

Zmanim & Services

PARASHAT TZAV
MARCH 23, 2019

Friday Night

Shir Hashirim	6:45 pm
Candle Lighting	6:52 pm
Minha	6:55 pm

followed by Kabbalat Shabbat / Arvit

Shabbat Morning

Shaharit	8:45 am
Latest Shema	9:59 am
Pre Pre Minha Shiur	5:20 pm
Pre Minha Shiur	6:00 pm
Minha	6:40 pm
Arvit	7:38 pm
Havdala	7:48 pm

Weekly Schedule

Shaharit

Sunday	8:00 am
Mon/Thu	6:20 am
Tue/Wed/Fri	6:30 am

Minha/Arvit

Sunday	6:50 pm
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Rabbi Haim Jachter

My Favorite Sephardic Purim Practice – The King Could Not Sleep

Hands down this is my favorite Sephardic Purim practice. But first a little background.

As is well known, the Rama (Orah Haim 690:17) records that when Megillat Esther is read in public on Purim, it is customary for the congregation to recite aloud four Pesukim of Ge'ulah (2:5, 8:15, 8:16, 10:3), which are then repeated by the reader. Although the practice of the Kahal reading aloud certain Pesukim from the Tanach is not mentioned in the Gemara, it is mentioned in prominent sources from the Geonic era - in both the Siddur of Rav Saadia Gaon and Rav Amram Gaon.

We should note that Rav Yosef Dov Soloveitchik stated (in a Shiur delivered at Yeshiva University in 1985) that even though a practice is not recorded in the Gemara it does not mean that it was not practiced during the time of the Gemara. The Geonim may have simply recorded an ancient practice that was followed during the time of the Gemara which for some reason was not actually recorded in the Gemara.

Sephardic synagogues follow the practice of the Ben Ish Hai and Yalkut Yosef to read an additional Pasuk aloud. This Pasuk is Perek 6 Pasuk 1, Balayla Hahu Nadeda Shenat HaMelech, on that night the king could not sleep and ordered his book of records be brought before him. This is the beloved Minhag to which I refer. Although the Minhag to read this Pasuk is not mentioned in the Geonim or Rishonim it is nevertheless a most powerful custom.

I recall how struck by the poignancy of this tradition when I encountered it at Congregation Shaarei Orah, the Sephardic Congregation of Teaneck, for the first time. Of course, this practice reflects the interpretation of the Gemara (Megillah 15b) that the king who could not sleep refers not only to Ahashveirosh but, more importantly, to Hashem!

Indeed, this Pasuk constitutes the turning point of Megillat Esther. Before this Pasuk Haman was riding high and encountered no significant resistance to his plan to (heaven forfend) exterminate the Jewish People. However, the King/king not being able to sleep was the first in a string of events that led to Haman's defeat and demise. It was at this point that we begin to discern divine intervention on our behalf to save us from Haman's evil decree.

A crucial goal of Megillah reading is to discern Hashem's subtle role in saving the Jews from Haman. Interestingly, the Gemara (Megillah 14a) describes the Megillah reading as a form of Hallel. Of course, the Megillah is not a direct praise of Hashem, especially since His holy name is not mentioned in the Megillah. It is, though, a subtle praise of Hashem, which the reader is challenged to notice.

Reading aloud the Pasuk BaLayla Hahu Nadeda Shenat haMelech is certainly a most effective way of noticing and announcing Hashem's subtle hand manipulating the events that unfolded in the Megillah. By reading this Pasuk aloud it is as if we are announcing the celebrated Pasuk in Shir HaShirim (2:9) "Hinei Zeh Omed Ahar Kotleinu Mashgiah Min HaHalonot Meitzitz Min HaHarakim", behold here He is standing behind the wall, watching from the windows, peering through the latticework.

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I have heard it suggested that it is for this reason the Rambam requires us to have Kavana (intent) for the Mitzva of Megillah reading, even though for other Mitzvot, such as eating Matza he does not necessarily make such a demand. This fits with the Rambam citing the Megillah serving as a Hallel as the reason for why we do not recite Hallel on Purim. In order to transform and elevate the Megillah reading into a Hallel we must have Kavana.

It is interesting that we recite the Bracha of She'asa Nissim LaAvoteinu, who made miracles on behalf of our ancestors, on both Hanuka and Purim. It is understandable that we recite this Bracha on Hanuka when an obvious miracle occurred (the oil for the Menorah lasting for eight days when there was only sufficient oil for one day).

On Purim, though, what miracle occurred? The answer is that the Megillah is replete with subtle miracles. We simply need to be alert to notice them. By our reciting She'asa Nissim before reading the Megillah we are declaring that hidden miracles are abundant in Megillat Esther. The Sephardic practice of reading BaLayla Hahu Nededa Shenat HaMelech also goes a very long way to highlight and alert us to the hidden role of Hashem in the Megilla.

May we all use our Jewish eyes and Jewish hearts to notice Hashem in the Megilla and thereby come to recognize how His presence permeates each and every one of our days.

Announcements

- ❖ **Mazal Tov** to Minette Salzman on the engagement of her granddaughter, Orlee Rebibo to Steven Zaslowitz. Mazal Tov also to Orlee's mother, Rina Rebibo.
- ❖ **Thank you** to Joshua Murad for once again organizing an amazing Purim Chagiga!
- ❖ **PLEASE NOTE:** Shahrith on Shabbat is at **8:45AM** until further notice.
- ❖ **Kiddush** this week is in honor of the Shaarei Orah Dinner Committee: Racheli Carmi, Ben Cohen, Debbie Douek, Jeff Esses, Josh Murad and Erica Ohayon. **Thank you** for all of your hard work on our Inaugural Dinner which was a fun and very successful event!
- ❖ **Seudah Shelisheet** is sponsored by Ahrona and Alain Amar for the haskarah of Alain's grandmother Reina bat Moha.
 - ❖ **Thank you** to Heidi and Jack Varon for sponsoring the Shabbaton and Seudah Shelisheet last week.
- ❖ **The topic** of this week's audio shiur is "Megila Reading Over a Microphone." Sponsorships in the amount of \$54 are available for Rabbi Jachter's weekly teshuva audio shiur to benefit the Rabbi's Discretionary Fund. [Click HERE to sponsor.](#) [Click HERE for Rabbi Jachter's Five minute Shiur in ENGLISH.](#) [Click HERE for Rabbi Jachter's Five minute Shiur in HEBREW.](#) The shiur can also be found on YUTorah's website.
- ❖ **Beginning** this coming Shabbat through Pesach Rabbi Jachter will be delivering Shiurim on the Hagadah. The Shiuri will be in two 40 minutes segments - one scheduled 80 minutes before Minha and the other 40 minutes before Minha.
- ❖ **PLEASE NOTE:** Ulpan WILL take place this **Sunday, March 24th at 10:00AM**. Please contact Arik Nagel for more information at anagel@mdsweb.org.
- ❖ **Happy Birthday** to Ariella Miryam Benson (Mar 23) and Dina Chava Benguigui (Mar 26)
- ❖ **Come and participate in our wonderful classes. See details below.**

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 – Of a Lesson Learned

One day, the father of a very wealthy family took his son on a trip to the country with the express purpose of showing him how poor people live. They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family.

On their return from their trip, the father asked his son, “How was the trip?”

“It was great, Dad.” Said the son. **“Did you see how poor people live?”** the father asked. **“OH yeah,”** said the son. **“So, tell me, what did you learn from the trip?”** asked the father.

The son answered: **“I saw that we have one dog and they had four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lanterns in our garden, and they have the stars at night. Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon”.**

“We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight. We have servants who serve us, but they serve others. We buy our food, but they grow theirs. We have walls around our property to protect us, they have friends to protect them.”

The boy’s father was speechless.

Then his son added, **“Thanks Dad for showing me how poor we are.”**

Moral: Love, Unity, Care, Satisfaction is richer than any comfort money gives.

Dvar Torah by Rabbi Zelig Pliskin

This week's Torah portion includes the laws of: the Burnt Offering, Meal Offering, High Priest's Offering, Sin Offerings, Guilt Offerings and Peace Offerings. It concludes with the portions of the Peace Offerings which are allotted to the Priests and the installation ceremony of the Priest for serving in the Sanctuary.

The Torah states:

“And the Lord spoke to Moshe saying: Speak to Aharon and his sons, saying: 'This is the Law of the Transgression Offering, in the place where the Burnt Offering is slaughtered shall the Transgression Offering be slaughtered before the Lord; it is most holy' ” (Leviticus 6:17-18).

Why does the Torah emphasize that the Transgression Offering must be made in the exact same place as the Burnt Offering?

The Talmud (*Yerushalmi Yevomot* 8:3) explains that they were offered in the same place in the Sanctuary to save from embarrassment those people bringing a sin offering; anyone witnessing the event could assume that the offering was brought as a Burnt Offering (which is not a sin offering) and not necessarily as an atonement for one's transgression.

Our lesson: We must be very careful not to cause someone embarrassment or discomfort when they have done something improper in the past and now regret it. Never remind anyone of past misdeeds. Always do whatever you can to protect people from embarrassment. **Source – Aish.com**

Wisdom of The Week by Ezra Ghazal

If you do not take an interest in the affairs of your government, you are doomed to live under the rule of fools – Plato

Weekly Riddle

What goes in the water red and comes out black?

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

Time to Smile

Instagram is just Twitter for people who go outside.

@JoshGondelman



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...

The topic for this week’s Shviti seder limud at Congregation Beth Aaron is “Examining the Mitzvah of Rejoicing on Yom Tov.” Rabbi Sason Gabay will lead the shiur and the chabura before the shiur. The program is held on Sunday mornings in the Beit Midrash, beginning at 9:00 a.m. A light breakfast will be served at 8:45 a.m. Each Sunday morning program typically will be independent from the previous and subsequent programs. For more information, please contact Mordy Ungar, 201-741-3920, m_ungar2@yahoo.com. Congregation Beth Aaron is located at 950 Queen Anne Road in Teaneck.

Please join Yeshivat He'Atid for a screening of the documentary "Angst" on the topic of Childhood Anxiety. This film includes interviews with children who publicly share their struggles, strategies and hopes for the future. Panel discussion to follow. **March 24, 7:45 pm**, 1500 Queen Anne Road.

Vicky and **Emma Dollman** are running a Skate-A-Thon Sunday night **March 24th from 6:30pm to 8:30pm**. All proceeds will go to Sharsheret. Register at www.Sharsheret.org/skate-a-thon. Cost is \$15 for skating and rentals if you register by March 20th; family maximum \$45, at the door it will be \$18 per person. Come out & support the girls in their effort to raise money for a wonderful cause. For information contact Skateathon2019@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE: Project S.A.R.A.H 13th Annual Breakfast. **Sunday April 7th, 2019, 9:30-11:30 AM** at Congregation Keter Torah, 600 Roemer Avenue, Teaneck. Honorees: Guests of Honor - Dr. Ephraim and Dr. Chava Casper Rabbinical Supporter Award - Rabbi Menachem and Mrs. Sarah Genack Volunteer Recognition Award – Mrs. Mandy Richman. Keynote Speaker: Saranne Rothberg - “How to Use Humor, Laughter and Play as Your Personal Stressbusters.” The event is free and babysitting and valet parking will be provided. For reservations: www.ProjectSARAH.org.

Toiletry Collection Drive - Ongoing collection of full-size shampoo, conditioner, body wash, bar soap, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes and dental floss that is distributed on a regular basis to community members in need. This is a year-round collection and very much needed. Drop off at the Stone residence - 578 Grenville Avenue, Teaneck - purple collection box located at the right-side door. Questions? Please contact Gila - gr5thkid@msn.com.

We welcome any family member with a loved one suffering from addiction and substance abuse issues to our local support group, which meets every other Wednesday evening in Teaneck. The group is free of charge and is facilitated by clinicians specializing in addiction. For more information and the time/location of the meeting, please email: Time2TalkAddiction@gmail.com. In addition, for information about vaping, marijuana, opioids, resources for treatment and education, and other important topics, please visit our website: www.Time2TalkAddiction.org.

***** Answer to the Weekly Riddle – Iron... *****

WEEKLY SHIURIM @ SHAAREI ORAH

- ❖ **Rabbi Jachter:** - Shabbat morning Pre-Sha’harit Humash Shiur at 8:30am - Shabbat afternoon shiur on Hilchot Shabbat: 40 min before Mincha - **Tuesday** nights at 8:00 PM at Shaarei Orah on Kashrut Straight from the Shulhan Aruch, **Men and women are invited**. Thursday evenings at 7:30pm at 315 Churchill Road on Torah & Science.
- ❖ **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.ora@gmail.com

RABBI: Rav Haim Jachter - rabbi@sephardicteaneck.org

President: Joshua Murad - president@sephardicteaneck.org

Vice President: Shlomo Levy | **Treasurer:** Isaac Dayan | **Secretary:** Blanche Silver | **Gabbai:** Shalom Shushan

Billing questions contact: finance@sephardicteaneck.org

Congregation Shaarei Orah is an inclusive kehillah, all are welcome regardless of edah or level of observance.