

Hashem's Favorite Children

"...and bring out my armies, my people the children of Yisrael, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments." (Shemos 7:4)

I have a friend who was very close with Rav Aharon Leib Steinman zt"l (1914-2017). Once, during a conversation, Reb Aharon Leib asked him: "If you were walking down the street and someone cursed you or beat you because you're Jewish, how would you respond?"



My friend hesitated and answered briefly, "I would try to ignore it."

Reb Aharon Leib then followed up: "If you were walking down the street, and a block ahead you saw your own son being attacked or cursed for being Jewish - what would you do?"

My friend replied immediately, "I'd probably run over, catch the guy, and beat him to a pulp!"

Reb Aharon Leib smiled and explained the lesson: When someone attacks you personally, and it's about your honor, you're often willing to overlook it. But when it's your son's honor, you feel a responsibility to "set the record straight". He continued, "The same applies when those against Torah attack me personally - I can often sit quietly and let their folly continue. However, when they attack the Torah itself and those who represent it, I must stand up for them - even take revenge for the honor of Hashem!"

I heard this story many years ago and always wondered if there was a Torah source for this idea. This week, I came across an explanation that mirrors it exactly. Rav Shimshon Dovid Pincus zt"l (1944-2001) asks: "Why did Hashem need to inflict so many severe punishments on the Egyptians - up to 50 plagues in Egypt and up to 250 more on the Yam Suf?" He answers with the following parable from the Vilna Gaon (1720-1797): There was a king with two sons. One son got into a fight with the other and ended up killing him! The surviving son came to his father and begged for mercy: "After all, I'm still your son." The king responded, "Yes, you are my son, but the one you killed was also my son! To have mercy on him would demand that you receive the punishment that you rightfully deserve. Therefore, I cannot pardon you." So too with Hashem: When the Egyptians committed atrocities against *bnei Yisrael*, He had to punish them to the fullest degree,

(Continued on page 2)

Lifecycles

Mazel Tov to Yisroel & Bella Helprin on the marriage of their granddaughter Sheva Helprin (of Houston) to Zevi Klein (of Far Rockaway).



Shiurim with the Rav

The Rav will be giving 2 shiurim this coming week:



SUNDAY 21:15: *Mishnayos - Parah*

TUESDAY 20:15: *Hilchos Netilas Yadayim*



All shiurim are given in shul and via ZOOM at this link:

ahavasshalom.org/zoom

Shiurim are archived at ahavasshalom.org/youtube

Shabbos Schedule Parshas Vaera לוח שבט וארא

Erev Shabbos		ערב שבת
Mincha 1	12:30	מנחה א'
Candle Lighting	16:22/16:42	הדלקת נרות
Mincha 2	16:44	מנחה ב'
Sunset	17:02	שקיעה
Shabbos Day		יום השבת
Brachos	08:00	ברכות
Shochin Ad	08:30	שוכן עד
Latest Shema - M. A.	08:28	סוף זמן ק"ש למג"א
Latest Shema - G'ra	09:15	סוף זמן ק"ש לגר"א
Mincha 1	13:00	מנחה א'
Pele Yoetz Shiur	16:05	פלא יועץ
Mincha 2	16:20	מנחה ב'
Sunset	17:03	שקיעה
Ma'ariv 1	17:40	מעריב א'
Ma'ariv 2	18:03	מעריב ב'

(Continued from page 1)

because they tried to obliterate His children, who He loves so much.

I believe that it is important to keep in mind: Even when people who attack or persecute us seem to escape without consequence, eventually judgment will catch up with them. They will be punished for daring to rise up against *klal Yisrael*. At the same time, it is incumbent upon us to act like children of Hashem in order that Hashem can defend us as His "favorite child." Our job is to be *mikadesh shem shamayim* wherever we go.

These weeks – when we recount the exodus from Egypt – are generally referred to as the weeks of *shovavim*. This is an opportune time to repent and draw closer to Hashem. May we merit that through our efforts to connect to him, we help bring the full redemption – and retribution to all those who have persecuted us.

Guest Donations!

Guests can now easily make donations and/or fulfill pledges via the new membership portal:



MEMBERS.AHAVASSHALOM.ORG

The Portal accepts donations in shekels via Credit Card and Bank Transfer and even US Dollars via American Friends of Ahavas Shalom!

Don't Be Left Out!

When you have a simcha (or R"l a sad event), it is *so easy* to have it included in the next newsletter! Just send an email to lev@ahavasshalom.org by 11:00 Thurs.



Reminder: Sending an instant message, an email, or speaking to anyone else will probably result in your announcement not making it to the newsletter!

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.



Donate a Sefer!

We are always interested in expanding our library, so if you would like to donate *sefarim* or *siddurim* in memory or in honor of a loved one, please contact Yehuda Nyssen (050-412-0515) to make arrangements.



המשך מעמוד 4

השבועות הללו – שבהן אנו מספרים את סיפור יציאת מצרים – נקראות בדרך כלל 'שבועות השובבי"ם'. זה זמן מיוחד לתשובה ולהתקרבות לה'. יהי רצון שנזכה שבזכות מאמצינו להתחבר אליו, נסייע להביא את הגאולה השלמה – יצדק אמיתי לכל מי שרדפו אותנו.

אבות ובנים



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

ICE CREAM and Hot Pizza

plus **RAFFLE for PRIZES**
for all participants at 20:05!

Ice Cream sponsored by the Hill Family
Pizza sponsored by Rabbi & Mrs. Chaim Hollander



We need sponsors for the Raffle, Treats & Ice Cream. Login to the membership Portal
Members.ahavasshalom.org
and sponsor Avos uBanim now!

Kids Shabbos Programs



Boi B'Shalom

(for boys & girls)
30 minutes before
Mincha (16:14)

STORY TIME with Rabbi Seltzer

Friday Night in the Hall while the Rav gives his Drasha. For boys (not girls) up to Bar Mitzvah.



Learning & Oneg Shabbos

Elevate your Leil Shabbos!



SPECIAL
NOSH TABLE
FOR BOCHRIM!

20:30 Beis Medrash Learning or
Parsha shiur from R' Avishai Hill

21:30 Oneg Shabbos

עונג שבת לילדים אכיתה ד' ואעלה

סם הפה נפתלי קפאן

20:30 לימודים בבית אדרש

21:00 עונג לבחורים באולם

Sponsor all the programs for a Shabbos for 250 ILS
by logging in to Members.ahavasshalom.org
For details contact Yisroel Harris Yisroel@ahavasshalom.org

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.



Teves 24 sponsored by Rabbi & Rebbetzin Zachariash

לע"נ שושנה בת החבר חיים ע"ה

Teves 24 sponsored by The Beer Family

לע"נ גיטל בת חיים יצחק ע"ה

Sponsorships are always printed in the newsletter issue after the sponsorship date unless specifically requested.

Pele Yoetz Shiur

Rav Zachariash's shiur for men on *Pele Yoetz* continues this week 15 MINUTES before the last *mincha*. This week, the shiur will begin at 16:05 on the topic **ישוב הדעת**.



Did you know that the questions that appear in this newsletter come from the RBSsemicha.com

The Halacha Shiur just started learning Hilchos Netilas Yadayim. Come Tuesday to learn more!

Just One Rugelech...

Q Shimmy picked up three pounds of Zomick's rugelach from The Kosher Marketplace, said the *brocho* of *mezonos* and began to nosh on his way home. Just before he got to the lobby, he saw that he had only one rugelach left! At that point, Shimmy realized that he had eaten nearly three pounds of rugelach and would have to *bentsch* afterward.



However, if he wants to eat the very last rugelach, does he need to wash and say *hamotzi* first?

A No. Shimmy does not need to wash or say *hamotzi* and may rely on the *mezonos brocho* that he said at the beginning of his noshing. The one rugelach remaining is not large enough to be a *seuda* on its own (if it was, he would have to wash). However, as stated, he will have to *bentsch* after eating the entire box.

O.C. 158; Shaar Hatzion 8

But No One Washes For Fruit!

Q In Rabbi Cohen's *halacha* class, he explained to the participants that before eating a food dipped in a liquid, the S.A. requires one to wash his hands as if he were eating bread. Andy raised his hand and proclaimed, "But Rabbi, I have yet to see even one person at Kehillas Shaarei Shamayim follow this *halacha*!" Rabbi Cohen explained that there are other opinions that permit a person to eat a food dipped in liquid without washing. Who are these other opinions?



A The Magen Avraham writes that the *minhag* today is not to wash. Also, the A.H. writes that while one should try to follow this *halacha*, he acknowledges that most people do not follow it as we are not *machmir* with *tuma* and *tahara* today.

O.C. 158; M.B. 20; A.H. 4 & 5

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



Mevarchin Rosh Chodesh Shevat

הַמּוֹלַד יִהְיֶה בְּיוֹם רִאשׁוֹן, שֵׁשׁ דְּקוֹת וְאַחַד-עָשָׂר חֳלָקִים אַחֲרֵי שְׁלוֹשָׁה בְּצִהְרִים.



The Molad will be Sunday, 6 minutes and 11 *chalakim* after 3 in the afternoon.

רִאשׁ חֹדֶשׁ שְׁבַט יִהְיֶה בְּיוֹם שְׁנִי הַבֶּא עֲלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל לְטוֹבָה.

Rosh Chodesh Shevat will be on Monday.



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

Yahrzeit Etiquette

With the *haskama* of the Rav, we'd like to remind the *kehilla* that if you would like to lead davening on a Yahrzeit that you notify the Gabbai *before* showing up. Several members have a *chiyuv* every day, and this is an excellent opportunity for you to show kindness to your fellow Jew by giving them the opportunity to daven at a different minyan. If you have a *chiyuv* for a Yahrzeit, please contact the appropriate gabbai (see table below) - or contact the Head Gabbai if you can't get through. They will let you know if the *amud* is available when desired (there might be another member with a *chiyuv* at the day and time you want).



Head Gabbai	Naftali Kaplan	0548438919
Shacharis 1	Aryeh Waldman	0534138535
Shacharis 2	Shlomo Dickman	0547668751
Shacharis 3	Gedalia Spira	0527632011
Mincha 1	Lev Seltzer	0584827684
Mincha 2	Gedalia Spira	0527632011
Maariv 1	Lev Seltzer	0584827684
Maariv 2	Shlomo Dickman	0547668751
Fri Mincha 1	Shlomo Dickman	0547668751
Sha. Mincha 1		

משולחנו של הרב אברהם ברוך זכריש

בני החמד של ה'

וְהוֹצֵאתִי אֶת-צִבְאָתִי אֶת-עַמִּי בְּנֵי-יִשְׂרָאֵל מֵאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם בְּשָׁפְטִים גְּדֹלִים: (שמות ז:ד)

יש לי חבר שהיה קרוב מאוד לרב אהרן לייב שטיינמן זצ"ל. פעם אחת, בשיחה ביניהם, שאל אותו רבי אהרן לייב: "אם היית הולך ברחוב ומישהו קילל אותך או היכה אותך רק מפני שאתה יהודי - איך היית מגיב?"

חברי היסס והשיב בקצרה: "הייתי מנסה להתעלם."

רבי אהרן לייב המשיך ושאל: "ואם היית הולך ברחוב, ובמרחק מאה מטר לפניך היית רואה את בנך מותקף או מקולל מפני שהוא יהודי - מה היית עושה?"

חברי השיב מיד: "כנראה שהייתי רץ אליו, תופס את הבחור ומכה אותו מכות רצח!"

רבי אהרן לייב חייך והסביר את הלך העמוק: כאשר מישהו תוקף אותך באופן אישי, והעניין הוא כבודך האישי - אתה מוכן בדרך כלל להתעלם ולסלוח. אבל כאשר מדובר בכבוד בנך - אתה חש אחריות עמוקה להתערב ול"יישר את ההדורים".

והוסיף: אותו דבר קורה כאשר אנשים נגד התורה תוקפים אותי באופן אישי - אני יכול לשבת בשקט ולתת לשטותם להימשך. אולם כאשר הם תוקפים את התורה עצמה ואת אלה שמייצגים אותה - אני חייב לעמוד לימנים, ואפילו לנקום את כבוד ה'!"

שמעתי את הסיפור הזה לפני שנים רבות, ותמיד תהיתי אם יש מקור תורני לרעיון כה עוצמתי. השבוע הזדמן לי הסבר שמשקף בדיוק את הרעיון הזה.

רבי שמשון דוד פינקוס זצ"ל שואל: "מדוע היה צריך הקב"ה להעניש המצרים כל כך הרבה עונשים קשים - עד 50 מכות במצרים ועוד עד 250 על ים סוף?"

הוא עונה במשל יפהפה מהגר"א: פעם היה מלך ושני בנים לו. אחד הבנים התקוטט עם השני והרג אותו. הבן החי בא אל אביו וביקש רחמים: "הרי אני עדיין בנך!" המלך השיב: "כן, אתה בני - אבל גם זה שהרגת היה בני! רחמים עליך ידרשו שתקבל את העונש הראוי לך. לכן אינני יכול למחול לך."

וכך גם הקב"ה: כאשר המצרים עשו מעשי זוועה בבני ישראל, היה עליו להעניש אותם במידה המרבית - מפני שניסו למחוק את ילדיו האהובים.

אני מאמין שחשוב לזכור: גם כאשר נראה שאנשים שתוקפים ומענים אותנו מצליחים להימלט ללא עונש - בסופו של דבר הדין יתפוס אותם. הם ייענשו על שהעזו להתגרות בכלל ישראל.

מצד שני, חובתנו לפעול כבניו האמיתיים של הקב"ה - כדי שהוא יוכל להגן עלינו כעל "בנו האהוב". תפקידנו לקדש שם שמיים בכל מקום שאנו הולכים.

המשך בעמוד 2

זמנים	יום	'א(Sun)	'ב(Mon)	'ג(Tue)	'ד(Wed)	'ה(Thu)	'ו(Fri)	Weekday times until Parshas Bo
למי חול	שחרית	06:20, 07:15, 08:10	06:10, 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 בא	מנחה	13:00, 15:15	13:00, 15:15	13:00, 15:15	13:00, 15:15	13:00, 15:15	12:30, 16:50	
	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
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WhatsApp: [ahavasshalom.org/WhatsApp](https://www.whatsapp.com/channel/00299a6330000000000000000000000000)
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!