

Youth Minyan

OHHEL SARA NEWSLETTER

SHABBAT Eikev 22-23 AV 5775

Shabbat Schedule

Candlelighting— 7:46 PM

MIncha & Arvit— 7:05 PM

Shaharit – 8:45 AM-11:20 AM

Shiur by Rabbi Kalendarov – 6:15 PM

Minha & Seudat Shlishi – 7:00 PM

Arvit & Motzei Shabbat - 8:48 PM

Joke of The Week

David and Betty Goldstein were backpacking around Israel for the summer. One day they went for a hike and started getting hungry and spotted a small restaurant on the side of the road. Betty noticed a blackboard with a sign written in yellow chalk, "Today's Special: Vegetable Soup with Chicken Schnitzel and Grilled Vegetables." "I'll take the special," said Betty to the waiter when he came to take her order. "Me too," added David. A few minutes after receiving their order David called over the waiter, fuming. "IS THIS THE SPECIAL!? It says vegetable soup, BUT THERE ARE NO VEGETABLES! It says grilled vegetables, BUT THEY AREN'T GRILLED THEY ARE BAKED!?! And it says chicken schnitzel, BUT THESE ARE MEATBALLS! The waiter was totally unmoved by David's outburst and looked down and David and said, "Chabibi, you are absolutely right. That is what makes it so special!"

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Never Give Up, Never Surrender!

In last week's parsha Hashem told Moshe that he must stop praying because He cannot let Moshe into the land. So this week Moshe hints to the people that they will enter the land without him in an attempt to get them to pray for him. Although his plan did not work, we can still learn something amazing from this situation. Even though Hashem forced Moshe to stop praying and repeatedly forbade him from entering the land, Moshe would not give up. This perseverance lives on in us, even today, as is evident from the following story.

Jakob Blankitny, a Polish Jew, described his experience as follows:

"It was winter and the cold burned us; all the camp was flooded and muddy. They took our winter clothes and in exchange, gave us light clothes that looked like striped pajamas. With time you could see through these clothes, the extreme state of malnutrition and weakness of our bodies. They placed us in different barracks, with three-story bunks, placing four people per bed; totaling twelve humans per bunk. Our life in the camp started at five o'clock in the morning when they gave us coffee and a piece of bread. At the same time, we were counted like animals; making sure that nobody was missing. We were beaten and abused constantly, especially if someone unfortunately fell or moved in place because of the hard beatings. These beatings were executed at that immediate instant; making the vile SS soldiers fill with laughter to see in our faces, the horror to which we were subjected. We worked outside the camp until seven o'clock at night when we returned and they gave us a plate that contained a quarter of a liter of soup. Luckily, I was in the same barracks as my father. One of our first projects was to start digging water canals. Each evening we brought back to camp, four or five cadavers of our friends, who were taken directly to the crematoria. Constantly there were new selections; the sick were directly killed as we became increasingly more like skeletons. During this time, with everything appearing to be a terrible nightmare and not reality, I became sick with a terrible intestinal infection and, as a result of the bitter cold Polish winter, I saw my feet freeze and chunks of flesh and skin fall from my fingers. Then the son of the Rabbi of my city came up to me. I almost could not recognize him but he managed to stammer a few words and said, "You were a student of my father; you're young and you are going to survive. If you see my family, tell them I did not make it." That same day he died, but his words gave me the strength to live on. Of all the people in my city, Maków Mazowiecki, where 4,000 Jews originally lived before the start of World War II, only 42 survived. Of all my family in Poland, I was the only survivor."

The power of perseverance runs through our veins. So no matter what situation you are in, and no matter how difficult it may seem, DON'T GIVE UP!

(turn the page)

Weekly Schedule

Art Class (5-8yrs)
Sunday 10-11 AM

Sunday Program (5-13yrs)
11:00 AM-12:30PM

Torah and Me With Rabbi B
Wednesday 8:45 PM-9:45 PM

Parsha In a Nutshell

In the Parshah of Eikev ("Because"), Moses continues his closing address to the children of Israel, promising them that if they will fulfill the commandments (mitzvot) of the Torah, they will prosper in the Land they are about to conquer and settle in keeping with G-d's promise to their forefathers. Moses also rebukes them for their failings in their first generation as a people, recalling their worship of the Golden Calf, the rebellion of Korach, the sin of the spies, their angering of G-d at Taveirah, Massah and Kivrot Hataavah ("The Graves of Lust"). "You have been rebellious against G-d," he says to them, "since the day I knew you." But he also speaks of G-d's forgiveness of their sins, and the Second Tablets which G-d inscribed and gave to them following their repentance. Their forty years in the desert, says Moses to the people, during which G-d sustained them with daily manna from heaven, was to teach them "that man does not live on bread alone, but by the utterance of G-d's mouth does man live." Moses describes the land they are about to enter as "flowing with milk and honey," blessed with the "seven kinds" (wheat, barley, grapevines, figs, pomegranates, olive oil and dates), and as the place that is the focus of G-d's providence of His world. He commands them to destroy the idols of the land's former masters, and to beware lest they become haughty and begin to believe that "my power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth." A key passage in our Parshah is the second chapter of the Shema, which repeats the fundamental mitzvot enumerated in the Shema's first chapter, and describes the rewards of fulfilling G-d's commandments and the adverse results (famine and exile) of their neglect. It is also the source of the precept of prayer, and includes a reference to the resurrection of the dead in the messianic age.

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Turn on the lights; Why Light Shabbat Candles

It is one of the most beautiful sights and experiences within the gamut of Jewish life. The lady of the house walks toward the candelabra with great anticipation, knowing that she is about to touch something other-worldly. She strikes the match, lights the candles, closes her eyes, and makes the blessing. As she finishes the blessing and begins to recite a special prayer, an overwhelming feeling of spirituality permeates her inner core. Shabbat has arrived into her open and welcoming arms.

Why do we signify Shabbat's entry by lighting up the lights?

Imagine yourself going into the kitchen in the darkness of the night looking for a midnight snack. The lights are off and you cannot see anything in the room. It's so dark, you can't even find the light switch. You can't see or access that snack you desire, even though it's sitting right there. The food is ready to be eaten, but as far as you are concerned it doesn't exist, because you are steeped in darkness.

What happens when you find the switch and turn on the lights? A brand new room, midnight snack included, emerges.

Our Sages refer to the physical world as darkness. Spirituality is present in the world around us but it can be very difficult to find. All too often we're in a dark room. On Shabbat we turn on the lights and see the spiritual dimension that has always been there.

When we light candles welcoming the Shabbat, the spiritual light of the world turns on. Now we can see what we truly yearn for -- holiness, meaning, and sanctity.

When we light the Shabbat candles, we turn on the lights of our soul and spirituality becomes clear. We feel God's presence and His involvement in our lives with the appearance of the Shabbat Queen.

On Shabbat, we don't merely physically rest. We take a mental break from our busy and stressful workweek. We increase our serenity; our prayers, our song, our Torah studies, and our kindness. All become energized.

With the lights on, we are inspired to live, to learn, to love. We spend time with our children, our families, the most important people in our lives.

With the lights on, we realize that there's no such thing as 'not having time for something important' -- we must make the time. We all make time for things we recognize as being crucial. When was the last time you went without eating an entire day? We need to learn to see what are truly the crucial things in life.

On Shabbat, we internalize the idea that sometimes we're so busy driving that we don't stop for gas, and then we run out of gas and burn out the car.

On Shabbat, we rejuvenate and reconnect so we can inspire others. With the lights on, we understand that while sometimes 'it is what it is,' we have the ability to change what it is and to make it better.

On Shabbat, God always leaves the light on for us.

(By Rabbi Boruch Leff Reprinted Permission of Aish.com)

WEEKLY HALACHA

1) Which 2 type of actions cause forgetfulness?

A. Putting on 2 clothes at same time and laying your head on clothes while sleeping.

2) What size kippa should one have when praying?

A. Kippa that covers majority of the head.

3) If one is not praying, may one wear a small kippa?

A. Yes, as long as it can be visible to others from all 4 corners.