

BAIS TORAH BULLETIN

פרשת משפטים • פרשת שקלים • שבת מברכים אדר

February 21, 2020

Candle Lighting 5:19 הדלקת נרות

כ"ו שבט תש"פ

ערב שבת משפטים

Candle Lighting	5:19
Mincha	5:25
Sh'kiah	5:37

שבת פרשת משפטים

Hashkama	7:30
Daf Yomi*	8:00
Shacharis	8:45
Sof Z'man K'Shema	9:26
Halacha Shiur*	4:25
Mincha	5:10
Sh'kiah	5:38
Ma'ariv	6:20
Shabbos Ends	6:28

*Rabbi Betzalel Sochaczewski will be filling in for Rabbi Gottlieb this Shabbos.

Weekday Schedule February 23-28

Shacharis

Sunday at 7:45 a.m.
Monday and Thursday 6:20 and 7:45 a.m.
Tues.-Wed. Rosh Chodesh 6:20 and 7:35 a.m.
Friday 6:30 and 7:45 a.m.

Mincha-Ma'ariv

Sunday through Thursday 5:30 p.m.

Next Week

ערב שבת פרשת תרומה

Candle lighting	5:27
Mincha	5:35
Shkiah	5:45

טעודת שלישיית this week is being sponsored by Steve Fessel commemorating his mother's yahrzeit.

Rabbi Betzalel Sochaczewski will be filling in for Rabbi Gottlieb this Shabbos. The topic of Shabbos afternoon's shiur is "Martyrdom in Theory and Practice."

Avos U'banim's Big Event, a mind-blowing magic show is this Motzoei Shabbos at 7:45 p.m. Thank you sponsors David and Regina Abramczik, Dovid and Rena Bussu, Yehuda and Judi Eliezri, Pinchas and Miriam Frankel, Mort and Tamar Friedland, Yisroel and Rivky Ludzker, Seymour and Raizie Lutwak, Mendel and Renee Rosenbaum, and Mr. and Mrs. Zalman Silber.



Rabbi Reisman's **Navi shiur** will be shown Motzoei Shabbos in the multi-purpose room.

Friday's **Daf Yomi shiurim** are sponsored by Judith Lowin in memory of her father, Avrohom Aryeh Leib ben Yosef. Next week's shiurim are sponsored by Saul Stern in memory of his father,



Meir Aryeh Leib ben Chaim Shimshon, by Tova Striks in memory of her father, Eliezer ben Aryeh Leib Kohen, and by Jeffrey Striks in memory of his family, Miriam bas Yonah, Yonah ben Mordechai, Rochel bas Yitzchok Eizik and Batya bas Yitzchok Eizik.

It's the Sisterhood's biggest fund-raiser of the year, the **Purim Mishloach Manot** project. Please return your form and check to the shul office no later than Sunday, March 1st.



Active Seniors of Rockland will host a **Lunch and Movie Day** in the Simcha Room this Tuesday, February 25th at 12:30 p.m. In addition to a delicious meal, there will be a screening of *Itzhak*, a film which captures the life and work of world-famous violinist Itzhak Perlman. The cost is \$16 and reservations are required. Write Barbara Minchenberg at bminchenb@gmail.com to reserve a seat.

Many thanks to all the people who enabled the **Annual Matza Bake** to go as smoothly as it did: Rabbi Gottlieb and Rich Levy, who checked every matza, Mendy Rosenbaum, who made sure all the orders were accounted for and brought back to Monsey, Dr. Jossi who got the entire matza factory moving to his l'shem matza mitzvah and Miriam Frankel, who helped sort out the orders. Kudos to all the families who came and ran with the matzos. **Matza orders** are available for pickup from the shul Monday through Thursday 9-1 when Rivki is in the office. If it is not possible to pick up your order from the office, please e-mail Sandy Lieder at eyintova@gmail.com.



Sponsor a Kiddush, our next birthday and anniversary kiddush, that is. On March 7th we're celebrating birthdays and anniversaries that occur in January, February and March. Write to baistorah@gmail.com if you'd like to participate.

mazel tov

Yis and Bella Helprin on the engagement of their granddaughter, Miriam Cohen of Lakewood, to Shlomo Eliyahu Warshavchik of Brooklyn. Mazel tov to the parents, Gila and Avi Cohen.

nichum aveilim

Larry Scheinson on the petirah of his father.

Refuah Shelaima

Katie Tannenbaum's grandson	יהונתן משה בן דבורה טובה
Rosalie Kallner	שיינה רחל בת שרה הודל
Larry Seligson's son	רפאל אפרים בן סימא פריעדל
Manny Mayerfeld	מנחם בן קילה
Ruth Malinowitz	רבקה בת פריידא
Andy Yurowitz	אליהו זבי בן חנה
Goldress grandson	אילן רפאל בן טובה רבקה
Jennifer Herrmann's mother	שרה צירלא בת ידיל
Marty Ginsberg	משה זאב בן אסתר

Bikur Cholim

Please call before visiting

Rosalie Kallner, Fountainview
356-2506
Tova Eizik, 356-7981

Shiurim

Shabbos:

8:00 AM Daf Yomi, Rabbi Gottlieb
45 minutes before the Rabbi's
afternoon shiur, Women's Tehillim,
I'zcher nishmas Feigel bas Menachem Mendel

Sunday:

6:25 AM Daf Yomi, Rabbi Avromy Fein
7:00 AM Daf Yomi,
Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb
8:30 AM Gemara Meseches Pesachim,
Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb

Monday through Friday

5:25 AM Daf Yomi I, Rabbi Avromy Fein
7:00 AM Daf Yomi II,
Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb
9:45 AM Gemara Shiur,
Rabbi Leibel Reznick

Wednesday

8:00 PM Navi Shiur - Shir Hashirim
Rabbi Yisroel Gottlieb

Thursday

8:00 The Sandra Thurm Women's
Mishna Class
Dr. Deborah Raice Fox

parshas mishpatim 5780

"A Portion of G-d from Above"

Parashas Mishpatim begins as follows: "And these are the ordinances that you shall place before them..." (Shemot 21:1). Rashi, citing several Midrashim, comments, "Everywhere the Torah uses the term 'These' it means to **differentiate** between matters discussed previously and matters to be discussed; however, when the Torah uses the expression 'And these' it means to **include** matters to be discussed now with matters discussed previously. (*Midrash Tanchuma* 3; *Shemos Rabbah* 30:3) Just as the matters discussed previously were received at Sinai, so is it true that the matters to be discussed were received at Sinai. (*Mechilta*)

The topics discussed in this Parashah involve mainly disputes between human beings over monetary matters, or concerning injuries inflicted by one individual upon another. It is said often that this category of Law, "**Mishpat**," resides in the realm of logic, **that Man could have thought of these laws by himself**, in contradistinction to other areas of Torah Law, such as the areas of Observance of Shabbos and Dietary Restrictions, which are in the realm of Divine decrees, "**Chukim**," that are not based on logic.

I believe that this is a flawed perspective, to the extent that it asserts that human beings are capable of defining morality by themselves. True, the human being is a richly endowed creature, blessed by his Creator with an intellect capable of unraveling great mysteries and solving extremely difficult problems. In "Kiddush Levanah," we address the moon, "Just as I dance opposite you, and I am unable to touch you, so may my enemies be unable to touch me for evil." In our time, this assumption is no longer true. Last century, we were able to put a man on the moon, with our powerful rockets. Similarly, we see that "Ruach HaKodesh," the Divine Spirit which informs the writing of Holy Scripture, does not necessarily apply to scientific assertions in Kohelet (11:15), "*Just as you do not know the way of the wind, nor the nature of the embryo in a pregnant woman, so you can never know the work of G-d Who Makes Everything.*" Though this verse flies in the face of modern meteorology, CAT and MRI-Scans and Ultrasound, we remain infinitely far from the One Who called the entire Universe into being by Ten Utterances, and Who recreates it every moment.

When we encounter a great scholar of the secular world, we are obligated to recite the following blessing: "Blessed are You, HaShem, our G-d, King of the Universe, Who has given of his Knowledge to human beings." When we encounter a Torah scholar, we make the following similar blessing: "Blessed are You, HaShem, King of the Universe, Who has apportioned from His Knowledge to those who Fear Him." With respect to the secular scholar, HaShem "gives of His Knowledge," where "gives" is a relatively neutral word, as opposed to the blessing recited upon encountering a "Talmid Chacham," where we say that HaShem has "apportioned from His Knowledge," a much more intimate expression, alluding to the idea that the human being possesses a spirit that is a "**Portion of G-d from Above.**" Also, nothing is said about the character of the secular scholar. Whereas the Torah scholar is in the company of "those who Fear Him." Their wisdom is that defined by "*The beginning of wisdom is Fear of HaShem.*" (Tehillim 111:10) The Nazis, May their names be erased, had in their ranks individuals of superior intelligence – physicians, physicists, scholars of great German literature and moral (sic) philosophy. But their knowledge didn't protect them from sinking to sub-human levels of barbarism, cruelty and sadism.

Judaism believes that both consciousness, a sense of identity, as well as a conscience, a sense of right and wrong, were built into the human being by his Creator. The entity in which they both reside is called the "Neshamah," the soul. It is described in *Mishlei* (20:27), "*The lantern of G-d is the soul of Man, examining all his inner recesses.*" It is also described in our Morning Prayer as having the Quality of Purity, "*My G-d, the soul that You gave me is pure; You created it, You formed it, You breathed it into me. And You safeguard it within me, and eventually You will take it from me, and restore it to me in a future time. As long as the soul is within me, I give thanks to You, HaShem my G-d and G-d of my fathers, Master of all deeds, L-rd of all souls.*"

L'Illuy Nishmas beni, Aharon Baruch Mordechai ben Pinchas Menachem