

True Love

"...(Yosef) fell on his (Yaakov's) neck, he wept on his neck a good while." (Bereishis 46:29)

RASHI: "Yaakov, however, did not fall upon Joseph's neck nor did he kiss him. Our Rabbis say: the reason was that he was reciting the Shema."



When a person is asked how much of himself he is willing to give to the service of Hashem, different people will have different ways of answering. I believe that what we say in Shema tells us the correct answer: "*Bechal Nafshecha*" – one should even give one's life to serve *Hakadosh Baruch Hu*. And for those individuals, discussed in the Gemara, to whom their money is worth more than their lives, there is the obligation of "*Bechol Meodecha*" – with all their money or resources.

I recall once visiting an older man in the hospital whose family was not religious. He told me, "I have nowhere to go home to – why should I want to get better?" He was a well-to-do man, but because he didn't see that he could spend his money now in the same way he could before he got sick, and there was no connection with whatever family remained, he therefore felt that he had no further purpose in life.

I have seen similar situations in people who were dedicated to their jobs and then were fired, or who got divorced and their own families turned against them. Everything for which they had been living until then evaporated and seemingly left them with no purpose to go forward. But in actuality, they haven't lost their purpose in living. Even the person who is unconscious in the hospital has the ability to do the *mitzvos hatemidios*, as by just thinking about these *mitzvos* in their mind, they can fulfill these *mitzvos* constantly.

So how do we determine what is a "purposeful existence"?

As religious Jews we understand that being alive and having the ability to serve Hashem – this alone is a reason to exist. And these verses from *Shema* are here

(Continued on page 2)

Lifecycles

The Kehilla offers condolences to Mrs. **Elisheva Kovacs** on the loss of her father, **R' Tzvi Rosen**. Mrs. Kovacs will be sitting Shiva in her home (Lachish 29/1) at these times:
Thu: 11:00-22:30; **Fri:** 10:00-13:00; **M. Shab:** 19:30 - 22:30

הַמָּקוֹם יִנְחָם אֶתְכֶם בְּתוֹךְ שָׂר אֲבִלִי צִיּוֹן וִירוּשָׁלַיִם



Mazel Tov to **Zev and Harriet Kornbluh** on the birth of a great-granddaughter born to their grandchildren **Simcha and Tohar Spolter** in Ofakim.



SAVE THE DATE
MOTZA'EI SHABBOS BESHALACH
FEB 8 OR 11 SHEVAT

AHAVAS SHALOM 25TH ANNIVERSARY
MELAVEH MALKAH
THE HALL AT KEHILLAS AHAVAS TZION

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Shabbos Schedule Parshas Vayigash לוח שבת פרשת ויגש

Erev Shabbos		ערב שבת
Mincha 1	12:30	מנחה א'
Candle Lighting	16:11/16:31	הדלקת נרות
Mincha 2	16:33	מנחה ב'
Sunset	16:51	שקיעה
Shabbos Day		יום השבת
Brachos	08:00	ברכות
Shochein Ad	08:30	שוכן עד
Latest Shema – M. A.	08:25	סוף זמן ק"ש למג"א
Latest Shema – G'ra	09:12	סוף זמן ק"ש לגר"א
Mincha 1	13:00	מנחה א'
Pele Yoetz Shiur	15:55	פלא יועץ
Mincha 2	16:10	מנחה ב'
Sunset	16:52	שקיעה
Ma'ariv 1	17:29	מעריב א'
Ma'ariv 2	17:52	מעריב ב'

Mi Shebeirach for Cholim

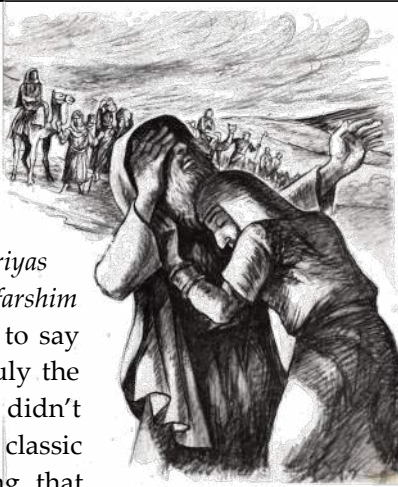
Reminder: If you would like the Gabbai to read the name of a *choleh* on Shabbos during the *Mi SheBeirach*, you must submit it via Email to Mrs. Zakoo by Thursday! Send your list of *Hebrew Names* using *Hebrew Letters* to Mrs. Zakoo at office@ahavasshalom.org.



(Continued from page 1)

to tell us how to use our lives to the greatest degree.

As the above Rashi quotes, when Yaakov met Yosef, he said *keriyas shema*. Many of the *mefarshim* ask, "Was this the time to say *Shema*? And if it was truly the time to say *Shema*, why didn't Yosef say it too?!" The classic answer is that the thing that Yaakov loved the most in the world was his son Yosef. And now when he was meeting him, this was the ideal time to show that his love for Hashem exceeded even his love for his son.



Similarly, when Rabbi Akiva was being raked to death with iron combs and was asked, "How are you so calm"? He answered, "My whole life I have been waiting for this opportunity, because the ultimate service of Hashem is when you are willing to give up something really dear to you. Now I can fulfill that by giving up my life for Hashem." In Yaakov's case, showing his love to Hashem was by using the great love he felt when he saw his son to connect to Hashem. In Rabbi Akiva's case, it was his willingness to sacrifice his own life which showed his incredible love for Hashem.

We should be thankful that we generally are not tested to this extreme point, but we should always be conscious of the concept and proper attitude to have. If we think about being tested, we may even get rewarded as if we did it. So even though we are not being tested, let us give our all to our service of Hashem.

המשך מעמוד 4

"רַבֵּנוּ, עַד כָּאֵן?" אָמַר לָהֶם, "כָּל יְמֵי הַיִּיְתִי מִצָּטְעָר עַל פְּסוּק זֶה: "וְאַהֲבַתְּ אֶת ה' אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּכָל לִבְבְּךָ וּבְכָל נַפְשְׁךָ" (דְּבָרִים ו, ה) - וְאַפְלוּ הוּא נוֹטֵל אֶת נַפְשְׁךָ, אֲמַרְתִּי: מָתִי יָבֵא לְיָדִי וְאַקְיָמֵנוּ! וְעַכְשָׁו שָׁבָא לְיָדִי - לֹא אֶקְיָמֵנוּ!"

יעקב הראה את אהבתו לה' על ידי שניצל את אהבתו לבנו כשראה אותו כדי להתחבר יותר לה'. רבי עקיבא הראה את אהבתו העצומה לה' על ידי נכונותו למסור את נפשו.

עלינו להעריך שבדרך כלל איננו מנוסים עד לנקודה קיצונית זו, אך עלינו להיות תמיד מודעים לרעיון ולגישה המתאימה לנו. אם נחשוב תמיד על נסיונות כאלו, אולי אפילו נקבל שכר כאילו עברנו נסיון. אז למרות שאנחנו לא מנוסים, הבה ניתן את כל כולנו לעבודת ה'.

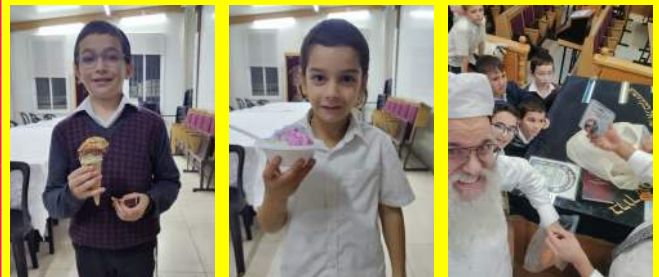
אבות ובנים



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

Thank you to this week's sponsors:
Prizes: Zev Kornbluh and Family

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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 **15:55** in the hall on the topic **חורבן בית המקדש**.



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.



28 Kislev sponsored by the Reich and Berger Families

לע"נ יוסף בן בנימין זאב ז"ל

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TOP 3 METHODS PAYMENT METHODS:

- Nedarim Plus terminal next to the front door
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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*

TUESDAY 20:15: *Hilchos Chol Hamoed*

All shiurim are given in shul and via ZOOM at this link: cutt.ly/AhavasShalomZoom

Shiurim are archived at ahavasshalom.org/youtube

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

Q&A: Partial Payment for Shabbos

Q Mr. Goldberg hosted a Kiddush at The Boca Shul on Shabbos morning for the Yahrzeit of his mother. On Friday afternoon, VIP Glatt Kosher Caterers sealed the kosher food into the shul's warming ovens. Mr. Goldberg hired two Jewish boys, Jacob Silverstein and Noah Silverberg, to come in on Shabbos morning, open the ovens and put out all the food. To avoid *schar Shabbos*, he also hired them to come on Saturday night to clean up. The boys did a wonderful job at the Kiddush, but Noah then got into his car and drove to Fort Lauderdale to party — he apparently was not a religious Jew — and didn't come back on Saturday night. On Sunday, Noah called up Mr. Goldberg and asked for his salary for the 2 hours that he worked on Shabbos day. May Mr. Goldberg give him his salary if it will be **only** for the time worked on Shabbos?

A Mr. Goldberg may pay Noah. If Mr. Goldberg hired Noah to work on Shabbos, but then didn't pay him due to a Rabbinic law, this would be a desecration of Hashem's name. Therefore, paying Noah becomes a mitzvah and Mr. Goldberg may pay him.

OC 306

Q&A: Paying the Shabbos Doctor

Q Dr. Ahuva Feldman received a call at 3:00 AM on Shabbos morning. It was Mrs. Silverman, and she was in heavy labor. The two met at Mt. Sinai Hospital and, after just an hour, Mrs. Silverman was the mother of another baby boy. With her work done, Dr. Feldman left the hospital and went back home to have Shabbos lunch with her family. On Monday, may Dr. Feldman send Mr. Silverman a bill for \$5000, which is her normal charge for birthing services rendered, even though those services happened exclusively on Shabbos?

A Yes. While *schar Shabbos* is forbidden, the Rabbis permitted this in the case of a doctor because, if the doctor is not paid fully for her services, she might not come the next time she is called on Shabbos.

OC 306 M.B. 24



GMACH SMACHOT

IF YOU SUFFER A LOSS CONTACT THE GMACH TO BORROW ITEMS NECESSARY FOR A *SHIVA* HOME, ahavasshalom.org/smachot Or call 054-566-5083 OR 050-203-0584

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.

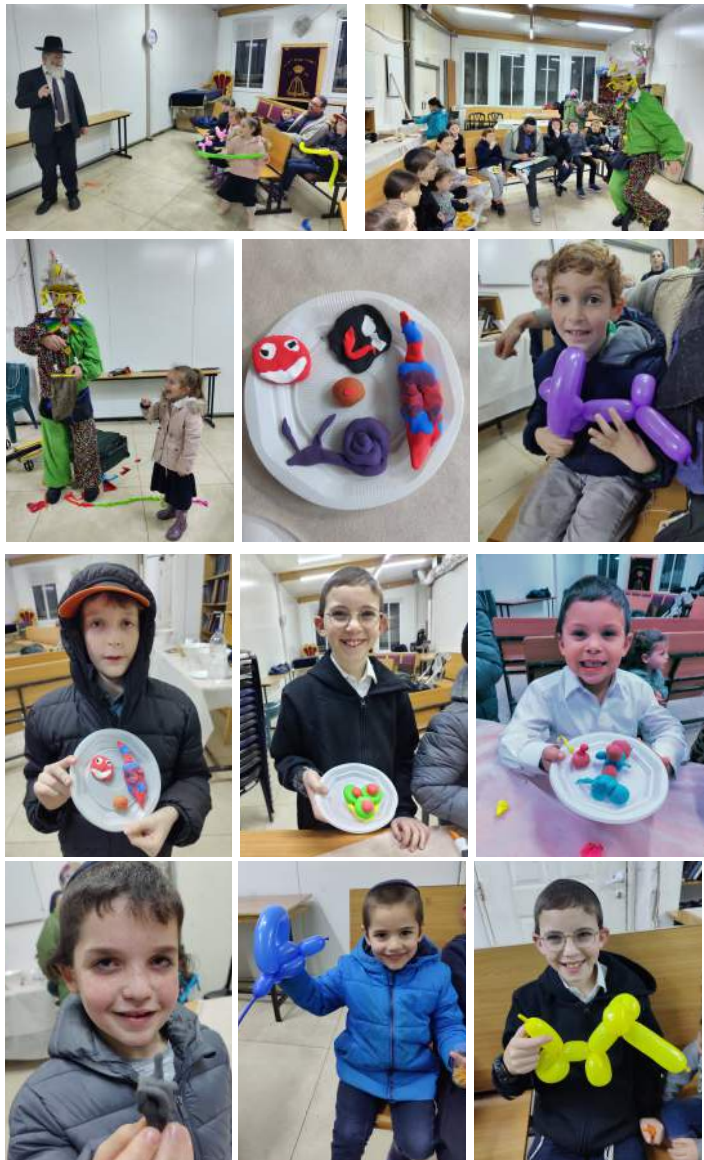
Contact: Alan Rubenstein 054-398-8570

You can also inform the Ahavas Shalom Vaad.



Chanukah Party

Thank you to Mrs. Elisheva Goldwater and Mrs. Shuli Harris for arranging such a wonderful party with so many different activities for everyone! Download these and more pictures from: ahavasshalom.org/chanukah-party-5785/



Tenth of Teves Fast

Davening times are changing as follows:

- Fast begins: Friday at 05:24.
- Shacharis **06:20** (sunrise 06:42), 07:15 (Hall) & 08:15.
- Mincha at 12:30 and **16:25** ← NOTE EARLIER TIME. The 18 minutes before sunset *mincha* is pushed to 16:25 so there is sufficient time for *leining*.



משולחנו של הרב אברהם ברוך זכריש

אהבה אמיתית

"...ויפל (יוסף) על-צואריו ויבך על-צואריו עוד" (בראשית מו:כט)

אָבֶל יַעֲקֹב לֹא נָפַל עַל צְוֹאֲרֵי יוֹסֵף וְלֹא נִשְׁקָו, וְאָמְרוּ רְבוּתֵינוּ, שֶׁהִיָּה קוֹרָא אֶת שְׁמֵעַ: (רש"י שם)

כששואלים אדם כמה מעצמו הוא מוכן לתת לעבודת ה', לאנשים שונים יהיו תשובות שונות. לדעתי מה שאנו אומרים בשמע מלמד אותנו את התשובה הנכונה, "ובכל נפשך" - להיות מוכנים אפילו למסור את חיינו למען הקב"ה. ולאילו אנשים שכספם שווה להם יותר מחייהם, על אנשים אלו ישנה חובת "ובכל מאודך" - בכל כספם או רכושם.

אני זוכר שפעם ביקרתי בבית החולים מבוגר שבני משפחתי לא היו דתיים. הוא אמר לי, "אין לי בית לחזור אליו - למה שארצה להתאושש?" הוא היה אדם אמיד, אבל בגלל שלא ראה שהוא יכול להשתמש בכספו עכשיו באותה דרך כמו לפני שחלה, ובנוסף גם לא היה לו קשר עם משפחתו, לכן הרגיש שאין מטרה נוספת בחיים שלו.

ראיתי מצבים דומים אצל אנשים שהיו מסורים לעבודתם ואז פוטר, או שהתגרשו ומשפחותיהם פנו נגדם. כל מה שלמענו חיו עד אז כבר לא היה, ולכאורה לא נשארה להם שום מטרה להמשיך. אבל למעשה, הם לא איבדו את ייעודם בחיים. גם למי שנמצא מחוסר הכרה בבית החולים יש את היכולת לעשות את המצוות התמידיות, שכן על ידי מחשבה בלבד, ניתן לקיים מצוות אלו ללא הרף.

אז איך אנחנו קובעים מה הם "חיים תכליתיים?"

כיהודים דתיים אנו מבינים שלהיות בחיים עם היכולת לעבוד את ה' - זו לבדה סיבה לקיומנו. והפסוקים משמע הם כאן כדי ללמד אותנו כיצד להשתמש בחיינו למטרה הגדולה ביותר.

כפי שהביא רש"י לעיל, כשפגש יעקב את יוסף, קראת שמע. רבים מהמפרשים שואלים, "האם זה הזמן לקרוא שמע? ואם באמת הגיע הזמן לשמע, מדוע גם יוסף לא קרא?" התשובה הקלאסית היא שמה שיעקב הכי אהב בעולם היה את בנו יוסף, ולכן כשפגש אותו היה הזמן הטוב ביותר להביע את אהבתו לה' שעלתה אפילו על אהבתו לבנו.

בדומה לכך, כשגזרו מיתה על רבי עקיבא, היו סורקין את בשרו במסרקות של ברזל, והיה מתפנן לקבל עליו על מלכות שמים באהבה בקריאת שמע. אמרו לו תלמידיו, המשך בעמוד 2

Learning and Oneg Shabbos

16:03 Boi BeShalom Kids' programs (Girls and Boys)

20:30 Boys: Learning followed by Oneg Shabbos at 21:00

20:30-21:30 Bochorim: Learning with special snack table

20:30 Adults: Beis Medrash Learning or *Alshich Hakadosh* shiur from R' Avishai Hill followed by Oneg Shabbos 21:30

זמנים	יום	א(Sun)	ב(Mon)	ג(Tue)	ד(Wed)	ה(Thu)	ו(Fri)	Weekday times until Parshas Vayechi
למי חול	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	06:20, 07:15, 08:10	06:20, 07:15*, 08:15	
עד פרשת ויחי	מנחה	13:00, 15:15	13:00, 15:15	13:00, 15:15	13:00, 15:15	13:00, 15:15	12:30, 16:25	
	מעריב	19:00, 21:00	19:00, 21:00	19:00, 21:00	19:00, 21:00	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
Shul Address: 33 Nachal Lachish 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!