

Congregation

◆◆◆ "Beth Yosef" ◆◆◆

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

Rabbi Aharon Farhi
Parashat Behar Behukotai
22nd Iyar 5786

Maqam Saba
Issue #1160

Mr. Eliyahu Levy, President
Haftarat Uzi UMa'Uzi
May 9th 2026

*Candle Lighting 7:41pm * Shekiah 7:59pm * Shir Hashirim 7:00pm followed by Minha Friday Night
Shaharit Shabbat 8:15am * Minha Shabbat 7:25pm * Shabbat Ends 8:42pm & Rabbenu Tam 9:12pm
Time for Talit 4:24am * Seasonal Hour 82 * Alot Hashahar 4:08am * Netz Hachama 5:46am
Weekday Minha 7:00pm * Earliest Time for Arbit 6:55pm * Tzet Hacocharim 8:37pm * Chatzot 12:52
Latest Time for Morning Keriat Shema 8:14am * Latest Time for Morning Amidah 9:36am*

*Everyone is invited to take part in the **Tikun Karet, Yesod ShebeYesod, the sixth day of the sixth week of Sefirat HaOmer**, which this year falls out on **Tuesday night May 12th**. We will begin **reading Tikun in Beth Yosef at 10:30pm**, and continue the night *Be'ezrat Hashem* until Shaharit 4:02am. Time of Tallit will be 4:19am. This Tikun provides atonement for the harshest of sins, nullifies many harsh decrees and prevents many sicknesses. It also provides great Segulot. Tizku L'Mitzvot, Amen.*

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

The Torah teaches us in these two Parshiyot two ideas that are connected and these are a person's duty in this world. In *Parasha Behar*, the Torah discusses the laws of *Shmita* (the Sabbatical year) and *Yobel* (the Jubilee year), during which it is forbidden to work the land. Why is it forbidden to work the land? In order to allow the poor to be sustained by the fruits of the seventh year. Through this act, *Hashem* blesses the owner of the field and the trees due to the merit and power of *Tzedakah*. However, in *Parashat Behukotai*, the Torah commands that you must study the Torah and fulfill its Mitzvot. When this is done, blessing arrives from *Hashem*, as it is written: "I will give your rains in their time, and the land shall yield its produce, and the tree of the field shall give its fruit." We read a similar theme in *Shema Yisrael*: "I will give the rain of your land in its season," with the warning that if you transgress the Mitzvot, "He will stop the heavens, and there will be no rain, and the

land will not yield its produce." We learn from this that blessing depends on rain and the soil of the earth. What is the connection between Torah study and the produce of the land? Our Sages taught that *the day of rain is as great as the day the Torah was given*. What is the *Segulah* of the earth's soil? *Hashem* granted it a special quality to refine everything, even from fertilizer, extracting the good parts, which are "sparks of holiness," to grow healthy plants to feed people, who will then bless *Hashem*. There is a further wonder in the soil: the more manure added, the better it grows, even though manure is a repulsive substance. The more refined the waste, the more it causes growth. Now, this entire process is facilitated by rain and water. We know that "there is no water but Torah." When the children of Israel engage in Torah, which is the source of blessing, the entire world remains in order and continues to function according to the will of *Hashem*, as it is

written: "If not for my covenant (of Torah) day and night, I would not have set the laws of heaven and earth." In other words, Torah study is what brings life to the entire world and all its inhabitants. May *Hashem* protect us, Amen.

Insights on Pirkei Abot

The Sages said about the Bet Hamikdash that people were: "Standing crowded, but bowing with space." This teaches that if a person is humble and lowers themselves, blessing will come upon them in abundance. But when one is arrogant, their life will be filled with pain and pressure and all sorts of problems. Therefore, the *Tanna* said "Standing crowded"—when a person is proud and holds their head above their peers, they live in "crowded" conditions, full of stress and problems. But "when bowing"—when one is humble and lowers themselves—they gain room and it is good for them in both this world and the World to Come.

History in Brief

220 years after the destruction of the Temple, calendar year 290

During the time of the grandson of *Rabbeinu HaKadosh*, known as Rabbi Yehuda Nesiah, the burden of taxes on Israel increased, and people began to refrain from supporting *Talmidei Chachamim*. Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai said: "If you see a generation whose wealth is declining, it is because they do not support those who study Torah." Rabbi Yehuda sent messengers to collect donations. The messengers asked them, "Where are your *Neturei Karta* (guardians of the city)?" They brought before them the city guards and the field guards. The messengers said, "Are these your city guards? They are the destroyers of your city!" The people asked, "Then who are the guardians of the city?" The messengers replied, "These are the *Talmidei Chachamim* who study Torah all day; they are the ones

who protect you." Immediately, the people gave gifts according to their ability.

Rabbi Yehuda also said: "The world only exists for the sake of the breath (pure Torah study) of school children (*Hevel Tinokot Shel Beit Rabban*), for it is a breath without sin." It is also known that Daniel had forbidden the bread, oil and wine of gentiles. However, Rabbi Yehuda *Nesiah* came and permitted their oil, seeing that the majority of the public could not sustain the prohibition. After Rabbi Yehuda *Nesiah* passed away, his son, the fourth Rabban Gamliel, stood as *Nasi* over Israel in his father's place.

Health and Recovery

Hagaon Rabbi Moshe Sternbuch writes: there was a certain Torah scholar who smoked heavily for many years until he became sick and the doctors told him he had maybe a month to live due to the extensive damage to his lungs. He gathered ten men, and told them that he knew that heaven considers him to have wasted himself away and that he was to blame for smoking all those years, however, he hoped that Hashem would accept his regret, remorse, and repentance, if he would at least reach out to others and convince them to stop smoking before it was too late. Our Sages teach us: if one allows himself to waste away towards death, for the purpose of Torah learning, we do not quote him in words of Torah. All the more so we do not validate or recognize someone who allows cigarettes, a type of false enjoyment, to destroy his body and shorten his life. Likewise, we must refrain from eating cakes and sweets made from white flour, as we do not understand what we are eating, whether we are young or old. We may be enjoying the taste momentarily, but once the foodstuff goes down the throat, it damages the body, thickening the blood clogging the arteries, causing high blood pressure, and causes diabetes and the need for insulin. Hashem with kindness made

wheat so that it would be healthy to eat naturally, but we process it and remove so much that it becomes even dangerous to eat in large quantities over time. We should not bring white flour or products made from white flour into our homes, to avoid the harmful and unhealthy effects.

Mussar: Mother's Day

Once a year there is an official Mother's Day on which a son or daughter buys a present, makes a party, and does something special for their mother. This is a worthwhile tradition, as it fulfills the Mitzvah of honoring one's mother, but it is not enough to just give a present once a year, one should spend time with their mother, listen to her, talk with her, laugh and share with her every day. Hashem gave mothers a special intuition and wisdom that is worthwhile to heed whenever they talk to us. We must honor her not just with words, but with actions as well, by fulfilling her requests and needs, even when it is very difficult. Accept her opinion even when you disagree and do not argue or complain. Fulfilling such a Mitzvah will bring blessings not only in the next world but in this world as well. Our Sages teach us: even if she tells you that your left is really your right, you should not argue and just agree out of respect, with a smile. This applies to a grandmother as well. This can be fulfilled easily, and you will have fulfilled a positive biblical commandment. Many people spend a lot of money to open the Hechal for the Torah, to be a Sandak at a Brit Milah, but while those are special performances to enhance a Mitzvah, honoring a parent is a direct Mitzvah from the Torah, one of the Ten Commandments. May Hashem merit us to fulfill this Mitzvah, Amen.

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

In 1938, when Maran was only 17 years old, he wrote a small *Kuntres* (booklet) titled *Yabia Omer* on *Masechet Horayot* and

printed 100 copies for *Talmidei Chachamim*. His brother, Rabbi Naim Yosef, shared an interesting story regarding the funding of these copies: Their mother would give Ovadia two *half-grush* every day for the bus to the *Yeshiva*. Instead of riding, he walked and saved the money. One day, a drawer in the cabinet collapsed, and dozens of coins scattered on the floor, revealing his savings. When his father asked where the money came from, *Chacham* Ovadia explained he preferred to walk instead of taking the bus in order to save money to publish *Yabia Omer*.

In 1950, while in Egypt, he wanted to return to Israel with the many papers and manuscripts he had written there. At the port, an Egyptian official seized the papers, demanding they be translated into Arabic to ensure they weren't Zionist materials. Since they were complex *Halachot*, translation was impossible. *Chacham* Ovadia approached the official and convinced him there was no politics involved, and slipped two Egyptian Lirat into the man's pocket. At that time, two Lirat was an entire month's salary. The official immediately closed his eyes, signed the papers, and allowed him to leave for Israel.

City of Damascus

In the year 635, Damascus fell to the Muslims under Khalid ibn al-Walid, later being retaken by the Byzantines. Who are the Byzantines? The Roman Empire had split into two: the Western part with Rome as its capital, and the Eastern part (Byzantine) with its capital in Constantinople (modern-day Istanbul). Emperor Constantine established Christianity as the official religion in 395. By 638, the empire weakened and fell to Arab Muslim forces. In 1453, it fell to the Ottoman Turks. There were two synagogues in the city for the Jews. By the year 442, the Byzantine Christians had converted the synagogue in Constantinople into a church. The Emperor at that time interfered with the

reading of the Torah; any Jew who refused these laws faced lashes, exile, and confiscation of property. When the Muslim army finally entered Constantinople, they were welcomed by the Jews, marking the beginning of their relief.

Laws

1- Anyone who does not put on *Tefillin* every day misses eight positive commandments. *Tefillin* serve as a sign and testimony that the *Shechina* (Divine Presence) rests upon us. One who wears *Tefillin* daily is granted long life, is considered as if they offered a sacrifice, is protected from the fires of *Gehinnom*, and has their sins forgiven.

2- One who does not put on *Tefillin* every day is called a "transgressor with his body" (*Poshea B'gufo*) and carries a great sin.

3- Chocolate-covered hazelnuts: It is best to separate the chocolate from the hazelnut, blessing *Shehakol* on the chocolate first and *Ha'etz* on the hazelnut. Some say the blessing depends on the individual: if the chocolate is the main part for them, they bless *Shehakol*. If the hazelnut is the main part, they bless *Ha'etz*.

4- When eating *Mezonot* food mixed with meat or cheese, one does not recite the after-blessing of *Al HaMichya* unless they ate a *K'zayit* (olive-sized portion) of the *Mezonot* itself; the meat or cheese does not combine to reach the required amount for the after-blessing.

Sponsors

*** **Mrs. Rosette Cohen, her children and grandchildren.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. Mazal Tov to her grandson **Mr. Albert Cohen and his wife Norma** on the birth of their new baby boy Toby Mabrouk, Amen. *** The community activist **Mr. Binyamin Nehmad and his wife Evon and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. Mazal Tov to their **new great grandchild**

Solomon. Refuah Shelemah for **Evon Bat Bahira** for full health, Amen. *** **Mrs. Lillian Shalouh and her husband Eli and their children.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. Leilui Nishmat her father **Yitzhak Kamhaji 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.** *** **Mr. Aharon David Shalouh Hakohen, his wife, their children and their parents.** Blessings and success for the entire family, Amen. *** **Mr. Eli Levy, his wife Becky and their children.** Blessings health and success for the entire family, Amen.

This week's sponsorship total is \$800

335,400 total website visits

+1,300 visits since last publication.

* * * * *

www.BethYosef.com