



Congregation Zera Abraham

Volume XIV, No. 06

Shabbos Parshas Lech • 18 Cheshvon • October 27th

This week's Eruv is sponsored by Rabbi and Mrs. Hillel Erlanger l'n Rav Eliezer ben Yaakov a"h

This week's Kiddush is sponsored by Mr. Jared Becker as a Hakaras HaTov to the Kehilla.

** Please remember to repeat Krias Shema.**

Friday Night Minyan

This Week Parshas VaYera,
October 27th

Candlelighting (18 minutes): **5:47**

Mincha: 5:52

Likras Shabbos: 5:22

Shir HaShirim 5:35

Next Week: Parshas Chayei

Sara, November 4th

Candlelighting (18 minutes): **4:30**

Mincha: 4:25

This Sunday: Move Your Clock

This Sunday begins Daylight Savings Time. Turn back your clocks one hour.

Rov Out-of-Town

The Rov will be away this week from Wednesday afternoon through Thursday night. He will be reachable as usual at 303-476-3909 or RabbiTzviSteinberg@gmail.com.

Pirchei Starting this Week!

For Boys 3rd through 8th Grades only, each week at Yeshiva Toras Chaim, 1 hour and 10 minutes before Mincha in Shul. Please address any questions to Ezriell Abrams.

MB Glassman Youth Shalosh Seudos

The M.B. Glassman Youth Shalosh Seudos continues. Thanks is expressed to all those who volunteered last year to supervise and have made this program possible. Please bear in mind that each father who has a boy who stays for Shalosh Seudos is asked to take a turn supervising. Many thanks are expressed to the M.B. Glassman Foundation and its officers for this wonderful program. This week TBA will supervise.

MB Glassman Avos U'Bonim

Avos U'Bonim starts next Shabbos, Parshas Chayei Sara, November 3rd, for another season of father-son learning, with Melave Malkas, swimming, nosh and prizes! Learning will take place at Yeshiva Toras Chaim. Please look out for flyer with schedule for the season. If you would like to be on the Avos U'Bonim email list, please email tkurtz@merkaztorah.org.

Any Question, on Any Subject!

ANY QUESTION, ON ANY SUBJECT!

Now every Shabbos you can watch halacha come to life from the source. Ask any question at the Shul Shalosh Seudos and watch how a psak is formed from the gemora to modern day shailos.

Submit your questions to RabbiSteinberg@zeraabraham.com and come be part of the sugya as your question is discussed by all and answered.

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Night Seder: Shtender Building again this Sunday

The Night Seder for Bochorim continues. For 7th and 8th Grade Bochorim, every night from 7:45 to 8:30. There is a separate nightly shiur for each grade. Special activities - **Shtender Building this Sunday, October 28.** For more information, please speak with Rabbi Polter at 303-359-4839 or Rabbi Chaim Abrams 303-667-9565.

Attention Women and Girls

Please join us for the Nineteenth Annual Series of Shabbos M'Vorchim Diveri Torah. The second one

will take place, iy"h, Shabbos Parshas Chaya Sara, November 3rd at 2:45pm, at the home of Mrs. Tzivi Kurtz. The speaker will be Mrs. Tova Seligman.

Challah Bake

Join fellow Jewish women of Colorado in an evening of Challah baking, fun and inspiration. 97 Countries, 1416 Cities, 1 Million People Worldwide, One Shabbos, One Challah Bake. Be A Part Of It! Please register to book your spot. Limited seating. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-great-big-challah-bake-colorado-tickets-49311463916>

Parsha Delight and ספר משעמי זרע אברהם

See the question below on the Parsha. Offer an acceptable answer to the Rov at the kiddush and receive a chocolate! Each week the answers for the previous week's Parsha Delight question will be printed in the newsletter. At the end of the year we will publish a compilation of the questions and answers. This program is for ages 5-105. Sponsored by East Side Kosher Deli.

Newsletter E-mail List and Contact Information

Please e-mail all contributions, mazel tovs, sponsorships, etc. to zera.abraham@gmail.com no later than Wednesday evening. E-mail ensures that nothing will be left out or misspelled. All entries will run

for one week unless otherwise specified. The Shul reserves the right to omit or amend any submissions. To be added to the e-mail distribution list, please send an e-mail requesting to be included.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM HARAV AVIGDOR MILLER ZATZA”L

Q: How is it possible that a person could be punished by being paid off for a mitzvah in this world? This world is only temporary and the reward for a mitzvah is eternal?

A: He’s asking how it could be possible what we said tonight that a person can be paid off for his good deeds in this world. If Olam Habah is eternal reward how can this world ever be a substitute? And the answer is that it’s big punishment. It’s a terrible oinesh when Hashem takes the eternal reward of a mitzvah and He says, “Here’s a million dollars instead of that reward. I’ll have you win the lottery and I’ll pay you off in this world.” The worst thing that could happen to a man in this world is to be paid off in this world.

It’s a big oinesh because a mitzvah is deserving of a reward that is לעד ולנצח – happiness in the World to Come forever and ever. And therefore, when somebody is deserving of that great oinesh it’s called the nekama ha’gedolah, the great revenge. That’s what the Rambam calls it, the nekama ha’gedolah; to be paid off in this world is the most terrible thing. Just because of your question, that’s why it’s the worst punishment a man could ever get – because you’re exchanging the eternal reward of the Next World, for a bowl of lentils, or for a million dollar lottery ticket in this world. TAPE # 880

Q: What is one supposed to think when he cries out to Hashem and Hashem doesn’t answer?

A: We are supposed to think that Hakodosh Baruch Hu wants you to cry out even more. And suppose you cried out even more – let’s say a man is on his deathbed. He’s an old man, he’s 119 years old. Look, he can’t expect to live much more. But he cries out anyway on his deathbed, he wants to live. And finally he passes away. Did he waste his time? No! He achieved maybe in his last minutes more than he did all of his life. Because he’s thinking about Hashem.

Here’s an old man who’s crying out on his deathbed. He says “Hashem heal me”. “Oh that’s so silly!” you say. The bystanders think its ridiculous. He wants to be healed! How long do you want to hang around here? 119 years is not enough? And the answer is, it’s not enough. He wants to live a thousand years. Why shouldn’t he? He had a grandfather who

lived a thousand years. Mesushelach lived almost a thousand years, so why shouldn’t he? So he’s crying out; he’s allowed to cry out. And don’t say that he didn’t accomplish what he wanted. He did accomplish! The crying out is the purpose of the deathbed – so that he should cry out to Hashem and become more and more aware of Him. That’s the biggest achievement there is. So nobody should ever be frustrated in crying out, because you are achieving. You are gaining more awareness of Hashem. TAPE # 555 (June 1985)

Q: What should a person’s thoughts be when *chalilah* he suffers pain?

A: Pain is sent for a purpose. And the purpose is to ask Hakodosh Boruch Hu for help. That’s the purpose. And if people ask Hakodosh Boruch Hu for help when they’re well, then they’re going to save themselves from many *tzaros* that are sent upon people to stimulate them to ask Hashem for help. If you cry out to Hashem in happiness – “Hashem, thank to for my healthy kidneys. I love You for keeping me healthy. Please watch over me” – then Hashem says “I’m satisfied; as long as you cry out to Me in happiness, you’re a success, because you are making yourself aware of Me. But if you do not cry out, I might have to give you a reason to cry out.”

Because we’re here in this world mostly to become aware of Hashem. And to become aware of Hashem you need stimuli. Things are necessary to make us aware of Hashem. And so, we have two choices: Become aware of Hashem because of the good things that’s He’s giving you or become aware of Him because of distress.

So therefore, if a person chooses to thank Hashem and sing to him at all times – for this, and for this, and for that – so Hashem says, “That’s good enough; I don’t have to send him any troubles.” But if a person ignored Hashem, and only when there’s trouble, that’s when he cries out, so Hashem says, “I don’t want to do it, but it pays to give you trouble because you gain the great benefit if thinking about Me. That’s for you the biggest benefit.”

And after a hundred and twenty years, when you come to the Next World, you will say, “Hashem, I thank You for causing me that pain because it made me think about You, and I called out to You.” Calling out to Hashem is a tremendous

achievement! So call out while you’re well, and you won’t have to call out for other things. TAPE # E-218 (January 2000)

Shabbos Davening and Learning	
Likras Shabbos.....	5:22
Shir HaShirim	5:35
Candlelighting.....	5:47
Mincha.....	5:52
Mishna Berura	Rav Steinberg..... 8:00
Shacharis.....	8:30
Sof Zman Krias Shema.....	9:26, 10:02
Bnos	2:00
Pirchei	4:20
Sefer HaChinuch	R' Dovid Zussman 3:00
Daf Yomi	R' Yoil Unger..... 3:30
Gemara Shiur- Maseches Pesachim.....	Rabbi Rosskamm 4:30
Gemora Shiur- Sugyas Kiddush.....	Rav Steinberg..... 4:30
Mincha.....	5:30
Shkiah	6:03
Maariv.....	6:54
Weekday Davening	
Shacharis.....	Sunday..... 6:30, 8:00
.....	Monday and Thursday..... 6:10
.....	Tues. Wed. and Friday..... 6:20
Mincha.....	Sunday-Thursday... .. 5:45 followed by shiur
Maariv.....	Sunday-Thursday... .. after Mincha and 8:30
Daf Yomi.....	R' Yoil Unger M-F at 5:20 am, Sun at 7:20 am
Kinyan Masechta Kesubos....	Rav Steinberg M-Th..... 7:30 pm
Kinyan Masechta Review.....	Rav Steinberg Sun..... 9:00 am
Chabura Shmiras Halashon .	Rabbi M. Zussman M-Th..... after Maariv

Impolite Things Otherwise Polite People Do in Shul
Improving Shul Etiquette on Wednesday, October 10 2018.
By Rabbi Efrem Goldberg, Rav of Boca Raton Synagogue, taken from the Boca Raton Synagogue website (rabbisblog.brsonline.org)

The long Yom Tov season is over and our children are back in school. But what did they learn while they were off? There is no question that young people gain formal education and amass information from their teachers and schools, but the most powerful influence on their character is the model they see from those around them. Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "Your actions speak so loudly, I cannot hear what you are saying."

We are blessed to live in an amazing community with kind, sensitive, courteous people. I get regular feedback praising our members and our community as warm and welcoming. I am always proud when people comment how refreshing it is to interact and engage with the people in our shul and not to experience some of the rude behavior that

unfortunately is commonly associated with our brothers and sisters in other communities.

I still think, however, that there are areas in derech erez, kindness and courtesy, which we as a community can work on. Having spent so much time in Shul over the last several weeks, I observed several patterns of behavior that, while not malicious or poorly intended or reflecting a rude attitude, nevertheless lack the consistent derech erez we aspire to. These are not particular to our community; indeed, in consultation with my colleagues from around the country, I can confidently say most are ubiquitous in shul life. And I want to be very clear: while pointing some of these out may seem self-serving, I really don't believe any of this is about me or protecting rabbis' honor generally. This is about all of us and the sometimes unintended consequences and messaging resulting from what feels like benign behavior. If we make these minor adjustments and remain sensitive in these areas and others, we can raise the level of courteousness and consideration in shul and everywhere we go.

● "If you come here to talk, where do you go to daven?" This sign discouraging talking during davening hangs in many shuls and appeals to our spiritual conscience and ambition not to talk. But there is an even more basic reason to refrain from conversation during shul: It is rude. Even if we struggle to connect with prayer and are willing to exchange a conversation with the Almighty for a conversation with our neighbor, it is unkind to someone within earshot who isn't undergoing that struggle. People who talk aren't bad people. They are often outgoing, social, warm, and gregarious. But without even being aware, they are acting unkind. There are people all around shul davening who are utilizing a safe space to experience an intimate conversation with Hashem. We wouldn't talk while someone is trying to watch a show, we wouldn't talk while someone is swinging on the golf course or tennis court, and we shouldn't talk and cause a distraction when people are trying to daven. Talking in our shul generally is not bad, but that is not the standard we strive for in any other area and we shouldn't be satisfied with it regarding this. We can do better; we owe it to ourselves and to those around us.

● When I was young, if a child walked across a room while someone was speaking to a crowd or congregation, the child's parent would be mortified, grab the child to come sit until the talk was over, and would strongly instruct the child never to walk into a room while someone is speaking again. If not the parent, another adult would stop the child and direct them not to

walk through the room at that time. Our sweet, precious children rely on us to place boundaries and condition proper behavior. Children who come into shul during a sermon or lecture to speak with a parent, or to collect candies, or deliver a message, should gently be instructed that this is not an appropriate time to do so. If we don't teach them derech erez, who will?

● We have a wonderful community of learners who come each Shabbos for the class before mincha. Even many people coming for mincha arrive early to catch the end of the class. If we aren't there in time, the proper thing is to find the first available seat. If we are early for mincha, we should wait quietly in the back. Arriving towards the end of class and walking

through the room is discourteous to both the speaker and those attending the shiur.

● We are fortunately blessed to enjoy the presence of many young children in shul. Shul should be a place children feel excited to come to and be part of. That said, parents must use judgment when bringing younger children into shul during davening. If the child begins to make noise, the "shushing" that follows is almost always ineffective and only serves to make the disruption worse. Parents-men and women-should be aware that the best solution to their child making noise is to immediately take the child out of shul. Even if one is in the middle of Shmoneh Esrei, it is Halachically preferable to pause, walk out of shul with the child, and continue the prayer outside, than to ineffectively shush the child or allow him or her to continue to disrupt others.

● It is understandable that it isn't always possible to be in shul on time, particularly for women. While catching up with davening, it is important to be thoughtful and considerate when saying the Shmoneh Esrei (Amida). If you are by your seat during the derasha, standing and swaying in davening blocks others from seeing the speaker and distracts the person speaking. Better to move to the side or back, or step into the hall to recite the Amida.

● We are blessed to celebrate many simchas in our community. They are often marked with the throwing of or distribution of candy, which in turn generates lots of garbage. Often, wrappers can be found on the floor of the shul. Children drop them or walk right past them without anyone saying anything. We wouldn't allow a child to leave garbage on the floor of our home and we shouldn't let them walk past garbage on the floor of our sanctuary. Stop a child and (kindheartedly) teach them to pick it up or pick it up yourself so they see it isn't beneath adults to keep Hashem's home as clean or cleaner than our own.

● Each week, when shul is over, our wonderful custodians spend considerable time collecting siddurim and chumashim and returning them to the shelves with

great care and respect. But why should they have to? Isn't it basic derech erez to put something back on the shelf when we finish using it? "Being people of the book" means not only learning what is in it, but modeling what we literally do with it.

Night Seder for 7th and 8th Grade Bochurim

Every Night from 7:45 to
8:30

- Separate Nightly Shiur for Each Grade
- Activities
- Thursday Night Chulent
- and more...

For more information, please speak with
Rabbi Polter at 303-359-4839
or Rabbi Chaim Abrams 303-667-9565.

מטעמי פרשה פרשת וירא Parsha Delight Question

מהרי שלש סאין קמח, Hurry three Seah of meal, fine flour (18:6). This is an enormous amount of flour. Why was so much needed for just three guests?

● It is one thing to not go to a shiur, but it is an altogether different thing to get up and choose to walk out of one. Over the holidays, and daily between Mincha and Maariv, someone gives a short Dvar Torah. Sometimes, a person may have an obligation or responsibility at home or elsewhere that necessitates their leaving shul. On the other hand, some people leave to stand in the lobby and shoot the breeze, share the latest gossip, or simply pass the time. Others make an exit for what they consider a noble reason-to go to the Beis Midrash for "real" learning. Some remain in shul and brazenly open a sefer to study, oblivious to the impression it leaves and the message it sends. Whoever is speaking in the front of the room worked hard to prepare, is putting in effort, and is making themselves vulnerable by speaking. Walking out, opening a sefer, or staring at or texting on the phone, isn't menschlich and is unintentionally hurtful.


The Torah and its many laws and directives isn't given until Sefer Shmos, the second book. Yet, we have an entire first book preceding it to teach us about proper character, respectful behavior, and fine qualities. Indeed, the famous midrash (Vayikra Rabba 9) tells us "Derech erez kadma laTorah," derech erez preceded Torah by 26 generations.

In his introduction to his commentary on Bereishis, the Netziv writes that the first book of the Torah was referred to by our rabbis as Sefer HaYashar, the book of the upright, because it tells the story of our patriarchs and matriarchs who lived honest, respectful, kind lives. One has to be a mensch in order to be a vessel to receive Torah, as the Mishna in Avos (3:17) teaches: im ein Torah, ein derech erez v'im ein derech erez, ein Torah, If there is no Torah, there is no derech erez and if there is no derech erez, there is no Torah. In this Mishna, Rabbeinu Yonah writes, "One must first improve one's own character traits and with that, the Torah can endure with him because it cannot endure with a person that doesn't have good character traits. One cannot learn Torah first and then acquire good character traits because this is impossible."

Shul is perhaps the most powerful classroom our children attend. They are watching and learning what we do to see if it matches what they hear us say. With a little more thoughtfulness and effort to be mindful of the unintended consequences of our innocent behavior, we can teach them to emulate our ancestors and to earn the label yashar, to be counted among the upright, honest

בס"ד

שיר השירים. רבי נתן אומר מלאכי השרת אמרו אותה,
שנאמר שיר השירים, המשוררים [כלומר המלאכים]
לפני הקב"ה מלך מלאכי המלאכים ואומרים קדוש קדוש
קדוש. רבן גמליאל אומר הקב"ה אמרה שנאמר
שיר השירים, השיר הנבחר מכל השירים ואמרוהו
האבות והצדיקים והנביאים ומלאכי השרת, מי
אמרה, **מי שהשלום שלו.**



Shir HaShirim. Rabi Nosson states - The serving angels sing this song, as it states - the Song "of the Singers", those angels that sing before Hashem "Holy, Holy, Holy..." they sing this song of Shir HaShirim. Rabi Gamliel states, Hashem himself sings this song - this most choice song which is sung by the forefathers, the righteous, the prophets and the serving angels - who sings it? He, that to Him is peace.

Men and Bochorim - Let us join for an uplifting start of Shabbos, each week (starting ערב שבת נביים 15 minutes before Mincha with Shir HaShirim, read in unison and with the trop.

Each Bochor will receive a raffle ticket for each week that he attends toward a set of Artscoll Machzorim to be held on Chanukah.

**For more information,
inquire with R' Yonason Cohen 720-272-6490**

and menschlich.