

From the Rabbi

It's been said that the only thing harder than changing someone else's opinion, is changing your own.

How are we to understand Pharaoh's behavior in response to the Ten Plagues? Despite the miraculous nature of the plagues and the devastation they wrought upon Egypt, Pharaoh refused to acknowledge God or to let the Hebrew slaves leave Egypt. Time and time again, we are told that Pharaoh hardened his heart and refused to budge. How can we understand such an extreme and self-destructive rigidity on a psychological level?

In an experiment conducted at Stanford, researchers recruited participants based on their attitudes towards capital punishment. Half the students recruited were in favor and half against. The students were given two studies to read: one which provided data in support of capital punishment's ability to deter crime and another that provided data against its efficacy to deter crime. Those that were already in favor of capital punishment rated the data in support of their view highly compelling and the data that challenged their view as unconvincing. The reverse was true for those against capital punishment. They rated the data in support of their claim convincing and the data against their claim unconvincing.

In truth, all the data was totally fabricated. Each side believed the "evidence" that supported their point of view and disregarded the "evidence" against it. This phenomenon is known as "confirmation bias." Once we believe a certain way, our minds search for evidence to prove that belief and disregard evidence that calls it into question. Pharaoh's refusal to acknowledge God's control and power is evident even before the plagues begin. When Aaron's staff swallowed the staffs of the Egyptians, Pharaoh just assumed it was just stronger magic that allowed that to happen. The same was true for the first two plagues. He concluded that Moses and Aaron had better magic than his court wizards had. When Pharaoh's wizards proclaimed that the third plague (lice) was the "finger of God" and totally beyond their abilities, Pharaoh hardened his heart and remained locked into his position. We don't see or hear from these wizards, again. Did Pharaoh just silence the opinions that don't conform to his own?

From this perspective, Pharaoh's irrational and self-destructive behavior is just an extreme version of a common human condition, present within us all. If we find ourselves constantly confirming our own opinions and easily rejecting the evidence against them, it may be time to take a step back and try to evaluate things more objectively. It may be wise to analyze and weigh all the evidence in a balanced manner.

Rabbi Yaakov Chaitovsky

Information and Inspiration

[She Does Not Care if You Like What She Has to Say or Not](#), Kylie Ora Lobell

[Spirits in a Material World](#), Rabbi Jonathan Sacks

FRIDAY AND SHABBAT: JANUARY 20-21 /TEVET 27-28

Candle Lighting 4:47 PM

Kabbalat Shabbat 4:50 PM in the Chapel

Shabbat Morning Services:

Chapel/Shaaarei Simcha - 9:00 AM

Main Sanctuary - 9:45 AM

Torah portion-Va'eria- Exodus 6:2-9:35 (AS 318)

Haftarah-Ezekiel 28:25-29:21 (AS 1149)

*Kiddush is sponsored by BMH-BJ
and made by our loyal volunteer group*

*Joint BMH-BJ/TDK Mincha and Torah learning in the Gallery at 4:45 PM
with Rabbi Gelman*

Shabbat ends/Havdalah 5:48 PM

Minyan This Week

Next Week: Jan 22nd -Jan 27th

Sunday 8:30 AM

Monday & Thursday 6:30 AM

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 6:45 AM

*Attendance helps guarantee a minyan for those saying kaddish
and is a great mitzvah! Come for minyan and stay for a cup of
coffee and pastry.Sponsored by BMH-BJ*

Make a difference each Shabbat morning

A *Shabbat Greeter* is usually the first person our congregants see when entering the synagogue. They're the warm smile that greets them and assures them that they're in a good place. Currently, we are looking for outgoing volunteers to join us on Shabbat morning to welcome and greet our congregants.

If you are interested in giving us a couple of hours a week and joining others to welcome our congregants on Shabbat morning please reach out to Mark Samuelson at mark@samuelsonassoc.com

Refuah Sheleima/Speedy Recovery

Avraham Issur ben Chaya, Joe Bean (Yosef HaLevi ben Rachel),
Avraham ben Sara, Jeffrey Blum (Yaakov ben Golda Sima), Chaya bat
Shirlee, Bracha bat Basha, Esther bat Chana, Linda Fox, Jeff Geller,
Linda Gornbein, Debbie Greenberg (Devorah Leah bat Ita Liba),
Elaine Greenberg, Francine Greenberg (Feige Esther bat Ita Liba),
Dov Heller (Nachman Dovid ben Reizel), Arie Kimel
(Yehuda Arye ben Miriam), Leib ben Chasha, Yitzchak ben Beile
(Isaac Krajmalnik), Shraga Feivel ben Sima (Fabian Krajmalnik),
Jeff and Miriam Miller, Valerie Miller, Mordechai Refael ben Perel,
Barbara Oxman, Harold Rosen (Chaim Fidel ben Fruma), |
Rivka Aviva bat Esther, Ron Saliman, Lilian Schaeffer,
Dr. William Silvers (Zev Shmuel ben Heleina), Kenneth Solovy,
Jay Stark, Yaakov ben Sarah, Yaakov ben Rivka, Pam Zeldin

Classes This Week

Daily - Daf Yomi - Rabbi Fleischmann – 7:30 AM/60 minutes
after Shabbat on Saturday night

WhatsApp Dial in number: 701-802-5213 ; Access code: 8622667
Online meeting ID: mfleischmann7)

Monday-Sefer haChinuch with Rabbi Stern 8 PM (Miller Library)

Tuesday-Parsha Problems -Rabbi Chaitovsky 7:15 PM (zoom)

Wednesday-Devarim Verse by Verse Rabbi Chaitovsky 7:45 AM (zoom)
[Click Here for Tues/Wed Zoom Link](#)

Wednesday- From out of Zion goes forth Torah- Ellyn Hutt
11:00 AM-12:00 PM (zoom) , [Click Here](#) for the zoom link

Thursday – Torah & Tolkien by Cantor Goldstein - 7 PM (zoom hybrid)
[Click Here for Zoom Link](#)

Practical Parsha - Shabbat morning at 10:30 AM with
Sara Wolfe - In Preschool Classroom 110

Yahrzeits

Friday January 20, 2023 / 27 Tevet 5783

Mary Altman, Harold Bender, Blanche Berman, Joseph Berman, Ida Chappell, Louis Coffee, Thelma Fischer, Barney Frank, Rivka Glasser, Yehuda Halfon, Martin Kamine, Zlota Pesha Kapin, Tevel Katz, Kfir Kraft, David Marks, Jennie Mastrofsky, Harry W. Methner, Meyer Millenson, Marvin I. Pepper, Bruce Perch, Jacob Nathan Phillips, Esther Rabinoff, Marsha Rubinowitz, Moses Turetzky, Louis Witkin, Lyubov Zhuk

Shabbat January 21, 2023 / 28 Tevet 5783

Ekaterina Abraham, Ted Bean, Harry Bobrick, Louise S. Cohen, Joseph Cooper, Aliza Eilon, Samuel Eisen, Gizella Farkas, Paul Fischer, Izak Fisherowitz, Ronald Fishman, Richard D. Friedman, Elaine Glickman, Isaac Goodman, M. Ray Gottesfeld, Lillian Kagan, Louis Keller, Ida Lampert, Louis Landow, Hyman Litvin Levin, Harry Lightstone, Esther Lonstein, Leo Lubliner, Evelyn Mervis, Frima Mestetskay, Bessie Miller, Kurt Philipp, Maya Portnaya, Anna Reed, Ann Reinstein, Harry Rogers, Bertha Rosenberg, David E. Schaefer, Frances Slatken, Beverly Jo Smernoff, Yetta Sommer

Sunday January 22, 2023 / 29 Tevet 5783

Bessie Berkow, Sanford A. Berkowitz, Helen Buchwald, Betty Elias, Oscar Geisler, Morris Griss, Edith Held, Sophia Hersh, Marilyn Huttner, Muriel Huttner, Goldie Koscove, Bernard Liebman, Eva Mozes, Mollie Radetsky, Maria Rozycki, Loren Schottenstein

Monday January 23, 2023 / 1 Shevat 5783

Edith Backstein, Walter Black, Mary Bodow, Bernard Cohen, Murray Copillo (Kopilow), Joseph Fowler, Anne Brownie Goldberg, Sol J. Grazi, Leslie Grey, Raymond S. Gutin, Maxine Hailpern, Benjamin David Katchen, Fannie Kornfeld, Jennie Lazarus, Minna Levitt, Lazaro Medina, Jennie Melnick, Fanny Menkofsky, Gerald Miller, Mano Newman, Paul Numerof, Stanley J. Oliner, Lena Solomon Oppenheim, Esther Prezant, Eva Rogell, Sarah Safer, Stephen Silver, Ada Soltz, Harry Stepsay, Libby (Lillian) Tanger, Jacob Tepper, Mary Waldman, Cantor Herman Wanger, Harry Weiss, Joseph Witkin, Rose Zall, Samson Zwiebel

Tuesday January 24, 2023 / 2 Shevat 5783

Arnold Averch, Daniel Bilker, Aaron Bronstein, Jerry Feld, Joe Frank, Samson Geltser, Marjorie Goldberg, Nathan Goldstein, Richard Gould, Albert Cohen Hemsli, Charlotte Herold, Sheldon Hank Hyatt, Rosa Kats, Polina Kleyman, Benjamin Ledder, Benjamin Levin, Devid Mayo, Laura Mermelstein, Hyman L. Meyer, Rose Wolkow Miller, Hilda Pavell, Annette Preece, Josie Rosenweig, Sylvia Sara Ruda, Abraham Schneider, Samuel M. Segal, Henry W. Shur, Irwin Simon, Harry Slatkin, Sol Stern, Morris Susman, Michael Tarlie, Morris Aaron Wolin

Wednesday January 25, 2023 / 3 Shevat 5783

Yosef Abramovich, Dora Alex, Florence Bilett, Nathan Block, Tevya Boxer, Tillie Boxer, Jack Cohan, Anna Cohen, Celia Coopersmith, Fannie Gluckstern, Dr. Isadore Goldbloom, Dennis Gorkin, Koby Rani Gruenwald, Shalom Heller, Gisa Klinger, Dr. Howard Kominsky, Morris Kurchick, Tillie LeNoble, Anna Levy, Aron Litvak, Samuel Benjamin Miller, Abe Nadler, Ida Paillet, Sam Primock, Sylvia Ritter Richards, Rose Rosen, Bayla Shapiro, Martha Stein, Sarah Stein, Jack Strauss, Minnie Toltz, Nathan Urofsky

Thursday January 26, 2023 / 4 Shevat 5783

Sophie Beck, Henry Bronstein, Schlomo Yehuda Dym, Ethan Edelman, Gertrude Frank, Shmuel Frenkel, Betty Goodside, Morris Hoffman, Jack Janowitz, Sarah Janowitz, Edith Kern, Ruvim Khaikinson, Benjamin David Lesser, Sophie Mae Lumer, Ronald Betram Meier, Barry Alan Mozer, Rabbi Arnold Richter, Jennie Ruttner, Anne Schachet, Clinton Schwartz, Donna Shafton, Mark Sytner



These pieces are handmade from high quality Acacia wood accented with an eco-friendly epoxy to create a one-of-a-kind piece of serve ware for your home.

This challah board comes in a variety of colors to match your customer's table setting. Elegantly engraved Hebrew saying Shabbat Shalom makes a beautiful presentation for Shabbos.

Underneath the edges are small indents so the board can be lifted easily from the table.

This item is available now
Gift Shop Store Hours:
Sunday-Friday 9:30 am-1:00 pm

Reaping Faith Through Six Attributes

A Spirit of Wellness course led by Rabbi Bernie Gerson



Five Mondays, starting on Monday, January 30, 2023*

7:00-8:00 pm via Zoom; link will be shared upon completion of registration

Cost: \$75 per household

("early bird" discounted price of \$60 for those who register by January 23)

****start date is contingent upon 10 registrations by January 25, 2023***

We will explore what it means to be a "person of faith" today, and how a composite six attributes (Embracing Hope, Love of Fellow Jews, Love of all Human Beings, Preserving the Earth, Noticing the Vulnerable and Acting on Their Behalf, and A Healthy Balance of Remembering and Safeguarding the Sabbath) might serve as our anthem. We shall look at classical and contemporary sources to gain a deeper understanding of each component. Relevant articles will be shared, along with selections from Buber's *The Prophetic Faith*, Neil Gillman's *Sacred Fragments*, and Barnabus Piper's *Help My Unbelief: Why Doubt is Not the Enemy of Faith*.

Sign-up is available by clicking [here](#).



Shabbat Shira

Celebrate the passing of Jewish knowledge through song

**Special guest, renowned concert artist,
Cantor Jacob Ben-Zion Mendelson will join our own
Cantor Marty in a fervent expression of prayer and song in
the Main Sanctuary Shabbat morning Feb 4 at 9:30 am.
Following services, he will give a talk on the value of music
and the transmission of customs throughout the generations**

**After Shabbat, at 7:00 pm, the music continues in the
BMH-BJ Social Hall with a harmonious havdallah
followed by a night of live music. Wine, beer, appetizers
and desserts will be served. Tickets to the evening event
are \$15 [Click here to register](#)**

In response to growing interest, BMH-BJ will be holding a meeting to discuss the formation of new Chavurahs. A "chavurah" is a social group of any age or interest that meets for fun and fulfilling activities on a regular basis.

To voice what kind of chavurah you'd like to be a part of, who should run it and how regular you'd like to meet, join the meeting on **Sunday January 29th at 1 pm in the Gallery at BMH-BJ Synagogue.**



CARING HEARTS
Chessed Committee

Dear BMH-BJ Congregation,

All Jewish communities are made stronger when we support each other. With the constant flux of births, passings and other challenges in our community, it helps to have the shul as a resource to support those in need during turbulent times. This is where the *Caring Hearts* comes in. "Chesed" in Hebrew means "kindness or love between people" and in keeping with that definition, that's what they plan to provide.

This volunteer group, lead by Dr. Mechanik, will assist with tasks that will make a real difference for the people who need help the most. These include, but are not limited to:

- Calling congregants with well wishes
- Hospital or Shiva visits
- Assisting with Meal Train food
- Training with community professionals to better assist those in need

In a few weeks' time there will be an informational meeting about chesed committee operations. We encourage everyone interested in any level of participation to attend and learn in what ways they can be involved. To RSVP contact Dr. Mechanik at melodpm15@msn.com or reach out to Rachel at clergyassist@bmh-bj.org.

Boys and girls, join your friends at:

ב"ה

Year of Hakhel

MEGA

KIDS CHALLAH Bake

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2023

10:00AM

BMH-BJ - 560 S. Monaco Pkwy



Featuring
Rabbi B

Kids ages 3-12

Child must be accompanied by an adult

RSVP by January 18: \$12 per person · At the door: \$20 per person

For more information or to RSVP

Coloradokidschallahbake@gmail.com or 303-329-0213

chabadcolorado.com/challahbake

Sponsorship: Diamond \$5,000 · Gold \$2,500 · Silver \$1,000

*A community event brought to you by Bais Menachem
Generously sponsored by the MB Glassman Foundation*





WOMEN'S LEAGUE

HAMANTASHCHEN SALE

**CHOOSE FROM
YOUR FAVORITE
FILLINGS**

- Poppy seed-Parve (DE)
- Raspberry-Parve (DE)
- Apricot- Parve (DE)
- Nutella -Dairy

\$10 FOR A PLATE OF 6

PAY AT PICK UP ON FRIDAY

**MARCH 3RD FROM 9:30 AM- 1:00 PM AT THE
GIFT SHOP**

**OR AT THE PURIM CARNIVAL ON SUNDAY
MARCH 5TH 10:00 AM- 12:30 PM**

[CLICK HERE TO ORDER](#)





The Hydraulic West: Reclamation, Dams, Tunnels & Irrigation

Thursday, February 2 | 1:00 to 2:30pm
at BMH-BJ

Cost: \$5, includes light refreshments

This program invites you to explore both the intellectual and physical structures of our hydraulic society. We will consider the birth of the Bureau of Reclamation and how early projects like the Gunnison Tunnel in western Colorado, the Roosevelt Dam in Arizona, and the Hoover Dam have changed the way we relate to and use water in the West.

Advanced registration & payment required for all Kavod on the Road Programs.

Visit: KavodSeniorLife.org/SignUp or contact Rebecca at 720.382.7848 or RGershten@KavodSeniorLife.org

FEBRUARY 2023

**Kavod on the Road
Programs Include:**



**There is Always Something
More We Can Do About End
of Life Decisions**

Wed., Feb 8 | 10:30am - 12pm
at Temple Emanuel
Cost: \$5



**Jews of the Jungle: Four
Centuries of Jewish Life in
Suriname**

Wed., Feb. 15 | 2 - 3:30pm
at the JCC Denver
Cost: \$5



**Colorado Women of the
Ku Klux Klan**

Tuesday, Feb. 28 | 1 - 2:30pm
at Hebrew Educational Alliance
Cost: \$5

**Information & Registration:
KavodSeniorLife.org/SignUp**

In-Person and Virtual Event

Pharaoh Never Died: Midrash and the Art of Text-Weaving

February 2, 2023

7 - 9 PM MST

\$18 (free for members)

BMH-BJ Congregation



Rabbi David Kasher