



Parshat Korach

Friday 19th June 2015

Candle Lighting 4.36pm
Maariv 6.30pm

Shabbat 20th June 2015

Shacharit 9.00am
Mincha 4.15pm
Maariv 5.35pm followed by Havdalah

A word from the Rabbi

TRUE HUMILITY

The litmus test of true humility is in whose company a person chooses to humble himself. Often we attempt to portray an aura of humility through gentle self-deprecating acts and comments. We belittle accomplishments and achievements, or alternatively deny being the legitimate recipient of a passing compliment.

Often we are comfortable in humbling ourselves in the company of people either far greater than ourselves or 'beneath' us. We don't feel threatened by them or their status, and humility can be perceived as a genuine attempt at connecting in a respectful manner.

Humility becomes difficult when we are surrounded by 'competitors', individuals who share with us a social or professional status. In such company, we often fear that we will be perceived as weak and incapable, rather than genuinely humble.

It is here that the test of humility is truly challenged.

"And Moshe was pained and he said to Hashem, "Do not turn to their offerings ... I have never harmed one of them."

Despite his leadership being challenged by Korach, Moshe refused to degrade his detractors. He sought neither to diminish others nor to elevate his own status as a result.

The humility of Moshe was significantly highlighted amongst those in conflict and competition with him. At a time when many of us would have puffed out our feathers, artificially strengthening ourselves, Moshe displayed humility. A true understanding of who he was.

Shabbat Shalom

We wish a hearty Mazal Tov on your wedding anniversary to:

Larry and Felice Fingleson
Hilton and Berenice Kilov
Alan and Celeste Krowitz

Lewis and Lorraine Folb
Rabbi Ne'ach and Rivka Koncepolski
Trevor and Anne Pogroske

We wish a hearty Mazal Tov on your Bar/Bat Mitzvah anniversary to:

Steven Samowitz

We wish long life to the following Members who commemorate Yartzeit this week:

Estelle Behrens	for her husband	Hans Behrens
Sonia Polivnick	for her brother	Solly Bellon
David Evian	for his father	Solly Evian
David Glaser	for his father	Nathan Glaser
Maureen Friede	for her father	Harold Isenberg
Mark Kady	for his father	Alf Kady
Mary Blumgart	for her mother	Luba Katz
Elizabeth Sack	for her father	Frederick Kaye
Judith Naar and Dianna Berman	for their mother	Lily Lipman
Hillary Simon and Nathan Luck	for their mother	Phyllis Luck
Ruth Baskin	for her sister	Phyllis Luck
Seymour Maze	for his father	Rephael Maze
Melanie Miller	for her mother	Bella Rosen
Hilton Rosenthal	for his mother	Nancy Rosenthal
Raymond Sacks	for his father	Barney Sacks
Simone Rutovitz and Helene Shofer	for their grandfather	Isaac Sage
Andrea Frankel	for her father	Jack Sandler
Marc Schneider	for his mother	Trudy Schneider
Fred Seskin	for his mother	Judith Seskin

Mini pizza and popper provided for kids

For years K to 6

Join us for an afternoon of fun with that special someone

Take home challah dough and kneading equipment

**9 JULY
THURSDAY
4:00 PM**

Lynette Phillips Hall

\$15 PER CHILD
\$5 PER ADULT

**KIDS
CHALLAH
BAKE**

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THE BLIND SPOT

Last week I discussed the inability of many to speak up about something incongruous and stupid due to social pressures, real or imagined.

The other extreme of this is having a blind spot.

People are generally motivated to view themselves in a positive light and biases are viewed as undesirable. We tend to think of our own perceptions and judgments as being rational, accurate, and free of bias when analysing our own decisions and positions.

However, when we are made aware of various biases acting on our perceptions, decisions or judgments, research has shown that we are still unable to control them. This contributes to the bias blind spot, as even if someone is told that they are biased, they are unable to alter their biased perception.

Our blind spots are the points in life where we cannot possibly perceive of any other legitimate way of viewing a particular idea or approach. The left can't understand the right, and the right can't see the value in the left.

Our blind spots cause us to negate contrary opinions and nullify the people who hold them. We become incapable of seeing any legitimacy in opinions and lifestyles different to our own.

Everyone is guilty of this, from the most fundamentalist 'religio' to the most fundamentalist atheist.

Although the blind spot is not 'curable', it can be treated. But like alcoholism, it requires the person to first acknowledge that they have a problem before it can be addressed.

THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES

It took someone young and naive, yet burdened by the yolk of public pressure and social acceptance, to blurt out those famous words that no one else had the guts to say: "The emperor is naked!"

In 1951, Solomon Asch performed a series of experiments studying conformity. Each participant was placed in a room with seven "confederates". Confederates knew the true aim of the experiment, but were introduced as participants to the "real" participant. Participants were shown a card with a line on it, followed by a card with three lines on it labelled A, B, and C. Participants were then asked to say aloud which line (A, B, or C) matched the line on the first card in length. Prior to the experiment, all confederates were given specific instructions to unanimously give the incorrect response. The group was seated so that the real participant was always the last to respond. When the confederates all give the same wrong answer, 75% of the participants also gave an incorrect answer.

The aim of the experiment was to see whether the real participant would change his answer and respond in the same way as the confederates, despite it being the wrong answer. Apparently three quarters of us do.

Social pressure and societal norms often force us to 'pretend' we believe something we actually know is wrong. It takes the naiveté of youth, whether it be in years or emotional maturity, for us to call a spade a spade.

There are areas in life where we feel trapped by imaginary pressures and forces of conformity. Deep down we want to swim upstream, but we are too scared to do so, even if the cost of non-conformity is trivial.

Sometimes we need the minds of children.



Kehillat Masada

**Young Family
Friday Night**

Take Over

Everyone Welcome

**SAVE
THE
DATES**

**Children
Services
from**

@6:30pm

June 26

July 31

Aug. 28

Sept. 25

**Blessings &
Gifts for July
Birthdays**