

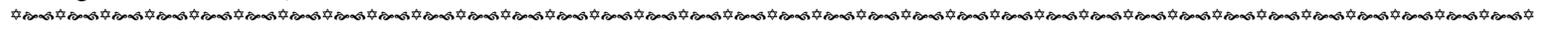
HALACHA V'HALICHA... By Rav Chaim Schabes

As we prepare ourselves to move into the new building, we must first give שבה והודאה to הקב"ה, who helped us in reaching this stage; second, in the name of the whole קהילה I want to thank our building committee and their families, who committed a significant chunk of their lives towards this project. May the רבש"ע shower them with all the ברכות they deserve. Next, I would like to thank the many presidents and boards, as well as all the other individuals, each one of whom extended himself and put forth a special effort to bring this project to fruition. Also, as we prepare to transition into a proper bais haknesses, I would like to remind ourselves of some of the basic guidelines that will reflect our proper כבוד for this new structure of a מקדש מעט.

We are not allowed to talk from the start of Baruch She'amar until after chazara hash"tz, and on days that there is Tachanun, until after nefilas apayim (this is the halacha, not just a suggestion or a preferable behavior). The same holds true about the prohibition of talking during Kaddish, as well as during kri'as hatorah, which includes not talking between aliyos, and even speaking words of Torah is not permitted. Everyone, and especially the ba'alei tefilla and ba'al korei, should be careful to properly pronounce the name of Hashem, not "adeeny" nor "adenoy", neither of which is the name of Hashem; rather it must be said with a cholam, each one according to their mesorah. The sha"tz must wear a jacket and cover his head with a hat, or else cover his arms and head with a tallis. The sha"tz should say out loud the b'racha of Yotzer Or and the beginning of Hameir La'aretz, and the b'racha of Ga'al Yisrael at the end of שמע קריאת שמו should also be said out loud, as well as the complete Magen Avos on Friday night. The pronunciation is to be ashkenaz for sha"tz and ba'al korei. The nusach is the standard nusach ashkenaz, and no private amendments not included in the standard nusach ashkenaz should be included (or excluded) by the ba'alei tefilla. If someone does not personally say Baruch Hashem L'Olam, he should nevertheless say it as a ba'al tefilla. The same is true for people saying Kaddish, who must also follow the standard nusach ashkenaz and not omit ויתהלל (GR"A), or add חיים טובים, or anything similar.

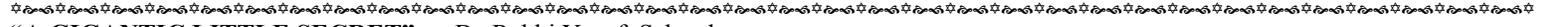
There are a few minor changes I think we should adopt in order to standardize certain minhagim in line with the basic structure of our Shul. All ba'alei tefilla should wear a tallis for all the tefillos, including Ma'ariv. The same should be with all people who receive an aliyah, even during Mincha on Shabbos, as well as for hotza'ah and hachnasa of the Sefer Torah. Until now, we had a mix of those who wore t'fillin on Chol Hamo'ed and those who didn't, all in the same room. There is a strong machlokes between the Poskim as to whether this is acceptable or not, and therefore we will continue with minhag that the ba'al tefilla for Shacharis, as well as all the people in the men's section, will be wearing t'fillin, while those of us who don't wear t'fillin will daven in the ezras nashim until after Kedusha (even on the first day of Chol Hamo'ed Pesach).

I hope and pray to Hashem that this year should be a good and sweet one for all of us, as well as for the whole of K'lal Yisrael, both in Eretz Yisrael as well as all over the world, and we elevate our t'fillos to Hashem that the final ge'ula should take place this coming year, with the coming of משיח צדקנו במהרה בימינו!



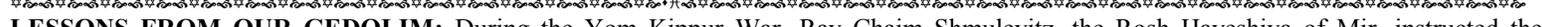
THOUGHTS ON THE HAFTARAH ... By Rabbi Yaakov Shapiro (Y'shayahu 61:10-63:9)

This week we read the final haftara of the דנחמתא. The navi has thus far described many great things that will happen in the time of the Mashiach: the transformation of Eretz Yisrael from a desolate land to one filled with beauty and abundance, the rejuvenation of Yerushalayim, once again filled with people, the rebuilding of the Bais Hamikdash to beyond its original glory, and finally the return to Eretz Yisrael of all the Jews from the long exile! Only one thing is needed to complete the geulah, and that is the return of Hashem Himself to His people! Yalkut Shimoni (Yishayahu 50:5) relates the following parable: a king, his son and son-in-law all travel to a distant land, leaving the queen behind. When told that her son has returned she replies, "This will gladden my daughter-in-law!" When her son-in-law returns she says, "Now my daughter will be happy!" When she is finally informed that her king has returned she can finally say "I am happy!!" This explains the double language of happiness with which we begin the haftara: שוש אשיש בה' תגל נפשי. The Abarbanel explains that there will be 2 levels of happiness. The first is the happiness that through Hashem's mercy we are finally free from the galus. But there is also the purely spiritual joy that focuses on the effect that Hashem's return to us has on our neshama! While there will certainly be happiness for the physical end to our galus, as with the queen in the parable, our true happiness will be felt when our King returns to us!

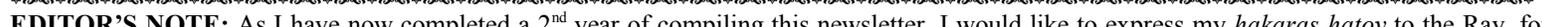


"A GIGANTIC LITTLE SECRET" ... By Rabbi Yosef Schwab

מההשמימה לנו השמימה: the first letters of these words spell out מילה, whereas the last letters spell out Hashem's name. This is to teach us that to reach the שמים, the heights of Torah, one must first perform a "מילה" to remove the spiritual impediments that stand in the way.



LESSONS FROM OUR GEDOLIM: During the Yom Kippur War, Rav Chaim Shmulevitz, the Rosh Hayeshiva of Mir, instructed the bochorim to keep their search for arba'ah minim to the barest minimum. Rav Chaim stressed that at a time of danger to Klal Yisroel, the place for yeshiva bochorim is in the beis medrash. Rav Chaim offered another reason for this, besides the protectiveness of Torah. He asked the bochorim to imagine the feelings of a parent with a son of the same age, on the front lines, when they see a yeshiva bochor inspecting lulavim and esrogim, without a care in the world. Even "l'shem shamayim" must be tempered by empathy towards others...



EDITOR'S NOTE: As I have now completed a 2nd year of compiling this newsletter, I would like to express my hakaras hatov to the Rav, for providing fresh material weekly, and to Yossi Kunstlinger for assisting each week in the publication logistics. I would also like to ask mechila if I in any way offended anyone by something I wrote, or didn't write.



