

Congregation

◆◆◆◆ **"Beth Yosef"** ◆◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

Parashat Vayeshev

20th Kislev 5785

Maqam Nahwand

Issue #1099

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

Haftarat Ko Amar

December 21st 2024

*Candle Lighting 4:13pm * Shekiah 4:32pm * Shir Hashirim 4:05pm followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 4:00pm * Shabbat Ends 5:14pm & Rabbenu Tam 5:44pm
Time for Talit 6:22am * Seasonal Hour 55 * Alot Hashahar 6:11am * Netz Hachama 7:17am
Weekday Minha 4:15pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 4:00pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 5:09pm * Chatzot 11:54
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:56am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:51am*

Dear R' Farhi and the Beth Yosef community. We are very happy and excited to share and announce that our academic article about the Beth Yosef weekly Shabbat bulletin has been published in the latest issue of *Studies in American Jewish Literature by Penn State University*. We want to thank you and the community members, we have already received warm and supportive feedback from our families, friends, and colleagues who have had the chance to read the article.

We hope that you will enjoy our writing which expresses our appreciation.

Best Regards and Wishes for Good Tidings, Daniel and Tehilla Gross

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

To sponsor our weekly publication, please mail your donation to:

**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

Yosef had two dreams. In the first, he said that the other bundles, representing his family, bowed to his bundle. In the second, he said that eleven stars were bowing to him. Why did he say in the first dream that they bowed to his bundle, and not just to him, while in the second dream he said that they bowed to him, and not to his star? The reason is because in the first dream it was clear that the bundle they were bowing to was him, so he was able to say that they were bowing to his bundle, but in the second dream, if he would say that they were bowing to his star, they would challenge him how could he know which star was whose, they were not labeled with a name, how could he differentiate? If he would have said that the other stars were bowing to him, they would ask, how do you know it was you? Therefore, regarding the first dream he said that they bowed to his bundle, while regarding the second dream he said that they bowed to him. When the dreams came true, the brothers first bowed to the Viceroy of Egypt, Yosef, not knowing that the Viceroy was Yosef.

This fits with the first dream, when they bowed to his bundle, but not to him, as if they were bowing to him but not knowing it. The second time the brothers bowed to Yosef, it was after their father Yaakov Avinu had passed away and they were declaring themselves as servants to Yosef, this fits with the second dream, in which they bowed to him, not just to his star, clearly understanding when they were bowing to whom they were submitting to, Yosef, not just his star or position. Let's talk about his sale. Reuven wanted to save Yosef from their brothers, so he told them to throw him into a pit, hoping to return later and retrieve him. But when he returned to the pit, Yosef was no longer there. In Reuven's absence Yosef had already been sold by the other brothers. Reuven had been preoccupied with his sackcloth and fasting. But if Reuven understood that Yosef's life was at risk, how could he have left at all? Surely saving a life is more important than anything else he had to take care of? Rather, after they threw Yosef in the pit, the brothers were sitting down to

eat a meal, but Reuven was fasting, so he separated from their meal and told his brothers that he would go tend to their father's needs, but in fact he never left, he just went to the other side of the mountain, waiting until they finished their meal so that he could return and retrieve Yosef. Unfortunately for his plan, the brothers never actually started eating before they saw a group of Arabs approaching and decided right then and there to sell Yosef before starting their meal. When Reuven returned after their meal, it was too late, Yosef had been sold and was long gone, so Reuven tore his garment. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

The Lights of Chanukah

Our Sages teach us: One who is careful with the lights of Chanukah will merit children who are Talmidei Hachamim. But aren't all Jews careful to light the Menorah on Chanukah, but most do not merit such great children? Our Sages are teaching us, we must be extra careful, by preparing special oil and wicks two days in advance, in anticipation of the great holiday, and then after the holiday not to remove the Menorah for an additional three days after Chanukah, out of great appreciation for the miracles and love for the Mitzvah. This attitude and mindset will bring the great merit that is promised by our Sages. Also, as we pray Arvit each night during Chanukah, when we recite Emet V'Emunah after Shema, and praise Hashem for protecting and saving us from our enemies through miracles of vengeance, we should have in mind the great miracles performed during Chanukah, so that Hashem receives our appreciation and merits us with miracles today as well. We must be careful not to speak during prayers, the Amidah repetition, Keriat Torah, and Kaddish, for those who do heaven forbid push Hashem away from the Shul and contaminate the air with impurity, just as the Greeks wished to contaminate and impurify our holy Bet Hamikdash. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on Chanukah

Why do we light and celebrate for 8 days of Chanukah if only the last 7 days were a miracle, being that there was enough oil naturally for the first day? The reason is because they did not use all the oil for the first day since they had to leave over a little bit in order for the miracle of the oil replenishing itself to take effect on something. Miracles do not happen unless there is something it can take effect upon. Therefore, the first night lasting the entire

time, more than the oil they had actually used, was a miracle as well. The Torah writes the holiday of Sukkot next to the light of Chanukah to teach us that just as Sukkot is 8 days, so too we celebrate Chanukah for 8 days.

Health and Recovery

Especially during the winter months, the flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and sometimes the lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. The best way to prevent flu is by getting a flu vaccine each year. People who have the flu often feel some or all of these symptoms: fever or feeling feverish/chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, fatigue (tiredness), and some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults. It's important to note that not everyone with flu will have a fever. Most experts believe that flu viruses spread mainly by tiny droplets made when people with the flu cough, sneeze, or talk. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby. Less often, a person might get the flu by touching a surface or object that has the flu virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose or possibly their eyes. Anyone can get the flu (even healthy people), and serious problems related to the flu can happen at any age, but some people are at higher risk of developing serious flu-related complications if they get sick. This includes people 65 years and older, people of any age with certain chronic medical conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, or heart disease), pregnant people, and children younger than 5 years. The flu vaccine has been shown to reduce flu related illnesses and the risk of serious flu complications that can result in hospitalization or even death. Everyday preventive actions (like staying away from people who are sick, covering coughs and sneezes, and frequent handwashing) are recommended to help slow the spread of germs that cause respiratory (nose, throat, and lungs) illnesses, like the flu. It is very difficult to distinguish the flu from other viral or bacterial respiratory illnesses based on symptoms alone. There are tests available to diagnose the flu. If you are otherwise fit and healthy, there is usually no need to see a doctor if you have flu-like symptoms. In most cases you can treat the symptoms of a mild flu yourself. Most people will get better by themselves within 7 to 10 days even without any treatment. Some things you can do to relieve flu symptoms

include: getting plenty of rest, drinking plenty of water and other non-alcoholic fluids to prevent dehydration, keeping warm, eating a healthy diet with plenty of fruit and vegetables, avoiding exposure to cigarette smoke, inhaling steam from a hot bath or shower in a closed room to help relieve a blocked nose, and eating hot soup. If you have a sore throat, try: gargling with warm salty water, sucking on an ice cube or a throat lozenge, and drinking hot water with honey and freshly squeezed lemon juice. There are also several over-the-counter medicines available to ease cold and flu symptoms, such as pain and fever. If you are sick with the flu, stay home and avoid close contact with other people until you feel better. Antibiotics only work on infections caused by bacteria. As the flu is caused by a virus, taking antibiotics will not help you get better faster or stop you from spreading it to other people. Taking antibiotics can cause side effects like an upset stomach, diarrhea, and thrush. When you take antibiotics for the cold or flu, you also increase the risk of antibiotic resistance in the future. Make sure to always consult with your doctor.

Mussar: Lashon Hara

1- To erase the sin of Lashon Hara, one should learn the Halachot of Lashon Hara to gain atonement. 2- A person who performed good deeds his entire life might find himself standing in front of the heavenly court without any merits. Why? Because the sins of his evil words had ruined all his merits. 3- The second Bet Hamikdash was destroyed because of Lashon Hara spoken by people about others. 4- The punishment for Lashon Hara during the times of the Bet Hamikdash was Tzaraat, as the Torah states, but today without the Bet Hamikdash the punishment for Lashon Hara is poverty, which is similar to Tzaraat. 5- The prayers of someone who speaks Lashon Hara are not accepted in heaven. 6- One who speaks or listens to Lashon Hara deserves to be bitten by dogs. 7- When one commits the sin of Lashon Hara, the heavens speak against him as well, measure for measure. 8- When there is Lashon Hara, the heavens hold back rain, and blessings do not flow down from the heavens.

Rishon LeSion:

Maran Hacham Ovadia Yossef 1921-2013

At the age of nine Hacham Ovadia returned to Baghdad with his father to visit his grandfather. He went to the Bet Midrash of Rosh Yeshiva HaGoan R' Abdallah Somekh. Many Geonim and Chassidim

came forth from this Bet Midrash. The Yeshiva was burned and destroyed in 1937 by our enemies. The young Hacham Ovadia went inside and began learning Gemara. The older students watched bewildered that a young nine-year-old was sitting and learning Gemara. In Baghdad the custom was that children first learned thoroughly through Chumash Navi Mishnah and Halacha before starting to learn Gemara at the age of fifteen. In Israel they would start learning Gemara earlier in age, each according to their strength and ability. They brought the young boy before the Av Bet Din R' Salman, R' Salah Kadouri, and R' Nissim Kadouri. The young Hacham Ovadia proved already proficient and learned in many Perakim of Gemara in Baba Metzia, and even recited the pages by heart. The Hachamim were very impressed and allowed him to learn with other students even double his age who were already twenty years old. They all agreed that he would one day grow up to be a rabbinical leader and authority, and enlighten the eyes of our people in Torah.

Laws: Chanukah

- 1** – We begin lighting the Chanukah lights this year on Wednesday night, the 25th of December.
- 2** – It is customary for women not to do any work while the Menorah is lit; without leniency.
- 3** – The Menorah must be placed within 10 Tefachim (80 centimeters) from the floor of the room.
- 4** – One should place the Menorah by the window or by the stairs that open to the outside. If one lives in an apartment that is above ground level 9.6 meters, he should place the Menorah by his entrance, on the left side where you enter, opposite the Mezuzah.
- 5** – We light the Menorah in Shul between Mincha and Arvit, even if three stars didn't come out yet, in order to publicize the miracle with a crowd. Some have the custom to allow a Katan who has reached his Chinuch years to light the Menorah in Shul. It is customary to light the Menorah in Shul during Shacharit without a Beracha.
- 6** – The first one lit each night is called the Ner Mitzvah, the second, third etc. are called Ner Hidur (beautify). Therefore, the Baal Habayit himself should light the Ner Mitzvah, and the rest could be lit by Katanim who have reached the age of Chinuch (discipline). However, if they have not reached the age of Chinuch, do not allow them to light. The Shamosh, however, can be lit even by a Katan who has not yet reached the age of Chinuch.
- 7** – The proper time to light is 5:00pm, and if one did not, he may light until 5:15pm. If one did not light by

Tzet Hacochovim (3 stars), he may light until Alot Hashachar, and must awake all who are sleeping to join in lighting. If he cannot wake them, he must light without a Beracha. If he makes a Beracha, we cannot give him any rebuke.

8 – One who is not able to be in his house by Tzet Hacochovim, and will come at a later time, should appoint his wife to be his Shaliach (messenger) to light by Tzet Hacochovim, and he will have completed his Mitzvah through her, even though he was not around.

9 – Once a person lights the candles, he has fulfilled the Mitzvah. If they extinguish immediately, whether due to wind or accidentally while trying to fix them, he has fulfilled his obligation, however, it's a special mitzvah to relight them, without a blessing.

10 – One should not begin lighting until he has completed all of the Berachot, and one should not begin saying Hanerot Halalu etc. until after the first light is lit and he has pulled his hand away.

11 – Friday, Erev Shabbat, we first light the Menorah and afterwards the Shabbat candles. As long as one candle is already lit the women may begin lighting Shabbat candles and need not wait for the rest to be lit. “Bameh Madlikin” is not recited. One must put enough oil in the Menorah on Friday for it to last one hour. Likewise, enough wax, if applicable, for one hour. Mincha should be prayed early with a Minyan before lighting the Menorah on Erev Shabbat.

12 – The first night of Chanukah we recite Al Hanissim, and continue throughout Chanukah. If one forgot to say Al Hanissim in the Amidah and remembered before saying Hashem's name in the Beracha of “Ve'al Kulam,” he can say it there (Modim and Al Hanissim). The same applies to Birkat Hamazon. If one was too late in remembering, he should say it (Modim and Al Hanissim) after Elokai Netzor and after the Harachamans.

Sponsors

*** **Mr. Zouki Metta, his wife Stella, their children, and their son the Sandak Avraham and his wife Yafit.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov on the birth of a grandson, Mabrouk, Amen. *** **Mr. Avraham Abraham, his wife, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mr. Ted Levy, his wife Celia, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mr. Mayer Wahba, his wife Pauline, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mrs. Touni Levy Shrem, her husband Shaul, and their children.**

Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her brother **Hacham Avraham Ben Rachel a”h**, Amen. *** **Anonymous.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Refuah Shelemah for **Mordechai Ben Loula**, Amen. *** **Mrs. Camo Zafrani Shakalo and her children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father **Hacham Avraham Zafrani Ben Altoon a”h**, and Leilui Nishmat her husband **Yaakov Shakalo Ben Mazal a”h**, Amen. *** **Mr. Henry Kameo, his wife Farha, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his father **Chaim Ben Sarah a”h**, and Leilui Nishmat his daughter **Olga Bat Farha a”h**, Amen. *** **Mr. Eli Levy, his wife Becky, and their children.** Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Refuah Shelemah for **Yosef Ben Rivka**, and Refuah Shelemah for **Amram Ben Rivka**, Amen. *** **Mrs. Camo Shasho Metta, her husband Hazan Avraham, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father **Hacham Avraham Metta Ben Leah a”h**, and Refuah Shelemah for **Mordechai Ben Loula**, Amen. *** **Mrs. Adele Hudeidi and her children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her husband and their father **Chaim Ben Farha a”h**, Amen. *** **Mr. Edmon Nahum, his wife Lina, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat the pure soul of the young child **Yosef Chaim Ben Olga 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 Sabout 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.

Looking to renovate your office, store, or home?

We offer professional work and elegant designs at a reasonable cost. **Call Victor 718-916-0434.** He will show you samples of his work, and discuss a plan and cost for your project.

*This week's sponsorship total is \$1700
225,200 website visits!*

* * * * *

www.BethYosef.com