

KENESSETH ISRAEL BULLETIN

February 14, 2020



*From
the Rabbi*

*“AND MOSHE SAID TO HIS FATHER IN
LAW, THE PEOPLE COME TO ME AND
SEEK THE ALMIGHTY” (Shemos 18:15)*

The Midrash contrasts the actions of Moshe here with those of the Prophet Samuel generations later. Moshe told the people to come to him, as a result, Moshe had to walk to the burning bush to come close to the Almighty. Samuel, on the other hand, went to the people, and therefore he merited that the Almighty came to him.

Rabbi Chaim Shmuelevitz always used to comment that this Midrash teaches us an important lesson. One's closeness to the Almighty depends on one's love for other people. By going to the people, Samuel showed his unending concern and love for the people, therefore the Almighty rewarded him by coming to him. (Moshe had his reasons why it was important for the people to come to him, but still he did not make that extra effort towards them.)

Where did Samuel get his love for other people? The Midrash explains the garment his mother sewed for him was with him his entire life. This garment was made from the profound love his mother had for him. This love became such a part of Samuel that it was manifested in his entire way of dealing with people.

Continued on page 2

י"ט בשבט תש"פ - פרשת יתרו

- Rabbi Kalatsky will give his Hilchos Shabbos class at 8:35 AM
- Rabbi Goldberger will give a Parsha shiur Friday night in his home at 8:30 PM
- Derasha this Shabbos morning will be given by Rabbi Mordechai Finkelman
- We are looking for volunteers to help with our amazing Purim event. If you are available to help with setup, decor, serving etc please reach out to Rivkah Russel of Tzipporah Leah Kalatsky.
- The Congregation extends condolences to Mark Kutoff, Daniel Kutoff, Rabbi Maier Kutoff and Gerald Goldfeder and their families on the passing of their mother and mother-in-law Mrs. Bertha Kutoff, Bracha Leah bas Aryeh Leib a"h. Shiva in Minneapolis will be from Thursday 1:00 PM through Sun morning at 2837 Huntington Ave. S., Shacharis-Thurs-Fri & Sun will be K'Vasikin 6:50-6:55 AM.
- Marshall Mintz is offering free rides to the airport for people flying to Israel. It does not need to be a direct flight as long as the final destination is Israel. He can be contacted at mmintz02@gmail.com 952-212-7805, 952-927-0081

*“If opportunity doesn't
knock, build a door.”*

This is a practical lesson for parents and caregivers. The love a parent shows a child throughout all stages in life, whether the absolute devotion of infancy or by being there for them in all situations, implants a deep feeling of being loved. When such a child grows older he will have love for others. Any small thing a parent does with love for his children will pay off great dividends. The greater the child becomes the more people will ultimately benefit from that love.

This week, let's go out of our way to be expressive and shower our children with love and nurturing. Let them foster the deep love we have for them and it will blossom in their own personality and increase their ability and desire to love others as they develop.

Have a lovely Shabbos!

Rabbi Kalatsky

Dvar Halacha

By: Rabbi Dr. Avraham Klein

A doubt in Berachot is decided leniently

The third commandment forbids vain oaths (Exodus 20, 7):

"לא תשא את שם ה' א-להיך לשוא" – "You shall not take the name of the Lord your G-d in vain..."

The Bavli (Berachot 33a) adds another layer to the prohibition: "R. Yochanan and Resh Lakish both said: whoever says a needless blessing has [taken the name of the Lord in vain]." When making a blessing we pronounce the Lord's name, so making a needless blessing is pronouncing it in vain.

There are two opinions regarding the strength of the prohibition on needless blessings. The Tosafot (Rosh Hashana 33a) understand that the prohibition is a rabbinical one, and the verse is just being used as support for the rabbinical decree. The Rambam (Berachot 1, 16) seems to say otherwise: "Whoever makes a needless blessing is pronouncing the name of the Lord in vain, and it is as if he is making a vain oath..." The Rambam's comparison to a vain oath indicates that the prohibition is from the Torah (Magen Avraham 215, 6).

The two interpretations can lead to significant practical differences when a person is not sure whether he or she have said a blessing. The Shulchan Aruch (Orach Chaim 209, 3) writes that "all blessings – if one is in doubt whether one has said them or not, one does not say them, except for ברכת המזון [grace after meals] which is from the Torah". The Shulchan Aruch's ruling is in accordance with the general rule that whenever we encounter a doubt in a Rabbinical decree we are lenient, while when encountering a doubt in a Torah decree we are stringent. However, according to the opinion of the Tosafot it isn't necessary to say a blessing when in doubt, but it is not necessarily prohibited either (Magen Avraham *ibid.*). According to the Rambam, it is not just unnecessary but also prohibited, since you would be in danger of violating a Torah prohibition, and should be stringent in avoiding that possibility (R. Manoach Berachot 11, 16). On the other hand, if you have a doubt regarding the grace after meals, since according to the Torah itself you must repeat the blessing to remove the doubt, even if you end up saying the blessing twice you will not be pronouncing the name of the Lord "in vain". The Mishnah Berurah (184, 15) points out that one should only repeat the grace after meals if one has eaten enough to be full. This is because our custom to say the grace after meals even for a token amount of bread is of Rabbinical source, but the Torah obligation to say grace is only for a meal that is large enough to satisfy one's hunger.

Food For Thought: If I am not sure if I have said a blessing on a food, but I have not eaten it yet, may I eat it?

Answer to the previous FFT: The Mishnah Berurah (250, 2) writes that it is better to prepare for Shabbat on Friday morning than on Thursday night, because it makes the connection to Shabbat clearer. However "on the short Fridays it seems reasonable that as much as can be moved to Thursday should be moved."

Zmanim

February 14 - 21

	Friday erev Shabbos פרשת יתרו	Shabbos פרשת יתרו	Sunday	Monday - Thursday	Friday erev Shabbos פרשת משפטים
February	14	15	16	17 - 20	21
Shvat	19	20	21	22 - 25	26
Shachris	6:30 AM	8:45 AM	8:00 AM	6:30 AM	6:30 AM
Mincha	5:21 PM	5:05 PM	5:30 PM		5:35 PM
Candle lighting	5:25 PM				5:31 PM
Havdalah		6:32 PM			

Kenesseth Israel Congregation
4330 W. 28th Street
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
952-920-2183

Rabbi Mordechai Kalatsky
Chaim Goldberger, Rabbi Emeritus
Jerome Herzog, Rabbi Emeritus

www.kenessethisrael.org

Dr. Joey Greenberg-President, Michael Moskowitz-Vice President, Yarden Wolfe-Treasurer, Judy Victor-Secretary
Michael Barry, Melvin Graf, Lili Khabie, Sender Russel, Shlomo Shloss, Gabe Silverberg,
Immediate Past President-Ned Kantar

The Kenesseth Israel Bulletin is sponsored by Melvin & Miriam Graf



COMMUNITY-WIDE
SHABBOS CELEBRATING
LIMUD HATORAH
WITH
RABBI MORDECHAI
FINKELMAN

Schedule

FRIDAY NIGHT

ONEG SHABBOS • 9:00 PM • IDSTEIN HOME, 2545 MONTEREY

SHABBOS DAY

DRASHA BY RABBI FINKELMAN 10:30 AM • KENESSETH ISRAEL | ADDRESS FOR WOMEN BY RABBI FINKELMAN 3:30 PM • JAFFA HOME, 4200 W. 25TH ST.

SHALOSH SEUDOS DRASHA BY RABBI FINKELMAN • 6:00 PM • BAIS YISROEL

MOTZEI SHABBOS

COMMUNITY-WIDE EVENT FOR MEN & WOMEN • YESHIVA OF MINNEAPOLIS

8:30 PM HESPEDIM FOR MRS. BERTHA KUTOFF ע"ה	9:00 PM COMMUNITY SIYUM HASHAS, FOLLOWED BY DANCING	9:15 PM MELAVA MALKA BUFFET + KICKOFF OF MINNEAPOLIS DAILY LEARNING INITIATIVE	9:30 PM KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY RABBI FINKELMAN
---	---	---	---

לעילוי נשמת
ברכה לאה בת אריה לויב

לעילוי נשמת משה מיכל בן
אפרים וצביה בת אלישור

SUNDAY

SHOVAVIM SHIUR FOR MEN • 9:30 AM • KOLLEL

EVENT SPONSORED לעילוי נשמת חנה שרה בת יחיאל זאב



Purim

March 10, 2020

5:00 - 7:30pm

Delicious Food, Great Company and Fun Activities for Children!

AIR BRUSH ARTIST • GAME TRUCK
KIDS CARNIVAL • AND MORE!

MEMBERS: \$18 per adult | \$15 per child | \$70 max per family.

NON-MEMBERS: \$20 per adult | \$18 per child | \$75 max per family.

Please contact Tziporah Leah at 917 744 4024 with any questions

In honor of the Purim lottery,
KI and KILC is excited to
announce our first

PURIM RAFFLE!
Support the amazing impact KI is
having on hundreds of families

Grand Prize
\$5,000

\$100 per ticket
MAXIMUM 300 TICKETS

Each purchase of \$100
ticket makes you eligible to
enter a second raffle with
\$35 tickets (max 300 tickets)
for a chance to win a \$400
diamond tennis bracelet!



Drawing will be at the KI Purim event
MARCH 10TH



Hamentashen Kids in the KITCHEN



Sunday, February 23, 2020
10:30 - 11:30 am

SHAPE • TAKE • BAKE

at Keneseth Israel
4330 West 28th Street

\$10 PER CHILD / FAMILY MAX \$25

RSVP to Tziporah Leah
at office@kenesethisrael.org

