

Congregation

◆◆◆"Beth Yosef"◆◆◆

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

**Rabbi Aharon Farhi**

*Parashat **Tetzaveh Zachor***

11<sup>th</sup> Adar 5786

*Maqam Siga*

Issue #1152

**Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President**

*Haftarat **Vayomer Shemuel***

February 28<sup>th</sup> 2026

*Candle Lighting 5:27pm \* Shekiah 5:45pm \* Shir Hashirim 5:15pm followed by Minha Friday Night  
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am \* Minha Shabbat 5:10pm \* Shabbat Ends 6:28pm & Rabbenu Tam 6:58pm  
Time for Talit 5:26am \* Seasonal Hour 66 \* Alot Hashahar 5:13am \* Netz Hachama 6:32am  
Weekday Minha 5:35pm \* Earliest Time for Arbit 5:00pm \* Tzet Hacoachavim 6:23pm \* Chatzot 12:08  
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:31am \* Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:37am*

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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

The Pasuk says that Aharon carried the names of Bnei Yisrael on his two shoulders as a remembrance. What do we learn from this Pasuk? We know that there are 600,000 letters, or symbols, in the Torah which correspond to the 600,000 Jewish souls. Each soul is connected to one letter, and the hint to this is the word Yisrael, as the letters that form the word Yisrael can each be used to start the words: *Yesh Shishim Ribou Otiyot LaTorah, there are 60 myriads (600,000) letters in the Torah.* Now, just as all 600,000 souls are not on the same spiritual level, so too the 600,000 letters are not all of equal value. Let us explain in order of greatest to least. There are letters that form Hashem's name, and there are letters that form the names of our holy forefathers and other holy personalities throughout the Torah. There are letters that are used to write about a Mitzvah, and there are letters not used to write about a Mitzvah. Each soul corresponds to the letter that best matches its spiritual level. Then there are souls that do not correspond to letters, but to the Tagin (crowns) of the letters, or to the Nekudot of the letters. Then there are souls that not only do not correspond to letters, but also not to Tagin and

not to Nekudot. What do those lower souls correspond to? The actual empty spaces throughout the parchment page of the Torah. Hashem did not need to include such spaces in the Torah, between paragraphs and pages, but did so because even the spaces correspond to Jewish souls. If one letter in the Sefer Torah is touching another letter, thereby invading the space that should be there, then the Torah is invalid until it is fixed, as this space corresponds to a Jewish soul. When Bnei Yisrael sinned with the Golden Calf and Hashem wanted to destroy them as a punishment, Moshe argued that if so then he should be erased from the Torah, whereas Hashem responds that those who sinned should be erased. But were they mentioned in the Torah, as was Moshe, to even be able to be erased? Yes, every Jew is in the Torah and corresponds to one letter. Those who sinned with the Golden Calf had lost their connection to the Torah. Aharon HaCohen, who loved and pursued peace, who loved the people and brought them closer to the Torah, taught them how to do Teshuvah for their sins, and brought them back to the merit of connecting with the letters of the Torah. This is the meaning of the

Pasuk we mentioned in the beginning: Aharon carried the names of Bnei Yisrael on his two shoulders as a remembrance. With the Urim VeTumim that Aharon wore, their souls lit up once again through the letters of the Torah, and they merited to be whole once again, having gained atonement through Teshuvah with the help of Aharon HaCohen. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

### **Insights on Purim**

The Megillah says that these days are for remembrance, teaching us that the Shabbat before Purim we read Parashat Zachor. After Shabbat, before Purim, we fast Taanit Esther. It is named after Esther, and not Mordechai, because Esther was the one who decreed the fast for three days and instructed our nation to follow. All holidays will discontinue in the future besides Purim and Yom Kippur. Purim, because it says in the Megillah that it will never cease from our descendants. Yom Kippur, because the Torah calls it an eternal law. Yom Ki-Purim is like Purim, because Purim is greater in spiritual holiness. In the future, Yom Kippur will no longer be a day of pain, and instead will become a day of celebration, like Purim. On Purim, if you just put out your hand, heaven will give you and accept you, but on Yom Kippur you need to repent in order to gain acceptance and forgiveness. Harbonah is also remembered for good, teaching us that even one who is lost spiritually, nonetheless he can be remembered for good on Purim. On Purim we have the power of the Cohen Gadol on Yom Kippur, for our prayers to enter Hashem's throne-room, as Esther entered the throne-room and her requests were granted. Purim is even greater than Shavuot, because at Har Sinai we were forced to accept the Torah out of awe, while on Purim we accepted the Torah with happiness and will. When the Megillah is read each year on Purim, the gates of heaven open just like at Har Sinai. It says in the Megillah: so that the Yehudim will be *'poised'* *'Atidim'* for this day. This word is spelled with a Vav instead of a Yod, to teach us to be joyful and dance during Purim each year, in celebration. Just as Achashverosh asked

Esther to request whatever she wanted during their feast, so too the gates of heaven are open to our requests during the feast we enjoy on Purim. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Rishon LeSion:**

#### ***Maran Hacham Ovadia Yossef 1921-2013***

The sinful Egyptian Shochet that had moved to Israel was forced to close his butcher shop. His new job was to guard the border during the night shift. He partnered with smugglers who came across the border. One day he got into a confrontation with them, they didn't hesitate, a gun was pulled out and he was shot dead. When the students of Maran heard this news, they recited the Pasuk which condemns someone who sends forth his hand against Hashem's anointed ones. Unfortunately, the problems in Cairo's Kosher meat industry did not go away with this man. Maran still faced challenges in the levels of Kashrut, as meat prepared and served in hospitals was being cooked with milk, and the

meat itself was sometimes from not Kosher sources. Maran was shocked to see what was going on with his eyes. He gave them an ultimatum: they had one week to correct their actions, otherwise the people will be made aware and the hospitals will be boycotted.

### **Laws: Purim**

**1** – This year the value of a Machatzit HaShekel is approximately 25 dollars. One who cannot afford to give this amount can give 11 dollars instead. Women are also obligated to give, as well as for their children, and also even for an unborn child in the mother's womb. If one cannot afford this, he should at least give eleven dollars for the adults and whatever amount he could afford for the children under age of Bar/Bat Mitzvah. One may not use Ma'aser money for this Mitzvah.

**2** – Ta'anit Esther, Monday March 2<sup>nd</sup>, begins 5:09am. The seasonal hour, Shaah Zemanit, is 67, and one and a fifth seasonal hours (67+13) before Netz (6:29am) is Alot HaShahar (5:09am), according to the Ben Ish Hai and Hacham Ovadia. The fast ends 6:15pm.

**3** – Megillah reading on Monday Purim night in Beth Yosef will be at 6:00pm after Minha (5:30pm) in middle of Arbit. Tuesday Morning, Purim, Shaharit Hashem Melech 6:00am, Megillah reading will be at 6:40am, and again at 11:00am for the women. Women please do not be late.

**4** – Pregnant or nursing women, women who miscarried, or women who recently gave birth, are exempt from this fast. A sick person, even if he is not in a serious situation, is also exempt. An old person who doesn't have adequate strength is exempt as well. A Hatan (Groom) and the three people who are directly involved in a Brit Milah, father, Mohel, and Sandak, are likewise exempt.

**5** – One who missed the Megillah reading at night for whatever reason cannot fulfill that obligation during the day by reading twice.

**6** – Shehechyanu recited by the reading should cover the other Mitzvot of Purim as well – Mishloach Manot, Matanot La'Evyonim, and the Seudah.

7 – After the reading, roll up the Megillah and recite ‘*Ha-el Harav Et Rivenu...*’ and end ‘*Baruch Atah... Hanifrah Le’Amo...*’ and do not say *Ha-El Hanifrah*.

8 – A Beracha after the reading is only recited when ten men or ten women are present.

9 – If one forgot Shehechyanu at night, he should recite it in the morning before the Megillah reading.

10 – If one does not have a Kosher Megillah then he cannot read along and must be completely silent while listening to the recitation. Do not respond Baruch Hu Ubaruch Shemo.

11 – One may not eat a meal before the reading of the Megillah, both at night and in the morning. However, one may snack on something small.

12 – After reading a page, do not roll it up until the end of the entire reading.

13 – Speaking and motioning during the reading is not allowed. If you have a Kosher Megillah, then you may answer Amen or Kedusha, as you will be able to read yourself and not miss a word.

14 – One who missed Al Hanissim and recited Hashem’s name cannot go back, but should include it in Elokai Netzor or the Harachamans.

15 – One should dress nicely on Purim.

16 – Shaving, haircuts, and cutting nails are prohibited during Purim.

17 – Perform Mishloach Manot and Matanot La’Evyonim before the Seudah.

18 – A mourner within 30 days, or within 12 months for his parents, cannot send Mishloach Manot but may receive. Some hold he may send to one person.

### *Sponsors*

\*\*\* *Mr. Joey Levy, his wife Raizy, their parents, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to *Binyamin Levy and his wife Chana* on the birth of a son, Mabrouk, Amen. \*\*\* *Mrs. Bella Daieh and her children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. \*\*\* *Mr. Hillel Haber, his wife Roula, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his grandfather *Yitzchak Paredes Ben Frieda a”h*, Amen. \*\*\* *Mr. Larry Heffez, his wife Karen,*

*and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to *Binyamin Levy and his wife Chana* on the birth of a son, Mabrouk, Amen. \*\*\* *Mr. Soli Araman, his wife Vicky, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Mazal Tov to *David Zetouni* on his *Bar Mitzvah*, Mabrouk, Amen. \*\*\* *Mr. Farah Hamra, his wife Dina, and their children.* Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat his mother *Latifah Bat Esther 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*, Leilui Nishmat his father *Nouri Ben Rosa 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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