

This week's issue of *The Park Page* is dedicated by the Hebrew letter "Shin" in honor of the marriage of Samantha (**Shoshana**) Hitt and Steven (**Shlomo**) Lerner – son of Lisa Lerner and Dr. Howie Lerner, the bris of **Shalom** Eliezer Cenker – grandson of Jessica and Cantor Stanley Weinberger, the bris of **Shmuel** Menachem Sabri – grandson of Adrienne and Craig Wolf, and the study of **Shir ha-Shirim** in "Nach Yomi" and **Rosh ha-Shana** in "Daf Shavua"



The Weekly Bulletin of Young Israel of New Hyde Park

August 11-18, 2017

Parashat Ekev
Issue #560

19-26 Av 5777

Parasha Page Numbers	
Parasha	Artscroll 980, Soncino 780
Haftara	Artscroll 1197, Soncino 794

Schedule of Services and Classes	
Friday, August 11 / 19 Av	Sanhedrin 26
Shacharit	6:15 am
Mincha / Maariv	7:00 pm
Candle-lighting, preferably by 7:20, but before	7:40 pm
Saturday, August 12 / 20 Av	Sanhedrin 27
Shacharit	8:45 am
Latest time for Shema	MA 8:55, GRA 9:31 am
Sermon: "Judaism, Unified and Simplified"	10:30 am
Shiur: Laws of Mezuza, Part II	6:50 pm
Mincha / Seuda Shelishit	7:30 pm
Maariv / Shabbat ends	8:42 pm
Sunday, August 13 / 21 Av	Sanhedrin 28
Shacharit	8:10 am
Gemara Shiur – Masekhet Sukka (Intro.)	8:50 am
Mincha / Maariv	7:35 pm
Monday, August 14 / 22 Av	Sanhedrin 29
Shacharit	6:10 am
Mincha / Maariv	7:35 pm
Tuesday, August 15 / 23 Av	Sanhedrin 30
Shacharit	6:15 am
Mincha / Maariv	7:35 pm
Wednesday, August 16 / 24 Av	Sanhedrin 31
Shacharit	6:15 am
Mincha / Maariv	7:35 pm
Thursday, August 17 / 25 Av	Sanhedrin 32
Shacharit	6:10 am
Mincha / Maariv	7:35 pm
Friday, August 18 / 26 Av	Sanhedrin 33
Shacharit	6:15 am
Mincha / Maariv	7:00 pm
Candle-lighting, preferably by 7:20, but before	7:30 pm

- **Daf Yomi** meets Sunday at 7:30 a.m., Monday through Friday at 5:30 a.m., and Shabbat at 8:00 a.m.
- Women needing a **Mikvah** appointment should call 718-343-5700.

Drash v'DaSh: A Shabbat Message and Greeting "Antonymic Angles on Ankles"

Our Torah-portion Parashat Ekev is so named for the second word of its opening verse: *ekev*. While generally translated as "if" or "when" [you heed the commandments], this *ekev* is also Midrashically associated with *akev* meaning heel or ankle. Recall how upon his birth, Jacob's hand is clutching Esau's heel – *akev* – enough so that he is named Yaakov, apparently from the same Hebrew root ayin / kof / bet (see Gen. 25:26).

Thus Rashi comments that the aforementioned commandments are the "ones that one treads on [with one's heel]". One has to take heed to avoid that heel, not to treat G-d's word with scorn or sarcasm, even as Jewish customs are not common, religious practices may no longer be popular, and values are not *en vogue*.

Alternatively, however, one can postulate that the *ekev* is not stepping on the Torah with one's foot, but *au contraire*, the Torah supporting us, as does a heel or ankle. *Al shelosha devarim ha-olam omed*: the world - and its human inhabitants – stand firmly on three things – Torah, worship, and acts of kindness, not out of derision, but by design and determination. Better yet, like a pair of heels, the Torah guides us to a posture of balance, integrating ideas and ideals.

✧ **Shabbat Shalom** ✧

The Park Page Puzzle "Get the Bribes Out from Under the Table"

This week's Puzzle: In which parashot does the Torah use the word *Shochad* (bribe)?

Solution to the previous week's Puzzle: The Torah uses the word *Esh* (fire) in Parashot Lech Lekha, Vayera, Shemot, Vaera, Bo, Beshalach, Yitro, Mishpatim, Tetzaveh, Ki Tisa, Vayakhel, Pekudei, Vayikra, Tzav, Shemini, Tazria, Acharei Mot, Kedoshim, Emor, Bamidbar, Naso, Behaalotekha, Shelach, Korach, Chukat, Pinchas, Matot, Devarim, Vaetchanan, Ekev, Re'eh, Shoftim, Haazinu, and Vezot Habera'kha. (Okay, the question should have been, "In what Parashot does the Torah *not* use the word *Esh*?") *Yasher koach to Susan Isler, Karen Klein, Rita Lenefksy, and David Rouhani for their solutions.*

Nach Yomi

Study for August 12-18, per Rabbi Jack Abramowitz's *Nach Yomi Companion*. For more information, visit www.ou.org/torah/nachyomi.

Shir Hashirim 2: Dodi Li Va'Ani Lo

Shir Hashirim 3: Not Greek to ME!

Shir Hashirim 4: That's an Odd Thing to Call Moses...

Shir Hashirim 5: Knock, Knock

Shir Hashirim 6: NOW "Ani L'dodi V'Dodi Li"

Shir Hashirim 7: Shulamith's Nose

Shir Hashirim 8: Brothers and Sisters



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ORTHODOX UNION
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Announcements

Yasher koach to Dovid Gottesman for his laining this Shabbat.

This week **the Kids Kollel Kayitz** – currently studying Masekhet Sukka - will meet Monday and Wednesday evening at 6:50 p.m., followed by Mincha at 7:35 p.m. We welcome Shira and Shoshana Rouhani who recently joined the group for the new tractate.

The next **Ladies Shiur** will be presented by Mrs. Rochelle Kutliroff, hosted by the Kriegers at 81-16 265 Street, on August 19 at 5:30 p.m. The Shiur at the shul that Shabbat will be given by Rabbi Zvi Lew on the topic of "Superstition in the Jewish Tradition."

The next **Simcha Kiddush** will be Shabbat Nitzavim-Vayeilekh – September 16 (the last week before Rosh Hashana). Sponsorships are \$18 per Kiddush or \$200 annually. Please submit payments to the office and e-mail simcha details to office@yinhp.org.

There will be an important **Shul Meeting** on Monday, August 21st at 8:00 p.m. (immediately following Mincha/Maariv). All congregants are encouraged to attend!

Reaching out to houses of worship, Rite Aid would like to offer **Flu Shots** to individuals age 18 or older at *our shul*, tentatively scheduled for Sunday evening, September 10th. (As far as cost, many insurances cover the flu shot; otherwise, the cost is the same as in the pharmacy.) If you are interested, please let Rabbi Teitelman know this week at 718-347-5819 so we can advise the pharmacy accordingly.

Rabbi Benjamin Samson – staff chaplain at Creedmoor Hospital (and Associate Member of YINHP) - is seeking volunteers on Friday mornings, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m., to serve the **Oneg Shabbat** to the patients at Creedmoor. For more information, please call Rabbi Samson at 718- 264-5122.

YINHP Cards ("In Memoriam", "Mazel Tov", "Get Well", and "Thank You") are now available for purchase through Ellen Barth or David Mandel. The cost is \$18 each or \$72 for five (mix 'n match).

Food Certificates for Fairway, Shop Rite, and Stop & Shop; **Gift Cards** for Amazon and Home Depot; and **Chesed Dollars** for various Jewish businesses can be purchased from Art Feldman 516-227-0707, Paige Finkelstein 718-343-4821, Rena Gombo 718-343-3855, and Ilene Horowitz 718-470-9474.

For information about the **Clothing Gemach**, contact Mark Krieger at 917-703-4694, visit BeautifulMemoriesGemach.org, or check out and "like" the Beautiful Memory Gemach's Facebook page.

Office Hours this week are Tuesday and Friday 10:00 – 2:00.

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Insights into Traditional Jewish Practice "Birkat Hamazon"

Though Parashat Ekev alludes to a requirement to recite *one hundred blessings – me'ah berakhot* - each and every day (see Deut. 10:12 and the Talmudic interpretation in Menachot 43b), there is only *one* blessing that is universally accepted as Biblically mandated: *Birkat Hamazon* or "Grace After Meals". [According to *some* authorities, *Birkhot Hatorah* – the blessings recited before Torah study – are also obligatory according to Torah law. While Maimonides opines that daily prayer is from the Torah, the specific text of that prayer was not mandated by the Torah. Similarly, while Kiddush and perhaps Havdala are from the Torah, the text of those blessings – or even that they take on the form of a blessing – are also not from the Torah.]

The source for Birkat Hamazon is in our Parasha: *ve-akkhalta ve-savata u-berakhta et Hashem Elokekha al ha-aretz ha-tova asher natan lakh*. "If you eat and be satiated, you shall bless G-d your L-rd for the good land which He has given you." Interestingly, the Talmud understands elements in this verse as referring to four distinct blessings: for the food, the Land of Israel, Jerusalem and the Holy Temple, and the "Good and the Do-Gooder" (*hatov vehametiv*) – respectively authored by Moses, Joshua, David, and Rabban Gamliel.

While the specific laws of Birkat Hamazon are beyond the scope of a single column (please join us weekday mornings immediately after Shacharit when we are learning some of these halakhot), a few conceptual points are in order: (1) While the obligation to "bentsch" ensues only after eating, the Torah explicitly expands the mandate to also give thanks for the "Land", and the Rabbis extended it further to other phenomena worthy of our gratitude. Once we offer thanks, it is an expansive thanks. (2) Even as the second and third blessings were formulated by post-Torah personalities (Joshua – upon entering the Land, and David only many centuries later), nonetheless these blessings retain the stature of Torah Law. (3) Birkat Ha-Mazon manifests dramatic irony in that in the third blessing, David gives thanks for a Jerusalem that was not yet built – and a Temple from whose building he was precluded, and Rabban Gamliel appended an additional blessing of dual thanksgiving for the eventual burial of the deceased, even against the backdrop that these were victims of a massacre. We bless G-d not only for the food served on a silver platter, but also for the proverbial silver lining.

Chair-Lift Project



Despite the promising name, the Chair-Lift won't go up or downstairs by itself; it first needs additional funding © Checks can be sent to the office or given to the Project Chair, Marc Horowitz. Donations are now also accepted on-line using the custom link,

<http://tinyurl.com/YINHPChairLiftProject>

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