

Congregation

◆◆◆◆ **"Beth Yosef"** ◆◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi

Parashat Emor

15th Iyar 5786

Maqam Siga

Issue #1159

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President

Haftarat Vehakohanim Halveyim

May 2nd 2026

*Candle Lighting 7:33pm * Shekiah 7:51pm * Shir Hashirim 7:00pm followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 7:15pm * Shabbat Ends 8:34pm & Rabbenu Tam 9:04pm
Time for Talit 4:33am * Seasonal Hour 81 * Alot Hashahar 4:17am * Netz Hachama 5:54am
Weekday Minha 7:00pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 6:48pm * Tzet Hacocharim 8:29pm * Chatzot 12:52
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:20am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:41am*

Hilula Tana Rabi Shimon Bar Yohai, Lag Ba'Omer Monday Night May 4th 8:00pm

We will be lighting candles in Beth Yosef at 8:00pm. It is a Segulah to light a candle, Leilui Nishmat a Tzaddik, for Parnassah, for health, for children, for marriage, etc. Those who wish to donate \$100 to light a candle should contact R' Aharon Farhi, Tizku L'Mitzvot, Amen.

Sponsored By: The generous donor, kind hearted, Sandak Mr. Toby Cohen, his wife Shella and their children Blessings health and success for the entire family, Amen. Wishing a Mazal Tov to their son Mr. Albert Cohen and his wife Norma on the birth of a baby boy, Mabrouk 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

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Please do not read this bulletin during Tefillah or Keriat Hatorah

Yom Ha'atzmaut

Our Rabbis said that there is nothing in the world, past or future, that is not hinted in the Torah, particularly in *Parashat Ha'azinu*. Therefore - *Baruch Hashem* who revealed to me a hint regarding *Yom Ha'atzmaut* in that Parasha. There is a known dispute among Rabbis and the public regarding whether to say *Tachanun* on this day. Some Rabbis do not say it, and some do. A hint regarding this appears in the verse: "*Pen yomru yadenu ramah ve-lo Hashem pa'al kol zot*" (Lest they say, Our hand is mighty, and Hashem did not do all this.) Some people view the events of *Yom Ha'atzmaut* as 'my power and the strength of my hand' - as if we achieved what we did on our own, and Hashem did not do "Zot" (all this). What is *Zot*? It refers to *Yom Ha'atzmaut*. Another verse says: "*Lu chakhmu yaskilu zot*" (If they were wise, they would understand this). This means the Sages of the generation should teach the people what *Zot* is. And how do we know what "Zot" is? David Hamelech said in

Tehillim: "Me-et Hashem haytah zot" (From Hashem this came to be). Everything we see with our eyes to this day—miracles and wonders—all of it is from Hashem's kindness and mercy, and He is the one who guards and saves us with miracles every moment. The world of Torah in Israel and abroad has grown and ascended to heights never seen in previous generations. Thousands of pages of *Gemara* are completed every day worldwide, and new *sefarim* are being published constantly. The wellsprings of Torah have spread everywhere, fulfilling the verse: "*For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of Hashem, as the waters cover the sea.*" Happy is the eye that has seen all this. We thank Hashem for all His kindness and mercy, Amen.

Introduction to the Parasha

The verse states: "*And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Shabbat... fifty days.*" This teaches us that every Jew is obligated to perform this counting with a

blessing. What is the moral lesson hidden behind this counting? When the People of Israel left Egypt and the first day of *Pesach* ended, they breathed in the air of freedom after centuries of suffering and sorrow. But the Torah came and said: "Wait a moment! The goal has not yet been reached. You have not yet arrived at the rest and the inheritance for which man was created on this earth." The freedom achieved is not the end of the road, it is only the beginning. The first step is the foundation of the building, not the building itself. Now, you are on the way to *Har Sinai*. There, you will accept the yoke of the Torah, which is *Matan Torah*. Every single day, you will draw closer to the *Shechinah*. This counting was not just for those who left Egypt or the generation of the desert; it is a preparation for every generation of the Jewish people to accept the yoke of the Torah again. Through this counting, the Jewish people moved *Pesach* from being a standalone holiday and made it a precursor to *Shabuot*. The days of the *Omer* are the bridge and the connection between the two holidays. This teaches us that physical redemption cannot be separated from spiritual redemption. *Pesach* is merely a step in the ladder, which has fifty rungs. When a Jew finishes the counting, he says: "I have reached this step of the ladder today" Each day made a spiritual impression on me, from day to day and week to week. On the 50th day, we receive the Torah, which is our life and our devotion in this world and the next. May Hashem protect us, Amen.

Insights on the Parasha

The Torah commands us not to slaughter an ox or sheep with its offspring on the same day. Although the Pasuk writes the parent in male form, the law is actually referring only to a mother with her child, while the father and its child are permitted. The Pasuk hints to this specific detail when it first writes by an ox, sheep, or goat that it will be for seven days with its mother, specifying the mother, teaching us that when mentioning the law of slaughtering the child with the parent, there too it is referring to the mother.

Lag Ba'Omer (33rd day of the Omer)

Lag Ba'omer is a day of celebration and a day of lamentation in honor of the great Tanna, Rabbi Shimon Bar Yohai, may his merits shield

us. From the greatest of the 4th generation of Tannaim, he lived 140 years after the *Churban* (Temple's destruction). He was the author of the 'Zohar', which is the foundation of Torah and Kaballah. He is the Rabi Shimon that is always mentioned in the Gemara, and after a long life he passed away, after Rabi Yishmael. He first learned in Yavneh, in front of Rabi Yehoshua and Raban Gamliel. Afterwards, he was one of the five students of Rabi Akiba, along with Rabi Yehoshua, Rabi Yehuda ben Baba, Raban Gamliel, and Rabi Elazar ben Yehua. He had 22 students, which included: His son, R' Elazar bar R' Shimon, Rabi Dostai, R' Hanina, R' Yohanan, R' Yirmiya, Rabi Nahas ben Yair, etc. He learnt in Bnei Brak by Rabi Akiba for 13 years. Rabi Akiba loved him, called him his son, and told him, 'It is sufficient for you that I and the Creator both recognize your spirit (Sanhedrin)'. Rabi Shimon bar Yohai came to Rabi Akiba and learned Torah from him even in difficult times. Many times in the Mishnah we find the two discussing a law. Once Rabi Shimon bar Yohai realized a sense of disrespect towards his Rav and therefore fasted many fasts, until his teeth turned black, in order to rectify the situation. 'Sifri' (Medrash Halacha for Bamidbar and Devarim) is by default the words of Rabi Shimon bar Yohai, what he learnt from Rabi Akiba with his four friends. The students relied upon Rav Yehuda ben Baba. Many times there were arguments with Rabi Yehuda and Rabi Meir. Rabi Shimon bar Yochai witnessed the Romans combing the skin of Rabi Akiba with iron combs just because he learnt Torah. He therefore became rebellious against the Roman authority. All his days were filled with miracles as he learnt. He was a shield for his generation and a rainbow never formed in his days. Rashbi passed away on the 33rd of the Omer (18 Iyar) and was buried in Miron. Praying by his grave, as many do, especially on the 33rd of the omer, brings great protection and help from Hashem. We light candles *Leilui Nishmato*. May his merit protect us, Amen.

Health and Recovery

Especially from the age of forty onward, most people feel the consequences of their erroneous lifestyle habits. Heed important advice: take care of your body, and follow the correct instructions for properly operating your system. It is important that you remember one thing:

most diseases do not suddenly jump on a person. The ‘bank account’ of your life shows an unexpected withdrawal of one thousand shekels, but no one is getting excited or concerned, neither you nor the manager. When it becomes two thousand, slowly the realization begins to creep up, the clerks call and warn you that the charges are growing and life is vanishing, but the man still ignores resolution, until one day the phone rings and the manager is on the line. This is the last warning! You start screaming with anger, but now it's too late. Your life account is suddenly closed but you did not give notice or even attempt to rectify the matter until it was too late. What a loss! But in life the loss is not a loss of money but a loss of life! Learn from the experience of others and save yourself in time. The Torah commands: “*Be very careful with your life*”. Your body is not your private property. The Torah doesn’t command you to be careful with your money. It commands you to be careful with your body and soul. You cannot just do anything you like with your body. It is given to us as a deposit from the Creator, and we must follow the guidelines to keep it safe, some in the Written Torah and some in the Oral Law, prescribed from our Sages throughout the generations.

Mussar: Seclusion with Hashem

Seclusion with Hashem is a very important trait that is greater than the rest. Seclusion means to devote and dedicate a special frame of time to privately speak with Hashem and ask from Hashem what you need. Speaking with Hashem should be done privately where nobody sees and one should ask Hashem to help him come closer to Him and serve Him better, in the best and most optimal way. This conversation with Hashem could be conducted in any language and should express whatever is in your heart, whether it is regret or repentance for the past, or the intentions to be closer to Hashem from that point on. Every person should come closer to Hashem using the tools Hashem has given him, each on his own level. The key is consistency – every day one should make an effort to draw closer, as this will also make the day into a happier one. Even if a person can only speak about one thing with Hashem, that is also a great thing. He should be strong and steadfast, and if possible, he should try to do this a few times during each day. The added result: you will see

success and salvation in your kids. These conversations with Hashem help void evil decrees without even knowing about their possibilities. A person must know: a Jewish man’s sword is his prayer, as this is the connection between Hashem and man. If you see a change in your daily life, don’t say it’s a coincidence; rather be a devout believer that it’s all from Hashem. Ask from Hashem that you shouldn’t be put to test, that you should not experience disgrace due to the Yetzer Hara’s strong and sharp strategies against man. Who can withstand them? Pray to Hashem so that He will help and save you from the Yetzer Hara. May Hashem watch over us, Amen.

Rishon LeTzion -Maran Chacham Ovadia Yosef (1921–2013)

During a meeting between Maran and the President of Egypt, Hosni Mubarak, the President heard all of Maran’s requests, including a plea for a pardon for a Jewish prisoner who had been sentenced to death. The President willingly agreed, saying he could not refuse the Rabbi's request. Afterward, the President asked everyone to leave the room so he could be alone with Maran. He said: "Rabbi, I believe with complete faith in your blessing and your holiness. Please, bless me." Maran placed his hands on the President's head and blessed him that his kingdom should be uplifted. This blessing was fulfilled, as his reign lasted for over thirty years. Years later, when he was imprisoned, Maran prayed for his release because the President had listened to every request the Rabbi had made of him. Maran began writing and printing his books one after another, totaling about fifty-five books in his lifetime. These are wonderful works that the entire Jewish people rely upon. He began printing in 1951 and continued until 2014—meaning he spent 63 years of his life publishing. His books were written with both sharp logic and immense breadth, combining the qualities of a ‘*Sinai ve-oker harim*’ master of tradition and a creative scholar. They cover *Halachah*, *Aggadah*, and *Mussar* to the point that there is no Jewish home in Israel or in the world that does not have Maran’s books.

Laws

- 1- One who buys a new *Tallit* first recites the blessing "*Lehit'atef*" and then the blessing of "*Shehecheyanu*". If one puts new *Tzitzit* on an old *Tallit* garment, the *Shehecheyanu* blessing is not recited.
- 2- One who buys a new *Tallit Katan* - if it is made of fine fabric and the person is happy to wear it, they recite *Shehecheyanu*. If not, they do not recite *Shehecheyanu*.
- 3- If one eats an entire pizza (the dough with the toppings): If the dough is made only of flour and water (without fruit juice or eggs), one recites *Hamotzi* and follows it with *Birkat Hamazon* if at least a *Kezayit* was eaten.
- 4- However, if the dough contains fruit juice, eggs, or similar ingredients, one recites *Mezonot* and follows it with the *Al HaMichyah*
- 5- If someone eats only the toppings and not the dough, they recite *Shehakol*. Afterward, if they eat the dough they recite *Mezonot*.
- 6- If one is eating noodle soup but only drinks the broth, they recite *Shehakol* over the broth.
- 7- One who eats raw ginger recites *Borei Peri Ha'adama* followed by *Borei Nefashot*. However, if it is dried and has no taste, no blessing is recited at all.

Sponsors

*** **Mr. Leon Farhi, his wife Eva, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. Mazal Tov to **Mr. Albert Cohen and his wife Norma** on the birth of a baby boy Mabrouk, Amen. *** **Mr. Shahoud Shaul Levy, his wife Toune, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mrs. Nina Alwaya and her husband Gabriel** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her brother **Menashe Ben Bolisa 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.** *** **Mr. Victor Harari and his brothers.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat their mother **Janet Bat Zakieh 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.** *** **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.** *** **Mr. Joe Levy, his wife Raizy, and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Leilui Nishmat her mother **Suzette Sinbol Bat Rachel a"h, Amen.**

*This week's sponsorship total is \$1500
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