



# Parashat Ki Tavo

## September 2, 2023 ~~ 16 Elul 5783

Rabbi Shmuel Halpern, Rabbi ~ Dr. Jonathan Fishman, President  
440 S. Monaco Pkwy., Denver, CO 80224 ~ [www.yidenver.org](http://www.yidenver.org) ~ [office@yidenver.org](mailto:office@yidenver.org)

### We look forward to you joining us this Shabbat!

**Earliest Candle Lighting:** 6:09 pm  
**Candle Lighting** 7:13pm  
**Havdallah** 8:11 pm

#### Friday

Mincha/ Kabbalat Shabbat/ Maariv: 5:55 pm  
*Shema should be recited after 8:12 pm*

#### Shabbat

Mishna Berura Class 8:25 am  
Shacharit: 9:00 am (with childcare)  
*Latest time for Shema is 9:43 am*  
*Sponsored Kiddush following services*  
Mincha: 7:05pm  
Maariv: 8:11pm

### D'var Torah by Rabbi Halpern

Let's face it: change is hard. If we had the willpower to quit sugar and wake up at four in the morning to exercise, it would've happened long ago. But if we didn't succeed yesterday, why assume we'll succeed tomorrow?

While our temperament may be inborn, our behaviors are not. We live in a world of cause and effect, and if we act a certain way, there are reasons for it. James Clear (Atomic Habits) encourages us to replace goals with systems. We may not be willing to refuse the cookie, but we can fill our pantry and fridge with healthier options. Pushing ourselves out the door to exercise may be challenging, but if we collect our gear and set an alarm each evening, we'll see success.

Rambam (Teshuva 2:1) describes the ideal Teshuva as when we overcome the very challenges that tripped us up in the past. Per Rambam, Teshuva requires greater spiritual muscle, which begs the question: Where do we find the strength we didn't have yesterday or the day before?

Let's look to the Mitzvah of Bikkurim (first fruit) for inspiration. As described in our Parsha and elaborated by the Mishna, the farmer would tie a string around the first one to mark it when the fruits began to grow. There's no better way to practice gratitude than to begin the harvest appreciating the Source of all our blessings.

Arizal writes that the mitzvah of Bikkurim is an atonement for the Sin of the Spies. Where we were ungrateful for Eretz Yisrael and its huge, luscious fruit, we now are full of joyous gratitude to Hashem for the blessing of the holy land and its fruits.

In his wisdom, Hashem didn't simply command us to be grateful; instead, He blessed us with the opportunity to recite Birkat Hamazon after we've enjoyed His bounty. If we struggle with a self-centered sense of entitlement, we have the brachot before and after eating to habituate us to feel grateful.

*Continued on next page*

### Davening Times for the Upcoming Week:

#### Shacharit

Sun, Mon (Labor Day): 8:00 am  
Tue, Wed, Fri: 6:35 am  
Thurs: 6:30 am

#### Mincha

Sun - Thur: 7:05 pm  
Fri: 7:00 pm

*All times are listed at [yidenver.org/calendar](http://yidenver.org/calendar)*

### Sefer Torah Campaign Sponsors

#### Sefer Devarim:

Ahron & Rivky Katz

Parashat Ki Tavo:

Steven & Lori Weiser



Sponsorships available at [yidenver.org/torahdedication](http://yidenver.org/torahdedication)

## D'var Torah (cont.)

We can't force character change, but we can, one degree at a time, align ourselves with small actions that, with time, turn us into the person we dreamed we could be.

As we enter the second half of the month of Elul, let's take one small, replicable step in the right direction. Hashem is waiting for us to return to His loving embrace; let's not let Him down.

"A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."

*(Based in part on a shiur by R' Elazar Meisels)*

## Come Learn With Us

- **Mishna Berura Shiur** Join Rabbi Halpern Shabbat at 8:25 am. *"From Bees to the Runaway Dog: Trapping on Shabbos."*
- **Beit Midrash Night** is on hiatus for the summer.
- [Click here](#) to view this week's edition of **Mizrachi's Parshat Hashavua package** [mizrachi.org/hamizrachiweekly](http://mizrachi.org/hamizrachiweekly)



Register at  
[www.yidenver.org/HH2023](http://www.yidenver.org/HH2023)

## We Value our Volunteers!!

**We appreciate our many members and friends who graciously volunteer their time to make our shul run.**

**We have opportunities for volunteering in many areas of our shul, including:**

**Around the House:** For those good with DIY Projects, Light Maintenance, or Yardwork

**Holidays:** So Many Holidays - So Much to do! Help with Shul Set-up, Lulav and Etrog Sale, Special Cooking, Special Events

**Hospitality:** Help us Welcome our New Members, and Set-up Meals for Visitors

**Kiddush:** Join the Kiddush Crew to help with Set-up, Prep, Clean-up and Shopping

**Programming:** Plan Social and Educational Events

**And So Much More!**

Visit [www.yidenver.org/volunteering](http://www.yidenver.org/volunteering) for more details and to sign up

## YI Denver Announcements

- **Kiddush sponsored by** Mark and Sarah Raphaely in memory of Mark's father, Tony (Aharon ben Micha'el Moshe) on the occasion of his first yartzeit
- **Seudah Shelishit sponsored by** Hanah and Alex Polotsky, on the occasion of the yahrzeit and in memory of Hanah's father, Lev Nadelson (Leib ben Shmuel), and Alex's mother Anna Polotsky (Chanah bat Yakov), grandparents of Esti, Avi, Yael, Eli and Yoshi Polotsky.
- **Mazal Tov** to Lawrence and Lisa Stroll on the birth of a grandson, born to Shimon and Yocheved Stroll of Teaneck, NJ.
- **Condolences** to Rivky Sher on the passing of her father, Rav Calman Weinreb, z"l.
- **Active Threat Training at the JCC Social Hall**, This Tuesday, Sept 5 at 7:45 pm. This is an important training for all our congregation and we encourage everyone to attend. We have invited other shuls to train with us, so we have moved location to the JCC Social Hall See flier on page 5 for more info.
- **High Holiday Registration is now open.** [www.yidenver.org/hh2023](http://www.yidenver.org/hh2023). **Deadline for registration is this Sunday, Sept 3.**
- **Order your Lulav and Etrog** at [www.yidenver.org/lulav2023](http://www.yidenver.org/lulav2023). Deadline for ordering is Thursday, Sept 14.
- **Need help building your Sukkah?** Call Yoni Eckmann at 484-343-4294
- **Upcoming Scholars-in-Residence** We are excited to bring in Rabbi Shalom Hammer, to YID for Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur; and Rabbi Yitzchok Etshalom for Shmini Atzeret and Simchat Torah. More information to follow.
- **Watch Rabbi Halpern's one-minute Dvar Torah** video at [www.yidenver.org/video-dvar](http://www.yidenver.org/video-dvar)

## Members' Milestones



Robert Salehrabi, Beth Ann Wagdy, Aaron Schwartz, Elie Shapiro, Ronen Chertok, Steven Weiser, Lexi Alpert, Gabriel Bean, Ezra Hirsch

Stella Freiheiter שרה לאה בת מאיר (19 Elul)



Pearl Jacobson פנינה בת חיים יצחק (20 Elul)

Tony Raphaely Aharon ben Micha'el (21 Elul)

Lev Nadelson Leib ben Shmuel

Anna Polotsky Chanah bat Yakov

## Refuah Shlemah

Please include the following names in your tefilla. May each be granted a Refuah Shlemah.

Aliza bat Batsheva

Amalia Sarit bat Avram

Bella bat Malka

Chaya Sarah Miriam bat Esther

Daniel David Yitzchak ben Shulamit

Hannah bat Naomi Miriam

HaRav Benyomin Daniel ben Chaya

Masha bat Rivka

Menasha Lev ben Yosepha

Michael ben Bayla

Michael ben Sara

Mika Ester bat Adi

Miriam Adina bat Sara

Mordechai ben Chaya Hannah

Naama

Penina Devorah bat Shulamit Itka

Rachel Yehudit bat Sarah Esther

Ruchel Malkah bat Leah

Saige bat Hannah

Sarah Rivka bat Rachel Leah

Shalom Shimon ben Rachel

Shmuel Aharon ben Jenny

Shoshanah bat Miriam

Tzvi Aryeh ben Necha Zissel

Yael bat Tamar

Yonatan Zeev ben Netaa

Yosef ben Sarah Imenu

Yosef Yitzchok ben Sima Chasya

Yosefa Peral Chana bat Rivkah Tziporah

Yossef ben Dinah

Ze'ev Shmuel ben Helena

Names are kept on the list until Shabbat Mevarchim. Help us keep the list accurate by updating the [Cholim Document](#) or by emailing [office@yidenver.org](mailto:office@yidenver.org)

## Community Happenings

- Chabad of Auraria Campus presents an amazing night out of kosher comedy with Robert Cait! Wed, 9/6 at 8pm at the JCC Elaine Wolf Theater Buy your tickets now at <https://maccrentals.eventive.org/schedule/64af031c7ccb7002ce99f00>
- Save the Date - Sept 27, Mizel Museum annual Babi Yar Remembrance Ceremony at Babi Yar Memorial Park.
- Pikes Peak Library District will host the *Americans and the Holocaust*, a traveling exhibition from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum that examines the motives, pressures, and fears that shaped Americans' responses to Nazism, war, and genocide in Europe during the 1930s and 1940s. Exhibit dates: Sept 5 - Oct 11. [ppld.org/HolocaustExhibit](http://ppld.org/HolocaustExhibit)
- Community Singles Mingle in the Sukkah, for singles 50+. Oct 3 at the BMH Sukkah, 6-8pm. Hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, music, fun! RSVP by 9/29 at [www.bmh-bj.org/event/singles-mingle.html](http://www.bmh-bj.org/event/singles-mingle.html)
- East Side Eruv. Visit [www.denvereruv.org](http://www.denvereruv.org) to sign up for weekly status messages, Eruv maps, and to make donations.
- The Mikvah of East Denver (MOED) is open for Women's immersion, Men's immersion and Keilim immersion. Visit [www.mikvahofeastdenver.org](http://www.mikvahofeastdenver.org) for membership, registration and to schedule an appointment.

## This Week in Jewish History

*Thank you to Avi Polotsky for compiling this section.*

### 25 Av 5765 (August 30, 2005)

On August 30, 2005, a significant event took place in Israeli history as the nation completed the evacuation of settlers from the Gaza Strip. This disengagement plan involved the removal of Israeli settlements and military presence from the area, representing a major policy shift. The withdrawal was met with both support and opposition, sparking debates about the implications for Israel's security and future prospects for peace. The evacuation marked a complex and emotionally charged moment in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and Hamas's subsequent governance of Gaza added another layer of complexity to the region's dynamics.

### 17 Elul 5699 (September 1, 1939)

On September 1, 1939, Adolf Hitler's invasion of Poland marked the beginning of World War II, and its impact on the Jewish community was devastating. The invasion ignited the most catastrophic war in world history, but it also marked a major turning point for the worse in the course of the Holocaust. Poland was home to a huge Jewish population, and the Nazi occupation brought about ghettos, forced labor, and ultimately the horrors of concentration camps. The invasion's aftermath reshaped the course of Jewish history and effectively ended the centuries-old Jewish community in Poland as well as other major European communities.

(1) <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/the-quot-sharon-plan-quot-gaza-disengagement>.

(2) <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/poland-virtual-jewish-history-tour>

**Go to [www.yidenver.org](http://www.yidenver.org) to register for the High Holidays and to order your Lulav and Etrog**

### High Holiday Registration



### Lulav & Etrog Sets





GET INVOLVED. GET EMPOWERED.  
GET TRAINED.

# COUNTERING ACTIVE THREAT TRAINING (CATT)

A comprehensive training program  
to counter an active threat  
event developed for faith-based  
institutions and houses of worship

**New  
Location!**

**Tuesday, Sept. 5 @ 7:45 pm**

JCC Social Hall (350 S. Dahlia St)



## LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- ✓ Identify and explain the steps to survive an active threat incident: RUN, HIDE, FIGHT.
- ✓ Understand how to prepare for an active threat event
- ✓ Know how to respond to law enforcement's arrival
- ✓ Recognize the importance of additional trainings such as Stop the Bleed
- ✓ Commit to action during an active threat event.



YI Denver Presents

# Rabbi Shalom Hammer



## Scholar-in-Residence Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur

**Rabbi Hammer:** Rabbi Shalom Hammer returns to our shul once again after his popular visit with us in 2018. Rabbi Hammer serves as a senior lecturer for the Jewish Identity Branch of the IDF and is a dynamic speaker and Torah educator. He is the founder and director of Makom Meshutaf, which advocates tolerance and unity between religious and secular Jews in Israel through educational programs. Rabbi Hammer is a contributing writer for The Jerusalem Post, author of 10 books/seforim, and speaker for the Menachem Begin Heritage Center and communities world-wide. After his profound loss with the death of his daughter Gila from suicide, Rabbi Hammer decided to channel his grief by helping those with mental health challenges. He became a certified instructor for MHFA (Mental Health First Aid) as well as an advocate of mental health awareness and an educator regarding suicide prevention. He founded Gila's Way, a non-profit organization, to raise awareness and provide education/prevention resources for this important issue.



YOUNG ISRAEL DENVER





# Rabbi Yitzchak Etshalom

## Scholar-in-Residence Shmini Atzeret & Simchat Torah

Yitzchak Etshalom was born and raised in Los Angeles, California. He attended Yeshivat Kerem B'Yavne, Rabbi Isaac Elhanan Theological Seminary and Yeshivat Har Etzion before receiving Semicha from the Chief Rabbi of Yerushalayim, Rabbi Itzhak Kolitz. Rav Etshalom has been a dynamic and exciting educator in the Los Angeles community since his return in 1985. His ability to reach out to today's youth and share with them his passion for Jewish learning and Jewish life has enriched many young lives. He launched the Beit Midrash program at YULA Girls High School as well as opening the Beit Midrash at Shalhevet, where he currently serves as Rosh Beit Midrash. Rav Etshalom directs the Tanach Masters Program at YULA Boys' High School as well as being a sought-after Scholar in Residence throughout the country. He lectures annually at the prestigious "Ymei Iyyun" Tanakh Seminar at Herzog College. In addition, he teaches Daf Yomi and a popular Navi series at the Young Israel of Century City and his podcasts on Daf Yomi ([www.dafyomiyicc.org](http://www.dafyomiyicc.org)) have attracted an international following, as have his Tanakh podcasts ([www.etshalom.com/podcast](http://www.etshalom.com/podcast)) which are also available at [www.yutorah.org](http://www.yutorah.org) and at [www.ou.org](http://www.ou.org). His critically acclaimed series "Between the Lines of the Bible" is a methodological guide to the study of Tanakh. He currently writes a weekly lecture for Yeshivat Har Etzion's Virtual Beit Midrash on the book of Amos which will be published as part of the Koren Maggid Studies in Tanakh. Rabbi Etshalom lives in Los Angeles with his wife Stefanie and their children.

