

Candle Lighting 4/26

Vayikra 14:1-15:33 Malachi 3:4-24 7:38p

Missed Opportunities Rabbi Shmuel Silber

As we prepare for the Yom Tov of Pesach, time is of the essence. At every turn we must be mindful of time. The difference between matzah being kosher l'pesach (fit for Passover use) and chametz is dependent on time. Get the matzah baked in under 18 minutes and you are good to go - delay, and it's chametz. At the seder, you can't begin before nightfall and need to consume the afikoman before midnight. In fact, this fixation on time starts even earlier, generations earlier. The first mitzvah we were given (while still in Egypt) was Kiddush HaChodesh, sanctification of the new moon, setting and establishing the calendar. Judaism is fixated on time. This preoccupation is for good reason. Life is filled with beautiful and holy opportunities, but they don't wait around. Time is fleeting, and as such, when the opportunity for something meaningful comes your way – grab it – because if you don't, you will miss the moment. If you miss the 18th minute mark, your dough is chametz, and if you miss your moment, the door of opportunity closes.

I have been thinking and perhaps, even obsessing over this idea during the last few months. October 7th changed our lives and our nation. While we learned and were versed in historical atrocities committed against our people, on October 7th we saw this hatred, barbarism and unbridled sadism come to life before our tear drenched eyes. We saw what Hamas did to our men, women and children. We witnessed an event where even the dead were not spared from brutality and no one and nothing was off-limits. On October 7th we saw evil in its purest form. To this very day, almost 7 months later – our hostages have not been returned and our hearts remain achingly broken over all that has been lost. In the initial days and weeks after October 7th, there was an opportunity. An opportunity for the community of civilized mankind to come together and fight against evil. There was an opportunity for the nations of the world to stand behind Israel, our beloved ancestral homeland, the only democratic nation in the Middle East and support them as they were and are the tip of the spear in this battle against evil. Imagine what would happen if civilized nations made their stand against evil. There was and still is an opportunity to change the entire trajectory of mankind – by standing up, unequivocally united against evil. This type of unity of good could change the very moral fabric of the world. But it feels as if the world has missed the opportunity. The nations of the world are focusing on the wrong things. The humanitarian crisis in Gaza is not Israel's fault – this was created and perpetuated by Hamas. Years of siphoning and pilfering aid meant to improve the lives of simple people; years of building terror infrastructure in dense civilian neighborhoods; an unprovoked attack filled with murder, rape, and innumerable atrocities on October 7th; these are the seeds which have blossomed into a humanitarian crisis. There is a price to be paid for abhorrent and evil behavior, and unfortunately, the residents of Gaza are paying it – but not because of us, but rather because of the immoral, terrorist leadership who has betrayed them. While we mourn the loss of innocent life no matter what religion, race, ethnicity, or geographic location – it is important to have explicit clarity as to the cause and catalysts of this crisis. Every nation has a right and obligation to protect its citizens – Israel must do whatever is necessary to make sure every man, woman, and child is safe and secure. Our hostages deserve to be returned - not part of a negotiation but because the world should have enough moral backbone to never allow human lives to be used as bargaining chips. War always carries with it collateral damage. The innocent are swept up and suffer. But we must have the moral clarity to place blame where it truly belongs.

There is still time for the nations of the world to seize the moment and stand by the Jewish State as we battle evil. I know my words will have no impact on the global stage - but I'm not writing it for them - I am writing for us. We have seen time and time again what happens when humanity fails to calibrate its moral compass. We have seen countless times the destruction that occurs when nations capitulate, cave in, and act like cowards in the face of evil. We can't change them – but we can change ourselves. If they miss their moment - we shouldn't miss ours. We should be reminded of the dangers of failing to seize the moment, and may we become stronger and emboldened as individuals, as a community, and as nation to seize life's opportunities for growth, holiness, and elevation.

	^{19/20} FRI/SHABBOS	²¹ SUNDAY	22 MONDAY	²³ TUESDAY	²⁴ WEDNESDAY	²⁵ THURSDAY	²⁶ FRIDAY
WEEK AT A GLANCE 4/19 - 4/26	SHABBOS NIGHT 6:00p Toameha 6:30p Mincha followed by Kabbolas Shabbos 6:30p Early Candle Lighting 7:31p Candle Lighting Zman 7:45p Kehilla Unites Shabbos Hagadol Seuda SHABBOS DAY 7:00a Hashkama Shacharis 8:45a Shacharis (KS - :44am) 9:15a Teen Minyan 9:30a Junior Congregation 5:00p Women's Learning Group 5:00p Daf Yomi 5:50p Mincha 6:15p Shabbos Hagadol Drasha 8:34p Maariv 8:34p Havdalah 9:02p Havdalah - Rabbeinu Tam	7:15a Shacharis 7:55a Daf Yomi 9:00a Shacharis 6:15p Plag Mincha 7:40p Mincha/Maariv After 8:25p Bedikas Chometz	Erev Pesach Taanis Bechoros 5:55a Daf Yomi 6:45a Shacharis 7:25a Siyum Bechorim 9:00a Shacharis 10:16a Sof Z'man Achila 11:33a Sof Zman Biur Pesach See Pesach Schedule	Pesach ** S	Pesach	Pesach Chol Hamoed h Schedu	Pesach Chol Hamoed le **

MEMBER NEWS

BIRTHDAYS

Maayan Abramson, Shira Bauman, Eli Bennett, Golda Cane, Aviva Caplan, Michael Chamdi, Chana Esther Fogel, Aviva Goldman, Avraham Grossman, Ben Grossman, Benjamin Grossman, Andre Kahn, Shoshana Kaplan, Dovid Korobkin, Marjorry Kramer, Nosson Dovid Lebovitz, Adam Leve, Elsa Lustman, Diane Marks, Lillian Mayer, Bryna Nirenberg, Yona Openden, Gila Reidy, Beverly Rogers Holy, Phil Rosenfeld, David Schwartz, Tania Shichtman, Shmuel Tzvi Shoop, Chava Simha, Ilana Sol, Marc Soloweszyk, Bracha Strimber, Holly Venick, Gavriel Zirkind, Aliza Zirkind

UPCOMING YAHRZEITS

Milton Bander, Howard Barron, Miriam Brody, Florence Chanin, Elinore Kahn, Bernhard Kiewe, Eti Kiewe, Marguerite Jeremias, Gerard Michaels, Doreen Mirvis, Rhoda Resnick, Royal Rockman, Selina Schoenfeld, Sheila J. Shelley, Aliza Sherman, Sarah Rachel Stiefel

SPONSORSHIPS & DONATIONS

TALMUD TORAH

Saeed & Sima Haken to show their Hakarat Hatov to Hashem for all of his Nisim and Niflaot, May Hakadosh Baruch Hu redeem all of the hostages and bring complete Hatzlacha to Eretz Yisrael and Am Yisrael.

WEEK OF LEARNING

The Rom and Bravo families I'zecher nishmas our father מרדכי שורכי ו'zecher nishmas our father מרדכי אדר עומק . May his neshama have an aliya.

DAY OF LEARNING

Seth & Rachel Rotenberg in honor of Barry & Judy Nabozny for being such wonderful friends and all-around terrific people. **Paul & Kathy Pollack** in honor of their grand daughter Tikvah Esther Pollack of West Orange, NJ on the occasion of her 21st birthday.

DAF YOMI

Richard & Judy Nudelman in memory of Judy's mother Temmy Schwartz, Tema Rochel bas Shmuel Zusiya z'l.

CHASSIDUS CHABURA

Steve Goloskov for 'a CEIT 'a CEIT 's on-in-law and grandson from Israel this past Sunday; as a mazel tov to Izzy Bogart in honor of his engagement to Batsheva Tropper from Dallas; in memory of Ted Bogart, Tuvia Ben Eliyahu HaLevi z'I, father of Phil Bogart; and in memory of Motle ben Chaim Leib HaKohen z'I, father of Richard Buck.

Reuven & Sandy Resincoff as z'chus for a refuah shlayma of Reuven's sister, Leah bas Etka Perel, who had surgery this week.

Richard Nudelman in honor of the yartzheit of his mother in law, Temmy Schwartz, Temma Rochel bas Shmuel Zusiya z'l.

Yehudah Buchwalter #BringThemHome

The Leil Shishi Chabura

Adam Edelman in honor of his daughter's wedding and for a drama-free Pesach!

SHABBOS HAGADOL SEUDA SPONSORS

Neil & Pam Weissman Edward & Faith Lisa Wolf Gobbie & Shayna Cohn Barry Dexter Hirsh & Gail Goldberg Elia & Elisheva Rahbaran Robert Roseboro Naor & Chani Simhi Jonathan Hamburger

SPONSORSHIPS & DONATIONS

SHABBOS DRASHA

Robyn Schaffer wishing the entire kehilla a kosher v'sameach Pesach with the zchus for Hashem to redeem our hostages, soldiers, and families in Eretz Yisrael.

KIDDUSH

Jesse & Rivkah Meyerowitz

DONATIONS

Hilary Jacobson Kent to Israel Relief dedicated to Mildred Shapiro's special birthday

Dr. Morris & Ann Ellen Gavant in honor of all our Gabbaim.

Yaakov Borenstein לכבוד הקהילה הקדושה והיקרה! שמחים ונרגשים להיות וישועות, ניסים וברכה חלק ממכם. שנזכה לחג פסח כשר ושמח, בשורות טובות וישועות, ניסים וברכה והצלחה. שנזכה לראות גואל צדק במהרה.

SOTC UPDATES

OFFICE CLOSED

The office will be closing for Pesach on Friday, April 19 at 12pm. For urgent matters please email shanitopper@suburbanorthodox.org.

YOUTH GROUPS

Youth groups, Junior Congregating, and Teen Minyan will not be meeting over Pesach.

WOMEN'S TEHILLIM FOLLOWING SHABBOS DAVENING

Please join the women of the shul after davening before kiddush to complete sefer Tehillim in the z'chus of the Eretz Yisroel.

WOMEN'S SHABBOS TEHILLIM- 5:45pm

Will meet on Shabbos at 5:45pm the Lerner home (3302 Northbrook Rd).

SOTC BOOK CLUB

The next meeting of the Suburban Orthodox Book Club will be on Tuesday, May 21, 2 p.m. at the Shul. Selection: "One Hundred Saturdays," by Michael Frank (non-fiction).

