. He and his wife traveled to Rabbi Moshe and when they arrived at his house they were shocked to see how many Jewish people were waiting in line to speak with him. They waited patiently for a whole day and night until it was their turn to enter his inner room. They cried to the Rabbi, with pain and grief, about how their son was unable to speak a word, but the Rabbi just bowed his head and didn't answer anything. After a few minutes, they got the hint that the Rabbi was not able to help them, that this must be a strong decree from heaven, that the child must remain mute all his life, and so they began to leave.

### Laws

**1** – The Taanit Esther fast will begin Thursday March 21<sup>st</sup> starting from Alot Hashahar which is one and a fifth seasonal hours before Netz, at 5:32am, as  $71+14=85$  seasonal minutes before Netz Hachama, as the seasonal hour is 71:00 and a fifth is 14 minutes, therefore Alot Hashachar is 85 minutes before Netz. The fast will conclude at 7:35pm, or to be strict wait until 7:42pm for additional blessings.

**2** – Be careful not to call it Mahatzit Hashekel, but rather *Zecher LeMahatzit Hashekel*. Ten grams of silver, approximately eight dollars.

**3** – A person gives for his wife, his children who are under Bar/Bat Mitzvah, and some even give for a baby still in the mother's womb. It is best to give the money for reading and learning Torah, in Beth Yosef we give for reading Tehillim.

**4** – Pregnant or nursing ladies, ladies who miscarried, or ladies who recently gave birth, are exempt from this fast. A sick person, even if he is not in a dangerous situation, is also exempt. An old person who doesn't have adequate strength is exempt as well. A Hatan and Kallah (Bride and Groom) during the first seven days of marriage, and the three people who are directly involved in a Brit Milah (Sandak, father, Mohel) are likewise exempt on the day of the Milah, but they can eat only after the Milah, not before.

### Sponsors

\*\*\* **Mr. Edmond Saada, his wife Hayat, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to their son **Victor and his wife Marlene on the birth of a son, David**, Mabrouk, Amen. \*\*\* Hazzan HaNaim **Mr. Edward Farhi, his wife Rosa, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Refuah Shelemah, Leilui Nishmat his father **David Ben Bolisa a"h**, and Leilui Nishmat his mother **Sarah Bat Salha a"h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Mr. Ezra Shasho HaLevi and his daughters: Lydi, Silva, Noura, and Tova.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his wife and their mother **Nina Sarah Bat Silva Sabour a"h**, Amen. \*\*\* **Blessed siblings: Avraham, Morris, Edward, Rimon, Esther, Berta, and Norma, 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. \*\*\* **Mr. Nissim Kassab HaCohen, his wife Maggie, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his mother **Odetta Bat Sofia a"h**, Amen.

*This week's sponsorship total is \$1750  
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