



BAIS HAKNESSES

Ohr Hachaim

Weekly
BULLETIN
שבת שלום

נר למאור
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פרשת קדושים

ו' אייר

MAY 11

MESSAGE FROM THE RABBI

“ואהבת לרעך כמוך”

A verse in the Torah that has become the foundation for social behavior, often referred to as “the golden rule.” We are familiar with Hillel’s response to the gentile who wanted to learn all of Torah on one leg. Hillel told him, “דעלך סני לחברך לא תעביד”, “What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbor. This is the entire Torah, all the rest is just explanation - go and learn it.” Yet this statement of Hillel’s is the negative form of what is stated in our possuk - ואהבת לרעך כמוך.

It is puzzling that Hillel would phrase it in such a way, but an even larger question presents itself when we look at Rashi on the passuk declaring, זה כלל גדול בתורה. Can we really boil down all of the Torah to this one concept, as Hillel and Rashi seem to imply? Is that all there is to it?

Consider this: how is it than mankind can live up to these most lofty ideals of social holiness, to guard and preserve the welfare of our neighbors, to suppress feelings of hatred and vengeance, and all to the point of loving one’s fellow and wanting for them what we would want for ourselves? With the pressures of our existence and emotional complexity that is the human experience, we are asked to rejoice when others succeed as we would for our own accomplishments. How is possible?

The passuk ends with אני ה', revealing that success in these endeavors comes from a true awareness of God as the creator and that each of us are His children in His world, recipients of His love, kindness, preservation and forgiveness. And so as we grow in our awareness of Hashem and in our relationship with the רבש"ע, we also grow in our relationships with each other, to the point where the impossible becomes possible. That same concept is the foundation of our ability to accept and embrace the חוקים given to us by the רבש"ע. As the Sforno writes, אני ה' notes that we keep these ordinances because we recognize the goodness of the רבש"ע and that שלא יצוה אלא הראוי והטוב, as he himself commanded ואהבת לרעך כמוך want only good for another.

As hopefully by now all are aware of the Shul’s upcoming dinner on June 2. Ohr Hachaim is proud to stand as a beacon of this message, a place where we come together for spiritual nourishment and social interaction. Our Shul has and continues to meet the needs of our community from a dozen daily minyanim to shiurim and vibrant family programming, and at times like this we need your help to continue.

Show your support by making a reservation and placing an ad in the journal as we come together once more. זה כלל גדול בתורה.

Have a good Shabbos,
יוסף צבי ווייס

SHABBOS ZMANIM

	Candle Lighting.....	7:55 PM
	Shkia.....	8:13 PM
	Mincha/Kabbolas Shabbos.....	7:00, 7:50 PM
	Shacharis.....	7:00, 9:00 AM
	Sof Zman Krias Shema.....	9:30 AM
	Youth Groups.....	9:30 AM KIDS DAVENING 9:45
	Mincha.....	2:00, 6:00, 7:40 PM
	Maariv.....	8:55 PM

AN EVENING OF



RESERVE YOUR SEATS

for this year's Annual Dinner,
taking place Sunday, June 2 at
Beth Tfiloh, honoring the
Braun and Finkelstein families.

OHRHACHAIM.NET/DINNER

SHUL NEWS

MAZAL TOV to Rabbi & Mrs. Kahana on the birth of a grandson! May they be טובים and זוכה לגדלו לתורה לחופה ולמעשים טובים!

MAZAL TOV to Avraham & Hadassah Feldman on the birth of a baby girl! May they be טובים and זוכה לגדלה לתורה לחופה ולמעשים טובים!

MAZAL TOV to newly minted grandparents Aron & Elisheva Finkelstein on the birth of a granddaughter to Shmuel Tzvi & Tamara! Mazal Tov to the great grandparents Rabbi & Mrs. Levi Finkelstein, Rabbi & Mrs. Israel Ettinger, and Mr. and Mrs. Yosef Berger. Mazal Tov as well to the great-great-grandfather Zaidy Spivak and the entire mishpacha. May they be זוכה לגדלה לתורה לחופה ולמעשים טובים!


KIDDUSH Thank you to the Finkelstein Irs for sponsoring this week's kiddush in honor of the baby naming. Mazal Tov!

TOWN HALL Please join Councilmen Izzy Patoka and Yitzy Schleifer this coming Monday, May 13th at 7pm at the Meyerberg Center 3101 Fallstaff for a regional Town Hall meeting.

SPECIAL ONEG Ohr Hachaim will host Rabbi YY Rubinstein for a timely lecture on “New Anti-Semitism & What to do About It” at 9:30pm with an oneg to follow at 10:15pm next Friday night, May 17 with divrei Torah, refreshments and zemiros.

AN EVENING OF

ROOTS & BRANCHES



והיה כעץ שתול ועלהו לא יבול וכל אשר יעשה יצליח

These profound words by Dovid Hamelech capture the essence of this year's Bais Haknesses Ohr Hachaim Annual Dinner: An Evening of Roots and Branches. On Sunday, June 2nd 2019, we will be celebrating those who planted the roots of success and aid us all in branching out with extraordinary advancements in the community. We hope that you'll join us as we reflect on these strong trees of our community who have helped develop the Shul into the critical family center it is today, and discover the new paths forward they pioneered for greater Baltimore Jewry.

Among such esteemed honorees are Rabbi Menachem and Chaya Braun, roots who have made Ohr HaChaim (Rabbi Weiss' Shul) the anchor and home base it is for so many in the area. With almost a decade of service as the Shul's gabbai and general COO, Rabbi Braun single-handedly ensured Ohr Hachaim's successful operation and sustained growth, investing his time and energy to maintain the smooth flow of the Shul. Whether it be through the friendly smile, a Yiddishe joke, or his sweet voice as baal tefillah, Menachem's presence adds a unique warmth and flavor to our davening and uplifts the entire kehillah. But even more than that, we are privileged to recognize the Brauns for shaping the culture of the Shul and molding its vibe to satisfy businessmen, yugerleit, and everyone in between. Their invaluable kiruv work for Project Xtreme and expert kashrus services are branches into disparate segments of our world that the Brauns seamlessly weave together, and everyone in the Shul has gained from the atmosphere they've worked tirelessly to forge. Fittingly, they will be presented with the Ohr Hachaim award in thanks for all they've done.

Another strong set of roots that has embedded itself within the Shul and larger community is the extensive and multi-generational Finkelstein family: Aron and Elisheva, Kalman and Gina, and Nechemya (Nick) and Dena. These three

brothers and their families exemplify the strength and righteousness that comes from deep family and religious roots, and the vast opportunities available to those with the drive to brave uncharted waters. From their parents to their grandchildren, it is hard at times to grasp the breadth of the Finkelsteins' contributions.

Though all three brothers partook in founding the shul on a communal level, Nick as a founding board member was among the small group of families that personally guaranteed the Shul's first mortgage, leveraging their own homes to do so. Along with Aron and Kalman, their early sacrifice allowed for what we have today to become a reality. Together, Nick and Kalman manage several Price Busters Discount Furniture stores, particularly catering to and engaging with disadvantaged Baltimoreans in areas to where others are hesitant to venture. In addition to Kalman's own determined efforts to build bridges with the Baltimore Police Department and his securing a committee seat as a Maryland delegate himself, the instrumental roles he played in the successful election campaigns of Dalya Attar and Isaac "Yitzzy" Schleifer has resulted in Orthodox Jewry in Baltimore being publicly represented as never before. He provides our Shul with an energy that only Kalman can, and a model for taking action on behalf of others. Aron's utilizes his talents and expertise in immigration law to help so many overcome obstacles to join our community and contribute to the flourishing Jewish melting pot unique to Baltimore. And thanks to Aron's unconditional love for the children of our Shul and singular vision, the Youth Program he established inspires the children of our kehillah every Shabbos. These branching achievements benefit us all by furthering the progress of the Baltimore community, and for that we look forward to recognizing them with a Community Advocacy award.

Finally, as the Baltimore Orthodox Jewish community grows in prominence and involvement with our city, it is imperative that we are given unfettered access to

civic, government and economic opportunities so we can spread our branches to help the City through our many talents and resources. With this in mind we are honored to be presenting, for the first time, the prestigious Captain Hyman P. Galbut Jewish Civil Rights Award to the Baltimore Police Department and our newly appointed Police Commissioner Michael Harrison, in grateful recognition of the friendship they have displayed toward the Orthodox community and recent efforts to pave a path for Shomer Shabbos citizens to join the force.

An American police officer with nearly two and a half decades of service under his belt, Harrison's impressive resume only reaffirms the notion that he is here to protect and serve the people – all types of people. Despite his short reign as Baltimore Police Commissioner, he has already begun making overtures between the secular and Jewish communities, combatting numerous obstacles to fight for the religious needs of the people. It is only because of Harrison's persistence and the example he sets for his staff that there is unprecedented amity among the two segments and a potential for a bright future, with rising opportunity for Jewish police figures.

The Baltimore Jewish community would not be where it is today without people like the Brauns, Finkelsteins, and Police Commissioner Harrison, and their vision challenges us to follow in their footsteps. Ohr Hachaim is fortunate to have been planted by giants, allowing for unbelievable growth and change. And now, with exhilarating plans to renovate the Shul and a widespread embracing of civic opportunity, there is room for others to become a part of something remarkable. Please join us at Ohr Hachaim's banquet on June 2nd to celebrate our roots and branches, and thank those who have improved our community. Together, we'll bring those seeds to fruition.

RESERVE YOUR SEATS

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