

Rabbi Menachem Goldberger

הרב מנחם ראובן הלוי גולדברגר
שליטא מרא דאתרא

בס"ד



TiferesYisroel.org

410-764-1971

15th of Iyar 5769 / May 9, 2009

5746-5769

Celebrating our 23rd year

1986-2009

DAVENING SCHEDULE**Friday**Candle Lighting: 7:48 pm
Mincha: 7:50 pm**Shabbos Day**Mishna Chabura: 8:00 am
Shacharis: 8:30 am
Youth Minyan: 9:00 am
Rebbitzen's Class: 5:15 pm
Rabbi's Shiur: 6:00 pm
Mincha: 7:10 pm
Maariv: 9:10 pm
Shabbos is over after: 9:19 pm**Sunday**Shacharis: 8:00 am
Mincha / Maariv: 7:55 pm
Mishna B'rurah: after Maariv**Monday-Friday**Shacharis: 6:30 am
Mincha / Maariv: 7:55 pm
Mishna B'rurah (Mon.-Thurs.): after Maariv**Next Shabbos – Parshas Behar-Bechukosai**Candle Lighting: 7:55 pm
Friday Mincha: 7:55 pm**Matzoh Sale**

Lakewood Hand Shmura spelt matzoh is on sale for only \$12/lb. Regular matzoh is also available. Perfect for those times you're just too tired to bake challah. Or just use them as frisbees.

Buy some boxes to use as gifts when you go over someone's house for Shabbos. You won't have to figure out what to bring, or go shopping. And you contribute to the shul at the same time.

This Shabbos

- Rebbitzen Goldberger's Tefilla class at 5:15 pm for women. Starting with Ashrei.
- Rabbi Goldberger's weekly Shabbos shiur at 6 pm for men and women. We will be studying Ma'amar Ha'ikrim by Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzatto. This week's topics include Prophecy, Ruach Hakodesh, and Redemption. Photo-copies will be available.

Mazel Tov to

- Bert and Bina Kahn on the
- Birth of a grandson. Mazel tov to the parents, Rochel and Amatzia Hartman of Dallas
- Birth of a grandson. Mazel tov to the parents, Shira and Raphael Katsman of Seattle
- Bar Mitzvah of their grandson Yair Moshe. Mazel tov to the parents, Noam and Chana Wasserman of Boston

Coming Up

- **May 11:** Lag B'Omer Bonfire at the shul. 9-11 pm.
- **May 12:** Upsherin for Yehuda Yaakov Schwarz, son of Steve and Ellen Schwarz. 5:30-7:30 pm in the Simcha Hall. The entire kehilla is invited.
- **May 16:** Camp Shabbos

- **May 20:** Sleep-Deprived Dairy Eating Dunkers! Understanding the minhagim of Shavuos. Given by Rabbi Lowenbraun in the upstairs bais medrash at 9 pm. For men.
- **June 6:** Aufruf and kiddush for Dishy Rosenfelt. Kiddush sponsored by his parents Karen and Bob Rosenfelt.
- **June 19 and 20:** Scholar-in-Residence.

Amud Yomi

We would like to start an Amud Yomi Gemara shiur for men right after Lag B'Omer. Rabbi Porter and Rabbi Lowenbraun would switch off as the teachers of this shiur, to be held Sunday through Thursday at 9:15 pm. We would study one side of a page of gemara per night with selected Rashi and Tosfos.

This is a great opportunity to strengthen your learning and knowledge while also strengthening the shul. Please speak to Rabbi Porter or Rabbi Lowenbraun if interested.

Do a Mitzvah

Be a guest at someone's Shabbos table. Allow them the mitzvah of Hachnasat Orchim. A mitzvah for you. A mitzvah for them. Food. Conversation. Torah. Shabbos.

You can plan ahead of time or wait until shul. But do it. You can never have too many mitzvahs.

This week's Lev Echad is sponsored by:

Phil and Lori Saltman and family in memory of the yahrzeit of Phil's mother, Sarah Saltman, Sarah bas Yehoshua HaKohen
Bert and Bina Kahn in honor of the birth of two grandsons, and the bar mitzvah of their grandson, Yair Moshe Wasserman
Dvora Sora Reznick in honor of her husband Chaim Chuna's birthday. May Hashem bless you with happy trails throughout the year.

Avi and Ruth Eastman, with sincere gratitude to the Borei Olam and Chana and Joshua Eastman, the three partners who brought into the world Daniella Tikva, our first Sabra. May she be a source of Yiddishe nachas for all of them.

Midei Shabbos Beshabbato Selections

Thoughts on the Weekly Parshah by
HaRav Eliezer Chryslar

Parshas Emor: All About the Omer (Adapted from the Ta'amei ha'Minhagim)

A Period Devoid of Simchah

One of the reasons for the absence of Simchah during this period is based on the opinion of R. Yochanan ben Nuri, who maintains that it is from Pesach till Shavuos that the Resha'im are judged in Gehinom. And he bases this in turn, on the Pasuk at the end of Yeshayah (with reference to the Resha'im in Gehinom) "And it shall be from Shabbos (i.e., the first day of Pesach) till Shabbos (Shavuos, which is also called Shabbos) all flesh will (leave Gehinom and) come to prostrate themselves before Me ..." (Bartenura at the end of the second Perek of Idiyos).

Alternatively, it is because the produce is judged during these days, rendering it a period of judgement. And this is also one of the reasons that Shehechyanu is not recited when one starts counting the Omer.

Iyar, a Healthy Month

The month of Iyar, says the Ta'amei ha'Minhagim, is known to be a healthy month (e.g., to clear the stomach of waste and to strengthen the gallbladder). This is due to the established fact that most illnesses stem from food that does not agree with the eater. That being the case, bear in mind that the Mon began to fall in Iyar, and the Mon is described as "Bread that became absorbed in the eater's limbs," causing him no illness and no pain. It therefore transpired that this month served as a healing for the whole of K'lal Yisrael, says the B'nei Yisaschar, and it has continued to serve in that capacity ever since.

Another reason for this is because the gates of healing are opened during this month, as is hinted in the first letters of the three words in Beshalach "Ani Hashem Rof'echa" (which spell Iyar).

Lag bo'Omer

The Levush states that the Talmidim of R. Akiva who died during the days of the

Omer, did not die on any of the days on which Tachanun is not said, incorporating the seven days of Pesach, the two days of Rosh Chodesh Iyar, one of Rosh Chodesh Sivan and the seven intervening Shabbosos. This totals seventeen days, leaving thirty-two days on which the Resha'im did die. Hence the Minhag to observe thirty-two days of semi-mourning during the Omer.

And the Maharil gives this as the reason for the rejoicing on Lag bo'Omer. He seems to maintain that R. Akiva's Talmidim died from the beginning of the Omer until Erev Lag bo'Omer. This is also the opinion of the Nofes Tzufim, who maintains that R. Shimon bar Yochai was the last of R. Akiva's Talmidim to die – on Lag bo'Omer, at which point the Dinim became sweet, which is why it became a day of rejoicing.

The Seventh of Adar and Lag bo'Omer

Interestingly, the seventh of Adar (the Yohrtzeit of Moshe Rabeinu) has become a day of mourning and fasting (as is customary in Chevros Kadishos throughout the world), whereas Lag bo'Omer (the Yohrtzeit of R. Shimon bar Yochai) is a day of rejoicing and festivities.

This is because on the one hand, Moshe Rabeinu himself cried over the day of his death, and was reluctant to die without having fulfilled the Mitzvos of Eretz Yisrael, so we cry too; whilst on the other, R. Shimon bar Yochai eagerly anticipated the day of his death. And if R. Shimon was happy, we are happy too.

Bows and Rainbows

There is a Minhag for children to play with bows and arrows on Lag bo'Omer. The B'nei Yisaschar citing R. Mendel mi'Riminov, attributes this to the statement of Chazal, that during the lifetime of R. Shimon bar Yochai the rainbow was never seen, a sign that, due to his righteousness, the generation, which was otherwise worthy of being exterminated, was spared. That is why on his Yohrtzeit, the Minhag evolved to play with bows and arrows, a play on words ("Keshes," which means both a bow and a rainbow), and which reminds us of his greatness.

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Hadrash Ve-Haiyun Dor Revi'i
Torah Insights on the Weekly Parsha
by Efraim Levine
(from hadrash.com)

Lag Ba'omer

The Mehaber (Orach Chaim 428) notes that Lag Ba'omer always falls out on the same weekday as Purim. Further, he notes that the word palag, translated "part" serves as a mnemonic for this phenomena. This Hebrew word is comprised of three letters – pei, lamed and gimmel. The mnemonic is interpreted to mean that the weekday of pei which represents Purim will be the same for lamed-gimmel which stands for thirty-three or Lag Ba'omer as we know it.

We may ask what symbolic relationship is there between Purim and Lag Ba'omer in that they both share the same day of the week.

When studying the commentaries we discover that many important events occurred on Lag Ba'omer. Let us present two such events. The first is the mabul. The posuk records that "on the seventeenth day of the second month all the fountains of the great depth were opened and the windows of the heaven were opened. There was rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights" (Bereishis 7:11, 12). Rashi here notes that the forty days of rain do not include the first day. This is because the rainfall of the first day was incomplete due to the fact that it did not rain the prior evening. Thus, according to Rashi, although the windows of the heaven along with the fountains of the great depths were opened on the seventeenth, the mabul did not begin until the eighteenth day of the second month. The seventeenth day of the month was just the warm-up period. There is a dispute in the gemara if the months of the Torah are calculated from Tishrei or from Nisan. If we follow the opinion that they are calculated from Nisan, it emerges that the mabul started on the eighteenth day of Iyar, which is the same day as Lag Ba'omer.

The commentators explain that this is one reason for the custom that children play with bows and arrows on Lag Ba'omer. The Hebrew word for bow is "keshes." This is the same word used for rainbow. The rainbow was designated by Hashem to serve as a sign that He would

never again bring a mabul to the world. We remind ourselves of this sign on the anniversary of the mabul.

The Chasam Sofer notes that Lag Ba'Omer was also the day that the ma'an began to fall from heaven. The Torah records that the Jewish people came to rest in the desert of Sin on the fifteenth day of the second month. On the sixteenth day of the month the Jewish people complained to Moshe that they had nothing to eat. The next day, the seventeenth of the month, Hashem told Moshe that on the following day, the eighteenth, the ma'an would begin to fall (Shemos 16). As mentioned above, the eighteenth day of the second month is Lag Ba'Omer.

Both of the above events share the characteristic that the heavens miraculously opened. However there is a major difference between the two. The first event was the beginning of forty days of complete destruction whereas the second event was the beginning of forty years of great blessing.

We may derive that the eighteenth day of Iyur is an auspicious time for Hashem's revelation. However, this revelation may come in the form of blessing or punishment. In preparation of this day it is incumbent upon us to pray and repent so that Hashem's revelation manifests itself in the form of blessing and not destruction.

We find this also to be true of Purim. Purim day was originally designated for the annihilation of the Jewish people. However, due to the prayer and repentance of the Jewish people this day was transformed to one of great joy and salvation for all time.

On both Purim and Lag Ba'Omer the stakes are high. Hashem will make Himself known in one way or another. We must prepare ourselves so that we deserve that this revelation come in the form of blessing.

Alternatively, we may note that Lag Ba'Omer is the day that Rebbi Shimon bar Yochai revealed the secret kabalistic teaching of the Torah. Indeed, many have the custom to celebrate this day by visiting his grave in Maron.

Both Purim and Lag Ba'Omer represent the revelation of what is hidden. The miracle of Purim enabled us to discover in retrospect Hashem's hidden guidance of the world. Similarly, Lag Ba'Omer is

the time when we discovered the hidden secrets of the Torah. Both Purim and Lag Ba'Omer are associated with great rejoicing for there is great enjoyment in the revelation of what is hidden.

In parshas Emor the Torah lists all the Biblical holidays. The commentators note that the rabbinic holidays are alluded to as well. For example, after Torah concludes the laws of Shemini Atzeres it proceeds to discuss the Menorah. This section alludes to the holiday of Chanukah when we celebrate the miraculous lighting of the Menorah that occurred in the time of the Chashmanoyim. The next section in the Torah is the Shulchan and Lechem Hapanin. This alludes to the holiday of Purim. Purim is a time of great celebration and demands a lavish feast. This is symbolic of the Shulchan, which also represents festivity.

We may now ask where do we find a hint of the holiday of Lag Ba'Omer in the list of festivals?

With the above idea in mind we may suggest that Lag Ba'Omer is part of Purim and include in Shulchan and Lechem Hapanim. We may further suggest that this is why the showbread of the Shulchan was divided into two parts with six breads in each arrangement. The holiday of revelation is divided into two parts. The first part is celebrated as the holiday of Purim and the second part as the holiday of Lag Ba'Omer. Indeed the mnemonic mentioned above is "palag" which is translated as "part." This indicated that each holiday is one part of a whole.

We may further note that there are exactly sixty-four days between Purim and Lag Ba'Omer. Sixty-four days is equivalent to eight multiplied by eight.

Between Pesach and Shavuot we are obligated to count seven times seven. Seven represents the physical world, which was created in seven days. The multiplication of seven by seven represents the totality of the physical world. In the days between Pesach and Shavuot we master our ability to infuse the physical world with spirituality.

Similarly we may suggest that there is another counting of eight multiplied by eight. The number eight represents the spiritual world. The multiplication of eight by eight represents the totality of the spiritual world. As mentioned above, Purim and Lag Ba'Omer are one holiday

that is broken up into two parts. The holiness of this single holiday begins on Purim. On this day Hashem reveals his hidden guidance of this world. We then spiritually refine ourselves in sequences of eight until we reach the eighth of the eighth, which is Lag Ba'Omer. We then merit to discover the secrets of Torah. The period between Purim and Lag Ba'Omer is the time we master our spiritual understanding of Hashem and his Torah.

Join
Rabbi Menachem Goldberger
and
Congregation
Tiferes Yisroel



for singing and inspiration
at the annual

Lag B'Omer Bonfire

May 11 9-11 pm

Shemen Lamaor Sponsor

- Ari and Caryn Blum

Siddur Dedications

- By Moshe Shaul Grossman, in memory of his wife, Sylvie
- Dov and Sandy Klein, in honor of Rabbi Yitzchok and Miriam Lowenbraun.
- Elie and Esther Levi, in honor of the birth of their son, Daniel Eliezer Levi

Baltimore Community Initiative

On March 23, "The Pledge," Commitment to Community Initiative, was unveiled at an inspiring, educational and informative communal gathering. The program included many practical ideas and ways to help our community.

The Pledge is a grassroots effort, enthusiastically supported by the Vaad Harabbonim

and our community at large. The main focus of the initiative is to have at least 51 percent of our discretionary tzedaka money stay in the community, with at least 26 percent going toward our local schools. By signing the Pledge, you will be helping Baltimore provide meaningful support to our community, families and institutions.

See or call Shmuel Krawatsky at 410-764-1613 or visit www.commitmenttocommunity.com for more details.

Yahrzeits

Sarah Saltman, Sarah bas Yehoshua HaKohen a"h, 15 Iyar, mother of Phil Saltman
 Isadore Wise, Avraham Binyamin a"h, 16 Iyar, father of Shoshana Aaronson
 Esther Sklar, Chaya Esther bas Shlomo Eliahu a"h, 19 Iyar, grandmother of Hinda Blum
 Albert Cohen a"h, 20 Iyar, uncle of Karen Beleck

Community

- **May 11:** Kabbalistic Insights into the Jewish Alphabet. Rabbi Shlomo Porter will be speaking on the Meaning of Letterforms. 7:30 pm. Etz Chaim.
- **May 19:** Meeting on the City's new trash collection. Councilwoman Rikki Spector will review the City's plans for trash and recycling, where there will be only one trash pickup a week, limited to 64 gallons, and one recycling pickup a week. 6:30 pm, Park Heights JCC.
- **May 31:** Second Annual Public Safety Fun Day and Softball Tournament. Fun for all ages! Displays of Baltimore City Police, Fire Department and Hatzalah vehicles and equipment, including equipment from the SWAT team. Displays from the Office of Emergency Management and Northern Park Heights CERT team. MD Auto Theft Task Force "Hot" car. Second NWCP vs. Baltimore City Police Baseball Tournament. Kosher food. 1-5 pm (ball game at 2:30 pm). Public Safety Training Facility, corner of Park Heights and Northern Parkway.

Shul Rentals

If you are planning on having an event that would require the use of the shul's Simcha Hall, please call Eileen Rosenbaum at 410-764-8443 or eileen@tiferesyisroel.org to reserve the use of the hall. There is no fee to reserve the date.

For availability, you can go to our Website www.tiferesyisroel.org and click on the "Calendar" button on the left. This online calendar is kept up to date continuously.

Costs of Sponsorships

Weekly Youth Minyan

Sponsor \$75 Cholent sponsor \$25

Batya Sklar Camp Shabbos

Full sponsorship \$72 Co-sponsorship \$36

Shemen Lamaor \$36

Lev Echad \$36

Father / Son Learning (seasonal)

Full sponsorship \$72 Co-sponsorship \$36

To arrange your sponsorship, e-mail levechad@tiferesyisroel.org, call 410-764-1971 option 4, or go to www.tiferesyisroel.org and click donate.

Please send your donation to:

Congregation Tiferes Yisroel
 6201 Park Heights Avenue
 Baltimore, MD 21215

For the following, contact Nisan Blaxberg at 410-358-3943

Siddur \$50 \$25

Chumash \$75

Yahrzeit Plaque \$300

Other seforim may be dedicated as well.

TY Shiurim Schedule

Sunday:

- 9:30-10:15 am: Men's **Gemara Brachos** shiur given by the Rabbi. פרק ה', Rashi, selected Tosfos and Maharsha following Shacharis.
- 10:30-11:15 am: **Tehillim** gathering for cholim for women (upstairs Beis Medrash).
- 8-8:45 pm: **Hilchos Shabbos** shiur, given by R'Shlomo Goldberger, with the Sefer Shmiras Shabbos K'Hilchesa. All men are invited to attend.

Monday:

- **Rambam** shiur on the halachos of the Seder and the Rambam's insightful approach on what it means, given by Jay Taffel, approximately 1 hour before the scheduled Mincha time.

Tuesday:

- **Gemara Chulin**, given by Jay Taffel, approximately 1 hour before the scheduled Mincha time.

Daily Shiurim (M-F):

- Every morning following davenering – a chabura for strengthening Hebrew reading with **Nesivos Shalom**. With *fresh hot coffee!*
- 6-6:25 am: Chabura learning **Rashi** on the weekly parsha given by Nisan Blaxberg. All men and (older) boys are invited to attend.
- Rabbi Goldberger is giving a **Mishna Berura** shiur each night after ma'ariv on the topic of hilchos Pesach. The shiur is for men.

Shabbos:

- 8-8:30 am: Morning Chabura: Learning, discussion and inspiration by Rabbi Shimon Apisdorf. Text: **Shabbos Malkisa**.
- 8-8:30 am: Mishnayos Chabura. Text: **Makkos**. Presenter: Ken Gelula.
- 5:15 pm: Rebbetzin's class on **Tefillah**, for women. Ezras Nashim.

**No Peanuts!
 No Fragrances!**

OFFICERS

- **President** Lenny Ross 410-358-1687
len@tiferesyisroel.org
- **VP Facility** Mordechai Beleck
- **VP Programming** Mo Margolese
mo@tiferesyisroel.org

- **VP Member Relations** Howard Reznick 410-825-8729
howard@tiferesyisroel.org
- **Secretary** Tzadik Vanderhoof 410-764-2258
tzadik@tiferesyisroel.org
- **Treasurer** Ken Gelula ken@tiferesyisroel.org

CONTACT INFORMATION

- **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) 410-358-3550
- **Davenering Schedule** Jay Taffel 410-358-9029
- **Father / Son Learning** Dov Pear 410-358-9825
- **Gabbai Rishon** Jay Taffel 410-358-9029
- **Gabbai Sheni** Hillel Zeitlin 410-358-7316
- **Gabbai Tzedakah** Nisan Jaffee 443-929-2587
- **Girl Scouts** Judy Schnidman 410-358-0440
judyschnidman@hotmail.com
- **Hospitality** Gail Feinstein 410-764-2532
- **Kitchen / Kiddush** Emunah Friedman 410-318-6727
- **Lev Echad** Suzanne Kayne 410-764-1971,
 Option 4 levechad@tiferesyisroel.org
- **Membership** Howard Reznick 410-825-8729
howard@tiferesyisroel.org
- **Mitzvah Cards** Glenn Ross 410-358-1687
- **Seforim**
 Purchase Nisan Blaxberg 410-358-3943
 Repair Mark Hart
- **Shalosh Seudos Coordinator**
 Hinda Blum 410-764-2279
- **Simcha Hall Reserve** Eileen Rosenbaum 410-764-8443
eileen@tiferesyisroel.org
- **Supplies Ordering** Emunah Friedman 410-318-6727
- **Tzeschem L'Shalom Coordinator** Mordechai Beleck
- **Webmaster** Tzadik Vanderhoof 410-764-2258
tzadik@tiferesyisroel.org
- **Yahrzeit Plaques** Nisan Blaxberg 410-358-3943
- **Yahrzeit Records** Alisa Mandel 410-963-2977
- **Yomim Noraim Seating** Ari Blum 410-358-5478
- **Youth Minyan** Rabbi Shmuel Berkman, Elie Levi
- **Shul Business** admin@tiferesyisroel.org

Good Shabbos!

Lev Deadline
Wednesday, May 13, 5:43:08 pm
levechad@tiferesyisroel.org