



Suburban Orthodox Congregation Toras Chaim



SHABBOS SCHEDULE

Shabbos Mevarchim

Shabbos Night

6:30p To'ameha Pre Shabbos Farbrengin (Beis Midrash)

7:00p Mincha followed by Kabbolas Shabbos

7:52p Candle Lighting + Zman Minyan: Mincha & Kabbolas Shabbos (Beis Midrash)

Shabbos Day

9:00a Shacharis (9:30a KS)

5:45p Early Mincha

6:10p Daf Yomi

7:00p Shiur: Yerushalayim - Forever in our Hearts (Rooms 2/3)

7:45p Mincha

8:53p Havdalah

No Chassidus on the Parsha or Pirkei Avos shiur



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week of 5/13- 28th of Iyar

Sun

7:15a, 8:00a, 9:00a Shacharis

6:30p Plag Mincha

8:00p Mincha/Maariv

Mon - Thurs, Fri a.m.

6:45, 9:00a Shacharis (Rosh Chodesh Tuesday, Early Shacharis at 6:30a)

6:30p Plag Mincha

8:00p Mincha/Maariv

9:05p Late Maariv



WEEKLY SHIURIM

Sunday

8:00a Daf Yomi

Mon - Fri

5:45a Gan HaEmunah (Rosh Chodesh Tuesday, Daf Yomi 5:45am, no Gan HaEmondah shiur)

5:55a Daf Yomi

Mon - Thurs | 8:15- 9:30p

IJC Night Kollel featuring Kol Hanearim, Mondays 8:15 - 9:05p

Wednesday

9:30a Insights on Tehillim & the Parsha (for women)

Thursday

8:00p Likutei Moharan (for men)

Daily learning and inspiration at rabbisilber.com

Parshios Bebar-Bechukosai

27 Iyar | May 12, 2018

Candle Lighting
7:52p

Mincha
7:00p

Torah Reading
Pg. 696

Haftorah
Pg. 1179

Candle Lighting 5/18
7:58p



ALWAYS PROFITABLE

RABBI SHMUEL SILBER

“If you follow My statutes and observe My commandments and perform them, I will give your rains in their time, the Land will yield its produce, and the tree of the field will give forth its fruit. Your threshing will last until the vintage, and the vintage will last until the sowing; you will eat your food to satiety, and you will live in security in your land.” (Vayikra 26:3-5)

It seems to be a straightforward system; follow the commandments and statutes of God, and God will reward you with all types of material blessings. Conversely, if we don't follow the laws and commandments, God will punish us. These verses raise many theological and ideological questions. Is this how the world really works? Don't we find that at times the righteous suffer and the wicked prosper? We often see people who seem to do all God wants and expects of them, yet, they have exceptionally difficult lives. This is the age-old question, deliberated by the sages throughout the generations. Yet, despite all the insights and explanations we have no real understanding other than to accept our inability to comprehend the ways of God.

But I would like to draw your attention to a different issue. The Torah seems to indicate that reward can (and perhaps, should) be part of our motivation for following the laws and commandments. However, we find a seemingly contradictory statement in Pirkei Avos (Ethics of the Fathers):

“Antignos of Socho received the tradition from Shimon the Righteous. He would say: Do not be as slaves, who serve their master for the sake of reward. Rather, be as slaves who serve their master not for the sake of reward. And the fear of Heaven should be upon you.” (1:3)

The great sage, Antignos teaches us that one should not serve God for the sake of receiving reward! How do we reconcile this teaching with the verses in the beginning of this week's Parsha?

In discussing the obligation to honor one's parents, the Talmud (Kiddushin 31a) brings the story of an idolater named *Dama ben Nisina*. The Talmud relates that Dama was

exceptionally wealthy and possessed precious stones that were needed for the breastplate (*choshen*) of the *Kohen Gadol* (High Priest). A rabbinic delegation approached Dama and made a generous offer for the precious stones. Dama responded that he could not sell them the stones as the key to the safe in which the stones were kept was under his father's pillow, and his father was sleeping. Dama would not wake his father even for a small fortune. This, explains the Talmud, is the paradigmatic example of honoring one's parents. But the story is not over. A year later, a red heifer (*Parah Aduma*) was born in Dama's herd. The rabbis approached Dama, eager to purchase this rare animal. Dama responded, “I know that I can ask for all the money in the world and you (rabbis) would give it to me. But I will only ask for the money I lost for honoring my father.”

The commentaries point out Dama's intriguing statement: “I will only ask for the money I lost for honoring my father.” This word choice provides us incredible insight into Dama's personality. It is true he didn't wake his father. But when the rabbis left, Dama felt like he had lost an incredible opportunity. When blessed with the red heifer he felt he was given the opportunity to be made whole. Dama was indeed a great man who clearly revered and honored his father. But he failed to comprehend the power of a good deed. He didn't lose anything. Although he couldn't sell the precious jewels, he earned a most incredible spiritual windfall.

This is the meaning of Antignos' statement. When a servant works a full day, if the master claims he can't pay, the servant feels both wronged (because of the non-payment) and that he wasted his time. He thinks, “I would have never worked or performed these tasks had I known that what I set out to receive would not end up materializing.” When it comes to the service of God we must remain far from this mindset. Is there reward for our *mitzvos*, good deeds and positive acts? Unequivocally, yes. This is clear from the opening verses of our Parsha. There is

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MEMBER NEWS

MAZAL TOV

Dovid & Esther Resnick on the engagement of their daughter, Shira Leah, to Noach Aryeh Schwartz of Silver Spring

BIRTHDAYS

Philip Sharp, Binyamin Zev Schwarzbaum, Cheryl Rosenfeld, Hilary Jacobson, Mark Silverman, Malka Esterson, Maya Bier, Dina Rechthand, Yossi Silber, Leon Sheynman, Shoshana Lerner, Akiva Strum, Susan Lapin, Shaindy Kelman, Ariella Kashnow, Pinny Ehrenfeld, Jillian Bar-Av, Linda Susan Elman, Sally Goldstein, Susan Schoenfeld, Robert Benedek, Morton Mindell, Faith Lisa Wolf

Yahrzeits

Melvin Sykes, Carolyn Posner, Marguerite Streit, Jeanette Turniansky, Julius Feigelman, Harry Bayuk, Abraham Fisher, Samuel Greber, Coby Rosemore



SHUL HAPPENINGS

SOTC Annual Raffle

Only 294 tickets left. Take a chance to win big and win big by giving! Get your raffle ticket for a 1 in 365 chance to win a new car! suburbanorthodox.org/raffle

Thanks to all those that have already bought their raffle tickets to support our shul: Shiller, Holzman, Messing, Silber, Raskas, Hammond, Hoffman, Abramson, Myrowitz, Sol, Horwitz, Ehrenfeld, Lerner, Lichtman, Ehrenfeld, Schoenfeld, Miller, Ponczak, Agrich, Gross, Charner, Levitan, Blumenfeld, Neuberger, Artman, Schoenfeld, Abramson, Mainstain, Mann, Pesacov, Steinberg, Erez, Artman, Moss, Kohen, Schwarzbaum, Leiter, Drazin, Schwarzbaum, Katz, Turner, Seidel, Reidy, Birnbaum, Fleischman, Pepper-Kaplan, Kaplan, Bluestein, Marcus, Goetz Goldberg, Nabozny, Berger, Ziffer, Rosen, Nachman, Fogel, Grossman, Steiger, Sheynman, Krawatsky, Dexter

Sisterhood at Suburban: An Evening of Healgh & Healing

Mon 5/14 | 7:00p, SOTC
Kindly RSVP: suburbanorthodox.org/event/health

Shavuot Save-the-Date

5/19 Leil Shavuot Learning | 12:00-5:00a
5/20 Ice Cream Party | 4:30p
5/21 Siyum Tanach & Kiddush | 12:00p
Women's shiur | 5:00p

SOTC Book Club

Tues 5/29 | 2:00p, SOTC
The Hours Count by Jillian Cantor



KEHILLAH KIDDUSH

Sponsored by **Dr. Chuck & Patty Leve**.

Enhance the achdus and connections in our kehillah.
Sponsor a kiddush for \$360. suburbanorthodox.org/sponsor



SPONSORSHIPS

DAF YOMI

Richard & Judy Nudelman in honor of the yahrzeit of Richard's father Jack, Yaakov ben Moshe Tzvi z'l

Rita Bayuk in honor of the yahrzeit of her husband Seymour, Shlomo ben Chaim Zvi z'l and in memory of his parents, Harry, Chaim Zvi ben Eliezer, & Rebecca, Chaya Baila bas Aharon Dov, Bayuk z'l.

SHIUR SPONSORSHIP

Melvin & Evelyn Getz as a zechus for a refuah sheleima for Shulamit bas Bella.

DAY OF LEARNING

Heshy and Sandy Schoenfeld in honor of the yahrzeit of Heshy's father, Moshe ben Shimon Lev HaLevi

SHALOSH SEUDOS

Isaac Samuel & Family in memory of Avram Samuel, Eugene Klein and Regina Meyer.

TALMUD TORAH SPONSOR

All learning in Iyyar is sponsored by **Ayal & Sara Steinberg** in honor of the yahrzeit of Ayal's mother, Eliyah Daphna bas Yosef z'l



DVAR TORAH CONT.

reward in this world and there is reward in the World to Come. There is no good deed that goes unnoticed or unrewarded. How that reward is delivered is a bit more complex. God has a system and it often defies our comprehension. Sometimes God takes reward generated by our actions and allocates it to our children, as they may need it more than us. Sometimes, we are the beneficiaries of certain blessings generated by the actions of those who came before us. There is beautiful reward for all we do. The allocation and distribution is understood only by God. We must understand that when it comes to the service of God, even if we don't get what we wanted or had hoped for, our efforts are never in vein. Every mitzvah, every act of kindness has the benefit of creating a relationship with God. In fact, the Torah states: "And I will place My dwelling in your midst, and My Spirit will not reject you; I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be My people." (Vayikra 26:11-12) After all the discussion of material blessing, the Torah explains that the most important result we can realize from our service of God is a relationship with God.

Even if the wheat, barley, and grapes don't blossom as we had hoped. Even if the cattle, the sheep and livestock aren't as plentiful as we had imagined, our service, our actions, our mitzvos are never in vein. As a result of all we have done, "I will walk in your midst and I will enjoy a relationship with you."

We live in a result driven society. If we can't quantify the results, it must mean we failed. While this may be true in certain areas of life, it is not true when it comes to spirituality. There are times when we pray, learn, perform acts of kindness and give *tzedaka* because we need and want something from God. There are many times when we see the beautiful results of our actions and there are many times when we simply don't get what we want. Whether we actively see the *beracha* (blessing) or not, one thing is clear. Every spiritual act is purposeful and meaningful. Every spiritual act creates closeness and holiness. Every time we serve God, we have the opportunity bring Him close to us and have the privilege to be just a bit closer to Him.

Newly posted shiurim online and on Podcast www.rabbisilber.com



COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

Panel Discussion: Embracing our Elders

Thurs 5/31 | 4:30-p, Beth Tfiloh
www.jcsbaltimore.org/about-jcs/who-we-are/annualmeeting/

Shalom Singles Shabbaton

July 6-8, Ages 30-45
<http://tinyurl.com/shabbaton-July-2018>
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