

Congregation



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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi
Parashat Vayeshev
23rd Kislev 5786

Maqam Nahwand
Issue #1141

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President
Haftarat Ko Amar
December 13th 2025

*Candle Lighting 4:11pm * Shekiah 4:29pm * Shir Hashirim 4:10pm followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 3:55pm * Shabbat Ends 5:11pm & Rabbenu Tam 5:41pm
Time for Talit 6:17am * Seasonal Hour 55 * Alot Hashahar 6:06am * Netz Hachama 7:12am
Weekday Minha 4:10pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 3:57pm * Tzet Hacoachavim 5:06pm * Chatzot 11:50
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:49am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:44am*

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May Hashem bless them with spiritual and physical success, Tizku L'Mitzvot, Amen!

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

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Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

Who sold Yosef? The Rashbam, the Ramban, and the Malbim are all of the opinion that it was not Yosef's brothers who had sold him. They had thrown him into a pit and sat a distance away to enjoy their meal without hearing his screams of protest. During their meal, a group of Midianite businessmen heard Yosef's screams and pulled him out of the pit in order to sell him for a quick profit, nothing steep, just enough pay to cover their troubles for pulling him out. As the Arabs were passing by, the Midianites offered a quick sale and they agreed on the cheap price. Yosef's brothers had noticed Arabs passing by at a distance and made the suggestion to perhaps sell Yosef to them. Reuven, who was partaking in the meal and had not left his brothers, when he heard such a suggestion, he immediately went to the pit to save Yosef from such a terrible idea. He came to the pit and behold, Yosef was gone. He ran back to his brothers and told them that Yosef was missing. They were stunned and honestly had no idea what happened to him. The Midianites had pulled him out and sold him to the Arabs so quickly while they were preoccupied with their meal. When they stood before Yosef years later in Egypt, they really believed that their brother had died, otherwise

they would have been able to find him during their searches. They were not lying at all. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Insights on Chanukah

1 – 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.

2 – Why do we recite, "*Lehadlik Ner Chanukah*" - "*To light the Chanukah light*" without using the word "*Shel*" (*of*), but when we recite the blessing on the Shabbat candles, we say "*To light the light of Shabbat*" using the word "*Shel*"? Since we are not allowed to benefit from the Chanukah light and not allowed to use the light at all for our purposes, it is worded appropriately, whereas we are allowed to use the Shabbat lights for our personal benefit, to eat and drink by the light.

History in Brief

200 years after the Hurban, calendar year 270. During the days of Rebbe, all the Sages came together and recorded all their knowledge of the Oral Torah. Rebbe then compiled all the Halachot as well as all the disagreements from the past years since the destruction of the Bet Hamikdash, and Heaven assisted Rebbe to produce the six Sedarim of the Mishnayot, just as Moshe Rabbenu had learned from the Shechinah. Everything was written according to protocol, following the majority in Halacha, all written with divine perception, with the assistance of Eliyahu Hanavi as well who frequented the Bet Medrash of Rebbe. The Mishnah was written concisely, to the point, without going into great detail or explanation. When something was clear, they didn't quote it in anyone's name. If the majority held of one opinion, and an individual held of a different opinion, quoting that he had learned this from his teachers, then we side with the majority and not the individual. The individual is written nonetheless, because just in case, we should have someone to rely upon, if we need to follow his opinion. Why did he quote Bet Shamai if the Halacha is anyways like Bet Hillel? So that the generations should know and understand that a person does not necessarily follow his own opinion, just as our predecessors.

Health and Recovery

1- Olives strengthen stomach activity and improve appetite. Olives are best when prepared in vinegar. **2-** Dates are bad for digestion. **3-** Raisins are a healthy and nutritious food for many reasons. They are also beneficial for overall liver activity. **4-** Poultry and chicken are superior for man, as the effect on the blood will be neither thick nor watery. **5-** Foods which yield fat will

produce good blood for a person as well as good digestion. However, do not eat them unless you have exercised prior to consumption. These foods, even though they improve a person's blood, they are still harmful on other parts of the body. Included are as follows: **1-** Bread that did not rise completely, or did not bake completely. **2-** Different types of cheese. **3-** Hard boiled eggs, cooked, grilled, or roasted. **4-** Big thick fish. **5-** Large dates or pine nuts. **6-** Most fruit juice is not good for a person, and a person should rather eat the fruit than drink the juice. **7-** The following should be eaten specifically before a meal: strawberries, pears, tomatoes, cucumbers, watermelons, and peaches.

Mussar: Derech Eretz

Derech Eretz is beloved before Hashem, for nothing can last in existence without it. One who lacks this important feature and characteristic is worthless, lost in the desert and wilderness. One who possesses this attribute is praised and exalted above in heaven and below on earth. Even the Torah is glorified through him, for Torah clings to Hashem only if it was learnt with Derech Eretz. One who lacks in this area cannot dwell among man, for nobody will consider his words or actions seriously, or even worth their time. What is Derech Eretz? This character trait includes fear of heaven before Hashem, acting with humbleness, selflessness, and speaking softly with people. With Derech Eretz one will find himself successful with his actions, words, eating, drinking, dress code, and business decisions. The most supreme level of Derech Eretz is to know, understand, and recognize that Hashem is the One who created you and everything else from nothing, constantly does everything within His creation, is the only One Who deserves the credit, and we

therefore must perform all His commandments to perfection, cling to His Torah, and be joyous and happy always. *Derech Eretz precedes Torah* – every Sefer has an introduction. The introduction for the Torah is Derech Eretz. Perform Derech Eretz by respecting your parents who worked so hard on you, and still constantly work hard on you, in order to establish you as the person you are today, and the great person you will one day become. Do kindness for the rich, poor, living, and deceased, for existence depends on kindness and care. Pray in Shul with the congregation on time and recite Shema in its proper time, for then Hashem will accept your prayers, which will be a great benefit for everyone, Amen.

Rishon LeSion:

Maran Hacham Ovadia Yossef 1921-2013

In 1948, as Hacham Ovadia was traveling on the train, a group of Egyptian men approached him, asking him to donate funds towards their war with Israel. Hacham Ovadia continued learning from his Sefer and did not pay attention to them. They persisted, asking again, trying to get his attention. He looked up and told them that he did not wish to fund a war, he was in favor of peace. The Egyptians declared that everyone was obligated to help finance their war efforts! Hacham Ovadia told them to put their hands in his pocket and take whatever money they would find. The people on the train began to get rowdy and unsettled. To quiet them down, the train conductor took out a few coins from his own pocket and gave it to them, saying that it was on behalf of the Rabbi. Hacham Ovadia however made it clear that this money was not from him, it was from the conductor! He would not pay anything towards the war. The situation escalated and more unruly attitudes ensued. The officers of the law came and Hacham

Ovadia found favor in their eyes to safely escort him to his home

Laws: Chanukah

1 – We begin lighting the Chanukah lights Sunday night, the 14th 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 Hibur (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 Tzeit Hachochavim (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 Hacoachavim, and will come at a later time, should appoint his wife to be his Shaliach (messenger) to light by Tzet Hacoachavim, 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. Minha 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.

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*** ***Mr. Eliyahu Antabi and his children.*** Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to the parents ***Teddy and Lilian*** on

the birth of their son, and Mazal Tov to the parents ***Teddy and Helen*** on the birth of their son, Mabrouk, Amen. *** ***Mr. Eli Levy, his wife Becky, and their children.*** Blessings, health, and success for the entire family, Amen. *** ***Mrs. Suzy and her children: Mark, Isaac, Albert, Frieda, and Stella, and the blessed siblings: Rachamim, Yehoshua, and Evon, of the Houdrie HaCohen Family.*** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her husband, their father, and their brother ***David Ben Frieda a"h***, Amen. *** ***Mr. Albert Shaya, his wife Shoshana, and their children.*** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his father ***Moshe Ben Miriam a"h***, Amen. *** ***Mrs. Nina Saade and her blessed children: Yosef, Jack, Ziko, Sofia, Dolly, and Karen.*** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father ***Avraham Saade Ben Shafiah a"h***, Amen. *** ***Mr. Nissim Alkada, his wife Rima, and their children.*** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her father ***Yehuda Ben Rima a"h***, and Leilui Nishmat his mother ***Rachel Bat Latifah a"h***, Amen. *** ***Mrs. Brenda Heffez and her blessed children: Larry, Gabriel, and Jack.*** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their father ***Avraham Ben Dora a"h***, Amen. *** ***Mrs. Norma Assa and her children.*** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her husband and their father the Shochet Hacham ***Yosef Ben Najla a"h***, Amen.

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