

## What is a Friend?

"...Judah went up to Timnah to his sheepshearers, together with his friend Chirah the Adullamite." (Bereishis 38:12)

One of the most cherished possessions that a person could have is a good friend. It would be appropriate to mention here the saying, "A friend in need is a friend indeed." But what does it mean? I think it is stating on a superficial level that when a person finds himself in a precarious predicament and needs an unbelievable amount of help or financial assistance, the friend who is willing to help out and suffer the aggravation in order to relieve his friend from his discomfort, is a true friend.

However, I don't believe that that is the totality of what a true friend is, rather this is only where friendship **begins**. I would like to share with you Rabbi Shimon Schwab's (1908-1995) explanation of what a friend is.

The first time that the word "friend" (רעה) is found in the Torah is with Yehuda and his friend, Chirah the Adullamite. As for why a good Jewish boy has such a close gentile friend is a subject that has to be discussed – but in a different forum. What we find in this situation seems to be something quite the opposite of what we wrote above. Yehuda did an act which normally would be considered improper conduct. Now it could very well be in other societies, and perhaps even in the Adullamite society, such actions would be acceptable. But for a religious Jew such as Yehuda, this would be considered totally inappropriate. Yehuda was willing to share this information with Chirah and thereby made himself vulnerable. He was not concerned that his friend would judge him harshly, nor that there would be repercussions of losing his friendship. On the contrary, he was confident that he would not be judged negatively. Rav Shwab says that this is the litmus test of what a true friend is. Rabbi Schwab explains that the Hebrew word (רעה) comes from the same root as רע (ra), which means bad. This is to show that a real friendship is one where someone is confident enough in the friendship, that no matter what he reveals, his friend will be there for him.

A similar idea can be found in the *Rambam's* explanation on the *mishna* in *Pirkei Avos* (1:6): Acquire for yourself a friend (The *Rambam* explains that a true friend is one who no matter what you tell him – good or bad – he will

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## Lifecycles

Mazel Tov to the **Cohen** and **Hill** families on the marriage of their children **Yehuda** and **Aviva!**



Mazel Tov to **Reuven** and **Leah** Subar on the birth of a Grandson to their children Mr. & Mrs. Aharon Subar. *Shalom Zachor* and bris will be at Arzei Habirah 45, Jerusalem.



## Sponsor a Shabbos program for just 250₪

יש לי זוג - וישבת שמו

## Learning & Oneg Shabbos

Elevate your Leil Shabbos!

**20:30** Beis Medrash Learning or Alshich Hakadosh shiur from R' Avishai Hill

**21:30** Oneg Shabbos

## Shabbos Schedule Parshas Vayeishev לוח שבת פרשת וישב

Erev Shabbos		ערב שבת
Mincha 1	12:30	מנחה א'
Candle Lighting	16:03/16:23	הדלקת נרות
Mincha 2	16:25	מנחה ב'
Sunset	16:43	שקיעה
Shabbos Day		יום השבת
Brachos	08:00	ברכות
Shochet Ad	08:30	שוכן עד
Latest Shema – M. A.	08:19	סוף זמן ק"ש למג"א
Latest Shema – G'ra	09:07	סוף זמן ק"ש לגר"א
Mincha 1	13:00	מנחה א'
<b>Pele Yoetz Shiur</b>	<b>15:45</b>	<b>פלא יועץ</b>
Mincha 2	16:00	מנחה ב'
Sunset	16:43	שקיעה
Ma'ariv 1	17:20	מעריב א'
Ma'ariv 2	17:43	מעריב ב'



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not judge you negatively. He will see you in the same light, no matter what you tell him.

I have also seen this applied to explain the sixth *bracha* of *sheva brachos* – – תשמח תשמח רעים אהובים – to mean that we hope that the new couple become true friends, loving each other despite any deficiencies that may be revealed.

I believe that this lesson is extremely important when one is looking to find a true friend. Not every close acquaintance is a friend. The way to know if someone is a true friend is if you can lean on your friend even in the most trying situations of need, while remaining confident that he won't judge you negatively. Indeed.



## Mi Shebeirach for Cholim

**Reminder:** If you would like the Gabbai to read the name of a *choleh* on Shabbos during the *Mi SheBeirach*, you must submit it via Email to Mrs. Zakoo by Thursday! Send your list of *Hebrew Names* using *Hebrew Letters* to Mrs. Zakoo at [office@ahavasshalom.org](mailto:office@ahavasshalom.org).





# KIDS SHABBOS ACTIVITIES

בית מדרש  
אהבת שלום  
רמת בית שמש

## WINTER SCHEDULE

**BOI B'SHALOM**

Separate programs for Boys & Girls (6-12)

In shul & shul hall, led by Rabbi Yitzchok Rubin

**EREV SHABBOS: 30 MINS BEFORE MINCHA**

**GIRLS KABBALAS SHABBOS**

Led by Rebbetzin Teshuva, 38/8 Lachish

**EREV SHABBOS: FROM MINCHA**

**CHILDREN'S STORY TIME**

Boys & girls in the shul hall

Led by Rabbi Lev Seltzer

**BETWEEN KABBALAS SHABBOS AND MAARIV**

**DAVENING IN SHUL WITH THE KEHILLA**

Treats from Rabbi Lev Seltzer

**FRIDAY NIGHT DAVENING**

**BOY'S LEARNING PROGRAM**

Led by Rabbi Naftali Kaplan in the shul

Followed by Oneg in shul hall

**FRIDAY NIGHT: 8.30PM TO 9.00PM**

**BOCHURIM LEARNING**

Learning in the shul with a special bochurim snack table

**FRIDAY NIGHT: 8.30PM TO 9.30PM**

**DAVENING IN SHUL WITH THE KEHILLA**

Treats from R' Hananiah Lasker followed by Kids' Or HaChaim Kiddush

**SHABBOS DAY DAVENING**

**AVOS U'BANIM IN SHUL**

Followed by prizes, ice cream & treats

Led by R' Shlomo Hollander

**MOTZEI SHABBOS: 7.00PM TO 8.00PM (subject to change)**

## אבות ובנים



**AuB Motza'ei Shabbos at 19:00!**  
Boys aged 7+ learn for 1 hour

Ice cream & treats sponsored by Aitan Zacharin

L'ilui Nishmas

**Eugene ben Michael, Z"L**

(Mrs. Zacharin's Father)

Yahrtzeit Kislev 17

Prizes sponsored by Zev Kornbluh and Family

You can also sponsor the Prizes, Treats or Ice Cream for just 150 ILS contact Shlomo Hollander for details





## Pele Yoetz Shiur

Continuing this Shabbos afternoon, Rav Zachariash will give his shiur for men on **Pele Yoetz**. This week, the shiur will begin at **15:45** in the hall on the topic **חול המועד**.



## Netziv Hayom

Sponsor *Netziv Hayom* in memory of your loved ones or in honor of a special occasion, and all the learning and davening that take place in our shul during that day will be in the merit of your choosing. Just 120 ₪ per sponsorship, which is announced via a notice on the "Netziv Hayom" board in the shul, as well as an announcement in this newsletter. To sponsor a day please contact Mrs. Zakoo [Netziv@ahavasshalom.org](mailto:Netziv@ahavasshalom.org).



15 Kislev sponsored by the Reich and Berger Families

לע"נ אברהם בן יוסף ז"ל

16 Kislev sponsored by the Gitstein Family

לע"נ נעחע יהודית בת חנוך ע"ה

20 Kislev sponsored by the Beer Family

לע"נ רייזל בת משה ע"ה

**Did you make a pledge to the shul?  
Fulfill your pledge online with ease!**

## TOP 3 METHODS PAYMENT METHODS:

- Nedarim Plus terminal next to the front door
- Online at [ahavasshalom.org/NEDARIM](http://ahavasshalom.org/NEDARIM)
- [PayPal.me/ahavasshalom](https://www.paypal.com/ahavasshalom)

Please help our *bookkeeper* by always writing a note—or sending a separate email—which explains the purpose of your payment/donation. For example, include the *parsha* or *pledge date* if applicable. Thank you!!

## Shiurim with the Rav

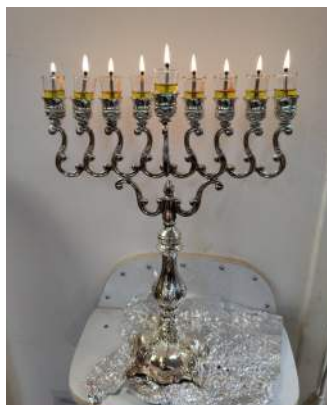
The Rav will be giving 2 shiurim this coming week:



SUNDAY 21:15: *Mishnayos - Mikvaos*

## HILCHOS CHANUKAH 20:15 TUESDAY

All shiurim are given in shul and via ZOOM at this link: [cutt.ly/AhavasShalomZoom](https://cutt.ly/AhavasShalomZoom)  
Shiurim are archived at [ahavasshalom.org/youtube](http://ahavasshalom.org/youtube)



Questions that appear in this newsletter come from [RBSsemicha.com](http://RBSsemicha.com). Four volumes of questions are now available in print. See [rbssemicha.com/books](http://rbssemicha.com/books) for more information.

## Q&A: Light Before it's Too Late!

**Q** The Rosh Yeshiva gave Yitzchak Tzvi the honor of lighting the Menorah in the Yeshiva's Beis Medrash on Friday night of Chanukah, so Yitzchak Tzvi made sure to daven *mincha* early and be there on time. Unfortunately, his friends didn't feel the same way and, at 6 minutes to sunset, only Yitzchak Tzvi, Rabbi Michaels and the Rosh Yeshiva were in the room! The Rosh Yeshiva was none too pleased, but told Yitzchak Tzvi to light now lest it becomes too late to light. However, should Yitzchak Tzvi say the two *brochos* before lighting?

**A** Yes. Even though one would normally not say the *brochos* on lighting a menorah in the shul unless 10 men were present, in this particular case, one may rely on the fact that the rest of the yeshiva will eventually arrive, and there will be a public display of the miracle (*pirsumei nisa*), which is required. OC 671 M.B. 47

## Q&A: Maariv or Light? Light or Maariv?

**Q** At Kehillas Shaarei Shamayim, *maariv* was scheduled for 7:00pm, about 2 hours after sunset.

1) Reuven was home from work and had plenty of time to light his menorah and/or go to *maariv*. Which should he do first?

2) Levy was running very late, and didn't get back home until just before 7:00pm. Should he light first, or daven *maariv* first?

For both of the above cases, please give the opinions of the M.B. and the A.H.

**A** 1) Both the M.B. and A.H. hold that Reuven should light candles first and then go to *maariv* at 7:00pm.

2) Since it is already time for *maariv*, the M.B. and A.H. hold that Levy should first daven *maariv* and only afterward light candles. This is because *maariv* is *tadir* — something Levy does every day, while lighting the menorah is only 8 times a year. *Maariv* also contains the Biblical commandment of reciting "Shema."

In a perfect situation, both the M.B. and A.H. hold that one should try light candles shortly after sunset and shortly before the time to daven *maariv* in the synagogue. This will enable a person to also fulfill the opinion of the Rambam.

OC 672 B.H. "Lo M'acharim" A.H. 6

## COMMUNITY CARE

Do you know someone in our Kehilla who is unwell?

Please let us know so that we can arrange home/hospital visits and meals.

Contact: Alan Rubenstein 054-398-8570

You can also inform the Ahavas Shalom Vaad.



## BOCHURIM KUMZITS IN THE FOREST

FOR BOYS FROM BAR MITZVAH YEAR  
AND OLDER (AND THEIR FATHERS).

BONFIRE, KUMZITS & BBQ MELAVA  
MALKA IN A FOREST NEAR RBS

FROM 20:15 TO 22:30

LIVE MUSIC

RIDES ARRANGED FOR THOSE WITHOUT CARS  
CONTACT YOSI BENJAMIN TO RESERVE OR  
FOR MORE INFO 0528602620



## קואזיץ לבכורים ביער

לבחורים מגיל בר מצווה ומעלה.

מדורה, קואזיץ ומנגל מלווה מלכה ביער ליד רמב"ש

משעה 20:15 עד 22:30

מוזיקה חיה

נסיעות מסודרות עבור אלה ללא מכוניות

## Davening Changes for Chanukah

Changes begin on Wednesday (Dec 25) at Mincha.

- First Shacharis at 06:10.
- 07:15 Shacharis in the HALL on Rosh Chodesh, only.
- Extra Mincha 20 minutes before sunset (~16:25).
- Extra Maariv 20 minutes after sunset (~17:05).
- Extra Mincha at 13:30 on Friday Dec 27.
- No second Maariv Motza'ei Shabbos Mikeitz (Dec 28)
- Schedule returns to "normal" at Mincha next Thursday (Jan 2).

- לא יתקיים המניין השני של מעריב במוצאי שבת פ' מקץ. יהיה רק מניין אחד 37 דקות אחרי שקיעת החמה.

משולחנו של הרב אברהם ברוך זכריש

## מה זה חבר?

"...ועל-על-גזי צאנו הוא וְחִירָה רָעָהוּ הָעֵדֻלְמִי תִמְנְתָהּ" (בראשית לח:יב)

אחד הדברים היקרים ביותר שיכול להיות לאדם הוא חבר טוב. מן הראוי להזכיר את האמרה "חבר שעוזר כשאתה במצוקה הוא חבר אמיתי". אבל מה זה אומר? אני חושב שזה אומר בצורה שטחית שכאשר אדם נקלע למצוקה, וזקוק לעזרה רבה או סיוע כלכלי, החבר שמוכן לעזור ולסבול מעגמת הנפש כדי לעזור לחברו בבעיות שלו, הוא חבר אמיתי.

אבל לדעתי זה לא מכסה את המכלול של מה זה להיות חבר אמיתי, אלא שם רק מתחילה החברות. אני רוצה לשתף אתכם בהסבר של הרב שמעון שוואב מה זה חבר אמיתי.

הפעם הראשונה שבה מוצאים המילה "רעהו" (חבר) בתורה היא אצל יהודה וחברו, חירה העדולמי ולמה היה לו גוי כחבר קרוב זה נושא שצריך לדון בו - אבל בפורום אחר. המצב הזה כנראה שונה לגמרי ממה שכתבנו למעלה. יהודה עשה מעשה שבדרך כלל ייחשב כהתנהגות פסולה. זה יכול מאוד להיות בתרבויות אחרות, ואולי אפילו בעיני העדולמים, שמעשים כאלה יהיו מקובלים. אבל עבור יהודי דתי כמו יהודה זה היה לגמרי לא ראוי. למרות זאת, יהודה היה מוכן לשתף את המידע הזה עם חירה ובכך לפתוח את עצמו להיות פגיע. הוא לא היה מודאג שחברו ישפוט אותו בחומרה, וגם לא שיהיו השלכות של ניתוק הידידות. להיפך, הוא היה בטוח שהוא לא יישפט לשלילה. הרב שוואב אומר שזה המבחן האמיתי של מי נחשב חבר טוב. הרב שוואב מסביר שהמילה העברית "רעות" קשורה לאותו שורש כמו "רע". זה כדי להראות שחברות אמיתית היא שבה בטוחים מספיק בחברות, שלא משנה מה יגלו, החבר יהיה שם בשבילו.

רעיון דומה ניתן למצוא בהסבר הרמב"ם על המשנה בפרקי אבות (א, ו): "וקנה לך חבר". הרמב"ם מסביר שאחד המאפיינים של חבר אמיתי הוא, "...וידועהו כל עניינו הטוב מהם והמגונה מבלתי שירא ממנו שישגיגהו בכל זה חסרון לא אצלו ולא זולתו..."

ראיתי גם את המושג הזה כהסבר של הברכה השישית של שבע ברכות - "שמח תשמח רעים אהובים" - שאנו מקווים שהזוג החדש יהפוך לחברים אמיתיים, שיאהבו זה את זה למרות כל החסרונות שעלולים להתגלות.

לדעתי חשוב ביותר כאשר אדם רוצה למצוא חבר אמיתי, להבין שלא כל מכר, קרוב ככל שיהיה, הוא חבר. הדרך לדעת אם מישוהו הוא חבר אמיתי היא אם אתה יכול לסמוך על חברך גם במצבי הצורך המאתגרים ביותר, תוך ביטחון שהוא לא ישפוט אותך לרעה.

זמנים לימי חול	יום	'א(Sun)	'ב(Mon)	'ג(Tue)	'ד(Wed)	'ה(Thu)	'ו(Fri)	Weekday times until Parshas Mikeitz
עד פרשת מקץ	שחרית	06:20, 07:15, 08:10	06:20, 07:15, 08:10	06:20, 07:15, 08:10	06:20, 07:15, 08:10	06:10, 07:15, 08:10	06:10, 07:15, 08:15	
	מנחה	13:00, 15:15	13:00, 15:15	13:00, 15:15	13:00, 15:15, 16:25	13:00, 15:15, 16:26	12:30, 13:30, 16:29	
	מעריב	19:00, 21:00	19:00, 21:00	19:00, 21:00	17:06, 19:00, 21:00	17:07, 19:00, 21:00	*Hall	

HaRav Avrohom Baruch Zachariash, Sh'lita, Rav  
Su-Fr 08:30-09:15 and Su-Th 19:15-20  
Cellphone: 052-763-5938  
Binyomin Rubenstein, Chairman  
binyomin@ahavasshalom.org 054-237-0028

Administrative Secretary: Miriam Zakoo  
Su & Tu 11:00-13:00 and Th 10:00-12:00  
J 058-3263914 office@ahavasshalom.org  
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Ramat Beit Shemesh, Israel

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Email Rav: ahavasshalom.org/email-rav

Newsletter Design: Lev Seltzer lev@ahavasshalom.org  
Newsletter Contact: Send your lifecycle events, news,  
comments, etc. to lev@ahavasshalom.org. Remember: If we  
don't know about your event, we can't publish it!