



CONGREGATION B.H.H. KESSER MAARIV A.L. ANNOUNCEMENTS – July 10-11 – Pinchas

Please stay safe and follow recommended hygiene guidance. Wear masks. Keep social distancing.

Anyone in a high risk category or not feeling well should stay home and be safe. Follow CDC & medical guidance.

Davening Schedule

While at Shul please wear your mask and follow social distancing. Please don't move chairs/seats.

For safety reasons we do not have any Talis available at shul. Bring your own.

Children under age 10 are not allowed in Shul.

This week's Haftarah is for Parshat Matot (Jeremiah 1), the first of the three sad Haftarot before Tisha B'Av.

Friday Early Shabbat MINCHA at 7:00 pm. If you are davening with us at 7:00 pm, your candles should be lit at about 7:25 pm. Remember to repeat Kriyat Shma after 8:45 pm.

Shabbat Morning 8:45 am Shacharit. No Kiddush at shul. Sof Z'man Kriyas Shma – 9:07 am

Mincha at 8:00 pm. Eat Seudat Shlisheet at home. **Pirkei Avot** – Chapter 6

Week of July 13: Monday-Friday Shacharit at 6:00 am. Sunday morning at 8:00 am.

Daily Mincha-Maariv at 8:00 pm. Full social distance measures are in place.

Upcoming Events

- **This week is Rabbi Louis Lazovsky's 36th Anniversary of serving as Rabbi of Kesser Maariv.** While the Annual Dinner is postponed due to Covid-19, we announce the beginning of our Ad Journal Campaign honoring Rabbi Louis & Rebbetzin Saretta Lazovsky on their 36th year of leadership. The Ad Blank will be available shortly. For this occasion we have Divrei Torah on Pinchas below by Rabbis Benzie and Eli in honor of their parents, and a letter from the Rabbi.
- We are in the period of **the Three Weeks** of sadness commemorating the breach of Jerusalem and Destruction of the Beit Hamikdash, when Ashkenazim refrain from pleasurable activities such as live performances, plays, operas, musicals, movies or listening to music. We also do not cut our hair or nails, and do not have weddings. The mourning increases on Rosh Chodesh Av (Tuesday night, July 21st), when we additionally do not eat meat, drink wine, launder clothes, or go swimming, and culminates with **Tisha B'Av** (Wednesday night July 29th - Thursday July 30th).
- **Rabbi Moshe Soloveichik's** Parsha Shiur will meet on Sunday morning at **11:00 am.** Topic: Mourning over the Beis Hamikdash. Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87948507611?pwd=bjJFN05iNkpHemM2cm-FGQ21IN20xdz09> Meeting ID: 879 4850 7611 Password: 178417 It will also be livestreamed on Facebook at Fb.me/KesserMaariv. Recent shiur on Pinchas is here <https://youtu.be/ayGaUcoDBGo>
- The AGWC invites you to a Zoom presentation: **The Inquisition Prelude to the Holocaust**, presented by Professor Rifka Cook of Northwestern University, Tuesday July 14th at 6:30 p.m. Join Zoom Meeting <https://northwestern.zoom.us/j/95127183789?pwd=R2JqcEpFL2tqaWhSOURLNkFUDWl6Zz09> Meeting ID: 951 2718 3789 Password: 421874 Dial by your location 312 626 6799
- Rabbi Benzie's **Gemara Brachos shiur** will meet on Wednesday at 7:30 pm on Zoom. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81082648249?pwd=NzRVbGVLL2lwU2U5eXEwc25BTzI4Zz09> Meeting ID: 810 8264 8249 Password: 028366
- Thanks to all who joined the **Women's Stretch Class** with Leah Friedman.
- Thanks to everyone who has committed and helped out for **6:00 am Minyan** which resumed.
- **Partners in Torah will not meet.**
- **Follow us! Twitter@KesserMaariv Facebook: Fb.me/KesserMaariv. KesserMaariv.podomatic.com**

Mazal Tov to Danny & Adina Torchman on the birth of a granddaughter Noya Miriam, to Ben & Adi in Israel. **Refuah Shlaimah** to Magdalena Arciniega, Alvin J. Goodman, Bella Perlman, Alan Slodki, & all who need one.

> There will be a Memorial for Kathleen Evans on Thursday, July 16, at 6:45 PM Central Time on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84478510687?pwd=MU9Lb2tYN1hwVVFVNTJRWi80NTRCdz09>

Meeting ID: 844 7851 0687 Password: 347312 Call in: 312 626 6799 (Chicago)

> Join Religious Zionists on Sunday, July 12, at noon for a very special live program connecting our Mizrahi -

Religious Zionist of Chicago community with the Dati-Leumi community of Kiryat Gat. For login info, visit: together.rzc.us

Parshas Pinchas 2019 by Rabbi Benzie

Parshas Pinchas has a lot of things that don't apply to most people. It starts out with reward Pinchas received for killing Zimri. To fulfill “kanaim Pogin bo” (a zealot may kill) one must be on a very high level. (Rav Ahron Soloveichik said because we may only emulate attributes of G-d’s “right” side, such as kindness. But the attributes of G-d’s “left” side, such as being vengeful, are not permitted to us unless one knows through prophecy that it is proper.) The Yerushalmi says the elders wanted to put Pinchas in Cherem (excommunication) until a Heavenly Voice said that he acted properly. Then the Torah took a census of the Israelites and the purpose was - “these receive a portion in Eretz Yisrael.” Not everyone gets a portion. Not Kohanim, Leviim, converts. So having a portion in Israel is broader, but still not for everyone. Then Moshe asked for a leader to succeed him. Very limited! Not something we each can apply to our lives. Then sacrifices – the daily korban, Musaf (additional sacrifice) for Rosh Chodesh, and Holidays. Again, it's on or behalf but Kohanim bring it, not so relevant to us.

However, I think the most relevant part of the Parsha to us is the Korban of Shabbos. Rishonim ask why is Shabbos different than the other holidays that we read the Korban of holidays on the holidays, but we do not read about Shabbos' korban every Shabbos? The Daas Zekaynim gives an amazing explanation. All the holiday sacrifices include sin-offerings. But the sacrifice of Shabbos does not have a sin-offering. Shabbos is G-d's gift to us; holidays are responsibility (because G-d took us out of Egypt). This gift of Shabbos was given to every Jew. (In fact the Gemara forbids non-Jews from keeping a day of rest like Shabbos; they steal our gift.)

There is another reason I feel Shabbos is the most accessible part of today's Parsha. The Gemara & Yerushalmi discuss how do we do “oneg Shabbos” (delight of Shabbos)? One source says by sleeping and one source says by learning Torah. Which is it? “This is for those who learn and this is for those who do not learn.” Meiri (Shabbos 118) cites his teachers who explained if you don't learn during the week, you should learn on Shabbos. And if you learn during the week, you should sleep on Shabbos. Meiri argues on them and holds if you learn during the week you need to learn on Shabbos, and if you don't learn during the week, you fulfill your Oneg Shabbos with sleeping. Thus Shabbos is accessible to all of us according to our lives.

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What is a “klal gadol Batorah” (great principle of the Torah)? Any kid can tell you “vehahavta l'reiacha kamocha,” love your friend as yourself, as Rabbi Akiva said. What is much less known is that some say the daily Korban, one lamb in the morning and one in the afternoon, is a klal gadol (introduction to Ein Yaakov). What about the daily sacrifice, which we already explained is not so accessible to us, makes it such a great principle of the Torah? Because to do something consistently day in and day out, is very, very difficult. So this is a klal gadol (and something very hard to reach).

For 35 years to do things that my father has done is a Klal Gadol Batorah....

Walking from Lincolnwood to East Rogers Park, almost 3 miles each way (and reporting on which Jewish owned stores closed that week), if they didn't have a minyan, Abba had to walk farther (away from home) to Sheridan Road and climb up stairs to get people for a minyan.

In Lincolnwood there was no Shul in the neighborhood, for at least half a mile in every direction. Then a yeshiva in Chicago decided to start a branch on our block! So it was harder to get a minyan, but we did.

And before we even moved to Skokie it took 17 months to get zoning and approval to build here. But he didn't give up.

All of these, and the daily sacrifice, having Minyan every day, morning and evening, requires perseverance which is a Klal Gadol Batorah, and we thank you Abba and Emma for all you have done for 35 years, and continue to do.

By Rabbi Eli

In Parshas Pinchas, G-d shows Moshe the Land of Israel and tells Moshe that he will pass away like Aharon (and therefore he won't be able to continue to lead the Jewish People). Moshe implores G-d and asks G-d to appoint a leader for the Jewish People. Moshe delineates a list for G-d of activities that the new leader should do on behalf of the Jewish People and he then finishes by saying that G-d should appoint such a leader so that the Jewish People should not be like "tzon asher ein lahem ro'eh" - sheep that are without a shepherd. Why did Moshe use that specific analogy? A simple explanation is that Moshe was a shepherd in Midian before he became the leader, so he used an analogy with which he was personally familiar based on his own experiences.

However, another answer could be suggested. The shoresh - root - of the Hebrew word for shepherd is spelled "reish", "ayin", and "heh". Those same letters are also utilized for a Hebrew word which also means "friend" which is used, for example, in the part of the verse which contains "veahavta l'reiacha kamocho" - or love your fellow/friend like yourself. I think that the root of l'reiacha - fellow/friend is utilized as opposed to other words like shachen – neighbor, or chavair - friend is because a shepherd needs to be in close proximity to his flock to lead them to pasture, towards water, and away from threats. By this proximity, one also becomes very familiar with one's individual sheep which comprise the flock and this familiarity leads to a type of connection, friendship, camaraderie, and even dedication to one's individual sheep and to the flock as a unit.

You cannot have a virtual shepherd. You can have a close proximal neighbor - a shachen - with whom you don't get along with at all. alternatively, you can have a friend - chaver - whom you haven't physically seen in decades. Moshe was communicating to G-d by utilizing the analogy of a flock without a shepherd that he knew that Bnei Yisrael needed a leader who would not merely be a leader who remains distant from his people; rather, they would need a leader who would have familiarity to the Jewish People by being in close physical proximity to them as well a leader who is so friendly with them like he is - like the friend who loves his fellow-friend like himself. A leader who is friendly, close, and connected to his flock will surely intercede and advocate for the Jewish People even at personal risk as Moshe himself had done so many times for the Jewish People.

I want to tell only 2 quick stories of passing along the Mesorah from the Old Shul in East Rogers Park. Many elderly people from the former Soviet Union lived in a low income apartment building on Sheridan Road - in the old neighborhood. But only one individual always came to Shul consistently. My father [Rabbi Louis] asked him why does he come to shul and not the so many others? He told my father that he remembered when he was a boy his father took him to Radin to get a Bracha from the Chafetz Chaim. Communism was successful in distancing everyone else in that building from Judaism - and it even affected this man - but he remembered going to the Chafetz Chaim and getting the Bracha - so when he left the former U.S.S.R. and was once again able to come to Shul, he came. Another story is also from East Rogers Park. My father went to a poor lady to give her Maos Chittim, and she thanked him for coming and gave him \$1 or \$2 and she refused to take any money for herself and she thanked my father for enabling her to help others.

Kesser Maariv is not the largest shul, but it is a shul where my parents have lead the congregants with the tender love and caring and familiarity like a shepherd has for their flock -the type of leadership that Moshe requested from G-d to give to the Jewish People in this week's Parsha. They are not leaders who lead from a distance. Even during the immediate past period of time where Covid-19 has shaken the world, under my parents' leadership, the shul has continued to help, assist, and support the shul community in a manner similar to a shepherd - some people are more independent, some require more assistance - but because of their many decades of dedication to the people of the shul community, they have continued to give each congregant however much or however little help or assistance they might have required. May they continue to be able to lead the shul in the type of leadership which Moshe requested from the Jewish People for many years - together - and in good health.

Letter from the Rabbi about the Ad Journal

Dear Congregants:

This coming Shabbos is Parshat Pinchas when Saretta and I celebrate our thirty-sixth anniversary with the Congregation. The parsha speaks of different types of leadership. It speaks of the singular heroic sacrifice of Pinchas who risked his life to save the Jewish people and the ongoing daily sacrifices of Joshua that enabled him to become the successor of Moshe Rabbeinu.

This has been a most challenging year, yet in many ways, it has been one of the most rewarding. While the shul's building was officially closed, the shul has been available every day to lend emotional and religious support to every member of our congregational family and financial support to those making requests. We have been offering food assistance, shopping assistance, help with unemployment and medical insurance, and coordination of medical care. We found new ways of reaching out and connecting with you, such as our Yizkor book, and many virtual ZOOM events such as programming from the Adele Goldblum Women's Council including education, entertainment and exercise programs. We visited Israel virtually for Yom Yerushalayim. Our Sunday morning Parsha Shiur with Rabbi Moshe Soloveichik S"hlita, is now followed virtually by many families in Israel and across the United States. Rabbi Ben Zion's Talmud Shiur meets virtually on Wednesday evenings. We have helped congregants not only survive but thrive during the COVID-19 crisis.

We have supported those who have continued to come to shul to pray or learn or just to speak with others every day of this closure. We reopened safely for Shavuot and have held weekly Shabbat services and daily Mincha and Maariv services since that time. Two weeks ago we restarted the daily morning Minyan. Now that the State of Illinois has begun to reopen and people are beginning to resume expanded activities, we want to remind everyone of the importance of Tefilla b'tzibbur - communal prayer, especially during this time for those who can attend safely.

This year's annual event was where Saretta and I were to have been honored for our thirty-six years of service will not be taking place at this time due to COVID-19. The Congregation has decided to produce an ad journal to commemorate this occasion and to help support the synagogue. We thank Hashem for His ongoing help this year and every year and thank you for allowing us to serve you these past thirty-six years. We humbly request that you will give generously in support of the ad journal to express everything that the Lazovsky family means to you and for all that Kesser Maariv has done in support of the community since 1867.

Shabbat Shalom.

Saretta and Louis