

## SCHEDULE

שבת קדש

Mincha Erev Shabbos	<b>4:25 PM</b>
Friday Night Learning	after 7:00 PM
Daf Yomi— By R' Teichman	7:30 AM
Shacharis— Followed by Kiddush	8:30 AM
-Sof Zman K"ס- גר"א 9:37 < 9:01 א"א	
B'NOS - Hosted @ Ohel Moshe	2:15 - 3:15
Read p50 in the Where What When	2:30 PM
Mincha - Followed by Shalosh Seudos	4:20 PM
Maariv -	5:34 PM
Avos U'Banim -	5:45 PM

### Weekday Minyanim & Shiurim

#### Sunday

Daf Yomi— By R' Teichman	7:30 AM
Shacharis	8:30 AM
~ No Halacha Shiur This Week. HOWEVER... R' Teichman will be speaking at the WIT Women's Day Of Learning. See bulletin board for details.	
Mincha / Maariv	4:30 PM

#### Monday - Friday

Daf Yomi— By R' Teichman	5:45 AM
Shacharis	
Monday , Thursday	6:40 AM
Tues, Wed, Fri.	6:45 AM
Mincha (Mon –Thur)	1:45 PM
<del>Mincha/Maariv</del>	<del>- See You Next Year!</del>
Maariv (Mon-Thur)	9:45 PM

Rabbi Teichman's Thursday Night  
Shiur After Maariv

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Ohel Moshe is excited to welcome  
Harav Nochum Salb of Ner Israel  
to our Kehillah to speak during Shalosh Seudos  
(sponsorship still available)

### Shul Contacts

@OhelMosheBaltimore.com

### Rabbi Teichman

410-570-3333 or ravzt@hotmail.com

### Gabaim:

Naftali Miller (Rishon) & Yossi Frydman (Sheni)- Gabbai@

### Laining Schedule:

Gavi Cohn- Lain@

### Kiddush & Shalosh Seudos Sponsorship:

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### Building Fundraising Committee:

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CONGREGATION OHEL MOSHE

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י"ד כסלו

אהל משה



Rabbi Zvi Teichman

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Issue#212

## The “Staff” of Life

In the course of this weeks Torah reading Yaakov Avinu endures much personal travail and stress:

The ravishing of his daughter in Shechem, the death of his beloved wife Rochel and his distress with his son Reuven for having interfered in moving his bed from the tent of Bilhah into that of Reuven's mother, Leah.

Disgrace and anger, quite a bit of painful feelings to deal with in one portion.

What was the secret key to his being able to successfully ride these waves of emotions and yet remain intact in body and spirit?

At the onset of Yaakov Avinu's journey home from Charan he prefaces his appeal to God for assistance with the following introduction:

(א) אשר עשית ... אשר עשית (בראשית לב יא) *I have been diminished by all the kindnesses... You have done...*

Reb Itzel of Volozhin suggests a marvelous explanation of Yaakov's concern.

“I have weakened in my resolve to place my absolute trust in you”, Yaakov admits with worry, “a consequence of all the goodness that I have been privileged to. This wealth has blinded and distracted me from maintaining my focus and confidence in the true source of all success, You”.

As proof to this argument Yaakov testifies, *הוה הירדן את הירדן הזה, כי במקלי עברתי את הירדן הזה, for with my staff alone I crossed this Jordan.*

“Years ago”, Yaakov bemoans, “when I traveled to Charan and was ‘relieved’ of all my earthly possessions by Elifaz the son of Esav, and all I was left with was my staff, I was able through my faith in you alone to miraculously split the Jordan river. My need for strategies in confronting Esav is evidence of my lapse of belief”.

(רב יצחק מוולאז'ין) (בראשית מו ו-ז) (בספר פה קדוש בליקוטים על מגילת רות א כ)

Yaakov had lost his equilibrium. His walking staff represents a steady and purposeful trek that is able to maintain stability despite all the “hills and valleys”. Falling off the path is what Yaakov fears most. He was seeking to reestablish his firm footing once again. *(for a broader treatment of this idea go to ohelmoshebaltimore.com ,weekly bulletin archives: Vayislach '08)*

The Shelah HaKadosh reveals that the words במקלי במקלי serve as an acronym (not in order) for the sentiment, **מ-י-ב-מ-כ-ב-א-ל-י-ם-י-ה-ו-ה-ל-**, *Who is like You among the heavenly powers* (שמות) (בראשית מט יח) (וישלה תורה) (טו טז א) (אור ג)

Rabbi Shimon ben Elazar says: *Do not appease your fellow in a time of his anger; do not console him while his dead lies before him; do not question him about his vow at the time he makes it; and do not attempt to see him at a time of degradation.* (אבות ד כג)

Rabbi Shimon ben Elazar is teaching us that there are moments of ire, sorrow, impulsiveness and shame that leave individuals extremely

vulnerable to irrational thought, where we must be most sensitive in how we approach them in this time of weakness lest we be a cause for them to spiral downward. We must be a “staff” of support in assuring they stay the path without detouring.

There are three people in Torah that utilized a staff and the Medrash (ילק"ש תשס"ג) states it was indeed the exact same one Yaakov Avinu used that was handed down to them: Yehuda, Moshe and Aharon.

Each one faced a unique challenge. Yehuda a moment of **shame** when he was forced to confess his involvement with Tamar. Moshe an instant of **anger** when he reacted by hitting the rock. Aharon faced unbearable **grief** when confronted with the death of his two holy sons.

They each recovered and stayed on track, continuing to lead effectively because they all mastered the “staff” of life.

The Talmud Yerushalmi (מור"ק פ"ג ה"א) says that the author of this Mishna, Rabbi Shimon ben Elazar, was a disciple of the great Rabbi Meir of whom it is reported, *מקלו של רבי מאיר היתה בידו והיא היתה מלמדתו, דעת, the staff of Rabbi Meir was in his hand and it taught him knowledge.*

Perhaps this alludes to Rabbi Shimon having inculcated the lesson of the “staff” he absorbed from his illustrious teacher, and it thus enlightened him in all his endeavors. It was therefore appropriate that Rabbi Shimon ben Elazar specifically shared his expertise as reflected so meaningfully in this Mishna.

*מעשה אבות סימן לבנים, The actions of our forefathers are a portent for their children.*

Yaakov in a moment of stress, having been stripped of all his effects, **vows** a mighty promise of allegiance to God if He will bring him home safely from his encounter with Lavan. It was just after his crossing the Jordan river with his sole possession, his staff, that he asserts with confidence and clear perception his vow. *(בראשית כ כה)*

In the sequence of events recorded in this week's reading he encounters **dishonor** of his family with the assault on Dinah, overwhelming **sorrow** with the death in childbirth of his cherished wife Rochel and is **infuriated** at the mingling of Reuven in his most personal affairs.

Yet Yaakov Avinu maintains his direction never falling off the tightrope of life. He carries a staff of faith that never fails in its ability to uphold him in the most trying of times.

We can part with everything we own but the staff that gives us the power to maintain our balanced perspective no matter what comes our way. If we allow the Almighty to accompany us no matter where we go, we can hope for true salvation from all the obstacles on the road of life.

בהבה,

צבי טייכמן

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**Avos U'Banim**

6:30 - 7:15

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For more information and sponsorship opportunities contact Moshe Berry at [mrmberry@gmail.com](mailto:mrmberry@gmail.com)

**FRIDAY NIGHT LEARNING**



**Beginning at 7:00pm**  
**Cholent From O' Fishel!**