

Zmanim & Services

PARASHAT SHOFETIM
SEPTEMBER 7, 2019

Friday Night

Shir Hashirim	6:50 pm
Minha	7:00 pm
Candle Lighting	7:03 pm
<i>followed by Kabbalat Shabbat / Arvit</i>	

Shabbat Day

Shaharit	8:45 am
Latest Shema	9:40 am
Pre-Pre-Mincha Shiur	5:25 pm
Pre-Mincha Shiur	6:05 pm
Mincha	6:45 pm
Arvit	7:46 pm
Havdala	7:56 pm

Weekly Schedule

Shaharit

Sunday /Selihot	7:00 am
<i>Followed by Shaharit</i>	
Mon - Fri/Selihot	5:20 am
<i>Followed by Shaharit</i>	

Minha/Arvit

Sunday	6:55 pm
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Rabbi Haim Jachter

The Proper Way to Challenge Authority

How incongruous for a column for Parashat Shofetim to address challenging authority. After all, in Parashat Shofetim we are commanded to listen to whatever the Bet Din instructs and “not deviate either to the right or left”. We must listen, Rashi explains, even when the Bet Din tells us right is left and left is right.

Nonetheless, there are times when we may, nay must, challenge rabbinic authority. There are times when failing to challenge rabbinic authority is itself sinful (see Horiyot 2a).

A positive example occurred this summer at a summer camp where one of the Torah Academy of Bergen County students worked this past summer. In the kitchen where the student worked, he felt that despite having a stellar Hashgaha, the protocols for separating milk and meat were a bit behind the curve. He contacted me and I in turn raised the issue with the certifying Kashrut agency.

The Kashrut supervisor investigated the issue and lo and behold an upgrade in the standards was in order and immediately implemented. Had the Talmid merely assumed that the Mashgiah had everything under control, the Kashrut at the program would not have been at its best standard. The policy of if you see something then say something certainly worked out very well in this situation.

A similar situation occurred when reviewing an Eruv in the Southern United States this past summer. While inspecting a shrub covered Lechi I declared that the Lechi was properly positioned beneath the wire. One of the much younger rabbis present said he thought the Lechi was not under the wire but he submits to my authority.

I responded that my authority should not be invoked in such circumstances. I advised that we devote more time to examining the locale. Lo and behold after a careful inspection it turned out that the younger rabbi was correct and that the situation needed correction.

Proper management permits and encourages creating an environment where younger and less experienced staff members feel comfortable to challenge senior staff. The well-known book “Start Up Nation” reports that part of the Challenger explosion was due to the failure to create such an environment. This book reports how members of the Challenger junior management were aware of the problems that caused the terrible tragedy but were intimidated to raise the issue with their superiors. They assumed that the higher ups were aware of the issue and that it did not pose a threat to the mission.

By contrast, Israeli firms, Start Up Nation explains, create a culture where everyone is encouraged to say something if they see something that they perceive to be wrong. Similarly, Rav Aryeh Lebowitz of Yeshiva University reports that OU Kosher is an environment where Mashgichim are encouraged to speak

up if they believe a policy seems not to be working in practice. Rav Lebowitz explains that the strength of OU Kosher lies not only in its senior Posekim but in its dozens of middle management Rabbanim (Rabbinic Coordinators) and hundreds of Rabbinic Field Representatives (Mashgichim). All work together as a team to ensure that the best Kashrut practices are in place.

I noticed an example in the opposite direction when visiting a Conservative Jewish administered camp Eruv in Europe in the summer of 2014. A young conservative rabbi wrote an extensive description of the camp Eruv. However, he noted one section of the area which relied upon a “Tel HaMitlaket”, a sloping hill (a sloping hill at an angle of a minimum 25 degrees constitutes a viable Halachic wall and can serve as a legitimate component of an Eruv). He wrote that while it seemed to him that the area was insufficiently steep to constitute a valid Tel HaMitlaket, he submitted to the authority of revered leading Conservative who had in years past surveyed the area and deemed it a proper Tel Hamitlaket.

During my visit (there was a request to bring the Eruv under Orthodox auspices) I asked to first view this section. I measured the area in question and not surprisingly I found it to be an inadequate Tel HaMitlaket. By failing to examine the area himself, the young Conservative rabbi repeated the fatal mistake committed by the Challenger’s support team.

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Of course, proper respect must be shown when calling rabbinic authority into question. In addition, if a panel of competent Rabbanim overrules a challenge, the decision must be respected even if it appears to us that the panel is telling us that right is left and left is right, as per the dictum set forth in Parashat Shofetim. As with anything in life, proper balance is in order. Rav Nahman of Bratzlev famously teaches “Kol HaOlam Kulo Gesher Tzar Me’od” the entire world is a very narrow bridge. In other words, life is a big and delicate balancing act. In our case the trick is to respect authority but yet know when and how to properly challenge authority.

Announcements

- ❖ **Kiddush** this week is sponsored by the kiddush fund. To contribute to the kiddush fund, please visit <https://www.sephardicteaneck.org/form/kiddush-fund-donation.html>.
 - ❖ **Seudah** Shelisheet this week is co-sponsored by the **Negari family** in honor of the Azkara of Joe's grandfather, Yehuda Ben Yosef and **Abigail and Hanan Zarfati** for the Azkara of Hanan's father, Shimon ben Hananya. To sponsor seudah shelisheet please visit <https://www.sephardicteaneck.org/form/seudah>.
 - ❖ **Thank you, Debbie, and Shalom Shushan, Eitan, Elad and Liraz** for dedicating a bookshelf in the women's section in memory of Debbie's mother, Mrs. Sandra Bodenheimer, ז"ל - לעילוי נשמת רוחמה סיילה בת החבר בנימין ז"ל - A plaque commemorating this donation is now included on Shaarei Orah's dedication wall located in the lobby. For information on other dedication opportunities visit <https://www.sephardicteaneck.org/charitable-giving-opportunities.html>. Please contact the office for more information: office@sephardicteaneck.org.
 - ❖ **We** welcome back all of our teens who were away for the Summer! The Teen Minyan is back THIS WEEK! Boys and girls **AGES 12-18 ONLY** are invited to take part in our Teen Minyan beginning at **9:15 AM** in the upstairs Beit Midrash. Donuts will be served at 9AM. This minyan, led by our very own Shaarei Orah teens, will be followed by a Kiddush (for attendees only) For more information regarding the minyan and to offer to sponsor future teen minyan kiddushim please contact Shalom Shushan - shushanshalom@yahoo.com or Ehud Sasson- ehudsasson@gmail.com. **We respectfully remind all adults to attend the main minyan and kiddush in the social hall only.**
 - ❖ **The Teen Minyan** kiddush is sponsored by **Ahuva and Joshua Murad** in honor of all of the students who are learning in Israel this year.
 - ❖ **Rabbi Jachter's** Tuesday night halacha class is moving to **What's App!** Please visit <https://chat.whatsapp.com/B57KmA6aEyV2t8Hcgpkqu4> to join “R. Jachter's Halacha To Go”. For help please contact office@sephardicteaneck.org
 - ❖ **Sephardic Selihot** will continue during the week on weekdays at **5:20 AM**, followed by Shaharit and on Sundays at **7:00 AM**, followed by Shaharit. Dedications for Selihot are available 'in honor of/'in memory of/'refuah sh'lema' at various sponsorship levels: **Platinum - \$260, Gold - \$126, Silver - \$52**, Please visit <https://www.sephardicteaneck.org/form/Selihot> to sign up online. You can also sponsor by contacting office (201) 833-0800 - office@sephardicteaneck.org.
 - ❖ **High Holiday Seating:** The FINAL deadline is **9/15/19**. Women's section seating is sold out for both Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippour. Limited ballroom chair seating may be available. Please contact the office for more details. Men's section almost completely sold out for both Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippour. If you have not done so, please register for babysitting at <https://www.sephardicteaneck.org/form/babysitting2019>. Children who are not registered will not be allowed to attend groups and must be supervised by adults. Please make your reservations today. Questions? Contact office@sephardicteaneck.org. To discuss payment options please email finance@sephardicteaneck.org.
 - ❖ **Happy Birthday** to Neriah Nissanian (Sep 8), Dov Yitzhak Fink (Sep 11), and Shlomo Mizrahi (Sep 11). Happy Birthday to all of our September birthdays being celebrated in youth groups this Shabbat. For more information please contact ericajgoldberg@gmail.com.
 - ❖ **The deadline for all submissions to the weekly newsletter is Thursday at 10AM. Thank you for your cooperation.**
 - ❖ **Come and participate in our wonderful classes. See details on the back page of the newsletter.**
- Congregation Shaarei Orah is an inclusive kehillah, all are welcome regardless of edah or level of observance.

Shorashai Orah

Chesed Opportunity: A young widow living in Teaneck, whose husband was a Talmid of Rabbi Jachter, is in need of babysitting coverage on **Sunday mornings** from **9:45-11:15** each week and as needed, when she has to work, from **11:15AM to 1:30PM/2:00PM**. Looking for our babysitting-age girls to volunteer for this important chesed on a rotating basis. The individual has two daughters (ages 6 and 2) and lives in Terrace Circle. **Please respond to Erica Ohayon - shorashai.orah@gmail.com.**

A Story – On Finding Your Own Destiny

Once five men were caught in a thick forest. The first man said...I will go left. Because my intuition said so. The second one said...“I will go the right, because the right comes from the word rightness. The third one said...I will go back the way we came. The fourth one said...I will go straight. We should move forward, the forest will end and we will go somewhere new. The fifth said...You are all wrong. There is a better solution. Wait for me.

He climbed the tallest tree he could find while everyone else went their own way. From above he saw the shortest way to exit. He could also see the order in which the others would exit. He understood the problem and found the best solution! He knew that he did everything right. The others were wrong. They were stubborn and they didn't listen to him. He was the real Wise Man!

But he was wrong. Everyone was right. They were all wise. The man who went to the left found himself in the thicket. He had to starve and fight with wild animals, but he learned how to survive in the forest. He became a part of the forest and could teach others the same. The man who went to the right was robbed of everything and was forced to join them. After some time, he had reminded the thieves of something they had forgotten - humanity and compassion.

The man who went back created a trail through the forest which soon became a road for those who wanted to enjoy the forest without the fear of getting lost. The man who went straight became a pioneer. He went places where nobody else had been before and created new opportunities for others. The man who climbed the tree became a guide. People turned to him when they wanted to find the most efficient ways to deal with their problems.

Moral: These five wise men created their destiny by listening to their intuition. You can create your own path.

Dvar Torah by Rabbi Zelig Pliskin

The Torah states: "You shall (trust) wholeheartedly in the Almighty, your God" (Deuteronomy 18:13). We are enjoined to trust in God, but to what degree do we have an obligation to make a normal human effort and what is considered a lack of trust in God?

The question arises regarding testing people before marriage for being carriers of Tay-Sachs disease. Some people wonder whether such testing is not contrary to the trust we are required to have in Divine Providence -- why search for problems when in all probability none exist?

Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, of blessed memory, (who was one of the foremost authorities on Jewish law) clarified this point: "Although the percentage of infants born with this disease is small and one might be apt to apply the verse: 'You shall trust wholeheartedly in the Almighty,' (which Rashi interprets as meaning that one should not delve into the future) in light of the fact that a simple test has been developed for this, one who does not make use of it is like one who shuts his eyes to what can clearly be seen ... and since the birth of such a child, God forbid, causes great anguish ... it is prudent for all who are considering marriage to undergo this test." (cited in The Jewish Observer, May 1986)

Having trust in the Almighty will give a person peace of mind and serenity. However, one should never use a claim of trust in the Almighty to condone laziness or rash behavior. There is a thin line between the virtue of trusting in God and the fault of carelessness and lack of taking responsibility.

The story is told of a man who lived by a river. A policeman warns him to evacuate because of a flood warning. The man rejects the offer and says, "I have perfect trust in the Almighty to save me." As the water rises, a person in a boat offers to take him to safety. The man again replies with his proclamation of trust and refuses the ride. Finally, as the man is sitting on his roof, a helicopter comes to rescue him; again, the man proclaims his trust and refuses the rescue. The water rises, the man drowns and is finally standing in judgment before the Almighty. "God, I had perfect trust in you -- how could you let me down?" The Almighty replies, "But, my son, I sent the policeman, the boat and the helicopter!"

Source – Aish.com

Wisdom of The Week by Ezra Ghazal

Reporters thrive on the world's misfortune. For this reason, they take an indecent pleasure in events that dismay the rest of humanity - Russell Baker

Weekly Riddle

What can go up a chimney down but can't go down a chimney up?

Answer is located on the back sheet, guess before you look!!!

Time to Smile

I bought some batteries, but they weren't included.

—Steven Wright



ALLERGY NOTICE

Shaarei Orah is a "nut aware" facility. All food for both public and private events, including our Shabbat youth groups, may not contain nuts or nut products of any kind (this includes products that "may contain" nuts or that were "processed in a facility" that also processes nuts). For more details please contact office@sephardicteaneck.org

UPCOMING EVENTS & MORE...

This Shabbat, at **5:45pm** at Keter Torah, 600 Roemer Avenue, Teaneck. Rabbi Kenneth Brander will speak on "Ruling Over the Other: Exploring the Halakhic Relationship with Arab and Minority Communities in Medinat Yisrael." Following Mincha at **6:45pm**, Rabbi Brander will speak at Seuda Shlishit on "Medinat Yisrael: The Dream, the Challenge, the Opportunity – A Teacher's Reflection after Burying a Student."

The Shaarei Tefillah Men's Club will hold a Blood Drive on **Sunday, September 8, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM**. Please register at www.redcrossblood.org with Sponsor Code "Shaare Tefillah" or reach out to Ari Davis at ari.davis1@gmail.com and he can register for you. Shaare Tefillah is located at 510 Claremont Avenue in Teaneck.

Distinguished Israeli journalist and Kiryat Shemona Hesder Yeshiva alumnus Yair Kraus will speak on "Strengthening Israel's North Through Resilience and Security" and the impact of the Kiryat Shemona Hesder Yeshiva and Bizzur program in the Galil on Thursday, **September 12th at 8:00PM** at the home of Gabrielle and Daniel Altman, 727 Dearborn St., Teaneck. For more information, contact michal.natan.1959@gmail.com.

Project Yechi provides financial support for families undergoing Cancer treatments. Their annual barbecue will take place **Saturday night September 14th at 9:15 PM** at KETER TORAH, 600 Roemer Avenue, Teaneck. Enjoy the evening and lend support to an organization that has helped 350 families in the USA and Israel and has paid out over 2000 rent & mortgage payments.

Everyone knows that Israel is the first "with Boots on the Ground" in time of any World Crisis. Very few know that IsraAid is the organization behind these brave and critical efforts. "Emergency Response: Addressing Global Crises" is an exciting, two-pronged event for adults, and high school students from Congregations, and high schools throughout Northern New Jersey. Adults come hear Navon Glick (Voni) Isra Aid's co CEO, and award winning humanitarian leader (Shusterman Fellow, Forbes under 30 List, Tevel BeZedek) inform you on how you can be actively involved and volunteer. Simultaneously, and in Peer led workshops, High School students will be broken up into teams and introduced to innovative, and interactive real-world simulations of Crisis Intervention Case Studies. Each team will have to bring relief to a different natural disaster. For security purposes we kindly ask you to register online here: <https://tinyurl.com/IsraAIDTeaneck>

Please join us for a support group for loved ones of those struggling with substance abuse and addiction. We meet every other Wednesday night in Teaneck at 8:15 p.m. For more information, please email CCSA at time2talkaddiction@gmail.com.

**** Answer to the Weekly Riddle – An umbrella..... ****

WEEKLY SHIURIM @ SHAAREI ORAH

- ❖ **Rabbi Jachter**: - Shabbat morning Pre-Sha'harit Shiur at **8:30am** on the weekly Parasha – Shabbat afternoon **Pre-pre Minha** Shiur **80 minutes** before Minha - **Pre-Minha** Shiur **40 minutes** before Minha - **Men and women are invited. Weekly e-mail 5-minute Sephardic Shiur of the week - Hebrew version and English version.**
- ❖ **Shlomo Levy** - Wednesday nights, chavruta style learning on Hilchot Shabbat - **9:00 - 10:00 pm** in the Beit Midrash upstairs.
- ❖ **Rabbi Michael Chernlck**: Beginner's Talmud, Tuesday nights, 8:30-9:30 pm

Shaarei Orah Contact Information

Thank YOU for joining Tefilot @ Shaarei Orah. Please mail all donations & payments to: Shaarei Orah – 1425 Essex Road, Teaneck, NJ 07666 or online at www.sephardicteaneck.org

Tizku L'mitzvot!!! To sponsor any event, send a donation card, place an ad in the newsletter or to receive our weekly newsletter by email please contact office@sephardicteaneck.org or call 201-833-0800.

Shorashai Orah, the sisterhood of Shaarei Orah contact: shorashai.orah@gmail.com

RABBI: Rav Haim Jachter - rabbi@sephardicteaneck.org

President: Joshua Murad - president@sephardicteaneck.org

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