
A Message From The Rabbi ...

Beware Listeners

by Rabbi Yaakov Hoffman

It is one of the most dramatic moments of the Torah. Yosef has “caught” Binyamin trying to steal his silver cup. Yehuda delivers an impassioned plea to be punished in his stead. What is going to happen next?


The excitement builds: *ולא יכל יוסף להתאפק*, Yosef could no longer contain himself! *ויקרא הוציאנו כל איש מעלי*, Yosef calls for all extraneous persons to leave, setting up for a dramatic reveal. Yet the Torah kills the suspense: *ולא עמד איש אתו בהתודע יוסף אל אחיו*. The Parasha tells us what is going to happen before actually relating Yosef’s words to his brothers!

Notice also how the verse states twice that no one was present when Yosef declared his identity to the brothers. First, that Yosef called for everyone to leave. Then, no one was there. Why are both these statements necessary?

I think that the Torah is emphasizing that there is a religious lesson to be had here--one which is much more important than making the story a good read. In the Ramban’s interpretation, the lesson is very important indeed:

Yosef knew that he was going to invite his brothers and their families to come live in Egypt – thus he needed to make sure that the Egyptians were pleased with the sojourners coming to live in their midst. Yosef did not want his Egyptian courtiers to be present when he came clean with his brothers, because he was concerned that if they knew the background story, they would think of his brothers as treacherous people, and be less than thrilled with such immigrants.

Just think – Yosef was so anxious to reveal himself, yet he had the presence of mind to delay speaking lest his words have unintended consequences. Of course, there are things that it is always forbidden to say, such as gossip (*לשון הרע*) and unnecessary hurtful speech (*אונאת דברים*). Sometimes, however, what we say is perfectly legitimate – but it is not the right time or the right place for the remarks.

Let us learn from Yosef, and take care not only about what we say, but also the impact our words might have on those listening. 

Shul Events:

The Washington Heights Congregation would like to thank **Cantor Shmuel Gilbert**, who has been our ba'al musaf for many years, and **Cantor Neil Schwarzenberger**, who joined us as ba'al shacharit for the second year, for leading most meaningful tefillah on **Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur**. During **Sukkot**, we had festive meals in the sukka organized by the shul and, as has been true for many years, yom tov ended with a splendid kiddush on **Simchat Torah** sponsored by **Sonya Jacobs** on the yahrzeit of her father-in-law **Rav Shmuel Jacobs** and in memory of her husband **Meyer Jacobs**.

On **Shabbat Vayigash, Dec. 15**, the shul sponsored a sit-down kiddush which was followed by a fascinating talk given by **Meira Wolkenfeld, Ph.D.** candidate in Talmud at the Revel School of Yeshiva University. She spoke about "Scent and Self in the Rabbinic Imagination," analyzing passages from the Talmud as well as Tanach. Many thanks to **David Sclar** who suggested the speaker and a special thanks to **Morris Whitcup** who organized the very successful event.

מזל טוב / Congratulations

To **Professor Hayim Tawil** on the birth of a granddaughter, **Bakol**, and to the parents, **Limor & Arik Tawil**

To **Dvora Hersh** on the engagement of her son **Benjy** to **Miriam Blander**

To **Bertha Gruenspecht** on the bar mitzvah of a great grandson, **Avraham ben David** (the name of his great grandfather **Alfred Gruenspecht A"H**), and to the grandparents, **Ruth & Phillip Fyman**, and the parents, **Debra & David Pfeffer**

To **Shelley Bulman** on the bar mitzvah of her grandson, **Nachman**, and to the parents, **Dvora & Meir Bulman**

To **Elan & Judy Rieser** on the bar mitzvah of their son, **Meishar Shimon**. Mazel tov as well to **Meishar's grandparents** and the extended families

Kiddush Sponsors:

Sept. 1, Ki Tavo: Margot Fein, on the yahrzeit of her grandmother, Anna Ossip Finestone

Sept. 8, Nitzavim: Rabbi & Giti Hoffman, in honor of Psachya's 3rd birthday and Rachel's 1st birthday

Sept. 15, Vayeilech: Elan & Judy Rieser on the bar mitzvah of their son, Meishar Shimon

Sept. 22, Ha'Azinu: Marjorie & Charlie Gregor, in celebration of the 2nd birthday of their granddaughter, Rivka Gregor

Oct. 2, Simchat Torah: Sonya Jacobs, on the yahrzeit of her father-in-law Rav Shmuel Jacobs, and in memory of her husband Meyer Jacobs

Oct. 6, Bereishit: Judy & Elan Rieser on the 13th yahrzeit of Dr. Michelle Daman Wasserman

Nov. 10, Toldot: Morris & Laura Whitecup, on the yahrzeit of Laura's father, Yosef Treitel

Nov. 17, Vayetzei: Rabbi Ellis & Leah Bloch

Dec. 1, Vayeshev: Sammy Tocker, on the yahrzeit of his father, Yaakov ben Yosef Matisyahu

Dec. 8, Miketz: Rabbi & Giti Hoffman, on his being Chasan Torah

Dec. 15, Vayigash: shul-sponsored sit-down kiddush with speaker Meira Wolkenfeld

Dec. 22, Vayechi: Judy & Elan Rieser on the 25th yahrzeit of Alice Einhorn Cohen, Judy's maternal grandmother and the mother of Dorothy Bromberg and by Dvora Hersh on the 21st yahrzeit of her brother Robert Alan Lowe (Yitzchok ben Kalonymus)

Dec. 29, Shemot: Mordecai & Leslie Segall

If you are interested in sponsoring a Kiddush,
please call the Shul office (212) 923-4407

Condolences to:

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of **Tamara Ainbinder o"h**, the mother of Joseph Ainbinder

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of **Itshak Holtz** in Jerusalem. An internationally-known painter with a special love for the Venetians and French Impressionists, he was a long-term member of the Washington Heights Congregation. In one of his pictures, he memorialized the splendid main sanctuary of our old building on West 161st Street

May they be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

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This year, we expanded our program to include a Wellness Project, offering weekly yoga classes and monthly massage therapy sessions.

For more information and/or to receive their e-mail news letter please go to **<http://www.moriahseniorcenter.org>**
or call **212-923-5715**

Washington Heights Congregation Zmanim

Winter/Spring 2019 / 5779

Zmanim subject to change: please consult the website and weekly e-mails for the latest times

SHABBAT MEVARCHIM PARASHAT VAERA

JANUARY 4-5

Candle Lighting	4:23
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	4:30
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	4:25
Maariv/Havdalah	5:27

SHABBAT PARASHAT BO JANUARY 11-12

Candle Lighting	4:30
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	4:40
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	4:30
Maariv/Havdalah	5:34

SHABBAT PARASHAT BESHALACH

JANUARY 18-19

Candle Lighting	4:38
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	4:45
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	4:40
Maariv/Havdalah	5:41

TU B'SHVAT MONDAY, JANUARY 21

SHABBAT PARASHAT YITRO JANUARY 25-26

Candle Lighting	4:46
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	4:55
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	4:45
Maariv/Havdalah	5:49

SHABBAT MEVARCHIM PARASHAT MISHPATIM

FEBRUARY 1-2

Candle Lighting	4:55
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	5:00
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	4:55
Maariv/Havdalah	5:57

SHABBAT PARASHAT TERUMAH

FEBRUARY 8-9

Candle Lighting	5:04
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	5:10
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	5:05
Maariv/Havdalah	6:05

SHABBAT PARASHAT TETZAVEH

FEBRUARY 15-16

Candle Lighting	5:12
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	5:20
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	5:10
Maariv/Havdalah	6:13

SHABBAT PARASHAT KI TISA

FEBRUARY 22-23

Candle Lighting	5:21
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	5:30
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	5:20
Maariv/Havdalah	6:21

**SHABBAT MEVARCHIM
PARASHAT SHEKALIM
VAYAKHEL**

MARCH 1-2

Candle Lighting	5:29
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	5:35
Shacharit (note early start)	8:35
Mincha	5:30
Maariv/Havdalah	6:29

**SHABBAT PARASHAT
PEKUDEI
MARCH 8-9**

Candle Lighting	5:37
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	5:45
Shacharit (note early start)	8:30
Mincha	5:35
Maariv/Havdalah	6:36

TURN CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR

**SHABBAT ZACHOR
PARASHAT VAYIKRA
MARCH 15-16**

Candle Lighting	6:44
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	6:50
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	6:45
Maariv/Havdalah	7:44

**TAANIT ESTHER
MARCH 20**

Fast begins	5:27
Fast ends	7:40

**PURIM
MARCH 20-21**

Mincha	6:50
Maariv	7:40
Shacharit	8:10

**SHABBAT PARASHAT TZAV
MARCH 22-23**

Candle Lighting	6:52
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:00
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	6:50
Maariv/Havdalah	7:52

**SHABBAT MEVARCHIM
PARASHAT PARAH
SHMINI
MARCH 29-30**

Candle Lighting	6:59
Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:00
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	7:00
Maariv/Havdalah	7:59

**ROSH CHODESH NISAN
SHABBAT HACHODESH
PARASHAT TAZRIA
APRIL 5-6**

Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:00
Candle Lighting	7:07
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	7:05
Maariv/Havdalah	8:07

**SHABBAT HAGADOL
PARASHAT METZORA
APRIL 12-13**

Mincha/Kabbalat Shabbat	7:00
Candle Lighting	7:14
Shacharit	8:40
Mincha	6:55
Maariv/Havdalah	8:15

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please call the Shul office at **(212) 923-4407**
The answering machine is checked frequently.
You may also consult our website at **www.bridgeshul.com**

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The Eruv

Information about the boundaries of the Washington Heights and YU Eruvin can be found at http://images.shulcloud.com/131/attachments/6279_DOC082112-003.pdf.

Note that the eruv does not extend into Fort Tryon Park or Gorman Park.

Find the CURRENT STATUS of both eruvim at <http://www.mtsinaishul.com/>, or call 646-450-ERUV, or send a text message (SMS) to 412-213-8991. If only the YU eruv is listed as unchecked, check www.yueruv.org closer to Shabbat, or listen to announcements in shul on Friday night.



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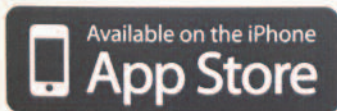
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