

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SHABBOS TIMES

Friday, April 29

Candle Lighting	7:33pm
Evening Service	7:30pm

Saturday, April 30

Morning Service	10:00am
Kiddush Brunch	12:00pm
Evening Service	7:35pm
Shabbos Ends	8:37pm

KIDDUSH SPONSOR:

Yuriy and Polina Melnikov

in memory of Yuriy's Mother

Bella bas Shneyer ob'm

SHALOSH SEUDOS SPONSOR
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DAILY MINYAN

May 1-5

MORNING SERVICE

Sunday	8:00am
Monday - Friday	7:00am

EVENING SERVICE

Evening Service	7:45pm
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It is the greatest contrast in Jewish life!

Do we observe the Torah because we have to obey G-d's laws, or are we in a relationship in which one desires the other?

There can be no bigger difference and no greater ideological divide.

Do I behave the way I do because I have no choice, because there is a heavenly power that will be upset if I don't. Or do I choose to live the way I do because I know it will make the one who cares deeply for me happy.

Believing that we are in a relationship with G-d requires a degree of faith that G-d is actually close with us, cares about us and desires us. It is a much more meaningful and powerful relationship and one that also takes more work and dedication.

Any important relationship requires a great deal of maintenance, honesty, commitment and dedication which makes the connection more meaningful and worthwhile. It is this type of relationship however that brings real meaning and purpose to life.



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A WORD OF TORAH

If anyone was bent on convincing us that Torah was old-fashioned, this would be a good Parshah to prove it. Leviticus, Chapter 18, contains the Bible's Immorality Act. Our moral code, the forbidden relationships, who may marry whom and who may not—all come from this week's reading.

We read this same chapter every year on Yom Kippur afternoon. And every year in every Shul around the world someone asks the very same question. "Why on Yom Kippur, Rabbi? Was there no other section of the Torah to choose besides the one about illicit relations? Is this an appropriate choice to read in Shul on the holiest day of the year?"

Fair question. So the Rabbis explain that this is, in fact, the ultimate test of our holiness. The most challenging arena of human conduct, the one that really tests the mettle of our morality, is not how we behave in the synagogue but how we behave in our bedrooms. To conduct ourselves appropriately in public is far easier than to be morally consistent in our intimate lives.

Old-fashioned? You bet. In a world of ever-changing, the Torah does indeed seem rather antiquated.

Man-made laws are forever being amended to suit changing times and circumstances. When a new super-highway is built, traffic officials may decide that it is safe to raise the speed limit. Should there be a fuel shortage, these same officials may decide to lower the speed limit in order to conserve the energy supply. Human legislation is constantly adapting to fluctuating realities. But G-d's laws are constant, consistent and eternal. Divine legislation governs moral issues. Values, ethics, right and wrong, these are eternal, never-changing issues. Humankind has been confronting these problems since time immemorial. From cavemen to Atilla the Hun to nuclear superpowers, the essential issues really have not changed very much. Questions of moral principle, good and evil, have been there from the very beginning. Life choices are made by each of us in every generation. These questions are timeless.

Ultimately, morality cannot be decided by referendum. We desperately need a higher authority to guide us in the often confusing dilemmas of life. In Egypt and Canaan lots of degenerate behavior was acceptable, even popular. In this week's Parshah, G-d tells His people that He expects us to march to a different beat. We are called upon to be a holy nation, distinctively different in this, the most challenging test of our morality. It doesn't matter what is legal or trendy in Egypt, Canaan, America or Scandinavia. We have our own moral guide, our own book of books which requires no editing or revised editions for the new age. Because right is right and wrong is wrong and so it will always be.

-adapted from www.chabad.org

A Bisselel Humor

Izzy owned a small deli in Stamford Hill, in London. One day, a tax inspector knocked on his door and questioned him about his recent tax return. Izzy had reported a net profit of \$250,000 for the year and he wanted to know all about it. "It's like this," said Izzy. "I work like a maniac all year round and all of my family helps me out whenever they can. My deli is closed only five days a year. That's how I made \$250,000."

"It's not your income that bothers us," said the taxman. "It's the business travel deductions of \$80,000 that worries us. You entered on the tax return that you and your wife made 28 business trips to Israel, Italy, Switzerland, France, the US, Hawaii, and the Caribbean Islands. What are all these business trips about?"

"Oh," said Izzy, smiling. "I forgot to tell you that we also deliver!"

KIDS Parsha Lesson

After the two sons of Aaron died (in Parshah Shemini), G-d warns against anybody going into the special chamber of the Miskan called the Holy of Holies. Only Aaron himself may enter, once a year, on Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the year. Another thing done on Yom Kippur is that two goats are taken and a lottery is made. One goat is offered to G-d and the second one, to "azazel", is sent to the wilderness to atone for the sins of the Jews.

Other important warnings in the Parshah of Acharie: It is forbidden to bring a korban (sacrifice), anywhere but in the Holy Temple. It is forbidden to eat blood in any way (this is why all kosher meat is salted—to take out the blood, and why we check eggs for blood before using); and a discussion of those who we are forbidden to marry.

RECIPE

Prayer Book Food Craft

Ingredients:

- Individually-wrapped wafers (or other large wafers), not chocolate covered.
- Apricot jam (other light-colored jams can work as well)
- Fruit Leather
- Knife

Directions:

- Cut a piece of the wafer a little smaller than half of the fruit leather. It is OK if it is too big; you can always cut it down later.
- Next, spread a thin layer of apricot jam on half of the fruit leather, and place the wafer down on the jam. Fold the other half over to see if the wafer is cut to the right size, or if it needs to be trimmed.
- Once you are happy with the size, spread some more jam over the wafer and fold the rest of the fruit leather over to create a book.
- Using a knife, carefully score the two folds to allow the "book cover" to stick to the wafer better. Be careful not to cut into the fruit leather all the way.
- If the leather is falling off the wafer, pile up all of the books and place a small object on them, to hold it the jackets place for an hour or two while the jam hardens a bit.
- Line up the prayer books and enjoy!

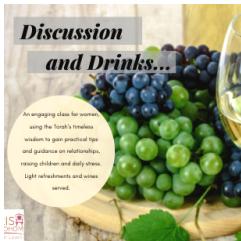
Daily Dose Of Wisdom

We pray and He answers with blessings. But we ask, "If you are already giving us blessings, why in such clumsy packages with so many strings attached?"

And He answers, "If you are giving me your innermost heart in prayer, why in such thick layers of ego? Why with such cold words? Why do you hold back your tears?"

"I'll make you a deal," He says. "You bare your souls from their wrappings, and I will bare My blessings of their clouds."

UPCOMING EVENTS



Womens discussion and drinks

Wednesday, May 4 at 8pm

An engaging class for women, using the Torah's timeless wisdom to gain practical tips and guidance on relationships, raising children and daily stress. Light refreshments and wines served.



Lag Ba'omer Family Fun Night

Thursday, May 19 at 6pm

Full BBQ dinner! Cold beer for adults! Rides and giant inflatables! Cotton candy! Music! Arts & crafts! Round the fire marshmallow roasting!



Shavuos Women's Night Out

Wednesday, June 1 at 8pm

Join for a women's night out, creating your own beautiful flower arrangement, enjoy wine, cheese desserts and great discussion!

LETTER FROM THE REBBE

PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR CHILDREN

By the Grace of G-d

4 Shevat 5725

[January 7, 1965]

Brooklyn, N.Y.

Greeting and Blessing!

. . . the Torah likens a human being to a tree.

Thereby the Torah teaches us an important lesson, particularly in the field of child education.

When the tree is young, especially when it is still in the stage of a seedling, every good care given it in that early stage, however insignificant it may seem, is an investment which in due course amplifies itself many times, and the full effects become evident in the mature, fruit-bearing tree.

Likewise is the minute attention given to a child, even where the benefit for the moment appears to be quite small, so much so that one may wonder if it is worth the effort. For even a "small" benefit may in time turn out to be of a lasting quality and extraordinary proportions, reaching into the daily conduct according to the Torah and Mitzvoth; and as our Sages of blessed memory expressed it: "What are real fruits?—the Mitzvoth." Therefore every effort is justified in the field of Chinuch, for what is at stake is the whole future of the student and his life-long benefit.

(Excerpt from a letter)

Bris Avrohom of Fair Lawn

We are your center for everything Jewish, whatever your need may be, do not hesitate to contact us. Our ever popular holiday celebrations will enable you and your family to celebrate the Jewish holidays in style, with fun and educational ideas helping to make Judaism relevant to our youth. Our Torah classes will give you a second opinion on any subject or matter you may be dealing with and our Holiday programs will allow you to celebrate your Jewish pride with your family and friends. Our fun Hebrew School and Day Camp will fill your children with an educated sense of what it means to be Jewish and our synagogue services will give you the opportunity to pray, be inspired and experience spirituality. From pregnancy and baby celebrations to weddings and after life services including Kaddish and unveiling, we will be there for you and help create a meaningful and memorable experience. We are here to help you and serve you and look forward to seeing you soon!

Rabbi Berel & Leah Zaltzman | Rabbi Mendel & Elke Zaltzman | Rabbi Avrohom & Leah Engel

Bris Avrohom of Fair Lawn

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