

Rabbi Menachem Goldberger

בס"ד

הרב מנחם ראובן הלוי גולדברגר
שליטא מרא דאתרא



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30th of Kislev, 5769 / December 27, 2008

5746-5769

Celebrating our 23rd year

1986-2008

DAVENING SCHEDULE**Friday:**

Candle Lighting: 4:32pm
Friday Mincha: 4:30pm

Shabbos Day ליל כסלו תשס"ט:

Mishna Chabura (Sanhedrin): 8:00am
Shachris: 8:30am
Youth Minyan: 9:00am
Mincha: 4:20pm
Sunset: 4:50pm
Maariv: 5:55pm
Shabbos is over after: 6:02pm
Father / Son Learning: 7:30pm

**THERE WILL BE A DAILY MINCHA /
MAARIV AT THE SHUL SUNDAY
THROUGH THURSDAY AT 4:40PM.
PLEASE CALL MORDECHAI BELECK
IF YOU CAN ATTEND REGULARLY
OR A FEW TIMES A WEEK**

Sunday:

Shacharis: 8:00am
Mincha / Maariv: 4:40pm

Monday-Wednesday & Friday:

Shachris: 6:30am
Mincha / Maariv (M-Th): 4:40pm
Tuesday Beis Midrash: 9-10:00pm

Thursday:

Shachris: 8:00am

Next Shabbos-Parshas Vavigash:

Candle Lighting: 4:37pm
Friday Mincha: 4:40pm

MAZAL TOV!!

➤ To Jay and Deborah Taffel on the engagement of their daughter, Zipora, to Rafael Elias-Bachrach of Philadelphia. May they be זוכה to build a בית נאמן בישראל.

➤ To Hillorie & Elliott Morrison upon the marriage of their daughter, Aviva Richman, to Tzemah Yoreh. May they be zocheh livnos bayis neeman b'yisroel.

➤ To Rabbi Shmuel and Shira Krawatsky on the birth of a baby girl. May they be זוכה לגדלה לתורה לחופה ולמעשים טובים

➤ To Shalom and Jessica Tenenbaum on the birth of a baby girl, Layla Rose, and mazel tov to the grandparents, Morty and Beth Tenenbaum. May they be זוכה לגדלה לתורה לחופה ולמעשים טובים

➤ To Yehoshua and Zoli Bier on the birth of a baby boy and mazel tov to the grandparents Rabbi and Mrs. Moshe Bier. יהי רצון שתזכו להניסו בבריתו של אברהם. אבינו בזמו לגדלו לתורה לחופה ולמעשים טובים

➤ To Shoshana Aaronson on the birth of a grandson to Avi and Tova Aaronson in Eretz Yisroel. יהי רצון שתזכו להניסו בבריתו של אברהם אבינו בזמו לגדלו לתורה לחופה ולמעשים טובים

Camp Shabbos

January 3, January 17, February 7, February 21

Camp Shabbos has an exciting new program for children ages three through six. Camp Shabbos will now be run by our own teenage girls. We will have games, stories, Parsha, fun prizes and of course Kiddush. Bring your children to our next Camp Shabbos on January 3

FRIDAY CHANUKAH NIGHT TISH

The Annual Friday night Chanuka tish will be this Friday night from 8:30 -10 at shul sponsored by Ari & Caryn Blum in honor of the yarzheits of Caryn's mother, Leah bas Herschel, and Ari's father, Avraham Yitzchak ben Abba.

On the Horizon

➤ **December 28:** Tiferes Yisroel's wonderfully fun annual Chanuka Party. Fun for the whole family bring the kids and grandkids! the last day of Chanuka in the simcha hall of the shul at 1:00. Get ready for our famous ice cream bar, salad bar, mystery auction, human dreidel, and MORE! Don't forget to bring a mystery gift (wrapped) of \$10 or more value. Think out of the box! Admission is \$8 a person and \$25 family max. Do you want to join the fun? Call Rivka Malka Perlman or Amy Rubin to get involved. All ages welcome.

➤ **January 1:** Vort for Tzipora Taffel and Rafael Elias-Bachrach, 5:00 – 7:30 PM in the Simcha Hall

➤ **January 3,** 7:30 PM, Simcha Hall, Annual Meeting for all members.

➤ **January 31:** Shalosh Seudos - sponsored by Fred and Rena Levi on the occasion of the yahrzeit of Rena's father.

➤ **March 22:** 23rd Anniversary Banquet honoring Efraim Katz & Judy Schnidman

**Father / Son Learning Sponsors –
December**

➤ Dr. Barry Stein & Caren Cutler
➤ Lenny & Glenna Ross

This week's Lev Echad is sponsored by:

- Hillorie & Elliott Morrison, in honor of Hillorie's father's yahrtzeit, Sidney Salomon, Shlomo Yosef ben Zvi
- Birnbaum Family, in honor of their son, Yoni Birnbaum completing his basic training in the Israeli army.

Dvar Torahwww.torah.org

Rabbi Pinchas Avruch

Everyday Miracles

There is a peculiar contrast between the Talmud's relation of the miracle of Chanuka and that which we emphasize in the "Al HaNissim" addition to the Amidah (prayer of 19 blessings, central to our thrice daily services) and Birkas HaMazon (Grace after Meals). When the Talmud (Tractate Shabbos 21b) relates the essence of Chanuka, it skips the entire story of the war against the Greeks and presents the miracle of the lone jug of oil found intact in the Bais HaMikdash (Holy Temple in Jerusalem) which contained one day's oil but burned for eight, until new oil could be produced. In our prayers, however, we thank G-d for delivering the mighty into the hands of the weak and focus on the miraculous military victory, but do not mention the miracle of the Menora. We do declare that in the aftermath of the triumph, "Your children came to the Holy of Holies of Your House, cleansed Your Temple, purified the site of Your Holiness and kindled the lights in the Courtyard of Your Sanctuary; and they established these eight days of Chanuka to express thanks and praise to Your great Name." We reference the candles and the holiday, but do not tie the two together via the miracle of the lights. The sole Rabbinic mitzvah (command) of this festival is the candle lighting to remember the eight day miracle. How can our prayers ignore that? Furthermore the miracle was not eight days, it was seven - the oil found was one day's worth, so that first day involved no miracle. Why is it, too, commemorated?

Rabbi Moshe Feinstein (1895-1986; Rosh Yeshiva/Dean of Mesivtha Tifereth Jerusalem in New York City; the leading Halachic/Jewish legal decisor of his time and one of the principal leaders of Torah Jewry through much of the last century) notes that when we

Continued...**Young Couples & Singles Event**

Yasher koach to the many young couples who attended last Motzai Shabbos's event at the Eden Cafe. It was a lot of fun. Thank you to Shlomo Goldberger and Moshe Margolese on planning a very nice event. Mechayil el chayil! Stay tuned for upcoming events.

Continuation of Dvar Torah

contemplate the miracle of one day's oil burning for eight - that a miracle is G-d's decision to depart from His ordinary standard, known as "nature" - we start to realize the concept that "nature" is really the category of miracles to which we are privy on a regular, daily basis, and that the very flammability of oil is no less miraculous. In fact, the very concept of G-d's creation and the "nature" that comes with it is **more** miraculous than the rare departures from the norm. The Talmudic paradigm of appreciation of all of creation being truly miraculous was exhibited by Rabbi Chanina ben Dosa (Tractate Ta'anis 25a) who, late Friday afternoon consoled his daughter who accidentally bought vinegar instead of oil for the Shabbos lamps. "He who commanded oil to burn will command vinegar to burn," and it did, throughout the entire Shabbos. One is not allowed to derive personal benefit from a miracle - and Rabbi Chanina derived pleasure from the Shabbos lamps - but for Rabbi Chanina, the burning of oil was no less wondrous, so this was not, by his standards, a miracle. For most of humanity, though, they are all miracles: the burning of vinegar, one day's oil burning for eight...and, indeed, the very fact that oil burns at all.

In reality, all eight days the oil burned were miraculous. Thus, concludes Rabbi Feinstein, our prayers need only mention the lighting of the candles. If the liturgy mentioned the miracle of the extended burning of the oil, the miracle of the very flammability is negated. By simply declaring that the Menora was kindled, we give testimony to the miracle of all creation.

The "Al HaNissim" addition is inserted into the "Modim" (We are thankful) blessing of the Amidah, which includes our gratitude for "your wonders and favors at all time" - reflexive breathing, a beating heart, five functioning senses, arms and legs that are ready and waiting for my brain's command, just to name a few. The miracles of Chanuka themselves remind us of just how ordinary they really are by compelling us to appreciate the greater miracles from which we derive benefit every moment of every day.

TY Shiurim Schedule**Sunday:**

- Men's Gemara Brachos shiur given by the Rabbi. פּרָק ד', Rashi, selected Tosfos and Maharsha- following Shacharis.
- 10:30-11am: Tehillim gathering for cholim for women
- 11-12pm: Rebbetzin's class on Tefillah, for women.
- 8- 8:45pm Hilchos Shabbos Shiur, given by R' Shlomo Goldberger, with the Sefer Shmiras Shabbos K'Halchosa. All men are invited to attend.
- 9-9:45 pm: Rabbi Pinchas Goldfinger will be giving a shiur on Nevi'im Rishonim

Monday:

- Rambam Shiur, given by Jay Taffel 1 hour before Maariv (6:45pm).

Tuesday:

- Gemarah Chulin, given by Jay Taffel 1 hour before Maariv (6:45pm).

Thursday:

- Men's shiur given by the Rabbi on *Peirush HaRamban al HaTorah*, please bring chelek Breishis to the shiur.

Daily Shiurim (M-F):

- Every morning following davening- a chabura for strengthening Hebrew reading with Nesivos Shalom. Incentive: *fresh hot coffee!*
- 6 - 6:25am Chaburah learning Rashi on the weekly parsha given by Nisan Blaxberg. All men and (older) boys are invited to attend.
- **Shabbos Morning Chabura:** Learning, Discussion and Inspiration: 8-8:30am by Rabbi Shimon Apisdorf. **Text:** Shabbos Malkisa

BATYA SKLAR CAMP**SPONSORS**

- In honor of Tiferes Yisroel - "a chavrusa for everybody"
- In memory of Batya Sklar

SHEMEN LAMAOR

- Ari & Caryn Blum
- Michael Gordet in memory of my father Menachem Levin ben Yakov.
- Aaron and Shoshana Shamberg
- Rabbi and Rebbetzin Goldberger are shemen lamaor sponsors this month in memory of Yoseph Ber Leib ben Aharon Eliezer, Jory Rosean, whose yearzeit is the fifth night of Chanukah.
- In memory of Yaakov Chaim Feinstein on his yearzeit, by the Schwarz Family

Youth Minvan

- Ben Kristall-Weiss, in honor of the birth of Daniel Levi to Eli & Esther Levi. Mazel Tov to honored grandparents.

Thank you for your contributions!

Crash Course in Jewish History

By Rabbi Ken Spiro

JEWISH MYSTICISM

What is Jewish mysticism? Jewish mysticism is more popularly known as Kabbalah. Kabbalah ("that which was received") is an interpretation of the Torah that focuses on the deepest, esoteric teachings of Judaism. According to Jewish tradition, this level of understanding of the Torah was revealed at Mt. Sinai, but because of its complexity, it was reserved for only a few initiated few. With time, that secret interpretation became more widely known and finally published and disseminated generally (though few could understand it).

The key work of Kabbalah is the *Zohar* -- the "Book of Splendor." The contents of this book were first revealed by Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai in approximately 100 CE, while he lived in a cave, hiding out from the Romans.

Rabbi Moses de Leon (1240-1305), a Spanish rabbi, was the first to publish the *Zohar*, though he never claimed to be the author. Furthermore, the teachings which he published were not organized into a coherent whole and, as before, few could understand them.

Then Rabbi Moshe Cordevero of Tzfat (1522-1570), better known as the Ramak, entered the picture. The Ramak rationally systematized all of Kabbalistic thought up to his time, in particular the teachings of the *Zohar*. In his work, *Pardes Rimonim*, "The Pomegranate Orchard," the Ramak demonstrated the underlying unity of Kabbalistic tradition by organizing the various, often seemingly contradictory, teachings into a coherent system.

The core of the Ramak's system consisted of a detailed description of how God created reality through the ten *sefirot* - channels of Divine energy. Understanding these ten forces is key in the study of Kabbalah today.

But perhaps the most famous figure in the development of Kabbalah as we know it today was Rabbi Isaac Luria (1534-1572), popularly called the Ari.

The Ari was born in Jerusalem but subsequently relocated to Tzfat, arriving there on the day of the Ramak's funeral. He lived there only two years, dying at the age of 38, but in that short period of time he revolutionized the study of Kabbalah. In fact, his teachings - which were chiefly recorded by his disciple Rabbi Chaim Vital - virtually dictate the study of Kabbalah.

The Ari's system was different from that of the Ramak in that, rather than seeing the *sefirot* as one-dimensional points, he saw them as dynamically interacting *partzufim*, "personae," each with a symbolically human-like character.

In his understanding, human actions can impact on the *sefirot* -- which channel Divine energy into the world - and can either facilitate or impede the advancement of creation toward its intended state of perfection.

The Ari also advanced the study of reincarnation, which he explained in *Sha'ar He Gilgulim* "The Gate of Reincarnation."

During this period of time, many people came to study Kabbalah in Tzfat and legends are told of the Kabbalists, all dressed in white, walking out in the fields on the evening of Shabbat, singing the song welcoming the Shabbat Queen: *Lecha Dodi Likrat Kallah*, "Come My Beloved to Greet the Bride." (This famous song/poem was written in the 16th century by Rabbi Solomon HaLevi Alkabetz.) The Kabbalat Shabbat service to welcome the Shabbat on Friday evening was created in Tzfat in the 16th century.

PRESIDENTS MINUTE

- The annual meeting of shul members is January 3, 7:30 PM in the Simcha Hall. This is an important meeting where we will be voting on a new Vice President for Facilities, Mordechai Beleck. I will be giving a report to the membership on the state of the shul, and it is important that a member of your family be present.
- If you are able to help out with the Banquet honoring Efraim Katz & Judy Schnidman, please contact me.
- Thank you to Ari & Caryn Blum for their annual sponsorship of the Rabbi's Chanukah Tisch. And thank you to The Perlmans and Amy Rubin for all their creative effort for the Chanukah party

Yahrzeits: 30th Kislev – 6th Teves

לי כסלו – ו' טבת

We apologize for any yahrzeits not listed in the *Lev Echad*. Please let us know if we missed a Yahrzeit.

- Mildred Ktaz Taube, Mindel bas Moshe a''h, 1 Teves, grandmother of Karen Beleck
- Morris Shnidman, Moshe ben Yehoshua a''h, 3 Teves, father of Judy Shnidman
- Louis Rednor, Aryeh Leib ben Mordechai a''h, 5 Teves, grandfather of Eileen Rosenbaum
- Charles Jaffee, Bezalel ben Nisan a''h 5 Teves, grandfather of Nisan Jaffee

Parsha Summary

www.torah.org

R' Aron Tendler

1st Aliya: The year is 2229 and Yoseph has been in prison for 12 years. Pharaoh has two similar dreams and demands their interpretation. The wine steward remembers Yoseph and his gift for dream interpretation, and Yoseph is rushed into Pharaoh's presence.

2nd Aliya: Yoseph interprets Pharaoh's dream and suggests to him how to best administrate the seven years of plenty and the seven years of famine. (The extent of Yoseph's brilliance will first be revealed in next week's Parsha.)

3rd Aliya: Yoseph is appointed viceroy over Egypt, and puts into effect the plan that he had outlined to Pharaoh. He marries the daughter of Potiphar (the daughter of Dina) and has two sons, Menashe and Ephrayim.

4th Aliya: The seven years of famine begin, and the only food available is in Mitzrayim. Yoseph, unrecognized by his brothers, recognizes them when they come to buy food. He accuses them of treachery and imprisons them for three days.

5th Aliya: Yoseph demands that Binyamin be brought to Egypt and keeps Shimon as a hostage. The brothers relate their adventure to Yakov who refuses to send Binyamin. The increasing famine forces Yakov to concede to Yehuda's guarantee that Binyamin will be safe, and the brothers return to Egypt.

6th Aliya: The brothers are reunited with Shimon and invited to eat at the table of Yoseph. All appears to be forgiven and Yoseph sees Binyamin for the first time in 22 years.

7th Aliya: Yoseph hatches his final plot against his brothers. His famed chalice is planted in the Binyamin's saddlebag forcing the brothers to return to Mitzrayim and a confrontation with Yoseph. The year is 2238.

UPDATE FROM THE AMERICUS FAMILY

The Americus family sends greetings to everyone. They will be in Baltimore the Shabbos after Chanukah.

Notice Regarding Shul Rentals

If you are planning on having a Simcha, Shalosh Seudos, vort, l'chaim, party, meeting, or any other event that would require the use of the Shul's Simcha Hall please call Eileen Rosenbaum to reserve the use of the hall. Even if your event is in the planning stages or there's a chance that it might even be canceled, call Eileen so you can be penciled in on that date. There's no signup fee, we just want the scheduling to go as smoothly as possible. 410-764-8443 or eileen@tiferesvisroel.org

If you just want to check whether the date you want is available, you can go to our website www.tiferesvisroel.org and click on the "Calendar" button on the left. This online calendar is kept up to date continuously.

SUPPORT OUR SHUL

To be a sponsor in honor of your Simcha, Yahrzeit or whatever, please contact the Lev Echad to reserve your Sponsorship.

- Weekly Youth Minyan.
 - Sponsor- \$75
 - Cholent Sponsor - \$25.
 - Batya Sklar Camp Shabbos
 - Full Sponsorship \$72
 - Co-Sponsorship \$36
 - Shemen Lamaor \$36
 - The Lev Echad \$36
 - Father/Son Learning (seasonal)
 - Full Sponsorship \$72
 - Co-Sponsorship \$36
 - Siddur: \$50
 - Chumash: \$75
 - Yahrzeit Plaque: \$300
 - Other Seforim may be dedicated as well.
- Contact Nisan Blaxberg, 410-358-3943

Advertisements

We're sorry, but the shul does not publish advertisements for personal, profit-based businesses in the Lev Echad.

Peanut-Free

The shul is peanut-free. Please do not bring in any products with peanuts. This includes personal snacks (for children and adults) as well as for any functions held in the shul, i.e. Kiddush, Shalosh Seudos, etc.

FRAGRANCES

A reminder for women and men -- please refrain from using fragrances (such as perfume, cologne, after shave) in shul. Many people are sensitive to these fragrances, and some people even experience severe allergic reactions. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding.

OFFICERS:

- President - Lenny Ross 410 358-1687
Lenny@tiferesvisroel.org
- VP Special Events -
- VP Programming- Mo Margolese
mo@tiferesvisroel.org
- VP Member Relations- Howard Reznick 410 825-8729
Howard@tiferesvisroel.org
- Secretary - Tzadik Vanderhoof 410 764-2258
Tzadik@tiferesvisroel.org
- Treasurer - Ken Gelula
ken@tiferesvisroel.org

VOLUNTEERS:

- Boys Club Yehuda Severin 410-800-4456
- Calendar Eileen Rosenbaum 410-764-8443
- Camp Shabbos Alisa Mandel - 410-963-2977
- Candyman - Ari Blum
- Chesed Committee Chana Birnbaum (shiva) 410-358-7736
Rivka Malka Perlman (other than shiva) 410-358-3550
- Cleaning Staff- (Open for volunteers)
- Davening Schedule Jay "Tangy" Taffel 410-358-9029
- Facilities Set Up/Events (Open for volunteers)
- Father/Son Learning Dov Pear- 410-358-9825
- Gabbai Rishon Jay "Saltwater" Taffel 410-358-9029
- Gabbai Shenit Hillel "crazy fingers" Zeitlin 410-358-7316
- Gabbai Tzedakah Nisan Jaffee 443-929-2587
- Girl Scouts Judy Schnidman, 410-358-0440,
judy schnidman@hotmail.com
- Hospitality Gail Feinstein - 410-764-2532
- Supplies Ordering Emunah Friedman (410) 318-6727
- Kitchen/Kiddush Emunah Friedman (410) 318-6727
- LevEchad-LevEchad@tiferesvisroel.org
- Membership Howard Reznick -410-825-8729
- Mitzvah Cards Glenna Ross- 410-358-1687
- Seforim Repair Mark Hart
- Shabbos Setup- (Open for Volunteers)
- Shalosh Seudos Coordinator Hinda Blum 410-764-2279
- Sheimos- (Open for Volunteers)
- Simcha Hall Reserve Eileen Rosenbaum 410-764-8443
- Tzeschem L'Shalom Coordinator-

- Mordechai Beleck
- Yomim Nora'im Seating Ari "the bull" Blum 410-358-5478
- Webmaster Tzadik Vanderhoof 410-764-2258 or
Tzadik@tiferesvisroel.org
- Yahrzeit Plaques Nisan Blaxberg- 410-358-3943
- Youth Minyan Rabbi Shmuel Berkman
- Shul Business admin@tiferesvisroel.org

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*Why not make it **extra special**, and say it with the Lev! Mail payments to:*

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Baltimore, MD 21282

or go to www.tiferesvisroel.org and click **donate**.

Questions? Comments? Something to add?

Email LevEchad@tiferesvisroel.org

Deadline: 12:00pm on Thursday

Note: the Lev Echad staff reserves the right to edit any submissions.

Good Shabbos!

שלום על ישראל