

THE CHEVRA

3'02



Young Israel of Fair Lawn
The Morris J. Kraut z'l Torah Center
www.yifl.org

Rabbi Eli Belizon
Avi Zanjirian
President

**Shabbos Parshas
Shoftim**
שבת פרשת שופטים

September 6, 2019

א אלול תשע"ט

| | |
|-----------------|---------|
| Shacharis | 7:00 AM |
| Candle Lighting | 7:03 PM |
| Mincha | 7:08 PM |
| Tzeis | 7:42 PM |

August 7, 2019

ז אלול תשע"ט

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|------------------|---------|
| Chevra Mishnayos | 8:00 AM |
| Shacharis | 8:45 AM |
| Sof Zman K"SS | 9:41 AM |

**Hot Kiddush following davening
in honor of the return of Rabbi
Belizon and his family, and in
honor of the new families that
have moved in.**

*(Everyone is reminded to help
out and clean up after your
children.)*

| | |
|-------------|---------|
| Avos Ubanim | 4:45 PM |
| Seder | 6:20 PM |
| Mincha | 6:50 PM |

Seudah Shlishis

Maariv following the Rabbi's
shiur

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|--------------|---------|
| Shabbos Ends | 8:10 PM |
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Sunday

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|--------------|---------|
| Shacharis I | 7:30 AM |
| Shacharis II | 8:30 AM |

Monday-Friday

| | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Shacharis (M-F) | 7:00 AM |
| Night Seder | 8:45 PM |
| Sanhedrin Chabura (W) | 9:15 PM |
| Maariv (M-TH) | 10:00 PM |

Brachos Party

The brachos party this week will be for girls ages 3-5 at 3:30 at the Shteingart home, 13-28 Jerome Place. There will be one for girls ages 6-8 at the Hardy home, 35-10 Berdan Avenue.

Halacha Chabura

Dr. Shteingart will be giving the chabura this week, 20 minutes before Mincha. Next week's limud will be 206:6-208:6.

Yomim Noraim Seats

Forms have been sent out to purchase seats for Yomim Noraim. Please sign up by visiting <http://www.yifl.org/form/HH2019>

Daled Minim

Forms have been sent out to order daled minim. Please sign up by visiting <https://www.yifl.org/form/arba-minim-5780.html>

Project Inspire

Project Inspire presents: "High Holidays: Days of Guilt or Days of Love?" by Rabbi Y.Y. Jacobson, Sunday, Sept 8th at 8PM, at Congregation Keter Torah.

Teshuva Shiur

There will be a shiur for women at the shul on Sunday night, September 22nd, at 8:15 PM. Danielle Bloom will be speaking about Sefer Yonah, "Can forgiveness set you free". Please contact Sjgertz@gmail.com for sponsorships.

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Parshas Ha'Shavua
Parashat Shofetim – Our
Connection to Hashem

Rabbi Eli Mansour

The Torah in Parashat Shofetim presents the prohibition against trying to make use of any sort of magical powers: "For these nations whom you will be dispossessing listen to diviners and magicians; but you – Hashem your G-d did not give you such" (18:14).

Numerous different explanations have been offered for the unusual expression at the conclusion of this verse – "Ve'ata Lo Chen Natan Lecha Hashem Elokecha" ("but you – Hashem your G-d did not give you such"). One explanation is given by the Hid"ra (Rav Haim Yosef David Azulai, 1724-1806), in his work Nahal Kedumim. The background to this explanation is the Torah's command earlier in the Book of Debarim, "U'bo Tidbakun," which requires us to attach ourselves to Hashem. This command gives rise to the obvious question of how this is done. G-d is infinite and a purely non-physical Being. How can we possibly attach ourselves to Him?

Kabbalistic teaching explains that we connect ourselves to Hashem through the observance of Misvot, a concept which is alluded to in the word "Misva." The last two letters of this word are "Vav" and "Heh," which are the last two letters of the Name of "Havaya" ("Yod," "Heh," "Vav" and "Heh"). And the first two letters of the word "Misva" are "Mem" and "Sadi," which, according to the "Atbash" system, whereby each letter of the Hebrew alphabet is associated with a different letter, correspond to the letters "Heh" and "Yod." Hence, the word "Misva" is associated with the

letters "Yod," "Heh," "Vav" and "Heh" – the Name of Hashem. This indicates that by committing ourselves to the performance of Misvot, we connect to the Almighty.

Moreover, the Name of Hashem consists of two pairs of letters – "Yod" and "Heh," and "Vav" and "Heh" – which correspond to the two basic categories of Misvot. The pair "Yod" and "Heh" corresponds to the Misvot Aseh – the Torah's affirmative commands, the Misvot that we are to actively perform. The second pair of letters, "Vav" and "Heh," correspond to the Misvot Lo Ta'aseh – the Torah's prohibitions, the forbidden actions from which we are required to abstain.

On the basis of this principle, the Hid"ra suggests a novel explanation of this verse. The other nations of the world are not commanded to perform the Misvot, and, this is why they resort to magic, witchcraft and sorcery – because they do not have the Misvot, and so their only source of spiritual power is the forces of impurity. We, however, "Lo Chen Natan Lecha Hashem Elokecha" – have been given "Lo" and "Chen" – literally, "no" and "yes." Meaning, we have the Torah's commands, the Misvot Lo Ta'aseh and the Misvot Aseh. We have no need for the mystical powers to which other nations resort because we have been given the Misvot, through which we gain access to G-d Himself.

There is no possibility of connecting to G-d, of being holy and spiritual, without the scrupulous observance of the Misvot. We have been given "Lo Chen" – the Misvot of the Torah, which link us directly to Hashem. Let us, then, devotedly commit ourselves to the Misvot, down to their last detail, as this is the only way we can create a

special connection to Hashem and be truly sacred people.

Shabbat Shalom!